

The landscape of Harrogate District is acknowledged to be high quality, attractive and varied, much of which is subject to designations which offer protection from inappropriate development. Applications for planning permission on designated land will be assessed in accordance with the policies of the Harrogate District Local Plan. The extent of different designations is shown on the Proposals Map. This sheet lists the landscape designations found within Harrogate District and summarises their implications. Designations for nature conservation, archaeological and architectural interests are not included here.

Studley Royal & Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) advises the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on the identification of cultural World Heritage Sites: outstanding sites which are of world importance and universal significance. Studley Royal is one of 16 sites within the UK (630 sites world-wide) identified as a World Heritage Site¹. Although there are no additional statutory controls, the international status of this designation is a key material consideration to be taken into account when determining planning and listed building applications.² (See Harrogate District Local Plan Policy HD7)

Nidderdale AONB

Areas of Outstanding National Beauty are landscapes of national importance, designated by the Countryside Commission under the terms of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. National planning guidance states that *"the primary objective of designation*

*is conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape... In all cases the environmental effects of new proposals will be a major consideration."*³

Harrogate District Local Plan Policy C1 gives priority to the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape. Applications for development which are likely to have a significant impact on this nationally important landscape are also scrutinised by the Nidderdale Joint Advisory Committee, an independent body with representatives from the principal groups within Nidderdale.



Nidderdale AONB takes up the western half of Harrogate District



Ripley Castle parkland

Parks & Gardens of Special Historic Interest

12 parks and gardens within Harrogate District are registered by English Heritage as being of special historic interest⁴. The effect of development on a registered park or garden and its setting is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application.⁵ Harrogate District Local Plan Policy HD7A states that development which adversely affects the character or setting of registered parks and gardens will not be permitted.

Green Belt

Areas of open countryside in the southern parts of the District and between Harrogate and Knaresborough have been designated as “Green Belt” for their strategic importance in maintaining separation between urban areas.

The quality of the landscape is not a reason for designation, but the purposes and objectives of Green Belt designation do make specific reference to landscape issues such as:

- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns;
- to retain attractive landscapes, and enhance landscapes, near to where people live;
- to improve damaged and derelict land around towns.⁶

National and local planning policies state that development which compromises the openness of the Green Belt and which fails to meet Green Belt purposes and objectives will not be permitted.⁷ (See Harrogate District Local Plan Policies GB1 - GB7)

Special Landscape Areas

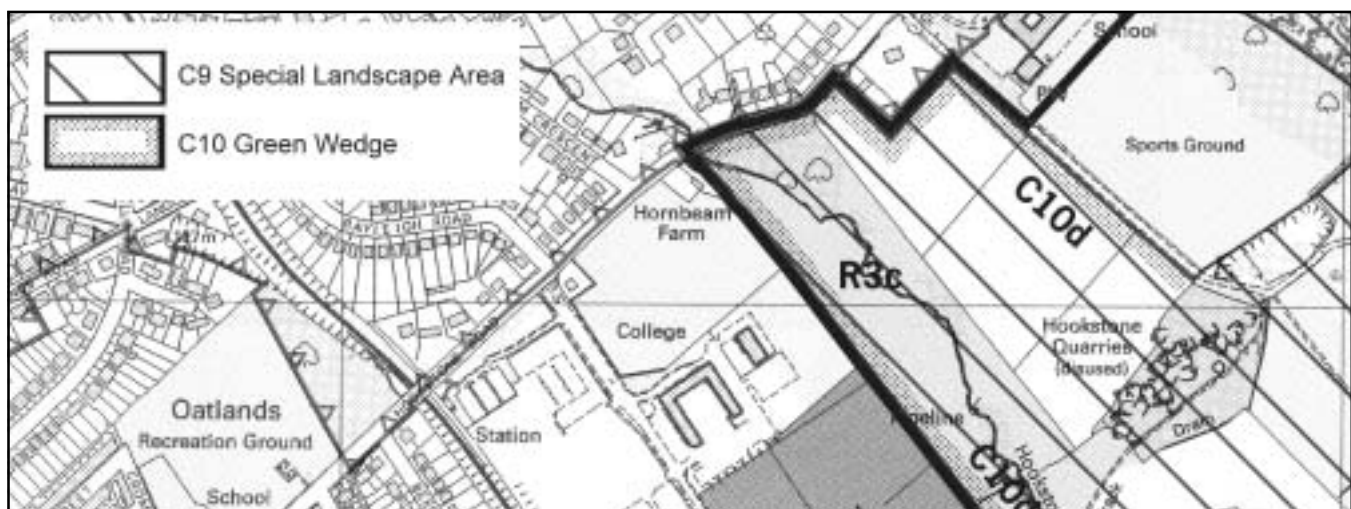
The Harrogate District Local Plan identifies areas which are of high landscape quality and important to the setting of Harrogate, Knaresborough or Ripon as Special Landscape Areas. This is a local landscape designation and carries less weight than the national designation of AONB. Local Plan Policy C9 states that development which adversely affects the character of the Special Landscape Area or setting of Harrogate, Knaresborough or Ripon will not be permitted.

Green Wedge

Areas of land that provide open breaks in the built-up area and link to the countryside beyond are identified as “green wedge” on the Harrogate District Local Plan Proposals Map. This is a local landscape designation. Local Plan Policy C10 states that development which adversely affects the character of a “green wedge” will not be permitted.

Conservation Areas

Conservation Areas are designated to preserve and enhance the special architectural or historic interest of an area. This protects the landscape character of the area whether it be rural or urban. (See Harrogate District Local Plan Policy HD3)



An extract from the Harrogate District Local Plan Proposals Map

1 in January 2000

2 Department of the Environment, Department of National Heritage (1994) PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment

3 Department of the Environment (1997) PPG7 The Countryside – Environmental quality and economic and social development.

4 Allerton Park (II), Hackfall (I), Long Walk (II), Newby Hall (II*), Norton Conyers (II), Plumpton Rocks (II*), Ribston Hall (II), Ripley Castle (II), Rudding Park (II), Studley Royal (Grade I), Swinton Castle (II*), Valley Gardens (II)

5 DoE, DNH (1994)

6 Department of the Environment (1995) PPG 2 Green Belts para. 1.6

7 PPG2, HDLP GB1-7