

AREA 81

Approved
Feb 2004



Description

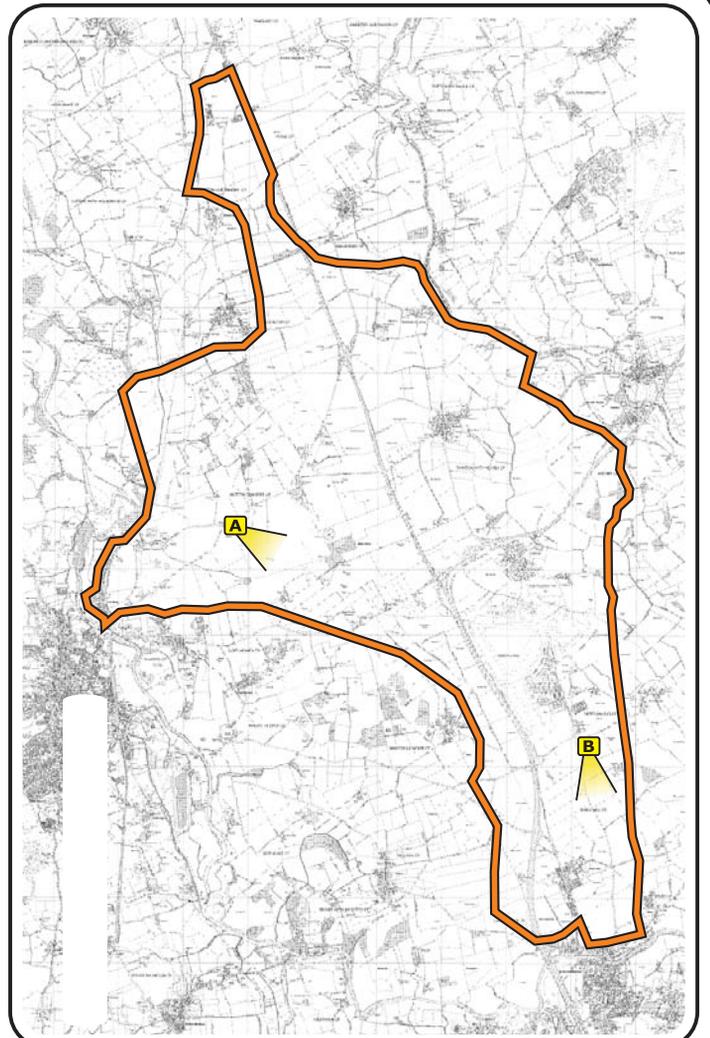
This large-scale arable landscape covers almost 48km² and extends along the A1 corridor from Kirby Hill north of Boroughbridge to Leeming Lane Farm at the edge of the District. It comprises large-scale arable fields beyond the A1 corridor east and west and in places extends as far as the Ure corridor to the west and the Swale corridor to the east.

Scattered, diverse development punctuates the uniform and open agricultural landscape. Tree cover and hedgerows are intermittent affording long distance views extending to the Kilburn White Horse on the edge of the North York Moors National Park in the east and to the Nidderdale Moors in the distance to the west. Close to the villages and other development views are less extensive. Baldersby St James is a planned village built on land above the floodplain on the east bank of the Swale in the 1850s. Its church spire is a prominent landmark in the surrounding flat farmland.

Generally this area is pleasant and particularly valued for its views into the North York Moors to the west.

The large-scale developments at Dishforth airfield and Melmerby Industrial Estate are discordant features within the landscape that do not conform to settlement pattern or vernacular. In addition the A1 is a prominent feature that cuts through the character area and is highlighted as a result of linear planting which is associated with it.

Historically, there are many features of interest suggesting that settlement has been established here for some time. The A1 itself is an important historic route and follows the course of the Roman Road (Dere Street) that may follow the line of a prehistoric route. Three Late Neolithic/Bronze Age henges that link with the Thornborough henges are in this character area. There are also barrows dating from the late Neolithic Period west of the A1 which appear to be associated with the henges.



HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

Location in Harrogate District

— Area boundary*
↓ Camera location & direction



Not to Scale



NB Due to the nature of landform, surface treatment and soil/geology composition Character area boundaries cannot be delineated precisely and should be considered "transitional".

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with sandy till and till drift geology.
- Deep, well-drained, often reddish, coarse, loamy brown soils.



B Near Norton le Clay.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- Flat to slightly undulating landform below 50m AOD.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Land use is predominantly arable with grass fields on the fringe of settlements, grade 2 agricultural land.
- Large arable fields and small to medium grassland fields bound by hedges.
- Very little woodland cover or individual tree cover.

Settlement, built environment and communication

- The main settlements are Dishforth, Kirby Hill, Langthorpe, Middleton Quernhow, and Rainton. Baldersby St. James has a village Conservation Area.
- Several scattered farmsteads.
- The A1(M) and A168 dissect the area.
- Roman road (Dere Street), which follows the line of the A1.
- Dishforth Airfield.
- Several tumuli and three henges of historic interest.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- Intensive farming practices have impacted upon the historic features of this landscape, which make little contribution to landscape character visually, but which are important in providing information relating to the historic development of this landscape.
- Continued neglect of historic archaeological features will result in the loss of an important landscape resource.
- Linear planting along the A1(M) and at its junctions does not sit well within this open landscape.
- Large-scale industrial development has impacted upon the character of this open area which is sensitive to large scale development.
- Loss of field pattern through loss of hedgerows and amalgamation of fields.
- Residential development at Dishforth Airfield does not respect vernacular nor landscape characteristics. The harsh line between development and the rural landscape is highlighted by a row of overgrown conifers. This is at odds with the rural character of the area.

Guidelines

Aim: To maintain the extensive views across and beyond the area.

- New development must take account of openness and views and should not impact upon these valued characteristics. Extensive large scale tree planting, required to screen any new development, would be inappropriate to the area's characteristics and impact upon views.
- Similarly, development requiring large blocks of woodland screening should be discouraged here.
- Small woodland blocks associated with appropriately scale development may help to integrate development with the landscape.

Aim: To integrate existing development.

- Traditional villages are integrated with the landscape as they are intrinsically linked to field pattern and their edges are often softened by native hedges and trees.
- The appearance of residential and built areas at Dishforth Airfield could be improved through small-scale native planting to the boundaries of development. Appropriate layout and species would soften the appearance of the development in the landscape.
- Large-scale development cannot be easily accommodated without further detriment to landscape character.
- Where new farm buildings are required they should be linked to existing farmsteads and take account of views of vernacular buildings.
- Avoid highlighting the A1(M) and A168 corridors. Linear planting along these corridors does not respect the landscape pattern.

Aim: To reinforce the diverse landscape pattern of the field systems.

- Encourage the reinstatement of hedges particularly in areas of pre parliamentary enclosure. Suggest set up of hedgerow register for the area identifying important hedges.
- Resist new large-scale industrial development in this area unless associated with similar existing development. Planting to mitigate the impact of large-scale buildings should soften rather than screen impact and the potential for planting beyond the immediate site should be considered.

Aim: To conserve historic features in the landscape.

- Support research into the history of the landscape and its archaeological features.
- Encourage better public access to features of historic importance.
- Reducing the extent of intensive cultivation in the vicinity of archaeological features will help to improve their setting and maintain their integrity.