

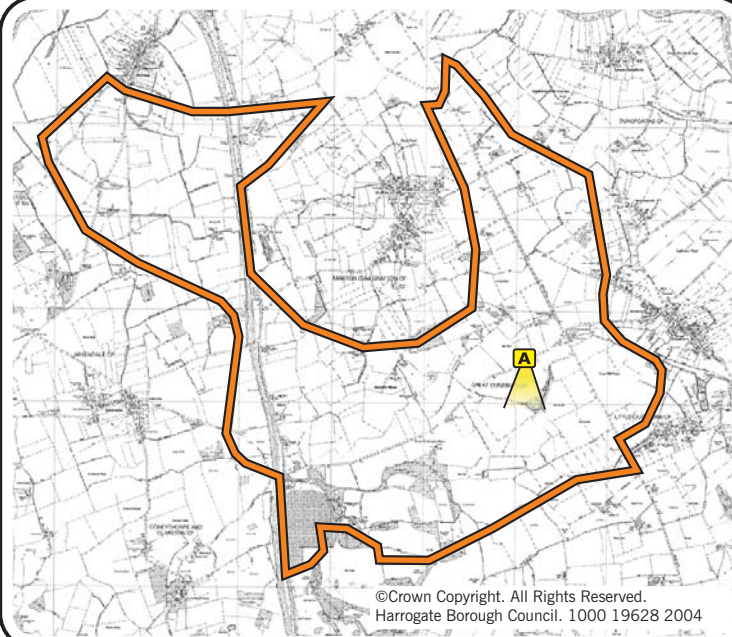
**AREA**  
**91**

**Approved**  
**Feb 2004**

**A** Moor Farm.



## Marton rolling arable farmland



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### HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment



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".



## Description

This is a large-scale, productive arable landscape with a gently rolling landform covering approximately 16.5km<sup>2</sup> of the District. The area surrounds Marton cum Grafton and its conservation area, and is distinct from that Character Area due to its more gently undulating landform and less organised large-scale field pattern. The land is intensively managed for both cereal and root crops. The majority of hedgerows have been lost leaving the fields open (the few that do survive are fragmented and neglected). There are very few individual trees and tree cover is sparse. Isolated small woodland blocks disperse views and there are extensive views from higher ground to the Dales, the North York Moors and Howardian Hills.

South this area is the setting of Allerton Park Registered Historic Park and Garden. The active landfill site at Claro House has an impact on this setting.

The simplicity of the arable fields is balanced in this pleasant and attractive rural landscape that would feel remote but for the constant traffic noise of the main roads. The A1(M) is a large, linear feature which detracts from a generally pleasant character. The accessibility of the A1(M) corridor has resulted in development pressure.

## Key Characteristics

### Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology and sandy till and till drift geology.
- Magnesium limestone beneath the sandstone has some influence.
- Deep, fine loamy soils with slowly-permeable sub-soils and slight, seasonally-waterlogging associated with well-drained fine coarse loamy soils in an undulating landscape.

### Landform and drainage pattern

- Rolling landform between 40m and 65m AOD.
- The area is well-drained by numerous small ditches and dikes associated with field boundaries.

### Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Large fields intensively managed for both cereal and root crops.
- A large woodland block to the south close to the boundary with Allerton Park plus small isolated deciduous and coniferous woodland blocks.
- Few trees along field boundaries with little impact.
- Very few hedges remain other than along lanes. Those that do are neglected and fragmented.
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation at Bog Plantation (wet woodland).

## Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

### Settlement, built environment and communications

- No notable settlement but for several scattered houses and large, modern farmsteads.
- Traditional building materials are brick and red pantiles with some render and Welsh slate.
- The A1(M) dissects the western side of the Character Area.
- The B6265 between Green Hammerton and Boroughbridge follows the line of a Roman road (Dere Street) and there are two listed milestones on its length.
- An active landfill site to the south is a detractor.

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- There is pressure for development due to the proximity of the A1(M), easy accessibility and the perceived capacity of this large scale landscape to accommodate development.
- Lack of tree cover, hedges and diversity makes the landscape character sensitive to change from inappropriate development.
- The A1(M) is a distinctive linear feature with associated planting which does not assimilate well with landscape pattern.
- Sparsely scattered farmsteads are characteristic but many have increased in size and become more prominent so bringing discord to the landscape.
- Large fields are the result of the amalgamation of early enclosure fields. Further loss of hedgerows would result in the loss of links to past land use and resulting landscape pattern.

## Guidelines

### Aim: To integrate development and the A1(M) corridor to ensure that the setting of Marton & Grafton is not harmed

- Resist large-scale development not sensitive to the openness of the area. Development in prominent locations will be a focal point and bring discord to the landscape pattern.
- Encourage the maintenance and management of motorway planting to ensure best fit into the character of this area. Look into possible ways of reducing the linear arrangement of woodland through extending planting away from the road.
- Monitor the appropriate restoration of the landfill site at Claro House and ensure the areas long-term positive contribution to the setting of Allerton Park.
- Promote woodland and tree planting linked to farmsteads, taking account of key views. Planting does not necessarily mean screening and should provide a setting and a link with the surrounding countryside and contribute to the setting of Allerton Park.

### Aim: To conserve and enhance the links between woodland trees and hedgerows.

- Promote the introduction of individual trees to hedgerows and field boundaries, particularly in proximity to farmsteads and around the few grass fields in the area.
- Refer to the Harrogate Council's Landscape Design Guide: LDG8.1.4 for appropriate native tree planting in the area.
- Woodland and tree planting along dry valleys and dips in the landscape can be used to help highlight landform.
- Research the importance of hedgerows under the Hedgerow Regulations criteria beginning with hedges in old parish boundaries.