Geology, soils and drainage

Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with silt and clay drift geology. The Magnesian limestone geology to the west has some influence on landform and building materials.

Deep, well-drained and coarse, loamy brown soils plus slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, clayey and fine, loamy surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

Flat to gently undulating land between 20m and 30m AOD.

Scour gutter (drain) flows through the area west of Skelton in a north south direction into the River Ure.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

Intensively-farmed arable and grass fields. Grade 2 agricultural land.

The designed parkland linked to Newby Hall influences the area around Skelton on Ure.

Small to large size fields bound by hedgerows in reasonable condition.
Key Characteristics (Cont’d)

- Hedgerow trees feature throughout but are sparse in places.
- Blocks of woodland are spread evenly through the area with the exception of Langthorpe Moor

Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlement is Skelton on Ure plus several scattered farmsteads.
- The dominant traditional building material is red brick with pantile or slate roofs. Occasionally limestone and cobbles have been used.
- Minor road network providing links with Boroughbridge and the A1(M).
- A bridleway provides a link from the River Ure to Skelton and passes southeast of Newby Hall and parkland

Sensitivities & Pressures

- This area is extremely important to the setting of Newby Hall and its associated Registered Historic Park and Garden. The main approaches to the Hall are through this Character Area. Loss of tree and woodland cover through neglect would impact upon the character of the setting of the park as well as Skelton.
- Tourism is a major source of income for Newby Hall. Pressures for car parking and other tourist facilities are likely to increase. New structures and buildings in the area may adversely impact character and setting.
- Similar aged mature trees with few young trees to replace them as they die, particularly in hedgerows, could have a future impact on landscape character in the mid-term if not addressed.
- Intensive farming practices have had their toll on biodiversity in this area, which has no wildlife conservation designations. However, the hedgerows and woodlands, and links between them, do provide habitats for wildlife and should not be neglected.

Guidelines

Aim: To conserve the wooded rural setting of Newby Hall and Skelton on Ure

- Encourage planting of trees in hedgerows and in parkland areas to replace existing and maintain character over time.
- Promote the maintenance and repair of hedgerows using traditional techniques.
- Some of the hedges may be considered important under the criteria of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. Support research to identify important hedgerows and develop a hedgerow register for the area.
- Ensure that where permitted new development is appropriate in scale, materials and design and respects the character of the area and the setting of Newby Hall.
- New building for rural businesses must respect vernacular and landscape pattern and use appropriate mitigation measures.

Aim: To maintain and enhance wildlife habitats and corridors.

- Support and encourage continued management of the area for wildlife as well as agricultural and country sporting activities.
- Promote the continued management of hedgerows and hedgerow trees to provide cover for wildlife. Avoid severe and damaging trimming techniques.