

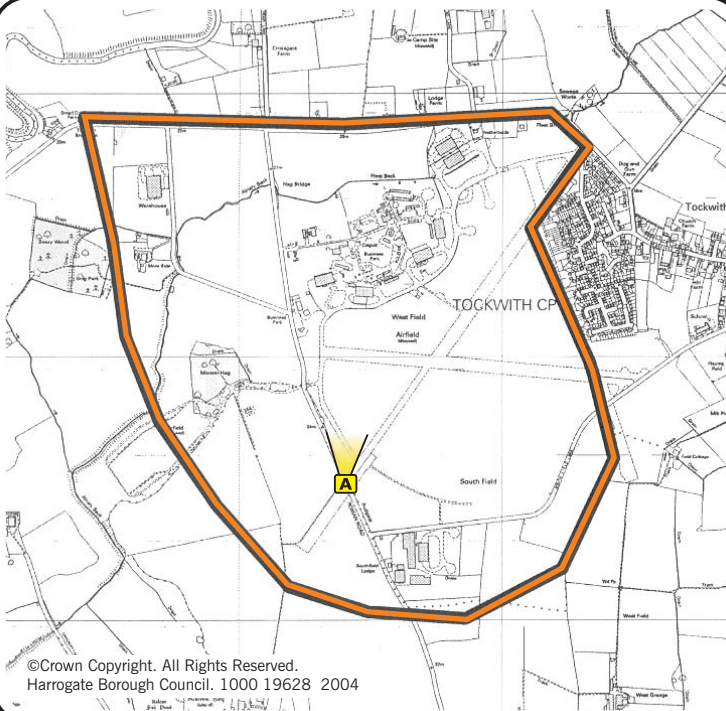
# AREA 101

Approved  
Feb 2004

**A** View north over airfield from Rudgate.



## Tockwith airfield



### HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

— Area boundary\*

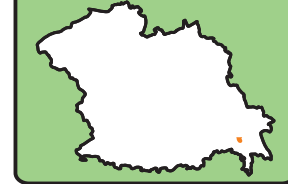
! Camera location & direction



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".

Location in Harrogate District



## Description

This Character Area is situated to the west of Tockwith and covers approximately 2km<sup>2</sup>. The area is flat and distinct from the surrounding Character Areas due to the amount of industrial use. Land cover is mixed with farmed land being dominated by large-scale buildings and disused runways crossing the airfield. In addition the area has an untidy appearance in the landscape which contrasts with the surrounding intensively-managed farmland and the neighbouring village.

Although considered separate from the surrounding countryside, the airfield does share some key characteristics. Overall this area detracts from the rural landscape of the southeast corner of Harrogate District due to its general untidiness and the scale of development in comparison to the surrounding landscape.

## Key Characteristics

### Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology with sandy till and till glacio-fluvial drift geology.
- Deep, well-drained often reddish, coarse, loamy, brown soil and slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, stoneless, clayey, surface water gley soils.

- No significant water features.

### Landform and drainage pattern

- Flat below 25m AOD. There are areas of man-made mounds which appear out of place in this flat landscape.
- Runoff drains into small water courses under the jurisdiction of Marston Moor Internal Drainage Board.

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

- Historically the area was an airfield.
- There are some arable fields.
- Woodland cover is sparse but tree cover is reasonable. There are small clumps of trees.

### Settlement pattern, built form and communications

- There is no residential settlement in the area but the airfield does impact upon the character and setting of Tockwith the east.
- Large-scale buildings are present to the north side of the airfield.

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ The airfield is an anomaly within the landscape: additional similar development is unlikely to significantly alter character. However, such development would impact on neighbouring Character Areas and villages, with Tockwith being particularly sensitive. As a result capacity for further development, without having this detrimental effect, is limited.
- ▶ Pressure continues for development (as industrial and business uses) that does not take account of landscape character and the impact of such development on that character. This has resulted in the site being considered separate from neighbouring Character Areas.
- ▶ The area is used for driving training and some of the industry and businesses there result in noise audible in Tockwith.
- ▶ Light pollution impacts upon the rural character of the surroundings.
- ▶ There is concern regarding the levels of runoff from the airfield and the impact continued development will have on drainage.

## Guidelines

**Aim: To integrate existing development with landscape character.**

- ▶ Encourage the planting of woodland to link with woodland and trees outside the Character Area and develop a strong landscape structure for the setting of the industrial estate.
- ▶ Promote woodland planting in the area in consultation with landowners and the Forestry Commission.

- ▶ Breaking up views across the site with tree planting may help integrate development.
- ▶ Promote the tidying of the site. Fly tipping should be stopped. The storage of materials should be temporary and only in appropriate locations.
- ▶ A lighting strategy for the site is needed to minimise light pollution. Low level lighting will help to reduce light pollution and the intensity of lighting should be considered.

**Aim: To improve the landscape character of the area in the context of its rural setting.**

- ▶ New development proposals must consider land-scape character and ways of improving the current situation on the site. Development should allow space for appropriate landscape proposals.
- ▶ An overall strategy for the airfield should be developed in consultation with landowners, businesses and local residents to ensure the long-term improvement of the site.
- ▶ Opportunities to introduce sustainable drainage systems could help improve the environment on the airfield and reduce concerns regarding the effect of runoff on land drainage.