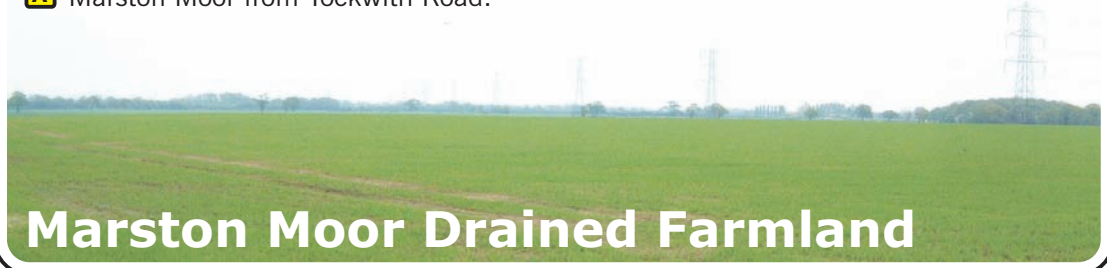


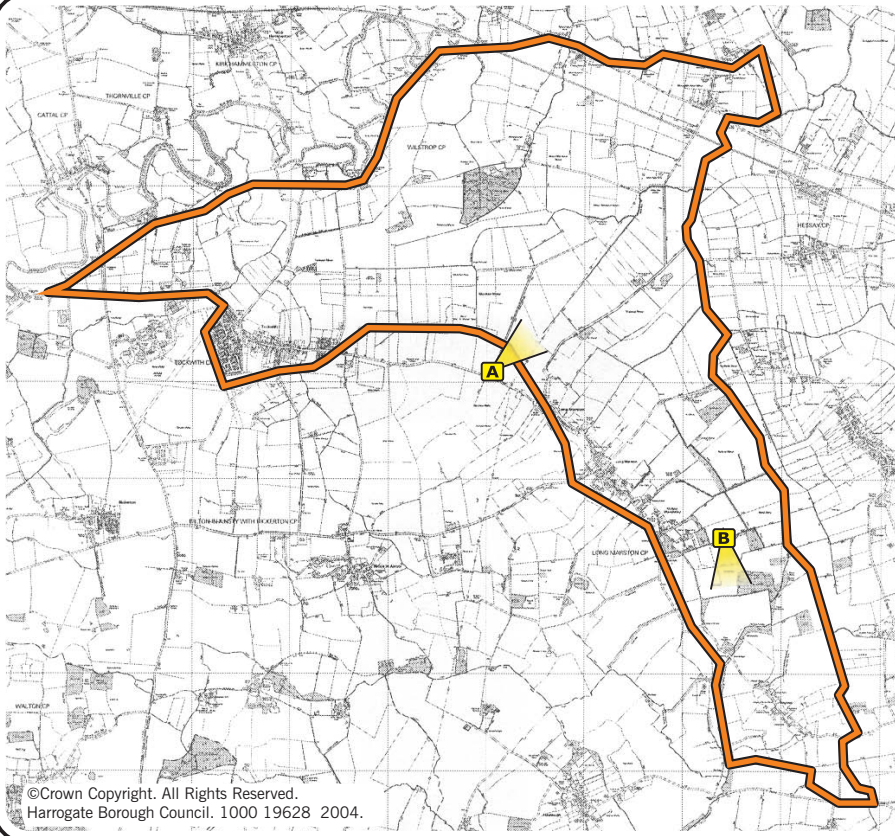
**AREA**  
**102**

**Approved**  
**Feb 2004**

**A** Marston Moor from Tockwith Road.



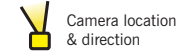
## Marston Moor Drained Farmland



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### HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

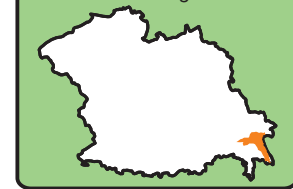
— Area boundary\*



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 is a large scale Character Area that covers 21km<sup>2</sup> nestling between the floodplains of the Rivers Nidd and Foss along the eastern edge of Harrogate District (and abutting the District of The City of York).

It is low lying, flat and intensively managed for arable crops and areas of grassland for grazing. Fields are large and bound by hedgerows of various condition, many are fragmented or have disappeared altogether leaving fields open. Those that do survive tend to grow along roadsides where they are generally better cared for and in relatively good condition. The fields form a regular pattern on the landscape and are typical of parliamentary enclosure before which land cover was a combination of heath and bracken.

Tree cover is sparse and long views are dispersed around intermittent blocks of woodland or shelterbelts.

Settlement is thinly dispersed and large farmsteads are sometimes the remnants of larger settlements that thrived in the past. The linear settlements of Tockwith and Marston Moor are situated on the boundary of this Character Area with Character Area 103: Marston Sloping Arable Farmland to the south west where landform becomes rolling rather than flat.

## Key Characteristics

### Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with silt and clay drift geology.
- Slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, stoneless, clayey and fine loamy over clayey surface water gley soils.

### Landform and drainage pattern

- Flat landform below 20m AOD.
- Few becks with associated network of ditches along field boundaries that drain into the River Nidd.
- Occasional springs and agricultural ponds.

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

- Grade 3 agricultural land managed both for grassland and arable production.
- Large fields both open and bound by hedgerows.
- Several woodland blocks particularly at Hutton Wandersley and Wilstrop Grange plus several rectilinear shelterbelts.

## Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- Wilstrop is a moderate sized, Ancient Replanted woodland.

### Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlements are the linear villages of Long Marston, Hutton Wandsley and Tockwith (the latter has a village Conservation Area), plus several scattered farmsteads.
- Tockwith is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The oldest building is The Thatched Cottage, which has a 16th century timber frame.
- Local building materials are reddish, brown brick with one or two examples of render. Welsh slate is the main roofing material.
- The deserted medieval village of Wilstrop is located to the north on the boundary with the River Nidd corridor.
- A network of minor roads and tracks provides access to the area and there is a limited network of public rights of way.
- The northern part of the Registered Historic Battlefield of Marston Moor (1644AD) is in this area .

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- Intensive agriculture and large-scale farm buildings have impacted upon the rural character and historic fabric of this productive character area. Potential further loss or neglect of features important to the historic battlefield at Marston Moor e.g. hedges and ditches.
- The settings of the linear settlements of Tockwith and Long Marston have altered over the years with the amalgamation of fields and loss of hedges around their edges. A large housing estate to the west side of Tockwith on the site of an ex-WWII airfield detracts from the setting and historic character of the village.
- Encroachment of development into this large scale and sometimes open landscape particularly from the west at Tockwith Industrial Estate.
- Loss/neglect/conversion of vernacular buildings.
- Lack of diverse age structure of individual trees and the concentration of trees along the roadside will result in landscape change in the future if not managed.
- Small blocks of (potentially) Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (areas under 2 hectares are not registered) could come under threat.

## Guidelines

### Aim: To conserve and enhance the historic fabric of the landscape.

- Features linked to the Historic Battlefield require protection and restoration.
- Promote the reinstatement of hedges and the management of ditches linked to the battlefield.
- Many buildings important to the vernacular of this area are not listed. However, their character and contribution to the area should be recognised. Encourage maintenance and repair of vernacular buildings and discourage development which would result in a change to their character.
- Elements of the landscape at the time of the battle still exist and should be protected from change.

### Aim: To integrate development with the surrounding landscape.

- Development to respect settlement pattern and be appropriate to the capacity of the landscape to accommodate change.
- Development in villages and linked to settlement should seek to retain the historic setting of the villages in the form of field pattern, land use and tree cover.

### Aim: Preserve and enhance woodland and tree cover.

- Promote the planting of hedgerow trees, particularly along roadsides.
- Encourage tree and woodland planting appropriate to the character of the area linking to existing woodlands and helping to soften large scale development in the landscape.
- Encourage woodland and tree management for the long-term across the Character Area to improve the characteristics of existing plantations where they are not in balance with the landscape character.
- Promote good hedgerow management and the retention of all hedgerows.



**B** Looking south from Hutton Wandsley Hall