

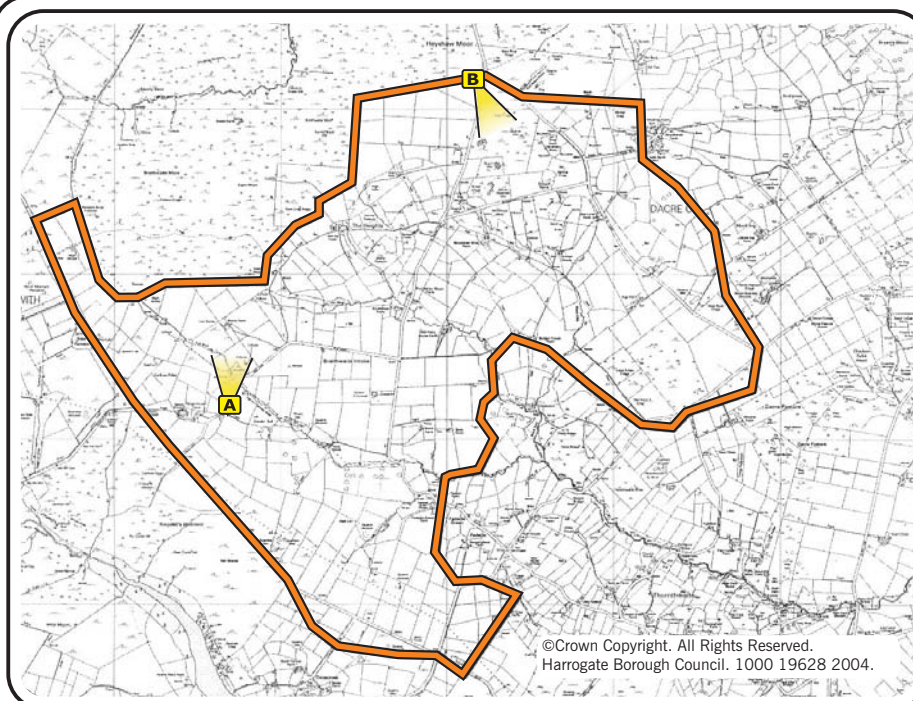
# AREA 12

Approved  
Feb 2004

**A** Farm at the edge of parliamentary enclosure grassland.



## Padside Beck Valley and Undulating Grassland



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.  
Harrogate Borough Council. 1000 19628 2004.

### 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".

Location in Harrogate District



## Description

This is a large-scale upland landscape of Parliamentary enclosure grass fields between the Nidd Valley and the Washburn Valley covering approximately 7km<sup>2</sup>. The area consists of the upland reaches of several small becks including Padside Beck and Black Sike which contribute to the undulating landform. Views are dispersed and extensive. The small upland valleys are generally well treed along their corridors. Else-where tree cover is sparse with clumps around scattered farmsteads. The regular pattern of fields with their dry stone walls resulting from Parliamentary enclosure dominates. There are lengths of fragmented and neglected walls.

There are rocky outcrops and patches of gorse along the boundary with the gritstone moor to the north and along the rim of the valleys.

The area is easily accessible through a network of minor roads which result in intermittent traffic noise. Other detractors include modern farm buildings and telegraph poles in what is otherwise a beautiful landscape within the designated Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## Key Characteristics

### Geology, soils and drainage

- Millstone grit solid geology.
- Slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged fine loamy, fine loamy over clayey soils.

### Landform and drainage pattern

- Gently undulating landform sloping south eastwards from between 200m and 320m AOD. Craggy outcrops occur at higher elevations.
- Small V-shaped upland valleys of Padside Beck and Black Sike Beck plus minor tributaries incise the landform and drain the adjoining Braithwaite and Heyshaw moorland eventually feeding into the River Nidd.
- Lots of springs and a few wells.

### Land use, fields, boundaries and trees

- Improved and rough grassland intensively managed for livestock.
- Small to medium sized fields bound by stone walls, some good condition with a few fragmented and reinforced with post and wire fencing.

## Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- Deciduous and mixed woodland along the beck corridors and around built form but very few, if any, trees elsewhere.
- Evidence of quarrying in the past.

### Settlement, built environment and communications

- No major settlement.
- Scattered farmsteads of moderate size with 18th and 19th century houses and modern farm buildings of moderate scale.
- Occasional isolated barns in poor condition.
- Many public footpaths cross the area in all directions and country lanes and tracks serving the farmsteads.

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- This area is characterised by its field pattern of Parliamentary enclosures with dry stone wall boundaries. Changes to the field pattern resulting from the neglect of boundaries and amalgamation of fields would impact upon distinctiveness.
- Traditional farmsteads and barns are also important and sensitive to change where new buildings are not sympathetic to local character. New access tracks impact upon the pattern of the landscape where they do not conform with landform and field pattern.
- The few individual barns in the area are important features and are prone to neglect.

- The wooded nature of the gills and becks that pass through this area, add diversity and contrast well with the flatter areas of grassland. Maintenance and management of the woodland in this area may be subject to neglect.
- The planting in and around Dacre Braithwaite School detracts from the area's pleasant and harmonious character.

## Guidelines

### Aim: To conserve the diversity of landscape characteristics and enhance landscape pattern.

- Promote the repair and maintenance of dry stone walls and traditional field barns.
- Ensure that development relates to farmsteads and settlement pattern. New access tracks should only be allowed where needed and they must respect local landform and landscape pattern.
- Resist the conversion of field barns where new and improved access arrangements are required and where highly visible in the rural agricultural context of this landscape.
- Woodland and tree management is required. New planting should be restricted to the valleys and small clumps of native trees around farmsteads.
- Opportunities to modify the planting around the school to respect local landscape pattern and character should be sought.



**B** Looking south east from top of Foldshaw Lane.