

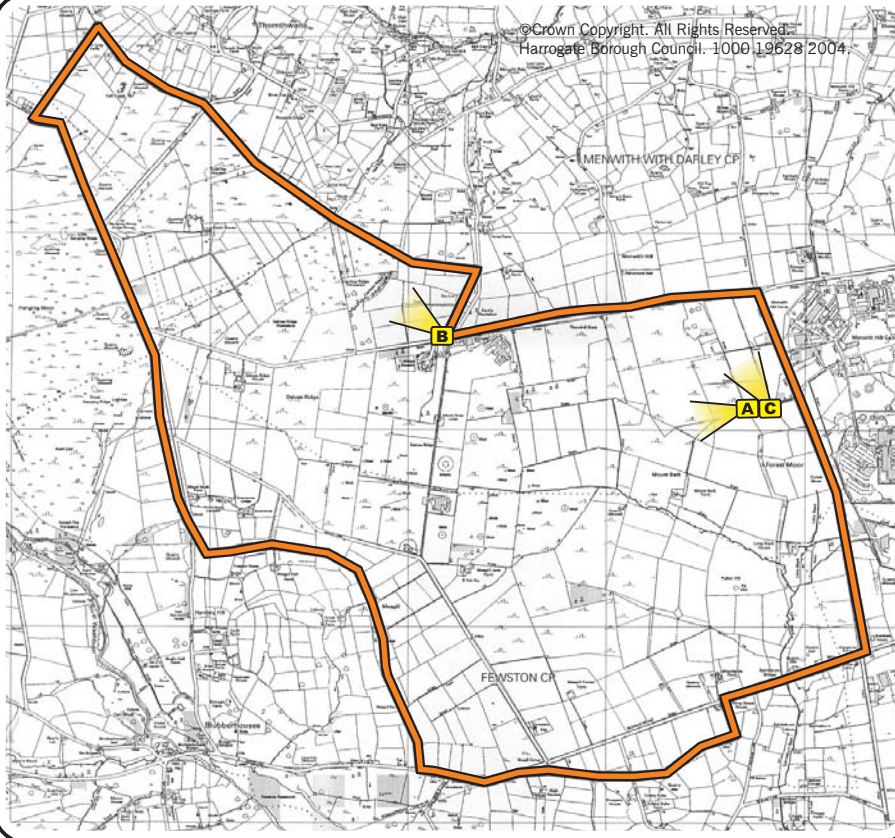
AREA 15

Approved
Feb 2004

A Looking west from track off B6451.

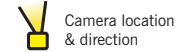


Forest Moor Undulating Grassland Plateau



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 area of upland separates the Washburn and Nidderdale valleys. It covers approximately 8km² west of Menwith Hill as far as Calf Crag Farm.

The landform is undulating with large rectangular grassland fields, typical of parliamentary enclosure, bound by a mixture of fragmented walls and hawthorn hedges that are often replaced or reinforced with fencing for stock control.

A few mature individual trees survive along field boundaries between widely scattered small conifer plantations. Tree cover would appear sparse but for the impact of the out-grown hedges that often block views across an otherwise open landscape.

The management of the grass fields is mixed with scattered patches of gorse, straggled hedgerows and gritstone out-crops at higher elevations evoking feelings of wildness.

Long straight roads in alignment with the rectilinear field pattern cross the plateau east to west providing constant traffic noise.

The radomes of RAF Menwith Hill are a detractor in the adjacent Character Area.

This area is within the designated Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



B View across fields from Day Lane.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

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

Landform and drainage pattern

- ▶ Rolling landform between 220m and 270m AOD.
- ▶ Long Slack Stream flows eastwards connected to a network of ditches that drain the fields.

Land use, fields, boundaries and trees

- ▶ Improved and rough grassland intensively managed for livestock.
- ▶ Few very small conifer and mixed plantations and shelterbelts.
- ▶ Parliamentary enclosure of large rectilinear fields with a mix of wall and hedge remnant boundaries often in poor and fragmented condition reinforced or replaced with post and wire fencing.
- ▶ A few mature individual trees are scattered along field boundaries but hedgerow remnants have a greater impact.
- ▶ Evidence of past quarrying and pits.
- ▶ There are no wildlife designations in this area.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ There are no major settlements but several scattered farmsteads of moderate size.
- ▶ RAF Menwith Hill abuts the eastern boundary and imposes on the Character Area.
- ▶ Straight roads typical of parliamentary enclosure run in a general east to west direction.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ Regular parliamentary enclosure field patterns and the openness of the area due to altitude and lack of tree cover make the area sensitive to change through neglect of boundaries and development of farmsteads.
- ▶ The character of the area would suffer adverse impact as a result of additional modern residential development in open countryside.
- ▶ Requirements for improved access to isolated farmsteads and houses resulting in new roads or tracks may have impact on landscape pattern.

Guidelines

Aim: To preserve and reinforce landscape pattern

- ▶ Promote reinstatement of neglected or lost field boundaries and maintenance of existing ones.
- ▶ New access requirements should respect landform and field pattern.
- ▶ Tree planting in 'dips' will accentuate the plateau landform - planting on the skyline should be avoided.

Aim: Maintain and respect vernacular and sparse scattered settlement pattern.

- ▶ Ensure new development uses appropriate design and materials.
- ▶ Location of new residential development should not be prominent on the landscape and respect settlement pattern. Potential for this is limited.
- ▶ Requirements for modern farm buildings should relate to existing farmsteads.



▶ Looking north from track off B6451.