

**AREA**  
**17**

**Approved**  
**Feb 2004**

**A** Looking south-west from Timble.



**Timble Gill Beck**  
**Upland Fringe Grassland**

**Description**

This small valley landscape nestles between Askwith Moor upland and the Washburn Valley. The area covers around 3km<sup>2</sup> and consists of Dick's Beck and converges with Timble Gill Beck, a major tributary of the River Washburn.

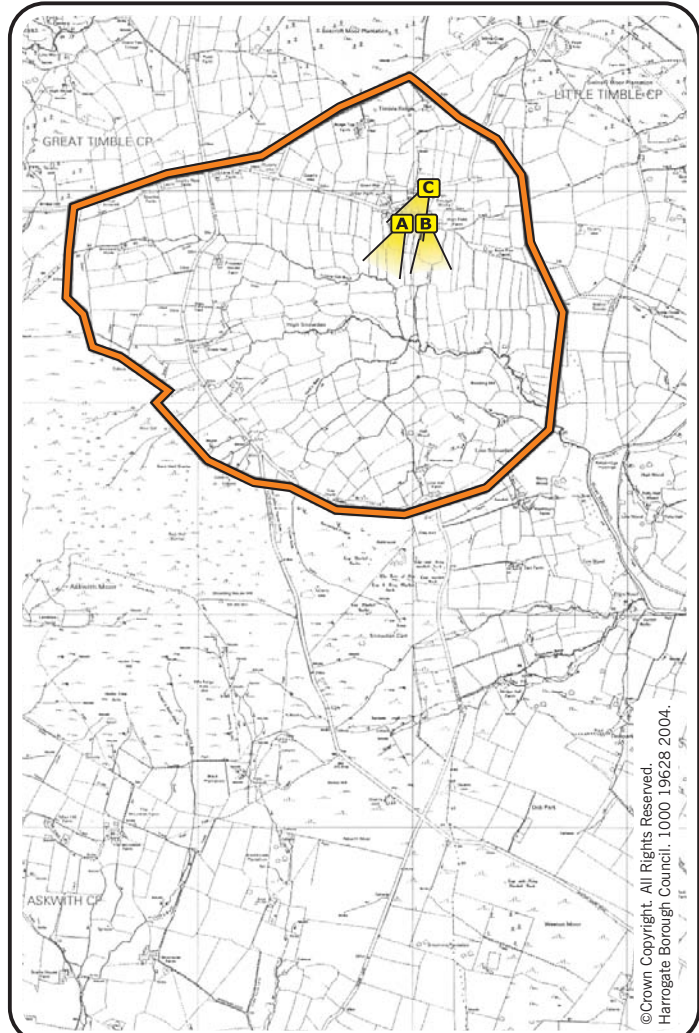
The broad valley sides undulate as they slope away from the well-wooded valley floor. Elsewhere woodland cover is dense, well-balanced and respectful of the sinuous curves of the topography evoking a sense of harmony in this intimate landscape.

Timble village is the main settlement in the area located at the top of the south facing valley side with extensive views across the valley to the gritstone moorland and along the valley to Lindley Reservoir.

Field pattern is random and provides an interesting and rare example of a landscape that has been farmed since at least medieval times and possibly before. Small higgledy-piggledy fields are a feature of the north facing valley side suggesting 'assarting' (gradual woodland clearance). The south-facing valley side below Timble village is characterised by linear fields that are bound by drystone walls. A packhorse road crosses the valley through the centre of this area that is rich in history. Timble Gill Beck was part of the southern boundary of the Royal Forest of Knaresborough, a former medieval hunting park.

The valley is remote and road access is limited to Timble and farmsteads built at higher elevations along the valley rim. Public footpaths allow access across the valley.

This is a stunning area within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and of high value to local residents yet sometimes affected by the distant noise of off-road motor vehicles.



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**HARROGATE DISTRICT**  
**Landscape Character Assessment**

Location in Harrogate District

— 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".

**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**

- Small-scale V-shaped valley rising from 120m to approximately 260m AOD.



**B** Looking south-west from Timble.

## Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- ▶ Timble Gill Beck flows east along the valley and is a major tributary of the River Washburn.
- ▶ Dick's Beck plus several small tributaries feed Timble Gill Beck.
- ▶ Green Well at Timble plus few other wells and springs at higher elevations.

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

- ▶ Improved and semi-improved grassland managed for livestock.
- ▶ Field pattern includes long and thin strip fields at right angles to the linear settlement of Timble and small random shaped fields typical of early enclosure, possibly with medieval origins.
- ▶ Field boundaries are dry stone walls reinforced or replaced with post and wire fencing.
- ▶ Lots of individual trees scattered along field boundaries.
- ▶ Deciduous woodland along Timble Gill Beck plus deciduous clumps, and coniferous and mixed woodland.

### Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ The main settlement is Timble, first recorded in the Domesday Book. There are also several scattered farmsteads and field barns.
- ▶ Traditional building materials are local gritstone with stone slate roofs.
- ▶ Several public footpaths cross the area plus a packhorse road.
- ▶ A minor road skirts around the edge of the character area and through Timble.

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ Field pattern in this area is intrinsic to the distinctive character. Dry stone wall boundaries in places are disappearing, resulting in an amalgamation of fields.
- ▶ The area has many historic elements of importance to its distinct character that are difficult to quantify. For example, there are small clumps of woodland which may originate from medieval times.

- ▶ Barn conversions and single new houses in the countryside impact upon the rural agricultural character of the area. The area is sensitive to development.
- ▶ Biodiversity of the meadows in the area is under threat due to modern agricultural practices.

## Guidelines

### Aim: To protect intricate landscape pattern.

- ▶ Actively seek to restore and maintain dry stone wall field boundaries.
- ▶ Promote woodland and tree management and planting to enhance and maintain wooded characteristics of the valley that respect landform and emphasise the valley.
- ▶ Resist development that would result in loss of, or change to, key characteristics and which does not respect settlement pattern and local vernacular.

### Aim: To protect the historic elements of this character area and promote understanding of their contribution to the distinct landscape character.

- ▶ Research the historic element of the landscape and develop detailed guidelines and interpretation concerned with the conservation and understanding of landscape history. Create links with the Community Archaeology Group.
- ▶ Research woodland in the area in partnership with tree wardens and locals. Seek to protect and manage small areas of woodland which have been identified as Ancient Semi-Natural in origin but which are under 2 hectares and consequently not protected.

### Aim: To maintain and enhance biodiversity of grassland in the area which contributes to varied textures intrinsic to landscape pattern.

- ▶ Promote less intensive and more varied grassland management to encourage diversity of grassland communities in line with Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan.



▶ Looking over Timble from the north east.