

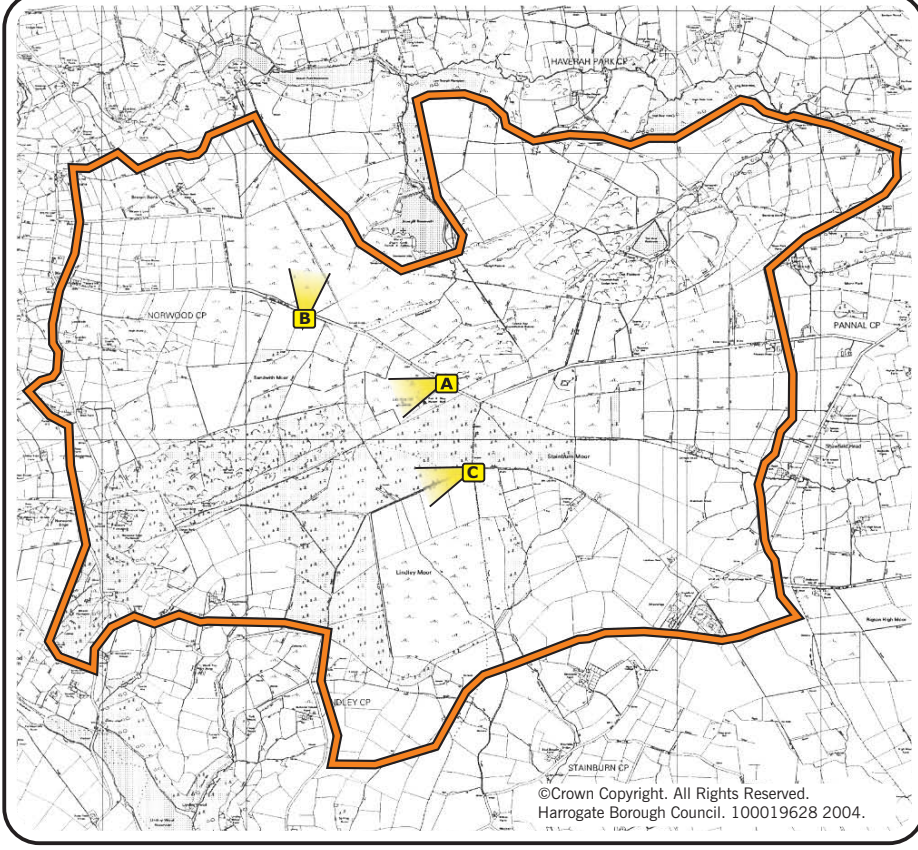
AREA 20

Approved
Feb 2004




A Little Alms Cliff.



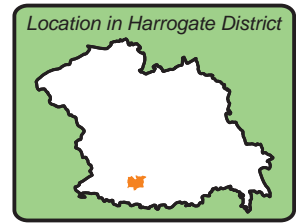
Stainburn Moor, Lindley Moor and Sandwich Moor



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".



Description



This upland area of large-scale parliamentary enclosure with dry stone wall boundaries and forestry sits between the valley systems of Oak Beck and the River Washburn covering an area of approximately 18km². A 3km² block of conifer forest is situated on the higher ground to the south west in this elevated character area and is prominent on the skyline with more attention being attracted to it due the presence of a large communications mast at the highest point. Beyond the boundaries of the forest tree cover is sparse and the enclosed grass moorland is exposed with extensive views to the north including glimpses of RAF Menwith Hill. Field size becomes smaller towards the edge of the character area and grassland semi improved and improved.

Ten Acre Reservoir is highly visible and the site of a disused quarry. It sits within the uniform landscape that changes colour with the seasons. The rough texture of the grassland and heath suggests neglect.




The Character Area lies within the boundary of The Royal Forest of Knaresborough and partially within Haverah Park both of which were medieval deer parks. Also of historic interest are cup and ring marked rocks at Little Alms Cliff.

Key Characteristics



Geology, soils and drainage

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

Land form and drainage pattern

-  Undulating landform between 200m and 290m AOD scattered with numerous gritstone outcrops, most notably Little Alms Cliff.
-  Vast grid-like drainage pattern along field boundaries and within forestry.
-  Ten-Acre Reservoir.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

-  Very large rectilinear fields of rough grassland with drystone wall boundaries becoming smaller and improved grass towards the edges of the Character Area.
-  A large-scale conifer forest at Norwood Edge Plantation dominates the skyline.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- Walls with post and wire fencing, and post and wire fencing alongside road.
- Evidence of small scale quarrying in the past.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- Very few farmsteads located on outer edge of character area.
- Broad Dubb Road/Norwood Lane is the only road to cross the Character Area.
- Three notable public footpaths provide access from Little Alms Cliff into neighbouring character areas.
- A communications mast is located at the highest point in this area within the conifer forest at Norwood edge and is a dominant feature seen for miles around.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- This exposed and highly visible landscape is sensitive to change resulting from changes in forestry management and additional structures. Its exposed nature makes it ideal for structures such as communications masts and wind turbines.
- Views of Menwith Hill detract from the character of this area.
- Little is known about the historic features of interest such as the cup and ring marked rocks and the historic origins of the landscape are neglected.
- The straight edges of the conifer plantation are insensitive to land form and the lack of variety of tree species offers limited value to wildlife.



B Sandwith Moor.



C A track alongside a plantation on Stainburn Moor.

- Neglect and potential loss of stone wall field boundaries. However, this open landscape can accommodate this without detriment to the landscape character.

Guidelines

Aim: To protect the simple landscape pattern characteristic of the area.

- Encourage the repair of stone wall boundaries particularly to the edge of the Character Area.
- Discourage installation of surface or overhead communications.
- Discourage the planting of or extension of conifer plantations particularly where character is more open and exposed with extensive views.

Aim: To promote understanding of the historic features in the area and their contribution to landscape character.

- Identify heritage features of interest and Scheduled Monuments and develop strategy for their protection.
- Resist any development that would risk the character of the landscape and its historic value.
- There is potential for new archaeological discoveries in the area, particularly within the forestry. Promote archaeological study in conjunction with forestry management plans.

Aim: To integrate the conifer forest with the landscape and reduce its visual impact.

- Support the Forestry Commission in the diversification of the edges of conifer plantations through the introduction of native broadleaved woodland margins appropriate to the area. (See Harrogate Council's Landscape Design Guide: LDG8.1.2 for species mixes.)