

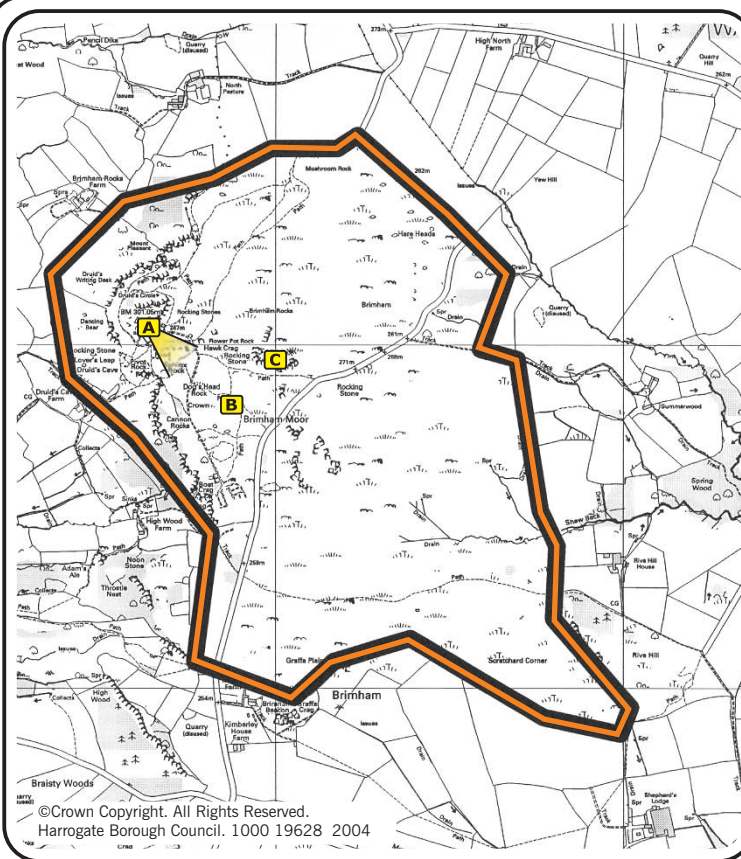
**AREA
27**

**Approved
Feb 2004**

A From the National Trust visitor centre looking south east.

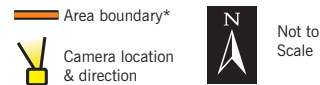


Brimham Rocks



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

HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment



* 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 landscape is an untouched heathland north of Summerbridge that has survived as the surrounding landscape has been drained for agricultural improvements and large-scale forestation.

The area covers approximately 1.66km² and is characterised by millstone grit outcrops that have weathered to create dramatic shapes in the landscape. Many outcrops occur at the northern end of the site where the landform is higher, drier and cloaked in species such as heather and bilberry. On lower lying land, the ground is wetter and several springs form small streams that meander through the wetland scrub.



Across the rocks, natural clumps of birch woodland have been allowed to regenerate remaining naturalistic and wild.

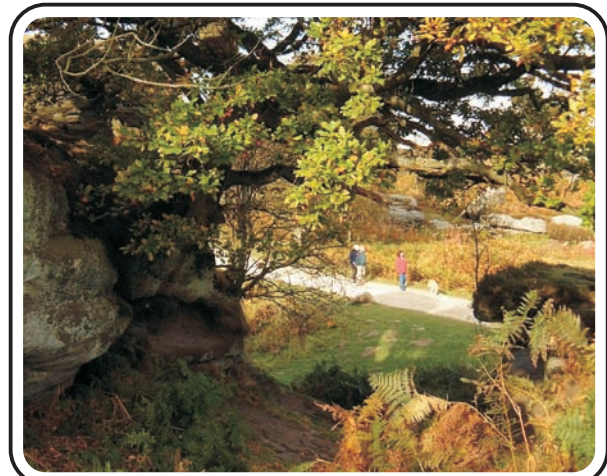
The area is an SSSI managed by the National Trust and open to the public all year round. It is easily accessed by a network of public footpaths including the Nidderdale Way.

There are extensive views of the rocks jutting above woodland from north west as well as 360° views of the surrounding countryside and beyond. Harrogate and the edge of the North York Moors can be seen on a clear day as well as the radomes at Menwith Hill.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

-  Millstone grit solid geology.
-  Acidic upland soil with a wet, peaty surface horizon. Some shallow, peaty soils over rock. Boulders locally. (Humus iron pan Stagnopodzol).



B Visitors on one of the bound paths through the rock formations.



Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

Landform and drainage

- Distinctive weathered rocky outcrops of gritstone on small area of upland moor.
- SSSI for geological interest
- No major watercourses but several springs to the east feeding small becks that flow eastwards out of the area.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Open heather moorland and acidic woodland.
- The area is used for climbing and walking.
- Car Parking at the southern end of the site.
- The area is designated as an SSSI for its geological and ecological value.

Settlement pattern, built form and communications

- Visitor and information centre is built of local sandstone with a slate roof.
- Both bound and unbound paths from the car park to the visitor centre.
- A minor road passes through the site.
- Historically the area has been used for recreation because of its unusual rock formations.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- SSSI status was given to the area for its geological characteristics which are enjoyed by many visitors each year. In the past car parking was less formal than today and did impact upon the setting of the unique rock formations.
- Woodland has grown up around the site and requires management to prevent the threat of encroachment onto the surrounding moorland.

Guidelines

Aim: To conserve the unique landform and land cover that distinguishes the area.

- Support the National Trust in its management of the site for recreation, wildlife and geological interest.
- Any development required for the site from signs to new facilities should be designed to respect the unique landscape character of the site.
- Views to and from Brimham Rocks are important: impact on these views should be assessed for development proposals in neighbouring character areas as well as within the Character Area itself.
- No development will be allowed that significantly alters landform and land cover.