

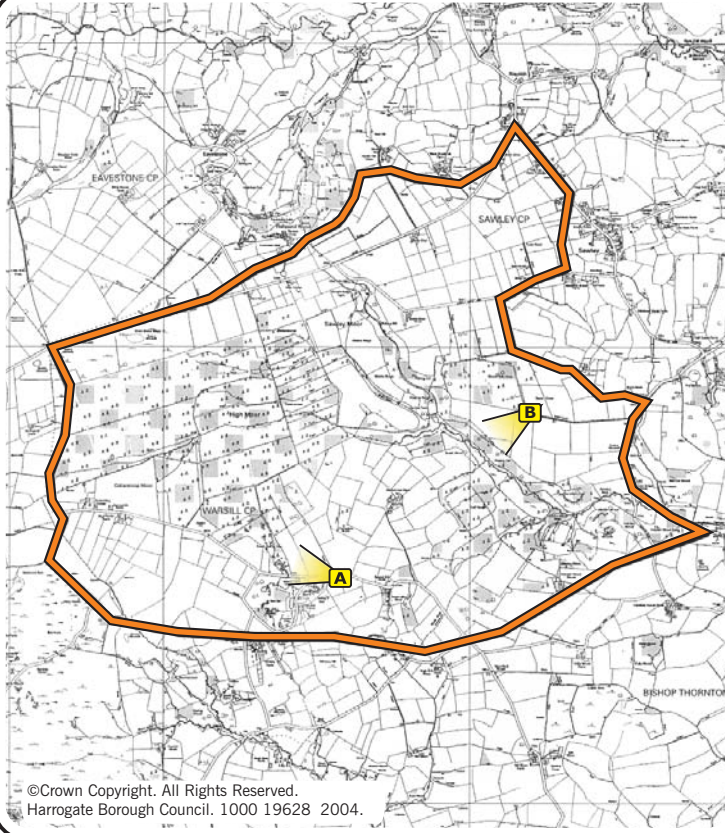
**AREA**  
**29**

**Approved**  
**Feb 2004**

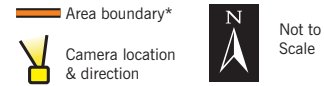
**A** Looking northwest to Jeffrey Wood.



## Sawley Moor Grassland and Forestry



### 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 moderate-scale landscape covers almost 9km<sup>2</sup> and sits on the high ground between the rivers Nidd and Skell valley systems.

It is a simple landscape managed for both large-scale forestry and intensive grazing, with distinctive scattered gritstone outcrops adding interest.

Field pattern is regular, and the straight edges of the conifer plantations mirror the geometric shape of the fields and roads that are typical of parliamentary enclosure.

Field boundaries are predominantly walls in good condition plus fragmented hedges that have been reinforced with fencing.

Conifer plantations dominate the skyline and enclose views in this remote landscape that has no major settlements. There are a few scattered farms and houses. Telegraph poles are also highly visible detractors from an otherwise pleasant landscape.

A limited network of public footpaths crosses the area and provides valuable access into this area which is in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## Key Characteristics

### Geology, soils and drainage

- Millstone grit solid geology.
- Slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey surface water gley soils. Well-drained and coarse, loamy, brown soils. Coarse, loamy, acid and wet, peaty, podzolic soils.

### Landform and drainage pattern

- Undulating landform scattered with rock outcrops gradually sloping to the east plus the small narrow valley of Picking Gill. Grade 3 and 4 agricultural land.
- Picking Gill is the main watercourse with several small reservoirs along its length, plus Black Dike.
- Numerous springs and wells including Wine Wife Well and Jeffrey Well.

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

- Improved grassland fields typical of parliamentary enclosure, managed for livestock.

## Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- ▶ Large-scale forestry in the form of several large conifer plantations with deciduous planting around their perimeter.
- ▶ Warren Forest Caravan Park to the south is reasonably well hidden in this landscape.
- ▶ Medium sized fields bound by walls, fences and outgrown hedges.
- ▶ Few trees scattered along field boundaries predominantly outgrown hawthorn hedges.

### Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ There are no major settlements but scattered farmsteads and residential houses.
- ▶ Local building materials include gritstone and stone slate roofs.
- ▶ Butterton Bridge is a Scheduled Monument. Lacon Cross and a disused quarry are also of historic interest.

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ The large-scale, rectilinear conifer plantations dominate the area and impact on the contribution of field pattern to character. The area (and its neighbours) is sensitive to additional large scale conifer planting that would increase the influence of conifers in the landscape.
- ▶ Large scale felling of plantations will impact considerably on character (at least in the short term).
- ▶ Continued loss of field boundaries will reduce the impact of the field pattern on the character of this area.
- ▶ Invasive species on roadside verges, such as ragwort, may impact also on the grass fields in the area and their contribution to character.
- ▶ Limited development pressure in this area is generally restricted to farmland management and tourism facilities such as caravan parks.
- ▶ The area has limited capacity to accept further development as this would impact upon the overall remoteness as well as settlement pattern.

## Guidelines

### Aim: To integrate conifer forests with the surrounding landscape.

- ▶ Promote the diversification of conifer woodland edges through native woodland planting. This approach will also help with wind blow problems that may occur at the time of timber harvest.
- ▶ Develop links with existing mixed and deciduous woodland particularly in gills and dips in landform.
- ▶ Felling of conifer plantations should be managed to minimise impact on landscape character and facilitate appropriate replanting soon after felling.

### Aim: To protect and enhance landscape pattern and diversity.

- ▶ Maintain and manage walls and hedgerows to retain the geometric parliamentary field pattern characteristic of the area and provide incentives for repair and restoration of field boundaries that have been neglected.
- ▶ Liaise with highways to control invasive species on roadside verges.

### Aim: To integrate development.

- ▶ Development of farmsteads must respect settlement pattern and character. Farmsteads tend to be located on the south and east facing slopes and are sparse. Views of them are restricted in part due to landform and largely due to coniferous plantations.
- ▶ Extension of existing caravan sites and creation of new ones should be resisted where they will impact upon landscape character. New development should integrate with current landscape characteristics and not detract from them.
- ▶ Domestic landscape treatment linked to development should be resisted as this will detract from the rural upland character.



**B** Looking south west from Green Lane top.