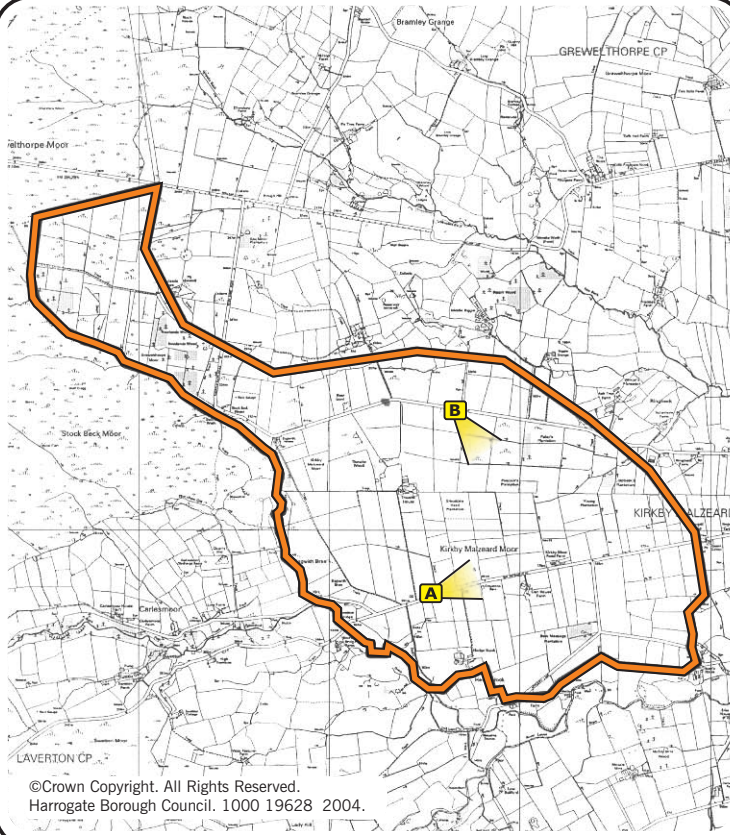
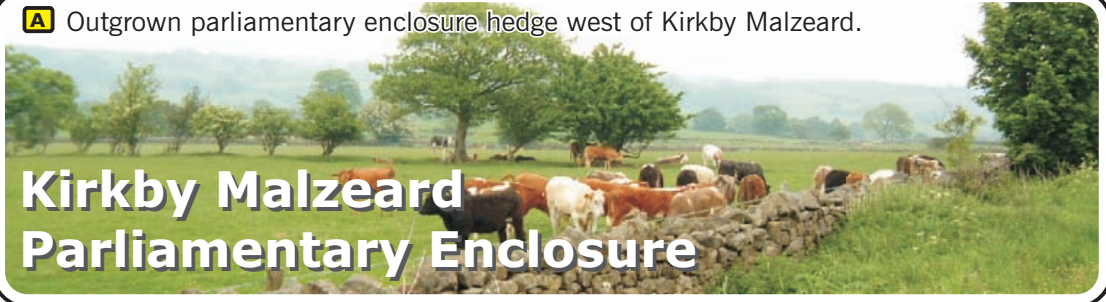


AREA
34

Approved
Feb 2004

A Outgrown parliamentary enclosure hedge west of Kirkby Malzeard.

Kirkby Malzeard Parliamentary Enclosure



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".

Location in Harrogate District



Description

This is a moderate to large-scale landscape that covers approximately 3.8km² and is situated on the northern side of the River Laver valley system, east of Ilton and Kirkby Malzeard moors.

The area is characterised by a strong pattern of parliamentary enclosure and straight roads that create a geometric pattern on the landscape. Rectangular fields are managed as improved grassland for grazing, bound by stone walls in varying states of repair and often reinforced with fencing.

Woodland cover and settlement is sparse resulting in a generally open and remote landscape apart from the presence of highly visible telegraph poles.

This is an attractive landscape within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and a useful resource for walkers wanting to access the moors or simply enjoy the solitude and views.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- ☐ Millstone grit solid geology overlain with till drift geology.
- ☐ Slowly permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, silty surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- ☐ Undulating landform sloping between 170m and 280m AOD.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- ☐ Semi-improved and improved grassland, grade 4 agricultural land.
- ☐ Medium sized fields are typical of parliamentary enclosure (rectangular) bound by stone walls.
- ☐ Woodland cover is of small mixed and conifer plantations.
- ☐ Individual trees grow along field boundaries that may once have been hedges.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

Settlement, built environment and communications

- There are no major settlements and few scattered farmsteads of moderate size.
- Building materials include gritstone, stone slate and red tile roofs.
- The Ripon Rowel walk crosses the area close to the moorland.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- The field pattern is an important characteristic that is sensitive to change through neglect of stone wall boundaries.
- The few farmsteads in the area probably date back to the time of the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts. Their character and contribution to the landscape has been impacted upon by the introduction of modern farm buildings.
- The stark contrast at the western end of the area between the darkness of the gritstone moor and bright green of the improved grass fields indicates the limited diversity of habitats.
- The dark green of rectilinear conifer plantations is a dominant element, not in harmony with the area's character. These plantations have greatest impact at the upland edge where they border both the open moorland and the parliamentary enclosure grassland.
- Agricultural policy and changes in the fortunes of agricultural businesses are likely to be the main forces for change in this area.

Guidelines

Aim: To conserve the distinctive pattern.

- Provide incentives for the repair and restoration of stone walls.
- Roads and tracks through the area conform to the straight lined rectangular field pattern. New access requirements must respect this.
- New building in the area must respect local landform and landscape character. Discourage building in prominent locations and respect the vernacular buildings of farmsteads. Ideally, new agricultural buildings should be associated with existing farmsteads and should not detract from key views of vernacular buildings.

Aim: To enhance the diversity of landscape characteristics and biodiversity.

- Encourage less intensive management of improved grass fields particularly at the edge of this Character Area with the gritstone moor to create a gradual transition and provide new moorland scrub habitat.
- Promote the diversification of conifer plantations to soften their appearance in the landscape and improve opportunities for wildlife.



B Field pattern looking south east from Kirk Bank