

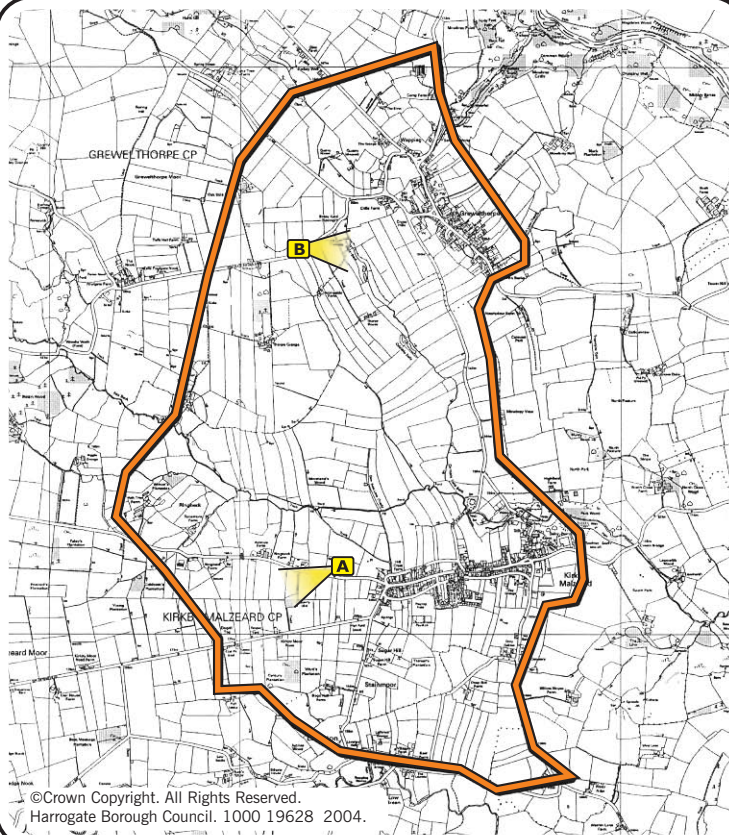
**AREA
35**

**Approved
Feb 2004**

A West of Kirkby Malzeard.



Kirkby Malzeard and Grewelthorpe



HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

— Area boundary*

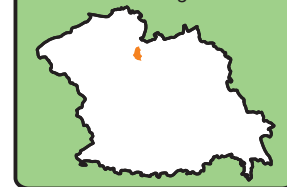
! Camera location
& direction



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 small-scale landscape that covers 5.85 km² within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The undulating landform gradually falls away to the north towards the valley system of the River Ure.

The landscape is characterised by the distinct pattern of thin, linear early enclosure fields and are organised around the settlements of Kirkby Malzeard and Grewelthorpe. This field pattern suggests that the area has long been settled and a preaching cross in the churchyard at Kirkby Malzeard dates from the 7th century.

Beyond the villages the countryside is more open and moderately well-wooded. Individual trees and hedges surround fields, partially-enclosing the landscape and dispersing views.

It is a beautiful, interesting and well-tended landscape. The use of post and wire fencing to reinforce fragmented hedgerows and constant traffic noise from the busy, narrow roads are detractors in this attractive, pastoral landscape.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- ▶ Millstone grit solid geology overlain with till drift geology.
- ▶ Slowly permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- ▶ Undulating landform between 140m and 190m AOD.
- ▶ Hutts Gill and Kex Beck drain the area plus a few isolated ditches along field boundaries.
- ▶ Numerous springs and wells including Billey Keld Spring and High Keld Well.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- ▶ Improved grassland, grade 3 agricultural land.
- ▶ Small to medium sized fields are long, thin and rectilinear in shape bound by hedges reinforced with fencing. The slight curve to the strip fields suggests a field pattern with medieval origins.

Key Characteristics

- Tree cover is of deciduous clumps of woodland plus lots of individual trees scattered along field boundaries (sycamore and ash dominate).

Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlements in this area are linear villages of Kirkby Malzeard and Grewelthorpe.
- Traditional building materials are gritstone and stone slate roofs.
- Kirkby Malzeard appears in the Domesday Book.
- Stone Age farmers were in the area and Bronze Age relics have been found as well as evidence of Roman presence.
- Mowbray Castle's motte and bailey dates from the 12th century.
- A network of footpaths and minor roads link settlement.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- The loss of distinct, linear field boundaries due to amalgamation has impacted upon the historic fabric of the landscape. However, the strong, long, thin field systems are still apparent in places around and between the villages. The area is sensitive to further loss of field boundaries through neglect and amalgamation.
- The loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees would open out the landscape changing its character.
- The settings of the villages are sensitive to change, which may result from development such as extensions to domestic curtilage and new building.
- The main pressures that come to bear in this area are related to the changing fortunes of the farming industry resulting in diversification and conversion of traditional farm buildings.

Guidelines

Aim: To conserve the diverse and historic field pattern.

- Encourage the maintenance and repair of existing hedgerows and discourage the further amalgamation of the long, thin, strip fields that are remnants of old field systems possibly dating back to medieval times.
- Hedgerow trees are important to diversity and filter views. Promote the planting and replacement of native hedgerow trees (e.g. oak and ash).
- As part of early field systems many hedges may be considered important under the Hedgerow Regulations criteria. A survey of the hedgerows to determine their importance will aid their protection in the future.
- Investigate further the historic influences on landscape pattern and character in the area.

Aim: To conserve the setting and character of villages and settlement.

- The Kirkby Malzeard Village Design Statement contains design guidance for development aimed at conserving the village character and it should be adhered to.
- Extensions to domestic curtilage change the character of fields at the village edge. Where this is detrimental to the setting of the village change of use should be discouraged.
- Kirkby Malzeard is a linear village: recent developments have impacted upon this and further expansion of the village to the rear of existing houses would be detrimental to the historic character of the setting.



B Looking east from Foulgate Lane.