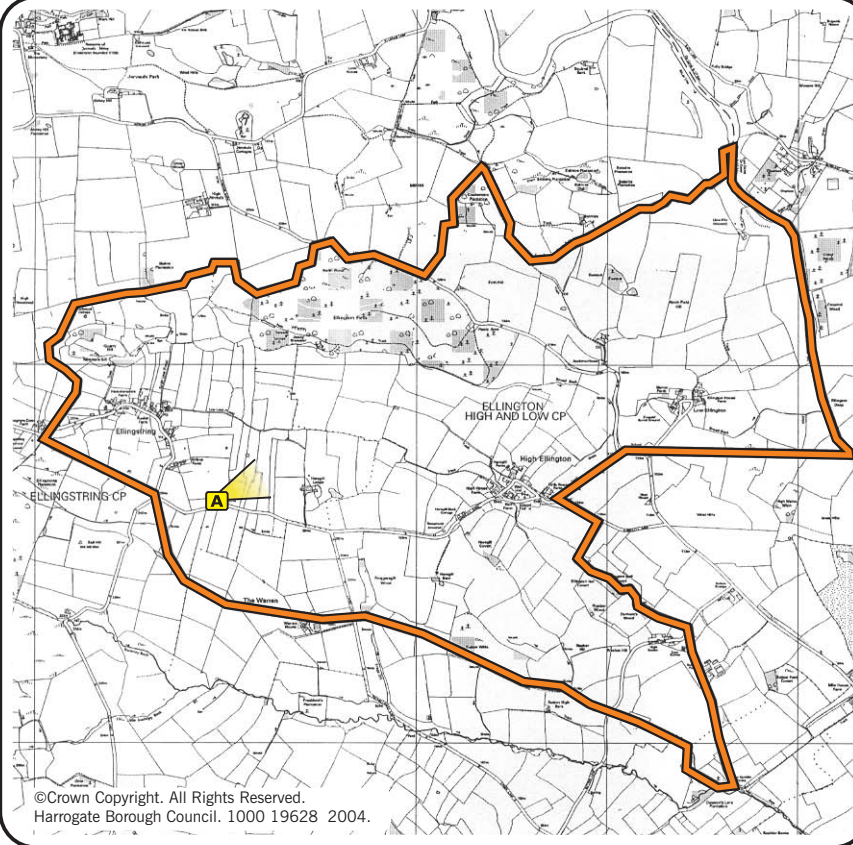


AREA 40

Approved
Feb 2004

A East of Ellingstring

Ellingstring to Low Ellington Upland Fringe



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 Character Area, covering just under 7km², is situated on the northern boundary of Harrogate District and extends across the boundary into Richmond District. The area undulates gently and slopes away from the western uplands offering dispersed views across the flatter land to the east of the District.

Land use is a mixture of improved grassland and arable fields of medium size and bound by hedgerows of various conditions and often reinforced with post and wire fencing for livestock control. Despite the diversity of land use the landscape is balanced and although woodland is intermittent individual trees provide vertical interest and scale.

Landscape pattern is organised particularly around Ellingstring where medieval strip fields are regimented and regular.

The quiet and narrow country roads and lack of large settlements nearby give this area a feeling of relative remoteness and it is a pleasant and interesting landscape. This is a landscape with a long history of human activity. The western part of the area is in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Millstone grit solid geology and till drift geology.
- Deep well-drained fine loamy brown and similar soils with slowly-permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Undulating landform sloping from 260m AOD in the west to 110m AOD in the east.
- There are a few scattered springs and small ponds but no significant water features.
- The landform generally slopes gradually down to the flat valley floor of the River Ure to the north and east.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Grade 4 agricultural land managed for intensive livestock production with some arable fields.
- Medium sized fields with hedgerow boundaries in a regular linear arrangement with a north south orientation around Ellingstring. There are a few walls to field boundaries near settlement.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- ▶ Large mixed plantation called North Wood and Ellington Firth plus individual trees scattered along field boundaries.
- ▶ Broad Beck and a few springs and wells are the main water features.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ The main settlements are Ellingstring and High and Low Ellington plus a few scattered individual farmsteads.
- ▶ Traditional building materials are local sandstone with stone slate and grey slate roofs. Most of the buildings appear to originate from the late 18th/early 19th centuries.
- ▶ Minor roads and public rights of way cross the area with evidence of packhorse routes surviving.
- ▶ Strip lynchets, ridge and furrow and strong medieval field patterns around Ellingstring are of historic interest.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ Field pattern and tree cover make an important contribution to the setting of the villages. As a result the area is sensitive to the loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees due to intensive farming practices and expanding arable production.
- ▶ Potential loss of hedgerows important to medieval field pattern near Ellingstring due to neglect of hedgerows and amalgamation of fields for larger farm machinery.
- ▶ Ridge and furrow and strip lynchet earthworks have disappeared gradually. Those that are left are vulnerable to modern cultivation practices.
- ▶ Expansion of farmsteads with inappropriate farm buildings, (materials, scale), could have a detrimental impact on character.
- ▶ Agricultural policy and the future of farming is likely to have the greatest impact on the landscape of the area. Diversification into tourism and recreation has led to changes elsewhere and this area, in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, could follow suit.
- ▶ The villages are small and consist of farms and farm worker's cottages. Occasional farms are scattered in between. Additional modern built form will impact upon this characteristic.

Guidelines

Aim: To preserve historic landscape features and patterns.

- ▶ A survey of Ellingstring Parish by the Harrogate Community Archaeology Project published in 1998 has identified historic features and characteristic in the vicinity of the village and makes recommendations regarding further survey work.
- ▶ Consult with landowners and DEFRA where cultivation would destroy medieval earthworks that are the result of farming and provide incentives to prevent further loss of these features.
- ▶ Encourage a survey to identify important hedges in the area using the Hedgerow Regulations criteria and link in findings with the Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan.
- ▶ Discourage the loss of those hedgerows which are not considered important under the Hedgerow Regulations criteria.

Aim: To conserve vernacular buildings and settlement pattern.

- ▶ Traditional buildings; important to character and susceptible to neglect. Set up a system to promote the restoration, consolidation and use of traditional buildings through a system of support.
- ▶ Ensure that new farm buildings are of appropriate scale, location and materials to respect vernacular and settlement pattern. Traditionally built form is not on the skyline and is associated with tree cover. The spatial relationship between buildings in villages and beyond is an important consideration.
- ▶ New tracks and roads should only be permitted where they respect landform and landscape pattern.

Aim: To conserve and enhance the diverse landscape structure.

- ▶ Promote the planting of hedgerow trees to replace aging trees .
- ▶ Promote woodland planting to link with existing woodland but taking care not to impact on key views in the area.
- ▶ Protect landform by avoiding development that requires earthworks.