

AREA 42

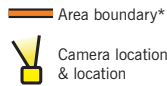
Approved
Feb 2004

A Ure corridor east of Mickley.

Ure Corridor (Hackfall to Mickley Reach)

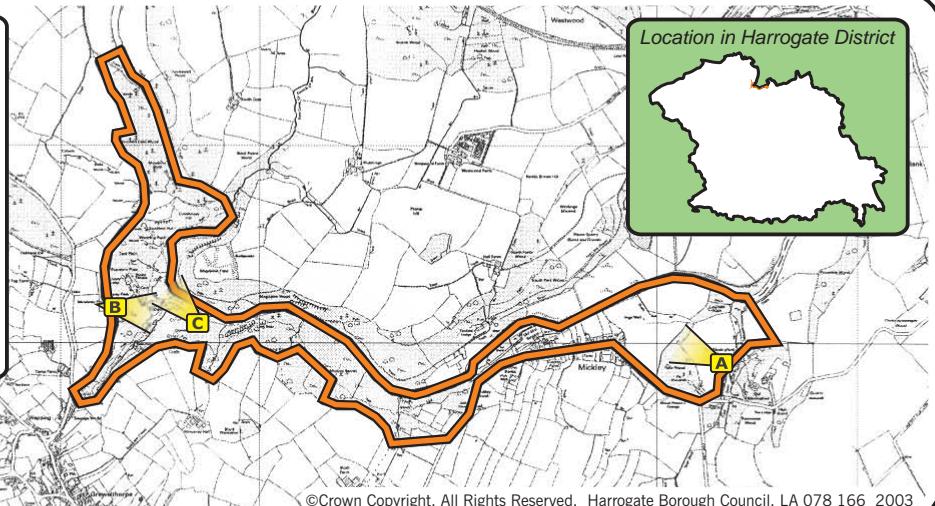


HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment



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".



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. Harrogate Borough Council. LA 078 166 2003

Description

This area is the meandering valley of the River Ure which forms the boundary between Harrogate and Hambleton Districts and covers approximately 1.3km² in Harrogate and extends to the north bank of the Ure in Hambleton.

At Hackfall the valley is heavily-wooded with steep slopes enclosing the river and containing views resulting in an intimate landscape. There is a good network of footpaths through the woodland, the result of an 18th Century designed landscape when the area was in the ownership of the Aislabies (who were also responsible for the water gardens at Studley Royal). Several structures remain from the designed landscape but many of the water features have been lost. Hackfall is a Grade 1 Registered Park and Garden, a designated SSSI and a Conservation Area. East of Hackfall the river flows through Mickley Barras Wood. The valley here is still wooded but beginning to broaden out before becoming flatter east of Mickley. East of Mickley, although broader the valley is still relatively intimate. Woodland cover is less confining with dispersed views beginning to open out across the floodplain and across the river into Hambleton. This area is easily accessible. The grass fields are well tended and managed for livestock production although the woodland is neglected.

This is an attractive area in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and contains elements of historic interest relating to the 18th century designed landscape.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Millstone grit solid geology with alluvium drift geology in the valley floor.
- Deep, well-drained fine and coarse loamy brown soils on steep slopes locally west of the river and deep fine loamy soils with slowly-permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging east of the river.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Narrow very steep sided valley of the River Ure.
- Rock outcrops are a characteristic of the valley sides.
- Springs feed small becks that incise the valley sides.
- Man made water features at Hackfall now overgrown and neglected.



B Mowbray Point, a folly built on the lip of the valley.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- ▶ Almost entirely wooded becoming more open to the east of Mickley.
- ▶ Where there are improved grass fields around Mickley field patterns suggest early enclosure with the later amalgamation of small fields into larger fields.
- ▶ Hackfall Wood is a designated SSSI.
- ▶ Mickley Barras Wood is a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (wet wood)

Settlement, Built environment and communications

- ▶ The main settlement is Mickley on the edge of the Character Area in the east.
- ▶ Traditional building materials include a mix of cobbles, Magnesian limestone, local sandstone with pantile and slate roofs.
- ▶ The Ripon Rowels bridleway follows the course of the river through this area.
- ▶ Hackfall is a Grade I Registered Historic Park and Garden. It contains a network of footpaths, structures of historic interest (five Grade II listed buildings) and water features (waterfall, streams, ponds)
- ▶ Earthworks of historic interest at Magdalen Wood in Hambleton District.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ Woodland cover is an important characteristic of this area and is susceptible to neglect. A change in woodland cover will impact upon the current natural wooded character of the area.



C The River Ure in the heart of Hackfall.

- ▶ Loss/neglect of the historic features and the design of Hackfall Grade 1 Registered Park and Garden has resulted in a reversion of the designed landscape back to natural woodland. As a result there is conflict between the objectives for the Registered Park and Garden, the objectives of the Conservation Area designation and the SSSI designation at Hackfall.
- ▶ Loss/neglect of historic features outside designated sites is a concern.
- ▶ Future pressures relating to tourism and access are predicted.

Guidelines

Aim: To maintain the natural wooded character of the area while preserving the features of the Registered Park and Garden.

- ▶ Promote woodland management to maintain and enhance biodiversity along the river corridor and link with woodland in neighbouring character areas.
- ▶ Conserve architectural elements associated with Hackfall and restore key elements of the original design taking account of woodland ecology in this Ancient Semi-Natural woodland. Avoid removal of mature trees.
- ▶ Any work within the Park and Garden should recognise the SSSI designation and employ appropriate techniques to minimise habitat disturbance.
- ▶ Protect Hackfall Wood SSSI and Mickley Barras SINC and promote appropriate woodland management in consultation with the Woodland Trust, Hackfall Trust, English Nature and stakeholders.
- ▶ Conserve existing pattern of woodland and sites of nature conservation value as well as field pattern and boundaries around Mickley.

Aim: Manage tourism to ensure minimal disturbance to character and wildlife.

- ▶ Improving of paths through the wood should be restricted to key defined routes, use natural materials and avoid damage to woodland vegetation.
- ▶ Access points to the wood should be restricted and well defined.
- ▶ Tourism facilities should be located outside the Character Area within existing villages utilising existing buildings.