

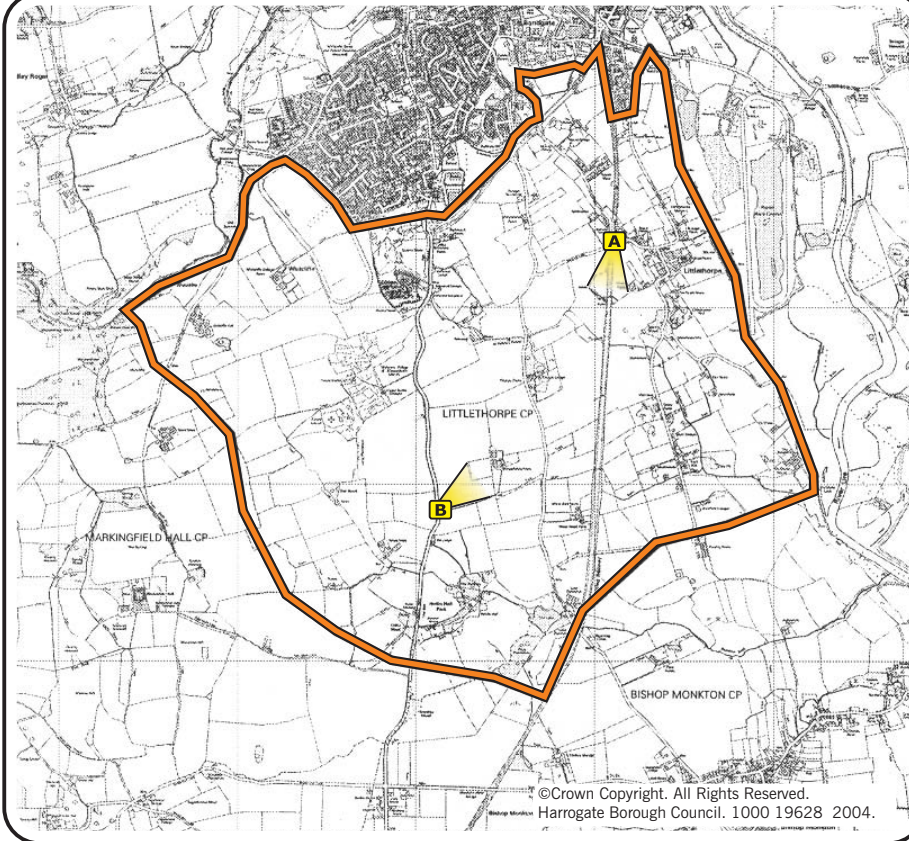
AREA
46

Approved
Feb 2004

A Littlethorpe farmland.



South Ripon Farmland



HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

— Area boundary*
! Camera location & direction



* 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 undulating area south of Ripon covering approximately 7.8km². The area extends from the southern edge of Ripon to Hollin Hall on the A61 and includes Littlethorpe and the deserted Medieval village of Aismunderby. The landscape is reasonably well wooded with clumps and individual trees creating dispersed views.

The landscape is balanced and simple comprising large, tended agricultural fields scattered with individual farmsteads and the occasional red brick and tile field barn.

Hedgerows vary in condition from good to fragmented with post and rail fencing filling gaps.

This area is easily accessible particularly by the A61 to Ripon that is chaotic with its constant traffic flow and noise. Other discordant features include telegraph poles and pylons that stride across the large open fields. Despite these detractors the landscape is overall pleasant and attractive and provides the setting for the south side of Ripon. There are important views of Ripon Cathedral and the World Heritage Site to and from this area.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Magnesian limestone solid geology with sandy till and till drift geology.
- Slowly permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, reddish, fine loamy over clayey surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Gently undulating landform generally below 90m AOD.
- There is a lake at Hollins Hall and Ripon Canal bounds the edge of the Character Area.
- Few springs, man made ponds and drainage ditches.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Agricultural land managed for both livestock and cereal crop production.
- Medium to large sized fields bound by hedges in varying condition from good to fragmented. Fences help to make the hedges stockproof and fill gaps.



B Farmland north of Hollin Hall off the A61 looking east.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- Field pattern in the area suggests early enclosure but much of the pattern has been lost due to the amalgamation of fields.
- Clumps and small blocks of deciduous woodland mainly associated with buildings, and individual trees scattered along boundaries plus new planting at Hollins Hall.
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation along part of the disused railway.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlement is the village of Littlethorpe plus scattered farmsteads and residential houses and few individual red brick field barns
- Traditional building materials are red brick and tile, slate and white render
- A disused railway runs through the area and is heavily-wooded.
- The deserted medieval village of Aismunderby shows the area has a long settlement history.
- Views of Ripon Cathedral are an important characteristic.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- Intensive farming practices and large-scale farm buildings. Loss and neglect of traditional farm buildings or conversion resulting in a change of character.
- Loss and fragmentation of field boundaries/hedges and hedgerow trees.
- Lack of woodland and tree management, uniform age structure of trees with few young trees.
- Pressure for improved communications resulting in visually discordant features
- Potential loss or change to key views of Ripon Cathedral.

Guidelines

Aim: Protect and restore the designed landscape of Hollin Hall and the setting of the Hall in this landscape.

- Hollin Hall dates back to the late 16th early 17th century and is an important feature with a landscape that may have been laid out by Capability Brown. Promote and support restoration of the landscape and the Hall's garden.
- Views of the hall itself are restricted but the setting and the approaches should be protected from inappropriate development that would detract from the character of the area.

Aim: Conserve historic features and patterns that remain in landscape.

- Survey hedgerows to assess importance and set up hedgerow register.
- Encourage planting of gaps in existing hedgerows and planting of new hedgerow trees.
- Appropriate siting of new farm buildings and development to respect landscape and settlement pattern and key views in the area.
- Promote use of traditional farm buildings for rural business. Consolidate old buildings.

Aim: Protect and enhance historic views.

- Development that detracts from views of the Cathedral or the World Heritage Site will not be permitted.
- Resist highly visible locations for telecom masts and require an assessment of the impact of proposals as part of a planning application. Encourage appropriate design using latest methods for mitigating impact where masts are deemed permissible.

Aim: To enhance tree cover in keeping with landscape pattern.

- Tree cover in the area is intermittent and often linear. It would benefit habitats and landscape diversity to develop a woodland network linking existing blocks and the well treed dismantled railway.
- New tree planting should be appropriate to the area (see Harrogate Council's Landscape Design Guide: LDG8.1.3).
- Tree planting should not impact upon important recognised views in the area.