

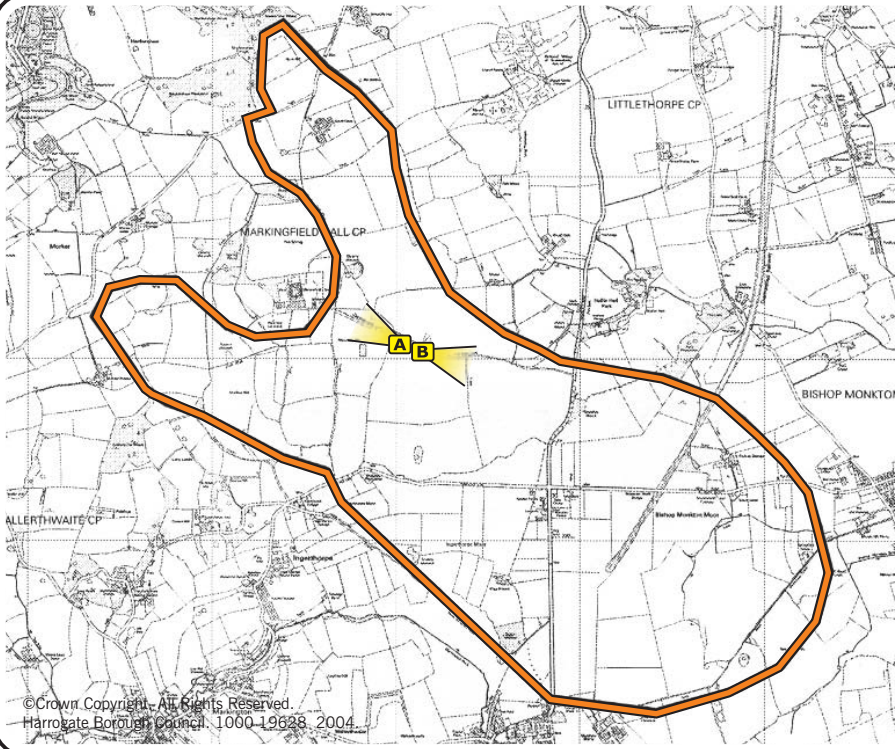
**AREA**  
**47**

**Approved**  
**Feb 2004**

**A** View west to Markenfield Hall from Hell Wath Lane.



**Bishop Monkton Moor  
and Ingerthorpe Moor Farmland**



**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 5.7km<sup>2</sup> area, in the centre of the District between Ripon and Harrogate, is large scale and open with extensive views over a uniform arable landscape. Woodland is sparse as are individual trees along boundaries. The large fields are well-tended for intensive agricultural production. Field boundaries are severely fragmented, replaced with fences or have disappeared altogether.

Development is organised yet unsympathetic to landscape pattern with large industrial and farm buildings occasionally punctuating the landscape. The A61 Harrogate to Ripon Road bisects the area and is a source of constant traffic noise. Development in this corridor is a detractor where landscape characteristics have not been considered in layout and design.

**Key Characteristics**

**Geology, soils and drainage**

- Magnesian limestone solid geology with sandy till and till drift geology.
- Slowly permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, clayey surface water gley soils drained for agriculture.

**Landform and drainage pattern**

- Gently undulating landform below 100m AOD.
- No significant water features.



**B** Arable farmland looking east from Hell Wath Lane.

## Key Characteristics

### Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Agricultural land intensively managed for arable production.
- Parliamentary enclosure field pattern with associated straight roads with evidence of amalgamation of early enclosure fields. Field size is generally large.
- Occasional wavy hedgerows follow parish boundaries and are important.
- Several very small, scattered blocks of woodland, except for the well-wooded dismantled railway.
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation at Bishop Monkton Railway Cutting (calcareous grassland)

### Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlements are a few sparsely scattered houses and farmsteads.
- Traditional building materials are Magnesian limestone with modern breezeblock and profiled metal sheeting farm buildings. Red brick is the more modern vernacular material.
- Ripon Rowels Bridlepath and a few other public footpaths pass through the area but generally the access network is poor.
- There is evidence of several small, disused quarries that were probably used to supply local building material.

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- The area has been influenced by modern agriculture to the extent that many of the historic elements of the landscape have been lost. The large fields appear to be an amalgamation of early enclosure fields. However, some historic boundaries have survived, most notably the Parish boundary of Markingfield Hall.
- The area is sensitive to further loss of field boundaries, hedges and trees and amalgamation of fields that would result in a further watering down of the diversity of key characteristics.
- Pressure on agricultural businesses is likely to influence future land management as it has done in the past.
- The area is easily accessible from the A61 and there is some development pressure along this corridor.
- Trees and woodland in the area have been lost over the last century due to intensive farming practices.

## Guidelines

### Aim: Protect the historic characteristics in the landscape.

- Encourage reinstatement of hedgerows particularly along roadsides and historic parish boundaries.
- Identify hedges considered important under the Hedgerow Regulations and develop a hedgerow register for the Character Area.
- Safeguard the disused railway from development and develop opportunities for its use as a public right of way (as long as this would not conflict with the reinstatement of the railway).
- Farm diversification enterprises need to consider landscape character where change of use and land management is anticipated.
- Research into the historic and archaeological elements of this area would improve understanding of the origins of the landscape pattern.

### Aim: To conserve and enhance existing tree cover.

- Promote tree and woodland management to secure the long-term future of tree cover and maintain some of the diversity in the area.
- Encourage native tree and woodland planting to respect the landscape pattern and create links between existing blocks of trees that are currently isolated in the arable landscape.

### Aim: Improve the integration of large-scale buildings in the landscape.

- Woodland and tree planting can help to integrate existing prominent buildings with the landscape.
- New built form should not result in the loss of key landscape characteristics and must respect landscape pattern and landform as well as relate to existing farmsteads and settlement.
- Mitigation measures will be required, where development is allowed to integrate the proposals with the surrounding landscape.