

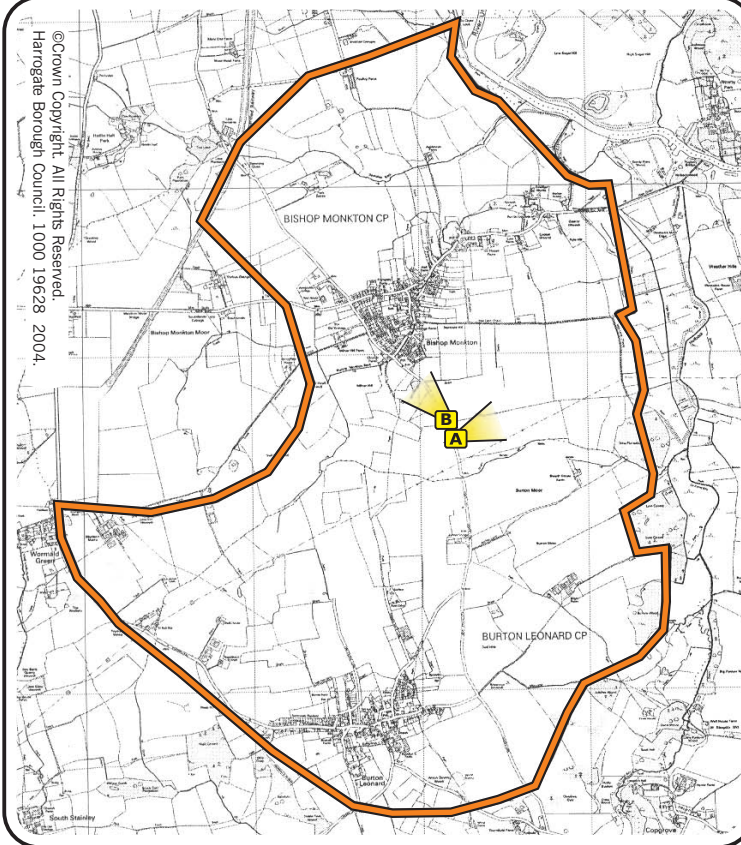
**AREA
48**

**Approved
Feb 2004**

A South of Bishop Monkton looking east.

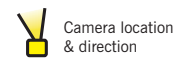


Burton Leonard and Bishop Monkton Undulating Farmland



HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

— Area boundary*



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 large-scale area covers around 10km² and is situated between Ripon and Knaresborough.

The undulating landform is intensively farmed and large arable fields create an organised pattern. Tree cover is sparse allowing extensive views across the open fields without formal boundaries. Where hedge-rows do exist they are in poor condition and fragmented. Other detractors such as pylons, telegraph poles and communications masts are highly visible.

In contrast to the open farmland, the villages of Bishop Monkton and Burton Leonard are well wooded with a smaller-scale and more random field pattern around their edge. The first church at Burton Leonard was built in the 13th century. The village has three greens around which most of the buildings are clustered. Bishop Monkton is also an old established settlement but has expanded considerably in recent years and has become a commuter village.

This is a pleasant Character Area and, although the uniform appearance of the muted fields can appear quite bland, the villages add interest.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Magnesian limestone solid geology overlain with sandy till and till drift geology.
- Surface water gley soils with some brown soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Undulating landform between 75 and 30m AOD.
- Small becks drain the area to Holbeck and the River Ure.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- South of Bishop Monkton, grade 2 agricultural land intensively farmed for cereal and root crop production with patches of improved grassland.
- Large fields bound by fragmented hedges repaired with fencing
- Clumps of deciduous trees and individual trees scattered along boundaries elsewhere woodland is sparse.



B South of Bishop Monkton looking north.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ The main settlements are the villages of Bishop Monkton and Burton Leonard (both with village Conservation Areas). They are long established and make an important contribution to the character of the area.
- ▶ There are a few scattered farmsteads between the villages.
- ▶ Brick walls and pantile roofs predominate but vernacular building materials also include limestone, cobblestone and render with roofing of Welsh slate, Yorkshire slate or red pantiles.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ Development proposals beyond the village edge are likely to impact upon the open landscape character of this area, which is sensitive to change. The visual impact of power lines and communications masts is significant due to openness and the undulating landform, which has resulted in skyline locations.
- ▶ Loss of vernacular character of villages as a result of development on the village edge is apparent at Bishop Monkton.
- ▶ Tree cover in the vicinity of villages is important to setting and approaches. These are sensitive to change through a loss of tree cover resulting from lack of management and replacement.

Guidelines

Aim: To conserve the distinctive characteristics of the villages.

- ▶ Development must respect the valued spatial qualities of the villages as outlined in their respective Conservation Area statements.
- ▶ Promote use of materials and design that complement the vernacular.
- ▶ Promote tree planting in particular associated with farmsteads and the village edge. Tree planting can be used to help define the development limits of a village.

Aim: To maintain the open characteristics of the landscape between settlement.

- ▶ Location and design of new tree and woodland planting should respect the valued open character of the area.
- ▶ Promote the maintenance and restoration of existing hedgerow boundaries.