

# AREA 60

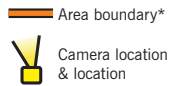
Approved  
Feb 2004

**A** From Shaw Green looking south east



## Upper Crimple Valley

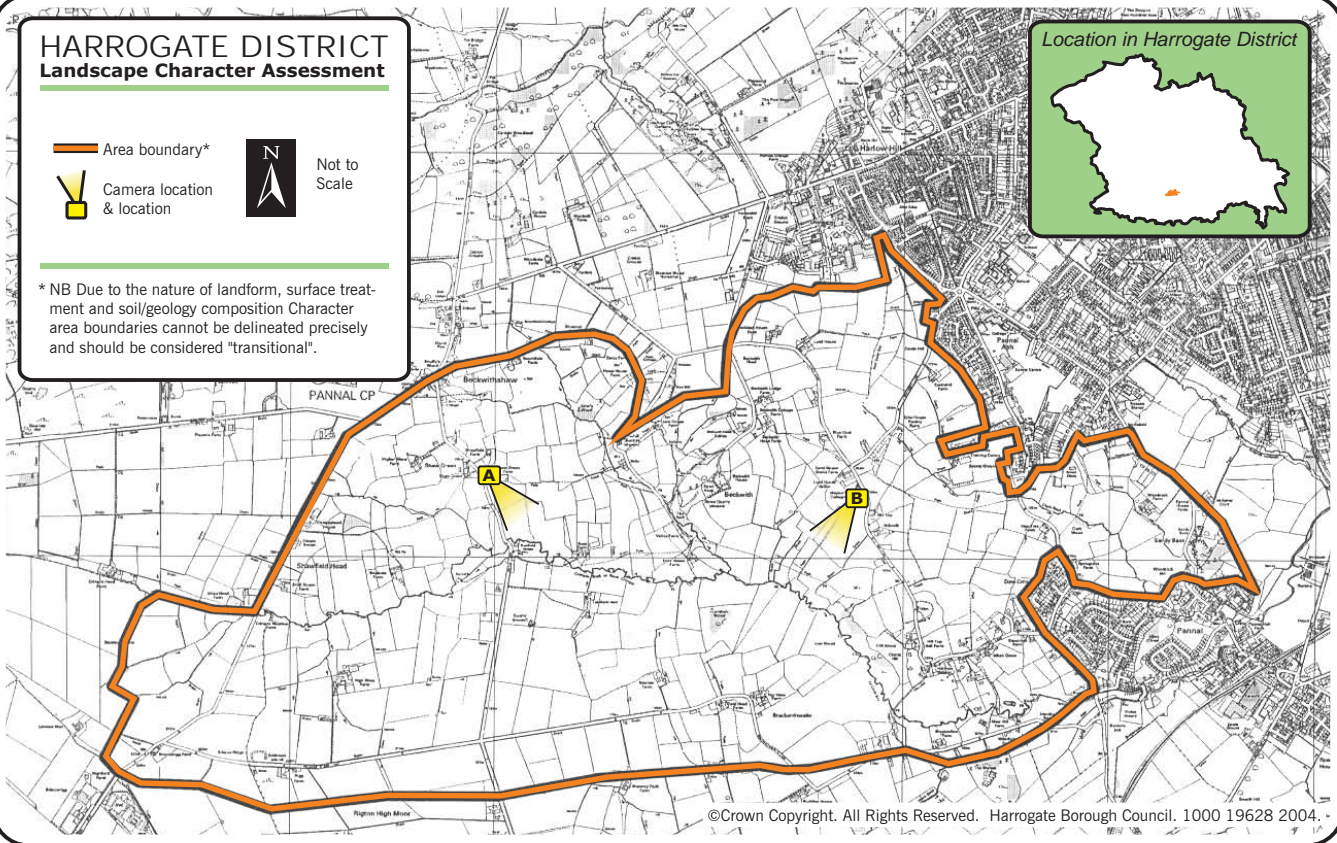
### HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment



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".

Location in Harrogate District



## Description

This area covers just under 9km<sup>2</sup> and extends along the Crimple Valley west of Pannal and Harrogate. It abuts Harrogate's southwest urban edge and the west and north side of Pannal. The River Crimple flows west to east from an elevation of 180m AOD at Shaw Head Farm on the B6161 south of Beckwithshaw to approximately 90m AOD where it meets the western edge of Pannal. The valley is slightly steeper than the Middle Crimple Valley and relatively shallow with a maximum height of 220m AOD. The valley sides roll gently and are incised by several small tributaries of the River Crimple.

Tree cover is good with individual trees scattered along field boundaries. Small blocks of woodland and clumps of trees help to integrate the urban edge at the lower elevations close to Harrogate. Tree cover decreases westwards up the valley but the valley bottom is well-wooded along its length.

The improved grassland is managed for livestock and, to the north of the River Crimple, small fields typical of early enclosure are randomly organised and contrast with the regular and rectilinear parliamentary enclosures to the south. Despite the differing field patterns on each side of the valley the landform and

tree cover unifies the area and are the key to the area's distinctiveness.

The area is an extension of Character Area 57: Middle Crimple Valley but differs in having a slightly more pronounced valley landform, field systems and settlement pattern. The area also has a complex network of public footpaths and bridleways offering local residents easy access to the landscape.

## Key Characteristics

### Geology, soils and drainage

- Millstone grit solid geology with surface water gley soils consisting of slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils.

### Landform and drainage pattern

- Small scale V-shaped valley landform rising between 90m AOD in the valley bottom at Pannal to 220m AOD on the valley side near Briscoe Ridge Lane at the top of the south valley side.

## Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

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

- ▶ The River Crimple or Crimple Beck is the main watercourse with several tributaries incising the valley sides.
- ▶ Grade 3 agricultural land predominantly improved grass for livestock.
- ▶ A field pattern of early enclosure to the north and parliamentary enclosure to the south bound by hedges.
- ▶ Few small blocks of deciduous woodland including Ancient Semi-Natural woodland at Low Wood. The disused quarry at Sandy bank is well-wooded and locally valued.
- ▶ Lots of trees along field boundaries, along the River Crimple and the urban edge of Harrogate.
- ▶ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation are: Springhill Farm (marshy grassland); Pannal Ash Fields (neutral grassland).

### Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ The urban edge of Harrogate and Pannal influences the eastern extent of the Character Area.
- ▶ There are several small hamlets including Beckwith, Brackenthwaite, Daw Cross and Shaw Green.
- ▶ In addition there are many scattered individual farmsteads and houses.
- ▶ Traditional building materials are local sandstone with stone slate or blue slate.
- ▶ Public footpaths and bridleways including the Harrogate Ringway create a network across the area and connect to (or are continuations of) those in Character Area 58. This area is easily accessible on foot from Harrogate and Pannal.
- ▶ Several listed buildings of significance include Howe House, Lund House Barn, Shaw Green Farm House and that are not listed, Daw Cross farmhouse, Bilton Grove Farmhouse, Hill Top Hall and Tatefield Hall.
- ▶ The area is within The Royal Forest of Knaresborough, a former medieval hunting park.

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ This area, along with the adjacent Character Area 58: Middle Crimple Valley, is important both to the rural setting of Harrogate and in preventing the coalescence of Pannal with Harrogate. This rural, pastoral landscape is sensitive to the changes due to new development extending the urban edge.
- ▶ The area contains a large amount of scattered settlement, particularly along the south facing north valley side. As a result the landscape has limited capacity to accept additional development without adverse change to its character.

- ▶ There is development pressure in the area due to the proximity of urban areas. However, the country lanes which criss-cross the valley restrict access to the area.
- ▶ Field boundaries are generally well-defined but neglect of early field boundaries would impact upon landscape pattern.
- ▶ Footpaths in the area are well-used and sensitive to erosion and degradation.
- ▶ Conversion of farmsteads and buildings into large residential homes.

## Guidelines

**Aim: To protect the character of the area and its role in separating Harrogate from Pannal and provision of a rural setting to the urban edge.**

- ▶ Distance between the extents of the two settlements must be maintained and development proposals must fully assess the predicted impact on landscape character of the valley and its role in providing a rural setting to Harrogate and Pannal and maintaining the separation between the two.
- ▶ The impact on views in the area must also be considered.

**Aim: To reinforce landscape pattern particularly on the south facing north Crimple Valley side and maintain the wildlife value of this edge of Harrogate character area.**

- ▶ Promote the retention, regeneration and management of hedgerows to maintain field boundaries.
- ▶ Encourage management and continuity of wooded character of River Crimple and marginal vegetation as a wildlife corridor.
- ▶ Encourage management for biodiversity in line with the aims of the Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan.

**Aim: To maintain the network of footpaths and rights of way in the area and their contribution to landscape character.**

- ▶ Encourage the maintenance of the footpath and bridleway network and its contribution to the landscape pattern.
- ▶ Promote the active management of public Rights of Way so that they offer adequate access and alternative routes.



**B** From Hill Top Lane to Brackenthwaite.