

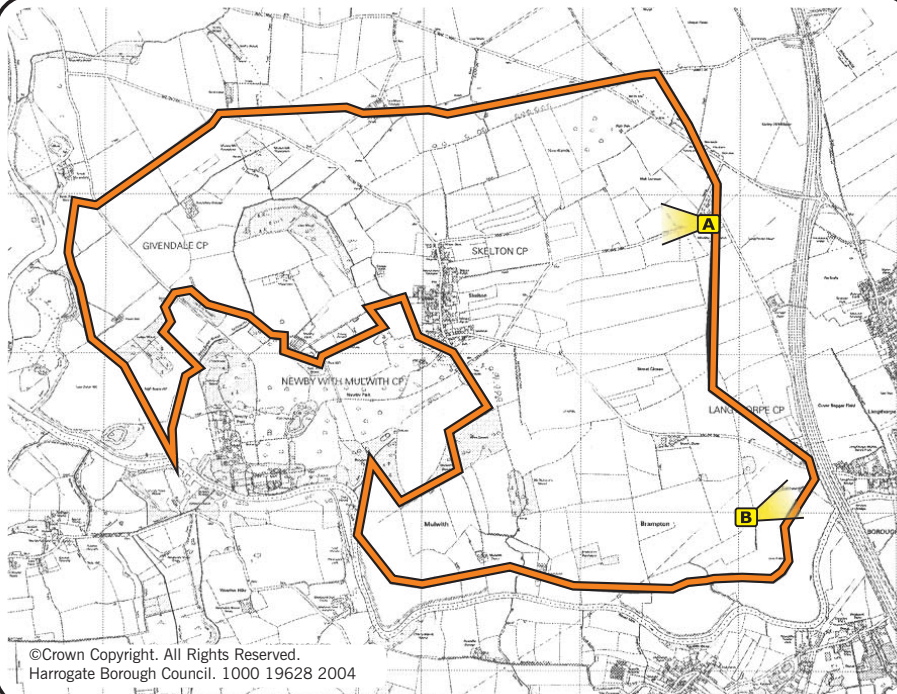
AREA 74

Approved
Feb 2004

A View west from High Moor Lodge.

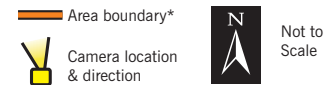


Skelton on Ure rolling farmland



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HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment



* 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 medium-scale area surrounds the northern side of Newby Hall and is located north of the River Ure corridor west of the A1(M) and Boroughbridge.

The landscape is a diverse mixture of arable and grassland fields of random size that contrast with the formal design of the Registered Historic Park and Garden at Newby Hall. The area has been important for arable production for many years. One indication of this is the size of a listed barn in Skelton dating back to the 18th century. The earliest listed buildings in the area date from the 18th century but field pattern and the history suggest much earlier origins to the area's landscape pattern, which was owned in the 13th century by the Nubie family.

The church in the Registered Historic Park and Garden at Newby, close to the village of Skelton on Ure, is a focal point. Hedgerows with trees bound many of the fields and the area is well-wooded round to Skelton and Newby Park. As a result dispersed views across the area become channelled where the landform dips and close to woodland.

This Character Area is attractive and pleasant, made all the more interesting by Newby Hall and other historical features such as Skelton windmill.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with silt and clay drift geology.
- The Magnesian limestone geology to the west has some influence on landform and building materials.
- Deep, well-drained and coarse, loamy brown soils plus slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, clayey and fine, loamy surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Flat to gently undulating land between 20m and 30m AOD.
- Scour gutter (drain) flows through the area west of Skelton in a north south direction into the River Ure.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Intensively-farmed arable and grass fields. Grade 2 agricultural land.
- The designed parkland linked to Newby Hall influences the area around Skelton on Ure.
- Small to large size fields bound by hedgerows in reasonable condition.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- ▶ Hedgerow trees feature throughout but are sparse in places.
- ▶ Blocks of woodland are spread evenly through the area with the exception of Langthorpe Moor

Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ The main settlement is Skelton on Ure plus several scattered farmsteads.
- ▶ The dominant traditional building material is red brick with pantile or slate roofs. Occasionally limestone and cobbles have been used.
- ▶ Minor road network providing links with Boroughbridge and the A1(M).
- ▶ A bridleway provides a link from the River Ure to Skelton and passes southeast of Newby Hall and parkland

Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ This area is extremely important to the setting of Newby Hall and its associated Registered Historic Park and Garden. The main approaches to the Hall are through this Character Area. Loss of tree and woodland cover through neglect would impact upon the character of the setting of the park as well as Skelton.
- ▶ Tourism is a major source of income for Newby Hall. Pressures for car parking and other tourist facilities are likely to increase. New structures and buildings in the area may adversely impact character and setting.
- ▶ Similar aged mature trees with few young trees to replace them as they die, particularly in hedgerows, could have a future impact on landscape character in the mid-term if not addressed.
- ▶ Intensive farming practices have had their toll on biodiversity in this area, which has no wildlife conservation designations. However, the hedgerows and woodlands, and links between them, do provide habitats for wildlife and should not be neglected.

Guidelines

Aim: To conserve the wooded rural setting of Newby Hall and Skelton on Ure

- ▶ Encourage planting of trees in hedgerows and in parkland areas to replace existing and maintain character over time.
- ▶ Promote the maintenance and repair of hedgerows using traditional techniques.
- ▶ Some of the hedges may be considered important under the criteria of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. Support research to identify important hedgerows and develop a hedgerow register for the area.
- ▶ Ensure that where permitted new development is appropriate in scale, materials and design and respects the character of the area and the setting of Newby Hall.
- ▶ New building for rural businesses must respect vernacular and landscape pattern and use appropriate mitigation measures.

Aim: To maintain and enhance wildlife habitats and corridors.

- ▶ Support and encourage continued management of the area for wildlife as well as agricultural and country sporting activities.
- ▶ Promote the continued management of hedgerows and hedgerow trees to provide cover for wildlife. Avoid severe and damaging trimming techniques.



B Farmstead on eastern edge of Character Area.