

AREA 75

Approved
Feb 2004

A The Marina.

Ure Corridor recreation area (Ripon To Newby Reach)

Description

This is an area of intensive recreational use situated along the eastern edge of Ripon and covering almost 4km² of the Ripon Canal and River Ure corridor. The two water courses run almost parallel to each other in a north-south direction through the area to the point where they meet approximately one mile upstream of Newby Hall. The watercourses are well-wooded providing an intimate and attractive setting for boaters and walkers with dispersed views into the landscape beyond. A strong network of public footpaths provides easy access to the banks of the canal and much of the riverbank and is a valuable resource to the local community.

Beyond the watercourses, the flat landscape is more open and management is a mixture of wild looking wetland with outgrown hedges and unkempt vegetation that contrast with the manicured appearance of the marina, sailing club and racecourse. Built form and boundary treatments display a variety of styles and modern materials that lack cohesion giving a somewhat chaotic appearance to this pleasant area.

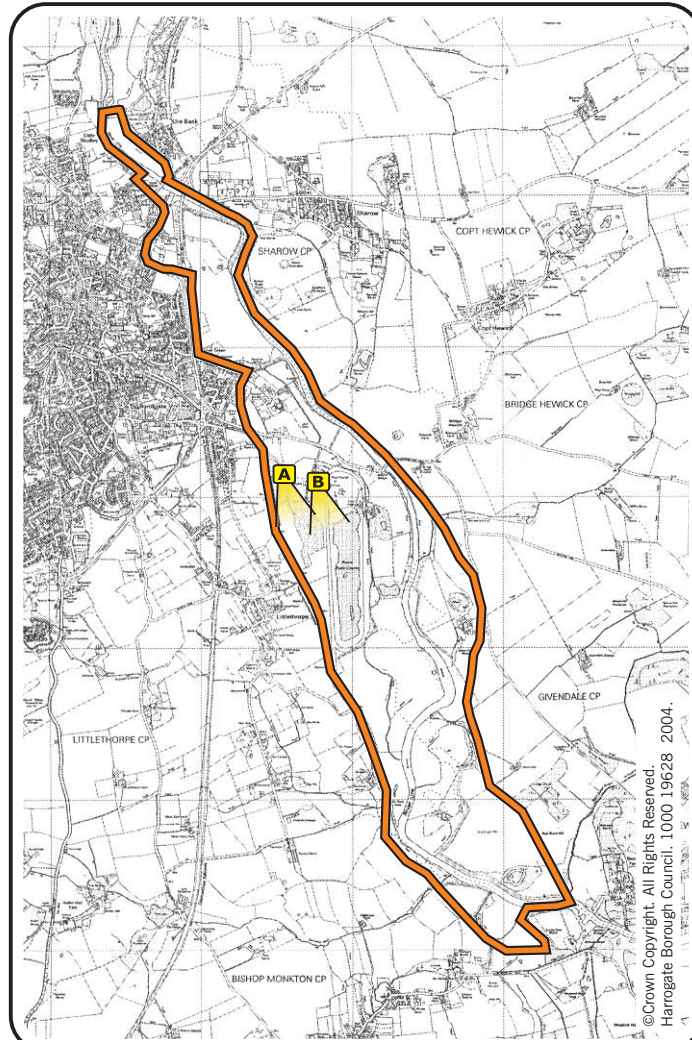
Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Magnesian limestone solid geology overlain with alluvial drift geology.
- Deep, stoneless, permeable, coarse loamy brown soils and slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, clayey and fine, loamy over clayey surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Flat landform below 20m AOD
- The River Ure and associated tributaries along with Ripon Canal are the dominant watercourses.
- There is a marina on the canal south east of Ripon.
- Ripon racecourse has a lake and fishponds and other lakes in the area are a by-product of gravel extraction.
- The riverbanks at the southern end of the area are man-made.



HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

Location in Harrogate District

- 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".



B Flooded gravel pits create wetland at the racecourse.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- ▶ Mixed land use includes Ripon Racecourse, gravel pit, sewage works, marina and sailing club, as well as agriculture.
- ▶ Clumps of deciduous woodland particularly along River Ure and Ripon Canal, and individual trees along field boundaries
- ▶ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation at:
 - Ripon Canal, with fringing vegetation and flowering plants;
 - Ripon disused railway, grassland over limestone rock.
- ▶ This area is designated for recreation in the Harrogate District Local Plan.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ The main settlements are the urban edge of Ripon, Great Givendale and Hewick Bridge plus scattered individual farmsteads. The racecourse buildings are prominent.
- ▶ The moat at Great Givendale is a feature which indicates early settlement in the area.
- ▶ Building materials are red brick and tile and white render. Building style is varied.
- ▶ Public footpaths along both the canal and the river.
- ▶ Locks on the canal follow British Waterways' standard black and white colour scheme.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ This corridor is valued greatly as an area for recreation by Ripon people and tourists who use the marina. The area is very sensitive to change in character which could result from management changes and/or development.
- ▶ Pressure for the area as a recreation facility is likely to continue. Expansion and design of recreation facilities must respect the vernacular.
- ▶ Gravel extraction is a key activity in the area and this has resulted in opportunities for restoration. However, the impact of extraction on the enjoyment of users is a key issue.
- ▶ Development pressure for business and industrial use to the north of the B6265 Ripon to Boroughbridge Road is resulting in change that could be detrimental to the corridor landscape and the approaches to Ripon.
- ▶ The management of wetland areas for wildlife can result in an "untidy" appearance not appreciated by some. Reinstatement works at the gravel pits need to be sympathetic to public perception.
- ▶ Footpath and riverbank erosion may be an issue related to the level of use.

Guidelines

Aim: To integrate recreation facilities with the corridor landscape.

- ▶ New recreation facilities should be of an appropriate scale without detriment to the intimate nature of the River Ure and Ripon Canal.
- ▶ Materials and design as well as location and type of facility will be key in determining acceptability of such proposals in landscape terms.
- ▶ Promote the educational use of the area by local groups and schools using existing facilities and footpaths.
- ▶ Formal recreation should remain concentrated around the racecourse and marina.

Aim: To conserve and enhance the diverse and complex pattern of land use in harmony with recreational use of the area.

- ▶ Encourage the maintenance and reinstatement of wooded river and canal corridors.
- ▶ New development requires a landscape scheme integral to proposals. Screen planting is just one element to be considered. Loss of existing characteristics such as hedgerows is not acceptable. Where removal is necessary provisions for the replacement of characteristic elements lost should be secured.
- ▶ Where extension to gravel extraction activities are permitted encourage appropriate mitigation measures, including suitable restoration, in liaison with the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (North Yorkshire County Council)..

Aim: To protect the setting of Newby Hall.

- ▶ The southern extent of this character area provides the setting for this registered park and garden. Proposals for new development in this area should assess impact upon this setting and oppose any adverse change.