

AREA 79

Approved
Feb 2004

A The river.



River Ure at West Tanfield Farmland

Description

This area is the moderately broad and flat corridor of the River Ure and extends beyond the boundary of Harrogate District to include West Tanfield and Low Sikes. The area covers 1km² on the northern boundary of the District. The river is broad and shallow and meanders sharply to and fro through large arable fields. The river itself is partly-enclosed by trees offering dispersed outward views across the open fields where tree cover is sparse.

Main detractors are the concrete weir and gabions associated with the river. Altogether the landscape is pleasant and the river is attractive with many riffles and abundant wildlife.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Magnesian limestone solid geology with sandy till and till drift geology and some terrace drift.
- Deep, stoneless, permeable, coarse loamy river alluvium soils over gravel in places.

Landform and drainage pattern

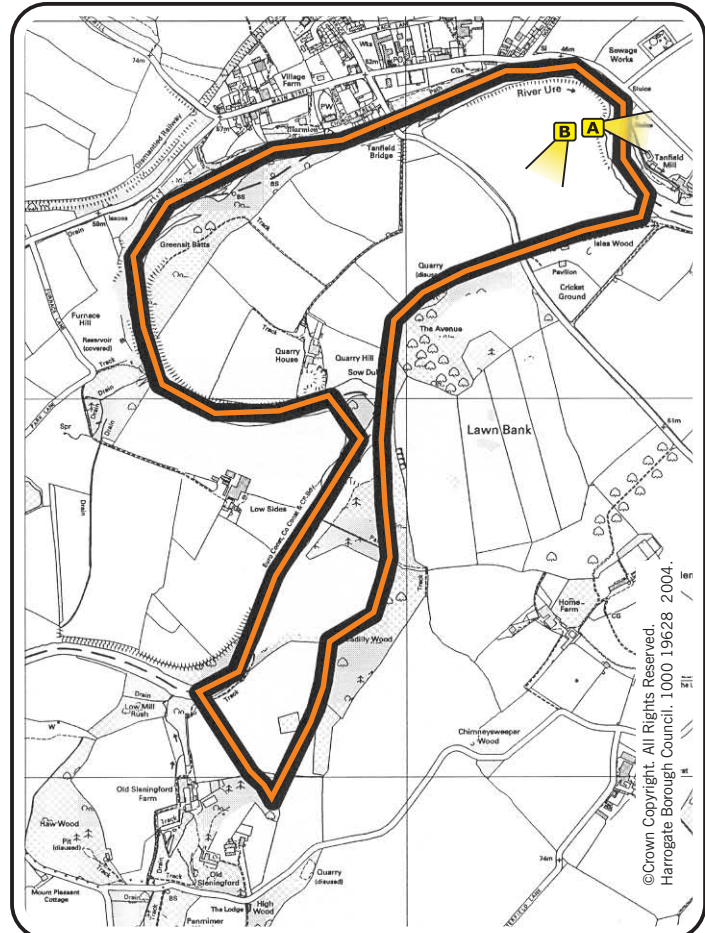
- Flat floodplain below 50m AOD.
- The River Ure meanders across the area.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Large arable fields predominantly cereal crops.
- Clumps of deciduous woodland associate with the river providing diversity of habitat.
- Individual trees along either side of the road leading into West Tanfield (A6108).

Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlement is West Tanfield plus large scattered farmsteads.
- Traditional building materials are mixed including limestone and cobbles.
- The Ripon Rowel footpath follows the river and cuts through the fields.
- Channelled views along the river corridor and key views over the Nidd to the Marmion Tower and church in West Tanfield.



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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 Farmland at West Tanfield.

Pressures & Sensitivities

- ▶ This area is important to the setting of West Tanfield and the approach to the village from the south over Tanfield Bridge. Built form in this low-lying area with limited tree cover will impact upon the setting of West Tanfield and should be avoided.
- ▶ Pressures for change in the area are low and relate largely to the farming industry but also to river channel management.
- ▶ Footpath and riverbank erosion may result in further protection measures that will impact upon the river corridor.
- ▶ Loss and fragmentation of hedges to field boundaries and hedgerow trees.
- ▶ Intensive farming practices may impact upon water quality resulting in a change in the character of the river as a result of impact on biodiversity.

Guidelines

Aim: Protect and enhance the setting of West Tanfield and approaches to the village.

- ▶ Encourage the maintenance and reinstatement of roadside hedges and trees.
- ▶ Protect and enhance key views of the Marmion Tower and West Tanfield.
- ▶ Resist built development in this area particularly where it would impact on views.
- ▶ River management should be without detriment to the character of the river corridor. Bank erosion prevention measures are required to respect vernacular built form and should not impact upon wildlife.

Aim: To increase the diversity of land cover along the river corridor and enhance the wildlife value.

- ▶ Promote and enhance river stream channel diversity and marginal vegetation in accordance with Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan.
- ▶ Promote high standard of water quality in association with the Environment Agency.
- ▶ Encourage management and reinstatement of native riverside trees.