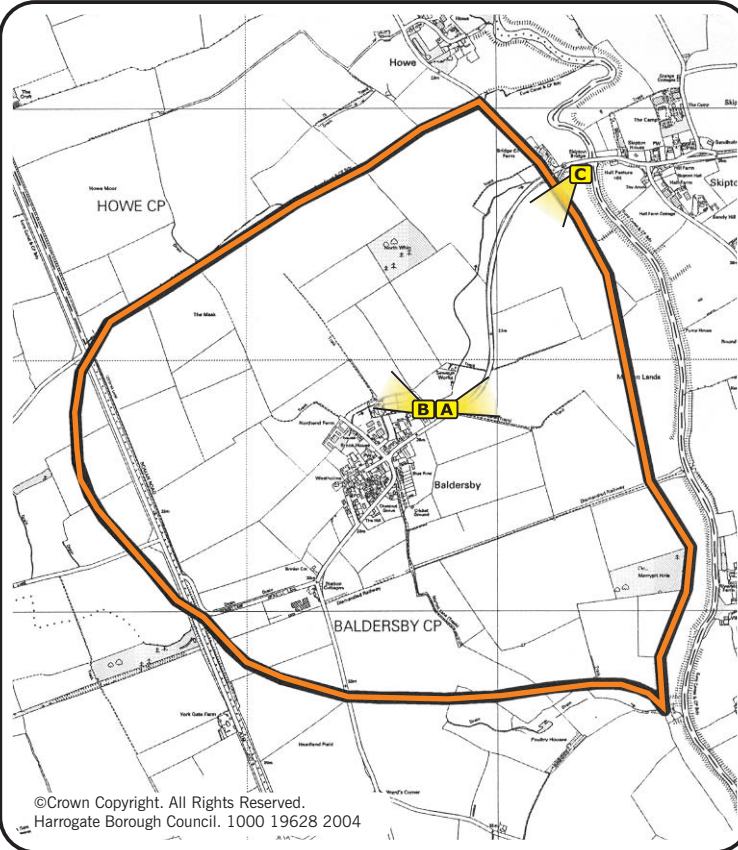
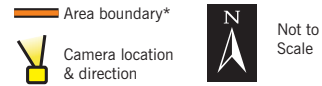


AREA
82

Approved
Feb 2004



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 is a large-scale agricultural landscape covering 4km² in the north east corner of Harrogate District between the A1 and the River Swale.

Large and organised fields are bound by fragmented hedgerows with a sparse scattering of trees that disperse views across a generally open landscape as far as the North York Moors.

Close to the village of Baldersby, built form and dense tree cover enclose the landscape becoming intimate, and smaller patterns of fields are managed as grassland for grazing.

The A61 Ripon to Thirsk Road passes through the village and is a sinuous linear feature that detracts from the pleasant character of the landscape. The A1 corridor also impacts upon the western edge of the Character Area.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with silt and clay glacial lake deposits.
- Deep, well-drained, coarse loamy, seasonally-waterlogged, brown soils and slowly-permeable, fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Flat landform below 30m AOD.
- The River Swale corridor marks the eastern edge of the Character Area with one notable tributary that flows from Baldersby.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Land managed for arable and improved grassland, grade 3 agricultural land.
- Large fields bound by hedges of various conditions reinforced with post and wire and post and rail fencing plus smaller fields around Baldersby.
- Few individual trees scattered along boundaries, mostly Sycamore.



B North of Baldersby looking west.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

Settlement, built environment and communications

- Baldersby is the main settlement plus there are scattered farmsteads. The village appears to have had strong links with Baldersby Park in the past and the owner of the estate built most of the (now listed) structures in the village in the mid 19th century.
- Local building materials include both red brick and stone.
- The A61 travels through Baldersby providing connections with the A1 to the south and Skipton-on-Swale to the north.
- A dismantled railway crosses the area to the south.
- Four public footpaths radiate from the village.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- Development pressures in villages may lead to loss of character of the village edge and setting of settlement in the area.
- Baldersby is a compact village on a busy road and pressure to expand will impact upon its compact nature in this rural setting.
- Neglect of hedges resulting in their loss, will impact negatively upon field pattern.
- Similar age to individual trees in the area.

Guidelines

Aim: To conserve and enhance the diversity and texture of landscape pattern that contributes to the setting of the village in this arable landscape.

- Encourage the traditional management of hedgerows and the planting of gaps to highlight the field pattern around the edge of settlements, which contribute to the setting of villages.
- Promote the planting of native hedgerow trees, particularly close to Baldersby to contribute to the setting of the village in the agricultural landscape.
- New development should be within the built area of the village and take account of the value of spaces between buildings in contributing to the character of the village.
- Explore possibility of introducing diversity through appropriate management regime to elements such as drainage ditches in consultation with the Internal Drainage Board, landowners and FWAG.



C From river looking south west towards Baldersby.