

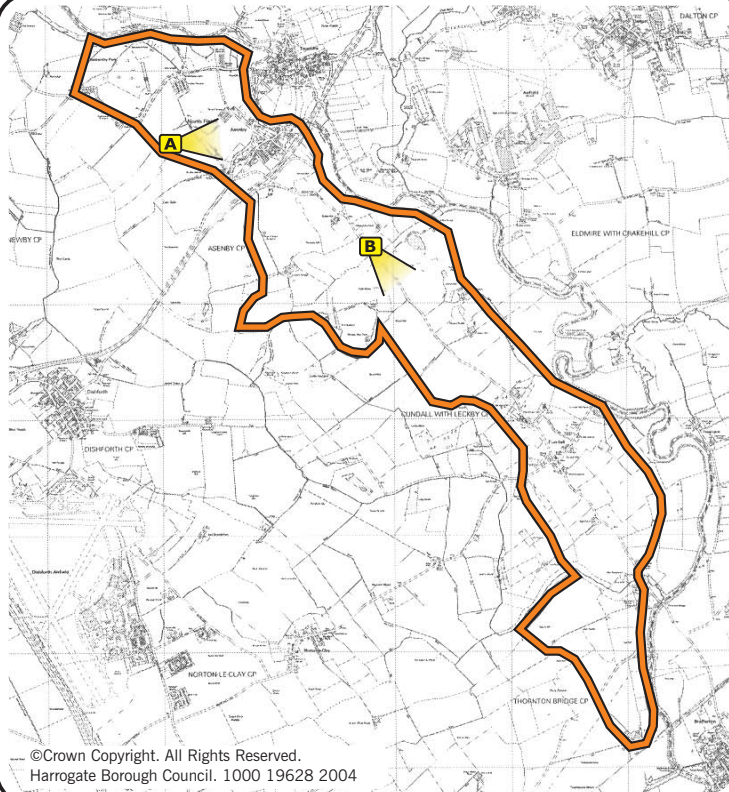
**AREA**  
**84**

**Approved**  
**Feb 2004**

**A** East towards Asenby.

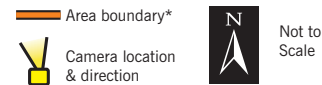


## Cundall/Asenby low lying ridge farmland

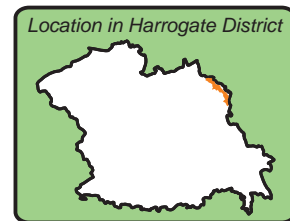


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### HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment



\* 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 moderate-scale area covers just under 7km<sup>2</sup> and encompasses a low ridge lying on the River Swale's southern side between Baldersby Park and Treble Sykes Farm along the north eastern edge of Harrogate District. The ridge is the result of glacial deposition during the last ice age and sits above the floodplain.

The undulating landform is generally open, becoming more enclosed with dispersed views closer to settlement and woodland. Young, rectilinear, mixed plantations are a discordant element conflicting with landform and landscape pattern.

Large fields are the result of the amalgamation of smaller enclosures resulting in the removal of hedgerows that have been replaced in some areas by fencing.

This is an attractive area that is well-tended with manicured drives to the impressive farmsteads and granges that may be of historic interest.

Whaites Lane provides easy access to the major settlements with a network of drives connecting to farmsteads plus a reasonable system of public footpaths. Overall the area is quiet and sparsely populated. The area has probably been settled and farmed for some time but intensive farming practices have obliterated much of the evidence.

## Key Characteristics

### Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with glacial sand and glacial gravel drift geology
- Deep and well-drained, coarse loamy and sandy, locally over gravel brown soils.

### Landform and drainage pattern

- Low lying undulating ridge landform between 15m AOD and 36m AOD.
- Character Area 83: The River Swale Corridor runs parallel to the ridge. There is a man-made pond at Leckby Grange.

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

- Land is managed for arable production, grade 3 agricultural land.
- Medium to large-sized fields bound by hedges and post and wire fencing.
- Several clumps and blocks of deciduous woodland plus conifer and mixed plantations.
- Very few individual trees along field boundaries.

## Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

### Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ The main settlements are Asenby and Cundall plus a few individual farmsteads scattered along the slope of the ridge.
- ▶ Baldersby Park is an early 18th century building with associated parkland at the northern end of the ridge.
- ▶ Dominant vernacular building materials are red/brown brick with pantile roofs.
- ▶ Leckby church is constructed of Magnesian limestone.
- ▶ Leckby Grange and its associated mounds may have some historic interest and it is an important feature in the area.
- ▶ Whaites Lane runs the length of the Character Area providing connection to the A168 to the north.

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ The area has the capacity to accept some level of small-scale rural agricultural development but would be sensitive to large-scale development that impacts upon landform and field pattern.
- ▶ Pressures on the farming industry resulting in changing farming practices and change of use of traditional farm buildings.
- ▶ The parkland at Baldersby Park is an important feature, which is sensitive to change through neglect as well as inappropriate development. The setting of the park includes the River Swale corridor and the large-scale arable farmland of Dishforth.
- ▶ The location and design of some recent woodland planting has flattened the appearance of the ridge in the landscape from some aspects.
- ▶ Limited public access through the area to the River Swale.
- ▶ The A168 is an intrusive element in the landscape and impacts upon the setting of Asenby.

## Guidelines

### Aim: To preserve the distinctive character and views of this landmark ridge.

- ▶ Encourage appropriate woodland management and tree planting in the area, respecting the landform that makes this small Character Area distinct from the surrounding farmland.
- ▶ New small scale agricultural development should be located adjacent to existing farmsteads and buildings taking care not to impact upon views of vernacular buildings and villages. Skyline and prominent locations should also be avoided. Ideally new buildings should be located in dips in the landform close to existing farmsteads.
- ▶ Native woodland and tree planting can be used to integrate development with the surrounding landscape pattern and to highlight topographical features.

### Aim: To conserve the parkland character at Baldersby Park.

- ▶ Promote parkland tree planting within the Park to replace mature specimens over time.
- ▶ Support initiatives to manage the Park and garden linked to the Grade 1 listed building and other listed structures at Baldersby Park.
- ▶ The setting of Baldersby Park may be improved with some additional tree planting to the south west linked to the landscape pattern of Character Area 82: Dishforth and Surrounding Farmland .

### Aim: To integrate communications routes with landscape character.

- ▶ Explore opportunities for improving public access to the River Swale through this area in consultation with local landowners.
- ▶ Promote appropriate tree planting to limit the impact of the A168 as it passes through the area, avoiding linear patterns.



**B** View south east along the ridge.