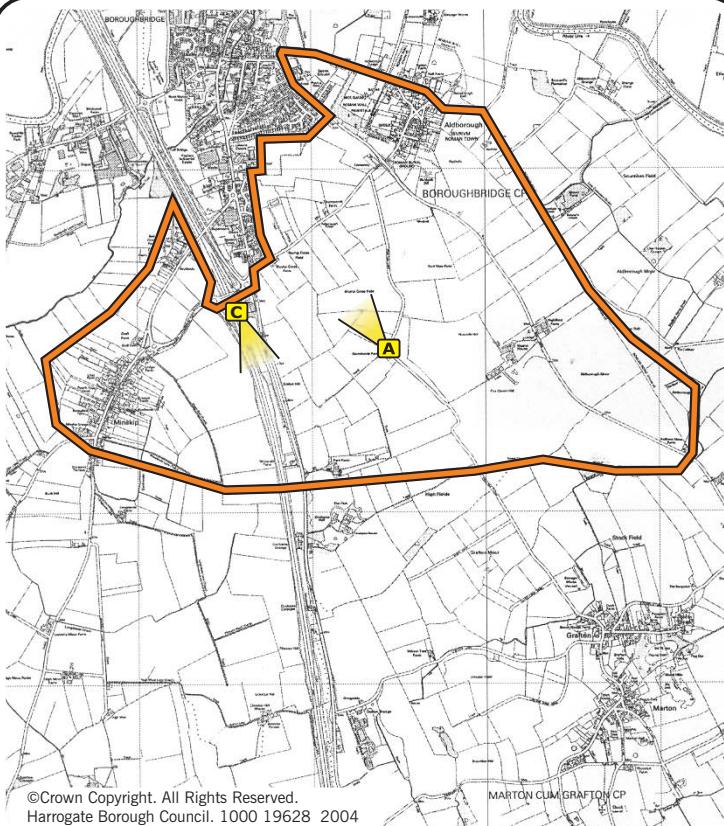


AREA 87

Approved
Feb 2004

A South of Boroughbridge.

South Boroughbridge farmland



HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

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".



Description

This moderate scale landscape covering 5.5km² is situated immediately south of Boroughbridge and includes the settlements of Aldborough and Minskip. Aldborough is well known as a Roman town and includes a Scheduled Monument on the site of the original Roman town.

The urban edge of Boroughbridge is well-wooded offering glimpses of the modern residential development when viewed from the countryside to the south. Larger scale buildings on the urban edge are less well screened and integrated into their surroundings particularly adjacent to the A1(M) motorway that cuts across the western end of the area in a north south direction. Tree cover, together with the rolling landform, disperses views and suggest partial enclosure. A consistent scattering of woodland clumps and trees maintains balance across a simple landscape of monochrome arable fields and occasional improved grass fields. Hedgerows are fragmented and some have been lost due to the amalgamation of fields in response to intensive, modern farming techniques.

The villages of Minskip and Aldborough are important features in the area as both have historic significance. Minskip is a linear village with long narrow strip fields known as 'tofts' to the rear of the houses. This field pattern is typical of early enclosure and could have medieval origins. These tofts are important to the identity of Minskip in the complex landscape south of Boroughbridge. Conversely, the arrangement of Aldborough is very different due to its Roman origins and its changing importance through the centuries. The establishment of Boroughbridge in the 12th century and the loss of manorial status influenced its development during medieval times. Agriculture was carried out on an open field system and the first large enclosure in Aldborough took place in 1629. The village and its setting is a complex site within an intensively farmed landscape.

The proximity of this area to settlement and the presence of the A1(M) make it easily accessible from all directions and a potential area for small-scale development like the new free range hen unit on the A168.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with sandy till and till drift geology.
- Deep, fine loamy, slowly-permeable brown soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Rolling landform between 17m and 50m AOD.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Land managed for cereal crop production. Grade 2 agricultural land.
- Chicken sheds with post and rail fencing.
- Medium to large sized fields bound by fragmented hedges plus medieval strip fields at Minskip and Studforth Hill.
- Scattered woodland clumps particularly along the urban edge of Boroughbridge.
- Very few individual trees along field boundaries.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlements are Aldborough, Minskip and the urban edge of Boroughbridge plus scattered individual farmsteads.
- Traditional building materials include red brick with tile or slate roofs.
- The A1(M) dissects the area to the west.
- Historic features include the Roman road to, and the Roman town at, Aldborough and the field system at Minskip.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- The historic fabric of the landscape is sensitive to change as a result of development and intensive farming practices. Further alteration of the field systems around villages would impact upon their distinctiveness in the landscape.
- The easy accessibility of the area from the A1(M) has led to development pressure, which is likely to increase particularly along the A1(M) and A168 corridor.
- Boroughbridge is influential to the north and its development has sprawled along the former A1

Out of town to the south. New development has also extended eastwards and the separation of Aldborough from Boroughbridge is becoming threatened.

- The area lacks new planting to succeed the existing mature planting.
- The area may accommodate change and some expansion of development of an appropriate scale. However, large-scale development is likely to have a detrimental impact on the pleasant and attractive nature of this Character Area.

Guidelines

Aim: To conserve the diverse mix of landscape patterns.

- Encourage the maintenance of field boundaries particularly at Minskip and identify hedgerows that would be considered important under the Hedgerow Regulations criteria.
- Support English Heritage in maintaining the historic Roman town at Aldborough and the features associated with it.
- New planting should be encouraged to diversify age structure of trees.
- Research and interpretation of historic features in the area and their contribution to landscape character should be encouraged.

Aim: To integrate development.

- New development on the edge of Boroughbridge should be of appropriate scale and take account of existing landscape pattern and setting of the edge of the town. Harsh lines of built development should be avoided. Design at the urban edge requires imaginative thinking and design to maintain the distinctiveness of place.
- Expansion of existing industry should only be permitted where the landscape has the capacity to accommodate change without detriment to the character of the area.
- New development should avoid further sprawl into the countryside and respect the scattered nature of settlement beyond settlement edges.



B A1(M) corridor