

**AREA  
90**

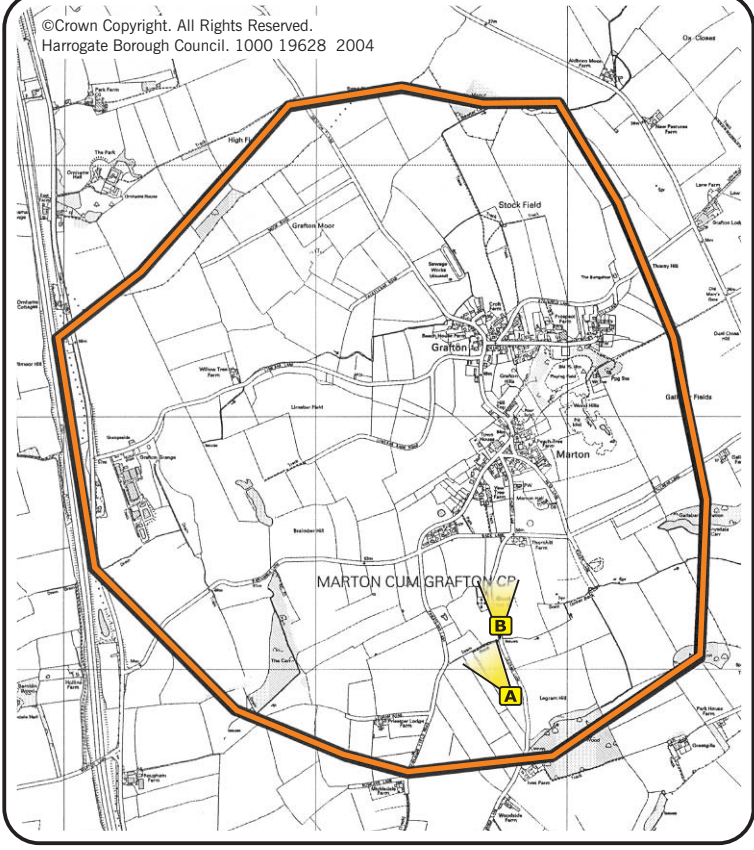
**Approved  
Feb 2004**

**A** View looking north from Legram Lane.



## Marton cum Grafton undulating farmland

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### 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 area is small-scale with a distinct "hummocky" landform that sits within broader, flatter landscape areas. It covers more than 5km<sup>2</sup> of land around Marton cum Grafton, which has a Conservation Area. There has been settlement on this high ground since early times and location has been influenced by topography. The hill above Grafton was the site of an Iron Age Hill Fort (but much of the site has been destroyed by ploughing and quarrying). Each village has a village green and development has taken place along the roads. Backland development is more recent.

Land management is diverse with a harmonious mix of fields bound by hedgerows in various conditions.

There are few notable woodland blocks in the area but there are many clumps of trees growing within Marton cum Grafton and numerous individual trees scattered along field boundaries. Some hedgerows have grown out and are now small trees whereas other tended hedges remain tall and bushy.

Together, the rolling landform and the vegetation cover channel views, enclosing them within the Character Area evoking a sense of remoteness in places despite

being easily accessible with the A168 and A1(M) to its western limit (which results in some disturbance from low level background traffic noise). Despite this it is a beautiful and appealing landscape, which includes long distance views to the Dales, the North York Moors and the Howardian Hills.

## Key Characteristics

### Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology and sandy till and till drift geology. Possible influence from the Magnesian limestone geology beneath the Sherwood Sandstone.
- Deep, fine, loamy soils with slowly-permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging associated with well-drained, fine and coarse loamy soils in an undulating landscape.

### Landform and drainage pattern

- Rolling and hummocky landform between 30m and 62m AOD.

## Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- ▶ Bawter Carr Drain is a drainage ditch to the north and Goker Beck is to the south. Croysdale Carr is one of a few scattered ponds plus there are several springs.

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

- ▶ Mixed land use of improved grassland and arable crops in small to medium sized fields with hedge boundaries some of which are outgrown and fragmented but repaired with fencing for livestock control.
- ▶ Woodland clumps are associated with settlement with lots of trees scattered along field boundaries. Woodland blocks at Marton Carr and at Wood Hills between Grafton and Marton.
- ▶ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation are:  
Limebar Bank (neutral grassland);  
Marton Carr (wet woodland);  
Grafton Moor Lake (open water).

### Settlement, built environment and communications

- ▶ The major settlements are Marton and Grafton plus scattered farmsteads. Marton is located on high ground in the centre of the area and Grafton is located on the slope just to the north.
- ▶ Vernacular building materials include red brick and pantile but there are also modern farm buildings.
- ▶ Minor roads radiate from Marton cum Grafton linking with the B6265, the A168 and A1(M).
- ▶ A network of lanes and tracks provides access to farmsteads.
- ▶ The public footpath network in the area is limited, but enhanced by rides and permissive paths
- ▶ There is evidence of an Iron Age hill fort in the area between the villages but the site has been damaged by gravel workings and is now de-scheduled.

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- ▶ Intensive agricultural land management practices have resulted in the loss of some key features in the landscape. Field pattern is complex and its origin unclear, although it is likely that some of the enclosures are parliamentary. It is the rolling and hummocky landform which has influenced land use and settlement pattern here.
- ▶ Potential development pressures on areas with good access close to the A168 and A1(M) corridor could lead to ribbon development that would detract from the rural character of the area by introducing discordant features.

- ▶ The setting of the villages on higher ground with well-treed edges is sensitive to change, as views to and from the villages are important characteristics.
- ▶ Trees and woodland are of a similar age.

## Guidelines

### Aim: To conserve and enhance historic characteristics.

- ▶ Promote the protection of the remaining features linked to the Iron Age hill fort and Marton Carr for future generations and as an important link to the history of development in this place.
- ▶ Research the importance of hedgerows using the Hedgerow Regulations criteria. Begin with hedgerows that follow historic parish boundaries.

### Aim: To preserve vernacular buildings and respect settlement pattern.

- ▶ Development proposals for the villages must respect village setting and views to the villages from their approaches as well as traditional building design.
- ▶ Large scale development along the A168 and A1(M) corridor should be resisted in this Character Area. Where desirable, the treatment of landscape as part of the proposal will be a key factor in determining acceptability.

### Aim: To conserve and enhance the diverse landform.

- ▶ Development tends to be located along roads on the slopes round Marton cum Grafton and scattered along minor road sides elsewhere. Buildings tend not to be in prominent locations.
- ▶ Native woodland and tree planting can be used to enhance the diverse landform through appropriate design as well as improve wildlife corridors through the area.
- ▶ Farm diversification schemes should integrate with the local character of the area respecting the setting of the villages of Marton and Grafton.



**B** Legram Lane south of Marton