

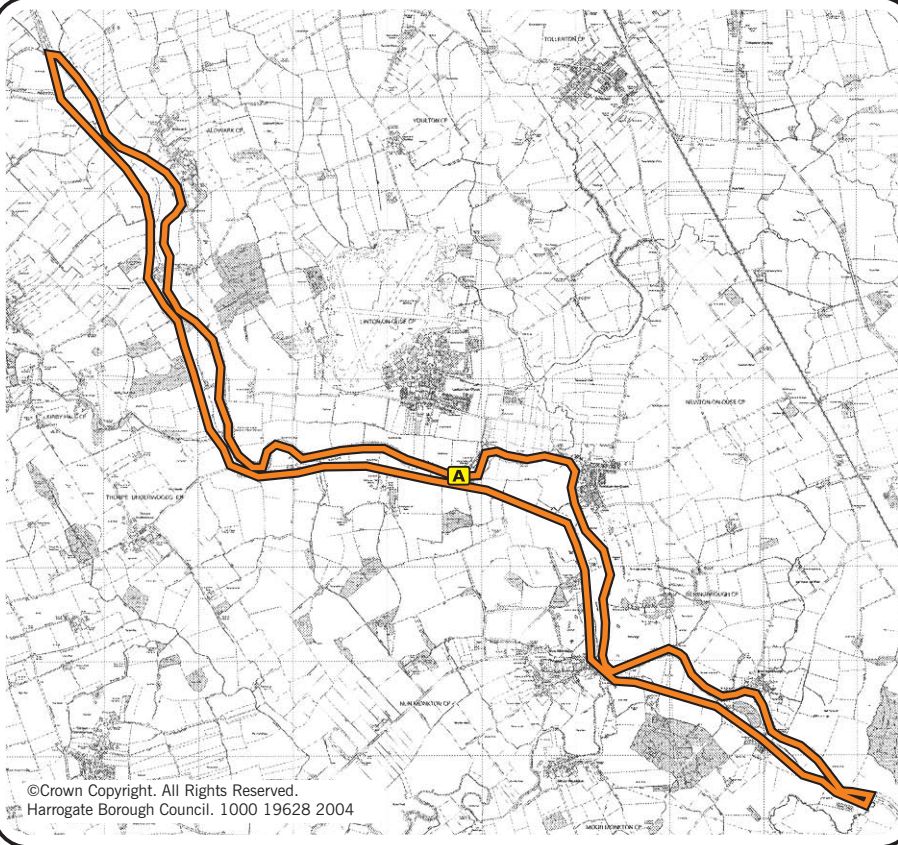
**AREA
93**

**Approved
Feb 2004**

A River Ouse at Linton Lock.



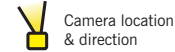
River Ure/Ouse Corridor



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HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

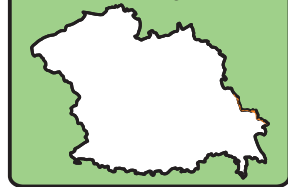
— Area boundary*



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".

Location in Harrogate District



Description

This is a small to moderate scale sinuous Character Area of the River Ure corridor as it meanders gently from Town Street Drain near lower Dunsforth to the Foss at the boundary of Harrogate and Hambleton Districts.

The area encompasses the flat river floodplain on both sides of the river. It consists of a diverse mix of improved grassland and riverside meadow alongside the formal and manicured parkland of Beningborough Hall in Hambleton District and The Priory.

There are few field boundaries across this narrow Character Area. Those that exist tend to be straight and scattered with trees resulting in a regular pattern on the landscape that contrasts with the sinuous line of the river. Rougher areas of grass remain open.

Dense woodland is clustered around built form and encloses the riverside offering dispersed views across the more open landscape beyond.

This is a stunning and beautiful area distinct from the surrounding intensively-farmed land. Mature woodland helps to screen telegraph poles. Overall the area is harmonious with the river unifying its length.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with alluvium drift geology.
- Deep, stoneless, fine loamy and clayey ground water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Flat river corridor of the River Ure below 10m AOD with man-made riverbanks along much of its length.
- At Cuddy Shaw the River Ure becomes known as the Ouse.
- Alder Tree Reach and Reservoir and the pumping station at Redhouse Ings are notable water features.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Improved meadow and grassland managed for grazing livestock, grade 2 and 3 agricultural land.
- There is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation at Hawthorn Bank, woodland dominated by oak plus a rich ground flora and woodland plants.
- Medium sized fields are bound by fragmented hedges reinforced with post and wire fencing for stock control.
- Densely-wooded river corridor plus several deciduous and mixed clumps elsewhere.
- Individual trees scattered along field boundaries.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- No major settlements, a few scattered individual farmsteads on the riverside.
- Beningborough Park and Hall (Hambleton District) provide a parkland setting that influences the River Ure at Nun Monkton.
- Recreation includes a golf course at Aldwark, fishing at Linton Lock plus caravanning and camping.
- Toll bridge at Aldwark and a lock at Linton.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- The river corridor depends upon the water quality of the river and its environment for its character and distinctiveness. Changes to this will impact on character.
- The surrounding agricultural landscape and intensive farming practices have restricted the extent of the influence of the river making this corridor very narrow in places. If intensive farming practices continue to encroach on the river corridor then the Character Area could become fragmented and disappear.
- The river is navigable and an important recreation resource for fishing, boating and canoeing. Increased pressure from these activities could impact upon the tranquil and harmonious nature of the river corridor.

- The bridge and lock are important built features on the river. Their maintenance is important to landscape character.
- The riverbanks restrict the extent of the influence of the river on the neighbouring land but also prevent intensive arable farming from encroaching on the corridor.

Guidelines

Aim: To maintain and enhance the extent of the river's influence on character.

- Promote land management in this and neighbouring areas that does not impact upon the distinctive river corridor. Grass fields adjacent to the river should be maintained.
- Explore opportunities with landowners and DEFRA to create wetland habitats along the river corridor and extend the influence of the river on the landscape and the extent of this Character Area.

- Maintain tree cover and provide links with trees and woodland beyond the corridor to create stronger visual links between the river and surrounding countryside.

Aim: To maintain the tranquil character of the river corridor and the contribution of the area makes to the setting of parks and gardens and historic features.

- Recreation facilities along the corridor should be low key.
- Boat moorings must respect the character of the riverbank using natural materials where appropriate and minimise the extent of construction required. British Waterways must be consulted.
- Historically the river was an important communications route and has influenced man's activities in the area. There are several sites with historic interest along the river corridor that should be preserved and their features protected.
- Encourage the enjoyment of the river corridor as an informal recreational resource. Consider opportunities to develop links on foot between Aldwark and Linton Lock.