

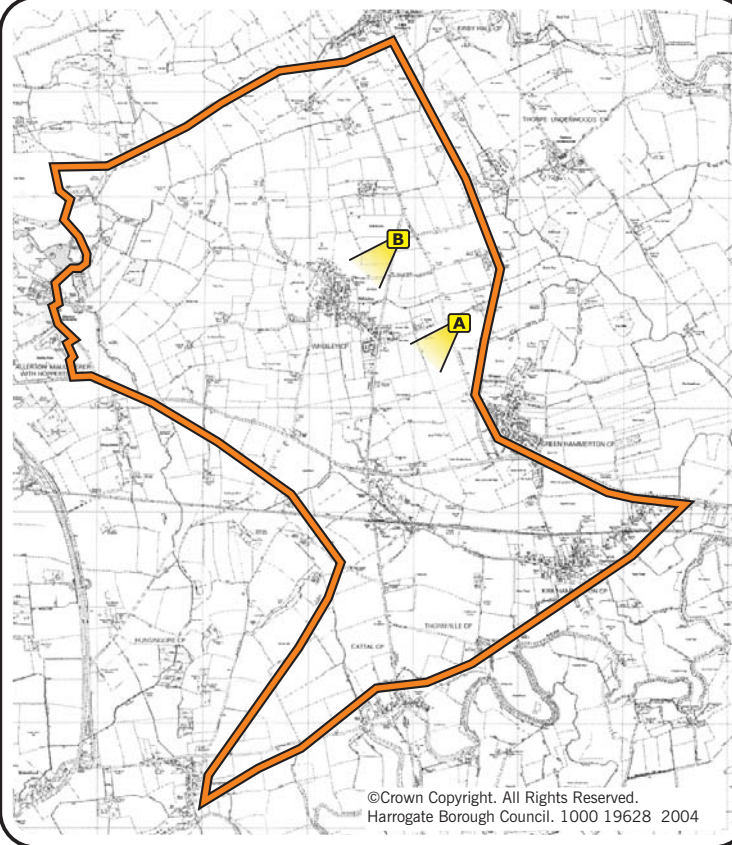
AREA
95

Approved
Feb 2004

A View, from the east, of fields to the south of Whixley.



Whixley Arable 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".

Location in Harrogate District



Description

This moderate to large-scale area covers approximately 19km² and lies east of the A1(M) and north of the River Nidd in the south east of the District.

The settlements are well wooded and intimate edged with small grassland fields managed for grazing and horses. In contrast, the surrounding farmland is more open due to a lack of woodland and the large arable field pattern, typical of parliamentary enclosure, that creates a regular pattern on the landscape. However, some of this regularity may be the result of the amalgamation of early enclosure fields. Field hedge boundaries are neglected and often severely trimmed resulting in fragmentation and limited impact on landscape pattern.

Whixley Park provides a contrast to the arable landscape and contributes to the setting of the village. Lanes and tracks link the scattered farmsteads.

The Roman Road "Rudgate" from York to Borough-bridge runs through the area. Kirk Hammerton has a Saxon church, a focal point around which the village has developed. To the west is Allerton Park and this area is important to the setting of the Registered

Historic Park and Garden and the listed buildings associated with it.

The varied landscape is balanced, spoilt only by some insensitive development including telegraph poles plus constant traffic noise from York Road (A59).

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with till and sandy till drift geology.
- Deep, well-drained, coarse loamy, slowly-permeable brown soils with some slight, seasonal waterlogging.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Gently undulating landform between 20m and 65m AOD.
- Whixley Beck, Kirk Hammerton Beck and Hew Beck cross the area.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Land managed for arable production with smaller grass fields around the villages.
- A plant nursery covers a large area of farmland and contrasts with the arable land.
- Medium to large sized fields bound by a mix of hedges and fencing.
- Woodland and tree cover is sparse except for around settlement.
- Isolated patches of parkland trees at Whixley Park and The Park near Green Hammerton.
- Patches of individual trees scattered along field boundaries.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlement is Whixley, which has a village Conservation Area.
- Kirk Hammerton is an early settlement on the southern boundary of the area with the Nidd Corridor.
- Green Hammerton is just outside the Character Area to the east but owes much of its setting to this area.
- This area has a lot of scattered farmsteads.
- Local building materials include red brick and tile, render, Magnesian limestone and slate.
- Roman road along eastern edge of area plus York Road and a strong network of minor roads radiating away from Whixley, Kirk Hammerton and Green Hammerton.
- There are many public footpaths.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- The rural pastoral setting of the villages in and adjacent to this area are sensitive to change from intensification of land management (or change of use to garden and expansion of built development). Conversion of grass fields around boundaries could impact upon setting.
- The former Whixley Hospital site has been developed for housing and impacts upon views from the A59. In particular, development is tight to the boundary and level changes do not respect local landform making the setting of this group of houses distinct from the character of other villages in the area.
- The presence of a large plant nursery has impacted upon landscape character. Conifer hedges associated with this and residential developments in the area are visual detractors. Expansion of the area could impact further.

Guidelines

Aim: To integrate development with landscape pattern.

- Encourage native planting around the nursery sites to replace conifer hedging and ornamental planting and, in the long term, better assimilate the nursery fields with the surrounding landscape. Any expansion plans for the nursery should look at opportunities to improve this.
- Encourage new tree planting which relates to the former Whixley Hospital site and softens its appearance in the landscape.

Aim: To protect and enhance the setting of villages and farmsteads.

- Development should not impact upon tree cover, field pattern and settlement pattern. Where residential development is allowed, vernacular must be respected.
- New development must respect local landform.
- Tree planting around villages can help to define development limits. Care should be taken not to isolate a village from its surroundings taking account of the characteristic pattern of tree and woodland cover.

Aim: To develop links across the landscape.

- Investigate ways of improving the condition of the footpath network in the area and maintaining the existing network.
- This area has no designated sites for nature conservation. Encourage the creation of wildlife corridors to improve diversity and enhance landscape pattern between settlements.



B Whixley village from north east