

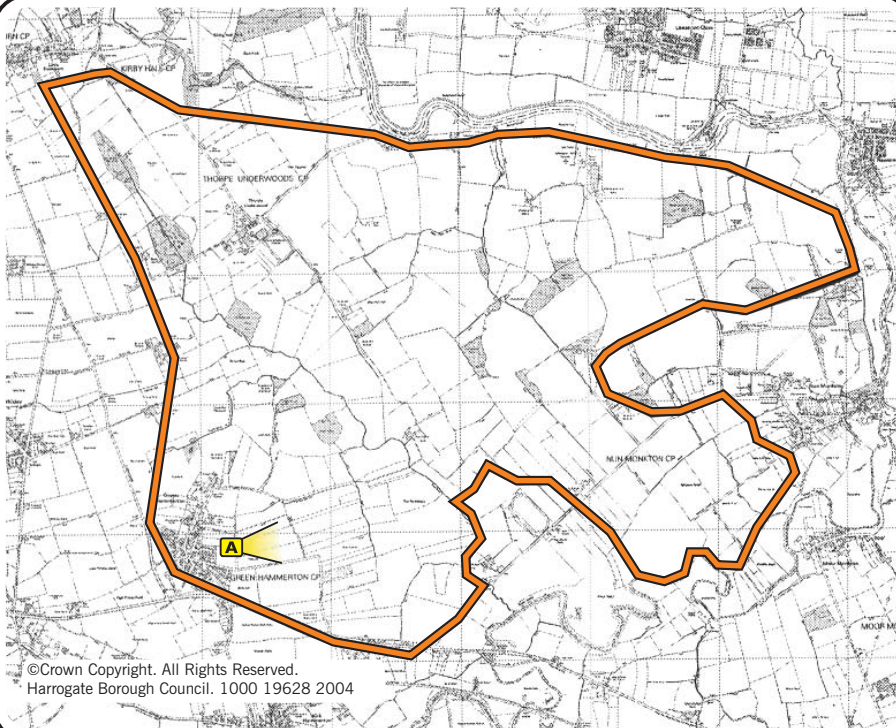
AREA
96

Approved
Feb 2004

A View east from Yule Lane, east of Green Hammerton.



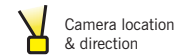
Green Hammerton low-lying farmland



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HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

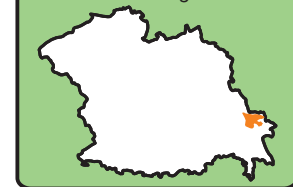
— Area boundary*



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 large-scale Character Area covers approximately 16km² and nestles within the crux of the River Ouse and Lower Nidd River Corridors in the south east corner of the District. Much of the land is designated flood-plain and is consequently well-drained by a strong network of channelled becks and drainage ditches.

Green Hammerton is situated on the boundary of the character area where landform becomes more rolling at the edge of the influence of the Magnesian limestone ridge to the west. Elsewhere the flat landform is lightly wooded with small woodland blocks and trees associated with built form which do little to impact upon the openness of the area.

Land use is simple and large arable fields, often without boundaries, contrasting with the smaller grassland strip fields bound by a strong hedgerow network and important to the setting of Green Hammerton.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with silt and clay drift geology.
- Slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, fine loamy surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Flat to very gently undulating landform below 20m AOD.
- Lots of becks of notable length with associated network of ditches along field boundaries. (Score Ray Beck, Sally Close Beck, Pool Beck, Whixley Cut, Caskill Beck, Blytham Beck.)
- Fishponds at Thorpe Wood plus a well and several scattered ponds.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Arable with improved grassland around settlement, grade 3 agricultural land.
- Large fields both of parliamentary and early enclosure including strip field system notable around Green Hammerton.
- Fields bound by hedgerows of poor condition. Some have disappeared altogether in places and fields remain open.
- Several small and medium blocks of woodland plus Ancient Semi-Natural woodland at Great Wood, Widdington Wood and Pasture Hill.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlements are Green Hammerton and Thorpe Underwood and there are several scattered farmsteads.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- A good network of public footpaths crosses the area. The A59 is also on the line of a Roman road.
- The Roman road between York and Boroughbridge ran through Green Hammerton which developed around a green.
- The dominant traditional building material is red brick, generally with pantiled roofs.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- The expansion of Green Hammerton (and Kirk Hammerton down the A59) over the years has impacted upon character and the setting of the village. Referring to historic maps it would also appear that a significant number of hedgerow trees and some hedgerows have been lost. As a result the landscape is sensitive as the large-scale pattern and generally open nature will not easily accommodate change.
- Changing pressures on the farming industry are likely to lead to more changes in land management in the future, which will impact upon character.
- Large-scale farm buildings are a common feature in the area, which can impact upon the openness, and extensive views in the area.
- The woodland blocks are an important feature prone to neglect. In addition, there are few links between them.
- There are few refuges for wildlife in the area due to the lack of habitat diversity.

Guidelines

Aim: To restore the diversity of landscape pattern.

- Encourage the maintenance, management and repair of hedgerows particularly around settlement and the reintroduction of hedgerow trees.
- Promote woodland management of Ancient Semi-Natural woodlands and other woodlands in the area in association with the Forestry Commission and landowners. Where new planting is proposed ensure that it relates to existing woodland and provides links to it.
- Promote appropriate habitat creation through land management regimes in association with DEFRA and Farm Stewardship e.g. wetland meadow close to the river, diversification of field margins (particularly between woodlands etc.) Recommendations to be in line with the Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan.

Aim: To integrate development.

- Any development must respect vernacular of traditional brick buildings with slate or pantile roofs. Where large-scale building for rural industry is necessary factors such as location, height, materials and colour must respect landscape character.
- Ensure that new development is of an appropriate scale and related to rural industry. New development should seek to maintain the rural character of this area rather than introducing non-rural related industry and residences.

Aim: To preserve the historic fabric of the landscape.

- Maintain the parkland character of the area to the north of Green Hammerton and around Thorpe Underwood. The planting of individual parkland trees of appropriate species in these areas should be encouraged.
- Encourage the research and protection of archaeological features which are not scheduled e.g. the site of Widdington Hall, which has medieval origins.
- The varied field patterns in the area are indicative of various stages of enclosure and should be protected and researched.