

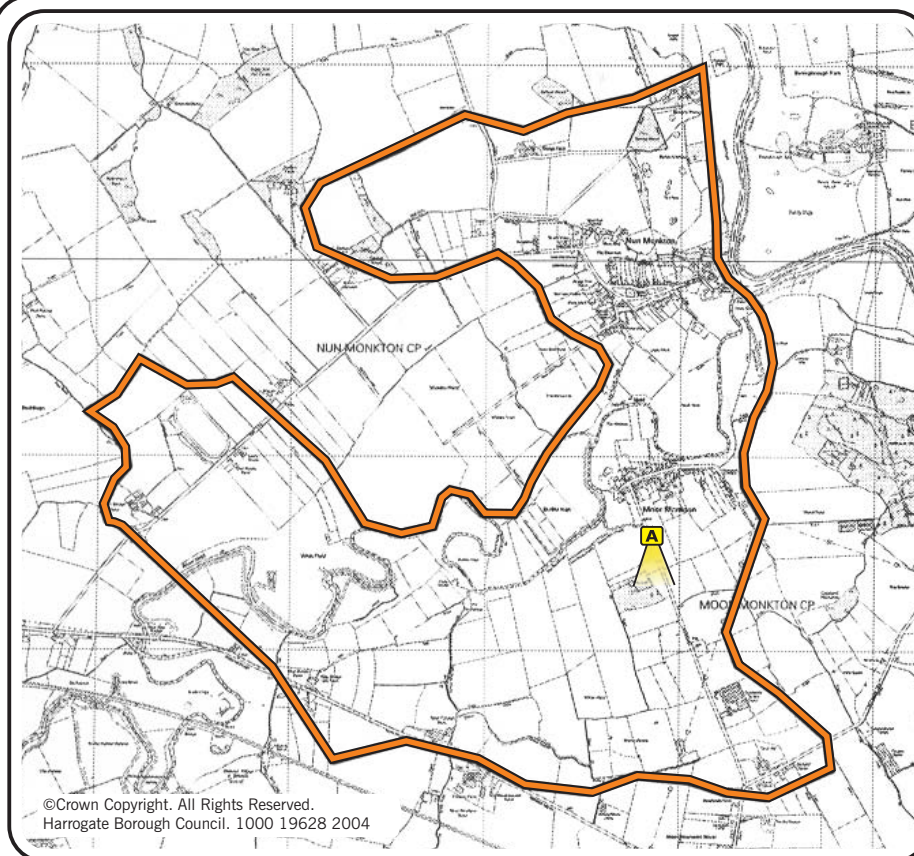
AREA
98

Approved
Feb 2004

A South of Moor Monkton looking south.



Lower Nidd Grassland (Skip Bridge to River Ouse Reach)



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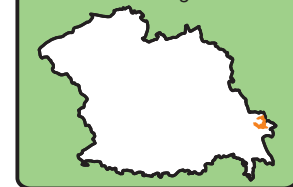
HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

— Area boundary*
📍 Camera location & direction



* 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 area includes the final reach of the River Nidd to its confluence with the River Ouse.

It is a broad, flat floodplain that covers approximately 7km² and due to its low-lying nature and risk of flooding it is managed as permanent grassland.

The monochrome green fields create a rectangular pattern on the landscape, typical of parliamentary enclosures (with some early enclosure too). Fields are bound by hedges of various conditions: low hedges are clipped and well-tended in contrast with the taller, often neglected, hedges that compensate for a lack of tree cover and evoke feelings of enclosure, dispersing views across an otherwise open landscape. Further loss of these hedgerows would be of great detriment to landscape character.

The river corridors and settlements are well-wooded with a diverse range of tree species. Beningborough Park is also well-treed and, although it is within the neighbouring District, it contributes to the setting of Nun Monkton. Beyond the settlements and the river, tree cover is relatively poor and the visibility of pylons detracts from certain views.

This is a beautiful area that can easily be accessed via dead end minor roads connected to the A59. The rivers are well-served by a network of public footpaths

Key Characteristics

Geology soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with silt and clay drift geology plus alluvium along the riverbed.
- Slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, stoneless, clayey and fine loamy over clayey surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Flat landform below 15m AOD.
- The River Nidd plus few minor associated drainage ditches along field boundaries.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Improved grassland fields, grade 4 agricultural land.
- Area of parkland with the Priory at Nun Monkton.
- Small to medium-sized fields some typical of parliamentary enclosure plus older field systems around settlement.

Key Characteristics

- Lots of hedgrows of various condition often reinforced with post and wire fencing where needed for stock control.
- Woodland clumps plus few trees along field boundaries including oak, sycamore and ash.
- Surviving ridge and furrow.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- The main settlements are Nun Monkton and Moor Monkton.
- Traditional building materials include red brick and tile or slate plus occasional Magnesian limestone buildings and walls to properties.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- The river corridor is sensitive to change as a result of development and changes in management regime. Particularly important are the grass fields and associated hedges and field pattern which are regular and formal away from settlement becoming less so around Nun Monkton and Moor Monkton.
- The tended grassland landscape is sensitive to changes in land use and management, which may alter its appearance e.g. amalgamation of fields.
- The diversity of hedgerow management resulting in hedges of varying height and tidiness is an important characteristic. Neglect and fragmentation will impact detrimentally upon character.
- Mature hedgerow trees appear to be of a similar age and many may die at a similar time causing in a reduction of tree cover and change in characteristics.
- Potential loss of historic features. Archaeological sites and setting may be prone to neglect or damage. Nun Monkton has many features which may be of interest but about which little is known.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- Modern housing has detracted from vernacular and impacts upon the character of villages and their setting.
- Extensions to domestic curtilage will also impact upon the setting of villages in this area where they impact upon grass fields at the settlement edge.

Guidelines

Aim: To maintain the regular field pattern.

- Encourage and promote the maintenance of field pattern and hedgerow diversity. Promote the restoration of hedgerows in decline as part of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in consultation with DEFRA.
- Research hedgerow importance in this area using the Hedgerow Regulations criteria.

Aim: To secure the long-term future of individual trees in boundaries.

- Provide incentives to plant hedgerow trees to replace existing trees over time.
- Inform landowners of traditional tree management techniques such as pollarding and encourage their use as a management tool to prolong tree life.

Aim: To protect vernacular buildings and styles and the setting of buildings and villages.

- Simple vernacular brick cottages in villages are important to character and create balance in the landscape. New development should respect this as well as spacing between buildings. This is particularly important in Nun Monkton and Moor Monkton.
- The more random small-scale field patterns associated with settlement are important to setting and their boundaries and character should be protected from inappropriate change.
- Protect archaeological sites and their settings; explore the option of public access.



B 'Ridge and Furrow' grassland south of Moor Monkton looking east.