

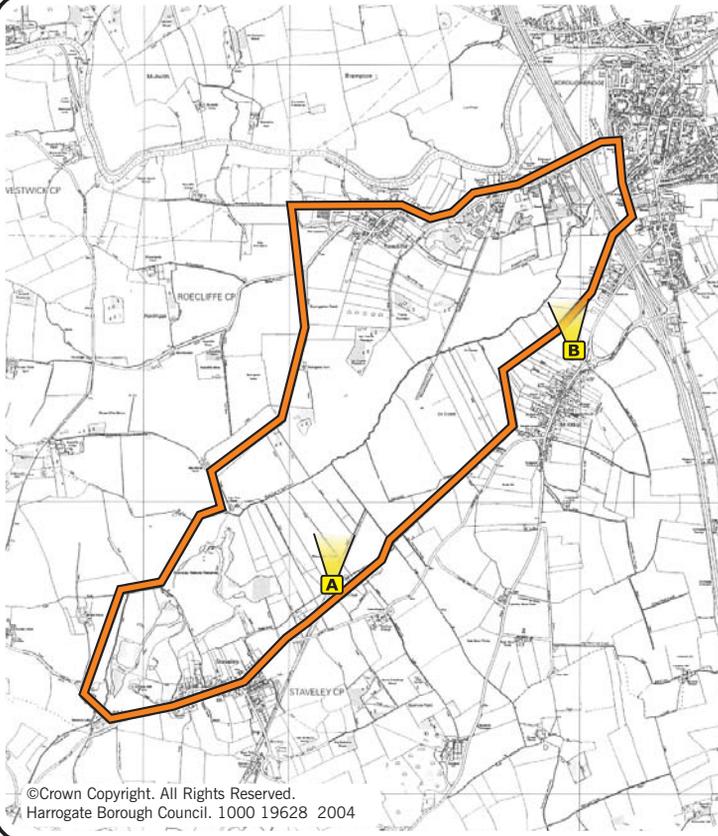
AREA 70

Approved
Feb 2004

A View north across the River Tutt.



River Tutt low lying arable farmland



HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

— Area boundary*

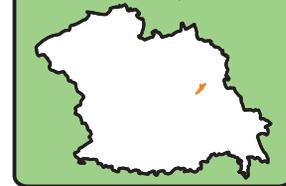
Camera location
& direction



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 is a flat area of land through which the River Tutt meanders gently north east from Staveley to meet with the River Ure at Boroughbridge. The area covers 5.75km². The landscape is moderate to large in scale and open due to generally sparse tree cover and flat landform. It has a uniform appearance and a regular pattern with the lakes at Staveley Nature Reserve providing diversity. These lakes are the result of gravel extraction. The area has a remote feel, as it is not accessible by public road. Several tracks do cross the area providing access to isolated farmsteads.

The fields are managed for intensive arable production with pockets of grassland for livestock. Many of the remaining hedges are fragmented and overgrown resulting in a neglected appearance. The area is pleasant and attractive if a little bland.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Solid geology of Sherwood sandstone with drift geology of silt and clay. There is a small area of Magnesian limestone geology at the southern end of the Character Area near Staveley.
- Soils are mixed with an area of deep peat soils among surface water gley and brown soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- The area is flat below 35m AOD falling gently to 20m AOD at Boroughbridge.
- River Tutt is a small watercourse running south west to north east. Several ditches along straight field boundaries drain into the river.
- Lakes at Staveley are the result of gravel extraction.
- The floodplain is generally restricted, close to the river and lakes.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Grade 3 agricultural land mainly in arable crop production.

Key Characteristics

- Field boundaries are made up of hedges where they exist, post and rail and post and wire fences where there is grassland closer to the river.
- Field pattern is orientated in relation to the southwest to north east course of the river.
- Tree cover is generally sparse with concentrated clumps along the dismantled railway line running much of the length of this Character Area and a few small woodland blocks. There are few individual trees.
- Woodland includes Carr Wood (i.e. wet woodland).
- Site of Interest for Nature Conservation at Staveley Quarry.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- Roecliffe, Minskip and Staveley are villages on the edge of this Character Area. Boroughbridge is at the north east end of the Character Area where the River Tutt meets the River Ure.
- Large-scale cold storage buildings at Reed Bordell on the outskirts of Roecliffe adjacent to the A1(M) are a dominant presence as is the A1(M) motorway at the northern end of this linear character area.
- Traditional building materials are red brick and tile as well as Magnesian limestone and some blue slate roofs. Render is also used.
- There is a public footpath network linking Staveley to Roecliffe.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- There is currently considerable impact on the character of the area to the northeast as a result of the presence of the Reed Bordell buildings. The open area is sensitive to the extension of this site and development would further isolate the river corridor north west of the A1(M) from the rest of the Tutt corridor.
- There is pressure for new industrial scale building in the area particularly close to the A1(M).
- A large proportion of the area is in floodplain.
- Further gravel extraction along the river corridor around Staveley would result in considerable impact on the tranquillity and rural nature of this area (gravel extraction activities in the area are currently stopped).
- In the long term there may be plans to reinstate the railway line that runs through the area. this would have considerable impact upon the character of the area

- Current pressure for change is likely to come from farming businesses as well as the extension of development at Boroughbridge. The use of post and wire fencing is common and does not help to maintain landscape pattern.

Guidelines

Aim: To maintain and enhance the open nature of this Character Area.

- Development that would impact on the characteristic extensive views across the area should be discouraged.
- Tree planting will help improve diversity but should be restricted to small clumps related to existing buildings and settlement so as not to impact upon views.
- Many of the enclosures in the area are likely to be parliamentary and further research may determine that the area was until quite recently very open.
- Large-scale development in this area should be discouraged to prevent further impact on the open rural character of the corridor.

Aim: To learn more about the history of this landscape and its land use and enhance historic characteristics.

- Promote further research in the area and integrate the results of the North Yorkshire Historic Character Assessment with these guidelines.
- Ensure that any further gravel extraction in the area is necessary, appropriately located and the necessary mitigation measures carried out.

Aim: To increase habitat diversity appropriate to the valued characteristics.

- The creation of wetland habitats to link in with the Site of Interest for Nature Conservation at Staveley Quarry will help maintain the open characteristics of the area while introducing variety to land cover and improving landscape diversity.
- The presence of peat suggests there were areas of fen in this corridor that could be reintroduced with landowner agreement.



B Reed Boardall from north end of Minskip.