

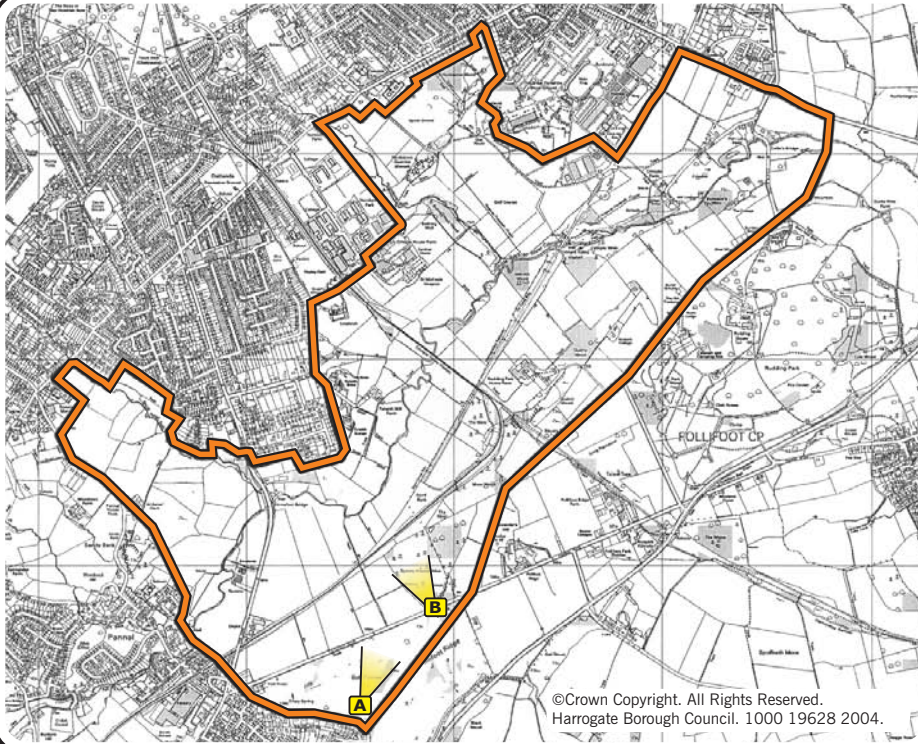
AREA 58

Approved Feb 2004

A From Follifoot Lane towards the urban edge of south Harrogate.



Middle Crimple Valley



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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".



Description

This is a diverse, well-wooded valley landscape, providing an important habitat for a variety of wildlife, abutting the urban edge of southern Harrogate. The area covers approximately 5km² and includes the Crimple valley to the south east of Harrogate, east of Pannal and north-west of Rudding Park (a Registered Historic Park and Garden).

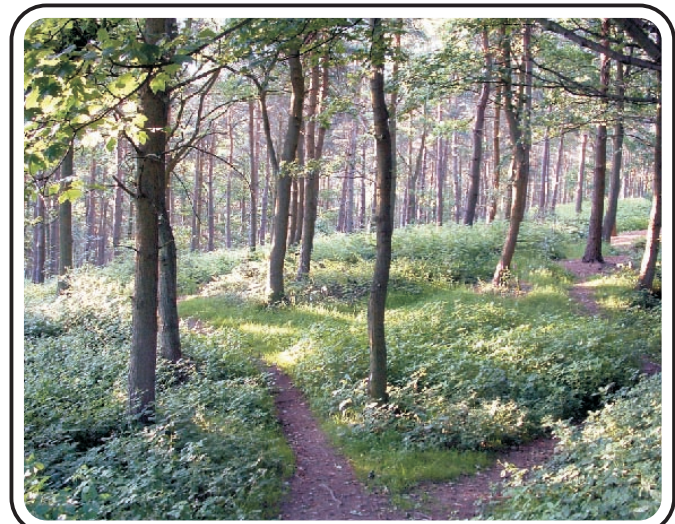
Gently undulating valley sides comprise rectilinear fields of improved grassland typical of parliamentary enclosure bound by an eclectic mix of hedges, walls and fences with individual trees.

Land management is diverse with highly manicured golf courses at Pannal and Crimple contrasting with rectilinear grassland fields and woodland.

The landscape has many features of historic and architectural interest including two railway viaducts. A network of public footpaths and bridleways from Hookstone Road, Leeds Road and Pannal Golf course gives pedestrian access from Harrogate.

The Harrogate-Leeds railway line is a key feature crossing the Crimple Valley in this area with its grade 2* listed viaduct. The A61 and A661 are main roads crossing the character area at its south west and northeast boundaries respectively.

Although the area is influenced by the urban edge of Harrogate and Pannal there is little built form in the Character Area itself except for several scattered farmsteads. Crimple Valley is important to the setting of Harrogate and provides an essential green "rural corridor" separating Harrogate from the village of Pannal and others. It is highly valued by local residents.



B The bridleway from Follifoot Road to the railway.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Millstone grit solid geology with slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- V-shaped valley of Crimple Beck rising between 75m AOD to approximately 120m AOD.
- Two tributaries, one of which is Stone Rings Beck, incise the north west side of crimple Valley.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Several blocks and clumps of deciduous and mixed woodland including Ancient Semi-Natural woodland at Hookstone Wood.
- Field boundaries are a mix of wall, hedge and fence boundaries with individual trees.
- Mixed land use mainly improved grassland managed in medium-sized rectilinear parliamentary enclosure fields.
- Recreational use in form of footpaths, bridleways and golf courses.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- The urban edge of south Harrogate and the eastern edge of Pannal are influences on the boundary of the area.
- Several large individual scattered farmsteads and light pollution is relatively low.
- Traditional building materials are local sandstone and stone slate roofs with some blue slate roofs.
- Railway lines (in use and dismantled) and their viaducts crossing the valley are prominent features.
- A network of public footpaths and bridleways, including the Harrogate Ringway, in the valley make this area easily accessible from Harrogate.
- Fulwith Mill Farm and Crimple Farmhouse are of interest.
- Past industry such as iron smelting in Mill Hill Wood, Bleaching at Crimple Hamlet and quarrying.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- This area plays an important role in separating Harrogate and Pannal and is sensitive to development which would result in coalescence. The capacity of this area to accept change which would *not* result in coalescence is limited.
- Development pressure exists due to the proximity of Harrogate and the accessibility of the area from the southern bypass (A658), the A61 and A661 and exclusion of the area from the Green Belt. Rural character is sensitive to urban edge as evident at the Great Yorkshire Showground.

- Features of historic importance and interest are sensitive to a change in setting e.g. the two viaducts, Fulwith Mill Farm and the setting of Rudding Park.
- Public footpaths are prone to erosion and require maintenance.
- Landscape pattern in the area is susceptible to change due to loss of original wall and hedge field boundaries and lack of woodland and tree management.

Guidelines

Aim: To protect the character of the area and its role in separating Harrogate from Pannal and providing a rural setting to the urban edge.

- All development proposals in this area must fully assess impacts upon the landscape character and wildlife habitats of Crimple Valley and Stone Rings Beck and their role in providing a rural setting to, and separation between, Harrogate and Pannal.
- Key views require protection. Development which could affect views should be resisted.

Aim: To better integrate the Urban edge.

- Encourage the planting and maintenance of trees along the urban edge without detriment to the key views across the valley.
- Promote tidy up of rubbish and storage.

Aim: To reinforce landscape pattern.

- Encourage maintenance and management of woodland, the reinstatement of hedges and hedgerow trees and promote the maintenance and repair of stone walls.
- Promote the enhancement of the footpath network and its contribution to landscape pattern and appreciation.
- Ensure the management and continuity of the wildlife corridor and recreational interest provided by the River Crimple.

Aim: Protect historic features and their setting important to the fabric of the landscape.

- Development proposals must not adversely impact upon the setting of Rudding Park and other historic features in the area.
- Protect views of the viaducts which are important features in the valley.
- Protect the setting of vernacular buildings in the valley.