

WOODED PARKLAND

Landscape character

The wooded parkland landscape type occurs in two units: Harewood (WHF5); and Bramham Park (ELB4). It is characterised by generally undulating and scenic areas of historically important wooded parkland, with large houses at their centre, surrounded by extensive grounds.

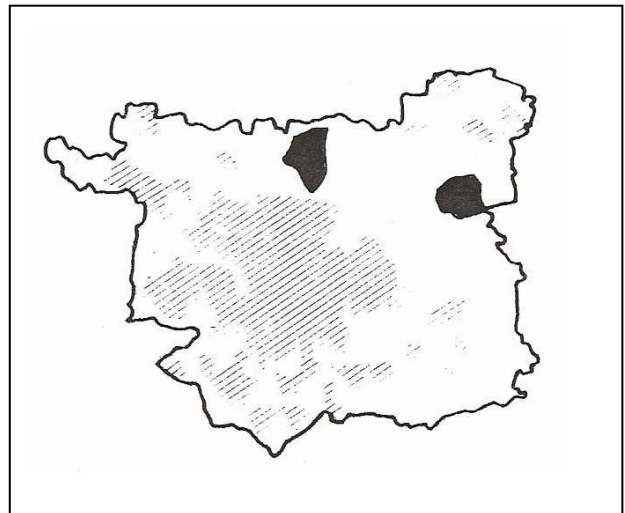
These grounds normally contain designed landscape features such as tree avenues, lakes or ponds and built features such as churches and temples. Parkland trees lie dotted amongst large fields of sheep grazed pasture or arable farmland. Blocks of planted woodland, both deciduous and coniferous, are a prominent feature occurring mainly within the valleys. These enclose the open cultivated areas, forming an attractive patchwork. The wooded parklands are self-contained landscapes, often with limited access.

Forces for change

The wooded parklands form self-contained landscapes, mainly removed from the pressures and changes affecting the landscape elsewhere around Leeds. As such, the landscapes that can be seen today are a mature reflection of the original designed landscapes. Where arable farmland occurs within the parks, there may be new opportunities for land management, with the increase in the amount of set-aside land expected under new EC rules.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the wooded parkland landscape type should be one of conservation of the historic features, through appropriate management of the estates.



Management guidelines, which are applicable for all the landscape units within the wooded parkland landscape type, are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in separate documents, referenced as above left.

- *Conserve and restore if appropriate, areas of existing parkland.* Large self-contained landscaped parks are the distinctive feature of this landscape, dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. As well as their historical importance, these parklands provide diversity and interest in the landscape. True parkland throughout the Leeds district is in decline, with some areas being taken into intensive agricultural production, which emphasises the need to conserve and manage these remaining areas.

Wherever possible it is important to retain the peaceful pastoral character of traditional parkland and to encourage new planting to replace old trees. Planting should respect the original design intentions of individual parks, or where there are several layers of design, it may be necessary to identify a particular stage of development which reflects the most important historical context.

Where opportunities arise through incentives such as the Countryside Stewardship scheme to help manage existing areas, these should be investigated.

- *Felling should be carefully designed to retain the effect of wooded enclosure.* It is important to retain the offset and overlapping nature of woodlands and belts of trees as these create a strong sense of enclosure. Any major breaks in continuity would have the effect of opening up views, which would distort the scale of the landscape. Enclosure and landscape scale can be maintained by choosing a regeneration system which minimises visual change to key sections of a woodland

- *Conserve and restore characteristic park boundary walls.* One of the characteristic features of these parklands is the boundary wall, which tends to be high and generally well maintained, increasing the sense of privacy and self-containment of the arc beyond. These boundary walls should be conserved through suitable repair work where appropriate.