

Leeds Landscape Assessment

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COUNTRYSIDE
COMMISSION

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 Leeds is the second largest metropolitan district in the country, covering 552 square kilometres. Although Leeds itself is an extensive urban area, the surrounding countryside accounts for approximately two-thirds of the city council's total area, with the majority being designated as Green Belt. A key feature of the Leeds landscape is the considerable variety of landform, vegetation, patterns of cultivation, character of settlements and communications networks, which together create the great diversity of landscape character within the area.
- 1.2 In July 1993, Land Use Consultants were commissioned by Leeds City Council, with support from the Yorkshire and Humberside Region of the Countryside Commission, to produce a District wide landscape assessment of the area covered by the Leeds Countryside Strategy, (which largely corresponds with the Leeds Green Belt boundary).

The objectives of the landscape assessment, as set out in the brief were to:

- (i) describe and analyse the landscape character of the District, identifying individual landscape types and those features/elements which characterise them;
- (ii) provide a landscape framework to:
 - guide and inform those responsible for development, landscape change and the management of landscape;
 - seek to conserve and enhance the characteristic landscape types of the area;
 - seek to avoid management methods and forms of development which would be detrimental to landscape character;
 - specify measures to meet land management objectives;
 - identify areas where little or no original fabric remains, where there are opportunities to create new landscapes.
- (iii) identify the factors which have had an influence upon landscape change in the past and those that are likely to do so in the future, in making recommendations on how to respond to these changes;
- (iv) have regard to local perceptions of landscape both past and present, 'sense of place' and areas of local landscape value.

Content of the report

- 1.3 This report sets out the results of our assessment, which has been based on both desk study and detailed field survey, as set out in Appendix A. It is divided into three parts:

Part 1, made up of Chapters 1 to 7, describes the Leeds landscape and the forces that have shaped it, as well as considering the way that it has been perceived in both the past and the present. It also sets out general management strategies and guidelines which are applicable for the whole of the Leeds landscape.

Part 2 describes the character of the landscape types which have been identified within the Leeds area. It also sets out the management strategies and guidelines for each of the landscape types, with the aim of conserving and enhancing landscape character and responding to pressures for change.

Part 3 contains detailed descriptions of individual landscape units, which are locally distinct landscape areas, and specific guidance on the conservation and enhancement opportunities in each area.

CHAPTER 2 – THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEEDS LANDSCAPE

Introduction

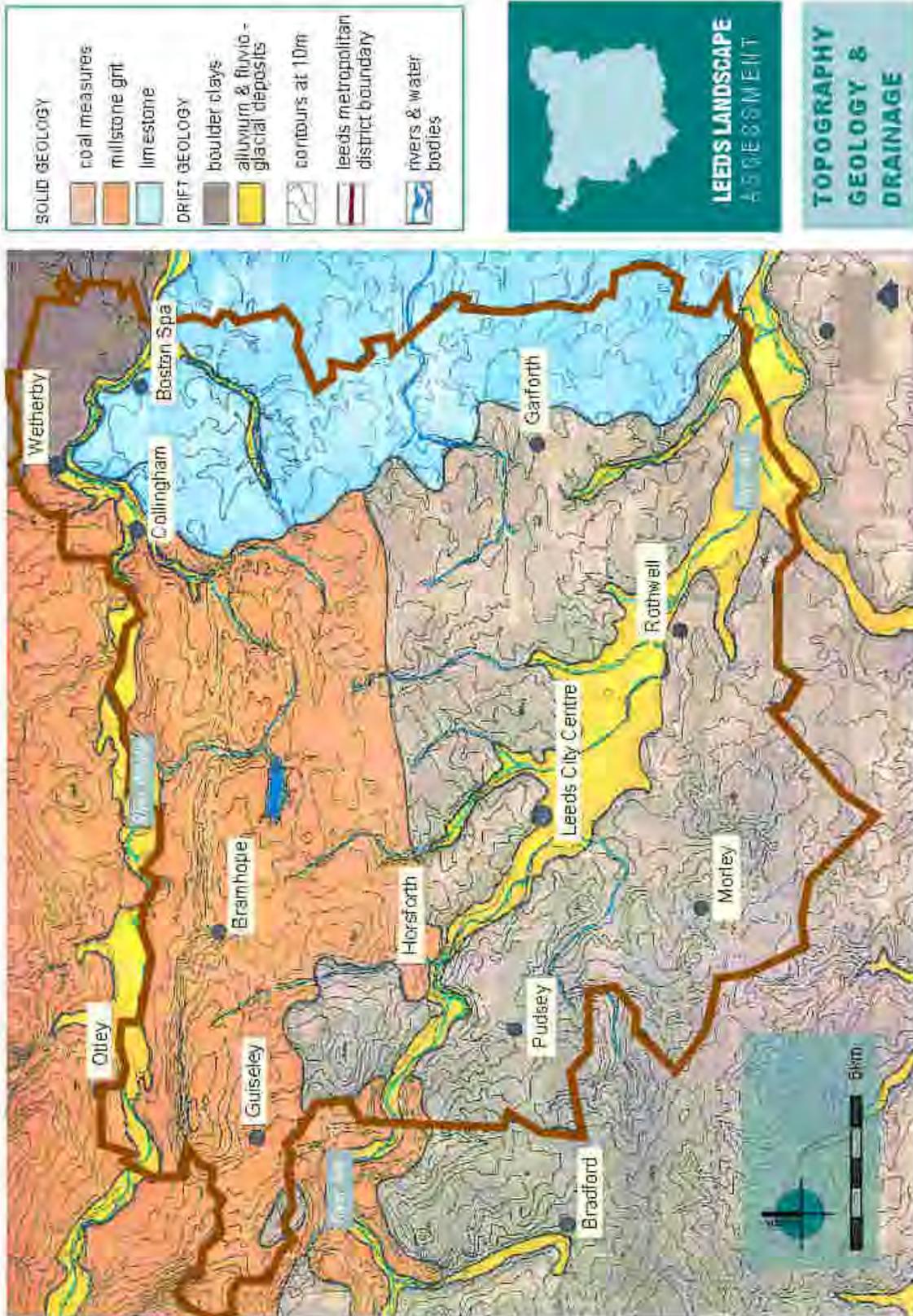
- 2.1 The present day landscape of the Leeds area is a product of the physical and human influences that have shaped its basic structure and appearance. The underlying geology and the processes of erosion and deposition have had a profound effect on the landscape, influencing not only landform, soils and vegetation communities, but also the human activities dependent upon or affected by them. In turn, and of particular significance to the Leeds district, is the influence of man's activities in changing natural vegetation patterns to suit human needs and introducing manmade elements into the landscape.

Physical Influences on the Landscape

- 2.2 The underlying geology of the area around Leeds comprises three principal rock types, all of which have influenced the nature of the landscape. These are the Millstone Grit and Coal Measures of the Upper Carboniferous Period and the Magnesian Limestone strata of the later Permian Period. Additionally, there is a small area of Triassic Sandstone in the extreme north-east of the District.
- 2.3 The Millstone Grit strata are located in the north-western and north-central parts of the District and are exemplified by a thick, coarse sedimentary rock composed generally of alternating layers of sandstones and shales. They were laid down about 300 million years ago and form the typical ridge and valley scenery well seen in the crags and edges at Otley Chevin, Harewood and elsewhere. The ridges are all escarpments due to the underlying dipping rocks. When the dip is gentle, there is a marked difference between the slope on the two sides, for example to the north and south of Harewood village. In certain cases, the steepness of the escarpment resulted in the layers of shale being unable to support the weight of their sandstone capping. In such cases, for example below Surprise View on the Otley Chevin, large slices of rock have broken away and slipped down the slope, to form hummocky and broken ground at the foot of the slope. The various Millstone Grit beds have been given local names relating to their area of origin or influence, as in Bramhope Grit, East Carlton Grit, and Guiseley Grit.
- 2.4 The Coal Measures deposits, which represent a continuation of, and overlay the Millstone Grits, occupy the southern and central parts of the Leeds District. The main area of the city itself, extending westwards to include Pudsey, is underlain by Lower Coal Measures strata while the more resistant bedrock of the southern part of the city, taking in Middleton and the higher outlying urban areas of Morley and Rothwell, is the more extensive Middle Coal Measures.
- 2.5 The alternating sandstone-shale sequence is still apparent, but the sandstones are thinner and finer grained than in the Millstone Grit strata and there is a persistent element of coals and accompanying scatearths. The thinner and less coarse nature of this rock type as compared with Millstone Grit, results in a comparative absence of edges or scarps and a more rounded, rolling topography. This pattern of landform has been further influenced by faulting which has taken place, which has in many places controlled erosion and produced rectilinear drainage patterns, dividing the Coalfield into square blocks and producing rounded sandstone features rather than long ridges.

- 2.6 The younger Permian rocks forming the Magnesian Limestone stratum east of Leeds rest on the older Carboniferous rocks with a well defined unconformity. These Permian deposits dip gently to the east and occur as a narrow strip occupying the eastern part of the district. The unconformity is visible within the landscape, for while the limestone ridge runs from north to south, the ridges on the sandstone beds of the Millstone Grit and Coal Measures areas run from west to east and abut against the limestone. They are also characterised by a softer more friable texture and a yellowish or reddish brown colouration. There are various small outliers of Magnesian Limestone deposits separated from the main north-south trending formation, one of which occurs at Whinmoor, to the east of Roundhay in urban Leeds. Much of the Magnesian Limestone belt gives rise to a gently rolling landscape characterised by productive intensively farmed agricultural land. Where relic unimproved grassland occurs, this is characterised by a rich and diverse flora.
- 2.7 The geomorphology of the area, particularly the Aire and Wharfe Valleys has been influenced by the effects of glaciation during the Pleistocene period. Features such as till or boulder clay and the morainic drift along the Wharfe Valley are relics of glacial activity and reflect stages in the retreat of the ice. At each standstill position of the glacier, meltwater from the ice carried forward quantities of stones and sand and deposited them as spreads of gravel in the valley in front of the moraine. These now form the sand and gravel deposits which have been worked around Otley and Pool. Where the main river valleys approach the Vale of York, some of these were obstructed by ice in the Vale and diverted. The original course of the River Wharfe for example originally flowed from Wetherby towards the north east, but was diverted towards the south east to cut the winding gorge which now runs alongside Thorpe Arch. Elsewhere, river action has had a significant influence in shaping the Leeds landscape. Alluvium found in the Aire and Wharfe valleys for example has had an influence on land cover and land use, being very variable in composition, from clay, and silty, to gravely loam, often several feet thick.

Figure 1 (overleaf) summarises the nature of the underlying geology of the area and how this relates to topography.



Human Influences on the Landscape

- 2.8 Human activity is the most significant force for environmental change and the natural and physical components of the Leeds landscape have been undergoing a process of alteration ever since the area became populated by early nomadic hunters some 10,000 years ago.

The first 9,000 years

- 2.9 The presence of these Mesolithic hunter-gatherers in the Leeds area is well attested by finds of their flint tools and it is possible that the area was well utilised by these people over a period of some 4000 years. Even at this time, the landscape was being adapted, with woodland clearance, the establishment of temporarily improved areas of grazing in the uplands, and 'longer-lived' settlement sites in the lower river valleys all possibly occurring. During the successive Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Ages, the farming economy developed and changed under the influences of climatic change, social organisation and technological advance. In the Leeds district, evidence for these changes is slight, although sites do exist, for example, in Hawskworth, where a number of probable Bronze Age burial monuments survive as earth works. Due to the lack of evidence and through analogy with other regions, it can be assumed that the population within the Leeds area at this time occupied largely dispersed, small settlements in a rural landscape of arable and pasture with large areas of woodland. Within this landscape, there was probably a very small number of important communal sites each serving as a 'focus' for a large area of the surrounding countryside.

- 2.10 Aerial survey over the last twenty years has produced evidence of a significant change in the Leeds landscape, beginning probably in the Iron Age and continuing for some 1000 years until some time after the cessation of direct Roman government. This change comprised the increased use of ditches and banks to bound settlements, stock pens, 'fields' and trackways with the landscape possibly appearing as one extensively cleared of woodland and occupied by single farmsteads. These farms were typically spaced about one kilometre apart, many having an associated field system and ditched trackways leading out between the enclosed fields to the open pastures and woodland.

This landscape also included a small number of additional features, including an important defensible hill fort at Barwick in Elmet and some of the series of dykes which run generally east to west across the line of the Roman Road at Aberford. For some 200 years after the Roman period, it is likely that the same Celtic population continued to live in much the same manner as it had for the previous 500 years. There is little evidence remaining from this period, although two upstanding monuments can be tentatively attributed to it, one of which is the linear bank and ditch, Grims Ditch, between the River Aire near Swillington and Whinmoor.

The last 1200 years

- 2.11 The physical form of the man-made landscape owes more to the changes wrought in the last 1200 years from the mid-Anglo-Saxon period onwards, than it does to the first 9,000 years. Between the eighth and the twelfth century, changes in farming practices and land management had led to a shift from the more dispersed settlement to nucleated villages and to the establishment of the large 'open' field systems associated with them. By the twelfth century, it seems that a radical reforming of the landscape had been achieved, a process which resulted in the establishment of most of the villages which exist in rural areas today.
- 2.12 The ancient townships of the Leeds area were largely established by the late 10th century, when the township comprised a population and its associated exploitable territory, which commonly included unenclosed arable lands, pasture, meadow, woodland, common and waste. The township community, whilst subject to ecclesiastical law and rules imposed by a higher government, was a self-regulating body acting at a local scale for the common good. This

township division persisted with little change until local government re-organisation in the 1870s and even then, in rural areas, the new framework of civil parishes perpetuated many of the former township boundaries. Many modern administrative divisions are still marked by boundaries adopted as much as 1000 years ago, with some following the line of yet earlier, visible landscape features. For example, part of the civil parish boundary between Barwick and Thorner follows the ancient township boundary, which in turn utilised a former Roman road. Part of this boundary is still followed by a public footpath, whose unusual width, although much overgrown, reflects its original function as a military road.

- 2.13 Over this landscape of villages and fields were superimposed two additional administrative systems. These were firstly an ecclesiastical system of parishes, usually coincident with one or more townships, with a church at the parish centre and secondly a manorial organisation which was not always so directly related to the township framework. The parish structure was largely in place in the Leeds area by the 11th century and remained relatively unchanged until the urban growth of the industrial period. The ownership of land and the attendant manorial framework, however, were subject to continual change. This changing pattern of ownership and tenurial organisation through the Middle Ages and later, led amongst other things, to the unusually large number of 17th-18th century park estates, which still survive in the belt from Harewood in the north, through Bramham and Parlington, round to the south-east side of the District at Ledston and Temple Newsam. Today, features such as manor houses, moated buildings, gardens, castles, mills, fishponds and deer parks still survive from this time. With the increased wealth of the post-medieval period, many estate landscapes were modelled primarily for aesthetic or leisure purposes, rather than economic gain. Hence the 17th and 18th centuries saw the appearance of the landscape gardener, and the re-modelling of extensive landscape vistas in keeping with the romantic ideals of that age. Park estates and gardens in the Leeds area include work by Lancelot Brown, Humphrey Repton, John Wood and William Etty amongst others.
- 2.14 During the 18th and 19th centuries the natural resources of the Leeds area, such as coal and sandstone, were increasingly exploited by landowners within their estates as, for example, by the Gascoigne family in Parlington and Garforth. Other important industries in the Leeds area included textile manufacture, ceramics, chemicals, leather, engineering and machine manufacture. Some of these industries were deliberately sited away from population centres either because of noxious effluent or the need for clean water. Also the need for water, as a power source or for some other industrial purpose, meant that much of the early Industrial period development was concentrated along the stream and river valleys on the urban fringe, particularly the Lower Aire valley. The industrial revolution and its accompanying population growth led to a vastly increased rate of change in the urban areas.
- 2.15 The most marked changes of all have probably come in the post-war years, with the large scale rebuilding of inner urban areas, migration of population to the rural villages, the increasing scale of road transport facilities and ever larger scale of industrial enterprises. Modern Leeds and the countryside around it is a product of all these changes, which have been superimposed on a landscape which has been evolving steadily for many hundreds of years.
- 2.16 The post-war planning system has played a key role in influencing the nature of the changes we have seen throughout the Leeds landscape. This influence has come through the development control process and the control of the use of land, with approximately two-thirds of the district being designated Green Belt. The Green Belt is designated in order to check the growth of built-up areas, prevent neighbouring settlements from merging, preserve the special character of Leeds and its surrounds, retain easy access to open country and assist urban regeneration.

Chapter 3: Features of the Leeds Landscape

Introduction

- 3.1 As illustrated in Chapter 2, both physical and human influences have helped shape the basic structure of the area around Leeds. These influences have led to the gradual evolution and development of many landscape elements or features, which together contribute to the character and sense of place of the Leeds landscape. This chapter draws out the most significant of these elements, in terms of farmland, semi-natural habitats such as woodland, heathland and moor, amenity and semi-natural grassland, rivers and wetlands, and buildings and infrastructure.

Farmland

- 3.2 The broad patterns of agriculture and farmland in the district largely reflect land quality, topography and underlying geology. To the north and west of Leeds the higher lying and lower quality of land, particularly Grade 3 and Grade 4 land (MAFF Classification Map 1977), typically supports an agricultural regime of predominately pasture and livestock farming. The character of the pastoral farmland typically consists of small to medium sized fields, bounded by a mix of hedgerows and traditional drystone walls. To the east, the agricultural regime changes into a lowland cereal based regime in the better quality (mainly Grades 2 and 3), lower lying north easterly and easterly areas of the district. Much of the farmland here is typically characterised by large hedged fields. To the south of Leeds, the farmland is largely dominated by the needs of the urban area and comprises a mix of land quality and activities. The main agricultural regimes include market gardening, vegetable growing and rhubarb production.

Semi-natural habitats

- 3.3 The Leeds district contains a variety of natural and semi-natural habitats, many of which make an important contribution to the character of the landscape and are important for their nature conservation interest. This varied pattern of vegetation cover is a reflection to some extent of the wide diversity of geology and topography within the district, but has also been heavily influenced by man's activities. The importance of many of these areas of semi-natural habitat has already been recognised, with 16 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), 31 Sites of Ecological and Geological Importance (SEGIs) two Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), and numerous locally valuable areas, designated within the Leeds district. The most important types of habitat found within the district are summarised below, highlighting the contribution that the habitat makes to the landscape.

Woodland

- 3.4 Woodland is a landscape feature which occurs throughout the Leeds district, amounting to approximately 2,650 hectares of a total area of 552 square km, (Leeds Draft Countryside Strategy 1993). This equates to 4.7% of land cover within the district, of which 1,120 hectares (42%) is deciduous, with the remainder being mainly mixed and approximately 5% coniferous. With the exception of some of the highest hill tops, most of the area would have been wooded in prehistoric times although centuries of cultivation have meant that most woodland is now confined to steep slopes such as the Chevin, within large parkland estates such as Harewood, Bramham and Parlington, or along river valleys, such as Meanwood and Calverley.

- 3.5 The influence of geology and soils on woodland types, although still detectable, has been lessened in the Leeds district due to modification by man. The majority of the woods have undergone management at some time and many originate from planted stock. These planted woodlands generally occur in regular, rectilinear blocks or discrete stands, separated abruptly from their surroundings by stone walls or fences. They also tend to be dominated by one or two species such as sycamore and beech and occasionally form an even aged canopy. A large proportion of these woods are under private ownership, with many being part of the large parkland estates in the east of the district. Coniferous plantations also occur within the Leeds district, although to a relatively small extent. These woods tend to be of low ecological value, their dense and dark character combining with the effects of a monoculture to discourage colonisation by plants and animals.
- 3.6 There are however, a number of woodland areas present within the district which are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1810/1830. Some of these woodlands are ancient woodlands such as Parlington Hollins, West Wood, Calverley Woods and Middleton Woods and have had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600. A provisional inventory of Ancient Woodland in West Yorkshire indicates that the total area of ancient woodland sites in the Leeds district is less than 540 hectares, equivalent to around 20% of the woodland. These woodlands are particularly important in terms of nature conservation, supporting a more diverse range of plants, birds and mammals than more recent regenerated or planted woods. Ancient woodlands often contain important historical and landscape features such as boundary banks and ancient pollards.
- 3.7 Other areas of old but not necessarily 'ancient' woodland have had their natural growth of trees replaced by plantations of broadleaf, mixed or coniferous trees, some of which took place in response to wartime timber demands. Spontaneous regeneration, of species such as oak, birch, sycamore and ash, has also taken place in many of the woodlands, with the nature conservation value varying with the proportion of broad leaved trees and the degree to which natural regeneration has occurred. In landscape terms, replanted 'old' woodland maintains the continuity of tree cover, which in other places has been lost. Where replanting with broadleaves has taken place, the overall impact on the landscape may be negligible, but where solid ranks of dark conifers replace more open and varied woods, the impact can be significant.

Heathland and moor

- 3.8 Heathland is a rare habitat type within the Leeds District, occurring in isolated locations such as the Chevin and on the upland area of Hawksworth Moor, which forms part of the larger Rombalds Moor. In landscape terms, the dense swathes of heather, along with cotton grass, purple moor grass, and crowberry, form a colourful contrast with the surrounding areas of improved and semi-improved pasture, particularly where they are separated by the strong line of a drystone wall. The importance of the moorland areas in terms of their nature conservation value is reflected in the designation of Hawksworth Moor as a Site of Ecological and Geological Importance.

Amenity and semi-natural grassland

- 3.9 The Leeds district contains extensive areas of amenity grassland in the form of sports pitches, golf courses, and parklands, such as at Roundhay, Temple Newsam, Middleton Park and along the green corridors such as Wyke Beck. These are located predominantly within and around the fringes of the main urban area, but also lie scattered throughout the countryside and adjacent to the many small towns and villages which lie within the district. The predominant vegetation within these amenity areas is short mown grassland, with occasional shrubs and trees. These areas provide an important recreational resource, particularly where they occur around the fringes of urban areas.

However, in rural locations large areas of amenity grassland with ornamental or exotic tree species, for example in golf courses, can lend a manicured sometimes alien feel to the landscape, particularly if poorly designed. This is often the case in the countryside around Leeds.

- 3.10 Small pockets of semi-natural grassland occur within the district, their species composition varying with the underlying geology, between the acidic rocks of the Millstone Grit and the base rich soils of the limestone belt. Ruderal or marginal grassland habitats also occur throughout the district, mainly in areas of past human disturbance. Many of these types of habitats exist within the green corridors or areas of encapsulated countryside which extend far into the heart of the urban area, such as the Kirkstall and Meanwood valleys. They also occur along railway embankment, and cutting sides and can form important linear 'semi-natural' landscape features within a cultivated landscape. Where these areas of ruderal grassland are beginning to develop scrub and tree cover due to natural regeneration, this can further increase their prominence within the landscape. This type of vegetation also occurs where land has been disturbed, due to past industrial or mineral extraction activities, for example in the Lower Aire Valley and in small pockets of land where constraints such as steep gradients or drainage problems preclude other types of land use.

Rivers and wetlands

- 3.11 Rivers and wetlands are major features within the Leeds district, occurring mainly along the valleys of the Wharfe, the Aire and the Calder. To the north, the meandering River Wharfe forms much of the district's northern boundary, except where it cuts through the Magnesian Limestone Belt to the east of Wetherby. The River Aire and the adjoining Leeds-Liverpool canal and the Aire and Calder navigation cut right through the centre of Leeds, from the Calverley and Kirkstall valleys in the west to the Lower Aire Valley in the east. The Calder forms part of the south-eastern boundary. Numerous tributaries feed into these two main watercourses, their valley topography and bankside vegetation forming important features within the landscape.
- 3.12 Areas of still water are also major landscape features within the Leeds district as well as providing important habitats for wildlife and areas for recreation. Many of these wetland areas are by-products of industrial activity. such as mill ponds and reservoirs, for example at Eccup, which were purpose built to generate power or store water. Others have been created by mining or quarrying, such as Fairburn lngs along the Lower Aire Valley, and today form important habitats for wildlife, particularly birds.

Industrial, disused and restored land

- 3.13 There are areas around Leeds which remain despoiled or degraded by industrial activity and mineral extraction, particularly opencast coal mining. Such activities have led to the loss of landscape features such as hedgerows, mature vegetation, and topographical and historical features. They have also led to the development of many landscape features or elements, such as spoil tips, which are characteristic of areas such as the Lower Aire Valley. Where these areas have naturally re-colonised with vegetation they can often be varied and rich in species and provide important landscape features in their own right. In restoring such areas, there are considerable opportunities for enhancement, whether it be to agricultural, nature conservation or recreational after-uses.

Buildings and infrastructure

- 3.14 The diversity of the Leeds landscape is also reflected in the diversity in the character of settlements and the built environment. Although the main urban concentration is centred around the Leeds, Horsforth and Pudsey area, there are also a number of free standing market towns and settlements. Many of these such as Otley are agricultural in origin, having originally been established as market towns. Some, such as Scarcroft, Thorne and Boston Spa have expanded into commuter or dormitory settlement', with only a few residents still engaged in farming practices. Others, such as Ledsham and Harewood have experienced more modest change. The settlements in the south and south-eastern parts of the district, such as Garforth, Allerton Bywater, Great Preston, Rothwell and Morley have arisen largely from mining and industrial activities such as textile manufacture.
- 3.15 The diverse geology around Leeds means that building materials change throughout the district, from the creamy coloured stone and red tiled roofs in the north east of the area, through the harsher Millstone Grit of the urban and industrial area. The Millstone Grit, commonly used as a building material in and around Leeds, is architecturally the most important as well as topographically being the most characteristic of all the rocks in the district. Although the gritstone is a tough and coarse stone to work, it has been used from earliest times in large structures, notably long bridges across rivers and many castles and churches. In later years, the grits tone formed the basis of the rapid expansion of urban Leeds, with many warehouses, mills, factories, town halls, hospitals, and large mansions, all built largely of this coarse stone.
- 3.16 In the eastern area of the district, the Magnesian Limestone has had a long history of use as a building stone, and has been used in the building of the many large houses and churches. Country houses such as Ledston Hall, the churches and cottages in Aberford, Ledsham, Bramham and Boston Spa are built of this softer stone, although since the Industrial Revolution, brick has supplanted the traditional stone as a building material. Brick is now used extensively, along with a range of other materials, in modern residential, commercial and industrial development.
- 3.17 One of the major landscape features in the Leeds district is the extensive area of historic parklands, both around the urban fringe, such as Temple Newsam and Roundhay, and further afield, such as Harewood and Bramham. All of these parklands were designed around large houses or mansions, the majority of which still stand today, although their original use may have changed. The largest of the estates, Harewood and Bramham, were designed during the 18th century, when great fortunes were being made by landowners benefiting from the exploitation of coal and other minerals on their land, or by the industrialists owning factories in the major urban areas.
- 3.18 One of the most significant developments in the 20th century has been the construction of a major road and motorway network within and around Leeds. The canal and rail systems of the 18th and 19th centuries tended to follow the valleys and helped concentrate residential and industrial areas along the valley bottoms. The modern day road network does not follow such constraints, and major roads and motorways around Leeds, such as the M1, the M62 and the M621, now form prominent features. High tension power lines and pylons are another aspect of 20th century infrastructure, which have become prominent elements within the Leeds landscape.

Chapter 4: Character of the Leeds Landscape

Introduction

- 4.1 The countryside around Leeds shows a great diversity of landscape character which results from the interaction of both the physical and human influences on the area. This wide variation in landscape character has been analysed on the basis of desk study and detailed field survey of the study area, using a methodology which is described in Appendix A of this report. This method of landscape assessment enables the character of the landscape to be described in a hierarchical framework which establishes the pattern of variation in the landscape. The hierarchical framework is based on the identification and description of Regional Character Areas, Landscape Types and Landscape Units.

Regional Character Areas

- 4.2 Regional character areas are recognisable as distinct landscape 'regions' at the broad scale, based on general characteristics such as landform, geology, soils, land use, ecological associations, historical associations and urban and industrial activity and which incorporate a range of typical landscape types. There are five such areas in the Leeds District. These are:
- Leeds Coal Measures;
 - Millstone Grit Plateau;
 - Wharfedale;
 - Eastern Limestone Belt; and
 - Vale of York.

The main characteristics of these regional character areas are described below.

The Leeds Coal Measures

- 4.3 A large area of undulating country occupied by part of the Yorkshire coalfield and lying between the limestone belt to the east and the Millstone Grit moors to the west and north. Although the coalfield represents a continuation of the Millstone Grit, there is a greater variability of sandstones and a greater dominance of coal. The occurrence of natural resources of coal but also stone, iron and soft water amongst others has been the most influential factor in the development of this landscape, leading to the growth of industry and expansion of the urban area of Leeds.
- 4.4 Throughout the area but particularly adjacent to the urban edge, land use is dominated by human activity with many areas under intense pressure from both authorised and unauthorised urban fringe land uses and activities, such as scrap yards, caravan storage and horse grazing. On the edges of the built-up area, roads, canals and railways run along the valleys of the Aire and the Calder, fronted by ribbon development of houses, factories and warehouses. Quarries both past and present and waste tips are common sights, particularly along the Aire Valley which has been scarred by its industrial past.

The industrial history of the region has also led to the development of several great industrialists' houses such as Temple Newsam which along with Middleton and Roundhay now form important urban fringe parks, well used by local people and by visitors from further afield.

- 4.5 The underlying geology of the coalfield has resulted in a mix of light, well-drained soils derived from the sands tones and much heavier soils derived from the Coal Measure sands and clays. The presence of a large urban population has led to the development of intensive types of arable or mixed dairy farming. Horticulture is common, particularly in the south of the region, where the strips of intensive cultivation of potatoes, broccoli and rhubarb contrast with pockets of small-scale often degraded arable and pasture including large areas of horse pasture adjacent to settled areas. Woodland occurs in mainly dense semi-natural strips along valleys and becks with oak and sycamore common throughout. Planted woodland occurs mainly in the parkland areas around the edge.

The Millstone Grit Plateau

- 4.6 The Millstone Grit Plateau is made up by more or less continuous ridges, with valleys in between. These ridges are all escarpments of varying steepness or slope. Where the scarp slope is steep and the dip slope gentle, such as along the Chevin (along the edges of Wharfedale, there is a marked difference in topography and land use. Elsewhere within the region, however this contrast is not so pronounced.
- 4.7 Farmland is predominantly pastoral, with sheep and cattle grazed pastures, interspersed with smaller pockets of rough pasture and horse grazing around settlements. In the far north west tip of the region, Hawksworth Moor forms the only significant area of open heather covered moorland within the district, fringed by fields of semi-improved pasture. Throughout, the abundance of stone has led to many of the fields being bounded by drystone walls. To the east of the region however, hedgerows are more common, and arable farmland appears amidst the fields of pasture.
- 4.8 Mixed and coniferous plantations are dotted throughout this region, but occur particularly in the east, close to the Harewood estate. Areas of semi-natural deciduous woodland also occur within the numerous valleys and becks which cut across the plateau, although are generally absent from some of the more exposed areas of high ground where, isolated hedgerow trees form the only tree cover.
- 4.9 Architecturally, the local stone of the region has been used since the earliest times in large structures, such as long bridges across rivers, castles, churches and the majority of houses. Today, the use of the sandstone has diminished, with the rock being replaced by bricks for small scale building and by more ornamental stone like Portland Stone or by concrete for larger structures.

Wharfedale

- 4.10 The River Wharfe rises high in the Pennines, winding through tracts of varied and scenic countryside before completing its course by joining the Ouse at Cawood. Within the Leeds district, the region encompasses the broad floodplain of the Wharfe between Ilkley and Wetherby and the overlooking, steep scarp slopes of the high ground to the south. Underlain by Millstone Grit, the Wharfe Valley forms the largest of the series of valleys which cut into the stone.

- 4.11 Surrounded by large flat fields of mainly pasture in the west and arable in the east, the river meanders through the floodplain, with occasional strips of mature deciduous woodland lining the banks. Overlooking the floodplain, the steep, well wooded slopes of the escarpment, particularly along the Chevin and on the Harewood Estate, dominate views within the valley and provide an important recreational resource for local people. Where woodland doesn't occur, sheep pastures characterise the steeper slopes, with patches of scrub and rough pasture also present.
- 4.12 The market town of Ilkley and the village of Pool form the main settlements in the region, both affected by the scars, past and present, of sand and gravel workings within the floodplain.

The Eastern Limestone Belt

- 4.13 This belt forms part of a larger ridge of Magnesian limestone stretching from Ripon to Doncaster, about four to five miles wide, with a well marked scarp to the west and dipping gently eastwards beneath the Trias marls and sandstones of the Vale of York. In all its length, this limestone belt, with its well drained soils, reasonably good climate and low altitude has given rise to a landscape of rolling, fertile farmland and well wooded parks, crossed by numerous dry valleys. The areas of productive large scale arable farmland are often open, with few features such as hedgerows or hedgerow trees. This simplicity is emphasised by the regular blocks of planted mixed woodland, which make up a number of large estates and parklands and which dominate views from within. The limestone supports a rich and diverse flora which contributes to the distinctive character of the landscape and which shows a marked contrast with the grits to the west.
- 4.14 Although crossed by a number of main roads, including the A1, accessibility within this region is limited, mainly due to the large extent of the private and self-contained parkland estates. Settlement is predominantly in villages and small market towns, with the local stone appearing in the characteristic creamy white vernacular buildings topped by contrasting red roofs. Country houses such as Ledston Hall and the churches and cottages of Aberford, Ledsham, Bramham and Boston Spa are all built of this stone, which is also associated with buildings in York and the surrounding plain. Evidence of prehistoric and Roman remains such as earth banks and the system of Roman roads such as the forerunner of the A1, are common throughout this region.
- The Vale of York*

- 4.15 To the east of the limestone belt lies a region of low lying vale land, often not more than a few feet above sea level. The Trias rocks are covered almost everywhere by glacial sands and gravels and also by alluvium. The Vale of York occurs in only a small part of the Leeds district, to the east of Wetherby. As a whole however it forms a large tract of countryside separating the Pennine hills and dales in the west from the Cleveland Hills and the Hambleldons in the east. It is a wide, fertile plain of large arable fields, divided by a network of hedges and roads and dotted with brick cottages and farmsteads, villages with prominent churches and the occasional big house, sometimes forming the centre of large estates. Great tracts of sugar beet, barley, oats and potatoes form the main crops, with smaller areas of rich pasture occurring in parts_
- 4.16 Within the Leeds district, the landscape consists of gently, almost imperceptibly, rolling low lying land, dominated by large arable fields, interspersed with small pockets of semi-natural and planted woodlands. Settlement is sparse, with only isolated buildings and the racecourse at Wetherby interrupting the farmed landscape.

Landscape Types

- 4.17 Landscape types are tracts of countryside, defined at a more detailed level, which have a unity of character due to particular combinations of landform and landcover and a consistent and distinct pattern of constituent elements. The same landscape type may occur in different regional character areas but will be distinguished by the broader regional influences of geology, soils and land use history.

There are four broad landscape character types in the countryside around Leeds, namely settled, agricultural, wooded, and river landscapes.

Within these four main groups there are 19 landscape types as listed below. The main characteristics of these landscape types are detailed in Part 2 of this report.

Pastoral fringe farmland	Limestone villages and farmland
Arable fringe farmland	Wooded escarpment
Urban fringe parklands;	Wooded parkland
Encapsulated countryside	Wooded plateau edge valleys
Open arable farmland	Wooded farmland
Arable plateau farmland	River floodplain
Pastoral plateau farmland	River valley
Pastoral escarpment	River gorge
Small scale farmed ridges and valleys	Degraded river valley
Gritstone moorland	

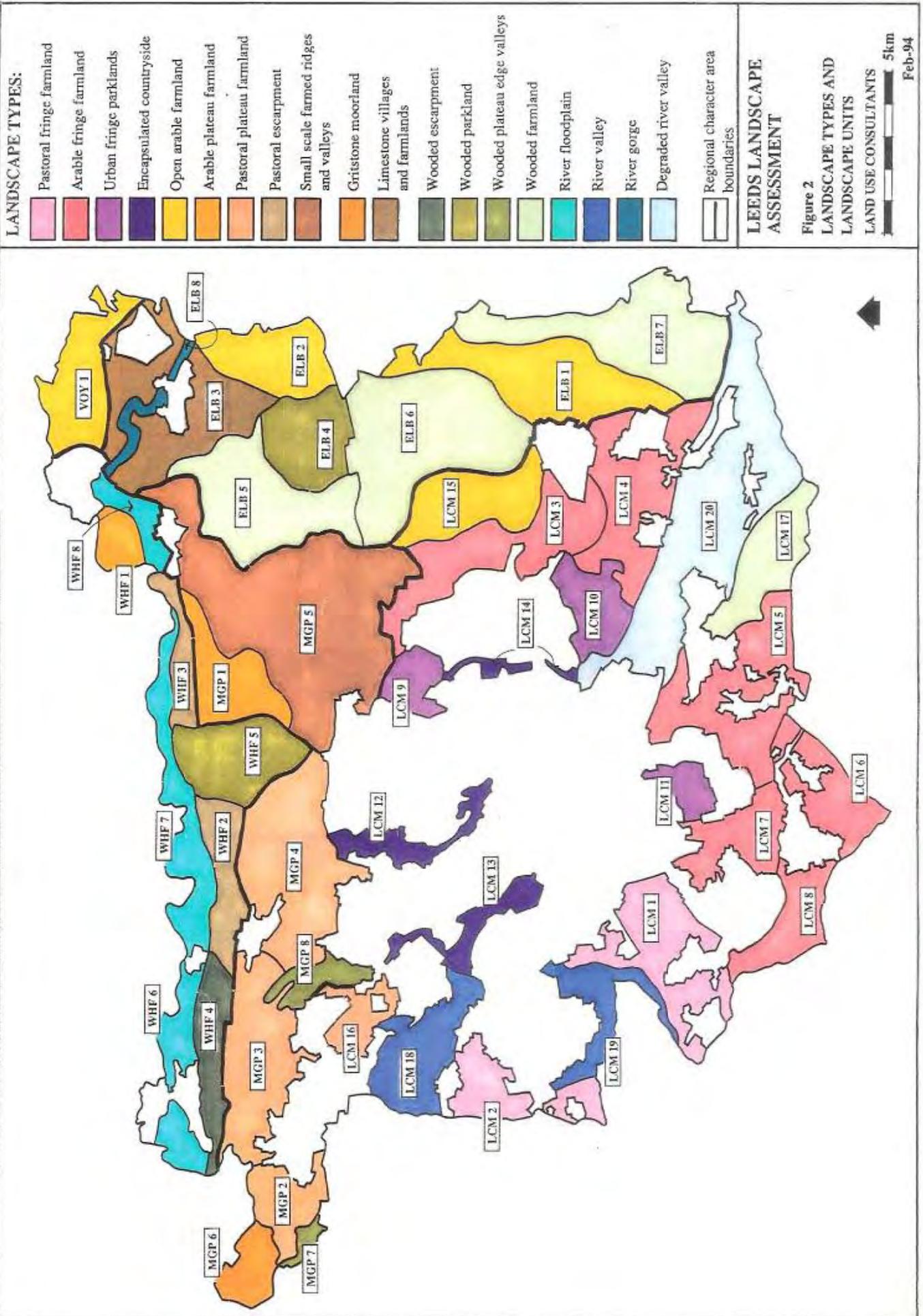
Landscape Units

- 4.18 Landscape units are discrete geographical areas of relatively uniform character, which fall within one or the other of the landscape types. In one regional character area, the same landscape type may occur in a number of different landscape units.
- 4.19 Within the Leeds District, 45 landscape units have been identified. These have all been named according to their geographical location and are listed below. The main characteristics of these individual landscape units are detailed in Part 3 of this report.

Aberford	Kippax and Swillington Fringe
Arthington Floodplain	Kirkstall Valley
Barwick to Garforth	Ledsham to Lotherton
Boston Spa, Clifford and Bramham	Linton Hills
Bradford Fringe	Linton-Collingham Floodplain
Bramham Park	Lower Aire
Calverley Valley	Meanwood Valley
Cockersdale	Methley Park
East Ardsley Fringe	Middleton
East Bramham	Moseley Beck
East Garforth	Otley-Pool Floodplain
East Harewood	Rawdon Plateau
East Leeds Fringe	Rothwell Fringe
East Morley Fringe	Roundhay
East Wetherby	South Morley Fringe
Eccup Plateau	Temple Newsam
Gildersome Fringe	The Chevin
Guiseley Plateau	West Bramham
Harewood	West Harewood
Hawksworth Gill	Wetherby Gorge
Hawksworth Moor	Wike Ridge to East Rigton
Hawksworth Plateau	Wyke Beck Valley
Hollin Hall Plateau	

Hierarchical framework

- 4.20 The way in which regional character areas, landscape types and landscape units fit together within the hierarchical framework is illustrated in Table 1. The location of landscape types and landscape units is shown in simplified map form in Figure 2.



Chapter 5: Forces for Change

Introduction

- 5.1 It will be apparent from Chapter 2 that evolving patterns of land use have played a major part in shaping the landscape around Leeds over the centuries. This has continued to be the case in the recent period (since the war). Farming, forestry, mining and other industrial activity and the associated and growing needs of settlement, services and communications, continue to influence the landscape.
- 5.2 Change is an essential part of every landscape. In considering proposals for conservation, enhancement and management, the intention is not to 'freeze' the situation at a particular point in time. Rather it is to analyse the forces for change, the effects that they may have on landscape character, and the scope that exists to influence change to ensure that the range and diversity of distinctive landscapes is maintained and their character and quality conserved and enhanced as far as possible.

The nature of change

- 5.3 There have been no comprehensive studies of landscape change in the Leeds area. Recent work by the CPRE in their report 'The Regional Lost Land', draws on a number of sources of statistics on change in land use, and includes a summary of change in the Yorkshire and Humberside region (which includes the Leeds Metropolitan District), which shows that since the war there has been:
- a considerable increase in the extent of urban land;
 - a decline in the extent of farmland;
 - an increase in the extent of woodland;
 - a loss of moorland.

Some of these changes will undoubtedly have affected more local areas, including areas within the countryside around Leeds. However, from our observations and research on landscape change undertaken as part of this study, it would appear that the extent of these changes in the Leeds area, have generally been small in scale. The scope of this research is detailed below.

- 5.4 Given the specific terms and objectives of this study, it has not been possible to carry out a detailed analysis of landscape change in the Leeds area. However we have carried out some work on change in a limited number of small sample areas, selected to cover some of the variation in different types of landscape. This has been based on comparison of aerial photographs from 1971 and 1993, showing change over the last twenty years. The results are shown in Figure 3 and Table 2.
- 5.4 This limited survey suggests that in this twenty year period there has generally been small scale incremental change, though some areas have changed little if not at all. Changes which are apparent can be summarised as:
- some intensification of agricultural use, with loss of hedgerows, or the decline in the condition of field boundaries;
 - some loss of trees;
 - growth and sometimes extension of woodland areas, and maturing of scrub;

- restoration or natural recolonisation of former industrial land to become disturbed land or rough grassland;
- varying types of new development (e.g. expansion of a single farmstead, addition of infill housing, establishment of a garden centre, building of stable blocks in fields, expansion of quarry operations and a scrapyards, and leisure development in the form of a go-kart track).

5.6 In assessing the contemporary forces for change that are influencing the landscape, we have supplemented this survey information with our own observations from our field survey, information contained in the Leeds Countryside Strategy and other documents and comments made by those who responded to our consultation letter.

New development

5.7 At present, pressures for new development probably have the greatest potential to significantly change the landscape around Leeds, although the majority of the area is protected by designation as Green Belt. The main pressures in the countryside and the urban fringe are summarised below.

New housing

5.8 An increasing number of people wish to live in a high quality environment, in the countryside but with good access to their place of work in the city. This creates pressure for housing in villages in the rural area. There is also pressure for peripheral development around the edge of the existing main urban area. In both cases, the buildings and settlements can make an important contribution to the character of the landscape, so inappropriate development can have adverse effects. Many settlements have retained their character, but some have changed significantly. This is partly because the buildings do not reflect local traditions and vernacular styles, but also because of lack of care given to the grouping, arrangement and interrelationship of buildings, roads, open spaces and landscape features. This can have a suburbanising effect on the settlement and the landscape.

Farm development

5.9 As a result of changes in the farming economy there is a trend for farmers to wish to diversify their activities. Such diversification can take many forms but may lead to a requirement for built development, including conversion of farm buildings to accommodate alternative uses, and a requirement for new buildings related to tourism or leisure development. As farmsteads and buildings are often in the open countryside, development of this type can have an adverse effect if very careful attention is not given to matters of siting, design and materials.

5.10 Other forms of development may be needed as a result of normal farming operations. They include:

- (i) **New farm buildings:** which are often large, modern, sometimes almost industrial in scale and character, capable of accommodating large machinery, or intensive livestock units. These buildings are quite different from the smaller more traditional ones which were once more typical of farmsteads. They can be particularly intrusive, especially if insensitively sited in open landscapes. Some buildings require planning permission, but many do not, though there is now a provision for informal consultation with the planning authorities on all buildings.

- (ii) **Houses for essential farm workers:** this is one of the few types of dwelling which might be permitted in the open countryside and they therefore have the potential to bring about significant, though localised change, in the landscape. The main problem is to ensure that the special treatment accorded to such development is not abused and that houses built to house farm workers are used for this purpose.

Road schemes

- 5.11 The construction of new roads and bypasses and the widening or realignment of existing roads can also have a major impact on the character of the rural landscape. New roads cut through existing landscape features, changing the landscape patterns and leading to a loss of hedgerows and trees, which can in turn, further increase the visibility of the road. Major road proposals, such as the new M1/A1 link, will have far reaching implications for areas of urban fringe countryside around East Leeds, both in terms of direct effects on the landscape and in leading to the Unitary Development Plan proposals for housing, economic development and open space provision along the proposed road corridor.

Mineral extraction and waste disposal

- 5.12 Some of the landscape types in the Leeds area are underlain by exploitable mineral resources and have been totally changed as a result of years of mineral extraction and waste disposal activities. In places, such as the Lower Aire, where sand and gravel extraction and opencast coal mining occur, such activities have left a legacy of dereliction and degraded land. Sand and gravel extraction in the Wharfe Valley and stone and clay quarrying throughout the district have also led to landscape change, although to a lesser degree than in the Lower Aire Valley. In terms of implications for the landscape, mineral extraction and opencast mining can seriously affect tracts of agricultural land, changing the land form and causing loss of characteristic landscape features such as hedgerows, mature trees, areas of semi-natural vegetation and historical features. Such effects on the landscape are likely to continue as there is still a demand for sites for the extraction of sandstone, clay, coal and limestone within the area.
- 5.13 Once extraction has ceased there are opportunities for enhancement of the sites through sensitive restoration. In areas which have become derelict and degraded, and where the original character of the landscape has been lost, there are significant opportunities for the creation of new landscapes. However, such restoration does need to be appropriate in the context of the surrounding landscape, as described in this report. Sometimes it is best to restore the landscape to something resembling its character before working, for example, by putting back the field pattern and field boundaries. On other occasions it is possible to create a completely different landscape. In many cases, it may be best to leave nature to take its course, relying on natural regeneration instead of intervention. Whatever approach is adopted, reclamation and environmental enhancement is bringing about significant change in areas such as the Lower Aire and the Wharfe Valleys.
- 5.14 The disposal of domestic, industrial and commercial waste has also had a significant impact on the Leeds landscape in the past. Today, around 98% of all domestic, industrial and commercial waste disposed of within Leeds is disposed of within the area south of a line from Farnley to Micklefield, approximating to the exposed coalfield. Although the pressure for land fill sites for domestic waste could be reduced if steps are taken to meet the government's target of 50% of the recyclable part of domestic waste to be recycled by the year 2000, there will still be a demand for landfill sites for commercial, construction and industrial waste. This continuing demand for suitable sites will have implications for the landscape of Leeds, particularly if the level of the landform is raised through waste tipping.

Agriculture and land management

- 5.15 Throughout the country, major agricultural changes have taken place since the 1940's as farmers have been encouraged to increase agricultural production. This led to expansion of the area under cultivation by using technological advances, such as fertilisers and drainage, to increase yields and by increasing field size and the scale of farm operations to exploit economies of scale. Such changes have occurred in the Leeds area, particularly to the east of the city where there is arable farming and the agricultural land quality is higher. However, in the last twenty years it seems likely that the rate of change has slowed though, as our sample survey shows, hedges and woodland have still been lost in this period.
- 5.16 Some of the more obvious changes which have resulted have included the amalgamation of fields to create larger areas better suited to modern machinery. This has resulted in the pattern of fields, hedges and hedgerow trees being weakened and fragmented, with the isolated trees and low-cut gappy hedges that remain contributing to an appearance of decline in the landscape. In the northern and western areas of the district, some loss of drystone walls has also taken place, and although the field pattern has remained largely intact, many walls are now in a State of disrepair and are in need of re-building or replacement. Loss of field boundaries has also resulted from changing agricultural practices and the need to reduce costs. Hedgerows for example are redundant in arable areas and are often left to deteriorate, to become overgrown or gappy. Often the response has been to replace hedges with simple wire fences which can have adverse effects on the pattern of fields and on the character of the landscape.
- 5.17 Farming in the urban fringe of a major city such as Leeds is subject to particular pressures due to its close proximity to the urban area. Problems of trespass, vandalism, arson and theft are typical in many areas, and in the grassland and stock farming areas to the north and west problems arise from gates being left open, allowing animals to stray, and from uncontrolled dogs worrying sheep and disturbing cattle. Such problems, combined with pressures for development, use of land for recreation and fragmentation of farm holdings, can make land in the urban fringe un-viable and difficult to farm economically. There are many responses to these pressures including agricultural diversification, use of land for recreational activity, creation of woodland or the keeping of horses. Some of these activities can have serious implications for landscape character. For example, the expansion of recreational horse grazing and horse keeping can result in the proliferation of unsightly stables, shelters and loose boxes. This, combined with a gradual deterioration in the quality of grazing due to poor management and the poor upkeep of field boundaries, can all have a detrimental effect on the landscape.
- 5.18 In the last decade, a number of factors have resulted in a move towards more environmentally sensitive farming practices and hence the reversal of some of the more adverse changes. The European Community's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has led to over production in some sectors of agriculture, and reviews have led to a series of measures designed to reduce the level of such surpluses. Farmers have been encouraged to set-aside land by the payment of incentives and the most recent reforms have introduced a new regime which requires farmers to compulsorily set-aside 15% of their arable land on a rotational basis, which could soon begin to have some effect on the appearance of the landscape.
- 5.19 Set-aside is usually temporary and farmers are not given encouragement to pursue additional landscape or conservation measures on this land. A new, non-rotational set-aside option has also been introduced which allows the land to be managed in a number of environmentally beneficial ways (including field margins and strips, natural regeneration, wild bird cover, and other specialised management such as regeneration of scrub and woodland). There may also be a provision for extra payment to allow access to certain types of non-rotational set-aside land.

5.20 Along with the recognition that there is no longer a need for ever increasing food production, there has also been increasing acceptance of the need to reverse the damaging effects of agricultural intensification on the environment. At the same time, the need to maintain the farmer's income has been recognised, and as a result a number of schemes have been established to provide financial incentives for environmentally sensitive farming. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods (MAFF) scheme for Environmentally Sensitive Areas does not apply anywhere in the Leeds area, but schemes run by other agencies are relevant, and could soon begin to have some effect on the appearance of the landscape. One notable scheme is the Countryside Stewardship Scheme introduced by the Countryside Commission in 1991, which provides incentives for farmers to manage land in environmentally beneficial ways.

The Scheme offers payments to restore characteristic features to the landscape by managing land in a traditional way or re-creating certain habitats. It is targeted at specific landscape types namely waterside, chalk and limestone grassland, lowland heath, uplands, historic landscapes, and old orchards. In the Leeds area there are currently five sites covering in total about one hundred hectares of land (source: Countryside Commission), which have been entered into the scheme. Three have been entered into the waterside tier, and two have been entered into the chalk and limestone grassland tier. Four of these sites are located within or close to the Lower Aire Valley, which, along with the River Calder, has been designated as a priority target area for Stewardship. The other site lies outside this target area, at Harewood.

5.21 Another Countryside Commission scheme is the Hedgerow Incentive Scheme, which provides financial incentives for beneficial hedgerow management. Currently only one site in the Leeds area, at Scarcroft, has been entered into the scheme although a further three are currently proposed. The northern belt from Otley through to Eccup and the area around Drighlington have been identified as target areas for the scheme within the district.

5.22 Schemes such as Countryside Stewardship and the Hedgerow Incentive Scheme have the potential to reverse some of the adverse effects of earlier agricultural intensification and begin to enhance the landscape by helping to retain and restore some of the characteristic features of the landscape, helping to prevent the further loss of hedgerows and encouraging more sensitive management of the land.

Trees and woodlands

5.23 Woods and trees are an important element in the landscape around Leeds, being particularly noticeable in the north of the district, on the Chevin and throughout the parklands of the eastern limestone belt. However, as mentioned in Chapter 3, woodland cover amounts to 2,650 hectares, just under 5% of the total area of 552 square km, as compared to a national average of below 10% and a European average of 25%. There appear to be no statistics about recent changes in woodland cover in the Leeds district, although it would appear that little, if any, woodland is being lost at present, particularly following the Government's Broadleaved Woodland Policy introduced in 1985 which has given particularly strong protection to broadleaved woodland. Historically change has resulted from the economic pressure to convert broadleaved woodland to more productive conifers, but this too is much less common now. Some field and hedgerow trees have disappeared over the years as a result of changes in farming and pressures of development.

5.24 There is active woodland management on private estates such as Bramham and Harewood and also by the City Council in its own woodland, such as the Otley Chevin, Gledhow Valley Woods, Bramley Fall Woods, Middleton Woods and on the Temple Newsam Estate. Changes in the management of existing woodland are happening as a result of changes to tax and grant incentives.

These have included the development of the Woodland Grant Scheme and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme, where special payments are made for managing woodland as well as for new planting.

- 5.25 One of the most significant of the changes in policy is the move away from the focus upon timber production to the emphasis on the creation of multi-functional forests, as reflected in the Department of the Environment's Circular 27/92 "Indicative Forestry Strategies". In line with this, the City Council has recently prepared a Woodland Strategy, as part of an overall vision for the future of Leeds, a key aim of which is to promote a framework for the development and management of woodlands which have a multi-functional role.

The strategy introduced the concept of a 'Forest of Leeds' initiative which seeks to provide a new focus for woodland planning and management around the city. It is initially focused upon the South Leeds area because of the urban fringe issues prevalent there and because of the low level of existing woodland cover. There is likely to be some new planting in the Leeds area as a result of grant schemes to encourage this. Such planting should benefit the area provided that it complements the existing landscape character and avoids damage to historical or ecological features. Many landscapes around Leeds would benefit from increased tree planting, and areas such as the arable fringe farmland around the south of Leeds could accommodate quite substantial amounts of new planting without detriment to their character. Conversely some areas would be unsuited to large scale woodland planting.

Tourism and recreation

- 5.26 One of the greatest pressures on the landscape in recent years has resulted from growing demand for leisure, tourism and recreation activities. These pressures are particularly acute in countryside areas close to centres of population, such as those in or around the fringes of the city. It is likely that these pressures, both for formal, informal and unauthorised use of the countryside for recreation, are likely to continue. In accommodating these activities within the countryside, there are both conflicts and opportunities. Conflicts can exist due to the competing demands for land for agriculture, leisure, recreation and other users within the countryside. They can also exist between and within differing leisure and recreational pursuits, thereby placing considerable demands upon the countryside resource. At the same time, however, recreational activities can provide a positive practical means of diversifying agriculture and the rural economy, improving the accessibility of the countryside and providing opportunities to enhance the landscape.
- 5.27 Most development related to tourism and recreation is relatively small in scale and has only localised effects on the landscape. However, like many other areas of Britain, Leeds has experienced significant pressure for golf course development, with a total of some one hundred applications having been received in recent years for new courses around the city. A number of new courses have already been built, bringing considerable change to previously agricultural landscapes. The nature and significance of the impact varies according to the location and nature of the scheme, but in inappropriate locations and with poor design, golf courses can often appear out of place in the surrounding landscape. Short mown grass on greens and fairways and white sand bunkers appear as alien features and courses often disrupt the scale and grain of farmed landscape. On the other hand where the structure of the landscape has become fragmented, for example in urban fringe locations, there may be more suitable areas for new courses than in the wider countryside. Applications need therefore to be considered on their individual merits.
- 5.28 Golf courses and other recreation facilities often also require a range of associated facilities such as flood lighting, bars, club houses and changing rooms. These can bring further change to rural landscapes and can lead to pressures for expansion, change of use or additional supporting development, all of which can further change the landscape.

5.29 It is likely, that in the future, opportunities will be sought for maximising the potential of the urban fringe for recreation, both for formal uses such as golf courses and for other informal recreational pursuits. The Leeds Countryside Strategy, for example, identifies the need for this, along with the promotion of the recreational use of areas of water, riverside and their tributaries, enhancement and promotion of the multifunctional use of woodlands, and enhancement of the Public Rights of Way network.

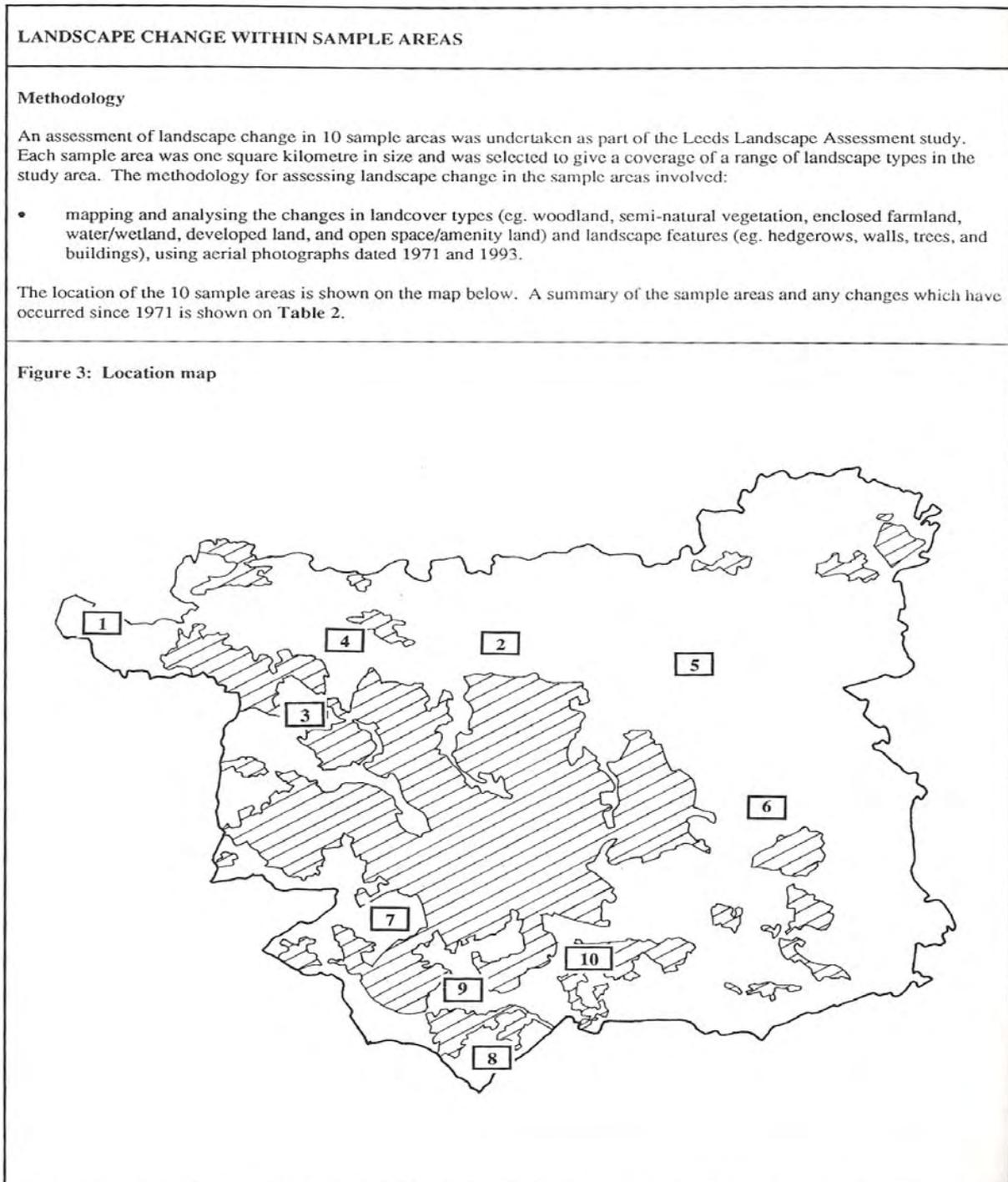


Table 2: Summary of landscape change in sample areas

SAMPLE AREA	NAME	LANDSCAPE TYPE	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE 1971
1	Hawksworth Moor	Gritstone moorland	This sample area lies in a transitional area containing open moorland, rough grazing and areas of more improved pasture, as well as part of a reservoir and associated buildings.	There have been few changes since 1971, apart from the expansion of the reservoir buildings.
2	Eccup	Pastoral plateau farmland	This sample area is almost exclusively open ley grassland, in large fields, with visually weak internal boundaries. The main structural elements are the lanes and the woodland edges of Eccup reservoir	There has been little change since 1971, although the already poor boundaries have declined further and some have been removed. The only built development has been an expansion of the farmstead.
3	Horsforth	Pastoral plateau farmland	This sample area lies in a belt of pastoral land separating the built areas of Yeadon and Horsforth. Most of the fields are enclosed by drystone walls, with many lines of trees. There are significant areas of woodland along a beck and within a crematorium.	There has been a small two-way transfer between arable and pasture, but generally the land use has been relatively static. The walls have maintained their pattern, but some of the trees have been lost. Expansion of the urban area has been confined to a recent small area of infill housing.
4	Bramhope Beck	Wooded plateau edge valleys	This sample area includes two valleys dominated by woodland lying along the becks, flanked by regular, walled grass fields. There is a mix of pastoral and arable farmland. Roads are lined by walls and some trees	Since 1971, there has been a general increase in the density of existing woodlands and a more intensive use of the areas of rough grassland adjacent to them. There has been a net transfer of arable land to ley grassland. The developed land has expanded in a piecemeal fashion, with the creation of a garden centre and several stable blocks in fields.
5	Scarcroft Hall	Small scale farmed ridges and valleys	This agricultural area is broken up by development strung out along the lanes and by the disused railway. There are approx. equal areas of arable and grassland. The grassland has a strong hedge/woodland edge structure whilst the arable land is larger scale and more open.	There has been little significant change in the sample area. However, a small increase in the arable area, some degradation in boundary features and the maturing of areas of semi-natural scrub and woodland has occurred.
6	Barnbow Common	Open arable farmland	Much of the sample area is arable, with some improved grassland but there is a significant area of amenity grassland which includes a sports ground and part of a golf course. Woodland occurs along the edge of the golf course and along streams.	The land use within this area has not changed significantly since 1971. However, there has been an expansion of the improved grassland areas. The maturation of woodland and scrubby areas, some on former disturbed land has also occurred
7	Farnley Woodside	Pastoral fringe farmland	The sample area is almost exclusively medium sized pastoral fields, with some arable and horticulture and only small areas of developed land. Other than along the beck, there are few trees and only a few good hedgerows.	There has been little change to the agricultural use, with only a small loss of Horticultural land to grassland. There have been adjustments to the farmsteads and other developed land, but little net change.
8	Ardsley Reservoir	Arable fringe farmland	The sample area is predominantly arable, with some horticulture, but broken up by development strung out along the lanes. Field boundaries are hedgerows and fences. Ardsley Reservoir and mineral extraction activities are also in evidence.	There has been significant hedgerow loss in the area, and a trend towards intensification of land use, with an increase in horticulture and improved grassland. Quarry operations have also expanded.
9	East Morley	Arable fringe farmland	Area of generally large arable fields with some pasture and scrub and rough grassland along streams and railway line. Pockets of residential and industrial development occur, including a scrapyards.	There has been considerable hedgerow and tree loss and although the balance between arable and grassland areas has remained consistent, there has been a significant two-way change. Maturation of scrub and woodland has occurred. The scrapyards has expanded and a new 'go-kart' track has been built.
10	Wakefield Road	Arable fringe farmland	This sample area is predominantly open horticultural and arable fields, with patchy industrial and residential development and areas of derelict land along the main road. Most of the field boundaries are insubstantial or have been lost altogether.	Several areas of industrial development present in 1971 have now closed, to be replaced by disturbed/derelict land and areas of rough grassland. There has been a general intensification of land use, with some further hedgerow loss.

Chapter 6: Perceptions of the Leeds Landscape

Introduction

- 6.1 Much of this assessment is concerned with the relatively objective process of describing and classifying the landscape in the Leeds area. This leads on to professional judgements about the ways in which the landscape can be conserved and enhanced, so helping to maintain the particular character of the city in its landscape setting. However it is also important to complement this technical assessment with information about how the landscape is perceived by those who live in or visit the area.
- 6.2 Studies of the way in which landscapes are perceived often draw heavily on the way that artists and writers have described an area over time. Such material is especially useful in showing how particular landscapes have been perceived historically, and what particular features or areas have attracted special comment. We briefly summarise some of these historical perceptions below. However modern perceptions are most important and though some information can be gleaned from recent descriptive writings, this assessment has been unusual in including a special survey to find out how ordinary people perceive the countryside around Leeds. Full details of this survey are included in Appendix B but the main conclusions are summarised below.

Past perceptions

- 6.3 A great variety of people, ranging from historians to journalists and poets have, in the past, written about and recorded their impressions of Leeds and its surroundings. Artists have also captured their impressions of the area in paintings and sketches. Both local people and travellers coming to Leeds from other parts of the country have considered the Leeds area to be a place of diversity and individual character.

Artists

- 6.4 Many early artists such as Francis Place illustrated scenes from Leeds, some of which were included in the first published history of Leeds, the *Ducatus Leodienis* by Ralph Thoresby (1715). Today of course their illustrations of the town of Leeds and its surrounding countryside bear little resemblance to the urban area which has now grown up around the original small settlement.
- 6.5 Perhaps the most famous artist to capture Leeds and its environs in paintings was Turner. He made his first tour of northern England in 1797, which took him through Rotherham and Sheffield, to Pontefract, Wakefield, Kirkstall Abbey, Knaresborough and on further north to Berwick-upon-Tweed, before returning to Yorkshire, and particularly to Harewood House. He made a comprehensive study of Harewood House and castle from all angles, but was equally interested in the landscape that surrounded it. His finished watercolour, 'Harewood House from the north-east', for example, takes a view of the entrance front but sets it within the wider landscape. Turner was also a regular visitor to Farnley Hall, which lies just outside the Leeds district, across the River Wharfe about two miles north of Otley. One of his paintings, *Farnley Hall from Otley Chevin*, painted in 1818, depicts the scene at Caley Crag. According to David Hill, in his book *'In Turner's Footsteps'* (1984), it was at "*Caley Crag, where one hundred and seventy years ago, goats and deer wandered free along the spruce and bracken-topped hill, and Turner sat with his sketchbook, tracing every field and rock, path, road, riverbank, tree, hill, moor, barn, church, farm or manor house in the surrounding countryside*".

Descriptive writing

- 6.6 Early written descriptions tended to concentrate on the built-up area of Leeds. Daniel Defoe, for example, the famous novelist and journalist, wrote in the 1720s about Leeds in his well known account of a 'Tour thro' the whole Island of Great Britain, divided into circuits or journeys', noting that "*Leeds is a large, wealthy and populous Town, it stands on the North Bank of the River Aire, or rather on both sides of the River, and the whole is joined by a stately and prodigiously strong Stone Bridge*". Thomas Gent (1733) in his book 'A Journey into Some Parts of Yorkshire', also described the built up area of Leeds favourably, noting that "*The Town of Leeds is really so beautiful, that if ever I have an Opportunity, and can procure proper Materials, I shall set forth other Matters concerning it...*".
- 6.7 Other writers were more interested in aspects of the wider landscape such as its geology, and agriculture. Arthur Young, a farmer and writer on agricultural improvements, made a tour of 21 northern and midland counties in 1768, noting the current state of agriculture, houses, gardens and other relevant objects of interest. In his book about a 'Six months Tour Through the North of England' he noted that "*the country between Wakefield and Leeds continues very beautiful, but the roads are stony and very ill made*". Another agricultural writer, Dr John Aiken wrote in 1795, of the parish of Leeds "*Its northern border is sandy, extending nearly to the ridge which separates Airedale from Wharfedale, and is a process from the great line of hills that form a backbone of the north of England. The higher part of it is incapable of cultivation. That part of the parish which lies south of the Aire abounds in coal; and to the cheapness of this indispensable mineral, the flourishing state of the manufactory is to be attributed*". William Cobbett, in his 'Rural Rides' in Yorkshire of 1830, commented on the lack of corn in the district noting that "*I have not seen, except at Harewood and Ripley, a stack of wheat since I came into Yorkshire*" and comparing this with the situation in Wiltshire.
- 6.8 John Bigland was a Yorkshire village schoolmaster who became a successful professional author in his fifties. In his book 'The Beauties of England and Wales' (1819), he described the environs of Leeds as "*pleasant and beautiful the vale of the Aire, extending both eastward and westward to a great distance, is one of the finest features of the country, and the soil is extremely fertile..... some of the higher parts of the parish of Leeds are rocky and barren, but in the valleys and declivities, the land is extremely rich, and, by reason of the great plenty of manure, and the populousness of the country, is in a state of high cultivation*".
- 6.9 As Leeds developed from a small village to a flourishing centre of textile manufacturing and industrial importance, the contrast between the rapidly growing urban area and the countryside beyond became more apparent, a contrast which is reflected in some of the impressions from the 18th and 19th centuries. Horace Walpole for example in 1756 was one of the first of the fashionable visitors who came to Leeds to see the impressive ruins of Kirkstall Abbey. In his book 'Horace Walpole's correspondence, vo1.35' he noted the contrast between urban and rural areas as he described the journey between the centre of Leeds and Kirkstall Abbey; "*we lay at Leeds, a dingy large town; and through very black roads for the whole country is a colliery, or a quarry, we went to Kirkstall Abbey, where are vast Saxon ruins, in a most picturesque situation, on the banks of a river that falls in a cascade among rich meadows, hills and woods ..*". Friedrich Engels also noted this contrast, when he wrote in 1845, "*The valleys of the Aire, along which stretches Leeds, and of the Calder, through which the Manchester-Leeds railway runs, are among the most attractive in England, and are strewn in all directions, with factories, villages and towns but on coming into the towns themselves, one finds little to rejoice over*"
- 6.10 In the 19th century, many writers and artists concentrated on writing about and illustrating the poor environmental conditions which existed in Leeds at the time. Pollution, both in the air and along rivers such as the Aire, as well as the accumulation of grime and insanitary waste as a result of the growth in industrial development and the multitude of manufacturing activities in the area, were common impressions of this time. Whereas in the 17th and early 18th centuries writers had been describing Leeds as a place of beauty and prosperity, they later wrote about

the "dirty, smoky and disagreeable town" and the "filthiness, glaring apathy and neglect" which existed. It was not only the urban area which suffered, as Ralph Emerson observed in 1848, by noting that "near Leeds and Bradford, the sheep were black and [fancied they were black sheep; no, they were begrimed by the smoke so all the trees are begrimed".

- 6.11 The wider landscape around Leeds has inspired many writers during the 20th century . W.H Scan, for example, a writer at the turn of the century, outlined the great diversity of the landscape to be found around Leeds in his book 'First of the Century': "*Go westward from Leeds and you traverse for the most part, a series of treeless valleys overrun by blackened stone walls and gaunt mill chimneys. Go to the south west and there are pit shafts marring the would-be charms of the landscape. Go in a north west direction and you are again confronted by factory buildings. Only as the River Aire narrows to a tiny stream does the prospect improve. But, make your exit on the northern or on the eastern side and you need not travel five miles to enjoy rural delights*".
- 6.12 One of the better known local writers in the early 20th century was Edmund Bogg, who wrote several books on the countryside around Leeds. One of these, 'Round about Leeds and the Old Villages in Elmete' (1904), is a particularly descriptive work, accompanied by numerous paintings and sketches of the countryside around Leeds at this time. His descriptions relate to a wide range of individual landscapes around Leeds, many of which still bear some resemblance to the landscape which Bogg describes, while others have clearly changed dramatically.

Present day perceptions

- 6.13 The survey of local perceptions of the landscape (Appendix B) included both quantitative information drawn from a questionnaire survey of 195 residents of the Leeds area, and qualitative information drawn from longer, informal discussions with two small groups of local people. The summary below draws on both of these sources.

Character of the landscape

- 6.14 Some local people are surprised by the extent of the Leeds City Council area and, perhaps not surprisingly, identify most closely with the countryside immediately around the City and especially the publicly owned parks on the fringes. If they are thinking of visiting the 'real' countryside they might most readily contemplate travelling beyond the immediate area to special places like the North York Moors or the Yorkshire Dales. Areas such as Harewood, Lotherton and the Chevin are perceived as "*belonging elsewhere*", rather than being part of the Leeds landscape.
- 6.15 On the other hand, some people do have a good awareness of the extent of the countryside around the city and of variations in the character of the landscape. These people are aware of the many opportunities to enjoy pleasant landscapes quite near to the city without travelling further afield: "*there is no point having to drive further afield as nice quiet places where one can wander around in woods can be found all around Leeds*".
- 6.16 Questions about the location of landscapes considered to have their own particular character led to the identification of a total of 57 different areas. Eleven of these were identified by more than six people in each case and these appear to be the best known and, arguably, most well loved landscapes around the city. They include the publicly owned parks that ring the city, notably Temple Newsam, Roundhay, Golden Acre, Lotherton and Middleton. The most mentioned area of all is the Chevin, with its public access allowing fine walks and views over Wharfedale, which itself, in whole or in part, is another well known landscape.

Other areas mentioned by a number of people were the river valleys in the city, notably the Meanwood Valley and the Kirkstall Valley.

6.17 The words which people select to describe these landscapes give a good idea of what it is that makes them distinctive. The most frequently mentioned landscapes were generally described as follows:

- The Chevin: interesting, scenic, natural, unspoilt, hilly, beautiful, peaceful, with woods and distant views, described in discussion as *"wonderful...allowing you to look beyond at the countryside opening up with a feeling that things go on and on"*.
- Temple Newsam: interesting, scenic, popular, beautiful, peaceful, with distant views, grass/pasture, cattle grazing, woods, farms and people, noted for *"the glorious colours a/the rhododendrons in spring"*.
- Roundhay: interesting, scenic, wooded, popular, and beautiful, with sports fields being notable features. The park was described in one discussion as *"absolutely wonderful"*.
- Lotherton: interesting, scenic, wooded, peaceful, popular, with people, grass/pasture, Cattle grazing, large fields, woods and distant views.
- Middleton: various descriptions, but most frequently described as wooded, peaceful and natural, with golf courses. This park is considered to be good for dog walking with *"lovely walks through the woods and glorious autumn colours"*. The varied character of the park is reflected by contrasting descriptions, on the one hand as "unspoilt and well maintained" and on the other as having a *"derelict feel to it"*, being *"rubbish-tip rough, rather than wild rough"*.
- Meanwood Valley, the Hollies: peaceful, interesting, natural and beautiful, with streams and woods, and also referred to as having *"lovely trees, birds and wildlife"*.
- Wharfedale: scenic, beautiful, rolling, wooded, peaceful and interesting with hedges, rivers, grass, pasture, woods, valleys, distant views, small fields, walls, farms and tree clumps.
- Harewood: interesting, scenic, cultivated, gentle, popular and beautiful with grass/pasture, woods, farms, stone walls, streams, parks, large fields, hedgerow trees, sheep grazing and distant views; often described as a designed or 'man-made' landscape, with the house also often mentioned.

6.18 All of these landscapes were generally described as being quite or very attractive, with the Chevin being the most consistently described as very attractive. However, some of the other area mentioned provoked more varied comments. For example, the Kirkstall Valley, one of the areas of 'encapsulated countryside' which extends into the city. was described as peaceful and interesting, with the river and pylons being notable features, but is considered to be neither particularly attractive or unattractive. Some other areas were thought by some people to be a bit unattractive, including some of the countryside around Boston Spa and Wetherby.

Landscape change

6.19 Local people have varied views about change in the landscape around Leeds. Referring to specific landscape areas which they had identified, and considering the most frequently mentioned landscapes as listed above, notably the Chevin and Roundhay, just under a half of those with a view, thought that there hadn't been much change, while about the same proportion thought that there had. Opinion was also divided about whether these changes had made the area more or less attractive.

6.20 For the Chevin and Roundhay, 44% and 41% respectively, said that the areas hadn't changed in the time they had known them. However, people's opinion differed significantly, with 40% saying that the Chevin had changed a little or a lot and 50% answering likewise for Roundhay. The changes at Roundhay, were felt by 60% of respondents to have made the area more attractive and at the Chevin, this figure was similar, at 56%. At Middleton and Golden Acre Park, a high percentage of respondents (78% and 72% respectively), felt that the areas had changed

either a little or a lot. Again, in both cases, the majority felt that these changes had made the areas more attractive. Turning to landscapes other than the parks, majority of respondents (62%), felt that the Meanwood Valley area had not changed, but for the 23% that did, all of them felt that the changes they had noticed had made the area more attractive. In contrast, although most respondents felt that Wharfedale hadn't changed, the majority of those that had noticed changes, felt that they had made the area less attractive. Areas such as Harewood were generally not felt to have changed at all.

- 6.21 The group discussions shed more light on the nature of change in individual areas and reactions to it. In general, there was a view that there had been improvements in the landscape, both in the wider countryside and in the publicly owned parks. However, there are still thought to be some pressures for adverse change. including litter and fly tipping. unofficial car access and vandalism.
- 6.22 In the wider countryside as a whole. over a half of those involved in the survey expressed the view that there had been many, or quite a few changes, while less than half thought there had been only a few changes. The most frequently mentioned causes of change were new housing. new industrial development and new roads. all mentioned by more than a quarter of people. Other forces for change, notably increased traffic, tourism and leisure development. mineral extraction. intensification of farming and hedgerow removal, were also mentioned, but by few people.
- 6.23 In the discussion groups, new development, such as housing was noted as a major change, particularly over the last few years, in areas such as Beeston and Morley. There was also, for example, a worry that Morley would soon be swallowed up by the rest of Leeds if development continued as it had done in the past. There were mixed views over the design of new housing, with some being described as looking "false", and a general opinion that houses were built without adequate green spaces in between. *Numerous "little green spaces or nooks and crannies between buildings"* were also noted as having been lost through infill development contributing to a general loss of green belt land. Office space was felt by the participants to be excessive around Leeds, with many new buildings being built but not occupied. In addition, there were also felt to be too many supermarkets and new roads were also felt to have changed the countryside in the past.
- 6.24 Most of these pressures were believed to have made the countryside less attractive, though opinion was divided about the effects of tourism and leisure developments, such as golf courses. with some people considering them to have had an adverse effect. while an equal number considered that they had made the countryside more attractive.
- 6.25 Changes such as a perceived increase in deciduous trees, greater access and improved cleanliness were generally considered to have enhanced the countryside. Some people in the discussion groups had noticed some hedge planting and repair of stone walls, as well as a slight increase in coniferous planting, particularly at the Chevin. Some people also commented on barn conversions and farm diversification into activities including wildflower meadows and lawn turf sales.
- 6.26 When asked about changes they would like to see, the most commonly mentioned were better control of development, better protection of the greenbelt, improved accessibility, greater tidiness or cleanliness, more interpretation and signs, more or better visitor facilities, more wildlife, more hedgerow management and planting and improved public transport.
- 6.27 In the more detailed discussions, those who took part expressed a desire for more green spaces in the built up areas and conversion of derelict sites to nature reserves and open spaces, rather than being built on, a return to less intensive farming, more hedges and drystone walls and

more deciduous planting to *"provide a greater fit into the landscape"*. Both groups felt that new planting around Leeds would be a good idea, although it was thought that this would be dependent on the type of trees used and how the planting was designed. One person stated that, *"the land should be planted up with trees... for new forests, woodlands and nature reserves"*. The area around Middleton and to the south of Leeds was felt to be the best place for such new planting, with further opportunities identified in the Aire Valley to the south of Temple Newsam. One advantage noted for having new planting in the south, was that it would also be *"a forest for others and not just Leeds"*, whereas in the north it would be *"a forest for Leeds only"*. No landscapes were identified as being unsuitable for planting although some felt that a mix of wooded and open spaces was felt to be preferable in certain areas.

Conclusions

- 6.28 The historical perceptions show firstly that the landscape around Leeds has, in the last 150 years, been considered to be very varied in its character. At the broad scale, the differences between the open countryside to the north and east, and the more industrialised landscapes to the south and west, were as apparent in the past as they are today. At the more local level, writers like Edmund Bogg have revelled in the delights of the many and varied landscapes that surround the city.
- 6.29 The great parks and designed landscapes have been the subject of much comment, often being the main ports of call for artists and writers on their tours of the picturesque parts of the country. Changes brought about by the industrial growth of the city have also been a feature of historical descriptions and suggest that the landscape around Leeds is much greener than perhaps it was in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 6.30 Today, local people appear to be equally aware of the differences in character of the countryside, recognising the particularly distinctive features. As one former miner commented in one of the discussion groups, when talking about the relative attractiveness of different landscapes, *"its not that one place is better than another, more that they're just different"*.
- 6.31 The parks around the fringes of the city and the river valleys that bring the countryside into the city, are the most familiar and commented on landscapes. The Chevin, however, is top of the list of the most well known landscapes, and is also consistently regarded as the most attractive. Beyond these well known areas, there are many local landscapes which fewer people are aware of, but which tend to be known to those who live nearby and make use of them, especially for country walks.
- 6.32 Many people are aware of change that is affecting the landscape, both positive change, in terms of a cleaner, tidier, better cared for countryside, as well as negative change from development pressures and some intensification of farming practices. There appears to be support for measures to limit the adverse effects of change, both through continuing control of development and positive management for conservation and enhancement.
- 6.33 The scope and scale of this survey of attitudes and perceptions was necessarily limited. Nevertheless, it does suggest that the approach adopted in the landscape assessment, of emphasising variation in the character of the landscape around Leeds, and identifying measures which will help to maintain distinctiveness, is in line with the way that local people think about their countryside. It also supports efforts to conserve and enhance the character and diversity of the countryside through appropriate mechanisms.

Chapter 7: Management Strategies and Guidelines

Introduction

- 7.1 So far this assessment has described the variation in the character of the landscape around Leeds, outlined the main pressures for change, and examined public perceptions of the landscape and changes that are affecting it. This chapter examines the steps that need to be taken to conserve the diversity of the landscape and to enhance its character and quality where appropriate, in the face of pressures for change which may have adverse effects.

Overall management strategy

- 7.2 The landscape types and the individual landscape units provide the building blocks for an overall landscape management strategy. For each landscape type and each one of the 45 landscape units which have been identified, a judgement has been made about the general strategy, which should guide measures directed at conserving or enhancing the landscape, choosing between:
- conservation of existing character and of particular features which contribute to that character;
 - enhancement by restoration of character where change is causing that character to be lost;
 - enhancement by creation of new landscapes, where previous character has been completely lost and where the landscape is degraded, or where other circumstances are such that there may be scope for major change.
- 7.3 Judgements about the appropriate strategy are based on the existing character and condition of the landscape in each unit. For example, a severely degraded landscape unit which has no clear character requires enhancement by the creation of new landscapes. On the other hand, an intact landscape of strong and distinctive character requires the conservation of its existing character and appropriate management.
- 7.4 For some landscape types and units, the emphasis should be on some combination of the three options noted above. For example: a careful balance between conservation and enhancement through restoration; or a balance between enhancement through restoration and enhancement through the creation of new landscapes. These broad management strategies for the landscape units are shown in Figure 4. These broad management strategies are shown in a more detailed form on an Ordnance Survey base at 1:50,000 scale, which is incorporated in the pocket at the back of this report. For some landscape units where a combination of management options has been proposed, for example conservation and enhancement, the 1:50,000 map shows more specifically (where appropriate), those areas which are to be conserved and those which are to be enhanced.
- 7.5 The management strategies are detailed for each landscape type in Part 2 and for each landscape unit in Part 3 of this report.

Landscape management guidelines

- 7.6 Beyond these broad strategies we have also identified a wide range of actions which need to be taken to conserve and enhance the character of the landscape at a more detailed level. This information is presented in the form of landscape management guidelines, which briefly set out a wide range of measures for conserving and enhancing the character and responding to the varying pressures for change. The aim is not to prevent change but to steer it, so that the distinctive and special qualities of the landscapes around Leeds are retained.

- 7.7 The guidelines have been developed at three different levels:
- those which apply equally to the whole of the countryside around Leeds, described in the section '**General management guidelines**' later in this chapter;
 - those which are specific to each of the 19 **landscape types** which have been identified, and which are described in detail in **Part 2** of this report;
 - those which apply specifically to the 45 individual **landscape units**, and which are described in detail in **Part 3** of this report.
- 7.8 It is important to remember that these are landscape guidelines and do not take full account of the equally important interests of nature conservation, archaeology or recreation and access. When these guidelines are translated into specific actions, projects or proposals, these interests will need to be fully considered. For example, if a guideline suggests that new tree or woodland planting may be appropriate, it will be very important to ensure that this will not cause any damage to existing nature conservation or archaeological interest of individual sites.
- Mechanisms for implementation
- 7.9 The majority of the land around Leeds is privately owned and much of it is farmed, though the City Council does own significant areas, as do other public agencies. Implementing the actions suggested by the guidelines will rely very heavily on influencing the actions of private landowners. Only change resulting from development can be directly controlled through the planning system. However, many of the guidelines relate to land management and can be influenced indirectly by advice, liaison and negotiation, use of financial incentives through grant systems, or by direct involvement in practical work.
- 7.10 We have already indicated, in Chapter 5, some of the financial incentives that are available to farmers to encourage environmentally friendly farming, notably the Countryside Commission's Countryside Stewardship and Hedgerow Incentive Schemes. However, there are a wide range of grant schemes which may also help to encourage appropriate landscape management. There are relevant grants available from MAFF, the Countryside Commission, English Nature, the Forestry Authority and English Heritage. These are briefly summarised in Table 3 with further information provided in Appendix C.
- 7.11 Grants alone can only achieve so much and in any case, landowners and farmers may need positive encouragement to use them to achieve the aims for a co-ordinated landscape strategy. In other areas of the country it has been shown that much can be achieved by the local authority establishing special projects to encourage and support landowners, farmers and other agencies in their efforts.
- 7.12 This can take the form of a 'Countryside Management Project' of the type which has been operating in the Tong-Cockersdale area south west of Leeds for a number of years, with financial support from the Countryside Commission. Alternatively, some authorities establish special 'landscape projects' based on assessments and strategies such as this, and appoint special project staff to work with landowners to implement the guidelines. The Warwickshire Landscape Project is a good example of this approach and is again supported by the Countryside Commission.
- 7.13 In addition, it is possible to make positive use of the planning system to achieve change, for example by attaching suitable planning conditions when permission is given for new development. or by using Section 106 Agreements. These can, in appropriate circumstances, allow countryside or landscape benefits to be achieved as a result of new development, allowing compensation for losses which result from the development. There are now many examples around the country of such agreements being used to achieve such benefits.

- 7.14 The City Council can lead by example in the way that it manages its own land, and can also achieve much through the work of the Highways Department which, with the Department of Transport in the case of motorways and trunk roads, is actively involved in planning and designing new roads and managing existing ones. New road schemes, where these are essential, can be linked to landscape enhancement in a broad adjacent corridor, to ensure fit with the surrounding landscape. Land adjacent to existing roads may provide scope for new tree planting, and sensitive management of verges can help to create interest and diversity in the countryside.
- 7.15 The City Council can also seek to influence other statutory and public landowners to achieve landscape objectives. For example, Yorkshire Water control large areas of land around reservoirs, and the National Rivers Authority have a particular interest in the landscape of river and stream corridors and river catchments. Liaison and joint action with these and other bodies may also provide a means of implementing the landscape management guidelines.
- 7.16 Table 4 in Part 2 of this report summarises the main landscape types that have been identified, the main management guidelines that should apply and the means of implementation of the management guidelines.

General management guidelines

- 7.17 The following management guidelines are general guidelines which can be applicable to all the landscape types and landscape units in the area around Leeds.

Development and settlement

- *Retain in new development existing features that contribute to landscape character.*

The suburbanising influences associated with new development are an increasing pressure on the traditional character of the rural environment. These influences are having a subtle, cumulative impact, especially on all matters of design. Examples of this may include the external modernisation of buildings, the erection of illuminated and corporate plastic road signs, the replacement of roadside hedges with quick growing ornamental screens and even standardised landscaping schemes. Standardised planning criteria, policies and design guides can often necessitate the replacement or modernisation of existing features and can result in rather bland and characterless developments. More flexibility and discretion is therefore needed when applying design standards in rural landscapes and in particular, original features such as walls, roadside hedges and mature trees should be retained.

- *All new development should include proposals for on site landscaping with appropriate tree and woodland planting.*

Tree and woodland planting provides the best means for absorbing new development within the landscape. Often, insufficient space is allowed within development sites for adequate landscaping with trees. As a result, new developments can appear detached from the surrounding landscape, rather than linking strongly to it. Adequate space should be allocated and resources provided for the ongoing management of these features. Integration can best be achieved by allowing established trees to be retained and designing new planting to break up the densely built appearance of development sites. Inappropriate species choice can also draw attention to new development. Ornamental species planted as quick growing screens should be avoided, with native species which reflect local landscape character being favoured.

- *Protect and enhance the internal open space of village settlements.*

Rural villages typically have a low settlement density and a high proportion of land which is not built up. This may include gardens, allotments, pony paddocks, the village green and other open spaces. These features are an important part of the village scene and should be conserved. They also contribute to an irregular settlement outline and help to tie the village into the wider farmed landscape. Excessive infill development can disrupt this pattern and result in a hard built edge against open farmland. The design of new development should therefore incorporate sufficient open space to break up hard edges and to allow appropriate landscaping to link the new settlement with the surrounding farmland. The character of such open space should reflect other existing areas within the settlement.

- *Soften hard built edges through increased tree planting within and around new development.*

Often the interface between new development and the surrounding landscape appears sharp and stark. This is most noticeable when a hard built up edge abuts open farmland, where the landscape is in decline. Tree planting within and around new development is one of the best ways to soften hard edges and opportunities should be sought for offsite planting to help link the development into the wider landscape. This would be particularly appropriate for development in the wooded arable farmland and open arable farmland types. The aim should not necessarily be to hide buildings, but rather to integrate them into the landscape. Locally occurring species should be used, while avoiding ornamental species as these can often draw attention to the development they are trying to hide.

- *New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding farmed landscape.*

Traditional farm buildings constructed from local materials such as millstone grit or limestone, often have a distinctive regional identity. This identity is being eroded by the construction of modern farm buildings, which often look out of place and can be visually intrusive. Many new buildings are large by necessity and therefore careful siting and design are important considerations as no amount of landscaping will conceal a building indigenous broadleaves of native origin where possible.

Field boundaries

- *Enhance field pattern through new appropriate wall and hedgerow management.*

The general condition of hedges and walls along field boundaries throughout the district is variable. Many boundaries are showing signs of disrepair and are falling into decline as agricultural practices change. As such, they would benefit from more appropriate management. Where hedgerows are closely trimmed and gappy or dying out at the base, they should be allowed to grow thicker and taller, with planting up of individual gappy hedges, where appropriate. Consideration should be given to traditional hedge laying or coppicing practices and existing incentives for replanting, such as the Hedgerow Incentive Scheme, should be more actively promoted. Drystone walls are also a distinctive feature of the northern and western parts of the District, contributing significantly to the local character. In places they are falling into disrepair and are being replaced by wire fencing. Where possible, these walls should be restored, with priority given to those along roadsides and along farm boundaries.

Recreation and access

- *The design of recreational facilities such as golf courses should seek to reflect the character of existing landscape features.*

Recently, there has been increasing demand for sport and recreational facilities in the countryside, particularly around the fringes of Leeds. Some areas, such as the wooded arable farmland around the large estates to the east of Leeds and the areas adjacent to the urban fringe parks can absorb these pressures better than others. With careful planning these facilities can be readily assimilated into this type of landscape. Golf courses could, for example be designed to take on the appearance of modern day parklands as they mature. The retention of existing mature trees and the selection of appropriate tree species is an important consideration, particularly as most landscaping at present appears to favour quick growing or smaller amenity species. For further advice and guidance, see the Countryside Commission's recent publication on golf courses in the countryside (CCP438).

Historic

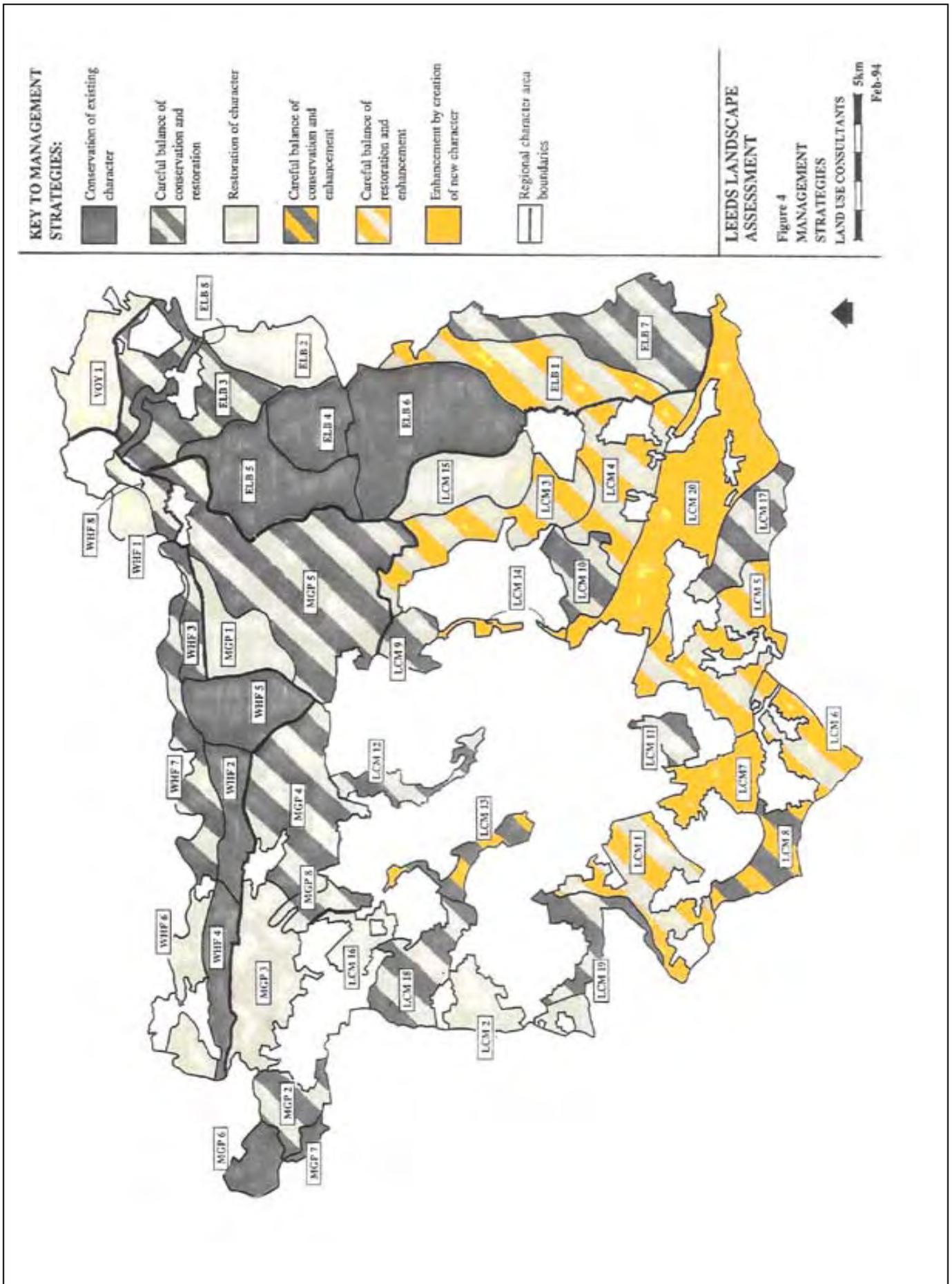
- *Seek to conserve all sites of archaeological and historical importance.*

The area around Leeds contains many antiquities and historic buildings, some of which are scheduled or listed and covered by various planning policies and controls, or judged to be a material consideration in reaching a planning decision. There are however many other features unprotected by official designations or subject to developments or changes in land uses which either are not subject to routine planning controls or are subject to decisions made at a higher level than the local planning authority. Examples of such threats include works by various statutory undertakers, landscaping and tree planting by both public and private bodies and ploughing up of areas formerly under woodland or permanent pasture.

These archaeological and historical features can add to landscape character at a local level and provide strong social and cultural links with the past. It is important therefore, that continued encouragement is given to bodies undertaking work outside the planning process to adopt a code of practice which includes due consideration of heritage matters.

Table 3: Relevant grant and incentive schemes

TYPE OF MANAGEMENT	GRANT/INCENTIVE SCHEME
Woodland and amenity tree planting and management	
Trees for shelter belts and shading of livestock	Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme (MAFF)
Enclosure of grazed woodland (limited to schemes including 75% or more of broadleaved species)	Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme (MAFF)
Woodland planting	Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (MAFF) Woodland Grant Scheme Forestry Commission)
Woodland management	Woodland Grant Scheme Forestry Commission)
Amenity tree-planting, pollarding, tree surgery and fencing	Landscape Conservation Grant (Countryside Commission)
Amenity tree-planting where the primary objective is nature conservation	Project Grants (English Nature)
Hedges, walls, shelter belts and other boundaries	
Provision, replacement or improvement of shelter belts	Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme (MAFF)
Provision, replacement or improvement of hedges (including hedgerow trees) with associated works	Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme (MAFF)
Hedge laying and coppicing	Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme (MAFF)
Provision, replacement or improvement of walls and banks (of material traditional to the locality) with associated works	Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme (MAFF)
Fencing, as part of a planting scheme	Woodland Grant Scheme (Forestry Commission)
Hedges and hedge laying, and dry stone walls, preferably as part of a farm conservation grant	Landscape Conservation Grant (Countryside Commission)
Restoration and management of hedgerows	Hedgerow Incentive Scheme (Countryside Commission)
Hedges, walls and fencing, if on a site of nature conservation importance	Project Grant (English Nature)
Landscape Improvement and Habitat Protection	
Heather and Grass burning	Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme (MAFF)
Fencing, to encourage heather regeneration by excluding stock	Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme (MAFF)
Green lanes, ponds and other landscape features	Landscape Conservation Grant (Countryside Commission)
Heather management and bracken control, where intended to enhance habitat for wildlife	Project grants (English Nature)
Management and re-creation of targeted landscapes	Countryside Stewardship (Countryside Commission)
Traditional buildings and historic or archaeological sites	
Reinstatement or repair of traditional farm buildings using materials traditional to the locality	Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme (MAFF)
Repairs and management of ancient monuments	English Heritage



The Leeds Landscape Assessment

Part 2 - Landscape Types

This section includes individual sections on each of the 19 landscape types.

Each includes:

- a diagrammatic map showing where the area is located;
- a description of the landscape character of the type;
- a summary of the particular forces for change affecting the landscape type;
- a statement of the general management strategy which should apply;
- specific guidelines for landscape management.

In addition, this section includes:

- a summary table (no 4) of the landscape types, the main management guidelines that should apply to them and examples of the means of implementation of the guidelines.
- photographs of the landscape types (Figures 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3)

The list of landscape types found in the Leeds district:

Arable fringe farmland

Arable plateau farmland

Degraded river valley

Encapsulated countryside

Gritstone moorland

Limestone villages and farmland

Open arable farmland

Pastoral fringe farmland

Pastoral plateau farmland

Pastoral escarpment

River floodplain

River valley

River gorge

Small scale farmed ridges and valleys

Urban fringe parklands

Wooded escarpment

Wooded parkland

Wooded plateau edge valleys

Wooded farmland

ARABLE FRINGE FARMLAND

Landscape character

The arable fringe farmland landscape type occurs around the southern and eastern fringes of Leeds and is found in six landscape units: East Leeds Fringe (LCM3); Kippax and Swillington Fringe (LCM4); Rothwell Fringe (LCM5); East Ardsley Fringe (LCM6); East Morley Fringe (LCM7) and the South Morley Fringe (LCM8).

It is a landscape of actively farmed land, containing a mixture of landscape influences, all dominated by human activity such as housing, industrial areas, quarries, tips, amenity land, recreation grounds, neglected or disturbed land. The farmland tends to consist of mainly small scale arable fields, with horticultural crops such as broccoli, rhubarb and potatoes common throughout.

Some of the farmland, particularly in the south of Leeds, is under intense public pressure, with urban fringe uses such as caravan storage, scrap yards and horse grazing in pockets of degraded pasture, in evidence. Often the structure of the landscape has, or is starting to break down, with fields being amalgamated and with many hedgerows becoming low cut or gappy. Some of the non-arable areas are well used by the local community for both authorised and unauthorised recreational uses, providing a valuable amenity resource.

Forces for change

The arable fringe farmland landscape type is under pressure from the encroachment of urban activities such as the development of new roads, industrial commercial and residential areas, and mineral extraction activities.



Some of the land is degraded, under-used agricultural land, with activities such as horse grazing apparent. In addition, there has been a gradual deterioration of farmland features such as hedgerows which has emphasised the fragmented and generally neglected nature of this landscape. Future change could occur with new highway developments, new residential and commercial development and mineral extraction activities such as opencast coal mining.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the pastoral fringe farmland landscape type should be a combination of restoration of the predominantly arable farmland features where these are in decline, combined with enhancement through new woodland planting, where the existing character has been lost completely. The arable fringe farmland offers the greatest opportunities for new large scale woodland planting, particularly in the landscape units to the south and south east of Leeds. Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the arable fringe farmland landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in a separate document, using the references listed above.

- *Seek to control the adverse effects of horse grazing in inappropriate locations.*
In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for the use of land for horse grazing, particularly around the fringes of urban areas. In places this has had a significant impact on the landscape with the proliferation of temporary structures and ancillary buildings with impoverishment of pasture due to overgrazing. Where possible, these adverse effects of horse grazing should be controlled, as they can introduce a 'suburbanising' influence into rural landscapes.
- *Enhance tree cover through large scale planting as part of a wider woodland planting scheme for the urban fringe area*
There is scope for significant woodland planting in the arable fringe landscape type, particularly in the East Morley Fringe and Rothwell Fringe landscape units. In these areas, fragmentation has occurred to such an extent that much of the landscape structure has been lost. This has produced an open large scale landscape which has the capacity to accept quite large areas of planting. The siting and design of new woods will need to be carefully planned and could be undertaken in connection with a wider scheme for the urban fringe area. New planting should be targeted along linear features such as streams and becks, railway lines, roads and motorways and form part of a screening programme for particularly intrusive industrial and commercial developments. However, there will also be significant opportunities for planting outside these areas, as part of a wider planting programme for the area.
- *Conserve and enhance the value and continuity of streamlines and enhance their value as landscape, wildlife and recreational corridors.*
Although not particularly numerous, pastoral and wooded streamlines form important linear landscapes and wildlife resources or corridors, particularly as they tend to be surrounded by intensively farmed land and urban fringe land uses. Where these areas occur, they should be conserved as a priority, but opportunities should be sought for creating new habitats on areas of farmland along stream corridors. Natural regeneration of woodland should be encouraged and where appropriate, new planting should be undertaken to extend and enhance the corridors. This could then form the basis of larger scale planting, perhaps in association with a scheme for the wider area, extending out from the valleys on to the surrounding higher ground. However, care should be taken to maintain a diversity of waterside habitats in addition to the woodland. Consideration should also be given to encouraging recreational access along the valleys, where this is not already available.
- *Conserve and enhance tree cover along field boundaries, through regeneration and replanting of boundary trees.*
A priority for this landscape could be to enhance the areas of fringe farmland through new planting, while maintaining a diversity of land uses and maintaining areas of intact viable farmland. In the more intact areas of farmland, tree cover along hedgerows, particularly along the lower slopes and within the valleys is a characteristic feature. To maintain and enhance this, natural regeneration of boundary trees should be encouraged wherever possible or replanting should be carried out using locally occurring species such as oak and sycamore. Lines of trees along hedgerows can then act help to join and reinforce new areas of planting.

- *Where opportunities exist, consider restoring areas of former parkland.*
Although landscaped parks are not a particular feature within this landscape type, there are some isolated remnant areas. As well as their historical importance, parklands provide diversity and interest in the landscape. True parkland in permanent grassland with large scattered trees is in decline. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to reinstating areas of former park and new planting to replace old trees.
- *Conserve and restore primary hedge lines and manage them more positively as landscape features.*
In general, this landscape is characterised by a large-scale, regular field pattern, which in the most part has become very fragmented and is in decline. Where tree cover is weak, which is true for most of the fringe farmland, this pattern becomes more significant and it is important to try and avoid further fragmentation of the landscape through hedgerow removal. In particular, primary hedgelines alongside roads and farm boundaries should be conserved and managed more positively. This would allow hedges to grow thicker and taller and where they have been removed, consideration should be given to replacement planting. This type of management would be particularly appropriate in areas which are adjacent to or outside any areas identified for large scale new tree planting as part of the Forest of Leeds Strategy.

ARABLE PLATEAU FARMLAND

Landscape character

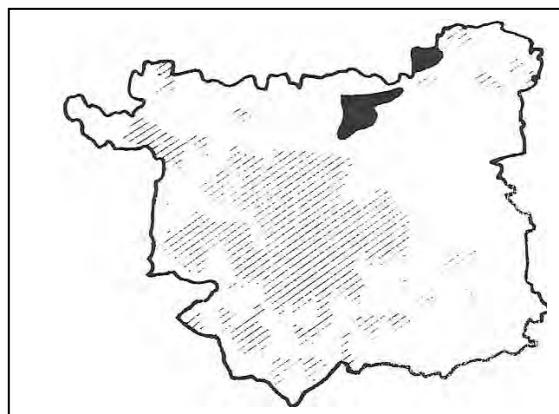
The arable plateau landscape type can be found on the plateaux to the north and south of Wharfedale, in two landscape units: the Linton Hills (WHF1); and Hollin Hall Plateau (MGP]). Similar in character to the large-scale open arable farmland, this landscape types occurs on the plateau tops, resulting in generally open and exposed farmland, with few hedgerow trees and areas of woodland. The large regular fields contain reasonably productive soils, giving rise to mainly cereal cultivation. Small areas of ley pasture and some permanent pasture also occurs, adding variety and colour contrast to an otherwise fairly simple landscape. Settlements are sparse, with isolated, often large farm buildings dotted throughout. Due to the open nature of the landscape, long views can be gained from some of the higher plateau areas.

Forces for change

In recent years, the main pressures on the arable plateau farmland landscape type appear to have been related to agricultural intensification, with the amalgamation of fields into even larger units increasing the sense of openness on the plateau. This has been further emphasised by the loss of hedgerows with some being poorly maintained and suffering from neglect. Today, with the new EC set-aside rules, the amount of set-aside land in landscape types such as this is likely to increase, creating new opportunities for land management.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the arable plateau farmland landscape type should be one of restoration, where traditional farmland features are beginning to break down. Opportunities for new woodland planting are limited, but small scale planting as screening for intrusive farm buildings and encouragement of natural regeneration around existing woodland would be suitable, taking care to maintain the characteristic open nature of the plateau.



Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the arable plateau farmland landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in a separate document, using the references listed above left.

- *Encourage the development of wide field margins along streamlines and woodland edges.* With the outlook for farming changing particularly in areas of intensive farming such as the arable plateau farmland, expanded field margins offer positive opportunities for enhancing both landscape and wildlife interest. Options include wildlife fallow margins to encourage wildflowers and grassland margins to be managed as rough grassland. To gain maximum benefit, field margins should be developed alongside features of interest such as hedgerows, woodland edges and streamlines.
- *Seek to control the design and location of new agricultural buildings, particularly where they are highly visible on the plateau.* The traditional farm buildings of the arable plateau farmland are gradually being replaced by the construction of large modern farm buildings, which often look out of place and can be visually intrusive. Many of these new buildings are large by necessity and therefore careful siting and design are important considerations as no amount of landscaping will conceal a building that is fundamentally badly designed. Big buildings can sometimes sit well in the open plateau farmlands, but only if they are well sited in relation to other features such as land form and tree cover. Selection of building materials and choice of colours should complement those in existing buildings and in the surrounding landscape.

- *New small scale woodland planting may be appropriate around existing copses or as screening for prominent farm buildings, although this should be carefully designed to conserve and strengthen the open character of the plateau.*
There is some scope for woodland planting within this landscape, but the priority should be to maintain the open character of the plateau. Additional areas of coniferous planting should be discouraged, with the aim being to soften the edges of existing woods through deciduous planting. This is particularly appropriate in these flat to gently rolling plateau areas, where attention needs to be given to the nature of woodland edges. Small scale deciduous planting using locally occurring trees could also be used as screening for prominent farm buildings. However, planting should be used in a positive way to strengthen the overall farm landscape, rather than looking like an afterthought in an attempt to hide a farm building .
- *Conserve the pattern of large hedged fields, with priority given to strengthening and restoring primary hedgelines.*
Large regular fields bounded by hedgerows are a characteristic feature of this landscape, although the generally flat or gently rolling topography does not allow this pattern to register strongly. Where hedgerows have been removed, the field pattern is often fragmented and the scale of the landscape increased. In these areas, it is important to avoid further fragmentation of the landscape through hedgerow removal. Where the hedgerows are in poor condition, priority should be given to restoring primary hedgelines, including those along roads, footpaths and bridleways and farm boundaries, through replacement planting.

DEGRADED RIVER VALLEY

Landscape character

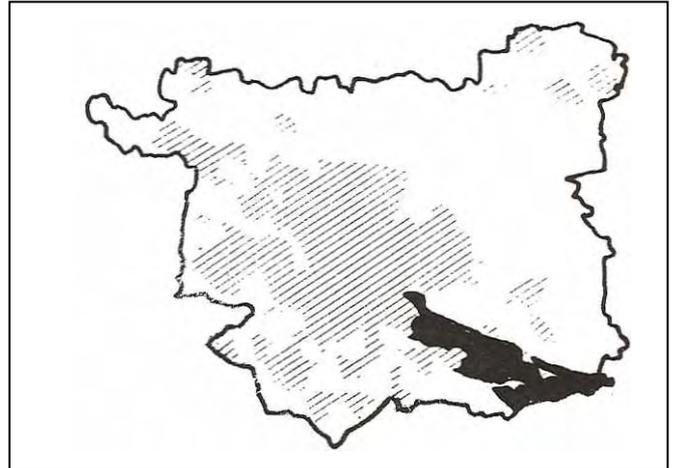
The degraded river valley landscape type can be found in only one landscape unit the Lower Aire Valley (LCM20). It is characterised by an open, broad river valley, with gently sloping sides, leading down into a degraded landscape, dominated by human activity. The valley is covered by a chaotic mix of spoil heaps and lagoons linked to past and present mining activities, major excavations, and industrial buildings.

Although most of the area is degraded, intact isolated pockets of arable farmland still occur alongside areas of parkland. The degraded river valley is a continually changing landscape, with new areas of restored land and wetland areas forming increasingly attractive features as they develop. The valley forms a major communication corridor, with lines of pylons, roads and canals clearly evident.

Forces for change

The degraded river valley landscape type has undergone a tremendous amount of change due mainly to past and present mineral extraction, landfill and industrial activities, which have left a legacy of derelict and degraded land. Where activities have ceased, some of the restored sites are beginning to mature, forming important wildlife habitats and landscape features and further influencing landscape change.

There are pockets of more intact parkland and arable farmland landscapes which have undergone less change in recent years although there appears to have been a decline in the condition of traditional parkland and characteristic farmland features. These areas are under pressure from urban fringe and



development pressures, such as road building proposals, particularly along the edge of the main built-up area of Leeds and around former mining settlements.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the degraded river valley should be a combination of enhancement through the creation of a new landscape character, combined with restoration and conservation of the more intact areas of parkland and arable farmland. Enhancement could take the form of new woodland planting and the creation of a diverse range of habitats, particularly in areas which are degraded and despoiled as a result of past extraction and industrial activities.

Management guidelines which are applicable for the degraded river valley landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape unit are described in a separate document, using the reference listed above left.

- *Restoration proposals for mineral workings should be based on an assessment of landscape character in order to assess whether reinstating the original landscape or creating a new landscape is most appropriate.*

Restoration of mineral workings in the Lower Aire Valley can result in a number of different end points, such as a return to arable land or the creation of new habitats such as open water, scrub and woodland. This can result in the creation of a new type of landscape. As such, restoration schemes should take account of how the site relates to the surrounding wider landscape in order to assess the most appropriate way in which to either reinstate the original landscape or create a new landscape. Restoration of individual sites should be designed as an integral part of a wider scheme for the whole valley.

- *Retain and enhance river channel diversity and marginal vegetation.*

The river and canal channels are major features within this landscape type. Where the ecological value has declined, there is much scope for improvement through sensitive management. The retention of a diverse range of features such as meanders, shallows, cliffs and backwaters is very important. River margins are important and tree, scrub and plant growth on river banks should be retained and protected and consideration given to suitable design, where new channel diversion schemes are proposed. All these features have an intrinsic value and are integral to the visual and aesthetic quality of the riverside environment.

- *Identify opportunities for recreating riverside wetland habitats*

In recent years within the degraded river valley, new wetland habitats have emerged as extraction activities have ceased. These habitats have become particularly important for wildlife and help to give an element of naturalness to the

river landscape. Any existing wetlands should be conserved and in addition, opportunities should be sought for creating new wetlands in areas where extraction activities have been completed.

- *Enhance tree cover through small to medium scale woodland planting.*

There is scope within most of the degraded river valley landscape type for woodland planting. This is particularly the case, where mineral extraction activities have ceased leaving degraded and despoiled land with good opportunities for enhancement. The siting and design of new woods will need to be carefully planned, and undertaken as part of a wider programme for the whole area. Care should be taken to try and frame views from within, and from the outside, rather than to totally block them off. New planting could be targeted, where possible, on slightly rising ground, but particular care should be taken to shape the edges of the new woods. Where possible the natural regeneration of woodland should be encouraged as this can lend a more natural feel to the landscape. Where planting is carried out, deciduous planting would be preferable, although mixed woodlands would be acceptable as long as edges and sky lines are sensitively handled.

- *Enhance the continuity of the river and canal channels through encouragement of natural regeneration of bankside trees.*

Scattered waterside trees and scrub are important features contributing to the riverside environment. To maintain this effect, natural regeneration of trees should be encouraged, but care should be taken to maintain a variety of habitats alongside the river margin, and to avoid ecologically important sites such as unimproved grasslands and wetlands. Larger scale woodland planting along the valley floor close to the watercourses should be avoided.

- *Enhance tree cover through regeneration and replanting of field boundary trees .*
Hedgerow trees and hedges alongside roads and lanes are not a particularly significant feature at present within the degraded river valley landscape. However, where they do occur, on the slightly higher ground within the intact arable farmland, they have the effect of reinforcing the impression of enclosure. To maintain and enhance this, natural regeneration of hedgerow and roadside trees should be encouraged wherever possible, although replanting could be undertaken if necessary, using locally occurring native tree species.
- *Conserve and restore, areas of existing parkland.*
Although parks are not a common feature within this landscape, the parkland that does remain for example at Swillington, provides diversity and interest in the landscape of the river valley. With the river valley having undergone so much change in the past, this emphasises the need to conserve and manage areas which have remained relatively intact. 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.
- *Seek to control field amalgamation and hedgerow loss, restoring hedges where these have been lost or are in poor condition.*
Field pattern is an important visual element along the arable farmland parts of the degraded river valley, particularly when viewed from adjacent high ground. The fields are bounded by mixed and thorn hedgerows which arc in many places becoming thin and gappy, or have been lost completely, only to be replaced by wire fencing, which results in a more open, neglected landscape. Replacement hedgerow planting or restoration through more appropriate management should be encouraged in these areas, although they should not be allowed to grow tall as this would have the effect of over enclosing the river valley.

ENCAPSULATED COUNTRYSIDE

Landscape character

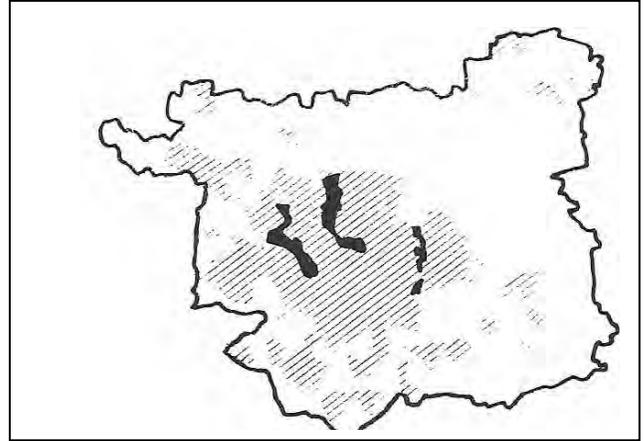
The encapsulated countryside landscape type can be found in three landscape units: the Meanwood Valley (LCM12); the Kirkstall Valley (LCM13); and the Wyke Beck Valley (LCM14). It occurs in linear areas or 'fingers' of countryside associated with river corridors, which extend right into the heart of the urban area.

The valley sides of the corridors can be steep sided and are generally well wooded, with pockets of scrub and pasture forming a green patchwork in an otherwise built up environment. Urban influences are present, with public utility works, isolated industrial units and occasional housing all in evidence, mainly along the valley bottoms. Views from within these areas are framed by either the development along the edges, or by the dense wooded nature of the semi-natural woodlands which abound.

The encapsulated countryside provides a valuable recreational resource for local communities and an important corridor for wildlife.

Forces for change

Due to their close proximity to the urban edge, the areas of encapsulated countryside are all subject to a range of pressures, typical of the urban fringe. These pressures include building development, recreational pressures, fly tipping and the growth of areas of horse grazing, some of which has become degraded, with run down ancillary buildings and structures apparent. Although some areas such as the Meanwood Valley remain fairly intact, others, such as the Wyke Beck Valley have been fragmented by areas of urban development or roads. Future change could occur with any proposed residential or commercial development.



Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the encapsulated countryside landscape type should be a careful balance between conservation of the characteristic wooded and pastoral valley characteristics, combined with restoration of the features where these are in decline or under pressure. There may also be opportunities for enhancement through small scale woodland planting, particularly in areas such as the Wyke Beck Valley. Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the encapsulated countryside landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in separate documents, using the references listed above left.

- *Seek to control the adverse effects of horse grazing in inappropriate locations.*
In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for the use of land for horse grazing, particularly within these linear corridors which extend along the urban fringe. In places this has had a significant impact on the landscape with the proliferation of temporary structures and ancillary buildings and with impoverishment of pasture due to overgrazing. Where possible, these adverse effects of horse grazing should be controlled within these green corridors, to prevent further 'suburbanisation' of the landscape.
- *Retain and enhance stream and river channel diversity and marginal vegetation.*
River and stream channels and margins are a major feature within the areas of encapsulated countryside, providing a key landscape and wildlife resource. Where the ecological value has declined, there is much scope for improvement through sensitive management. Trees, scrub and plant growth on riverbanks should be retained and protected, and enhanced where appropriate.

- *Conserve and enhance the wooded value and continuity of streamlines and rivers and enhance their value as landscape, wildlife and recreational corridors.*
Waterside trees, scrub and woodland are important features in the areas of encapsulated countryside, contributing significantly to the wider landscape. Where these areas occur, they should be conserved as a priority.
Natural regeneration of woodland should also be encouraged and where appropriate, new planting should be undertaken to extend and enhance the corridors. This could then form the basis of additional small scale planting, perhaps in association with a scheme for the wider area, extending out from the corridors. However, care should be taken to maintain a diversity of waterside habitats in addition to the woodland. Consideration should also be given to encouraging recreational access along the valleys, although this is generally already available along these 'green' corridors.
- *Conserve and strengthen the characteristic pattern of small and medium sized fields.*
Although field pattern is not a particularly dominant visual element in the areas of encapsulated countryside, it is important in some areas, particularly the Meanwood Valley. Here, the small and medium sized fields are typically bounded by a mix of hedgerows and drystone walls. In places, particularly closest to the city centre, the hedges are becoming overgrown and gappy leaving only a remnant boundary. This results in a more neglected looking landscape. Many hedges would benefit from more appropriate management, which would include traditional management techniques such as coppicing and planting up of individual gaps. In addition, walls should be restored, with priority given to restoring those along roadsides, footpaths and bridleways.
- *Enhance tree cover through small scale woodland planting.*
Although two of the areas of encapsulated countryside are generally well wooded, there are opportunities, particularly along the Wyke Beck for small scale deciduous planting. This could be based on a linear planting programme, following the line of the stream or river, in order to enhance the continuity of the corridor, but could also be extended through small scale planting elsewhere. The siting and design of new woodland should be carefully planned and could be undertaken in connection with any wider planting programmes for the urban fringe area (for example along the Lower Aire Valley).

GRITSTONE MOORLAND

Landscape character

The gritstone moorland landscape type occurs in the far north west of the District, as part of the larger Rombalds Moor, which stretches away to the west. It is found in only one landscape unit: Hawksworth Moor (MGP6) and forms an open and exposed, gently rounded upland moorland area, dissected by a series of small becks and drains.

Dominated by dense swathes of heather and crowberry, the moorland is enclosed by drystone walling, which separates the semi-natural area from the fields of semi-improved pasture along its fringes.

Within these fields, patches of scrub and isolated stunted trees add variety to the vegetation cover. Reservoir development occurs along the fringes, where commanding views can be gained over the urban areas to the south and south-east.

Forces for change

Much of the character of the gritstone moorland landscape type has resulted from traditional methods of maintaining heath land, through grazing, cutting and burning, which controls scrub invasion and allows the rejuvenation of young heath land plants. Past threats have tended to arise from the reclaiming of the moor to create geometric blocks of semi-improved pasture, which cut sharply into the edges of heathland areas. Today, one of the biggest threats to the moorland is through neglect, with the abandonment of many of the traditional methods of land management. Additional changes could result from further, highly visible reservoir development along the fringes of the moor.



Management strategy and guidelines

Due to its unique character, the overall management strategy for the gritstone moorland landscape type should be one of conservation of the existing landscape, through the promotion of traditional land management techniques and the control over further development along its fringes.

Management guidelines which are applicable to the gritstone moorland landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in a separate document, using the reference listed above.

- *Identify opportunities for re-establishing heather moorland on suitable sites.* Heather moorland once covered a larger area in the Leeds District than it does today, with fields previously reclaimed from the moorland and improved for grazing. With the recent changes in agricultural policy and the introduction of schemes such as Countryside Stewardship, the creation of a diverse heather moorland could be considered on sites where the soils are suitable. This would provide visual diversity, enhance nature conservation interest and re-establish an important historic feature in the landscape.

- *Encourage traditional management practices and stocking levels which maintain moorland vegetation.*
Effective management is needed in order to maintain the gritstone moorland landscape. Traditionally this has taken the form of grazing by sheep, which if undertaken at the correct level of intensity can prevent invasion by scrub and encourage the healthy regeneration of young heather shoots. Burning and cutting can also be used as management measures. This type of traditional management should be encouraged, through the promotion of such schemes such as Countryside Stewardship.
- *Conserve and restore field boundary walls along the edge of the moor and along the roadsides.*
Drystone walls made from the local millstone grit are a distinctive feature of the moorland and its surrounds, contributing significantly to the local character. They define the edges of the moorland area, but in places are falling into disrepair. Where possible, these walls should be restored, with priority given to restoring those along roadsides and along the edge of the moor.

Leeds Landscape Assessment – Landscape Types Illustrative Photographs (Figs 5.1-5.3)

PASTORAL FRINGE FARMLAND



The pastoral Pudsey - Bradford fringe viewed from Tyersal Hall Farm (grid ref. SE202322).

ARABLE FRINGE FARMLAND



Golf course and horticultural farmland of Rothwell Pastures.

URBAN FRINGE PARKLANDS



North side of Avenue Woods, Temple Newsam

ENCAPSULATED COUNTRYSIDE



The Meanwood Valley viewed from Woodhouse Ridge (grid ref. SE292360).

OPEN ARABLE FARMLAND



Arable farmland to the east of Bramham (grid ref. SE433723).

ARABLE PLATEAU FARMLAND



Hollin Hall Plateau viewed from Cote Hill to the east of Harewood (grid ref. SE 327431).

Figure 5.1: Photographs of landscape types

PASTORAL PLATEAU FARMLAND



Pastoral farmland viewed from Moorcock Hill (grid ref. SE233434).

PASTORAL ESCARPMENT



The pastoral escarpment north of Harewood viewed from within the Wharfe Valley (grid ref. SE331468).

SMALL SCALE FARMED RIDGES AND VALLEYS



View from Rigton Bank to the north towards Collingham and beyond (grid ref. SE381443).

GRITSTONE MOORLAND



Hawksworth Moor and pastoral fringes viewed from the outskirts of Hawksworth to the east (grid ref. SE160425).

LIMESTONE VILLAGES AND FARMLAND



Arable farmland to the north of Bramham viewed from Windmill Road (grid ref. SE431433).

WOODED ESCARPMENT



The wooded escarpment of the Chevin dropping down into the Wharfe Valley (grid ref. SE207443).

Figure 5.2: Photographs of landscape types

Leeds Landscape Assessment – Landscape Types Illustrative Photographs (Figs 5.1-5.3)

WOODED PARKLAND



Harewood House and grounds viewed from Lodge Hills (grid ref. SE323431).

WOODED PLATEAU EDGE VALLEYS



The wooded valley of Hawksworth Gill viewed from Hawksworth Mill farm to the north (grid ref. SE158417).

WOODED FARMLAND



Lady Wood and surrounding arable farmland viewed from Thorner Lane to the south (grid ref. SE397428).

RIVER FLOODPLAIN



The Wharfe Valley with the Hill Climb Course in the foreground (grid ref. SE337453).

RIVER VALLEY



Calverley Valley and Woods viewed from the north (grid ref. SE206386).

DEGRADED RIVER VALLEY



The Lower Aire Valley viewed from the restored opencast workings north of St. Aidan's (grid ref. SE397293).

Figure 5.3: Photographs of landscape types

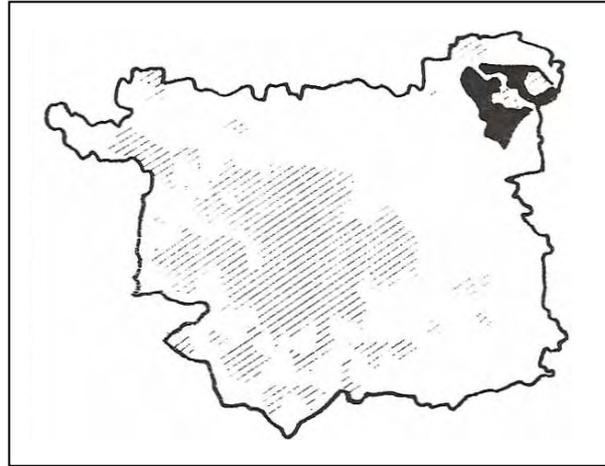
LIMESTONE VILLAGES AND FARMLAND

Landscape character

This landscape type occurs on the Magnesian Limestone Belt, in the north-east corner of the District. It can be found in only one landscape unit: Boston Spa, Clifford and Bramham (ELB3). It forms an area of mainly arable farmland, characterised by picturesque villages and small towns built out of the local creamy white limestone. The gently rolling fields of arable are bordered by low gappy hedgerows and isolated hedgerow trees, with small pockets of intact pasture occurring around the village fringes. Trees are present in small mixed woodlands and in mature woodland strips along the occasional beck or stream. The rural nature of this landscape type is broken by the large trading estate of Thorpe Arch, partially screened by trees.

Forces for change

One of the characteristic features of this area is the contrast between the limestone villages, surrounded by small pockets of wooded pasture and remnant parkland and the open arable areas which occur elsewhere. The pastoral and remnant parkland areas have begun to fall into decline, with the loss of characteristic features such as parkland walls and trees. In the open arable areas, many of the characteristic farmland features are showing signs of neglect, with hedgerows becoming gappy and hedgerow trees dying without being replaced. Urban influences include the large trading estate at Thorpe Arch and future localised change may occur with any proposed new housing development.



Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for this area should be a careful balance between conservation of the integrity and character of the limestone villages and their immediate surrounds with restoration of remnant parkland areas and traditional farmland features where these have fallen into decline. Management guidelines which are applicable within the limestone villages and farmland landscape type are described below.

Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape unit are described in a separate document, using the reference listed above.

- *Any new development should reinforce the existing pattern of characteristic rural villages and small towns, whilst preserving their character.* Villages and small towns built of the local creamy coloured stone, but each with their individual character and identity, are a characteristic feature of this landscape type. Conservation of this character should be a priority and all new development should be carefully sited and should seek to harmonise with the local vernacular styles.

- *Conserve and enhance the pastoral and wooded continuity of the stream valleys and enhance their value as landscape, wildlife and recreation corridors.*
The isolated and occasional pastoral and wooded valleys within this landscape type form key linear features and important landscape and wildlife corridors in an otherwise cultivated area. To maintain this value, areas of pasture should be retained and consideration given to returning bankside arable fields to grassland. In addition, natural regeneration of bankside trees should be encouraged. New small scale planting may also be appropriate, designed to reflect the sinuous nature of the watercourses. Consideration should be given to encouraging recreational access along these valleys.
- *Where opportunities exist, consider restoring areas of former parkland.*
Although landscaped parks are not a particularly prominent feature within this landscape type, there are some remnant areas. As well as their historical importance, parklands provide diversity and interest in the landscape. True parkland in permanent grassland with large scattered trees is in decline. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to reinstating areas of former park and new planting to replace old trees.
- *Strengthen hedgelines by encouraging natural regeneration of hedgerow trees or if necessary, replanting of locally occurring species.*
Where hedgerows and hedgerow trees have been lost or removed, the landscape can appear rather open and structureless. Hedgerow trees can have the effect of filtering views through the landscape helping to create a better sense of scale and enclosure. Where hedgerow trees still remain, these should be conserved. Where they have been lost, hedgerows should be strengthened wherever possible through encouragement of natural regeneration or replanting, using locally occurring native species.
- *Seek to control field amalgamation and hedgerow loss, restoring hedges where these have been lost or are in poor condition.*
Field pattern is an important element in this landscape, complementing the secluded character of the landscape, although it is often not always apparent due to the flat to gently rolling nature of the underlying landform.
The generally large regular fields are bounded by mixed and thorn hedgerows. In places hedgerows are becoming thin and gappy, being replaced by wire fencing, which results in a more open, neglected landscape. Replacement hedgerow planting or restoration through more appropriate management should be encouraged in these areas, complementing the shape and scale of existing fields.

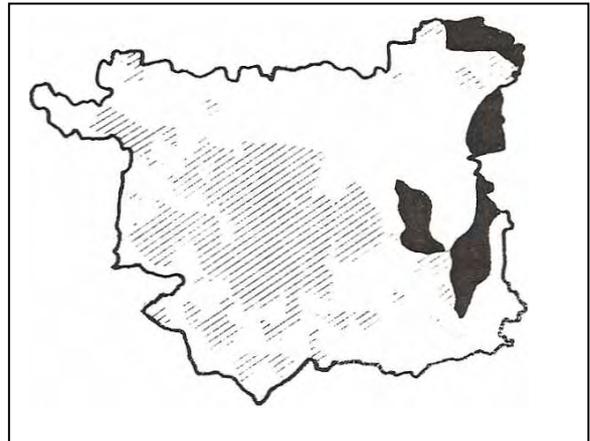
OPEN ARABLE FARMLAND

Landscape character

The open arable landscape type occurs in the lower lying and gently rolling eastern pans of the district, and can be found in four landscape units: Barwick to Garforth (LCMJ 5); East Garforth (ELBI); East Bramham (ELB2); and East Wetherby (VOYI). Occurring on generally fertile, productive soils, this landscape type is characterised by medium to large regular fields of arable farmland. The openness of the farmland is emphasised by the lack of hedgerow trees and woodland, which allows for long, uninterrupted views from areas of higher ground. Where woodlands do occur they are mainly within small copses or plantations. Isolated farmsteads and buildings are present throughout, with settlements restricted to small villages. Occasional pockets of pasture occur around some settlements, although these tend to be dwarfed by the surrounding large scale arable farmland.

Forces for change

The main pressures influencing landscape change in the areas of open arable farmland, appear to be related to gradual agricultural intensification. Amalgamation of fields into larger units has occurred to a small extent, but perhaps of greater significance is the gradual loss of hedgerows, with many appearing poorly maintained and suffering from neglect. This has the effect of emphasising the sense of openness, particularly on the exposed ridge tops. Today, with the new EC set-aside rules, the amount of set-aside land in landscape types such as this is likely to increase, creating new opportunities



for land management. Within some areas of open arable farmland, small-scale mineral extraction activities have also influenced past landscape change.

Management strategy and guidelines

Due to the loss of structure and decline in many traditional farmland features, the overall management strategy for the open arable farmland landscape type should be one of restoration. There may also be opportunities for enhancement through small scale woodland planting, although this should be carefully designed to maintain the generally open nature of the landscape. Management guidelines, which are applicable for all the landscape units within the open arable farmland landscape type, are described below.

Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in a separate document, using the reference listed above.

- *Control the design and location of new agricultural buildings, particularly where they are highly visible in the open arable landscape.*

The traditional farm buildings of the arable plateau farmland are gradually being replaced by the construction of large modern farm buildings, which often look out of place and can be visually intrusive. Many of these new buildings are large by necessity and therefore careful siting and design are important considerations as no amount of landscaping will conceal a building that is fundamentally badly designed. Big buildings can sometimes sit well in the open plateau farmlands, but only if they are well sited in relation to other features such as landform and tree cover. Selection of building materials and choice of colours should complement those in existing buildings and in the surrounding landscape.

- *Conserve and enhance the pastoral and wooded continuity of the small river valleys and enhance their value as landscape, wildlife and recreation corridors.*

The isolated and occasional pastoral and wooded valleys within this landscape type form key linear features and important landscape and ecological corridors in an otherwise cultivated area. To maintain this value, areas of pasture should be retained and consideration given to returning bankside arable fields to grassland. In addition, natural regeneration of bankside trees should be encouraged. New small scale planting may also be appropriate, designed to reflect the sinuous nature of the watercourses. Consideration should be given to encouraging recreational access along these valleys.

- *Encourage the development of wide field margins along streamlines and woodland edges.*

With the outlook for farming changing particularly in areas of intensive farming such as the arable plateau farmland, expanded field margins offer positive opportunities for enhancing both landscape and wildlife interest. Options include wildlife fallow margins to encourage wildflowers and grassland margins to be managed as rough grassland. To gain maximum benefit, field margins should be developed alongside features of interest such as primary hedgerows, woodland edges, streamlines and footpaths.

- *Enhance tree cover through small to medium scale woodland planting.*

There is scope within most of the open arable landscapes for woodland planting. This is particularly the case, however, in the East Garforth landscape unit, where there is a fragmented pattern of generally large hedged fields. The siting and design of new woods will need to be carefully planned, with the aim being to try and frame views, rather than totally block them off. New planting could be targeted, where possible, on hilltops and rising ground, where existing cover is sparse and the field pattern fragmented. Particular care should be taken to shape the edges of the new woods. Deciduous planting is preferable, although mixed woodlands would be acceptable as long as edges and skylines are sensitively handled.

- *New woodland planting may be appropriate as screening for prominent industrial developments, farm buildings or garden centres, although this should be carefully designed to fit in with a wider planting programme for the area.*

There is some scope for woodland planting within this landscape to screen prominent farm buildings, garden centres, industrial areas, quarries and roads. Planting should where possible be used in a positive way to strengthen the overall farm landscape and as part of any wider woodland planting scheme, rather than looking like an afterthought in an attempt to hide a particularly intrusive building or section of road.

- *Strengthen hedgelines by encouraging natural regeneration of hedgerow trees or if necessary, replanting of locally occurring species.*

Where hedgerows and hedgerow trees have been lost or removed, the landscape can appear rather open and structureless. Hedgerow trees can have the effect of filtering views through the landscape helping to create a better sense of scale and enclosure. Where hedgerow trees still remain, these should be conserved. Where they have been lost, hedgerows should be strengthened wherever possible through encouragement of natural regeneration or replanting, using locally occurring native tree species.

- *Conserve and restore all primary hedgerows and prevent further field amalgamation where at all possible.*

Large regular fields bounded by hedgerows are a characteristic feature of the open arable landscape, although the gently rolling topography does not allow this pattern to register strongly. Where hedgerows have been removed, the field pattern is often fragmented and the scale of the landscape increased. In these areas, it is important to avoid further fragmentation of the landscape through hedgerow removal. Where the hedgerows are in poor condition, priority should be given to restoring primary hedgelines, including those along roads, footpaths and bridle ways and farm boundaries, through appropriate management. Where hedgerows are very gappy or have been removed, consideration should be given to replacement planting.

PASTORAL ESCARPMENT

Landscape character

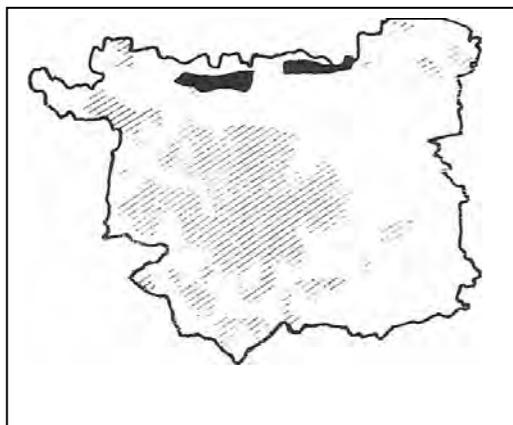
The pastoral escarpment landscape type occurs on the escarpment running from the Otley Chevin, past Harewood and on to Collingham and can be found in two landscape units: West Harewood Escarpment (WHF2) and East Harewood Escarpment (WHF3).

It is characterised by narrow areas of pastoral farmland, lying on the steep sided slope of the escarpment which runs from west to east along the southern edge of the Wharfe Valley. Characterised by sheep and cattle grazed pastures, the fields tend to be small and bounded by a mix of walls, fences and hedges, with pockets of rough grassland and scrub occurring on the steeper slopes.

Throughout, woodland is a prominent feature in views, with small mixed and coniferous plantations lying amidst the pasture. Isolated buildings are the only forms of settlement, linked by narrow sunken roads which drop down the slope from the plateau to the valley. Due to the height and positioning of the area, spectacular views can be gained from the escarpment over the Wharfe Valley and beyond to the north.

Forces for change

The major underlying influence on the pastoral escarpment landscape type is the dominant effect that landform has on its character. This has influenced land use and cover, resulting in a mainly pastoral area which have probably remained little changed over the last century. Notable changes which have occurred include the addition of a large mixed plantation on Rawdon Hill and the gradual decline in the condition of field boundaries, in particular hedgerows. Recent change has occurred with the development of leisure facilities on the escarpment face.



Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the pastoral escarpment landscape type should be one of conservation of the important and characteristic features of the wooded and pastoral slope. There are also opportunities for restoration of farmland features such as hedgerows where these are in decline and some limited opportunities for enhancing the pattern of wooded copses and coverts through small scale planting.

Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the pastoral escarpment landscape type are described below.

Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in a separate document, using the reference listed above left.

- *Conserve remaining areas of permanent pasture.*

Permanent pasture is a characteristic feature on the escarpment, and has remained undisturbed for many years mainly due to the steepness of the slope on which it lies. Such areas should be conserved and managed as low input grassland, to increase their value for landscape and wildlife. Ploughing should be avoided and small scale tree and woodland planting should be designed to avoid the best areas of pasture.

- *Maintain and enhance tree cover through small scale woodland planting.*
Although this is a well-wooded landscape, particularly along the western end of the escarpment, there is scope for some small scale deciduous planting in some areas. This could take the form of planting to extend and reinforce the pattern of characteristic small coverts and copses and should be targeted on the higher slopes. Particular attention should be given to the location and shape of the planting, whilst maintaining a patchwork pattern with the fields of permanent pasture which they enclose. Care should also be taken not to block off views from the escarpment down over the Wharfe Valley.
- *Conserve the wooded character of mature roadside trees.*
Roadside trees are important features within this landscape type, particularly where they lie alongside the characteristic sunken lanes which pass north to south over the escarpment. Many of these trees are mature and need to be retained until other trees have grown to replace them. To maintain and enhance this tree cover, natural regeneration of trees should be encouraged wherever possible or new planting should be carried out, using locally occurring native tree species such as oak and ash.
- *Conserve and enhance field boundaries through more appropriate wall and hedgerow management.*
The general condition of walls and hedgerows along the pastoral escarpment is very variable. Although some are intact, many hedgerows, particularly those towards the eastern end of the escarpment, would benefit from more appropriate management, which would allow hedgerows to grow thicker and planting up of individual gaps. Drystone walls made from the local gritstone are distinctive features of the roadsides, the higher slopes and the western end of the escarpment. Where These are falling into disrepair, they should be restored. with priority given to restoring those along roadsides and along farm boundaries.
- *Conserve characteristic old sunken roads or 'green lanes'.*
There are several sunken roads or 'green lanes' which lead from the south, from settlements such as East Keswick over the escarpment and down to the River Wharfe. These old trackways, with their overgrown and ancient hedgerows are important remnants of a former way of life, adding to local landscape character, as well as being long established wildlife corridors. As such, encouragement should be given to their protection.

PASTORAL FRINGE FARMLAND

Landscape character

The pastoral fringe farmland landscape type is found along the undulating western fringe of Leeds, occurring in two landscape units: the Gildersome Fringe (LCM1); and the Bradford Fringe (LCM2).

It is a landscape of actively farmed land, containing a mixture of landscape influences, all dominated by human activity such as housing, industrial areas, quarries, tips, amenity land, recreation grounds, neglected and disturbed land. The farmland tends to consist of mainly small-scale fields of pasture, grazed by sheep, cattle and frequently horses.

Throughout, the farmland is under intense public pressure, with urban fringe land uses such as caravan storage, scrap yards and horse grazing common. Often, the structure of the landscape has, or is starting to break down with many hedgerows becoming low cut and gappy, or stone walls in disrepair. Many areas around the farmland are well used by the local community for both authorised and unauthorised recreational uses, providing a valuable amenity resource.

Forces for change

The pastoral fringe farmland landscape type is under pressure from the encroachment of industrial, commercial and residential areas as well as activities such as golf course development, mineral extraction and landfill. Some of the land is degraded under-used agricultural land, with activities such as horse grazing and unauthorised leisure and recreational activities commonplace, and throughout, there has been a gradual deterioration of farmland features such as field boundaries. This has resulted in a poorly managed, fragmented landscape in places, particularly close to the urban edge, although some intact areas still remain.



Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the pastoral fringe farmland landscape type should be a combination of mainly restoration of the open pastoral fringe and the characteristic farmland features, where these are in decline; combined with enhancement through small scale planting, particularly close to the urban edge and around intrusive features or areas of new development. There are also opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of areas of woodland, for example, along the slopes to the south of Calverley.

Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the pastoral fringe farmland landscape type are described below.

Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in a separate document, using the references listed above left.

- *Seek to control the adverse effects of horse grazing in inappropriate locations.* In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for the use of land for horse grazing, particularly around the fringes of urban areas. In places this has had a significant impact on the landscape with the proliferation of temporary structures and ancillary buildings and with impoverishment of pasture due to overgrazing. Where possible, these adverse effects of horse grazing should be controlled, as they can introduce a 'suburbanising' influence into rural landscapes.

- *Conserve and enhance the wooded continuity of valleys and enhance their value as landscape, wildlife and recreational corridors.*
A characteristic feature of this landscape type, and one which contrasts with the generally open nature of the pastoral fringe, are the wooded strips and larger areas of woodland along becks and extending up the valley slopes. These form key linear features and important landscape, ecological and in places recreational corridors. To enhance this value, natural regeneration of trees should be encouraged with small scale planting where appropriate, particularly along the slopes. Consideration should be given to encouraging recreational access along these valleys where this does not already exist.
- *Where opportunities exist, consider restoring areas of former parkland.*
Although landscaped parks are not a particular feature within this landscape type, there are some remnant areas, for example at Farnley Park and around the Grange. As well as their historical importance, park lands provide diversity and interest in the landscape. True parkland with permanent grassland and large scattered trees is in decline. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to reinstating areas of former park and new planting to replace old trees.
- *New small scale planting may be appropriate, particularly as screening for prominent industrial developments or farm buildings, golf courses and sections of highway.*
Although the priority for this landscape type should be to maintain the intact open nature of the higher ground, there are many areas, particularly around the Farnley Fringe, where small scale new planting would be appropriate, particularly as a screen for intrusive development. Screening should preferably be used in a positive way as part of an overall planting scheme for the area, rather than as an afterthought in an attempt to hide a particularly intrusive building or section of road.
- *Conserve and enhance tree cover along field boundaries, particularly on the lower slopes and within the valleys, through regeneration and replanting of boundary trees.*
The priority for this landscape should be to maintain the generally open character of the intact ridges and higher ground. However, tree cover along boundaries on the lower slopes and within the valleys is a characteristic feature. To maintain and enhance this, natural regeneration of boundary trees should be encouraged wherever possible or replanting should be carried out using locally occurring species such as oak, ash and sycamore.
- *Conserve and strengthen the characteristic pattern of small and medium sized fields.*
Field pattern is a dominant visual element, particularly on the open pastoral ridges and slopes. The small and medium sized fields are typically bounded by a mix of hedgerows and drystone walls. In places, particularly closest to the urban edge, the hedges are becoming overgrown and gappy and the walls falling into disrepair, occasionally being replaced by wire fencing. This results in a more open neglected looking landscape. Many hedges would benefit from more appropriate management, which would include traditional management techniques such as coppicing and planting up of individual gaps. In addition, walls should be restored, with priority given to restoring those along roadsides and along farm boundaries.

PASTORAL PLATEAU FARMLAND

Landscape character

The pastoral plateau landscape type occurs in four landscape units: Hawksworth Plateau (MGP2); Guiseley Plateau (MGP3); Eccup Plateau (MGP4); and the Rawdon Plateau (LCM16). Found in the north west of the district, mainly on the elevated Millstone Grit Plateau, this landscape type is characterised by medium scale, generally intact fields of pasture, grazed by sheep and cattle. The plateau tops are open and sometimes exposed, with isolated boundary trees and planted woodland strips alongside roads.

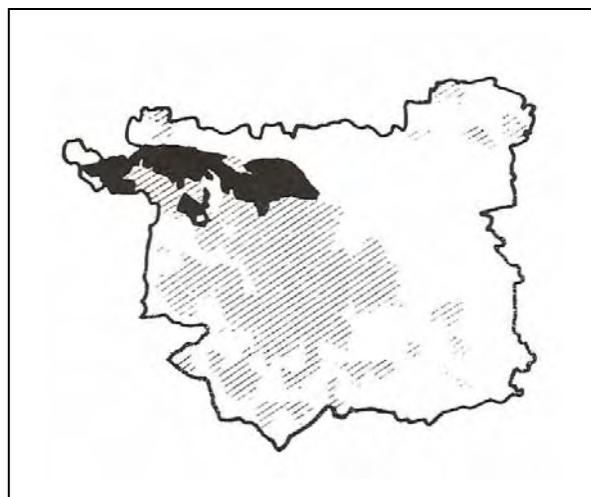
As the land drops, woodland occurs in small copses and as ribbons of semi-natural cover along streams and becks. A mix of hedgerows and (mainly) drystone walls form the field boundaries, being replaced by wire fencing as their condition begins to deteriorate. Small villages form the main settlements within this landscape type, with the urban edge of North Leeds occurring on the outskirts. Here, urban fringe land uses such as horse grazing and golf courses become more common. Extensive uninterrupted views can be gained over surrounding areas, particularly from the higher plateau tops.

Forces for change

Today, parts of the open and largely undeveloped pastoral plateau farmland are under pressure from urban influences such as garden centre and golf course development, and the spread of "horseyculture." These activities are having an effect on land use, particularly along the lower slopes and around the edges of settlements and have the effect of introducing a 'suburban' nature to an otherwise predominantly rural landscape. In addition, and as in many of the areas around Leeds, some of the walls and hedgerows are poorly maintained and suffering from neglect.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the pastoral plateau farmland landscape type should be a combination of conservation of the open undeveloped nature of the pastoral plateau and its characteristic



features with restoration of traditional farmland features where these are in decline or suffering from neglect. The strategy should be to protect the areas from further 'suburbanisation' of the countryside, including the loss of traditional farm buildings and their replacement with inappropriate new development.

Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the pastoral plateau farmland landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in separate documents.

- *Seek to control the adverse effects of horse grazing in inappropriate locations.* In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for the use of land for horse grazing, including around the pastoral fringes of northern Leeds. In places this has had a significant impact on the landscape, particularly where visible on the open plateau, with the proliferation of temporary structures and ancillary buildings and with impoverishment of pasture due to overgrazing. Where possible, these adverse effects of horse grazing should be controlled, particularly on the open plateau tops, where it introduces a 'suburban' influence into a rural landscape.
- *Conserve and enhance through small scale planting, the wooded copses and strip woodland alongside roads and becks.* The priority for this landscape should be to maintain the open character of the plateau summits. However, tree cover in strip woodland alongside roads and becks is an important feature and should be conserved. Any new woodland planting should complement and strengthen this pattern of strip woodland and should be broad-leaved in character.

- *Conserve and enhance tree cover along field boundaries. particularly on the lower slopes and within the shallow valleys, through regeneration and replanting o/boundary trees.*

The priority for this landscape should be to maintain the open character of the plateau summits. However, tree cover along boundaries on the lower slopes and within the valleys is a characteristic feature. To maintain and enhance this, natural regeneration of boundary trees should be encouraged wherever possible or replanting should be carried out using locally occurring species such as oak, ash and sycamore.

- *Conserve and enhance field pattern through more appropriate wall and hedgerow management.*

The general condition of hedgerows on the lower areas of the pastoral plateau is variable, although some are gappy or dying out at the base. Many hedges would benefit from more appropriate management, which would include allowing hedgerows to grow thicker and planting up individual gaps. They should not, however, be allowed to grow too tall as this would reduce the open nature of the area. Drystone walls made from the local millstone grit are also a distinctive feature of the higher parts of the plateau, contributing significantly to the local character. In places they are falling into disrepair, with some sections being replaced by wire fencing. Where possible, these walls should be restored, with priority given to restoring those along roadsides and along farm boundaries.

RIVER FLOODPLAIN

Landscape character

The river floodplain landscape type can be found in three landscape units: the Otley to Pool Floodplain (WHF6); the Arthington Floodplain (WHF7); and the Linton-Collingham Floodplain (WHF8). It is characterised by a flat, cultivated river floodplain, following the winding course of the River Wharfe, between Otley in the west and Wetherby in the east. Large regular fields of pastoral and arable farmland with hedgerows and isolated hedgerow trees are characteristic features, although occasionally 'pocket' of parkland with parkland type trees also occur.

Mature trees line the banks of the meandering river, with small copses appearing elsewhere. Underlain by alluvial and sand and gravel deposits, the floodplain has been worked for many years for aggregates. Where land has been disturbed, the fabric of the landscape has started to break down, to be replaced by large areas of open water where extraction activities have ceased.

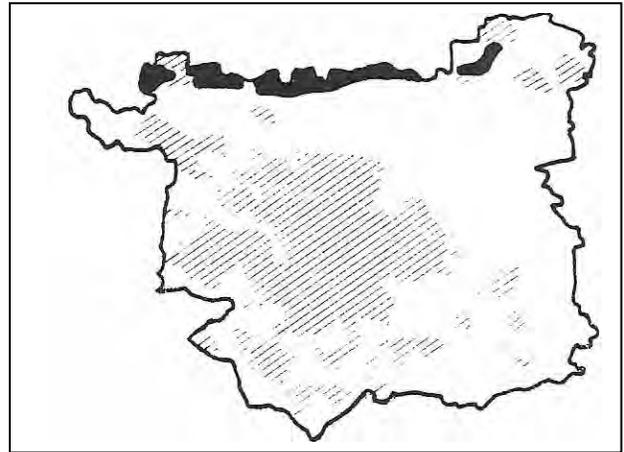
Forces for change

One of the main forces for change in parts of the river floodplain in recent years has been the extraction of high-grade mineral deposits of sand and gravel. This has resulted in the creation of open water pits which can lie in rather bland and featureless surrounds, permanently changing the nature of the pastoral floodplain.

Elsewhere, there appears to have been a gradual shift from pastoral to arable farmland and a gradual deterioration in the condition of field boundaries. Golf course development in one part of the area, around Linton has led to a gradual 'suburbanisation' of the narrow floodplain.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the river floodplain landscape type should be a careful balance between conservation of the important and characteristic features of the floodplain, combined with restoration where these features, through agricultural change, are being lost or are falling into decline. Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the river floodplain landscape type are described below.



Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in separate documents, references as above.

- Control development along the river floodplain to ensure that any new development reinforces the historic pattern of riverside towns and villages.*

The alluvial floodplain of the River Wharfe forms an important feature along the length of the Wharfe valley. The continuity of the river corridor is often disrupted by built development, particularly in the area close to Otley. New development should be restricted where possible to higher ground, avoiding the lower lying floodplain. In addition, any new development should be carefully located to preserve the historic settlement pattern of riverside towns and villages such as Otley and Pool.
- Restoration proposals for sand and gravel mineral workings should be based On an assessment of landscape character to reflect the characteristic features of the river floodplain.*

Restoration of sand and gravel workings along the Otley to Pool stretch of the Wharfe floodplain has traditionally been to open water. This has resulted in the creation of a new type of landscape in the previously intact pastoral floodplain. Where restoration is in the early stages of development, the immediate surrounds to the open water pits can appear rather bland and featureless. Restoration schemes should therefore take account of how the site relates to the surrounding wider landscape in order to assess whether reinstating the original landscapc or creating a new landscape is most appropriate.

- *Opportunities should be sought for creating wet/and habitats during restoration of sand and gravel workings.* Restoration of sand and gravel workings along the Wharfe floodplain has traditionally been to open water. Most restoration schemes offer positive opportunities for creative conservation and enhancement of landscape character, in particular the creation of wetland habitats such as reedbed and marsh. Where possible, natural regeneration should be encouraged.
- *Retain grassland along alluvial floodplains and where possible consider a return from arable to pasture under traditional grassland management.* Traditionally the river floodplains were managed for haymaking and summer grazing. However, flood alleviation schemes have helped to stimulate an increase in arable production, with this being particularly apparent along the eastern end of the Wharfe floodplain. This has resulted in the break up of continuity of the river corridor, with the associated loss of wetland habitats. Given the current agricultural need to reduce surplus cereal production and to control nitrate leaching into watercourses, river floodplains would be the most suitable areas to return to traditional grassland management. This could be done through promotion of the Countryside Stewardship scheme.
- *Identify opportunities for recreating riverside wetland habitats.* Reedbeds and marshland are typically associated with river corridors, and are particularly important for wildlife as well as giving an element of naturalness to river landscapes. They are now uncommon and need to be protected. In addition, through government incentives, there may be opportunities for creating new wetlands in certain areas.
- *Enhance the continuity of the river channel through encouragement of natural regeneration of bankside trees.* Scattered waterside trees and scrub are important features contributing to the riverside environment. To maintain this effect, natural regeneration of trees should be encouraged, but care should be taken to maintain a variety of habitats alongside the river margin and to avoid ecologically important sites such as unimproved grasslands and wetlands. Larger scale woodland planting should be avoided.
- *Conserve and restore the characteristic tree avenues which line roads and tracks leading up to large houses.* In places, mature tree avenues leading up to large houses or farms form an important, but localised feature within the floodplain. These should be conserved and restored where appropriate through the replanting of suitable replacements where the original trees have reached over maturity.
- *Seek to control field amalgamation and hedgerow loss, restoring hedges where these have been lost or are in poor condition.* Field pattern is an important visual element along the floodplain, particularly when viewed from adjacent high ground. The fields are bounded by mixed and thorn hedgerows which are in places becoming thin and gappy, and are being replaced by wire fencing, which results in a more open, neglected landscape. Replacement hedgerow planting or restoration through more appropriate management should be encouraged in these areas, although they should not be allowed to grow tall as this would have the effect of over enclosing the floodplain.

River Gorge

Landscape character

The river gorge landscape type occurs in only one landscape unit: the Wetherby Gorge (ELB8).

It is characterised by a narrow winding strip of land, cut by the River Wharfe as it meanders through the Eastern Limestone Belt. The banks are narrow and in places steeply sloping, clothed by dense deciduous woodland, with mature trees overhanging the river.

Where woodland does not extend to the edge, narrow strips of pasture or larger fields of arable farmland lie directly along the banks. Isolated farms or works such as sewage works generally lie well screened along the banks. The gorge is somewhat inaccessible and not particularly visible, except from crossing points such as bridges and certain public footpaths.

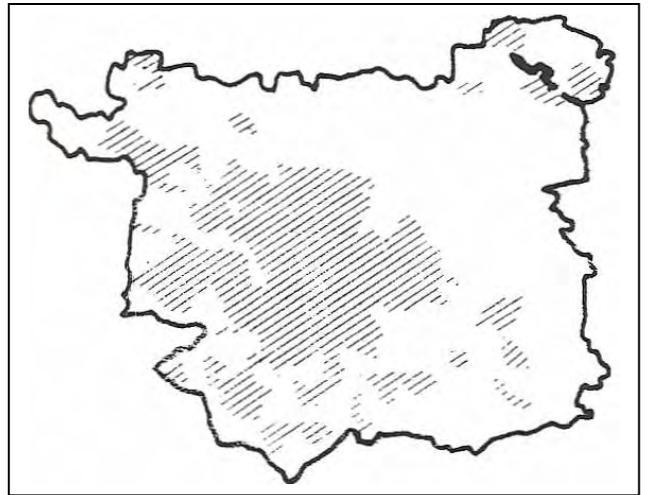
Forces for change

The river gorge has probably undergone little noticeable change in recent years with many of its characteristic features remaining intact. Tree cover has, however, largely disappeared from the riverbanks to the east of Thorpe Arch, with large fields of arable farmland stretching right down to the waters edge.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the river gorge landscape type should be the conservation of the important characteristics of the river and its immediate surrounds. Where tree cover has been lost, however, there could be opportunities for the restoration of character, through the encouragement of natural regeneration or small scale tree planting to enhance the river's continuity.

Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the river gorge landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape unit is described in a separate document, using the reference given above.



- *Retain and enhance river channel diversity and marginal vegetation.*

The narrow river channel is a major feature within this landscape type. Where the ecological value has declined, there is much scope for improvement through sensitive management. The retention of a diverse range of features such as meanders, shallow, cliffs and backwaters is very important. River margins are important and tree, scrub and plant growth on river banks should be retained and protected. All these features have an intrinsic value and are integral to the visual and aesthetic quality of the riverside environment.

- *Conserve and enhance the wooded continuity of the river gorge and enhance its value as a landscape, wildlife and recreation corridor.*

The wooded river gorge of this landscape type forms a key linear feature and important landscape and wildlife corridor. To maintain this value, natural regeneration of bankside trees should be encouraged. Planting new trees and small copses may also be appropriate in places, especially where they complement existing tree cover and where they reflect the sinuous nature of the watercourse. Consideration should be given to encouraging more recreational access along the river bank.

RIVER VALLEY

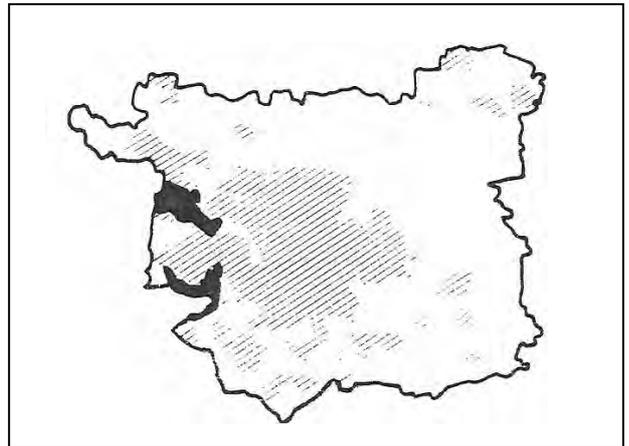
Landscape character

The river valley landscape type occurs in two landscape units: the Calverley Valley (LCM1 X); and the Cockersdale Valley (LCMI9).

It forms an intact and distinctive river valley, defined by a prominent valley landform. The flat narrow valley floor generally contains a mix of land uses, including pastoral farmland, areas of amenity or recreational use and isolated pockets of industry or public utility works. Woodland, mainly semi-natural, lines stretches of the river banks, forming a strong linear feature alongside communication lines such as railways, canals and roads which can also be present. Woodland is prominent on the steeper valley slopes, providing an important recreational and visual resource and surrounding pockets of intact pasture. These tend to be bordered by drystone walls or a strong pattern of hedgerows.

Forces for change

The river valleys generally form intact rural corridors, in close proximity to the urban areas which dominate views along the higher ground. Due to the proximity of the urban edge, this landscape is under pressure from urban influences, including industrial development and formal recreational facilities such as golf courses. Where the countryside has remained generally intact, the main changes appear to be related to a gradual decline in the condition of field boundaries, particularly hedges which have become overgrown and gappy.



Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the river valley landscape type should be a careful balance between conservation of the intact, rural pastoral and wooded features of the river valley, combined with restoration where these features are in decline or where urban influences are beginning to encroach.

Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the river valley landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described elsewhere in separate documents, references as above left.

- *Conserve areas of permanent pasture.* Permanent pasture is a characteristic feature along the river valley and slopes. Where pasture occurs, particularly that which has remained undisturbed for many years, it should be conserved and managed as low input grassland, to increase its value for landscape and wildlife. Any tree planting should be designed to avoid the best areas of pasture.

- *Identify opportunities for recreating riverside wet land habitats*
Reedbeds and marshland are typically associated with river corridors. These habitats are particularly important for wildlife and give an element of naturalness to river landscapes. Any remaining wetlands should be conserved and opportunities should be sought for creating new wetlands in certain areas.
- *Control the adverse effects of horse grazing in inappropriate locations.*
In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for the use of land for horse grazing, including around the fringes of urban areas. In places this has had a significant impact on the landscape with the proliferation of temporary structures and ancillary buildings with impoverishment of pasture due to overgrazing. Where possible, these adverse effects of horse grazing should be controlled, to avoid increasing the 'suburban' influence in the river valley landscape.
- *Conserve and enhance tree cover through regeneration and replanting of field boundary trees.*
Scale and enclosure in this landscape are controlled by the nature of the topography, field pattern and the density of the woodland and tree cover. Hedgerow trees and trees alongside roads and lanes reinforce the impression of enclosure. To maintain and enhance this, natural regeneration of hedgerow trees should be encouraged wherever possible, although replanting could be undertaken if necessary, using locally occurring native tree species .
- *Enhance the continuity of the river channel through appropriate tree and shrub planting.*
Within the generally well wooded river valleys, strip woodland and waterside trees and scrub are important features, contributing to the riverside environment.

To maintain this effect, natural regeneration of trees should be encouraged and planting of new trees and copses may also be appropriate, especially where they complement existing tree cover or can act as screening for industrial developments in the valley. Locally occurring native species and shrubs should be used and where possible, planting should also aim to keep one bankside clear to maintain a variety of wildlife habitats

- *Where opportunities exist, consider restoring areas of former parkland.*
Although landscaped parks are not a particular feature within this landscape type, there are some remnant areas for example around Rawdon Hall Farm. As well as their historical importance, parklands provide diversity and interest in the landscape. True parkland in permanent grassland with large scattered trees is in decline. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to reinstating areas of former park and new planting to replace old trees.
- *Conserve and strengthen the characteristic pattern of small and medium sized fields.*
Field pattern is a dominant visual element, particularly on the valley slopes. The small and medium sized fields are typically bounded by thorn hedges or drystone walls. In places, the hedges are becoming overgrown and gappy and the walls falling into disrepair. This results in a more open neglected looking landscape. Many hedges would benefit from more appropriate management, which would include traditional management techniques such as coppicing and planting up of individual gaps. In addition, walls should be restored, with priority given to restoring those along roadsides and along farm boundaries.

SMALL SCALE FARMED RIDGES & VALLEYS



Landscape character

The small scale farmed ridges and valleys landscape type occurs in only one landscape unit: Wike Ridge to East Rigton (MGP5).

It is characterised by an undulating series of settled and farmed ridges and valleys, crossed by a number of streams and becks. The ridges tend to be open, with a regular pattern of larger arable fields and with little tree cover. In contrast, the valleys are characterised by small fields of permanent pasture, grazed by sheep, cattle and horses.

Hedgerows are prominent on the slopes and within the valleys, with linear semi-natural woodlands occurring along the winding becks. A high density of closely spaced settlements with traditional village cores are linked by a network of minor roads. New developments include a number of golf courses which stretch along the valley slopes. Views from within are constantly changing depending on the nature of the landform.

Forces for change

One of the characteristic features of the small scale farmed ridges and valleys, is the contrast between the enclosed pastoral and wooded valleys and the more open arable farmland on the higher ground. The valleys appear to have undergone little change in recent years, remaining fairly intact. On the valley slopes and along the ridge tops,

however, many of the characteristic farmland features are showing signs of neglect, with hedgerows becoming gappy and many hedgerow and roadside trees dying without being replaced. Remnant parkland areas have also fallen into decline. Recent influences include the development of new housing around some of the villages and the construction of several golf courses, which lend a 'manicured' feel to the rural landscape.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the small scale farmed ridges and valleys landscape type should aim to maintain the contrast between the open ridges and the more enclosed valleys whilst maintaining the integrity of the settlements. It should be a careful balance between conservation of the characteristic features of the landscape and restoration of these features where they are in decline.

Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the small scale farmed ridges and valleys landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in separate documents, using the references above left.

- *Any new development should reinforce the existing pattern of small rural villages. whilst preserving their character and individual identities.*
Within this landscape type, there are a number of closely spaced villages, each with their individual and characteristic identities. Conservation of this character and individuality should be a priority and all new development should be carefully sited and seek to harmonise with the local vernacular styles.
- *Seek to retain grassland along the valley bottoms and where possible consider a re/urn to traditional grassland management.*
Traditionally, the valley bottoms in this area would have been used for grazing. Although this is still the case in the majority of places, improvements in drainage have resulted in some fields being under arable production. This has the effect of breaking up the wooded and pastoral continuity of the river corridor. Given the current need to reduce surplus cereal production and to control nitrate leaching into water courses, the valleys would be suitable areas to return to permanent pasture and to return to traditional grassland management.
- *Conserve and enhance the wooded continuity of the river valleys and enhance their value as landscape. wildlife and recreation corridors.*
The series of wooded valleys within this landscape type form key linear features and important landscape and wildlife corridors. To maintain this value, natural regeneration of bankside trees should be encouraged. New small scale planting may also be appropriate, designed to reflect the sinuous nature of the watercourses, but care should be taken to avoid ecologically important sites, such as unimproved grasslands. Consideration should be given to encouraging recreational access along these valleys.
- *Conserve and enhance tree cover in the valleys and on the valley slopes through regeneration and replanting of hedgerow trees.*
Hedgerow trees are important features within this landscape type, particularly in the valleys and on the valley slopes, helping to reinforce the feeling of enclosure. To maintain and enhance this tree cover, natural regeneration of hedgerow trees should be encouraged wherever possible or new planting should be carried out, using locally occurring native species.
- *Where opportunities exist, consider restoring areas of former parkland.*
Although landscaped parks are not a particularly prominent feature within this landscape type, there are some remnant areas. As well as their historical importance, parklands provide diversity and interest in the landscape. True parkland in permanent grassland with large scattered trees is in decline. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to reinstating areas of former park and new planting to replace old trees.
- *Seek to control field amalgamation and hedgerow loss, particularly along the ridge tops. restoring hedges where these have been lost or are in poor condition.*
Field pattern is one of the dominant visual elements in this landscape, particularly along the valley slopes and the ridge tops, forming a structure that complements the settled character of the landscape. The regular fields are bounded by mixed and thorn hedgerows. In places, particularly on the ridge tops, hedgerows are becoming thin and gappy, which results in a more open, neglected landscape. Replacement hedgerow planting or restoration through more appropriate management should be encouraged in these areas, complementing the shape and scale of existing fields.

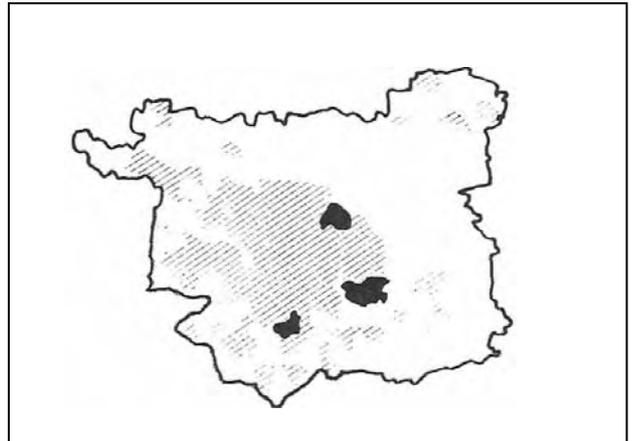
URBAN FRINGE PARKLANDS

Landscape character

Occurring on the north, east and southern fringes of the city, the urban fringe parkland landscape type is found in three landscape units: Roundhay (LCM9); Temple Newsam (LCM10); and Middleton (LCM11). It is characterised by small, but self-contained designed parkland landscapes some of which form the grounds of old halls and manor houses built during the 18th and 19th centuries. These parkland areas were once located outside the urban area, but due to steady urban encroachment, they now lie on the edge of the City. Managed as urban parks and well used by local communities as well as visitors from further afield, these parks provide a valuable urban landscape and recreational resource. Typical characteristics include designed features such as ponds and lakes, tree avenues, woods, copses and plantations, and open areas of amenity grassland. Occurring on the north, east and southern fringes of the city, this landscape type is found in three landscape units: Roundhay, Temple Newsam; and Middleton.

Forces for change

All of the urban fringe parklands were designed and developed when they lay some way outside the urban area of Leeds. Today, the parks and their immediate surrounds are partially enclosed by residential development. Although many features of the parks have remained unchanged since their original design, changes have occurred in later years, such as the addition of golf courses, playing fields and other public amenities. In addition, Temple Newsam has also been affected by past opencast coal mining activities.



The pastoral farmland areas around some of the parks remain largely intact, although in places there appears to have been a gradual decline in the condition of hedgerows. Future change could occur with any proposed development close to the parks, for example the proposed A1-M link road, to the south of Temple Newsam.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the urban fringe parklands landscape type should be a careful combination of conservation of the historic and characteristic parkland features, combined with restoration of these features where they are in decline or have been lost. There are also opportunities for restoration of farmland features such as hedgerows in the areas adjacent to the parks and where activities such as opencast have had an impact, for example at Middleton and Temple Newsam.

Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the urban fringe parklands landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in separate documents, using the references above left.

- *Conserve and restore if appropriate, areas of existing parkland.*
Large landscaped public parks, dating from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries and now lying on the urban fringe are the distinctive feature of this landscape. As well as their historical importance, these parklands and their associated developments such as golf courses and sports pitches, provide diversity and interest in the landscape and have an important role in providing for formal and informal recreational activities. These parks should be managed to conserve their landscape value.

Wherever possible it is important to encourage the replacement of old trees or plantings where areas have become degraded as a result of activities such as opencasting. 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 to help manage existing areas through incentives such as the Countryside Stewardship scheme, 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 and provide wooded horizons along the built up urban fringe. 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 strengthen the pattern of small hedged pastoral fields around the edges of the parkland.*
Around the edges of two out of the three urban fringe park lands, there are areas of small hedged pastoral fields, which may have formed part of a wider parkland estate in the past. These intact fields complement the parkland settings and should be conserved. Typically they are bounded by hedgerows, which in places are becoming overgrown and gappy or have been replaced by wire fencing which results in a more open neglected landscape. Management through coppicing, laying and replanting should be encouraged to complement the shape and scale of existing fields.

WOODED ESCARPMENT

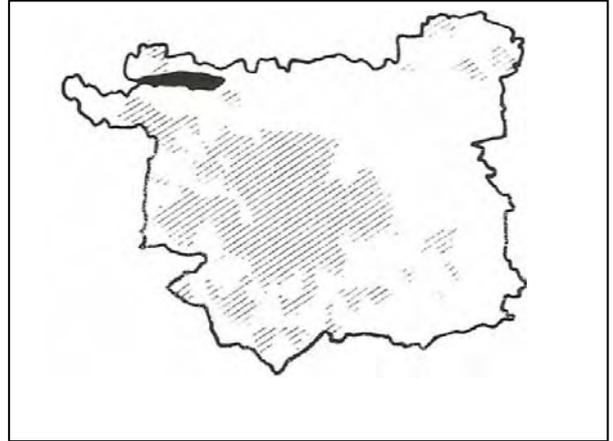
Landscape character

The wooded escarpment landscape type occurs in only one landscape unit: The Chevin (WHF4). It is characterised by a steep sided wooded escarpment occurring on the Millstone Grit escarpment overlooking the Wharfe Valley. The ridge top is characterised by regular, fairly large fields of pasture, bounded by low stone walls, with areas of open heathland forming part of the Chevin Forest Country Park.

The slopes are dominated by dense mixed and coniferous plantations, which extend along the scarp, with only small pockets of isolated pasture to break up their unity. These areas of pasture are bounded by drystone walls and hedgerows. This is a sparsely populated area, with only isolated farm buildings lying along the top of the ridge and scattered housing along the base of the slope. Spectacular views over the Wharfe Valley and beyond can be gained from the top of the escarpment.

Forces for change

One of the most significant changes in the past along the wooded escarpment has been the planting of mixed and coniferous woodland. This has gone hand in hand with a decrease in the amount of heath land present, particularly along higher areas, although current changes in land cover are managed and controlled through the designation of much of the area as a Country Park.



Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the wooded escarpment landscape type should be to conserve the characteristic features of the area, which make it of importance, not only in landscape terms but also for recreation and wildlife interests.

Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the wooded escarpment landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape unit are described in a separate document, using the reference listed above left.

- *Opportunities should be sought for creating heathland habitats during the restoration of mineral workings.* Restoration of the old quarries along the wooded escarpment can offer positive opportunities for creative conservation and enhancement of landscape character, in particular the creation of heath land. Currently restoration includes tree planting and while this is appropriate on the slopes, it is not as appropriate on the open escarpment top, where it may appear incongruous against its immediate surrounds and may block views over the surrounding area. Restoration to heath land, if this is done as part of an overall plan for the wider area, may be more suitable.

- *Identify opportunities for re-establishing heather moorland on suitable sites.*
Heather moorland once covered a larger area in the Leeds District than it does today, with fields previously reclaimed from the moorland and improved for grazing. With the recent changes in agricultural policy and the introduction of schemes such as Countryside Stewardship, the creation of a diverse heather moorland covering a larger area than it does at present on the open escarpment top, could be considered on sites where the soils are suitable. This would provide visual diversity, enhance nature conservation interest and re-establish an important historic feature in the landscape.
- *Conserve the wooded character of the escarpment.*
The major feature of the steeply sloping escarpment is its well wooded nature. Although not an Ancient Woodland, the existing mixed planted woodlands are an important landscape, wildlife and recreational resource. This interest can be enhanced through sympathetic management, with the natural regeneration of native broadleaves encouraged where possible. To maintain species diversity, management should also favour small scale felling coupes.
- *Discourage additional areas of coniferous planting and encourage the diversification of existing areas and softening of edges, through deciduous planting.*
The coniferous plantations along the escarpment form a dark mass of woodland, with generally sharp and regular outlines. Additional areas of coniferous planting should be discouraged, with the aim being to soften the edges of existing woods through deciduous planting. This is particularly appropriate where the plantation levels out on the escarpment top, where particular attention needs to be given to the nature of woodland edges. Any new planting within the existing woodland should be predominantly broad leaved in character, although selection of suitable species will need to reflect a wide range of considerations, including the balance to be struck between nature conservation, landscape enhancement, recreation and timber production.
- *Conserve and restore field boundary walls along the escarpment.*
Drystone walls made from the local millstone grit are a characteristic feature, defining fields of pasture, particularly along the lower slopes. In places, these walls are in poor condition and where possible should be conserved. Priority should be given to restoring those along roadsides and farm boundaries.

WOODED FARMLAND

Landscape character

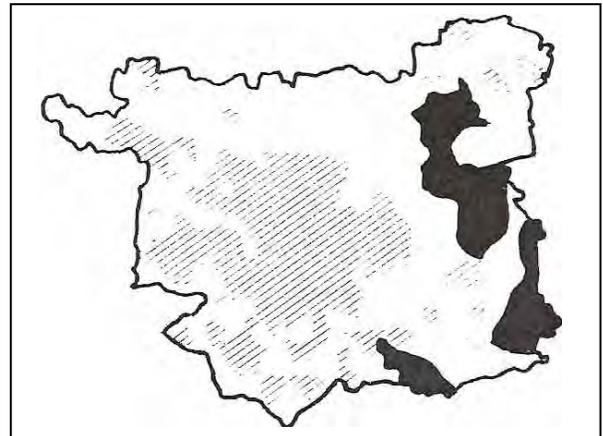
The wooded farmland landscape type occurs mainly within the Eastern Limestone Belt and can be found in four landscape units: Methley Park (LCM17); West Bramham (ELB5); Aberford (ELB6); and Ledsham to Lotherton (ELB7). It forms gently rolling or undulating areas of large scale arable farmland characterised by large blocks of mixed woodland. Many of these woodland blocks are sharp edged and regular in shape, forming part of old and existing estate holdings.

In contrast, strips of semi-natural woodland form attractive, softer features along valley becks. Both these types of woodland help create a well wooded horizon when the area is viewed from within. Pockets of pasture occur around some of the settlements and around large houses, but the open arable fields predominate.

These tend to be bordered by low gappy hedgerows, with only occasional hedgerow trees breaking up the simple pattern. Small rural villages and isolated, generally large farm buildings, lie scattered within these areas.

Forces for change

The main influence on the evolution of the wooded farmland areas has been the development and management of much of the land as part of large parkland and estate holdings. This has tended to result in the simple but characteristic pattern of large areas of mixed plantations and intervening areas of arable farmland. This pattern has remained largely intact, although changing agricultural practices have resulted in a gradual decline in the condition of hedgerows, which tend to be low cut and gappy, and a consequential fragmentation of the field pattern. Future change could occur with proposed new commercial or highway development in the area.



Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the wooded farmland landscape type should be one of conservation of the characteristic features. In some areas, this should be combined with a careful balance of restoration, where parkland and farmland features are in decline. Enhancement through new planting may be appropriate, but this should reinforce the existing pattern of tree cover rather than creating a new character.

Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the wooded farmland landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in separate documents, using the references above.

- *Conserve and enhance the pastoral and wooded continuity of the narrow valleys and enhance their value as landscape, wildlife and recreation corridors.*
The isolated pastoral and wooded valleys lying along small becks or streams form key linear features and important landscape and wildlife corridors in an otherwise cultivated area. To maintain this value, areas of pasture should be retained and consideration given to returning bankside arable fields to grassland. In addition, natural regeneration of bankside trees should be encouraged and consideration given to encouraging recreational access along the valleys.

- *Conserve and restore existing parkland and where opportunities arise, consider restoring areas of former parkland.*
Landscape parks and their surrounding estates are the distinctive feature of this landscape, providing much of the woodland cover so characteristic of this area. 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 existing areas. Wherever possible it is important to retain the peaceful character of traditional parkland and to encourage new planting to replace old trees. Planting should respect the original design intentions of individual parks, which may involve historical research and drawing up a restoration plan. Where opportunities arise through incentives such as the Countryside Stewardship scheme to help manage existing areas, these should be investigated.
- *Conserve the wooded character of mature roadside trees.*
Roadside trees are important features along some roads, helping to increase the well wooded nature of this landscape type. Many of these trees are mature and form remnants of tree avenues which were planted as part of the designed parkland and estates which are common throughout. These mature trees need to be retained until other trees have grown to replace them. To maintain and enhance this tree cover, new planting should be carried out, using species planted in the original avenue designs.
- *Conserve existing tree cover and enhance where tree cover is weaker, through medium scale planting.*
Due to the well wooded nature of this landscape, there are probably limited opportunities for significant amounts of new planting. However, where the tree cover is weaker, there may be opportunities for medium scale planting to enhance and complement the overall wooded effect. Woods up to field size may be appropriate, but care should be taken not to block off views through the landscape. Small woodland may appear out of scale in this landscape type
- *New planting along woodland edges should favour native trees.*
The gently rolling nature of this landscape is such that woodland edges are the most prominent features. As a result a major part of many large woods cannot be seen. These woods are suited to commercial forestry operations, although if lines of conifers appear along woodland edges they can present an unnatural appearance. This effect could be softened by the inclusion of well shaped and scaled, irregularly spaced groups of broadleaves to vary species height and diversity.
- *Conserve and restore all primary hedgerows and manage them more positively as landscape features.*
The landscape of the wooded farmlands is characterised in the main by a large scale regular field pattern infused with large blocks of woodland. Field pattern is not a dominant visual influence where woodland cover is strong. However, where tree cover is weaker, the field pattern becomes more significant and here it is important to avoid any further fragmentation of the landscape. In particular, it is important to conserve primary hedgelines, along roadsides, bridleways, footpaths and farm and parish boundaries. In addition, they should be managed more positively as landscape features, planting up individual gaps where appropriate.
- *Conserve the wooded linear earthworks.*
One of the characteristic features of the wooded farmland are the linear earthworks, which are prominent due to their scrub and woodland cover. As well as their historic importance, these earthbanks provide important linear tree cover, which has the visual effect of linking together separate areas of woodland. These earthbanks should be conserved and their wooded cover managed to conserve and enhance their value.

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.

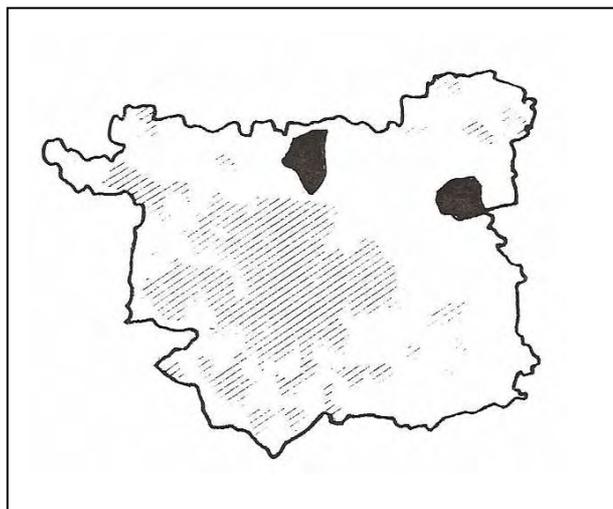
These grounds normally contain designed landscape features such as tree avenues, lakes or ponds and built features such as churches and temples. Parkland trees lie dotted amongst large fields of sheep grazed pasture or arable farmland. Blocks of planted woodland, both deciduous and coniferous, are a 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.

WOODED PLATEAU EDGE VALLEYS



Landscape character

The wooded plateau edge valleys landscape type occurs in two landscape units: Hawksworth Gill (MGP7) and Moseley Beck (MGP8). It is characterised by small scale and intimate, occasionally steep sided valleys on the edge of the Millstone Grit Plateau, which provide a pleasant contrast in scale and character to the more open plateau areas above.

Deciduous woodland lines the banks of the becks, with blocks of planted woodland also present. At the edge of the woodlands and extending up the valley slopes, small intact and irregularly shaped fields of sheep and cattle-grazed pasture lie interspersed with pockets of degraded pasture and rank grassland. Isolated farms and houses line the roads which cross or run down into the valleys. Views from within are generally confined by the valley form.

Forces for change

These wooded plateau edge valleys have undergone little noticeable change in recent years, with many of their characteristic features remaining intact. The main pressures, however, have resulted from the construction of new chalet and caravan development, which although not particularly visible, can appear incongruous alongside the traditional farm buildings elsewhere in the area. There has also been a gradual deterioration in the condition of field boundaries within this landscape type.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the wooded plateau edge valleys landscape type should be a careful balance between conservation of the characteristic features of the wooded valleys and restoration of these features where their condition is beginning to decline. Management guidelines, which are applicable for all the landscape units within the wooded plateau edge valley landscape type, are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in separate documents, using the references listed above left.

- *Conserve and enhance the wooded continuity of the valleys and enhance their value as landscape, wildlife and recreation corridors.*

The wooded valleys within this landscape type form key linear features and important landscape and wildlife corridors. To maintain this value, natural regeneration of bankside trees should be encouraged. New small scale planting may also be appropriate, designed to reflect the sinuous nature of the watercourses, but care should be taken to avoid ecologically important sites, such as unimproved grasslands and wetland areas. Consideration should be given to encouraging recreational access along these valleys.

- *Conserve the wooded character of mature boundary and roadside trees.*

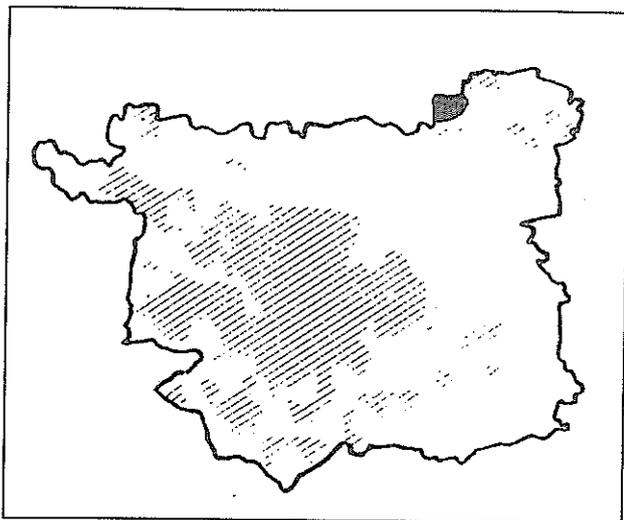
Boundary and roadside trees are important features within this landscape type, helping to reinforce the feeling of enclosure and providing an attractive setting for the roads which lead off the plateau. Many of these trees are mature and need to be retained until other trees have grown to replace them. To maintain and enhance this tree cover, natural regeneration of trees should be encouraged wherever possible or new planting should be carried out, using locally occurring native species such as oak.

PART 3

LANDSCAPE UNITS

This section includes individual sections on each of the 45 separate landscape units. Each one includes:

- a diagrammatic map showing where the area is located;
- a description of the landscape character of the unit, including a list of its key characteristics;
- a summary of the particular forces for change affecting the landscape;
- a statement of the general management strategy which should apply;
- a summary of specific guidelines for landscape management which are additional to those relating to the landscape type as a whole (in Part 2).



Key characteristics

- *gently rolling plateau*
- *large regular arable fields*
- *small pockets of ley pasture*
- *isolated hedgerow trees*
- *small deciduous copses*
- *isolated parkland*

Landscape character

Small area of **arable plateau farmland** lying on the edge of the District and rising steeply up from the Wharfe Valley to a high point of 80 metres. Similar in nature to the plateau farmland around Hollin House, the area is characterised by large, fairly regular fields of arable farmland and horticulture, interspersed with smaller fields of sheep and cattle grazed pasture. Hedgerows are dotted with isolated hedgerow trees, with occasional conspicuous hedgerows forming prominent features. Deciduous woodland occurs in small copses at Spring Wood, Cow Wood and West Wood. A small pocket of parkland with distinctive parkland trees at Linton Spring provides an attractive contrast where it forms part of the larger Stockeld Park which stretches away to the north.

Forces for change

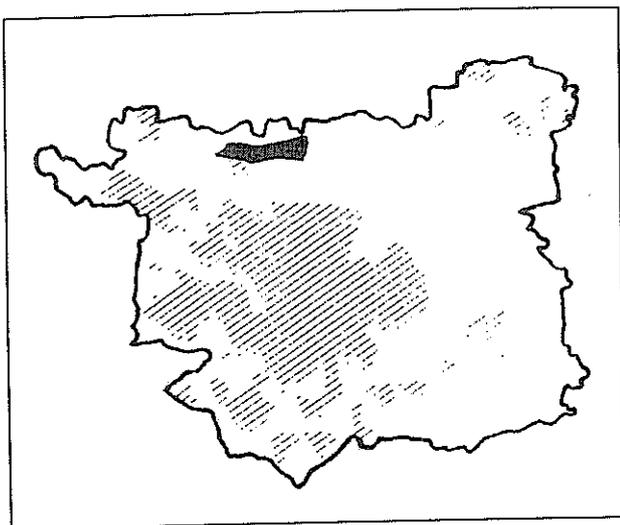
One of the features of the Linton Hills Plateau is the open, undeveloped cultivated nature of the plateau. In recent years, although there does not appear to have been a lot of change in the area, the main pressures appear to have been related to agricultural intensification, with the amalgamation of fields into larger units increasing the sense of openness on the plateau. This has been further emphasised by the loss of hedgerows with some being poorly maintained and suffering from neglect. Today, with the new EC set-aside rules, the amount of set-aside land in areas such as this is likely to increase, creating new opportunities for land management.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the cultivated Linton Hills should be one of enhancement through **restoration**, where traditional farmland features are beginning to break down. Opportunities for new woodland planting are limited, but small scale planting as screening for intrusive farm buildings and encouragement of natural regeneration around the existing woodland in the valley would be suitable, taking care to maintain the characteristic open nature of the plateau.

All guidelines relating to the arable plateau farmland landscape type are applicable for the Linton Hills landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *new small scale woodland planting may be appropriate around farm buildings such as at Linton Spring, although these should be carefully designed to conserve and strengthen the open nature of the plateau;*
- *encourage natural regeneration around the strip woodland in the valley;*
- *conserve and restore remnant areas of parkland such as at Linton Spring, maintaining its contrast with the surrounding farmland.*



Landscape character

Narrow **pastoral escarpment**, running from the wooded area of the Chevin to the western edge of Harewood. Dropping steeply from 160 metres down to 50 metres, the escarpment widens out in the east at Rawdon Hill, to form two separate escarpments with a gentle dip slope in between. An enclosed and secluded valley lies within the dip slope, crossed by minor roads and characterised by larger, more regular fields of pasture and arable farmland. To the west, the escarpment is dominated by intact sheep and cattle grazed pastures, with areas of rough grassland and scrub on the steeper slopes. Throughout, woodland is a prominent feature in views, with the coniferous plantation on Rawden Hill crowning the hill top on which it stands. Elsewhere hedgerow trees, and those along the railway embankment, and the mixed woodlands of Crag, Blanket and Hollins Woods, Fox Covert and Bog Plantation add to the well wooded nature. A characteristic feature of this area are the sunken roads or 'green lanes' which lead from the open plateau to the south over the escarpment and down to the River Wharfe. These old lanes, with their ancient hedgerows and mature roadside trees are important remnants of a former way of life, adding to local landscape character, as well as being long established wildlife corridors. Quarrying occurs on a small scale at the Arthington Quarry, which lies hidden on the higher slopes of the escarpment.

Key characteristics

- *steeply sloping escarpment*
- *intact sheep and cattle grazed pastures*
- *pockets of rough grassland and scrub*
- *mixed coverts and copses*
- *hedgerow trees*
- *narrow sunken lanes*
- *views over Wharfe Valley*

Forces for change

The essence of the West Harewood escarpment is the unifying and dominant effect that landform has on its character. This has influenced land use and cover, resulting in a pastoral area which has probably remained little changed over the last century. Perhaps one of the greatest changes has related to the nature of tree cover. Although the small deciduous and mixed copses and coverts have been characteristic features for many years, the mature mixed plantation on top of Rawdon Hill is a relatively recent and prominent addition.

Management strategy and guidelines

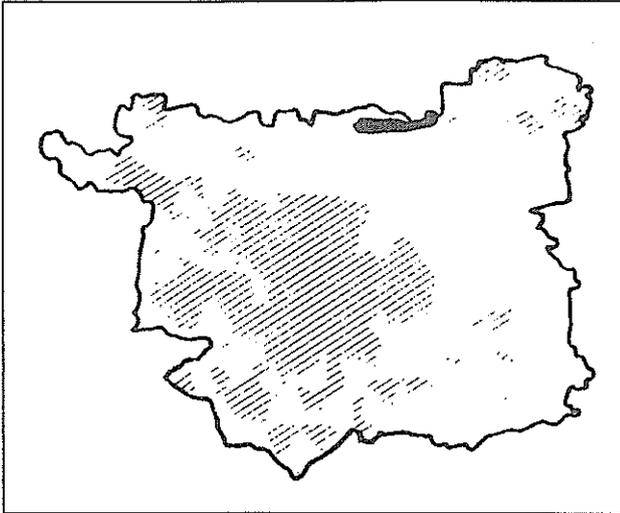
The overall management strategy for the West Harewood escarpment should be one of **conservation** of the important and characteristic features of the wooded and pastoral slope. There may be some limited opportunities for enhancing the pattern of wooded copses and coverts through small scale planting.

All guidelines relating to the pastoral escarpment landscape type are applicable for the West Harewood escarpment landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *control the spread of further quarrying activities along the escarpment and maintain the dense wooded screen around the existing Arthington quarry to reduce the degree of visual intrusion*

- encourage natural regeneration along the railway embankment, maintaining the strong linear wooded nature of this feature;
- discourage additional areas of coniferous woodland and seek to soften the edges of mixed plantations such as Rawdon Hill, with deciduous planting.

WHF3 EAST HAREWOOD ESCARPMENT



Key characteristics

- steeply sloping escarpment
- pockets of rough grazing and scrub
- small fields of sheep and cattle grazed pasture
- low thorn hedgerows
- small mixed copses and plantations
- ancient green lanes
- views over Wharfe Valley

Landscape character

This steep **pastoral escarpment** overlooking the Wharfe floodplain, stretches in a narrow band from Harewood in the west to Collingham in the east. The steepness of the slope precludes many agricultural activities, resulting in a landscape dominated by small scale sheep pasture, areas of rough grazing and isolated pockets of scrub. Low fences and thorn hedgerows with isolated hedgerow trees drop steeply down the slope, as do a number of narrow tracks and paths, some of which are remnants of ancient green lanes. Small mixed and coniferous plantations and copses lie along the higher slopes, being particularly prominent in views from the north. Along the top of the ridge, the line of trees bordering Harewood Avenue, form the visual horizon to views from both the north and south, although as the woodland begins to thin out, movements of vehicles along the main A569 become exposed to the eye. Where the escarpment narrows in the east at the afforested and prominent Ox Close, arable farming starts to appear on the gentler gradients. Few buildings occur on the escarpment, although recent leisure developments include a Hill Climb Course with its associated circuitous trackways, which cover a large section of the escarpment.

Forces for change

In a similar respect to the West Harewood escarpment, the major underlying influence on the East Harewood escarpment is the unifying and dominant effect that landform has on its character. This has influenced land use and cover, resulting in a mainly pastoral area which has probably remained little changed over the last century. Notable changes which have occurred include a gradual decline in the condition of field boundaries, in particular hedgerows. More recent change has occurred with the development of a hill-climb course, which takes up a substantial area along the escarpment.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the East Harewood escarpment should be one of **conservation** of the important and characteristic features of the wooded and pastoral slope, combined with **restoration** of the traditional farmland features such as hedgerows where these are in decline. There may be some limited opportunities for enhancing the pattern of wooded copses and coverts through small scale planting.

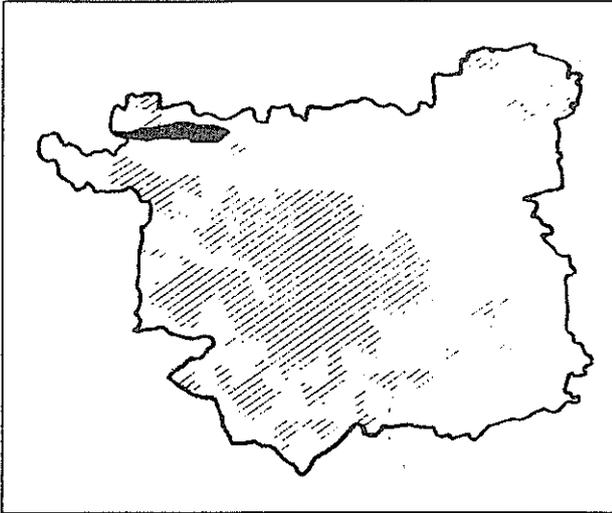
All guidelines relating to the pastoral escarpment landscape type are applicable for the East Harewood escarpment landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- control the expansion or further development of leisure facilities on the slope, such as the hill climb course at Stockton Farm;

- instigate a programme of tree planting to restore the visually important line of trees along Harewood Avenue.

WHP4

THE CHEVIN



Landscape character

The wooded escarpment of the Chevin rises high above the Wharfe Valley, dominating the market town of Otley which lies below in its shadow. This steep sided escarpment, characterised by dense deciduous and coniferous woodland cover, opens out at its 270 metre high summit to provide on a clear day, magnificent views over the Wharfe Valley and beyond to the hills of the Pennines. The ridge top is characterised by regular, fairly large fields of pasture, bounded by low stone walls which become smaller, enclosed and more isolated as one moves down the slope. A colourful mix of grass and heathland type vegetation and exposed boulders and crags crown the top of the Chevin, in places worn down by the constant trample of feet on this well used and popular site. Two main areas of woodland crossed by numerous footpaths and tracks, dominate the escarpment. These are the mixed plantations of Great Dib in the west and the sharp edged coniferous plantations of the Chevin Forest Park in the east. The main East Chevin Road separates the two, climbing steeply up from the valley below. Along the lower slopes of the escarpment lie a series of regular fields of rough grazing and pasture bounded by stone walls and hedgerows, and providing the link between the wooded landscape to the north and the broad open floodplain of the Wharfe below. Although a sparsely populated area, isolated farm buildings lie along the top of the ridge, with scattered housing along the lower slopes adjacent to Otley. Past

Key characteristics

- steeply sloping wooded escarpment
- heathland
- boulders and crags
- dense deciduous and coniferous plantations
- regular walled fields of pasture on open tops
- network of footpaths
- old revegetated quarries
- panoramic views

small scale quarrying activities are in evidence along the upper slopes, their past use being gradually being concealed as the areas begin to revegetate.

"A craggy cliff hangs over the town of Otley, threatening it with immediate destruction, but on arriving at the summit, the variety of views that present themselves are truly stunning" (Margaret Slack, 1984).

Forces for change

Planting of the mixed woodland of Great Dib and the coniferous woodland of the Chevin Forest Park have probably been the major changes in the past, having a significant impact along the length of the escarpment. This has gone hand in hand with a decrease in the amount of heathland present, particularly along the higher areas, although current changes in land cover are managed and controlled through the designation of much of the area as a Country Park. The Chevin is important locally and regionally in providing for opportunities for recreation and tourism. The pressure of visitors, particularly around 'honey-pot' areas such as the rocky outcrop close to the top car park has resulted in problems of erosion. If allowed to spread, these eroded areas can have a localised, but significant visual impact on the landscape.

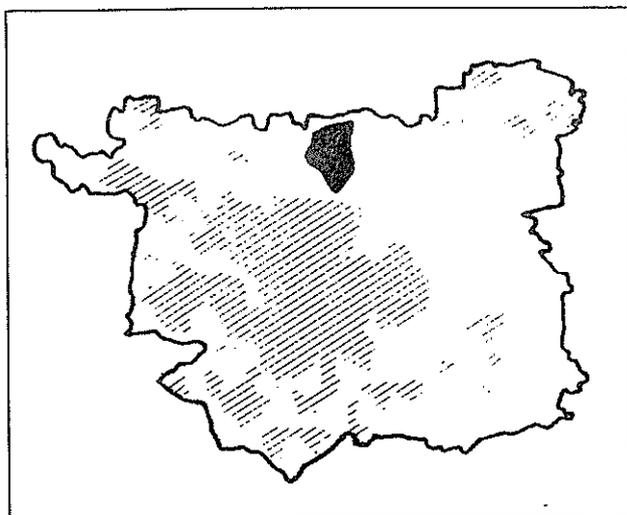
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Chevin should be to conserve the characteristic features of the area which make it of local and regional importance not only in landscape terms, but also for recreation and wildlife interests.

All guidelines relating to the wooded escarpment landscape type are applicable for the Chevin landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- encourage the diversification of existing areas of coniferous plantation in the Chevin Forest Park and softening of edges such as the edge adjacent to Fuller Springs, through deciduous planting;
- seek to control erosion, particularly around 'honey-pot' areas, such as on the rocky outcrop close to the top car park. Identify opportunities for re-establishing heather moorland on such sites.

WHF5 HAREWOOD



Key characteristics

- designed self contained landscape
- undulating pastoral parkland
- dense wooded mixed plantations
- parkland trees
- large imposing house
- woodland in valley bottoms
- isolated farms and churches

Landscape character

Undulating and scenic area of wooded parkland, designed by Capability Brown in the eighteenth century and forming the Harewood Estate and its immediate surrounds. The imposing house stands at the centre of the estate, surrounded by a lake, gardens, peaceful wooded grounds and open fields of sheep grazed pasture dotted with parkland trees. The woodland, most of which has been planted as part of the original designs for the house, forms a patchwork of dense stands and larger mixed plantations. Distant views towards the house are often framed by these woodlands, and can only be gained from the footpaths which circle the area, the lack of roads increasing the sense of self containment which is characteristic of this landscape. In the secluded valley bottoms, dense woodland hides ponds and small streams, the mix of actively managed deciduous and coniferous trees providing a contrast of colour and texture throughout the year. Harewood Castle and the

ancient church, both of which nestle within woodland and the isolated farms belonging to or adjacent to the estate are the only other buildings in the area, other than the house itself.

"Harewood is one of the most beautiful domains in the kingdom....with a widely extended view of Wharfedale which may within the compass of a short walk, be contrasted with the soft and beautiful home scene which opens up around the house" (Whitaker, quoted by Linstrum 1978)

"Fine natural wood, with glens, rock, a copious mountain stream, the ruin of an old castle on a hill, all situated in the richest country and with distant views of the Cumberland mountains" (Warner 1802)

Forces for change

The Harewood grounds and estate form an important self contained landscape, removed from the pressures and changes affecting the landscape elsewhere around Leeds. As such, the landscape that can be seen today is a mature reflection of the original designed landscape planned in the eighteenth century.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for Harewood should be one of **conservation** of the historic

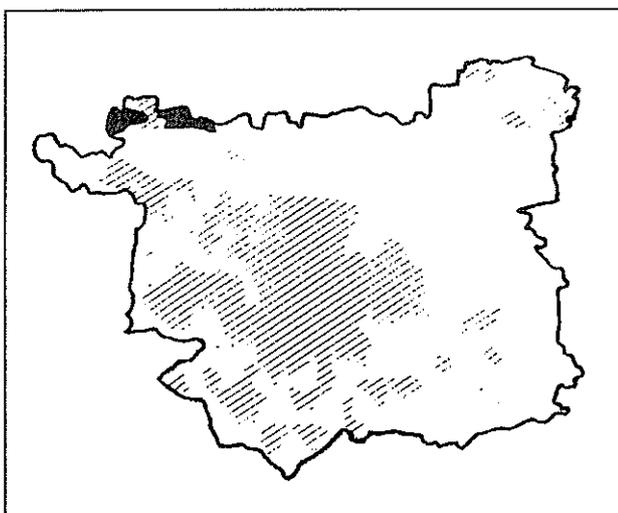
features, through appropriate management of the estate.

All guidelines relating to the wooded parkland landscape type are applicable for the Harewood landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *open up views from the north towards Harewood Castle, through suitable felling or tree surgery adjacent to the ruin;*
- *open up views from the top of the escarpment to the north over Wharfedale, through suitable felling or tree surgery.*

WHF6

OTLEY TO POOL FLOODPLAIN



Key characteristics

- *broad flat floodplain*
- *riverside towns and villages*
- *sand and gravel extraction*
- *open water gravel pits*
- *small scale pastures*
- *isolated hedgerow trees*
- *tree lined meanders*
- *small scale industrial development*

Landscape character

Flat, fairly broad **river floodplain** of the Wharfe, stretching between the market town of Otley in the west and the village of Pool in the east. This stretch of floodplain owes its distinctive character to the nature of the underlying geology and the activities of sand and gravel excavation which have in places changed the character of the local landscape. Where excavating activities have ceased, areas of open water lie hidden when viewed from close by or where they are screened by dense overgrown hedgerows. From high up on the Chevin however, the recently restored pits lie open to view, sitting clearly and conspicuously amongst their level surrounds. Where land lies untouched by excavation, particularly in the east, areas of small scale pasture with isolated hedgerow trees predominate. In many places, the field structure is starting to break down, with gappy hedgerows or long lines of fencing common throughout. The

River Wharfe itself, meanders lazily through the floodplain, its route sometimes only evident by the attractive line of trees which hug the curves. Elsewhere, trees are confined to areas of old parkland, for example at Maple Grange, as poplar belts along roads, or in sycamore screens to shield unsightly developments such as sewage works at Knotford. The main settlement in the floodplain, Otley, is a pleasant old market town, spanning the River Wharfe via an old stone bridge of seven arches. Recreation grounds and a nearby golf course lie along the fringes. Further along to the east, Pool, with its prominent church and old mills, also has its share of modern development, with an visible industrial development lying along the fringes of the village.

"Otley particularly attracts the attention of a traveller from its romantic appearance and the beauty of its surrounding fields and meadows" (quoted by Margaret Slack, 1984).

Forces for change

One of the main forces for change within the floodplain in recent years has been the pressure for the extraction of high grade mineral deposits of sand and gravel. This has resulted in the creation of open water pits where extraction has ceased. Where recent restoration has been completed, the pits lie in rather bland and featureless surrounds, permanently changing the nature of the pastoral floodplain. Future change could result in connection with development around the market town of Otley, with the construction of the Otley Relief Road and the release of land for housing and industry to the east of the town.

Management strategy and guidelines

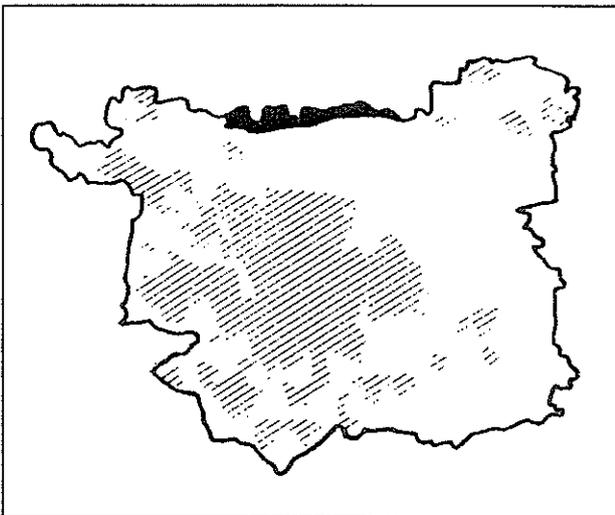
Due to the slightly degraded nature of the area following sand and gravel extraction, the overall management strategy for the Otley to Pool floodplain should be one of **restoration**, where characteristic riverside features have been lost.

All guidelines relating to the river floodplain landscape type are applicable for the Otley to Pool

landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *maintain tree avenues such as along the approach to Maple Grange, east of Otley;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous planting and encourage natural regeneration, designed to reduce the landscape impact of visually intrusive sewage works, such as the works at Knotford and the industrial area at Pool;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous tree planting designed to reduce the landscape impact of any visually intrusive development proposed to the east of Otley or in association with the Relief Road;*
- *discourage inappropriate poplar shelterbelt planting along the floodplain;*
- *investigate ways of improving public access (in addition to allowing access for fishing), to the open water gravel pits north of the Pool Road at Knotsford Nook.*

WHE7 ARTHINGTON FLOODPLAIN



Key characteristics

- *broad flat floodplain*
- *riverside estates*
- *large fields of arable and pasture*
- *isolated parkland and hedgerow trees*
- *small deciduous copses*
- *mature bankside trees*
- *pig farming*
- *river viaduct*

Landscape character

Less disturbed and more rural in feel to the floodplain around Otley, the Arthington **river floodplain** stretches along the meandering River Wharfe from Pool in the west to Ox Close near Collingham in the east. Old estates such as Arthington with their isolated parkland trees, form significant pockets of land within the floodplain.

Large regular fields of mainly pasture in the west and arable in the east lie within the wide sweeping curves of the meanders, their open nature increased by the lack of hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Pig farming occurs in the east, the bare earthen fields dotted with numerous modern 'styes'. Woodland occurs in small deciduous copses such as Holt Wood, and in occasional larger blocks of woodland such as Carthick Wood which in places has a grassy understorey, with little young tree

growth. Woodland also occurs as prominent and attractive strips lining the river banks and along the railway embankment which bisects the floodplain. Where the railway crosses the Wharfe, the old viaduct stands proud, forming a special focal point and feature of interest within the valley. Elsewhere, man made features of historical interest such as the Nunnery, provide architectural variety and interest. Views from within the floodplain tend to be limited due to the strong horizontal nature of the landform.

Forces for change

The Arthington Floodplain has been less affected by the pressures of sand and gravel extraction than the floodplain around Otley. As such it has remained relatively intact, although with improvements in land drainage, there has been a gradual shift from pastoral to arable farming, including the cultivation of the area around Arthington pastures. Pig farming, although small in scale, is beginning to have a highly visible impact on the nature of the floodplain. Elsewhere, the main changes appear to have been a gradual deterioration in the condition of field boundaries,

Management strategy and guidelines

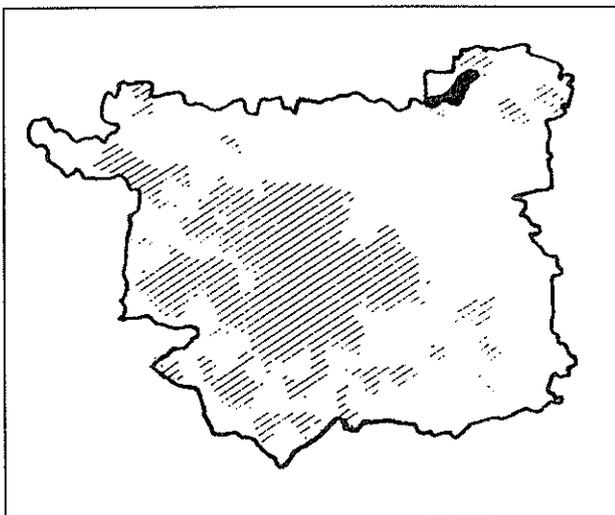
The overall management strategy for the area should be careful balance between **conservation** of the important and characteristic features of the

floodplain, combined with **restoration** where these features, through agricultural change are being lost.

All guidelines relating to the river floodplain landscape type are applicable for the Arthington Floodplain landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *seek to control the spread of pig farming along the floodplain;*
- *seek to retain grassland along alluvial floodplains and consider a return from arable to pasture, particularly in areas such as Arthington pastures;*
- *seek to restore remnant areas of parkland and the characteristic parkland trees around Arthington House;*
- *enhance the woodland cover of existing riverside woodlands such as Carthick Wood, through new deciduous planting and encouragement of natural regeneration;*
- *conserve the major landmark of the Wharfedale Viaduct (Grade II listed) and embankment, maintaining views towards it from surrounding roads and publicly accessible land.*

WHFS LINTON-COLLINGHAM FLOODPLAIN



Key characteristics

- *narrow floodplain*
- *small scale pastures*
- *larger arable fields*
- *glasshouses*
- *golf course and sports pitches*
- *small linear woodlands and copses*
- *picturesque riverside villages*

Landscape character

The narrowest section of the alluvial Wharfe river floodplain lies between Linton and Collingham in the west and Wetherby in the east. Here, the meandering river flows steadily from the wider floodplain towards the narrow, limestone 'gorge' in the east, through flat small scale pastures and pockets of rough grazing and larger fields of bankside arable farmland. Horticultural activity is noticeable on the northern bank, where glasshouses can catch the eye as they glint in the sunlight. Further on, the floodplain is dominated by the golf course, recreational areas and sports pitches at Linton. In several places along the floodplain, the land rises steeply up from the waters edge, the banks hugged closely by overhanging deciduous trees. Small woodlands or copses form linear green barriers between the river and the picturesque villages of Linton on the north bank and Collingham on the south. Both these villages have been popular as commuter settlements ever since the railway was built (now dismantled) and have an attractive blend of both old and new housing.

Forces for change

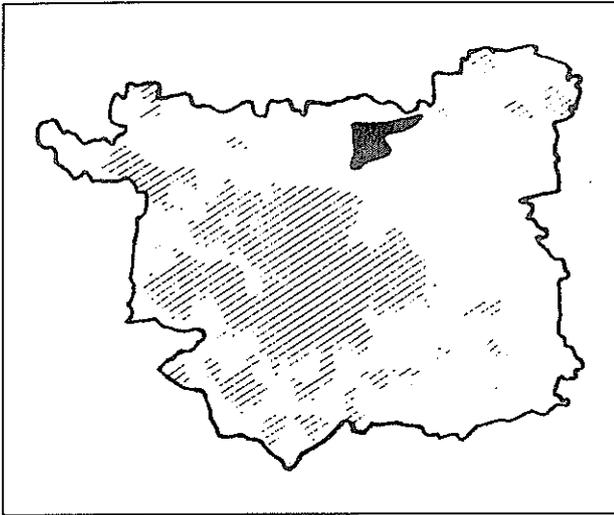
Within this area, the main changes appear to be related to a gradual 'suburbanisation' of the narrow floodplain, with the development of the Linton golf course and the neighbouring sports pitches lending a rather 'manicured' feeling to the valley bottom. In addition, there appears to have been a shift in some areas from pasture to arable.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the area should be careful balance between **conservation** of the important and characteristic features of the floodplain, combined with **restoration** where these features, through agricultural change are being lost.

All guidelines relating to the river floodplain landscape type are applicable for the Linton to Collingham landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *retain grassland along alluvial floodplains and consider a return from arable to pasture;*
- *enhance the linear woodland cover of along the disused railway embankment through encouragement of natural regeneration.*



Landscape character

Rolling and open **arable plateau farmland** lying between 140 metres in the west by Harewood and dropping gently to 60 metres in the east as it becomes bisected by the shallow valley of the Keswick Beck. The plateau is characterised by productive large and regular fields of mainly arable farmland, with ley grassland and smaller fields of pasture and rough grassland forming a patchwork pattern of seasonal colour. Isolated and generally large farm buildings sit prominently amongst the fields, their new modern buildings catching the eye of passers by. Although the plateau is open, with low hedgerows dotted with isolated hedgerow trees, woodland does occur in small mixed and coniferous plantations alongside roads and in small copses within the shallow valleys, for example, at Wike and Spring Woods. Strips of semi-natural woodland along stream corridors provide special, more natural features within their managed and cultivated surrounds. Where the low hedgerows occur, many are beginning to break down, appearing gappy and fragmented, only to be replaced by fencing which has the effect of increasing the open nature of the plateau. Broad, open views can be gained from the neighbouring roads across the plateau, with views from the south framed by the wooded avenue of trees along the A659 road.

Forces for change

One of the special features of the Hollin Hall Plateau is the open, undeveloped nature of the plateau. In addition, the majority of the area has close associations with Harewood, being under the

Key characteristics

- *open plateau*
- *large fields of arable farmland and ley pasture*
- *isolated but prominent farm buildings*
- *low hedgerows*
- *isolated hedgerow trees*
- *small pockets and strips of woodland*
- *broad, uninterrupted views*

same ownership and forming part of the wider estate. In recent years, the main pressures on this area, appear to have been related to agricultural intensification, with the amalgamation of fields into even larger units increasing the sense of openness on the plateau. This has been further emphasised by the loss of hedgerows with some being poorly maintained and suffering from neglect. Wooded features such as the tree avenue along Harewood Avenue (the A659) are also suffering from neglect, beginning to thin out as trees are lost but not replaced. Today, with the new EC set-aside rules, the amount of set-aside land in areas such as this is likely to increase, creating new opportunities for land management.

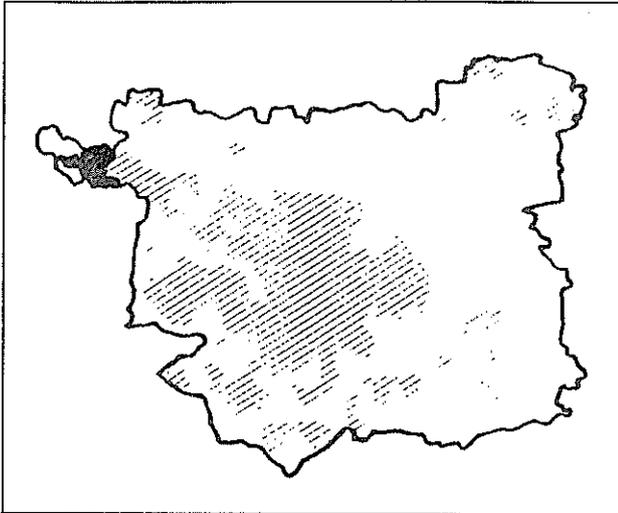
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the cultivated Lofthouse Plateau should be one of enhancement through **restoration**, where the traditional farmland features are beginning to break down. Opportunities for new woodland planting are limited, but small scale planting around the existing copses and small plantations or as screening for farm buildings would be suitable, taking care to maintain the characteristic open nature of the plateau.

All guidelines relating to the pastoral plateau farmland landscape type are applicable for the Hollin Hall Plateau landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- instigate a programme of tree planting to restore the visually important line of trees along Harewood Avenue;
- discourage additional areas of coniferous plantation and encourage the diversification of existing areas, and softening of edges, for example at Wike Wood, through deciduous planting.

MGP2 HAWKSWORTH PLATEAU



Key characteristics

- open and elevated exposed plateau
- extensive views from high points
- drystone walls
- small sheep and cattle grazed pastures
- sparse tree cover on higher slopes
- new reservoir development

Landscape character

Lying to the east of Hawksworth Moor, and to the west of the urban area of Guiseley, this area of **pastoral plateau farmland** slopes gently to the north and south from a central high point or ridge, along which lies the small village of Hawksworth. Good and extensive views from the high points, some of which rise to 230 metres, are characteristic of the area and stretch as far as the Chevin ridge and the outer edges of Leeds. Generally open with little tree cover in the north west, where the plateau lies close to the exposed moorland, the area becomes more enclosed, with a greater degree of woodland cover in the south and east. Regular in pattern, the sheep cattle and occasionally horse grazed fields are generally small and intact and range in colour from dark to light green, depending on their degree of improvement. Isolated strips of scrub occurring mainly on the steeper slopes break up the pattern of fields as do the boundary trees which line the characteristic drystone walls. Small pockets of deciduous woodland do occur, particularly around Hawksworth and the High Royds Hospital.

The hospital itself is perhaps the most prominent building in the area, comprising an interesting architectural features, including the prominent clock tower, which can be seen from some distance

on the neighbouring plateau to the east and the mature avenues and belts of trees around the perimeter. Elsewhere, new mounding associated with development around the New Dam reservoir, has created a prominent scar on the hillside which contrasts with the hidden nature of the stone quarrying activities above Hawksworth. Other 'urban influences' in the area include lines of prominent pylons which cross the plateau and the Bradford Golf Course, which lies on the outer edges of Guiseley.

Forces for change

One of the special features of the pastoral plateau farmlands, is the undeveloped, open and generally empty nature of the plateau, which probably reflects the late enclosure of some of this area from the moorland. It forms an important transition between the high moorland to the west and the lower lying plateau to the east. Today, urban influences such as golf course development and the spread of horseyculture are having an effect on land use, particularly around the edges of the built up areas such as the village of Hawksworth and the larger area of Guiseley. In addition, like many areas around Leeds, some of the walls along the field boundaries are poorly maintained and suffering from neglect. Future change could occur at the locally important High Royds hospital

complex, which is shortly to become redundant for Health Authority purposes.

Management strategy and guidelines

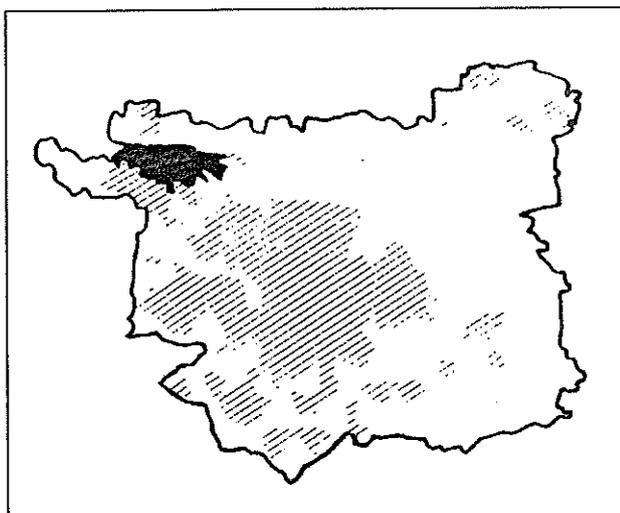
The overall management strategy for the Hawksworth Plateau should be a combination of **conservation** of the open undeveloped nature of the pastoral plateau and its characteristic features, with **restoration** of important farmland features where these are in decline or suffering from neglect. The strategy should also conserve the important landscape setting of the High Royds Hospital.

All guidelines relating to the pastoral plateau farmland landscape type are applicable for the

Hawksworth Plateau landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *conserve the important landscape setting of the High Royds Hospital;*
- *control the spread of horse grazing in inappropriate locations, particularly on the open plateau tops close to the moorland edges;*
- *seek appropriate management of existing woodland, particularly around Hawksworth and the High Royds Hospital*

MGP3 GUISELEY PLATEAU



Key characteristics

- *open and rounded plateau tops*
- *regular pastoral fields*
- *sheep and dairy cattle*
- *drystone walls*
- *hedgerow trees on lower slopes and in valleys*
- *strip woodland planting alongside roads*
- *large scale airport development*

Landscape character

Lower in height and gentler in form than the Hawksworth plateau to the west, but slightly higher and more rolling than the Eccup plateau to the east, the Guiseley plateau forms an open area of **pastoral plateau farmland**, characterised by open and rounded plateau tops, interspersed with shallow valleys. On the higher ground the lack of tree cover and the regular field pattern bordered by drystone walls emphasise the openness of the plateau, with good views obtainable to the south and east over the edges of the built up area. On the lower ground and particularly along the shallow valleys, deciduous trees such as sycamore and ash increase in prominence, lining hedgerows around the more irregularly shaped fields and the upper reaches of small becks. Woodland is limited

within this area, with only the mixed woodland at York Gate Plantation making more than a local contribution to the surrounding landscape. Elsewhere, remnants of parkland and avenue trees occur at Carlton Park and strips of deciduous planting line roads and tracks, forming strong local linear features. Grazing sheep and dairy cattle characterise the open pastures, with horse pasture occurring around farms and around the edge of Guiseley. Here, in addition, a mix of urban fringe land uses predominate, including small allotments and recreation grounds.

Visually, the area is dominated by views of the airport and the associated large scale warehouse and industrial developments. Even at night, the bright landing lights of the runway cannot help but

attract the eye, acting as focal points from many parts of the plateau.

Forces for change

The Guiseley Plateau forms a transitional area of open, mainly undeveloped pastoral farmland between the wooded escarpment of the Chevin and the urban areas of Guiseley and Yeadon. Along the open plateau tops, the main changes appear to be related to a gradual decline in the condition of field boundaries and the loss of isolated hedgerow trees. Along the lower slopes and particularly close to the urban edge, urban influences such as golf course development and the spread of garden centres and pockets of horseculture are having an effect on land use, creating a 'suburban' nature to an otherwise predominantly rural landscape. As much of the southern part of the plateau is dominated visually by the airport and its associated industry, future change in the area could occur if the extent of the industrial area is increased.

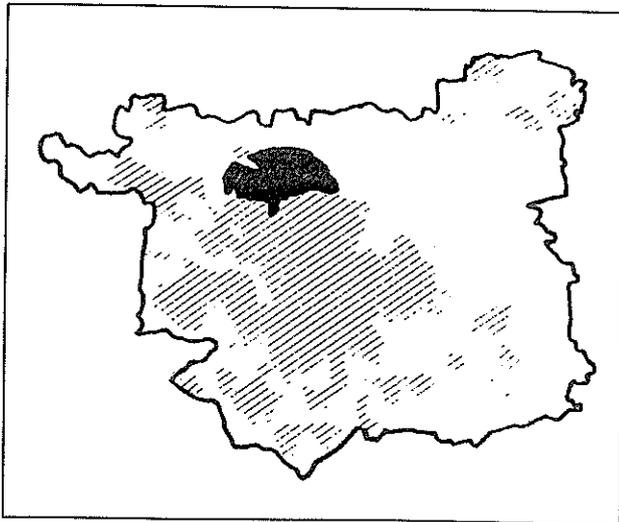
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Guiseley Plateau should be one of protection against further 'suburbanisation' of the countryside combined with restoration of traditional farmland features along

the open pastoral plateau tops, where these are in decline. There are also opportunities for small scale enhancement associated with proposed future development around the Leeds-Bradford airport. All guidelines relating to the pastoral plateau farmland landscape type are applicable for the Guiseley Plateau landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *all new development associated with the Leeds-Bradford airport should include proposals for on site landscaping with appropriate tree and woodland planting, if this is compatible with airport operations and restrictions;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous tree planting and encourage natural regeneration, designed to reduce the landscape impact of visually intrusive industrial development associated with the airport, if this is compatible with airport operations and restrictions;*
- *encourage deciduous planting to soften the edges of incongruous looking coniferous screens, particularly around buildings such as garden centres.*

MGP4 ECCUP PLATEAU



Key characteristics

- *gently undulating pastoral plateau*
- *large sheep grazed walled fields on plateau tops*
- *smaller hedged fields on slopes and within valleys*
- *scattered mixed plantations and small deciduous copses*
- *strip woodland along roads and becks*
- *Eccup reservoir*

Landscape character

Open, gently rolling area of **pastoral plateau farmland**, slightly lower in height and gentler in landform to the plateau farmland to the west, but still characterised by an open plateau and series of shallow more enclosed valleys. Fields are

generally large to medium sized with drystone walls on the open plateau tops, becoming smaller and hedged as the gradient steepens on the plateau edges. In places, drystone walls and hedgerows have been replaced with post and wire fencing, increasing the open nature of the higher levels of the plateau. Sheep grazing is characteristic of the

higher areas and pockets of rough pasture, with dairy cattle a common sight throughout. Woodland is more dominant within this area than elsewhere along the plateau, occurring in mixed plantations and small deciduous copses of oak, sycamore and birch, often linked by attractive strips or lines of trees along roads and becks. Coniferous planting occurs around Eccup reservoir and is particularly prominent, creating a dense visual screen blocking views in towards the water.

Some of the lower lying, flatter areas were once characterised by grazed wetlands, some of which still survive in name, for example at Breary Marsh. Adjacent to this, on the fringes of Cookridge, Golden Acre Park forms a popular self-contained area for recreation, characterised by a wide range of native and ornamental planting, some of which, particularly around the northern edges, appear incongruous to their surroundings. The pretty village of Bramhope is the largest settlement within this area, spilling over the ridge line and standing in an elevated position overlooking Wharfedale to the north and the urban area to the south. Good tree cover between the houses helps integrate the settlement with its surrounds.

"The prospect from the commanding situation (at Eccup) on a spring day is grand. Seen at twilight when the moonbeams shimmer on the lake, the cottages fringing the edge of the little romantic gorge, with here and there a tree etched definitely against the silver sky, the picture presents a scene strangely weird yet beautiful" (Edmund Bogg 1904).

Forces for change

Like the Guiseley Plateau, the Eccup Plateau forms a transitional area of open, mainly undeveloped pastoral farmland between the pastoral escarpment of Wharfedale and the urban areas of the northern Leeds suburbs. Along the open plateau tops, the main changes appear to be related to a gradual decline in the condition of field boundaries and the

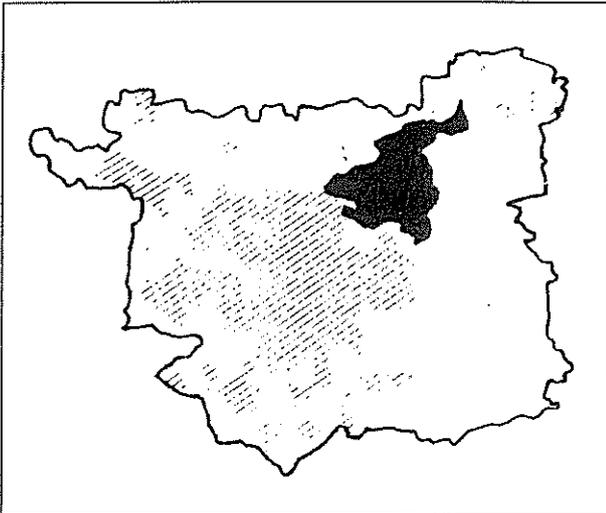
loss of isolated hedgerow trees. Along the lower slopes and particularly close to the urban edge, urban influences such as golf course development such as Headingley and Cookridge golf courses and the spread of pockets of horseyculture are having an effect on land use, creating a 'suburban' nature to an otherwise predominantly rural landscape.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Eccup Plateau should be a combination of **conservation** of the open undeveloped nature of the pastoral plateau and its characteristic features, with **restoration** of important farmland features where these are in decline or suffering from neglect. The strategy should also be to protect the area from further 'suburbanisation' of the countryside, including the loss of traditional farm buildings and their replacement with inappropriate new development.

All guidelines relating to the pastoral plateau farmland landscape type are applicable for the Eccup Plateau landscape unit (see chapter ?). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *conserve and enhance tree cover within and around rural settlements such as Bramhope and Eccup;*
- *encourage the planting of a wooded deciduous understorey and edge around Eccup reservoir to soften the visual effect, whilst identifying ways of opening up selected areas to allow for views onto the water;*
- *discourage additional areas of incongruous coniferous plantation around the northern boundary of Golden Acre Park and encourage softening of edges through deciduous planting*



Key characteristics

- undulating series of ridges and valleys
- open arable ridge tops
- enclosed pastoral and wooded valleys
- semi-natural vegetation and woodland along becks
- remnant parkland areas
- hedgerow trees
- closely spaced villages
- golf courses

Landscape character

Undulating series of settled and farmed ridges and valleys crossed by a number of east to west flowing tributaries of the Scarcroft and Bardsey Beck. The ridges tend to be open, with a regular pattern of larger arable fields climbing up out of the valleys to dominate the higher ground above. In contrast, the valley bottoms and lower valley slopes are characterised by a strong intact pastoral nature with small fields of permanent pasture grazed by sheep, cattle and occasionally horses. Trees are sparse in the ridge top hedgerows, becoming more prominent on lower slopes and within the valley bottoms where they occur in linear semi-natural woodlands along the winding becks. In places, the woodland extends from the waters edge, such as at Hetchell, Hellpot, Jewson's, Kidhurst and Hell Woods. The linear nature of woodland, which visually emphasises the valley structure and provides important 'green' corridors for wildlife, is further reinforced by woodland along the old disused railway line. Undisturbed and left to regenerate naturally, the woodland has provided a hidden and secluded corridor and a valuable resource for recreation. In the south of the area, around Scarcroft, the land becomes more gently undulating than in the north. Here, intact well hedged fields and old areas of parkland associated with manor houses and lodges add their individual character to the valleys.

One of the distinctive characteristics of this area, is the high density of picturesque village settlements such as Scarcroft, Bardsey, East Keswick and East Rigton which nestle in the valleys and on the slopes. Most are characterised by a traditional

village cores of old cottages, a church and village green, with modern development strung out along the dense network of minor roads which wind between them. As one travels along the roads, the views are constantly changing with the best views obtained from the ridges. Golf courses are a prominent and relatively recent development in the area, particularly close to the urban edge around Alwoodly and west of Scarcroft.

"Thorner is a village surrounded by undulating farmland.....it has some outlying farms and cottages and a long main street with most attractive houses along both sides of it. They are stone built, sufficiently different to show individuality but yet similar, many of them having woodwork which is painted white and shutters decorative rather than functional" (Margaret Slack 1984)

Forces for change

One of the special features of the small scale ridges and valleys, is the contrast between the enclosed and wooded valleys and the more open regular arable farmland on the higher ground. The valleys appear to have undergone little change in recent years, remaining fairly intact with some natural regeneration of woodland and scrub along features such as disused railway lines offsetting the loss of trees elsewhere. On the valley slopes and along the ridge tops, however, many of the characteristic farmland features are showing signs of neglect, with hedgerows becoming gappy and patchy and many hedgerow and roadside trees dying without being replaced. Remnant parkland areas have also fallen into decline with the loss of characteristic

parkland trees. More recent urban influences in the area include the development of new housing around a few of the villages, some of this development displaying harsh built up edges, for example at Thornhurst. Other recent influences include the planting of coniferous screens around farms and nurseries and the construction of several golf courses and their associated buildings, which lend a 'manicured' feel to the rural landscape.

Management strategy and guidelines

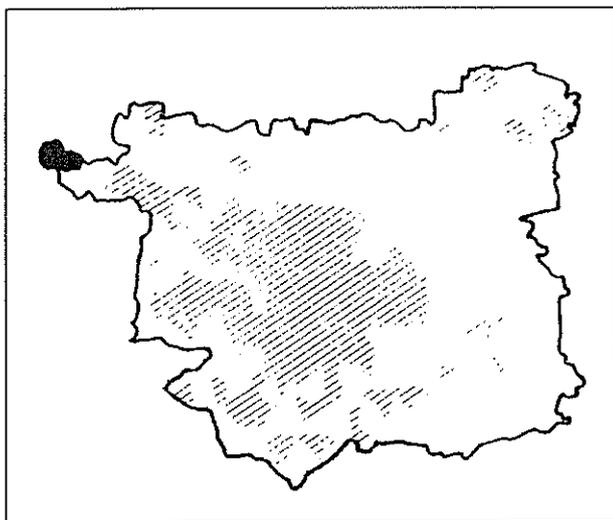
The overall management strategy for this area should aim to maintain the attractive contrast between the open ridges and the more enclosed valleys, whilst preserving the integrity of the settlements. It should be a careful balance between **conservation** of the characteristic features of the landscape and **restoration** of these features, particularly along the higher ridge tops, where they are gradually being lost.

All guidelines relating to the small scale ridges and valleys are applicable for the Wike Ridge to East Rigton landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *soften hard built edges along the southern edge of Thornhurst, near Bardsey, through small scale deciduous tree planting;*
- *discourage additional areas of coniferous screen planting around farms and nurseries and encourage the diversification of existing areas through deciduous planting;*
- *conserve and restore remnant areas of parkland such as the parkland south of Scarcroft;*
- *conserve and enhance the continuity and wooded character of the disused railway line through encouragement of natural regeneration.*

MGP6

HAWKSWORTH MOOR



Landscape character

Open and exposed, this rounded upland area forms the last remaining heather covered **gritstone moorland** in the Leeds District. From a distance, the pattern of the numerous small watercourses which dissect the area is almost imperceptible, due to the dense swathes of heather and crowberry which clothe the hillside, creating a purple splash of seasonal colour. Whereas the wild and relatively remote moorland itself is unenclosed, the edge is bordered by characteristic dry stone walls, which form a strong linear break between the dark

Key characteristics

- *open and exposed windswept moorland*
- *heather covered hillsides*
- *scrubby bushes and stunted trees along boundaries*
- *drystone walls*
- *reservoir development*
- *fields of semi-improved grassland along the fringes*
- *commanding panoramic views*

heather and the fields of semi-improved grassland beyond. These outer fringe fields lie on uneven, hummocky ground, and slope gently down from the moorland. Grazed by sheep and cattle, and consisting generally of rough or rank semi-improved grassland, the fields and their boundary walls are dotted with patches of scrub and isolated stunted trees, bent over by the ravages of the prevailing winds. Development has also occurred along the fringes in the form of scattered isolated farm buildings, and more recently in the form of pylons and the Reva Reservoir, which, with its boats and associated buildings dominates certain views, both up to and from the open moorland.

Throughout the Moor, commanding and panoramic views can be gained over the surrounding moorland to the west and the urban areas to the south and south east.

Forces for change

Hawksworth Moor is the largest area of moorland remaining in the Leeds District and as such has a special and unique character of its own. Much of this character has resulted from traditional methods of maintaining heathland, through grazing, cutting and burning, which controls scrub invasion and allows the rejuvenation of young heathland plants. Past threats have tended to arise from the reclaiming of the moor to create geometric blocks of semi-improved pasture which cut sharply into the edges of the heathland areas. Today, one of the biggest threats to the moorland is through neglect, with the abandonment of many of the traditional methods of land management. Additional changes could result from further,

highly visible reservoir development along the fringes of the moor.

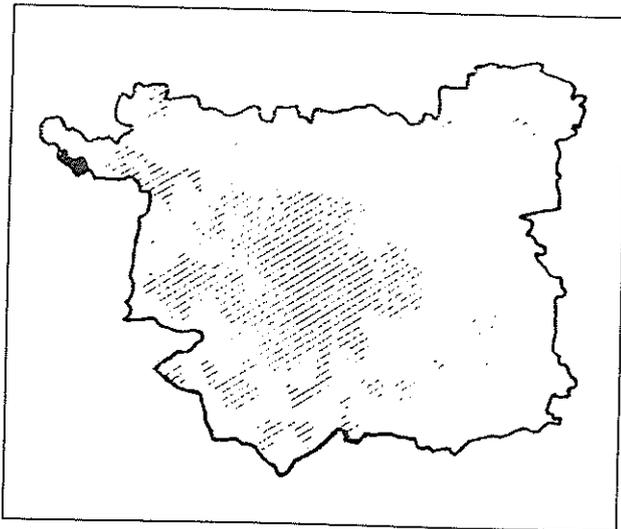
Management strategy and guidelines

Due to its unique character, the overall management strategy for the Hawksworth Moor should be one of **conservation** of the existing landscape, through the promotion of traditional land management techniques and the control over further development along its fringes.

All guidelines relating to the gritstone moorland landscape type are applicable for the Hawksworth Moor landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *control the expansion of buildings associated with the Reva Reservoir and encourage*
- *suitable design and siting of any additional structures, to reduce their visual intrusion.*

MGP7 HAWKSWORTH GILL



Key characteristics

- *steeply sloping wooded valley*
- *scrub and deciduous woodland along streams*
- *boundary trees*
- *small sheep grazed fields*
- *narrow roads*
- *isolated farms*
- *chalet development*

Landscape character

Intimate series of steeply sloping wooded plateau edge valleys, characterised by small briskly flowing becks or streams which originate along the moorland fringes and run perpendicular down towards the main valley on the edge of the District. Mature, deciduous woodland lies alongside the becks, extending further from the banks in places to form small woodlands such as West Wood, an ancient woodland. Elsewhere, trees stand dotted along the lines of the hedgerows and drystone walls which drop down from the plateau into the

narrow valleys. Small scale pasture with isolated pockets of scrub on the steeper, less accessible banks, characterise the open farmed areas alongside the wooded becks. Narrow roads cut down from the plateau to the wooded valleys, providing the traveller with a sudden change in scenery as the road drops to the south. Within the valleys themselves, isolated farms and houses lie on or close to the roads, often well hidden within their attractive tree surrounds. New chalet and caravan developments lie in the valley bottoms, and although not visible from outside the valley, their design can appear incongruous and uncharacteristic within their setting.

Forces for change

This small wooded valley extending down from the plateau has undergone little noticeable change in recent years, with its characteristic features remaining intact. One of the main pressures on land has resulted from the construction of new chalet and caravan development in the valley bottom, which although not particularly visible, appears incongruous alongside the traditional farm buildings elsewhere in the area.

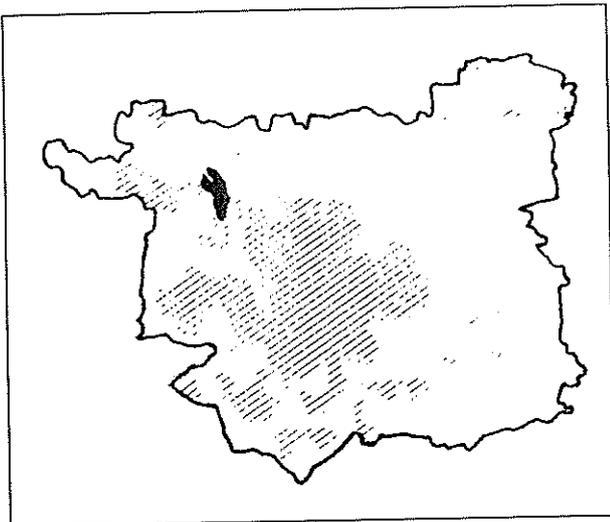
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Hawksworth Gill area should be **conservation** of the characteristic features of the wooded valley.

All guidelines relating to the plateau edge valleys landscape type are applicable for the Hawksworth Gill landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *control the expansion of chalet and caravan development within the woodland, and encourage suitable design which seeks to reflect the character of traditional vernacular in the area.*

MGP8 MOSELEY BECK



Key characteristics

- *intimate, sloping wooded valleys*
- *small irregular pastoral fields*
- *deciduous woodland along streams and railway*
- *boundary trees*
- *pockets of degraded pasture and rank grassland*
- *caravan site*

Landscape character

Small scale and intimate, occasionally steep sided, wooded plateau edge valleys of Moseley beck and its tributaries, providing a pleasant contrast in scale and character to the more open pastoral plateau to the north. Deciduous woodland lines the banks of the becks, extending outwards to small blocks of planted woodland such as St. Helena, which surrounds a caravan site and Gill Plantations. The generally linear nature of the tree cover is emphasised by hedgerow trees such as sycamore and strips of woodland along the undisturbed railway cuttings and airshafts. At the edge of the woodland, small, intact and irregularly shaped fields grazed by horses and cattle characterise the valley slopes, interspersed with pockets of degraded pasture and rough or rank

grassland. The nature of the landform excludes many views into and out of the valleys, including views of the airport, which lies close-by.

Forces for change

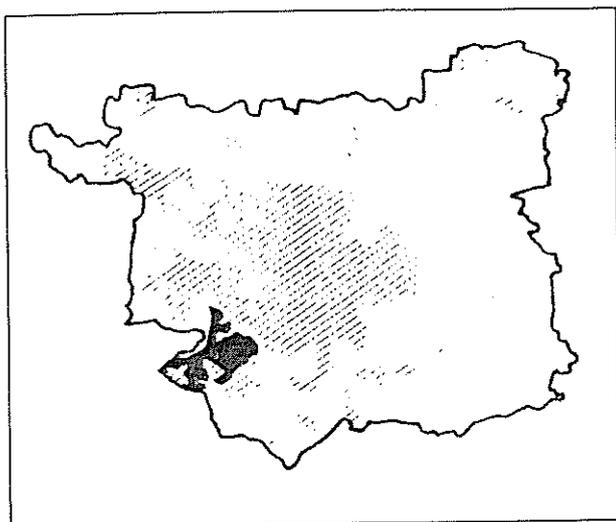
This series of narrow wooded valleys extending down from the plateau has undergone only slight noticeable change in recent years, with many of its characteristic features remaining intact. Recent small scale changes however, have included a gradual deterioration in the condition of field boundaries, the expansion of farmsteads, the creation of horse stables and the development of a caravan site at St. Helena. Future changes could occur with the proposed industrial/commercial development at Springfield School, alongside the airport.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Moseley Beck area should be a careful balance between **conservation** of the important characteristic features of the wooded valley and **restoration** of these features where their condition is beginning to deteriorate.

All guidelines relating to the plateau edge valleys landscape type are applicable for the Moseley Beck landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *control the expansion of caravan development at St Helena, maintaining a dense screen of deciduous woodland to reduce visual impact;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous tree planting and encourage natural regeneration, designed to reduce the landscape impact of any visually intrusive development proposed at Springfield School;*
- *encourage natural regeneration of scrub and woodland along the railway line and around the circular airshafts, where this is compatible with nature conservation objectives for these areas.*



Landscape character

Undulating area of **pastoral fringe farmland**, rising from about 60 metres along the Leeds urban edge at Farnley, to 200 metres at Drighlington in the west. The area is characterised by a series of open pastoral ridges, some of which are visually prominent, such as Beeston Royds ridge, interspersed with small areas of arable farmland, sloping down to winding valley bottoms. The fields are small, irregularly shaped and mainly intact, with a mix of drystone walls and hedgerows. Around Gildersome, a series of intact small strip pastoral fields are a prominent feature on the hill slope. However, elsewhere, where boundaries have been lost, the remnant overgrown hedgerows often appear as prominent features and serve as a reminder of the more rural, intact landscape which once existed here. Trees occur within woodlands, particularly along the steeper slopes and along the becks within the valleys. They also occur in isolated strips alongside roads, for example, the Whitehall Road and in the remnant area of isolated parkland at Farnley Park. Throughout, the close proximity to the urban edge is noticeable, with housing areas at Farnley, Gildersome and Drighlington presenting harsh edges to the countryside, and pockets of intrusive industrial development, and fringe uses such as golf courses, caravan sites and cemeteries evident from certain viewpoints. Motorways and major roads dissect the fringe, destroying the natural lines of valleys and creating a feeling of fragmentation. Pylons are prominent focal points as they stride across the area and throughout, the sense of movement and noise is strong.

Key characteristics

- *open ridges*
- *pockets of arable farmland*
- *small fields of pasture*
- *drystone walls and gappy overgrown hedgerows*
- *wooded becks*
- *pockets of industrial development*
- *golf courses, caravan sites and cemeteries*
- *motorways and major roads*

Forces for change

The Gildersome Fringe, as in all the fringe landscape types is under intense pressure from the encroachment of urban activities such as caravan storage sites, golf courses and the development of highways, and industrial, commercial and residential areas. Some of the land is degraded, under-used agricultural land, with activities such as horse grazing and unauthorised leisure and recreational activities commonplace. There are also sites of past, present and proposed landfill activity within this area. All these activities have created a poorly managed, fragmented landscape in places, particularly close to the urban edge, although some intact areas still remain. Further fragmentation has occurred with the loss of and decline in the condition of hedgerows and stone walls around the fringe.

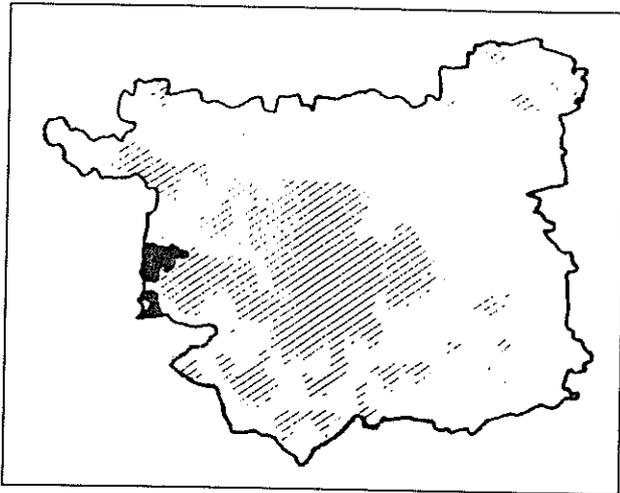
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Gildersome Fringe should be a combination of **restoration** of the open pastoral fringe and the characteristic farmland features, where these are in decline, combined with **enhancement** through small scale planting, particularly close to the urban edge and around intrusive features.

All guidelines relating to the pastoral fringe farmland landscape type are applicable for the Gildersome Fringe landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed as follows:

- *maintain and enhance the pattern of small enclosed strip pastoral fields around Gildersome;*
- *instigate a programme of new small scale deciduous planting to help integrate new industrial areas into their 'rural' surrounds, for example, at New Farnley;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous planting to soften the edges of the settlements of Farnley and New Farnley and the edges of Gildersome and Drighlington. This should be designed as an integral part of any new small scale woodland planting in the wider area;*
- *instigate a programme of deciduous planting and encourage natural regeneration along the line of the M621 motorway, to improve integration and provide continuity within the valley;*
- *maintain and enhance, e.g through the encouragement of natural regeneration, the areas of strip woodland alongside roads, for example, the Whitehall Road;*
- *conserve parkland around Farnley Park and where appropriate, seek to restore remnant areas of parkland through the replanting of parkland trees;*
- *maintain and restore walls along roads, for example along the A62 road.*

LCM2 BRADFORD FRINGE



Key characteristics

- *narrow wedge of undulating pastoral farmland*
- *sheep and horse grazed pastures*
- *small fields bounded by drystone walls*
- *overgrown hedgerows on lower ground*
- *remnants of parkland landscapes*
- *deciduous woodland on valley slopes*
- *good views from higher ground*

Landscape character

Extending from the Calverley Valley, southwards around the fringe of Pudsey, this area of **pastoral fringe farmland**, forms a narrow wedge of countryside sandwiched between the built up areas of Leeds and Bradford. The area is split by the urban development at Thornbury, with the two areas displaying certain similar, but some different characteristics. In both, the undulating land rises up from 100 to about 200 metres, in a number of small hills and valleys. The fields of sheep and horse grazed pasture are generally small to medium in size and bounded by a mix of walls on the higher, more open ground and hedgerows with hedgerow trees on the lower slopes and along the valley bottoms. Throughout, but particularly in the southern section, which is less intact, the boundaries are showing signs of neglect, particularly close to the urban edge, where wire

fences have begun to replace traditional materials. Small remnants of parkland landscapes still survive in the north, for example around the Grange, characterised by prominent tree avenues and parkland trees. Here, as the land drops fairly steeply to the west, the oak and birch woodlands of Ravenscliffe and Bill Woods form a valuable resource for informal recreation on the fringe and an effective screen to the built up area beyond. On the higher slopes and on the more exposed hill tops, good views of the surrounding areas can be gained, particularly from the visible golf course which crowns Woodhall Hill. A mix of traditional gritstone and more intrusive modern farm buildings lie scattered amongst the pasture.

Forces for change

The Bradford Fringe, as in all the fringe landscape types is under pressure from the encroachment of

urban activities such as golf course development and the development of industrial, commercial and residential areas, for example at Tyersal Gate. Some of the land is degraded, under-used agricultural land, with activities such as horse grazing commonplace. In addition, there has been a gradual deterioration of farmland features such as field boundaries. These pressures are particularly prevalent in the southern part of the area, where they have created a poorly managed, somewhat fragmented landscape in places. In the northern area, although these pressures are still noticeable, the area has remained more intact and 'rural' in nature. Golf course development, for example at Woodhall Hills, has added a 'manicured' nature to the hill top, particularly where coniferous planting has occurred.

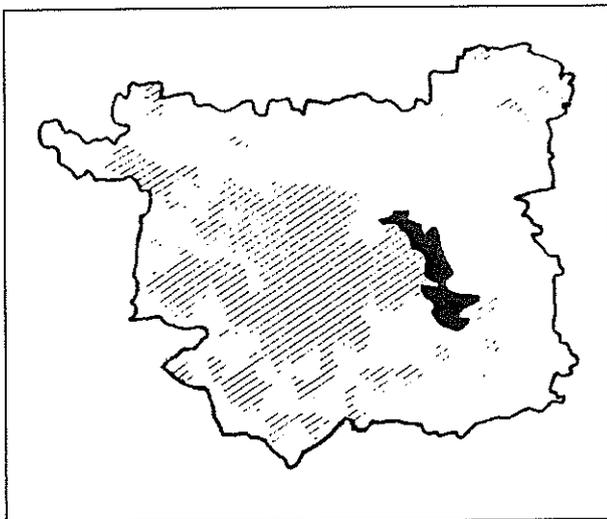
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Bradford Fringe should be a combination of conservation of the intact open pastoral ridges and wooded valleys of the northern part of the area, combined with **restoration** of the open pastoral fringe and the characteristic farmland features, where these are in decline. In the southern part of the pastoral fringe, to the west of Pudsey, there should also be a strategy of restoration, but this could be combined with opportunities for enhancement through small scale planting, particularly close to the urban edge and around intrusive features or areas of new development.

All guidelines relating to the pastoral fringe farmland landscape type are applicable for the Bradford Fringe landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed as follows:

- *conserve and enhance the wooded nature of the valley slopes to the south of Calverley, for example at Ravenscliffe and Bill Woods;*
- *instigate a programme of new small scale deciduous planting to help integrate new industrial areas such as the proposed area at Tyersal Gate, into their 'rural' surrounds. This should be designed as an integral part of any new small scale woodland planting in the wider area;*
- *encourage the natural regeneration and spread of trees along Tyersal Beck;*
- *seek to diversify existing incongruous looking coniferous planting around some farms and at Woodhall Hills golf course through edge planting with locally occurring deciduous tree species;*
- *conserve and restore tree avenues along roads and remnant areas of parkland such as around the Grange, through the replanting of parkland trees.*

LCM3 EAST LEEDS



Key characteristics

- *undulating fringe farmland*
- *large regular arable fields*
- *low gappy hedgerows*
- *small copses and plantations*
- *pockets of horseyculture*
- *neglected ground*
- *remnant parkland*
- *Leeds urban edge visible in views*

Landscape character

A large area of gently undulating **arable fringe farmland**, lying along the eastern edge of Leeds and encompassing the settlements of Scholes and part of Garforth. Throughout most of this area, tower blocks and large industrial buildings are visible along the urban edge, forming a back drop to an open, often structureless foreground. In places, the fields are large, regular and open, a mix of pasture and arable, with low cut gappy hedgerows. Hedgerow and boundary trees are few, but where they do occur, they form prominent features, for example along the elevated Barrowby Lane by the remnant Barrowby Park. Woodland occurs in small copses such as Carr Wood and around Barrowby Park, where small plantations combine and reinforce each other in views from outside and along the line of the disused railway. Throughout, urban fringe land uses, such as pockets of horseiculture and neglected ground are evident, this 'fringe feel' emphasised by the views which can be gained from the high ground to the south of the area over the degraded valley of the Lower Aire. The built up edges of Garforth also sit prominently in some views, lying open and exposed, with little tree cover to soften their harshness.

Forces for change

The East Leeds Fringe, as in all the fringe landscape types is under pressure from the encroachment of urban activities such as the development of new roads and industrial, commercial and residential areas. Some of the land is degraded, under-used agricultural land, with activities such as horse grazing apparent. In addition, there has been a gradual deterioration of farmland features such as field boundaries. These pressures are particularly prevalent in the southern part of the area, where they have created a somewhat fragmented landscape in places. Future change could occur with any proposed new highway development along the edge of the urban

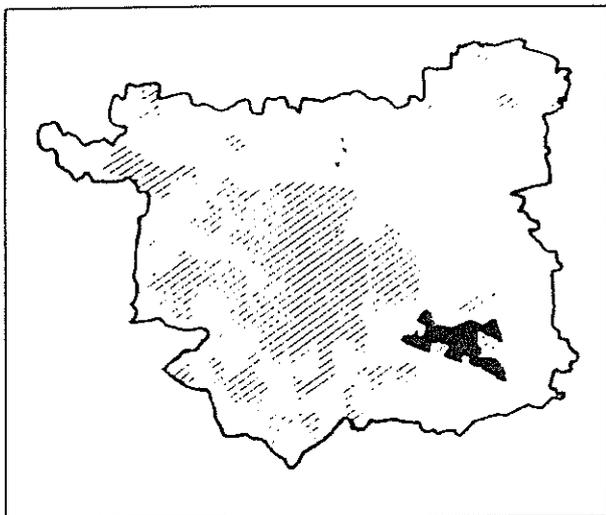
area, or new housing development, for example on the eastern edge of Scholes. In addition, change could also occur on a wider scale with any proposed opencast development, for example around Barrowby and Austhorpe.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the East Leeds area should be a careful balance between **restoration** of the predominantly arable farmland features where these are in decline, combined with **enhancement** through new woodland planting, where the existing character has been lost completely.

All guidelines relating to the arable fringe farmland landscape type are applicable for the East Leeds landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *look for opportunities for restoring areas of remnant parkland, such as Barrowby Park;*
- *maintain and enhance through new planting, the prominent line of trees along Barrowby Lane;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous planting to soften the edges of visually intrusive housing where it abuts open arable land, for example along the north west edge of Garforth. This should be designed to integrate with any wider planting programme for the area;*
- *any new woodland planting should seek to maintain views from the southern part of the area, over the Lower Aire Valley;*
- *maintain and enhance woodland and scrub along the disused railway line, through the encouragement of natural regeneration.*



Landscape character

An area of gently undulating **arable fringe farmland** extending from the parkland of Temple Newsam in the west, to Kippax in the east and encompassing, in addition, the settlements of Swillington and Great Preston. The area can largely be defined by its association with the Lower Aire Valley as the land drops steadily down towards it, with views of the power station and spoil tips common throughout. On the higher ground, the fields tend to be large, regular and open, with low cut gappy hedgerows. Smaller pockets of mainly degraded horse pasture occur around the fringes of settlements and along the narrow valleys which lead down towards the Aire. Within these narrow valleys, strips of semi-natural woodland line the becks, creating a more enclosed field pattern and providing a pleasant contrast with the more open structureless arable land elsewhere. Woodland occurs in isolated copses and around settlements, such as Kippax, where the trees sit prominently on top of the high ground at Townclose Hills. Throughout, urban fringe land uses are evident, this 'fringe feel' emphasised by activities such as land filling and quarrying and the views which can be gained over the degraded Lower Aire Valley to the south.

"From Swillington to Great Preston, we obtain fine views of Oulton, Rothwell and Woodlesford. On the crest of the hill beyond, the spire of Garforth church forms an interesting landmark" (Edmund Bogg 1904)

"A deep valley runs between Great Preston and Kippax and on the hillside and crest of the ridge,

Key characteristics

- gently undulating fringe farmland
- large open arable fields on high ground
- smaller fields of horse pasture
- strip woodland along becks
- small wooded copses
- low gappy hedgerows
- landfill and quarrying activities
- views over the Lower Aire Valley

the town clusters finely, the church tower presiding high above the roofs (Edmund Bogg 1904)"

Forces for change

The Kippax and Swillington Fringe has a close association, both physically and historically with the Lower Aire Valley and the associated mineral extraction activities. As such, opencast coal mining, quarrying and landfill activities are in evidence and have influenced landscape change and the development of the settlements over the years. Some of the farmland within the area is degraded, under-used agricultural land, with activities such as horse grazing also apparent, particularly around the fringes of Swillington and Kippax. In addition, there has been a gradual deterioration of farmland features such as field boundaries, particularly on the more open arable areas.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Kippax and Swillington Fringe should be a combination of **restoration** of the characteristic features within the landscape where these are falling into decline, combined with **enhancement** through new woodland planting, in areas where the character has been lost completely.

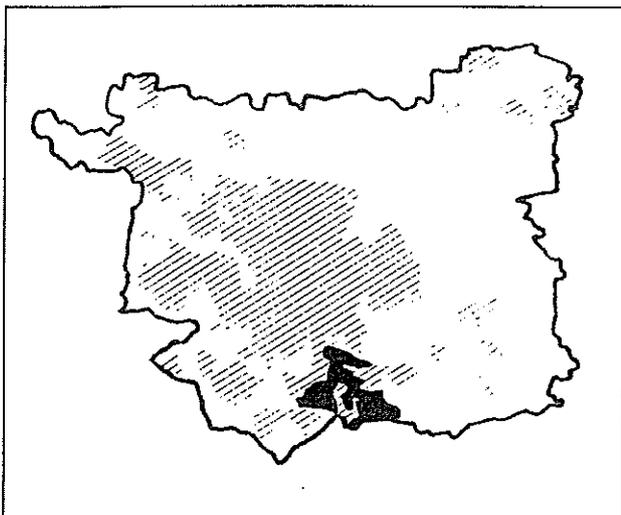
All guidelines relating to the arable fringe farmland landscape type are applicable for the Kippax and Swillington Fringe landscape unit (see

Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- seek to control spread of horse grazing and further degradation of pasture around the fringes of Swillington and Kippax;

- instigate a programme of tree planting and encourage natural regeneration, designed to screen any intrusive landfill sites or quarries. New planting should be carried out as part of any wider planting programme for the area and should be designed so as to maintain views over the Lower Aire Valley.

LCM5 ROTHWELL FRINGE



Key characteristics

- fragmented urban fringe farmland
- large arable fields
- strips of horticulture
- allotments and pockets of horse pasture
- strip woodland along isolated becks
- spoil tips
- sparse tree cover
- motorways

Landscape character

Chaotic and fragmented area of **arable fringe farmland**, lying in the main, on gently, often imperceptibly rolling land, which rises in the east to a height of about 80 metres. To the east of Lee Moor Beck, active and productive arable farming predominates, with large open fields bordered by gappy hedgerows forming the main type of land use. In the west, however, the land is broken up by a fragmented mix of arable and horticultural farmland, residential and industrial development, quarries, allotments, and pockets of rough grassland and derelict ground. This fragmentation is further enhanced by the numerous roads and stretches of motorways, including the M1 and M62, which form the boundary of, or completely divide the area. Trees are few and far between within the fringe, although some small areas of semi-natural woodland run along occasional becks such as Throstle Carr and Lee Moor becks, and occur within isolated copses. Throughout this fringe area, intrusive developments, both residential and industrial are common. The eye is drawn to lines of pylons, derelict farm buildings, isolated spoil tips, the bright orange roofs of new developments, the rush of vehicles along the motorway, and in places, the prominent cooling towers of the power station.

Forces for change

The Rothwell Fringe is dominated by human activity and is under intense public pressure, with urban fringe land uses such as allotments, small pockets of horse grazing in degraded pastures and development for industrial and mineral extraction activities in evidence throughout, for example along the Wakefield Road and at Rothwell Haigh. The structure of the landscape has broken down, particularly in the west of the area, with the loss of field boundaries resulting in an open, fragmented and neglected landscape. Future change could occur with the proposed new business park and manufacturing development south of Royds Green.

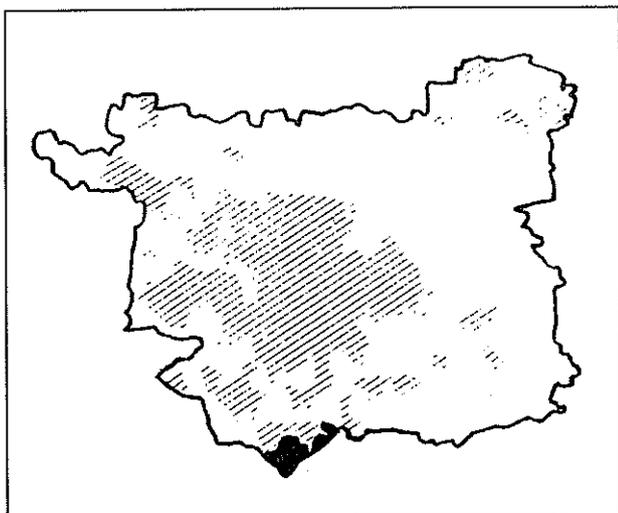
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Rothwell Fringe should be one of **restoration** of areas of more intact farmland where characteristic features are being lost combined with **enhancement** through the creation of a new landscape character. This could be done through new large scale woodland planting.

All guidelines relating to the arable fringe farmland landscape type are applicable for the Rothwell Fringe landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *look for large scale new planting opportunities as part of a wider scheme for new planting in the urban fringe area;*
- *maintain and enhance woodland along becks such as Throstle Carr and Lee Moor Becks and look for opportunities to extend the tree cover through encouragement of natural regeneration;*
- *instigate a programme of tree planting through the encouragement of natural regeneration and new deciduous planting, to screen visually intrusive industrial developments along the Wakefield Road and quarries and spoil tips, for example at Rothwell Haigh. This should be designed as an integral part of any new woodland planting in the area.;*
- *seek to maintain the open nature of farmland to the east of Lee Moor Beck, whilst restoring hedgerows to maintain the characteristic large scale field pattern.*

LCM6 EAST ARDSLEY FRINGE



Key characteristics

- *gently undulating mixed farmland*
- *fields of arable and horticulture*
- *smaller fields of sheep and horse pasture*
- *wooded strips along becks*
- *small planted copses*
- *few hedgerow trees*
- *high density of village settlements*
- *open reservoir*

Landscape character

Ranging in height from 50 to about 130 metres, this area of gently undulating **arable fringe farmland** is characterised by generally smaller, more intact areas of farmland than the fringe areas further north. The fields are of mainly arable or horticulture, but with some significant areas of sheep and horse grazed pasture, some of which appears unkempt or degraded. Hedgerow trees are generally sparse, increasing the open nature of much of the area, although trees occur in thin woodland strips along becks such as Hey Beck and in planted copses, helping shield developments such as the opencast coal site at Haigh Hall. Throughout, the fabric of the landscape is beginning to break down and urban and highway influences such as the M1 motorway are apparent, although perhaps not to such an extent as in the fringe areas around Rothwell and Morley. The area is densely settled, with the villages of West

and East Ardsley, Upper Green and Haigh Moss forming a continuous belt of urban development and linked by a network of roads, including main and minor roads and isolated old lanes such as Lingwell Gate. Sitting prominently in the centre of the area is the large Ardsley reservoir which forms an open, rather bleak expanse of water, surrounded by patchy tree cover and scrub

Forces for change

The East Ardsley Fringe has remained more intact than neighbouring fringe areas closer to the main urban area of Leeds. However, urban fringe influences and pressures are apparent throughout, with the Ardsley reservoir, mineral extraction activities and pockets of degraded horse pasture particularly noticeable. Much of the area lies close to or is divided by roads, including the dense motorway network in this area. This has had the effect of further fragmenting the farmland. Where

fields of arable and pasture have remained intact, there has been a gradual deterioration in the condition of their boundaries, with many hedgerows becoming gappy and overgrown. Future localised change could occur with any proposed new small scale housing development around the settlements.

Management strategy and guidelines

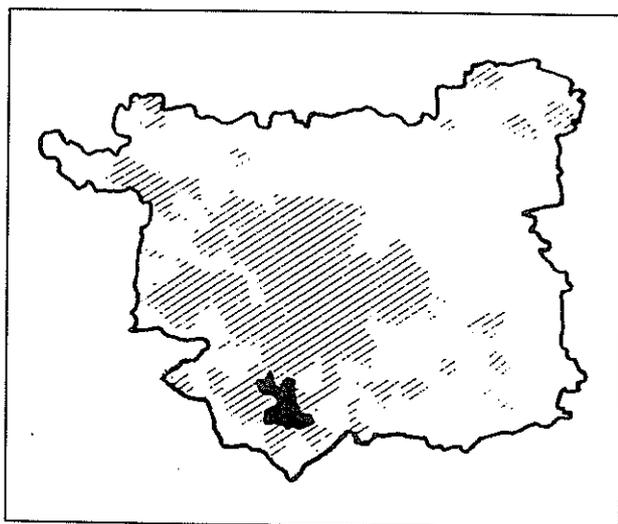
The overall management strategy for the East Ardsley area, should be a careful balance between **restoration** of the characteristic features of the fringe farmland where these are in decline, combined with **enhancement** through new woodland planting.

All guidelines relating to the arable fringe farmland landscape type are applicable for the East Ardsley landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *maintain areas of intact pastoral farmland alongside becks and streams and adjacent to settlements;*
- *look for large scale new planting opportunities as part of a wider scheme for new tree planting in the urban fringe area, whilst maintaining the characteristic pattern of hedged pastoral and arable fields;*

- *encourage the growth of scrub and woodland around Ardsley Reservoir, whilst maintaining filtered views in towards the water;*
- *maintain and enhance the tree lined old lanes, for example along Lingwell Gate, through the encouragement of natural regeneration and new deciduous planting where appropriate;*
- *maintain and enhance woodland along becks such as Hey Beck and look for opportunities to extend the tree cover through encouragement of natural regeneration;*
- *instigate a programme of tree planting through the encouragement of natural regeneration and new deciduous planting, as part of a reclamation programme for the visually intrusive quarrying activity at Haigh Hall. This should be designed as an integral part of any new woodland planting in the area;*
- *instigate a programme of tree planting through the encouragement of natural regeneration and new deciduous planting, to screen visually intrusive sections of the M1 motorway. This should be designed as an integral part of any new woodland planting in the area.*

LCM7 EAST MORLEY FRINGE



Key characteristics

- *open and gently rolling fringe farmland*
- *multitude of fragmented land uses*
- *large arable fields*
- *strips of horticulture*
- *horse pasture*
- *allotments*
- *motorways, major roads and railway lines*
- *pylons*

Landscape character

Open and gently rolling area of **arable fringe farmland**, encompassing the eastern edge of Morley and the western fringe of Middleton. Morley itself is built on a number of small hills, and was once a straggling village, surrounded by moors and thick woodland. Today it is surrounded by a fragmented pattern of land uses, typical of the urban fringe. Large, open fields of arable lie along the higher ground, dotted with isolated, often prominent farm buildings. Small pockets of horse grazed, more intact pasture lies alongside these farms and elsewhere, adjacent to the urban edge. On the lower ground, characteristic colourful strips of horticulture lie interspersed with a multitude of other land uses, including allotments, recreation grounds and patches of disturbed and derelict pasture. Motorways, major and minor roads, railways and lines of pylons all form prominent linear features, particularly where they coalesce as they move along a valley. As they cross the area, this further increases the fragmentation of the fringe, although where scrub and woodland has grown up, such as along the railway, this forms a positive feature and valuable resource for wildlife. Due to the nature of the landform, good and 'busy' views can be gained from areas of higher ground. From the pastoral, scrub and wood covered ridge on the edge of Middleton, for example, extensive views can be gained over the land to the west. Here the church and hall spires of the Morley skyline, form prominent focal points, vying for attention with the intrusive masts of the gas works at Topcliffe Grange.

Forces for change

The East Morley Fringe is surrounded on three sides by urban development. As such, it is under pressure from the encroachment of urban activities and typical fringe uses, such as the development of golf courses, new roads, industrial areas and scrap yards, for example at Grove Farm. Although some of the agricultural land is intact, there has been a considerable loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, which has emphasised the openness and feeling of fragmentation and neglect in certain areas. Some of the land is degraded, under-used agricultural land, with activities such as horse grazing commonplace. These pressures are particularly prevalent in the southern part of the area, close to the motorway. Future change could occur with any proposed new development in the

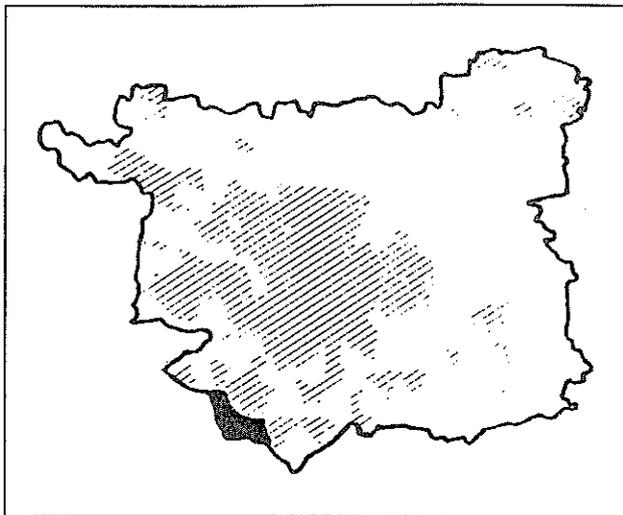
area, such as the employment area at Stone Lane Farm and development of the old sewage works to the north of Grove Farm.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the East Morley Fringe should be one of **enhancement** through the creation of a new landscape character. This should be in the form of new large scale woodland planting.

All guidelines relating to the arable fringe farmland landscape type are applicable for the East Morley landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *look for large scale new planting opportunities as part of a wider scheme for new tree planting in the urban fringe area;*
- *maintain and enhance woodland cover through the encouragement of natural regeneration along both the existing railway embankment and along the disused railway line;*
- *instigate a programme of tree planting through the encouragement of natural regeneration and new deciduous planting, to screen existing visually intrusive industrial developments such as the scrapyard at Grove Farm and the gas works at Topcliffe Grange. This programme of tree planting should be extended to incorporate screening of any new developments proposed, for example at the old sewage works north of Grove Farm. This should be designed as an integral part of any new woodland planting in the area;*
- *instigate a programme of tree planting through the encouragement of natural regeneration and new deciduous planting, to screen visually intrusive sections of the M62 motorway. This should be designed as an integral part of any new woodland planting in the area;*
- *maintain and enhance tree cover around farms in the valley bottom, through appropriate deciduous planting.*



Key characteristics

- *open ridge top*
- *fragmented arable farmland*
- *horticulture*
- *steep sided wooded valley sides*
- *low gappy hedgerows*
- *golf course*
- *quarrying, opencast and landfill activities*
- *motorway*

Landscape character

Open and undulating area of **arable fringe farmland**, encompassing the southern edges of Morley, south of the M62 motorway. The area consists of an open ridge, rising to about 150 metres, which drops down along its southern edge towards a narrow valley, along which runs the Howley Beck. The steep valley sides are covered by the deciduous woodland of Birkby Brow Wood, dominated by beech, oak and sycamore, and interspersed with patches of scrub and bracken on the steeper slopes. As the land rises and levels out, the open ridge top displays some of the more typical fragmented urban fringe characteristics. Here, large, open fields of arable lie adjacent to smaller thin strips of horticulture, both bounded by low and gappy hedgerows. Elsewhere, the golf course and a large area of quarrying at Howley Park and opencast and landfill activity at Howden Clough are visible, although the main urban edge of Morley is physically and visually separated from the farmland by the wide sweep of the M62 motorway. Distant views away from Leeds can be gained from the ridge top.

Forces for change

The narrow belt of the South Morley Fringe, is visually and physically separated from the urban area of Morley by the M62 motorway. As such, it appears to have been less affected by the pressures typical of an urban fringe landscape than the areas further in towards Leeds. However, these pressures are still evident, with golf courses and quarrying, opencast and landfill activities having

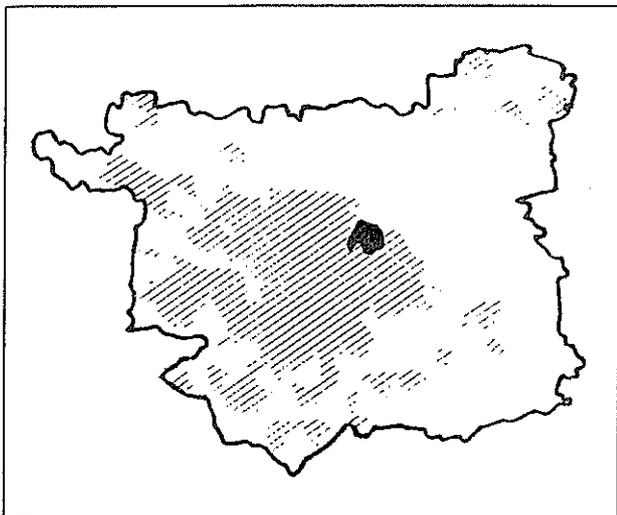
encroached onto the open arable ridge. Here, the field pattern is fragmented, with the loss of hedgerows and isolated hedgerow trees leading to a feeling of fragmentation and neglect in places. Future change could occur with any future mineral extraction activities around Howley Park Quarry or Howden Clough.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the South Morley Fringe should be a careful balance between **conservation** of the characteristic wooded valley slopes along the southern edge of the unit, combined with **enhancement** through new woodland planting, particularly along the northern edge.

All guidelines relating to the arable fringe farmland landscape type are applicable to the South Morley landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *look for large scale new planting opportunities as part of a wider scheme for new tree planting in the urban fringe area, whilst maintaining the characteristic pattern of hedged pastoral and arable fields;*
- *conserve and enhance the deciduous woodland around Birkby Brow Woods and seek to enhance through extending the wooded cover further up the slopes.*



Landscape character

The Grade II listed **urban fringe parkland** of Roundhay, acquired by the Leeds Corporation in 1872 and transformed into a public park, contains a charming variety of manicured and natural scenery. Lying on undulating ground, the Park centres around Waterloo Lake, its shape marking out the valleys and mirroring the underlying contours. Large areas of sports pitches, formal recreation grounds and the close cropped park grassland lie in between tree clumps and prominent lines of tree avenues alongside roads and drives. This contrasts with the less formal areas of planted and semi-natural woodland such as Ram, Great Head, Braim and Castle Woods which provide continual contrasts of scenery as the leaves change colour through the seasons. To the east of the park, small cattle and horse grazed fields occur, forming part of old Roundhay estate. These are enclosed by thorn and holly hedgerows, which have become gappy, only to be replaced by wire fencing. Mature hedgerow trees are common, adding to the wooded views towards Roundhay Park in the south and west. Much of the area is taken up with a golf course, which winds round the areas of woodland. Elsewhere, the only other built developments include a farm, school and a well screened caravan park.

"The view from the mansion, south and eastwards, across the park, is all that can be desired by the mind that loves to linger on the rich and ever-changing hues of scenery. The landscape recedes and melts into dim perspective, enriched by hill, wood, valley, meadow and cornland, with spires and

Key characteristics

- undulating parkland
- designed lakes
- parkland trees and avenues
- planted and semi natural woodlands
- sports pitches and recreational facilities
- golf course
- small hedged fields of pasture
- wooded views

towers of adjacent village churches" (Edmund Bogg, 1904)

Forces for change

Roundhay Park was developed initially in the early nineteenth century, lying somewhat outside the urban area. The park and its immediate surrounds are now enclosed on three sides by urban development, although the park itself has remained a self-contained designed landscape, removed from the pressures and changes affecting the urban fringe landscape elsewhere around Leeds. The landscape that can be seen today is largely a mature reflection of the original designed landscape, although formal recreational facilities, such as the golf course and playing fields and other public amenities have been added in later years. Some of the historic features within the park, such as the tree avenues, would benefit from restoration where their value is in decline. To the east of the public park, the area of pastoral farmland has remained largely intact, although there appears to have been a gradual decline in the condition of hedgerows which have become gappy in places.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for Roundhay should be a combination of **conservation** of the historic and characteristic parkland features combined with **restoration** of the original designed features, where feasible, where these are in decline or have been lost. To the east of the area, the management strategy should be one of restoration where the farmland features which

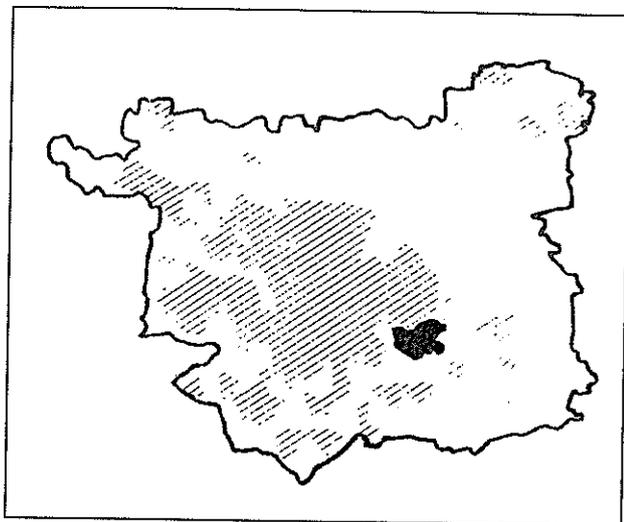
once formed park of the Roundhay estates are falling into decline.

All guidelines relating to the urban fringe parkland landscape type are applicable for the Roundhay landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *maintain and enhance through the encouragement of natural regeneration, the woodland cover around the caravan park and the Beechwood conference training centre;*

- *maintain and enhance, where appropriate, through new long term replacement planting, the characteristic tree avenues, such as along Prince's Avenue, Middle Walk and Carriage Drive;*
- *restore drystone walls around roadsides around the edge of the area, where they are beginning to break down.*

LCM10 TEMPLE NEWSAM



Landscape character

Popular, Grade II listed **urban fringe parkland** of Temple Newsam, lying on an elevated position on Dog Kennel Hill to the south east of Leeds with extensive views over the Lower Aire Valley. Designed and developed during the eighteenth century, part of it by Capability Brown, the park contains many designed features of interest such as ponds, a cascade and bridge, which lie hidden within areas of mixed woodland and recent formal recreational features such as the golf course. The woodland is cut by the straight drive or ride known as the Avenue, but elsewhere it extends in a semi-natural strip along valley bottoms. Small scale intact fields of pasture bounded by hedgerows and hedgerow trees lie on the edges of the park around Colton, and throughout, mature parkland trees are prominent features, adding a feeling of intactness and security to the landscape. In the south however, this feeling of intactness has been eroded following opencast coal mining activities. Here, reclaimed pasture and new tree planting have taken place to restore its character.

Key characteristics

- *mixed plantation woodland*
- *parkland and avenue trees*
- *designed ponds and parkland features*
- *elevated location with views over Aire Valley*
- *golf course*
- *small scale hedged pastoral fields*
- *reclaimed pasture and new tree planting*

"The magnificent domain of Temple Newsam, with its beautiful avenue of trees and long sweeping vistas, here and there glimpses of fallow deer browsing on the undulating green sward, glade, lawn valley upland and sequestered pool....a situation teeming with objects of natural beauty"
(Edmund Bogg 1904)"

Forces for change

Temple Newsam was designed and developed during the eighteenth century, when it lay somewhat outside the urban area. The park and its immediate surrounds are now enclosed to the north by residential and to the west by industrial development. Although some of the park itself has matured but remained relatively unchanged since its original design, elsewhere, changes have occurred. The development of formal recreational facilities such as the golf course and sports pitches are all reflections of its use as a public park. In the south, however, the historic character of the grounds has been eroded by open cast coal mining in the early 1940s. Restoration and new tree

planting have since taken place, although will take some years to reach maturity. Future change could occur with the proposed A1/M1 link which may run to the south of the park.

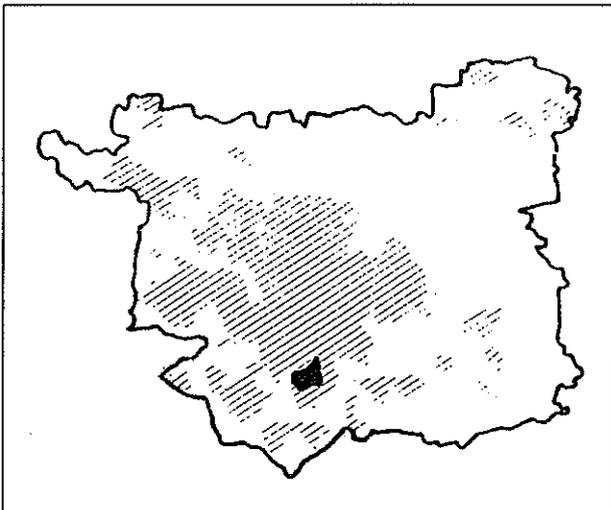
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for Temple Newsam should be a combination of **conservation** of the historic and characteristic parkland features in addition to conservation of the intact pasture at Colton, combined with **restoration**, where these features have been lost, particularly through the activities of past open cast coal mining and the addition of formal recreational facilities.

All guidelines relating to the urban fringe parkland landscape type are applicable for the Temple Newsam landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *instigate a programme of tree planting extending out from existing areas of planting along the slopes of Dog Kennel Hill along the Lower Aire Valley. This should be designed as an integral part of any woodland planting in the wider area;*
- *maintain and enhance pattern of small scale hedged pasture around Colton, through appropriate management of field boundaries.*

LCM11 MIDDLETON



Key characteristics

- *undulating parkland*
- *ancient woodland*
- *parkland trees*
- *narrow, secluded wooded valleys*
- *boating lake and tennis courts*
- *golf course and sports pitches*
- *reclaimed mounds of past opencast working*

Landscape character

Undulating and well wooded **urban fringe parkland**, comprising an interesting mix of formal and informal land uses. Enclosed on three sides by urban development, the park provides a valuable resource for recreation. The formal grounds are arranged around a small boating lake, with tennis courts close by and playing fields occurring on the elevated area around The Clearings, where extensive views can be gained over the urban areas to the east. The mature deciduous woodland of Middleton Woods, one of the largest ancient woodland sites in the Leeds District, lies along several narrow and steep sided secluded valleys, weaving between the golf course and the areas of open grassland. The line of a dismantled tramway forms a good route through the woodland, once providing a link to the area of opencast working in the east. This has now been reclaimed, partly by

landfill, forming an area of rough grassland with planted and naturally regenerating scrub.

Forces for change

Middleton Park was originally laid out as a country estate, incorporating the ancient woodland of Middleton Woods, lying some way outside the main urban area of Leeds. The park and its immediate surrounds are now enclosed on three sides by urban development. Its wooded character has remained intact, although changes within the park such as the development of the golf course and the opencast mining which took place along the eastern edge have had an influence on its character. The opencast workings have now been reclaimed, forming an area of scrub and grassland. The close proximity of the park to the urban area have resulted in fringe pressures such as

unauthorised motorcycling and fly tipping being in evidence.

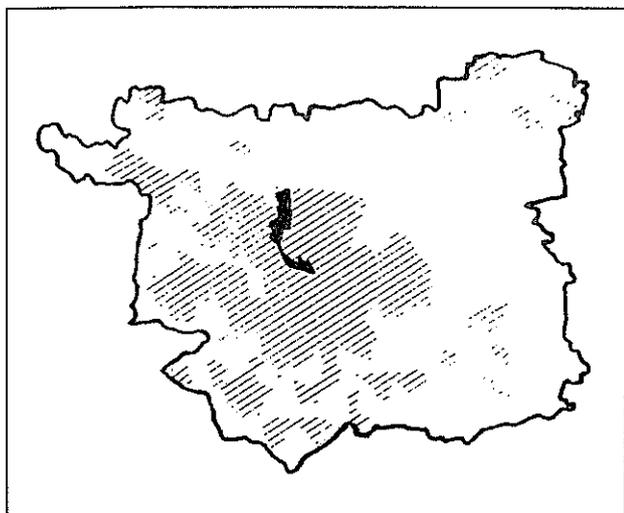
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for Middleton, should be a combination of **conservation** of the wooded and historic parkland features, combined with continuing **restoration** of the area of past opencast mining along the eastern edge of the area.

All guidelines relating to the urban fringe parkland landscape type are applicable for the Middleton area (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous tree planting and encourage natural regeneration, to help integrate the area of reclaimed opencast working into the surrounding wooded parkland;*
- *seek to control unauthorised uses of the park such as flytipping and motorcycling.*

LCMI2 MEANWOOD VALLEY



Key characteristics

- *narrow valley*
- *stream along valley bottom*
- *steep enclosed wooded slopes*
- *deciduous and mixed woodlands*
- *formal recreation grounds and sports pitches*
- *enclosed by urban development*
- *pockets of small walled pastoral fields*
- *hedgerow oaks and sycamores*

Landscape character

Narrow, wooded valley following the course of the Meanwood Beck and forming an area of valuable **encapsulated countryside** stretching right into the heart of Leeds. Totally enclosed by urban development, except along its northern edge, the Meanwood Valley forms a green 'finger' or corridor, important for both recreation and wildlife. At the inner end of the corridor, playing fields and sports pitches occur along the narrow, but flat valley bottom. Further out, the narrow valley gives rise to steeper well wooded slopes, with the linked deciduous and mixed woodlands of Batty's Wood, Weetwood, Meanwood and Scotland Wood giving rise to almost continual tree cover. Even the name Meanwood, derives from the Old English for common wood, as in ancient times the valley formed part of a thickly wooded area. Recreation grounds and small pockets of sheep grazed pasture around Dunstarn Farm and horse grazed pasture around the urban farm occur between the areas of woodland, their field pattern

still mainly intact, although some walls are in disrepair and hedgerows are becoming overgrown or gappy, only to be replaced by wire fencing. In places lines of hedgerow oaks or sycamores line raised earthbanks, forming relic boundaries of old field patterns. From within the enclosed woodland, particularly alongside the Meanwood Beck, the only reminder of the surrounding urban area is the distant noise of traffic, occurring from residential roads and the main A6120 which cuts across the area. In places however, new residential development and areas of industry intrude into views.

Forces for change

The Meanwood Valley, was once a wooded, pastoral valley, unenclosed by the urban area. Today it is enclosed on three sides by urban development and retains the vestige of small scale industry which developed along the Meanwood Beck before the nineteenth century. The wooded nature of the valley appears to have remained

reasonably intact, particularly further out to the north, although due to its close proximity to the urban area it is still subject to a range of pressures, typical of the urban fringe, as is the small agricultural area around the urban farm. These pressures include the growth of fairly substantial areas of horse grazing, some of which has become degraded, with run down ancillary buildings and structures and boundaries which are falling into decline. In addition, new housing and industrial developments have been built in the valley bottom, breaking up the overall continuity of the corridor.

Management strategy and guidelines

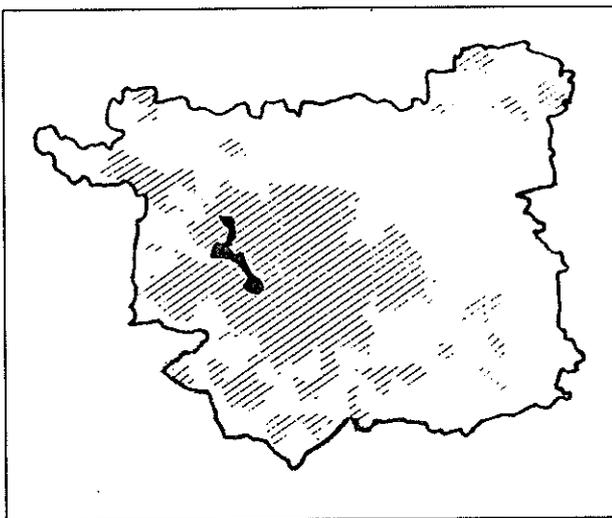
The overall management strategy for the Meanwood Valley should be combination of **conservation** of the characteristic wooded and pastoral valley characteristics, combined with **restoration** of the features where these are in decline or under pressure. There may also be opportunities for additional small scale planting in the southern section of the valley, associated with intrusive industrial or residential areas.

All guidelines relating to the encapsulated countryside landscape type are applicable for the Meanwood Valley landscape unit (see **Part 2**).

Additional site specific guidelines are detailed as follows:

- *maintain and enhance the pattern of small scale walled fields around Dunstarn Farm through encouragement of natural regeneration and new planting where appropriate;*
- *maintain and enhance lines of old hedgerow oaks along walls in the Dunstarn Farm area;*
- *maintain and enhance pattern of small scale hedged pastures in the southern section of the valley around the urban farm, through control over horse grazing and appropriate management of hedgerows and hedgerow trees;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous planting to soften the edges of industrial and new residential development in the valley bottom and to enhance the wooded continuity of the valley. This should be designed as an integral part of any new small scale woodland planting in the wider area.*

LCM13 KIRKSTALL VALLEY



Key characteristics

- *steep sided wooded valley slopes*
- *enclosed by urban development*
- *mix of urban and rural land uses*
- *industrial encroachments*
- *rough grassland and derelict land*
- *Kirkstall Abbey*
- *canal, river and railway line*
- *views from high ground along valley*

Landscape character

Narrow, flat bottomed and steep sided corridor of **encapsulated countryside**, extending along the Aire, and a tributary valley, right into the heart of the Leeds urban area. A contrasting mix of rural

and urban land uses occur, with industrial encroachments and redevelopment schemes, sitting side by side with woodlands and areas of parkland, playing fields, derelict land and areas of rough grassland, for example at Newlay. Woodland lines the banks of the river, the canal and the railway line, creating valuable linear features within the

valleys and linking together larger areas of woodland along the slopes. Here, the deciduous woodland of Swaine, Hawksworth, Spring and Backhouse Woods, forms a dominant feature within views, defining, yet at the same time softening the urban areas which clothe the slopes above. Kirkstall Abbey itself, nestles on the wooded slopes, its presence sometimes overshadowed by the mix of more modern development which partially surrounds it. In the inner area of the valley, the Grade II listed, landscaped grounds of Gotts Park lie along the valley slopes, overlooking Kirkstall Abbey and the meandering river to the north. To the south east, there is a view along the Aire towards central Leeds. The valley forms an important corridor for all forms of transport, from cars to the traditional and colourful barges which lie moored to the canal banks.

Forces for change

The Kirkstall Valley is bounded on three sides by urban development. As such, it contains a mix of urban and rural land uses, all in close juxtaposition. Throughout, the valley is subject to a number of pressures typical of the urban fringe. These include building development, recreational pressures and activities such as fly tipping. Future changes could occur with creation of a fairly large area of the valley into a nature reserve, which will provide opportunities for landscape, wildlife and recreational enhancement. In addition, future change could also occur with the proposed industrial development in the Woodside Quarry area.

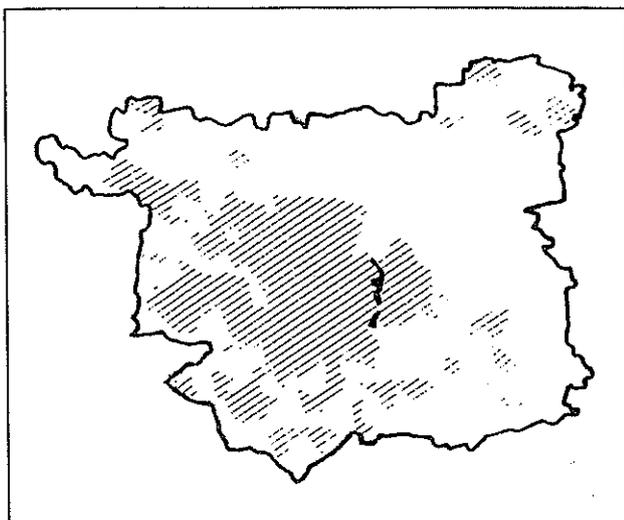
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Kirkstall Valley should be a careful balance between **conservation** of the characteristic wooded features of the valley and **enhancement** through woodland planting and the encouragement of natural regeneration, to maintain the wooded continuity and value of this corridor.

All guidelines relating to the encapsulated countryside landscape type are applicable for the Kirkstall Valley landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *encourage natural regeneration of scrub and woodland in the areas of rough grassland around Newlay, whilst maintaining a diversity of habitats in this area;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous planting to screen intrusive industrial developments in the valley bottom. This should be designed as an integral part of any new small scale woodland planting in the wider corridor;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous planting to help integrate any new industrial developments into their 'rural' surrounds, for example at Woodside Quarry.*

LCM14 WYKE BECK VALLEY



Key characteristics

- *narrow fragmented corridor*
- *enclosed by urban development*
- *pockets of rough and degraded pasture*
- *semi natural strip woodland along beck*
- *formal recreation areas, sports pitches*
- *allotments*
- *school playing fields*

Landscape character

A narrow and fairly small strip of encapsulated countryside, running from the Wetherby Road south of Roundhay down the valley of the Wyke Beck. Surrounded on three sides by urban development, the valley is open to the countryside only along its northern edge. It is split up into parcels, fragmented by urban development, such as the built up areas of Osmondthorpe and Halton Moor, and narrows significantly as it is crossed by the main A58 road. The northern section is characterised by an area of rough pasture and semi-natural woodland which leads into more formal amenity areas, comprising allotment gardens, a school, sports centre and recreation grounds. Views of the urban areas of Beechwood, Monkswood and Killingbeck are prominent throughout. To the south, a similar landscape emerges, with level areas of playing fields and amenity land interspersed with strips of rough grassland along the banks of the Wyke Beck.

Forces for change

The Wyke Beck Valley is the narrowest and smallest unit in the encapsulated countryside landscape type. It is also the most fragmented, being cut into parcels by areas of urban development or roads. Land use within the fragmented corridor is mainly formal amenity use. Throughout, due to its close proximity to the urban area, the corridor is under pressure for both formal and informal recreational uses. Future change could occur with any proposed developments in or

around the corridor, such as the proposed supertram scheme.

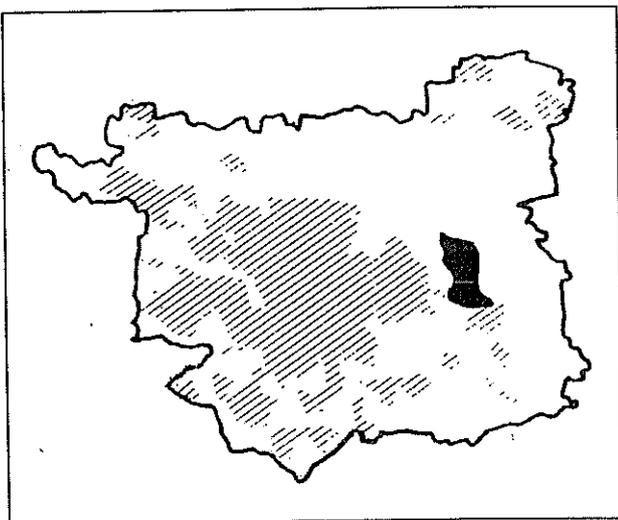
Management strategy and guidelines

Due to the fragmented and 'urbanised' nature of much of the Wyke Beck Valley, the overall strategy should be one of **enhancement** through the creation of a new landscape character. This could be centred around new woodland planting and creation of a diverse range of habitats, whilst maintaining formal recreational areas as required. This would enhance the continuity of this 'green' corridor and provide visual, wildlife and recreational benefits.

All guidelines relating to the encapsulated countryside landscape type are applicable for the Wyke Beck Valley landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed as below:

- *look for opportunities to increase the diversity of habitats along the corridor, for example semi natural areas of grassland, close to the Killingbeck Hospital site;*
- *encourage small to medium scale deciduous planting along the Wyke Beck, to increase the sense of continuity along the corridor, whilst maintaining the formal recreational sites where required. In the southern section of the valley, planting should be designed as an integral part of any new woodland planting in the wider Lower Aire Valley area.*

LCMI5 BARWICK TO GARFORTH



Key characteristics

- *undulating farmland*
- *open arable ridge tops*
- *isolated pastoral fields in shallow valleys*
- *sparse tree cover on higher ground*
- *small copses and plantations*
- *deciduous trees along becks*
- *low gappy hedgerows*

Landscape character

Area of **open arable farmland** lying to the east of Leeds, between the settlements of Barwick in Elmet and Garforth and providing a transition between the arable fringe areas to the west and the larger scale open arable landscapes to the east. More undulating than the arable farmland to the east, this area is characterised by a pattern of open arable ridge tops and more enclosed, but shallow valleys. Fields tend to be slightly smaller in scale and more intact than the fringe farmland to the west and the wooded farmland to the east, particularly in the valleys, where fields of cattle grazed pasture appear as islands within their arable surroundings, for example along Rake and Cock Becks. Much of the higher ground, for example at Barnbow Common is treeless, with low, occasionally gappy, thorn hedgerows. Deciduous woodland lines the becks which run along the valleys, with small copses and planted woodlands appearing in places. Views of the tower blocks in east Leeds are prominent in some of the views from the area, however, the area is sufficiently distant from the main urban edge of Leeds, to have its own character. Settlement lies mainly within the village of Barwick in Elmet, with its core of traditional housing and outer pockets of new development.

"Barnbow is a fine plateau which commands the country for miles. The Cock rivulet winds round its base in a half circle and the deep woods of Parlington spread to the east" (Edmund Bogg 1904)

Forces for change

As with all the areas of open arable farmland within the Leeds District, the main pressures influencing landscape change in the Barwick to Garforth area appear to be related to gradual agricultural intensification. Although amalgamation of fields into larger units does not appear to have been particularly prevalent in this area, the sense of openness has been emphasised by the gradual loss of hedgerows, with many being poorly maintained and suffering from neglect.

Management strategy and guidelines

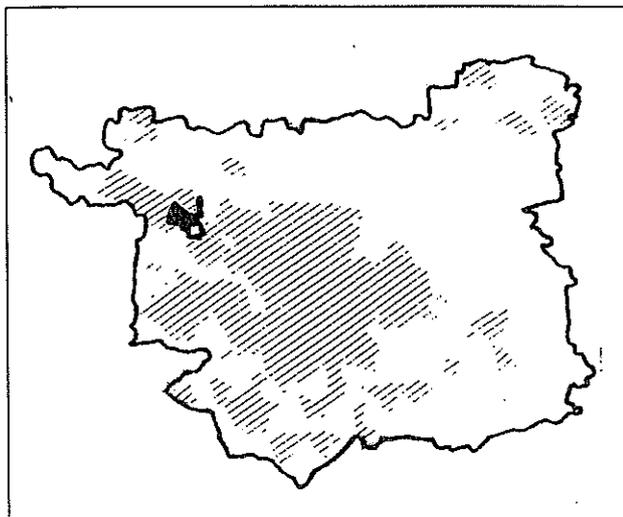
The overall management strategy for the Barwick to Garforth area should be one of **restoration**, where traditional farmland features have declined and the structure of the landscape is being lost. There may also be opportunities for enhancement through small scale woodland planting, although this should be carefully designed to maintain the generally open nature of the landscape.

All guidelines relating to the open arable farmland landscape type are applicable for the Barwick to Garforth landscape unit (see **Part 2**), although any new planting should be on a smaller scale than suggested. Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below

- *retain grassland along the valley bottoms, in particular along Rake and Cock becks and where possible, look for opportunities to convert arable land back to pasture adjacent to the becks to provide contrast with the surrounding cultivated land.*

LCMI6

RAWDON PLATEAU



Key characteristics

- *undulating open plateau*
- *small to medium sized pastoral fields*
- *sheep and dairy cattle*
- *gappy thorn hedgerows*
- *walls along roads*
- *small copses and mixed plantations*
- *semi natural woodland along becks*
- *large scale airport development*

Landscape character

Undulating area of open **pastoral plateau farmland**, lying on the Leeds Coal Measures, between the built up areas of Yeadon to the west and Horsforth to the east. The sheep and cattle grazed fields tend to be smaller in size than the pastoral plateau farmland on the Millstone Grit, and are bounded mainly by thorn hedgerows, with walls appearing along some of the roads. In places, the field structure has begun to break down, with isolated stunted hawthorn bushes lying along the lines of remnant hedgerows. On the higher parts, which rise to about 230 metres on the wood-capped Rawdon Hill, hedgerow trees are few and far between, emphasising the openness of the area. On the lower slopes, close to the urban areas, overgrown hedgerows and hedgerow trees become more apparent, occasionally enclosing fields of more degraded horse pasture and rough grassland. Woodland occurs in small copses on hills such as Billing Hill, as strips along certain lanes and around Hunger Hills, and as mixed plantations, such as Wetstone Plantation, with semi-natural woodland an attractive feature along the becks. Industry around the Leeds Bradford Airport is visible, particularly in views from the south. However, despite being sandwiched in between two built up areas, the landscape has a surprisingly rural feel to it, with only the edges having a more urban fringe nature.

Forces for change

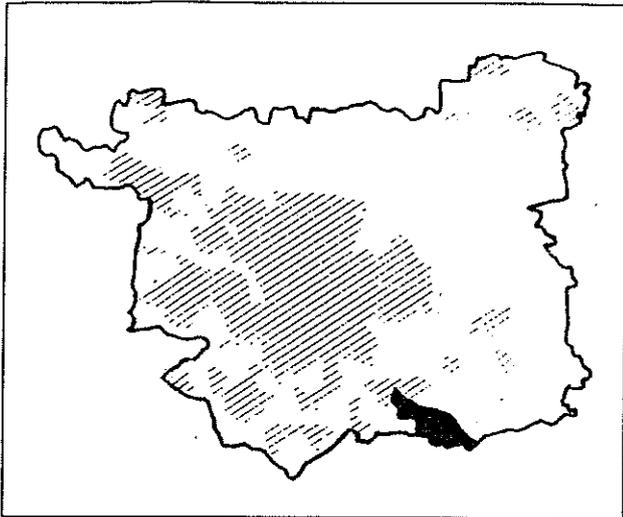
The Rawdon Plateau forms a rural area, 'sandwiched' between the urban areas of Rawdon, Horsforth and Cookridge. As such, land uses around the edges of this area have been affected by urban influences, such as the gradual increase and spread of horseculture and informal unauthorised recreational pursuits such as motorcross. Throughout, the main changes appear to be related to a gradual decline in the condition of field boundaries with hedgerows being either low and gappy, or overgrown, and the loss of isolated hedgerow trees.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Rawdon Plateau, should be one of protection against further encroachment of urban influences around the fringe, combined with **restoration** of traditional farmland features, where these are in decline. There may be opportunities for small scale enhancement associated with the urban edge of Yeadon.

All guidelines relating to the pastoral plateau farmland landscape type are applicable for the Rawdon Fringe landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *seek to control the spread of horse grazing in inappropriate locations, particularly on the open plateau tops;*
- *seek to control the spread of leisure developments such as motorcross in unsuitable rural areas;*
- *seek appropriate management to maintain and enhance existing woodland, such as the rounded copse on Billing Hill and strip woodland around Hunger Hills;*
- *enhance strip woodland along roads and lanes such as Bayton Lane, through the encouragement of natural regeneration;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous tree planting and encourage natural regeneration, designed to soften the landscape impact of visually intrusive urban edges, for example, around the eastern edge of Yeadon;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous tree planting and encourage natural regeneration, designed to reduce the landscape impact of visually intrusive development associated with the airport.*



Landscape character

Lying between the visible M62 motorway, the River Calder, and the main A639 road and extending up to the urban edge of Rothwell, this area is dominated by the **wooded farmland** around Oulton and Methley Parks. Surrounded by areas of degraded and disturbed land in the north along the Aire Valley and in the west around the South Leeds fringe, this area provides a valuable oasis of intact countryside. The Methley estate is split up into pockets of farmland lying around large houses and farms, such as Clumpcliffe, Park Farm and the private Woodside Hospital. Blocks of planted mixed woodland such as Moss Carr Wood and Almhouses Wood, form a patchwork pattern with fields of pasture, arable and rough grassland. When viewed from the lower ground around, the eye is drawn through gaps in the woodland, creating an inviting feature, and suggesting further views from the higher ground above. Designed features such as a fish pond nestle within the woodland, unseen and inaccessible within the farmed setting. Further out from the wooded areas, larger fields of arable farmland occur. Although there are generally few boundary trees, particularly in the north of the area, many of the hedgerows are overgrown, giving an impression of wooded cover. To the north west of the area, the listed Oulton Park provides a significant area of golf course, with the old parkland trees providing a good structure and base for the areas of more recent planting. Apart from the isolated and sometimes highly visible buildings such as the sports centre at Oulton, the settlements of Rothwell, Oulton, Methley and Methley Junction,

Key characteristics

- undulating wooded farmland
- mixed arable and pastoral fields
- small strips of rough pasture and scrub
- remnants of designed parkland features
- overgrown hedgerows
- isolated hedgerow trees
- golf course
- mixed plantations

with their occasional sharp urban edges, form the main built up areas.

Forces for change

The main influence on the evolution of the area has been the development and management of the land as part of the large parkland and estate holdings of Methley Park and Oulton Park. In Oulton Park, this has resulted in the development of a golf course and at Methley, a characteristic pattern of large areas of mixed plantations and the intervening areas of arable and pastoral farmland. This pattern has remained largely intact even though the surrounding areas have been severely degraded following large scale industrial activities. However, there has been a gradual decline in the condition of these features as a result of changing agricultural practices and new amenity land uses. Hedgerows for example have become neglected and overgrown in parts and low cut and gappy in others, resulting in a gradual fragmentation of the field pattern.

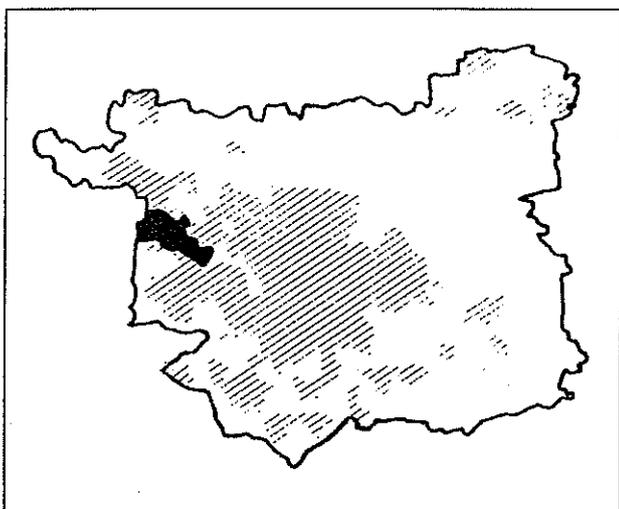
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for Methley Park area should be a careful balance of **conservation** of the features which make up the wooded farmland character of the landscape, combined with **restoration**, where parkland and farmland features are in decline. Enhancement through new planting may be appropriate, particularly in the east of the area, but this should reinforce the existing pattern of tree cover rather than creating a new character.

All guidelines relating to the wooded farmland landscape type are applicable for the Methley Park landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *enhance the wooded cover of the area through encouragement of natural regeneration and medium scale planting, particularly between Park lane and the railway line;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale planting to help soften the western urban edge of Methley Junction. This should be designed as part of a wider planting programme for the area;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale planting to help screen visually intrusive buildings such as the sports centre at Oulton and sections of highways such as the M62 motorway;*
- *conserve and enhance tree lines or avenues along roads such as Park Lane and the road leading up to Clumpcliffe;*
- *conserve and enhance the pattern of hedgerow trees through the encouragement of natural regeneration or the replanting of locally occurring native trees where appropriate.*

LCM18 CALVERLEY VALLEY



Key characteristics

- *gently sloping wooded river valley*
- *linear river, canal and railway features*
- *woodland on valley slopes*
- *mix of rural and urban land uses*
- *small intact pastoral fields*
- *sheep, dairy cattle and horse grazed fields*
- *hedgerow and parkland type trees*
- *settlement on top of valley slopes*

Landscape character

Gently sloping well wooded river valley, dropping steadily down from about 150 metres on either side, to the narrow floodplain of the River Aire.

Although predominantly rural in feel, the river valley is characterised by a mix of land uses, which weakens the visual impact of the valley landform. The slopes are covered by small, intact fields of pasture, grazed by dairy cows and sheep, with localised fields of horse pasture and arable farmland. Parkland type trees occur around large Victorian houses and around Rawdon Hall Farm on the north side of the valley. Throughout, trees in hedgerows or along walls link significant areas of mixed woodland including the dense and visually prominent Calverley Woods. This ancient woodland dominates the southern slope of the valley and forms a valuable recreational resource for local communities. Settlements such as Horsforth, with its prominent church spire,

Rawdon, with its occasional harsh urban edge and Calverley, line the tops of the slopes, appearing almost continuous but half hidden by trees, when viewed from the high points opposite. Within the valley bottom, the predominantly rural feel gives way to a greater degree of urbanisation, with intrusive pockets of industry, sewage works and more formal recreation grounds and sports pitches appearing in views, although some areas of pasture remain, for example to the east of Calverley Bridge. The meandering River Aire, the Leeds Liverpool Canal, the railway and lines of high voltage pylons are all strong linear features within the valley, interrupted only by the areas of woodland which hide them from view. The main settlement, Calverley, a dormitory town for Leeds and Bradford and lying along the main A657, is characterised by a mix of millstone grit cottages, the legacy of the woollen trade which once formed the livelihood of the village.

Forces for change

The Calverley Valley forms a well wooded, generally intact rural corridor, which stretches along the Aire towards the Kirkstall Valley. This rural landscape is under pressure from the urban areas which surround it and dominate many of the views up towards the higher ground. In the valley bottoms, pockets of intrusive industrial development, for example alongside the Calverley Bridge and New York Lane, and more formal recreational facilities further increase the feel of urban encroachment. Where the countryside has remained intact, the main changes appear to be related to a gradual decline in the condition of field boundaries, many of which have become overgrown and gappy and the loss of hedgerow trees.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Calverley Valley should be a careful balance between **conservation** of the intact, rural pastoral and wooded features of the river valley, combined with **restoration** where these features are in decline or where urban influences are beginning to encroach.

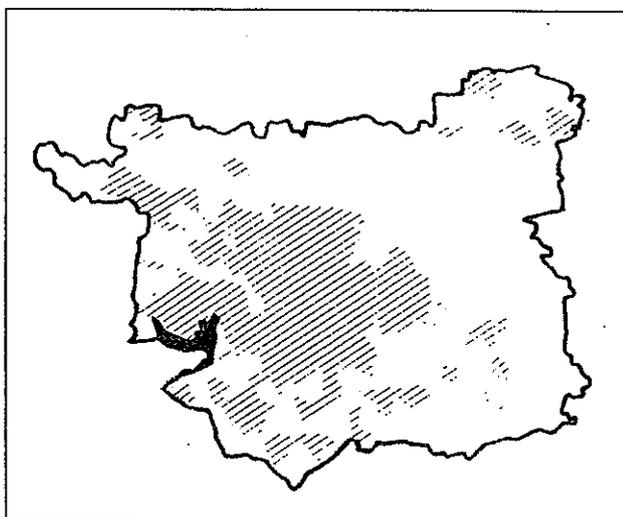
All guidelines relating to the river valley landscape type are applicable for the Calverley Valley

landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *control the spread of industrialisation and urbanisation within the Valley;*
- *maintain and enhance the semi natural strip woodland on the river bank and along the railway line embankment;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale planting and encourage natural regeneration, designed to reduce the landscape impact of visually intrusive industrial development such as the areas alongside the Calverley Bridge and New York Lane;*
- *instigate a programme of tree planting to soften the urban edge of Rawdon, through small scale planting. This should be designed as an integral part of any new small scale woodland planting in the wider area while maintaining views out over the river valley;*
- *conserve and restore remnant areas of parkland and planted tree belts such as at Rawdon Hall Farm;*
- *restore the pattern of small scale hedged pasture to the east of Calverley Bridge, through the replanting and restoration of hedgerows.*

LCM19

COCKERSDALE



Key characteristics

- *steep sided valleys*
- *urban settlement on ridge tops*
- *small intact hedged fields*
- *sheep, cattle and horse grazed pastures*
- *pockets of arable and market gardening*
- *pockets of industrial development*
- *gappy overgrown hedgerows*
- *semi natural woodland along becks*

Landscape character

Steep sided and well defined river valley landscape, extending along the confluence of two valleys, the Fulneck and Cockersdale, each characterised by a small beck or stream. Predominantly rural in nature, the character of the valley depends very much on the location from which it is viewed. If one looks to the west, there is a strong rural and undisturbed feel to the land. However, if one looks to the east, the green spread of the valley appears dominated and surrounded by urban development which crowns the ridge tops. Within the valley, a mix of generally small and intact fields of sheep, cattle and horse grazed pasture for example on Westroyd Hill, give way to fields of arable on the more open tops of the slopes. Pockets of rough pasture and scrub occur on the steeper slopes, with deciduous semi-natural woodland extending in ribbons alongside the becks. Hedgerows and hedgerow trees form the majority of boundaries, although in places, these are in poor condition, with only overgrown sections remaining as remnants of the earlier fabric. The rural nature of the valley is broken by isolated areas of industrial development and the manicured lawns of the Fulneck golf course which extends down the valley slopes. Elsewhere, numerous scattered houses and the dispersed settlement of Troydale line the minor roads which cut across the valley.

"In the midst of manufacture, Tong has preserved its aristocratical character, from the earliest times to the present" (Dr Whitaker, quoted in Cudworth 1986)

Forces for change

The Cockersdale area forms a generally intact rural valley in close proximity to the urban areas which dominate views along the higher ground. Due to the close proximity of the urban edge, this

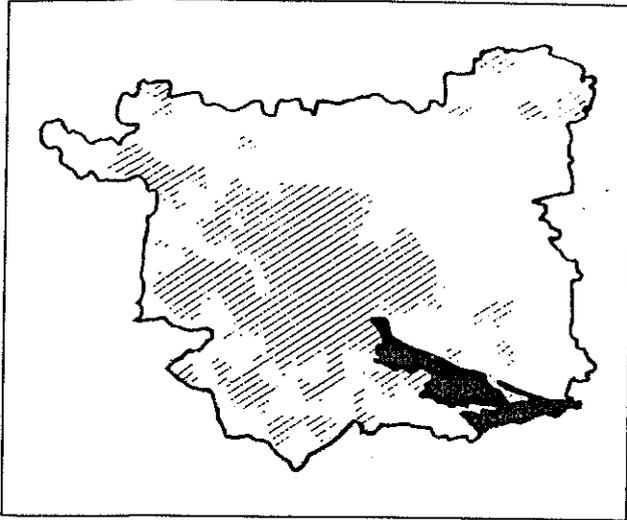
landscape is under pressure from urban influences including pockets of industrial development, for example along Troydale Lane and the development of a golf course.. Where the countryside has remained intact, the main changes appear to be related to a gradual decline in the condition of field boundaries, many of which have become overgrown and gappy and the loss of hedgerow trees.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Cockersdale area should be a careful balance between **conservation** of the intact, rural pastoral and wooded features of the river valley, combined with **restoration** where these features are in decline or where urban influences are beginning to encroach.

All guidelines relating to the river valley landscape type are applicable for the Cockersdale landscape unit (see **Part 2**). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *control the spread of industrialisation and urbanisation within the valleys;*
- *maintain and enhance the semi natural strip woodland along streams, particularly the Tong and Pudsey becks;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale planting and encourage natural regeneration, designed to reduce the landscape impact of visually intrusive industrial development, for example along Troydale Lane area;*
- *maintain and restore the pattern of small scale hedged and walled pasture on Westroyd Hill.*



Key characteristics

- *broad river valley*
- *degraded, despoiled and restored land*
- *extraction works and industrial buildings*
- *remnant parkland areas*
- *major river and canal and wetlands*
- *pockets of intact arable land*
- *featureless regular restored arable fields*
- *power station cooling towers*

Landscape character

Degraded river valley of the Lower Aire, stretching from the prominent cooling towers of Skelton Grange power station east along the valley to Castleford. The broad valley, bounded by gently rising ground on either side, has been despoiled by years of human activities, resulting in a landscape of man-made features such as spoil heaps, lagoons industrial buildings and plant. Major transport routes such as the Aire and Calder Navigation, and the Leeds-Castleford railway line traverse the valley with the river itself meandering slowly, its original course diverted as the valley undergoes continual change. Although the majority of the valley is degraded or despoiled, there still remain pockets of attractive intact parkland landscapes, such as at Swillington, and areas of farmland. Due to the contrast in character of these areas within the wider valley landscape, they are described as three separate sub-units of the Lower Aire: wetlands and waterways; Swillington and Leventhorpe; and the Aire arable farmland.

Wetlands and waterways

Extensive complex of wetlands and waterside land, lying adjacent to the River Aire and the Aire and Calder Navigation. The irregularly shaped wetlands are lagoons and flashes, linked to past mining and extraction activities, many of which, including Ledston and Fairburn Ings have become important areas for wildlife, particularly birds. Trees and scrub have begun to colonise around the edges, helping to give some form of unity to an otherwise fragmented area. Although many areas are in the process of undergoing restoration, there

still remain large intrusive spoil heaps, extraction works and industrial buildings such as sewage works, close to the waters edge. However, the waterways provide a valuable resource and an important corridor for wildlife and recreation.

Swillington and Leventhorpe

Swillington and Leventhorpe form the last remaining remnant of the large estates which once existed in this area. Characterised by small scale pasture and wooded hedgerows, the area provides an intact and attractive core to the Lower Aire Valley. Strips of woodland such as that surrounding Cockpit Round, an oxbow lake, and tree avenues for example at Swillington Bridge and leading up to Swillington House, form the main wooded cover, with isolated parkland trees dotted throughout.

Arable farmland

Areas of farmland on either side of the valley, some undisturbed and intact and others having been restored to agriculture following restoration of mineral workings. Where the field pattern has remained intact, for example to the north of Allerton Bywater and along Methley Lane, field boundaries can form positive features, although they are generally neglected and in need of restoration. Elsewhere, the round featureless mounds of restored workings provide bleak and exposed farmland, bounded by large regular fence lines. Trees occur in isolated small coverts or plantations, for example north of Allerton Bywater, along isolated field boundaries and as

linear features along roads or the railway embankment.

Forces for change

The Lower Aire Valley has undergone a tremendous amount of change since the area was first affected by mineral extraction, landfill and industrial activities. Much of this change has left a legacy of derelict and degraded land for example at the old Rothwell Colliery site and some of these activities will continue for many years. Where activities have ceased, some of the restored sites are beginning to mature, forming important wildlife habitats and landscape features and further influencing landscape change along the valley. Significant landscape restoration will result from the major restoration schemes proposed within the Lower Aire Valley, for example at St. Aidan's, Rothwell Colliery, Skelton and Savile Colliery. Alongside the more degraded areas, lie pockets of more intact parkland and arable farmland landscapes which have undergone less change in recent years. They are however, under pressure from urban fringe and development pressures, such as road building proposals, particularly along the edge of the main built-up area of Leeds and around former mining settlements in the valley. Within these areas, there appears to have been a gradual decline in the condition of traditional parkland and characteristic farmland features.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Lower Aire Valley should be a combination of **enhancement** through the creation of a new landscape character, restoration and conservation. In the wetlands and waterways area, enhancement could take the form of new woodland planting and the creation of a diverse range of habitats, particularly in areas which are degraded and despoiled as a result of past extraction and industrial activities. Restoration is required in areas of arable farmland, where traditional farmland features such as field boundaries are in decline, although enhancement through new planting would also be appropriate in these areas. In the area of more intact parkland around Swillington and Levanthorpe, the strategy should be one of conservation of characteristic parkland features where these remain, combined with restoration of these features where they have fallen into decline or have been lost completely.

All guidelines relating to the degraded river valley landscape type are applicable for the Lower Aire Valley landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed as below:

Wetlands and waterways

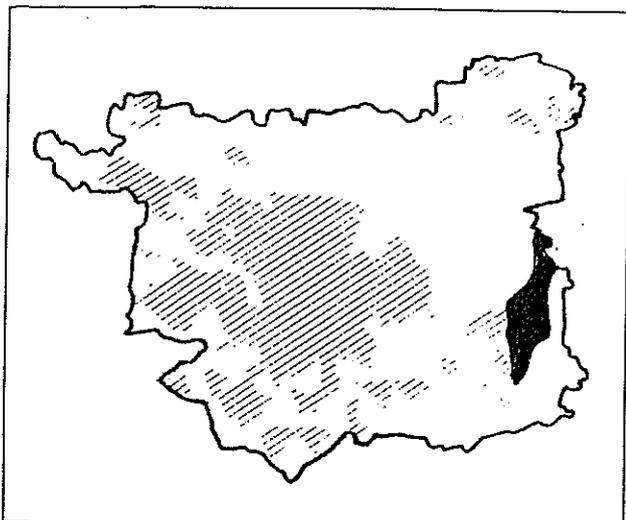
- *instigate a programme of small to medium scale tree planting at Halton Moor, extending from the area of encapsulated countryside. This should be designed as an integral part of any wider woodland planting programme and should aim to reinforce the wooded nature of Temple Newsam estate;*
- *encourage natural regeneration of scrub and woodland at sites where major restoration is proposed or required, such as St. Aidan's and the Rothwell Colliery site and seek to integrate these sites with any wider planting programme for the area.*

Swillington and Levanthorpe

- *conserve and enhance the pattern of parkland trees around Swillington Bridge and the tree lines and avenues leading up to Swillington House, through new planting.*

Arable farmland

- *maintain and enhance, through natural regeneration, the tree and scrub cover along the railway embankment;*
- *maintain and enhance the pattern of small wooded coveris and plantations on the rising ground north of Allerton Bywater;*
- *maintain and enhance through new planting where appropriate, prominent lines of trees along roads, for example east of Mickleton;*
- *instigate a programme of small to medium scale tree planting around the smooth rounded spoil tip to the east of Swillington. This should be designed as an integral part of any wider woodland planting programme.*



Landscape character

Gently rolling area of **open arable farmland**, lying between the settlements of Aberford, Kippax, Garforth and Micklefield. Fields are generally large and regular in shape, with few hedgerows and hedgerow trees. In places, this lack of tree cover creates a bleak and open landscape, with lines of pylons providing the only focal points for the eye as they stride across the horizon.

Elsewhere, the landscape fabric is more structured, with fields of arable and ley grassland, dotted with small isolated clumps of trees. These pockets of woodland along with strips of planting alongside some roads, such as the A656, or woodland along ancient earthworks such as The Rein, form positive features within an otherwise rather bland landscape, although many are thin and in poor condition. Isolated large farm buildings, for example at Sturton Grange, sit prominently amidst the fields, linked by roads, including the main A1, which is visible as it runs along open embankments. Quarries and old spoil tips from past mining activities can be found in the area, some partially reclaimed, for example at Warren Farm and Peckfield Quarry. From the edge of the area, where the land starts to drop to the south, sweeping views of the Lower Aire Valley and its industrial base can be gained. Other settlements such as Garforth are prominent and visible from within the area, where they abut fields of open arable farmland.

Key characteristics

- *open rolling farmland*
- *large regular arable fields*
- *pockets of pasture along becks*
- *isolated tree clumps*
- *thin strip woodland along roads*
- *spoil tips*
- *prominent settlements and large farm buildings*
- *lines of pylons*

Forces for change

The main pressures influencing landscape change in the East Garforth area appear to be related to agricultural intensification, with the amalgamation of fields into larger units increasing the sense of openness, particularly on the higher areas. This has been further emphasised by the loss of hedgerows with many being poorly maintained and suffering from neglect. Today, with the new EC set-aside rules, the amount of set-aside land in areas such as this is likely to increase, creating new opportunities for land management. Small scale mineral extraction activities, including past coal mining at Ledston Luck, and around Micklefield, with their partially reclaimed spoil tips, have also had a localised impact on the landscape.

Management strategy and guidelines

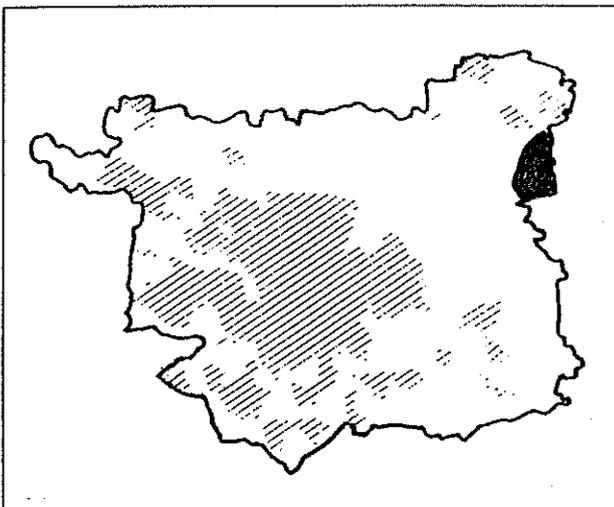
Due to the loss of structure and many of the traditional farmland features within this area, through agricultural intensification and mineral extraction activities, the overall management strategy for East Garforth should be a careful balance between **restoration** of these features and **enhancement** through the creation of new landscapes. Enhancement should mainly take the form of new medium scale tree planting.

All guidelines relating to the open arable farmland landscape type are applicable for the East Garforth landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- instigate a programme of tree planting designed to soften the edges of existing built up areas of Garforth, where they abut the open farmland. This should be designed as an integral part of any new woodland planting in the wider area;
- new planting may be appropriate as screening for intrusive garden centres, glasshouses and farm buildings, such as Sturton Grange. This should be designed as an integral part of any new woodland planting in the wider area;
- encourage natural regeneration of scrub and young woodland on old spoil tips, for example at Warren Farm and Peckfield Quarry;

- enhance the strips of woodland alongside the A656, through the encouragement of natural regeneration and replanting of locally occurring deciduous species where appropriate;
- conserve and enhance the small tree clumps and copses along the Sturton Dyke (between East Garforth and Micklefield), through new deciduous planting;
- protect and conserve the linear wooded earthwork of 'The Rein'.

ELB2 EAST BRAMHAM



Landscape character

A fairly small area of gently rolling large scale open arable farmland, lying to the east of the villages of Clifford and Bramham and rising to a maximum height of only 60 metres. Although the area once formed part of Bramham Moor, which was unenclosed until the early nineteenth century, it is now enclosed and cultivated, forming a productive area of large regular fields, interrupted only by the occasional woodland and isolated patches of pasture. Hedgerow trees are few and far between, linked by low, gappy and often thin mixed hedgerows. Wide grass verges occur, where minor roads cross the area, linking isolated farm buildings with prominent new sheds and storage buildings, for example at New York Farm. The A1, crosses the south western corner of the area, visible as it passes over raised sections or embankments. The largest block of woodland

Key characteristics

- open gently rolling farmland
- large regular arable fields
- sparse tree cover
- low gappy hedgerows
- isolated mixed plantations
- wide grass verges
- large farm buildings and houses

occurs at Oglethorpe Whin Covert, a mixed plantation, with new coniferous planting around its edges. Elsewhere, plantations act as screens for otherwise intrusive developments such as the sub station at Headley Plantation. Large houses, which once must have formed part of larger estates are common, including the university run Headley Hall, which, with its patchwork of experimental tree plantation plots, creates an incongruous looking field pattern in the wider arable landscape.

Forces for change

As with all the areas of open arable farmland within the Leeds District, the main pressures influencing landscape change in the East Bramham area appear to be related to gradual agricultural intensification. This must have been particularly noticeable in the past on Bramham Moor, which was unenclosed in the early

nineteenth century, but is now enclosed and heavily cultivated. Although amalgamation of fields into larger units does not appear to have been particularly prevalent in this area, the sense of openness has been emphasised by the gradual loss of hedgerows, with many being poorly maintained and suffering from neglect.

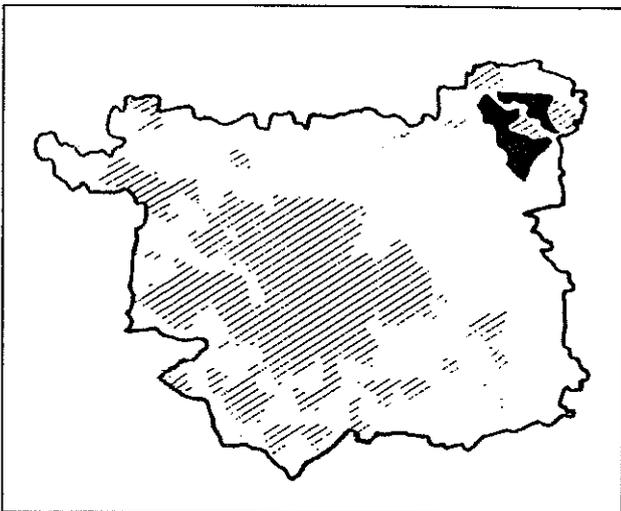
Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the East Bramham area should be one of restoration, where traditional farmland features such as hedgerows have declined and the structure of the landscape is being lost. There may also be opportunities for enhancement through small scale woodland planting, although this should be carefully designed to maintain the generally open nature of the landscape.

All guidelines relating to the open arable farmland landscape type are applicable, (see Part 2) although any new planting should be on a smaller scale than suggested. Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous planting to help reduce the visual impact of raised sections of the A1. Planting should be linked into the surrounding landscape pattern;*
- *encourage further planting around the northern edge of Headley Plantation;*
- *new planting may be appropriate as screening for intrusive farm buildings, such as New York Farm. This should be designed as an integral part of any new small scale woodland planting in the wider area.*

ELB3 BOSTON SPA, CLIFFORD AND BRAMHAM



Key characteristics

- *picturesque villages*
- *creamy limestone buildings*
- *large regular arable fields*
- *low gappy hedgerows*
- *small pockets of parkland*
- *small mixed woodlands*
- *strips of pasture and bankside trees along becks*
- *large trading estate of Thorpe Arch*

Landscape character

An area of limestone villages and farmland bisected by the shallow gorge of the River Wharfe. Characterised by the charming villages of Thorpe Arch, Boston Spa, Clifford, Bramham and Walton, this area lies within open, gently rolling, mainly arable farmland, with large regular fields bordered by low gappy hedgerows and isolated hedgerow trees. All the villages have an attractive blend of picturesque old and new dwellings, the majority being built out of the local creamy white stone associated with buildings in York and the surrounding plain. In places the bright whiteness of new small scale housing developments, with

their orange roofs stand out starkly when they catch the sun. In addition, churches such as the ones at Walton and Clifford, often form focal points as one approaches the outskirts of the villages. Around the fringes of the villages and around the old parkland estates such as Thorparch Hall and Wetherby Grange Hall, small pockets of more intact pasture with hedgerows occur, forming islands within the surrounding open arable land. Trees occur in small mixed woodlands, such as at Gunter and Beiby Woods and in mature woodland strips along the occasional beck, such as Carr Beck, or along the line of the disused railway. To the north, the predominantly residential nature of the area is broken by the huge trading estate of Thorpe Arch. From a distance, only the blue

roofed buildings can be termed intrusive or conspicuous with the trading estate sitting fairly well within its setting, appearing relatively unobtrusive for its size. From close by however, many of the buildings are visible, with some of the screening around the estate appearing in poor condition.

Forces for change

One of the special features of this area is the contrast between the limestone villages, surrounded by small pockets of wooded pasture and remnant parkland and the open arable areas which occur elsewhere. The pastoral and remnant parkland areas have begun to fall into decline, with the loss of characteristic features such as parkland walls and trees. In the open arable areas, many of the characteristic farmland features are showing signs of neglect, with hedgerows becoming gappy and patchy and hedgerow trees dying without being replaced. Urban influences in the area include the large trading estate at Thorpe Arch, which has been built on the site of a former munitions store. Future localised change may occur with the new housing developments proposed around Boston Spa.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for this area should be a careful balance between **conserving**

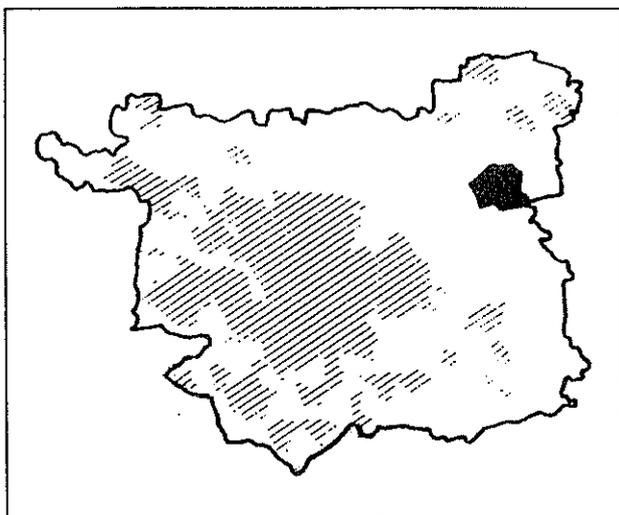
the integrity and character of the limestone villages and their immediate surrounds with **restoration** of remnant parkland areas and traditional farmland features where these are in decline.

All guidelines relating to the limestone villages and farmland landscape type are applicable for the Boston Spa, Clifford and Bramham landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *conserve fields of small scale hedged pasture and willow woodland along the Carr Beck between Clifford and Bramham;*
- *instigate a programme of small scale deciduous woodland planting to reduce the landscape impact of visually intrusive development at Thorpe Arch, particularly along its northern edge, where screening is poor in parts;*
- *conserve and restore remnant areas of parkland such as Wetherby Grange Park and the parkland around Thorpe Arch Hall;*
- *conserve and enhance the continuity and wooded character of the disused railway line through encouragement of natural regeneration..*

ELB4

BRAMHAM PARK



Key characteristics

- *historic house*
- *undulating designed parkland*
- *mature mixed plantations*
- *parkland trees*
- *arable and pastoral fields*
- *wooded becks and streams*
- *private and self contained*

Landscape character

Undulating and peaceful area of wooded parkland forming the Bramham Park estate and its immediate surrounds. Surrounded by dense and mature mixed woodlands and plantations, the house and its gardens form an interesting array of designed features including terraces, a gothic temple and obelisk. Mature parkland trees lie dotted throughout the open areas of pasture, and occasionally within the larger arable fields, with prominent tree avenues forming strong linear features. Further away from the house, planted and semi-natural woodlands line the gentle valley bottoms, hiding becks and small lakes or ponds. Along the eastern edge of the park, adjacent to the A1 trunk road, lies Bowcliffe Hall, which has now been converted into a new business park. Although a couple of public footpaths run through the estate, the park is relatively inaccessible, leading to the strong feeling of 'self-containment' which prevails throughout this landscape.

"The tall trees, beeches mostly, forming the magnificent avenues, are amongst the highest in this country and the delightful spots in the park are too numerous to mention." (Edmund Bogg 1904)

Forces for change

The Bramham Park grounds and estate form an important self contained landscape, removed from most of the pressures and changes affecting the landscape elsewhere around Leeds. However, there appears to be quite a high proportion of land under arable cropping within the Park. Today, with the new EC set-aside rules, the amount of set-aside land in areas such as this is likely to increase, creating new opportunities for land management.

Management strategy and guidelines

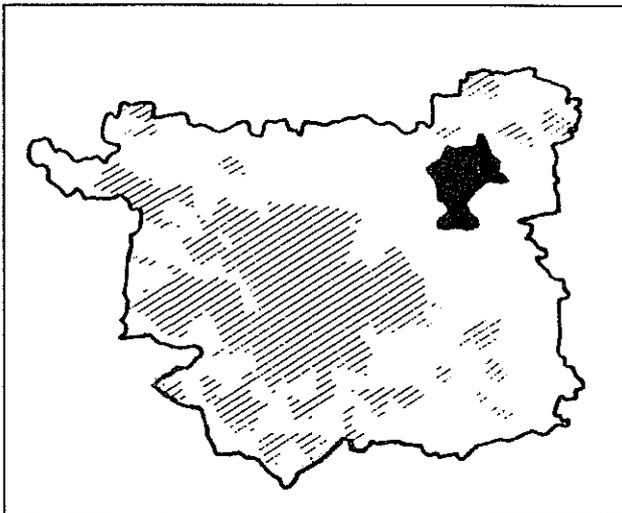
The overall management strategy for Bramham Park should be one of conservation of the historic features, through appropriate management of the estate.

All guidelines relating to the wooded parkland landscape type are applicable for the Bramham Park landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *Retain areas of pasture within the park and consider a return from arable to pasture, where appropriate.*

ELB5

WEST BRAMHAM



Key characteristics

- *gently rolling wooded farmland*
- *large regular arable fields*
- *dense blocks of mixed plantations*
- *isolated hedgerow trees*
- *semi natural strip woodland along becks*
- *wide grass verges*
- *views with wooded horizons*

Landscape character

Gently rolling and expansive area of wooded farmland, characterised by large regular and productive fields of arable farmland infused with blocks of dense planted woodland. A sparse

network of low gappy hedgerows links the wooded areas, the simple unity of this landscape is broken only by the occasional isolated hedgerow tree. Due to seasonal cropping patterns, the contrast in colours between the fields of arable crops and the neighbouring woodland blocks is particularly

apparent and varied at certain times of the year and inconspicuous at others. The dark, regular edged planted woodlands such as Lady Wood and Stubbing Moor Plantation blend with tree clumps and the softer strips of semi-natural woodland along becks such as Milner Beck, to provide views with wooded horizons. Several minor roads, some lined with trees, for example, along Dalton Lane and others with wide grass verges cross through this area, with farm vehicles and horses sometimes forming the only traffic passing through. To the traveller, the extent and simplicity of the area lends itself to passing through rather than lingering within it.

Forces for change

The main influence on the evolution of the West Bramham area has been the development and management of much of the area as part of the large estate holdings of Bramham Park. This has resulted in the simple but characteristic pattern of large areas of mixed plantations and the intervening areas of arable farmland. This pattern has remained largely intact, although changing agricultural practices have resulted in a gradual decline in the condition of hedgerows, which tend to be low cut and gappy and a consequential fragmentation of the field pattern. Small features such as the reservoir at Rigton Bank with its associated planting have had a localised impact on their surrounds.

Management strategy and guidelines

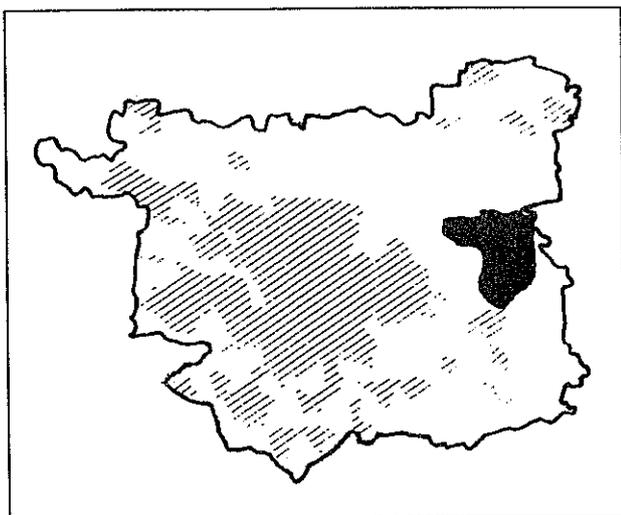
The overall management strategy for this area should be one of conservation of the features which make up the wooded farmland character of the landscape. Enhancement through new planting may be appropriate, but this should reinforce the existing pattern of tree cover rather than creating a new character. Conservation of the field pattern, through appropriate hedgerow management would also be appropriate.

All guidelines relating to the wooded farmland landscape type are applicable for the West Bramham landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *conserve and enhance strip woodland along becks, such as Milner Beck and encourage natural regeneration of locally occurring species;*
- *instigate a programme of woodland planting to screen the reservoir at Rigton Bank. This should be bolder and greater in extent than the existing planting to achieve a greater landscape 'fit';*
- *conserve and enhance tree lines alongside roads, for example at Dalton Lane, through the replanting of locally occurring native tree species.*

ELB6

ABERTFORD



Key characteristics

- *undulating wooded farmland*
- *parklands and large estates*
- *large regular arable fields*
- *dense blocks of mixed plantations*
- *isolated hedgerow trees*
- *pasture and strip woodland along becks*
- *views with wooded horizons*
- *ancient wooded linear earthworks*

Landscape character

Undulating area of wooded farmland with a greater variety of topography and degree of tree cover than the wooded farmland to the north. The large wooded estates of Pottington, Parlington and Becca Parks dominate the area, being characterised by larger fields of arable on the higher ground and pockets of smaller scale pasture within the valleys. Blocks of mixed woodland, including Old Wood, Parlington Hollins, Willowgarth, Hungerhills and Crowthwaite Plantation form the main areas of tree cover, with semi-natural stands of mature trees prominent along some of the becks, such as Barwick Bank. Isolated lines of trees occur along some of the minor roads, for example at Ass Bridge. In Becca Low Wood, a prominent line of tall poplars emerges from the dense mixed woodland below, acting as a useful locating feature when viewed from a distance. Ancient earthworks including the Becca Banks and The Ridge are also evident due to their linear semi-natural tree cover. Although the main A1 road forms the eastern edge, the rest of the area is somewhat inaccessible, crossed by only a couple of minor roads which skirt round the large private estates. Aberford, the main settlement in the area, sits within lush meadows bordering the twisting stream of the Cock Beck. Its church, with the tapering spire, rises above the roofs of the town, to form a pleasing scene.

"The road from Barwick to Aberford fringing the beautiful domain of Parlington, is most pleasant, with avenues and groves of fine trees, whose umbrageous branches cast lovely shadows, alternating with pretty little dells of sunlight"
(Edmund Bogg 1904)

Forces for change

The main influence on the evolution of the Aberford area has been the development and management of the land as part of the large parkland and estate holdings that form the bulk of the land area. This has resulted in the simple but characteristic pattern of large areas of mixed plantations and the intervening areas of arable farmland. This pattern has remained largely intact, although changing agricultural practices have resulted in a gradual decline in the condition

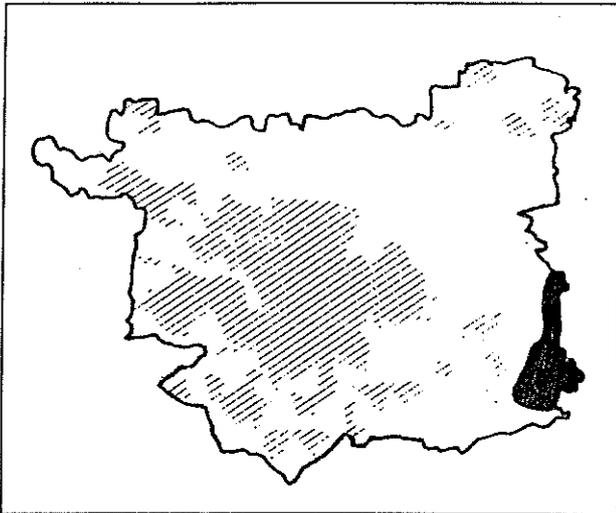
of hedgerows, which tend to be low cut and gappy and a consequential fragmentation of the field pattern. Future change within this area could occur with the proposed major office park development at Parlington and the proposed A1/M1 link which would run along the southern edge of the unit.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for this area should be one of conservation of the features which make up the wooded farmland character of the landscape. Enhancement through new planting may be appropriate, but this should reinforce the existing pattern of tree cover rather than creating a new character. Conservation of the field pattern, through appropriate hedgerow management would also be appropriate.

All guidelines relating to the wooded farmland landscape type are applicable for the Aberford landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *retain the pattern of small pastoral fields around settlements such as Aberford;*
- *conserve and enhance strip woodland along becks, such as Barwick Bank, but look for opportunities to diversify land cover, by opening out 'glades' or small open areas along one side of the beck;*
- *instigate a programme of mixed planting and encourage natural regeneration designed to reduce the landscape impact of any visually intrusive office development proposed at Parlington Park;*
- *conserve and enhance tree lines alongside roads, for example at Ass Bridge, through the replanting of locally occurring native tree species;*
- *Conserve and protect wooded linear earthworks such as Becca Banks and The Ridge.*



Landscape character

Area of gently rolling, large scale wooded farmland crossed by the valleys of the Mill Dike which runs towards the lower lying Vale of York in the east and the Ledsham Beck which drops to the River Aire in the south. The open regular fields of arable farmland are dominated by the treed horizons of the parkland estates of Lotherton and Ledston Halls. Here the estates, with their parkland trees, and designed landscape features such as tree avenues and deer parks add variety to an otherwise simple and rather featureless arable landscape. Variety is also provided by the isolated strips of pastoral farmland along becks such as Ledsham Beck. The sharp edges of the mixed woodland such as Quarryfield and Beacon Plantations, which characterise the area around Ledston, contrast with the softer edges of semi-natural woodland and remnant beech avenues leading up to Ledston Hall. Together, they create a landscape with wooded horizons, although if one looks outwards, views of the disturbed and complex Aire Valley stretch out to the south. If one looks in to the area from the Aire Valley, the elevated grounds of Ledston Hall are potentially inviting. Farm buildings occur throughout, with white walls and red tiled roofs contrasting with the newer and larger modern buildings which have been added on to the traditional core. Ledsham, the largest settlement in the area, is a charming village, with a peaceful and picturesque 'old world' look.

Key characteristics

- gently rolling wooded farmland
- parkland estates
- large regular arable fields
- mixed plantations
- beech avenues
- semi natural woodland along becks
- isolated strips of pasture along becks
- views over the Lower Aire Valley

"Ledsham is a charming village, nestling in a secluded dell. Here, no sound of manufacture or rough traffic disturbs the pastoral sweetness. Undulating slopes rise about it and pretty nooks of wood fringe its borders" (Edmund Bogg 1904)

Forces for change

The main influence on the evolution of the Ledsham to Lotherton area has been the development and management of the land as part of the large parkland and estate holdings of Ledston House and Lotherton Hall that form the bulk of the land area. This has resulted in the simple but characteristic pattern of large areas of mixed plantations and the intervening areas of arable farmland. This pattern has remained largely intact, although changing agricultural practices have resulted in a gradual decline in the parkland features and in the condition of hedgerows, which tend to be low cut and gappy and a consequential fragmentation of the field pattern. Future change within this area could occur with the proposed road developments and improvements associated with the A1 and A63.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for this area should one of conservation of the features which make up the wooded farmland character of the landscape, combined with a careful balance of restoration, where parkland and farmland features are in decline. Enhancement through new planting may be appropriate, but this should

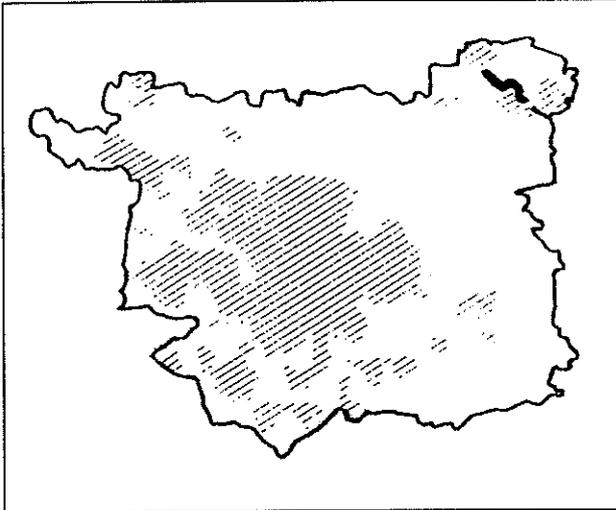
reinforce the existing pattern of tree cover rather than creating a new character.

All guidelines relating to the wooded farmland landscape type are applicable for the Ledsham to Lotherton landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *retain the isolated strips of pastoral farmland along becks such as Ledsham Beck;*

- *conserve and enhance strip woodland around the edge of Ledston Hall;*
- *conserve and enhance through new planting, the avenue of beech trees which once formed the link between Ledston Hall and the Lodge.*

ELBS WETHERBY GORGE



Key characteristics

- *narrow river gorge*
- *wooded river edge*
- *steep sided banks*
- *arable and pastoral strips along banks*
- *old bridge*
- *riverside towns*
- *isolated farms, mills and sewage works*
- *hidden and inaccessible*

Landscape character

Although not strictly a river gorge in the true sense of the word, this area forms a narrow winding strip of land, which has been cut by the meandering River Wharfe as it meanders through the limestone belt. Inaccessible and not particularly visible from adjacent farmland, this area is probably rarely seen, except from the old bridge at Thorpe Arch. Here, views on either side, are of well wooded steep banks, particularly along the southern edge, with mature deciduous trees overhanging the flowing river. Where woodland does not extend to the edge, narrow strips of pasture or larger fields of arable farmland lie directly along the banks. A well screened sewage works at Horn Bank and isolated farms or old mills accessed by private roads are the only developments along the western stretch. In the east, the attractive limestone villages of Boston-Spa and Thorpe Arch lie either side of the wooded river gorge. As one travels further east, the gorge becomes less wooded and more open.

Forces for change

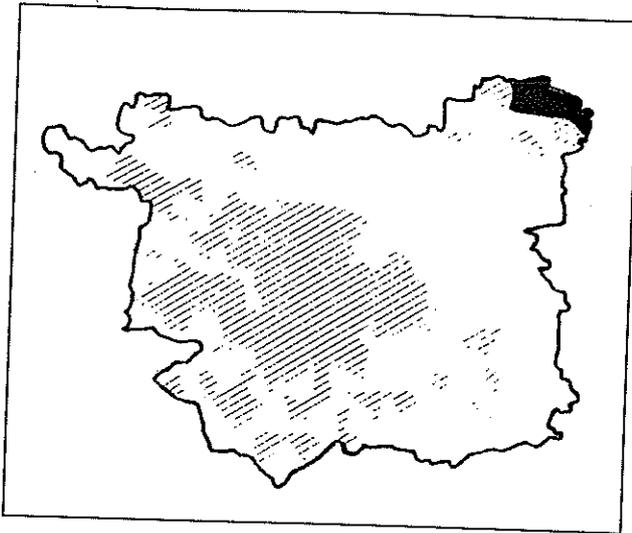
The river gorge has probably undergone little noticeable change in recent years with many of its characteristic features remaining intact and much of the river noted for its wildlife importance. Tree cover, however, has largely disappeared from the riverbanks to the east of Thorpe Arch, with large fields of arable farmland stretching right down to the waters edge.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the Wetherby Gorge should be the **conservation** of the important characteristics of the river and its immediate surrounds. To the east of Thorpe Arch, however, there could be opportunities for the restoration of this character, through the encouragement of natural regeneration or small scale tree planting to enhance the rivers continuity.

All guidelines relating to the river gorge landscape type are applicable for the Wetherby Gorge landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *conserve and maintain the deciduous screening around the sewage works at Horn Bank;*
- *enhance the tree cover along the riverbank east of Thorpe Arch, through the encouragement of natural regeneration and the small scale planting of riverside woodland.*



Landscape character

Wide and expansive, this area of **large scale open arable farmland** sits on the edge of the Vale of York, which stretches out towards the east. Lying at a height of no more than 30 metres, this almost imperceptibly rolling, cultivated landscape forms an area of productive, mainly cereal farmland. The fields are large, with few hedgerows and only occasional hedgerow trees. The hedgerows tend to be poor and gappy, dominated by elderflower and the occasional hedgerow oak which still remain standing. Woodland occurs in a fairly large block at Walton Wood and in some small copses and planted woodlands, including an ornamental belt of trees covering Swinnow Hill. Although generally small in scale, these give the appearance of being rather dense, due to the horizontal nature of the landform. Semi-natural hawthorn and ash woodland lines the embankment of the disused railway line, forming a strong linear feature and linking up blocks of otherwise isolated trees. Elsewhere, a prominent line of horse chestnuts leads up towards Swinnow Park. The main development in this area occurs along the B1224 road immediately east of Wetherby, in the form of the visible Youth Custody Centre and the Wetherby Race Course.

Forces for change

As with all the areas of open arable farmland within the Leeds District, the main pressures influencing landscape change in the East Wetherby area appear to be related to gradual agricultural intensification. Although

Key characteristics

- *wide and expansive*
- *open and low lying*
- *large regular arable fields*
- *gappy hedgerows*
- *isolated hedgerow trees*
- *small copses and plantations*
- *linear woodland along disused railway*
- *racecourse*

amalgamation of fields into larger units does not appear to have been particularly prevalent in this area, the sense of openness has been emphasised by the gradual loss of hedgerows, with some being poorly maintained and suffering from neglect. Development of the Youth Custody Centre and the race course have added an 'urban' nature to the area immediately to the east of Wetherby. Future changes may occur on a localised level with any proposed works to the A1 road.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the East Wetherby area should be one of **restoration**, where traditional farmland features have declined and the structure of the landscape is being lost. There may also be opportunities for enhancement through small scale woodland planting, although this should be carefully designed to maintain the generally open nature of the landscape.

All guidelines relating to the open arable farmland landscape type are applicable for the East Wetherby landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *new planting may be appropriate as screening for intrusive buildings such as the Youth Custody Centre. This should be designed as an integral part of any new woodland planting in the wider area;*
- *encourage natural regeneration of scrub and woodland along the disused railway line and enhance its value as a landscape, wildlife and recreational corridor;*

All guidelines relating to the river gorge landscape type are applicable for the Wetherby Gorge landscape unit (see Part 2). Additional site specific guidelines are detailed below:

- *conserve and maintain the deciduous screening around the sewage works at Horn Bank;*
- *enhance the tree cover along the riverbank east of Thorpe Arch, through the encouragement of natural regeneration and the small scale planting of riverside woodland.*