



**LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT
& PRIORITY SITES
2019 - 2024**

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Management Zones

The landscape character areas identified in Section 1.5 form a convenient framework for considering specific parts of the AONB in more detail.

The Landscape Management sub-sections deal with the issues in each particular landscape character area. The specific Priority Sites have been included because each of them makes a particularly important contribution to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's Special Qualities. As such they are key sites for management or restoration (as applicable). The management priorities and suggested actions are not however intended to be prescriptive or exclusive. They should be viewed as strategic recommendations intended to guide the activities of farmers, landowners and the various agencies that have an influence upon the management of the Howardian Hills. It is hoped that they will help local communities, organisations and individuals to work together to improve their own environment within an agreed framework. In combination with the Objectives, they will also be used to determine priorities for local funding and to decide where additional financial incentives might be needed.

Site designations

SAC – Special Area of Conservation (International importance)
SSSI – Site of Special Scientific Interest (National importance)
SINC – Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (Regional importance)
LGS – Local Geological Site (Regional importance)
SM – Scheduled Monument (National importance)
RPG – Registered Park and Garden (National importance)

Condition/Risk

An assessment of the Condition or Risk category of each site is given, where this is known:
SSSI – Natural England information.
SINC – Assessment criteria to be developed
LGS – Assessment criteria to be developed
SM & RPG – Historic England information
Other Historic Environment Priority Sites – Assessment criteria to be developed

Condition assessments allow the monitoring of site condition over time, as well as providing information for the Condition Indicators that measure the overall health of the component features that make up the AONB's Special Qualities.

Management Agreements

ELS – Entry Level Stewardship
HLS – Higher Level Stewardship
MT – Mid Tier Environmental Stewardship

HT – Higher Tier Environmental Stewardship

Reference numbers in this part of the Plan refer to sites located on the large map, which can be found on the AONB website. **It should be noted that nearly all these sites are on private land and access is only available via existing Public Rights of Way or by express permission of the landowner.**

PLATEAU (Zone 1)

Landscape Management

Retain and reinforce the 'isolated almost upland' character, resist unsympathetic development and explore opportunities to diversify and soften the impact of 'hard-edged' woodlands:

- As opportunities arise, encourage diversification and re-design of conifer plantations, to increase variety and reflect local characteristics and topographical features. Give priority to open space, natural regeneration or broadleaved planting along woodland edges and roadsides; also natural regeneration or broadleaved planting adjacent to existing fragments of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.
- Encourage sensitive felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially in visually prominent locations.
- Discourage large-scale extensions to existing woods.

- Retain fragments of former heathland vegetation and encourage regeneration and extension wherever possible during future woodland management operations.
- Encourage appropriate planting and woodland design to integrate the more prominent buildings and structures into the landscape.
- Encourage maintenance and, where appropriate, the rebuilding of traditional drystone walls where these form a characteristic feature.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

Encourage the creation of broadleaved riparian woodland corridors and restoration of heathland habitats within existing conifer plantations.

Grimston Moor (1.1) – SINC. FC-owned site.

Extensive areas of heathland vegetation under pine plantations. Significant removal of rhododendron 2017. Encourage management as more open heathland habitat mosaic.

High Lions Wood (1.2) – SINC. A mature secondary birch woodland with an acidic heath flora. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

Yearsley Moor Woodlands (1.5) – SINC. FC-leasehold site. An extensive site with a patchwork of both semi-natural and heavily modified habitats, arising from afforested open heathland/designed landscape (Gilling Castle). Habitats include calcareous ash woodland, calcareous & neutral grasslands, flushes, a sphagnum mire, veteran Scots pines and coniferised potential oak/birch woodland. Significant removal of rhododendron 2009-2011. Veteran pine trees in Far Slack catalogued 2014. 3-year bracken control on calcareous grassland area completed 2017. Ensure retention and

appropriate management of existing semi-natural habitats and encourage restoration of appropriate areas to heathland and broadleaved woodland.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

Many prehistoric burial mounds, most of which are Scheduled Monuments, lie in this Zone. Evidence also of an extensive system of hollow-ways, potentially associated with travel/transport or livestock grazing. Opportunities to encourage greater public appreciation of the historic landscape.

Neolithic long barrow, Black Hill (2.1) – SM.

Low/Not at Risk. Monitor condition.

Round barrows, Yearsley (2.2) – SM. Vulnerable & Low/Not at Risk. New water supply installed 2017 to move cattle drinker off barrow. Install hardstanding to enable removal of cattle feeder to reduce erosion. Monitor condition.

Round barrows, Black Moor (2.3) – SM. At Risk. 3-year bracken control started 2018. Complete bracken control and progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

Round barrows, Grimston Moor (2.4) – SM. FC-owned site. At Risk, Vulnerable & Low/Not at Risk. Scrub growth and brash removed 2016. 3-year bracken control mostly completed by 2018. Complete bracken control and progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover. Monitor condition.

Round barrows, Coney Hills (2.5) – SM. At Risk & Vulnerable. Reduce impact of arable ploughing to improve condition within an agricultural regime. Control tree and scrub growth. Reduce impact of burrowing animals.

Field system, Swathgill (2.6) – Encourage sympathetic management of prehistoric field

system and barrow and seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

Limekiln, Blackdale Plantation (2.7) – FC-owned site. Keep structure clear of vegetation and protect from forestry operations.

Cropmarks of Iron Age/Roman field systems and enclosures, Grimston Howl (2.8) – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime. Detailed survey of woodland fringes required to identify whether cropmarks survive as upstanding features.

Hollow-ways, Grimston Moor & Black Moor (2.9) – Part FC-owned site. Community survey work completed 2012 (Lime & Ice Project). Maintain visibility and avoid damage during forestry operations.

Recreation Priority Sites

Yearsley Moor (3.1) – FC-leasehold site. A popular car parking area for walkers. Parking area expanded and re-surfaced 2012. Information board installed 2013 (Lime & Ice Project). Monitor usage and condition.

Grimston Grange (3.2) – A County Council chippings dump to the north-west of Grimston Grange crossroads. A useful facility for horse riders as it provides room to park trailers. Monitor usage and condition.

High Lions Lodge (3.3) – An area of Common Land formerly used as tipping area for soil and rubble. Explore opportunities for restoration to more appropriate use/appearance.

Grimston Moor (3.4) – Private road accessing FC-owned woodland. Monitor entrance gate arrangement/signage to maintain appropriate public accessibility.

NORTHERN PLATEAU FRINGE (Zone 2A)

Landscape Management

This Zone is of high geomorphological value, as it includes the edge of the Coxwold-Gilling Gap – a double-faulted rift valley formation that was also a glacial meltwater channel for the former Lake Pickering.

Seek opportunities to diversify and soften the impact of woodlands and restore key elements of the former historic parkland character:

- As opportunities arise, encourage diversification and re-design of conifer plantations, to increase variety and reflect local characteristics and topographical features. Give priority to open space, natural regeneration or broadleaved planting along woodland edges and roadsides; also natural regeneration or broadleaved planting adjacent to existing fragments of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.
- Encourage sympathetic felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially where visually prominent.
- Encourage preparation/implementation of long-term landscape management plans for the historic grounds of Newburgh Priory and Gilling Castle.
- Where appropriate, maintain and restore landscape features associated with former parkland, e.g. estate walls, avenues, parkland copses/trees, lakes, etc.
- Discourage new woodland planting proposals that would detract from the character of the historic parklands.

- Work with the North York Moors National Park Authority to develop integrated cross-boundary habitat/landscape corridors.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

Encourage the creation of broadleaved riparian woodland corridors and restoration of heathland habitats within existing conifer plantations.

Colley Broach Road Pasture (1.3) – SINC. A large field of mainly unimproved neutral and marshy grassland. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Boggs Plantation (1.4) – SINC. The best example of a semi-natural valley alder wood in the AONB. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

Yearsley Moor Woodlands (1.5) – SINC. FC-leasehold site. An extensive site with a patchwork of both semi-natural and heavily modified habitats, arising from afforested open heathland/designed landscape (Gilling Castle). Habitats include calcareous ash woodland, calcareous & neutral grasslands, flushes, a sphagnum mire, veteran Scots pines and coniferised potential oak/birch woodland. Significant removal of rhododendron 2009-2011. Veteran pine trees in Far Slack catalogued 2014 (AONB). 3-year bracken control on calcareous grassland area completed 2017. Ensure retention and appropriate management of existing semi-natural habitats and encourage restoration of appropriate areas to heathland and broadleaved woodland.

Park Wood Fishponds and The Wilderness (1.6) – SINC. Part FC-leasehold site. A complex of habitats comprising open water, fen, wet alder woodland and drier sessile oak woodland. Conifer

regeneration removed from oak woodland 2003. Significant removal of rhododendron 2011-2013. Top pond drained 2015 when crumbling dam breached prior to (as yet uncompleted) repair works. Encourage preparation of site management plan to maximise conservation interest and define future management priorities. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland and complex of associated wetland habitats. Encourage repair of dam and re-instatement of top pond. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS) on part of the site.

Disused quarry (1.82) – LGS. A former stone quarry with an exposure of limestone overlying sandstone. Possible hummocky cross-stratification also visible. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

A variety of prehistoric and later earthwork features are present in this Zone, including a series of hollow-ways potentially associated with coal mining activity.

Round barrows, Four Acre Wood and adjacent (2.11) – SM. At Risk, Vulnerable & Low/Not at Risk. Scrub growth and brash removed 2016. 3-year bracken control completed 2018. Harvest Christmas trees from barrows. Reduce impact of burrowing animals. Progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover after felling of forestry crops.

Cross dyke, Roman Plantation (2.12) – SM. At Risk & Vulnerable. North side - Tree cover managed and scrub growth controlled 2016. 3-year bracken control started 2018. Complete bracken control, trial re-vegetation techniques and progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

South side – FC-leasehold site. 3-year bracken control completed 2018. Control scrub growth, monitor condition and progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

Round barrow, Yearsley Moor (2.13) – SM. FC-leasehold site. Vulnerable. Reduce impact of burrowing animals.

Hollow-ways, Yearsley Moor (2.109) – FC-leasehold site. Community survey work completed 2012 (Lime & Ice Project). Maintain visibility and avoid damage during forestry operations.

The Stripe, Mount Plantation, Roman Plantation & Heron Lye Gill, Newburgh (2.14) – Improve understanding of features in woodland, through a management plan for Newburgh Priory park (see below). Reduce impact of forestry and encourage more sympathetic management.

Mill, Yearsley Moor (2.110) – FC-leasehold site. The remains of a corn mill discovered during community survey work (Lime & Ice Project). Significant excavation work carried out by Yearsley Mill Research Project volunteers and then site re-buried. Safeguard site and support off-site interpretation.

Encourage preparation and implementation of management plans that identify opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring elements of the historic landscape, both within and beyond the registered parkland:

Newburgh Priory (2.15) – RPG Grade II. Not at Risk.

Gilling Castle (2.16) – RPG Grade II. Not at Risk. Encourage repair of dam and re-instatement of top pond.

In liaison with owners, encourage repair of Listed Buildings at Risk using grant resources available from local authorities and Government agencies. Where appropriate, explore opportunities for suitable changes of use to ensure their long-term contribution to the cultural heritage of the area:

Mill, Newburgh Park (2.17)

The Mount, Newburgh Park (2.105)

Park House, Newburgh Park (2.106)

Recreation Priority Sites

Newburgh Priory Lake (3.5) – A popular surfaced roadside lay-by giving views over Newburgh Priory Lake. Monitor level of use at peak periods.

Yearsley Moor/Gilling Woods (3.6) – FC-leasehold site. A large area of principally conifer woodland, much of which once formed the designed landscape associated with Gilling Castle. Public footpaths link Yearsley with the Park Wood fishponds. Extensively used off public paths by mountain bikers, walkers and horse riders. Sculpture seats installed 2013 (Lime & Ice Project). Liaise with Forestry Commission on issues/conflicts as appropriate.

WESTERN PLATEAU FRINGE (Zone 2B)

Landscape Management

Strengthen the existing landscape framework of hedges and hedgerow trees. Protect the open character of the higher ground and encourage greater tree cover on steeper slopes:

- Encourage planting of small to medium-sized areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland on steeper slopes and valley shoulders. Discourage woodland planting on higher flatter ground and protect long-distance views.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to strengthen existing landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field system at Oulston.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

A number of prehistoric and later earthwork features are present in this Zone.

Medieval village & field system, Thornton-on-the-Hill (2.18) – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

Lynchets, ridge & furrow field system and other earthworks, Oulston (2.19) – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

SOUTHERN PLATEAU FRINGE (Zone 2C)

Landscape Management

Strengthen the framework of hedges and encourage woodlands on steeper slopes and valley shoulders:

- Encourage planting of trees and copses using native species, to strengthen existing landscape pattern.

- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field system near Hardy Bank.
- Conserve areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and promote appropriate forms of management.
- Encourage small-scale extensions of existing valley woodlands and new woodlands on the steeper slopes of the scarp face and valley shoulders, using native species or mixtures where plantations are already varied in character.
- In the valleys, maintain the more diverse landscape by retaining the small-scale field pattern and areas of semi-improved pasture along streams and on steeper slopes.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

Hardy Bank (1.8) – SINC. A small area of Ancient woodland with an open canopy, reputed to be a remnant of the Forest of Galtres. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

Moorside (Black Fir) Plantation (1.9) – SINC. FC-leasehold site. A mature oak woodland, probably on an Ancient site. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

Oulston Reservoir (1.10) – SINC. Two artificial lakes. The lower one is mesotrophic and has extensive areas of adjacent fen meadow. The upper lake is more eutrophic. Discourage practices that would damage or pollute aquatic habitats. Encourage sympathetic management of adjacent semi-natural fen and grassland habitats.

Peel Wood and Grassland (1.11) – SINC. An interesting complex of habitats including broadleaved woodland, scrub and grassland. Native woodland area extended by new planting

2005. Significant gorse management carried out 2009 & 2017. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and maintain balance between different habitat types. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS) on part of site.

Dale Wood (1.12) – SINC. One of the largest areas of semi-natural woodland in the AONB, with a variety of different plant communities. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

Archaeological survey to identify features related to woodland management would be highly worthwhile in this Zone and would aid understanding of the origins of the woods. Elsewhere, retain surviving earthworks under a stable grass sward.

Cross dyke, Roman Plantation (2.12) – SM. At Risk & Vulnerable. North side - Tree cover managed and scrub growth controlled 2016. 3-year bracken control started 2018. Complete bracken control, trial re-vegetation techniques and progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover. South side – FC-leasehold site. 3-year bracken control completed 2018. Control scrub growth, monitor condition and progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

Round barrows, Oulston Moor (2.20) – SM. FC-leasehold site. Vulnerable. Scrub growth controlled 2016. 3-year bracken control completed 2018. Progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

Limekiln, New Piece Moor (2.21) – Trees and scrub removed 2000. Monitor condition.

Recreation Priority Sites

Oulston Moor (3.7) – A popular starting point for circular walks around Pond Head and Oulston. Monitor usage and condition.

SOUTHERN MOORS FRINGE (Zone 2D)

Landscape Management

This Zone is of high geomorphological value, as it forms part of the Coxwold-Gilling Gap – a double-faulted rift valley formation that was also a glacial meltwater channel for the former Lake Pickering.

Conserve the ‘traditional’ landscape character, reinforce the existing framework of hedges, trees and woods and soften the impact of discordant features:

- Maintain the diverse character of the landscape by retaining the small-scale field pattern and areas of pasture.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to strengthen existing landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those associated with the extensive remnant strip field systems near Ampleforth.
- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value.
- Try to integrate modern developments into the landscape through appropriate forms of tree planting.
- Encourage small-scale extensions of existing woods on the steeper slopes of spurs.

- Work with the North York Moors National Park Authority to develop integrated cross-boundary habitat/landscape corridors.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

Thorpe Spring Wood (1.13) – SINC. A largely semi-natural ash and oak woodland. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

Medieval field system, Oswaldkirk Hall (2.22) – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

EASTERN MOORS FRINGE (Zone 2E)

Landscape Management

Strengthen the existing framework of hedges and hedgerow trees and promote appropriate forms of woodland management:

- Conserve areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and promote appropriate forms of management. In Ancient replanted woodland, encourage greater use of native broadleaves. Elsewhere retain mixture of woodland types.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field system near Sproxton.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees, copses and small woods using native species to reinforce

existing landscape pattern, especially in association with streams and areas of pasture.

- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value.
- Work with the North York Moors National Park Authority to develop integrated cross-boundary habitat/landscape corridors.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

Robson’s Spring (1.14) – SINC. Woodland Trust-owned site. An area of calcareous ash woodland with a rich ground flora and forming part of a larger woodland complex. Some parts have been replanted with conifers. Adjacent conifer areas are being reverted to native broadleaved woodland. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

East Plock Woods (1.15) – SINC. A plantation of beech, sycamore and larch on an Ancient site. Encourage restoration to native broadleaved woodland.

River Rye, Helmsley Bridge to West Ness (1.16) – SINC. A stretch of ‘natural’ river, the banks of which support a varied flora and fauna. Encourage management practices that would improve the quality of the river system and associated habitats. Manage tree canopy to benefit river ecosystem. Manage invasive non-native species (mink, Himalayan balsam).

Historic Environment Priority Sites

Cropmarks of field system, Newton Grange Farm (2.23) – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

SOUTHERN RIDGE (Zone 3A)

Landscape Management

Conserve the landscape balance between broadleaved woodland and farmland and restore those features which have declined or been lost:

- Retain broadleaved character of woodlands and encourage greater use of native broadleaves wherever possible.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to strengthen landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field system at Skewsby.
- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value.
- Continue restoration of character of highway corridor along foot of scarp.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

Fairy Dell (1.17) – SINC. A species-rich unimproved pasture with a spring, stream and pond. Himalayan balsam control started 2015. Continue management of invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam). Encourage continuation of sympathetic management.

Stearsby Hag (1.18) – SINC. A large plantation of beech and sycamore on an Ancient site. Encourage restoration to native broadleaved woodland.

Stearsby Hag Grassland (1.19) – A small fragment of semi-improved neutral grassland and scrub on a steep bank. Maintain balance between different habitat types. Encourage sympathetic management.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

Round barrow, Stearsby Hag (2.24) – SM. At Risk. Scrub growth controlled 2016. 3-year bracken control completed 2018. Progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

City of Troy Maze, Stearsby Hag (2.25) – Re-cut and re-gravelled 2016. Continue summer grass cutting and regular re-cutting/gravelling. Continue existing management regime (AONB).

Limekiln, High Wood (2.26) – Keep structure clear of vegetation and prepare simple management plan.

Cropmarks of prehistoric dyke and triple bank, Cop Howe (2.28) – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime. Survey adjacent woodland fringes for upstanding remains and seek to manage sympathetically.

Ridge & furrow field system, Brandsby (2.29) – Very good surviving remains of a medieval field system. Manage under a stable grass sward.

In liaison with owners, encourage repair of Listed Buildings at Risk using grant resources available from local authorities and Government agencies. Where appropriate, explore opportunities for suitable changes of use to ensure their long-term contribution to the cultural heritage of the area:

Witherholme Hall, Whenby (2.107)

SOUTH EAST RIDGE (Zone 3B)

Landscape Management

Try to restore a more strongly hedged landscape framework with a higher density of tree cover and promote more woodland planting to integrate the area more closely with adjoining landscapes:

- Encourage appropriate management of Ancient Woodland Sites, with greater use of native broadleaves.
- Encourage planting of small to medium-sized areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland at locations which do not interrupt long-distance views, particularly on the more open scarp slopes and valley sides towards the south of the area and in association with farmsteads.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to reinforce landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field systems at Ganthorpe, Bulmer and Crambe.
- On scarp slopes, tributary valleys and around villages, maintain the more diverse character by retaining the small-scale field pattern and areas of pasture.
- Conserve and enhance areas of parkland.
- Ensure any upgrading of the A64 trunk road respects the character and high quality of the landscape and maximises opportunities for native grassland creation and new woodland planting in the highway corridor.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

This Zone is of high geodiversity value, as it contains many former quarries with both nationally and regionally significant exposures of Jurassic rock formations.

Little Dale, Mowthorpe (1.20) – SINC. An area of fen, unimproved grassland and scrub with a varied flora. Scrub control and fen cutting 2007. Scrub control and site fenced 2008, and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Regular cutting of scrub and bramble. Continue scrub and habitat management to maintain balance between different habitat types. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (AONB).

Bulmer Beck Mire (1.21) – SINC. An area of rank fen grassland, scrub and marshy flushes. Re-fenced 2002 and grazed by Exmoor ponies until 2012. Maintain balance between different habitat types. Encourage new management agreement.

Bulmer Mire (1.22) – SINC. An area of marshy grassland at the foot of a small valley. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Bulmer Hag (1.23) – SINC. An area of oak woodland on an Ancient site, much of which has a semi-natural appearance. Sections have been replanted with conifers. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

Cross Hill Pit (1.83) – LGS. A former sand quarry with a rare inland exposure of the Sycarham Member of the Cloughton Formation. Possible herringbone cross-bedding also visible. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces.

Rough Hills Farm Quarry (1.84) – LGS. A former stone quarry with a rare inland exposure of a

calcareous grit in the Dogger Formation. Good educational potential. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces.

Mowthorpe Dale (1.85) – LGS. Natural faces/possible former stone quarries on both sides of a small dale, with rare exposures of the Dogger Formation overlying Lower Lias shales. Excellent geomorphology with landslips and a springline also visible. Good educational potential. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

Round barrow, Terrington (2.30) – SM. Vulnerable. Monitor condition.

Earthworks of ridge & furrow and settlement shrinkage, High Stittenham (2.31) – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS).

Field system, Mill Fields (2.32) – Encourage restoration of damaged sections via removal of tipped infill material. Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

Earthworks of medieval field system, lynchets and possible enclosure, Whitwell-on-the-Hill (2.33) – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

NORTH RIDGE (Zone 3C)

Landscape Management

Maintain the contrast between the wooded scarp slope and open dip slope, reinforce the framework of

hedges and encourage sensitive woodland management:

- Discourage isolated woodland planting proposals on northern dip slope, to retain open landscape character.
- Encourage sensitive felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially where visually prominent.
- Conserve areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and promote appropriate forms of management. In Ancient replanted woodland, encourage greater use of native broadleaves, especially towards prominent skylines and in association with parklands.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field systems near Swinton, Easthorpe, Barton-le-Street, Slingsby and Hovingham.
- Conserve historic linear field pattern and network of ancient trackways.
- Discourage extension of limestone quarries beyond existing permitted areas and mitigate impact through appropriate planting and restoration works.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

This Zone is of high geodiversity value, as it contains many former quarries with both nationally and regionally significant exposures of Jurassic rock formations.

Wath Quarry (1.24) – SSSI. Condition – Favourable. A quarry face of geodiversity interest. Support

continued sympathetic management through agreement with Natural England.

Scar Wood (1.25) – SINC. One of the three best ash woodlands in the AONB, with a rich flora. Sections have been replanted with non-native species. Two areas of young sycamore plantation restored to native broadleaves 2007 & 2008. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections. Discourage extension of quarrying activity within the woodland boundary.

Grange Farm, Gilling (1.26) – SINC. A small area of unimproved calcareous grassland, including the site of a former quarry. Encourage sympathetic management.

Mill Wood (1.27) – SINC. An area of semi-natural oak/birch woodland with ash on the upper slopes. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

Calf Close Wood (1.28) – SINC. An area of oak/ash woodland on an Ancient site, much of which has a semi-natural appearance although some areas originate from planting. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

Horse Coppice (1.29) – SINC. An area of mainly mature oak woodland on an Ancient site, although probably originating from plantation. Hazel partially re-coppiced 2000. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

Wath Wood Boundary (1.31) – SINC. A small area of unimproved calcareous grassland on the northern edge of Wath Wood. Invading scrub removed 2000. Sward largely maintained by rabbit grazing. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Wath Wood & Hollin Hill Plantation (1.32) – SINC. A large area of Ancient woodland, sections of which retain a semi-natural character with a

notable flora. Other sections have been replanted with conifers. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

Hollin Hill Bogs (1.33) – SINC. A relatively large area of spring-fed semi-natural alder carr of high conservation interest. Limited Himalayan balsam control carried out adjacent to Wath Beck since 2008. Continue management of invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam). Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

Slingsby Banks Wood (1.34) – SINC. An area of oak woodland on an Ancient site, although originating from replanting. Contains several recent plantings of conifers. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

Slingsby Bank Verges (1.35) – SINC. A length of species-rich calcareous grassland on a roadside verge. Encourage continuation of basic management.

Slingsby Disused Quarry (1.36) – SINC. Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland on an old quarry site. Invading scrub cleared 2007. Encourage continuation of sympathetic management.

Coneysthorpe Banks Wood (1.37) – SINC. A large plantation of mainly larch, sycamore and Norway spruce on an Ancient site. Gradually being restored to native broadleaved woodland. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage continuing restoration of replanted sections.

Amotherby Lane (1.38) – SINC. A small patch of calcareous grassland within an area of scrub, historically containing knapweed broomrape. Rabbit fenced 1998 and cut annually. Greater knapweed planted 2012 to augment natural

population. Encourage continuation of existing management to safeguard/restore interest.

Hildenley Top Reservoir (1.39) – SINC. Yorkshire Water-owned site. Species-rich calcareous grassland on a covered reservoir. Generally managed sympathetically. Encourage continuation of existing management.

Broughton Lane (1.40) – SINC. Species-rich verges along a green lane, historically containing a significant population of knapweed broomrape. Encourage sympathetic management to safeguard/restore interest.

Cawton Bank (1.41) – An area of semi-improved neutral grassland on a steep bank. Fenced 2003 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Thief Stile Hole Quarry (1.86) – LGS. A recently re-opened stone quarry with a significant stratigraphic exposure of the Corallian limestone. Monitor condition. Associated limekilns (Site 2.50).

Hovingham Park Quarry 1 (1.87) – LGS. A former stone quarry/mine with a rare c.200m exposure of Coral Rag overlying Malton Oolite. Good educational potential. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces.

Slingsby Quarry (1.88) – LGS. A former stone quarry with a good fossiliferous exposure of Coral Rag overlying Malton Oolite. Good educational potential. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces.

Slingsby East Quarry (1.89) – LGS. A former stone quarry with a good exposure of Coral Rag. Good educational potential. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces.

Hildenley Home Quarry (1.90) – LGS. A former stone quarry with a good exposure of Hambleton

Oolite overlying Birdsall Calcareous Grit. Monitor vegetation growth.

Hildenley Heights Quarry (1.91) – LGS. A former stone quarry with perhaps the best remaining exposure of Hildenley Limestone in the UK. Good educational potential. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces. Associated limekiln and bridge (Site 2.49).

Hildenley Wood Quarry (1.92) – LGS. A former stone quarry with a good exposure of the Coral Rag/Hildenley Limestone unconformity. Good educational potential. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

High priority area within the arable land of the scarp slope, with many nationally important cropmarks of prehistoric land use, both scheduled and unscheduled, needing further investigation and conservation. Initiate a programme of work to characterise the type and extent of remains as well as degree of preservation. Use as the basis for advising on programmes of management to fully protect important features.

Linear dyke, Coneysthorpe Banks Wood (2.34) – SM. Vulnerable. 3-year bracken control started on one section 2018. Control scrub growth and bracken. Progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

Round barrow, Hovingham (2.35) – SM. Vulnerable. Brambles strimmed and top re-seeded with grass 2018. Progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Round barrows, Hovingham High Wood (2.36) – SM. At Risk & Vulnerable. Scrub growth and brash removed 2016. 3-year bracken control completed 2018. Remove tree & scrub growth from remaining untreated barrow. Continue to reduce impact of forestry. Progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover. Monitor condition.

Round barrows, Hovingham South Wood (2.37) – SM. At Risk & Vulnerable. 3-year bracken control completed 2018. Impact of forestry reduced via clearance of young plantation 2017. Control scrub regrowth and control/monitor bracken. Progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

Linear dyke, Fryton & Slingsby Banks Wood (2.38) – SM. Vulnerable. Control scrub growth and bracken. Progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

Round barrows, Fryton East & West Woods (2.39) – SM. At Risk & Vulnerable. Scrub growth controlled 2016. 3-year bracken control completed 2018. Control scrub regrowth. Control bracken if needed. Progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover after felling of forestry crops. Monitor condition.

Round barrow & cross dyke, Scarrish Wood (2.40) – SM. At Risk & Vulnerable. Tree cover managed and tree & scrub growth controlled 2016. 3-year bracken control started 2018. Complete bracken control and progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

Cross dyke, Coneysthorpe Banks Wood (2.41) – SM. At Risk. Survey to assess condition. Reduce impact of tree & scrub growth.

Round barrows, Easthorpe (2.42) – SM. At Risk & Low/Not at Risk. Reduce impact of arable ploughing to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

Cropmarks of ancient trackways and settlements, Barton and Slingsby Heights (2.43) – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

Probable Roman camp, Diana Hill (2.44) – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

Moated site, Wath (2.45) – Carry out further investigation to assess historic value.

Field systems, Easthorpe Hall (2.46) – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

Field systems, Hildenley Hall Estate (2.47) – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS).

Limekiln, Kitscrew Wood (2.48) – Encourage control of scrub and consolidation works as necessary.

Limekiln and bridge, Hildenley Wood (2.49) – Scrub and trees removed from limekiln 2010. Keep structures clear of vegetation and prepare simple management plan.

Limekilns, Scar Wood (2.50) – Trees removed 2006. Front wall consolidated and re-built 2011. Monitor condition.

Cropmark complex of square barrows, double-ditched trackway and enclosures, Cawton (2.51) – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

Orchard, Slingsby (2.52) – Historic orchard, containing many old species of apple tree. Encourage implementation of management plan.

Limekiln, Hovingham Spa (2.53) – Control scrub growth and clear tipped debris to establish how much of original structure remains.

Encourage the preparation and implementation of management plans that identify opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring elements of the historic landscape:

Hovingham Park (2.54)

Swinton Grange (2.55) – Encourage conservation of parkland copses.

CAULKLEYS BANK (Zone 3D)

Landscape Management

Strengthen the framework of hedges and seek opportunities to extend woodland and tree cover while retaining the essentially open character of the dip slope:

- In existing woodlands, encourage sympathetic felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially where visually prominent.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field systems at Nunnington and near West Ness.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to reinforce landscape pattern.
- Conserve and reinforce linear tree belts, avenues and other parkland features.
- Encourage planting of small areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland towards the foot of the dip slope, in locations that do not interrupt long-distance views.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

This Zone is of high geodiversity value, as it contains many former quarries with both nationally and regionally significant exposures of Jurassic rock formations.

Nunnington Cutting & Quarries (1.42) – SSSI.

Condition – Unfavourable (Recovering). Two disused quarries and an adjacent disused railway cutting of geodiversity interest. Scrub cleared from some of the railway cutting exposures 2015. Support continued sympathetic management through agreement with Natural England.

River Rye, Helmsley Bridge to West Ness (1.16) – SINC. A stretch of ‘natural’ river, the banks of which support a varied flora and fauna. Encourage management practices that would improve the quality of the river system and associated habitats. Manage tree canopy to benefit river ecosystem. Manage invasive non-native species (mink, Himalayan balsam).

Caulkleys Bank (1.43) – SINC. Species-rich unimproved calcareous grassland on a steep bank. Encourage new management agreement.

Caulkleys Wood (1.44) – SINC. A calcareous ash woodland, parts of which have been replanted with non-native species. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

Nunnington Cutting (1.93) – LGS. A disused railway cutting with a good exposure of Upper Calcareous Grit overlying Coral Rag overlying Malton Oolite. A good sedimentary series, exhibiting coral reef eroded and buried under sand shoals. Rare exposure of in-situ corals also visible. Good educational potential. Manage vegetation to

improve visibility of exposure faces. Designated as a SSSI for its scientific value (Site 1.42).

Quarry Plantation (1.94) – LGS. A former stone quarry with a lengthy exposure of Malton Oolite. Good educational potential. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces. Associated limekiln (Site 2.60).

Historic Environment Priority Sites

This area has many similarities with Zone 3C, having many cropmarks of prehistoric landscape features, although none are scheduled.

Earthworks, Stonegrave Church & adjacent (2.56) – SM. Vulnerable. Reduce impact of tree & scrub growth.

Earthworks, East Newton Hall (2.57) – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

Cropmarks of prehistoric/Roman enclosures and trackways, Caulkleys Bank (2.58) – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.
2/3 limekilns, Limekiln Plantation (2.59) – Keep structures clear of vegetation and prepare simple management plan.

Limekiln, Quarry Plantation (2.60) – Trees removed 2004 & 2006. Encourage continued control of scrub and consolidation works as necessary.

Cropmarks of probable Iron Age square barrow cemetery, Caulkleys Bank (2.61) – Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

Encourage the implementation of the management plan to conserve, enhance and restore elements of the historic landscape:

Nunnington Hall (2.62) – RPG Grade II. Not at Risk.

Recreation Priority Sites

Caulkleys Bank (3.8) – A popular gravelled roadside lay-by, giving panoramic views over the Vale of Pickering. Provides access to well-used Public Rights of Way to east and west. Encourage appropriate maintenance to provide a level surface suitable for a wide range of users. Consider re-instating informal provision of information and landscape interpretation.

Nunnington Hall (3.9) – National Trust-owned site. 17th century manor house attracting around 65,000 visitors annually. The Hall is served by a large landscaped car park and an additional overflow car park. Monitor ability of overflow car park to cope with peak demands.

Nunnington (3.10) – A large informal parking area on the site of former sawmill. Monitor current ad hoc usage.

VALE OF YORK (Zone 4A)

Landscape Management

This Zone is of high geomorphological value, as it forms part of the Coxwold-Gilling Gap – a double-faulted rift valley formation that was also a glacial meltwater channel for the former Lake Pickering.

Strengthen the landscape framework by restoration of hedges, hedgerow trees and copses (except where

these would conflict with the conservation of wading birds). Retain the contrast with more heavily wooded areas to the north and south:

- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species to reinforce landscape pattern (except where these would conflict with wading bird conservation).
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations.
- Encourage planting of small areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland, except where these would conflict with wading bird conservation.
- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value. Encourage retention of semi-natural vegetation on remaining sections of disused railway.
- Conserve and re-create wetland habitats at appropriate locations, to restore a more traditional landscape and enhance biodiversity.
- Work with the North York Moors National Park Authority to develop integrated cross-boundary habitat/landscape corridors.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

Foxfoot Hay (1.45) – SINC. A wide ditch with semi-natural marginal vegetation. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Thorpe Grange (1.46) – SINC. An area of neutral grassland with patches of scrub on a disused railway. Fenced 2004 to allow introduction of conservation grazing. Maintain balance between different habitat types. Encourage continuation of sympathetic management.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

Where pockets of ridge & furrow survive, retain the whole area under a stable grass sward.

Where cropmark features of prehistoric date have been identified, explore options to remove them from cultivation, reduce plough depth or similar options.

Monastic precinct and water management earthworks, Byland Abbey (2.108) – SM. Vulnerable. Reduce erosion by livestock.

VALE OF PICKERING (Zone 4B)

Landscape Management

This Zone is of high geomorphological value, as it forms part of the Coxwold-Gilling Gap – a double-faulted rift valley formation that was also a glacial meltwater channel for the former Lake Pickering.

Strengthen the landscape framework by restoration of hedges, hedgerow trees and copses while retaining the contrast with more heavily wooded slopes to the north and south:

- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to reinforce existing landscape pattern.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field systems at Ampleforth, Stonegrave and Hovingham.
- Encourage planting of small areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland.

- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value.
- Conserve and re-create wetland habitats in appropriate locations, to restore a more traditional landscape and enhance biodiversity.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

Thorpe Grange (1.46) – SINC. An area of neutral grassland with patches of scrub on a disused railway. Fenced 2004 to allow introduction of conservation grazing. Maintain balance between different habitat types. Encourage continuation of sympathetic management.

Cawton Fens (1.47) – SINC. Two areas of calcareous fen and scrub, abandoned as arable land 1985. Eastern area fenced 2003 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Scrub managed 2017. Maintain balance between different habitat types. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Historic Environment Priority Sites

Two areas of cropmarks of prehistoric enclosures at Hovingham Carrs and north of Mill Holm Plantation would be suitable for exploring options to remove them from cultivation, reduce plough depth or similar options.

Cross in Churchyard, Gilling (2.64) – SM. Vulnerable. Monitor condition to prevent collapse.

CRAYKE (Zone 4C)

Landscape Management

Retain and enhance the strong hedge and hedgerow tree pattern and encourage new areas of small-scale woodland:

- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the extensive remnant strip field system at Crayke.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to reinforce existing pattern.
- Encourage planting of small areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland.
- Promote sympathetic management of watercourses to enhance their visual and wildlife value.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

Where pockets of ridge & furrow survive, particularly around Crayke Manor and Crayke Castle, retain the whole area under a stable grass sward.

Where cropmark features of prehistoric date have been identified, explore options to remove them from cultivation, reduce plough depth or similar options.

Crayke Castle (2.66) – SM. Vulnerable. Reduce impact of burrowing animals.

CASTLE HOWARD BASIN (Zone 5)

Landscape Management

Conserve and enhance the integrity of the historic designed landscape:

- Continue to update and implement the landscape restoration and management plan, to safeguard the integrity of the historic landscape.
- Where appropriate, maintain and restore landscape features associated with former parkland, e.g. parkland trees, walls and avenues.
- Discourage new woodland planting proposals that would detract from the landscape character of the historic parkland. Encourage retention of strong broadleaved woodland character through long-term conversion of conifer plantations.
- In the outer basin, promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of existing hedges, particularly those associated with the remnant strip field systems near Coneysthorpe and Easthorpe, and encourage planting of hedgerow trees.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

Castle Howard Avenue and Park (1.48) – SINC. The older parts of the Avenue and the car park contain many trees that are now of a considerable age. Survey work 2003 confirmed that these supported invertebrate populations of County importance. Relatively significant felling, replanting and tree surgery on The Avenue 2016. Encourage retention and appropriate management of veteran trees wherever possible. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Castle Howard Great Lake (1.49) – SINC. A water body and wetland of ornithological interest, particularly for wintering wildfowl and passage birds. Encourage preparation of management plan, to maximise conservation interest and define future priorities. Discourage practices that would damage or pollute aquatic habitats.

Brandrith Wood (1.50) – SINC. An oak woodland, mostly on an Ancient site but probably originating from plantation. Areas have been replanted with non-native species. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

Gillylees and Pretty Woods (1.52) – SINC. A large woodland complex with a mosaic of habitat types including areas of Ancient woodland, although much replanted with non-native species. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

Nova Scotia (1.53) – SINC. A large mainly semi-natural secondary woodland of ash and birch with an interesting flora. Some sections have been replanted with conifers. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

Park Quarry (1.95) – LGS. A former stone quarry with excellent exposures of Lower Calcareous Grit. Good educational potential. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

Although this Zone already has considerable protection due to the inclusion of Castle Howard and its grounds in the Register of Parks and Gardens, this should not hinder greater understanding of the complexity of the landscape, which includes much earlier and pre-parkland features such as the round

barrow in The Avenue. Conservation of such complementary features is needed. Initiate further survey of historic structures and landscape features, including veteran trees, to explore the detailed chronology of the landscape. Encourage enhanced or continued high-quality management measures, and encourage greater public appreciation of the historic landscape.

Round barrow, Castle Howard Avenue (2.67) – SM. Low/Not at Risk. Monitor condition.

Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Round barrow, Welburn (2.68) – SM. Vulnerable. 3-year bracken control completed 2018. Reduce impact of arable clipping. Monitor condition.

Round barrow, Pretty Wood (2.69) – SM. At Risk. 3-year bracken control started 2017. Complete bracken control and progress establishment of a benign vegetation cover.

Ice House, Castle Howard (2.70) – Monitor condition.

Medieval ridge & furrow field systems, Coneysthorpe (2.71) – There are indications that these may have been deliberately incorporated into the park. Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

Parish boundary, Brick Kiln Wood (2.72) – This survives as an upstanding earthwork. Seek to maintain visibility and prevent damage during forestry operations.

Mill, Todd Wood (2.73) – Trees and scrub removed 2000 & 2005. Remains of buildings consolidated 2002. A number of associated structures and the mill race also identified and suitable for survey. Encourage continued scrub control, building restoration where appropriate,

management of ruined features and appropriate public interpretation.

Encourage the continued implementation of the management plan to conserve, enhance and restore elements of the historic landscape:

Castle Howard (2.74) – RPG Grade I. Not at Risk. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

In liaison with owners, encourage repair of Listed Buildings at Risk using grant resources available from local authorities and Government agencies. Where appropriate, explore opportunities for suitable changes of use to ensure their long-term contribution to the cultural heritage of the area:

The Mausoleum, Castle Howard (2.77) – Grade I.
Walls to walled garden, Castle Howard (2.78) – Grade I.

Former bone grinding mill, stables, hayloft and smithy, Low Gaterley (2.79)

Recreation Priority Sites

Castle Howard Lake (3.11) – This was one of the most popular car parks in the AONB, serving as a base for walks around the lake and providing one of the ‘classic’ views of Castle Howard. Planning consent granted 2001 to create a new car park on eastern side of road but never implemented. Closed by the owners 2016 due to anti-social behaviour. Encourage sensitive restoration of former car park site and appropriate management of trees to ensure continued views of house/lake. Monitor use of adjacent verge parking areas and seek to address any subsequent issues.

Castle Howard (3.12) – The historic house and parkland of Castle Howard attracts around 245,000 visitors a year and is easily the most popular site within the AONB. Served by a large car park with capacity for several hundred vehicles. As the principal focal point for visitors within the AONB, there is considerable scope for the provision of information. Consider providing interpretation material that helps to raise awareness of the AONB and management issues affecting it, as well as encouraging exploration of the wider estate area.

Sheep Walk (3.13) – Parking facilities at the crest of the hill were closed 1999 due to highway danger and vehicles blocking access tracks. These were used as a base for popular walks along the ridge top, and an informal parking area subsequently developed at the foot of the hill. Encourage provision of sensitively designed but hard-surfaced parking area for 3-4 cars, to maximise parking opportunity and prevent verge damage/blocking of access tracks.

CENTRAL HILLS AND VALLEYS (Zone 6)

Landscape Management

Maintain the balance between woodland and farmland, strengthen the existing framework of hedges and hedgerow trees and promote appropriate forms of woodland management:

- Conserve areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and promote appropriate forms of management. In Ancient replanted woodland, encourage greater use of native broadleaves.

- Try to diversify pure conifer plantations with broadleaved planting, natural regeneration and open space on woodland edges, rides, stream sides and in positions overlooked by higher ground.
- In more extensive woodland blocks, encourage sympathetic felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially where visually prominent.
- Encourage planting of small to medium-sized areas of broadleaved or mixed woodland as extensions of existing woods, in valley bottoms, on lower slopes and in association with farmsteads.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those in the most visible locations and those associated with the remnant strip field systems at Hildenley and High Hutton.
- Encourage planting of hedgerow trees and copses using native species, to strengthen landscape pattern.
- Conserve and enhance areas of parkland.
- Ensure any upgrading of the A64 trunk road respects the character and high quality of the landscape and maximises opportunities for native grassland creation and new woodland planting in the highway corridor.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

Horse Field, Gilling (1.55) – SSSI. Condition – Unfavourable (No Change). A formerly unimproved hay-meadow, now much degraded. Support restoration management through current management agreement (HLS).

Dalby Bush Fen (1.56) – SSSI. Condition – Favourable. A diverse complex of fen and wet woodland. Scrub controlled 2009, 2011, 2015 & 2017. Support continued sympathetic

management through agreement with Natural England.

Toft Wood (1.57) – SINC. An Ancient woodland containing semi-natural sections with a rich flora, but the majority had been replanted with conifers. Conifer area reverted to native broadleaves 2016. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland.

Mugdale and Barker Woods (1.58) – SINC. A complex of Ancient woodland habitats with an interesting flora. Some hazel coppicing carried out 2001. Native woodland area extended by new planting on Mugdale Hill 2002. Himalayan balsam control carried out 2009, then 2015 onwards. Continue control of invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam). Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

Grange Bogs (1.59) – SINC. A complex of fen, unimproved pasture and marshy woodland. New fencing installed on northern part of site 2003 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Encourage continuation of sympathetic conservation grazing of fen and pasture. Ensure retention of native broadleaved marshy woodland.

Bull Ings (1.60) – SINC. A complex of fen, wet grassland and unimproved pasture. New fencing installed on western part of site 2003 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Encourage continuation of sympathetic conservation grazing of fen and pasture.

Coulton Fen (1.61) – SINC. A narrow strip of valley bog mire and wet woodland. New fencing installed 2003 and site grazed by Exmoor ponies until 2014. Encourage re-introduction of sympathetic conservation management.

Rose Cottage Farm Meadow (1.62) – SINC. A small area of unimproved calcareous grassland. Encourage negotiation of management agreement.

Swinsey Carr (1.63) – SINC. An Ancient woodland, predominantly of ash, with a good flora. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

The Hag, Wiganthorpe Wood (1.64) – SINC. Ancient semi-natural alder wood with a rich flora. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland.

Howthorpe (1.65) – SINC. Two areas of unimproved calcareous and marshy grassland. Himalayan balsam controlled since 2008. Continue management of invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam). Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Terrington Moor (1.66) – SINC. A small area of acid fen, abandoned as arable land 1985. Fenced 2001 and grazing by Exmoor ponies introduced. Scrub control carried out 2006. Rush control carried out 2009 & 2018. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Terrington Carr (1.67) – SINC. A small area of acid peat bog, the remnant of a much larger site (afforested in the 1800s). Water levels raised on southern part of site 2000 and shallow pools created 2001. Water levels raised on northern part of site 2002. Continue birch coppicing cycle to maintain open habitat. Adjacent woodland areas gradually being reverted to native broadleaves. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Grassland adjacent to Swinsey Carr SINC (1.68) – SINC. An area of semi-improved neutral, acid and marshy grassland on a steep bank. Encourage introduction of grassland management.

Fens below Coulton Mill (1.69) – SINC. Areas of fen and semi-improved neutral and marshy grassland along a beck. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Valley Farm Quarry (1.96) – LGS. A recently re-opened stone quarry with a rare and extensive

exposure of the Lebberston and Gristhorpe Members of the Cloughton Formation. Good educational potential.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

An important and almost continuous prehistoric and Roman landscape under arable cultivation on the high ground from Scackleton westwards, which would benefit from improvements within an agricultural regime. Initiate further archaeological survey and encourage greater public appreciation of the historic landscape.

Enclosures/field system, Potter Hill (2.81) – SM. Low/Not at Risk. Reverted to pasture 2001. Monitor condition.

Round barrows, Fryton & Hall Moors (2.82) – SM. At Risk, Vulnerable & Low/Not at Risk. Young plantation trees removed 2016. Reduce impact of arable ploughing to improve condition within an agricultural regime. Reduce impact of arable clipping. Monitor condition to prevent gradual deterioration. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Moated site and ridge & furrow, Scackleton (2.83) – SM. At Risk. Reduce erosion by livestock and damage by burrowing animals. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Round barrow, Wiganthorpe (2.84) – SM. Vulnerable. Scrub growth and brash removed 2017. Monitor condition and damage by burrowing animals. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (MT).

Round barrows, Moor House Farm, Hovingham (2.85) – SM. At Risk & Low/Not at Risk. Reduce impact of arable ploughing to improve condition

within an agricultural regime. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Field system, Swathgill (2.6) – Encourage sympathetic management of prehistoric field system and barrow and seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

Field systems, Hildenley Hall Estate (2.47) – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS).

Park or parish boundary banks, Cum Hag Wood (2.86) – These survive as upstanding earthworks. Seek to maintain visibility and prevent damage during forestry operations. Research and survey would aid understanding.

Ridge & furrow field system, High Hutton (2.87) – Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward.

Limekiln, Maidensworth Farm (2.88) – Trees removed 2005. Encourage continued control of scrub and consolidation works as necessary.

Limekiln, Toft Hill (2.89) – Scrub removed 2001 & 2005. Encourage continued control of scrub and consolidation works as necessary.

Limekiln, Stone Flint Wood (2.90) – Scrub removed 2001. Monitor condition.

Enclosures and field system, Scackleton (2.91) – An extensive complex of prehistoric enclosures and field systems. Seek to improve condition within an agricultural regime.

Encourage the preparation and implementation of management plans which identify opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring elements of the historic landscape:

Wiganthorpe Hall (2.92)

In liaison with owners, encourage repair of Listed Buildings at Risk using grant resources available from local authorities and Government agencies. Where appropriate, explore opportunities for suitable changes of use to ensure their long-term contribution to the cultural heritage of the area:

Mill, Coulton (2.111) – Grade II*

Ice house, Wiganthorpe Hall (2.93)

Cow byre, stables, granary & cart shed, Moor House, Hovingham (2.94) – Granary re-roofed 2008. The other buildings require some attention.

Recreation Priority Sites

Bell Bottom Wood (3.14) – A small informal gravelled lay-by used as a base for forest walks. Maintain capacity of parking area, to reduce parking on adjacent verges.

DERWENT GORGE (Zone 7)

Landscape Management

This Zone is of high geomorphological value, as it comprises the main glacial meltwater channel for the former Lake Pickering.

Conserve and restore the 'traditional' landscape character of broadleaved woodland, small-scale fields and waterside habitats:

- In existing woodlands encourage sympathetic felling operations in terms of scale and phasing, especially where visually prominent.

- Conserve areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and promote appropriate forms of management. In Ancient replanted woodland, encourage greater use of native broadleaves.
- Promote the retention, restoration and sympathetic management of hedges, particularly those associated with the extensive remnant strip field system at Crambe.
- Conserve and re-create riverside wetland habitats and flood plain grassland at appropriate locations.
- Conserve and enhance areas of parkland.
- Ensure any upgrading of the A64 trunk road respects the character and high quality of the landscape and maximises opportunities for native grassland creation and new woodland planting in the highway corridor.

Natural Environment Priority Sites

The most significant site in the AONB for biodiversity (the River Derwent SAC) lies in this Zone. The Zone is also of high geodiversity value, as it contains many former quarries with both nationally and regionally significant exposures of Jurassic rock formations.

Jeffry Bog (1.70) – SSSI. Part Yorkshire Wildlife Trust site. Condition – 38% Favourable; 62% Unfavourable (Recovering). A complex of neutral grassland, marsh and wet woodland adjacent to the River Derwent SSSI. Himalayan balsam control started in woodland section 2013. Continue management of invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam). Support continued sympathetic management through existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Kirkham Park and Riverside (1.71) – SSSI. Condition – 65% Favourable; 35% Unfavourable (Recovering). A site noted for its geodiversity

interest as well as its complex of riverside communities including woodland, grassland, fen and marsh. Manage invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam). Support continued sympathetic management through existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Mount Pleasant Quarry (1.72) – SSSI. Condition – Favourable. A disused quarry face of geodiversity interest. Support continued sympathetic management through agreement with Natural England.

River Derwent (1.73) – SSSI & SAC. Condition – 2% Favourable; 98% Unfavourable (Recovering). Part of an extensive river system, considered to be one of the best British examples of an unpolluted lowland river with a ‘classic’ river profile, and supporting diverse communities of aquatic flora and fauna. Address diffuse pollution issues within the catchment through partnership work with Natural England.

Jeffry Bog (Pt) (1.74) – SINC. An area of neutral and marshy grassland and scrub adjoining the Jeffry Bog and River Derwent SSSIs. Encourage grazing and management of scrub. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Ox Carr and Ben Woods (1.75) – SINC. An Ancient woodland much of which has been replanted, although some semi-natural sections remain. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections.

Oak Cliff Wood (Pt) (1.76) – SINC. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust site. The area between the railway and the river is a small Ancient semi-natural ash wood with a rich flora. Ensure retention as native broadleaved woodland. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS).

Howsham Wood (1.77) – SINC. A large woodland of very high conservation interest, containing the largest area of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland in the AONB. Other sections have been replanted with non-native species. Encourage the preparation and adoption of a comprehensive management plan. Ensure retention of native broadleaved woodland and encourage restoration of replanted sections. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HT).

Sandlands Meadow (1.78) – SINC. A species-rich unimproved hay meadow adjacent to the River Derwent SSSI. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Adjacent to Sandlands Meadow SINC (1.79) – SINC. An area of marshy grassland and mire, restored from conifer plantation 2003 onwards. Willow cut 2006 & 2007; Himalayan balsam controlled 2006. Control willow regrowth and invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam). Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (HLS).

Far Wood Close (1.80) – SINC. An area of mainly unimproved neutral grassland adjacent to the River Derwent SSSI and Howsham Wood SINC. Encourage sympathetic management.

Grassland between Jeffry Bog SINC and Kirkham Park SSSI (1.81) – SINC. An area of semi-improved neutral grassland next to the River Derwent SSSI. Manage invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam). Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS) on part of site.

Crambeck Quarries (1.97) – LGS. A series of former stone quarries with rare inland exposures of the Middle Jurassic sequence of shale/limestone/sandstone. Good educational

potential. Manage vegetation to improve visibility of exposure faces.

Historic Environment Priority Sites

A number of nationally important sites such as the Crambeck Roman potteries and Kirkham Priory lie in this Zone. Encourage enhanced or continued high-quality management of monuments and monitor their condition.

Moated site, Low Hutton (2.95) – SM. Low/Not at Risk. Remove scrub and monitor erosion by livestock. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Kirkham Priory – SM & Medieval village, Kirkham (2.96). Part English Heritage site. Low/Not at Risk. The Priory is managed by English Heritage but features on the north side of the road and elsewhere around the hamlet need to remain in sympathetic management. Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward. Encourage continuation of existing management agreement (ELS + HLS).

Roman pottery kilns, Crambeck (2.97) – SM. Low/Not at Risk. Reduce impact of bracken and forestry.

Kirkham Bridge (2.98) – SM. Vulnerable. Weight Limit introduced 2016. Monitor condition.

Earthworks of medieval village, Crambe (2.99) – A nationally important but unscheduled site that occupies a wide area around the village and includes house platforms, fields, trackways and ridge & furrow. Manage the whole area of earthworks under a stable grass sward. Consider further survey and encourage greater public appreciation of the village history.

Encourage the preparation and implementation of management plans which identify opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring elements of the historic landscape:

Howsham Hall (2.100) – RPG Grade II. Not at Risk. Encourage reversion of ploughed parkland back to grass and new tree planting appropriate to original design.

In liaison with owners, encourage repair of Listed Buildings at Risk using grant resources available from local authorities and Government agencies. Where appropriate, explore opportunities for suitable changes of use to ensure their long-term contribution to the cultural heritage of the area:

Gate Lodges, Howsham Hall (2.102)

Folly, Howsham Hall (2.103)

Pond Farm, Crambe (2.104) – Temporary roof consolidated 2005. Trees removed 2010. Southern gable consolidated 2012.

Recreation Priority Sites

Kirkham Priory (3.15) – English Heritage site. The scenic remains of the Priory attract around 6,000 visitors a year. Served by an informal gravelled parking area that is generally adequate except at peak times. Parking area restored to original full extent and re-gravelled 2010. Monitor usage and ensure maintenance so as to retain capacity and reduce overspill parking on adjacent road.

Kirkham Bridge (3.16) – The public footpath beside the river at Kirkham is very popular. The first field through which it passes is frequently used for picnicking and the river for swimming. The landowner has experienced problems caused

by litter, trespass and conflict with livestock. Monitor situation.

Badger Bank (3.17) – A small but popular informal gravelled lay-by used as a base for walks in Howsham Wood. Local consultations 1999 showed that proposed minor upgrading works were not supported. Area currently managed by low-key grass cutting operations. Consider alternative options, to define parking area better and prevent obstruction of adjacent access.

Howsham Wood (3.18) – A large riverside wood with a network of well-used tracks. Previously owned by the Forestry Commission, the wood was sold to a private consortium 1996 and a management agreement concluded to safeguard public access rights. Consider opportunities for interpretation material and extending access through agreement with adjacent landowners.

Howsham Bridge (3.19) – Two informal gravelled lay-bys at either end of the bridge, used by fishermen, visitors to Howsham Mill and as a base for riverside walks. Area at eastern end fenced 2006 to create parking area for Howsham Mill. Monitor use of site at peak periods, to evaluate the need for future action.

Huttons Ambo (3.20) – A small informal tarmacked parking area used by fishermen and as a base for riverside walks. An adjacent 'storage area' used to have an unsightly sheet metal fence but this was removed 2013 and planted willow saplings have now also grown up.