Local Development Framework for Bradford

Landscape Character

Supplementary Planning Document

Volume 4: Rombalds Ridge

October 2008

City of Bradford MDC
www.bradford.gov.uk

FOREWORD

This is Volume 4 of the Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and outlines the Landscape Character Assessment of Rombalds Ridge.

This document provides a detailed description and analysis of the landscape of Rombalds Ridge along with a succinct set of policy guidelines for each landscape type. A map of the character area can be found on Page 11.

Bradford Council will expect developers who wish to submit a planning application for a development within a landscape character area, to take account of this SPD.

To achieve maximum benefit for all its users, this SPD contains two additional components, which comprise of a non-technical ***User Guide*** and ***Landscape Character Design Guidance***. Each of these components are intended to help the user within the planning process and ultimately achieve good, sympathetic design proposals which both protect and enhance the character and appearance of the District's natural landscapes.

The **User Guide** can be found overleaf; and the **Design Guidance** can be found in Appendix 1 of this document.

Landscape Character SPD - USER GUIDE

The Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) supplements policies NE3 and NE3A of the Replacement Unitary Development Plan. Whilst this is not a statutory document, it is a material consideration and will be assessed against any proposal.

The objectives of the SPD are to protect and enhance the character, appearance and features which are important to the landscape and encourage an integrated approach to development which includes consideration for landscape issues. It also provides advice for developers in the submission of planning applications, and also helps in the determination of these applications.

The SPD comprises of 11 documents, these are:

Introduction and Methodology
Volume 1: Airedale
Volume 2: Esholt
Volume 3: Pennine Upland
Volume 4: Rombalds Ridge
Volume 5: South Bradford
Volume 6: Thornton & Queensbury
Volume 7: Tong Valley
Volume 8: Wharfedale
Volume 9: Wilsden
Volume 10: Worth and North Beck Valleys

The Introduction and Methodology document provides the context for the SPD and outlines the purpose, background, planning policy context, and the landscapes of the Bradford District. Each Landscape Character Area Volume (1-10) set out the Landscape Character Assessment for each Landscape Character Area (Eg Tong, Esholt).

Landscape Character Assessment	Each Volume is a written and visual assessment of the Landscape Character Area which describes, analyses and evaluates the landscape.
Landscape Character Area	A geographic area with a consistent character and identity.
Landscape Character Type	An smaller area within a Landscape Character Area which characterises a particular type of landscape (e.g: Floodplain, wooded valleys etc)

HOW TO USE THE SPD:

1. Identify if the site is in a Landscape Character Area (from Appendix 4: Introduction and Methodology), if so which one?
2. Select the relevant Volume and read sections 1 to 5 to get an understanding of the characteristics of the area.
3. Identify the Landscape Character Type(s) to which the site falls within (from the enclosed Map) and refer to the relevant section within the volume.
4. Take account of the Policy Guidelines at the end of the Landscape Character Type(s) section.
5. Ensure that any proposal has taken into account the criterions set out within the Design Guidance (within the Appendix of each document) and can demonstrate these within the proposal.

For further information or advice on submitting proposals, please contact the Landscape Design Unit on (01274) 433542 or email john.hogg@bradford.gov.uk

ROMBALDS RIDGE

CONTENTS PAGE

1.0	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	1
2.0	NATURAL LANDSCAPE	2
3.0	CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	5
4.0	ANALYSIS	8
5.0	GENERAL CONCLUSIONS	10
6.0	ROMBALDS RIDGE: MIXED UPLAND PASTURE	12
7.0	ROMBALDS RIDGE: GRITSTONE MOORLAND	16
8.0	ROMBALDS RIDGE: UPLAND PASTURE	21

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX 1:	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DESIGN GUIDANCE	25

1.0 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

1.1 The Rombalds Ridge character area is a primarily high level plateau with an upland character dominated by moorland. Strong cultural association, archaeological interest, ecological importance and recreation value add depth and meaning to this Character Area.

1.2 The Rombalds Ridge separates the Aire and Wharfe Valleys, which run parallel in a northwest – southeast direction. The northern boundary is a distinctive moorland edge looking over Wharfedale adjoining the enclosed pastures and the town of Ilkley. A slightly less distinctive moorland edge bounds much of the southern boundary adjacent to the upland pastures. The southern eastern boundary with Airedale incorporates within the Character Area a perched plateau of mixed upland pastures and Baildon Moor before bounding the settlement of Baildon.

1.3 To summarise the Character Area boundaries we have Wharfedale to the north, Airedale to the south, Esholt to the east and the District boundary with Craven to the west.

1.4 The main landscape type in Rombalds is moorland covering approximately 60% of the area, with upland pastures, mixed upland pastures and small wooded valleys making up the remainder.

1.5 Key Landscape Elements

- Wild open exposed moorland
- Fields enclosed by stone walls
- Plantation woodland
- Rock outcrops
- Simple structure with few landscape elements.

2.0 NATURAL LANDSCAPE

2.1 LANDFORM

2.1.1 The landform of the Character Area is dominated by Rombalds Moor, which forms an upland watershed between Wharfedale to the north and Airedale to the south, rising to a height of 402m. The landform comprises a number of distinct terraces or plateaux with a north facing scarp face incised by ghylls or small valleys forms by the streams running off the moor.

The landform is principally the result of glacial activity, landslips and erosion caused by post glacial retreat.

2.2 GEOLOGY

2.2.1 Rombalds Moor and Addingham Middle Moor consist of millstone grit bands of Namurian age interbedded with softer shales. These gritstone bands run along Rombalds Moor and form distinctive cliffs or escarpment ridges such as Rocky Valley, Cow and Calf Rocks and Hangingstones Quarry.

2.2.2 The gritstones consist mainly of Woodhouse Grit, Woodhouse Grit Flags and Guiseley Grit. Evidence of sandstone quarrying can be seen at a number locations most notable those on the northern Wharfe Valley side.

2.2.3 Baildon Moor consists of the overlying coal measures in the form of soft shales and mudstones. Hard and soft bed coal outcrop at the surface where evidence of former bell pit mining can be seen in the form of numerous hollows, now forming wet mires.

2.2.4 The Riggs – a rolling landform above Eldwick comprising glacial drainage channels resulting from shallow, ponded up lakes during the last Ice Age (Approx 15,000 years ago).

2.3 SOILS

Thin, acidic deposits of glacial till with shallow deposits of peat cover most of the moorland area. Deeper deposits of moorland peat can be found at Crawshaw Moss and Green Gates at Rombalds Moor. Grassland areas such as the upland and mixed upland pastures consists of shallow acidic, poor quality soils.

2.4 BIODIVERSITY

The main ecological interest of the Rombalds Ridge Character Area lies in the large mosaic of moorland habitats on Rombalds Moor, part of the South Pennine Moors SPA, designated under the European Union Wild Birds Directive. It is an

internationally important site for large breeding number of Merlin *(Flaco columbarius),* golden plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* and twite *(Carduelis flavirostris).*

Other significant sites of ecological value are:-

- Sconce Crag SEGI – wetland on Baildon Moor, important for uncommon species sundown *(Drosera rotundifolia)* and bod asphodel *(Narthecium ossifragum),* and the only know site in West Yorkshire for lesser twayblad *(Listera cordata).*

- Brown Bank Marsh SEGI – marshy grassland to the north of Silsden, with a good range of wetland species including the largest population of the Bottle Sedge *(Carex rostrata)* in the county.

- Ilkley Moor Plantation and White Crag Plantations BWA's – although these are conifer dominated woodlands, their size and contiguity with the moorland make them significant for sheltering a range of bird species, including short-eared owl, as well as having a significant visual impact on the landscape.

BIODIVERSITY	
HABITAT	**GENERAL SUMMARY**
Woodlands	Wooded valleys of West Wood and Eldwick Beck are natural deciduous woodlands, possibly linking historically to Hawksworth Spring Woods SEGI in Esholt. Also natural wooded valleys on edges of Ilkley Moor. Some small areas of beech woodland around Cringles. The few woodlands in the upland pasture are small conifer-dominated shelter belts and plantations. ** (AW) denotes that a site is also classed as an Ancient Woodland.*
Hedgerows	Hedgerows are not a significant element of the landscape; there are some outgrown and neglected specimens within the pastures north west of Cringles.
Grasslands	Most of the grasslands in the upland pasture zone have been improved and have reduced ecological value. Some areas of soft rush pasture, where drainage has been impeded, are good for insects and breeding waders, especially the 'in-bye' pastures below the moorland fringe.
Moorland	Rombalds Moor contains a representative mosaic of dry and wet heath/acidic grassland communities, with numerous scattered bogs, flushes and stream catchment zones.

Wetlands	Areas of wetland interest within the moorland includes the flight pond, the Tarn, several small reservoirs and small streams draining water from the summit. Small reservoirs within the mixed upland pasture; Eldwick Beck and Gill Beck have general ecological interest.			
SPA	**SSSI**	**Area**	**SEGI**	**Area**
SOUTH PENNINE MOORS (inc. Ilkley Moor)	SOUTH PENNINE MOORS (inc. Ilkley Moor)	4489h	BROWN BANK MARSH SCONE CRAG ADDINGHAM MOORSIDE (RIGS) BAILDON MOOR (RIGS) COW AND CALF FROCKS (RIGS) DOUBLER STONES (RIGS) LANSHAW DELVES (RIGS) ELDWICK CRAG (RIGS)	2.8 ha 4.5 ha

THIRD TIER SITES

<u>Woodlands</u> Great Wood/West Wood (AW) White Crag Plantation Ilkley Moor Plantation	<u>Wetlands</u> Graincliffe Reservoir <u>Moorlands</u> Baildon Moor

WILDLIFE

A variety of bird species, which are associated with the SPA, can be seen across the gritstone moorland and the marginal pastures of the surrounding areas such as golden plover *(Pluvialis apricaria),* Merlin *(Falco columbarius)* and twite *(Carduelis flavirostris)*. Other bird species of interest are the ring ouzel *(Turdus torquatus),* snow bunting *(Plectrophenax nivalis),* hen harrier *(Circus cyaneus)* and the increasingly uncommon linnet *(Carduelis cannabina)* and yellow-hammer *(Emberza citrinella).* Corvids (Crows and Magpies) and foxes have been known to carry off the eggs of some of the more important moorland birds.

A variety of dragonflies are associated with the wetlands and bog pools on the moorland areas.

Toads, adders (although uncommon) and common lizards are also seen on the moors, as well as brown hare, stoat and weasel.

Numerous badger setts occur within the upland pastures and the north-west moorland edges. Roe deer are known to breed and migrate, particularly across the northern parts of the character area.

3.0 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

3.1 HISTORY ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Rombalds Moor – settled since prehistoric times, over 8000 years ago; rich in remains, including 300 scheduled ancient monuments (carved rocks; burial mounds; stone circles). Other activities which have left a mark on the landscape include quarrying (Cow and Calf Rocks; Addingham Edge – quarried for millstones since the 17th Century); lime burning (Lanshaw Delves); peat cutting (Hollin Hill); field sports with grouse butts being a legacy of over 100 years of activity. The Moor is also important for its palaeo-environmental deposits (peat) containing pollen profiles which can be analysed to substantiate the archaeological information.

- Roman road – crosses Ilkley Moor along the approximate line of Keighley Road.

- Cowper's Cross – Ilkley Moor, site of a medieval trading post.

- White Wells Cottage – at base of Ilkley Moor above the town. Ilkley's first Spa, still used today.

- Woofa Bank – to the west of Cringles, several locations of 'cup and ring' stones and prehistoric earthworks point to continuous settlement since Neolithic times.

- Baildon Moor – evidence of prehistoric activity (arrow heads, flints and field systems); several burial sites (barrows) have been excavated and 'cup and ring' marked stones, similar to those on Rombalds Moor have been found. 'Bell Pits' have been discovered across the Moor to indicate coal or ironstone mining. The moor was used during WW2 as a military tank training ground and firing range.

LISTED BUILDINGS, CONSERVATION AREAS AND ARCHAEOLOGY		
Historical	World Heritage Site	Saltaire World Heritage Site Buffer Zone covers part of this character area – in particular parts of the 'Gritstone Moorland' and 'Mixed Uplands Pasture' Character Types.
	Listed Buildings	**There are approximately 39 Listed Buildings within the Rombalds Ridge Character Area.** There are no Grade I or Grade II* listed buildings and/or structures which are of exceptional historical importance within this landscape character area.
	Conservation Areas	None.
	Ancient/Scheduled Monuments	13 No – including Woofa Bank 'cup and ring' stones and prehistoric earthworks, which point to continuous settlement up to present times.
	Historic Parks & Gardens	None
	Battlefield Site	None
	Other Associations	Roman road – crosses Ilkley Moor Carpers Cross, Ilkley Moor, site of medieval trading post. White Wells Cottage, base of Ilkley Moor (first spa). Baildon Moor – the Riggs, glacial drainage channels dating back 15,000 years ago. Cow and Calf Rocks and Ilkley Moor.

3.2 SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

- This character area contains no composite settlements, only isolated farmsteads which are smaller and more numerous in the mixed upland pasture and larger and less frequent in the upland pasture. The farmsteads are well dispersed throughout the landscape. The gritstone moorland contains only White Wells and Silver Wells cottages.

3.3 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Roads are relatively infrequent in this character area. The only main road is the A6034 from Silsden to Addingham. A few minor roads connect the farms in the upland pasture. The mixed upland pasture is better served by a network of wider minor roads and the gritstone moorland is intersected by only one road which is

metalled as far as Whetstone Gate from the south and becomes a track accessible to four wheel drive vehicles only in Ilkley

- A substantial network of footpaths cross this entire character area and it is probably one of the best-served areas in the Bradford District.

3.4 RECREATION/TOURISM

- Ilkley Moor – Cow and Calf Rocks above Ilkley is a particular popular tourist spot and the car park is always well used. Activities around this site and Rombalds Moor in general include rock climbing, walking and orienteering, bird watching, kite flying, mountain biking, fell running, horse riding, astronomy, archaeological pursuits and is also in demand as a film location.

- Baildon Moor – is an urban common owned by the local authority, although part has been rented as a private golf club for over 100 years. The main part of the moor is used for a variety of other activities such as walking and rambling, horse riding, model aircraft, hang gliding and kite flying. There are two caravan parks at Crook Farm and Dobrudden Farm. Brackenhall Countryside Centre is located on the edge of Baildon Moor on Shipley Glen Road.

- Weecher Reservoir – is used as a facility for wind surfing.

- Grouse Shooting – although shooting has been discontinued on Ilkley Moor, it still takes place on the surrounding moors. Pheasant shooting occurs on Rivock Edge; clay pigeon shooting on the edge of Bingley Moor.

- Horse Riding – popular throughout the mixed upland pasture, with occasional riding stables.

- Caravan Parks – as well as the caravan parks already mentioned on Baildon Moor, they are also located at Brown Bank Lane above Silsden and adjacent to the A6034 at Cringles.

4.0 ANALYSIS

4.1 Sensitivity

- **Strength of Character** **Strong**

Based primarily on landform the upland ridge has a distinct identity; it has a uniform open and exposed character, acting as a formidable barrier between the Aire and Wharfe Valleys.

- **Historic Continuity** **High**

Much archaeological evidence of continuous occupation on the uplands, with no significant changes to land use.

- **Remoteness** **Remote**

Displays a lack of urbanising features; the moorland has a 'safe' feeling of remoteness with views of the settled Wharfe and Aire valleys on either side – a doorstep wilderness with easy access. Landform of upland pastures gives a sense of remoteness, although civilisation is rarely out of sight. The remoteness of the mixed upland pastures is gradually being eroded by new and more frequent buildings.

- **Significance of new development** **Medium**

Generally characterised by lack of twentieth century settlement. However, occasional modern dwellings and infrastructure of Graincliffe Reservoir and Whetstone Gate radio mast have a significant impact – acceptable only as landmarks where frequency is not an issue.

- **Pressure on integrity of landscape unit** **Immediate**

Changes in traditional farming are leading to large, modern farm buildings. Decline in farming is also leading to more recreational based after uses, the removal or neglect of stone walls and prevailing urban influences such as riding stable, especially in the mixed upland pasture. The pastures that adjoin Eldwick and Baildon are under immediate pressure for expansion and settlement.

4.2 Important Features

Landmarks

- Archaeological features such as Cowpers Cross and Double Stones.
- Cow and Calf Rocks.
- Radio Mast at Whetstone Gate.

Skylines

- Northern edge of Rombalds Moor overlooking Ilkley.
- Whetstone Gate on the southern aspect of Rombalds.

Key Views and Vistas

- Dramatic views of Airedale/Wharfedale at Buck Stones
- Long distance views in all directions from Thimble Stones and the summit of Baildon Moor.
- Views north from Addingham to Silsden Road around Marchup area, towards Yorkshire Dales, and the landscape setting of Addingham
- Many key views in all directions due to elevation of the character area and accessibility via public footpaths particularly into the Yorkshire Dales and the northern slopes of the Wharfe Valley towards Blubberhouse Moor.

- The Saltaire Environmental Capacity Study and the Saltaire Conservation Area Assessment both identify key views and vistas into and out of the World Heritage Site. Any development proposal shall take these into account and ensure that they are preserved.

Memorable Places

- Cow and Calf Rocks
- White Wells – cottage, the first spa.
- Small wooded valleys on Ilkley Moor with streams, pine trees and rock outcrops are 'picturesque'.

4.3 Detractors

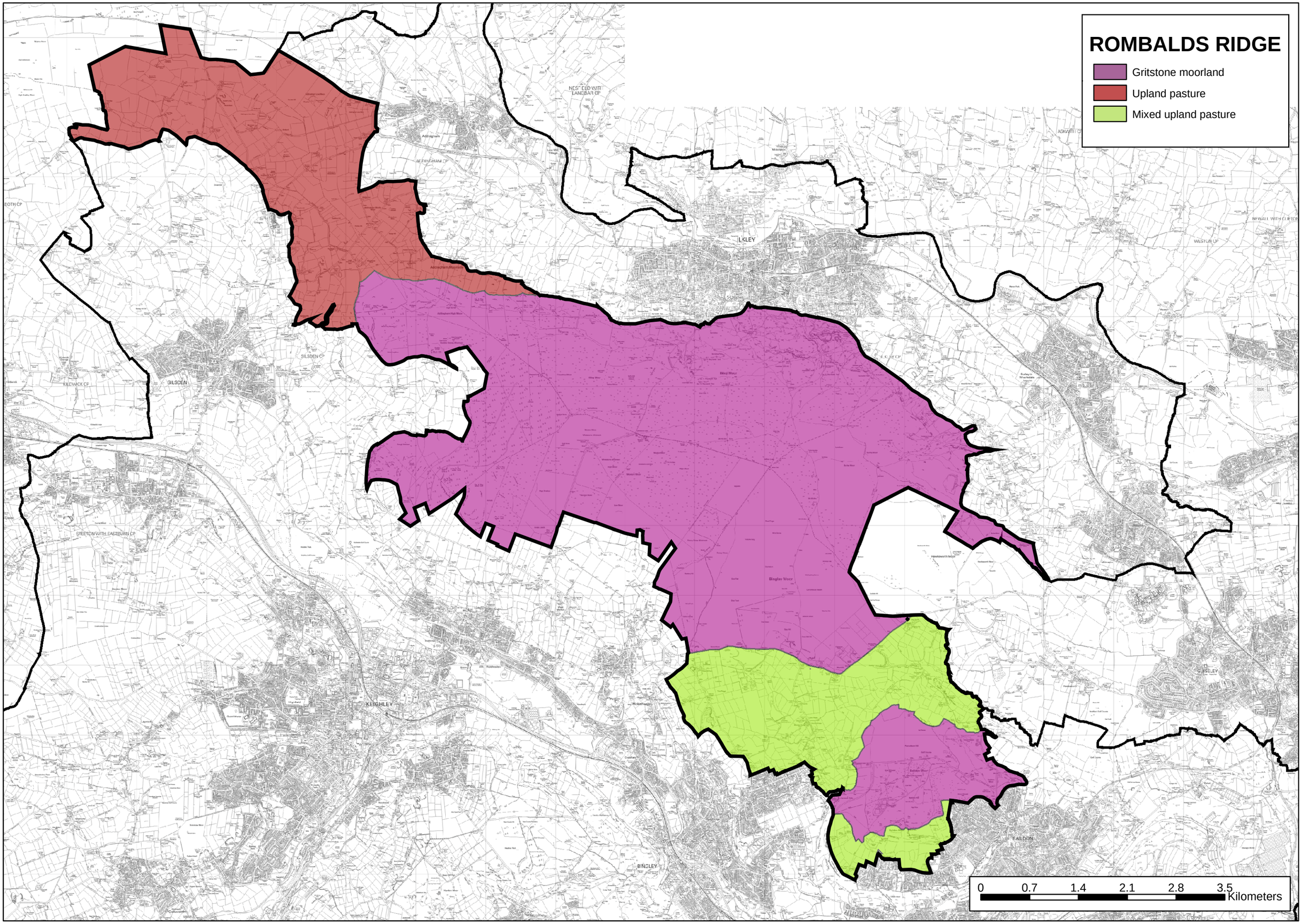
- Vertical intrusions – radio mast at Whetstone Gate; pylons in the mixed upland pastures.
- Inappropriate development – large modern farm buildings within the upland pasture.
- Landscape management – poorly maintained stonewalls.

5.0 GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Rombalds Ridge can be regarded as very sensitive to change due to its strong character, high historic continuity, displaying a safe feeling of remoteness.

5.2 The overriding character area strategy for Rombalds is to conserve the landscape elements that contribute to its strength. The moorland and upland pastures in particular are both in good condition with a strong character. Despite the perceived naturalness their future retention depends upon the existing landscape management practices continuing. For example heather burning or cutting on the moorland and grazing of sheep and cattle on the upland pastures.

5.3 The strategy for the mixed upland pasture is to conserve and enhance, the loss of field boundaries is of particular concern. There is also opportunity to increase the tree cover in this landscape type.


ROMBALDS RIDGE
Gritstone moorland
Upland pasture
Mixed upland pasture
ILKLEY
SILSDEN
KEIGHLEY
BINGLEY
BAILDON
GUISELEY
0
0.7
1.4
2.1
2.8
3.5
Kilometers

6.0 ROMBALDS RIDGE: MIXED UPLAND PASTURE

6.1 DESCRIPTION

- Lies mainly on the 'saddle' of land between the gritstone moorlands of Rombalds Moor and Baildon Moor above Eldwick; a smaller area occupies the land between Baildon Moor to the south-west above Shipley Glen. In many cases the pastures within this gently rolling concave landform have been agriculturally improved, although the land is still of marginal quality.

- The pastures below Crook Farm are contained by a mixture of high, well maintained stone walls and a style of timber post and rail fencing only seen in this particular area. Occasional oak trees within the pastures give this area almost a 'parkland' character.

- Two small wooded valleys occur at Wet Wood/Gill Beck. New mixed woodland planting has been carried out around Graincliffe Reservoir. Small groups of trees are scattered around traditional settlements.

- Small reservoirs – Grancliffe/Compensation and Weecher.

6.2 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

6.2.1 Analysis

- **Strength of Character** **Moderate**

Marginal farmland is becoming less sustainable and in closer proximity to the urban centres in leading to landscape change in the form of sub-urbanisation as alternative sources of income are sought.

- **Condition** **Declining**

Field boundaries are in a declining condition consisting of a mixture of neglected stone walls, broken down fences and gappy hedgerows.

The increase in horse grazing is contributing to declining condition of the pastures grassland.

Condition	**Good**	STRENGTHEN	Strengthen and Conserve	CONSERVE
	Declining	Strengthen and Enhance	Conserve and Enhance	Conserve and Restore
	Poor	CREATION	Restore and Enhance	RESTORE
		Weak	**Moderate**	**Strong**
	Character			

6.2.2 Policy Guidelines

- Conserve and Enhance

- Conserve the traditional upland agricultural practices of cattle and sheep grazing. Maintain field boundary walls and hedges, replace fences with stonewalls.

- Enhance the landscape by tree planting particularly in groups around buildings or field corners.

- The small wooded valleys contribute to the landscape pattern and should be managed to ensure continuity.

- Protect the universal value of Saltaire World Heritage Site and minimise the negative impact of development within the Buffer Zone on the World Heritage Site.

6.3 POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

6.3.1 Sensitivity Analysis

- **Strength of character** **Moderate**
  [See above]

- **Historic Continuity** **Medium**

Sub-urban influences increasing in the form of scattered new dwellings, large modern farm buildings, and in recent reservoir infrastructure construction. The traditional agricultural framework remains.

- **Visual exposure and enclosure** **Prominent & open**

This area is visually prominent from Baildon Moor, form East Morton to Menston Road and from Shipley Glen Road.

Due to the sloping landform and large field sizes, even with tree groups the landscape from within has an open aspect.

6.3.2 Policy Guidelines

- With a moderate strength of character, medium historic continuity and a prominent position in the countryside, the landscape can be considered to be sensitive to development in particular the higher level plateau north of Eldwick to Rombalds Moor.

- Should development be considered in this area then the most appropriate form would be isolated units or small clusters of dwellings in association with tree groups. However, there is little scope to increase the density of settlement within

this landscape type without jeopardising the integrity of the character area as a whole.

- Traditional road network consists of narrow lanes with dry stonewall enclosure which is an important part of the landscape character. Major change or urbanisation to accommodate development should be resisted.

- Should development be considered on the pastures to the south of Baildon Moor adjoining the western end of Baildon then the adjoining wooded valley of Shipley Glen and the integrity of the moorland fringe would need to be considered in detail. Not only would the visual impact be a key issue but the recreational value and links that presently exist.

7.0 ROMBALDS RIDGE: GRITSTONE MOORLAND

7.1 DESCRIPTION

- There are two areas of moorland within the Character Area Rombalds Moor and Baildon Moor. Rombalds Moor is made up of Ilkley Moor, Burley Moor, Hawksworth Moor, Bingley Moor, Morton Moor and Addingham High Moor.

- **Area 1. Rombalds Moor**, forms the ridge line separating Airedale and Wharfedale. It is the central backbone of the Character Area. Rombalds Moor attracts many visitors notably for its association with Ilkley Moor and the Cow and Calf Rocks.

- Its strength of character lies in its accessibility yet retaining an open moorland landscape on the top of the plateau.

- Although relatively small areas of the moor are wooded they are locally significant, two coniferous plantations at High Moor and White Cragg and a number of deeply incised wooded cloughs on the moorland slopes notable Hanging Stones Quarry and Rock Valley to the rear of White Wells.

- Other notable features of the moor include a well-maintained dry stonewall running east-west along the ridge, and the rock outcrops of the Cow and Calf, Thimble Stones and East Buck Stones.

- **Area 2. Baildon Moor,** is a lower level moorland dominated by grassland. Public access and recreational use is the key characteristic.

- The moor is bisected by a road, with the northern half dominated by Baildon Golf Course, although it sits neatly in the landscape, fairways and greens are distinctive green swathes.

7.2 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

7.2.1 Analysis

- **Strength of character** **Strong**

Simple well defined structured with lack of urban influences.

- **Condition** **Good**

Footpaths and walls are generally in good condition with regular maintenance of eroded areas from recreational pressure.

Ecologically, the moor is a complex mix of heather, moorland grasses, blanket bog, plantation woodland, bracken and small wooded cloughs. The general condition and balance of these elements is good, bracken encroachment and the retention of wetland areas are key management issues.

Condition	**Good**	STRENGTHEN	Strengthen and Conserve	CONSERVE
	Declining	Strengthen and Enhance	Conserve and Enhance	Conserve and Restore
	Poor	CREATION	Restore and Enhance	RESTORE
		Weak	**Moderate**	**Strong**
	Character			

7.2.2 Policy Guidelines

Conserve

- The management objective for the moorland is to conserve the various habitats in a way, which balances the often-conflicting interest of pubic access and nature conservation.

- Ilkley Moor and Baildon Moor are classified as Urban Common, as such there are certain rights and restrictions notably the right to graze sheep, and public access on foot and horseback is unlimited.

- Most of Rombalds Moor is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) which is an internationally important site for the habitats of upland breeding birds.

- Detailed landscape management plans have been prepared for both Ilkley Moor and Baildon Moor covering the key habitat types.

  - Upland Heath
  - Upland Grassland
  - Wetlands and open water
  - Woodland
  - Bracken

- The aim is to obtain the widest possible adoption of the detailed management objectives among the private owners on Rombalds Moor.

- Protect the universal value of Saltaire World Heritage Site and minimise the negative impact of development within the Buffer Zone on the World Heritage Site.

7.3 POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

7.3.1 Sensitivity Analysis

- **Strength of character** **Strong**
  [See above]

- **Historic continuity** **High**
  Archaeological features on Rombalds Moor are important, notably Cowper's Cross, Thimble Stones, White Stones, Twelve Apostles and the various carved rocks such as cup and ring marked stones and swastika stone. With little perceivable change in landscape management there is a feeling that little has changed over time.

- **Visual exposure & enclosure** **Prominent & Open**
  Rombalds moorland has a prominent skyline from both the Aire and Wharfe valleys. The open aspect looking out from the key viewpoints are the strongest aspect of this landscape type. Spectacular long distance views into the Yorkshire Dales, the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Pennine Moors are very important.

  Baildon Moor, although at a lower altitude, is slightly less prominent but retains a high degree of intervisibility and is valued for its open aspect, particularly for casual recreation.

7.3.2 Traditional Settlement Pattern

- Very little built development; a small number of traditional stone built isolated farms on the moorland fringe.

7.3.3 Policy Guidelines

- With a strong character, high historic continuity, open character and a prominent position in the landscape, this landscape can be considered very sensitive to development.

- Any form of development should be severely restricted; and vertical structures should be located where topography constrains views of the site, and should avoid the interruption of prominent ridge and summit skylines.

- Conservation of the open character is the key factor to prevent deterioration of the quality of this area, and mass tree planting is not considered appropriate.

- Settlement is not generally a feature of the Rombalds Ridge gritstone moorland and any extension to the existing few farmsteads on the moorland fringe should be minimal to strictly limit any negative impact on this landscape.

- Quarrying and peat extraction will not be permitted within this area.

8.0 ROMBALDS RIDGE: UPLAND PASTURE

8.1 DESCRIPTION

- The Rombalds Ridge upland pastures occur exclusively in the north west of the character area on the 'saddle' of high land separating Airedale and Wharfedale below the gritstone moorland and dissected by the A6034 road from Silsden to Addingham.

- The upland pastures to the west of Cringles are gently undulating and the rolling landform is beginning to show characteristics of the limestone Yorkshire Dales which lie to the north. The farm units in this area are larger and less numerous, consisting of mixed dairy and sheep grazing units; there are some remnants of hedgerows.

- The upland pasture to the east of Cringles lie on the steeper, concave slopes below Addingham Moorside. The farmsteads here are smaller and more frequent, based more on sheep grazing.

- Generally the upland pastures all display the characteristic simplicity of well managed field systems although the grasslands are substantially improved and therefore not ecologically rich. An intimate network of minor roads connect the farmsteads.

- The upland pastures are virtually treeless except for a few small shelter belt woodlands, consisting of mixed or coniferous species.

- The general lack of tree cover and elevated views from within the area give a strong sense of remoteness.

8.2 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

8.2.1 Analysis

- **Strength of Character** **Strong**

A uniform simplicity of the gently rolling landform managed pastures and stonewall boundaries give this landscape type a strong character.

- **Condition** **Good**

The improved pasture grasslands are in good condition with traditional sheep and cattle grazing predominating. Stone boundary walls are in good repair.

Condition	**Good**	STRENGTHEN	Strengthen and Conserve	CONSERVE
	Declining	Strengthen and Enhance	Conserve and Enhance	Conserve and Restore
	Poor	CREATION	Restore and Enhance	RESTORE
		Weak	**Moderate**	**Strong**
	Character			

8.2.2 Policy Guidelines

Conserve

- Conserve the simple patchwork of field systems bounded by stone boundary walls. Restore hedges as boundaries where applicable.

- Large scale tree planting is not appropriate to the character of the area, although small mixed shelter belts around farmsteads would be acceptable.

- Encourage the traditional management of grasslands as hay meadows to improve the biodiversity of the area.

8.3 POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

8.3.1 Sensitivity Analysis

- **Strength of character** **Strong**

See above]

- **Historic continuity** **High**

The pastoral land use would appear to have been continuous for along time. Recent expansion of some of the farm units has not altered the general character of the area.

- **Visual exposure & enclosure** **Prominent & open**

The upland pastures have an open character and are notably prominent from the A6034 giving a pleasing visual framework to Addingham High Moor to the south east and Skipton Moor to the north west. The area to the west of Woofa Bank is less prominent from the surrounding area.

8.3.2 Traditional Settlement Pattern

- Isolated farmsteads in traditional gritstone.

8.3.3 Policy Guidelines

- With a strong character, high historic continuity, open character and a prominent position in the countryside, this landscape can be considered to be very sensitive to development.

- The character of the upland pastures is based upon the single traditional farmstead and any change to this pattern would weaken its strength.

- Large ‘specimen’ size sycamores are often associated with isolated farm buildings and are an important landscape component. Thinning of smaller self-set groups with the replanting of oaks would be appropriate.

- Small-scale expansion of farm units should be related to proven agricultural need. Large modern buildings and silos should be discouraged where possible or mitigated with local small scale tree planting.

- Major changes to the traditional road network of narrow lanes and dry stonewalls would significantly weaken the character.

APPENDIX 1:

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DESIGN GUIDANCE

OCTOBER 2008

CONTENTS **PAGE**

1.0 INTRODUCTION **27**
The Aim of the Design Guidance
The Landscape Context
The Role of Developers in the Landscape Process

2.0 PRELIMINARY WORK **29**
Site Survey and Appraisal
Outline Landscape Plan

3.0 LANDSCAPE DESIGN **31**
Landscape Design Principles
Landscape Design Details

4.0 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE **34**
Maintenance Considerations
Maintenance Responsibilities
Management Plans

5.0 FURTHER ADVICE **37**
Council Contacts
Other Useful Council Contacts
Other Useful Contacts

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Aim of the Design Guidance

Whilst the Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document aims to preserve and enhance the character of defined areas in Volumes 1 to 10 that accompany this document, it is important to note that appropriate development may occur within these areas. The adoption of a systematic approach to development as outlined in this guidance will help encourage good design and integration of development into the landscape, thereby maintaining and enhancing its character and value for the benefit of future generations.

These guidance notes set out the approach that will be taken by Bradford Council with regard to the implementation of Policies NE3 and NE3A of the adopted Replacement Unitary Development Plan for the Bradford District. These notes are intended as guidance for developers; they do not replace any other planning obligations that may relate to a site. Where an Environmental Assessment is required, for example, the contents of this guidance will form part of the scoping exercise.

1.2 The Landscape Context

Landscape results from the way that different components of our environment - both natural (the influences of geology, soils, climate, flora and fauna) and cultural (the historical and current impact of land use, settlement, enclosure and other human interventions) – interact together and are perceived by us.

All landscapes, whether in urban or rural locations, have interest, meaning and value to those who live and work within them or visit them. They have locally distinctive character that sets them apart from the rest. Landscapes also have, to varying degrees, value for wildlife and the diversity of vegetation which is a significant factor in determining that value. This draft SPD provides a comprehensive overview of all aspects of the landscape that characterises each of the 10 Landscape Character Areas and should be referred to as part of this process.

The Council recognises that the inherent characteristics of a landscape are vital factors in giving it local distinctiveness, and that in order to maintain this distinctiveness these characteristics must be retained and enhanced wherever possible.

1.3 The Role of Developers in the Landscape Process

In order to achieve successful integration of development into the landscape and restoration, retention and enhancement of local landscape character the Council expects developers to follow a systematic approach as outlined on the following pages. The objective is to ensure that the aims of development are consistent with the principles of sustainability, landscape enhancement and nature conservation. Proper consideration of landscape issues should not be seen as a financial burden but as a positive benefit in terms of its value to a development.

The size of a proposed development and/or the relative sensitivity of the site will dictate the extent of details expected to be provided. The Council will seek to advise developers of its expectations within the early stages, through pre-application advice and discussions. Notwithstanding this, the principles contained within these guidance notes should still be relevant to anyone involved in the development process whether on a large or small scale, and will be applicable to all development.

There are three main sections to this guidance note which must be taken into consideration as part of any proposal. These are:

- Preliminary Work
- Design Principals
- Landscape Management and Maintenance

2.0 PRELIMINARY WORK

2.1 Site Survey and Appraisal

At the stage of pre-application discussion, applying for outline or full planning permission, or when undertaking a feasibility study on which the Council's views are sought, the applicant or developer will be expected to carry out and submit an accurate site survey and comprehensive site appraisal to include:

Context	A description and analysis of the surrounding areas, including hard and soft landscapes, buildings etc. and an indication of important links and inter-relationships, described in the character assessments.
Levels/contours	A diagram illustrating the levels and contours of the site.
Landform	A statement of the slopes, orientation of the site etc.
Existing features	A statement of existing trees, hedgerows, other significant areas of vegetation, water, ditches, boundary treatments, significant structures, areas of hard surfaces etc.
Visual Qualities	- A statement and/or photographs to illustrate the views in/out of the site, quality of view/s, general character, local distinctiveness, any dominant features etc. - A zone of visual influence may be required for prominent development proposals in the landscape
Designations	An identification and assessment of any local designations which are applicable to the site, to include: ▪ Special Protection Area (SPA) ▪ Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) ▪ Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) ▪ Site of Ecological and Geological Importance (SEGI) ▪ Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) ▪ Local Nature Reserves (LNR) ▪ Bradford Wildlife Area (BWA) ▪ Sites of Nature Conservation Importance ▪ Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) ▪ Saltaire World Heritage Site (and buffer zone) ▪ Listed Buildings ▪ Conservation Areas ▪ Scheduled Ancient Monuments ▪ Historic Parks and Gardens

	▪ Archaeological sites ▪ Battlefield Sites ▪ Registered Cemeteries ▪ Rights of Way
Setting	- A statement of the impact on the setting of any designations as listed above.

2.2 Outline Landscape Plan

2.2.1 The site survey and appraisal leads to the next element of the feasibility or application stage when the developer will be expected to draw up and submit an outline landscape plan for the development site, to form the basis of a detailed scheme to be submitted at a later stage. This is to ensure that landscape matters are being considered at the outset as an integral part of the development.

2.2.2 The outline plan should contain general information on the landscape approach to the site, including:-

General Information & Landscape Approach	1) How the proposal will not adversely affect local character and distinctiveness of the Landscape Character Area.
	2) The treatment of site boundaries
	3) The retention of existing landscape features
	4) Intended access points and circulation routes
	5) The main 'structural' planting and significant areas of hard landscaping to be incorporated within the development
	6) Details of any existing trees or other landscape features which it is proposed to remove or retain including protection measures.

2.2.3 Conditions which are imposed on the subsequent granting of planning permission will be related to the outline landscape plan which is submitted. However, it is expected that this plan should not over-constrain the submission of subsequent details, but rather establish the broad principles of the landscape design approach.

3.0 LANDSCAPE DESIGN

3.1 Landscape Design Principles

3.1 Before development commences on site, the developer will be required to submit, and have approved by the Council, a detailed landscape design for the site. This should be based on the survey and appraisal and be consistent with the overall context described in the Outline Landscape Plan, unless convincing arguments can be put to the contrary.

3.2 The detailed layout should address the following issues:

Landscape Design Principals	1) The layout and design should be appropriate to the area and establish a built environment of quality and variety, which integrates retaining local distinctiveness of the built form within the landscape.
	2) Consideration should be given to the use and form of space when planning the site
	3) The layout should maintain and enhance the diversity and character of the established vegetation on the site and utilises it where appropriate for shelter and passive enjoyment and habitat creation. *Reference should be made to the Postcode Plant Database:* http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/plants-fungi/postcode-plants/
	4) Where appropriate the layout should provide an integrated, attractive and safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists and those with disabilities
	5) Consideration should be given to 'designing out crime' – e.g. by not creating screening which could conceal anti-social or criminal activity, or by using thorny 'deterrent' shrubs to prevent access onto the site.
	6) Where appropriate (i.e. mainly for housing developments) there may be a requirement to provide recreational open space within the layout and consideration should be given to integrating any such provision into the development
	7) Consideration should be given to the maintenance of hard and soft landscaping in the future
	8)The surface water drainage system should minimise run-off and utilise natural and sustainable drainage systems where appropriate. The use of innovative green technology such as green roofs needs to be considered.

3.2 Landscape Design Details

3.2.1 The detailed landscape design should **include**:

Landscape Planting Plan	1) Botanical names, including genus, species and varieties of all proposed trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants
	2) Planting sizes of all proposed plants
	3) The proposed positions and spacing of plants
	4) The species mix percentages for grass seeds
	5) Accurately plotted positions of trees, shrubs, other vegetation and features to be retained and precise details of their means of protection during the construction period
	6) The position of existing trees and other significant landscape features which is proposed to remove
	7) All maps and plans should have on them a north point and appropriate scaling
	8) Weed control measures including maintaining areas prior to planting, herbicide treatment, mulch specification and depth.
	9) Topsoil specification, depths for all the above, grade of topsoil in accordance with the current B.S 3882 and proposed additives / ameliorants.
	10) Slope stabilisation methods
	11) Management plans including objectives and aftercare maintenance proposals
Treatment of Existing Trees	12) Tree retention and felling plan; all to be cross referenced to a tree condition survey in accordance with the current B.S. 5837
	13) Protective fencing during construction (type and positioning)
	14) Tree surgery proposals, cross referenced to trees on a plan and any tree survey details
Hard Landscape Plan	15) Paint or wood stain colours should be included for all appropriate materials
	16) Surfacing materials and kerbs / edge restraints, with existing and proposed levels
	17) Boundary treatment, including walls and fences, retailing walls, internal plot fences
	18) Utility routes, including draining, depth, special measures and any easements
	19) Special constructions, e.g. tree pit surrounds, planters, steps, ramps, retaining structures, public art
	20) Lighting and Street furniture, including protection against vehicle impact, e.g. bollards, tree guards, temporary / permanent fencing, low walls etc.
	21) Location and design of refuse and sub-station storage screens and enclosures.

3.2.2 The detailed landscape design should **take account** of:

Landscape Design Details	1) The use of species, materials and street furniture which reflect local character
	2) The use of recycled materials and materials from sustainable sources
	3) The incorporation of existing plants and other features
	4) The use of plants to create screening and microclimatic conditions through shade, shelter etc
	5) The use of plants and public art to create local focal points
	6) A selection of plant species to provide year-round interest
	7) A selection of plants to encourage wildlife where appropriate
	8) The suitability of plants for the location (e.g. their ultimate size and habit, tolerance of soil conditions and shade, root spread, long-term ease of management etc
	9) A specification and depth of topsoil for different types of planting
	10) The use of larger tree stock to resist vandalism
	11) Future maintenance needs of, and access to, hard and soft landscaped areas for e.g. litter clearance
	12) Landform, and the treatment and use of sloping ground, taking account of the needs of people with impaired mobility
	13) Drainage and the need to conserve drain water
	14) Means of defining boundaries
	15) The creation of an overall character and unifying landscape structure for the development
	16) The integration of the development into the surrounding landscape (e.g. the transition from residential to agricultural use).

4.0 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENACE

4.1 Maintenance Considerations

The success of any landscape scheme will, to a significant extent, be determined by the standard of maintenance undertaken following implementation of the scheme. Consideration must therefore be given to how the works are to be maintained in the future to ensure that the original design is effectively turned into an attractive landscape.

For hard landscaped areas, the maintenance programme should incorporate actions to keep all materials and street furniture in a good, safe and attractive condition. Consideration should be given to keeping areas free of litter and other debris. Methods of keeping paving free from chewing gum and walls free from graffiti should also be considered.

For soft landscaped areas, consideration should be given to watering in the early stages where necessary. Excessive weed growth can inhibit the development of young plants and measures must be considered whereby weeds are suppressed by the use of mulching techniques. These can include the use of mulch mats around individual plants, textile membranes over planting beds or shredded bark or other suitable loose material to a depth of at least 50mm. The use of chemical herbicides should be kept to a minimum to ensure that accidental damage to plants does not occur through inappropriate application.

4.2 Maintenance Responsibilities

All landscape schemes will require an on-going commitment to management. Planning conditions may impose a limited period of maintenance or replacement of failed plants to ensure initial establishment is in place from the start.

Responsibility for future maintenance should be clarified at the earliest opportunity, with parties aware of their maintenance obligations. Where public areas are created, consideration should be given to how these will be maintained in the future. If the Council is to be asked to take ownership of such areas for future management, this should be made clear within the early stage in the development process and transfer of land will only be agreed in accordance with current Council policies. This may involve agreements under the Town and Country Planning Act and the payment of a commuted sum by the developer.

The recycling of green waste is encouraged on site (and off site) to encourage the use of composting or composting of green waste off site, rather than it being mixed with general waste.

4.3 Management Plans

For larger schemes it may be appropriate, or may be required as part of a condition of planning approval, that a management plan be prepared. Such a plan will contain details of how maintenance is to be carried out, who will be responsible for carrying it out and how frequently it will need to be carried out. A management plan is particularly relevant where the responsibility for maintenance will rest with a different party after works have been completed, and it is essential that the management plan is understood by the recipient prior to responsibility being handed over

5.0 FURTHER ADVICE & CONTACTS

5.1 If you require further advice, information or clarity regarding any aspect of this document or the requirements as part of a planning application relating to the landscape, please direct your contact to the Landscape Design Unit who will be able to assist you.

5.2 COUNCIL CONTACTS:

Landscape Design Unit

The Landscape Design Unit have a wide range of specialist skills and experience of the following areas of professional practice: landscape and environmental design; environmental master planning; landscape planning; project management; communications.

Landscape Officer
Landscape Design Unit
8th Floor Jacobs Well
Manchester Road
Bradford BD1 5RW

Telephone: (01274) 433542
Fax: (01274) 734516
Email: john.hogg@bradford.gov.uk

5.3 OTHER USEFUL COUNCIL CONTACTS:

Local Development Framework

The Local Development Framework (LDF) Group produced the Replacement Unitary Development Plan (2005) and is currently in the process of producing the family of documents which will form the Bradford District Local Development Framework (LDF).
Telephone: (01274) 432499
Fax: (01274) 433767
Email: ldf.consultation@bradford.gov.uk

Development Services

Development Services processes planning applications and provides advice on planning matters. The Bradford District is divided into a number of area teams for development service purposes.

All of the different planning teams can be contacted by telephoning the following switchboard number: **(01274) 434605, or by emailing any enquires to the addresses given below.**

- **Bradford West:**

includes Heaton, Manningham, Thornton, Clayton, Queensbury, Great Horton and Buttershaw.

e-mail: planning.enquires@bradford.gov.uk

- **Bradford City Centre**

e-mail: planning.enquires@bradford.gov.uk

- **Bradford East:**

includes Thackley, Idle, Greengates, Eccleshill, Fagley, Bowling, Odsal, Low Moor and Wyke.

e-mail: planning.enquires@bradford.gov.uk

- **Shipley:**

includes Shipley, Bingley, Baildon, Idle, Thackley, Wrose, Harden, Denholme, Cullingworth and Wilsden.

e-mail: planning.Shipley@bradford.gov.uk

- **Keighley:**

includes the Worth Valley, Keighley, Riddlesden, Silsden and Steeton.

e-mail: planning.Keighley@bradford.gov.uk

- **Ilkley:** *includes Ilkley, Addingham, Burley-in-Wharfedale and Menston.*

e-mail: planning.ilkley@bradford.gov.uk

Design and Conservation

The Design and Conservation Team advises on matters relating to urban design, listed buildings and conservation areas. To view a Conservation Area Assessment or find out if a building is listed, visit: www.bradford.gov.uk/Conservation for more information.

Telephone: (01274) 434605 e-mail: conservation@bradford.gov.uk

Building Control

Building Control can provide you with all you want to know about buildings, building work, safe environments and how to organise public events safely. The Building Control Service has two offices in the District:

Bradford Tel: (01274) 433807

Keighley Tel: (01535) 618010

Countryside and Rights of Way

Tel: (01274) 432666 e-mail: rightsofway@bradford.gov.uk

Waste and Minerals Planning and Trees

Minerals - Tel: (01274) 433770 email: minerals.planning@bradford.gov.uk

Trees - Tel: (01274) 434297 e-mail: trees@bradford.gov.uk

5.4 OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Arboricultural Association (Directory of Consultants & Contractors)

The Arboricultural Association seeks to advance the science of arboriculture for the public benefit.

Ampfield House
Romsey
Hampshire
S051 9PA

Tel: 01794 368717
Fax: 01794 368978
Web: www.trees.org.uk
Email: admin@trees.org.uk

British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI)

The British Association of Landscape Industries is the UK's representative trade association for firms undertaking landscaping, both interior and exterior, a wide range of associated suppliers to the industry. With a landscape contracting membership of over 700, BALI is continually raising standards throughout an industry that is all too often tarred with a 'cowboy' reputation.

Landscape House
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG

Tel: 0870 770 4971
Fax: 0870 770 4972
Web: www.bali.co.uk
Email: contact@bali.org.uk

Landscape Institute – (Directory of Landscape Architects)

The Landscape Institute is the Royal Chartered body for landscape architects in the UK. There are over 5,000 members who work across a range of organisations such as local authorities, government agencies and private practice. They are involved in a broad range of tasks including masterplanning, environmental assessment, public consultation and design.

33 Great Portland Street
London
W1W 8QG

Tel: 020 7299 4500
Fax: 020 7299 4501
Web: http://www.landscapeinstitute.org/
Email: mail@landscapeinstitute.org

Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum promotes the discovery, understanding, enjoyment and responsible use of the natural world. The website provides a useful link to a Plant Postcode Database which generates lists of native plants and wildlife for any specified postal district in the UK. Visit this tool by using the following web link:
http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/plants-fungi/postcode-plants/

West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS)

At the heart of the Advisory Service's work is the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record. This Record is the basis for a wide range of Information on West Yorkshire's Heritage, developed by the Service's specialist staff for a variety of audiences, as well as being the basis for its Education Services. It is also the foundation for the Planning and Development Advice provided by the Service, the framework for which is set out in the Service's Policies and Strategies. The Advisory Service actively encourages voluntary-sector engagement, and provides Useful Contacts for those wishing to begin exploring West Yorkshire's past.

West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record	Tel: 01924 306797
Registry of Deeds	Fax: 01924 306810
Newstead Road	Web: www.arch.wyjs.org.uk
Wakefield WF1 2DE	Email: wyher@wyjs.org.uk

Produced by the
City of Bradford Metropolitan
District Council

Local Development
Framework Group

October 2008

City of Bradford MDC

www.bradford.gov.uk