Figure 83   Extract from the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63) showing the town of Selby

Figure 84   Extract from the second edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1889-99) showing the town of Selby

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Figure 85   Modern extent of settlement in Selby
The Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

![Map of Nidderdale and Howardian Hills AONBs](image)

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**Figure 86**  The Nidderdale (to the west) and Howardian Hills (to the east) Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

This section will give a brief overview of the historic character of the Nidderdale and Howardian Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Whilst the designation refers to the natural beauty of the area, it has become clear through this study that the historic character of these areas is largely the product of human activity.

### 5.1.1 Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Running between the North York Moors and the Yorkshire Wolds, the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) forms one of the seven protected landscape areas in North Yorkshire and forms a high ridge of land between the Vales of Pickering and York. Covering an area of 20,350 hectares, the AONB was confirmed in October 1987.\(^\text{141}\)

The HLC project is explicitly referred to in the AONB management plan as a priority to assist with understanding the components of the present landscape. Furthermore, by incorporating the results of the project into the local landscape priorities, this will help to ensure that the defining elements of the historic landscape are conserved or enhanced.\(^\text{142}\) The Howardian Hills has a very distinctive historic character. Figure 87 shows the historic landscape character for the Howardian Hills mapped by broad type. Even at a broad scale, some trends start to become visible. For example, there is a particular concentration of woodland within the central area of the AONB. The distribution of ancient semi-natural woodland within the AONB is relatively restricted, forming small, dispersed land parcels, see Figure 88. These surviving areas of

\(^{141}\) Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee 2009, 11

\(^{142}\) Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee 2009, 47
ancient semi-natural woodland demonstrate a continuity of character since before AD 1600.

Figure 87 The historic landscape character of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (outlined in red) mapped by broad type

The distribution of plantation woodland, however, is more widespread, and displays a certain degree of clustering, see Figure 89. It is possible that this is a reflection of particular landscape management regimes in these areas, potentially in relation to the larger estates.

The most prevalent type of woodland characterised with the Howardian Hills AONB is ancient semi-natural woodland (restocked), see Figure 90. This character type covers a total area of 1,215 hectares, that is 6%, of the area of the AONB. This is six times more prevalent than through the entire project area. Ancient semi-natural woodland (restocked) is found mainly on the northern slope of the AONB, mainly between SE 633753 and SE 757703.

The historic landscape within the AONB is also characterised by a large number of designed landscapes, see Figure 89. Three of the larger of these are at Castle Howard (centred at SE 715704), Gilling Castle (SE 598758) and Newburgh Priory (SE 558759).
There is also an interesting pattern to the distribution of designed landscapes at the eastern end of the AONB, which lies to the east of the Castle Howard estate. Within an area of 3,000 hectares, there are eight privately commissioned designed landscapes, a density ten times higher than the average for the whole project area.

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Figure 88 Ancient semi-natural woodland in the Howardian Hills AONB
Figure 89  The distribution of plantation woodland (in yellow) in relation to
designed landscapes (in brown), indicative of the large estates within
the Howardian Hills AONB

Figure 90  The distribution of ancient semi-natural woodland (restocked) in the
Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
5.1.2 Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was confirmed in February 1994 and covers an area of 6,030 hectares, sharing a common boundary with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority which adjoins to the west. Nidderdale is also a landscape shaped by centuries of human activity, the central feature of which is the valley of Nidderdale itself, with a remote gritstone landscape to the west and a more pastoral landscape to the east.

The AONB demonstrates a certain degree of continuity with the Yorkshire Dales National Park, yet there are areas of distinctive historic landscape character that are unique within the project area. Figure 91 shows the historic landscape character for the Nidderdale AONB mapped by broad type. The distribution of enclosed land within Nidderdale demonstrates some interesting patterns which are not really found in the wider project area. The key element of this is a major change which seems to occur in the late 19th century.

In several areas of the AONB, erratic field patterns as depicted on the first edition six inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63) indicate piecemeal enclosure. Subsequently, by the second edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1889-99) these erratic boundaries have been removed and straight boundaries created, see Figure 92. The straight boundaries keep broadly the same field size as the preceding piecemeal enclosure. The author could not find evidence for a parliamentary award to explain this change, which is still visible within the current landscape. The conclusion drawn is that this straightening of boundaries is a private undertaking, perhaps by a particular landowner who has holdings throughout Nidderdale, or by a group of landowners. Further research may shed more light on this. What is clear is that it is an aspect of the historic landscape in Nidderdale which is distinct from the other upland areas in the project.

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143 Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee 2009, 5
Figure 91  The historic landscape character of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (outlined in red) mapped by broad type
Figure 92  Field systems within the Nidderdale AONB which change from piecemeal enclosure to planned in the latter half of the 19th century

Figure 93  Man-made lakes and reservoirs within the Nidderdale AONB
The Nidderdale AONB also has the highest concentration of reservoirs within the project area, see Figure 93. There are 11 reservoirs with three man-made lakes lying within the AONB boundary. Generally dating to the latter half of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, these reservoirs represent a major change in the physical character of the landscape. Angram and Scar House reservoirs (centred at SE 047767), completed in AD 1919 and 1936 respectively, were built to supply water to the Bradford area of West Yorkshire. Fewston and Swinsty reservoirs, located in the Washburn Valley, see Figure 94, were completed earlier, in the AD 1870s.

One of the most striking aspects of the historic character of the AONB is the lead mining, which is found particularly around the Greenhow area. This has a complex relationship with the enclosed land in the area, with evidence for mine workings and shafts extending beneath boundaries, see Figure 95. Following the cessation of mining in these areas, the land has been enclosed as a result of a change of use. This made it an extremely complex area to understand in terms of the historic landscape character, as before it could be characterised it was necessary to establish whether the lead mining or the enclosed land was the dominant element of the historic character.

Figure 94  Vertical aerial photograph showing the area of Fewston and Swinsty Reservoirs (centred at SE 184538)

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144 Bolt, AC 2007
Figure 95  Vertical aerial photograph showing the relationship between lead mining remains and field boundaries in the Greenhow lead mining complex (centred at SE 110637)
5.2 The Yorkshire Dales National Park

The Yorkshire Dales National Park lies at the western edge of the project area and covers a total area of 176,200 hectares. The National Park was established in AD 1954, and has a complex and rich landscape history. Each dale within the National Park has its own character, as does the moorland that rises between them and the fields and villages that lie in the valley bottoms. This section of the report aims to discuss some of these themes and explore what the HLC can add to our understanding of this landscape. Figure 97 shows the historic landscape character of the National Park mapped by broad type.

One of the key features of the Yorkshire Dales National Park is the open moorland, however the image above clearly shows the complexity of field systems which can be found in the national park. This also highlights the scale of the field systems, which are fairly small and complex in the valley bottoms, becoming much more extensive as they move up the valley sides. It is also clear that extraction has played a significant role in the shaping of the historic character of the Yorkshire Dales with extensive areas identified in the north of the authority, around Swaledale, as well as on the border with the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Woodland is found throughout the area, tending to occur in smaller parcels. This is reflected in Charts 67a and 67b. These show that whilst woodland only accounts for 5,716 hectares of the National Park, this is found in 311 distinct areas.

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145 Excluding that part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park that lies within Cumbria.
146 http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/index/specialplace/yorkshiredalesnationalpark.htm