

confined to ridge tops, scarp slopes and valleys. Remnants of the historic Galtres Forest lies to the north of York whilst to the east, scattered small woods (many of which are ancient) are present in the landscape. Extensive conifer plantations, dating from late 19th century, mixed with ancient woodlands and heathland on the sandy soils, are also features of the landscape to the north, east and south of York. Shelter belts and game coverts are also features, which developed in tandem with the growth of field sport.

Field Patterns and Boundaries

- 2.4.5 North Yorkshire County Council has recently completed a Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for the County, including the City of York. Landscapes within the Study Area have been divided into a series of different historic landscape character types. These describe the current landscape within each type in terms of its predominant historic character and origins. As shown on **Figures 2.4a, b, c and d**, these include a series of historic land uses and enclosure patterns. The analysis of these historic landscape character types has informed the boundaries of Landscape Character Types within the Study Area and the associated definitive attribute tables within Section 5.0.
- 2.4.6 The field patterns and boundaries within the Study Area date from several periods and include both modern and ancient features. Many boundaries survive from the medieval landscape and some from earlier periods. However, the landscape is dominated by hedgerows and walls which were established during successive periods of enclosure between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- 2.4.7 Within the Study Area, ancient hedgerows lining field boundaries, roads and lanes predominate in lowland areas. In contrast, drystone walls are characteristic of the upland moorland areas and fringes reflecting the underlying geology.
- 2.4.8 Along the Magnesian Limestone Ridge, sparse hedges and stone walls provide typical boundary divisions, whilst earlier small-scale and irregular enclosures are concentrated around villages and are marked by distinctive strip patterns.
- 2.4.9 To the east and west of York within the Vale landscapes, there is a pattern of medium to large-scale enclosure, with boundaries delineated by hedges. Fields adjacent to river corridors, within the floodplain are often delineated by ditches. The patchwork of woodland and heathland originated in the medieval period, when it was attached to most villages as part of an open-field farming system. Vale landscapes within the north of the Study Area encompass a pattern of medium-scale fields which are often enclosed by low hedgerows and interspersed with small areas of woodland or parkland.

