

## 4. PERCEPTIONS OF THE LANDSCAPE

Although the Howardian Hills have a long history of settlement, there are few records to show how the area has been perceived. Many of the villages in the area are mentioned in the *Doomsday* book, which gives some indication of the nature of the area in the 11th century. However, the landscape was subject to considerable changes after this date, and there does not appear to be any record which describes the way the Howardian Hills has been perceived by residents and visitors until the 18th century. The evidence that has survived is mostly in the form of descriptive writing. Impressions from the 18th century are found in correspondence and poetry, while more contemporary descriptions are found in various guides relating to walks within the area or to its history.

### The 18th and 19th centuries

The area seems to have been largely overlooked by travellers, who showed great interest in the adjacent north Yorkshire moorlands and coastline, but ignored the more subtle beauty of the Howardian Hills. Intrepid Celia Fiennes passed through the south-eastern edge of the area on her travels in 1697, approximately following the route of the present A64 [16] and stopped in Malton, but she left no record of her impressions of the landscape. Daniel Defoe, travelling in the region a little later than Celia Fiennes, thought parts of the area worthy of comment since he notes both the history of the abbey at Newburgh and describes Kirkham's annual fair [17] but likewise he did not record any particular impression of the area's landscape.



Near Brandsby, Yorkshire by J S Cotman. (Reproduced with kind permission of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.)

Similarly, Yorkshire attracted many painters some of whom travelled extensively throughout the county but few ventured into the area now defined by the AONB boundary. Girtin, Turner and de Wint all worked in nearby locations, at Rievaulx and Duncombe. Kirkham Abbey has commanded some attention, and there is a notable painting by Copland of the ruinous gatehouse, but such paintings ignore the splendid setting of the Abbey on the edge of the River Derwent. Sketches produced by the young Samuel Buck at Nunnington and Kirkham Priory, as part of an early attempt at a county history, likewise focus upon building details [18]. However, after Francis and Theresa Chomeley became his patrons in 1801, John Sell Cotman, watercolourist of the Norwich School, lived at Brandsby Hall for three summers, during which time he painted some of his best works. His visit to Newburgh Priory in 1803 supplied material for two large watercolours, *Newburgh Priory from Brink Hill near Coxwold* and *Newburgh Priory: the Long Gallery from Crow Wood*, which were both exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1804. The charming watercolour sketch *Near Brandsby, Yorkshire* was produced during his last visit to the area. It provides a fascinating example of the transformation of an ordinary view into an inspired and harmonious scene.

The paucity of works referring to the broader landscape of the Howardian Hills contrasts sharply with the wealth of attention generated by Castle Howard, which has been a destination for tourists since the early 1700s. Indeed, the parkland figured prominently in debate and discussion throughout the 18th century. Richly detailed and diverse impressions were recorded by a range of visitors. The extent and form of the woodlands excited enthusiastic comment from Arthur Young [19]:

“Castle Howard... is much visited by travellers... for the beauty of the woods that surround it almost on every side. These are truly magnificent; they are extensive, very well designed and as they in general hang on the sides of the hills, have a noble effect from whatever point they are viewed.”

The writings of Stephen Switzer attest to the significance of Castle Howard as being an outstanding example of contemporary landscape [3]. The parkland also inspired a poem written by Lady Anne Irwin, daughter of the third Earl of Carlisle, which takes the new landscape movement as its theme [20]. However, credit for the most admiring eulogy must be given to Horace Walpole [20], who writes:

“Nobody told me that I should at one view see a palace, a town, a fortified city, temples on high places, woods worthy of being each a metropolis of the Druids, the noblest lawn in the world fenced by half the horizon, and a mausoleum that would tempt one to be buried alive; in short, I

have seen gigantic places before but never a sublime one.”

## The 20th century

References to the Howardian Hills from the early part of this century are as sparse as those of previous ages. However, during the second part of the century some comments relating to this area begin to appear in various guides and journals, although it is still very much overshadowed by the area that is now the North York Moors National Park. Visitors to the Howardian Hills continue to concentrate around Castle Howard, often without discovering other delights that the area holds.

Two prominent literary figures are particularly associated with the region. Art and literary critic Herbert Read was born at Muscoats but lived at Stonegrave throughout his working life, where he wrote his novel *The Green Child*, which draws upon his childhood experiences of life on a Yorkshire farm and is rich in descriptions of the Yorkshire landscape. The scholar, philosopher and author W R Inge, who became Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, is also associated with the area, having spent his childhood at Crayke [21].

Villages particularly attract notice and are described as being variously pretty, charming and unspoiled. Impressive woods and trees also invite comment. Katherine Duncombe [22] says, “A fine avenue of sycamores... extends from the village [Nunnington] to the top of Cauklass Bank, part of a ridge of high ground which... commands a wide prospect of well-wooded fertile country.”

Kirkham Abbey is described [23] as being set “amid exquisite surroundings on the edge of the gurgling little River Derwent, in a warm, smiling valley, where... a nerve-soothing peace settles upon you.”

David Joy, writing in *The Dalesman*, touches on what begins to emerge as being the key to the appeal of the Howardian Hills [24]. He describes them as, “...an area that is truly rural, but not one that is rustivating; it is a land of compact villages and mystical corners.” The beauty of the area is still not universally recognised, perhaps because it, “...reveals its secrets only to those willing to explore it on foot”. It does, however, have the ability to charm those who venture away from the more obvious tourist destinations, and certainly rewards the effort taken to do so. Its particular qualities are ably summed-up by the Archdeacon of York, L C Stanbridge [25], who describes the Howardian Hills as:

“...an area of many delights, a jewel in the heart of Yorkshire... There is an intricate network of lanes and paths which is very little known. They penetrate hidden valleys, march along airy ridges, pass ancient farms built of mellow stone... it is a close, intimate countryside.”

## 5. FORCES FOR CHANGE

In 1984 the local authorities, in their statement of intent [27] for the proposed Howardian Hills AONB, expressed the view that:

“The Howardian Hills are not at present subject to dramatic change or major pressures for development as are some AONBs... and are relatively free from major recreational pressures. However, the quality and character of the landscape can be impaired by the cumulative effect of smaller, more subtle changes over time.”

What are these smaller, and more subtle changes? How has the landscape changed since designation and how may it change in the future? What is the need and the scope for intervention?

### Farming

The landscape of the Howardian Hills owes its character to the topography of the hills and to the land cover. For the most part, this land cover results from farming, so the nature and scale of agricultural change is vital to the future conservation of this outstanding landscape. There are three principal considerations. First, how has the farmed landscape changed in the recent past? Second, how may it change in the future? Third, what resources, both money and manpower, will be available to manage this landscape?

Reliable statistical evidence on agricultural change in the AONB is only readily available for the last decade. However, the process of agricultural intensification which has characterised post-war English agriculture is evident in the landscape. Four trends may be identified. First, the compilation of map evidence suggests significant changes in field boundaries including an extensive loss of hedges. Such change tends to have been localised because the late enclosure



*The agricultural landscape has been affected by field enlargement and the widespread conversion of pasture to arable farmland.*

of much of the area produced quite large fields capable of mechanised cultivation. Nevertheless the change has been dramatic in some areas with the extinction of intimate field patterns. It has also led to even larger geometric fields in the later enclosed landscape.

A second trend has been an increase in arable cultivation. There has been a gradual erosion of permanent and temporary grassland and a move from a predominantly pastoral landscape to a predominantly arable landscape.

The third trend relates to the abandonment of many traditional farm buildings and the erection of new buildings. In some respects it is the former that has been most telling, as traditional buildings which help to define landscape character have fallen into disrepair or been converted to new uses. One or two insensitively sited new buildings have attracted local concern and disproportionately affected the landscape.

The fourth trend is less immediately perceptible in the landscape but relates to the cumulative impacts of intensification. Greater fertiliser use has reduced the variety of the grassland, odd patches of scrub have been removed and stream bank sides have been cleared and cultivated.

A more quantitative picture of recent change has been assembled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) from Agricultural Census data for the 42 parishes within the AONB [28]. The most notable conclusion from these data is that the process of agricultural intensification has continued. This is evident in an increase in cropping, especially wheat, potatoes, oil seed rape and field beans and dry peas. Some two-thirds of the AONB is now under arable cultivation, a 10 per cent increase over the decade 1982–1992. The area of grassland has consequently declined. Livestock numbers have also declined, but less markedly, so overall grazing pressures have increased. There has also been a substantial growth in intensive poultry and pig production. The only evidence of extensification is the appearance in the statistics in 1992 of a modest area of set-aside, just 114 hectares or 0.5 per cent of the farmed area.

The landscape implications of these changes have been an increase in the area of cropping, the spread of novel crops such as oil seed rape and a decline in the area of rough grazing and grassland. It may also be inferred that there has been a further increase in the number of new farm buildings and some further rationalisation of field boundaries leading to a loss of hedgerows.

It is questionable whether the trend of intensification will continue in the context of an agricultural policy designed to contain, if not reduce, production throughout the European Community. In particular, area payments for arable crops may reduce the intensity of arable production while requiring an increase in the area of set-aside. Quotas on sheep and beef numbers may also reduce growth in these sectors. However, two factors may serve to increase development pressures in the farmed landscape. First, new regulations relating to animal welfare and effluent disposal may require new farm buildings. Second, efforts to contain agricultural development may lead farmers to seek alternative sources of income through diversification. The likely landscape implications of these changes are therefore a notable increase in the area of set-aside, possible pressure for new farm buildings and increased interest in the scope for farm diversification.

Visually, the 'infrastructure' of the farmed landscape — the field boundaries the hedgerow trees and the traditional farm buildings — are as important as the nature of the land use. The management and maintenance of these features can be costly or at least time consuming and has increasingly less relevance to the agricultural enterprise. The management of the farmed landscape thus requires the availability of manpower and resources and some commitment from the landowner.

The Agricultural Census reveals a continuing decline in employment in the area. Full-time employees have declined by 25 per cent, from 609 in 1982 to 451 in 1992. Indeed, all forms of employment have declined except part-time workers. This suggests that less farm labour is available for managing and maintaining landscape features. In relation to financial resources a mixed picture emerges, with farm incomes illustrating some overall decline, but with some farmers faring better than others and some years notably better than others. More positively there has been a considerable growth in public monies available to farmers for conservation management.

## Woodland

The Howardian Hills are well wooded. These woodlands tend, in many cases, to emphasise the topography of the hills, being located particularly on the steeper slopes. The principal considerations are whether the woodland will contract or expand in size and how its character has altered and may continue to alter.

A study of historical maps by the County Council suggests that the area of woodland in the AONB has increased since the 19th century. New planting has taken place on higher land especially in the western

part of the Hills on former heathland and, indeed, on some former parkland. This increase in woodland cover reflects the activities of the estates and the Forestry Commission. Commercial forestry and woodland management is a well-established activity in the AONB. The existence of forestry and woodland enterprises suggests that the area of woodland is likely to be maintained and, given current trends in farming, might actually increase modestly in the future.



*Commercial forestry objectives have led to a predominance of coniferous species in the AONB woodlands. The reintroduction of locally native broadleaves would help to restore landscape and ecological diversity.*

The commercial management regime has led to a predominance of softwoods, particularly European larch, Scots pine and Norway spruce. Visually this predominance is not always evident and, especially around Castle Howard, it is the mature beech trees that create the greatest impression. In many cases the retention or planting of a deciduous boundary along the edges of coniferous plantations has maintained the outward appearance of broadleaved woodland.

A detailed review of all the woodlands in the AONB from an ecological standpoint [28] has suggested the need for significant alterations to management regimes to conserve and enhance their nature conservation



*Conserving the essential character and value of ancient woodland requires small-scale, sympathetic management.*

interest. In essence, it is argued that the management regime has been dominated by commercial and silvicultural considerations, which has led to a loss of ground flora and shrub vegetation and a decline in 'naturalness.' The planting of conifers and sycamore threatens to change the character of the woodlands including even the fragments of ancient semi-natural woodland. There is greater scope for natural regeneration, for 'benign neglect' of semi-natural woodlands, for the control of sycamore and for a greater broadleaf (especially ash and oak) component in woodland management.

## Designed landscapes

Designed landscapes contribute greatly to the character of the Howardian Hills. However, it is evident that some of these landscapes have been all but lost, some have decayed and most have or are reaching a point of maturity at which change will become significant. There are existing mechanisms in the form of advice and grant aid from the Countryside Commission and English Heritage to assist the conservation of historic parks and gardens. However, given the importance of such designed landscapes in the Howardian Hills, it may be desirable to consider the cumulative impact of change and conservation. There may even be opportunities, for example, when plantations reach maturity, to restore some aspects of lost historic parkland.

## Recreational pressures

Recreational activity within the AONB is largely concentrated around the highly popular formal attractions of Castle Howard, Kirkham Priory and other historic buildings, such as Nunnington Hall, which between them absorb the pressure of thousands of visitors each year. The attractive villages within and around the AONB are also well visited but, like the network of footpaths, bridleways and rural roads, appear not to be under heavy pressure. Minor conflicts do occur between different users, such as between mountain bikers and pedestrians on certain bridlepaths, but currently these tend only to be localised and occasional.

There is also little evidence of conflict between recreation and conservation; indeed, the author of the detailed ecological survey of the AONB woodlands could not "perceive any serious potential conflict between access and wildlife in the AONB" [28]. In recent years, there has been some pressure to open up the River Derwent to through-navigation, involving the restoration of the lock at Kirkham, raising fears about possible conflicts with nature conservation interests. Following a lengthy court action, it has now been demonstrated that there is no public right of navigation on the upper reaches of the river, including that section which flows through the AONB, and it is anticipated that this clarification of the legal position will substantially reduce any future recreational pressures on the river.



*The remains of a former water garden at Hovingham. The restoration and maintenance of such landscape features merits action.*

Evidence of conflict between local landowners, farmers and residents and those enjoying recreation in the area is also very limited. However, it is likely that local landowners and farmers may increasingly look to recreation as a possible source of additional income. For example, there has been some discussion of a major golf course and hotel development at Castle Howard. Such proposals are often predicated on the basis that the revenue can be used to meet the demands of historic house and landscape conservation by providing increased resources for management.

The intimacy and quality of the Howardian Hills landscape is such that small-scale development such as the provision of additional accommodation utilising existing buildings, additional car parking and access would be acceptable and consistent with the aims of the AONB. However, larger-scale development involving new building or significant land use change would be much more difficult to integrate into the landscape. In addition, by attracting significantly more people into the AONB, such development could lead to pressure for additional facilities.

## Development pressures

On the whole, there has been remarkably little pressure for development in the AONB, despite its obvious attractions as a place for living or retiring and its good road and rail links with York, Scarborough and West Yorkshire. There have been some barn conversions and some new housing in the villages but, with a few notable exceptions, this has generally been well integrated into the landscape with careful location and design.

The unspoilt, traditional character of the AONB settlements and buildings is under threat more from the 'suburbanising' effects of cumulative small-scale changes than from large development proposals. This



*New infill development has generally been well-designed and integrated, unlike the adjacent brick bungalow which has an inappropriately suburban character.*

can manifest itself in a number of ways: from the conversion of agricultural barns to dwellings, to the extension of traditional buildings and the construction of double garages and new accesses, and to the use of non-vernacular materials and styles in new buildings. The introduction of new lighting as part of road improvement or new development is a further suburbanising influence and can cause problems of light pollution in unspoilt rural areas. The cumulative effects of such changes can be as erosive to the character of these rural settlements as neglect.

Outside the settlements, development pressures within the wider countryside are also generally limited but there are a few exceptions. For example, following the Inquiry into the North Yorkshire Structure Plan, the Inspector has suggested that a new settlement of some 2,000 people might be located in the A64 corridor between York and Malton. It is difficult accurately to gauge the impact of such a proposal on the AONB. On the one hand, it might absorb any pressures for housing, while on the other hand it might increase recreational pressures. There could also be potential knock-on effects on the AONB's road network and pressure to accommodate increased use through road improvements, which could detract from the roads' currently unspoilt character.

Other examples of development pressure in the wider AONB countryside include further highway improvements along the A64 through the eastern end of the AONB and the possible leisure-related development proposals at Castle Howard, but these are localised and site-specific rather than more widespread pressures. There are workable mineral deposits and a number of small existing quarries within the AONB and there are also deposits of hydrocarbons underlying the area. There has been some pressure for further working but this has been subject to very strict control.

## Influencing future change

A picture emerges of the Howardian Hills as an AONB characterised by productive agriculture and forestry, where the landed estates provide a degree of stability and continuity in the appearance and management of the landscape and where landscape change has related to changes in rural land use rather than development or heavy recreational use. This is in no way intended to understate the significance of Castle Howard as a major tourist attraction, to underestimate the number of tourists who pass along the A64 adjacent to the AONB, to ignore the impacts of a possible new settlement in the vicinity, or to ignore the potential growth in demand for housing development. Rather, it is an attempt to draw attention to the remarkable degree to which the

AONB has retained its character and to underline the importance of that character. Here is a case where creative planning and management can anticipate change rather than react to it.

Such creative planning has commenced in the formation of the Joint Advisory Committee, the important research commissioned by that Committee, and this assessment. This activity will be followed by the preparation and publication of a management plan for the AONB. The purpose of AONB designation is to draw attention to the national importance of the landscape and to promote policies to conserve that landscape. Recreation may be accommodated or facilitated if appropriate but it is not a purpose of designation. The management plan will therefore be primarily concerned with the conservation of the natural beauty of the area which encompasses the appearance of the landscape, its wildlife and its history.

There are already a range of mechanisms in place that can help to influence change within the AONB. These include the development-control powers operated by the local authorities; the schemes operated by various agencies, such as the Countryside Stewardship initiative, to encourage environmentally sensitive farming practices; and the grant-aid and advice provided by such agencies as the Forestry Commission and English Nature. The management plan can provide a framework for coordinating these various policies and activities, developing a better understanding of the issues affecting the area and recommending the best course of action available to deal with them. Some of the key policy issues and most important priorities for the future planning of the AONB are summarised below.

There is a need to keep under review the nature of agricultural change and to consider the future

management of an increasing area of land set-aside from agricultural production. Specific measures for the conservation and management of hedges, trees and landscape features should be promoted and guidelines produced for farmers on farm diversification and on the design and location of new agricultural buildings. Improved dissemination of information about resources available for conservation management on farms will also be of benefit.

In terms of the AONB woodlands, there is a need to prepare guidelines on the location and character of new planting to avoid, for example, impinging on the few remnants of semi-natural grassland and heathland and to reflect local landscape character. Nature conservation and landscape objectives need to be positively promoted within management plans for existing forests and woodlands.

There is a particular imperative to coordinate advice and experience on the conservation of historic designed landscapes within the AONB, to ensure their continued and enhanced contribution to the landscape. It will also be increasingly important to develop guidelines on the future role of tourism and recreation within the AONB, so that this can be pro-actively planned to avoid conflicts and maximise benefits for the environment and the local community.

The development control system should be used to monitor development pressures within the area. In addition, it would be desirable to consider in detail the character of individual villages, including their vernacular architectural styles, materials and traditional street layouts. Development guidelines should be prepared which will encourage respect for these characteristics in proposals affecting the AONB settlements.

## 6. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOWARDIAN HILLS LANDSCAPE

### AONB designation

The value attached to the Howardian Hills landscape has already been demonstrated by confirmation of the area's designation as an AONB in 1987, which places it among the most prized landscapes in England. Broadly, the designation means that:

- the landscape is a resource of national importance for reasons of rarity, variety or representativeness;
- it is of high aesthetic quality, with specially pleasing patterns and combinations of landscape features;
- in addition to its scenic qualities, it includes other notable conservation interests, such as features of outstanding geological, wildlife, heritage or architectural interest;
- there is a consensus of both professional and public opinion as to its importance.

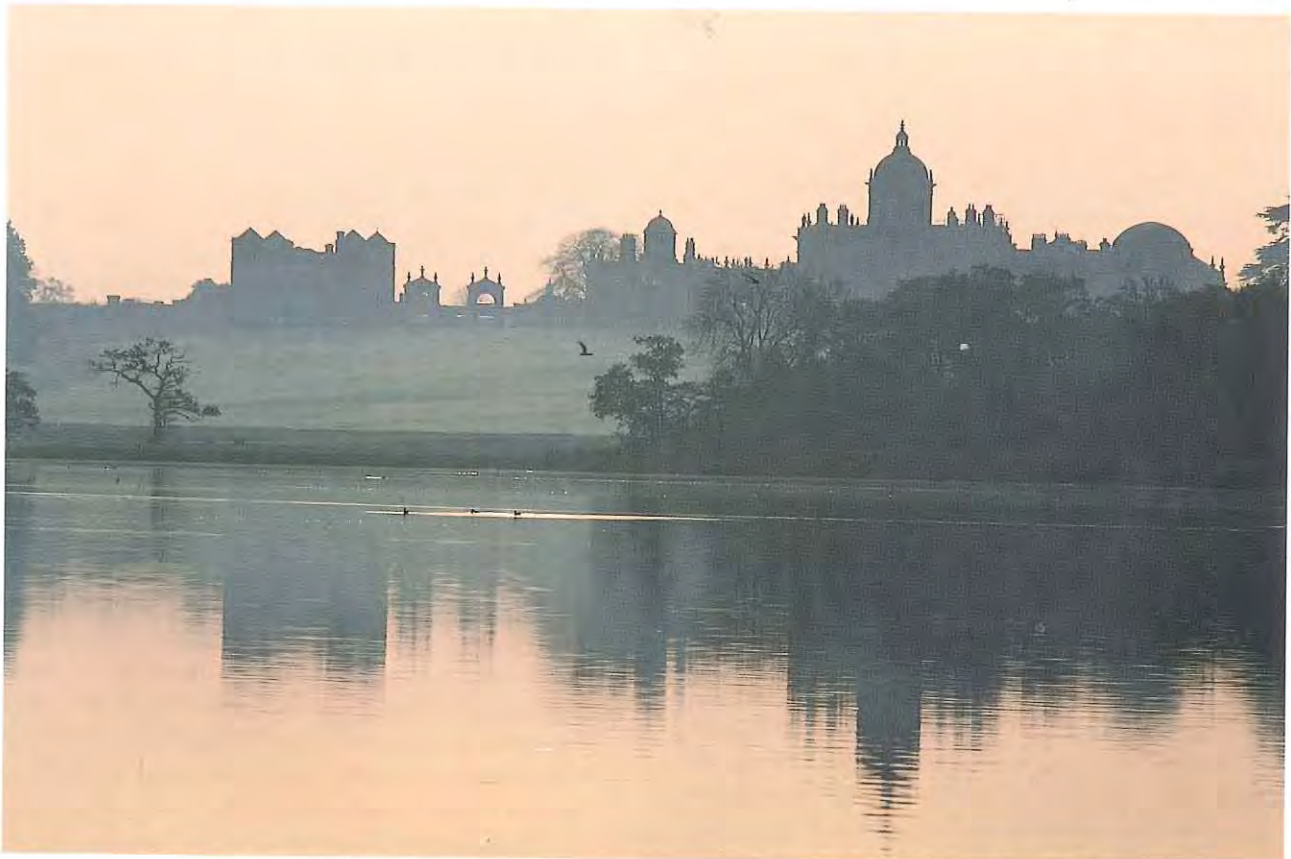
In our view, it is quite clear that the Howardian Hills AONB meets these criteria. The area has a combination of features which are unusual, or even unique, in a national context. Visually, it is a constant source of delight and its aesthetic qualities are matched by a special concentration of historical and natural features of national importance. Apart from Castle

Howard, which draws huge numbers of visitors from all over the world, the area is not well known but nevertheless is clearly valued highly by those who have discovered its unspoilt, rural charms and particularly by local people. Summarised below are the special qualities of the Howardian Hills that make the area an outstanding landscape.

### Outstanding qualities

#### A unique physiography

The physical geography of the AONB is unusual and, in some respects, unique. The Howardian Hills represent the only area of Jurassic limestone scenery in the north of England to be designated as an AONB and, although it shares this geology with the adjacent North York Moors National Park, it has a markedly different character. Topography alone is one of the area's greatest assets, with the complicated series of ridges, hills and valleys creating an enormous diversity of landscape experience and providing expansive and sometimes breathtaking views across the surrounding vale



*Castle Howard is the most significant of many important examples of the area's rich architectural and historic landscape heritage.*



landscapes as far as the North York Moors. By far the most important aspect of the area's physiography, however, is its glacial history which resulted in the formation of the deeply incised overflow channel of Derwent Gorge. This not only forms a remarkable and dramatic landscape feature but is of very great scientific importance as a unique and classic example of glacial geomorphology.

## **A richly varied landscape**

One of the most important aspects of the Howardian Hills landscape is its richness and variety. The complex system of ridges, hills and valleys produces wide variation in landscape character and scale, with the enclosed intimacy of the valleys contrasting with the wide, expansive character of the hilltops. This diversity and contrast is strengthened by the wide range of land uses and landcover elements which clothe the undulating landform, creating an intricate mosaic of woodlands of varying character, small-scale pasture, fens and marshes, rolling arable fields, hedges and walls, formal parkland and scattered buildings and settlements. In combination, these provide a rich tapestry of colours, shapes and textures and constantly changing landscape experience.

## **A landscape of high visual quality**

There is no doubt that this diversity contributes enormously to the scenic attraction of the area and that variety and contrast in scale, colour, texture and form is a fundamental part of its very considerable aesthetic appeal. As one rounds almost every corner a new scene is revealed, which enhances the visual experience and increases feelings of anticipation and delight. However, despite this variety there is an overall balance and harmony in the landscape which is an important part of its scenic charm. Furthermore, the area contains a number of elements that research has shown to be particularly important in contributing to valued landscapes and that are themselves of high visual quality. Notably these include varied, especially dramatic, relief; broadleaved and mixed woodlands; semi-natural vegetation; rivers and lakes; well-managed parkland; historic features; and attractive, 'traditional' buildings and settlements.

Of these, the magnificent house and designed landscape of Castle Howard, and the deeply incised and heavily wooded gorge of the River Derwent, in which the ruins of Kirkham Abbey lie in peaceful seclusion, are undoubtedly of outstanding scenic importance. However, the unusually extensive mature

woodlands, the broad sweeping views from the hilltops across surrounding landscapes, and the unspoilt, rural character of the farmed landscape and traditional villages are other particular aspects of the area's very special aesthetic appeal.

## **A remarkable heritage**

The Howardian Hills have a particular concentration of important features representing various aspects of our archaeological and built heritage. These include important reminders of early Iron Age settlement, Bronze Age burial mounds, evidence of the medieval landscape in the castles and monasteries at Crayke, Kirkham and Newburgh and, of course, the influence of the 18th century aristocracy in the grand houses and designed landscapes of Castle Howard and the numerous other estates located within the AONB. Less prominent examples of historic features, buildings and vernacular architectural styles are littered throughout the landscape and villages of the AONB, and lend an air of antiquity to its character. The importance of conserving these features of our built heritage, many of which are of national significance, is recognised in the various types of designation which have been applied to them.

## **An important wildlife resource**

The unique river system of the River Derwent, with its outstanding flora and fauna and important associated riverside habitats, flows through part of the AONB and is a key component of the area's ecological and visual resources. However, the Howardian Hills also contain other important wildlife habitats and features: most notably, the relatively extensive remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland within the area, which provide an important reservoir of native plant and animal species typical of this habitat. Areas of fen and unimproved grassland of national importance are also represented within the AONB, as well as a wider range of habitats of more local wildlife value.

## **Conclusions**

The Howardian Hills is a landscape of outstanding importance for its aesthetic, historical and ecological qualities and is an important part of our national landscape heritage. Not surprisingly, the Countryside Commission's proposal for its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty received widespread support from the local authorities, local and national organisations and the general public.

This study has aimed to draw attention to the particular qualities of the landscape, which are part of its distinctive and special appeal. It has described the evolution of the Howardian Hills landscape, analysed its present-day character, examined evidence of how and why the area has been valued over time, and reviewed its prospects for change. Key issues that will need to be addressed in the future have been highlighted. The most challenging work is still to come: namely the implementation of a creative and visionary management

plan. This will be prepared by the local authorities in close consultation with land-owning, farming and forestry interests, and will complement development plans for the area and guide activity within the AONB landscape for the next 20 to 30 years. The implementation of its proposals will rely not only upon adequate resources but will ultimately depend upon the cooperation, enthusiasm and commitment of everyone who has an interest in the future of the area towards the achievement of a common vision.



*The high scenic and wildlife quality of the River Derwent makes it an important feature within the AONB.*

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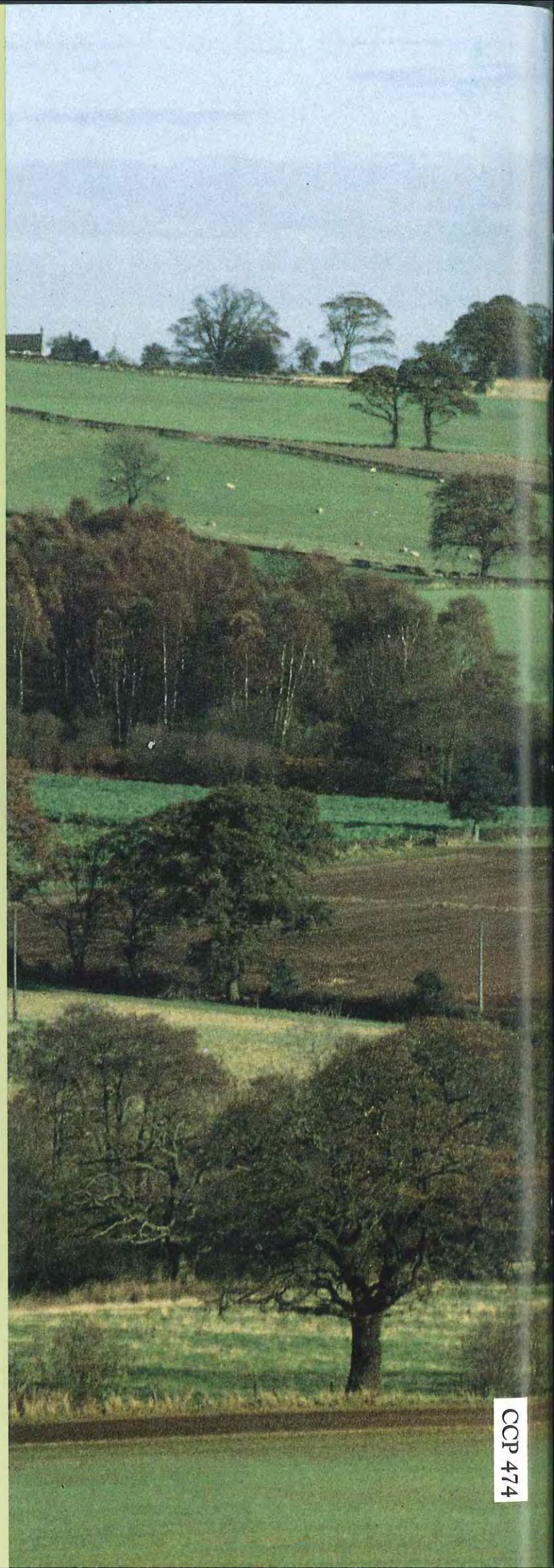
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The study team comprised Clare Harpur, Ellen Peck and Andrew McNab of Cobham Resource Consultants. The report and several drafts were typed by Sue Kilroy. The photographs were taken by John Morrison except those on pages 5, 11, 16 (left), 21, 22, 25, 28, 29 (bottom), 32, 33 (bottom) which were taken by J H Edwards, and those on pages 24, 27, 29 (top) which were taken by Ian Carstairs. Sketches were drawn by Ellen Peck. Information on paintings was helpfully provided by the Friends of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Norwich City Art Gallery and Newburgh Priory.



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