sheilsflynn

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Search for potential housing sites: Review of landscape sensitivity assessment

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Annex 3

Landscape sensitivity study: Settlement analysis for Grassington/Thresfield

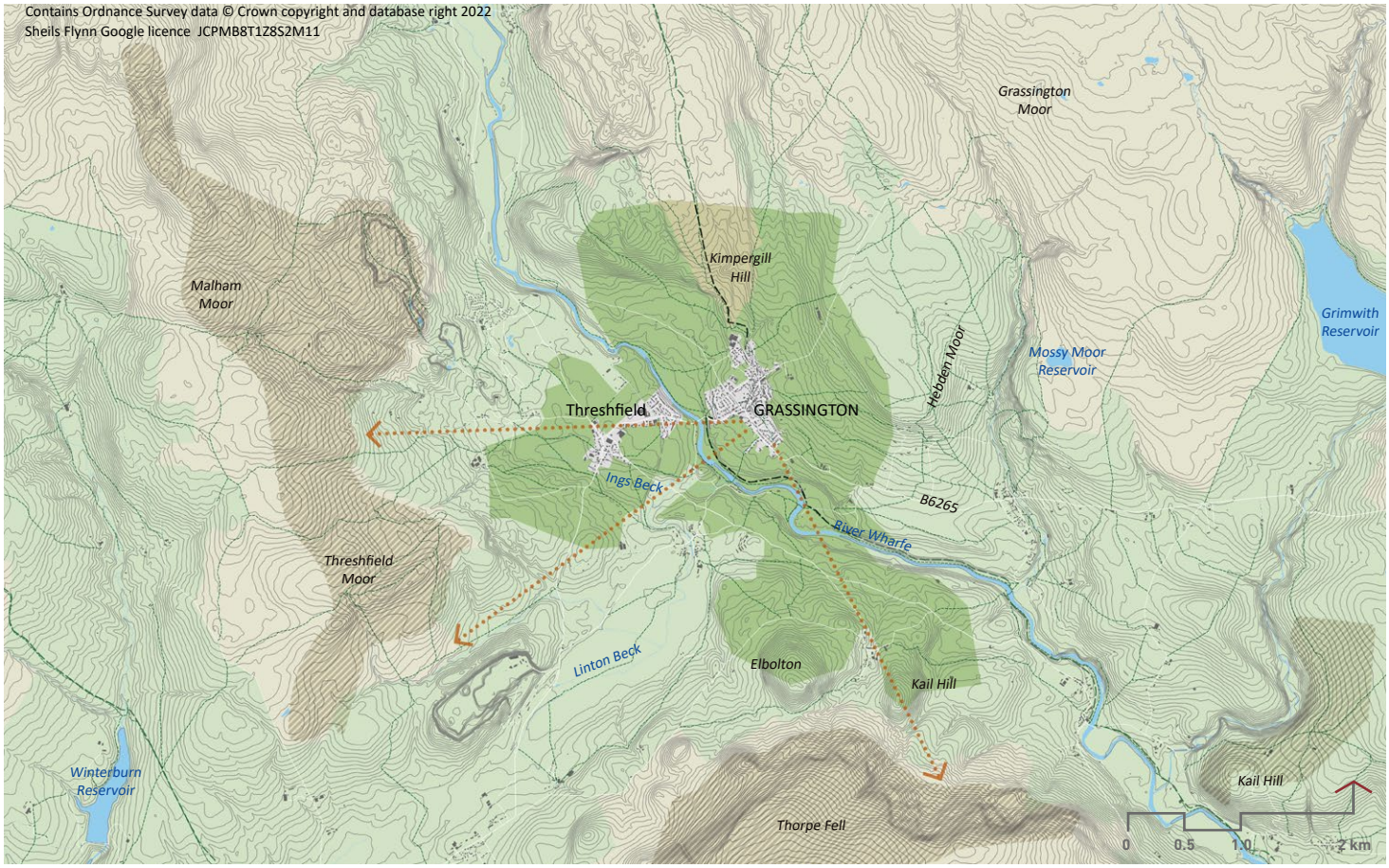
August 2024
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Revision 4.0

YORKSHIRE DALES
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10 Grassington/Threshfield

Figure 10.1

Grassington/Threshfield - landscape setting context



Landscape setting

The settlements of Grassington and Threshfield developed on shallow terraces on the lower slopes of Wharfedale above a section of the River Wharfe which flows within an incised, meandering channel. This is a relatively broad part of Wharfedale, where the North Craven Fault cuts across the valley to create a bowl-shaped, undulating landform. The relatively narrow, incised river channel within a broad, undulating dale creates a complex and scenic landscape setting for Grassington and Threshfield. The layers of visual interest stem from the striking contrast in scale between the intimate incised river valley views and the expansive cross-dale views from the terraces and slopes of Wharfedale.

The area has an exceptionally rich archaeology, with a concentration of sites dating from Bronze Age to medieval times, including Romano-British settlements and deserted medieval villages on the



Looking east to Grassington across the Ings Beck Valley from the B6160

Valley farmland

Protected open upland
Policy L10 - YDNP Local Plan 2015-2030

Landscape setting of Grassington and Threshfield
(see Figure 10.2 for detail)

Settlement

Contour lines (5m interval)

Promoted long distance footpaths

Public rights of way

Locally important ridgelines

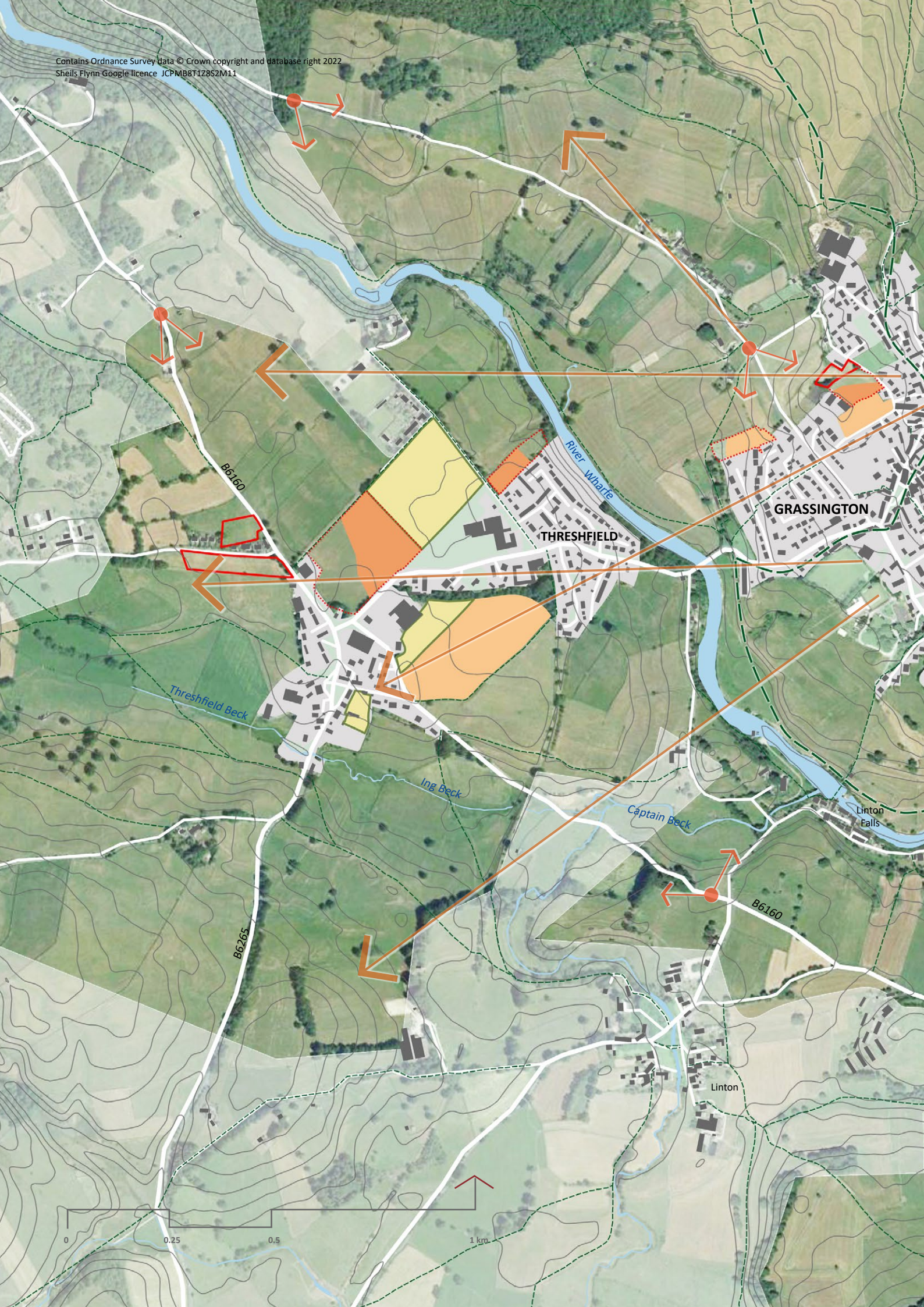
Key views which describe the overall landscape setting of Grassington and Threshfield

on the slopes of Kimpergill Hill, which remain to the north of the existing settlement of Grassington.

Both settlements grew from the 17th century as a result of the thriving lead and coal mining and limestone quarrying industries on the surrounding moors and Linton Mill on the River Wharfe.
The twin settlements also benefitted from their accessibility, with a bridge across the River Wharfe and road connections south-east along Wharfedale to Bolton Bridge, south-west via Cracoe along the Eller Beck valley to Skipton and east across the moors to Pately Bridge. The arrival of the Yorkshire Dales Railway to Threshfield in 1909 led to further growth as the area became an important visitor destination.

Figure 10.1 illustrates this dramatic landscape setting and shows the principal ridgelines which form the horizon in local views from Grassington and Threshfield. The areas which are broadly visible in views from and to the settlements are shown in a darker, brighter tone. Kimbergill Hill, with Grass Wood and Bastow Wood forms a continuous relatively close landform horizon to the east and




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B6160
River Wharfe
GRASSINGTON
THRESHFIELD
Threshfield Beck
Ing Beck
Captain Beck
Linton Falls
B6160
B6265
Linton
0
0.25
0.5
1 km



Land within broad landscape setting of Grassington and Threshfield

Valley farmland (outside landscape setting)

Settlement

Contour lines (5m interval)

Water courses

Key views which describe the overall landscape setting of Grassington and Threshfield

Promoted long distance routes

Public rights of way

Yorkshire Dales National Park Boundary

Principal vehicular route gateway

Principal recreational route gateway

Important open spaces
Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2015-2030, Adopted 2016

Potential residential development - landscape sensitivity scores

Search for potential housing sites: landscape sensitivity assessment, Sheils Flynn/YDNPA, March 2022

Sites scored as moderate-high* sensitivity

Sites scored as moderate sensitivity

Sites scored as moderate-low sensitivity

Sites scored as low sensitivity

Sites scored as high or moderate-high sensitivity which have subsequently been excluded from the search for potential housing sites

Former extent of those housing sites scored as moderate-high* in the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment which have been reduced to reflect their partial suitability for development

Figure 10.2

Grassington/Threshfield - Settlement analysis

north, but there are longer views to the south and west, where views are contained by the upland ridges of Thorpe Fell, Threshfield Moor and Malham Moor. The distinctive conical summits of Elbolton and the two Kail Hills (remnants of limestone reef knolls) are landmarks on the fringes of the settlements' landscape setting to the south.

Analysis

Box 10 sets out the most important (and sensitive) landscape features and elements which contribute to the landscape setting and distinctive character of Grassington and Threshfield.

Views to Grassington from the south (B6265 and B6160) show the town on the edge of the valley slope terrace, above the deeply incised bluff of the River Wharfe. Two large houses (Kirkfield and Elbolton), which are set within belts of mature trees, give a parkland character to the southern fringes of the town. Grassington steps upslope, with the narrow streets of terraced cottages petering out as a network of moorland tracks. Both Grassington and Threshfield are surrounded by long rectangular pastures enclosed by stone walls, which form a distinctive 'layered' pattern in local gateway views. Given the widespread use of local stone for buildings and walls, the walled fields seem to anchor the settlements within their wider landscape setting.

Grassington and the historic part of Threshfield village have tightly clustered layouts, but the Station Road area of Threshfield, on the east banks of the River Wharfe, has a more loose-knit character, with a mix of residential, institutional and leisure developments, including sports pitches associated with Upper Wharfedale School and the Wharfedale RUFC). The settlements are separated by the deeply incised channel of the River Wharfe. There are attractive tree-lined riverside walks (including The Dales Way) connecting a string of individual dwellings (farm houses and cottages), the former mill site at Linton Falls and the Church of St Michael and All Angels.

BOX 10

Valued landscape elements and features within Grassington and Threshfield are:

- The distinctive topographical relationship between both settlements and the River Wharfe, which is defined by broad sloping terraces on the lower dale slopes and a deeply incised river channel.
- The striking historic pattern of stone walls which enclose the long rectangular pastures on the slopes of the dale surrounding both settlements.
- The scenic landscape setting of the historic bridge over the River Wharfe which connects Grassington and Threshfield.
- The incised corridor of the River Wharfe, including the tree-lined river banks and the network of walled valley slope and riverside paths that link Grassington and Threshfield with the former mill site of Linton Falls and Linton Parish Church.



- The network of narrow, walled moorland tracks that connect Grassington and Threshfield with the former mines, coalfields and limestone quarries on the adjacent upland moors.
- The valley of Threshfield Beck-Ings Beck-Captain Beck to the south of Threshfield, which has an undulating landform and an attractive, intimate scale.
- Views from the B6160 to the southern fringes of Grassington, in which there is an attractive composition of prominent individual dwellings against a backdrop of mature woodland and specimen trees.



Sedber Lane connects Grassington and Linton Falls

The rural fringes of north east Grassington, looking east from across the dale from Wharfedale Avenue





The River Wharfe flows within an incised, narrow channel near Linton Falls

The village of Threshfield is on the northern slopes of the small valley of Threshfield Beck-Ings Beck, which forms a distinctive 'edge' with the sense of a gateway to the landscape setting of Threshfield on the western side of Wharfedale. To the north west of Threshfield, the extensive Long Ashes caravan park is set within mature woodland on the slopes of Malham Moor. To the west, the former Threshfield Quarry site is well screened by mature woodland. Ambitious future plans for this site include an integrated mix of business, education and leisure facilities.

Figure 10.2 provides a more detailed analysis of the landscape setting of Grassington and Threshfield taking account of views into and out from the settlements and their principal gateway approaches. It shows the possible development sites which were included in the landscape sensitivity assessment. With reference to these sites in both settlements (Figure 10.2), there are opportunities to integrate carefully designed residential development in the following areas:

- Part of the broad, relatively flat river terrace to the west of the River Wharfe on the northern fringes of Threshfield, conserving opportunities for spacious gateway views from the B6160 to the north west. An integrated approach to built development would be beneficial across this relatively extensive potential development area to fit a layout within its sensitive landscape context.
- The gently sloping, open farmland to the south of Threshfield, where development which incorporates belts of native trees could provide a positive gateway to south east Threshfield from the B6160.
- The southern part of the remnant small wedge of walled farmland in north east Grassington, which is visually well contained.
- A small area on the northern edge of Grassington where high quality new housing may form a more attractive built edge in views to Grassington from the dale slopes to the north.
- Part of the lower fell slope on the south east edge of Grassington, where development that is carefully integrated with bands of native woodland planting (reflecting the slope contours) and set back from the road to provide foreground space for filtered roadside views, may help to enhance the existing rather abrupt B6265 gateway to the town.



The key landscape sensitivity constraints for residential development in Grassington and Threshfield are:

- The landscape setting of the incised River Wharfe valley as it slices between the twin settlements of Grassington and Threshfield. Built development should not intrude within the



View west from northern edge of Grassington to the northern riverside edge of Threshfield

enclosed riverside views from the Wharfeside paths and Linton Mill complex or within the wider scenic gateway views to the historic River Wharfe Bridge from the principal A65 and A682 approaches to the settlements.

- The transition between the settled pastoral landscapes on the mid-slopes of Wharfedale and the exposed moorland of the upper slopes. The upper edge of settlement is generally tucked just below the zone where the slopes steepen (between the 220-230m contours) and buildings beyond this threshold are typically rural farmsteads or small groups of cottages; large blocks of residential development would be intrusive.
- The northern part of the remnant 'wedge' of walled pastoral landscape which integrates built development with the slope contours in north east Grassington and which contributes to the distinctive rural character of this part of the town. Physical and visual links between these fields and the farmland to the north/west should be conserved.
- The separate landscape setting of the rural hamlet of Skirethorns Lane, which should be conserved to avoid ribbon development within a rural setting and coalescence with Threshfield.
- The rural character and perceived 'village' scale of Threshfield in views south westwards from the B6160 approach to the north east of Threshfield. Development should be set back from the B6160, with a tapered edge that conserves and enhances the gateway views across the flat pastures to the settlement edge.

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