

APPENDIX A (A-G)

Aldbrough St. John Conservation Area

Aldbrough St. John Conservation Area was designated in 1975. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced as the case may be.

Although the name suggests association with an ancient fortification, and a C16th reference to a ruin of this type exists, any trace of remains has long since disappeared, always assuming the source had not confused Aldbrough with the nearby fortifications at Stanwick. The village is very much an agricultural settlement, with strong associations with the Duke of Northumberland who acquired and constructed property for his estate from the early C19th. The distinctive feature of the village is the broad, sweeping village green around which the houses and cottages are arranged, which produces an unusual blend of townscape and landscape. In common with many agricultural and estate settlements, houses and cottages are spaciouly arranged, a characteristic magnified in the case of Aldbrough by the sheer size of the village green.

Aldbrough is a village of contrasts, from the wide open spaces of Low Green complimented by the attractive open paddocks south of Aldbrough Beck, to the more formal and smaller High Green, and the flowing sequence of tightly enclosed spaces between Cordilleras Farm and Kilton Grange. Each has its particular quality but in combination they produce a townscape pattern which is unusual in Richmondshire.

The Conservation Area boundary is drawn tightly around the historic core (except at the east end of the green where important tree belts and open areas are included). Aldbrough is set in a natural bowl and it is the modern developments around the fringes of the village which are prominent from distant views, rather than the historic core. Archaeology has not featured as a major issue to date, and there is no evidence to suggest a higher profile in the future.

Aldbrough contains some fine individual buildings, with an unusually high proportion of large imposing houses, especially along Low Green. The overall architectural character of the village results from a blend of these more substantial houses with the many small cottages and houses of a simple vernacular style, to produce a striking townscape of particularly high quality. The majority of buildings are constructed in local stone which varies from random rubble brought to course through to high quality dressed stonework. Render provides contrast to the local stone and adds to the overall quality of the townscape. Roof coverings are mix of pantiles, Welsh and Westmoreland slate, a little stone slate, and modern concrete tiles which lack the quality and character of the original natural materials. Buildings typically incorporate sash, Yorkshire sash or balanced casement windows, often within dressed stone surrounds, and traditional solid doors. Individual buildings of particular note include Aldbrough Hall dating from the late C18th-early C19th, the Old Hall of early-mid C17th date, and Aldbrough House which dates from the late C17th. The influence of the Estate can be seen through buildings such as Ashmoor and The Homestead, a fine property which served as an estate office, as well as the attractive pairs of simple cottages on the west side of High Green.

The contribution of spaces, both formal and informal, to the overall character of Aldbrough is enormous. This is complemented by the network of walls which provide a strong sense of enclosure as well as important visual links, together with a good tree cover, although there is scope for further planting. Well intentioned, though in practice ill-considered alterations, have marred the architectural character of some cottages,

again offering restoration and enhancement opportunities. Protection the village green from erosion, caused in particular by cars, will be another issue to be addressed.

Bellerby Conservation Area

Bellerby Conservation Area was designated in 1981 in connection with the preparation of a non- statutory Village Plan. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be.

The village of Bellerby has its origins firmly based in agriculture. Indeed the Norse translation means "Cow Town". Not that agriculture has been the sole source of employment, as witnessed through the traces of long disused coal pits and quarries within the parish. Bellerby remains however, an agricultural community at heart. The village lies within a well defined valley below Bellerby Moor, sitting astride Bellerby Beck. Indeed it is interesting to note that Bulmer's Directory (1890) records Bellerby as "The Village of Bridges ". It also refers to a Deer Park to the west of the village, and lists Wright Holmes as gamekeeper to the Park.

The historic core of the village is largely set around the village green, though not exclusively so as some of earliest buildings are located along Leyburn Road, Moor Road and Church Lane. The Green is roughly rectangular in shape, though it narrows somewhat at its eastern end. On its north side, cottages and houses are either detached or set in small linked groups, yet tightly packed creating the impression of an almost continuous terrace. To the south, despite the terrace which adjoins the Cross Keys Inn, buildings are arranged more loosely allowing important views of the attractive network of paddocks between the village green and Church Lane. School Lane is one of two narrow winding roads which link the village green to Church Lane and possess a strong sense of enclosure, in contrast to the more open nature of the rest of the village. Church Lane itself is essentially one sided, again with quite loosely knit groupings of buildings linked by valuable contributions made by stone boundary walls and open paddocks to the south, which provide an attractive setting to the Church, Old Vicarage and Southfield Farm. Moor Road is a mixture of old and modern, a particularly attractive group close to the junction with the Green possessing considerable variety in scale and building line.

Architecturally, buildings are of the simple local vernacular style, with restrained detailing and limited openings. Good quality squared, coursed stone is widely employed, with coursed rubble also in evidence, notably on the Old Hall. Render, for example at The Terrace, provides an interesting and valuable contrast, though sadly the C20th fashion to remove this traditional finish and expose the underlying poor quality rubble has marred the architectural character of a number of buildings. Stone slates are extensively used, and coupled with a limited amount of Welsh slate together with one example of clay pantiles, provide the traditional range of roof coverings. The modern replacements to be found on a number of cottages lack the quality and character of the original coverings. Most original elevations contain vertically sliding sashes, Yorkshire sashes or balanced casements in combination with solid doors. A small number of buildings contain intact stone mullions, with others displaying fragments in altered openings.

Particular buildings of note include the mullioned Old Hall which dates from the early C17th, Boar House (formerly the Boar Inn) of C17th date, Corner Cottage, again mullioned and dating from c.1700, and Old Brook House, at one time an Inn called the Farmers Arms, which is dated 1732.

As already referred to, the contribution of stone walls in providing strong visual as well as physical links between building groups, is a particularly important characteristic of Bellerby. Mature trees scattered throughout the village likewise add to the overall character. Well intentioned, though in practice damaging change has adversely affected the architectural character of a number of buildings and there is scope for enhancement as a result. A further issue which will need to be addressed is the erosion of the Village Green, mainly caused by vehicle damage.

Bolton on Swale Conservation Area

Bolton on Swale was designated a Conservation Area in 1977 in connection with the preparation of a non-statutory Village Plan. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced as the case may be.

The small settlement of Bolton on Swale lies to the south of Scorton in a fairly flat agricultural landscape. The village itself occupies the summit of a gentle rise, but far from being prominent, the buildings are absorbed by the surrounding landscape. From the north, only glimpses of the Church tower and buildings at Village Farm interrupt the flow of the landscape. Although longer views of the village from the south are masked by trees around The Grange, the open paddocks between The Grange and the core of the village are of special importance to the character and setting of Bolton on Swale. The Conservation Area boundary has been drawn tightly around the core of the village except to the south where the open paddocks referred to above are included.

Bolton on Swale is divided in two by the B.6271 Richmond to Northallerton road. The impact of the through road has been accentuated by a recent road "improvement" scheme, which both straightened and widened the carriageway. To the west of the road the buildings are arranged in linear form fronting the highway. Interestingly, with the exception of Vine Cottage, the buildings are of single storey scale. To the east of the B6271 the village takes on an entirely different appearance, roughly triangular in shape, the scene being characterised by stone walls and extensive tree cover. Individual buildings are partially screened and play a less dominant role.

Although the village is relatively small it does contain a rich mixture of architectural style, which for the most part is based upon simple, robust vernacular buildings. Variations of scale, in particular the attractive single storey terraces of cottages on the west side of the B6271, add to the overall townscape quality. This is further enhanced by the variety of traditional building materials, which include brick and render in addition to the local river cobbles, laid strictly to course and in some instances dressed or faced by splitting. Brick dressings are effectively used to emphasise openings and quoins. The cottages incorporate simple traditional detailing usually involving vertically sliding sashes, Yorkshire sashes or balanced casements, and solid doors.

Taking individual buildings, Bolton Old Hall, a C15th tower house with later additions, is outstanding. Others of note include the Church of St. Mary which dates from the C14th, the now converted Cumby Memorial School, Vine Cottage, a good two storey cottage dating from the early to mid C19th, and the attractive village pump which dates from around c1900. One further structure of note is a semi derelict cottage on the west side of the B6271 known as Henry Jenkins Inn, commemorating Henry Jenkins who died in 1670 at the age of 169. A memorial in the form of an obelisk stands within the Church Yard.

The contribution of trees, walls and hedges throughout the Conservation Area to the character of Bolton on Swale cannot be overstated. In combination with the attractive open paddocks to the south of the village, they emphasise the integration of townscape

and landscape which represents the special character of Bolton on Swale. Care to maintain this balance should be a long term objective of the Conservation Area management.

There is scope for enhancement, particularly in relation to the Henry Jenkins Inn site and the removal of intrusive overhead wires.

Brompton on Swale Conservation Area

Brompton on Swale Conservation Area was designated in 1977 in connection with the preparation of a non-statutory village plan. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced as the case may be.

Occupation of the area dates back to at least Roman times, with the important site of Cataractonium lying only a short distance to the east. The origins of Brompton on Swale however, appear to be firmly rooted in agriculture, although evidence suggests that the village also served the travelling public, lying just to the west of the old A1. The village is located on the north bank of the Swale in an expanse of relatively flat agricultural land, where the impressive mature trees and neat pattern of hedgerows dominate the view. The historic core of the village is largely hidden from outside views, and for this reason the Conservation Area has been drawn quite tightly around buildings and gardens.

Brompton on Swale is an excellent example of a linear village, with the majority of buildings within the historic core lining the broad, straight, main street. The gap between the frontages is substantial. In addition to walled front gardens on either side, the wide carriageway and associated footpaths exaggerate the dominance of the road, which appears as somewhat out of scale with adjacent buildings. Perhaps the intervening space once played a more communal role, but whatever its origins, the townscape form it produces is quite distinctive. The overall effect is to give great prominence to the frontage walls, and to emphasise their importance to the overall character of the village.

Nearby sites of archaeological interests associated with Cataractonium mean that archaeology is always likely to be an issue where significant ground disturbance occurs.

The character of the village relies more upon the sum of the whole, than the quality of individual buildings. Buildings are for the most part simple two storey cottages arranged in terraces, though their height varies considerably, creating an interesting roofscape.

The main walling material is local river cobble, some left in their natural rounded form, others dressed or faced to give the appearance of squared stone. In all cases the cobbles are laid strictly to course. Render also plays an important role and adds interest and variety to the street scene. Although stone slate and Welsh slate are used, the dominant traditional roof covering is clay pantiles. Unfortunately these have given way to a mixture of less aesthetically pleasing modern concrete replacements in a number of cases. In elevational terms, buildings generally are of a local vernacular style with restrained detailing and limited openings. Traditionally most buildings incorporate sash windows or Yorkshire sashes and solid doors, though the mullions at Village Farm provide a contrasting architectural style. The vulnerability of such architecture to change is amply demonstrated through a number of well intentioned, though in practice, damaging "modernisation" schemes. Individual buildings of note include Home Farmhouse dated c1690, Inglenook dating from at least 1733 with its elaborate central door case, and Brompton Grange, c1840, built by James Flint, a Richmond iron-founder.

Although Brompton on Swale has no formal open areas, the one significant gap in the otherwise continuous frontage on the north side of Richmond Road, between Village

Farm and Bean's Cottage, provides valuable views outwards over open farmland. Few mature trees exist within the central area, increasing the importance of those which do remain, for example at the junction with River Lane and at the west end of the village around the Church.

In addition to the potential for sensitive restoration schemes, reinstating altered buildings, the removal of overhead cables offers further scope for enhancement.

Catterick Village Conservation Area

Catterick Village was designated a Conservation Area in 1977 in connection with the preparation of a non-statutory Village Plan. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be.

Catterick Village takes its name from the Roman Cataractonium, an important site of which extensive remains were revealed during the re-routing of the A1. The village straddles the original alignment of the A1, and until the construction of the bypass, acted as a major service point for the travelling public. Additional influences on the growth of the village include the development of Marne Barracks to the south, and nearby mineral extraction. The scale of the village, including the historic core, is considerably larger than others in Richmondshire.

The Conservation Area focuses on the historic core of the village which comprises three main elements, High Street, High Green and Low Green. The wide High Street (the old A1) is basically linear in form with buildings fronting directly onto the street. The south west side sweeps back at the entrance to both High and Low Green bringing interest and relief to otherwise straight building lines. The sweep into High Green creates an attractive triangular tree filled space, and the cobbled frontage opposite adds to the quality of the floorscape. High Green, with the elevated Church of St. Anne, represents the only significant change in levels, and although focused upon a central triangular green, buildings are arranged more spaciouly than the tight terraces found elsewhere in the village. The Bank, particularly at its northern end, forms an attractive link to Low Green, an area dominated by the vast village green and the tree-lined Brough Beck. Terraces of cottages around Low Green create a strong sense of enclosure which in combination with the wide expanse of village green, produces an area of exceptionally high visual quality.

The conservation area does not extend into the landscape setting as the historic core is enveloped by C20th development, except at the east end of Low Green where it includes prominent open paddocks which provide an attractive backdrop to the scene.

Archaeology is not known to be a major issue within Catterick Village other except in relation to the tumulus at the entrance to High Green from the High Street.

As previously mentioned the characteristic pattern of development is terraces, generally fronting directly onto the street. The scale of buildings varies considerably, including three storey houses in the High Street and Low Green, which add to the overall texture of the streetscape. Simple vernacular styles predominate, characterised by restrained detailing, with the sum of the whole being more important than the quality of individual buildings. Typically buildings incorporate sliding sash windows and solid doors, though evidence of earlier mullion windows exists in some rear facades. An essential characteristic is the widespread use of render on important and prominent buildings which include the former County Hotel, Academy House and 41a and 43 High Street, illustrating not only the high regard paid to render as an external finish, but also the lack of fine quality local stone. Where stone is exposed, this tends to be mainly cobble,

sometimes dressed to give the appearance of squared stone. Roof coverings are very mixed, though the traditional pantiles and Welsh slates remain prominent.

Notwithstanding the major contribution of open space and the trees within those areas, the quality of some of the hard surfacing in the High Street and Low Green could be enhanced through the use of natural paving materials such as cobbles. This would complement the stone walls which provide important links between building groups, for example at The Bank. Catterick Village has suffered its fair share of perhaps well intentioned, though in practice damaging change. Coupled with visually intrusive overhead wires, there is considerable scope for enhancement.

Constable Burton Conservation Area

Constable Burton Conservation Area was designated in 1995. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be.

Constable Burton is a fine example of a small estate village, and in common with other estate villages, development was initially limited to that necessary to serve the immediate needs of the estate. The estate, which is centred upon Constable Burton Hall, straddles Burton Beck, and the A684 provides a strong dividing line between the Hall grounds to the north and the bulk of cottages and service buildings to the south. The main group of cottages is arranged in a terraced form which sweeps away from the A684 facing an attractive open green. Service buildings originally included a shop, post office, school, Chapel, smithy and combined corn mill and saw mill, which in addition to providing a useful insight to estate village life also add variety and richness to its architecture.

Although distant views of the village are limited to an occasional glimpse of buildings, the overall character of Constable Burton is derived very much from the attractive blend of the built environment and surrounding landscape. Constable Burton Hall is set within magnificent landscaped grounds which dominate the setting of the village, and which are included on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Although the more formal elements of the gardens are contained in areas close to the Hall, and these have been taken as a northerly cut-off point for Conservation Area purposes, the parkland character of the surrounding landscape extends well beyond. The area adjacent to Burton Beck is particularly attractive. The Conservation Area incorporates areas of this parkland setting which play an important role in defining the character of the village.

Constable Burton contains a rich variety of architectural styles which range from the classical to the simple vernacular. Constable Burton Hall is a truly outstanding building designed by John Carr of York, built to replace an Elizabethan house in 1762-67. This fine Grade I Listed Palladian villa, is an architectural gem of national repute. Ancillary outbuildings also by Carr, including a laundry block and coach-house, are part of the overall composition.

The Park contains other buildings of note including an C18th ice-house and a deer shelter. Within the heart of the village buildings are generally of a simple vernacular style with restrained detailing, constructed mainly in random rubble brought to course, with natural slate roof coverings. The former Village School, dated 1839, adds to the interest of the village centre. To the south east is an attractive group centred upon the estate water-mill.

A characteristic worthy of particular note is how buildings have been generally well preserved with the majority retaining original vertically sliding sashes or Yorkshire sashes and solid doors.

Whilst the sloping central green the open area of greatest significance, views of the attractive tree lined beck, open paddocks and parkland, provide a continuous visual link between the built and natural environments, so important in defining the special character of the conservation area. In addition to what might be defined as soft landscaping, the area is enhanced by an expanse of cobbles which provide a forecourt to the terraced cottages.

Trees, walls and hedges all make an important contribution to the character of the Constable Burton Conservation Area, in particular the high stone walls which define the boundaries of the Park, which create a strong and dramatic sense of enclosure.

Croft Conservation Area

Croft Conservation Area was designated in 1978 in connection with the preparation of a non-statutory village plan, and extended in 1995. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be.

Although it seems likely that Croft originally developed around an ancient crossing point of the Tees, it was the prominence of Croft as a Spa which had the most significant impact upon its development. The value of the spa waters appears to have first recognised in the mid to late C17th and had acquired national fame by the early C18th. The development of the spa has left a legacy of fine buildings, though sadly other important structures, including the extensive New Spa to the south of the village, have long since disappeared. Located on the west bank of the Tees, Croft has developed in westerly direction from the A167 Darlington to Northallerton road, the bulk of the village being largely concealed from the passing motorist. Development has been concentrated in two areas, South Parade, which is masked from the A167 by Croft Spa Hotel, and Richmond Road. Between these, open paddocks provide a setting of interest and contrast, and are particularly important in defining the form and character of Croft. In general buildings are of two quite distinct types, either substantial detached properties or cottages and houses arranged in terraces.

Due to the topography of the surrounding area, coupled with the very substantial tree cover, more distant views of the village are restricted.

Open land is, however, significant to the setting of the village, and for this reason the Conservation Area is not drawn relatively tightly around buildings and immediate curtilages. The design quality of the grounds to Croft Hall and Monk End Hall is such that these are included, as well as the open paddocks between South Parade and Richmond Road.

Architecturally, Croft offers an interesting mix of age and style, with a number of outstanding individual buildings as well as many fine, simple vernacular houses and cottages. The Church of St. Peter, built in attractive red sandstone, dates from C12th, with extensive restoration in the late C19th. Croft Bridge, in common with the Church, is Grade I Listed, and dates from the C15th with later alterations by John Carr (1795). The renowned C19th architect Ignatius Bonomi designed the imposing and dominant Croft Spa Hotel (1835). Other outstanding buildings include Monk End Hall and Croft Hall, both probably dating from C16th, and The Terrace, a C19th lodging house now divided into 4 units.

Croft offers an equally impressive mix of traditional building materials, with many of the quality buildings either brick or rendered, producing a pleasing contrast of colour and texture. The contribution of render to the overall character of the village is reflected in its use on such prominent buildings as Croft Spa Hotel and Croft Hall. Although traditional roof coverings still predominate, in particular clay pantiles, Welsh and Westmoreland

slate, some buildings have been re-roofed in modern materials which lack the quality of the original. Vertically sliding sashes in a variety of glazing bar patterns and solid doors provide typical detailing.

Trees make a special contribution throughout the Conservation Area, though thought will need to be given to phased replanting to ensure that this contribution is maintained. Walls of stone and brick construction likewise are an important feature in the village. Some buildings, in particular parts of South Parade, have suffered well intentioned though ill-considered and damaging change, which creates opportunities for future enhancement work.

Dalton Conservation Area

Dalton Conservation Area was designated in 1981 in connection with the preparation of a non- statutory Village Plan. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced as the case may be.

Situated on the lower slopes of Gayles Moor overlooking a wide valley, Dalton is an agricultural village the origins of which pre-date Domesday. Development during the second half of the C20th has infilled the frontages to previously open paddocks in the heart of the village, but its basic form and character remain intact.

The form of the village is rather curious, appearing at first to be distinctly triangular in shape, the centre of the triangle being occupied by the Church of St. James (1898) and a single storey cottage. However the cottages and houses which line Moor Road, the main axis of the village, are roughly parallel to each other, and it is the road network coupled with the long front gardens enclosed by stone boundary walls which create the triangular form. Bearing in mind the Church dates from the late C19th, might it be that the village originally had a more open centre? Perhaps the fact that buildings front directly onto the street at the east end of the main body of the village also points to this possibility. The development of the central plot and stone walls defining the various frontages, have, however, created a strong sense of enclosure, and now give Dalton a distinctive character.

Distant views of the village are limited to glimpses of building groups within a heavily treed landscape, with the village merging into the general scene rather than being particularly prominent in its own right. For this reason the Conservation Area boundary has been drawn tightly around buildings, gardens and paddocks.

Buildings occur generally in small terraces and groups, and even the larger detached houses are closely linked both in physical and visual terms. The architectural form follows very much the local vernacular tradition with simple and restrained detailing. This does not however lead to monotony, with considerable variation in both detailed design and scale adding to the overall architectural character. Dalton is very much a stone village, with good quality local stone probably from Gayles Quarry being employed, often squared and in association with ashlar dressings. Roof coverings vary more widely with pantiles predominating, sometimes with a stone slate eaves course. Stone slates and Welsh slate are also in evidence, adding contrast to the roofscape. Typical external detailing involves the use of traditional sliding sash or Yorkshire sash windows and solid doors.

Dalton is a village of honest, simple vernacular architecture rather than outstanding individual buildings. The Nook and Corner Cottage which date from the C18th, Holmedale, dated 1812, and Moor View which dates from the mid-C18th, offer good

examples of the local style. One better quality building worthy of note is Dalton House, inscribed 1781, which stands prominently at the head of Moor Road.

The character of Dalton is considerably enhanced by the small area of green at the east end of Moor Road together with grass verges throughout the village, which are in fact registered as Village Green. These small but important areas together with the substantial tree cover, garden vegetation, and extensive network of stone walls, blend harmoniously together.

Well intentioned, though in practice damaging change has marred the character of some individual buildings, and in combination with the removal of unsightly overhead wires there are ample opportunities for enhancement.

Downholme Conservation Area

Downholme Conservation Area was designated in 1995. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which merit designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be. The village is split by the National Park boundary, and whilst the overall character and setting of Downholme are covered in this conservation area profile, the more detailed comments relate to that part which lies outside the National Park.

Nestling below Downholme Moor, the village is dominated by and set within a magnificent panorama of upland scenery. First impressions might suggest that the village consists of little more than a jumble of stone cottages and farm buildings with no sense of form or strong definition. This oversimplified appraisal, however, fails to recognise that within seemingly haphazard groupings, there lies a special character derived from and strongly reflecting Downholme's historical development. In common with other small settlements in Swaledale, Downholme was once a much busier place, particularly when lead was being worked locally. Mining and agriculture were closely tied, and miners who settled on a more permanent basis often farmed small pockets of land to supplement their income and provide an essential food source. This produced a particular pattern of development involving apparently scattered dwellings in a loosely knit village form, set in a landscape of small paddocks enclosed by stone walls. Although the mining activities have long gone, and agriculture now dominates, that characteristic pattern of buildings and paddocks remains.

An unusual aspect of Downholme's history, is the fact that the village and its adjoining landscape were acquired by the War Department earlier this century, in consequence of which, the village has remained almost free of development during the post-war period, preserving its form and setting. For this reason the conservation area boundary has been quite extensively drawn, to include not only the buildings but also the network of small fields which form such an important and integral part of its character.

Although Downholme Hall, now sadly nothing more than a ruin, dates from the C15th, and Home Farm is probably C17th or earlier, the majority of buildings in Downholme are of C18th and C19th date. Built in dark local stone, with Welsh slate, stone slate and artificial slate roofs, the buildings generally take on a somewhat sombre appearance, brightened only by the white painted traditional sash windows and lintols and painted solid timber doors. The buildings are of local vernacular style, with simple and restrained detailing, limited openings, and a strong sense of solidity. Simple vernacular architecture is vulnerable to change if alterations are ill-considered, and although the basic character of its buildings are largely unspoilt, Downholme has suffered from the introduction of inappropriate UPVC windows.

Hedgerow trees of various sizes are scattered throughout the Conservation Area and play a special role in its character, as do the stone walls which tightly define streets and everywhere form the boundaries to gardens and paddocks.

With agriculture now dominating the village and its landscape setting, any pressure for new development is most likely to arise from this source, possibly in the form of large modern farm buildings. Whilst the well being of the local farming industry must be recognised, insensitive design and siting of new farm buildings would prove highly intrusive and detrimental to the character of the conservation area.

The other main problem and priority is the overhead wirescape which is excessively prominent in the centre of the village.

Easby Conservation Area

Easby Conservation Area was designated in 1995. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be.

The small settlement of Easby developed around the late C12th Abbey of St. Agatha, though the Easby Cross, dating probably from the early C9th suggests an earlier occupation of the site. Easby has developed in two quite distinct areas, the buildings around the Abbey, which stand on flat ground adjacent to the river, and a group on the elevated ridge to the east, set in a truly outstanding landscape. Between these two distinct building groups are a series of open fields providing both an immediate and wider setting to the Abbey ruins and to the overall form of the settlement. Buildings and building groups are widely spaced, and the resulting layout does not correspond to conventional settlement patterns.

The gentle curve of the tree clad steep slope of the north bank of the Swale creates a natural amphitheatre for the Abbey ruins, invoking both a strong sense of enclosure and an air of peace and tranquillity. The conservation area incorporates a substantial area of the surrounding landscape in recognition of the role played by "setting" in the overall character of Easby.

Easby is an area of immense archaeological importance which to some degree is recognised through the extensive Scheduled area centred upon the Abbey ruins. The potential interest extends well beyond the existing standing remains, and archaeology is likely to be a key issue wherever ground disturbance occurs within the conservation area.

Architecturally, Easby is outstanding. The Abbey and its associated structures, which include the C14th Gatehouse and Tithe Barn in addition to the main Abbey ruins, are of national importance and clearly merit particular note. However, it is the quality of buildings throughout the settlement which, in conjunction with the Abbey, combine to make Easby special in architectural terms. The Church of St. Agatha, restored in 1869, dates from the C12th with work from the C13th, C14th and C15th. Abbey Mill, immediately upstream from the Abbey is a former corn watermill and millhouse dating from the late C18th-early C19th. Though on much earlier foundations, it is a particularly attractive riverside group. The upper part of the village is dominated by Easby Hall which, though much altered and extended, dates from c1730, by Easby Mullions, a pair of late C17th houses (now one), again probably containing an earlier core, and by Smith's Hospital or the Almshouses, originally four almshouses dated 1732. A further building of particular note is the Jacobethan style Vicarage dated c1868, built on the hillside above the Abbey.

Buildings are generally of stone construction, an exception being the south front of Easby Hall which is of striking red brick. The principles of local vernacular architectural

form, limited openings and restrained detailing, usually containing a mix of sliding sash or mullioned windows and solid doors, are applied to both domestic and agricultural buildings throughout the village. Some replacement of the traditional stone roof coverings has occurred, though the basic form and character of buildings has been well preserved.

Reference to the importance of trees has already been made, with a particularly fine avenue of mature trees within the heart of the village, though some thought will need to be given to a phased replanting programme in those areas where woodland has reached maturity. The array of modern timber fences in the paddocks close to the Abbey does little to enhance either the setting of the ancient monument or the overall character of Easby. A cobbled parking area close to the Abbey has relieved the pressure created by visitor car parking, and appears to be coping with current levels of demand.

East Layton Conservation Area

East Layton Conservation Area was designated in 1995. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be.

East Layton is a small village located on a ridge to the north of the A66 trunk road. The village appears as little more than a scattering of small groups of buildings, lacking any overall conventional pattern or form, and with no focal point. This modern perception of East Layton is, however deceptive, as the ancient settlement, mentioned in the Domesday Book, is in fact a shrunken medieval village, which in the C16th had a "towne green". So putting the existing village into context, East Layton is far from being simply a collection of seemingly unrelated groups, but is in fact the important remains of a much larger settlement.

The village is split by a relatively narrow through road, with the majority of buildings on the north side. Roadside stone walls and widespread tree cover are generally far more prominent than the buildings themselves, though where views are afforded, the cottages have considerable charm, the group terminated by the Old Hall being particularly attractive. Views from within the village of the open countryside beyond are important to the overall character of East Layton and should be preserved, but the broader landscape setting is not a key element in this case. For this reason the conservation area boundary has generally been drawn quite tightly around the village, though archaeologically important areas to the north of the Old Hall are included.

In the light of its history, archaeology will be a significant factor in East Layton, particularly where development, even minor extensions in some instances, results in ground disturbance.

Architecturally, East Layton provides an interesting and quite varied mix of design and scale, though in general, buildings are of the local vernacular style with restrained detailing and limited openings. Buildings are generally constructed in rubble, good contrast being provided by the use of both external colourwashing and render.

Roof coverings vary quite widely and include stone slates, clay pantiles, Westmoreland slates and Welsh slates, in addition to some modern coverings which lack the quality and character of the originals. Most cottages and houses incorporate traditional detailing of sliding sash or Yorkshire sash windows and solid doors, but earlier mullion windows are to be found, for example at the Old Hall. Individual buildings of particular interest include the Old Hall, dated 1623 but perhaps containing earlier fabric, The Ford which dates from the C17th, the Old School Room and adjoining single storey cottage

dating from the late C18th, and Christ Church, an impressive Victorian Church c1893-95, designed by J.P.Pritchett.

East Layton, despite the early reference to a "towne green", contains no definable space of significance, though the value of the gaps between buildings which permit views out of the village should not be under-estimated. The importance of trees and stone walls throughout has already been emphasised, though some thought will need to be given to a phased replanting scheme to ensure that this particular feature is preserved. Care must also be taken to ensure that the character of the existing buildings is not damaged by ill-considered change.

The village has seen some expansion, and is rather dominated by Forcett Close at its centre, a development which has not quite captured the true character of the local vernacular style. This group has, however, been left outside the designation. The area adjacent to the Quoits and Social Club offers scope for improvement, in particular the Old Smithy.

East Witton Conservation Area

East Witton Conservation Area was designated in 1995. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be. East Witton is split by the National Park boundary, most of the village lying within the National Park. Although certain aspects of the overall character of the village are covered in this profile, detailed comment is restricted to that part of the proposed Conservation Area which lies outside the National Park.

East Witton is a planned estate village laid out in the early C19th by the Earl of Aylesbury, whose ancestor Edward Bruce was first granted the estate in 1603. The main village is set around a spacious rectangular green on an east-west axis, fringed by access roads. Although the village gives the impression of being a cul-de-sac, headed by Town End Farm, the narrow lane (Braithwaite Lane) which leads out to the west in fact marks the continuation of an important ancient access linking Jervaulx Abbey to the east and Coverham Abbey to the west. The cottages surrounding the green are mainly two storey in scale. The east end of the green is more open, the main road from the east sweeping round to head northwards towards Middleham and important river crossing points of the Rivers Cover and Ure. Buildings continue to line the road at the east end of the village, terminated by the Church, though their overall character is less formal, with more hard surfacing in evidence.

A narrow lane to the south of the village serves an area known as Low Thorpe which together with the east end of the village proper form the core of the proposed designation.

East Witton is set within an area of exceptionally attractive landscape, the fells to the south providing a particularly striking backcloth from many angles. Grass paddocks and tree groups which surround the village make a particularly important contribution to the setting of building groups, and in recognition of this, are included within the proposed boundary.

Although the bulk of the village is within the National Park, there are a number of important buildings in the area to be designated. These include the Church of St. John the Evangelist and the former Vicarage, both dated 1809, the former School dated 1817, and The Blue Lion, a purpose built Georgian inn with an associated stable group. In common with most of the estate buildings, they are constructed in superior coursed stone with a stone slate roof covering. To the east of the School, No1 East Witton, is a

building pre-dating the "planned" village, probably of C17th origin. Another early building adjoins the site of St Martin's Church, demolished following construction of the new Church. The building appears outwardly to be a C17th farmhouse with mullioned windows. However, internally it contains remains which suggest it is part of an important mediaeval building.

The Low Thorpe area has seen some limited post-war development, which generally in both form and detail lacks the quality of historic buildings within East Witton. In a village which for the most part consists of simple cottages with well balanced elevations and traditional window and door detailing, the impact of a few buildings which have been subjected to well intentioned though damaging change is rather noticeable. Sensitive restoration and enhancement of these buildings should be pursued wherever the opportunity arises.

Finghall Conservation Area

Finghall Conservation Area was designated in 1995. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be.

Finghall is a small linear village which has been extended during the C20th, though its historic core, around which the Conservation Area is to be based, remains largely intact. The origins of the present village are firmly based in agriculture, and although now a small community, it appears this was a settlement of some consequence in Saxon times, with a Synod having been held in Finghall in AD788.

The village occupies a hill top location with cottages strung out along the ridge line. Surprisingly distant views of the village are not particularly impressive, although the trees around Manor House and Park House form notable landscape features and are included within the proposed Conservation Area. The majority of the older buildings are located on the north side of the village street and are in the form of detached cottages. Stone walls and hedges provide strong visual links between the individual buildings and create a sense of continuity. The cottages in most instances front directly onto the narrow village green, which provides an attractive setting. To the south of the village street the pattern of historic buildings is more broken, the eastern half consisting largely of local authority housing.

Finghall's cottages and houses are very much based upon the vernacular style, with simple robust detailing and limited openings, typically incorporating sash windows and solid doors. A particular feature of the village is the very high quality of the local stone used on principal elevations, which is well dressed squared and laid strictly to course. Secondary elevations are mainly of coursed rubble. Render is used on a number of buildings including the impressive Manor House, and provides attractive visual contrast. Its use in the past has been more widespread, the Queens Head being an example of a building with render removed. Two red brick structures, the Methodist Chapel built in 1909 and an adjoining cottage, appear less comfortable in this setting. The Chapel replaced a much more attractive single storey stone built Chapel dated 1845 on Hurgill Lane, which has recently been carefully restored. Roof coverings are generally of stone slate, with Welsh slate and pantiles also in evidence. Notable buildings include Manor House, formerly the parsonage, which dates from circa 1700, The Queens Head of similar date and The Firkers, a mid C18th house, which displays all the attributes of the local vernacular style.

The green provides the focal point of the village and its attractiveness is enhanced by individual trees which add considerably to the quality of the street scene. The green

appears well tended but displays some evidence of traffic damage. Walls and hedges play a vital role as mentioned earlier.

Whilst the architectural character of the majority of historic buildings remains largely intact, there are examples of well intentioned, though in practice damaging change, which offer opportunities for future enhancement. The removal of obtrusive overhead wires would likewise produce significant improvements.

Despite the C20th development which Finghall has absorbed on the edges of the older core, there remains at the heart of the village a nucleus of attractive cottages, pleasantly grouped, which are well worthy of Conservation Area status.

Gayles Conservation Area

Gayles Conservation Area was designated in 1982 in connection with the preparation of a non-statutory village plan. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation, and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be.

Gayles lies on the south side of a wide valley, and even from relatively close quarters, merges into the surrounding landscape which largely dominates the buildings. The form of Gayles is unique in Richmondshire, being divided into three quite distinct 'streets' running at right angles to the largely un-developed through road, resulting in the bulk of the village being hidden from the view of the passing motorist. Why the village developed in this way is unclear, but its fragmented form and the prominence of the intervening landscape, give clear definition to character of the village.

The smallest of the 'streets', East Street, contains only a handful of buildings, informally grouped, and significantly including Thimbleby Cottage, the only dwelling in the village which lies to the north of the through road. Middle Street, in contrast, has a slightly more formal air with a wide range of building types. From its narrow entrance by the Bay Horse Inn, West Street gradually widens to the open expanse of Quarry Hill Common, providing an interesting sense of both enclosure and open space in the same scene. Buildings are more formally arranged in frontage groups.

The village contains some fine examples of vernacular buildings including, The Grange (East Street) and Gayles House (West Street). Manor House (Middle Street) dates from the late C17th and is a very early local example of classical architecture. Otherwise the buildings are of basic vernacular style with simple and restrained detailing, limited openings, and a strong sense of solidity. Buildings typically incorporate vertically sliding sashes, Yorkshire sashes or mullioned windows, and solid doors. Although lead and copper were mined locally, the village is more commonly associated with the quarrying of very fine sandstone, extensively used for the construction of many local houses. The use of good stone enhances the appearance of even the most modest cottage, and its quality contrasts starkly with the imported stone used on a number of more recent buildings. Roof coverings are generally of stone slate, Welsh slate and pantiles, though some re-roofing has been carried out in artificial materials. A notable contrast to the general character of buildings in the conservation area lies in East Street, where one cottage is rendered. This traditional finish provides interesting variation to the otherwise dominant stone walling.

Although there are no formal areas of village green, the grass verges throughout the village and Quarry Hill Common play an important visual role in providing a setting for the various building groups.

Trees, hedges and stone walls make a particularly important contribution to the character of Gayles, both in terms of their influence on the appearance of the three 'streets' as well as the overall setting of the village.

The unusual form of the village highlights the importance of the spaces between the existing building groups. The C20th development between Middle and West Street demonstrates how easily the character of the village could be damaged through further insensitive infilling. Ill-considered alterations have marred the architectural quality of some buildings, and care should be taken in the future to avoid damaging change, with restoration encouraged wherever possible. A further area for concern is vehicle damage to the verges and "green" areas, resulting in the erosion of these important features.

Gilling West Conservation Area

Gilling West was designated a Conservation Area in 1979 in connection with the preparation of a non-statutory village plan. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which led to designation and which the District Council consider should be preserved or enhanced as the case may be.

Although now a village, Gilling West was an important Anglo Saxon town. In 651, Oswy King of Bernicia founded a monastery at Gilling, which the Danes completely destroyed two centuries later. Although no known material can be dated as early as the C7th, work in 1976 uncovered a stone carved with a C9th Anglican cross and a C10th hogback tombstone. For a village developed on a level site, Gilling has rather curiously remained strictly linear in form, with only the short spur of Millgate breaking this pattern, and no defined central space or focal point. The High Street follows roughly a north-south axis with the houses and cottages being generally arranged in terraced form or where detached, linked by stone walls. The slightly curving alignment of High Street combined with subtle changes in building line and scale produces an ever changing scene throughout the village. The relatively wide street is lined by well tended grass verges at the north and south ends of the village, and hard surfacing in the central area, sadly dominated by tarmac, although small areas of attractive cobbles provide a hint of what could be achieved.

Gilling West lies at the base of a shallow, but well defined valley. The setting of the village is best appreciated from Gatherley Moor to the north, where Gilling is set in an attractive landscape with the backcloth of the Swaledale moors. Other than from Sedbury Lane heavy tree cover intercepts distant views, giving little impression of the full scale or form of the village. Open fields and paddocks around the fringe of the village, particularly to the east, play an important role in defining the setting of Gilling West, and the most significant are included with the designated area.

Although little surface evidence exists, having regard to recent finds and the past importance of Gilling, archaeology will be a significant issue. The character of buildings within Gilling West lies very much in local vernacular traditions, with simple and restrained detailing, usually involving limited openings with sliding sash or Yorkshire sashes, and solid doors. Within these limitations the village offers a wide variety of architectural form and scale, with many buildings arranged in attractive terraces. Good examples of the local vernacular style include 5-7 Millgate, a range of 3 single storey early C18th rendered cottages, Waterloo House, a two storey house of coursed sandstone, c1815, and 50-58 High Street, locally known as The Square, a range of five early C18th cottages arranged in an "L" shaped plan. Two other buildings of particular interest are the Church of St. Agatha, which dates from the C11th, and a much altered building known as The Curtain, which despite its outward appearance was an important medieval building dating from the C13th-14th.

An outstanding feature of Gilling West is the quality of walling material, with a good proportion of buildings being constructed in fine local coursed squared stone, complemented by high quality render. Regrettably render has been stripped from a number of buildings, exposing the poor quality rubble walling beneath, which in addition to damaging the quality of individual buildings has impaired the character of the village as a whole. Likewise some buildings have suffered from perhaps well intentioned, though in practice, ill-considered alterations, which in combination with render loss, poor quality hard surfacing in the central area of the village and intrusive overhead wires, offer ample opportunity for positive enhancement.

Passing reference has been made to the considerable contribution of trees and walls to the character of the Conservation Area. Many trees are mature and care will need to be taken to ensure that phased replanting occurs.