Appendix A (H-P)

Hartforth Conservation Area

Hartforth Conservation Area was designated 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.

Hartforth is a small hamlet in an extensive parkland setting formerly serving as an estate village to Hartforth Hall. Much of the village remains under estate control and ownership, although the Hall itself no longer remains part of the estate. The village is a loose grouping of buildings, which include cottages and agricultural barns, arranged around a central green, with Hartforth Hall itself immediately to the west, though largely hidden from view by the extensive parkland planting and gardens. The Conservation Area incorporates the Hall with its gardens and immediate parkland setting, together with the village. Land to the north and south of the village important to its setting is also included.

The quiet and peaceful nature of this small hamlet is a particularly striking feature, and belies the fact it was once a thriving community, with apparently the majority of the ancient settlement to the south west of the existing village. Little trace now remains of the earlier settlement, with the character of the present hamlet wholly influenced by its ties to the estate. Buildings are spaciously arranged and substantial care has been exercised in the design and appearance of even the most modest barn. Openness is an essential characteristic of Hartforth and an element which merits particular care.

The earliest standing structure appears to be the ruins of a C15th gatehouse of a medieval monastery or fortified manor house within the Hall grounds. Curiously no such establishment is recorded and it may be that the arch is, in fact, a folly or carefully re-built import. Hartforth Hall is a fine Grade II* country house, re-built in 1744 and extended in 1792 and c1900, with work attributed to both John Foss and Daniel Garrett. Designed as a rendered building, sadly the original lime render has been stripped off revealing the poor quality underlying masonry, clearly never intended to be exposed on such a fine building. The building contains a fine interior with the main range being typical of Garrett. To the rear of the Hall is a fine C19th stable block, now converted into separate dwellings. Other buildings of note within the Hall grounds include a former orangery and water tower, both dating from the late C19th, with the latter containing a clock to commemorate the Craddock family's participation in the Boer War. Within the village are a number of interesting vernacular buildings which in addition to well designed simple cottages also include Home Farm Granary and Cart Shed dating from the early C19th, and the impressive Easingtown Barn, probably by John Foss, designed with pointed-arched ashlar surrounds with lattice shutters. To the north east of the Easingtown Barn is an unusual stone built hay barn, again early C19th, with similar structures to the north of the Hall. Buildings are generally constructed in coursed stone with good quality stone dressings.

Stone walls, iron railings and the profusion of trees have a major impact on the character of the Conservation Area, though as many trees are now reaching maturity, careful thought should be given to phased replanting. The central green is generally well tended and does not suffer from erosion to any great extent.

In conclusion the character of Hartforth is derived from its unspoilt nature, spacious form and carefully designed, if sometimes unusual, mix of domestic and agricultural architecture, contained within a magnificent landscape setting.

East Hauxwell Conservation Area

East Hauxwell 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.

Hauxwell occupies a steeply sloping site on the north side of a small valley formed by Garriston Beck. Hauxwell Hall, which was re-built in the late C17th, lies to the south east of the village, and in common with the Church of St. Oswald (C11th), is well detached from Hauxwell village itself. This compact, well defined, linear settlement, with a strong north-south axis, is a fine example of a small, well preserved estate village, remarkable for its lack of change during the C20th. In addition to cottages, the village contains a former school and reading room, reflecting quite reasonable levels of community facilities originally provided by the estate. The cottages and associated buildings are attractively and spaciously arranged in small clusters of individual buildings and terraces which produce a streetscape of outstanding quality. The central road passes through quite a deep cutting, particularly towards the southern end of the village, with the cottages on either side seemingly towering over, creating a strong sense of enclosure and adding considerably to the overall character of the village. Despite this prevailing sense of enclosure the steeply falling land provides spectacular views from the northern part of the village street over the landscape to the south, bringing into sharp contrast the tight groupings within the village and the open countryside beyond.

Buildings throughout the village are very much in the local vernacular style, with restrained and simple detailing. Whilst many of the buildings are of coursed rubble, some front elevations are constructed in good quality squared coursed stone. A limited amount of render adds contrast and texture to the village. Roof coverings are mainly a mixture of the three traditional coverings to be found in Richmondshire, being stone slates, Welsh slates and clay pantiles, including a mixture of stone slates and clay pantiles as for example at Wood Cottage.

The cottages typically incorporate simple traditional windows. Yorkshire sashes, vertically sliding sashes and a few examples of balanced casements are to be found, in addition to the stone mullions of 1 and 2 Pump Street, a building of mid-late C17th date despite an inscription of 1751 on the lintol above the entrance door. Doors likewise are simple with solid panelled and planked doors predominant.

Wood Cottage (1739), Laurel Bank (1760) and School Cottage (1842) are all good examples of the local vernacular style.

Trees within the village contribute substantially to the overall character of the Conservation Area, though as many are mature, phased replanting should be considered to ensure this important characteristic is maintained. A network of stone walls likewise adds considerably to the grain of the village.

In a village where the vast majority of buildings have retained their original form and character, the very few examples of ill-considered change emphasise the degree of care which needs to be exercised in handling alterations. Opportunities should be taken to encourage sensitive restoration of these buildings wherever possible. The nature of the settlement leaves some scope for infill development, a factor recognised in the 1980's when a restrained and sensitive scheme for limited expansion was agreed in principle. Great care was taken to ensure the inherent character of Hauxwell would be preserved and enhanced, though to date this development has not proceeded.

Hornby Conservation Area

Hornby was designated a Conservation Area 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 village of Hornby is situated in an area of gently undulating countryside which lies between the Yorkshire Dales and the Vale of York. Hornby is an estate village, a factor which has influenced its development, form and layout. The estate is based around Hornby Castle, a fortified manor house located on high ground to the east of the village. The settlement is somewhat fragmented, reflecting not only the desired separation of the principal residence and other estate buildings, but also embracing extensive walled kitchen gardens and their associated buildings. The bulk of former estate cottages are attractively grouped around the impressive Church of St. Mary the Virgin with its dominant tower dating from c1080. High walls enclosing former estate gardens provide a striking sense of enclosure, producing interesting and continuous change to the scene as you wind through the village. The blend of somewhat scattered building groups with large areas of open and enclosed space are key elements in the make up of the character of the village.

The eastern approach is dominated by Hornby Castle and its superb parkland setting containing an array of mature trees and woodland. From this approach the bulk of the village is hidden from view. Hornby Park was landscaped in the Georgian character and at one time contained a leisure park which included a bowling green, golf course and tennis courts. On entering the village over the brow of the hill on which the Castle stands, the scene focuses on by an arrangement of stone and brick faced walls enclosing the former kitchen gardens to the estate. From the west, the village nestles into a slight depression within an attractive open agricultural landscape, set against a background dominated by mature woodland. Rising above the treeline, Hornby Castle produces a dramatic silhouette.

The Conservation Area contains two buildings of outstanding architectural quality, Hornby Castle and the Church of St. Mary, both of which are Grade I listed. Hornby Castle dates from the C14th, though sadly following the break up of the estate c1930, substantial demolition was carried out. The west tower of St. Mary's Church dates from c1080 with substantial work of C15th date. Hornby also contains some more unusual historic buildings including an early C19th ornate stone well head and a Gothick Folly of similar date which once housed a collection of stuffed birds and animals. Buildings generally are either of local vernacular style with simple restrained detailing, limited openings and a strong sense of solidity, usually incorporating sliding sash or Yorkshire sash windows and solid doors, or what may be described as 'estate' architecture with rather more ornate detailing. A good example of this more ornate form is The Lodge, with its intricate glazing bar pattern contained within stone mullions. Stone predominates throughout the village, with a mixture of stone slates, and clay pantiles for roof coverings, though some unsympathetic concrete replacements have been introduced. Hornby's unusual form places a particular emphasis on substantial open areas and gaps, in defining the structure and character of the village. Although there are no formal areas of green, verges play an important visual role, particularly opposite Church View and adjacent to the well head. Trees, hedges and walls, both within the village and surrounding landscape are of immense importance to the village's character.

Park Chase, developed in the 1970's, is of little architectural merit, and although its impact may be limited, it illustrates the vulnerability of open areas within village to development. Some buildings have suffered from well intentioned though ill-considered and damaging alterations. Care will need to be taken to guard against further damaging change, as well as opportunities taken to restore the character of altered buildings.

Some erosion of the grass verges, particularly opposite Church View, has occurred, which if left un-checked will in time detract from the character of the village.

Hudswell Conservation Area

Hudswell Conservation Area was designated in 1980 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. Hudswell is split by the National Park boundary. Although certain aspects of the overall character of the village are covered in this profile, detailed comment is restricted to that part of the Conservation Area which lies outside the National Park.

Hudswell is of a strictly linear pattern, though much extended during the 1950's and 60's by a ribbon of development, particularly on its east side, which has done little to enhance the conservation qualities of the village. At its heart however is a core of attractively grouped historic buildings which are worthy of Conservation Area status. It is this historic core around which the designation has been based. The village appears to have its origins firmly in agriculture, a fact well highlighted by the interesting mix of cottages and traditional farm buildings, particularly on the south side of the main street. Although linear in form, the village contains a narrow area of village green, mainly on its south side, which adds interest and contrast. This is complemented by the significant, though not steep, continuous slope from east to west, coupled with the varying building line, which produces interesting and subtle changes to the townscape throughout the length of the historic core.

Hudswell is set high above the River Swale on the south side of the valley, though despite its elevated location, the village is not readily visible from distant views other than from Waithwith Bank, some distance to the south-west. Its ridge top location is remarkably inconspicuous from closer quarters.

To date, archaeology has not featured as a major issue .

Architecturally, the character of the village is based very much in the traditions of simple, robust vernacular style, with buildings exhibiting a strong sense of solidity and limited openings. Buildings are generally of stone construction, though the quality of the stone is not particularly high in many cases. The poor quality of the local stone may in part explain the widespread use of render, which at the time of designation amounted to about 40% of buildings in the historic core. Surprisingly much of the render is uncoloured, producing an un-necessarily drab appearance to a material which has the capability of providing life and vitality to the street scene, without being garish. Roof coverings are quite varied, and although traditional stone slates continue to be the dominant material, an increasingly high proportion of buildings have been re-roofed in modern concrete replacements which lack the quality and character of the original. Clay pantiles and Welsh slates are well represented, the use of pantiles indicating that the village lies in an area of transition between the stone slates of the uplands to the west and pantiles to the lowland east. Vertically sliding sashes and Yorkshire sashes form the traditional design for windows, coupled with solid doors.

Stone walls make an important contribution to the overall character providing strong visual as well as physical links between the building groups. Trees are not a strong feature of Hudswell and may be an area for future attention, along with the removal of overhead wires which are excessively prominent along the village street. The character of some individual buildings has been marred by perhaps well intentioned, though in practice, damaging external change. Such changes provide ample demonstration of the vulnerability of the simple local vernacular style, but also offers opportunity for future

enhancement projects. Parking is a further issue which should be addressed, in particular its impact upon the village green.

Kirby Hill Conservation Area

Kirby Hill 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 its extension in 1995. The District Council consider that these qualities should be preserved or enhanced, as the case may be.

Perched on a ledge above a broad valley, Kirby Hill is small and compact in form, with the bulk of buildings grouped tightly round the central rectangular green. The village possesses a strong sense of enclosure, and is largely screened from the road which winds its way between buildings at the north east corner. This somewhat private and peaceful atmosphere reflects the history of Kirby Hill as a seat of learning and a refuge for those in need, provided through the Dakyn Trust which was established in the C16th. Although the Church of St Peter and St Felix, which dates from the C12th, dominates the wider view, it was the Dakyn Trust which most directly influenced the form of the village and limited development from an early age, preserving its ancient identity intact. The only historic buildings to break this formal arrangement are the C19th Shoulder of Mutton public house, and the former Vicarage dated 1868. Nikolaus Pevsner in The Buildings of England, described Kirby Hill as "a perfect village".

Due to its elevated position, landscape figures prominently in the setting of Kirby Hill from every direction. Although this was recognised at the time of the original designation, the conservation area boundary was related more closely to the built settlement. Subsequent pressure for development on the fringes of the village has highlighted the vulnerability of its immediate landscape setting to harmful change. Extension of the Conservation Area to include the surrounding fields will help to give fuller recognition to their very significant contribution to the overall character of Kirby Hill.

Within the village is an array of vernacular buildings which taken individually are of great architectural and historic interest, but in such close proximity produce a grouping of outstanding quality. Every building grouped around the central green is included on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.
The outstanding secular building within the group is the part mullioned Old Grammar School, the main range of which dates from c1556. Others of particular note include Manor House, a 'London' school during the late C18th and early C19th, Dakyn House built in 1754, now almshouses, sadly much altered, and West Hall, a large C17th complex. In architectural terms Kirby Hill provides rich variety, including mullioned windows, sliding sashes, Yorkshire sashes and traditional solid doors, though all buildings reflect local vernacular styling, complemented by the use of good quality local stone from Gayles Quarry, generally squared and laid to course, and stone slate roof coverings. Valuable contrast is provided by East Cottage, a rendered building with pantile roof.

The central green is of special significance to the overall character of Kirby Hill, together with the mature trees which envelop the Church and former Vicarage. The only other tree of significance within the core of the conservation area is a large horse chestnut on the village green. Walls and hedges are particularly important to the heart of the village and to the character of the approach roads and surrounding landscape.

Ill-considered replacement windows and doors have marred the architectural quality of some buildings. Overall, the value of Kirby Hill is such that care must be taken to avoid damaging change in the future and opportunities seized wherever possible to enhance

the overall character through restoration work. Another area for concern is damage to the village green due to car parking. It is important that this problem of erosion should be reversed.

Leyburn Conservation Area

Leyburn Conservation Area was designated in 1973. 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.

Located on the north slopes of Wensleydale, Leyburn is a commercial and shopping centre serving an extensive rural area and agricultural community. The town has a somewhat curious history and an undeserved reputation as a rather bleak place. Although its architecture may not be as rich or varied as nearby Middleham, nevertheless it does have character, and is worthy of Conservation Area status.

Occupation of the Leyburn area dates from about 6,000 BC., and "finds" in and around the town confirm its archaeological importance. Evidence suggests that throughout the Norman and Medieval periods Leyburn was little more than a small hamlet and only reached prominence following the decline of Middleham and Wensley. In 1684 Leyburn was first granted its market, a function which continued to expand and played a major role in shaping both the character and form of the town. The town is laid out in two main squares, Grove Square and the Market Place, the latter being extended on its western side by Commercial Square. High Street links the two squares, and in conjunction with Grove Square perhaps marks the site of the original small hamlet. The only other significant expansion of the historic core occurred to the east of the Market Place where the town developed towards Leyburn Station following the coming of the railway in 1855. The Market Place is a huge open square which in part gives the town its rather windswept air. A balance in scale is achieved through the height of the surrounding buildings which are almost entirely of three storey scale arranged in a continuous terraced form, a characteristic repeated in Commercial Square. Grove Square, in contrast, is altogether more domestic in character. The High Street likewise exhibits considerable variations in scale which add to its townscape interest.

With the exception of the important tree groups at Leyburn Hall and the grounds to Thornbrough Hall, the wider landscape setting has little impact on the character of the Conservation Area, which is drawn tightly around the historic core. Architecturally Leyburn offers far more than might at first be apparent. In terms of general character most buildings follow the simple vernacular style, built in local stone, which in itself is of particular interest. The rather sombre grey stone used on many buildings has already been mentioned, but this is only one local variation. Rubble is also to be found, but not just the usual warm sandstone, but in addition, a hard, dark (in some cases almost black) shale used for both walling and occasionally roofing. Dressed sandstone is also used, as well as render, which provides a rich and welcome contrast, providing the facing for some of the most important and prominent buildings. These include Leyburn Hall, the best building in the town, dated c1750, the Town Hall dated 1856, and the Grove Hotel dated 1757. Other buildings of note include Thornbrough Hall dated 1863, the Midland Bank of 1875, the Sandpiper Inn dating from the late C17th, and the impressive late Victorian St. Matthew's Terrace. Roof coverings are generally of either stone or Welsh slate, though the increasing use of concrete replacements is a worrying trend.

Perceptions of the Conservation Area stem from the open squares as much as from buildings and building groups. Unfortunately the widespread use of tarmac in the Market Place and Grove Square has helped to create the impression of wide open spaces

without real texture or quality. The functional role of the squares need not inhibit the use of attractive materials and by contrast the recent cobbling scheme carried out in Commercial Square highlights both the opportunity for enhancement and the value of using traditional surfacing materials.

The uncomplicated nature of Leyburn's buildings, typically involving sash windows and traditional solid doors, is vulnerable to damaging change, and where this has occurred, opportunities for restoration should be taken. There is great scope for preservation and enhancement work in Leyburn, but care will be required to avoid losing its prevailing character as a working market town.

Quarry Hills (Leyburn) Conservation Area

Quarry Hills Conservation Area was designated in 1988. 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 Conservation Area is based upon Quarry Hills House, opened in 1877 as a workhouse, and its subsidiary buildings. The area lies to the east of the central core of the town and is separated from the main Leyburn Conservation Area by new development.

The main building, of substantial two storey scale, is the dominant structure within the group, and whilst still prominent within the panoramic view of Leyburn from the east, development of the surrounding land has somewhat reduced its wider impact. Behind the main building are a pair of two storey cottages, which due to their siting and comparatively smaller scale, are much less dominant than Quarry Hills House. Other buildings within the site are of single storey scale, providing interesting contrasts in the overall scene.

Contained within a substantial stone wall, the site lies on rising ground. To the south, the boundary is marked by a stone wall, which also acts to a retain a raised garden area.

Although Leyburn is known to be of general archaeological interest, this particular site contains no known archaeology.

The buildings are constructed in a sombre grey local stone, which can produce a rather austere or bleak appearance, although many buildings within the core of the town are constructed in this local material. Generally in Leyburn the main facade to buildings tends to be in squared and strictly coursed stone, with rubble, again brought to course, utilised on side and rear elevations. Somewhat curiously for such a visually prominent building, Quarry Hills House and its subsidiary buildings are constructed entirely in rubble.

The strongly Victorian architectural character includes the use of architectural dressings, though again in a rather unusual combination of both plain or ashlar and semi-pitched facings. Gables are strongly emphasised through the use of prominent copings and projecting stepped chimney stacks. The basic form is completed with a projecting string course and external joinery of a distinctly Victorian character, i.e. 4 pane vertically sliding sashes and panelled doors. The buildings are quite narrow gutted, the main facade of Quarry Hills House being punctuated by three gabled projections, the central one of full two storey height and the outer two single storey. Roof coverings are in Welsh slate.

Within this small Conservation Area there is one tree of particular note on the north boundary of the site, a mature specimen which adds considerably to the overall setting.

The future preservation and enhancement of the Conservation Area will rely upon maintaining both the distinctive architectural character of Quarry Hills, and limiting infilling, which could otherwise damage the original relationship between individual buildings in the group.

Marske Conservation Area

Marske 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. Marske is split by the National Park boundary. 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.

Marske lies in an area of truly outstanding landscape, though due to the topography of the area the village is not particularly prominent, nestling into a hollow, close to the junction of the narrow valley cut by Marske Beck and the Swale. Indeed there is almost a sense of surprise on entering the village. This, combined with the high quality of its buildings, form and spacious nature, produce an air of tranquillity, and create a quite distinctive sense of place. Although the settlement pre-dates Domesday, its current form and character derive from more agricultural and mining influences, together with the development of the estate centred upon Marske Hall. The Hall and grounds occupy the southern half of the settlement. Rather curiously the Hall and its fine ornamental gardens are separated by a road which links the village to the "new" Richmond - Reeth road. The reason behind this is that the main road was not authorised until 1836, prior to which Marske lay on the principal route. A corn mill was demolished to make way for the ornamental gardens, now a striking feature in its own right. The remainder of the village is represented by two distinct clusters of buildings, the first centred upon the Church, and the second around Home Farm and Manor House, with a finger of more recent development extending along the lane leading to Clints. Between these elements are a series of open paddocks.

The Conservation Area boundary has been drawn quite tightly around the building groups, though enclosed fields which are important to the overall character of Marske are incorporated, as well as the distinctive screen belt of mature trees to the south of School House, which forms a natural edge to the village.

Available information suggests that from an archaeological point of view, Marske is unlikely to be of significant interest .

Architecturally, buildings follow local vernacular traditions, with limited openings, simple detailing and a generally robust style. Cottages typically incorporate sash windows and solid doors. Stone predominates both for wall construction, which varies from good quality dressed stone to rubble, and roofing. Constant variation in scale adds considerably to the visual quality of the building groups, particularly that centred upon the Church. Outstanding buildings, include the Church of St. Edmund King and Martyr which dates from the C12th, and the Old Rectory built in c1753.

Although there are no formal "greens" within the village, the paddocks separating the central and northern groups compensate for this and are of considerable importance to Marske's quality of openness. As already mentioned, trees make a significant contribution throughout the Conservation Area. Stone walls likewise play an important role in providing strong visual and physical links.

Few buildings have suffered from ill-considered change, though where this has occurred, opportunities exist for enhancement. The problem of intrusive overhead wires will also need to be addressed.

The potential for future large farm buildings to impact upon the setting of Marske is highlighted by modern agricultural buildings to north-east of the village.

Melsonby Conservation Area

Melsonby Conservation Area was designated in 1975 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 the origins of Melsonby date back to before Domesday, the village appears to have gained prominence as a result of associations with the training and racing of horses on nearby Gatherley Moor, particularly during the C15th and C16th. At this time Gatherley Moor was considered to be the most celebrated course in the North of England. The historic core of the village, which follows the east-west course of Waterfall Beck, is basically linear in form, although modern development, particularly to the south along Moor Road, has created a second north south axis. Despite this expansion, the historic core remains well defined.

The village lies in the shallow valley formed by Waterfall Beck, with buildings arranged in terraced form above the level of the beck, and frontages set widely apart. This has allowed the central space to take on a very significant and in many ways dominant role. At its west end this open area consists of a network of small enclosed gardens and is slightly less well defined due to a limited amount of infill development. Cross-roads in the centre of the village provide the main break to otherwise largely continuous frontages. To the east of the cross-roads, the valley deepens and widens, and takes on a distinctively open character, terminated by the building group and magnificent trees around the Church, Glebe Farm, the Rectory and Orchard House.

From a distance the older core of the village is lost in the gently rolling agricultural landscape which surrounds Melsonby, with only the Church being at all prominent. For this reason the boundary has been drawn quite tightly around the historic core. Archaeology has featured as an issue in relation to development along Moor Road adjacent to "Scots Dyke", but not within the Conservation Area.

In architectural terms the character of Melsonby is based firmly upon the collective value of its many simple vernacular cottages and houses. This is not to suggest that the village does not contain outstanding buildings, but rather that its overall character is derived from the value of the attractive terraced groups of, in many instances, quite modest cottages which produce a high quality of townscape. Buildings are generally of two stories, but display considerable variation in scale which adds considerably to the street scene. Stone is used extensively for walling, and tends to be quite variable in quality, but always laid to course. Perhaps the reason for some poor quality rubble facades might be explained through the loss of render, a material which makes a particularly striking contribution, and which appears to have been more widespread prior to the current misguided fashion for its removal. Clay pantiles, stone slates and Welsh slates provide traditional roof coverings, though unfortunately drab modern concrete ribbed tiles have replaced the original covering in a number of cases. Although basically simple in form, a number of buildings display some fine detailing including stone dressings, good quality door casings and surrounds, and a rather curious form of raised gable coping peculiar to this part of the District. Windows are typically vertically sliding

sashes, Yorkshire sashes or balanced casements, with traditional doors of solid construction.

The contribution of the central open area cannot be overstated and its long term protection must be a fundamental aim. Likewise the network of walls and enclosures together with the extensive tree cover within the heart of the Conservation Area, which play such a valuable role in establishing the special character of Melsonby. Projects to safeguard and strengthen the contribution of these features coupled with the opportunities to restore badly altered facades offer ample scope for future enhancement.

Middleham Conservation Area

Middleham Conservation Area was designated in 1973. 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.

Located on rising ground to the south of the River Ure, Middleham occupies an excellent defensive position overlooking Wensleydale and guarding the entrance to Coverdale. Although its origins rest firmly with the Castle, occupation of the locality appears to date back to Roman times, probably to the east of the present town. Historically, with its associations with Richard III, and also architecturally, Middleham has few peers, but the town is very much a working community centred upon its own specialist industry, the training of racehorses. Whilst the Castle has played a major role in shaping the course of history, it is racehorse training which has had the most profound affect upon the form and character of Middleham as we now know it.

The bulk of the town is arranged around two irregular squares, the sloping Market Place and the relatively flat Swine Market, which extends into West End, and probably corresponds to the original extent of the outer bailey of the Castle. To the north of the Market Place, Kirkgate drops steeply away, with cottages framing a view of the countryside beyond. The Market Place itself falls to the east, and the change in levels permits attractive views over lower Wensleydale. To the rear of the main squares run narrow streets, which in addition to being of interest in their own right, provide attractive views of building groups and roofscapes. Masked behind the cottages and houses which line the squares and streets are clusters of stable yards which combine to provide a unique form to the settlement.

To the south and east of the existing town lie areas of immense archaeological importance including the earlier defensive site of William's Hill. Recent archaeological finds, including the famous Middleham Jewel, have served to emphasise the importance of these areas.

Although racehorse training in Middleham could well date back to Roman times, it is the prosperity of the C18 which most influenced the architecture of Middleham, leaving a legacy of fine Georgian town houses. All but the most modest of cottages appear to have an air of quality, reflecting and complementing the simple but elegant architecture of the larger houses. Elegant sash windows in a variety of glazing bar patterns, often contained with dressed stone surrounds, coupled with solid panelled doors, typify the architectural style. Fine C18th houses include Jasmine House (1772), Clarendon House, Manor House and The Priory. Other periods are also well represented, combining to provide a rich architectural mix. Middleham Castle, which dates from the C12th, is, of course, the most significant and dominant individual structure in the town, and there is ample evidence to suggest that it also became a source of building materials for the houses and cottages constructed beneath its ruined walls.

Local stone of good quality is extensively used throughout Middleham, though render also played a very significant role. Sadly there has been a tendency to strip render exposing the underlying poor quality rubble, which has done little to enhance the character of individual buildings or the area as a whole. A rather unexpected contrast is found in the Market Place where two buildings are fronted in brick, an unusual but interesting choice in an area dominated by stone. Roof coverings are generally of local stone slate or Welsh slate.

The open spaces within the central area are of immense importance to the overall character of Middleham and the setting of its fine buildings. Much of the hard surfacing was originally cobbled, and although significant areas of cobbles remain, tarmac was unfortunately introduced in the post war period, particularly in the Swine Market. At West End, the soft landscaping of the enclosed central spaces add important contrast as do the numerous trees scattered throughout the conservation area. Insensitive overhead wires intrude in some areas of the town. Buildings affected by perhaps well intentioned, though in practice ill-considered alterations, provide the other main opportunities for enhancement work.

Middleton Tyas Conservation Area.

Middleton Tyas Conservation Area was designated in 1978 and extended in 1995. The following 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 lies close to, but hidden from, one of the best known road junctions in the country, Scotch Corner, which also marked an important junction of two Roman roads, Watling Street and Dere Street. However, the discovery of a stone axe head in Middleton Tyas in 1977, at least 3,000 years old, suggests very early occupation of the area. Whilst Middleton Tyas displays no outward signs of this earlier phase of its history, the form and character of the village has been shaped through its associations with the industries of agriculture, quarrying and copper mining. Agriculture continues to have a significant affect upon the village and its setting, but the evidence of a once thriving mining industry is less obvious. Copper mining was prominent from the 1730's to about 1880, and brought some prosperity the agricultural community, reflected in the scale and quality of some of the local houses.

Middleton Tyas is a village of two distinct halves. The gently east-west sloping linear west end is characterised by groups and terraces of cottages arranged in a wide street with walled gardens fronting the main street, whilst the more undulating and loosely knit east end is served by a network of narrow lanes flanked by high stone walls. The village has seen considerable expansion during the second half of the C20th and the conservation area therefore focuses on the historic core. The wider landscape setting has little impact on the character of the conservation area. However, important open paddocks which play a particular role in defining the overall structure of the village and the setting of individual buildings are included, for example adjacent to Village Farm and Rose Hill.

Architecturally, Middleton Tyas provides both an interesting mix of style and grouping which enhances the overall quality of the townscape. Buildings are generally of stone construction with a mix of rubble and cobble being prominent, enlivened with brick dressings. Some quality squared stonework does exist, though this is very much in the minority. A particular feature of the village is the use of render and colourwashing, which provide contrast and interest. The cottage adjoining Middleton House retains an ochre-coloured render, a colour obtained locally. This tradition tends to suggest that

limewashing and render were once more widespread in the village. Buildings are generally of the local vernacular style, robust cottages and houses with limited openings. Pantiles are extensively used for roof coverings, sometimes in combination with a stone slate eaves course.
Although evidence of mullion windows exists in some buildings, for example Village Farmhouse, most buildings contain either vertically sliding sash windows or sideways sliding Yorkshire sashes, and traditional solid panelled or boarded doors. Particular buildings of note include West Hall which dates from c1705, East Hall built in 1713 by Leonard Hartley, who was largely responsible for the copper mining, Inglenook House which dates from the C17th and Village Farmhouse, a much altered mid-C17th house.

The only open space of any significance is the small but attractive "green" opposite West Hall. Trees, particularly in the central and eastern parts of the village add enormously to the overall character. Mention has already been made of the importance of the stone boundary walls throughout the conservation area, which play such an important role in providing both visual links and a strong sense of enclosure. Whilst on the whole the general scale and massing of buildings remains intact, some cottages have suffered from well intentioned though ill-considered change. Opportunities for building enhancement should be exploited wherever possible, together with the removal of intrusive overhead wires. Recent developments have made a genuine attempt to reflect the character of local buildings and on the whole are successful.

Moulton Conservation Area

Moulton 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 village of Moulton lies to the east of the A1 in an area of attractive rolling countryside. The origins of the community appear to be firmly based in agriculture, though the demolition of agricultural buildings in the centre of the village at Village Farm, and the re-development of this site for housing has changed the overall nature of the village. Moulton's low lying position prevents any impression of the village from a distance. Indeed the ridge lines to the east and north provide are strong landscape features. The village itself is rather curious for its lack of clearly defined form, with buildings loosely clustered in a roughly square area, served by a series of narrow lanes and tracks and divided into private gardens and open spaces by a combination of stone walls and hedges. To the south of the main group lies Moulton Hall, one of two fine manor houses in the village, both constructed by the same family. The lack of defined form and the loose nature of the various building groups creates an unusual character, which fortunately the post-war development has respected.

The Conservation Area boundary is drawn tightly around the village on all but the south side, where the importance of Moulton Hall and its heavily tree-clad setting are included, in addition to the open paddocks to the south of Village Farm.

Although the village contains a number of early buildings, archaeology has not been a major issue locally.

Moulton contains a number of fine buildings, with a rich mix of style and materials, though the majority follow the simple, robust, local vernacular style usually incorporating sliding sash or Yorkshire sash windows and solid doors. Stone, both rubble and dressed predominates, though the bulk of local stone is not of a particularly high quality. A small amount of brick is also in evidence adding variation in colour. Perhaps more important however, is the contrast provided by render, a material used more extensively than is presently evident, with Moulton Grange and Spring Cottage being examples of render

removal. The widespread use of render in former times emphasises both the high regard in which this material was held and the lack of good quality local stone. Buildings are generally roofed in clay pantiles, some with a slate eaves course. As referred to earlier, Moulton contains two outstanding manor houses, both built for the Smithson family, and both Grade I listed. Moulton Hall, which dates from the mid-C17th is a truly exceptional building, with Flemish gables and the south and east elevations constructed in ashlar rusticated in hammer finished bands. Moulton Manor earlier and equally important, though not as perfectly designed, built c1570. Other historic buildings of note include Sun Cottage, a single storey building which gives no clue to being a C13th Chapel, Manor Cottage, a single storey cottage dating from the C17th, and the Wesleyan Chapel dated 1835, rather curiously converted to a school then reading room following its replacement by a Gothic Wesleyan Chapel in 1863.

The small area of green opposite Village Farm has been recently planted with trees, which when mature, will in combination with the existing mature trees, walls and hedgerows throughout the Conservation Area, add to its charm and character.

New development has been absorbed, and time will judge the lasting qualities of the 70's award winning "modern" West Ridge development, or the 80's pastiche of Village Farm (Smithson Close).

Newsham Conservation Area

Newsham 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.

Newsham is a linear village arranged around a long, relatively narrow village green. Although the village has been extended during the second half of the C20th, development mainly occurred to the west of The Green along Barningham Road, and left intact the overall form of the historic core. The village is an ancient settlement which pre-dates the Domesday Book. The C16th market cross at the junction of The Green and Dark Lane provides a clue to the former importance of Newsham, which gained prominence for its market during the Tudor and Stuart periods. Iron stocks near the cross replaced a wooden set in 1828. The only significant extension of The Green occurs along the east side of Dark Lane.
There was, incidentally, a flax mill between Newsham and Dalton which was a source of crude paper for the local area.

Although providing an attractive backdrop to the village, the surrounding landscape, which is almost parkland in appearance, has no direct impact upon the character of the Conservation Area. The boundary thus concentrates on the historic core and is drawn tightly around the buildings and gardens. Houses are generally arranged in small groups and terraces following a strict east-west axis, with a mixture of properties fronting directly onto the green and contained within attractive stone walled gardens. This combination of form creates interesting and varied townscape quality.

Newsham possesses a pleasant mix of individual building styles, though the local vernacular traditions of restrained, simple detailing, are evident throughout. The majority of the cottages and houses are of two storey construction, built in local stone, which is generally of a good quality, some squared with ashlar dressings. Diamond Napier House, inscribed 1756, is particularly interesting, the front elevation being constructed in high quality ashlar sandstone with chamfered rusticated quoins, sill bands to both floors, and a decorated cornice. An important and striking contrast is achieved through the use of render, which appears to have been more widespread prior to the late C20th fashion

for stripping this traditional external finish. Houses and cottages typically incorporate sash windows and traditional solid doors. Roof coverings vary substantially, with the traditional local materials of pantiles and stone slates predominating. Welsh slates are also in evidence, as are less aesthetically pleasing modern concrete interlocking tiles. Other individual buildings of note include Boundary House with its old external stack, Newsham Hall dating from the C17th, which housed a "London School" during the early C19th, and the early C18th Central House. Earby Hall and Newsham Place (outside the Conservation Area) are also former schools, and the diaries of the C18th schoolmaster for the latter are of great local interest.

The Green is of immense importance to the overall character of the village, and every effort should be made to prevent any further erosion either through damage caused by car parking or the construction of new surfaced accesses. Trees planted in and around The Green make a significant contribution, and it is pleasing to note that replanting has occurred. Indeed trees are a valuable feature throughout the Conservation Area. Stone walls likewise play an important role both in creating a sense of enclosure and providing strong physical and visual links between the various building groups. In relation to the spatial qualities of the village, stark contrast to the open character of The Green is found in the narrow, and appropriately named, Dark Lane.

Well intentioned, though in practice damaging alterations have harmed the character of some cottages, and with the removal of intrusive overhead wires, these offer potential for enhancement work.

Patrick Brompton Conservation Area

Patrick Brompton 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.

Patrick Brompton is a linear village, extended at its eastern end during the second half of the C20th. The village is not particularly prominent within its rolling agricultural landscape setting, with no perception of its scale or form evident from distant views. Most buildings lie to the north of the A684, which winds its way through the village in a series of gentle turns that add considerably to its attractiveness and visual appeal. The village is divided by Brompton Beck, which in itself does not have a major impact, although the shallow valley it cuts, coupled with the tree lined banks, create a striking feature. Most buildings are detached, a characteristic not common amongst Richmondshire villages, although a strong sense of grouping and visual continuity is achieved through a network of stone walls. The majority of buildings run parallel to the A684, but an interesting contrast exists to the east of the Church where cottages are grouped attractively around a green which runs at right angles to the road. This is one of three small areas of village green which, without being at all dominant, add spatial quality to the village.
To date, archaeology has not played a significant role in our appreciation of the village.

The architectural character of Patrick Brompton is based upon the local vernacular style, with solid robust buildings, simple detailing and limited openings. Most of the cottages and houses are of two storey scale, but with considerable variation in eaves and ridge heights. Stone has been used extensively though not exclusively, a number of buildings being attractively rendered, for example the Green Tree public house. The quality of local stone varies quite widely from the fine coursed sandstone of Dalesend, the squared coursed rubble of Hillside, to the random rubble found on the smaller cottages and rear elevations, again laid to course. The roofscape is a pleasing mix of stone slates, Welsh slates and pantiles, with few buildings having lost their original

coverings. Stone copings, string courses, shaped kneelers and other similar architectural dressings add to the overall quality of the cottages and houses. Windows are mainly vertically sliding and Yorkshire sideways sliding sashes, with some mullions, for example the former Schoolroom and the Lodge. Traditional doors are of solid construction. Individual buildings of note include the Church of St. Patrick which dates from the late C12th but was extensively restored in 1864, Dalesend, formerly The Hall, a fine three storey building dating from the early C18th, and the late C17th Old Rectory with its small front garden attractively enclosed by early-mid C19th railings.

The important visual role of the village green has already been emphasised and its contribution has been considerably enhanced by recent tree planting, strengthening the tree cover, which is a particularly strong characteristic of Patrick Brompton. The extensive tree cover to the south of the road is a particularly striking feature. Whilst attempts to protect the village green from erosion are laudable in their intent, the lines of white posts and painted stones are a stark reminder of the visual and physical measures sometimes required to prevent damage by vehicles. Possible future enhancement schemes include the removal of intrusive overhead wires and the restoration of elevations affected by perhaps well intentioned, though in practice damaging change.

The rather open grained nature of the village has in the past provided some potential for infill, but future scope for development may prove more limited. Whilst overall the form of the historic core remains intact, the quality of the design detailing and choice of materials has regrettably not always accurately reflected the character of the local vernacular style, emphasising the considerable care required to successfully integrate new buildings into an historic setting. Some cottages have been altered, and in combination with the removal of intrusive overhead wires, these offer potential for enhancement schemes.

Preston under Scar Conservation Area

In 1989 Preston under Scar was designated a Conservation Area in connection with the preparation of a non-statutory Village Appraisal. 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.

Preston under Scar is set on the north side of Wensleydale below a prominent escarpment known as Preston Scar. The village has a strong linear form, following the contours of the valley side. Whilst occupation of the area around the village dates back at least to the Iron Age, the origins of the present village are very much in mining. There is reference to "lead merchants" at Preston under Scar as early as 1307, but it was the growth of mining during the C18th and C19th which most influenced the development of the village.

From distant views to the south the village, whilst clearly visible, merges into a vast rural landscape of exceptional quality. Its immediate setting relies also upon part of this wider landscape, in particular the dense tree cover behind and to the west of the village, and the paddocks immediately south of the central area. The Conservation Area includes these areas which are regarded as important to the overall character of Preston under Scar.

To date archaeology has not featured as a major issue within Preston under Scar itself, and this may well continue to be the case. Within the wider setting of the village however, this particular issue may become a material factor in relation to future development proposals, for example agricultural buildings, which are not anticipated through the Local Plan.

The architectural character of the village is to be found in the intrinsic quality of its many simple cottages rather than in individual buildings of particular merit. That is not to say that the village does not contain buildings of note, but rather that it is the sum of the overall architectural composition which dominates. Most buildings are of two storey construction and arranged in terraces following the contours of the hillside. Where detached, unity with the adjoining groups and terraces is achieved through the network of stone boundary walls which provide strong visual as well as physical links.

Buildings are constructed of local stone, which is of only moderate quality, though generally well coursed. A little render is to be found, which now tends to be limited to end gables as a means of weather protection rather than any form of architectural statement or design. However there is ample evidence to suggest the use of lime render was once considerably more widespread. The quality of some, but not all, C20th development within the village could have been improved had greater care been exercised over the selection of the stone and walling technique. Roof coverings are of stone slate or Welsh slate, with C20th developments opting for modern concrete roof tiles which attempt to reflect the appearance of natural stone slates. In elevational terms, buildings are very much of the local vernacular style with limited openings and simple detailing, usually involving sliding sash, Yorkshire sash or balanced casement windows, and solid doors.

Although Preston under Scar is essentially linear in form, there are a number of relatively small, but important open areas within the body of the village which make significant contributions to its overall character. The green at the east end of the village and the area around Lilac Cottage are particularly worthy of note. Signs of erosion caused primarily by parking demonstrate the vulnerability of these areas. The special contribution made by trees and stone walls to the overall character of Preston under Scar has already been emphasised.

The architectural character of a number of individual buildings has been marred by well intentioned, though in practice damaging alterations, offering opportunities for restoration and enhancement projects. The removal of intrusive overhead wires is also likely to be a priority.