

Murton Parish

Neighbourhood



APPENDIX A

Neighbourhood Plan: Its context and data

Adopted Version

2025

Plan

2024-2044



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A1 Introduction

A1.1 Having obtained agreement to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Murton Parish, the first steps taken by the Parish Council were to set up a Working Party to review in detail the state of the Parish, in particular its history and geography and to obtain as detailed account of its present population as possible.

A1.2 This Appendix summarises the information that was obtained and which is arranged in the following sections:

A1 Location: the Parish in relation to York and the rest of the UK

A2 Residential settlements: the different residential areas within the Parish

A3 Resident population: who lives in the Parish – analysis by age, satisfaction and other criteria

A4 Housing: distribution, character and tenure (owned/rented)

A5 Business and agriculture: the wide range of commercial activities, including farming, based in the Parish

A6 The environment and the Green Belt: balancing new development with quality of life and conservation

A7 Community facilities: social venues, shops, transport, etc

A1.3. Following this, we began to find and record what those who lived and worked in the Parish liked and valued, and what we needed in the Neighbourhood Plan to protect and develop in order to maintain and enhance these qualities.

The section in the Referendum version of the Plan, *Murton Parish*, is a very brief account about the Parish based on this Appendix.

A2 Location

A2.1 (4.1.1)¹ Murton Parish covers an area of ca 340 hectares on the eastern edge of the city of York. This area sits between two main roads radiating out from the city, one going to Hull and the other to Scarborough. The Parish's western (city-side) boundary is about 3 km from the centre of York and the Minster can be seen clearly from many parts of the Parish including the village.

A2. (4.1.2) The Parish is well sited for access to other parts of the country. It is close to a major trunk road, A64 (Leeds to Scarborough). This in turn links to the main north-south roads, M1 and A1 and thence to the east-west M62. Thus the Parish gives easy access to major roads to London, Hull, Newcastle, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool and the big Scottish cities. It is also within 6 km of York railway station which provides fast and frequent trains to London, Newcastle and Edinburgh and the east-west system to Hull, Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool, soon to be upgraded.

¹ One of the most important and helpful consultations was at the pre-submission stage involving all households and businesses in the Parish. Each received a letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council and an 8-page pamphlet explaining the role of Neighbourhood Planning, outlining the key proposals and giving all the Policy statements. The responses are recorded in the Consultation Document (Appendix 25). The references in brackets in this Appendix refer to the relevant paragraph in the Submission Plan (April 2022).

A3 Residential settlements

This section should be read in conjunction with Appendix B, A Brief History of the Township of Murton.

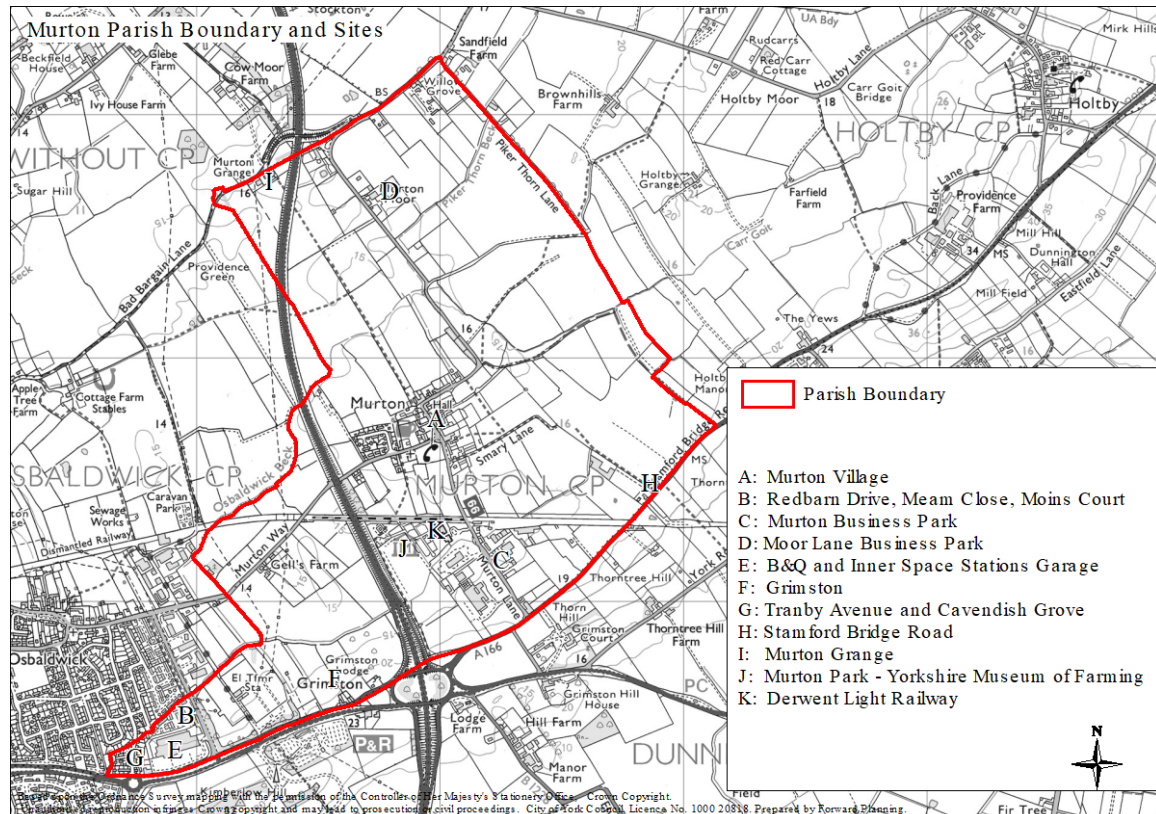


Figure A1 Murton Parish: The boundary and sites

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A3.1 (4.2.1) There are two main areas of defined settlement. One is the village at the heart of the Parish, with 139 dwellings (Figure A1, A) and which has a core designated as a Conservation Area (Appendix C and Figure A2). The other is adjacent to the Hull Road on the southern boundary with 119 dwellings (Figure A1, B and G). Of these, 6 are in Grimston (Figure A1, F) and along the Stamford Bridge Road (Figure A1, H).

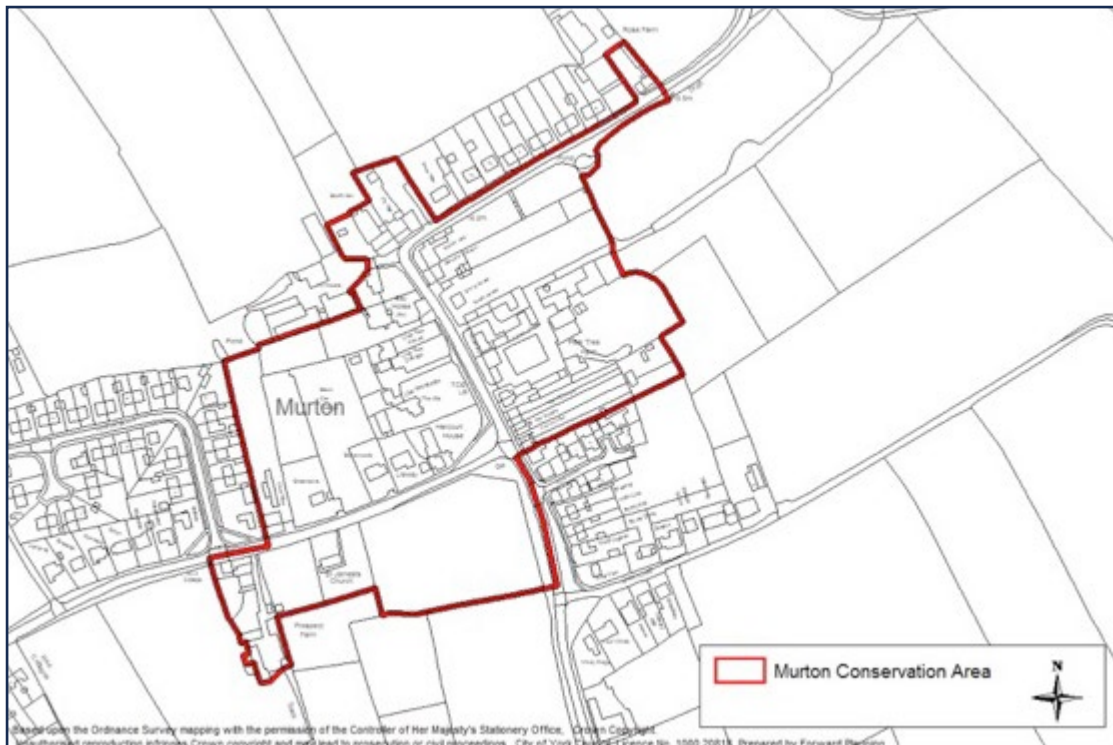


Figure A2 Murton Parish: Conservation Area

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The Village

A3.2 (4.2.2) This is a simple recent description of Murton Village by a Planning Inspector²:

'Murton is a typical agricultural street village with typical properties on the east side of Murton Lane fronting the street and with long narrow plots to the rear. the village of Murton is a very attractive one, retaining much of its eighteenth and nineteenth century built fabric and traditional form..... . The characteristic form of long narrow plots with development limited to the frontage is an important surviving feature'.

A3.3. And here is a more detailed description from the Murton Village Design Statement (Appendix D)³:

² APP/C2741/A/103187

³ <https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/321/murton-village-design-statement>

'It is a small and well-defined village with a clear village envelope and only a few properties close to, but outside, that envelope. Its setting is rural. The village is bounded by fields on all sides, although the rural gap to the south is quite narrow. The boundary between the village and the surrounding fields is irregular, having been historically determined by field and plot boundaries. The view towards the village from all sides emphasises its rural nature and location. Likewise the views from the village are predominantly rural, with distant views of the Yorkshire Wolds and the North York Moors, including the Kilburn White Horse. To the south of the village the glacial moraine ridge is evident. York Minster is clearly visible from many properties in the village, although the proximity of the raised A1237 York by-pass masks that view for some. In spite of changes, the village is geographically small. It is contained within an area of 0.25 square kilometres and extends no more than 400 metres north to south and 500 metres west to east. It is a typical Vale of York village, which is nonetheless individual and distinct and presents a traditional and rural character. There are shared characteristics of building materials, layout and scale, and a distinct quality in many 18th and 19th century buildings, including farm buildings.

The character of the village is focused on the main street, where the typical village linear layout of two opposing building lines survives. Farmsteads and houses predominate with farm buildings and outbuildings found to the rear. At the eastern side, a line of garths has been preserved. Development to the east and north of the area is located close to the road, either directly so or separated by low walls and railings or hedgerows. At the western side, the building line is recessed from the roadside, reflecting the non-agricultural, residential and at times higher status nature of development in this area.

The field opposite the Chapel and adjacent to the Church brings the countryside into the heart of the village. With the exception of a few houses in Murton Garth, all properties in the village have views across open countryside'.

A3.4 (4.2.3) The village, as described above, has indeed retained its characteristic shape and much of its eighteenth and nineteenth century built fabric. This is illustrated by studying the maps of the village from 1796 to the

Map showing lots and buildings along Town Street. The street is labeled "TOWN STREET".

Lot numbers and associated values (likely area or price) are listed next to the lots:

- 88: 0.1.32
- 89: 0.1.18
- 90: 0.2.21
- 87: 0.2.28
- 86: 0.2.0
- 85: 0.1.6
- 84: 0.2.8
- 83: 0.2.18
- 82: 0.1.32
- 81: 0.1.37
- 79: 2.1.24
- 70: 0.2.14
- 71: 0.1.23
- 72: 0.2.29
- 73: 0.2.27
- 74: 0.2.38
- 75: 0.1.32
- 76: 0.3.6
- 77: 1.0.13

Shaded areas represent buildings. A red-shaded lot 77 is located at the bottom right.

MURTON

844

Murton Hall

Murton

St. James' (in ruins)

Chu.

Mary Lane

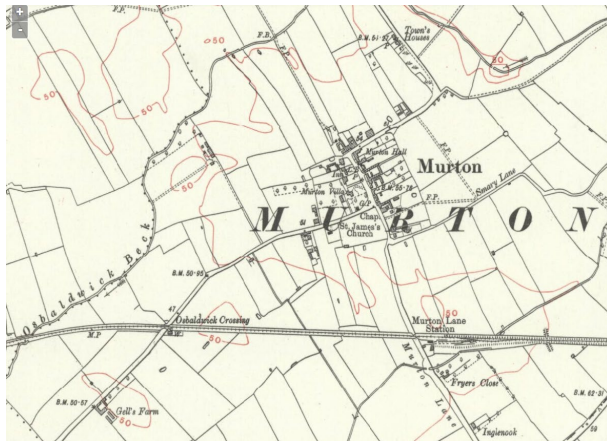
Direction Post

50

R 1

A detailed historical map of Murton, showing the village layout. The map includes labels for 'Murton Hall', 'Murton Villa', 'St. James's Church (In Ruins)', 'Methodist Chapel (Worship)', 'Day Farm Inn', and 'Smithy'. It also shows various streets, landmarks, and property boundaries. The map is oriented with North at the top. The title 'Murton' is prominently displayed in the upper right. The map is a colorized version of a historical document, with buildings in red and green, and roads in yellow. The map is surrounded by a black border. The map is a detailed historical map of Murton, showing the village layout, including Murton Hall, Murton Villa, St. James's Church, and various streets and landmarks. The map is oriented with North at the top. The title 'Murton' is prominently displayed in the upper right. The map is a colorized version of a historical document, with buildings in red and green, and roads in yellow. The map is surrounded by a black border.

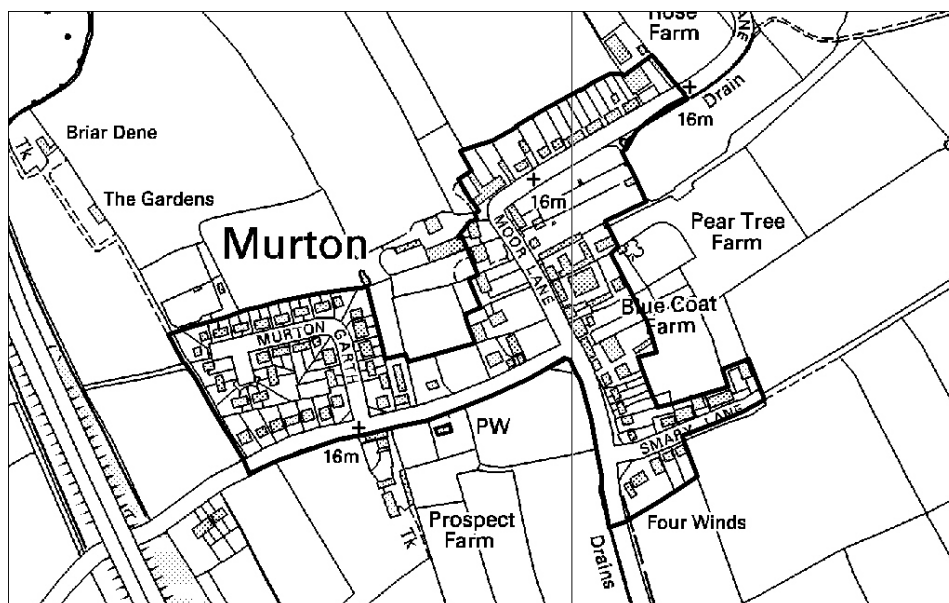
10



1931 Ordnance Survey Map



1950 Ordnance Survey Map



2000 Ordnance Survey Map

Figure A3 Some maps of Murton Village from 1796 to the present day

Plans and maps provided by David Jenkins. Ordnance Survey maps reproduced under License No. 1000 20818.

A3.5. Further historical information is given in brief in Appendix B, *A Brief History of the Township of Murton*

The settlements on the southern boundary of the Parish

A3.6 (4.2.4) There are 119 dwellings on the southern boundary of the Parish, adjacent to the Hull Road going eastwards from York towards Hull. There is also a modern (turn of the century) estate of 75 dwellings (Figure A1, B and Figure A4). The boundary of the Parish is such that it includes some houses along the Hull Road and down Tranby Avenue which is at right angles to it and, adjoining Tranby Avenue, there is Cavendish Grove (Figure A1, G and Figure A4).

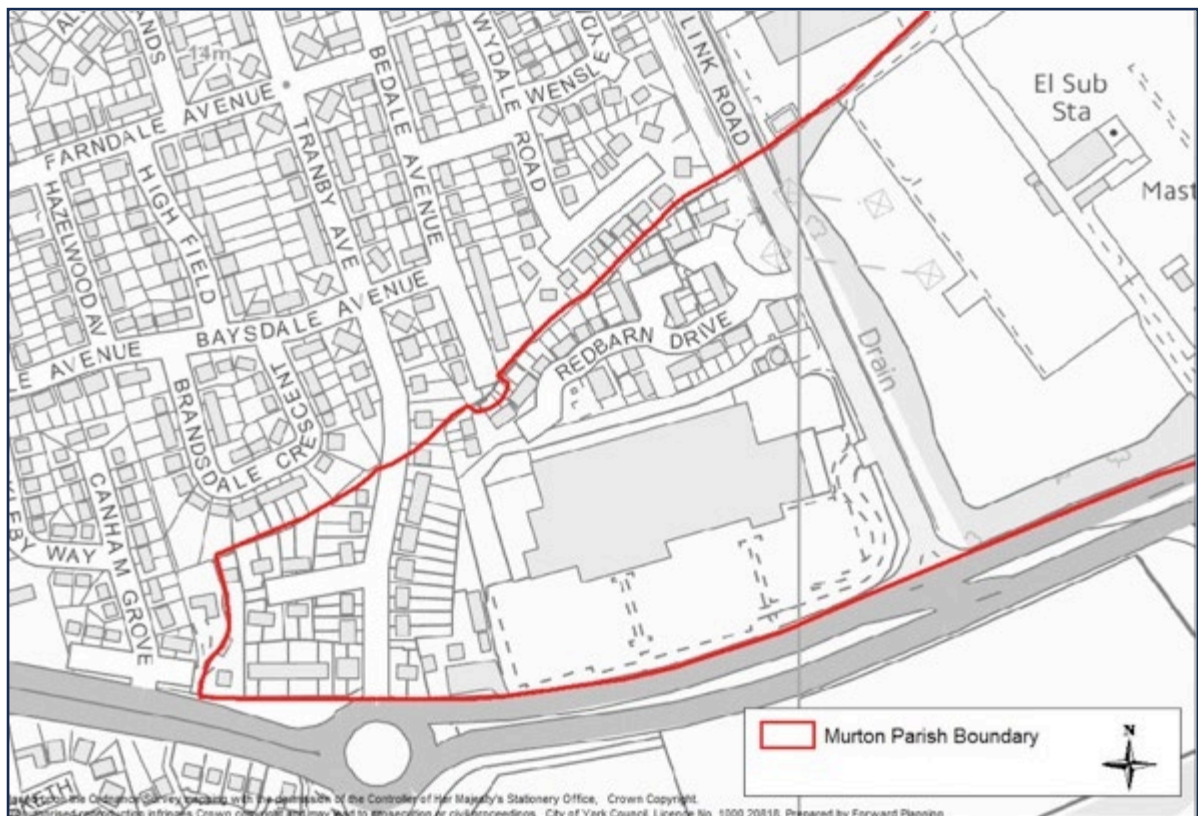


Figure A4 The southern part of Murton Parish

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Figure A5: Murton Parish: An aerial view of the southern part

A3.7 (4.2.5) The area adjacent to the Osbaldwick Link Road which contains 75 dwellings in Redbarn Drive, Meam Close and Moins Court, was built at the turn of this century and is attractively laid out (Figure A1, B and Figures A4 and A5). It contains a mix of apartments, terrace houses and semi-detached houses and with an open space near the entrance to the area.

A3.8 (4.2.6) The Parish also includes several houses further along the Hull Road at what is now known as Grimston Bar (Figure A1, F), and three houses along the Stamford Bridge Road which are at the outermost south-eastern edge of the Parish (Figure A1, H).

A4 Resident population

Introduction⁴

A4.1 (4.3.1) The 2021 Census (Appendix E) gives a total of 655 inhabitants (Table E1), compared with a total of 668 in the 2011 census. Roughly half of the Parish population lives in the village and the other half on the southern periphery.

A4.2 As the analyses below show, the two areas have differences in their age profile, partnership status, educational attainments and employment.

Gender

A4.3 (4.3.2) There are significantly more females living in the village than males, indeed significantly more than York as a whole (Table E1). However, the disparity between those living on the southern periphery and those living in York is nearer to the national average of 49:51%.

Ethnicity

A4.4 (4.3.3) The ethnic distribution is more markedly white in the village than in the housing on the southern periphery which is similar to the City of York as a whole (Table E2). Country-of-birth data show a similar trend, those living in the village are overwhelmingly born in the UK, with those living on the southern periphery less so and in line with that in the City of York as a whole (Table E3).

Age

A4.5 (4.3.4) There is a considerable difference in the age structure between the two main settlement areas in the Parish which, in turn, are different to York as a whole (Table E4). In particular, those aged between 20 and 24 make up about 5% of the village population but 30% of the population in the southern periphery. These figures contrast with 10% in York as a whole.

⁴ In this and subsequent sections, reference is made to the 2021 Census and the details can be found in Appendix E

A4.6. At the other end of the age profile, the population of the village is heavily weighted towards the 60+ profile, about 34%, compared to ca 14% in York as a whole and 7% in the southern periphery of the Parish.

Marriage/partnership

A4.7 (4.3.5) The partnership status in both areas shows a considerable disparity with York, with the number in the village married much higher and those in the southern periphery much lower than the proportion in the City of York as a whole (Table E5).

Social grades, educational attainment and employment

A4.8 (4.3.6) Within the Parish as a whole there is little difference with regard to AB and DE categories (Table E6). However, there are relatively many more C1s and fewer C2s in the newer housing than in the village or in York as a whole. On the other hand, there is not that significant difference in educational/professional qualifications, Level 4, but those in the newer housing have a much higher proportion of Level 3, no doubt reflecting the number of university students residing in that area (Table E7).

A4.9 (4.3.7) The rate of employment in the village is high with a significant number being self-employed (Table E8). As would be expected with a high proportion of students, the proportion of economically active in the southern periphery is lower and indeed it is lower than that in York as a whole.

Health

A4.10 (4.3.8) 91.4% on the southern edge regard themselves as having either very good or good health. However, as might be expected, the figure for the village is much lower, 80.3% (Table E9). These figures compare with 93.3% and 86.5%, ten years earlier. The population in the newer housing will have been 'refreshed' with younger people as the student population changes year by year while the population in the village is much more static.

Deprivation

A4.11 At first sight, one would not expect there to be any deprivation in the Parish but in terms of the Census, given in Table E10, there is. The proportion that has no elements of deprivation is slightly higher to that of York as a whole.

However, again as might be expected, the proportion with two or more elements is significantly lower in the village than in the newer areas in the Parish and in York as a whole.

Satisfaction

A4.12 (4.3.9) There is a high level of satisfaction expressed by residents in both main areas (Consultation Statement).

A5 Housing

A5.1 (4.4.1) The village, with its very high proportion of detached houses compared to the City of York, is an attractive place for families to live. The new housing on the southern border, which has a much higher proportion of flats and houses for rent, is similarly attractive both to those who rent, with a high proportion being students, and to owner occupiers (Table E11).

Distribution

A5.2 (4.4.2) As described above, most of the dwellings in the Parish are in two distinct areas – the 141 dwellings at the heart of the Parish in the village (Figure A1, A), and the 121 dwellings on the southern boundary, of which the dominant area is an estate of 75 dwellings built at the end of the last century (Figure A1, B).

Architecture

A5.3 (4.4.3) Half the houses in the village are detached and most of the remaining are semi-detached (Table E11). The ages of these houses range from the early 18th century to the present day, and their designs vary from the Georgian and Regency periods to modern ‘executive type’ housing.

A5.4 (4.4.4) The majority on the southern edge of the Parish were constructed as a single development in ca 2000 in a uniform way and with a mix of semi-detached, terraced houses and flats (Table E11). However, the earliest houses in Tranby Avenue, for example those at the southern end, are of particular interest, dating from the late 1930s. Generally all the two-storey houses have hipped roofs and six-paned double bay windows with either convex or squared frames. Wide, arched, recessed porches are common with unaltered survival rates of around 60%.

A5.5 (4.4.5) Differences in doors, fenestration, painted cladding to the exterior and porch style and shape exist throughout. Detached garages to the rear of the property or an attached garage, often with an extension on top, are common throughout the whole area. Houses on the southern end of Tranby Avenue contain the stone lintel design above the porch and bay windows.

These houses also feature a circular side window. Roughly 50% of these windows remain intact, including many with coloured glass.

A5.6 (4.4.6) The quality of the housing throughout the Parish can be gauged by looking at data on the Council Tax bands (Table E12). Only one dwelling is categorised as in Band A, 0.4%, compared to 12.3% in York as a whole.

Tenure

A5.7 (4.4.7) There is a significant difference in housing tenure between the two areas of the Parish (Table E13). Over 89% of the houses in the village are owner-occupied dropping to less than 51% on the southern periphery. While only 10.6% of the houses are rented in the village (up from 5% ten years previously), the housing stock on the southern periphery is over 48% rented, up from 34% in 2011.

A5.8 (4.4.8) 36% of the houses on the southern border contain 4 or more occupants while the comparative figure in the village is 12% (Table E14). This is due to the relatively high proportion of students living in the area in HMOs⁵.

⁵ As of 2015, data on the CYC website '*HMO Concentrations Greater than 10%*', which do not include dwellings which have not been recorded as HMOs for one reason or another, show that this area has over 20% HMOs. However, this figure is out of date and there are at least 30 (28%) HMOs in the area, well above that recommended by City of York Council policies.

A6 Businesses and agriculture

A6.1 (4.5.12) The dual contemporary and traditional characters of the Parish are further reflected in the diverse portfolio of businesses it hosts. Of these, farming has played a pivotal role for centuries and continues to do so, both commercially and as a key contributor to the broader living experience valued by residents.

A6.2 (4.5.2) Not surprisingly, many of the other businesses are related in some way to agriculture, but the portfolio also includes the leisure, retail, food processing and recycling sectors, along with several well-established home-based entrepreneurial businesses. All these activities provide employment, taxes and support to the regional and national economies.

Locations

A6.3 (4.5.3) Commercial activity occurs broadly in three areas within the Parish:

- Area 1: Murton Business Park, adjacent to the A166, the York-Stamford Bridge Road (Figure A1, C), and the area close by;
- Area 2: An area along the Hull Road (Figure A1, E);
- Area 3: Moor Lane and Bad Bargain Lane. (Figure A1, D and I).

The businesses in Areas 1 and 3 are physically separate from the two settlements but Area 2 (Hull Road) is close to the housing adjacent to the Hull Road.

Most of the remaining non-residential land is used for farming.

Farming and agricultural

A6.4 (4.5.4) Much the largest footprint, and with profound environmental consequences for the Parish, is that of the farms. The existence of the farms is integral to the overall pleasure and well-being cited by residents and which is recognized in the Neighbourhood Plan.

A6.5 We concur with Guideline 3 in the Murton Village Design Statement⁶:

‘No development should be permitted that prejudices the farming activity of the village farms. New development close to the farms should be compatible with neighbouring farming activity.

A6.6. The farming profile is agile, evolving to reflect market trends. Much of today’s focus is now animal husbandry, particularly sheep and some cattle, and much of the land is used for grazing. You can read more about the farms under *The Environment and the Green Belt*, below.

A6.7 (4.5.5) Other businesses relating to agriculture include:

- William Thompson (York) Ltd, part of the BATA Group and one of the largest animal feed companies in the North-East, and at which there is a Country Store (Area 1)
- Holmefield Farm Services, a veterinary service and animal food supplier (Area 1)
- York Auction (Livestock) Centre which serves farmers over a wide area of Yorkshire and further afield (Area 1). The sales include farm machinery, horses and other livestock including rare breeds. It also holds very successful York (Murton) Farmers’ Markets (Area 1)
- The ABP Food Group, a major international meat processing company (Area 1)

Engineering etc

A6.8 (4.5.6) A number of specialised businesses include:

- L. Clancey and Sons, founded over 160 years ago, is an important regional recycling centre (Area 1), now part of a larger national company, Ward Recycling
- Trustspan, a national timber engineering company (Area 1)
- Black Cat Fireworks, part of an international company based in Hong Kong. A storage facility along the Stamford Bridge Road (Figure A1).
- A host of small companies, several of which are specialist car maintenance companies with high expertise (Area 1)

⁶ This is a quotation from the VDS. We broaden the concept to the whole Parish.

- A small group of businesses at Moor Lane Farm (Area 3)

Retail and leisure

A6.9 (4.5.7) This diverse mix includes:

- Duggleby, Stephenson of York, a leading independent auctioneer in Yorkshire, that can be traced back over 140 years (Area 1)
- A national superstore for DIY goods (Area 2)
- An independent fuel station with a substantial convenience store and car wash facilities (Area 2)
- The Yorkshire Museum of Farming and the Derwent Light Railway at Murton Station (Area 1)
- Moor Lane Farm, a member of the Caravan and Camping Club (Area 3)
- Beetle Bank Farm, an Open Farm and Education Centre with rare breeds of farm animals, especially designed as an experience for children (Area 3).
- Murton Grange: Self-catered holiday cottages (Area 3)

Self-employed/entrepreneurial

A6.10 (4.5.8) Murton has a number of people working and running businesses from their own homes (reflecting employment trends across the UK). These include journalism, as well as livery stables and two animal breeding establishments, one for horses and the other for dogs, both with national recognition.

Infrastructure

A6.11 (4.5.9) Among the infrastructure in the Parish which serve a wide area well beyond its boundaries are

(i) an electrical sub-station owned by the National Grid (Figures 4.4 and 4.5). This is being upgraded as part of the National Grid's Grear Grid upgrade and the Osbaldwick sub-station upgrade is one of Yorkshire GREEN (Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement) projects and will start in late 2025.

(ii) a 250 mm diameter public foul rising main and a 300 mm diameter public foul rising main crosses the Parish and is maintained by Yorkshire Water

A7 The environment and the Green Belt

A7.1 (4.6.1) The purpose of a Green Belt is to protect important areas of countryside from being built on and destroyed. The rationale encompasses a host of environmental needs too. Within the Parish, the Green Belt goes hand in hand with related efforts to preserve rural assets that contribute to the life that residents have said they value. Also, some of the topics below make the essential connection between the natural landscape and how well we and the local flora and fauna can withstand the current and future effects of a changing climate.

Green Belt

A7.2 (4.6.2) The City of York Local Plan emphasises the importance of a Green Belt around York, in these terms:

‘to preserve the setting and special character of York, while assisting in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.....in order to establish long term development limits that safeguard the special character and setting of the historic city’.

A7.3. The Neighbourhood Plan needs to be in general conformity with strategic policies of the Local Plan which delineates the general extent of York’s Green Belt to approximately 6 miles from York’s city centre.

A7.4 (4.6.3) Murton is one of a circle of parishes around York. The inclusion of a village, in such a parish, is defined in the City of York Local Plan in these terms:

‘A village should be included in the Green belt, it is necessary to prevent development primarily because of the important contribution the village’s open character makes to the openness of the Green belt’.

A7.5 Therefore, as is proposed in the Local Plan that most of Murton Parish is within York’s Green Belt, with only two small areas excluded, it becomes strategically important to maintain this designation.

Farms and rural land

A7.6 (4.6.4) Much of the Parish’s 340 hectares is a patchwork of low lying, pasture land, at present devoted to sheep, often delineated by a network of mature hedgerows and trees, with a small and well-defined village at its heart.

A7.7 (4.6.5) The farmland in the Parish is classified as Grade 3 'good to moderate'. The Government's geographic website 'MAGIC' shows approximately 44 hectares of the farmland within the Parish is under a Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier agreement.

A7.8 (4.6.6) There are many fields with ridge and furrow, an archaeological pattern of ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages, typical of the open field system. These fields are discussed in some detail in Appendix F.

A7.9 (4.6.7) Further, the Village Design Statement describes:

The village is bounded by fields on all sides, the boundary between the village and the surrounding fields being irregular, having been historically determined by field and plot boundaries. The view towards the village from all sides emphasises its rural nature and location. Likewise the views from the village are predominantly rural, with distant views of the Yorkshire Wolds and the North York Moors, including the Kilburn White Horse and York Minster is also clearly seen from various points in the Parish. To the south of the village the glacial moraine ridge is evident.

A7.10 The description goes on (below) to emphasise the importance of the farming and rural separations a) between the village and the Murton Business Park, and b) between the village and Osbaldwick (Murton Way). These separations are clearly supported in the City of York Local Plan⁷ which resident consultation has supported wholeheartedly:

Although so close to the City of York, the village retains a strong identity and a strong rural feel. The reasons for that may be because it is clearly defined in its boundaries; it is small enough for a sense of community; and there is continual agricultural activity in and around the village. The rural feel is influenced by the variety and size of plots, the large grass verges in most of the village, and the rural aspect from the majority of the properties in the village.

Farms located within the village envelope are an essential element of the village character. Other fields are farmed by farmers from elsewhere in the parish and from neighbouring parishes.

The fields surrounding the village tend to be small and contained by hedgerows with a diverse mix of species. The scale of fields, their diversity of size and shape, and their relationship to farm buildings, to a great extent reflect the historic land use, including market gardening and the training of racehorses..... and the survival of a small field system contribute to the character of the village.

The village is surrounded by a field network which, to a great extent, survives from that shown in the 1796 and 1842 maps.

⁷ Map: Historic Character and Setting Character Types, Areas F1 and G2

Another description is given in the citation for the Murton Village Conservation Area (Appendix C).

Open Space Sites and Local Green Spaces

A7.11 (4.6.8) These are important natural or cultivated spaces within the Parish which are discussed in Appendix G.

Allotments

A7.12 (4.6.9) There are several areas along Moor Lane which are owned by the Parish Council, some of which are let out for allotments on an annual basis. The total area is ca 8 hectares, roughly half of which is not currently prepared for cultivation (Referendum Report, Annex 1, Figure 1).

Water table and flooding

A7.13 (4.6.10) The village itself is built on slightly raised ground between Osbaldwick Beck to the north and east and a smaller beck to the south. However, much of the Parish is flat and low-lying, and the water table is high and drainage is poor. This means that significant parts of the Parish are liable to flood (Referendum Report, Annex 1, Figure 4). The Foss Internal Drainage Board has advised on the inadequacy of local surface watercourses and indicated that any increase in surface water discharges from new or redevelopment may cause problems.

Public Rights of Way and Cycle Ways

A7.14 (4.6.11) These serve an important function – a contributor to quality of life for residents. They can also function as ‘green corridors’ for wildlife when associated with hedgerows, trees and areas of less intensively managed land.

A7.15 The Parish has a network of Public Rights of Way which provides access to the open countryside and which are well used (Figure A6). They are seen by the Parish Council as one of the most important amenities in the Parish. Suggestions for further strengthening the network are given in Section 7. The lanes, in spite of the fast traffic, are much used by individual cyclists and by cycle clubs, perhaps inspired by the choice of Murton as part of the route for the first Tour de Yorkshire. The lanes are also used by small groups of runners and, annually, by the Yorkshire Marathon.

Footpaths and Bridleways

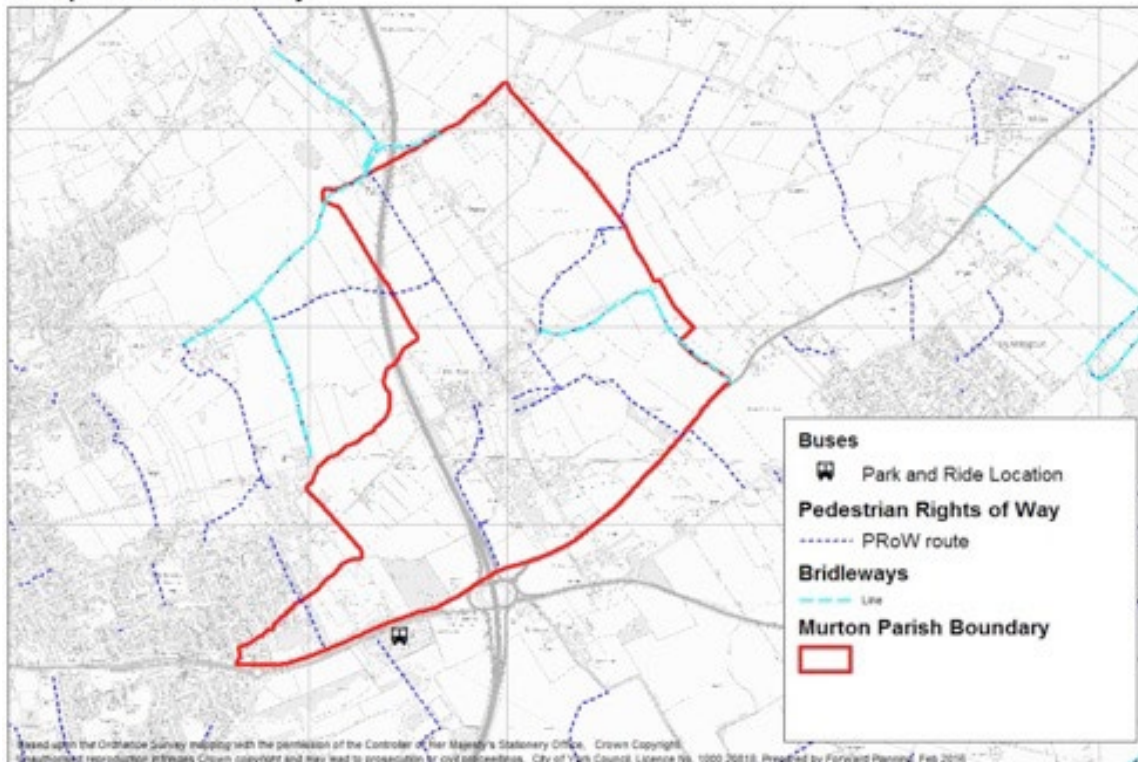


Figure A6 Murton Parish: Footpaths, bridleways and Parish and Common Land

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A7.16 Murton is one of the open sections of the National Cycle Route 66 (Figure A7) which runs from Manchester to Spurn Head via Bradford, Leeds, York and Beverley).

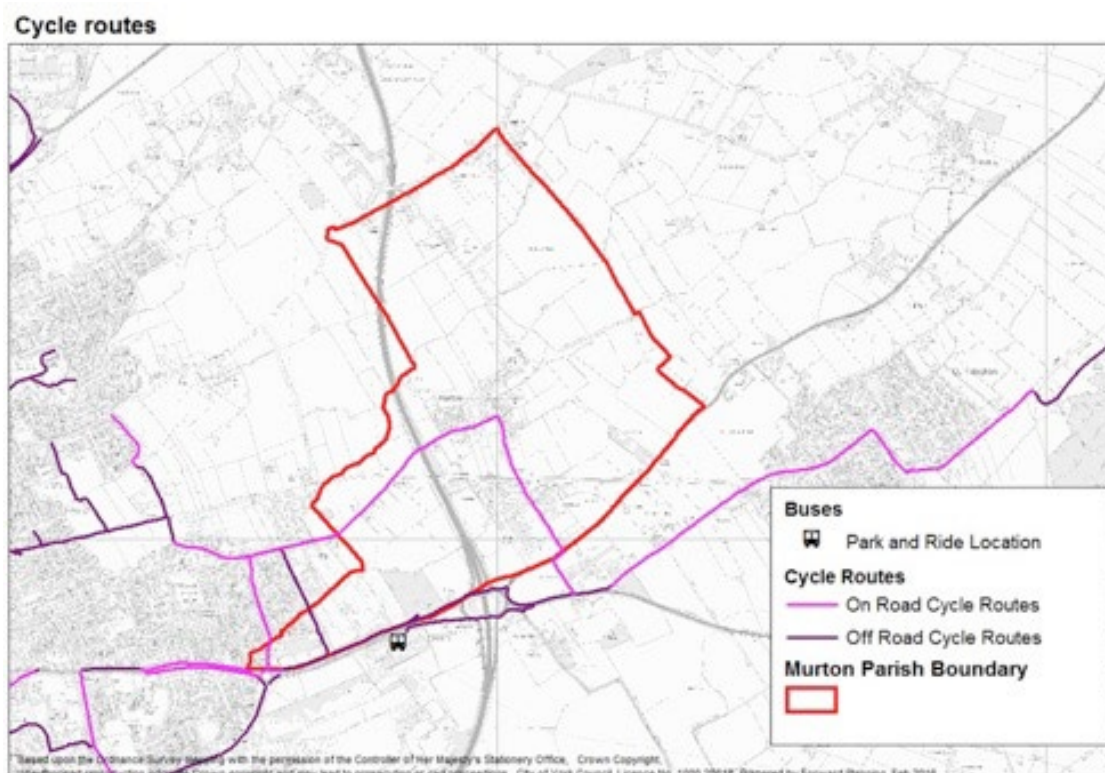


Figure A7 The cycle path in Murton Parish is part of the National Cycle Route 66

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Flora, fauna and hedgerows

A7.17 (4.6.12) Murton has diverse flora and fauna, both within the village and in the surrounding fields. Some 57 species of birds were recorded in 2004, including barn, tawny and little owls. Some 18 species of mammals and over 200 species of wild plants, flowers and trees have also been recorded within the Parish, as noted in the Village Design Statement. The Parish also contains hedgerows of varying plants and trees, some of which (along its boundary with the Parish of Holtby) are mediaeval (Appendix F).

Nature Conservation sites

A7.18 (4.6.13) The City of York Local Plan divides designated nature conservation sites into categories: SPA (Special Protection Areas); SAC (Special Areas of Conservation); SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest); LNR (Local Nature Reserves) and SINC (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation). Four areas in the Parish have been considered as a SINC, two in detail, Murton

Meadow and Warner's Field Referendum Plan, Figure 2) but none of these have yet to be formally recognized.

A7.19 Osbaldwick Beck plays an important role as a drain into the River Foss and has the potential to be used by Water Voles and Otters.

A7.20 The Village Pond along Moor Lane (Referendum Plan Figure 1a) is maintained by the Parish Council and the Churchyard of St James's Church is an Open Space (Referendum Plan, Figure 3)

Buildings

A7.21(4.6.14) The following buildings in Murton village Referendum Plan. Figure 3) are listed as Grade II:

Murton Hall: 18th century, with 19th century addition

The coach-house to Murton Hall: 18th century.

The garden wall and gazebo to Murton Hall: 18th century.

The Church of St James. *ca* 1200

A7.22 The Village Design Statement also makes the important point that:

'other buildings and features [which] make a positive contribution to the character of Murton and are so important in the street scene that their value should be taken into consideration as part of any development proposal.'

A7.23 A list of these buildings is given in Policy ENV3 and Figure 3 in the Referendum Plan

A8 Community facilities

A8.(4.7.1) Community facilities are a) places for people to come together, b) amenities that support daily life, and c) public transport for accessing the city and vital services (health, schools, etc). Murton Parish has very few of these facilities, although there are differences between the remoter village and the southern periphery that has easier access to neighbouring areas.

Social venues and amenities

A8.2 (4.7.2) In the Parish as a whole, there is no village hall, no public telephone box and no playing fields. The future of the Murton Arms (formerly the Bay Horse), the village pub for many generations, has become uncertain. The ground floor was closed as a pub in January 2018 and was the subject of a planning appeal decision preventing it from being converted into further living accommodation.

A8.3 (4.7.2) There is a cafeteria in the York Auction Centre, a café and meeting room in Murton Park, mainly for visitors and a café in Beetle Bank Open Farm. As described in the Neighbourhood Plan (paragraph 117) there are children's play areas in both Murton Park and Beetle Bank Open Farm.

A8.4 (4.7.3) One new development in the village has been the installation of a kitchenette and WC in the church in mid-2016 which now enables social groups and clubs to meet. This has been a village initiative with the support of the Osbaldwick and Murton Parochial Church Council and Murton Parish Council.

Local transport and accessibility

A8.5 (4.7.4) The village fares much worse for public transport than the southern settlement, with only a modest bus service (3 buses to York and 4 from the city each day, except Sundays when there is no service). So, although the nearest secondary school and the nearest doctors' surgery are both only 2 miles from the village, travelling to them on public transport is a challenge.

A8.6 (4.7.5) Shops are similarly hard to access from the village; the only shop in the village closed half a century ago, and the nearest post office is over 2 miles away and not on a direct bus route. It is only the fact that the inhabitants of the village are predominantly car owners that allows them to access these

essential services. A Planning Inspector's report summarised this problem succinctly:

'..... the village does not offer a range of services and lies some 9km (6 miles) from the centre of York. Thus, being served by an extremely limited bus service the likelihood is that journeys to and from most activities would be made by private car, which markedly lessens its sustainability accreditation'⁸.

Community activities

A8.7 (4.7.6) Despite the southern settlement having much better access to bus services, doctors' surgeries and shops, it has no space for communal activities and this is keenly felt by many residents. There is no shortage of suggestions for activities, including art classes (RB13), mother and baby groups (RB9), food festivals, picnics, book exchange (RB3), activities for children (M4), community-focussed gatherings (T6) and a good number advocating fund raising.

⁸ APP/C2741/A/09/2119021 March 30th 2010