

Murton Parish

Neighbourhood



APPENDIX C **Murton Conservation Area**

Adopted Version

2025

Plan

2024-2044



APPENDIX C

Murton Parish: Conservation area

City of York Conservation Area No 34. (6.17ha)

Introduction and scope of Conservation Area

Murton Conservation Area was designated on 4th October 2005. It encompasses the older parts of the main village. Along Murton Way the boundary starts at Anvil Cottage and Prospect Farm on the south side and Fern View on the north side and runs to the junction of Murton Lane. Two fields either side of St James's Church and one field between Greenacres and Lieway are included. The boundary then runs north along Murton Lane from the adjoining field on the west side and from No1 Murton Lane on the east side to the junction of Moor Lane. At this junction the boundary runs east from South View to Rose Farm on the north side (though excludes Rose Villa to No.8 Moor Lane) of Moor Lane and from Murton Hall to the duck Pond on the south side. This description should be viewed in conjunction with the conservation area map.

History

Typically for such a small village, historical sources are limited though it is probable that in common with most settlements within the Vale of York that it originated in the Saxon and Viking periods, which preceded the Norman Conquest of 1066. If current academic thought is correct it is also likely that the basic linear form of the village was laid out shortly after the Conquest in the late 11th and 12th centuries AD. This layout is still evident today at the eastern side of Main Street where farmsteads and houses front the roadside with a line

of 'garths' (private gardens or enclosures) behind. Murton Hall suggests a location for a manor house typically placed at one entrance to the village.

It is probable that the village has always been a small settlement. Existing field boundaries do not show the signs of a shrunken village; St James's Church has remained a simple chapel, maintaining the same scale from its construction in the 12th century. 19th century maps and trade directories show a very small settlement, predominately engaged in agriculture. A number of 'gentlemen' are described as living within the village, which explains two 19th century villas along Main Street; The Villa and Lime Tree House. It is probable that these larger houses were in some way connected with the training of race horses within the parish.

Important Buildings

The Church of St James's is listed Grade II* and dates from around 1200AD. Despite extensive repair work in the early 20th century the building has maintained its original form not undergoing the long phases of rebuilding typical of most parish churches. Murton Hall is listed grade II and a fine example of a late 18th century farmstead complete with boundary wall and coach-house. Of the unlisted buildings within the village, Southview is a good example of another 18th century farmhouse, whose plan form suggests earlier origins. Cherry Tree House, Lilac Tree House and The Villa are substantial houses displaying some status in their quality of design and materials. Murton Chapel is a simple 19th century Methodist chapel.

Character

The character of the conservation area is focused on Murton Lane where the typical village linear layout of two opposing building lines is found. 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 small front gardens bounded by low walls and railings or hedgerows. At the western side, the building line is recessed from the roadside producing a more separate aspect, reflecting the non-agricultural, residential and at times higher status nature of development in this area.

Moving northeast the boundary follows part of the Moor Lane to pick up the boundary wall of Murton Hall, duck pond and Rose Farm. The boundary continues southeast to cover St James's Church, Fern View, Anvil Cottage and Prospect Farm. This group presents a strong traditional appearance equal to the centre of the village. This area also includes open fields either side and opposite of Murton Chapel. These fields help bring the open countryside into the heart of the village and to maintain its small-scale.

Apart from St James's Church, the chief building materials are local brick and slate or pantile roofs. Hedgerows and railings are important features. Trees are not a strong feature of the village though a few notable specimens are located within gardens to the west of Main Street.

The main elements of the character and appearance of the area are: -

- (1) A typical Vale of York village that is nonetheless individual and distinct and presents a traditional and rural character.
- (2) The quality of many of its historic buildings.

(3) The small scale of the village and its close relationship with the surrounding countryside.

(4) Shared characteristics of building materials, layout and scale.

Map of Murton Conservation Area

