

MIDDLETHORPE

Conservation Area No. 11 (15.0 ha)

Introduction

Middlethorpe was incorporated into the City in 1937, together with Dringhouses and Acomb. This small conservation Area (designated in 1795) is based around the hamlet of Middlethorpe, a medieval township which stretched from the River Ouse to Dringhouses in the west. It formed a subordinate part of the Manor of Dringhouses, then in ownership of Byland Abbey.

In addition it is designated as an area of special architectural and historic interest and as an Area of Archaeological Importance- on the basis of its importance as a medieval manor in the vicinity of York. The conservation area is located within the City of York Council Green Belt.

History

Two large Listed Buildings lie one at each end of the lane along which Middlethorpe has developed, Middlethorpe Hall (Grade II* built in 1699 and Middlethorpe Manor (built in 1700). The contrast between these two larger houses and the rest of the hamlet is marked. The remainder of the buildings are largely nineteenth century estate type cottages- plain brick with slate roofs, spread out along the lane. These, the larger Victorian house and the stud farm, contribute to the character of Middlethorpe as an estate village

Detached from the hamlet is the crematorium included in the conservation area for its extensive tree planting, and acting as a link to the Bishopthorpe Conservation Area.

Important Buildings

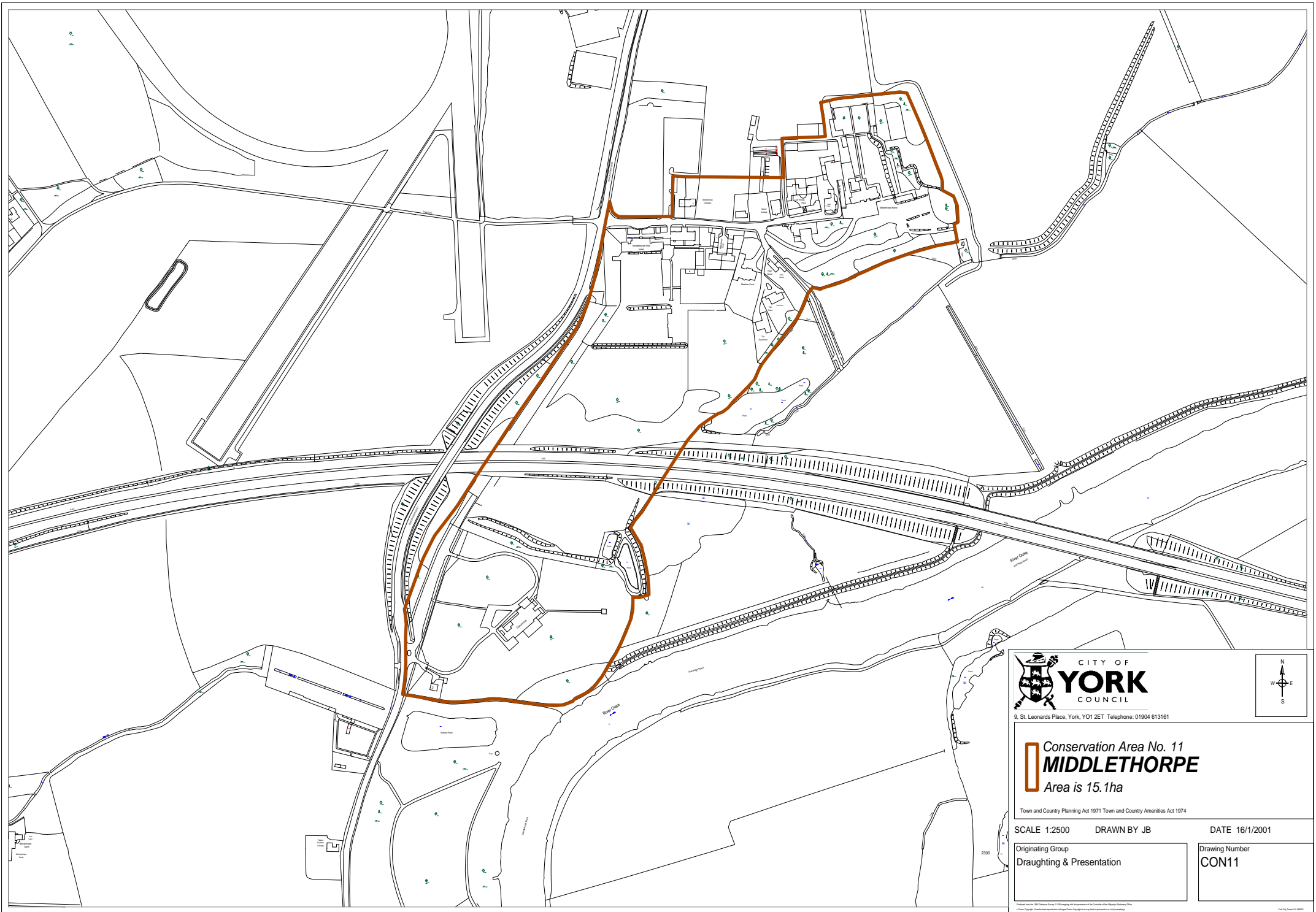
Middlethorpe Hall is the focus of the conservation Area. It is the nearest Georgian country house to the City, and has the earliest examples of vertical sliding sash windows in York.



Character

The area is relatively low lying, surrounded by fields- the old water meadows or 'ings' separate it from the River Ouse. The two large houses which dominate the settlement dwarf the scale of the remaining buildings and add to the feeling of an 'estate village'. The mature trees and high walls contribute to a feeling of enclosure along part of the lane- hiding views into and out of the lane. The continuity in use of materials- brick for buildings, outbuildings and walls, slate for roofs (Westmoreland slate on the splendid Middlethorpe Hall), iron gates and rails, contribute to give some feeling of cohesion to a diverse group of buildings, man ancillary to the county house.

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

- (1) Middlethorpe, which retains a separate rural character, completely outside that of urban and suburban York, and lies within the City of York Green Belt;
- (2) The feeling of an 'estate village' created by the juxtaposition of the two large buildings and the surrounding smaller ones, with their consistent use of materials;
- (3) The relationship of the settlement with the open countryside around which contributes towards the setting of the conservation area.



 <p>CITY OF YORK COUNCIL</p> <p>9, St. Leonards Place, York, YO1 2ET Telephone: 01904 613161</p>		
<p>Conservation Area No. 11 MIDDLETHORPE Area is 15.1ha</p>		
<p><small>Town and Country Planning Act 1971 Town and Country Amenities Act 1974</small></p>		
SCALE 1:2500	DRAWN BY JB	DATE 16/1/2001
Originating Group Draughting & Presentation		Drawing Number CON11