

## **COPMANTHORPE**

### **Conservation Area No.13 (5.5ha)**

#### **Introduction**

Copmanthorpe Conservation Area was designated in its present form in 1978. It is a compact area encompassing Main Street, St Giles' Church and Low Green which form the historic core of the village.

#### **History**

"Copmanthorp", the name at the time of Doomsday (1086), indicates Danish origins. By 1118 it is recorded that a preceptory was found by the Knights' Templars upon the land given by the Malbis family. Although an agricultural settlement, quite a wide range of trades were also carried out in the village in the fourteenth century. Medieval field names have survived: York Field, Temple Field and West Field. In 1672 the Manor was sold to the Wood family, beginning their long association with the village. By 1801 the population was 184 and even in the 1920's remained under 400. It has increased markedly since the 1970's reaching about 3,500 in 1981, with the influx of commuter housing; such that today the village core is completely surrounded by development.

#### **Important Buildings**

The Church of St Giles (Listed Grade II) dates from the twelfth century subsequently much altered, with a chancel of 1889 and twentieth century additions. The porch contains a twelfth century doorway. Main Street contains four listed houses, including Manor Farm, seventeenth century. Other notable individual buildings are Croft Farm, overlooking Low Green, the former school (1869) now the Doctors' Surgery and Beechwood set in a large treed garden near the corner with Station Road; part of this house previously served as the Surgery.

#### **Character**

The linear street pattern created by Main Street, Church Lane and Low Green is important; a series of gentle curves and the more pronounced bend of Church Street leading naturally from one area to another, complemented by the interesting rises and falls of level.

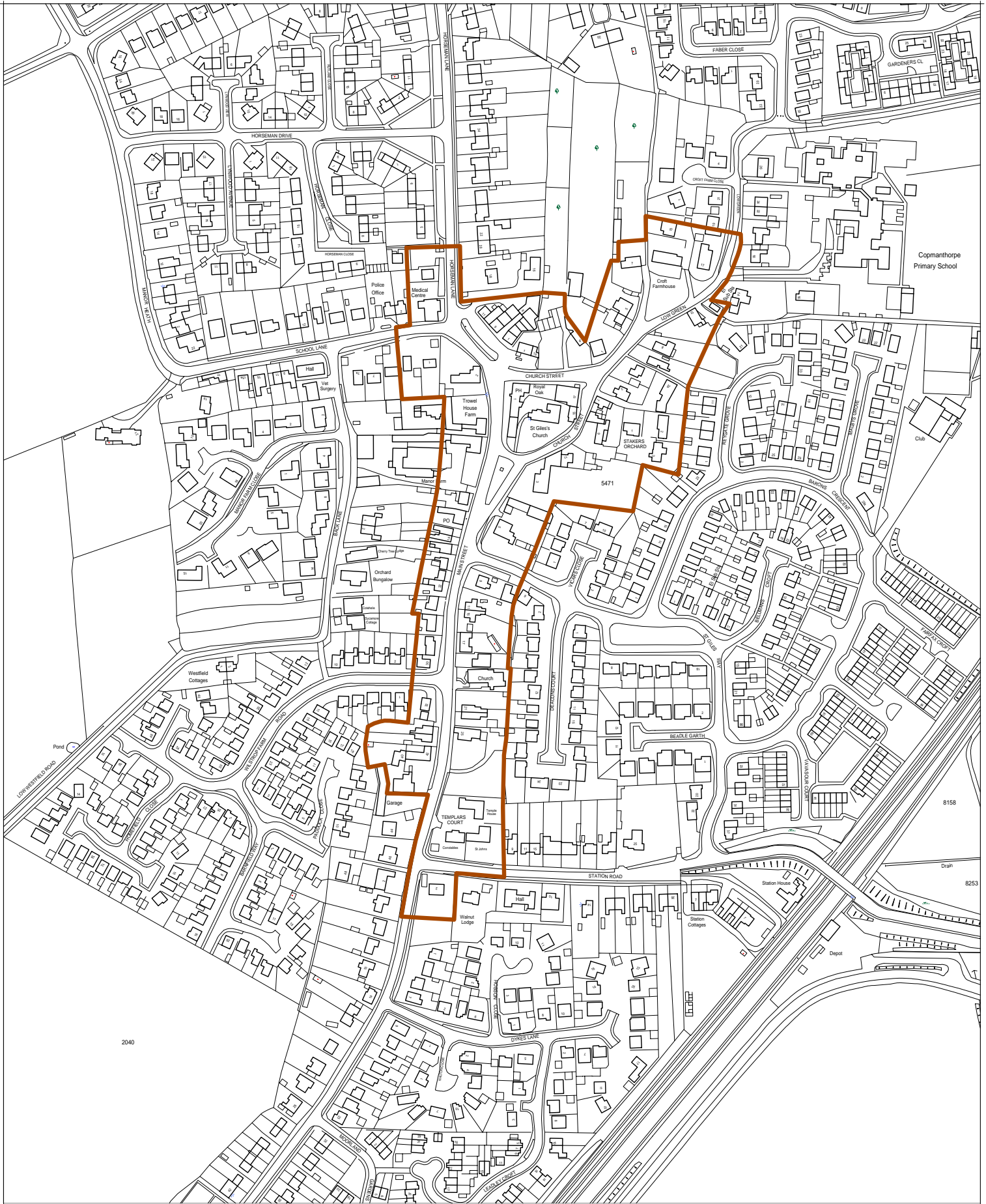
St Giles' Church occupies a pivotal position in the village. Its simple beauty and ancient origins, and small churchyard, have the feeling of an altogether more rural settlement. Together with the small cottages and outbuildings that are haphazardly arranged around Church Street, this is still a charming corner of the village, despite the ordinariness of the nearby shopping parade and its open forecourt.

Characteristically Main Street is lined by mostly 2-storey detached houses and cottages, rather than groups of terraces. They are sited close together in the traditionally narrow fronted plots of land. Some have been infilled by later Victorian detached or semi-detached houses, which maintain the rhythm of the street. Only where more recent suburban housing breaks through onto the street is this interrupted. The street is quite narrow, houses traditionally being close to the frontage with small front gardens and front walls or hedges that maintain the setting and sense of scale of the houses. The junction with Station Road is formed by two substantial detached houses set in spacious grounds, the cohesion of the streetscape being maintained by their boundary walls and hedges, and by mature garden trees. There are significant tree groups at intervals along the street. Once behind the street frontage, the medieval pattern of plot boundaries has been largely erased by recent housing development, "Back Lane" being only a remnant.

Low Green is a quiet enclave just away from the activity of the shops and pub on Church Street. It is overlooked by Croft Farm and other buildings set in their own gardens, and with an attractive backcloth of trees. There are some interesting examples of twentieth century suburban house design on the east side.

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

- (1) The contrast of narrow winding streets and enclaves of space, resulting in an attractive sequence of views, with each part of the Conservation Area unfolding gradually.
- (2) The ways in which pockets of distinct charm and rural character survive, despite the village's changed role; around St Giles' Church, Low Green the cohesive vernacular qualities of the group of detached cottages and houses notably on the west side of Main Street.
- (3) The contribution made by larger properties set in their well-treed gardens.



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**CITY OF YORK**  
COUNCIL

**Conservation Area No. 13**  
**COPMANTHORPE**

Area is 5.6ha

SCALE 1:2500

DRAWN BY JB

Originating Group  
Draughting & Presentation

Project

DATE 16/1/2001

Drawing No.  
CON13



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