

NETHER POPPLETON

Conservation Area No.17 (19.7ha)

Introduction

Nether Poppleton Conservation Area was designated in 1993. It includes the historic village core around St Everilda's Church and Manor Farm, Church Lane and Main Street.

History

The Old English name "popel" probably means "pebble" and "tun" implies a non-forested landscape or hamlet/farm. So Poppleton may have originated as "a farmstead on pebbly soil" or "...by a pebbly bank" "Nether" suggests this settlement as the one closer to the river. Which of the two Poppletons came first is open to debate, but Nether Poppleton is most likely the to be the older. The earliest reference to Nether Poppleton is in a charter of Archbishop Oswald of 972. St Everilda's Church (only one other dedication to this obscure 7C Saxon Saint is known) is mentioned in the Domesday Book. In 1088 St Everilda's and the manor of Nether Poppleton were given by Osbern de Arches to St Mary's Abbey in York, an association which continued until the Dissolution. The moated site between the river and the present 18C Manor House may well be the site of its medieval predecessor. Over 350 years ago, it is reputed that Prince Rupert quartered his troops in the Tithe Barn, before being defeated at Marston Moor. From its origins around the Church, the village developed westwards along Church Lane and Main Street, where there was a ferry crossing. The village remained virtually unaltered until the 20C expansion as a commuter settlement. The present population is about 1530 people.

Important Buildings

The Church of St Everilda's (listed Grade II*) is 12C in origin with late medieval and subsequent rebuilding and restoration. It is built in limestone rubble and ashlar, with sandstone, and brick in English Garden wall bond, and a Welsh slate roof. The Church includes some 14C window glass. Manor Farm is a group of important listed buildings: the Farmhouse (mid 18c with a 19c addition), the garage (probably 18c with walls approximately one metre thick) and the Barn, of 15c or 16c origins, encased in brick in the 18c and a rebuilt east end and repairs in 1928. Main Street and its junction with Church Lane contains several 18c listed houses, including the former schoolhouse of 1797. The gazebo north of the Fox Inn is also listed and dates from 1795.

Character

Sited discretely around a sharp bend in Church Lane, the original village nucleus of St Everilda's Church and Manor Farm retains a deeply rural and historic quality, with its important listed buildings, walls, trees and the moated site leading to the riverside. Church Lane "peters out" into a narrow lane, and the setting of open fields remains.

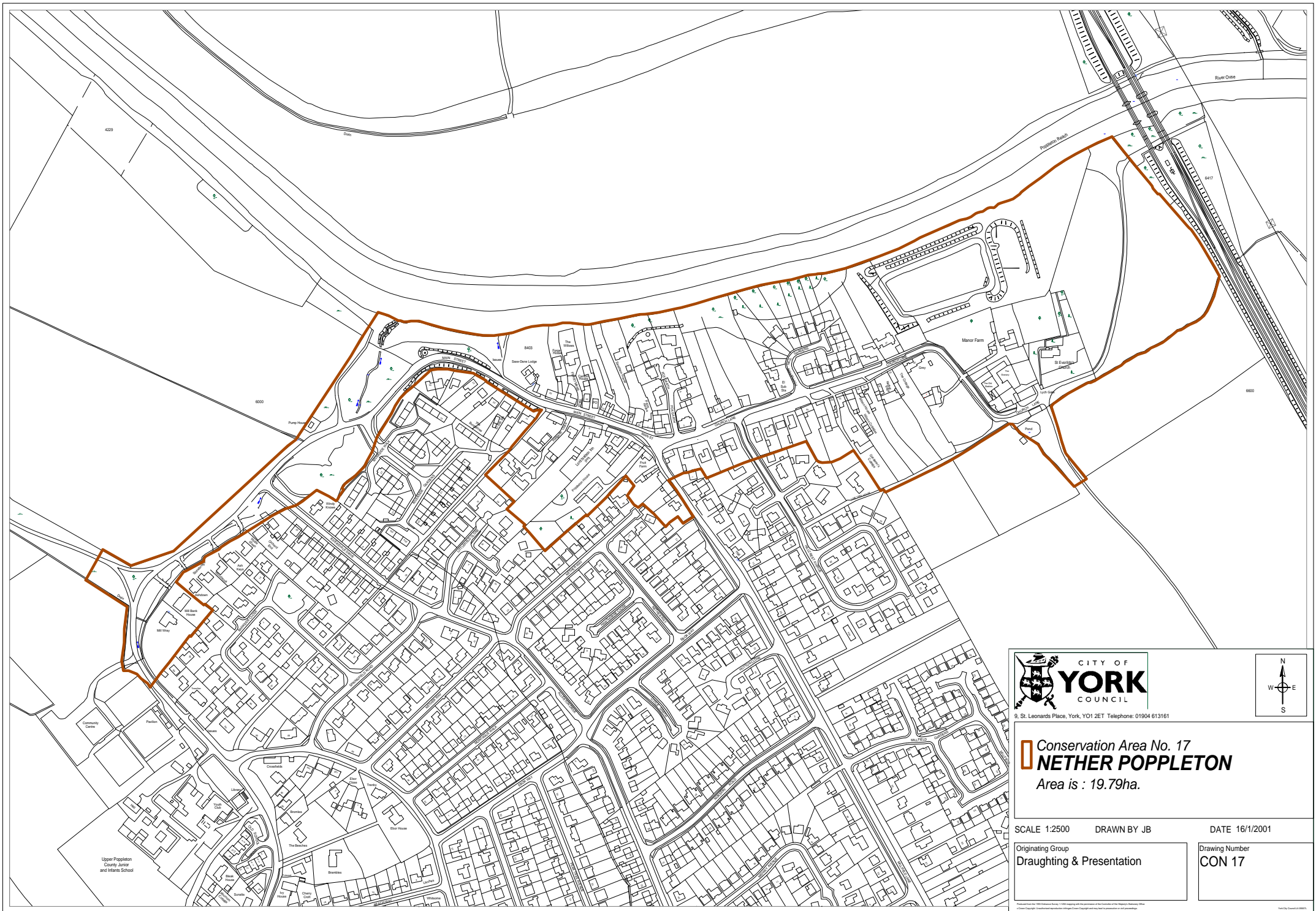
This traditional open setting of the village continues for part of the way along the south side of Church Lane. From there onwards it is replaced by the more recent and extensive suburban style of development, which in places has broken through onto Church Lane and Main Street. However, to the North the relationship between the village and the river remains largely undisturbed, with long narrow fronted plots extending between the two.

The main stretch of Church Lane is relatively wide. Groups of vernacular buildings are intermingled with more recent development. Overall, Church Lane is pleasant, its frontage given unity by the grass verges and trees, and the view ahead to the attractive group of 18c houses at the junction with Main Street.

At the western end of Main Street, mostly 18c and 19c houses and cottages cluster around the road junction and down the hill, creating another focus of traditional village character. The interesting changes in ground level, with the sloping grass verges, add to the attractive composition. The elevations of each of the traditional houses vary subtly, yet all share the same good proportions and period character. Main Street continues in a series of curves, tree-lined with the beck running alongside and development set well back; a country lane character, important as a rural edge for the settlement. Traditional building materials in the village are brick walling with pantile and some Welsh slate roofing. Amongst the listed buildings, English Garden wall or Flemish Bond brickwork is found, Properties have usually retained their original multi-paned or four-paned vertical sliding sash windows.

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

- (1) The genuinely rural character of Manor Farm and St Everilda's Church and the historic associations with the origins of the village.
- (2) The continuity of Church Lane and Main Street, linking areas of historic and rural character through a series of curves and changes in level, revealing a pleasant sequence of views.
- (3) The landscape elements – trees and grass verges - and the way they unify areas of different character. (It should be noted that earlier cobbled verges exist under some grassed areas).
- (4) The traditional relationship between Nether Poppleton and the river which, with the cluster of historic buildings, keeps a sense of identity for the village, bearing in mind the extensive "hinterland" of suburban development has taken place.



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Conservation Area No. 17
NETHER POPPLETON
 Area is : 19.79ha.

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CON 17

Upper Poppleton
 County Junior
 and Infants School

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