

HUNTINGTON

Conservation Area No. 21 (10.9 ha)

Introduction

Huntington Conservation Area was designated in 1991. The main street, called Old Village, is included through to the banks of the River Foss with All Saint's Church and West Huntington Hall in their treed setting.

History

A Church has existed on the present site since at least 1086, when all the village was probably on that side of the River Foss. The first reference to a river bridge is in 1402 but there may have been an earlier crossing. Huntington evolved into a medieval village of some 250 people, and by 1801 had only about 420 residents, as a farming community. Substantial growth had taken place by the 1930's, later to increase rapidly to over 14,000 people in the 1980's. Fortunately in one sense, most of the commercial development to serve this community has occurred on North Moor Road, leaving the Old Village as a still relatively quiet street.

Important Buildings

The Church of All Saint's (listed Grade II*) has a fifteenth century chancel, with nave, tower and organ chambers of 1874 by C T Newstead. It is built in limestone ashlar with a Welsh slate roof. The interior includes a 12th century re-set south door and a 12th century round pier. Four of the Old Village's 18th century houses are listed, of which numbers 34 and 71 have a three-cell plan and random brickwork. Other listed buildings are 3 Vyners Cottage (early 19th century with late 18th century origins) and The Vicarage of 1903 by W Brierley.

Character

The overall character of the conservation area arises from the contrast of the relatively narrow and winding Old Village (main street) and the historic area of All Saint's Church and West Huntington Hall, linked to the village by a narrow lane and bridge.

In Huntington building frontages along the Old Village tend to reflect quite closely the line of the street, and mostly have small, walled front gardens. The houses, dating from the 18th century onwards, are usually detached or semi-detached, of two-storeys with consistency of scale and traditional materials and details. There has been considerable recent infill of a more neutral character which, in places, tends to predominate. However, the traditional groups of buildings re-assert the village character, such that overall, the effect is a restful village street, gradually unfolding to the eye, then turning sharply out of sight to join Strensall Road, having nicely stepped the bustle of North Moor Road.

The historic pattern of plot boundaries on the east side has been truncated by new development. On the west side, however, the relationship with the River Foss is important; mature riverside trees defining the edge of the village, as well as being a notable landscape feature in themselves, from across the adjoining river meadows. The houses traditionally have long narrow back gardens. Infill development has been successful where the treed setting is protected, and the infill is not immediately apparent from the street front.

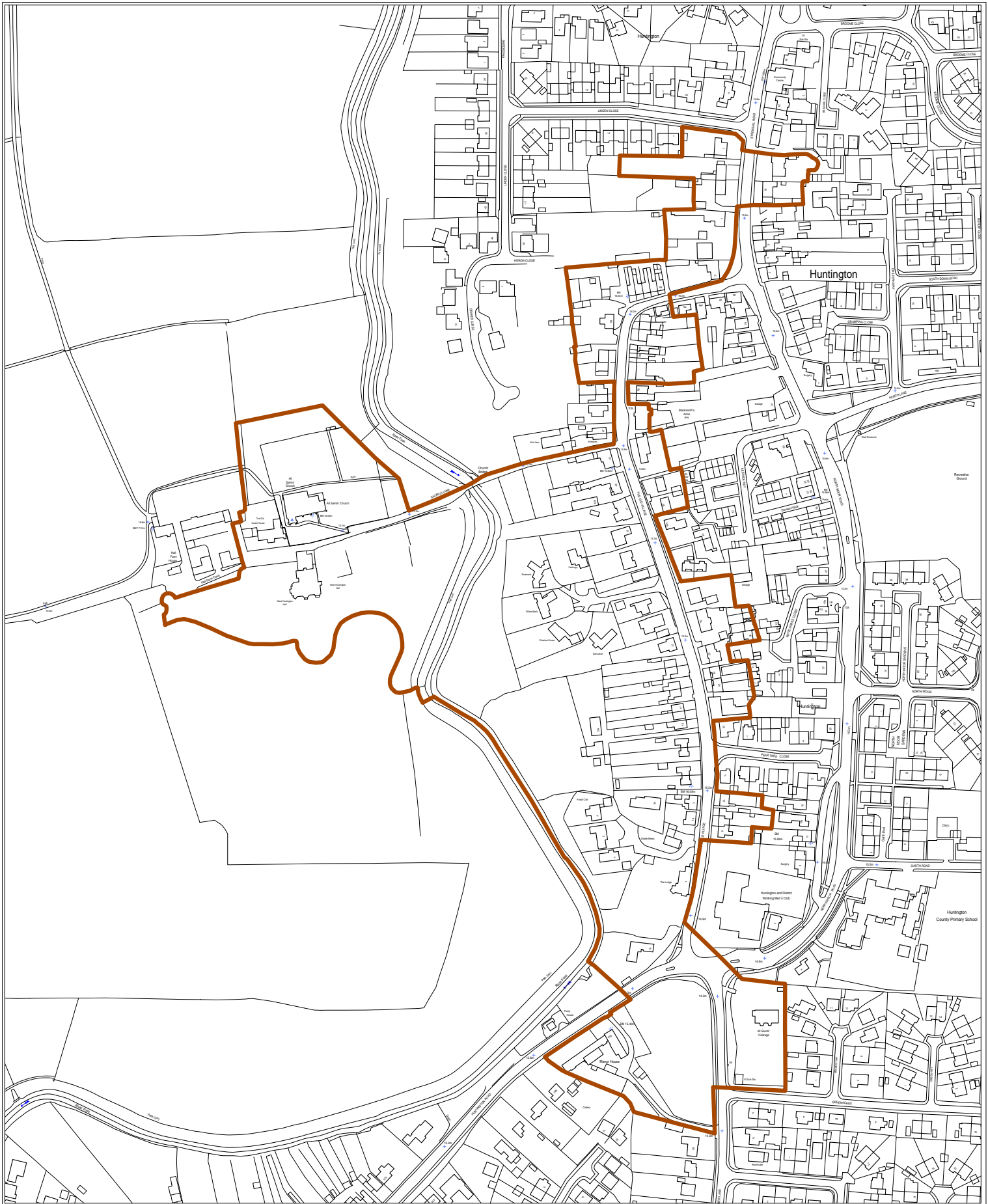
The junction of the lane to All Saint's Church is pleasantly unassuming and formed naturally by the boundary walls and the gable end of an adjoining house. The narrow lane and little bridge leading to the thickly wooded riverside at this point, and the Church seen ahead, has a rural "away from the world" quality with little of the village visible, but upon which new housing to the north side, which has a more open aspect, is tending to intrude.

All Saint's Church and West Huntington Hall create an enclave of important and individual buildings set in the landscape; removed but not aloof from the village, The Hall and its attendant subsidiary buildings, surrounded by trees, provide a protected setting for the Church on the south side. In contrast to the north the Church is exposed to the open landscape and indeed is a striking landmark seen along the River Foss in that direction. Walking along the River Foss from the bridge, there is the contrast of breaking out from the riverside woodland, into the open meadowland held in the wide curve of the Foss.

South of Old Village, the Manor House is a notable group of farm buildings, a valuable outpost of rural vernacular character at the tip of the village.

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

- (1) The Old Village and the quality of repose in its altered, yet still cohesive, streetscape.
- (2) The finely sited and historic atmosphere of All Saint's Church and West Huntington Hall and associated trees, like an oasis in the wider more open landscape; and the quiet lane leading to them.
- (3) The riverside, its woods and meadowland, and the way it defines and contains the western edge of the village.



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Conservation Area No.21
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Area is 11.1ha

SCALE 1:2500

DRAWN BY D Rowntree

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Originating Group Conservation

Project

Drawing No. CON 21

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