

## **OSBALDWICK**

### **Conservation Area No.24 (3.9 ha)**

#### **Introduction**

Osballdwick Conservation Area was designated in 1978, and included the compact historic core framed by the village green and part of Murton Way. On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2004 following public consultation the Conservation Area was extended to include part of Osballdwick Beck along Murton Way, the whole curtilages to the rear of Nos. 5 to 19 Murton Way with an adjoining pond site, the Village Hall, formerly the Methodist Chapel, and the site of a pinfold. A larger extension to the north of the village, to include long narrow gardens, ridge and furrow fields and wooded paddocks behind the Derwent Arms, is bounded by Metcalfe Lane, the line of the former DVL R railway line and Galligap Lane.

#### **History**

Osballdwick was to as “Osbaldeuic” in the Domesday Book of 1086, from Osbal an earl in the royal clan of Northumbria who had authority in this, the southern part of the kingdom in the eighth century. The original settlement was probably just south of the present village and Osballdwick beck. The form of the village today has evolved from the medieval period, with the characteristic “tofts and crofts”. The village green is the only remnant of the open field system in the sense of remaining as common ground; the other open fields being enclosed by the mid eighteenth century, The village remained in Church ownership until 1857, thereafter being fragmented into private ownerships. During the Victorian period, market gardening developed, with the nearness of York and the coming of the railways. The rural character of Osballdwick and predominance of agriculture continued into the twentieth century. By 1921 the population was still about 200 persons – little changed from 1801. However, expansion as a dormitory village for York began in the 1930’s leading to a population of 3,000 by 1981

#### **Important Buildings**

The Church of St Thomas is twelfth century in origin, with extensive restoration in 1877 by J Oldrid Scott, and alterations and additions of 1967 by A Mennim. This Grade II listed building is built in hammer-dressed limestone with a plain tile roof. There are three Grade II listed buildings on the north side of the Green: Hollytree House, Stanley House and Osballdwick Hall. All are mid to late eighteenth century, built in brick with sash windows and, respectively, having roofing of French tile, Roman tile and Welsh slate.

Beneath the twentieth century housing infill, pointedly called Moat Field, there may be the remains of a moated settlement and fish ponds, as remnants of a pre-Norman past.

#### **Character**

To the north the village has retained its open rural setting, with the pattern of long narrow fields and paddocks, a legacy from the medieval period. This pattern has been lost on the south side by extensive twentieth century housing development. However, the line of Osballdwick Lane remains an important historical link. With the green (Osballdwick Village), it formed an irregularly-shaped rectangle of roads established in the medieval period.

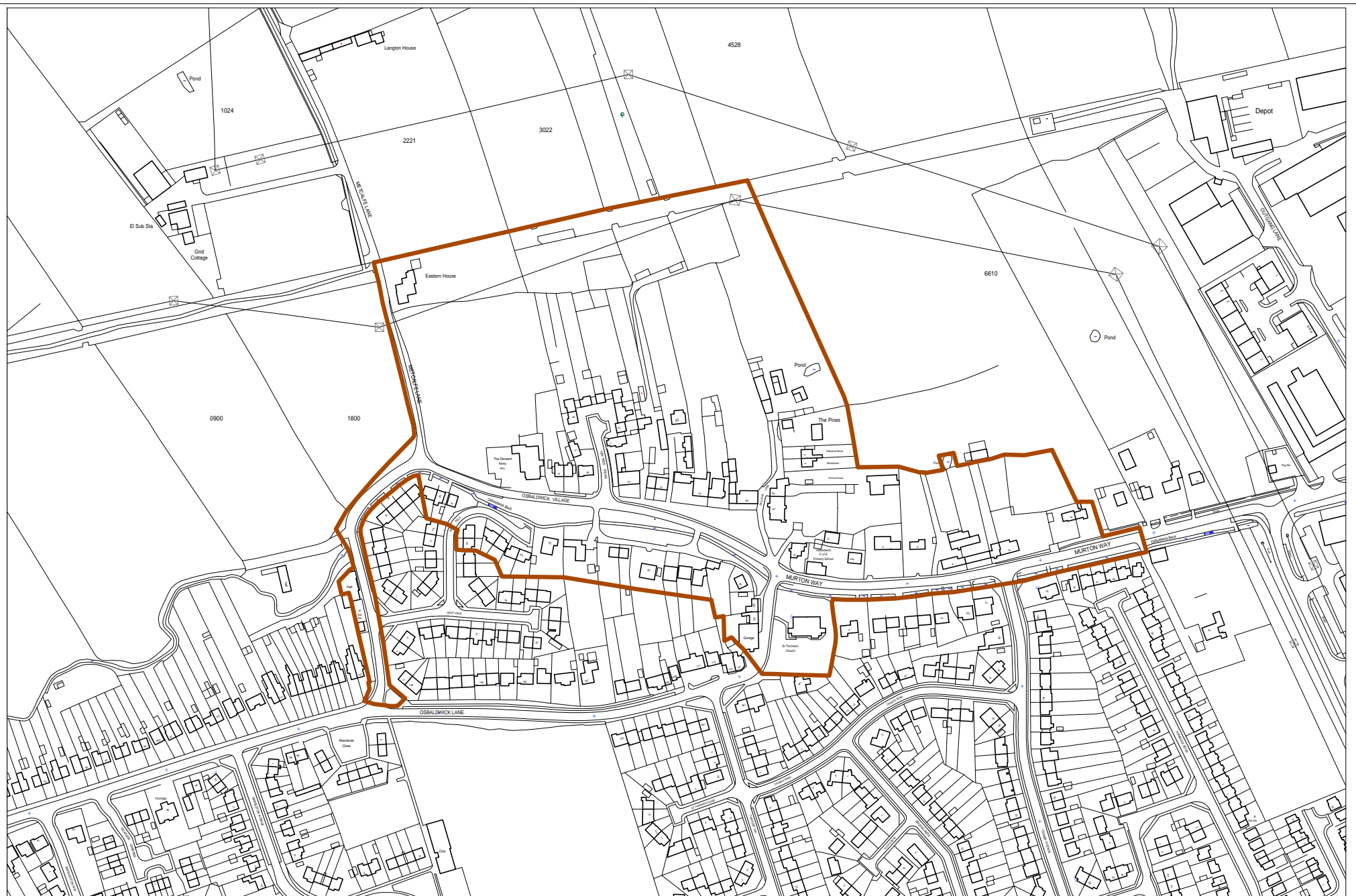
The elongated green is the focal point of the village. Buildings are set well back along each side, creating an open rural character. The majority of older buildings are late eighteenth century or nineteenth century, two-storeys in height. The north side of the green retains a cohesive appearance, with a range of traditional houses and cottages sited close together or linked, and outbuildings extending behind them down the narrow plots. The south side has a more mixed appearance, with some recent housing neutral in character, though given a pleasant setting by the several mature trees which include willows, and Osballdwick Beck threading through. These natural features and grass verges, with the roadway curving gently across, help to unify the character of the green and enclose outward views.

The view east along the green is enclosed by Osballdwick Hall, the former schoolhouse and St Thomas’ Church. Together with the little stone bridge at the road junction and the churchyard trees, including lime and yew, a more intimate area is created. From this Murton Way continues along a linear route, with Manor Farm and its attendant farm buildings, set behind a brick wall along the street frontage. This accentuates the “opening out” into the green when entering the village. The west end of the green terminates in recent housing of suburban character, though there is still the appeal of the sudden entry into the village round the sharp bend.

Most properties are brick built, typically a red/buff mottled colour; just a few are rendered. Roofing is traditionally clay pan tile, having a plain verge treatment or gable coping sometimes stone capped and with kneelers, and gable ends bearing chimney stacks. Welsh slate was introduced in a limited number of cases, with a hipped roof. Usually, the individual houses are of 3-bays, with multi-paned or four-paned vertical sliding sash windows, normally set beneath brick lintels. Yorkshire sliding sash windows would be frequently used in cottages, though many have been replaced by modern windows.

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

- (1) The elements surviving from the medieval form of layout.
- (2) The open rural character of the green, that has withstood considerable change in the village, and the relationship between building groups and the natural features of the green.



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**Conservation Area No. 24**  
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Area is : 9.89ha

SCALE 1:2500

Originating Group  
 Organisation

Project

DRAWN BY JB

DATE 13/2/2004

Drawing No  
 CON 24

