

ELVINGTON

Conservation Area No. 25 (15.3 ha)

Introduction

Elvington Conservation Area was designated in 1990. It includes the village Main Street and Green, Church Lane and the meadows between the River Derwent and the village, which are an integral part of its character.

History

The evolution of Elvington has been closely associated with the River Derwent, both as a crossing point and in terms of economic activity. At the time of Domesday (1086) there were two fisheries, yielding eels. The Derwent was also an important navigable waterway, the cut and lock being constructed in 1723. However by 1900 the railways saw the decline of river traffic. At the same time, much of Elvington's prosperity arose from the richly productive soils of the Vale of York. The village is sited upon marginally higher land, back from the river. These subtle changes in topography influence the character of Elvington as seen today.

Important Buildings

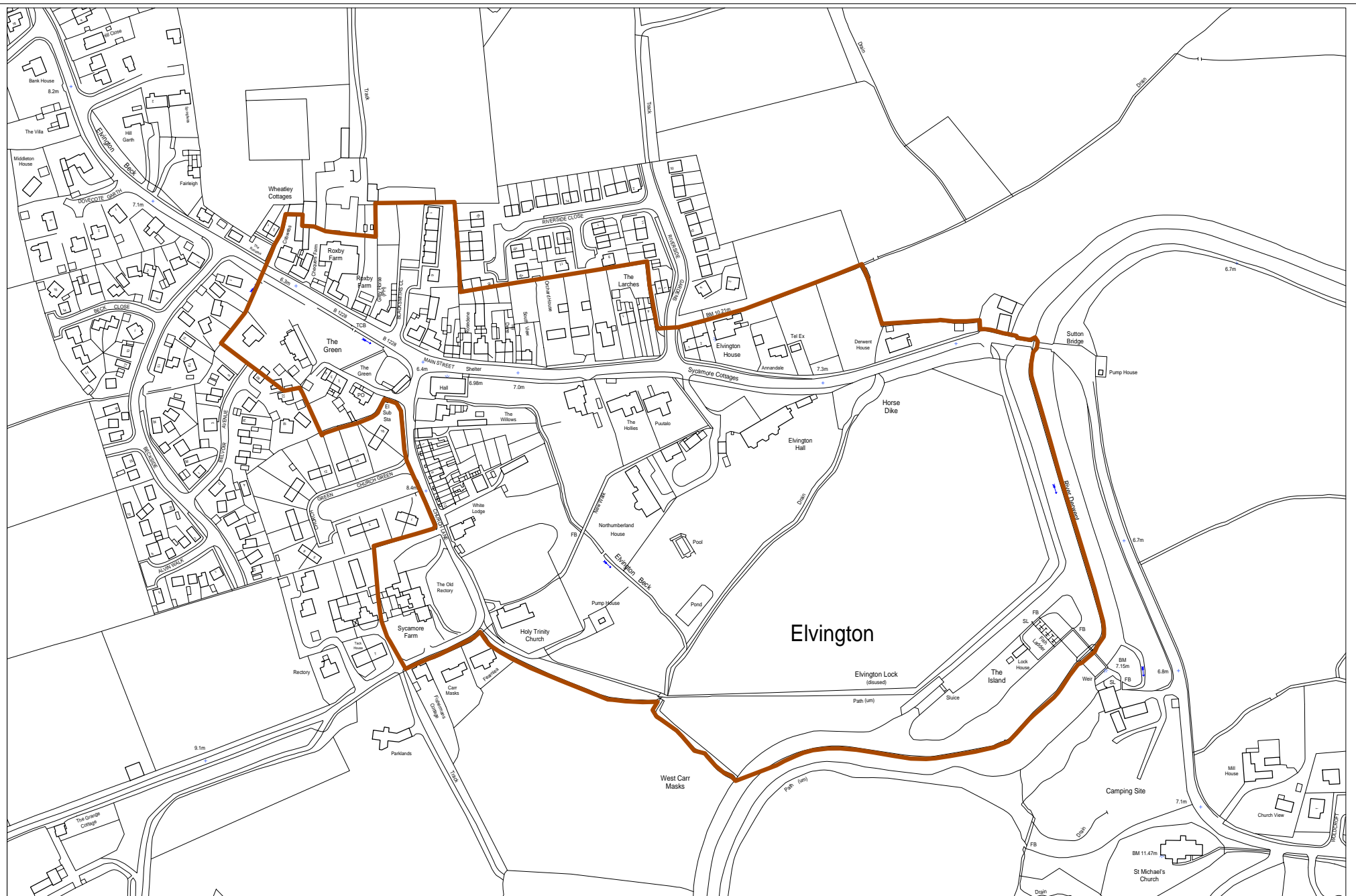
Elvington Hall is the village's most imposing individual building and is Listed Grade II star. It is thought to have Elizabethan origins with later alterations and additions, including those of the mid to late 18C, reputedly by John Carr, and a more recent wing of 1920. Other listed buildings along Main Street and The Green are Brook House (early 19c); Belvoir House and its former barn (mid - 18c); Chequer farmhouse (probably mid 18c) and Roxby farmhouse (early 19c) - with an adjoining barn and outbuildings a good example of the scale and hierarchy of traditional rural building forms. At the other extremity of the village the present bridge, probably dating from the late 1600's, is built in magnesian ashlar with twin segmental arches, and is a listed structure and a scheduled ancient monument. Listed Buildings in Church Lane are: Holy Trinity Church, built in 1877 near to the site of earlier church buildings dating back to the medieval period; the Cottage (White Lodge) and the Old Rectory, two Georgian houses. Other individual properties on Main Street, to note are: Elvington House; Derwent House (with its interesting observatory tower); and the former Schoolhouse (1858), now the Village Hall; and the Grey Horse public house. Opposite the Village Hall is the former Post Office, with an appropriate biblical inscription in the wall and dated 1874. The thirteen terraced cottages in Church Lane (1860) were built by A J Clarke, Rector from 1865 to 1885 and local benefactor.

Character

Main Street undulates and curves gently, from Sutton Bridge through the village. Combined with variations in the form of development, an attractive sequence of views unfolds gradually along the street. East of Church Lane, development mainly consists of individual houses set in their own grounds. High brick boundary walls, hedges and tree groups, together with broad grass roadside verges, define the sweeping street frontage. There are occasional interesting glimpses of buildings or the countryside beyond, through the drive entrances. As Main Street descends to Church Lane, the rural well-treed setting continues along the south side right up to the former Schoolhouse (1858). However on the north side, development becomes more close-knit, as a prelude to The Green itself. Cottages and houses are set at slightly varying distances from the street creating an attractive composition. Between these buildings a traditional side lane survives, giving access to the outbuildings extending back from the frontage properties in the traditional long, narrow shaped plots of land. **The Green** is an attractive contrast to the linear character of the village's streets. It is given cohesion by the presence of important listed farmhouses, combined with vernacular cottages, barns and outbuildings; by several mature trees and Elvington Beck flowing through, at the foot of the gently sloping ground. The Green is also a focus of activity with a Post Office, shop and Public House. Some cottages around the green retain a window style frequently found in East Yorkshire villages. **Church Lane** climbs and curves to where Holy Trinity Church and its well-treed shady churchyard command the higher ground, then turns sharply towards Elvington Grange. The Church tower is distinctive, largely detached from the main building, topped by a wooden shingle belfry and a tent roof. This upper part of Church Lane consists of free-standing properties in generous, landscaped grounds; a contrast with the picturesque and unusually detailed terraced cottages that form the street frontage lower down the Lane. **The Riverside Meadows** are essential to the setting of the village, glimpses of which are seen through a fringe of trees. The tranquility and pastoral character of the meadows are accentuated by the legacy of past commercial activity by the lock.

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

- (1) The street pattern, its relationship to topography and the attractive balance of low density development and more tightly-knit groups of cottages, with no one element becoming dominant. Buildings are characteristically 2-storeys in height, often with pinkish-brown brickwork and Pantile or Welsh Slate roofing.
- (2) The Village Green, with its many traditional elements.
- (3) The pastoral qualities of the Meadows and their strong association with the overall character of the village.
- (4) The well wooded setting of the village and its strongly rural character, with houses often set behind walls and hedges.
- (5) The attractive sequence of views constantly unfolding within and around the village.



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Conservation Area No.25
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Area is 15.5ha

SCALE 1:2500

Originating Group

Conservation

Project

DRAWN BY D Rowntree

DATE 22/5/1996

Drawing No.

CON 25

