

WHELDRAKE

Conservation Area No. 26 (18.9 ha)

Introduction

Wheldrake Conservation Area was designated in 1979. It concentrates upon the historic Main Street, and its continuation as Church Lane, and the “back Lanes” established as part of the medieval field pattern.

History

Wheldrake exhibits a classic medieval village “toft and croft” layout. There were reputed to be eight tofts on either side of the street, indicating a relatively important village. The growth of the village up to 1850 was achieved almost solely by the sub-division of these original tofts. A little infilling of houses has occurred in the 20th Century but only relatively recently has development spread beyond the back lanes, mainly on the north side of the village.

Important Buildings

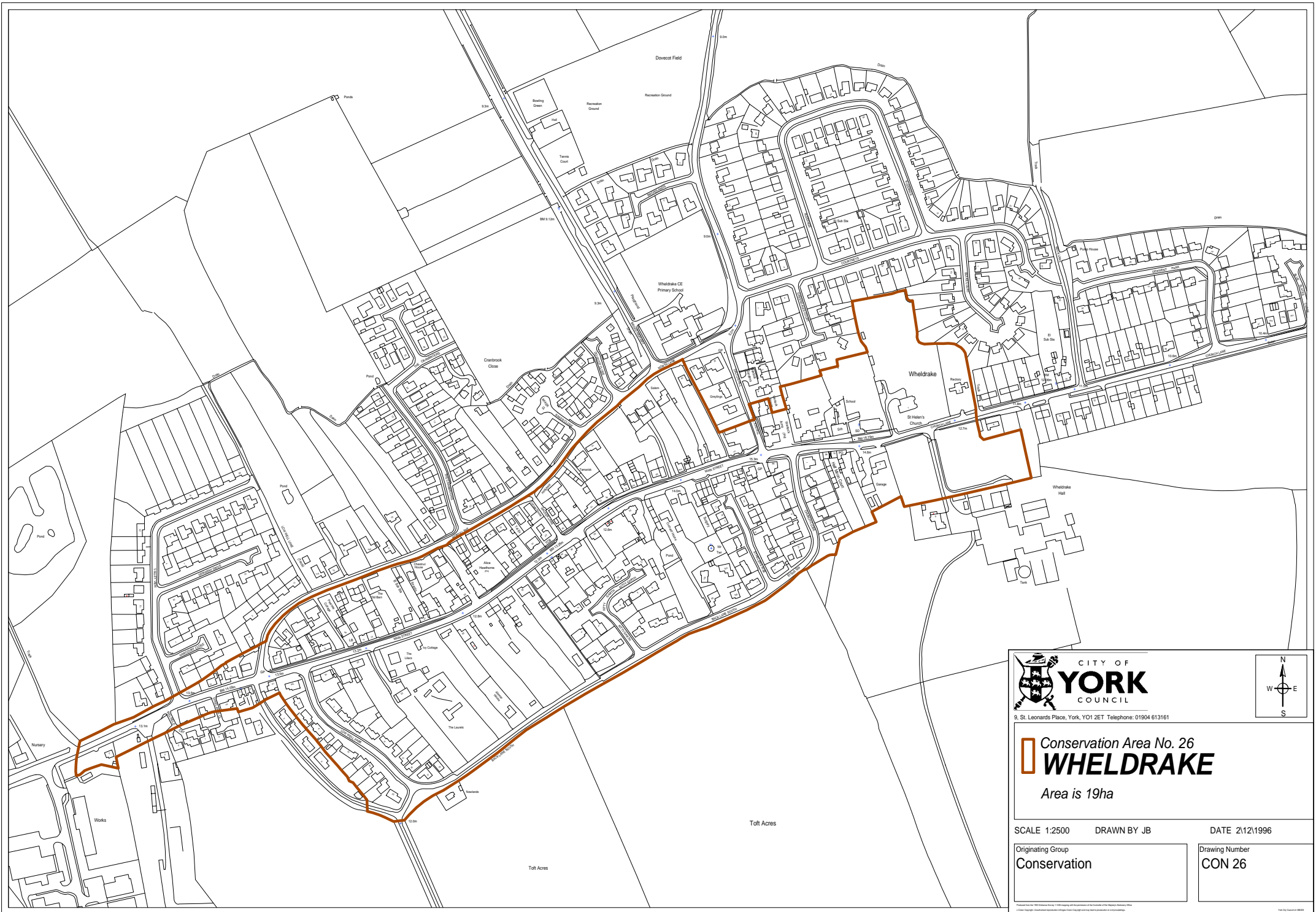
In the Conservation Area the Parish Church and twenty-one buildings are listed, a notable proportion for a village of this size, reflecting its historic importance and qualities. The Church of St Helen has a 14th Century west tower and a 5 sided apse of 1779. Numbers 53/55 Main Street are probably late 16th Century or early 17th Century in origin and have surviving exposed timber framing to the front wall. Other buildings date mainly from the 18th Century, with several from the early part of the Century, and examples of 3- cell, lobby-entry plan form.

Character

The medieval form and layout of the village survive, with long narrow plots of land extending to the “back lanes”, North Lane and South Lane. The latter retains its open setting beyond, but residential development now comes right up to much of North Lane, though important historical links still exist such as Broad Highway. The long, quite narrow Main Street, gently unfolding to the eye through its curves and reaching a slight rise at St Helen’s Church, combined with the way buildings are grouped along it, creates a linear village street of distinct quality. Grass verges running faithfully along the street’s length contribute to this and act as a setting for the buildings. Buildings are mostly 18th Century and 19th Century groups of cottages interspersed by more imposing individual houses and farmhouses, clustered along the street frontage and linked by walls, or set behind small walled front gardens or hedges. The result is an attractively varied, yet rhythmical and very cohesive streetscape. Buildings are mostly 2 storey, predominantly in pinkish-brown brickwork with pantile roofs, and some Welsh slate or plain tile. Several valuable groups of farm buildings retain the agricultural character of the village, together with the outbuildings extending down the narrow plots behind the frontage properties, and the several lanes and yards that create spatial interest and intimacy. The historical evolution of the physical fabric of St Helen’s Church and the variety of materials used make for an unusual and arresting building. Its siting, the nearby trees and association with the attractive group of buildings adjoining, including the former schoolhouse, create an enclave of poignant character at the east end of the village. The simple qualities of the cottages and farm buildings are complemented by the heritage of the local vernacular detailing found in many of the more individually historic properties : including tumbled-in brickwork, eaves banding, brick coping to gables, string courses, flat window arches of gauged brick. There are many examples through the village of Yorkshire sliding sash windows. Wheldrake retains the strongly rural, pastoral character of a linear village founded in agriculture. Its legacy of historic buildings and the qualities of its streetscape also generate a distinct sense of place, of arrival from the isolated countryside.


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

- (1) The surviving medieval pattern and its reflection in the form and layout of buildings.
- (2) The strong linear and cohesive character of the Main Street and Church Lane, arising from the grouping of buildings, boundary walls and the line of the street with its grass verge.
- (3) The rich legacy of historic buildings and local vernacular details, creating with the street pattern a distinct sense of place.




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Conservation Area No. 26
WHELDRAKE
 Area is 19ha

SCALE 1:2500 DRAWN BY JB DATE 2/12/1996

Originating Group
Conservation

Drawing Number
CON 26

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