

DUNNINGTON

Conservation Area No.33 (11.9 ha)

Introduction

Dunnington Conservation Area was designated on 13 May 2004, and includes the historic core and main approaches to the village in a 'T'-shape formed from Church Street, York Street and Common Road.

History

It is possible that pastoral migrants of the Iron Age were the first settlers, though artefacts from that time are scarce. In the early sixth century Anglo-Saxons settled in the Vale of York and their pattern of farming remained little changed until the eighteenth century. In the Domesday Book of 1087, the village appears as Dodintone and Doniton. The only enclosed lands at that time were the tofts, crofts and meadows near the village manors. However, by 1770, nearly all Dunnington Common was enclosed. During the nineteenth century agricultural produce was increasingly needed to feed the growing, nearby urban population and ancillary industries developed such as the making of agricultural implements. Dunnington was notable for Chicory, and there were possibly 12 kilns for processing by the mid nineteenth century. As with many villages, recent decades have seen considerable housing expansion for commuters. The population of Dunnington and Grimston was 481 in 1801, rising to 906 in 1861, and then declining slightly before reaching approximately 3,000 in 1994.

Important buildings

The Church of Saint Nicholas is Listed Grade II* and has late eleventh century origins, with a twelfth century nave and lower stage to the tower, with subsequent additions and alterations and rebuilding in 1839-41 and 1877. It has an interesting mixture of building materials: limestone, sandstone, millstone grit with roofing of Welsh slate, red plain tile and leadwork.

The Village Cross (where the village streets meet) has a medieval shaft and later finial. Church Street contains several early nineteenth century houses that are listed. Similarly, several listed houses are found along York Street, dating from the early-mid eighteenth century.

Character

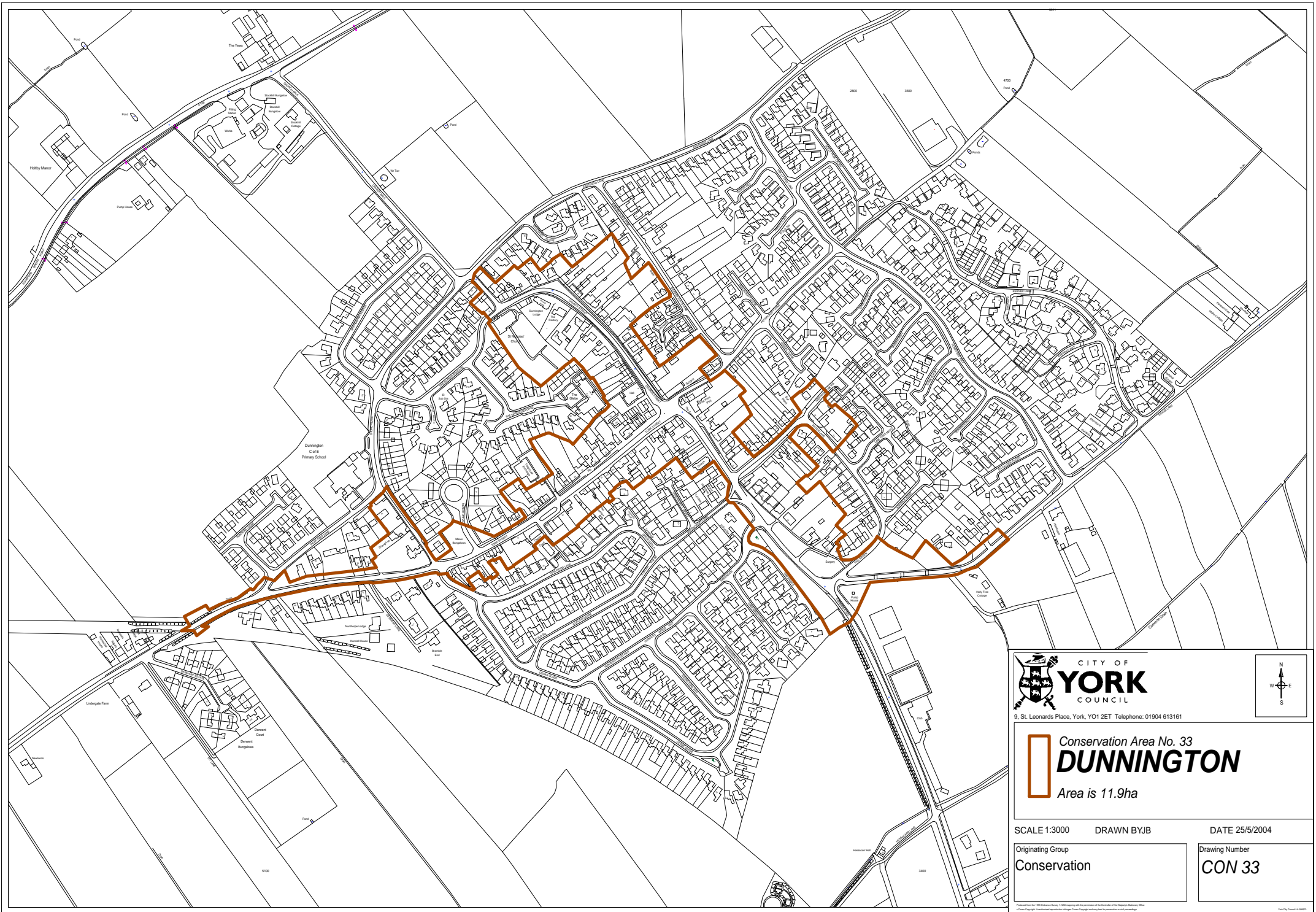
Dunnington has become one of the larger villages in the City of York area, due to extensive suburban style development. This has wrapped around the historic village centre, so that much of its original rural setting has been lost. However, the traditional village character within the historic centre itself remains strong and distinctive. It is made all the more interesting because of the street pattern, with Church Street, York Street and Common Road meeting at The Cross. Each street makes its own particular contribution to the overall character of the village, as follows:-

- CHURCH STREET still has a rural appearance. There has only been a limited amount of recent infill development. Its houses and cottages are given an attractive setting by the quite steep slope of the street, the grass verges, trees, hedges and front boundary walls. The street curves sharply at the upper end, making for a 'surprise' entrance to the village as you turn the corner. Behind Church Street is Garden Flats Lane, the line of a medieval back lane. Some paddocks survive, extending back from the frontage properties in Church Street.
- YORK STREET is the village "main street" in the sense of having shops and other facilities. There has been some unsympathetic infill development. Yet, overall York Street retains its character with a mix of individually attractive houses and groups of cottages. At the junction with Church Street stands the Cross, historically an important focal point for the village.
- South of the Cross, along COMMON ROAD the village character becomes more fragmented and straggling because of quite extensive recent development. However, there are still important links with the village's past: an attractive group of cottages on the south side of Water Lane; the Green with mature trees and the fine Dunnington House, making a pleasant entrance to the village that contrasts with the more tightly developed York Street and Church Street.

Buildings in Dunnington are predominantly 2-storeys in height, built in pinkish-brown brick, interspersed by white rendered buildings. A mixture of traditional roofing materials can be found, though pantiles predominate.

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

- (1) The way that the historic core of the village survives with such a strong and distinctive character, despite being almost surrounded by recent development.
- (2) The individuality of the main village streets, each in their own right; yet which combine to create the very attractive overall character of Dunnington.
- (3) The interesting topography and contrast between the quite enclosed village streets, and the more open area of the Green.
- (4) The sense of activity and focus for the community given by the shops and other village facilities.




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 Area is 11.9ha

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