

FULFORD ROAD

Conservation Area No.7 (11.7 ha)

Introduction

This area was originally part of Gate Fulford. It became part of the City of York after the boundary change of 1884 and was designated as a conservation area in 1975 because of its special historic and townscape value.

History

The Cavalry Barracks were opened in 1795 to house troops of the militia who had previously been billeted in Inns around the City and the neighbouring countryside, and reliant on a notice in the gazette to assemble for inspection. The need for a barracks area and to have troops on hand and available for muster had been experienced during the American War of Independence. By 1793 Britain was at war with France and undergoing setbacks. Fulford Barracks was one of 101 barracks built between 1793 and 1804 by the Barracks Master General. The Cavalry Barracks block has now been demolished but the Royal Arms modelled in coade stone are retained on site at the entrance to the Headquarters building.

Important buildings

Those buildings associated with the former cavalry Regiment include the keep to Imphal Barracks, the Lighthorseman Hotel and the Gimcrack Hotel. There is an ancient cross at Fulford related to St Mary's Abbey, dating from 1484.

Character

In essence it is a linear conservation area focused on Fulford Road, the entrance to the City from the south. It also includes the suburban housing of the late Victorian period on St Oswald's Road and the frontage of the former Cavalry Barracks and the parade ground now part of Imphal Barracks. The main characteristics of the conservation area are the roadside landscaping, trees and the very high walls and railings which line Fulford Road indicative of a few large landholdings. The walls are punctuated by individual mid-Victorian villa housing on plots generally fronting the west side of Fulford Road and the smallscale buildings associated with the military presence of the east side such as guard rooms and the Fulford Arms, formerly the Barracks Inn.

The high walls, gatehouses and keep (built in the late nineteenth century as the armoury) remain, as do the high walls and gates to the site of the former military hospital and ordinance depot and these give this part of Fulford Road Conservation Area its distinct character.

The conservation area now has a mix of shopping, garages, surgeries, a post office and some hotels with residential.

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

- (1) the trees, high walls and railings which line Fulford Road;
- (2) the small scale buildings associated with the military presence of the east side such as guard rooms and the Fulford Arms, formerly the Barracks Inn;
- (3) the high walls , gate houses and keep of the barracks together with walls and gates to the site of the former military hospital and ordinance depot.

THE RETREAT / HESLINGTON ROAD

Conservation Area No. 8 (22.0 ha)

Introduction

The land area of the Retreat and Heslington Road Conservation Area was originally outside the City of York and part of Fulford. It occupies the highest ground south of the City including Lamel Hill and Garrow Hill and commands views northwards across the City of York and southwards over Walmgate Stray and low Moor to the village of Fulford. It is located within the City of York Green Belt. The Conservation Area was designated in 1975.

History

Lamel Hill is a large mound raised during the Civil war. It formed part of the Civil War works which encircled York. The area around the mound includes an extensive late Roman or Anglian cemetery, because of this Lamel Hill is a scheduled ancient monument and the area has been designated an Area of Archaeological Importance.

In 1793, York Quakers decided to purchase 2 closes of land in Fulford to create a new hospital for the mentally ill. Their aim was to provide humane treatment, in airy surroundings with access to gardens and farm animals.

They followed the advice of the prison reformer John Howard and their architect Bevan in choosing rising ground with a plentiful supply of water. To oversee the details of the building works they engaged the local architect Peter Atkinson. The grounds of the Retreat encompass Lamel Hill and Quaker burial ground.

Important buildings

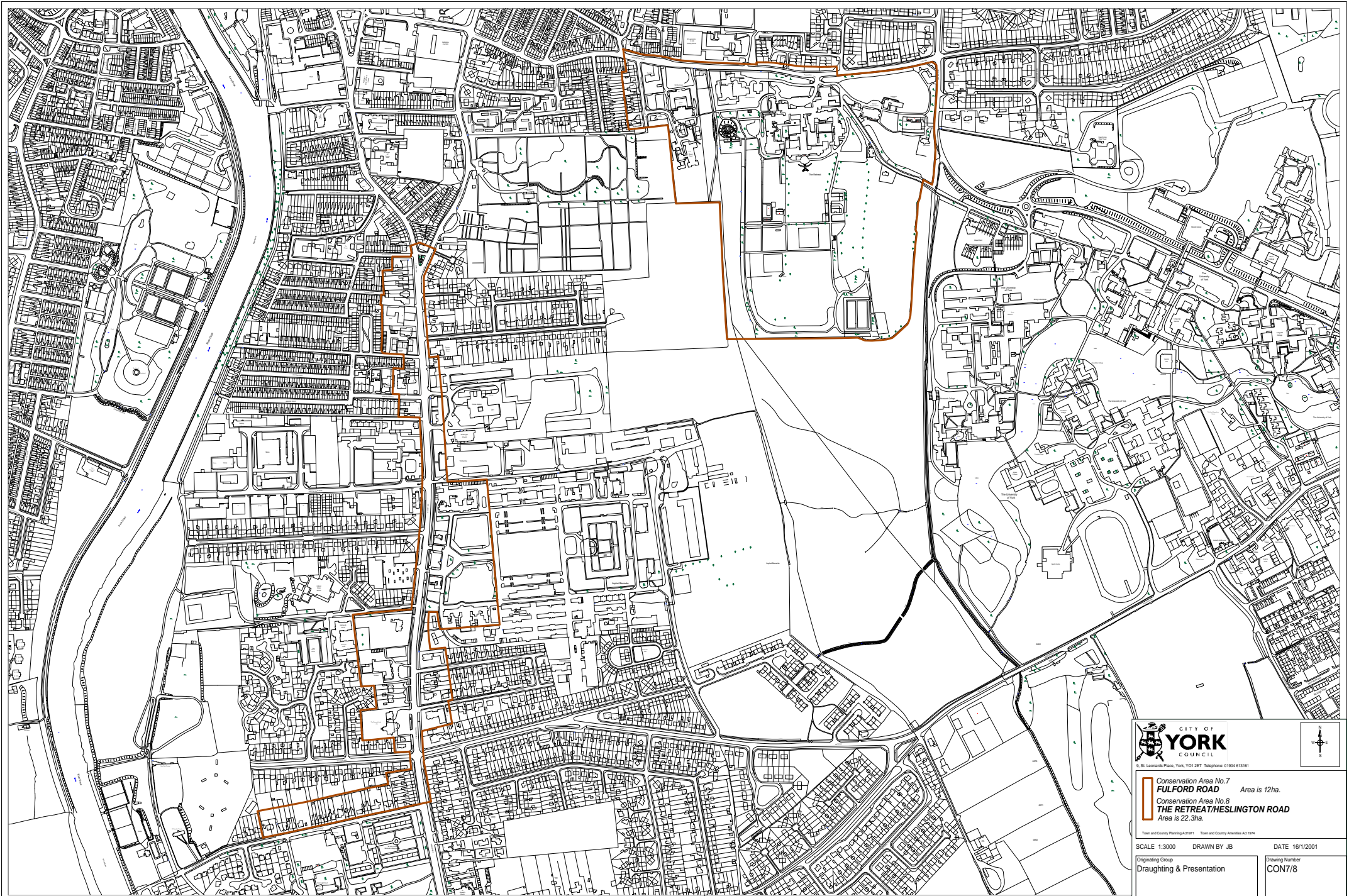
The Retreat, established in 1796, and extended in 1799, 1803 and later, is the focal point of the Conservation Area.

Character

The major element which gives this Conservation Area its distinct character, is an institutional use- The Retreat- set in parkland surrounded by obscuring walls but with views out. The Retreat grounds were enclosed with high walls to keep the patients safe inside the garden areas. These were laid out with numerous ornamental and shrubs and with hedges in a series of gardens and parkland. In the 1850s further areas were purchased and the hospital extended whilst still retaining its parkland setting. The open character of the Conservation Area extends West to York Cemetery, south to Walmgate Stray and east to the landscaped campus of the University. The Conservation Area also includes, in contrast, the pleasant Victorian suburban houses on Belle Vue Terrace some of which are listed.

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

- (1) The Retreat, set in parkland surrounded by high walls but with views out;
- (2) A series of gardens and adjoining parkland, giving a very open landscape character;
- (3) Pleasant Victorian suburban housing on Belle Vue Terrace which forms an edge to the open space;
- (4) The Conservation Area extends west to York Cemetery, south to Walmgate Stray and east to the landscaped campus of the University. It consists mainly of open greenspace on the edge of the city located within the City of York Green Belt.



Conservation Area No. 7
FULFORD ROAD Area is 12ha.
Conservation Area No. 8
THE RETREAT/HESLINGTON ROAD
Area is 22.3ha.

Towns and Country Planning Act 1971 Towns and Country (Amendment) Act 1974

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