

## **HAXBY**

### **Conservation Area No. 22 (7.7 ha)**

#### **Introduction**

Haxby Conservation Area was designated in 1977. It follows the boundaries of the historic village core, a compact and distinctive area.

#### **History**

Haxby existed as a Danish settlement, 1000 years ago in the Forest of Galtres. Not until 1630 had the forest been cleared to approximately its present extent, with the modern day boundaries of the parish becoming established. Haxby was unusual in not owning a Church and Manor House, and had to wait until 1862 to become a parish in its own right. By the early 18th century Haxby had assumed the form of a typical Vale of York village. Farming remained a major source of employment well into the 20th century. Other influences upon Haxby's prosperity were the local brick and tile works (its bricks being used in some of the village's late 19th century houses), and the railway line and station, the latter closing the 1960's. In 1901 Haxby's population was still only 711, but growing at an increasing pace from the 1930's and through the influx of large housing estates in recent decades, to about 10,000 people now.

#### **Important Buildings**

Number 48 the Village, a mid-18th century house, is listed, together with the remains of a 14th or 15th century cross in St Mary's Churchyard. Other individually important buildings include St Mary's Church (1878, on the site of a 16th Century Church), the Memorial Hall (built as the village school in 1876), and the substantial house called "Grey Firs". Haxby Hall, an impressive Grade II Listed Building, which stood at the east end of the village, was demolished in 1960.

#### **Character**

Though called the Village, Haxby's main street today has more a market town atmosphere, being the thriving shopping centre for the surrounding population. The basic medieval plan form from which Haxby evolved still survives clearly, with North and South Lanes, but now encased by recent mainly housing development. These are an important historical link. However, their character, especially South Lane, has been lost through developments of too large a scale, and the opening out and amalgamation of traditionally narrow frontages for car parking or service areas. Small pockets of the original fabric do remain, notably at the western end of South Lane: long, narrow brickwalled plots of land and small-scale outbuildings extending back from the street front cottages. Headland Lane, off South Lane, originated as a strip between two common fields where the ploughs were turned. Most of the recent commercial development that is out of character with the domestic scale of the traditional buildings has taken place at the south-east end of The Village (main street). The western section, in particular, and other groups of traditional scale buildings along the street, are the guardians of the underlying rural character that still makes Haxby distinctive. The street is broad and gently curving, with interesting variations in its width. Houses date mostly from the mid 18th century onwards, groups of 2 storey cottages, brick built with pantile roofs. Between them are individually more imposing houses and short attractive Victorian terraces creating a varied, yet cohesive, character with a shared sense of scale. Victorian buildings introduce variations in detailing and materials, and some Welsh slate and occasional hipped roofing.

Much of the visual appeal of the village arises from the interplay of building frontages - which have subtle variations of siting relative to the street - and the unifying elements of the streetscene: the grass verges, little forecourts, the white post and rail fencing and slight changes in level across the street; with the carriageway threading through on a curving line that actually varies gently from that of the street frontages. The triangular green that results at the west end is particularly attractive in this respect. Occasional tree groups also contribute to the street's character, notably in St Mary's Churchyard, which occupies a pivotal position in views along the street. The main elements of the character and appearance of the area above:-

- (1) The typical plan form of a medieval village.
- (2) The rural village character and scale that survives despite unsympathetic development.
- (3) The relationship of the street frontage and the various elements that make up the streetscene, which, if lost, would have a mediocre effect.



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**Conservation Area No. 22**  
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Area is 8ha.



SCALE 1:2500

Originating Group

Conservation

Project

DRAWN BY D Rowntree

DATE 16/01/2001

Drawing No.

CON 22