

Lothersdale Conservation Area

Appraisal July 2016

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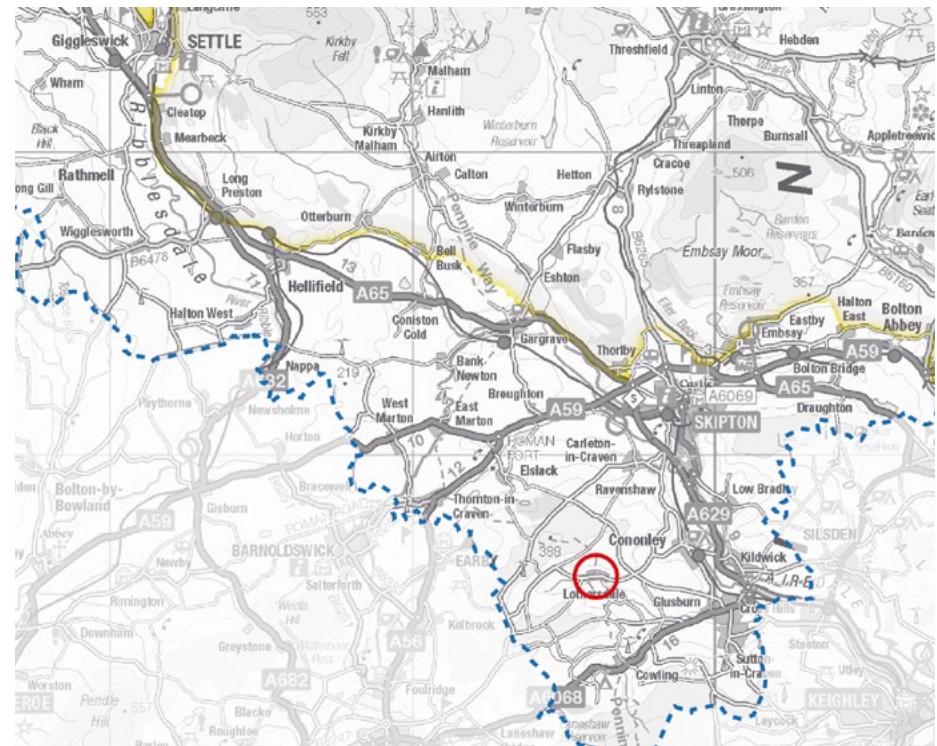


Introduction

How to use this document

This Conservation Area Appraisal should be read in conjunction with the document *Introduction to Craven Conservation Area Appraisals*, which can be downloaded from the Craven District Council website. This document contains an explanation of the purpose and methodology of this Appraisal, together with a general introduction to the history, landscape, buildings and settlement forms of Craven.

When viewed as a pdf document, this Appraisal includes an interactive map with a series of layers that can be activated using the menu panel that appears on the left-hand side of the report. Refer to the *Introduction* document for advice about how to reveal this menu panel. These layers, which can be turned off and on in any combination, illustrate aspects of the Appraisal that are described in the text. These elements are: the conservation area boundary, Victorian Ordnance Survey maps, listed buildings, key buildings, significant views, open space analysis and woodland. At any time the map can be found by clicking the MAP button on the bottom right corner of every page.

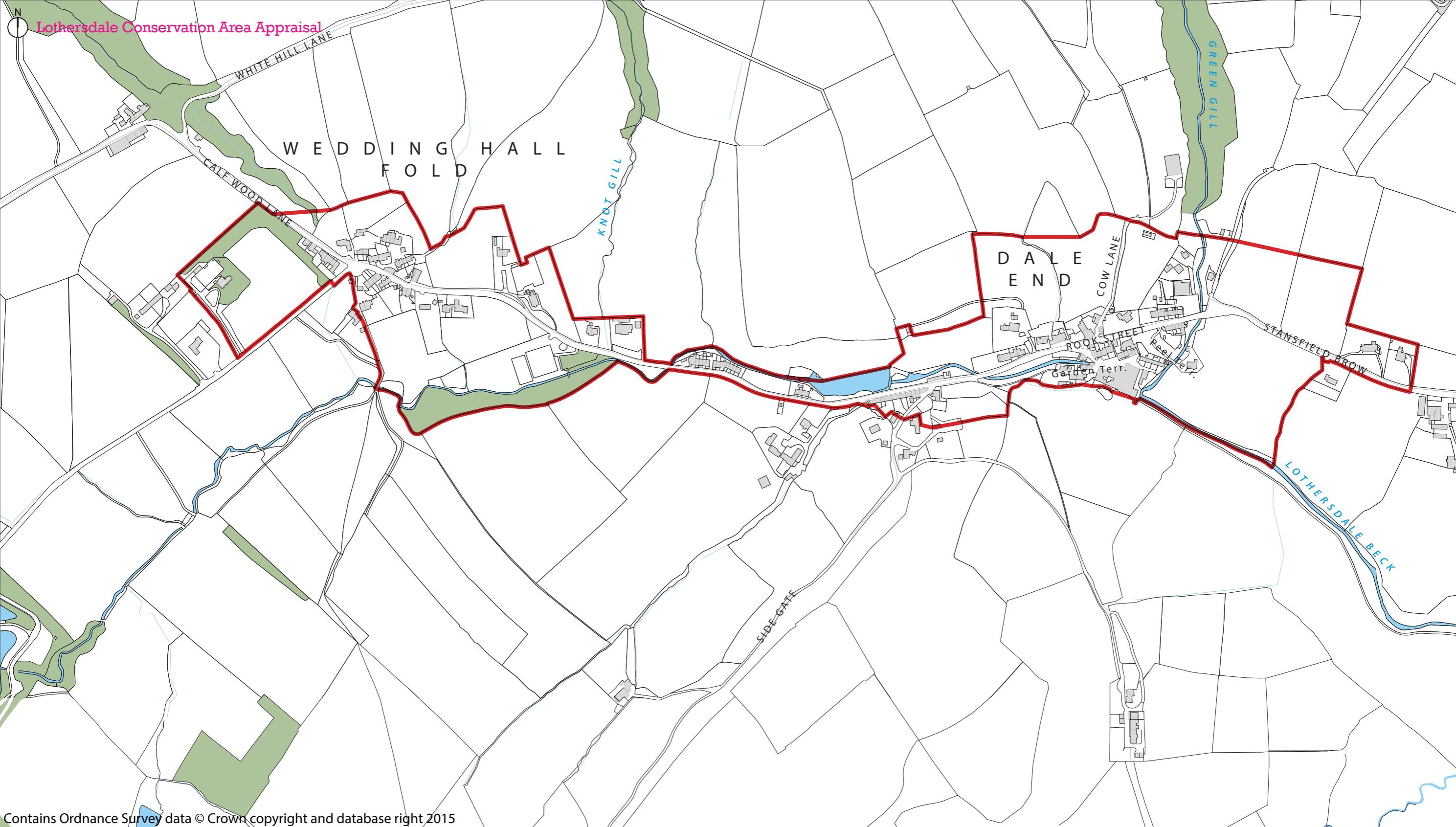


Location of Lotherdale

Overview of the conservation area

Lothersdale lies in the Landscape Character Area 38, Siltstone and Sandstone Moors and Fells (1). It comprises two historic settlements of Dale End and Wedding Hall Fold, the former associated with the late 18th/early 19th Century Grade II* Listed Dale End Mill and its surviving waterwheel believed to be the largest enclosed waterwheel in the country which is, itself, a Scheduled Monument

Date of Designation - 1979



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Lotherdale Conservation Area Appraisal

1.0 Character

1.1 Historic and Contemporary Character

Lothersdale has changed little since the late 19th century with none of the ubiquitous late 20th century suburban developments common elsewhere. The two distinct original settlements known as Dale End and Wedding Hall Fold clearly reflect much of the historic context of Lothersdale and its association with quarrying, textile working and farming. The lack of significant recent development has resulted in a highly legible settlement which the Conservation Area boundary perfectly captures. The surrounding landscape comprises historic enclosures and boundaries that may, in part date back several hundred years.

- Lothersdale is recorded in the Domesday Book and is, relative to West Riding, a 'quite large' settlement (2).
- In the early 20th century there were around forty separate farms and smallholdings surviving in the Lothersdale Valley, some, such as Knot, Wood Head and Raygill Farms being mentioned in manuscripts as early as the 15th century (4).



Wedding Hall Fold

- A significant limestone industry at Raygill Farm was associated with stone extraction and lime making on a semi-industrial scale since at least 1800. In 1851 there were thirteen lime burners, nine quarrymen, four barytes miners and one blacksmith employed at Raygill (4).
- The water powered Dale End Mill was converted from corn to cotton spinning in 1792 and converted to steam in 1842.
- Many of the properties within the two settlements were probably associated with handloom weaving (North View Terrace) and quarryman's housing (6-9 Calf Wood Lane).
- In common with the majority of West Riding communities, Quakers and Primitive Methodists had a strong presence, with the Listed Grade II Friends Meeting House dated to 1776 (converted to residential in the 1920s) and the Methodist Bethel Chapel built in 1851 (converted to a live/work unit in 2012/13). The Listed Grade II Christ's Church was built in 1838.
- Lothersdale has hardly changed since the early 20th century and late 20th/early 21st century development has been largely confined to conversions of industrial and agricultural buildings.



North View Terrace

1.2 Spatial and Urban Character

Lothersdale is a quiet settlement stretched out along the Lothersdale Beck with two main foci, linked by a series of development including Spring Terrace, Lothersdale Community Primary School and the former Bethel Chapel (now converted to a live/work unit). Dale End is a collection of dwellings and former industrial buildings principally associated with Dale End Mill. Terraces and cottages are complemented by individual buildings including the Listed Grade II Friend's Meeting House. Wedding Hall Fold also contains terraced dwellings (6-9 Calf Wood Lane) but is dominated more by former farms and farm cottages (High Fold, Wedding Hall Barn, West Barn). The terracing may be associated with the extensive former Lothersdale Lime workings to the south near Raygill Farm.

- Lothersdale is a linear settlement covering approximately 1.5km in length from Christ's Church to Wedding Hall Fold.
- There are two main 'centres' by the Hare & Hounds Public House and Wedding Hall Fold.
- The Listed Grade II* Dale End Mill complex includes mill buildings, some converted to residential and some in the process of being converted to a variety of uses set within a compact built area which includes former workers terracing (Peel Terrace) and more individual dwellings (1,2,5 & 6 Garden Terrace). Overall, this complex, including surviving water management features is a strong contributor to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. Views of the mill dominate from the eastern approach down Stansfield Brow and from Rook Street.
- Housing on the main road, Rook Street in Dale End is varied, with a mix of terraces (1-12 Rook Street) and more individual detached villas (Rowan House, Burlington House), some set back with extensive front gardens.

- Significant open space between and surrounding individual properties and terraces is a key feature of the Conservation Area giving many dynamic and glimpsed views (examples MF1 and HF3) of the surrounding landscape as well as defining historic property boundaries and former farm enclosures. This is particularly noticeable at Wedding Hall Fold.
- Between the two main foci are a number of individual dwellings and further terracing (North View).
- Although there has clearly been some new building within the Conservation Area in the late 20th and early 21st century, they are often difficult to distinguish from conversions of former farm buildings due to similarities in the use of materials, fixtures and fittings.

1.3 Public open space

Public space is provided through the community managed playground, tennis court and war memorial opposite the Lothersdale Community Primary School. Publicly accessed open space is also provided by the burial grounds of the Bethel Chapel and Christ Church.

1.4 Relationship with other settlements

Although Lothersdale lies close to the settlements of Cononley, Cowling and Earby, it feels completely detached from them due to the relative isolation of the settlement from any A-roads.

1.5 Key Buildings

- Dale End Mill, especially the chimney - Grade II*
- Lothersdale Community Primary School – undesignated
- Bethel Chapel and burial ground – undesignated
- War memorial – undesignated
- Hare & Hounds Public House – undesignated
- Mill pond - undesignated



Bethel Chapel



Lotherdale war memorial



Hare & Hounds



Mill Pond

1.6 Materials and Palette

- Walls: Coursed Sandstone and Limestone rubble for buildings. Coursed limestone and sandstone rubble for boundary walls.
- Windows: Sandstone quoins and window dressings including mullions and transoms. Timber casements and sashes painted white. Replacement windows common - uPVC and stained timber.
- Gateposts: Sandstone
- Roofing: Stone slates (Westmorland).
- Pavements: Ashlar with granite kerbs
- Surfaces: Ashlar road surfaces with some surviving cobbles and setts in yards.
- Street furniture: Street lights concrete columns with vertical shielded lanterns throughout.



Boundary wall

2.0 Landscape and Open space

2.1 Overview

The distinct separation of the two distinct original settlements of Wedding Hall Fold and Dale End is a significant feature of the Conservation Area. The landscape setting both within and outwith the Conservation Area is a critical element of the legibility of the two settlements. The school, former Methodist Bethel Chapel, war memorial, play area and allotments form a distinctive boundary between these two settlements with open landscape to the west and east.

2.2 Methodology

The following categories have been used to assess the contribution of open space to the Conservation Area and are shown as a layer on the map at the front of this appraisal:

Purple: Open space that makes a strong contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

Yellow: Open space that makes some contribution to character and appearance of the Conservation Area

Brown: Open space that makes no or negligible contribution to character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

Areas of open space and individual fields that have been identified as making a less than strong contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area have been numbered for reference in the descriptions below. Refer to the 'open space analysis' layer on the Appraisal map that can be accessed from the button on the bottom right corner of the page.

2.3 Open space assessment

Land to the north of Stansfield Brow (F1)

- These fields lie within the view cone of **HD1** and form part of the setting of the Grade II Christ Church.
- All the enclosure boundaries that survive reflect the historic landscape as shown on the 1853 Ordnance Survey map and help define the historic 'edge of settlement'.

Land between Stansfield Brow and Lothersdale Beck (F2)

- These are very important fields within the view cones of **HF1** and **HD1** that form part of the eastern gateway into the settlement of Dale End with views of Dale End Mill and the landscape beyond.
- These fields also form an important part of the setting of the Scheduled and Listed Dale End Mill.

Land to the south of Rook Street (F3)

- Important historic open space within the view cone of **MF4**, with views of Dale End Mill with landscape beyond.

Land to the north of Rook Street (F4)

- This area of open space comprises a large tarmac surface and low sheds and workshops which make a limited contribution to the Conservation Area by virtue of the open space and glimpsed views of the landscape beyond.
- Until relatively recently (circa 1950s), a single large building or terrace occupied the site (possibly a farm).

Land to the south of Lothersdale Beck and east of Sidegate Lane (F5)

- Important fields with historic boundaries shown on 1853 Ordnance Survey map on the slopes of Town End Hill, highly visible from Stanfield Brow, Rook Street and Sidegate Lane.
- Clearly visible within the view cones of **HF1** and **HD1**, these fields are important in defining the historic ‘edge of settlement’.
- These fields also form an important part of the setting of the Scheduled and Listed Dale End Mill.

Land to the north of Wedding Hall Fold and Dale End (F6)

- Generally this landscape of enclosed pasture slopes gently up to the north to White Hill Lane and comprises historic boundaries shown on the 1853 ordnance Survey map.
- The landscape defines the northern edge of the two settlements of Wedding Hall Fold and Dale End as well as enhancing the separate legibility of the two settlements along with F7 and F8 to the south.
- The three key buildings, Lothersdale Methodist Church, Lothersdale Primary School and the former mill pond are visually strengthened by surrounding open space.

Land to the south of Spring Terrace (F7)

- Important pasture enclosures that slope up to the south which includes the earthwork remains of early sandstone quarrying (not shown on the 1853 map) and historic boundaries shown on the 1853 Ordnance Survey map.
- The Lothersdale Brook to the west marks a dramatic change in topography to the flat alluvial plain of the brook (F8).

Land between Lothersdale Brook and Raygill Lane (F8)

- A flat landscape of enclosed pasture giving long views to the south and the Former limestone quarries of Raygill.
- Important open space that defines the historic 'edge of settlement' of Wedding Hall Fold retaining historic views to the south.

Grounds of 'The Willows' (F9)

- The grounds of this private house incorporate an important belt of trees against Calf Wood Lane and pasture against Raygill Lane.
- The Conservation Area boundary is coterminous with the boundary of the house and grounds.

3.0 Views

3.1 Highly significant fixed views (HF)

HF1: View from seating by Christ Church

- Contextual view of the Lothersdale Valley from an elevated position by the entrance to the parish church.
- Good strong view of the Listed and Scheduled Dale End Mill and its chimney.

HF2: View from the Hare & Hounds Public House

- In the summer months in particular the pub seating provides an excellent location for appreciating the setting of the Dale End settlement with views along Rook Street and out to Town Edge hill to the south.
- This location also provides an evocative view through into the Dale End Mill complex with the chimney behind.



HF2

HF3: View from Sidegate Lane

- Although well outside the Conservation Area this location presents highly dramatic views of Lothersdale and Wedding Hall Fold in particular. This is recognized by the local community who have installed a seat.



HF4: Views from Calf Wood Lane

- 360 degree views of the settlement within its landscape setting from a location that includes a public seat and from where the character and appearance of this part of the Conservation Area can be appreciated.
- Views down the lane to Raygill House and the former Lothersdale Lime Works with open landscape views.
- Glimpsed views of landscape to the north.



HF4

HF5: View from seat on Calf Lane

- Dramatic contextual view of Wedding Hall Fold with Lothersdale Limeworks quarry clearly visible.



3.2 Highly significant dynamic views (HD)

HD1: View from Stansfield Brow

- Picturesque approach to the settlement from the east illustrating Lothersdale's strong relationship with the surrounding landscape.
- Dynamic views of Listed and Scheduled Dale End Mill.



HF5

3.3 Moderately significant fixed views (MF)

MF1: View from Rook Street to the north

- Glimpsed view between properties on Rook Street up to Burlington Farm and the landscape beyond demonstrating the importance of open space between properties on the main village street.
- The Listed Grade II Friend's Meeting House lies within this view.



MF1

MF2: View of Dale End Mill form public footpath

- Stunning view of Dale End Mill, with the Scheduled wheel pit and chimney with associated terraced housing and immediate landscape setting including Lothersdale Brook.



MF2

MF3: View from North View

- Views from here include early 19th century terraced housing, part of the Dale End Mill water management system and open landscape to the north.
- The landscape includes a traditional field barn and demonstrates a clear separation between the settlements of Dale End and Wedding Hall Fold.



MF4: View of Dale End Mill complex from Rook Street

- A close and unimpeded view of the mill complex from the road with a clear appreciation of its landscape setting on the edge of the Dale End settlement.



MF4

4.0 Traffic and Movement

4.1 Pedestrian

The roads and lanes are very quiet and footways exist throughout the Conservation Area.

There are many well used footpaths giving access to open country including the Pennine Way, a national long distance footpath. This enters the village from the south by the Hare & Hounds Public House and exits to the north up Cow Lane.

4.2 Vehicle

All roads and lanes are quiet country roads with no significant through traffic. However at school pick-up time in the afternoon a substantial amount of traffic negotiates the narrow roads and parking outside the Lothersdale Community Primary School is clearly a challenging issue. The road at this point is 20mph. All other roads are 30mph.

4.3 Parking

Cars are parked on-street and off-street in drives and yards. The Hare & Hounds has a medium sized car park against the Lothersdale Beck.

5.0 Recommendations for further work

- Further study of opportunities and detractors.
- Assessment of streetscape.
- Article 4 direction and guidance on external appearance of dwellings in the conservation area.
- Detailed analysis of building form and settlement character and morphology.

Sources

1. Chris Blandford Associates, 2011, North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project. <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/25431/Landscape-character-assessment>
2. Open Domesday, 2015, University of Hull: <http://opendomesday.org>
3. National Library of Scotland, 2015, Ordnance Survey Maps - Six-inch England and Wales, 1842-1952 : <http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/index.html>
4. Kenneth Wilson et al, The History of Lothersdale: Lothersdale Parish Council, 1972

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Issued July 2016

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