



Rawdon Little Moor is a place of special character and historic interest. This appraisal and management plan sets out the features that contribute to its distinctiveness and identifies opportunities for its protection and enhancement.

Rawdon Little Moor

CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL & MANAGEMENT PLAN

Approved as a material consideration in the determination of planning decisions 1st June 2011

Overview

Summary of special interest

Rawdon Little Moor is a modest but unique settlement. The settlement form is characteristic of a typical West Yorkshire village which relates to a predominantly early 19th Century streetscape, in the form of highly legible terraces and cottages, within a compact and tightly built urban form.

The village probably originated as a meeting place where two roads met on the edge of the moor that lead towards the medieval settlement of Rawdon proper. There were smaller farmsteads within the locality that began to form hamlets such as Low Fold, but these were subsequently integrated under the name Little Moor after the 18th Century Turnpikes modified Harrogate Road and created the post 1780s New Road Side. The form we can see today dates largely from the mid 19th century, due to the increase in the local weaving industry. However, earlier buildings are to be found within the area and the Quaker influence was especially important. Its setting is nicely tucked beneath the higher ground of Rawdon billing and on the gentle slope before the Aire Valley continues north west towards the Dales.

The main features of the Conservation Area include the distinctive triangular Little Moor Park area. This may have been a remnant after the 18th Century Enclosure Act and has ever since been

an area of common land and an important amenity. The original tight grained terrace forms dictate a special character that is possibly related to historic field boundaries and the grand Victorian villas, many of which evolved from earlier farm houses.

Summary of issues

Rawdon Little Moor has retained a strong historic character and most of its historic street pattern. The village on the whole retains its compact form and its own local distinctiveness.

There has been no extensive loss or damage but two key buildings, the old Empire Cinema and the former Chapel facing Little Moor Park on Harrogate Road have been demolished. It is important that historic architectural features are retained and appropriate materials are used in any repairs or alterations in order to preserve the character of the area.

There is also good survival of historic walling in the public realm. Historic paving and walling should be retained wherever possible and new sections of paving should be of appropriate materials.

The amount of traffic on New Road Side creates noise, heavy traffic and pollution but the area of Little Moor Park avoids this disturbance and recent Homezone schemes contribute to this being a peaceful and liveable place.



The settlement has had to accommodate some modern infill development over recent years, much of which is relatively sensitive. However, there are some new build elements that detract from the area. All new build schemes should be responsive in terms of form, materials and local character and be based upon

Top and lower left: The urban character of Little Moor with long terraces, well proportioned windows and chimney's. Lower right: Crowtrees House.

sound understanding and analysis of the Conservation Area.

Location and Context

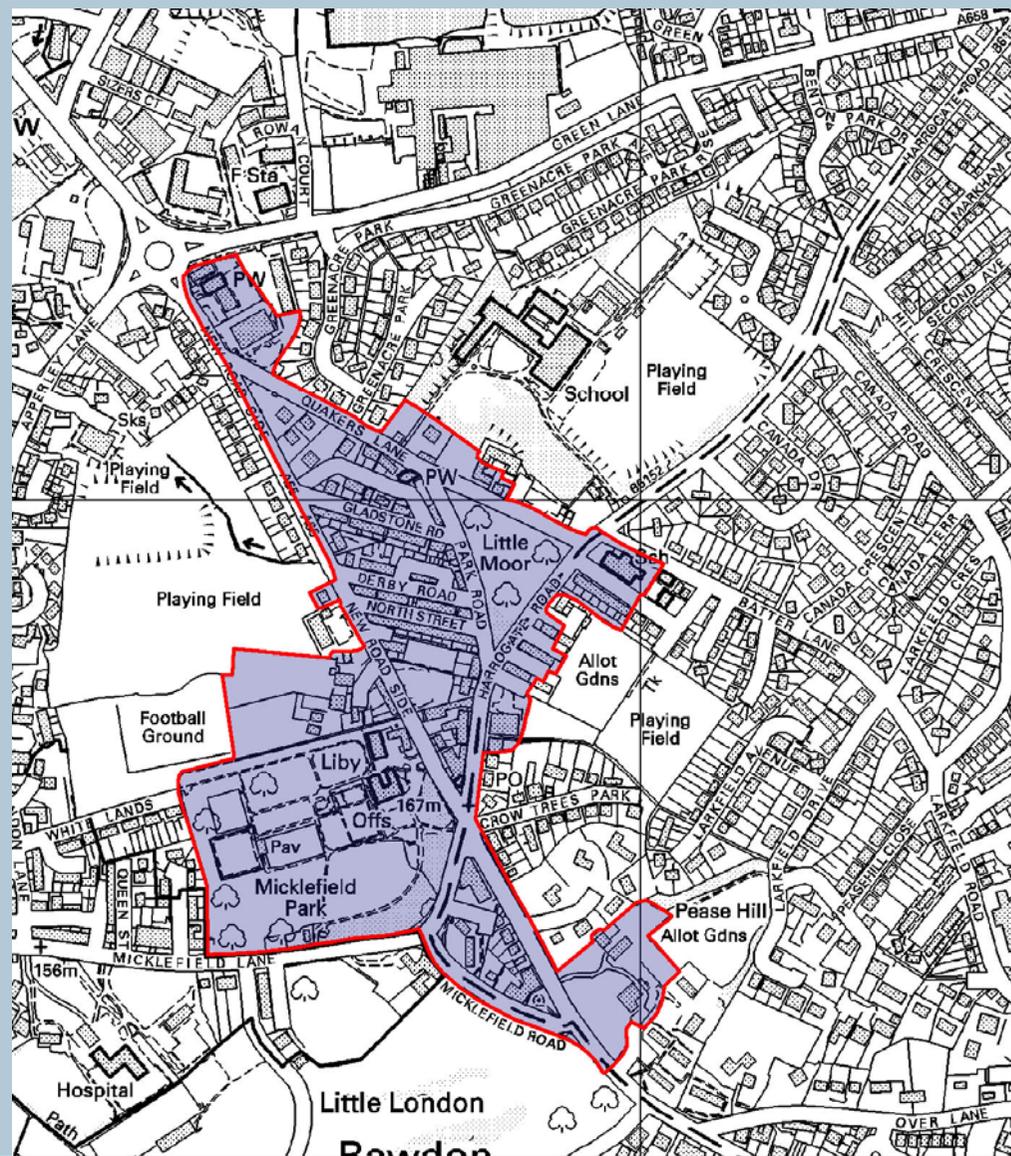
Rawdon Little Moor has been designated as a new Conservation Area based upon the area's special architectural and historic interest. Little Moor is focussed around the distinctive green space that gives the settlement its name. This forms the traditional meeting point of two historic routes within the area. The later Turnpike road of New Road Side that runs to Leeds, travels to the south east of Little Moor Park and also dictates the form of the village.

The Conservation Area boundary is shown on the map, right, the main areas of designation are as follows:

- The core of the Conservation Area focussed around Little Moor Park and extending mainly to the west and south.
- The listed buildings related to the Quaker movement are included.
- Extends to the south of New Road Side taking in Micklefield Park and the Low Fold Farm area.
- Encompasses the characteristic terraces of Derby Road and North Street.
- From Little Moor to encompass Trinity Church and church hall on New Road Side as well as the mid twentieth century Greenacre Hall.



- The designation extends to the crossroads of New Road Side, Leeds Road and Harrogate/Micklefield Roads to accommodate the 1906 shops, war memorial and Crowtrees House.



Conservation Area Boundary for Rawdon Little Moor.

Location and context

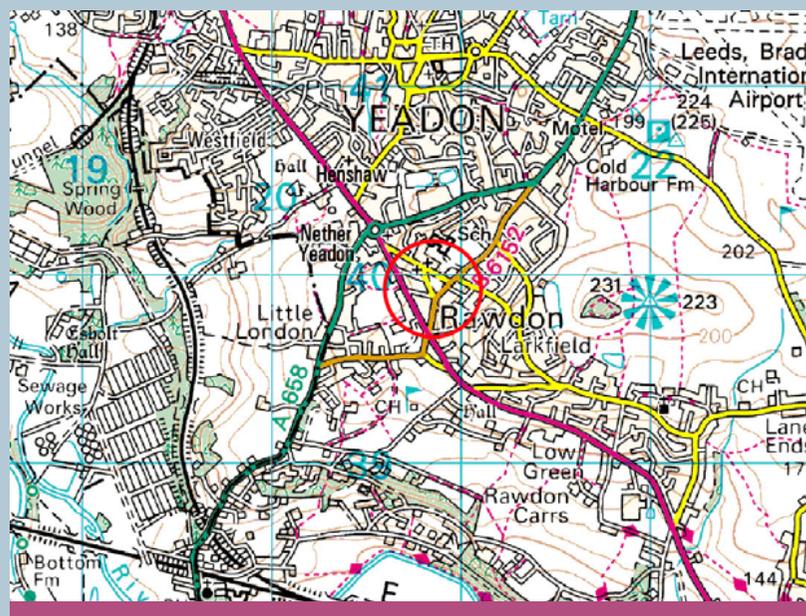
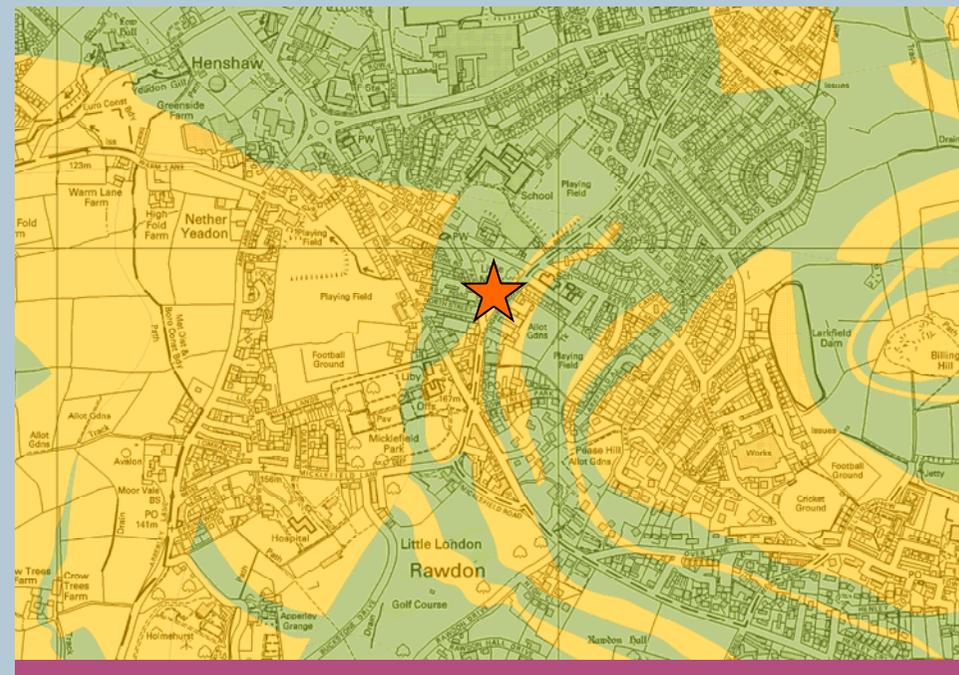
Location and setting

Rawdon Little Moor is situated between Leeds and Bradford approx 8 miles northwest of Leeds City Centre. It forms one of several historic districts within Rawdon. It is an area whose appearance is dictated by the distinctive triangular space of Little Moor and by New Road Side, which is the main road to Leeds and Guiseley. The area is still contained and distinctive, although 20th century suburban housing has had its impact on the setting of the village and the built form now effectively links Little Moor to surrounding towns.

Geology, topography and landscape setting

Little Moor sits on a geology of sandstone and millstone grit, much of which has traditionally been quarried locally and dictated the area's aesthetic and vernacular form. Little Moor itself occupies slightly higher ground than nearby Little London and Henshaw, and sits at the foot of the rising land that leads to Billing Hill and Rawdon Main Street. Little London and the geology underlying Rawdon is a complex pattern of carboniferous sandstone Millstone Grit.

The setting of Little Moor is mainly urban but there are still elements of open farmland and moorland that contribute to the uniqueness of the area.



Above: Sandstone (yellow) and Millstone Grit (green) underlay Little Moor and have been the traditional building materials throughout its history. Right: The view towards the Dales from Pease Hill.



Historic development

Origins and historic settlement

The geographical area referred to as Rawdon 'Littlemoor', consists of the settlement surrounding the distinctive unenclosed triangular area of land bounded by the modern-day roads of Quakers Lane, Harrogate Road and Park Road. It is situated roughly 1km north-west of the main medieval settlement of Rawdon.

The earliest evidence for human activity in this area is a Bronze Age axe c2,600 BC – 700 BC, found in the vicinity of Billing Hill – a prominent tree-topped hill, located approximately 800m east of Littlemoor. There are also reports of a gold torc as having been found in the surrounding area in 1780, and this would probably be Iron Age (c.700 BC – 1st century AD).

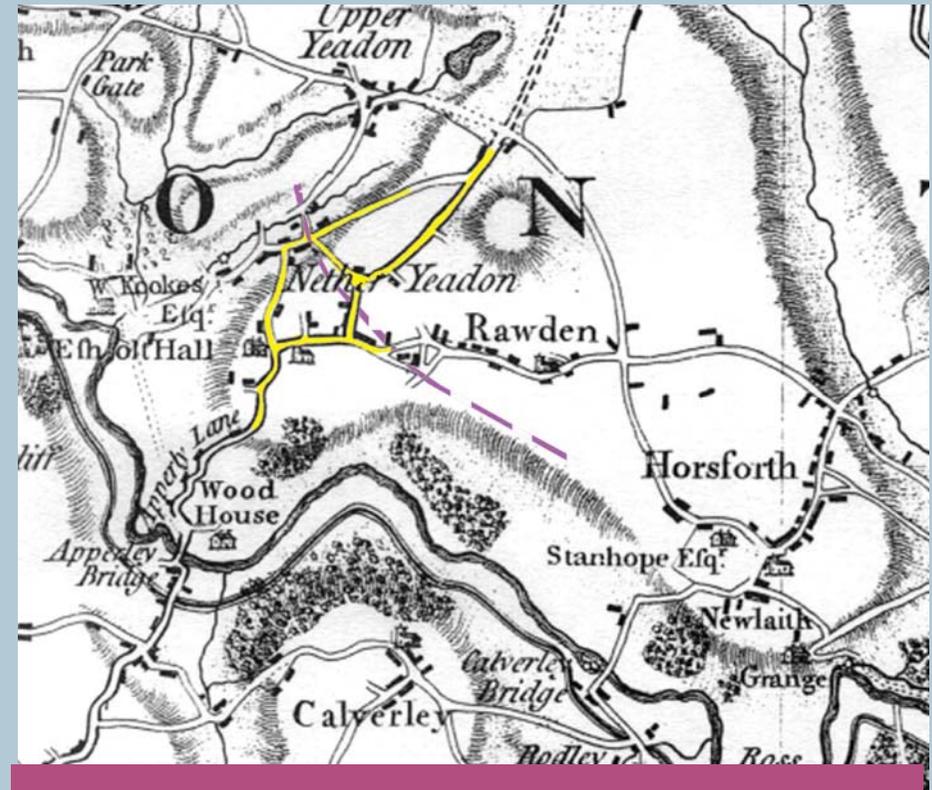
Although Rawdon is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (the name is thought to mean "rough valley"), the first known evidence for the place name 'Littlemoor' is not until the 1st Edition six inches to the mile OS map (surveyed 1848, map sheet 202). Nevertheless, earlier mapping (Jeffery's, 1775) shows the distinctive triangular crossroads of Littlemoor, with a small number of buildings in the vicinity prior to the 19th century.

The oldest standing buildings date from the 17th century and are Grade II listed. These include the former farmhouse at Old Fold (located off New Road Side) which is dated 1614, and Crow Trees, which was built in 1628 for a Christopher Coates, but extended in 1670, and according to English Heritage was re-sited and rebuilt in c.1825-6.

One of the most prominent buildings in the area is the (still active) listed Friends' Meeting House located on Quakers Lane. Dated 1697, with 19th-century alterations the meeting-house is a simple one storey building, built of sandstone with plain mulioned windows. The 18th century Warden's cottage (and stable) to the Friends' Meeting House and the entrance gateway and wall are also listed.

The village was a convenient meeting place for the Quakers as they were early 'dissenters' who objected to the rules of the Church of England. The 'Five Mile Act' that was passed in the early 1700's forbade preaching by other religious bodies other than CofE within 5 miles of any town. Little Moor was conveniently located more than 5 miles from Bradford, and more than 7 miles from Leeds thus becoming a convenient home for the Quakers.

The early village seems to have been a meeting of roads that dictated the triangular moor area and gave the settlement its characteristic identity. There appears to have been a trackway following historic field boundaries shown on the 1851 map, leading from Old Fold farm and emerging slightly south of the moor area. This distinctive pattern, at right angles to the later turnpike road of New Road Side, dictated the appearance of the early village and, by 1894, the earliest terrace houses had been built along North Street and Derby Road. South Street also seems to have been built a little earlier, although for some reason has never extended further east. These early terraces represent the cottage woolen industry emerging in Little Moor and, although this development appears to have come later than nearby Little London, the economic use of land is similar.



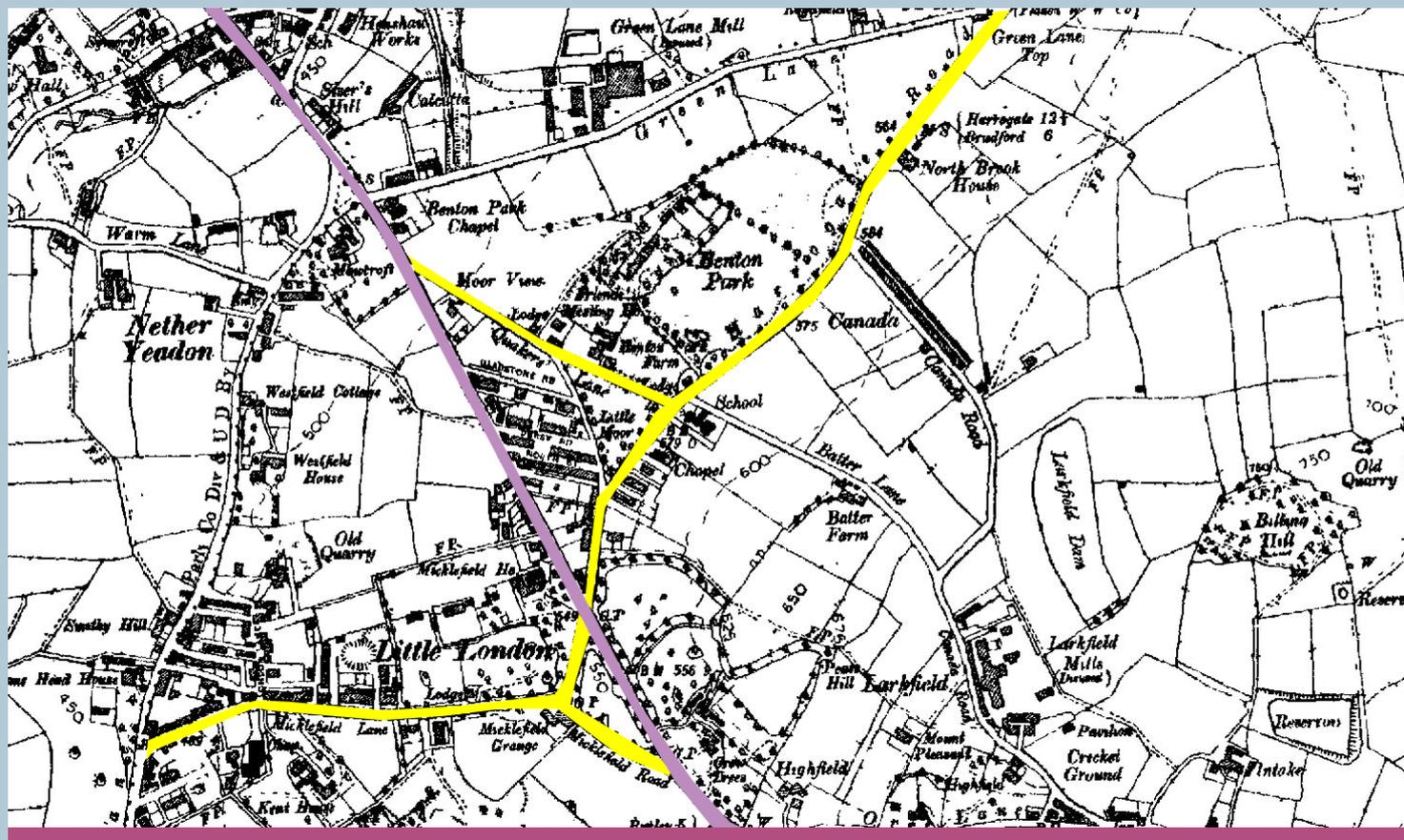
The 1775 Jeffery's map showing the topography and landmark buildings of the time. The most likely location for Little Moor is in the centre and appears to fall under the name Nether Yeadon. The purple line shows roughly where the New Road Side Turnpike route runs. Below: Old Fold Farm.



Historic development

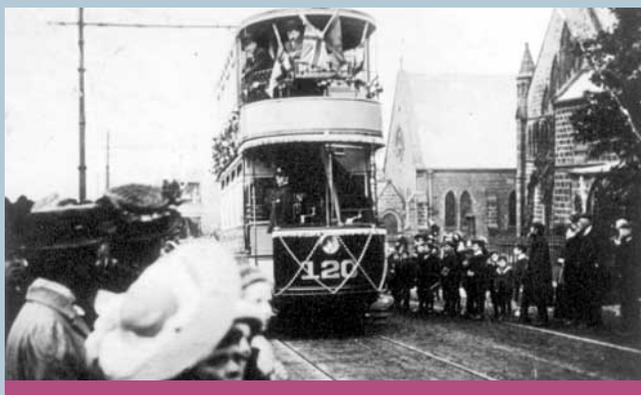
Into the 20th Century

On May 26th 1909 tram number 120 stopped outside the Benton Congressional Church and school, (now Trinity Church), at the junction of New Road Side and Green Lane. This was to be Rawdon's first tram and became a popular route for trips to Leeds. The trams ran every 20 minutes and cost 4d. This added to New Road side as the main focus of Little Moor, with shops and even the once famous Empire Cinema (and Temperance Hall!), which was known as the 'Best Cinema in the district' until being demolished in 1964. This may explain why the Little Moor area itself survived in such a distinctive form as much of the activity was to the South. The moor area was formalised into a park in 1902 to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII and was ornamented with paths and railed ironwork. This was presumably taken away during the Second World War and never replaced. There is little of the formal layout left on the moor and the site is taking on its more rural character once again.



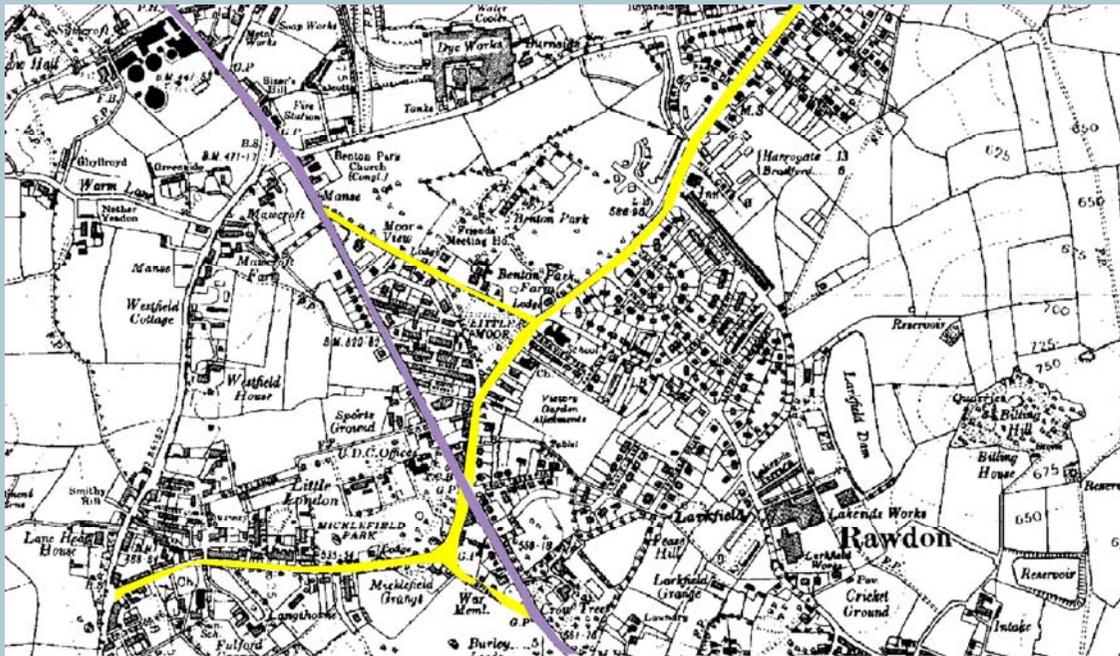
Ordnance Survey 1909 map shows the majority of the main buildings of Little Moor already present but it still retains its rural character. The distinctive terrace forms can clearly be seen running at an acute angle from New Road Side, which seem to respect the field boundaries shown on the previous map. New Road Side in purple.

Right: The first tram from Rawdon. The Trinity (formerly Benton) Church can be seen behind tram number 120. (Leodis)



Right: The formally laid out Rawdon Little Moor Park circa 1902 with paths and railings. Note the Chapel building at the far end which has unfortunately been demolished in recent years. (Leodis)





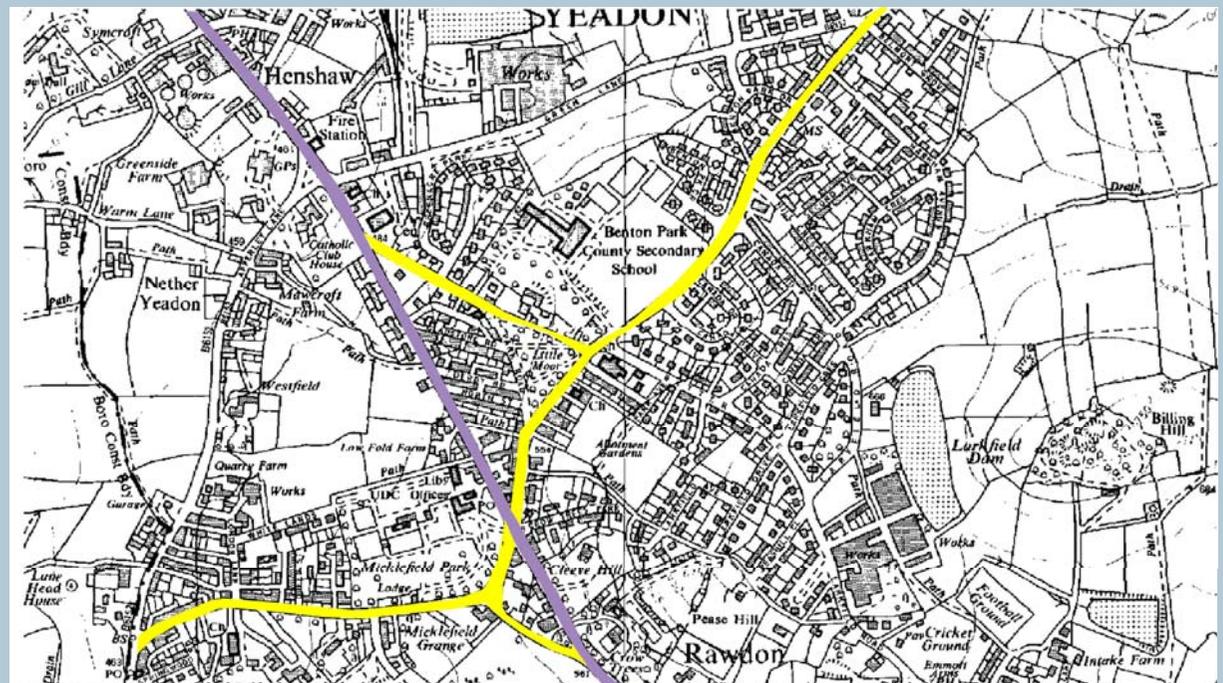
Left: Little Moor has clearly expanded with suburban housing located to the east of the main settlement. The Victory Gardens maintain a semi rural feel within this expanding settlement.

Right: A view from 1910 looking down Harrogate Road towards the New Road Side crossroads. (Leodis)

Below: Little Moor in the 1960's. Retaining much of its character but more suburban housing being developed.



Historic Ordnance Survey maps depict Little Moor as largely rural in character right up to the 1930s. Following this, suburban housing estates were developed and the once separated districts of Rawdon amalgamated into one continuous built form. However the core of the village still retains its unique village character largely dictated by Little Moor itself and the early terrace forms. The local shops still contribute positively to the area and enable Little Moor to compete as a welcome alternative to the nearby supermarkets. Indeed the village contributes local services to nearby Little London and is creating its own unique identity through this mix of vibrant commercial activities.



Character Analysis

Spatial Analysis

Settlement form

The historic core of Little Moor Conservation area is focussed around the distinctive triangular space of Little Moor Park itself. This area appears to have been unenclosed land that was naturally left over after the cutting of the Harrogate Road Turnpike in the early 19th Century. To the south of the open space distinctive 2 storey terrace forms, once containing a modest weavers industry, follow more historic field patterns and are located at an east west alignment at right angles to New Road Side.

The settlement is contained by Micklefield Park to the south and what was Benton Park to the north, (now Benton Park School). This has enabled the village to retain much of its unique character. To the East the land rises towards Rawdon itself and the built form becomes more suburban. However, character is retained by the Victoria Garden Allotments that were opened in 1919, and maintain an important village open space.

Activity and grain

The earliest buildings within the area appear to have been the old yeoman's farms of which Old Fold is the best example within the Conservation Area. Other buildings associated with the

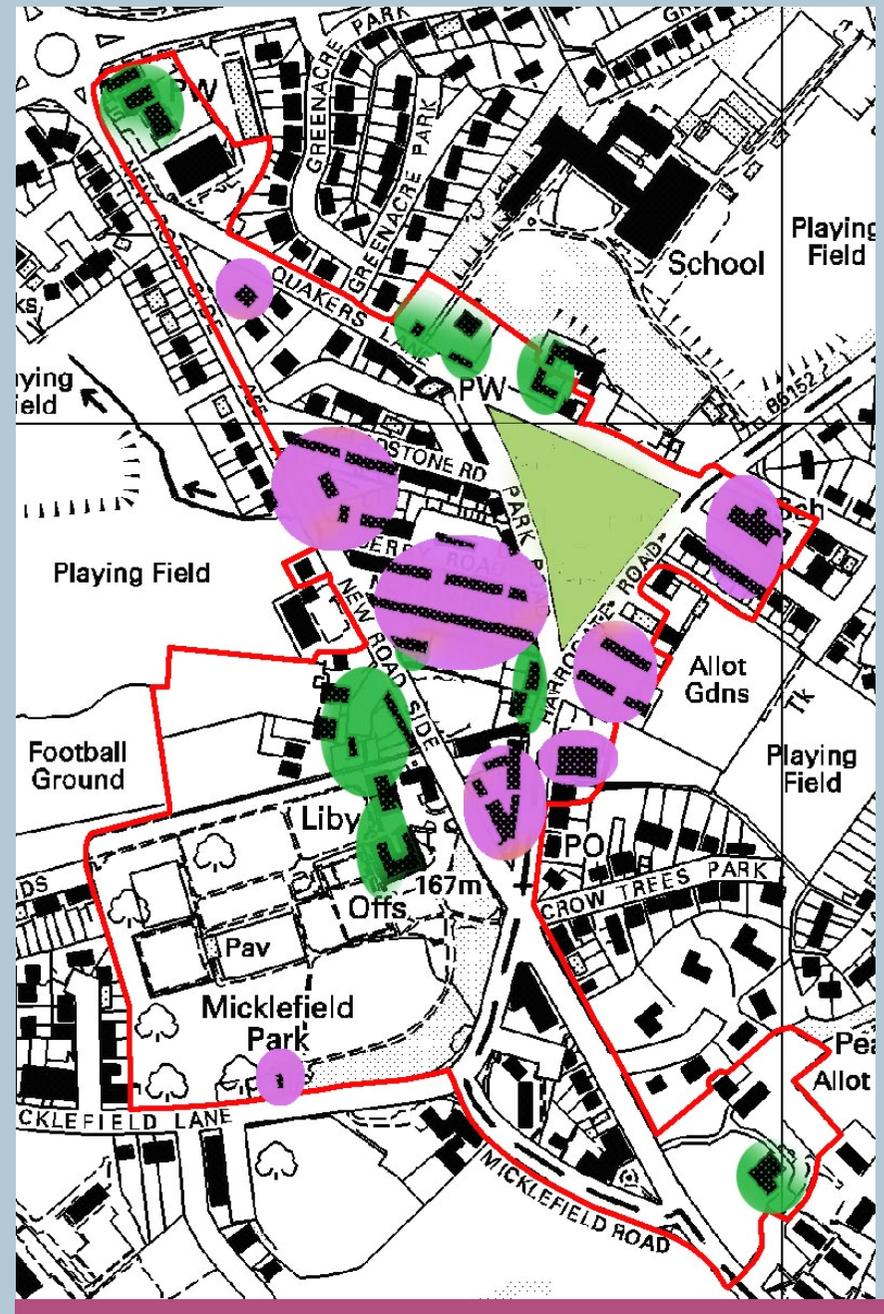
Quaker settlement here include the early chapel and Sunday School on Quakers Lane, whose form typically consists of small groups of buildings within their own setting.

From 1851 the built environment of modest terraces of vernacular proportions appear between the recent turnpike road of New Road Side and Little Moor park. Terrace forms also extend to the east of the moor, but do not extend any further than the Allotment Gardens. The precedent for these terraces is set by nearby Canada and Little London, where striking streets of houses were built in the early 19th Century.

Benton Park has historically played an important part in preserving the village character by retaining its landscape setting. The only undesirable impact has been set by the sports hall building that is completely out of character and scale to the village and is a detriment on the visual aspects of Little Moor itself.

Later surrounding suburban development is mainly planned around the cul de sac and mostly contains semi detached dwellings of fairly low density.

Right: The Urban Grain and settlement form of Little Moor. The green areas represent the oldest buildings within the area and the purple illustrate the later 19th century development.



Key views and vistas

Significant views within and out of the conservation area are shown on the map. The most impressive views are from the higher ground to the edges of the CA. For example, there are views from the Victoria Allotment Gardens towards the village core and beyond towards Yeadon and Green Lane Dyeworks.

Micklefield park preserves views over its grounds towards Little London CA and Cragg Wood, with glimpses obtained towards the upper Aire Valley beyond, from the foot path that runs alongside Micklefield and Old Fold.

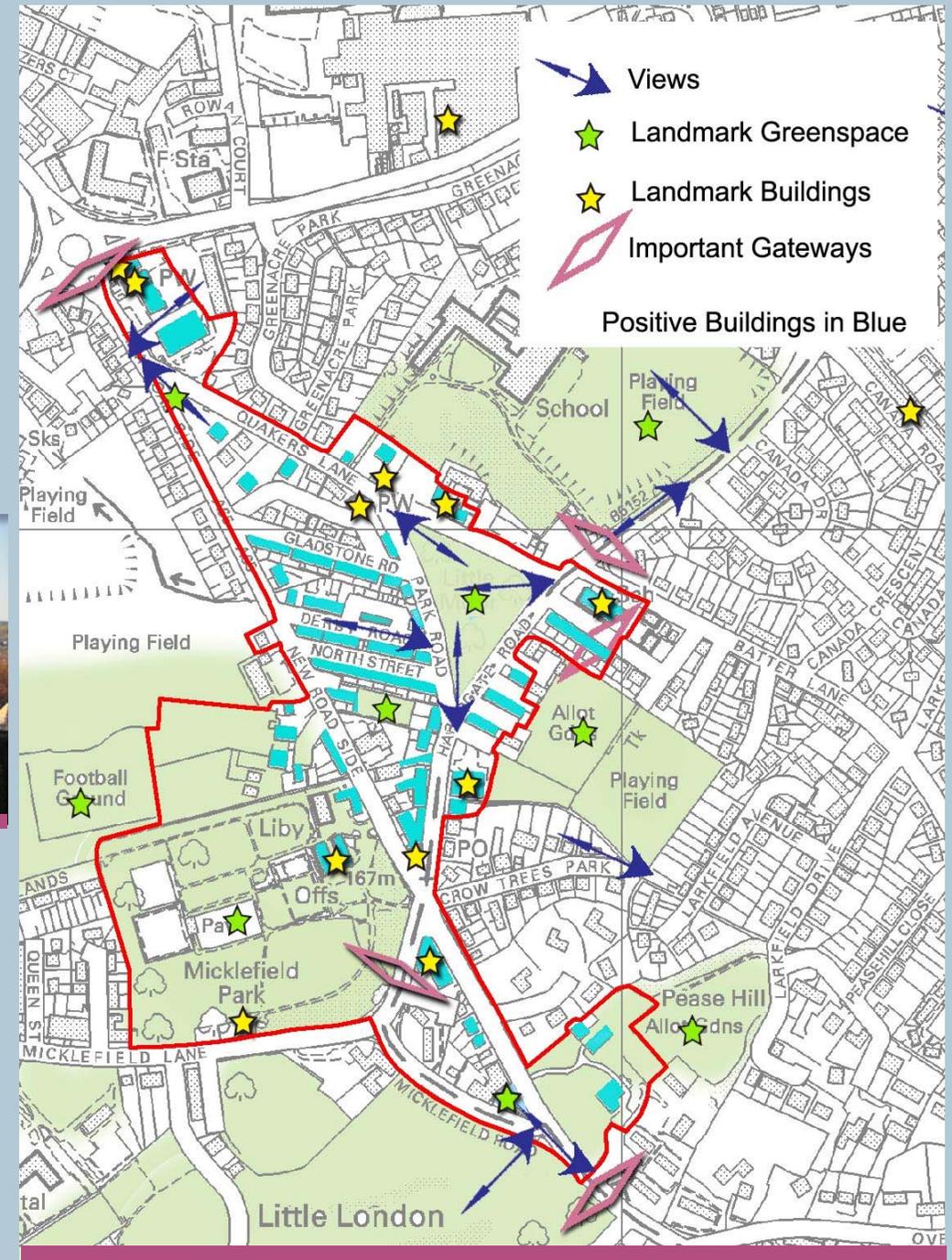
Views of buildings across Little Moor Park are important and retain the village character. Buildings facing this space are very important due to their active aspect and landmark quality.

Landmarks

Key landmarks in the conservation area are shown on the map.

The large buildings of Micklefield House and Crowtrees are obvious local buildings of distinction. Further to this the modest ancillary lodge house on Micklefield Lane is of importance and reinforces the dominance of the main building.

Surrounding Little Moor Park the landmark buildings include Little Moor House and Cherry Lea to the north, along with the modest Rawdon Science Society Chapel on Quakers Lane. On the south side the houses of Park Road especially the double gable terrace of 5 to 8 are important and of high quality.



Right: Analysis map of Little Moor illustrating landmark spaces and buildings along with gateways, positive buildings and important views within and out of the Conservation Area.

Top: The chimneys of Green Lane Dyeworks provide an important sense of place and historical context for Little Moor.

Above: The ever dominant views of the Yorkshire Dales.

The former Littlemoor Junior and Infants school is a true landmark building with its Victorian Gothic spire penetrating the sky on Harrogate Road. Also along this stretch is the impressive double fronted house 32 Harrogate Road.

Trinity Church and Church hall, along with the adjacent Greenacre Hall are all of landmark quality, and contribute to this important gateway abutting the busy roundabout on New Road Side.

Nearby, the mature tree and area of land formed by the splitting of Quakers Lane and New Road Side form an important natural local landmark.

The mature trees lining the boundaries of Crowtrees and Micklefield, and of course the trees on Little Moor itself, are all important landmark features. The imposing chimney of Green lane Dyeworks is an important landmark for the whole of Little Moor, both visually, historically and culturally and can be seen from various points within the area.



Above: Littlemoor Junior School and Trinity Church area.
Below: Micklefield Park, a key asset for the community.



Above: Greenacre Hall. An example of a 20th Century Drill Hall now used as an assembly space



Above: Shops on New Road Side.
Below: Important tree that forms a 'gateway' into Little Moor.



Character Analysis

Built Environment

The building fabric in Little Moor exhibits all the architectural characteristics of a West Yorkshire village. Buildings are mostly domestic in function and two, or very occasionally three storey, in height with full strong gables often containing windows. Roof pitches are typically 35 to 45 degrees. Regular, well proportioned fenestration give a clear sense of unity. Chimneys are prominent features as the terraces stagger down the hill towards New Road Side with the Dales forming an appropriate backdrop. Mullioned windows are a frequent feature as are stone lintels, cills and dentilled eaves details.

Materials

The predominant building material in Little London is local sandstone and Yorkshire gritstone, locally quarried probably from the quarries near Little London, which had greater seams of sandstone. Large, regular blocks are the norm, evenly coursed and pointed in a light brown or grey lime mortar.

Window lintels, sills and mullions are predominantly monolithic gritstone or sandstone and are sometimes decorated. The retention of surviving stone mullions is to be encouraged, as they are an important contributor to the character of the village. Timber window frames are traditionally painted white



Vernacular cottages dating from the later half of the 19th Century.



Characteristic stone slate roof. Note the dentilled eaves.



The Quaker School House exemplify the early character of Little Moor.

throughout the conservation area, although unfortunately few of these original windows survive. Roofs of early buildings are generally covered with stone "slates", while later buildings use dark Welsh slate. Clay roof tiles are very rarely used, and synthetic roofing materials are not in keeping with the conservation area.

Streetscape and public realm

The streetscape of Little Moor has very few traditional paving materials remaining. Most streets are tarmac or block paving. Some of the terrace streets have been designated a home zone, where the space is shared between pedestrians and vehicles. There are various areas of block paving to denote these areas, although for the most part they are tarmac.

Historic boundary walls are sandstone with coping stones, and provide attractive settings for several buildings within the CA. Gateposts are also important to retain and add interest to the built environment and CA.

The decorated boundary wall and gateway of Crow Trees is very important, as are the surviving dry stone walls where they survive.

The once formal layout of Little Moor itself appears to have been lost and the land is reverting back to its informal layout. This informality is appropriate and recalls the history of the place.

Micklefield House on the other hand, has formally laid out gardens along with kitchen gardens and large expanses of grass area, surrounded by attractive, mature trees. The landscape boundary of Benton Park School is also of importance as it helps retain the special character of Littlemoor.

Greenscape

The village is situated in a semi rural setting dictated by the surrounding agricultural and landscaped grounds to the south. This forms an important part of the character of Little Moor and acts to contain the settlement from its neighbouring villages. The landscape assets of the area include, Little Moor, Victoria Allotments, Pease Hill and the land beyond Low Fold.



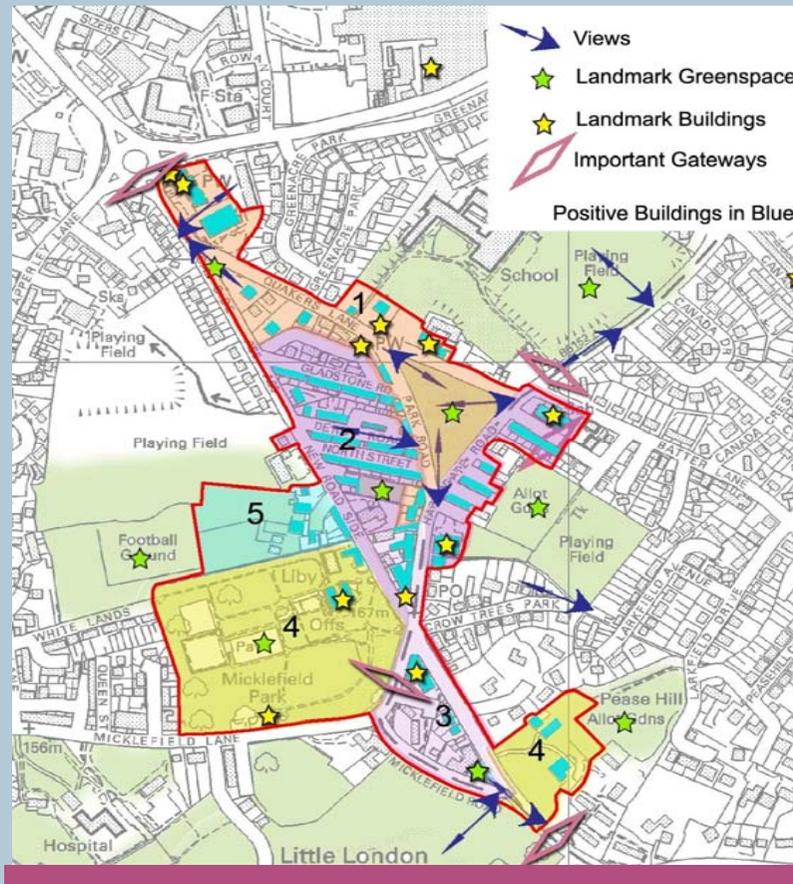
Park Road encompasses elements of shared surface and is important to retain as a minor road in order to preserve the character of the moor area.

Character Analysis

Positive buildings

The buildings coloured blue on the map (right) make a positive contribution to the character of the conservation area. The buildings with stars are considered exceptionally important and are of landmark quality. This contribution may be in one or more of the following ways:

- Landmark buildings
- Buildings which provide evidence of the area's history and development
- Buildings of architectural merit
- Buildings with local historical associations
- Buildings which exemplify local vernacular styles
- Groups of buildings which together make a positive contribution to the streetscape



Positive buildings shaded in blue, landmark buildings starred.



Micklefield House provides an element of hierarchy to Little Moor and is an important positive building.



5-8 Park Road, late Victorian terrace that contributes positively to the Moor area opposite.



The characteristic rows of terrace cottages.

Character Areas

Rawdon Little Moor conservation area is not a uniform area. Different parts of the village were developed at different periods in history and contain different types of buildings and spaces. The conservation area can therefore be divided into sub-areas known as *character areas*.

Each area has a different character and distinct built forms, generated by the period of its development and the function of the buildings and spaces. A shared palette of construction materials and landscape unifies all the character areas within the conservation area.



Quaker School room. Quakers were Dissenters who objected to the Church of England rules. In the early 18th century a Five Mile Act was passed which forbade preaching within 5 miles of any town. Little Moor is conveniently located more than 5 miles away from Leeds and Bradford.

Character Analysis

Character area 1—Historic Moor area and Quakers

This area encompasses the historic focal point of Little Moor associated with the area of triangular, unenclosed land that was formed and left over by the local roads. It encompasses the buildings fronting the moor and the Quaker Listed buildings. This area was part of two hamlets in 1851, however their relationship to Quakers Lane, local landscaping and sense of place all have synonymous characteristics. Little Moor itself may well have been an important meeting place in antiquity, due to it being the place where old tracks and roads congregated. The area includes the line of Quakers Lane up to the junction with Green Lane and encompasses the Trinity (formerly Benton) chapels.



Trinity church appears rather isolated now amongst the busy highway network but is one of a series of important ecclesiastical buildings.



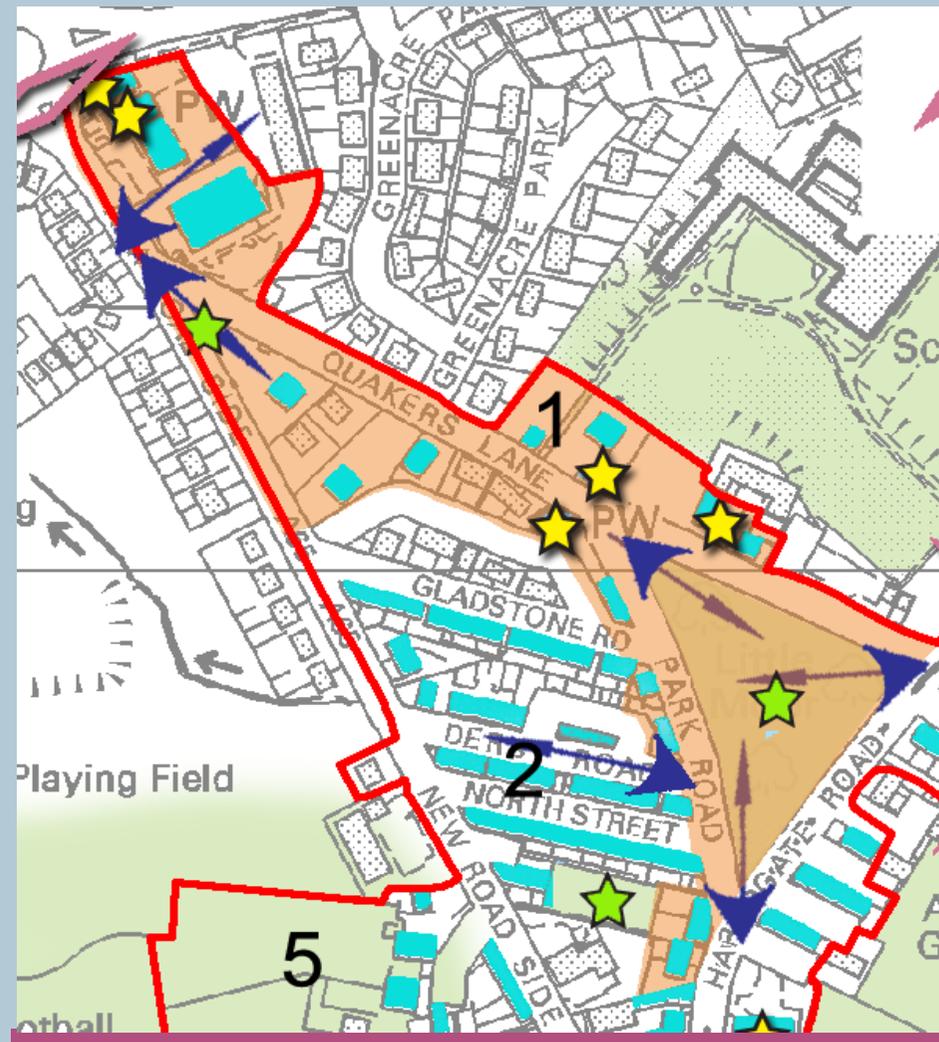
The original old road of Quakers Lane and New Road Side. The contrast in enclosure and landscaping is apparent.

Key characteristics:

- Characteristic triangular open space of Little Moor itself that forms the core identity of the village.
- Sense of enclosure through boundary walls and landscaping
- Surrounding built form responds to Little Moor Green or Green Lane Junction and emphasises sense of enclosure.
- Coursed sandstone and gritstone with roof slate the predominant building materials

Key ways to retain character:

- Use of (local) sandstone materials as predominant walling material
- Retention of characteristic built form within clear plots and landscaping.
- Retention of stone and slate roofs and chimneys
- Retention of positive active frontage to the Moor area.



Character Area 1 shaded in orange.

- Management of trees and new planting to ensure tree coverage in the future.
- Retention of garden areas and boundary treatments



The Quaker influence of Little Moor.

Character Analysis

Character area 2— late 19th-century expansion

This area encompasses the late 19th century extension to the village, between New Road Side and the triangular Little Moor Park area. It is closely related to Character Area 3 that is related commercially and through its characteristic form.

Key characteristics:

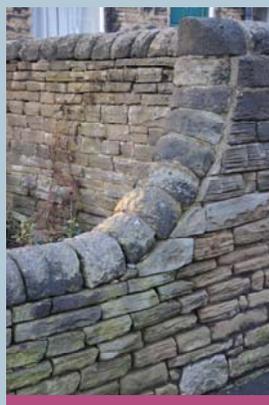
- Terraced buildings constructed of coursed sandstone with slate roofs
- Mainly two storey in height
- Grid-like street pattern with regular arrangement of buildings relating to the street
- Front gardens enclosed by low stone walls
- Dominance of chimneys
- Some old style weavers cottages with larger mullioned windows to first floor level

Key ways to retain character:

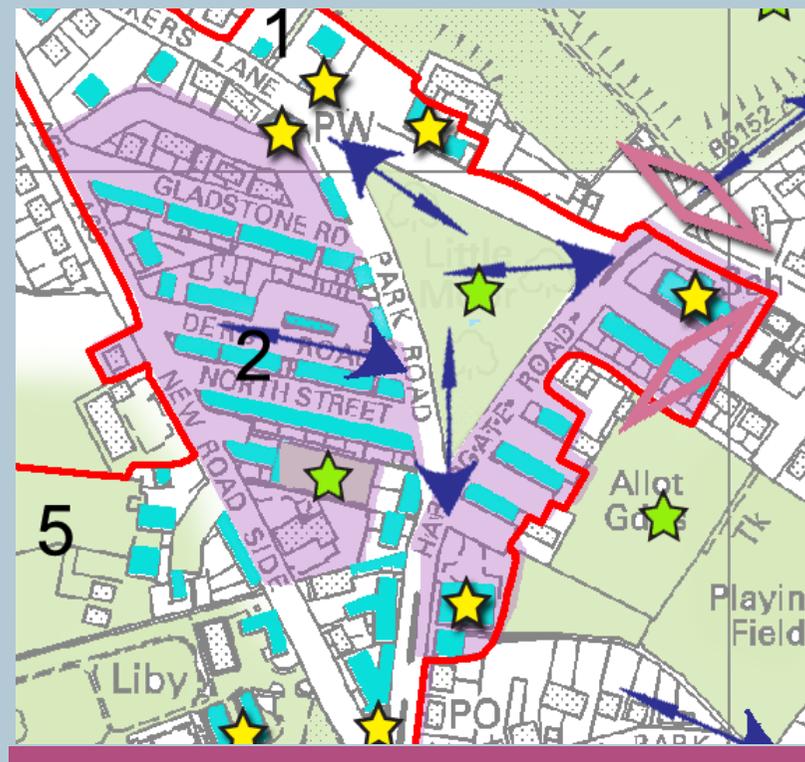
- Retention of low boundary walls including appropriate coping stones.
- Retention of stone or slate roofs and chimneys
- Retention of window proportions, including retaining stone mullions in situ where they survive.
- Retention of buildings related to the woollen trade.



Evidence of the old weavers industry in the larger first floor window to this mid terrace house.



Characteristic sandstone walls and coping stones.



Character Area 2 is shaded purple. It is related physically to the area to the south (area 3).



The characteristic lines of sooted stone terraces. Note the extensive chimneys, low front garden walls and some remaining mullioned windows.



The only example within Little Moor of a classic three storey type weavers cottage on Gladstone Road.

Character Analysis

Character area 3 Late 19th Century focal point.

In the Edwardian period this area accommodated new shops, like the RCIS building of 1907, the Empire Cinema, the mainline tram to Leeds and eventually accommodated the municipal offices at Micklefield. This all contributed to this area being the hub of Little Moor. It is still the major gateway into the village and retains a definite sense of place.

Key characteristics:

- Irregularly-shaped buildings responding to the street pattern and orientated towards New Road Side.
- War memorial garden providing important gateway into the village character.
- Commercial uses of unique shops that are well patronised by local people from Little Moor and nearby Little London

Key ways to retain character:

- Ensure approach to War Memorial garden retains its character as an important gateway approach.
- Ensure new development respects the built form in terms of materials, scale and details.
- Remove unnecessary highways paraphernalia to improve streetscape

and ensure street lights are painted black.



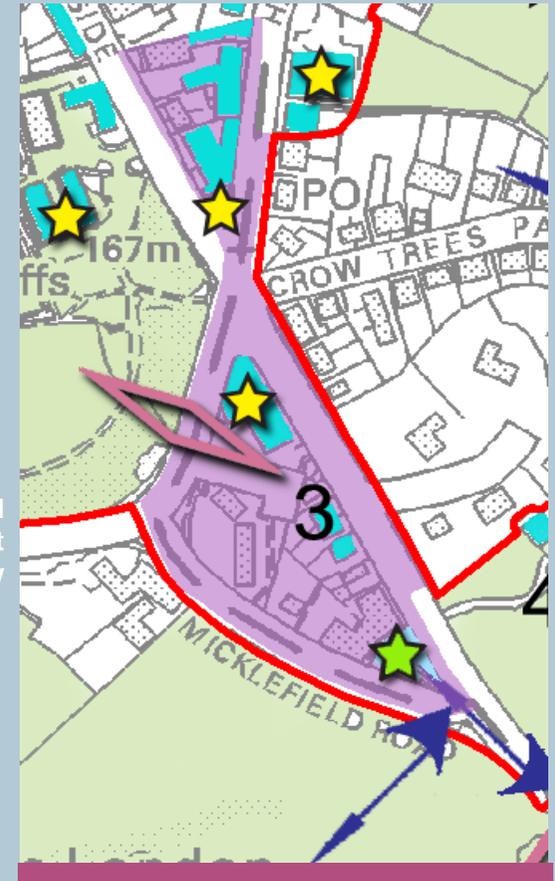
The Rawdon Cooperative Society building of 1907 thrusting its commercial dominance into this Edwardian hive of activity.



Above: The older more vernacular shops of Harrogate Road, contorted to fit this awkward site. Right: Active shopfronts to New Road Side.



Right: The war memorial gardens, secluded and hidden but providing an important gateway into Little Moor.



Character Area 3 is shaded purple.

Character Analysis

Character area 4—Cross Trees and Micklefield

This area is separated by later early 20th century development but still retains its unique homogenous character. The areas lay to the southern end of the Conservation Area and include, the Grade II listed Crowtrees house, originally built in 1628 but subsequently re sited and rebuilt in 1825 by Samuel Coates. Micklefield house was also once an historic farm that later became gentrified and rebuilt in the 1880's.

The chronology of both sites is characteristic of the area. Previously farmhouses with a former character, very much like the nearby Micklefield Grange and Low Fold, were subsequently modified by local wealthy families to create grand Victorian mansions. The area is characterised by the large manor houses and large mature trees. The secluded private gardens are bounded by attractive walls and landscape that provide the approaches into Little Moor.

Key characteristics:

- Mature trees within garden or park setting
- Large historic private houses set well back from the road and within spacious grounds
- Formal tree-lined drives

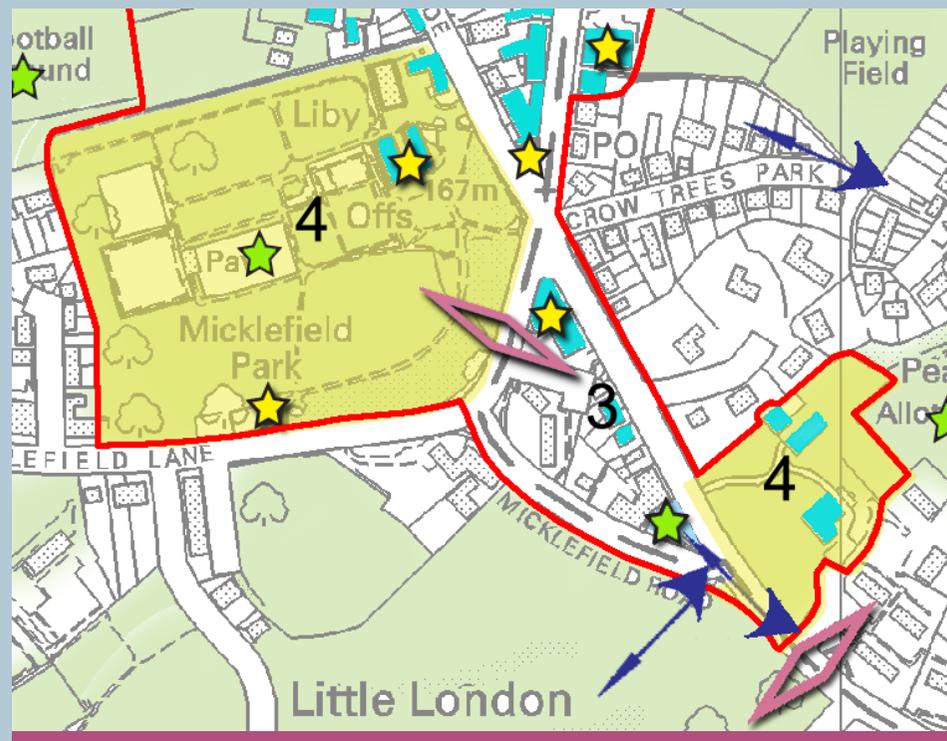


The gate off Leeds Road into the grounds of Crowtrees. The 19th Century house can be seen through the mature trees behind.

- Strong boundary treatments of local materials sometimes decorated.
- Ancillary buildings reflecting main houses

Key ways to retain character:

- Retention of existing trees and replanting where necessary
- Retention of large garden plots and allotment areas to rear.
- Resist any further inappropriate infill development.
- Awareness of potential for archaeological finds
- Ensure dominance of Micklefield house remains and its use is complimentary to the Conservation Area.



Character Area 4 shaded in yellow/green.

Micklefield House, once rural farmstead, now grand Victorian Gothic manor house set within its large grounds. Now used as municipal parkland and a valued local amenity.



Character Analysis

Character area 5 —Early rural estates

This area's character relates to the early remnants of rural yeoman's farmhouses in the form of the grade II listed Low Fold, that dates from the 17th Century. Both Crowtrees and Micklefield were once farmsteads within the area and, whereas Low Fold retained its original building and land, the owners of Micklefield and Crosstrees gentrified their houses and formally laid out the grounds to encompass kitchen gardens and lawns. Their origins, however, are to be found within the remaining character of the Low Fold area.

Key characteristics:

- Semi-rural character retained by surrounding open space and robust landscaping and boundaries.
- Local vernacular features such as materials and three bay mullioned windows

Key ways to retain character:

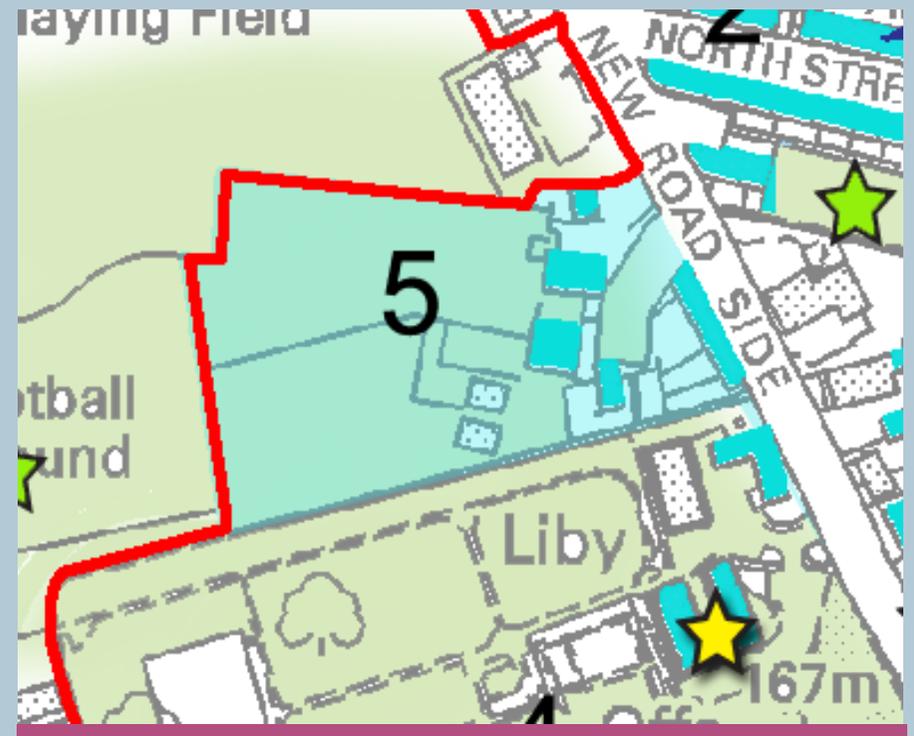
- Retention of semi-rural landscape especially to the west
- Awareness of potential for significant archaeological finds
- Retention of early features including mullioned windows etc



19th century development that contributed to what was effectively the hamlet of Low Fold before the later 19th century expansion onto New Road Side.



The mullions and timber window frames of character area 5.



Character Area 5 shaded in blue

Right: The rural character of Low Fold. So typical of West Yorkshire Yeoman's farmhouses. Left: Low Fold in the 1980's when it was still a farm. Note, Micklefield House in the distance. (Leodis)



Management Plan

Opportunities for management and enhancement

Little Moor is an attractive and thriving village. However, there are a number of features and issues which currently detract from its special character. Addressing these issues offers the opportunity to enhance the conservation area. Positive conservation management will ensure the ongoing protection of the village's special character for future generations.



To be successful, any future development within the conservation area needs to be mindful of the local character of the

village, while at the same time being distinctly of the 21st century and addressing contemporary issues such as sustainability.

Successful new development in historic areas should:

- Relate well to the geography and history of the place and the lie of the land
- Sit happily in the pattern of existing development and routes through and around it
- Respect important views
- Respect the scale of neighbouring buildings
- Respect historic boundary walls and retain historic garden plots
- Use materials and building methods which are as high in quality as those used in existing buildings
- Create new views and juxtapositions which add to the variety and texture of their setting.

Action: New development must respond sensitively and creatively to the historic environment.

Protect surviving historic architectural forms

As a result of the limited listed building coverage in the settlement, there has been incremental loss of traditional architectural detailing in the conservation area. Replacement of windows, doors and roofing materials

with inappropriate materials and designs is a negative feature that affects individual buildings and the wider streetscape. This cumulative change is particularly noticeable in vernacular buildings and in some terraced rows, where the original uniformity has been weakened. Retention of stone window mullions is particularly important in retaining the historic character of the area.

Action: Surviving historic features should be retained and where necessary sympathetically repaired.

Tree management

Conservation area designation affords some degree of protection to mature trees.

The mature trees surrounding Little Moor Park make a great contribution to the character of the conservation area.



The retention of original sash windows enhances the character of these houses.

Action: In order to retain the character of existing trees, any mature trees lost to age, damage or disease should be replaced to retain the completeness and character of the landscaping. Opportunities should be taken to plant new trees when possible and a strategy to ensure new trees of all ages are retained should be prepared to ensure that continuity of trees continue into the future.



The tree-lined Chapel Street boundary of Victoria Park.

Examples of opportunities for enhancement of the conservation area

Protect archaeological remains

Rawdon and its environs have been inhabited for centuries and buried evidence of past occupation is likely to survive. Development, which may disturb archaeological remains, may require a watching brief to ensure the preservation of archaeological finds.

Action: Development which involves below-ground excavation must have regard to the potential for archaeological finds.



Evidence for past occupation of Little Moor is to be found throughout the village.

Little Moor Park

Little Moor Park area provides one of the major focal points for the Conservation Area. Although the early 20th century formal layout has been eroded, the moor has returned to its informal appearance and provides an important village green character. Street furniture, trees and landscaping should be maintained and respond appropriately to this village green character.

Action: Ensure the landscape of Little Moor Park is maintained and managed in a sensitive way so as to preserve its character as a public amenity for all. Many trees are of a similar age and there is a risk of them all coming to the end of their lives at similar times. Therefore it is important to maintain a strategy for new tree planting to ensure



Little Moor Park area the core of the village. Note the appropriate black coated street light.

that Little Moor continues to enjoy the benefits of trees in the future.

Public realm

Despite the generally high quality of the built environment in Little London, it is important to realise that it is not just the buildings that contribute to this character. Boundary walls, grass verges, shop fronts, signs and the general street surface are all important factors in preserving the special character of the place. Little Moor is fortunate to have home zone status given to its terrace streets and this enhances Sense of Place.

Action: As opportunities arise, extend home zone where appropriate. Remove street clutter and unnecessary signage. Carefully consider signage to respect the Conservation Area.



Quality interventions like this home zone should be extended where possible.

New Road Side/Harrogate Road Junction

This is a main gateway into the village and is a main pedestrian focal point with shops and facilities serving the local community. Opportunities for enhancement include removal of road barriers that actually contribute to barring pedestrian movement, initiatives to powder coat any new street furniture or street lamps.

Actions: Remove road barriers where appropriate (and an adequate safety assessment has been undertaken). Where their retention is essential powder coat barriers in black, along with street lights.



New Road Side Junction. A very busy junction that could be improved by removal of barriers and black painted highway elements.

Examples of opportunities for enhancement of the conservation area

Street lighting

The street lights in the home zones are already powder coated in black which is appropriate within the CA. However some areas still maintain the grey uncoated treatment which detracts from the Conservation Area.

Action:
Any forthcoming proposed street lighting should respect the historic streetscape and proportions of buildings.

Paving and surfacing

There is precious little surviving stone paving in Little Moor and where it does



New lamp posts should respect the character of the CA by being powder coated in black like the example above.

survive it appears to be on private land. Recent home zoning has involved new highway surfacing and block paving. This creates an improvement within the Conservation Area, although a natural stone material would be preferable.

Opportunities should be taken as they arise to enhance areas of stone paving where they survive and are in poor repair, and to improve the junction between stone and modern paving.

Action:
Retain and enhance historic paving in the conservation area. Consider natural stone block work for homezone work.



Some of the remaining stone surfacing left in Little Moor. It is important to retain these historic surfaces.

Infill development

Little Moor has been fortunate in the fact that it has not suffered extensive infill development. The large scale housing estates have of course eroded the character to a point, but there are few examples of true infill developments. In any case, inappropriate infill development would harm the character of the conservation area by altering the relationship between existing buildings and the spaces around them. Intensification of development which disrupts the character of the conservation area should be resisted. The scale, massing and proportion of buildings as well as the spaces between them are important in retaining the character of the conservation area.

Action:
Any development proposing the infill of a site, or the subdivision of a plot, should respond to the scale,



New buildings in the conservation area should respond to the context of the site like the example above.

massing, hierarchy, layout and distribution of positive structures within the conservation area.

Development affecting the setting of the conservation area

It is important that development around the conservation area does not harm its setting. Any development in or around Little Moor which affects the setting of the conservation area, should have regard to views into and out of the CA, the setting of positive buildings and the character of the landscape. Appropriate design and materials should be used in development adjacent to the conservation area.

Action:
The impact of development on the character and appearance of the conservation area should be considered. This applies equally to development outside the conservation area if it is likely to affect its setting.



The open landscape and long views contribute to the character of the conservation area.

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Historic Ordnance Survey maps - www.old-maps.co.uk

Leeds City Council online historic photograph archive - www.leodis.net

Secret Leeds - www.secretleeds.com

Sources of further information

Central Library (Local & Family History Section), The Headrow, Leeds LS1. Tel 0113 247 8290 email: localstudies@leeds.gov.uk website: www.leeds.gov.uk/library

Leeds Civic Trust, Leeds Heritage & Design Centre, 17-19 Wharf Street, Leeds LS2 7EQ Tel: 0113 243 9594 Email: office@leedscivictrust.org.uk website: www.leedscivictrust.org.uk

Victorian Society (West Yorkshire Group), Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road Leeds LS2 9NZ (postal address only)

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, Newstead Road, Wakefield WF1 2DE Tel 01924 306810 email: wysmr@wyjs.org.uk website: www.arch.wyjs.org.uk

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Chapeltown Road, Sheepscar, Leeds LS7 3AP. Tel 0113 214 5814 email: leeds@wyjs.org.uk website: www.archives.wyjs.org.uk

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Finding Out More

What is a conservation area?

A conservation area is '*an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*'.

Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

What does conservation area status mean?

Conservation area status provides the opportunity to promote the protection and enhancement of the special character of the defined area. Designation confers a general control over development that could damage the area's character. The details are complex but can be summarised as:

- Most demolition requires permission and will be resisted if the building makes a positive contribution to the area.
- Some minor works to houses is no longer "permitted development" and will require planning permission. Examples are rear dormer windows, external cladding and most satellite dishes on front elevations.
- Advertisement controls are tighter.
- Most work to trees has to be notified to the Council who has six weeks in which to decide to impose restrictions.

- Generally, higher standards of design apply for new buildings and alterations to existing ones.

Change is inevitable in most conservation areas and it is not the intention of the designation to prevent the continued evolution of places. The challenge within conservation areas is to manage change in a way that maintains, reinforces and enhances the special qualities of the area.

What is the purpose of this appraisal?

This appraisal provides the basis for making informed, sustainable decisions in the positive management, protection and enhancement of the conservation area.

It provides a clear understanding of the special interest of Little Moor by:

- assessing how the settlement has developed
- analysing its present day character and
- identifying opportunities for enhancement

This appraisal follows the current guidance set out by English Heritage in the 2006 publication 'Guidance on conservation area appraisals'.

The appraisal is not intended to be comprehensive and the omission of any particular building, feature or space should not be taken to imply that it is of no interest.

Planning policy context

This appraisal should be read in conjunction with the wider national, regional and local planning policy and guidance. Relevant documents include:

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment
- Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning
- The Yorkshire and Humber Plan (The Regional Spatial Strategy) May 2008, particularly Policy ENV9 Historic Environment
- Leeds City Council, Unitary Development Plan Review 2006, particularly Chapter 5 Environment and Appendices A3 Building Design, Conservation and Landscape Design and A4 Archaeological Policies
- Leeds City Council, Local Development Framework, emerging framework that will ultimately replace the Unitary Development Plan.

Community involvement and adoption

A draft version of this appraisal went through a four week public consultation process, from the 14th February until the 11th March, 2011, which included;

- Identified stakeholders and interested parties being notified.

- The appraisal and response form being made available through the Council's website.
- Information in Rawdon Library from 14th February, 2011.
- Posters were placed around the conservation area directing residents towards the information on-line and the public meeting which took place on 24th February, 2011 at Rawdon Trinity Church Hall, New Road Side.
- Press releases were distributed.

The consultation responses were evaluated and the appraisal amended in light of comments received.

This document is available to view and download on the Council's website - www.leeds.gov.uk/conservation