

Bradleys Both Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan Until 2032

Annexe 2

Character Assessment

Annexe 2 – Bradley Character Assessment

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1 Introduction

This document, prepared by Bradleys Both Parish Council with the support of Planning Aid England, provides an overview of the character and key qualities that define the village of Bradley.

It supports the design and character policies detailed within the Neighbourhood Development Plan, and helps to ensure that the development proposals have been designed in a manner which is complimentary to and reinforces the distinct and special character of Bradley.

2 History of Bradley

This part of North Yorkshire has a history of settlement stretching back many millennia as the Bronze Age burial barrows attest. The earliest standing cottage in the village dates from the 16th Century, and there are many other old and listed buildings that give Bradley a tranquil and time honoured feel.

The place name element “ley” implies that Bradley has Anglo-Saxon origins and may have been settled in the 7th or 8th century by the Angles. A ley is a term used to indicate an arable field/clearing. The Angles who settled this part of Yorkshire were farmers and it is through farming that Bradley would have been developed.

The existence of a barrow on Low Bradley Moor, however, indicates the existence of a much earlier culture in the area. Although called ‘Bradleys Both’ since the 13th century, the village really consisted of three areas, High Bradley, Low Bradley and Hamblethorpe. Typically for this part of Airedale, it stretched up from the alluvial floor of the valley to the high moor, with the main village developing on the better drained land between the river and the moor with its scattered farmhouses along its edge.

By the late 17th century arable farming together with some livestock rearing had become profitable enough for houses to be constructed in stone and several buildings dating from this period can be found in Bradley. In addition to farming the textile industry was becoming established through the weaving of woollen cloth on the hand looms operated in the labourer’s cottages.

By 1775 the Bradley section of the Leeds to Liverpool canal had been completed and was opening up new markets for the local products.

The 19th century saw great developments in manufacturing processes and the inability of the hand loom weaver to compete with the challenges of the industrial revolution was encouraging the rural population to migrate to the towns in search of work.

In the 1860’s the construction of the Cross Lane Mill Company and the Rose Shed Mills introduced the industrialisation of textile production. The effect of establishing these two mills on the population density of the village was stimulating. The population of Bradley in 1801 was 315, by 1871 this figure had risen to 486.

While farming had originally provided the community with a steady source of employment; throughout the 20th century farming has steadily declined. Many farms and their buildings have been converted to domestic use and farming is no longer a large source of employment.

Societies change and the old mill structures no longer serve modern day needs. New industrial and retail sites have been built within the Parish and now serve a wider population. The open spaces together with a more pollution-free environment has encouraged numerous companies to move into the parish bringing with them the skilled labour necessary to support these enterprises.

This increase in the work force has stimulated the need to provide additional housing much of which has been located in the parish. The housing stock in Bradley alone has more than doubled in the years since 1960.

3 Landscape character of Bradley

In Craven District Council's Landscape Appraisal (2002) Bradley is identified as being nestled amongst three types of landscape:

Pasture with Woodland Gills & Woodland;
Open Upland Pasture / Irregular Stone Walls; and
Flat Open Floodplain.

The extents and location of these landscape types, and their relationship with Bradley is shown below:



Figure 1: Landscape Character Areas surrounding Bradley (from Craven District Council Landscape Assessment, 2002)

The key characteristics of each of these landscape character areas which shape the wider countryside setting of Bradley are summarized below:

Pasture with Woodland Gills & Woodland:

Characterising the land to the southeast and northwest of Low Bradley, this landscape area typology displays the following attributes:

- Rolling pastoral landscape generally within the lower slopes and along valleys;
- Small-medium scale fields enclosed by a network of dry-stone walls;
- Medium cover of some scattered vegetation and concentrations of vegetation within wooded gills.



Figure 2: Example of 'Pasture with Woodland Gills and Woodland' landscape typology taken from Mill Lane looking east

Open Upland Pasture / Irregular Stone Walls:

This landscape typology can be found to the east and southwest of Low Bradley. Key characteristics include:

- Rolling landscape mainly confined to hill tops;
- Open, exposed upland character;
- Trees mainly absent;
- Strong network of dry-stone walls enclosing small scale irregular shaped fields.



Figure 3: Example of 'Open Upland Pasture / Irregular Stone Walls' landscape typology taken from Jacksons Lane looking south

Flat Open Floodplain:

Lying west of Low Bradley, this landscape is heavily influenced by the River Aire. Key characteristics of this landscape include:

- Distinctive flat alluvial floodplains containing meandering river channels;
- Broad, open floodplain valley providing extensive views framed by high ground;
- Large-scale pastoral landscape with very limited vegetation and an open character;
- Medium to large-scale fields of improved pasture bounded by fences and walls;
- Open valley contains important transport corridors, with floodplain often bounded by road, rail, and canal, marking the boundary to higher ground;
- River banks are often artificially raised.



Figure 4: View over floodplain from Keighley Road

Landscape influence on character of Bradley

The landscapes surrounding Bradley play a significant role in informing the character of the village. As illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, the village sits in a valley below much of the surrounding landscape. This sunken setting means that from many of the approach roads into Bradley there are undisrupted long-distance views into the village and beyond to the high backdrop of pastoral landscapes.



Figure 5: View of Bradley from Skipton Road



Figure 6: View of Bradley from Crag Lane

Just as Bradley's distinct landscape setting makes for scenic, long-distance views into the village from surrounding areas, so too does it result in the village having a very strong visual relationship with the wider landscape within which it sits, and throughout the village there are extensive views framed by high ground – see examples in Figures 10, 16, 31, and 32.

The areas of open pasture within the village often afford longer views and are a reminder of the historic settlement pattern visible, say, on C19 Ordnance survey maps.

4 Natural History of Bradley

4.1 Introduction

Bradley has no specific environmental site designations, but has a biodiversity which could be protected from development and farming change. The cultural heritage of Bradleys' fields goes back to medieval and Anglo Saxon times. The enclosure of the common ings and moors in 1791 would have had a big impact. This imprint of the fields and land use is interconnected with the history of the local flora and fauna.

4.2 Areas of note

4.2.1 River Ings

Bradleys' river ings are the floodplain of the Aire. In medieval times the ings were worked in communal strips providing the summer hay crop. They are the home to waders and other birds which have been monitored by the Crosshills Naturalists group over many years.

4.2.2 Medieval Arable Fields

The extensive medieval arable fields from the ings to High Bradley are partly covered by a 20th century housing estate. However, some hedges and 17th century walls and earthworks can still be seen. The boundaries have retained the S-shaped boundary from ox drawn ploughing. Today, the fields are used for haymaking and animal pasture.

4.2.3 Woods and Wooded Gills

Woods were cleared centuries ago for farming; hence the clearance place names such as Stubbs, Hollins, Ridding and (Brad)ley. There are remains of ancient woodland in the deep and rocky gills: oak, holly and hazel with undergrowth of bluebells and primroses.

4.2.4 Hedges

Old species - rich hedges remain in three particular places. Plants include the woodland "townhall clock", guelder rose and field maple.

- a. High Bradley Lane/ Mill Close hedge surrounding Mill Close; a field long attached to the old High Bradley corn mill.
- b. Skipton Road below Dales Lane; the main Doncaster/North road from after 1308.
- c. The canal, built in 1777 has border areas which have not been ploughed-up or fertilized.

The hedges and meadow-type flora would have been brought in from the surrounding fields. There is quite a variety of species which attract birds for nesting and food.

4.2.5 Grassland Pastures, Upland Closes and Field Edges.

In a 25-year period of observation 41 bird species have been seen on the ground and 16 other species have been seen overhead (including Red Kite, Pink Foot geese and Sky Larks). Badgers used to be common in gardens and setts near White House and Jackson Lane were monitored by the Craven Badger Group. Foxes have disappeared but Brown Hares are seen around High House Farm and Swartha.

4.2.6 Water

Watery sites are very important for wildlife for drinking and providing a habitat for specialized plants and insects. Black Hill Tarn ["the Tewits"], lying within a nationally scheduled archeological site, is visited by many birds.

4.2.7 Moors

Prior to the 1791 enclosure the upland moors provided summer grasslands for cattle, but were also important for coal mining, quarrying, peat and water supply. High Bradley and Low Bradley Moors were former heather moors which are now drained and limed to produce grass. There is a small patch of heather remaining at Black Hill, and along the roadside verges at Hamblethorpe.

4.2.8 Village/ Habitation Margins

Wildlife has adapted to human habitation. E.g. House martins nest under the eaves in village houses and the chapel. Barn Swallow habitats have disappeared due to barn conversions. Swifts nest around the former Cross Lane Mill and Peregrines perch on the chimney. Garden birds need a variety of shrubs for food and nesting. The frequent visiting of Sparrow Hawks indicates a healthy food chain of top predators.

Bats have evolved to roost in Bradley houses. They have been seen flying up to Mill Gill in summer. Hedgehogs are not so common, but Little Owl and Tawny Owl sightings indicate some small mammals, such as voles and shrews, are still present.

5 Townscape character of Bradley

Village Character Areas

Low Bradley can be broadly divided into two distinct areas of different character; the Conservation Area, and the remainder of the village. The extents of these two character areas are shown in Figure 7 below.

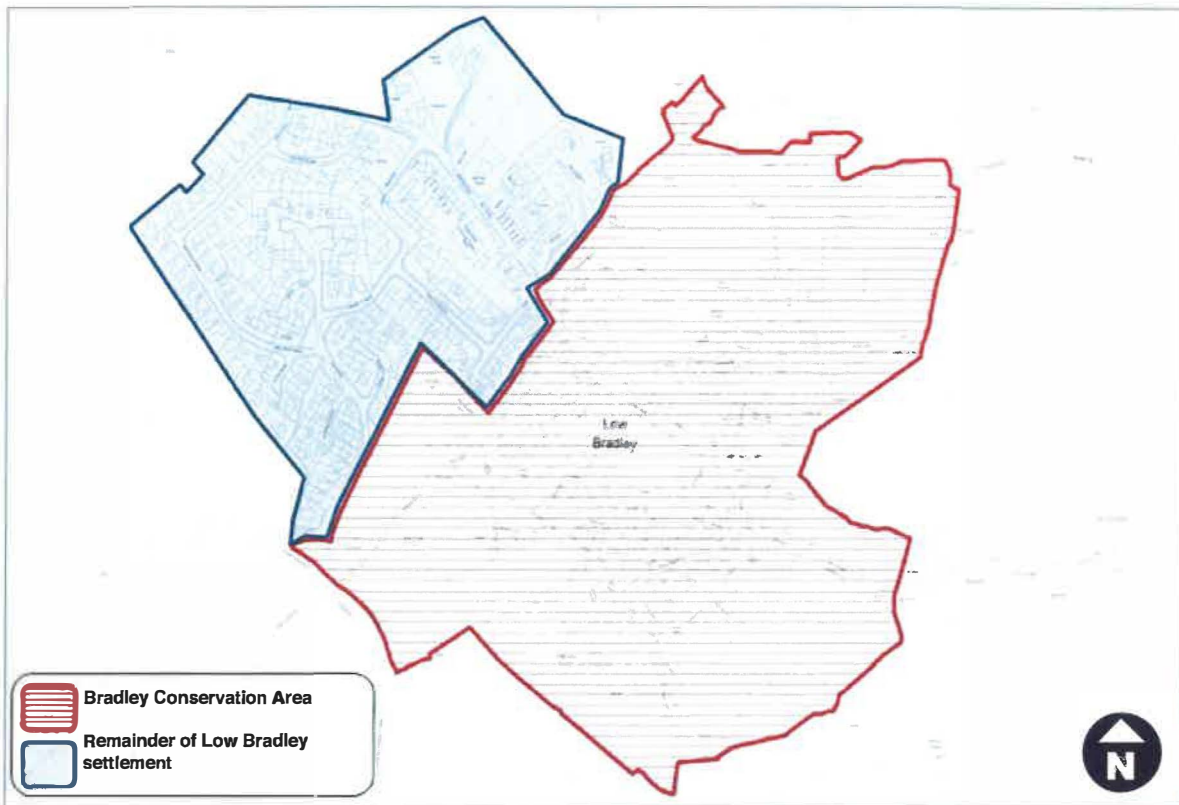


Figure 7: Bradley Character areas map

The character of each of these areas is reviewed in the following sections.

5.1 Character Area 1: Low Bradley Conservation Area

Topography

This area of Bradley lies to the south east and above North Gill, with streets such as Lidget Road, Matthew Lane, Main Street, Jacksons Lane and Crag Lane rising steeply up the hillside. Ings lane at the valley bottom has a more gentle gradient down towards the flood plain. There are constant glimpses and views of the surrounding countryside. To the north and east the landscape is close to hand. To the south, views are more expansive over the valley with its canal and river.



Figure 8: View of Main Street facing East



Figure 9: Looking southeast up Skipton Road towards Lidget Road and central green space.

Land uses

Within the conservation area the primary land use is residential. There are also significant portions of open space including pasture land and recreation areas. This part of the village contains most of the community assets, including the Village Hall, the village store, two churches and the Slaters Arms pub. The major exception is the primary school.

Streetscape

At College Road and College Court, winding routes are surrounded by a variety of housing types – detached, semi-detached, terraced. There is no consistent approach in relation to how these dwellings relate to the road – some are set back with large front gardens, others sit right on the road. Some are orientated to face onto the road, whilst others sit at an angle or turn away from the road.



Figure 10: Housing along College Road, set at different orientations and distances to the road

West Lane has an intimate feel with some of the older properties in the village, and a similar higgledy- piggledy approach. However, elsewhere in the conservation area, there are some very well-defined streets, which are lined by properties that share a similar building line and present a consistent, unbroken frontage to the routes which they sit along. Such examples include Main Street and Ings Lane, which are lined by rows of terraced housing.



Figure 11: Terraced housing with small front gardens, providing a strong frontage onto Main Street



Figure 12: The intimate West Lane

Road, streets and routes

Many of the routes within the conservation area are narrow, pre-dating the emergence of the car. They add to the distinct rural character of the village, giving the area an intimate feel and appearance.

West Lane, in particular, is single carriageway lane. However, despite all the other roads being nominally two lanes, the significant absence of off road parking detracts from the attractive streetscape and gives rise to congestion for both pedestrians and vehicles. Passage for emergency and utility vehicles can be very difficult.



Figure 13: Terraced housing and Village Shop



Figure 14: Ings Lane - one of the main thoroughfares of the village

There are no cycle routes within the conservation area, but the canal towpath is currently being hard surfaced as part of a regional cycle route.

Open Spaces

There are several open spaces in this area, falling into two types.

1a) Pasture land in the centre opposite the Village Hall. This central green space, which is used for farming livestock, represents one of the most distinct features of the village – a large expanse of agricultural land located right in the centre of Bradley. Lined by stone walls, the field provides a green and open setting to the adjacent properties. These properties in turn enclose the field, creating a pleasing contrast between the built and natural environment.

1b) Pasture land to the north of Ings lane.

This area is highly visible from major public routes [Ings Lane and the canal]. It is important to the setting of the village especially in relation to the former Cross Lane Mill, a prominent building in the conservation area.



Figure 15: The central green space which lies opposite the Village Hall.



Figure 16: Recreation Ground bounded by the beck, canal and upland pasture.

2] Lying along the river is Bradley's other main open space – the recreation ground. Located along the western approach in to the village, the recreation ground allows for views across the south of the village and hillsides beyond. This valued local asset adds much to the character of this part of the village, particularly in summer months when it plays host to a variety of sports and leisure activities.

Buildings

In terms of building heights, the area displays a high degree of consistency, with the vast majority of properties being of two storeys in height. There are few exceptions. However, where properties deviate from the two-storey scale, they do not dilute the character of the area, with their materials palette and architectural form reflecting that of the rest of the character area.



Figure 17: Main Street displaying typical local building forms and features, including chimneys and window surrounds

The conservation area is typified by vernacular stone architecture. This architecture is one of understatement and simplicity. Unassuming elements and forms being the key quality of the buildings in this character area – none display elaborate decoration or try to out-do each other.

Elements such as chimneys and fine detailing of window surrounds are what give buildings in this area their distinct identity.

The predominant building material is millstone grit, whilst roofs, which are of pitched profile, are typically covered with sandstone slates. Windows are mostly timber framed and painted white. Sash and casement are the two most common windows types, and many of these are formed of smaller panes of glass divided by vertical and horizontal muntins.

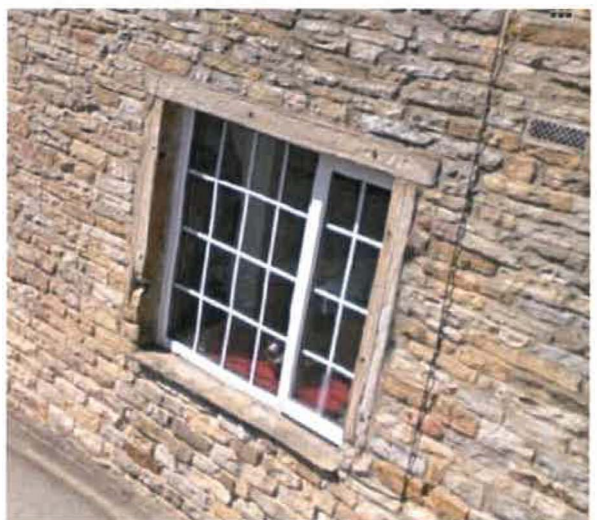


Figure 18: Crag Lane, casement windows on the upper levels

5.2 Gallery of Conservation area architecture

Figure 19

In conjunction with the previous pictures, this section provides a photographic overview of the some of the best examples of the built features and characteristics which contribute to Bradley's distinct feel and appearance. This gallery, along with the rest of this document, should be used to inform the design of new development proposals





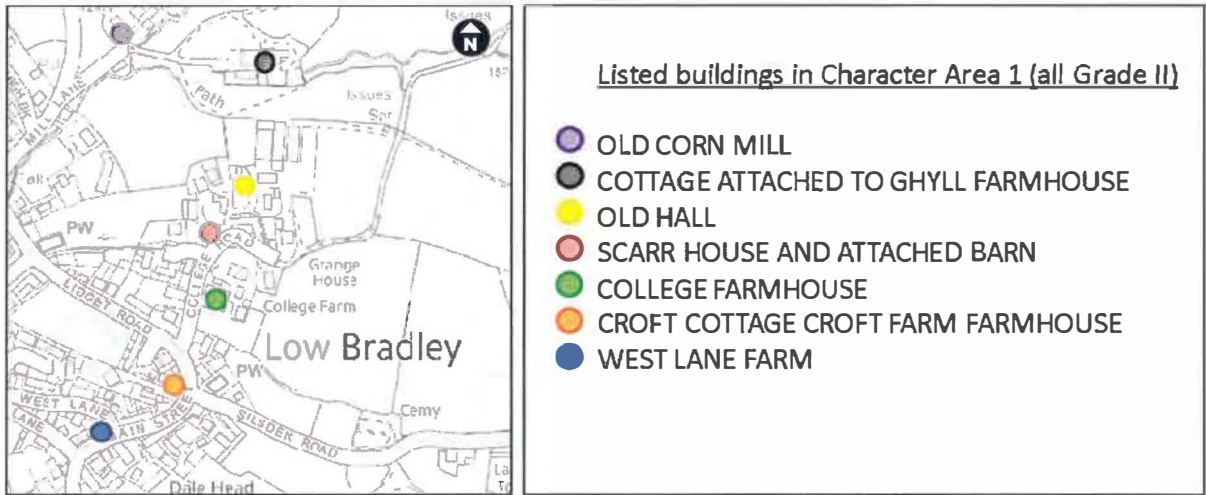


Figure 20: Listed buildings in Conservation area.

5.3 Landmarks

Landmarks valued by the community include:



Figure 21: Cross Lane Mill, converted to apartments.



Figure 22: Methodist Chapel



Figure 23: Old Hall



Figure 24: Slaters Arms Public House



Figure 25: St. Mary's Church



Figure 26: Picnic Area and Canal



Figure 27: Recreation Ground



Figure 28: Primary School



Figure 29: Skipton Road opposite school

5.4 Character Area 2: Low Bradley settlement outside of the conservation area

Topography and land uses

The area to the northwest of North Gill consists of a steeply rising landscape which, similarly to the conservation area, contains almost exclusively domestic housing framed by extensive landscape views in all directions.

The open space within the settlement, the boundaries of which are delineated by fields to the north and west, and the main route to Skipton on the east, consists primarily of small grassed areas between groups of houses. In addition to the Village Hall, Recreation Ground, Church and Chapel another community facility of note is the primary school with its playground and small grassed area

Layout and style

Unlike the conservation area the housing style consists of a mixture of bungalow and 2 storey buildings, constructed along crescents and cul-de-sacs. Along Skipton Road, opposite the school, are a few terraces of stone built houses with narrow gardens abutting the highway. Elsewhere, behind the school, C20th housing contributes little to the character of the adjoining conservation area. There is a distinct difference in architectural style from the conservation area with a minimal use of the vernacular and local building materials.

Typical buildings along and adjacent to Aire Valley Drive have road-facing stone walls with rendering on the other three sides. Roofs are black slated. Houses tend to face the highway with gardens found both in the front and rear. The boundaries are mostly planted with or without low stone walls.

Again, unlike the conservation area, there is more off road parking and traffic congestion is therefore reduced. The through routes are wider and more easily navigated by larger vehicles, The cul-de-sacs are narrower with some turning head space. It is typical of mid C20th estate planning.



Figure 30: Overlooking the settlement outside of the conservation area



Figure 31: Heath Crescent. The surrounding countryside forms a constant backdrop to much of the village



Figure 32: Aire Valley Drive and relationship with surrounding countryside



Figure 33: Bradley Village Hall on Lidget Road

Bradleys Both Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan Until 2032

Annexe 3

Conservation Area Appraisal

Accessibility Instructions when viewed on line

Advice from Craven District Council on the use of the layered map in the Bradley Conservation document

“This document has been designed to be viewed digitally. It will work best on Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat Pro versions X or later versions on a PC or laptop. Please be aware that some interactive features such as layered maps and navigation buttons currently do not work on many others. As the layered maps are an integral part of the document, we recommend using Adobe on a desktop PC or laptop only.”

“Layered maps”

Throughout the document, a ‘map’ button in the bottom right hand corner of every page links you to the relevant map. Each of these maps consists of several layers, each displaying a different piece of information. These layers can be put together in any combination. Layers can be switched on and off using the ‘layers panel’, which is revealed by clicking the button on the left-hand side of the screen. On this panel click the small box alongside the layer name to turn the layer on or off.”

Low Bradley Conservation Area Appraisal August 2016

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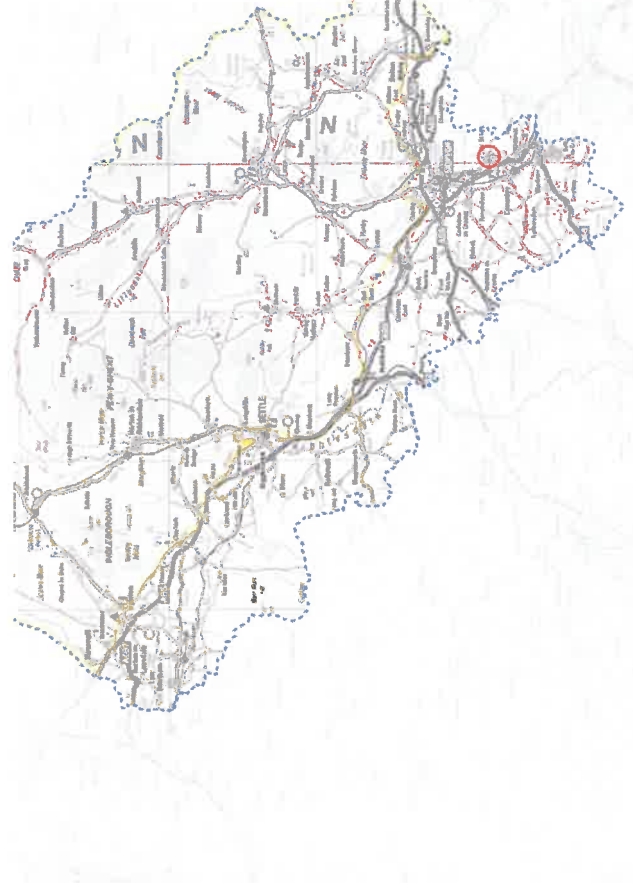


Introduction

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.

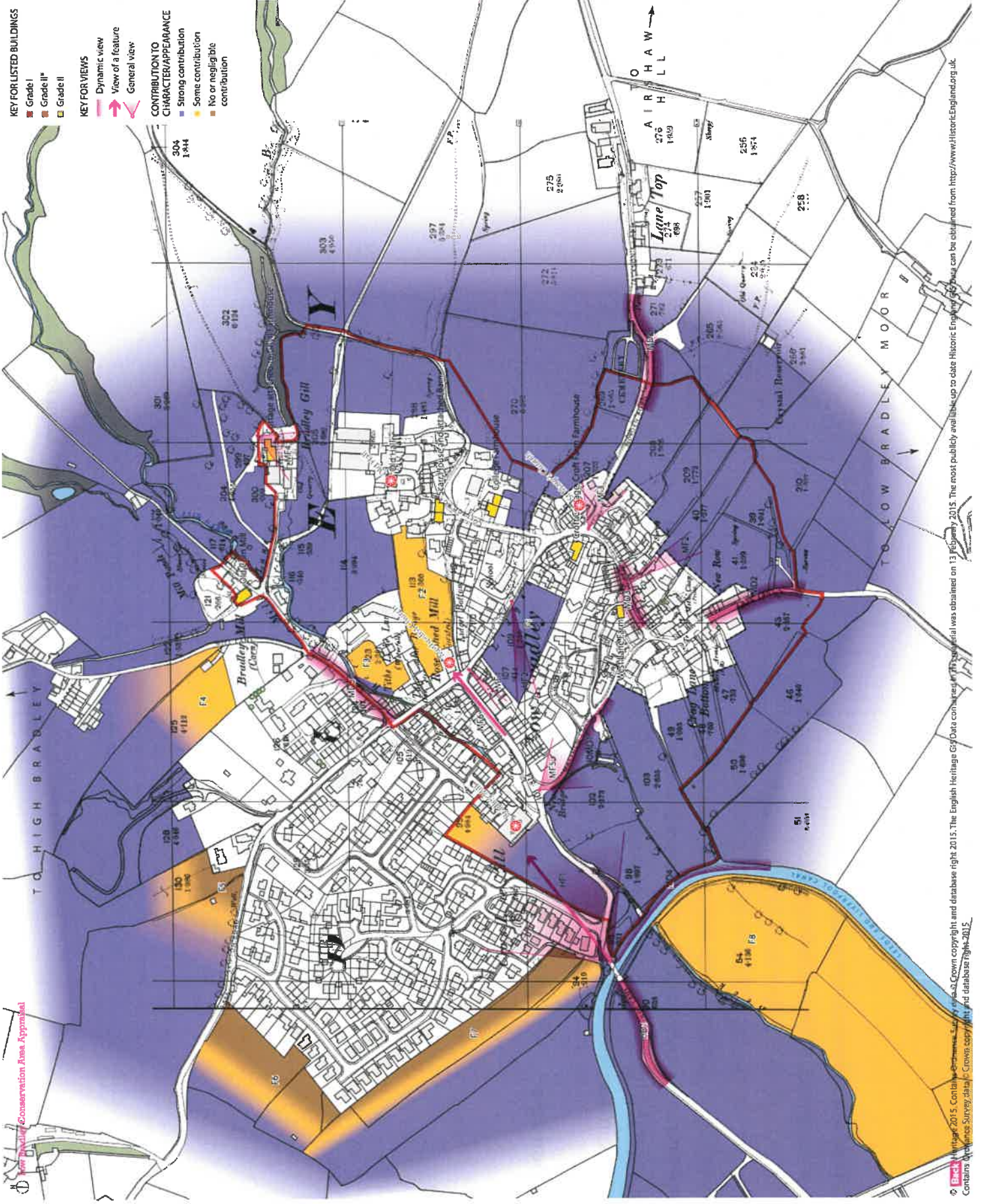


Location of Low Bradley

Overview of the conservation area

Bradley is composed of High Bradley and Low Bradley, known collectively as Bradleys Both. Low Bradley is located to the south-east of the two and is a picturesque former wool and mill village with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal running to its southwest. The Conservation Area encompasses the historic settlement of Low Bradley and its immediate surrounding open countryside.

Designation date: 1979



1.0 Character

1.1 Historic & contemporary development

- The 1891 OS map (see the map at the front of this Appraisal) shows that development was largely restricted to the main roads through the village. Most densely developed was Main Street and there was no development at all along Matthew Lane at that time. Small clusters of development away from the main streets existed around Old Hall and Mill Lane.
- There are some small modern infill housing developments, notably Westview Close and Lidget Croft which form small closes. The latter of these particularly disrupts the consistent linear form of the historic development though the buildings themselves relate to the rest of the Conservation Area adequately.
- Towards the edges of the historic settlement, particularly to the north and northwest, are former farm buildings which do not relate to the street so closely and tend to be surrounded by more open space.

- You are often aware, if not overtly, of the large twentieth-century housing estate to the north-west, where Low Bradley has expanded (this is outside the Conservation Area boundary).

1.2 Spatial and built character

- The Conservation Area has a tight-knit historic urban grain which gets denser towards the centre of the Conservation Area. Most houses on the central streets front on to the back of the pavement or are set slightly back, behind a small front garden enclosed by dry stone walling.
- Most of the streets curve gently, creating attractive views, full of promise. The consistency of the use of stone for the buildings and walls is a strong characteristic of the Conservation Area and District at large.

- The buildings are by and large two and three-storey houses with pitched roofs of varying size, age and grandeur (Old Hall is the only really grand house). Many were originally associated with the wool and cloth industry of the area, either as part of the cottage industry or later as homes for the industry's workers.
- There are also many examples of converted farm buildings. Some were agricultural buildings attached to the farmhouse, others were detached, most are recognisable as former farm buildings from the remains of their arched cart entrances. A few survive in their original use.
- Other uses which tend to occupy distinctive building types include the two places of worship and one, possibly converted, former chapel on Crag Lane, the public house on Crag Lane and the Village Hall.
- Bradley Mill is now flats but its size, position and chimney make it an important visual landmark as well as an important aspect of the village's history.

1.3 Materials and palette

- Walls: Gritstone coursed and uncoursed;
- Window reveals: Gritstone, sometimes tooled
- Gateposts: Gritstone monoliths
- Roofing: Westmorland slates; Grey slates (Yoredale sandstone)
- Windows: Timber windows: traditionally casements but sashes used widely in the nineteenth century; numerous instances of historic windows having been replaced with upvc, these detract from the character of the Conservation Area
- Pavements: Stone paving as well as extensive areas that have been replaced with tarmac, granite kerbs
- Road surfaces: Asphalt

- Street furniture: Street lighting is generally galvanized steel columns.

- Other: Some good surviving ironwork on front boundaries



Grey slates



Millstone grit

1.4 Key buildings and structures

- Bradley Mill, Ings Lane - Unlisted
- Methodist Church, Skipton Road - Unlisted



Bradley Mill, Ings Lane

- St Mary's Church, Silsden Road - Unlisted
- Old Hall, College Road – Grade II



Methodist Church, Skipton Road



St Mary's Church, Silsden Road



Old Hall, College Road

1.5 Relationship with other settlements

To the north-west of the Conservation Area are extensive estates of largely twentieth-century housing. This does not enhance the character of the Conservation Area and means there are no real views out to the northeast.

High Bradley is half a kilometre away to the north and forms a small group of buildings which are not easily visible from Low Bradley.

2.0 Landscape and Open Space

2.1 Overview

Although the centre of the historic settlement within the Conservation Area has a dense urban grain, the surrounding landscape is nearly always visible in views from it. There are also still areas of open pasture within the village that often afford longer views to the landscape beyond and are a reminder of the historic settlement pattern (visible on nineteenth century Ordnance Survey maps). Consequently, landscape and open space are an integral part of the character of the Low Bradley Conservation Area.

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 need particular comment or 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

West side of the Conservation Area: south of Skipton Road and north of Ings Lane

*With the exception of those areas immediately adjacent to the 20th Century housing, predominantly makes a **strong contribution** to character and appearance*

- On the west side of the Conservation Area is a large mid-twentieth century estate that is a continuous part of the settlement of Low Bradley. Beyond are fields and the Leeds-Liverpool Canal.
- The parts of the fields (F6 and F7) that immediately adjoining the twentieth-century housing estate make a very **limited contribution** to the character of the Conservation Area. They are physically separated from it by the extensive housing development. These fields are experienced on the approach into the Conservation Area from the swing bridge on Ings Lane, just outside its boundary: the fields are visible from here on the

edge of the twentieth-century development, the end of which comes between F7 and Ings Lane. F7 therefore makes a **negligible** contribution.

- From this position, it is possible to see the landscape rising beyond the whole settlement of Low Bradley from the northwest round to the southeast. Beyond F6, the fields are part of this continuous belt of landscape and therefore contribute strongly to the wider character of the settlement and the Conservation Area.
- Away from the later housing estate, westwards the fields contribute greatly to the character of the Conservation Area. The open fields up to Woods Laithe are highly visible from Ings Lane, and with the Canal, form part of the wider landscape setting of the Conservation Area.

South side of the Conservation Area: between Ings Lane and Silsden Road

Predominantly makes a strong contribution to character and appearance

- To the south of the settlement there are long views across the Aire Gap towards the lower Pennines (e.g. **HD1**) (these views can be appreciated from throughout the Conservation Area). The Leeds-Liverpool Canal is visible (mainly because of the belt of trees running along it) in the middle distance, it then loops close to the settlement on its southwest side.

- The boundary of the settlement of Low Bradley along this southern side has changed very little in the past few centuries. The historic pattern of tofts and crofts (see *Introduction to Craven Conservation Area Appraisals*) survives well with their drystone walls. This field pattern can be seen from the Canal and Ings Lane to the southwest.

• Most of this land to the south makes a strong contribution to the character of the Conservation Area which can be experienced from numerous public routes: Ings Lane, the Canal tow path, Crag Lane and Silsden Road as they enter the settlement from the landscape on this side. The open space between the historic settlement and the Canal visually links the two and represents their historic relationship. The views south and southeast from Matthew Lane towards the Canal and across the Aire Gap beyond are also aesthetically of value.

- Within the loop of the Canal one of the large fields (F8) is surrounded by dense tree belts and is not easily visible from the approach to the Conservation Area from Ings Lane or from the Conservation Area itself. It has therefore been identified as making **less of a contribution** than the other, more visible, fields.

**East side of the Conservation Area: between Silsden Road/
Jacksons Lane and North Gill**

Predominantly makes a strong contribution to character and appearance

- The landscape on the east side of the Conservation Area rises to the east towards Low Bradley Moor and northeast towards Airshaw Hill. Within the settlement you are aware of the topography as Main Street rises to the northeast and there are constant views (**MF2, MF3**) between the buildings out to the landscape.
- Jackson's Lane is a historic route in to the Conservation Area from the East; from here there are views of the village nestled between the hills (**MD2**).

- The character of the village periphery on this east side has not substantially changed since the end of the nineteenth century and, like the south side, the field boundaries are the surviving boundaries of the medieval tofts and crofts (see *Introduction to Craven Conservation Area Appraisals*).
- The basic pattern of historic development with the sites of Old Hall, Bradley Gill, and the former site of Bradley Mill (see north side of the Conservation Area below), slightly detached from the main cluster of the historic settlement with open fields around them survives and is important to the Conservation Area's character and appearance.
- The open space on the east side of the Conservation Area is therefore an essential aspect of the character of the Conservation Area.

North side of the Conservation Area: Between North Gill and Skipton Road

*Predominantly makes a **strong contribution** to character and appearance*

- Directly north of the former corn mill and around Mill Lane the landscape is clearly visible from within the Conservation Area and there are many glimpsed views out (**MD5**).
- F4 is visible from the Conservation Area and does make **some contribution** as part of its landscape setting but adjoins some of the recent development.
- F5 is further removed from the Conservation Area and is not easily visible from it. It is also directly opposite the twentieth century housing estate and so makes a **negligible** contribution.

- The landscape on the north side of the Conservation Area rises quite steeply towards High Bradley. The Conservation Area's northwest boundary runs closely along the course of North Gill, west of which the development dates from the twentieth century.

- This boundary consists almost entirely of twentieth and twenty-first century development. The main exception is the converted former corn mill site which lies on the northwest side of North Gill.

- This recent development to the northwest is continuous with the development within the Conservation Area boundary and separates the landscape to the northwest from the historic development of the Conservation Area.

Within the Conservation Area

F1

F1 is an historic enclosed field and, along with F2, is a remnant of the open space that existed between the medieval settlement along Main Street and the nineteenth-century development that grew up behind the mill on Ings Lane. There is a good view (**HF2**) from the northeast corner towards the southwest across the field with the Mill chimney prominent beyond and the Aire Valley spreading out beyond the village into the distance. The aspects of this view that make it aesthetically pleasing are also defining characteristics of this Conservation Area. This open space also allows a clear view from the northwest corner of this field on Lidget Road looking across F1 to the hills to the south east.

F1 is a prominent feature of the village that allows significant views across the Conservation Area to the landscape beyond and is both a reminder of the way of the village developed and of its historic agricultural character. It therefore makes a **strong contribution** to the character of the Conservation Area.

F2

This is an historic field with drystone walls, and like F1, it is a remnant of the open space that existed between the medieval settlement along Main Street and the nineteenth-century development that grew up behind the mill on Ings Lane. F2 can only be clearly seen from Skipton Road, across the Methodist Church's car park. It does not have the prominence or some of the aesthetic qualities of F1 but is still a remnant of the historic development and rural character of the Conservation Area. It therefore makes **some contribution** to its character and appearance.

F3

F3 is an historic field that is visible from Mill Lane. It has been developed all around its periphery with housing since 1891 and affords views to the Methodist Church to the southeast (MD5). It has aesthetic value with its dry stone wall and the North Gill stream running through it with a belt of attractive trees along it. F3 **contributes** to the experience of travelling along Mill lane and to the rural character of the Conservation Area.

3.0 Views

Refer to the map at the front of this Appraisal

3.3 Highly significant fixed views (HF)

HF1 From the Canal tow path and small park, on the east side of the Bradley Swing Bridge towards the former Bradley Mill – The trees in the small green open space north east of the Canal form a vista towards the former Mill building which stands prominently. This view is significant for its association with Low Bradley's industrial history and the historic and visual link between the village and the Canal.

HF2 Framed view over the houses looking west from Lidget Road, across the field in the centre of the village to the Mill chimney and countryside beyond – There has always been an open space at the centre of the village around which the development has grown. The field to the south-east of Lidget Road retains a rural character with its rubble stone walling and unlandscaped pasture. The topography of the village

means there are long views from the northeast corner across the field to the south-west, with the rooftops beyond and Bradley Mill's chimney providing a focus, beyond is the Aire Valley and the Lower Pennines.



View south east from Lidget Road (HF2)

3.4 Highly significant dynamic views (HD)

HD1 Approach into the Conservation Area on Ings Lane looking north east towards Bradley Mill. – The approach to the Conservation Area along Ings Lane is bordered by fields with boundaries of rubble stone walls. Ahead, to the northeast, is Bradley Swing Bridge over the Canal and beyond is the former Bradley Mill. This approach incorporates these defining characteristics of the Conservation Area making it significant.

3.1 Moderately significant fixed views (MF)

MF1 South-east through the arch of Mount View to the courtyard and buildings beyond – This is a framed urban view into a domestic courtyard. This is an evocative survival of the village’s historic townscape.

MF2 South-east along the Drive of Sedgemoor House from Main Street to the countryside beyond – The drive is lined with rubble stone retaining walls and leads the eye to the hills to the east. This is one of many views from the historic village core to the countryside beyond.

MF3 From Main Street south-east along Silsden Road to the countryside – This is another view from the historic village into the countryside. It is framed by St Mary’s Church and the stone cottages on the corner of Main Street and Silsden Road.

MF4 From the north-east corner of Ghyll Farm south west over the village and countryside beyond – This is a panoramic view, where you can get a sense of the wider setting of the village in its landscape. The view is over the Aire Valley, surprisingly little of the village is actually that visible due to the topography but the Mill chimney and some of the rooftops can be seen.

MF5 South-east along Matthew Lane from Ings Lane – This view gives a clear impression of the village’s historic boundary. Matthew Lane is developed consistently on its northeast side but on this junction is still undeveloped on its southwestern side and is bounded by a stone wall.

MF6 From Ings Lane north-east towards the Methodist Church – The developed stretch of Ings Lane in the historic village is relatively straight and rises towards the northeast, terminating with a view of the front elevation of the Methodist Church with hills behind. This is a designed bit of townscape that is of aesthetic value and also represents the historic religious values of the village.



MF6

3.2 Moderately significant dynamic views (MD)

MD1 From Matthew Lane south to the Canal and the countryside beyond – Like MF5, this view takes in this aesthetically and historically significant village periphery. The fields (including the recreation ground) between Matthew Lane and the Canal are well-kept and slope gently down to the Canal which is lined with mature trees.



View south west over the Sports Ground (MD1)

MD2 Views into the Conservation Area along Crag Lane and Silsden Lane – There are clear views of the historic village in its landscape context from Crag Lane, the uniformity in the building materials and heights and the prominence of the mill chimney gives the impression of an historic industrial village. From Silsden Lane the view of the village is more restricted by the topography and tree cover.



View south west from Matthew Lane (MD1)

MD3 North-east along Main Street and south-west back down Main Street with its back drop of hills – Main Street is one of the oldest streets of the village and it is lined with buildings of historic value. Looking northeast the winds gently, creating attractive urban views. To the south-west there is the additional backdrop of the valley in the distance.



MD4

MD4 Along the Leeds – Liverpool Canal in both directions from the northeast bank – the north bank of the Canal where is loops close to the village is within the Conservation Area, from here there are aesthetically significant views in either direction along the Canal with the valley to the southeast and the hills rising on the northwestern side of the banks. The Canal has an important historic and aesthetic relationship with the village and its unspoilt character is significant to the Conservation Area.

MD5 Views of Mill Lane, with glimpses of open countryside between the buildings.

4.0 Traffic and Movement

4.1 Pedestrian

The centre of the village is sufficiently quiet and the traffic sufficiently slow during the week that pedestrians can move unimpeded around the village. The pavements are well-maintained but not consistent and often disappear where roads narrow. The instances where there is parking on pavements means pedestrians are inclined to walk on the roads in the centre of village.

4.2 Vehicle

Much of the time there is little traffic in the Conservation Area as it is not really a through-route. Many of the roads in the village are unmarked which enhances the attractive historic character of the Conservation Area.

4.3 Parking

There is not enough residential parking within the village, partly no doubt due to lack of space so it seems to be common to park on the pavements.

The free car park by the Canal is within easy walking distance of the village centre and does not affect any important views or the character of the settlement.

5.0 Recommendations for Further Work

- Identification of buildings that positively /negatively contribute to the character of the Conservation Area.
- Further research into the historic development of the village
- Suggested Article 4 Directions
- Identification of development problems and pressures and potential solutions
- potential to improve area along Ings Lane to reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflict and improve the experience of entering the village from this direction and views of the mill

