

Thornton- in-Craven Conservation Area Appraisal August 2016

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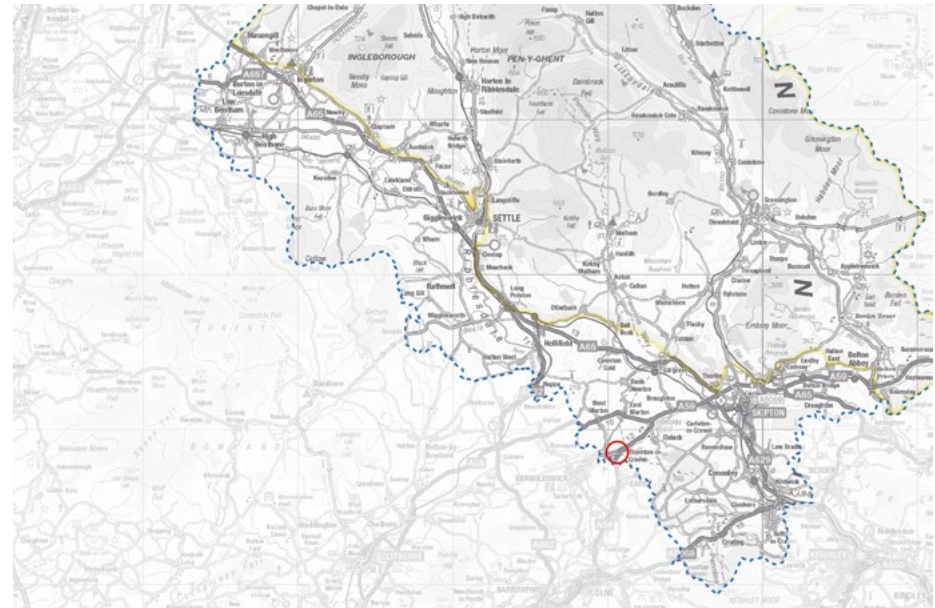


Introduction

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.

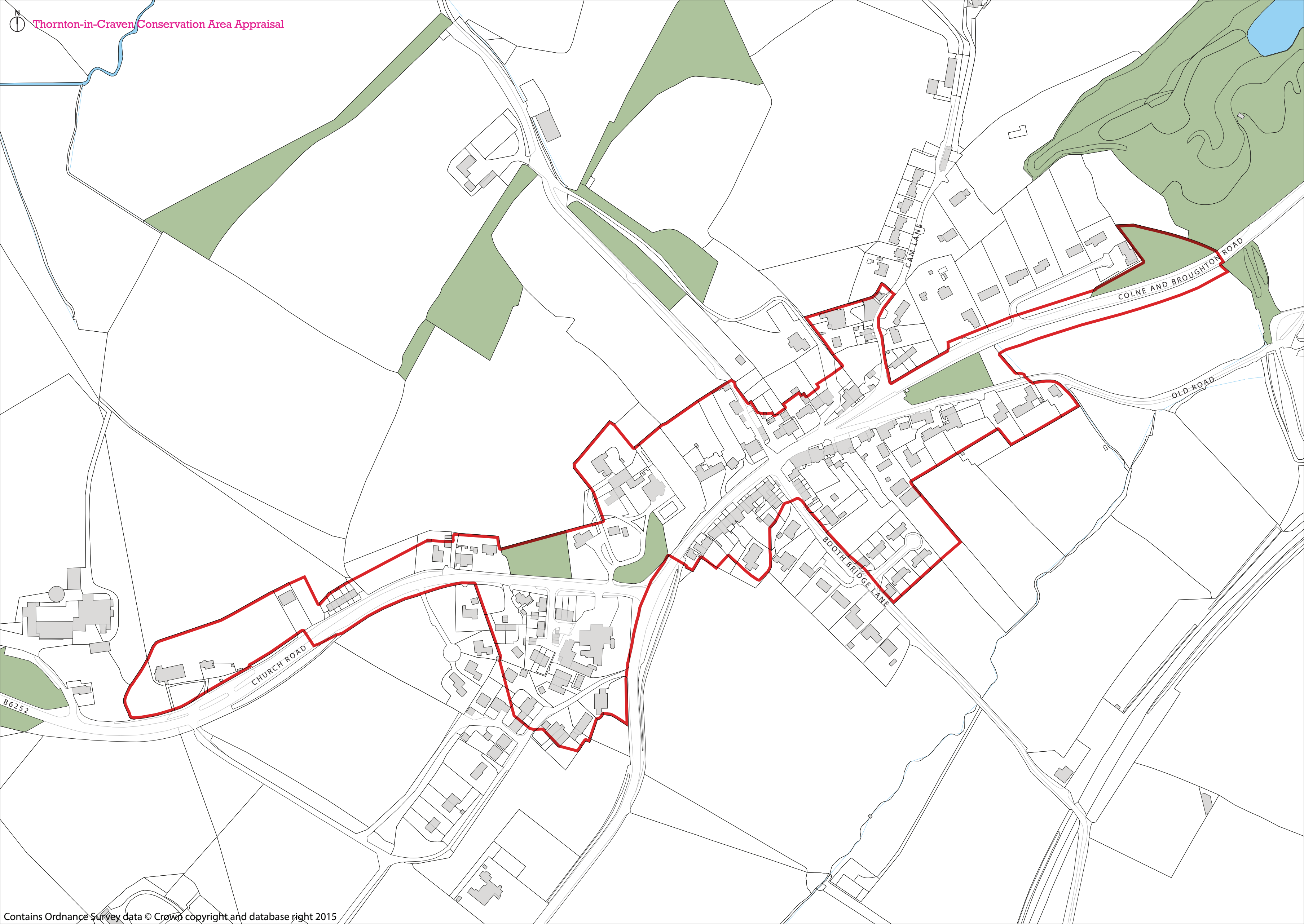


Location of Thornton-in-Craven

Overview of the conservation area

Thornton-in-Craven is situated on a ridge at the boundary between two distinct landscape character areas: Landscape Character Area 32, the Drumlin Valleys and Landscape Character Area 31, the Settled Industrial Valleys (1). Views to the south over the flood plain of the Earby, Thornton and Brown House Becks are long and dramatic.

Designation date: 1989



1.0 Character

1.1 Historic and Contemporary Character

Thornton-in-Craven is linear settlement with no back lanes located on the line of a former Roman Road running from Ilkley to Ribchester, later transformed into the Colne and Broughton turnpike road in the late 18th century. A weekly market established in 13th century suggests that Thornton-in-Craven had been a relatively prosperous settlement for many centuries culminating in the successful operation of the Thornton Limestone Works established in late 19th century until at least the 1930s. The majority of buildings date to 18th and 19th century and reflect a fairly wealthy population at the time. The Listed Grade I, St Mary's Church lies some distance away on the B6252 and incorporates a circular form of church yard often associated with an early foundation and possible monastic origins.



Cottages opposite Beech House

- Thornton-in-Craven is recorded in Domesday Book and is, relative to West Riding, a 'quite large' settlement. Interestingly, Earby to the south was also 'quite large' and Barnoldswick to the west was 'very large', implying that the area was very prosperous (2).
- The historic core is relatively well defined and legible and the historic 'edge of settlement' survives to the northwest behind Stocksbridge Farm and the Listed Grade II Grange.
- The village remained relatively untouched until the late 20th century when residential development of former tofts and in-fields occurred on Booth Bridge Lane and Cam Lane, partly within the Conservation Area. Other development in the early 21st century lies in the former grounds of the Listed Grade II Thornton Hall and on Thornton Hill, clearly visible from Church Road.



Development in the grounds of Thornton Hall

- The site of the former Thornton Limestone Works lies immediately outwith the Conservation Area and is now lined with mature trees and largely hidden from view. A disused rail tunnel passes beneath the A56. This quarry railway connected to the Shipley to Colne Railway via a bridge (still standing) over Old Road immediately beyond the eastern end of the Conservation Area.
- Again, outwith the Conservation Area the former Thornton station house on the Shipley to Colne Railway survives on Booth Bridge Lane (dismantled in 1960s).

1.2 Spatial and urban character

Thornton-in-Craven is dominated by the extremely busy A56 which is a significant visual and physical barrier in the Conservation Area making exploration of the village quite challenging. The village green with its Listed Grade II stocks is a welcome set-back area of seating from which the form of the main street can be appreciated. Early 21st century housing in the grounds of Thornton Hall have resulted in an incongruous second settlement accessed off Church Road. Late 20th century housing off Fold Lane is more successful in integrating with the historic core. Further development in the late 20th century along Cam Lane and off Brearlands has a subtle impact on the Conservation Area.

- Thornton-in-Craven is a linear village with two 'lanes' to the north and south - Cam Lane and Booth Bridge Lane.
- Two wide grassed areas, parts of which are village green, mark either end of the village core with all properties stepped back from the road.



Village green

- There is a single main street, the Colne and Broughton Road.
- Historic housing includes a long, visually striking terrace of cottages which includes the Listed Grade II Brown Croft and Fold Cottages; individual detached 'villas' and small farm complexes including the Listed Grade II Thornton House, Elmtree House, and Bells Farm. A row of late 18th century Listed Grade II almshouses on Church Lane adds a rarer building form to the mix.
- The majority of historic properties retain walled front gardens ranging from the petite such as Rock House and Rock Cottage to extensive such as Bells Farm and number 29 Broughton and Colne Road. Some front garden areas have been converted into off-road parking areas.
- Colne and Broughton Road forms the A56, a busy road linking Skipton and Burnley. The approach from the east is a significant gateway into the village.
- Thornton Hill residential home and St Mary's Church are the two most prominent key buildings.



Front gardens used for parking

1.3 Key buildings

- Thornton Hill Residential Home, Church Road – undesignated
- St Mary’s Church, Church Road – Listed Grade I

1.4 Public open space

Public open space (village green) exists to the northwest of Colne and Broughton Road, on either side of the frontage to Beech House, and includes timber seating, the Listed Grade II timber stocks and a Listed Grade II K6 telephone box on the southwest side and a grassed area on the northeast side, in front of Peel House. A small field off Church Lane by the almshouses serves as a recreation ground. St Mary’s churchyard is a large and peaceful open space.

1.5 Relationship with other settlements

Thornton-in-Craven is a few kilometers from the much larger Lancastrian settlements of Earby and Barnoldswick, the latter being situated on the Leeds Liverpool Canal.

1.6 Materials and Palette

- Walls: Coursed Limestone rubble and dressed limestone for buildings. Coursed limestone rubble for boundary walls.
- Windows: Sandstone quoins and window dressings. Timber casements and sashes painted white. UPVC window replacements not common.
- Gateposts: few examples but where they exist, they are sandstone or timber.
- Roofing: Stone slates (Westmorland).
- Pavements: ashlar with concrete and gritstone kerbs.
- Surfaces: ashlar road surfaces.
- Street furniture: Heritage style lantern luminaires on black columns which seem to be a relatively recent addition to the streetscape.

2.0 Landscape and Open space

2.1 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.

2.2 Open space assessment

Land to the east of Booth Bridge Lane

- This area, between the rear of properties fronting on the A56 and the Thornton Brook is an unchanged landscape since at least 1853 and contains mature trees and hedged enclosures that makes a significant contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area including its setting.
- These fields have been recommended for inclusion in the Conservation Area.
- The historic edge of settlement can be readily understood from Booth Bridge Lane (HF1).

Land to the west of Booth Bridge Lane

- Although the majority of historic boundaries no longer survive, the open aspect of these fields is an important contributor to the setting of the Conservation Area.
- These foreground fields frame strong views out across the valley to the south (**MF1**)

Land to the south of Church Road

- These fields, in particular Lister Croft with its individual medium mature trees in a parkland setting, play an important role in preserving the setting of the Listed Grade I Church of St Mary, the Listed Grade II Almshouses and the approach to the historic core of Thornton-in-Craven.
- The fields form part of strong dynamic views from Church Road, the western gateway into the settlement (**HD1**).

Land to the north of Church Lane

- The fields here form part of strong dynamic views from Church Road, the western gateway into the settlement (**HD1**).
- The open setting to the Listed Grade I Church of St Mary provided by these fields is key to understanding the context of this early church and its spatial separation from the historic core of Thornton-in-Craven.
- Fields behind the Listed Grade II Elm Tree House, the Grange and the non-listed Beech House help define the historic 'edge of settlement'.

Land to the northwest of Cam Lane (F1)

- Fields in this location are largely invisible from within the Conservation Area and make ***negligible contribution*** to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and play a limited role in its setting.

3.0 Views

Refer to the layered map at the beginning of this Appraisal.

Unusually for Craven, views of open and relatively distant landscapes plays a limited role in defining the setting and character of the village. More important are views of the immediate landscape such as enclosures off Old Road and Booth Bridge Lane. Because the village is linear with little expansion beyond, the key views are those from the main street of the historic core.

3.1 Highly significant fixed views (HF)

HF1: Views from Booth Bridge Lane

Contextual views of the Conservation Area from the south from which Thornton-in-Craven's elevated situation can be appreciated.

From here to the right of the lane, there are good views of historic enclosures as shown on the 1853 Ordnance Survey Map that formed part of the village field systems. There is a strong case for extending the Conservation Area boundary to include these.

The historic 'edge of settlement' can be understood from this location.

HF2: Views from the village green

This is the best location for appreciating the significance of the historic core with views across to typical village buildings including the Listed Grade II Brown Croft and Forge Cottage.

Views down the street include the Listed Grade II Elm Tree House and Thornton House.

3.2 Highly significant dynamic views (HD)

HD1: Gateway views from Church Road, the B6252

Picturesque dynamic views of open landscape and the imposing Listed Grade I St Mary's Church forming part of the western gateway into Thornton-in-Craven. The isolation of the church from the rest of the village within a very generous churchyard elevated above Rectory Farm is a significant feature of the Conservation Area.

Beyond the church are the fine Listed Grade II Almshouses within an open landscape setting

opposite the parkland setting of the former Thornton Hall (currently outwith the Conservation Area). The pasture opposite the Almshouses contains a number of semi-mature trees and makes a *significant contribution* to the setting of the Conservation Area.

The road has generous, well kept planted verges that strengthen the value of this gateway approach.



HD1

HD2: Gateway views from Old Road.

These dynamic gateway views are from the pre-turnpike road into Thornton-in-Craven from the east which follows the line of an earlier Roman road. From the railway bridge there are fine views up the lane and to the southwest incorporating views of historic enclosures and mature trees as shown on the 1853 Ordnance Survey map.

Old Road forms part of the Pennine Way and is well used by walkers. The lane is slightly sunken and becomes lined with mature trees as the settlement edge is approached.

There are glimpses of the rear of properties fronting onto Old Road.

There is a strong case for extending the Conservation Area boundary to include the railway bridge and fields up to the A56 and fields to the south and west.

HD3: Gateway views from the A56

Impressive approach to the village from the 18th century turnpike road, now the busy A56 lined with mature trees.

There are stunning views to the south towards Eslack Moor and down the ridge to Old Road.

At the junction with Old Road the historic core of the village can be clearly appreciated.

3.3 Moderately significant fixed views (MF)

MF1: View from public seat on A56

Dramatic elevated views to the south through semi-mature trees lining the A56



MF1

MF2: Views from the churchyard

From within the churchyard the setting of the Listed Grade I St Mary's Church can be fully appreciated with strong views of the church itself and the landscape beyond.

This is a very tranquil location off the B6252 and a very important public space for the village.



MF2

MF3: View from public seat in front of the Listed Grade II Elm Tree House

From here there are interesting views down the Fold to the landscape beyond including Eslack Moor.



MF4: Views from lane above Yew tree Cottage

This slightly elevated location helps define the historic 'edge of settlement' to the north and provides strong views of village roofscape.



4.0 Traffic and Movement

4.1 Pedestrian

The A56 is a very busy road and although there is a 30mph speed limit, traffic is often faster than this. During the survey, HGVs were witnessed travelling in excess of this. A signalised crossing has been installed in the last few years by Thornton House and there are two gateway features on the A56 and one on Church Road which helps.

There are several well used footpaths giving access to open country including the Pennine Way, a national long distance footpath. This runs up Old Road and crosses the A56 some way from the pedestrian crossing and leads up Cam Lane.

Footways exist through the village on the A56 but on the south side, opposite Beech House, there is no footway and cars park front-on to properties leaving little room for pedestrians.

4.2 Vehicle

The A56 is a busy road linking Skipton with Colne and the M65. Church Road is less busy but still has a steady flow of traffic linking to Barnoldswick.

4.3 Parking

There is no on-street parking on Colne and Broughton Road. Parking is off-road and on pavements. There is a small parking area up the lane behind Yew Tree Cottage.



Parking problem

5.0 Recommendations for Further Work

- Further study of opportunities and detractors.
- Assessment of streetscape.
- Article 4 direction and guidance on external appearance of dwellings in the conservation area.
- Detailed analysis of building form and settlement character and morphology.
- Bring forward proposals to extend the Conservation Area boundary to include the important historic enclosures between Booth Bridge Lane and Old Road, the field between Old Road and the A56, and the former railway bridge on Old Lane including this stretch of Old Lane.
- Opportunities for further traffic calming through the village including a 20mph speed restriction should be considered.

Sources

1. Chris Blandford Associates, 2011, North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project.
<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/25431/Landscape-character-assessment>
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