

## **ASKHAM BRYAN**

### **Conservation Area No. 14 (22.3 ha)**

#### **Introduction**

Askham Bryan Conservation Area was designated in 1980. It includes the whole of the Main Street and the village's outer edges, including small areas of recent housing. On 20 January 2005 the Conservation Area was extended to include: St Nicholas' Croft and adjoining properties on Main Street; paddocks and gardens to either side of Northfield Lane; the property called Church Hill Farm. At the same time, a small area to the rear of St Nicholas' Churchyard was deleted from the Conservation Area.

#### **History**

The village was recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086). Its name is thought to originate from "Ascam" or "Ascha", possibly meaning the "enclosure of the ash-tree"; and after Brian Fitzalan to whom the manor passed in the 12c. By 1600 the village was thriving with 12 farms on Main Street and several trades of tailors, shoemakers, millers, blacksmiths, bricklayers, three publicans and wine merchants. From the 18c the Fawcett family were to play a prominent part in village life. In 1800 Main Street was known as "Town Street" as in many villages of that period, and no doubt reflected in the surviving name of Town Farm at the west end of the village. Though sited some way from the village, the development of Askham Bryan College of Agriculture became an important influence upon present day village life.

#### **Important Buildings**

The Church of St Nicholas is late 12c with subsequent alterations, built in magnesian limestone ashlar and sandstone rubble with plain tile roof. The Church has a continuous nave and chancel and is a Grade I listed building. The "Doctor's House" on Main Street is an early-mid 18c listed house. Other notable buildings in the social history of the village are the former Methodist Church (1893), now the village hall, and the little chapel (1836) at the corner of Chapel Lane, now a house.

#### **Character**

The rural setting of Askham Bryan largely survives, with open countryside coming up to the informal, irregularly-shaped outer edges of the village that evolved naturally from the traditional pattern of plot boundaries. Several narrow lanes follow the length of the rectangular fields to enter Main Street at right angles. The winding Main Street of this linear village is a strongly unifying element, threading together sections of different character, some of which have changed gradually during 20c.

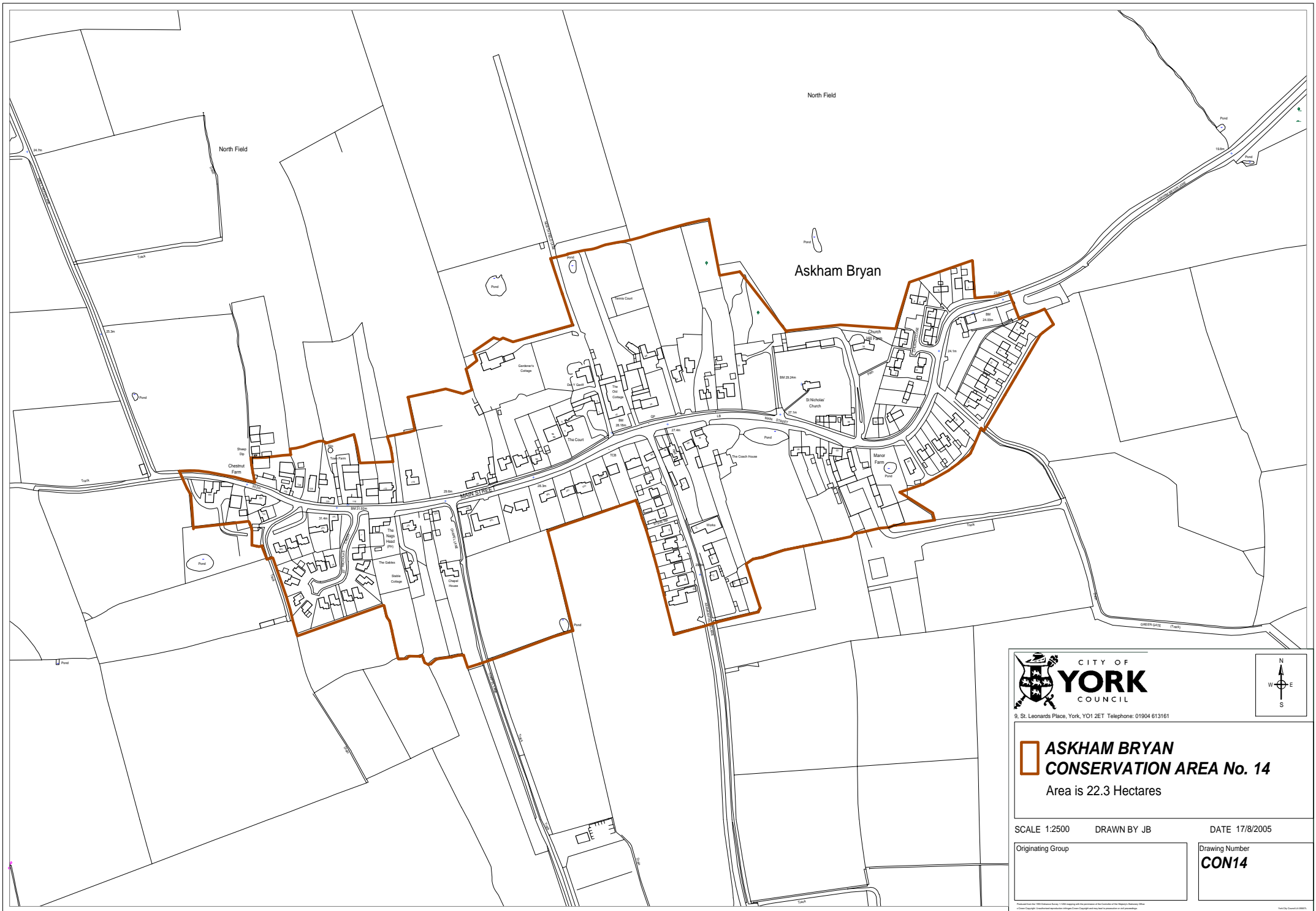
At the turn of the century the village consisted more of clusters of buildings, separated every so often by open fields and the extensive grounds of Askham Bryan Hall. The rather suburban character of much of the recent infill development between Chapel Lane and Askham Fields Lane is contained by the curving line of the street and the well-landscaped character of its frontage; houses being set-back amongst trees, with front boundary walls, hedges and fences, and grassed verges, maintaining a sense of continuity and pleasant appearance.

Towards its western end Main Street rises in quite a pronounced way, emphasising the contrast of this more historic part of the village from the infill development "below". The curve of the street continues; several vernacular buildings, including the Nags Head public house, gather effectively to form its frontage, with a more intimate village feeling, in turn opening into a pleasant little space opposite Chestnut Farm. The traditional mixture of detached houses and smaller cottages and outbuildings remains, though some of the latter have been replaced by recent larger individual houses and the introduction of a suburban style of cul-de-sac.

East of Askham Fields Lane, the village character becomes more open and rural, from an informal composition of attractive and historic elements: the pleasant group of 18c and 19c buildings near the junction with Askham Fields Lane, set in long narrow-fronted plots; the simple beauty of St Nicholas Church sited poignantly on a slight rise; the group of farm buildings at Manor Farm; and the village pond fringed by fine mature trees and notably, an open field background allowing the landscape to remain at this point as part of the village character, with idyllic overtones. In contrast, the eastern end of Main Street is formed by recent housing development, before the tight curve of the street suddenly unfolds at the very edge of the village to give an unchanging view over pleasant rolling countryside.

The main elements of the character and appearance of the area are:-

- (1) The survival of the overall village form of Askham Bryan and of its relationship with the surrounding countryside.
- (2) The linear qualities of Main Street, maintaining a cohesive character through the various parts of the village.
- (3) The remaining groups of historic and vernacular buildings, and the simple beauty of St Nicholas' Church.
- (4) The landscape elements; the many fine mature trees, grassed verges, the village pond and its open field setting.



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**CONSERVATION AREA No. 14**  
 Area is 22.3 Hectares

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