
**MEMORANDUM
RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL
FORWARD PLANNING & CONSERVATION**

TO: RACHAEL BALMER
FROM: EMMA WOODLAND- BUILDING CONSERVATION OFFICER
SUBJECT: **AREA OF LAND WEST OF OLD MALTON/NORTH OF PEASY HILLS (AREA MARKED 324 ON RDC MAP OF MALTON AND NORTON)**
DATE: 17TH NOVEMBER 2016

Rachael, Thank you for consulting me on the area of land to the West of Old Malton/North of Peasy Hills seeking my views on whether it contributes to the historic environment. Based on an extensive walk-round of the area, both on road networks and Public Rights of Way (PROW), please find below my views. This opinion is based on the contribution the fields make to the above ground historic environment and does not include any potential for buried archaeological deposits.

The land in question, to the west of Old Malton consists of 2 fields numbered 324 on the RDC map of Malton and Norton. Currently the land is an area of arable fields with a patchy hedge running north/south along the length of the fields c. mid point. It gently slopes to the south and east and levels out near Old Malton. There is an extensive PROW network in the area consisting of a footpath/road to the north and west of the fields and a PROW east of the fields. Due to the low hedged and fenced field boundaries and topography, these give publically accessible, clear and expansive views. To the west of the area, the road /PROW begins to become a sunken lane with a high verges and a high established hedge which truncates views to the east across the fields at that point. A raised PROW on a footbridge to the north of the area gives elevated views of the fields and surroundings.

In my opinion the area of land itself does not display characteristics of any intrinsic historic interest in its own right for example ridge and furrow or historic field patterns/boundaries. It does however provide a very important aspect of providing a rural setting to 2 identified heritage assets , namely the designated Old Malton conservation area and the Grade I Listed St Mary's Priory church.

The conservation area of Old Malton can be summed up as a predominantly traditional vernacular village in a rural setting. The rural setting of Old Malton is an important aspect of the character which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. At present there is a defined rural edge which separates Old Malton from the more urban centres of Malton and Norton. This is an important separation and creates a visual buffer to the conservation area. The fields in question provide expansive views of the western edge of the village, and set it within its rural context.

In addition to providing a setting to the conservation area the area in question forms part of the setting to the Grade I listed St Mary's Priory church. This setting contributes to its significance as a building within a tranquil rural village setting. Due to the available expansive views over the fields, large scale of the church and the height of the tower, the church can be clearly seen rising above this village setting. This juxtaposition of

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Manager – Jill Thompson

massive church and small rural settlement greatly contributes to the historical and aesthetic value of the church. This emphasises not only, the importance of the church to its immediate rural community. In addition, due to its large size which can clearly be discerned from the fields in question, it is clear that the significance of the church extends beyond that of the localised village community.

In my opinion the fields identified as '324' provide a very important setting to both the conservation area and the Grade I listed church.