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

TO: JILL THOMPSON
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: 10TH OCTOBER 2018

Further to my memo to Rachael Balmer dated 17th November 2016, I am of the opinion that the proposed VIAU area makes a strong contribution to the setting of St. Mary's Church, Old Malton. This addendum should be read in conjunction with that earlier memo.

I am of the opinion that it does this in 2 ways:

- 1) By giving views that demonstrate the large scale of the church
- 2) By giving views that set the church in a rural context

The church of St. Mary is Grade I listed, as such Ryedale District Council has a statutory duty to have special regard for the preservation of the listed building and its setting. St Mary's is not a typical parish church in that the church, according to the list description, is the only surviving building of the Gilbertine Priory of St. Mary founded between 1147 and 1154 by Eustace St. John and is the only church of the Gilbertine order still in use. Parts of the church are ruins and are Scheduled as a Monument.

The atypical history of St Mary's church is expressed in a number of ways including its large scale. Its founder was an influential and powerful man and the large size of the church contributes to its significance. In my opinion this church was designed to be an impressive and dominant feature in the landscape. The construction of the imposing tower is testament to this, articulated through architecture. The church, even in its truncated form makes an impressive statement and the large square mass and height of the tower in particular, is rare in a Ryedale Context and makes this more than a typical parish church.

The fields to the west of the church contribute to the way that the church is experienced by giving access to views whereby you can appreciate the large scale of the church. Due to the nature of the field boundaries and topography, clear and expansive views of the church can be gained when looking across the fields to the east. Due to the uninterrupted nature of the views they give an ability to appreciate the unusual large scale of the church as it rises above the nearby large mature trees. This comprehension of its large scale underlines its significance as something atypical and greater than a usual parish church. When looking east, its intended prominence in the landscape can be appreciated in a way that is unlikely to have changed in a significant way for a very long time.

In addition, it is unusual to experience such a large church in a small village setting. In my opinion this contributes to the significance of the church. The fields to the west of the church are important in underlining

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this as they set the church in a rural context and not only give open views looking towards the church but are important in themselves in providing the rural setting. The expansive views give a broad context and therefore intensify the experience of the church within that rural setting.

In conclusion, it is the large size of the church taken together with its rural setting that contributes to its significance as a structure intended to be dominant and prominent within the surrounding landscape. The large size of the church as a relict example of a Gilbertine Priory can be appreciated when looking east across the proposed VIUA as can the rural setting within which the priory operated. Together these factors are interlinked and both combine to contribute to the significance of the church.