

Nucleated Rural Settlements Zone

Each character area within this zone, equating to an individual settlement core, has been described and mapped separately in the Nucleated Settlement Gazetteer. As a result, this zone description will concentrate on a brief overview only.

Further historic settlements are described in the 'Complex Historic Town Cores' zone.

Summary of Dominant Character

The character areas within this zone represent the majority of the areas of nucleated settlement¹ established by the time of the first 6inch survey of the Rotherham area by the Ordnance Survey, published between 1851-4.

Character area boundaries within this zone have been drawn to include areas developed by this time and also related peripheral areas, including village greens, churches, former manorial sites and open areas surrounded by development. Within this zone most character areas include some 20th century infill. Where this has respected earlier property boundaries and scales it has generally been included within units of earlier character. Where it has introduced new plan forms and patterns within an area of older settlement it has been shown on the mapping included in the gazetteer as characteristic of a later period.

The streetscapes within this zone are generally less regular and more varied in their built form than those in later areas of settlement. The replacement of buildings on a piecemeal basis, over many centuries, is commonplace.

There are three basic types of plan form from which the settlements in this zone have originated (see table below) The most common form within this zone, the linear 'row plan' village (Roberts 1987, 33), features a principal street (often called *Main* or *High* Street) along which each property has a narrow frontage providing access to a long narrow plot. The main streets are rarely perfectly straight, with the building lines along them following the sinuous course of the street. Where the settlement has roads leading to and from more than two other settlements, there is often a larger, often triangular, open area at the centre (sometimes maintained as a green). Many of these settlements feature a medieval church and sometimes a manor house. (Where 'row plan' villages include more than one row these have been described in the table below as Row plan - Developed).

The next most common form of settlement within this zone are small hamlets, generally made up of a small number of loosely nucleated farmsteads, the buildings of which typically date from a number of periods.

¹ The term 'nucleated settlement' is used to describe a pattern of settlement "where buildings are built together in clusters (i.e. hamlets or villages)" (Roberts 1996, 24)

The regular plan form of the row plan village is generally absent, with no clear form apparent in these settlements' layout.

The final class of villages, the estate village, is sometimes a rebuilt version of one of the first two plan forms, after the deliberate patronage of a rich landowner. At least one village, Street near Wentworth, is likely to have been an entirely post-medieval foundation - built by the family resident at nearby Wentworth Woodhouse. More often, such as at Harley, Hooper, Firbeck, Wentworth and Ravenfield, the development of an 'estate' character is the result of the rebuilding of an existing medieval village in the 18th or 19th centuries.

The larger of these villages typically include parish churches and vernacular buildings of the medieval (1066-1539) and post-medieval (1540-1749) periods. Later developments often include more 'polite' architectural forms related to the gentrification of settlements by landed estates, and the construction of middle class villa housing in the 19th century. In addition, many villages within this zone that lie close to industrial and extractive centres include brick built terraces dating from the mid 19th century onwards, developed as part of the 'industrial settlement' trend. Later modifications usually include examples of semi-detached and detached suburban housing, primary schools and replaced shop fronts.

Table 1: Analysis of nucleated rural settlements in Rotherham.

Settlement	Plan form	Boundary survival	Origin of settlement	Known Medieval domestic buildings?	Is there a church?	Industrial Settlement?	Has the settlement been engulfed by later development?	Has there been suburban development?
Abdy	Hamlet	Good	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	No
Aston	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	No	Medieval	No	On one edge	Yes
Aughton	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	Yes	No	Little	Yes	Yes
Barrow	Hamlet	Good	Estate	No	No	No	No	No
Bramley	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brampton	Hamlet	Poor	Medieval	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Brampton en le Morthen	Row Plan (Developed)	Good	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	No
Bramley Grange	Hamlet	Fair	Medieval	Yes	No	No	On one edge	No
Brinsworth	Hamlet	Poor	Medieval	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Brookhouse	Hamlet	Fair	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Catcliffe	Row Plan	Poor	Medieval	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Dalton Magna	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	No	No	No	No	No
Dalton Parva	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	No	No	No	On one edge	Yes
Dinnington	Row Plan (Developed)	Good	Medieval	No	Rebuilt Post-medieval	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firbeck	Estate Village	Fair	Medieval	Yes		No	No	No
Gilberthorpe Hill Top	Hamlet	Poor	Medieval	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Gildingwells	Hamlet	Poor	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	No
Greasbrough	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	Yes	rebuilt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hardwick	Hamlet	Fair	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	No
Harley	Estate Village	Good	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	No
Harthill	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	Yes	Medieval	No	No	Yes
Hellaby	Hamlet	Poor	Medieval	No	No	No	Yes	No

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Hooper	Hamlet	Fair	Estate	No	No	No	No	No
Hooton Levitt	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Hooton Roberts	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	No	Medieval Post- medieval	No	No	No
Kimberworth	Row Plan	Poor	Medieval	No	Medieval	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laughton en le Morthen	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	Yes	Medieval	No	No	Yes
Letwell	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	No	No	No	No	Yes
Maltby	Row Plan	Poor	Medieval	No	Medieval	No	Yes	Yes
Morthen	Hamlet	Fair	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	No
Nether Haugh	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	No
Nether Thorpe	Hamlet	Good	Medieval	No	No	No	No	No
North Anston	Row Plan (Developed)	Good	Medieval	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Ravenfield	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	No	No	No	No	Yes
Rawmarsh	Row Plan	Poor	Medieval	No	Rebuilt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scholes	Hamlet	Poor	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Slade Hooton	Row Plan	Poor	Medieval	No	No	No	No	No
South Anston	Row Plan (Developed)	Good	Medieval	Yes	Medieval	Yes	Yes	Yes
Street	Estate Village	Good	Estate	No	No	No	No	No
Swinton	Row Plan (Developed)	Poor	Medieval	No	Rebuilt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thorpe Hesley	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Thorpe Salvin	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	Yes	Medieval	Yes	No	Yes
Thrybergh	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	No	Medieval	No	No	Yes
Todwick	Row Plan	Poor	Medieval	Yes	Medieval Post- medieval	No	On one edge	Yes
Ulley	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	No	Medieval	No	No	Yes
Upper Haugh	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	Yes	No	No	On one edge	Yes

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Settlement	Plan form	Boundary survival	Origin of settlement	Known Medieval domestic buildings?	Is there a church?	Industrial Settlement?	Has the settlement been engulfed by later development?	Has there been suburban development?
Upper Whiston	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	No
Wales	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	Yes	Medieval	No	On one edge	Yes
Wath upon Dearne	Row Plan (Developed)	Fair	Medieval	No	Medieval	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wentworth	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	Yes	Medieval	No	No	Yes
West Melton	Row Plan	Poor	Medieval	Yes	Medieval	Yes	On one edge	Yes
Whiston	Row Plan (Developed)	Fair	Medieval	Yes	Medieval	Yes	On one edge	Yes
Wickersley	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	No	Medieval	No	Yes	Yes
Woodall	Row Plan	Fair	Medieval	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Woodsetts	Row Plan	Good	Medieval	No	No	No	On one edge	Yes

Relationships with Adjacent Character Zones

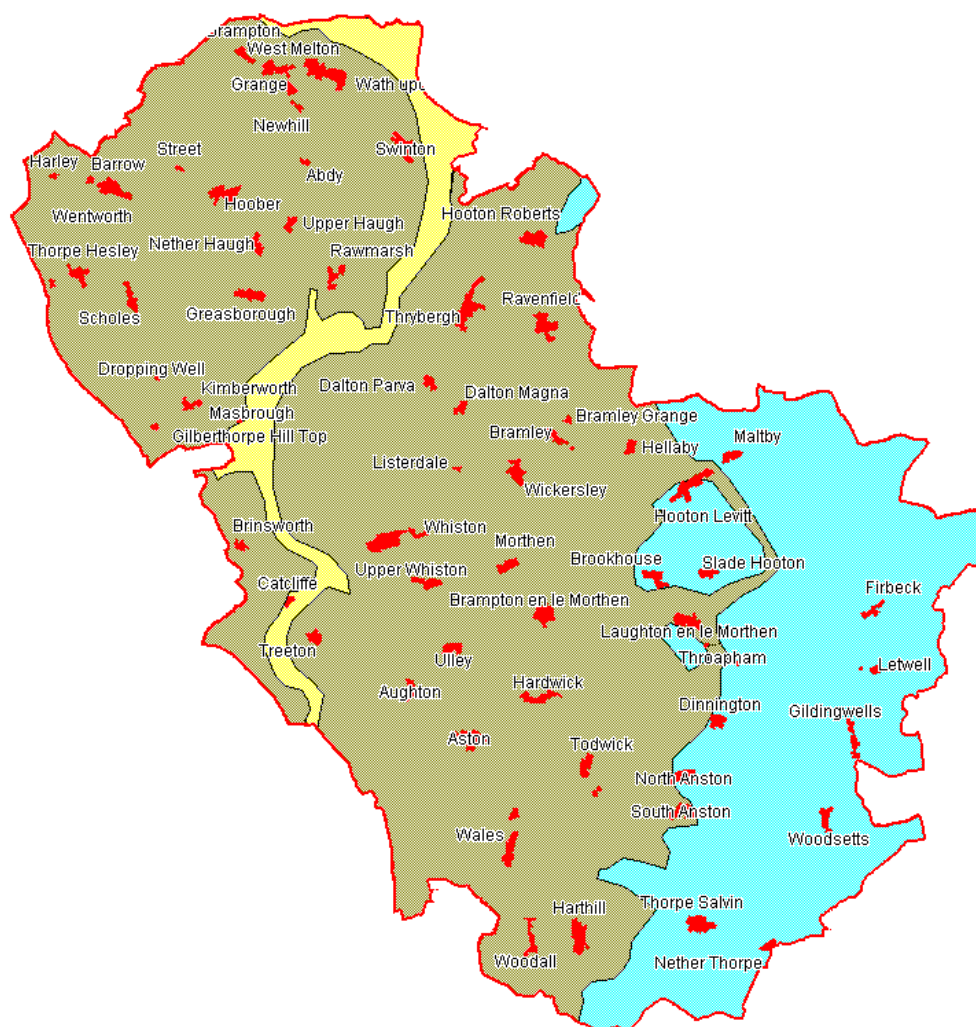


Figure 1: Nucleated Rural Settlements in Rotherham in relation to underlying geology.
(Key: Light Brown=Coal Measures; Blue=Magnesian Limestone; Yellow=Alluvium and Peat.

This zone includes the historic cores of villages that are still isolated within rural countryside in addition to ones that have become absorbed within the large-scale suburbanisation of the district.

Of those still largely associated with enclosed landscapes, there are clear relationships with surrounding zones and the underlying geology. The ‘Agglomerated Enclosure’ and ‘Surveyed Enclosure’ zones dominate the Coal Measures and Magnesian Limestone. Here most settlements are linear nucleations of demonstrably medieval date, often featuring medieval parish churches and constructed to quite regular plans. Historically these villages were frequently surrounded by common arable open fields, typically enclosed in the post-medieval period. The estate villages of Firbeck,

Wentworth, Hooper, Street and Harley are most closely associated with the 'Private Parklands' character zone.

20th century suburbanisation is a major feature of 64% of these settlements. This suburbanisation typically began as ribbon development along main roads, before further growth outside the historic boundaries of the settlement in the mid 20th century - as they became increasingly attractive to commuters. Most of the smaller villages in this zone have experienced continuing infill of their historic cores and piecemeal replacement of older buildings throughout the 20th century, as part of a similar trend.

A small number of these character areas, e.g. Maltby, Dinnington, Bramley and Wath, have a close relationships to the 'Planned Industrial Settlement' zone, with new model villages either close to or built around their historic core. Similar, although less *planned*, development contributed to the suburbanisation of Bramley, Catcliffe, Greasbrough, Kimberworth, Rawmarsh, South Anston, Swinton, Thorpe Salvin, Wath upon Dearne, West Melton and Whiston. The expansion of all these settlements was influenced by nearby industrialisation; most of these settlements now form a part of the main Rother or Dearne valley conurbations.

Inherited Character

By the mid 19th century, village settlement across the Rotherham borough was typically made up of nucleations of farms and cottages grouped along single roads. These settlements also frequently included a church of medieval origin, the earliest phases of which usually date to the Norman period, although a number may have pre-conquest origins (Ryder 1982).

Where later development of these settlements has consisted of little more than the piecemeal replacement of properties within existing boundaries, the form of the medieval settlement often survives well. Well preserved 'row plan' villages include: Greasbrough, Harthill, Hooton Roberts, Laughton en le Morthen, Thorpe Salvin, Ulley, Upper Whiston, Wales, Wentworth, Wickersley and Woodsetts. Less well-preserved former planned medieval villages include Catcliffe, Kimberworth, Maltby, Rawmarsh, Slade Hooton, Todwick and West Melton. There is a clear relationship between the preservation of the internal property boundaries of these villages and the extent to which later suburban development has encircled them. Those with poorly preserved plot patterns are much more likely to form part of a larger, more modern conurbation than those with better preserved patterns, which more often retain their identity as individual rural settlements.

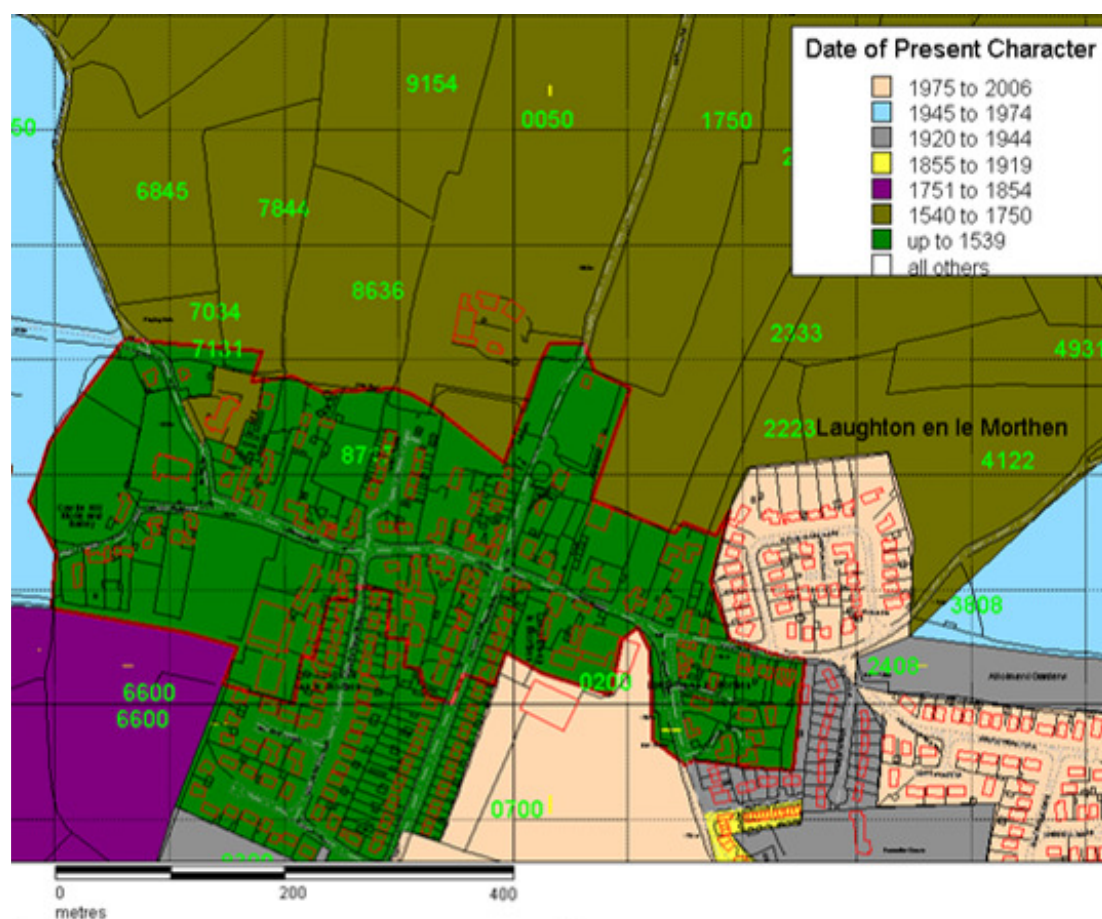


Figure 2: Laughton en le Morthen historic core (within thick red line) shows a clear planned medieval linear pattern of plots along a main street, preserved by piecemeal property replacement. Note the way the church and castle motte dominate the western end of the village.

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A pattern that can be observed by looking at South Yorkshire SMR records associated with this zone is the frequent presence of medieval buildings, many of which originated as timber framed structures. 51% of the character areas within the zone include domestic buildings with either timber framed or medieval elements, a figure likely to increase after further detailed and comprehensive internal surveys of buildings within these settlement cores.

The more complex plan forms of some settlements within this zone are likely to have resulted from piecemeal expansion of earlier hamlets and row-plan villages.

Later Characteristics

The later development of these settlements is intimately related to the processes of suburbanisation discussed above. The identification and designation of many as Conservation Areas in the 1960s and 1970s has served to preserve the character of many, despite their recent growth. This

process was, however, criticised in the Doncaster district, as it tends to result in, “the creation of a fossilised village centre containing buildings of historic interest surrounded by areas of dense modern housing of an unsympathetic character” (Magilton 1977, 90). This statement is valid for Rotherham, too. Outside of Conservation Areas, or where redevelopment preceded their creation, suburbanisation has frequently reduced the historic legibility of these villages. A common cause of this reduction of legibility is backland development and the amalgamation of historic plots, to produce larger plots of land for the development of estate housing.

Character Areas within this Zone:

‘Aby’, ‘Aston’, ‘Aughton’, ‘Barrow’, ‘Bramley’, ‘Bramley Grange’, ‘Brampton’, ‘Brampton en le Morthen’, ‘Brinsworth’, ‘Brookhouse’, ‘Catcliffe’, ‘Dalton Magna’, ‘Dalton Parva’, ‘Dinnington’, ‘Dropping Well’, ‘Firbeck’, ‘Gilberthorpe Hill Top’, ‘Gildingwells’, ‘Grange’, ‘Greasbrough’, ‘Hardwick’, ‘Harley’, ‘Harthill’, ‘Hellaby’, ‘Hoover’, ‘Hooton Levitt’, ‘Hooton Roberts’, ‘Kimberworth’, ‘Laughton en le Morthen’, ‘Letwell’, ‘Listerdale’, ‘Maltby’, ‘Masbrough’, ‘Morthen’, ‘Nether Haugh’, ‘Nether Thorpe’, ‘Newhill’, ‘North Anston’, ‘Ravenfield’, ‘Rawmarsh’, ‘Scholes’, ‘Slade Hooton’, ‘South Anston’, ‘Street’, ‘Swinton’, ‘Thorpe Hesley’, ‘Thorpe Salvin’, ‘Throapham’, ‘Thrybergh’, ‘Todwick’, ‘Treeton’, ‘Ulley’, ‘Upper Haugh’, ‘Upper Whiston’, ‘Wales’, ‘Wath upon Dearne’, ‘Wentworth’, ‘West Melton’, ‘Whiston’, ‘Wickersley’, ‘Woodall’, ‘Woodsetts’

Bibliography

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