



Aslackby Conservation Area Appraisal

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

In accordance with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, The Council is required to review its Conservation Areas from time to time and to prepare and publish any proposals for the preservation and enhancement of any parts of the District that are designated as a Conservation Area. This report is seeking approval to carry out a consultation on the proposed Aslackby Conservation Area boundary amendment and the draft updated Conservation Area Appraisal.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approves consultation of the change of boundary of the Aslackby Conservation Area boundary as shown in Appendix A to this report.
2. Approves publication of the Aslackby Conservation Area Appraisal (Appendix 1) for consultation.

Decision Information

Is this a Key Decision?	No
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting communities Enabling economic opportunities Effective council
Which wards are impacted?	Aveland;

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no significant financial implications arising directly from this report.

Completed by: Paul Sutton Interim Head of Finance (Deputy s151)

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 Local authorities have a duty to review the overall extent of conservation area designations in their area regularly. Designations such as this remain the principal means by which conservation policies can be applied to particular areas.
- 1.3 An Aslackby Conservation Area Appraisal has been produced for publication as there is a requirement to consult on any proposed change of Conservation Area boundary.

Completed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion

- 1.4 An equality impact assessment covering the introduction or extension of conservation areas (Appendix 2) has been carried out to highlight instances where access may be limited. It is accepted that the legislation governing conservation areas could result in a negative impact for people with disabilities, however, the Council remains mindful of the need to make or allow all reasonable adjustments necessary to improve equality wherever practicable. Therefore, any change required which results from equality legislation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Completed by: Carol Drury, Community Engagement Manager

Climate Change

- 1.5 While the Conservation Area Appraisal is not associated with any direct climate change implications, conservation areas limit permitted development rights and will restrict the ability of homeowners to carry out retrofit work on properties without first seeking planning permission. South Kesteven District Council should remain mindful of the balance of preserving historic buildings versus the

requirement to increase the energy efficiency of properties in keeping with sustainability guidance.

Completed by: Louise Case, Sustainability Project Support Officer

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. One of the key ambitions identified in the South Kesteven District Corporate Plan is to build on, and celebrate, the rich heritage and culture of the District. The contribution historic areas make to quality of life is widely recognised. Additionally, the District's cultural and heritage strengths support the visitor economy.
- 2.2. There are currently 48 conservation areas in South Kesteven. Conservation Areas are a link to the past that can provide a sense of continuity and stability and have the reassurance of the familiar which can provide a point of reference in a rapidly changing world. The way building traditions and settlement patterns provide local distinctiveness can deliver a catalyst for regeneration and inspire well-designed new development which brings economic and social benefits valued by everyone.
- 2.3. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ("the Act") requires local planning authorities to draw up and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas in their districts. Such areas are defined as "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character of appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". Once designated, the Council is required to review its conservation areas from time to time.
- 2.4. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) advises that heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance (paragraph 195). The guidance goes on to state that local planning authorities should ensure that a conservation area justifies such status because of its special architectural or historic interest, and that the concept of conservation is not devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest.
- 2.5. Conservation area appraisals identify the special qualities of a conservation area. The accompanying Management Plans set out how the conservation area can be improved, along with local priorities for enhancements. Conservation area appraisals seek to manage positive change within a designated conservation area, and its setting.
- 2.6. Conservation area appraisals contribute towards the Council achieving its priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan. A key ambition of the Plan is to 'celebrate and promote the strong heritage and rich culture of South Kesteven'.

2.7. The South Kesteven Local Plan Policy EN6: The Historic Environment seeks to protect and enhance heritage assets and their settings. The Policy requires development proposals to take into account Conservation Area Appraisals, where these have been taken into account.

Aslackby Conservation Area Designation

2.8. Aslackby is a village within South Kesteven with a long-standing history which can be traced back to at least the early medieval time with known remnants of the Aslackby Castle and Templar activity. Due to the historic, architectural and archaeological evidence the Aslackby Conservation Area was designated in 1991.

2.9. The boundary of the conservation area is very well defined and centred on the historic core of the village, with a cohesive character created by consistent use of historic materials, areas of open space and archaeological interest.

Aslackby Conservation Area Designation Review

2.10. In 2024, a review of the boundary was undertaken including desk-based assessment and site visits. Significant positive improvements to the historic streetscape of the village were identified and consequently, an expansion to the area further along Kirby Underwood Road is proposed.

2.11. The proposed expansion to the designation includes additional areas considered to be of heritage significance, such as: positive unlisted buildings, non-designated assets defined in the Historic Environment Record, and important open spaces that add to the landscape significance.

2.12. The properties proposed to be included along Kirby Underwood Road adds to the overall historic appearance of the streetscape resulting in a more cohesive character.

Aslackby Conservation Area Appraisal

2.13. The Aslackby Conservation Area was created in 1991; however, there is currently no Conservation Area Appraisal available for Aslackby. Under the Act, it is a legal requirement to provide Conservation Area Appraisals and update them at regular intervals. A draft Conservation Area Appraisal is provided at appendix 1.

3. Key Considerations

3.1 Conservation Area Appraisals manage positive change within the designated conservation area and its setting, minimising harm and encouraging preservation and enhancement of our heritage assets.

- 3.2 Whilst the Aslackby Conservation Area Appraisal was created in 1991, there is currently no Conservation Area Appraisal available for Aslackby. Conservation Area Appraisals are legally required to be published and reviewed regularly. The Aslackby Conservation Area Appraisal will safeguard Aslackby's historic environment for all to appreciate in the future and highlight the importance of the historic character and fabric present within the village.
- 3.3 Due to the positive improvements in Aslackby's historic streetscape and landscape, a boundary change to the Aslackby Conservation Area is proposed to widen the Conservation Area.
- 3.4 The Area Appraisal will also help achieve the Council's aspirations in the Corporate Plan, such as Priority 1: Connecting Communities, which aims to promote the strong heritage and culture of the district, as well as Priority 3: Enabling Economic Opportunity, as the Aslackby Conservation Area is part of the expansive heritage of the district.
- 3.5 The appraisal will provide the public with more in-depth information about the Conservation Area and how the Council aims to manage the area. The expansion and appraisal would also support Priority 5: Effective Council, by providing a fully publicly accessible document explaining the extent, important features and management of the Conservation Area.
- 3.6 Once adopted, the Aslackby Conservation Area Appraisal will be a material consideration when considering planning applications within the conservation area.

4. Other Options Considered

The alternative option considered is that the Council does not expand the Conservation Area, however this may result in a failure to preserve or enhance the historic interest and character of the village, and the conservation area as identified in the appraisal. Conservation Areas are defined as "designated" heritage assets in the NPPF for the purposes of local plan making and development management. Designated heritage assets are afforded considerably more protection both in planning policy but also in legislation than non-designated heritage assets.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. Section 69(2) of the 1990 Act requires local planning authorities (LPAs) to determine which parts of their area possess special architectural or historic interest and to designate them conservation areas.
- 5.2. As the provision of a Conservation Area Appraisal is a requirement as noted in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, it is

recommended to approve the publication of the draft appraisal for consultation. The adoption of the Appraisal and Management Plan will allow for the positive management of development whilst safeguarding historic character and appearance.

- 5.3. It is acknowledged that historically, conservation area boundaries have often been drawn too tightly, omitting areas now considered of special interests, especially green spaces and open space, boundary treatment or smaller outbuildings. The appraisal and proposed extension have taken this into account, considering not just the built heritage, but also the wider streetscape and the impact open space has on the appreciation of the village.

6. Consultation

- 6.1. This report recommends the approval of the publication of Aslackby Conservation Area Appraisal for a six week public consultation.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1. South Kesteven Adopted Local Plan: [The South Kesteven Local Plan | South Kesteven District Council](https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/planning-and-development/plans-strategies-and-guidance/adopted-local-plan/)

8. Appendices

- 8.1. Appendix 1: Aslackby Conservation Area Appraisal 2024
- 8.2. Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment