WINTERINGHAM CONSERVATION AREA

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE ADOPTED DOCUMENT

North Lincolnshire Council

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SECTION 1 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

The village of Winteringham sits on the scarp slope at the north end of the Lincoln Edge, overlooking the Humber estuary. It is close to where the Roman road, Ermine Street, veers eastwards to an historical ferry point on the coast. Remains of an Iron Age settlement have been found at the north end of Ermine Street and there was a Roman fort that was succeeded by a larger Roman settlement. The village, however, is slightly to the west of this and the evidence points to Norman and medieval origins.

There are two parts to the village: In the west, the earlier settlement was associated with All Saints' Church, which has 11th and 12th century work in its tower and nave, and to the east, a planned market town was laid out in about the 13th century. The two areas are now linked by subsequent development.

With land improvements in the 18th century, agriculture became a major source of employment locally and, in Winteringham itself, there were many of the supporting trades such as shoemakers, blacksmiths and wheelwrights. The proximity of Winteringham Haven meant that the village was more readily accessible by water than by road, and the combination of farming and trade lead to the development of flourmills and warehouses in the 19th century. Increasing prosperity also resulted in a number of houses being upgraded to a higher status.

Now, the village has been added to and infilled by successive phases of development, well into the 20th century, to become a provider of local housing needs rather than employment. However, a good deal of evidence survives of earlier uses and customs.

A conservation area is an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. This is set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, which requires local authorities to publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas and to assess all development proposals within such areas very carefully.

This document builds upon an appraisal of the character of the conservation area, which is published as a sister document, by providing detailed guidance on the management of the area. Both documents have been the subject of a consultation with local residents and other interested parties and have been amended as a result. North Lincolnshire Council has adopted both as Supplementary Planning Guidance to be used to inform and guide its decision making when determining planning and listed building consent applications within, and on the boundaries of, the conservation area.

1.2 North Lincolnshire Local Plan

The North Lincolnshire Local Plan was adopted in May 2003 and should be consulted in conjunction with this document. Within the Plan are detailed policies, which seek

(amongst others) the protection of listed buildings and the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas.

Winteringham is defined in the Local Plan as a minimum growth settlement where any significant future development is considered inappropriate. A healthy rural economy is promoted via the retention of the existing level of services. The Local Plan seeks to address local housing need through the limited development of previously developed land and re-use of vacant buildings, and to safeguard the greenfield sites of the locality. It stresses that no building would be permitted without it being in keeping with the size and character of the village.

Within the Plan there are detailed policies, which seek (among other objectives) the protection of listed buildings and the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas. These are included in the chapter on "The Historic Environment".

Briefly, the following policies are relevant:

Policy HE1 Conservation Areas.

This policy states that the Council will continue to protect areas of special quality and character by designating new conservation areas, and by reviewing existing conservation areas.

Policy HE2 Development in Conservation Areas.

This policy states that all new development within a conservation area, or which might affect the setting of it, should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area and its setting. Detailed guidance is also included on how this should be achieved.

Policy HE3 Demolition in Conservation Areas.

This policy provides the criteria by which applications for demolition will be considered.

Policy HE4 Shopfronts, Canopies and Blinds in Conservation Areas.

This policy provides guidance on the control of shopfronts and advertising within conservation areas.

Policy HE5 Development affecting listed Buildings.

This policy describes how the Council will seek to secure the preservation, restoration and continued use of listed buildings.

Policy HE6 Demolition of Listed Buildings.

This policy outlines how applications for the demolition of listed buildings will be assessed.

Policy HE7 Advertisements and Listed Buildings.

This policy describes the standards that will be applied when considering applications for signs or advertisements on listed buildings.

Policy HE8 Ancient Monuments

This policy states that the Council will protect Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally important monuments, and their settings, from adverse development.

Policy HE9 Archaeological Evaluation

This policy outlines the requirements for archaeological evaluations of certain sites and buildings. This policy is consistent with central government advice in PPG16, which stresses the importance of understanding and recording sites and buildings prior to development.

1.3 North Lincolnshire Development Framework.

The Council is progressing with a new development framework that will replace the Local Plan in due course. Conservation area SPG will be retained as part of the framework.

1.4 The development of Winteringham

It is known that an Iron Age settlement existed to the east of Winteringham and that this was followed by a Roman fort marking the end of Ermine Street, before it continued north of the Humber to York. This was succeeded by a more substantial Roman settlement close to the present Winteringham Grange.

Winteringham itself is a short distance to the northeast. The earliest evidence is the 11th and 12th century masonry of the tower and nave of All Saints' Church, which incorporates re-used Roman stonework. The rest of the church is 13th and 14th century with restorations carried out in the mid-19th century. The early village grew up around the church although nothing survives that is any older than the remains of the Old Rectory, built in 1649.

East of the early village, a planned settlement was laid out in the 13th century, characterised by High Burgage and Low Burgage. In Medieval town planning, the burgages are the plots of land defining the main streets, which allowed all those with a landholding interest to have a street frontage and sufficient space behind for outbuildings, stables and subsistence gardening. Typically, the burgage plots would have a rear service access and, here, Back Lane and Ferry Lane perform the function. There was also a market space on Market Hill.

Outwardly, little survives of Medieval Winteringham apart from its plan. The earliest house is Gate End Farm, which appears to date from the 16th and 17th centuries. However, evidence of timber framing suggests the possibility of earlier material.

In the late Middle Ages, Winteringham was apparently a marshy place with a depressed economy but, with land drainage and farming improvements in the 17th and 18th centuries, prosperity increased. This is reflected in the substantial remodelling of large houses, such as the Manor House, and new buildings like Scarborough House and The Hollies. By 1831, there were 28 farms in the village.

Winteringham relied, for communications, on river traffic more than the roads almost until the 20th century. The Haven, a small inlet at the north end of Low Burgage, provided all the facilities for shipbuilding and the landing or despatch of commodities. The urban expansion of Hull in the 19th century also provided a ready market and small industries, such as flourmills, maltings, breweries, brick kilns and warehouses flourished in and around the village.

However, little evidence is left of this industrial activity. Improvements to road transport throughout the 20th century have taken the trade away from the river and The Haven is now used for recreation. Centres of employment outside the immediate area are now more accessible to Winteringham and this has led to outward commuting and significant increases in housebuilding, particularly in recent years. The lack of local employment has meant a decline in local services so that, although there are still two shops and a public house, Winteringham is no longer the self-sufficient community that it was.

1.5 The character of the Winteringham Conservation Area

The buildings of Winteringham span several centuries, but they are united by a predominant use of local limestone, brick and tiles. The informal streets are defined by historical properties fronting directly onto them, but this is less apparent with more recent building. With the demise of the 19th century industrial buildings, there is now a domestic scale throughout the area.

Set at the end of the Lincoln Edge, Winteringham has a commanding position with dramatic views across the marshlands to the Humber estuary. These are particularly apparent from the churchyard and down Marsh Road and Lower Burgage. There is also a spectacular view eastwards to the Humber Bridge from the top of High Burgage. There is a constant reminder of the connection between Winteringham and the surrounding countryside in the evidence of farms within the village, both those in current use and those now purely residential.

Local limestone is the primary building material in the conservation area. It generally takes the form of coursed walling and rubblestone although some ashlar was used on the church. The development of brick making led to the use of bricks to strengthen openings and corners of stone buildings, and the combination of limestone with red brick dressings has become characteristic of the area. In the 18th century frontages wholly of brick were built as a matter of prestige. By the 19th century, with advances in industrial production and transport, brick building is the norm, although some are rendered to disguise inferior materials or to add architectural embellishment.

Winteringham has, clearly, experienced a good deal of remodelling and rebuilding over the last three centuries and urbanisation has tended to preclude the early vernacular forms found across North Lincolnshire. The 17th century Spring Cottage has been raised and gothicised, for instance, and cottages of a similar age in Silver Street have also been dramatically altered. Gate End Farm, in Low Burgage, is a remarkably rare survival of 16th century timber framing.

From the mid-18th century and into the early 1800s, a series of substantial houses were built. These include Spring House (1740 – enlarged in 1816), Scarborough House (1775), The Hollies and the New Rectory (1847). There was some early experimentation with brick as the main material, as for example with the early 19th century yellow brick at Spring House. However, as brick became more available, its use was almost universal for buildings in Winteringham after the late 19th century. Then, in the 20th century, the building forms themselves become universal so that, for instance, the 1980s red brick bungalows in West End have detailing that is distinctive of the period but not of the locality.

A characteristic feature of Winteringham is the use of Gothic pointed windows in the gable ends of houses. This device is seen to great effect on the north side of West End.

Early windows were either simple casements or horizontally sliding 'Yorkshire' sashes. In the 18th and 19th centuries, vertically sliding sash windows became the standard for most windows, although casements were retained for lesser situations, such as dormers or industrial uses. Replacement joinery in the 20th century has often broken with tradition by introducing functional variations of fixed and top-hung lights, imitation sashes, and the use of plastic frames instead of the previously universal softwood. Generally these changes have not maintained the character of the conservation area.

There is no surviving evidence for the use of thatch in Winteringham, even though it must have been in general use before the development of clay products. Clay tiles are, therefore, the predominant roofing material in plain, pantile and Roman tile forms, although the late 20th century has also seen the rise of concrete imitations.

Welsh slate may have been imported by sea for use in prestigious cases, such as Spring House, but its use is rare in Winteringham even though it became more readily available after the railways had been established in the 1840s.

SECTION 2 – POLICIES

2.1 General information

The following sections contain a number of policies and guidance for preserving or enhancing the Conservation Area. Included is information about controls on listed building and about improving buildings that contribute positively to the character of the conservation area. Further sections deal with the design of new development, and the protection of important views and focal points. Included at the end of this section is a list of various organisations which publish additional guidance, including details of where to obtain Central Government policies and guidance on listed buildings and conservation areas. Further guidance on planning in conservation areas can be obtained from the Council's Planning and Regeneration Service.

2.2 Listed buildings

The rebuilding and expansion of Winteringham into the late 19th century means that there are many well-detailed buildings that do not qualify for statutory listing, which becomes more rigorous for buildings after the mid-1800s. Nonetheless, there are some 17 list entries for the conservation area.

The most important listed building is the Church of All Saints with its Norman tower and nave, and medieval aisles, chancel and transepts. William Fowler made repairs and alterations in 1827 and then there was a major restoration in 1849-51 possibly by Sir George Gilbert Scott, who was working at Saxby All Saints at the time. The work was supervised by George T Andrews of York, the architect responsible for the New Rectory.

The church is listed Grade I while all the other entries are Grade II. Also included are the rare timber framed Gate End Farm and cottages from the 17th century, such as Spring Cottage, Whitegates and Silver Cottage, and the disused cottage in Silver Street. Most of the substantial houses of the 18th and 19th centuries are listed as well as the picturesque cottage at Orchard House, Nos.3&5 West End and the dovecote at the Manor House. There are several other houses that might have been listed but for the degree of alteration that has taken place particularly to doors and windows. The K6 telephone kiosk in West End is also listed.

Polices relating to listed buildings can be found in the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Revised Deposit Draft dated December 2000 (Polices HE5, HE6 and HE7). Broadly, these seek to prevent the demolition of listed buildings or their unsympathetic alteration.

"Listing" covers both the interior and exterior of a listed building, and all structures within the curtilage which predate 1947. "Listed Building Consent" is needed to alter or extend a listed building, and sometimes, with extensions over a certain size, planning permission will be needed as well. Alterations to listed buildings which may need consent include relatively minor changes like inserting a new window; removing an internal wall or fireplace; adding a chimney or flue; removing paneling or fitted cupboards; and inserting a new bathroom where new drainage is required.

• Listed Building Consent is needed for all alterations and extensions which affect the architectural or historic interest of a listed building.

Like-for-like repairs usually do not require Listed Building Consent. Owners of such buildings are encouraged to use traditional materials for roof repairs including lead for flashings and pantiles (or occasionally slate) for roofing repairs. Brickwork and stonework should only be repointed when necessary, using traditional lime mortars with a brushed flush joint (not weather-struck). Cleaning of masonry is not necessary in Winteringham. Windows should always been repaired *in situ* rather than replaced wholesale. Traditional sash or casement windows can easily be upgraded to provide dramatic improvements in sound and heat insulation without either replacing the window or resorting to secondary double glazing, which sometimes has an impact on internal features such as shutters. Front doors should also be repaired whenever possible but where replacement is needed, the new door must match the original exactly.

• Like-for-like repairs usually do not require Listed Building Consent although they must be carried out using traditional materials and detailing.

The importance of historic details must be recognised when dealing with listed buildings. The listed buildings in Winteringham tend to have their original windows with moulded glazing bars and front doors which retain their planked or paneled design. Inside, they sometimes retain original features, such as skirtings, cornices, fireplaces and tiling. All such features should be preserved and protected from loss or damage.

 It is important to retain internal features such as fireplaces when altering a listed building.

When considering altering a listed building, it is important that the original plan form is protected. Opening-up previously separated rooms or removing chimneybreasts and moving staircases are all changes which are unlikely to receive Listed Building Consent. Similarly, extensions to listed buildings should be carefully designed to reflect the scale and detailing of the original building. Extensions to the rear should be lower than the original building and secondary in scale. Material and details should match the original examples within the listed building, including windows and eaves and roof details. Applications for such changes should therefore provide enough detailed information for the Council to assess the impact of the scheme on the character of the existing building. Usually, the Council will require plans, sections and elevations at 1:50 scale with larger scale drawings illustrating details such as new windows and doors.

The English Historic Towns Forum is producing an informative guide on the making of better planning applications for proposals affecting conservation areas and listed buildings which is copyright to that body until October 2003. Applicants will find this of assistance in making applications (The English Historic Towns Forum – ISBN 1 898261 51 2 – Tele 0117 9750459 – e-mail: ehtf@uwe.ac.uk).

• The original plan form of a listed building should be preserved. Extensions should be secondary in scale to the original building and carefully detailed. Applications for alterations and additions will need to be drawn-up to 1:50 scale.

Alterations which require Listed Building Consent are currently zero-rated for VAT but repairs to listed buildings are assessed at the usual VAT rate of 17.5%. Owners should contact the Customs and Excise Office in Scunthorpe (Tel: 0845 0109000) for further details and a leaflet.

2.3 Buildings of Townscape Merit and demolition in conservation areas

Conservation Area Consent is required for the full or substantial demolition of buildings within the conservation area. In accordance with Government guidance in PPG15, there is a presumption in favour of retaining those buildings which make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the conservation area.

This appraisal has identified a large number of Buildings of Townscape Merit. These are buildings which, although not statutorily listed, are considered to make a positive contribution to the character of the Winteringham Conservation Area. Most of them date from the late 18th or early 19th century.

In general, the buildings retain their original appearance but for alterations, such as doors or windows, which could be restored relatively easily. Their age and architectural interest is considered to provide sufficient justification for the presumption in favour of retention to apply and the Council will resist their demolition unless the applicant can prove that the building is wholly beyond the point of economic repair and incapable of a beneficial use. Additionally, because these buildings are an important part of the character of the conservation area, the Council will pay special attention to applications for alterations and extensions.

- North Lincolnshire Council will resist applications to demolish all or a substantial part of any building identified as a "Building of Townscape Merit". Additionally, alterations and extensions to these buildings will have to be particularly sensitively designed and take into account their historic and architectural interest.
- Every effort should be made to retain all existing traditional architectural features of these buildings the removal or loss of which will need to be fully justified within the context of any adverse impacts which this loss will have on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. Alterations will need to incorporate matching designs and materials appropriate to the age and character of the building.

2.4 Other buildings - Neutral buildings and negative buildings in their present form.

Neutral buildings are older buildings, which have been altered or modern buildings the design of which is considered to be reasonably in keeping with the surrounding area.

Negative buildings are buildings, which, in their present form, conflict with the traditional character of the Conservation Area as identified in the character appraisal document for it. Whilst these buildings do not contribute as much to the area character as buildings of townscape merit they can be renovated sympathetically incorporating traditional designs and materials appropriate to the conservation area.

- Alterations to neutral buildings and negative buildings shall incorporate traditional materials and designs that are associated with the key buildings in the conservation area (listed buildings and buildings of townscape merit.)
- Demolition of these buildings would only be considered replaced with a quality building that has been specifically designed to preserve and enhance the character of the conservation area.

2.5 New development.

Policies for new development in conservation areas throughout North Lincolnshire are included in the Local Plan in the chapter on the Historic Environment (policies HE2, HE3 and HE4). Additionally, the same Plan includes Supplementary Planning Guidance, which provides detailed advice on house extensions. While this is general advice, it is nonetheless relevant to Winteringham.

While some parts of the conservation area, such as High and Low Burgage, are relatively dense, building densities are in generally fairly low throughout the village. The space between buildings is an important part of the area's historical character. This is particularly apparent in the larger gardens and the remaining and former farmyards. While these spaces have, in the past, provided opportunities for development, this has not generally reinforced that character. In future, therefore, when development opportunities do arise, the following criteria will apply to the new scheme:

Siting

Historically, most buildings in the village have been built at the front of the plots, giving a distinct building line at the edge of the pavement or set back slightly behind small front gardens. Where access was needed through to the rear of the plot, houses were sometimes built at right angles to the road. These simple rules tend not to have been observed in the 20th century, when houses have generally been built in the centre of their plots and in culs-de-sac. This has undermined the established character and lead to buildings intruding on significant views into the village from outside the conservation area.

- New housing will generally be sited to conform with building lines at, or close to, the edge of the pavement
- New development will not be permitted where it will detract from the character of significant open spaces in the conservation area.

Design

The principal aim of new development should be to assimilate into its surroundings rather than making a complete contrast. This is because the attractiveness of the village relies on the visual cohesiveness of the streetscape. It does not mean that new buildings have to be replicas of old ones, but rather that their forms should be determined by traditional building depths, spans and roof pitches. In this way, continuity can be maintained as history evolves.

A major problem with modern bungalows has been their considerable building depth. This requires large roof-spans, which in turn produce the uncharacteristic proportions of expansive roofs on relatively small buildings.

Further details of fenestration, eaves, verges or chimneystacks can also be borrowed from local examples to good advantage, for instance eaves detailing with exposed rafter feet rather than modern fascias and soffits.

 All new development should therefore reflect the scale and materials of adjoining property. The form of any new building, including its height, relationship to the street, and any rear extensions, should be sympathetic to the surrounding buildings. The addition of chimneystacks in some locations may be required, to ensure compatibility with adjoining properties. A number of sites have been identified which would benefit from the reintroduction of the historic building line to enclose the street.

Materials.

Winteringham's traditional character relies strongly on a restricted palette of materials. Walls are either roughly coursed local limestone, sometimes with contrasting red brick for details such as quoins and arches, or wholly of red brick. Roofs are clay Lincolnshire pantiles or Welsh slate. Joinery is timber or iron. Departure from this norm, particularly the use of harsh bricks, renders and imitation materials, is a primary cause of discordance in the conservation area.

Modern, machine-made flat clay tiles will rarely be acceptable, neither will concrete tiles, artificial slate or plastic doors and windows. Windows should be traditionally detailed with vertically or horizontally sliding sashes, or casements fitted flush with their frames. Tophung false "sashes" are not suitable. Front doors should be made from timber, planked or with recessed moulded panels. All timber should be painted not stained.

 A limited range of traditional materials and details should be specified for new development in Winteringham.

Shopfronts.

Any new shopfronts in Winteringham should reflect local traditions and should therefore be constructed of timber with a sloping fascia, supported on pilasters or corbels, with a panelled stall-riser beneath. If security shutters are required, they should be positioned inside the shopfront. Shopfronts should be painted not stained. Shop signs should be limited to a simple painted fascia, although traditional hanging signs may be considered acceptable. If external lighting is required, it should be provided by individual spotlights, carefully positioned above the fascia. Internally illuminated letters or plastic fascia signs will not usually be accepted.

 New shopfronts should be built in timber, traditionally detailed, and carefully illuminated.

Uses.

The buildings of Winteringham are almost entirely in residential use but the Council accepts the case for alternative uses where they can be shown to meet definite local needs.

2.6 Protection of views and focal points

The Church of All Saints is the primary landmark in the western half of the village. Standing in its churchyard, it is seen from West End and from the northern approaches.

Other significant views are those towards the War Memorial along West End, Silver Street and High Burgage. There are also important views out of the conservation area northwards from the churchyard and along Marsh Lane and Low Burgage, and eastwards from High Burgage.

 The Council will protect the existing views within Winteringham, principally of the church and views along the townscape of the main historical streets. Views out of the conservation area, particularly to the north and east, will also be safeguarded. The churchyard and the crossroads at the War Memorial will continue to be the focal points of the village.

2.7 Trees

Trees are very important to the character and appearance of the conservation area and designation gives the Council powers to control what happens to them.

• If you wish to lop, top or fell a tree in the conservation area that is not already covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), the Council must be given six weeks written notice. During that period tree have legal protection equivalent to a TPO and the Council may make an order if it is considered appropriate. Proposals to prune a tree should clarify what is envisaged and the extent of the work. The removal of dead wood with secateurs or hand shears does not require consent.

Trees which, whilst remaining healthy, have reached a stage in their development where the crown spread begins to get smaller are now generally regarded as 'veteran'. Such trees may not necessarily be particularly old, but the onset of old age may have been brought about by the tree's response to the surrounding environmental conditions (soil, air, water and nutrient availability). They may, therefore, exhibit increasing dieback of branches and their bark and trunks may contain significant amounts of dead wood. Whilst the removal of dead wood will not generally require consent from the Council, the treatment of older trees does need careful consideration and the Council can provide free advice. The Council is also producing Supplementary Planning Guidance on 'Trees and Development' and is looking to a long-term tree strategy that will involve new planting and additional Tree Preservation Orders.

 The Council will seek to promote the dissemination and use of best practice techniques for the proper management of trees, particularly those regarded as 'veteran'.

2.8 Environmental and street improvements

The Council is committed to retaining the simple rural character of the conservation area by keeping street furniture and planting to a minimum. There is a case, however, for paving the footways and replacing concrete kerbs with stone or blue brick. These works will be considered as resources permit.

The long-term strategy of the Council is to seek the undergrounding of all overhead wires and the removal of telegraph poles in conservation areas. When this is achieved in Winteringham, there will be a need for a street lighting scheme using plain modern fittings mounted on simple columns or, preferably, on buildings. It will be important for the scheme to observe a lower level of lighting, appropriate to the rural character, rather than an urban brightness.

 The Council will seek the removal of overhead wires and will promote a sensitive scheme for street lighting.

2.9 How residents can help.

The character of the Winteringham Conservation Area comes not only from the physical appearance of the village but also from the community who live and work in the area. The retention and enhancement of the character and appearance of Winteringham can therefore only be achieved by the residents and the Council working together.

Owners are responsible for the continued maintenance of their property and garden, and regular repair with traditional materials can help to retain the quality of the townscape. Local residents and amenity groups can also help by recording the local history and features of the area, and by passing on information about good local builders and suppliers of traditional materials and skills.

If you are considering undertaking any repairs or alterations to your property or land, the best approach is always to contact the Environment Team at North Lincolnshire Council for free advice before starting work.

Useful names and addresses.

For specific information about the Winteringham Conservation Area, please contact:

Edward Rychlak,
Environment and Public Protection Department,
North Lincolnshire Council,
Church Square House,
P O Box 42,
Scunthorpe,
North Lincolnshire DN15 6XQ
(tel: 01726 297396)

For general information relating to listed buildings and conservation areas, contact:

English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB. General telephone inquiries: 020 7973 3000 Customer Services 020 7973 4916.

For detailed advice on repairing and restoring Georgian houses, contact:

The Georgian Group, 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6DY. Telephone: 020 7377 1644

For "Care for Victorian Houses" leaflet, contact:

The Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, London W4 1TT

Telephone: 020 8994 1019

For an excellent range of technical advice leaflets, contact:

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6DY.
Tel: 020 7377 1644

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