Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL
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Historic England

High Street

The White Hart

LINCOLNSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

Crowle—2022

Church of St Oswald

The Project

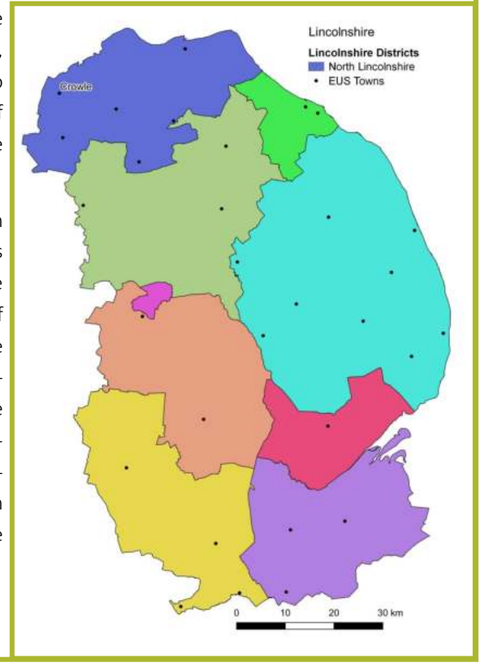
The primary objective of the Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) is to create a record of the development and historic character of Lincolnshire's towns. It is anticipated that the survey will be of use and interest within the planning system and to the public, particularly those living within or visiting the towns. It should be noted that although every effort has been made to be thorough, the reports are not completely comprehensive and should not be expected to cover all that is known about a place.

The project consists of a written report, detailing the archaeological and historical background and development of the town. The character of the town will also be discussed within the report within specific Historical Urban Character Area (HUCA) assessments, which indicate the heritage value of each area based upon the four values identified within Historic England's 2008 Conservation Principles: Evidential, Historical, Aesthetic, and Communal; these are also compared to values seen in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Extensive Urban Survey provides a 'snap shot' of the development of the towns of Lincolnshire taken at the time of survey; as such it is one of many data sets which could and should be consulted prior to development proposals within the towns. The North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (NLHER) maintains an up to date record of all historical and archaeological data that is known within the District, and should be consulted as part of planning applications (NPPF21 para194).

Location

Crowle is located within the district of North LincolnshireCrowle is located within Natural England's Natural Character Area 39—The Humberhead Levels which is described as *a low-lying, predominantly flat landscape, with large, regular and geometric arable fields without hedges but divided by ditches and dykes…Much of the land is at or below mean high-water mark and maintained by drainage, with fertile soils giving rise to one of the most productive areas for root crops and cereals… Variations in underlying deposits create differences within the overall flat farmed landscape, including lowland raised mires and lowland heathland...There is widespread evidence of drainage history, in particular the extensive drainage from the 17th century, revealed through canalised rivers, dykes, old river courses, canals, bridges and pumping stations.* The Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Survey includes Crowle in the Isle of Axholme character zone CON2. The Isle of Axholme was also surveyed as part of The Isle of Axholme Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. This project described the landscape as an area of *farmland, largely arable with extensive areas of hedgeless strip cultivated open strip fields, early enclosed land and recently enclosed land with raised mire and turbary, much of the latter of which is wooded. Buildings are of local redbrick with pantile or slate roods… there are many historic towns, villages and dispersed hamlets mostly medieval in origin.. Small self-contained planned 19th century turbary settlements at Belton, Epworth and Haxey with smallholdings, cottages and modern rebuilt houses. The area was relatively isolated from the neighbouring region and from cultural mainstreams. Its insularity is reflected in distinctive patterns of land-use, social character, the survival of open field strip farming, local folk customs and architectural styles.* The British Geological Survey records the underlying geology as mudstone, which is superficially covered with windblown sand. The town is banked to the north and east by alluvium and to the south by peat. Further north of Crowle is a large area of low-lying peat moorland known as the Thorne Moors.



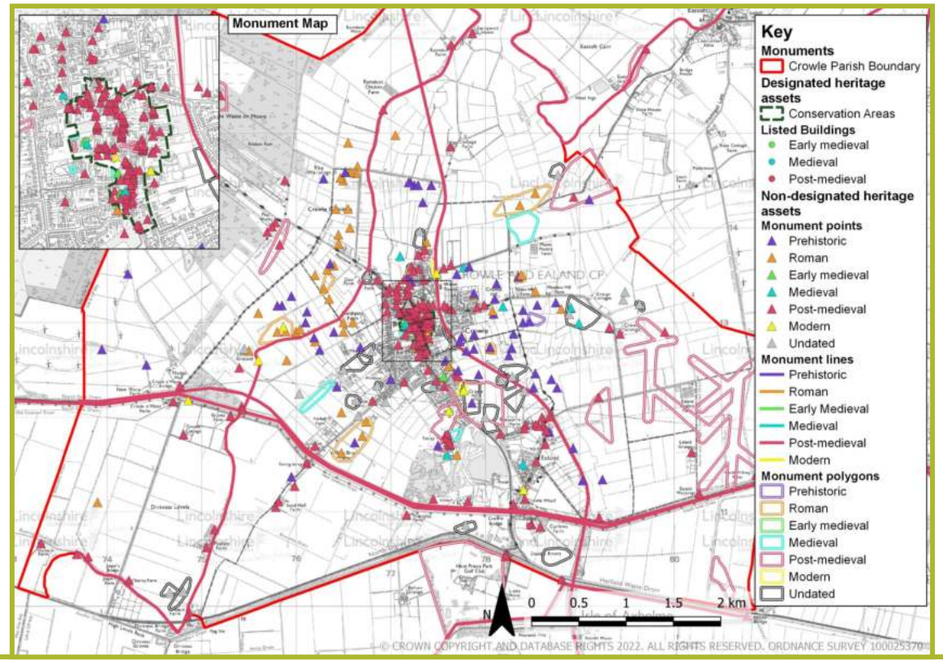
Crowle is located within the Isle of Axholme which is a wide flat area, on average 1-5 metres above sea level. The highest point in the town is Crowle Hill which rises to 20m above sea level, although the historic core of the town is to the south-west of this and is located on a plateau of raised ground approximately 10m above sea level. Crowle is one of the lowest lying settlements within the wider area of the Isle of Axholme. Historically, the Isle was formed by the courses of three rivers, the Trent, the Don and the Idle. The Don and the Idle have both had their courses altered, and the former fen land has been drained. In the modern landscape it is now more appropriate to refer to the central area of high ground as 'the Isle' rather than the whole area once defined by the three rivers.

The survey area is based upon the parish boundary.

Summary

A large amount of activity is recorded in Crowle from the prehistoric period. Flints have been recovered from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age and increasing evidence is seen from the Iron Age. Occupational and agricultural evidence is recorded from the Iron Age and Roman period and enclosures are also documented in the immediate area. Finds including coins, pottery and jewellery are also frequently recorded. The settlement of Crowle which is seen today probably has its origins in the early medieval period with evidence of activity dating to the 9th-10th century having been recorded in the town centre. By the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, Crowle had a comparatively large local population, probably concentrated around the church and to the west of Brunyee Road. The centre of the town shifted in the 13th century, when new plots were set out fronting onto High Street and around the Market Place. Crowle parish had an abundance of common land which was used for grazing and other resources, a large fishing area as well as abundant arable fields. In the post-medieval period, the Isle of Axholme was transformed and the agricultural systems which had been in place for centuries were lost due to large scale drainage schemes. These schemes transformed the landscape draining the common land, reducing commoners' access to it and overhauling the nature of the local agrarian system. The landscape was further altered in the 19th century following the instigation of parliamentary enclosure and warping (the process of allowing silt-laden water onto the land before letting it drain away leaving behind a nutrient rich residue) in the parish. This divided the landscape and converted former common land into highly fertile arable farmland. In the modern period, Crowle has remained a small town. Steady population growth has seen residential development take place in the area immediately surrounding the town and, in the later 20th and early 21st centuries, Crowle has become a dormitory town for the larger surrounding towns, its focus changing from agriculture to residential.

The character of Crowle is varied with structures and layouts from multiple periods recognisable across the parish. Brick is the dominant material although some stone is used. Historically, the town is the local market centre and has been used as such for centuries. Medieval burgage plots probably established at the same time as the Market Place can be seen facing onto the High Street, with some preservation in their pattern. The historic settlement has grown, predominantly over the 19th and 20th century, following the construction of new major communication links including the Stainforth Canal, railway station and the A161. The character is a mixture of early 19th century farmsteads, Victorian detached and terraced housing interspersed with modern infilling of detached housing. Static caravans have been established in Ealand and the adjacent lakes, which are the remains of former clay quarry pits, have created a new area for recreation. A large amount of the survey area comprises open countryside, mainly arable fields, characterised by post-medieval and modern field patterns with some remnant areas of smaller irregular fields enclosed from the former open strip field system. An area of former peat moorland has also been converted into a modern nature reserve.



1. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.1 PREHISTORIC

The focus of known prehistoric activity in Crowle is in the area immediately surrounding the later town as well as to the north-east of the current settlement. The North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record records 60 monuments relating to this period, not all of which are listed here. Much of the landscape during this period was part of an extensive wetland and river system, with channels and floodplains. Evidence of activity on the edges of these former channels indicates that the resources provided here were being exploited, although larger quantities of finds are located on areas of higher ground. It is worth noting this may also be reflective of a collection bias in field walking, and the fact that there are fewer prehistoric finds or sites located in the current settlement of Crowle could be due to destruction by later development. Prehistoric activity around Crowle is largely represented by flint tools and debitage (waste flints), suggestive of flint working sites.

Multiple find spots in a cluster are recorded to the north of the town, in the region of Rainsbutt Road. There are several finds of flints, which have been dated from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age (NLHER: MLS19552, MLS19555, MLS19557, MLS19558), as well as a possible Mesolithic flint working site (NLHER: MLS19573). This site is located at approximately 2-3m above sea level, indicating that this area was not totally inaccessible but may have been possible to navigate at certain times during the prehistoric period. To the north-east, flint scrapers, blades and debitage dating to the Mesolithic are recorded along with finds from the later prehistoric period (NLHER: MLS20059, MLS20061, MLS20063). In Ealand, to the south of the town centre of Crowle, flint scrapers and flakes are recorded (NLHER: MLS2497).

There are several Neolithic flint findspots located in an area of high ground 17-20m above sea level on the north-eastern side of the town (NLHER: MLS2496). Flint waste material has also been recorded to the north of Market Hill (NLHER: MLS17369). A Neolithic polished axehead was recovered from Crowle Park, at the southern extent of the town (NLHER: MLS2514) and another adze (axe) was also found to the west of this on Windsor Road (NLHER: MLS17368). Radiocarbon dates of deposits identified from boreholes taken roughly 3km west of Crowle indicated the presence of an old land surface dated to the mid-late Neolithic. The environmental data for this context revealed the area to be of acid heathland with open water and pine woods nearby at this time (NLHER: MLS21214). Peat deposits and the potential remains of a Bronze Age trackway recorded in the same area indicate that the environment was also waterlogged at times and required a raised footpath (NLHER: MLS21213).

Evidence of Neolithic to Bronze Age activity is recorded in a cluster to the west of the town; discovered during fieldwalking around Common Middle Lane, to the west of Crowle. Here scatters of flint flakes, scrapers and nodules have been identified (NLHER: MLS19554, MLS19442, MLS19550, MLS19551, MLS19553). Bronze Age pottery (NLHER: MLS19454, MLS19455) is also recorded. Furthermore, Romano-British pottery recorded here suggests that occupation continued over an extended period of time (NLHER: MLS17323, MLS17318). Further Bronze Age flints were recorded on higher ground to the east of the town, in an area containing evidence which spans much of the prehistoric period.

There is possible evidence of Iron Age activity on the gentle slope to the east of Crowle at approximately 13m above sea level. Cut archaeological features are located here including two sub-rectangular enclosures and further ditches, possibly indicating further enclosures (NLHER: MLS22719, MLS22720). This suggests there was agricultural activity and the establishment of new settlements on the raised area of Crowle during the Iron Age. Another cropmark of a possible enclosure was identified to the south of these at a lower level of approximately 7m above sea level (NLHER: MLS22720).

1.2 ROMAN

There is extensive evidence of Romano-British activity around Crowle; much of this is concentrated within 1km of the town centre, with numerous monuments also recorded to the east, in the market centre and on Crowle Common to the west of the town. Collectively, these remains demonstrate that there was occupation in the town during this period, although it is unclear whether occupation was continuous.

To the east this activity is represented by archaeological remains of probable Roman enclosures (NLHER: MLS20925, MLS22706, MLS22706), that are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Numerous finds of pottery from fieldwalking have also been recorded (NLHER: MLS17373, MLS17384, MLS20064, MLS20066, MLS21142); these are indicative of the nature and scale of occupation which took place in the vicinity during the Roman period. Excavation in the market centre revealed 2 pits, a post hole and numerous sherds of pottery. The pottery dates to between the 2nd and 4th century and these features are suggestive of a probable small scale domestic site during this period (NLHER: MLS21634). A sherd of shell-gritted pottery was also recorded from the Manse, 60m south of the Market Place (NLHER: MLS17385). These finds and features indicate a level of occupation in Crowle during the Roman period, although further investigation would provide more evidence for its full extent and nature. Various enclosures, dated to the Romano-British period, have been identified from cropmarks in aerial photographs around Crowle, including at lower lying levels to the west and south-west at an elevation of 2-4m above sea level, which is indicative of water management given the proximity to the old River Don. One cluster is recorded adjacent to Northmoor Road, to the north-west of the town, pottery including coarse domestic wares, as well as higher status pieces such as amphora and Samian Ware and beads (NLHER: MLS16588, MLS16589). These sherds largely date to between the 3rd and 4th century, and suggest that a Roman settlement site was probably located in the vicinity. Further finds of beads and pottery are recorded to the south on Crowle Moor (NLHER: MLS16591, MLS17383, MLS17836, MLS20339, MLS20340). Crowle Common, located to the south-west of the Moors, also contains numerous examples of Roman beads and pottery (NLHER: MLS16590, MLS17300, MLS17303, MLS17319, MLS17320, MLS17321, MLS17326, MLS17380, MLS21793). There are two probable enclosure sites also recorded here which are thought to be Romano-British (NLHER: MLS21010, MLS20927).

Further remains are recorded within the vicinity of Ealand to the south of Crowle. A single gaming piece was uncovered at Crane House in Ealand, though the nature of this find or how it was recovered is not recorded (NLHER: MLS2495). A Roman Bow Brooch was also recorded in the site of the later Clearwater Lake (NLHER: MLS21608). To the west of Ealand a Roman trackway and enclosures were identified, and multiple sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered within the vicinity of the site (NLHER: MLS17372, MLS17374, MLS17381, MLS17382).

1.3 EARLY MEDIEVAL AND ANGLO-SAXON

There is little evidence for early medieval activity in Crowle, although there was occupation and the probable beginnings of the current settlement of Crowle. Archaeologically a single Late Saxon Torksey Ware sherd was collected during fieldwalking to the south-west of Crowle (NLHER: MLS17382). By the late 11th century, a church was recorded as having been extant in the town which is likely to have been an earlier wooden church on the site of the current Church of St Oswald (NLHER: MLS2487). The 'Crowle Stone' is a fragment of a decorated Anglo-Saxon cross-shaft or monument which was reused by Norman masons during the construction of the Church of St Oswald in the 12th century. The stone is made from Millstone Grit, probably from Knaresborough; however, the origin of the fragment's context itself is unknown. It is believed to be mid to late 10th century in age and has an Old English inscription and Scandinavian decorative representations. As such, it suggests that there was an earlier religious structure in the town.

The only other known evidence of Anglo-Saxon or early medieval activity is seen in the Market Place where excavations revealed two pits containing 9th-10th century pottery sherds (NLHER: MLS21635). Further evidence of this period may be truncated or destroyed by the existing development of the current settlement.

1.3.1 PLACE-NAME EVIDENCE

Various suggestions have been put forward for the origins of the name Crowle. Theories are of the Old English word 'Croc', which means 'winding river', the Dutch word 'Krul' which refers to a small settlement, and another Old English river name 'Crull', a river which would have since been lost to reclamation (Ekwall, 1960. Cameron, 1998. KtEP, 2022). Less likely is a local story of the 19th century Archdeacon Stonehouse asking an older inhabitant of Crowle the meaning of the name, and receiving the reply, "*Well, sir, I doan't knaw for sureness, but thaay do saay as afoore Vermuden time this was omust tha' only bit o' land e' this part that was unflooded, so folks crohled up here an' built hooses*" (Stonehouse, 1839).

1.3.2 DOMESDAY SURVEY

Crowle is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Crule'. It is the most populous and valuable estate recorded in the Isle of Axholme at the Domesday survey (NLHER: MLS9570). It was held under one estate, belonging to Alwin in 1066 before being granted to Geoffry of La Guerche (Geoffrey de Wirce) by 1086. A manor existed in the settlement with sokeland in the surrounding area, as well as 15 villagers and 19 smallholders. Natural resources included 30 acres of meadow and a square league of woodland. Other resources include 31 fisheries, 1 church, 6 carucates (minus 1 bovate) of ploughlands, 1 lord's plough team and 7 men's plough teams. The value of the settlement reduced between 1066 and 1086 from £12 to £8.

1.4 MEDIEVAL

There were several village foci within the survey boundary during the medieval period including Crowle (NLHER:9570), Ealand (NLHER: MLS16762) and Tetley (NLHER: MLS2489). Tetley, located to the south of Crowle, was a village during the medieval period, in the 14th century, but apparently deserted in the centuries after. The name still exists as 'Tetley Hall', though this building dates to the 18th century. There is a linear boundary cropmark to the north-east of the Hall shown on aerial photo-

graphs though not much else survives to indicate the site of Tetley during the medieval period. Extensive quarrying to the south -east of the area may have removed evidence of the former village.

Ealand, located 1.5 km to the south of Crowle, is also recorded in documents of 14th century date. It is likely to have been an agricultural hamlet which remained small throughout the period.

1.4.1 STREET PATTERN AND DEVELOPMENT

Crowle had a comparatively large local population during the 11th century as seen in the Domesday survey. The Norman settlement of Crowle which developed over the 11th and 12th centuries was largely concentrated to the west of Brunyee Road, close to the church. Activity is recorded in the Market Place, along the contemporary north-south aligned High Street, from the 11th century, and the Market Place was the centre of economic and cultural activity throughout the period.

Development began to be planned along the High Street in typical planned medieval fashion by at least the 13th century with narrow property plots (known as burgage plots) fronting onto High Street, characterised by long, thin plots extending back on an east-west alignment. To the rear of the plots a connecting road bounded them known as Fieldside, a medieval back-lane to the east of which would have been private enclosures and open fields. The pattern of these plots is somewhat preserved; however there has been boundary loss over subsequent centuries and development which has overlapped many of the burgage boundaries. Crowle's manor was originally given to Geoffrey de Wirce following the conquest but during 1311 Sir John de Mowbray quitclaimed his right and soil in the Manor of Crowle, Eastoft, Luddington, Garthorpe, Amcotts, Testlehay (Tetley) and Ealand and gave it to the Abbot of Selby Abbey. The Abbott allowed Sir John right of free chase in the manor and soke of Crowle, reserving hunting and warren privileges to the Abbot and his servants. Sir John was allowed use of the waste lands, while the free pasture was for use of the Abbot's free tenants. The abbot appears to have encouraged increased development in the town. Archaeological evidence of the medieval town occupation was uncovered during trial trenching and watching briefs undertaken by archaeologists in the Market Place and an area to the north in 2010 (NLHER: MLS21636). These groundworks revealed a series of pits, linear features and post holes dating from the 11th to the 15th centuries. Most features were clustered to the south of the Market Place. The pottery and dateable finds indicated increased activity from the 13th century onwards, reflecting the town's new status around this time with a market charter granted in 1305 (see paragraph: 1.4.3).

The buildings themselves would have been turf or mud and stud due to a lack of both building stone and timber in the area. In the Isle of Axholme turf walls continued well into the 1500s, though some buildings were built in brick in this region, influenced by the introduction of the technology from (what is now) Europe (Hodgett, 1975). A manor house was extant to the north-west of the church, it was noted as being "decayed" during a survey conducted in 1630. Not much else is known about the manor house itself in the medieval period.

1.4.2 RELIGION AND EDUCATION

The Church of St Oswald was constructed in the 12th century in the Norman style and was subsequently repaired and extended at various points throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. The lower part tower of the tower was added in the 13th century with the upper part being constructed in the 15th century (NLHER: MLS2487, NHLE: 1346672). A medieval cross is located in the churchyard (HER: MLS2488, NHLE: 1359670).

Church of St Oswald

To the south of Crowle (outside of the parish) is the site of Hirst Priory; a 12th century Augustinian monastery with a moat. Tithes of corn, malt and fish were taken in from the neighbourhood. It belonged to St Oswald's Priory and was worth £7 11s. 8d. a year by 1534. The park surrounding the priory is now the site of a golf course (NLHER: MLS21476).

1.4.3 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

The primary economy in the area is likely to have been agricultural during this period. The principal produce was meat, dairy products, leather, flax, peas, barley and wheat. There was a high demand for these products in the 16th century and it is mentioned by Stonehouse that before Vermuyden's draining schemes in the 17th century, the course of the River Don was located just 500m from the Market Place and was navigable by boat (Stonehouse, 1839). During trial trenching of the Market Place, animals remains were identified in pits alongside domestic refuse, including cattle, other large mammals and sheep/goat bone fragments. A lesser amount of pig bone was present in the assemblages (NLHER: MLS21636).

The Crowle Commons were used to gather peat, wood, hay with extensive opportunities for fishing and wild fowling. The total of 31 fisheries recorded in the Domesday survey is more than any other settlement in Lincolnshire at the time. The fishing industry around Crowle was extremely profitable, and by 1650 copyholders' fishing rights were valued at £300 a year (Thirsk, 1957).

There is also archaeological evidence of flax retting (a process to separate the fibrous core of the plant from the outer layer), shown by retting pits found during excavation in the Market Place (NLHER: MLS21636) as well as to the north and west of the town (NLHER: MLS10560, MLS22544). The majority of retting pits in the area are well outside of the town and marginal to the parish.

In 1305, Crowle was granted a market charter from Edward I and an annual fair on the feast of St Oswald (August 5th), and from this time the town developed in a much more planned way. A second charter was granted in 1441 by Henry VI, allowing the market to be held on a Monday instead of a Wednesday and an additional fair held on Martinmas (November 11th), (Letters, 2013).

1.4.4 LANDSCAPE

The land around Crowle was largely composed of small farms of no more than 4 or 5 acres. The arable land was unusually fertile and large areas were devoted to pastoral and arable farming (Thirsk, 1953). In the 16th century, the landscape was described by traveller John Leland as "*full of good fish and fowl – soil by the water is fenny, and marshy and full of carrs" with "meatly high ground, fertile of pasture and corne*" (Thirsk, 1953). Ridge-and-furrow was identified as cropmarks on aerial photography to the north-east of the settlement (NLHER: MLS21283).

During the medieval period, Crowle was surrounded by 3-4,000 acres of common (Thirsk, 1953); so large was the area that it was regular practice for animals from other areas to be brought onto the common for the summer. During the winter, which was generally considered from Martinmas (11th November) until May Day, much of the common land lay under water. This was described as "thick fatt water" (possibly meaning silt-laden) which enriched the land (Thirsk, 1953). Sheep and cattle were kept on higher islands of ground over winter. To the west of the town were the Yorkshire Moors, Yorkshire Common, Marsh Common and Godknows Common, Scotted Lands, North End Common and Fishing grounds. Old enclosures were extant in the area directly surrounding the town and between Crowle and Ealand to the south-east, and Crowle and Eastoft to the north-east. To the east also was the Carr Common, Ealand Common and Crowle Field, the last of which was the small area of arable land in the parish, located on a higher area of ground (Russell, 1987).

Drainage dyke

There were several attempts at drainage throughout the 14th and 15th centuries. in 1327 a number of commissioners were directed to repair the banks of the Rivers Trent and Don within the hundred of Crowle and by 1344, a 16ft wide channel was dug between Crowle and Luddington, known as 'Mar Dyke' (Townley, 2015). In 1400 the Abbott of Selby was instructed by the King to "contribute to the upkeep of dykes, sewers and drainage." This involved regularly maintaining the breadth of the River Don and ensuring obstructions such as bridges and weirs did not impede ships (Townley, 2015).

1.5 POST-MEDIEVAL

In 1630, the Manor of Crowle was granted to the City of London Corporation by Charles I in payment of a loan he had been given. In 1634 the Manor was conveyed to the Earl of Kingston (Robert Pierrepont) whose family (as Earls Manvers) continued as Lords of the Manor of Crowle into the 20th century. The Manor House was demolished in 1980 and new dwellings erected on the site (NLHER: MLS26641).

In 1603, it is recorded that there were around 740 communicants (church attendees) in Crowle (Thirsk, 1953). In 1801, the population was recorded to stand at 1471, rising to 1961 in 1831, 2544 in 1851, it peaked at 3122 in 1881 before declining to 2826 in 1891. Between 1831 and 1891, there were 300 houses constructed in the town (University of Portsmouth, 2022). Many of these were constructed within the town centre, in areas of former occupation although there was a slight expansion along

Fieldside, particularly with the construction of three churches and a school.

Ealand was largely developed around a triangular pattern of roads, during the 19th and 20th centuries following the construction of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal in 1792 and the railway station in 1867. During this period, New Trent Terrace was constructed for the employees of local industries (probably the New Trent Brewery) as well as detached managers' houses. South Yorkshire Hotel was also constructed adjacent to the wharf. Clay pits and brick works were also located along the canal adjacent to Ealand.

The population of Crowle fell between 1870 and 1890; however it remained in the top five most populous towns to the south of the Humber until the 20th century (Humber Perspectives). An Urban District Council for Crowle was formed towards the end of the 19th century, as well as a police station. A newspaper was set up from Crowle in 1871 as a weekly publication, known as the 'Crowle Advertiser,' which eventually moved to be merged with the 'Epworth Bells' in 1986, and finally closed in 2019.

1.5.1 STREET PATTERN AND DEVELOPMENT

Between 1590 and 1640, forty new houses were built in the town and in the 17th and 18th centuries the population continued to rise. The nature of the houses is believed to have been mud and stud or turf walls well into the Tudor period; after this time, the houses were built with brick (Hodgett, 1975).

Detached 19th century house

1.5.2 LANDSCAPE

In the 1600s, the Isle of Axholme was transformed and the profitable pastoral agricultural systems which had been in place for hundreds of years were lost. This was brought about through large scale drainage schemes, put into force in 1626, following an agreement made between Charles I and Cornelius Vermuyden, a Dutch engineer and drainage pioneer. This stated that the drained land would be split into thirds, one third going to the King, one to Vermuyden and another to the people who held the rights of common. The schemes were responded to with violence from some of the inhabitants of the Isle of Axholme who were set to lose their livelihoods and access to a wide array of resources, upon which they depended (Holmes, 1980). The anger of local people was felt in the late 1620s and 1630s with the destruction of materials and the abuse of workmen. A number of Dutch overseers who had been employed by Vermuyden were instructed to carry weapons resulting in the death of one man. Despite this Vermuyden was backed by the government and royal officials were encouraged to quell the riots forcefully; many ring leaders were also taken to London, fined and released on the condition that they would not disrupt the schemes any further (Holmes, 1980). '*The drainage of the Isle of Axholme was a formidable example of the deployment of royal authority to crush a peasantry who were forced to watch the dismemberment of their traditional economy*' (Holmes, 1980). The drainage works of the 1620s reduced the common land from between 3000 and 4000 acres to only 1814 acres. However, some of the inhabitants were eventually compensated for their losses by the grant of land known as the fishing grounds to the north of Crowle. In 1641, courts ruled in favour of the fenlanders who were able to recoup a small compensation - the third of land which had been allotted to them was increased and was closer to a half; copyholders who had lost fishing rights following the drainage were compensated 123 acres, and the Old Idle River, which had been blocked by drainage works was ordered to be recut or a new drain constructed to replace it (Holmes, 1980).

In the 18th and 19th centuries further agricultural improvements were implemented. From 1800, warping (the process of allowing silt-laden water onto the land before letting it drain away leaving behind a nutrient rich residue) was undertaken on much of the former common land in Axholme. Former warping drains and compartments are visible as soil and cropmarks on aerial photographs in the south-east of the parish (NLHER: MLS17470). This process greatly improved crop yields. Common public drains were erected during the Parliamentary Enclosure of the Townships of Crowle, Eastoft and Ealand which took place between 1812 and 1822 (Russell, 1987). The enclosure greatly affected the landscape and divided much of the former commons and moors, as well as Crowle Field which was already arable. There was an unusually high number of landholders awarded, and the majority of land holders were awarded between 1 and 25 acres. New boundaries were established for these new small enclosures, which generally included drains or hedges.

1.5.3 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

Agriculture remained the key occupation in Crowle during the post-medieval period; and fairs were held annually for the sale of

cattle, flax and hemp. By the 18th century, there were still around three quarters of the population working in agriculture, whilst the remainder were blacksmiths, wheelwrights, shoemakers, tailors, shopkeepers, victuallers and the 'educated classes' such as the attorney surgeon and clergymen.

Shops also thrived along the High Street and on Cross Street from the 18th century onwards, including blacksmiths, wheelwrights, shoemakers, tailors and more general butchers, bakers, and groceries. The Stamford Mercury wrote that it was still "populous and flourishing" in 1845.

1.5.4 RELIGION AND EDUCATION

One of the earliest recorded non-conformist churches in Crowle was the Baptist Church, built in 1599 (Townley, 2016). The site of a Quaker Burial Ground has been dated to the late 17th century, indicating a Quaker population in Crowle, although this had been out of use for some time by the mid-19th century. Non-conformity in general in Crowle seemed to gain popularity in the 18th and 19th centuries, coinciding with the relaxation of national laws associated with religious tolerance. In 1760 a Congregationalist Church was constructed, followed by a Baptist Chapel in the 19th century, a second Congregational Church, Bournes Chapel, St Norbert's Catholic Church, as well as numerous Methodist Churches, including one for the Wesleyan congregation. A School Board was formed in 1871.

In the late 17th century, Richard Brewery, Thomas Walkwood and Richard Clark left three houses, ten acres and extensive common rights in Crowle to the Church for the education of the poor. These were appropriated by the Charity Commissioners to the National School. The majority of the non-conformist churches also had Sunday Schools. In Crowle, marriage certificate records showed that roughly half the population could write their own names, and were therefore somewhat literate, in the 17th and 18th centuries.

A privately run workhouse was located to the south of Crowle, which was then overtaken by a union-run workhouse in Thorne by the mid 19th century due to the 1834 Poor Law Act. Until then, the workhouse housed around 7 or 8 men and women receiving relief from the parish.

1.5.5 RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT

New transport networks were established in Crowle in the post-medieval period, although the town remained relatively isolated. The town was not connected to or near to any turnpike road networks and therefore did not benefit directly from this system.

In 1792, the Stainforth and Keadby Canal was constructed (NLHER: MLS9485). This canal runs to the south of Crowle, adjacent to Ealand, and provided a new transport route connecting the Trent and Don rivers. The canal resulted in the growth of industry and residences around Ealand, which sought to establish themselves close to the canal. In 1861, a railway line was opened connecting Barnsley and Barnetby (NLHER: MLS8828). This line followed sections of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal and resulted in greater accessibility for both Crowle and Ealand. It also increased trade for the area, and multiple industries including a brick works (NLHER: MLS22012) and a brewery (NLHER: MLS22369) were established close to the station. A large railway sidings was constructed on the northern side of the line to deal with the goods and a hotel was also established close to the station (NLHER: MLS25290).

1.5.6 RECREATION

The White Hart is thought to have opened in the 16th century, and is locally advertised as the oldest pub in the Isle of Axholme, though this is debated (NLHER: MLS10427, NHLE: 1083266). During the 18th century the Cross Keys Hotel was built across the Market Place from the White Hart and was rebuilt in 1832 (NLHER: MLS10428, NHLE: 1083269). The Darby & Joan maltkiln and brewhouse was also in use from at least 1738 (Manorial Plan). During the 19th century further breweries began operating, including the Isle of Axholme Brewery in 1858 and the New Trent Brewery in 1878. A Temperance Hall run by the Wesleyans began operating in 1833. The Assembly Rooms in Cross Street were used until 1870 when they were moved to the newly constructed Market Hall and Assembly Rooms in the Market Place (NLHER: MLS24576).

Baptist chapel Mill Road

1.5.7 CHARACTERISTIC BUILDINGS

Tetley Hall (NLHER: MLS25276, NHLE: 1346695)

Tetley Hall, located to the west of Ealand, is an 18th century hall with probable earlier origins in association with the Tetley deserted medieval village.

1.6 MODERN AND 21st CENTURY

1.6.1 STREET PATTERN AND DEVELOPMENT

The population of Crowle in 1901 was recorded to be 2769, increasing to 3010 by 1921; it fell to 2833 in 1931 before rising again to 3010 by 1961, and in 2011 the census recorded Crowle and Ealand to have 4828 people. As such its population has grown steadily over the century. Development for much of the modern period has been done in a piecemeal fashion, and almost 300 houses were built in the town between 1901 and 1961. Much of this development has been carried out within the earlier medieval and post-medieval town layout, alongside older farmsteads. This has created a varied town with an array of housing styles. Larger single developments have become more common in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, focussed to the south and east of the town. The development of the M180 further resulted in new development, and Crowle has become a commuter town for the larger surrounding centres of Scunthorpe, Doncaster and Goole.

1.6.2 TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Crowle has a limited amount of modern industry, generally confined to singular light industrial premises. The clay quarries, which had been a large industry during the 19th century, came to an end over the 20th century, and the pits since converted into ponds or in-filled. There is a small area of industry located in former railway sidings adjacent to the railway in Ealand.

1.6.3 RELIGION AND EDUCATION

There has been little growth in the religious history of the town over the 20th century. In 1904, a new church structure replaced an older church on Fieldside (NLHER: MLS17789). Former churches have also been converted in the 20th century as attitudes towards religion have changed, including another on Fieldside (NLHER: MLS21951). A former Wesleyan Methodist chapel known as 'The Moorings', which was certified in 1908, was converted to a house in 2011 (NLHER: MLS22482). Similarly, the Baptist Chapel, located on Mill Road, is also undergoing conversion into a residential property (NLHER: MLS17787).

The population of the town grew steadily over the 20th century, and with it the need for new schools. The North Axholme Secondary School was opened in 1958, in the former grounds of Tetley Hall (NLHER: MLS26036). In the later 20th century the Crowle Primary School was opened to the west of St Oswald's Church.

1.6.4 RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT

In 1902 a new and relatively late railway station was opened in Crowle as part of the Axholme Joint Railway; which connected Crowle to Epworth in the east and Goole in the west (NLHER: MLS22562). It was a short-lived station and closed to passengers in 1933 and all traffic in the 1960s; the site has since been redeveloped for housing. In the later 20th century, the A18 was constructed to the south of the survey area and follows the line of North Engine Drain. The town centre suffers from a high amount of through traffic as the High Street is now on the route of the A161; which disrupts pedestrian access to the open market centre.

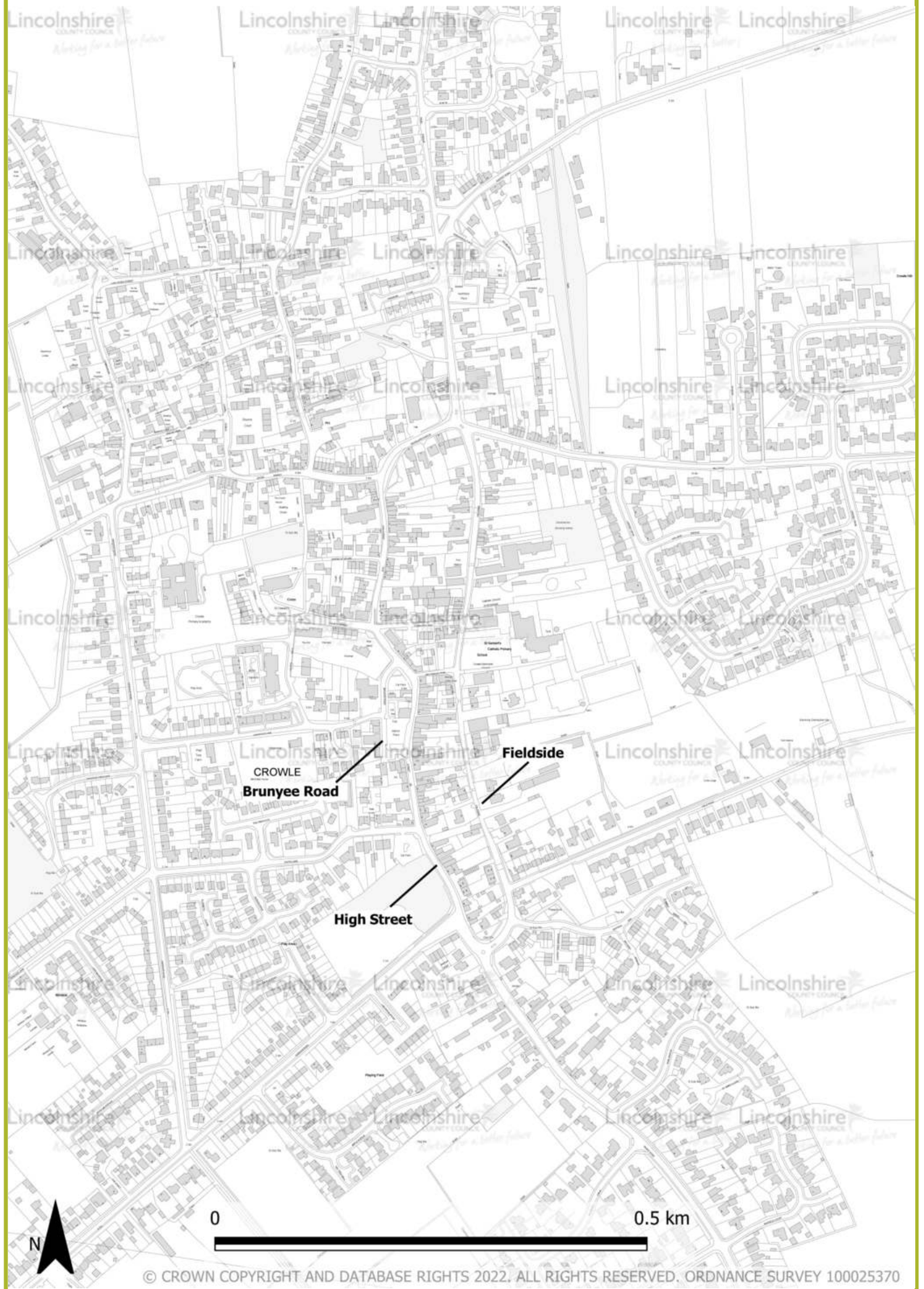
War Me-

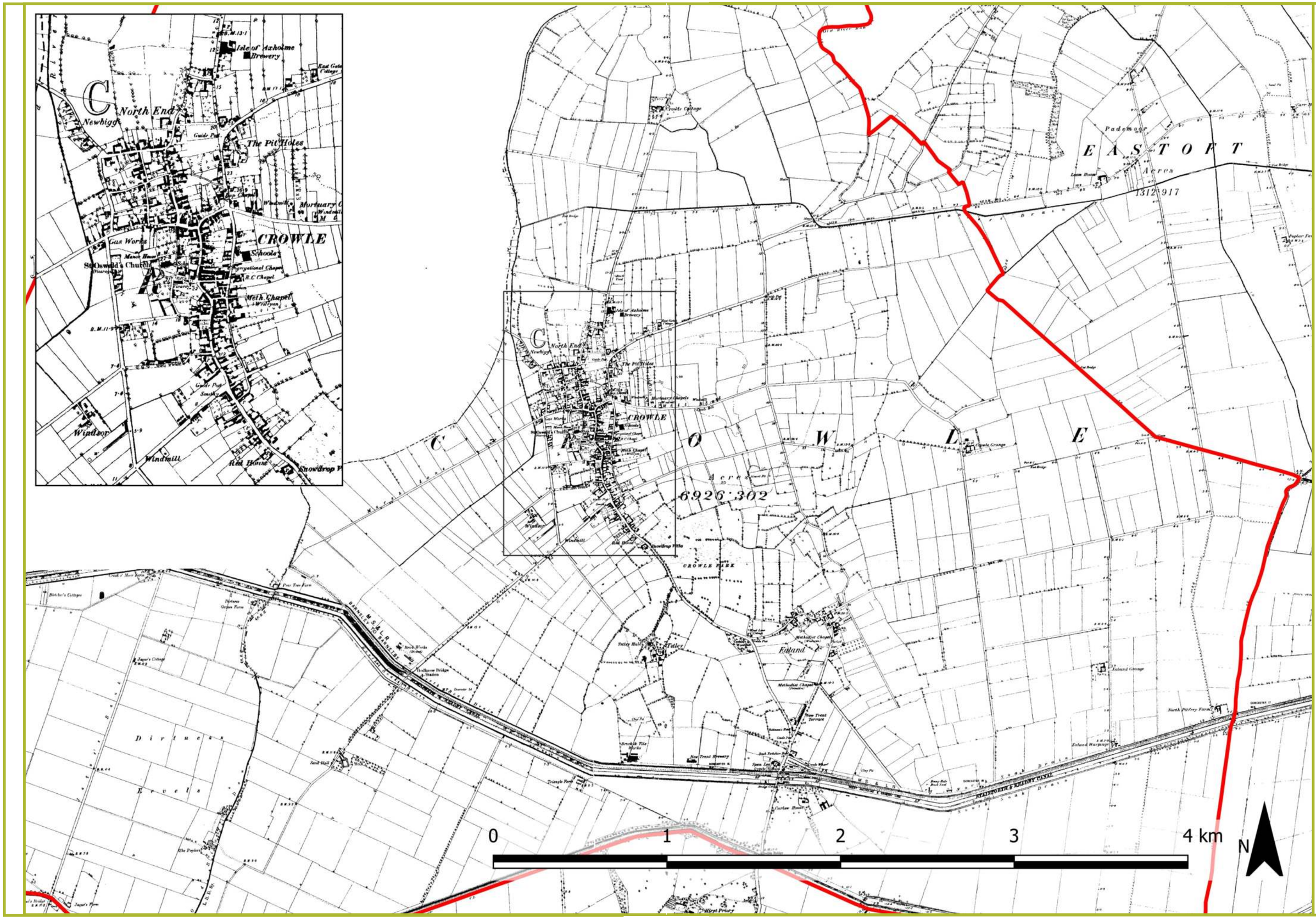
1.6.5 RECREATION

In the early-mid 20th century, the Regal Cinema was built on High Street; the art-deco building is still extant, although it has since been converted into a supermarket. Large areas of former industrial or agricultural land have been converted into areas for recreation over the 20th century. Crowle Moors, an area of peat bog and fen which was traditionally used for turbary and grazing, is now a nature reserve, and forms part of one of the richest areas of lowland peat in the north of England. To the south of the town former clay quarries, which went out of use in the 20th century, have been converted into leisure ponds and a caravan park.

1.6.6 MILITARY

The Crowle War Memorial was erected in 1922. It is inscribed with 69 names from the First World War and 22 from the Second World War (NLHER: MLS21666). A second memorial was erected at the junction of New Trent Street and Wharf Road for the '*Men of Crowle Wharf and Ealand who gave their lives during the First and Second World* Wars'. In 1945, a Lancaster Bomber crashed killing all seven airmen. Its location is not known but two sites have been suggested in the area of Marsh Road (NLHER: MLS25882).




Isle of Axholme Brewery
North End
Newbigg
The Pit Holes
CROWLE
Gas Works
Schools
St Oswald's Church
Meth. Chapel
Windsor
Windmill
Red House
Snowdrop Villa
EASTOFT
Acres
1312·917
Pademoor
Lees Farm
Lees House
Crowle Grange
Acres
6926·302
CROWLE PARK
Dirtness Grange Farm
Pear Tree Farm
Blatcher's Cottages
Jaques Cottage
Dirtness
Levels
Brick Works
Hookhow Bridge & Station
Tiley
Tiley Hall
Eastland
Methodist Chapel
Eastland Grange
New Trent Terrace
New Trent Brewery
Brickfield Tile Works
Sand Hall
Triangle Farm
Curlew House
Eastland Warehouse
North Pit Prey Farm
Jaques Farm
The Poplars
Hirst Priory
Old River Bank
Lees Bridge
Pond
Sand Pit
Chalk Pit
Brick Pit
Tile Pit
Gravel Pit
Mortuary Chapels
Mortuary
Windmill
Sand Pit
Pond
Sewage Farm
Sewage Works
Sewage Filter Beds
Sewage Pumping Station
Old Sewage Works
Old Sewage Filter Beds
Old Sewage Pumping Station
Old Sewage Farm

HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Summary

The Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) have been based on the Historic Urban Character Types (HUCTs). The HUCT maps are available separately to this document, within the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. The HUCTs highlight patterns of development through areas which have originated at a similar time, are comparable in how they have developed or demonstrate a similar character or land use. The identification of HUCTs with these similarities allows groups (HUCAs) to be formed and analysed as a wider area.

The HUCTs are divided into 14 periods (see table opposite); these have been narrowed from the periods in the archaeological and historical background to provide a more detailed picture of the development and character of a place, incorporating the Industrial Revolution and the fast pace of development throughout the 20th century.

The character areas are discussed in terms of heritage value, based upon Historic England's 2008 'Conservation Principles', these include: Evidential, Historical, Aesthetic, and Communal. *'Conservation Principles' sets out a method for thinking systematically and consistently about the heritage values that can be attributed to a place. People value historic places in many different ways; 'Conservation Principles shows how they can be grouped into four categories.* A concordance table has been produced to compare the values taken from the 'Conservation Principles' with the NPPF21, in terms of significance.

The values are as follows:

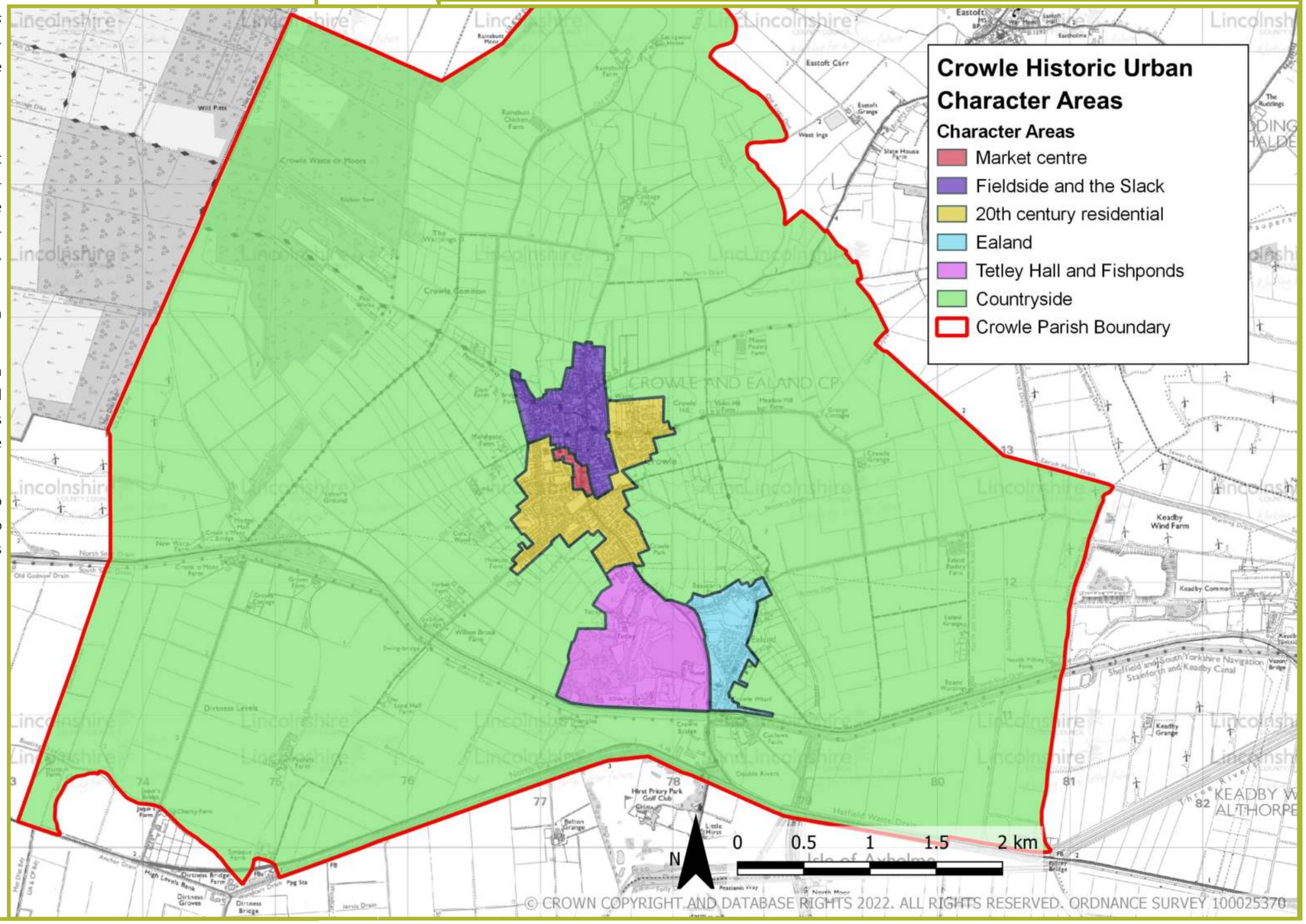
Evidential: the potential of what is present within the HUCA to tell us more about past human activity if investigated. This might relate to a national story of archaeological knowledge or architectural history. One factor which will affect the value is the integrity of what the HUCA contains. Archaeological deposits may be compromised by later development or buildings may be significantly altered by later, unsympathetic extensions and alterations.

Historical: the potential of the HUCA overall to illustrate the story of the town. In some circumstances the story may be of national importance.

Aesthetic: the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from the HUCA, principally its appearance. This may be derived from a designed element like a 20th century council housing estate, or from the way the HUCA has evolved over time. Unattractive elements, such as neglected sites, might reduce the aesthetic value.

Communal: the values the local community attach to the HUCA - what it means to the local population, including commemorative, symbolic and social values. Also to what extent the HUCA has the potential to increase public sensitivity towards the historic environment.

	Period	Date Ranges	Abbreviations
1	Prehistoric	10000-43	Pre-H
2	Roman	43-409	Rom
3	Early Medieval	410-1065	E-Med
4	Medieval	1066-1539	Med
5	Post Medieval	1540-1759	P-Med
6	Late 18th Century	1760-1799	Late 18thC
7	Early 19th Century	1800-1832	Early 19thC
8	Mid 19th Century	1833-1865	Mid 19thC
9	Late 19th Century	1866-1899	Late 19thC
10	Early 20th Century	1900-1924	Early 20thC
11	Early Mid 20th Century	1925-1949	Early-mid 20thC
12	Late Mid 20th Century	1950-1974	Late-mid 20thC
13	Late 20th Century	1975-1999	Late 20thC
14	21st Century	2000-Present	21stC



The Conservation Principles values

This can be used to understand how value has been assigned in the value tables which can be found in the Historic Urban Characterisation Area Assessments (HUCAs).

Evidential value	
High	There is a high potential for the heritage assets within the HUCA to contribute to an understanding of the history of the town. Archaeological sites are likely to survive (both below ground and above ground fossilised within the townscape) and for new research relating to the nature and origins of the built heritage to enhance the understanding of the development of the town. New insights into the history of the town can contribute to an understanding of the development of towns from the medieval period onwards both within Lincolnshire and more widely.
Medium	There is the potential for heritage assets to contribute to an understanding of the history of the town, but there may be fewer opportunities for new insights to be deduced due to the nature of the heritage assets in question or subsequent changes to the historic character of the HUCA. The potential for archaeological deposits to contribute to an understanding of the development of the town may currently be unclear due to the current level of understanding of the origins of the HUCA. The potential may also be impacted by levels of development.
Low	There are no or very few known heritage assets. The understanding for the potential for above and below ground archaeological deposits to survive may be affected by the current lack of research within the wider area. Mitigation may still be required dependent upon an assessment of both the nature of any prospective new development and the potential of the individual sites being developed.
Historical value	
High	The legible heritage assets either dominate or significantly contribute to the historic character of each HUCA. There are strong associations between the heritage assets (both tangible and intangible) within the HUCA that are potentially demonstrable and/or the heritage assets make an important contribution to the history of the wider area. There are often designated sites within or lying adjacent to the HUCA and in some cases these may comprise or include portions of Conservation Areas. The high value is not precluded by some degree of 20th/21st century alterations to the historic character.
Medium	Legible heritage assets are present within the HUCA, but are not necessarily predominant or they have undergone some form of alteration. Their presence, however, may contribute to an understanding of the development of the character area and/or there are potential associations between assets. Further research may clarify these associations and elucidate the contribution of these assets to the history of the wider area. Even in their present form they do enable the public and community to visualise the development of the area over time.
Low	There are no or very few known legible heritage assets; where they exist their associations are not clearly understood.
Aesthetic value	
High	The completeness or integrity of the extant heritage townscape and its contribution to the aesthetics of the zone is significant. There are opportunities to enhance or restore the historic fabric of the HUCA. The HUCAs will often form part of or form the setting to Conservation Areas.
Medium	The components of the townscape are legible, but there may have been considerable impact by 20th or 21st century re-development of elements of the historic character. It is not possible within this project to discuss whether the modern alterations have positive, neutral or negative impacts upon overall aesthetics.
Low	The aesthetics of the historic character have been significantly impacted by 20th or 21st century development. It is not within the scope of this project to discuss whether their contributions are positive, neutral or negative within the wider townscape.
Communal value	
High	Contains numerous heritage assets which could be used to engage the community through interpretation. The heritage assets clearly form part of a wider history of an area which can be drawn into a narrative. There may already have been a degree of interpretation and/or the community/public already has access to at least some of the heritage assets within the zone.
Medium	The ability for the heritage assets to contribute to the history of the town may be limited by the current understanding, their legibility within the townscape or through limited access.
Low	There are few known heritage assets which make it difficult to elucidate their history or apply it to a wider interpretation. There is no access or the legibility of the heritage assets is negligible.

Concordance Table between Historic England Conservation Principles and the NPPF

NPPF Significance	Conservation Principles	Conservation Principles Scope Note	NPPF Scope Note
Archaeological	Evidential	*"the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity."*	*"There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point."*
Historic	Historical	*"the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present - it tends to be illustrative or associative."*	*"An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity."*
Architectural/ Aesthetic	Aesthetic	*"the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place."*	*"These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skill, like sculpture."*
*See Paragraphs 190 (b) and (c), 193, 197 (b) and (c), 205, 206.	Communal	*"the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory"*	*N/A see relevant paragraphs*

EUS in planning

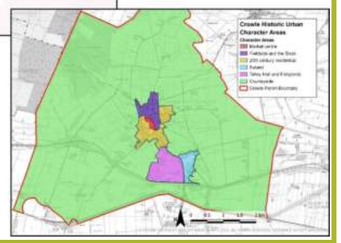
It is anticipated that the EUS will be used to support appropriate application of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in the future development of Lincolnshire's towns. The EUS is directly applicable to the aims set out in the 2021 NPPF, particularly in Chapter 3 'Plan Making', Chapter 12 'Achieving well-designed places' and Chapter 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'. Chapter 3 states that *Strategic policies should... make sufficient provision for: conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment... Plans are 'sound' if they are: Justified... based on proportionate evidence.* For both objectives the EUS can provide a thorough evidence base which can assist in the production of plans. Chapter 12 states that Planning policies and decisions *should ensure that developments… are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting… establish or maintain a strong sense of place using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit.*

The EUS discusses local character, including built character and landscape setting, the evidence provided in the character assessments can be used to aid in the creation of 'well-designed places' through supporting an understanding and appreciation (from a heritage perspective) of the history and character of a town. The EUS contributes to the application of Chapter 16 of the NPPF by providing another evidence source on which to base development applications. The discussion of the character within the town can also be used to assist in the reappraisal and designation of new conservation areas.

Recent design-related guidance, including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code, explicitly reference the significance and value of understanding the historic character of a place. Well-designed places are: based on a sound understanding of the features of the site and the surrounding context, using baseline studies as a starting point for design; integrated into their surroundings so they relate well to them; influenced by and influence their context positively; and responsive to local history, culture and heritage. In all cases the EUS programme, and its products, are directly aligned with the aspirations in these key planning guidance advice notes and emerging legislation.

Historic Urban Character Types within HUCA 1

Bungalows (20thC)
Car park
Church,Chapel
Detached housing (18thC)
Detached housing (19thC)
Detached housing (20thC)
Market
Mixed housing (20thC)
Public house
Shops
Short terraces (21stC)
Supermarket
Terraced housing (19thC)
Terraced housing (20thC)



HUCA 1— Market centre

Key characteristics

- Consistent character, concentrated around the Market Place,
- Buildings date to between the 17th and 19th centuries, few modern buildings,
- Main material is red brick, often locally made, some render,
- The church of St Oswald dates to the medieval period,
- Pantile roofs, traditional windows, some modern replacements,
- Buildings mostly 2 storeys,
- Largely terraced shops or houses,
- Irregular medieval road layout, although medieval High Street is now part of an A road system,
- Former burgage plots extending to the east of the High Street,
- Mixture of traditional and modern street furniture.

Landscape History

The area is highly likely to have been occupied from the early medieval period; however it was not until the medieval period that is was more fully developed. It is likely this began along the High Street during the 13th century, following the transfer of ownership in the town from Sir John de Mowbray to the Abbot of Selby Abbey. The Abbot appears to have increased development in the town and it is possibly during this time that narrow property plots (known as burgage plots) were laid out fronting onto High Street on an east-west alignment. These are characterised by long, thin plots extending back. The rear of the plots was connected by Fieldside a medieval back-lane, to the east of which would have been private enclosures and open fields. The pattern of these plots is somewhat preserved, however there has been boundary loss over subsequent centuries and development crossing over many of the burgage boundaries. Although the plan of the character area and property boundaries are medieval, the buildings date to the post-medieval and modern periods, and were probably developed in or near to the footprint of original buildings. In the 20th century, the main road through the village became an A road, which has increased traffic and impacted the accessibility of the town centre.

Town Hall and shop in the Market Place

White Hart public house

Shops High Street

Market Place

Modern shop

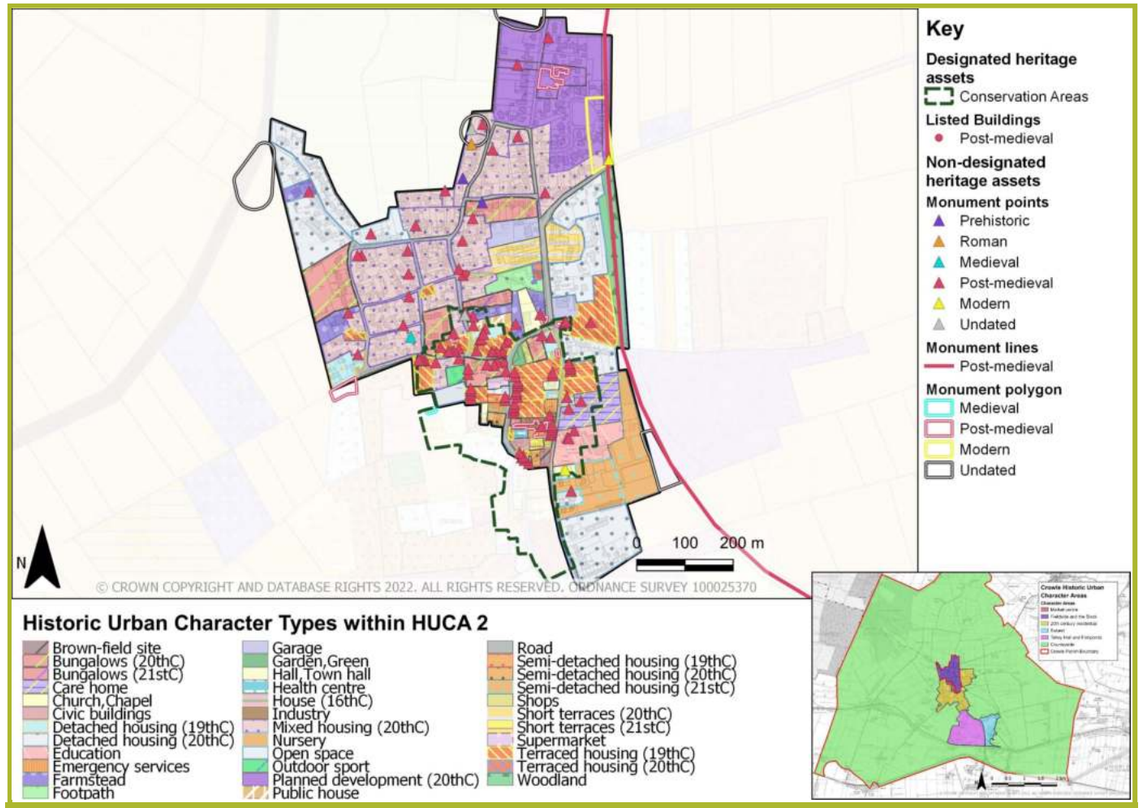
Church of St Oswald and modern development

Evidential Value: The character area demonstrates the early history of the town. This predominantly refers to the medieval market growth and the later post-medieval commercial activity within the town. Archaeological evidence recorded in Market Place has provided data which demonstrates early activity in the centre; it is likely that further below ground remains survive. Further to this, public houses were probably established to accompany the trading activities which were on-going in the town centre.

Historical Value: Historic assets are extant across the character area, and contribute to the historic narrative of the town as a commercial market centre. The legible heritage assets dominate the HUCA and illustrate the long history of the town as a market centre. The HUCA has been the centre of Crowle since the medieval period and as such is critical to an understanding of the history of the town as a whole.

Aesthetic Value: There has been good preservation of the town character, including the medieval layout. Many of the buildings date to the 18th and 19th centuries with some early post-medieval examples also preserved in the area. There has been a minor amount of redevelopment in the modern period. Much of the character area is in the Crowle Conservation Area, which recognises it as an important market centre.

Communal Value: The character area contains many assets which engage the public on the town's history. There are also multiple information boards around the town centre which educate the public on Crowle's development and historical events. Historical connection is also created by the long standing public houses such as the White Hart which is one of the oldest establishments in the Isle of Axholme.



HUCA 2— Fieldside and the Slack

Key characteristics

- Characterised by a mixture of post-medieval and modern development,
- Mixed development with 19th century buildings interspersed with modern infilling,
- Largely residential with some public buildings such as halls, schools, and emergency services,
- Houses are mixed and include, farmsteads, detached, semi-detached houses, and bungalows,
- Older buildings are largely red brick; modern houses are a mixture of brick types,
- Roofing is a mixture of pantiles, slate and modern concrete roofing,
- Older properties often retain traditional windows newer properties largely have uPVC,
- Many houses have driveways and are set within front and rear gardens,
- Irregular road layout is also probably medieval in origin, although one of the main roads is now part of an A road system,
- Little street greenery such as grass verges or street trees; much of the vegetation is provided within gardens.

Landscape History

Prehistoric finds of flint and Roman pottery have been identified in the character area, demonstrating likely activity in the area during the periods. The layout of the character area, which is made up of irregular enclosures, probably originated in the early medieval or medieval period. It is thought that the early occupation of the town was around the church of St Oswald, which was constructed by the late 11th century. Fieldside was possibly a connecting road behind the later medieval burgage plots which faced onto the High Street, to the east of which agricultural land would have been extant. For much of the medieval and certainly during the post-medieval periods, it is likely that the area largely contained farmsteads. A number of these buildings survive and they now make up part of the character area, although they are interspersed with more recent residential development– some have been demolished. This recent development has taken place over the 20th and 21st centuries, with a large increase between 1961 and 2011, as the population grew by almost 2000 people. This development has been largely mixed with small numbers of houses constructed in private developments. To the north of the character area is larger planned development. In the early 20th century a new railway line, station and Station Master's house was constructed. This created a boundary which dictated development until the railway's closure in 1968. The Station Master's house is still in use as a private residence (NLHER: MLS22563).

Modern bungalow and post medieval farm buildings

Bungalows Lindsey Drive ©Google streetview

Former farmstead within modern residential development

Former Methodist school

Red Lion public house

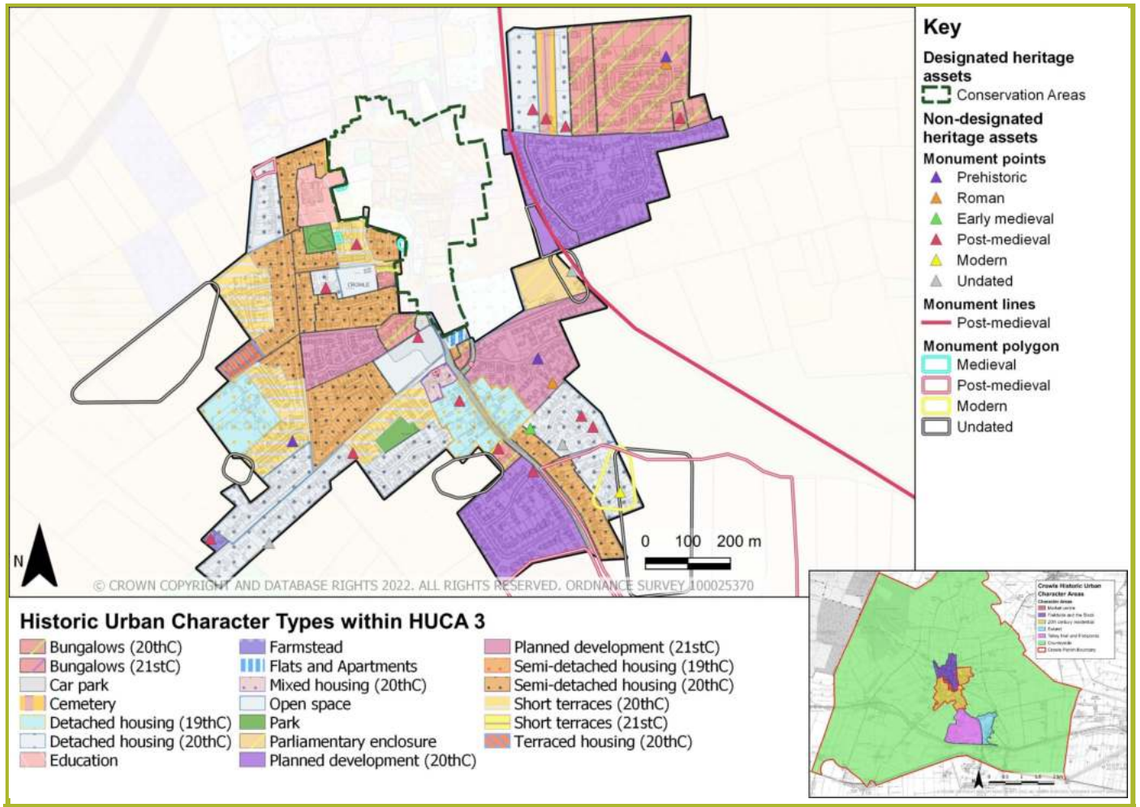
Modern bungalows

Evidential Value: There are numerous assets within the character area which contribute to the wider history of the town, predominantly its medieval and post-medieval history which are demonstrated through the preserved medieval road pattern and the many farmsteads which are recorded in the area, although not all survive and more are under threat of demolition and redevelopment. The railway line and station are an example of railway construction from the early 20th century and reflect the economic history of the area at this time.

Historical Value: The railway line and station are an example of railway construction from the early modern period. Its foundation and short period of usage contributes to the wider history of the area and the agricultural economy over the 20th century and the decline and closure of railways which was seen across the country. The farmsteads, recorded in the character area, contribute to the history of the town which has been predominantly an agricultural settlement for much of its history.

Aesthetic Value: Development within the HUCA is mixed, which provides its character; there is a large number of 19th century buildings interspersed with modern residential buildings. This development has been carried out on a small scale and as such there is a great variety of styles, heights and types. The residential development of the town can be understood from this variety and the town's former agricultural character is also legible.

Communal Value: The character area contains numerous heritage assets which highlight the town's agricultural and social history. Despite this, the area is predominantly private residential which limits the amount of engagement opportunities available.



HUCA 3—20th century residential

Key characteristics

- 20th century residential development,
- Mixture of detached, semi-detached, short terraces and bungalows,
- Red, brown and buff brick; timber and uPVC replacement windows,
- Buildings are one to two storeys high with concrete or tile roofs,
- Development has taken place along main roads, on newer estates, purpose-made streets have been designed away from the street front for developments,
- Topographically, the land rises to Crowle Hill at the north-east of the HUCA,
- Many houses are within front and rear gardens with driveways, some on-street parking,
- Vegetation is provided within gardens; some street trees, especially in open public areas,
- Modern street lighting, little street furniture.

Landscape History

For much of its history the character area has been largely agricultural. There are a small number of prehistoric findspots, including flint scatters (NLHER: MLS21141, MLS17368, MLS19443) which suggest activity in the area during this period. A probable area of Roman settlement is recorded in the south-east of the character area (NLHER: MLS21142), archaeological investigation and retrieved finds from this area have revealed probable 2nd-4th century occupation. From the early medieval and medieval period, the area comprised Common Land, to the south-west on Godknows Common. To the north-east was arable land; Crowle Field which was part of the open-field system. Some land, largely located close to the settlement was enclosed through private agreement over the medieval period. In the early 19th century, the remaining land was enclosed through parliamentary agreement. It was also during this period that a number of farmsteads were established. A number of mills were established on Mill Road over the 19th century (NLHER: MLS21912, MLS21911, MLS21910), as well as a new cemetery in 1862 (NLHER: MLS17788). Over the 20th century, the area has been residentially developed; much of it has been constructed along main roads although in more recent years, more houses have been constructed in large single planned developments.

Windsor Crescent ©Google streetview

Bungalows Mill Road

Short terraces ©Google streetview

Bungalows Lindsey Drive ©Google streetview

Crowle Cemetery

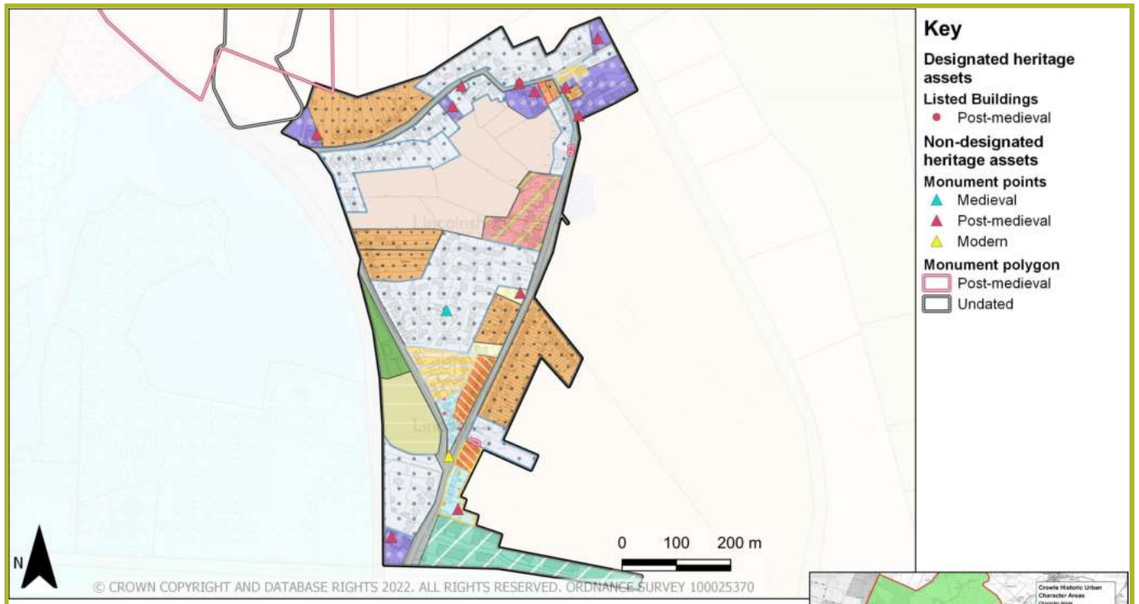
Detached housing Mill Road

Evidential Value: There are heritage assets from many periods within the character area. Where present they provide an insight into the history of Crowle, particularly relating to the Roman occupation in the area. Medieval and post-medieval remains also contribute to an understanding of the town's agricultural history with examples of former field pattens, mills and farmsteads, particularly from the post-medieval period when arable became more common throughout the area.

Historical Value: Legible heritage assets are present within the HUCA, but are not predominant. Their presence, contributes to an understanding of the development of the character area throughout multiple periods. Modern residential developments demonstrate the rapid growth in population which has been seen in the town, as it has been transformed from a small agricultural settlement to more of a commuter town, serving the larger regional towns, in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

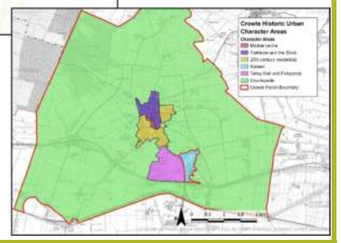
Aesthetic Value: Modern residential development provides much of the current character of the HUCA, although some assets demonstrate the historic development of the town. Modern development has removed the post-medieval field pattern. In Miller's more detailed historic landscape characterisation study, the fields off Mill Lane are within the early enclosures of the open strip fields.

Communal Value: Crowle cemetery is an area of community importance. The view from Crowle Hill at the rear of the cemetery, which takes in an agricultural landscape towards the limestone cliff to the east is also an asset to the HUCA.



Historic Urban Character Types within HUCA 4

- Bungalows (20thC)
- Church,Chapel
- Detached housing (19thC)
- Detached housing (20thC)
- Detached housing (21stC)
- Farmstead
- Hall,Town hall
- Industrial estate
- Modern fields
- Park
- Private enclosure
- Semi-detached housing (19thC)
- Semi-detached housing (20thC)
- Short terraces (20thC)
- Terraced housing (19thC)



HUCA 4– Ealand

Key characteristics

- Residential settlement separate to Crowle, based around a historic road layout,
- Section of the historic roads are now A161 roads,
- Mixture of housing from the 19th and 20th centuries,
- Interspersed with 19th century farmsteads,
- Modern semi-detached, detached and bungalows,
- Railway station and small industrial area,
- Concrete tile roofing is most common, uPVC windows
- Houses are low to medium density,
- Set within gardens away from the road with driveways, older houses are on the road front.

Landscape History

The earliest recorded evidence within the character area dates to the medieval period, and refers to the settlement record for Ealand (NLHER: MLS16762). Throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods it remained a small agricultural hamlet. The NLHER records several farmsteads on Outgate, which date to the post-medieval period. In 1792, the Stainforth and Keadby canal was constructed; this canal improved communication and transportation in the region, although Ealand would see its largest post-medieval growth following the construction of the Barnsley to Barnetby railway. This railway, which ran alongside the canal, encouraged the development of new industries, including a brickworks and brewery, which are located in HUCA 5. Railway sidings were established to the north of the line to facilitate the transportation of goods. Large new houses were built for local business managers as well as a row of terraces, called New Trent Terraces, which were probably constructed in association with the New Trent Brewery. Throughout the 20th century, the railway and canal have remained in use, however, road transport has overtaken them in importance for the transportation of goods. The sidings have been transformed into a small industrial estate and the hotel no longer serves its original purpose. The area has become more residentially focused and many new houses have been constructed along the main roads. In the mid-late 20th century, the A161 was constructed to the west of the character area, further increasing the accessibility to the area via the road network, as opposed to the canal and railway.

Drain and train station

Spen Lea House New Trent Street

Canal and A161

Outgate ©Google streetview

Ealand Industrial Estate ©Google streetview

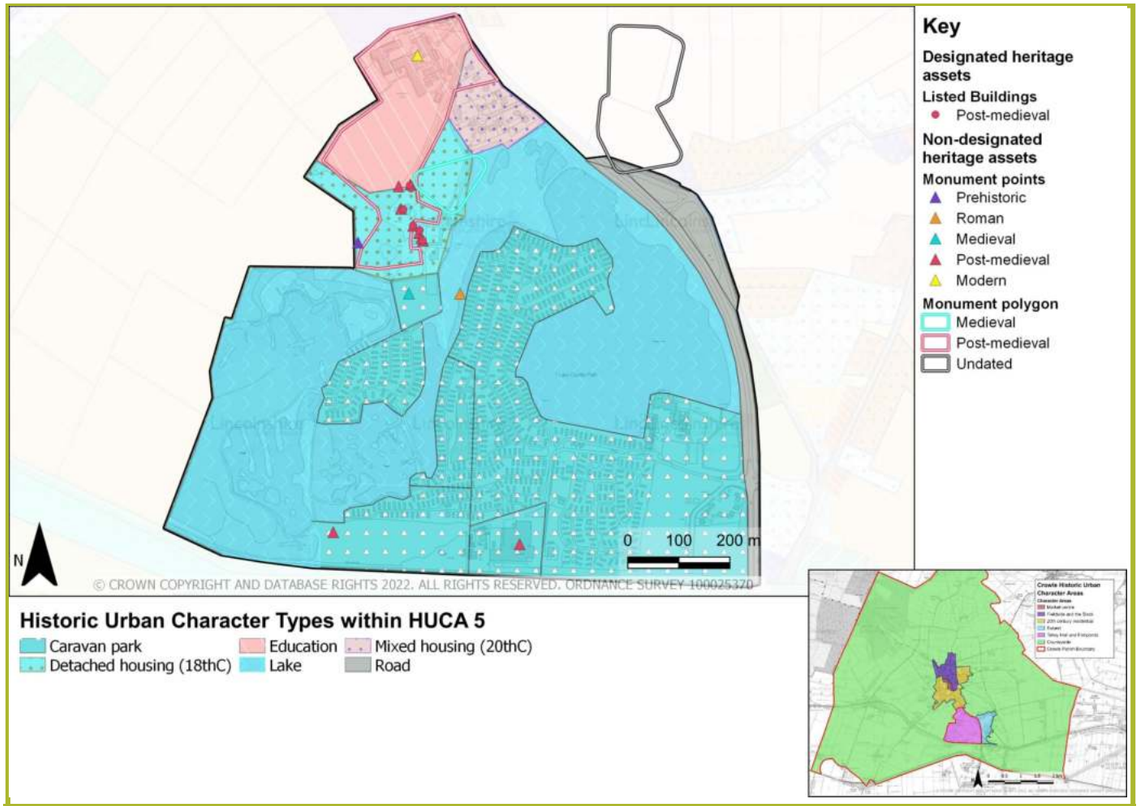
Detached House, Ealand ©Google streetview

Evidential Value: The character area contains assets largely relating to the agricultural and transportation history of Ealand and the wider area. This history could be further highlighted with further research. There is potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains in areas of undeveloped land such as fields and gardens.

Historical Value: Ealand has a history which was largely separate to Crowle. It does however, demonstrate the changing nature of the wider area from one which was purely agricultural to an area of new industries following the introduction of the canal and railway.

Aesthetic Value: The components of the townscape are legible, including the historic road layout of the area and the post-medieval farmsteads but there has been considerable impact by 20th or 21st century development of the area. Other buildings such as the former South Yorkshire Hotel and large houses do illustrate the growth of the area following the introduction of the railway in the 19th century.

Communal Value: There are some assets within the character area which have a community focus, such as a 19th century chapel and a modern war memorial. The railway and its history also provides opportunity with which to engage the public.



HUCA 5 – Tetley Hall and lakes

Key characteristics

- Static caravan park,
- Topographically fairly flat,
- Former clay quarries, now transformed into landscaped recreational lakes,
- Tetley Hall, 18th century house within a landscaped Garden,
- A modern school has been developed on some of the hall lands.

Landscape History

Scattered prehistoric and Roman finds are recorded in the character area, including a prehistoric flint scatter (NLHER: MLS17370) and a Roman brooch (NLHER: MLS21608). Much of the area was part of common land during the early medieval and medieval periods. Parts of the land were also enclosed privately during the medieval period. Tetley was a small settlement during the medieval period, first recorded in the 14th century, it is now known as a deserted medieval settlement (NLHER: MLS2489). The hamlet is seen in a pre-enclosure map produced in 1738. There was probably an earlier hall on the site, but the present day Tetley Hall and garden dates to the 18th century (NHLER: 10095, NHLE:1346695). No evidence of hamlet has been found. It is possible that evidence of the settlement has been removed during the 19th century clay quarrying. Brick works in association with the clay quarries were established along the Stainforth and Keadby Canal (NLHER: MLS22012, MLS22369). In the later 20th century, the former clay quarries were converted into leisure lakes and the area has since become a recreational caravan park and boating lake. In 1958, the North Axholme School (later Axholme Academy) was built within the landscaped grounds of Tetley Hall.

Clearwater Lake ©Google Streetview

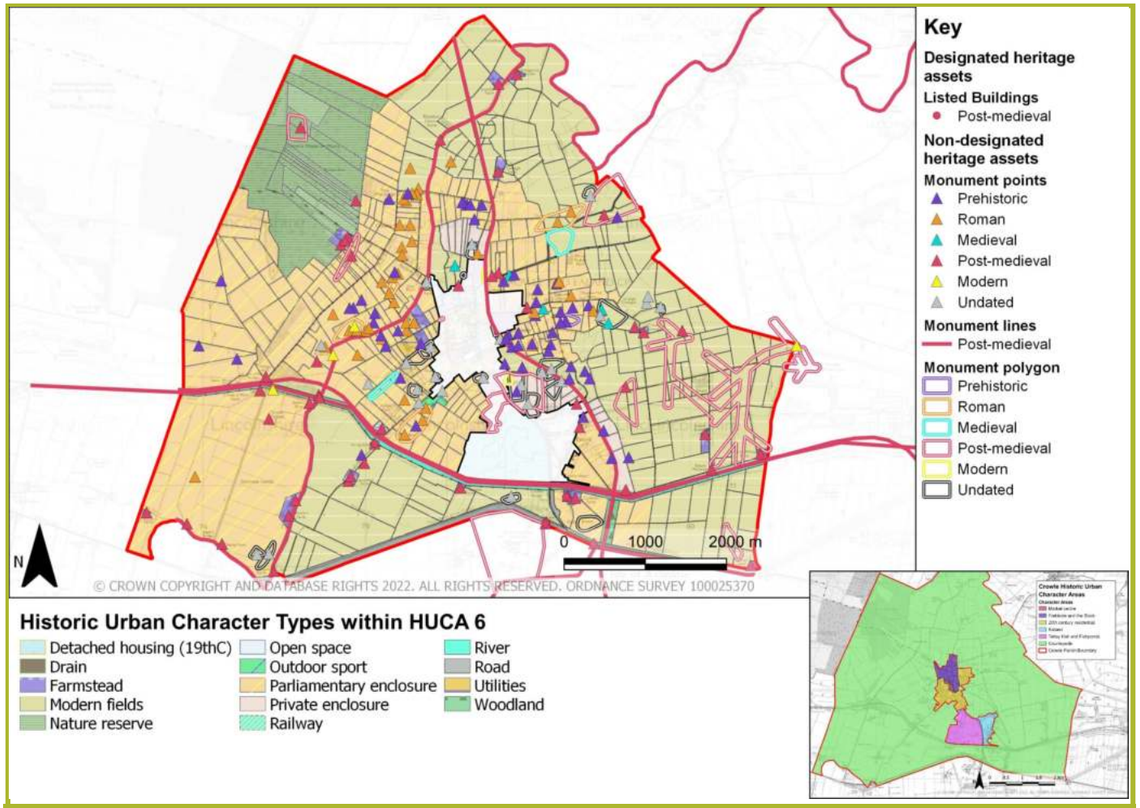
7 Lakes Country Park ©Google Streetview

Evidential Value: The character area contains assets associated with the history of the wider area. Tetley Hall and the site of the lost deserted medieval village provides detail of settlement history and land organisation in the area during this period. Furthermore, the presence and later reuse of the clay quarries also contributes to our understanding of the brick and tile production of the area.

Historical Value: The character area contributes to the history of the wider area. The clay quarries contribute to an understanding of the wider area. The availability of clay in the area and its use in the many buildings constructed using the material over the post-medieval period, is seen in the region's character.

Aesthetic Value: The history of the area, although quite clear in its evolution is not immediately legible. The area is now dominated by a modern caravan park, and as such the historic character of the area is not clear except in the immediate vicinity of Tetley Hall and the remnants of its landscaped garden.

Communal Value: The public could be engaged on the history of the area, particularly its former industrial use.



HUCA 6—Countryside

Key characteristics

- A post-medieval and modern agricultural landscape,
- Modern amalgamated fields; some parliamentary enclosure field patterns also survive,
- Nature reserve to the north-west of the area, in former peat moorland,
- Characterised by low lying fields,
- Boundaries include ditches and some hedges and field trees,
- Views towards the lime stone ridge and Crowle Hill,

Landscape History

The landscape in the HUCA, during the prehistoric period, was part of a river system, with channels and floodplains. Activity during this time is largely represented by flint tools and debitage, suggesting flint working sites. There is possible evidence of Iron Age activity to the east of Crowle at approximately 13m above sea level. Archaeological remains located here are thought to date to the Iron Age, including two sub-rectangular enclosures and further ditches, possibly indicating further enclosures (NLHER: MLS22719, MLS22720). There is extensive evidence of Romano-British activity in the HUCA; much of this is concentrated to the east of the town centre and on Crowle Common to the west of the town. Various enclosures, dated to the Romano-British period, have been identified from cropmarks in aerial photographs around Crowle, including at lower lying levels to the west and south-west at an elevation of 2-4m above sea level which is indicative of water management, due to its proximity to the River Don. The landscape was used as common and grazing land in the early medieval and medieval periods; some arable land was under cultivation to the north-east of the town centre, on an area of higher ground. Over the medieval period, land adjacent to the settlements of Crowle and Ealand became private enclosures. The characteristic field patterns in these areas reflect the arrangement of the former open strip fields. The landscape saw its largest transformation in the 17th century with the large-scale drainage schemes instigated by Vermuyden following an agreement with Charles I. The drained land was split into thirds, one third going to the King, one to Vermuyden and another to the people who had the rights of common. By 1641, the commoners were able to increase their land holdings. From 1800, warping was undertaken on much of the landscape at the same time as the implementation of the parliamentary enclosure of the townships of Crowle, Eastoft and Ealand; this further divided the landscape. In the modern period, there has been some amalgamation of older fields.

Agricultural land and drain Crowle

Agricultural land N Crowle

View north-east from Crowle Hill towards the Limestone ridge

Evidential Value: There are many assets in the HUCA which contribute to an understanding of the history of Crowle and the wider region during multiple periods. Prehistoric and Roman activity and settlement recorded in the area provides perspective on how local people occupied and interacted with the landscape during these periods. Further remains from multiple periods are highly likely to be preserved in the HUCA.

Historical Value: The landscape organisation which took place from the early medieval period onwards has had long term effects on the history of Crowle, and dictated the lives of generations of inhabitants in the area. The sweeping changes made during the post-medieval period which are seen across the landscape have a large role in the narrative of the area.

Aesthetic Value: The landscape history, particularly the large scale drainage and enclosing have left lasting evidence across the character area. The field boundaries and close relationship between land and water demonstrate the past events which have shaped the current landscape.

Communal Value: The character area plays a central role in the historical narrative of the town and the wider area. The character area is accessible for the public, especially in the nature reserve on Crowle Moors, traditionally used for turbary and grazing, regarded as part of north England's richest areas of lowland peat vegetation. This area offers opportunity to engage the public on the history of the local landscape.

DISCUSSION

Historic background

During the prehistoric period there was a lot of activity in Crowle and the surrounding area. Multiple find spots are recorded to the north of the town, in the region of Rainsbutt Road. The landscape during this period was part of a river system and much of the evidence of activity recorded may have been on the edges of these channels. Flints from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age have been in recorded the survey area, indicating that hunting and woodland management was taking place locally. There is increased settlement evidence from the Iron Age and extensive evidence of Romano-British activity in Crowle parish. Roman agricultural and settlement enclosures are recorded in the immediate area surrounding the town centre, and find-spots are also frequently recorded, including coins, pottery and jewellery. Finds recorded in the town centre dating to between the 2nd and 4th century are suggestive of a probable small scale domestic settlement here during this period. Occupation of the town centre took place during the early medieval period, and evidence of activity dating to the 9th-10th century has been recorded. A religious structure was located in Crowle during this period indicated by the presence of the 'Crowle Stone', a fragment of a decorated Anglo-Saxon cross-shaft or monument which was reused by Norman masons during the construction of the church of St Oswald in the 12th century. This is supported by the Domesday survey of 1086, which recorded a church in the settlement. A manor was also recorded in the Domesday survey, as well as villagers, smallholders, meadows, woodland, fisheries and ploughlands. Crowle had a comparatively large local population at the time of the Domesday survey, probably concentrated around the church and to the west of Brunyee Road. In the 13th century, burgage plots (narrow property plots) began to be set out along the High Street and also fronting onto both High Street and the Market Place. During the medieval period, Crowle's economy was dominated by its landscape, the parish had an abundance of common land which was used for grazing and resources, a large fishing area as well as arable fields. In the post-medieval period, the Isle of Axholme was transformed and the profitable pastoral agricultural systems which had been in place for centuries were lost. This was brought about through large scale drainage schemes, instigated in 1626 following an agreement made between Charles I and Cornelius Vermuyden. These schemes transformed the landscape draining the common land, reducing commoners' access to it and overhauling the nature of the local agrarian system. The landscape was further altered in the 19th century following the instigation of parliamentary enclosure and warping in the parish. This further divided the landscape and converted former common land into highly fertile arable farmland. In the modern period, Crowle has remained a small town. Population growth has been steady and residential development has taken place in the area immediately surrounding the town. In the later 20th and early 21st centuries, Crowle has become a dormitory town for the larger surrounding towns, its focus changing from agriculture to residential.

Character summary

The character of Crowle is varied with structures and layouts from multiple periods recognisable across the parish. The town centre, seen in HUCA 1 reflects its use as a market centre, with terraced shops, public houses and a church. Brick is the dominant building material although some stone is used. Historically, this area was the centre of commercial activity and has been used as such for centuries; medieval burgage plots probably established at the same time as the Market Place can be seen facing onto the High Street, with some preservation of their pattern. Although the layout of HUCA 2 is likely to be medieval, the built environment in the area is post-medieval and modern having been largely developed over the 19th and 20th centuries. The 20th century expansion of the town is captured in HUCA 3; houses are located along the main roads and in some purpose-built developments. The separate hamlet of Ealand is recorded in HUCA 4; this historic settlement has grown, predominantly over the 19th and 20th centuries, following the construction of new major communication links including the Stainforth Canal, the railway station and the A161. The character is a mixture of early 19th century farmsteads, Victorian detached and terraced housing interspersed with modern infilling of detached housing. An area of static caravans and lakes adjacent to Ealand are recorded in HUCA 5. The lakes, which are the remains of former clay quarry pits, have created a new area for recreation in the area. A large amount of the survey area (HUCA 6) comprises open countryside. Much of this is made up of arable fields, characterised by post-medieval and modern field patterns. An area of former moorland has also been converted into a modern nature reserve.

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