

# Conservation Area Appraisal

November 2009

## Upper Midhope



## UPPER MIDHOPE CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

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## **INTRODUCTION TO CONSERVATION AREAS & APPRAISALS**

### **What is a Conservation Area?**

A Conservation Area is defined as an area of 'special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance' (Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990).

Each Conservation Area has a unique character shaped by a combination of elements including buildings, materials, spaces, trees, street plan, history and economic background.

The aim of Conservation Area designation is to ensure that this character is not destroyed or undermined by inappropriate changes.

### **Conservation Areas in the Peak District National Park**

There are 109 Conservation Areas in the National Park. Most contain groups of traditional buildings. Others include Historic Parks and Gardens, such as Lyme Park, or industrial sites, such as Cressbrook Mill.

Conservation Areas generally have an aesthetic quality that makes them desirable places in which to live. In order to preserve and enhance this aesthetic quality, a high standard of design and materials is required of any development within a Conservation Area. Organisations, including utility providers, are encouraged to exercise care and sensitivity.

### **Grant Assistance in a Conservation Area**

Grants are available for the repair and reinstatement of external architectural features to both listed and unlisted buildings and stone boundary walls in a Conservation Area. Such works may include, for example, the repair of stone slate roofs or the re-instatement of historically appropriate windows. For further information and advice please contact the National Park Authority's Cultural Heritage Team (on 01629 816200).

Funding may also be available for tree planting and tree surgery (no grants are provided for tree felling). For further information please contact the National Park Authority's Tree Conservation Officer (on 01629 816200).

Parish Councils and local organisations can apply to the National Park Authority for help in funding environmental enhancements to public spaces.

If local communities want to produce a Management Action Plan they can seek advice on both production of the plan and sources of funding projects identified within it from the National Park Authority's Live & Work Rural Officers (on 01629 816200).

For further information about grant assistance within a Conservation Area, please refer to the National Park Authority's website: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/grantsrr](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/grantsrr)

### **Planning Constraints in a Conservation Area**

Conservation Area designation brings with it some legislative controls to ensure that any changes respect the special character of the area. The following works in a Conservation Area will require permission:

- Demolition of all, or most of a building, including boundary walls.
- Lopping or felling trees.

Other works that may require permission include:

- Cladding a building
- Installation of a satellite dish or domestic micro-generation equipment.

For further advice, please contact the National Park Authority's Planning Services (on 01629 816200).

### **What is a Conservation Area Appraisal?**

Local Authorities have a duty to review Conservation Areas from time to time. The preparation, publication and formal adoption of Conservation Area Appraisals is part of this process. Appraisals are being carried out, and in some instances reviewed, for each of the Peak District National Park's 109

Conservation Areas. English Heritage's 'Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals' (2006) forms the basis of the Authority's appraisals.

Appraisals identify the special qualities that make a place worthy of designation as a Conservation Area. They look at ways in which the character of a place can be preserved or enhanced and are intended to inform future changes, not to prevent them altogether. Draft Conservation Area Appraisals will be available for public consultation prior to adoption.

Conservation Area Appraisals should be read in conjunction with the East Midlands Regional Plan Policy, the Peak District National Park's Local Plan, the Design Guide (2007) and the Peak Park's Landscape Strategy and Action Plan (2009). The relevant national guidance should also be taken into account, for example Planning Policy Guidance 15: 'Planning and the Historic Environment' and Planning Policy Guidance 16: 'Archaeology and Planning'. These documents all include policies that help protect the special character of Conservation Areas and guide new development.

Upper Midhope Conservation Area Appraisal was adopted at the Peak District National Park Authority's Planning Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Copies of the Appraisal are available on request from the National Park Authority and on our website. Copies of this document have also been sent to Bradfield Parish Council, Local Studies at Sheffield Central Library and Sheffield Archives.

### **How will the Appraisal be used?**

An appraisal can be used to assess the impact of proposed development on Conservation Areas and their settings. It can also assist in planning appeals, the development of planning policy and community-led initiatives.

An appraisal can identify opportunities for change and elements that would benefit from enhancement. This information could be used by local communities, individuals, the Authority and other agencies to develop initiatives that aim to protect or sympathetically enhance an area.

An appraisal can promote understanding and awareness of an area. It can be used as a starting point for interpretive materials such as information boards and local guides. It also provides a social and historical record of a place at a specific point in time, helping to create, maintain and enhance a sense of place.

Appraisals can help attract funding for improvements in an area. They can act as a catalyst for further enhancement work and community projects, encouraging partnerships between local communities, organisations and the Authority.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Hilary Ambrose, Local Historian  
Sarah Howard, Archaeological Records Officer, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service  
Malcom Nunn, Bradfield Parish Council Archivist

PLEASE NOTE: No Conservation Area Appraisal can ever be completely comprehensive and omission of any particular building, feature or space should not be taken to imply that it is of no interest.

In addition, there is a glossary at the back of this Appraisal amplifying a range of historical and technical terms used within this document.

## UPPER MIDHOPE DRAFT CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

### 1.0 CHARACTER SUMMARY

**1.1** Upper Midhope was designated a Conservation Area on the 21 January 1977. The existing boundary includes the whole of the hamlet with the exception of Fair View, a timber bungalow to the north; and a modern agricultural building just outside the National Park on the eastern boundary of the Conservation Area.

**1.2** Upper Midhope occupies a ridge top location with open views to the south and north. A long straight road runs east-west along this ridge with small clusters of buildings at either end. The majority of buildings are concentrated at the east end. A significant number of the buildings in the hamlet date from the seventeenth century.

**1.3** For the purposes of this appraisal the two ends of the hamlet will be referred to as Town Head (west) and Well Bank (east).

**1.4** Upper Midhope was historically a farming community but this use has dwindled and the majority of the agricultural buildings in the hamlet have now been converted to private dwellings.

**1.5** Gritstone buildings with stone slate roofs pre-dominate. Buildings have few window openings. Farm buildings and cottages tend to be grouped around yards but there are also some individual properties. Many buildings have their rear elevations facing the road.

**1.6** A network of lanes cuts through and around Upper Midhope. The main route, Low Moor Lane, connects with Midhope Cliff Lane which runs north to Langsett, and with Midhope Lane, which runs east to Midhopestones. Shaw Lane to the south provides access to Bolsterstone and Bradfield. There are a number of green lanes including Back Lane and Joseph Lane. Stocks Lane, to the east, forms a hard edge to the Conservation Area before the land drops away to the Little Don valley.

**1.7** Although the village occupies an exposed position, there are a number of important trees within the Conservation Area and many of these are within garden boundaries. Although there are some specimen trees many are native species such as ash and sycamore and these dominate.



P1 The ridge-top setting from Low Moor Lane



P2 Looking south from Stocks Lane



P3 Looking east towards Well Bank Farm



## **2.0 LOCATION AND POPULATION**

**2.1** Upper Midhope is situated in the Parish of Bradfield, north-west of Sheffield, South Yorkshire. It is in the Peak District National Park, the boundary of which runs on a north-south axis along Midhope Cliff Lane at the eastern edge of the Conservation Area. It is one of the settlements contained within the Little Don Valley, along with Langsett and Midhopestones.

**2.2** Historically Upper Midhope was in the Township of Bradfield and the Parish of Ecclesfield until 1821 when Bradfield became a separate parish. It was situated in the former West Riding of Yorkshire.

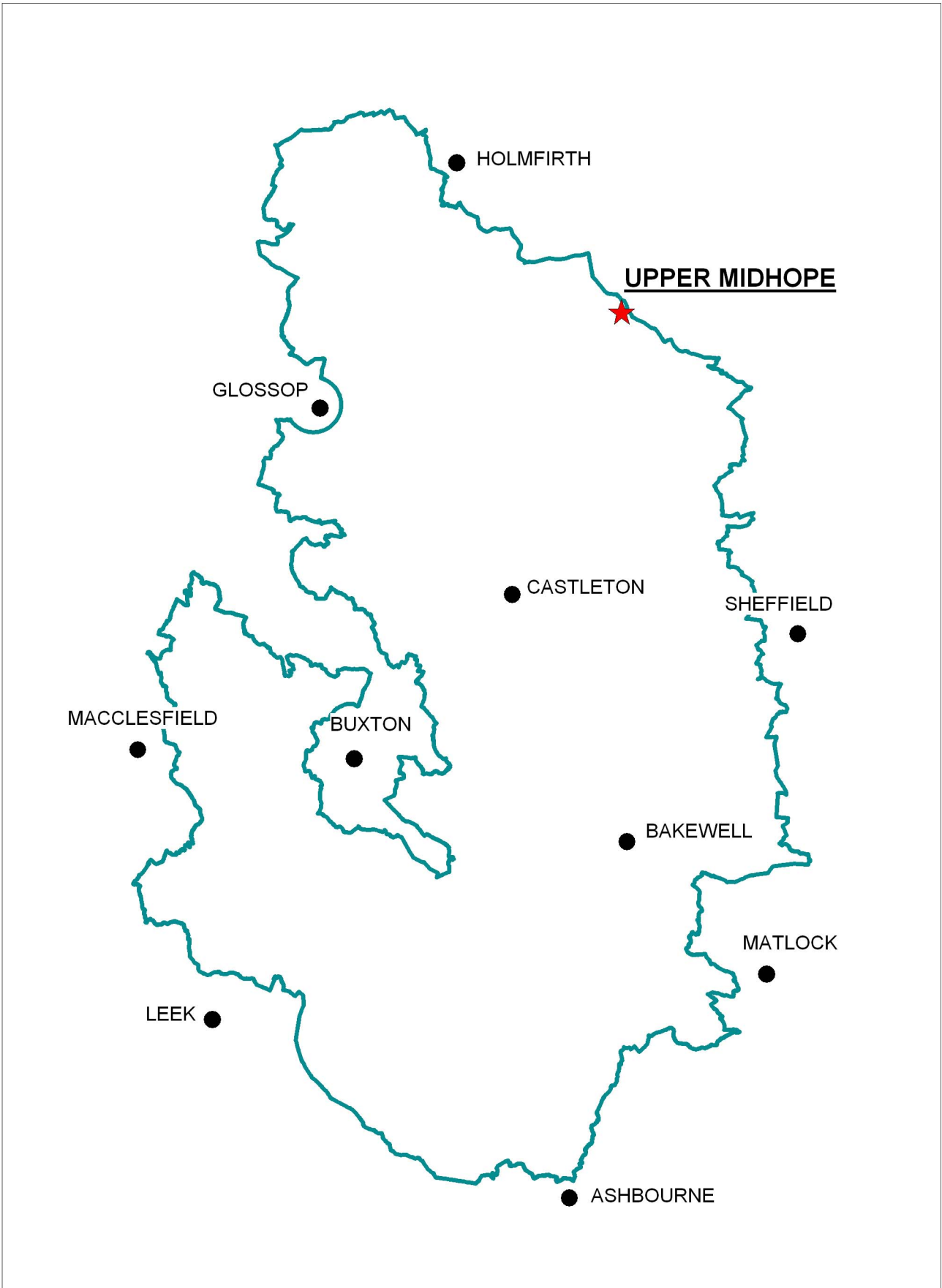
**2.3** Upper Midhope is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, (1.2 km) south-east of Langsett village off the A616, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles (2.4 km) west of Midhopestones. Midhope Cliff Lane links Upper Midhope to Langsett and Midhope Lane connects it to Midhopestones. Sheffield is approximately 15 miles (24 km) to the south-east and Manchester about 28 miles (45 km) to the north-west.

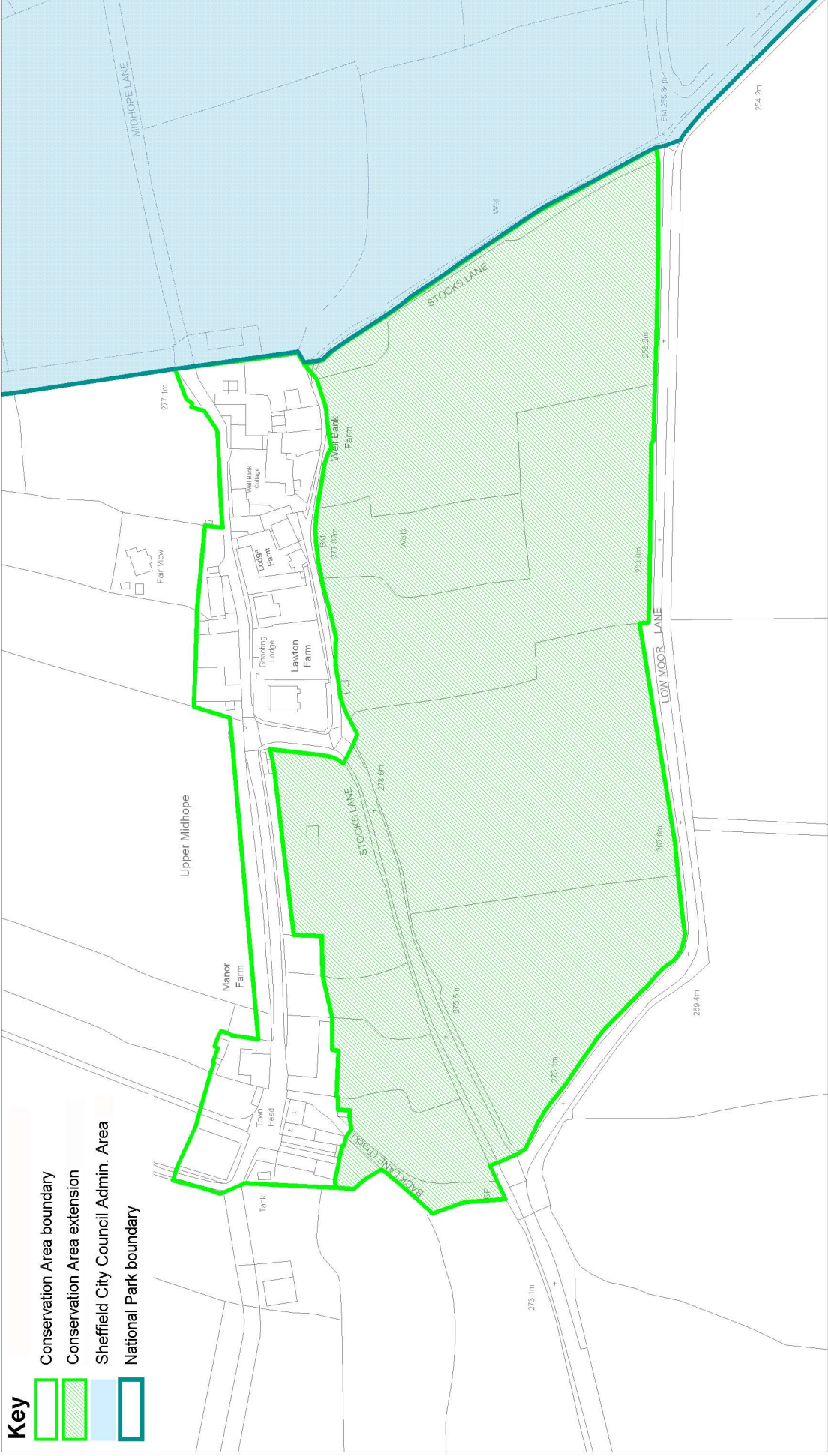
**2.4** The Peak District Landscape Strategy and Action Plan (LSAP, 2009) identifies this part of the National Park as the Dark Peak, Yorkshire Fringe. Characteristic of this type of landscape, Upper Midhope comprises a small cluster of farms and cottages surrounded by a complex patchwork of irregular fields of unknown date.

**2.5** The LSAP identifies the landscape of this area as “prominent, sloping topography lying on the edge of gritstone moorland sloping towards lower-lying land associated with Coal Measures geology to the East.”

**2.6** Census population figures take into account the whole of Bradfield Parish and are not particularly informative given there are so few dwellings in Upper Midhope. The Parish as a whole covers 53 square miles (137 square km) and contains an adult population of approximately 12,000 (Bradfield Parish Council website).

**2.7** Prior to Conservation Area designation in 1977 concern was expressed, in an Authority Committee report, that Upper Midhope was suffering from gradual depopulation. However, there are no longer any unoccupied dwellings in the Conservation Area and most agricultural buildings have also been converted to residential use.






**Key**

- Conservation Area boundary
- Conservation Area extension
- Sheffield City Council Admin. Area
- National Park boundary



  
 Scale 1:2500

**Upper Midhope Conservation Area Designated 21 January 1977**  
**Conservation Area Extension approved 13 November 2009**

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Scale 1:2000

## Aerial Photograph showing Upper Midhope Conservation Area

*Imagery is the Property of UK Perspectives*

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### **3.0 HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT**

**3.1** Upper Midhope has never developed beyond a cluster of farmhouses with ancillary agricultural buildings. There has been little new development in Upper Midhope in either the twentieth or twenty-first centuries, beyond conversion or alteration of existing buildings. The exceptions are a bungalow called Fair View and an agricultural building on the eastern edge of the hamlet which is outside the National Park boundary.

**3.2** There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Conservation Area. Four sites within Upper Midhope appear on the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service's Sites and Monuments Record. These are referred to as Manor Farm, Well Bank Cottage, the Barn at Well Bank Farm and Town Head, the former western-most farmhouse, now two cottages. All are Grade II listed buildings.

**3.3** When carrying out research into the history of Upper Midhope confusion can arise with Midhopestones 1½ miles (2.4 km) to the east, which is outside the National Park boundary. Midhopestones is often referred to as Midhope. Hence, Midhope Pottery, Midhope Smithy and Midhope Bridge are all located at Midhopestones not Upper Midhope.

**3.4** Further confusion arises from the fact that in the nineteenth century Upper Midhope and Midhopestones were known as Over and Nether Midhope respectively. Midhope also seems to have been used as a general term covering the area between Over and Nether Midhope. The two have always had close connections and shared use of the Church of St James and presumably other amenities.

**3.5** Archaeological and historical evidence for the development of Upper Midhope is comparatively sparse. The main source is a series of pamphlets written by Silkstone Local Historian, Joseph Kenworthy in the early twentieth century. Due to the scarcity of evidence, there are some significant gaps in the chronology below. As and when further information comes to light and is verified, these details will be amended.

**3.6** Upper Midhope's ridge top location would have been attractive to settlers. Good views to north and south would offer a certain degree of security. In addition, the hilltop site would also provide better drained land than that of the surrounding area.

**3.7** The name Midhope first appears in Domesday Book (1086). The name was taken by one of the major landowners in the area "de Midhope". According to Smith (1961) in the 'Placenames of the West Riding of Yorkshire', "(land) in the middle of a valley or between valleys...Midhope is in the middle of the Little River Don valley, but the name may denote the high ground on which Upper Midhope stands between two small valleys overhanging a main valley".

**3.8** Kenworthy (Early History of Stocksbridge, 1915 pg. 10) states that in 1284 John de Carlton granted the Manor of Penisale to Elias de Midhope which included lands in the Little Don Valley and surrounding moorlands. In 1290 Edward I granted de Midhope a Charter of Free Warren. This gave the right to hunt game such as hare, rabbit, pheasant and partridge. Other places named in the charter were Penisale, Midhope, Langside (Langsett), Ewden, Horderon, Waldershef, Mitcheldene and Barnside (the settlement of Penisale no longer exists, and its location unknown).

**3.9** The aerial photograph of Upper Midhope shows various humps and bumps in the fields to the south and north of Stocks Lane. These could be indicative of a quarry site or possibly building plots. If the latter, then the historic settlement may have been larger than it is today. Nothing is indicated on any of the historic maps of Upper Midhope to clarify the matter. Archaeological research is needed to establish what these earthworks actually are.

**3.10** A map of 1578 indicates that Upper Midhope or Medoppe was a small cluster of 4 dwellings, however the map is not to scale or particularly accurate (it shows Langsett to the north-west not north-east). So all we can say with certainty is that Upper Midhope was a small hamlet. It indicates Midhope Hall as an isolated building, to the south east of Upper Midhope.

**3.11** Land ownership and rights to land were evidently contentious issues, perhaps due to the scarcity of good land. In 1638 there was a dispute between the residents of Midhope and Langsett regarding grazing rights on Midhope Common. Langsett villagers could graze their cattle on Midhope common for 20 shillings a year. Midhope villagers complained however that the cattle were straying too far and Langsett men were cutting turf from the common.

**3.12** The Enclosure Acts 1795-1812 changed the look of the English countryside forever as land previously used for common grazing or

pasture was enclosed by walls or other boundaries. In the Bradfield area as a whole enclosure resulted in the creation of many small fields enclosed by walls due to the abundance of local stone.

**3.13** Evidently the Midhope Enclosure Award drawn up in 1818 could not be properly implemented due to a disagreement between two landowners. The Authority's Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the fields immediately to the north and south of Upper Midhope as "Enclosure of Unknown Date". Evidence of enclosure can be seen on the 1825 Broomhead Estate Map, which shows a pattern of small fields surrounding the hamlet.

**3.14** Some names of former residents have been preserved locally, for example, Manor Farmhouse was formerly Hawksworth House. G H B Ward writing in 1939 refers to "an enclosed lane called Joseph Lane ... from Joseph Hawksworth ... who first walled it in over 100 years ago." Lawton Farm took its name from its former occupants. Trade directories show that several Lawtons were farming in Upper Midhope during the nineteenth century.

**3.15** On the Broomhead Estate Map dated 1825, Upper Midhope is called Over Midhope. It shows the hamlet looking very similar to its current form; most of the buildings in existence today appear to have been constructed by this date.

**3.16** The 1825 map shows that there were more farm buildings at Town Head than survive today. These would have blocked the view west and made this into a contained space, creating a similar courtyard arrangement to that found at Well Bank. It is known that one of these barns was demolished in 1909.

**3.17** Most noteworthy on this map is the area to the north-west of the hamlet which is now submerged beneath Langsett Reservoir. This shows the former route from Upper Midhope to Langsett via Carr Lane and Langsett Lane and also shows the locations of both Rushy Lee and Dike Side, both now demolished.

**3.18** Towards the end of the nineteenth century there was a significant increase in demand for water in South Yorkshire towns. This was a direct result of the growth of both industry and population in the city of Sheffield and surrounding towns. The valley of the Little Don or Porter, and its tributaries, was recognised as being an ideal location to site reservoirs to collect much-needed water. Consequently two

reservoirs were constructed, Langsett, to the north-west, of Upper Midhope, and Midhope to its south-east.

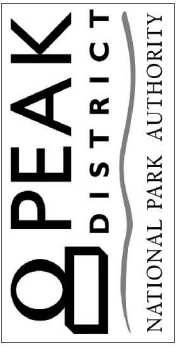
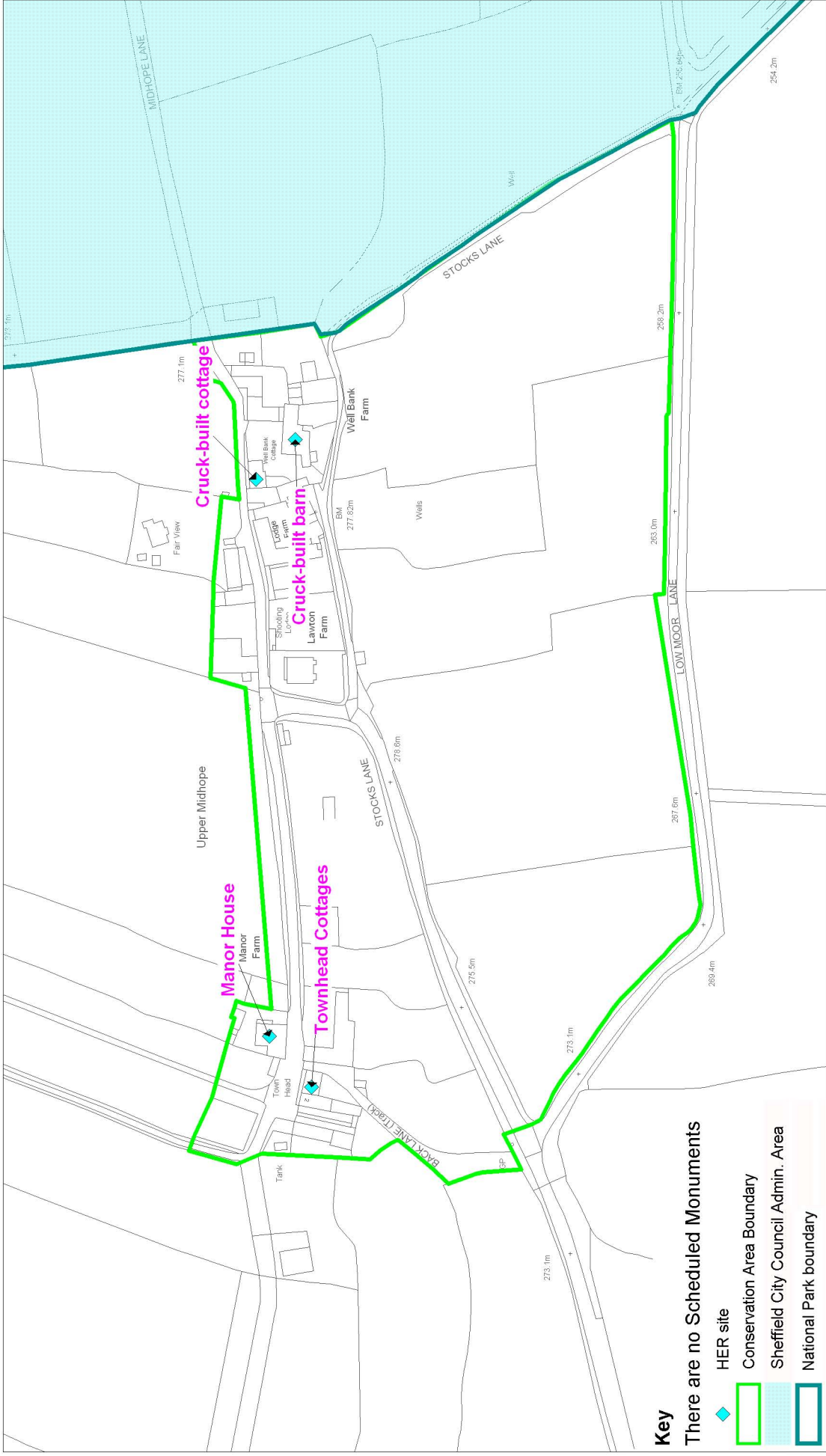
**3.19** Sheffield Corporation Waterworks purchased the Langsett and Midhope reservoir sites and neighbouring farms from Lionel Pilkington, a shipping magnate, who had been a landowner in the area since 1820. Work commenced on the Langsett dam in 1898 funded by Sheffield, Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley Corporations.

**3.20** Two farmsteads were lost in the creation of the Langsett reservoir - Rushy Lee near Upper Midhope and Dike Side (also known as Joe Hill's House) near Langsett. The reservoir created a physical barrier between Langsett and Upper Midhope as the former route along Thickwoods Lane was destroyed. A new road, Midhope Cliff Lane, was built to connect the two.

**3.21** Sheffield Water Works map produced in 1867 to show the "Intended Langsett Reservoir" confirms that little had changed in terms of the hamlet's footprint since 1825. The map identifies Lawton Farm, and from the shape of its plan, it is evident that the property must have been remodelled in the late-nineteenth century.

**3.22** The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1883) shows that by the late nineteenth-century two buildings had been constructed between Lodge Farm and Well Bank Farm since 1867.

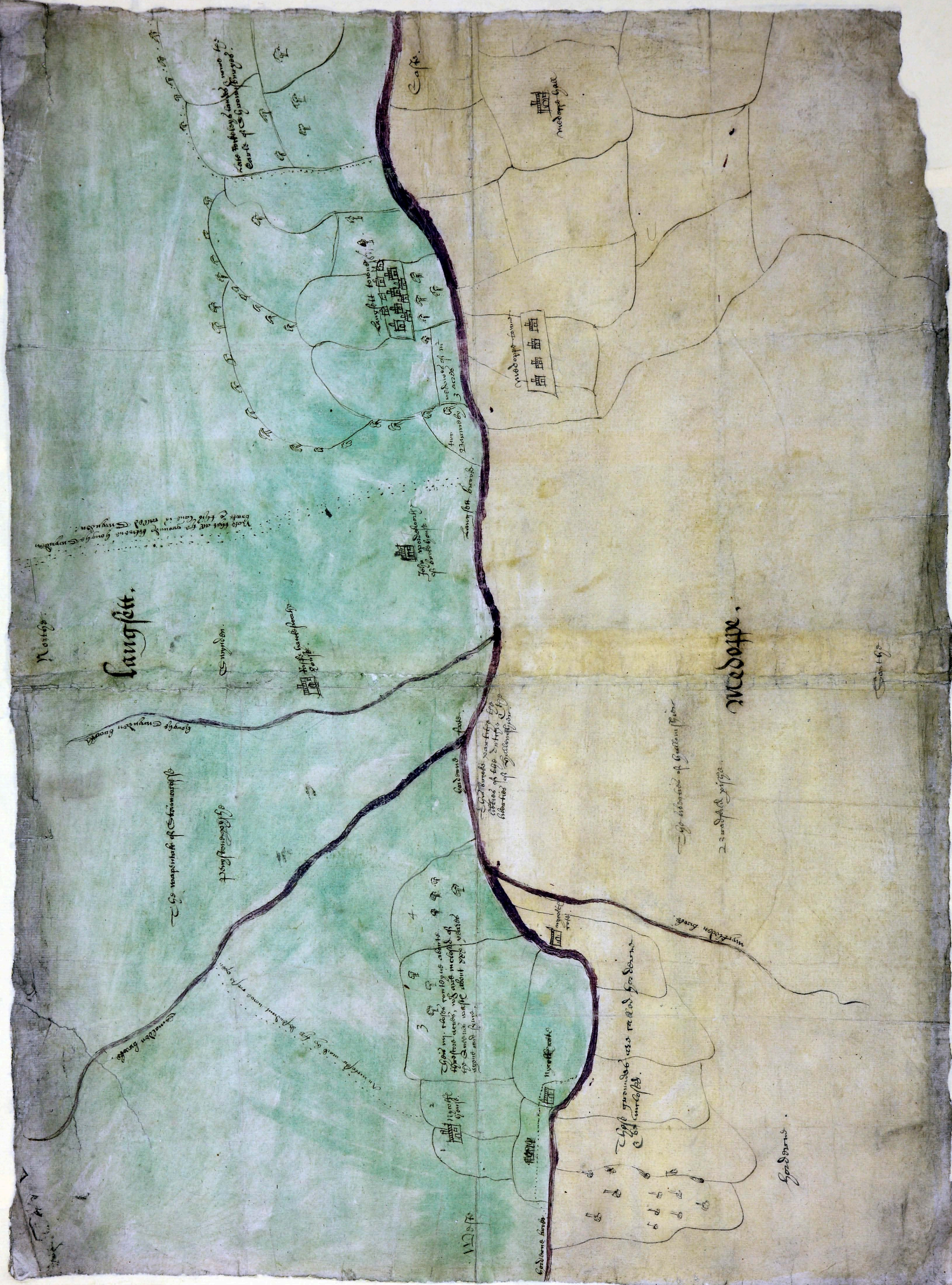
**3.23** In common with many small English villages, both agricultural activity and character have declined over the twentieth century and Upper Midhope is now a predominantly residential settlement. Most of the barns have been converted to dwellings.



Scale 1:2500

# Archaeological Sites identified on the South Yorkshire Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) within Upper Midhope Conservation Area

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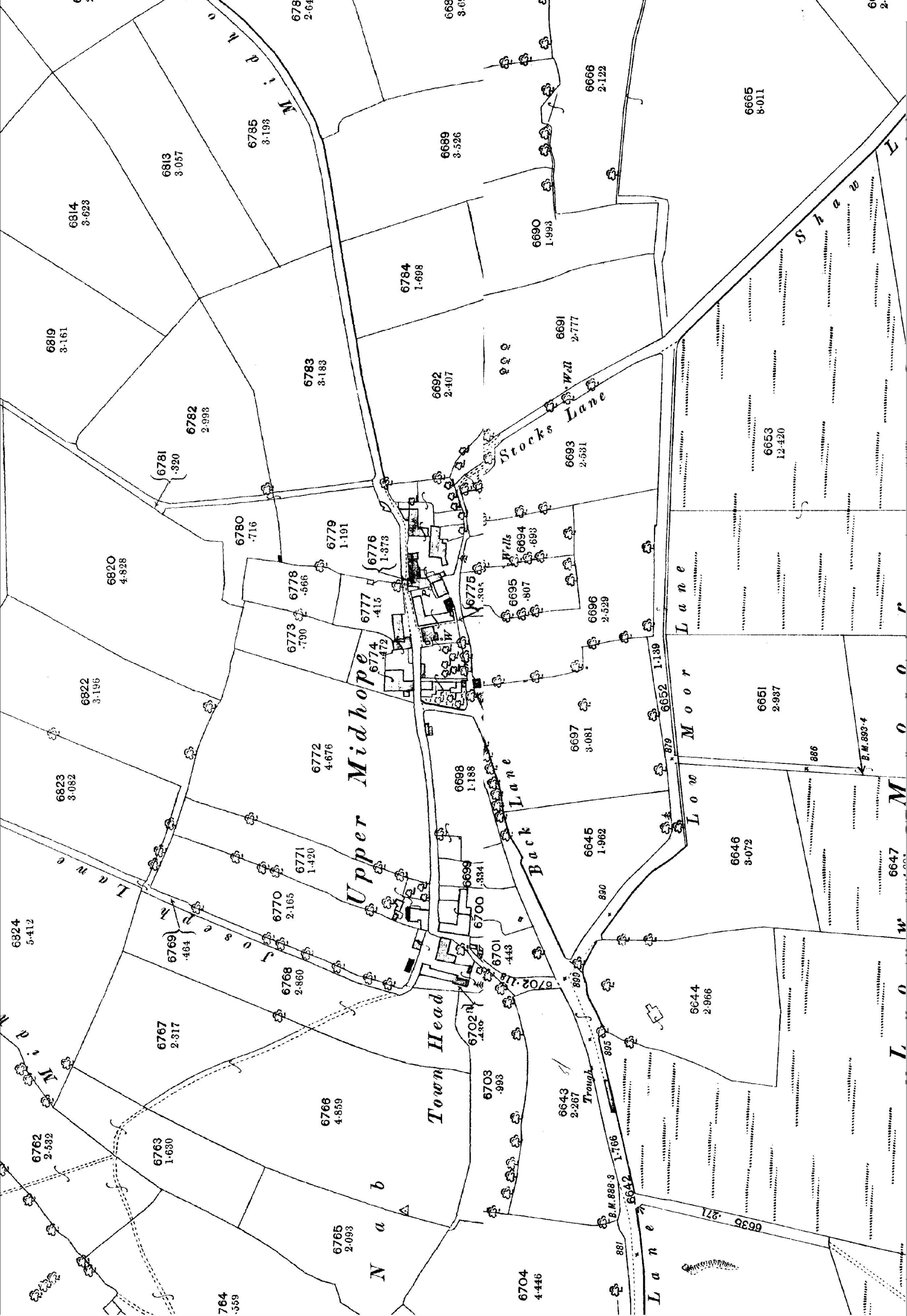
Sketch Map of Langsett and 'Medoppe', showing houses, trees, fields and river, 1578

MPC 1/253 (1) Courtesy of the National Archives





**Broomhead Estate Map, 1825**



#### **4.0 FORMER AND CURRENT USES**

**4.1** Upper Midhope was historically a small farming community and remained as such until the latter half of the twentieth century; the majority of agricultural buildings have now been converted to dwellings or ancillary use.

**4.2** Upper Midhope is situated on a network of ancient lanes and footpaths some of which were packhorse routes, including Stocks Lane (known as Midhope Staircase), Joseph Lane, Back Lane and Green Lane.

**4.3** Agriculture has always formed the basis of the local economy but the land is quite poor and not suited to arable farming. Sheep farming was predominant as is typical in upland areas. Bee-keeping was also common on farms in this vicinity and a high quality heather honey was produced. The bees wax was used in candle making. It is likely that these practices took place in Upper Midhope in common with other villages in the area.

**4.4** Although there was little arable farming it is known that some cereals were grown. Oats apparently formed part of the staple diet of the locals. Joseph Kenworthy quotes from the diary of Captain Adam Eyre of nearby Hazelhead Hall (1647-49) who says of the local yeomen, "The fortunes of daughters were partly paid in cattle and or oatmeal ..." (Early History of Stocksbridge, 1915 pg. 14).

**4.5** It was common practice for farmers to have dual occupations, and this may have been the case in Upper Midhope given the poor living from the land. There were opportunities for additional employment locally with coal bell pits and quarries evident in the surrounding area. There was also mining for fireclay (ganister) which was used in the iron and then steel industries. (LSAP, 2009).

**4.6** In the nineteenth century the industrial revolution resulted in large numbers of people moving from the countryside into towns to seek employment and accommodation. Over the course of the nineteenth century the economic emphasis of this country shifted from mainly agrarian/rural to industrial/urban. Some of Bradfield's inhabitants would have moved to Sheffield in search of a better standard of living. It is possible that some residents of Upper Midhope may have done likewise.

**4.7** White's Directory of 1879 makes reference to a blacksmith Mrs Eliza Bramall and Sons, at Midhope but this could be

Midhopestones. A farmer by the name of Joshua Bramall in Upper Midhope is listed in the same directory. Whether these were the same family is not clear. John and William Lawton and George Hawksworth are also listed as farmers.

**4.8** Sheep farming dwindled in the late Victorian period when the moors were driven for grouse. Kelly's 1881 directory notes that there was a gamekeeper, George Hague, living in Upper Midhope.

**4.9** It is known that one or two labourers working on the Langsett reservoir took up lodgings in Upper Midhope. Enoch Bradley from Dudley lodged with the Hawksworths at Manor Farm, (notes from Alice Clark, nee Bradley).

**4.10** Since the late twentieth century Upper Midhope has increasingly become a residential hamlet and most of its agricultural buildings have been converted to domestic use. Some of its residents are home workers.

## 5.0 ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC QUALITIES

**5.1** There is an architectural unity in the Conservation Area, resulting from a similarity of scale, so that whether a building has one or two storeys it relates well in terms of proportion to its neighbours. Another unifying feature is the use of local materials, in particular gritstone which has been used in the construction of buildings and drystone walls.

**5.2** The buildings in Upper Midhope Conservation Area have been constructed in the vernacular style. Their simple, utilitarian forms have given the buildings a solid and robust appearance.

**5.3** There are 4 list descriptions covering 7 buildings in the Upper Midhope Conservation Area. A list of these listed buildings can be found in Section 13. The majority of the unlisted buildings are significant buildings within the conservation area. Most have some historic and architectural merit and provide a positive contribution to the appearance of the hamlet.

**5.4** There a significant number of cruck-framed buildings in the hamlet. These include Well Bank Farmhouse and barn, both of which are seventeenth century in origin. The barn contains a cruck frame whilst the Farmhouse has a partial cruck. One cruck barn at Town Head is known to have been demolished in 1909, described by Kenworthy as "an ancient building". (Early History of Stocksbridge, 1915 pg. 55)



P4 Cottages at Well Bank Farm

**5.5** Manor Farm contains a cruck frame and historic graffiti carved into some of its internal beams. It has a lintel dated 1671 over its front door. Nos 1 and 2 Town Head Cottages date from late seventeenth to early eighteenth

century. Old Lawton Farm is also believed to be seventeenth century in origin.



P5 Manor Farm

**5.6** There is no exterior evidence to suggest that any buildings of an earlier date survive. However it is possible that some of the buildings contain earlier cores and have internal evidence of earlier age. The 1578 map of Langsett and Medoppe indicates that there were dwellings here in the late sixteenth century but it is impossible to identify if any of these relate to buildings which exist today.

**5.7** England went through a Great Age of Rebuilding towards the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries. Wealth from a thriving agricultural economy along with a desire for privacy and comfort are believed to have been the impetus behind the rebuilding. From this time onwards, most buildings throughout the country were constructed from more substantial materials and forms. It is generally acknowledged that the Great Rebuilding would have happened slightly later in the north of England due to the effect of regional time lag. Hence Upper Midhope's buildings are of late rather than early seventeenth century origin.

**5.8** The hamlet must have been prosperous in the seventeenth century given the high quality of its surviving buildings from that time. This can be demonstrated by the fact that Upper Midhope contains seven listed buildings, a significant number given its size.

**5.9** As a rule main elevations face south. This means those on the north side of the road open onto the road, whereas those to the south face away from it.

**5.10** At the Well Bank end of the hamlet, barns tend to be built onto the road with main openings facing into the courtyards. Presumably this was to allow sheltered working conditions and to protect farmhouses from the worst of the weather. There is a barn on the northern side of the road which breaks this convention, having openings onto the road, but they are south facing.



P6 Barn on northern side of road, with openings facing south

**5.11** Those buildings which group around courtyards form spaces which have a sense of enclosure, as at Well Bank and Lodge Farm (this would also have been the case at Manor Farm prior to demolition of some out buildings).



P7 Courtyard arrangement at Well Bank Farm

**5.12** Dwellings tend to be 2 storeys high and ancillary buildings are a mixture of 1, 1½ and 2 storeys. Properties within the Conservation Area also have a high solid to void ratio with few window openings in the walls. Chimney stacks are positioned at ridges, on gable end of dwellings or mid-roof, breaking up the 30°-40° roof pitches.



P8 Barn at Well Bank Farm at the east end of the hamlet



P9 Town Head Cottage, from Back Lane



**Key**

(All dates are approximate)

- 17th century
- 18th century
- 19th century
- 20th century

Structure may have earlier core

Some extension or alteration to structure

Conservation Area boundary

Sheffield City Council Admin. Area

National Park Boundary



Scale 1:2500

Architectural Development within Upper Midhope Conservation Area

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## 6.0 PREVALENT AND TRADITIONAL BUILDING MATERIALS

**6.1** The predominant building material in the Conservation Area and its immediate setting is stone. The older buildings are constructed from a Carboniferous grey millstone grit. This stone was probably locally sourced, particularly as there are small stone quarries in the locality. The prolific use of the local stone throughout the Conservation Area has provided a strong unifying element.

**6.2** The stonework in Upper Midhope is normally dressed, brought to courses and is paint free, but there is some limited use of render. Additionally, the stonework is generally not cleaned and this dark patination contributes to the area's character. Stone was also used for external architectural details such as copings and quoins. Chimneys, window and door surrounds are also constructed from dressed stone.



P10 Coursed gritstone barn wall with a ventilation slot

**6.3** Brick is not commonly used in Upper Midhope but there is a pig sty building on the corner of the road to Town Head which is largely constructed from blue engineering brick. It incorporates some red brick and the rear wall is stone, indicating an earlier structure.



P11 Dilapidated pigsties near Town Head

**6.4** Carboniferous stone slate, also referred to as Yorkshire or grey slate, is the predominant material used on roofs, although there is limited use of blue slate in the Conservation Area. Often there are stone coping details at verges.



P12 Gritstone roof with stone ridge

**6.5** The majority of chimneys are ashlar gritstone with banding and drip courses. There are, however, some coursed gritstone stacks and a red brick stack, and these also have banding and drip courses.



P13 Ashlar chimneys at Manor Farm

**6.6** Traditional rainwater goods are either timber box gutters or cast iron with half round or ogee profiles. These are normally fixed to metal rise and fall brackets.

**6.7** A variety of window styles are evident in the Conservation Area. The earlier openings have double chamfered mullions and contain leaded lights, as at Manor Farm. These earlier windows have a horizontal emphasis with small casements in rows. Later window openings are larger and have more vertical proportions and contain timber sashes or casements with stone surrounds.



P14 Double chamfered mullion window with hoodmould

**6.8** Gable verges have a mortared finish. Timber barge boards are not part of the area's vernacular.

**6.9** Stone boundary walls in and around Upper Midhope contribute significantly to the character of the Conservation Area. All the walls are built from durable, coarse-grained millstone grit.



P15 Boundary walls from Stocks Lane towards Hawksworth Manor

**6.10** There is a variety of walling types in the Conservation Area and examples of both drystone and mortared walls can be found. Walls are generally tapered towards the top and larger pieces of stone, known as through stones, tie the stonework together. There are a variety of coping details including round and crenellated although the latter is not commonly found in the surrounding area. There are also some flat coping stones. Various types of gritstone gateposts and piers punctuate the walls.



P16 Drystone wall roughly coursed

**6.11** Prior to the early twentieth century, Upper Midhope's roads would have been unmetalled tracks. A photograph taken around 1909 shows that the surface was not tarmac at this date.



P17 Upper Midhope looking east towards Well Bank circa 1909. (Image courtesy of Picture Sheffield)

**6.12** The main through road is surfaced in tarmac. The road to Town Head has a concrete surface. There are several of these concrete tracks in the surrounding countryside, which were laid for tank training during World War II (Ambrose 2006).



P18 Concrete track at Town End looking towards Well Bank



**6.13** With regard to street furniture and floorscape there is little of any architectural or historic merit in the public domain with the exception of a few stone kerbs. There is a narrow footpath on the south side of the road, which has a stone kerb. This is surfaced in a number of ways including tarmac, limestone chippings, grass and concrete.

**6.15** There is no street lighting in Upper Midhope.



P19 Stone kerb

**6.14** The footpath at Back Lane appears to have had a stone surface and fragments of this remain, (see Photograph 24). There is also an interesting stone gate stoop on Back Lane which has a metal hoop which would have been part of the original hinge mechanism.



P20 Historic gate stoop on Back Lane

## 7.0 THE RELATIONSHIP OF STRUCTURES AND SPACES

7.1 Essentially the village is composed of two small clusters of farmhouses and their associated ancillary buildings, connected by a long straight road. Upper Midhope's west end contains Town Head and Manor Farm, but the majority of buildings are concentrated at the east end around Well Bank.

7.2 The buildings at Manor Farm feel more isolated as they are not located on the through road. The road from Langsett to Strines passes through the Well Bank end of the hamlet with sharp bends at the entrance and exit points. The buildings are positioned along a straight road with the majority to the south side.

7.3 The immediate setting of the hamlet is small fields bounded by drystone walls many of which are in a dilapidated condition. The field boundaries roughly correspond to the curtilages of the farmsteads.

7.4 Upper Midhope is bordered by farmland to the north and east and Midhope Moors to the south and west. It is also situated between Midhope Reservoir to the south-east and Langsett Reservoir to the north-west. Both of which are surrounded by coniferous planting.

7.5 Approaching from the south, the village's elevated position is evident and land falls away sharply from the ridge top. Lodge Farm is particularly visible from this direction. Looking away from the village there are good wide-ranging views over the moors and towards Midhope Reservoir.



P21 Looking north-east from Low Moor Lane

7.6 Approaching from the west, access is along a footpath called Thickwoods Lane, this was the former route to Langsett before the

construction of the reservoir. Thickwoods Lane joins Stocks Lane which rises uphill into the hamlet. Few of the buildings are visible due to the gradient of the fields to the north. However glimpses of buildings at Town Head and Hawksworth Manor can be gained. Hawksworth Manor is a significant curtilage building to Manor Farm.



P22 Lawton Farm at the entrance to the village from the south

7.7 There are wide-ranging views from Stocks Lane to the south across fields and then moorland. The first clearly visible building when approaching from this direction is Lawton Farm, this is a significant unlisted building in the Conservation Area.



P23 Looking south across fields from Stocks Lane

7.8 Access from the east can also be gained on foot via Back Lane, a track which leads to Town Head Cottages from the west end of Stocks Lane. This is quite a steep track, with a couple of narrow pinch points restricting views into the Conservation Area.



P24 Back Lane looking towards Town Head

**7.9** Approaching from the east along Midhope Lane from Midhopestones, the first building reached is a modern agricultural building to the south; this is just outside both the Conservation Area and National Park boundary.



P25 Upper Midhope from Midhope Lane

**7.10** Approaching from the north along Midhope Cliff Lane the first glimpses of the hamlet are stone slate roofs visible across the fields. Clear views into the village are blocked by the gradient of the slope and also by trees.



P26 Upper Midhope from Midhope Cliff Lane

**7.11** There are two parallel footpaths which enter Town End, the most westerly of these is Joseph Lane. Looking north-east from Town Head there are good, open, wide-ranging views.

**7.12** The 1825 map shows that there were more farm buildings at Town Head. These would have blocked the view west and made this into a contained space, similar to the courtyard arrangement at Well Bank. A photograph in Kenworthy's book (1915), taken in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century shows the view west from Manor Farm (known then as Hawksworth's Farm) and the sense of enclosure was increased by the presence of a wall and gate across the road. The removal of this wall, and at least two agricultural buildings, has left Town Head with a much more open feel.



P27 Open area at Town Head to west of Manor Farm

**7.13** The link road between Town Head and Well Bank is an unadopted concrete road running along the ridge top affording good, open, long-ranging and panoramic views to the north and south. These views are blocked by stone walls on either side of this road, and views are obtained by climbing up the grass verge, otherwise views are of skyline hills. Land falls away to north and south, but particularly sharply to the south.



P28 Looking towards Town Head from Well Bank end of the concrete link road

**7.14** There is not a strong visual link between Well Bank and Town Head, due to the distance between the two areas, particularly in summer when the trees are in leaf which partially obscure views between the two. The road is the main linking feature.



P29 Looking into the hamlet from the east end of the concrete link road

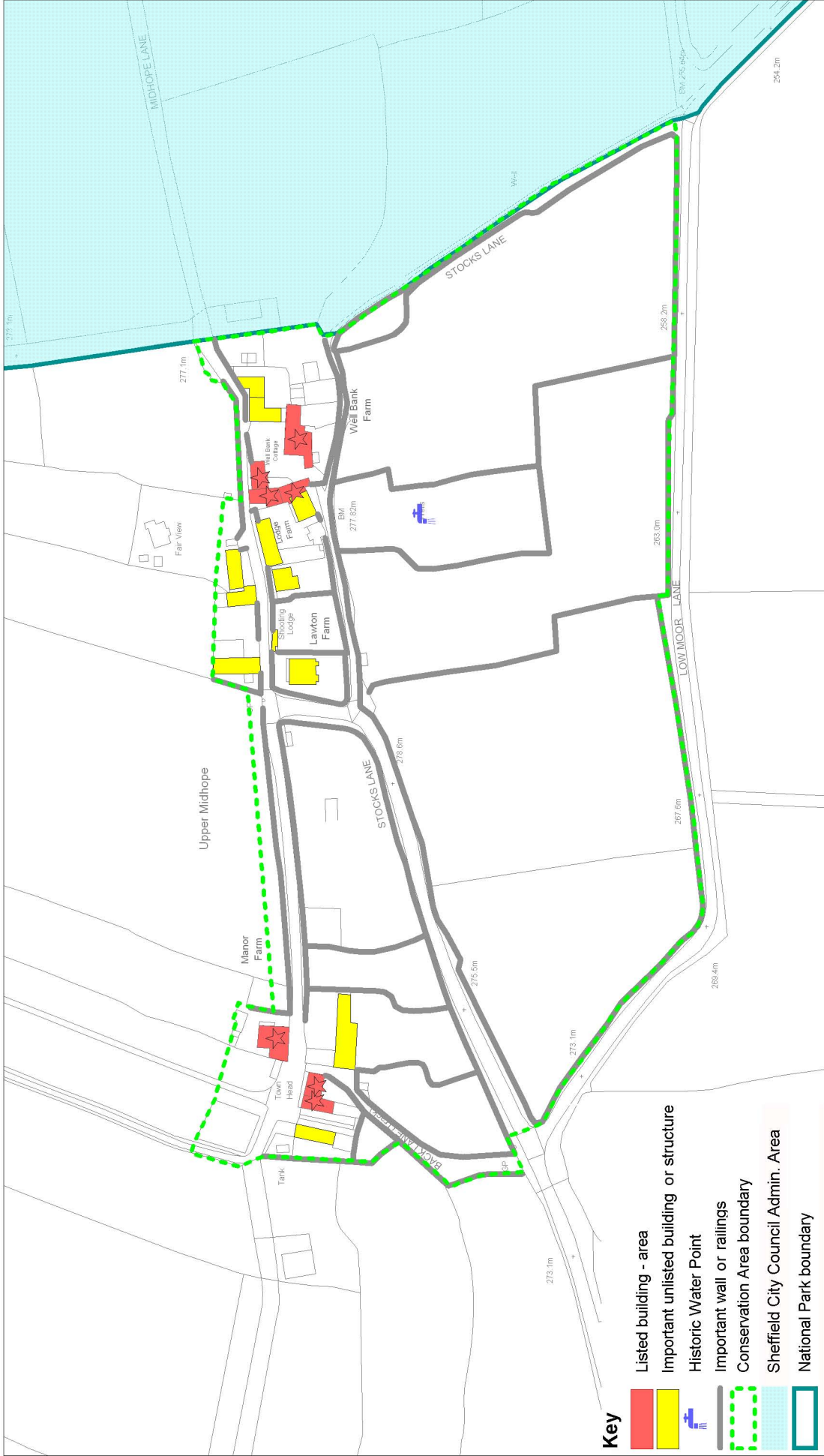


P30 Looking into the hamlet from the east end, Midhope Cliff Lane and Midhope Lane Junction

**7.15** Views along the main street are quite restricted, the lane is narrow and space feels enclosed as many of the buildings are tight up to the road with few window openings facing onto it. There are short-ranging views due to a couple of pinchpoints which restrict views. There are some blocked views into courtyards at Well Bank Farm, Lodge Farm and Lawton Farm, and also glimpses to the moorland beyond. Views to the north are much shorter due the topography of the land.

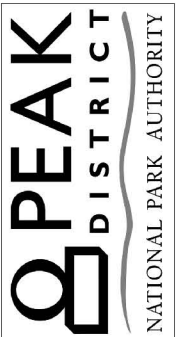


P31 Glimpse of distant moorland between buildings



**Key**

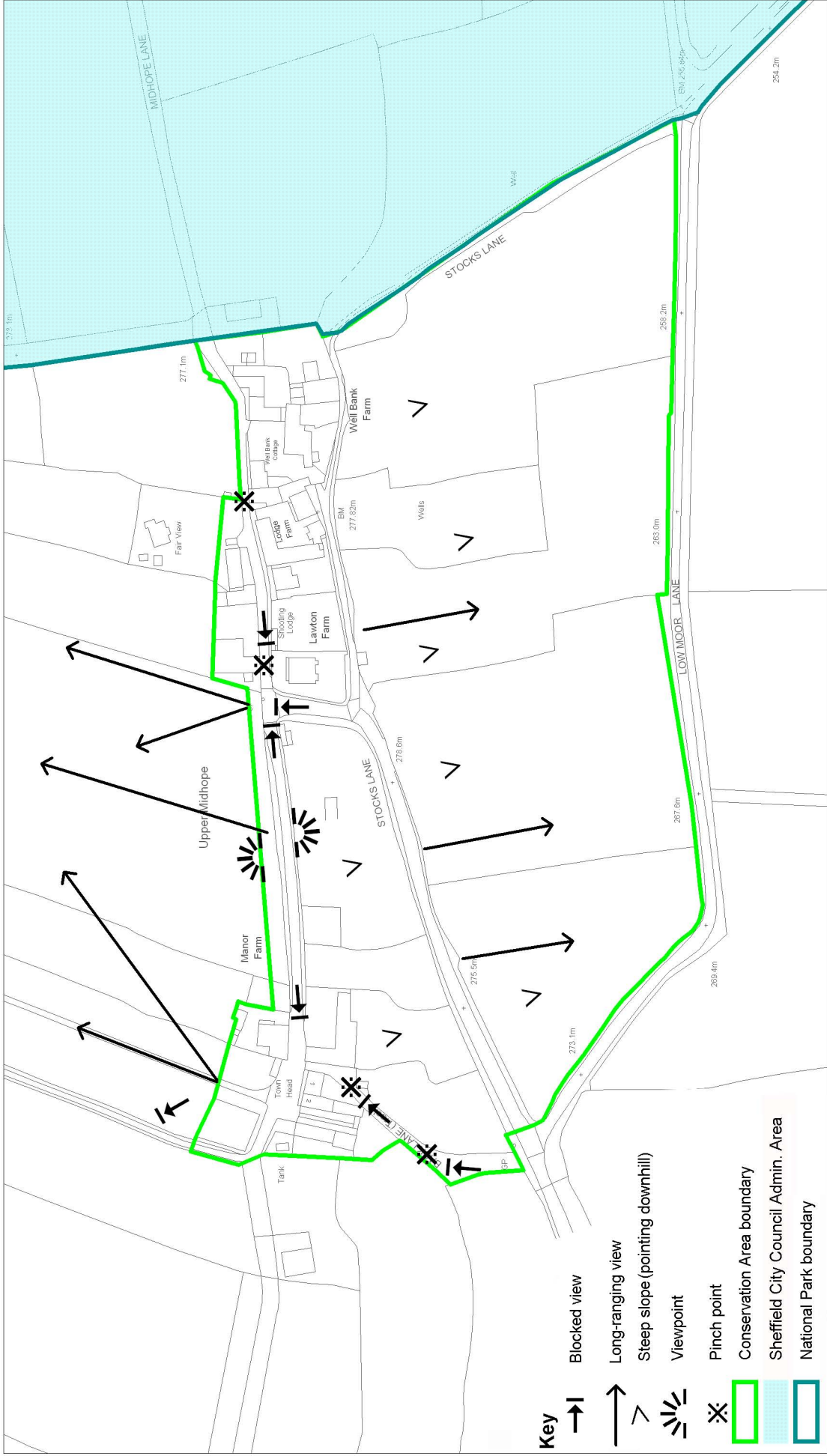
- Listed building - area
- Important unlisted building or structure
- Historic Water Point
- Important wall or railings
- Conservation Area boundary
- Sheffield City Council Admin. Area
- National Park boundary



Scale 1:2500

## Streetscape Features within Upper Midhope Conservation Area

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- Key**
- Blocked view
  - Long-ranging view
  - > Steep slope (pointing downhill)
  - ☀ Viewpoint
  - ✕ Pinch point
  - ▭ Conservation Area boundary
  - ▭ Sheffield City Council Admin. Area
  - ▭ National Park boundary



Scale 1:2500

### Views within Upper Midhope Conservation Area

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## 8.0 GREEN AND OTHER NATURAL LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

**8.1** Upper Midhope's distinctive character is not solely derived from its buildings. Trees, hedges, gardens, enclosed fields and other green spaces make an important contribution to the historic and aesthetic qualities of the place. Generally speaking, trees and hedgerows are integral to rural Conservation Areas as they form enclosures, screen structures and are part of an historic landscape. They also help maintain rural character and provide a harmonious transition from open countryside to built environment.

**8.2** The Authority's 'Landscape Strategy and Action Plan' (LSAP) states "This landscape has a strongly wooded character, defined by hillside trees, wooded cloughs and scattered trees along field boundaries and watercourse trees. Tree groups exist around settlements and associated with the steeply sloping topography, create a series of framed and enclosed views."

**8.3** The LSAP identifies species such as Sessile and Pendunculate Oak, Downy and Silver Birch, Holly, Rowan and Hazel as typical of the woodland areas.

**8.4** Upper Midhope is surrounded by green fields and moorland; there is no formal public open space. There is a large number of trees and many of these are small and appear to be self-set.

**8.5** Trees are predominantly Sycamore, Ash, Beech with some Holly, Hawthorn and Rowan. There are some fruit trees such as Sloe and Elder and Hazel. Of particular note are the sycamores near to Well Bank Farm. Kenworthy writing in 1915 notes "The branches of the magnificent sycamore that stands behind this homestead (Well Bank), wave o'er the doorway of the house whose gable faces north".

**8.6** There is some specimen planting in the gardens, notably conifers. Variegated ivy seems to be prevalent, some growing over roadside walls.

**8.7** There is a Privet hedge to the southern boundary of Lawton Farm. There is a mixed species hedge, formed by small self-set trees to the southern boundary of the Conservation Area on Low Moor Lane. There is a holly hedge to the south east of Town Head Cottages, restricting views into these properties from Back Lane.



P32 Trees in Upper Midhope from Low Moor Lane



P33 Looking east toward Upper Midhope from Stocks Lane, trees framing the road



P34 Stocks Lane behind Lodge Farm, part of Privet hedge at Lawton Farm and mature trees behind Well Bank Farm are visible

## 9.0 CONSERVATION AREA SETTING

**9.1** The Peak District Landscape Strategy and Action Plan (LSAP) includes Upper Midhope in the eastern fringe of the Peak District running from Holmfirth to south of Sheffield. It forms a natural border between the Peak District and the more densely settled landscapes to the north and east associated with Huddersfield, Barnsley and Sheffield.



P35 Upper Midhope: the approach from Strines

**9.2** Key characteristics identified in the LSAP are:

- Steeply sloping and undulating topography.
- Gritstone edges which characterise the tops of some of the steeper slopes.
- Patches of acid grassland and bracken.
- Irregular blocks of ancient and semi-natural and secondary woodland.
- Permanent pasture in small fields enclosed by hedges and gritstone walls.
- Narrow winding, often sunken lanes.
- Scattered gritstone farms and loose clusters of dwellings.



P36 From Back Lane looking south

**9.3** The area to the north-east and south-west of Upper Midhope, including Langsett Reservoir and Low Moor is identified as a Key Ecological Area. Key Ecological Areas are sites that are of local significance. These areas usually include a suite of species or habitats that are important at a county level but have no statutory designation.

**9.4** Part of Low Moor is also a Section 3 Area. These are areas of moorland, heathland or woodland that are particularly important to conserve (Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended).

**9.4** Midhope Cliff, to the north of the Conservation Area was a significant landscape feature, part of which is now submerged beneath the Langsett Reservoir.

**9.5** Most of the surrounding conifer plantations were introduced by the Water Board in the 1960s. Large tracts of land were purchased to protect the water supply from runoff from local farms.



P37 Plantation at the edge of Midhope Reservoir looking towards Strines



## 10.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE BOUNDARY NOVEMBER 2009

**10.1** The boundary for Upper Midhope Conservation Area was drawn up in 1977. The boundary was drawn tightly around the buildings and since then the importance of setting has been more widely recognised. PPG 15: Planning and the Historic Environment paragraph 4.2. points out that: "... our experience of a historic area depends on much more than the quality of the individual buildings." Bearing this in mind, the following boundary changes were made to Upper Midhope Conservation Area boundary in November 2009:

**10.2** To the south of the hamlet, the fields bounded by Stocks Lane, Low Moor Lane and Back Lane were included within the Conservation Area boundary. These fields provide an important foreground setting to the Conservation Area and emphasise the elevated position of the buildings. In addition these fields may contain archaeological evidence of either quarry working or dwellings, although this is yet to be proven.

**10.3** Back Lane was incorporated within the boundary as this is an historic access route from Town End to Thickwoods Lane which was the former route to Langsett. It also provides a solid boundary to the western edge of the Conservation Area.



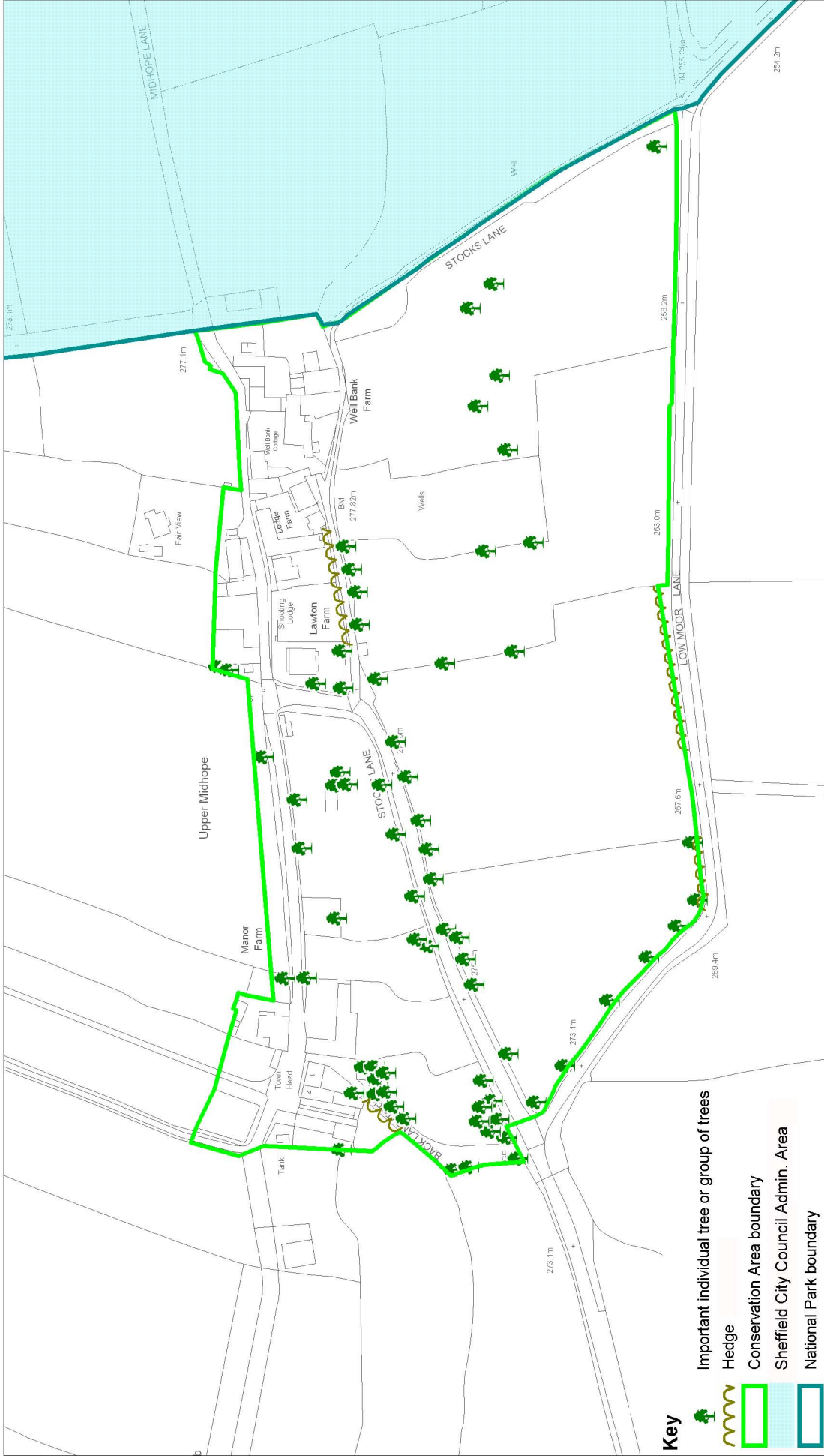
P39 Back Lane, looking towards Hawksworth Manor








P40 Fields between Low Moor and Lodge Farm




P38 Field below Hawksworth Manor from Stocks Lane



**Key**

-  Important individual tree or group of trees
-  Hedge
-  Conservation Area boundary
-  Sheffield City Council Admin. Area
-  National Park boundary



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**Landscape Features within Upper Midhope Conservation Area**

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## 11.0 POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT

**11.1** There is minimal scope for enhancement or improvement. As Upper Midhope is essentially a cluster of farmsteads it would be easy to destroy the agricultural feel and rural nature of the place through inappropriate enhancement.

**11.2** The area of land to the eastern edge of the Conservation Area next to Manor Farm appears neglected and has no definite boundary. This is largely due to the early-mid twentieth century demolition of some agricultural buildings and a wall. The hamlet may benefit from measures that reintroduce the sense of enclosure to the north-western and western end of Town Head.



P41 Open area at Town End viewed from the footpath looking south

**11.3** To the west of the village on the north side of the road a small section of dilapidated wall has been replaced by a post and rail fence. This has resulted in a visual gap in the streetscape. Reconstruction of the wall would be an enhancement.



P42 This section of wall is missing creating an open feel

**11.4** The part-brick pig-sty building on the corner of the road to Town Head is in a dilapidated condition and rebuilding or removal could be considered.

**11.5** Generally, stone field walls are in a poor condition both in Upper Midhope and the immediate surrounding area.

**11.6** A large tree in the grounds of Lawton Farm was felled with consent due to its age. This was in a prominent position as it marked the entry into the hamlet. If the opportunity were to arise to replant with a tree of native species then it should be taken.

**11.7** There is a variety of road signs, wooden telegraph poles and wires which could be rationalized and in some cases, removed. The Authority's Transport Team would be supportive of the rationalization/removal of road signs as appropriate.



P43 A cluster of signs and posts at the entrance to the hamlet from the Strines direction

## **12.0 PLANNING POLICY**

**12.1** The planning policy outlined below was applicable at the date of adoption of the Conservation Area Analysis. Always check to ensure that it is still current.

**12.2** The Peak District National Park Authority's Local Plan (adopted 2001) and the East Midlands Regional Plan (adopted by GOEM in 2009) combine to set out the policy position on Conservation Areas. When drawing up policies for Conservation Areas, the Authority is informed by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment. The Authority aims to preserve and where possible enhance the character or appearance of Conservation Areas by the prevention of harmful development under East Midlands Regional Plan Policies 26 and 27 and Local Plan Policy LC5 respectively. Diagram 4 of the East Midlands Regional Plan shows some, but not all historic assets. However all historic assets are covered by the Policy and a footnote explains that advice on the location of individual Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Archaeological features can be provided by individual Local Planning Authorities.

**12.3** Development within Conservation Areas is controlled by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (No.2) (England) Order 2008. There are currently no Article 4 Directions, removing certain permitted development rights, in the Upper Midhope Conservation Area. Assessment of any development proposals will take place within the context of approved development plan policies and this Conservation Area appraisal.

**12.4** The Upper Midhope Conservation Area is classed as Recreation Zone 1 in the Local Plan. Under policies LR1 (Local Plan) recreation and tourism-related development is encouraged provided that it is appropriate in form, character, location and setting and will not have an unacceptable impact on the valued characteristics of the area. Such development may include, for example, hostels, farmhouse accommodation, walking, cycling and riding routes. East Midlands Regional Plan Policy 41 will also apply.

**12.5** There are 4 listings covering 7 listed buildings in Upper Midhope Conservation Area. Development that affects the character of these

historic assets shall be assessed against national guidance and policies LC6 and LC7. Additionally, the proposed conversion of any building of historic or vernacular merit within the Conservation Area will have to take into consideration the points set out in policy LC8.

**12.6** There are four sites within Upper Midhope identified on South Yorkshire's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). These are listed in Section 3.2. All are Grade II listed buildings referred to in Section 13.0. Development that would affect these assets, or any other area of archaeological potential, will only be permitted if in line with Local Plan policies LC15 and LC16 and East Midlands Regional Plan Policies 26 and 27. Where development has been permitted, the developer will be required to minimise its impact and, as appropriate, to record, safeguard and enhance the sites or features of special importance. Appropriate schemes for archaeological investigation, prior to and during development, will also normally be required.

**12.7** Protected species may exist within the Conservation Area. Although there are no records within the area itself, there are records of lapwing, curlew and snipe in the surrounding area. Development proposals may therefore require specialised surveys, such as bat surveys, as part of a planning application. Trees, particularly mature trees may include features suitable for roosting bats, and developments leading to the loss of mature trees may also require a bat survey.

**12.8** In the Conservation Area, trees with a trunk over 7.5 cm in diameter are protected. Some hedgerows are protected from destruction or damage under the Hedgerows Regulation of 1997. Notice is not needed to work on trees less than 7.5cms in diameter and which measure 1.5 metres above the ground (or 10cms if thinning to benefit the growth of other trees).

**12.9** All wild birds, with the exception of those defined as quarry or pest species, are also protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Natural England therefore recommends that: 'No tree or scrub clearance works shall be undertaken during the main bird breeding season (mid March to July inclusive)'. This condition will normally be attached to planning permissions that include tree, scrub and hedgerow removal. Development proposals for areas where protected bird species exist should include, and implement, a scheme for safeguarding the future survival of the protected bird species and their habitat. This will also be a requisite condition of any relevant planning permission. Development proposals affecting

habitats of importance are covered by East Midlands Regional Plan Policies 29 and 30 and Local Plan Policies LC17 and LC20.

**12.10** Upper Midhope is not located on any major routes and policies LT1 and LT2 (local plan) will apply. Although LT1 and LT2 state that the Authority will discourage the use of the lowest category of roads (Class C and unclassified roads) in favour of strategic and secondary routes; LT1 does also state "other than by essential local traffic". East Midlands Regional Plan Policy 43 will also apply.

### 13.0 LISTED BUILDINGS IN THE UPPER MIDHOPE CONSERVATION AREA

No.	Address	Grade	Date
1.	Manor Farmhouse	II	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> c
2.	Nos. 1& 2 Town Head Cottages	II	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> c
3.	Well Bank Farmhouse including No.1 Well Bank Cottage and Sycamore Cottage.	II	17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> c
4.	Barn at Well Bank Farm	II	17 <sup>th</sup> c

**Summary:** There are four Grade II Listed Building descriptions covering 7 buildings.

Information from the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest:  
City of Sheffield: Peak District National Park / South Yorkshire: DoE: 8<sup>th</sup> August 1985.

## 14.0 GLOSSARY

<b>Agrarian</b>	Of the land or its cultivation (Oxford Dictionary)
<b>Ancillary</b>	In architectural terms this usually refers to a secondary structure, for instance stables or outbuilding.
<b>Ashlar</b>	Masonry that has been carefully cut, dressed and squared to be employed as facing stone in finely jointed level courses.
<b>Baffle Entry</b>	Also referred to as lobby entry, this is when there is a lobby area on entering a building with a fireplace directly in front, usually serving two rooms, obstructing the route straight through the dwelling.
<b>Chapelry</b>	Land assigned to a chapel.
<b>Coped gables</b>	Gable walls which have a course of flat stone laid on top.
<b>Crenellated</b>	Embattled appearance often associated with defensive architecture such as castle walls.
<b>Cruck Frame</b>	Constructed primarily in the north and west of England from the medieval period through to the 19 <sup>th</sup> century (R.W.Brunskill 2000). This method of timber-framing is based upon two curved timbers, known as blades, positioned in an A shape. These paired timbers are usually cut from a single tree. The blades are joined at the apex and roof loads are transferred along roof purlins, then directly to the ground via the blades. A tie beam and collar assist the restraining of the structure whilst the base of the cruck sits on a soleplate, padstones or on a plinth.
<b>Curtilage</b>	Area attached to a house and forming one enclosure with it. (Oxford Dictionary 1996)
<b>Drip moulds</b>	A horizontal moulding for throwing water off and so protecting the windows immediately below. Drip moulds are also used on chimneys.
<b>Enclosure Award</b>	Between the mid-18th and late-19th centuries a large amount of waste and common land was enclosed in England and Wales. This enclosure movement was undertaken under the strong belief in the need for agricultural improvement amongst landowners at the time. To enclose land the distribution of the newly enclosed fields had to be approved. This approval could be via an Act of Parliament, the central courts or private agreement between local landowners. In all legally ratified cases, and some privately agreed examples, an enclosure award setting down the agreed extent and layout of the enclosure in writing and a corresponding plan was drawn up. The level of accuracy and detail that allotment boundaries were planned to is usually good, but in many cases the subdivisions into individual fields were not shown. Their coverage therefore varies from one area to another. In the case of Parliamentary Awards these were often done on a parish by parish basis.
<b>SMR or HER</b>	The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) includes all aspects of our surroundings that have been built, formed or influenced by human activities from earliest to most recent times. Also known as Historic Environment Record.
<b>Hood mouldings</b>	Projecting moulding above an arch or a lintel to throw-off water (Pevsner 2002).

<b>Impost block</b>	The top of a wall immediately below the springing point of an arch is an impost. An impost block is an unmoulded slave standing out in the impost position. (Brock 1984).
<b>Key Ecological Areas</b>	These are sites that are of local ecological significance. These areas usually include a suite of species or habitats that are important at a county level, but have no statutory designation. These areas are considered as part of the planning process, with damage to these areas and associated features being avoided, minimised or mitigated against.
<b>Kneeler</b>	Horizontal decorative projection at the base of a gable (Pevsner 2002).
<b>Lintel</b>	Horizontal beam or stone bridging an opening (Pevsner 2002).
<b>Mullion</b>	Vertical posts or uprights dividing a window into 'lights' (Pevsner 2002). Mullions can be shaped or chamfered which can give an indication as to age.
<b>Parish</b>	The smallest unit of local government is the civil parish. In some areas this covers the same area as an ecclesiastical parish which is the area of jurisdiction covered by the parish church. Ecclesiastical parishes are almost always the remains of Medieval manors especially in rural areas and many have remained unaltered in their boundaries since the Medieval period. However, in the Peak District many parishes became defined by the boundaries of Townships.
<b>Pediment</b>	The classical equivalent of a gable, often used without any relation to a roof. Often used over an opening, particularly doorways.
<b>Pinch point</b>	A visual effect which suggests a narrowing of the street scene. It is typically caused by a bend in a road and the proximity of buildings on either side.
<b>Quoins</b>	Dressed stones at the (exterior) angles of a building.
<b>SAC</b>	Special Areas Of Conservation are sites of international importance for wildlife, protected under the European Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations. Any proposal which might have a significant effect on a SAC must be formally assessed and if likely to damage the interest, can only go ahead if there are no reasonable alternatives, there are significant overriding reasons and compensatory measures are provided.
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Scheduled monuments are legally protected archaeological sites and buildings designated under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. It is an offence to carry out works to them without the written consent of the Secretary of State.
<b>Section 3 Area</b>	These are areas of moorland, heathland or woodland that are particularly important to conserve (Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended).
<b>SSSI</b>	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Sites of national importance for their wildlife or geological interest, protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (and subsequent amendments). Owners/occupiers must consult Natural England if they wish to carry out operations which might damage the interest of the site, and public bodies have a duty to take reasonable steps to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs (e.g. when considering planning issues).



**Staffordshire Blue Bricks**

These dull, dark purple bricks, known as engineering bricks, are made from Etruria Marl burnt at a high heat which produces a material that is strong and impervious.

**Strip field**

In the Medieval period, from at least as early as 1100 AD, Peak District villages were surrounded by large strip fields (often referred to as 'open fields' – in upland areas it is debatable whether some parts of them remained open for long and thus the term strip field is preferred). While often bounded at their edges by banks and ditches, internally they were initially divided into a large number of unfenced cultivation strips. The use of strips allowed a fair distribution of different grades of land between lord and villagers. This system was designed to favour the needs of arable cultivation. It seems to have been introduced into the area from the lowlands of the Midlands. In the Peak District, pastoral farming was of equal or greater importance, and individual strips or parcels of strips were enclosed from an early date. Others, in less favourable locations in what are known as 'outfields', may have only been used in an intermittent way.

**Tithe map**

Shows the boundaries of land and property within the Tithe area. A tithe or tithing was a tenth of a person's produce or income given voluntarily or as a tax to the church.

**Vernacular**

An indigenous building constructed of locally available materials, to local detail, without the benefit of an architect. Vernacular architecture can be defined as dwellings and 'all other buildings of the people' (Oliver, 2003).

**Verge**

The edge of roof where it meets the head of a gable wall.

## 15.0

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### **Internet Sites**

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### **Maps**

1578 MPC1/253 (1) Sketch map of Langsett and 'Medoppe'.. courtesy of the National Archives

1825 Estate Map of Bolsterstone and Midhope

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