

## Heysham: Conservation Area Summary

### Why is Heysham Conservation Area special?

Heysham village has ancient origins and is an area of national archaeological importance. The Conservation Area lies on the coastal headland, south of Morecambe, with the church and remains of a chapel elevated above the village. The remains on Chapel Hill make this area one of the most nationally important sites of early-Christianity in England, with St Patrick's Chapel and rock-cut graves dating from either the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century. From the headland, there are spectacular views across Morecambe Bay to the Lakeland fells.

Further to the east is St Peter's Church, which predominantly dates from 14<sup>th</sup> century but has some earlier remains. The church is surrounded by a graveyard and is screened from the village by mature trees. Within the church is the 'hogback stone' which was a headstone for a Viking grave, the stone was moved into the church to prevent further deterioration.

The village itself is a very tightly knit settlement along two principal roads – Main Street and Bailey Lane. The buildings predominantly date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup> century and are constructed in sandstone or cobble walling with stone flag and slate roofs. There are a mixture of styles and buildings are a mixture of traditionally constructed buildings with some decorative architectural Neo-Classical styles within the village.

Many buildings have decorative dated lintels above doorways, a characteristic feature of post-medieval settlements in North Lancashire. However, many buildings have possible earlier origins and have reused or reset datestones. The Royal Hotel pub dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and its adjoining barns, cottages and possible warehouse dominate the west side of Main Street.



*St Peter's Church (Grade I) and churchyard*

## General

- Coastal location of the village along a prominent headland in Morecambe Bay, with panoramic views across the bay and towards the Lakeland fells
- Ancient origins of the village as a religious site and fishing settlement which was established prior to the 11<sup>th</sup> century
- Archaeological wealth of the village as a nationally important site of Christianity and possible Scandinavian or Hiberno-Norse trade
- Remains of 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century chapel and rock-cut graves
- High proportion of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings, with some earlier remains
- Fine grain of the settlement, arranged along two principal roads
- Traditional character of many buildings and predominant use of local materials for their construction

## Important buildings and features

- St Patrick's Chapel (Scheduled Monument) - remains of 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century chapel and provides evidence of early Christianity in England
- St Peter's Church (Grade I) and churchyard - 14<sup>th</sup> century church with earlier remains, situated on a cliff. The building is constructed in sandstone rubble with sandstone flag roof, there are many reused datestones reset in the rear elevation
- Rock-cut graves (Scheduled Monument) - six graves situated adjacent to the remains of St Patrick's Chapel on the headland
- Royal Hotel (Grade II) - mid-18<sup>th</sup> century public house with attached cottage, barns and possible warehouse
- Houses along Main Street
- St Patrick's Well (Grade II) - 18<sup>th</sup> century well with possible earlier remains of a well at this location
- Retention of cobbles on the forecourt of many buildings
- Retention of mullioned windows
- Dated lintels above doorways or reset or reused in buildings

Conservation Area Name

Area (ha)

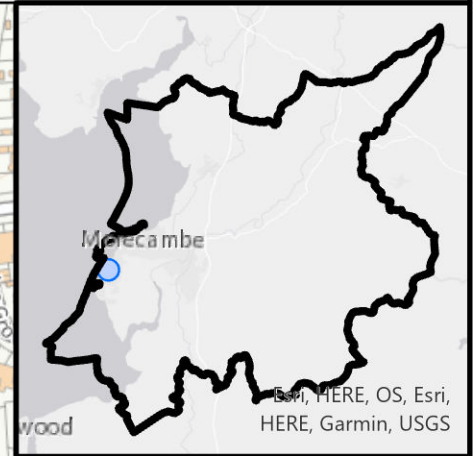
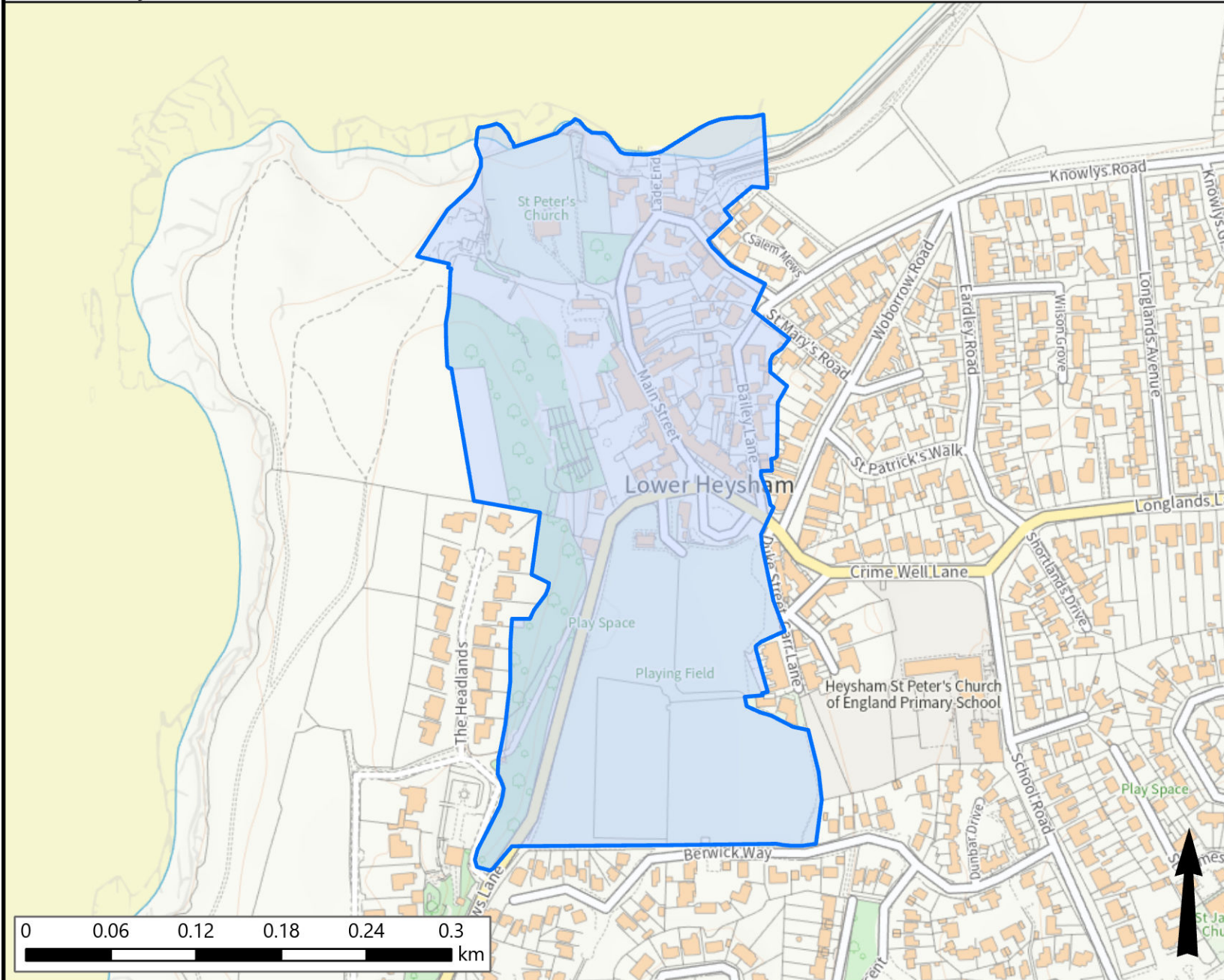
Designation Date





Heysham

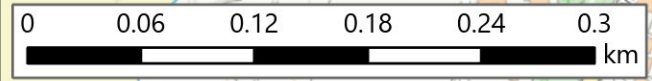
10.2

1972



Legend

-  Conservation Areas
-  Lancaster District Boundary



© Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 100025403.

Scale: 1:4,000, if printed on A4

Date Printed: 17/01/2023