

## Gressingham: Conservation Area Summary

### Why is the Gressingham Conservation Area special?

Gressingham is one of the prettiest villages in the Lune Valley, nestled in a fold of land on the edge of the Forest of Bowland AONB. The Conservation Area boundary encompasses the irregular arrangements of buildings on the hilly land around the junction of two becks. The main road through the settlement – Kirk Fall – runs off the main road from Lancaster to Kirkby Lonsdale and leads over the River Lune towards Hornby.

The village has medieval origins and the manor was recorded as ‘Ghersinctune’ in the Domesday Book as part of Earl Tostig’s fee. Quite early in the medieval period the land became divided amongst some of the King’s foresters and subsequently divided further. Much of the history of land ownership is confused following this, but it later came into the Hornby Castle estate. A corn mill was recorded in Gressingham in the late-18<sup>th</sup> century and remains of the weir and headrace remain, but the site of the mill has been replaced by a house.

The village is formed of detached stone-built houses, with some former barns, mostly dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. At the centre of the village is St John’s Church; a modestly scaled 12<sup>th</sup> century church with a tall slender west tower. The changing topography and dense greenery create varied views and focal points throughout the village. The overriding impression of the village is a sense of natural tranquillity interspersed with modest-scale houses.



*St John's Church – Grade I*

### General

- Rural setting of the village, enclosed by areas of dense greenery and mature trees, which creates a tranquil and secluded environment

- Situated on the edge of the Forest of Bowland AONB
- Medieval origins of the village and manor
- Irregular arrangement of buildings either facing onto or perpendicular to the main roads
- Use of local gritstone in walling and slate and stone slate roofs
- Mature trees and greenery within the Conservation Area, limiting through views
- Prominent tower of St John's Church, enclosed within churchyard
- Retention of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century houses, including the large Gressingham Hall
- Retention of former barn buildings, which have been converted to residential use
- Industrial association of the village, the former site of a corn mill near the river

### Important buildings and features

- Gressingham Hall (Grade II\*) & Gatepiers (Grade II) - a large manor house dating from the late-17<sup>th</sup> century with elaborate gatepiers to the north and south of the house
- St John's the Evangelist (Grade I) - a modest scale Perpendicular style church, with 12<sup>th</sup> century remains which was partly rebuilt c.1734 and restored c.1862. The church is enclosed by a churchyard and mature trees, which limit some views of the west tower
- Crow Trees (Grade II) - late-17<sup>th</sup> century house constructed in slobbered stone and has retained the original mullioned windows
- Church Bank (Grade II) - a small pretty house opposite the church, dating from c.1830 with symmetrical sash windows

**Conservation Area Name**

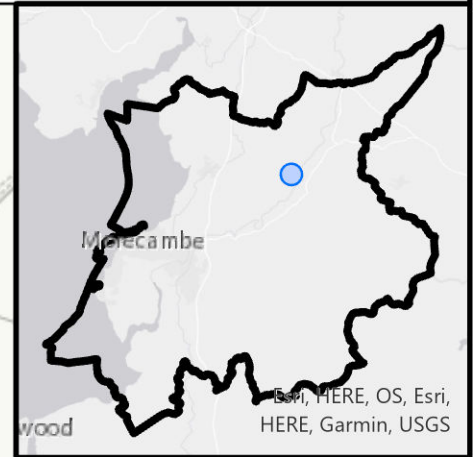
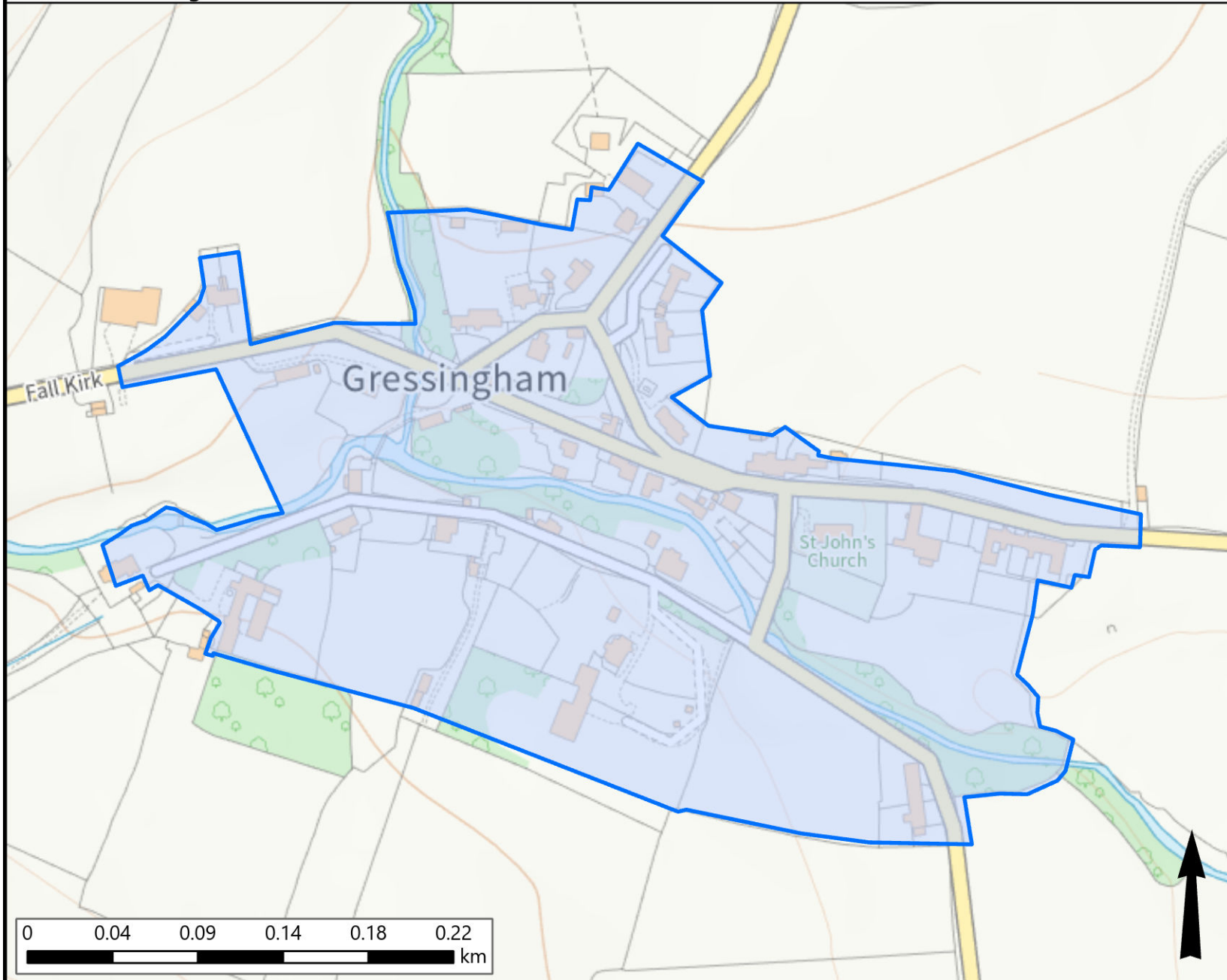
**Area (ha)**

**Designation Date**

Gressingham

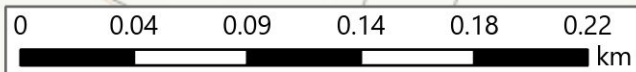
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**Legend**

-  Conservation Areas
-  Lancaster District Boundary



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Scale: 1:3,000, if printed on A4

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