



South Bucks District Council

Denham Conservation Area Character Appraisal

September 2008



South Bucks
District Council

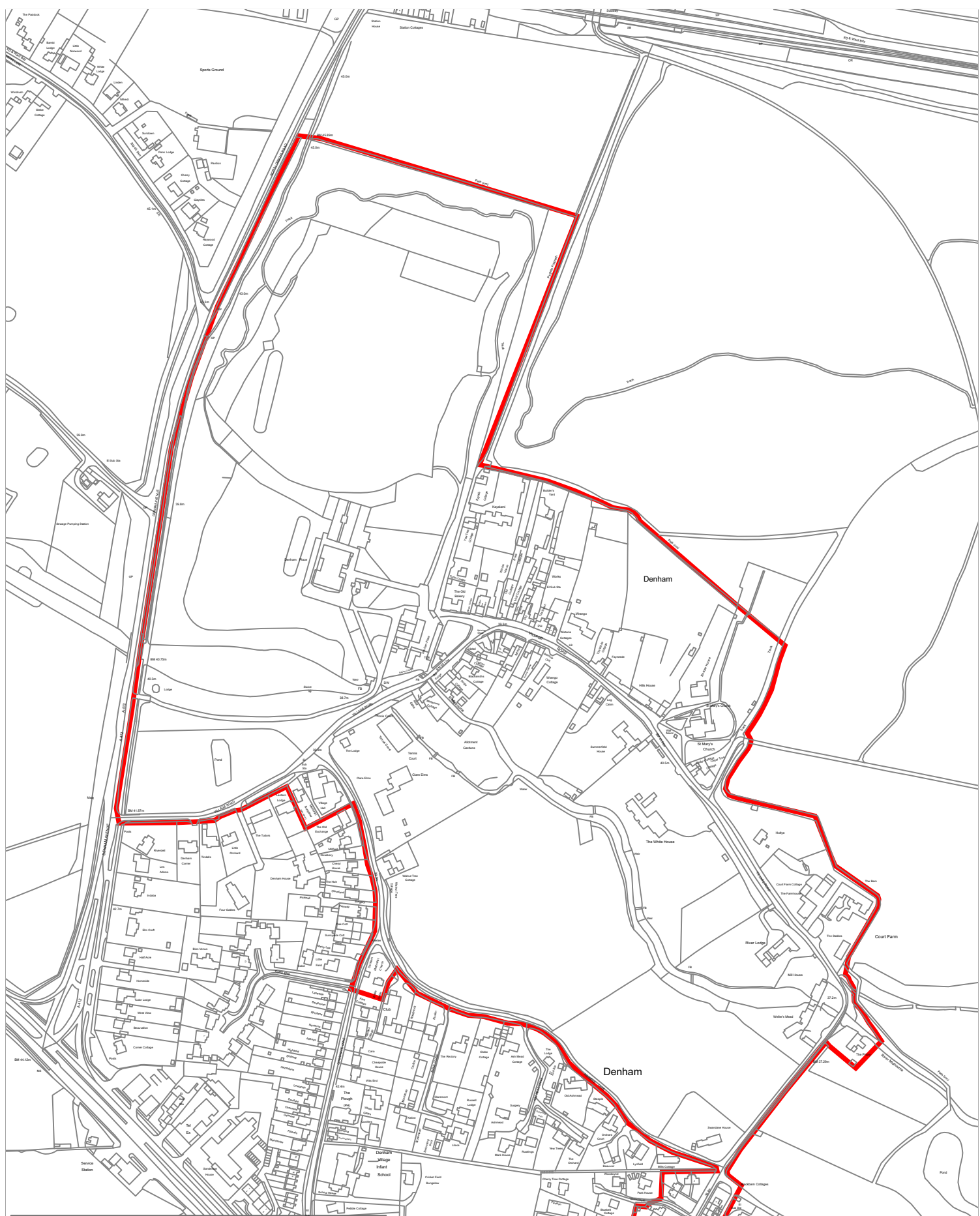
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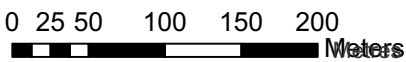
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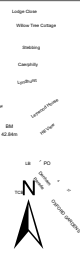


**Denham Conservation Area
Designated 31st March 2006**

 Denham Conservation Area



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South Bucks District Council LA100025874 2005



-  Denham Conservation Area
-  Boundary
-  Contour
-  Footpath
-  Path
-  Road
-  Railway
-  Stream
-  Trench
-  Wall
-  Water

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION & PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

What is a conservation area?

Local planning authorities have a statutory duty to designate as conservation areas any “areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance” (section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990).

Effect of designation

Conservation-area designation imposes additional controls over demolition, minor development and a measure of protection for trees. The Council has produced a leaflet “Guidance for Residents” which is reproduced in the Appendix. In exercising their planning powers, local planning authorities must pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation areas.

Planning in South Bucks

The Council’s current policies relating to conservation areas are contained in the South Bucks District Local Plan which was adopted in March 1999. As the new Local Development Framework emerges the Local Plan policies will gradually be replaced by Development Plan Documents. Conservation Area appraisals will not become Supplementary Planning Documents but their provisions will be a “material consideration” when the Council is exercising its functions as the local planning authority.

Archaeology and planning

Archaeological information is held on the County Sites and Monuments Record and regularly updated. The effect of development on archaeological remains is a material planning consideration. Applicants for planning consent may be required to undertake field evaluations to inform decisions and/or conditions may be applied to safeguard archaeological interests. For further information and advice contact the County Archaeological Service on 01296-382927.

Background to the designation

Denham Conservation Area was first designated in 1971. As part of its programme to review all its conservation areas, having taken into account changes within the area as well as current legislation and guidance on conservation areas, South Bucks District Council formulated proposals for amendments to the boundaries of the Denham Conservation Area. Local residents were consulted on these proposals and invited to submit their comments by way of a questionnaire. Additional information on the proposals was provided by way of an exhibition in the Denham Parish Office during December 2005. Following a largely positive response to the consultation the Conservation Area was re-designated with amended boundaries on 31st March 2006.

The extent of the revised conservation area is shown on the map on page 1.

The purpose of this appraisal is to define and record the special architectural and historic interest of Denham Conservation Area. It has been prepared on the basis of a survey of the area undertaken from public roads and paths, historical research, information from residents and the other sources mentioned in the “Sources” section of this document. However no appraisal can ever be completely comprehensive. The omission of any particular building, feature, view or space should not be taken to imply that it is of no interest. This appraisal will inform local planning policies, development control decisions and any future proposals for the preservation and enhancement of the character or appearance of the conservation area.



The famous “picture postcard” view of Denham. This is the western entrance to the village showing the bridge over the River Misbourne. The building in the foreground was once the village forge. The tall building in the distance is the Falcon public house.

CHAPTER 2 - SUMMARY

The factors which give Denham Conservation Area its special interest can be summarised as follows:

- Its appearance and character as an “archetypal English village” with an ancient parish church and churchyard, historic cottages, a country house set in a park, village pubs, old farm buildings, all set against a rural backdrop.
- Its seclusion and feeling of intimacy owing to a number of factors including its location in an enclave bounded by the River Colne, major roadways and the railway; high brick walls; tree-cover and the fine grain of its historic core.
- The survival of its historic plan-form.
- The extent of the survival of its historic plot-layout. Whether Denham was once a town remains an historic conundrum but evidence of burgage-type plots remains.
- The survival of so many historic buildings, reflected in the high proportion of listings.
- The variety of its architecture, reflecting different dates, styles and building materials.
- Its rural, village character, remarkable in a place on the edge of the Metropolitan area and only 16 miles from central London.
- The large number of trees and the contribution of other greenery to the streetscene, particularly wistaria clothing the historic cottages.
- Its relationship to the River Misbourne and the management of that waterway through historic mill-working, the creation of lakes and the survival of water-meadows.
- The contribution of spaces, notably the grounds of Denham Place, the Pyghtle, a modern, but historic looking, village green, large gardens and water meadows.
- Archaeological potential in the form of surviving historic buildings and uninvestigated earthworks in the water-meadows.
- Historical associations with some notable people.
- Denham’s association with the film industry.
- As a picturesque, historic village with leisure value as an interesting place to visit.

Denham Conservation Area

- Rural setting in the Misbourne and Colne valleys, bounded partly by Denham Country Park and the open landscape of a golf-course.
- The architectural and historic influence of two country estates “book-ending” the village.
- The contribution of Denham Place towards the architectural and historic interest of the conservation area. It is a grade I listed building with a registered park and garden and other listed buildings around, and in, its grounds.
- The survival of non-residential uses in an affluent commuting area. The number of hostelrys is notable.



The Green in spring

Wistaria on the Swan



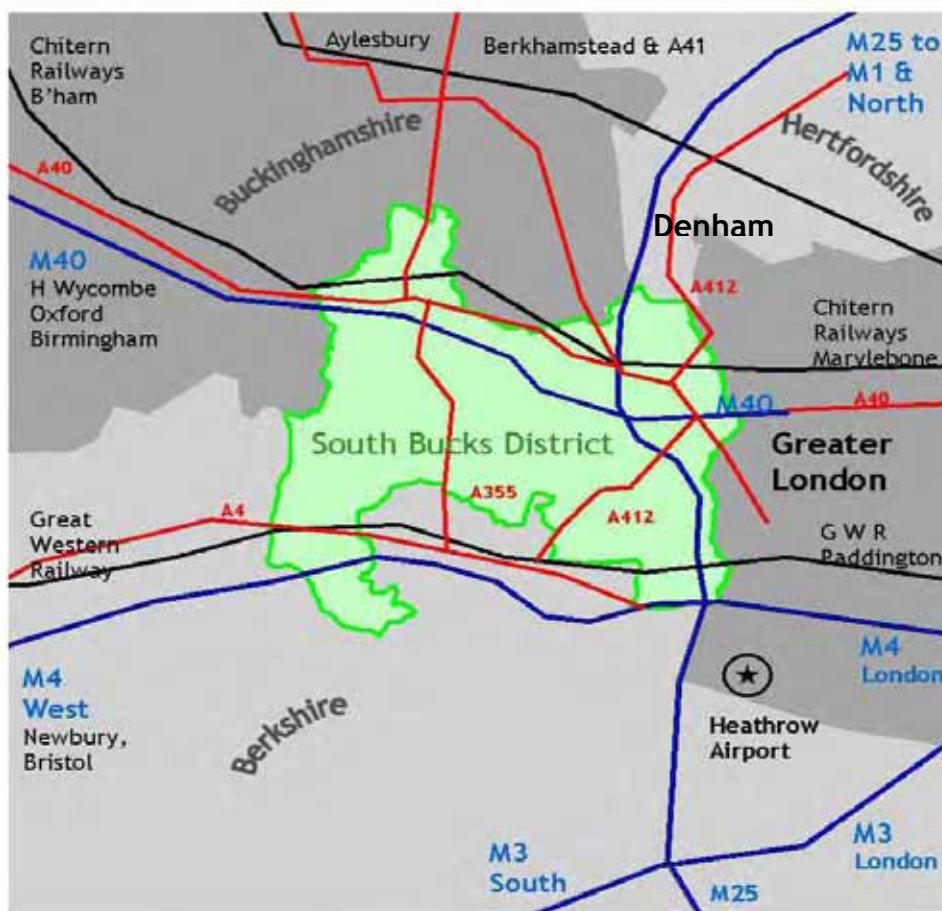
Horse chestnuts in Village Road

Summary of interest

CHAPTER 3 - LOCATION, CONTEXT and LANDSCAPE SETTING

Denham parish forms the north-eastern extremity of South Bucks District bordering the London Borough of Hillingdon across the River Colne to the east. Denham is a diverse and fragmented parish containing six main settlements; Denham Village, Denham Green, Higher Denham, New Denham, Tatling End and Willowbank. The conservation area comprises the whole of the historic core of Denham Village.

Located some 16 miles from London, its proximity to London has been a strong influence on the development of Denham. Transport links are good with nearby access to the M40 and M25 and other major roads, a railway station served by direct trains to London and Birmingham and the Underground at Uxbridge, about three miles away.



Denham village is at the eastern edge of the Chiltern hills, in the valley of the River Misbourne which flows north-west to south-east, bisecting the conservation area and meeting the River Colne about one kilometre to the south-east.

There are strong economic pressures for development in this affluent, attractive area on the edge of the Metropolis. Apart from the Green Belt other factors have helped to protect this rural setting. The whole of Denham parish is in the Colne Valley Park created in 1967 to preserve areas suitable

for leisure, recreation and conservation to the west of London between Rickmansworth in the north and Staines in the south. Just to the east of the conservation area is Denham Country Park, a Local Nature Reserve.

The land in the conservation area is almost flat, around the 40 metre contour, with a slight rise from the Misbourne to the highest point where the church stands. Except to the south, where there is denser 20th century suburban development, the conservation area is surrounded by fields or open ground.

To the west of the conservation area, grazing land rises more steeply up to Red Hill and Bakers Wood. ▼



To the north-east the former parkland of Denham Court has been converted to a golf course whilst there is the rougher grass and woodland of Denham Country Park to the east.

The soil is a mixture of loam and gravel and gravel extraction has been an important industry in the area. Traditionally the land was suitable for mixed farming and with the benefit of light, fertile soils many nursery businesses were established in the area during the 19th century. Nurseries and garden centres remain important to Denham's local economy although there are no working farms or nurseries left in the conservation area itself.

The village itself occupies a secluded corner bordered by the River Colne, the railway line and the major roads which by-pass the village, the A412 and A40. The absence of "through" traffic on Village Road enhances the rural tranquillity of the village. The setting and the antiquity of the buildings make Denham a picturesque village attractive to residents and visitors alike. The establishment of film studios at Denham and nearby Pinewood attracted people from the film industry to set up home in the area and Denham remains a popular base for celebrities. Whilst many former shops have closed, the conservation area is not entirely residential exhibiting a mix of uses, and is noted for several public houses.

CHAPTER 4 - ORIGINS, DEVELOPMENT & USES

Introduction

Information on the archaeological interest of the conservation area and the following *Summary of archaeological significance* have been provided by the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service and are based on information held in the County Council's Sites and Monuments Record. Following that summary, archaeological and historical information have been combined to show how the conservation area has developed over time and the uses of both land and buildings have evolved. The plan-form of the village is then described. Historic landscape characterisation provides an overall analysis based on evidence supplied by historic maps. Those maps are then briefly summarised, with extracts reproduced in the Appendix.

Summary of archaeological significance

- Denham conservation area contains important archaeological remains of the medieval and post-medieval period principally relating to the evolution of the village or small town, milling and fishing activities along the Misbourne River and the evolution of the medieval and post-medieval parks.
- It also has the potential to preserve deposits from earlier periods relating to prehistoric and Roman settlement along the Misbourne.
- The archaeology of the house and formal gardens around Denham Place can be highlighted as of particular interest, the park being a grade II Registered Park and Garden.
- Landscape archaeology reveals something of the antiquity of the village's long narrow boundaries, possibly relating to borough status in the 13th century.
- The character of the village is strongly influenced by its relationship to the Misbourne and the creation of parkland landscapes east and west of the village core, which has evolved as a nucleated row between the church and the village green.
- With regard to the historic buildings within the conservation area, previous investigations have demonstrated the potential for medieval fabric to survive within later facades and re-building work. The village also includes a distinctive mix of building styles and multi-period buildings. The historic building stock should therefore be viewed as an important archaeological resource warranting further evaluation and examination.

There has been hardly any archaeological investigation within the village so it is hard to understand its origins and early development. An Historic Towns Characterisation Study is being undertaken by Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service to provide a framework for future investigation.

Prehistoric and Roman periods

The parish of Denham is notable for the presence of nationally very rare Upper Palaeolithic (40,000-10,000 BC) and early Mesolithic (10,000-7,000BC) sites related to the early occupation of the lower Colne valley. These sites may be well-preserved beneath later alluvium and/or tufa layers and within, or associated with, waterlogged deposits located in the valley floor or beneath colluvium on valley sides.

Palaeolithic flint tools have been recovered from a number of sites in the parish including hand axes, flakes, cores and a scraper found in the road cutting for the M25 and a flake scatter and hand axe found in Denham Green. A Mesolithic flint-working site was found at the northern end of the parish at Boyer's Pit in the early twentieth century. More recently a Mesolithic occupation site was excavated at the old Sanderson factory in the south of the parish, where knapped flint, red deer bones and hazelnut shells were found around the site of a campfire, next to a silted up stream bed.

Small amounts of Neolithic worked flint consisting of items such as blades, waste flakes, knives, leaf arrowheads and burnt flints have been recovered from across the parish, including spreads of material from Denham Golf Course and the M25 construction corridor. Polished Neolithic axes have been recovered from the mill stream at Denham Court and from the Willowbank Estate.

An archaeological excavation at The Lea, south-east of Denham village, has produced evidence for a settled Bronze Age landscape. Here land stripped for quarrying produced a "collared" or "bucket" urn and a ring ditch of Early or Middle Bronze Age date. The excavation also recorded enclosures, fields, paddocks and a trackway of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age date including small quantities of Late Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury pottery. Within the conservation area, a Bronze Age sword was recovered from one of the man-made channels dug for the Misbourne, south of the village core, close to the Village Hall.

There is currently little evidence for extensive Middle/Late Iron Age settlement activity in the parish. At The Lea, early Roman enclosures were excavated and evidence for late Roman activity included traces of a building, wells, 'corn-drying' kilns or ovens, trackways, field boundaries and a number of busta burials (cremation on a pyre constructed above a rectangular pit). South of the village the A40 may follow the line of a Roman Road and a small number of Roman coins have been recovered from the parish. Trial trenching at Denham Park Farm at the northern end of the parish has revealed traces of Late Iron Age/ Roman farming activity. To date no significant Roman material has been recovered from the conservation area, although this may be due to the lack of investigations in this area.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods

There are, as yet, no archaeological records for Denham from between the end of the Roman occupation and the Norman Conquest.

There is, however, a great deal of evidence for medieval occupation in the form of stray finds, earthworks, standing buildings and historical documents.

In the wider parish, 13th century pottery kilns have been found along the M25 corridor and north-west of the village a 'warren' is recorded on an estate map.

Possible medieval remains within the conservation area include earthworks in the water-meadow (formerly called Hancock's Mead) between the Misbourne and Ashmead Lane. A channel from the Misbourne leading to a pond in the meadow is shown on a map of around 1590 (see the Appendix), but detailed field survey will be needed to make sense of the extensive earthworks here. Based on aerial photographic evidence the earthworks would appear to be a curvilinear pattern of channels, perhaps natural in origin, which may have been partially dug out to create a sequence of ponds.

The tower of St. Mary's church is Norman (altered in the 15th century) with the chancel dated to the 13th or 14th century, and with the addition of a 15th century aisled nave and wall painting, indicating an increasing congregation at this time.

The Grade I listed parish church dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, showing the west, unbuttressed tower, thought to have been built between 1100 and 1120, and the north aisle (late 15th-early 16th century). The church was restored by G.E. Street 1861-2. The distinctive octagonal clock face is original (1740) but repainted. The clock (since replaced) was the gift of lady of the manor, Hester Probert, daughter of Sir Roger Hill, builder of Denham Place. The church contains many fine memorials and part of a Doom painting over the south door.



The bulk of the listed building stock in Denham is dated to the 16th-17th by the listed building descriptions. However building works in 1951 at the Old Bakery next to the village green revealed a substantial base-cruck built hall of 14th century date. More recently, building work at The Old Forge revealed late-medieval fabric. Both these examples highlight the potential for earlier fabric to survive within later phases of rebuilding and additions.

Denham manor was given to the Abbey of Westminster in 1065 by a thane called Ulstan. At Domesday (AD1086) the manor was of modest size with 13 hides, 15 villagers and three smallholders. The Domesday Book entry also indicates that the estate fell in value after the conquest from £10 to £7 pounds and mentions room for three more ploughs which could indicate

under-utilisation of arable land. There was woodland for 300 pigs and the river had two mills and three fisheries which yielded three shillings a year.

The manor was sub-infeudated in the 12th century, creating the manors of Denham and Denham Durdent. The moated manor house for Denham Durdent, located in the north-east of the parish, survives. Known as 'The Savay' it contains a 14th century hall. The historic manor for Denham is thought to be located at Denham Court, where the later manor house (now the club house of Denham Golf Club) contains a hall house of 14th century date. A letter from the Abbot discusses the refurbishment of a 'Salle' or hall at Denham in 1297. However, the Reverend Lathbury, who wrote the principal history of Denham in 1904, suggested the Abbot used a building on the site of what is now Court Farm.

The detached location of Denham manor could suggest the early influence of the Colne River. Alternatively its isolated location could indicate that an earlier manor was located closer to the church and then moved, possibly as a result of emparkment and this would fit Lathbury's theory. John Chenevix-Trench and Pauline Fenley suggest that in the 1360s Abbot Nicholas de Litlington reacted to widespread depopulation after the Black Death by turning the manor into a sporting estate and established a hunting lodge at an unknown location. According to the Abbot's household accounts the new park was embanked from 1367-1369. Furthermore an inventory of goods at his death indicates that he no longer lived in the old manor house at this time. The picture is further complicated by a map of 1620 on which the current Denham Place is marked as 'Denham Court'. It is therefore possible that either Denham Place and Denham Court could be the location of the early manor or the location of the Abbot's hunting lodge.

The parish is well documented through charters and court rolls related to ownership by Westminster Abbey, held in the British Museum. Many of the documents have been translated and published in Lathbury's history. Michael Reed suggests that Denham is one of sixteen possible medieval 'boroughs' in Buckinghamshire, and the long narrow boundaries north of Village Lane, characteristic of burgage plots, may be evidence for this. In the 13th century a Monday market and annual three day fair were granted by Henry III and between the 13th and 15th century there are a number of documentary references to the 'Burgo' of Denham and in the late 13th century the expression 'burgagium' is used. There are documentary references to the "burgage" as late as the 18th century.

Whether Denham was a borough or not remains unresolved. Bailey considered the evidence and thought that if a charter for a borough had been obtained about the time the market and fair were established (possibly the 1240s) then it had ceased to exist by the 15th century. However the folk-memory was clearly persistent in the continued documentary references to burgage-type names. A 1744 deed refers to a new mansion in *Town* Street (presumably the present Village Road).

Denham seems to have been particularly hard-hit by the Black Death of the 14th century. Lathbury found that the Abbots of Westminster made little or no profit from their manorial holding at Denham. Nonetheless they did not farm the manor out, but produce from Denham would have been sent to the abbey at Westminster. A study of the Old Bakery concluded that it was built in the 1360s, probably as a home for the Abbot's steward. The Monday market, not mentioned after the original grant, was presumably unable to compete with nearby Uxbridge, but the fair survived until 1873 and there is now a revived version - the Village Fayre - held each May. The name of Cheapside Lane may reflect the historic site of the fair.

Post Medieval period

The manor was forfeited to the Crown on the Dissolution and in 1531 Denham Great Park, described as divided between pasture and woodland and possibly used as a deer park, was leased to Sir Edward Peckham, Master of the Mint. He used the park as the site for his new house, Denham Place. This may have been rebuilt, or at least extended, by his grandson George Peckham who is also recorded as having built a mansion on the property around 1581. A painting of this later house seems to show part of the remaining Tudor mansion. The map of 1590 shows the house complex located within extensive meadows or parkland running east-west either side of the Misbourne, bounded by open fields to the north and south. The house itself was aligned to face north-south.

Financial ruin led to the manor again being forfeited by the Crown. In 1601 Sir William Bowyer, a teller of the Exchequer of Elizabeth I, and ancestor of the present Lord Denham, bought the manor and Denham Court. Although the Bowyers sold the manor in 1670 their continued ownership of the Denham Court estate until 1813 influenced the development of Denham. The village was, in effect, 'book-ended' by the estates of Denham Place to the west and Denham Court to the east with the Bowyer family also owning the home farm (on the site of Court Farm) and corn-mill. The patronage of the Bowyer family led to the building and endowment of the Bowyer Charity School in 1721 (marked by a plaque on the building, now Bowyer House) and the erection of the Priory in 1789 as the village poorhouse.

The present Denham Place was commissioned by Sir Roger Hill, M.P. who bought the property in 1670/1. It is unclear whether the new Denham Place lay exactly on the site of the old building (historic maps seem to show the present house a little farther west) but the alignment was turned around so that the house faced west, addressing the main highway. Building started in 1688 and continued until 1701 and around the house were laid out elaborate formal gardens shown in some detail in a painting of 1705. At the southern extent of the grounds was a series of formal gardens incorporating two small lakes. To the north of this area, the River Misbourne was canalised to run in a straight course with two bridges and a water pavilion.

Hill's tomb in the church records his strong protestant allegiance. The "William and Mary" Dutch influence is apparent in the design of Denham Place

and its gardens and in the village at Hills House with its shaped gables. These are presumed to have inspired the shaped gables at the 18th century mill and Priory and those at White Cottage.

The manor and Denham Place came into the Way family in 1757. They made Denham Place their principal home and were squires as well as patrons of the living. Benjamin Way carried out alterations to both house and grounds. In about 1770 the formal gardens north of the canal were replaced with more informal landscaping, with the canalised river being replaced by a lake. The approach to the house was lengthened round to the east front and the house in effect “turned round” with the entrance moved from the west to the east front. Further carriage drives were introduced, one circulating the perimeter of the park north of the house, and another running south-east to the stables and village entrance. South of the lake part of the formal garden was transformed into kitchen gardens, with the rest established as a plantation. This landscaping has been attributed to Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown on the basis of a bill dated 1773.

Whereas the Hills had turned their back on the village, the Ways now turned to face it and perhaps this symbolised their greater involvement in village life.

By 1845 an estate sale catalogue shows that the Ways had built up a considerable landholding in Denham parish with other properties in Uxbridge and Greenford. In the conservation area they owned several cottages and shops, Hills House, the Falcon, Wrango and the water-meadows. It may have been the owners of Denham Place who were responsible for the development of larger houses, such as Wrango, which probably replaced earlier cottages.

The Way family’s connection with Denham Place was finally severed when the house was sold in 1920. The Way archive has been deposited at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies providing opportunities for further research into their influence on the development of the village.

The Bowyer connection ceased when the Denham Court estate was sold in 1813. Nonetheless the 1843 Tithe Award showed that Thomas Hamlet, the owner of Denham Court, was still one of the two major landowners in the village and retained ownership of the mill. The Denham Court estate was subject to further sales and eventually broken up. The park has been converted into Buckinghamshire Golf Course and the Denham Country Park, thereby preserving the open spaces which give the conservation area its rural setting. The house has become the clubhouse.

By the end of the 19th century day-trippers could catch a train to nearby Uxbridge and enjoy a pleasant excursion to Denham. In the early 1900s the picturesque, historic village became a popular subject for postcards many of which are actually labelled Uxbridge.

In the inter-war period the establishment of film studios at Denham and nearby Pinewood, together with the proximity of London, boosted the local economy and attracted film stars and producers to come and live in and around the village. Sir Alexander Korda had his home and offices at the Fishery (demolished) by the river Colne, north of the conservation area. Sir John Mills lived at Hills House until his death in 2005, taking an active part in village life. Denham Place was owned for some years by Harry Saltzman, producer of the Bond films. Denham is still associated with the film and entertainment industry through the local celebrities who live there as well as its frequent use as a filming location.

Other notable people are associated with Denham. The Way and Bowyer families attracted eminent visitors to their great houses. The humbler surroundings of White Cottage (then the Eight Bells) were once home to the painter and printmaker, William Nicholson (1872-1949), who moved here after his secret marriage in 1893. He joined his artist brother-in-law, James Pryde, in a partnership creating advertising posters and they styled themselves “J. and W. Beggarstaff” but were better known as the Beggarstaff Brothers. William’s son, Benjamin (Ben) Lauder Nicholson (1894-1982) was born at the Eight Bells and baptised in Denham church. He was to become the foremost modernist painter of his generation in Britain. In 1938 he married the sculptor Barbara Hepworth with whom he shared a studio. He was appointed OM in 1968.

Despite the historic appearance of the village there was plenty of building activity in Denham during the 20th century. A significant number of buildings were demolished and several new houses were built. However most development activity has probably gone into alterations of the historic building stock. Increasing post-war affluence and surging house prices have resulted in the consolidation of small cottages, modernisations and refurbishments.

Plan-form

The village sits on the gravel terrace, just above the alluvium of the Misbourne Valley. Its topography has been altered by the landscaping of medieval/post medieval parks at either end of the village. The basic form of the village is a nucleated row running west from St Mary’s Church to the village green then south over the Misbourne towards the Oxford Road.

The creation of an enlarged park at Denham Place in the 17th century had a lasting impact on the village. The 1590 map shows the main village street running west through Denham Place and linking up with Old Rectory Lane. Village Road was diverted to the south around the 17th century high brick wall of Denham Place, creating an early “by-pass” for the village. The combined effect of the road “by-pass” and high wall has been to foster the feeling of seclusion, enclosure and intimacy which is a major characteristic of the conservation area.

The Old Bakery on the north side of the village green retains a 14th century open-hall. The range of buildings along south east of the green and over the Misbourne bridge generally thought to be largely 16th century in date may well have earlier origins. The 1590 map shows a block of long narrow plots laid out north of the village green/market place, with shorter plots enjoying wider frontages running east towards the church. The basic framework of these plots still survives.

The 1590 map also shows a complex of buildings at 'The Parsonage' or 'Old Rectory' west of the conservation area which is associated with a rectangular channel attached to the Misbourne. This evolved into a large complex of water management features shown on the 1783 map and this complex later become associated with watercress production. The relationship between this outlying settlement and the evolution of the village is unclear.

Uses

The medieval economy of Denham was based on a mixture of uses from the arable land, grazing pastures, meadows, woods, fisheries and mills included in the manor.

Corn-milling was an important activity in Denham parish, thanks to the two rivers, the Colne and Misbourne.

The two mills attached to Denham manor in 1086, are later referred to as 'Town Mill' and Denham Mill. Freese confidently asserts that Town Mill was on the site of the converted mill group, now Mill House and Wellers Mead. ►



Two more mills are recorded in 14th century documents. The machinery of the post-medieval mill at this site was removed towards the end of the 19th century when the mill was converted to the manufacture of size paste. The buildings were converted for residential use in the late 1920s/early 1930s.

The presence of two large country houses either end of the village must have had a considerable effect on its economy. The Posse Comitatus(a survey of able bodied men taken in 1798) shows a parish with a large number of labourers, who would have been engaged in the chief economic activity - farming - and many servants - reflecting the presence of large houses. There are also several tradesmen and millers but the social make-up is typical of a village, rather than a town. Servants for the large houses would have been drawn from the village and Way estate plans as well as the 1843 Tithe Award shows us how the cottages were divided into several small dwellings. This situation continued until the break-up of the large estates in the early 20th century.

Catalogues of the Denham Place and Denham Court estates from the 1840s/1850s demonstrate the importance of farming in the parish. Farm land surrounded the conservation area at that time. Farming has since suffered a dramatic decline and the only farm left in the village (Court Farm) was converted in the 1990s into a complex of residential, office and studio accommodation.

Although Denham village is generally regarded as an affluent commuter village, it is interesting for its retention of a variety of uses. In the conservation area, apart from houses, there are the Village Hall, the parish church, chapel, a woodworking factory, plenty of hostelries, studio/offices and shops.

Although it has lost the range of shops it once had, there remains a newsagents' shop and Denham Gallery, once a grocery shop and last used as an interior decoration showroom/shop. Evidence of earlier shops remains in the form of some windows. Although beerhouses such as the Eight Bells (White Cottage) and the Black Donkey (Ashbys) have closed the number of surviving hostelries is still remarkable for such a small place, with the Falcon, Swan, Green Man and Da Remo restaurant still in business. It is sometimes said this phenomenon is a relic of coaching days but it seems unusual for coaches to have used Denham as a stop; it was off the main turnpike and nearby Uxbridge and Beaconsfield were already established as the main coaching stops. Perhaps the inns are a reflection of the need for accommodation for visitors to Denham Place and Denham Court. Nowadays they provide another attraction for visitors.

Historic landscape characterisation

Characterisation of Denham's surviving historic landscape (see map in the Appendix) draws attention to the distinction between historic village core and modern settlement areas, the latter apparently involving the partial infilling of the water meadows south of the Misbourne. The surviving meadows south of Village Road can be traced back to at least 1590 and form an important element in the village's character, and, as noted above, a series of unidentified earthworks is visible in the meadow. Denham was largely enclosed by the early 17th century (Tate, 1946). The 1590 map shows the extent of medieval open fields north and south of the village. The historic village core is 'book-ended' by parkland landscapes to the east and west. The map evidence suggests that 18th or pre 18th century irregular enclosure around the village has been subject to subsequent piecemeal enclosure and incorporation into Denham Court, now Buckinghamshire Golf Course.

The Colne Valley Park Historic Landscape Characterisation study divides the conservation area between two zones. To the north of the village 'Chalfont-Denham parkland' characterised by a series of post medieval parklands which have become fragmented. Also noted are significant areas of ancient and 18th century woodland in the northern part of Denham Parish. The bulk of the village falls within 'Oxford Road settlement', a zone characterised by small settlements along the historic Oxford Road, 'primarily a 20th century

landscape bordered by relics of older field systems and historic core of Denham village’.

Historic maps

The following maps are reproduced in the Appendix:

1590

Copy of part of a large painted map thought to result from a survey of about 1590. The original map at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies is too fragile to be produced but parts of it have been digitally photographed. North is to the foot of the map.

This map shows a network of roads/tracks essentially the same as today with the exception of the western end of Village Road, as mentioned above. Also Denham Avenue had yet to be built. Ashmead Lane (formerly called Back Lane and Love Lane) continued eastwards along what is now Ashmead Track. Old Mill Road was just a track. The north side of village road appears to be completely built-up between the church and the entrance to Denham Place whilst the south side has irregularly spaced buildings. There is a cluster of buildings on the site of the present green but no buildings on the site of Court Farm. Fields are to the north and south of the conservation area. Both north and south sides of Village Road look as though the building plots have been superimposed on the strips of the open fields. There are spaces immediately to the west of the church, in front of the mill and around the green site. All these spaces remain.

1783

This is part of a map of the whole parish of Denham, probably created for Benjamin Way. It is not an enclosure map since the parish had been subject to earlier, piecemeal enclosure. Whilst there is no comprehensive key it is assumed that the numbered holdings represent those owned by Way, whilst the letters mark the holdings of the various landowners listed on the back of the map. This shows that Benjamin Way was by far the largest single landowner with over 1,500 acres in the parish. By comparison, the holdings of all the other landowners in the parish put together totalled only 2,149 acres, and of these 646 acres belonged to Sir William Bowyer. The Way archive at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies does contain some informative plans of individual buildings which can be identified from the numbers on the 1783 map. Horse chestnut trees were clearly a feature of the village then, as they are now since there is a note that Widdow (sic) Godson “prays and beseeches to have her darkness enlightened by lopping the horsechestnut trees.”

The major difference from 1590 is the re-development of Denham Place and diversion of roads around it. Denham Court Farm is shown as are two buildings, since disappeared, in what is now the church yard extension. The rhythm of buildings along the northern side of Village Road appears to have been interrupted by the construction of Wrango, set back from the road. The row which contained the Methodist Chapel is also shown, together with cottages on the west side of Cheapside Lane, since demolished.

1843 Tithe map

Buildings on the south side of Village Road between what is now the White House and Jasmine Cottage, have disappeared on this map and reverted to a meadow called Four Acre Mead. The two buildings in the churchyard extension have disappeared but The Priory is shown. The Tithe Award clearly shows how many of the buildings were divided into several dwellings. For example the buildings between Falcon Cottage and the bridge are listed as containing 11 tenements. Currently they comprise three houses: Blacksmiths, Forge Cottage and the Old Forge. This process may also have worked in reverse. Yew Tree Cottage in the Pyghtle (or at least a building on its site) was then one house but in the 1880s it is known to have comprised three cottages. Rose Cottages are shown as is a cluster of buildings around the Methodist chapel which has since disappeared. Other buildings shown which have since been demolished include the school behind Cedar Cottage (the current Hilhouse plot) and cottages in the churchyard.

1886 Ordnance Survey map

This one-inch map has been included to illustrate the location of Denham village in a sort of semi-circular enclave formed by the Colne and roads from Uxbridge and Harefield and bisected by the Misbourne. The map also reflects the dispersed nature of the parish with its scattered farms and large houses.

1899 Ordnance Survey map

The buildings marked as Andrews at the corner of Old Mill Road and the Ashmead Track seem to have disappeared. Andrews Farm is still marked, and presumably contains the barn described in an 1880s estate catalogue, on the site of the present Roman Catholic church (just outside the conservation area). This map does show Blackburn Cottages but still no buildings on Four Acre Mead on the south side of Village Road. The corn mill is disused.

1932 Ordnance Survey map

The mill is marked as a paste mill, although by 1932 it had probably already become a house. New buildings included the Elms (now Clare Elms) and Amberleigh. The Cedars has become the White House and some buildings at Denham Court Farm have disappeared, as has the Lodge to Denham Court near Cedar Cottage. Four Acre Mead has been divided with just one building shown on it.

CHAPTER 5 - STREETScape

Roads and paths

Denham village is often described as secluded and “hidden away”, an effect of its being by-passed by main roads. As explained in Chapter 4 this by-passing dates back to the 17th century rebuilding of Denham Place. The result has been to save the historic village from through traffic. Nevertheless the village is easily accessible and permeable. The creation of Old Mill Road in the late 19th century has provided a third link with the main Oxford Road (A40) in addition to Cheapside Lane and Denham Avenue (A412). Historic maps are evidence of a remarkable survival of road layout and ancient roads and tracks.

The village is well-served with public footpaths and bridleways. Walking is clearly a popular activity in the area. Some routes which appear to have been important on historic maps, such as Ashmead Track, or the track behind the churchyard are now used only as footpaths or bridleways.



The differing characters of the Pyghtle footpath, looking north out of the Village (left) and, enclosed by brick walls, looking south towards the village (right). This is a well-used route linking the conservation area with Denham railway station. The land between the Denham Place wall and the footpath would once have been grazed.

Even the busy A412 - Denham Avenue - has maintained some of its former rural character. Footpath along the eastern side of Denham Avenue, as it winds between trees on the wide grass verge and the grounds of Denham Place ►



Most of the river Misbourne as it flows through the village is outside the public realm but can be seen from the three bridges in the conservation area which are crossed by public highways. The 1843 Tithe Map shows a track to the river between Ashbys and Denham Gallery, since closed off.



Village roads are narrow, with
◀ Ashmead Lane only single-track. Pavements are limited, and where provided are only on one side of the road.

Street-rhythms

That part of the historic core closest to the Village Green has the finest grain, reflecting the layout of burgage-type plots in the Middle Ages. Development on the south side of Village Road had to round a bend to accommodate a group of buildings (Island Cottages). Following their demolition the “island” was converted into the Village Green.



◀ *Roseneath and the Spinning Wheel look particularly interesting with their front angled around this bend.*

There are occasional breaks in the rhythm with gaps between some buildings.

The carriage entrance, enlarged in the 20th century, between Mull and Green Cottages leads to the Cherry Wood works. ▶



It is assumed that the original “burgage” plots would have extended north as far as the path which still runs west-east (from the Pyghtle to the churchyard) behind the houses on the north side of Village Road. There appears to have been early sub-division of some of the “burgage” plots to allow for “backland” development, such as Yew Tree Cottage and Rose Cottages. This process has been continued with modern developments such as Pyghtle Cottage and Kayalami.

East of the Swan the grain becomes much coarser and the street rhythm breaks down. On the north side of Village Road there seems to have been some amalgamation of “burgage” plots; a deed of 1744 states that two plots had been amalgamated for the building of a new mansion. Wrango is a large house set back from the road on a spacious plot, and thought to be an early 18th century re-development following the demolition of smaller cottages. To the east of Wrango the tighter rhythm re-asserts itself with White Cottage and Fayrstedde set up against the road and close together. However, for reasons not yet clear, Hills House is set at an angle to the north leaving a space in front of the churchyard gate.

The southern side of Village Road east of Jasmine Cottage is quite different with a far coarser grain. Buildings are in spacious grounds, irregularly spaced and with no regular rhythm. Despite this difference in character between north and south sides of the road, the long stretches of brick wall along the south side and at Wrango have a cohesive effect in helping to unify the street.

Early postcards show “the entrance to the Village” at Cedar/Cedar Tree Cottage. Historically there was denser development around the church with buildings which have been demolished next to Cedar Tree Cottage and in the churchyard itself. This point still feels like the eastern entrance to the village with a more rural character asserting itself on the approach to the former farm and mill buildings.

Surviving buildings are generally parallel to the road and rhythms are slightly irregular because of alterations or insertion of later buildings, or projections such as bow-windows, door-hoods and hanging signs.

Heights of eaves and ridges are varied as are roof-pitches. Roof lines are broken up by chimney stacks, dormer windows and gables. The overall emphasis is vertical. Roof-shapes are varied - gable-ended, hipped, half-hipped, and double-sloped. All these characteristics add interest to the streetscene.



The north side of Village Road above (here shown to best advantage in the sunshine) with Old Cottage on the left and the Swan on the right. The southern side (below) with Da Remo dominant by virtue of its scale.



Denham Conservation Area



Despite its width, Hills House has a vertical emphasis being visually broken up into narrower sections by its tall front gables and roofs end-on to the road. The space between the church and Hills House enhances the setting and enables a clearer view of each building.

Signs

Projecting signs hanging on wrought iron brackets are traditional and appear on the three public houses and Da Remo restaurant. Denham Gallery has fascia boards on its double-bow windows and there is a shallow fascia board at Da Remo.

A sign on the Village Green shows that Denham has won a “Best Kept Village” award on six occasions between 1958 and 1999.

Memorial plaques appear to be a feature with two plaques of stone on the Green, one of timber in the Memorial Seat and a round metal “blue” plaque on the late Sir John Mills’s home at Hills House.



Historic fire insurance plaques are an interesting feature on several buildings. The insurance records provide a valuable source of information on a building’s history.

Street furniture and lighting

There are several appropriately designed wooden benches on the green, in the churchyard, and by the “pond” just west of the bridge near Denham Place. Some of the benches are inscribed with memorials. They reinforce the area’s character as a pleasant and tranquil place for residents and visitors alike.

Street lighting is limited, which helps preserve the village character. Where provided the design is appropriate with decorative standards of medium height painted green.



Streetscape & spaces

Surfaces

Roads and pavements are covered in black tarmac. Kerbs are of stone in the village core, but of concrete along Old Mill Road probably because it was outside the conservation area prior to its review and re-designation.

The conservation area is generally not encumbered by yellow lines or unnecessary traffic markings.

Several houses which open directly onto the street have stone door steps or flagstones which are an important element in the streetscape.

Red bricks make an appropriate hard-standing or front pavement, such as at Winton House.

Boundary Treatments

Brick boundary walls are a particular feature of the conservation area and are dealt with in more detail in Chapter 7 (Buildings). They are important in creating a sense of enclosure and intimacy.

Buildings set close to the road generally have no front boundaries, although some have post and chain link fences or stones to demarcate the boundary, and to help deter car-parking. Winton House has a combination of iron railings and privet hedging. Iron railings appear to have been an historic feature in the village. Old photographs show them outside Hills House, Da Remo and Denham Gallery and it is clear that railings have disappeared from several monuments in the churchyard. An interesting set of railings survives along part of the Denham Avenue frontage of Denham Place marking the Claire-voie. ►



Decorative wrought ironwork is still found in gates; at Denham Place, Denham Court and Wrango and at some modern properties, such as Log Cabin.

There is a fine stretch of beech hedge opposite Hills House. Hedges help to reinforce the rural character and are also found along Ashmead and Cheapside Lanes and Old Mill Road.

A low post and rail fence, painted white forms a picturesque but effective boundary for the Village Green. Such open-structured fences also allow views through them, as in this example next to the river at the Old Forge. ►



CHAPTER 6 - SPACES, TREES and VIEWS

Spaces

Spaces, both public and private, make an important contribution to the rural, village character of the conservation area. They also contrast with the finely grained buildings close to the Village Green. This green is the most prominent of the public spaces, a local landmark and a 20th century creation given to the



village by Herbert Ward following the demolition of Island Cottages. (There is a commemorative plaque on the Denham Place wall overlooking the Green). A neatly mown green space planted with attractive trees and well provided with seats, its natural appearance belies its modern origins. It makes a valuable contribution to both visual and communal amenity as well as village character.

There is another public sitting place on a small green west of the humped bridge on Village Road where the river runs by the roadside, forming a picturesque village pond, overhung by weeping willows.

The churchyard is also well supplied with benches and is a much appreciated tranquil green space. It has an interesting collection of graves and monuments, not least of which is the memorial over the grave of the Marshall family scandalously murdered in Cheapside Lane in 1870.



◀ *A triangular green at the junction of Cheapside and Ashmead Lanes is overlooked by the Walker Memorial Seat. This is another space created through 20th century demolition. A well and white weather-boarded house stood here, next to the row of cottages of which the Methodist chapel is the sole survivor.*

The wide splay at the junction of Cheapside Lane and Village Road at first sight appears to be a modern road-engineering feature. However this splay is shown on historic maps and perhaps there is some connection with the medieval fair, if, as local historians believe, it was held in Cheapside Lane.

This recently formed public space on the site of demolished buildings behind Cedar Cottage is known locally as the Hilhouse plot. ►



The grounds of Denham Place form a private space which has value as a nationally important historic planned landscape. It also acts as a buffer, both visual and aural, against the busy Denham Avenue, contributing to the seclusion and intimacy of the conservation area. The grounds are currently undergoing a programme of renovation.

The water meadows between the Misbourne and Ashmead Lane are large private open spaces contributing to the rural character and providing a picturesque setting for village buildings. Their openness forms a contrast with the densely developed village core and continues the tradition of meadow land, historically an important element in the village economy. The earthworks in the meadow have archaeological potential and investigation would be required to ascertain their role in the historical development of Denham.

The open character of the Denham Country Park and Buckinghamshire Golf Club bordering the conservation area emphasises the rural context and makes a contrast with the enclosed and secluded village core.

Trees and gardens

Trees are particularly important in setting the rural and intimate character of Denham village.

Mature trees in the grounds of Denham Place can be seen from all directions over the high boundary wall. They soften the eastern side of the wide and busy A412 - Denham Avenue - and also help to reduce traffic noise in the village core. An important row of trees set on a raised verge along the south side of Village Road, just west of the Village Hall, casts shadows on the red brick wall of Denham Place and emphasises the contrast between the busy A412 and the more tranquil environment of the village. ►



Spaces, trees & views

Graceful weeping willows are found along the banks of the Misbourne and enhance the approach to the humped bridge at the village's western entrance. Many more are found in the private realm, where they can be seen across the open space of the meadowland north of Ashmead Lane.



◀ View north-east from Cheapside Lane. Even in winter trees make a significant contribution, especially willows, with their orange/yellow stems.

Trees behind River Lodge and the converted mill group, seen from Ashmead Lane. ▶



Several trees, especially tall evergreens, behind buildings on both sides of Village Road can be seen from the road
◀ over roof-tops or between buildings.

The Village Green itself has been planted with trees which are now mature and there is a fine yew between the Old Bakery and Melgan.

The set-back of buildings farther east along Village Road means there are more trees in front of buildings, especially at Wrango, Summerfield and in the churchyard. Magnificent horse-chestnuts are a particular feature of the streetscene. The slope towards the Mill House is almost a green corridor culminating with the large horse chestnuts on the corner next to the Priory.

Hedges reinforce the rural character along Ashmead and Cheapside Lanes, Old Mill Road and the Pyghtle as well as other country paths in and around the conservation area.

Important groups of trees in the grounds of Baconsmead, Swandane and Blackbarn cottages enhance the setting of these buildings.



With Denham Country Park and the Buckinghamshire Golf Course to the north and east and wooded fields to the west, the setting of the conservation area is also valuable in providing trees and greenery which enhance its rural character. The famous lime avenue leading to Denham Court is an important and well-used walking route in and out of the conservation area.

◀ *This avenue continues eastwards from the back of the church to the site of a former lodge belonging to Denham Court.*

Trees and hedges which can be seen from the public realm and which make an important contribution to the special character of the conservation area are shown on the Tree map (approximate position only). This map also shows trees and/or areas subject to Tree Preservation Orders

Gardens

Houses close to the Green are set hard-up against the highway and so do not have front gardens, although a few have a narrow road-side strip with plants or pots.

This lack of gardens has been compensated for by luxuriant foliage in the form of creepers, usually wistaria, which clothe the fronts of many of the buildings in Village Road.

Hills House in spring ►



The larger houses in the conservation areas are set on spacious plots, with ornamental gardens and landscaped grounds but generally hidden from view behind walls or hedges. The exception is the garden at the front of Old Mill House and Wellers Mead. Its openness and plain landscaping enhance the setting of this historic and picturesque group of buildings.

Views

The survey for this appraisal was carried out during the winter when the lack of tree cover permitted views and glimpses not available at other times of year. Important views are marked on the Views map.

The conservation area is almost completely bounded by public roads or paths. Thus its edges are sensitive. However in many places the prevalence of tree-cover and solid boundaries either restricts views in and out of the area completely or reduces them to mere glimpses. Within the conservation area, views are also limited by the fine grain of the buildings, trees, hedges and the many brick boundary walls. The roads and paths with their sinuous bends permit some unfolding views.

Views into the conservation area

The church tower is a landmark feature visible above the trees from the raised embankment of the railway line and the Buckinghamshire Golf Course. The open terrain of the Golf Course and Denham Country Park also allows distant views to roofs at the Mill House, Priory and Court Farm. There is an opening view down the Denham Court lime avenue of the church and Bowyer House.

Edges of the conservation area without solid boundaries or tree cover can leave buildings exposed to view making these sites sensitive for development.

Holtys from the path behind Court Farm ►



View from the Pyghtle across the golf course ▼



Denham Place can be glimpsed from Denham Avenue. Originally the house faced west and the *claire-voie*, designed for enjoyment of views from the house, still allows glimpses of the house from the road.

An important view of the lake and Denham Place from the footbridge which used to carry the A412 prior to its widening. ►



Views out of the conservation area

Looking west from this footbridge the fields leading to Red Hill and Bakers Wood can be seen. A view of the same fields behind trees planted in the wide verge of Denham Avenue opens out at the western end of Village Road.



Denham Railway station, on the railway embankment, can be seen from the Pyghtle and the churchyard which is open ◀ at its northern end.

The path which zig-zags eastwards from the back of the church behind Holtye and Court Farm is only partially enclosed so

permitting views over the golf-course. There is an important glimpse of Denham Court from the footbridge at its eastern end.

Denham Country Park can be seen over the rustic post and rail fence along the eastern side of Old Mill Road. However the recent planting of a hedge threatens closure of this important view. ▶



Views within the conservation area

In the village core the enclosure engendered by high walls and finely grained development results in few open views. The bends in Village Road are important since the eye is led along; views gradually open up whilst others are closed. This is particularly important when travelling west-east. Denham has been a popular subject for picture postcard makers for over a century, the most favoured view being of the western entrance (see page 3).

The open-space of the 20th century Green allows views which would not have been available historically. The view then opens eastward around the bend eventually focussing on the parish church, a view permitted by the set-back of Hills House.

The black and white pargetting-like pattern on Cedar Cottage is an eyecatcher and marks the eastern end of the built-up part of the village. ►



◀ *The rural view eastwards from Cedar Cottage down Village Road. The bend stops the view at River Lodge with its high brick wall.*

Views westward along Village Road are also affected by the bends as well as the rise in the road to Cedar Cottage and the parish church. The landmark gables of Hills House can be seen over the rise. ►



◀ *The spaciousness and slightly higher ground of the churchyard allows glimpses of buildings otherwise obscured by high walls, trees or hedges. Here the interesting roofscape of Summerfield can be seen.*

Wrought iron gates or other boundary openings permit glimpses of significant buildings and/or gardens such as the stables at Denham Place, Wrango, the White House, the Priory and Court Farm.



◀ Glimpse of the listed great barn and farmyard at Court Farm through a modern metal gate

Glimpses of the White House ▶ and its gardens



More glimpses through entrances:



◀ the bridge over the Misbourne through the gate of the Mill House

“lych-gate” style at Baconsmead



Metal barred field gates in Old Mill Road and Cheapside Lane permit views across the water meadows. The picturesque views from Ashmead Lane have already been shown (see page 26).

CHAPTER 7 - BUILDINGS

The architectural and historic value of the buildings in the conservation area is reflected in the high proportion of listings. The Appendix contains tables with brief descriptions of the following:

- all the listed buildings in the conservation area
- unlisted buildings which make a positive contribution to the special character of the conservation area
- two buildings, not listed in their own right but within the curtilage of listed buildings, which can be seen from the public realm and thus are deemed to make a positive contribution.

There is a separate paragraph on Denham Place at the end of this chapter.

Many surviving buildings have evolved organically over centuries leaving an assortment of buildings of different dates, scale, styles, functions and materials. There has never been any single pre-dominant landowner to impose uniformity and, whilst there is evidence of some common elements and influences, variety is one of Denham's key characteristics.

Vernacular cottages are common in the conservation area. They are timber framed buildings, although most have had their timber frames re-fronted in brick. These vernacular buildings cannot be accurately dated without detailed survey. Most are listed with 16th or 17th century dates based only on cursory external inspection, internal inspections being unusual when the lists were drawn up. The Old Bakery, with a 15th or 16th century listing date, has been found, through a combination of measured survey and documentary research, to have originated as a base-cruck open hall built in 1367-8. The Old Forge appears to contain significant elements of the frame of a late medieval aisled barn.



Where timber-frames remain exposed they have an immediate visual impact in the streetscene and make a significant contribution to the picturesque quality and aura of antiquity present in the village. Buildings in this category include Misbourne Cottage, Blacksmiths, Old Cottage and Fayrstedde.

◀ *Old Cottage*

Exposed timber-framing at Blacksmiths, and on the left, in the gable-end of Falcon Cottage ►

Some re-fronted cottages have their timber frames partly exposed to the side or in a gable end, allowing intriguing glimpses through gaps between buildings or where changes in rooflines leave gable ends exposed. Examples include Melgan, Falcon Cottage, and Cedar Cottage.



◄ *The re-fronted Melgan, on the left, appears Victorian at the front but the side wall has its timber-frame exposed. The unlisted Walter the Abbot on the right is a cottage rebuilt in the 20th century in sympathetic style.*

Re-frontings usually resulted in a plainer appearance such as at Wistaria Cottages, Roseneath, the Spinning Wheel, Antiquities and Falcon Cottage.

Some cottage re-frontings had rather grander outcomes such as Mull Cottage with its parapet. White Cottage has clearly been the subject of a more thorough treatment with the addition of details mentioned below.

The vernacular cottages are no taller than two storeys, although some have dormers lighting an attic.

Alterations to the vernacular buildings over the centuries have changed their character. It is likely that many originated as hall houses and were later subdivided, with the insertion of an upper floor and walls to create separate rooms and sometimes an attic. Late 18th century and 19th century documents show that these buildings had been divided into multiple dwellings. With the growth of affluence in the later 20th century cottages have been converted into single dwellings resulting not only in internal alterations but changes in external features, such as blocked up doorways. The table of listed buildings gives more details.



Fayrstedde, now one house, was at one time divided into four.

Interspersed between the cottages are larger buildings. Again reliable dating is difficult without survey but some, such as the Swan, are timber-framed, probably 17th century, but later re-fronted in brick resulting in an 18th century appearance. Others, such as the adjoining Green Man, appear to be of brick construction, although internal inspection might reveal timber-framing. Such buildings, with their two full height storeys leading to higher eaves and ridges, are more dominant in the street scene.

Three buildings in Village Road are particularly significant for their scale and quality. They are late 17th/early 18th century buildings which probably replaced earlier vernacular buildings. The tallest building in the finely grained historic core is Da Remo, with three storeys, plus an attic and cellar (photographed in chapter 5). Its scale also appears exaggerated by comparison with its smaller neighbours.



The others are the Falcon (photographed above), a landmark on the bend overlooking the Village Green and Wrango a gentleman's residence set back on a slight bend in the road and in a spacious plot.



The location of all three increases their impact on the character of the conservation area.

◀ *The early 18th century Wrango*

A plain early 19th century Regency style is evident at Denham Gallery and Rose Cottages, and in the re-fronting of Winton House.

Away from the village core and the Green categorisation of the surviving buildings becomes even more difficult. The parish church is a landmark and the oldest surviving building in the conservation area with surviving fabric ranging probably from the 12th to 20th centuries.

Next to the church, Hills House, another landmark building is highly distinctive and thought to have been the inspiration for the shaped gables found elsewhere in the village. It is also significant for its association with the actor, the late Sir John Mills, who represented Denham's connection with the film industry.

Opposite the church is the White House, a large gentleman's residence with 18th century origins, apparently much extended. Set in spacious landscape grounds next to the river it is highly picturesque.



Whilst there are no working farms or water-mills left in Denham village the important farming and milling traditions are represented by the sensitively converted farm and mill buildings.

◀ *The old farmhouse at Court Farm, now part of a mixed-use complex.*



◀ The 18th century Mill House (on the right), the converted mill (centre) and the sensitive 20th century addition of Wellers Mead. Visually and stylistically this mill group includes the Priory, which, as the 18th century parish Poorhouse,

also represents an important part of Denham's social history.

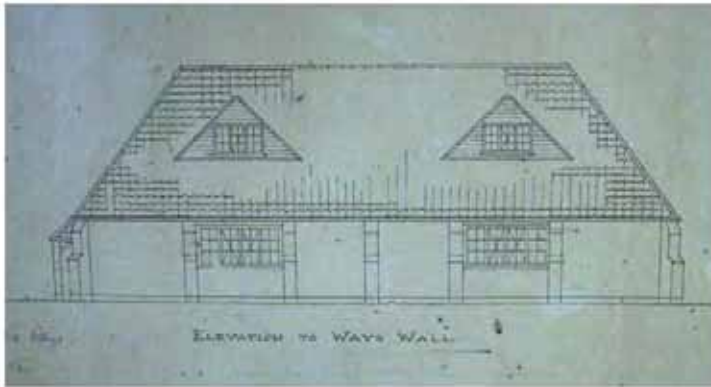
Other historic community buildings include Bowyer House, a former charity school, and the Methodist Chapel. Whilst the former was purpose-built in 1721 as a house and school, the latter was converted from an 18th century terraced cottage, evidenced by altered openings in the front wall. Both buildings are unique in the conservation area.

All these conversions and alterations illustrate the adaptability of historic buildings in the conservation area.

The Methodist Chapel is tiny but White Gable behind it is not so large as to dominate it. Its materials are also sympathetic to the chapel. ►



Twentieth century additions to the communal buildings of the village are the Village Memorial Hall and the Walker Memorial Seat, both designed by Francis Bacon (1882-1971), a notable local architect.



◀ *Part of Bacon's plan showing the north elevation of the Village Memorial Hall built in 1923.*

Baconsmead, a picturesque composition of four pairs of houses, designed by Bacon in 1940. ▼



◀ *The War Memorial in the churchyard, designed by Bacon and erected in 1919, said to be one of the earliest in the country.*

The extent of Bacon's work in the village has not yet been established but several other buildings have been attributed to him. His contribution to village life is commemorated in the name of Baconsmead. He designed the thoughtfully laid out pairs of houses (number 1 to 8) here and may have been involved in the conversion works at Mill House/Wellers Mead.

Arts and Crafts style is evident at Blackburn Cottages, Tudor Lodge and possibly at Clare Elms, a large house almost totally hidden from the public realm. Swandane (said to have been designed by Bacon) and Summerfield are 20th century buildings in a Georgian style but appropriate to a village setting. Summerfield has a particularly interesting roofscape seen from the churchyard.

Blackburn Cottages exhibit some of the characteristics of the older village cottages, such as dormers and gauged brickwork, but with late 19th century detailing such as applied timbering, ridge crests and gabled porches. ►



The only industrial premises in the conservation area, Cherry Tree works, provide examples of restrained modern timber and brick buildings appropriate to the historic village setting.

Bridges

The river Misbourne flows west-east through the centre of the conservation area and the bridges over it are an important element in forming the special character of the area. The well-known "picture postcard" view of Denham is taken from the western entrance to the village with the listed red brick humped-back bridge in the foreground. ►



At the eastern end of the village the road crosses the river where the converted water mill building forms another picturesque scene. There are footbridges across the river away from the public realm connecting the gardens of houses south of Village Road with the meadows.

Building materials

The predominant building material is brick and Pevsner describes Denham as “essentially the mellow red of old brick.” It is not known where bricks for the Denham buildings would have been made, but there are documentary references to good local brick-earth. Local clay would produce a cherry red brick. However closer inspection reveals the influence of Denham’s proximity to London and its good transport links in the availability of non-local, particularly stock, brick.

The result is a wider palette than “mellow red”.

Jasmine and Fuchsia Cottages ▶

are examples of later 20th century buildings in stock brick, replacing three stock brick cottages, which were probably contemporaneous with the adjoining Denham Gallery (dated 1810).



As well as the usual yellow/brown stocks, purple stock brick is also found in Denham (for example in Denham Gallery), whilst brick commonly described as red is often reddish-brown. The influence of the owners of Denham Court may be evident since Denham Court itself has yellow stock brick with red brick dressings (photographed on page 44).

Brickwork is almost always in Flemish bond, although there is some English bond. Brick nogging is sometimes in random bond, perhaps because of later repairs, as are garden walls. There is a good example of English garden wall bond in the boundary wall of the White House. Header bond can be seen at Mull Cottage.

Most of the buildings in the conservation area are of timber-frame construction, although the 17th and 18th century fashion for re-fronting in brick means that the frame is often concealed. Where parts of the timber frame are still exposed the infill is invariably brick, although it is presumed that walls would originally have been of wattle and daub. Without internal inspections the extent of any wattle and daub survival cannot be ascertained but it is known that a wattle and daub wall survives in Green Cottage.

Timber-framed buildings appear to be of box frame construction although a 14th century base-cruck open hall survives at the Old Bakery. There has been insufficient study to know the type of roof construction generally used but the surviving barns at Denham Court have Queen-post roof trusses.

Render is unusual in the conservation area. So is pebbledash, except at Clare Elms, an early 20th century house. Brick is generally left uncovered but some brick buildings on the edges of the village (the old Mill and Priory group and

the White House) have been painted white. This treatment emphasises their picturesque quality. In the centre of the village, painted brickwork is only found on the side walls of a few buildings such as Walter the Abbott and Winton House.

Lack of any local freestone has resulted in stone only being found as quoins and dressings on the highest status buildings, namely the parish church and Denham Place. Flint is not found in the immediate vicinity and does not appear in secular buildings. The parish church is covered in flint, although whether this is as a result of the 19th century restoration is not known. The knapped flint used in the modern vestry (reputedly from Norfolk) and in recently restored sections of the church is of good quality.

Neat flint and stonework on the 1968 vestry. This also illustrates another Denham characteristic - the memorial plaque. ►



◀ *The vestry was designed by Sir James Martin, inventor of the ejector seat! The Martin Baker factory is at Higher Denham.*

Flint has been used in boundary walls to the rear of the church close to the listed Denham Court gates with their knapped flint piers.

Tile-hanging is not an historic characteristic of Denham but has been used in 20th century work on Pyghtle Cottage, the link between Blacksmiths and Forge Cottage and at the rear of the Old Bakery.

Roofs are almost exclusively covered in plain clay tiles, most of them old handmade tiles. These make a significant contribution to the area's



character with their orange-red palette and irregular profile. Rose Cottages have rare examples of slate roofs. Clay pantiles are not characteristic but are appropriate for outbuildings, such as this
◀ former stable-block at Wellers Mead.

Details

Buildings in the conservation area are essentially plain. Exposed timber frames supply visual interest and a sort of ornamentation. Brick ornamentation is often seen in the form of dentilled cornices and string courses, even on vernacular cottages. Fine quality gauged brickwork is found on several buildings and is a characteristic of the conservation area which often goes unnoticed because of the extent of wistaria and other climbing plants covering many of the buildings. Brick window aprons are also characteristic with examples at the Falcon, Mull Cottage, the Old Bakery and the Swan, here with the addition of guttae. Gauged brick window arches are common, either flat or segmental.

18th century rubbed brick in the cornice at the Falcon ►



◄ *Window apron and segmental headed blind window also at the Falcon.*

Parapet with a projecting gauged brick band, and flat window arches at Mull Cottage. The enlarged carriage entrance cuts through a blind window. ►



An unusual and intriguing gauged brick feature can be found on the western gable of White Cottage, obscured from view by a yew tree in the garden of Wrango. It takes the form of a blind Venetian window, with panels of vitrified headers, most of which have retained their glaze because they are protected from the weather by the tree and an ovolo moulding running across the top of the “window”. The brickwork appears to be 18th century and it seems likely that the feature would have been created to beautify the side wall of the cottage when its neighbour was demolished to make way for the building of Wrango in the early 18th century. There are no known Venetian windows in the conservation area, the closest example being at Denham Court (see photograph on page 44).

The most distinctive detailing takes the form of shaped gables revealing 17th century Dutch influence. Hills House is the most important example.

A photograph ► of the corn mill probably taken around 1912, before its conversion, shows that its shaped gables, although clearly remodelled, were probably an original 18th century feature. Perhaps those at the Priory are also original.



The White Cottage also has shaped gables at either end of the roof, probably of 18th century date.

The rear elevation of Wrango has a highly unusual gable to the stair-projection, shaped rather like a basket-arch.



◀ *Shaped gable at Hills House, a dormer at Fayrstedde and a prominent chimney stack. All lend vertical emphasis to the streetscene and interest to the roofscape. Note also the palette of red/brown colours in the bricks and tiles and the shadow play of trees from the other side of Village Road.*

More ornate detailing associated with the end of the 19th century is evident at Blackbarn Cottages with some applied half-timbering. The door and window heads have a carved ziz-zag pattern. ► (see also the photograph on page37)



Windows and doors

There is a variety of window types with sashes and casements sometimes appearing on the same building. Many casement windows have leaded lights. Sash windows have glazing bars but the number of panes varies. At the Old Bakery there are some 24-pane windows. Most windows are flush with the wall-surface.



◀ *Flush sash window at Hills House with flat rubbed brick arch with serpentine edge and moulding above. This arch cuts through the original brick string course showing that these sash windows replaced the originals, probably in the mid-18th century.*

A flat ► gauged-brick arch over a 16-pane sash window at Wistaria Cottages. The red brick of the arch contrasts with the brown stock brick.



16-pane flush sash windows with thick glazing bars under segmental arches and with external shutters at White Cottage ▼



The village once contained several shops and some houses retain larger windows replacing old shop fronts. Denham Gallery has a distinctive and good quality double-bowed shop front, probably of the 1920s. ▼

There are several blind or bricked-up windows. The consolidation of small cottages into larger dwellings, especially in the 20th century, has resulted in many blocked doorways. Where these are obvious they contribute to the visual and historic interest of the conservation area.



Some doors have door hoods, generally simple flat hoods covered in lead, supported on small scrolled timber brackets. Classical doorcases are unusual, although in character with re-fronted houses such as Winton House.



Many old doors survive, mostly all of painted timber, some with an element of glazing.

Roofs

Rooflines are varied because of differing ridge and eaves heights, pitches and roof-shapes. Almost all buildings are parallel to the road. Most have gable ended roofs but hipped roofs are also common. Front gables or cross wings create interesting roofscapes, the most spectacular example being at Hills House. Shaped gables have already been mentioned.

There was a double-sloped roof at the Mill over the section which bridges the river and is now the link between Wellers Mead and Mill House (see photograph on page 41). The cottages next to Denham Gallery, demolished in the 1960s and replaced by Jasmine and Fuchsia Cottages, also had a double-sloped roof. Perhaps this was a local characteristic found on other buildings which have been lost. There is a mansard roof at the 20th century White Gable.



Chimney stacks are ubiquitous and are located on roof-ridges, behind ridges and sometimes at the side of buildings. They help break up rooflines and make the roofscape more interesting.

◀ *White Cottage exemplifies the special interest of Denham's roofscape with its old clay tiles, shaped gables, and unusual dormer with its double height window.*

Boundary walls

The many boundary walls in the conservation area play an important role in forming its special character and most of them are of such good quality as to be listed. Both listed and unlisted walls, like the buildings, exhibit variety in their colour, type of brick, height, bond and design. Flint is used in the wall next to the Denham Court gates. They all enhance the feeling of seclusion and enclosure which is such an important characteristic of the conservation area.

This photograph of Denham Court (now the clubhouse for Buckinghamshire Golf Course) illustrates how features found in the conservation area may demonstrate the influence of the Bowyer family over the 18th century development of the conservation area. It shows the use of both red and stock brick with contrasting red-brick flat and segmental window arches, a Venetian window, blind windows, sash windows with glazing bars, brick dentils at the eaves and a brick string course or storey-band. The building was altered in the 19th century and the slate roof would date from that period.



Denham Place

The national importance of Denham Place has been recognised in several designations. The architectural significance of the house has merited a Grade I listing. Other listings include the boundary wall and gates, stables and cottages in the grounds (for more details see the Listed Table in the Appendix). The grounds themselves are listed Grade II on the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England*. The register entry has been reproduced in full in the Appendix.

Alterations to the house included the removal of the balustrade and cupola from the roof in the 18th or early-19th century. The roof would originally have been used as a viewing platform. Although this will have diminished the visual impact of the house, it can still be glimpsed from both inside and outside the conservation area.

Because of its similarity to Belton House in Lincolnshire the design of the house has been attributed to William Stanton, a mason/builder who worked on Belton. The restoration of the wooden roof balustrade has been effected at Belton but not at Denham.

The house, which is not open to the public, is particularly noted for its interiors and chapel and has been the subject of three Country Life articles (18th November 1905, 18th and 25th April 1925).

Denham Place has important historical associations. Elizabeth I visited the earlier Peckham mansion, famously bringing her own door-locks. Captain Cook is said to have been a frequent visitor to the present building and the house was let to various tenants during the 19th century, including the exiled Joseph Bonaparte. The Ways' connection with Denham Place ended in 1920. After being sold by Lady Vansittart the house became offices but has now reverted to use as a private residence.

Both house and grounds are undergoing programmes of restoration following the recent reversion of the house to use as a private residence.

CHAPTER 8 - NEUTRAL AND NEGATIVE FEATURES AND ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Denham is an attractive village clearly well-looked after by residents who take pride in its heritage and appearance. Very few buildings or features detract from its special character or appearance.

Neutral buildings -

The “criteria” suggested in English Heritage’s guidance for considering the contribution made by unlisted building to the special architectural or historic interest of the conservation area have been strictly applied in this appraisal. The character of the conservation area is essentially that of the historic core, comprising a variety of historic, mainly vernacular, buildings. Nearly every unlisted building in the conservation area is attractive and of good quality but, based on present knowledge, those mentioned in the table of neutral buildings in the Appendix are not felt to meet the “criteria” set out in English Heritage’s guidance. This view may need to be revised should more information come to light. In particular, several are thought to have been designed by the local architect Francis Bacon. Further research is required to establish who did design these buildings and the significance of Bacon as an architect.

Buildings not in character

Those modern buildings which do not exhibit the special characteristics prevalent in the conservation area by virtue of their scale, design or materials are deemed to detract from the special character or appearance of the conservation area. They are mentioned in the table of “Buildings not in character” in the Appendix. Whilst bungalows might reasonably have been thought to have less visual impact, single storey houses are essentially out of character in Denham village.

Negative features

Other matters which tend to detract from or harm the special character of the conservation area are:

- Loss of chimney stacks detracting from the interesting roofscape and reducing the vertical emphasis.
- Several buildings previously divided up into separate cottages have been converted to single ownership. This has generally involved a loss of door openings. As well as interfering with historic fabric and loss of evidence of the building’s history this can also lead to a greater, and uncharacteristic, horizontal emphasis.
- Where cottages have small front garden strips, garden ornaments look over-fussy. Traditionally cottages opened directly onto the street with no gardens and frontages looked plain.

- CCTV cameras affixed to buildings can damage historic fabric and the building's appearance.
- Close board fences and high, solid gates.

- The condition of the listed gates at the southern end of the avenue leading to Denham Court. The piers and side walls are covered in ivy, the metal gates are rusty and a finial is missing from the western pier. Also this entrance appears to be used by fly-tippers.



- Street clutter in the form of multiple poles and junction boxes in Denham Avenue



- Metal parapet on the bridge over the Denham Place lake.



- Bay windows, such as those at Green Cottage, are not in character with the vernacular cottages of Denham.
- Modern materials, such as cement mortar, are generally not suitable for historic buildings. The Council's Conservation and Design Officers are happy to give advice on suitable materials. Please also see the following Technical Help and Advice section

TECHNICAL HELP AND ADVICE

Is available from:

The Council's **Conservation and Design Officer**
Capswood
Oxford Road
Denham
UB9 4LH
Telephone 01895 837200

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
37 Spital Square
London
E1 6DY
Telephone 020 7377 1644
www.spab.org.uk

The Victorian Society
1 Priory Gardens
London
W4 1TT
Telephone 020 8994 1019
www.victorian-society.org.uk

The Building Conservation Directory published annually by:
Cathedral Communications Limited
High Street
Tisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 6HA
Telephone 01747 871717
www.buildingconservation.com

INFORMATION ON LISTING AND CONSERVATION AREAS

English Heritage
www.english-heritage.org.uk

Department for Culture Media and Sport
www.culture.gov.uk

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Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service information

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The residents of Denham

Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies

English Heritage

Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service and the Sites and Monuments Record

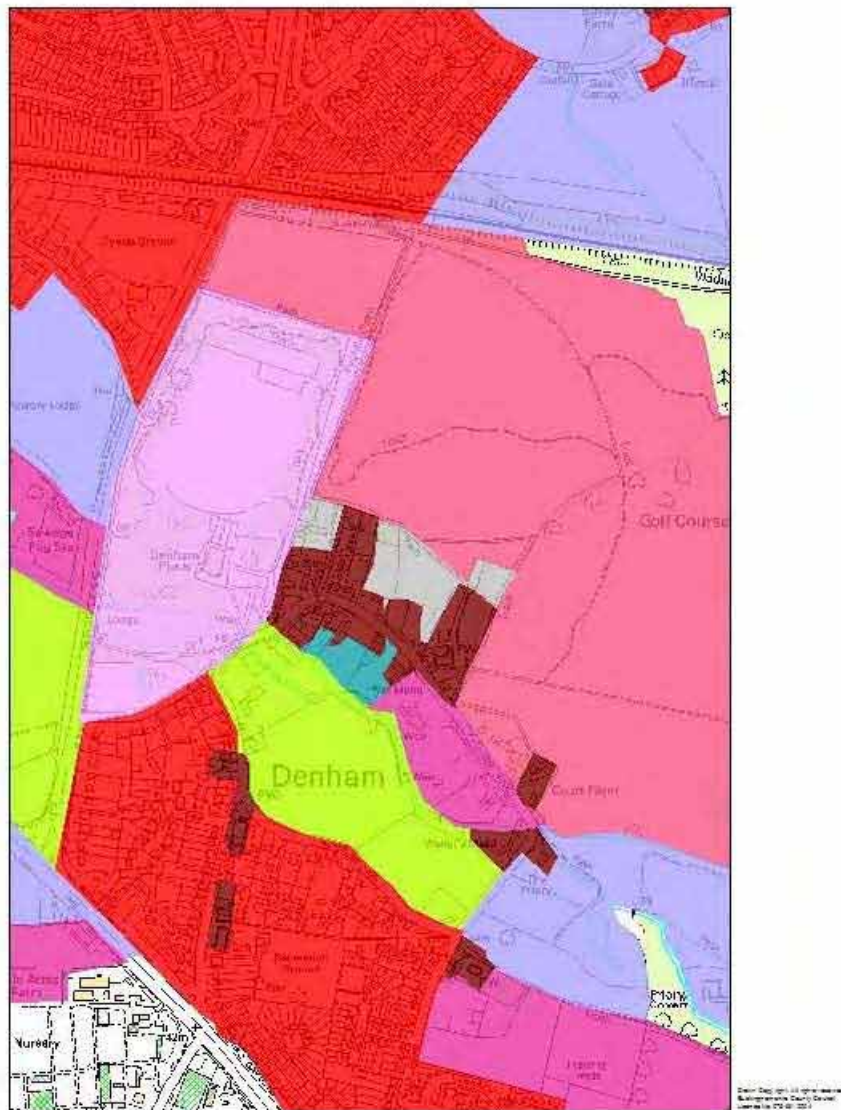
Mr Paul Graham for providing information and his own historical notes

Denham Parish Council, especially for their kind permission to reproduce the plan of the Village Memorial Hall (on page 36)

Mrs Pamela Reed for providing information and for her kind permission to reproduce the postcard of the Old Mill House (on page 41)

The History of Denham Society

Historic Landscape Characterisation map
 Reproduced courtesy of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service



Legend

- Enclosure (Pre 18th - 18th Century 'Irregular')
- Crofts (Medieval/Post Medieval)
- Enclosure (19th Century)
- Enclosure (Pre-18th Century Regular)
- Parliamentary Enclosure (subsequent divisions)
- Enclosure (20th 21st Century)
- Meadow
- Parkland (16th 19th Centuries)
- Settlement (Historic Core)
- Settlement (Modern)
- Golf Courses

Historic Landscape Characterisation data for Denham Conservation Area.

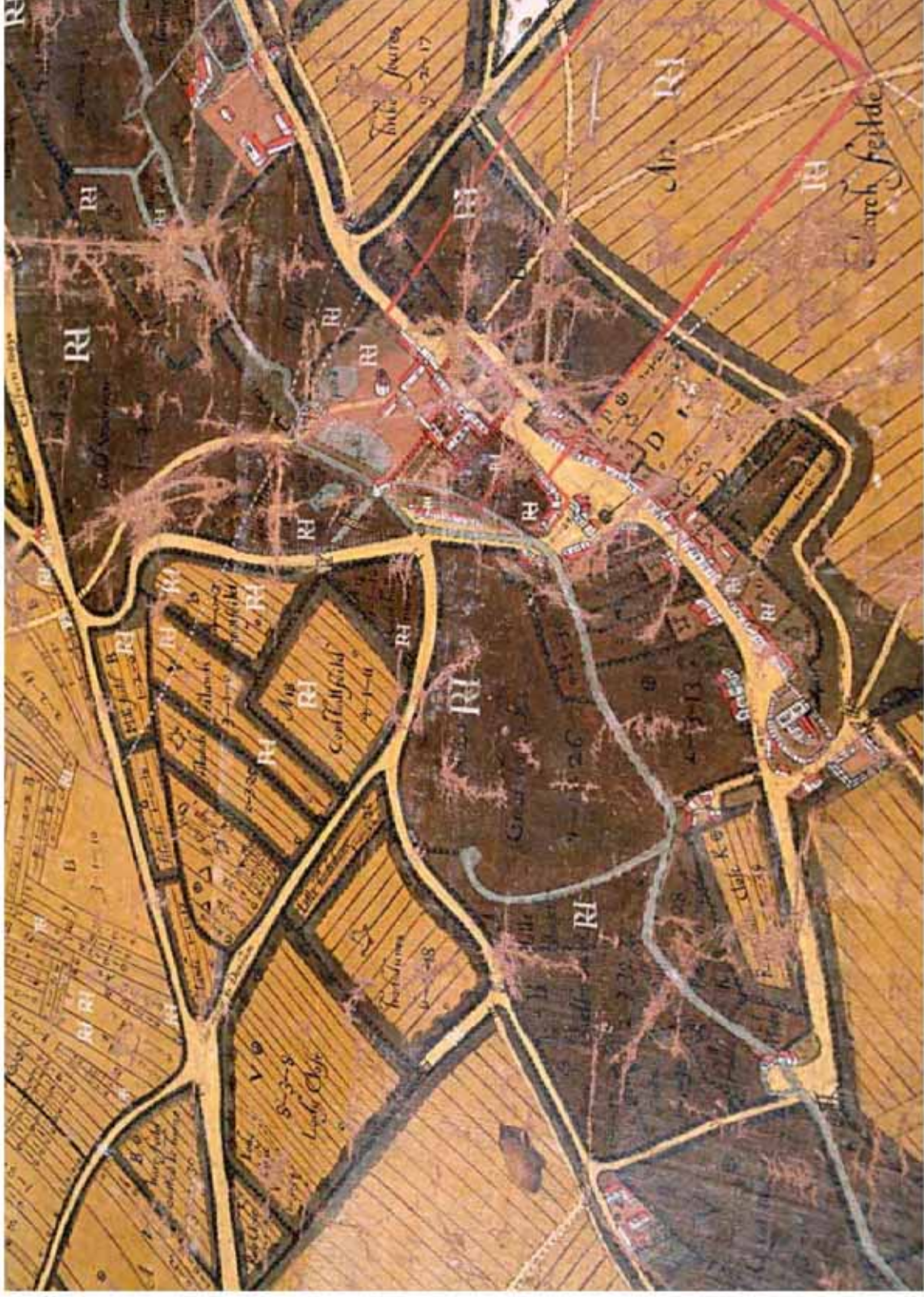
APPENDIX

Denham Conservation Area

Part of a survey of about 1590 with north to the bottom of the map.

(Reproduced by kind permission of Mr John Way and the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies where the original is held.

Ref Ma/W/98R)



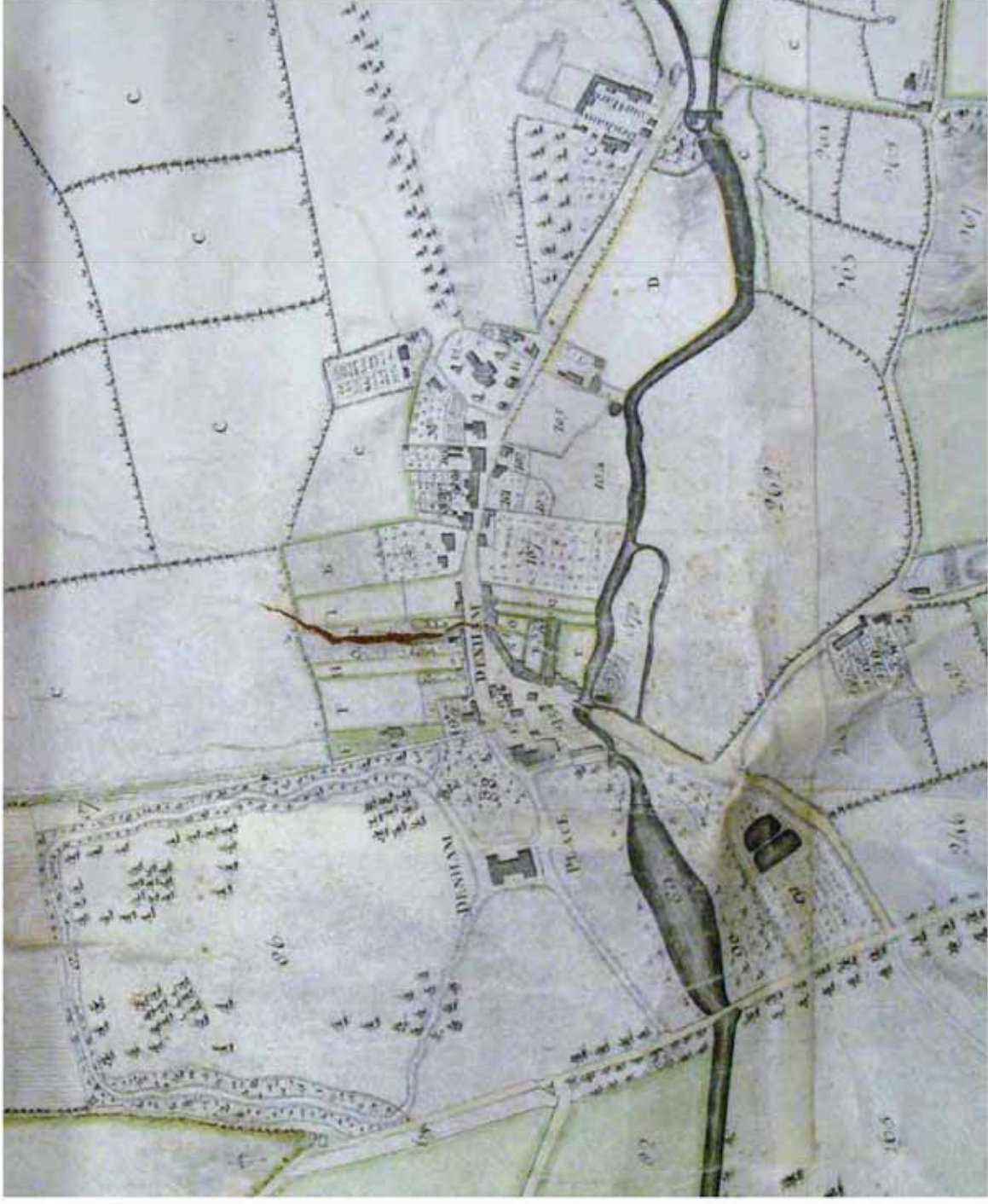
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Historic maps

APPENDIX

Denham Conservation Area

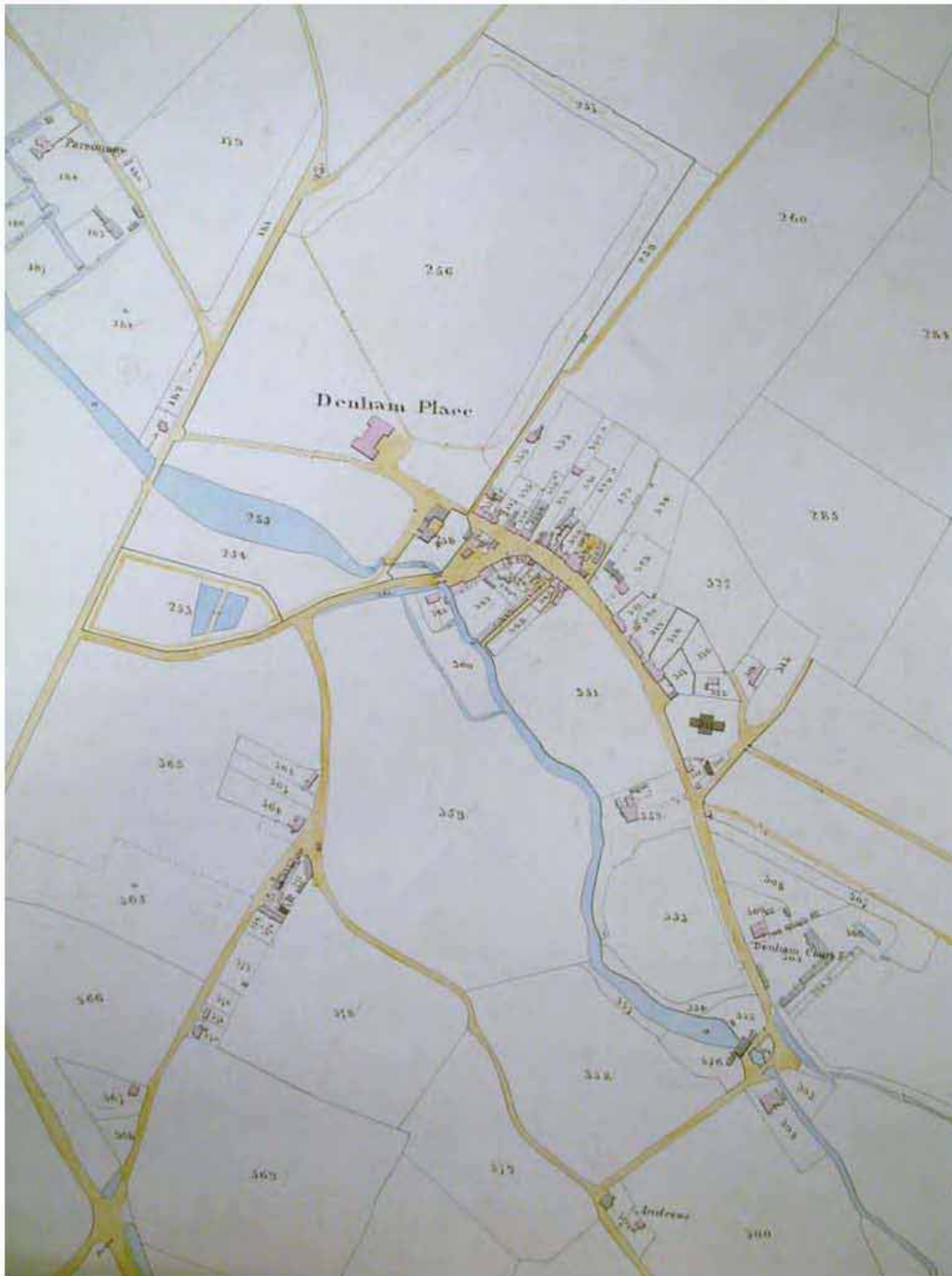
*Part of map of the parish of Denham 1783 showing the whole of the conservation area
Reproduced by kind permission of Mr John Way and the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies where the original is held.
(Ref Ma/W/99R) Note: original map is torn.*



Historic maps

Part of Tithe Map 1843

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APPENDIX

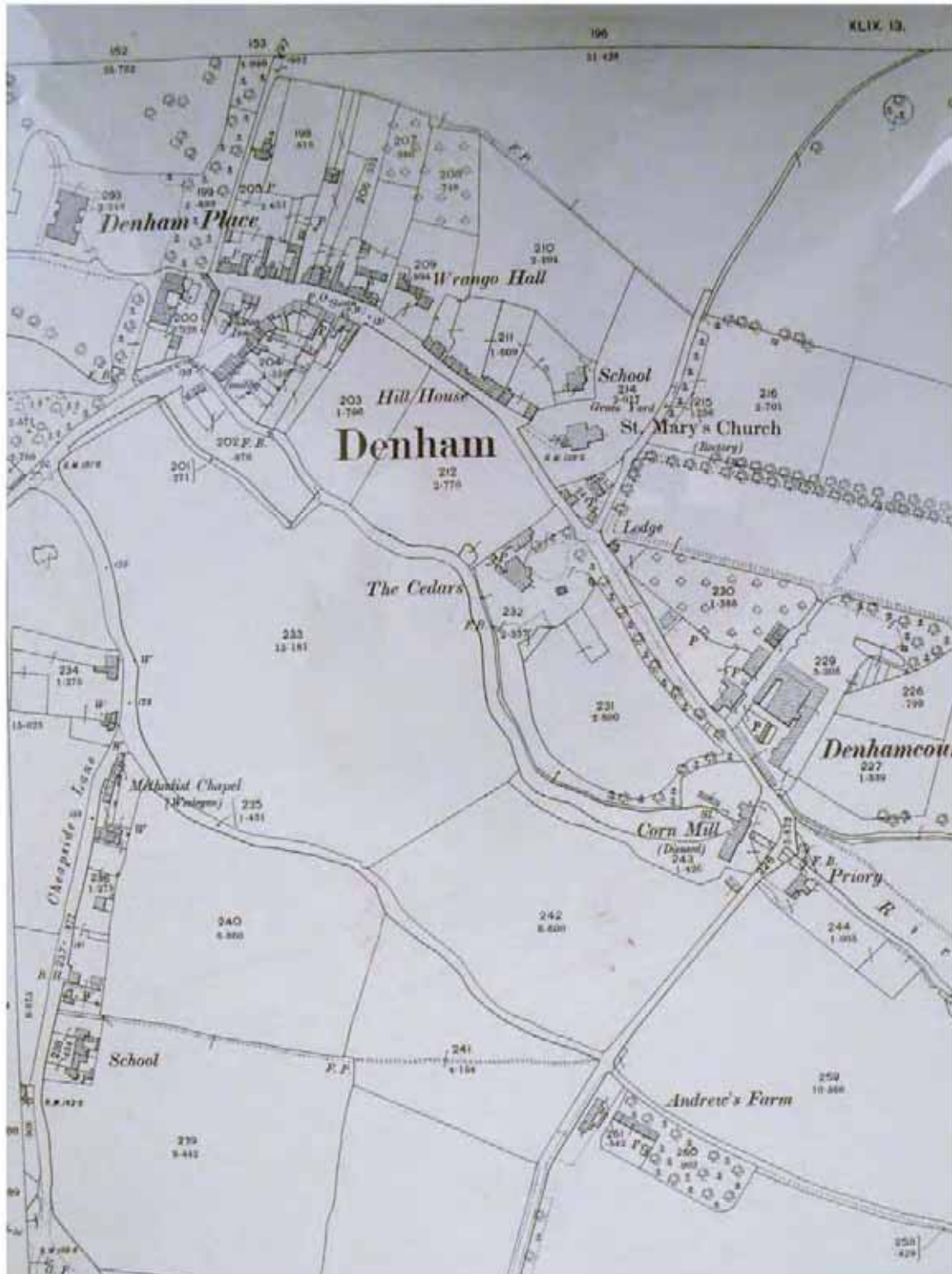
Denham Conservation Area

Ordnance Survey map of 1886 showing Denham Village in relation to the rest of Denham parish, Uxbridge, the Rivers Misbourne and Colne and the Grand Union Canal (then the Grand Junction Canal). The railway had yet to be built. Reproduced by kind permission of the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies where the original is held.



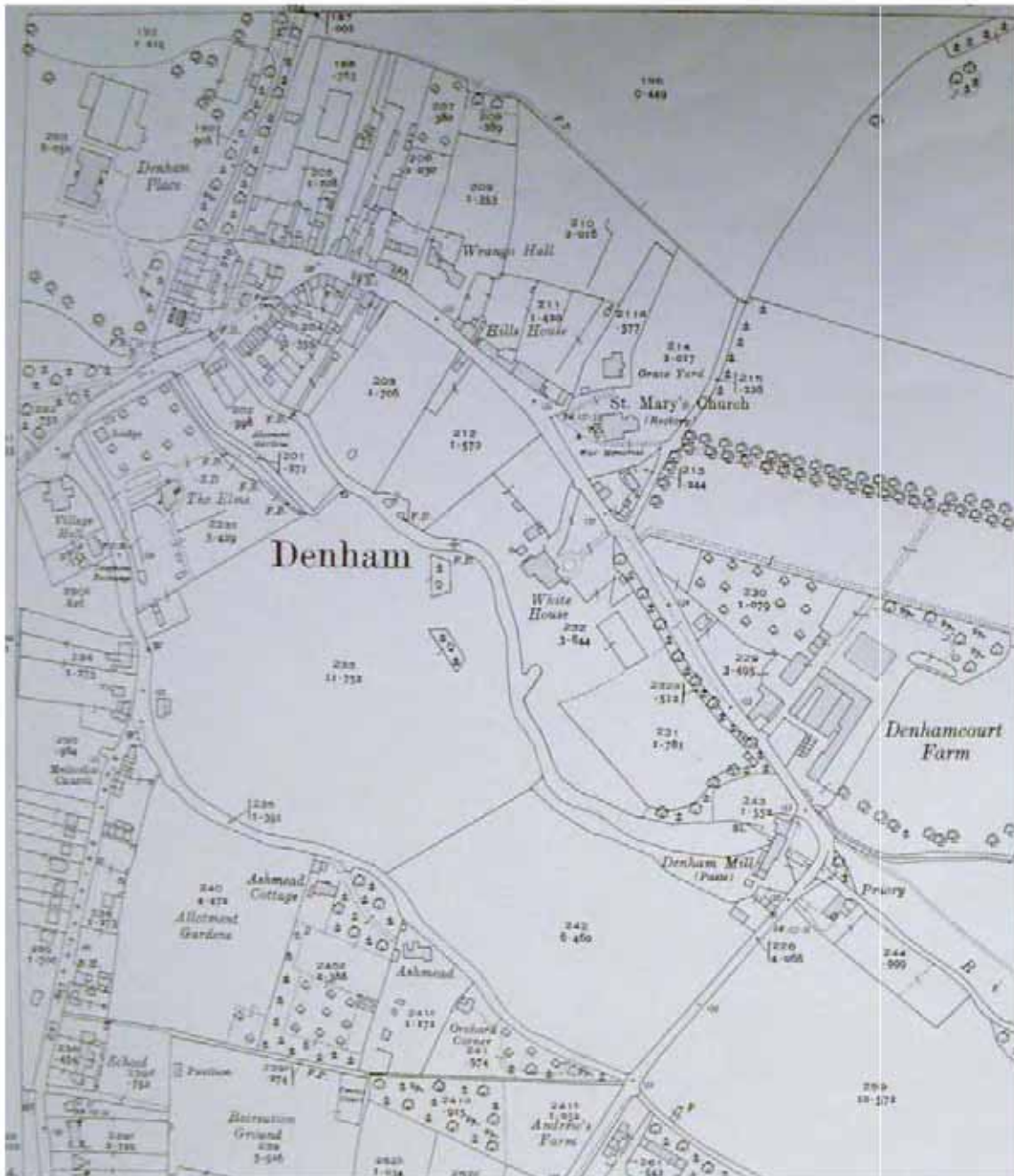
Orndance Survey map 1899

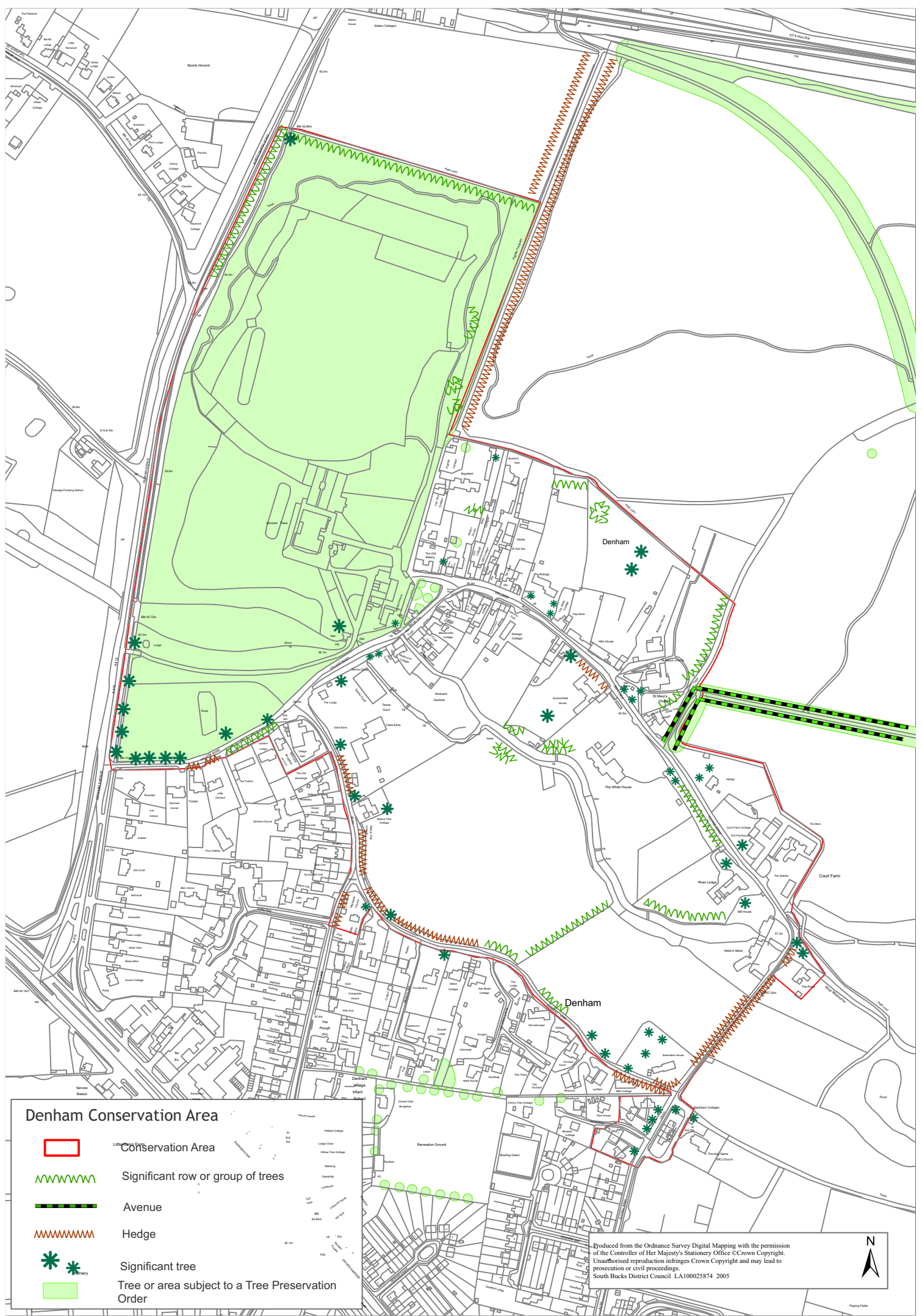
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Orndance Survey map 1932

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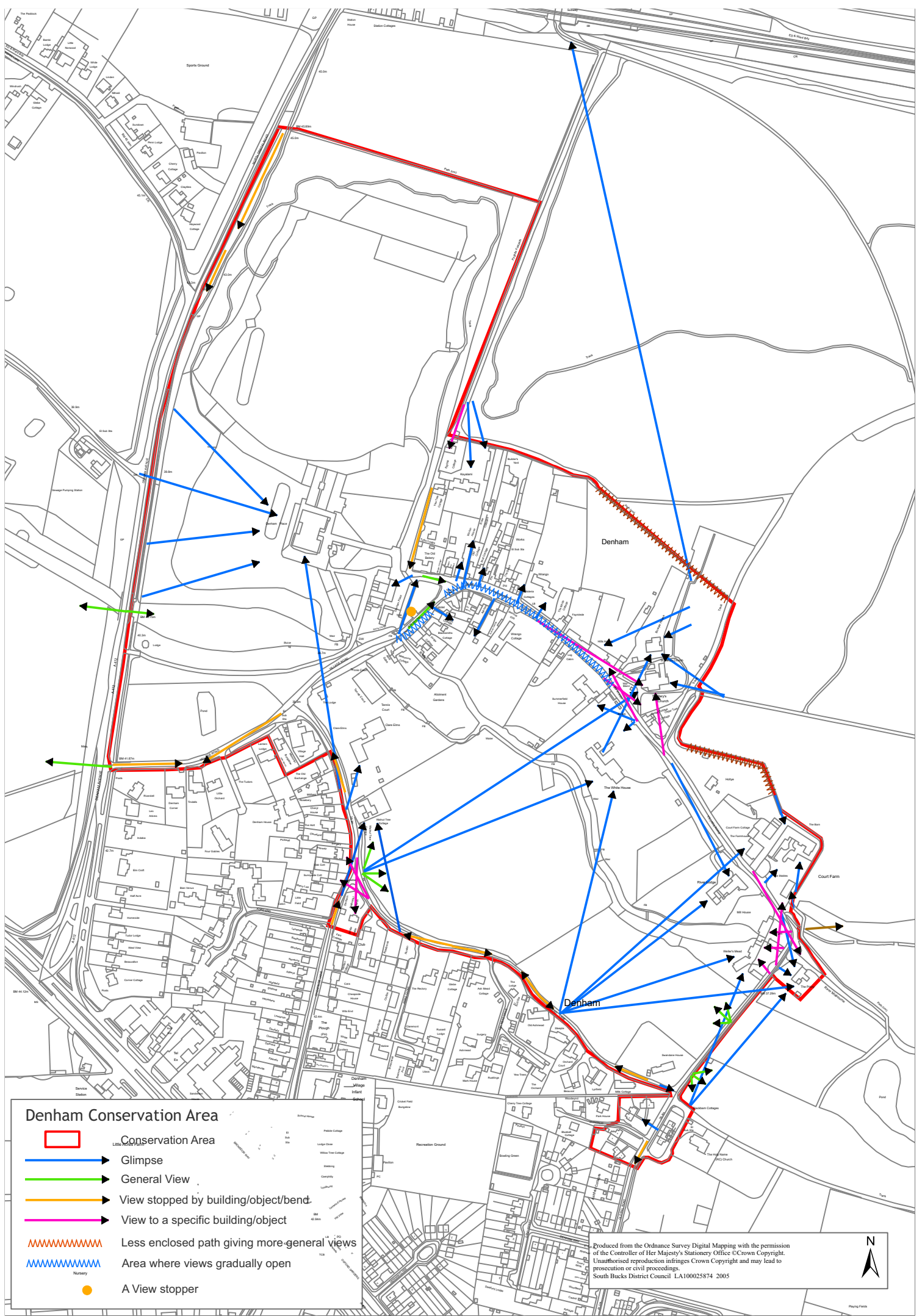


Denham Conservation Area

- Conservation Area
- Significant row or group of trees
- Avenue
- Hedge
- ✳ Significant tree
- Tree or area subject to a Tree Preservation Order

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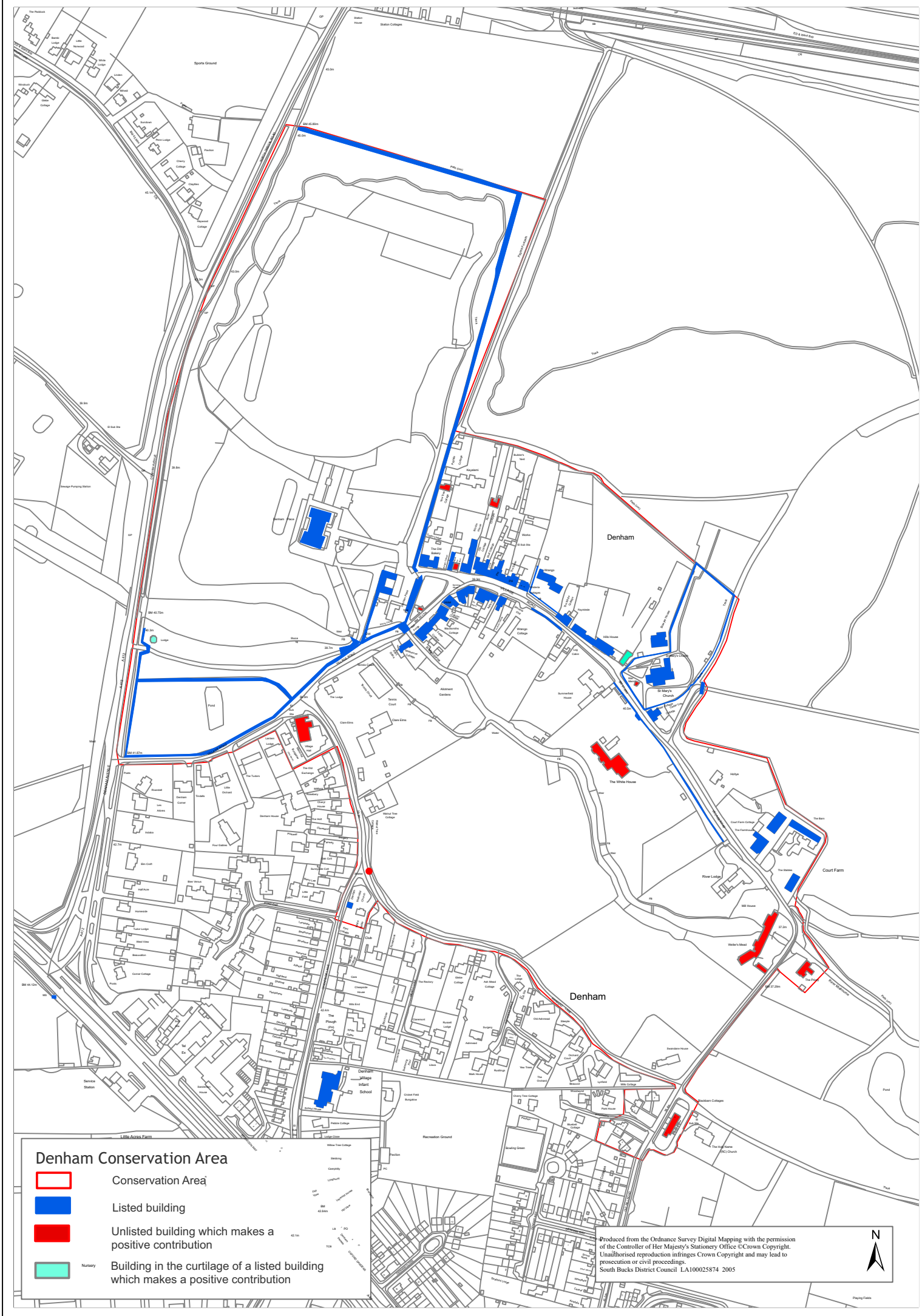


Denham Conservation Area

- Conservation Area
- Glimpse
- General View
- View stopped by building/object/bend
- View to a specific building/object
- ~ Less enclosed path giving more general views
- ~ Area where views gradually open
- A View stopper

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Denham Conservation Area

- Conservation Area
- Listed building
- Unlisted building which makes a positive contribution
- Building in the curtilage of a listed building which makes a positive contribution

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TABLE OF LISTED BUILDINGS

Road	Address	Grade	List no.	Short description (This is not the list description)
Cheapside Lane	Denham Methodist Church	II	5/303	The sole survivor of a row of C18 cottages shown on the 1783 parish map. The adjoining cottages were demolished in 1940. Said to have been built by Mr House. In c.1828 the house of John House, wheelwright, was registered for Wesleyans, although the plaque on the building states “Wesleyan Chapel 1820”. There is evidence of altered openings so the cottage is presumed to have been converted into a chapel around 1820. Renovated 1957. The white painted brick and bright green timber porch and window frames as well as its location directly up against the highway make this small building a landmark on the edge of the conservation area.
Denham Avenue	Denham Place boundary wall from Village Road to River Misbourne, and entrance gates	II	5/315	The walls surrounding Denham Place have a significant impact on the streetscape and create a strong feeling of enclosure in the village. Historically they are important since the original Denham Place building was open to the village, with the main street running just north of the building. The village street was diverted to its present course so that the grounds could be enclosed and made private behind a high brick wall. This is the stretch of wall along Denham Avenue from Village Road, southwards to just beyond the main gates (not used). Until the C19 the house faced Denham Avenue and this was the principal entrance but now not used. Arms in scroll work above gates. Glimpse through gates of small lodge. Curved walls to recessed gates. Wall has raking brick coping with dentilled cornice beneath. Listed as C18.
Pyghtle Footpath	Surrounding wall to Denham Place, 450m running from rear gates to Denham Place along footpath and 250m running from footpath to Denham Avenue	II	5 and 15/375	See above but list date of C17 indicating this wall belonged to the earlier house at Denham Place. This high wall engenders a particularly strong sense of enclosure along the narrow Pyghtle path at its southern end where there are long stretches of wall on the opposite side. The wall is currently in need of repair along the northern stretch.
Village	Denham Court	II	5/352	Previously the Home Farm to Denham Court. The converted farm complex is now

Road (north side)	Farmhouse			called Court Farm. House is, according to Pevsner, early C18, pre-1722, but the RCHME dates the front (eastern) part to c. 1640. Parallel double roofs, gable-ended and end-on to road. The western part is of browner brick. Four modern rendered and gabled dormers face east and these are prominent in streetscene over the high boundary wall and can be seen at a distance from the golf-course. When listed in 1955 there were no dormers, although a partial photograph of 1904 shows at least three dormers, two of which were bricked-up. The other has casement windows with diamond leaded panes. The RCHME mentions four original dormers. Single storey annexe at rear has stepped brick gables and is reputed to have been a private chapel.
Village Road (north side)	Denham Court Farmhouse: outbuildings to north	No grade	5/353	9-bay timber C17 & C18 barn converted to offices/studios. Now called the Barn/Great Barn. Queen post roof and two aisles.
Village Road (north side)	Denham Court Farmhouse: barn to south east of farmhouse	II	5/359	C17 barn converted to office/studio and called The Granary. Plain clay tiled roof is hipped at south end where visible from road.
Village Road (north side)	Denham Court Farmhouse: barn to north-east of farmhouse	II	5/354	C18 red/brown brick former stable block with weatherboard lean-to at northern end. Converted to a house and called "The Stables".
Village Road (north side)	Piers and entrance gates to Denham Court	II	5/356	Although tucked away behind the church this entrance to the famous lime avenue leading to Denham Court is widely used by walkers. In poor condition with ivy growth on the piers, rust on gates and a missing ball-finial to the western pier. Evidence of fly-tipping on land in front of the gate.
Village Road (north side)	The Cedar Cottage (at west end) and Cedar Tree Cottage	II	5/355	Cedar Cottage is a landmark building. Two cottages, two storeys, sympathetically modernised and extended by one bay to the east and with three C20 gabled dormers. Notable for distinctive west gable end with pargetting-like scroll pattern picked out in black on white rendered background. Beneath this the timber frame is exposed with brick nogging. This pattern is an important element in the streetscene and clearly visible when approaching from the west down Village Road. The listing

Village Road (north side)	Church of St. Mary	I	5/357 15/357	<p>photograph (1950s) shows a white scroll pattern on a dark background.</p> <p>A landmark building. Flint with stone dressings. The west tower is the dominant feature and the view of this on the approach eastwards along Village Road is significant in the streetscene. There are distant views of the tower from the north. The listing and guide book say the tower is Norman and with its bulk, lack of buttresses and round-arched windows in the belfry this interpretation seems preferable to the new Pevsner's probable C15 dating. The chancel is C13 and there is documentary evidence of the C15 rebuilding of the nave and aisles. Interior has interesting monuments and a C15 wall painting. Single storey vestry built in 1968 to designs of Martin, inventor of the ejector seat (Martin Baker factory is in Denham) blends in well and has nicely knapped flint.</p>
Village Road (north side)	Wall to churchyard of Church of St. Mary	II	5/358 15/358	<p>Stock brick. List date of C19.</p>
Village Road (north side)	Bowyer House	II	15/359	<p>Three-bay, two-storey house facing east into the churchyard partly obscured by close-board fence. Glimpse of interesting semi-circular brick arches with white rendered window heads beneath over the two ground floor windows. Red and grey brick in Flemish bond forms a chequered pattern. Casement windows to first floor with leaded panes. Hipped roof of plain clay tiles. Built in 1721 as a charity school for 30 poor children endowed by Sir William Bowyer of Denham Court. The land was previously part of the church orchard. Range at rear and 1883 catalogue indicates building was part school and part house. Inscribed stone panel over the front door.</p>
Village Road (north side)	Hills House	II*	15/360	<p>A landmark building. Famous as the home for many years of the actor, Sir John Mills, until his death in 2005. He is buried in the churchyard and a plaque has been fixed to the front of the house. The four shaped gables make this the most distinctive building in Village Road and increase the illusion of height. Two storeys with attic casement windows in three of the gables. The eastern gable had two tall blind niches until converted to living accommodation and now has sash windows, like the rest of the house. Red brown brick and old clay tile roofs. Old photos show iron railings in front of the house. Mature wistaria on front. Said to have been built by Sir Roger Hill in the late C17 as his home whilst Denham Place was being built,</p>

Village Road (north side)	Fayrstedde	II	15/36 1	<p>hence its name. However also claimed to have been built by Sir Roger for the parish curate. At one time the curate was Theophilus Hill (1680-1746), father of Sir John Hill (bapt. 1714, d. 1775), physician, actor, author and dilettante. Sir John is buried at Denham.</p> <p>Formerly called "Igyrstedde". In the early C20 consisted of four cottages. Major part at west end has two storeys. Ground floor plus attic with gabled dormer to east with a one-bayed single storey section at east end attached to Hills House. Three different ridge heights. All under plain clay tiled roof. Timber frame exposed to part. Red brick nogging - some appears modern and modern bressumer to front at west end nicely carved with grapes and vine leaves. Prominent central stack on western section with old brick stack to western side. Whole of front covered by mature wistaria. Casement windows with leaded lights.</p>
Village Road (north side)	The White Cottage	II	15/36 2	<p>Formed from two separate cottages, one of which was the Eight Bells beerhouse. Two insurance plaques on front. Parallel to road with shaped gables at west and east ends. The western gable wall has a blind Venetian window, currently hidden from view by a yew tree in the grounds of Wrango. Red brick with vitrified headers. Brick string course. One and a half-storeys with two gabled, tile-hung eaves dormers with interesting double depth casement windows. Sash windows to ground floor with relieving arches and shutters. Flat door hood. Important historical association as home of the painter Sir William Nicholson (1872-1949) and, the birthplace of his son, Ben Nicholson O.M. (1894-1982).</p>
Village Road (north side)	Wrango (formerly listed as Wrango Hall)	II	15/36 3	<p>Symmetrical early C18 five bay red brick gentleman's residence. Two storeys with attic with two gabled dormers set in plain clay tiled pitched roof behind a brick parapet. Sun dial in centre over first floor window. Sash flush eight-pane windows. Single storey stable range attached to west with cupola on roof. The more ornate Doric doorcase here leads Pevsner to suggest it may have been moved from the house but on closer inspection it appears to be a modern reproduction. Four prominent chimney stacks - two at each end of roof. The garden (north) front has an interesting gable -almost flat with shoulders - rather like a basket arch - in front of a dormered stair. Good rain hoppers. Blind windows in west wall. Derivation of the unusual name is not known. 1840s documents show the house was let to Mr John Fountain, assumed to have been the owner of Fountains Mill in Uxbridge, (a building which has been converted into a youth centre).</p>

Village Road (north side)	Wrango: wall and entrance gates	II	15/36 4	Red with some grey brick in Flemish bond. C18. The wrought iron gate allows a glimpse of the house up the garden path.
Village Road (north side)	Nos 1 to 3 (consec.) Swan Cottages (formerly listed as Nos 1 to 3 (odd) Wistaria Cottages)	II	15/36 5	Now called 1-3 Wistaria Cottages. Row is attached to the Swan and although also of two storeys the eaves and ridge are lower. Also the buff/brown brick looks different. Old clay tiled roof, hipped at east end. One chimney stack on front of ridge which the listing describes as eccentric. Sash windows with glazing bars - those to first floors of 1 and 3 look old. Modern extensions to rear are visible from the Swan car park and are not sympathetic to front elevation.
Village Road (north side)	The Swan public house	II	15/36 6	A dominant building in the streetscene because of its size. Although only two-storeyed it is taller than its neighbours because of its higher eaves. Six bay (Pevsner incorrectly says three bay). Off-centre door. Chimney stacks either end of gable-ended roof. Red/brown brick with plain clay tiled roof. Recent refurbishment. Sash windows without horns, except for two ground floor windows left of door. Gauged brick aprons with guttae under first floor windows obscured by wistaria. Modern inn sign hanging from metal bracket fixed to blind window has a brown swan which is not in character. Traditionally the sign portrayed the white Buckinghamshire swan and the inn was formerly called the White Swan.
Village Road (north side)	The Green Man public house	II	15/36 7	This must be the plain three-bayed inn which Pevsner mistakenly calls the Swan. Modern sign says 1780 Hostelry and Coaching Inn. Red brick in Flemish bond. Old clay tiled roof. Sun Insurance plaque behind inn sign. Two storeys but taller than adjoining Green Cottage. Central door. Flush sash windows - that above door is blind. Dentils at eaves. Large carriage entrance to right-hand side with timber panel up to eaves with inset timber doors and sign over. Flat door hood with timber struts. Two ventilation grilles in front wall detract from appearance.
Village Road (north side)	Green Cottage	II	15/36 8	Two-storey cottage much modernised - probably in mid C20 with addition of two bay windows with pitched tiled canopy extending over both bays and door, obscuring the string course. Red-brown brick marred by heavy pointing. Casement windows. Clay tiled roof (replaced). Fenced off small front garden with astro turf.
Village	Mull Cottage	II	15/36	Red/brown brick two-storey cottage with picturesque Georgian appearance owing to

Road (north side)	(formerly listed as The Old Cottage and two adjoining cottages)	9	re-fronting, with parapet in header bond, 16-pane sash windows and door hood with flat, lead covered roof, scrolled brackets and carved cornice. Solid six panel door with brass knocker in shape of lion's head (see front cover). The carriage entrance between this and Green Cottage has been enlarged in C20 and cuts through a blind window opening. Blind window above door.
Village Road (north side)	Old Cottage (formerly listed as The Old Cottage and two adjoining cottages)	15/37 0	C16. Exposed timber frame with red/brown brick nogging. Two storeys with front jetty. Arched braces in gable but old photos show this rendered and covered with creeper. Modern extension to left hand side. Attached to Mull Cottage. Query whether this was once a cross-wing to building including Mull and Green cottages. A much photographed and painted focal point in the streetscene. Casement windows with leaded lights.
Village Road (north side)	Winton House	15/37 1	An C18 two-storey house with early C19 appearance because of re-fronting. Central door under a flat-roofed porch with Doric columns. Yellow/brown brick. East wall painted white. Double roof. Hipped machine plain clay tiled roof behind parapet with tie-bars. Sash windows except for canted bay to left hand side, perhaps where shop front was - in the 1880s there was a butcher's shop here with slaughterhouse to rear. The building appears to have had a variety of uses; at one time it contained a public reading room. Privet hedge and iron railings enclose small front garden. Brick pavement to front.
Village Road (north side)	Melgan Cottage	15/37 3	Two-storeys, end on to road. The front is modernised. Brick, mainly red with some stock and heavy pointing. Scalloped barge board and casement windows with diamond leaded lights and brick arches. On the west side the timber frame is exposed with brick nogging painted white. Tall chimney stack in stock brick appears to be leaning to west.
Village Road (north side)	The Old Bakery	15/37 4	Now forms one house. A complex and much altered building, with, at its core, a base cruck hall dated to 1367-8 (see article by Chenevix-Trench and Fenley cited in the Sources section). The west and east wings are C20 additions. Prior to the 1950s' demolition of the former east wing the building formed three cottages/shops.
Village Road (north side)	Surrounding wall at Denham Place and coach-house attached by rear gate	5 and 15/34 7	See above entries for Denham Place walls. This stretch runs from Denham Avenue along Village Road and skirts the village green. Again it is important in creating a sense of enclosure and its height dominates the Green where some outbuildings at Denham Place are built against it and their roofs make the wall appear higher and

Village Road (north side)	Stable Block, Coach House, Clock House, Garden Cottage, South Cottage, The Bungalow at Denham Place (formerly listed as Denham Place Cottages)	II	5 and 15/348	<p>more prominent. The wall appears to be of no particular bond. It has coping bricks only in parts and has obviously been subject to repairs.</p> <p>Only the former stable block can be glimpsed through the wrought iron gates next to the village green. Other buildings are hidden behind the high boundary wall. This red/burnt brick block with its hipped roofs covered with plain clay tiles is in character with the village buildings. The cupola with its domed lead-covered roof and weathervane indicate the high status of the building. The stables has a half H-plan whereas Denham Place itself is an H-plan house.</p>
Village Road (north side)	Denham Place	I	5/349	<p>Sir Roger Hill's accounts indicate that building work lasted from 1688 to 1701. The designer is thought to be the mason William Stanton. H-plan house of red brick and plain clay tiled hipped roof. Originally orientated to face west with a clair-voie to the countryside beyond the road (now Denham Avenue) the house was turned round in the C18 so the principal entrance now faces east towards the village. The house had various uses, including offices, during C20 but has recently been converted back to a family home and both house and garden are undergoing a thorough programme of conservation. For many years the home of the Way family who built up their landholding in Denham and were also Rectors of the parish. Notable for its internal decoration and panelled chapel in the grounds. As to its history see Sources.</p>
Village Road (north side)	Old Bridge at Denham Place	II	5/350	<p>This bridge cannot be seen from the public realm. It is of brick with two arches. A stone statue, possibly of Neptune, stands in front of the central pier. The bridge crosses the Misbourne at the eastern end of the lake in the grounds of Denham Place.</p>
Village Road (north side)	Walls of Walled Garden at Denham Place	II	5/351	<p>High red brick wall which runs inside the grounds of Denham Place from Denham Avenue eastward to Village Road opposite the Village Hall. The wall can only be glimpsed from Denham Avenue. Listed as C18. Would originally have enclosed the kitchen garden.</p>
Village Road (south)	The White House: Garden Wall	II	5/376	<p>Old red brick in English garden wall bond. Shallow buttresses and plinth break up the flat surface and add interest. The length and height of this wall make it a dominant feature in the streetscape of Village Road. Taller at west end,</p>

side)				presumably where it supports glass houses or outbuildings at the White House.
Village Road (south side)	Wrango Cottage: garden wall	II	15/37 7	C18. Red and burnt bricks in no particular bond. 1783 plan shows a cottage and farmyard behind this wall, perhaps belonging to Wrango on other side of the road. No buttresses.
Village Road (south side)	Denham Gallery	II	15/37 8	Formerly a grocery and Post Office. Date stone in western gable inscribed "L (or possibly "I" or "J") N 1810". Stock brick - with some purple stocks - two storey shop with pitched roof and two chimney stacks. Red brick dressings to two sash windows on first floor. Distinctive deeply bowed double shop front with central door, probably 1920s/30s. To rear is contemporary attached room with pyramidal roof. Important gap to western side where there used to be route down to the river allows glimpses of trees.
Village Road (south side)	Ashbys	II	15/37 9	C18. Two storey house, formerly a shop with modern shallow bow window to left. Hipped roof at east end. Tall stack abuts adjoining DaRemo stack. Buff/brown stock brick with plain clay tile roof. Off centre door with flat door hood with dentil moulding on brackets. Sash windows. Ground floor mainly hidden behind hedge. Once the Black Donkey beerhouse.
Village Road (south side)	The Tudor Restaurant Now called Da Remo	II	15/38 0	The tallest secular building in Village Road. Red brick. Three storeys with attic - two flat roofed dormers in plain clay tiled hipped roof. Modern double bowed shop front and the single storey part to the west has also been modernised. Currently undergoing refurbishment to upper floors. RCHME gives late C17 date which stylistically is more reliable than the listing date of C18. Casement windows with blocked up windows - one to front and one to side. Insurance plaque and string courses. Wooden moulded cornice under eaves and relieving arches above first floor windows but otherwise plain. Was once the Post Office. Two converted gas lamps on front are modern additions.
Village Road (south side)	Roseneath (east end) and The Spinning Wheel (formerly listed as The Spinning Wheel Premises	II	15/38 1	Interesting pair of two storey cottages which are angled as they turn the bend on the south side of Village Road. Red and grey brick, in summer the front is almost totally covered by a massive Virginia Creeper. Old clay tiled roof. To the left, Roseneath is the newsagents, although it has no shop window. Casement windows, those to first floor are smaller than at the Spinning Wheel. The provisional listing

	adjoining The Spinning Wheel			details points out that the situation increases the value of this pair.
Village Road (south side)	Antiquities (listed as Forsters)	II	15/38 2	Two storey cottage, but higher than the adjoining Spinning Wheel. Now a house but was formerly a shop (including a butcher's shop) hence the large modern sash windows to ground floor with long wooden lintel over. Three sash windows with horns to first floor. Timber garage door to right. House door under flat lead covered canopy on scrolled brackets. Front covered with large wistaria. Stock brick of buff/brown colour and old plain clay tile roof.
Village Road (south side)	The Falcon public house	II	15/38 3	A landmark building in a prominent position near the Green and close to the bend in Village Road. Its height and location make it dominant. Two storey plus semi-basement and attic with three gabled dormers. Steps up to the central front door. Red brick with machine clay tiled roof. The back of the building is in English Bond, suggesting an earlier date than the Flemish bond brick front. Interesting detailing of moulded brick cornice under the eaves and brick aprons under ground floor windows and a string course over ground floor. Blind semi-basement windows on edge of road with brick relieving arches. Modern casement windows to dormers but sashes elsewhere - 12-paned on first floor and 4-paned to ground. New door under flat roofed canopy on scrolled brackets. Cast iron handrail and balusters to double stone steps at front. Stacks at each end of roof. The name is thought to derive from the Bowyer arms, which include a Falcon. The Bowyers were once lords of the manor and owners of Denham Court.
Village Road (south side)	Falcon Cottage	II	15/38 4	Formerly two cottages. Two storeys with pitched roof covered in old clay tiles. Timber frame exposed in gable ends. Cambered arches to all windows which are casements with leaded lights. Flat door hood. Red brick with two string courses. Brick dentils at eaves. Gap between this and the Falcon permits view of exposed timber frame on east side and lower roofline of Blacksmith's allows view of same in west gable end. Wide cement rendered central stack behind ridge with four prominent chimney pots.
Village Road (south side)	Blacksmith's Cottage	II	15/38 5	Said to be dated c.1570. Two storeys. The width of the cottage which was once three cottages gives a horizontal emphasis not characteristic of Village Road. Exposed timber framing with red/brown brick nogging. Curved braces are distinctive feature and Pevsner says they indicate a former projecting cross-wing. Restored in the 1950s. Unpainted timber window frames - casement windows.

Village Road (south side)	Old Forge and Forge Cottage (formerly listed as Old Forge and Garage)	II	15/38 6	<p>Small garden strip in front.</p> <p>Landmark building for its position next to the bridge at the village entrance and its distinctive four white rendered gables making an interesting roofscape. Now forms two cottages. It appears on many photographs and postcards of Denham village. The late C19 forge became Archer's garage; recent alterations and an extension to the west end with a new timber office building to the rear replacing an old workshop. Two storey with three chimney stacks on ridge - plain clay tiled roof. Evidence of changed/blocked openings. Passageway at east end has 20th century tile-hanging above with modern casement windows making this section reminiscent of rear of the Old Bakery. Red brick in Flemish bond. Listed as C17 and re-fronted. However, internal inspection shows central section is a 4-bay timber framed structure, thought to have originated as a late-medieval aisled barn. Each bay was extended to form a row of 4 cottages.</p>
Village Road (south side)	Bridge over River Misbourne	II	15/38 8	<p>Narrow humped bridge carrying Village Road over a slight bend and which marks the entrance to the historic core of the village. Listed as probably C18 in red brick. The southern parapet is covered in ivy. Curved string course. Repaired after vehicle damage about five years ago.</p>
Village Road (south side)	Misbourne Cottage	II	15/38 7	<p>Formerly two cottages. A picturesque building in a prominent position next to the Misbourne at the village entrance and the subject of many old postcards and photographs. C16 with exposed timber frame and red/brown brick nogging. One storey with attic and two gabled dormers. Cross wing at east end with rendered gable. Stack on west side with modern extension behind. Another stack behind roof and modern extensions to east end but set back from frontage.</p>

TABLE OF POSITIVE BUILDINGS IN THE CURTILAGE OF A LISTED BUILDING		
Road	Address	Short Description
Denham Avenue	Garden lodge within the curtilage of Denham Place.	To north-east of gate on Denham Avenue and visible through the gate. C20, red brick octagonal building with a handmade plain clay tile roof of helmet-shape. Said to be from a design by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Comparable with a C18 dovecote at Chicheley Hall and a summerhouse in the walled garden at Cliveden, also attributed to Lutyens.
Village Road (north side)	Former stables within the curtilage of Hills House	Single storey building in significant location next to the church yard. Red brick - end-on to road with plain clay tiled roof. Stepped gable to match Hills House.

TABLE OF POSITIVE UNLISTED BUILDINGS		
Road	Address	Short Description
Junction of Cheapside Lane and Village Road	Denham Village Memorial Hall	Built 1923 as a war memorial. Architect Francis Bacon. The plans are held by the Parish Council. The triangular dormer windows shown on those plans are not present, being filled by stained horizontal weatherboard, reminiscent of a Chiltern barn. The large and varied roofscape is an important feature of the building which is in a prominent position on a wide road junction at the entrance to the village. The building is significant for its architectural interest being designed by a good local architect in a style and materials sympathetic to its setting. Also for its historical interest as a war memorial and its current use as a thriving communal facility.
Cheapside Lane	Archibald Stodart Walker Memorial Seat	Designed by Francis Bacon. Built 1934. Oak shelter with hipped roof covered with shingles (renewed 1995-6). Integral wooden bench. Open front with arched openings to both sides. Wooden plaque inscribed "Given by the late Archibald Stodart Walker for the use and enjoyment of all". One of two shelters (the other has been demolished) given to the village under the will of Dr Walker who lived at Cheapside House. Owned by Denham Parish Council.
Old Mill Road	The Mill House and Wellers Mead	Landmark group of buildings at the eastern extremity of the village in a prominent location astride the Misbourne on the corner where Old Mill Road meets Village Road. Formerly Denham cornmill, sometimes called the Town Mill, and thought to be on the site of one of Denham's two Domesday mills. For many years it was part of the Denham Court estate. Said to have been rebuilt C18 for Daniel Norton of Uxbridge. The last corn miller was William Hamaton. In 1883 it was a steam and water mill. Later used to make size paste. In the 1920s converted and altered by the Rector, Mr Battsford, possibly to the designs of Francis Bacon. Old photos indicate Wellers Mead was a modern addition and the mansard roof of the central section was removed. Picturesque group of two-storey white painted buildings - slate roofs with shaped gable ends. The central section must have a flat roof behind a parapet with curved pediment and dentilled cornice and retains a large warehouse door over the stream with two blind windows. Sash windows with green blinds - also some porthole windows at Wellers Mead. Both have classical doorcases. For history see Stanley Freese's account. He recorded a panel with the date 1857 on a wall. The openness of

		the front gardens permits views and enhances visual amenity. Old stock brick stable block remains next to and end-on to Old Mill Road - this has clay pantiles.
Old Mill Road	The Priory	Built by Denham parish in 1789 as a poorhouse and accommodation for Overseer of the Poor. The site was donated by Sir William Bowyer, who attempted to withdraw from the deal. After the creation of Union workhouses in the 1830s this use would have ceased. A catalogue for the sale of the Denham Court estate in 1883 includes the Priory and the Mill with the Priory's stabling across the road next to the Mill. The Priory was for some time owned by the Great Western Railway and was the Rector's home from 1945-1960. The shaped gables and white painted brick make it visually part of a group with Wellers Mead and The Mill House. Perhaps they were altered at the same time (possibly in the 1930s) by the same designer, possibly Francis Bacon. The roof is of plain clay tile, reportedly substantially rebuilt after storm damage in 1987. Despite its prominent position next to the road and river the house is mainly hidden from view by tall hedges and trees. However there is an important glimpse of it from Old Mill Road over the main gate. A brief historical note has been written by Mr Norman Gerard.
Old Mill Road	Numbers 1-4 (consecutive) Blackburn Cottages	Row of four cottages probably built in the 1890s (they appear on the 1897 Ordnance Survey map). They have the appearance of estate cottages and were perhaps associated with Andrews Farm which stood close by. The Denham Court sale catalogue of 1883 describes a "large boarded and tiled barn" which stood on the site of the current Roman Catholic church behind the cottages, presumably the source of the name. One storey plus attic - each cottage has two gabled dormers with white render and black and white timber decoration and barge boards. Red brick in Flemish bond and plain clay tiled roofs with ridge crests on main and dormer roofs. Two large chimney stacks on ridge - that to south altered and less ornate. Each cottage has gabled porch with clay tiled roof, wooden "Y" tracery in gable and supported by curved wooden struts. Attractive detailing including brick eaves cornice and relieving arches over doors and window and door-heads with carved zig-zag pattern. Sash windows to ground floor and casements to dormers - uPVC at front of nos. 1 & 2.

The Pyghtle	Yew Tree Cottage	Cottage which can be glimpsed over the high brick boundary wall. Two storeys to south side but one plus attic with two tile-hung gabled dormers in the catslide roof to the north. Main cottage aligned side on to the Pyghtle with single storey range at right-angles. White painted pebbledash with pitched plain clay tiled roof. Mixture of old sash and modern casement windows. Age not known but in 1883 there were three Yew Tree Cottages here and a building is shown here on the 1783 and 1840 maps. Has appearance of late C18 - early C19 cottage.
Village Road (north side)	1 & 2 Rose Cottages	Pair of picturesque 19 th century cottages. Two storeys with hipped slate roof. Stock brick - each has gabled porch over front door. No. 2 has sash windows - no. 1 has casements. Secluded position behind houses in Village Road with long gardens. Shown on the 1840 Tithe Map.
Village Road	Outbuilding on village green	Brick and timber building used as a store/garage and the last vestige of a group of houses and buildings which stood where the green was created (Island Cottages). Red and grey brick unusually in English bond. Brick dentils at eaves. Fully hipped roof - old clay tiles. Door of stained black timber. Bricks scratched with graffiti. Stone plaque inscribed "As a bee gathers nectar without harm to the flower so let a wise man dwell in the village Gautama". This is a translation of part of the Dhammapada by the Buddha Gautama.
Village Road (south side)	The White House	Large house, probably with C18 origins but extended and altered. A building is shown here on the 1783 map and the listed boundary wall is C18. Formerly called the Cedars and appears on the first edition OS map as Denham Cottage. Comparison of the 1899 and 1932 O.S. maps shows alterations in the shape of the buildings and creation of a realigned driveway. Two-storeys - white painted brick with interesting roofscape of slate covered hipped and pitched roofs. Set in spacious grounds next to the Misbourne, with remains of a 19 th century garden. The house can only be glimpsed from Village Road and Ashmead and Cheapside Lanes.
Village Road	War Memorial (to south of the Parish church in the churchyard)	Designed by Francis Bacon - builders Henry Wilson & Sons, monumental masons of Uxbridge. Erected 1919 and thus an early example. Portland stone with marble inscription tablets and lead incised names. World War II inscriptions added. Maintained by Denham Parish Council.

Table of neutral buildings		
Road	Address	Comments
Ashmead Lane	White Gable	On a sensitive site on the corner of Ashmead and Cheapside Lanes and next to the tiny Methodist Chapel. Painted white with gable and mansard roof. Its scale is in keeping with the chapel.
Cheapside Lane	Amberleigh (formerly Walnut Cottage)	A 1930s plain classical style house which has been much extended, albeit retaining its symmetrical character.
Old Mill Road	1 to 8 (consec.)Baconsmead	Designed by Francis Bacon and referred to in the <i>Architects Journal</i> 24 th October 1940, p.333 with a photo of the northernmost houses. Not known if the entire development was completed then. Thoughtfully composed and designed pairs of houses in garden plots with large trees which contribute to the rural character of Old Mill Road.
Old Mill Road	Swandane House	Possibly designed by Francis Bacon, 1950s house in classical style. Sensitively positioned by being set at an oblique angle on the corner of Ashmead Lane and Old Mill Road.
The Pyghtle	Tudor Lodge	Arts and crafts style.
The Pyghtle	Pyghtle Cottage	1960s house, brick and tile-hung in sensitive location on corner of the Pyghtle at village-edge.
Village Road (north side)	Jasmine & Fuchsia Cottages	1960s replacement cottages. Unfortunately they do not replicate the double-slope roof of the demolished Jasmine, Fuchsia and Myrtle cottages.
Village Road (north side)	Cherry Tree works	Modern small scale industrial buildings for wood-working set behind Village Road. Sympathetic design and materials (timber and brick) and continues the mixed use tradition of the village.
Village Road (south side)	Clare Elms and Lodge	Formerly called The Elms, large Arts and Crafts style pebble-dashed house with small lodge set in spacious, secluded grounds. Early C20.
Village Road (south side)	War Memorial Bungalow (next to the Village Memorial Hall)	Designed by Francis Bacon as a war memorial in 1921 but only built in 1952. This simple L-shaped brick bungalow is mainly hidden from view behind a high close-boarded fence and so its commemorative stone plaque is not on public display. Whilst its appearance does not make a positive contribution it does have associations with a notable local architect and with the social history of the village.

Name	Address	Comments
Village Road (south side)	River Lodge	Appears on O S maps between 1960 and 1975 but seems to have earlier origins which are not clear. Inspection shows two separate buildings joined by a more recent linking section. The 1932 O.S. map does show a building on the site, but then possibly in the grounds of White House, close to and parallel with the road. Now a house in cottage style with dormer windows, set behind a high stock brick wall in attractive, spacious grounds next to the river.
Village Road (south side)	Petite Fayrstedde	Single storey - mainly hidden from public view.
Village Road (south side)	Log Cabin	House not visible from public realm but its garage close to the street has amusing classical details.
Village Road (south side)	Summerfield (formerly Dickfield)	An attractive Georgian style 1930s house designed by Herbert Ward (who donated the green to the village) and built by Lovells.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

DENHAM PLACE

SOUTH BUCKS
DENHAM
TQ0487GD 1588
II**SUMMARY OF HISTORIC INTEREST**

Late C17 country house surrounded by compact 1760s-70s landscape park, possibly by Lancelot Brown, overlaid on remains of formal late C17 garden.

CHRONOLOGY OF HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The estate was part owned by the Abbey of Westminster until c. 1540, subsequently passing through several hands, until bought in the late C17 by Sir Roger Hill, Member of Parliament for Wendover and High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, who rebuilt an existing house between 1688 and 1701. He surrounded it with elaborate formal gardens to the west, south and east, with over 60 pieces of sculpture and a geometrical canal, with the entrance to the house on the west front, as shown in a painting c. 1705, possibly by John Drapentier (*The Artist and the Country House*, 1979). The main east-west axis of the house, was flanked to the south by a further formal walled garden area, aligned east-west, a stable block to the south-west of the house and a geometrical canal running the whole east-west width of the estate, divided by a water pavilion c. 100m south of the house. In 1742 the estate was inherited by the Way family, with whom it remained until 1920. The formal gardens were removed by Benjamin Way c. 1770s, except for the walled garden to the south and one of the ponds within it (although various other items and structures still remain, some relocated), replaced by a lake within a landscape park, following which the entrance front of the house was altered from the west to the east. It is possible that Lancelot Brown was connected with the layout (*Country Life*, 18.4.1925, 604; Stroud, 1975, 222). During the mid-late C19 development included formal beds west of the house (now gone, 1997). From 1930 Lord and Lady Vansittart owned the estate until it was sold in 1980 and converted to offices.

SITE DESCRIPTION**LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LAND FORM, SETTING**

Denham Place lies 4km north-west of Uxbridge and 4km east of Gerrards Cross at the west end of Denham's main street, Village Road, in the broad river Colne Valley at the eastern end of the Chiltern hills. The 17 ha. site is bounded to the west by the A412 Denham Avenue, to the south by Village Road running off Denham Avenue into the main street, and to the north and east by agricultural land, and public footpaths. Much of the boundary is defined by a 1km long, 3m high C17-C19 red brick wall (listed Grade II), with a coping of vertically laid bricks raked to a point, running south from the north-east corner of the park, broken by occasional gateways, encircling the southern end of the estate and running north to just north of the road bridge over the river Misbourne on the west boundary. The site is largely flat, with a low rise running west to east across the middle, north of the house, defined by fruit trees and modern conifers. The setting to the east is dominated by the adjacent village; the remainder is agricultural interspersed with small mid-late C20 settlements and busy trunk roads to the west and south. There are few views out of the estate as the area is largely visually self-contained.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main approach, off Village Road adjacent to the village green, enters 100m east of the house through the stable yard via a break in the boundary wall, past brick gate piers, with ball finials, supporting wrought iron gates, from where a view east along the village street is obtained. The drive curves north and returns west, along a straight, gravel drive, flanked by lawn panels, on axis with the east front of the house, arriving at a rectangular gravel sweep with a short flight of balustraded stone steps to the main door. The basement well is screened by low clipped yew hedges flanking the door. A further drive enters south of the lake on the west boundary, 200m south-west of the house, through a break in the boundary wall, past brick gate piers with wrought iron gates (c. 1690, listed Grade II) with arms amid scroll work over them. A small C18-C19, one-roomed, brick lodge lies between the drive and the lake, close to the gates. The slightly raised drive (now disused and mostly grassed over) curves east between the south side of the lake and the north wall of the walled garden, with views of the house and its reflection in the lake, crossing the eastern end of the lake via the Old Bridge (late C17, listed Grade II), a small bridge of two semi-circular brick arches (shown on the 1705 painting). Views into the village street east of the bridge are blocked by the boundary wall on its east edge. The drive runs straight north-west from the bridge to the south-east corner of the house, flanked by the remains of an avenue of trees, to join the gravel sweep east of the house. A further drive, shown on a map of 1783 (BRO), entered north of the west end of the lake, running straight across the landscaped park to the south-west corner of the house and gravel sweep on the west front, with a spur along the south front to a sweep on the east front.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Denham Place (listed Grade I) lies towards the centre of the estate, surrounded by largely level lawns and a formal garden on the north side, built for Sir Roger Hill by the mason contractor William Stanton between 1688 and 1701 on the site of a C16 house. It is a two-storey block, of H-plan, with a hipped roof, a descendent of the Clarendon House type (c. 1665), with good views of the surrounding garden from all sides. The main entrance on the east front was moved, c. 1760s-70s, from the west front as shown on the 1705 painting, which also shows a balustrade on the peak of the roof, with a cupola in the centre, removed c. 1830s.

The stables (listed Grade II) lie 75m south-east of the house, said to be C17 (Pevsner), but not shown on the 1705 painting, and possibly constructed after the 1770s landscaping from C17 bricks reused from the earlier stables to the south-west of the house removed at this time. The red brick building is constructed around a small, east-facing, three sided courtyard, with a brick wall closing the court on the east side. A semi-circular arched carriageway runs through the west range with a wooden cupola above, with ornamental features on the west side including a pediment, Diocletian windows and blind arches flanking the archway below, presumably designed to be seen from the park on the west side. Adjacent to the east side of the stables lies a courtyard bounded to the south and east by the estate boundary wall, with lean-to coach houses attached, and the main (originally service) entrance. South of the stables a small enclosed area is bounded to the south and east by the boundary wall, running down to the river where it emerges from beneath the Old Bridge before disappearing under the wall.

GARDENS

The level gardens occupy the southern end of the estate, and are mainly laid to lawn with scattered specimen trees, separated from the park to the north by a narrow barrier of fruit trees

and conifers. The area west and south of the house, covered until the 1760s-70s by the formal garden showed in the 1705 painting, then incorporated into the parkland with formal features added in the C19 (now gone), is largely level lawn, with traces of earlier structures visible as parch marks during dry weather, and, close to the lake, two very large plane trees on axis with the south front of the house. The dominant feature is the broad lake to the south dividing the southern area in half, created from the River Misbourne as it enters from the west, and dammed at the east end, leaving the garden under the Old Bridge on the east boundary. The informal area south of the lake, with the south-west drive running through it, contains many mature ornamental trees, bounded on the south by the north wall of the walled garden. This enclosed area appears to have been used both ornamentally, in the northern half and as a kitchen garden, to the south. It is surrounded by the estate wall on the west, south and east, and bounded to the north by a further brick wall (C18, listed Grade II), in similar style to the boundary wall, with three gateways, two pedestrian and one vehicular at the east end with square brick piers and wrought iron gates. A trapezium-shaped pond lies at the centre of the walled garden, a remnant of the C17 layout, with several mature cork oaks on its east edge, and a further, irregular pond (?C19) east of these. The area is maintained as a meadow with scattered trees.

The main formal feature lies north of the house: a rectangular sunken garden with a north-south stone path on axis with the north front of the house, leading from the low iron gates at the south end to a yew-backed seat at the north end. The area is surrounded by a clipped box hedge and flanked to west and east by tall, clipped yew hedges and enclosed lawns. It is screened from the park to the north by a row of late C20 conifers, and was constructed in the 1930s by the Vansittarts.

PARK

The park, shown in part in the 1705 painting with a formal arrangement of trees, now occupies only the north half of the estate, starting 50m north of the house, although in the late C18 (BRO 1783) it surrounded the house, incorporating the lake, and extending south to the walled garden. It consists (1997) of an open meadow surrounded by a shelter belt on all but the south sides with a circuit walk through it and glimpses of the house to the south. The circuit walk, through mature trees including several pollarded sweet chestnut trees of great girth and under planted with evergreen shrubs including holly, yew, box and ruscus, has been restored (1990s) and may not currently lie on its original course in places. Almost none of the parkland trees shown on the 1783 map in clumps and singles survive, although it is still largely meadow, with orchard trees at the north end, and a small, C20 iron railing-bounded cemetery at the west edge.

REFERENCES

- Journal of Garden History*, vol. 8, nos. 2 & 3, 235-36.
Country Life v.18, 1905, 702-09; v.57,1925, 602-09, 642-53; v.116, 1954, 209.
D. Stroud, *Capability Brown*, 1975, 222
J. Harris, *The artist and the country house*, 1979, 123, pl. 14
N. Pevsner & E. Williamson, *The Buildings of England, Buckinghamshire*, 1994, 270-73.

MAPS

- OS 1st Ed 6", 1883; 1st Ed 25", 1881-2; 2nd Ed 6", 1900; 2nd Ed 25", 1899; 6" c.1932
BRO: Ma/W/99 Map of the parish of Denham, 1783

Description written: July 1997

Register Inspector: SR

TABLE OF BUILDINGS NOT IN CHARACTER		
Road	Address	Short Description
Village Road (south side)	Wrango Cottage	Modern bungalow. Large garage door facing the street (visible when the gate is open) with strong horizontal emphasis contrary to general vertical emphasis in the streetscape. Deemed out of character because of that, its scale (single storey), design and modern materials.
The Pyghtle	Kayalami	Modern bungalow in a secluded location off the Pyghtle whose roof is visible from the public footpath next to the golf course. Deemed out of character for its design and modern materials, as well as its horizontal emphasis.
Village Road (north side)	Holtye	Modern bungalow in a prominent and sensitive site on the edge of the conservation area, visible from footpath and the golf course at Denham Court. Presumed to have replaced a building shown on the 1899 OS map. Perhaps originated as residence in connection with farm. Deemed out of character because of its materials, design and bungalow form.
Village Green	Telephone box	Modern telephone box next to the old outbuilding on the Green.

Guidance for Residents

What is a Conservation Area?

An area with special historic or architectural character.

Who designates a Conservation Area?

The local planning authority has the power to designate Conservation Areas under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

What does Conservation Area designation mean for residents?

Owners of properties within a designated Conservation Area are unable to carry out certain works unless they get planning permission or Conservation Area Consent.

What are these works?

- Demolition of the whole or a substantial part of the property
- Demolition of boundary walls over a certain height
- Side or rear extensions over 50 cubic metres or 10% of the original volume up to a maximum of 115 cubic metres
- Alterations to the shape or size of the roof
- Cladding of the exterior of the property
- Erection of a satellite dish in certain locations
- Buildings (eg sheds, summerhouses) or enclosures (eg swimming pools) within the curtilage of a house, which exceed 10 cubic metres in volume.

Also, notice must be given to the authority at least 6 weeks prior to any works to **trees** within a Conservation Area. For further information please contact the Tree Officer on 01895 837376 or 837207.

Are extensions allowed in Conservation Areas?

Yes.

Planning applications in Conservation Areas, like any other location, are considered on their merits. Should a proposal to extend a property be regarded as in keeping with the character of the area by the Conservation & Design Officer it would gain permission (this, of course, is subject to Planning Officer approval based on the usual planning criteria). If the proposal is deemed not to be in keeping with the character of the area efforts can be made by the applicant to improve the proposal on the advice of Officers so that it can become acceptable and be given permission. It is through this process that Conservation Area legislation acts to protect the special character of these areas.

Are satellite dishes allowed in Conservation Areas?

Yes.

If you ensure that only one satellite dish per property (of less than 90cm in diameter) is installed in a permitted location then you are free to carry out the installation without planning permission. Dishes should be sited below the roofline and away from the front of the house and the chimneys.

Further advice

Should any further information be required on any aspect of the implications of living in a Conservation Area or local planning regulations please contact Planning Admin or the Conservation Section at the Council's Capswood offices on 01895 837200.

Consultation

The following steps were taken to consult the local community on the contents of this document:

Copies were made available for inspection at:

- the District Council's offices
- Uxbridge central library
- Gerrards Cross library
- Denham Village Hall

The document was published on the District Council's website:

www.southbucks.gov.uk

downloadable free of charge, with an on-line response form.

A letter was sent to each property in the conservation area notifying the owner/occupier of the above and inviting written comments. Printed copies were also supplied to the following:

- Denham Parish Council
- English Heritage
- Buckinghamshire's County Archaeologist
- Buckinghamshire County Council's Highways Department
- the History of Denham Society
- the three public houses in the conservation area, namely the Swan, Falcon and Green Man
- the Chiltern Society
- Denham Country Park rangers
- the Rector of Denham parish church
- Buckinghamshire Golf Club

Replies were received from Denham Parish Council and eight residents, some of whom queried the accuracy of certain statements in the document. These have been checked and various corrections and amendments made. The opportunity was taken to re-photograph some parts of the conservation area in spring to emphasise the contribution to character made by trees and plants, in particular the wistaria on buildings in Village Road. Some of these photographs have been substituted for those in the consultation draft or added to the document.

During the consultation period research by the Council's Conservation and Design Officer in the library of the Royal Institute of British Architects revealed more information about the design and construction of numbers 1 to 8 Baconsmead and references to these buildings have been duly amended.



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