



Village Design Statement

2003

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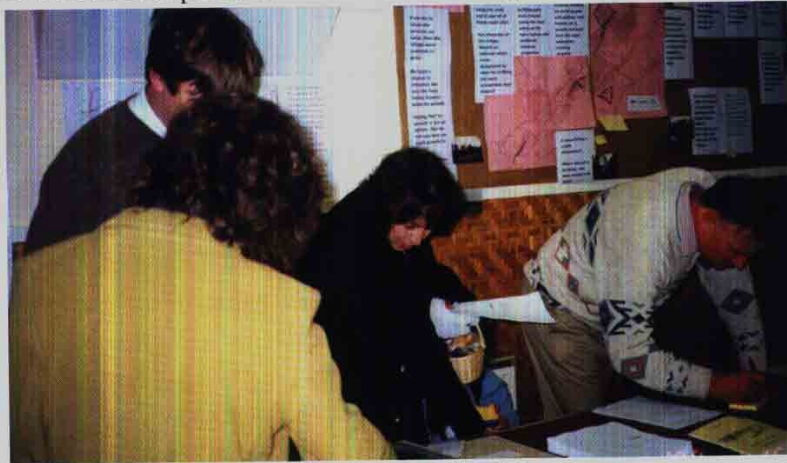
What happens next?

Acknowledgements

Printed by Bulpitt Print Ltd, Andover
Design - Diana Darbyshire 01264 773229

Introduction

This village design statement describes Longparish as it is today. By looking at issues like the evolution of the village, its patterns of settlement, landscape, roads and buildings, we highlight the qualities that local residents value and would like to see in any future development. The intention is not to stop change in the village, but to encourage development that preserves and enhances the special character of the village.



Villagers comment on first draft

Who is it for?

Village design statements are supported by the Government and Test Valley Borough Council to allow local communities to help themselves, by participating in and influencing the way the planning system operates locally.

Changes to a village take place not only when new developments are allowed or buildings are constructed, but also in smaller adjustments made by existing residents. In a village where development is as tightly controlled as in Longparish these are particularly important. Changes to homes, gardens, open spaces, hedges and paths can affect the feel of the village as a whole. A village design statement that seeks to influence change positively must therefore be addressed to a wide audience, including

- Householders
- Statutory bodies and public authorities
- Planners and developers
- Builders and architects
- Designers and engineers
- Local community groups
- Land owners
- Businesses

What Is A Village Design Statement?

It is about managing change, not preventing it.

It gives the local community a chance to appraise the village and influence future development.

It allows local priorities to be identified and sets the issues that need to be addressed when developments take place.

It guides those who build or develop to appropriate design solutions that reflect the character of the village.

It should be compatible with statutory planning guidance, and be suitable for adoption by Test Valley Borough Council as supplementary planning guidance.

The Village Design Statement can also be seen on the village website: www.longparish.org.uk

General Design Guidelines

SETTLEMENT

Longparish is not a homogeneous village. All new development should respect the local characteristics of the settlements identified in the guidelines relating to the individual settlements.

The existing open spaces between settlements should be kept.

Houses should be simple and small-scale, or when larger broken into smaller elements.

Small houses or terraces can fill the plot; large houses should have space around them.

Contemporary architect-designed houses which reflect local materials and rural styles are to be welcomed.

Inappropriate detailing not found traditionally in the village should be avoided, for example mock-Tudor timbering and diamond paned windows.

Vernacular styles should not be mixed in the same building: choose details that match local historical references in the vicinity and ensure that they are accurately followed. For instance the local style in brick and flint is in narrow equal bands, and tilehanging in the older houses is restricted to gable ends.

Additions to existing houses, such as extensions, garages and conservatories should respect the existing architectural style of the house. Weatherboard extensions can be appropriate on the old thatched cottages.

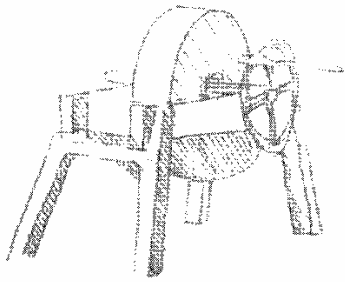
Garages should be discrete, to the side or rear of buildings, and large areas of hardstanding should be avoided.

Barns associated with houses are traditional features and should be retained.

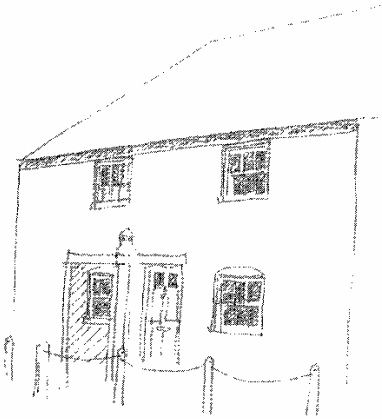
Television aerials and satellite dishes should be sited unobtrusively.

Security lighting should be low power and sited so that the light is restricted to the premises.

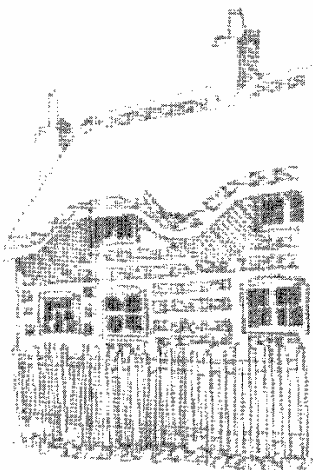
Posts and overhead cables currently obstruct many views along the village streets. It is desirable that cables should be buried, as soon as possible.



Village Grindstone



Listed porch



*Picket fencing & eyebrow windows
Brick & flint banding*

Views marked on the map on the centre pages are important to the character of the village and should be conserved.

Where permitted, additional mobile phone masts should be sited to minimise visual intrusion and preferably be screened by trees. Shared use of the existing masts should be encouraged.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Each area has its range of traditional materials, which are listed. These are appropriate to new building and to extensions.

The Hampshire style of thatching has integrated ridges flush with the rest of the roof. TVBC policy is to support combed wheatstraw thatch done in the longstraw fashion traditional in Hampshire. Norfolk reed is not traditional and should not normally be used.

WINDOWS

The most unifying factor in the village is the ubiquity of white painted wooden window frames, and any new development should respect this.

Larger more modern houses have white painted sash windows.

Smaller and older ones have white painted wooden frames with three small vertical windows, or 4, 6 or 8 paned windows.

Eyebrow rooflines frame windows in thatched properties.

Rooflights are to be avoided in existing buildings and should never be used in thatch where they can be seen.

Dormers are not common in the older houses and where they do occur they are small. They should be used only to provide light, not living accommodation.

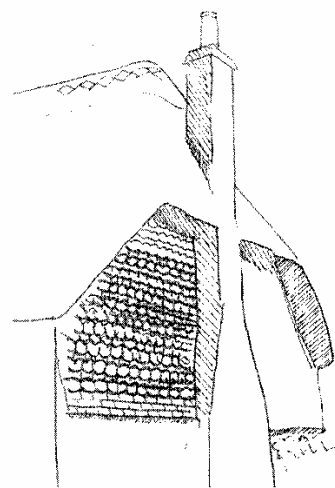
Rendering should preferably be in white to suit the traditional chalk/lime-washed finishes.

CHIMNEYS

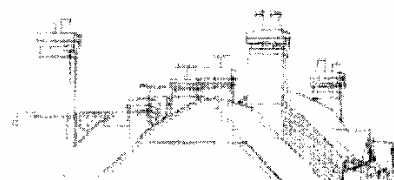
Traditional houses have chimneys in red brick, either external on the end of the house or internal.

PORCHES

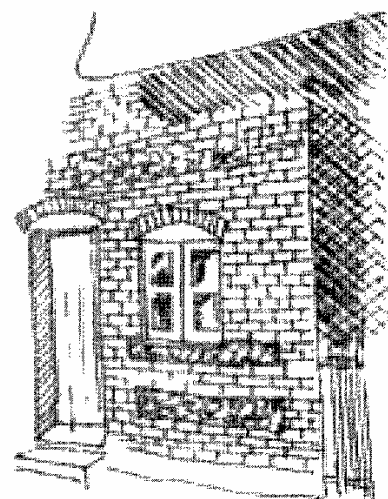
New porches should be simple tiled, slate or thatched open porches to suit the style of the house.



Geometric tiling & exterior chimney



Roofscape in Middleton



Brickwork in Forton & small windows

Village Context

HOW WAS THE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT WRITTEN?

The Longparish Village Design is the result of extensive local consultation over a period of five years. Starting with open meetings, a workshop and a survey of the village, the Village Design Group drew on the help of over 40 local residents. The draft was produced and then circulated to a wide number of interested villagers. An open meeting was held in January 2000 to debate the key issues raised in the Village Design Statement, and since that time it has been on the website www.longparish.org.uk for comment. It was submitted in January to Test Valley Borough Council, which in October 2000 suggested substantial redrafting to concentrate more on design details. The design group produced a revised brief in the autumn of 2001 but no one had time to redraft it until the autumn of 2002. The subsequent draft was shown at an exhibition in the village in December 2002 and was on the website for comment and formal approval from December 1st 2002. It was adopted by Test Valley Borough Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance on 23rd April 2003.



Aerial view of the Common looking east

LOCATION AND LANDSCAPE

Longparish is a linear village in a parish of just over 2,000 hectares lying along the clear waters of the famous river Test, about 5 miles east of Andover. Here the valley of the Test is over half a mile wide and the river is braided, running in several streams, fed by springs and small rivulets. Most of the village is on the west side of the river amid the small, flat grazing fields of the valley floor.

On either side of the valley are low ridges about 80 metres high, fairly continuous and open on the south side and more broken to the north and west, where the village is bounded by Harewood Forest. On the sloping sides of the valley arable crops are grown in large fields, mainly enclosed by hedges.

Viewed from the ridges, little can be seen of the village, which is lost in trees. Looking out from the village, views are bounded by the ridges, where not hidden by trees.

APPROACHES

The village is on the winding B3048 between Hurstbourne Priors and Wherwell, and the main access from the east is from the B3400 Whitchurch - Andover road and from the west from the A303. One can also approach it from the A34 along the C165, Nuns' Walk, which runs on the opposite side of the valley to the B3048, and from the A303 by the C87 over Southside Hill, which provides one of the most evocative views of the village (9 on map). Another approach to the village and one of the most attractive is from the B3400 by the C87, the Middleway, through Harewood Forest.

Existing Designations

Design control is already strong in the village, which is protected by formal designations. Longparish Conservation Area was designated in 1983. The Conservation Area covers almost the whole village: Forton, Middleton (except the Common), West Aston (except North Acre) and most of East Aston and all the open spaces between the settlements. The Borough Local Plan of 1996 and the Deposit Draft Local Plan 2002 designate most of the existing open areas of the village as important open spaces where development would only be permitted if it would not harm their value and contribution to character as important open areas. Frontage infilling is allowed in certain areas of the village in Forton, Middleton and West Aston where development or re-development is acceptable provided that it would have curtilages similar in size to those in the vicinity and would not harm the character of the area. North Acre is a "built-up area" where development and re-development for housing is permitted. Longparish contains about 70 listed buildings or monuments, including most of the thatched cottages. Alteration or demolition of listed buildings is an offence without listed building consent.



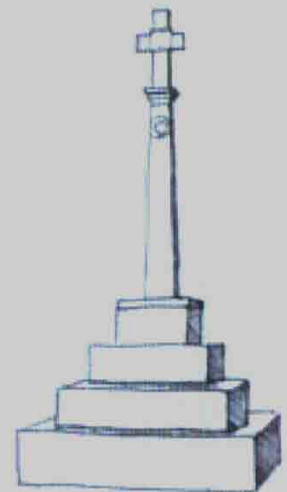
Bridge over the river Test in Southside road

The landscape of Longparish is also protected by many designations. In 1997 the river Test was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, as was the Cleeves (the common land at East Aston) in 1987. Since 1988 the Valley of the River Test has been an Environmentally Sensitive Area where DEFRA makes grants to farmers who manage the land according to approved guidelines. This ESA was re-affirmed and extended in 1994.

The Valley of the River Test is also a Heritage Area, a non-statutory local countryside designation of the Test Valley Borough Local Plan. Harewood Forest has been designated as a Countryside Heritage Area by Hampshire County Council, a non-statutory policy supported by Test Valley aimed at sympathetic land management of the area..



The stocks



War memorial in the cemetery



Village cross



East Aston House

History

Current Employment

Opportunities for employment in the village are now limited. Over time, the mechanisation of farming has reduced jobs; many of the farms have been amalgamated, and the cottages sold. There are still three farms and a working piggery and chicken farm near the old station at Harewood. Watercress beds are also a feature of the Test Valley, and Longparish has organic beds still being worked near Larkwhistle and Vale farms. Two public houses, the village shop and Harewood Industrial Estate, where additional units and a waste transfer station have been recently added provide some jobs. A turbine barn in Forton has been converted to office space. The leisure activities of fishing and shooting provide some opportunities. Fish have provided other business opportunities on the river Test as well as with trout rearing ponds and fishing lake at Mill Lane, and trout and coarse fishing lakes at Vale Farm. Longparish's location and its excellent road and transport connections have helped its transition to a dormitory community, with the majority of the working population in the village commuting elsewhere to work, although a recent trend is for more people to work from home for at least part of the week.



West Aston 1908

Longparish evolved from four historical settlements: Forton, Middleton, West Aston and East Aston. In Domesday Book only 'Middeltune' is mentioned, but there are references to the other settlements in medieval documents such as the cartulary of Wherwell Abbey, which owned all the village until Henry VIII dissolved the Abbey in 1536. The name, Longparish, was not widely used to cover all these settlements until the middle of the 16th century, but it is appropriate since the village is over 3 miles long by road. The hamlets are still distinct, separated by important open spaces, which should be preserved to maintain the character of the village.

For most of its history, the economy of the village has been based on farming, fishing and milling. Two mills were mentioned in Domesday Book and today Upper Mill has been restored and part of another mill survives in Lower Mill House. Until the 1940s the majority of villagers were employed in the village, either on the many farms or by the large estates of Middleton or Longparish House or as craftsmen.

The railway came to Longparish in the 1880s, with one line running through the Forest to Longparish Station on the west side of the village and another along the chalk slope on the other side of the valley. Both were dismantled by the mid-1960s; the embankments, cuttings and bridges are still visible.

During the First World War, an industrial estate was started near the station with a gunpowder factory at the edge of the Harewood Forest. In the Second World War the railway was used to support munitions storage in the Harewood Forest.

The village's association with the military continued with the establishment of an army camp at the top of Southside Hill. The camp was demolished in 1985, but the land is still regularly used for training exercises



The Church and old school before 1859

POPULATION

From a peak of 875 residents in the mid-18th century, the population had fallen in 1911 to 729 - a figure that has remained remarkably stable over the century. In the 1991 census the population was 730, although this reflects more households than it did in the previous century.

Settlement & Buildings

The settlement pattern of the village has changed little over the last hundred years and the village remains a collection of hamlets with important open spaces between. The policy of allowing infilling only has restricted development in the village and there is now little scope for further infilling in the parts of Forton, Middleton and West Aston where it is permitted under the Deposit Draft Local Plan 2002

Because it is regarded as so important that any future development or alterations to existing houses should be sympathetic to the style in that location, each settlement is treated separately.

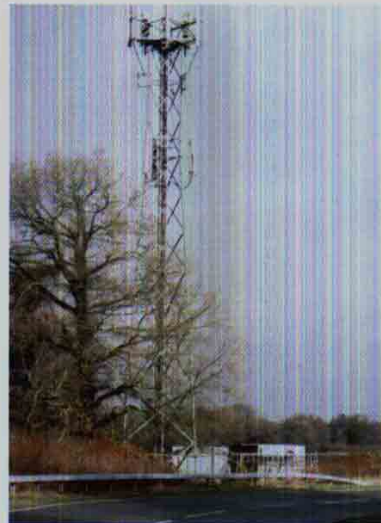
The Main Areas

HAREWOOD

The southernmost settlement is separated from the rest of the village by the dual carriageway A303, which was bridged in 1995. It lies on the edge of Harewood Forest and is well screened by recent planting.

A small number of two-storey Victorian red brick homes surround the former rail station. Newer houses have been built in sympathy with the station architecture.

They are separated from the Harewood Industrial Estate by the line of the old railway. The industrial estate consists mainly of small units to the south of an open green. The visual impact of a large new waste transfer station which breaks the tree-line, has been camouflaged by the use of muted dark grey paint.



Around the green are some houses in very varied styles built to accommodate those working on the estate.

Two mobile telephone aerial masts have been built in this area- one successfully concealed in the Forest and the other an eyesore by the bridge. On the A303 are a service station and a restaurant. It is planned to re-route the Test Way long distance footpath past the station and over the bridge, which will make this area more important visually.

Guidelines

Specific guidelines are given for each settlement in the village.

At the beginning of this document there are general guidelines which apply to the whole village.



Station Master's House 1884

Harewood Guidelines

By the station, the character of the Victorian buildings should be retained in any further extensions or new building by the use of matching red brick and pitched slate roofs, and white-painted wooden windows and similar detailing. Any building should be restricted to two storeys.

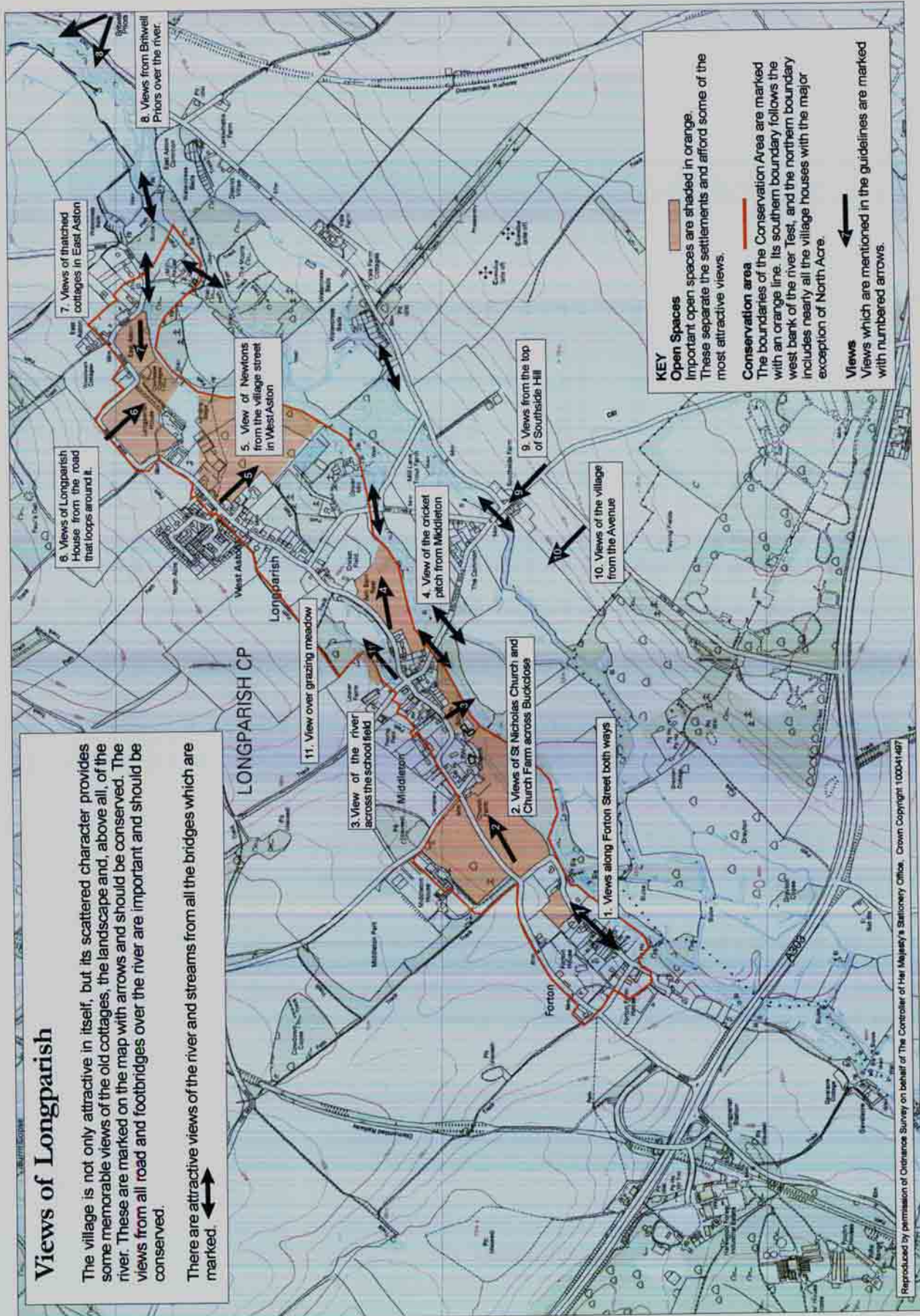
New industrial units should be as unobtrusive as possible, camouflaged by neutral finishes. Care should be taken to avoid high buildings that will break the tree-line.

Lighting and signage should be kept to a necessary minimum.

Views of Longparish

The village is not only attractive in itself, but its scattered character provides some memorable views of the old cottages, the landscape and, above all, of the river. These are marked on the map with arrows and should be conserved. The views from all road and footbridges over the river are important and should be conserved.

There are attractive views of the river and streams from all the bridges which are marked. 



Settlement & Buildings

FORTON

Forton Guidelines



Forton street

To conserve the character of Forton, larger houses in any new development should be to the north or on the periphery.

The smaller houses on Forton street are predominantly one and a half storey or two storey high and any new development should respect this.

Roofing materials should be in keeping with the existing roofs, mainly thatch, or plain clay tile or slate.

House walls should be in rich red brick with some details in blue brick or in painted render or painted brick.

Boundaries on the road should be low picket fences, walls or hedges.

Further development should comply with parking standards to minimise on-street parking and take account of the historic, narrow street pattern.

The views up and down Forton street (1 on map) should be conserved.

Forton has an intimate hidden quality. You can drive through Longparish and not know it is there. It lies south east of the B3048 and Forton street is close to the river. On the higher ground are large houses in large gardens, mostly brick with slate or plain tile roofs built in the 19th and 20th centuries, some set back from the road and facing away from it. Forton House on the main road is one of the rare three storey houses in the village.

Forton street is one of the most picturesque parts of the village with small cottages, some of them terraced, on both sides of the road with irregular gaps in between, some of which are protected open spaces. The orientation of the houses varies either facing the road or side on. The street has an enclosed feel. It is well used by walkers, as it is part of the Test Way. Forton is a relatively densely settled hamlet with a high percentage of pre-1800 thatched timber-framed cottages. These are built in rich red brick with interesting detail, such as blue headers over the windows. The windows are small with white-painted wooden frames and doors are made of wood. The preponderance of long straw thatch gives a low, rounded silhouette to the roofline along the street.

Some houses have small front gardens, softening the impact of the buildings, some are right on the street. Most houses on the southern side of the lane have long back gardens, some running down to the Test. On the northern side there is limited backland development.

Boundaries are defined by low picket fences or low hedges, and wooden gates allow a view of the houses. Most houses have off-road parking with gravel drives.

The lane is very narrow with sharp corners and poor visibility, without kerbs or lighting, and unsuitable for through traffic.

Despite the relative density of the settlement, Forton retains the paddocks for grazing animals that are a feature of Longparish. They define the edges of the settlement and are listed in the Borough Plan as important open spaces. The open parkland in front of Middleton House separates Forton from Middleton.

Settlement & Buildings

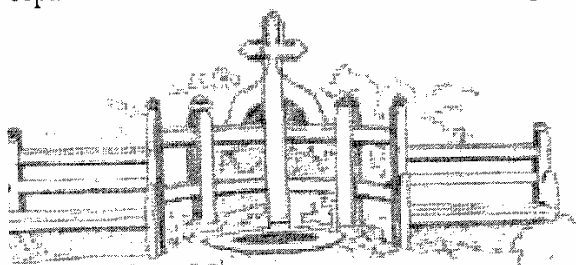
MIDDLETON

Middleton House marks the southern end of this settlement, which is the historic centre of the village with many of the communal buildings. The view of St Nicholas Church, a Grade 1 listed building, and Church Farm on the road from Forton is perhaps the most painted and photographed in the village. Also in Middleton are the school, the Plough Inn, the village hall with its car parks, the village cemetery, the football field, sewage pumping station and the telephone exchange. It contains most of the notable landmarks of the village: the stocks by the church, two lychgates, the memorial cross by the school, the war memorial in the cemetery, the grindstone and Ashburn Rest by the little stream along the village street. The school field is an important open space giving a view of the river from the road.

There is a greater diversity of housing styles and sizes here than elsewhere in the village. North of the road many houses are terraced or semi-detached, to the south mostly detached apart from a modern terrace. Nearly all houses are two-storey and mostly grouped according to type. There are some thatched cottages, some chalk cob houses with low pitched slate roofs and several of brick. The Plough, White Windows and the Cottage make a notable group of brick tile-hung houses with interesting rooflines and chimneys, and the 1970s terrace opposite has fitted in well. A few houses are right on the road, but most have front gardens with low hedges or walls, or simple open wooden fences, and have long, narrow gardens behind.

At the only crossroads in the village by Stream House, settlement spreads in four directions. Sugar Lane has a mix of modern cottages, a Victorian terrace, and barns associated with Lower Farm. Southside Road has a mix of detached medium density housing, including a converted chapel, two traditional brick and flint thatched cottages and several modern houses built in old coal yards.

Streams along the main and cross roads of Middleton give the area added character. The small stream by the spinney along the village street is much valued and regularly cleared by volunteers. Opposite are grazing fields, which include the village playground, and the cricket field with its thatched pavilion. These spaces and the allotments separate Middleton from West Aston along the main street.



Ashburn Rest

Middleton Guidelines

The view of Church and Church Farm (2 on map) from Forton should be preserved.

The view over the grazing meadow from Sugar Lane crossroads (11 on map) should be preserved and also the views across to the Cricket Field from the village street (4 on map).

The school field is an important open space and affords a view to the river which should be preserved.

Existing landmarks should be preserved.

Housing mix can include small terraces and groups of similar detached houses, all 2 storey.

Varied materials are appropriate in this area:

Walls: red brick, red brick and red tile, red brick and flint in equal bands, cob with slate roof.

Roofs: plain clay tiled roofs, thatch, slate on cob houses at very shallow pitch. In terraces materials used should be consistent.

Small or no front gardens, long narrow gardens at rear.

Enclosure: low walls and fences in centre.

Settlement & Buildings

The Common guidelines



The Common

The 2 storey cob houses with slate roofs on Southside road form a distinctive group whose character should be kept in any new development.

West Aston guidelines

Houses should be one to two storey.

Appropriate materials are red brick, painted brick and timber frame with plaster for house walls.

Roofs should be of thatch or plain clay tile.

Tile-capped chalk walls by the road should be preserved and maintained.

The view to Newtons (5 on map) should be preserved.



Chalk wall

THE COMMON

The Common bounds one side of a triangle of land, separated by the river and grazing fields from the settlements on the B3048, where Mill Lane and Southside Road converge by Southside bridge. It features chalk cob cottages with slate roofs, with a bungalow and two modern houses at the end. There are older cottages, mostly cob with slate roofs, along Southside Road looking over grazing fields, and Southside barns have been recently converted into a large house. Mill Lane is characterised by more modern suburban-type housing facing a paddock and trout ponds. Lower Mill House is a large house hidden in trees, which was built in the 1920s set in substantial grounds including the river.

WEST ASTON

West Aston includes two areas; the village street and the former Council housing estate at North Acre. Along the village street the housing is low to medium density, ranging from traditional thatched and timber framed or brick and flint cottages on both sides of the street to modern bungalows and some semi-detached former estate houses.

There are a few substantial houses in red or painted brick, set back from the road with large gardens, mainly on the southern side. The shop with its post office is found here, as is the village's other pub, The Cricketers.

Infilling has taken place over a long period. Some backland development in the long gardens attached to housing along the main road has occurred, in such a way that it does not detract from the settlement character. After the junction with the road into North Acre, West Aston continues with thatch and tile roofed houses, ending at the fields around Longparish House. A long tile-capped chalk wall along the road is a main feature of the end of this settlement. Houses are not continuous on both sides as grazing fields break the groups of houses on either side of the road, and one, Newtons, gives important access to footpaths.

NORTH ACRE

North Acre is the only recent large development in the village and is concealed from the village street by a line of mainly thatched cottages. It has one narrow access road branching into two cul de sacs, lined with houses on both sides. It is the only part of the village with pavements (apart from a short length by the school) and with street lighting, features that give it a suburban character. There are two garage blocks, but North Acre has the greatest concentration of on-street parking.

Settlement & Buildings

Originally it was a Council housing estate built in many stages. Started in 1936, housing was added twice during the 1940s and in 1956. These older houses are built in red brick with grey tiled roofs, mostly semi-detached, although there has been some infilling with buff brick. In 1968 bungalows for the elderly with a warden replaced the prefabs and in 1974 the estate was enlarged with another road added to the left with street lighting. These newer houses include a high proportion of bungalows, which are in buff brick with plain grey tiled roofs with no chimneys; two storey houses are in the same materials with white timber cladding on the second storey.

Since the right to buy Council houses was granted, improvements made to the housing stock are introducing greater variety of character and softening the estate style. Garages, small extensions and porches have been added and this is the only area of the village where picture windows and modern plastic windows are common. These are invariably white, as throughout the village. In the older areas there are wooden fences defining the plots; the newer part is mainly open plan in front.

EAST ASTON

This settlement is separated from West Aston by the open spaces around Longparish House, set in parkland, and has the lowest density in the village. Cottages line the higher left hand side of the road out of the village looking over grazing fields and the river. Some houses are cob with slate roofs and some picturesque timber-framed brick or brick and flint thatched cottages, one with distinctive geometric tiling on the gable walls. Some once had barns and a few remain, which should be preserved if possible. Gardens are medium to large. Woodwalk is a short unmade track off the main road on which there are two pairs of ex-estate houses, red brick with pantile roofs, recently sympathetically enlarged. East Aston House is an enlarged cob house with noteworthy neo-gothic windows.

At the very end of the village, are four more modern houses. The south east side of the road is bounded by the river and East Aston Common where there is no building, apart from the attractive 19th century Upper Mill and House built in brick and cob, with its restored working mill astride the Test.

North Acre guidelines

Any further development should comply with parking standards to minimise on-street parking.



Personalisation of North Acre houses and use of soft landscaping are welcome.

East Aston Guidelines

Views of river and of cottages (7 on map) should be preserved.

Barns linked to houses should be preserved.

Materials should respect those in use: cob or render, brick, brick and flint or timber frame with brick or plaster.

Roofs should be thatch, tile or slate.



A small house which has recently replaced a bungalow is a good example of sensitive design. It has a pantile roof like the Woodwalk houses on the left and an unassuming flat front with rendered walls to link it to East Aston House on the right.

Outlying area guidelines

New development should not be allowed to break the skyline on the ridges.

Boundaries guidelines

Garden boundaries on the street should be low hedges, walls or fences.

All householders should avoid planting fast growing conifer hedges on property boundaries.

Gates, with their posts, should be of timber or metal in an open style in keeping with the size and scale of the property



Southside Farm

OUTLYING AREAS AND FARMS

Outside the main settlements, there are a number of farms with associated housing. Firgo Farm and buildings date from the 17th century. On Nuns' Walk there are a number of farms, watercress beds and associated cottages and barns, as well as fishing lakes. Britwell Priors is an historic red brick building, dismantled and moved from Oxfordshire in the 1920s to its present site with a good view over the river (8 on map).



Upper Mill

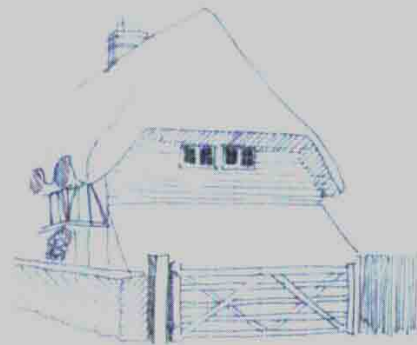
BOUNDARIES

Field boundaries in the village are increasingly post and rail fences. Native species hedges are the alternatives: hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, yew, elm, field maple, hazel.

Garden boundaries, especially on the street are mostly low, and this gives the village its friendly character. Open picket fences, natural or white, low walls in brick or brick and flint, low hedges in box, privet, yew, beech or hornbeam all fit in well. High close-boarded fences and fast-growing conifer hedges look unfriendly.

Owners are advised to ensure that hedges are not planted too close to the road as they grow inexorably outwards as they mature.

Wooden gate, low hedge and picket fence in Forton



TREES

Trees are important to the character of Longparish. They limit the views and frame the houses. Outside the forest, certain trees and woodlands in Longparish have been described in the Conservation Area as important for the character of the village. No tree within the Conservation Area may be felled, uprooted, lopped or topped without six weeks notification to Test Valley Borough Council Planning Department. There are also various trees which have Tree Preservation Orders placed upon them.



A fine cedar near the church

A wide range of tree species is found in the hedgerows, in fields, along the river or in small spinneys and in gardens. The main species are poplar, willow, ash, alder, beech, oak, hazel, field maple, hornbeam, horse chestnut, hawthorn, lime and blackthorn. A long line of the deciduous larch trees is visible to the north of the village, while to the south the ridge is marked by open farmland with the occasional spinney, such as Big Firs and Little Firs. A fine avenue of lime trees leads to Longparish House. Both it and Middleton House have a wide variety of specimen trees in their parklands. There is a variety of conifers at Harewood Industrial Estate and at Lower Mill.



Kissing gate

Tree Guidelines

On the more rural outskirts of the villages and in the grazing fields hedges and trees should be chosen from native species.

Appropriate tree species are poplar, willow, ash, alder, beech, hornbeam, oak, hazel, field maple, horse chestnut, hawthorn, lime

Important trees shown on the Conservation Area Plan should be preserved and replacements considered

Anyone considering tree work should check with Test Valley Planning Department.



Lime avenue to Longparish House

ROADS GUIDELINES

The rural character of the village means that any introduction of urban features such as concrete kerbs and lighting would have to be considered very carefully.

Street furniture (signs etc) should be in keeping with the rural nature of the village.

Footpaths should be preserved and well-maintained.

Where possible wooden kissing gates should replace stiles.



PARKING GUIDELINES

Parked cars are visually obtrusive and care should be taken to ensure that sufficient on-site parking is provided in any new development.

ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

There is no street lighting in Longparish (apart from North Acre). The only pavements are in North Acre and opposite the Plough Public House to the village school. Although verges are soft and sometimes border streams so that traffic does considerable damage to them, concrete kerbs, lighting inappropriate signs and other urban elements are not to be encouraged on the existing village streets, as they are not in keeping with the village character. Bridges recently repaired by Hampshire County Council have wooden rails which is a very desirable development.

Longparish is served by an excellent network of footpaths, which are well used, including one long distance path, the Test Way. Some of the footpaths are thought to follow old roads. They provide shorter routes linking the settlements and attractive views of the village. Where possible wooden kissing gates should replace stiles to facilitate access.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

For the most part, off street parking is sufficient to avoid street parking by residents. Areas where this is not the case include Forton, Sugar Lane and North Acre. In all cases there is very little through traffic, but the growing number of households with several cars results in a problem to which there is no clear solution.



Cars in Middleton

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The guidance in this statement is intended to help house owners in decisions about changes to their property as well as helping planners to ensure that future development in Longparish enhances the village we love.

The Design Group, the Parish Council and all the people who helped in collecting material for this statement and commented on it were tempted to think more widely about the future of the village. The first draft was not accepted by TVBC because it strayed into thinking about future development, rather than about design. We now intend that this statement should be the starting point for a Village Plan, which will allow us to express our wish for some new development in the village, which will not spoil the existing settlements and particularly the village street.



Orchard Cottage with banded brick and flint walls and a small barn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Design Group and the Parish Council would like to thank all those in the village who have helped with the plan by gathering information, helping in workshops, taking photographs and commenting on the various drafts. Rupert Dawnay initiated and ran the project while he was Chairman of the Parish Council, aided by Gloria Goodliffe and many others. Catherine Sweet and Mary Jo Darrah did most of the drafting and analysis of comments. Lisa Jackson kindly provided expert advice on the final draft as well as the pen drawings of village features. We thank Test Valley Borough Council Planning Department for advice, also Test Valley Borough Council and Longparish Parish Council for generous financial support.



Aerial View of Forton