

Conservation Area Appraisal

Planning Guidance for Owners, Occupiers and
Developers



Harley

July 2006

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INTRODUCTION

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires planning authorities to determine which parts of their area are **“areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance, and shall designate those areas as Conservation Areas.”**

Having designated the Conservation Area, the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that those elements that form its particular character or appearance should be preserved or enhanced, especially when considering planning applications. It is therefore necessary to define and analyse those qualities or elements that contribute to, or detract from, the special interest of the area and to assess how they combine to justify its designation as a Conservation Area.

The Appraisal takes the form of written text and an Appraisal map. In both respects every effort has been made to include or analyse those elements key to the special character of the area. Where buildings, structures or features have not been specifically highlighted it does not necessarily follow that they are of no visual or historic value to the Conservation Area. The document is intended to be an overall framework and guide within which decisions can be made on a site specific basis.

Harley Conservation Area was designated on 02 April 1985 and covers an area of 22.4 hectares (55.4 acres). The Conservation Area is bounded by the solid green line as shown on the Map (Appendix 3) and comprises the majority of dwellings in the village. For the most part the boundaries run along existing fences, walls or other property boundaries.

This appraisal of the Harley Conservation Area follows its review in 2005 by Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council and explains what its designation means for those who live and work in the area.

LOCATION AND POPULATION

Harley village is located 9.5 miles to the south east of Shrewsbury on the A458 Shrewsbury to Bridgnorth road. The Parish of Harley lies at the foot of Wenlock Edge. The Parish boundary to the south runs along the crest of the escarpment and follows streams for short distances on the east and west, but otherwise makes no use of any natural features. The boundary with Cressage on the north east seems to have been established following a perambulation of the bounds of Harley and Belwardine Manors carried out in 1237.

The Parish is watered by Harley Brook which runs north eastwards across its centre. Harley village stands at about 325 feet above sea-level on the southern slope of an extensive bed of sand and gravel, which produces the undulating landscape of the north east quarter of the Parish.

The population of Harley is about 150 (2001 census).



Looking north west to Harley from the foot of Wenlock Edge

Looking east towards the Wenlock Edge escarpment.



ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT

Early History

Stone implements have been found in the area surrounding Harley, indicating pre-historic activity and settlement. A Roman villa site has also been uncovered nearby, thought to have been the domestic retreat of a procurator or official from the city of Viroconium (now Wroxeter).

Before 1066 the Parish consisted of four manors, Harley, Domas, Rowley and Blakeway, where roads from Wenlock, Presthope and Gippols converged. Harley itself is recorded in Domesday (1086) as a manor with enough wood for 100 swine. Roger de Lacy, Earl of Shrewsbury, was overlord at this time and it was eventually annexed in 1102 'to the honour of Montgomery'. The road from Wenlock to Cressage is thought to have been constructed by the then monarch Henry I.

The Church of St Mary is first recorded in 1291, and was largely rebuilt in 1845-6 by local architect Samuel Pountney Smith. The medieval Church consisted of a chancel, nave, western tower and north aisle. The tower was rebuilt in the early 16th Century, replacing a smaller tower of the 13th Century, and is the only part of the pre-Reformation Church that remains. It is in the fashion of late Perpendicular gothic. The Church has always stood at the central point of the village.



The site of the original manor house is unknown. A lord was resident in 1327, though the manor was reported as being 'worth nothing' in 1349. The

manor was subsequently disbursed. A 13th Century manorial dovecote stood north of the churchyard and was still in use in 1688, though of this nothing remains.

Industrial activity



A smithy is first recorded in Harley in 1564. This was probably situated near a small iron forge next to Harley Brook, west of the village. By 1628 the smithy had been moved to within the village. The forge was leased in 1658 for 12 years to Cornelius Hallen, a copper-worker from Stourbridge. By 1664 this was decayed and the site was let to a dyer from Cardington on condition that he would erect a fulling mill there.

Sir Francis Newport established mineral rights in 1657 and obtained a licence to search for coals, although nothing came to be mined. Lime kilns at the foot of Wenlock Edge are recorded in 1817 and were still active in 1842.

By 1852 the village had a full complement of tradesfolk including bricklayers, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, a blacksmith and a wheelwright. The latter occupied a cottage south of the Church. A blacksmith was still active in 1909 and the smithy finally closed in 1944. The old smithy, now a dwelling, is pictured above.

Houses, Farms, Inns and Toll Roads

Until the 18th Century the houses in the village stood on the roads to Wigwig and Domas and the west side of the Wenlock road between the Church and the Mill on Harley Brook. The Old Rectory, to the west of the Church, is probably the oldest surviving house, though it has been subsequently altered and enlarged (page 4, centre right).



Forge Farm, to the west of the Domas road, appears to be the oldest of the existing farmhouses. It is a brick-cased timber-framed house with a central stack, probably built in the early 17th Century.

Number 3 Harley (above and below), opposite the Church, is the most striking of several timber-framed houses on the Wenlock road, but is unlikely to have been built before the 17th Century.



In the 18th Century the farms became larger and less numerous. In the original village houses tended to be more widely spaced and several were then rebuilt in stone, for example the Mill (pictured top right), the cottages on the Church lands and Harley House.



Dating from the early 19th Century are Harley Court, the former windmill and some cottages adjacent to the old village shop.

There were two alehouses in Harley in 1616. The Unicorn, east of the churchyard, closed in 1863. The other was open from 1759-72. The "Feathers," later the "Plume and Feathers" is first recorded in 1842. It is a stone-built house, probably of 18th Century origin, which appears to have been converted into an Inn in the early 19th Century.



The cottage to the north of the churchyard (pictured above) and the Old Smithy are both stone houses of 18th Century origin. Castle Hill House, near Forge Farm on the Domas road, was built in 1840. It stands on the site of an earlier house and derives its name from the crenellated brick tower built by John Corfield in 1791 (pictured top left page 5; datestone pictured right).





The Wenlock to Cressage road was turnpiked in 1752 and a toll house existed south of the brook in 1800. This was sold to the Lord of the Manor in 1875. The stone bridge over the brook was built by Thomas Carline in 1843.

The Parish of Harley was amalgamated with neighbouring Kenley in 1939.

FORM AND LAYOUT

The village has spread outwards from the area around the Church, prominently sited on the crest of the slope north of Harley Brook. Development proceeded originally along the roads leading north east towards Wigwig, south west to Domas and south east to Much Wenlock. The enclosure of the common fields to the north of the village permitted expansion along the Cressage road during the 18th



Harley is a village of modest size with houses and outbuildings lining the thoroughfares. The back-gardens of the majority of houses in Harley adjoin the surrounding countryside and are usually separated from the fields by traditionally laid hedges. This feature of the village is an essential characteristic.

Old farmbuildings, outhouses or stone boundary walls often define the edges of roads within the village. The course taken by each of the lanes follows the relief of the land in order to establish the most convenient route, resulting in broad or sweeping curves and a pleasing diversity of vistas throughout the village.

Harley is bounded to the south by a small watercourse that meets the Harley Brook just south of the Old Mill. This minor tributary originally fed the leat to the mill and now flows through a culvert.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND POTENTIAL

Of chief archaeological interest, but not actually within the Conservation Area, is the site of the smithy, first recorded in 1564. This was probably situated near a small iron forge next to Harley Brook, west of the village.

There is little potential in the churchyard area of the village as it is a consecrated burial ground and has been since the late 13th Century. Prior to the Norman Conquest, the site may have been used by Saxon settlers for religious purposes although no evidence for this has emerged thus far.

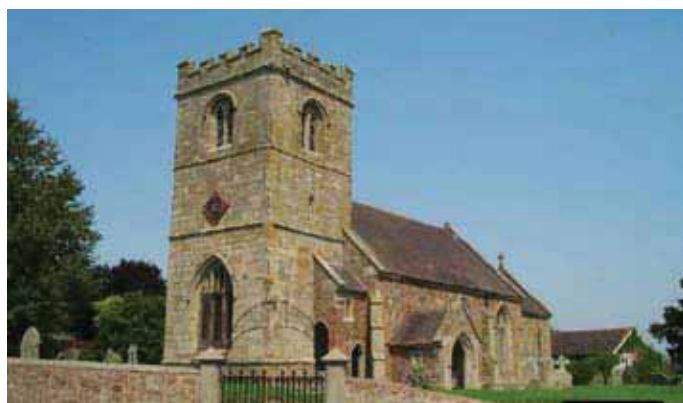
A 13th Century manorial dovecote formerly stood north of the churchyard and was still in use in 1688, though nothing now remains. An investigation to determine the precise location and extent of this feature might yield useful information regarding Harley's medieval history and development.

Several of the older houses in Harley, such as the Old Rectory and Forge Farm, warrant further investigation in order to reveal more about their original extent and function.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC QUALITIES OF THE VILLAGE

Harley is a good example of a small rural village of medieval origin whose form, layout and overall size were well established by the early 17th Century and which remain largely unchanged.

Contribution Made By Listed Buildings



The most significant piece of architecture in Harley is the west tower of the Church, which contains 13th Century masonry but was largely rebuilt during the 16th Century. It consists of 3 stages, each divided by a stringcourse. The lowest stage has a west window of 3 lights in the late Perpendicular Gothic style. The second stage has round-headed lancet windows on 3 sides and the belfry has 2-light louvred bell-openings with cinquefoil heads. The tower is crenellated with a pyramidal roof.

Much of the Church was rebuilt in 1845-6 by local architect Samuel Pountney Smith and is interesting in its attempt to reflect the evolution of the building in a way that is archaeologically authentic.



The chancel, for example, is in the lancet style in order to suggest that this is the oldest part of the building. The nave and north aisle are in the third pointed or Perpendicular style, echoing the tower and suggesting a subsequent phase of building activity.

Other listed buildings within the village include the Old Rectory (below), Forge Farm, No. 3, The Old Thatch, Brant and the former Village Pound. These buildings form a significant collection of vernacular timber framed and stone buildings ranging in date from late 16th to the late 17th Centuries.

Also very prominent in the vicinity of the churchyard is No. 3 (bottom left). This is also timber framed but with brick or plaster infill and a thatched roof. Its elevated position adjacent to the road ensures the picturesque quality of the Church's setting and acts as a fulcrum at the heart of the village.



The Old Thatch (above) and Brant (below) are similar to No. 3 with exposed timber work and thatched roofs. Both are also elevated on a stone plinth but the Old Thatch is tall enough to appear eccentric. Forge Farmhouse also has a timber-framed core but presents a symmetrical cross winged elevation in brick to the Domas road.



The Old Rectory shows multiple phases of building activity.

One of the most interesting buildings in the village is the Old Rectory, prominently located opposite the Parish Church and forming a splendid backdrop. The original part of the house is now the south wing, of attractive timber-framed construction consisting of close studding with diagonal bracing. This was probably built before 1612. There is a central brick chimney stack and a storeyed porch on the east side that is box-framed. Later in the 17th Century a timber-framed wing was added at right angles on the north side. A stone kitchen was built on the west side in the 18th Century and a projecting brick wing was added on the north east side between 1805 and 1823. The curious combination of lively timber framing and Regency design is particularly pleasing.



The village Pound, a former enclosure for stray livestock (below), has been restored and is an important feature within the village comprising a small square enclosure in local stone. It stands adjacent to the common fields that were enclosed during the 18th Century.



Prevailing Materials and Local Details

In villages throughout Shropshire the main method of construction, and the main architectural features, have been determined by locally available materials. Apart from the widespread use of oak on many of the buildings, in Harley the predominant building material has been red brick, which was fired locally from the deposits of boulder clay found in the area. It is frequently used in combination with stone, but also on its own. There is some fine brick detailing in some of the 18th Century barns as well as the 19th Century buildings throughout the village.



Although the local quarry is no longer worked there is a supply of stone available from dismantled or derelict buildings and walls.



Local stone quarried from Wenlock Edge has been used in a number of cases in Harley, but its use is not as widespread as would be expected. It has been used mainly in the construction of many of the boundary walls, often topped with 'cock and hen' stone copings, and laid in a random form. (photo below). Small window openings with stone sills and brick-on-end segmental arches are common throughout the village.

The occasional half-timbered elevation merges with the brickwork to good effect, and in a number of cases all three building styles merge into one form.



Contribution Made By Key Unlisted Buildings

Harley retains many unlisted buildings of interest from the late 18th Century including the Old Smithy and various cottages and outhouses on the west side of the Cressage road. These are of stone with brick dressings and have largely undergone sympathetic conversion in recent years.



The large stone mill (below) on the southern edge of the village is well concealed in its position by the Harley Brook. It is nonetheless an excellent example of its type and was evidently of some importance, given its size and complicated layout.



Also of the Georgian period is Harley House (below), but this was adapted during the 19th Century with the addition of an attic storey and a gabled porch. Nonetheless the building retains its original sash windows.



Harley Court (below) is a late Regency brick villa with a handsome Doric porch (initially open). The building was extended recently with the effect of duplicating the original elevation where there was formerly a barn. The borrowing of period detail arranged to scale and in proportion with the original house helps to maintain its special character.



Nos. 8 and 9 (below) and also Mill House date from the mid-19th Century, and are characterised by their casement windows and axed-arch heads in red brick.



Harley Farmhouse is typically Victorian, though well integrated through the use of Broseley brick. Moulded yellow brick dressings (below) add further interest.



The old school, now the Village Hall (below), is a splendid building of the late 19th Century. The dark honey-coloured stone complements the pale yellow brick dressings to the windows and chimneys. The windows themselves are simple lancets arranged in pairs or stepped as three and have cast-iron glazing bars arranged in a pattern of intersecting hexagons.



There are several ranges of agricultural buildings in the village that combine brick, timber framing and various types of stone to good effect. Many of these traditional farm buildings have now been converted to residential use, avoiding the creation of unsightly gaps in the village. As many as seven former agricultural complexes provide compact outlines that would be difficult to replace in a modern building. These include the agricultural ranges to Harley Farmhouse, The Forge, Harley House, Forge Farmhouse, Castle Hill (below) and the Old Rectory.



General Features and Other Characteristics

Acting as the unifying elements of all the varying built forms are the brown tiled roofs and the use of stone boundary walls to the front of the properties. Many of these boundaries meet the highway without a pavement, though a narrow grass verge is also typical. Walls are often topped with hedges.



Apart from the metalling of the lanes there is little to suggest the passing of a horse-drawn age. Houses front directly onto the roadway and buildings are sited often on the very corner of a lane so as to close a vista effectively and, on passing, reveal a completely new aspect of the village. Additional interest is provided by continuous changes in level along each of the lanes as they head downhill from the crossroads.



The complete absence of pavements, extraneous road markings and traffic signs, as well as the variation of width and alignment of carriageways all contribute to a sense of repose and a slower pace of life. The approaches to the village are all similar in that the lanes are low set, almost sunken, hemmed in by steep banks and traditionally laid deciduous hedges that are tightly cropped.

CHARACTER OF SETTING AND TOPOGRAPHY

Harley lies on a gentle southward-facing slope above Harley Brook and opposite the steep finger-like escarpment of the Wenlock Edge (about 850 ft). This heavily wooded promontory continues for some fifteen miles to the south west and two miles to the north east in near perfect straightness. The Edge is a prominent feature from vantage points throughout the village and gives the surrounding area its idyllic rustic character.

To the west the land rises steadily to a much broader ridge and the hilltop settlement of Kenley. Northwards the undulating land slopes down to the Severn valley and opens up expansive views across the Severn plain and towards the Wrekin (1,335 ft).



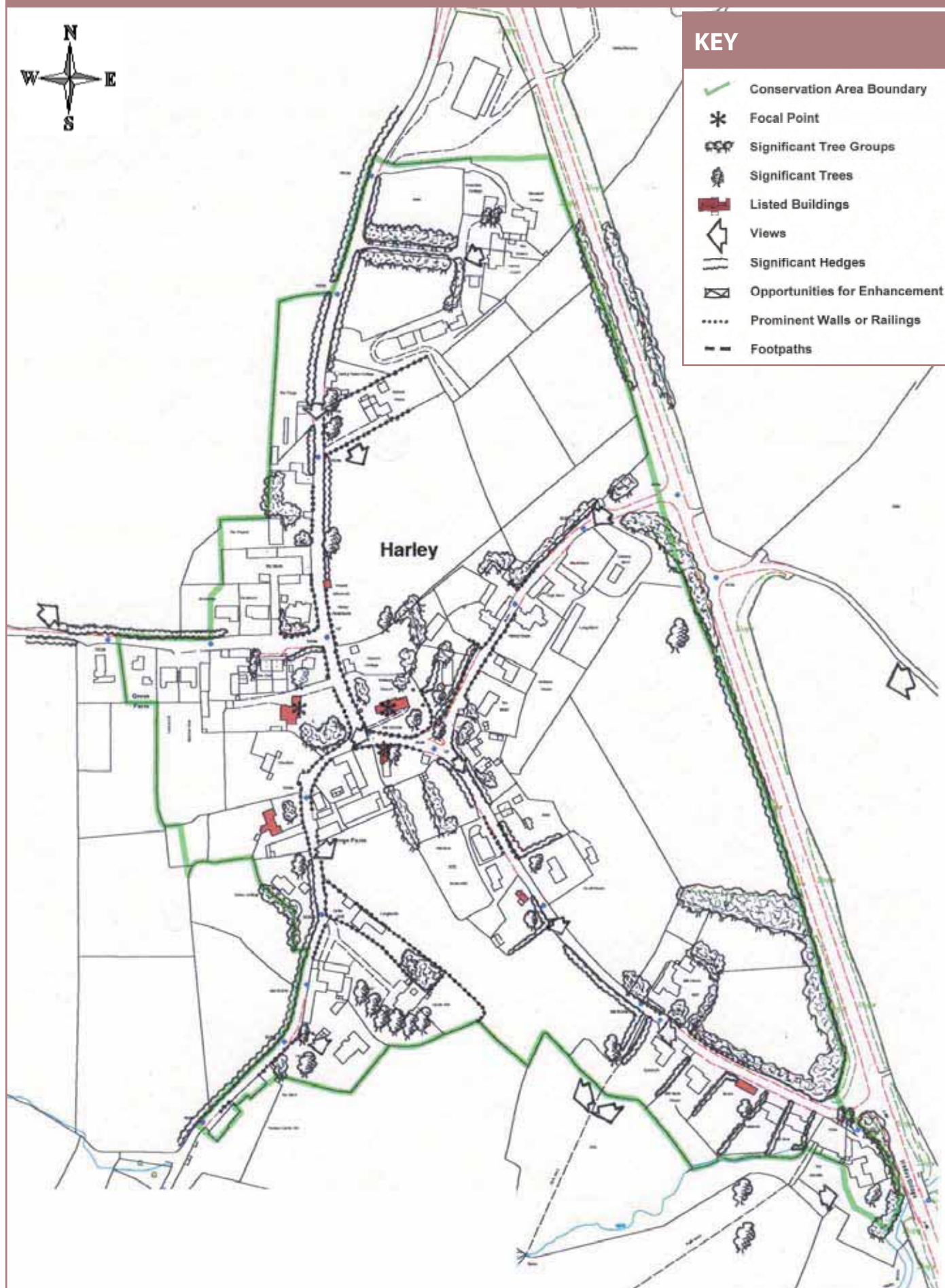
ABOVE Ape Dale to the west of Harley
BELOW Kenley in the distance



Contribution Made By Green Spaces

Although Harley is a small settlement, the Conservation Area includes many valuable green spaces that help to define the character of the village. Within the village is the churchyard, as well as the fields that separate Harley from the re-directed A458 Shrewsbury-Bridgnorth road to the east. The fields to the west of the old Wenlock road are also included as they form the foreground to the village when viewed from the south and from Wenlock Edge. These tracts of open land give Harley its distinctive rural feel and should be retained within the Conservation Area so that the appearance of any potential development can be properly controlled. Harley is not a designated settlement and therefore additional housing is not currently supported under the Local Plan. The size of the village and poor provision of local services would mean that effective integration would be difficult to achieve.

MAP 1: PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF INTEREST IN HARLEY



The green spaces outlined above are integral to the character of the Conservation Area because they help to maintain the soft boundary that exists between village and countryside. These areas of undeveloped land permit excellent views both into and out of the Conservation Area because they allow the countryside to penetrate and break up the pattern of the settlement. The chief views are indicated on Map 1, page 12.



As outlined in local policy HE8, the Council will seek to preserve important views and areas of open space that are significant in relation to the setting of the Conservation Area (see Appendix 1 - Policies).

Significance of Spaces

Within the Conservation Area the chief public spaces are the churchyard, the area around the village crossroads and the grounds to the Village Hall. The churchyard is adjacent to the crossroads area and forms a prominent open space at the historic centre of Harley. The car park to the Village Hall provides useful amenity facilities for visitors to the village and the surrounding area.

The churchyard is crucial to the setting of both church and village and is appropriately timbered by a large Yew tree and several young Sycamores. The impact of the trees is discussed in more detail below. A retaining wall of local stone encloses the churchyard. There is one entrance at the south west corner with stone gate piers and a cast iron gateway.



The long staggered crossroads has a small green at its eastern junction and provides strong definition to the setting of the listed and other key buildings in the vicinity.

Contribution Made By Trees

The importance of trees, hedges and shrubs within the Conservation Area should not be overlooked. Whether for their aesthetic value such as foliage, fruit or shape or for practical reasons (for example providing shade, shelter, screening, enclosure or privacy), the use of flora helps to enhance and thus create a pleasant neighbourhood. Trees, hedges and shrubs that contribute to the character of the area are identified on Map 1.





important unlisted house at Castle Hill. Notable species within the grounds to the latter include Wellingtonia, Corsican Pine, Larch and Lime. Mention should also be made of the fine Lime avenue to the approach to Harley Court.



The contribution made by trees within the Conservation Area is significant, although there is a lack of mature trees in some parts of the village. Large individual specimens and handsome groups are to be found in the grounds to Castle Hill, Harley Court and the Village Hall though in the village itself there are only isolated instances, notably of Sycamore and Yew.

There is a promising stock of young trees throughout the village that includes large numbers of Atlas Cedar, Silver Birch and various coniferous species. The latter are perhaps not characteristic or appropriate to the setting of the village and could be supplemented or replaced by greater numbers of Yew, Willow, Oak, Pine, Cedar or Beech in the future.

Towards the south eastern portion of the village in the vicinity of the Old Mill, small hedging trees are widespread as well as belts of Willow, Oak, Hazel and Elm. A belt of mature White Poplars screens the Old Mill from the A458 trunk road. The latter is concealed within a cutting and is partially screened by hedges and belts of Scots Pine.



Yews, Redwoods, Pines and Cedars help to provide a yearlong display of foliage. These trees enhance the setting of many of the listed buildings, such as the Church, Old Rectory and No. 3 as well as the

The Extent of Loss, Intrusion or Damage

Intrusion in the form of new development within the Conservation Area has not occurred significantly since designation in 1985. Little physical loss or damage to historic fabric has arisen since that time. The reinstatement of original timber casements that were replaced prior to 1985 should be encouraged in unlisted buildings of special interest such as Harley Farmhouse.

NEUTRAL AREAS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCEMENT

Landscape proposals

The former village livestock Pound was restored in 2005, with interpretive signage (top left, page 15) installed. The village hall car park would benefit from continued maintenance and consideration might be given to replacing it with an aggregate that is lighter in colour and perhaps less smooth, in keeping with the rural character of the village. The setting and character of Harley may be improved through the execution of environmental works to important features within the Conservation Area.

Redundant Buildings

There is currently a minor problem within the Harley Conservation Area regarding redundant buildings. Those that may be vulnerable to becoming redundant in the future are limited at present to several small outhouses and agricultural buildings. Of some concern is the former dovecote to the Old Rectory (below). The preservation of redundant farm buildings is an important aspect of the Borough Council's Conservation Area policy for Harley.



Traditional road signs could be re-introduced in order to complement those that remain (shown below). The new motorway-style signs at the small island junction between the Wenlock and Wigwig roads are a poor substitute for the traditional cast-iron finger posts with embossed lettering, which are of significant interest.

APPENDIX 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

POLICIES RELATING TO HARLEY CONSERVATION AREA

The broad objectives of the local planning authority for the Conservation Area will be to safeguard and where possible add to and enhance the basic character and appearance of Harley.

In particular it will:

- Endeavour to safeguard those buildings and structures statutorily listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.
- In the control of new development, have special regard to the external appearance, scale and siting of the new building so as to ensure a continuity of local building. Proposals likely to have a material effect on the character of the area will be published and representations made to the Borough planning authority will be considered when determining the application.
- Preserve important views and vistas within, into and out of the Conservation Area including vistas and views outside the boundary of the Conservation Area or adjacent to and affecting the setting of Harley.
- Encourage the renovation, retention and reuse of any dilapidated or empty buildings or damaged walls that make a contribution to the maintenance of the visual unity, sense of enclosure and basic character of Harley. Wherever practical the re-use of sympathetic second-hand building materials will be encouraged.
- Seek the retention of and endeavour to safeguard those special features of the village such as stone boundary walls, the absence of pavements or road markings, decorative railings, fenestration, pumps, cast iron finger post direction signs and other features of interest. The close juxtaposition of buildings to highways, small access courtyards and entrance roads are also prevalent and help to provide an informal, small-scale layout amongst the buildings.

- Seek the retention of and endeavour to safeguard important hedgerows, trees and open spaces within the Conservation Area.
- Promote the maintenance of the existing fine stock of trees and shrubs by the making of Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate and encourage the planting of new specimens where losses occur.
- As and where possible and in co-operation with the statutory bodies concerned, endeavour to secure the removal of unsightly overhead wires and supporting structures.

The local planning authority when considering any proposal within the area will actively encourage:

- The correct use of natural stone for boundary walls.
- The use of pitched roofs with clay tiles.
- Careful study and analysis of existing buildings; their form, materials, scale and treatment of openings and detailing of fenestration, so that new building work can be designed to match and complement its surroundings.
- The careful siting and positioning of new buildings of the correct scale and grouping so as to prevent new development seeming obtrusive or suburban in character.

In addition the local planning authority will, when it thinks it necessary, seek approval of the Secretary of State for the Environment to bring under control particular classes of development otherwise permitted by the Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 1995 (see section on Article 4 Directions below).

The local planning authority will not grant planning permission in respect of an outline application unless satisfied that the development proposed will be of the requisite standard. The powers available under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1990 (and subsequent amendments) will be used as necessary to prevent the display of inappropriate advertisements.

The Borough planning authority will welcome the co-operation of the Parish Council, local Associations

and members of the public in implementing these policies.

The character and appearance of the village of Harley could be affected detrimentally by development taking place in the surrounding countryside immediately next to the edge of the village. This area of related open space is essential to the setting of the village. The way in which this land flows simply to the outer buildings provides an important contrast and should be safeguarded. Accordingly the Borough Planning Authority will endeavour to ensure that the existing relationship between the village and landscape setting is maintained.

Implications of Conservation Area Status

Designation as a Conservation Area has the following implications:

Conservation Area status does give additional planning protection from unsympathetic development which might otherwise spoil an area's special character. From a planning point of view this designation means that there is a duty placed on the Council to preserve or enhance the special character and appearance of each Conservation Area and its setting. In practice, this means that all development proposals are extremely carefully considered to ensure that every scheme either improves the existing situation, or at least make it no worse. Proposals which would spoil the special character will be resisted. Therefore, the scale of a proposal, the quality of its design, and the suitability of its materials will all be important issues in the consideration of any development scheme. These additional controls, which operate in conjunction with ordinary planning restrictions, are summarised as follows:

- The demolition of certain buildings, walls, fences and structures within Conservation Areas requires the submission of a formal application for Conservation Area Consent to the Borough Council.
- The range of "Permitted Development Rights" (which allow certain works and alterations to properties without the need for Planning Permission) is more limited within Conservation Areas. Hence, planning applications can be

required for things like extensions, satellite dishes, dormer windows, and outbuildings where ordinarily they would not be necessary

- Similarly, applications for Advertisement Consent can also be necessary for signs which might not otherwise need formal approval.
- Planning permission is required to change the exterior of buildings with either stone, artificial stone, timber, plastic or tiles.
- Owners are required to give at least 6 weeks notice in writing to the Borough Council of any intention to cut down, lop or top any tree with a trunk over 75 mm in diameter (measured at a height of 1.5 m above ground level). A criminal offence would result if such notice is not given.

As the planning legislation is constantly being revised and updated, you are advised to contact Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council to establish whether your proposals require formal approval. In fact, it is strongly recommended that pre-application advice is first sought, to avoid unnecessary time and expense in producing unacceptable plans.

Implications of New Development within Conservation Areas

As every development must either preserve or enhance the appearance and character of a Conservation Area, the local planning authority will only permit new development that:

- achieves a high standard of design sympathetic with the character of the area
- is compatible with the scale, mass and form of adjacent buildings and their settings
- uses appropriate materials
- includes appropriate, good quality landscaping that compliments the area
- does not result in the loss of important open spaces or features of interest, and
- does not impinge upon views, into, out of, and within the Conservation Area.

Article 4 Directions

The character of Harley Conservation Area is little changed since its initial designation in 1985. Its historic buildings and spaces continue to prevail and there has been little to no obtrusive development. The following measures have been proposed in order to help preserve and enhance its special character.

Article 4 Directions are a means of regulating changes made to the frontages of unlisted buildings facing a public highway. This may include front walls, railings and hard landscaping as well as the façade itself. The mechanism of the Article 4 involves the removal of certain permitted development rights, such as the right to replace doors, windows or apply cement render to brickwork without planning permission.

The aim of making an Article 4 Direction is to assist in the retention or reinstatement of original features like external joinery and to promote the sympathetic replacement of damaged components. It is details such as these that are fundamental to the special character of a street or built up area. A Conservation Area Enhancement Grant scheme is operated by the Council to support the kind of works that concur with this objective.

Protection of Trees in Conservation Areas

The importance of trees is recognised in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which makes special provision for trees in Conservation Areas. Under Section 211 of the Act anyone proposing to carry out any works to trees at a property situated in a Conservation Area are required to give the Council six weeks notice of their intentions, in writing. Those who own trees that are located in a Conservation Area but covered by a Tree Preservation Order are not affected, as they are already required to obtain permission from the Local Authority before any works are carried out to their protected trees.

The notification of intent to carry out work should give the location and species of the tree/s and state exactly what works are proposed. An officer from the Local Authority will then inspect the tree/s and assess the proposal. If the tree/s have a high amenity value and the proposed work would be detrimental to the tree/s, the Council may decide to protect them with a Tree Preservation Order. If no Order

is made by the time the six week period expires, however, then the Local Authority has no objection to the proposal and work may commence.

There are some exemptions from the requirement to submit a notification. Works can be carried out without prior notification to trees that are dead, dying or dangerous, and saplings or young trees with a trunk diameter of less than 75 mm when measured at 1.5 m above ground level. In the case of dead, dying or dangerous trees, however, proof that the tree was in an adverse condition may be required by the Local Authority. It is recommended that, except in emergencies, the Local Authority is given five days notice prior to carrying out the work. If there are any queries or concerns the Tree Officer will be able to assist you.

Grants for Conservation

Subject to the availability of funds, the Council can offer assistance towards the cost of repairs to Historic Buildings and works to maintain or enhance buildings within Conservation Areas. These grants are administered under Sections 57 & 58 of the planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and funds are offered to offset the increased cost related to the repairs of buildings conserved to be Historic or Architectural interest. Grants are generally offered at a rate of 40% with a maximum offer of £5,000 per application. Types of projects which may be eligible are:

- The repair and restoration of Historic Buildings, features of prominent buildings, for example the roof or external joinery and also free standing structures, such as waterpumps, summerhouses, etc.
- The renewal or introduction of paving schemes and landscaping, for example around a public building.
- The replacement of existing or the erection of new items such as Parish notice boards, dovecotes, village clocks, fountains, sundials, seats, etc.

Priority will be given to properties within the Conservation Area and properties covered by Article 4 and 4(2) Directions restricting the installation and replacement of windows, doors, porches and front garden walls.

The Role of the Public

Much can be achieved if everyone is aware of the advantages of Conservation Area status. Positive protection of Harley's attractive features and improvements in the physical and visual amenities of the area is a priority for the Borough Council. Ensuring that the process of incremental repair, decoration and maintenance continues will contribute to the quality of the environment in this area.

Design Advice and Guidance

Shropshire Council is always happy to give information, advice and guidance on the care of Conservation Areas.

For further information contact the Historic Environment Team on:

**Address: Historic Environment
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Shirehall
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**01743 252586
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Acknowledgements

Much of the historical information contained in this document has been taken from the Victoria County History for Shropshire, Volume VIII.

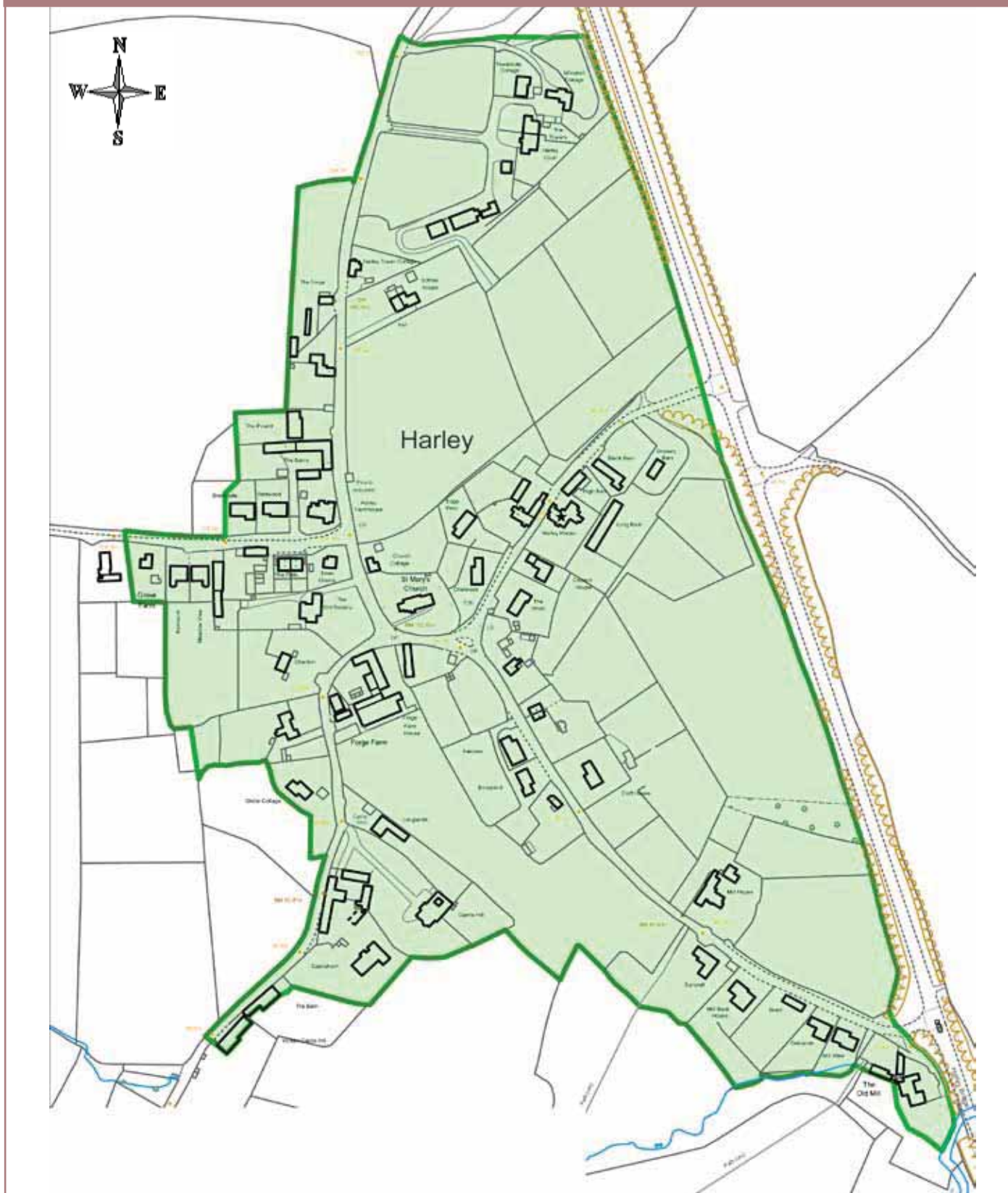


APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDINGS IN HARLEY CONSERVATION AREA

Church of St Mary	II
Adney memorial approx. 6m east of chancel of Church of St Mary	II
Adney memorial and railed enclosure approx. 6m north east of chancel of Church of St Mary	II
Corfield memorial approx 7m north west of tower of Church of St John the Baptist	II
No. 3	II
Forge Farmhouse	II
The Old Rectory	II
Former Village Pound	II
No. 10 Mill Bank	II
Brant, Mill Bank	II



APPENDIX 3: MAP OF HARLEY CONSERVATION AREA



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Conservation Area Appraisal**

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