

QUATT CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

The Quatt Conservation Area was designated on 9th. March 1981

LOCATION

The ancient village of Quatt sits on a sandstone ridge running parallel to the River Severn, approximately 4 miles south east of Bridgnorth. The Conservation Area is divided by the A442 main Bridgnorth to Kidderminster road with a line of residences strung along its west side and St Andrews Church with the bulk of the Conservation Area lying to the east of the road. The Conservation Area extends northwards along the A442 as far as the northern boundaries of number 27 on its east side and The Old Rectory, 28-32 and the Dower House on the west side. On the southern extremities it terminates on the southern boundary line of the Old School House on one side of the road and number 20, and adjoining land behind the churchyard on the other side. The western edge of the Conservation Area terminates on the western boundaries of The Old Rectory and The Old School House, Hall and numbers 21-27. On the east side of the road it extends as far as the eastern most boundaries of the Dower House, St Andrews Church and the land to the rear of the churchyard.

LANDSCAPE

Picturesque rolling countryside and distant views are found all along the A442 main road at this point. The soil varies from extreme light sand to strong clay; the subsoil is similar.

Much of the ancient village of Quatt, once the estate village of the Wolryche-Whitmores of Dudmaston Hall, has been rebuilt over the years. The Grade II* listed Dudmaston Hall lies in attractive parkland of lakes and conifers and with a long imposing west front overlooking the River Severn ½ mile north west of Quatt.

The A442 Bridgnorth to Kidderminster main road bisects the village, which is situated either side of it. Model 19th century timber and stone cottages are strung along the east side of the main road on a sandstone ridge running parallel with the River Severn. St Andrew's Church and the larger part of the Conservation Area are situated to the



east of the main road.

The area east of the A442 is approached via a narrow lane rising steeply up from the main road towards Wooton and the A458 Bridgnorth-Stourbridge road. The Church of St Andrew, built of red brick with creamy stone dressings with its tri-coloured local sandstone ancient chancel, sits atop a high grassy knoll overlooking a steeply sloping churchyard and low-lying farmland to the south.



Low sandstone front boundary walls topped by hedges front directly onto the north side of the lane and enclose the compact front gardens of the Old Rectory, Dower House and 29-30. Both St Andrew's Church and the Quatt House complex opposite are set back from the lane. There is an absence of footways along the entire length of the Wooton road from its junction with the A442.

HISTORY

The origin of the settlement's name has become somewhat obscure with the passage of time, but probably the name comes from the old English '**Cwatt**', a personal name or the name of a district, although there are suggestions that it is derived from **quat**, old English for 'pimple' or **cwead** meaning 'muddy place'.

A Roman presence in the area is evident approximately four miles from Quatt where there are remains of a Roman camp, called The Walls. This small, almost rectangular camp lies on a gravel spur above the east bank of the River Severn north west of Quatt, with superb views along the river valley in both directions. Lying in fields just north west of Lodge Farm, a modern field boundary obliquely bisects the camp from southeast to north west. The complete circuit is recorded, the only gateway appearing in the north side, positioned slightly off-centre to the west; the camp therefore faced approximately northwest.

The Church of St. Andrews was extensively rebuilt in the 18th century, although traces of a blocked up Saxon, round-arched window can be found in the chancel.

The Black Death reached Shropshire in the early spring of 1349 and its impact varied in intensity and duration. The settlement at Quatt was severely affected by the pestilence and '*a fall of two thirds in the value of two carucates¹ of demesne²*' was still being blamed on the pestilence in 1357.

¹ Carucate: as much land as a team of oxen could plough in a season

² Demesne: Manorial lands

Arable land in the early 14th. Century in Shropshire was valued at between £1 and £2 a carucate. In 1370 Wenlock Priory had thirty arable demesnes divided between thirteen manors and granges and valued at between 6s.8d and 13s.4d a carucate.³

By 1066 the surrounding manors of Claverley, Worfield, Nordley and Alveley had been acquired by Roger de Montgomery and his son Hugh. Quatt, however, was held sub – or infeudated to Auti, who had held the manor of Quatt freely before 1066.

Some time after 1127 the Manor of Quatt was granted to the Priory of Great Malvern.

BUILDINGS

The Grade B Listed church of St. Andrews sits on higher ground to the south side of the Wooton road. It was much rebuilt in 1763, when Richard Colley delivered an estimate 'with plans for a New Church & Steeple'⁴. Traces of a 13th century segmental arch and moulding are evident in the Priest's doorway. Parts of the chancel and most of the north chapel are early 14th century. A blocked, round headed window in the chancel is of Saxon appearance and the north arcade is Medieval, possibly early 14th century. Inside the church can be found a circular Norman font with cable moulding at the base of its bowl, a 17th century lectern, pulpit and reader's desk and monuments to the Wolryche family dating from 16th -17th centuries.



To the north of the church, on the opposite side of the Wooton road, is the late 17th century Dower House. It is said to have been built in the early 1680's by John Wolryche, but was left uncompleted until 1718. Built in the 'Queen Anne' style of red brick with attractive key patterned and rosettes stone bands, stone plinth and rusticated quoins, the Grade II* listed Dower House is of a two

³ Domesday Book: 1300-1540 Victoria County History-A History of Shropshire Vol. IV

⁴ The Buildings of Shropshire John Newman & Nikolaus Pevsner

storey, five bay-four bay composition under a plain tile hipped roof. Some of the nine sash windows are in fact blind panels and painted with faux glazing bars to resemble sash windows. The doorways are particularly striking features having Ionic fluted pilasters with broken pediments in the centre with raised scrolls and small square paned glazed, rectangular fanlights.



Adjoining the Dower House are a number of two storey cottages including numbers 29-30, both of which are Grade II listed. Of 18th century and later construction, Numbers 29 and 30 are also of red brick under a plain tile pitched roof. Number 29 has timber casement windows with arched heads, a modern canted bay window and two early 19th century doorways. Number 30 has square headed, timber, small

paned casements. Together with the church and the Dower House they form an important historic group. Number 28 adjoins 29-30 and is connected to various other outbuildings plus Numbers 31 and 32, which are situated to the rear of the group and accessed via a separate track. On the opposite side of the track is the Old Rectory an early 19th century, two storey, painted brick residence, formerly The Vicarage. It sits on level ground fronting the Wooton road on its corner with the A442.

On the opposite corner beside the church is the brick built Quatt House, a former farmhouse whose slate clad roof slopes are pitched and hipped. The cement rendered and pebble dashed outbuildings are mainly converted to flats and have pitched plain tiled roofs. The complex is set back from the Wooton road and the A442.

The predominant red brick and local sandstone used in the construction of many of Quatt's historic buildings are characteristics of the village.



On the west side of the A442 and fronting the main road are a group of dwellings that include 19th century, stone and half-timbered estate cottages, (numbers 22-27), The Old School House, now a residence but formerly the South East Shropshire District School built in 1851 and Quatt Village Hall. The Conservation Area boundary runs to

the south, north and west of this group of buildings.

Brick and sandstone are the predominant materials that characterise the eastern side of the Conservation Area while brick and half timbering dominate the western side of the A442 main road. Plain roof tiles and timber casements feature throughout the Conservation Area and, in the main, terminate flush with the façades.



Much of the development dates from before the 20th century and is residential. There is a petrol filling station and farm shop beside the A442 immediately outside the Conservation Area's southern boundary. However there are no other commercial or industrial activities evident within the Quatt Conservation Area.

DEVELOPMENT

The settlement has largely evolved over time as an estate village, historically servicing the nearby country estate and Dower House and as such possesses specific architectural and vernacular styled building stock. There has been some minor modern housing together with a commercial development in the form of a petrol filling station and farm shop on the periphery of the Conservation Area. Quatt is extremely small in area in terms of the built environment with several outlying farmsteads situated well outside the Conservation Area.

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