

# LOPPINGTON CONSERVATION AREA - SUMMARY CHARACTER APPRAISAL

Designated October 1985 Population

## Origins and development of the settlement

Loppington is situated on low lying, flat, mixed farmland in North Shropshire. Records of the village date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The Church mainly dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although a Norman doorway was found during restoration work in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The West tower and South aisle were built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The porch was added in 1658 and replaced one destroyed in the Civil War.

There are two large houses in the village, the Old Rectory, and Loppington Hall. The other historic houses are mostly yeoman's farmsteads of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and earlier, although some of these houses have probably been rebuilt. Many buildings in the village are related to farming. There are farmhouses, with their related farm buildings and a partially surviving village pound. There are a number of ponds around the outskirts of the village, one of which was used for tanning, another agri-related occupation.

Many of the house names, are flowers or shrubs- Laurel Cottage (now Laburnum Cottage), Shrublands, The Magnolias, Holly Cottage, Nasturtium Cottage, Rose Cottage, Pear Tree Farm, and Myrtle Cottage.

There are 23 listed buildings and objects, these are marked with thicker black lines on the map.

The Sundial at the Church is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

## Areas of distinctive character

1. *The Bull ring* - The bullring here is a small ring set into the road on the t-junction. The bullring is one of the few surviving in Britain. It still has the ring from when bull fighting and other sports such as bear baiting took place. There also were fights here between villagers. This is a vital area as it is the centre of the village and the roads lead to every part of the village. It is the most vibrant area of the village compared to other areas such as Scholar's Lane. The old farm buildings are behind the bullring, which emphasises the rural character of the village.

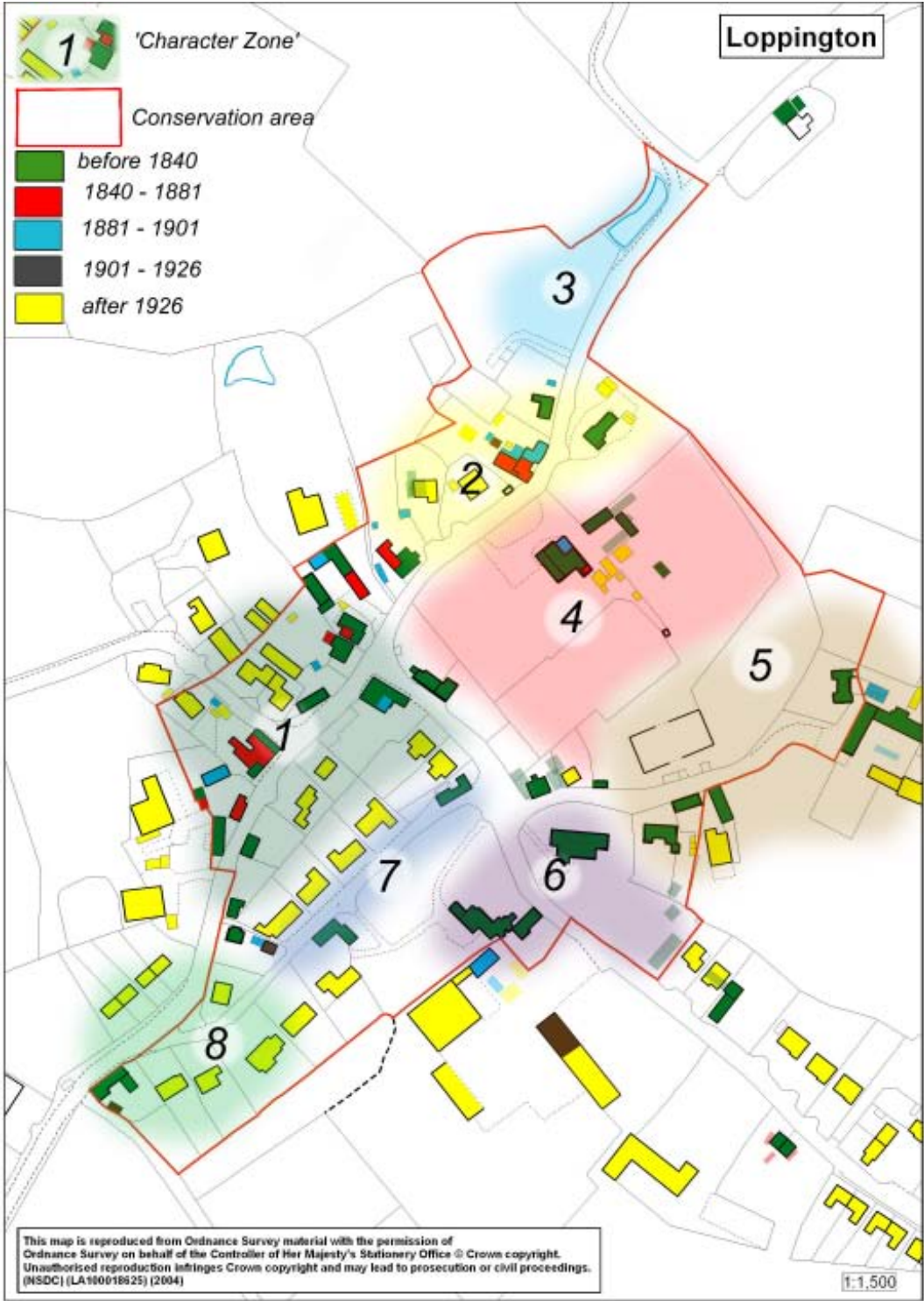


earlier centuries.

2. *The School area* - This area is where most timber framed houses are situated showing that this is one of the oldest areas of the village. The school has now been turned into the village hall and many events like tea dances take place here showing a close community spirit. Spenford House is a relatively large timber framed house, it is heavily timbered and this shows that the owner was a rich man.



3. *The pond* - This area acts as an entrance from the Wem direction as once again you can only get a glimpse of the village from here. It was an old tanning pit which was used in the production of leather.



4. *The Hall* - The hall is a large 3-storey, brick, Queen Anne building with later additions and is a major part of the village. It is a building that peers above the whole of the village and has an air of control. There is a dovecote, this shows that the house was very high status because until the late C18 only the upper class could legally own a dovecote. The boundary is a tall brick wall, this shows its importance as all the other building had low sandstone walls which were considered to be lower status, as sandstone was readily available. When it was built the surrounding buildings were timber framed with wattle and daub infill panels whereas the hall had red brick walls, which was seen to be a far better building material.



5. *The Farms* - The farms in the village next to the church appear to be separate from the rest of the village, like a hamlet. They were built before the C19 and remain in good repair. The farms are still in use and have a farmyard smell. The buildings are timber framed and brick.



6. *The Church and Vicarage* - The church is one of the oldest buildings in the village. It is a beautiful sandstone building, which was built in the C12 and following later alterations survives well today. The church had a vicarage built for it, which has a C19 appearance. The grave yard is a major part of the village with mainly sandstone grave stones, The more modern graveyard is set away from the church in a separate field. The interior of the church is quite basic and plain and has a wooden ceiling, and has a C15 character.



cobbled pavement in places showing that not all the history of the area is gone. The bungalows do not look the same as the other houses in the village.



8. *The tree entrance* - This area is an entrance to the village from the Ellesmere road. At this point you get the first glimpse of the village. This area has a mixture of old and new housing. There are old houses such as the Blacksmith Arms and The Hollies and there are C20 council houses, which look completely different so the area here is divided in two. There is a large beech tree in the centre which acts as a focal point for the area. This has the feel of a village green as it is a quiet area and an open space.

## Traditional building materials

There are a number of timber framed houses which have had brick infill panels inserted to replace the original wattle and daub. There is a cruck-framed building on the South West entrance to the village which has traditional infill panels.

Some buildings are partially or all stone. The Church tower is a honey coloured sandstone, and the main church is red sandstone. Roofing is in welsh slate and tile, with only the Blacksmith's Arms having a thatched roof.

There is a low red sandstone wall running around the boundaries of many of the properties in the village. It is hand cut in large blocks and was the cheapest form of walling available until the mass production of bricks in the C19. The walls are in varying orders of repair, some parts having had hard cement mortar repairs. However, most are in remarkably good condition.



The Old Vicarage drawn by Philip Ector

