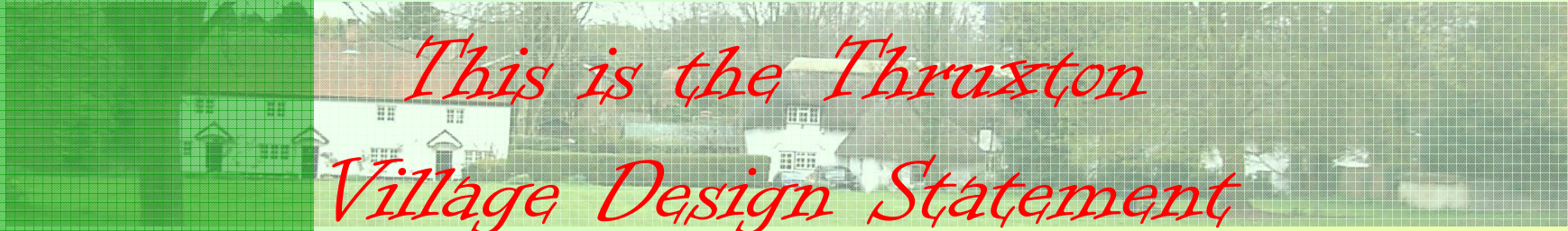




Thrupton Village Design Statement

Issued February 2006



This is the Thruxton Village Design Statement

Thruxton Village Design Statement

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Feb. 2005

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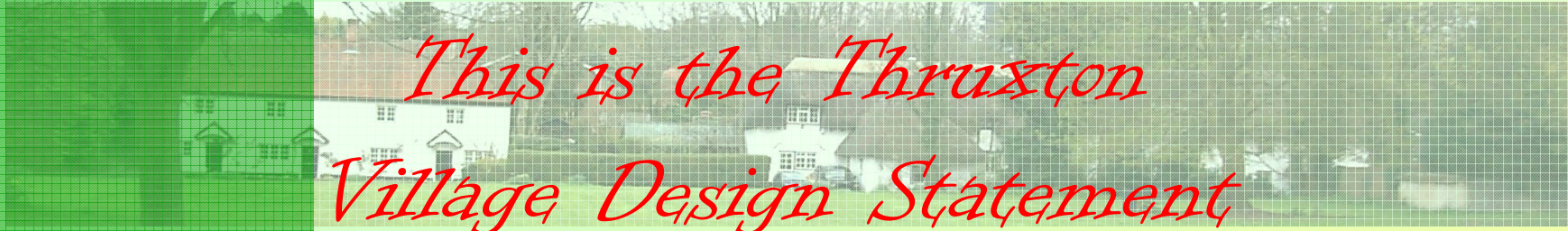
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The village of Thruxton was first mentioned in the Domesday Book and was previously settled by the Romans and Saxons. By the 1900's the layout of the village followed the stream and this layout remained relatively unchanged until modern housing estates were built from the mid 1960's. A Conservation Area, to protect the older part of the village, was adopted in 1985. Since then there has been no major housing developments with only minor infilling, the housing layout remaining relatively unchanged. Currently there are no undeveloped areas within the Village Plan.

The purpose of this Village Design Statement is to highlight the salient features of the village so that future planning decisions can be tailored to maintain its characteristics.

This Statement has been prepared in conjunction with Thruxton villagers and was formally adopted by the Parish Council in February 2005.



This is the Thruxton Village Design Statement

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- ❖ How it was produced
- ❖ The aim of the document in the planning process
- ❖ Location of Thruxton



Introduction



The purpose of the Village Design Statement

The Village Design Statement provides a description of the natural and man-made features of the village of Thruxton regarded by the members of the community as particularly distinctive.

The document provides a guide to ensure that future development and change are managed to respect and preserve the character and distinctiveness of the village. It should contribute positively to protecting and enhancing the special nature of the community that is Thruxton.

How it was produced

The residents of Thruxton were encouraged to contribute to various aspects of the design document. These contributions were then worked into the final document.

Introduction



The aim of the document in the planning process.

The purpose of this document is to guide future development by providing a descriptive framework of the distinctive features that have shaped the village in the past and are seen as important today.

This document is used by Test Valley as a supplementary planning guide taking note of the recommendations, distinctive features and special characteristics when considering planning applications within the Thruxton Village boundary.

Location of Thruxton.

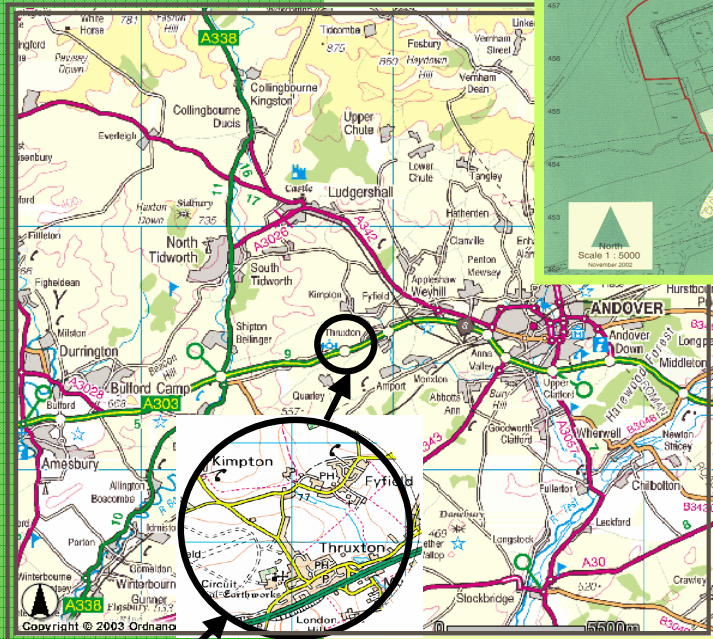
Thruxton lies in the north-west corner of Hampshire, five miles to the west of Andover, just north of the A303. The centre of the village is covered by a Conservation Area that includes the important Manor grounds, church and the Village Green. To the east is the area of water called Mullenspond. To the north-west lies the airfield and famous racing circuit that incorporates a small industrial estate.



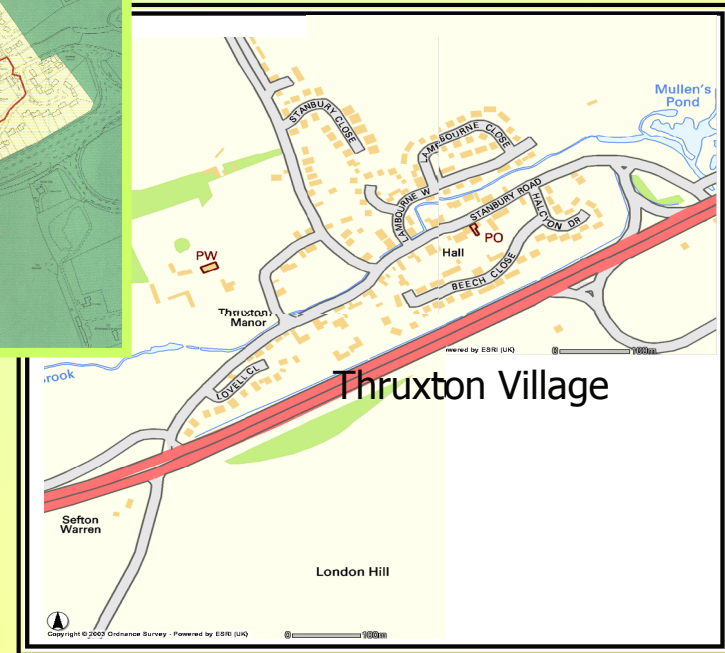
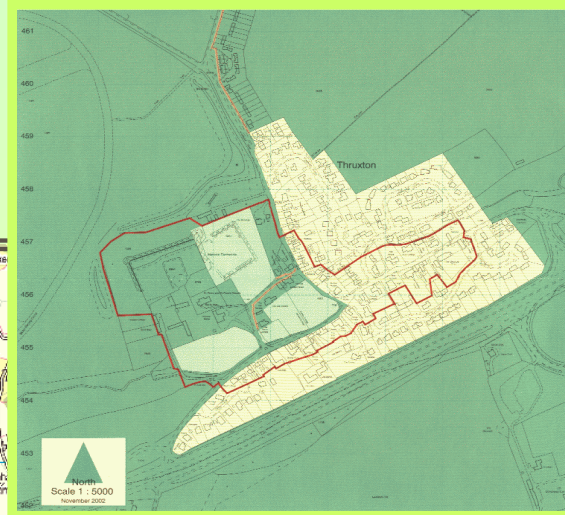
Introduction



Maps of Thruxton



Thruxton





History

❖ A brief history of Thruxton

❖ Population



History



A brief history of Thruxton

The first written documentation about Thruxton is found in the Domesday Book. The entry states that a Saxon family had forfeited the land to Gocelyn Corneilles after 1066 who owned the Manor. Settlement in and around Thruxton pre-dates this time by several thousand years. 3,000 years ago Celtic people farmed the slopes of Thruxton and Snoddington Hills.



An Iron Age hill fort at Quarley dates from about the 3rd Century BC until Roman times with evidence of smaller settlements found near Thruxton Down House. Both of these settlements are near the ancient Harrow Way, a trade link with other settlers that ran from Cornwall to Kent.

In Roman times there appears to have been several close settlements with evidence of Roman villas found at Mullenspond, Racedown Farm and also within the grounds of Thruxton Manor. The tessellated pavement found at Mullenspond can now be seen in the British Museum in London.

Domesday entry



Tessellated
Pavement

Roman settlement

History



***Large fortified
medieval
manor***

The village of Thruxton, as we now see it, was really started by the Anglo Saxons who settled after the withdrawal of the Romans in the 5th Century AD. There may even have been some continuity of settlement with Romano-British occupation of the villa on the present Manor site developing into the Manor house of the settlement mentioned in the Domesday Book.

The Manor and village of Thruxton flourished after 1066. The Corneilles family became one of the greater “second tier” landowners and when their lands became part of the great De Lisle family holdings, by marriage, were part of a landholding that included many Manors in the local area.

***Extensive local
archaeological
remains***

The De Lisle family made Thruxton their main residence; building a large fortified and moated Manor House. In the 16th Century after this branch of the De Lisle family died out, the Manor reverted to the Philpott family who were heavily fined and persecuted for their Catholic beliefs. It was about this time that the large Manor burnt down being replaced with the much smaller existing Manor House.

The village of Thruxton in the 17th and 18th centuries was principally concerned with crop farming.

History



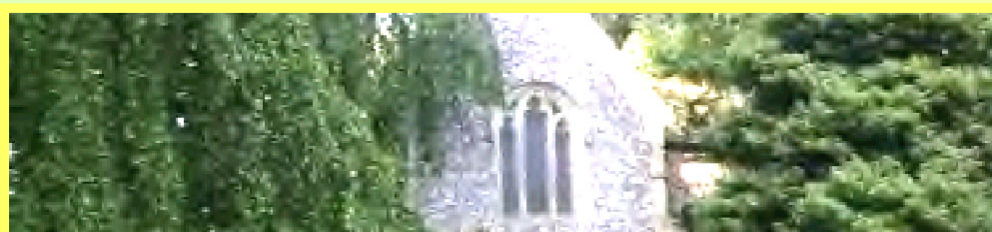
At the beginning of the 20th century, the village of Thruxton largely followed the road adjacent to the stream to the southeast of the Manor and church, with all houses fronting the road. The A303 was a turnpike road with a tollhouse at Mullenspond.

On Stanbury Road there was a ford through the Pillhill Brook at Hamble House. Fields and orchards surrounded the village and footpaths followed the line of the stream into open country.

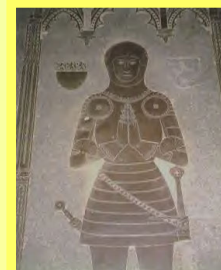
Between the wars the airfield was built but the village was still largely unchanged. The latter half of the 20th century has seen newer housing built in the surrounding fields with small developments spreading the village along the roads towards the adjacent villages.



Thruxton Manor



St Peter & St Paul Church



Sir John Lisle

History



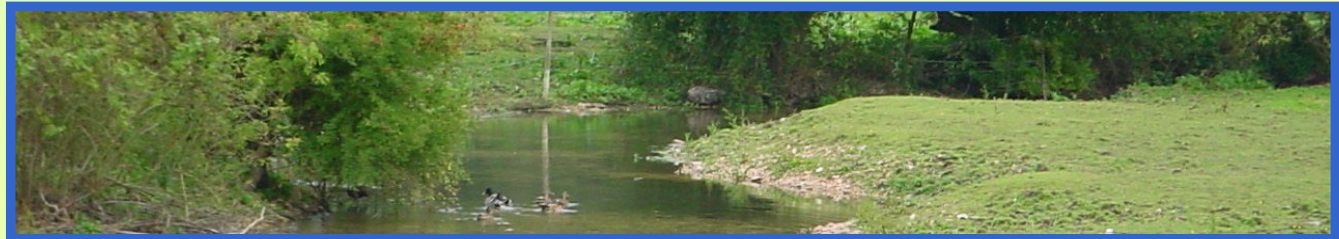
Population

The population of Thruxton in 2004 was 653 adults with approximately 100 children living in 300 houses. 67% of the community has lived within the village for over 10 years. 42% worked in the Andover area.



Landscape & Surroundings

- ❖ Pillhill Brook Valley
- ❖ Mullenspond Manor & Village
- ❖ Thruxton Down
- ❖ Views into & out from the Village
- ❖ Natural assets of the Village



Landscape & Surroundings

This area of springs and ponds are important natural areas and should be protected



Pillhill Brook Valley

Thruxton lies along the valley and adjacent slopes of Pillhill Brook, a tributary of the River Anton that flows into the River Test. The Manor grounds and church lie on the western side of the village with the older houses following the banks of the brook to the east.

Pillhill Brook runs into a flattened area to the east of the village known as Mullenspond where it is joined by other streams and springs forming a natural pond that is a haven for water wildlife. This area is a floodplain for the brook and forms an area of natural separation between Thruxton and Weyhill, the next village along Amesbury Road (the old A303). The A303 dual carriageway forms a noisy barrier to the south of the village.

The northern side of the village climbs Stanbury Hill and terminates on the ridge. The village school is shared by Kimpton, Thruxton and Fyfield and lies on the northerly slope of Stanbury Hill just outside the parish boundary. This northerly slope also forms a strategic natural gap between Thruxton and its northerly neighbours. The main road through Thruxton serves both of these villages and several footpaths between them show the important natural and social linkage between the three villages to the north of the A303.

Landscape & Surroundings

The separation between neighbouring villages should be preserved

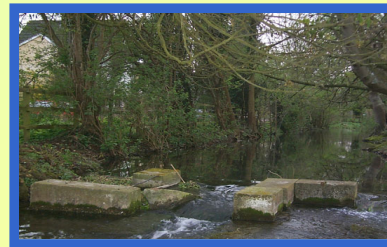


Mullenspond, Medieval Manor and Village

Mullenspond is a site of antiquity, archaeological exploration in the last century having found a Roman villa, a mosaic from which can now be viewed in the British Museum.

The present Manor, a 16th century building lies outside the site of the original fortified and moated medieval Manor that was of some historical importance prior to the reformation. The site itself is still in private hands but is of significant historical archaeological importance. The western part of these grounds are noted for being 'prone to flooding', having many springs that run in times of high rainfall and should be protected.

The village appears to have important natural and man-made boundaries on all sides as defined by the village plan. The only remaining spaces within the village are designated 'Important Open Areas', all other areas having been developed within the last 20 years.



Landscape & Surroundings

The village is self contained within a natural valley which is screened by mature trees

New developments outside the village line are strongly discouraged



Thruxton Down

To the west of Thruxton and within the Parish Boundary lies the small settlement of Thruxton Down comprising a large 18th century house with several small cottages and some new houses straggle the line of the old A303. Further to the west lies open farmland, London Hill with its ancient earthworks and the Iron Age hill fort of Quarley.

Views into and out of the village

The northern approaches to the village are from country lanes where the village is hidden from view until it is entered. The eastern approach from Weyhill and East Cholderton passes Mullenspond and enters directly into the Conservation Area . Even here mature hedgerows and trees screen the village.

The western approach from the A303 leads directly into the village past an unspoilt part of the Pillhill Brook valley and the Manor grounds that separate the village, the industrial estate and airfield.

The views from footpaths to the north and south of the village give an impression of a wooded valley with little obvious indication of the density of dwellings, even the church is hidden as its low tower hardly rises above the tree-line.

Landscape & Surroundings



Natural assets of the village

The open spaces in the northwest of the village and the stream running through the centre of the village are home to a number of species covered in the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan. These spaces give foxes and deer access to the village and are often seen in the fields and land surrounding the church. The stream also supports wildlife including water fowl and water voles.

Mullenspond supports swans, ducks, herons, moorhens and other waterfowl. The mature trees and hedgerows in and around the village offer shelter and food to a variety of songbirds, the taller mature limes and beech trees are home to colonies of rooks. Within the heart of the village, small areas of natural beauty occur unseen, within feet of passing traffic.



The natural open spaces to the east & west are important wild life habitats and should be protected

The remaining areas of adjacent farmland should be retained

Pattern & Content of the Settlement

- ❖ Highways & footpaths
- ❖ Important open spaces
- ❖ Amenities
- ❖ Trees hedgerows & boundaries
- ❖ Housing



Pattern & Content



Highways and footpaths

Thrupton has always been separated from the important road that is now the A303. Even the original turnpike did not pass through the centre of the village. The only through road leads from the centre of the village to the settlements of Kimpton and Fyfield which have been historically inked with the Manor and Lords of Thrupton since the time of the Domesday Book.

Several paths also link the village to other settlements, though the southerly ones are now dangerous as they cross the A303.

In the centre of the village the older houses have no off-street parking and the narrowness of the roads impedes large vehicles and buses. The roads through the village are narrow with sharp bends and hidden entrances. In any development, the provision of parking should comply with the Test Valley Adopted Parking Standards.

When developments are being planned the impact of increased traffic through the narrow village streets and lanes along with street parking need to be taken into account.

Most roads have no pedestrian footpath and street lighting is kept to a minimum, which, at night, also limits the amount of light pollution. Many households display small street lights that add to the atmosphere of the village and this is widely regarded as an essential character of the village. Use of large exterior lights should be discouraged.



Pattern & Content



Important open spaces

Fields and other open spaces reach right into the centre of the village enhancing its rural atmosphere. The Village Open Space, often called the Village Green (former Glebe Field), in the centre of Thruxton, offers a large open space used by children and young adults for a variety of recreational pastimes and is the centre point of the village during the fete.

The open spaces surrounding the Rectory, Church and Manor provide a particularly rural atmosphere to this historical part of the village. The mature trees and hedgerows also screen this part of the village from the adjacent airfield and race circuit.

The use of existing land for agriculture is important both in and around the village. The open spaces of Pillhill Brook valley with their associated natural views should be maintained.

Other important open spaces separate the village from the industrial estate and help to minimise the impact of this important resource on the character of the village.

Pattern & Content



Amenities

The War Memorial Hall, the George public house and Church are all within the Conservation Area and are important landmarks; their close proximity encourages a sense of community. The recent loss of the local Post Office has had an impact on Thruxton with only some of its facilities being replaced by a notice board and post box. It is important that the other amenities are developed and maintained.

The Village Green is used as a focal point for group events such as fetes. There are several large trees and public benches enhancing the Green.

The old Sports Field at the top of Stanbury Hill had been returned to use as a sports field. A charitable trust has been established for the benefit of the villagers of Thruxton, Fyfield and Kimpton.



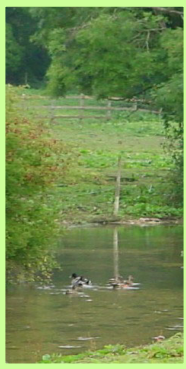
Pattern & Content



The Churchyard policy is one of openness to all residents within the village for burial or interment of ashes. It is visited by residents and by those returning from further afield to pay their respects.

The Village Hall, originally a Methodist Chapel, has been extensively renovated to enable its full potential to be realised, which will regenerate the centre of the village and create a venue for many types of meetings and functions. It was reopened in June 2005.

The Church of England aided village school, positioned just to the north the Parish boundary, is shared with the two villages of Kimpton and Fyfield strengthening the ties between these three villages. Expansion of the school in recent years has led to increasing traffic congestion with 60% of pupils arriving from outside the school's catchment area.



Pattern & Content



Trees, hedgerows and boundaries

Mature trees in Thruxton are a vital feature of the village. When viewed from the adjacent hills very little of the dense housing in the village can be seen. Tall lime and chestnut trees line the road to the church and church paths. Old oak trees are scattered around the village. A younger, yet mature, beech tree is found on the triangle opposite Gooseacre and on the village green are mature chestnuts and other trees. Many yew trees are several hundred years old.

Trees within gardens soften the edges of suburbia and help maintain a country feel. Although conifer hedges are found on some properties these are not common within the Conservation Area. Additional deciduous planting should be encouraged and any existing trees that require removal should be replaced when felled. Locally native deciduous trees should be planted.

Boundaries in traditional materials such as brick, flint, chalk or hedges of beech, hawthorn, ivy, privet or yew should be encouraged. Thatched or tiled topped Hampshire walls should be maintained and offer an attractive method of delineating new boundaries.

Work on all trees, within the 'Village Conservation Area' and trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) in the rest of the Parish, requires planning consent from Test Valley.



Pattern & Content



Housing

The vast majority of housing in Thruxton is privately owned; the exceptions being the area of sheltered housing at the top of Stanbury Hill with the adjacent former council houses, a few of which are now run by Testway Housing.

The majority of new developments have taken place away from the main street preserving the Conservation Area . The majority of houses in the Conservation Area are small cottage style dwellings some in small terraces or built as semi-detached houses. Any new buildings should respect the size and form of the existing houses. Any new development should not distort the original pattern of the village.

Most houses in Thruxton enjoy large gardens and well-proportioned plots. Most new houses are situated well back from the road.



Buildings & Materials



- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Conservation Area
- ❖ Recent Developments
- ❖ Distinctive buildings
- ❖ Materials
- ❖ Design guidelines
- ❖ Form & style



Buildings & Materials



Introduction

Houses within the Thruxton Conservation Area cover a range of architectural designs from 17th C. single storey cottages to larger farmhouses and later Victorian additions. Although thatched roofs have in some been replaced with slate tiles, the underlying structure of the cottages still dominates the perspective when viewing the street scene in the Conservation Area . Often several cottages are linked into a winding group of dwellings with small entrances set back or to one side.

The larger houses were set further back from the road as befitted the higher status of their owners in a very class-conscious society. Very few of the older houses are plain brick, the Rectory being the best example. Most made use of inset flint to enhance the exterior. The majority of the houses have painted walls under thatch or slate roofs. Although mostly white in colour there are some notable exceptions.

Virtually all the houses within the Conservation Area are pre-20th century and most date from the 18th century. The exceptions being a few modern in-fill houses. The lack of modern houses within the Conservation Area and the varied mix of house sizes and styles give Thruxton an interesting and pleasing appearance. Where modern houses have been built the impact has been sufficiently small. Any new houses built within the Conservation Area should take into account the styles of the surrounding houses. House extensions should be designed to reflect the style and proportion of the existing house and adjacent buildings.



Buildings & Materials



As is to be expected in a village as old as Thruxton, there is a great diversity of building styles and types, utilising materials traditional down the ages from the period in which they were constructed. Such examples date from as early as 1650 and span the ages to the present day.

Thruxton lies in an area of chalk and flint downland, and buildings were often constructed of materials that were cheaply available and came readily to hand.

Wood was used on a large scale for early buildings as timber was cheap, adaptable and easily available from the then plentiful woods and coppices. Carpentry was widely practiced and timber framed buildings could be constructed quickly and would then be expected to last up to 300 years before replacement. The earliest timber framed houses had panels filled with wattle and daub (trampled earth), and then finished with lime plaster and lime wash. Old Forge Cottage is an example of this.

From about 1650, considerable use was made of local chalk, which could easily be quarried out of the sides of hills and downs, which had the advantage of not requiring a great deal of building skill.



Buildings & Materials



As building materials and construction techniques developed, so differing styles of building appeared, influenced by the ability to build larger and stronger structures. The 16th century saw the use of flint, which is hard and virtually indestructible and occurs naturally in chalk.

Some of the older buildings can be seen to have chalk (cob) walls with thatched roofs, Robins Roost and Well Cottage being good examples. Other houses have a rough rendered finish on rubble walling. At the time of construction, water generation was a great problem, both in keeping out the water and preventing it from damaging the structure of the building.

From about 1780, clay bricks started to appear within the wall structure, often filled in with flint panels; Gooseacre is a fine example of this.



Buildings & Materials



There is a small number of brick-and-flint structures having a traditional slate or clay tiled roof. These tend to be larger houses set generally in their own grounds. Brickwork was a more robust type of building shell, although still prone to water penetration; it was not till quite late that the cavity wall construction was used as a water barrier.



Development appears to have been carried out in parcels of time; the 1930s are well represented with traditional brick-built structures of various sizes being evident. 1960-70 is also well represented, with many of the more modern properties being developed on small estates, generally low rise housing again of traditional structure with brick walls and tiled roofs.



Little further development of any size has taken place since the 1970's, and there now seems to be limited infilling space available for further development within the centre of the village.

At the northern end of the village are several interesting flat roof houses built just after the Second World War. The flat roofs are necessary due to the proximity of the airfield runway.



Buildings & Materials



Conservation area

The Thruxton Conservation Area was designated in 1985. It lies at around the 90m Above Ordinance Datum (AOD), in a small tributary valley that feeds into the Pillhill Brook which itself effectively rises to the eastern edge of the settlement. This tributary has classified as a 'main river' by the Environment Agency and is known as the 'Thruxton Bourne'.

Along the south side of The Village Street is a terrace of properties with frontages of different length.

The Church, scheduled Manorial earthwork and Manor stand together in a large almost square unit in the northwest corner of the village. Only in the east corner of this block is there any other building and that is on a small island surrounded by roads. The whole of this large area is deemed to be an **Area of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP)**. Within the Village is an AHAP on the land forming the east-west street through the village and continuing along the east side of the road to the north.

At the centre of the village is an irregularly shaped 'island' which in the 19th century had the Rectory and a few other buildings on it. This area may have originally been part of the Manorial complex or a village green.

The individual properties of the village in the 19th Century although forming a regular row are not of the classic form with narrow strips but are small often 'squarish' plots. However occupation here is as intense as in any classic regular row village and the potential for medieval archaeology remains high.

The centre of the village retains its narrow street and has many fine views that have remained essentially unchanged. Only where new developments meet the original street does the modern impinge on the old.



Buildings & Materials



Recent developments

Lovell Close

Built in 1961 on grazing land belonging to Gooseacre, Lovell Close consists of brick built detached bungalows with low pitch roofs.



Buildings & Materials



Halcyon Drive

Built in 1964, behind Yew Tree Cottage, this estate which leads to Beech Close consists of houses and bungalows. The houses have low tiled roofs with dormer windows. All properties are well set back from the road.



Buildings & Materials



Lambourne Way

Built in 1967/8 on land owned by Miss Lambourne of Rose Cottage and Captain Randford of Harcourt, know locally as “Froggis land”. Four houses built later at the entrance to Lambourne Way were given a more “cottagey” look with white painted bricks and slate tiles. The frontal aspect of large garage doors within the property possibly detracts from the style.



Buildings & Materials



Beech Close

Built in 1971 by Dunnings, the close was named after a tree, now dead, in the garden of St Martins. The properties, two storey dwellings built of unpainted brick with slate roofs are set back from the road with lawns to the front. Most houses in the close have now been extended.



Buildings & Materials



Lambourne Close

This Close, built in 1973 is designed more traditionally. To give this impression, contrasts of painted brick, light and dark brick and different tiles were used.

The Close consists of large bungalows and houses set back from the road by their front gardens. The houses are of brick with tiled roofs of low pitch and offer a pleasing variation of form within the limitations of a new estate.



Buildings & Materials



Stanbury Close

Built by John West in 1972 comprising bungalow style properties with modern cheese wedge tiled roofs of high pitch on white painted brick walls. Although the final four plots were completed by Dunnings of Weyhill in 1977/8.



Buildings & Materials



Elm Close

The bungalows of Elm Close were added in 1979/80 to replace previous dwellings and consist of small brick built linked bungalows with low tiled roofs.



Buildings & Materials



Distinctive buildings

Thruxton has several distinctive buildings, showing a range of styles from the 13th century to the early part of the 20th century

Church

The only Grade-I listed building in the village the church is a 13th century structure renovated in the mid 19th century. Externally it is flint clad with a tiled roof.

War Memorial Hall

The War Memorial Hall was built in 1817 as a Wesleyan Chapel. Originally brick built and comprising a single large hall with balcony which was extended by the addition of a Victorian school room in 1870. The two storeys can be seen in the positioning of the large arched windows on the front with the double painted doors.



Buildings & Materials



Manor

The Manor, built in the first half of the 18th century, replaced the original fortified and moated Manor sited to the north. Like many houses in Thruxton its thick painted walls have large timber sash windows painted white. The structure has been extended and offers a pleasing mixture of styles.

Rectory

The Rectory was built in 1835 and is brick with slate roof. It has large well proportioned sash windows and a non-rectangular plan giving interest to an otherwise plain house.

Yew Cottage

One of the oldest houses in Thruxton. This house was originally a single storey dwelling with chalk/marl walls and a thatched roof. An upper storey was added later.

Post House

The Post House and adjacent properties offer a terrace of late 17th / early 18th century houses with a tiled roof. The character of the properties derives from the non-uniformity of the windows and the meandering nature of The Village Street.

Hamble House

This is a fine example of a brick-and-flint building having a slate roof.



Buildings & Materials



Bridge Cottage

Similar in age to Yew Cottage, Bridge Cottage is a low property with the characteristic steep pitched thatched roof.



The Old Forge

The Old Forge forms a significant part of the view near the green and shows how extensions to a property that are in-keeping with the original style can enhance the property. The painted chalk walls and low thatched roof blend naturally into the landscape.



Forge Cottage & Robins Roost

Similar in age to Yew Cottage, this is a low property with the characteristic steep pitched thatched roof. The left hand part of the building being the original site of the Village Forge and blacksmith.

Buildings & Materials



Materials

For any new development to blend in with the old, the choice of colours and materials is vitally important. Materials should be selected carefully from a palette to blend with buildings in the immediate vicinity.



The use of flint, mellow red and blue brick, rendering painted white or cream, slate or thatch should be encouraged. It is the local authority's policy to require the use of new materials (of suitable colour, texture, profile and weathering characteristics) rather than second hand. The stock of second hand bricks and more particularly tiles is a diminishing resource best used for works of repair, furthermore, altering a material's established environment can diminish its performance. Reliance on second hand material also enhances their value, encouraging architectural theft, which is a direct threat to the District's heritage.

The use of grey and brown roofing materials is preferred, or if a red roof is appropriate a mellow mixed red using old tiles would be acceptable.

The use of wood in the construction of window and door frames is preferable to uPVC.

The use of chalk in the repair of any cob walls with the repair of 'coping' should also be encouraged.

Before modifications or changes are made to a listed building consent needs to be sought from Test Valley Borough Council Planning Department.

Buildings & Materials



Design Guidelines

Additional properties forming part of or extending the Conservation Area should be built in a style that matches the other building nearby. Small houses should have painted rendered walls with low, preferably thatched roofs and wooden, paned windows.

Infill development within the newer estates should match the form and size of the existing houses. Where there would be a visual impact from such developments the new building should ensure that the view of the Conservation Area is not spoilt.

Extensions to houses should match the form and materials of the existing property and not allow the property to become disproportionate to its neighbours.

A return to the more traditional boundary enclosures should be encouraged with the building of topped rendered walls where possible. Trees when removed should be replaced unless they would be detrimental to the property.

Where possible small architectural features as seen in other properties should be used to enhance the outward appearance of buildings.

Buildings & Materials



Form and Style

The distinctive qualities of the buildings within Thruxton are largely set by the older cottages and linked building along the main street. Buildings of the 1960's and 70's that have been added are characteristic of that period and do not blend in well with the character set by the older properties.

It is important that in any new development, the houses harmonise with the style, scale and materials of the older houses. Smaller houses with characteristically low roofs are preferred with a form to match the existing properties including terraced dwellings. Low roof lines and details such as flint inserts, arched window details, dormer windows in a low roof, raised eaves and exposed woodwork would all help to make the new merge with the old.



Thruxton

Village Design Statement



© Thruxton P.C. Feb. 2006 ~ Written by: Chris Coram

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