

Cowfold Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan



Horsham
District
Council



March 2026

“Sussex is a better place to see this happy marriage of old and new than anywhere else in England.”¹

1. Nairn, I. & Pevsner, N., 2001. *Sussex*, Harmondsworth : [s.l.: Penguin ; [distributed by Yale University Press]. p.328



Contents

Introduction	2
Appraisal I	
Origins and development of Cowfold	8
Underlying geology	10
Relationship of conservation area to its surroundings - Landscape setting and Views	10 10
Open spaces and public rights of way	14
Character assessment	
- Buildings and materials	15
Character areas/ Building audit map	16/18
Negative elements	19
Appraisal II	
Management plan	20
Appendix	33
Gazetteer of listed buildings and locally listed buildings	34
Landscape sensitivity criteria	40
Glossary of terms	41
Map of adopted Conservation Area	49

Introduction

What does Conservation Area designation mean?

The statutory definition of a Conservation Area is an “area of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”. The power to designate Conservation Areas is given to local authorities through the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (Sections 69 to 78).

Proposals within a Conservation Area become subject to policies outlined in section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), as well as local planning policies outlined in the Horsham District Council Planning Framework. The duties for Horsham District Council, set out in Section 69-72 of the Act are:

- from time to time, determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance, and designate those areas as Conservation Areas
- from time to time, to review the past exercise of functions under this section and to determine whether any parts or any further parts of their area should be designated as Conservation Areas; and, if they so determine, they shall designate those parts accordingly (includes reviewing boundaries)
- from time to time, to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of any parts of their area which are Conservation Areas
- submit proposals for consideration to a public meeting in the area to which they relate. The local planning authority shall have regard to any views concerning the proposals expressed by persons attending the meeting
- in the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in a Conservation Area, of any functions..., special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.



In response to these statutory requirements, this document provides a comprehensive appraisal of the Cowfold Conservation Area. It seeks to define and record the special architectural and historic interest of the Conservation Area and identifies opportunities for enhancement. Although the appraisal seeks to cover the main aspects of the designated area, it cannot be completely comprehensive; the omission of any feature in either the appraisal or the management proposals does not imply that it is of no interest.

What is a Conservation Area appraisal?

A Conservation Area appraisal defines the special historic and architectural character of an area. Supported by a range of evidence, the document acts as a tool to demonstrate the area’s special interest, explaining to owners and residents the reasons for designation. They are educational and informative documents, which illustrate and justify what that community particularly values about the place they live and work. They provide a relatively detailed articulation of the area’s character, supported by maps and other visual information, which is used to develop a framework for planning decisions.

Character is a complex concept but is best described as the combination of architecture, materials, detailing, topography and open space, as well as the relationship between buildings and their settings. Many other aspects contribute to character such as views, land use, vegetation, building scale and form, noise and adjacent designations such as National Parks.

Introduction continued

Appraisals also identify aspects of an area that either contribute to or detract from local character, raise public awareness and interest in the objectives of Conservation Area designation, encourage public involvement in the planning process and identify opportunities for enhancing areas.

Purpose of this document

Once adopted, the appraisal is material to the determination of planning applications and appeals. Therefore, the appraisal is an important document informing private owners and developers concerning the location, scale and form of new development.

This appraisal concludes with a Conservation Area management plan. This takes forward the issues presented in the appraisal, considering them in the context of legislation, policy and community interest. This will then assist in developing local policies Horsham District Council will adopt to protect the special interest of the Conservation Area in such a way that it becomes self-sustaining into the future. This includes policies to protect the survival and use of local materials, architectural details and to propose forms of development based on the findings of the appraisal.

This document has been produced using the guidance set out by Historic England in their document, Historic England Advice Note 1: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management (2019).

Policy background

On 27th November 2015, Horsham District Council adopted the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF). The HDPF sets out the planning strategy for the years up to 2031 to deliver social, economic and environmental needs for the district (outside the South Downs National Park). Chapter 9, Conserving and Enhancing the Natural and Built Environment, is of particular importance for conservation and design issues.

The policies contained within this chapter deal with many themes central to the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets and local character more generally, such as:

- district character and the natural environment (policy 25);
- the quality of new development (policy 32);
- development principles (policy 33); and
- heritage assets and managing change within the historic environment (policy 34).

However, other sections also contain policies relevant to Conservation Areas.

Conservation Area designation introduces controls over the way owners can alter or develop their properties. It also introduces control of the demolition of unlisted buildings, works on trees, the types of advertisements that can be displayed with deemed consent and the types of development that can be carried out without the need for planning permission (permitted development rights).

However, research undertaken by Historic England and the London School of Economics has demonstrated that owners of residential properties within Conservation Areas generally consider these controls to be beneficial because they often also sustain or increase the value of those properties within the Conservation Area.

Introduction continued



Cowfold Conservation Area: Aerial photograph

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Aerial photograph of Cowfold and its surroundings with the Conservation Area shown outlined in red.

Introduction continued

Cowfold

The Cowfold Conservation Area is located within the historic core of the village of Cowfold approximately 8 and a half miles to the south south east of Horsham, and 3.5 miles north of Henfield. The village is bisected by the busy east west routes of the A272 and the north south A281.



The appraisal

This appraisal offers an opportunity to re-assess the Cowfold Conservation Area and to evaluate and record its special interest. It is important to note that designation as a Conservation Area will not in itself protect the area from incremental changes that can erode character over time.

Undertaking this appraisal offers the opportunity to draw out the key elements of the Conservation Area's character and quality as it is now, define what is positive and negative and identify opportunities for beneficial change. The information contained within the appraisal can be used to guide the form of new development within the Conservation Area, help to those considering investment in the area and be informative for the local community, planners and developers alike. This document is divided into two parts:

Part I: The character appraisal highlights what is architecturally and historically important about the Cowfold Conservation Area, identifies any problems within it and assesses whether its boundary is still appropriate. The character appraisal is supported by photographs to illustrate the general character of the Conservation Area and highlight both its good and bad features. Where a bad feature has been identified a cross is shown to indicate that the feature should not be replicated in future development.

Part II: The management proposals identify opportunities for preserving and/or enhancing the character of the Conservation Area based on the negative features identified in Part 1.

Introduction continued

Summary of special interest

The key positive characteristics of the Cowfold Conservation Area are identified in detail in Part I (Appraisal) but can also be summarised as follows:

- The historic origins and development of the village is still clearly discernible in the surviving built fabric.
- Many buildings within the Conservation Areas are little altered from the time of their construction and designated in their own right as listed buildings. Other unlisted buildings contribute positively to local character.
- The buildings within the Conservation Areas utilise local building materials in a range of vernacular and historic techniques, establishing and reinforcing a strong sense of place.

Boundary review

The Cowfold Conservation Area was designated in 1976. After more than 40 years without change these boundaries have been reviewed, as directed by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Over the previous 40 years, the guidance concerning the assessment of heritage significance and the value ascribed to late 19th and early 20th century architecture has evolved, and it is important that design is properly informed by an appreciation of prevailing character and setting sensitivity.

This review has drawn the following conclusion:

To extend the conservation area boundary to the south to include the properties of Maplebank, Arundale, West View and Oakcroft, Henfield Road.

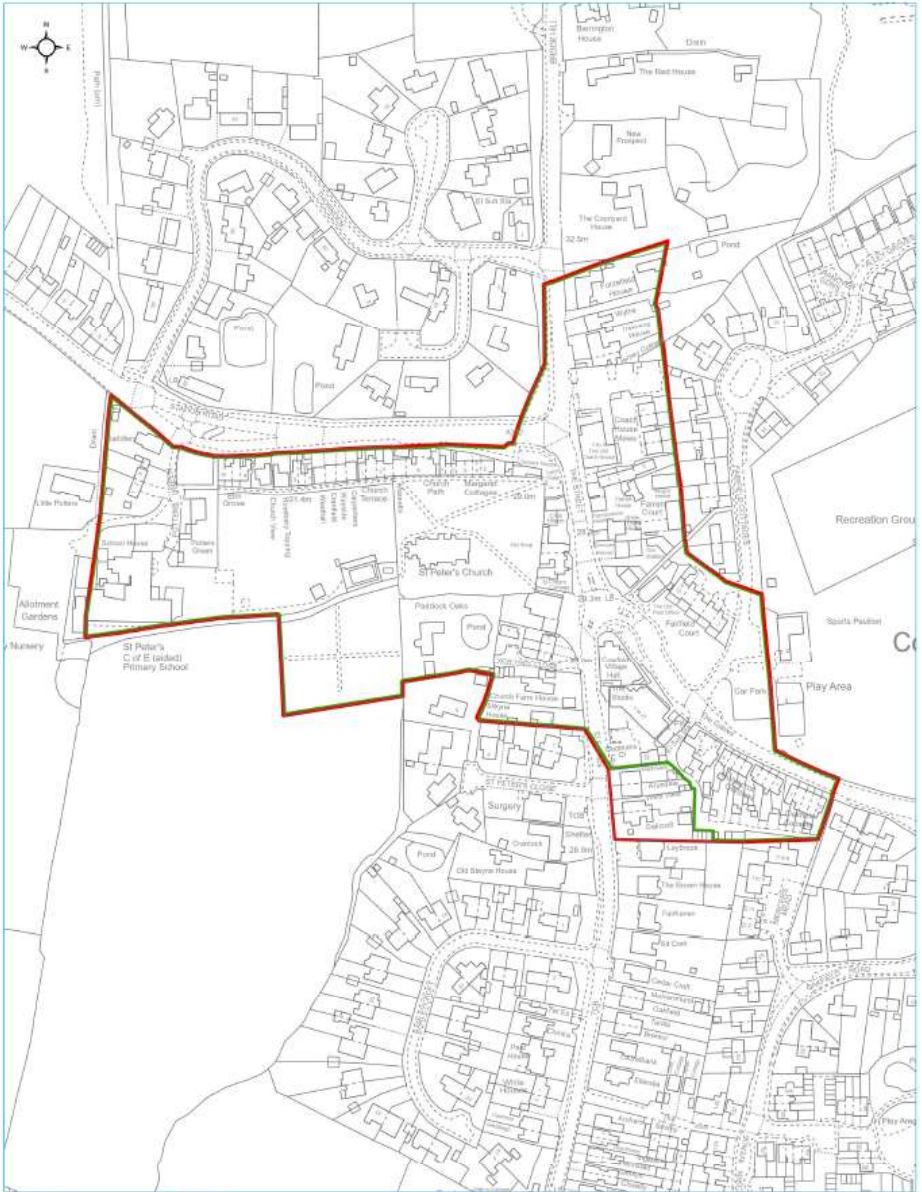
Our assessment has been informed by current guidance and in partnership with interested parties.

The following map illustrates the existing Conservation Area boundary with the proposed extension. This appraisal identifies Cowfold as having one continuous Conservation Area comprising two character areas.



Introduction continued

Map of amended conservation area.



 Horsham District Council	 Proposed Conservation Area	Proposed Amendment to Cowfold Conservation Area			
	 Existing Conservation Area	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Reference:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Scale: 1:2,500 (at A4)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date: 16/10/2024</td> <td>Revision:</td> </tr> </table>	Reference:	Scale: 1:2,500 (at A4)	Date: 16/10/2024
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Part I: Appraisal

Origins and development of Cowfold

The area which was to become the settlement of Cowfold was heavily wooded with natural clearings and trackways through the trees.

Indications of some early human activity has been discovered within the area with a hoard of flint tools found close to Wallhurst to the north east of Cowfold but it is likely that this area of Weald was little occupied.

It would appear that even in the Roman period the land that was to become Cowfold remained sparsely explored unlike areas to the west where Stane Street cut through the landscape, and the iron deposits of the Weald were utilised.

The landscape began to change during the Saxon period where the villages along the coast and downland began to use the wooded forest as materials house building and the pasturing of animals especially pigs. This migration has led to many historic trackways running north south providing links between the settlements of the downland with the cleared pastures in the weald. It is likely that this pattern of land use, where herdsmen began to settle in the forest led to the growth of settlements like Cowfold. Following the Conquest of 1066 the settlement of the Weald became more extensive, and whilst Cowfold itself is not mentioned in the Domesday book, a number of manors indicate a number of farmsteads within the Cowfold area. As more forest was cleared the farmsteads began to coalesce and the enclosure of cattle is likely to have given the village its name. In 1210 Cowfold appears as a permanent village or "vill", with Cowfold named within an agreement between the Priory of Sele at Upper Beeding and the Nunnery of Rusper in 1232.

The oldest building remaining within the village is the church of St Peter. This building may not have been the first church in the village (as a timber structure may not show in the archaeological record) however its building would have provided a focal point for the settlement and its community.

As access to the forest became more common place more spaces were cleared and agriculture became more dominant. Due to the nature of the landscape of Cowfold many houses would have been constructed using local materials with timber frames taken from the surrounding woodland. The church however was constructed of stone reflecting the importance of the building and also the growing affluence of the surrounding farms. The importance of agriculture to the church (and village) can be seen through the churchyard panels (first recorded in 1682) which record the names of local farms.

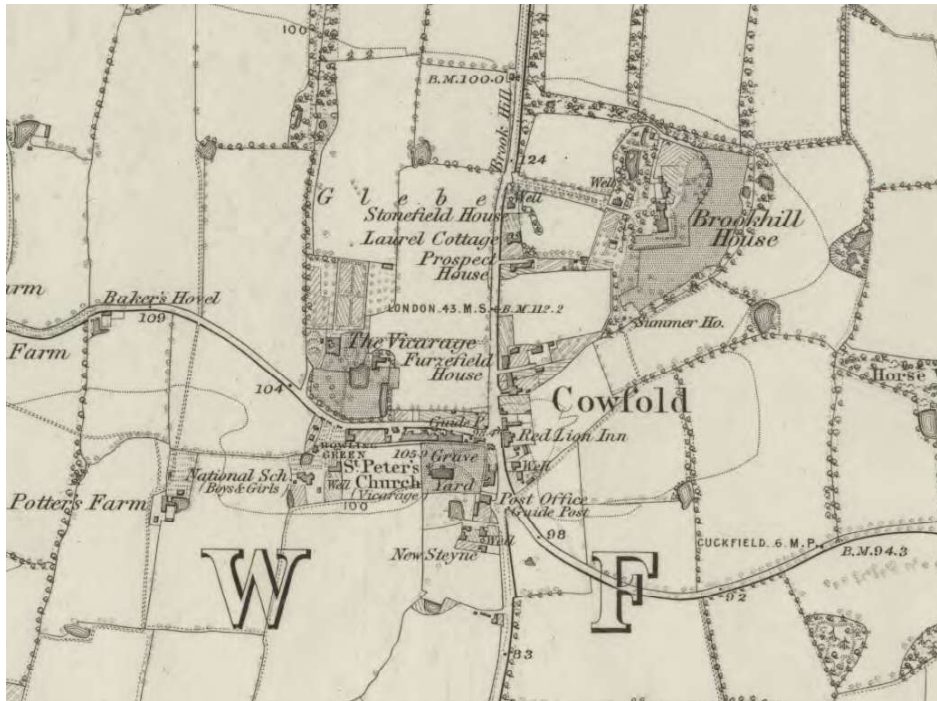
The village extended beyond its farming roots with the construction of the buildings in Church Terrace, and Steyne House. The road which was to become the A272 connecting Ansty, Cowfold, West Grinstead and Billingshurst was constructed between 1824 and 1825 which was to have a long term influence on the experience of those living in and passing through the settlement.

The 1840 Tithe Map shows Cowfold as a small settlement centered around the church with the properties to the north looking into the churchyard, the forge at the junction of the east /west, and north /south routeways, and the Red Lion providing a focal point where the east/ west route dog legs through the village. The railway although not running through Cowfold had a station at West Grinstead in 1861.

As part of the group of buildings to the north of the church is the former Poor House, now known as Margaret Cottages. Margaret Cottages were constructed in the late 17th/ early 18th century with further extensions in 1929. It is likely that this building replaced an earlier structure in a similar location.

Part I: Appraisal continued

Cowfolds's evolution through historic maps



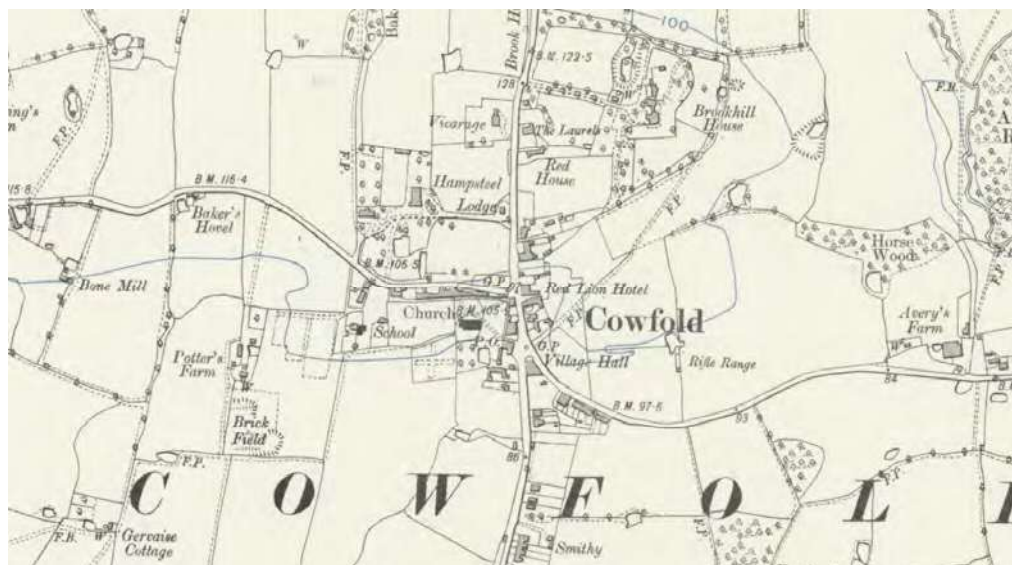
Surveyed 1874/75. The area surrounding Cowfold is characterised by sporadic development the intersection of the east/ west, north and south routeways show an intensification of buildings forming the villages historic core. The Vicarage is to the north of the church, with the National School to the west at the villages edge. St Peters School was built in 1876.



Surveyed 1896. The pattern of development is similar to that of 1874/5 although development has now begun to the south of the village with infilling between Bolney Road and Henfield Road. Between 1876 and 1878 the old vicaridge was demolished and a new vicarage constructed.

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<https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>

Part I: Appraisal continued



Revised 1909. The key elements remain the same with the construction of the Village Hall in 1896. The lychgate was built in 1930, following the demolition of the smithy. New terraces of properties within Bolney Road (Huntscroft Gardens and Oakfield Cottages) were constructed, with the playing field donated to the village in 1945.

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<https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>

Underlying geology

Within Cowfold Parish the Weald clay dominates and overlays the Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand. To the west of the conservation area is Potters Farm, and an area named Brick Field which indicates a historical relationship between the underlying geology and industry within the locality.

Relationship of Conservation Area to its surroundings

Landscape setting

The conservation area falls within the Eastern Low Weald Character Area as defined in the the West Sussex Landscape Character Assessment 2003. The landscape setting of the conservation area is characterised by gently undulating low ridges and valleys, within an arable and pastoral rural landscape, with a mosaic of small and larger fields, scattered woodlands, shaws and hedgerows with hedgerow trees. The wider area has a strong rural character although the noise and activity of the A272 and A281 competes with this character.



Part I: Appraisal continued

Existing landscape character

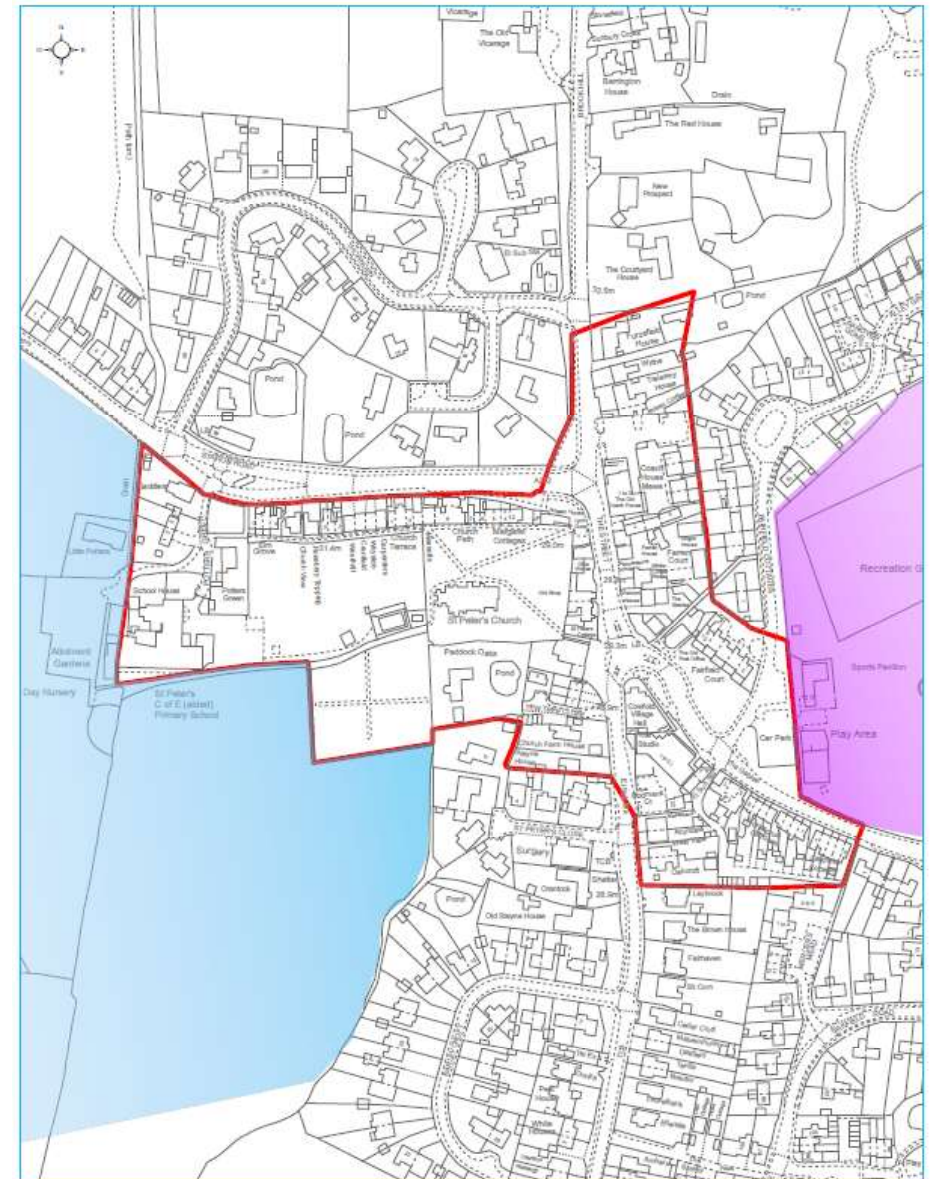
There are several existing Landscape Character Assessments that cover the landscape adjacent to the Cowfold Conservation Area: West Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (2003); Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (2003); and Horsham District Landscape Capacity Assessment (2021). These identify the key characteristics and sensitivities of the landscape at varying scales. The key character considerations are:

- Gently undulating low ridges and valleys.
- Scattered small woodlands.
- Small and medium size pasture fields and some larger arable fields.
- Mostly small scale intricate landscape. Localised areas with more open character.
- Field ponds.
- Small farmsteads and cottages dispersed along lanes and tracks.
- The historic village of Cowfold and more suburban development at Partridge Green and Shermanbury.
- Local building materials of half timber, brick, Horsham stone and weather boarding.
- Landmark of St Hugh's Charterhouse Monastery at Shermanbury.

Conservation Area setting

The character of the Conservation Area is influenced by the landscape and development that surrounds it. The character of this landscape fringe is defined below, with the map opposite highlighting the identified two fringe areas.

The fringe areas have been identified through the variation in characteristics of the land adjacent to the Conservation Area. Using typical criteria included in Appendix 2, the sensitivity of the landscape fringe to change associated with development has been evaluated, through consideration of the associated key characteristics.



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Part I: Appraisal continued

Landscape Fringe 1

Landscape Character Sensitivity

- Gently undulating landform
- Regular and irregular field pattern bounded by copses and hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees.
- Mixed settlement edge, harsh and abrupt in places with presence of modern development, softened by trees in others.
- Cowfold Parish Church provides a local landmark and a historic feature with adjacent historic cottages. St Hugh's Monastery is also a local landmark in wider views out of the village.
- Landscape in moderate condition due to intrusion of some large modern farm buildings to south of the area.

Visual Sensitivity

- Due to the existing copses, hedgerows and hedgerow tree the area is relatively well screened, and therefore has a moderate to high visual sensitivity. The views of the open countryside and St Hugh's Monastery being the most sensitive to change.

Landscape Value

- Ecological interest of woodland and hedgerows.
- Low moderate tranquility taking account of noise from the A272, some urbanising influences but also recognising some natural qualities.
- Some localised amenity value from bridleway route through the northern part of the area.
- Historic interest of the Church and cottages in the adjacent Conservation Area.
- The area retains an attractive rural character, and some landscape features. This has however been eroded in parts. It would be very important to protect important attractive views and maintain an attractive green approach into the village along the A272.

Landscape Fringe 2

Landscape Character Sensitivity

- Flat to very gently undulating landform.
- Large scale field pattern bounded by shaws, copses and hedgerows with a few hedgerow trees.
- Arable and pasture farmland.
- Field ponds.
- Green corridor approach into the village, visually connecting into the village centre together with the adjacent recreation ground.
- Landscape in moderate condition due to the partial erosion of field pattern associated with arable farming.

Visual Sensitivity

- Despite the presence of shaws and woodland providing some enclosure from the wider landscape to the north the area is prominent to view from the A272 and existing residential properties.

Landscape Value

- Some ecological interest of shaws and woodland.
- Mostly low tranquility due to noise from traffic on the A272 and some urbanising influences adjacent but with some natural qualities evident in the north of the area.
- Limited amenity value from single footpath route.
- This landscape fringe has as high degree of visibility, and it would be important to maintain a green corridor along the A272.

Part I: Appraisal continued

Views and Setting

The agricultural and rural setting of the Conservation Area is reinforced by views of the fieldscape between buildings.

Due to the nature of the land form surrounding Cowfold there are limited long distance views into the conservation area. However where views are identified they are all from public viewpoints and were specifically chosen following site visits as being representative of the visual relationship between the rural surroundings of the Conservation Area, and the importance of visual landmarks such as the church.

The Appraisal by its nature is unable to highlight every view into and out of the Conservation Area. Consequently, the views chosen are considered to be representative of the experience and character of the Conservation Area. The views help to inform and appreciate the understanding of how the Conservation Area has evolved within its landscape. Paragraph 13 of Historic England’s Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (second Edition) “The Setting of Heritage Assets” also indicates that although views may be identified by local planning policies and guidance, this does not mean that additional views or other elements or attributes of setting do not merit consideration.

By necessity each view provides a pointer to the key features in the landscape and their association with the Conservation Area. These pointers may be expanded in private views that may come forward through proposed development and these would need to be addressed in a site allocation or development management context. Paragraph 013 Planning Policy Guidance – Historic Environment is clear that the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the heritage asset does not depend on there being public rights of way or an ability to otherwise access or experience that setting.

It would be suggested that the key views are from the footpath to the south of the village where there are clear views back into the conservation area of the church, and in the wider landscape of St Hugh's Monastery.

Specific analysis would need to be carried out in relation to applications which would impact on the setting of the Conservation Area from areas which are not accessible from public rights of way, including considering the positive attributes development could bring to enhancing the character of the Conservation Area and where there are cumulative impacts of several developments.

This is required as the Conservation Area Appraisal presents a general rather than site detailed understanding of the setting of the Conservation Area as it stands at a moment in time, from land that is currently accessible. Paragraph 13 of Planning Policy Guidance: Historic Environment (updated July 2019) also notes that; “The extent and importance of setting is often expressed by reference to the visual relationship between the asset and the proposed development and associated visual/physical considerations. Although views of or from an asset will play an important part in the assessment of impacts on setting, the way in which we experience an asset in its setting is also influenced by other environmental factors such as noise, dust, smell and vibration from other land uses in the vicinity, and by our understanding of the historic relationship between places.”

Consequently although important views are not the only factors to be considered when understanding setting.



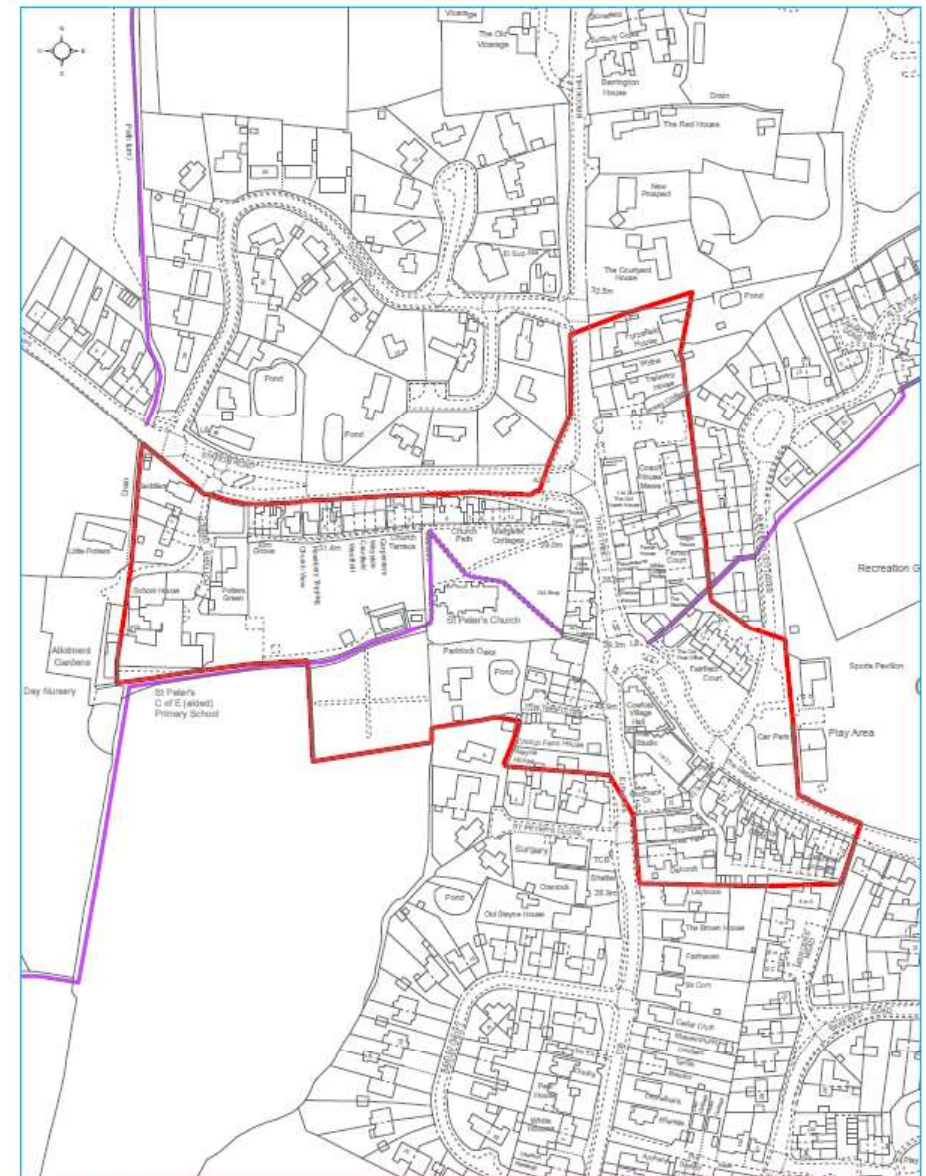
Part I: Appraisal continued

Open spaces and public rights of way

There is limited open space within the Cowfold Conservation Area due to the tight core of the conservation area following the layout of the road network. However the church yard immediately surrounding the church provides an area of reflection set away from the road, with a further open space within its extension to the south west. The playing fields for St Peters School although not publicly accessible space provide a balance to the built up core of the conservation area.

The Cowfold Recreation Ground adjoins but is outside of the conservation area, and was donated to the village in 1945 by the Godman family. Open fields adjoin the conservation area boundary to the south and west with the wider village being surrounded in its wider context by field and interspersed shaws and copses.

The road network dominates the centre of the village, with public footpath 1759_1 running east to west through the churchyard, and then across towards Alley Groves.



Public Footpath

Cowfold Conservation Area: Public Rights of Way

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Part I: Appraisal continued

Character assessment

Building and materials

There are a number of elements which come together to form the unique character of the Conservation Area as a whole. These include:

- variety of house designs, two storey or lower
- predominant use of natural materials
- traditional detailing
- inconspicuous or subservient extensions

Within the Conservation Area there are a variety of building materials and building types which add a diversity of style which are unified by the scale of development and the use of local/natural materials. As noted in the brief history of Cowfold above, the village has evolved slowly and consequently the buildings can be grouped into three main styles – medieval, Georgian and Victorian.

The oldest buildings within the village are timber framed, principally small in scale and either single storey with accommodation within the roofspace or two storey. The buildings are often gabled, with a traditional pitch with Horsham Stone or a handmade clay tile. Generally the windows are small with wooden casements. The buildings are detached or terraced. As Cowfold became more prosperous, and fashion and ideas of status evolved, many humble timber framed buildings within the Conservation Area were refaced in brick or rendered.

The timber framed medieval buildings are complemented by more formal Georgian and Victorian buildings. Many of the Georgian buildings have distinctive brick patterning with dark blue burnt headers and rich red stretchers. The roofs are hipped, mainly with clay tiles; several houses have dentil course details. Windows are larger, mainly wooden casements, or sash with glazing bars. Many of the Georgian houses have fine classical doorways, the simple panelled doors being framed by Doric columns and pediments.

The Victorian houses are distinctive with gable roofs of tile or slate, decorated with plain and patterned bargeboards. Many have decorated porches, again with bargeboards, and attractive bay windows.



Part I: Appraisal continued

Character Areas

The historic core of Cowfold illustrated by the Conservation Area boundary has a tightly formed Conservation Area. The settlement of Cowfold is intrinsically connected with its east/west and north/south routes.

The character of Cowfold has been shaped by the necessities of history, its natural topography and geography, the availability of building materials, and the fluctuations of fortune, evident in the street patterns and in the buildings. There are two character areas within Cowfold, one more inward looking, private and tranquil whilst the other has a more regular street pattern and developed form. There is also a unifying thread embedded in the style and scale of the buildings, and in the use of traditional building materials which have formed these structures.

The churchyard character area includes the properties within the churchyard, whilst the central area stretches along the Bolney and Henfield Roads.

Church Yard Character Area

The churchyard character area can be accessed through the lych gate which enables access into a tranquil greenspace with the church as the principle focus. Footpaths run through the site (some formed in Horsham Stone) enabling access to the properties which front into the space. Due to the lack of vehicles the area has an atmospheric quality, creating a sense of privacy, framed by the domestic scale of the properties. The houses are predominantly two storey with some accommodation within the roof slope. Materials range from red brick with decorative arches, painted brick, and render, with glimpses in some side elevations of timber frames. The roofing materials range from the textured qualities of Horsham Stone slate, to clay tiles and slate. Windows are timber casements or sliding sashes.

The buildings most notably those facing onto Station Road have a double aspect with the front of the properties facing into and abutting the church yard, and the rear of the properties and their yards facing onto the road. Many of the properties have outbuildings, some of which have been converted into small business's. There is a mix of boundary treatments with some picket fences, and brick walls.

Central Character Area

The central area is dominated by the road network running through the village. The properties within this central area differ in size and design with the plot sizes reflecting the relative prosperity of the original property owners.

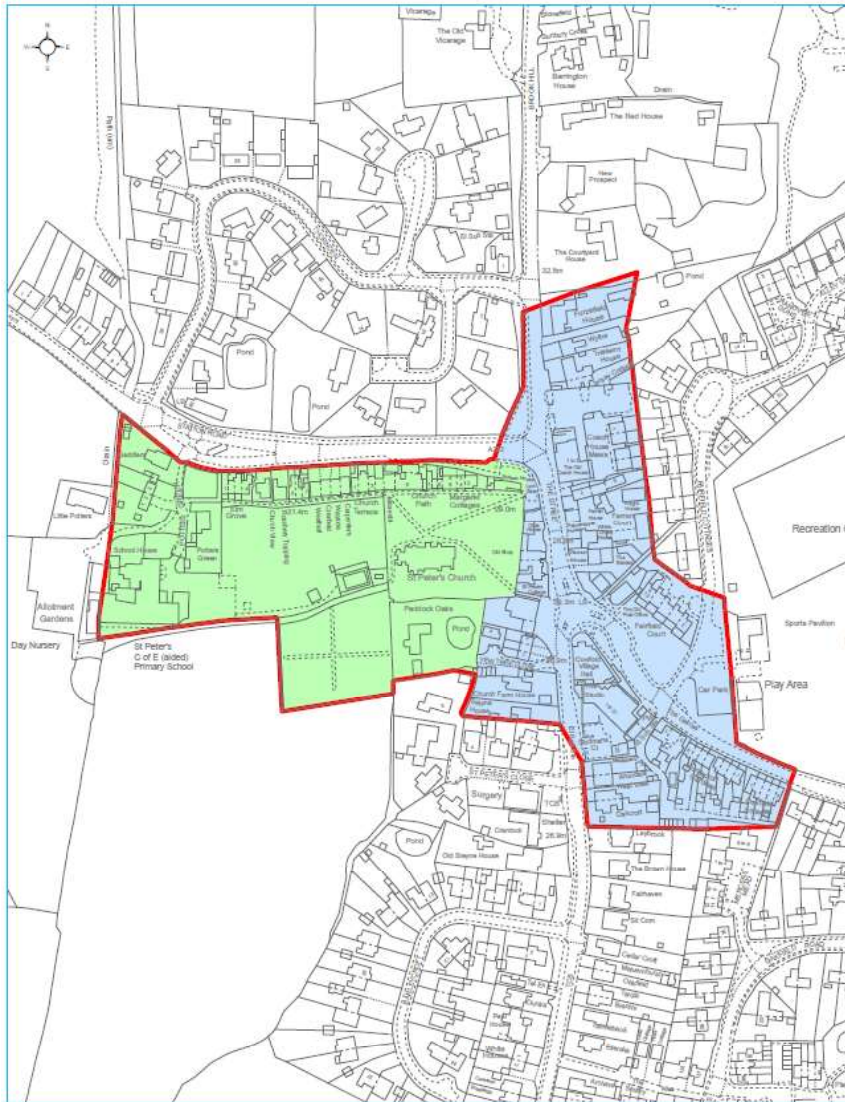
Footpaths line the road network through the village with some on street parking on Station, Bolney and Henfield Roads. The central portion of the village contains various land uses with the Co-op fronting onto the roundabout. When entering The Street from the north Cowfold Village Hall forms a focus between the Henfield and Bolney Roads. Bolney Road opens up with the properties set back from the road with a grassed verge which links visually through the the recreation ground. On the southern side of the road, the conservation area becomes again residential in character with a run of terraced properties with small front gardens.

The Henfield Road has a more varied character to its eastern side with the scale of the properties in Godmans Court built in the late 1980's increasing with a parking area setting the property back from the road. The traditional character of the conservation area is reinstated to the south of Godmans Court with a small group of Victorian properties with attractive detailing separated from the road by small front gardens.

Within the Conservation Area, common features also include hanging tile, pitched roof porches, chimneys, traditionally pitched roofs, gauged and rubbed flat arches above the windows and finial details.

Part I: Appraisal continued

Map showing each character area



Character Areas
 Central Character Area
 Church Yard Character Area

Cowfold Conservation Area: Character Areas

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Part I: Appraisal continued



Negative elements

The Conservation Area designated in 1976 included numerous statutorily listed buildings, designated at the time of the first survey in 1955. These only increased in number as the result of a resurvey in 1980.

Today the Cowfold Conservation Area appears well maintained and prosperous. However, a number of features detract from this impression. Inappropriate repair work on historic buildings (such as relaying Horsham slab roofs with mortared joints and re-pointing masonry in cement rather than lime mortar) detracts from their appearance and can also cause damage to historic fabric.

In addition to inappropriate repair the loss of traditional windows and their replacement with plastic windows is a concern. Good management of the streetscape is also essential to maintain a sense of place. Street signs and the busy nature of the roads through Cowfold detract from an appreciation of the special historic character of the conservation area.



Location and design of street furniture needs to be carefully considered

Other general features that detract from the appearance of the Conservation Area include prominent TV aerials mounted on chimneys, and the loss of soft landscaping to hard surfacing and parking.

Part II: Management Plan

The need for a Management Plan

It is the role of the Management Plan to take forward the challenges and opportunities identified in the appraisal, and to identify means by which the special interest of the Conservation Area will become self-sustaining into the future. To achieve this requires a partnership between those living, working and carrying out property improvement and development in the Conservation Area and Horsham District Council. All development proposals should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area in accordance with the Horsham District Planning Framework. In a Conservation Area there are some extra controls over works to buildings, boundaries and trees intended to ensure that the character is not eroded by unintended loss or change and the appearance is not changed in a negative way.

For advice on whether planning permission is required for works please refer to the Horsham District Council website or The Planning Portal (https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200125/do_you_need_permission).

Control of development

It is essential that any development should preserve or enhance the setting of any adjacent historic buildings and existing landscape features and trees, and the overall special qualities of the character area. Therefore, careful consideration must be given to the size, scale, urban grain, layout, design, massing, height, plot width, frontage activity, landscape and materials in any such development. This does not dictate architectural style but does attempt to ensure that proposals respond positively to their context. The Council strongly encourages applications for planning permission or other consents for proposals which meet these criteria and avoid:

- the demolition of any building or structure if its loss would damage the character or appearance of the Conservation Area.
- development (including extension/alteration) which would be harmful to the setting or character or appearance of the Conservation Area.
- development which would adversely affect or result in the loss of important views, open spaces, tree cover or boundary features within the Conservation Area.

Residents and business owners should contact the Council to confirm what proposed extensions and alterations constitute 'development'.

Monitoring and compliance

If necessary, the Council has a range of tools at its disposal to compel building owners to appropriately maintain and repair buildings which are causing a local nuisance or which are designated heritage assets.

Issues

The preparation of the Cowfold Conservation Area Appraisal has included consultation with stakeholders, specifically the Parish Council. A number of issues were identified. These have been used as a basis for the following section identifying principal issues to be addressed by this Management Plan.

Part II: Management Plan continued

Historic built environment

- Loss of traditional architectural features.
- Equipment and installations.
- Boundary enclosures.
- Drives, off-street parking and loss of front gardens.
- Enhancement of existing buildings.
- Extensions.
- Window replacement.
- Dormer windows and rooflights.
- Cladding, rendering and the painting of walls.
- Re-pointing of brickwork.
- Demolition.

New development and environmental improvement

- Opportunities for new development.
- Setting and views.

The environment and public realm

- Trees.
- Public realm;
- Street furniture.
- Surface materials.
- Opportunities for enhancement.

Historic built environment

Loss of traditional built and architectural features

Architectural features set out in the Appraisal, such as traditional windows, Horsham Stone slate roof covering and so on should be preserved due to the significant contribution they make to the character and appearance of the buildings and the Conservation Area.

Horsham Stone roofs are a distinctive traditional feature of the locality with the stone quarried locally. The mortar on a Horsham Stone roof should be subordinate to the stone and the roof laid in diminishing courses. Prior to the relaying or repair of a Horsham Stone roof it is suggested that advice is sought from the District Council, and appropriate guidance considered such as that produced by Historic England and the Stone Roofing Association.



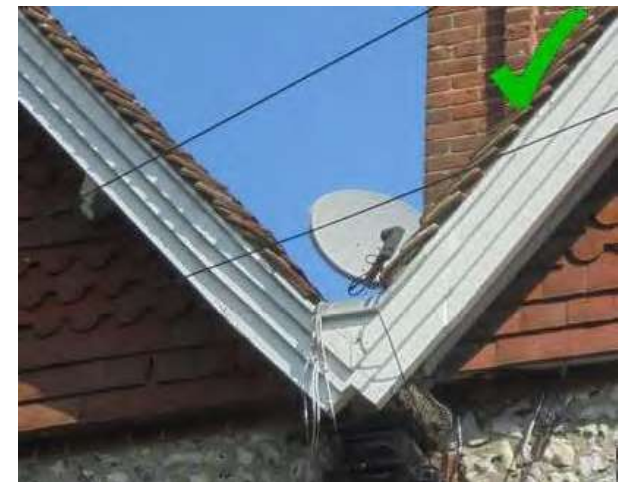
Horsham Stone slate roof



Laying of Horsham Stone slate roof with shadow slates and inconspicuous mortar

Equipment or installations

The presence of modern types of equipment on or around buildings, such as large aerials or satellite dishes and microgenerators, can detract from the character of a Conservation Area and/or the special architectural qualities of buildings. To minimise their visual impact, they should be positioned away from public view or prominent positions. The removal of existing fixtures cluttering front elevations is encouraged and care should be taken to repair the affected surfaces.



Part II: Management Plan continued

Boundary enclosures

Most buildings in the Conservation Area have a variety of boundary walls as seen below. Retention of these walls and increased use of trees and hedgerow as a 'soft' boundary treatment is considered preferable. In some cases, installing traditionally detailed brick walls and railings may be appropriate.



Examples of positive and negative boundary treatment within the Conservation Area

Drives, off street parking and loss of front gardens

Landscaped gardens to building frontages make an important contribution to the quality of the streetscape. Historically, many buildings in the Conservation Area had front gardens with enclosing low stone or brick walls, hedges or railings. The loss of front gardens to parking detracts from their historic setting and should be avoided. The use of porous pavements, reinforced grass paving or gravel instead of tarmac, with the retention of some garden space and the use of appropriate boundary treatments, offers a more attractive setting for buildings, reduce run-off and give a more sustainable approach. Where there is existing frontage parking which adversely impacts the character and setting of the Conservation Area, any new planning application should include a condition requiring the reinstatement of front garden areas and any traditional boundary treatments.

Enhancement of existing buildings

A number of the listed and unlisted buildings in Cowfold have been altered and lost features. Proposed enhancements to make a building look grander than it ever was should be resisted. The following enhancement works should be encouraged as part of any future development:

- Reinststate boundaries where they have been removed to their original height and footprint.
- Ensure that new boundaries are built from quality materials, paying full attention to stone coursing, brick bond, lime mortar and coping details.
- New gates should be good quality traditional timber design; and
- Encourage the use of good quality paving, trees or planting where the back yards or gardens are visible from the public domain.

Extensions

Development should seek to retain views into and out of the Conservation Area, with varied building lines, maintaining where appropriate small front gardens and larger rear gardens. Modern extensions should not dominate the existing building in either scale, material or their siting. There will always be some historic buildings where any extensions would be detrimental and should not be permitted. Successful extensions require a sound understanding of the building type to be extended together with careful consideration of scale and detail.



Part II: Management Plan continued

Within the Conservation Area, porches vary in style from the simple and functional to the decorative porches of the Georgian period. Proposals for porches should consider the style of the host property whilst also taking inspiration from the context of the surrounding area.

Examples of porches within the Conservation Area.





Flemish bond with dark grey burnt headers alternate header and stretchers



English bond with alternate rows of headers and stretchers



Decorative headers above the windows



Modern stretcher bond



Rat trap brick bond

Brick bonds help to provide interest in a building. Prior to the introduction of cavity wall insulation different types of brick bond were popular. The colours of the brick also added interest with often local bricks being used and in some cases the brickwork was worked to show the affluence and social standing of the building's owner. Decorative headers above windows and doors and also brick dentil detail when appropriately used all add interest to the building and Conservation Area as a whole.

Part II: Management Plan continued

Consideration should therefore be given when seeking to extend a property to assess the existing materials and architectural details. It may be appropriate in some instances to reflect these traditional details or reinterpret them in a modern context such as the use of decorative bargeboards, finials, decorative roof tiles and ridge details.



Bargeboards and finials ridge details and decorative roof tiling



A further traditional feature within Cowfold is the use of hanging clay tile in various patterns to break up blank elevations.



Bullnose hanging tile

Retention of chimneys

The removal or loss of chimneys within the Conservation Area impacts on the character of the Conservation Area as a whole. The presence of chimneys break up the roofscape and adds interest to the streetscene. Chimneys can also inform our understanding of the plan form of a historic building and can provide valuable evidence of changes in technology, fashion and wealth.



Examples of chimneys

Part II: Management Plan continued

Window replacement

The loss of traditional windows, ironmongery and glazing from our older buildings poses one of the major threats to our heritage and the character of historic areas. The character of windows profoundly affects the appearance of buildings but are particularly vulnerable as they are easily replaced or altered. The desire to improve the energy efficiency of historic buildings encourages windows' replacement with inappropriate and inferior quality modern alternatives. If well maintained, historic windows can last more than 200 years. Where the windows being considered for replacement are themselves modern replacements in inferior softwood that are now failing, what they are replaced with needs to be carefully assessed.

Within the Conservation Area, historic windows should be retained whenever possible and their repair prioritised. In general, consent will not be granted for their removal. Within the Conservation Area there are a variety of timber casement, horizontal (Yorkshire) sliding sash windows and vertical sliding sash windows.

The design of historic windows evolved through the early modern period and so, where repair is not possible, replacement windows should be designed to either replicate the historic windows being replaced or be based upon a period design contemporaneous with the host building. In general, a consistent approach should be taken across a building. Further guidance from Historic England can be found at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/traditional-windows-care-repair-upgrading/heag039-traditional-windows-revfeb17/>.

Historic glass should be retained as its construction methods may no longer exist and its appearance creates reflections and distortions which add to the visual appreciation of the building and its historic character.



Historic England

Traditional Windows

Their Care, Repair and Upgrading



Part II: Management Plan continued

Dormer windows and rooflights

New dormer windows and rooflights should not be located on street-facing and prominent roofscapes. Where new dormer windows and rooflights are considered appropriate, they should be small in scale and not dominate the roofslope, ensuring that a large area of the roof remains visible. Dormers need to be of a traditional form, in scale with the building and its roof and their windows should be smaller than those on the floor below. Rooflights need to be flush with the roof face and normally the 'conservation' type metal rooflight is preferred. In most cases, the dormer or rooflight should align with the window below.



Cladding, rendering or painting of walls

In most cases, the walling material of a building is part of its character and contributes positively to the appearance of the Conservation Area. There may, however, be cases where the existing wall surface is unattractive or is decaying, and cladding, rendering or painting can be justified. Where this is the case the cladding needs to be in a locally used material, such as tile-hanging using local red clay tiles, or timber weatherboarding. Painting of natural brickwork and stonework is discouraged. If proposed work involves changing the front elevation of a building, Conservation Area advice from the Local Planning Department at Horsham District Council should be sought.

Repointing of brick or stone walls

Repointing can ruin the appearance of brick or stone walls. The purpose of the mortar in the joints is to stop rainwater penetrating into the wall and to act as a conduit for moisture trapped in the wall to escape. The mortar joint or pointing is therefore sacrificial and needs to be softer and more porous than the wall material. This is why for conservation work a lime-based mortar is normally recommended. It is important to dig out the old pointing to allow a sufficient 'key' for the repointing. Mortar should fill the joints but not spread out onto the surface of the wall material, and where the arises (corners) have been worn away, the mortar face may have to be slightly set back. Raised or 'strap' pointing should be avoided as not only does it stand out and change the appearance of the wall, it can act as a shelf for rainwater.

Demolition

Within the Conservation Area, the demolition of an unlisted building or wall over a certain volume or height without prior planning permission is a criminal offence. Furthermore, demolition of buildings or built features which have been identified as making a neutral or positive contribution to local character will normally not be permitted. Where buildings and features have been identified as making a negative contribution of local character, development incorporating some demolition may be permitted, as long as what will replace the existing building is judged to respond positively to its local context.

For advice on whether planning permission is required for works please refer to the Horsham District Council website or The Planning Portal (https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200125/do_you_need_permission).

New development

Opportunities for new development

These must be considered carefully and the effect of new buildings on the setting of the Conservation Area, and on views both into it and out of it, particularly taken into account. New development must be sympathetic to its context in terms of its siting, scale (including height, size and massing), materials and details. It should also follow the existing pattern or grain of development, not obstruct important views, and not dominate buildings in the immediate vicinity. Materials should be carefully chosen to complement the Conservation Area's existing palette of materials.

Setting and views

All development affecting the setting of the Cowfold Conservation Area should demonstrate how the setting and long distance views, into and from the Conservation Area, are preserved and enhanced. The important views are identified in section 1 of the Conservation Area appraisal.

Key threats:

- Erosion of front boundaries in the Conservation Area;
- Loss of traditional joinery details in windows and doors, as properties are improved both visually and for thermal upgrading.
- Loss of traditional roof coverings, chimneys and chimneypots on unlisted properties when the roof is replaced. Machine made clay tiles, imported slates and similar though 'natural' materials look different to what is there now.

The environment and public realm

Trees

The presence of trees makes an important contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. Anyone who cuts down, uproots, lops, wilfully destroys or wilfully damages a tree of a diameter 75mm or more at 1.5m above ground level in a Conservation Area without giving the Local Planning Department at Horsham District Council six weeks' prior notice of their intention may be guilty of an offence. In Conservation Areas, the same penalties as those for contravening a Tree Preservation Order apply and a person who cuts down a tree in a Conservation Area without first giving notice is liable, if convicted in the Magistrates Court, to a fine. A person who carries out damaging work in a way that is not likely to destroy the tree is also liable to a fine.

Part II: Management Plan continued



Public realm

Street furniture

There needs to be a consistency of style to help create a cohesive identity for the Conservation Area. The presence of excessive or redundant street furniture causes street clutter and is visually unattractive. The rationalisation of street furniture such as street nameplates (a simple design of black letters on a white background), lamp posts, seating and the provision of a standard sage green for finger posts and litter bins is encouraged. A-boards and blade, feather and teardrop flags though not fixed add to street clutter and are generally discouraged in Conservation Areas.

Surface materials

A large format paving slab in natural stone should be used as part of considered approach to the location and the heritage context.

Older surfacing materials such as local stone on edge, pebbles and even flint are rare vernacular survivals that should be conserved. The use of high quality paving materials, together with the layout and jointing detail are key elements of the overall surface appearance. The following measures should be encouraged:

- the existing areas of high quality traditional paving must be protected.
- further areas of traditional paving should be added as funding allows.
- any redundant street furniture such as signage should be removed.

Opportunities for enhancement





The Council wishes to encourage schemes which preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. The key objective is to encourage the repair, reinstatement or retention of features which would reinforce the special character of the area.

Parking and traffic density is an issue within the Conservation Area. A partnership between West Sussex County Highways Authority, Horsham District Council and Cowfold Parish Council could be considered to instigate schemes that would make vehicles less dominant and pedestrians might feel more comfortable. Any traffic calming measures must be in materials that respect the rural character of the Conservation Area. This may also include support for the widening of the narrow footpath on Bolney Road opposite the recreation ground to support pedestrian use.

Appendix

Gazetteer of listed buildings

Image	Name	Grade	Description
	Potters Cottage	2	C18. Two storeys. Two windows. Ground floor painted brick, above faced with weather-boarding. Tiled roof. Horizontally-sliding sash windows. NHLE 1286286
	Church Lodge	2	C18 or earlier. Two storeys. Two windows. Ground floor stuccoed, above faced with weather-boarding. Tiled roof. Casement windows. NHLE 1193244
	Massetts	2	C18. Two storeys. Two windows. Red brick. Modillion eaves cornice. Tiled roof. Glazing bars intact. Doorway with pediment-shaped hood. NHLE 1027094
	The Post Masters House	2	Formerly 2 cottages. C17 timber-framed building. Two storeys. Three windows. The east section has red brick infilling on ground floor and is faced with weather-boarding above. The west section is of higher elevation and wholly red brick, either a later addition or refaced. Tiled roof. Casement windows. Doorway with pediment-shaped hood. NHLE 1193241

Image	Name	Grade	Description
	5, 6 and 7 (Laneswood Cottage), Church Terrace	2	Formerly 3 cottages. Early C19. Two storeys and attic. Three windows. Large gabled dormer of 2 windows. Stuccoed. No 5 tiled roof, No 6 slate roof. Glazing bars intact. NHLE 1354122
	Whiteline House	2	C18. Two storeys. Two windows and one blocked window-space. Red brick. Dentilled eaves cornice. Half-hipped tiled roof. Glazing bars intact. Doorway with flat hood on brackets. NHLE 1027079
	1 - 6 Margaret's Cottages	2	Six almshouses. Late C17 building, restored in 1929. Red brick and grey headers. Stringcourse. Tiled roof. Casement windows, some with diamond-shaped panes. Two storeys and attic. Six windows. Four dormers. NHLE 1027093
	Sussex House	2	C18. Two storeys. Two windows. Plastered front. Tiled roof. Casement windows. Doorway with pediment-shaped hood. Included for group value. NHLE 1193219

Gazetteer of listed buildings continued



Image	Name	Grade	Description
	St Peter's Cottage, Restaurant	2	C15 timber-framed building with plaster infilling, flint floor of north and south fronts close-studded. The other sides have been refaced with red brick and grey headers. Tile-hung gable with moulded bargeboards and attic window facing the churchyard. Casement windows with diamond-shaped panes. Horsham slab roof. Brick chimney breast at east end. Two storeys. Two windows. NHLE 1354153
	The Parish Church of St Peter	1	Chancel, south chapel, nave with south aisle, west tower and north and south porches. Chancel C13, nave and tower C15, south aisle early C16. Large brass to Thomas Nelond, Prior of Southover, Lewes, 1433. Good wholly medieval church. NHLE 1354161

Image	Name	Grade	Description
	The Cowfold Stores, The Willows	2	L-shaped late C17 or early C18 block, refaced with cement. Two storeys. Originally 6 windows. Long and short quoins. Modillion eaves cornice. Hipped roof of Horsham slabs. Projecting bay at south end replaces the 2 original south windows. Modern shop front on ground floor. NHLE 1027082
	Church Farm House	2	L-shaped building. C18 or earlier, restored. Two storeys. Three windows. Ground floor red brick, above tile-hung, west gable end faced with roughcast. Tiled roof. Casement windows. NHLE 1286329
	Steyne House	2	Early C19. Two storeys. Two windows. Stuccoed. Slate roof. Glazing bars intact. Porch with Doric columns. NHLE 1354154
	Viscount House	2	Late C18. Two storeys. Three windows. Painted brick. Eaves cornice. Tiled roof. Three-light bay window on ground floor on either side of doorway with later tiled canopies. Venetian shutters to first floor windows. Glazing bars removed from lower halves of windows. Doorway with fluted pilasters, projecting cornice and door of 6 fielded panels. NHLE 1027080

Gazetteer of listed buildings continued


Image	Name	Grade	Description
	Trelawny House	2	Incorrectly marked on OS map as Jersey House. C18, added to and altered. Stucco scored as ashlar, right bay with rendered ground floor and weatherboard above. Plain tile roof. 2 storeys, 2 + 1 bays. Original 2 bays have central door of 6 flush panels (top 2 glazed) in architrave having pilasters with plain capitals, frieze and cornice; masked by C20 trellised lean-to porch (not of special interest). 16-pane sashes in flush wood architraves, those to ground floor unhorned, those to 1st floor without glazing bars to lower sashes. End stacks, forward of ridge, of red brick with blue headers at angles. Added right-hand bay has horned 16-pane sash to ground floor; C20 tripartite window above. NHLE 1354156
	Furzefield	2	C18. Two storeys. Five windows. Painted brick. Parapet. Tiled roof. Glazing bars intact. Doorway with low rectangular fanlight. At the south end an extra storey with gable has been added in the C19. Buttress at north end. NHLE 1193065

Gazetteer of locally listed buildings

What is a locally listed building?

It is a building identified by Horsham District Council as of local historic, architectural or townscape interest. Local listed buildings are non-designated heritage assets as defined within the National Planning Policy Framework. Many local authorities have lists of such buildings and structures. The National Planning Policy Guidance suggests it is helpful

for local planning authorities to keep a local list of non-designated heritage assets and that this list is publically accessible. Historic England advises that local lists play an essential role in building and reinforcing a sense of local character and distinctiveness in the historic environment.

Image	Name	Description
	Cowfold Village Hall, Bolney Road, Cowfold	Opened in 1896 for the celebration of Queen Victoria's jubilee. The building with its library was constructed by Fowlers and Godman. It is described in the Buildings of England Sussex book, by Ian Nairn and Nikolaus Pevsner as being "The best building in the centre..... with a big gable for the hall and curly roof-line for the library (Nairn, I. & Pevsner, N., 2001. Sussex, Harmondsworth : [s.l.: Penguin distributed by Yale University Press]. p.199

Landscape sensitivity criteria

Criterion	High	Medium	Low
Conservation area edge character, mitigation and enhancement potential (including landscape function in relation to gateways, nodes, edge integration/relationship, landmarks etc).	<p>Very well integrated built edge with natural, clear and defensible boundaries. Well defined but often porous form, where gaps are particularly important to the edge character and relationship to the surrounding landscape. Intact historic settlement and landscape character interface may persist e.g. adjacent minor/parkland/historic fieldscapes. The integrity of such features would be susceptible to change arising from further development.</p> <p>Built edge forms a key/positive approach or gateway to the settlement. May have strong intervisibility with the settlement core and associated distinctive landmarks e.g. church tower/spire.</p>	<p>Generally, well integrated built edge. A mostly clear/natural/defensible boundary, albeit with some erosion where development may have breached such parameters. Some remnant historic features.</p> <p>Built edge contributes to a positive approach or gateway to the village and has limited intervisibility with the settlement core and associated distinctive features.</p>	<p>Poorly integrated/raw/exposed settlement edges, which may offer mitigation potential through new development and edge landscape treatment.</p> <p>Much expanded, modern settlement edge with little relationship to the historic settlement structure or key features. Settlement edge land uses/management is prevalent and historic features have been eroded.</p>
Topography and skylines	<p>Contours form a clear and defensible limit to the conservation area extents and create a prominent setting to the built edge.</p> <p>Distinctive, strong topographic features that would be susceptible to change associated with development.</p> <p>Open or 'natural' and undeveloped skylines which are apparent in key views and/or would be susceptible to change arising from development.</p>	<p>Contours are apparent as part of the conservation area's setting, and such features may be distinctive and to a degree susceptible to change associated with development.</p> <p>Skylines may be mostly undeveloped or with only localised developed intrusions, such that they have some susceptibility to change arising from development.</p>	<p>Few strong topographic features that define the edge of the conservation area, with little landform variation.</p> <p>Developed/settled skylines including modern settlement and human influences, or skylines that are neither visually distinctive nor prominent and have a low susceptibility to change arising from development.</p>
Landscape scale and pattern (including cultural pattern)	<p>Small scale, intimate and intricate landscape pattern which the legibility would be susceptible to change arising from development.</p> <p>Strong sense of / intact cultural pattern, historic functional relationships and evolution.</p>	<p>Medium scale landscape patterns with some susceptibility to change arising from development.</p> <p>Moderate, perhaps partially eroded, sense of cultural pattern, historic functional relationship and evolution.</p>	<p>Expansive, open landscapes with few features that are susceptible to change arising from development.</p> <p>Eroded, fragmented, weak sense of cultural pattern, historic functional relationships and evolution.</p>
Aesthetic and perceptual quality including landscape experience and tranquillity	<p>Intricate, complex landscapes, the integrity and legibility of which would be affected by development.</p> <p>Tranquil, peaceful landscape such that any development would represent a significant intrusion.</p>	<p>Landscape patterns that display a degree of intactness and relative complexity in areas, with some potential for development to affect the integrity and legibility of these.</p> <p>A landscape with relatively few or moderate levels of intrusion, with some level of tranquillity.</p>	<p>Simple or fragmented, eroded landscapes with low legibility such that new development may present an enhancement opportunity.</p> <p>Landscape of low tranquillity, already characterised by levels of intrusion.</p>
Views, visual character and intervisibility	<p>Expansive, open and prominent views in and out, wide intervisibility with adjacent landmarks, visually important/prominent elements associated with the wider landscape character that are susceptible to change arising from development.</p>	<p>Medium range views and medium level/filtered intervisibility with nearby landmarks, visually prominent landscape elements and characteristic features.</p>	<p>Enclosed visual character with views kept short. Little or no intervisibility with adjacent landmarks, visually prominent landscape elements and characteristic features.</p>

1.1 The above typical criteria have been defined in order to focus the analysis. The criteria have been informed by the information in the district landscape character assessment and capacity study, and knowledge gained of the area through fieldwork. They have been developed with reference to best practice guidance¹. They have been applied to the landscape fringes associated with the conservation area, in order to determine the susceptibility to change and the sensitivity of the fringe to development.

1.2 It should be noted that different combinations of the attributes within the typical criteria may apply, and professional judgement is applied in each case.

¹ Natural England, 2014, *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment* and Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013, *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (GLVIA3)*

Glossary of Terms

A

Arcade - a row of arches supported by columns.

Arch - a section above a door or opening window with the structural function of dispersing the weight from above around the opening. Also referred to as a head above a door or window. The shape will determine its name; most common are segmental (semi-circular), lancet (pointed) and gauged (composed of shaped bricks).

Architrave - in Classical architecture, the lower part of a moulded cornice. Commonly used term for the moulded surround of a door or window.

Arts and Crafts - derived from an artistic movement of the late C19, based on the ideas of William Morris, which promoted traditional forms of design and the use of craft techniques in construction. Its architectural expression is seen in the use of traditional materials and restrained vernacular decoration.

Art Nouveau - an artistic movement of the turn of the century characterised by stylised forms of flowers and animals, prevalent in Edwardian buildings.

Ashlar - smoothed, even blocks of stone masonry.

B

Baluster - the upright in a staircase or balustrade that supports the horizontal top rail or coping.

Balustrade - the upstanding part of a stair or balcony that supports a rail or coping. The individual uprights (balusters) may be decorated or ornate, for example in the shape of bottles, in which case it is termed a bottle balustrade.

Bargeboard - a timber piece fitted to the outer edge of a gable, sometimes carved for decorative effect.

Baroque - a style associated with late Classical architecture, that evolved during the C17 and C18 and is characterised by exuberant decoration overlaid on classical architectural details.

Battered - a feature, such as a chimney, with sloping faces or sides making it narrower at the top than at the bottom.

Battlement - the top part of a castle wall, often used to detail a parapet; also known as crenellation.

Bay - an extension to the main building line, termed canted or splayed when angled back at the sides, and squared when perpendicular (see also Window).

Bow window - a curved window extending from the front of a building.

Bull nose - the rounded end of a brick or tile.

Burr - a rough, poor quality brick used as infill.

C

Canted - angled at the sides, as in a bay window.

Cap - a stone piece on top of a pier to protect it from weathering.

Cape - extension to the footpath to narrow the road width.

Capital - the ornate top of a column, sometimes decorated with carvings of leaves and flowers.

Cartouche - a carved panel of stone or plaster.

Casement window - a window opening on side or top hinges.

Chamfered - an object with the edges of the front face angled back to give a sense of depth; e.g. on a door stile.

Channelled - stucco or render grooved to look like stone masonry.

Character - The main visual characteristics of an area resulting from the influence of geology, topography, urban layout, plot form, and predominant building ages, types, form and materials.

Chinoiserie - a decorative style, inspired by oriental art and design.

Classical - an architectural style based on Greek and Roman antiquities, characterised by the arrangement of the elements of a building according to a set of rules (i.e. Orders).

Clerestorey - a row of windows at high level lighting the ground or principal floor; very common in churches where they are positioned over the aisles.

Colonnade - a small, slim column, usually arranged in groups. Column - a structural or decorative vertical element, usually circular, supporting or framing the upper parts of a building.

Coping - a sloping or curved, overhanging section of stone on top of a wall or parapet designed to protect the masonry from rain water.

Corbel - a projecting piece of timber, stone or brick supporting an overhanging structure, such as an arch or balcony.

Corinthian - an ornate type of column with exuberant decoration of the capital.

Cornice - a decorative mould applied to parapets and pediments.

Crenellation(s) - a parapet that has been built in the form of castle battlement.

Crow-stepped gable - a gable with stepped sides like a stair case.

Cupola - a domed structure on the roof.

Curtilage - the area within the boundaries of a property surrounding the main building.

D

Dentil - a square block, often used as a detail in a cornice, where it is alternated with a gap.

Distinctive frontage - a structure or series of buildings, such as a terrace, that has specific architectural quality, recognisable plot rhythm, consistent use of materials, or a combination of the above. A distinctive frontage will make a positive contribution to local character or even define the local character.

Glossary of Terms continued

Doorcase - the surrounding frame of a door, usually timber.

Doric - a plain column with little decoration.

Dormer window - a window projecting from a roof.

Dressings - the decorative elements of building elevations used to define windows, doors, etc., and usually of a material contrasting with the main one; for instance, stone window surrounds on a brick facade.

Dutch gable - a gable with tiered and curved sides as evolved in the Low Countries.

E

Eaves - the lower, overhanging section of a pitched roof, intended to throw rain water away from the wall below.

Egg and Dart - a moulding pattern of alternating eggshaped and arrowhead shaped pieces.

Engineering brick - an extremely hard brick used mainly in engineering structures such as bridges.

Entablature - the top part of a column or pediment comprising a number of elements; i.e. architrave, cornice, modillion, capital, etc.

F

Faience - a glazed clay tile or block.

Fenestration - the pattern of windows.

Fielded - a flat, undecorated but raised part of a door panel.

Fin - a simple projection at right angles to the face of the building, repeated to give some relief to flat modernist facades.

Finial - a decorative device to finish off a building element with a flourish, most commonly seen on railings.

Fleche - a pointed spike or finial, common on church roofs.

Frieze - a band or decorative motif running along the upper part of the wall, sometimes carved.

Fluted - carved with long vertical depressions, as in many columns.

G

Gable - a decorative finish to the upper part of a wall designed to obscure the roof structure. Termed Dutch if replicating the style common in Holland; crow-stepped if rising in stages like a staircase.

Gablet roof - roof with a small gable at the top of a hipped or half-hipped section.

Galleting - a technique in which small pieces of stone are pushed into wet mortar joints during the construction of a building. Has both a decorative and weathering function.

Gardenesque - of a style associated with the C18 English Romantic garden designs; naturalistic rather than formal.

Gauged - bricks shaped to fit together closely, as in an arch or head.

Gault brick - a light cream/yellow brick commonly made in East Anglia (hence Suffolk gaults).

Gothic(k) - term applied to Medieval architecture characterised by pointed arches and windows, fine decorative carving, tracery, etc. Revived in the later C19 by ecclesiastical architects who looked back to the Medieval cathedrals and churches for their main inspiration.

H

Ha ha - a linear hollow or ditch defining a property or field boundary and primarily used to exclude livestock from the grounds of a house while maintaining a view of the landscape.

Head - the common term for the arch over an opening.

Heritage asset - Heritage assets are identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of their heritage interest. Designated heritage assets include Conservation Areas, listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens. A non-designated heritage asset are those identified by the Local Authority of local communities that are not of sufficient interest to be statutorily designated but still warrant consideration in planning decisions due to their local interest. Non-designated heritage assets can be identified at any time and within the context of Conservation Areas are those which contribute to local distinctiveness.

Herringbone pattern - a pattern created by laying rectangular blocks of wood or stone in an interlocking arrangement; e.g. some door panels and paving.

Hipped roof - a roof sloping at the ends as well as the sides.

Hood - a projecting moulded section over a door or window.

I

International - a modern architectural style that eschews decoration and is based on designing buildings in simple cubist forms with no reference to local styles or materials. Characterised by modern building materials, such as concrete, steel and plate glass.

Ionic - a type of column.

Italianate - built in a style derived from Italy.

J

Jettied - extended out over the floor below, usually on timber joists.

K

Knapped flint - flint stones that have had one side broken off and flattened to present a smooth face.

L

Lancet - a window or arch coming to a narrow point and much used in Gothic architecture.

Leaded light - a window pane subdivided into small squares or diamonds by lead strips (known as cames).

Lesene - a pilaster without a base or capital.

Light - a window with fixed glazing.

Lintel - a structural beam above an opening, such as a window or door, which may be expressed externally as an architectural feature.

Loggia - an open gallery, often in the form of an arcade.

Glossary of Terms continued

M

Mansard roof - a roof set back from the building frontage, usually behind a parapet, and rising in two pitches to form an attic space.

Materials - the predominant building materials used in an area for walling, windows, paving and roofing.

Mathematical tile - a building material used extensively in the southeastern counties of England—especially Sussex and Kent—in the C18 and early C19. They were laid on the exterior of timber-framed buildings as an alternative to brickwork, which their appearance closely resembled. Mathematical tiles had an extra price advantage during the time of the brick tax (1784–1850), although later there was a tax on tiles also. The tiles were laid in a partly overlapping pattern, akin to roof shingles. Their lower section - the part intended to be visible when the tiling was complete - was thicker; the upper section would slide under the overlapping tile above and would therefore be hidden. They would then be hung on a lath of wood, and the lower sections would be moulded together with an infill of lime mortar to form a flat surface. The interlocking visible surfaces would then resemble either header bond or stretcher bond brickwork. Mathematical tiles had several advantages over brick: they were cheaper, easier to lay than bricks (skilled workmen were not needed), and were more resistant to the weathering effects of wind, rain and sea-spray, making them particularly useful at seaside locations.

Modillion - part of a cornice comprising a series of small brackets.

Morphology - the study of the shape and layout of an area as defined by natural and man-made features; e.g. valleys, rivers, roads, boundaries.

Mullion - a vertical piece of stone or timber dividing a window into sections.

N

Nailhead - a style of moulding in the form of a small pyramid shaped projection, which when laid horizontally in a band form a string course.

Negative buildings - buildings that due to their location, scale, material, form or detailed design, are a negative intrusion on the area and which offer the potential for beneficial change that would enhance the character of the Conservation Area.

Neutral buildings - buildings which make neither a positive nor negative contribution to the character and appearance of a Conservation Area.

O

Ogee - a moulding shaped with a double curve.

Oriel - a window which is suspended from the face of the building.

Ovolar (or Ovolo) - a moulding section of a quarter circle.

P

Panel tracery - a late Medieval form of tracery characterised by subdivision of the window by strong vertical and horizontal members.

Pantile - a clay roofing tile with an 'S'-shaped profile.

Parapet - the upper part of a wall, often used to hide roofs and decorated for architectural effect; e.g. crenellated or battlemented in the form of a castle wall.

Party-line - the dividing wall between properties.

Paviors - small brick-like paving units.

Pediment - a triangular feature of classical buildings surmounting a portico, but often used on a smaller scale over doors and windows, which are then referred to as pedimented. When the upper sloping sides are curved it is called segmental. It may termed be broken or open when either the bottom horizontal or angled upper sides do not meet.

Pilaster - a flattened column used to frame door and window cases and shopfronts.

Planter - a container for holding plants.

Plat - a string course without mouldings.

Plinth - the base of a column or wall.

Portico - a grand entrance extending in front of the building line, usually defined by columns and surmounted by a pediment.

Q

Queen Anne Style - an architectural style of the late C19 century, related to the Arts & Crafts movement, and reviving Dutch style buildings of the reign of William and Mary (late C17).

Quoin - a corner of a building defined by contrasting or exaggerated materials.

R

Range - a line of buildings, often grouped around a courtyard.

Reveal - the area of masonry or frame visible between the outer face of a wall and a door or window which is set back from it.

Roughcast - a type of render of plaster or concrete with a rough surface finish.

Rubble stone - stonework left rough and unworked.

Rustication - stucco or stone blocks with large angled joints.

S

Salt glaze - a method of glazing brick or clay to give a glassy finish.

Sash window - a window that slides vertically on a system of cords and balanced weights.

Scale - Building scale refers to building elements and details as they proportionally relate to each other and to humans. Aspects of scale include: size (2D measurement); bulk (visual perception of the composition of shape of a building's massing); and mass (determined by volume, shape and form, relationship to neighbouring structures, building plot and relationship to streets).

Scorria block - a hard, durable engineering brick, looking like granite; used in paving, especially in gutters.

Scroll(work) - a circular or spiral decorative piece, representing a curved leaf, such as a bracket or the top of a column. If included in a decorative panel, it would be referred to as a scroll leaf panel.

Segmental - a section of a circle and the term applied to a curved element, e.g. above an arch or pediment.

Sett - a small block of hard stone, such as granite, used for paving.

Glossary of Terms continued

Setting - the setting of a heritage structure, site or area is defined as the immediate and extended environment that is part of, or contributes to, its significance and distinctive character. Beyond the physical and visual aspects, the setting includes interaction with the natural environment; past or present social or spiritual practices, customs, traditional knowledge, use or activities and other forms of intangible cultural heritage aspects that created and form the space as well as the current and dynamic cultural, social and economic context.

Significance - The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

Soldier band - a string course made up of bricks set with the long side vertical.

Soffit - the underside of eaves or other projection.

Spandrel - a blank area between arch supports or below a window.

Splayed - a bay window with angled sides.

Sprocket - a small supporting piece of stone or timber carrying a larger item such as a bracket.

Stable block - small square stone or clay pavior traditionally used as flooring in stables and similar buildings.

Stack - the part of the chimney breast visible above the roof.

Stile - the vertical sections of a door or window.

Stippled - the effect created by carving small depressions in the face of stone.

Stock brick - a traditional clay brick commonly used in house construction; often called London stocks because of the frequency of use locally. May be yellow or red in colour.

String course - a horizontal band in a wall, usually raised and often moulded.

Stucco - a lime based render applied to the exterior of a building. Often scored to imitate courses of masonry, then called channelled, and sometimes more deeply incised to give the appearance of roughly hewn stone, in which case it is rusticated.

Swag - a decorative carving representing a suspended cloth or curtain.

T

Tented - a roof structure shaped to look like a tent.

Tessellated tiles - small clay tiles or mosaics, geometrically shaped, and fitted together to make intricate formal designs; commonly used for front paths to houses.

Tetrastyle - a portico with four columns.

Toothed - a brick detail like a dentil in which bricks are alternately recessed and projected.

Topography - The physical form of an area defined by natural features and geographic elements such as rivers.

Tourelle - a small tower-like structure suspended from the corner of a building (also called a turret).

Tracery - delicately carved stonework usually seen in the windows of Gothic churches and cathedrals; various forms exist, including panel type.
69

Transom - a horizontal glazing bar in a window.

Trefoil - literally “three leaves”, thus relating to any decorative element with the appearance of a clover leaf.

Tuscan - a plain, unadorned column.

Tympanum - the space between a lintel and an arch above a door.

U

Unlisted building making a positive contribution to the street scene

- Buildings that are not designated assets but which, due to their local architectural or historic interest or forming part of a group, contribute to or enhance our appreciation of local character and historic development. These are buildings which make a positive contribution to the overall character and sense of place of the Conservation Area. They form a material consideration in planning meaning that their preservation and sensitive adaptation will be encouraged through the planning process.

V

Venetian - a window composed of three openings or lights within the frame, the central light arched, the two flanking with flat heads.

Vernacular - based on local and traditional construction methods, materials and decorative styles.

Views - Within the scope of Conservation Area appraisals, views are discussed in terms of location from a view to a specific landmark, or panorama incorporating a series of features (natural or built) is possible. For the view to have value and therefore merit consideration within planning, the features within the view should be worthy of conservation or contribute to our understanding of the place and its setting.

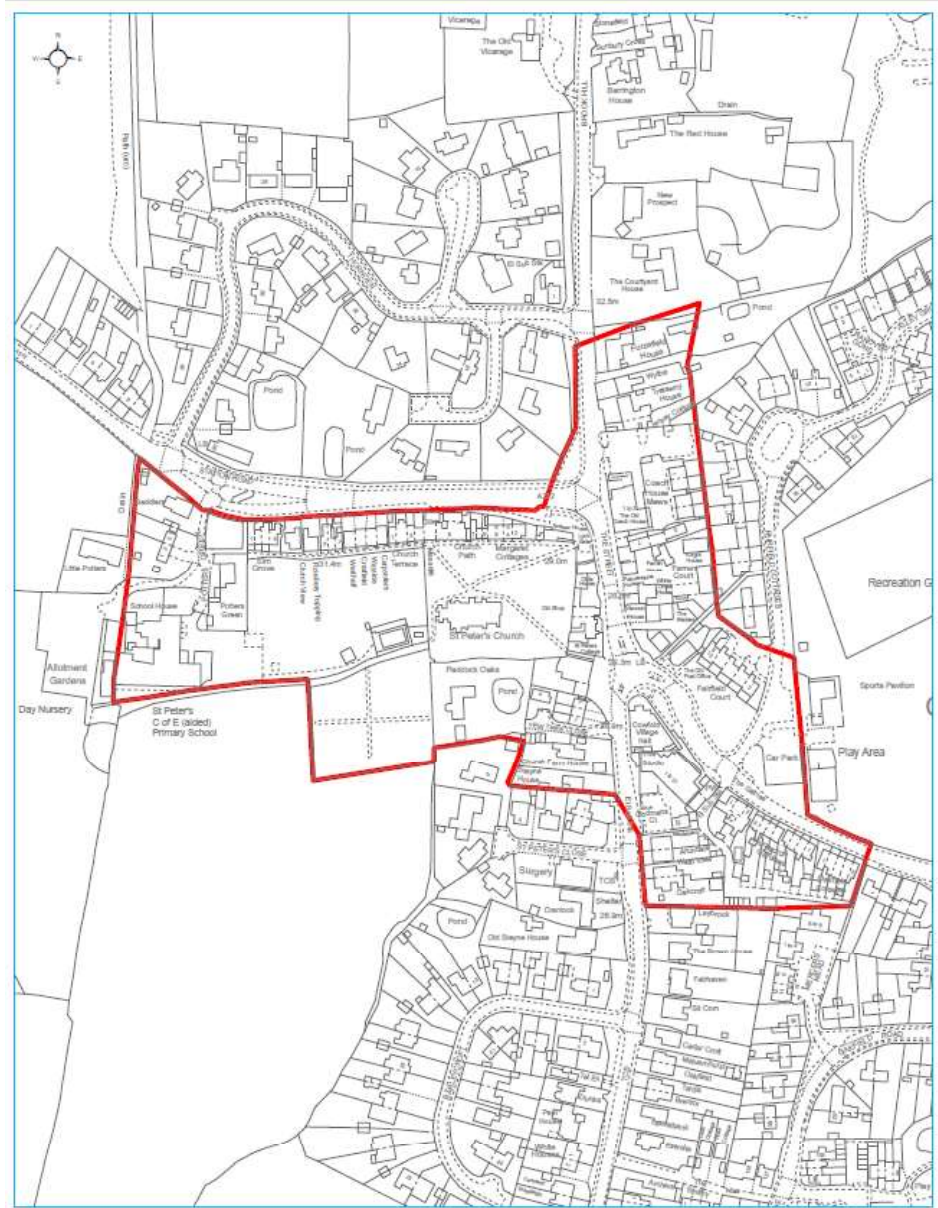
Vousoir - the shaped bricks or stones over a window forming a head or arch.

W

Weatherboarding - overlapping timber boards cladding the outside of a building.

Window - an opening to allow light and air into a building which has developed into a significant element of architectural design; collectively referred to as fenestration. The form of opening determines the type of window; most common are sashes, which slide vertically, and casements, which are side hinged and open inwards or outwards. Those with a side light are said to have margins. A window may be projected from the building frontage, and termed a bay or bow (if curved), or oriel if suspended above ground. The top is usually defined by an arch. A dormer is one set into the roof slope.

Map of Conservation Area



Cowfold Conservation Area

Reference:	Scale: 1:2,500 (at A4)
Date: 25/03/2026	Revision:

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