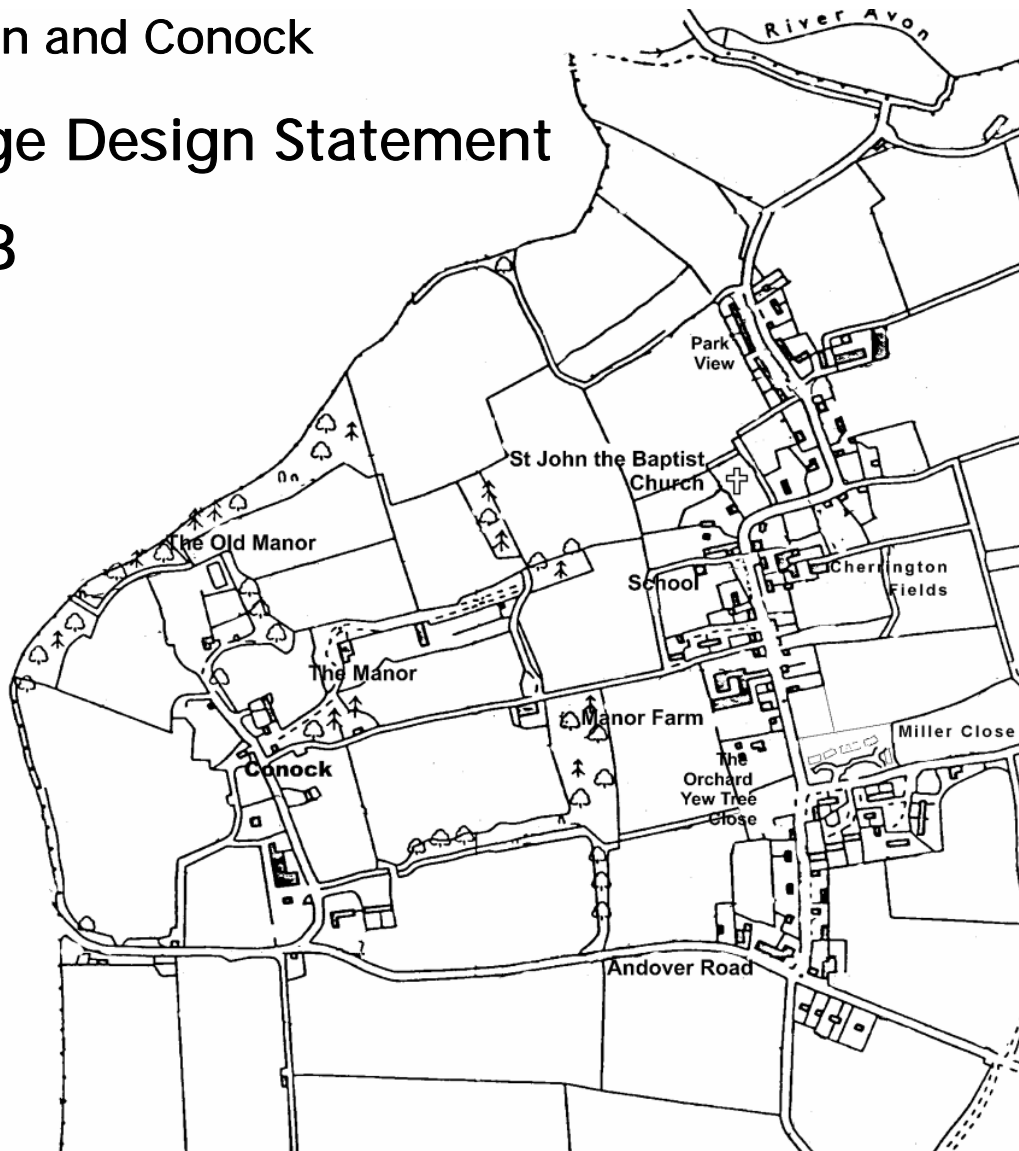


Chirton and Conock
Village Design Statement
2008



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Introduction

The purpose of the Village Design Statement is to identify and record those special qualities of Chirton and Conock which make up their architectural and historic character. It further specifies the qualities and characteristics that the people of those villages value, and aims to ensure that when any future development is planned it is in keeping with both the needs of the people and with the overall features of the villages which give them their unique identity.

This Village Design Statement was adopted by Kennet District Council, as an emerging supplementary planning document, on 25th September 2008 for the purposes of development control. Supplementary planning documents (SPD) provide guidance on the interpretation and implementation of policies and proposals contained in the local development framework (LDF). Currently, Policy HC22 of the adopted Kennet Local Plan provides the policy context for development in Chirton and Conock. This policy will be replaced when the Wiltshire unitary authority adopts a new Wiltshire wide core strategy as part of its LDF. At that time, the authority will confirm the village design statement as a supplementary planning document, provided it is considered to conform with the LDF.

Government policy states that a SPD may be taken into account as a material consideration. The Secretary of State will give substantial weight to SPD when making decisions on matters that come before her, providing that it is consistent with the development plan, and has been prepared in the proper manner. Paragraph 18 of Planning Policy Statement 3 – Housing, states that “to facilitate efficient delivery of high quality development, Local Planning Authorities should draw on relevant guidance and standards and promote the use of appropriate tools and techniques, such as Design Coding alongside urban design guidelines, detailed masterplans, village design statements, site briefs and community participation techniques.



Background

Chirton

Location and brief description of Chirton

Location

Chirton is near the centre of Wiltshire just off the A342 Andover Road 5 miles from Devizes and 3.5 miles from Upavon. It lies about 1 mile from the north scarp slope of Salisbury Plain set on the southern edge of the Vale of Pewsey.

Brief description

Chirton, population circa 300, is a medium sized village of linear form based on three farm-yard groups and a church. In the south a lane off the A342 leads to The Street where a large active farmyard, cottages and houses are well spaced along the road. A particular feature is the wide green verges continuous up to the churchyard where mature trees, hedges and mellow brick walls form an attractive enclosure. The central farmyard has been redeveloped as a residential group, and along The Street former orchards and meadows in the south and east have been filled with residential development. To the north, the former Plummers Farm extends east into meadowland, and adjacent cottages are set into one side of a steep banked narrow lane leading down to the clay vale and across the narrow river Avon.



The Street and the distant Salisbury Plain

In 1845 the farms and small holdings of the Froxfield and Heytesbury estates were merged with Chirton Manor Farm which in 1970 was reckoned to be more than 400 acres. The estate land agent lived at the Old Manor.

In the 13th century the remaining third of land at Chirton was acquired from the Earl of Hereford, through a Ralph de Ralegh, by the Knights Templars and passed to the Knights Hospitallers. The former erected a chapel and paid a chaplain there until the Dissolution. From then on it remained in the King's hand until 1564, when it was granted to Sir Francis Knollys. Then by inheritance to 1678 when it was conveyed by gift to Sarah, Duchess of Somerset, who arranged that it should be part of her endowment of the ladies' almshouses at Froxfield.

In 1864 the Froxfield estate at Chirton was reckoned to be 269 acres. In 1589 a farm of 140 acres known as Court Place was conveyed by John Curll for the benefit of the poor of Bradford on Avon. In 1899 the trustees of the Bradford charity sold 90 acres to the War Department but retained 50 acres that were later sold to and merged with Chirton Farm.

Today the village could generally be described as having a balanced mix of age groups, professional people, with many having families who go to the local schools. The greater proportion of houses are privately owned, very few are rented and residents tend to remain long-term, many having lived in the village for more than 20 years, and some all their lives.

Origins and history

Chirton was also known as 'Cherrington' until the 20th century and is closely associated with Conock in the parish to the west. The name is derived from the Old English '*cirice-tun*' meaning 'farmstead by the church' which would mean that there was a church in the village before 1170, the date of the present parish church of St. John the Baptist.



Cherrington Field with the old barn in the foreground

The farm closest to the church was until very recently still known as Chirton Farm although its agricultural use has now ceased. Agriculture had been the chief business of the village, however, more recently Plummers Farm has also been sold and Manor Farm now remains the only working farm in the village.

Before the Norman Conquest, Almar a Saxon thane held land at Chirton for King Edward the Confessor. At the conquest Almar was dispossessed and by 1086 the Domesday Book recorded village land as having passed to Durand, Sheriff of Gloucester, under the Earl of

Hereford. In the 13th century the estate was divided into three. Hereford granted two thirds of the estate including the mill to Lanthony Priory in Gloucestershire.



The Old Manor

In 1635 Sir Richard Uvedale conveyed estate land acquired from the crown at the Dissolution to Heytesbury Hospital. This land was retained by the charity until the late 19th century when there were three farms and various leaseholds reckoned at about 500 acres. The agent for the Heytesbury Estates lived at The Old Manor.



Yew Tree Cottage of the late 16th century.

A vicarage in Chirton was first mentioned in 1609 and as described in 1677 is identifiable as Yew Tree Cottage. From 1923 this house was replaced as the vicarage by an early 19th century house now known as The Old Vicarage situated adjacent to the church until it was sold as a private dwelling in 1999.

From 1923 the vicar of Chirton also presided at Marden, and in 1951 a united benefice of Chirton and Marden was held in plurality with Patney. Today Chirton is associated with five other parishes in the Redhorn Team Ministry.

In 1845 Heytesbury Hospital conveyed land to build a National School on the north east corner of The Street. It was built with funds raised by the Reverend George Cleather and opened in 1848. In 1871 there were 32 pupils attending. By 1906 there were 71 and in



Chirton School

1910 a larger play ground was provided in a meadow across the road when the school building was extended over the playground. Temporary buildings were provided on the meadow site in the 1970s when 40 pupils were attending. In 2003 there were only 26 pupils, however the latest figures in 2008 show a growing school with 35 pupils in the primary school of whom 15 are Chirton children, and 16 children in the pre-school of whom 11 are from Chirton.



Early 19th century. 'The Barracks' once with chimneys and thatched.

A building on the north west corner of The Street known in recent times as 'The Barracks' was built by the Heytesbury Hospital estate in the early 19th century as low cost housing for labourers and their families.

Apart from farming, W Adams of Conock, a clockmaker, worked in the parish around 1738, and a bakery stood on the north east corner of The Street up to the early 20th century but is now converted to a house. The Stones family was threshing contractors, the Giddings were thatchers and in 1878 there were two smithies. Martin Bowyer, a joiner now has a small factory off the Andover Road. As at 2008 Plummers Farm outbuildings are to be refurbished and leased out for diverse purposes, thereby bringing potential further business to Chirton.

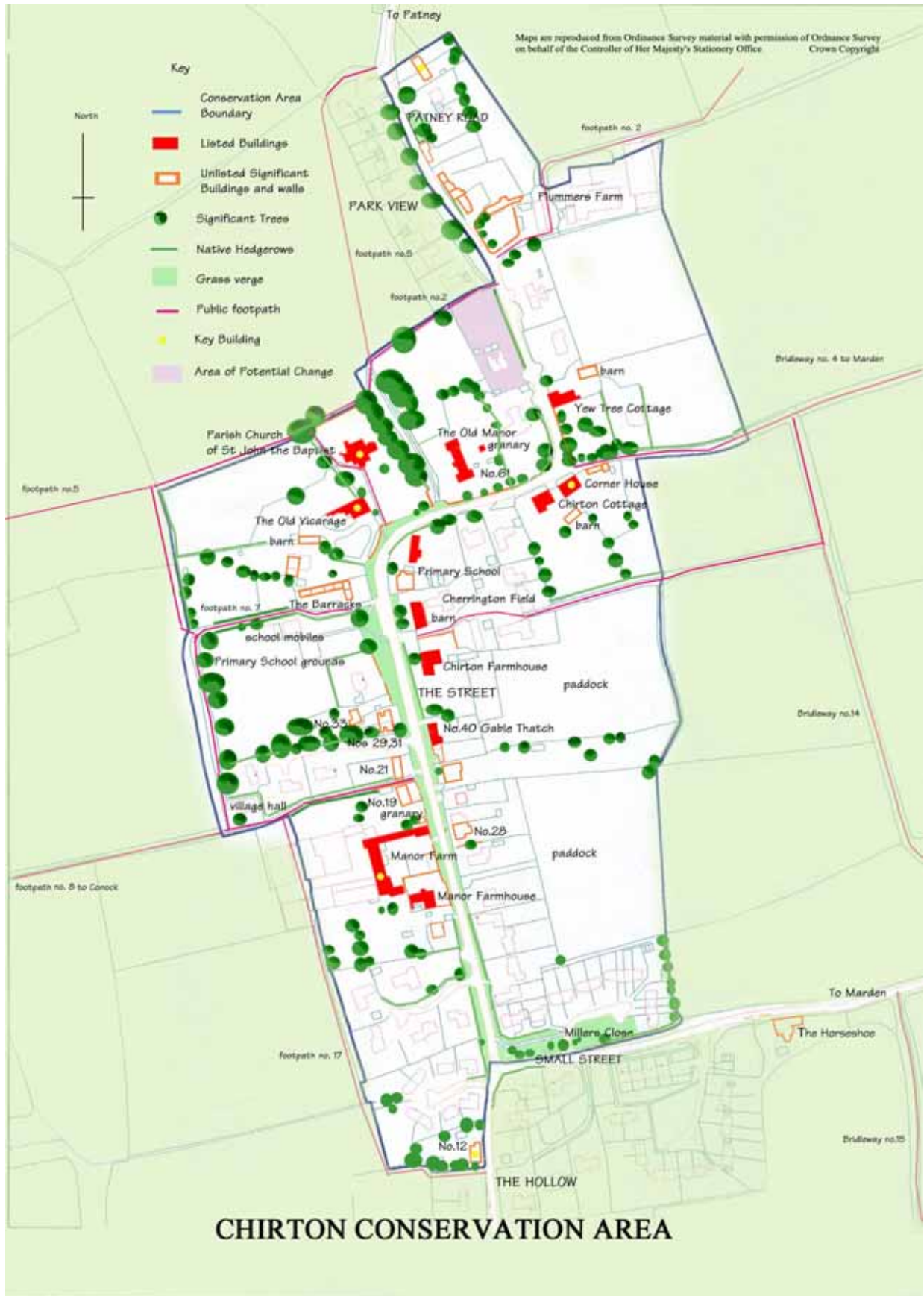


The Wiltshire Yeoman

The village also supports a public house 'The Wiltshire Yeoman' off the main Andover Road but there has been no shop for more than 15 years and the car dealership and filling station transferred to Devizes in 2000.

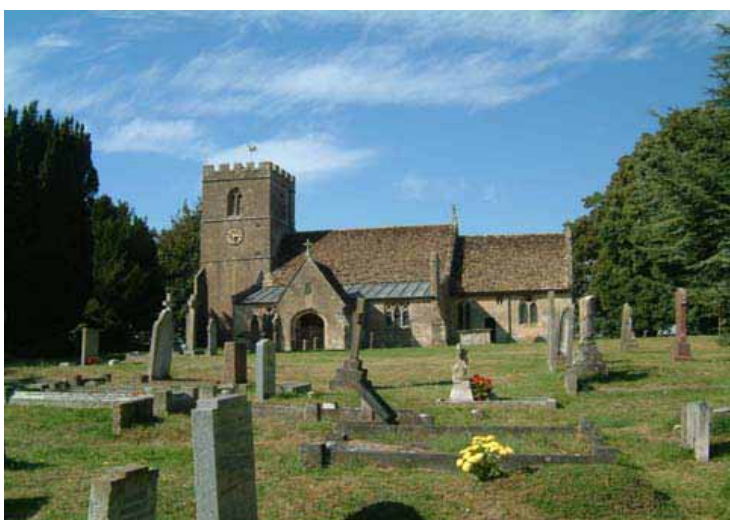
Landscape setting and geology

Chirton is a spring line village in the Vale of Pewsey on the greensand slopes below the dominant north facing escarpment of Salisbury Plain. It is within rich agricultural land on various soils. Large arable fields predominate in the south on chalk, and meadows on greensand adjoin the east and west of the village. To the west there is the woodland of Conock Manor and Conock Old Manor. Below a slope north of the village, the pasture is on the alluvial river and valley gravels, bounded by a strong field pattern of mature hedgerow and trees. To the south in the 20th century the village was extended along The Hollow to the Andover Road. This was historically a muddy tree-lined lane leading from the farmyards through the greensand across the spring-line stream to the arable land on the lower chalk in the south. In the centre of the village the straight Street bends sharply east to follow a ridge outcrop of upper greensand that, bounded by tree groups adjacent to the churchyard, separate much of the village from the countryside of the clay vale to the north. Chirton is within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Chirton's architectural character in the conservation area

The village though originally evolving east-west along the lane between Conock and Marden has developed since the 18th century between the three farmsteads beside the lanes that lead to Patney in the north, and to the turnpike road in the south. The principal farm is Manor Farm in the south, that occupies a long frontage on The Street. In the centre the former Chirton Farm is included in the main historic group with the Parish Church, the Old Manor, the school and several pre-Victorian houses and cottages including the two former vicarages. To the north is the former Plummers Farm.



The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist built 1170

The Parish Church was consecrated on St. John the Baptist's day 1170 and the nave roof, nave arcades, south door, chancel arch and font are all of that period. The walls are of limestone ashlar and dressings, with the roofs of the nave and chancel in stone tiles and the side aisle roofs of lead. Several windows in the south aisle are of the 14th century decorated style as is the inner part of the south doorway and the east window in the north aisle. The square tower is of the 15th century in three stages with angled buttresses and a crenellated parapet. Complementing the tower is the steeply roofed south porch also 15th century. The railings and the church gate on The Street were presented in 1848 by the vicar the Rev'd George Parker Cleather. Much of the chancel, the octagonal pulpit and the base of the font were installed during the mid 19th century restoration under the direction of the architect William Butterfield.

Adjoining the churchyard to the west is an early 19th century house - the Old Vicarage - of 2 storeys it has a symmetrical brick façade and chimneys, sash windows, lattice porch and a low pitched slate roof. Attached to the rear is a late 19th century block extended to the side and extended again in the late 20th century. The grounds contain a substantial thatched roofed

single storey weather-boarded outbuilding and a good variety of mature trees and shrubs. The house façade is key to views from The Street and the low curved roadside brick wall, the high hedge and garden behind, all enhance the centre of the village.



The Old Vicarage c1800

The village is generally without pavements, but instead there are wide green roadside verges that extend over the length of The Street. These give the village its strong rural character.



Wide grass verges are feature of the Street that leads directly to the Parish Church

The first house on the west side, set well back within a large front garden, is a late 18th century house of double banked plan. It has a symmetrical façade of brick with chimneys at each end of a relatively low pitched roof. In 1887 the house accommodated the village Post Office. Adjacent to it is the blank brick wall of the 'L' shaped 2-storey block of seven cottages known as 'The Barracks'. These are unusually narrow, of single aspect and without windows in the north and west walls. The steep hipped roofs, covered now in concrete tiles

were once thatched and had chimneys. The south side yard originally included privies and a pump house. The cottages are now fully renovated with indoor sanitation, traditional casements, well-proportioned porches and half-glazed front doors. They are mostly part of Kennet Housing Association's stock although one or two are now privately owned. Mesh and concrete fences define the front gardens of the cottages. The buildings are interesting assets to the village.

Opposite is Chirton School completed in 1848. As a single storey brick building it was originally of one room divided by a curtain into separate girls and boys classes. It has the typical steep tiled roof and pointed arch casements of the mid-Victorian school. The clay tiles are partly of the shaped scallop pattern. Set well back behind the wide verge, it was originally clear of the mud of the un-mettled Street. In 1910 the school was extended towards the road with a second classroom and a lean-to lobby. The extension has a similar steep tiled roof to the original but the building materials and the tall casement window are different, but harmonious. Roadside barriers were added more recently around the entrance as a safety measure.

Southward along the verge is Chirton Farmhouse which is a grade II listed building of interesting construction. Originally of 17th century timber frame construction it was first built in two bays about a central chalkstone chimney stack with lobby entrance. In the 18th century, due to timber decay in the lower structure, brick was introduced above the greensand base and to the chimney stack. In the 19th century a 2 storey south extension was added entirely of brick with a gable chimney and a new front door with a blind panel above. The steep thatched roof provides space in a void and there is an attic lit by a narrow gable window.



Chirton Farmhouse

Set well back on the open grass verge No.40 The Street is also listed of the 17th century and also originally of timber frame. It too has only two bays with a north chimney but has been extended south with a third short bay over a former well. The third dormer is closely spaced and the whole roof thatched in 'long straw'.



17th century Gable Thatch and the brick 19th century Crooked Cottage

When the frame decayed it was replaced in greensand stone built up to eaves. Also the rear wall was built up in chalk with some cob in a rear lean-to. During the 19th century it was divided into two cottages and a second entrance formed. This north doorway is now redundant, covered by shrubs and the two cottages restored to one house. The woodshed lean-to has had a succession of fronts; single door with boarding, double doors and now a casement window. The whole building is painted white and the long history of alterations is almost concealed.

Opposite Chirton Farmhouse there was a paddock with only a few buildings within its old hedge boundaries. Now the school annex occupies much of it in the north and west. A bungalow now forms a frontage onto The Street and this is well set back behind a brick wall and verge.

Pear Tree Cottage No.33 The Street is thatched and set so far back on a narrow plot as to be almost hidden by its modern garage and high hedging to the side. Although unlisted it was originally 18th century in brick construction over one small and one large bay against a gable chimney, with narrow casements of 19th century pattern. 20th century extensions have been attached to the chimney gable and at the rear. The door has been relocated in the south extension and all the brickwork painted white.



Pear Tree Cottage 18th and 20th century

On the south side is a tarmac drive to three modern brick and tiled roof houses in the backland behind a low ranch fence but concealed by shrubs. The grassy drive opening, the frontage cottages and the trees are an asset to The Street.

Further south are two more brick cottages of the early and mid 19th century. These face the wide verge of the Street across walled small front gardens.



Mid 19th century cottages



No. 19 The Street early 19th century cottage

No. 19 is early 19th century and has a steep pitched roof for thatch but is now tiled. It has the casements and the blind panel over the door found to be common in the former Heytesbury Hospital Estate. The south extension is an integral outhouse of the 20th century.

Within the garden of No.19 and almost completely overgrown is an 18th century granary on staddlestones. Once part of the Manor Farm yard group it is an interesting building.



Granary belonging to No.19

Between the mid 19th century cottages and No.19 is the signposted footpath to Conock and the village hall, well enclosed by privet hedges.

No.34 The Street even though much altered is interesting as it too has the blind panel over the door, in the style of the Heytesbury Hospital Estate, in the upper brickwork. The roof is steeply pitched for thatch with a gable chimney at one end and a full hip at the other. The front wall has a toothed plat band and there is a substantial rear stack.



No.34 The Street early 19th century

20th century alterations include a rear extension, casements of reduced height and a diminished gable stack. The front garden walls are concrete block enhanced by a covering of cotoneaster.

No.28 is a mid 19th century brick villa of elegant and symmetrical proportions with low pitched slate roof, chimneys on the rear slope, 12 pane sash windows and a six panel door. The doorway has glazed door top panels and a semi circular blind fanlight. Its small front

garden, set back on the verge, is enclosed by a part greensand stone and brick low wall curved to the drive entrance.



Nos.30 and 28 The Street. An early 19th century cottage attached to a mid 19th century villa

The house adjoins an earlier cottage No.30 it has casement windows and the steeper early slate roof, good brickwork with vitrified headers and the familiar blind panel of the former Heytesbury Hospital Estate.

Manor Farm is the most important farm in the village with possibly the largest acreage. It was historically the employer of more labour than any other in the district. The combined length of the two late 18th century traditional barns and the vast area of the yard are quite exceptional. Unusually the two barns are joined by an open sided midstre through which wagons could unload in shelter, or pass through to the rick yard behind.



Traditional farmyard buildings of Manor Farm

Also in the group are a carriage house, staddlestone cow byres and stables that complete a quadrangled yard. There is a self contained stock shed and pen backing on to The Street. The two storey stable and hayloft with part of the single storey range have been converted to a dwelling.



The converted stable and hayloft

The farmhouse of 1843 is a successor to a thatched original house burned down and was itself apparently remodeled after a fire in 1900. The front door was re-set on the side to face the farmyard and blind stone panels installed at the front. The constructional detail is of unusually high quality in the villa style of the period. The casement windows have stone mullions with label moulds to lintels over the ground floor. The small porch is entirely stone walled with a slate roof.



Manor Farmhouse of 1843 and altered in 1900

From Manor Farmhouse south on both sides of The Street, the wide green verges and native beech hedges are of special quality, and its unusually long straight length is of particular character. Historically there were off to each side orchards and paddocks, where the small developments of modern houses in The Orchard and Yew Tree Close, now stand. A stream beside Small Street watered withy beds at the foot of The Hollow, while water meadows lay to the west of The Street.

Most of the land, to a lesser or greater depth off both sides of The Street, is developed with late 20th century detached houses. Many were permitted under the provisions of the Devizes Local Plan of the late 1980s that encouraged housing development in several villages around the town to support local services then provided in the village.



Late 20th century development along The Street has long wide grass verges and mixed hedges

Miller Close off Small Street built in the late 1990s is an example of what was originally affordable housing in the village.



Miller Close

No.12 The Hollow is an isolated small villa type of cottage of the early 19th century but now surrounded by 20th century housing development. It is of good architectural quality of some interest. It has an almost pyramid hip roof covered by original slates and a central chimney stack of four flues. There are original sashes at ground level and casement windows on the first floor. Its single storey extension is not original but overall its quality and setting among yew trees is an asset to the village.



No. 12 The Hollow

Going north of the school and opposite the parish church is the Old Bakehouse, a former shop and post office that closed more than 20 years ago. There is a second entrance, now with a matching gabled porch to the original doorway that, together with the single storey flat roofed side extension, are echoes of its former shop use.



The Old Bakehouse late 18th century

As a listed building its origins are 18th century when it was almost certainly thatched, it has a steep pitched roof now covered in clay Bridgewater tiles. To the rear there are 20th century casement windows in a 2-storey extension with an entirely modern roof. The grounds have mature trees, hedges and shrubs that together with the wisteria covered mellow brick house are an asset to the area.

The Street turns sharply east at the church to pass through a pleasant area of mature trees, mellow brick walls and historic buildings: The Old Manor and its granary, Chirton Cottage and its barn opposite and finally the Corner House, before turning north to pass Yew Tree Cottage. The high brick wall with stone ball finials, a pavement with stone kerbs, then a high hedge with trees on the north side, extending as far as the large willow beyond Yew Tree Cottage, all further enhance The Street.

The Old Manor is an interesting listed building of several periods originating in the 15th century when it was constructed as a timber frame on a malmstone plinth with a steeply pitched roof for thatch, but now covered in Bridgewater clay tiles. Parts of the timber frame are exposed on the north side of the front range and on a gable to the side. The south façade is symmetrical of the early 19th century, with a central entrance and flanking sixteen pane sash windows which are also repeated on the west. The 18th century brick skin of the central range conceals smoke blackened roof timbers and the chalkstone chimney stack. A small scale extension to the north-west was added in the late 20th century.



The Old Manor fronting onto one of the few roadside footways in the village

The small 18th century brick granary in the garden is thatched over a half hipped roof. It is an interesting survivor of an historic agricultural building type once common in the village. Adjacent to the Corner House is Chirton Cottage which was, in the 18th century, a relatively small 2 bay thatched cottage, parallel with The Street, with a gable stack and an added

entrance bay. A rear extension was added before 1887 and was itself extended again recently. In the grounds is a simple agricultural building that is interesting, being both thatched and timber clad. It is reputed to have been a sheep shearing shed.

The Corner House is well named and well sited on the corner of The Street closing the view on the approach to the centre of the village from the north. The mid 19th century building has a well proportioned 2-storey symmetrical façade and low pitched roof typical of the brick and slate villa style house usual in the area.



Yew Tree Cottage and the distant Corner House

Yew Tree Cottage is almost certainly the house described in the parish records of 1677 as the vicarage. At that time it was a relatively new building. Its timber framed walls and steep pitched thatched roof were typical of the period, with internally original panelling of the early 17th century. Extensive alterations were carried out in the early 19th century including brickwork to walls, a brick extension at the rear, new staircase, a remodelling of the parlour with new fireplace, and the alteration of ground floor casements to bow sash windows with shutters. The addition of the decorative fascia and bargeboards was probably later in the 19th century. The garden, with several mature trees, lies to the south of the front and is enclosed by a high brick wall with an iron gate - the front parallel to the road. Native hedges and low walls define the south and east boundaries.

Further north several pairs of mid 20th century farm cottages are loosely sited in large plots along the road behind native hedging. Those on the east side are set into and on the bank. Plummers farmhouse and yard lie back and above the road on the north facing hillside. The house is mainly of the early 19th century with the Heytesbury Hospital Estate blind brick panel over the door, plain clay tile roof and wide casement windows. The smaller scale east wing is somewhat earlier with a largely vitrified brick façade in header bond and the tall gable

stack of a former thatched roof. The verandah roof attached to the main façade seems to be a 20th century addition. A few domestic scale sheds near the house are of the traditional brick and tile. However most of the farm buildings are of the steel and concrete framed type of a modern dairy unit. These extend east out onto the hill side of open pasture, and are dominant on the skyline.



Plummers Farmhouse

From the farm the lane descends sharply, from the buttressed brick garden wall between greensand banks, down to Ivy Cottage. This is set back from the lane almost under the west gable of the farmhouse. Trees in the steep cottage garden include a tall eucalyptus and a native hedge encloses the front. The cottage is of early 18th century brick in two bays with a good long straw thatched roof and a long side lean-to covered in slate. Both gables support a chimney stack, the windows are small 2-light 6 pane casements and the central door is covered by a timber gabled porch.



Ivy Cottage and high above the west gable of Plummers Farmhouse

The farmhouse, the traditional outbuildings, the garden wall, and its unusual relationship to Ivy Cottage are of special character.

Adjoining Ivy Cottage in the Patney Road is a row of three late 19th century cottages built of unrelieved red brick and slate. The row stands directly on the edge of the lane opposite an unstable greensand bank. The road here is at its narrowest point through the village. After a gap for parking spaces there is a detached cottage of slightly earlier 19th century construction.



The pair of Edwardian cottages

On the north edge the village is a pair of early 20th century cottages set back from the lane behind a wide grass verge planted with a substantial weeping willow.

The cottages are unaltered of brick with finely barred casement windows and a central door in a recessed porch. The tiled roof has low eaves with, at the front, a large gabled semi-dormer over a wide central window. This is divided internally to light both first floor front rooms, one of which also has a narrow casement in the gable. The casement is one of a pair on each side of the gable chimney. The gable and central chimney stacks have moulded brick corbels and flues with pots for all the rooms.



The approach to Chirton from Patney

The narrow lane with the tree lined high bank is of strong rural character and a distinctive feature of the village. The various cottages, particularly Ivy Cottage and the Edwardian pair, together with the trees and verges are a good introduction to the Conservation Area.

Building materials and details

The earliest surviving walls in the Conservation Area are of cob and of greensand stone. The latter have formed the base walls of timber framed structures which were once prevalent in the village. Gable Thatch at No.40 The Street is an example of a timber framed structure clad externally with cob at the rear and replaced with the base greensand stone wall built right up to eaves at the front. Timber frames were originally panelled with wattle and daub on the outside and a lime and hair plaster internally. The Old Manor is an example that still has the external remnants of a timber frame on a greensand stone plinth but is essentially now of brick.



Gable Thatch (left) with the front wall completely of greensand stone and Thistledown Cottage (right) of red and vitrified bricks and a roof of Welsh slate.

Gable Thatch and Thistledown Cottage

Several buildings that appear to be built of brick were originally constructed with a timber framed structure. In most cases replacement of the exterior frame wall has been in stages; first under-building together with lower panels replaced in brick, then an upper cladding in brick and finally complete exterior wall rebuilding in brick. Parts of the frame usually survive in the roof, upper floors and interior walls. Chirton Farmhouse and Yew Tree Cottage are examples of this and each have a major extension entirely of brick. Cob was also used for second rate building walls and boundary walls up to the 19th century but survive now in only a few cottages concealed by render or plaster.

Much of the village was rebuilt or built in brick from the late 18th to the mid 19th century, a period of agricultural affluence brought about by a demand for home-grown foodstuffs during the Napoleonic wars. Brick was becoming increasingly cheap and available from clay pits opening locally. Inexpensive slate could be obtained from Wales by way of coastal

shipping and the Kennet and Avon canal newly opened in 1810-11. Later in the 19th century clay tiles from Bridgewater were also competitively priced. Both provided a permanent incombustible roof that could be laid to a lower pitch with a more economical roof structure than thatch.



The 18th century granary at the Old Manor

Thatch however remained predominant as the roofing material because of the abundance of straw produced at every harvest in the parish itself. It continues as the most important traditional roofing material in the village despite alternatives. Many early roof structures cannot be economically strengthened to carry any other material and thatch must be preserved if existing on listed buildings.

Examples of early 19th century brick buildings are common and the Heytesbury Hospital Estate was responsible for much of the work. Former estate buildings used similar patterns of red and vitrified bricks for window jambs and cambered heads or plat bands of two or three courses. Also the recessed blind panel of vitrified bricks in the red brickwork above the door was another feature of former estate built housing.

The traditional materials of many agricultural buildings before the mid 19th century were much the same as for domestic buildings. Granaries for example were relatively small, cottage-like structures.



19th century barns at Manor Farm

Timber framed construction for the large storage and threshing barn was traditional and continued long after this form of construction ceased to be popular for domestic buildings. On the farm the industrial revolution helped to boost agricultural production and new large timber barns were built for the bulk storage of grain and feed. The barns at Manor Farm are examples of the early 19th century type.



Manor farm south barn, original wide board cladding and loading hatches in the midstrey

A special feature of the buildings is the unusual midstrey, a roofed but open sided bay joining the barns end to end for the shelter of wagons loading. Hatches at different levels allowed for wagons with loads at different heights. The hinged hatch covers and the cross walls are original and of a type and detail to be particularly worthy of preservation.

The architecture of houses lying outside the conservation area

Situated on the main Devizes to Andover Road, which forms the southern boundary to the village, are several 2 storey and single storey houses, together with three commercial premises. Mostly of mid 1900s construction the houses are of variations of red brick and tiled roof design. Exceptions to this is 'Sunnyside' which is thought to have been built around 1890 and extended to the front and back in 1949 to house a shop. A coal business was operated from the premises, but it was a village store until the 1950s. Further along 'The Wiltshire Yeoman', a Wadworth's public house, is believed to date from around 1870. Of red brick and tiled roof construction with casement windows to the front and rear of the building, it has been extended several times and has a separate annex housing a skittle alley.

Going north on the east side of The Hollow are four 2 storey chalet bungalows, from the 1970s, of red brick construction with tiled roofs and two new builds of 2007, constructed in keeping with those built previously. Four modern 2 storey houses built in the late 1990s then follow and the last two of those four are sited on the corner of The Hollow and Small Street.

Going east into Small Street on the Marden Road, there is a small development of some 14 houses originally built in 1951 for the local district council. One or two have now been purchased privately, but this development of Cornish type houses built with an outer skin of interlocked concrete blocks, largely remain as Kennet stock. In 1971 a line of 4 bungalows were built by the council specifically for pensioners and in 2004 a terrace of three houses and a small bungalow were also built as part of Kennet's housing schemes.

Moving on further toward Marden the final house in the village on this road is 'The Horseshoes', it is believed to have been built in about 1800. Of brick built construction with tiled roof and casement windows, its brickwork is both painted and partially rendered. In early 2000 a sympathetic porchway was added and further enhancements of double garage have been added at some earlier point by the owners. It was originally a coaching inn called 'The Three Horseshoes' sited on the Warminster to Marlborough road. It survived as an inn until 1958 when it was sold by Ushers Brewery and closed as a public house in 1966. At some point the building served as a blacksmith's shop.

Flora and fauna

Chirton is surrounded by pastureland and meadows and it lies to the north of the Salisbury Plain as previously mentioned. Apart from the grass verges which are a feature of the village, many varieties of mature trees and hedges add to the beauty of the environment and certainly contribute to the village's designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Hedges, banks and mature trees

The hedges and banks surrounding the houses in the north of the village form a strong enclosure of the street. Mature trees in autumn are of particular quality.

Numerous public footpaths lead through fields, woodland and so on into other surrounding villages and make walking an absolute delight in the area. Naturally many varieties of birds and wildlife are to be seen as a result.



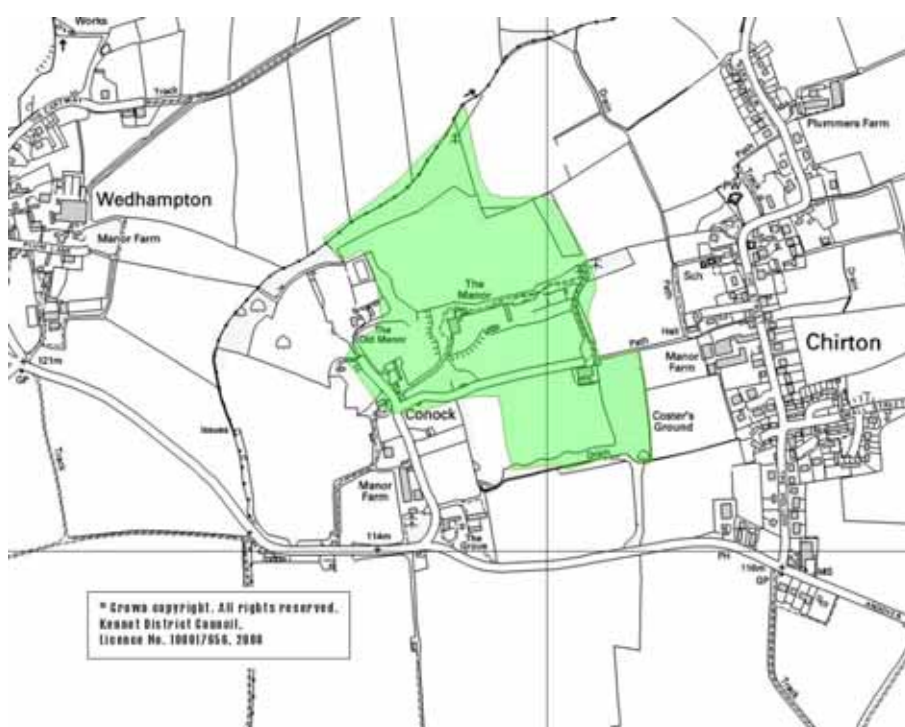
Parallel belts of mixed sycamore and ash behind the churchyard and the Old Manor

Conock

Location and brief description of Conock

Location

Conock a site of some 43 hectares, lies in the parish of Chirton, to the south east of Devizes along the A342 between Wedhampton and Chirton. The site lies on a gently sloping mound surrounded by farmland and bounded to the south by the A342.



Map of Conock showing parkland

Brief description

A large part of the hamlet of Conock is designated as an historic park and garden, and much of the remaining part is farmland, both in the ownership of the Sykes Trust. In total there are 16 houses in the hamlet – three are lived in by members of the Sykes family, one remains in the ownership of the Ewelme Trust, a further six properties are independently owned, and the remaining 6 are rented from the same trust, one of which is the farmhouse, which has been lived in by three generations of a farming family. Two further families are long term, one of whom recently purchased The Old Manor from the Ewelme Trust. Other residents have come to Conock more recently, and this at least, to some extent, is a result of the high proportion of rented properties. In addition, however, there has been quite a large turnover of people in

the hamlet over these last five years; Conock Cottage, still owned by the Ewelme Trust had enjoyed the same tenant for a period of almost 40 years until 2001, and another rented property attached to the farm had also had a long term tenant. Residents could very broadly be described as middle aged, but there are one or two more elderly people, and currently three young families with children.

Origins and history

At the time of the Domesday survey, the abbot of St. Mary's Gretrain in upper Normandy, held land later known as the manor of Conock, from the Count of Mortain. By the end of the 13th century, this land was administered from a Gretrain priory in Sussex.

Conock has two manor houses: Conock Manor and Conock Old Manor. There was a house on the site of Conock Manor in the 15th century, but the present house appears to have been built at the beginning of the 18th century, during the tenancy of the Warriner family. The first lease, in fact, was taken by Isaac Warriner in the early 1720s, succeeded by Gifford Warriner in 1752. After Gifford's death in 1787, his son who had the same name, took over the lease of Conock Manor, and moved there from neighbouring Conock Old Manor. The latter was built around 1710.

In 1817, after the son had moved to the new Conock Manor, he commissioned the architect Richard Ingleman of Southwell in Nottinghamshire, who a few years earlier had designed the county jail in Devizes, to add two single storey wings which included a rustic dairy with a veranda. During this period the landscape was laid out in the Picturesque style, embracing The Old Manor, Manor Farm and various other estate buildings. The park was surrounded by a belt of trees and planted with oval and circular shaped tree clumps, and was given a new drive with a rustic lodge, and two *cottages ornee*.

In 1841 the Warriner lease of Conock Manor was sold to Stephen Mills, and subsequently there was a succession of tenants. In 1925 the lease of Conock Manor was taken by Colonel Robert and Mrs. Smith-Barry, who made various alterations and lived there until 1941. It was possibly during this period that Conock Manor and Conock Old Manor ceased being leased by the same family.

During the second World War, Conock Manor became a hostel for the Women's Land Army. In 1945 the Ewelme Trust sold the freehold of Conock Manor to Sir Frederick Sykes, whose predecessors were former lessees of the Trust. Conock Old Manor and the other estate properties were subsequently sold separately.

Landscape and architectural setting

The main entrance to Conock lies to the north side of the A342. Conock lane, formerly known as 'The Street', runs for approximately a third of a mile in a northerly direction from the main road, ending at the entrance to the Old Manor House. A second entrance, about 200 metres to the west, proceeds in a northerly direction to the Manor Farmhouse. From there, sweeping to the east it meets the lane at the entrance to Conock Manor. The entrance is flanked by gatepiers, listed grade II, giving access to a drive, which continues in an easterly direction to the west front of the Manor. The driveway is lined to the south east by early 19th century railings which are also grade II listed. One further approach to Conock is from the village of Chirton to the east, as previously noted, from where a road runs to the south of Conock Manor in a westerly direction.

Conock's architectural features

Of the 16 properties in the hamlet, 9 are listed grade II. Conock Manor one of the listed grade II buildings is situated in the eastern part of the site. The 2-storey manor house is built of stone ashlar and has a slate roof with three dormers. The west front has a central bay which is slightly set forward, with a central door set within in a portico supported by fluted ionic columns, and the nine windows overlook the west parkland. The east front has a central door and gothic windows from which there are views to the garden and the stable block to the east. To the north and south are the early 19th century wings designed by Richard Ingleman, which include an open loggia to the south and a thatched dairy with a veranda to the north. From the rustic dairy a brick garden wall runs in an easterly direction, linking the manor with the adjacent grade II listed stable block. The latter was possibly built in the early 19th century, it is of brick and has a central lantern, renewed in 1968, containing a bell.



Conock Manor

To the north-west of Conock Manor lies The Old Manor also grade II listed and built in circa 1710, with its attached walled garden to the north which probably dates from the 19th century and was partly re-instated in 1998.

Conock Old Manor is an L – shaped house built of red brick with stone dressings, consisting of two storeys plus basement and attics. Its earliest features suggest that it was built by Gifford Yerbury, circa 1710 – a date stone of 1699 is still extant on a cottage in the stable yard, which may indicate the date of the house itself. Surviving features of that date include a stone plinth and quoins, mullioned and transomed windows (mostly blocked) at the south end, and a bolection-moulded window at the centre of the west front. Many alterations were carried out in the middle of the 18th century – sash windows were inserted, and the hipped roof with attic dormers was apparently raised.

It goes without saying that Conock – a hamlet of such small proportions must surely be almost unique in having two manor houses of such quality. But its architectural wealth doesn't end there; opposite the entrance to The Old Manor is Conock Cottage, inappropriately named since by modern standards it is a substantial grade II listed property. The house was built about 1700, but substantially changed in the early 19th century, when the original house of red brick with stone quoins was faced with stucco. It has in recent years been much restored. One of its charming features is its early victorian porch, constructed with delicate iron tracery, which is replicated in the farmhouse, suggesting some kind of joint project.

The Manor Farmhouse –also grade II listed, is a brick built house from the late 17th century, with extensions in the mid 18th century. The south front was rebuilt in the 19th century, when the existing red tiled roof was probably installed. It has a symmetrical south front with rooms having sash windows on each side of a central porch.



The Manor Farmhouse

Between Conock Cottage and the Manor Farmhouse are two cottages – Manor House Lodge and Flint Cottage – which were described in the Victorian History of Wiltshire as ‘deliberately picturesque, with ornate bargeboards and rustic porches’. Both are grade II listed, the lodge being a half timbered, colour washed brick building with a thatched roof, whereas Flint Cottage is brick built with a stone tiled roof, with elaborately constructed central chimneys, and what might be described as an ‘arcadian flint stone porch’.

To the east of these properties, on the lane to Chirton, is South Cottage, a stone built house with a thatched roof, also a grade II listed property.

A further grade II listed building is the Grove, originating about 1700 with an extension in 1830. Built with Flemish brickwork, raised limestone quoins, and a slated roof, the 2-storey extension is in colour washed brick. The windows of the original house are margin glazed sashes, and first floor windows have ornamental blind boxes. The eaves are paved modillion, and there are gable stacks.

The final listed property is the Farmhouse Lodge, but only by virtue of being within the curtilage of the farmhouse itself. This lodge is a brick built building with thatched roof, and like Flint Cottage, it possesses overlarge elaborately ornate red clay chimney stacks, set in the centre of the roof.



The Lodge, Manor Farm

There are 5 properties in the lane which are unlisted. The first two of these are Pericles Cottage and No 2 Manor Cottages, semi detached buildings of colour washed brick, with slated roof, set back from the lane, and approached by a gravel drive. There is some evidence that the original part of Pericles cottage dates from the late 17th century, but since then additions have taken place, including the incorporation into the building of a barn,

possibly constructed in the 19th century, a new 2-storey extension to the north, and finally, in recent years, a kitchen, with additional bedroom above it, giving the house a long thin appearance. 2 Manor Cottages is a smaller house of similar appearance, with the same features as Pericles.

To the south of these two properties, are two more semi detached cottages of red brick, with slated roof, and door between the two leading to a back yard. These are 1 and 2 Conock; 2 Conock received extensive restoration in 2002. Number 1 Conock has been recently restored revealing evidence of a much older building than had been previously recognised, but this has not been officially recorded. 2 Conock now has attractive georgian style wooden windows, whereas 1 Conock keeps its circa 1930 type steel frame windows.

Whatcombe Cottage is probably a post Second World War property with wooden slat walls, and slated high pitch roof and bedroom within the roof space. It was clearly built for the occupation of a farm worker, being across the lane from the Manor farmhouse.

On the south side of the A361, and opposite the Grove, is Jubilee Cottage - a cement-washed house with concrete tiled roof. Finally, and also on the south side of the main road, is the White House, the cattery and dog kennels, a cream cement-washed walled property with pan tiled roof.

Park and gardens



Aerial photograph of Conock

The parkland stretches out to the north, south and west of Conock Manor, and is bounded to the north-west by a belt of trees. The parkland to the south is divided from the garden by a ha ha, and further south is crossed by a track with Coster's Ground beyond it. Formerly, the parkland to the south had a series of circular tree clumps, three lining the track to the north of Coster's Ground.

The parkland to the west of Manor Farm and The Old Manor has a few mature trees. Formerly shown on the Tithe Map of 1844, the western boundary of the park was lined by a belt of trees and there was an oval shaped clump of trees to the west of The Old Manor. Through the north-western area of the park, in front of The Old Manor, runs a public footpath in a northerly direction. When it reaches the tree belt it divides up: one path leads west towards Wedhampton and the other runs eastwards passing the northern side of the walled garden of The Old Manor and then leads into the parkland to the north of Conock Manor. The north park has two rectangular shaped tree plantations, planted in the late 20th century.

The main garden lies to the east of Conock Manor and its stable block, screened to the north by the brick garden wall and bounded to the south by a curvilinear brick ha ha, with parkland beyond. The area immediately east of the house is laid to lawn with various trees, with, in the centre, a stone sundial surrounded by four pyramidal clipped yews. To its south-west is a circular pond, indicated on the first edition OS surveyed in 1885. Along the garden wall lies a border of various trees and shrubs and since 1999 partly paved. Leading in an easterly direction along the stable block runs a straight grassed walk lined with clipped beech trees. Towards the end of this walk is an herbaceous border decorated with late 20th century brick mosaic patterns.

Conock could be described as a hamlet which remains one of the rare examples of a tiny quintessentially English habitation.

The project plan and information gathering

The decision to prepare a Village Design Statement was taken at a Parish Council Meeting on 18th September 2007 where it was agreed that a draft project plan should be drawn up. The plan was approved at an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 7th November 2007. A schedule of all meetings held throughout the process can be seen at Appendix 5.

In order to prepare the final document the following processes were agreed:

- **Background research into:**
 - historical and archived material
 - conservation material
 - millennium data
 - previous relevant research, such as housing surveys

- **Identification and gathering of appropriate maps, street plans and photographs**

- **Gathering of villagers' views:**
 - group discussion
 - questionnaire on the Chirton village website
 - open meetings and exhibitions

- **Collation of relevant demographic material**

A copy of the complete Project Plan can be found at Appendix 1

How the information was gathered

Because of the lack of a large enough venue to hold village meetings, a series of group discussions was held for the preliminary information gathering phase for Chirton. Logistically this implied that not all the village was able to take part, but representatives from each part of the village were invited, from every age group and employment circumstance to newcomers and those who have lived in the village all their lives. A group discussion was also held at Chirton School in order to get the views of both the children living in Chirton and those coming from other villages to school. A special interview was also conducted for the people running the local pub – 'The Wiltshire Yeoman'. In all some 9 groups were held and over 110 people took part in this phase. A questionnaire schedule was developed for the purpose, and a copy of this can be found at Appendix 2.

For Conock, the process was somewhat different. As a proportion of those who have properties in Conock are 'weekenders', it was decided to distribute the same questionnaire used for the group discussions to each householder. Replies, some 16 in all, were received from every household in the village. That same questionnaire was also put on the village website, and a handful were distributed to those who were invited but unable to take part in the groups for whatever reason, and a further 7 were received from that process.

Finally an exhibition of the results and draft documentation was held in St. John the Baptist Church through the week of 23rd to 28th of June 2008, starting with an open evening on 23rd June. This provided all villagers from Chirton and Conock with an opportunity to complete a questionnaire and therefore to add their views to those already recorded.

The views of the villagers

NB. Because of the small size of the sample and the nature of the majority of answers being embedded in a verbal reply, no statistics will be given, but rather an indication of a range between universal agreement down to some agreement will be presented. Five principal areas were covered in the questionnaire, with the following results:

In answer to the question 'What attracts you to living in Chirton/Conock?', there was almost universal agreement that the villages are:

- peaceful
- friendly
- remote from the town
- full of character
- within an area of outstanding natural beauty

Question 2 involved asking what features are valued in both villages in terms of landmarks, buildings and so on. For Chirton everyone without exception, agreed that the **school**, the **church** and the **Wiltshire Yeoman** were vital to the village and its overall character.

- the school is:
 - a focal point in the village
 - a magnet for incoming new families - to increase its intake
 - a concern because of its potential closure
- the church is:
 - a beautiful building
 - a tourist attraction
 - a focus for village events – in place of the village hall
- the Wiltshire Yeoman:
 - is a great asset
 - has a fine restaurant attracting people from all over
 - provides facilities for village events

Other features which were broadly agreed upon included:

- **the balanced mixture of housing old and new**
- **its linear style development, i.e. no dense estates**
- **the good demographic mix of people**
- **tasteful recent development of housing in keeping with the character of the village**
- **excellent views from many parts of the village**

It should be noted that in order to preserve the ribbon style development, there are a number of planning restrictions applicable to Chirton. In particular the village is subject to Policy HC22. This is shown on Map 19 of the Kennet Local Plan which delineates the boundary within which only infill housing is permitted. These restrictions will remain in force until 2011 and must be taken into account in any future planning.

For Conock there was broad agreement that since it is part of the historic parks and gardens register, everything in the hamlet is valued from its historic buildings to its open spaces and its peace and quiet.

Understandably in answer to the next question 'What features would you like to see protected?' respondents in Conock agreed unanimously that it was vital to protect the hamlet as it is and to discourage any change whatsoever.

For Chirton in answer to that same question, universal to broad agreement included:

- **the school**
- **the church**
- **the pub**
- **the village hall – though not in its current form**
- **the wide grass verges, trees and hedges**
- **the countryside for walking**

Respondents were asked to discuss what sort of development if any they would like to see, and again for Conock there was near universal agreement that no further development should be envisaged. For Chirton however there was universal agreement that any new development should be:

- **in keeping with the character of the village**
- **small, in-fill type affordable development for young families, which would help provide intake for the school**

- **tasteful and not stand out – no violent red brick**
- **within the boundary of the village, not merging into neighbouring villages**

There was some agreement that Chirton has had its fair share of development over the last few years, and it should be the turn of other villages to take on new housing. However, it should be noted that there was a handful of villagers who proposed that in-fill development will not sufficiently solve the problems of affordable housing for young families wanting to move into the village. Something more substantial was suggested in order to bring in families with young children who would help the school to keep going, for instance.

As at the publication of this document, however, in-fill is the only option under HC22, there being no parcel of land available for anything more substantial.

The final discussion point involved improvements to the villages in the short and long term. Both Chirton and Conock were universal in their agreement that:

- **parking**
- **speed through the villages and on the A342**

were of immediate need to be sorted out. For Chirton, the urgent need is to alert motorists to slowing down around the tight bends in the north of the village and particularly by the school, and furthermore to prevent over-parking by the school building. It is clear from a recent traffic speed survey in the village that drivers are driving to the limit and it was suggested that the speed through Chirton should be reduced to 20mph.

For Conock the issue is one of the de-restricted road through the centre of the village. Obviously the speed of 50mph is too fast in a hamlet where small children play.

One long-term improvement for Chirton was universally agreed - **the vital requirement for an appropriately sited and sized village hall with parking**. A point that was also brought up by the children in the school discussion, who stated that they wanted somewhere outside of school to take part in other activities not provided by the school, such as parties, discos and a children's club.

The future

- Over the last twenty years Chirton has grown by some 60 houses, 16 of which have been developed since the millennium. This represents around one third of the total residences within the village which is a significant proportion. Whilst the village has grown, the facilities have diminished. The loss of the post office, the shop and the garage, have had an impact on the village as a whole and certainly on employment. That only the church, school and pub remain has wide implications for further development within the village.

As a result, an important issue now needs to be addressed. In Table H4 on p31 of Kennet's Local Plan, Chirton is listed as having a range of facilities, and is therefore suitable for limited residential development, including small groups of houses. Given the significant loss of facilities since the Local Plan came into force, it would appear that Chirton would fall more appropriately into Table H5, as a village with limited facilities, – a point which should be reconsidered in any future local planning documentation and most certainly in any planning decisions.

Furthermore, paragraph 1.17 of the Kennet District Local Plan states:

‘In the interests of sustainability, housing development should be limited to those villages which have a good range of facilities, and should be restricted to a small scale....Villages without a good range of local facilities should not provide additional housing of any consequence. The countryside needs to be protected for its own sake.’

- Notwithstanding, a small housing survey was conducted by Community First in 2006 recommending some **limited** affordable housing was necessary. This was supported both by villagers responding to that survey and the views of many of those involved in this current piece of work. **However, the study did stress that the support was for housing for couples, young families or relatives of those already living in the community.**
- Three recommendations from Chirton's Conservation Area Statement of 2003 suggest that:
 - Firstly future development should be restricted in the main to in-fill and should be in-keeping with the rest of the built environment and therefore should not

be indiscriminate. Preservation of trees, grass verges and any other features which will maintain the unique identity of the village is paramount.

- Secondly, in order to help protect and sustain the identity and character of the village, particularly to include such historic buildings as The Wiltshire Yeoman and The Horseshoes an **extension** of the Conservation Area should be considered - a point also which a number of villagers raised in the group discussions.
- Finally, that graded listed buildings with thatched roofs should remain as thatched, and not be tiled as many others have been in the past, in order to preserve their 'original' features and thus maintain the character of the village.
- It is imperative that any future planning should be subject to the concepts within Policy HC22 which restricts large-scale, widespread housing and thus ensures continuance of the current, ribbon-style development which is characteristic of the village.
- Sustaining a small school in the present economic climate is problematic, but evidence shows that the school is thriving with numbers on the increase. The additional site across the road from the original school building offers a unique opportunity. Many suggestions were made supporting the development of a new school building incorporating a large enough space for village events. This would combine the villagers' requirement for a suitable village hall and meet the needs of a growing school. It would also satisfy the edict which comes into effect in 2009 which, according to a Chirton school governor, states that schools must become more open and incorporate the community within their activities and facilities.
- Any new development should take into account the problems of parking and speed particularly through the villages, but also on the main A342. This will also be crucial when the new development which will be built on the site of the former garage is completed.
- The picture for Conock is somewhat different. Since much of the hamlet is registered as an historic park and garden and the rest is farmland, the likelihood for development is restricted very much by those factors. However, it should be borne in mind that the villagers expressed some concern that any development whatsoever should take place.

Appendix 1

Village Design Statement for Chirton and Conock 2008

Project Plan

Aims and Objectives

To produce a document outlining policy for the village and the planning priorities for future development.

Background

The Village Design Statement (VDS) is intended to outline policy and priorities for future development, bearing in mind the needs, preferences and demographics within the village at present. The document is intended to serve as supplementary guidance to assist local authorities in taking local priorities into account when assessing planning and development applications.

Methodology

- i. Desk Research
 - Geography and Natural History
 - Buildings and Materials
 - Demographics
- ii. Group Discussions
- iii. Meetings
- iv. Surveys

Resources Required

- i. Historical and Archived Information (already have Conservation Plan)
- ii. Demographic Statistics
- iii. Millennium Data
- iv. Data from Village Research
- v. Street Plans, Maps and Photographs
- vi. Funding in respect of miscellaneous costs for the projects

The proposed plan is to create a virtual committee of co-opted representatives and experts as required, co-ordinated rather than chaired.

Time-scale

The overall aim is to start the project mid-November 2007 and finish in June 2008.

Project milestones:

- | | | |
|------|------------------------|-------------------|
| i. | Finish Research | mid-February 2008 |
| ii. | First Draft of Results | early March 2008 |
| iii. | End of Consultation | mid-May 2008 |
| iv. | Final Documentation | June 2008 |

Final Outcome

Policy document for Chirton and Conock

Appendix 2

Group discussion questionnaire schedule

5 areas of discussion were identified and covered:

1. **What attracts you to living in Chirton/Conock?**
2. **What are the features in the village you value?**
3. **What in the village would you like to see protected?**
4. **If there were to be any development in future in the village, what kind of development should it be, and what should it look like?**
5. **What improvements could be made within the village?**
 - i. urgently
 - ii. in the short term i.e. 1-2 years
 - iii. in the long term i.e. 5 years plus

Demographic data (small form given at group discussions)

Length of time lived in property

Type of house e.g. 4 bedroom detached

Number living in house

Owned/rented

Number of cars

Employed/unemployed/self-employed/retired

Male/Female

Single/married/co-habiting/divorced/widowed

Age: 16-24/25-39/40-54/55-64/65+

Appendix 3

Chirton and Conock demographic details

Houses and Occupants (as at 1 December 2007)

AREA	HOUSES	MALES	FEMALES
Andover Road	10	10	8
The Hollow	15	14	14
Yew Tree Close	8	6	9
The Orchard	4	4	4
Small Street	30	23	30
Miller Close	12	14	11
The Street	41	39	41
Cherrington Field	5	6	6
Park View	9	9	9
Patney road	19	16	17
Conock	16	13	14
TOTALS	169	154	163

Children at School at March 2008

SCHOOL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Urchfont Primary	-	-	Nil
All Cannings Primary	2	3	5
Chirton Primary	5	10	15
Chirton Pre School	8	3	11
Lavington School	3	6	9
Devizes	6	7	13
TOTALS	24	29	53

These figures are based on the latest version of the parish electoral roll.

Appendix 4

Composition of the committee and experts

Stephanie Robertson	co-ordinator
Stewart Neale	co-ordinator and website manager
Anthony Mather	chairman of the Parish Council
Jonathan Oliphant	statistics and demographics
Jeremy Cross	Conock material
David Baker	editor of report and events management
Kate Lloyd-Jones	headmistress of Chirton School
Lynn Bridewell	secretary of Chirton School
Gillie Baker	retired vicar of St. John the Baptist Church, chair of the governors of Chirton School and advice on the research sample
Howard Ross	school governor
Hugh Tilley	millennium data and photographs
Andrew Miller	farmer
Chris and Carla	publicans of The Wiltshire Yeoman

Appendix 5

Schedule of meetings and events held and attended

The following is a summary of the official meetings held during the project, many other ad hoc meetings were held with 'experts' such as school governors, the headmistress of Chirton school, farmers a retired vicar, business people and those involved in the millennium project.

18 Sept 2007	Idea of producing Village Design Statement first mooted in Parish Council meeting. It is agreed that a draft project plan will be produced
3 Oct 07	AGM and Exhibition at Corn Exchange, Devizes
7 Nov 07	Extraordinary meeting of Parish Council agrees draft plan. Stef Robertson and Stewart Neale appointed as co-ordinators
20 Nov 07	Meeting between Stef Robertson and Stewart Neale to discuss approach to research and identify existing document sources
1 Dec 07	VDS project announced on village web site and in Parish Council newsletter
11 Dec 07	Stef Robertson and Stewart Neale meet Ed White of Kennet District Council Planning Department to discuss requirements for project
11 Dec 07	Meeting of Parish Council in which progress is reported
21 Dec 07	Stef Robertson and Stewart Neale visit Sarsen Housing Association's <i>Strategy Launch</i> day to learn more about the administration of affordable housing within the county
17 Jan 2008	Stef Robertson and Stewart Neale progress meeting
13 Feb 08	Stef Robertson Gillie Baker and Jonathan Oliphant meet to discuss composition of discussion groups
8-15 March 08	Organisation of discussion groups
17 March 08	Stef Robertson and Stewart Neale walk round villages for familiarisation and photography of the villages
18-27 March 08	Discussion groups held
8 April 08	Parish Council meeting and progress update
15 April 08	AGM of Parish Council and village update
12 June 08	Parish Newsletter announcing exhibition and open meeting
23-28 June 08	Exhibition of preliminary findings in St. John the Baptist Church, Chirton opportunity for all villagers to add their views
3 September 08	Village open meeting to view and discuss final document

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Village Design Parts 1 & 2, Making local character count in new development,

Countryside Commission 1996.

Upgrading the register of parks and gardens – Conock Manor, English Heritage 2004.