Disclaimer to accompany the Stourton Conservation Area Review

This October 1997 Roger Evans Associates report is the result of an independent survey and analysis of the buildings and landscape form of Stourton.

It identifies the architectural, historical and environmental qualities of the settlement and gives recommendations for the continuing preservation and enhancement of the Conservation Area. It was undertaken for and behalf of Stratford-on-Avon District Council. The report was used to inform boundary alterations to the conservation area that were approved by the District Council's Planning Committee on 12 November 1997

The Committee also resolved that the contents of the report should form the basis of a fully published document, available for purchase from the District Council. Whilst the formal publication was never produced for purchase the contents of the draft report has been accepted as material consideration to inform planning decisions and appeals.

final draft

STOURTON

Conservation Area Review

October 1997

for Stratford on Avon District Council

ROGER EVANS ASSOCIATES

General Introduction

Standard text as other SoA DC CONSERVATION AREA reports

1.1 Definition

1.2 Designation

1.3 Pressures

1.4 Response

1.5 Further Advice

1. Introduction

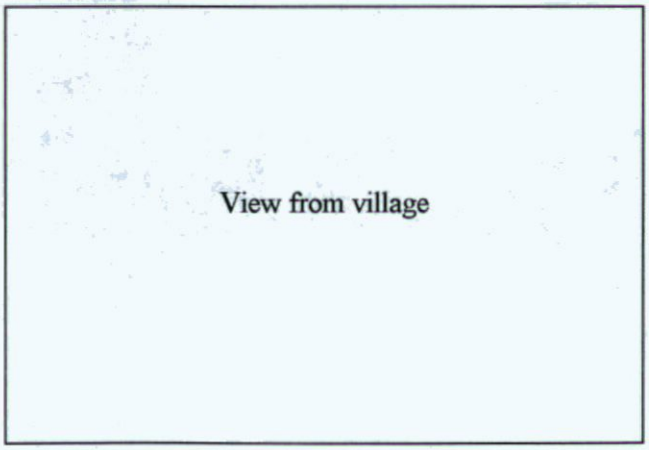
1.1 Location

Stourton is at the centre of a network of winding lanes between Shipston, Brailes and Long Compton, about 4 km east of the A3400. It is the middle one of a trio of villages that includes Sutton under Brailes to the north-east, and Cherington which adjoins the west side of Stourton. The parishes of Cherington and Stourton combined have a population of about 370, most of whom live within the village area.

1.2 Topography

The three villages lie in the valley of the River Stour, 8-9 km west of its source. The high ground where it springs is the northernmost end of the Cotswold Hills, and forms a heavily dissected escarpment which rises to 240m, 5 km or so to the south. Topographically this is a feature of enormous significance, as the watershed of the great river systems of the Severn to the west, and the Thames to the east. It is the political boundary, too, between Warwickshire and Oxfordshire.

The river cuts quickly and steeply into the escarpment, so that at Stourton it is already 150m below the surrounding hills, giving the village a superbly sheltered site. It also creates many views both from high ground into the village, and from places into the village out into the surrounding hills.

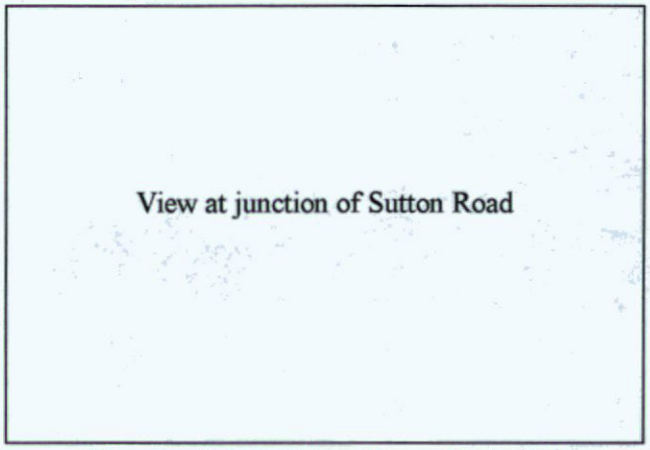


1.3 Special Land Classifications

The whole of Stourton lies within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Village greens at Featherbed Lane/Tachbrook House, between Stourton Manor and Stourton Farm, and two on the Whichford Road at Stourton House, are all 'registered greens' under the Commons Registration Act, 1965.

1.4 Morphology

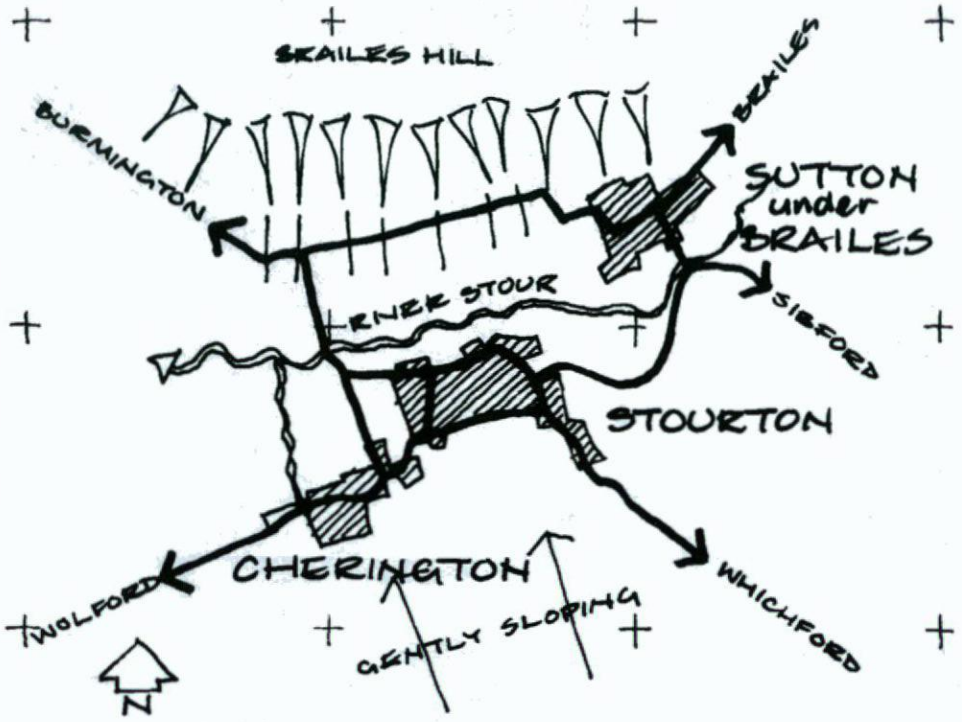
The village form of Stourton is random, based on a network of country lanes on which isolated buildings have been established since the 17th century. The older buildings cluster around junctions of these lanes in three main groups. These cores were expanded a little in the 19th century, and development began to take sites between them in the late 20th century. Nevertheless, the village pattern remains very open, with many views across the intervening spaces.



The morphology of a village reflects its history and growth, and in the case of Stourton, morphology and history are linked by a lack of clear identity. Stourton has evolved in the shadow of neighbouring villages (see section 2), without a church, for example. There is no strong focus in the village which can clearly be said to represent its centre. Similarly, none of the lanes has developed the character of a main street: the road between the Cherington Arms and Stourton Farm has a slightly more significant role in linking two of the historic cores, but it is not strong.

However, in the three original development groups, buildings provide strong visual form. Their impact is due primarily to their positions hard on the roadside, clearly defining public space. Historically, road frontage was important, providing direct access to the main buildings. Work areas, animal housing and kitchen-gardens would have been on land behind the main buildings, and any space in front would have been of little practical use.

This format was true both for small cottages and larger farms. Only a manor house would entertain the expense of building and maintaining an approach drive and ornamental gardens. At Stourton there are very few original labourers' cottages, and the majority of buildings are farmhouses. This



Location plan for use in Conservation Area Book.

probably reflects its function relative to the denser centres of Cherington and Sutton-under-Brailes.

Despite its uneven development pattern, overall unity is established in Stourton by the dry stone walls that provide the front boundaries to the majority of houses. They are often less than a metre high, but in conjunction with hedgerows and other garden planting they provide good definition of the street scene between the main building groups, creating a rural rather than a built-up character.

View to Tachbrook House

1.5 Building Character and Materials

The traditional building material in Stourton is Cotswold limestone. There are some particularly fine examples: Stourton Farm is very carefully designed and detailed with ashlar facings. Simpler buildings are coursed rubble with large stones, sometimes dressed, as quoins. The source of the stone varied. Colour ranges from grey to warm yellow and light brown. Stourton Farm is of a particularly mellow colour, while rubble work tends more towards greys and browns, and was probably collected locally. Stonework in buildings is usually random-coursed, but a particular feature of Stourton is its dry stone rubble boundary walls, laid randomly with a stone-on-end coping.

Stone slates were probably used quite widely for roofing, but only Cherington Mill and The Anchorage still have original slates, and Tachbrook House has modern re-constituted material which is weathering acceptably. No doubt Stourton Farm would have been stone-slated, but now it has modern brown machine-made plain tiles, in common with the majority of buildings in the village. Simpler buildings would have been thatched, but only Corner House at the east end of the village is still roofed in this way.

Brick and slate were introduced in the 19th century, but the relatively small amount of building from that era has not imbalanced the dominance of stone. The row of cottages on the south green on the Whichford Road has a variety of brickwork and brick detailing, and Brook House adjacent to them is a Victorian villa-style brick home of good quality. Slate has been used for re-roofing in a number of instances, as well as being the original material for 19th century roofs.

Traditional building forms are simple, based on the maximum span of available structural materials of 5-6 metres. Complex buildings might be based around a two-storey core in an assembly of rectangular structural units on a similar modular principle. Modern houses are much less constrained by the range of available materials and structural options.

In Stourton there has been a recent preference for bungalows, which cover much larger structural areas than traditional buildings, using lower pitching roofs, lighter roofing materials, and factory-made roof trusses. Too low and too wide, they fit uncomfortably with their older neighbours, mitigated only by the idea that they may be less intrusive than two-storey buildings. There is no reason to depart from the two storey pattern typical of traditional houses, avoiding certain modern habits such as high eaves and low roof pitches, which generate boxy, featureless forms.

Brick is the preferred modern material, but the choice of colour is often made to imitate stone, which is pale and unnatural for a clay material. There are red and brown brick colours in Stourton which blend well with the natural tones of the village, and which would be a far more appropriate choice.

Barn at Stourton Farm

2.0 The Settlement -History and Development

The historical record of Stourton is very limited. The name itself is Saxon, and self-evidently means the village by the Stour (or 'Stower' as earlier spellings have it). At the time of the Domesday Survey it was owned directly by the Crown, and so no record was made, since the purpose of the survey was to establish rents due to the Crown.

Originally it was part of Whichford parish. Whichford, 2 km to the south was a significant centre with a church, St Michael, built in 1150, and a castle built soon after the Norman Conquest. Stourton is not identified separately until 1206, and presumably Cherington was a much lesser settlement than Whichford. Stourton was mentioned for its two water mills in 1221, and there were many others on this part of the river - the present map shows Whichford Mill, Sutton Mill, Cherington Mill and Weston Mill.

The Stour has always been the northern limit of the village, separating it from Sutton under Brailes. Westminster Abbey owned much of the land in the flood plain, and there is a record in 1375 of the gift of 2 acres of pastureland to the Abbey to allow the diversion of the river course. Sutton Manor, just on the other side of the river was very prone to flooding and there is still evidence of works to control the water-course, constructing mill races, and the site of a moat, shown on the ordnance survey north-east of Stourton Farm. In 1553 the mills and manor were sold by Edmund Harewell as part of the general dispersal of his estates. The subsequent history of the manor is obscure, but manorial rights did not lapse until 1928.

Present day houses began to be built in the 17th century. A key group is Stourton Manor and Stourton Farm in the centre of the village. Farmhouses also became established on the road at Featherbed Lane and at the Sutton and Whichford road. Labourers' houses were built at these two locations in the 19th century, and the Methodist chapel was built in 1809 north of Stourton Farm. The development pattern, which is still based on these three historic nodes, was discussed in 1.4.

The main impact of the 20th century has been the building of council housing at St John's Mead and St John's Close in Featherbed Lane. This development has blurred the separate identities of Cherington and Stourton by bridging the open space between the two settlements. The parish boundary runs along Featherbed Lane, so that technically they lie in Cherington (as do the Cherington Arms and the Old School House) although they relate more closely to Stourton. In the later 20th century detached houses and bungalows have been built on open land between the old building groups, but the general character has remained open and semi-rural.

Stourton Mill 1890

FIGURE 3·1

CHARACTER AREAS

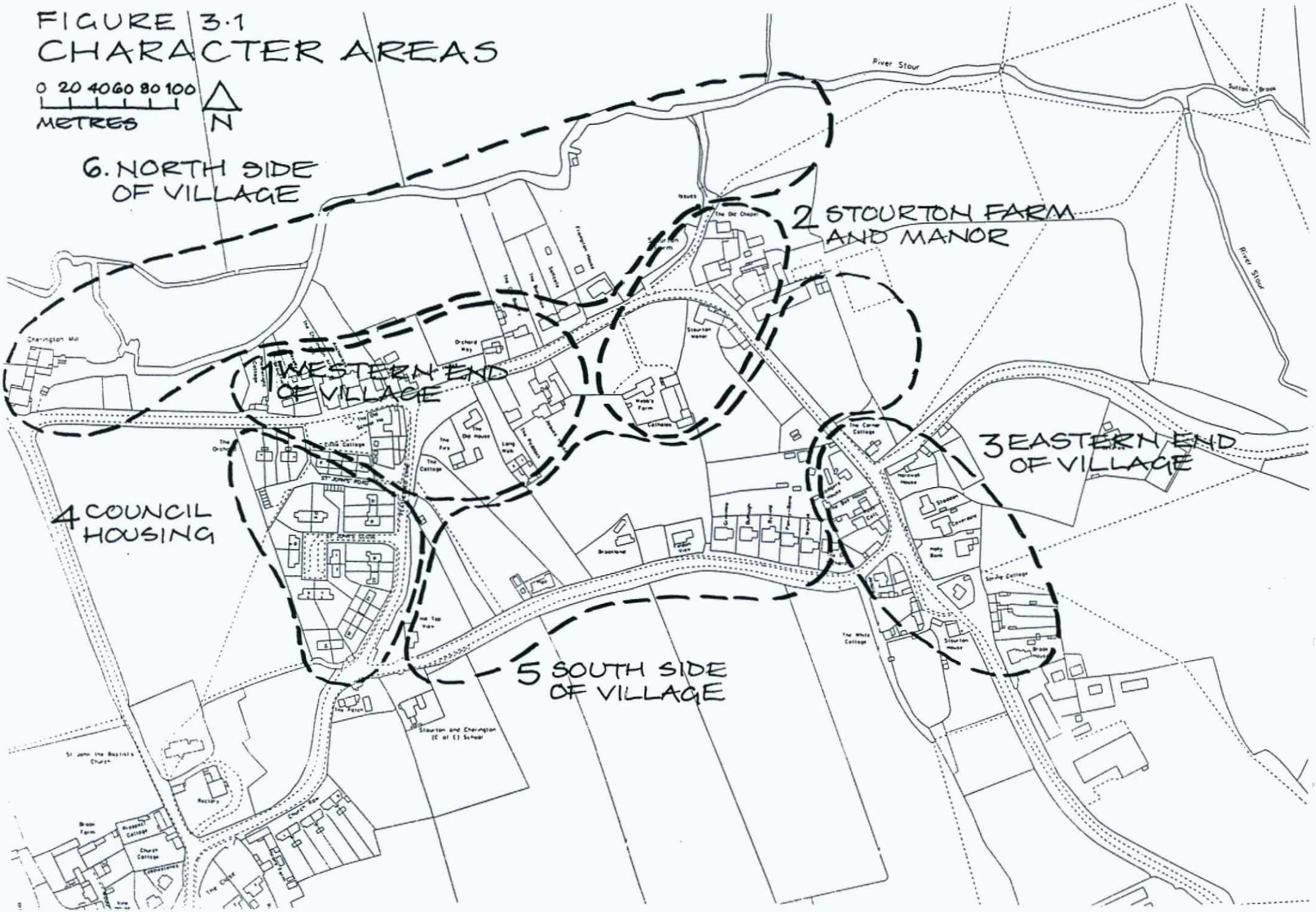
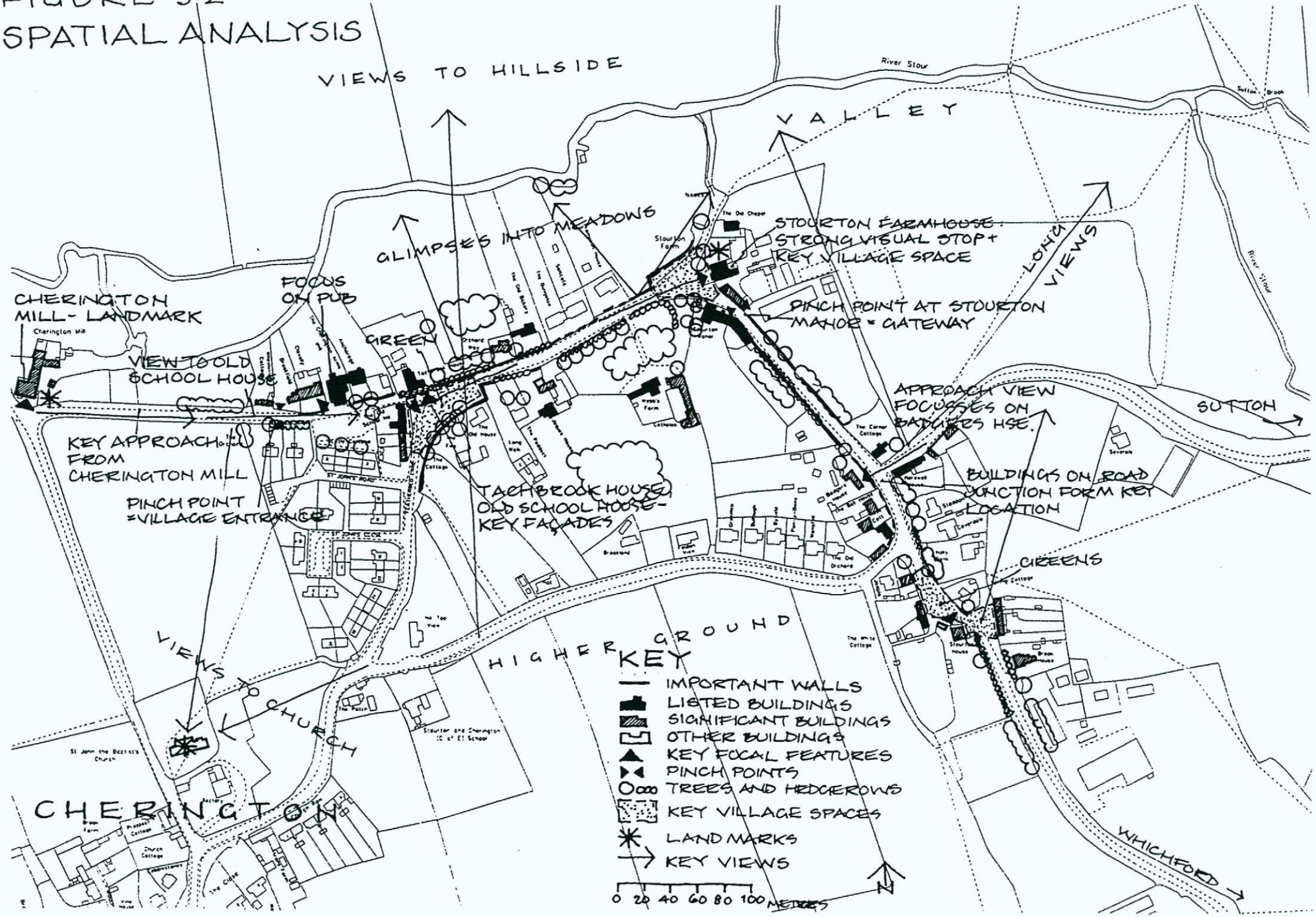


FIGURE 3.2

SPATIAL ANALYSIS

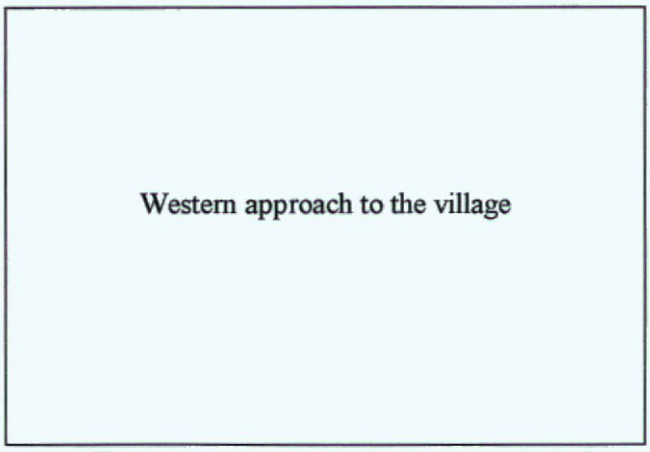


3 Character of the Conservation Area

Stourton's conservation area is drawn to include the three historical nodes of development. Although their qualities are broadly similar, they can each be defined separately, and figure 3.1 and the following notes describe them. There is also the new area of council housing on Featherbed Lane. In addition to these relatively built-up areas, there is the extent of the semi-rural fringe on the south side of the village, and the river valley to the north, which is a key aspect of the landscape setting of Stourton.

3.1 Western end of the village

At the western end of the village there are two key elements, the Cherington Arms public house, and the green at the junction with Featherbed Lane. Approaching from Cherington Mill by the front of the Cherington Arms: its right-hand gable meets the roadside and creates a pinch-point in the view. The roof-line of the back of the Old School House closes the other side of the view, and a tall Lombardy poplar on the corner of the pub car-park, further reinforces the location. The car-park itself is a poor feature, very open onto the road, and enclosed only by the hedges and fences at the back of St John's Road and Old School House. To the west of the Cherington Arms is a line of cottages, set behind gardens fronted by dry stone walls, which are interesting for the variety of their elevations.



Western approach to the village

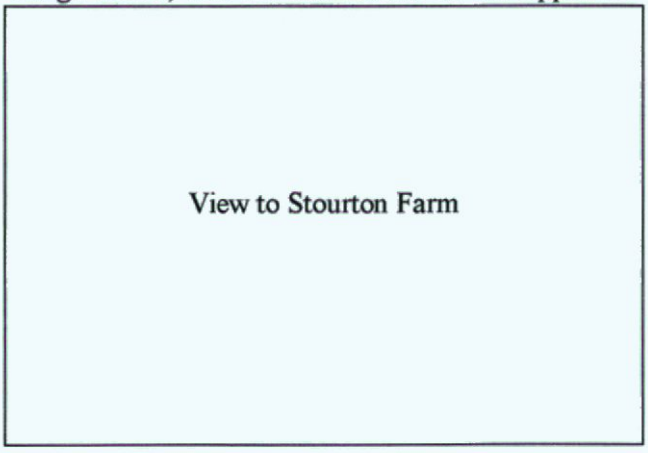
The green at the end of Featherbed Lane creates a pause in the pattern of lanes leading to it. Its openness contrasts with the narrowness of approaches from the west and the south, and it sets up views to the next 'event' on the journey through the village at the green in front of Stourton Farm to the east. Stopping to look northwards, there are open views to the orchards behind Tachbrook House, and the hillsides beyond the river.

Green at Featherbed Lane

Tachbrook House itself is the landmark which defines the north side of the green. On the west side, the Old School House does the same for views back from Stourton Farm, and its gable and neighbouring cottages frame the approach from the south. There are no other buildings that abut the space so directly, but the low dry-stone walls to gardens on the north and south side of the green provide sufficient enclosure, assisted by hedges which rise above eye level. Although very low-key, the green is an effective focus for the west end of the village: it is a pity that its open characteristics are spoilt by telegraph wires and poles.

3.2 Stourton Farm and Manor

The front of Stourton Farm is visible from Tachbrook House, and is perhaps the most distinctive landmark in Stourton. Its honey-coloured west facade glows in afternoon sunshine, and is perfectly complemented by the neat triangular green in front. Only on reaching the green is one aware of the dramatic enclosure provided by the high walls of the gabled stone barn south of the farmhouse, and the range of buildings that comprise Stourton Manor on the south side. This undoubtedly is a gateway to the village centre, and the narrowness of the approach



View to Stourton Farm

View from Stourton Farm green

from Whichford contrasts dramatically with the sudden opening out of the green and views across open country to the north and back to the Old School House to the west.

The two greens can be seen from one another, and this visual link is very important. Development on the lane that connects them, however, is discontinuous and fails to create a distinctive character. In other circumstances we could imagine it becoming a busy main street. Older buildings gather loosely east of Featherbed lane, but prior to the 20th century the intervening space would have been completely open, perhaps associated with the Manor. Now three characterless modern houses occupy sites on the north side of the lane, where once meadows would have run down to the river. The remaining northward views from the green, over neat dry-stone walls, towards ash and oak trees on the river bank and the hillsides beyond are invaluable and must be preserved.

The arrangement of buildings in this part of the village is unusual. Stourton Manor directly abuts the road with high stone walls, which have few features to punctuate their impressive mass. It is sited in a manner typical of a farmstead with a strong road frontage and yards behind. Webb's Farm, however, is sited more in the style of a manor house, in the middle of landscaped grounds, with a long approach drive. Both buildings are listed, the Manor

Building Group at Stourton Manor

House predating Webb's by 100 years or so, but no link between their development has been uncovered.

In 1997 the clutter of agricultural buildings south of Stourton Farm has been cleared for redevelopment. A number of unsightly sheds have been removed, and stone barns have been renovated for residential use. This is a great improvement, which is drawing a previously neglected area back into its rightful place as part of the historic area of the village.

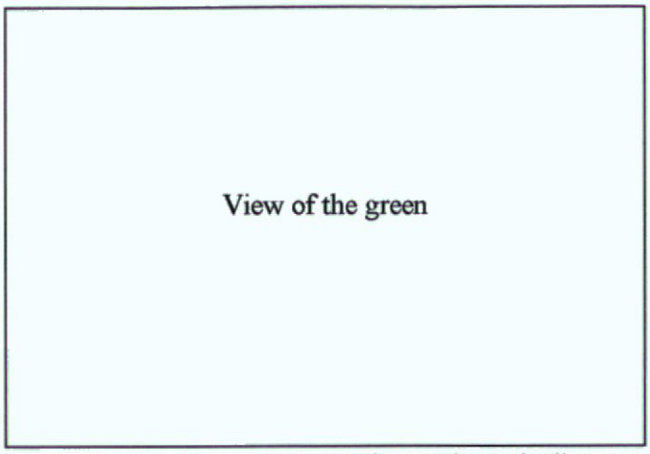
3.3 The east end of the village

The east end of Stourton has built up around a staggered junction of roads that leads from Cherington to Sutton-under-Brailes in the east and Whichford in the south. For someone passing through Stourton, this might well be all that they saw of it. It is one of the three original centres for development in Stourton, but is more distinctly separate from the other two.

View to Sutton road junction

The road-turning to Sutton is very well defined by its buildings. Badger's House sits opposite the junction, its long stone front elevation providing closure of the approach view. The Corner Cottage and Harewell House, both listed buildings, form the corners of the junction robustly. The Cherington junction is much weaker. Corner House (distinct from Corner Cottage) is an attractive thatched cottage which makes a strong corner on the north side. On the south side, stone retaining walls and garden planting provide a good visual focus, but bungalows opposite the Cherington road provide neither focus nor containment. In mitigation, hawthorn boundary hedges and garden planting make the houses behind almost invisible - stronger tree planting could perhaps achieve with landscape what the buildings signally have failed to do.

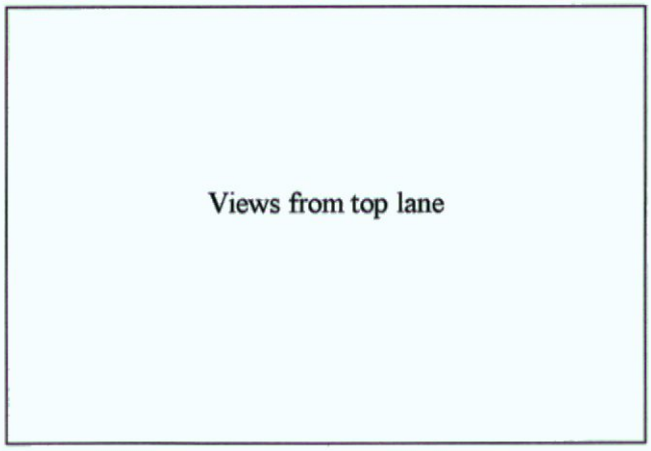
The two registered greens on the Whichford road are important. The more northerly one, in front of Orchard Cottage, is steeply banked and a visual amenity only. It is a pleasant setting for the cottages



View of the green

on its west side, providing privacy through distance and elevation from the road. The south green has been taken over by the row of cottages on its east side, as front gardens. Although still mostly grass covered, flowering borders have diminished its quality as a green.

The transition from the village to the countryside along the Whichford Road is not dramatic. Large semi-derelict sheet-clad buildings occupy an area on the east side of the road, although they are partly screened by maturing beech and horse chestnut trees. The other side of the road is lined by large ash trees which create a well wooded approach to the village. A green plastic kiosk, housing a sewage pump or some other piece of equipment, is an incongruous and surprising feature on the roadside.



Views from top lane

3.4 Featherbed Lane

West of Featherbed Lane a group of 28 council houses was built after the second world war. They form a reasonably discreet group and have little impact on the conservation area. Little investment has been made in their garden areas, which lack mature planting that might otherwise blend them better into their surroundings. This is particularly the case with their front fences and hedges: some are neat and in keeping with the village and some are very untidy.

3.5 South side of the village

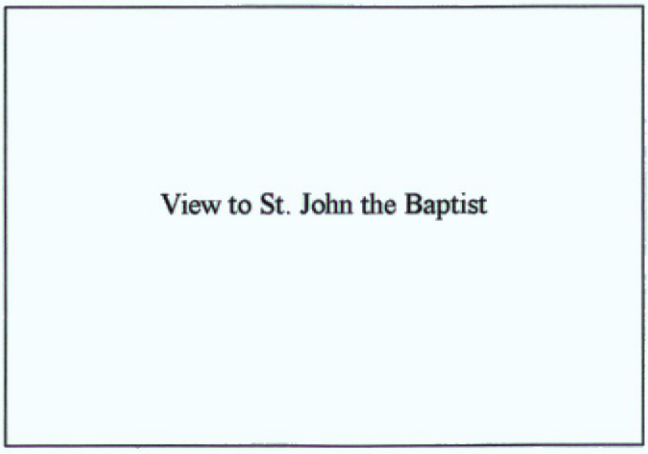
The Cherington-Whichford Lane runs on higher ground south of the village, giving views across it to the other side of the river. The openness of the central area behind Webb's Farm is apparent from this viewpoint, and it includes extensive paddocks and orchards. The construction of a number of bungalows and a wooden village hall has been allowed along north side of the lane, although the low density of development still permits views across the valley.

This belt of thin 'sub-rural' development extends eastwards and separates the east end of the village from Stourton Manor and the west end. Until the improvement of Stourton Farm yard, this was the least attractive area of the village. The road south of Stourton Farm runs in a straight line between overgrown hedges. It has a wide footway on the west side, but it is in poor condition, part unmade and part asphalted. It has granite block kerbs, but they are breaking down in many places.

3.6 North side of the village

The conservation area extends in places to the river. However all of the northerly outlook to the river are important particularly north of Stourton Farm and Tachbrook House. This landscape extends as far as Cherington Mill in the west.

Cherington Mill is a landmark at the turning into Stourton off the Cherington-Burmington Road. It is a particularly attractive building in stone, with a stone slate roof. Some of the buildings in the yard behind are also of great interest, including a fine Flemish-bonded brickwork section. The approach to the village, which arrives at the Cherington Arms described in 3.1, is an impressive, straight, tree-lined road with open land on both sides. The river is close to the road on the north side. To the south are views to St John's Church, Cherington, across a broad meadow which retains mediaeval ridge-and-furrow field pattern.



View to St. John the Baptist

4 Landscape

Stourton has a very open landscape setting. Its valley location creates many views across it and out into surrounding hillsides. Within the village there are few significant groups of trees or individual specimens, although trees are important in lining certain approaches, particularly from Whichford and from Cherington Mill. The following more detailed observations relate to the character areas identified in section 3.

4.1 Western end of the village

Western approach

The approach to Stourton from Cherington Mill is a straight road characterised by neat tree planting along its northern side, and open views to St John's church across the mediaeval ridge-and-furrow preserved in the large meadows on its south side. At the entrance to the village ash and beech trees on the front boundary of 'The Orchard' are reinforced by a Leylandii hedge which, as it matures, is becoming over-dominant. A pair of tall Lombardy poplars opposite the Cherington Arms on the rear boundary of the Old School House make a fine marker for arrival at the village. Behind the car park hornbeam and crab-apple provide a screen to the bungalows in St John's Road.

The green at the end of Featherbed Lane is enclosed by a combination of buildings and planting. Its south-east side is potentially a little weak, defined only by a low dry-stone wall, but is helped by trees on the boundary of 'The Firs', named after the Lawson cypress and yews which grow along it: there is also a good copper beech at the end of the row. On the north side, the boundaries are strong with mature hedges of beech and holly and of yew behind lower boundary walls. Orchard trees fill the gardens behind.

4.2 Stourton Farm and Manor

Stourton Farm stands very formally at the eastern end of the central lane, dominating the little green in front of it. Two bay trees that stood either side of its entrance door have been removed during recent renovation, and a knot garden has been planted using box and yew. Two mature yew trees on the lane behind the house are important in closing the view from the west.

By contrast, Stourton Manor opposite is cloaked in trees, which include large, dense specimens of yew and Lawson cypress. However, their dark green colour seems to add to the sombreness of this corner of the village. Then different again, the gardens of Webbs Farm are cheerful and light, in a picturesque style, with silver birches, cypresses and fruit trees in front of broad mown lawns.

4.3 The east end of the village

The road south of Stourton Manor is lined by overgrown hedges, dominated by hawthorn, and including elm, elder and blackthorn on the east side: their untidiness contributes to an impression of neglect. The group of cottages which form the east end of the village is supported by a variety of garden planting, with some larger trees, such as beech, ash and willow. This planting creates a pleasant cottage setting, but lacks the strength to bridge some of the gaps between buildings. This is particularly the case in front of new bungalows opposite the Cherington Road (see 3.3, also).

There are two registered greens on the Whichford road as it leaves the village southwards. These are important features that contribute to the setting of their surroundings, but the effect of the easterly one is diminished by herbaceous borders and other garden planting that is invading the area from the adjacent cottages. South of Brook House, the

Green at Brook House

Whichford Road is lined by ash and other tall mature trees.

4.4 South side and Featherbed Lane

The south side of the village is occupied by relatively recent housing, including the council housing on Featherbed Lane. Both this area (area 4 on figure 3.1) and the adjacent area of new development (area 5 on figure 3.1) lack mature planting. This is a significant failing, especially as the architectural quality of the housing is indifferent.

4.5 North side

The quality of the landscape to the north of the village is very high. The key feature is the winding river Stour, which creates an environment for mature riverside trees and meadows. From many viewpoints within the village views to natural landscape open out, with vistas of rising hillsides, distant woodland, and fine old specimens of oak and ash along the riverside in the middle ground. It is important that this open aspect is preserved and that there is no more building like the bungalows on the north side of the central lane.

FIGURE 5.1

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSERVATION AREA

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METRES

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5 *The Future of the Conservation Area*

5.1 Alterations

A conservation area was designated in Stourton in 1982. Its extent overlaps the parish boundary into Cherington: Cherington also has a conservation area which extends as far as St John's Church and the southern end of Featherbed Lane, very close to Stourton.

Pressure for development within the Stourton Conservation Area appears to have been slight since its designation: most modern development was completed before then and the population barely changed between the 1981 and 1991 censuses. The distance of the village from major population centres gives it some protection from development pressure, and its AONB classification underlines that.

The village is not densely developed, and there are many gaps between buildings. Although there are no outstanding public spaces, it is important that locations are protected where their openness is important to the village setting and for views out to the surrounding countryside. Sensitive redevelopment on the east side of the village at Stourton Farm has improved the village in its immediate locality by replacing and renovating poor agricultural buildings.

In general, however, the issues that the Conservation Area should address are similar now to those in 1982. The prime qualities of Stourton are the character of buildings in the three historic core areas and the open landscape setting, particularly related to the valley of the Stour. It is this second aspect that is worthy of closest review, because the 1982 boundary only partly addresses the issue. The area of meadow behind Tachbrook House down to the river is included, but not the area north of Stourton Farm, which has at least as good attributes.

On the western approach to the village, the same issues apply north of the lane from Cherington Mill, and the mill itself and its surroundings also merit consideration. Continuing this line of thinking, the open area south of the lane as important, not just for its significance to the character of the approach to Stourton, but also for the setting of St John's Church, which is in the Cherington conservation area.

The following notes and figure 5.1 illustrate the proposed amendments to the Conservation Area.

Cherington Mill

It is proposed to extend the conservation area west of Wheelwright cottage to include Cherington Mill and the approach lane. The purpose is to acknowledge the quality of the Cherington Mill building group, the importance of the river in the setting of Stourton, and the quality of the approach lane from Cherington Mill. The area falls within Cherington parish but is clearly of importance to the setting of Stourton.

St John the Baptist, Cherington

Figure 5.1 also shows the inclusion of the area of ridge-and-furrow meadowland south of the Cherington Mill Lane. Its prime relevance is to the setting of the church of St John the Baptist, which is in the Cherington conservation area, but it is also significant to the setting of Stourton as open space that separates the two villages.

Cherington Mill

Stourton Farm

It is proposed to extend the Conservation Area to include the meadowland north of Stourton Farm as far as the river. Views across this area are extensive and can be seen along the Whichford Road from as far as Harewell House. There are some mature trees along the riverbank that provide an important backdrop to this area of the village.

5.2 Improvements

Stourton's character areas are concentrated around its three historic nodes, and the sections in between have a straggling character in places. The area south of Stourton Manor is a case in point, and a street enhancement scheme could improve the visual quality of areas like this. Stourton also suffers more than many villages from the blight of overhead telegraph wires and poles. Any opportunity to get services underground should be taken.

The following minor points for improvement are also noted, and marked on figure 5.2:

1 **St John's Road** - front boundaries to old people's bungalows include some very tatty chain-link fencing. Their outlook over the Cherington Arms

FIGURE 5.2
POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

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METRES

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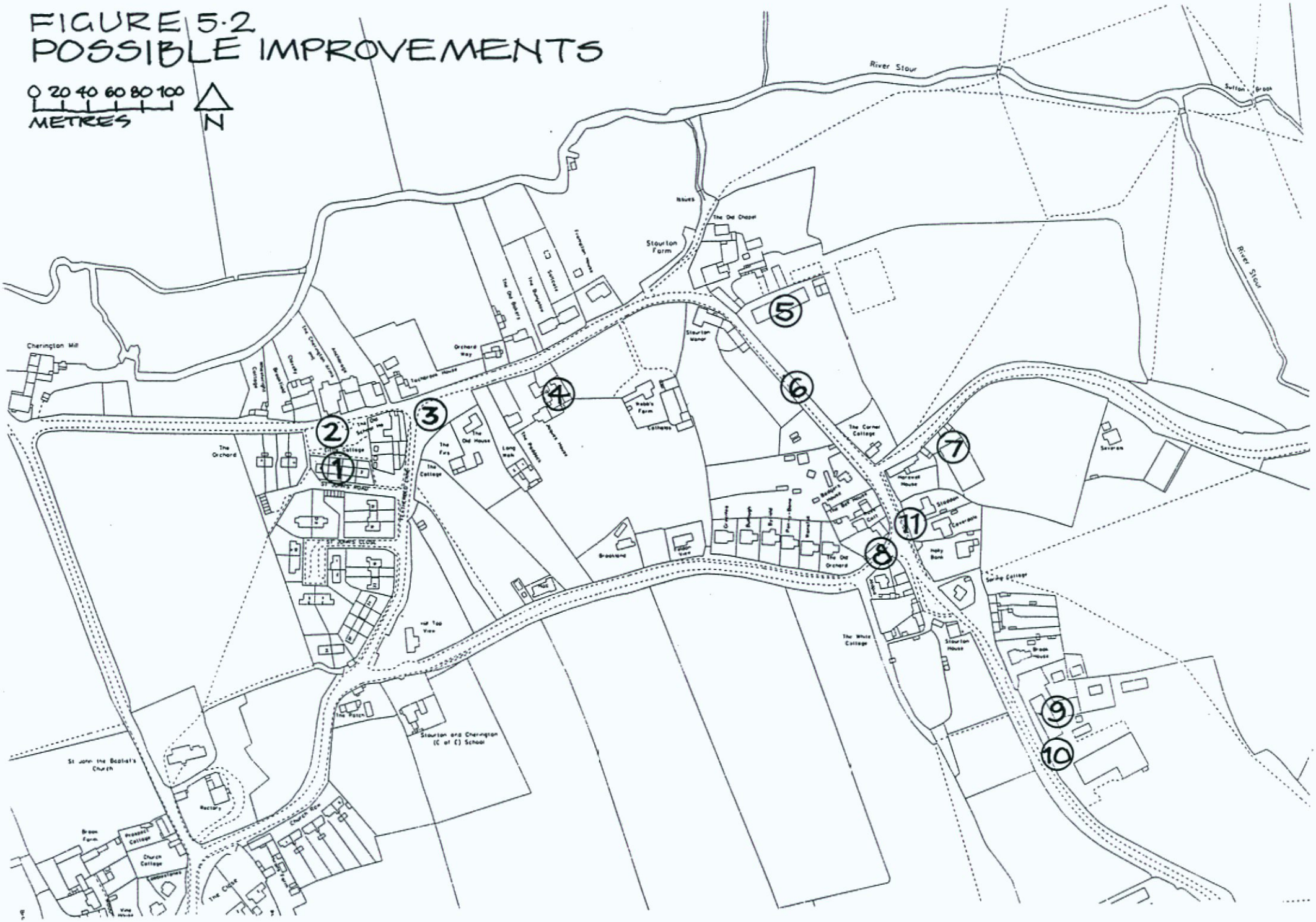


car park is also scruffy. An improvement scheme to their setting could also address the car park and make it more of a publicly visible space.

2 **Cherington Arms car park** - in addition to the comments above, improvements could be made to the surface, planting provided to alleviate its area and define the road edge. It is effectively a public space because of its high visibility, and its design should reflect its import on the street scene and the outlook of neighbouring buildings.

3 **Featherbed Lane green** - particularly prominent telegraph pole and overhead wires.

4 **Buildings east of Jaques House** - an interesting stone barn is spoiled by a very tatty rendered building in front, with a shallow corrugated sheet roof. Formerly a shop, now a workshop, which is an unsympathetic building form.

5 **Buildings south-east of Stourton Farm** - unattractive old workshops and Dutch barns. Strengthen screen planting and encourage improvement of buildings.

6 **Road south of Stourton Manor** - street enhancement scheme to deal with verges, hedgerows and footways: retain granite block kerbstones.

7 **East of Harewell House** - potentially attractive outbuildings on boundary wall. Encourage renovation by owner.

8 **Road surfaces** - concrete kerbs and tarmac footways. Future maintenance to consider more sensitive materials

9 **Farm buildings south of Brook House** - Strengthen screen planting following redevelopment of buildings.

10 **Hut on verge** adjacent to 9 - green plastic hut, having sewage pump or other equipment. Comment can only question the sensitivity of siting it so openly with no possibility of screening it.

11 **View to Staddon and Calverdale** - a very weak aspect from the Cherington road. Consider some robust tree planting on the road junction to provide a visual focus and enhance their front boundaries.

Figure 5.2 - Possible Improvements

5.3 Control

The Conservation Area as a tool in development control has not really been tested in Stourton since its designation, because relatively little new development has taken place. Problems identified in 5.1 as potential improvement projects almost all pre-date it. The important principle to establish is that the positive features of the Conservation Area should be taken as the cue for changes or improvements, rather than the poorer elements being the justification for the continuance of low quality.

The failings of modern housing development, both inside and outside the conservation area are twofold. In the first place they employ a different structural rationale, based on much larger roof spaces. A preference for bungalows, possibly with the intention of minimising intrusion, leads to greater plan areas of buildings, and detailing tends to be much boxier. Secondly, the principles behind the siting of buildings is quite different to the traditional approach.

There is much more emphasis on space in front of buildings as a sign of prestige, even though it is mostly given over to utilitarian functions like car access and garaging. Development control can insist on more sympathetic detailing, but modern structural techniques will still tend to show through in the building form, and care should be taken to avoid pastiche. On the other hand much can be done to improve the site planning of buildings, and the proposed positioning of buildings should be considered very critically.

In exercising future control, the impact on "village-scape" should be a major concern, and the findings of this review should assist in setting the parameters for any new development. The importance of the treatment of front boundaries is particularly important in Stourton, and it is distinctive in the widespread use of low dry-stone walling in conjunction with hedgerow planting. The additional protection of AONB provision should also ensure that inappropriate proposals are not implemented.

5.4 Conclusion

Stourton is an enigmatic village. Although it is not large, it has three distinct historic areas. Its identity is strongly linked to Cherington, but it has a noticeably different character. It has no church, but Cherington church is on the edge of the village: its pub is called the Cherington Arms! It has no centre.

In this circumstance it could be difficult to identify a clear character as the reference point for any development. It is important that undistinguished development does not spread further in the village, and that its open areas, although not always well defined, are preserved. This Conservation Area Review seeks to provide an analysis of the village's character expressed in its structure and public realm, not just in its individual private buildings. Design which respects these aspects of the village environment, and the materials and scale of the buildings and landscape which are already here, will make a positive contribution and enhancement to Stourton.

Appendix A - Listed Buildings

Corner House

(Ref. 8/114 - grade II)

List description: House. Early/mid C17. Coursed limestone rubble with small quoins and plinth to rear. Thatch roof with brick ridge stack on stone base. 2-unit plan. One storey plus attic; 2-window range of C20 casements with wood lintels to ground floor and C18 three-light casement to attic. C18 plank door to centre with wood lintel. C20 one-storey extension to rear. Interior: chamfered spine beams with ogee stops. 2 open fireplaces with chamfered bressumers. Some C17 plank and muntin doors. Stone flagged floors.

Harewell Close

(Ref. 8/115 - grade II)

List description: House. Dated 1770. Squared coursed limestone with coped gables. C20-tile roof with stone end stacks. 3-unit plan. 2 storeys plus attic; 3-window range of C20 casements with stone flat arches. Plank door with stone flat arch and flat hood to centre. To first floor left a date-stone inscribed: 'IT/1770' with moulded hood. 3 gabled dormers. Stone and brick range of one storey plus attic to right. Interior: said to have beams and open fireplaces.

Jaques House

(Ref. 8/116 - grade II)

List description: Farmhouse. Mid C17. Coursed limestone rubble with quoins. Stone-slate roof with stone end and lateral stacks. L-shaped plan. 2 storeys plus attic; 2-window range of C19 and C20 casements with wood lintels. C18 plank door with C19 porch to centre. C20 concrete lean-to to left. Interior: double ovolo-moulded spine beams with moulded stops to ground floor. Further chamfered spine beams. Stone flagged floors. Original through-purlin roof with some C17 panelling and C17 door in attic.

Methodist Church

(Ref. 8/118 - grade II)

The building is now converted to a dwelling, apparently retaining all its described features.

List description: Chapel. Dated 1809. Brick in Flemish bond with plinth, some ashlar dressings and stone coped gable. Moulded brick dentilled eaves cornice. Slate roof. 2-storey, 2-window range of early C19 Gothick casements with rubbed brick surrounds. Gabled porch to centre with plank door and flat hood on brackets. Date-stone above porch inscribed: 'METHODIST/CHAPEL/ERECTED/1809'. Further early C19 Gothick casements to sides and rear. Interior: noted as having a west gallery.

Orchard Cottage

(Ref. 8/119 - grade II)

List description: House. Dated 1744. 2 stages of building. Squared coursed limestone with coped gable to right. C20-tile roof with stone and brick end stacks. 2-unit plan. 2-storey, 2-window range. C18 cross casements to first floor with wood lintel and stone flat arch and C20 casements to ground floor. C20 door within C20 gabled porch. Date-stone above door to right is inscribed: 'K/IA/1744' and has a moulded hood. Interior: chamfered spine beams and joists to ground and first floors. Large open fireplace with chamfered timber bressumer. Spiral staircase rising to attics.

Stourton Farmhouse

(Ref. 8/120 - grade II)

List description: Farmhouse. Mid C17 with early C19 alterations and additions. Limestone ashlar to front with squared coursed rubble to rear. Plinth, moulded storey bands and coped gables. C20-tile roof with ashlar end stacks with moulded flues. 3-unit plan. 2 storeys plus attic; 3-window range of early C19 sashes to ground and first floors and 3-light mullioned windows in full gabled dormers. Early C19 six-panelled door with hood supported on consoles to centre. Blocked doorway with old wood lintel to right gable end. Staircase projection, and early C19 extensions to rear. Interior not inspected but likely to be of interest.

Stourton Manor House and attached barn

(Ref. 8/121 - grade II*)

List description: Farmhouse. Early C17 with later C17 and C20 additions. Squared coursed limestone with coped gables. C20-tile and stone-slate roofs with stone ridge and end stacks. T-shaped plan. 2 storeys plus attic; 3-window range of C18 and C19 two- and 3-light casements with wood lintels to front. C17 plank door with decorative strap hinges and ovolo-moulded wood surround in left gable end. 2 ovolo-moulded wood mullioned windows to first floor of left facade. Long C17 range extending to rear with barn attached to end by C20 cottage infill. C20 plank doors. Rear of house has 2 further C17 wood plank doors, one with decorative strap hinges. Interior: stone flagged ground floors. Plank and

moulded-muntin partitions throughout ground floor. Plank and moulded-muntin doors. Large open fireplace with ovolo-moulded bressumer with ogee stops. Further open fireplace with chamfered bressumer and ogee stops. Ovolo-moulded spine beam, and double ovolo-moulded beams. Chamfered beams with ogee stops. Dog-leg staircase rising to attics within plank and moulded-muntin well. Plank and moulded-muntin partitions in first floor, with plank and moulded-muntin doors. Small open fireplaces with ovolo-moulded bressumer. Trenched-purlin roof with collars. C17 timber partitions and C17 plank doors. Barn of 3 bays has queen strut roof. Purlins replaced.

Tachbrook House

(Ref. 8/122 - grade II)

List description: House. Dated 1761, with mid C19 additions. Squared coursed limestone with quoins and coped gables. Artificial stone-slate roofs with stone and brick end stacks. L-shaped plan. 2 storeys plus attic; 3-window range of C19 casements and sashes with stone flat arches and key-blocks. 3 gabled dormers. Door in C20 one-storey brick lean-to to rear. In right gable end a moulded date-stone inscribed in bas-relief: 'J/MM/1761'. Early C19 two-storey stone range to rear. Interior: chamfered spine beams with ogee stops. Some stone flagged floors.

The Corner Cottage

(Ref. 8/123 - grade II)

List description: House. Dated 1707. Coursed limestone rubble with coped gable to left. C20-tile roof with altered stone end stack. 2-unit plan. 2-storey, 2-window range of 3-light casements with stone flat arches. C19 plank door with stone flat arch to centre. Between first floor windows a date-stone inscribed 'W/WM 1750'. C19 one-storey stone range to right. Interior not inspected but likely to be of interest.

The Mill House

(Ref. 3/124 - grade II)

List description: Mill house. Dated 1745. Squared coursed limestone with plinth, quoins and plain storey band. C20-tile roof with stone end stacks. 3-unit plan. 2 storeys plus attic; 3-window range of C20 three-light casements to ground floor and two-light casements to first floor, all with original stone flat arches. Small pointed light to far right. C20 plank door with stone flat arch to centre right. Date-stone with moulded hood above door is inscribed '?/1745'. Three C20 gabled dormers. C20 two-storey stone extension in imitative style to left, and large C20 range to rear. Interior: said to have beams on first floor.

The Old Bakery

(Ref. 8/125 - grade II)

List description: House. Dated 1695, raised early C19. Squared coursed limestone with quoins and coped gables. C20-tile roof with bases of stone end stacks. 2-unit plan. 3-storey, 2-window range of C19 and C20 casements, those to ground and first floors in openings of original mullioned windows, with hood moulds and labels. 6-panelled door to centre with flat hood. Between first floor windows a moulded date-stone inscribed in bas-relief: 'IS/1695'. One-storey stone range to left. Interior not inspected but likely to be of interest.

Webbs

(Ref. 8/126 - grade II)

List description: House. Dated 1720. Squared coursed limestone with coped gables. C20-tile roof with stone end stacks. T-shaped plan. 2 storeys plus attic; 3-window range of C20 cross casements with original stone flat arches. C20 door to centre with gabled hood. C20 gabled dormer. On left gable end a date-stone inscribed 'W/WM/1720'. Interior: noted as having beams, an open fireplace and timber partitions.

Cherington

The following buildings are in the parish of Cherington, but in the settlement of Stourton. The parish boundary runs along Featherbed Lane.

Cherington Arms Public House

(Ref. 8/22 - grade II)

List description: Public house. Mid C18. Squared coursed limestone with quoins and coped gables. Slate roof with stone end stacks. 2-unit plan. 2 storeys plus attic; 2-window range of C18 cross casements to first floor and C19 cross casements to ground floor. Windows have stone flat arches. C20 one-storey brick extension. C20 glazed door within. Two C19 gabled dormers. 2 further cross casements to right gable end, with worn date-stone and moulded hood above. C20 one-storey stone extension to rear. Interior: chamfered spine beam and large open fireplace with chamfered bressumer. Included for group value.

The Anchorage

(Ref. 8/23 - grade II)

List description: House. Early C18. Squared coursed limestone with quoins and coped gables. Stone-slate roof with stone and brick end stacks. 3-unit plan. 2 storeys plus attic; 3-window range of C20 three-light casements with stone flat arches. Part-glazed panelled door with moulded wood surround and flat hood on consoles to centre. 2 gabled dormers. C18 one-storey range, and C20 brick range to rear. Interior: one ovolo-moulded spine beam, others chamfered with ogee stops. Open fireplace with chamfered timber bressumer. Through-purlin roof. Part of original spiral staircase remains in attic.

The Old School House

Featherbed Lane

(Ref. 8/28 - grade II)

House. Early/mid C18. Squared coursed limestone with quoins and coped gables. Slate roof with stone end stacks. 3-unit plan. 2-storey, 3-window range of C20 cross casements with stone flat arches. Plank door with stone flat arch and C20 gabled porch to centre. C18 two-storey stone range to right with C20 casements and blocked doorway with stone flat arches. C18 stair-turret range rising to attics to rear. Interior: noted as having chamfered spine beams.

Appendix B - Significant Unlisted Buildings in the Conservation Area

Cherington Mill

1½ storey stone with stone gabled dormers, and stone slate roof. Variety of outbuildings in brick and stone, including two storey Flemish bonded brick granary building. Landmark building at junction of western approach to village.

Brookfield and Clovelly

Two cottages, originally three. Brookfield now pebbledashed, probably over brickwork, with segmental arches. Clovelly is main part of row, in rough coursed stone, coped gables and black slate roof. Central door, casement windows each side. Important in context of village street.

Little Cottage and The Cottage
Featherbed Lane

Simple stone cottages with steep tiled roofs. Rough coursed rubble with large faced quoins. Important as part of group with The Old School House defining green and forming entrance to village centre from Featherbed Lane.

Orchard Way

Brick house dated "W.J. 1812", with symmetrical façade and slate roof. Continuity to street scene.

Barn east of Jaques House

Old 1½ storey stone barn, still in use as store behind C20 concrete block shop and office. Steep pitched roof, originally thatched now corrugated iron. Potential for improvement with removal of C20 building.

Webbs Farm Stables

Stable block, stone with outside stairs. Now converted to offices / studios. Completes setting of Webbs Farm house.

Stourton Farm Barn

Excellent barn in coursed random brown stone with ashlar Cotswold stone quoins and window / door surrounds. Steep pitched slated roof. Provides very strong definition to corner of lane opposite Stourton Manor.

Badgers House

Simple stone cottage, sympathetically extended. Very important visual stop on approach from Sutton under Brailes.

Outbuildings east of Harewell House

Simple stone building on boundary wall behind house, semi-derelict with shallow corrugated roof. Similar red brick building further to east, with stone gable and old slate roof - derelict. Both provide strong definition to lane on approach into Stourton.

The Bell House and Rose Cottage

Simple detached houses which complete enclosure of area around road junction.

Barn behind Corner House

1½ storeys now converted to a dwelling. Stone flank wall provides strong enclosure to street - pointing of stonework is inappropriate with "buttered" joints.

House adjacent to the Mill House

Two storey stone house constructed in brown ironstone, with slate roof. Modern hardwood casements, tall reconstituted stone chimney. Forms group with The Mill House (listed).

Stourton House and adjacent building

Single storey building with large boarded doors. Stone construction with slate roof. Forms important closure to green on the Whichford road.

Labourers' cottages, Whichford road

Row of brick cottages of various constructions, slate roofs. Left hand cottage is colour-washed. 1½ storeys with gabled windows in upper storey. Forms important closure to green on the Whichford road.

Brook House

C19 brick Villa, in burnt header Flemish bond, slate roof. Elegant symmetrical design.

Appendix C - Tree Species

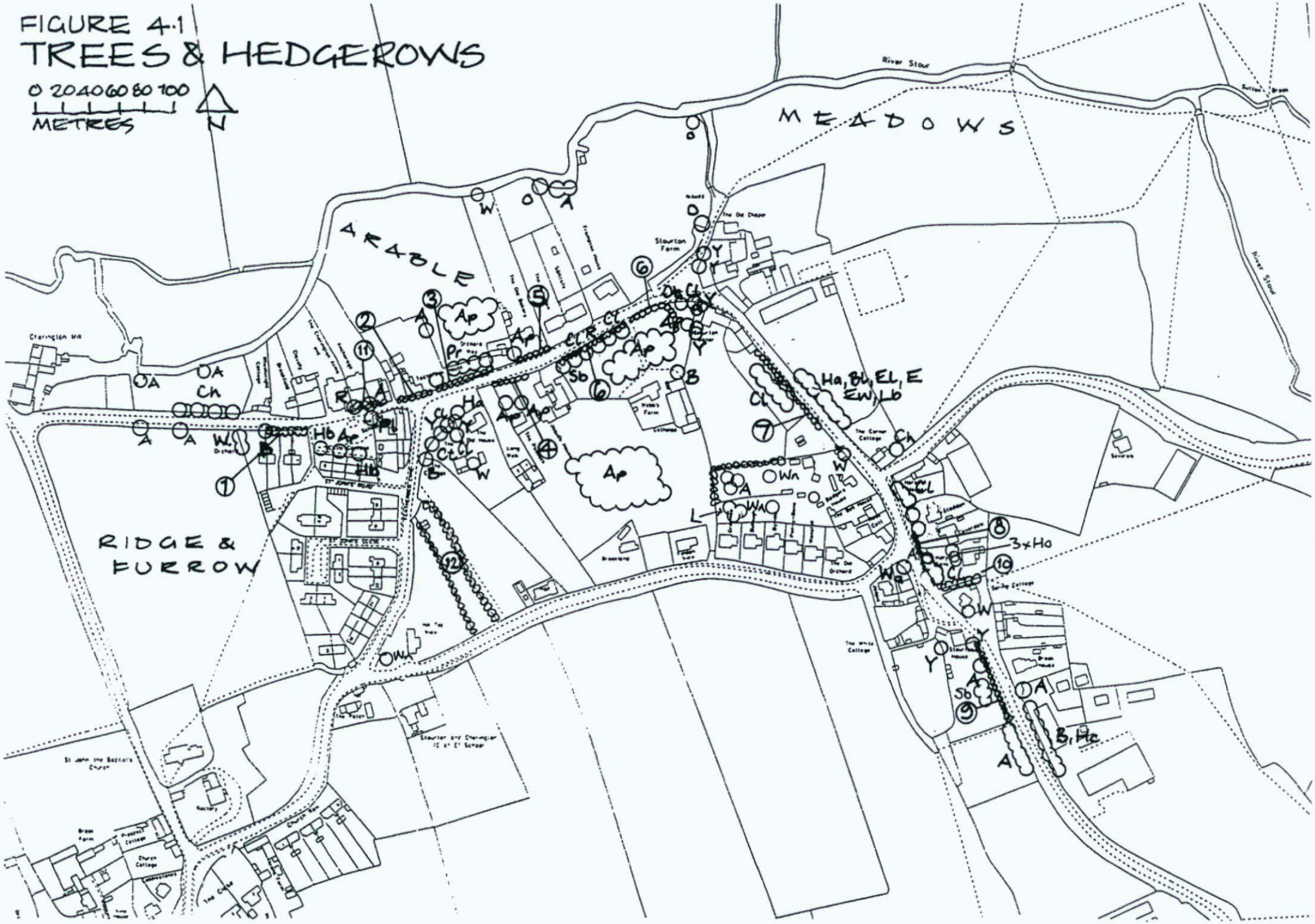
Key to figure 4.1

Trees

A	Ash	*Fraxinus Excelsior*
Ap	Apple sp.	*Malus sp.*
B	Beech	*Fagus Sylvatica*
Bl	Blackthorn, Sloe	*Prunus Spinosa*
Ch	Cherry sp.	*Prunus sp.*
Cl	Lawson Cypress	*Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana*
Ct	Sweet Chestnut	*Castanea Sativa*
E	English Elm	*Ulmus Procera*
El	Elder	*Sambucus Nigra*
Ew	Wych Elm	*Ulmus Glabra*
Ha	Hawthorn	*Crataegus Monogyna*
Hb	Hornbeam	*Carpinus Betulus*
Ho	Holly	*Ilex Aquifolium*
Lb	Lime (broad leaved)	*Tilia Platyphyllos*
Pl	Lombardy Poplar	*Populus Nigra Italica*
Pr	Pear sp.	*Pyrus sp.*
R	Rowan	*Sorbus Acuparia*
Sb	Silver Birch	*Betula Pendula*
W	Weeping Willow	*Salix Chrysocoma*
Wa	White Willow	*Salix Alba*
Y	Yew	*Taxus Baccata*

Hedgerows

1. Leylandii: 2m
2. Beech and Holly: 2m
3. Yew: 1.8m
4. Lawsons Cypress: 1.2m
5. Mixed deciduous species: 4.5m
6. Hawthorn: 1.2m
7. Hawthorn predominantly: 2.7m, untidy
8. Privet / hawthorn / holly:
9. Beech: 4.5, thin
10. Garden hedge, beech, holly, yew, box
11. Clipped yew, front hedge
12. Field hedges

FIGURE 4.1

TREES & HEDGEROWS