



Appendix 3

Parish Character Assessment Summaries, Conservation Areas and Village Design statements

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Chew Magna Parish Character Summary

Landform: The village and settlement of Chew Magna is situated in a rural, agricultural environment towards the north side of the Chew Valley on the south facing valley side. The two watercourses that run through the village are the River Chew and the Winford Brook. The River Chew has a defined flood plain but the Winford Brook can also be the cause of flooding within some low lying areas of the village.

Views In: The village can be seen from the surrounding higher ground and from the many approaching footpaths. These views are most dramatic from the hills to the north, e.g. the southern view towards the lake and Mendip Hills from the top of Norton Lane and Chew Hill.

Views Out: Being surrounded by open countryside there are many views from within the village, often between properties, towards the Mendip Hills across Chew Lake to the south and up towards the Dundry Hills in the north.

Natural Features in and around the parish boundary: As befits a rural environment, there is an abundance of established trees, shrubs and mixed mature deciduous hedges with the village surrounded by agricultural land and meadows. The cricket pitch is at the eastern end of the village and the Chew Magna reservoir is at the western end. The two watercourses with their leats and weirs are important features of the village, and the river Chew and its banks provide many important habitats for a variety of wildlife. Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and Special Scientific Interest have been identified within and adjacent to Chew Magna.

Built Heritage in the village or parish: Chew Magna has a very varied mix of properties: 15th Century farmhouses; 18th Century merchants' houses; traditional cottages and some 20th Century developments. More than twenty residential properties are listed. Most properties are two storeys although some of the older houses have garret rooms and parapets. Pitched roofs, some with dormer windows, predominate, usually tiled (pan tiles or double roman) but some slate. Ridge tiles and chimney pots are often decorative. Apart from those properties that have a render finish, the construction materials are Devonian Sandstone or local natural stone. Natural stone is also widely used for the numerous high stone boundary walls (some inset with village posting boxes) that abut the highways and footpaths. Other characteristics of this village are pavements comprising stone flags edged with stone setts and stone kerbs, finger posts, arched doorways and feature porches.

Other important features: The major landmarks are the Church of St. Andrew; the adjacent medieval alehouse (the Old Schoolroom); Chew Court and the Manor House. The many bridges, including the humped Tun Bridge (a scheduled ancient monument), over the two watercourses and the railings on the high pavement are important features. Adjacent to Tun Bridge is a dilapidated three storey traditional mill and waterwheel. Despite the constant and dominant traffic along the High Street, the accessible areas bordering the two water courses and the closeness to tranquil countryside provide a welcome calmness.

Summary statement: Chew Magna is an historic settlement with many notable features and is the major village within the Chew Valley with its commercial, retail and community facilities including a post office, a bank, a pharmacist, three public houses and a very popular primary school.

Any development, taking into consideration possible flooding issues, will need to be mindful of the style of surrounding properties; enhance the Conservation Area and should not be detrimental to the open character of the village.

There is a full conservation area character appraisal supplementary planning guide, adopted in 2003.

http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/chew_magna_caa.pdf

There is a village design statement adopted as a supplementary planning guide, in February 2006.

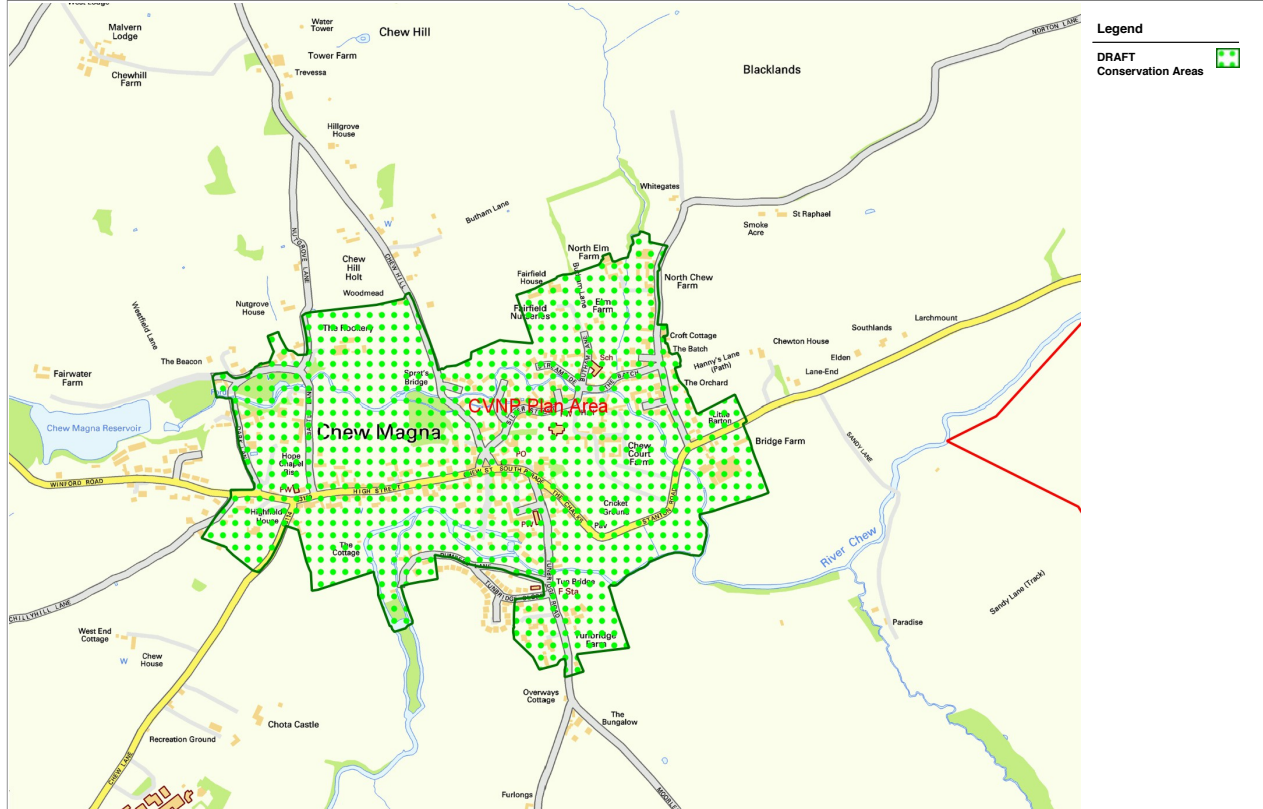
http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/SPDs/chew_magna_village_design_statement.pdf



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Chew Magna Conservation Area

Bath and North East Somerset: District Online



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Chew Stoke Parish Character Summary

Chew Stoke is a small village and civil parish in the middle of the Chew Valley about 8 miles south of Bristol. The village is sat in the undulating pastoral valley floor bounded by the Mendips to the south and the Dundry ridge to the north. The parish extends to incorporate the hamlet of Breach Hill which is approximately 2 miles south west of Chew Stoke itself and it also incorporates the north-west shore of Chew Valley Lake.

The village is enfolded by smaller river valley tributaries, hillocks, plateaux and the rise of the land towards the Dundry ridge. The resulting presentation is of a village nestling comfortably and somewhat secretly into the folds of the varied topography. Observing the village from its surrounds, one sees areas of huddled rooftops, the church spire and more isolated houses dotted around the periphery. The village is never presented in its wholeness.

The Parish is washed over by the Bristol/Bath green-belt. The Mendips Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty extends to the southern fringes of the parish. Parts of the parish bordering the lake have been designated as SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) due to their birdlife and ecological diversity. Areas of pastureland and streamside woodland have been designated BRERC Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. There are two River Chew tributaries that flow through the centre of the village.

Land surrounding the village is largely given over to pastoral use with some arable on the higher northern areas. There is little in the way of established woodland areas although the small field sizes in the pastoral areas contain established hedgerows lined with trees which viewed from afar presents deceptively a more wooded landscape. There is a small area of common land at Breach Hill.

Up until the 20th Century, from its medieval origins, Chew Stoke had developed into a small farming community made up of a number of nearby farmsteads and associated cottages built alongside the main thoroughfare, Bristol Road. An older centre of the village was located along Pilgrims Way that loops onto the Bristol Road. A 1900 map shows the layout described, with orchards extending from the back of houses and cottages and surrounding farmsteads.

The 1950's saw the creation of Chew Valley Lake, a changed road layout and addition of 50 new houses along Walley Court Road and the cul-de-sacs of Bilbie Road and Bushy Thorn Road. Throughout the 20th century, the village became developed by significant infill housing in the adjoining orchard areas throughout the village to largely meet the demands of the increasing Bristol bound commuting population. The original roads and the lanes off these roads became lined with new 20th century houses and the lanes off these roads together with newly created residential cul-de-sacs. Pockets of old village development are therefore intermingled with 20th century infill housing mainly contained within the designated village conservation area to the north of Bristol Road. In 2010-13, the Dairy Way development of 38 houses on the old Radford's factory site was completed.

21st century Chew Stoke therefore includes a mixture of housing types and styles with no definitive themes. The older houses in the village do not show any particular collective styles although common materials used include random local stone and whitewashed rendered elevations over French clay-tiled pitched roofs. There is a higher than average proportion of larger detached houses.

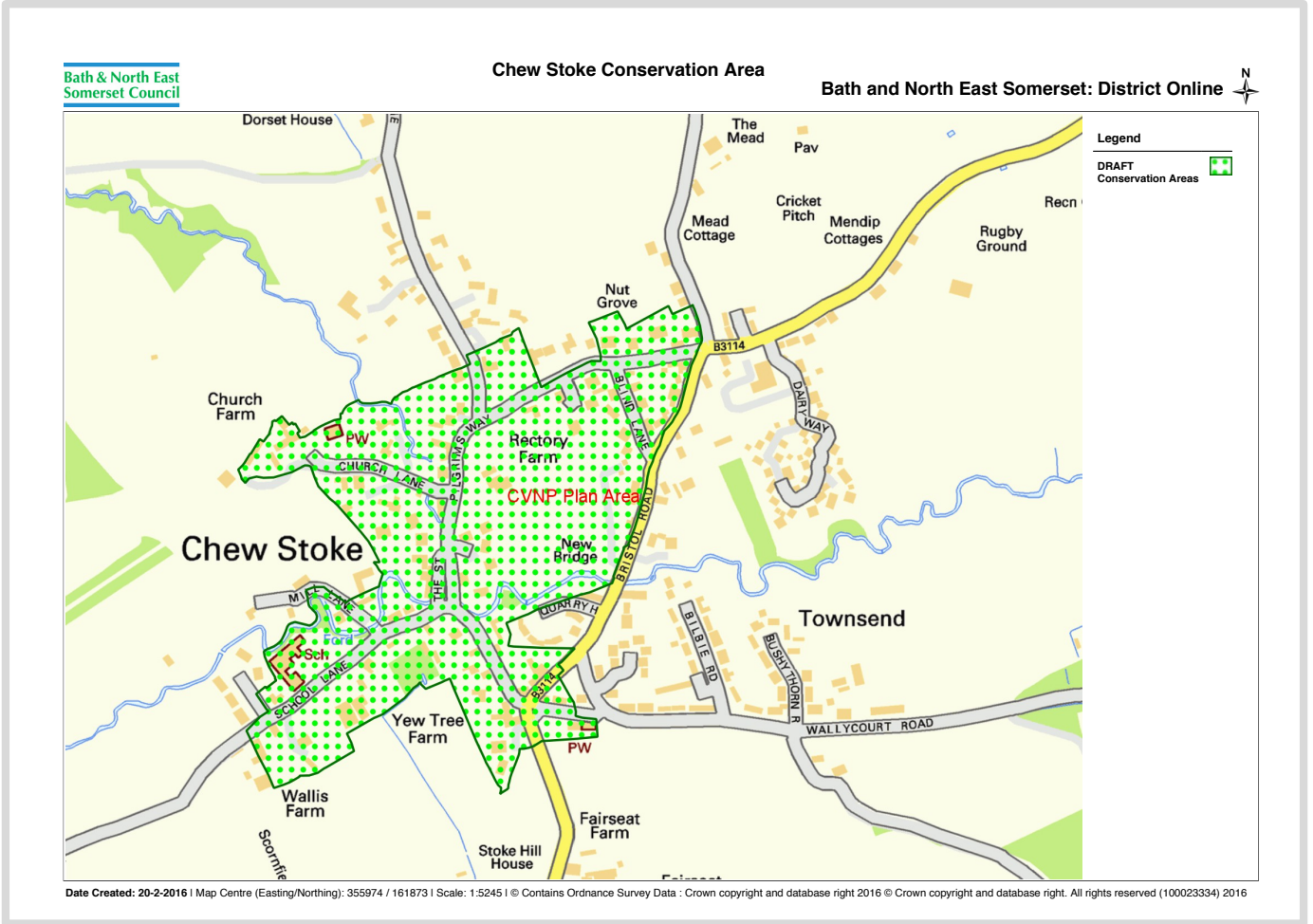
Notable historic buildings in the village include St Andrews Church, The Old Rectory, the New Rectory and the old farmhouses including Fairseat Farm, Manor Farm, North Hill Farm and Wallis Farm.

Amenities in the village include Chew Stoke Church School, Chew Valley Secondary School with associated leisure centre, the Rectory Field recreation area, the Bilbie Road playground, Hedgehogs cricket pitch, 2 village pubs, a village shop and garage, Chew Valley Rugby Club, Chew Stoke Bowling Club, Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club, Chew Stoke Methodist Church and Church Hall, St Andrews Church, and Chew Stoke Church Hall. The Chew Valley Medical Practice re-located to the village in 2013 and The Fairseat Farm business complex on Stoke Hill accommodates 10 small business units.

The population of the village based upon 2011 census is 911. The demographic make-up is markedly split between



an older retired population and an increasing number of young families attracted by village life in close proximity to Bristol. Many households contain a family member that commutes to Bristol although there is an increasing number of home-workers. The higher than average proportion of higher value, larger detached properties in the village makes it very difficult for older downsizers and young adults to remain living in the village.





Compton Martin Parish Character Summary

The setting in which our village is placed is to be envied and is highly valued both by the local inhabitants and by people and organisations outside of the parish. Its position along the northern slopes of the Mendip hills down to the Chew Valley Lake affords wonderful views.

The main features include woodlands, tracks, and grasslands as meadows, hedgerows, trees, streams and the Chew Valley Lake.

The geology of the area is of great interest, particularly the old quarry and the rock outcrops towards the top of the hill.

Footpaths and walks through the woods, fields and lanes, are a particularly enjoyable way of seeing many aspects of the parish, particularly The Combe, which retains much of its old character in forms and leads to the top of the Mendips via the interesting geology of the Old Quarry.

Compton Wood is included in the EN's Inventory of Ancient Woodlands and is designated as a site of Nature Conservation Importance by B&NES. The Ochre Mine is notified as a SSSI as a geological site and a hibernaculum for bats. Within the Compton Martin Conservation Area can be found the twelfth century Church of St Michaels, the Mill Pond, and The Combe.



The views from Compton Martin Village Hall looking over the Amenity Field take in Chew Valley Lake, Blagdon Lake, and Dundry Ridge.

Views from the Wrangle encompass Chew Valley Lake, Blagdon Lake, the slopes of Dundry Ridge and much more.



Highfield Lane, has a Rag Well. The Wrangle offers some of the best views of Chew Valley Lake.

The Batch opposite the Mill Pond continues to be the home for the remaining Beech tree, a key feature of Compton Martin. The Weeping Ash Tree on Combe View is the home to many Bats. The Beech Tree at Earls Farm is a veteran tree protected by a TPO.

There are scattered old apple trees through the village.

The Amenity Field, recently purchased by the Village and the responsibility of the Village Hall continues to have the unaltered hedgerow. There are many hedgerows surrounding agricultural fields.



The Mill Pond continues to be the home of kingfishers, herons, moorhens, mallards. Frogs spawn annually in the pond, and live alongside a variety of species of natural fish and insects.

Up until the 20th century, Compton Martin was mainly a development of cottages and farms either side of the main road with long gardens and orchards running back at right angles to the road. Some gardens and orchards have been built on in the 20th century.

The character and design of buildings have developed gradually over hundreds of years but predominantly over the



last 30 years. Control over development has been enforced through Bath & North East Somerset planning guidelines and further restrictions due to the village being within part of the Mendip Hills AONB with a designated Conservation Area.

Important features of existing houses are the height of the roof lines, the size, shape and type of window (former windows not being a feature of the front elevation of houses along The Street. The walls are constructed of local stone, geologically terms dolomitic conglomerate) surface showing or painted white. Stone walls are capped with stones sticking up. The roofs are pitched and tiled with Bridgwater (Double Roman) or pan tiles. There are relatively tall brick chimneys on a number of houses. There is also a variation in height and angle of connecting roof lines. The village hall is atypical in being roofed with the smaller Brosley tiles.

Compton Martin does not have street lights and therefore dark skies are an important feature.

Our twelfth century Church is considered one of the finest specimens of Norman architecture, situated on The Batch, overlooking the Mill Pond and the valley beyond.

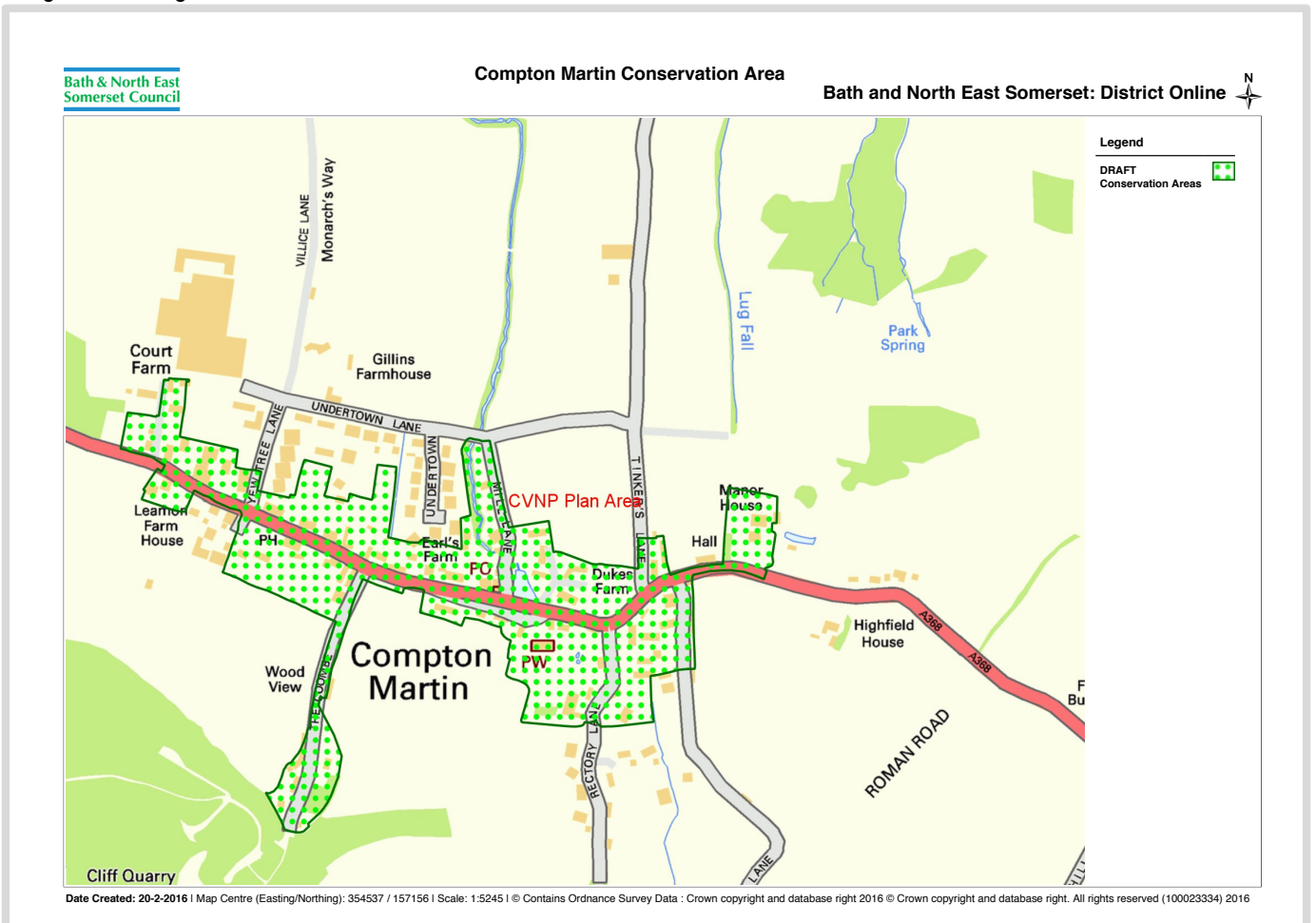
One of the oldest domestic buildings in the village is Moat Farm, previously Bickfield Manor with a great hall, once perhaps a Nunnery and still with a moat.

Compton Martin continues to have a thriving Village Hall, Church and the Ring O Bells Pub in the centre of the villages provides good food.

Whilst our shop closed, the Post Office remains an important facility to parishioners. All of the above offer a meeting point for locals and visitors alike.



It is widely acknowledged that Compton Martin has an excellent community spirit and it is cited as a key quality of living in the village.





Landform

The combination of geographical, topographical, geological, ecological and historical factors form the current character of East Harptree village.

Geography and Topography: East Harptree is an ancient settlement situated at the base of the Mendip Hills and is bounded by Smitham Hill (south), the flat plain leading to South Widcombe (North) , Coley (East) and Harptree Combe (West). The village includes the small settlements at Eastwood and those at Townsend, Shrowle and Coley, north of the B3114 and in the flat Chew Valley.

The village nestles at the base of the northern side of Mendip, and is within the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The core of the village is south of the B3114; the High Street leads uphill south -west, and splits into three parallel, partly sunken, narrow lanes, which join again at Proud Cross to rise steeply up Smitham Hill, a rise of 165 metres overall.

Geology: Harptree Combe is a deep Triassic valley, containing deposits of Dolomitic Conglomerate, and this attractive, warm coloured stone has been used for centuries as the main building stone in East Harptree. Stone possibly taken from Richmonte Castle has been found in at least 3 existing houses during an English Heritage survey around 2006. Around 50 buildings shown on the 1839 tithe map still exist, now converted into modern homes, but almost all built of the local stone.

Ecology: The core of the village nestles between the wooded combe, the wooded parkland of Harptree Court, and the remnants of other ancient woodlands (from which many of the hedgerows have been cut) to the east of the village. The combination of the surrounding woods, caves in the combe, livestock farming, and green spaces and large gardens within the village, have made it a very attractive area for wildlife, in particular rare and protected bats. The village is within the buffer zone around the Mendip Bats Special Area of Conservation. More than 10 species of bats were found feeding in a field between Middle & Water Street in a 2014 survey"

Development history: The East Harptree settlement evolved in the 11th Century when Richmonte Castle was developed and local farming, hunting and woodlands were generated to serve the castle and the local labour that settled close by. The settlement buildings developed within the village mainly on or close to the narrow, sunken parallel lanes and this remained the principal pattern until the 20th Century. Infill on the high ground between the lanes did not start until circa 1950, with the need for social housing at that time. However, the height of infill dwellings constructed between 1960 and 1990 was subsequently limited by planning rules so that newer houses did not dominate the much older buildings.

Views In

Due to the setting of the village and the wider parish, there are restricted views into the centre as these are obscured by mature trees and the undulating topography in which the village is set. However, given the elevated nature of the village on the side of the Mendip escarpment, it is prominent when viewed from the north and east.



Views Out

Local agricultural land use permeates the village settlement and thus connects the inner village space with the surrounding, rural countryside.



The north and eastern fringes of the parish are very open with long sweeping views of open countryside, including views of Chew Valley Lake. The northern and eastern aspects have far-reaching views over open countryside. Views are more prominent from the southern end of the village. Where there are gaps between buildings, these glimpsed views are long and of great value. Views of the night sky, relatively unpolluted by street lighting, are an important aspect of the village.

Natural Features in and around the parish boundary

The Beech trees (Smitham Hill)
 Harptree Court Park
 Garrow Bottom
 Smithams Chimney and Frances Plantation to South
 Two natural watercourses down Water Street and Harptree Coombe

List of Important Local Green Spaces:

The green spaces within the village have many fine mature trees, hedges and bushes. Most fields are enclosed by hedgerows in keeping with the rural character of the parish.
 Townsend Playing Fields & Children's Playground
 Parkers Mead
 The Orchard

Built Heritage in the parish

History: The medieval core of East Harptree was focused on the church of St Lawrence and the High Street, and this is now a conservation area, as is the area around Proud Cross, at the southern end of the village. The entrance to the only major castle earthwork on West Mendip, Richmonte Castle, is reached from Proud Cross; the castle dates from the 11th century and is on a prominent spur within the ancient woodland of Harptree Combe, a SSSI. This has resulted in a settlement in a rural area surrounded by, small and irregular-shaped fields on the edge of the Mendip Hills escarpment that overlooks the Chew Valley lake.



The village pattern is linear with three medieval parallel north-south roads in the core joining at the northern and southern ends to form single-track entry and exit routes, generally without any pavements. At the north this route crosses the B3114 which forms a clear distinction between the Mendip Hill slopes to the south and the flat plain areas to the north. The formal structure of the roads helps to define the centre of the village.



The houses and cottages are generally close to the road with narrow plots and stone walls. There is Harptree Court in the centre of the village consisting of the house and buildings with walled gardens and its park that dominate the central part of the village. The Church, school and village hall also contribute to the visible built environment with older dwellings bordering the narrow lanes, usually in the form of terraces. Infill development has taken place with more modern dwellings built in cul de sacs that lead off from the ancient lanes.

There are many listed buildings within the parish (please refer to the East Harptree Parish Council website: (<http://eastharptreeparish.org> go to the Reference section : Listings and Section G with Images)) as well as Richmonte Castle earthworks, the Victorian Aqueduct, Smitham Chimney and other ancient structures.

Other important features

Landmarks:

- Harptree Court
- Eastwood Manor
- Eastwood Manor Farm Steading
- Harptree Combe – which also contains the remains of Richmonte Castle
- Village Clock Tower
- St. Laurence Church and Tower – with adjacent stone keyhole stiles
- Victorian village water pumps
- Victorian School Building
- Village Theatre / Village Hall
- Smitham Chimney and Frances Plantation – including a lead mine and smelting works



Footpaths: 33 miles of footpaths within the parish intermingle with the settlement and connect with adjoining parishes thus enabling people to visit Harptree Combe and the Richmonte Castle ruins, as well as walking through the surrounding fields that are largely used for grazing livestock.



Victorian Aqueduct: and the ancient aquifer that accompanies the footpath in Harptree Combe offers a unique feature.

Ancient stone stiles: (squeeze type) and stone Mendip slab stiles still remain around the edge of the village with other old wooden stiles in the village replaced by kissing gates.

Two large Conservation Areas: The Historic Core Conservation Area and the Pound Cross Conservation Area.

Summary and conclusion:

East Harptree settlement has evolved to what it is today since the first recorded settlement in the 11th Century (associated with Richmonte Castle).

This summary is a condensed version of the East Harptree Village Character Assessment – the full version can be found on the Parish website:

<http://eastharptreeparish.org/documents/EastHarptreeVCAsubmitted031215.pdf>



Bath & North East
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East Harptree Conservation Area

Bath and North East Somerset: District Online



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Hinton Blewett Parish Character Summary

Landform: The landscape is generally open and undulating in character but being high up and flat the panoramic views to the south and east are long but shallow. All the surrounding land, which significantly reaches right into the centre of the village on several sides, is exclusively farmland used mostly for grazing with a small amount of arable.

Views In: The dispersed settlement with its historic nucleus of buildings, clustered around the village green (Church, Manor House and Rectory) is surrounded by footpaths offering views back to the village which is also visible from field gateways and from the lanes above the hedgerows. The Conservation Area of the village is visible from parts of Upper and Lower Roads. There are views of the village including the Conservation Area and the Church tower



from a long distance away.

Views Out: There are views in every direction, across farmland, which are especially panoramic south-eastwards from Lower Road to Cam Brook and on across a patchwork of small pastures, tree studded old hedgerows, isolated farmhouses and the AONB towards the Mendip Hills in the distance. There are views to the Chew Valley and



westwards to the Bristol Channel. The southerly open aspect from the village green (Barbury) along Lower Road is regarded as the prime view.

Natural Features in and around the parish boundary: The walls are of dry stone wall construction of lower Lias stone. The fields which are small to medium and of varying shapes, often as a result of historical farming practices are bounded by ancient hedgerows and stone walls often under ancient hedgerows. The River Chew runs along the south west parish boundary.

Built Heritage in the village or parish: The traditional old stone buildings contribute greatly to the character of the area. In addition to the Manor, Old Rectory and several 15th & 16th century cottages close by, there are about a dozen former farmhouses scattered around the periphery of the village. There is a variety of building styles since properties have been built piecemeal over the years. All the dwellings are each in their own enclosure. Most buildings are two storeys, with the exception of a few bungalows, and are either semi-detached or detached and of a variety of contemporary stone and rendered finishes. There are no terraced houses in the village. The roofs of all the buildings are clay tiles with varying pitches. There are no slate roofs. Boundary





treatment is stone walling to boundaries of most residential property with indigenous hedgerows to field boundaries.

Other important features: The village is rooted in the rural landscape and has a distinctive rural look and feel with the village green (Barbury) forming the 'heart' of the village. The tranquil nature of the locality is peaceful and quiet at all times of day. The sounds and smells come from flowers, grass, agriculture and birdsong.

Summary: Adjacent to the AONB and situated on an elevated plateau with spectacular views towards the Mendip Hills, the Bristol Channel and Wales, the village of Hinton Blewett is mentioned in Domesday but is thought to date from the Saxon period. The village is somewhat isolated and very rural, on a road to nowhere. It is peaceful and quiet at all times of day.

Although the village is on top of a hill the surrounding landscape is plateau-like and the views, although long, are shallow and uninterrupted and, as such, are precious and could be easily obscured by insensitive development. There are views in every direction, both in and out of the village.



All the old properties are of limestone construction and there is stone walling to boundaries of most residential property with indigenous hedgerows to field boundaries.

The middle of the village has a typical medieval road layout where houses are mainly post war semi-detached houses in long gardens set back from the road. There are gaps between buildings and green spaces. Farmland surrounds the village and pastures reach into the middle of the village. Properties are in general strung out or scattered throughout the village with a backdrop to buildings of trees, ancient hedgerows and stone walls, creating some areas of intense greenery.

The parish has a legacy of traditional old stone buildings contributing greatly to the character of the area. As well as several 15th & 16th century cottages, there are about a dozen former farmhouses scattered around the periphery of the village. The village centre of Manor, Rectory, pub, village green (Barbury) and Church is to the east of the settlement and defined as part of the Conservation Area. This layout is based on an historic settlement around the village green. Distinctive to the Conservation Area is the fact that all the buildings in this part of the village are single properties. There are several Listed Buildings in this area with no buildings constructed in nearly the last 200 years. It is a priority to maintain the look of the Conservation Area, unchanged since the early 19th century and the open spaces to the south and west.

The extensive network of Public Rights of Way through and around the village is a valuable inheritance from times when footpaths formed an important part of the routeway system.

The parish is adjacent to the AONB and there are several Sites of Special Scientific Interest and a Nature Conservation area alongside Cam Brook.

The fields are small to medium and of varying shapes, often as a result of historical farming practices and ownership.

With no street lighting and no nearby settlements means little light pollution and brilliant night skies. The only amenities are the pub, church, hall and playing field and there is no daily public transport.

There is a full conservation area character appraisal supplementary planning guide, adopted in 2014.

http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/hinton_blewett_stage2_v5.pdf

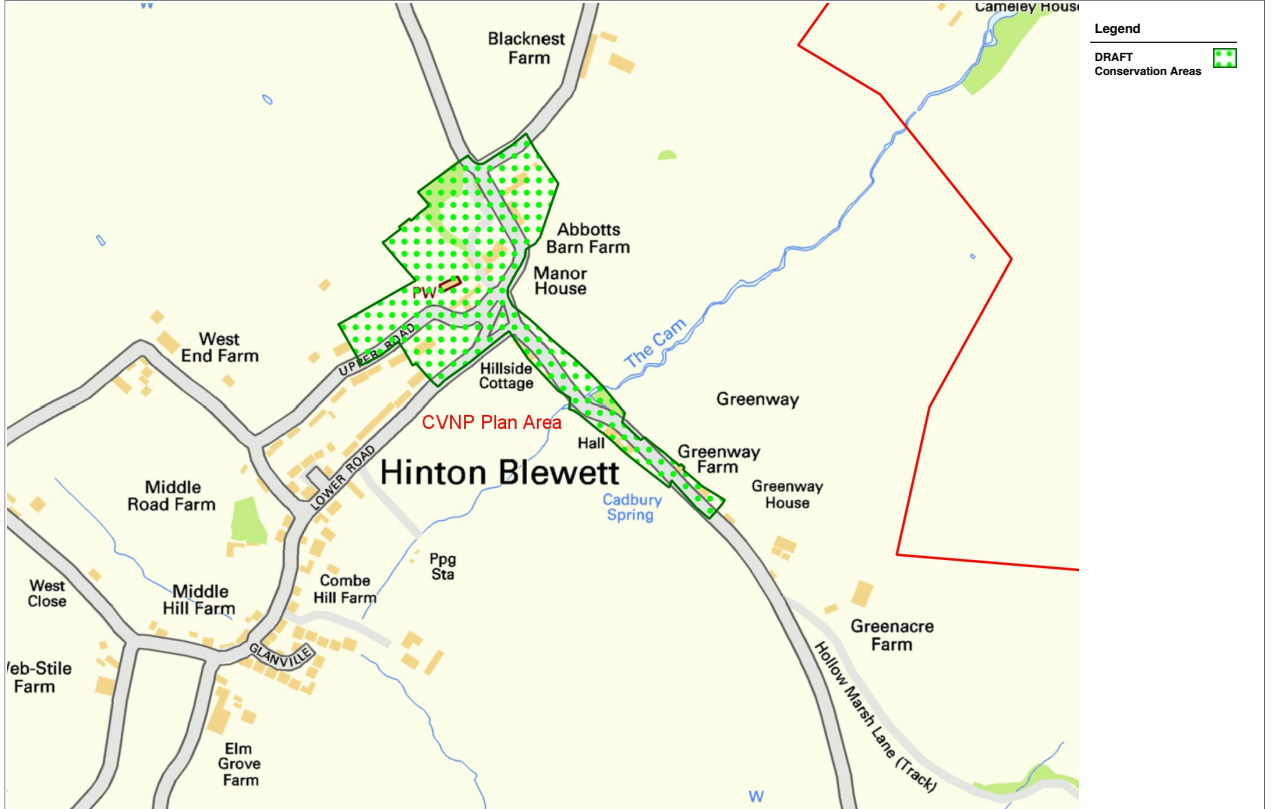
This summary is a condensed version of the Character Assessment contained in Hinton Blewett Placemaking Plan – the full version can be found on the Parish website: <http://hintonblewettpc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/16.01.28-HB-PP-Character-Summary.pdf>



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Hinton Blewett Conservation Area

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Ubley Parish Character Summary

Landform: Ubley Parish sits in the Yeo valley at the west end of the Chew Valley. It is bordered to the north and south with ridges of hills, most significantly the Mendips to the south. It sits within the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is a small village with an eclectic mix of houses and is surrounded by farmland. Ubley village is mostly on the valley floor but rises up on the lower slopes of the Mendip Hills to the south. Blagdon Lake lies just to the north west of the village. The valley landscape surrounding the village is of farmland with small and medium sized fields largely for grazing. Fields are separated by well-kept hedgerows with intermittent mature trees. There is a main 'A' road through the valley passing across the southern edge of the village. The roads into and through the village are, however, quite narrow and winding and have no pavements. The whole area is rich in wildlife and is rural and unspoilt in character. There are several rights of way with popular byways and footpaths across the fields and up on to the Mendips. Ubley Wood, on the northern slopes of the Mendips above the village, is a large and important area of woodland for the parish and its surroundings.

Views In: There are magnificent views from the slopes of the Mendips across the Parish and as far as South Wales to the west and the hills of Bath to the east. The village and its valley setting can also be seen from the



north looking south across the valley towards the Mendip Hills. The Church, although small, is a focal point for the older part of the village that sits in the Conservation Area and draws the eye to the centre of the village, particularly looking north from the Mendips where The Glebe Field in front of the Church opens up the view.



Views Out: The main views from the village are up to the two ridges of hills north and south. There are some parts of the village where Blagdon Lake can be seen. The village is broadly in an "L" shape defined by The Street with other lanes winding off. There are views up and down both 'arms' of The Street. The expansive views from the footpaths and byways around the village help both to see the village in its immediate landscape but also within the larger rural surroundings.



Natural Features in and around the parish boundary: The valley landscape surrounding the village is of farmland with small and medium sized fields largely for grazing. Fields are separated by well-kept hedgerows with intermittent mature trees. There is quite a lot of greenery throughout the village. There are many mature trees, mostly in gardens and the Churchyard in and around the Conservation Area. The roads are lined by a mixture of hedgerows and walls, the latter of which are of local stone. Ubley Wood, on the northern slopes of the Mendips above the village, is a large and important area of woodland for the parish and its surroundings. Blagdon Lake lies just to the north west of the village.



Built Heritage in the village or parish The village is broadly in an "L" shape defined by The Street with other lanes winding off. Some buildings are close to the roads, others set well back. The plot sizes vary greatly, with some properties having large gardens mostly to the rear. Ubley village has an eclectic mix of housing. In what is a small village of about 130 properties there is a mix of terraced, semi-detached and detached houses. Many of the houses in the conservation area are detached and built of stone. There is an area of mid-20th century houses and bungalows and also a set of white



rendered villas in a Spanish style. For the most part, though, houses are of a similar scale and height with nothing over two storeys tall. Most of the roofs are brown or reddish-brown tiles although there are a few in a natural slate. The pitch of most of the house roofs is similar although there are a few exceptions that are steeper. Nearly all houses have chimneys. Porches are a fairly common addition. Most properties have their own parking but several, as with the school and Church necessitate parking in the road. There are mercifully few direction and road signs helping to retain the very rural feel of the village. The roads leading into the Village from three sides are narrow and without pavements. There is a straighter section of The Street through the village, which has a pavement for about a quarter of its length. There are five small roads leading off The Street all of which are short and are dead ends.

Other important features: The centre of the village is at The Cross, outside St Bartholomew’s Church at the heart of the Conservation Area. There are two main green spaces in the village. Firstly, the Glebe is a field leased from the Diocese, which is used for unstructured play and by the Village Primary School for sports and recreation. Secondly there is a small space, known as the Amenity Area, immediately behind the Village Hall. This has been used for specific events and there is a general interest in making better use of this space. The lack of street lighting avoids an urbanised feel and provides the opportunity for darks skies at night with minimal light pollution. Ubley is an attractive village set in the Mendips Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is very much part of the surrounding countryside and has a wide variety of nature on its doorstep. Whilst the buildings are an eclectic mix, it has a cohesiveness as a community. The expansive views from the footpaths and byways around the village help both to see the village in its immediate landscape but also within the larger rural surroundings. There is currently little to spoil the wider landscape.

Ubley is a small village with little infrastructure, but it does have a strong identity. There is a need for the community to retain and develop its vibrancy and the Village School has an important part to play in attracting in younger families to bring in new life to the village. It would be valuable to create more for young people to do locally. The large and well-equipped Village Hall is a significant focus for the village and, indeed, the broader Chew Valley. It will be important that the village continues to support the active use of the Hall. There is little room in the village for significant further development but there must be careful consideration to allow the sensitive additions of suitable, particularly smaller, housing in ones and twos over the years ahead.



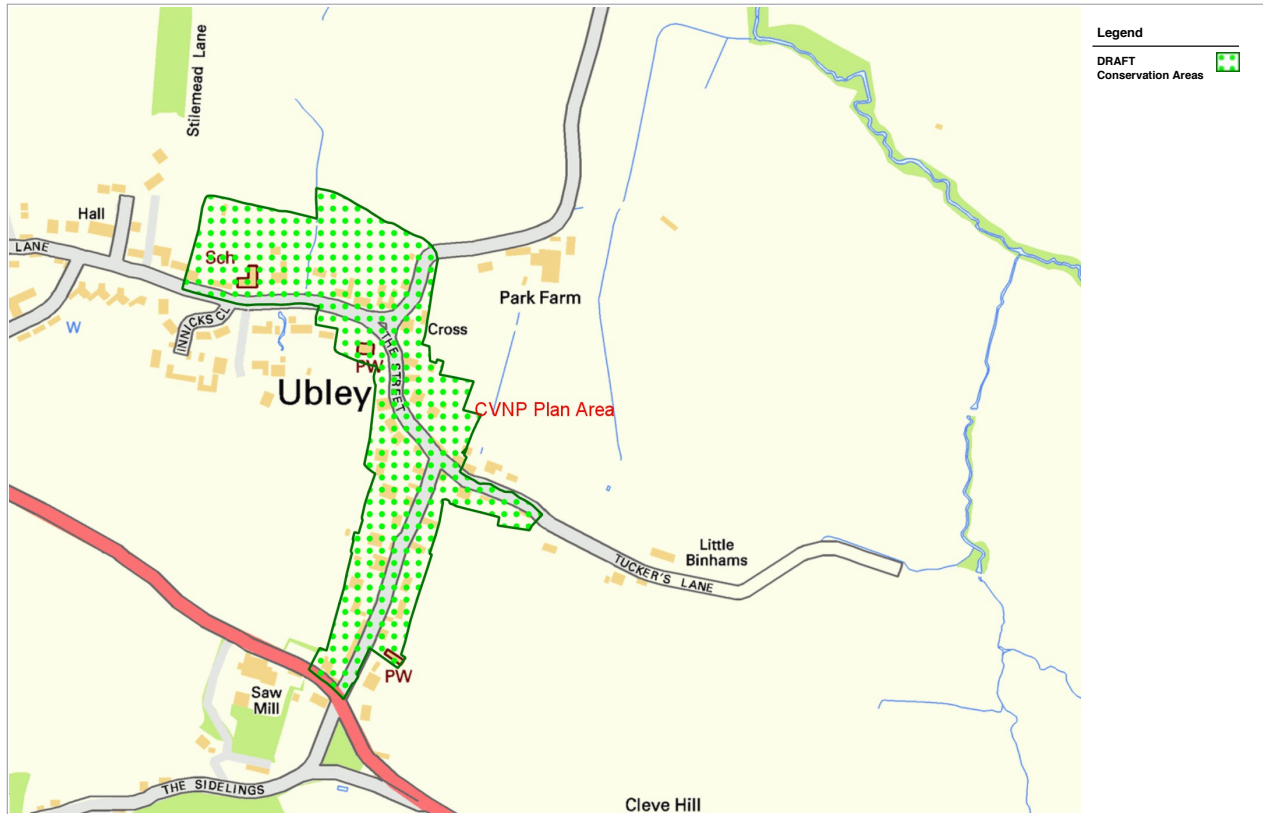
Summary:

Ubley Parish sits in the Yeo Valley at the west end of the Chew Valley. It is located within the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and close to Blagdon lake. Ubley is an attractive village, rural and unspoilt in character and rich in wildlife. There is a lot of greenery throughout the village with many mature trees in and around the Conservation Area. The centre of the village is at The Cross, outside the charming 13th century St. Bartholomew’s Church. There is a thriving primary school and a large well run village hall. There are two main green spaces in the village, The Glebe field and the Amenity Area behind the village hall. There are approximately 130 properties within Ubley. Many of the houses within the Conservation Area are detached and built of stone.



There is a village plan, available to view

<http://www.ubleyparish.co.uk>



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West Harptree Parish Character Summary

Landform: The Parish of West Harptree is situated on the North facing slopes of the Mendip Hills, descending to the borders of Chew Valley Lake, and is surrounded by good agricultural land and pastures, and 2 commons. Ancient hedgerows and water courses are prevalent.

Views In: Due to its situation, the views in differ depending on the direction of approach, as some of the village is hidden behind ancient hedgerows. All roads into the village generally meet at the Triangle, a village maintained flower bed, around which are situated the church, shop and Post Office, village pub, farm and houses. The Grade II Listed church spire can be seen above the ancient hedgerows on approach.



Views Out: The views out are all predominantly onto active farming land or the Chew Valley and its Lake, and looking south are dominated by the Mendip Hills and the farms and grassland on it.

Natural Features in and around the parish boundary: As a typical ancient Mendip village, there are numerous ancient hedgerows, trees and water courses that have existed as such for centuries. The parish also incorporates Widcombe Common and Burlledge Hill, which has the remnants of an Iron Age Fort and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Built Heritage in the village or parish: The village has a 12th century stone built church with a more recent tall copper coloured spire at its centre. There are two old manor houses adjacent to the church, being the 16th Century Gournay Court and 17th Century Tilly Manor, both of which are Grade 2 listed.



The majority of the other central village buildings are of local rubble stone, with only the more recent additions on the outskirts of the village differing from this, but still blending sympathetically.



Other important features: With little street lighting, the village benefits from dark night skies, and has an excellent friendly village atmosphere. It has a recreation field, village hall and busy rural medical and dental practice housed in converted barns.





Summary: Mentioned in the Domesday Book, West Harptree is a small village in the Chew Valley, North Somerset. It is approximately 10 miles south of Bristol and 10 miles from Bath with a population of 430. The parish of West Harptree lies on the north side of the Mendip Hills and consists of the main village and the hamlets of Ridge, North Widcombe and parts of South Widcombe. The village has grown sympathetically to its rural surroundings over time, but is still centred around the village triangle, the Grade 2 listed church, manor houses and farm, and pub. To the North is Burlledge Hill, an historic Iron Age fort of special scientific interest, and the majority of it is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and part of a Conservation Area.

