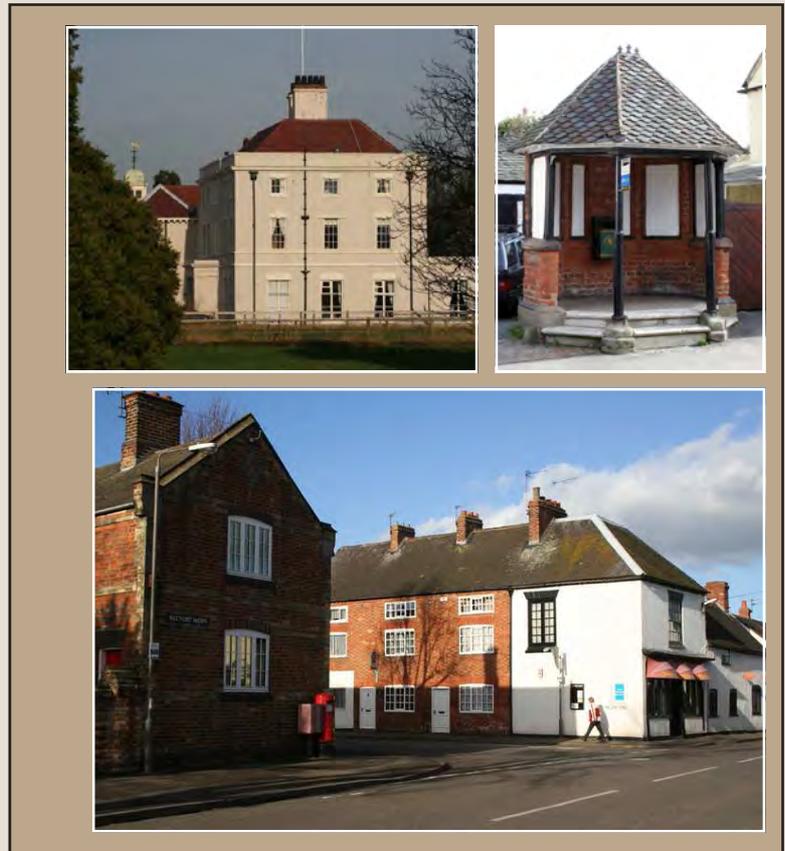


Aston-on-Trent *Conservation Area* Character Statement



2010
CONSULTATION DRAFT

**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Aston-on-Trent *Conservation Area*

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Aston-on-Trent *Conservation Area*

Introduction

This statement has been produced by Mel Morris Conservation for, and in association with, South Derbyshire District Council. It sets out the special historic and architectural interest that makes the character and appearance of Aston-on-Trent worthy of protection. It also assesses the degree of damage to that special interest and thus opportunities for future enhancement. This document will be used by the Council when making professional judgements on the merits of development applications.

The Aston on Trent Conservation Area was designated by South Derbyshire District Council on 12th July 1979.

Summary

Aston-on-Trent lies about 10 kilometres south-east of Derby and approximately 1½ kilometres from the River Trent, although the course of the river may have once run much closer. It lies within the Trent valley flood plain, at 125 feet above sea level. Neighbouring Weston-on-Trent had a more strategic role in relation to the river for several hundred years, as there was a ferry crossing point at Weston Cliff and a ford at Kings Mills.

The landscape surrounding Aston is fairly flat and the alluvial soils of the floodplain are fertile. The productive soil led to early settlement. Just to the south-east of the conservation area is a former iron age settlement and Neolithic “cursus”, a series of parallel banks & ditches.

The village was dominated by agriculture and it is only in the 20th century that any real outside influence has been felt; commuter housing serving Derby now wraps around much of the historic core.

The village was dominated for 250 years by the Holden family, who from 1648 acquired Aston Hall and developed the estate and its parkland. The grounds of Aston Hall lie at the southern end of the village and take up a large part of the conservation area, although the house is not evident at first glance. The ancient parish church of All Saints is the only stone building within the village and it is pivotal within the conservation area, marking a distinct change in character between the villagers’ streets and houses to its north and the grounds of Aston Hall to its south.

The distinctive characteristics of Aston-on-Trent can be summarised as follows:

- a place with Anglo Saxon origins – it was mentioned in a charter of 1009. The beautiful church of All Saints has Anglo Saxon remains and is full of carved ornament.
- a bright, vibrant character, with strong contrasts between white & cream paint & render, & black and white-painted windows & doors, especially around The Green and

along Derby Road. The widespread fashion for render in the 20th century has introduced a new, non-historic characteristic into the village. In most cases it hides the texture, bond and pattern of old brickwork which, where it does survive, is important.

- a series of long, straight vistas with sharp bends where streets meet/diverge.
- a strong framework of terraced rows of cottages and former ancillary/agricultural buildings lining the streets. There are few gaps.
- the tight physical framework leads to intriguing views between buildings of long ranges at the rear, with roofs stepping up and down.
- a large, hard-surfaced, open space at The Green, opposite the end of Weston Road, which lies at the heart of the village.
- the relatively flat landform plays an important part in creating an interesting roofscape and skyline. The village is notable for its wide variety of 19th century chimney stacks and pots, features that punctuate the skyline. The many weather vanes and the embattled parapet of the church were made deliberately decorative (perhaps their builders were aware of their prominent skyline profile).
- a place dominated by brickwork – exploited for its surface decoration, pattern and structural details. There are large amounts of 19th century Flemish bond brickwork. Buff header bricks, bands of pale buff bricks & vitrified blue bricks are to be found.
- Derby Road and Weston Road are dominated by hard surfaces, with restricted views of private gardens - trees are generally found behind high walls.



- the parkland at Aston Hall contains a large area of lush, mature gardens with dense tree cover. The canopy within the park merges with the trees in the churchyard.

Area of Archaeological Potential

An area of archaeological potential has been defined through an assessment of the known archaeological, documentary and plan-form evidence of the settlement. It has been carried out as part of the review of each conservation area in consultation with the County Archaeologist, the Development Control Archaeologist and the Sites and Monuments Record Officer at Derbyshire County Council.

An area of archaeological potential may encompass both statutory designations (including Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens) and other non-statutory site information from the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record. It shows the probable extent of settlement and industrial activity during the medieval and/or post-medieval periods.

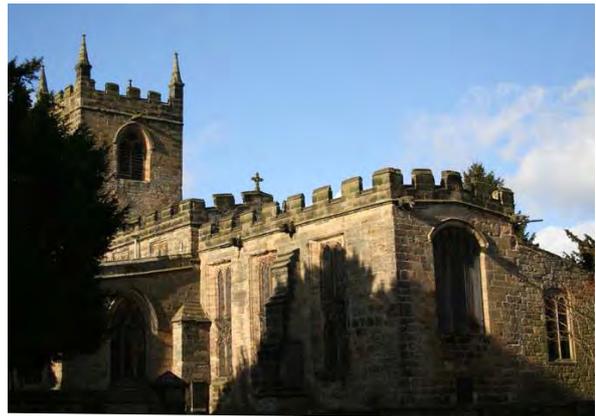
Within the area of archaeological potential there may be reasonable expectation that archaeological evidence relating to the medieval and/or post medieval periods may survive below ground.

Over the centuries, as settlements grow and develop, their focus may shift. Consequently, an area of archaeological potential need not necessarily coincide with the boundary of the conservation area.

Conservation Area Analysis

Historic Development

Aston is first mentioned in a charter of 1009, as part of the royal manor of Weston, which also stretched as far as Shardlow & Great Wilne. The name Aston-on-Trent is derived from the Anglo Saxon meaning “East Farm”. Weston-on-Trent was the larger sister settlement, i.e. “ West Farm”. There were two churches, as there are today. The church at Aston has some Saxon remains in the nave, including long-and-short work, and a 12th century Norman west tower.



The Church of All Saints at Aston-on-Trent

Shortly after Domesday (1086) the land at Aston (“Estune”) was handed to the Earl of Chester who gave it in turn to the Abbey of St. Werburgh, Chester and it remained in the ownership of the Abbot until the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

In 1257 a Tuesday market was granted at Aston, along with a three-day annual fair. It was probably located on the village green, which was mentioned in 1226 as “le Grene”. Greens were usually located on the edge of settlements.

Although The Green conjures up an image of a green space, and it may have been that way at one time, it is now very much an urban space, with buildings lining the streets & little in the way of private gardens. A plan of Aston in 1798 shows that it was densely built over by then, probably by successive encroachments on the original open space over a long period. Buildings alongside The Malt Shovel and as far out as 22 and 32 The Green and The White Hart may reflect the original triangular framework of the village green.

During the 19th century the centre of The Green had a plain floorscape, a “hoggin” road surface, and a village cross and stocks, removed ca.1837. By the late 19th century, a fingerpost sign dominated the space and today it has become a traffic island with a reproduction Victorian lamp-post and three lanterns at the centre.

The village had a number of farms, many of which were displaced in the 18th and 19th centuries by larger outlying farms. The farmhouses sometimes survive but in several instances the outbuildings were remodelled or demolished. There appear to have been two waves of building redevelopment – in the late 17th/ early 18th century and in the first half of the 19th century. The second wave of building resulted in the construction of a number of terraced rows of cottages. This was largely due to an increase in the local population. The 1811 census identified 115 houses, a figure which had increased to 150 by 1851.

The creation of the Aston Hall park and the development of the house at its centre, in the southern part of the village, took place incrementally through various land purchases.

In 1648 Robert Holden of Shardlow (c1595-1659) bought the Aston Hall estate as well as the advowson of the church. His son Samuel took up residence at Aston Hall and it remained in the Holden family for many generations. They were able to enlarge the estate gradually through several land purchases. Aston Hall had been in existence from at least the 17th century, and a house may have been located here from much



earlier, but it was rebuilt in 1735 by Robert Holden (1676-1746). This house still stands (pictured above) although there have been a number of additions. It is attributed to Francis or William Smith of Warwick and was designed as a Palladian villa with a dual aspect. Aston Hall sat within a small deer park, which is quite distinct on an estate plan of 1798. The park was sub-divided into enclosed fields with more formal areas near the house; gardens, fishponds, walled garden, plantations, orchard and “rookery”. By 1797 the Reverend Charles Edward Holden had amalgamated 564 acres in Aston & elsewhere but in 1833 Edward Anthony Holden embarked on a series of purchases of farms, which consolidated the estate so that by 1897 it had reached 1,595 acres.

In 1898 the estate was sold by his grandson to William Dickson Winterbottom but when Winterbottom died in 1924 the estate was put up for sale and, as at many country houses at this time following the First World War, the estate was broken up. Aston Hall and its grounds were bought by Nottingham Corporation who proceeded to turn it into a hospital and large numbers of hospital buildings were built in the 1930s on the land to the south of

the Hall, where they still stand, beyond the conservation area, in a semi-derelict state. When the hospital closed and its buildings became redundant, a large part of the site was redeveloped for housing. In 1996-97 the main house and its ancillary service buildings were converted into flats and offices. At the same time, eight new houses were built within the gardens to the north of the house (Nos.1-8 Aston Hall Drive) on the site of a collection of ugly hospital buildings. A large part of the original deer park still lies beyond the modern development, in separate ownership.

There were two other large houses within the village, set within large grounds, both of which were demolished in the 20th century. These jointly occupied a large part of the southern half of the village. One of these, Aston Lodge, was similar in scale to Aston Hall and was built shortly after, in the late 1730s. It had extensive grounds and gardens and was only demolished in the 1930s. The site of the house and its gardens is now occupied by Lodge Estate, Shirley Park and Park View. The other large house, The Rectory (not the present building), had been occupied by a member of the Holden family for many generations and the grounds had been laid out in a manner befitting a person of some status. By about 1822 the Rector's glebe was said to have been 450 acres, of which 350 were in Aston. By the early 20th century the Rectory had outgrown its purpose and was eventually demolished in 1969 and replaced with a much smaller modern rectory. The rest of the grounds were later developed with some large, "desirable residences", now approached off Rectory Gardens and screened from the village by tall conifer hedges.

Although the large houses were demolished, they have left behind their outbuildings, stabling and coach-houses and of course a large amount of housing development within their former gardens. This has been mitigated to some extent by the fact that some of the new development is screened from the road by the surviving outbuildings and tall hedges.

The plot that incorporates "Rectory Mews" was taken into the grounds of the Rectory sometime after 1827, when the present buildings were developed as the coach-house, stables and grooms accommodation (pictured right). Another L-shaped, self-contained range of buildings is shown on the village plan of that date and marked as "Buxton Poor". If these were cottages built for the poor, this may have precipitated the construction of the almshouses in 1870 on a site near 16 The Green. They were demolished in the 1970s, having been declared "unfit", and were replaced by modern dwellings on a different site.



The large building "Lodge Mews" (pictured left) was built in the early 20th century as a complete service range to Aston Lodge incorporating water tower, stabling & servants accommodation.

Both Rectory Mews and Lodge Mews take up a large footprint and line the back of the pavement. They are focal points in views along the roads, although they are both atypical of the vernacular buildings within the village.

There were a number of changes to the settlement in the 18th

century that are documented. The four open fields were enclosed in 1761-63. This paved the way for a new road to be laid out in 1786 between Weston-on-Trent and Aston. Up until 1786 the main road to Weston-on-Trent ran in front of the southern side of the churchyard and had followed the western boundary of Aston Hall park. The new route led directly from the centre of the village and market cross, west down Lawrence Lane (now Weston Road) and then took a sharp left bend in a southerly direction to meet up with the route of the old road. The new route effectively removed the western boundary of the Aston Hall estate from the public domain, and enabled the grounds of Aston Hall to be landscaped in a style more characteristic of the late 18th century, with a smooth transition between the house and its extended parkland to the west.

The entrance into the grounds of Aston Hall has changed slightly over time. Today its access drive takes a circuitous route in front of the church, following the old road alignment. This was the formal approach to the hall and the Hall was only seen at the very last moment, a typical characteristic of its time (ca. 1735), as well as the early 19th century “picturesque” style of landscape gardening epitomised by Humphrey Repton. An old entrance to the back of the Hall and its outbuildings, which was just to the side of the lodge (White Cottage), was maintained for some time until the present large ashlar wall was built in the early 20th century, probably when the White Cottage was extended. Another lodge and a new approach drive on Weston Road were built in the early 20th century, probably by the Winterbottom family. The lodge still stands, a long way outside the conservation area.

Weston Road appears to have been a wide lane even before the road was re-routed in 1786. The buildings on the north side of the street are generally older than those on the south side of the street and the pattern of development on the north side is characteristic of narrow medieval plots. The south side may have been substantially redeveloped from 1786.

On the south side of Weston Road is a small side street called Posey Lane. Its origins are obscure. There is no sign of Posey Lane on the 1827 village plan, which is accurate in most respects, but there is a suggestion of a lane on the 1786 highway plan. The buildings running along the east side of the lane are generally built from brick with segmental arched windows and corbelled brick eaves. On stylistic grounds they appear to date from the late 18th century. To the west of Posey Lane is a separate range, no's. 49-53 Weston Road, which at first glance appears to be of a similar form to those on Posey Lane, but the lack of regular pattern of fenestration, the off-set chimney stacks positioned to one side of the ridge, and the presence of a chamfered brick plinth and sections of narrow bricks seem to indicate a 17th century building, possibly a barn, which was adapted and remodelled into cottages, when the need for additional housing arose within the village.

Approaches

From Weston-on-Trent there are wide, expansive views across the fields towards Aston. Intermittent gaps alongside the road where hedgerows have been grubbed out alternate with thicker sections of hedgerow. Views are dominated by modern development on the fringes of Aston and by a thick plantation to the south-east (“Long Walk Wood”), following the embanked edge of the original deer park serving Aston Hall. There is a glimpse of the church to the east in a long view across the field from the wide road junction of Willow Park Way and a view of Aston Hall, although this is obscured by recent tree & shrub planting. Within Aston, there is a long ribbon of 20th century development lining the road,



The church tower is a major landmark from Weston Road

before entering the conservation area. Weston Road is characterised by a strong framework of buildings lining and enclosing the street, with a greater density of building approaching The Green, strengthening the sense of enclosure.

From Shardlow, the approach is dominated by the mature deciduous trees within the grounds of Aston Hall and the long line of the red brick wall that marks the boundary of its park & garden. In the distance, the tower of All Saints Church, with its four pinnacles, is a striking landmark and a focal point above the dark canopy of yews.

For a long way along Derby Road looking south into the village, the church tower is a prominent landmark. The 20th century buildings that line the street are all set back within spacious gardens and form a ribbon of development extending for almost half a mile to the north. The street narrows visibly at the start of the conservation area.



All Saints Church as seen from Shardlow Road

Landmarks and Focal Points

The large, square church tower is a local landmark, visible at short-range, such as from The Green and from key points along Shardlow Road and Derby Road. It is also visible in long views across the fields in approaching Aston from Weston-on-Trent.

Another, less prominent, landmark is the tall water tower at Lodge Mews, which can be seen on occasion from a distance.



Holly Cottage, 1 The Green



The White Hart

There are a few focal points, which arise as a result of the angular road layout. The main focal point within the village is the detached, isolated house called The Woodlands at No.4 The Green, which is in direct line of sight looking east along Weston Road. To a lesser extent, the adjacent house, No. 6 The Green, which is set back, is also a focal point. Elsewhere, looking west from Clarke’s Lane, the White Hart (below, right) is a focal point.

Holly Cottage (above, left), which takes in No.1 The Green and Nos. 2 & 4 Derby Road, and No. 1 Derby Road together frame the start of Derby Road as do Nos. 2-6 Weston Road and Rectory Mews. All of these buildings lining the back of the pavement are strong elements of the streetscape and work effectively as “gateways” marking the beginning of each street.

The churchyard is one of a number in South Derbyshire where the churchyard breaks forward of the surrounding boundaries. Churchyards often encroached onto the road in order to enlarge the burial ground. The break in the boundary line is marked by the 1931 Lychgate (pictured right), which is now a focal point in views looking south.



Views and Spaces

Every conservation area has a multitude of changing views, both close-range and more expansive, too numerous to cover comprehensively in a document of this scope. This section describes a selection of general and more specific views that are likely to impress themselves most strongly in a visitor’s experience of the conservation area. Some of the viewpoints referred to are included in the conservation area map included in this document.

The village is mainly characterised by its long-range views along the village streets, channelled by the strongly demarcated building lines and interrupted or closed by a number of focal points. Views are often curtailed by a sharp bend in the road and a complete change of direction.

The low-lying land has little undulation but where there is some height this was exploited and the highest points were chosen for landmark buildings and key spaces; Aston Hall, All Saints Church and the village green are all positioned on the high ground.

One significant but private aspect is the view from Aston Hall looking out across its

parkland to the east. That to the west has been obscured by later tree-planting. These views were deliberately manipulated and the house was probably placed to benefit from some slight elevation, particularly overlooking the open ground and terraces to the east of the Hall. The banks running along the west side of the deer park were man-made and it is possible that the ground around the hall was banked up to give the house more elevation.

The views of the church from Aston Hall park and from Weston Road, near Willow Park Way appear to be framed and carefully manufactured. The removal of the boundary wall to the churchyard and replacement with a grassed bank may have been deliberate, to soften the relationship between the two spaces. It has the effect of appropriating the churchyard into the park.



Glimpses of buildings set behind others are a particular local characteristic

Glimpsed views – there are often intriguing glimpses between the buildings that line the street of other buildings at the back. This creates multi-layered views.

The Green - The road rises in a gradual incline from both Derby Road and Shardlow Road and levels out at The Green, which is the main public open space within the village. The space where Weston Road, Derby Road and Shardlow Road all meet is entirely surrounded by buildings, but they are generally small in scale and set back from the road frontage, which contributes to the sense of openness.



The Green as seen from Weston Road - No.4 & No.6 are focal points

Building Materials and Details

Local geology and availability of building materials directly influenced the form and appearance of Aston-on-Trent. The range of materials found in the village and the way in which they were used in local building details is intricately linked with local identity. The special and typical traditional building details encountered within the conservation area are summarised in Appendix I, which is supplemented by photographs, to provide a snapshot of the local vernacular details.

The character of Aston-on-Trent is dominated by a light, bright appearance, which has echoes of coastal villages. Many of the buildings are either painted or rendered and timber joinery is generally painted. The common use of painted brickwork and render is now part of the vibrant character of the village and this fashion has gained its own momentum. Much of the recent render has disfigured the original brickwork. The character of the conservation area is delicately poised between the original historic brick finishes and the more recent painted finishes, introduced in the 20th century. It is important, therefore, that there are no further alterations to the original brick finishes.

The village had a number of large landowners during the 19th century each keen to make their mark on the village and their buildings are not always typical of the local building traditions.

Stone

Only the church and the adjacent boundary walls are built entirely from stone, with a few fragments of stone walls and plinths surviving elsewhere. The only other location where stone was introduced from further afield is a section of pink granite setts next to the old village pump on Derby Road. This would have been introduced at the same time as the pump shelter c1870.



Stone gargoyle at the Church of All Saints

Brickwork

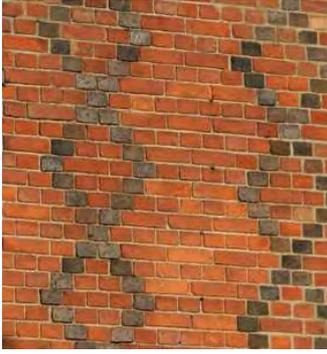
The village is dominated by the use of brickwork and there is evidence that it had been widely used since the 17th century.

Brick manufacture was very local, and there was an area set aside to the north of the village. Originally, bricks would have been made in temporary clamp kilns. Local clays would have also been used to produce clay roofing tiles.

17th century brickwork can be seen at 16 The Green and a few properties on Weston Road. Bricks are characteristically long and thin and walls had chamfered plinths in brick or stone.

Brickwork was used in the early 18th and 19th century for structural details such as corbelled eaves. Sometimes, these are plain with several courses of brick projecting one above the other. Sometimes they incorporate “dentilled” brickwork, where each alternate header brick projects to create a decorative effect. In a number of cases the header bricks are laid diagonally to produce a “sawtooth” pattern. There are many examples of each of these fashions within Aston-on-Trent.

Raised brick bands, a decorative detail that is found in the 18th century, can be found on a few properties, although disguised by render; e.g. 22-26 Derby Road.



“Polychromy”, or the use of multiple colours of brick to create decorative effects, was popular in the Victorian age. There are a number of properties within the village that incorporate polychromy. The earliest example is at 16 The Green, where the original late 17th century brickwork was picked out with vitrified “blue” headers in a diaper pattern. Unfortunately, a rather over-zealous restoration has picked out the joints in a dark-coloured cementitious mortar, which has removed the subtlety of this original brick detail. The Gothic Revival Village School of 1844 also incorporates rather dramatic use of

diapered blue brickwork, perhaps inspired by the earlier building, laid in long bands running down the gables (pictured above).

Flemish bond brickwork, although associated mainly with Georgian architecture, continued to be used well into the 19th century for its decorative effect by incorporating coloured “header” bricks, picked out in a subtle contrasting shade. Flemish bond brickwork with headers picked out in pale buff coloured bricks can be seen at No. 2 The Green, 2-6 Weston Road and 34-38 Weston Road (dated 1843). A number of other examples have been rendered.

Horizontal bands of buff coloured bricks were incorporated into the main elevations of Rectory Mews, which dates from the mid 19th century. Blue bricks were occasionally incorporated as plinths and damp proof courses or as bands within chimney stacks, where they were adopted for their hard and durable character. Blue bricks can be found used as a paving material in a number of locations, all on private land.

During the last decades of the 19th century there was a new interest in the craft of the bricklayer. By the 1870s moulded bricks had become fashionable. Examples of this fashion include the use of moulded brick window and door surrounds, hood moulds and terracotta bands as seen at 1-2 Shardlow Road, a moulded brick cornice to the chimney stacks at Lodge Mews and moulded terracotta eaves at The Woodlands, 4 The Green. Moulded bricks were used in the verge details at Manor Farm and the smithy opposite.

The village has a wide variety of brick chimney stacks and clay pots. These are often quite imposing, especially where flues are jointly shared between two cottages, resulting in a solid square stack. Some chimney stacks incorporate clusters of flues, tied together by moulded stone cornices in a style that can be loosely described as Gothic. This distinct pattern may have been established by the Holden estate in the 19th century.

Boundary Treatments

The boundary walls surrounding the Aston Hall estate are some of the tallest in the village, built from local red brick with stone copings. The entrance to the grounds of the Hall was adapted in the late 19th century and coursed ashlar walls now lead the eye to the entrance drive, framed by massive stone gatepiers. Most of the boundary walls within Aston-on-Trent are brick, and of a fairly uniform height, finished with triangular red or blue clay copings.

Render & painted brickwork

There is widespread use of render and painted brickwork. Photographic evidence suggests that much of the render is recent, incorporating textured finishes such as pebbledash or wet-dash. The many examples of painted brickwork may be a relic from the historic practice of limewashing brickwork. Traces of limewash can still be seen in sheltered places, such as under eaves.

Lintels & Cills

Most of the smallest domestic buildings in Aston-on-Trent incorporate segmental brick arches. These were commonplace during the 18th and early 19th centuries. This was the simplest and easiest lintel to construct as the taper was accommodated wholly in the mortar joints, without the need to cut the brick.

A variation on the segmental arch is the “cambered arch”, which incorporates the use of rubbed bricks to create a wedge shape with a shallow arch. Examples can be seen at Nos. 34-38 Weston Road, built in 1843, and Nos. 2-6 Weston Road.

In combination with the segmental brick arches, stone cills were not normally used, relying on the simple weathering properties of the brickwork. There are a number of examples where moulded red or blue bricks have been added at a later date, to enhance the performance of the cill (e.g. Pump Cottage) and in a few instances moulded blue brick cills were incorporated during construction (e.g. Rectory Mews & Holly Cottage).

During the first half of the 19th century classical building forms had a revival and wedge-shaped stone lintels were used in the village, of which there were a number of permutations. The earliest example can be seen at Aston Hall, dating from 1735. Plain wedge lintels were used at White Cottage, whilst decorative moulded lintels were used at 2 The Green & 1 Derby Road.

Generally, the more substantial properties have dressed stone cills (e.g. Aston Hall, 2 The Green, 4 The Green, 1 & 2 Shardlow Road).

Roofs

They are a wide variety of roof types; hipped, pitched with bargeboards, plain close verges, corbelled verges or stone coped gables. The vast majority of roofs are tiled with Staffordshire blue clay tiles. From the late 18th century hand-made Staffordshire blue clay tiles were imported into the area along the Trent & Mersey Canal from the Potteries. These are extremely durable tiles and survive where other materials fail. A patterned example of fish-scale tiles can be found at the village pump house. There are examples of Welsh slate in the village, which was fashionable in the first half of the 19th century, with an unusual example of interlaced & carefully scalloped edged slates, laid as a diaper at Martinee, 2 The Green.

In the last quarter of the 19th century plain clay tiled roofs were in fashion again, for their “vernacular” associations, although most were machine-made. Red clay “Rosemaries” can be found at 1 & 2 Shardlow Road and Lodge Mews.

Conservation Area Description

AREA I

This encompasses the densely developed northern part of the village, clustered along Weston Road, Derby Road and The Green, extending south as far as the cul-de-sac entrances to Rectory Gardens and Lodge Estate

Weston Road

On the north side of Weston Road the plots were generally much narrower than those on the south, possibly reflecting the medieval division of the land into long thin plots. There are several examples where long, narrow ranges run behind the frontage buildings, and extend deep into the plot. Glimpses of these ranges from the Main Street frontage, which often contain changes in roof height and shape, provide a sense of the dense settlement pattern & multi-layered phases of building.



Many of the existing buildings were either built on the footprint of an earlier building or involved the adaptation of earlier buildings. There are a number of places where there is evidence of successive remodelling on the north side of the street - the characteristic narrow bricks of late 17th century brickwork can be seen, adapted and remodelled in the 18th and 19th centuries, e.g. the east side wall of No. 16 Weston Road contains a quantity of narrow bricks with vitrified headers built on a stone plinth. This building was re-fronted in the 18th century and at the same time encroached a little further towards the road. The house at its rear, No. 20, also contains a large quantity of 17th century brickwork. The gable end of 34 Weston Road reveals an example where an earlier building was re-fronted c1843. The front of The Willows at 28 Weston Road also reveals a complex alteration from a single-bay frontage, which probably contained a long range running at right angles to the street, to a two-bay building fronting the street.

The redevelopment of buildings in the 18th and 19th centuries has created multiple changes in eaves height and interest along the street, but there is some uniformity in the details with a predominant use of segmental brick arches.

This road appears to get narrower as it approaches The Green, even though in fact it is getting wider. The impression of a narrow neck is created because the buildings get progressively taller as they approach The Green. By the time that they reach the junction of Derby Road, the buildings on the north side of the street are three storeys high and of Georgian proportions. These are some of the tallest buildings in the village. On the whole, the buildings are two-storey, small in scale and only one room deep, which result in a narrow gable end.

A long & striking enclosure to the south side of the street is formed by Rectory Mews & the buildings attached (9-13 Main Street), only broken by the occasional straight joint in the brickwork and the changing eaves line.



*Nos. 2-6 Weston Road (left) and Nos. 34-38 Weston Road (right).
The north side of the street is characterised by its continuous building line and striking sense of*



*No. 21 Weston Road - a former
farmhouse with projecting gable wing*

The south side of the street has a wide pavement, created in 1827 as part of the highway alterations made to remove a public footpath from the grounds of Aston Hall. The previous arrangement was probably a simple grassed verge, which ran down to a gutter at the edge of the road. The staggered building line on the south side of the street between Posey Lane and No.13 Weston Road reflects its more informal character and its historic use - predominantly farmhouses with ancillary farm buildings. Several elevations are set back, there are both single-storey and two-storey buildings and a few gable frontages.

There has been a little 20th century development on Weston Road, which has been generally quite sympathetic to the character of the village.

The village is more built up and densely developed towards the centre, whilst the west end of Weston Road is more open in character; enclosure is still important, but this is created by brick or stone boundary walls of consistent height lining the pavement.

The origins of **Posey Lane** are unknown but the long, narrow, staggered development of buildings running parallel with the lane, at 90 degrees to Weston Road, seems to reflect an ancient sub-division of the land. The layout of modern housing at Hilton Gardens, on the very edge of the conservation area, by contrast takes a shapeless form. The quiet garden setting of Posey Lane is completely different in character from the rest of Weston Road. A wide shrub border runs alongside the lane, interrupted by an old water pump, with glimpses of the long allotment gardens to Nos. 49-53 Weston Road and the former allotments at the end of the lane.

The Green

From the churchyard, Shardlow Road leads uphill to The Green in a gentle rise and then levels out. There is a strong sense of arrival as the space opens out. Likewise, from Derby Road the street rises to a plateau at The Green.

The churchyard walls and Lodge Mews jointly form a narrow neck at the top of Shardlow

Road, where it meets The Green, and the road opens out in a wide vista. The road changes in character from an enclosed space dominated by trees (lime, yew and blue spruce) to a broad, open space. From here the western building line is set back several metres from the churchyard, formed by the boundary wall to the former Rectory, whilst the eastern building line follows the alignment of No.2 The Green.

The only trees within a public space are two limes located at the corner of Weston Road and Shardlow Road, facing The Green (one pictured right). They contribute a great deal to softening the environment in this part of the village.



The Green lies at the heart of the conservation area. It is quite different in character from the roads that radiate out; its picturesque informality has arisen over a long period of time and reflects the fact that buildings were situated around the edge of a village green, without a well-defined building line, as it was developed piecemeal.

The Smithy on The Green (pictured right) was a large building of its type, serving a large population, and it stands on its own at a prominent corner of the street, accessed from several sides. There are several other prominent buildings on or visible from The Green; Manor Farm Mews, 22 The Green, The White Hart, 16 The Green, 1 Holly Cottage. All of these form picturesque groups and pretty “tableaux”.



Manor Farm Mews was once a large farm complex. The brick farm buildings appear to have been well planned in a model form. The largely solid, blank walls that face the public highways are particularly imposing when seen from Clarke’s Lane, where they rise up above a grass bank.



Picturesque views of The Green (left) and Manor Farm Mews (right)

The character of The Green breaks down where it merges with Manor Farm Road, a modern housing development of largely chalet bungalows, with excessively wide road, verge and footway. The tall 17th century house No 16 The Green stands in isolation on the edge of this road and seems a little lost, without its historic context or any landscaped setting.

There is a substitute “village green”, (pictured right) which is located on Derby Road on the site of a row of former cottages (10-20 Derby Road), which were demolished in the 1960s. It is a rather strange space, dominated by the clutter of street furniture, and it creates a gap in the street, interrupting the regular rhythm formed by the continuous enclosure of buildings lining both sides of the road.



Derby Road

Derby Road is most distinctive for the tight framework of buildings fronting the road.

Longcroft Farm at 29 Derby Road was once a large farm on the outskirts of the village. Its low ranges of farm buildings were once a focal point on entering the settlement but they were demolished in the mid 20th century and replaced by a large, standard-width entrance drive to a new housing estate. Despite this, the former farmhouse and the former village school, on the opposite side of Derby Road, are distinctive detached buildings and frame the entrance to the conservation area and the historic core of the village.



Longcroft Farm, 29 Derby Road



The Old School House

The redevelopment of the school playground to create Old School Mews is, however, not very successful. The new houses are positioned very close to the former school and have copied many of the details of the school, which was a landmark building, deliberately designed to stand out from the crowd. These clashes mean that the school has to some extent lost its unique qualities as a local landmark.

The eastern side of Derby Road has rows of cottages with a strong character arising from the regular repeated rhythm of windows, fairly uniform eaves height & painted finish (pictured right).



The west side of Derby Road is dominated by two ranges of buildings; The White Hart and Nos. 3-7. The White Hart has a strong and positive presence, despite a few modern alterations. Its massing is overall greater than any other building on Derby Road and this reflects its historic use. Nos. 3-7 Derby Road have undergone several transformations to create the strange appearance that now dominates the west side of Derby Road. Originally a simple, uncomplicated farm building, with a semi-industrial character, it was used as a

maltings before changing to a garage and then its current semi-retail use. The “black & white”, half-timbered concoction of cladding may be in part structural. The building is now a landmark for the wrong reasons (pictured right).



AREA 2

Aston Hall, its gardens and parkland, and the church and its setting form a separate, distinct area.

The southern half of the conservation area is distinguished by the abundance of mature tree cover, much of which was planted in the 19th century with large blocks of evergreen trees & shrubs providing all-year-round lushness and privacy.

The church and its churchyard are pivotal within the conservation area. The churchyard is situated on a slightly raised platform and is retained by coursed, stone walls, which increases the church’s presence overlooking Shardlow Road and Aston Hall Drive. Without a pavement these walls define the space. The strategic importance of the church to the life of the medieval village was much more obvious and its physical presence was more pronounced when the road to Weston ran past its southern flank. The close relationship between the church and Aston Hall that can still be sensed today from the south side of the churchyard is a common medieval relationship, although their origins may not be historically linked in this particular case.

The red brick walls of Lodge Mews form a striking foil to the mellow stonework of the church and its boundaries, creating a dynamic relationship. Similarly, views along Shardlow Road incorporate both the red tiled roofs of the cottages at No.1 & 2 Shardlow Road and the church tower. The contrasts are quite dramatic. In the early 20th century the idea of trying to make a new building blend with its surroundings would have seemed strange. The honest use of materials and quality craftsmanship were valued highly and architecture was not apologetic. The decision to place a water tower at the northern end of Lodge Mews was an odd one, as it occasionally vies for attention with the church tower but the chimneys and roofline features enhance the skyline.



The grounds of Aston Hall were developed in a number of distinct areas and the character of these spaces does survive, although diluted. To the north of the Hall in 1833 was the working area of the estate, with large blocks of stabling and coach-house and a separate dog kennel and foldyard. These were not visible from the main approaches, separated by dense blocks of trees and shrubs. Between the large stableblock and the parkland to the east was a more intimate garden where the family could stroll within a series of self-contained spaces; gardens included a small orchard and a large water feature. Shortly after 1833 half of the service buildings were demolished and by 1880 the area had become a little more open in character. The structure of the garden design is now quite ephemeral, with only hints of the earlier features. A large plantation provided privacy from the public gaze along Shardlow Road and this plantation has been maintained and is densely planted with

limes and a few individual specimen trees, such as Wellingtonia. Dense 19th century block-planting of cherry laurel, forming a low, bright green skirt, and yew, forming a contrasting, higher level of darker green vegetation, can still be found along Aston Hall Drive. There are also several mature deciduous trees, including chestnuts and a large beech. There are several stretches of copper beech hedge, a very obvious modern addition to the landscaping. The boundary to Aston Hall Drive has the scanty remains of a beech hedge. Here, the loss of shrubbery and evergreen cover detracts from the rest of the landscaping & opens up views of the new housing within the garden.

To the south & immediate east of the hall was a flat terrace, which survives, with a series of narrow profiled banks dropping down to the east. This enabled the house to have commanding views over the treetops. It may have at one time offered a defensive position to the pre-1735 hall, overlooking the floodplain. To the west of the house, the grounds were treated as parkland, with mature trees placed at intervals. An element of this character survives, although many of the individual parkland trees have been removed and not replaced. The long distance exchanges of view across the parkland between Weston Road and Aston Hall have been diluted by recent screen planting of trees and shrubs near Willow Park Way and in time the views will disappear.



Aston Hall - seen through the parkland trees

To the south-west of the hall was another working part of the estate, the walled garden. Only fragments of the original northern wall of the walled garden survive. This was hidden from the rest of the landscaped park by a dense plantation of yews, forming a formal yew walk, which still survives intact. An old gravel pit was at one time adapted into a round formal sunken Rose Garden but this has long gone and a modern garden shed stands in this area.

There are a number of important trees within the grounds including:

- a large and very old Sweet Chestnut, which stands on the southern tip of the conservation area,
- a large yew plantation near the site of the old walled garden,

- several mature beech trees at the bottom of the eastern terrace,
- an avenue of beech trees to the west of the hall, next to an older parkland chestnut, one of three still standing in this part of the park. This avenue is a striking element within the landscape but it is relatively recent.



To the east of the Hall, the conservation area boundary follows an old iron estate fence, probably dating from the late 19th century. The same type of fence survives to the west of the hall, currently outside the conservation area. To the east of the hall, beyond this fence, the former parkland has become overgrown and unmanaged. A thick plantation of mature deciduous trees stands between the grounds and the road to the north, and along the length of Shardlow Road the entire park is separated from the road by a tall brick boundary wall, softened by overhanging boughs.

Loss and Damage

The concept of conservation areas was introduced by the Civic Amenities Act 1967, as an acknowledgement of the need to conserve the “cherished local scene” in the face of accelerated change following the Second World War. It was not intended that development should be prevented, but rather that settlements should develop over time in a way that reflects and strengthens their special character. At Aston on Trent, some of the undesirable changes described below predate the designation of the conservation area in 1979. The designation was put in place as a safeguard against further harmful development, so far as this could be achieved by the need for planning permission.

In defining the character of the conservation area we can also identify instances where the village has suffered alterations or losses that either individually or cumulatively have diluted this character. It is hoped that identifying these will help householders, designers and the planning authority to reverse some of the damaging alterations and to avoid the same mistakes in the future.

20th century development

The historic character of the village has suffered from its proximity to Derby because of the massive development pressures. 20th century development on the edge of the conservation area impacts on its setting and many views into the village. The standard design adopted for the roads serving new housing estates, on the periphery of the conservation area, has weakened its historic identity, particularly the entrances into Manor Farm Road and Long Croft. Much of the 20th century development within the conservation area has been entirely unsympathetic.

There has been a gradual erosion of the character of Aston-on-Trent during the 20th century. The following developments have had a particularly damaging effect on the character of the village and its setting:

- demolition of the largest historic houses & loss of tree cover & garden settings.
- redevelopment of these sites with little regard for local character.
- demolition of terraced cottages, through a programme of slum clearance, without any replacement buildings.
- construction of semi-detached & detached buildings set back from the road, with no regard for local character.
- development resulting in the loss of enclosure.

There are a few instances of 20th century buildings that are highly conspicuous and jar with the surrounding townscape. In particular:

- **24 & 26 The Green** – built in the 1960s, before a conservation area was designated, these buildings are set back from the street frontage, with large front gardens, low walls and driveways dominating the frontage. The lack of enclosure and the loss of a strongly defined frontage have left a gaping hole in the street. The choice of materials and form of the buildings, with shallow roof pitches & flat-roofed garages, reflects the fashions of the time and has no relationship with the character of Aston-on-Trent.
- **Methodist Church, The Green** – built in 1967 & replacing the chapel of 1829, the church has a temporary and stark character, without any reference to its context.
- **32-34 Derby Road** – built in a similar form to 24-26 The Green, but set further back from the street, the lack of any boundary wall and the dominance of paired driveways rising up to the garages, creates another negative “hole” in the street. These houses replaced a traditional farm complex which fronted the road. The only benefit of being set back is that the landmark character of the old village school can be appreciated.
- **Parish rooms** within the churchyard. The alien brickwork & windows and flat roof stand out alongside the sensitively designed lychgate.



Several buildings have undergone alterations that are at odds with the local character:

- **3-7 Derby Road** - a former agricultural / maltings building, the alterations that this building has undergone have left it without any authentic local character. Mock-Tudor applied beams & swirly render are out of place.
- **28 Derby Road** – this building sits at the end of a terrace of 18th century buildings and appears to have been completely re-faced or rebuilt using rustic bricks & uPVC windows. It mimics some of the details of the buildings alongside but overall proportions and the garage door are unsympathetic to the historic context.
- **1 & 3 Lodge Estate** – outside the conservation area, but this semi-detached pair of 1950s houses has a major impact on its setting. The houses were built on the site of

the original entrance to Aston Lodge, and have been unsympathetically altered in recent years. The alterations, which include reclaimed bricks, uPVC windows & artificial slate have removed any resemblance to a local building.

Public realm

The loss of a complete terrace of cottages at Nos. 10-20 Derby Road has created a hole in the street frontage. The replacement of these cottages with an area of amenity planting, an alternative “green”, has not been entirely successful as it has no obvious public use. It has also introduced a large amount of street furniture all quite urban in character, creating a cluttered environment alien to the character of Aston-on-Trent. Nevertheless, the site is very well cared for and the good standard of maintenance has made the best of an accidental open space that could otherwise have become an eyesore.

Loss of building details

Loss of original joinery

There has been a widespread loss of historic window and door joinery within Aston-on-Trent. Sash windows tend to survive whilst casements and horizontal sliding sashes have often been replaced. Joinery is the most vulnerable element of any building. In many instances uPVC or stained hardwood has replaced traditional timber joinery and a number of historic shopfronts have been removed as buildings have reverted to domestic uses. Canted brick bay windows survive at 12 and 14 Weston Road, although the original joinery has been removed.

The most significant areas of loss are the long terraced rows along Derby Road and Weston Road, which occupy prominent frontages within the conservation area, where the cumulative effect of the uPVC windows is particularly damaging.

Rendered and painted brickwork

Brickwork has often been rendered with a modern wet-dash or pebbledash. In many instances this has obscured original building details, such as Flemish bond brickwork and corbelled eaves and projecting horizontal brick bands (e.g. 22-28 Derby Road and Holly Cottage, The Green). Many brick boundary walls are in poor condition, the face of the soft, red brick damaged by frost and eroding.

Truncated chimney stacks

The White Hart once had statuesque chimneys similar to those at 2 The Green but these have been lowered. The chimney at 32 The Green has been lowered and rendered and is now a mere stump. Long views down streets include focal points such as 32 The Green. In a place where the skyline is so important, the altered & truncated chimney stacks stand out and have a negative impact on views.

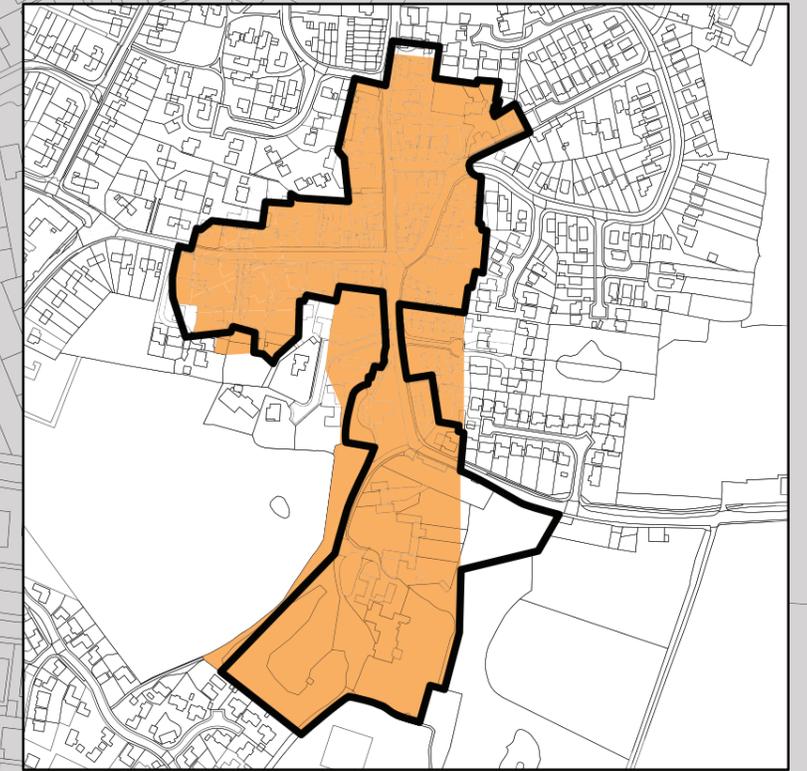
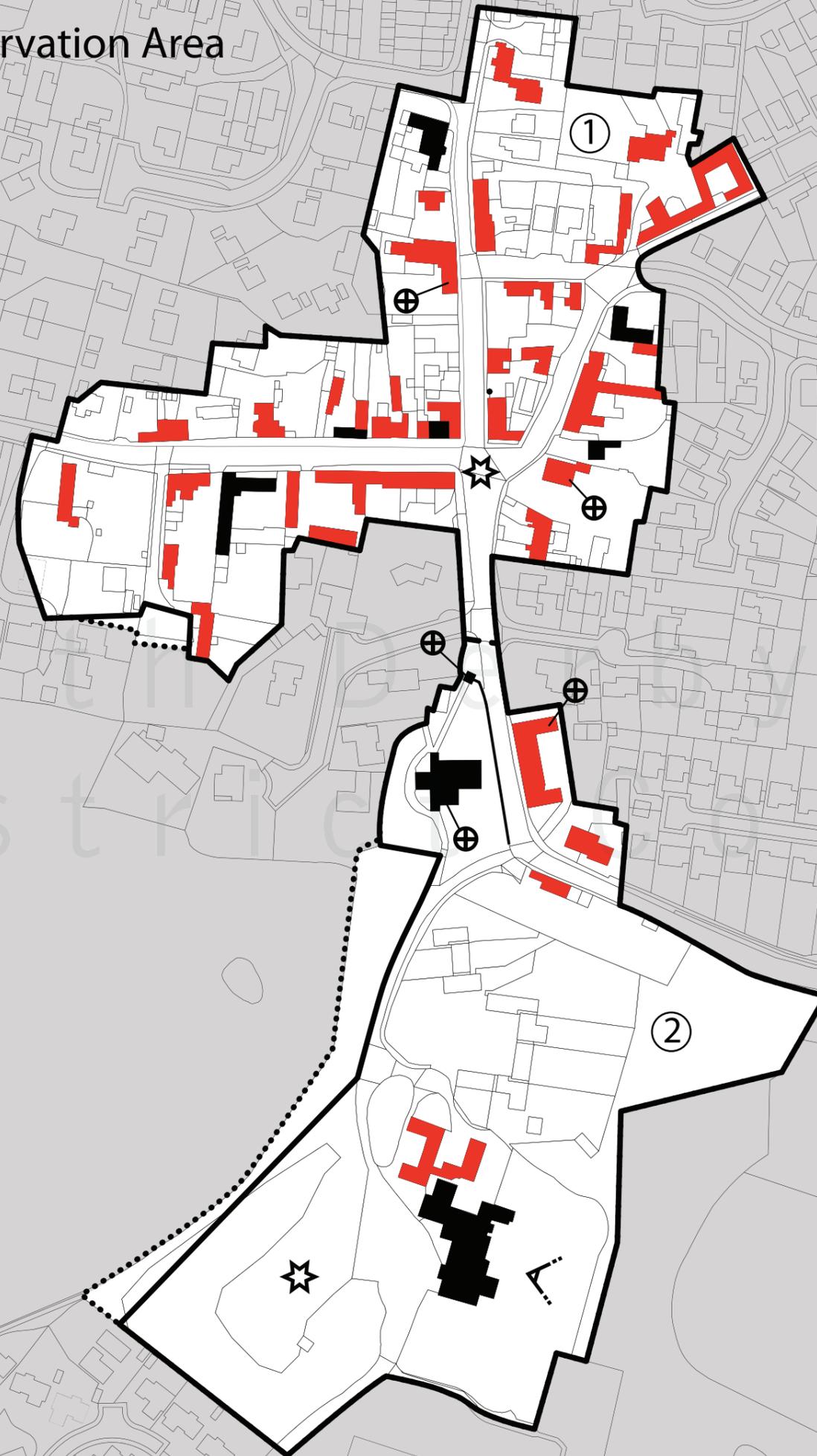


Loss of rural setting

The extent of housing development outside the conservation area boundary during the 20th century has encroached onto the rural setting of the town, to such an extent that it is now “hemmed-in” by housing most of the way around.

Aston-on-Trent Conservation Area

Designated: 12th July 1979



- ① Character Areas
- Conservation Area boundary
- - - Sub-area (numbered)
- Proposed extended boundary
- ☆ Open spaces
- ▶ Principal views
- ⊕ Architectural landmarks & focal points
- Listed buildings
- Other buildings which contribute positively to the special architectural or historic character
- Areas of high archaeological potential

APPENDIX

Distinctive Architectural Details

ASTON-ON-TRENT



Checklist of details

The details in this appendix illustrate those building elements that help to define Aston on Trent's particular character. These may be common everyday vernacular details found repeatedly throughout the conservation area or may be more exceptional, consciously designed features.

This appendix may prove useful in providing inspiration for new development, whether traditional or contemporary, if used with care. Paradoxically, the outstanding architectural details of a conservation area may not be the ones that are most typical of the area. They often belong to the important key buildings of a village and may look out of place on smaller buildings in subordinate locations. The majority of buildings in the conservation areas of South Derbyshire are plainly and simply detailed.

Boundary treatments

- Brick walls with moulded half-round or triangular red or blue brick copings
- Coursed stone walls to the churchyard

Roof types and details

- Pitched roofs with plain close verges
- Pitched roofs with timber bargeboards, sometimes with scalloped edges
- Patterned tiles & slates
- Raised coped gables finished with stone copings, or occasionally brick
- Hipped tiled roofs

Chimney stacks and pots

- Tall brick chimneys with heavily corbelled brick oversailing courses and regular, repeated rows of red clay chimney pots
- Brick stacks with moulded stone cappings and weatherings
- Stacks with multiple engaged flues
- Blue bricks adopted for capping or oversailing courses, occasionally decorative
- Moulded terracotta details

Ephemera

- Weather vanes

Walls

- Patterned brickwork in Flemish bond, with buff-coloured headers
- Patterned brickwork with blue brick details, such as diapers, and horizontal bands
- Moulded terracotta details
- Datestones and initials
- Corbelled eaves, with "sawtooth" or dentilled brickwork
- Plain close verge or corbelled verge with moulded brickwork or plain brick bands

Windows

- "Yorkshire" (horizontally sliding) sashes
- Small-paned vertically sliding sash windows
- Leaded-light 20th century casements within timber frames
- Multi-paned, side-hinged timber casements, within chamfered moulded frames

Lintels and cills

- Segmental brick arched windows, often from a single or double course of header bricks
- Stone wedge lintels
- Cambered arched brick lintels
- Brickwork without cills

Street furniture

BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

Walls and copings



Left - mellow, red bricks with half-round moulded brick copings (22 The Green).

The majority of historic walls within the village are built from red brick. There are a few exceptions, such as the stone-built churchyard walls and the stone copings at 29 Derby Road (below).



Left - at Rectory Mews moulded red and buff-coloured bricks have been incorporated into the boundary walls to create recessed panels and decorative copings, now badly eroded.

Below - walls of red brick with moulded triangular red or blue clay copings. Blue bricks were also incorporated as a plinth at The Old Schoolhouse (below right).

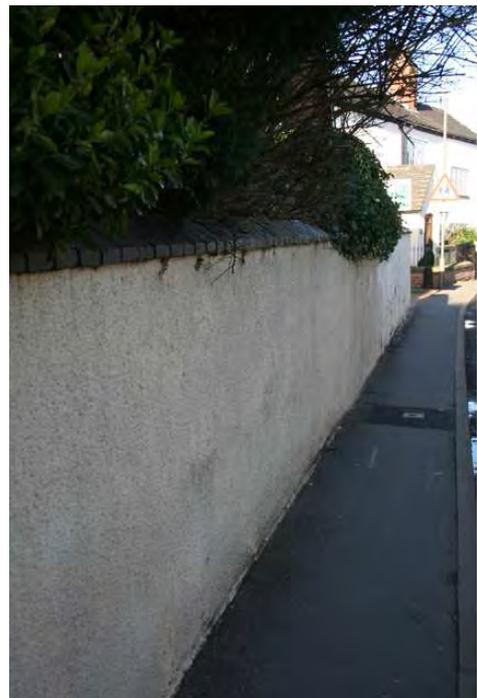




Above - decorative wrought iron gate, with highly ornamental scrollwork of the early 20th century. The gate serves the Winterbottom family burial ground at All Saints Church.



Top right - small, estate-type 6-bar pedestrian wrought iron gate at Woodlands, 4 The Green.



Right - An old wall incorporating moulded blue clay copings, rendered and painted in recent times.

ROOF TYPES AND DETAILS



Above - hipped roof of Staffordshire blue clay tiles with hips and ridge incorporating lead flashings dressed over lead rolls (No. 1 Derby Road).

Below left - raised coped gable, with squared stone copings (26 Derby Road). This detail was once commonplace in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Below right - cast iron faceted rainwater hopper (8 The Green).





Bargeboards were introduced in the 19th century as part of a revival of interest in gothic and Tudor architecture. Used in conjunction with wide overhanging verges, they created deep, interesting shadows and a picturesque, gothic character. Above left - steep pitched roof with plain bargeboard at 25 Derby Road. Above right - scalloped bargeboard at White Cottage, Shardlow Road.

Unusual patterned roof materials:

Below left - Welsh slate roof with diaper pattern made from scalloped-edge slates at 2 The Green.

Below right - hipped tiled roof with fish-scale red and blue clay tiles at the Pump House, Derby Road.



CHIMNEY STACKS AND POTS



Aston-on-Trent has a large variety of chimneys and pots. Many of the Victorian pots survive and there are a wide variety of patterns.

Above - row of three chimneys with moulded stone copings and weatherings, and engaged flues (detail - top right - 1a and 2 The Green).

Right - plainer stacks also have a strong presence incorporating heavily corbelled, brick oversailing courses (29 Derby Road).



Below - statuesque chimneys at Lodge Mews with moulded terracotta copings and cannon-type pots with "pocket" air vents.

Bottom right - plain chimney embellished with moulded red terracotta modillions and sawtooth band. Unfortunately the pots have been removed.





Left - chimney with blue bricks laid in a sawtooth pattern create a decorative corbelled cap. Octagonal buff terracotta pots complete the design (Long Cottage).

Middle - blue bricks in oversailing courses (The Smithy).

Right - blue moulded bricks form a chamfered weathering at the bottom of the stack and at the capping. Moulded stone and brick forms a corbelled oversailing course (Rectory Mews).

Right - massive corbelled brick stack incorporating 7 flues at 1-2 Shardlow Road. The choice of identical red terracotta "beaded" chimneys pots contributes to the monumental design of the whole stack.



Below left - unusual chamfered brick chimney stack with separate flues and "roll" pots with louvres (25 Derby Road).

Middle - hard-fired blue clay pots with beaded roll tops at Manor Farm.

Right - pale buff, beaded terracotta pots (11 The Green).



EPHEMERA



Weathervanes are a distinctive feature of the Aston-on-Trent skyline - Lodge Mews (above), 21 Weston Road (top right) & 29 Derby (right).

Copper Phoenix Insurance Plaque at 16 Weston Road (below) and copper domed vent at Lodge Mews (bottom right).



WALLS - Brickwork details



Most of the decorative brick details within the village are 19th century.

Above top - buff bricks are used to create the effect of quoins at 1 Shardlow Road. Moulded terracotta bricks were used in horizontal bands to enliven the walls.

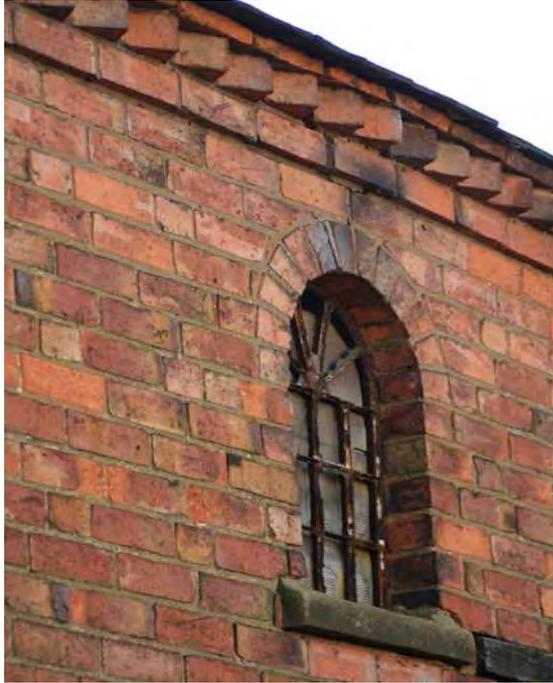
Above - blue and buff bricks were used at Rectory Mews during the 19th century to create decorative patterns, such as this lozenge.



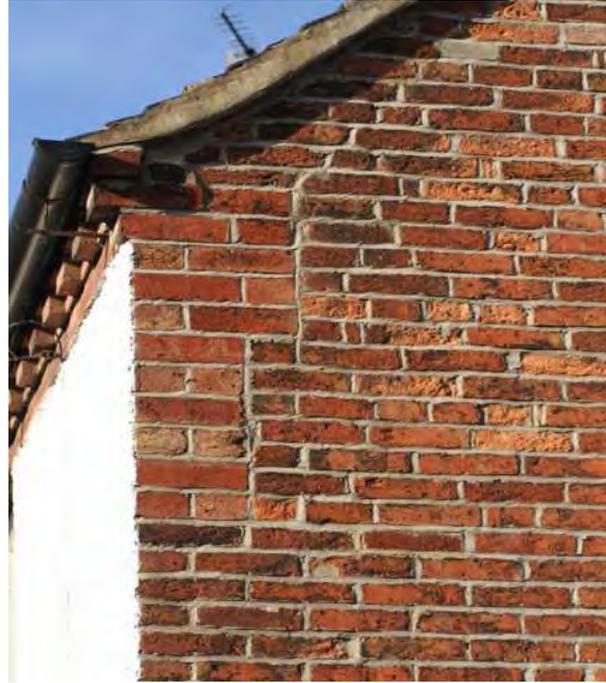
Above - 19th century Flemish bond brickwork, with buff coloured header bricks (6 Weston Road).

Below - 19th century diaper-patterned brickwork, laid in English bond, incorporating blue "flared" header bricks (The Old Schoolhouse).





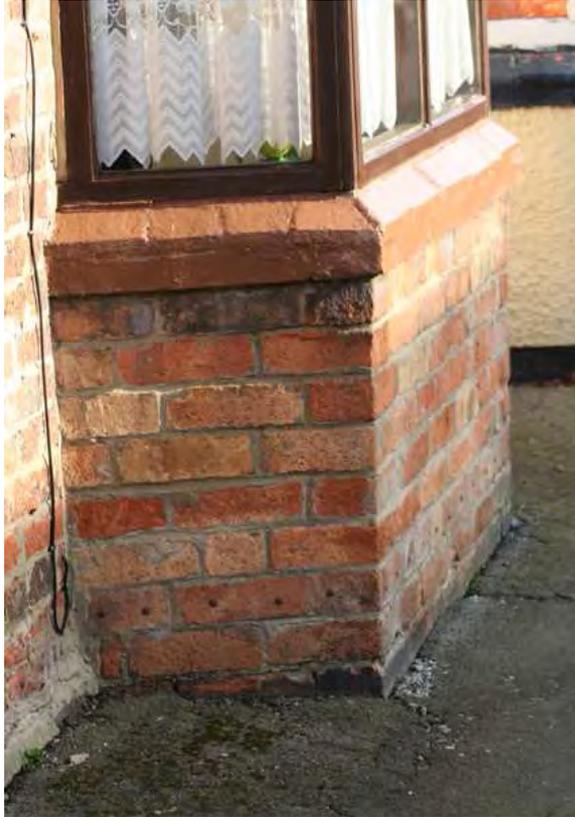
Above - corbelled sawtooth brick eaves and semi-circular arched cast-iron window at 7 Derby Rd.



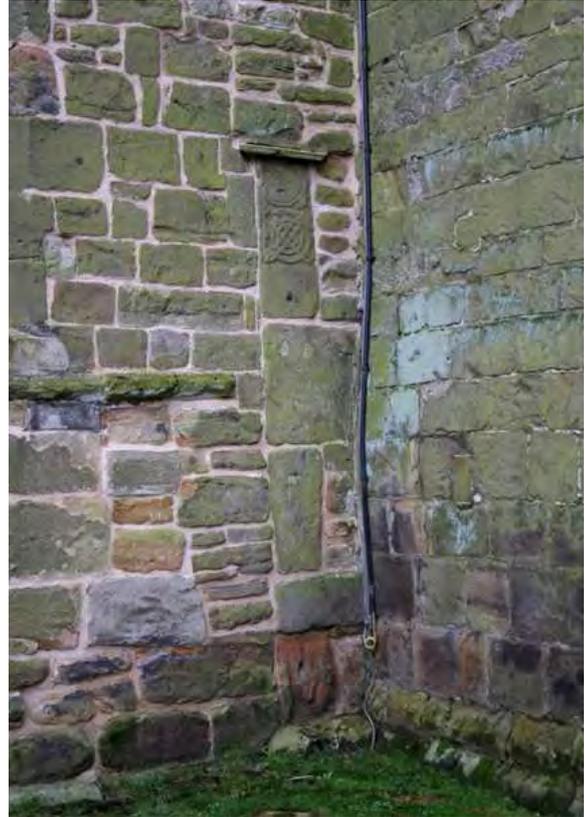
Above right - bricks have been in common use since about 1700. Two phases of brickwork within one wall can be clearly seen at 34 Weston Road (above). It was re-fronted in the 19th century.

Below - examples of datestones, crests and initials. Clockwise from the top right; 16 The Green, datestone at The Old Schoolhouse, the Holden family crest at the Old Schoolhouse, dated brick and initials IG at 34-38 Weston Road.





Above left - projecting brick bay with chamfered moulded brick cill, 14 Weston Road.



Above right - Saxon stonework incorporating fragments of "long-and-short" work and Saxon interlacing at All Saints Church.

Bottom left - decorative stone pilaster head at 8 The Green.



Bottom right - 17th century stone plinth at 16 The Green.



WALLS - eaves details



Left - moulded terracotta eaves at 4 The Woodlands. This type of eaves typically has a cast iron ogee gutter. This sits on top of the projecting eaves, avoiding the need for brackets. The shaped gutter is therefore an integral part of the architecture of the building.



Above left and right - a sawtooth brick eaves, at 10-14 Weston Road (above left) and 22 The Green (above right).

Right - corbelled and dentilled brick eaves. Header bricks were laid alternately to form "dentils", creating a decorative effect.



WALLS - verge details



Above - corbelled verge with dentilled brickwork at 29 Derby Road.



Rounded, moulded brickwork and corbelled verge at The Smithy (top left) and I Manor Farm Mews (above left). Plain corbelled verge (above right) at 28 Weston Rd.

Plain close verge at 20 Weston Road (below left) and corbelled verge at 16 Weston Road (below right).



WINDOWS



Above - small-paned sash window divided into a third and two thirds (Long Cottage). The lovely reflections of the original cylinder glass are very evident. The same proportions were used at 2 The Green (right).



Above - small-paned (8 over 8) vertically sliding sash window at 1 Derby Road.



Above - pair of vertically sliding sash windows of 1899 at 1 Shardlow Road. This example incorporates timber horns, which were added to increase the rigidity of the sash frame, particularly when glass panes began to get larger in the second half of the 19th century.



Multi-paned horizontally sliding sash windows, in a number of different patterns. Above - 16 Weston Road. Top right - 2 Weston Road. Below - 34 Weston Road. Right - 21 Weston Road.



Left - leded-light casement windows in timber frames at 13 The Green. These were re-introduced towards the end of the 19th century as part of the "Arts & Crafts" revival of interest in old building traditions.



Above - small-paned timber casements within moulded frames (Lodge Mews).



Top right - fixed multi-paned timber casement (1 Rectory Mews).



Right - 6-paned casements with moulded timber mullioned frames (29 Derby Road).

Below left - Norman window opening at the church with chevron mouldings.

Below right - cast-iron diamond lattice casements at The Old Schoolhouse, Derby Road.



LINTELS AND CILLS

By the first half of the 19th century, the use of stone was much more widespread, partly due to improvements in the transportation of heavy goods (by canal and later rail).

In Aston-on-Trent there was a spate of building at this time, many of the houses being constructed with wedge-shaped stone lintels. This pattern continued to be used for 50 years or so.

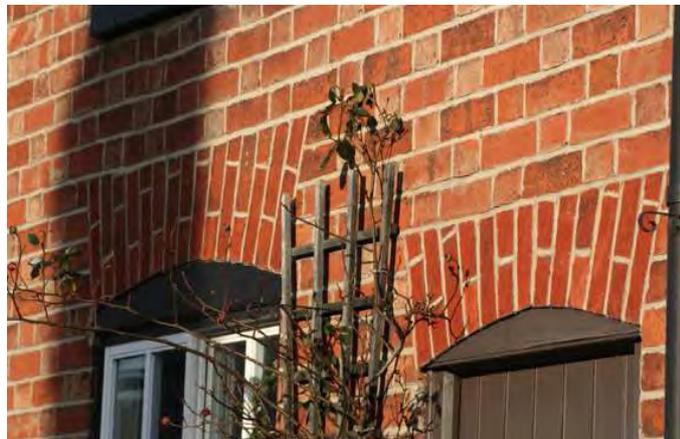
Top right - wedge stone lintels with carved roundels (2 The Green).

Right - wedge stone lintel with incised channels (1 Derby Road).

Right - wedge stone lintels with carved soffits (Rectory Mews).

The cambered brick arch was technically the most difficult to construct and was often reserved for the grander houses. Nevertheless, this detail appears on a number of terraced cottages within Aston.

Right - cambered arch brick lintels (34-38 Weston Road).





Where economy was important and for utilitarian buildings, lintels were simpler in form. A segmental arch, formed by one or more courses of “header” bricks, is quite a common detail.

Left - a segmental arch of three courses of buff and red headers (Rectory Mews).
 Below left - rebated segmental arched headers (19a Weston Road).
 Below - a segmental arch of a double course of brick headers (13 The Green).



There was often no cill, relying on the weathering properties of the brickwork. Window joinery was positioned close to the face of the wall. Lead cills may be added for improved weathering if desired. (below - 2 Weston Road).

Bottom - in some cases, moulded blue bricks were added to form a more weatherproof cill (Rectory Mews).



Above - cambered brick arch (2 Weston Road).

Stone cills (below) were common in the mid-late 19th century, although many are now painted.



STREET FURNITURE

Right - Bus shelter, formerly Victorian village pump house, c1870 (listed grade II) adjacent to Pump House, No. 8 Derby Road.

Cast-iron columns support the octagonal roof, which has patterned fish-scale tiles. Brick-built with stone dressings & chamfered joinery.

(grid ref. N 441, 504 / E 329, 504)



Right - Victorian village pump, wooden box construction housing cast-iron village pump on Posey Lane.

(grid ref. N 441, 366 / E 329, 439)

