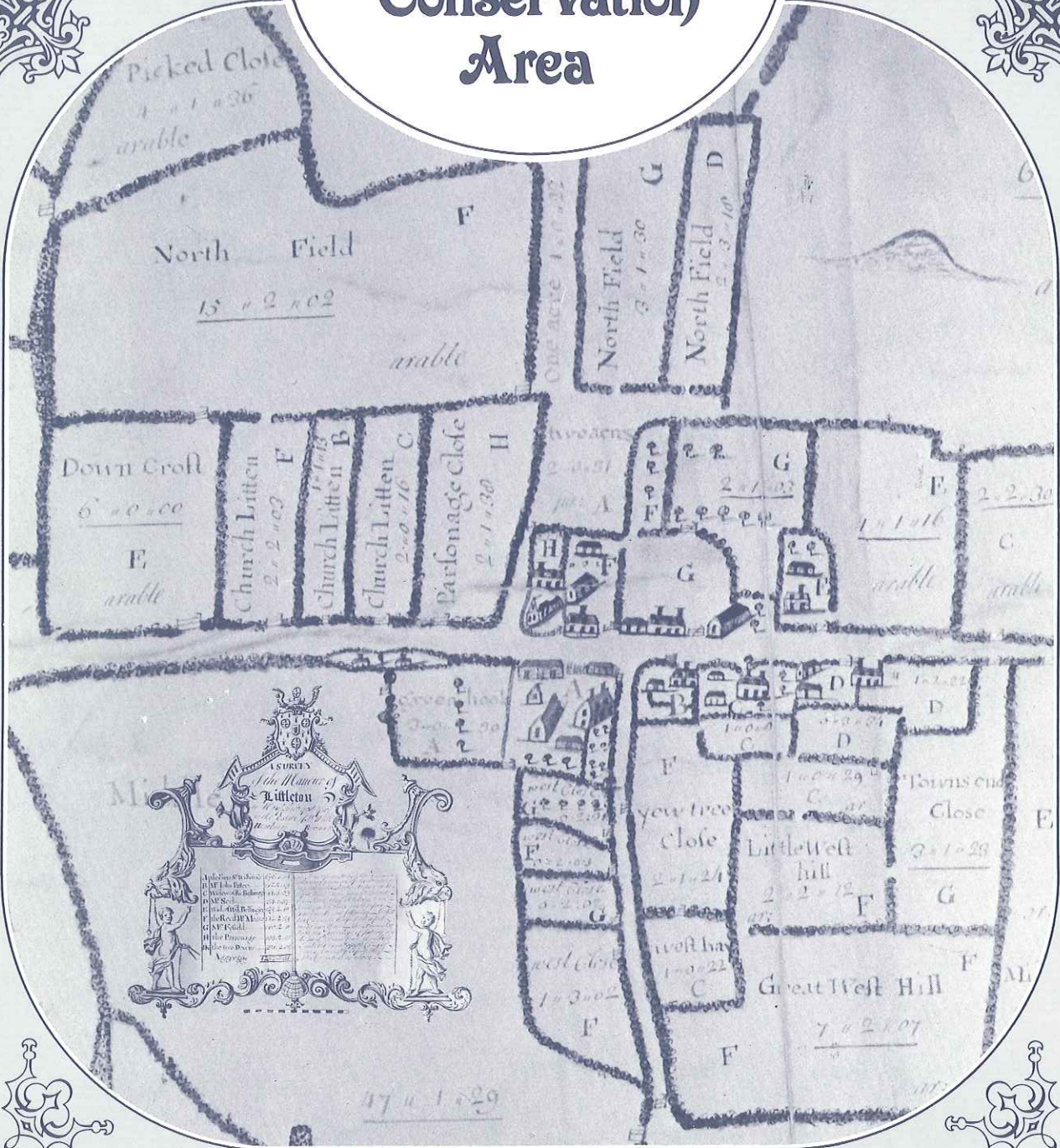


Littleton Conservation Area



The village of Littleton lies on the downs about three miles north-west of Winchester. Littleton has much expanded in recent times but the old village has remained physically distinct and retains much of its historic character.

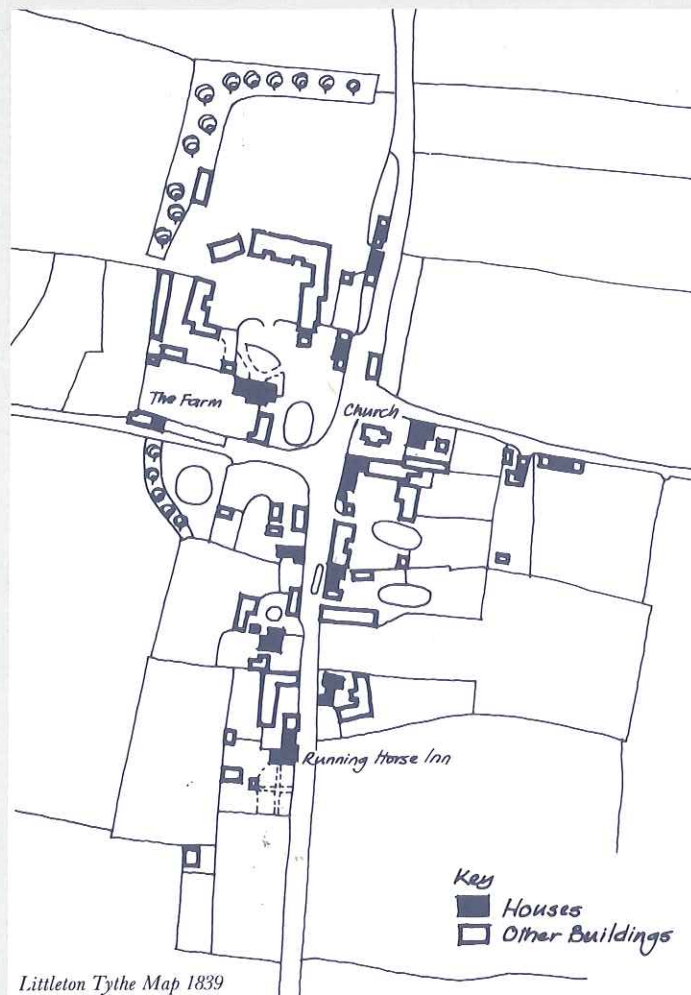
Winchester City Council considers the old village of Littleton to be of special architectural and historic interest and has therefore designated it as a Conservation Area.

Littleton

Littleton is a substantial village with a population of about 880, and has developed astride the old road from Winchester to Crawley. Most of the village has developed in this century but the old village has remained very small and lies to the north of, and virtually detached from, the modern village.

Approaching from the south, the road runs down between treed banks and then becomes the old main village street. There is a nucleus of 16th and 17th century houses and cottages plus the Church and late mediaeval Manor House. A number of other buildings date from the 19th century, pleasant architecturally and contributing to the character of the village, but not listed. There are lots of fine trees. The trees and unlisted buildings now have a measure of protection through being included in the Conservation Area.

New development in the villages is now strictly controlled through structure and local plans. Further development in Littleton will be limited to small-scale development and it is the City Council's intention to preserve the gap between the old and new parts of the village. Any development in the Conservation Area would have to be in accord with the policies in this leaflet.



Littleton Tythe Map 1839

History

Littleton is thought to be one of several lands included in the grant by Cyneigils, Saxon King of Wessex, to the Minster at Winchester in AD 635, a grant confirmed by the Pope in 1205.

During the Middle Ages sheep farming was the main source of prosperity for the parish, the yearly receipts for wool reaching £15 13s 1d. In the 14th century the Black Death visited Littleton and several rents were unpaid in 1364.

In 1500 Prior Silkstead leased 40 acres of land at Littleton "near the hospital or house of St. Mary Magdalene" to William Atkins, the custodian of the same. This house was probably that now called Monks Rest and was a country retreat for the brethren of St Swithun's Priory. Later the house became the parsonage and then the village school.



Sir William Heathcote of Hursley held the greater part of the manor in 1735: the map reproduced on the cover is part of a survey carried out for Sir William in that year. He held the Farm (now the Manor House, marked A on the survey) and 676 acres. Other properties can be identified including Slade Cottage (B), St Swithun's Cottage (E) and the White House (G). The Red House property (F) was leased by the Rev'd Mr Mosse and Monks Rest (H) was The Parsonage.

The Tithe Map of 1839 shows the village a century later. Mr Edward Fitt was now the principal landowner, leasing the Farm (Manor House) which had been extended and new barns added. The Running Horse Inn occupied the site where Sydney House now stands. The cottages east of Monks Rest had been built, otherwise the maps show no great changes in a hundred years. The White House was occupied by Robert Fifield. The Fifields were prominent in Littleton in three centuries – there is an interesting gravestone of 1689 in the churchyard to "Temperences the wife of Richard Fiffild of Head Borin Woorthy".

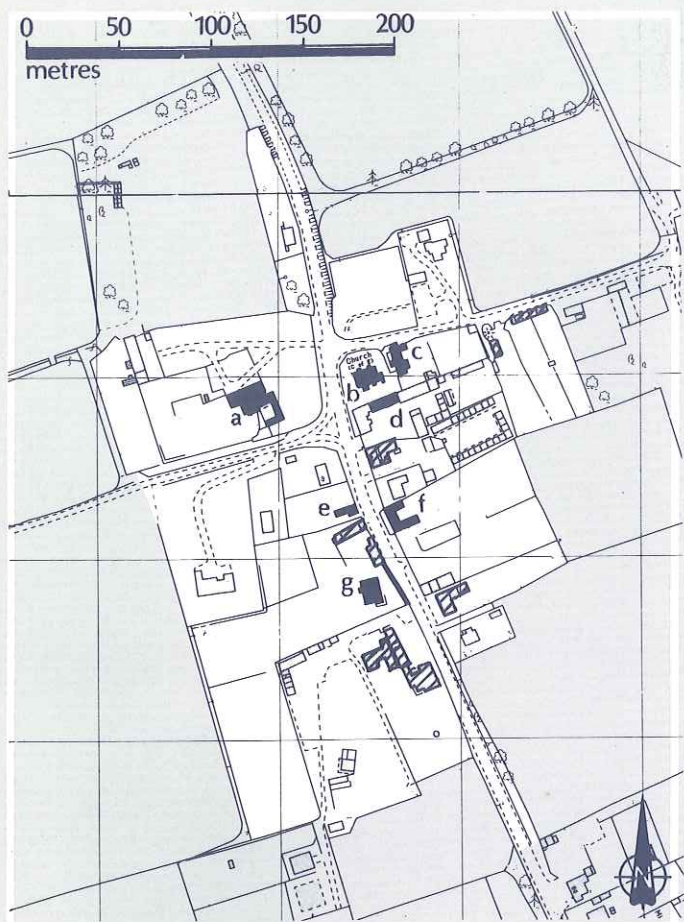
Comparison of the Tithe Map and the present day map shows a few changes – most noticeable being the many farm buildings which have disappeared. A few small cottages have gone, (in 1887 a number of cottages were burnt down). Red House and Sydney House have been rebuilt and one or two new houses erected, including the modern Rectory.

The church was heavily restored about 1885 at a cost of £800. Through the 19th century the living was a curacy and the incumbents lived in Winchester. A schoolroom was built in 1871 for 45 children as an extension to the old Parsonage. In 1901 the average attendance was 23 but the school closed before the Great War and the children transferred to Crawley.



Acknowledgements

To Robert Adam RIBA for permission to reproduce drawing of the White House.



Conservation Area



Statutory Listed Buildings



Other Buildings of Interest

In the 19th century Littleton was a centre for training race horses which were exercised on Worthy Down where there was a race course and on Flower Down where there was a polo ground. The tradition continues with the present Littleton Stud. In the 1930's Flower Down was partly developed for the Royal Air Force Electrical and Wireless School and is now the new Sir John Moore Barracks, training headquarters for the Light Division.

In 1914, 270 acres of the Lainston Estate at Littleton were sold off: a number of cottages were thought suitable for "weekend cottages" and there were several lots "ripe for building of good country residences and high class villas." The inter-war years marked the start of the extensive "suburban" growth of the village.



To the Hampshire Record Office for permission to reproduce the estate Survey Map of 1735 (Cover).

Buildings

A number of buildings are listed as being of special architectural or historic interest (Grade II): they are described below and identified on the map by a letter. The Manor House and Church are extra special and are graded II*.

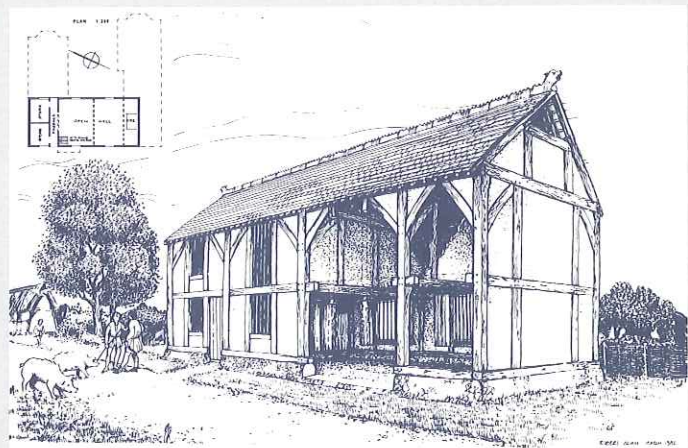
a Manor House Original part is a 15th century three bay open hall house, timberframed with a fine arch-braced roof. Moulded ceiling and fireplace inserted in the hall in 17th century. House later extended, and encased in stuccoed brick: external appearance generally 18th and 19th century. Old tile roof with mediaeval style ridge tiles. An original gable (now internal) has close studding with flint infill.

b Church of St Catherine Originally dating from 12th and 13th centuries with Norman nave and chancel, heavily restored c 1885 by T E Williams. Constructed of flint with stone dressings and old tile roof. Late 12th century Norman Purbeck font, 13th century piscina and restored 15th century crown-post roof. Two small brasses of 1499 and 1505 to John Smythe and his wife Alisia.

c Monks Rest 15th century timberframed house, probably the house or hospital of St Mary Magdalene. Gable to road shows close studding with flint infill and large added 16th century chimney stack of brick and flint chequerwork with stone dressings. Mediaeval style crested ridge tiles. House altered in 18th century. Attached schoolroom built in 1871.

d Red House Stables Two bays survive of a 15th century building with heavy timberframing, probably originally a house but out of domestic use by 1735 (no chimneys shown on survey drawing).

e Slade Cottage 16th century timberframed thatched cottage with added 18th century bay.



The White House

f The White House 15th or 16th century three bay timberframed open hall house with smoke bay, encased in brick and extended in the 19th century. Reconstruction drawing by Robert Adam, Architect, March 1980.

g Littleton Lodge Early 19th century house of rendered brick with slate roof. Flat roofed porch with original door and fanlight. Tripartite sashes. Mid 19th century conservatory. The flint and brick garden walls and cast iron railings and gate are also listed.

There are other buildings of interest, though not listed, which contribute to the character of the village, for example Manor Cottage (dated 1848), the cottages east of Monks Rest (18th/19th century), Sarum Cottage (mid-19th century with yellow brick details), St Swithun's Cottage (17th century but much altered) and Sydney House (mid 19th century on site of Running Horse P.H.).

The Conservation Area

Conservation Policies

It is the Council's policy to encourage the retention of those things which make a conservation area special: not only historic buildings but also natural features, trees, hedges, walls, fences, open areas and archaeological sites.

In some areas improvements might be desirable: the City Council will welcome suggestions for improvements and would hope to join with the parish council and local people in schemes to enhance conservation areas.

A full statement of the Council's conservation policies is set out in the book "Hampshire's Heritage and a Policy for its Future". There are, however, certain policies of particular importance to villages and these are set out briefly below, together with a number of legal provisions which relate specifically to conservation areas and listed buildings.



Slade Cottage

Control of Demolition

No listed building or part of it may be demolished without the consent of the City Council. The same applies to non-listed buildings with a cubic content exceeding 115 cubic metres. Consent will normally be granted only where it can be shown that the building is beyond repair or incapable of reasonable use, or where its removal or replacement would benefit the area.

Listed Buildings

An up to date Statutory List of Buildings of special architectural or historic interest ("Listed Buildings") has now been approved. All the listed buildings are shown on the Conservation Area Map (see over) and all are legally protected. The Statutory List can be inspected at the offices of the City Planning Department.

Anyone wishing to demolish a listed building, or alter (internally or externally) or extend one in such a way that affects its character, must obtain "Listed Building Consent" from the City Council. The procedure is similar to that for planning applications.

New Development

New buildings and alterations or extensions to existing buildings must respect the character of the area in terms of scale, grouping, design and materials. Facing and roofing materials traditional to the locality will normally be required. Walls and fences should also be of traditional type and materials.

This means that "outline" planning applications will not normally be accepted: detailed information regarding the proposed design, adjoining buildings, levels, planting and materials to be used, must be submitted at an appropriate scale.

Publicity

Applications for development which would significantly affect the character of the area will be advertised in the local newspaper and in notices displayed on site. The public's views have to be taken into account by the City Council before deciding whether to grant permission.

Protection of Trees

Six weeks notice must be given to the City Council of any intention to remove or lop any trees (except fruit trees) so that the Council can decide whether to make a Tree Preservation Order.

Grants

The County and City Councils have a joint scheme for grant aiding the repair, maintenance or restoration of historic buildings. Buildings of outstanding interest (usually Grade I) may qualify for grant aid from the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage).

These grants are quite separate from Home Improvement Grants made under the Housing Acts, but they may be complementary since improvement grants are for conversion and improvement of residential property whereas historic building grants are for repairs but not improvements.

Further Advice

If further advice or guidance is required about the availability of grants, the submission of applications, the felling of trees or any other aspect of conservation, please contact the Planning Department, Winchester City Council, City Offices, Colebrook Street, Winchester, SO23 9LJ (Tel: Winchester 68166). For advice on Housing Act grants please contact the Environmental Services Department (Tel: Winchester 68166).



Littleton Conservation Area Looking North

References

Hampshire's Heritage and a Policy for its Future – Hampshire County Planning Department, revised 1984.

Hampshire Treasures, Vol 1, Winchester City District – Hampshire County Council 1979.

Victoria County History of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight – (Ed) Page W. 1900–1912.

The main statutory provisions relating to listed buildings and conservation areas are contained in the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 (as amended), DOE circular 12/81 (Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas) and DOE Circular 23/77 (Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas – Policy and Procedure). The latter contains a useful Appendix setting out the Department of the Environment's advice on alterations to listed buildings.