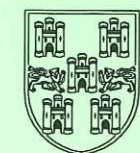




Martyr Worthy

CONSERVATION AREA

A Technical Assessment



Winchester
City Council

August 1997

WINCHESTER PLANNING

Winchester City Council Planning Department

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MARTYR WORTHY CONSERVATION AREA - A TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

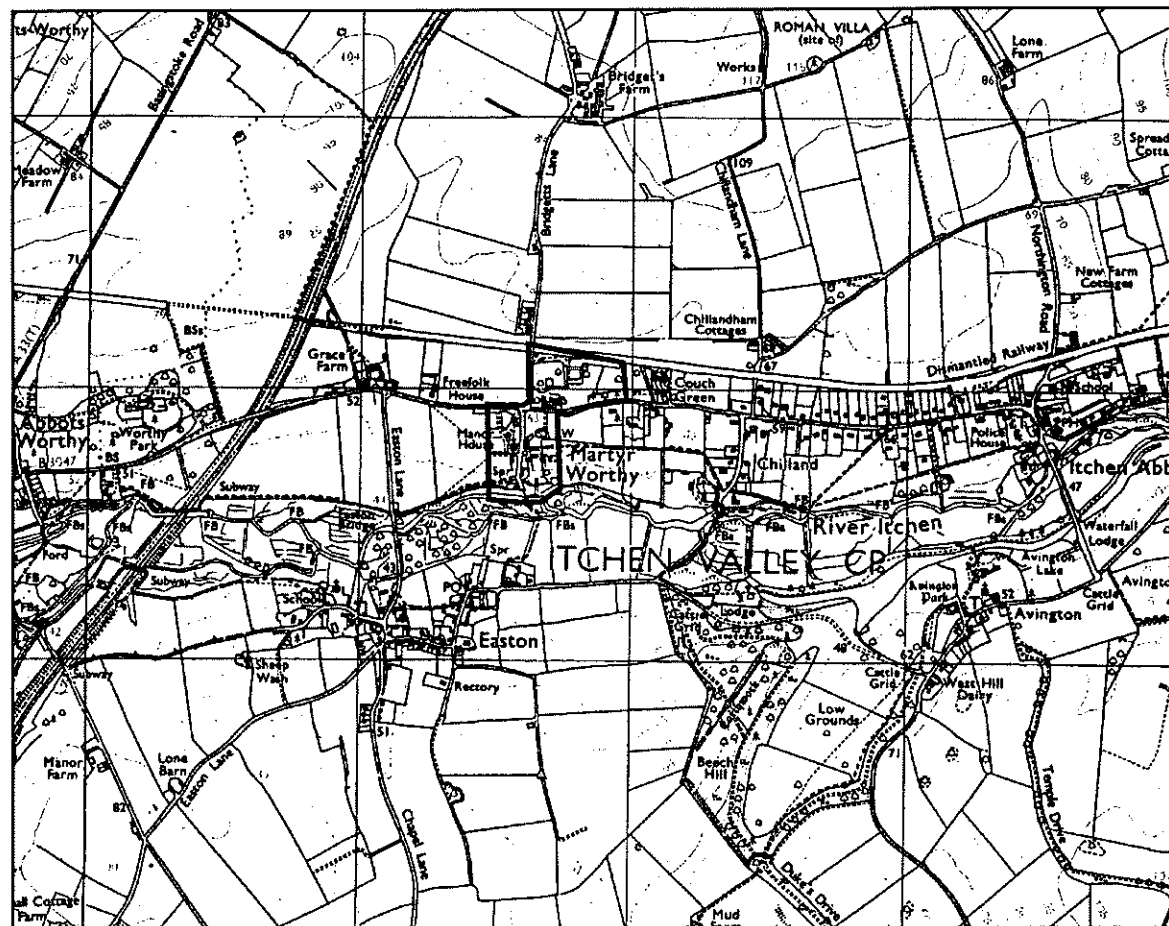
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- 1.1 The 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act places a duty on every local planning authority to determine which parts of their area are "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance" and to designate them as Conservation Areas. The Act and recent Government advice (Planning Policy Guidance Note 15) also states that the local planning authority should, from time to time, formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of these conservation areas.
- 1.2 This document is a technical appraisal of the Martyr Worthy Conservation Area and is based on a detailed analysis of the area. It defines and records the distinctive features of Martyr Worthy and attempts to be as factual and objective as possible. To achieve this in a manageable form, the assessment is divided into a series of sections which examine the various elements that comprise Martyr Worthy's special character and appearance. However, it is the combination of these features which justifies the designation of the conservation area, rather than the importance of any one particular feature.
- 1.3 The document seeks to increase awareness of these special qualities to ensure that as the area evolves, it does so in a sympathetic way so that the essential character of the area is sustained for future generations. As part of this, a number of enhancement measures are suggested, to be addressed as and when the opportunity arises.
- 1.4 The information contained in this assessment was collected between November 1995 and January 1996 and is believed to be correct at the time of compilation. Every attempt has been made to highlight those features which are particularly significant. However, the omission of any feature or features from the text and/or accompanying maps should not be regarded as an indication that they are necessarily without significance or importance in conservation and planning terms.
- 1.5 This Technical Assessment and the proposed enhancements contained within it, was the

subject of a six week period of public consultation during winter 1996/97.

MARTYR WORTHY Conservation Area

MAP 1 Location Map



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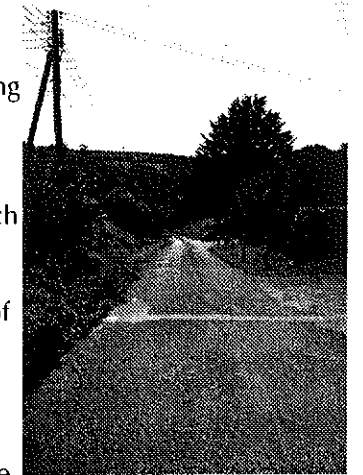
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Location, Designations and Setting

- 2.1 Martyr Worthy is located approximately four miles north east of Winchester within the parish of Itchen Valley (Ref SU 51 32) and is set on the northern side of the Upper Itchen Valley (see Map 1). The conservation area was designated in June 1985 and the boundary extends from the railway cutting north of Martyr Worthy Place to the River Itchen and incorporates the whole of the village which contains approximately 20 buildings (see Map 2).
- 2.2 The core of the village lies to the south of the B3047 with the grounds of Martyr Worthy Place to the north. The village extends down Church Lane towards the River Itchen with several buildings accessed from tracks running at right angles from the lane.
- 2.3 The village lies entirely within the river valley. The River Itchen has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the small stretch of river which falls within the conservation area boundary carries the SSSI designation. The SSSI was designated in 1979 and extended in 1996 to include the entire river, and seeks to protect grasses, wetland birds and invertebrates and embraces a landscape of fen, carr and meadows. An Article IV Direction covers a similar area and was confirmed in 1981. The Direction removes permitted development rights for development of the land for the purposes of fish farming. Most of the stretch of Itchen from Cheriton to Kings Worthy has also been notified as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in November 1996, this includes the river within Martyr Worthy Conservation Area.
- 2.4 In addition, Martyr Worthy falls within the proposed Itchen Valley Area of Special Landscape Quality (ASLQ). It also forms part of the Itchen Valley Countryside Heritage Area, an area defined by Hampshire County Council to promote conservation and management of its special landscape, wildlife and historic features. These designations emphasise the importance of the wider landscape setting of the conservation area as having a distinctive character which is worth conserving. A further designation in the form of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO 1246) lies along the southern boundary of Martyr Worthy Place and the trees involved create a

significant feature.

- 2.5 The valley setting to the conservation area is evident throughout much of the village. Views across to the south side of the valley, from the B3047 and Church Lane, provide a backdrop for the buildings (Photo 1).



Photograph 1

From the footpath which passes through the centre of the village, views to the River Itchen and across to Easton, confirm Martyr Worthy's river valley setting and the populated nature of the valley (Photo 2). Views along the river valley to the western boundary of the conservation area are possible from Easton Lane and the B3047 but are restricted to the Church, the Manor and modern dwellings on the western boundary. From the footpath leading from Chilland to Martyr Worthy in a westerly direction, the Church and Old School can be seen from the edge of Chilland and the Cedar tree within the churchyard is an especially prominent landmark, visible from a number of directions.



Photograph 2

- 2.6 South of the River Itchen and along the road to Avington, views northwards into the village are screened somewhat by the trees growing adjacent to the river, however the Church and other buildings to its south are visible through them. Beyond the Church,

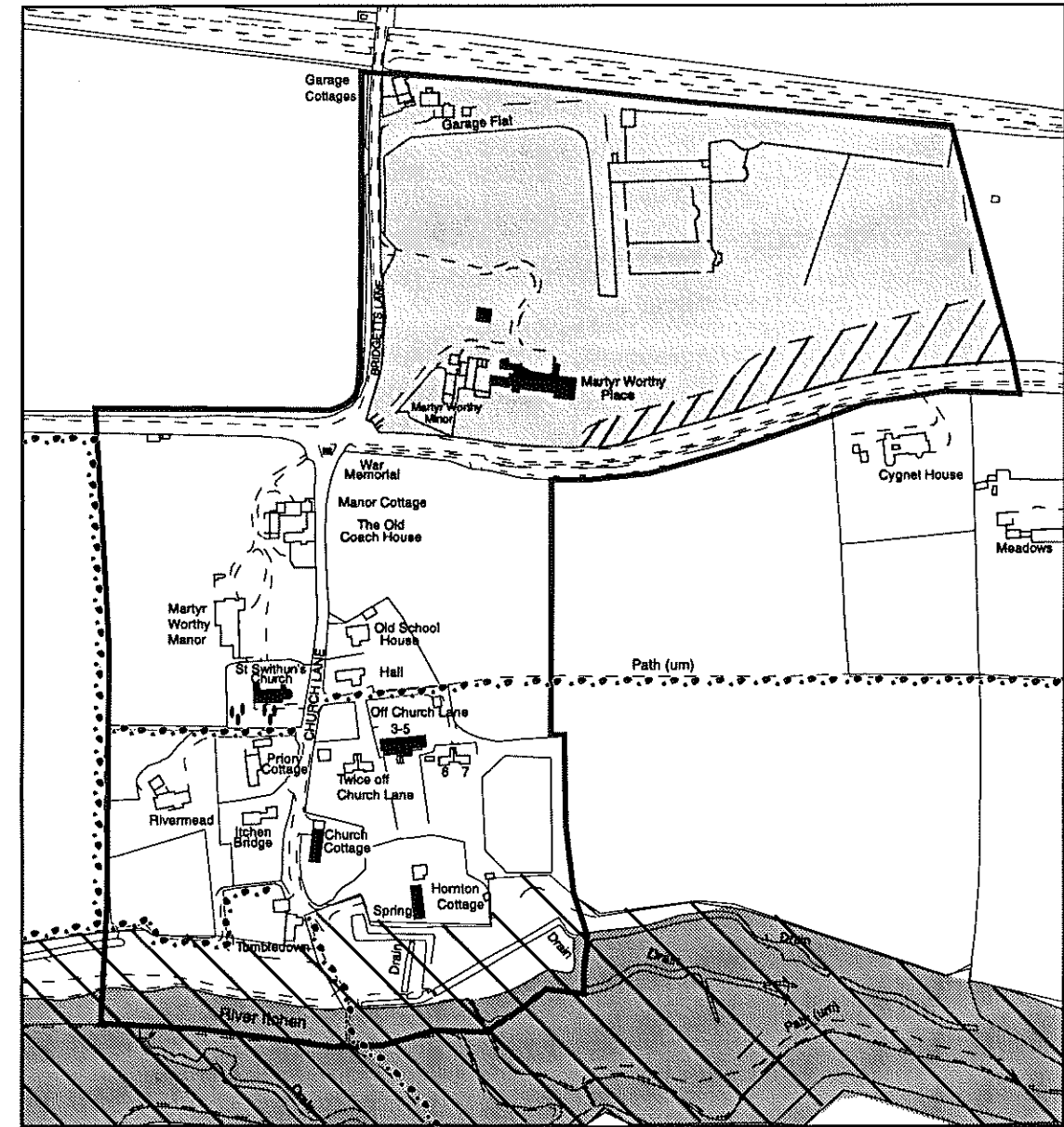
trees within the grounds of Martyr Worthy Place and to the north along the disused railway cutting of the London and South West Railway, form a skyline feature.








2.7 The B3047 passes through the centre of the conservation area and divides the village from Martyr Worthy Place. When approaching from the west, views of the conservation area are restricted by the well established hedgerows and tall boundary walls of the Manor. To the east of the junction of Bridgetts Lane and Church Lane, the boundary treatment on the southern side of the B3047 is more minimal and there are views across the field towards buildings east of Church Lane. There is a distinct change in character from the sense of enclosure created by the boundary treatment around the Manor to the more open character east of Church Lane where the eye is drawn to views across the valley and trees on the skyline on the far side of the valley.

MARTYR WORTHY Conservation Area



MAP 2 Existing Designations



-  Conservation Area Boundary
-  Article IV Direction
-  TPO 1246
-  Historic Park and Garden
-  Footpath
-  Listed Building
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

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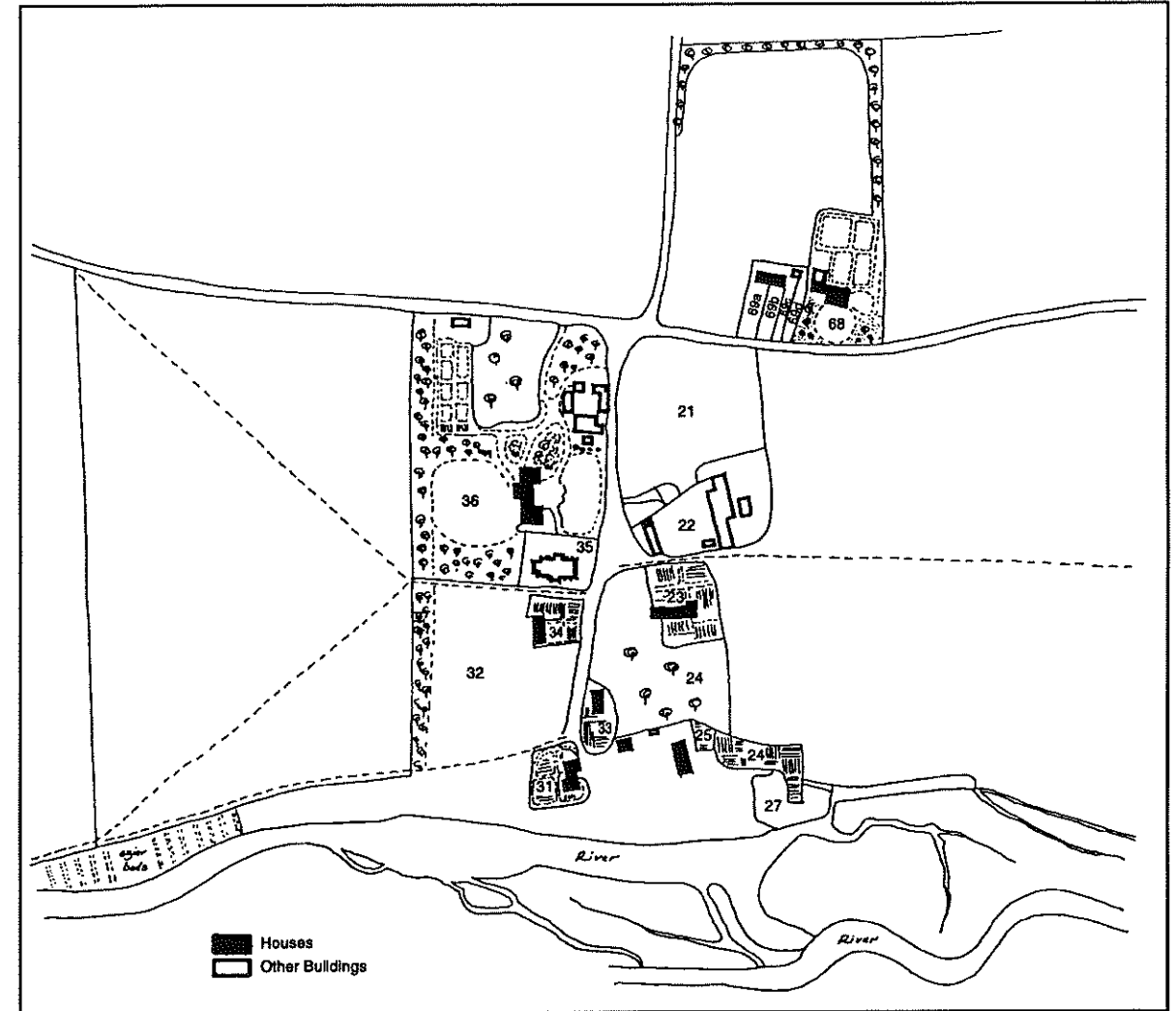
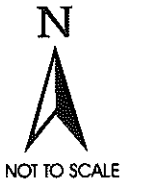
Whole map area is within proposed Ichen Valley ASLQ

- 3.1 There have been Bronze Age and Neolithic finds within the Itchen Valley along with a small amount of Roman material. However it was during the Anglo-Saxon period that the majority of people lived along the major river valleys. A number of Itchen Valley settlements were mentioned in the Domesday Survey and the Saxon Charters although Martyr Worthy is only mentioned in the Saxon Charters.
- 3.2 There is evidence of human activity in the area around Martyr Worthy as far back as the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. Neolithic worked flints have been found on the field surface to the east of Church Lane. Between Martyr Worthy and Bridget's Farm a site associated with other enclosures and 'celtic' fields exists. In addition an Anglo-Saxon cemetery exists in Worthy Park about one mile west of Martyr Worthy.
- 3.3 There are four villages along the Itchen Valley with the common Saxon name 'Worthy' meaning a farm, row of houses or a hamlet. Prior to 1205 there is no clear evidence pointing to Martyr Worthy's existence. However, 'land at Worthy' is mentioned in Anglo-Saxon charters dating from between 900 and 1086 and this is taken to be Martyr Worthy. Although the settlement is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey, by 1205 it was in the possession of the Prior and Monks of St Swithun's. At that time and again in 1285, they obtained confirmation of their ownership of the land.
- 3.4 The settlement then remained in the hands of the Prior until the dissolution, after which it was granted to the Dean and Chapter of Winchester. It was then sold into private hands during the 18th Century. Like many of the villages along the Itchen Valley, the form of the settlement seems to have been influenced by tracks running along the river valley and those crossing the river. In 'A guide to the Pilgrims Way and North Downs Way', C J Wright suggests that the pilgrims route from Winchester to Canterbury followed an ancient track which is now the B3047. Footpaths also link Martyr Worthy with Abbots Worthy, Chilland and Easton.
- 3.5 The oldest properties within the conservation area lie between the Church and the River Itchen and date from the 16th and 17th Century, the Church itself dates from the 12th Century with 15th and 19th Century additions. A list of houses on Martyr Worthy Street (now known as Church Lane) recorded in 1645 and which is taken from the church register, lists five houses, all of which exist today. These properties were occupied by tenants of the Lord of the Manor of Easton and in 1700 these dwellings were sold from the Manor.
- 3.6 The Tithe Map and Award 1841 (see Map 3) shows these five cottages as well as the Church, Rectory and Martyr Worthy Place. Several farm buildings existed in the area to the north east of the Church which is part of a field today. An area on the north bank of the River Itchen to the west of the village was given over to osier (willow) beds. The road outside the Church was much wider than today and almost formed a triangle of land. During this period there was no river crossing. Other footpaths, however, can be detected from this map although not in exactly the same position as today.
- 3.7 The 1869 Ordnance Survey map shows very little change to the already established pattern of development within the settlement. New additions to buildings within the village include the school on land east of the Church which was opened in 1860. To the north east of the school new farm buildings had been constructed, one of which was a large threshing barn and was demolished in 1984. The 1869 map shows Church Lane as a wide road running down to the River Itchen with two footbridges across its channels linking Martyr Worthy and Easton.
- 3.8 The 1909 Ordnance Survey map records a small amount of further change. The grounds of Martyr Worthy Place have doubled in size by this time. The parish room situated to the south of the school was constructed and given to the village in 1904. Despite a gap of almost 60 years, the 1962 Ordnance Survey map again shows very little change from 1909. The only new buildings are two pairs of estate cottages Off Church Lane. Itchen Bridge and Rivermead were constructed in the late 1960's and are the two most recent buildings within the village.

3.9 Martyr Worthy has grown slowly but consistently over the last 300 years, with the village expanding northwards from the original group of cottages close to the River Itchen and south of the Church. The gradual development of the settlement has resulted in buildings displaying a variety of architectural styles and ages.

MARTYR WORTHY Conservation Area

MAP 3 Tithe Map &
Award 1841



| Martyr Worthy Parish Tithe Award 1841 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
| Property | Occupier | Property | Occupier |
| 21 Pasture | Edward Bailey | 33 Cottage & Garden | Edward Mullins, James Doldus |
| 22 Farm Buildings | " | 34 Cottage & Garden | Andrew Phillips |
| 23 Cottages & Garden | William Benham, James Kneller Benj. Hunt, Michael Lock | (All above in ownership of Anthony Lewis) | |
| 24 Orchard Meadows | Edward Bailey | 35 Church | |
| 25 Garden | Abraham Cox | 36 Rectory, building, shrubby | Sir Henry Rivers BT |
| 26 Garden | James Lock | 68 House Garden, plantations | Charlotte Eyles |
| 27 Garden | Benjamin Coleman | 69a Cott & Gdn (James Griffin owner) | William Grantham |
| 28 Water Meadow | Edward Bailey | 69b Cott & Gdn (Samuel Wall owner) | Robert Fisher |
| 29 Ozler Bed | " | 69c Cott & Gdn (Thomas Parker owner) | James Blackman |
| 30 Ozler Bed | " | 69d Cott & Gdn (Samuel Wall owner) | William Fisher |
| 31 Cottages & Yard | James Maton, Creo. Shurgess James Smithy | | |

4.1 Apart from the Church and Village Hall, all the buildings within Martyr Worthy Conservation Area are within residential use. A third of the buildings within the conservation area are Listed as being of architectural or historic interest. In addition, there are a number of unlisted buildings which also contribute to the overall character of the conservation area. These are indicated on Map 4.

4.2 The oldest residential buildings, dating from the 16th/17th Centurys are linked by having timber frame construction with brick or wattle and daub infill. Roofing materials are either thatch or clay tiles. 3 to 5 Off Church Lane is a terraced Listed Building and the oldest dwelling within the village. It has been dated to around 1550 and originated as a four bay hall house. It is a one and a half storey timber frame building with a mixture of wattle and daub and brick infill, all colourwashed white. The roof is thatched in long straw with a simple wrap over flush ridge. It has a central brick chimney and two smaller stacks on its hipped ends.

4.3 Church Cottage could date from the 16th Century (Photo 3) and is another Listed Building which has remained relatively unchanged. The thatch in this case being combed wheat reed with a simple block cut ridge. It too is a one and a half storey timber



Photograph 3

framed building which has a mix of colourwashed brick and wattle and daub infill, and is distinguished by having 17th Century oriel windows at first floor level. To the south, Hornton Cottage (Photo 4) is also a Listed Building and dates from the 17th Century. It is a two storey building again with a timber frame and brick infill. Prior to



Photograph 4

a fire in 1958 it was also thatched, however today it has a clay tiled roof. During the 19th Century it was divided into 4 separate units but is one dwelling today.

4.4 Tumbledown is probably of a similar age to the other timber framed buildings (Map 4, D) (Photo 5). It was originally 3 cottages but it was converted to one dwelling in 1962 when its thatch was replaced by clay tiles. Due to its traditional construction, prominent location at the foot of Church Lane and its proximity to Church Cottage; Tumbledown comprises an important unlisted building which makes a significant contribution to the conservation area. Priory Cottage contains the remains of an early 16th Century or 17th



Photograph 5

Century cottage which can still be seen at the northern end of the house. It has, however, been extensively modernised and is now constructed of brick with pantiles.

4.5 Martyr Worthy Place (Photo 6), which is a Listed Building, originated in the early 18th Century as a small house but was enlarged in the early 19th Century and again in 1911. The first floor, clay tiled roof and tall chimney pots of the southern elevation can be seen from the B3047 and from the public



Photograph 6

footpath linking Martyr Worthy to Chilland. The various stages of the building's development are also apparent from these viewpoints with the 18th Century stuccoed section forming the eastern part of the building, a brick 19th Century section immediately to its west, and a 20th Century extension forming the western section.

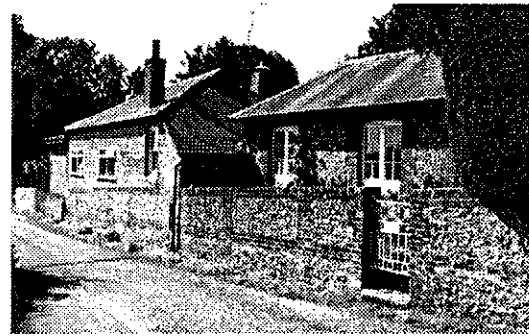
4.6 To the west of the main house, Martyr Worthy Minor (A) (Photo 7), a former gardener's lodge to Martyr Worthy Place, frames the view through the gates from the junction of Bridgetts Lane and B3047. The one and a half storey house with hipped dormer windows is constructed of flint, with brick detailing and a hipped clay tile roof. Although not Listed, the building is important as its style and use of materials contribute to the quality of the space around the war memorial and to the setting of Martyr Worthy Place. Just north of Martyr Worthy Minor, there is another Listed Building in the form of a 20th Century brick and clay tiled gazebo with a cupola and clock.



Photograph 7

4.7 To the north of Martyr Worthy Place and accessed from Bridgetts Lane, Garage Cottages lies adjacent to the disused railway line and is of late 19th Century construction with a later extension. The building is two storey in height with a clay tiled roof and is obscured from the lane by a thick evergreen hedge. Garage Flat is situated to its rear and was constructed in 1920 as a motor garage and power house with accommodation on the first floor.

4.8 One other group of buildings within the conservation area are constructed from flint and brick. Manor Cottage (B) (Photo 8) is slightly set back from the lane with a brick and flint wall in front, while the eastern elevation of the Old Coach House forms part of the wall. Plastic windows have been inserted into this elevation and a brick extension has been constructed to the rear. Manor Cottage is one of the first buildings to be viewed when entering the village. It remains relatively unaltered and together with the brick and flint boundary walls, comprises an attractive and visually important unlisted building.



Photograph 8

4.9 Manor Cottage and the Old Coach House are situated within the grounds of the Manor (Photo 9) which was constructed in the 18th Century as a Rectory and is now included on the statutory list. The boundary walls, hedges and trees successfully hide this building, however, there are partial views to its east elevation from the church yard. It has red brick walls with blue headers and a clay tiled roof. Originally a pathway led through from the Rectory to the north door of St Swithun's Church.



Photograph 9

4.10 St Swithun's Church (Photo 10) is the oldest building within the village and was built between 1140 and 1150. The north and south doors date from the late 12th Century and have decorative Norman stonework

around them. The building was restored in the 15th Century and enlarged in 1865. The building has been rendered, with a flint and stone dressed section at the eastern end. The roof and tower have clay tiles. The bell tower dates from the mid 19th Century and contains three 17th Century bells. Six tombstones within the churchyard are also Listed and date from the 18th and 19th Century. The Church forms a focal point at the centre of the village. Its position set above the level of the lane, reinforces this and allows the tower to stand above the tree tops as a landmark which can be seen in the surrounding area.



Photograph 10

4.11 Opposite the Church stand two Victorian buildings. The Old School House (C) (Photo 11) was Martyr Worthy's former school and was built in 1860. It replaced a previous school also on that site and was used until the late 1940's. The building is constructed mainly from red brick with yellow brick detailing, has a slate roof and tall decorative brick chimney stacks and bargeboard details. In converting the building to a private house, additional gables have been added on the northern elevation. Although not a Listed Building it makes a positive contribution to the conservation area on account of its attractive brick detailing, its former use and its prominent location at the northern end of Church Lane.



Photograph 11

4.12 The Village Hall, directly to the south of the Old School House, was given to the village in 1904 by Captain Fryer of Worthy Park and is a single storey rendered building with a half hipped clay tiled main roof. It has a low key, functional appearance which blends well with surrounding buildings. A picket fence and hedge mark its curtilage and contribute to the range of informal boundary treatments along Church Lane. A black cast iron lamp standard has been positioned adjacent to the porch.

4.13 Twice off Church Lane and 6 and 7 Off Church Lane (Photo 12) were built as identical semi-detached estate cottages sited either side of 3 - 5 Off Church Lane. These two storey buildings have eyebrow dormers over the first floor windows and a timber frame infilled with herringbone brick at first floor level. They have a clay tiled roof along with substantial brick chimneys and gables to the rear. Despite being constructed in the 20th Century, their massing, design and use of materials complement that of 3-5 Off Church Lane and the buildings form an attractive group which are visible from the B3047.



Photograph 12

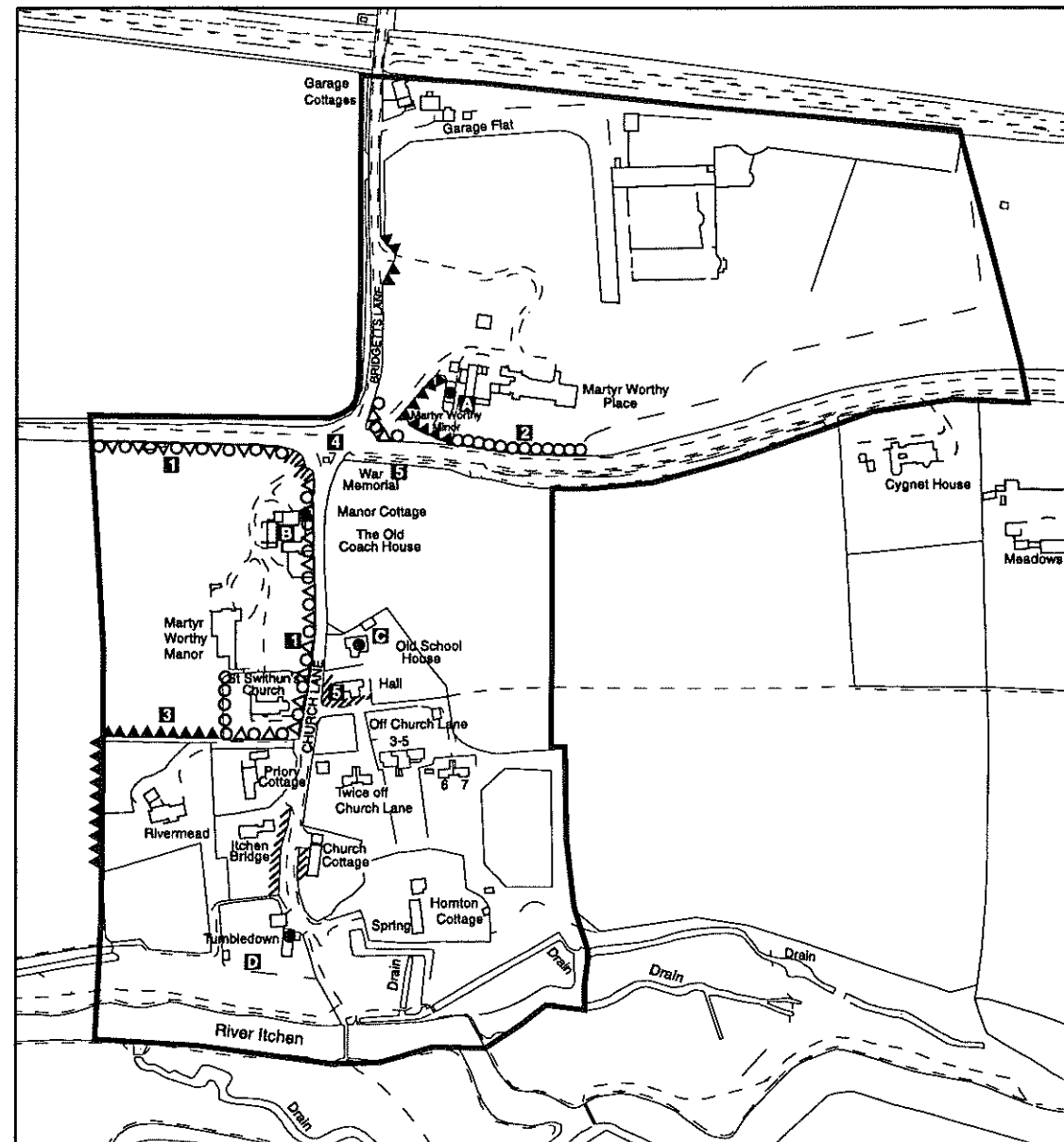
4.14 Rivermead and Itchen Bridge are two, post war detached dwellings positioned to the west and south of Priory Cottage. Both are two storey brick built buildings of modern designs and both are prominent when viewed from outside of the conservation area, particularly obscuring the view of the Church tower from the west.

MARTYR WORTHY Conservation Area

MAP 4 Important Walls and Features



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- | | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|---|---------------------|---|------------------------------|
| o△o | Flint and Brick Walls | 1 | Martyr Worthy Manor | ● | Important Unlisted Buildings |
| ooo | Brick Walls | 2 | Martyr Worthy Place | ▲ | Martyr Worthy Minor |
| ▲▲▲ | Railings | 3 | Martyr Worthy Manor | □ | Manor Cottage |
| //// | Palling | 4 | War Memorial & Seat | □ | Old School House |
| | | 5 | Lamps | □ | Tumbledown |

5

Local Details and Features

- 5.1 The architectural themes and types of materials found in Martyr Worthy have been discussed in Section Four and encompass a variety of ages and styles. In addition to the buildings, hard landscaping features also make a contribution to the overall character of the conservation area.
- 5.2 There are several boundary walls throughout the conservation area which form a strong feature and create a sense of enclosure as well as providing linking elements within the street scene. This is particularly evident along the B3047 and at the northern end of Church Lane. In addition, other local features add interest and a local dimension to the character of the conservation area. Some of these are listed below and are shown on Map 4. Lack of reference within this section does not necessarily imply that a wall or other features are unimportant or unworthy of retention.
- 5.3 Boundary wall to the Manor (Map 4, 1) (Photo 13). This wall is predominantly constructed of coursed knapped flint with vertical and horizontal brick lacing courses within it and topped for the most part with brick headers. The wall varies in height but is generally around 1.5 metres high. Towards the western edge of the conservation area the wall increases to around three metres in height. It is broken at the junction of Church Lane and the B3047 to provide access into the Manor and this is marked by a short stretch of white painted wooden paling fence on either side of the entrance drive (Photo 14). The wall then continues along Church Lane and includes the eastern elevation of the Old Coach House. Reduced in height, it runs in front of the Church and continues around its



Photograph 13

southern boundary acting as a retaining wall (Photo 15). The impact of the wall varies with its location but taken in its entirety it forms a distinctive and attractive feature.



Photograph 14

- 5.4 A red brick wall in mainly Flemish Garden Wall bond follows the western and part of the northern boundaries of the churchyard dividing the Church from the Manor (Photo 16). It is approximately two metres in height with a flint base. The wall provides an enclosing feature around the churchyard and a setting for the Church.



Photograph 15



Photograph 16

- 5.5 Southern boundary wall to Martyr Worthy Place (2) (Photo 17). This wall runs adjacent



Photograph 17

to the B3047 and varies in date and form of construction. It is approximately two metres in height and constructed in Flemish bond. The main wall in front of Martyr Worthy Place has a series of brick piers and is capped in canted brick. The wall has a considerable lean and metal straps have been incorporated as a means of restraining it. Parts of the capping are now missing allowing water entry and the wall generally is in poor condition. It plays a significant role in the street scene as well as providing privacy for the occupants and no doubt some noise protection from the busy B3047. In the medium to short term rebuilding in whole or part may be required. This would require planning consent and the manner in which it is executed needs to be carefully controlled to ensure the present character and appearance is not lost. The section closer to Martyr Worthy Minor is plainer in form, finished with a brick on edge capping and is in a much better condition.

5.6 The grounds of Martyr Worthy Minor have been included by Hampshire County Council on its list of Historic Parks and Gardens on account of its formal gardens and associated garden structures. The formal garden, not readily visible from the road apart from a glimpse of one of the cob walls, formerly belonged to Martyr Worthy Place. It dates from between 1905 & 1911, and is thought to be the work of architects Bertram Cancellor and Henry Hill. Enclosed by a series of cob walls the garden contains a summerhouse, pergola and well head, with some topiary work. It is considered to be a particularly good example of an early 20th Century garden although in national terms is not at the present time considered eligible for specific listing. Its local importance is nevertheless recognised with recent repairs to the walls and summerhouse receiving grant assistance from the County and City Councils.

5.7 Railings on southern boundary of the Manor

(3) (Photo 18). A public footpath runs along the southern boundary of the Church and the Manor. Adjacent to this, there is a short stretch of iron railings backed by shrubs and trees. Access to the field beyond is via an iron kissing gate (Photo 19). Railings also continue along the western boundary of Rivermead.



Photograph 18



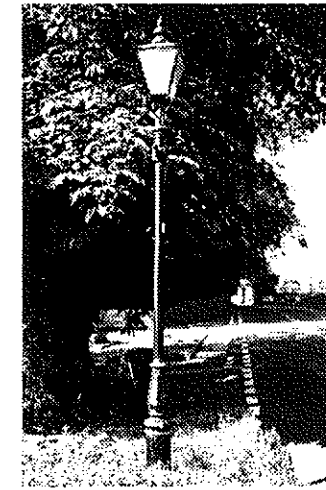
Photograph 19

5.8 The focal point at the junction of B3047, Church Lane and Bridgetts Lane is provided by the War Memorial (4) (Photo 20) commemorating the First and Second World Wars. It is set on a triangular piece of land and surrounded by roads. It comprises a Listed cross and is constructed from Purbeck stone with lettering in the Arts and Craft Style. In front of the memorial there is an iron seat. Although not immediately apparent from the B3047 until one is almost on the junction, the cross can be viewed from Church Lane and Bridgetts Lane in a setting of trees, hedges, walls and bank.



Photograph 20

5.9 To the west of the junction with the B3047 and Church Lane, on the south side of the B3047, a single lamp standard (5) (Photo 21) sits adjacent to the footpath. A second lamp standard has been placed adjacent to the Village Hall.



Photograph 21

6.1 Within Martyr Worthy, vegetation provides a series of backdrops and focal points as well as helping to form the setting for individual buildings. Tree cover consists of evergreen species such as Yew, Holly, Holm Oak and Cedars, deciduous species which are predominantly Ash, Beech and Horse Chestnut, and a variety of shrubs and hedging plants within private gardens. Within the vicinity of the River Itchen, Willows predominate. It is not possible to identify all trees which make a positive contribution to the conservation area, however, the most significant individual trees, groups of trees and hedgerows are discussed below and shown on Map 5.

6.2 The settlement must be seen in association with the River Itchen and its valley. From a distance there are several groups of trees which form either a backdrop or a protective screen around the settlement. Looking towards the northern boundary of the conservation area, trees within the grounds of Martyr Worthy Place and to its north along the railway cutting (Map 5, A), are set at a higher level on the valley side than the rest of the conservation area, consequently they are visible on the skyline as a backdrop to the village.

6.3 From the southern side of the River Itchen, Martyr Worthy appears screened by an area of trees (B) (Photo 22) immediately adjacent to the river on both sides of its banks. Despite this, buildings, particularly the Church tower and tall Cedar tree adjacent to it, can be glimpsed through the general tree cover.



Photograph 22

6.4 Approaching Martyr Worthy on the B3047 from the west, the northern boundary of the

Manor is marked by a line of Beech trees (C) (Photo 23) with an understorey of Yew. The



Photograph 23

junction of B3047, Bridgetts Lane and Church Lane, is dominated by Beeches at the entrance and within the grounds of the Manor. These are matched by a cluster of Hornbeams (1) (Photo 7) at the entrance to Martyr Worthy Minor. The taller trees are complemented by Yew trees and hedges immediately behind the brick and flint boundary walls of the Manor. The eastern side of Church Lane has a group of Horse Chestnut and Ash trees (2). Together, these groups of trees along with the boundary walls, form a backdrop and setting for the war memorial.

6.5 Moving east away from the crossroads, a row of small sycamores (D) (Photo 24) are set down at the bottom of a bank on the south side of the B3047 and stretch as far as Cygnet House. On the north side of the road a dense group of deciduous trees form the boundary of Martyr Worthy Place (E) to the east of the house itself and as far as the conservation area boundary. These are comprised of a Blackthorn and Hazel understorey and a mix of Horse Chestnut, Beech, Yew, Sycamore, Evergreen Oak,



Photograph 24

Poplar and Pine. The trees enclose the northern side of the road and channel views across the river valley.

6.6 The grounds of the Manor contain a variety of vegetation much of which contributes significantly to the setting of other buildings and the conservation area as a whole. Trees along the northern boundary of the Manor and around the entrance gates have been mentioned in paragraph 6.4. The initial combination of Beech and Yew trees eventually gives way to a hedge comprising entirely of Yew (F) extending between the entrance to the Manor as far as Manor Cottage and the Old Coach House. Beyond these buildings, the Yew hedges are backed by Horse Chestnut trees as far as the boundary with the churchyard. The combination of evergreen vegetation and flint walls creates an attractive contrast especially during the winter months.

6.7 A low evergreen hedge backs part of the flint boundary wall around the Church. Within the church yard there are several evergreen trees (3). Adjacent to the entrance gates, a tall Cedar (Photo 15) towers over the Church and can be seen as a landmark within the surrounding area. Two Yew trees and a Holly also stand between Church Lane and the Church itself. To the west of the Church on the boundary of the Manor, Yew and Holm Oak (G) provide an evergreen backdrop to the building and the churchyard. Yew and Holm Oak can also be found on the southern boundary of the Manor adjacent to the public footpath (Photo 18). This row of trees forms a prominent group when viewed from the footpath as one approaches the village from the west. The western boundary of the Manor is marked by a mixed field hedge (4) (Photo 25) which screens the grounds of the Manor and forms a firm boundary to the conservation area. Along this boundary new planting to the south of Rivermead will eventually screen the buildings and define the boundary more effectively.



Photograph 25

6.8 The trees and hedges on the west side of Church Lane dominate the street scene. However there are a number of individual trees on the eastern side which also contribute to the setting of the conservation area. The Laurel hedge (5) on the southern boundary of the Old School, a privet hedge on the western boundary of the Village Hall and a Crab Apple against the western elevation of the Village Hall complement the hedgerows on the opposite side of the lane. To the rear of the Village Hall an Ash (6) (Photo 26) can be seen from the footpath



Photograph 26

when approaching the conservation area from the west. Within the field to the east of the conservation area a number of specimen Horse Chestnuts (7) (Photo 27) surrounded by post and rail fencing will in time grow to become significant trees.



Photograph 27

6.9 To the south of the Village Hall, a modern cemetery is surrounded in part by a dense privet hedge (8) which screens the graves within. On the bank adjacent to Church Lane (9) a row of specimen Oak, Beech and Ash have been planted and along with new planting on the western boundary of Twice Off Church Lane, will make a valuable contribution to the street scene in future years.

6.10 The north east corner of Priory Cottage is dominated by a Hornbeam (10) and to the

south of this, a well shaped Cypress (11) (Photo 28) marks the entrance to Itchen Bridge. The Cypress, in conjunction with the evergreen hedge on the eastern boundary of Priory Cottage



Photograph 28

forms a link to the evergreen species within the churchyard and provides all year round colour. Along the southern boundary of Itchen Bridge, a Holly and Cypress hedge (12) marks the line of the public footpath and contrasts with the Cypress and Yew hedge (H) to the south of Church Cottage. These two areas of vegetation channel views towards Tumbledown at the foot of the Lane.

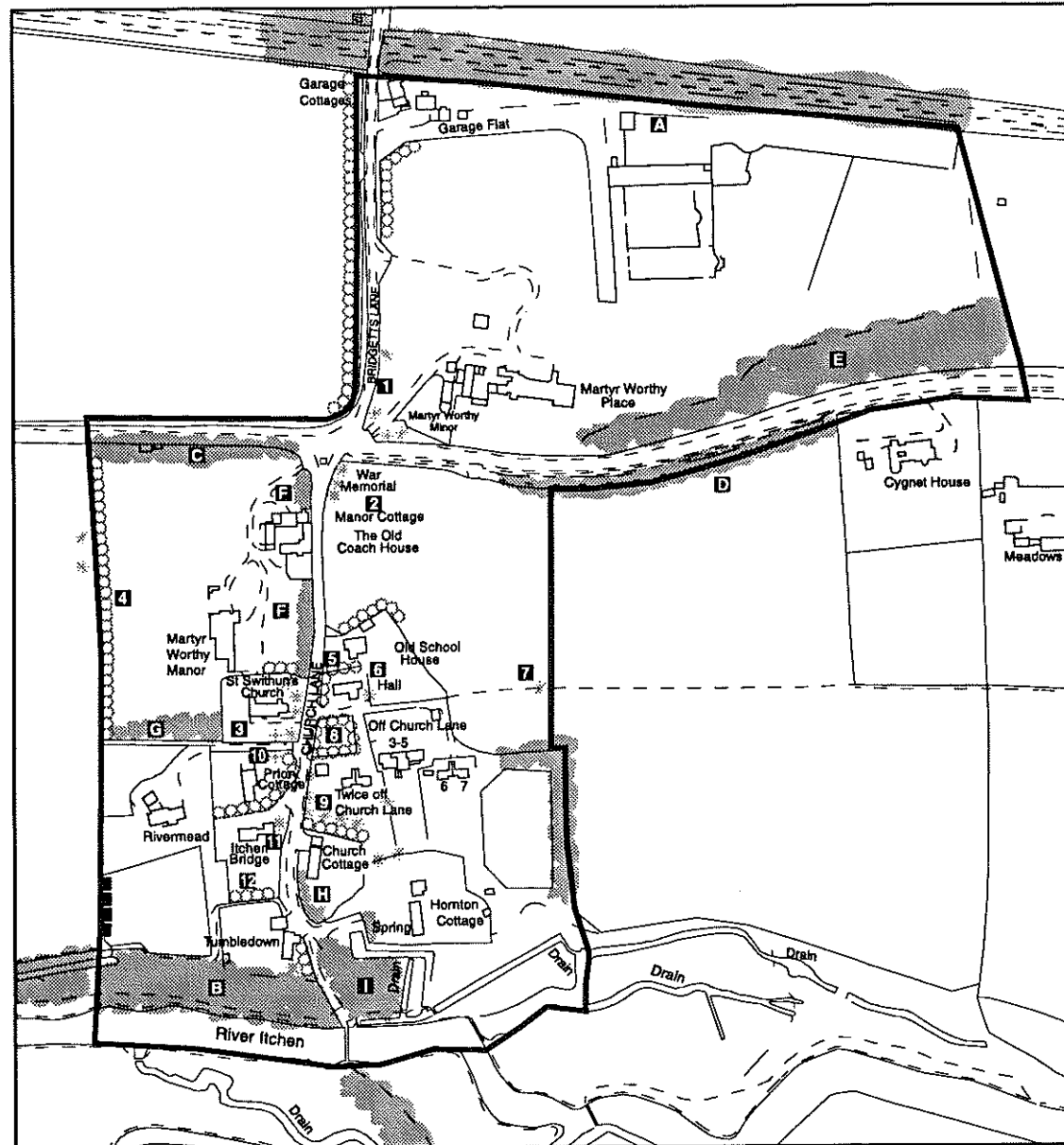
6.11 At the bottom of the lane, an area of predominantly Willow (I) extends between Tumbledown and Hornton Cottage down to the river. This area of trees is linked to trees along the north bank of the Itchen. Within the garden of Tumbledown a specimen Willow adds interest to the area.

MARTYR WORTHY Conservation Area

MAP 5 Significant Trees and Tree Groups



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- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| A Deciduous Group | I Hornbeam | Q Oak, Beech, Ash |
| B Deciduous Group | J Horse Chestnut and Ash | R Hornbeam |
| C Beech | K Evergreen Group | S Cypress |
| D Sycamore | L Mixed Field Hedge | T Holly and Cypress |
| E Deciduous Group | M Laurel | ∞ Hedge |
| F Beech and Yew | N Ash | * Tree |
| G Yew and Holm Oak | O Horse Chestnut | ■ Group of Trees |
| H Cypress and Yew | P Privet | ■ New Planting |
| I Willow | | |

7

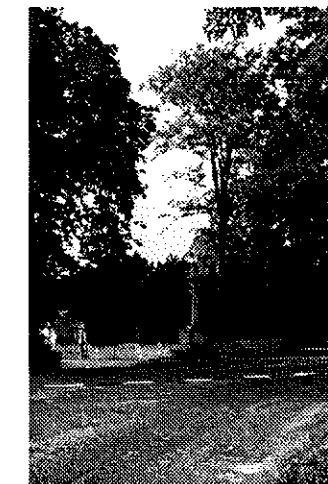
The Character and Relationship of Spaces

- 7.1 Spaces and views within Martyr Worthy Conservation Area are created by a mix of vegetation, the position of buildings and the valley setting of the village. The buildings are set mainly in individual plots and in some instances are screened completely by boundary walls, hedges and trees. However, a large number of the buildings are still apparent from public view points and are observed within a setting of vegetation.
- 7.2 The B3047 passes through the middle of the conservation area separating Martyr Worthy Place from the village of Martyr Worthy. When approaching from the west, the road is channelled between the flint and brick walls of the Manor with trees behind and an earth bank on the northern side of the road (Photo 29). The lack of a grass verge for part of this



Photograph 29

stretch emphasises its narrowness. At this point the road is relatively straight and the junction with Church Lane with the memorial set slightly back from the B3047 is not apparent. The wide junction of both Bridgetts Lane and Church Lane forms a well proportioned space with the war memorial at its centre and enclosed on three sides by tall deciduous trees with additional evergreen trees at a lower level, flint walls,



Photograph 30

railings and paling fences (Photo 30). This focal point forms an attractive space which is marred by the noise and speed of traffic on the B3047.

- 7.3 From the northern end of Bridgetts Lane, there are views across to the Beech trees and boundary wall on the northern boundary of the Manor (Photo 23). The lane itself consists of banks, trees and field hedges and descends towards its junction with the B3047. Further views to the buildings and trees within the grounds of Martyr Worthy Place are seen before attention is drawn to the attractive space around the War Memorial.
- 7.4 Due to changes in alignment, views to the east along the B3047 extend for only a short distance. East of the junction the views widen out and the north eastern part of the settlement is visible along with views to the far side of the valley. The brick wall on the north side of the B3047 channels views to the east and south east but does not hide the first floor and roof line of Martyr Worthy Place (Photo 17). At the end of the brick wall, is a dense group of trees, and views are again channelled along the road and to the south east.
- 7.5 Views westwards into the conservation area are possible due to the limited amount of boundary treatment on the eastern side of Church Lane. The road is slightly raised and screened by a row of Sycamore at the bottom of the bank (Photo 24). From the gate just east of the junction with Church Lane there are uninterrupted views of buildings in Church Lane (Photo 26) with a back drop of trees close to the River Itchen as well as on the far side of the valley. In the foreground the Cedar tree within the church yard is a prominent feature.

- 7.6 After passing the War Memorial, Church Lane narrows and begins to descend between a bank and the boundary wall of the Manor towards the River Itchen. Views towards the Village Hall are dominated by the brick and flint wall, backed by Yew trees on the western side of the lane. The vegetation is then broken by the western elevations of Manor Cottage and the Old Coach House. The bank on the eastern side

gradually becomes lower and the Old School House becomes more visible with the Village Hall tucked behind a laurel hedge adjacent to it. The area adjacent to the Church forms a second focal point. Although the buildings predominate, vegetation is still an important factor, particularly adjacent to the Church which is set back from the lane and surrounded by mainly evergreen vegetation. The area is characterised by an informal mix of hedges, walls and fencing with predominantly brick, slates and clay tiles (Photo 31) as building materials.



Photograph 31

7.7 Opposite the Church an unmade track provides access to properties off Church Lane. The track passes a row of three dwellings set back from the lane which form a continuous building line. Straight ahead there are views across the fields towards Chilland. All buildings are partially obscured by hedges and trees. From the edge of the conservation area looking west into the area, the view is of individual and small groups of trees. They are of a small scale and soften the edge of the settlement to some extent. However, overall it is the buildings which dominate the scene. The setting is far more open with buildings forming a jagged edge and mixed boundary treatments including a variety of coniferous and deciduous trees and post and rail fencing along with a mix of buildings and materials (Photo 27). This is in contrast to the better defined and screened western boundary.

7.8 From the Church, the lane descends quickly, flattening out at the foot of the lane. Views are focused down the lane with the valley side on the south side of the river forming a back drop. The lane has become more steeply banked and the curve in the lane towards the bottom coupled with the vegetation, particularly evergreen trees, obscures the end of the lane and the start of the footpath to Easton. Towards the foot of the lane the timber framed Church Cottage and Tumbledown complement each other.

7.9 To the immediate south of St Swithun's Church, a public footpath leading towards Easton follows a track which provides access to Rivermead. The footpath follows the metal railings and a row of evergreen trees through a kissing gate and divides to skirt along the edge of the field in both directions. To the north, the footpath is bounded on the eastern side by a hedgerow (Photo 25) which forms a logical boundary and a visual edge to the conservation area. There are views across the field to the hedgerow and tree line on its far side, this has recently been substantially reinforced with rows of new planting. In the distance the roofscape of Easton is visible on the far side of the valley, reinforcing the village's valley setting (Photo 32). To the south, the path follows the side of the field towards the River Itchen, here the conservation area boundary is not as well defined. There is a variety of fencing materials, some new planting and views across the paddock to buildings on Church Lane. Straight ahead, views to the River Itchen through an area of trees flanking the bank, and to Easton in the distance, again emphasise the proximity of other settlements.



Photograph 32

7.10 A further footpath turns eastwards to wind its way through the curtilages of properties to emerge close to the foot of Church Lane. Again, intermittent views through to the river are possible, but the route of the pathway provides the feeling of being entirely within the core of the settlement, a feeling which is



Photograph 33

reinforced on entering Church Lane. Here the lane has sunk into a deep bank with buildings raised above the level of the road. Views are, therefore, channelled up and down the lane with various buildings and trees acting as focal points (Photo 33).

7.11 From Tumbledown, views of the footbridge crossing the River Itchen are glimpsed encouraging the walker towards the water. A thick screen of tree cover, adjacent to the river banks, effectively obscures the settlement from the river. However, there are clear views both up and down stream of the fast flowing but shallow, main channel of the river as well as along the river banks (Photo 34).



Photograph 34

Detractors

- 8.1 Over time, the visual quality and character of a conservation area can be eroded by the cumulative effects of such things as:
- **minor alterations**
(eg. upvc replacement windows and doors, non-traditional roofing materials, insensitively sited meter boxes, balanced flues and similar services)
 - **inappropriate extensions/conversions**
(eg. scale, spaces, design, conversions materials, satellite dishes, overhead wires, shopfronts, signs)
 - **removal and/or inappropriate replacement of features**
(eg. walls, railings, hedges, replacement of features trees, points of local interest)
 - **inappropriate street furniture**
(eg. litter bins, shelters, furniture barriers, hoardings, bollards)
 - **poor maintenance, eyesores**
(eg. communal areas, parking, vandalism)
 - **demolition and the creation of a 'gap' within the street frontage.**
- 8.2 Seemingly minor alterations can be sufficient to detract from the qualities of a building, or a focal part of the conservation area. Where the opportunity arises, attention should be focused towards improving existing/known problems, in order to achieve an enhancement of the conservation area.
- 8.3 The long term aim is for everyone to take responsibility for maintaining the area's special qualities. In particular, by giving careful consideration to the appropriateness of alterations and new development. The construction and maintenance of flint and brick walls is a skilled task requiring close attention to the selection, choice of materials and brick bond. There are a number of instances of walls in the conservation area where inappropriate hard mortars have been used in repairs. The use of strap pointing in a number of flint walls also detracts from the visual appearance, as the pointing rather than the flint tends to predominate. These are matters on which the Conservation

Section of the Planning Department can offer advice.

- 8.4 Overhead wires and cables constitute visual clutter detracting from views along Church Lane. Where possible the undergrounding of cables should be pursued.
- 8.5 It is, therefore, important to ensure that as an area evolves, it does so in a sympathetic way so that the essential character of the area is sustained for future generations.

Enhancements

- 8.6 A major contributor to the quality and character of the conservation area is the general tree coverage and significance of individual trees. Although there is already evidence of new tree planting within Martyr Worthy, many of the important trees within and around the conservation area are mature. Long term tree management and planting needs to be given careful attention to ensure this valuable resource is sustained.
- 8.7 One of the listed tombchests in the Churchyard is in need of attention. Ivy growth has forced the assembly apart and one of the iron fixings is exposed to the elements. Any iron cramps need to be removed from the assembly and replaced using non ferrous fixings.

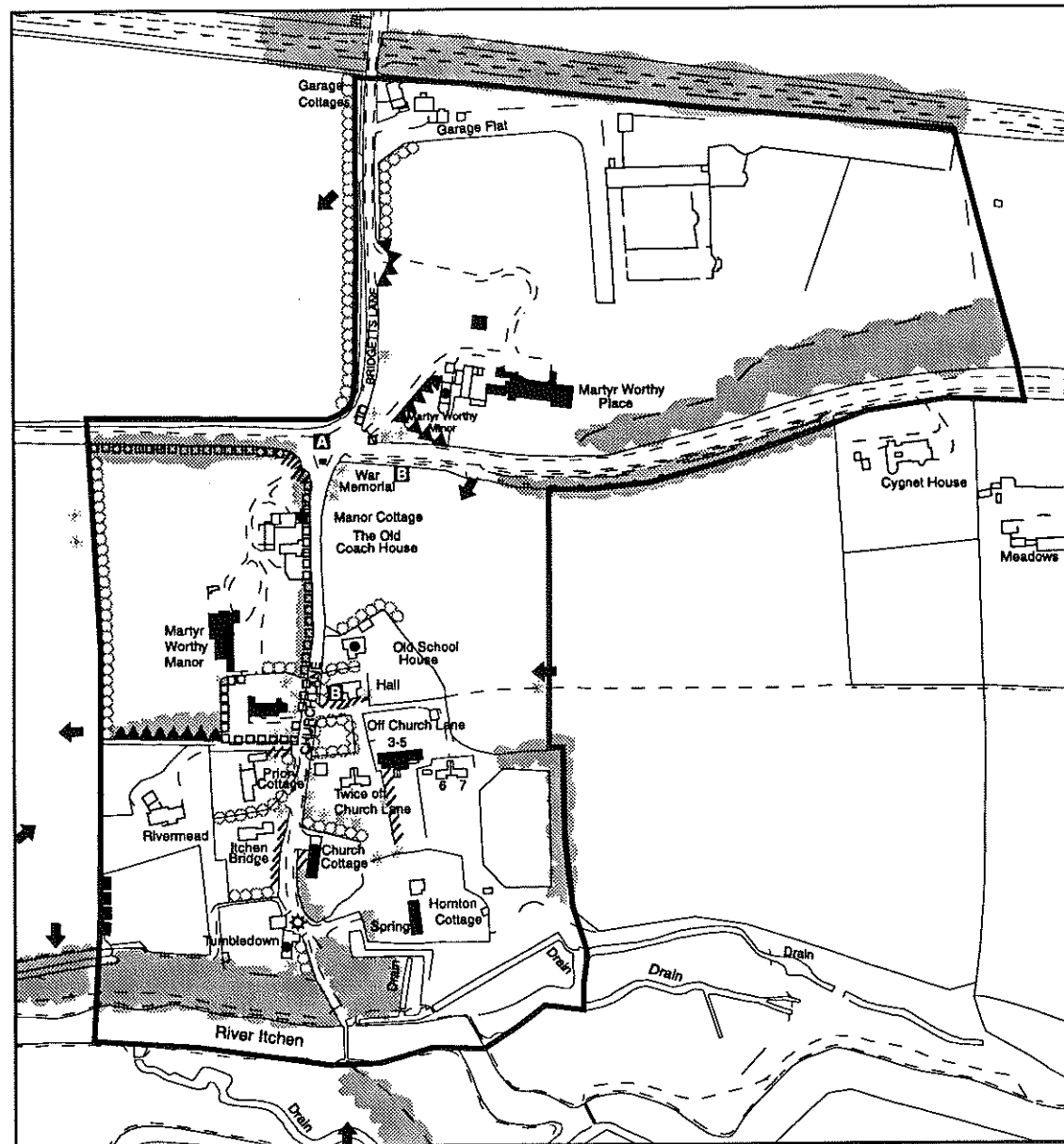
MARTYR WORTHY Conservation Area

MAP 6 Important Qualities



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Important Features

- Walls
- ▲▲▲ Railings
- //// Paving
- Hedges
- * Individual Trees
- ▨ Groups of Trees
- New Planting

Local Elements

- Listed Building
- Important Unlisted Building
- ➔ Important Views
- ⊛ Focal Point
- ⊠ War Memorial & Seat
- ⊞ Lamps

9 Conclusion

Character and Reasons for Designation

- 9.1 The Village of Martyr Worthy is a distinct and compact settlement, set in the valley of the River Itchen with the rolling hills of chalk downland forming the backdrop. Based on a historic street pattern the settlement today contains a significant number of buildings of architectural and historic interest, the majority of which are listed. Of particular note are the Church, early timber framed buildings, the Manor and Martyr Worthy Place. More recent interventions also make a positive contribution, namely the estate cottages off Church Lane and formal gardens at Martyr Worthy Minor.
- 9.2 The character of the Village is clearly influenced by its valley location, with the river in the south and Church Lane providing an area of tranquillity in contrast to the busy main road which passes through the middle of the settlement. Buildings generally are arranged informally on individual plots with boundaries defined by a mixture of hedges, railings and walls. The importance of such features are quite often accentuated by their height or by changes of level.
- 9.3 It is the combination of built and natural features which gives the area its distinctiveness (see Map 6). The mature tree cover adjacent to the river and on the surrounding skyline is particularly important. The interplay of the various elements such as walls, banks, hedges, trees and the buildings themselves, all play an important role in forming the setting, framing views and defining spaces within the conservation area. It is the mix and quality of these features which in the Local Planning Authority's view is in need of recognition and protection through the conservation area designation.

Boundary Justification

- 9.4 One of the key criteria used in defining the boundary has been to choose significant features which, wherever possible, are both readily recognisable and offer a degree of permanence. From the appraisal of the settlement, the present boundary which encompasses the whole of the village is considered appropriate.

- 9.5 The boundary to the north is formed by the disused railway cutting which is a distinct physical feature separating the fields to north from the parkland grounds of Martyr Worthy Place and Martyr Worthy Minor to the south. The western boundary follows Bridgetts Lane and the B3047 where it skirts the open field to the north west. This field is excluded from the conservation area being part of a wide stretch of open countryside and visually distinct from the more enclosed and intimate nature of the village.
- 9.6 The western boundary to the settlement south of the B3047 is particularly well defined with a clear cut divide between agricultural and residential land uses. It is also the route of one of the many public footpaths in the area. The southern boundary is marked by the River Itchen.
- 9.7 The eastern boundary is drawn tightly around the settlement, following a mature hedge and tree line at the edge of the open fields northwards. From the edge of this treeline to the B3047, the boundary crosses the open field on an alignment which, although less distinct, is readily identifiable, aided in part by recent tree planting. The open field is included within the conservation area as it forms an important entrance to the settlement and makes a valuable contribution to the setting to the buildings in the vicinity. Important views into and out of the village are also gained across this open land from the road and footpath network.
- 9.8 The boundary then follows the southern side of the B3047 before returning in a northerly direction to encompass the important tree group (TPO 1246) and the grounds of Martyr Worthy Place.

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- Sharpe, M C, Martyr Worthy
- Wright, C J, A guide to the Pilgrim's Way and North Downs Way