

Appendix A

What is Special about Shenington and Alkerton?

The villages of Shenington and Alkerton exemplify the picturesque settlements of the North Oxfordshire Ironstone Downs: historic cottages and houses in vernacular style, constructed from the golden-red local stone, iconic medieval churches and a settlement pattern that has changed little over the last few centuries.

Both Shenington and Alkerton originated as Anglo-Saxon settlements and over time have developed so that the pattern of buildings closely reflects their landscape topography. Alkerton is a linear settlement across the steep valley sides, and Shenington a nucleated village around a hill top green. The intensive farming of the Medieval period is visible in the terraced cultivation of the valley slopes to the north and in the Medieval fish ponds to the south.

There are a large number of high quality unlisted vernacular buildings within the proposed Conservation Area, the majority dating from the 17th century - a wealthy period for the District due to the boom in the wool trade.

The medieval churches of St Michael in Alkerton and the Holy Trinity in Shenington are true gems and reflect medieval prosperity, with fine medieval carving the product of local stonemasons.



Cherwell District Council is seeking comments on the Proposed Conservation Area boundary and on the appraisal

The draft appraisal can be viewed at:

- Bodicote House, Banbury**
- Banbury Library**
- The North Area Mobile Library**
- The Bell Public House**
- The Village Hall**
- Shenington Cof E School**
- The Churches of St Michael and Holy Trinity**

On the Council's website at:
<http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/>
or by request from

01295 221883

The Council is inviting comments on the proposed Conservation Area boundary and the draft appraisal by 24 October.

Why a Conservation Area Appraisal?

The planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 places a duty upon local planning authorities to identify areas of special architectural or historic interest and to designate them as conservation areas.

A Conservation Area is "An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance".

An appraisal identifies what is special about the area.

Proposed Shenington and Alkerton Conservation Area



A PUBLIC EXHIBITION

3-6 p.m. Thursday 2nd October
Shenington Village Hall

A PUBLIC MEETING

7-9 p.m. Thursday 2nd October
Shenington C of E Primary School



What are the effects of designation?

The aim of designating a Conservation Area is not to prevent change or to stop new development, but to **preserve** and **enhance** the best of the past while allowing sympathetic development in the future and ensure a high standard of any new development.

Some examples of the implications include:

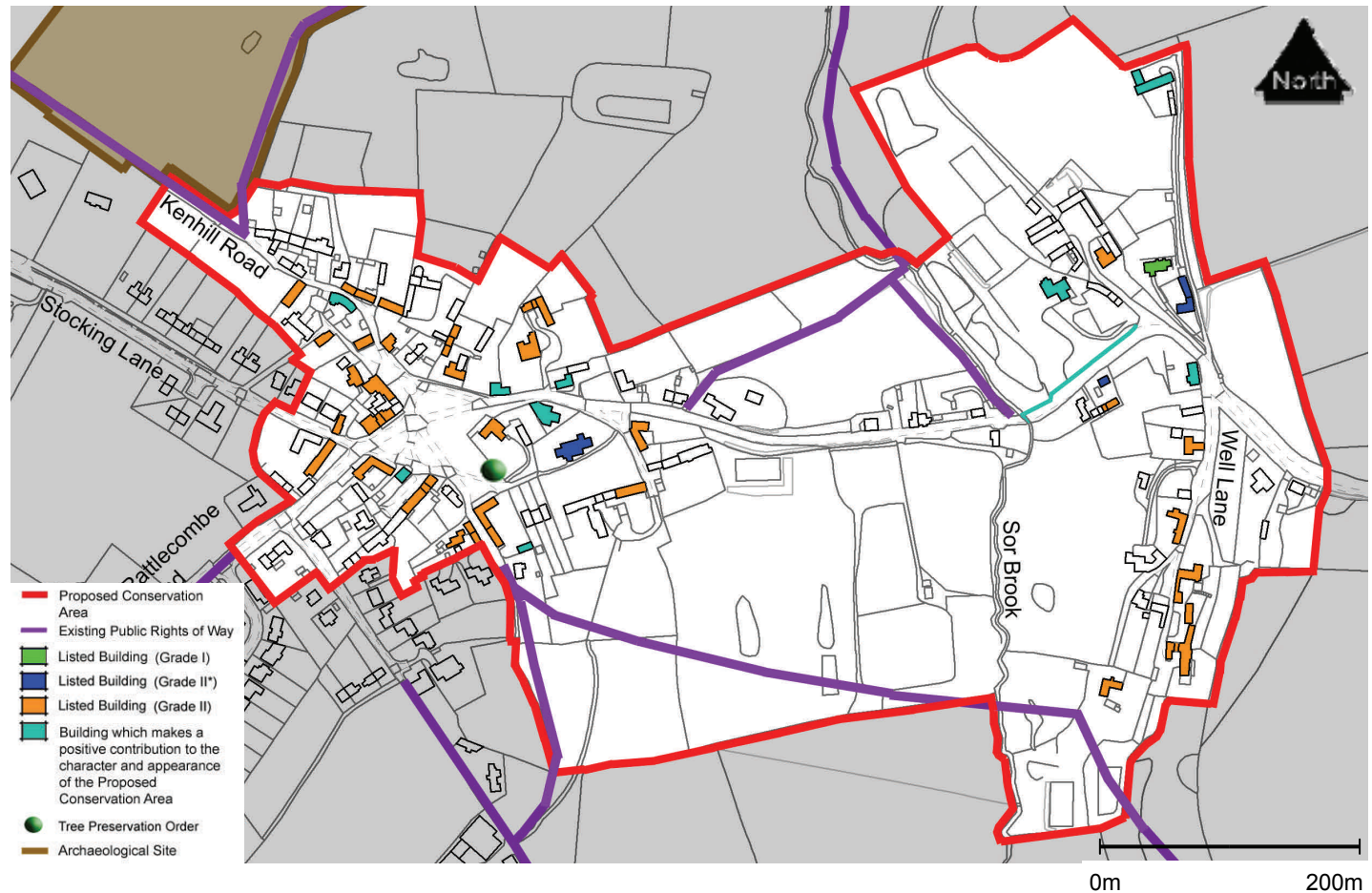
- Owners are encouraged to maintain and repair their buildings: repair of traditional features such as windows is usually preferable to replacement.
- Where they are necessary, replacements should use local traditional styles, methods and materials appropriate to the building.
- Conservation Area Consent is required for some works that do not require consent outside a conservation area, such as erecting satellite dishes on front elevations, cladding of front elevations and insertion of dormer windows.
- Conservation Area Consent is required for demolition of some buildings over 115 cubic metres in volume.
- Conservation Area Consent is required for the demolition of boundary walls over 1m facing a highway and over 2m elsewhere.
- Advance notice needs to be given of works to trees over 15cm girth (except orchards) to give the Council time to assess their significance to the character and appearance of the area.
- In determining planning applications for new development, the impact of the proposal on the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting has to be taken in to account.

Myths of Conservation Area Designation

Fears that are ungrounded:

- 'I will have to ask permission to do anything'*
- 'My Council Tax will go up'*
- 'I won't be able to cut my hedge or prune my trees without consent'*
- 'The Conservation Area will prevent change and development'*
- 'Designation will prevent the building of affordable housing'*
- 'I won't be able to extend my house'*
- 'I won't be able to paint my windows without consent'*

Designation does NONE of these.



Why Shenington and Alkerton?

The significance of the architecture, the historic layout of the settlements, the streetscapes, the open spaces within the villages and the continuity of historic field patterns, all mark out the villages of Shenington and Alkerton as an area of special interest deserving of Conservation Area designation.