

CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

V DURRINGTON

Location and Topography

Durrington is located some three miles north west of Worthing Town Centre about 500 metres south of the A27 trunk road. It is sited on land which rises appreciably to the north up Durrington Hill.

Origins and Development of Settlement

The parish church of St. Symphorian incorporates the remains of an 11th century chapel which suggests that there has been some sort of community around this junction of long standing. Most other buildings of significant historic interest in this settlement date from the 18th century or early 19th century and it appears that the area's character derives from the development of a small parish community from the 1700s over the next 200 years, to the early part of the 20th century.

Hebron is probably early 18th century and Rose Cottage dates in part from 1723 being extended in 1808. There was a forge on the site adjacent to Rose Cottage from at least 1768, and this appears to have been a key component of the economic development of the area, serving the surrounding agricultural tenancies in the parish. The eastern garage to the forge buildings is early 20th century and is important in the context of the move towards new village industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The corrugated iron garage attached to the listed wall at the western side of the group is evident in photographs in the early part of the 20th century. It has unusual garage doors and is similar to its eastern counterpart in the role it played in the early industrialisation of village life. Its positive contribution to the special interest of the Conservation Area derives from this role.

The Manor House was the home of the landowners of the Durrington parish, with the Dower House (c. 1820) being former outbuildings of the Manor House.

The Lamb Inn existed from 1809 and although extensively rebuilt, many features of the original inn have been replicated.

Architectural and Landscape Qualities

Village growth, both in terms of the physical relationship of a clustered group of buildings, and the mix of uses (Manor House, cottages, church, public house, and forge) is a key component of the character of this settlement. Contrasting with the close knit character of the rest of the Conservation Area is the vista up Durrington Hill through dense tree and shrub boundaries to Elm Tree Cottages. This is the dominant view from within the Conservation Area, and is also important in an historical context, being the original link to the other settlement in the Durrington Parish at Cote Street.

Important characteristics throughout the Conservation Area are:

- flint walling
- red brick dressing
- red clay tile, slate, and stone roofs
- flint boundary walls
- mature trees (especially *Quercus Ilex*) and shrub borders along plot boundaries.

Greenery and Open Spaces

Vicarage Fields, an important area historically associated with the church and formerly included within the Conservation Area has been lost to housing development pursuant to planning permissions dating from the early 1980s. An important open space remains at the eastern end of St. Symphorian's church, but it is a tarmac car park, and rather bleak in appearance.

The Manor House and Dower House together define an important courtyard space in a very happy relationship with Durrington Hill, and there are important historic plot boundaries to Bay Trees.

The appearance of dense trees, shrub planting and banks either side giving something of an impression of a hollow way in views up Durrington Hill is a critical component of the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

Enhancement Opportunities

- The skyline throughout the area is punctuated by concrete lamp-posts of inappropriate design. Replace these with smaller, specially designed lamp-posts, siting them less prominently in the streetscape if possible. The modern metal lamp-post at the southern end of Vicarage Fields is not within the designated area, but it does impact unfavourably on views in and out.

Junction of Salvington Road and Durrington Hill

- The mini-roundabout, topped by a set of large black and white arrows and flanked to the north and south by the gaily coloured bollards of the pedestrian crossings, is a focal point of the Conservation Area. A quantity of other traffic signs adds to the visual distraction in this locale. The junction is a busy one, but it should be possible to rationalise the signing.
- There are free-standing signs that indicate there is a roundabout ahead and the direction of traffic flow around the island is, as usual, clockwise, so the large arrows are actually superfluous. They should be removed. If it is necessary to have a marker on the roundabout, something more attractive than mass-produced traffic signing might be appropriate (eg. a finger-post, a statue, a flower-bed or a tree).
- It might be possible to find a less obtrusive type of bollard to replace the white, yellow and blue ones, otherwise, a different style of crossing could be considered.

- Rationalise provision of Highway's signs, including two weight restriction signs for lorries entering Durrington Hill from the roundabout.

Overington's premises, north-east of the roundabout

- The listed brick and flint wall and the greensward to the north-east of the roundabout are an attractive feature, but the brick retaining wall is less prepossessing; it would be more attractive with a flint facing, alternatively, the grassy area could be sloped down to the pavement. The prefabricated hut on the grass is an eyesore - it should be removed as it detracts from the setting of the listed wall.
- Overington's premises on Salvington Road are white-painted flint. They would attune better with other flint buildings nearby if the paint were removed.
- Replace the hardboard doors and door surrounds with properly designed timber openings and repair and repaint the windows.
- Repair and repaint the old railings at the eastern end of the premises, facing Salvington Road.
- Replace the covered opening in the roof facing the road with slates to match the existing ones.
- Repair the section of flint wall to the north of the railings.
- Replace the inappropriate modern door of Rose Cottage with a door of suitable design.
- Permit demolition and appropriate redevelopment of Nos. 190-196 (even) Salvington Road and 1-2 Salvington Close, or plant large trees in their gardens as a screen.

The Lamb Inn, south-east of the roundabout

- The 'No Waiting' traffic sign outside the entrance has been placed on a long pole which clutters the streetscene. It would be more visible to car drivers if it were placed lower down, ie. attached to the low perimeter wall, and less visually intrusive.
- Replace the chainlink fencing to the south of The Lamb with wood to match the fencing further north.
- Plant shrubs or place flower tubs along the low perimeter wall of the inn.
- Replace the tarmac forecourt with suitable paving or gravel.

- Remove the telegraph pole and overhead wires which interrupt the view west along Salvington Road into the Conservation Area.
- The setting of Overrington's and The Lamb would be improved by replacing the blue-painted metal and glass bus shelter opposite Overrington's with one of special design.
- Replace the red plastic bin with one of special design.
- Permit demolition and appropriate redevelopment of No. 12 Manor Parade or remodel its northern aspect, the current expanse of white wall detracts from the Conservation Area. The roof pitch of the parade buildings is inappropriately shallow.

South-west of the roundabout

- Although much of this area is not designated, it affects the views into and out of the Conservation Area. The bus-shelter is unappealing and the red plastic litter bin near the corner could beneficially be replaced with a sturdier, specially designed bin. Graffiti should be cleaned from the lavatories and they should be kept in good decorative order, as they are particularly prominently sited. Moving them away from the corner would be the ideal solution as far as the visual amenity of the Conservation Area is concerned, but remodelling them would have the advantage of retaining an important facility on a convenient site. Screen planting could be used to lessen the impact of these toilets on views out of the Conservation Area.
- Clean graffiti from the barn on New Road.
- Repair the hole at the top of the western gable (where vandals have broken in).
- Replace the corrugated iron roof with slates clay tiles or thatch.
- Find a use for the barn which would discourage vandalism and allow the bricked-up openings to be unblocked. Otherwise, remove the bricks and replace them with a more sympathetic material such as hand-made brick (herringbone) or flint.
- Remove the chain-link fencing between the barn and the road, if possible.

North-west of the roundabout

- Remove the overhead wires and telegraph pole outside Hebron.
- Landscape the derelict plot adjacent to the road junction. Remove the wire fence.
- Replace the worn tarmac between the kerb and paving slabs outside Hebron on Durrington Hill with grass.

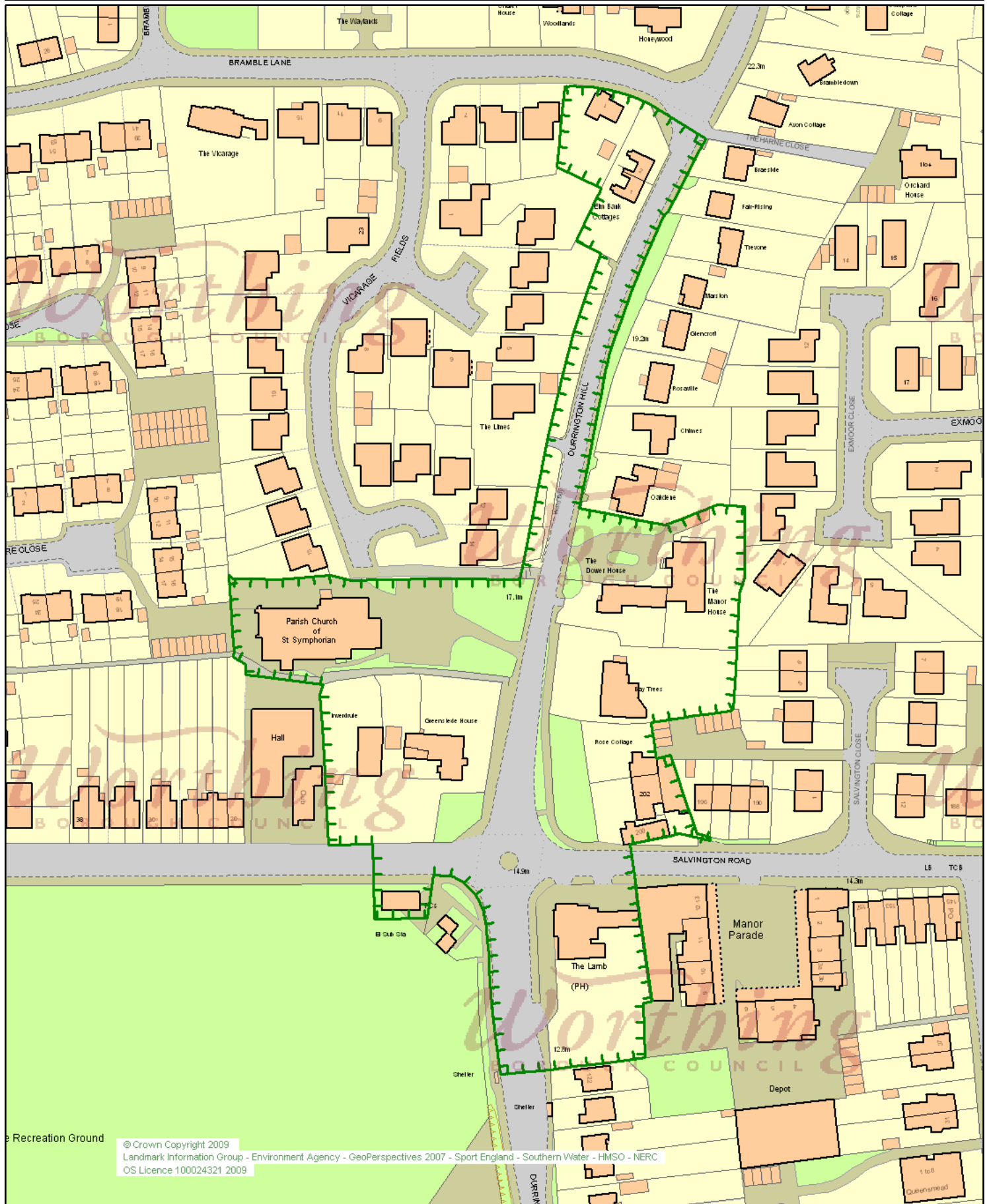
- Replace the metal railings at the east end of the footpath north of Hebron with some of special design and replace the footpath sign (which has disappeared) and its pole.
- Replace the Club on New Road with a well-designed extension to the Hall. Grass over the forecourt, adding shrubs and flowers, to improve the setting of the Conservation Area.

St. Symphorian's Church

- Redesign the entrance so that the view of the church from Durrington Hill is not across a wide expanse of tarmac. More car parking space could be achieved by narrowing the turfed areas nearest to the road, allowing a semi-circle or tongue of land at the east end of the church to be grassed over. Alternatively, a grassy island could be created in the middle of the car park (ie. a large roundabout). Gravel should be used to replace the tarmac.
- Plant shrubs along the northern boundary to screen the new fence. Tend the grassy strip on the north side of the fence and replace the metal barriers at the eastern end of the footpath with some of special design.
- Remove the chain-link fence to the south to allow an uninterrupted view of Hebron's flint garden wall.
- Screen the concrete service facility and flue on the northern elevation with trees.

Durrington Hill

- To lessen the negative impact of the houses along the eastern side of the road, particularly Oakdene, more screen-planting is necessary (or demolition).
- Resite the television aerials on Elm Bank Cottages and Hebron, so that they do not intrude on the roofscape.
- Protect the mature trees on the southern perimeter of Honeywood. The flowering cherry is particularly important to the view north across the Conservation Area.
- Remove the modern window opening in the south roof-slope of the Dower House. Replace it with an appropriate dormer (to match the others) if necessary.
- Re-landscape the front garden of the Dower House, removing any inappropriate modern materials or designs.
- Remove modern brick and panelled fencing at No. 1 Bramble Lane. Replace, if necessary, with traditional materials (eg. flint, hand-made brick, hedging). Render the new yellow-brick stack.



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