

Conservation Area



BLACKMOOR

EAST HAMPSHIRE



Partners

Introduction & Brief History

Blackmoor Conservation Area was designated in 1991. It is a textbook example of a Victorian estate village.

Little is known of the early history of Blackmoor. However, the whole area is considered to be of archaeological interest. Ancient burial mounds (tumuli) are found to the south of Blackmoor House (near the A325) and off Drift Road. The sunken route of part of the Roman road from Chichester to Silchester can be traced through the grounds of Blackmoor House and a Romano-British settlement is believed to have been discovered when the 19th century estate was developed. A moat has been identified to the west of Blackmoor House.

Most of the buildings in the village date from 1866 to 1882 when Roundell Palmer, the first Earl of Selborne, commissioned Alfred Waterhouse to design a house, school, church, workers' cottages and other estate buildings for him. Hardly any modern development has taken place in the village since then and so it has retained its attractive character and appearance as a Victorian country estate village.

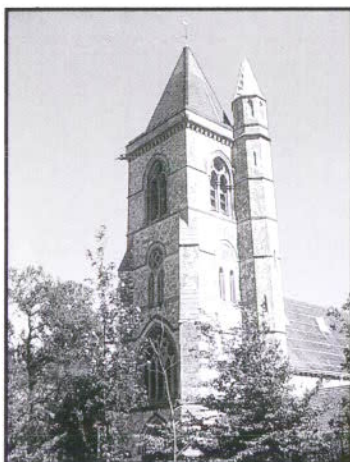
Alfred Waterhouse was also the architect of a number of important buildings across the country, including the Natural History Museum in London, Eaton Hall and Estate in Cheshire and Manchester Town Hall.

Character of the Conservation Area

The character of Blackmoor Conservation Area is created by the Victorian buildings of the estate and their attractive setting amongst the pine trees and heathland of Woolmer Forest. The buildings have been designed in a combination of Gothick and English Picturesque styles and are mainly built of local malmstone. Together they create an attractive, quiet, rural village of considerable character which merits protection as a Conservation Area.

Description of the Conservation Area.

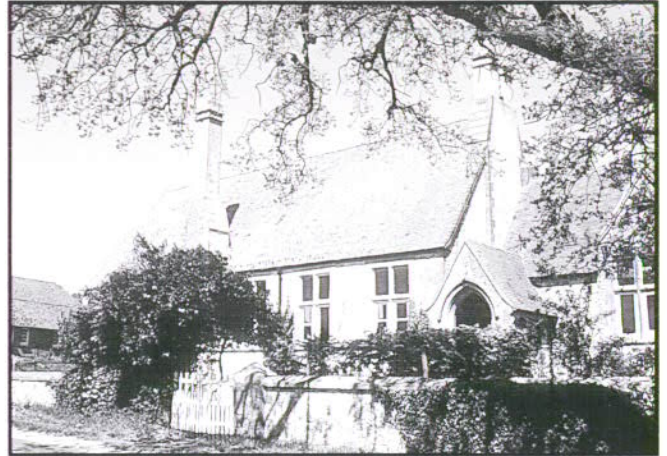
The Conservation Area centres upon two main groups of buildings: those fronting onto or close to the village street (including the church, school, school house and cottages) and those close to Blackmoor House.



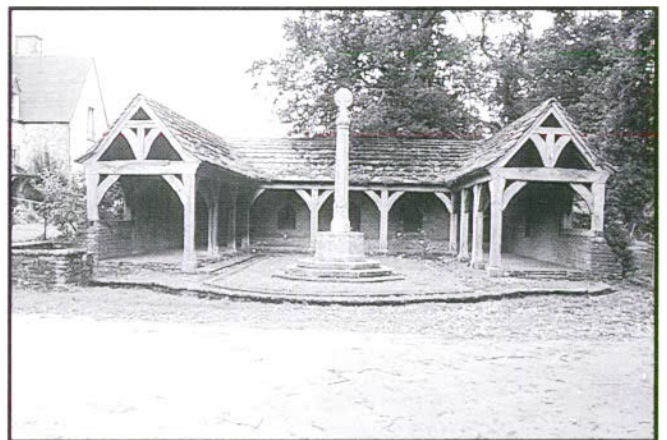
The Church of St Matthew dominates views from the main village street. Designed by Alfred Waterhouse, this Grade 2* listed building is high Gothick with bold geometric decorative treatment. It has a huge, dominant tower with gargoyles and an octagonal stair turret. The walls are of ashlar malmstone with Bath stone dressings. Inside the decorations and fittings are rich and include commemorative monuments to the Palmer family.

The focal point for the northern part of the Conservation Area is the group of buildings around the War Memorial.

Clustered around the church and forming an interesting group are the school, school house and the War Memorial Cloister. *The school and schoolhouse are designed on 'ecclesiastical' lines and are built in polygonal malmstone with rendered dressings.* ▼ The school house has a robust gabled porch.

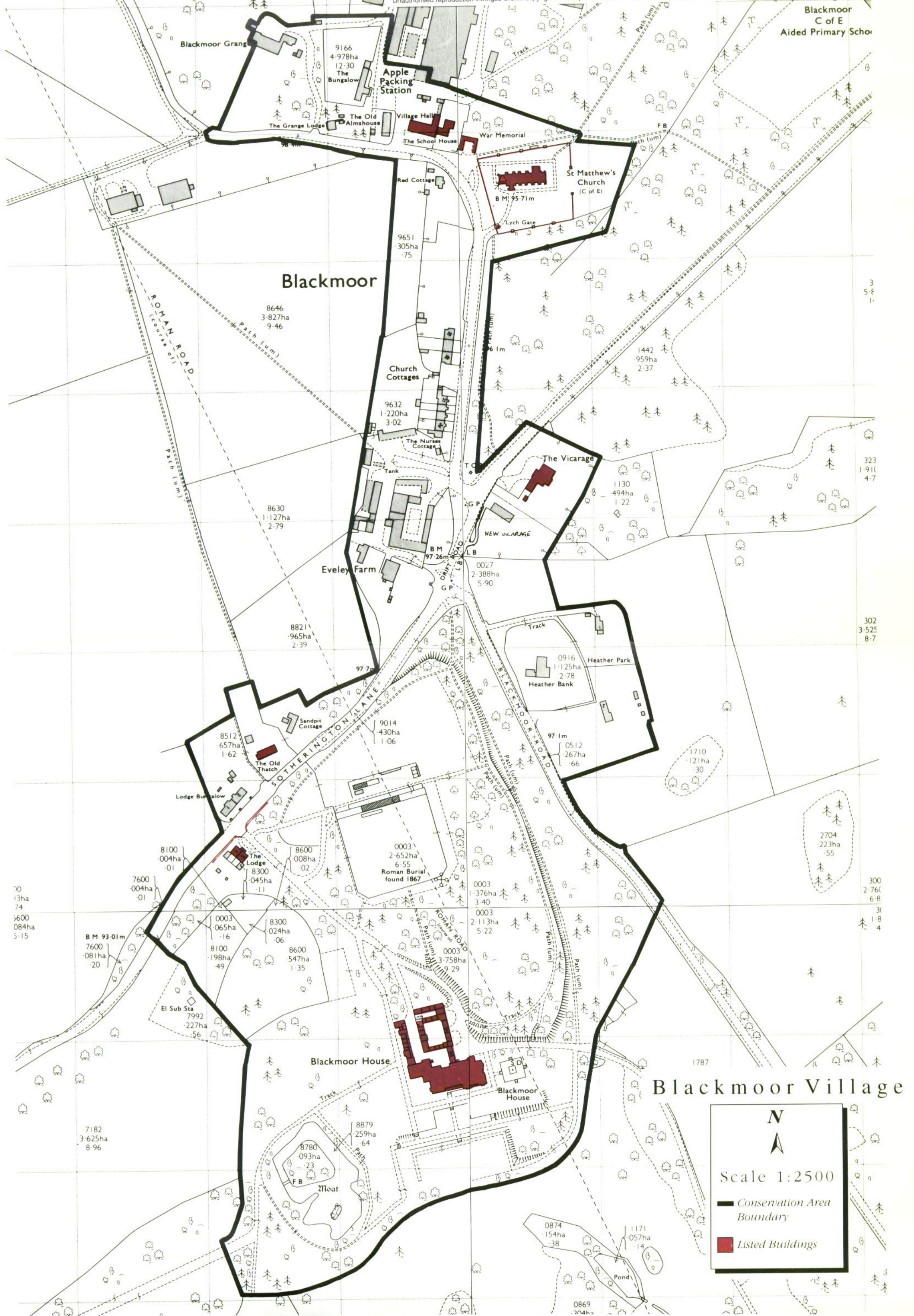


Between the church and school lies the War Memorial Cloister, a Grade 2* listed building which was designed by Sir Herbert Baker in 1920. ▼ This solidly detailed timber framed arcade is roofed in Horsham (Blue Rag stone) slates with Horsham paving slabs in the arcade. The design carefully and effectively reflects the overall style of the nearby school, school house and church.



On the west side of the main village street are *Church Cottages*, which have been built in brick to Waterhouse's designs. ▼ The original plan was to continue this line of terraced cottages from Eveley Farm (at the junction of the Sotherington and Blackmoor Roads) towards the Church, but they were never built. The design theme is a little spoilt by the inclusion of 1960/70's house types erected in their place south west of the church.





Blackmoor
C of E
Aided Primary School

Blackmoor

Blackmoor Village

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Scale 1:2500

— Conservation Area Boundary

■ Listed Buildings

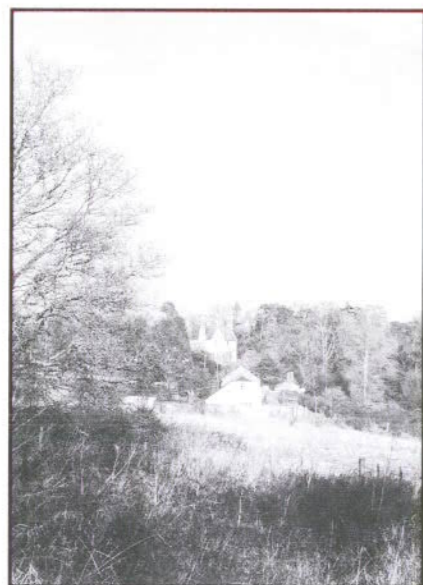
Completing this part of Blackmoor are Eveley Farm, Aldworth House (the former Vicarage) and The Old Thatch.

Eveley Farm House is a mainly 19th century house with white walls, a slate roof and an attractive simple porch. *Together with its east outbuildings they create an attractive and interesting feature at the junction of Sotherington Lane and the road to Selborne.* ▼



The Old Thatch in Sotherington Lane is a 17th century timber framed listed building which marks one of the entrances to the Conservation Area. It has exposed timber framing with painted stone infilling and a thatched roof with catslide to the rear.

Aldworth House, the former Vicarage, was built in the 1860s to a design by Waterhouse. It is a Grade 2 listed building. The walls are of stone rubble with ashlar dressing and the roof is tiled. *Aldworth House is an important building on the skyline when approaching the Conservation Area from the south.* ▼ The adjacent smaller coach house, which was also built in the 1860s, has now been converted into a vicarage.



The other main group of buildings centres around Blackmoor House, which is set within a garden of mature specimen trees.

Blackmoor House is a Grade 2 listed building. Built as a country mansion in 1869 it was later extended in 1882 and is now divided into flats.* ► The House is constructed in polygonal malmstone in a Gothick form with 'English picturesque' influence in the later work. It is asymmetrical with the varied use of 60 degree roof pitches plain gables, half timbering and tile hanging. The windows are solid looking sashes or casements. The chimney stacks are stone cylinders set in groups of 2, 4 or 6 to imitate organ pipes.

The outbuildings to Blackmoor House echo the gabled design details used in the main house. The trees, high hedges and ornamental iron gates around the perimeter and entrance to the House all contribute to the setting of the buildings in this area and to the overall character of the Conservation Area.

The coachhouse and stables are set around three sides of a square courtyard. Built in an English Picturesque style, the walls are of malmstone with Bath stone dressings. Above the coach entrance is a tower with a pyramidal tiled roof which contains a clock roundel in the gable. Both buildings are now converted into flats.

North Lodge and South Lodge are designed in a combination of Gothick and English picturesque styles. South Lodge is a Grade 2 listed building built in a richly decorated Tudor style. The upper walls are tile hung in a scallop pattern whilst the ground floor walls are of polygonal malmstone with Bath stone dressings.

The Lodges, 1 and 2 Sotherington Lane ▼ were originally the North Lodge to Blackmoor House. They are an asymmetrical pair which appear as one unit and are listed Grade 2. The walls are built of ashlar malmstone with Bath stone dressings.

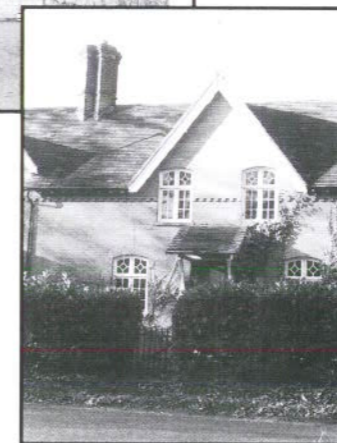


Blackmoor House

Building materials and details

The principal building materials used in Blackmoor are;

- local malmstone in combination with Bath stone dressings. The malmstone is either polygonal ashlar coursed in blocks or randomly coursed cobbles.
- some ironstone for cobble surfaces to courtyards.
- clay plain roof tiles, often used with scalloped tiles in bands; some slate has also been used.
- soft red brick for estate cottages and some chimneys.



Building details reflect the Gothick and English picturesque styles:

- Steep roof pitches, gables with sprocketed eaves, narrow or round decorative windows, hipped and plain gabled dormers.
- decorative bargeboards and ridge tiles with some stone parapets to gables.
- tall chimney stacks and cylindrical stone pots.



- window details are also distinctive: generally these are vertical (2 pane) sliding sashes or casements set in reveals and they are painted white. The joinery used on windows, doors, eaves and barges is solid and substantial.

New development in the Conservation Area

The design of new buildings, extensions and alterations to existing buildings and new uses within the Conservation Area will all affect its character.

Blackmoor has a distinctive character, being a combination of Waterhouse's building designs, constructed in local malmstone, set in a frame of trees.

The design of any new buildings or extensions in the Conservation Area will need to respect the building details, overall form and materials used within the Conservation Area. New development should blend in with and complement the existing building form.

Proposals to fell any of the trees which make a major contribution to the setting of Blackmoor will be carefully assessed; replacement trees may need to be planted so that the overall backcloth of trees to the village is maintained.

Advice and Information.

Further advice is given in the following leaflets which are published by East Hampshire District Council as part of the Conservation Directory:

- Conservation Areas in East Hampshire
- Caring for East Hampshire's Conservation Areas and Historic Buildings.

Further Reading.

- Victorian County History
- RIBA drawings collection - Waterhouse. (RIBA Library)
- The Victorian Country House - M Girouard. 1979/1985
- Various Historical Documents, held by Blackmoor Estate.

For further information contact:

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