

Conservation Area



FROXFIELD GREEN

EASTHAMPSHIRE



Partners

Introduction and Brief History

Froxfield Green was designated a Conservation Area in 1982.

Froxfield Parish and the area around The Green seems to have been a very early settlement. The Green is mentioned from the 10th Century.

There are several sites of earth works remaining around the village, most of these are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. From Norman times there was an established settlement at Froxfield Green. The original church was early 12th Century.

Immediately south of the village, and forming much of the southern half of the Conservation Area, is a series of banks and ditches which date from the 15th Century. These once represented a separate village settlement. The form of this village appears to have been a manorial settlement clustered around the junction of two sunken roads.

Character of the Conservation Area

The character of Froxfield Green Conservation Area is divided into two distinct areas:

- The open character of the ancient earthworks south of Venthams Farm.
- The northern half centred around the triangular Village Green.

Whilst it is the historic and archaeological interest of the southern half of the Conservation Area which is the prime reason for its inclusion in the Conservation Area, the northern half has four significant factors which determine its character:-

- the pattern of building surrounding the Village Green;
- the setting of historic buildings against a backcloth of trees;
- views into and out of the Village Green; and
- largely unaltered historic buildings, attractively detailed and built in traditional local materials.

The buildings surrounding The Green are examples of Georgian vernacular, typical of villages in Southern England, small in size with classical symmetrical proportions. Most of them are Listed Buildings. They have a long established setting which, together with their spacing in their own plots set back from The Green, creates informal enclosure. The attractive long views out to countryside beyond and more intimate views within the enclosed space are a key feature of the Conservation Area.



An important view is that from the war memorial east towards Loves Charity and Holly Lodge, which are set against a backcloth of tall trees.

Views from the east are as important. Green Farm and Thatched Cottage opposite create a pinch point which channels views to the west towards Staple Ash House, a 19th Century three storey rendered house which provides a focal point for views from the east.

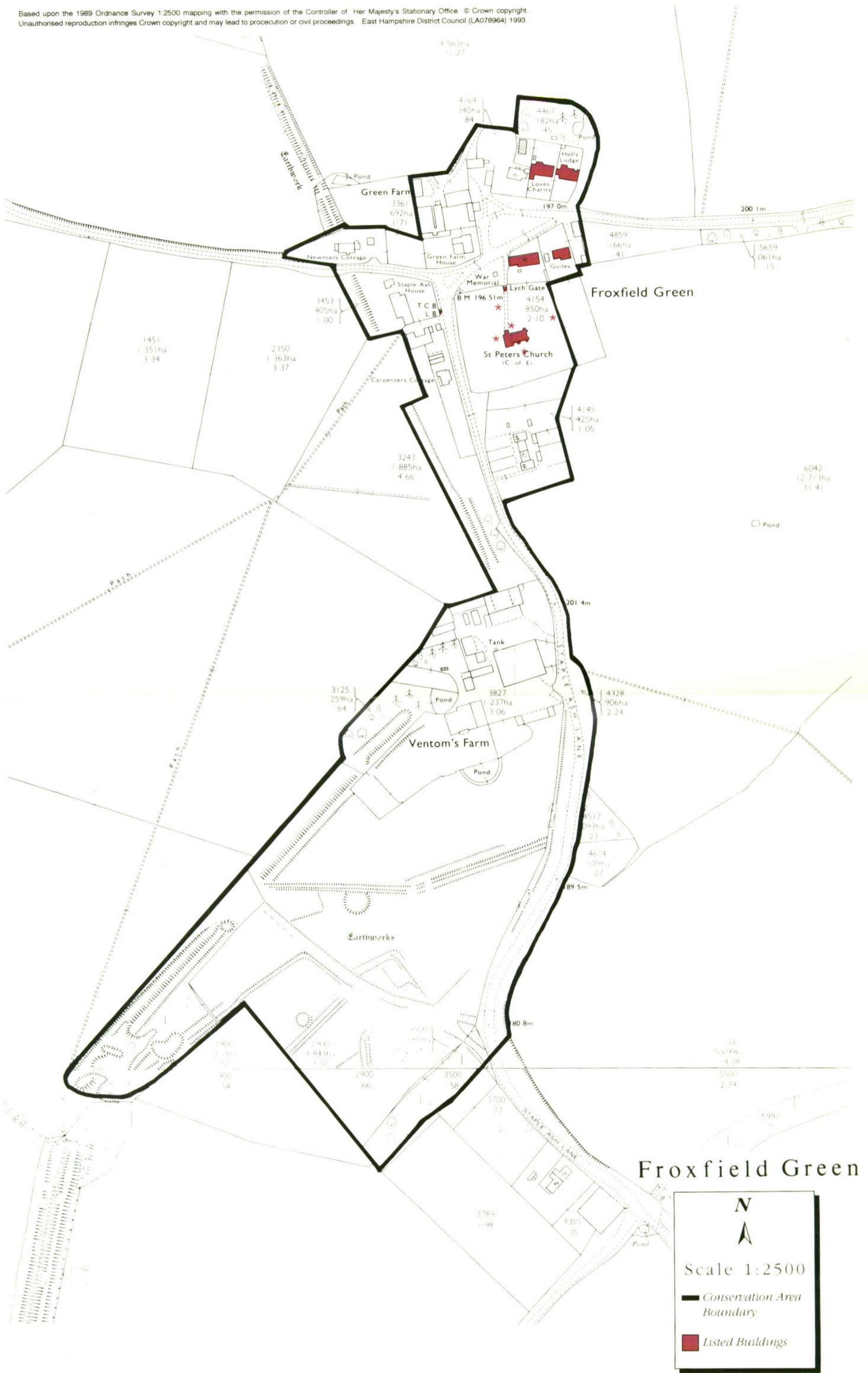


"Loves Charity", built in a handsome red brick, is the focal building of The Green. It was founded by Robert Love in 1733 as a free school and was built around a much earlier 16th and 17th Century building.

The church of St Peter was constructed in 1887 to Arthur Blomfield's design. It is both simple and diminutive in scale and appropriate to its setting, being constructed mainly of flint with a small bell tower. Like many Victorian churches in this period of restoration, it salvages features from the previous Norman church, in this case the columns.



St Peter's Church has its own setting amongst trees. The hedge encloses the churchyard and glebe land surrounding it. This is an important area of enclosed open space, reinforcing the countryside setting of the church. There are vistas of the church framed by the lychgate and war memorial. Mature trees separate the churchyard from Venthams Cottages, this line of trees is a feature of the skyline, providing a setting for both the church and Venthams Cottages.



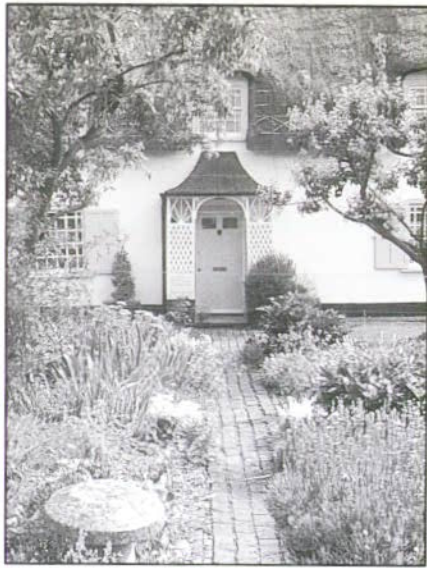
Froxfield Green

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Scale 1:2500

— Conservation Area Boundary

■ Listed Buildings



A feature of the houses and cottages surrounding the green are the brick and stone paths leading to fine entrance doors or rustic porches.

Many of the 18th century buildings have symmetrical elevations and retain their original features and details; where changes have occurred these have mostly been carried out with sensitivity.

Other Buildings, Materials and Details

The buildings are constructed in a variety of local materials:

- timber frame, stone or flint.
- soft red Hampshire brick or painted render.
- thatch, slate and clay peg tile roofs.

Windows are sashes or casements, either flush with the brickwork or set back in reveals. Some of the later 19th Century cottages have flint walls and patterned clay tile roofs with cast-iron or leaded light lattice windows.



Number 71, The Green and Guiles are two long straw thatched cottages. No. 71 is of flint with brick dressings, whilst Guiles is timber framed with an 18th Century stucco facade and fine sash windows. Holly Lodge is an ivy clad symmetrical 18th Century house of pattern red brick with blue headers.

Carpenters Cottage sits on the edge of the road, marking the southern entrance to the village. It is constructed in a mix of flint and coursed rubble malmstone.

Venthams Farm Cottages are built in the local style of the Nicholson Estate, ie, coursed rubble field flint with brick dressings, a steep gable roof with broken eaves dormers; the whole is built as a letter "I" form. Nicholson was a gin merchant and financed the building of many cottages and farm buildings in this style in the area during the last quarter of the 19th Century. The building sits on slightly higher ground on the edge of Staple Ash Lane.

A recent addition to the cottages has been designed to complement the scale, design and materials of the original cottages.



New Development in the Conservation Area

The overall character of the Conservation Area is one of intimate enclosure, yet there are open views out to countryside. The cottages are all of a traditional form and style using hipped or gable roofs with flint, brick or limewash render; new building must respect this form and character. Modern designs are likely to look entirely out of place and proposals should seek to blend in with their surroundings.

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 and References to Froxfield

- Victorian County History.
- The Buildings of England - Hampshire. Pevsner and Lloyd, 1967.

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