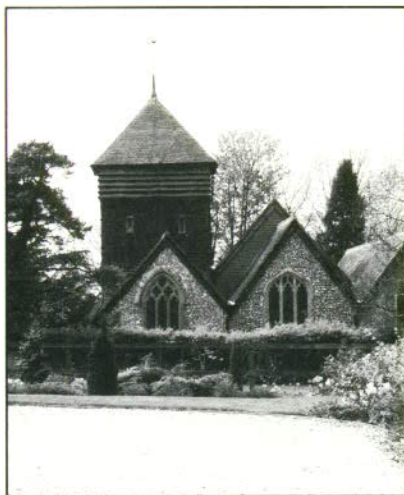


Conservation Area



ROPLEY

EAST HAMPSHIRE



Partners

Introduction & Brief History

Ropley Conservation Area was designated in August, 1976. It consists of two parts: one area centred on Church Street and the other on South Street.

Ropley is believed to have been part of the much larger Saxon Royal Estate and administrative hundred of Bishop Sutton.

By the 13th century the area was owned by the Gervase family, who gave some land to William of Wykeham in the 14th Century. William of Wykeham was Bishop of Winchester and founder of Winchester College; he later gave land in Ropley to the College. In the 15th century some land in Ropley was acquired by Magdalen College, Oxford.

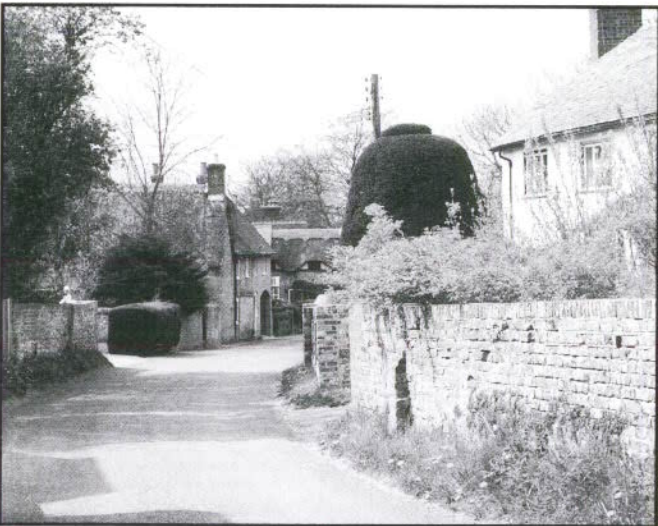
The original part of the village developed around the Church of St Peter in the 12th century. A number of hamlets also developed for example at North Street, South Street and Gilbert Street.

In 1882 Ropley became a parish in its own right. Over the last century there has been development along many of the lanes in the parish but the centre remains at Church Street.

Character of the Conservation Area

The Church Street part of the Conservation Area contains a number of cottages, including the Forge, as well as the Church of St Peter, the school and more substantial houses such as the Old Post House and the Old Parsonage.

Church Street winds gently so that different viewpoints are revealed along the way. Most of the houses front directly onto the street; this together with the boundary hedges, walls and mature trees, create a strong sense of enclosure.



View along Church Street.

The Church is set back from the road on an embankment and so creates a dominating influence in part of the street scene.

The South Street area is a mixture of very small cottages and larger country houses such as Hall Place and Ropley Grove. The cottages front either directly on to or close to the roadside but the larger dwellings are set further back from the road. As in the Church Street area the boundary walls and hedges and the mature trees are important features.



1-7 South Street.

Buildings

The Conservation Area contains a wide range of buildings, many of which are noted as being of special architectural interest and historic interest. They include:

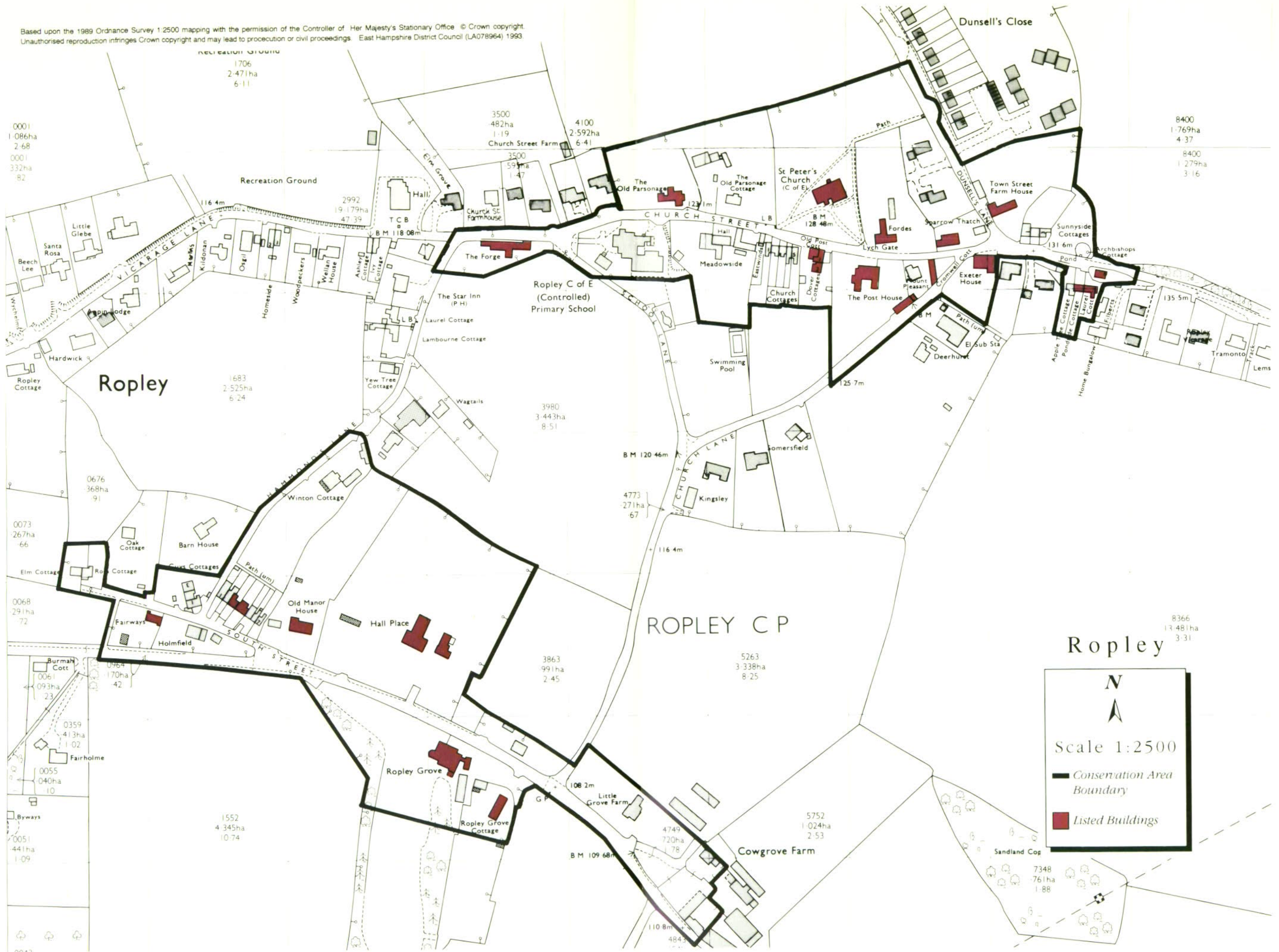
- **The Church of St Peter** : A 12th century Church with 13th century chancel and 14th century timber framed bell tower. The church was re-furbished in 1896 by John Oldrid Scott. The walls are of flint with stone and brick quoins and dressings. Four of the tombstones in the churchyard are also listed as being of architectural or historic interest.



East elevation of St Peters.

- **Hall Place** : An imposing Georgian house built in 1790. The walls are white painted brickwork and the roof is slate in a double mansard style. The 18th century stables in the grounds are also listed.
- **Ropley Grove** : An imposing red brick Georgian house (with a neo-Georgian addition in about 1900), set in magnificent grounds. The thatched 17th century flint gardener's cottage in the grounds is also listed.
- **The Old Manor** : Originally a 16th century house with additions in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Built of brick with exposed timber framing to the rear. A massive central chimney stack dominates the thatched roof.
- **Exeter House** : An early 18th century house in red brick with a tiled roof, extensively altered in the 20th century.
- **Town Street Farm House** : A late medieval timber framed hall house with 16th, 17th, early 19th and 20th century additions. The brick walls are painted and the roof is tiled.

Based upon the 1989 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings East Hampshire District Council (LA078964) 1993



Ropley

N
 ↑
 Scale 1:2500
 — Conservation Area Boundary
 ■ Listed Buildings

0001
1.086ha
2.68
0001
332ha
.82

Recreation Ground
1706
2.471ha
6.11

3500
482ha
1.19
Church Street Farm
4100
2.592ha
6.41

8400
1.769ha
4.37
8400
1.279ha
3.16

Ropley

1683
2.525ha
6.24

Ropley C of E
(Controlled)
Primary School

3980
3.443ha
8.51

ROPLEY C P

5263
3.338ha
8.25

8366
13.481ha
3.31

Ropley Grove

B M 109.68m

Cowgrove Farm

110.8m

Sandland Cop

7348
761ha
1.88

- **The Old Post House** : A late 18th/early 19th century house built of brick with a tiled roof.
- **The Old Parsonage** : A 17th century timber framed house with early 18th and 19th century additions. Reclad in the early 18th century in brick (now painted) and with a tiled roof. Still retains some early leaded light casement windows.
- **Old Parsonage Barn** : A thatched timber framed barn once part of the Old Parsonage and now converted to a house.
- **Ropley School** : A 19th century flint and brick building.
- **The Forge** : A 15th century late medieval timber framed hall house with early 17th, 18th and early 19th century additions. The forge was at the east end of the building.

There are many attractive cottages in both the Church Street and South Street areas. Many of them are thatched and timber framed, including Cromwell Cottage, Fordes, Sparrow Thatch, Laurel Cottage, Ponside Cottage, Archbishop's Cottage and Fairways. Others are tiled such as Sunnyside Cottages, or slated such as Guys Cottages.



Sunnyside Cottages, Church Street.



Guys Cottages, South Street.

Materials and Buildings Details

A mixture of materials are used in Ropley and add to its character. Many buildings are built of brick, some of which have been colourwashed. Other materials are flint, tile hanging and weatherboarding, all of which provide a good contrast to the brickwork.

The roofs are a mixture of thatch, hand made clay tiles and slate. Several of the cottages have simple brick and tile gabled porches. Windows are traditional and include triple lattice casements and double sliding sash windows.

The absence of pavements and the range of boundary treatments, including medium and high flint and red brick walls, infrequent uses of cast-iron railings and timber fencing (sometimes painted white), together with the backcloth of a mature landscape of hedging and trees, enhance the overall appearance of the Conservation Area.

New Development

The Conservation Area covers the historic core of Ropley. Many of the buildings are of architectural and historic interest, are small in scale and set close to the road.

The design of new buildings, extensions and alterations to existing buildings and new uses within the Conservation Area will all affect its character. The design of development will need to respect the details, overall form and materials within the Conservation Area. Those who undertake development should do so with care.

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

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

Further Reading

- Ropley Past and Present : A Brief History of a Hampshire Village. Frederick Mason, 1989. (Scriptinale Editions).
- The Buildings of England : Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. N. Pevsner and D. Lloyd, 1985. (Penguin Books).
- The Victorian County Histories.
- Hampshire Treasurers. Hampshire County Council, 1982.

For further information contact:

**The Conservation Officer
Heritage Team
East Hampshire District Council
Penns Place Petersfield
Hants GU31 4EX**

Telephone: 01730 234214