

Village Street is small in scale. Terraced cottages are set almost on the edge of the road which together with the tall sandstone and brick walls of Sheet House (18th Century) opposite, create a very narrow and intimate enclosure. *The entrance to Village Street is formed by The Queen's Head Public House and a two storey outbuilding to Sheet House; both are 18th Century buildings.*



The Cottages lie at right angles to the road and the roofscape of Sheet House on the skyline beyond makes an attractive invitation into Village Street.

At the eastern end of Village Street Old Sheet House is a focal point when viewed from the former A3. It has a setting amongst trees and thus visually "closes" the narrow village street entrance. One discordant feature of the skyline is the telegraph wires, which should be placed underground.

Farnham Road

The church is the dominant feature of Farnham Road. Beyond it is a steep bank mainly surmounted by trees which provide an enclosed setting for the church. The road slopes downhill from the village to a hollow by the Ashford Stream.

Here Bridge Cottage an early 19th Century house, has attractive ornamental 'Gothick' sash windows. This was once a tannery house and there is evidence of tall first floor doorways in the rear sandstone wall. *Adjacent to Bridge Cottage and set back from the road are Vale Cottages, a terrace of 19th Century cottages which once housed the tannery labourers.*



These are white painted and of a well proportioned uniform design. Some still have original doors and window details but others have been altered, weakening the architectural integrity of the terrace.

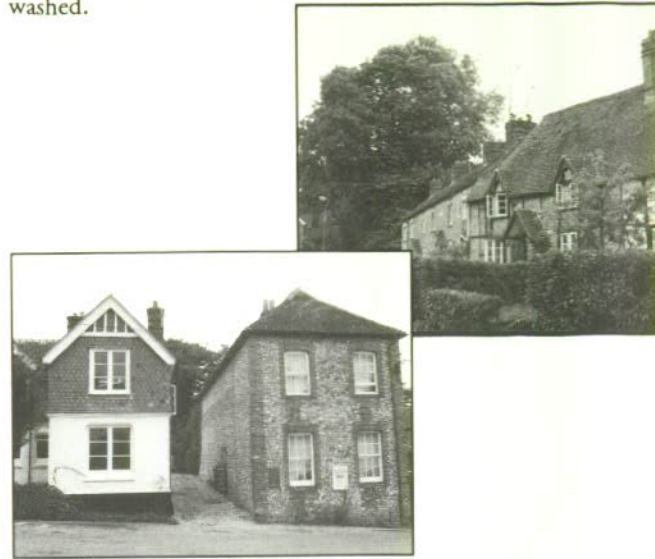
Mill Lane

Mill Lane is narrow and generally enclosed by high banks and buildings. Cell Cottage, built in the early 19th Century, is the former village Police Station. Near Sheet Bridge Mill the lane runs close to the River Rother and there is a bridge and sluice for the Ashford Stream. Sheet Bridge Mill dates from the early

16th Century, although it has been altered since. From the Mill there are open views over the surrounding countryside.

Other Buildings, Materials and Details

Throughout the village there is a common theme of materials: mainly stone and red brick with tile hanging in places. Some of the small cottages are rendered or stucco and painted or lime washed.



The roofscape is important. Roof details are mainly of two forms. Gables and hipped roofs are mainly clay peg tiled with bonnet hips, while later roofs are slate. Dormer windows and gable windows are generally of a balanced scale in relation to their roof lines.

On the smaller terraced houses there are proportionally small gable dormer windows. Windows in the Conservation Area are traditionally painted white. They are either sash type or plain flush casements, some divided with horizontal glazing bars or with rectangular small panes.

New Development in the Conservation Area

The design of new buildings, extensions and alterations to buildings and new uses with the Conservation Area will all affect its character. Those who undertake such works should respect the existing detail and built form of the Conservation Area and use materials which blend in with and complement the existing buildings.

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

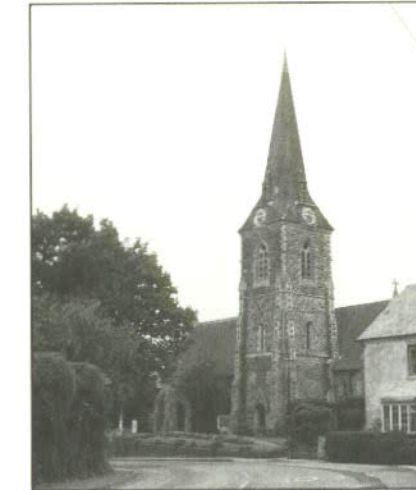
- A brief history of the Catholic Parish of Petersfield. TT Cancannon and B Gower, 1979.
- Victorian County History.

For further information contact:

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Conservation Area



SHEET



Introduction & Brief History

Sheet Conservation Area was designated in 1976.

The original village of Sheet was linear in form (Village Street) with two outlying mills beside the River Rother and its tributary the Ashford Stream.

During the second half of the 19th Century the village spread towards School Lane, Inmans Lane and down the Farnham Road. Further development has taken place in the 20th Century within the area bounded by Town Lane and the A3 as far as Village Street.

Sheet developed near the natural crossing point of the River Rother used by the cattle drovers. The presence of abundant fresh water from the River Rother and the Ashford Stream enhanced the economic potential of the village, both for fulling and ironworking.

The fulling mill was at Sheet Mill, off Pulens Lane (which may be a derivation of "fulling" or "fullers"). The wool trade made Sheet the richest hamlet in the Buriton/Nursted/Weston District. However, Petersfield was growing rapidly in the late 18th Century and with its prospering woollen industry it prevented Sheet from expanding much further.

The good water supply and the timber from the local woods made Sheet a natural centre for the smelting of ironstone from the surrounding district and for the manufacture of tools and weapons. Although a small Smithy is now no longer in commercial use it is still kept in working order. It is located opposite the Grade II Listed Telephone Call Box on the Village Green.

In 1711 the Sheet to Portsea (Portsmouth) Turnpike Act was passed to keep the road from Sheet to Portsmouth maintained for the transport of arms for the European wars. The London-Portsmouth railway was opened in 1859 and resulted in the construction of houses along School Lane on the west side of the Conservation Area. In 1897 the village school was opened and the large chestnut tree was planted on the village green.

The Character of the Conservation Area

There are four distinct areas which together make up the character of Sheet Conservation Area:-

- The Village Green and Chestnut Tree;
- Village Street;
- Farnham Road; and
- Mill Lane.

The focal points of the Conservation Area are the Village Green, the chestnut tree and the church. The majority of buildings here are small labourers cottages with only one or two more substantial houses, such as Old Sheet House and Sheet House.

The focal point of the Village Green is the splendid horse chestnut tree which fills almost the whole of the triangular green. Equally prominent, particularly from the Town Lane/Inmans Lane junction is the church. Its towering steeple overshadows the tree.

The Church of St Mary was constructed to the design of Arthur Blomfield in 1869 during the height of 'high' Victorian church building. It is built in an early English and decorated Gothick combination, with a tall broach spire. The spire has clocks set below the belfry windows.

The material is local sandstone and malmstone with bathstone dressings and window surrounds.

There are three key vistas of the Church :

- *from the Village Street*, where the cottages rise towards the Farnham Road opposite the Chestnut tree;



- *from Town Lane*, where it is the focal point of the curve in the road. The part timber framed Broadlands cottages and the 19th Century adjoining buildings sit above the road; together with the chestnut tree these frame the church steeple;



- *from the bottom of School Lane*, where the full height of the church tower dominates the skyline.



A sandstone retaining wall forms a boundary to the church this has pillars capped with copings in a "decorated" style. Opposite is another high sandstone wall which forms the corner of School Road, leading to the village school. A 19th Century terrace of cottages sits above the road on the bend, thereby forming a 'pinchpoint' when viewed from the south.

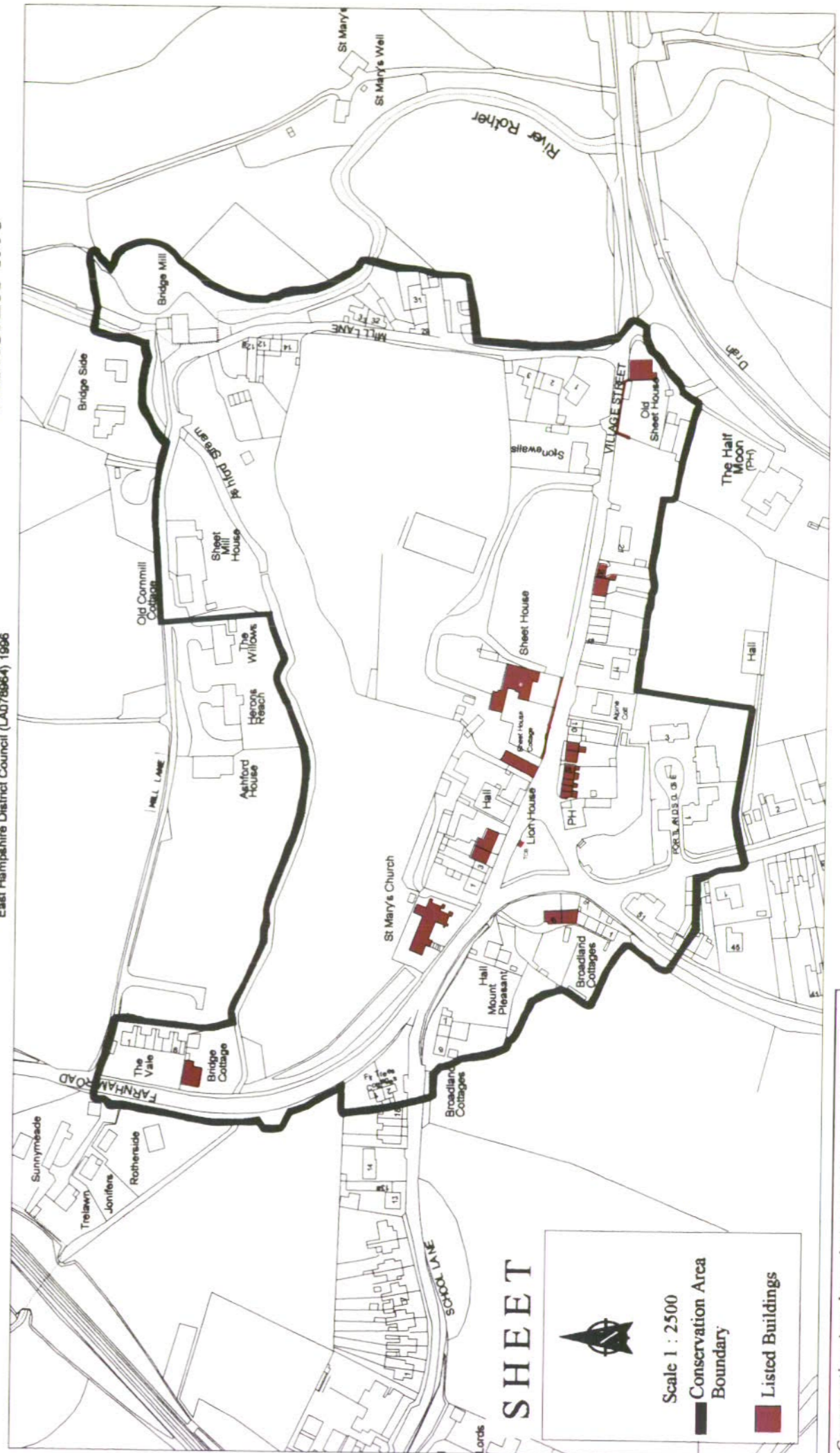
On the north side of the Village Green behind the row of cottages, is another row stopped at its east end by a hall called The Old Billiard Room.

Village Street

In Village Street there are houses and small cottages dating from 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries.

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Conservation Area boundaries may be updated from time to time for latest details and further information contact the Conservation Officers at 01730 266551