

Conservation Area



HEADLEY

EASTHAMPSHIRE



Partners

Introduction & Brief History

Headley Conservation Area was designated in 1977 and extended in 1993.

There is archeological evidence of occupation in the parish from the early Stone Age in the form of a group of flint working sites at Sleaford.

Headley village has its origins in the Saxon period. The village grew gradually from the Middle Ages. There was a temporary decline in the fourteenth century associated with the Black Death and economic difficulties within villages surrounding it.

Watermills have always been important in Headley. They were originally needed to produce flour for local use but in later years there were also flock and paper mills and the grain mills extended their function to include the production of animal foods.

There are records of fifty mills located within ten miles of Headley in the 1860's. The Victorian County History records Headley as having six mills: Lower Standford, Upper Standford, Barford Middle, Barford Lower, Headley Park and Headley, which is the only mill currently working.

The Character of the Conservation Area

The character of the Conservation Area is determined by two groups of historic buildings:

- surrounding the crossroads of the High Street and Mill Lane; and
- surrounding the Church in the High Street.

These groups of buildings, together with mature trees, hedges and high walls of local stone, create a sense of enclosure in the Conservation Area.

High Street and Mill Lane Crossroads

A large chestnut tree is the focus of the small triangular Green formed by the intersection of the High Street and Mill Lane. The tree is surrounded by an iron seat. A cast iron finger post is also a small but important feature of this Green. The Stocks were once located on the green.



The tree and the Hollybush Public House (an Edwardian house of 2 storeys of orange/red brick) form a visual stop to views from Mill Lane. Together with the more modern Bank (circa 1930's) on the south side of Mill Lane they both shape and enclose the

corner and bend at the end of Crabtree Lane.

Completing the 'village green' scene is a red (K6) Grade II listed telephone call box. This is located adjacent to the tree.

On the west side of the High Street but near to the Mill Lane junction lies *Suters*, a Hampshire Wealden house. It is set back from the road and marks the entrance to the High Street.

The Church and High Street

The core of the Conservation Area is the High Street. Viewed from the north high sandstone walls form a curving roadside edge. Mature trees are inter-dispersed within the gardens and form a feature of the roadside. *Together with the church in the background the trees create a broken skyline and the walls provide a sense of enclosure to the road.*



The Church of All Saints is a focal point for the High Street. It was rebuilt by J. Flockton of Sheffield in 1859 and, in the usual manner of Victorian restoration, included parts of the original thirteenth and fourteenth century construction. The Tower sited at the north west corner of the nave was constructed around 1380 and was topped by a spire until it was destroyed by fire in 1836.

The church itself is constructed of coursed local malmstone with sandstone dressings. The tower is built of much harder local sandstone rubble and the top is strongly castellated with octagonal pinnacles at each corner.

Near to the church the road opens out to form a wide rectangular enclosed space between the *White House*, the rendered and painted Post Office and *Suters*. The Post Office is eighteenth century but has an altered shop front of ugly modern design.

To the east side of the High Street, opposite the church and Rectory, is the Church Hall. It is built in a poor modern design and, if not eventually replaced, its setting and that of the High Street would benefit from enclosure with a stone wall and trees.



When viewed from the Hollybush looking north west, Suters, the Post Office and the church form an important group creating an interesting vista of tiled gables and hipped clay peg tile roofs. In the background is the square church tower. All of these features are 'framed' amongst trees.

The Rectory is an imposing early Georgian building of five bays. It has later sashes with segmental brick arches. Like other more substantial domestic buildings in the Conservation Area it is set back from the road in a large plot.



The northern entrance to the Conservation Area is marked by Belmont House, a modest late Victorian house with deep red brickwork and a substantial solid look timber cornice. The house has an Arts and Crafts appearance.

Other Buildings, Materials and Details

A feature of the Conservation Area is the use of local sand stone and ironstone (locally known as 'firestone') for boundary walls and several houses. The stone is laid as randomly coursed cobbles; the joints are often galletted with small chips of ironstone.



Principal building materials and details include:

- vertically sliding timber sash windows (6 x 6 panes) with cambered heads.
- narrow pairs of timber casements.
- dormer windows with tile hung or lead cheeks.
- clay peg tile or slate roofs fully hipped.

- symmetrical proportions and elevations.
- tall narrow brick or rendered chimney stacks.
- open, gabled timber porches.
- some smooth rendering painted white.

Suters is an historically important building in the Conservation Area. From the outside Suters appears to be an 18th Century house; its first floor is tile hung and ground floor built of sandstone rubble.

However, this building is in fact a Wealden House and one of very few in Hampshire. It dates from the 15th Century and was an important house in the village. The original timber frame and jettied projecting bays can be clearly seen in the gable end wall facing the churchyard. The interior has medieval wall paintings. A sixteenth century chimney has been added to the original open hall.



Appletree Cottage, adjacent to Suters but facing Mill Lane, is late 16th Century. It is built in local ironstone with brick dressings and has simple, well proportioned elevations. Other buildings such as The Tithe Barn (now converted to a house), Wakefords and buildings sited on the corner of Headleyfields near to the Bakehouse are constructed of materials and details consistent with the character of the village.

New development in the Conservation Area

The design of new buildings, extensions and alterations to existing buildings or new uses within the Conservation Area will all affect its character. Development will need to be sensitive to the traditional pattern of building and use of materials in the Conservation Area. Proposals will need to blend in with the existing buildings not impose themselves on them.

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 Headley

- Victorian County History.
- 'To the Ar and back'. J. Stevens, Headley Society.

For further information please contact:

The Conservation Officers
 Development Services Division
 East Hampshire District Council
 Penns Place
 PETERSFIELD Hampshire GU32 4EX
 Telephone No: 0730 266551, Ext 4216 and 4218

