



**East Leake Conservation Area
Appraisal and Management Plan
July 2008**



**Rushcliffe
Borough Council**

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Part 1 Character Appraisal

1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of a conservation area character appraisal

Local Planning Authorities have a duty to designate as conservation areas any 'areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. (PPG 15).

In 2005, Rushcliffe Borough Council followed government advice by looking more closely at the architectural and historic features within each conservation area and how their special character could be preserved or enhanced. This work has resulted in the production of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.

The survey and analysis work within the appraisal sections of this document highlight the features and characteristics of the village that are worthy of preservation. This work then feeds directly into the Management Plan which states why these features and characteristics should be preserved or enhanced and how this could be achieved.

This document should be used by residents and professionals both as a source of information and as a guide.

1.2 The planning policy context

This appraisal provides a firm basis on which applications for development within the East Leake Conservation Area can be assessed. It should be read alongside the wider development plan policy framework produced by Rushcliffe Borough Council and other National Planning Policy Guidance documents. The relevant documents include:

- Rushcliffe Borough Non-Statutory Local Plan 2006
 - Policies EN2, EN3 (Conservation Areas)
 - EN4, EN5 (Listed Buildings)
 - EN6 (Ancient Monuments)
 - EN7 (Archaeological importance)
- Planning Policy Guidance 15 (PPG 15): Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)
- Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16): Archaeology (1990)
- Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS 1): Delivering Sustainable Development (2006)
- By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System – Towards Better Practice (2000)

2 Location and landscape setting

2.1 Location and activities

Rushcliffe Borough forms the Southern tip of the Nottinghamshire District which borders Leicestershire. It is predominantly a rural Borough that contains a mixture of city suburbs, market towns and villages. Rushcliffe is located about ½ Mile South of Nottingham City Centre, with the River Trent forming the majority of its Northern boundary and the River Soar defining its Western Boundary.

The A46, a distinctive Roman Road, runs through the centre of the Borough and leads to Newark in the North and Leicester in the South. In the Northern half of the Borough, the A52 forms Nottingham's primary transport link to Grantham and the East of England. Junction 24 of the M1 and East Midlands Airport are located about 1 mile from the Western border.

East Leake is located in the South West of the Borough, being closer to Loughborough than Nottingham. The village is one of the 6 large settlements in the Rushcliffe Borough.

2.2 Relationship of the conservation area to its surroundings

The East Leake conservation area includes the historic core of the settlement. This historic core is now surrounded by large areas of modern housing on most sides. The Kingston Brook runs close to the conservation area in the North East and Meadow Park is located to the North. The South and North East corners of the conservation area are surrounded by fields and paddocks. The Sheepwash Brook runs through the centre of the conservation area.

3 Historic development and archaeology

3.1 Historic development and archaeology

There is archaeological evidence to suggest that settlements may have existed in this area as long ago as 3000 BC. The early Saxon period between 410 and 900 AD brought self-sufficient farming communities organised in groups of homesteads. The name Leake originates from the old English (Anglo-Saxon) word for a water meadow ("Lecche/Leche"). When the Normans recorded the state of the nation in the Domesday Book (1086), there were 38 people recorded in Leche, with a total population predicted to be 200 (including dependents and those with no rights to land). By the start of the 12th Century, the boundary of the Parish had been formed and this was further consolidated under the 1798 Act of Enclosure, when the population was estimated at around 1000. The 1851 Census recorded a population of 1148 which increased to 1500 by 1941.

The geographical location of East Leake has provided the opportunity for many industries to flourish. The middle of the nineteenth century was known as the golden age of farming, with 20 farmers employing 79 workers in 1851 and one fifth of the population relying upon farming (50 out of the 250 households). Weaving, framework knitting and basket making have been major industries within the village for hundreds of years (late 16th Century to mid 20th Century). A framework shed close to the graveyard of the Baptist church still remains close to its original condition today.

This was firstly used for weaving then converted to a framework shop. The basket making industry spanned 130 years (1830 to 1960) and was assisted greatly by the central location of the Kingston and Sheepwash Brooks, as they allowed the osier beds and water pits to be

located next to the workers' cottages and workshops. The extensive deposits of gypsum close to East Leake have been mined for plaster for the past 125 years. Unlike the farming, weaving, framework knitting and basket making industries, the gypsum industry still remains strong today.

The last major rail line into London was built in the late 19th Century and East Leake was one of the stations on this route from Sheffield. The arrival of the railway brought jobs to the area and also led to an increase in population, with commuters travelling to work in Nottingham and Loughborough (many of the large houses along Station Road were built for this purpose). The railway would have also brought new building materials to the area, such as Welsh slate for roofing tiles and a more nationally standardised style of brick (before the railways, bricks were usually made locally or regionally). Figure 3 illustrates the railway line and houses along Station Road.

During the second World War, a decision was made to expand East Leake and over a period of 50 years, the population increased four-fold to 6108 (2001 Census). Figures 1, 2 and 3 show the linear form of the village in 1810+, 1884 and 1910 and Figure 4 shows how this form has been lost and surrounding landscape has been replaced by large housing estates. East Leake is now one of six large villages in the Borough of Rushcliffe and is predominantly a commuter settlement that could be described as having a rural historic core with modern extensions that are suburban in character.



Figure 1- East Leake – 1815 Ordnance Survey



Figure 2 – East Leake in 1884

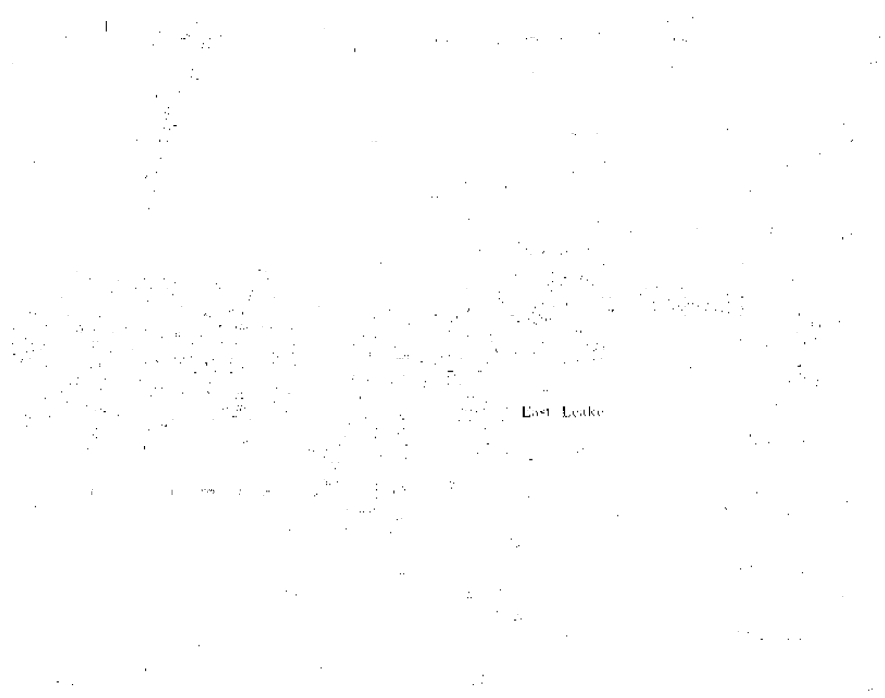


Figure 3 – East Leake in 1910

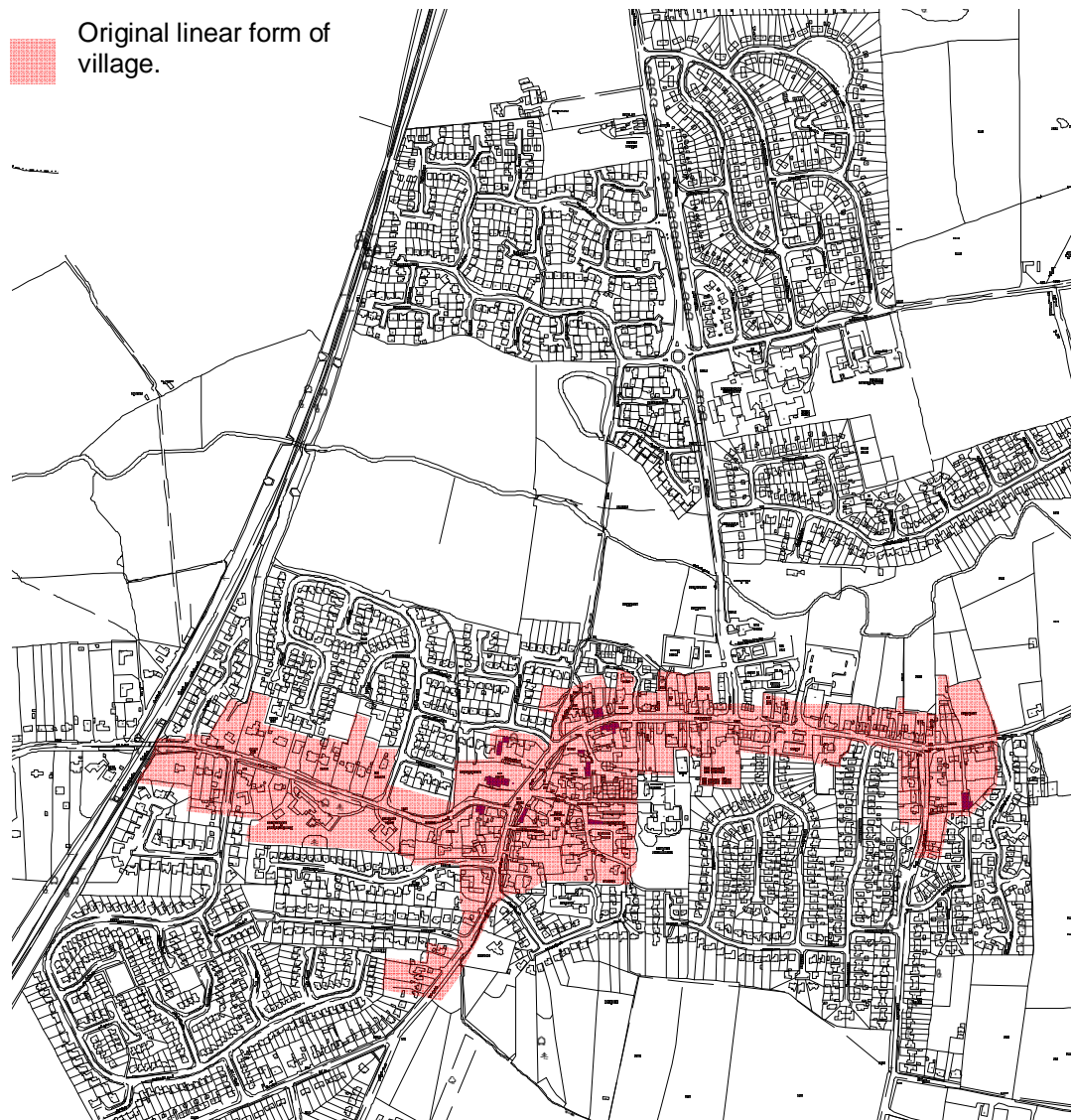


Figure 4 – East Leake in 2005

4 Spatial analysis

4.1 Plan form and layout

The linear form of East Leake has, over the last 50 years, been eroded and the village now has a less distinctive plan form. The conservation area has, however, retained the linear form of the original settlement (see Figure 4 above).

5 The buildings of the conservation area

5.1 Listed Buildings

Listed buildings are protected by law and consent is required from Rushcliffe Borough Council before any works of alteration, extension, or demolition can be carried out. If a building or structure is included on the government's Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, then it is Listed. Further information can be found in Rushcliffe Borough Council's publication *Listed Buildings in Rushcliffe*, which is also available online (see references section).

5.2 Key unlisted buildings

In addition to the listed buildings, the conservation area contains a large number of unlisted buildings that make a positive contribution to the character of the conservation area. These are marked on the Townscape Appraisal map as 'positive buildings'. Both Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (PPG 15) and English Heritage Guidance (English Heritage, 2005) stress the importance of identifying and protecting such buildings.

The positive buildings have been selected using criteria set out in Appendix 2 of English Heritage's *Guidance on conservation area appraisals* (2005). In a situation where a building has been adversely affected by modern changes and restoration is either impractical or, in fact, not possible, they are excluded.

5.3 Building materials and local details

East Leake contains a range of architectural styles and although many original features have been lost, many still remain. The most prevalent types of vernacular architecture are cottages and farmhouses and a number of these have been statutorily Listed. There are some examples of timber framed buildings and bricks are generally red, with some properties having blue brick detailing. Roofing materials are mixed and largely include pantile, plain tile and Welsh slate. The original windows that have survived are largely timber framed sliding sashes, with some older cottages having smaller Yorkshire sashes.



Late C18 glazing bar sash windows and plank doors with glazing bar overlights (Grade II Listed, No.10 Main Street).



Timber frame revealed on this whitewashed house fronting Main Street.



Mid C17 Grade II Listed timber framed cottages with red brick nogging and modern alterations and extensions. Pantile roof (left) and slate roof (right).



Yorkshire horizontally sliding sash and blue brick chequering.



Window detail of St Mary's Church Hall

Victorian houses with vertically sliding sash windows, classical style window and door surrounds (above right), dentilated eaves, slate roof (right) and pantile roof (left).



This brick-built shed has been well preserved close to its original condition and is the only surviving evidence of the framework knitting industry that was successful within the village for over a century (mid 1700's to late 1860's).

6 The character of the conservation area

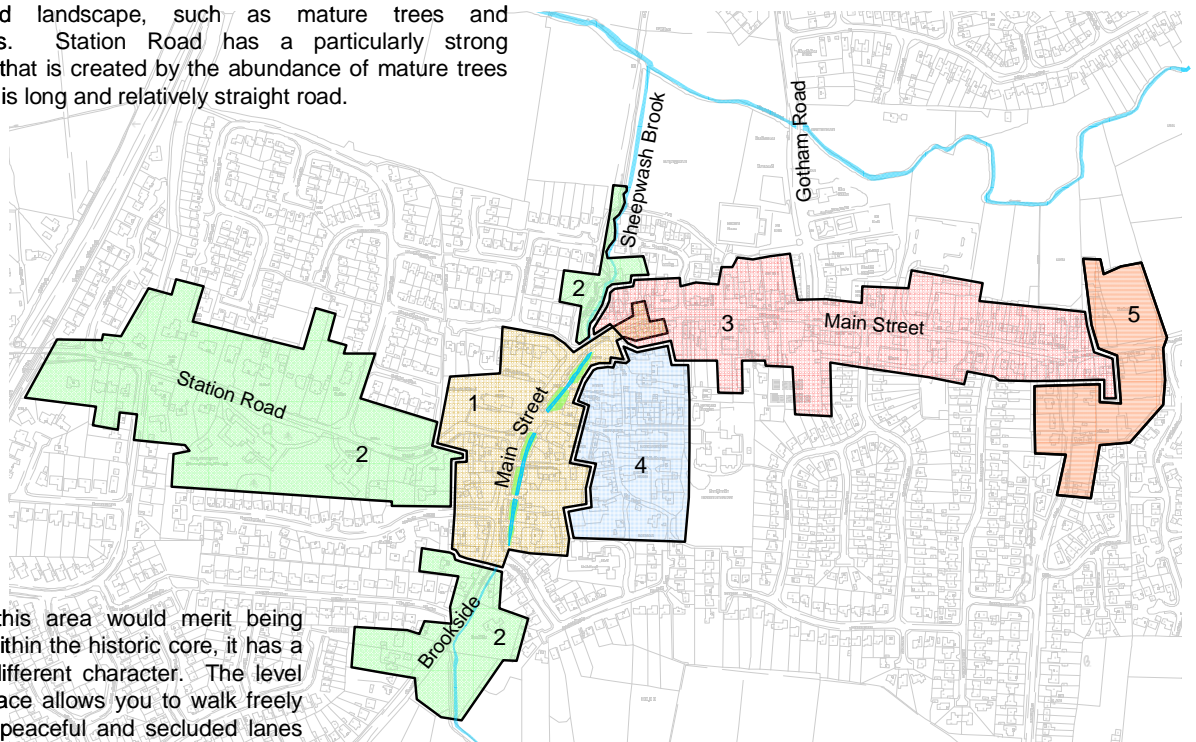
6.1 Character areas

East Leake contains a number of areas each with their own distinctive character. The map below aims to describe the different character areas within the village.

1 The character of this historic core is created by a linear village green that is formed by the Sheepwash Brook and its tree-lined grassy banks as they wind past a pinfold, St Mary's Church, a war memorial, St Mary's village hall and a series of listed cottages.

2 The character of these areas is largely created by established landscape, such as mature trees and hedgerows. Station Road has a particularly strong character that is created by the abundance of mature trees that line this long and relatively straight road.

3 With the exception of the former post office and cottages opposite, this character area does not possess a collective group of positive buildings that complement one another. Instead, the area contains an important mixture of historic features and community buildings. These include buildings formerly used for the village industry of basket-making, a pre 1830 timber framed house, some original Victorian railings, the Village Hall and a distinctive 1950's Roman Catholic Church.



4 Although this area would merit being included within the historic core, it has a distinctly different character. The level street surface allows you to walk freely along the peaceful and secluded lanes and fully engage with a series of cottages, an old school house and a former farmhouse. The pathway leading out of this area to the South West dates back to early maps of the village and is lined on both sides with a dense hedgerow that provides an important rural landscape setting.

5 As you travel out of the village Eastwards, an L-shaped group of cottages forms a strong visual stop. It is these cottages and the playing field opposite, with mature trees, hedgerows and paddocks beyond, that provide a sense of place for one another and create an area that possesses a distinctly rural and peaceful character. A Grade II listed Baptist Church, former weaving/framework shed and group of Victorian houses are all located behind the cottages and this contributes enormously to the historic value of this character area.

7 SWOT Analysis

In order to complete the appraisal process and guide the direction of the management plan, a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) exercise was undertaken (Table 1).

Table 1: SWOT Analysis	
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Leake has the fortune of possessing some very special and distinctive features. With some of these being linear, such as the Sheepwash Brook, the positive impacts are spread over a much greater distance and an element of continuity is created. • The Parish Council are particularly active, involved and well equipped, with their centrally located office being open every morning of the week.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the historic buildings in East Leake that are not protected as Listed Buildings have unfortunately lost many of their original features and/or have been extended or altered. This has resulted in the partial or total loss of their character and the removal of their ability to have a positive impact on the conservation area. These historic buildings can often have a negative impact on the area (marked in blue on the townscape appraisal), or, at best, have a neutral impact.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The linear village green, that is so important to the character of the historic core, could flow more naturally over main street and northwards to Meadow Park. This could be achieved by providing a crossing point that encouraged pedestrian movement to flow alongside the Sheepwash Brook and then more naturally over Main Street. This would effectively extend the linear village green / green walkway further northwards to Meadow Park. • Some of the buildings or public spaces that have a negative impact on the character of the conservation area should be identified within the management plan as areas that could potentially be improved.
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large plots of land located within attractive settlements often attract interest from property developers. In order to preserve the special character of the conservation area, it is vital that this development does not result in the loss of features that help to create this special character. Such features include historic buildings and mature trees and hedgerows.

Part 2 Management Plan

8 Introduction

8.1 The Management Plan

The Character Appraisal formed Part 1 of this document and identified the special features of the East Leake conservation area. Part 2, the Management Plan, builds upon the work in the Appraisal and the issues identified in the SWOT Analysis, to provide a series of issues and recommendations for improvement and change, most of which are the responsibility of the Borough Council.

8.2 Aims and Objectives of this Management Plan

The aims and objectives of this management plan are:

- To develop clear, area specific management priorities for the future of the East Leake Conservation Area.
- To guide residents and professionals on:
 - features of value and worthy of preservation;
 - characteristics worthy of preservation;
 - opportunities for enhancement.
- To create community commitment to conservation principles

9 Issues and recommendations

9.1 Alterations to Listed and key unlisted properties

Buildings or features shown on the Character Appraisal map as being 'positive' or 'significant' play the most important role in creating the special character of the Conservation Area. It is likely that many buildings still possess original and/or traditional architectural details such as windows, doors, porches, doorhoods, overdoor lights and fanlights, chimneys, brick detailing and roofing materials. Positive features also include trees, hedges, visible gardens, walls, railings and gates and often form original property plots and boundaries (see section 9.2 – Boundary Treatments).

A number of the unlisted, and some of the Listed buildings in the conservation area have been adversely affected by the loss of these architectural details, building materials and positive features. In many cases (e.g. single family dwellings), planning permission is not required for the removal of, or alteration to these features. Development of this kind is called 'Permitted Development' and the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 covers this in greater detail.

In order to ensure that the special character of the conservation area is not eroded further, some of these permitted development rights can be removed. This is known as an Article 4(2) direction and could be used by the Council to protect specific features. In particular, coherent groups of well detailed properties can be protected by this legislation.



The dramatic effects that inappropriate alterations can have (windows filled-in, brickwork covered with render, brown glazing bars instead of white). (Example taken from East Bridgford).



Extensions must relate to architectural form and the character of existing buildings. (Example taken from East Bridgford).



These modern windows are not in the style or materials of the originals and the window frames have been made flush with the facade – this single alteration has completely changed the character of this farmhouse. (Example taken from East Bridgford).

Recommendations

CA08/1

The Council will consider the need for Article 4(2) Directions to protect coherent groups of buildings that retain original features from inappropriate alteration.

CA08/2

The Council will encourage property owners to retain the original and/or traditional architectural details, building materials and positive features associated with their property.

CA08/3

The council will encourage property owners to reverse any alterations that are unsympathetic to the original and/or traditional character of a property and to reinstate architectural features, such as windows, doors and boundary walls with replacements in the style and materials of the originals.

CA08/4

The Council will encourage property owners to ensure that any alterations or extensions respect the character of the street scene and pay attention to the scale, proportions, materials and detailing of properties in the locality.

CA08/5

The council will apply national rules and regulations which require property owners to apply for planning permission for alterations and extensions such as works to roofs, satellite dishes, exterior cladding, extensions and new buildings over a certain size and part or full demolition of buildings (PPG 15, 1994) (see Appendix 4 for more information).

9.2 Boundary treatments

Boundaries, such as walls or hedges, physically and visually separate private spaces from the public space of the roads and pavements. They are as important in determining the character of any conservation area as the buildings behind them.

Type of boundary

High brick walls and buildings on the back of pavements create an urban feel to the conservation area whilst hedges and trees produce a more rural environment. In most of our conservation areas there are streets and lanes which clearly demonstrate one or other of these characteristics whilst some have a mix of these features.

Where such character definition is strong it is important to retain and promote a continuation of the theme. For example, a high brick wall in a predominantly "green" lane will impact adversely on its character whereas the introduction of a hedge in an urban scene may be inappropriate.

Where there is a variety in the type of boundary there will be more flexibility.

Materials and design

Local materials and design play a vital role in successful boundary treatments which maintain or enhance the character of the conservation area. Brick walls which match or compliment the local architecture or locally native hedgerows and trees invariably have the greatest conservation benefits.



Original boundary wall and railings are of equal importance to the historic building behind. (example taken from East Bridgford).



White timber fence creates rural charm and is of great importance to the character of the property. (example taken from Edwalton Village).



Quality Rural Street with an almost continuous stretch of hedgerows. (example taken from Hickling).

Any boundary detail should be in keeping with the street scene and be complimentary to the building which it is the boundary to. It should reflect the status of the property and not attempt to create a sense of grandeur where unwarranted.

The conservation area streets, lanes and byways can be characterised as follows:

- QUS Quality Urban Street - Predominantly urban - high quality
- QRS Quality Rural Street - Predominantly rural - high quality
- QMS Quality Mixed Street - Mixed walls and vegetation - high quality

In all these cases the majority of boundary features will be important to the character of the conservation area and should be retained and maintained wherever possible. Proposals to introduce "alien" materials, features or plants will be discouraged. The removal of inappropriate boundaries and replacement with boundaries in keeping with the conservation area character will be encouraged.

All streets not marked as QUS, QRS or QMS are considered to be either of medium or low quality where inappropriate boundary features dominate. In these streets the retention of appropriate boundaries will be encouraged whilst the introduction of new boundaries in keeping with the generally urban, rural or mixed characteristics of the street scene will be encouraged. Generally, the types of boundaries predominating in the quality streets referred to above should be looked to as a guide to the most desirable types of boundary if the conservation area character is to be maintained or enhanced.

These street characteristics are indicated on the street character map in the appraisal plan and should be referred to when considering any proposals to property boundaries.

Recommendations

CA08/6 Property owners should be aware of the predominant character of their street, lane or byway (Urban, Rural or Mixed) and should replicate this character when undertaking any alterations to boundary treatments. Where 'Mixed' streets are concerned, each boundary will be assessed on a case by case basis.

CA08/7 The Council will seek to ensure that any new boundary treatments preserve or enhance the character of the conservation area.

CA08/8 The council will apply national rules and regulations to any alterations to boundary treatments. Property and land owners will therefore need permission to:

- demolish any gate, wall, fence or railing over 1m high in front of a Roadway, Public Footpath or Bridleway or over 2m high elsewhere (PPG15, 1994, GPDO, 1995);
- remove most countryside hedgerows (see The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 for more information).

9.3 Neutral Areas

The buildings and features on the Townscape Appraisal that have not been marked as 'positive' or 'negative' (left blank) are classed as being neutral and their omission should not be taken to imply that they are of no interest or importance. It may therefore be preferable to retain neutral buildings and features. In some instances however, neutral buildings and features may provide opportunities for enhancement that is in-keeping with the positive areas illustrated and described in the appraisal.

Recommendations

CA08/9 The Council will seek to ensure that 'neutral' buildings and features, whether retained or redeveloped, continue to preserve or enhance the character of the conservation area.

9.4 Development Pressures

The areas coloured green in the Townscape Appraisal map are those gardens, fields, paddocks and parklands which have a positive impact on views from the public domain, such as public footpaths, village roads and lanes.

These areas are critically important to the setting of the conservation area and they help to define its special character. Many of these areas are included in the revised boundary of the conservation area (revised in August 2006). Those areas that fall outside of the revised conservation area are likely to be protected from any development that would have a negative impact on the conservation area (see Policy CA15/11 and Policy CA15/12 below).

This Management Plan does not intend to prevent all development. Any development plans, whether large or small, should take into account the policies below, in addition to any other relevant policies in this Management Plan and within the Rushcliffe Borough Non-Statutory Local Plan 2006 (see Appendix 3).

Recommendations

- CA08/12** The Council will seek to resist any development that threatens any positive buildings, open spaces, or views into or out of the conservation area and does not comply with the Rushcliffe Borough Non-Statutory Local Plan 2006 (Policy EN2 on Page 14 states that: 'there will be no loss of part or all of an open space which contributes to the character or appearance of the conservation area.'

9.5 Highways and Transportation

Speeding vehicles and large volumes of traffic are detrimental to the character of the conservation area and dangerous. Although solutions to these problems are beyond the remit of this Management Plan (Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible for most roads and highway lighting in East Leake and the Highways Agency is responsible for Trunk Roads/major A Roads) action on these issues would be supported.

Recommendations

- CA08/13** The Council will only be supportive of initiatives that minimise the negative impacts of traffic within the conservation area where specific attention is given to preserving the character of the conservation area (for example, the use of sensitive and discreet road signs and markings).
- CA08/14** Nottinghamshire County Council will be asked to consult Rushcliffe Borough Council on any highway and transportation related works that may have an impact on the conservation area (for example, road signs, road markings, road surfacing, new paving, kerbstones, traffic calming measures, public transport infrastructure, lighting columns).

9.6 Public Realm

An element of the public realm that makes a major contribution to the special character of the conservation area is the grass verges that line many of the roads and paths. In many instances, the absence of any kerbstones is a key factor in creating this special character. This feature of the conservation area can often come under threat from property owners who would like to create an area of hard-standing for off-street parking. Similarly, attractive front gardens of properties can be lost for the same reasons.

Grass verges can also be lost during road or pavement improvement schemes and kerbstones can be added to meet highway regulations. The loss of grass verges, and the cumulative effect that this has over time, can result in the gradual deterioration of the special character of a conservation area.

The quality and design of street surfaces and street furniture can also have a major impact on the character of the conservation area. Where historic or traditional street surfaces and street furniture have survived, these should be preserved and maintained. Any streets or public spaces in poor condition can have a negative impact on the conservation area and may need to be improved. Materials should be carefully selected to ensure that they complement and enhance the character of the conservation area.

Any surfaces, whether public or privately owned, that are in a severe state of disrepair and/or have a negative impact on the conservation area should be a priority for any improvement works.

The public footpaths and other rights of way within and adjacent to the conservation area play a vital role in allowing people to enjoy and experience the area. It is important that these paths are well maintained, clearly marked and made accessible.

Many of the other issues relating to the public realm (for example, walls, fences, hedges) are covered within section 9.2 Boundary Treatments.

Recommendations

CA08/15

The Council will seek to ensure that the principles of good street and public realm design [such as those set out in *Streets for All: East Midlands* (English Heritage, 2005), *By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System: Towards Better Practice* (DETR/CABE, 2000) and *Manual for Streets* (DfT, 2007)] are applied to all streets and public spaces within the conservation area. Particular attention should be given to the specific features that create the special character of the conservation area.

9.7 Trees

Trees make an important contribution to the street scene and, in many instances, are a key factor in creating the special character of the conservation area. The Townscape Appraisal map illustrates both individual and groups of trees that are particularly important to the conservation area.

Important amenity trees and woodlands can be protected by tree preservation orders, this means the local planning authority's consent must be obtained before they can be cut down, topped or lopped. In conservation areas there is a duty to give the local planning authority 6 weeks notice of any proposed work to a tree. This period allows the local authority to assess the trees and either make a tree preservation order to prevent the work taking place or allow

the work to proceed. There are some exceptions from the need to notify, these include where the tree is dead, dying or dangerous or where the trunk is less than 75mm diameter at 1.5m above ground level (see Appendix 4, Rushcliffe Borough Council tree leaflet No. 6 and PPG 15 for more details).

Despite this protection, damage can still be caused to trees. A common problem involves root systems being severed or compacted during building works. Property owners should try to minimise damage to root systems. The council will continue to ensure that trees are appropriately protected during major building works.

In many instances, the planting of new trees or groups of trees, would enhance the character of the conservation area. The Council would be keen to provide guidance on this, particularly where new trees are within or are visible from the public realm. There is also a grant available from Rushcliffe Borough Council for such schemes (Parish Tree and Landscape Grant – see Appendix 2).

Recommendations

CA08/16

The council will assess each notification to cut down, top or lop a tree or group of trees in accordance with national policy (PPG 15, Paragraphs 4.38, to 4.40) and will seek to ensure that trees or groups of trees (particularly those marked on the Townscape Appraisal map) continue to make a positive contribution to the character of the conservation area and receive a suitable level of protection during major building works.

9.8 Buildings at risk

It is possible that important buildings within the village could be left vacant for long periods of time. If this occurs, these buildings could be ‘at risk’ of neglect or decay.

In this situation, it would benefit both the physical form and the function of the conservation area if these buildings were repaired, maintained and, ideally, put into use.

Although none of the buildings in the Conservation Area are listed on the Buildings at Risk Register, (a record of listed buildings at risk through neglect or decay), it is possible that a number of structures could still potentially be ‘at risk’ or become ‘at risk’ in the future.

In repairing and renovating the older buildings within the conservation area, considerable care and attention should be given to the historic use of the building. Retaining original features is a way of documenting the historic function of a building and educating current and future generations about life in East Leake during that particular period in British history.

Listed buildings receive a greater level of protection and owners are required by law to ensure that structures do not fall into a state of disrepair and should follow advice given in PPG 15 (1994).

Recommendations

CA08/17

The Council will encourage owners of properties with a positive impact on the conservation area (see Townscape Appraisal map) that are in need of renovation or repair to ensure that, at the very least, the structure receives the

basic maintenance work required to make the building structurally sound and weather tight. The Council will be particularly supportive of renovation and repair work that is sensitive to the original or traditional historic character of the building and that retains original features.

CA08/18

The Council will monitor the condition of all buildings that make a positive contribution to the character of the conservation area and will report findings, and take action, as necessary. Where the condition of a building gives cause for concern, appropriate steps will be taken to secure the future of the building, including the use of statutory powers (such as Urgent Works and Repairs Notices and Section 215 Notices - see references section).

CA08/19

The Council will continue to monitor the condition of listed buildings and update the Buildings at Risk Register (managed by Nottinghamshire County Council).

9.9 Resources

There are a number of grants that may be able to assist with the renovation and repair of older buildings. Projects that benefit the community are particularly eligible for this funding (see Appendix 2).

Rushcliffe Borough Council also provides small grants for environmental improvement schemes and landscape and tree planting schemes (Appendix 2).

9.10 The role of the community

One of the aims of this appraisal and management plan is to encourage residents to take an interest in preserving and enhancing the special character of the village. It is hoped that this will encourage residents to develop their property and land in a way that is in-keeping with local styles and characteristics. This is particularly important for smaller developments that do not require planning permission, such as small extensions and replacement windows and doors.

The local community can also make valuable contributions to conservation issues within the village through their involvement in Parish Plans and Village Design Statements.

It may also be possible to set up a specific residents' conservation group or conservation advisory committee. This would be particularly effective in ensuring that the management of the conservation area becomes a dynamic and proactive process and that any issues are raised as and when they occur.

9.11 Integration with the Parish Plan and future plans for the village

It is likely that the East Leake Parish Plan produced in 2004 will be completely updated and revised in 2008/9. It is hoped that the new Parish Plan takes this appraisal and management plan into consideration. It is also of vital importance that the views of the Parish Council and residents of East Leake are represented within this plan.

Rushcliffe Borough Council therefore encourages feedback on this appraisal and management plan during the six week consultation period (30th January to 12th March 2008). This should ensure that the East Leake Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and the newly revised East Leake Parish Plan are working towards the same aims and objectives and any conflicting policies are avoided.

Rushcliffe Borough Council is keen to ensure that this partnership working continues and that all relevant organisations work together and communicate as effectively as possible. Suggestions have been made in section 9.10 about the ways in which the residents of East Leake can work more closely with the Borough Council on conservation issues.

9.12 Monitoring and Review

English Heritage recommends that this document should be reviewed every five years from the date of its formal adoption. It will need to be assessed in the light of the Local Development Framework and government policy and best practice guidance. Any review should include the following:

- A survey of the conservation area;
- An assessment of whether the recommendations within this document have been acted upon, and how successful this has been;
- The identification of any new issues that need to be addressed;
- Publicity and advertising.

It is possible that this review could be carried out by residents and/or members of a residents' conservation group or conservation advisory committee under the guidance of the Borough Council. This would enable the local community to become more involved with the process and would raise public awareness of conservation issues.

Appendix 1 - Consultations

In 2004, East Leake Local History Group and East Leake Parish Council produced a report that highlighted the areas of the village that had special character and were not already in the Conservation Area. This was taken into consideration when producing this appraisal and management plan.

East Leake Parish Council and residents of the village were consulted on the proposed boundary changes at a series of public exhibitions held in June 2006. The proposed boundary changes were largely supported and on 18th August 2006, the new boundary came into force.

On Wednesday 30th January 2008, the draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan was displayed at a public exhibition. A six week consultation period followed this exhibition.

After the publication of this document, it is hoped that community involvement and support for conservation will continue (see section 9.10).

Appendix 2 - Funding and grants

English Heritage – <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk>

Largely to fund grants for nationally important projects.

Heritage Lottery Fund - www.hlf.org.uk

- Your Heritage (£5,000 to £50,000)

Projects should involve people in activities which help them learn more about their own or other people's heritage. For example, your project might include opportunities for direct and active learning by members of the community, or provide information and resources which enable people to have better understanding of heritage.

Projects should aim to get more people involved, especially disadvantaged groups and those who have not been involved in heritage before.

- Awards for All (£300 and £10,000)

Example projects include: An exhibition and trail walk featuring buildings of local historical interest, sharing the experiences of older people within the community with young people, explaining their history in the form of a book or mural; creating a community wildlife garden; introducing people to alternative cultures through participation in storytelling and drama; improving a village hall to provide better facilities for all members of the community; an historic event illustrating various periods of history and the rich cultural heritage of a community; involving more people in a community event.

The Grant could be spent on: Publicity materials; venue hire; computers; research costs; transport costs; volunteers' expenses; updating equipment for health and safety reasons; refurbishment; training sessional staff; fees to hire equipment; educational toys and games.

Architectural Heritage Fund - www.ffhb.org.uk

A comprehensive guide to funding for anyone seeking to repair, restore or convert for a new use any historic building in England and Wales. It includes details of virtually all substantive funding sources which specialise in historic buildings, as well as many which provide funding for historic building projects within a wider remit.

Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) - www.wren.org.uk

WREN can fund a wide range of projects under Objects D/DA and E of the Landfill Communities Fund. Funding of between £2,000 and £50,000 is available for the following types of projects:

The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other public amenity in the vicinity of a landfill site; the delivery of biodiversity conservation for UK species or habitats; the maintenance, repair or restoration of a building or other structure, which is a place of religious worship or of historic or architectural interest.

Nottinghamshire County Council (Building Better Communities) -
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/environment/bbc.htm>

The Building Better Communities (BBC) initiative was launched by the County Council during 2004 aimed at improving the environment across the County. To date around 500 improvement schemes have been carried out, many of them in the most deprived areas of Nottinghamshire.

Rushcliffe Borough Council

Small environmental improvement schemes – The areas of the Borough with the greatest need for environmental improvements may be able to receive a small grant.

Parish tree and landscape grant - annual grants for small landscape schemes and tree planting.

Appendix 3 – Rushcliffe Borough Non-Statutory Local Plan 2006

See the complete document for a more detailed description of the policies below (see references section).

EN2 – CONSERVATION AREAS

PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING CHANGES OF USE AND ALTERATIONS OR EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS WITHIN A DESIGNATED CONSERVATION AREA, OR OUTSIDE OF BUT AFFECTING ITS SETTING, OR VIEWS INTO OR OUT OF THE CONSERVATION AREA WILL ONLY BE GRANTED WHERE:

- a) THE PROPOSAL WOULD PRESERVE OR ENHANCE THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA BY VIRTUE OF ITS USE, DESIGN, SCALE, SITING AND MATERIALS;
- b) THERE WILL BE NO ADVERSE IMPACT UPON THE FORM OF THE CONSERVATION AREA, INCLUDING ITS OPEN SPACES (INCLUDING GARDENS), THE POSITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND NOTABLE FEATURES SUCH AS GROUPS OF TREES, WALLS AND OTHER STRUCTURES; AND

THERE WILL BE NO LOSS OF PART OR ALL OF AN OPEN SPACE WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA.

EN3 – DEMOLITION IN CONSERVATION AREAS

WHERE PLANNING PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH INCLUDES THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS IT WILL ONLY BE GRANTED WHERE THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT DETRIMENTALLY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF THE AREA, AND ANY PERMISSION MAY BE CONDITIONAL ON REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE SITE BEING APPROVED, AND CONTRACTS FOR THEM ACCEPTED, BEFORE DEMOLITION IS BEGUN.

EN4 – LISTED BUILDINGS

PLANNING PERMISSION FOR EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO, AND CONVERSIONS OF LISTED BUILDINGS, WILL ONLY BE GRANTED WHERE:

- a) IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT THE FEATURES OF ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST WILL BE PRESERVED;
- b) THE PROPOSALS RESPECT THE CHARACTER OF THE BUILDING BY VIRTUE OF THEIR DESIGN, SCALE, SITING AND MATERIALS AND THAT ADDITIONS DO NOT DETRACT FROM ITS ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC CHARACTER.

PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING, WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED WHERE THEY ARE ACCEPTABLE IN TERMS OF SCALE, MASSING, FORM, SITING, DESIGN AND MATERIALS.

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES OF USE OF A LISTED BUILDING WILL BE TREATED SYMPATHETICALLY WHERE THIS WOULD RESULT IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST OF THE BUILDING AND ITS SETTING.

EN5 – DEMOLITION AND LISTED BUILDINGS

PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH INCLUDES THE TOTAL OR SUBSTANTIAL DEMOLITION OF A LISTED BUILDING WILL NOT BE GRANTED UNLESS:

- a) THERE IS CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT ALL REASONABLE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO SUSTAIN THE EXISTING USE OR FIND A VIABLE NEW USE; OR
- b) THE BUILDING IS BEYOND REASONABLE REPAIR IN RELATION TO ITS IMPORTANCE; OR
- c) IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT THERE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS FOR THE COMMUNITY TO OUTWEIGH THE LOSS RESULTING FROM DEMOLITION.

PERMISSION WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD DESTROY OR DETRIMENTALLY AFFECT SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS OR THEIR SETTINGS.

EN7 - SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING SITES OF KNOWN OR SUSPECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED WHERE:

- a) THERE IS A NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH OUTWEIGHS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OR ITS SETTING;
- b) THE PROPOSAL IS SUPPORTED BY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION OF THE SITE; AND
- c) THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT DAMAGE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS WHERE THESE CAN BE PRESERVED IN SITU.

WHERE PRESERVATION IN SITU IS NOT FEASIBLE OR JUSTIFIED, A PROGRAMME OF PRESERVATION BY SURVEYING, EXCAVATION AND RECORDING OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS WILL BE REQUIRED (THROUGH THE USE OF PLANNING CONDITIONS).

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