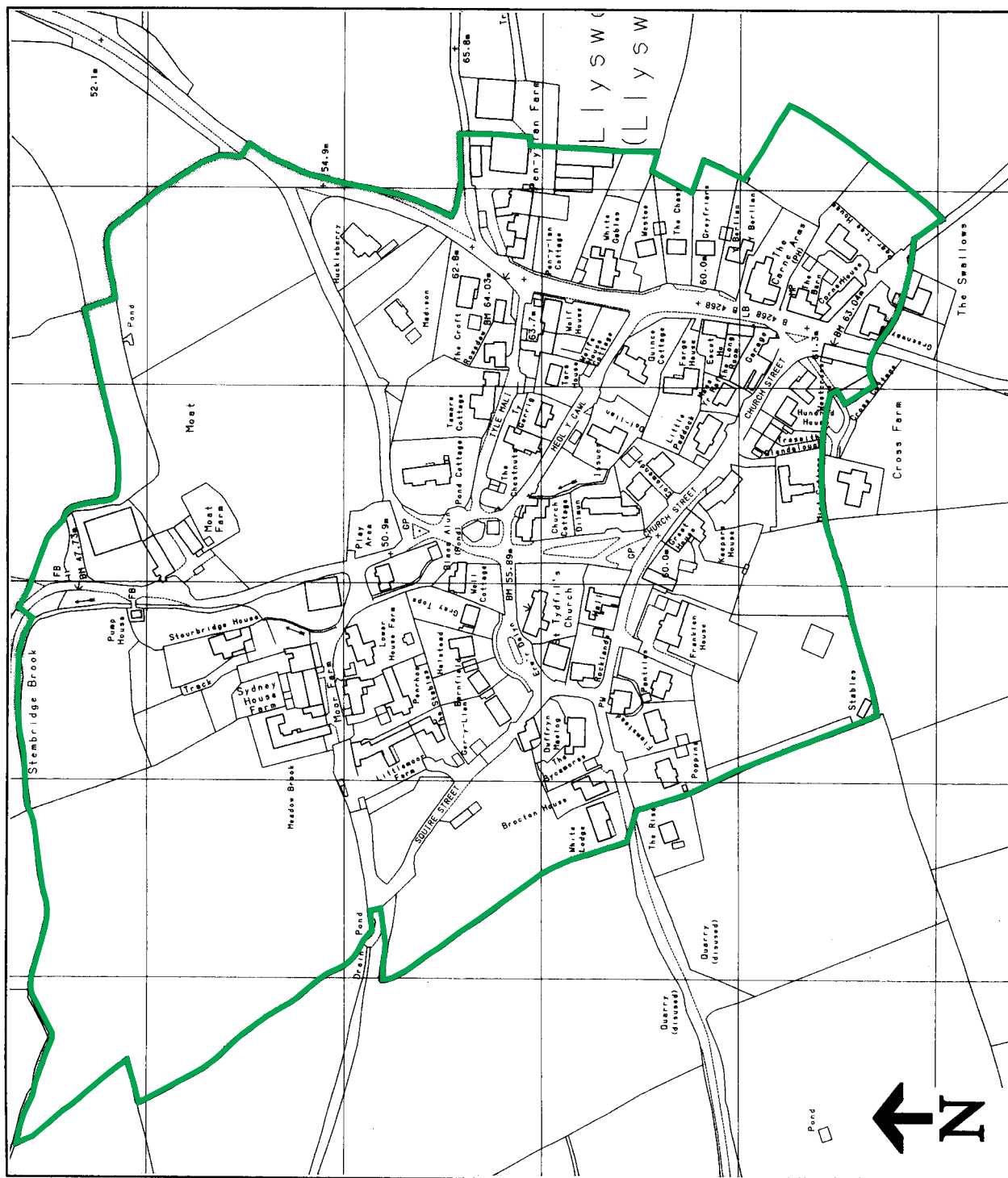


LLYSWORNEY CONSERVATION AREA



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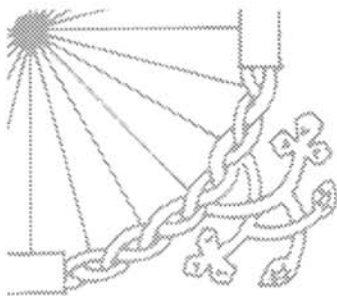
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT

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Llysworney Conservation Area Appraisal

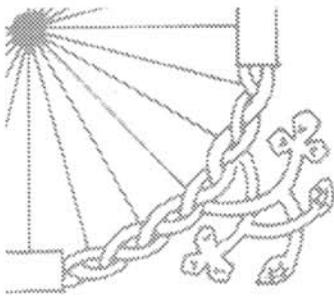


Llysworney Conservation Area Appraisal

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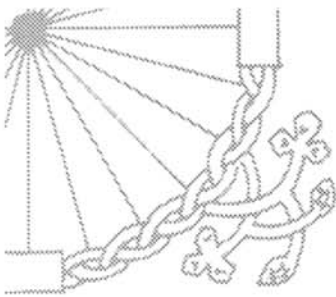
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Contents

	<i>Page</i>
INTRODUCTION	1
THE CHARACTER OF THE CONSERVATION AREA	3
2.1 The origins of the village	
2.2 Landscape and trees	
2.3 Architecture and built form	
2.4 Change in the village	
2.5 The planning context	
2.6 The boundary of the Conservation Area	
PROPOSALS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE CONSERVATION AREA	7
3.2 Landscape and trees	
3.3 Highways guidelines	
3.4 Important open areas	
3.5 Architecture and built form	
3.6 Design in the Conservation Area	
3.7 The boundary of the Conservation Area	
CONCLUSIONS	11
APPENDIX	13
1.1 A sensitive development test	
1.2 Guidance on repair and alteration	
1.3 Where to get more advice or information	
PLANS	
Llsworney Conservation Area; Plan 1: Boundary	2
Llsworney Conservation Area; Plan 2: Townscape Appraisal	6



Introduction

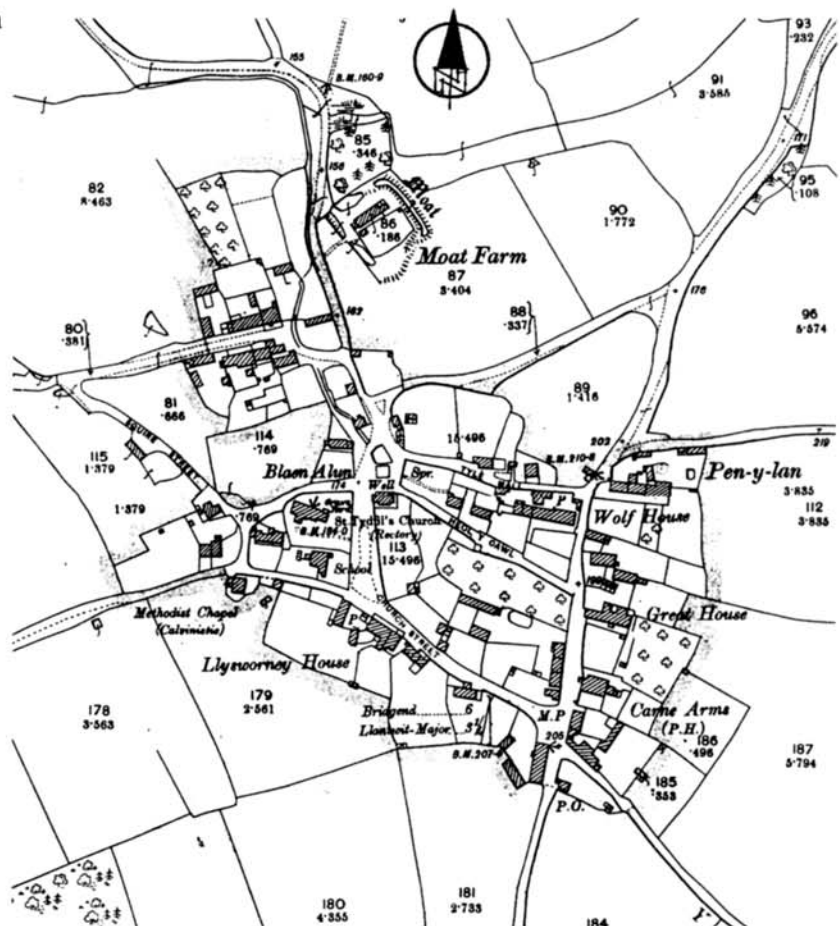
1.1 Llysworney is a substantial village situated about two miles to the west of Cowbridge within the Community of Llandow in the Vale of Glamorgan.

1.2 In 1971 parts of the village were designated as a Conservation Area. Since then, many changes in the village have taken place and its character and appearance has changed as a result. This document assesses the effect of that change as part of a continuing programme of appraisal and review in all the Council's Conservation Areas in the Vale. The work supports requirements set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and following local consultation, sets out an agreed statement on the character of the Conservation Area, and policies for its enhancement and protection. The policies were adopted on 27 May 1999.

In summary, the appraisal seeks:

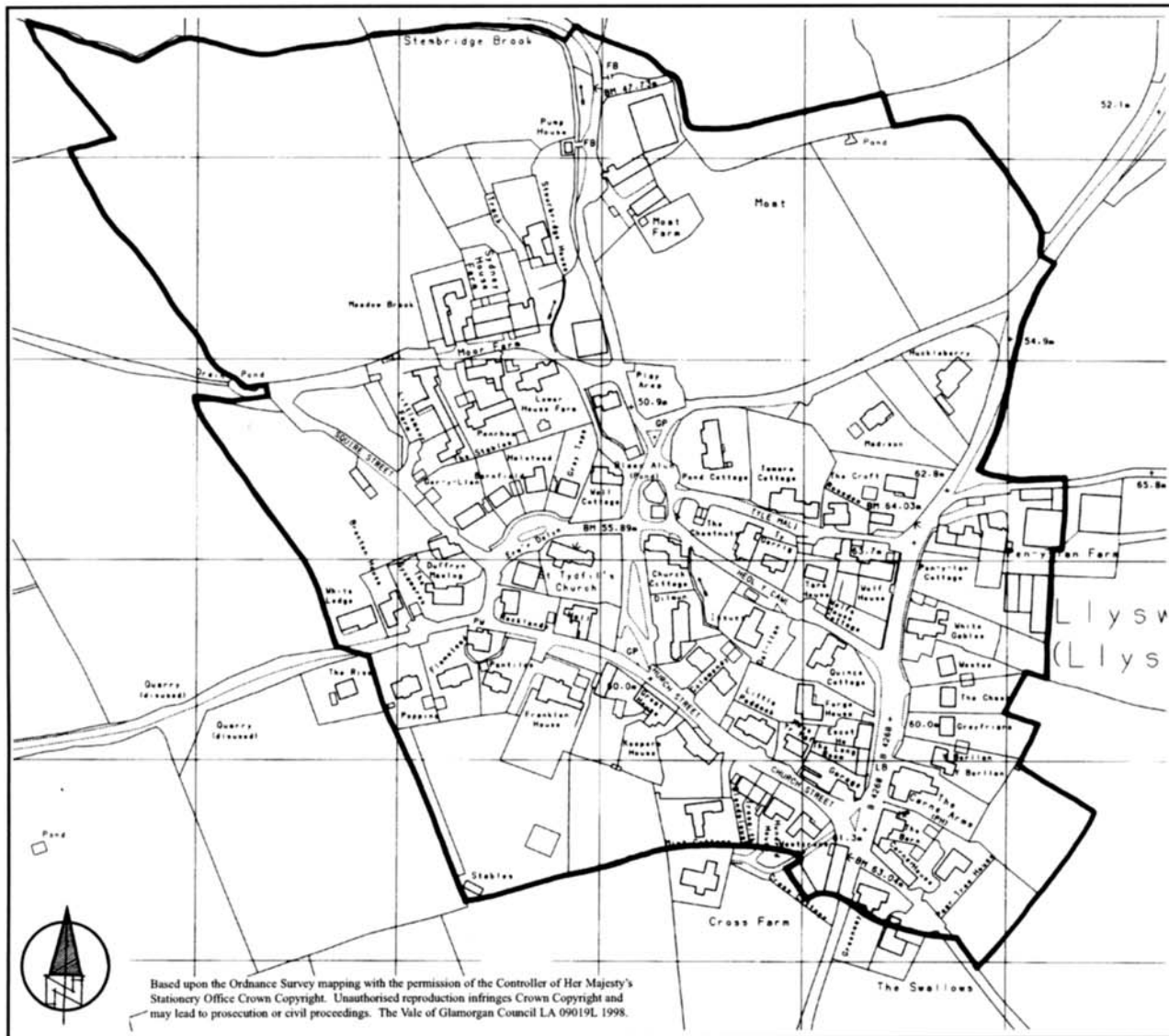
- To assess the elements of the village's character from which policies for conservation and enhancement may be produced,
- To provide direction and advice on the form and character of building and development in the future,
- To review the boundaries of the Conservation Area.

1.3 The appraisal is divided into three parts. The first is an assessment of the character of the Conservation Area. The second sets out policies for the enhancement and protection of that character and the third summarises the policy and provides the framework for linking it to the development plan and other advice published by the local authority.

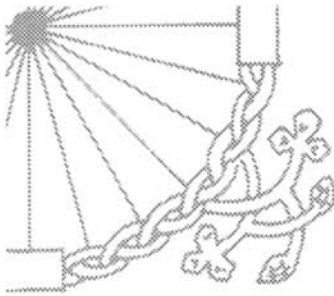


Reproduced from the 1899 Ordnance Survey Map. Not to scale.

Llysworney Conservation Area



Plan 1: Boundary
Not to scale



The Character of the Conservation Area

2.1 THE ORIGINS OF THE VILLAGE

2.1.1 The name Llysworney has developed from the earliest recorded entry for the village in 1248 as "Lisworni", a name derived from Llyswynydd, meaning Llys or Court of Gwynydd. During this period, the village was the administrative centre for the area lying to the west of Cowbridge, with the ecclesiastical centre based at Llantwit Major. Until the first world war this agricultural association with land, surrounding countryside, farms and cottages predominated, with houses located close to the village pound and spring. From 1940, the village grew substantially with houses growing around farm holdings, or within garden and orchard plots. Despite this, the village's layout has retained a close affinity with the early form of the settlement, with narrow lanes running from the main road, to the centre of the village and then radiating out into the rural hinterland beyond.

2.1.2 Since the 1960's planning policy has promoted a restrictive and selective approach to development within the village. This has limited the development of houses to infill sites within the settlement boundary defined by the Development Plan. The policy has dictated the present form of the village.

2.2 LANDSCAPE AND TREES

2.2.1 The village has developed over undulating land, with houses and roads sited on slopes looking north and west towards the church and village pound. This with the village pond set adjacent, acts as a focal point for the village and provides a valuable landscaped space from which roads and verge radiate into surrounding countryside. Within the Conservation Area, there are a number

of important trees, some of which are protected by Tree Preservation Orders. Much of the village's charm lies in the informal mix of ornamental tree varieties within gardens alongside mature indigenous species which survive as part of the former agricultural character of the village. The best and most impressive lie within the churchyard, where pines and ashes frame the church and adjoining housing groups.

2.2.2 The other notable group lies within the central verge which runs from church to the Great House. Here, three Scots pines have grown tall and bushy, providing a permanent swathe of greenery which runs through the centre of the village. Elsewhere, tree cover remains strong within garden areas and frames the entrance to the village from the north.

2.2.3 Hedges are well maintained throughout the village and often rise above the local limestone boundary walls. The village has retained much of its rural character through the presence and careful maintenance of the grass verges which lie adjacent to these walls and hedges. This type of enclosure has been continued successfully within contemporary housing developments, providing crisp boundaries and edges to both the informal lanes and busy main road.

2.2.4 The fields which lie around the village and form the outer limits to the Conservation Area are bounded by hedges of thorn and hazel. They mark the course of the Stembridge Brook to the north and frame the lanes and fields which radiate from the village pound at the centre of the Conservation Area.

2.2.5 The sloping terrain highlights the passage of water running through the village from the pound at the centre of the village to Stembridge Brook in the north. These open channels run alongside verges,

and with the garden areas lying behind, establish an attractive and verdant landscape. These leafy qualities can be seen at their best at the centre of the village.

2.3 ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT FORM

2.3.1 The village can be viewed as two areas possessing very different qualities. The first group comprises those houses which face the main road and whose orientation and form is determined by the passage of fast moving traffic along the B4268. The second comprises the gentler backwater of stone cottages and houses which are built around the church and village pound.

i) THE MAIN ROAD

The north/south route from Llantwit Major to Pentre Meyrick and the A48 is well established as an historic route, confirmed by the presence of the Carne Arms, the mileage post which stands outside, and a number of early houses and farm holdings. Wolfe House which stands within its own walled gardens displays early building forms, dating from the 16th century. So too do Penylan Farm and "Whitegables" which date from the mid 17th century. These older properties are constructed in stone, often rendered and finished in slate roofs. Gardens, orchards and holdings once evident on the 1890's maps and layout have now been replaced by contemporary housing, often set back from the busy main road. However, the stone 19th century terrace comprising the Garage, the Long Room and Escot still gives this part of the village its character as an early coaching route. Those buildings which remain important in setting the historic context of the village are shown on Plan 2.

ii) THE VILLAGE CENTRE

From the B4268, lanes run westwards towards the village centre. Each is bound by stone walls of varying height and condition, behind which a variety of cottages, bungalows and houses lie. All lanes converge at the village pond, where the historic built core of the village lies. This area is very attractive and is framed by well maintained stone walls and verges.

2.3.2 **Buildings of note** throughout the village are described briefly below:

a) Moat Farm:

A 17th Century farmhouse with a chimney backing onto the entry plan, with a stone stair at the side of the fireplace. Colour Washed, slate roof. It is one of the oldest farmhouses in the area, standing within a moat of a homestead site. A 17th Century coin hoard in a buckskin gauntlet was discovered in the thatch of this building in the 19th century. The site of Llysworney Moat lies adjacent. This was 13th century in origin, and consisted of a rectangular moated island with a counterscarp bank along its north east side which continued in line well beyond the moat to the south east. The island is slightly raised above the surrounding level.

b) Wolfe House:

A partly 17th century house with Georgian additions which has been modernised. The house is divided into two units, a former agricultural unit to the west (now converted), with the main house to the east. The main house has a symmetrical facade, moulded architraves, slate roof and porch.

c) Penylan Farm and Penylan Cottage:

A house of two periods with small 1700 cottage on the east, which has a large fireplace with winding stone stair at the side.

d) White Gables:

A 17th century house with a lobby entry and numerous later additions. The house has been modernised though still retains a stone stair at the side of the main fireplace.

e) Duffryn Maelog:

A 17th century single unit, gable entry house with a winding stone stair at the side of the fireplace.

f) Keeper's Cottage:

A small house of early 18th century date with simple rough external fenestration with traditional casement windows. The building has a lobby entrance plan, with small bakehouse added at the entry end.

g) Lower House & adjoining buildings:

A group of 19th century buildings, now converted but completing the compact group lying to the west of the pond.

h) Sydney House Farm:

A 19th century stone farmhouse with stone porch and chimneys with converted barn adjacent.

i) The Pound:

The village pound and pond served the local farming community, containing and watering stock.

j) Moor Farm:

A 17th century farm group. The 'lobby entry' farmhouse still retains some original timbers

k) Church Cottage:

A much altered 17th century cottage, occupying an important position at the centre of the village.

2.4 CHANGE IN THE VILLAGE

2.4.1 The designation of the village within the Development Plan as a settlement where the development of infill plots may take place, has led to the appearance of a compact building form. Most "gaps" have now been filled and the former loose knit assemblage of farm buildings has disappeared. Where development has taken place to the rear of garden walls, and with the benefit of substantial tree cover, the impact is not too great. In exposed locations, the association between new and old is not so successful. However, there have been some benefits to expansion within the village limits: the village remains lively, with activity and interest evident throughout the day. A lively approach to the maintenance and well-being of the village endures.

2.4.2 Opportunities for further development are now limited with remaining open areas sensitive to development. This appraisal identifies those open areas whose quality determines the character of the village and for which protective policies should apply. The appraisal also identifies open spaces within the public realm whose maintenance and enhancement remains important.

2.5 THE PLANNING CONTEXT

2.5.1 The Village is identified as one where residential development will be restricted to infilling only within the identified settlement boundary of the village. The settlement boundary of the village is illustrated on the Proposals map of the deposit draft of the UDP.

2.6 THE BOUNDARY OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

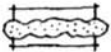
2.6.1 The boundary of the Conservation Area extends beyond the village bringing within the designated area, fields and hedges shown on O.S. plans from 1877. This provides a rural setting for the two historic farms -: Moat Farm and Sydney House. Though tree cover around both has gone, Moat Farm still retains its early form and layout.

2.6.2 The protection now afforded ancient hedgerows consolidates the original designation of these outlying farmholdings within the Conservation Area.

Llysworney Conservation Area



Wall



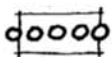
Hedge



Important trees/
tree groups



Listed buildings



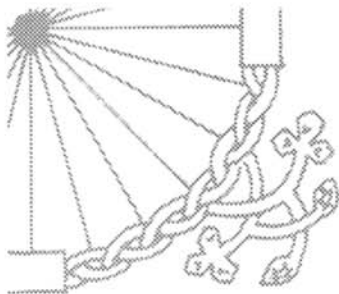
Key frontages on the
approaches to the village



Building of note

Plan 2: Townscape Appraisal

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Proposals for the Management and Enhancement of the Conservation Area

3.1 This section sets out proposals and policies which can enhance the character of the Conservation Area and the features described in Part 1. All seek to reflect the historic development of the village. Policies which will be taken into account in the determination of planning applications are underlined and should be read in parallel with Supplementary Planning Guidance prepared for village Conservation Areas in the rural Vale. A brief explanatory note is set out below each policy.

3.2 LANDSCAPE AND TREES

● **Proposals will provide for the care, maintenance and enhancement of trees and woodland areas within Conservation Areas.**

Development will give high priority to landscape design, to protect and enhance the external view of the village.

Support should be given to proposals which provide for the maintenance, care and enhancement of trees and woodland areas.

3.2.1 Mature trees play an important part in the character of the village. Whilst the Tree Preservation Order placed on the village in 1972 protects a number of trees, others within the village might be considered for protection including:

- *Trees at the junction of the B4268 and the village lane at the northern entrance to the village*
- *Trees within the central verge adjoining the church.*

3.2.2 Further tree planting could be established

in association with agreement from owners in the following areas:

- *to the south of Franklen House*
- *to the front of Pond Cottage*
- *to the north of Moat Farm*

3.2.3 A full survey of trees within the Conservation Area, including Tree Preservation Order (No. 7) 1972, could establish priorities for management.

● **Stone boundary walls, hedges and railings which enhance the character of the Conservation Area should be retained, maintained and repaired. Where necessary, new development should seek to follow these traditional boundary features.**

3.2.4 Fields and their boundaries which mark the entrance to the village are important because they provide vistas into and out of the settlement. Mature hedges and boundaries which surround the village should be protected.

● **To enhance the view of the village from without, new development will give a high priority to the treatment of boundaries and settlement edges.**

3.2.5 Plan 2 shows the important contribution stone walls make to the village by providing a sense of enclosure to building groups. Where possible, residents should be encouraged to maintain and retain stone boundary walls and hedges. Recommendations regarding the repair and choice of materials are set out in Supplementary Planning Guidance and in an Appendix to this report.

3.3 HIGHWAY GUIDELINES

- The Council will continue to bid for funding to construct the Llysworney By Pass.

Where highway improvements (including the Llysworney By Pass) are required, they should respect the character of the Conservation Area. Parking and access required by new development should be accommodated within developments, and respect existing road layouts and the character of open space and garden enclosures.

Important footpath links should be protected and enhanced through management and improved signage.

In replacement and repair, original local detail in the highway should be retained and repaired. Where due to cost and practicality, detail cannot be reinstated, replacement should be undertaken using sympathetic materials and fittings.

The Council and agents for development should seek to design road layouts and access ways with regard for the informal and loose-knit appearance of the village. In particular, highway design should seek to:

- Reduce traffic speeds along the B4268.
- Minimise the use of concrete kerbs and other urban elements.
- Encourage flexibility in the size and layout of access points and visibility splays.
- Encourage flexibility in the design and arrangement of parking to meet parking guidelines.

3.3.1 The way the traditional road pattern is now used by contemporary traffic and vehicle movement has led to profound changes in the character of the village. The Llysworney By Pass is an important scheme in environmental terms which will lead to a substantial enhancement to the Conservation Area once complete, by the removal of through traffic. The policies set out above seek to encourage a flexible approach towards a balance between

safe and efficient roads and the maintenance of the village's character.

3.4 IMPORTANT OPEN AREAS

- The development of open or woodland areas that contribute to the character of the Conservation Area will be opposed. To protect and enhance the built form of the village the following open spaces should be protected from development:

i) key frontages on the approaches to the village where the boundary walls, roadside verges and land behind, enhance the rural character of the village and the simple building forms at its centre. These are shown on plan 2 and are described below.

- a. The approach road from Pentre Meyrick
- b. The Quarry Road to the west
- c. Penylan Farm environs
- d. The hedge-bound road leading into the village from the south
- e. The Stembridge Brook, verge and hedgerow which bounds it

ii) open areas within gardens

There are four areas on the edge of the village whose character is important to the setting of the Conservation Area. These are:

- a. Land surrounding the Moat Farm complex
- b. Land to the west of Squire Street
- c. Land within the curtilage of Wolfe House
- d. Land to the south of Franklen House

iii) public open spaces within the village core.

These include the following informal open spaces:

- The village pound and pond.
- The Play Area.
- The Church Yard.
- The central verge running from Great House to the Village Pond.

3.4.1 The character of the Conservation Area is dependent upon the informal relationship formed by buildings spaces and groups of trees. Buildings are often interspersed with irregular garden and frontage areas, or enclosed by walls and hedging. In recent years, the character of the village has accommodated new development within many of these garden areas. The spaces identified within each of these categories frame building groups, and consolidate the quality and character of the village.

3.5 ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT FORM

• Buildings of Note:

The following buildings are recognised for the historic context they provide the village

- a. Moat Farm.
- b. Wolfe House.
- c. Penylan Farm and Penylan Cottage.
- d. White Gables.
- e. Duffryn Maelog.
- f. Keeper's Cottage.
- g. Lower House.
- h. Sydney House Farm.
- i. The Pound.
- j. Moor Farm.
- k. Church Cottage.

3.3.1 There are a number of important buildings in the village, whose age and character add to the quality of the village. Whilst these have not been included in the schedule of buildings of architectural or historic interest in the recent resurvey of the community area; they are of value to the character of the Conservation Area. These are identified above to enable any proposals for development or alteration to be fully assessed.

3.3.2 Listed buildings continue to enjoy the protection afforded by the legislation within the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. These are:

The mileage post outside the Carne Arms.
The School House.
The Ebenezer Particular Baptist's Chapel.
The Church of St. Tydfil.
The Great House.
The Sheep Washery.

• Built Form:

Significant views into and out of the village Conservation Area should be protected and enhanced where opportunities arise.

Distinctive roof patterns, ridgelines, and landmark buildings or features will be protected and enhanced where opportunities arise.

Materials must be appropriate to the locality and sympathetic to the existing buildings in the Conservation Area.

The layout and design of new development should acknowledge the context provided by the village. To demonstrate how this has been achieved, developers should also provide three dimensional plans or drawings to show how new development will respect its setting.

Where a proposal for the demolition of a building within a Conservation Area is to be followed by the redevelopment of a site, Conservation Area consent will only be granted where full planning permission has been previously or concurrently given for the replacement building.

The policies set out above encourage an early appraisal of village form in any proposal for development.

3.6 DESIGN IN THE CONSERVATION AREA

Proposals for new development in the Conservation Area should take account of the design principles set out within supplementary guidance prepared for Conservation Areas in the rural Vale:

Context of the site: Take account of the wider setting of the site.

Recycle old buildings: When considering a site, the sensitive conversion of existing buildings should be a priority.

Preserve and enhance the character of the Conservation Area: Reflect the character of the surrounding buildings and open spaces, but avoid mimicking architectural styles and creating pastiche buildings that undermine the character of the Conservation Area.

Materials and Details: Use high quality, durable materials. These should complement surrounding buildings and landscape and pay attention to detailing as an integral part of the design.

Sustainability: Create buildings and open spaces which are adaptable, minimising the need for change in the village.

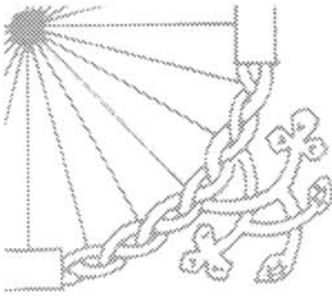
Scale: Design and orientate new development so that it reflects the scale and layout of the village.

3.6.1 The compact arrangement of buildings in the village makes their sympathetic alteration and extension especially important. Development proposals will be assessed against a set of design principles which has been prepared for Conservation Areas in the Rural Vale. These are set out as 'Supplementary Planning Guidance' in support of the emerging Unitary Development Plan. The policy will not discourage contemporary design but seek to promote an approach to building which is sensitive to its historic context and setting.

3.6.2 The guidance stresses that the careful selection of sympathetic materials for renovation and repair can also maintain buildings and enhance the character of the Conservation Area. Wherever feasible, a conservative repair technique is encouraged and promoted. An appendix to this document provides further advice on how the choice of materials and building technique can enhance the character of the Conservation Area.

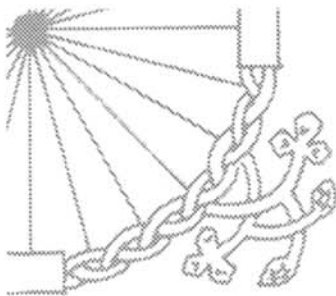
3.7 THE BOUNDARY OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

3.7.1 Although the appraisal offers scope for the review of the Conservation Area boundary, no recommendations for change are made. The inclusion of both the village and the landscape within which it is set provides protection for the rural quality of the village.



Conclusions

4.1 The policies within this document have been adopted following public consultation on the findings of the appraisal and the inclusion of local contributions to its consent and the proposals put forward for the management of the Conservation Area.



Appendix

1.1 A SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENT TEST

1.1.1 To see whether these principles have been met, consider the following:

i) Are there original, traditional buildings that should be used or restored within the site?

To minimize disruption to the character of the Conservation Area, priority should be placed on re-using existing buildings.

ii) Does the development fit into the fabric of the locality; the plots, building groups, roads and open spaces?

These components form the basis of the Conservation Area and reveal the historical development of the site and its setting.

iii) Does the development reflect the scale of building in the Conservation Area?

The development and its various parts should sit easily within the Conservation Area.

iv) Do the materials used in the development reflect those which are prevalent in the Conservation Area?

The range of traditional or natural building materials in the Vale of Glamorgan rural Conservation Areas is diverse. New development should use natural materials, or those which can complement their simple and organic qualities. The use of foreign stone should be avoided.

The St. Hilary Conservation Area. Many buildings show materials and decorations which are typical of the local building tradition.

1.2 GUIDANCE ON REPAIR AND ALTERATION

1.2.1 This section provides advice on how to protect the Conservation Area by the repair and enhancement of some of the original and historic features which form an area's special character.

Alterations and Extensions to Buildings in a Conservation Area

1.2.2 The character which justifies the designation of a conservation area can easily be damaged by the cumulative impact of minor alterations to buildings forming the historic core of many of the Vale's village conservation areas. This can include the replacement of windows, doors and roofing materials or the addition of domestic extensions.



1.2.3 The following notes set out some simple advice on how to approach the repair of old buildings in the village. A planning officer can advise on the need for planning permission. Where consent is required, it is advisable to discuss proposals with a planning officer before the submission of an application. Work which alters a Listed Building will usually require Listed Building Consent. Again it is advisable to seek advice before preparing plans or undertaking work.

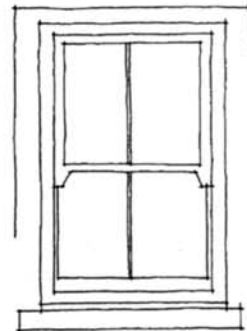
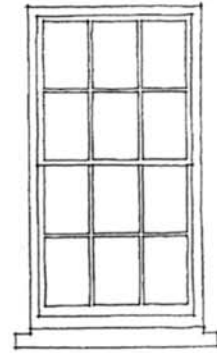
1.2.4 In all work, the key to a successful repair is to understand and respond to the local building tradition.

Windows

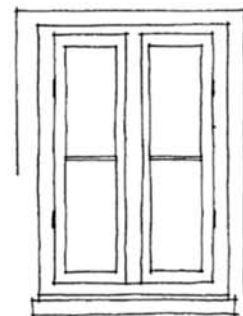
1.2.5 It is often the simple arrangement of door and window openings in the building face which account for their quality. The replacement of an original set of windows in a house or cottage can often damage the look of a house, or the overall effect of a terrace or group of houses. Where repairs are undertaken, original window patterns should be followed and modern materials avoided.

1.2.6 In replacement, multi divided and asymmetrical frames should be avoided, so should modern materials such as UPVC, or stained hardwoods, if they cannot reflect the simple qualities described above.

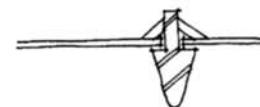
1.2.7 It is often possible to have original windows overhauled, rather than replaced. If a window does need to be replaced, there are local joiners who can make a replica. Grant aid may be available through the Vale's Historic Building Grant Programme. A planning officer can advise you on how to approach repair and the feasibility of grant aid.



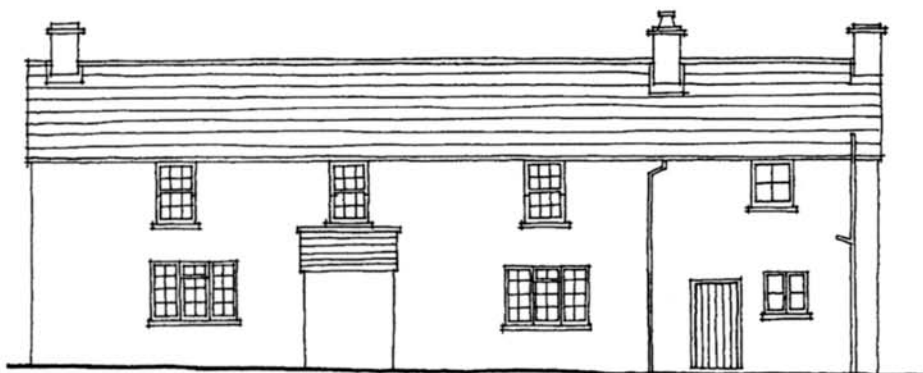
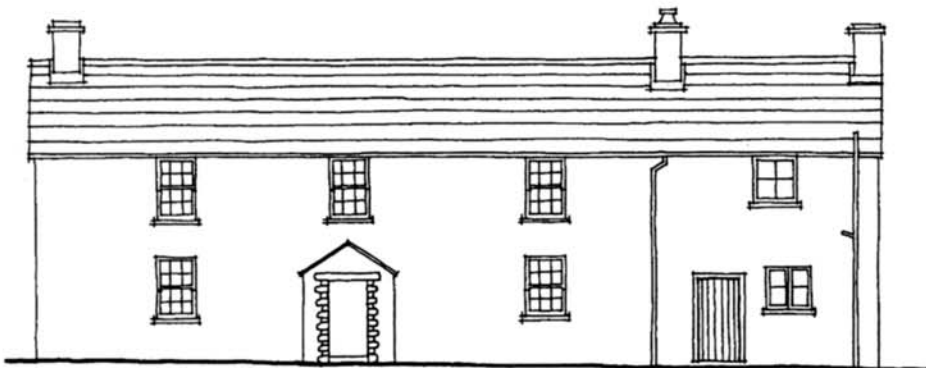
Victorian windows continue the vertical emphasis of the Georgian window openings



This is a traditional design often used in cottages



Fine glazing bars can reflect daylight

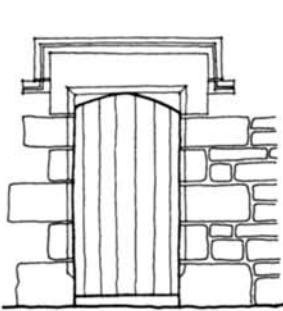


The removal and replacement of original windows can upset the balance of a house

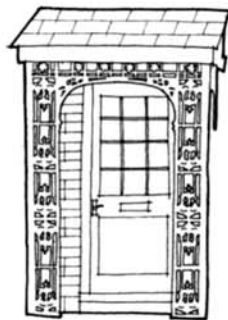
Doors

1.2.8 Simple timber panelled doors with a limited area of glazing remain appropriate for most houses in villages within the Vale of Glamorgan. Doors which mimic materials from different periods should be avoided as should modern materials such as UPVC.

1.2.9 The same principles apply to garage or garden gates or doors. Each should reflect the proportions and simple architectural details used on the main building. Horizontal boarding and panelling should be avoided.



An early door surround with stone drip mould



Decorative porches are a common feature of 19th century village houses

Roofs

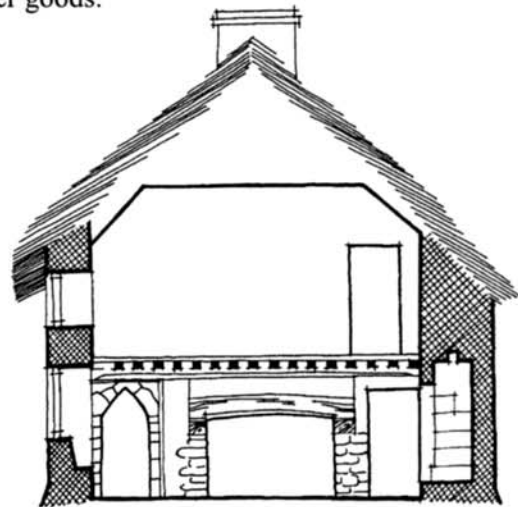
1.2.10 Thatch was once a common roof covering in the Vale, but is now largely replaced with slate. Where thatch does remain, it should be protected and maintained by craftsmen with skills in handling the appropriate material. Within the Vale this could be either reed or long wheat straw. It is important that historic thatching, original details and supporting roof structure are retained in the repair and renewal of roofs.

1.2.11 Natural Welsh slate is now the most common roofing finish and in many cases was used to replace thatching to older buildings in the late 19th century. On listed buildings, it is required that natural slate laid to the same detail is used as a replacement finish in any repair. It is recommended that contractors with experience in laying natural slate are employed.

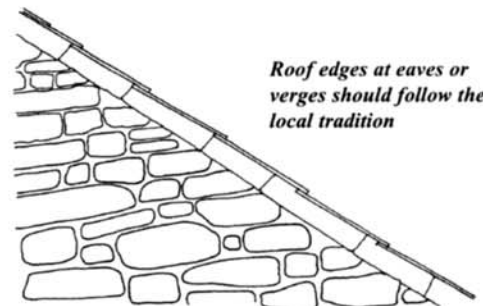
1.2.12 On unlisted buildings in conservation areas, natural slate can often be a viable alternative to imitation slate. The latter can alter the appearance of an historic building in subtle but damaging ways. However, some artificial slates are manufactured with rougher edges and minor surface texturing. These may act as an acceptable visual alternative.

1.2.13 Pennant stone slates are exhibited on the more important larger domestic buildings as well as on farm buildings. It is an increasingly rare local detail which should be retained and repaired whenever possible. Stone slate is always laid in diminishing courses from eaves to ridge.

1.2.14 When roofs are replaced, traditional details should be recorded and replaced in the same way. Roof edges (at eaves or verges) should follow the local tradition. Often roof slates will overhang the gable end of the wall, with vertical slates set under to protect the end rafter. Timber bargeboards and fascias should follow the original size and profile as should the materials and design of replacement rain water goods.



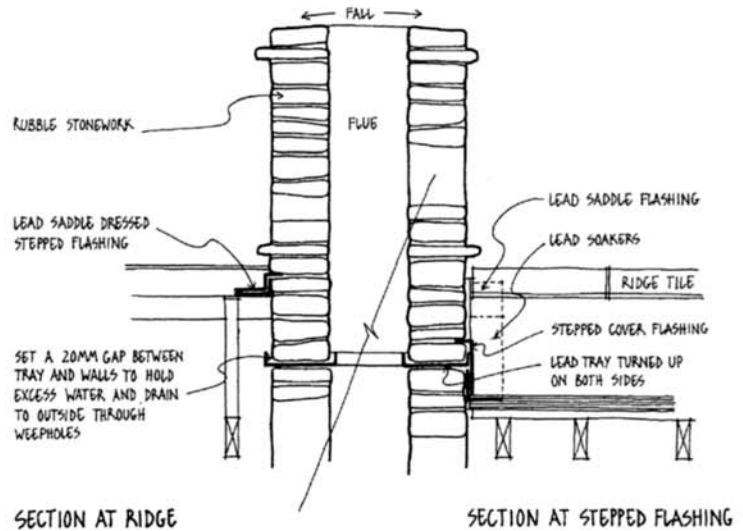
The Bush Inn, St. Hilary. This section shows a thatch roof together with important internal features



Roof edges at eaves or verges should follow the local tradition

Chimneys

1.2.15 Stone chimneys in old houses are an important part of the architecture and often provide clues to the age of a house. In the Vale of Glamorgan, there are many open hearths in houses constructed from the 16th Century onwards, whose large chimneys are often fine examples of local stonework. In repair, such stonework often simply requires repointing. The method and mortar mix should always match the original finish. When a chimney does need to be rebuilt, it should be recorded by drawings and photographs and rebuilt in replica, reusing any sound old materials for the external face. Even when a flue is redundant, clay pots should be retained.



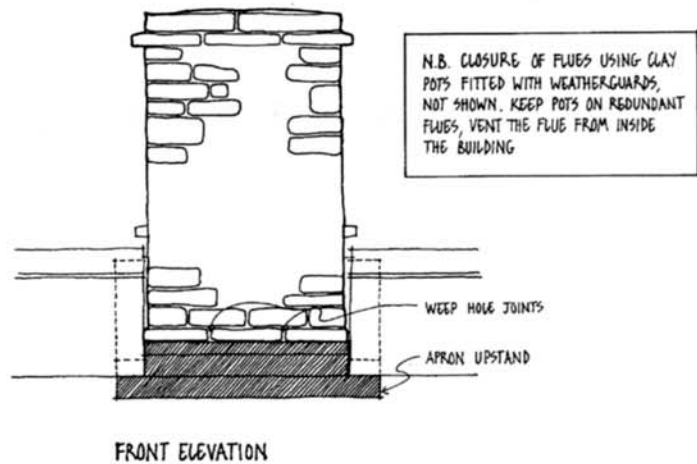
Stonework/ Wall Finishes

1.2.16 Local limestone is the traditional building material in the rural Vale. Its mellow cream and grey tones are found on boundary walls, farms and domestic buildings in most villages and give each a close affinity with their landscaped setting.

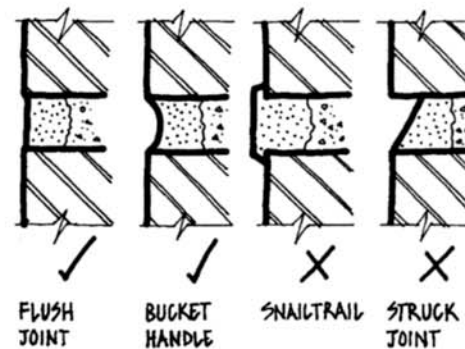
1.2.17 The stone is often roughly squared, laid in random rubble courses and was normally finished with a protective limewash. The size, colour and shape of stone varies according to local source, and the age and importance of the building it forms.

1.2.18 The local stone is rarely used for dressings in and around windows/doors. In the best architecture of the 16th and 17th century, local Sutton and Quarella sandstones are used in dressings. From the 19th century, bathstone and local brickwork was used for this purpose. It is important that historic stonework is correctly repaired and replaced. It is essential that existing stone is repointed in a manner which is appropriate to the original building method. The use of lime putty based mortars is recommended, as the introduction of dense, cement based mixes will cause problems of moisture retention in traditional stone walling.

1.2.19 The actual repointing technique is also important. On original stone work, repointing



may be recessed, or lie flush with the stone, and this pattern should be followed for new work. "Snailtrail" repointing, or repointing that stands proud of the stone should be avoided.



Repointing on old buildings

1.2.20 A white limewash applied regularly to stone walling is a traditional method of maintaining and protecting local stone.

1.2.21 Attention should be paid to stone work patterns used on extensions. Random rubble limestone walling is frequently used on original buildings in the village. New stone work should be laid in similar patterns, with free stone or brick dressings set around doors and windows where appropriate. A painted smooth lime based render is an alternative.

Walls and Enclosures

1.2.22 Boundary walls should be regarded as an extension of the building they protect. They define ownership, provide privacy and protection from wind and rain. Most importantly, walls define space. New walls should seek to fulfil the same objectives. Natural stone walls define the character of each village and should be repaired and retained where possible. Grant aid may be



Gate and pillar, Great House, Llanmaes



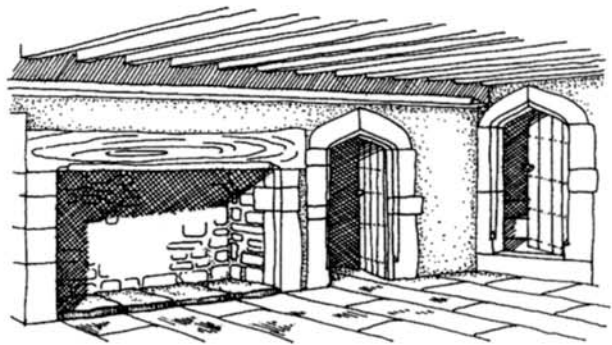
Boundary walls in St. Hilary add to the character of the village

available for repair which can show traditional repair techniques following the local vernacular. Black painted iron railings on a stone base are common in the Vale and can be replaced using profiles and designs easily manufactured by local smithies.

1.2.23 Artificial stone or concrete screen walling is alien to the area and should be avoided, as should chain link, timber or brick panelled fencing sections.

Internal Details

1.2.24 Older buildings often possess interesting details within. These should be left in place wherever possible. An original fireplace, a panelled door, an attractive ceiling or stair can all add to the character of a building. In the case of listed buildings, internal features (e.g. timberwork, historic plasterwork, doors, fireplaces etc.) are protected by law and consent is necessary for their alteration or removal.



Original internal features of listed buildings are protected

Extensions To Existing Buildings

1.2.25 The key to good design is to understand and respond to the characteristics of the local building tradition. The older the house, the more important it is to retain its character and long standing relationship with adjoining buildings.

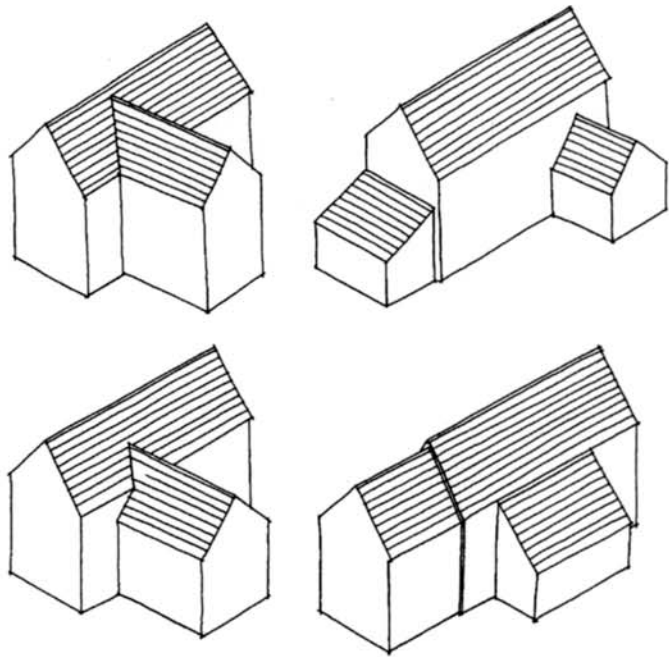
1.2.26 The main elements of roof, wall and windows should combine in such a way that the architectural balance of the original building is protected. In the rural Vale, many farm houses and village groups use a simple composition where doors and window openings are closely related. This should be protected by acknowledging the symmetry

already in place, for example by setting back the building line of an extension, or by dropping its ridge line to below that of the original house. The height and shape of this roof line is important and is often determined by the original roof characteristics.

1.2.27 In acknowledging this simple building hierarchy, new development can add to and enhance the complex building form and skylines created by traditional village groupings.

1.3 WHERE TO GET MORE ADVICE OR INFORMATION

1.3.1 If you are considering extending or altering your building it is advisable to contact the planning department at an early stage. A Development Control Officer will be available to give advice and information on the need for planning permission. More detailed advice is also available on the repair of buildings.



The scale and design of an extension should always be subordinate in scale to the main house, as these examples show



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