

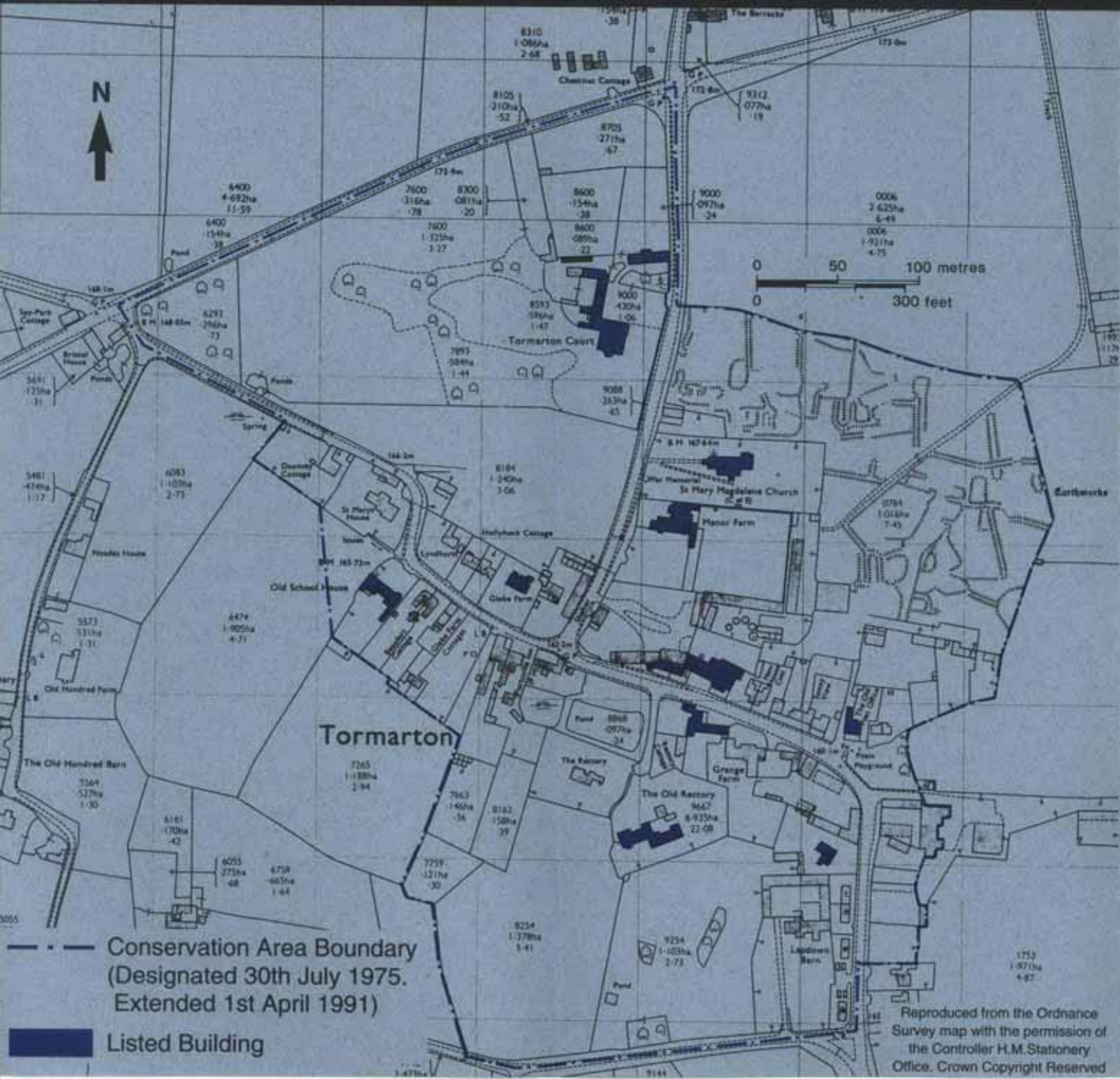
TORMARTON

CONSERVATION AREA





TORMARTON CONSERVATION AREA



--- Conservation Area Boundary
(Designated 30th July 1975.
Extended 1st April 1991)

■ Listed Building

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HISTORY

Tormarton received its name from the Tower (Tor) of the church, and from Meark, which in the Saxon language means Boundary (between Mercia and Wessex). The Old Manor House stood south of St.Mary Magdalene Church and belonged to the family of de la Rivere. Most of the building was demolished in the Great Rebellion (1642-1649), but a section, including the vast kitchen and old fireplace, has been incorporated into the present Manor Farm. The Coat of Arms of de la Rivere can still be seen in the end wall overlooking the churchyard.



Tormarton Court

Nearly opposite the church is the fine eighteenth century house of Tormarton Court (Grade II Listed), obscured by a high stone wall. It was formerly the rectory and has extensive landscaped grounds which have been included in the Conservation Area boundary.

The Church of St.Mary Magdalene occupies a prominent site and displays Norman and early English architectural features. Stones from the Saxon period have been identified in the tower and suggest that a church occupied the site before the Norman Conquest. The south aisle of the church was added by John de la Rivere in the 14th century after he founded a chantry at Tormarton in 1344. The small cottage on the north-west side of the present churchyard was once part of this chantry. The avenue of yews leading to the church is probably over four hundred years old. To the east of the church there are extensive and noteworthy earthwork remains of a former Saxon settlement suggesting that Tormarton was larger than it is today. This area has been included in the extended Conservation Area.



The Church of St Mary Magdalene

In 1789 Tormarton was conveyed to the 5th Duke of Beaufort and became part of the Badminton Estate.

CHARACTER

Tormarton contains a variety of buildings many built of Cotswold stone with dressed stone detailing to windows and doors. Later infilling has been confined to the central core of the village which thus retains a compact nucleus. The stone walls are a particularly noteworthy feature lining the roads and defining property boundaries.



Looking West along the Main Street

The entrance to the village from the north is especially attractive with Tormarton Court to the west and St.Mary Magdalene Church to the east. These provide visually striking features further enhanced by the mature trees that line the road adding freshness and vitality to the scene. The views to the west are also attractive revealing undulating fields and mature trees in the distance.

Traditional Cotswold cottages are interspersed with Georgian frontages, whilst the Old Rectory, set back from the road, provides a secluded atmosphere.

POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR ENHANCEMENT

The following objectives are set out in the Rural Areas Local Plan:-

- To preserve individual buildings, groups of buildings, walls, open areas, natural features and trees and to retain the essential interrelationships upon which the character of the Conservation Area depends.
- Development should preserve or enhance the existing character of Conservation Areas.
- Large scale or comprehensive development schemes will not normally be permitted. The emphasis will be on the selective renewal of individual buildings.

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WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The legislation controlling Conservation Areas is found in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

The important points to remember are:

- New development must accord with the area's special identity and visual qualities.
- A high standard of design for new development or extensions to existing buildings is expected, in regard to matters such as scale, proportion, materials and colour.
- The demolition, in whole or part, of unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas, requires special consent.
- Special care should be taken to ensure that views into and out of the Conservation Area remain unspoilt.
- Advertisement displays are subject to strict control.
- Anyone wishing to fell top, lop, etc. a tree within a Conservation Area must give the Local Planning Authority six weeks advance notice in writing.

GRANTS

In certain approved cases, grants for enhancement or repairs in the Conservation Area may be available through the District Council or other sources.



For further information please contact:

Senior Conservation Officer
Northavon Planning and Engineering Services Dept.,
Castle Street, Thornbury, Bristol. BS12 1HF.
Tel: 01454 416262

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