



Little Badminton

Conservation Area

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Introduction

A conservation area is an area of ‘special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’. Once designated, the local planning authority has a statutory duty to ensure that any proposed development will preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area and its setting.

South Gloucestershire has 30 conservation areas. Little Badminton was designated a conservation area on the 30th March 1983 and an appraisal leaflet was published following the designation. This document is not a review of Little Badminton Conservation Area, but sets out the information as produced in an accessible format supported by current policy context, pictures and mapping.

Policy Context

Local authorities have had the ability to designate areas of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ as conservation areas since 1967 when introduced as part of the Civic Amenities Act. Section 69 (2) of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation) Act 1990 legislates that authorities are to carry out reviews of existing conservation areas from ‘time to time’.

Section 72 also states that ‘special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area’. Historic England produces guidance on conservation area appraisals and the management of conservation areas.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out national planning policy and must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF defines conservation areas as ‘designated heritage assets’ and sets out in paragraph 202 that local authorities should ‘recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance’. Paragraph 204 states that when designating conservation areas local planning authorities should ensure the area justifies this status because of its special architectural or historic interest.

South Gloucestershire Core Strategy 2006-2027 sets out in CS9 that the 'natural and historic environment is a finite and irreplaceable resource', and expects that new development will conserve, respect and enhance heritage assets.

South Gloucestershire Polices, Sites and Places (PSP) Plan policy PSP17 states that 'Development within or affecting the setting of a conservation area will be expected to:

- preserve or, where appropriate, enhance those elements which contribute to their special character or appearance; and
- pay particular attention to opportunities to enhance negative parts of conservation areas and to draw on local character and distinctiveness.

Setting

The Cotswold village of Little Badminton is located in high open countryside on the eastern boundary of South Gloucestershire just to the north of Great Badminton and lies within the Badminton Estate. There are expansive views towards distant woodland (see figures 1 to 3) to the north and west, whilst the extensive formal parkland of Badminton House adjoin the village to the east.

The village is located within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Badminton Deer Park is listed on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.



Figure 1. Top left,
Views looking west
from Buren's Lodge,
Well Lane

Figure 2. Top right,
Views looking North
West from the rear
of Little Badminton
Farm

Figure 3. Bottom,
Views looking south
from the church,
Church Lane.

History

Little Badminton has a rich archaeological heritage which includes the remains of a sunken medieval village and the probable site of a manor house complex with associated farm buildings and garden earthworks. Further evidence of the medieval village is provided by the survival of the medieval dovecote (Grade II* listed, see figure 4), probably the best early dovecote in the country.



Figure 4. Medieval dovecote

Badminton House (Grade I listed), dating from the 1600s, is the ancestral home of the Duke of Beaufort. Little Badminton appears to have been replanned as a result of one of the periodic extensions to Badminton Park. In medieval times the park (See figure 5) would have been used for hunting deer and hare as well as the raising of horses. Deer are still raised in the park although the Deer House (Grade II* listed), situated to the south east of Little Badminton, is now converted into a dwelling.



Figure 5. Views across from Well Lane westwards over Badminton Deer Park.

The Church of St Michael and All Angels (grade I listed, see figure 6), to the north of the village on rising ground, is early English in style and dates from the early 13th century. It was restored in the 14th century and again altered in the 19th century with the insertion of 2 additional windows (see figure 7). Its early origins are evident in the simple round arch to the south door and the overhanging timber bellcote at the west end (see figure 8).



Figure 6. Left, Church of St Michael and All Angels
Figure 7. Right, Additional windows



The substantial listed farmhouses and barns (see figure 8) dating from the 17th century with extensions in 18th and 19th century indicate Little Badminton's prominence as an agricultural centre within the Badminton Estate over a considerable period. The majority of other buildings within the village are estate worker dwellings which date from the 18th and 19th centuries. These vary in style (see figures 9 to 14) with thatch being evident as well as the later 19th century pair of stone cottages with stone tiles roofs and plain bargeboards so typical of the Badminton Estate building style of this period (See figure 15)



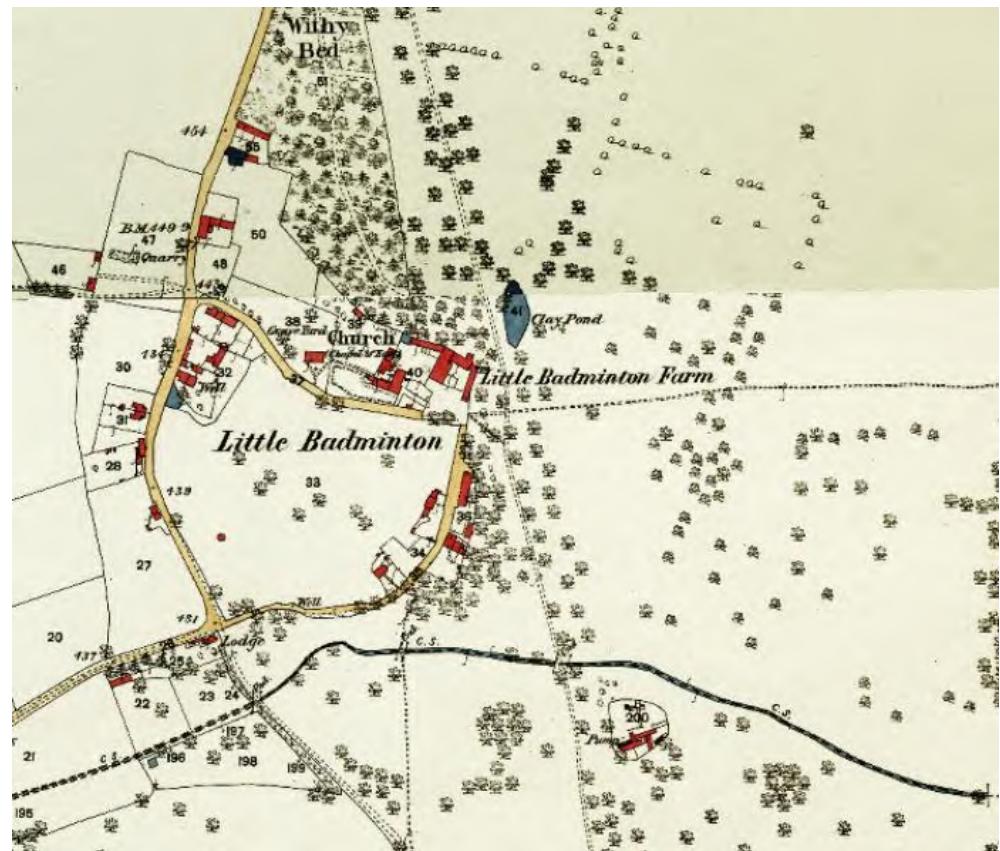
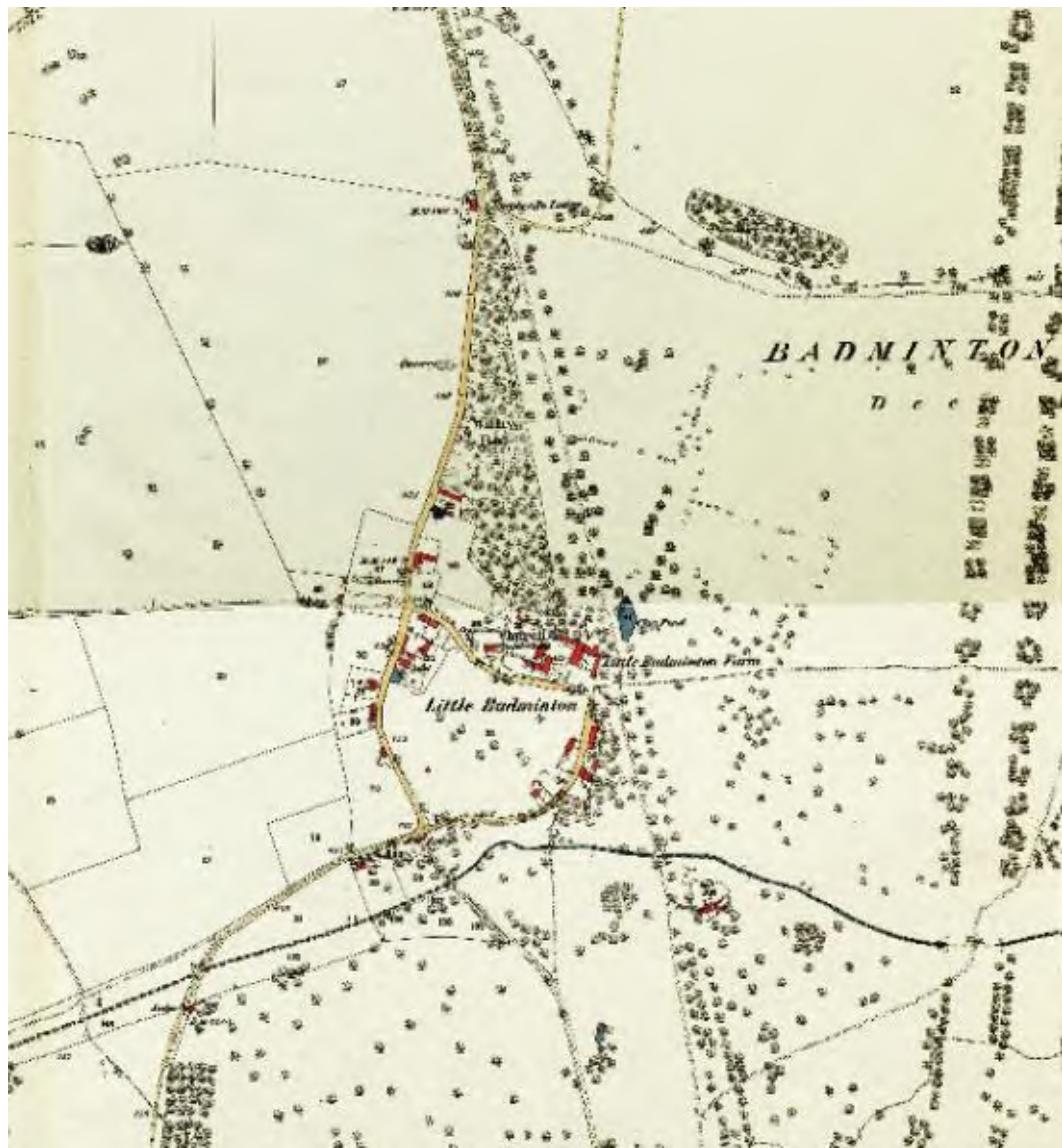
Figure 8. Agricultural buildings in Little Badminton



Figures 9 to 14. Various building styles in Little Badminton



Figure 15. Pair of stone cottages



Circa 1880 Ordnance Survey map Little Badminton

Source: <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace/>

Character

Little Badminton, although scattered in its layout retains a sense of cohesion. The existing buildings have developed around the village green, the site of the previous medieval village, and face each other across this open space, the dovecote providing a focal point (see figures 16 to 19). Individual buildings are clearly defined within their own plots and are linked by the circular road. Although the building style has changed over time, the scale of development, plot sizes and materials used creates a varied but unified visual impression.



Figures 16 to 19.
Buildings surrounding
the village green and
following the circular
road layout

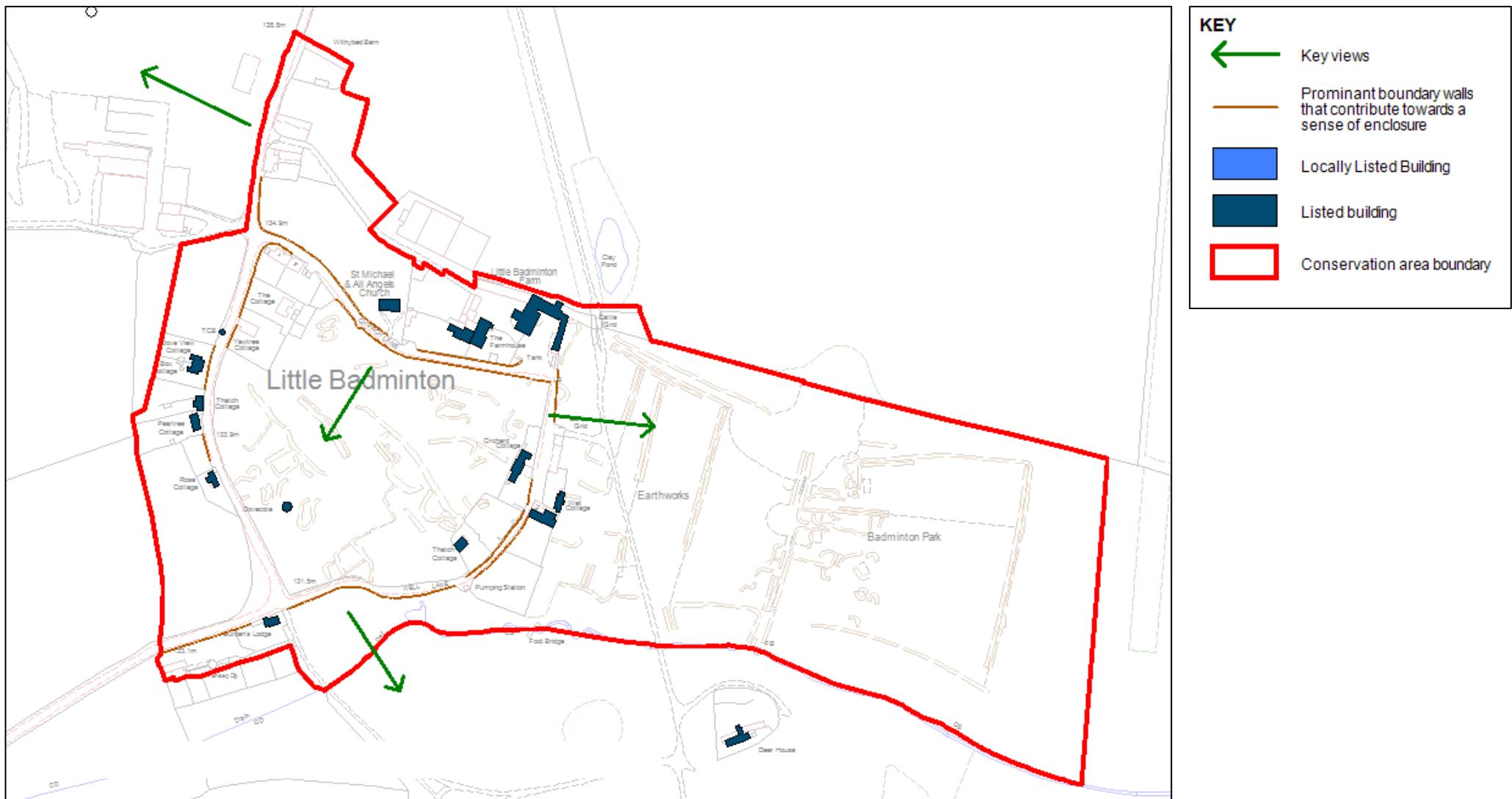
Little Badminton's parkland setting is evident (see figures 20 and 21) particularly from the church where one of the rides radiating from the house and marked by an avenue of trees is clearly visible.

The village is essentially rural character retaining many fine buildings related to its agricultural origins. Little Badminton has been largely unaltered by the 20th century and remains as a secluded peaceful settlement within the Cotswolds.



Figure 20. Top, Views looking south from the Church
Figure 21. Bottom, Views looking east from The Cottage, Well Lane

Summary map



Contacts

The council is keen to work with the local community and other parties to help preserve and enhance this special area. If you wish to assist in any manner or have any further suggestions, please let us know.

For further information or advice please contact:

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