



Acton Turville

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. Acton Turville was designated a conservation area on the 30th July 1975 and had an extension of its boundary on the 1st July 1991. An appraisal leaflet was published following the conservation area designation. This document is not a review of the Conservation Area, but sets out 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 locations 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’. Guidance on conservation area appraisals and the management of conservation areas is produced by Historic England.

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 Para 202 that local authorities should ‘recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance’. Para 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 Policies, 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 village of Acton Turville is situated approximately two miles south of Badminton, near the Wiltshire border. It is strategically placed at the junction of several routes and is surrounded by the open fields of the Cotswold Plateau (see figures 1 to 3).



Figure 1. Top left, Views southwards to Acton Turville
Figure 2. Bottom left, views West of Limes Farm
Figure 3. Above, Views westwards from the Fox and Hounds car park

The buildings are set close to the carriageways and combine a mixture of styles and materials with local stone predominating (see figures 4 and 5). Acton Turville is located within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Figure 4 and 5. Buildings set close to the road in Acton Turville

History

The old canopied well which stands on the small green was originally the site of a sanctuary dating from Saxon times indicating that the area was probably a settlement during this period and possibly before. The Church of St Mary (grade II* listed), although much altered, dates from around the 12th century and still retains relics of the old Church, including Norman font, an early decorated arch over the doorway, relics of another arch on the north wall and a fine early English bellcote (see figures 6 and 7). Alterations were made in the 13th and 16th centuries before the Church was restored and rebuilt in 1853 by T.H. Wyatt when the north aisle and vestry were added.



Figure 6 and 7. Features of St Mary's Church

During the 17th Century the village became part of the Badminton Estate, its main economic activity being farming. Church Farm and Hollybush Farm (grade II listed, see figure 8) with their associated barns and agricultural buildings remain strong features within the village today.



Figure 8.
Hollybush
Farm

Some of the buildings, particularly The School House (grade II listed) are characteristic of the 19th Century building style of The Badminton Estate (see Figure 9).



Figure 9. The School House

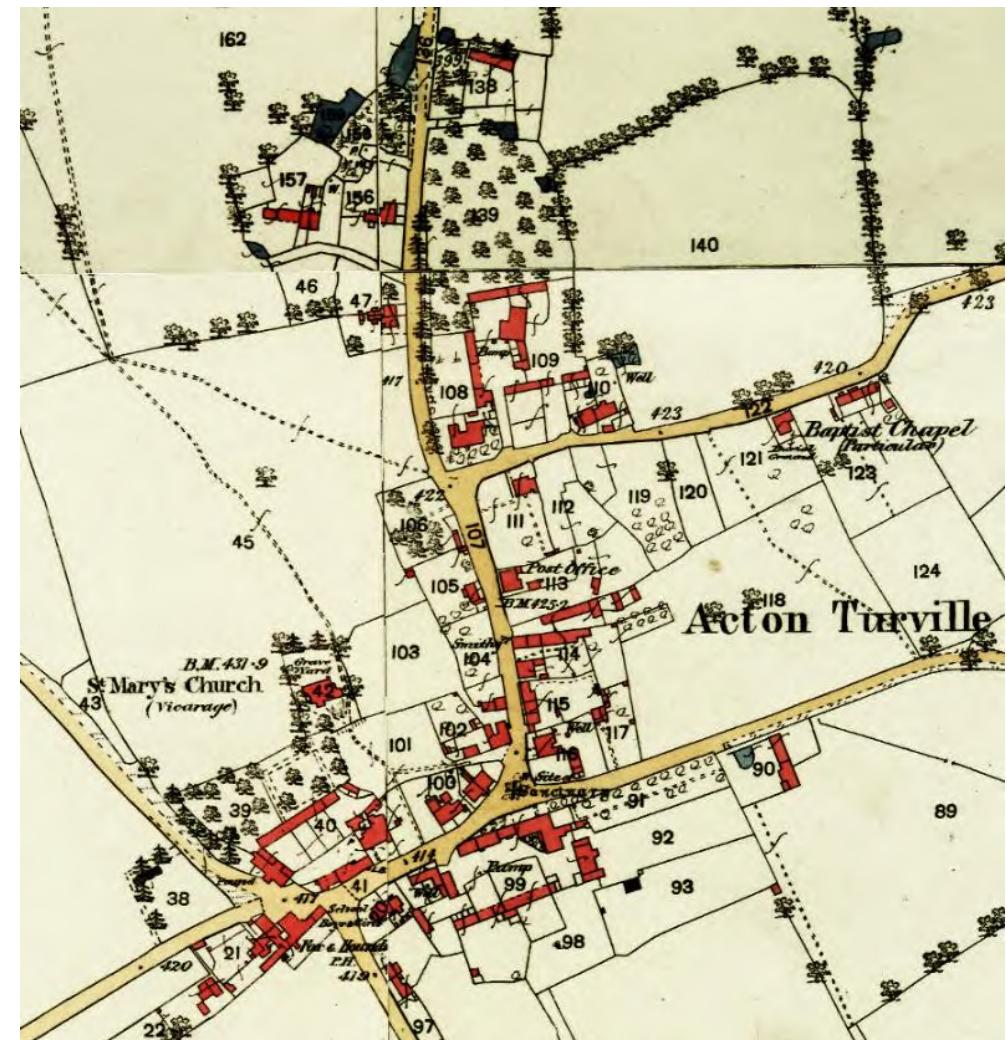
Acton Turville's proximity to Chipping Sodbury, a medieval trading centre, and the existence of Pike Cottage (grade II listed), a toll house dating from the 18th Century turnpike era, suggests that the village was located on an important transportation route probably to London (see figure 10). No doubt the Fox and Hounds provided accommodation and stabling for travellers (see figure 11).



Figure 10. Pike Cottage



Figure 11. The Fox and Hounds



Character

The village is compact and centres around the village green and well (see figure 12). This is surrounded by a fine collection of buildings with steeply pitched roofs which create a sense of enclosure relieved by narrow views across farmland to the South East (see figure 13). A considerable variety of building styles can be found in Acton Turville and include traditional domestic and farm buildings, farm workers cottages, larger more formal properties and of course the turnpike (see figures 14 and 15).



Figure 12. Village green and well



Figure 13.
Narrow views



Figures 14 and 15. Examples of building styles in Acton Turville

The predominant building material is Cotswold stone although a wider range of materials can be found on the later buildings. Many buildings retain their traditional Cotswold stone slate roofs which offer texture and a variety of tones to complement the building facades (See figures 16 to 19).



Figures 16 to 19. Cotswold Stone and slate roofs in Acton Turville

The Cotswold stone walls are also an important feature in the village, defining the carriageway and individual property boundaries often with imposing gate piers and iron gates (see figures 20 and 21).



Figures 20 and 21. Cotswold stone walls and gate piers in Acton Turville

St Mary's Church is situated behind the village and can be accessed by a public right of way. The mature trees and green space around the church create a tranquil atmosphere which complement the historic interest of the church (see figure 22).

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Figure 22. Green space around St Mary's Church

The dovecote in the gable of one of the outbuildings of Church Farm can be viewed from here (see figure 23).

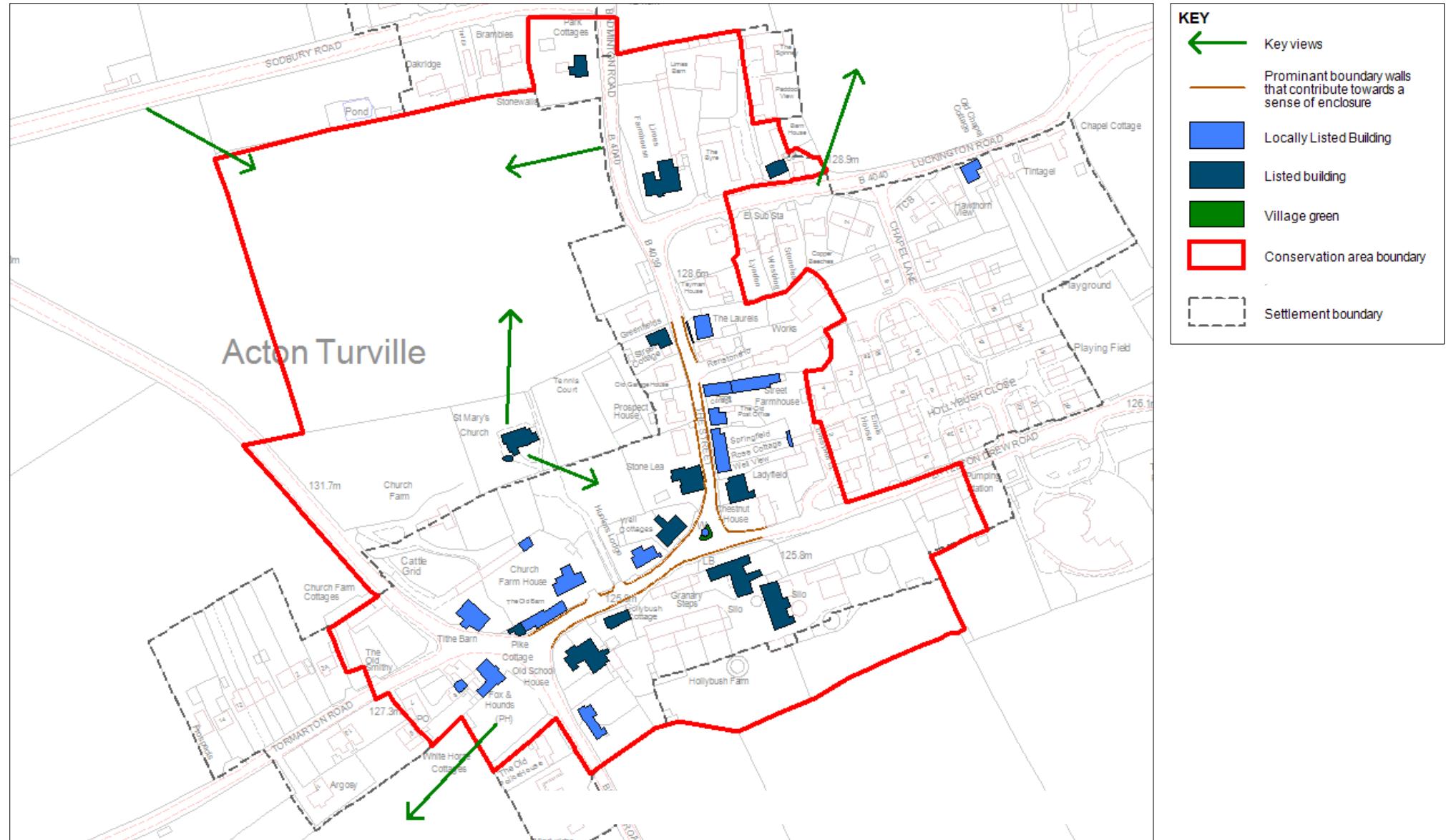


Figure 23. Dovecote

Acton Turville is a typical Cotswold village which retains many traditional features and examples of building types which relate to its historical development. These individual elements combine to form a rich and pleasing environment



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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