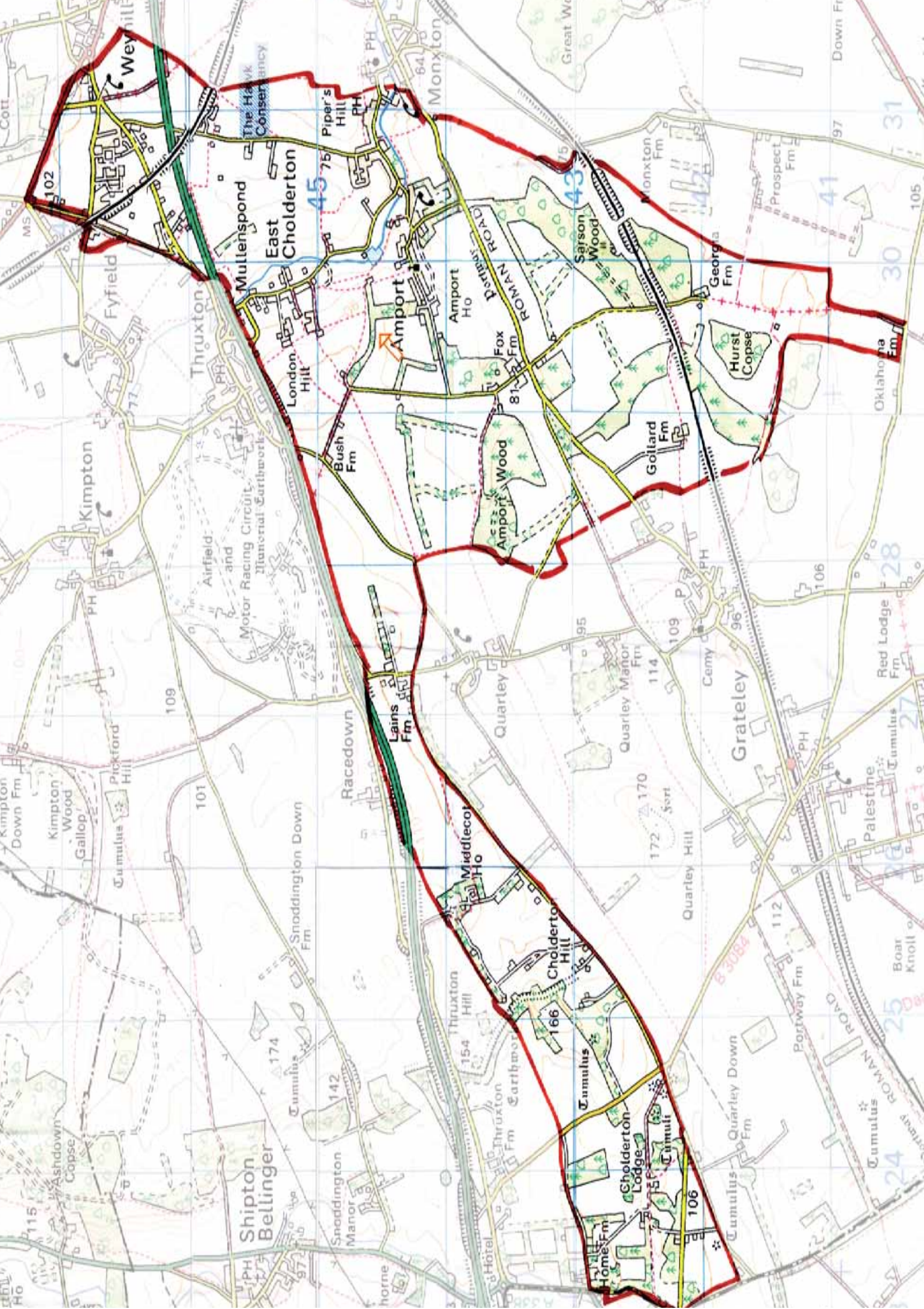


Ampport Parish



brick and flint detail

Village Design Statement



AMPORT VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

The purpose of this Village Design Statement is to:

- describe the distinctive character of the village as it is today
- provide guidance to planners, public authorities, builders, architects and local community groups
- assist residents of the village to manage the changes which will arise in the years ahead

The VDS was compiled over an eighteen month period involving a questionnaire delivered to every house in the village, numerous open meetings and the subsequent establishment of groups to look into the various specialist areas. This very wide consultation process resulted in the VDS being adopted by TVBC on 10th January 2008 and accepted by the Parish Council on 21st January 2008.

INTRODUCTION

AMPORT PARISH

Amport is a scattered Parish with an irregular boundary. The important consequence of this is the many differing styles of development, buildings and industry that exist in the Parish. It must not be forgotten that whilst almost all the key social features of the Parish lie south of the A303, some 37% of the population live to the north of this major trunk road.

The Village Design Statement has been structured along five themes: Landscape, Settlement, Buildings and Materials, Transport, and Amenities. Each section has a commentary, followed by a set of recommendations where appropriate.

(Parish administration and social cohesion would be much easier if the boundaries were simplified by following the lines of the Church Parish boundaries i.e. incorporating the western parts with Cholderton, Middlecot with Quarley, and the estates of Fairways and Michaelmas Drove with The Pentons. An attempt at such a rationalisation occurred in 2001.)

The principal features of the Parish are:

Landscape and wildlife

- Relatively flat landscape, comprising arable fields broken by blocks and belts of woodland
- Isolated rural character with a scattering of low density development
- The Pillhill Brook
- The Village Green and Amport Fen
- A well-used footpath and byways network of some twelve miles



Footpath near Waterloo Bridge

Buildings and amenities

- Church of England Primary School
- St. Mary's Church, Amport
- Two Public Houses: The Amport Inn, and The White Horse in East Cholderton
- The Hawk Conservancy
- Weyhill Nurseries and Post Office
- A military establishment at Amport House (the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre)
- A riding school
- Project Workshops at Lains Farm

These are discussed in more detail on the following pages.

LANDSCAPE

General Description

The bulk of the Parish is in a rural area of largely unspoilt arable farmland. The Amport and Monxton and the East Cholderton Conservation Areas designated by local planning authorities are identified in the *Test Valley Borough Local Plan Review Revised Deposit Draft 2004*. These Conservation Areas ('areas of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance') are of great importance to residents of Amport and in preparing this VDS this has been in the forefront of our thinking. To quote from the *important open areas & landscape features (set 06)* section of the Deposit Draft 2004 "The landscape settings of many settlements contribute significantly to their character, and should be protected from harmful development." The old villages of Amport, Sarson and East Cholderton are clustered in the valley of the Pillhill Brook with the banks given over mostly to water meadow and ancient woodland.

Amport Green, in the centre of the village, is a focal point. In the far south-west of the Parish, housing is sparse and residents tend to gravitate more towards their nearby village settlements of Quarley and Cholderton.

On the higher ground throughout the Parish are a number of active farms conducting mainly arable cultivation with some grazing land, a fair amount of mixed woodland, plantations and coppiced areas. Most of the area through Quarley, Middlecot and Cholderton belonged to the Marquess of Winchester until 1928. A number of wooded hunting and shooting belts remain intact. Small clusters of dwellings are scattered across the area, including several where former farm buildings and the former sanatorium at The Limes have been converted to housing. There are also a number of stables for riding, breeding, convalescent and livery horses.

The area north of the A303 is mostly residential with a small industrial site. Many of the roads through the Parish are single lane. Most houses have their own garages or parking areas resulting in very little on road parking. There is an extensive network of much-used footpaths and some bridleways.

Landscape Features

- The Green. The most important social and recreational area in Amport village. (See under ‘Amenities’)
- The Pilhill Brook. The Brook which runs through the length of the village is an important landscape feature which contributes significantly to the character of Amport. It is classified by the Environment Agency (EA) as a main river and written consent is required from the EA for works or structures within 8 metres of the Brook. It supports a wide variety of bird and plant life including kingfishers and water voles. Lack of winter rainfall could mean that the Brook is dry during the summer months on an annual basis, with consequent devastating implications for wildlife. The landscape of the area is specifically referred to within the Test Valley Community Landscape Project, LCA5H (Pilhill Brook Valley Floor).



The Pillhill Brook north from Waterloo Bridge

Landscape recommendation G

- The skylines. Unbroken apart from isolated trees and woodland belts, the skylines enhance the appearance of the high ground surrounding the villages. The woodland and open fields attract badger, fox, deer, hare and rabbit and the hedgerows and verges also contain many smaller mammals. The presence of the Hawk Conservancy means that the skies above the village have an unusually high proportion of raptors. These birds are a regular and unusual feature of the valley and the surrounding farmland.



View across Pillhill Brook Valley to the Grateley Road from above Sarson Close

Landscape recommendation H

Settlement recommendation A

- Street lighting. The absence of street lighting in most of the populated areas of the Parish is greatly valued by residents who are able to view the night sky without excessive light pollution.

Matters of Concern

Changes to the landscape are inevitable, but within the consultation process there are four areas in particular which caused concern in survey responses.

- The development of the old Andover airfield (Andover Business Park). While outside the Parish boundary, this development could have a major negative impact on the landscape character as described above particularly regarding skylines, lighting and traffic.
- The impact of any significant development in the area North of the A303.
- The defunct watercress beds on the Pillhill Brook. Development of a fishing lake started in 1999 is not yet complete. Similarly the change in character of the landscape of the water meadow in Sarson (and the hedging obscuring the open view across the Pillhill Brook) was also raised as a concern.
- Concern was recorded about the changes already made to the landscape on the Monxton Road Nurseries site, and about the future development of this site given its close proximity to the Conservation Area.



View across Pillhill Brook at watercress beds site

Landscape recommendation G

Other issues respondents considered to be important include:

- Control of tree planting and hedging in residential areas, particularly of Leylandii
- Maintenance of verges, footpaths and hedges
- The visual impact of satellite dishes

Landscape Recommendations:

- A. The Green and the adjacent Amport Fen Nature Reserve should be retained as open areas. Any development in close proximity should be sympathetic to the present character.
- B. Every step should be taken where possible to ensure that the Pillhill Brook does not run dry.
- C. All new building in the floodplain of the Pillhill Brook should be avoided so that people and properties are not put at risk and potential winter flooding is minimised.
- D. The footpath network must be maintained and verges kept to a reasonable height.
- E. Hedgerows should be maintained and enhanced.
- F. Open spaces including garden areas that have the potential to encourage a variety of wildlife should where practicable be positively managed to provide appropriate habitats.
- G. The Pillhill Brook riverbanks should be appropriately managed to provide an environment encouraging to wildlife. Attempts to suburbanize the riverbanks should be avoided.
- H. Any development should respect the open rolling landscape, and aim to maintain and preserve the views from all surrounding vantage points. In an area of minimal settlement, development should be one or two storey in order to reduce the impact upon the landscape. (TV Community Landscape Project: Landscape Character Assessment: Draft Summary for consultation October 2003.)

SETTLEMENT

The Parish's settlement patterns remain largely unchanged from those of the early 20th century. They focus on the roadways between the long established settlements at Sarson, Amport and Cholderton. Settlement is generally low-lying rather than prominent.

At the time of the Norman Conquest the Parish was made up of seven Saxon settlements. William the Conqueror gave Anne, the largest of these, to Hugh de Port. In the course of time the name Anne changed to Anne de Porte, Annaporta, Anneporte and finally, Amport. Being the largest, it gave its name to the village. Of the other six Domesday manors, three small manors joined to form the manor of East Cholderton; two others, Anne Savage and Soresden combined to form Sarson. The sixth was that of Appleshaw. These four manors established in Norman times gave rise to the four present day settlements of Amport, East Cholderton, Sarson and Appleshaw. Appleshaw was later created a separate Parish. Amport Parish today includes Oklahoma Farm, Georgia Farm and Fox Farm to the south, and areas of Quarley, Middlecot and Cholderton to the West.

From whatever direction you enter Amport the striking feature is the wide diversity of the buildings in the village. The principal areas are:

Sarson

The original settlement (traces of which are still visible) was along the South side of the Brook.



Pillhill Brook at Sarson

Landscape recommendation G

The existing development is mainly along the North side of Pillhill Brook and is largely brick and flint.

The 1997 conversion of Sarson Barns to one and two storey dwellings in timber, brick and flint is an excellent example of good development.



Sarson Barns

Design recommendations A & F

Some of the older, cob walled and straw thatched cottages are set well back from the road on slightly higher ground.



Cottages at Sarson

Settlement recommendations A & C

Sarson Lane

The older cottages are centred on the south end of the lane. Further to the north is Sarson Close, comprising one or two storey red brick houses built by the Local Authority after the Second World War. These houses are now mainly in private ownership. They are characterised by shared features, materials, angles and pitches and sit on generous plots.



Sarson Close plots

Settlement recommendations C & F

Design recommendation D

Materials recommendation M

The lane is then bordered by open farmland on both sides for several hundred yards before reaching the top of Sarson Lane. Industrial units lie largely screened from the surrounding paths and roads by shrubs and trees. Beyond the **Hawk Conservancy** lies a group of homes known as **The Limes** - previously red brick buildings built during the Second World War and intended as an isolation hospital, but never used as such.

The North of the Parish (Weyhill)

On the north side of the A303 trunk road from London to the West Country lies part of the Parish of Amport. The buildings here are predominantly 20th century two storey red brick, many with grey slate roofs. They include some older semi-detached cottages with period detailing as well as more recent dwellings.

During the 1960s a need for more housing in the countryside was recognised and to this end **Fairways** (52 houses and flats) was built, as local authority housing.



Fairways Settlement recommendations H

In the 1980s, following the sale of local authority property into private ownership, came a need for affordable housing for people with young families and so **Michaelmas Drove** (24 houses) was built, which is partly owned by a housing association and partly by the occupiers. This area is characterised by low boundaries between plots.



Michaelmas Drove



Mayfield Industrial Park

The Mayfield Industrial Park on the Fyfield Road is a comparable size to the site further to the east at Weyhill. However, the Fyfield Road is low-rise and more sensitive to the local topography than the taller buildings at Weyhill.

In addition to these developments there are two park home sites, at Elmstead Park (39 units) in East Cholderton and Mullenscot Park (21 units) in the North of the Parish. These two sites house roughly 100 people, or almost 10% of the population of the Parish, in what can be described as low cost housing.



Elmstead Park

Amport

For many hundreds of years development took place along the Pillhill Brook and around The Green, notably after the late 17th century park clearance on the Amport estate. Between the river and the road is a small mixed wooded copse and opposite, two storey houses and bungalows of mid 20th century design, some with quarry tiled roofs and some with grey slates. Most of these more recent properties are set back from the road and tend not to dominate the plot on which they sit.

Heading north towards East Cholderton, the lane is bordered by farmland and water meadow before reaching **Waterloo Cottage**. There is then a further separation in settlement, before reaching the first properties at the margin of East Cholderton.



Waterloo Cottage and the Pillhill Brook

water meadow

Landscape recommendation H;

Settlement recommendations A & B

The School. Behind the red brick Victorian school building, built in 1815 by Sophia Sheppard, lies a row of **almshouses**, also built by her and administered now by the Sheppard Trust. In her will Sophia Sheppard stipulated that these houses should be let to ‘poor widows without independent means’, but this stipulation has lapsed over the years.

Furzedown Lane. The lane runs behind the north side of Amport House. It has been developed since the sale of Amport House soon after World War 1. It mainly consists of large houses, all with sizeable gardens. A recently built house at the south end of the lane in brick and flint is a welcome and sympathetic development.

Fox Farm. A mixture of later 20th century housing opposite the conversion of original barns and other structures on the Fox Farm site.

Quarley, Middlecot & Cholderton

Bush Farm lies to the south-west of London Hill. It is an arable farm with a new farmhouse built in 1980.

Footpath 27 leads off Bush Farm Lane to the west. Lains Farm with its substantial brick and flint house is on the right. The farming is predominantly arable, with grazing and stabling for horses. The Project Workshops (see Amenities) are beside Lains Farm with its Shooting School.

One notable feature is that all dwellings along Cholderton Road, Quarley are on the northern side. This allows for uninterrupted views of Quarley Hill, the Bronze-age settlement.

Middlecot House used to entertain royalty in Edwardian times when they enjoyed horse racing at Thruxton Down. The house itself burned down and only the stables remain.

Hugh’s Settlement was acquired by a Mr Nixon in memory of his friend, Hugh, who did not survive the First World War. With assistance from the Rowntree Trust, the area was set aside for conscientious objectors in the Second World War. They built their houses from chalk dug out of the ground, and thatched them with

grass. They grew produce for the local markets at Amesbury and Andover. Little remains today. A Mr Shepherd built three brick single-storey homes in the early 1930s. These are gradually being replaced by modern dwellings.

The old Cholderton Youth Hostel was modernised and a second floor added. It is now a private house. Horseshoe Meadow farmhouse has been replaced, while more trees have been planted in Windy Dido woods.

The Cholderton Road then crosses the Grateley-Tidworth road (B3048). All the houses in this area are flint, and were part of the Cholderton Estate. Opposite Salisbury Lodge is Laundry Lane, which used to house the laundry workers.

Home Farm, Cholderton, is at the far western side of Amport Parish. The Cholderton Water Company (the smallest in England) has offices here, and there is a most attractive butchery and farm produce shop. Cholderton Park and Home Farm are fully working farms, with beef and dairy cattle, sheep, pigs, and a large number of polo and hunting horses. This includes the unique Cholderton flock of Hampshire Down sheep and the Cleveland Bay horses at Home Farm, which are the oldest flock and stud in the world. There is also a large acreage of arable land.

Settlement Recommendations:

- A. All new development should respect the local characteristics (and historic pattern) of the existing settlements which are generally low-lying and in proximity to the road network and watercourses.
- B. The existing open spaces between settlements should be kept.
- C. Typically, cottages or terraces fill plots, while larger-scale houses retain more space around them. This pattern should be respected by any new development. Where larger plots are to be considered for subdivision, dense or crammed development should be avoided.
- D. Buildings on infill plots should be designed to complement the settlement character of the immediate area.
- E. Barns associated with houses are traditional features and should be retained within the curtilage of the property.
- F. Solar panels, television aerials and satellite dishes should be sited unobtrusively.
- G. Boundary hedges should be in keeping with the character of those in close proximity using indigenous local species. Across much of the Parish there is generally mixed hedging, kept to a height of approximately 1.5m. In Furzedown Lane boundary screening is more substantial and reaches to a greater height.
- H. New development must seek imaginative ways of incorporating the need for off-road car parking (e.g. Fairways has suffered due to the rise in car ownership) without the car parking dominating the appearance of such a development.

BUILDINGS AND MATERIALS

General description

The three former settlements of Amport, East Cholderton and Sarson that make Amport Parish today contain an eclectic mix of architectural style dating from the 16th century up to today. The historically indigenous building materials in the Parish are chalk, cob and flint and handmade brick walls, thatched or slate covered roofs. The use of these materials in the 18th and 19th century dwellings contributes to the visual quality of the Parish. Windows in these cottage dwellings are generally Hampshire casement windows often framed by eyebrow rooflines. The result is both aesthetic and practical. Many of the dwellings have been sympathetically extended with the result that conservation aims and objectives have usually been met.

Changes in the economics of farming have meant that some farm buildings have become available for conversion into dwellings. Two notable examples in the Parish are Fox Farm and Sarsons Barns where the use of flint and brick with slate or clay tile roofs together with sympathetic landscaping has contributed to developments that fit in well.

Distinctive Buildings

St Mary's Church. No trace of the original church now exists. A new church was built between 1320 and 1330, constructed of flint with a square central tower, much of which still remains. In 1866 the Marquess of Winchester instigated major alterations and modernisation, with the main entrance relocated to its present position on the north side of the nave. The church has six bells, two of which date from 1662, although there had been bells earlier than this.



St Mary's Church

Amport Church of England Primary School was built in 1815. The school was extended in 1999 with a new brick replacement of a temporary classroom. This new building has many desirable features including low level development and the use of traditional materials which complement neighbouring buildings.



Amport Church of England Primary School

Settlement recommendation A

Design recommendations B, D & I

Amport House was built in 1857 to a design by the architect William Burn. It has a Victorian grey brick façade under a grey slate roof (replacing two previous houses on the same site). Of significance are the gardens. Sir Edwin Lutyens designed these with their lime walks and terraces, while the planting scheme was drawn up by Miss Gertrude Jekyll. The house is a Grade 2 listed building and Amport Park is a Grade 2 Registered Historic Park and Garden. The modern sympathetic extension was built in the late 1990s to include the Army chaplains with those of the Navy and the Royal Air Force who were already based there. Considerable care was taken to use materials which were compatible with the original building.



Amport House from the Grateley Road

Design recommendation B & D

Amport Mews (formerly the stables to Amport House) has been successfully converted into a courtyard of private housing, retaining the key features and character of the original building.

Sarson

Along the north side of the Amport road are several cob cottages with thatched roofs which are in good repair, a few of which are owned by Testway Housing. Infilling between the cottages is mainly 19th and 20th century houses.

The grey slate roofs of many of the houses in Amport have continued to be a feature of newly constructed homes, including **Sarson Mill**, rebuilt in 2003.

Sarson Lane includes the 15th century **Sarson Corner Cottage** and several brick and flint cottages with thatched roofs. The red brick **Methodist Chapel** built in the late part of the 19th century was converted to a private dwelling in the late 1990s. **The Eights** is a row of white cob walled terraced cottages built in the early 19th century, reputedly by prisoners of the Napoleonic Wars.

Weyhill

The buildings on the two estates – Fairways and Michaelmas Drove – are early 20th century two storey red brick, many with grey slate roofs. There is a variety of other housing stock on the Fyfield Road including the mobile home park at Mullenscot.

Amport

To the north of the Pillhill Brook, approaching the Village Green, is **Bridge Cottage**. It is opposite **Broadwater** and both properties are thatched, with brick and flint construction.



Bridge Cottage

Buildings recommendations D-H

Materials recommendations M

Amport Green

Settlement recommendations A,C,E,& G

Design recommendation D



To the south of The Green are Hampshire thatched, cob walled cottages and **Old Farm**, a square fronted white washed Georgian house under slate tile. It sits in extensive grounds which include a paddock and a large timber barn standing on staddle stones, alongside a similar barn with cob walls and a thatched roof.

East Cholderton

Approaching from Amport, the first building is **Waterloo Cottage** standing adjacent to the recently renovated Waterloo Bridge, which spans the Pillhill Brook. Haydown Farm has several traditional corrugated farm storage barns and a farmhouse built at the end of the 20th century. **Manor Farm** has a traditional brick and flint farmhouse.

At **Monks Cottage**, an unmade lane leads to several 20th century bungalows sited in substantial plots.

Further along the village at **Old Farm Cottage**, a lane leads to a park of mobile and semi-mobile homes known as **Elmstead Park**. The northern boundary is close to the 16th century White Horse Inn, which sits in the shadow of the A303 flyover.

Buildings and Materials Recommendations:

Design

- A. Well designed contemporary houses which draw on local materials and styles are to be welcomed.
- B. New houses and other structures should wherever possible be built on a scale sympathetic to and reflecting that of surrounding properties.
- C. It would assist if developers were to provide accurate perspective drawings or artists' impressions showing how new developments, extensions and conversions would appear in relation to the overall surroundings and adjacent properties.
- D. Additions to existing houses, such as extensions, garages and conservatories, should be compatible with and respect the form, style and scale of the original building and those in close proximity.
- E. It is desirable that roof extensions should be in the same material as the existing roof particularly when the roof is thatched. Flat roof extensions should be avoided as they are not typical of the housing stock within the Parish.
- F. Detailing should be simple and reflect local building traditions.



New build on Furzedown Lane
Design recommendations A, F, G, K
Materials recommendation N

- G. Chimney stacks are traditionally in red brick, either external on the end of the house, or internal.
- H. New porches should be tiled, slate or thatched open porches, to suit the style of the house.
- I. Designs reflecting simple local vernacular detailing are welcome but the combination of different styles within the same building should be avoided.
- J. Security lighting should be low power, and the light restricted to the premises.
- K. Garages should be positioned to the side or rear of buildings, and large expanses of hardstanding in striking colours/materials should be avoided.
- L. Roof lights are to be avoided in existing buildings and should never be used in thatch where they are visible.

Materials

- M. Extensions and alterations should complement the existing building using materials which harmonise with those originally used.



Brick and flint detail

Materials recommendations M & N

- N. Each area has its range of traditional materials which are applicable to new buildings and extensions.
- O. Rendering should preferably be in lighter shades similar to the typical chalk/lime washed finishes.
- P. The Hampshire style of thatching has wrapover ridges flush with the rest of the roof. TVBC policy is to support the use of combed wheatstraw thatch used in the longstraw fashion traditional in Hampshire. The use of non-local materials such as Norfolk reed should be resisted.

TRANSPORT

Infrastructure and Services

Introduction

The Parish contains a number of minor roads around and to the south of Amport village, with a panhandle to the west following the minor road from Quarley to Cholderton. It has been a well-travelled area for thousands of years, with a Roman road, the Portway, running east to west across the Parish south of Amport. It is also crossed by the A303 trunk road and the main railway line from Exeter via Salisbury and Andover to London. A branch line from Andover to Ludgershall crosses the northern corner, but is only used occasionally.

Public Footpaths

Amport Parish is well served by public footpaths, many still following the old direct routes taken by farm workers and local people as they travelled between villages. The routes of some of these paths have been altered in recent years as land use has changed and regulations concerning the registration of footpaths has become more strictly enforced. However two new paths were added during the Millenium Year 2000, both linking Wiremead Lane to Sarson Lane.

Public Transport

Bus

Amport village is served by a bus service from Andover to Grateley and Thruxton. There is also a service every half hour from Andover to Tidworth via Weyhill and Ludgershall through the north-west corner of the Parish. The provision of buses is good by rural standards, linking the majority of the residential areas of the Parish with the local railway stations and shopping areas. (There are five bus shelters in Amport at strategic points around the village.)

Train

There is road access to Grateley and Andover railway stations which provide a regular service to London and the West Country. These stations badly need adequate parking to cope with the increasing demand from rail users who have little choice but to drive to the rail network.

Community Transport

TVBC operate an active Community Transport Scheme. This comprises a number of groups with differing aims and objectives and is really intended for areas less well served by public transport than Amport Parish.

The main types of transport provided are minibuses that can be hired at reasonable rates by recognised groups, dial-a-ride (serving areas without buses) and mopeds which are hired out to enable young people to get to places of work from rural locations.

Road Network

With the exception of the road following the route of the Portway, the B3084 which cuts across the panhandle and its branch to Cholderton, nearly all the minor roads are single track, narrow and winding, and generally not suitable for heavy vehicles. The village of Amport and most of the outlying villages and hamlets are only accessible by roads of 5 metres width or less.



Heavy vehicle in single track lane

The A303 runs along part of the northern border of the Parish and cuts across the north-west corner. This road was upgraded in about 1990 and now follows a new route in some places. The old A303 is still useable from Thruxton to Weyhill and Andover, and makes a useful wide local road. However, the new dual carriageway tends to isolate the part of the Parish to the north of it from the rest of the Parish. This is exacerbated by the closure of the gap in the A303 where it is crossed by Sarson Lane.

Road links to other parts of the country are extremely effective, with major roads radiating in several directions from Andover.

Road Traffic

The road system of the Parish area is not suited to modern transport. Some roads can take light traffic in two directions but many cannot. It is a predominantly farming area with little industry. Nevertheless some heavy vehicles are required to enter the area and buses are the most regular users.

Some through traffic uses the minor roads but generally the quantity of traffic on these roads is light. The condition of some roads is not good and banks are only cut occasionally, which can reduce visibility of the road at bends. There are few passing places on single lane roads and drivers therefore have to drive onto the verges, which become muddy and rutted in winter.

During the times of delivery and collection of children from Amport School, the roads become more congested and parking around the School and The Green can cause difficulties for through traffic.

Future Traffic Patterns

The largest single cause of traffic entering the Parish is the 40,000 visitors a year to The Hawk Conservancy in Sarson Lane. A significant change in the local traffic pattern has resulted from the closure of the gap in the A303 at Sarson Lane. This crossing previously afforded direct access from the North (home to approximately two fifths of the population) to the South (The Green, School, Church and Inn). The gap closure has risked increasing the flow of traffic through Amport village and adjacent narrow lanes. Traffic that would previously have crossed the gap has to find alternative ways to the other side. It can turn back east at either of the next two junctions to the west, or at Hundred Acre Roundabout to the west, but there remains potential for considerably increased traffic along Wiremead and Sarson Lanes and through Amport village.

Transport Recommendations:

It is recognised that the VDS is not the appropriate platform to express views on policy issues concerning highway authority matters. However, great concern has been expressed within the consultation process about how the inevitable increase in both light and heavy traffic flows is managed in the light of anticipated future development in the locality.

AMENITIES

The village amenities play an important part in encouraging active social participation within the community. The Parish's proximity to Stonehenge, to Winchester and Salisbury Cathedrals, and to Thruxton Racing Circuit makes it an ideal place to visit.

The Green and Amport Fen (*formerly Strouds Field*)

At the heart of the village, situated between the Pillhill Brook and the School, is Amport Green. The Green is enjoyed by villagers of all ages. There is an area with play equipment for young children and The Green is regularly used by the School for many of its sporting activities, as well as by members of the community including the Sea Scouts who have a hall in the village. It is the site of the village fête, the hog roast and occasional wedding receptions, while it more regularly serves as a picturesque location for quiet contemplation.

Next to Amport Green, on the opposite side of the Pillhill Brook, is **Amport Fen** which was acquired by the Parish Council in 2001. Under the guidance of the Hampshire Wild Life Trust members of the Parish are working to create a nature reserve.



Amport Fen

Landscape recommendation A

Amport School

Opposite The Green is **Amport School**, the Church of England (Aided) Primary School. Well known for its academic excellence, demand for places at the School far exceeds the 84 places available. It has state-of-the-art computer facilities which are all linked and networked, and it is known for its strengths in music and sport.

The Public Houses

Like many small villages, the pubs provide prime venues for members of the community to socialise. **The Amport Inn** is housed in the former home of the coachman to the Marquess of Winchester. It became an inn in the early 20th century and was modernised in the 1980s and again in 2002. The land opposite the inn, stretching down to the Pillhill Brook, is owned by the pub and is used in the summer for village and charity events.

Villagers living in the East Cholderton area enjoy **The White Horse** public house. This thatched pub, which is steeped in history, represents another important amenity for parishioners.



The White Horse public house

Project Workshops

On the western edge of the Parish the buildings at Lains Farm, Quarley have been developed to provide studios and workshops, attracting artists including sculptors, potters, glass workers and craftsmen of national renown.

Bed and Breakfast

In and around the village are a number of attractive 'Bed and Breakfasts' to accommodate visitors to the area.

Amport Cricket Club

The present ground is situated on the Grateley Road overlooking Amport House and gardens. The club has been in existence for over 100 years, playing at several different venues in the Parish until the last move from the Keepers Hill ground in 1981. There are currently two teams competing in the Hampshire Cricket League on Saturdays, and friendly fixtures are played on Sundays. Despite the lack of electricity at the ground, the wooden clad pavilion is equipped with hot showers, tea-making facilities and a licensed bar area. The ground itself is kept in excellent condition entirely by self-help. An artificial playing strip and nets facility has recently been added – initially for use by the colts teams, but also used extensively by senior members.

Amport House

The house was requisitioned by the Royal Air Force at the start of the Second World War and during the war was the Headquarters of RAF Maintenance Command. Amport House remains in MoD ownership and is now the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre. The beautiful and tranquil setting of the site with parkland to the south fit well with its current function.

The Hawk Conservancy

This award winning and internationally acclaimed conservancy for birds of prey is situated in the village. The park, as it is affectionately known by parishioners, offers them free access during the open season between February and October. It attracts visitors from all over the world to view its large collection of birds and its impressive flying displays. Considerable work has been done to improve and develop the amenities and areas of nature conservation within its boundaries. A recent addition to the park has been a bird of prey hospital. The preservation of the conservancy is of national importance.

Farming

In past times Amport had a thriving farming community with many people being employed in agriculture. Now the majority of farmland is arable but there are a few dairy herds in the Parish, and there is a limited amount of sheep farming. Some farmers lease their land for horse grazing and stabling. However the extensive farmland throughout the Parish defines the rural character of the village and should be preserved.

St Mary's Church, Ampport

In 2006 the pews were replaced by chairs. In addition much work has been done in recent years to make the Church a community asset and it is now used for a variety of events including concerts, fairs and lectures as well as the purpose for which it was originally built, the worship of God.

Millway House Nursing and Residential Home

At the core of the home is a long-established substantial family house, with the addition of further accommodation over time. The home is a family-run concern which employs around thirty people to care for approximately twenty five residents.



Millway House Nursing and Residential Home

Weyhill Nurseries

Weyhill Nurseries provides a Post Office as well as the Garden Centre. This, and the farm shop selling meat at Cholderton Park, are valuable facilities for parishioners who choose to shop locally.

The Shooting Grounds at Lains Farm

This country enterprise is a nationally recognised centre of excellence.

Amenities Recommendations:

- A. Any future development should respect these highly valued village amenities. Every effort should be made where possible to minimise any adverse impact upon the character of the featured spaces, character buildings and amenities.
- B. Wherever possible, we should support those amenities and new developments which provide employment and maintain the character of the Parish.

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