

Look At Romsey

Romsey Town Design Statement

for Romsey Town and Romsey Extra



Area 11 Woodley and Ganger



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Woodley and Ganger Design Statement

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This part of Look at Romsey was prepared by a team of volunteers in Woodley and Ganger. The project was jointly sponsored and led by Romsey and District Society and Romsey Extra Parish Council. It was presented to Test Valley Borough Council in August 2006. It was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in January 2008.

Setting and Landscape Including Views

Woodley and Ganger lie on the eastern edge of the town of Romsey, partly on the plateau of Great Woodley and partly beyond it on the valley side of an un-named stream that drains the surrounding countryside. The terrain is gentle with no prominent features and no watercourses.



Braishfield Road near Woodley Close

The area is bordered on the south by Winchester Road (A3090) and on the west by Braishfield Road across each of which are built-up areas. The other borders are composed of open fields and woodland. They can be seen from much of the area and are appreciated for the rural feeling that they create.



Open country behind Footner Close

Settlement Pattern

Braishfield Road runs straight northwards from Winchester Road. A triangle of houses is formed by Winchester Road, part of Braishfield Road and the west side of School Road. This land once belonged to Woodley Grange, the big house which is now called Cedar Lawn and is a nursing home. It is one of the oldest buildings in this part of Romsey.



Cedar Lawn

Within this triangle there are above-average sized detached houses and bungalows in large suburban gardens. There is a small close off Braishfield Road called Cedar Lawn, like the house. The houses in Cedar Lawn are closer together than those in the rest of the triangle, although detached with ample gardens.



Cottages in School Road

The buildings along the east side of School Road are a mixture of detached or semi-detached bungalows and cottages. Two pairs of semi-detached houses were built in the 1890s. The other houses in this road have been built from the 1950s onwards.



Woodley Village Hall

School Road also contains Woodley Village Hall and, facing Winchester Road, the Hunters Inn. This is the only commercial facility in this part of Romsey.



Hunters Inn

The houses in the remaining part of Woodley and Ganger lie to the east of Braishfield Road and School Road. The largest area is reached from two access roads, namely Ganger Farm Lane and Short Hill. These two roads lead to the main spine of the area, Ganger Road and Hunters Crescent. Ganger Road is straight and runs into Hunters Crescent. A number of minor roads and closes open off Ganger Road and Hunters Crescent.



Short Hill, leading to Hunter's Crescent

Only a short length of Ganger Farm Lane is public highway, with a few houses built along one side. After a short distance it turns into a private track which is barred by a locked gate.



Ganger Farm Lane

There is a series of closes which open off Ganger Road. The houses in them are all terraced. These terraces are of differing lengths. Those to the west, uphill from the road are arranged around four greens.



Close in Ganger Road

Longer terraces lie to the east of Ganger Road and the groups are named Footner Close, Anderson Close and Norris Close. They are arranged so that the front doors face onto footways and most traffic circulates around the back of the houses.



Anderson Close

Hunters Crescent forms a flattened loop. There are houses around the edge and within the loop where Dibben Walk forms something of a spine. North Close and South Close join Dibben Walk to Hunters Crescent.

The houses of Hunters Crescent include both terraced and detached houses, with one or two semi-detached pairs.

The detached houses on the lower, eastern side are built on steeply sloping land and some are reached by flights of steps. The stream lies beyond them. Most of the rest of Hunters Crescent is made up of terraced housing, particularly on the side nearest to School Road. The same is true of The Green that lies behind them. Short Hill has four detached houses.



Cottage houses in Hunters Crescent

At the southern end of Hunters Crescent, there are two small closes, Peel Close and The Copse. The houses in these two closes and between them in Hunters Crescent are all detached houses standing in their own grounds.



Larger houses in North Close

Woodley Way faces Braishfield Road and runs north from the junction with School Road towards Ganger Farm Lane. Woodley Way is made up of four blocks of terraced housing arranged at angles to Braishfield Road.



Woodley Way and its service road

Woodley Way has its own service road, separated from Braishfield Road by footpath and hedge. It is linked to Ganger Road by a narrow footway. There are semi-detached nineteenth century cottages facing Braishfield Road between the end of Woodley Way and Ganger Farm Lane.



Woodley Close

At the northern end of Woodley and Ganger, Woodley Close is a detached estate, approached directly from Braishfield Road, although a narrow footpath links it to Ganger Farm Lane. It has mixed housing types, including terraced houses, maisonettes and small blocks of flats. The individual homes are fairly small, but the terraced houses have long gardens.



Woodley Close

Two terraces face Braishfield Road as does a terrace of maisonettes, although they are set quite well back from the road. Within the estate, some houses face Woodley Close and others are away from it and arranged around three sides of three squares. In addition there are some terraces which are further from the main spine of the Close.

The houses at the eastern end of the Close and the nearby flats look out over fields and countryside. The street is arranged so that cars do not pass the front doors of most of the houses apart from those that face the main spine of the road. The first of these estates was built in the 1950s and the others at intervals since.



Garages in Hunters Crescent

Most of the detached houses and bungalows have their own garages or space to park in their own gardens. The same is true in much of Woodley Close, but not all of it and some provision has been made by lines of garages set behind the houses. Similarly in the area served by Ganger Road, there is a mixture of garages built in back gardens and separate blocks of garages. In Woodley Way, people park in their front gardens, on the service road or in a block of garages.

There is a shortage of parking space in some roads, especially in Hunters Crescent.

Open and Other Spaces



The Green by Woodley Village Hall

This part of Romsey has very little public open space within its boundaries.

There is a small open space to the north of Woodley Village Hall. This is an area of grass that contains some shrubs. The Hall itself has an ample car park which provides a further open space, albeit covered with tarmac and the Hunters Inn has its own car park behind which is a garden with amenities for patrons.

There are grass areas in the fronts of terraces on the west side of Ganger Road, each labelled 'No ball games'. Since they are small and close to the houses this restriction makes sense. There are also small areas of grass at the eastern ends of Footner Close, Anderson Close and Norris Close and at the northern end of Hunters Crescent.



Open space in Ganger Road

There is some grass at the junction of Ganger Farm Lane and the entrance to Woodley Close. At the other end of Woodley Close, just outside this area, there is an informal playing field, although there is no longer a playground there. There are a few small grass areas within Woodley Close.



Recreation ground in Woodley Close

Building Form, e.g. Height, Shape



Houses in Hunters Crescent

The buildings in this part of Romsey are two-storey apart from the bungalows. The predominant shape of buildings is rectangular, although a few have small projections, usually either attached garages or conservatories and, in one or two places, attached sheds. The older houses along School Road and Braishfield Road have more complex shapes, either because garages or other extensions have been attached to the original building. Cedar Lawn has two curved bays on the front of the building that reach to the roof.

Most of the terraced houses are modest in size. Some of the detached houses, especially those in the triangle, are larger than the terraced houses on the estates.



Detached house in School Road

Pitched roofs are normal. There are very few dormer windows or roof lights, and they are found mostly in the detached or older properties. Some houses have small porches with pitched roofs giving them a cottage feel. The garage blocks have flat roofs and 'up and over' doors.

Materials, Fenestration and Chimney Details

With two exceptions, all the houses are faced with brick. The Hunters Inn has painted brickwork and Cedar Lawn is rendered and painted. The older houses are built of the dark red brick that is typical of this part of Hampshire.

The newer buildings are faced with a variety of brick colours mostly being pinky-red or shades of yellow and light brown. There is virtually no decorative brick work anywhere in this area apart from the occasional brick arch over the windows on some of the older cottages. One or two houses in the triangle have flint panels.



Brick facades in Dibben Walk

Many of the houses in Woodley and Ganger have brickwork up to the roofline, with the same style and colour of bricks being used throughout the building. However a few have the upper half of the building faced with white uPVC shiplap. Examples can be seen in Ganger Road and Short Hill. Unusually in Romsey, very few houses have tile-hanging on the walls although there are examples in Hunters Crescent.



Shiplap in Ganger Road

The older or larger houses have chimneys, as do some in Woodley Close but these are all plain and unremarkable.



Chimneys in Braishfield Road

Most of the windows have multiple panes of glass with opening sections. In the newer houses, the upper windows abut the rooflines. Where there are dormer windows and small pitched roof porches these are usually picked out with white barge boards, some of them decorated.

Design Guidelines

- Extensions to existing houses should match design and materials.

Streets and Street Furniture



Junction of Winchester Road and Braishfield Road

Winchester Road (A3090) forms the southern edge of Woodley and Ganger. It has a tarmac footway with wide grass verges on either side. However where the footway joins School Road and Braishfield Road, pedestrians normally walk across the grass verge, and the grass has been worn away. The corner of School Road and Braishfield Road is also used in the same way.

There is no cut through from Hunters Crescent to the bus stop in Winchester Road opposite Halterworth Lane. Pedestrians have to use School Road to reach Winchester Road.



Steps between Hunters Crescent and The Green

There are a number of footways enabling people to pass from one place to another without walking alongside roads. These vary from the wide area joining The Green to Hunters Crescent, where there are a few steps, to the narrow alleyway between houses in Footner Close or that which joins Woodley Close to Ganger Farm Lane which has high fences all along it.



A variety of footways

The footways throughout the area show signs of neglect. As is true elsewhere, they have often been dug up and poorly restored. Surface drainage is not satisfactory everywhere. In particular there are problems along Braishfield Road where large puddles form and in North Close.



Bus stop by Woodley Way

There are footways on each side of Woodley Way and that nearest Braishfield Road is well surfaced with square paving stones which gives a good definition to the street scene. At the northern end of this path, the bus lay-by does not drain but a large puddle forms and the nearby path surface is cracked and broken.



Paved area of Woodley Way

Ganger Farm Lane is a wide road although a short one. It is cut short by the gate that marks the division between public road and private track. The public road is not particularly welcoming.



Ganger Farm Road

A number of the small pieces of grass are surrounded by low fences to prevent vehicles being driven onto them. These fences are made of concrete posts and tubular cross pieces. In the case of the barrier at the top of Woodley Close some of the posts are broken.



Variety of fencing in Ganger Road

The eastern side of Woodley and Ganger is dominated by overhead high voltage electricity cables and their attendant pylons. These are much disliked and they spoil the rural feel of the area.



Pylon in Norris Close

There are two seats by the green on the corner of School Road and Short Hill which make that corner friendly and welcoming.



The Women's Institute gate

There is a low fence and gate separating the village hall car park and the village green. Near this fence there is a metal gate facing School Road. It was erected by Woodley and Crampmoor Women's Institute and is a particularly charming feature.

Woodley Village Hall

The entrance arrangements to Woodley Village Hall are confusing. The doorway is not immediately apparent because of the hedge, and the fence that screens the dustbins alongside School Road. To one side of the door is a fenced and paved area that was used by the now-departed play group.



The entrance to Woodley Village Hall

There is a lengthy dropped kerb opposite the pedestrian entrance, and a shorter one by the vehicle entrance. At night it is difficult to see where to turn into the car park.

The car park is functional and tidy. Efforts are being made to enhance its appearance. The long fence along the north side will look better once the newly-planted climbing plants have become established. The fairly plain side of the hall is convenient rather than attractive.



The back gate to Woodley Village Hall

The high wooden fence and gates between the car park and The Green do nothing to enhance the southern end of the latter area.

Trees, Hedges, Walls and Fences



Trees and hedge at Woodley Village Hall

The older roads contain a number of mature trees and there are copses on the eastern side of the area. There are the remains of a long-established hedgerow outside Woodley Village Hall and the adjacent green, and in places individual plants have grown into full-sized trees. The most common trees in this area are oak and pine, but there are some unusual trees in private gardens. Sadly the splendid cedar at Cedar Lawn died and had to be cut down.



Recent plantings at Footner Close

Saplings have been planted at the end of Footner Close and these will enhance the area as they grow. There is a serious shortage of trees along Ganger Road and Hunters Crescent. In particular the fairly stark view along Ganger Road would be softened by the inclusion of suitable trees.

The contrast between the houses in the triangle and along School Road, with hedges and trees, and much of the rest of Woodley and Ganger where houses, garages and vehicles predominate is very marked. The areas where there are terraced houses could do with enhancement. On the edge of a market town, a hint of garden suburb would be appropriate, rather than the feeling of a large car park.



Ganger Road, with few trees

Although many of them are tall, there is a pleasant mix of hedges and walls along Braishfield Road on the triangle, including a wall that appears to be made of brick on edge and is very unusual. The fences and hedges along School Road are a mature mix of fences and hedges that give the road a rural feel.



Brick wall in Braishfield Road

There are some very good hedges in private ownership, especially the beech hedges in Braishfield Road and Cedar Lawn. Further along Braishfield Road there are hedges separating it from Woodley Way.



Beech hedges in Cedar Lawn

Within Woodley Close, a number of houses towards the entrance are surrounded by very high hedges. Some of these encroach on the footpath and in places they are so high that they overwhelm their surroundings.

There are a number of privately owned hedges in the gardens around Hunters Crescent. Some of these are well maintained and improve the area. However where they have been allowed to spread over the footpath, they can be a nuisance.



Fence along Winchester Road

Design Guidelines

- Hedgerows should be of a height suitable to their surroundings.
- Highly visible and open urban land should be softened with plants, trees or shrubs.

Area 11 Woodley and Ganger

Woodley Close

Braishfield Road

School Road

Woodley Village Hall

Cedar Lawn

Winchester Road

Ganger Farm

Hunters Crescent

Hunters Inn

Not to Scale



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Look At Romsey:

Overview

Area 1 Whitenap

Area 2 Halterworth

Area 3 Tadburn Valley

Area 4 Tadburn Gardens

Area 5 Great Woodley

Area 6 Upper Cupernham and Winchester Road

Area 7 Lower Cupernham and Fishlake Meadows

Area 8 Romsey Old Town

Area 9 Town Centre, Outer Core

Area 10 Harefield and Little Woodley

Area 11 Woodley and Ganger

Area 12 Crampmoor and Highwood