

3 Building Types, Materials and Styles

The historic character of buildings in Crockernwell is essentially vernacular - this is typified by the buildings that line the back lane. The older properties are built parallel with and tight to the street, one room deep with low eaves and steeply pitched roofs. Rubble stone and cob were the building materials for most of the village, finished with lime render and limewash.

Buildings of the 16th – 18th centuries have casement windows of various ages; the earlier openings are smaller than those that have been enlarged during later modifications. Later homes, mostly of the 19th century, are deeper and taller but still built on the street frontage, albeit behind a pavement on the main road. They tend to have vertical sliding sashes that reflect their age. A significant proportion of properties have had windows replaced in styles that fail to complement their historic character, some in modern materials like PVCu.



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Fig 2 An early 19th century casement window



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Fig 3 Decorative sash window at Court House

Up to the 19th century thatch was ubiquitous in Crockernwell. Along with The Ramblers Cottage, the row of cottages at the eastern end of the Conservation Area seems to be the last of the traditional vernacular buildings to be erected. The remaining thatched roofs are characterised by simple flush-finished wrapover ridges. Buildings built or re-modelled after that time had slate roofs and a few have clay tiles. In recent times a number of roofs have been replaced using artificial slate lacking the character of a natural product. The variety of eaves and ridge heights throughout Crockernwell add to its charm and draw attention to the many chimneys. Dormers are not a traditional feature here and there are presently few rooflights.

Corrugated iron is common, especially on agricultural and ancillary buildings, but also notably on the large gable of Stonelands.



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Fig 4 Corrugated iron is a traditional material

Chimneys contribute a great deal to the character of the village. Most have brick stacks, with the notable and outstanding exception of Pilgrim Cottage that has its original granite shaft. An interesting and unusual feature of Crockernwell is the number of stacks that have drips constructed in brick. This is a distinctive local character feature that also indicates the level of formerly thatched roofs.

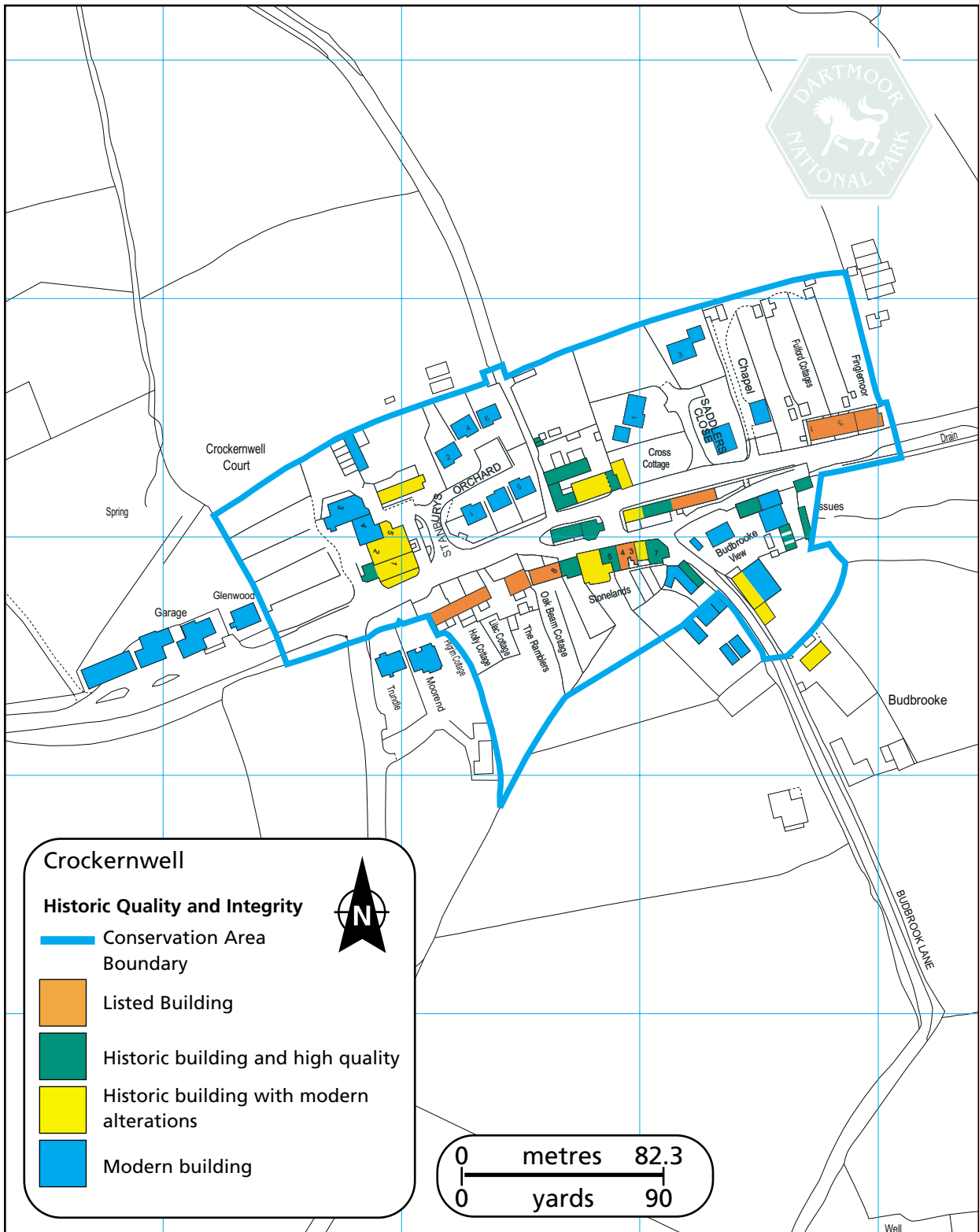


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Fig 5 Chimney with brick drip course showing the height of the former thatched roof at The Old Post Office

Porches are found on a significant number of properties, though none appear to be historic in themselves. On the back lane in particular they are a prominent feature.

Map 7 Conservation Area: Historic Quality and Integrity



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