

7. Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential for the Conservation Area is considerable given its undoubted medieval origins and lack of modern development.

However, Widecombe-in-the-Moor's origins could well be much earlier as there has been the suggestion that the 14th century church stands in a strangely off centre position within a square earthwork enclosure demarcated by a bank which is revetted by the churchyard wall. Similarly shaped enclosures in Cornwall and West Wales have been found to date from the Romano-British period. The position of this enclosure could well have dictated the subsequent development of the village.

Therefore the area within and outside the Churchyard, the square and Widecombe Green should all be seen to be extremely sensitive archaeologically.

Again, the area to the north of Widecombe Green also offers much archaeological potential as it contains the site of the medieval manor of North Hall with its associated buildings, ponds and watercourses. To the north east of the Green there is documentary and tithe map evidence for the existence of other buildings in this area.

There is further tithe map evidence for former buildings situated south of the square around the 18th century Vicarage; this area too should be regarded as having archaeological potential.

8 Trees

The distribution of trees both within and outside the Conservation Area and their significance are covered by a survey in the attached appendix A.

Numerous trees are growing within the Conservation Area and they are an important component of the village scene. The most notable trees are those on the Village Green, with a veteran Sycamore standing at its western end. The range of tree species is limited due to the high moorland location with Sycamore being the dominant tree. Likewise, age distribution is also limited to mostly mature and semi-mature trees.

Outside the Conservation Area the woodland to the east of the village, the groups of trees growing in the river valley and the linear group of trees growing behind Brook Lane Cottages add to the character and setting of the village.

There is limited scope for large scale planting within the Conservation Area, but there is may be an opportunity in the grounds of St Pancras Church.

Trees in Conservation Areas Footnote:

The *Town and Country Planning Act*: Section 211 makes special provision for trees in Conservation Areas not subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). A tree is not defined in the Act, but a Section 211 Notice is only required for a tree with a diameter exceeding 75 mm in diameter. Trees in a Conservation Area already protected by a TPO are subject to the normal TPO controls. A Tree Preservation Order is an order made by the Local Planning Authority in respect of trees and woodlands. The principle effect of a TPO is to prohibit the cutting down, uprooting, lopping, wilful damage or wilful destruction of a tree without the Local Planning Authority's consent.