

7 Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential for the existing Conservation Area of Sticklepath is considerable given its origins which date from at least the 13th century.

There are a number of open areas within the historic core which should all be treated as having much archaeological potential; in particular the car park opposite the Devonshire Arms, the area around the complex known as Brooklands, and between the Methodist chapel and St Mary's Chapel of Ease. The latter is built on the site of an earlier chapel, possibly a 12th century chantry chapel, therefore this area needs to be regarded as being particularly archaeologically sensitive. The area which contains the Quaker burial ground is clearly another sensitive archaeological one.

The importance to the village of its four mills is well documented and the areas which contain these remains must have possible archaeological potential. Associated with the mills are a number of leats which are important archaeological features in their own right as are the burgage plots to the north of Back Lane.

The Sticklepath stone, located west of the Lady Well, has been in its present position since 1829, but was subsequently re-erected when it was rotated on its vertical axis. It is situated on the boundary of Sticklepath and Belstone parishes; prior to the creation of the parish of Sticklepath it had acted as a bond mark between the two parishes of Belstone and Sampford Courtenay.

The west face of the stone is incised with a St Andrew's cross under which is a figure of eight or hour glass symbol. Below this is another St Andrew's cross, with a further symbol below of a double lazy 'S' with a funnel shaped top. The south face of the stone has a Latin cross surmounted by a boss carved in slight relief. It is thought that the cross was cut at a later date than the incised symbols which are believed to date to the 10th century.

It would seem sensible to include the Sticklepath stone and the Lady Well in proposed boundary changes to the north west of the Conservation Area and to extend this same boundary to also include the take off point from the Taw for the historic Old Mill leat and its subsequent course north east.

8 Trees

The distribution of trees both within and outside the Conservation Area and their significance are covered by a survey in Appendix A. The tree cover is extensive, with a wide range of species and age classes in and adjacent to the Area.

Trees within the Conservation Areas are concentrated mainly in rear gardens of properties and are only partially visible from the main road running through the village. The most significant tree is the magnificent mature oak growing on the Village Green.

The historically important hedgerow system enclosing the 'Burgage plots', to the north of Sticklepath are an unusual and interesting feature of the village.

Outside of the Conservation Area Skaigh Woods to the south, and the trees growing along the river and the linear groups of trees growing on the old hedge banks to the north west of the village add to the setting of the village. Trees planted in the newer housing estates bordering the Conservation Area are now semi-mature and are becoming an attractive visual component of the village

New planting has been carried out throughout the Conservation Area, mostly in the larger gardens, but there are numerous sites that are suitable for further tree planting. Outside of the Conservation Area there are many potential tree planting sites.

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.