

## **STOCKTON-ON-THE-FOREST** **Conservation Area No.29 (20.25ha)**

### **Introduction**

The Conservation Area was designated on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1998 following public consultation and includes the historic core of the village, along The Village (the main street) together with Stockton Hall and its grounds and a frontage of early 20c housing opposite the Hall.

### **History**

The Domesday Survey (1086) refers to the village as 'Stocthun'. By 1148, this had become 'Stoketon' and 'Stockton on the Moor' by 1388. The current name comes from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Originally the name may have arisen because the village was built from, or surrounded by, the 'stocks' or trunks of trees in the Forest of Galtres. In the medieval period the typical 'toft and croft' plot layout was established, surviving remarkably well to this day. The population of the village was 403 in 1901 and still only 479 by 1951. More recent suburban expansion saw this rise to 1280 in 1985.

### **Important Buildings**

Stockton Hall is the village's most imposing individual house, now used as a hospital. It dates from c1800, built in brick with a Welsh slate roof, and is listed Grade II as are the adjoining stables. Along The Village are several houses and farmhouses which are also listed, dating from the early 18c onwards. One of the earliest is No. 77 (Park Farmhouse) which has a three cell lobby entry plan. Other valuable and interesting buildings include Holy Trinity Church, built in the Gothic style of 1843, with its distinctive spire.

### **Character**

The village street of Stockton-on-the-Forest has been extended by recent suburban housing in the form of 'ribbon' development. However the historic core of the village remains largely intact: in particular the traditional layout of long narrow plots extending back from the street frontage; and notably the relationship between the charmingly 'higgledy piggledy' paddocks and outbuildings at the outer edges of the village, and the open countryside beyond. From that countryside the village is tucked amongst its trees and hedges, and retains a very rural setting. Several tracks lead from village street, through remaining paddocks or alongside existing or former farm buildings, and out into the countryside.

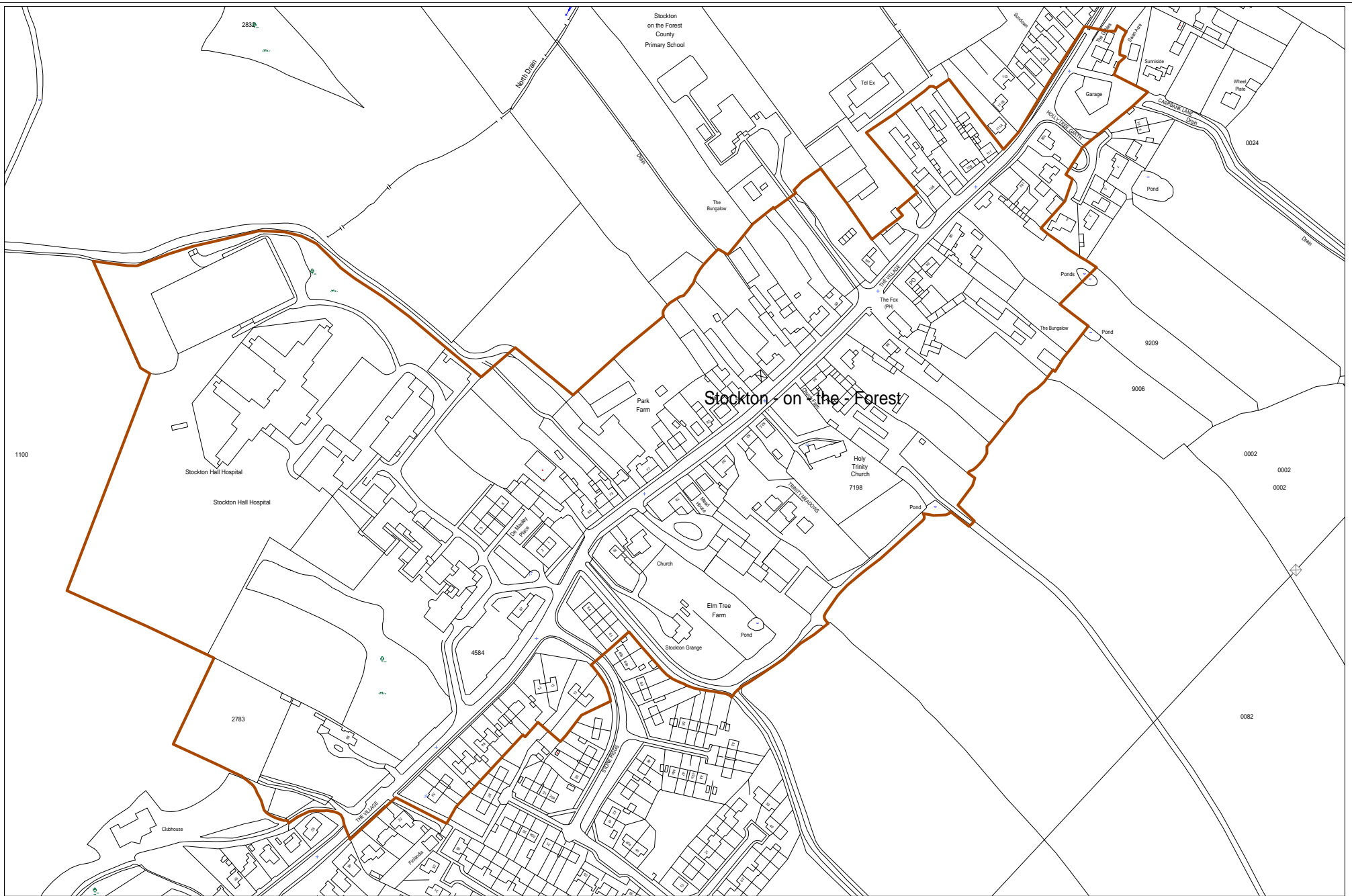
Behind the Village Street is a valuable legacy of attractive vernacular farm buildings and outbuildings, some now in disrepair, yet still part of the hierarchy of village buildings forms that Stockton-on-the-Forest displays so well.

The Village Street is composed mostly from detached houses and cottages, dating from the early 18c onwards. Each is set in its own trim walled garden or hedged boundaries, with small front gardens. The street itself is almost straight, but entered from bends at each end which add an element of definition and surprise. There has been some recent infill development of a neutral character, but overall the street retains a charming rural quality, with the informal mixture of houses and cottages unified behind their frontages of hedges or in a setting of trees. Between the buildings are occasional glimpses out to the open countryside framed by the walls and outbuildings extending down the long narrow plots. Materials are predominately brick with clay tile or Welsh slate roof and interesting examples of different types of brickwork bonding.

The formality of Stockton Hall and its grounds are a contrast to the rural informality of The Village. The Hall is flanked by woodland which defines the western edge of the historic village. The grounds to the rear of the Hall and the Walled Garden are essential to the setting of the Hall and historically important. Opposite the Hall the street frontage is formed by early 20c housing, reminiscent of the garden suburb movement with attractive pantile roofing sweeping down to the low set eaves.

The main elements of the character and appearance of the area are:

- 1) The way that the traditional village form has survived in its rural setting.
- 2) The overall character of The Village street, with its informal mixture of houses and cottages in a unified setting of hedges and trees.
- 3) The valuable legacy of farm buildings, outbuildings and paddocks that create a 'soft' and natural looking rural edge to the village.
- 4) The formality and stature of Stockton Hall, its grounds, Walled Garden and defining woodland.



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**STOCKTON - ON - THE - FOREST**

Area is 20.25ha



SCALE 1:2500

DATE 3rd December 1998

Project

Project

DRAWN BY JB

DATE 3rd December 1998

Originating Group

Project

DRAWN BY JB

Drawing No.

Draughting & Presentation

CON29

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