

A PROGRESS REPORT ON
CONSERVATION AREAS IN DERBYSHIRE
(EXCEPT THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AND
DERBY COUNTY BOROUGH)

By A. N. TUNLEY

(Acknowledgements are due to the County Planning Officer,
Mr. A. LATHAM and his staff)

THE Civic Amenities Act of 1967 came into force on 27 August of that year. It was a private member's bill which was given government time, and is generally regarded as a brainchild of the Civic Trust in consultation with the government of the day. The measure received support from all parts of both Houses.

It deals with several aspects of conservation, but we are concerned here only with section 1 which outlines the law on "conservation areas", and which is best summarized in the words of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government contained in Circular 53/67.

- "2. Section 1 of the Act makes provision for the first time for the preservation of areas, as distinct from buildings of architectural or historic interest. It requires all local planning authorities to determine which parts of their areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance, and to designate such areas as conservation areas. Once an area has been designated, it becomes the duty of the planning authority and any other authority concerned, including the Ministers, to pay special attention to the character and appearance of the area when exercising any functions under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1962, the Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act, 1962, and the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act, 1953."
- "4. The Ministers attach particular importance to the designation of conservation areas, which represent a shift of emphasis from negative control to creative planning for preservation."

The only precedent for this concept of "conservation areas" in earlier legislation is a requirement under the 1947 Planning Act that planning

authorities should show "areas of great historic value" on their development plans. The 1967 Act is thought to have arisen from a widespread concern at the rapid erosion of the historic environment by the development process during the post-war period; a period which many may think has failed, with few exceptions, to exhibit an excellence of taste in new building and civic design such as would compensate for the loss of historic areas. Concern was particularly great in London and some of the larger provincial historic towns and cities, where both development pressures and historic quality were strong. It was foreseeable that the nation's heritage of history in urban building would largely be lost to the development process within the span of a generation or less.

In defining conservation areas, the Civic Amenities Act was scrupulous in requiring that they should be "areas of *special* architectural or historic interest"; and further, that they should be those such areas "the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". The subject phrase leaves the planning authority only with the problem of deciding which of its areas can properly be so described. The adjectival phrase leaves them with a discretion to decide that in a particular planning context, an area or part of an area of special architectural or historic interest should not be designated as a conservation area, because other considerations outweigh the historical or architectural ones. Happily, such conflicts of interest have proved very rare in Derbyshire.

The Civic Amenities Act of 1967 inaugurated a deliberately simple machinery for setting up conservation areas, in order to encourage planning authorities to press forward with designating their areas as quickly as possible. The draft area must be submitted to the Borough or District Council by way of consultation; the designation itself is effected by advertisement in the *London Gazette* and the local newspaper, following a resolution of the County Planning Committee, who take account of the local council's observations.

Conservation areas do not need to be approved by the Minister for the Environment. In this they resemble local plans, under the procedure laid down by the 1968 Town and Country Planning Act. The Minister is, however, empowered by section 1(2) of the Civic Amenities Act to give to the planning authority "such directions as he thinks necessary with respect to the exercise of their functions" in designating conservation areas, and the planning authority must comply. He has not done so in Derbyshire. Presumably under section 1(2) he could direct that a conservation area should be designated, or that a designated area should be amended, or revoked in whole or part. Copies of all conservation area plans are forwarded to the Minister by the Local Planning Authority as they are designated.

In order that planning authorities should not delay too long in formulating their programme for designating conservation areas, the Minister in Circular 61/68 called on them to send him by 31 May 1969 a statement showing the proposed conservation areas under consideration and the date by which a decision on them would be made.

It was apparent, when the earliest conservation plans were exhibited at the Historic Towns and Cities Conference early in 1968, that there were large differences between authorities in interpreting the meaning of the Act when drawing conservation area boundaries. The Civic Trust was thought to favour rather generously drawn areas, incorporating "pleasant groups" of unlisted buildings, "open spaces", "a historic street pattern", or other features which "contribute to the special character of the area", as paragraph 1 of Circular 53/67 recommended. Some authorities took a more literal view of the words in the Act itself, "area of *special architectural or historic interest*", and drew tight lines round groups of buildings of special architectural or historic interest already listed by the Minister.

Before any conservation areas were designated in Derbyshire, some months were spent in formulating a draft programme for designation, based mainly on the incidence of groups of listed buildings, located from record maps in the first instance followed by inspection of the groups themselves. At the same time, Borough and District Councils, and others, were invited to suggest conservation areas locally. Several Derbyshire conservation areas originated from local suggestions. On the whole, however, the technique of search by reference to groups of listed buildings proved on inspection to be a reliable guide to the location of conservation areas, except in the case of 19th-century and later areas.

Borough and District Councils were consulted in mid 1968 on the first seven conservation areas. The precedence given to the Council for British Archaeology's two historic towns of Ashbourne and Buxton, and to the entire villages of Sudbury and Old Higham, needs no defence to Derbyshire readers. At Trusley, Melbourne, Kings Newton, and Duffield, urgent action was imperative in the face of development pressures within commuter distance of Derby. Steetley's church was thought of such importance as to warrant, with the nearby farm group, early designation in an area of some development pressures. Subsequent designations have followed a similar pattern of twofold priorities, some on grounds of their intrinsic importance, and others because urgent action was necessary in the face of development pressures. But the initial survey list of potential conservation areas prepared early in 1968 has remained the basic guide in setting standards with which later suggestions could be compared, and in providing a finite goal to work towards. The list, as submitted by Derbyshire County Council to the Minister on 30 May 1969 is given in Appendix 'A'.

The County Council has attached much importance to its consultation with the local councils, for it has been felt that unless a conservation area is adopted with understanding and support by the District Council, it is unlikely to prosper. District Councils in Derbyshire have been always deeply interested, and often thoughtful and constructive in their suggestions when difficult decisions lay before them. Their detailed knowledge of local problems has frequently helped to resolve uncertainties. District

Councils have themselves consulted other bodies, especially the parish council in rural districts, and the civic society where one exists. In one case the County Council itself consulted a civic society by arrangement with the District Council. In another case, a civic society has been invited to make independent proposals for conservation areas for consideration both by the County and District Councils concerned.

Landowners have not been formally consulted, because in most conservation areas they are numerous, and if one is consulted, all should be consulted. Where civic societies do not exist, reliance must be put on local representatives to determine these matters. Public opinion is generally well represented on local councils, or easily accessible to local council members familiar with the issues and the personalities involved. Furthermore, the environmental stability which the designation of a conservation area offers to residents within it is generally welcomed by the majority of them, who are the first to be concerned for the future of their own home-ground. Local pressures indeed most often favour an extension of conservation areas, or the designation of more, and it is sometimes necessary to explain that it seems doubtful whether some such area can be described as an "area of special architectural or historic interest".

In defining conservation area boundary lines, some general principles have emerged, partly from legal requirements, and partly as the outcome of accumulated experience in interpreting them. They have proved to be somewhat on the following lines.

1. The core of the area is the group of buildings of special architectural or historic interest (listed or very rarely unlisted), or other major historic feature or theme.
2. To them are added any immediate landscape setting consciously laid out to accompany them, or any particularly beautiful natural setting immediate to the group.
3. Any areas of local historic or architectural interest peripheral to the main group are included in the conservation area.
4. Any isolated building or site of an ugly or unsuitable character incidentally contained in a special area defined as above is included in the proposed conservation area.
5. Any substantial block of development out of character with the historic area is excluded from the conservation area if it cannot be described as an "area of special architectural or historic interest", even though it may be prominent in the scene.
6. Boundary walls, roadside trees, and such incidental features are included in the conservation area if they contribute significantly to its attractiveness, even though the development behind them may be excluded.
7. Areas of landscape interest, or areas of local architectural or historic interest, are not designated as separate conservation areas in themselves if unconnected with special areas as described.

8. Conservation area boundaries follow the nearest defined plot or field boundary, for legal search purposes, wherever possible.
9. Conservation areas are normally defined on the designation map by a solid line, but a dotted line is sometimes used to indicate an openness of vista in that part of the boundary, or to cross an open space diagrammatically where this is unavoidable.

Even with the greatest possible single mindedness, it is still inevitable that there will be occasional differences of approach in different areas, because however carefully opinions may be governed by rules of procedure and continuity of attitude, judgement on amenity matters will always be marginally affected by the season, the weather, and a host of other subjective factors. For that reason it has been a consistent policy in Derbyshire to seek other opinions when drafting conservation area boundaries for submission to local authorities, and in some areas, several or very many opinions have ultimately contributed to the definition of the conservation area.

Appendix 'C' contains notes on conservation areas designated, or approved by the County Planning Committee for designation, at 1 January 1971, compiled by the Derbyshire County Council, who would welcome corrections and any further basic information on these areas, with references.

The immediate effect of designating a conservation area is to bring into operation the development control provisions contained in section 1—subsections (5) and (6) of the Civic Amenities Act.

Subsection (5) requires that

“Where any area is for the time being designated as a conservation area, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing its character or appearance in the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in that area, of any powers under part I of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act, 1953, the Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act, 1962, or the Planning Act.”

In effect, this means broadly that both the central and the local planning authorities are to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a conservation area by making grants or loans towards the repair or maintenance of listed buildings therein; and in preparing or approving development plans for the area; and in controlling development within it. It is to be noted that in several matters, other legislation takes priority, or there are no amendments to existing legislation, where it might be taken to endorse actions contrary to the conservation intention. There are no special legal constraints placed on the demolition of unlisted buildings in conservation areas, or on the demolition of unfit houses under housing legislation, or dangerous

structures; and alterations to the appearance of unlisted dwellings and industrial buildings (under classes I and VIII in the Town and Country General Development Order, 1963) remain permitted development in conservation areas. A balance has been struck between the concept of strict preservation or enhancement, and the need to avoid unpopular or onerous legislation applying only in conservation areas.

The main effects of designation on the development control side have in practice been that proposals for changes in conservation areas have been on the whole more than usually thoughtful. Obviously harmful proposals have been few, and where harmful proposals have been made it has been relatively easy to secure adjustments without resort to appeal procedure. Such experience suggests that conservation areas have been accepted by the public; and also leads to the conclusion that "special areas" should not be abused, or devalued, by the over-designation of less important areas at a later stage. It also follows that variations in standard between the conservation areas of one authority and another are likely to be a permanent feature of the conservation scene, since both public interest and amenity standards themselves vary between different counties, and different cities, and between counties and cities.

Section 1(6) of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, requires that planning applications which would in the opinion of the authority "affect the character or appearance" of a conservation area should be advertised by the local planning authority in the local newspaper, and the drawings should be displayed for public inspection for a period of 21 days from the date of the advertisement. Under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1968, notice of the proposed development must also be displayed on or near the land to which the application relates for a seven-day period. Under section 57(3) of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1968, the local planning authority is required in determining the application to "take into account" any representations received by them within a 21-day period from either notice, and must not determine the application before the end of that period.

In the short time in which statutory public participation has been operating for Derbyshire conservation areas so far designated, it has been notable that public representations have been much more numerous and forceful in respect of proposals in some areas than others, and more so in respect of major changes of use and proposals to build on open sites, than on matters of architectural character. In this latter respect public representations are more often heard after the event.

No aspect of the conservation area concept has occasioned more controversy than the formulation of policies for them. There have been differing opinions not only on the extent to which a conservation area policy should be detailed by the planning authority, but on whether policy statements (other than those contained in the Act) are, in principle, desirable for all conservation areas. Very often, different views about

policy making can be traced back to different concepts about the nature of conservation areas. For example, it is possible within the framework of the Act to designate a conservation area solely on the grounds that its "*character*" should be preserved or enhanced. Such an area may contain no listed buildings, or indeed no buildings of intrinsic architectural interest; its claims to fame as an "*area of special architectural or historic interest*" rest solely on the ensemble or "*character*" of the area taken as a whole. Policy formulation may be thought fairly important in such an area. The public, it may be argued, have a right to know what designation means for them in terms of the level and nature of changes which would be allowable. The authority sceptical of the value of policy statements might even here reply that the Act is clear, in allowing changes which would "*enhance*" the "*character*" of the area, and frowning heavily upon changes which would not do so; there is, therefore, no need for a policy statement elaborating a set of rules for permissible changes. Or, again, in a conservation area tightly defining an important group of listed buildings seen together as a place of beauty, there is unarguably a preservation intention implicit in the designation of the area as a conservation area.

The kind of policy statement which seems appropriate is not, therefore, a blueprint for change, seen as a rather specialized exercise for the architect interested in that kind of thing. It would seem to involve categorising those *essential* things which need to be done in order to "preserve or enhance" the area. The policy may consist of a list of eyesores, of quite detailed nature, with suggestions as to how they might most easily be removed or reduced to a tolerable level. It would contain analysis and statements on the planning problems of the area, notably on economic, land use, and traffic matters, with the object of securing the preservation or enhancement of the area. It would also contain basic advice to owners on the upkeep of old buildings of the sort to be found in the locality. The policy would be preceded by an appraisal of the architectural and historic characteristics of the area, with illustrations, which could be published separately as a tourist guide. Policies of such elaboration would, however, be appropriate only to conservation areas of some complexity; many rural areas would need very little in the way of policy statements, beyond an appraisal.

Such are the lines on which the Ministry of Housing & Local Government might be presumed to be thinking when they wrote, in the memorandum on conservation areas in Circular 53/67:

- "5. Designation of a conservation area will be only a preliminary to action to preserve or enhance its character and appearance; it will be of little practical value without this. The local planning authority, with the agreement of the local authority where appropriate, should therefore adopt a positive scheme of action for each area at an early stage."

- “6. The conservation area must be considered in the context of an overall plan such as an approved development plan, or town centre map or village plan. It is the overall plan which will basically determine the validity and prosperity of the conservation area. Its proposals and policies should, where necessary, include measures directed towards the reduction of traffic congestion in and around the conservation area by traffic management and road improvements, the provision of off-street parking and the introduction of pedestrian ways. The plan will also prescribe the use of land and buildings within the conservation area and beyond, and it should provide for the diversion elsewhere of harmful pressures for redevelopment within the conservation area. Many authorities will have prepared their Town Centre Maps on the lines advocated in Planning Bulletin No. 1 — Town Centres — Approach to Renewal. This Bulletin emphasizes the importance of preserving buildings and other features which give character to town centres, and describes the processes of survey and plan.”

In Derbyshire, it was clear that if studies of this magnitude were to be undertaken at an early date, it would be impossible to proceed with the designation of more than a handful of areas in the first three or four years of the Act's operation. It was thought preferable to concentrate in the first instance on the definition and designation of conservation areas over the whole county, and to defer the preparation of policy statements until the designation process was complete, relying in the meantime on the development control provisions of the Act, and on public co-operation to prevent deterioration in the character or appearance of the designated areas. It is largely due to increased public and local authority interest in the areas, following designation, that this preference has proved to be justified in the events.

Nevertheless from time to time matters requiring a policy statement from the County Council have emerged, and these resolutions are contained in Appendix 'B'.

It seems likely at present that the County Council's main programme for designating conservation areas will be substantially completed in 1971, and that 1972 may well see first steps in preparing individual policy statements for Derbyshire's historic towns and villages.

LEGISLATION

On 1 April 1972, Section 1 of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, and Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1968, will become sections 277 and 28 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971.

APPENDIX 'A'

LIST OF PROPOSED DERBYSHIRE CONSERVATION AREAS
submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, May 1969

WEST DERBYSHIRE

Ashbourne U.D.	Ashbourne (town centre)
Ashbourne R.D.	Sudbury (village and park)
	Norbury (church and manor house)
	Brassington (old village)
	Hopton — Carsington
	Kirk Ireton (old village centre)
	Osmaston (estate village)
Buxton M.B.	Buxton (part of town centre)
Chapel-en-le-Frith R.D.	Chapel (Market Place and approaches)
Glossop M.B.	Norfolk Square
	Old Glossop (village core)
Matlock U.D.	Cromford (Arkwright's village)
	Bonsall (village centre)
	Riber (hamlet)
	Matlock Bath (old town)
	(the above four with reference to the Matlock Tors landscape area)
Wirksworth U.D.	Wirksworth (town centre)

NORTH-EAST DERBYSHIRE

Blackwell R.D.	Hardwick, Ault Hucknall, Rowthorne and Stainsby, with background landscape dominated by Hardwick Hall
Bolsover U.D.	Bolsover (castle environs)
Chesterfield M.B.	Several, including Church Close
Chesterfield R.D.	Higham (old village)
	Ashover (old village)
Clowne R.D.	Steetley (church and farm)
Dronfield U.D.	Dronfield (old village centre)

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

Belper U.D.	Belper (milltown)
Belper R.D.	Dethick (hamlet)
	Duffield (parts of the village)
	Kedleston (hall and associated landscape)
Repton R.D.	Repton (village centre)
	Milton (C18 centre)
	Trusley (village)
South East Derbyshire R.D.	Kings Newton (old parts of the village)
	Melbourne (developed area circa 1820-30)
	Risley (hall, church and schools)
	Dale Abbey (village south of the through road)

Other areas to be considered

Alfreton U.D.	Alfreton (Church Street)
Ashbourne U.D.	Ashbourne (peripheral extensions to area)
Ashbourne R.D.	Mapleton, Snelston
Belper R.D.	South Wingfield (Manor and associated landscape)
Chesterfield R.D.	Eckington (church group)
Clowne R.D.	Barlborough (Hall and old village)
Ilkeston M.B.	Ilkeston (Market Place)
Repton R.D.	Ticknall, Etwall, Walton-on-Trent
Staveley U.D.	Staveley (church and hall group)

APPENDIX 'B'

RESOLUTIONS OF THE DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ON POLICY FOR CONSERVATION AREAS

1. *Housing and Public Health Act Clearances —
Improvement or demolition?*

Some conservation areas include or may include residential streets containing houses not sufficiently important in themselves to be included on the Minister's list as historic buildings, but of some character, and providing street scene support and a historical setting for the major attractions of the area. There is some danger that these supporting areas may be lost through clearance action under public health legislation, when improvement might have been a reasonable alternative at an earlier stage in the life of the buildings. This problem is complicated by the difficulty of appreciating the good qualities of a building which is shabby and ill-maintained.

The following resolution has been made by the County Council:

"In designating conservation areas, the County Council is conscious of the definition in the Civic Amenities Act, that they are 'areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which should be preserved or enhanced'. There is a clear implication in the legislation that conservation areas are, to some substantial extent, preservation areas; and wherever possible or at all reasonable, they suggest that District Councils should think of them under housing and Public Health legislation as improvement areas, rather than as areas where systematic clearance and rebuilding will take place. The County Council recognise that the historic quality and importance of conservation areas vary and that while some areas or parts of areas will be literally 'preservation areas', others will include sites, where redevelopment is desirable to enhance the whole scene, and other buildings which, however picturesque they may be, cannot for structural reasons be improved and must be replaced. In these circumstances the Council asks that action for clearance should not be undertaken without prior consultation with the Local Planning Authority, and that before undertaking such clearance, District Councils will show how they propose to redevelop such an area so as to preserve or enhance its architectural or historic qualities. They would hope that by this means it would be possible for the Local Planning Authority to support the District Council in any proposal to redevelop any part of a conservation area."

(December 1969)

2. *Financial Support in conservation areas under the Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act, 1962*

Section 1(5) of the Civic Amenities Act requires that "where any area is for the time being designated as a conservation area, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing its character or appearance in the exercise . . . of any powers . . . under the Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act, 1962 . . .".

The following resolutions have been made by the County Council:

- (1) "The County Council have considered the provisions of Section 1(5) of the Civic Amenities Act, and affirm that they will pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area in the exercise of any powers under the Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act, 1962. In so doing they recognise that many conservation areas contain features of interest to tourists, and otherwise are or could be the most attractive or interesting parts of Local Authority Areas, and as such are an asset to those areas." (December 1969)
- (2) (a) "That the following percentage rates of assistance towards repairs and maintenance of listed buildings be approved and that no financial details of the applicants be required unless applicants consider that their personal financial circumstances justify assistance at a rate higher than that set out in the following table:

<i>Class of Building</i>	County Council guaranteed grant subject to 1963 conditions except 4 (d) and 5, may be increased depending on applicant's circumstances	Local Experience of Ministry assistance additionally
<i>Listed Buildings</i>		
Grade I	20%	Yes
II*	20%	Probably
II	20%	Rarely
<i>Other Buildings</i>		
Grade III	10%	No
Local list (if any)	10%	No
Unlisted, more than 100 years old, within Conservation Areas	10%	No

- (b) that where loans are arranged, or where grants in excess of the rates listed above are approved, the County Treasurer to satisfy himself on the financial circumstances of the applicant(s);
- (c) that the revised scheme be adopted as from 1 April 1971."

3. *Policy for Conservation Areas*

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the following processes be used concerning the designation of future conservation areas:
- (i) that the County publish a provisional list of areas in which special conservation policies should apply;
 - (ii) that full consultation be carried out with Local Authorities, Amenity Societies and the general public, leading to possible revision of the list and establishing local views on priorities;

- (iii) a definitive list, together with a short general conservation policy statement, be published, setting out clearly the intentions, the lines of action to be followed and the criteria against which decisions will be taken; and
- (iv) publication of special policy statements relating to the designated conservation areas.

(2) that within existing conservation areas, full consultations be carried out with Local Authorities, Amenity Societies and the general public to establish local views on priorities for action. (March 1970)

4. *Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations, 1969; Areas of Special Control*

The County Planning Officer reported that the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations, 1969, require that at least once in every five years every Planning Authority shall consider whether any part of their area should be defined as an area of special control and outline the reasons set out by the Minister as acceptable for supporting the application of special advertisement control in conservation areas. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Council be authorised to make the necessary Orders for special advertisement control and submit them to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for approval in respect of the following conservation areas:

Ashbourne	Duffield
Buxton	Repton
Melbourne	Trusley
Kings Newton	Higham
Sudbury	Wirksworth
Steetley	Old Glossop
Risley	Glossop (Norfolk Square)
Eckington	Norbury

and subsequently

Cromford	(July 1970)
Ashover	Dronfield
Staveley	Whitwell
	(January 1971)

5. *Outline Planning Permission in conservation areas, and criteria for assessing planning applications therein*

RESOLVED:

- (1) as it is the local planning authority's statutory duty in determining planning applications affecting conservation areas to permit development which would preserve or enhance the character or appearance of conservation areas and to refuse development which would not do so, the local authority will, therefore, determine such applications on the basis of details comprising plan(s), elevation(s), and a specification of external materials sufficient to indicate the appearance of the proposed development in relation to its setting; EXCEPT that if it is clear without doubt that an outline application could be permitted (with or without conditions) or refused, within the terms of policy set out above, then such details will not be required; and
- (2) that a standard letter prefaced by the above statement be sent to applicants for outline planning permission affecting conservation areas, advising them under Article 5(2) of the General Development Order (as amended) of the need to submit details. (October 1971)

APPENDIX 'C'

NOTES ON 21 DERBYSHIRE CONSERVATION AREAS

designated at 31 January 1971

ASHBOURNE is given in Domesday, 1086, as "Esseburn" (meaning "ash tree stream", now the Henmore Brook) and is described then as a waste part of Offcote and Underwood parish. It was laid out as a "planted" market town, about the mid 13th century, probably by one of the de Ferrars family, who held the manor. It is first mentioned as a borough in 1281, and owed its prosperity as an agricultural and market centre to a sheltered position, where the Pennine foothills meet the Midland plain, astride a great national thoroughfare, now the A52 [the route taken by Scottish troops under Prince Charles in 1745 and by the March of the Blanketeers in 1817]. The sloping triangular market place, later divided by casual in-building into a large and small part, is at the east end of Church Street. It had a weekly Saturday market by 1296, and its fairs grew from two in medieval times to seven in the 17th century and 11 in 1853. At the west end is the parish church, again C13, with fine windows, arcade, chancel, and spire, and near it are the Grammar School (1585) and some C17 almshouses. Church Street was substantially rebuilt in the 18th century, and today we see in the historic centre mostly Georgian and Regency brick buildings on a medieval street plan. The long plot divisions of the original layout are still recognisable on an ordnance survey map. For its historic town plan, its architectural qualities, and its civic character, Ashbourne's importance is considerable.

Ashbourne was a favourite retreat of Doctor Johnson, whose friend Dr. Taylor lived at the Mansion House in Church Street. Erasmus Darwin's "Plan for the conduct of female education in Boarding Schools" (1797) was put in practice in a house in St. John Street. By 1847 the town had 33 hotels, inns, or taverns; 12 schools or academies; 5 attorneys, 5 surgeons and 3 booksellers; it had also developed a little light industry. Railway routings later did not favour it, and its importance as a centre stood still while Derby's rapidly advanced: this period of gestation during the heyday of the industrial revolution has, however, preserved the town substantially complete. It has old-established businesses of wide renown, including a fishing-tackle shop whose records are in a Canadian museum. [Among the customs it keeps are a Shrove Tuesday football game, and the making of local sweetmeats.] It is now a southern gateway for thousands of week-end holidaymakers to the Peak District. It still "conveys a pleasing idea of security and social happiness" (Glover, 1833).

The designated conservation area comprises the Market Place, St. John Street, Dig Street and Church Street (all medieval street names), with Victoria Square. It includes 78 listed buildings comprising some 119 properties.

For a comprehensive account of the town, reference should be made to Adrian Henstock's study to be published shortly. (designated 1.11.68)

BUXTON ("Buckestanes" *c.* 1108, meaning perhaps "rocking stones") the Roman spa, AQUAE ARNEMETIAE. Several Roman roads converged on it, or passed through it, and a Roman bath was found in the 18th century near the warm spring. The spa lies in the Wye valley, and the old settlement round the market is clustered on a spur to the south. It is set 1,000 feet above sea level among the hills and dales of the Peak.

In medieval times miracles were associated with the waters of St. Ann's Well (alias Holywell), which was a place of pilgrimage where votive offerings were left at the shrine. Such things were swept away at the Reformation. In Elizabethan times the waters were of high repute, and the Earl of Shrewsbury built a large house to

accommodate distinguished visitors, among whom were Mary, Queen of Scots, Burgh-leigh, and the Earl of Leicester. In 1670 it was rebuilt by William, 3rd Earl of Derbyshire, which house survives in the Old Hall Hotel. St. Ann's church in the old town dates from 1625. Tourist trade grew, and in the 1770's, encouraged by the prosperity of Bath, the Duke of Devonshire embarked on an ambitious building programme to enlarge the spa. With John Carr of York he built first The Crescent, which is among the grandest Augustan terraces in Britain, and then the more modest Square linked with it, as lodging houses with splendid rooms for assembly. The riding stables were added, its courtyard being covered in 1868 by a dome then the largest in the world. Landscaped walks and plantations were laid out; the curving highway pattern looks French in influence. St. John's church is Sir Jeffery de Wyatville's design of 1811.

All this investment brought prosperity, and in the 19th century Buxton town was much rebuilt, and enlarged, in a distinctive bay-windowed fashion. The Market Place was cleared of in-building, and outside South Church Street little remains of the meagre hill-town of former years.

In 1833 Buxton's season was from June to October. After 1860, the town enjoyed a phenomenal boom with the coming of the railway. The Pavilion Gardens were laid out about 1870 and many fine hotels and mansions were added in a garden-city type of setting. Of special note from this period are the Palace Hotel, the octagonal concert hall, and the Edwardian Opera House, but the town is rich in minor Victorian architecture and furniture of interest. It is now a dormitory for Manchester, a tourist and conference centre, a centre of the quarrying industry, and it has an increasing range of light industrial and administrative functions. It is the principal shopping centre of the Peak District with specialities in antiques, and an old-established pottery shop.

Buxton is built of gritstone, a material whose weathering characteristics are difficult to match, and is roofed mainly in slate.

The conservation area includes the market town at about 1860 based on High Street; The Georgian spa town centred on The Crescent, and the Victorian Pavilion Gardens with its surrounding houses, together with some peripheral buildings of good character.

(designated 1.11.68)

HIGHAM (the name appears in Pipe rolls, 1155; meaning "High Village" in Anglo-Saxon). Higham is a former trading village astride Rykneld Street, and the main road to Derby, eight miles south of Chesterfield. It is a street village with space for a market and having a village cross. Its 28 listed properties are mainly 17th-century cottages and small houses; in the late 19th century some others were added in like style and of the same local sandstone. The market was discontinued in 1785, but a cattle fair was still "numerously attended" in 1847. In the late 19th century, Higham was bypassed by the growth of industry in nearby settlements, and a changing route pattern. There is little recent building, and it remains an unspoiled market-street village mainly 17th century in character. There are proposals for a main road bypass.

(designated 1.11.68)

TRUSLEY (meaning uncertain, ? Toxenai, Domesday 1086), a tiny village seven miles west of Derby, which contained 2 medieval granges, but only 15 houses in 1847, since when it has changed little. Its buildings are of brick, from the 18th and early 19th centuries. The parish church of 1713 with its original fittings is small but remarkable; surviving parts of Trusley Old Hall (C16-17) with its summerhouse are nearby, and farmhouses and cottages are in the local 18th-century vernacular style. Buildings

are set far apart among trees and woods. Trusley is characteristic of south-west Derbyshire villages in its warmth and rural charm, but unusual in its church and its survival untouched by development of the industrial age. (designated 1-11-68)

MELBOURNE (in Domesday 1086, "Mileburne"; meaning probably "mill stream"): a large market village on the medieval highway north from Leicester, 8 miles south of Derby and 2 miles south of the Trent crossing at Swarkestone Bridge. Its three centres reflect its history as a Saxon and medieval royal manor, a Norman ecclesiastical settlement, and a small market town of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Architecturally of first importance is the Norman parish church, perhaps built by Adeldulf, first Bishop of Carlisle. Henry I granted him the living in 1136 because his own diocese was ravaged by the Scots. No new bishop was appointed on his death in 1156, and the twin west towers remain incomplete. (However, Pevsner thinks the church younger than 1136.) The church close features a medieval tithe barn, attractive houses, and Melbourne Hall on the site of the Rectory and perhaps the Bishop's Palace. The lease of the palace was sold to a Secretary of State, Sir John Coke, in 1628. His descendants in 1696 employed the Royal gardeners, London and Wise, to lay out the remarkable and important formal gardens, decorated with pavilions, statuary, and the Pool. The Hall (C16-17, 1725 and 1744) is mainly by Francis Smith of Warwick. Pool Road offers to the pedestrian prospects of the group in a landscape setting of great beauty; it seems to have been the main highway to Leicester, perhaps till 1790.

It is unclear whether the ancient village centre was the present market place, or was Castle Square. Little remains above ground of the castle, centre for the Royal Park created by King John on the Crown estates. He visited Melbourne five times to hunt. The Market, first granted to the Bishop in 1230 and then to Henry, earl of Lancaster in 1327, would probably be held then in Castle Street. Timber thatched cottages, 18th-century houses, and two mid 19th-century mills now enclose the quiet back square. Potter Street has modest 17th- and 18th-century vernacular town-houses in brick.

About 1780-1810, highway diversions certainly focused attention on the present Market Place west of these groups. Approaching streets here are dominated by vernacular town-houses of that period, featuring decorated lintels. This style helps to give Melbourne its strong sense of town personality. A medieval thatched cruck cottage survives in High Street.

Church Street and Penn Lane are more open and various, with trees and curving stone walls leading to picturesque groups of building, sometimes in stone and sometimes brick.

The conservation area includes the developed area at about 1820-1830 with the Pool and adjoining woods. Its rambling grid of streets offers a great variety of attractive scenery, in which there are few unhappy events.

Since the 1840's Melbourne has conceded some of its market-town importance to Derby. It retains textile and footwear manufacturers, and in this century has become an important market gardening centre. (designated 21.2.69)

KINGS NEWTON ("Newton(e)" in the reign of Henry II, meaning "new farm" — i.e. on the Royal Manor of Melbourne; "Newton Regis" in 1269 Assize rolls), a hamlet probably developed in medieval times one mile north of Melbourne. It became a sub-manor of Melbourne, though its manor house near the Trent had disappeared by 1846. The contrast of whitewash and local sandstone colours its picturesque street scenery. Listed buildings are mainly in two groups, one near the hall and the other round the medieval village cross. It seems to have thrived around 1560-1640; from that period

came the hall and some cottage groups and detached houses, featuring sometimes timber-frame construction with brick infill walls. Its holy well was a "spring formerly in much repute over which a stone arch was constructed in 1660", now fallen into neglect. The Hall was the seat of the Hardinge family and is the centrepiece of the village street. It was burnt out in 1859, but handsomely restored and enlarged in 1910. Stone boundary walls and two rows of trees contribute to the village scene.

Kings Newton now functions mainly as a commuter village. The conservation area includes the older groups of building and important scenic features.

(designated 21.2.69)

STEETLEY ("Stiveleya" in Charter rolls, 1154-67, possibly from Old English STYFIC + LEAH meaning "stump clearing" in forests); a Norman chapel adjoining 18th-century farm buildings in arable land on the magnesian limestone, 2 miles north-east of Whitwell and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Worksop.

Pevsner observes that "there are few Norman churches in England so consistently made into showpieces". Steetley chapel is tiny, but graced with decorative and representational carvings of a high quality. Why this church, so near to Whitwell's of about the same date, was treated with such elaboration is obscure; possibly Steetley was an ancient parish in its own right. Steetley chapel's ruins were the subject of antiquarian interest in the 18th and 19th centuries, culminating in a careful restoration by J. L. Pearson, the church architect, in 1880. The south porch is substantially reconstructed, and the interior carvings mostly original. Steetley farmhouse, the barn, and the pigeon-house are of interest in their own right; they form a distinguished limestone group with the chapel.

(designated 21.2.69)

SUDBURY (in Domesday, "Sudberie", meaning "south fortification" — perhaps of Rocester Street? Compare "Norbury"). The estate village, associated with one of Derbyshire's finest great houses, stands on the north bank of the lower River Dove, thirteen miles west of Derby, the parish centre of a fairly rich farming area. The manor was held originally by the Ferrars family, who had a park there at Domesday. The Montgomery interest as sub-tenants passed by marriage to the Vernons in the mid 16th century, and it was they who later built the present hall and village.

Sudbury Hall was "begun about 1613 by Mary Vernon and left unfinished at her death. The upper storey and the entire frontispiece and nearly all the interior features were added by George Vernon between 1670 and 1695" (Pevsner). The result is a remarkably coherent masterpiece, both imposing and beautiful. It has been disposed to the National Trust and will shortly be opened to the public. The various gatehouses and offices are all of interest.

George Vernon also built the Vernon Arms Hotel about 1670 in similar style. Other houses and cottages in the village street have flat arched openings in the local vernacular style of the 18th to early 19th centuries. The village, hotel and hall form an east-west sequence along the main street and are built throughout in brick, with sandstone dressings for the buildings intended to impress, and grey tile roofs.

The deercothe in the park north of the hall is a "Gothic" folly of about 1800. The medieval church was restored and enlarged in 1827. Schools and the village library in a side lane date from 1831/32, and the little development added in this century is not unpleasant.

The conservation area includes most of the developed area, and a further area of landscape interest associated with the Hall is separately defined. (designated 21.2.69)

REPTON was a riverside village on the old River Trent; a monastic settlement, and a Saxon royal residence, 8 miles south-west of Derby. The name appears in early

forms as "Hreopandune" in 755; "Hreopedune" in 1020; "Hypadune" in 848; "Rependuna", etc., in Domesday, 1086; meaning "the hill of the Hreope tribe"; an archaic name.

The conservation area comprises firstly, the ancient centre in the north, near the church, school and market cross; then the southwards extension of the town along High Street; and thirdly, the garden suburb along Well Lane.

Repton seems to have been founded by an Anglo-Saxon king of Mercia between 653 and 660. By 660 it had a monastery. Peada, son of King Penda, was converted to christianity on his marriage in 653 to the daughter of King Oswy of Northumbria, and the monastery was probably founded under their patronage. According to tradition it was the burial place of Mercian kings, and certainly of Aethebald (756), and it was probably a royal residence. It was ravaged and destroyed by the Danes in 874, and remains of men and horses indicate extensive fighting nearby. The crypt and chancel of the church mostly date from a 10th-century rebuilding, the crypt being unique in Britain.

At Domesday, the place was again a thriving royal manor. A second monastery was founded by Augustinian Canons in the late 12th century, and there are remains of the Priory buildings, church, slype, gateway and walls dating from the 12th and 13th centuries. A large number of architectural fragments also survive. The slender church spire is of the 14th century.

Repton was a medieval market town, whose shape and character can be guessed from the street pattern round the medieval market cross. There are good vernacular buildings of the 17th to 19th centuries. The school was founded under the will of Sir John Port about 1557 in the monastery buildings. Repton Hall (mainly 1670-1700) was in separate ownership, and incorporates on the north side Prior Overton's tower of 1438, with elaborate brick tracery and moulding. The school chapel of 1857 is by the Derby architect, Stevens.

Southwards down High Street, an important group of historic buildings is situated near no. 33 (Tudor Lodge). Further south again there are 18th- and 19th-century frontages, with a distinctive village "square" at the junction with Well Lane, beyond which a fine Georgian house, "The Grange", and the trees near Holly Bank form the conclusion of the street picture. Well Lane contains 18th- and 19th-century dwellings in wooded grounds, and a laneside stream course. Lutyen's house, "Dalriada", of 1906, here concludes the sequence and incorporates local stylistic references in a country house with a formal front and romantic back.

Repton's decline as a market centre dates, perhaps, from the cutting of the Grand Trunk Canal in 1777, which by-passed the Trent, and from the growth of Derby. It is now mainly a school village and dormitory settlement. (designated 29.8.69)

RISLEY (in Domesday, 1086, "Riselei", meaning "brushwood clearing") on the old main road, 7 miles east of Derby and 7 miles west of Nottingham, in the marls of the Trent valley. The small church was built as a chapel to the Hall opposite, in 1593, by Michael Willoughby; the north aisle was added in 1841. He also gave 20 nobles to maintain a minister and a schoolmaster. His descendant Mrs. Elizabeth Gray built a schoolmaster's house and in 1718 endowed a school by gift of land for teaching all the children of Risley and boys of neighbouring townships. In 1720 she endowed a further school for girls. The three brick buildings are arranged with the boys' and girls' schools either side and in front of the master's house. The schools are an 18th-century example of functional building for social welfare purposes. Latin House, next to the church, is a baroque-fronted Queen Anne house with ornament finely executed, and original interiors. The Hall, formerly the seat of the Willoughby family, is a low,

stone and brick building grown from 16th-century origins through 18th-century enlargements to the present day; its garden terrace with balustrades and gateway are also listed. A pretty dell with old cottages behind the church, and the landscaped forecourt of the Hall, are included in the conservation area. The group reflects the enlightened endowments and patronage of a family of well-to-do country squires in a group of historic buildings (containing 8 listed items, 4 of which are grade II* and 4 grade II). (designated 29.8.69)

DUFFIELD (is in Domesday "Duvell", and about the 12th century, "Duffeld(e)", and means "open country frequented by doves"). The village is situated in the Derwent valley five miles north of Derby. In medieval times it was the centre of a large parish, including "Duffield Forest" to the north of the village. Its early Norman castle was demolished in 1235 after the rising of Prince Henry against Henry II. It had 208 houses in 1788, 312 in 1801 (population 1,656) and 594 houses in 1851 (population 2,926), by which time it had passed its peak as a thriving industrial village and service centre. There was outward migration due to trade depression, and the village never recovered its industrial basis. It has become a residential area for commuters to Derby.

The conservation area includes several groups of specially interesting and attractive development adjacent to the village centre on Town Street, which is itself included in the area to give coherence to the whole. At the southern approach to the village, a group of four listed houses is clustered round the Baptist Chapel, and Duffield Hall (17th and 19th centuries) with its trees and park wall leads to an attractive street group including six listed buildings. North west of the centre, the curving Tamworth Street features three detached stone listed buildings, attractive cottages, trees, roadside walls, and a stream, with several surprise vistas. There are old stone cottages on King Street, and the arcadian flavour is epitomised in Hazlewood Road with an important group of revival buildings based sometimes on a genuine old structure, centred on Ivy Lodge. Otherwise most listed buildings date from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The village has suffered in places from unsuitable post-war redevelopment. Duffield Castle, the remains of a Norman keep, forms a separate special area on the Milford Road. (designated 29.8.69)

WIRKSWORTH (meaning a person named Wearn's, or Wyrk's, enclosure) is a small market and quarrying town set in the mid-Derbyshire foothills of the Peak District. It is given in Cartularium Saxonium, A.D. 835, as "Wyrkesvvrthe", and then belonging to the Abbess of Repton. There is evidence of lead mining since Roman times, and the Saxon settlement provided the church for a very large surrounding parish. An important Saxon sculpture of A.D. 800 was found here and is in the church. At Domesday (1086), Wirksworth had 3 lead mines and 7 populous out-districts which later became separate manors. As the largest centre, it gave its name to the South Peak Wapentake and Hundred which included Ashbourne.

The church was given to the Dean of Lincoln by Henry I in 1272, and the present cruciform building dates from that time. The manor was granted by Edward I to his brother Edmund, earl of Lancaster, and has since been appurtenant to the earldom and duchy. It was granted in 1553 to Ralph Gell, whose family held it till the 19th century. Anthony Gell founded the free grammar school in 1576 (the present building is of 1828) and built the Gell's almshouses in 1584, both in the church close. Babington House in Green Hill (perhaps 1588) is associated with Anthony Babington.

In the 18th century, Wirksworth was the third town in Derbyshire, and retains much of its character from that time, with stone and brick buildings both in the native

mullioned style and the Georgian. Its small plots, curved and narrow ways, and close vistas are clustered around St. John Street and the Market Place on the south slopes of the limestone hills which provided its mineral wealth. An account of its lead-mining industry is given in Nixon's *Industrial Archaeology of Derbyshire*.

In 1846 the town had stone quarries, 3 factories, 8 academies, 2 solicitors, 2 banks, 38 inns and taverns, 35 boot- and shoemakers, 11 grocers and 17 butchers: it had a Tuesday market, petty sessions fortnightly, and a Court of Requests for mid-Derbyshire every 8 weeks. In the later 19th century, the Meersbrook Sough brought a short-lived revival of lead mining. The town was portrayed as "Snowfield" in George Eliot's *Adam Bede*. Its population was 3,923 in 1851 and 4,931 in 1961. The quarrying industry is now greatly expanded and provides both the backbone of its livelihood and some environmental problems. (designated 21.8.70)

NORBURY (in Domesday, 1086, "Nortberie", meaning "north fortification" — c.f. "Sudbury") is a small village on the east bank of the River Dove five miles south-west of Ashbourne. The special area consists of the manor house, the parish church, and a nearby house, with immediate parts of their wooded setting. Both the main buildings are important works of architecture associated with the Fitzherbert family, who held the manor from 1125 to the mid-19th century. The church is remarkable for its chancel of 1350-70, its stained glass and the Fitzherbert monuments. On its west side is the old manor hall, of the same century but with alterations, which is linked by the brick mansion of about 1710 to a 17th-century wing. Segmental arched windows of the local vernacular style are here used in a classical composition. A more ambitious hall, built nearby in the 19th century, is now demolished. With its surrounding mature trees, the group is among the most lovely in rural Derbyshire. (designated 21.8.70)

OLD GLOSSOP was the principal settlement of an ancient parish, the seat of a population which strongly resisted Roman and Norman invasions, and which at Domesday (1086) lay devastated. The name ("Glosop" in 1086) means "Glott's Valley", and the place is set at the head of Glossop Dale, under the gritstone moorlands of the High Peak, 14 miles west of Manchester. The village features a very fine group of 17th-century street houses, nos. 28-36 Church Street, and there are other vernacular buildings of the 16th to the 18th centuries, two chapels, a village cross in a small square, and 19th-century cottages in attractive groupings. The church was rebuilt in 1914 to the design of Charles Hadfield. The Glossop brook course through the village, and parkland trees adjoining, are included in the conservation area. The village is constructed of gritstone, and strongly features local characteristics in its building groups. (designated 21.8.70)

GLOSSOP (NORFOLK SQUARE). In 1821, the opening of the Snake Pass route from Manchester to Sheffield made the hamlet of Howard Town a cross-roads at the hub of Glossop Dale communications. The Duke of Norfolk had for 10 years previously encouraged the establishment of mills along the Glossop Brook nearby; he then, through agents, planned the streets and leased plots for a new town by the cross-roads, organising the provision of public buildings, places of worship, water supplies, and in 1845 building the branch railway. Norfolk Square is the civic centre of this new town, and is now the main centre of Glossop. The market was opened in 1845, and with the town hall was a "handsome building" with colonnades and shopping wings "in the Italian style". The Square is well laid out, and commercial buildings around it are mostly of the mid-19th century. Some have suffered alteration over the years, and it is hoped that restoration will be possible from time to time. (designated 21.8.70)

ECKINGTON ("Eckintune" in Domesday, 1086, meaning "Eccas farm") is the chief centre of a large parish 5 miles north-east of Chesterfield. Although mainly agricultural, its prosperity owed something to industries before the 17th century, including coal mining, iron working, and manufacture, especially of scythes and sickles. By 1846 it was a significant market centre.

The old village is on the northern fringe of the 19th-century industrial town. It is dominated by two fine buildings; the parish church, with transitional Norman and later work and memorials to the Sitwells of Renishaw, and the Rectory, built in 1720 and enlarged about 1790. The Rectory grounds were once famous for their landscaping, and the living was one of the wealthiest in the county. There are other gritstone buildings nearby, and the setting is enhanced by well-timbered open spaces adjoining the churchyard and Rectory, merging with hilly country to the north and Renishaw Park to the south-east. (designated 21.8.70)

CROMFORD (The name appears in Domesday, 1086, as "Crumforde", meaning "ford by a bend"). The industrial village built by Sir Richard Arkwright between 1769 and his death in 1792 was sited here because suitable water power and sources of labour were available locally. The setting is among fine limestone scenery in the mid-Derwent valley. For accounts of Arkwright's methods and achievements see "The Strutts and the Arkwrights", by Fitton and Wadsworth, and "Industrial Archaeology of Derbyshire", by Frank Nixon.

A mill is recorded here in 1276. Cromford Bridge, on the site of the ford, is 15th century, later widened, and the remains of a medieval chapel are alongside. Little surviving development can certainly be dated prior to 1770.

Arkwright's building methods were robust, conservative and increasingly standardised. Building at the mill (1769-1792) proceeded broadly from west to east, and its layout suggests defensive purposes after the Lancashire riots of 1779, or protection against "spies" after 1772. Housing in the village employs the three-storey cottage type with upper weaving room and mullioned windows; North Street is particularly impressive. The Greyhound Inn is a prestige building of 1778, and a market was set up in 1790. Rock House was Arkwright's early residence. After purchasing the manor in 1789, he began building Willersley Castle and laid out its beautiful grounds; he founded the parish church in 1790, but lived to see neither building complete. Masson Mill (1783) is perhaps the best preserved of Arkwright's Derbyshire mills. There are other buildings of interest, both with architectural pretensions and of humbler sort. The Cromford Canal is of circa 1789, the school of 1832 and 1840, and a chapel of 1797. Parts of two water-mills survive, a record of the mixed economy practised by Arkwright, who managed his own building and machine-making and provided elementary social services for his workpeople on lines established by his early partner Strutt in Belper.

The conservation area is defined to embrace almost the whole Arkwright story at Cromford, with a little older development at Cromford Bridge. The railway station, and stationmaster's house, outside the area, are also of special architectural interest (1860). (designated 22.1.71)

STAVELEY ("Stavelie" at Domesday, meaning "stone clearing"). The manor was given to the Musards at the Conquest and passed to the Frecheville family by the 15th century. They rebuilt the Hall in 1604, fortified it in the Civil War, and sold the estates in 1681 to the Earl of Devonshire. The iron industry, based on Staveley Forge to the west, was established by 1608. The industrial growth of the town left the old village centre intact, and it remains an area of especial value in the industrial context

of modern Staveley. The medieval church has a tower which is a landmark, stained glass, and memorials to the Frechevilles. Surrounding it is a group of listed buildings including the ancient chantry, the school of 1844, the old Rectory of 1719, and Staveley Hall, altered in the 18th and 19th centuries and now the District Council Offices. The grounds are surrounded by buttressed stone retaining walls, probably of early 18th-century date. There are unlisted buildings of interest, open spaces and trees, all contributing to the attractive qualities of the area. (designated 22.1.71)

WHITWELL is a parish centre in a sheltered declivity on the arable land of the magnesian limestone, 4 miles west of Worksop. The name appears as "Hwitan wylles" in 942 (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle) and "Witewelle" in 1086 (Domesday), meaning "a clear stream or spring". The Norman parts of the church are its tower, and its nave, of balanced and serene composition; the chancel and transepts are 14th century. The Hall behind it belonged to the Rye family and then to the Manners, who built the present important structure in the 16th and 17th centuries; later it belonged to the Duke of Portland. Extending along High Street is the old village with attractive stone groups, including the old manor house (C16), the George Inn (C18) and the Rectory (1886 by J. L. Pearson; see also Steetley Conservation Area). The western approaches are picturesque.

Later development areas are east and south of the original village. Parish population was 707 in 1811, and grew thereafter, especially on the sinking of the colliery about 1890, to 4,200 in 1921 and 4,850 in 1951. (designated 22.1.71)

ASHOVER (Essovere in Domesday Book, 1086, meaning "ash tree slope") is a large parish in the upper Amber valley between Matlock and Chesterfield, with scattered hamlets, farmsteads and houses of ancient origin, and a compact village nucleus around the church. It was once an important centre of lead mining, a "Liberty" outside the Kings Field. Its market had been discontinued by 1829, but at that time, although agriculture was the main industry, almost half the population was engaged in trade, manufacture, mining and other pursuits. A spa was established at Eastwood in Queen Anne's time, but in 1767 it became a poorhouse. The importance of the village as a commercial centre declined during the 19th century. The parish is now a dormitory area for Chesterfield workpeople.

Set in the picturesque valley with a background of trees and steep hillsides, the village is dominated by the spire of the 14th- and 15th-century parish church. The church contains a rare lead font of Norman date, decorated with small figures in arcading. There are some 19 houses in the village listed as of special architectural or historic interest and they are grouped with other gritstone buildings to form village street scenes of quality and character. (designated 22.1.71)

DRONFIELD (Dranefeld in Domesday Book, 1086, meaning "open land") is an industrial and dormitory town between Chesterfield and Sheffield, once the centre of a large and important parish, including Dore, Totley and Beauchief. The large medieval church with its ambitious 14th-century chancel indicates the importance of the place in the middle ages, probably as an agricultural and market centre. The district is noted for several small barns of medieval cruck construction type. By the early 19th century, however, there had been no weekly market for many years. Dronfield was then a service and manufacturing centre. Its industrial history at least dates from the 17th century, and features cast iron and the manufacture of scythes and sickles. The vicinity was noted for superior coal in 1846.

The town's considerable prosperity in the late 17th and early 18th centuries is

borne out by the number of large houses surviving from this period, noteworthy for the conservatism of their architectural style. Chiverton House of 1712 and Rose Hill of 1719 are basically Jacobean in character, but the Hall of about the same time is more advanced and the manor house shows a full assimilation of Renaissance ideas. The Old Vicarage and the Red House in Church Street are interesting for the use of brick.

The historic centre is split by the railway, leaving Chiverton House and Rose Hill detached from the main part of the old town, which contains the church and some 12 buildings listed as having special architectural or historic interest. They are linked by other old stone buildings which help to give Church Street and High Street coherence as an area of special architectural and historic interest (designated 22.1.71)