Your Place Matters:

A Guide to Understanding Buildings and their Setting in Rural Worcestershire

Historic England

worcestershire county council

Authorship and Copyright
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Cover image
A linear settlement with traditional farmsteads and houses set intermittingly along a possible droveway, leading from upland pastures on the Malvern Hills to lowland common. Buildings face, and are set slightly back from the road, in their own individual plots. The surrounding landscape is mixed with small to medium scale irregular fields with sinuous, often mature, hedged boundaries.

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Section 1

Introducing the Guidance

Overview

'Your Place Matters: A Guide to Understanding Buildings and their Setting in Rural Worcestershire' has been designed by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, in collaboration with Historic England. This Guidance complements and supports the Community Planning toolkit 'Your Place Matters: Community Planning Toolkit for the Future of Rural Buildings and their Setting.'

This fully-illustrated Guidance is aimed at community planning groups and the professional advisors who support them, and can also be used by those undertaking research into different areas of the historic environment. It responds to a need identified in workshops and national research (Locus Consulting, 2014), for guidance which helps people to understand their area as the result of past change, and the opportunities that this offers for the future. It is therefore designed to help you step back and see your area in its broader context and provide you with a better understanding of:

- The different landscape features that make up the whole environment, from open spaces to fields and woodland; taking account of both the natural and historic environments, and the benefits they bring to wildlife and people.
- How different patterns of settlement relate to different landscape types.
- What makes your area distinctive through consideration of the whole landscape and not simply features that are officially designated.

Buildings in rural Worcestershire will be considered under the following broad headings:

Local landscapes
How do buildings relate to surrounding fields, settlement, routeways, waterways, woodland, unenclosed land, orchard, parkland and allotments?

Rural settlement
How do buildings relate to each other and their immediate setting?
(For example, the form, layout and location of settlement).

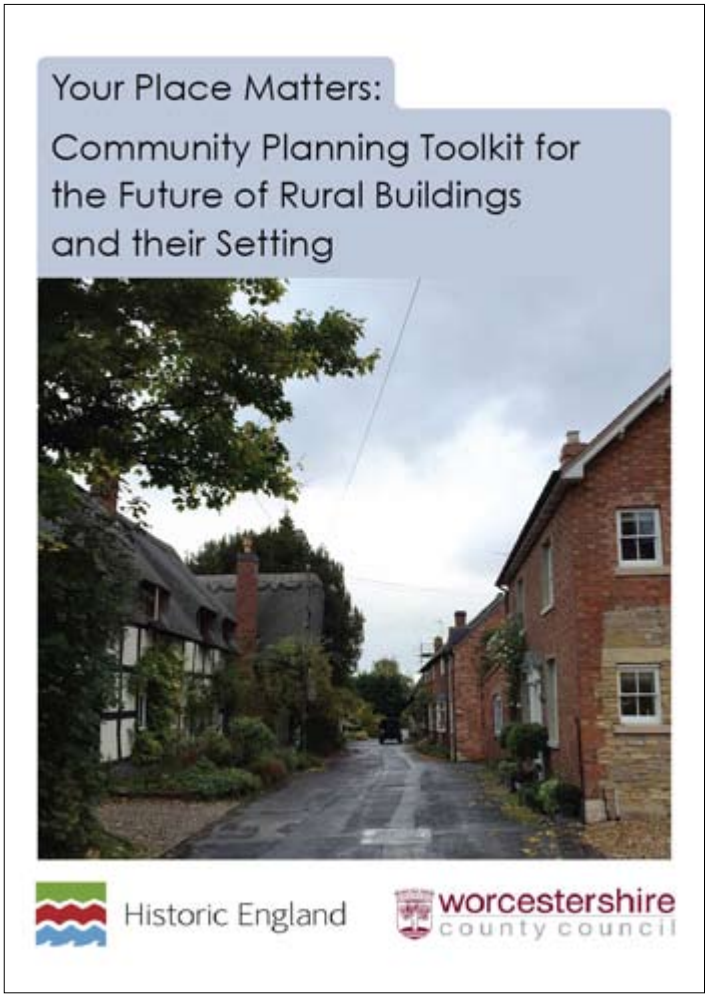
Building types and their settings
What broad types of building are in the parish? (For example, domestic, work related, community focussed).

Building date
What is the broad date of domestic buildings in the parish? How do patterns of settlement reflect development over time?

Building materials
What are the dominant building materials? Are materials local to the area or have they been transported in from further afield?

Using the Guidance and Toolkit documents
The detailed information found within this Guidance document provides the support that is needed to carry out the Excercises in Section 2 of 'Your Place Matters: Community Planning Toolkit for the Future of Rural Buildings and their Setting.'

These two documents are designed to work together through linking relevant information that can be accessed via hyperlinked tabs in the Toolkit, to pages within this Guidance.



Rural buildings in context

We all recognise places through their unique combination of characteristic features and sites, some of which may be designated for their heritage or wildlife significance. From local patterns of settlement and building types, to field boundaries and woodland, these all provide benefits and opportunities for people and wildlife.

Buildings form an integral part of these local landscapes and the whole historic environment, defined in The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as resulting from, 'the interaction between people and places through time' (2012, 52). In relation to changes and new development within the historic environment, the NPPF places good design, local character and conservation at the heart of sustainable development and good planning.

The NPPF states that the options for change should take into account 'the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of place' (2012, 30).

The NPPF also stresses the importance of:

- Retaining and enhancing local character and distinctiveness, through identifying and assessing the forms of settlement, buildings and other features found locally

- Conserving heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation. Heritage assets include listed buildings and other places or buildings, which are considered to have national or local heritage interest. The more important the heritage asset, the greater the weight that should be given to its conservation and the impact of any development on its setting.

- Achieving sustainable development whereby economic, social and environmental gains are all delivered through the planning system.

Historic England (formerly English Heritage) has also developed Constructive Conservation as the overall term for its positive and collaborative approach to conservation that focuses on actively managing change. The aims of this approach are to recognise and reinforce the historic significance of places, while accommodating the changes necessary to ensure their continued use and enjoyment. The recent Farrell Review of Architecture and the Built Environment (also called 'Our Future in Place') has also concluded that protection of the heritage that we most value, should not be at odds with making the ordinary better, through seeing, 'the potential of what is already there, the value of place, identity and sustainability' (2015, 108).

'Your Place Matters' also supports new approaches to considering the benefits offered by our environment, as exemplified by Ecosystem Services. This approach takes into account the interdependent relationships between the historic environment, natural environment, economy, health and well-being. It offers a strong foundation for understanding how culture has shaped England's rich array of landscapes, which in turn will help strengthen the recognition, assessment and protection of those buildings, monuments and areas considered to be most special.

Trouble understanding the terminology?
The roles of different organisations, and the language used by heritage professionals, is often specialised. A Glossary in Section 5 of this Guidance provides definitions of terms which may be newly introduced or unknown to you.

Section 2

Local landscapes

The small settlement of Rochford sits on the southern terrace of the River Teme in an undulating landscape dominated by scattered settlement, small to medium scale fields, orchards and hopyards. The Grade II* Parish Church of St. Michael, which has its origins in the 12th century, lies to the south of the scheduled, earthwork, remains of a Motte Castle. Motte castles were medieval fortifications introduced into Britain by the Normans. They generally occupied strategic positions and this motte is one of a number positioned strategically along the valley of the River Teme, possibly at significant crossing places. The settlement, which now consists of a cluster of traditional farmsteads, is most likely an area of shrunken medieval settlement. The remains of a potential 'Roman' road and wall, running alongside the river, suggests that this location may have a long history of occupation. Photograph © Historic England NMR 27763_013.

A history of landscape

The historic character of England's landscape results from the ways in which people in the past have lived within and used the land and its resources. This has given rise to different patterns of historic character in terms of settlement, fields (enclosed farmland), unenclosed land (including semi-natural habitats) and woodland, each having their own significances, and issues for change.

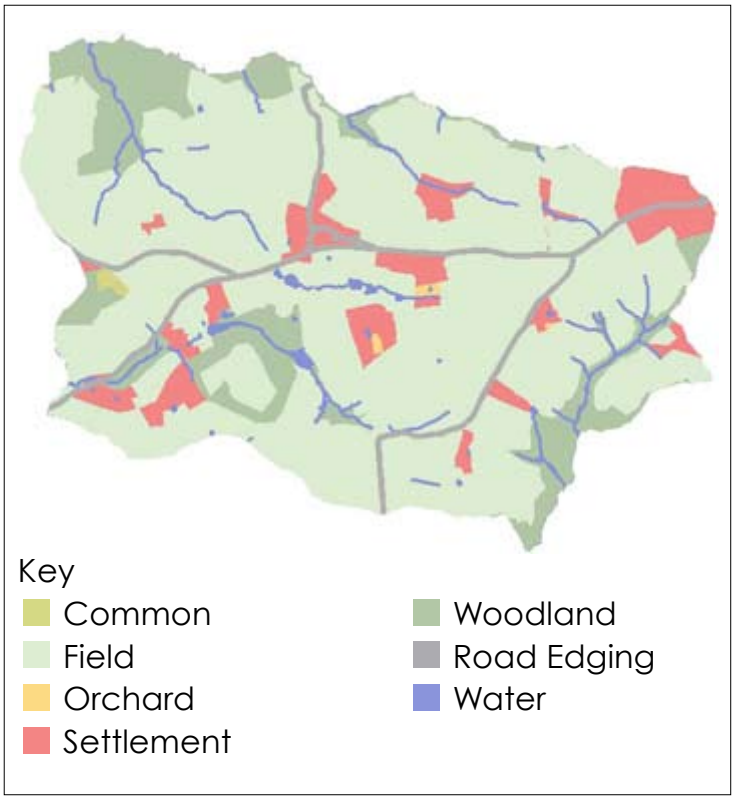
Worcestershire has a diverse range of different landscapes which can be broadly divided into two distinctive topographical types. The northern, north-western and western parts of the county have a rolling landscape with areas of semi-upland character, cut by often deeply incised stream valleys. The central, southern and eastern areas of the county are generally lower lying and dominated by distinctive river vales. Landscapes result from and are under a process of constant change. The landscapes that we know today are not those of 20, 50 or 100 years ago. The pace of change has accelerated in the past 70 years, and it can alter or disturb our experiences of a landscape and our sense of belonging within it.

Unimproved open hill pasture, scrub woodland and small scale hedged fields, enclosed during the medieval - early post medieval period, on the Clent Hills in north east Worcestershire.
Photograph © Historic England NMR 27790/029.

A rolling, lowland landscape east of the River Severn. This landscape developed as the open fields and meadows, relating to villages, were enclosed. The free draining soils are predominately farmed for cereal and fatstock. This has led to substantial loss of hedgerow boundaries and earthworks, such as ridge and furrow, in the 20th century.
Photograph © Historic England NMR 27698/033.

Fifty per cent of Worcestershire has undergone some kind of landscape character change since 1945 (Crowther and Clarke, 2012,) including:

- The amalgamation of fields and the removal of hedgerow boundaries as a result of the intensification of farming.
- The re-organisation of fields as a consequence of motorways and dual carriageways.
- The enclosure of large areas of open land (heath, lowland moors, commons and wetlands) in the early 19th century.
- The decline of orchards throughout the 20th century.
- Significant urban expansion around historic towns and Redditch new town.



The schematic map above, records the combination of physical elements which frame the parish of Mamble in north west Worcestershire.

Features and sites within the landscape, such as heathland, water meadows and rare surviving archaeological earthworks, can be extremely vulnerable to these changes, There is now increasing recognition that the historic pattern of local places and landscapes can provide a framework for future changes within farming practices (including solar farms), flood control and the design of new housing, and so consequently benefit people and wildlife.

The three maps shown here, reflect the changing pattern of landscape around the village of Childswickam.

During the medieval period this landscape would have been dominated by communally farmed open fields. The hatched areas on Map 1, record areas of ridge and furrow, a common characteristic of the open field system.

The post -medieval enclosure of land, both in an ad hoc piecemeal fashion (top left of Map 2) and by private agreement (bottom right Map 2) transformed the landscape.

The modern aerial photograph (Map 3) records an intensively farmed landscape which has lost many of its 19th century boundaries giving it a more open feel once more.

Map 1

Map 2

Map 3

Fields

Overview

Around 70% of the land area in England is enclosed farmland, most of which dates from before 1750 and has been affected to varying degrees by the restructuring and mechanisation of agriculture since the 1950s in particular. It results from the ancient, piecemeal or survey-planned enclosure and reorganisation of medieval strip fields and other forms of farmland, woodland and rough ground including land held in common. Irregular enclosure is most likely to be medieval or earlier (including prehistoric) in origin, and if combined with long pastoral land use, have the highest degree of archaeological potential. There is enormous variation in the scale of piecemeal and regular enclosure, depending on the nature of farming and the size of farms. The association of the largest fields and the most changed landscapes, with the most intensive forms of mechanised agriculture, makes them least likely to hold extensive archaeological potential.

Medieval period (AD 1066 – 1539)

During the medieval period large areas of the Worcestershire landscape was open (unenclosed by hedgerow or walled boundaries). Areas of contiguous common, heathland, wetland and woodland were intermixed with cultivated land, parkland and Royal Forest.

Cultivated land reached its fullest extent in the 13th century, and was either organised into larger open fields subdivided into strips or enclosed fields with irregular boundaries. Open fields were concentrated around villages in the east and south east of Worcestershire. Enclosed fields, and many of the oldest historic buildings, are concentrated in areas of dispersed settlement.

The concept of Royal Forest was introduced after the Norman Conquest (1066). Royal Forest was an area of land protected under 'Forest Law' and outside of 'Common Law'. Royal Forests were 'designed' as hunting areas reserved for the king, or by invitation, the aristocracy. The term 'forest' does not mean forest, as we understand it today. Royal Forests were not areas of densely wooded land but landscapes with a mixture of land use including wood pasture, common, heathland, wetland, cultivated land and settlement.

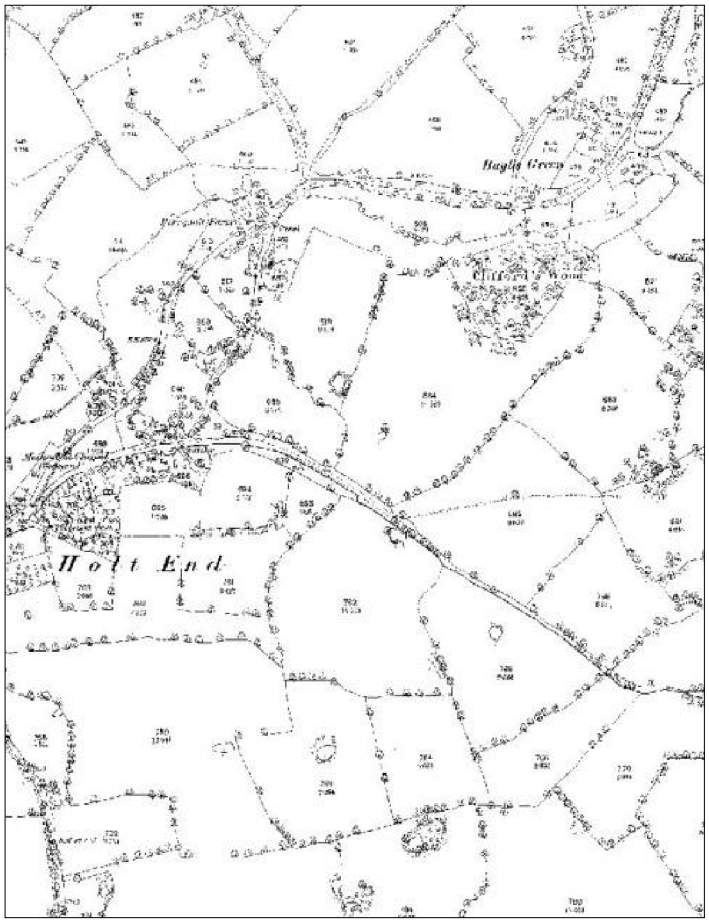
Evidence of medieval open field farming is recognisable in the modern landscape by ridge and furrow earthworks. As well as ridge and furrow, this photograph records earthworks associated with medieval building platforms to the right of the farm, and the remains of a moat, also to the right. Photograph © Historic England NMR27792/019.

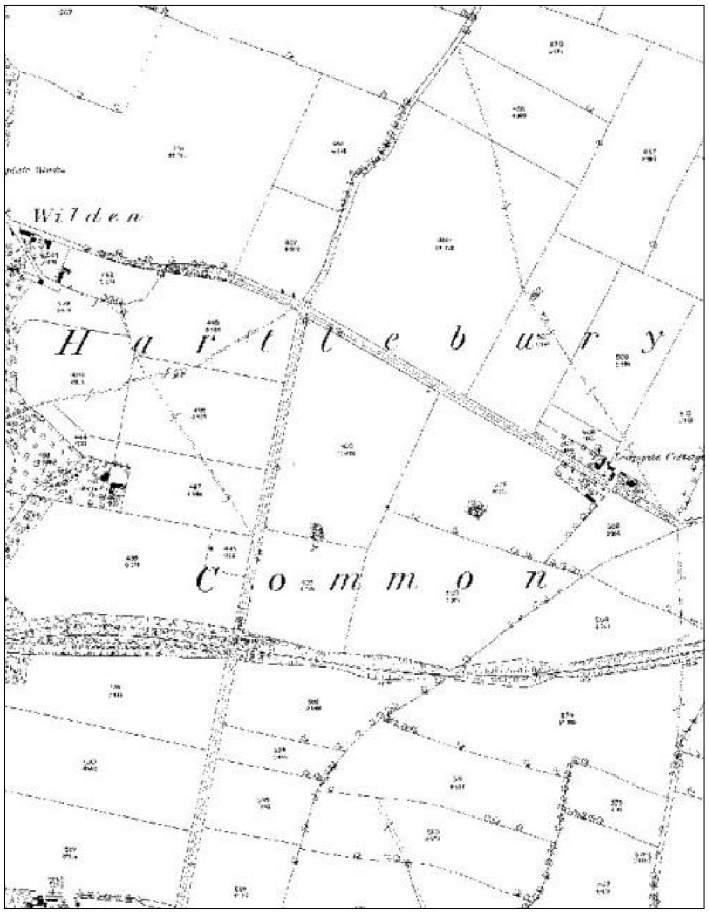
Post-medieval period (AD 1540 – 1750)

This period sees the continued development of new farming techniques, in which the reorganisation and enclosure of cultivated land by farmers and landowners played an important part. Piecemeal or gradual enclosure is marked by sinuous boundaries that follow the outlines of medieval strips, but this period also witnesses the planned or regular enclosure of land with straight boundaries. Watermeadows (artificially irrigated grasslands), which are known to have existed in Worcestershire from the 16th century, reached their zenith in the 17th and 18th centuries. During the first half of the 17th century the Royal Forests of Feckenham and Malvern Chase were 'dissaforested' and sold to wealthy landowners. Many parklands and deer parks, associated with country houses, also date from this period.

Industrial period (AD 1750-1913)

Enclosure of farmland and the open commons that remained across much of the county in this period, is mostly characterised by ruler-straight boundaries and thorn hedges. Some of this enclosure was enabled by Acts of Parliament (Parliamentary enclosure) in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The 19th century is also notable for a substantial increase in market gardening, orchards, allotments, and the production of hops, particularly in the Vale of Evesham and around Pershore, in the Wyre Forest and in the Teme Valley. A wide variety of fruit and vegetables were produced to meet the demands of growing urban populations in Birmingham and the Black Country.





The First Edition Ordnance Survey map extracts, on the right, clearly illustrate the differences between early enclosure (the irregular fields with sinuous boundaries at Holt End in Beoley (top)) and later enclosure (the regular fields, with straight boundaries, at Hartlebury Common (bottom)).

Modern period (AD 1914 – Present)
The orchard and market gardening industry reached its peak in the early 20th century. Thereafter followed a gradual decline as markets have looked increasingly to imports to provide cheap fruit all year round. The desperate need to grow more food, both during, and following, the two World Wars, has led to widespread intensification of the land. This intensification has once again changed the character of vast tracts of the Worcestershire landscape by driving changes such as field re-organisation and field amalgamation, and the grubbing up of many hedgerow boundaries and traditional orchards.

Potential heritage features, wildlife and habitat:

- Historic hedgerows are important for their landscape, cultural, archaeological and habitat value. Most boundaries relating to irregular or piecemeal enclosure fields would be regarded as 'Important' and species-rich under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. The Hedgerow Biodiversity Action Plan states, that hedgerows can be categorised as species rich if they contain 5 or more native woody species, that are native to the UK, in a 30 metre length (4 or more species in northern England and upland Wales).

- Hedgerows can act as significant wildlife corridors for many species, including butterflies and moths, farmland birds, bats and dormice, reptiles and amphibians.

- Hedged boundaries often incorporate a bank and ditch earthwork.

- In some areas of the county, particularly around the Cotswold fringe, walled boundaries were constructed of local stone.

- Ridge and furrow grassland tells us a great deal about landscape history and past cultivation. It is also an excellent predictor of species rich grassland. Worcestershire has approximately 20% of the national resource of this habitat.

- Earthworks relating to a wide variety of archaeological sites and monuments, including deserted settlement and quarries, can survive under pasture.

- Cropmarks and soilmarks are often indicative of buried archaeological remains, under cultivation.

- Field barns and outfarms are vulnerable to dereliction once redundant. Most outfarms and field barns present at the end of the 19th century have been lost from the landscape. As well as being significant for their landscape, historical and architectural value they can provide potential opportunities for nesting birds, roosting bats and invertebrates.

Issues for change

The intensification of farming, during the 20th century, has resulted in a substantial loss of species-rich grassland, hedgerow boundaries and traditional farm buildings. This has led to a fragmentation of 19th century landscape character, the loss of significant archaeological earthworks and the decline of key species. Networks of hedgerows, trees and ponds are important for pollution amelioration, soaking up rainfall to prevent flooding. Intensive cultivation (deep ploughing) can cause irreversible damage to buried archaeological remains.

A large scale outfarm, in the south east of the county, incorporating a threshing barn and shelter sheds facing a yard area. Photograph © Historic England NMR27761/010.

Ridge and furrow visible as an earthwork under permanent pasture Photograph © Steve Bloomfield, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Unenclosed common, heathland and wetland

Overview

Such has been the extent of enclosure since the medieval period, that unenclosed land is now rare, even in areas of historic dispersed settlement where it was more common. Large swathes of unenclosed land (common, heathland and wetland) survived in Worcestershire up until the mid 19th century, when it was finally enclosed and 'improved' by Act of Parliament. In most cases this land was subject to common rights during the medieval and post-medieval periods and traditionally used as rough grazing, for collecting fuel and for small-scale industry. Unenclosed land can vary in form; it can be ribbon like along a road or extend to vast areas of land. In many places settlement has encroached on and around areas of unenclosed land, leaving a distinctive pattern of small scale fringe settlement. The most contiguous tracts of unenclosed land still present in Worcestershire are the commons, in the south-west of the County, around Castlemorton and Birtsmorton.

Potential heritage features, wildlife and habitat:

- Unenclosed land is significant for its landscape, cultural, archaeological and habitat value.
- Grazed commons, heathlands and wetlands can support a wide variety of species and are notable for their biodiversity value.
- Remnant unenclosed land contains some of the best-preserved archaeological evidence of early settlement and field systems in England. Features to look out for include the structural remains of buildings and earthworks associated with settlement and small-scale industrial activity, such as quarrying.
- Buildings and structures associated with unenclosed land are vulnerable to dereliction once redundant. As well as being significant for their landscape, historical and architectural value they can provide potential opportunities for nesting birds, roosting bats and invertebrates.

- Waterlogged environments associated with areas of wetland can preserve significant archaeological remains and palaeoenvironmental data. These are finite, fragile and non-renewable resources which cannot be re-created.

Issues for change

There has been a substantial decline of unenclosed land since the 19th century. This decline is mostly due to changes in agricultural practices, although more recently woodland regeneration, afforestation and ornamental planting associated with recreation, have been significant factors. Surviving unenclosed land is often fragmented and suffers from a lack of management. Threats to stock from busy roads, dogs and people, as well as increased animal husbandry regulations, have resulted in a decline in grazing, resulting in the growth of invasive scrub and secondary woodland. A lack of grazing can greatly reduce the habitat value of a site as well as have a detrimental impact on surviving archaeological remains.

As well as being significant for their archaeological and wildlife value, wetlands store and filter water, and help control and buffer the effects of flooding. Surviving wetlands are often fragmented and fragile, so unable to play an effective role in absorbing floodwaters, recharging aquifers and capturing carbon.

Settlement associated with unenclosed land is vulnerable to enlargement and remodelling. The distinctive patterns of these small scale communities should be considered a high priority in any development proposals.

The common at Broad Heath was enclosed under Act of Parliament in 1865, its regular fields and straight boundaries contrasting with the earlier pattern of enclosure around its former boundary. A new, straight road was also laid out at the time of enclosure. Photograph © Historic England NMR 29434_013.

The distinctive pattern of small scale fringe settlement encroaching unenclosed land can be seen around surviving commons at Castlemorton and Birtsmorton, on the Malvern Fringe. Photograph © Historic England NMR 29434_013.

Allotments

Overview

The system of allotments that we recognise today has its roots in the 19th century and is a consequence of two processes of social change:

1. The enclosure of common fields.
2. The movement of people away from rural areas in to towns (Way, 2008).

In 1908 the Small Holdings and Allotments Act placed a duty on county and local authorities to provide sufficient allotments, according to demand. The form and shape of allotments may differ according to the period they were set out, and they may be relatively small strips or large areas.

During the 19th and early 20th century, Worcestershire experienced a substantial increase in market gardening, orchards, allotments and the production of hops, particularly in the Vale of Evesham and around Pershore, in the Wyre Forest and in the Teme Valley. During this boom a wide variety of fruit and vegetables were produced to meet the demands of growing urban populations in Birmingham and the Black Country.

During World War One allotments became a symbol of national pride. No longer just the preserve of the labouring class, allotments were made available for returning servicemen and there was an estimated one allotment for every five households by the end of the war (Way, 2008). At the onset of World War Two, the allotment was declared the possible saviour of the country and 'The National Grow More Food' or 'Dig for Victory' campaign was initiated (Way, 2008, 19).

This early 20th century map records allotments around the village of North Littleton. Many of the allotments have their own small shed, used for shelter and storing tools.
Map © Landmark digital mapping based on Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 1904 (Landmark reference number 39sp0747) Original scale: 25" (1:2500).

Potential heritage features, wildlife and habitat:

- 19th and 20th century allotment buildings (sheds/hovels), used for shelter and for storing tools, are becoming increasingly rare.

- As well as being significant for their landscape and historical value allotment buildings can provide potential opportunities for nesting birds, roosting bats and invertebrates.

- Although not restricted to allotments, slowworms are commonly found in this habitat, and some of the larger allotments in Worcestershire have been designated as Local Wildlife Sites for them. They love the mosaic of tended and untended plots, mixed marginal grassland and the rich source of food supplied by the patchwork of cultivated and rough ground.

Issues for change

The number of allotments has been in decline since the Second World War, with a large percentage of them being taken over for development.

This small, timber shed, equipped with a toilet, is one of a number of surviving 20th century sheds associated with former allotment, west of North Littleton.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

As well as having high historic, landscape and community value, allotments are often home to a wide variety of wildlife that love the mixture of tended and untended plots and marginal grassland.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Landed estates and designed landscapes

Overview

Landed estates with large country houses dominated much of the English landscape from at least the medieval period. They were self-sufficient economic units, typically consisting by the 19th century, of a number of farms, a village, a corn mill, a public house, an estate yard with stables and kennels, walled kitchen gardens and a landscaped park with a mixture of pasture, woodland and water features for livestock, sporting activities and recreation. An increasing number were designed and maintained with the income from industrial or commercial wealth, the break-up of other estates from the 1920s to 1950s following the impact of earlier (1880s) agricultural depression, taxation, war requisition, labour shortages and changing fashions and social attitudes.

Parkland is often layered with several centuries of history. There were over 3000 deer parks in around 1300, which over the 16th and 17th centuries fell out of use as the interest in recreational parkland developed. Formal design dominated the period from the Restoration of 1660 to the mid 18th century, followed by the 'naturalistic' style championed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. From the 1820s, following the influence of the 'Picturesque' movement which further developed the 'English style', parkland was further transformed by the introduction of new species (including conifers and rhododendrons) from around the world.

Potential heritage features, wildlife and habitat:

- Landed estates can have a rich assemblage of historic buildings, structures and archaeological remains.

- Landscaped parks were serious expressions of design, with carefully composed views, as well as being productive landscapes, managed by Home Farms. They were often ornamented with a wide variety of features including exotic trees, lakes and water features, coverts and decoys for game and eye-catchers. Some retain the outline of medieval deer parks, in the form of a ditch and bank (a 'park pale').

- Landed Estates often exhibit their own distinctive style and tradition, which can extend to both buildings and structures, such as railings and gates, and to designed landscape features, such as the layout of fields and varieties of trees.

- Wood pasture and parkland is a UK priority habitat, with its rich mixture of grassland, wood pasture, ancient woodland and water bodies, often supporting a wide variety of mammals, invertebrates' birds, butterflies, bats, plants and fungi.

- Veteran trees are a key biological component of parkland or former parkland landscapes.

- Parkland with a long historical use for recreation and grassland can retain significant archaeological remains, including shrunken and deserted medieval settlements, as well as the evident significance of parkland architecture and landscape features.

- Parkland buildings and monuments can be significant roosts for bats and birds.

Issues for change

These landscapes are highly sensitive to change. During the 20th century many estates were sold and divided up. Heritage Counts (English Heritage, 2005) found that only 46% of parks remained from those recorded in 1918. Changes in use and land management have eroded the historic fabric of many estates.

Particular issues include:

- Changes in stocking levels leading to under or over grazing.

- Cultivation of former parkland pasture.

- Poorly considered development.

- Degradation of boundary features such as ha-has, boundary walls or fences.

- Sub-division of parkland with new fences and boundaries.

- Harm or loss of trees, especially veteran trees.

- Poorly designed or sited new tree-planting.

- Lack of maintenance and poorly considered management of water bodies and features.

- Afforestation, secondary woodland or scrub growth.

- Decline and abandonment of park buildings and monuments.

- Loss of designed views.

Park buildings and monuments, like this Grade I listed Temple of Theseus associated with the park at Hagley Hall, require on-going maintenance. Many have been lost or have declined substantially during the last century. Repairs should be well considered as modern or unsympathetic materials can adversely affect the appearance and integrity of a structure. Building demolition and/ or renovation can also result in the destruction of bat roosts. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

The 18th century landscaped park at Stanford Court is now largely under cultivation. Photograph © Historic England NMR 29437_030.

A large scale Home Farm, set within remnant parkland associated with the Shakenhurst Estate.
Photograph © Historic England NMR 29442_002

Woodland and wood pasture

Overview

Worcestershire is slightly below the national average for woodland cover. The softly undulating landscapes in the northern, north-western and western parts of the county are the most densely wooded. The Wyre Forest, which straddles the borders of Worcestershire and Shropshire, is one of England's largest and most significant ancient woodlands, covering an area of over 6000 hectares.

Ancient woodland is the most likely to have been systematically mapped and retain archaeology resulting from past woodland practice. This and wood pasture, which is a form of ancient woodland or parkland mostly dating from the medieval period, is the most likely to retain veteran trees and other features of intrinsic heritage and ecological value.

Woodland types

'Ancient semi-natural' woodland is an area of land that has been continuously wooded since at least 1600 AD. Ancient semi-natural woodland has often been traditionally managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally. It may, however, have some replanting with conifers. The percentage of land, in Worcestershire, with biologically rich semi-ancient natural woodland is 2.5% (Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, nd).

'Ancient replanted' woodland is land that has had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD but where the original native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting, usually conifers for the purposes of the forestry industry.

'Recent' or **'Secondary'** woodland is a planted or semi-natural wood with sinuous boundaries. Recent woodlands have not been continuously wooded since 1600 AD, rather they are thought to have been former heathland, open fields or grazing land. Such woodland may arise by planting or through natural development of woodland on abandoned or ungrazed land.

'Plantation' woodland is predominately rectilinear in form with straight boundaries, and was typically planted between the 18th and 20th centuries. It is a managed woodland for commercial concerns, such as coverts for game or foxes, or for ornament and recreation.

'Wood pasture' landscapes are predominately open and consist of scattered mature and veteran trees within areas of grassland, heath, wetland and woodland, historically managed for grazing deer or domestic stock.

The use of wood pasture for common grazing most likely dates back to prehistory. By the 11th century many parishes held rights to detached woodlands, which would have been used in this way. It is therefore likely that many of the woodlands interpreted as ancient semi-natural or ancient replanted have been used as wood pasture for much of their history.

Potential heritage features, wildlife and habitat:

- Woodland and wood pasture can be significant for its landscape, cultural, archaeological and habitat value.

- Many people feel a deep personal connection with woodland and wood pasture landscapes.

- Woodland and wood pasture are often rich in both history and archaeology, dating from the prehistoric period to the 20th century.

- Typical archaeological features include ancient boundary banks, ditches and hedgerows, coppice banks (coops), trackways and lanes, settlement sites, charcoal burning hearths, ponds and water management features.

- Woodlands were of huge economic and agricultural importance from the medieval period up until the early 20th century.

- Historic buildings and structures can be found within woodland and wood pasture, including dwellings and those associated with agriculture, industry, water management and recreation.

- Woodland and wood pasture habitats are significant for a wide variety of mammals, invertebrates birds, butterflies, bats, plants and fungi.

Issues for change

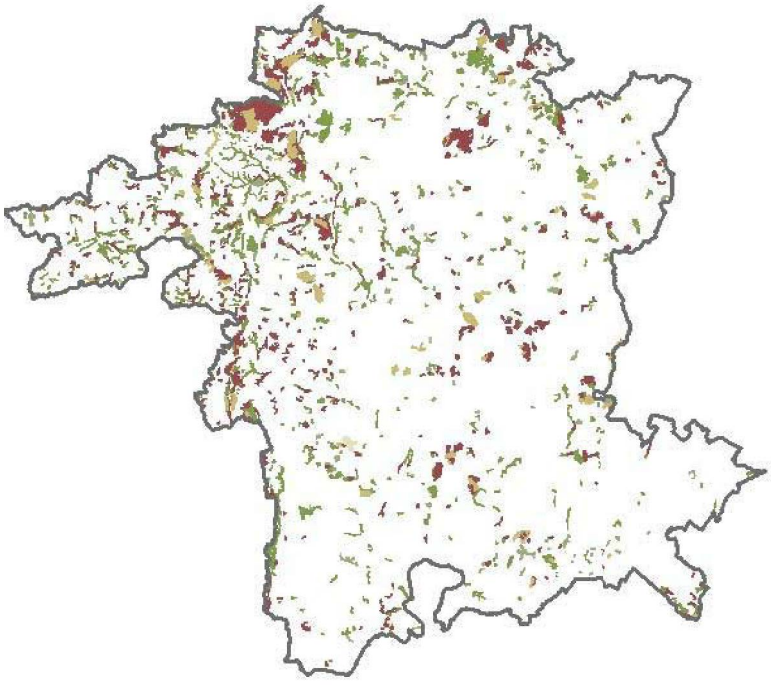
Many woodland and wood pasture landscapes, and the species that live within them, are becoming increasingly isolated. Re-building links between woodland, wood pasture, parkland and hedgerows can re-integrate isolated habitats back into the landscape.

The archaeology of woodland is often poorly understood as a result of limited surveys and research. Archaeological features in wooded environments are vulnerable to root damage (both by trees and scrub), visitor erosion, and burrowing animals. Awareness, identification and mapping of Historic Environment features in woodland can enable good management and minimise the risk of accidental damage.

Extant buildings and structures within woodland are often isolated and no longer economically viable making them difficult to manage and vulnerable to dereliction and decay.

Wood pasture landscapes are vulnerable to changes in farming and silviculture practices (including poorly designed or sited tree planting), and development and lack of maintenance.

Bluebells and regenerated coppiced trees in ancient semi-natural woodland. Photograph © Steve Bloomfield, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.



Woodland types recorded in Worcestershire in 2012. There is a scarceness of woodland in areas formally dominated by medieval open fields, heathland, and wetland. Image © Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service.

Traditional orchards

Overview

Orchards have long been successfully cultivated throughout Worcestershire, particularly in the middle, south and western parts of the county (Pitt, 1969). A large variety of both hard and soft fruits have traditionally been farmed, including apples, pears, cherries, plums, strawberries, currants, gooseberries, raspberries, walnuts and chestnuts.

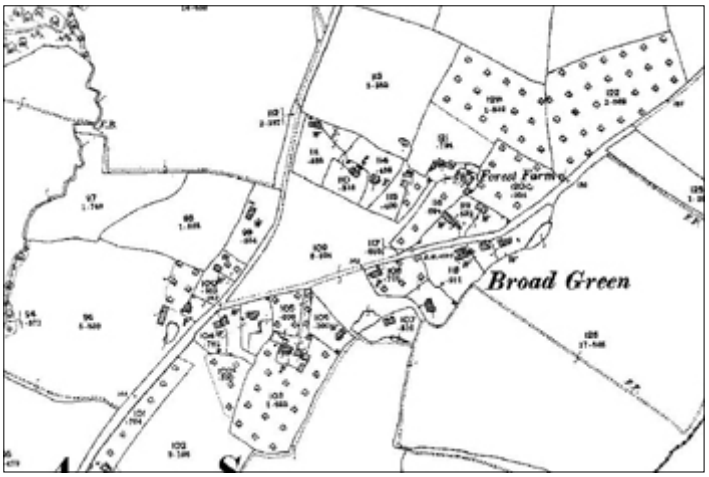
Traditional orchards can be small scale subsistence orchards associated with small farms or individual dwellings or large scale commercial enterprises associated with large farms, estates or market gardening and smallholding landscapes. Early commercial orchards appear to be defined by pre-existing field systems in which they are planted. Later commercial orchards often remove existing boundaries and redefine field edges with new boundaries.

During the late 19th century the Birmingham Quaker Group established a thriving fruit growing industry in the Wyre Forest, to supply the large market needs of Birmingham and the Black Country. Fruit pickers were drawn from the local populace as well as the urban centres of Birmingham and elsewhere in the Black Country, and were accommodated in specially constructed huts or tents. By the turn of the 20th century a considerable quantity of cider, perry and soft fruits were being produced for external markets (Pitt, 1969).

The Vale of Evesham has also had a traditional association with horticulture and market gardening. The Midland and Great Western Railway lines supplied special produce trains, which ran from May until the end of September, to facilitate the transportation of fruit and market garden produce (Haggard Rider, 1902).

Since 1950, fewer and fewer traditional orchards have been planted. During the 1980's many traditional orchards were grubbed up and converted into more profitable farmland. Nowadays virtually all fruit grown for the consumer market is produced in intensively managed commercial orchards, although some traditional (standard) orchards are still managed for the production of cider and perry.

Traditional orchards are being increasingly recognised for their landscape, historical and ecological value.
Photograph © Steve Bloomfield, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.



The 1923 Census of Fruit Trees recorded a total of 1,834,621 fruit trees in Worcestershire. It also records local specialisation, for example cherries, damsons and pears, were of greatest importance west of the Severn.
Map © Landmark digital mapping based on Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 1904 (Landmark reference number 39so7756) Original scale: 25" (1:2500).

Potential heritage features, wildlife and habitat:

- Traditional orchards are significant social, cultural and historic features. They are locally distinctive to the 'Three Counties' area.

- Traditional orchards are important for a wide range of plant and animal species The noble chafer beetle, for example, is one of a number of species linked to orchard density.

- A variety of archaeological earthworks may be present in a traditional orchard including quarries, ponds and trackways.

- Traditional orchard was often planted on re-used ridge and furrow or 19th century steam ploughed ridges, for drainage.

- Buildings for the storage of fruit and the production of cider and perry can be found within traditional orchards or as part of a traditional farmstead.

Issues for change

Approximately 85% of Worcestershire's traditional orchards have been lost in the last 100 years. This has had considerable impact on habitat, archaeology and landscape character. The Post War intensification of farming has rendered traditional orchards economically unviable. Consequently many orchards have been grubbed up or have fallen into neglect. Development is a second key threat, particularly to those orchards associated with nucleated landscapes (Crowther and Clarke, 2012).

Built heritage associated with traditional orchards is both poorly recorded and highly vulnerable. Changes to farming practice has led to the wholesale redundancy of buildings, such as cider mills, fruit stores and 'huts' or 'hovels', associated with Worcestershire's historic fruit industry.

A fruit store at Crowle, raised above the ground to keep the crop dry.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Old Ordnance Survey maps often record 'field barns' in areas of traditional orchard. This open-fronted late 19th century building at Birlingham has a chimneystack which serves a copper. This was probably used to heat and soften withies for making baskets, and in addition might have heated drink and food for orchard workers. Such modest structures are an integral and locally-important part of the county's historic landscape.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Routeways and waterways

Overview

Roads, trackways and pathways are key elements of the historic landscape, linking settlements to one another and to surrounding fields, unenclosed land, meadow and woodland. Roads, trackways and pathways are often the oldest features within a landscape.

Trackways and pathways may develop organically, by the continual movement of people, materials, and animals, or they can be deliberately engineered. They come in a variety of different forms from narrow, sinuous tracks to wide sunken lanes (a holloway) and trackways that follow the natural contours of a slope (a terraceway), to droveways, for driving livestock from one place to another and packhorse roads. The historic network of roads, trackways and pathways has often created a framework for development, from the medieval to the present.

Road and water travel were revolutionised, in the 18th century, by the turnpike and canal systems. The development of the motor car, in the 1880s and the growth of the national road network both in the 1890s and in the 1920s transformed individual mobility. Waterways have long been recognised or their cultural, economic, ritual and symbolic significance. People have sought to 'control' and exploit natural water bodies for millennia. The significance of waterways to our agricultural and industrial heritage, is reflected by the considerable assemblage of watermills, water meadows and water management structures associated with rivers and streams across Worcestershire.

Alvechurch Marina on the Worcester to Birmingham Canal. The canal was opened in 1815 and is around 30 miles long, passing through Tardebigge, Stoke Prior and Fernhill Heath along its route.

Potential heritage features, wildlife and habitat:

- Historic routeways and waterways can contribute significantly to our understanding of an areas landscape and history.

- Waterways support a wide range of species. For example, otters are present on almost all rivers, streams and canals in the county, whereas water voles are associated with urban areas and older, part culverted streams in the Bromsgrove area.

- A wide variety of historic buildings and water management structures are associated with historic routeways and waterways, including bridges, toll houses, sidings, railway workers cottages, canal workers cottages, railway stations and waiting rooms, water mills, weirs and sluices.

- As well as being significant for their landscape, historical and architectural value buildings associated with routeways and waterways can provide potential opportunities for nesting birds, roosting bats and invertebrates.

- Road verges can support a rich and varied range of plants.

- Many trackways and pathways are subtle in their appearance. Others are more recognisable as deep, sunken holloways or metalled surfaces.

- Many historic routeways and waterways have significant recreational value.

Roads, canals and railways, as well as linking settlement and commerce, also provide long distance routes through the landscape for the transportation of people, animals, commodities and ideas. This aerial photograph depicts the village of Alvechurch (looking west) nestled between the A441 (to the east), the M42 (to the north), and to the west the Worcester to Birmingham canal and Cross City Railway Line. Photograph © Historic England NMR 29250_41.

Issues for change

As well as a lack of management; development, farming, and woodland operations such as tree planting, can all have a detrimental impact on the character of historic routeways and waterways. The open nature of a historic routeway should be maintained wherever possible, to sustain its relevance to the landscape. Built heritage associated with historic routeways and waterways is often poorly recorded and highly vulnerable to redundancy and dereliction.

Buildings and structures associated with waterways, such as this 19th century footbridge, are not only at risk from flood damage but also from inappropriate remedial works and flood alleviation schemes. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Buildings and structures associated with historic routeways and waterways, such as this 19th century waiting room at Bredon Halt railway station, are vulnerable to redundancy, disrepair and demolition. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Holloways can develop very quickly, or more slowly over a longer period of time, depending on the volume and type of traffic moving through them. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Section 3

Rural settlement

Like many settlements in Worcestershire, the nucleated settlement of North Littleton is linear in character with houses in clustered groups. Older houses typically face the road and are set within long, narrow plots, which reflect wider divisions of the land, originating from the medieval period when fields were left open and communally farmed in narrow strips. Ridge and furrow earthworks under pasture, are identifiable within what is now an enclosed landscape, comprising medium scale regular fields, with straight boundaries. Photograph © Historic England NMR 29432_016.

Rural settlement patterns in Worcestershire

Rural settlement – the villages, hamlets, farmsteads and cottages that we call home – is at the core of our everyday lives, connecting us to each other and to our shared sense of history and providing a base from which we view the wider landscape.

Rural landscapes are characterised by a mixture of distinctive settlement patterns which have developed as a result of the unique combination of physical and cultural influences that make one place distinct and recognisable from another. Patterns of settlement display an enormous variation, influencing the density and arrangement of buildings in the landscape, how they are sited within their plots, experienced and accessed.

Although every landscape displays a variety of different settlement types, each area is likely associated with a dominant settlement character. In England the two most dominant historic settlement patterns are dispersed settlement and nucleated settlement. Many settlements in England grew around an area of pasture (a green) for common grazing. A clear distinction can be drawn between those areas, mostly in central England, dominated by large nucleated villages with few isolated farmsteads, and those areas which have more dispersed settlement comprising fewer and smaller villages, and higher densities of isolated farmsteads and hamlets.

The majority of rural settlements in Worcestershire originated between the 8th and the 13th centuries (Crowther and Clarke, 2012). Worcestershire is predominantly a county of dispersed settlement, often with high densities of farmsteads and historic houses, that are linked by an intricate network of winding lanes, and occur in areas of woodland, common and heath. Large nucleated villages were historically concentrated in, but not exclusive too, the east and south east of the county.

In Worcestershire, many nucleated and dispersed settlements are linear or row plan, and have a distinctive ribbon form. Typically they follow a historic routeway with smaller roads branching off these main routes.

Development in linear settlements may only be a single house deep on each side of the routeway, creating a sense of connectively to the landscape beyond.

Rural settlements are generally composed of a historic core with areas of more recent (20th and 21st century) infill and expansion. Settlement can be divided into public or communal space, and private space. The fundamental structural building block of most settlements is the private house plot, or toft, as it is known in the Midlands (Roberts, 1987).

The relationship of buildings to each other and to surrounding features, including routeways, gardens and the wider landscape, can shape the character of a settlement. This relationship can be regular, indicating a high degree of 'planning', or irregular, suggesting haphazard or unplanned growth (Roberts, 1987). For example, a settlement with a linear and consistent building line, and buildings set within narrow plots, close to the road, looks and feels very different to a settlement with a winding and inconsistent building line, with buildings set within wide plots, and back from the road.

Typical patterns (morphologies) of dispersed settlement

In Worcestershire dispersed settlement is characterised by high densities of isolated farmsteads, hamlets and smaller villages. It is often associated with landscapes of ancient enclosure, woodland and common, linked by an intricate network of winding lanes. Yet may also be associated with 18th or 19th century, post enclosure landscapes.

It is important to note that a settlement can display more than one dominant characteristic and may be associated with more than one broad settlement type.

The settlement plans on the following pages, use the colour Key below:

Woodland	Buildings
Fields	Building plots
Common	Roads
Waterbodies	

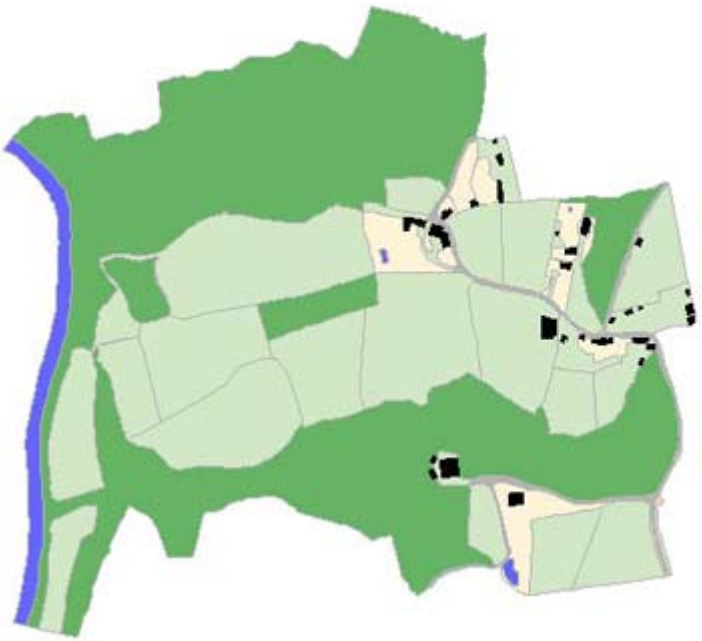
1. Isolated farmstead

A single farmstead, and associated buildings such as farm workers' cottages, located away from other areas of settlement. Dispersed settlement landscapes, have large numbers of isolated farmsteads, many of which are medieval in origin.

An isolated, traditional farmstead and farm workers' cottages.
Image © Worcestershire County Council.

2. Clustered settlement (hamlet)

A cluster of farmsteads, smallholdings and cottages with no recognisable focal point. Clustered settlement is particularly significant in landscapes with a high proportion of woodland, common and heath, where there are greater densities of small scale farmsteads, intermixed with smallholdings and cottages. The clearance of woodland and waste for settlement and cultivation, from as early as the 12th – 14th centuries, is a significant characteristic across much of the north and west of the county.



Clustered settlement associated with the clearance and piecemeal enclosure of woodland during the medieval period.
Image © Worcestershire County Council.

3. Common/green edge/waste settlement (hamlet)

Farmsteads, smallholdings and cottages, set within a landscape of unenclosed (or former unenclosed) land and small to medium fields, and linked to areas of common grazing by an often complex network of trackways and pathways.

High concentrations of smallholdings, intermixed with larger farmsteads and cottages, on the fringe of unenclosed land. Image © Worcestershire County Council.

4. Interrupted row settlement (hamlet or village)

A linear settlement with a high level of dispersal is also known as an 'interrupted row'. Traditional farmsteads and historic dwellings occur intermittently along a routeway. These settlements are often polyfocal (i.e. they have more than one focal point).

Linear settlement with a high degree of dispersal, following a historic routeway. Image © Worcestershire County Council. Also see main image on Section 3 page for an aerial photograph of a linear settlement.

5. Smallholdings

High concentrations of smallholdings are often, although not always, associated with:

- Areas of lowland unenclosed common, such as Castlemorton Common in the south west of the county.
- Wooded landscapes
- Areas profiting from industrialisation and transport developments in the 19th century, such as the Wyre Forest and the Vale of Evesham.

Smallholdings are typically no bigger than two hectares and consist principally of self-built cottages and small scale fields, on holdings either owned outright or leased from the landowner. Smallholdings, carved out of woodland and unenclosed land (characterised by small-scale irregular fields with sinuous boundaries) are associated with subsistence farming and common grazing. Although, increasingly rare, buildings can date from as early as the medieval period.

Smallholdings in areas profiting from industrialisation and transport developments in the 19th century, are typically associated with market gardening and are characterised by small-scale, regular fields with straight boundaries and a high degree of planning.

The survival of large concentrations of smallholdings, and their distinctive small-scale field systems, reflects their historical and cultural significance, in different periods of Worcestershire's agricultural history.

Settlement associated with smallholdings. Image © Worcestershire County Council.

The aerial photograph below shows a distinctive landscape dominated by mid-19th century smallholdings to the south and west of Wyre Forest. This pattern evolved from the Parliamentary Enclosure of Buckridge and Alton Common in 1816 and the subsequent sub-division and reorganisation of fields over the next thirty years. The mid 19th century witnessed a significant increase in orchard plantation, particularly cherry, to service markets in Birmingham and the Black County. The road pattern is post-medieval or earlier in origin and the scatter of small scale, isolated farmsteads, potentially date to as early as the medieval period. The grain of the landscape is largely coherent despite some 20th century field amalgamation and the decline, and loss, of orchards.

Photograph © Historic England NMR27765_002.

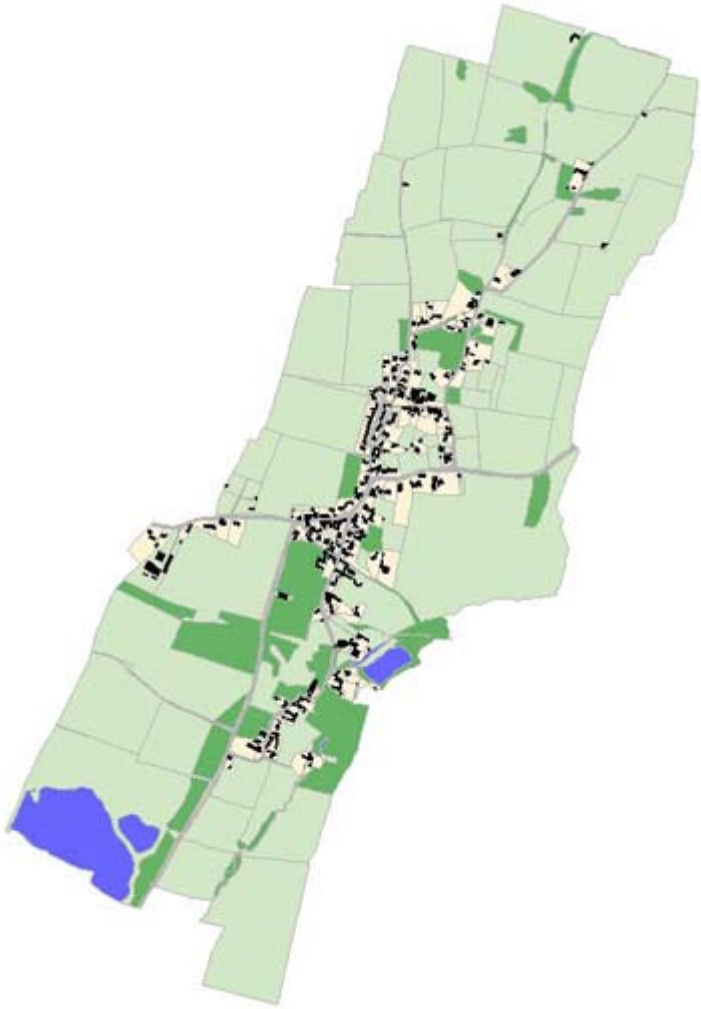
Typical patterns (morphologies) of nucleated settlement

Nucleated settlement is typically, but not always, characterised by large, linear, villages, with a low level of dispersal and relatively few isolated farmsteads or hamlets.

Nucleated settlement is often recognisable by a consistent, linear building line, established during the medieval period. Properties typically consisted of a house, facing the road, set within a long narrow plot, connected with the surrounding, communally farmed, open fields. This distinctive pattern of building can contrast significantly with later infill and expansion which is regularly built in blocks as small fields become available for development. Former open field systems and their remnant ridge and furrow earthworks are closely associated with areas of nucleation.

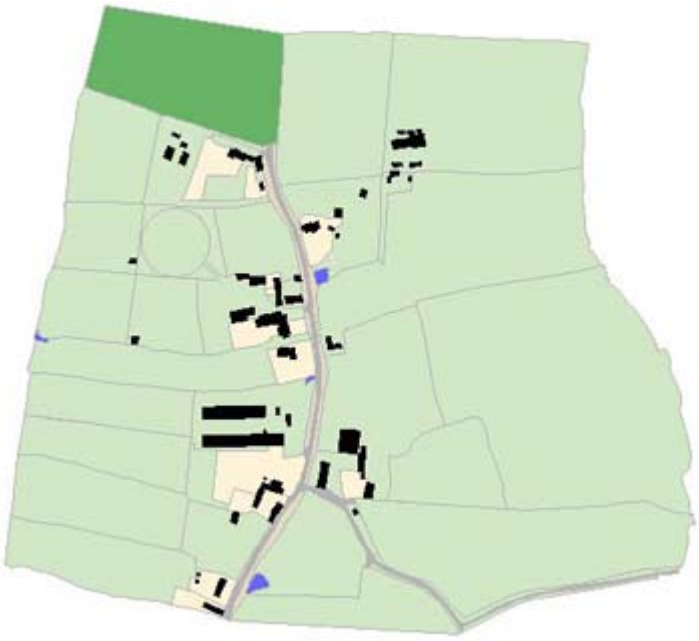
Nucleated settlement often displays a strong sense of planning. The growth of nucleated settlement was often driven by affluent landowners wishing to promote their influence on a landscape and community, and open up new markets from which to increase profits.

1. Nucleated village or nucleated row
Large, linear villages, with a high density of traditional farmsteads and dwellings, grouped closely together and often focussed around a green, a church or market place.



A large nucleated, linear village in south east Worcestershire.
Image © Worcestershire County Council.

2. Nucleated cluster
A smaller, highly concentrated cluster of linear settlement. Often focussed around a green, church or market place.



A smaller nucleated, linear settlement cluster, with a low level of dispersal.
Image © Worcestershire County Council.

3. Isolated farmstead and hamlets
Areas dominated by nucleated settlement have fewer isolated farmsteads and hamlets. The gradual enclosure and privatisation of open land, from the 15th and 16th centuries, encouraged the rationalisation of farm holdings and the relocation of traditional farmsteads away from settlement cores and into the newly enclosed fields. Many traditional farmsteads were redeveloped in the 18th century, during the economic boom of the High Farming Era.

Other patterns (morphologies) of settlement in rural Worcestershire

1. Model planned village:
A settlement planned as a complete unit such as the Chartist Settlement at Dodford is known as a Model Planned Village. Dodford Chartist Settlement was founded in 1849 and was one of five settlements established by the Chartist Co-operative Land Society, to enfranchise the working class.

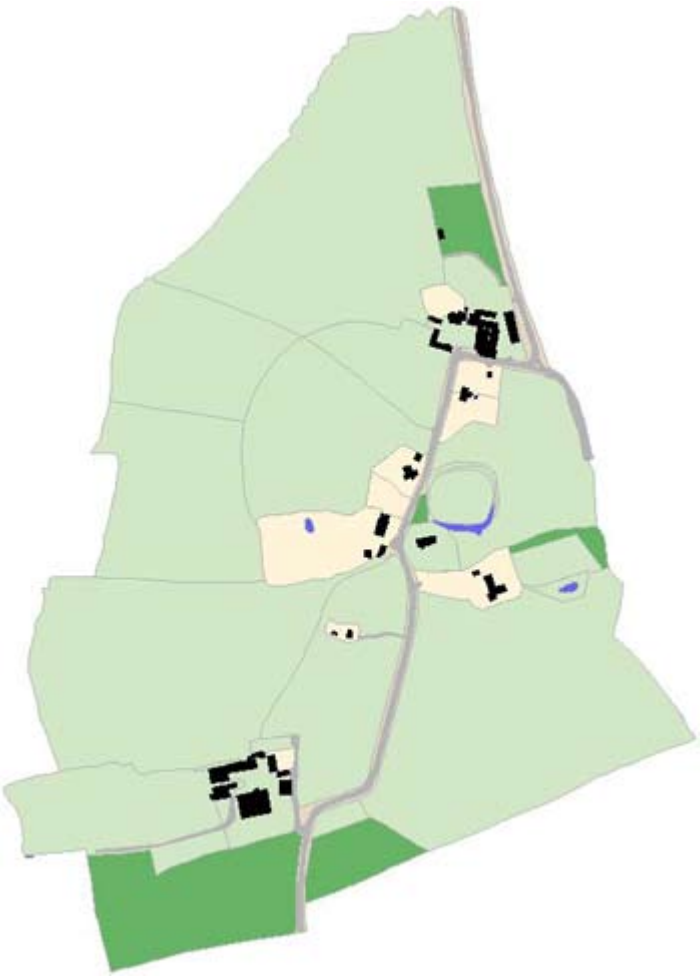
The model planned village of Dodford, founded in 1849, retains it characteristic grid plan and is composed of two, three and four acre plots.
Image © Worcestershire County Council.

2. Urban/rural fringe settlement:
'Rural' settlements that have been subsumed within urban landscapes, as towns and cities have continued to expand, since the 19th century.

Rural buildings, recorded on 19th century mapping (in red), now on the urban fringe of Worcester.
Image © Worcestershire County Council.

3. Polyfocal settlements:
Settlements with more than one centre (focal point) are known as Polyfocal Settlements. Polyfocal Settlements may have developed around several manorial holdings or farmsteads that are located some distance apart.

4. Shrunken Medieval Village (SMV):
During the 15th century there was a large-scale decline in arable cultivation, as sheep farming became more profitable, and an acceleration in the abandonment and shrinkage of rural settlements, (especially in the open-field economies associated with nucleated settlement) and the amalgamation and growth of farm holdings. Shrunken Medieval Villages are typically characterised by a cluster of high status farmsteads/ manors, often with medieval buildings, cottages and a church or chapel. Villages were often completely abandoned and many of these Deserted Medieval Settlements (DMVs) are recognisable as earthworks or cropmarks in the modern landscape.



A Shrunken Medieval Village with a distinctive cluster of farmsteads and cottages.
See page 10 for an aerial photograph of an isolated farmstead on the site of a small medieval manor.

Rural settlement: Issues and opportunities for change

There is an increase in the demand for more housing which is largely due to the restructuring of households and of living spaces. Between 1851 and the present, the number of dwellings has increased by more than 6.5 times, whilst the population has only increased by 2.5 times. The demands for new housing in many areas of the country, are driving the need for a more intelligent and imaginative approach to development and re-development. An approach that does not cause harm to the special character of a place, but rather one that enhances, and carefully considers not only the aesthetic and economic, but also the social and environmental opportunities for change.

Unlike towns and cities, which often change rapidly as a result of economic and social factors, the majority of rural settlements have grown organically. Buildings of different periods co-exist happily because in general, building methods, materials and scales have remained consistent over the centuries, and change has been gradual (English Heritage and CABE, 2001).

The intensification and increased scale of homogenous development, during the 20th century, has often been in conflict with local character and place. This can result in the differing values and roles of community members, planners and developers to be at odds with one another.

Issues of particular contention include:

- The high density of modern expansion and infill.
- The overbearing scale (height and massing) of new development.
- Development that does not relate to a common building line.
- Inappropriate choice of materials.
- The demolition of historic buildings for development.
- Poorly designed conversions.
- The loss of key views.
- Ill considered imitation of historic character.
- Inadequate consideration of sustainable ‘green’ design.

Section 4

Rural buildings

This photograph, of Manor Road in Little Comberton, records buildings, dating from the 16th century to the 19th century, in the historic core of the village. The buildings, which reflect both local vernacular traditions and national trends in architectural style, are set close to the road within narrow building plots that back directly onto the farmland beyond, creating a sense of connectively to the rural landscape. Little Comberton, like many small, nucleated villages in Worcestershire, is characterised by a compact and well defined core with clusters of wayside cottages and larger, detached houses and farmsteads, which form a linear building line, interspersed with green space, including traditional orchard.

Rural buildings and their settings

Rural buildings form the backdrop of our rural landscape and reflect national and local styles and traditions, as well as changing ways of worship, community life and education. Buildings may result from a single phase of construction, or contain evidence within them of successive phases of rebuilding and adaptation. The design and planning of these buildings and the spaces in which they are sited, can both affect how adaptations take place. Building settings can be public spaces, such as streets, greens and footpaths, or private spaces such as gardens, driveways and working areas.

Our sense of place is largely embodied in these buildings, because they display an immense variation in their scale, layout, architectural form and use of materials. National trends and developments in architectural style are typically most visible in large houses, places of worship and institutional buildings which formed the focal points of community life. They do not have to be old or historically significant to have a character that is important to people's understanding and enjoyment of an area.

Buildings which are typical of an area can hold just as much interest as those with exceptional or unusual characteristics, because they contribute to what makes such areas locally distinctive. Listed buildings, which mostly date from before 1850, usually comprise only a small, although critical, part of what makes places distinctive.

This Section introduces different types of rural building, their materials and their associated settings, all of which can contribute to the character of your place.

A one and a half storey, 17th century, stone cottage in Aldington. Extended in the 18th century and possibly associated with a former farmstead which was converted into cottages when agricultural operations moved from the village. Note the large chimney, on the right, which would have served a hall/kitchen. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Rural building types and their settings

Domestic building types and settings
Domestic buildings, the houses, in which we live, work and spend our leisure time, are central to all settlements. Most settlements display a rich variety of houses of different dates and styles; whether they date from the medieval period or the 21st century, they were built to be used and experienced in relation to both their immediate setting and the wider landscape.

All houses have a story to tell. They may reflect how people have chosen to live and work the land, how economies have prospered and declined, how landlords have provided for workers' and social housing, and how the size and structure of households has changed over the centuries.

The style, function and setting of domestic housing has changed dramatically over the centuries to accommodate changing technologies, fashions and regulations. They can reflect national trends but also display a rich variety of evidence about local traditions and craft skills. They may result from a single phase of construction, or contain evidence within them of successive phases or rebuilding and adaptation.

The quality and character of the spaces between and around our homes, in-particular gardens, can also have an enormous effect on the attractiveness of an area. The transition between public and private space, the way that spaces are enclosed or left open, and the character of vegetation and boundary features, all help to define our settlements and reinforce the identity of a place.

Late 18th century cottages in Feckenham, where needle making was significant (see page 48). Occupiers of cottages such as these - with services to the rear of a main living area with access to the upper floor – would have worked in local crafts and industry. Many earlier houses in this village were refronted or rebuilt in the 18th century, reflecting the prosperity brought by this industry.

Farm and smallholding building types and settings

Worcestershire's farmsteads developed within distinct agricultural areas which mixed or specialised in arable, livestock or dairy farming. A distinguishing feature of the county is strong variations within small areas, giving rise to a rich mix of farmstead and building types. Farms in most areas of the county have become larger, but there are some areas marked by small farms and smallholdings, which have depended on by-employment to supplement their living.

Traditional farmsteads and their buildings are an integral part of the rural landscape. A farmstead is the place where the farmhouse and the working buildings of a farm are located; some farms also have field barns or outfarms sited away from the main steading. Most traditional farm buildings date from the 19th century, with few being built after the 1880s and into the 1930s. These were built for individual farmers or estates, then after 1918 as county council smallholdings.

So-called Dutch barns, built of metal or machine-sawn timber, were built from the 1870s and become common in some areas by the 1930s.

Large farmsteads built around several yards typically developed in relationship to the enlargement of the fields around them. Photograph © Historic England NMR 27698/033.

Two small scale, isolated farmsteads in the Wyre Forest. The farmstead in the foreground, set within a slightly irregular enclosure, occupies the site of a medieval farm. Whilst the farmstead in the background sits within a more regular enclosure, formerly that of a late 19th century orchard, and is dated to the first quarter of the 20th century. Photograph © Historic England NMR 27765/027.

The intensification and increased specialisation of farming in the inter-war and post war periods was accompanied by the introduction of wide-span multi-purpose sheds in concrete, steel and asbestos which met increasing requirements for machinery and the environmental control of livestock and on-farm production, particularly of milk.

The layout or plan of the farmstead is key to understanding and describing its character. Buildings developed around open and enclosed working spaces that served to house the farming family and any workers, store and process the harvested corn crop, fruit and hops, shelter farm vehicles and implements, shelter farm animals, and keep their manure for returning back to the fields. Gardens usually developed as private areas with a distinct and separate character, screened from the working areas of the farm by hedges or walls.

Most farmsteads were built around courtyards, the largest being found in estate landscapes and across those areas with more productive soils where corn production was prevalent. These dominate in the south east, but across the remainder of the county there is a strong underpinning element of smaller scale farmsteads. The smallest scale farmsteads, including some with working buildings which are scattered (dispersed plans) or attached in-line to the house, are concentrated in upland, wooded or common edge landscapes with small fields, including the parishes of Rock, more specifically in those areas with high levels of fruit production such as Buckridge, Wythall and Castlemorton.

This isolated farmstead, to the north west of Worcester, has traditional buildings, arranged around two yards and 20th century wide-span multi-purpose sheds. The extant traditional farm buildings date from the 17th century to the 19th century and include a timber-framed threshing barn, red brick granary, cart shed, cow house and hop kiln.
Photograph © Historic England NMR 27763/018.

Smallholdings, like small farms, are concentrated in areas of woodland and lowland, unenclosed common, and areas profiting from 19th century industrialisation and transport developments. They are typically no bigger than two hectares and consist of self-built cottages and small-scale fields, on holdings either owned outright or leased from the landowner.

A smallholding landscape at Old Storridge Common. Many of the smallholdings incorporate a small 17th or 18th century house, typical of the northern Malvern's area. Photograph © Historic England NMR 27700/003.

Industrial, commercial and transport building types and settings

Worcestershire is not marked by large-scale rural industries, but the county does retain some rare and historically significant buildings which evidence the development of industry, commerce and an integrated transport system across the county. England's industrial and commercial economies started to develop far earlier than those of other countries in Europe. Trade and manufacturing made an enormous contribution to rural communities from as early as the medieval period. A large proportion of the rural population made a living in various trades and industries (including 'cottage' industries), and in the transportation of goods. Significant local industries included coal and ironstone mining, salt production, quarrying, textiles, glove making and the manufacture of glass, nails, agricultural implements, needles, fish hooks and fishing tackle. The Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries brought about a cultural, social and economic revolution in manufacturing techniques, supported by the development of an extensive transport network.

Commercial buildings in rural landscapes can range from small local shops, inns and public houses to larger scale hotels and banks. Some buildings were built for a specific commercial function, whilst others have been adapted from earlier buildings. The development of trade was supported by the parallel development of efficient communications, in which turnpike roads and canals in the 18th century, and the national rail network from the 1830s, played critical roles.

Although specialised commercial areas and buildings developed early, and the numbers of shops grew substantially in the 17th and 18th centuries, few buildings pre-dating the 19th century survive in rural locations. Market halls, market crosses and inns are among the most prominent. Shops are generally recognisable by their large windows, (sheet glass was developed from the 1850s), and signage. The English Trade Directories of the 19th century provide a useful source for identifying the range of retail businesses, craft and trades in rural areas. For example, the Feckenham Bennetts Business Directory, dated 1899, records an interesting variety of shops and tradespeople

By the medieval period most settlements had a mill for grinding corn and fulling cloth. The development of industrial milling, from the 16th century, supported the redevelopment of many mill sites for the processing of metal (blade, rolling, scouring and slitting mills) and paper. The converted 19th century mill building in this photograph is associated with one of two corn mills, in Alvechurch.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

From the 17th century, the Redditch area was at the heart of the needle making and fish hook industries. The Old Needle Mill, in Feckenham, is just one of many interesting buildings associated with the area's industrial past.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

including a wheelwright and coffin maker, coal dealer and smith, post master, boot and shoe dealer, stationer and bookseller, grocer, tea dealer, provision and wine merchant, butcher ham and bacon curer and a draper and milliner.

Public house architecture, with multiple entrances and numerous rooms for different styles of drinking, was encouraged by the 1830 Beer Act, and subsequent legislation and licensing controls. Public house building was further stimulated by the growth of suburbs, in the decades either side of 1900. These establishments targeted 'respectable' drinkers and provided a range of eating and entertainment facilities. During the Inter-War period 'improved' pubs and 'roadhouses' emerged aiming to attract respectable couples and new mobile motorists, respectively. The number of pubs began to decline in the later 20th century, and the rate of loss has increased in the 21st century, with 50 pubs a week closing in 2009.

The photograph on the right, is of an early 20th century Morgan Garage, in Hartlebury, and reflects the growing population of private motorists, from the 1920s. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

This 19th century smithy has an unusual horseshoe shaped door, reflecting the diverse range of skills that blacksmiths often had, including those of a farrier. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

This former, late 19th century shop, in Kemerton retains its shop front and painted signage, 'Landaus, Waggonettes & Hunters for hire'. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

The settings of public open spaces

Gardens, parks and recreation areas are highly valued components of the English landscape. Buildings and structures associated with designed landscapes can vary in size, form and function. The majority of surviving buildings and structures are associated with formal gardens and landscaped parks of the 18th century and later. Many, along with the designed landscapes in which they sit, are designated for their special significance.

Many medieval castles, palaces, houses and monasteries had formally laid out gardens designed both for pleasure and for the cultivation of vegetables and herbs. Buildings and structures associated with these early designed landscapes are rare. During the 17th century, and particularly after the Restoration in 1660, large country houses with formally arranged gardens, often influenced by Italian Renaissance and French Baroque, started to appear. Gardens during this period were designed to be outwardly impressive and were generally enclosed by elaborate walling, balustrades and gates.

During the 18th century garden fashions changed, driven by landscape architects such as Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, and moved away from rigidly formal designs to more 'natural' landscaped parks. Eye-catchers were a significant component of these landscapes, adding variety and interest, but also often intended to convey political ideas and philosophies. Other notable elements were the more utilitarian buildings such as ice houses, game larders, Home Farms and workers cottages. The whole landscape was likely to be enclosed by a wall or railings, with gateways watched over by gatekeeper's cottages.

During the 19th century, there was a revival of formal 17th and early 18th century fashions. Although design was inspired by earlier fashions, many features were industrially produced in concrete, terracotta, stone or cast iron. Walled gardens with tall, brick walls were generally placed away from the house. During the 19th and early 20th centuries many parks made provisions for sporting activities such as tennis and swimming.

In rural areas few recreational grounds were built before the first world war. Those that were built, were mostly funded by private benefactors and private landlords. Private and community sports clubs became increasingly important from the 1920s onwards.

The children's playing field in Elmley Castle was dedicated in 1929 in loving memory of Ernst Victor Stevens of Chapel Farm, Netherton. It is an early example of a recreational area dedicated to children, reflecting changing social attitudes to health, welfare and children during the early 20th century. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Buildings of worship, types and settings

Places of worship incorporate many of our most important historic buildings and are often of special architectural, archaeological, aesthetic and cultural interest. As such they exhibit enormous diversity in scale and form. As well as being fundamental to people's belief they are often central in the collective memories and traditions of the local communities for which they serve.

Parish churches developed as the focal point of their communities, reflecting the wealth and aspirations of local people, landowners and the established church. Most date from the medieval period, and are listed at a high grade (I or II*). They also reflect significant changes in liturgy and worship, for example the stripping or covering of wall-paintings and other features during the Reformation and Civil War period, and the adoption of Gothic as the national style of the Anglican church in the 19th century. The variation in scale and style of Nonconformist chapels is far broader than for Anglican architecture. The majority date from the 19th century, yet the earliest date from the late 17th century and were built for the Baptists, Quakers, and other dissenting

congregations that had broken from the established church. These include an increasing number of chapels built for the Methodists, who in the 18th century had tried to revive the Anglican church from within.

Less substantial tin churches and mission rooms date from the late 19th century. These chapels are found across the county, with notable concentrations in areas where there were high densities of people employed in burgeoning crafts and industries, such as around areas of common land and in Wyre Forest. Buildings associated with Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and other faiths are more notable in cities, towns and suburbs.

Burial grounds are most commonly associated with the parish church or chapel. Nonconformist chapel burials mostly date from the late 18th century, whilst Catholic church burials, from the 1830s. Detached burial grounds were increasingly sited away from centres of settlement after the cholera epidemics of the 1850s. War memorials, dating from after the First World War, are the most common type of commemorative monument outside churchyards.

Grade I listed, early 12th century church with surviving medieval wall paintings, in Martley. Restored in 1909 by Sir Charles Nicholson. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Undesignated Baptist Chapel, in Dodford. Founded in 1865 and extended in 1926 with two bays to the east to form a school hall. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Educational and civil building types and settings

Buildings associated with education and community life, including schools, community centres and libraries, are highly valued by local communities. Most rural settlements have a school with a range of buildings that mostly date from the 19th century up to the present day. A very small number of schools were built before the 19th century, these being funded by private benefactors, and sometimes the local church, and often in combination with provision for the poor and the elderly. The first major wave of school buildings date from after the Reformation of the 1530s - 40s, and then after the Restoration of Charles II in 1660. Nonconformist communities made a significant contribution, through providing classrooms within chapels or as separate buildings.

While school building design shows a striking variety of styles and quality, the publication of designs from the early 19th century led to some standardisation. Gothic style was the most popular up to the 1870s, with more domestic styles arriving after that.

Early 20th century corrugated iron parish hall in Kempsey.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

This school with attached house, in Crowle, reflects the influence of the Gothic style in mid 19th century design.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

The first half of the 19th century witnessed a dramatic increase in the rate of school building, fuelled by competition between the dissenting churches (the British Society schools) and the Anglican Church (through the National Society). Under the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, a limited number of special boarding schools were built by larger workhouse unions to prepare children for domestic service or a useful trade. The government offered grants through these societies from 1833, and the first school inspectors and standard classroom layouts appeared after 1839. The 1870 Education Act initiated major expansion of the state education system, education being made compulsory for children under the age of ten from 1880.

The School Boards established by the 1870 Act were replaced in 1902 by borough and county councils. There followed an expansion of secondary schools, and from the late 1920s of elementary schools, designed to complement the more academic grammar schools. Most rural areas found it hard to adjust to the three-tier system of grammar, secondary modern and technical schools introduced under the 1944 Education Act.

Health and welfare building types and settings

The design of health and welfare buildings, and the spaces around them, mostly date from the middle of the 19th century. These reflect changing attitudes to the provision of clean water and hygiene, care for the poor, the elderly and the sick.

A small red brick, 19th century, hydraulic pump building in Hindlip.

All rural communities needed water for washing, cleaning and drinking. The evidence for this is hard to find before the introduction of a local and national infrastructure for the supply of clean water after the 1850s. Village pumps and wells, outside privies and the remains of water diversion methods, and holding tanks, do however survive.

Hospital buildings pre-dating the rise of modern medicine from the late 18th century are very rare. They include isolation hospitals, such as leper houses run by the medieval church, and the first general hospitals in urban areas dating from the early 18th century. Most hospital buildings date from the 1860s, and in rural areas they include isolation hospitals for the treatment of tuberculosis and other diseases, and cottage hospitals which were marked by their domestic appearance. The latter charged a fee for admission, but some were financed through private donations.

The roots of welfare architecture lie in poor relief. Until the Dissolution such architecture was mainly provided by the church. From the late 16th century, a series of Acts, in particular the Poor Law of 1601, required individual parishes to relieve their poor and set able-bodied paupers to work.

Small brick privy in Hanley Castle.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

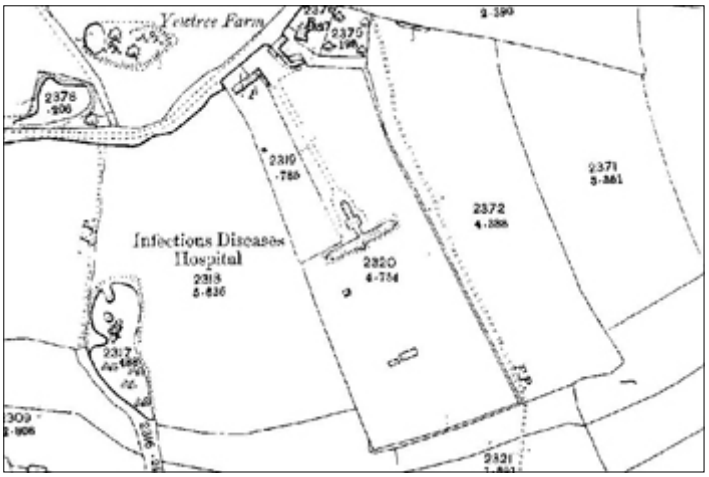
This 1933 octagonal, reinforced concrete water tower with its Deco panels, is an eye catching sight at Long Bank, Bewdley.

Residential workhouses for individual parishes, resembling cottages or farmhouses, date from the late 17th century. Following the reforms of the 1782 Gilbert Act, workhouses often became more imposing, as parishes were able to group together and provide larger, shared premises for poor relief. The provision of county pauper asylums was made compulsory after the Poor Law Report of 1834, and concerns about the rising costs of poor rates. The planning of workhouses, with greater emphasis placed on segregation of the sexes and supervision, expressed Utilitarian ideas which sought to discourage poor relief. Also, some workhouses were integrated within large lunatic asylums.

The tradition of private charity flourished alongside poor law provision and, by the 18th century, almshouses and 'voluntary hospitals' were powerful symbols of private generosity. The almshouse tradition remained strong throughout the 19th and into the 20th century.

The formation of the welfare state and National Health Service, during the 1940s, realised wartime aspirations towards fairness, equality and compassion, reforming health and welfare provision throughout the country.

Almshouses in Hanley Castle.
Possibly mid-19th century with 18th century remains. Brick with a band of timber-framing below the eaves.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.



Infectious Diseases Hospital in Wythall.
Built around 1900 and demolished by 1930.
Map © Landmark digital mapping based on Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 1904 (Landmark reference number 39sp0677)
Original scale: 25" (1:2500).

Military building types and settings

Most of Britain's military sites and structures were concentrated around the coastline until the 20th century, with the notable exception of army barracks placed within and around towns and cities. The enormous range of 20th century military sites reflects the changing nature of warfare from the First World War onwards. They include, pillboxes and road blocks for defence against invasion, airfields and their defences, decoys and gun batteries for air defence, supply depots and communications systems that made up a massive military infrastructure.

It is estimated that during the Second World War more than 20% of Britain's land area was used for military purposes, excluding the networks of anti-invasion defences that once threaded across the landscape. The majority of military buildings and structures, which survive within rural Worcestershire, are defensive or civilian structures associated with the home front, during World War Two.

Many people, through the wartime experiences of their parents and grandparents, feel a deep connection to these buildings and structures.

Official clearing schemes and the temporary nature of many buildings and structures, however, has resulted in a high level of loss.

Many surviving military buildings, such as this TRE listening station at Guarlford are vulnerable to neglect or demolition. Photograph © Dennis Williams.

The military features which have left the greatest marks on the landscape are the airfields. This photograph of Defford Airfield records wartime hangers, and one of six radio telescope (dating from 1959) that make up the Jodrell Bank MERLIN (Multi - Element Radio Linked Interferometer Network) radio telescope array. Much of the site is now owned by the West Midland Constabulary. Photograph © Dennis Williams.

Dating domestic buildings

This section introduces the main periods of building for domestic houses. Only brief consideration is given here to buildings that predate 1750, as these are often identified in local studies and national designations, although much remains to be discovered behind later facades and re-buildings. Today, the vast majority of people live in houses built after this period, since 1750 the population has increased by two and a half times and its households by more than eight times.

Early 18th century brick house with a stone plinth and quoins, and a tile roof. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Aldington is like most settlements, in that it displays a rich variety of buildings of different dates and styles. Photograph © Historic England NMR 29433_036.

Buildings relate to the development of an area over time and all settlements consist of a mixture of buildings of different types, dates and styles. The graphic below, indicates the main phases of building outlined in this guidance; the houses have been divided into the phases of devlopment using maps and listed building data. Understanding how an area has developed, how buildings of different dates and types relate to each other and to the wider landscape, can inspire and guide new development which responds to local character and distinctiveness.

Brick terrace **1851 - 1918**

Inter-war bungalows
1919 - 1945

1950s houses **1946 - 1980**

New houses **1981 - present**

Timber-framed cottage
1751 -1850

Timber-framed barn **pre 1750**

Patterns of building pre 1750

Key features:

- This period is marked by a fundamental distinction between medieval houses with open halls and the introduction, from the late 15th century, of fireplaces and ceilings which swept away these communal rooms and created more private living space.

- Medieval and early plan forms can be detected through the asymmetrical position of main entrances and chimney stacks.

- Symmetry becomes the guiding principle of house planning and design by the 18th century. At first used in the most prestigious houses and then continuing through different social scales.

- This use of symmetry, and the remodelling of earlier houses is associated with sash windows, panelled doors and the introduction of classical features into house design.

In the medieval and earlier periods, Worcestershire and the surrounding counties had large tracts of oak and elm woodland. This readily available resource provided timber-framing for constructions, set directly on earth, or simple rubblestone foundations. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

This grade II* manor house (now two dwellings), has a timber-framed upper floor built from timbers felled in 1587. Some of the stone walls may be part of a monastic 14th century house on this site. The first floor ornamental panelling was fashionable in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, especially in the West Midlands, Cheshire and Lancashire. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Overview

The development of rural houses has been the subject of many local and national studies. The period up to 1750 is marked by profound changes in how families and social groups organised their living space. From the focus on the hall for communal living in the medieval period, shifting to increased subdivisions of living space and activity, with varying standards of comfort. Waves of rebuilding either adapted earlier generations of buildings, for example, the insertion of chimneystacks and floors into medieval open halls, or swept them away.

Phases of rebuilding can tell us much about the former prosperity and development of farming and rural areas. For example, there were major phases of rebuilding that affected parts of southern England in the 15th to early 17th centuries, and the wealth introduced through cattle rearing in parts of northern England in the century or so after 1660.

The hall, with an open fire for heating and cooking and open to the roof to allow the smoke to escape, served as the main living space of the medieval house. The most common surviving house plan of the medieval period, is traceable to the 12th century and was common to all levels of society. It has the main entrance on one side wall, opening into an entrance passageway that separated the hall from a lower end, which could house a kitchen, services and in some areas livestock. Separate private and sleeping chambers, if they were provided, were typically sited at the upper end of the hall, private rooms being the mark of increasingly prestigious houses. The result might be cross wings added to one or both ends of the hall, and the highest status houses were built with service and private quarters built around one or more courtyards.

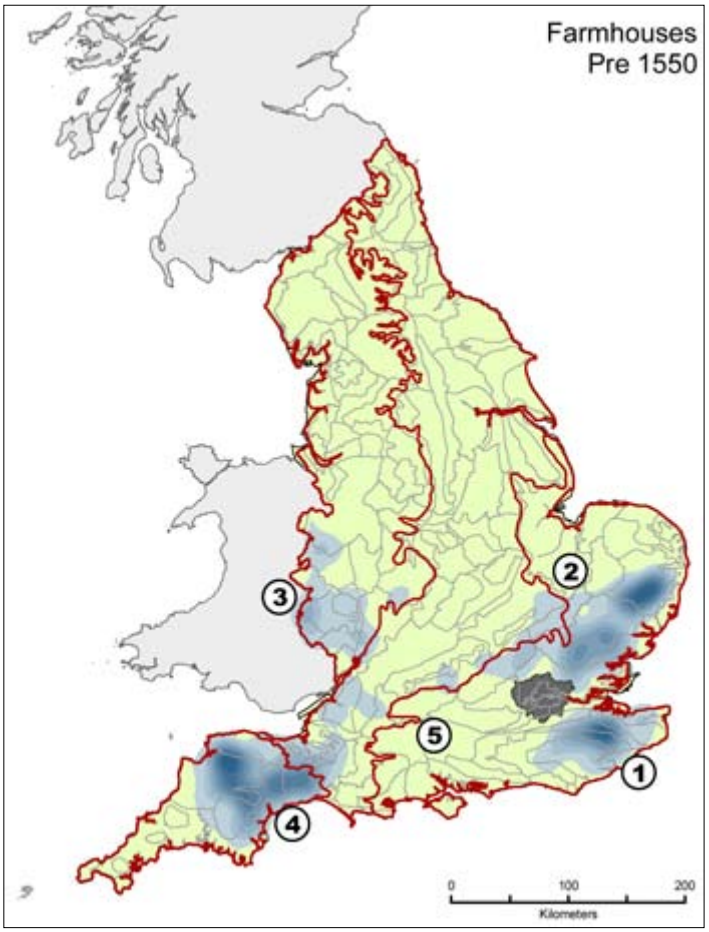
The social status and aspirations of the owners and tenants of these houses is also revealed by their scale and craftsmanship, the size of the historic plots associated with them, and sometimes features such as moats and the earthworks of ponds and other garden features. Substantial peasant houses survive from the 13th century. Others down to single-room houses have been recovered from excavation or can be glimpsed below the earthworks of abandoned or shrunken settlements.

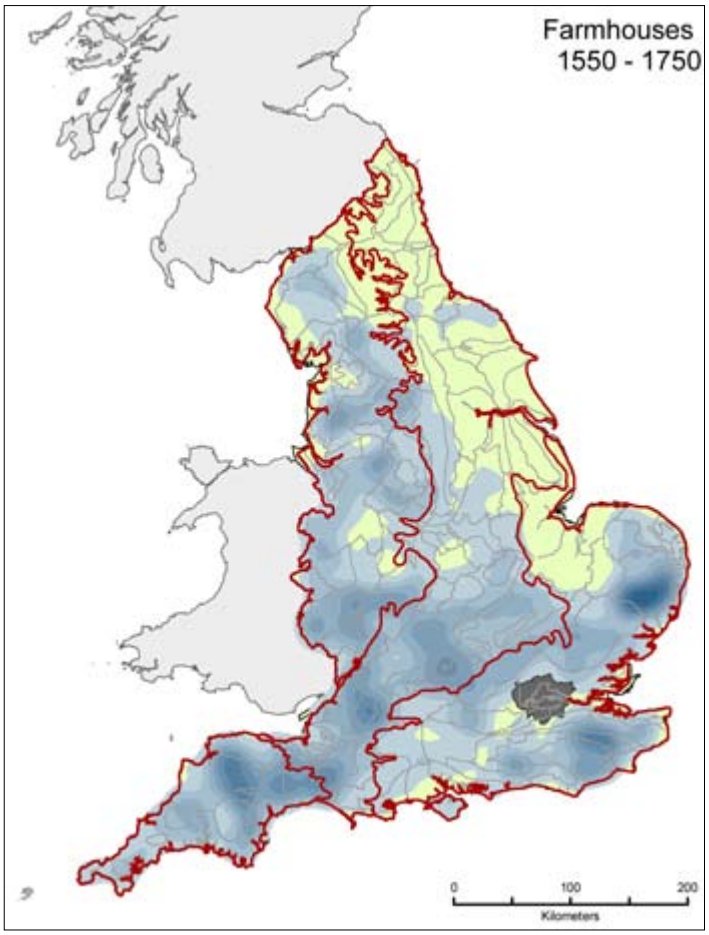
Urban houses might be provided with shops and counting houses, and often would be subdivided into three compartments. The plan and size of a building plot, whether in rural or urban areas, could determine whether it was set side or gable end on to the street, or in many of the most prestigious cases built around a courtyard.

Terrace rows, documented as speculative developments, survive from the medieval period in towns. Terrace housing became increasingly popular for urban workers and for middle class families from the late 17th century. Prestigious houses were already a feature of urban fringes by the late medieval period, and the rural settlements around London and other large towns and cities were increasingly provided with large houses. Such was the demand for housing and pressure for space in many urban centres, that large courtyard houses were increasingly subdivided from the 17th century.

From the mid 17th century, as a result of an increasing desire for more privacy and less communal living, open halls were being floored over and provided with smoke bays and chimneystacks. These either backed onto or were inserted within the old screens passage, or built on a side wall. Prestigious houses continued to be built with cross wings, dormer and other windows lighting upper rooms being a commonly-used feature. There was a strong degree of regional variation in the phasing of this development. Parts of northern and south western England being the last to witness the final demise of the communal hall, and the resulting planning of houses. As a general rule, new and remodelled houses by around 1750, reflected the symmetry and classical character of Renaissance architecture. It is common to find smaller, central halls for circulation, and stairs, with services (including dairies) placed at the rear. The result was a more symmetrical appearance, sometimes with doors and windows clearly placed around earlier chimneystacks.

The survival of smaller cottages generally reflects the former distribution of farmhouses. Well into the 18th century, cottages could be a single unit with an unheated sleeping chamber, or divided into two rooms, with the chimneystack indicating the main heated room. Occasionally farmsteads would comprise of farmhouses that were subdivided into labourers' cottages.





These maps show significant differences in the distribution of pre -1550 and 1550 -1750 listed farmhouses across England. The red lines mark the boundaries between a central belt of village-based settlement and more dispersed settlement to either side, where the majority of surviving and recorded houses are concentrated. The majority of farmhouses and farm buildings (almost all barns) associated with the development of peasant holdings and farms, date from the 15th and early 16th centuries. The map on the left shows these are concentrated in the anciently enclosed farmlands, and dispersed farming settlements of, south east England (1), East Anglia (2), the southern West Midlands (3) and the south west (4), and a ribbon of settlements, running from central southern England, west, in to Somerset, where there are also many isolated medieval houses (5). The map on the right shows that by 1750, rebuilding and new building had extended across this central belt and up to the Scottish border; survival being lowest in a large part of eastern England where farming landscapes were most affected by changes after this period.

Patterns of building 1751 – 1850

Key features:

- An increase in the population from around 6 million in 1750 to nearly 17 million in 1851.
- The continuing re-organisation of farmland, including the enclosure of formally open areas and the re-siting of farmsteads.
- Massive growth in commerce, enabled by a faster, integrated transport system.
- An increasing uniformity and standardisation in house design, which become more ornamental during the end of the period.
- Greater emphasis on private garden space in planning.

This ornate house, possibly dating to the 1850s, displays a mixture of Tudor and Gothic detail on an otherwise symmetrical façade. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

A late Georgian façade on a potential 16th or 17th century house (indicated by the off centre chimney stack). Deep eaves, sash windows and a pedimented porch. White stucco at the front, with Cotswold ashlar at the side, and a slate roof. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

This early 19th century, two storey, red brick house has a symmetrical façade, sash windows and a classical door case with a contrasting Gothic fanlight. The house, which faces the road, looks into its own enclosed private garden. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Overview

This period witnessed a rapid transition towards an increasingly urban and industrial economy. It is estimated that in 1750 the population was around 5.74 million. A wide range of factors, including England's transition to an industrial economy, then enabled a rise in population, to 8.3 million in 1801, then 16.8 million in 1851. Urban areas were rebuilt and expanded rapidly, most notably London, industrial towns, and coastal and inland leisure resorts.

The production of food was a vital factor in sustaining these developments. Improved productivity in farming had gathered pace in many areas from the 14th century as farms became larger and often more diverse in the mix of grazing and arable. Most of these changes operated within newly enclosed fields, which probably made up over 75% of the land area by 1750. The enclosure of the remainder was focused on areas of communally-farmed open fields (concentrated in the Midlands), rough pasture, heathland and wetland.

The impacts of these changes are visible throughout rural England, in the rebuilding and sometimes re-siting of farmsteads and houses, the continued development of estates for established families, and those who had made their fortunes in commerce and industry. The restructuring of the agricultural industry and the reorganisation of farmland also went hand-in-hand with the development of the road, canal and the first phase of the rail network. These changes were accompanied by a massive level of new building and remodelling of older properties, the latter usually to expand upon their living space.

Domestic architecture displays greater consistency, particularly in the adoption of symmetrical façades with panelled doors and sash windows, and in their planning with central entrance halls, and services placed to the rear of the front reception rooms.

Classical architecture, at first strongly influenced by the villas of Renaissance Italy, then Baroque and more stripped-down Palladian and neo-classical styles, became more decorative in the Regency period of the early 19th century. By then architects and builders were also drawing inspiration from English

traditions of Gothic and Tudor architecture, at first highly decorative, and toward the end of this period based on accurate studies.

By the early 19th century semi-detached houses had become a standard feature of suburban housing, and villa suburbs a highly distinctive feature of former common land and farmland around towns and cities. High-density terrace housing, built in a uniform and usually classical style with stairwells placed to the rear of narrow entrance halls, was best-suited to newly-acquired parcels of land within urban centres. It is also found, typically developed in a much more piecemeal fashion, in some rural-industrial areas as well, although here, small farms, cottages and smallholdings were more commonly encountered. Many farmsteads were re-arranged or re-built to accommodate the regular courtyard plan which remains dominant throughout much of the English landscape today. Private gardens also developed as a standard feature in this period, and houses were often built or remodelled to face towards them or to exploit viewpoints in the landscape.

Some of this consistency reflected the influence of building regulations to prevent fire, more commonly used after the Great Fire of London in 1666. Windows became recessed behind the brickwork and built to minimum widths, and by the 1770s porches and exterior wood decoration was omitted. Brick and stone continued to reflect local geology and traditions, but often replaced or even encased early buildings built from timber, earth and rubble. Render was often used, sometimes lined out to look like expensive masonry. Welsh slate and other building materials, including pine imported from the Baltic, became more widespread.

No part of England was left untouched by these developments, which would either adapt or sweep away the earlier building stock. Rebuilding anew characterised a broad swathe of eastern England extending from the village landscapes of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, up to the Scottish borders, where villages were swept away and replaced by mechanised farmsteads with their own workers' housing.

Patterns of building1851 – 1918

Key features:

- Transition of a largely rural to a largely urban society.
- Domestic architecture marked by the revival of historical styles especially the Gothic and Domestic Revival .
- New country houses built by affluent industrialists.
- Model villages, factories and workers cottages, associated with rural industry, such as mining.
- Most farmstead buildings built in this period, with smallholdings on the fringes of towns and cities.

Mid Victorian red brick, double depth terraces. Each cottage has one bay and two storeys.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Red brick cottages, associated with the Amphlett Estate. Dated 1872 - 73. The roof is half hipped and the ground floor has blue brick forming a four-centered arch opening above windows.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Mid 19th century red brick dwelling with later north wing addition. Tiled roofs with gable dormers. Formerly 'Charity Farm' which belonged to the Deacle charity school at Bengeworth, Evesham.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Overview

The 1851 Census marks England's transition from a largely rural to a largely urban society. Despite this, rebuilding in rural areas proceeded at a fast pace. Most farmsteads were provided with additional buildings, particularly for cattle, and reorganised and extended around courtyards. Provision for fixed, and increasingly mobile horse or steam power, became the norm. Some of the more exotic rebuilding projects, included building across whole landed estates, and were financed with new commercial and industrial wealth.

The rebuilding of farmsteads slowed down from the late 1870s with the onset of the agricultural depression, which worst-affected large arable farms, whilst dairying continued to thrive. Landlords accelerated the rebuilding of farm workers' cottages in many areas, spurred by the rapid mechanization and decline of farm labour, as well as a general desire for better living conditions. In some areas they continued to encourage smallholdings.

The 1892 Smallholdings Act authorised county councils to purchase or lease land to meet the growing demand for smallholdings. In 1926 this being made a statutory duty for county councils. Census returns also show that an increasing number of households were engaged in commerce, industry and the service industries, the growth of the railway network underpinning the diversification of the rural economy and the growth of villages in particular.

Places of worship continued to be built to serve scattered or village based settlements. The scale, design, and increasingly prominent location of chapels, represented the increased self-confidence of Nonconformist communities, the greatest numbers of these belonging to the Methodists. In response, the Anglican Church commenced a programme of new church building from the 1820s.

All were involved in the provision of integral or separate schoolrooms and community rooms. After 1872 major reform of the state education system initiated one of the most important campaigns of public building ever undertaken, transforming rural, as well as urban, communities.

Houses with symmetrical elevations continued to reflect the influence of the Georgian style, but increasingly from the 1840s architects and builders looked to our own past for stylistic inspiration. By 1918 a huge diversity of 'Domestic Revival' styles were popular, some displaying the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement dating from the 1880s, and others of the earlier Gothic Revival with its highly ornamented and asymmetrical facades, and pointed arched windows. The result was often a lively mixture of local materials and vernacular detailing, such as tile cladding, render, pebbledash, red bricks, red tiles and half timbering.

Detached and semi-detached villas had since the early 1800s been concentrated in suburban and rural areas, either as individual properties or spacious planned estates. Italianate style villas became increasingly popular from the 1840s. From the 1870s these began to reflect the influence of a new generation of architects and social reformers led by William Morris, with classical styles becoming less common.

Terrace housing, whilst found in some rural locations, was concentrated in urban areas where its planning and quality of building was controlled by local and national legislation. Two-storeyed terraces, with bay windows and porches, were built in their thousands from the 1840s. Some terraces continuing to provide for upper-floor workshops. Flushing bathrooms and lavatories were increasingly common in the late 19th century, the result being storeyed rear wings to accommodate them. From the 1860s London led the way in the provision of multi-storey tenement housing or flats in densely-populated areas. Despite this and the work of social reformers, poor-quality urban housing continued to be built, or the urban poor were displaced into areas which rapidly became slums.

The 1909 Housing and Town Planning Act, gave local authorities the power to demolish slums and compulsory purchase land for the erection of houses. The end of this period saw the first Garden City (Letchworth in 1903) and Garden Suburb (Hampstead in 1907), the planning of which, with spacious gardens, open spaces and houses catered for a mix of incomes and households.

Patterns of building 1919 – 1945

Key features:

- Period marked by greater provision of local authority housing and demolition of urban slums, with the lowest proportion of public housing in estate areas.
- Explosion in private house building, particularly in the growing suburbs around towns and cities.
- Estates characterised by winding, tree-lined avenues, crescents and cul-de-sacs.
- Massive increase in home ownership enabled by reorganisation of housing industry, increased social mobility and extension of credit.
- Housing and estate design influenced by Garden City Movement, with informal layouts and large gardens. Mock Tudor and Neo Georgian styles become increasingly popular. The impact of modernism is more limited.
- Increasing standardisation of design and non-traditional materials and methods.
- Growing environmental agenda concerning the preservation of pastoral England, set against back-drop of continued decline of the English landed estate following agricultural depression and war.

A pair of typical 1930s, semi detached houses with their simple plan form, round bay windows and arched porches. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Early 20th century semi-detached houses in brick, with half-timbered gables. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Overview

Whilst major industries such as shipbuilding suffered from increasing competition, the economies of some areas (especially in the West Midlands and south east) developed with new industries such as car manufacturing. Critically these growth sectors exploited electric power, whilst the development of the electricity grid weakened the locational pull of the coalfields, and the availability of motor lorries allowed expanding sectors to be located nearer to their markets.

The area of land realistically usable for house building increased especially between commuter and rail corridors. This was in response to falling land values, and improvements in transport and ease of commuting, due to the motor car and the opening up of routes for buses. The price of that land had fallen in response to agricultural underperformance and the breakup of estates evident since the late 19th century. This, together with death duties and the impact of the First World War, 1910-21 saw the largest turnover of land since the 16th century and probably the Norman Conquest.

Inter-war council houses were generally built of red brick, often combined with white render or pebble dash, with a low, hipped, tile roof. Houses were built in pairs or short terraces, with gardens to the front and back. The single-storey bungalow also came to prominence on the new public estates. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

The growth of the housing stock, exceeded the growth in population over this period. Despite the depression of the inter-war years there was an explosion in house building, particularly in the developing suburbs around towns and cities. The standardisation and mass production of materials, foreign imports, and improved infrastructure, reduced costs and by 1939 nearly a third of the population lived in houses built after 1918.

Although overshadowed by two world wars this period is notable for a rise in social idealism and a greater focus on a national responsibility to provide homes (although public houses still only accounted for 1 in 4 new houses built during this period). This was prompted by the return of servicemen after November 1918, leading to schemes such as 'Homes Fit For Heroes' and new legislation, such as 'The Housing and Town Planning Act' (1919) which led to an increase of public investment in house building and in-particular greater provision of local authority corporation (council) housing. After the First World War the numbers of county council smallholdings increased to support the employment and settlement of returning servicemen.

The Housing Act of 1930 encouraged councils to demolish slum housing. These slums generally consisted of poor quality Victorian back-to-back properties, constructed during the rapid growth of towns and cities during the late 18th and 19th centuries. The majority of slum communities were rehoused in new suburbs on the urban fringe. New building was by no means confined to urban areas and suburbs, which by the mid 1930s were beginning to be planned through national and local legislation and hemmed in by designated areas of conserved agricultural and amenity land.

The demand for increased food security, following the First World War, drove commentators such as William. G. Savage to call upon the government to engage with the rural housing problem. Despite this, and concerns expressed by parliamentary committees for the 'supply of accommodation for the agricultural population', new public housing in rural areas remained relatively uncommon until after 1945.

From the 1890s influential planners and architects of the Garden City movement, notably Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker, were particularly influential in developing new forms of spacious urban planning in order to improve conditions for the working class. They were in turn influenced by the spacious planning of innovative middle-class estates by private developers and social reformers such as William Morris, with houses in Gothic Revival and Old English styles. From 1917 Unwin had an influential role at the Tudor Walters Committee on improving working class housing and in 1919 he was appointed Chief Architect to the newly formed Ministry of Health. His influence on inter-war

public housing is evident. Two-storey cottage homes for families were built in red brick, sometimes with white render or pebble-dash, with gabled roofs and gardens to the front and back. Private builders emulated these styles and, as building costs fell, went on to build nearly three million out of the four million houses built in this period.

Private house builders' clients were owner occupiers, who dominated the housing market in southern England and other prosperous areas. They generally preferred to live in Mock Tudor and less commonly neo-Georgian houses, a style favoured for post offices and other public buildings into the 1950s. The bungalow also gained popularity, offering a more affordable way of living in a detached home and often in a cottage or vernacular style. All of these required space to build, either on fields or along roads, hence the concerns of some about their impact on the landscape. Whilst high density urban living, in the form of flats or maisonettes, remained uncommon compared to continental Europe.

Modern Movement houses, although much publicised, were relatively very rare and concentrated in southern England. Far more common was the application of modern or Art Deco motifs to architectural detail including the popular 'Sunburst' over front doors. The dominance of neo-Tudor reflected an increasing desire to emulate and preserve a rural and pastoral England, whilst the landed estate continued to decline as a source of social cohesion and environmental improvement in rural areas. The agricultural depression of the 1870s, followed by increasing taxation, falling land values, the requisition of houses for the war effort, the loss of heirs, and the migration of workers from the countryside to towns and cities, crippled many aristocratic families. Car ownership enabled increased access to enjoy rural heritage and landscapes, and organisations such as the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England (1926) responded to an increasing desire for environmental and heritage conservation. This is also reflected in the restoration of rural property for its heritage value, from the mews houses of Chelsea to medieval manors and cottages.

Public and private estates of the 1920s-30s are characterised by winding, tree-lined avenues, crescents or cul-de-sacs, easily recognisable from maps and drawing their inspiration from the pre-war Garden City Movement.

Patterns of building 1946 - present

Key features:

- At first marked by a massive investment in local authority housing, declining in the 1970s, followed by the introduction of 'right to buy'.
- The 1950s to early 1970s marked by establishment of new towns and high rise flats to house urban populations.
- Standardisation and simplicity of design using prefabricated techniques characterises the period to the 1970s, followed by a desire for more variation in house design. There is a continuing tension between what is regarded as 'traditional' and more progressive house design.

1960s housing is characterised by its simple style with large front picture windows, flush exterior doors and shallow pitched roofs. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

The majority of 1950s and 1960s houses were built in planned estates. House building remained simple in its design, estates were set in more open, green spaces and most new homes were built with gardens to the front and back. As car ownership increased, many estates incorporated blocks of garages. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Houses from the 1970s onwards are less uniform and once again, increasingly inspired by traditional vernacular styles Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Overview

By 1945 Britain was suffering a major housing crisis. The pre-war shortage of housing, along with wartime bombing, increased internal migration, the return of soldiers from the war, and rising social expectations, placed huge demands for new housing on the post-war government.

Before the end of the Second World War, Winston Churchill's coalition government had attempted to address the nation's housing shortage. The delivery of thousands of pre-fabricated houses, designed to last 10 years, was outlined in the Housing (Temporary Accommodation) Act of 1944. These factory built, single-story units proved to be popular and were typically constructed of metal, asbestos and concrete, had fitted bathrooms and kitchens, and could be erected in a matter of days. Although 500,000 'prefabs' were planned, rising costs resulted in only 156,623 being built.

Following the election of 1945, 'new housing' and the continued clearance of 'slum' housing, was a central agenda to the victorious Labour government's welfare reforms. These reforms focused heavily on local authority housing schemes rather than private development. The growth of private housing remained limited until the mid 1950s amid tight controls on building materials and taxes on development. The pressure to build public housing, particularly in urban areas, combined with the high cost of victory and shortage of both materials and labourers, initiated a new era of simple, functional, cost effective design, influenced by Modernism, standardisation and utility. Non-traditional forms of construction were developed including Pre-cast Reinforced Concrete (PRC).

The Welfare State brought with it not only economic management but expanded public services, a major road building programme, a New Towns programme, cross-party commitment to the expansion of state housing provision by local authorities, and a physical planning system for regulating development. In the decade after 1945, 1.5 million local authority homes had been completed. Many new houses were continuations of estates which pre-dated the war. The percentage of people renting from local authorities had risen to over a quarter of the population, from 10% in 1938 to 26% in 1961 (University of the West of England, 2009).

During the 1950s and 1960s the rate of house building continued to rise. Local authorities continued to expand estates, both rurally and on the urban fringe, establish new towns, and clear urban slums, often replacing them with high rise flats. A rapid increase in private development meant that, by the end of the 1950s, the majority of houses were owner occupied.

Building style remained simple, and once again, brick became the dominant house building material. New housing was built in planned estates, often detached from more traditional rural settings, but with a greater emphasis on private green space. From the 1970s councils built increasingly fewer homes and the introduction of the 'Right to Buy', under the Housing Act 1980, enabled tenants to legally buy the home that they were living in at a reduced market cost.

Over the whole period from 1980 to 2011, housing output dropped to 41% of its average level between 1951 and 1980. Housing Associations, typically working on small sites, took the lead in the design of affordable housing. During this period, a far higher proportion of housing has been built on previously developed (brown field) land, and after 2000 this has been to higher densities. Many new homes built in the period from 1981 to the present have been conversions of redundant buildings, both in urban and rural areas, with planning policies seeking to concentrate new houses on existing village settlements in rural areas.

Building materials

Overview

Materials, and the techniques used to assemble them, provide clues to the age and development of a building. These often vary from place to place as a result of the local geology, manufacturing, and transport costs. Worcestershire still retains one of the major concentrations of timber-framed buildings in England, dating from the medieval period to the 19th century. Brick, stone and slate became more common from the later 18th century.

Timber

Worcestershire has a strong tradition of timber building, dating from the medieval period right up to the 19th century. Of the nearly 6500 listed buildings in the county a third of them are constructed of timber. The characteristic features of timber-framed buildings are:

1. Cruck Framing

A cruck is a curved timber, split down the centre to form an arch. A series of crucks were erected to form pairs of arches. These arches formed the bays of an 'A' frame which was secured by the ridge beam and wall plates. Cruck framing is predominately found in Wales, western England and Devon.

Cruck framing. Photograph © Jeremy Lake.

2. Wattle and Daub

Wattle and daub was a common, traditional infill material during the medieval period. Wattle and daub is a woven lattice of wooden strips (wattle) which is daubed by a binding material, often incorporating mud, animal dung and straw. Infill panels of wattle and daub were generally plastered or lime washed over.

Wattle and daub.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

3. Concealed Timber-Framing

Timber-framing can often be hidden behind render, later brick facades or extensions, such as at this 17th century timber-framed cottage in Hanley Castle.

Concealed timber framing.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

4. Square-Panelling

Square-panelling, as seen below in this single storey, thatched cottage, is a characteristic feature of timber framing in western England.

Square panelling with brick infill.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

5. Brick Infill

In Worcestershire the spaces between timbers (the panels) are predominately filled-in with brick. This brick can be left exposed, painted or plastered over. Brick infill (or nogging) increasingly replaced wattle and daub infill during the late 16th and 17th centuries as bricks became both cheaper and more readily available.

6. Close Studding, Jettying and Ornamental Framing

Many high status buildings are characterised by close studding (vertical timbers set close together, dividing the wall into narrow panels), jettying (where an upper floor projects out beyond the dimensions of the floor below) or decorative framing (such as herringbone framing).

Jettying and decorative framing.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

7. Weatherboarding

Timber cladding or weatherboarding (overlapping horizontal boards) is a common feature of agricultural buildings such as this combination barn in north east Worcestershire. Hand-sawn hardwood boarding is now rarely found, as machine-sawn softwood was increasingly used from the late 18th century.

Weatherboarding.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

8. English Revival Architecture and Mock Timber-Framing

During the later Victorian period architecture was inspired by the more humble houses of the Tudor and Elizabethan period. The revival of English 16th and 17th century styles inspired the use of vernacular materials and styles including mock timber-framing, local stone and hand made brick.

Mock timber-framing.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Stone and brick

Stone has been used as a building material for thousands of years and is recognised for its durability, versatility and aesthetic appeal. Some of the largest buildings in the county are built of stone. The majority of stone buildings in Worcestershire are constructed using locally quarried resources. This is a typical practice, as the transportation of stone over long distances, was a problematic and expensive undertaking. The typical types of building stone are:

1. Limestone

Limestone is a sedimentary rock consisting mainly of calcium carbonate. The Cotswold Hills are made of oolitic limestone which varies in colour, from yellow to a creamy grey-yellow as you go south towards Bath.

'Cotswold Stone' has been used as a building material in the south east of Worcestershire for centuries, being cut both as large ashlar blocks for walling and as smaller stones for roofing tiles and architectural details.

Blue Lias, a blue-grey, clayey limestone derived from marl, has traditionally been used as a building material in the south east of Worcestershire, around Pershore and Evesham. It is difficult to cut into large ashlar blocks so was predominately used as a coursed rubblestone foundation for timber-framed buildings.

A thatched cottage constructed of coursed limestone.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

2. Sandstone

Sandstone is naturally occurring in a variety of colours across the north of Worcestershire, and has been used in many buildings from the medieval period onward. It seems to have been difficult to use as large ashlar blocks so was predominately used as a foundation stone for timber-framed and brick buildings.

This former threshing barn in Martley, dates to around1750 and is built of local red sandstone and brick, with a handmade tile roof. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

The Church of St. James the Great in Churchill and Blakedown, constructed in 1867/68 and built from local Hagley Park sandstone. Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

3. Malvern Stone

Malvern Stone, a mixture of pink, coarse grained granite and finer grained diorite, used both as a building material and as an aggregate in the construction of roads. The irregular nature of the rock results in irregular shapes to the building stones, which gives a very distinctive polygonal pattern to the constructions (English Heritage, 2012).

The original building at St Gabriel's School in Hanley Swan dates to 1862 and is constructed of irregular Malvern stone. The window's are situated within sandstone frames and the projecting gable porch a sandstone archway. The large stone structure on the southern gable end is a bellcote.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

4. Brick

Worcestershire has a large number of buildings constructed of brick. Brick became increasingly popular during the 16th and 17th centuries, particularly for high-status buildings and features such as chimneystacks and plinth walls. As the cost of production decreased over the 18th century, it took over from timber as the predominant building material. Brick makers do not appear in the trade directories for Worcestershire before 1835 when there are just four brick makers listed, all in Worcester. It is likely that prior to 1835 the clay was locally excavated and the bricks made close to each building site.

Early hand-made bricks are a soft red/orange colour, reflecting the colour of local clays and have a rougher texture than the later, Victorian, machine-made types, which also have a more consistent surface and sharper corners. The type, size and arrangement of brickwork can tell you a great deal about the date of a building and how it has changed over the years.

Late Victorian brick house.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Late 18th/early 19th century brick house in Eckington.
Photograph © Worcestershire County Council.

Section 5

Resources

Glossary of terms

Common Edge settlement
Detached or small groups of houses, dispersed between fields or small paddocks, encroaching onto open common, heath or waste.

Cropmark/Parch mark
Archaeological remains that become visible within standing crops, due to the subsurface differential growing conditions. Thus, buried ditches and walls can reveal themselves as crop or parch marks, especially during periods of drought.

Croft
An enclosed piece of land adjoining a house.

Dispersed Settlement
Settlement dominated by high densities of scattered farmsteads, hamlets and smaller villages. Typically associated with small and irregular fields, and the creation of farms within wood, marsh and moorland, during the medieval and earlier periods.

Earthwork
Archaeological remains that exist above ground, as an upstanding feature, ditch or artificial watercourse.

EcoSystem Services
An ecosystems approach provides a framework for looking at the whole ecosystem in decision making, and for valuing the benefits it provides, to ensure that society can maintain a healthy and resilient natural environment now and for future generations.

Heritage Asset
A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as being of significant value to merit consideration in planning decisions. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing). The more significant the heritage asset, the greater the weight given to its conservation, and to the impact of any development on its setting.

Historic England
A Central Government service, championing England's heritage and providing expert, constructive advice.

Historic Environment
All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. This includes all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.

Piecemeal Enclosure
Field systems that have been created out of the gradual, piecemeal enclosure of medieval open fields, woodland and wasteland. They can be of variable size and form, but typically lack any overall planning.

Medieval Open Fields/Strip Fields
Medieval open fields were once arable land, held in common. This was traditionally farmed in strips on a rotational system, with multi-ownership or tenancy. It is usually associated with nucleated settlements and is suggested by the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks and / or piecemeal enclosure. The relicts of this type of cultivation are principally the long ridges and furrows often formed in a reversed 'S' shape, which can also be observed in curving hedge lines. Large areas of post-medieval and modern field systems will have open fields recorded as an antecedent type. Parish Boundaries may also echo former field strips.

Moated Site
A wide ditch surrounding a building, usually filled with water.

Nucleated Settlement
A settlement pattern dominated by villages with relatively few isolated farmsteads or hamlets.

Ridge and Furrow
A series of long, raised ridges separated by furrows that have resulted from the process of ploughing. These earthworks are characteristic of pre-industrial farming techniques.

Setting of a heritage asset
The surroundings in which a heritage asset is located. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset; and thus may affect the ability to appreciate that significance.

Soil mark
An archaeological feature made visible, due to its soil fill being of a different colour and matrix to the surrounding subsoil. Soil marks show up well in ploughed fields or areas where the topsoil has been stripped.

Survey Planned Enclosure
Survey Planned Enclosure (including Parliamentary enclosure) is characterised by regular, small and large, rectangular fields, with 'ruler straight' boundaries, and often contemporaneous tracks and roadways. Planned enclosure was undertaken by surveyors during the 18th and 19th centuries, and will have overlain any prior landscape enclosure pattern.

Toft
The place where a house stood or had once stood, often adjoining a garth or croft

Veteran Tree
A tree which, because of its great age, size or condition, is of exceptional cultural, landscape or nature conservation value.

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