

Landscape Character
and Prominent Views
– Policy WP5

Supporting Evidence

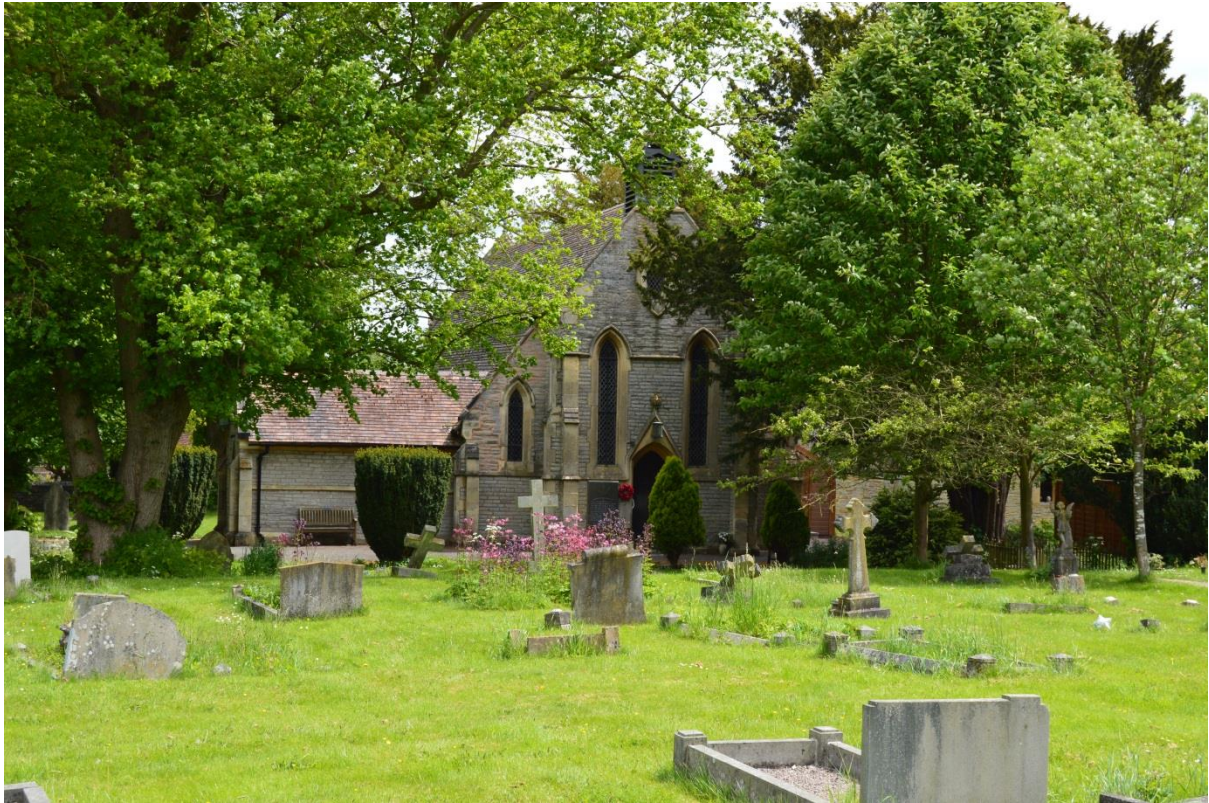


The Green

At the centre of the village from where can be seen Mary Arden's House, Palmer's Farm, The Mason's Arms and The Mary Arden Inn (formerly The Swan Inn). Within a few hundred metres there is also the church, the school and the village shop. There is seating around the lime tree, telephone box and further bench opposite.

The Green forms a natural meeting point, the confluence of roads into the village from three directions and a gathering place particularly at Christmas time when a Nativity Scene is erected and where carols are sung.

This is also where the school coaches pick up and drop off as well as the local bus service to Stratford.



Church of St Andrew

The Church of St Andrew, Wilmcote was built in 1841 and is a Grade II listed building attributed to Butterworth. St Andrew's is a very special church as it has played an important role in Anglican history and can be considered to be a monument to the influence of the Oxford Movement. The first retreat held in the Church of England was held at Wilmcote and was attended by some forty clergy including Newman and Manning. Pusey and Keble were regular visitors on subsequent occasions and St Andrew's became a rural rendezvous for the early Tractarians. It was at Wilmcote that practices abandoned at the time of the Reformation were first restored to the Church of England.

The church is a pure example of the Gothic Revival and has changed very little since it was built.



Palmers Farm/Mary Arden's House

The farmhouse was owned by Mary Shakespeare, the mother of William Shakespeare. The house has been maintained in good condition because it had been a working farmhouse over the centuries. It was bought by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in 1930 and refurnished in the Tudor style.

In 2000 it was discovered that the building preserved as Mary Arden's house had belonged to a friend and neighbour Adam Palmer and the house was renamed Palmer's Farm. The house that had belonged to the Arden family which was near to Palmer's Farm had been acquired by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in 1968 for preservation as part of a farmyard without knowing its true provenance.



The Orchards

The field known as the Orchards opposite Palmers Farm/Mary Arden's House is within the Wilmcote conservation area. Its importance as part of the Arden/Shakespeare heritage is undisputed. It provides a vital rural setting for the Mary Arden Complex which attracts many thousands of visitors annually. Rare breeds of cattle and sheep are grazed on it contributing to the historic atmosphere.

The surface of the ground exhibits evidence of ancient building and agricultural activity and could be the subject of future archaeological investigation.





Stratford on Avon Canal

The canal provides an attractive corridor for recreation, tourism and access linking Wilmcote to Stratford-upon-Avon, acting as a buffer between the existing village and open countryside.

This valued green and blue corridor through the parish of Wilmcote contributes strongly to the character of the village as a through route for canal boats linking travel from River Avon, Bancroft Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon with Worcester and Birmingham Canal at Kings Norton, Birmingham. The whole of the nations linked waterways totalling approximately 2700 miles are accessible from Wilmcote.





Canal towpath towards Henley in Arden



Canal towpath towards Stratford-upon-Avon



View towards the Cotswold Hills from Featherbed Lane



Featherbed Lane approach to Wilmcote, ahead is the Railway Bridge.



Wilmcote Railway Station

The Great Western Railway opened the present two-platform station in 1908, at the same time as the inauguration of the North Warwickshire Line, which created a new main line route between Birmingham and Cheltenham Spa. It replaced an earlier station that had existed since 1860 on the Stratford-upon-Avon Railway Company's line from Hatton on the Great Western's Birmingham and Oxford Junction Railway.

Today, London Midland serves Wilmcote with trains between Stratford-upon-Avon and Birmingham Snow Hill. Chiltern Railways serves Wilmcote with trains between Stratford-upon-Avon and Leamington Spa, some of which are through services that continue to London Marylebone.



Featherbed Lane approach to Wilmcote, ahead is the canal bridge.



View from Featherbed Lane across the field between the Railway Station and the canal



View from the Railway Station footbridge towards the South-East.



View to the rear of Mary Arden's House



Approach to the village along Aston Cantlow Road (part of the National Cycle Route 5) with open views to the North and North West across the historic farmstead of Gypsy Hall Farm and views beyond of the forested hills of Wootton Waven



Willow Wood Play Area

A valued part of Wilmcote village, with play equipment for a variety of ages, surrounded by willow hedging and gates.



Along Billesley Road looking towards the East



Church Road approach to Wilmcote



Billesley Road approach to Wilmcote



Open countryside views from the Gallops to the South



Open countryside views from the Gallops to the West



View from Pathlow looking West towards Wilmcote village.



View from Pathlow looking North-West towards the Railway Line and the canal



View from Pathlow looking North-West towards the railway line. Wootton Hill can be seen in the distance.