

GREAT SOMERFORD CONSERVATION AREA

1. Purpose

1.1. To propose changes to the Great Somerford Conservation Area boundary.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The boundary alterations shown at Appendix 2 to this report be designated as the Great Somerford Conservation Area for the purposes of Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

3. Links to the corporate/business area objectives

3.1. Conservation Area designation and related Local Plan policies conserve and enhance the District's built environment, landscape setting, assets & resources, protect and promote the local distinctiveness of North Wiltshire's heritage, and are prepared in consultation with other local organisations and Councils.

4. Background Information

4.1. The attached report and plans (see Appendix 1) were presented to the 16th November 2005 Area 1 Committee, which resolved:

- 1) *That the Design & Estates Team Leader first consult with the land owners affected by the proposals, prior to consultation with the Great Somerford and Little Somerford Parish Councils on the proposed changes to the Great Somerford Conservation Area boundary and reports to the Public Spaces & Local Panel with a proposed Conservation Area Designation;*
- 2) *That this consultation, in so far as possible, be in line with the guidance in the draft Statement of Community Involvement relating to Supplementary Planning Documents; and*
- 3) *That consultation methods include a meeting between the Parish Councils, North Wiltshire District Council officers, landowners and the wider community.*

4.2. A well attended meeting was held at Great Somerford School Hall on 10th January 2006, to which both Parish Councils, land and property-owners and the wider community were invited. At the 25th January 2006 Area 1 Committee the Chairman made the following announcement:

"Officers are currently considering comments made at that meeting together with other written comments received, and it is intended to report a proposed boundary to the NWDC Public Spaces and Local Plans Panel on 28th February, before reporting the proposal back to the Area 1 Committee for designation. It has also been requested that a further meeting be arranged with the larger landowners affected by the proposals."

5. Current Position

5.1. The Design and Estates Team Leader has written to the relevant Councils. Little Somerford had no comments. Great Somerford Parish Council responded with a request that NWDC consider amendments to the proposals in 'Areas A, B and C'. Letters and emails have also been received requesting consideration of alterations to the proposals in Areas A and C, in addition to de-designation of previously designated land immediately north of Area C.

5.2. As requested, a further meeting was held with the larger landowners on 14th February 2006 and a revised proposal has been prepared (see Appendix 2) which takes into consideration the representations received and comments made at the meetings. Some additional research has been undertaken concerning the significance of the World War 2 defence structure in Area A, and the degree of surviving historic boundary features in Areas A, C and D, which has resulted in the now proposed boundary.

5.3. This revised proposal was presented to the 28th February 2006 Public Spaces and Local Plans Panel, which recommended;

“That the Great Somerford Conservation Area as shown in Appendix 2 be designated by the Malmesbury Area (1) Committee.”

5.4. Great Somerford Parish Council also considered the revised proposal in a meeting on 7th March, and no formal request for further changes has been made. A number of letters and emails have since been received requesting additions to the revised proposals. The revised boundary has been drawn in a position which is considered to best serve the interests of the items of acknowledged historic and architectural interest within the village, whilst not drawing boundaries too widely across areas that are protected through other Local Plan policies and that may lead to unnecessarily overstressing conservation resources.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There will be small costs to formally notify of the change to the Conservation Area designation.

7. Human Resources and Equal Opportunities implications

7.1. Conservation Area management, including designation and boundary review, is a continuing responsibility and current Best Value Performance Indicator, and is therefore within the Urban Design work programme. Progressing them will have no impact upon internal human resources.

8. Community and Environmental Implications

8.1. Conservation Area designation and related policies conserve and enhance the District's built environment and landscape setting, to protect and promote the local distinctiveness of North Wiltshire's heritage for the community.

REPORT FROM THE DESIGN AND ESTATES TEAM LEADER TO THE AREA 1 COMMITTEE 29TH MARCH 2006

Documents Used in Preparing this Report

Draft Great Somerford Village Design & Conservation Area Statement: September 2003.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Proposed Great Somerford Conservation Area Report to Area 1 Committee 16th November 2005 (including Appendices)

Appendix 2: Proposed Great Somerford Conservation Area Boundary Feb 2006

Author

J. Kashdan-Brown, Principal Urban Designer, Design & Estates Team
Tel: 01249 706503 jkashdanbrown@northwilts.gov.uk