



CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL



INTRODUCTION

The conservation area in Stradbroke was originally designated by East Suffolk County Council in 1973 and inherited by Mid Suffolk District Council at its inception in 1974. The conservation area was last appraised by Mid Suffolk District Council in 2000.

The Council has a duty to review its conservation area designations from time to time, and this appraisal examines Stradbroke under a number of different headings as set out in English Heritage's 'Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals' (2006).

As such it is a straightforward appraisal of Stradbroke's built environment in conservation terms.

This document is neither prescriptive nor overly descriptive, but more a demonstration of 'quality of place', sufficient for the briefing of the Planning Officer when assessing proposed works in the area. The photographs and maps are thus intended to contribute as much as the text itself.

As the English Heritage guidelines point out, the appraisal is to be read as a general overview, rather than as a comprehensive listing, and the omission of any particular building, feature or space does not imply that it is of no interest in conservation terms.

Text, photographs and map overlays by Patrick Taylor, Conservation Architect, Mid Suffolk District Council 2010.



New Street



Church Tower



TOPOGRAPHICAL FRAMEWORK

The village of Stradbroke is situated in the north of Suffolk about four miles south of the River Waveney, which here forms the boundary with Norfolk.

It lies between two tributaries of the Waveney; one, a mile to the west joins the river at Hoxne, the other at the eastern extremity of the village itself, joins via the parish of Weybread.

This last stream must be the 'broke' or brook, over which the 'strad' or street passes, giving the village its distinctive name.

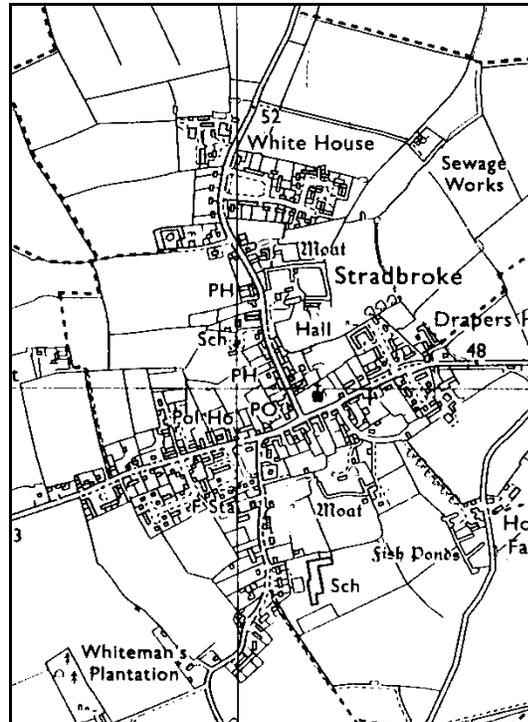
The village is situated on the 'High Suffolk' claylands, a glacial deposit of clays, sands and gravels, which overlay chalk at greater depth.

Stradbroke is fairly isolated, there having been no turnpike roads in the area and the river providing limited means of navigation.

In 1904 the Mid Suffolk Light Railway passed through Stradbroke, running from the main Ipswich to Norwich line at Haughley, but terminating at Laxfield, four miles to the east, unable to raise sufficient funds for its projected continuation through to the east coast line at Halesworth.



Aerial Photo



OS Extract



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Apart from a suspected Neolithic field system and roadway of unknown date, the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record for the parish is almost entirely Medieval.

There are several moated sites in the parish, three of which are in or near the village itself. Medieval castle remains can be seen at nearby Wingfield, two miles north, and Eye, six miles west.

Hoxne, famous for its 'hoard', is only four miles to the north-west, so Stradbroke might yet reveal a grander past.

Stradbroke is listed in the Domesday survey of 1086 as having two churches with forty acres and half a plough. One of these may be associated with an 'outlier' at Wingfield, the other presumably setting the site for the present parish church.

The parish has five outlying hamlets at Battlesea, Pixey, Ashfield, Barley and Wootten Greens, the last two having been sub-manors at one time.

The village was granted a market held on Fridays in 1227, but this was out of use again by the 17th Century.



All Saints Church

Strebroc. m̄ Edric. i. r. e. v. car. 7 dim. trz. Tūc 7 p̄ xvi
 uith. m̄. xi. Tūc. xi. bor. m̄. xxx. Tūc. xi. car. in dñio. p̄. vi.
 m̄. v. Tūc 7 p̄ xii. car. hom. m̄. v. 7 xii. car. possent restaurari.
 int̄ totū. xx. acr. p̄ti. suua. cccc. por. Tūc. m̄. i. f. Tūc. xvi. por.
 m̄. xxx. 7 xxx. oū. Due. Ecclie. xl. acr. 7 dim. car. & xvii. soc̄
 i. car. trz. 7. iii. car. filu. xl. por. v. acr. p̄ti ex his soc̄ c̄ foca in
 hoxa. manr. epi. & edric. tenebat dim. de epi. Tūc. ual. xiiii.
 lib. m̄. xvi. & tenet. Walter. de hoc manerio. ii. soc̄. de. xl.
 acr. 7 ual. viii. soc̄ in eodē p̄tio. Rob. de gianuili. iiii. de. xx.
 acr. v. soc̄ in eodē p̄tio. & Gaiter. fili. grippi. i. de. xv. acr.
 xxx. d. in eodē p̄tio. Loernic. i. de. xx. acr. 7 ual. iii. soc̄.
 in eodem p̄tio. Edric. soc̄ 7 iac̄. H̄. ii. leu. in lou. 7. i. leu. in
 lat. 7 xiiii. d. 7 ob. de g. alii ibi tenent.

Edric held STRADBROKE before 1066; 5½ carucates of land.
 Then and later 16 villagers, now 11; then 11 smallholders, now 30.
 Then 11 ploughs in lordship, later 6, now 5; then and later 12
 men's ploughs, now 5. 12 ploughs could be restored.
 WINGFIELD, one outlier, in the same reckoning and assessment.
 In all, meadow, 20 acres; woodland, 400 pigs. Then 3 cobs; then
 16 pigs, now 30; 30 sheep.
 2 churches, 40 acres. ½ plough.
 17 Freemen; 1 carucate of land, 3 ploughs.
 Woodland, 40 pigs; meadow, 5 acres.
 Of these Freemen, the jurisdiction is in the Bishop's manor of
 Hoxne; Edric held half from the Bishop.
 Value then £14; now [£] 16.
 Of this manor, Walter holds 2 Freemen with 40 acres.
 Value 8s in the same assessment.
 Robert of Gianville (holds) 4 (Freemen) with 20 acres.
 (Value) 5s in the same assessment.
 Walter son of Grip (holds) 1 (Freeman) with 15 acres.
 (Value) 30d in the same assessment.
 Loernic (holds) 1 (Freeman) with 20 acres.
 Value 3s in the same assessment.
 Edric (had) full jurisdiction.
 It has 2 leagues in length and 1 league in width; 14½d in tax.

Domesday Extract



QUALITY OF BUILDINGS

Stradbroke's most valued listed buildings are two farmhouses and the church, all graded II*. Broad End farmhouse is partly 14th Century with a raised aisle type of open hall, whilst Hill House Farm is 16th Century, again timber-framed, with the remains of a medieval moat around it.

The only grade II* building in the village itself is the medieval church of All Saints. This is mostly Perpendicular in style with a Decorated chancel and nave arcade, and was 'restored' in the 1870's. The 15th Century Perpendicular tower is particularly fine with its flushwork on the buttresses, described by Pevsner as 'an ambitious piece'.

A great many more outlying farmhouses are listed grade II, of which Hepwood Lodge farm is also mentioned by Pevsner for its 'pretty Gothic shafts left and right of the doorway'.

The remaining grade II listed buildings are concentrated in Church Street and Queen's Street, mainly of timber-framed construction originally with thatched roofs, although many have now been re-roofed with pantiles.

A few of the timber-framed buildings have some exposed studwork, such as Town House, the former guildhall, and Church House opposite it on the corner of Church Street and Queen's Street. For the most part the timber-framed buildings are rendered all over in the usual Suffolk manner.



Town House



Church House



Red Brick, Render and Plaintile



Red Brick and Black Pantile



Render and Concrete Tile



Render and Black Pantile

TRADITIONAL MATERIALS

Stradbroke is predominantly a village of timber-framed buildings, rendered and with black glazed pantile roofs.

The two main variants from this are where red or painted brick replace or re-front a timber frame, and where red clay pantiles are used on a rendered building.

Many of the timber-framed buildings were presumably at one time thatched with Norfolk reed from the nearby Waveney.

Indeed it is the influence of the river that can be seen in Stradbroke's local materials. The predominance of these pantile roofs is such that even the few remaining thatched roofs outnumber those done in plain tiles, the more usual re-roofing material in the rest of Suffolk.

Local soft red brick can be found in the village, and many 19th Century buildings with slate roofs are of red brick construction but fronted with whites for effect. Many of these 19th Century buildings are not listed but contribute to Stradbroke's character and if identified could form the basis of a Local List.



Red Brick, Render and Thatch



White and Red Brick and Slate



HIERARCHY OF SPACES

Stradbroke is centred around a staggered cross-roads, the main east-west route through being met by a minor road to the south, slightly west of the more important T-junction where the road to Hoxne branches off to the north.

It is around this T-junction that the village has its commercial centre, there being a number of shops still in use and a few more now in domestic use, but still bearing their shop-fronts as witness to former trading.

The church and its attendant graveyard occupy the north-eastern corner of this junction, the tower presenting quite a dominant feature that can be seen from all approach roads.

Out from the centre the roads east and west wind gently away through more recent development and infill, that to the east dropping slightly to where it crosses the brook. That to the north also drops and winds out past Stradbroke Hall with its moat on the right, and thence into open farmland.

The generous width of the east-west route in Church Street contrasts somewhat with the northern road, formerly Queen's Head Street, now simply Queen's Street. This street is more varied and tightly packed with buildings, and consequently has a slightly more urban feel to it.



Church Street, looking East



Church Street, looking West



TREES AND PLANTING

The major public green space within the village is the churchyard. Here can be found a fine specimen of Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*), an unlikely survivor in East Anglia's cold dry climate.

Other large areas of trees occur in the private grounds of two of the village's moated sites. To the north around Stradbroke Hall there are mature Beech and Corsican Pine, whilst to the south around the Priory we can find Weeping Willow, False Acacia and Scots Pine.

The village has two tree preservation orders where trees have been considered to be at risk.

One applies to a Walnut tree at a house called 'Poplars' on the Laxfield road (TPO 232), whilst the other protects a large group at Priory Corner off the Framlingham road, consisting of a False Acacia, a Blue Atlas Cedar (lost in the gales of 1990), Hawthorn, Yew, Sycamore, Pine, Oak, Hazel and Ash (TPO 124).



Strawberry Tree



Trees near Stradbroke Hall



COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS

Most of Stradbroke's development is only one plot deep so that the countryside can be found close by to the rear of most properties.

Indeed, it can also be found at the front, since much tractor traffic comes and goes about its business via the village's central road junction.

Fields can be glimpsed from many parts of the village, and nowhere, other than perhaps Queen's Street, achieves any degree of built-up urban feel.

Although no footpaths penetrate to the actual heart of the village, it is well served by such connections into the countryside from the wider parish.

Definitive footpaths FP1 and FP2 head off northwards from the Eye road and westwards from the Hoxne road respectively, boxing off the north-west corner of the village and leading from where they join to other paths (FPs 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7) that lead further north-westwards towards Battlesea Green.

In a similar way, but at greater distance, Pixey Green to the north-east is approached by parallel paths off both the Hoxne road and the Laxfield road.

The south-west sector is contrastingly devoid of such paths, whilst to the south-east there are again plenty forming an extensive network between Wootten Green to the south and Barley Green on the Laxfield road to the east.



Rural Traffic



Start of Footpath 1



PREVAILING AND FORMER USAGE

Stradbroke seems to have had very mixed fortunes over its history. The Waveney valley was not dominated by Suffolk's wool industry and in the 17th and 18th Centuries, there was a local alternative with up to ten linen weavers based in Stradbroke serving markets at nearby Halesworth and Diss.

Towards the end of the 18th Century the Hoxne Union workhouse was built in Stradbroke, to the east of the main village near Holly Tree Farm. It seems to have brought poverty with it, for the early 19th Century was such a bad time for local agriculture that by 1835 half the village inhabitants were receiving poor relief. Between 1831 and 1843 about 200 souls emigrated to a 'better' life in America.

Better times followed in the later 19th Century, as witnessed by the relative proliferation of shops for such a small village. Agriculturally based industries remained the staples, there being a maltings there in 1851, probably the building adjoining the White Hart, more recently used as stabling.

Three windmills are recorded for the parish: Skinner's Mill off the Hoxne road was fairly central, a post and roundhouse type demolished in 1941. The outlying hamlets of Battlesea and Barley Greens also had post-mills: the former burnt down in 1898, whilst the latter was demolished in 1940, although the remains of the roundhouse can still be seen today used as a store.



Former Maltings / Stables



Former Shopfront

LOSSES AND POSSIBLE GAINS

Stradbroke as a village remains relatively intact, both Church Street and Queen's Street presenting a variety of buildings of differing ages and styles.

Although some undergrounding has been carried out in the centre of the village, both streets are still in places disfigured by modern overhead wiring which should also be put underground when the opportunity arises.

Away from the village centre new infill development is inevitable, but should be integrated into the village's historic pattern of growth.

Traces of Stradbroke's trading past are still to be seen with a number of traditional shopfronts still attached to what are now merely dwellings. These relics should be retained wherever possible, whilst those that continue to trade should be protected from the pressures for modern improvements and advertising.



Overhead Wiring



Vacant Site, Queen's Street

REFERENCES & FURTHER READING

Chatwin, C P 1961 *East Anglia and Adjoining Areas* British Regional Geology HMSO

D.C.L.G., D.C.M.S. & English Heritage 2010 *Planning Policy Statement: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS 5)* TSO

D.o.E. 1988 *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest: District of Mid Suffolk: Parishes ofStradbroke....*

Domesday Book 1986 *Suffolk* Phillimore

Dymond, D & Martin, E (eds) 1988 *An Historical Atlas of Suffolk* Suffolk County Council

English Heritage 1995 *Conservation Area Practice* HMSO

English Heritage 2006 *Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals* HMSO

Flint, B 1979 *Suffolk Windmills* Boydell

Goult, W 1990 *A Survey of Suffolk Parish History* Suffolk County Council

Pevsner, N 1976 *The Buildings of England: Suffolk* Penguin

Rose, P 1992 *Stradbroke, Scenes from Village History* Suffolk County Council

Sandon, E 1969 *A View into the Village* Terence Dalton

Suffolk County Council 2009 *Historic Environment Record: Stradbroke*

Tithe Map & Apportionment 1840 *Stradbroke* Suffolk Records Office

Village Design Statement 2003 *Stradbroke Past Present and Future*

The maps in this document are based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. M S D C Licence no 100017810 2010



This Appraisal adopted as
Supplementary Planning Guidance
by Mid Suffolk District Council
Environment Policy Panel
13 December 2011