LILLINGSTONE LOVELL CONSERVATION AREA

Designated 19th July 1989

The village of Lillingstone Lovell lies half a mile east of the A413 Buckingham to Towcester trunk road and four miles north of Buckingham. Originally listed in the Domesday Book as Lillingstone, it gained the suffix Lovell after 1431 when it became the property of the Baronial family of Lovell.

The village is a small rural hamlet of predominantly stone built houses, centres around two small paddocks, either side of the Main Street. It comprises two quite distinct halves. The western half, centred upon the Church of St. Marys consists of properties on Main Street and Church Lane. The eastern half consists of a ribbon of properties running along the eastern side of Brookside.

The western approach from the A413, is along a narrow lane flanked on either side by grass verges and field hedgerows. Having passed two pairs of modern cottages, known collectively as Wentworth Cottages, the road turns sharply left into Main Street, adjacent to the nineteenth century stone built Glebe Farm. The outbuildings to this farm abut the outer curve of the bend and provide a firm visual edge to the development.

Adjacent to Glebe Farm, on the eastern side of Main Street, are semi-detached properties Church Cottage and the Parish Hall, originally erected in 1850 as The School and Schoolteachers House. The adjacent car park affords uninterrupted views west and south west across paddock land and towards private houses in Brookside. Continuing along; the road, flanked on its north western side by high stone walling fronting the elevated Glebe House, approaches St. Mary's Church (a Grade I listed building). The present church, the third to be erected on the site, was built in the mid fourteenth century and extensively restored in the nineteenth century. Parts of the church, namely the tower and the southern doorway and moulded arches, date from the early twelfth century and were originally part of the second church to stand on the site.

At the church, Main Street turns abruptly east and runs downhill between two large paddocks to Brookside. On the left hand side a small lane known as Church Lane, leads northwards towards the Grave Yard, Church Toft, Church Farm, Brook House and The Bungalow. The strong sense of enclosure within Church Lane is provided by the tall hedgerows leading up to and in front of the Grave Yard, the boundary wall to the Church and the walls of Church Farm and its assorted outbuildings.

All the properties in the eastern half of the village extend in a north-south ribbon along the eastern side of Brookside. Brookside is a narrow single track lane extending either side of Main Street and culminating at its northern end with Valley Farm and at the southern end at a pair of eighteenth century thatched rubblestone cottages, known simply as 18 and 19 Brookside. The western side of Brookside is bounded by a small brook which rises in Buckingham Thick Copse, two miles to the north and empties into the River Ouse at Thornton, two miles south east of Lillingstone Lovell. Beyond this brook is a substantial field hedgerow. All the properties along Brookside have fine uninterrupted aspects westward towards the Church and reciprocally, fine views are obtained eastward along Main Street, towards Brookside. The major buildings are those on either side of Main Street, namely Bridge Farm and the row of early eighteenth century thatched cottages known as 9, 10 and 11 Brookside.

Eastward from Brookside, the road leaves the village rising steeply and is once more enclosed on either side of field hedgerows.

October 2008