

VILLAGE CHARACTER SURVEY

INTRODUCTION:

Thank you for your interest in the Village Character Survey which will be carried out by the village community to record the special features that form the character of Upham and Lower Upham so the information can be used to create the new Village Design Statement.

A Village Design Statement (VDS) is a way for local communities to propose guidelines for the **design** of any new development that may take place in their area. Based on **an analysis of the character of the settlement and its surroundings**, a VDS adds local detail to existing planning guidance and will provide us with an opportunity to describe the special qualities of Upham that we would like to conserve for the future and not lose as a result of inappropriate development. Once updated, the VDS will help architects, developers and all those involved in making design decisions to have a better understanding of what is distinctive about Upham. It will also be used by both Winchester City Council and the South Downs National Park in evaluating planning applications.

THE PROCESS:

The first stage is to undertake a **character survey of the village**, both in terms of the character of the settlement and the immediate landscape and also the more detailed characteristics of the buildings. We are keen to record not only the factual information but also a wide range of personal and subjective responses, so we are encouraging as many people as possible to take part, either individually or in small groups.

The survey questions and guidance have therefore been organised as follows;

SURVEY 1 - LANDSCAPE AND SETTLEMENT CHARACTER:
includes the natural landscape, open spaces, views and the setting of the buildings in the landscape, road or lane.
(see Survey 1 attached below)

SURVEY 2 - BUILDING CHARACTER:
The character of buildings in detail e.g. building materials, window styles etc. (see separate template)

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER: GUIDANCE

The character of the landscape is closely related to the underlying geology, which influences the landform, soils, vegetation, drainage and building materials.

Naturally occurring in the chalk substrata, flint stone was collected from the fields surrounding the village and used in the construction of the houses, barns and walls giving a distinctive character to Upham.

Our sunken lanes are formed by the erosion of soft rock by the movement of people, vehicles and animals and the action of running water often over hundreds of years.

SETTLEMENT CHARACTER: GUIDANCE

The early beginnings of settlement in the landscape greatly influenced the character of the village.

Situated on high quality farmland and on important routes between Winchester, Bishops Waltham and Porchester, two small populations grew to form the hamlets of Upham and Lower Upham linked together by a lane. The two clusters of population have grown and also slowly developed along the lanes between them.

BUILDING CHARACTER: GUIDANCE

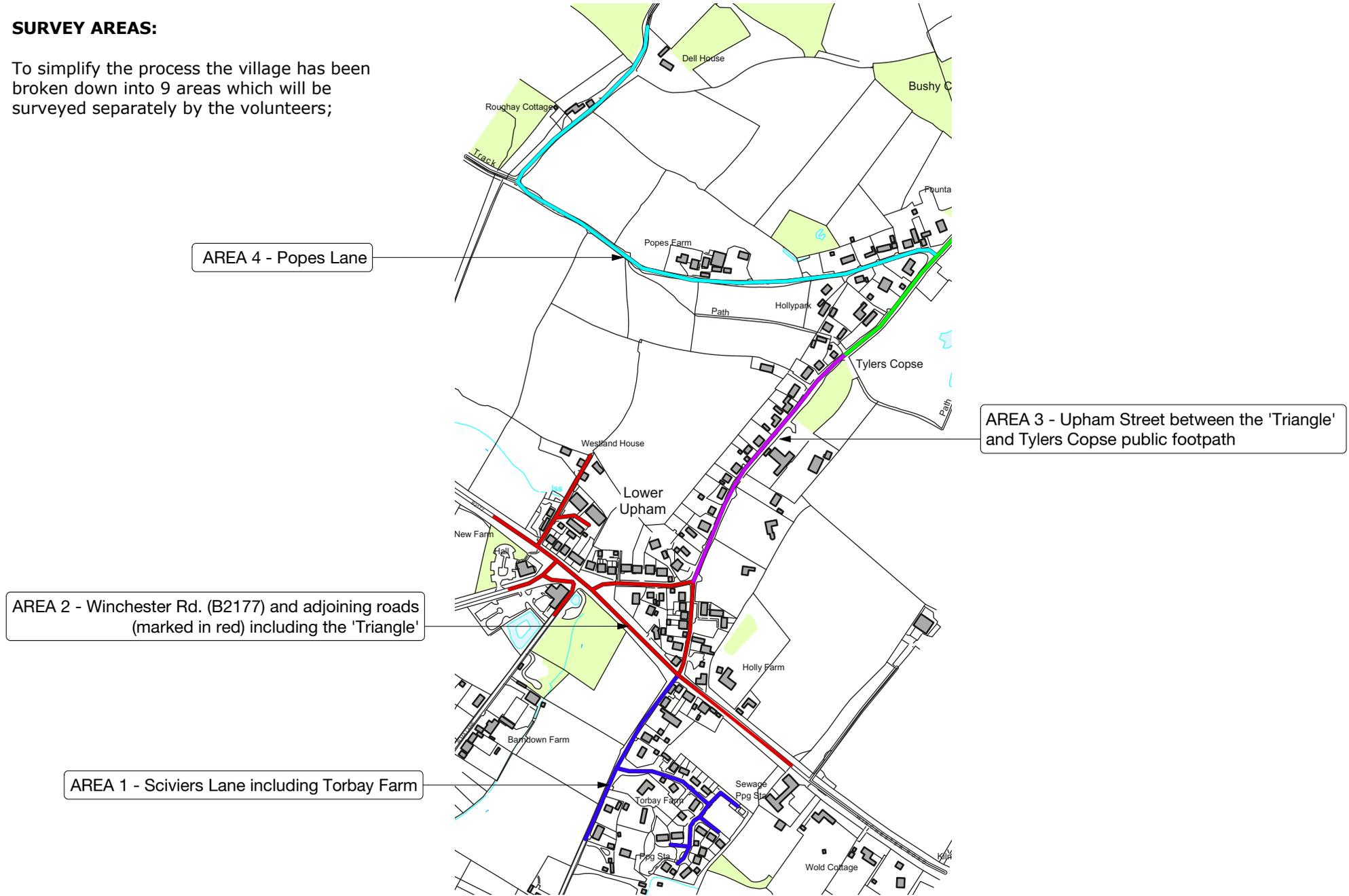
The historic buildings in the village can be described as vernacular architecture, i.e. those buildings constructed using local materials and traditional building techniques.

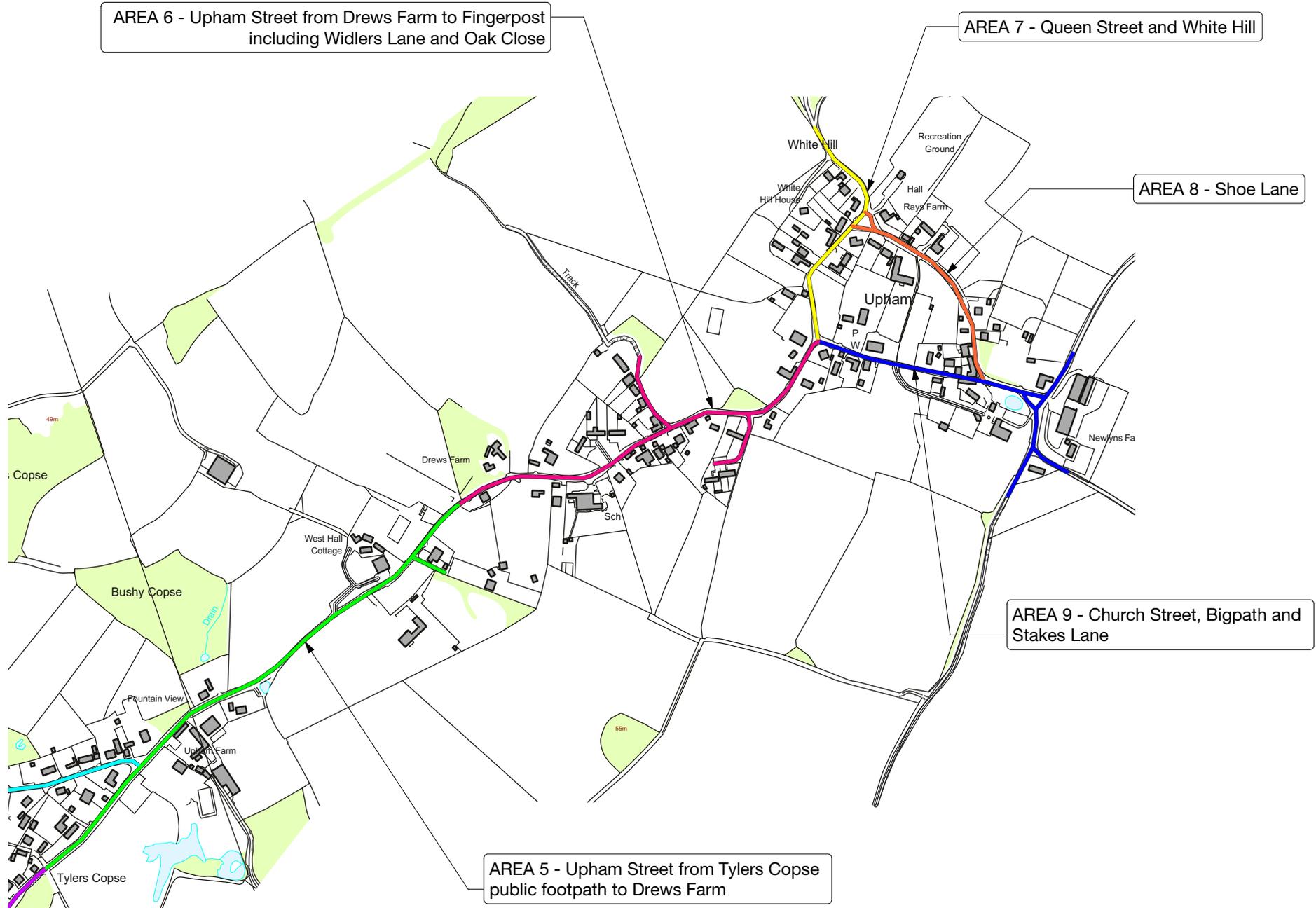
The original building types would have related to the needs of the village as a farming community, farmhouses, barns and cottages, and also buildings serving other important functions such as blacksmiths, wheelwrights, public houses etc.

It is the vernacular architecture and the way it links back to the origins of the settlement and the local landscape which contribute to the distinctive character of Upham.

SURVEY AREAS:

To simplify the process the village has been broken down into 9 areas which will be surveyed separately by the volunteers;





SURVEY 1 – LANDSCAPE AND SETTLEMENT CHARACTER:

Survey Area(1-9) Name..... Date / /

Concentrating on just the area you have chosen to survey please answer the following questions:

(We are keen for you to include both factual information and your personal more subjective responses. If you wish, please also include photos keyed to the text)

Question	Response	Guidance
How would you describe the landscape in general?		Flat, sloping, hilly, open views or vistas, elevated Semi-urban, rural, countryside, agricultural Rich in history, modern, undeveloped Tranquil, attractive, beautiful, unspoilt, natural Public open space, private garden Biodiverse
What are the natural features of the landscape?		Trees, hedges, grass banks/ verges Ponds, ditches Open countryside, woodland, pasture or grazing land Sunken lanes
How would you describe the road or lane?		Busy, quiet, fast, rural, still Safe, dark, dangerous, well-lit, shady Open with views or enclosed by walls, banks or hedges Pavements, narrow lanes or wide carriageway
What is the layout or pattern of the settlement?		High or low density (building to plot ratio) Facing the street or at an angle Formal or informal Clusters of buildings or development along the road

Question	Response	Guidance
Describe the setting of buildings along the road?		Close to edge of road, Set back from road with small or large front garden Screened by fences, walls, trees or hedges Garages or outbuildings visible or concealed Parking areas and drives prominent or hidden
Do the buildings have features in common?		Building materials or architectural styles Pitched roofs, low eaves, dormer windows, Compact in scale or imposing in height and mass Harmonious with adjoining buildings
How do the buildings reflect the local character of the landscape?		Use of building materials and details Ratio of windows to wall Building forms respond to the local landscape/ slope of the land/ contours Roof shape and scale, Skyline/ roof profile Colour or texture
Describe the range of other architectural features which add character to the buildings in the landscape?		Porches, doors Decorative joinery, barge boards, porch brackets Decorative brickwork, Stonework Chimneys

Question	Response	Guidance
Describe the range of external features which add character to the landscape/ streetscape		Fences, picket, boarded, paddock Metal railings Garden walls, flint, brick Gates Garden paths Driveways, gravel, block paver, tarmac Street furniture, benches, lights, phone boxes etc
From everything you have observed describe the key characteristics of the survey area you would wish to preserve for the future?		Dark skies Tranquility Public space/ footpaths Open views or vistas Traffic calming Street scene Trees, hedges etc.
Looking ahead how would you like the village as whole to develop over the next 10-15 years?		Measures to address climate change; Solar panels, air source heat pumps etc. Conservation of historic buildings and areas New development (residential or commercial) Transport and roads Design suggestions?

If you are unclear about any of the questions, or guidance notes, please contact Richard Green by email; uphamvds@gmail.com

PLEASE RETURN SURVEY BY SUNDAY 11th APRIL BY EMAILING: uphamvds@gmail.com

Or, RETURN HARD COPIES OF SURVEY TO:

Upham Village Church – a box will be provided in the front porch

Thank you.