

Conservation Area



EAST MEON

EASTHAMPSHIRE



Partners

Introduction & Brief History

East Meon Conservation Area was designated in 1968 and was extended in December, 1976.

Archaeological evidence of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages found in the area around East Meon suggests settlements in these times. Evidence from the Roman and Saxon period shows the village to have been more established. The area has been continuously farmed ever since.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 indicates definite settlement activity in the village and the erection of the two most significant and oldest landmarks in the village (the Church and the Court-house) demonstrate this further.

Park Hill, which rises steeply to the north of the village, once formed part of the Bishop of Winchester's deer park.

Character of the Conservation Area

Set in the valley of the upper reaches of the Meon Valley and hemmed in to the north by Park Hill, East Meon is one of the most attractive villages in East Hampshire.

The narrow streets with historic buildings fronting straight onto them, the mature trees and the narrow Meon River flowing through the centre of the village create an extremely attractive scene. All Saints Church, set on the side of Park Hill, dominates the village.

To the south are views across open farm land to the steeply rising South Downs. Views from the surrounding hills show the village in its glorious setting.

The village first developed along the banks of the River Meon, before infilling and further development to the south.

Although the narrowness of the streets does not make it apparent, the plan form of the village is in a basic grid pattern indicating an intended development into a major town was probably envisaged in the Medieval period. The existence of the large Church of All Saints also indicates that East Meon was an area of some importance in that period.

Despite the formal layout, the individual streets are irregular and vary in width and direction. Most of the buildings are detached but are set so closely together that they seem to provide a continuous frontage along many of the streets. The bends and junctions in the roads restrict views into and through the village : consequently, a series of views are unveiled as you walk through the streets of East Meon.



The High Street

Buildings

A village of such antiquity contains a wealth of historic buildings. Some of them are listed below; more details of these and other buildings in the conservation area can be obtained from the District Council.

- **All Saints Church:** This large, early 12th century Church is very impressive both in its size, construction and setting. Inside is a splendid black Tourmai marble font of about 1130-1140; it is one of only 4 such fonts in Hampshire and again signifies the importance of this Church. The Church was extended in the early 13th century. It was restored by Ewan Christian in 1870 and again in 1906-22 by Sir Ninian Comper. The walls are of flint with stone dressings. The Norman west door has the distinctive Norman zig zag ornamentation. There is a central tower. The roof is of slate, with lead on the tower and nave. One of the tombstones in the churchyard is also listed.

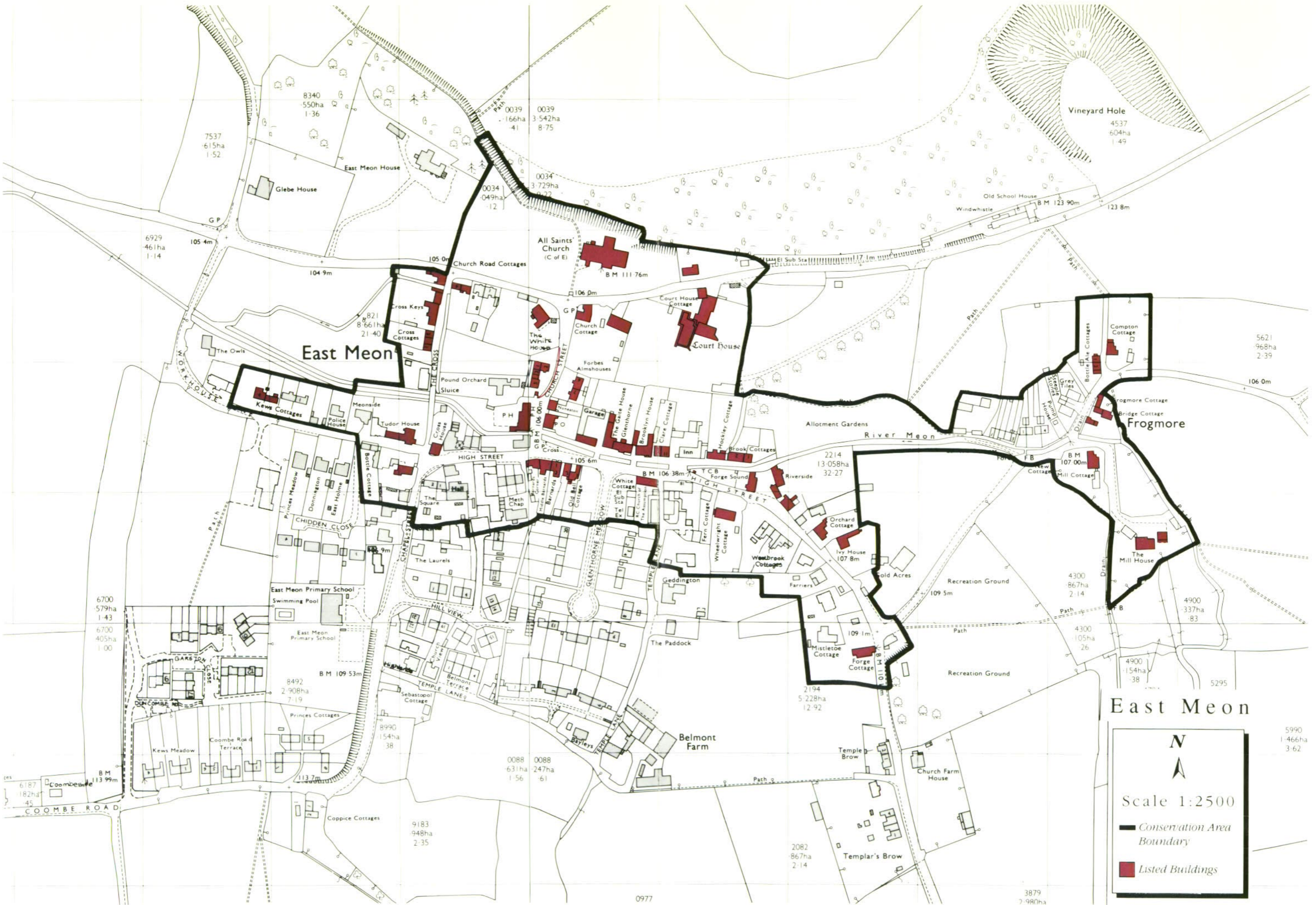


Church Street, All Saints Church is in the background.

- **The Court-house :** The 14th century manorial Court-house is a Grade I listed building. In the late 16th century a timber-framed house was attached to it and there were further minor changes in the 17th, 18th and early 20th centuries. The walls are of malmstone and flint rubble with stone dressings. Inside there is a large open hall with a 15th century fireplace. The open timber roof has King posts and massive tie beams.



The Court-house, Church Road.



East Meon

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 Scale 1:2500

— Conservation Area Boundary

■ Listed Buildings

The adjoining Court-house Cottage, an 18th century brick building with thatched roof is listed (Grade II), as is the 17th century timber-framed barn to the west of the Court-house.

- **Tudor House** : A 16th century timber framed building with 17th century timber framed extension. The framing is close studwork with jettied gables and first floor, the infilling of brick and flint. The roof is tiled. Inside there is 17th century panelling.
- **Forge Sound and Riverside** : Two 14th century open hall houses with alterations and extensions around 1600, in the 18th century and in the early 20th century. They are listed Grade II*.



Brook Cottages and Riverside, by the River Meon.

- **Glenthorne** : A 17th century house built in distinctive chequer brick pattern and dated 1697. It is a notable example of the William and Mary style and is listed Grade II*. There is a fine classical doorcase and a tiled roof with moulded cornice. Inside is the original staircase. The wrought iron, forecourt railing is also listed, as is the adjacent former coach-house, which is a good example of coursed flintwork and flint galleting.
- **1 and 2, Sebastopol Cottages** : These are timber framed 17th century cottages with 18th century brick cladding and thatched roofs.
- **Forbes Almshouses** : Nos 1-5 are dated 1852 and built of knapped flints with Bathstone dressings and a tiled roof. Nos 6 and 7 are dated 1905 and are built of flint with stone dressings and tiled roofs. The well-head and boundary wall are also listed.
- **3 and 4, Church Cottages** : These 16th century cottages have exposed timber framing with painted brick infilling and tiled roofs.
- **Cross Cottages** : Having been "The Angel Inn" in the 17th century, the property was later divided into three cottages, but has now reverted to one timber-framed dwelling with 18th and 19th century alterations. The roof is thatched and there is a massive chimney stack at the southern end.
- **Cross Keys** : This early 18th century house is built of red brick with blue headers. The roof is of slate at the front and tiled elsewhere. There are 18th century style leaded light windows. 20th century extensions are at either end.

- **Vicarage Lodge** : An early 19th century building but with older origins. It has a rendered front but all other walls are flint with brick dressings. The roof is tiled. Inside there is a 17th century beam and a massive brick fireplace.
- **Hockley Cottage, 1 and 2, Brook Cottages, The White Cottage, Forge Cottage and Orchard Cottage** : These are all 17th century timber framed dwellings with later extensions and/or 18th/19th century refronting. Hockley, The White, Forge and Brook Cottages are thatched, Orchard Cottage has a slate roof at the front and tiles at the rear.
- **1 and 2, Temple Brow Cottages** : These have coursed knapped flint walls and thatched roofs.
- **Old Bell Cottage and No 2, Old Bell Cottages** : These are late Medieval timber framed hall houses with 18th century cladding. The roofs are tiled. Inside there is clear evidence of the early hall house.
- **Barnards, Middle Barnards and Barnards Corner** : This grouping forms a terrace of 18th century painted brick houses with tiled roofs.

Materials & Other Building Details

A wide variety of building material is found in East Meon, ranging from local materials such as flint and brick to imported stones on the very early medieval buildings. Some buildings are timber-framed with brick infilling. Some are colour washed and rendered.

The roofs are equally varied in height, pitch and gable end details and in their materials. Handmade clay tiles, slate and longstraw thatch are all used in the village. Some very decorative tiles, such as scalloped shapes, are also used on some of the roofs.

The windows are also fascinating and display a range from the centuries, including casements with their original mullions and transoms, and diamond paned leaded casements. In addition, a variety of early lead Farmers' General Life Assurance and fire insurance signs can be seen on many buildings.

Throughout the village there is a range of brick and flint walls. Alongside the river these are very low and capped with bricks. On the entrances and exits to the village the flint walls are much higher and serve to remind you that you are entering or leaving the village.

New Development

East Meon is a compact village full of buildings of architectural and historic interest. Yet it is not just the buildings which make up the character of East Meon; the open spaces, the River Meon, the trees, hedges and boundary walls and the dominating Park Hill to the north all combine to create the unique character of East Meon.

The design of new buildings, extensions and alterations to buildings and new uses within the conservation area will all effect the character of East Meon. Development will need to respect the details, overall form and materials used within the village, and should be done with great care.

Further advice is given in the following leaflets which are published by East Hampshire District Council as part of the Conservation Directory:-

- East Hampshire's Conservation Areas.
- Caring for East Hampshire's Conservation Areas and Historic Buildings.

Further Reading

- A History of East Meon. F G Standfield 1984. (Phillimore).
- The Buildings of England: Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. N. Peysner and D. Lloyd, 1985. (Penguin Books)
- The Victorian County Histories.

- Hampshire Treasures. Hampshire County Council, 1982.
- Medieval Hall Houses of the Winchester Area. Elizabeth Lewis, Edward Roberts and Kenneth Roberts, 1988, Winchester City Museum.

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