

ST FAGANS



CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

CARDIFF

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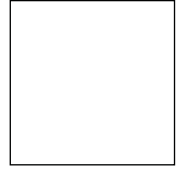
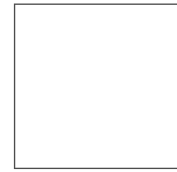
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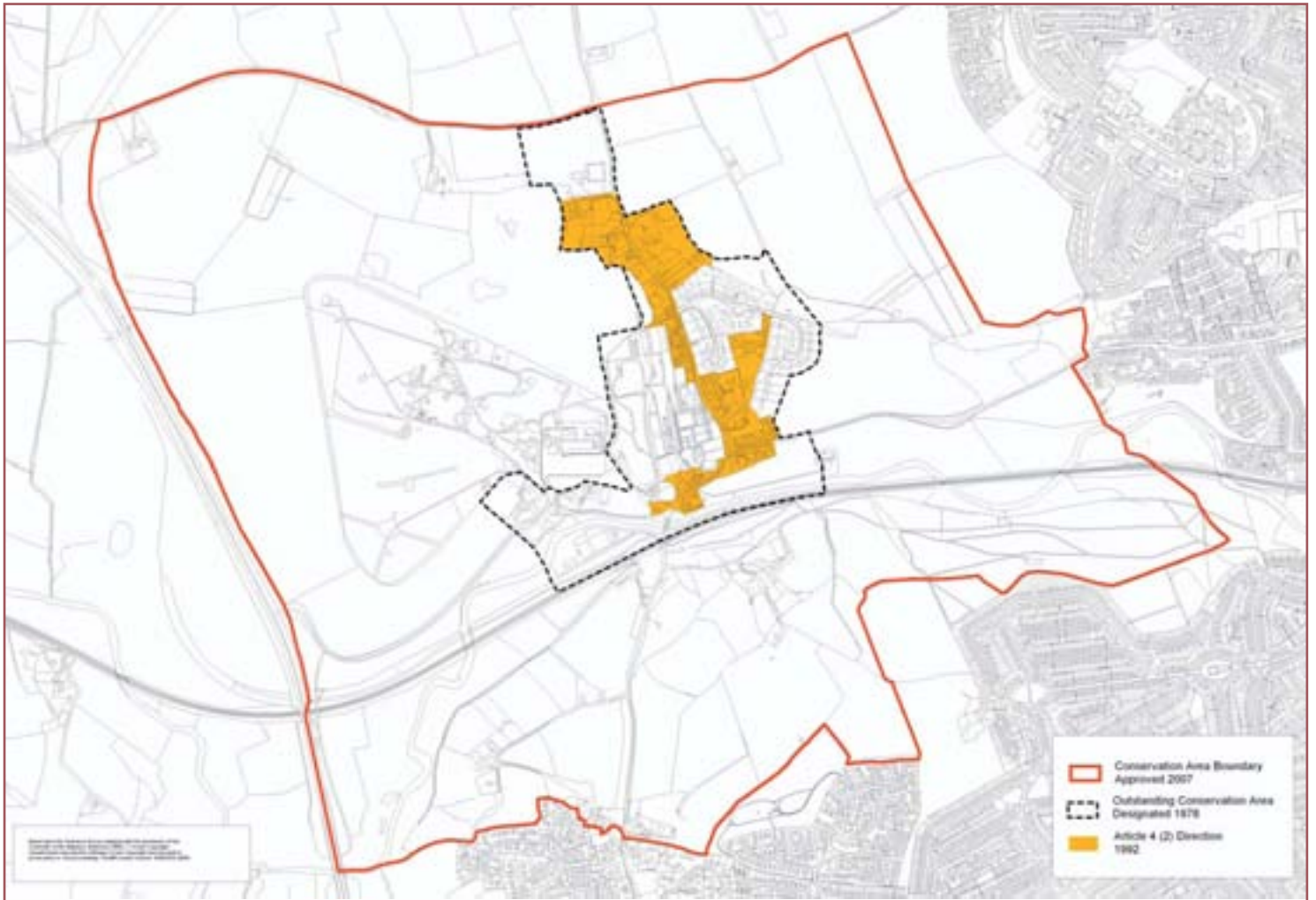
Acknowledgements

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Map 1

Conservation Area and Article 4(2) Direction



1.1 Background

Conservation Areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest. A decision to designate a Conservation Area is made by the Local Planning Authority after an assessment of the character of the identified area. This often extends beyond the buildings alone. The road layout, street scene, trees and green spaces can all contribute to the quality of the area. Designation gives special protection to this character and to achieve this, the Council has extra control over demolition, minor development and the protection of trees. St Fagans Conservation Area was designated in 1971, giving recognition to its historical and architectural quality. The boundary was extended in 1977, and again in 1992 to include the surrounding countryside.

In 1978 its quality was further recognised when the Historic Buildings Council designated the original Conservation Area (i.e. the original village envelope) as an Outstanding Conservation Area.

Further amendments of the Conservation Area boundary, as set out in Appendix 3, were approved in 2007.

In November 1992 a Direction under Article 4 of the General Development Order 1988 became operative, which further enhanced the protection of the core of the Conservation Area through the control of minor development.

1.2 Conservation Area Appraisals

The Council has a duty to review Conservation Areas to establish whether their boundaries need amendment and to identify potential measures for enhancing and protecting the Conservation Area. To manage this process, a Conservation Area Strategy has been prepared. The Strategy identifies priorities for the City, and the criteria to be used in the assessment of existing and new areas. These are set out in Section 4.

This appraisal provides an opportunity to establish whether the Conservation Area boundary needs adjustment; to identify the character of the Conservation Area; to identify the issues in the area and opportunities for enhancement; and, following consultation, to adopt the appraisal and guidance to protect the Conservation Area's special character.

1.3 Policy Context

A key part of undertaking the Appraisal is to define the character of the Conservation Area, for which appropriate guidance may be prepared. This can be supported by parallel policies within the statutory planning framework. This is provided by the adopted City of Cardiff Local Plan and the adopted South Glamorgan structure Plan, until such time as a Local Development Plan has been adopted.

2 the historic significance of st.fagans

2.1 Medieval and Prehistory

The village of St Fagans was probably inhabited in prehistoric times, as a number of axe-heads and a spear-head have been found in Plymouth Woods. It was first established as an important location during medieval times, when the Norman conquerors built a motte and bailey castle to control the crossing of the river Ely. Nothing of the original Castle now remains, with the exception of the holy well of St Fagan, situated between the two lower fishponds in the Museum of Welsh Life.



Excavations carried out in 1978 and 1980 within the Castle grounds unearthed an area of the village known as The Cwm and a medieval vicarage. This area remained part of the village until the 19th century, after which the residents of The Cwm were relocated in order to extend the Castle grounds.

2.2 The English Civil War

In 1648 the Civil War was brought to St Fagans. The Royalists, intending to seize Cardiff Castle, were intercepted by a Roundhead guard, and forced to take an alternative route through St Fagans. The battle was fought on farmland to the north of St Fagans Castle, ending with the retreat of the Royalist army.



2.3 The Plymouth Estate

In 1560, the Castle, which is today part of the museum, began to be built by Dr John Gibbon. By the 18th century, the Castle and its grounds had passed to the 3rd Earl of Plymouth. The Windsor family were absentee landlords for much of the 18th century, which was a time of stagnation for the Castle and its village. In 1852 Robert Windsor-Clive, heir to the estate, chose to live at St Fagans with his new bride, Mary. He died seven years later but Lady Windsor continued to live at the Castle, and in 1868-69 carried out an extensive restoration of the Castle. Under the Plymouth family many improvements were made to the village, with new homes built for its workers, old cottages refurbished, a new school, and the rebuilding of the Plymouth Arms.



The Castle and grounds remained under the ownership of the Plymouth Estate until 1947, when the Earl of Plymouth donated St Fagans Castle and its grounds to the National Museum of Wales as a site for a folk museum.

2.4 Michaelston-super-Ely

Michaelston-super-Ely is a small village with medieval origins, located to the south of St Fagans.

The Church of St Michael is probably of 13th century origin, although it was restored in 1863-4. The parish of St Michael was joined with the parish of St Fagans in 1968.

- St. Fagans Well
- St Fagans Castle
- Plymouth Estate cottages

This village had very different fortunes to nearby St Fagans, with only a small portion of the original village remaining between the church and Ty Mawr. To the east of St Michael's Church are earthworks within which croft enclosures, mounds containing stone and lime mortar (probably house sites) and a slightly hollowed terraced trackway have been recorded.

2.5 Woodlands

The woodland area to the west of the museum was laid out in 1908 by the Earl of Plymouth with three objectives in mind: to create a 'happy ground' for recreation and family picnics; an experimental tree plantation that he could observe closely; and a bird sanctuary. The woodland was laid out in a formal pattern of primary and secondary rides and circular openings, dividing the area into ten compartments which were subdivided into smaller planting blocks. The southern half of the woodland has retained most of its major axial rides and the central circle.

The Plymouth Woods, south of the Ely River, were formerly part of the Plymouth Estate, gifted to the people of Cardiff in 1922.

Through the area's woodlands, although concentrated in the area to the north east, are several examples of historic remains which reflect their former uses and importance to the development of St Fagans and Michaelston-super-Ely. These include several disused lime quarries and a lime kiln, a disused reservoir, and even a 19th century curling rink.



Ordnance Survey Map 1878. Source: Glamorgan Record Office



- Church of St Michael
- Curling Rink
- Plymouth Woods
- Disused Reservoir

3 the character assessment



- Cardiff Road
- Crofft y Genau Road
- Plymouth Arms and The Old Post Office

3.0 A number of key qualities have been identified to assist with the appraisal of the area. They follow government advice and are identified within the 1997 Cardiff Conservation Area Strategy. They are:

- A distinctive quality of place.
- The presence of landmark buildings and landscape features.
- Hierarchies of public and private space.
- High quality local or unusual materials in the townscape.
- High quality architectural detailing.
- High quality hard and soft landscaping.

These key qualities have been applied to the St Fagans Conservation Area. An analysis of these are set out below.

3.1 A Distinctive Quality of Place Grouping of Buildings

The village of St Fagans primarily consists of modest cottages grouped in small terraces, in pairs or individually. Reflecting St Fagans medieval history, properties are informally clustered around the Castle and Church and are concentrated around the southern junction of Crofft y Genau Road. While many of the village buildings are set back from the road, with low boundary walls and small front gardens, there is not an evident building line. Front gardens vary considerably in depth, with some buildings directly abutting the adjoining roads, while others are set back.

The overall pattern of development is a loose and informal layout of rural or village buildings, subservient to the Castle.

The majority of the historic village facilities which remain in St Fagans (the Old Post Office, the Plymouth Arms and St Mary's Church) are grouped near the junction of Crofft y Genau Road. There are some exceptions to this, with the former St Fagans School, the Tabernacle and the Cricket Club located further from the village centre, although these are generally of later origin, dating from the late 19th century.

Properties along Greenwood Lane are, for the most part, substantial, detached twentieth century properties, set in mature gardens. The Old Rectory is located towards the northern end of the lane, along with Radcliff Lodge and 17 St Fagans Drive. This small group of late 19th century buildings are now surrounded by 20th century developments along Greenwood Lane and St Fagans Drive. Greenwood, a large property which lent its name to the lane, was located adjacent to these historic properties, although the site on which it stood now accommodates contemporary dwellings at St Fagans Drive.

Further north along Crofft y Genau Road, form and density becomes more varied, reflecting the age and purpose of these buildings. St Fagans Drive is a late 20th century cul-de-sac development of large detached dwellings set in wide plots, loosely positioned around two curving roads.

The remnants of the small village of Michaelston-super-Ely, south of the river, is grouped around St Michael's Church, at the end of Persondy Lane.

Scale

There exists an obvious hierarchy of scale within St Fagans Conservation Area, between St Fagans Castle and the surrounding village and farm buildings. While the Castle is a substantial manor house, with impressive and dominant walls separating it from the village, the village dwellings consist largely of modest two storey cottages or small terraces. There are larger properties within the village, such as the old Rectory or 'The Rock' (19th century), although these remain significantly smaller than the Castle. Very few properties within the Conservation Area exceed two storeys in height.

Views and Vistas

Important views and vistas in relation to the Conservation Area include both views within or toward St Fagans Village; and from the village to the surrounding countryside.

The Castle is the focus of many important views within the Conservation Area, in particular the view towards it from Castle Hill, and the glimpse of the Castle entrance through the main gate at the Crofft y Genau junction. The impact and dominance of the Castle is not limited to the village core. Views of St Fagans from across the valley are dominated by the imposing white walls and gables of the Castle. Similarly, St Mary Church's tower can be seen from vantage points across the surrounding countryside.

One of the most striking views from the Conservation Area is that of the Plymouth Woods and Ely Valley, from Cardiff Road. The steep sided, verdant valley is in stark contrast to the city suburbs, and contributes significantly to the setting and the special character of the Conservation Area.

The east and west entrances to the Conservation Area contribute to the impact of these important views. Whether approaching from Cardiff Road or Michaelston Road, dense tree-lined and narrow roads provide a green 'tunnel' effect, which open out to breathtaking views of the Ely valley (from Cardiff Road), or of the Castle and village cottages (Michaelston Road).

Patterns of Use

The patterns of land and building use within the Conservation Area reflects its history and development.

The original Norman motte and bailey was erected in this location to control movement across the river Ely. The village grew slowly until the 19th century, when the Castle was inhabited by the Earl of Plymouth, at which point improvements to the village were made to ensure a healthy workforce for the upkeep of the Manor. Many buildings retain names which indicate their position in the village and in relation to the Castle, such as the Laundry Cottage (Castle Hill), or the Old Post Office (Crofft y Genau Road).

Most of the historic community facilities and shops were concentrated around the core of the village, near the Castle entrance. Many of the original uses have since ceased, such as the school and the Castle itself.

The Museum of Welsh Life is an important educational centre and tourist attraction. Tourism has had an impact on the village beyond the museum gates, as evidenced in the restaurant at the Old Post Office and in the Plymouth Arms public house.



- 'The Rock'
- The Castle
- View to Plymouth Woods
- The Museum of Welsh Life

3.2 The Presence of Landmark Buildings and Landscape Features



- Castle Wall
- Church of St Mary
- Plymouth Arms
- Castle Hill

St Fagans has a wealth of historic and beautiful buildings, many of which are listed. There are in excess of 100 listed and locally listed buildings and structures within the Conservation Area, the majority of which are located in the core of the village and in the Castle grounds. A great many of these may be considered as landmark buildings in their own right, although for the purpose of this appraisal, a landmark building will be considered as one which has significant social and historic links with the development of the area, which is unique within its setting, and which contributes positively to the character of the area.

St Fagans Castle and the Castle Wall

St Fagans village and the surrounding area are dominated by the Castle and its walls.

The Castle's dominance over the village is perhaps most apparent from Michaelston Road, where its elevated position is physically manifested by a change in ground levels. Here, the Castle towers over the modest thatched cottages below.

The Castle wall further exerts the castle's presence on the village, particularly to the southern end of Crofft y Genau Road, where the high stone wall with its embattled parapet asserts the Castle's authority over the village, and presents a physical barrier between the Castle's inhabitants and villagers.

The Church of St Mary the Blessed Virgin

The church contributes significantly to the setting and character of the village, and is, along with the Castle and its walls, one of the most dominant structures within it, having significant presence both within the village, and the surrounding countryside.

Plymouth Arms

Constructed in a Jacobean style, the Plymouth Arms stands apart from the predominantly vernacular and Estate architecture which characterises much of the village.

Thatched Cottages on Castle Hill

There are many picturesque cottages within St Fagans that have not been identified as landmark buildings, each of which are listed and contribute significantly to the character, setting, and history of the village.

However, the Castle Hill cottages have a special relationship with the Castle and present a striking image and a clear understanding of the relationship between the Castle and the village.

Situated on Michaelston Road, they are immediately visible on the approach from Ely.

St Fagans School

St Fagans School is located to the south side of Cardiff Road, and is among the first of the village buildings to be seen on approaching the village from the east.

No longer used as a school, it has been recently converted to housing. However, it remains largely unaltered and an important landmark, providing insight to the history and to the Estate's relationship with the village.

Ty Cwrdd / Tabernacle

Dated 1837, this former chapel presents a symmetrical late classical front to Crofft y Genau Road. The main elevation presents a one storey front, although it has since been converted to a two storey dwelling.

17 St Fagans Drive

This is an attractive property located at the corner of Greenwood Lane and St Fagans Drive. It demonstrates many architectural details which are characteristic of the Plymouth Estate developments in the village, including gabled roofs and brick stacks.

Other Landmark Features

Important landmark structures within the Conservation Area are not limited to buildings. There are several important landmarks throughout the area which are more modest in scale or purpose. These include the level crossing, sorting yard and bridge at Michaelston Road, the drinking fountain in the Castle wall at Castle Hill, and the old telephone booth to the side of the old Post Office.

Landscape Features

The countryside setting that this Conservation Area enjoys contributes significantly to its special character, in particular due to the steep sided valley to the south, and the river Ely which runs along it.

3.3 Hierarchies of Public and Private Space

Open Space

The countryside setting of the village provides much open space, accessible to the public by means of an extensive network of footpaths. While there is public access to many of the surrounding fields and woodlands, the majority of this space is working farmland in private ownership, and cannot be considered as fully public space, with the exception of the Plymouth Woods, which has been gifted to the city for the amenity and leisure of residents.

There are no formal public spaces in the village, with the exception of a green at St Fagans Drive. There are several examples of semi public spaces, such as St Mary's churchyard, the grounds of the Castle, now home to the Museum of Welsh Life, and the cricket grounds to the north of the village.

The Castle and museum grounds provide further public open space, in the form of green spaces, pathways and the lawns and gardens of the Castle. Access to this space is limited by the museum opening hours, and by the physical barriers presented by the surrounding castle walls and museum boundary fences.



- Ty Cwrdd / Tabernacle
- 17 St Fagans Drive
- Drinking Fountain
- Footpath through Plymouth Woods



- Railway Line
- 'Crazy paving' stone finish
- Cement rendered cottage
- Limestone with brick detailing

There is a clear distinction between public or semi public space, and private residential spaces, which are marked by solid boundary walls.

Networks of Routes and Public Spaces

Three main roads provide access into, and through, the Conservation Area: Crofft y Genau Road (to the north); Cardiff Road (to the east and Fairwater); and Michaelston Road / Castle Hill (to the south west and Ely). These meet at a junction in the centre of St Fagans Village, adjacent to the main entrance to the Castle and to St Mary's Church.

A railway line runs along the river valley, intersecting Michaelston Road at a level crossing to the south of the museum entrance. This is a well used rail line, although there is no longer a station located in St Fagans.

Public footpaths extend throughout the fields and woodlands which surround the village.

3.4 High Quality Local or Unusual Materials in the Townscape

St Fagans' buildings have an inherent quality given by the use of locally sourced building materials.

Stone

The predominant stone evident in the Conservation Area is locally sourced limestone rubble. The majority of the buildings in the area, including the Castle, its walls, and St Mary's Church, were constructed using this material, either in a rough hewn form or cut, as evident in the vertical 'crazy paving' appearance of cottages such as Chestnut Cottages.

Important exceptions to the use of local rubble as a building material are the Village School and the Old Rectory, both of which were constructed of blue lias limestone during the 19th century. The use of lias stone would have reflected the importance of these buildings to the village and within the Plymouth Estate. Alternative materials have been used to pick out architectural detailing such as plinths, stringcourses, stone mullioned windows or quoins. These are generally highlighted using dressed stone, bathstone or brick.

Render and Cladding

Many properties in the area have been cement rendered or whitewashed. The Plymouth Arms varies in this respect, as it has been rendered with pebbledash cladding.

Modern buildings in the Conservation Area are generally white rendered with stone or brick detailing, or wooden cladding.

Brick

While brick is not generally evident as a primary building material, red brick is widely used for dressings, and has been extensively used to construct smoke stacks, probably in the 19th century, to new dwellings and as improvements to existing buildings.

Roofing Materials

The primary roofing material in the Conservation Area is Welsh slate, although there remain some thatched cottages at Castle Hill.

Modern artificial slate has been used on the contemporary buildings within the Conservation Area.

3.5 High Quality Architectural Detailing

The St Fagans Conservation Area consists largely of modest, two storey cottages, dating from the medieval period onwards, although much of what is seen today is the result of the Plymouth Estate development and village enhancements during the 19th century. A brief analysis of common and unique details within the Conservation Area are set out below. Further, detailed, descriptions of many of the individual buildings are available in Listed Building descriptions, which are available from the Conservation Team.

Cottages

Cottages in the Conservation Area are generally modest in scale and form, being two storey properties set to a simple footprint, with rubble stone walls and gabled roofs. Finishes to the cottages include bare rubble walls, 'crazy paving' style rubble walls, colourwash (white), and cement rendering. Architectural decoration and detailing to the cottage walls are generally of brick or stone, and include quoins, window surrounds and cills.

Roofs are generally gabled with red brick chimney stacks. Where properties have retained thatched roofs, they have low eaves and eyebrows over first floor windows, and decorative ridges. Tiled roofs, are generally covered in Welsh slate, with wooden bargeboards, some of which are scalloped or carved. The windows to St Fagans' cottages are largely wooden casement windows, although there are examples of wooden sliding sash windows and metal framed casements. Casement windows are mostly wooden framed, including two-light casements with small panes, and two or three light casements with a combination of plain and lattice-traced lights. Many of these windows originate from the 19th century village improvements and Estate development. There are several examples of 20th century windows which are generally timber framed, and vary in style to include top-opening casements and fixed lights, with leaded, latticed or plain panes.

Porches contribute to the character and special quality of the area. Whether enclosed structures or an open canopy over the entrance, porches are almost universally gabled structures tiled with Welsh slate. Carved bargeboards are an important element of these porches, and are a typical element of the Plymouth Estate developments.

Less common although equally important details to the village cottages include instances of decorative fish scale tiling to cottage roofs, such as at Ivy Cottage, which while common in Victorian buildings, are unusual in Cardiff, and decorative iron lights attached to building walls on Crofft y Genau Road.



- Lattice traced casement window
- Gabled porch with scalloped bargeboards
- Thatched roof
- Wrought iron lights



- Cardiff Road
- St Mary's Church
- The Old Rectory
- Plymouth Arms

Other 19th Century Dwellings

The Plymouth Estate developments were not limited to small cottages. There are examples of larger semi detached properties which present a greater vertical emphasis to the main elevation. These properties, while presenting different proportions, have similar characteristics to the cottages as outlined above. They are 2 storeys in height, are generally constructed of local limestone, and are gabled with wooden bargeboards. Porches reflect the Plymouth Estate style, with gabled, tiled roofs, although there are also examples of simple, lean-to porches along Crofft y Genau Road.

St Fagans Castle

St Fagans Castle is a large, three storeyed, symmetrical multi-gabled Elizabethan house built to an E-shaped plan. It is faced with whitewashed roughcast cladding and has an ashlar plinth, stringcourses and stone mullion and transom windows. The roof is Welsh slate with groups of red brick stacks set diagonally. A fine pair of wrought iron gates mark the front entrance to the Castle, set in a semi-elliptical headed arch within the tall stone Castle walls with embattled parapet.

Church of St Mary the Blessed Virgin

Built of local limestone rubble with Welsh slate roofs, trefoil headed stone windows and a dominant, square tower with paired arched louvered lights on each face of the bell chamber. The medieval work is all fairly random, the tower of coursed and roughly squared stone, with dressed quoins to both.

The Old Rectory

The Old Rectory is an important Victorian house designed by J Pritchard and JP Seddon, possibly the finest of their many rectories. It is a house of two storeys and attic designed in an elaborately French medieval character, with an elaborate roof form including gabled, hipped and pyramidal roof forms, and tall chimney stacks with a band of open arcading below the cap. Attic windows have trefoil heads.

Plymouth Arms

The Plymouth Arms is a two storey gabled building with a Welsh slate roof, pebbledash cladding and Jacobean style details. It has a carved stone date plaque of 1895. Important details include consistent stone mullion and transom windows with leaded panes, moulded wood bargeboard with dentils, and rendered strapwork panelling in tympanum.

The Old Post Office

This is a two storey building with a single storey element to the south side. It is cement rendered and gabled with a slate roof and red brick stacks. It has wide, small paned sliding sash windows to the main two storey elevation, and a three light stone mullion and transom window to the single storey element. The doorway to the main element has a gabled stone porch, and a former doorway to the single story element has been converted to a window.

The rear elevation has a modern extension and conservatory, added as part of its conversion in the 1990s.

Former St Fagans Church in Wales Primary School

The walls are faced externally with blocks of blue lias limestone of different sizes. Gabled Welsh slate roofs, chimney stacks with ornate octagonal chimney pots, stone mullion and transom windows and a gabled bellcote are among the high quality details of this elaborately designed and well detailed village school.

20th Century Residential Development

There are several modern houses in the Conservation Area. While being obviously contemporary, many of these respect their historic setting through their scale, form, materials and detailing.

The residential development at St Fagans Drive is distinct from the village core, due to its loose grain, wide plots and simple detailing. The basic form and finish of these properties reflect some of the characteristic elements of the village and Plymouth Estate developments, such as the use of white rendered finish and tiled, gabled roofs. Detailing to these properties is simple in form and finish, and includes simple bargeboards, stone dressings such as quoins, window surrounds and vertical panels to break up elevations, and stone chimney stacks.

The recent residential development at Maes y Gad has taken a different approach. Informed by the rubble built cottages with red brick detailing which are located at the end of the development, these properties demonstrate smaller footprints and higher density than those at St Fagans Drive. Two storeys high and gable ended, these properties are stone faced or white rendered, with tiled gable ended or lean-to open porches.

3.6 High Quality Hard and Soft Landscaping

Hard Landscaping

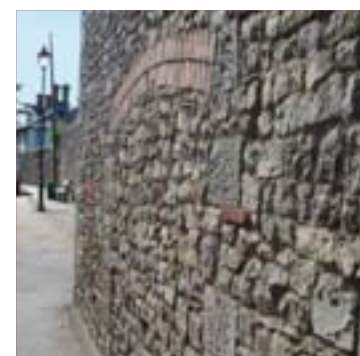
Lime stone rubble walls are widely used throughout the Conservation Area and contribute significantly to its character. The dominant Castle wall, the church wall, and the majority of the low garden walls facing onto the public realm make use of this local material. Other boundary treatments evident in the area which contribute to its character and setting include railings to the former school, and low wooden picket fences set above stone dwarf walls.

Paving materials are varied, including poured concrete, tarmac and various block pavements. Stone kerbs are still evident, although some have been replaced by concrete alternatives in places. Street furniture largely consists of 'heritage' style street lights and litter bins, black with gold painted trim.

Trees and Soft Landscaping

This area comprises a broad tract of attractive undulating countryside close to the edge of Cardiff, with a strong structure of mature woodland, hedgerows and trees, and a well managed character typical of a large parkland estate. While some hillside and ridgetop development is visible, the area's intact landscape structure and the undulating landform has helped to minimise these impacts on the surrounding countryside. The natural landscape within and surrounding St Fagans contributes significantly to the setting and character of the Conservation Area.

Within the village, mature hedgerows and mature private gardens contribute positively to the Conservation Area. This is especially evident along Greenwood Lane, a narrow lane lined with mature trees and gardens.



- St Fagans School
- St Fagans Drive
- Maes y Gad
- Lime Rubble walls



The distinctive rows of horse chestnut trees along the roadside form green, 'tunnelled' entrances to the village, which further distinguish its rural aspect and character as being distinct from the surrounding Cardiff suburbs.

St Fagans Castle has one of the most important historic gardens in Wales. It is a multi-period, extensive garden in compartments and terraces with formal fish ponds, and is listed (Grade I) along with the woodlands within the Museum of Welsh Life, as a Historic Park and Garden.

There are several important trees throughout the village which contribute to its amenity and character, many, but not all, of which are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

- Varied paving materials
- Mature private gardens
- Castle Grounds

4 a framework for action

4.1 The Background

The appraisal describes the features which make up the Conservation Area's special character and identifies potential for enhancement. The appraisal and guidance may be used in the following ways:

- Defining a scheme of enhancement to guide the development of the area;
- To inform the assessment of planning applications in accordance with Policy 3 of the Local Plan, until such time as a Local Development Plan has been adopted;
- In setting out priorities for the management of the public realm in the future;
- In providing guidance for those who live in St. Fagans. These are the opportunities presented by the appraisal:
- To maintain the special character of St Fagans;
- To ensure that new developments are well integrated within the area;
- That where there is scope for the enhancement of the public realm, they are achieved with regard for the Conservation Area's special character;
- To enhance the enjoyment of its special character;
- To encourage and explain to those who live there why accurate repair is important.

The issues to address are:

- Continued pressure to alter and extend buildings and gardens;
- A lack of maintenance through inadequate funding in Council budgets;
- Competing pressure for change to buildings and houses to meet other objectives, for example improved energy efficiency, and security for houses;
- Traffic congestion along Michaelston Road;
- Continuing landscape management, including links to Plymouth Woods and bike trails, and implications for interpretation.

The final section aims to address these findings in proposals to enhance the character of the Conservation Area and positive features described in preceding sections.

4.2 Guidance

The most effective way to enhance the Conservation Area is to ensure that those planning work or development understand its character. Guidance set out in the final section provides advice on how buildings may be protected in proposals for development. It also provides advice to those who are considering repair and maintenance.

The inclusion of many buildings within the Cadw List of Buildings of architectural or historic interest has established other criteria to be met in proposals for alteration. The listing of a building places a duty on the Local Planning Authority to consider the impact of development on the setting of a listed building. Listing also means that proposals for alteration need to be fully justified. The guidance within the final section of this appraisal has been prepared to ensure consistency with Cadw guidance.

4.3 Enhancement

Although the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 places a duty on the Local Planning Authority to prepare a scheme of enhancement for a Conservation Area, there is no identified budget or mechanism for its achievement. This means that enhancement can only be achieved in cooperation with other service areas within the Council or in partnership with developers, the community or other public bodies.

The following opportunities are those where the Council could have a significant role in influencing and bringing forward enhancements.

1. Through the adoption of guidance and enhancement opportunities identified within this report,
2. The management and maintenance of the Council's estate including property, parks and gardens,
3. The promotion of an understanding of the cultural and historic significance of St Fagans through links with the National Museum of Wales, schools, libraries and community groups,
4. Through the effective management of existing Council budgets for example in:
 - Housing Repair;
 - Grant aid for example to improve Energy Efficiency in homes;
 - Highway improvement and repair;
 - Traffic management;
 - The enhancement of footpath and cycle links;
 - Parks – maintenance and enhancement;
 - Neighbourhood renewal schemes;
 - Protection and enhancement of the river valley through the River Ely Valley Action Plan.
5. Through the encouragement and support of local initiatives to enhance and strengthen local community services.
The appraisal provides the basis for a corporate approach to enhancement. Adoption of a scheme of enhancement could provide the basis for developer contributions, should development occur in the future.

4.4 Protection

St Fagans village demonstrates a high quality estate village. Many of the original and historic details remain, and contribute positively to the special character of the area.

The large number of listed buildings within the village, and the additional controls to which listed buildings are subject, have helped to protect its special architectural and historic character.

In November 1992, a Direction under Article 4 of the General Development Order 1988 (amended 1995) became operative. The Article 4 Direction has further helped to protect the character of the village by requiring that planning permission be sought for minor works to buildings regardless of their listed status.

Works included in the Article 4 Direction are:

- **Alterations to, and the removal and renewal of doors and windows facing a highway,** to protect against the unsympathetic insertion of windows and doors.

- **The erection or construction of a porch where it faces a highway**, to protect against inappropriate additions to the main elevations of houses, which would have a significant impact on the character of the individual property and the area as a whole.
- **The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alterations of a gate, fence or wall or other means of enclosure**, to ensure that boundary treatments within the area reflect its special character through scale, material and design.
- **The painting of the exterior or any building, or works where such painting would be visible from a highway**, to protect the existing street scene, rhythm and character of the area.
- **The creation of a hard standing within the curtilage where it is nearer to the highway than the dwelling house**, to protect against the erosion of the character of the area, through the loss of front gardens and landscaping, and the puncturing of existing, historic boundary walls for vehicular access.
- **The enlargement, improvement or other alteration of any roof or roof-covering**, to protect the scale and special character of the area.

The Article 4 Direction continues to be relevant to the Conservation Area and to its continued protection. No amendments are proposed to the Direction, or to the boundaries of the Article 4 Area as identified on Map 4 – “Existing and Proposed Conservation Area Boundaries”.

- 5.0 The following recommendations summarise the findings of the appraisal and the action that may be taken on adoption.
- It is recommended that the guidance in appendix 1 and 2 be published and circulated to those who live or have an interest in the St Fagans Conservation Area.
 - The appraisal and its recommendations and priorities for action be confirmed as the basis for corporate initiatives in the Conservation Area.
 - The appraisal serve as a framework for the assessment of planning applications in compliance with Section 72 of the Act.
 - Improved communications with local groups and residents be established in partnership with the North West Conservation Area Advisory Group.
 - The appraisal and information of the history of the Conservation Area be made available for study in the library and at local schools.
 - An appropriate scheme of repair and maintenance be agreed to ensure that work in the public realm is sensitive to the character of the Conservation Area.
 - The boundary change recommended in the first stage of the review be adopted and advertised in accordance with the Act.

Consultation

- 5.1 This document has been adopted following local consultation.
- 5.2 Details of listed buildings, together with other planning policy documents may be obtained from the Conservation Team on 029 2087 3485.

appendix 1

Guidance for homeowners and those planning development in the St Fagans Conservation Area.

This guidance has been prepared to enable those planning work to repair or alter their house or property. The guidance has been prepared to respect and enhance the character identified in the appraisal.

Consents

Many of the buildings in the Conservation Area have been listed as buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Owners of these properties must also obtain Listed Building Consent before they alter, extend or demolish any part of a building, whether internally or externally, in a manner that would materially affect its special architectural or historic interest. You may also need to comply with Building Regulations. A building control officer will be able to advise you on the regulations.

Building Materials and Details

When considering building work, the aim should be:

- Repair rather than replace original windows and doors.
- Use details to match on small extensions.
- Build walls in matching brick, stone or rendering.
- Roof in matching materials.

Windows and Doors

Door and window replacement is one of the most difficult design problems. The following advice applies both to doors and windows for extensions and their replacement in existing buildings;

- Original windows and doors should be retained where possible.
- New windows should accurately reflect the style and opening methods of those originally fitted to the property.
- New doors should reflect the style and materials of the original.

In practice this means that you should first consider whether any replacement is necessary. It may be possible to repair windows, and skilled joiners can make repairs without difficulty. The Conservation Team in Strategic Planning can supply the names of specialist manufacturers of timber windows.

More advice on window repair and replacement can be found in the separate publication 'Window repair and replacement in Conservation Areas' available from the Conservation Team within Strategic Planning.

Chimneys

Most houses in the village have red brick stacks with varying degrees of detailing. They are often an important part of each building group, punctuating the skyline and defining scale and orientation. If a chimney which makes a contribution to the character of the house or Conservation Area becomes unsafe and requires repair, it should be rebuilt to the original height and design, even if no longer in use.

Where a building is listed, the demolition of a chimney will require both Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission. When chimneys become redundant it is important to ensure that steps are taken to maintain brickwork and mortar and render. Original clay pots should be retained where they are still structurally sound. A proprietary weather-guard can retain ventilation and discourage damp through the chimney breast.

Dormer Windows and Loft Conversions

Dormers are not a common feature in St Fagans. New dormers are unlikely to be considered appropriate to the traditional cottages within the Conservation Area.

Dormers will only be considered in locations where they do not have a detrimental impact on the character of the individual house or the Conservation Area, and where they respect the scale of the house, protect the character of the existing roof form, and the appearance of the Conservation Area.

Small traditional roof lights may be acceptable in discrete locations, offering an alternative to a dormer. In the case of a semi-detached property, particularly if symmetrical, care will be taken to ensure that a roof light will not unbalance the pair. Modern roof lights in deep frames, which break up the line of the roof surface, are not appropriate.

The use of roof lights on front slopes will not be supported.

Roof Material

Original roofing materials should be maintained. Reclaimed or new natural slates are the best way to protect the character of the Conservation Area. In re-roofing, it is important to match the size and quality of the original and to follow the gauge and layout of coursing.

Decorative ridges, tiling and ornamental barge boards should be retained.

Where thatch remains, it should be protected and maintained by craftsmen with skills in handling the appropriate material. It is important that historic thatching, original details and supporting roof structure are retained in the repair and renewal of roofs.

Porches

Porches are often the dominant feature of an elevation and their detailing should always be respected in repair or replacement.

Stonework / Wall Finishes

Local limestone is the primary building material in the Conservation Area, giving it a close affinity with its landscaped setting.

The stone is often roughly squared and laid in random rubble courses. It is important that historic stonework is correctly repaired and replaced. It is essential that existing stone is re-pointed in a manner which is appropriate to the original building method. The use of lime based mortars is recommended as the introduction of dense, cement based mixes will cause problems of moisture retention in traditional stone walling.

Attention should be paid to stone work patterns used on extensions. Random rubble walling is frequently used on original buildings in the village. New stone work should be laid in similar patterns, with free stone or brick dressings set around doors and windows as appropriate. Where the original building is rendered, an extension should reflect its material and finish.

Renewable Energy Devices, Communications Equipment & Security Equipment

The attaching of additional equipment, for whatever uses, to buildings can have a significant impact on the character of the Conservation Area. If inappropriately located they can have a cumulative impact that is detrimental to the character of the Conservation Area. Equipment is unlikely to be acceptable on prominent front and side elevations. Rear elevations or out buildings are often a more appropriate location, provided they are discrete and do not harm the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. Where this type of equipment is currently inappropriately located and when opportunities arise this visual clutter should be reduced.

Extensions & New Development

Whether a traditional or contemporary design approach is adopted, the success of new developments and extensions to existing buildings in the Conservation Area will require an understanding of the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

Extensions to existing buildings and new development in the St Fagans Conservation Area will be required to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area by:

- Respecting the distinctive quality of place, which will involve the continuity of the existing urban grain and existing vertical and horizontal rhythms in the built form.
- Retaining important views and vistas in and out of the Conservation Area.
- Respecting the existing land uses.
- Reinforcing the existing hierarchies of public and private space.
- Using materials and architectural details which are as high in quality as those used in existing buildings.

There are also wider planning issues to consider. For example, attention also needs to be paid to any new developments impact on neighbouring amenity, particularly its impact with regard to overlooking, loss of light and overbearing.

Adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to 'Householder Design Guidance' provides more detailed advice on the wider planning issues.

New development is likely to have landscaping implications. Advice on this is provided in Appendix 2. Guidance on trees, landscaping, parking, gardens, gates and boundary enclosures is provided in Appendix 2 'Landscape and Trees Advice'.

Landscape and Trees Advice

This guidance relates to landscaping issues including trees, parking, gardens, hedges, fences and gates. Open spaces, verges and private gardens all contribute to the special character of the Conservation Area. The Planning Authority has special powers over these issues that apply only within the Conservation Area. Outlined below are the considerations that apply if you are planning work that involves these features.

Trees

Trees in Conservation Areas have special protection. You must apply in writing for consent for work to trees that are greater than 7.5 centimetres (about 3 inches) in diameter, measured at 1.5 metres (about 5 feet) above the ground. Specifically you must give 6 weeks notice to the Planning Authority of your intention to do the work. The Authority will agree the work which it considers will benefit the trees, and may agree other work where the benefits outweigh the damage to the trees. If it does not respond within six weeks the work may be carried out anyway. The penalties the court may impose for not giving this notice are serious – the same as would apply if the trees were protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

Work means not just the removal or killing of a tree, but also pruning or damaging roots or branches, whether directly or indirectly. An application should therefore be made if, for example, you plan to alter soil levels near trees, or install impervious surfaces, such as a new drive. It would also be an offence to damage trees by polluting their environment, such as applying a broad leaved herbicide to an adjacent lawn. There are various exemptions from the need for consent, particularly for trees that are dead, dying or dangerous. You are advised, except in the case of immediate danger, to telephone a Tree Preservation Officer before exercising one of these exemptions. Trees that are illegally removed, or removed under an exemption, will normally have to be replaced. If the work you wish to do relates to a development for which you need planning consent, you should include it within the planning application. You will not then have to make a separate application under the regulations protecting trees – the whole issue will be considered at one time.

If you have a large or prominent tree you are strongly advised to take, from time to time, the advice of a tree surgeon as to its long term management. The Authority will give due weight to a qualified tree surgeon's opinion when considering applications. Trees on the highway, or in parks, are managed by the Council's Parks Services, and are subject to a long term management regime, supervised by a qualified arborist.

Parking in Front Gardens

The area was largely developed before car ownership became widespread. Constructing further off-street parking within the curtilage of individual houses can result in the loss of front gardens and boundary treatments. Where there is room for a garage, it should be designed in sympathy with the house to which it relates and without detriment to the overall area.

Garden Areas

Grassed and planted front gardens, hedging and boundary walls help to give the Conservation Area its special charm. The need to preserve this character may preclude the granting of permission to form a hard-standing in the front garden. Each case will be considered on its merits. The creation of paved forecourts with turning areas usually reduce grassed areas, flower beds and the line of hedging or stone walls, and often result in the loss of a garden and path.

Stone and Brick Walls, Boundaries and Railings

Boundary walls should be regarded as an extension of the building which it protects. They provide definition and character to the street scene. Any new walls should seek to fulfil the same objectives.

Walls should be repaired and maintained to ensure that stone work, joints, mortars, copings, railings and fences all respect the original structure.

Walls should be retained, repaired and maintained to ensure that stone work and mortar respect the original structure. It is essential that existing stone is re-pointed in a manner which is appropriate to the original building method.

Landscaping

Some development affords opportunities for soft landscaping and should be encouraged. New soft landscaping schemes should be sensitively designed to fit in with the character of the area.

The Boundary Review

St Fagans Conservation Area was designated in 1971, giving recognition to its historical and architectural quality. The boundary was extended in 1977, and again in 1992 to include the surrounding countryside which adds to the character of the area.

In November 1992 a Direction under Article 4 of the General Development Order 1988 became operative, which further enhanced the protection of the core of the Conservation Area through the control of minor development. A review of the historic and architectural character of the Conservation Area has been carried out to establish whether the existing boundary is legible and identifies an area of special character.

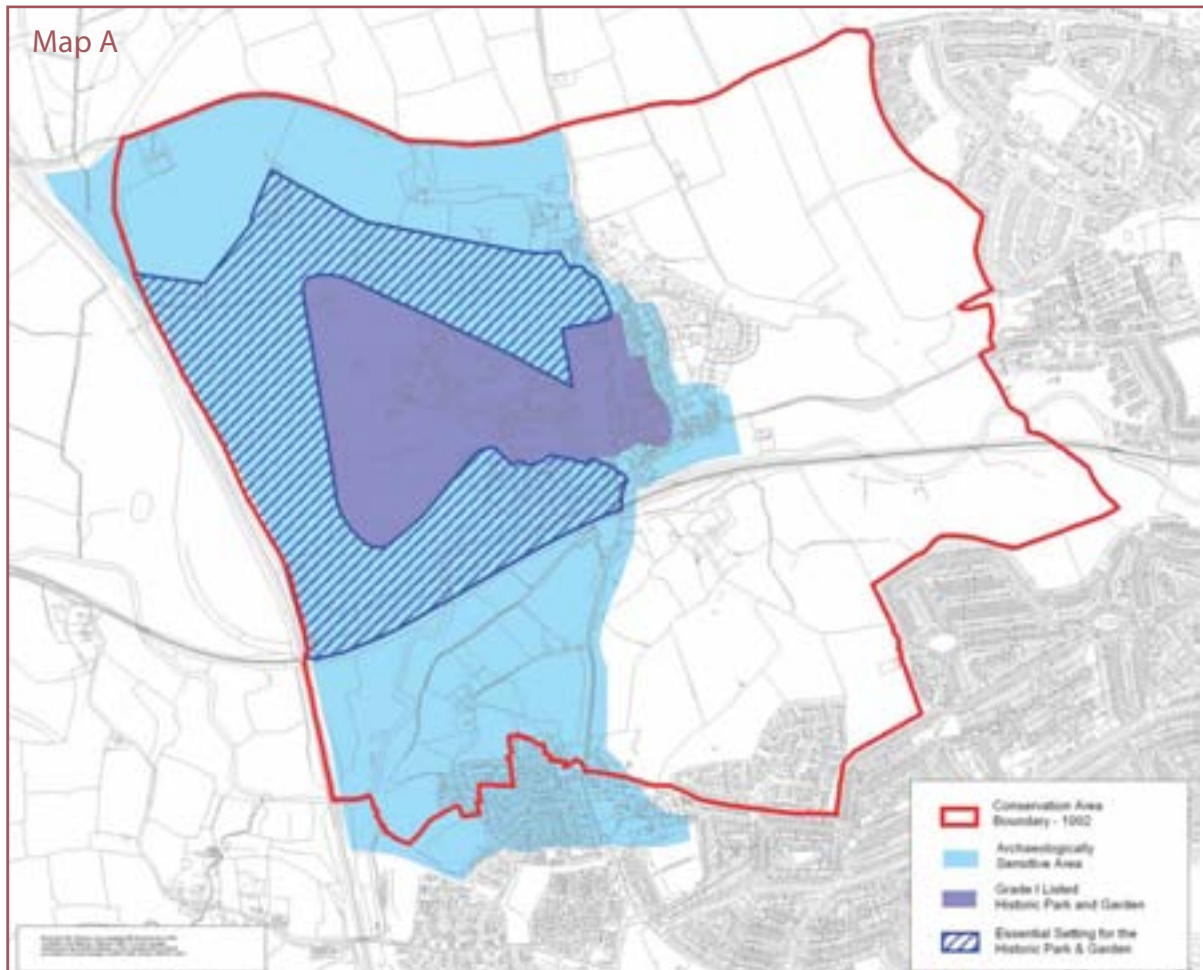
The current Conservation Area boundary includes a large area of natural landscape which contributes to the setting and special character of the Conservation Area.

However, Government guidance states that Conservation Area designation “is not likely to be appropriate as a means of protecting landscape features, except where they form an integral part of the historic built environment” (Welsh Office Circular 61/96 - Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas). The natural environment within the Conservation Area benefits from protection by other designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). In addition the St Fagans Lowlands and Ely Valley has been identified as a potential Special Landscape Area (SLA) for inclusion in the Local Development Plan (LDP), due to its high quality and historic landscape. Careful consideration and strong justification must be given to the areas surrounding the village core and castle grounds, and to their retention or exclusion from the Conservation Area boundary.

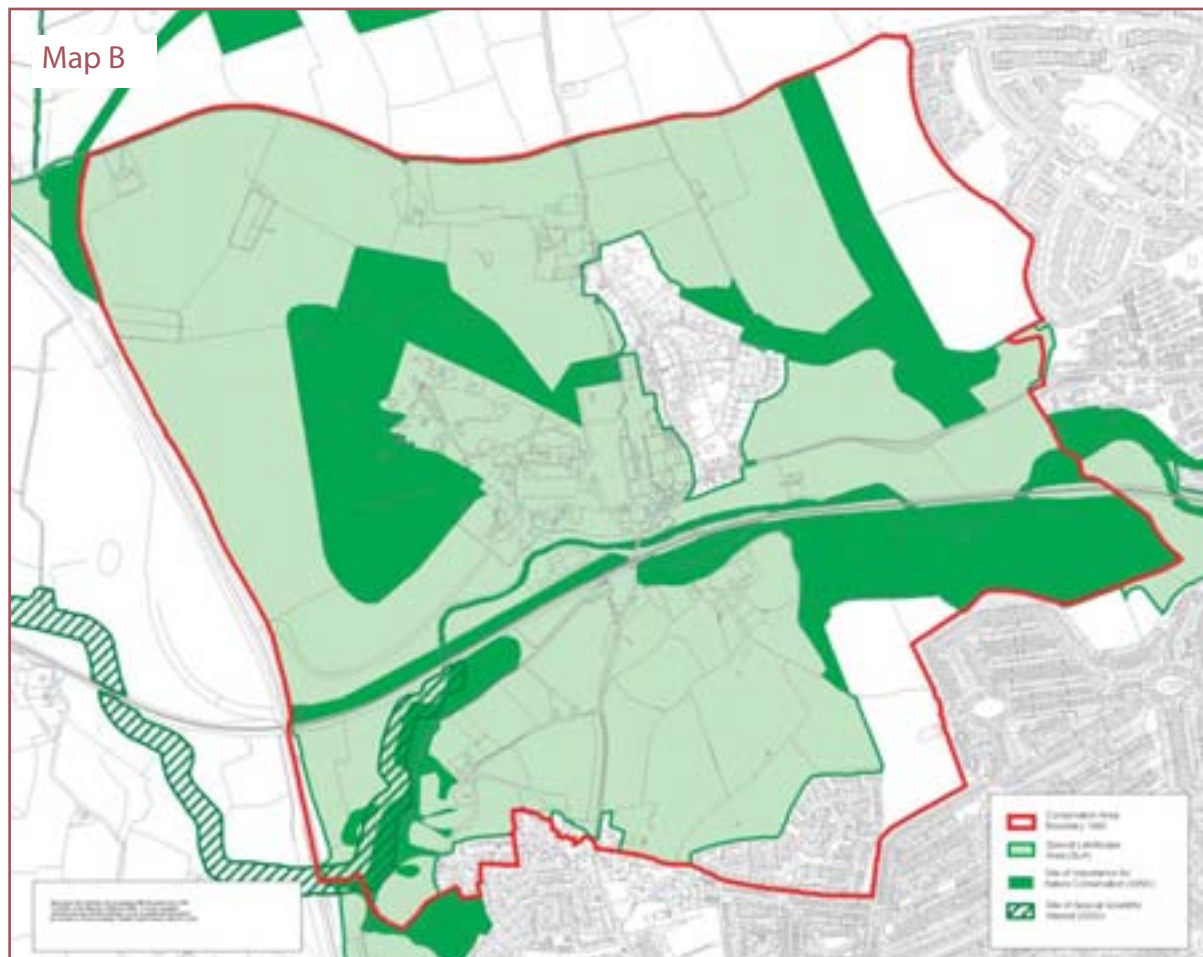
For the purpose of the boundary review, the Conservation Area has been separated into six distinct sub areas for individual consideration. These are as follows, and are identified in map C, overleaf.

- The land south of Cardiff Road and the railway;
- Westfield Park and Clos y Cwarra;
- Land to the North East of the Conservation Area;
- Land to the North West of the Conservation Area;
- St Fagans Village and the Castle Grounds; and
- St Fagans Drive.

Conservation Area and other historic designations



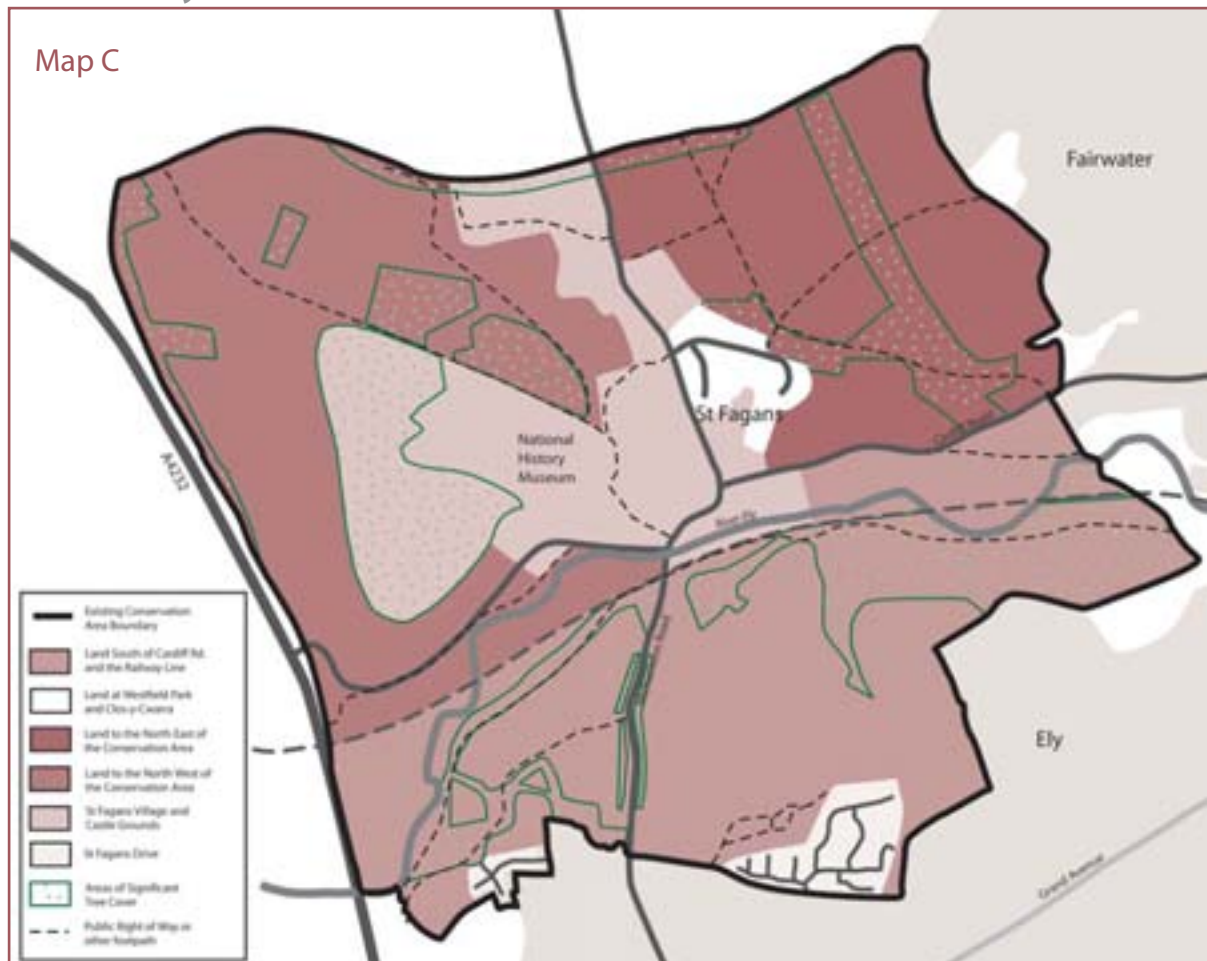
Conservation Area and Natural Environment designations



Aerial Photograph of the former Conservation Area (designated 1992)



Boundary Review Areas



Land South of Cardiff Road and the Railway



- View across the Ely Valley
- The Ely River
- St Michael's Church
- Clos y Cwarra

The Ely River sits in a steep sided valley, the southern side of which consists of farmland and woodland, providing impressive views across the valley from Cardiff Road. Glimpses of the modern housing estates at Ely are visible on the horizon, although the predominant impression is formed by the Plymouth Woods and farmland.

This provides a strong setting to the Conservation Area and helps maintain its identity as a village which has not been engulfed by the city's suburbs.

This area enjoys the benefit of special designations which protect the countryside, including Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) along the river at the eastern edge of the Conservation Area, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) along the river corridor and at Plymouth Woods. In addition to these, the area has been identified as a potential Special Landscape Area (SLA). These designations provide varying levels of protection to most of the undeveloped land within this area.

Buildings and evidence of previous settlements, within this area contribute to an understanding of its development and of its rural, manorial history. Among these are St Michael's Church and the small group of dwellings at Michaelston-super-Ely and the nearby earthworks that indicate the former extent of this diminutive village located at the end of Persondy Lane; and Court Cottages, which show possible evidence of a former moat enclosure.

The Plymouth Great Wood, as the name suggests, was part of the Plymouth Estate until it was gifted by the Earl of Plymouth to the people of Cardiff in 1922.

It is considered that this area continues to fulfil the identified key qualities, and that its inclusion within the Conservation Area boundaries can be supported by physical evidence of the area's development, as outlined above, and would be beneficial to the continued protection of unlisted properties within.

A small area has been excluded from the Conservation Area, namely the Ely North recreational grounds and linking field, located to the south of Plymouth Woods, which fails to present compelling historic reasons for its continued inclusion, and does not actively contribute to the setting of the Conservation Area, being screened from the surrounding area by the adjoining woodland.

Celandine Road and Clos-y-Cwarra

Parts of the southern boundary of the Conservation Area have been eroded by pressure for residential development from Ely. Modern estate housing, branching from Celandine Road and from Clos-y-Cwarra, are currently located within the Conservation Area boundary.

These areas do not demonstrate a distinctive or special quality of place, or examples of high quality landmark buildings or architectural detailing. Their continued inclusion within the Conservation Area undermines its status. For these reasons, the Conservation Area boundary has been amended to exclude these properties.

Land to the North East of the Conservation Area

Similar to the land South of Cardiff Road and the railway, this area contributes positively to the character and setting of the Conservation Area, enjoys the benefit of SINC designation to its woodland, and has been identified as a potential SLA area.

Located within the woodlands are several features of historic interest, including a disused lime kiln, and a curling rink built in the 19th century by Robert Forrest, Deputy Lieutenant of Glamorgan. There is also anecdotal evidence of links with the English Civil War, that the land on which St Fagans Drive was built was used to keep horses during the Battle of St Fagans, which led to it being referred to as "The Horses' Field" by local residents.

The Conservation Area boundary has been amended to exclude an area of land to the east of the woodland, adjacent to Pentrebane, as it presents little historic evidence to support its inclusion, and does not contribute to the setting and character of the Conservation Area, due to its screening by the woodland and its physical separation from the village.

Land to the North West of the Conservation Area

This area is characterised by its rural nature, comprising largely of fields with compact areas of woodland and natural ponds, accessed by public footpaths. It has significant historic and archaeological importance, both as the site of the Battle of St Fagans (English Civil War, 1648), and as an area where Bronze Age burials have been discovered. This part of the Conservation Area has been identified as an Archaeologically Sensitive Area in Council Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). In addition to this, much of the area has been identified as an essential setting to the Listed Historic Park and Gardens, within the Museum and Castle grounds.

No amendment of the Conservation Area boundary has been made to this area.

St Fagans Village and the Castle Grounds

A review of the historic and architectural character of the Conservation Area confirms that St Fagans Village retains its architectural and historic interest, a character formed by small cottages, historic village facilities, and their relationship with the St Fagans Castle and its grounds (now the National History Museum) and the surrounding landscape.

St Fagans Drive

St Fagans Drive is a contemporary residential development consisting of detached dwellings set around an access road which curves to the east of Crofft y Genau Road, surrounding the Old Rectory.

Its character, history and architectural style are distinct from the village core, presenting a very different character to the historic village. It has a much looser grain than the old village and wide, detached frontages set in wide plots with off-street parking provision for each dwelling.

Whereas the historic development within the village is concentrated along the Crofft-y-Genau Road and Cardiff Road/Michaelston Road axes, St Fagans Drive breaks from this established form, resulting in this development being considered somewhat divorced from the village core. However, St Fagans Drive is retained within the Conservation Area, in order to ensure that any future developments or alterations are sympathetic to the character, setting and architectural qualities of the village and Conservation Area.



- Lime Kiln
- View from Pentrebane fields
- Land to the North West
- Riverside Cottage

Conclusions

The initial assessment of the Conservation Area and its immediate surroundings confirms that the area still has a special character. Overall, buildings of special historic and architectural value have been protected as a result of designation.

To follow legislation, it is important that the boundary of the Conservation Area identifies an area of special character. This appraisal recommends that, following consultation;

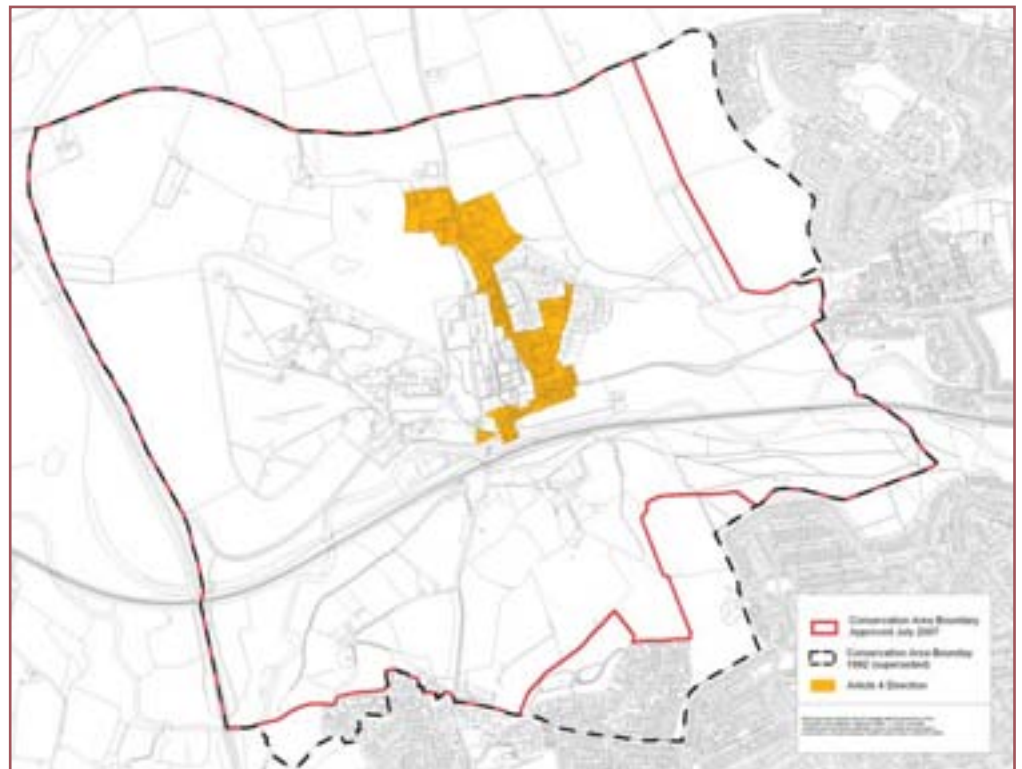
- Residential areas to the south of the Conservation Area, at Westfield Park and Clos y Cwarra are excluded from the Conservation Area.
- The Ely North recreational grounds are excluded from the Conservation Area.
- The fields located to the east of the woodland, adjacent to Pentreban, are excluded from the Conservation Area.
- No amendments to the area protected by an Article 4 Direction are proposed.

A full appraisal of the amended Conservation Area is set out in the main document to identify the character of the area and opportunities for enhancement and guidance.



- Gilfach Cottages
- St Fagans Castle
- St Fagans Drive

Map D Conservation Area Boundaries



Glossary

Ashlar	Hewn or squared stone.
Barge Board	Timber boards fixed to the gable end of a roof, can be ornamental in detail.
Cadw	The Welsh Assembly government's historic environment division.
Casement Windows	Windows with a hinged opening.
Coursing	Regimented rows formed in laying brickwork, stonework or roof tiles.
Dormer Windows	A window with roof over, set into a sloping roof.
Gable	A triangular shaped portion of the end wall of the building, supporting the roof.
Gauge	Depth or thickness.
Lean-to	A structure where the highest point of its roof rests on an adjacent wall.
Listed building	A building or other structure of specific architectural or historic importance and which is afforded statutory protection by Cadw.
Lych Gate	A gateway covered with a roof, the traditional entrance to a church yard.
Mortar	A material used in construction to fill the gaps between stones or bricks and bind them together.
Mullion	A division between the lights of windows, usually vertical.
Plinth	A square element forming the base of a column.
Quoins	Stone or bricks used as a decorative feature to accentuate the corners of a building. Usually laid so their faces are alternately large and small.
Render	A plaster, lime or cement coating.
Repoint	Repair the joints between stonework.
Roof light	A glazed opening set in a roof.
Roughcast	Coarse render.
Rubble stone	Stones of irregular shape and size.
Stringcourse	A projecting horizontal band or line of mouldings in a building.
TPO	Tree Preservation Order – provides protection for trees specified in the order.
Transom	A horizontal mullion or cross bar in a window.
Trefoil	Ornamental feature which represents the form of a three-lobed leaf.

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Acknowledgments

- The North West Conservation Area Advisory Group
- St Fagans Community Council
- The National Museum of Wales
- The Glamorgan Record Office
- Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments

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