

## INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES IN THE PARISH OF WOODCHESTER

The Woodchester Parish Council would like to submit the following, to implement the proposed boundary changes.

**B25** The line to follow the garden boundaries on the western side of the railway cutting to Pauls Rise road. Cross and follow the garden fences on the western side. Then along the top of the bank to Bird's Crossing. The river between Bird's Crossing and the railway bridge is in a man made channel with masonry walls. The water wheel that powered Southfield Mill was situated here. Just south-west of the railway bridge is a section of wall built of engineering bricks on a base of squared blocks of limestone. This is all that remains visible of Southfield Mill.

**E22** The line to cross Southfield Road and go along the northern boundary of the garden of Upper Southfield Mill to Little Hill footpath before turning south to the South Woodchester Conservation Area whose boundary it abuts back to Southfield House. Upper Southfield Mill is of special interest as it is one of two mills in the parish powered by side streams and not the main Nailsworth stream. It was a shearing mill. The raised nap of the cloth was cut using a machine like a lawn mower. When the water in the mill pond was used, the cut cloth was removed and more brought in while water was run down from the top pond so work could resume.

**T5** The line to follow the Nailsworth Stream to the Churches Mill gardens boundary. This it follows to Southfield Road, following the latter round to join the existing boundary at the north-west corner of the Fenworth site.

This gives the IHCA Churches Mill with its stone 17C base with arches for two undershot water wheels. The brick upper storey is 19C. This mill remained a wool cloth mill worked latterly with Southfield Mill until both were sold in 1900. Churches Mill became a wood turning factory owned by the Beard family. In the 1980s it was a walking stick factory. It was converted into three houses in 1992. Beside the mill is a small stone 17C house. The Nook, also stone, is larger, of c 1700. Little Orchard is the first house in the village, and probably in the Stroud area, to be built of artificial stone. It was built in 1948 of "Minchinhampton Stone" by Wallace Beard who cast the bricks needed from moulds he made. The bricks were made at a factory on the road between Minchinhampton and Aston Down airfield using crushed local Upper Oolitic limestone. The Fenworth site had been built on land raised by using it as a dump for boiler slag and industrial waste from Newman Henders engineering factory. The site was used in the 1930s by the Gloucester Incubator Company to manufacture hen houses from timber and asbestos sheets.

**T6** It is suggested that both Conservation Area boundaries follow a field boundary from south of the Fenworth site to Frogmarsh Lane beside the bungalow. This gives the IHCA Frogmarsh Meadow, flat land beside the Nailsworth Stream on which part of Frogmarsh Mill was built in the 19C. The meadow is part of the flood plain and frequently has water standing on it in winter. The mutual boundary goes down Frogmarsh Lane on the east to leave the brick road drain wholly in the South

Woodchester Conservation Area. Then it goes around the lodge and up the drive, turning south at a field boundary on the present line of the South Woodchester Conservation Area then back down Convent Lane and around the Round House garden to the existing ICHA boundary. This gives the ICHA two of the oldest surviving houses in South Woodchester. The Frogmarsh Mill house of stone, gable end on to the lane and with two storeys and a prominent external chimney of c 1600, extended to an L shape down the lane in the 17C. In the 19C office buildings were added to the south and now the whole complex is offices. "Brereton" across the lane is also of c 1600 with an external chimney. The house was extended up Convent Lane in the last quarter of the 17C. This was the "Ten Bells" public house in the 19th and early 20th C. Frogmarsh Mill has lost the water courses to run a water wheel and has early 19C stone buildings, an early 20C brick and Welsh slate building and modern factory buildings of the last 20 years. Frogmarsh Mill was a woollen mill until c 1850. Then it became a pin making factory. In the 20C it was Carr Tanning, closing around 1980. It became a collection of small businesses to which the most important is now the Bottle Green Company. There is a small unnamed mill of the early 19C across the road that was run, like Upper Southfield Mill, from a side stream. Both its mill ponds survive. It was later used as a cider press. At present it is a store and a dump and is in poor condition. The new area also includes Frogmarsh Cottage, a small example of the special 17C Stroud Area design with a nearly square plan and a gable on each face. There is now a store built next to the lane. The round house is a wool yarn drying tower, probably mid 19C (not a teasel drying tower). The small bridge over the stream at Frogmarsh dates to the turnpike road of 1780. In the 1960s the line of the road here was straightened, so there are two bridges over the former railway line, the cast iron one of 1866 and the concrete one of 1960.

The Parish Council requests that the boundary of the South Woodchester Conservation Area which will have to be altered be moved along the drive around the garden of Atcombe Court and back along the edge of the wood to the existing line. This gives Atcombe Court the same level of protection as Woodchester House and Southfield House that are its equal both architecturally and socially.

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for Woodchester Parish Council