

Cumnor Village Character Assessment

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ABSTRACT

This document has been created by residents of Cumnor Village and supports the overarching Character Assessment for Cumnor Parish. Cumnor Village is one of the four wards that make up Cumnor Parish. This document is an important document as it shows change over time within the centre of the Conservation Area.

This assessment was conducted between February and September 2017 as part of the set of documents that make up the evidence base of the Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan. For further information, please visit www.cumnorneighbourhoodplan.co.uk or contact clerk@cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk

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Photograph of a stone and thatched cottage which stood next to No 1 High Street – pulled down in about 1910. The space is now taken up by gardens for the existing two terraced church cottages.



The terraced church cottages today, 2017, with gardens and much more greenery than in 1910 giving an open and less crowded aspect. The inset is a car space for the remaining stone cottage left out of shot, No 1 High Street.



The approach to Cumnor from Cutts End, Appleton Road, in 1935, looking across the fields to St Michael's church, before the houses were built and the lovely view was lost.



The same view from Cutts End in 2017. The road is now tarmacked, and a tarmac pavement replaces the narrow grass border and hedgerow which previously ran alongside the road. The road is closed in and shaded in places, having hedges on both sides, that on the left being of various heights and shapes. The houses tend to be set back from the road, with long driveways.



The Bear and Ragged Staff in around 1930, looking towards the High Street. The cottages were lived in by villagers. The traditional raised narrow stone pavement was the same as that in much of the village, and there was a field view opposite.



The Bear and Ragged Staff in 2017. The building on the left is now used for guest accommodation, the chimney stacks have gone, and the road and wider and lower pavement are tarmacked. Modern houses now stand opposite instead of open fields.



A view looking down the High Street along Appleton Road, where it meets with the High Street. The old stone cottages on the left were pulled down in the 1960's and replaced by the new modern housing although the long stone barn behind the war memorial is still there. The pavement is high and narrow, raised up from the dirt road.



The thatched cottages on the right still stand, one with a modern tiled-roof extension. The pavement is slightly wider and lower, and has been tarmacked together with the road. The junction is now a painted roundabout and telegraph poles stand on the roadsides. The view doesn't really reflect that of a village – much of the old character has been lost.



The original United Reformed chapel, a small and simple building, viewed from Pond Farm, Leys Road. Date unknown. It is a slightly untidy rural and domestic scene, with washing hanging in the background.



A wooden shed now stands near to where the chapel once stood – in the grounds of Chapel Cottage, Leys Road.



Pond Farm, an old stone and thatched building in Leys Road, which burnt down in the 1960's.



The garden of Pond Farm in 2017, where old Pond Farm stood. The house is a modern bungalow, and stands on a different plot and set further back from the road than the original farm house. The amount of green space behind some of Leys Road houses is surprisingly large, and generally unseen from Leys Road itself.

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The School, High Street, date unknown (car registration looks to be FC6243 if anyone recalls a family member owning it). The road looks to be well maintained and the pavement is high and edged with stone. The roof is of traditional red tile.



The Old School in 2017. The tree looks to be the same. The old gateway to the front door has been closed up, and a side entrance opened up wide enough for cars to reach the car park. The building has been re-roofed with grey tiles, and windows have been replaced/refurbished, including that which is now part of the village shop. The pavement is tarmacked and lower. Overall the building and surrounding space has changed little and still enhances the village's appearance.



The Lion Tree, named after the Red Lion public house which once stood nearby, on a triangle of grass. The sloping pavement to the left is stone, and peters out onto the dirt road. The field to the left is still a field, unbuilt on, and gives an open aspect to the entry point to Leys Road.



The same viewpoint today, 2017. The grass triangle has gone, as has the tree, the space now used for parking for the village hall. The road has been straightened to form a t-junction, and the narrow stone pavement has been replaced by a level modern pavement and grass verge where a new beech tree has been planted, to the left of the picture, out of shot. The cottages to the right and the United Reformed chapel have not changed, although Leys Road itself has been tarmacked.



Bablockhythe Ferry in 1880 showing the old chain link ferry. By 1900 the building to the right was known as the Chequers Inn.



Bablockhythe in 2017, and the Ferryman Inn, rebuilt in 1990. A ferry at this crossing was last used in around 1960. The slipways on either side of the river are still in use by private boaters. This scene has changed little, apart from the buildings, and retains its open and airy aspect.