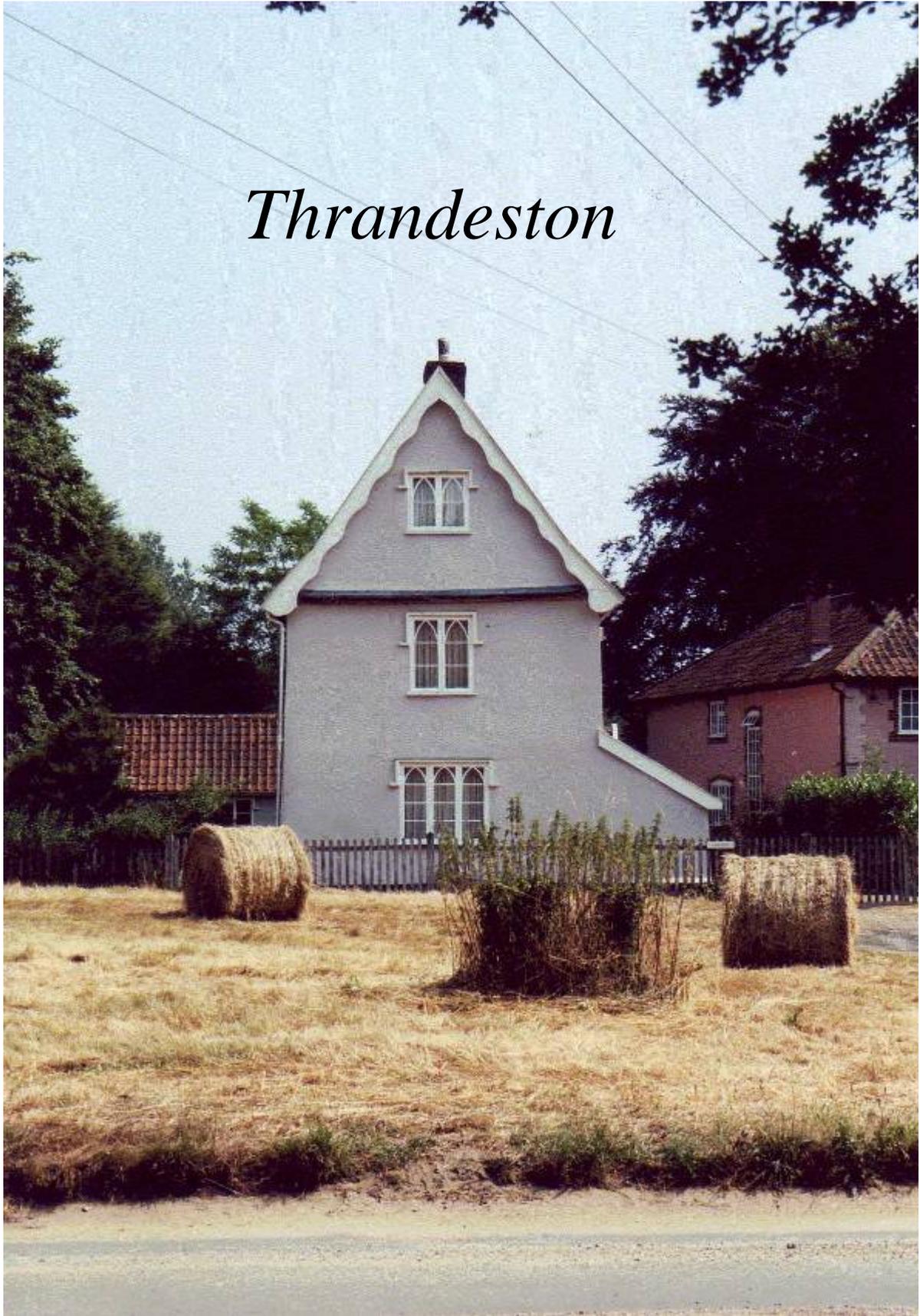
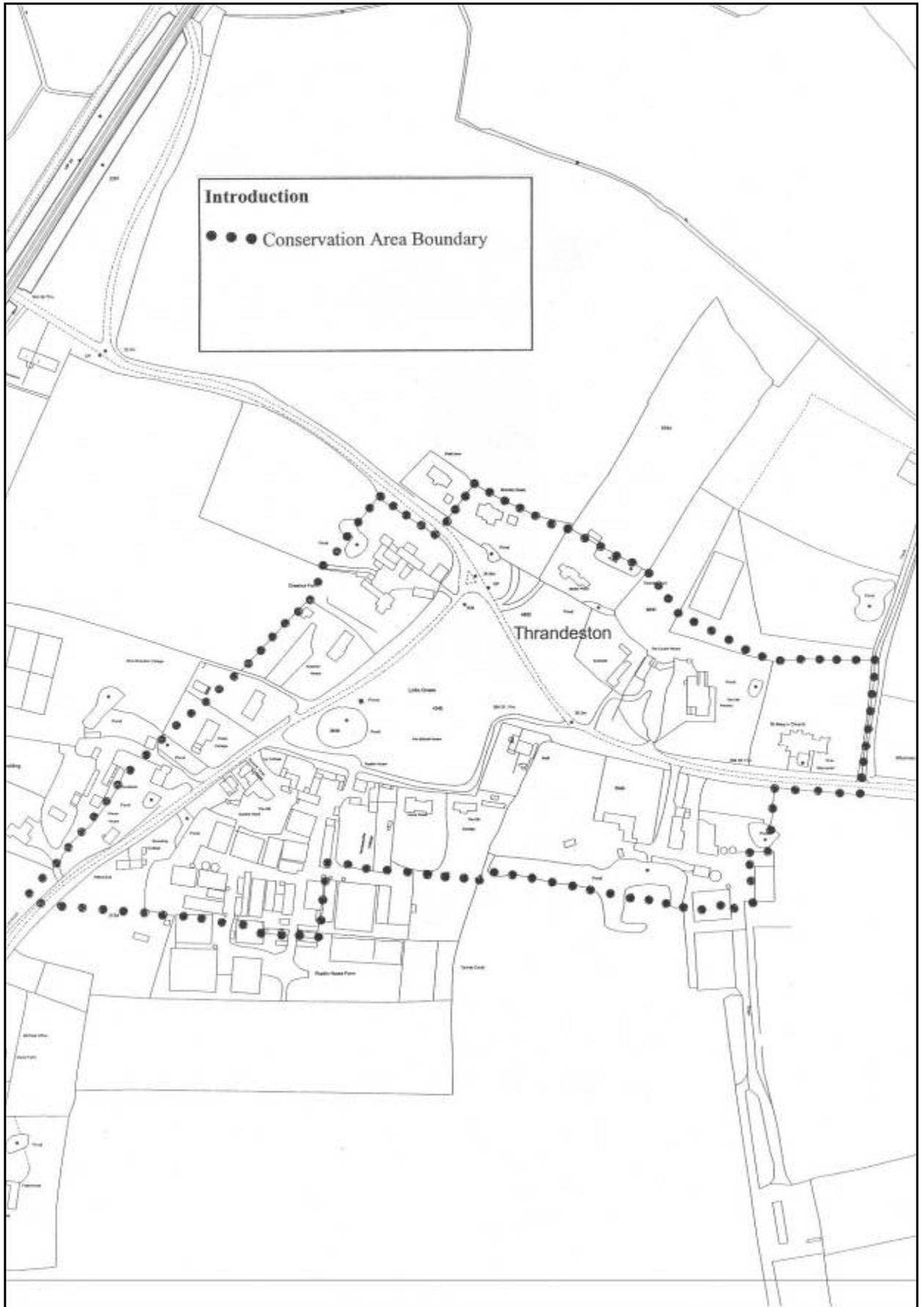


Thrandeston



conservation area appraisal



Introduction

The conservation area in Thrandeston was designated by Mid Suffolk District Council in 1975.

The Council has a duty to review its conservation area designations from time to time, and this appraisal examines Thrandeston under a number of different headings as set out in English Heritage's new 'Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals' (2006).

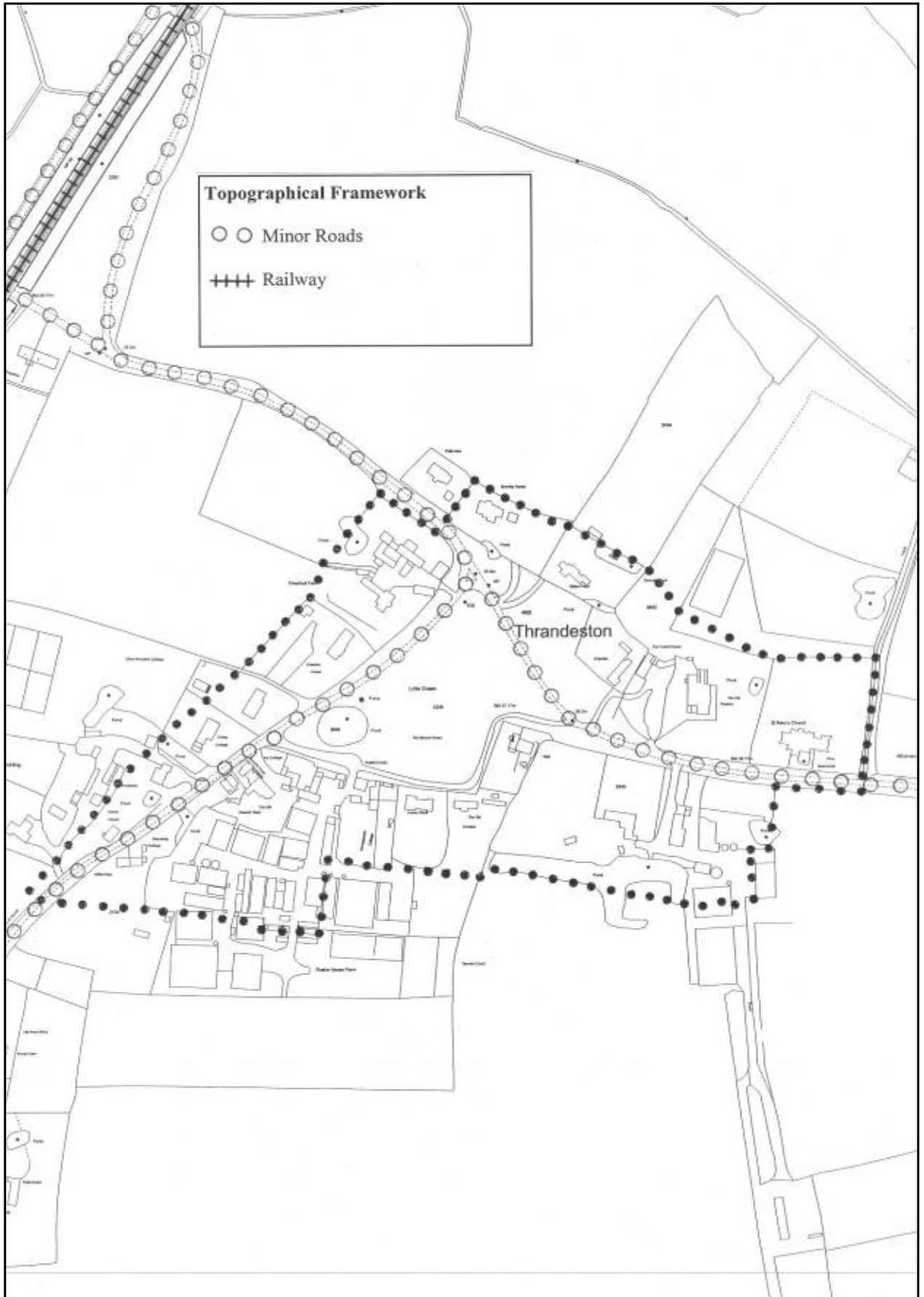
As such it is a straightforward appraisal of Thrandeston's built environment in conservation terms.



This document is neither prescriptive nor overly descriptive, but more a demonstration of 'quality of place', sufficient for the briefing of the Planning Officer when assessing proposed works in the area. The photographs and maps are thus intended to contribute as much as the text itself.

As the English Heritage guidelines point out, the appraisal is to be read as a general overview, rather than as a comprehensive listing, and the omission of any particular building, feature or space does not imply that it is of no interest in conservation terms.

Text, photographs and map overlays by Patrick Taylor, Conservation Architect, Mid Suffolk District Council 2007.



Topographical Framework

The village of Thrandeston is about three miles south of the Norfolk market town of Diss, in the far northern part of Mid Suffolk District.

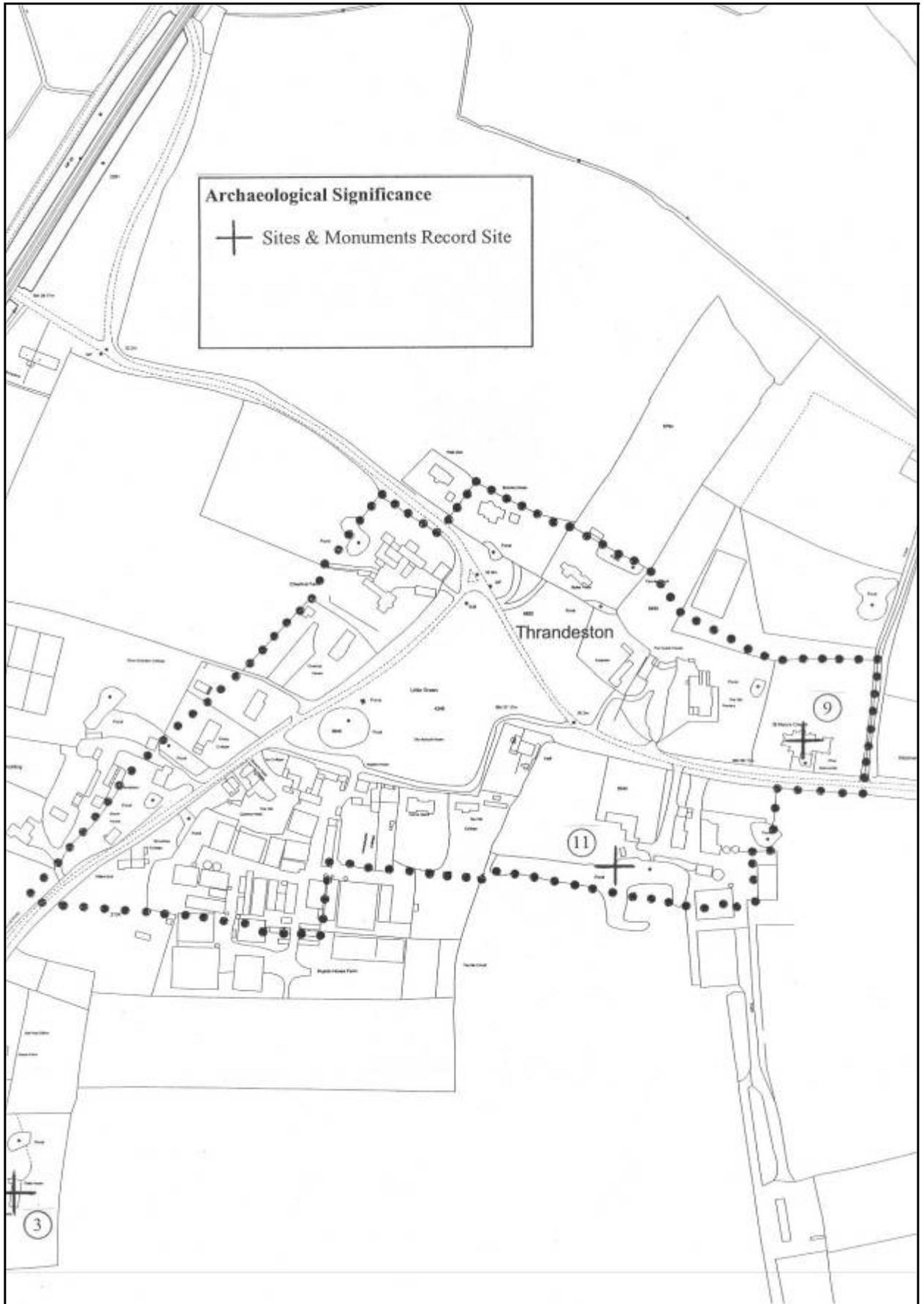
It sits on slightly higher ground away from the southern bank of the river Waveney that here forms the county boundary.

The village is situated on the 'High Suffolk' claylands, deposited in the Ice Ages over the chalk that underlies most of Suffolk. The area is thus good for arable farming.



Since 1849 the Ipswich to Norwich railway line has passed to the west of the village on its approach to the station at Diss.

The village is about a mile away from both the A143 road from Bury St Edmunds and the A140 road from Ipswich, which join at Scole just east of Diss. These were formerly Turnpike Trust roads, the 'Bury St Edmunds to Scole' of 1762 and the 'Ipswich to Scole' earlier of 1711, which continued from Scole onwards to Norwich.

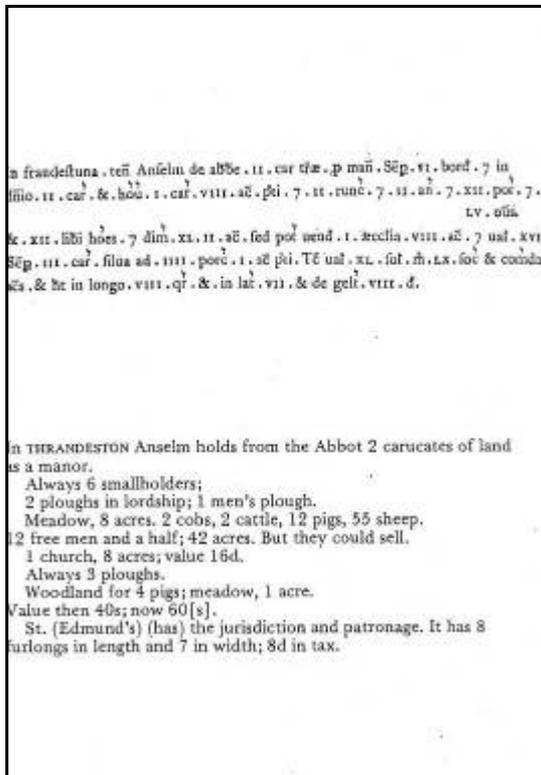
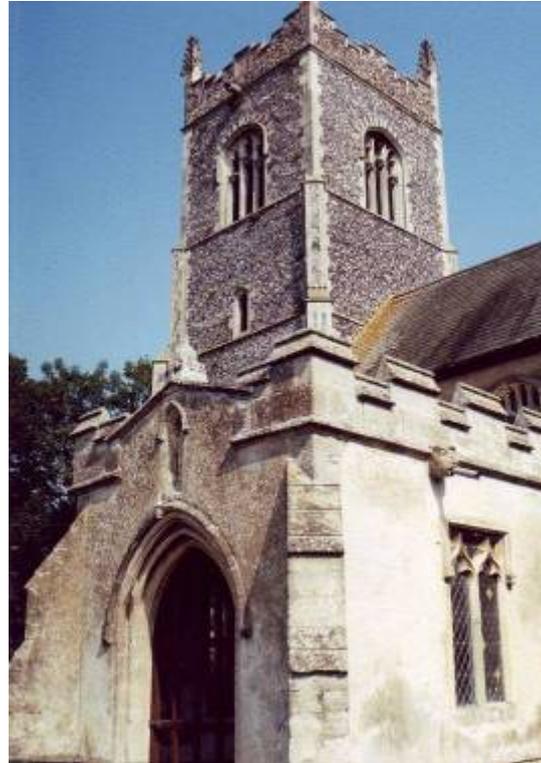


Archaeological Significance

The Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record lists over 10 sites of archaeological interest from all periods in the parish of Thrandeston. These include a burnt flint patch of unknown date and a Neolithic polished flint axe.

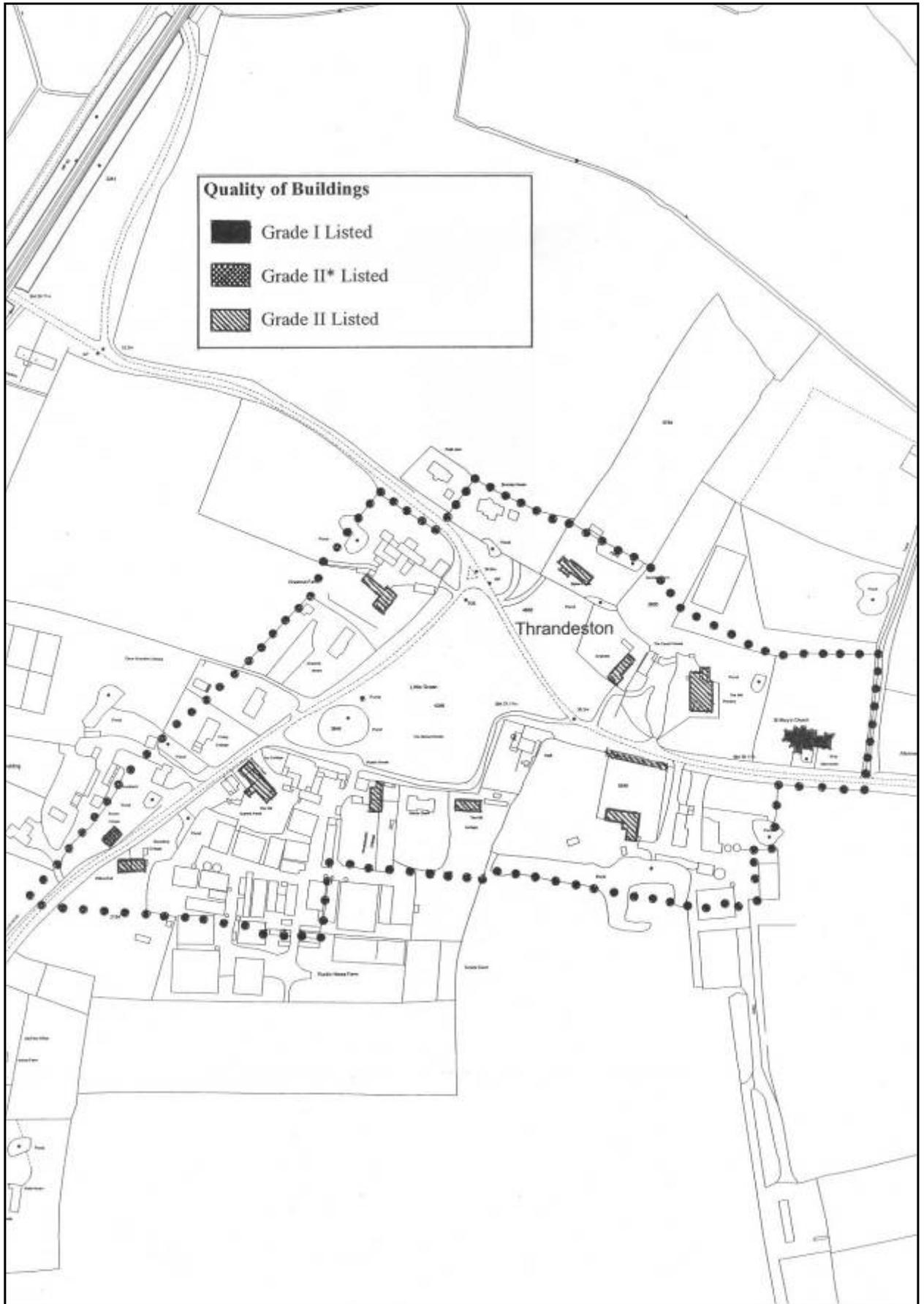
The A140 main road cutting through the far east of the parish runs along the line of a former Roman road.

There are also a few scatter finds of Roman origin, but the majority of sites listed are of Medieval date.



The Medieval sites include some pottery and scatter finds, the parish church and graveyard along with the three moated sites at Malting Farm, Goswold Hall and Church Farm.

Thrandeston had at least six holdings listed in the Domesday survey of 1086. The main manor was held by Anselm from the Abbot of St Edmund's and included a church with 8 acres of land and woodland for 4 pigs.



Intrinsic Quality of Buildings

There are 25 listings covering the parish of Thrandeston, half of which are within the conservation area.

These older buildings are predominantly domestic in scale, and mostly timber-framed and plastered with roofs of thatch or pantiles.

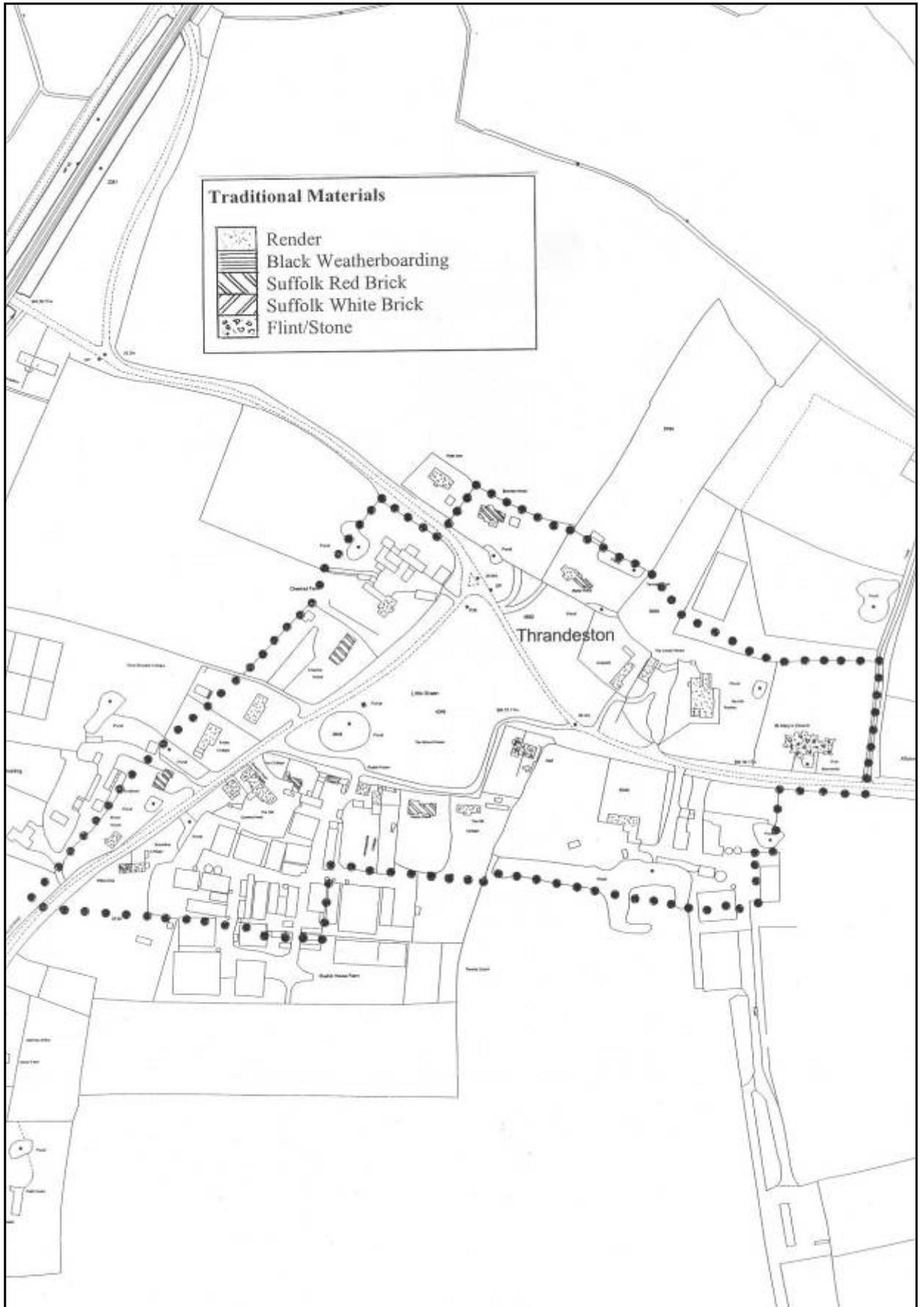
The grade I listed Church of St Margaret provides the usual village exception to this pattern of building with its flint rubble walls, now largely rendered over, and its slate and tiled roof. It has a knapped flint west tower and restored hammerbeam roof structure. It is mostly 15th Century, Perpendicular in style, although the chancel is 13th Century.



The churchyard contains a group of three quality chest tombs for the Blakely family, from the turn of the 18th and 19th Centuries, listed separately as grade II.

The other top quality building within the central area is the grade II listed Manor House. This is timber-framed and plastered with a first floor jettied both sides, the rear with herringbone brick infill. Inside there is some good Renaissance carved detailing to the beams.*

With Manor House at the western end and the Church at the eastern end of the conservation area, the remaining central listed buildings are clustered tightly in between around Little Green.



Traditional Materials

	Render
	Black Weatherboarding
	Suffolk Red Brick
	Suffolk White Brick
	Flint/Stone

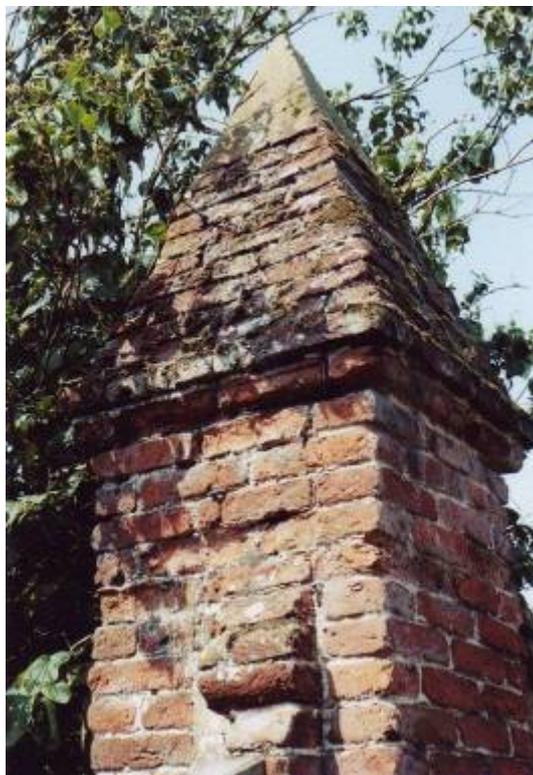
Thrandeston

Traditional Building Materials

A first glance around the older buildings on Little Green would seem to indicate an abundance of rendered buildings in Thrandeston.

However the local red brick features as brick nogging at both Manor House and Styles Piece, north of the green. Red brick was also used in the low level plinth of the chancel of St Margaret's Church, curiously laid on edge, and across the road in the separately listed front wall to Church Farm, a 19th Century frontage with pilaster strips and two pyramidal capped central piers.

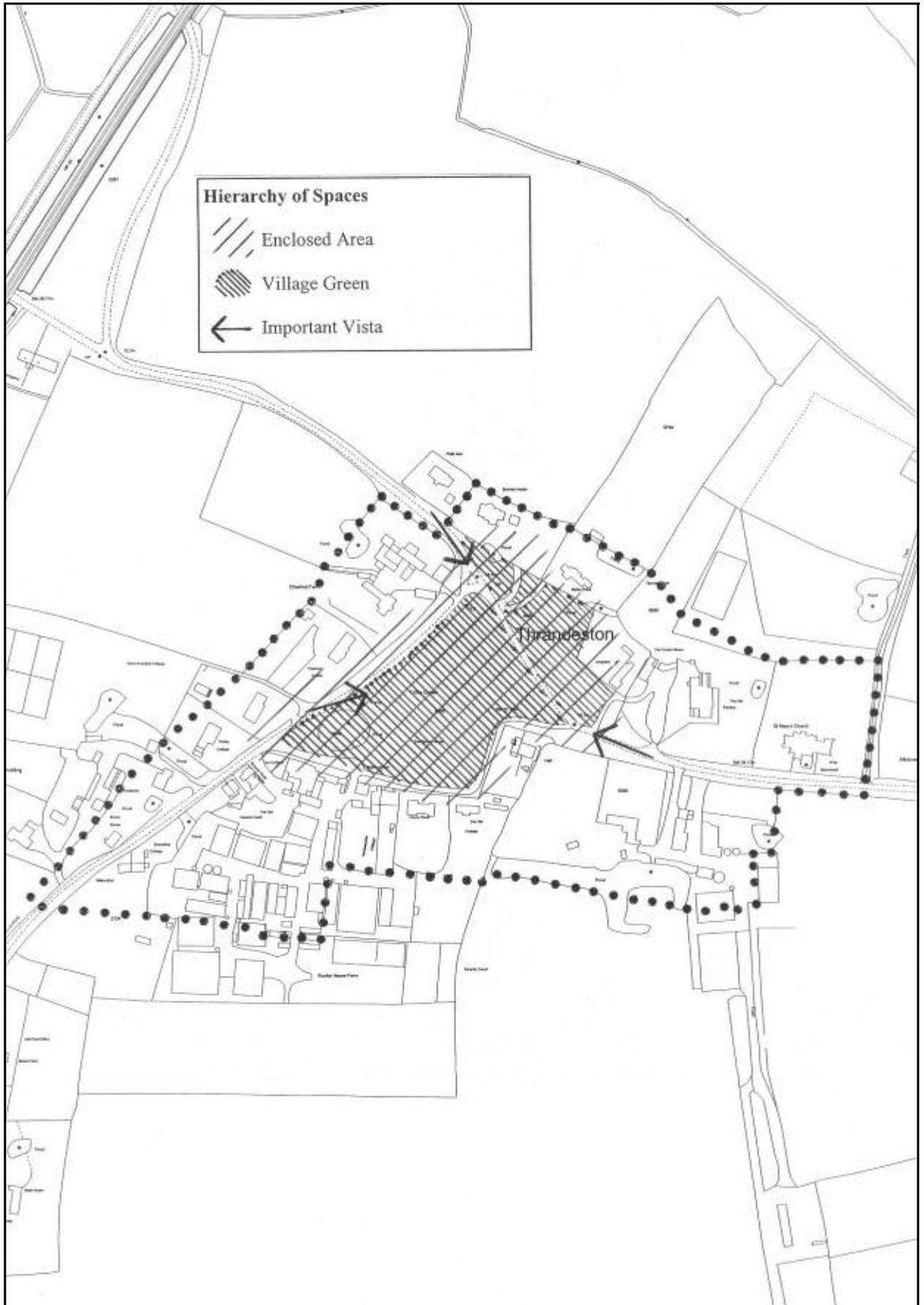
Pevsner mentions outlying Goswold Hall and its rectangular red brick Dovecote with shaped gables as ruinous, but it was listed grade II in 1987 and has recently been repaired fully.



A small amount of flintwork is also evident around the village, most notably on the church tower but also with red brick dressings on the former National School of 1850, south of the green, unlisted but locally important.

The prevalent roofing material was thatch on the older listed buildings, but some are now pantile or plaintile replacements. Slate can be found on the Church, the School and the Old Rectory, largely remodeled around 1840.

Modern infill buildings generally respect the local vernacular using render and red brick with plaintile or pantile roofs, although some of the latter are concrete.



Hierarchy of Spaces

The conservation area in Thrandeston is very much centred around Little Green. This is roughly triangular in shape with the Church and Rectory at its eastern end adjoining the road towards Oaksmere on the A140.

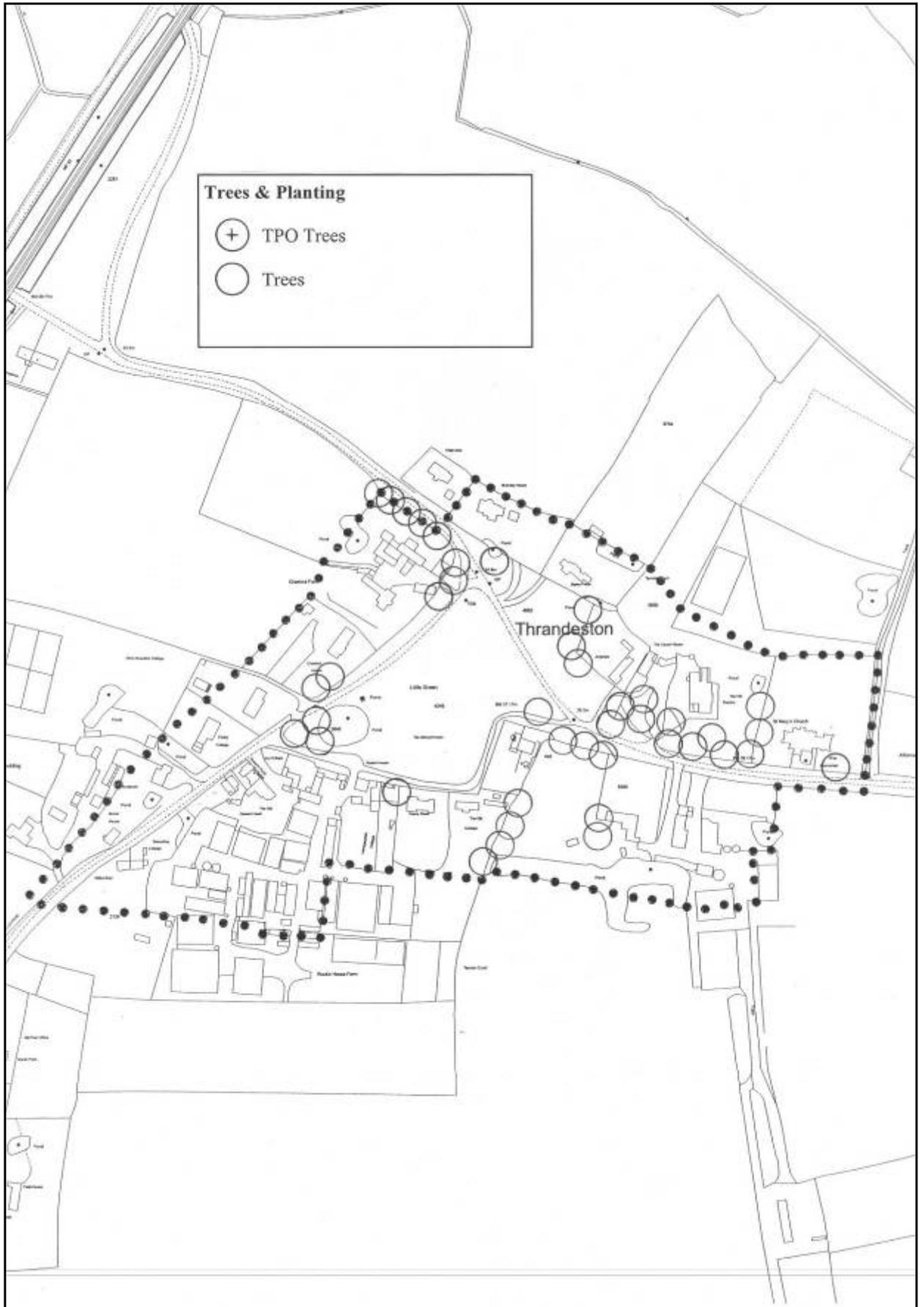
At the western end a road heads off to the south-west, soon turning south towards Thornham.

From the northern tip of Little Green a third road heads out north-westwards, before turning north at the railway line towards Palgrave.



The majority of Little Green is managed for hay production, giving a very rural feel to the area. For amenity use there is a more suburban section of mown grass at the western end around a large pond.

Surrounded by houses set within a backdrop of trees, Little Green provides a hidden oasis within the larger more open Suffolk countryside. There is little in the way of views out of the area, but many views across the green within.



Trees & Planting

Apart from a Silver Maple near the Old School and some Weeping Willows and Limes near the pond, Little Green has fortunately remained clear of planting. The houses around the green however are mostly set within a backdrop of trees.

The largest grouping of trees within the conservation area is to be found in the Churchyard and adjoining Old Rectory. Here there are good specimens of Lime, Oak, Ash and Yew, along with a very large Wych Elm, a False Acacia and some other smaller ornamentals.

Further west towards Little Green there are further examples of Lime and another False Acacia.



A second large group of trees can be found north of Little Green in the Horse Chestnuts and Beech in front of Chestnut Farm. The farm is screened from the road north of here by a row of tall Poplars, now coming to maturity.

Thrandeston's trees are important but appear not to have been under any threat significant enough to warrant a Tree Preservation Order being made within the parish.



Relationship to Open Countryside

The settlement pattern in Thrandeston, with houses clustered around the green and along the approach roads is mostly one plot deep. This means that, although rarely visible, the countryside is never far away.

The three-legged road system serving the village is all minor roads and allows easy access on foot out into the countryside in most directions.

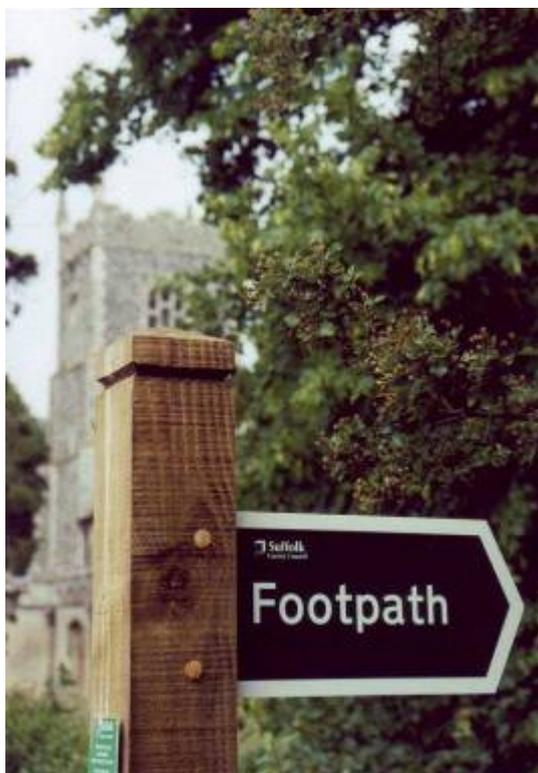
In the centre of the settlement at Little Green there are thus no footpaths, the roads taking all traffic, vehicular or otherwise. Further out some footpaths remain, not having been upgraded to roads.

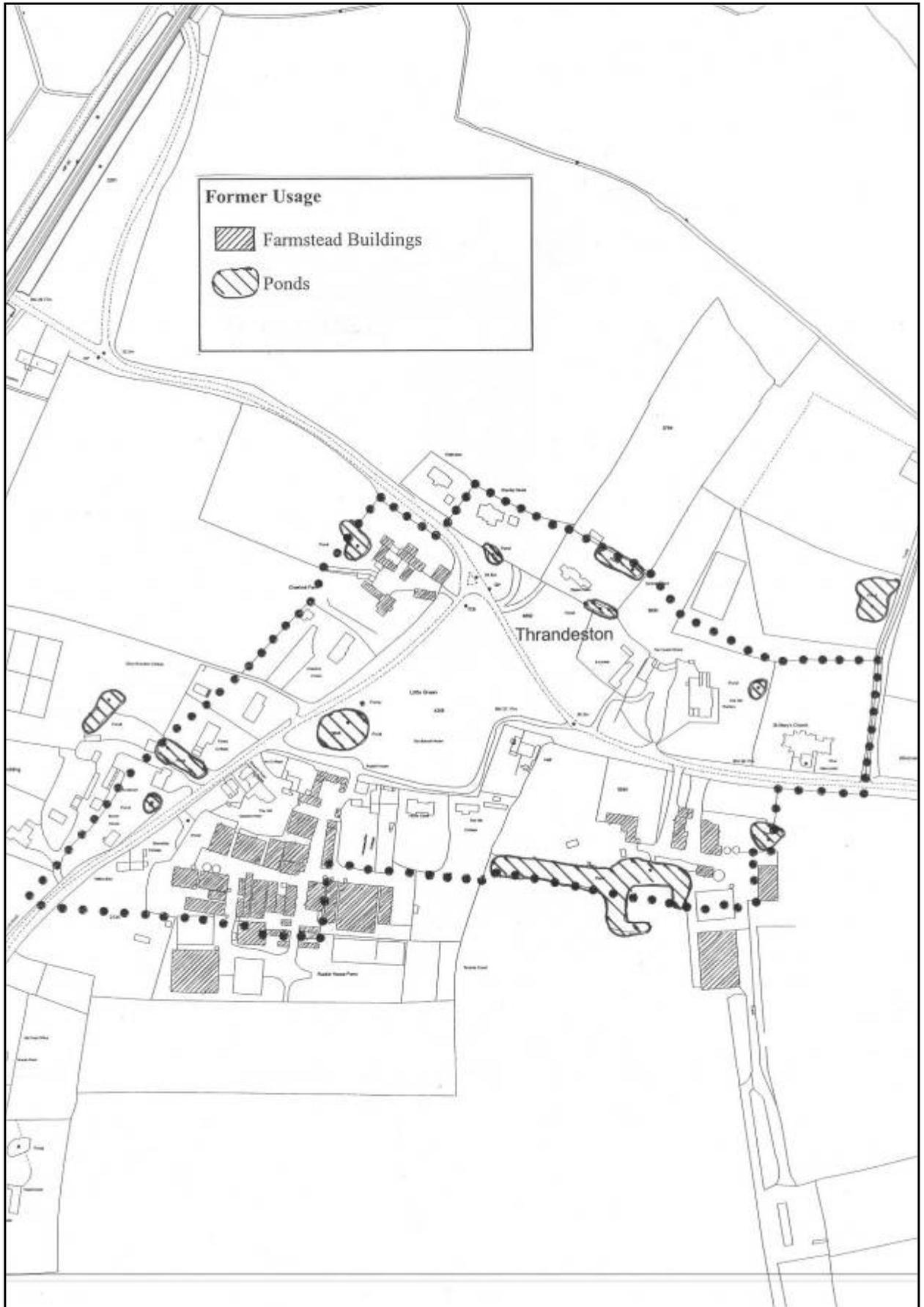


Branching off the lane at the eastern end of Little Green, footpath 5 heads through the churchyard north-eastwards towards Great Green. Further along this route footpaths 6 and 14 come off this towards the south-east.

Further on along the Oakley road footpath 9 continues in a south-easterly direction where the road takes a sharp turn to the left. Off this route footpath 10 heads off westwards linking across to Green Lane, the road south towards Thornham.

From near the pond at the western end of Little Green, footpath 12 heads off westwards to join a path in Palgrave parish.





Prevailing & Former Usage

Thrandeston has its origins as an agricultural community mainly involved in the growing of hemp. Its proximity to the large linen market in Diss made this the primary local industry. Three linen weavers, a tailor and a collar maker were recorded in the village in the late 17th Century.

There are four farmsteads ranged around Little Green: Church Farm to the east, Chestnut Farm to the north, Ruskin House Farm to the south and a smallholding to the west. Each of these has left the landscape with a number of ponds, that at Church Farm being in the form of a moat.



In the mid 19th Century, directories for the village list a blacksmith, a bricklayer, a wheelwright and 9 farmers.

This general agricultural picture is borne out by field names in the Tithe Map Apportionment of 1845. Here along with fields called 'Hemmland', can be found field names such as 'Malthouse Piece' and 'Kiln Pightle'. There are also entries of 'Sawpit Field', 'Brick Kiln etc.' and adjoining the line of the old road to the north 'Turnpike Piece'.



Losses & Possible Gains

Overall Thrandeston seems to have resisted too much modern intrusion. There are a few infill houses dotted around Little Green, but for the most part these respect the local vernacular in terms of materials, using red brick or render with clay tile roofs.

A few have perhaps too fleet a roof pitch or use concrete tiles, inappropriate in a conservation area. If there is a failing it is in terms of the detailing employed on many of these houses.

There are still a few possible infill sites around the green, which should be treated with great care if developed, as the present balance of old and new could easily be upset.



Like many small villages, Thrandeston suffers from a slight surfeit of overhead wiring carrying the village's telephone and electricity supplies. This is not too overpowering, but the under-grounding of these utility supply lines would greatly improve the appearance of the village.

The only other visual intrusions relate to farming practices: whilst the cropping of hay on the green lends an air of the picturesque, the ivy-clad decaying barns at Chestnut Farm would be better repaired and the utilitarian scene of concrete and asbestos roofed sheds at Church Farm nearly opposite the Church could be better screened.

References & Further Reading

Chatwin, C P 1961 East Anglia and Adjoining Areas British Regional Geology HMSO

D.o.E. & D.o.N.H. 1994 Planning Policy Guidance: Planning & the Historic Environment (PPG 15) HMSO

D.o.E. 1988 List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest: District of Mid Suffolk: Parish of Thrandeston

Domesday Book 1986 Suffolk Phillimore

Dymond, D & Martin, E (eds.) 1988 An Historical Atlas of Suffolk Suffolk County Council

English Heritage 1995 Conservation Area Practice HMSO

English Heritage 2006 Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals HMSO

Goult, W 1990 A Survey of Suffolk Parish History Suffolk County Council

McCann, J 1998 The Dovecotes of Suffolk SIAH

Pevsner, N 1976 The Buildings of England: Suffolk Penguin

Suffolk County Council 1997 Sites and Monuments Record

Tithe Map & Apportionment 1845 Thrandeston Suffolk Records Office

The maps in this document are based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. M S D C Licence no 100017810 2006



*This Appraisal adopted as
Supplementary Planning Guidance
by Mid Suffolk District Council
Environmental Policy Panel
22 July 2008*