

TRUNCH CONSERVATION AREA:
FORM AND CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

(Designated 6/12/74)

- 1.0** Trunch is set in quite flat countryside which has been largely denuded of its ancient hedgerows in recent times and consequently extensive views are available once outside the village. However, from within the Conservation Area, part of which extends a considerable distance away from the historic centre, all potential views out of the village are blocked by buildings or trees.
- 1.1** The form of the village can be considered to be radial but perhaps it is more graphically described as diagonal cruciform. The intersection occurs quite near to the western edge of the Conservation Area having a small triangle of land which is almost entirely taken up by the church and its churchyard. This intersection is the historic core of the village and comprises all the classic traditional elements. The dominant church, a tiny village green complete with ancient pump and mature Copper Beech tree, and a huddle of cottages remarkable for their variety of form and materials. These cottages are almost all two storey, a few being sited within the triangle of land occupied by the church; they are quite loosely spaced except on the south side of Front Street where a tight cluster has formed around what is now the village store.
- 1.2** On the western tip of this triangle of land is the Crown public house. Unfortunately the old building was demolished in the 1950s and replaced by a building that made little attempt to relate to its historic setting. However now that the alien materials have mellowed and the walls have been partially covered by a creeper, the intrusive impact of the building has been reduced. Facing the public house across the intersection - an area known as The Hill - is a particularly fine listed building called Vine Cottage having unusual tripartite chimneys and a thatched roof.
- 1.3** Running east from the intersection is the Mundesley Road on the north side of which is a series of extremely handsome farmhouses and their equally impressive barns and outbuildings. Fronting these buildings are high cobbled walls which sweep down in traditional style, sometimes with railings, to allow clear views of the houses or connect up with the barns which are set hard up to the edge of the highway to produce an almost continuous cobbled frontage. An attractive variety of roofing materials, including thatch and black glazed pantiles adds to the high quality of these buildings. Before Mundesley Road progresses out into open countryside, there is a further intensification of farm buildings around the junction with the lane that connects up to the Knapton Road. These include Brick Kiln Farm whose barns and outbuildings have been attractively converted into holiday accommodation, Miller's Farm and Hall Farm as well as some farm cottages. Of these Hall Farm is a Grade II* listed building.
- 1.4** On the south side of Mundesley Road dense hedgerows and trees completely close down the frontage producing quite a marked feeling of enclosure. Behind this screen a large triangular area of land comprises the grounds of only four properties, Vine Cottage, at the western apex of the triangle already referred to, the Tithe Barn, which has been converted to residential use, Glebe Lodge on the transverse lane to the east, and the Old Rectory with its adjacent cemetery fronting the Knapton Road.
- 1.5** The Knapton Road forms the south-west boundary of the triangle of land at the east of the intersection and also the edge of the Conservation Area at this point. The Conservation Area

boundary runs along the southern edge of the Knapton Road where there is a sharp contrast between the idyllic rural character to the north where trees and hedgerows conceal the spacious setting of the Rectory and cemetery, and the unfortunate post-war mainly bungalow development on the southern side of the road. Where the road approaches the intersection a small area of land on the southwest side has been included in the Conservation Area. This now contains some striking reproduction traditional cottages.

- 1.6** At the western edge of the Conservation area, where Front Street meets the North Walsham Road, the buildings forming the group around the opposite side of the junction are included within the Conservation Area.
- 1.7** Materials found in Trunch are red brick and beach cobbles with red and black glazed pantiles, quite standard for this part of the District, however Trunch is noteworthy for the number of high quality thatched buildings it contains.

(Approved by Development and Conservation Committee 1/3/96)