



Brandune Brandon 1086 - 2000



The residents'

The Residents' Voice –

Brandon is a picturesque village with a sense of village community.
Brandon is a beautiful place to live in, where people are friendly and caring.
The old traditions of village life are important and valued.
Brandon Lane is worth preserving as a Parish Nature reserve.
The rural, country lane appearance of Main Street – from the corner by the Hotel entrance, to the cross roads – with its shrubs and arching trees, should be preserved.
The individual character of the buildings, diversified over the centuries, gives the village charm.
Residents are friendly, interested in the village, and take care of it.
The village green is beautiful, and the small size of the village is a great asset.
There is easy access to local towns, motorways and the arterial road network.
Brandon rests in a lovely setting of trees and fields, with the added attraction of a river.
We value the many walks, the Henry Doubleday Research Association and Brandon Hall Hotel.
Brandon is small, compact and a village with character.
It must remain defined by its surrounding open fields, free from urban sprawl in any direction.
There is a wide range of attractive properties in this rural setting.
The surrounding area provides tranquillity in natural settings.
Local amenities include a Golf course, Nature Reserve and community Wood.
A small community, people care about our environment.
There is an abundance of trees, wild birds, flowers and animals – a constant source of interest.
The rural charm and calm tempo of life make Brandon nearly “Heaven on Earth”.
The original street names of Watery Lane and Dark Lane could be re-instated.
All new buildings should be for cheaper family, or starter, homes.
There is room, and the need, for the refurbishment of the old school and surrounding cottages.
The availability of a private – well managed – Club, and a pub, in the village is welcome.
The front gardens in the village are a pleasure to see.
Brandon would benefit from an obvious focus to define the village centre.

.... and overwhelmingly

Traffic calming measures are urgently needed to ensure that speed limits are observed.

Large vehicles unable to negotiate our narrow roads and awkward corners with care and safety should be required to follow alternative routes.

Road signs should be clear and enforceable.

Vehicular traffic should be aware of, and prepared to slow down for, non motorised users.

Adult residents were consulted on four separate occasions, each time having the opportunity to contribute to or alter the V.D.S. At the final meeting on January 7th 2001, 68 residents approved the final document. A flier was distributed to every household inviting anyone who had not seen the final document to contact the leader of the V.D.S. team, who would make the document available and requesting anyone who disagreed with the V.D.S. and its purpose to contact the team leader within seven days. No objection was received.



Some of the Brandon residents in the presence of the Mayor of Rugby, Cllr. John Wells listening to Joy's presentation

CONTENTS

The residents' voice:

The things we value in Brandon.....*inside front cover*

Aims of Statement.....*page 2*

History of the Village:

From 1086 to 2000, the influences on Brandon and it's development and the legacy of this past which can still be seen in the village today.....*pages 3 and 4*

Setting and Approaches and our local economy:

Our surroundings, natural and man made.....*pages 5 to 7*

Local Assets:

The local economy and assets, how they are employed.....*pages 8 to 9*
Design Guideline page 9

Map of the area:

Identification of leisure facilities.....*pages 10 to 11*

Buildings:

Identification of styles used in the village.....*pages 12 and 13*
Design Guidelines pages 13 and 14

Around the Village:

Roads, Boundaries, Street Furniture, Works, Landscape,
Housing, Trees, Hedges.....*pages 15 to 18*
Design Guidelines pages 16, 17 and 18

Brandon village areas:

Boundaries to the conservation area, village area and green field sites.....*page 20*

The Children's Voice – The Voice of our Future:

The things the children value and their wish lists!.....*inside back cover*

Our aim in writing this Statement is:-

*to identify the architectural value of Brandon village
in order to influence future built environment*

*to capture a picture of Brandon as it is now, at the
turn of the Millennium — set in a green frame, and
with a real sense of community*

*to show the value of our landscape setting which
gives access to recreation, leisure — and tranquillity!*

*to show how the history of the past centuries has
moulded and informed the development of the
village and parish to the present day*

*to inform the present and future residents of Brandon
about their village, it's history and architectural
heritage*

*to register the support that the present residents of
Brandon village and parish have given in the
making of this document*

*This document was compiled on behalf of the people of Brandon by:
Joy Oldfield, Beryl Smith, John Sidey, Liz Wells-Pope
assisted by:*

*Joy Stanton and Julia Sidey - interviews with children
Barry Stanton, Ron Harrison and Darryl Wells-Pope - photographs
Brenda Stone - historical context*

*The draft document was word processed and edited many
times by Joy Oldfield to whom we owe a special thanks.*

We are also grateful to

Rural Action who funded the project
and Linda Ridgeley for her support

WCC Museum Field Services for Map reproduction

Rugby Borough Planning Department – Rob Parker-Gulliford for his
support and advice

Brandon Hall Hotel for the free use of rooms for our many meetings in
the process of producing this publication

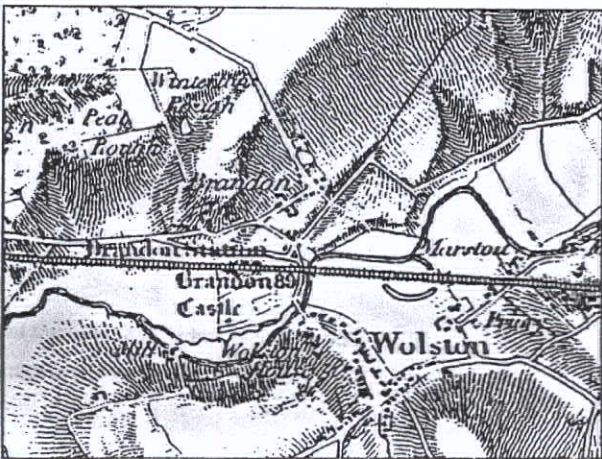
IPH Litho - Christine and Michael for their enthusiasm, support and
generosity in designing and printing this document

All who live in Brandon – village and parish – for their support through
the long period of preparation and especially to Beryl Smith, without
whose leadership, determination and commitment, this document would
never have been completed

One Thousand years of History

The present site of Brandon was originally part of the western border of the ancient Forest of Arden. Brandon Wood is a rare remaining remnant of this forest, where surveys are identifying a wide range of flora and fauna including some which are rare for Warwickshire. It is possible that the name Brandon — Brandune in 1086 — originated from the burning of the then scrubland on a terrace of light sandy soil above the river, to make it of use to the people who were to settle here.

The earliest settlements were probably Neolithic (c3500 BC onwards) as there was (relatively) easy living with a good supply of water and out of the reach of floods. The earliest evidence for human activity is in the field between Watery Lane — now Avondale Road — and the river, where crop marks show a circular enclosure with possible internal pits. An Iron Age hand-operated millstone has been found in the grounds of present day Brandon Hall Hotel. Part of the field to the right of Main Street from its corner down to Hill Farm shows evidence of a possible deserted mediaeval settlement.



Detail from 1834 OS Map

Settlements continued to develop on an agriculturally based feudal system. Land ownership was passed on through inheritance or marriage and led to the establishment of a field and dwelling pattern which still persists. When William, Duke of Normandy, invaded England and defeated King

Harold II - the last English king - he gave his knights ruling control of all Castles and Manors of England. Unusually, Brandon Manor was left in the charge of Thorkell, a Saxon. As Thorkell's son Siward died before his father, at Thorkell's death Brandon Manor was given to Geoffrey de Clinton, Chamberlain and Treasurer to King Henry I.

Brandon Castle was built in the mid 12th century by Geoffrey de Clinton, who also built Kenilworth Castle. It passed to Roger de Verdon on his marriage to de Clinton's daughter Lescelina and remained in that family for many years. During the struggle for power between the barons led by Simon de Montfort against King Henry III, it was largely destroyed by Simon de Montfort because of John de Verdon's support of the King. The castle was rebuilt and lived in by 1279 — its last recorded use was 1309.

The castle ruins now house a prestigious Riding School. In the 12th century the only mode of transport was the horse; it is still possible nowadays to ride out from the castle on some of these same ancient tracks — but we now share our routes with heavy lorries, buses and cars.

The river Avon, which has always separated Brandon from its nearest neighbour Wolston, has been a secure boundary — the nearest ford being at Bretford, which provided safe housing for livestock when drovers arrived. Bretford also had a charter, granted by Henry III, for a livestock market. Access to Bretford from Brandune and Coventry was via Gossey (or Gosset) Lane. This major highway was also the site of Earl Craven's gallows on his boundary at the triangle of grass known as the Cocked Hat — now it is a quiet and utterly delightful walk.

The Avon was also a source of power for the various mills — flour, wool and silk — up to the short-lived development of an artificial silk mill shortly after the Second World War for which skilled workers were brought from Wales. There have been mills in Brandon since before 1086, the last vestige of any mill in the area — the mill wheel — has been erected in the centre of Wolston, to commemorate the start of the year 2000.

Everton Manor, the oldest house in the village, dates from 1550, it's outer brick skin hiding wattle and daub walls. There are also six dwellings dating from 1600 to 1640, six from the 1700s and seven from the 1800s.



Everton Manor, 1550, the oldest house in the village

The railway — the third to be built in England, came to Brandon in the 1820s. The bridge carrying the track over the river was completed by George Stevenson — an engineering feat which entailed moving the line of the river course — (leaving behind the fishing area known as Sally's Hole).

Trade in and around Brandon expanded. Then, as now, work was found for Brandon people in the surrounding area as far as Coventry, making use of this faster form of transport. At the same time the goods yard at Brandon saw a flow of goods and livestock into and out of the area, providing local jobs.

The railway system also brought the first leisure development to Brandon! The river now formed pools which were suitable for swimming or paddling, and the railway brought people from far and wide both for these activities and to partake of tea in the gardens of the old Tea House, which then belonged to the Royal Oak Pub, and is now a private dwelling.

The last local land owner was the Beech family who bought Brandon Wood and it's buildings in 1825 and lived in Brandon Manor until the old shooting lodge was rebuilt as a suitable country residence, becoming Brandon Hall. The influence of the Beech family is seen in the present village in both the old school building — provided by Mrs. Beech at the turn of the century, and now sadly in need of repair, and in Brandon Club which was also provided by

Mrs. Beech as a place for the recreation of the labourers of the Brandon Hall estate — and discreetly out of sight of the family as they made their way to church on Sunday mornings.

A remaining legacy of the Beech family is the number of cottages which were originally labourers' cottages and became the property of the then tenants when the last of the Beech family left the Hall. Also, on the departure of the Beech family, all remaining tenant farmers were given the opportunity to buy their own farms.



The Gable, Midway and Church Farm — all original workers cottages

At this point the free teas which had been held annually for the villagers, in the grounds of the 'big house' were replaced by the facilities of a hotel.

Another strong influence on the development of the village and parish lies in the underlying geology — the sand and gravel nature of the land. This brought the earliest settlers here thousands of years ago, now it has brought commercial extraction over the last 45 years leaving a legacy of a greatly altered landscape which is only now slowly returning to it's original function — a support for wildlife.



The Royal Oak tea gardens

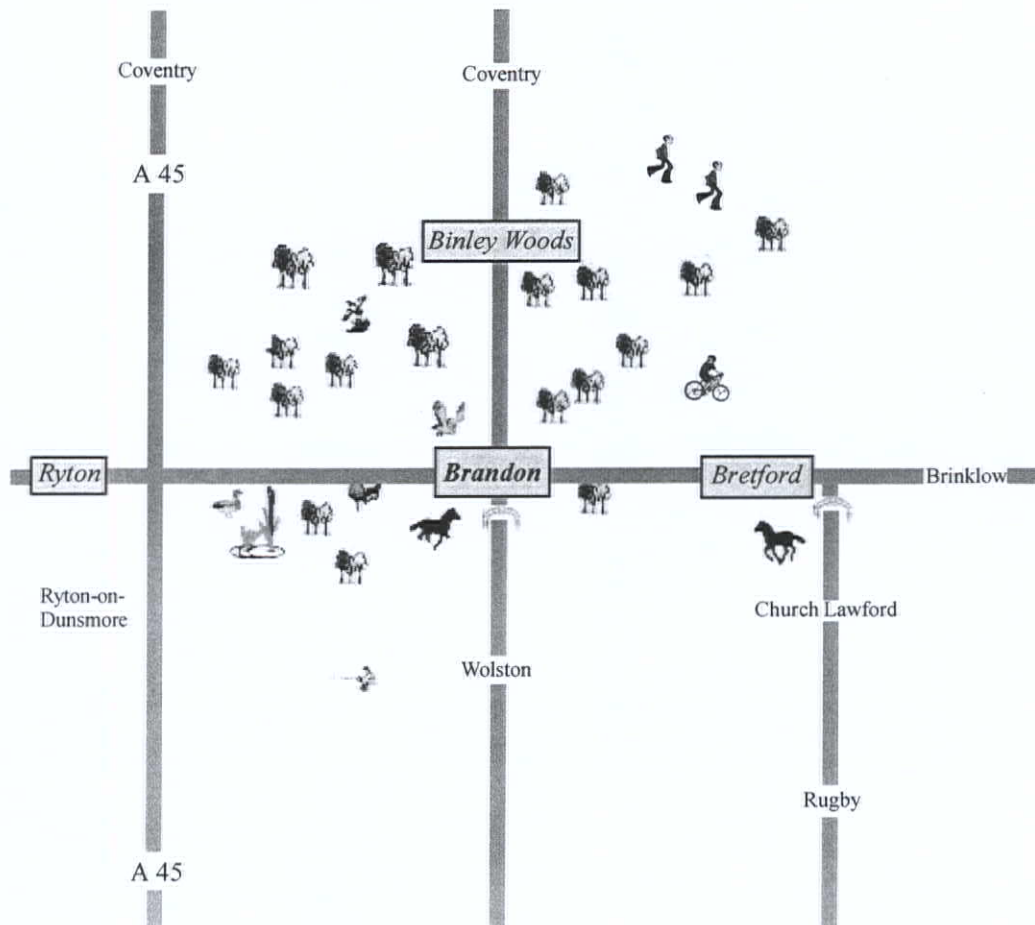
Setting and approaches

Brandon Village is situated on a hillside near the river Avon, the river flood plain lying just outside the village boundary. The village is surrounded by varied green belt and is clearly defined within it's green belt surround including important wooded areas, parkland and farmed landscape.

Setting and approaches

Brandon lies between Binley Woods and Wolston with Ryton to its west across the A45. All the villages have grown in size over the last 40 years. These villages together form the Earl Craven Electoral ward and work in co-operation with each other.

All approaches to the village are characterised by trees, fields and open views.



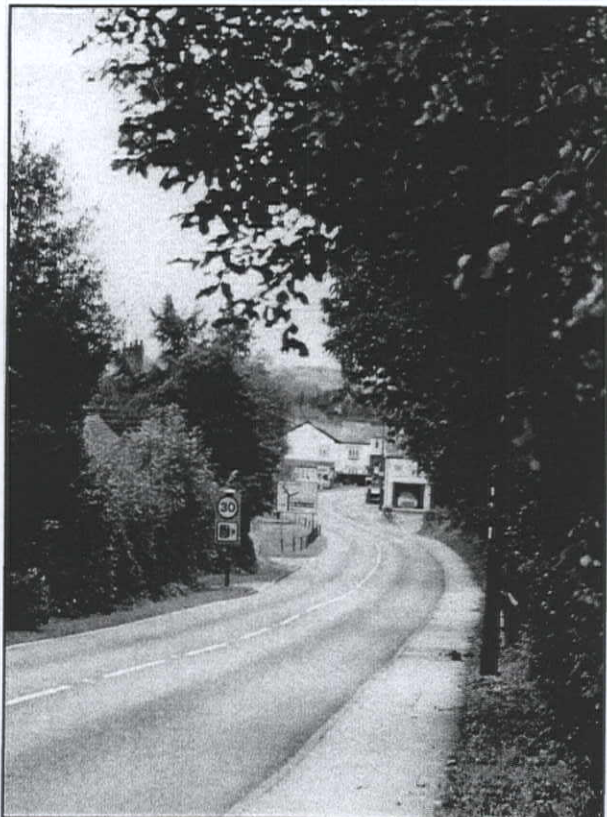
Northern approach

Approaching Brandon Parish from the north (Coventry and Binley Woods) the visitor passes a stretch of woodland known as New Close Wood and the green area known as the Coked Hat from which bridle paths lead to Bretford (via Gossey or Gosset Lane), to Brinklow and by two different routes to Coombe Abbey.

On the left is Coventry Speedway bordered by the entrance to Gossey (Gosset) Lane bridlepath; the open ground opposite is the former Oakdale Garden Centre. Coming further down the hill on the left are open views across fields, giving way to trees and hedgerows on both sides of the road, which act as a corridor before opening out into the village itself.

As the first house in Brandon village is seen to the left, on the right of the road is a strip of old mixed broadleaf woodland.

This whole area provides for a wide range of activities.



*from the north
illustrating the tree and hedge lined corridor as the village
is approached*

Eastern approach

Coming into Brandon from the east (Rugby, Brinklow and Bretford), the road runs between fields farmed both for arable crops and for pasture land.

About one mile from Brandon, at the top of Siden Hill, a clear view of Brandon and its surroundings opens up beyond the ancient hanging wood on the left. To the left of the road there is a clear view of the river as it meanders round with farm land beyond it and of the large pasture field to the left (south) of Brandon village which leads down to the river and its flood plain. To the right of and below Siden Hill is arable farmland.



from the east

The view which greets the walker or cyclist as they approach the village by road or footpath is an important feature

Just below Siden Hill at the last bend in the road before Brandon are a public footpath, and a bridle path which leads up hill to join the old route (Gossey or Gosset Lane) between Bretford and Brandon.

Southern approach

Coming from the village of Wolston (south of Brandon) as the housing on the left gives way to the church and farm pasture land, the River Avon marks the boundary of Brandon parish.

The narrow, ancient bridge across the river leads into Brandon Parish. On the left are the remains of Brandon Castle, which dates from the mid 1100s. On the right is the river Avon with a wooded bank on the far side, which should be preserved and enhanced as an attractive landscape feature. This area is part of the Avon flood plain and is regularly flooded, often making the road impassable.

The railway bridge passing over the river and then the road - thanks to the genius of George Stevenson - marks the boundary of Brandon village. The view beyond the railway bridge is of a triangular area, currently part of the Royal Oak car park, and the beginning of the village with several old houses which have played their part in the history of the village.



*from the south
showing the importance of the trees lining the river bank on
both sides (to the right of the picture)*

To the left of the road for most of its length is a visible, set back, line of trees which form part of Brandon Wood which is now owned by the local community. There is to be footpath access to the Wood from Brandon Lane, opposite Brandon Marsh entrance, giving access to good parking facilities.



*from the west
showing the tree lined entrance to the village*

Western approach

The longest approach route to Brandon is from the west as the visitor leaves the A45. This road is Brandon Lane and is about three miles long. The parish boundary reflects the area previously held by Lord Craven from his gallows in the north at the Cocked Hat to the end of Brandon Lane, now at the A45.

The fields used for both pasture and arable farming give way to a small craft workshop housed in an old farm building. This area should retain its rural setting.

The intermittent housing along Brandon Lane is spaced between various further leisure opportunities and functioning businesses. Driving towards Brandon, on the right are the entrances to Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve (the headquarters of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust) and then Brandon Wood Golf Course. On the opposite side of the road at this point is the entrance to Brandon Wood Farm, run by Coventry Social Services.

A wildlife survey undertaken by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust identified Brandon Lane as a valuable linear wildlife habitat which should be preserved. Nearing Brandon village the turning to Brandon Hall Hotel opens on the left while the road narrows and rises through a tree lined tunnel alongside woodland, belonging to Brandon Hall Hotel, before dropping down dramatically to the Royal Oak pub.

The whole length of this lane is much used and valued by people who appreciate the leisure and pleasure facilities it offers, and which form part of a growing recreational area.

As such it should be protected from all further commercial developments which would require new buildings and/or necessitate daily lorry traffic as part of their commerce.

Local Assets

We value the local mixed economy with the trend towards leisure and tourism. Small businesses operating within the village boundary include a farm, an engineering works, a small electronics firm, a residential home for the elderly, a pub with a restaurant and a private club. There is also a three star hotel. The vast majority of working age residents have employment in the local urban areas or Peugeot Motor Company at Ryton-on-Dunsmore. In exchange, Brandon offers people living in local towns and cities leisure opportunities in adjacent green belt.

Brandon is a centre for people of all ages interested in sport, leisure activities, wildlife and conservation.

For sports enthusiasts, the parish offers a golf course, speedway track, riding school, squash racquets and fishing facilities. For nature and wildlife lovers, attractions include Brandon Marsh — a nationally known nature reserve with a Visitor Centre, guided walks and an educational activities programme.

Brandon Wood, now owned by the local communities is a site of ancient woodland providing 187 acres of natural beauty to explore, plus guided walks and conservation programmes. There are numerous bridle ways and footpaths throughout the parish which are popular with walkers and riders.

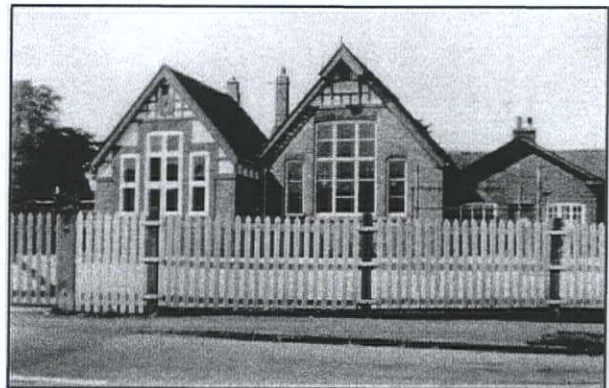


The Royal Oak pub

Brandon Wood Farm provides training and work for people with learning difficulties. Reclaimed Building Supplies offer architectural antiques and old materials for use in house and garden restoration, on the same site as Christopher Knight Designs (Wedding Clothing).

Any future economic growth should not be detrimental to the leisure facilities Brandon Parish offers, enjoyed by people from the urban areas seeking open space and countryside. It should be small scale. New business could be housed within existing buildings and should maintain existing architectural character.

As an example Brandon village school - in use from 1886 to 1969 - could be restored and developed for leisure or community use.



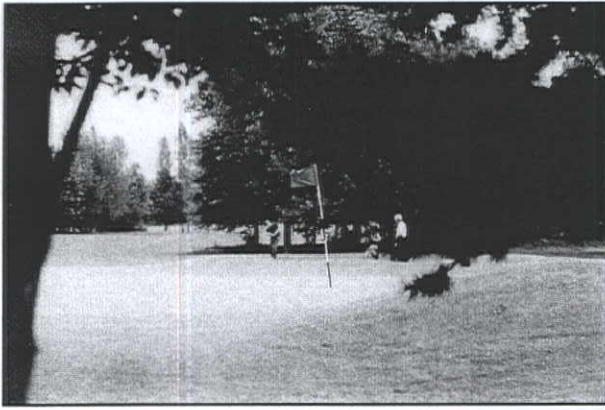
Brandon School before its deterioration



Brandon School today

Design Guidelines

Brandon village needs to retain its distinctiveness – small and compact – within its green belt framework and the rural character of the village edge should be protected.



*Brandon Wood Golf Course
- courtesy of Coventry Sports Trust*



Walkers in Brandon Wood



Riders in the village



Cyclist



The Brandon Hall Hotel



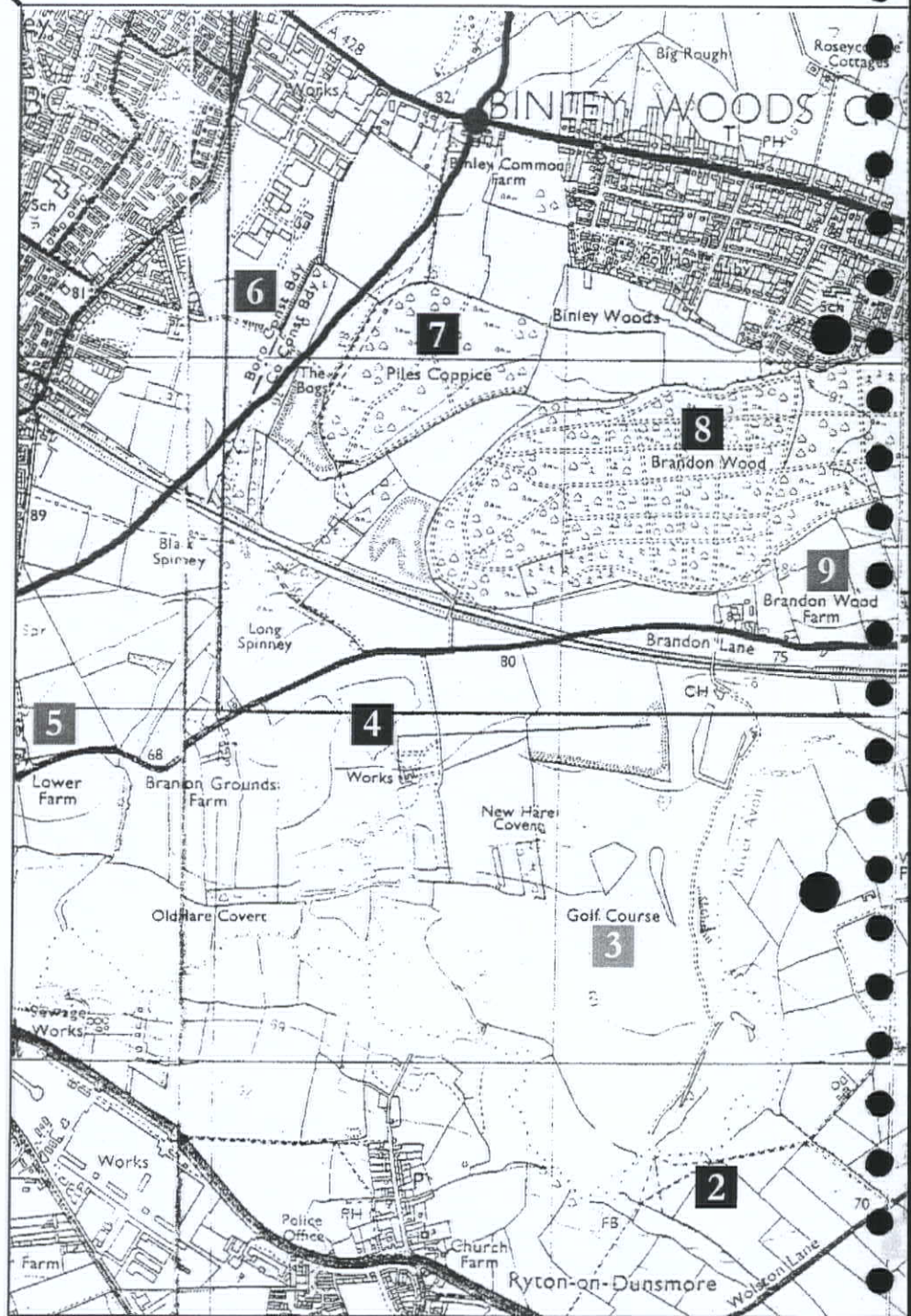
Local Riding School, competition time

BRANDON IS THE CENTRE OF A GROWING

Identified Areas in Brandon

- 1. Ryton Organic Gardens – nationally important.
- 2. River walk; fishing.
- 3. Golf course.
- 4. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve.
- 5. Lower Farm. Craft Workshops.
- 6. Claybrook Marsh. Nature reserve – walking
- 7. Piles Coppice – Walking. Owned by Woodlands Trust.
- 8. Brandon Wood – Walking.
- 9. Brandon Wood Farm.
- 10. Castle Hill Riding School.
- 11. Brandon Hall Hotel, including Squash Courts.
- 12. Brandon Speedway.
- 13. Willow Farm Stables – Riding.

Coventry
5 miles

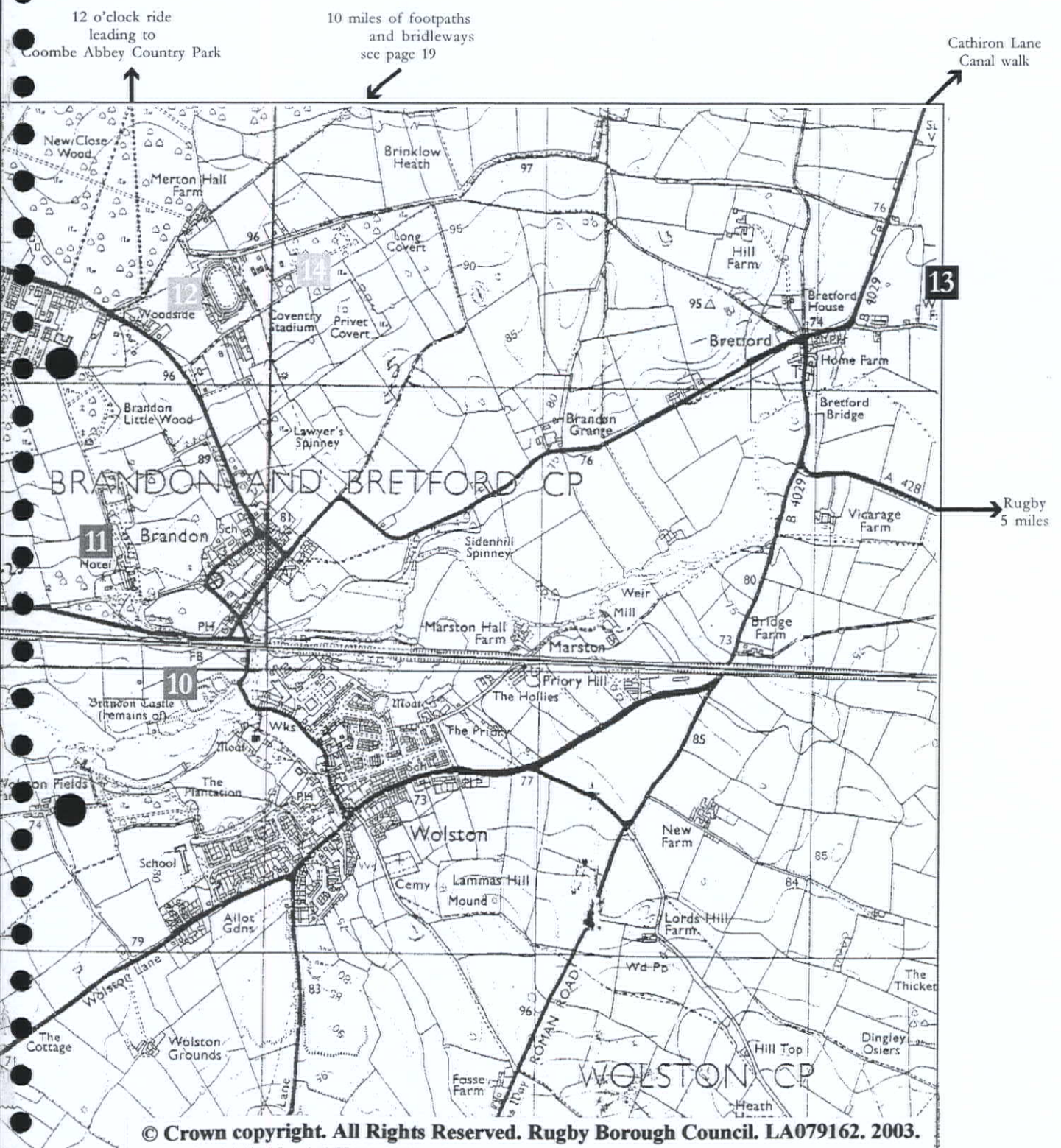


14.  = 10 miles of Footpaths and Bridleways

Ryton Pools Country Park.
Leamington Spa, 5 miles

IG AREA OF LEISURE AND CONSERVATION

ndon and adjoining Parishes



© Crown copyright. All Rights Reserved. Rugby Borough Council. LA079162. 2003.

Warwickshire County Council Countryside Recreation in Warwickshire
Household Survey. Most popular walks about 1 hour around attractive villages, through woods, by rivers or along country lanes.

Countryside Recreation Strategy 1997-2007
More opportunities for safe and easy walking, cycling and riding

Buildings

Brandon village today has more than one hundred dwellings set along its four principal roads. Most of the village falls within a conservation area. Spanning more than four centuries, the buildings reflect the architectural preferences of builders from different periods and give Brandon a pleasing lack of uniformity. The staggered effect of the buildings along the village's roadside results in pockets of irregular space which are pleasing to the eye.



*Houses near village green
showing unaligned building pattern*

Few blocks of houses are built in the same style as more 'one off' individual designs have been favoured. The wide range of building styles provides a wealth of architectural features from which to draw inspiration for new architecture, and give future developments a sense of place in the village.

In Brandon itself some of the larger houses have adapted to modern needs. The Hollies - a large house dating from the 1800s - now provides for a modern need as a residential home. On the opposite side of the road is Woodcroft, a house of similar size and period whose owner provides engineering employment in the village.

Building Form and Identity

The dominant building material is red brick, some rendered or painted. Early examples of cottages, dating from as far back as the 16th and 17th centuries, are in the form of timber frames with brick infill panels, now painted white or cream. Where pale brick has been used for building in the village, the results look uncharacteristic and repetition of this should be avoided. Roofing is predominantly red clay tile, grey Welsh slate or thatch, reflecting the characteristic style of Warwickshire villages.



Three types of roofing

Proportion and Detail

The traditional buildings are mostly of simple design with little architectural decoration. However, the three 19th century houses by the village green known as Far Orchard, Ivy and Bankside have wall patterns with grey brickwork in contrast to the predominant red, while Brandon Club and Brandon School reflect a more grandiose architectural style of the Victorian era.



Far Orchard, Ivy & Bankside

A good example of sympathetic extension of buildings using existing architectural detail is shown on Far Orchard and Bankside cottages where the extension is hardly apparent.

Windows vary in type reflecting the period of the property and the proportions of the building. For the most part windows are constructed using timber including glazing bars to give small panes. There is no overall window style which could be deemed characteristic of the village, but a diversity which provides inspiration for new developments. Many windows are taller than they are wide and line up within the façade of the building.

The façades of buildings are mostly flat, in many cases with simply constructed porches added. Roof pitches are usually between 45 and 55 degrees, depending on the type of roofing material used.



Design Guidelines

All new buildings should be principally of red brick to reflect the present buildings in the village.

Varied building lines are a valued characteristic in the village.

Garages are not a dominant element in the village; separate structures at the rear of buildings are more appropriate. Separate structures or parking bays at the rear of buildings should be considered.

All extensions should be in scale and harmony with existing and adjoining buildings and the village as a whole. The materials should match or be sympathetic to that existing, and be appropriate to the area.

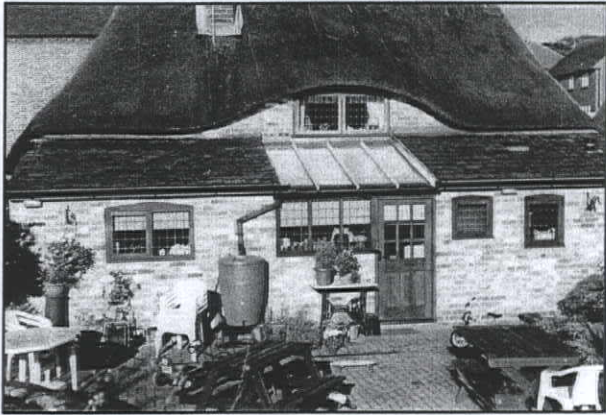
When traditional buildings are converted to other uses, façades should be retained or altered as little as possible. New design should reflect the features and characteristics which already exist.

Joinery should be of a traditional design and proportional. Timber should be used for doors and windows. Any dormer windows in new developments and extensions should be unobtrusive and not too prolific.

Roofs should be of 45 to 55 degree pitch using characteristic red clay tile, grey Welsh slate or thatch. Existing thatch should be repaired and retained.

In new designs, traditional features and styles which are architecturally sympathetic to existing buildings must be used. Work done to existing buildings should use traditional patterns and materials.

Sympathetic Extensions



Example of single storey extension to the oldest house in the village

A good example of a two storey extension, see page 12 bottom right picture

Chimneys

Chimneys vary in style from two pots to six



Example of enclosed porch



Example of 19th century porch and door



Example of traditional style of porch and door in new development

Design Guidelines

In new designs, traditional features and styles which are architecturally sympathetic to existing buildings must be used. Work done to existing buildings should use traditional patterns and materials.

Around the Village

Roads

Cycling, riding and walking are popular leisure pursuits in Brandon for both residents and visitors alike, and a safe road network plays a vital role in the continued suitability of the area for these pursuits. The legacy of Brandon's agricultural inheritance is shown clearly in the four narrow village roads and sharp corners which form what is essentially a long, thin rectangle, presently operating as a one way system. In the centre of the village, pavements are often lacking, especially along Main Street and stretches of Avondale Road.

Traffic flow through the village has increased noticeably in recent years. Some of this growth has arisen from heavy vehicles, and also private cars, taking short cuts to avoid congestion on routes to major roads. Some is the consequence of housing developments in Wolston and Brandon.

In the centre of the village old houses which are now on the edge of the modern road suffer from noise and vibration from heavy traffic which could lead to long term structural damage. The volume of traffic will inevitably increase if any further development is allowed and will continue to detract from the quality of village life.

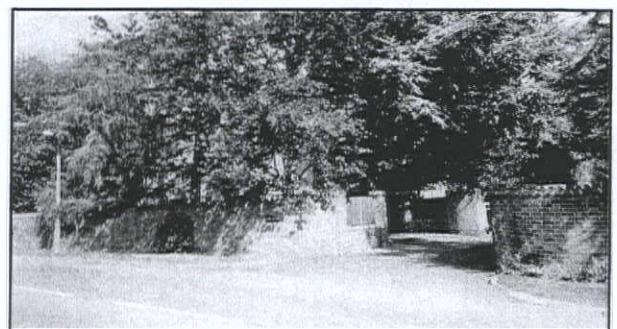
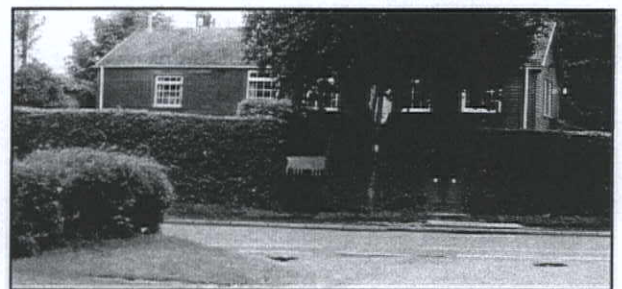
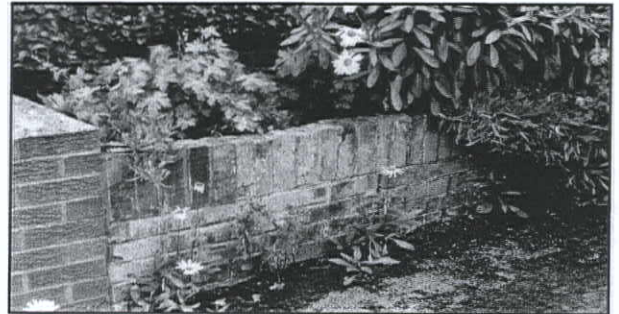


Old House on edge of road, no pavement

Boundaries

The boundaries used for marking out land ownership are traditionally hedges or low paling fences with some brick walls. These forms are more sympathetic to the rural surroundings and add greatly to the street scenes and to the overall attractiveness of the village.

Examples of sympathetic hedging, walling and fencing in Brandon



Street Furniture and Utilities

The village has little street lighting and many existing examples are constructed from lights attached to wooden telegraph poles.

Signposting in the village has largely replaced the original fingerposts. As the area boasts so many visitor attractions it is necessary to have local directional signs and tourist signs displayed on posts together. Future additions to, or replacements for, existing signage must be monitored and if deemed necessary, be strategically placed to avoid an unbalanced and unsightly look. Modern signposting should be discreet and if non-statutory should be in a non-prominent position.

Existing litter bins and most road salt containers are bright yellow and would be less intrusive if coloured dark green or brown.

Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines Landscape Change and current trends page 28

“Upgrading existing roads to meet design and safety standards is having a gradual impact on the landscape by introducing suburban features into a rural setting”.



Street signing and lighting – not in keeping with setting

Design Guidelines

The roads should be kept in proportion with the characteristics of a small village and traffic impact taken into consideration.

All new street furniture should reflect rural style and be as unobtrusive as possible.

Where additional or replacement street lighting is needed it should be muted white light, aiming downwards, in keeping with the lighting along Main Street.

Road signs should be kept to a minimum in both detail and size with all the information at each location on one sign only.

New and replacement litter bins and road salt containers should be brown or dark green.

The simple house boundaries of hedgerow, brick or low paling fences should be used in any new developments and existing boundaries of these types should be preserved.

Housing

Brandon has grown as a village from the fifteenth century with most of the growth taking place since the 1950s. During the last five years building has added about 50 dwellings to the previous stock of around 120 houses and bungalows – a 41% increase.

There is easy access from Brandon to surrounding towns and cities, and also to the motorway network, rail and air travel (from Coventry and Birmingham airports). This easy access combined with our attractive rural setting continues to push up house prices. This means that young adults who wish to continue living in the village need affordable starter homes for purchase or rent.



Council housing on Avondale Road, now mainly owner-occupied

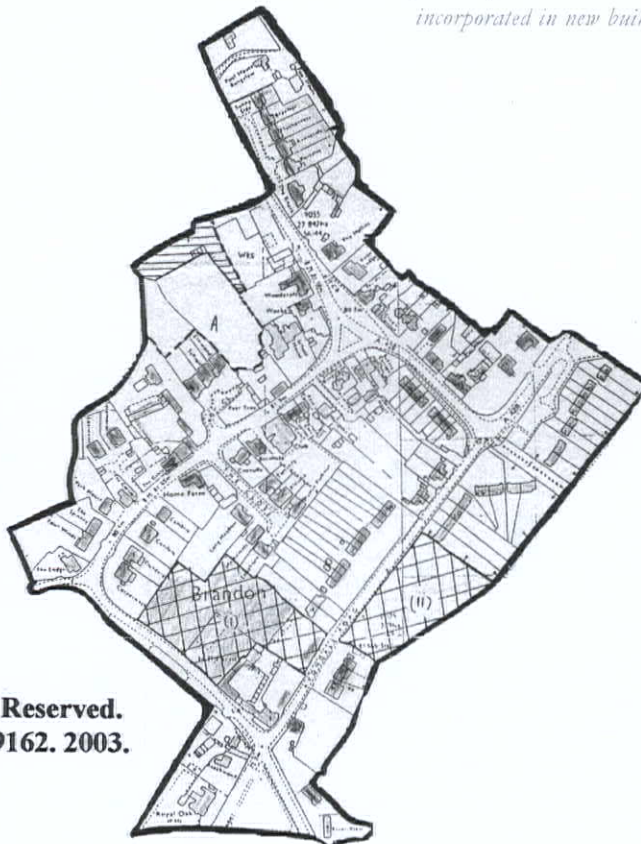


Hallams Close - Newest Development showing how architectural features form conservation area have been incorporated in new building

Design Guidelines

Land needs to be provided within a safe environment to give a play area – designed with a rural environment in mind, for local children. For example this might be constructed from natural materials and use any natural features available.

- 1950 - 2000
- 1900 - 1949
- 1800 - 1899
- 1700 - 1799
- 1600 - 1699
- 1500 - 1599



© Crown copyright. All Rights Reserved.
Rugby Borough Council. LA079162. 2003.

Trees

Trees form an important backdrop to the housing within the village setting. They frame views and soften edges and are a special feature of the village. The wide range of trees is a result of the history of the village with pockets of planting which are intrinsic to the character.

The parkland, lying along the Northern boundary of the village is a legacy of the Brandon Hall Estate and provides a unique glimpse into the past and a different type of landscape.



Trees on parkland

The species include Holm Oak, Oak, Giant Redwood, large and small leaf Lime.

Small mammals such as muntjac deer and foxes are often seen passing through.

The woodlands which are at the entrances to the village – see page 5, 6 & 7 are part of the wildlife corridor which stretches from Wappenbury and Ryton Wood through woodland, farmland and wet land to Coombe Abbey Estate, some 10 miles.

The woodlands have many mature trees including Japanese Larch, Oak, Beech, Chestnut, Holly, Hazel and Cedar of Lebanon.

Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines

Brandon lies on the edge of the area described as Plateau farmland. The characteristics are described as:

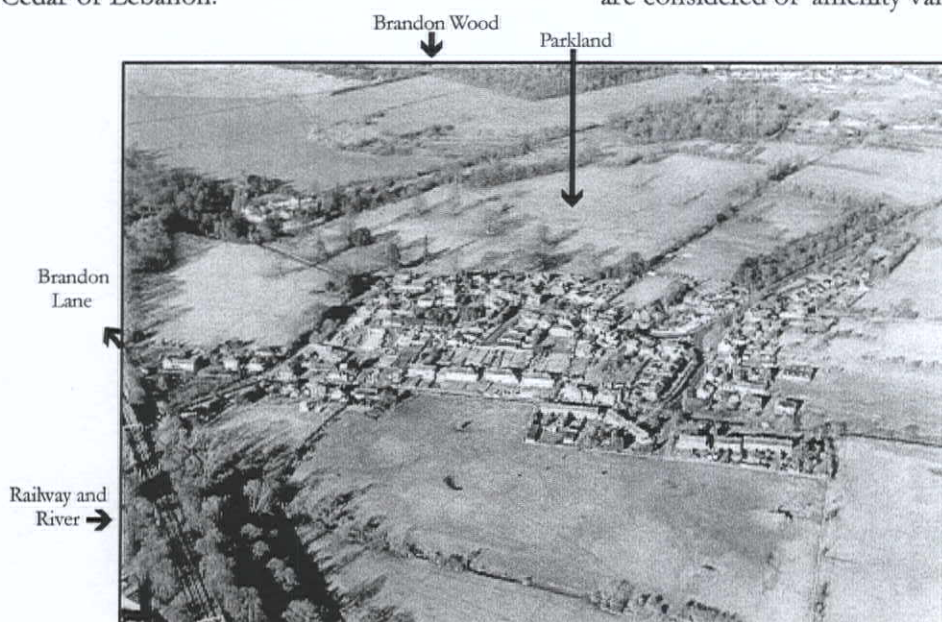
A simple often heavily wooded, farmed landscape, characterised by sandy soils and remnant heathy vegetation.

Brandon's assets are closely identified with its surrounding countryside and its use as a conservation and recreational area. The prescribed management strategy in the Warwickshire guidelines is:

To maintain and enhance the distinctive character of the landscape. Ensuring that built development is carefully controlled and well integrated in the landscape is a key element in maintaining the distinctive character of the Plateau farmlands.

Protection of Trees

Any tree which is over 7.5 cm in diameter at a height of 1.5 metres within the Conservation area requires planning permission for work to the trees or for felling. Tree preservation orders can also be sought to safeguard existing trees anywhere in the village, if they are considered of amenity value and at risk.



Brandon in winter. Aerial photograph showing wildlife corridors

Hedges

The hedges both as house boundaries and screening for small developments give refuge to small mammals and birds. The Holly, Hazel, Blackthorne, Hawthorne and other species which make up the hedgerows are well established and are a valued part of the rural village scene.



Footpath partnership. One of the footpaths and bridleways that have been improved

The large gardens have also allowed passage for wildlife.

The banks on either side of Main Street where it passes down the hill were havens for wildlife, sadly disrupted by new development. The plans to replant with wildlife friendly hedging and wild flowers is a good example of restoration of what is valued, following development.



The Rise. Small development screening

Design Guidelines

Areas of trees and hedges intrinsic to the character of the village should be preserved. The Parkland should be placed in the village conservation area to reflect its importance and tree preservation orders placed on the trees. Existing hedges should be retained or replaced with native species.

Planning applications should be scrutinised for their impact on surrounding trees and hedges.

Views along access routes and through buildings to existing open landscape should be retained.

The railway banks and river allow safe passage for wildlife on the southern edge of the village.



One of the footpaths over open farmland

Brandon Lane is three miles long and an important linear habitat – wildlife survey Warwickshire Wildlife Trust 1997.



Brandon Lane

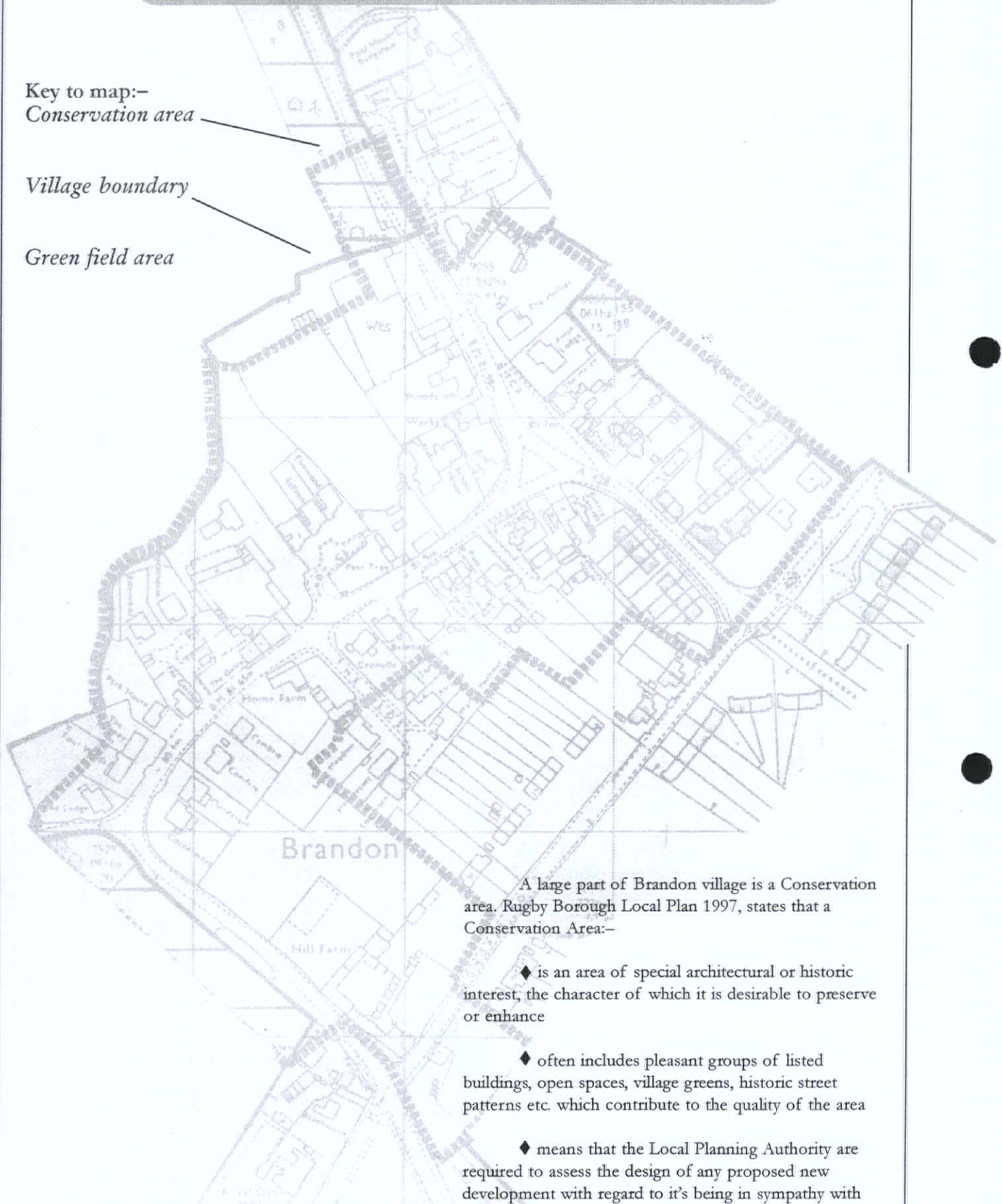
Brandon village areas

Key to map:-

Conservation area

Village boundary

Green field area



A large part of Brandon village is a Conservation area. Rugby Borough Local Plan 1997, states that a Conservation Area:-

◆ is an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance

◆ often includes pleasant groups of listed buildings, open spaces, village greens, historic street patterns etc. which contribute to the quality of the area

◆ means that the Local Planning Authority are required to assess the design of any proposed new development with regard to it's being in sympathy with it's proposed surroundings and the degree to which it will enhance the area

The children's voice, the voice of our future

I like the peace and harmony and quietness.

Brandon should stay small.

Walking in the Wood is good, and I can play with my friends in Brandon.

I like climbing trees, and going to see the river.

I like to see the flowers, trees, birds and butterflies.

I would like a swimming pool, a safe place to play and a shop for sweets.

I like seeing the horses, the fish in the river and hearing the owls at night.

I like seeing the rabbits, foxes and deer on Brandon Lane.

The speedway noise and traffic frightens me and frightens the horses.

The traffic is too noisy and too fast.

I don't like the river because it floods every year.

Builders should think about the environment, not turn Brandon into a City!

Builders should try to match the sort of buildings in the village already.

There is no place to skateboard or have a BMX track we are always being moved on.

There is nothing for teenagers.

CONSULTATION

The children who live in Brandon parish were consulted on two occasions. Once at a special event held in conjunction with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and subsequently 27 children were interviewed at their primary schools.



Mums and children