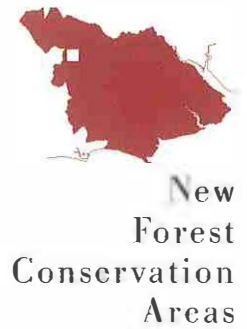


This leaflet explains what a conservation area is and how it may affect you. It shows the boundary of one of the 32 conservation areas and points out some of the features which make it special.

Fordingbridge



Fordingbridge is a small but busy town at an historic crossing of the River Avon and on the edge of the New Forest. The main pressure on the conservation area comes from heavy vehicles passing through it and redevelopment. The linear town centre is formed of short streets linked by a series of open spaces. The conservation area extends to include Parsonage House Farm, the Victorian terraces of Shaftesbury Street, the Infirmary and the watermeadows alongside Sweatfords Water. Most of the historic core of the town remains intact, from the 'entrance' by the church at the south end to the Old Manor House in Salisbury Street. Only in Provost Street, where much of its character has been lost through modern developments is the visual coherence threatened. The later Victorian terraces (Shaftesbury and Church Streets) continue the small scale of roadside buildings. These terraces illustrate the damage which can be caused to good unlisted properties in historic areas by piecemeal changes to windows, doors and external finishes and removal of features and detailing.



The bridge over the River Avon



Aerial view before the building of the bypass

Fordingbridge is mentioned in the Domesday Book as having a church and two mills. It was probably part of the nearby royal manor of Burgate, developing around the church and the ford. Fordingbridge is essentially a brick built town with most buildings dating from the years following the fire of 1702 although some timber-framing remains concealed behind brick skins. As a thriving commercial centre it was well known for textiles, tanning, brick making, pottery and many other industries up to the early years of the 20th century.