

This leaflet explains what a conservation area is and how it may affect you. It shows the boundary of two of the 33 conservation areas and points out some of the features which make them special.

Harbridge Ibsley



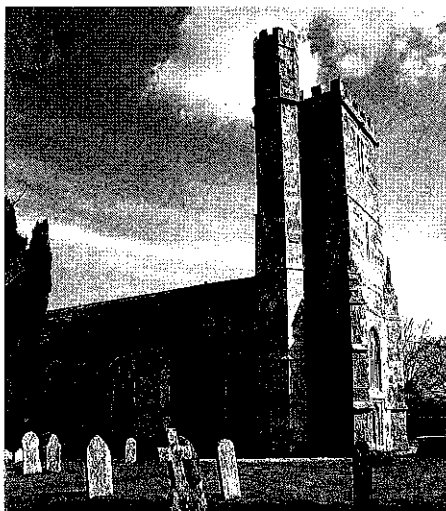
New
Forest
Conservation
Areas

These two areas were once part of the large estate associated with Somerley House which strongly influences this section of the Avon valley. Both manors are mentioned in the Domesday survey. The settlements are separated by the River Avon with its water meadows which are home to nationally and internationally important communities of birds, flora and invertebrate fauna.

Harbridge comprises two areas of settlement linked by the old coach road with its avenue of evergreen oaks. To the north, the Church with its old rectory and a cottage are grouped beside a stream. In the centre the small hamlet of Turner is a gem from times gone by; grouped around the pond are the 18th century farm, two thatched cottages and the 19th century school. The farm still uses heavy horses and traditional farming methods which means that longstraw thatching continues here using locally harvested materials. The sense of isolation provided by the parkland setting of mature trees and gravelled tracks is an important part of the character of the area.



St. Martins Church, Ibsley



All Saint's Church, Harbridge

At Ibsley the millstream is the only reminder of the mill mentioned in the Domesday survey which was near to the bridge and an inn. It was assessed at ten shillings and seven hundred eels. The 18th century Purbeck stone bridge over the Avon, rebuilt in 1930, provides a link with Harbridge. Vast amounts of heavy traffic continually rumble along the A338 past the thatched, timber-framed cottages which have otherwise changed little in the last 100 years. Beside the 19th century church, Mockbeggar Lane with its well established hedges and grassed verges leads to 18th and 19th century houses and cottages. The last 50 years have seen the insertion of bungalows, between them which detract from the historic character of this lane.