

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

Martin

This remote picturesque village lies at the head of the valley of the Allen River in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The village street wends its way past old farms and small cottages up towards the old Roman road on the Downs. The Allen is a winterbourne - water used to pour down the street in winter and spring until it was diverted into an underground culvert draining into Bustard Pond. Martin has the greatest mix of building materials of any conservation area in the district. The church (Grade I) is tucked away behind the village street while the Manor House (Grade II*) forms an important visual stop on the bend in the street. The many other listed buildings dating mainly from the 15th to 18th centuries are built with timber frames, brick, flint, greensand stone and chalk cob with roofs of thatch, clay tile and slate. The village green, the high verges either side of the street and the views between buildings to the surrounding countryside are also important in shaping Martin's pattern.



Village green and the street looking north to the Manor House



New
Forest
Conservation
Areas



Talk's Farmhouse

The surrounding area has been inhabited since prehistoric times and much of the parish boundary is marked by earthworks and ancient roads. There were two markets here every week granted to the Abbots of Glastonbury by charters from Henry III and Edward III. The names of many of the farms derive from those of the tenants of hundreds of years ago - John Swetapulle, William Harries and John Garrett. Until 1895 Martin was part of Wiltshire.

The surrounding Downs have influenced the agriculture and life of the village; sheep played an important part in the local economy. Changes in farming practice have meant that the village like many others has undergone radical changes this century and now very few gain a living from the land. Working farms have left the village street, allowing old farmhouses to be used as domestic family homes. The school is now a private house, the village shops have closed down and the church is now part of a wider parish. In spite of all this Martin retains a special charm as the finely built buildings, including those in stone, give it an air of a place more important in times past than now.