

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.

Rockbourne



New
Forest
Conservation
Areas

This extremely attractive village has a strong linear form closely following the line of the winter bourne which flows through the valley. It is located within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The geology of this gravel valley through the chalk downs led to the development of a prosperous agricultural economy. As a result there are a variety of well made houses dating from the 16th century or earlier which have survived the later agricultural depressions. Many buildings are listed and most of the unlisted ones are also extremely interesting and worthy of care and protection. There is a great wealth of timber frames combined with a variety of other materials spanning the whole spectrum of society from the stone of Rockbourne Manor with its Grade I buildings to the humblest chalk cob cottages. Today Rockbourne is no longer a village of busy farms and smallholdings and the shops have all gone leaving a quiet picturesque residential community.



Twyneham Cottage

The surrounding area has evidence of settlement from the earliest prehistoric periods with many barrows and enclosures and just to the south of the village is the Roman villa. By the time of the Domesday survey there were probably about 31 families living in the area in the two manors of Rockbourne and Rockstead. These eventually merged and formed the village as we know it today. Boundaries have changed little since at least the 17th century and ownership of plots can be traced back through documentary evidence with considerable accuracy. The group of buildings around the Manor House and the Church are among the oldest in the village. The great barn with its raised crucks has recently been dated by dendrochronology to 1282-4. It was probably originally a hall house with several later bays added to the southern end. Close by are some cruck cottages which are the oldest surviving homes of the early village.