

Appendix 5

Key Views and Vistas



Steventon has a rural aspect and been inhabited for circa 1,200 years and has inherited a strong heritage. Retaining edge of settlement development with agricultural rural views together with village landmark features is essential to retain what remains of the rural characteristics of the village and the surrounding areas.

This is demonstrated by aerial views of the village shown in figure 1 that demonstrates the rural aspects of the village and surrounding areas.

Figure 1 Aerial views of Steventon demonstrating rural aspect of village.



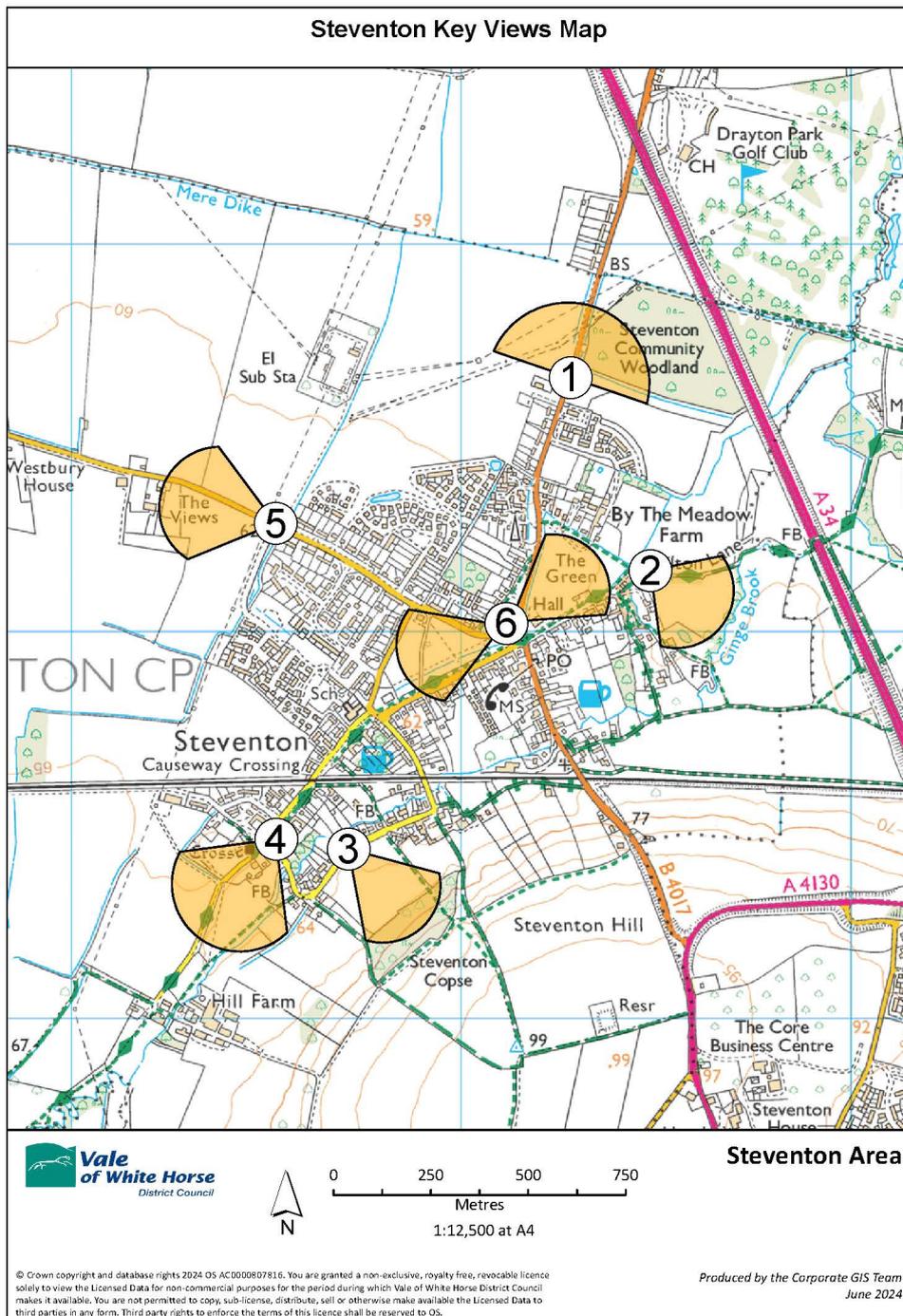
Steventon



Within the village there are important views and vistas that reflect the character and heritage of the village. These and surrounding views are described below. The Character Appraisal in Appendix 7 provides evidence regarding the character of the Parish and how it is perceived by its residents. This should be read in conjunction with this Appendix.

Figure 2 shows a map of Steventon that, for the purpose of showing views and vistas has been divided into regions 1 to 6.

Figure 2 Map of Steventon



Region 1 North towards Drayton

The view North towards Drayton denotes the demarcation between the two villages. The view to the west going into Drayton represents and maintains rural aspects whilst on the East there is the Steventon Community woodland area.



Region 2 Views East

One of the oldest features of the village. Back in Norman times, the Sheepwash Lane area was known as Eastsyde. It would have been a cluster of farmsteads around a green used for pasturing and sheltering livestock at night. Lanes lead off from various points of the green: to the east the pitched pathway to Milton; to the south, two paths leading over the Ginge (Mill) Brook by bridges giving access from both the greensand ridge and waterside meadow land; and one to the west along an ancient path once called Twychens, which led to another group of farmsteads three quarters of a mile away at the mill in Milton.



Region 3 Views South to Copse and Steventon Hill

Castle Street's original name was Cat Street and is named after the measuring device used to ensure the lengths kersey cloth produced in the village during the late 14th and 15th centuries were of the standard size. You can imagine the kersey drying on racks all along Cat Street after it had been 'fulled' using water from the stream.



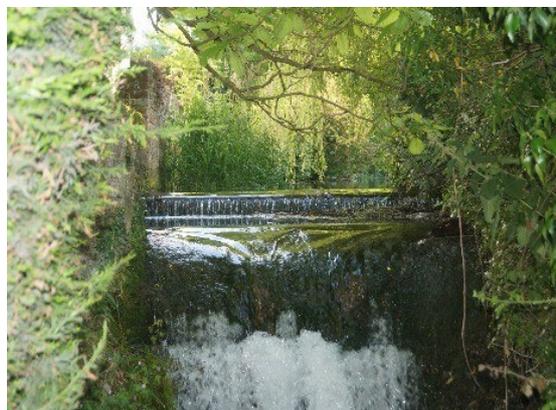
Region 4 Views Southwest

Opposite the church is Manor Farm House, dating from the 18th century and probably the site of the medieval lords of the manor farm complex, which in the 15th century included two large barns, a piggery, stables, an oxhouse, a sheephouse and a granary.

Domesday Book records the presence of a church in the 1086 and thus we can assume that that this existed before the Norman Conquest. The site of this Saxon building is not known but likely to be under the footings of the existing church. The architecture of the church that we see today is largely 14th century although there are some elements dating from the 13th century. It seems likely that the church benefited from a re-ordering either at the hands of the maverick hero of The Hundred Years War, Sir Hugh de Calveley, who became lord of the manor in the 1380s; or through the later lord, Westminster Abbey. The tower has a ring of six bells, the earliest dating from 1613.



There were three mills mentioned in the Steventon entry in Domesday Book (1086). One of them was almost certainly at the site of the current waterfall. Originally, this mill was for grinding grain but in the period of the medieval wool industry, was converted into a fulling mill for treating the fleeces. The mill race once flowed through an archway in the mill house within which was situated the waterwheel. The waterfall is all that remains of this complex.



The edge of the village, particularly to the west and south benefits from fine, wide ranging views.

Region 5 View Hanney Road West

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Region 6 Internal Village Views

The village is defined by The Causeway and the green verges, focal trees and open space running alongside. This is a key characteristic of the village, which must be maintained. The views into and out of the Conservation Area as well as the setting of listed buildings should be maintained and enhanced as appropriate



The village allotments run east to west alongside The Causeway. The allotments are open with no built structures, allowing extensive views throughout the centre of the village.

