



# CONSERVATION AREA 49

# ENVILLE



The cover map of Staffordshire was first published by Hermann Moll in 1724. It gives special emphasis to the roads, rivers and parkland. The County boundary differs from the present one, as parts now in Shropshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire are included.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNTY TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING COMMITTEE  
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1971

CONSERVATION AREA 49

ENVILLE



## PURPOSE OF DESIGNATION

The rapid changes now taking place in town and village, whilst giving practical benefits, also threaten many beautiful and historic areas with destruction or despoliation. Such areas, often unique in character due to rich variation in types of buildings, trees and open spaces, form an important part of the national heritage.

In the past, individual buildings of architectural or historic interest have been protected by legislation, whereas attractive groups of buildings, often of little individual value, and areas of character, beauty or historic importance have been mainly unprotected.

The Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, remedies the deficiency by enabling local planning authorities to designate as conservation areas those "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance."

Potential conservation areas exist in many towns and villages, varying in size from complete centres to groups of buildings. Although often centred on historic buildings, they may include features of archaeological importance, historic street patterns, village greens or areas of particular character.

Staffordshire has been strongly influenced by the effects of the Industrial Revolution and consequent growth of industry and population. The pressures resulting from this growth cause considerable problems in terms of visual environment, nevertheless many areas and settlements of good traditional character still remain in the towns, villages and country estates. Their preservation cannot be considered in isolation, without taking into account the natural growth and future needs of people, commerce and industry.

Conservation is the means by which existing character can be preserved and enhanced with due regard for other demands. Designation of the Conservation Area followed by detailed design proposals will form the basis for positive action, but ultimate success will depend on active public interest and support.

## CONSERVATION AREA \* ENVILLE

Enville is a small, attractive village straddling the A.458 Bridgnorth road, about 2 miles from Kinver and within the area of the old Kinver Forest. The Black Country is only some 5 miles to the east and provides a major contrast with the entirely rural character of Enville and the rolling countryside of this part of the Staffordshire Green Belt, in which Enville is situated.

Little written information exists concerning the historical development of the village and although there has undoubtedly been a form of settlement in Enville for centuries, most of the present buildings date only from the 19th century. Enville, or Enfield as it was originally known, received mention in the 1086 Domesday Book as a place where William Fitz Ansculf held some agricultural land. The parish church of St. Mary is also of Norman foundation.



Church of  
St. Mary

Enville village is linked by history and ownership to Enville Hall, though in purely visual terms it is quite separate. Moreover, since the Hall is not open to the public it is the village that provides the main visual impact to the casual passer-by. It is obvious, however, that the management by Enville Estates on behalf of the ownership is a major influence

in the village because, despite the lack of a standard architectural style, there is an attractive appearance that stems largely from the high overall standard of maintenance. The large village church and Rectory, the school, and the abundant tree and hedge planting are a manifestation of this historical ownership and continuing interest on the part of the Enville Estate.

Most of the village lies at the foot of a slope that is surmounted by the parish church, and consists essentially of a loose cluster of buildings, with the 'Cat Inn' as the central feature.



The Church  
from the 'Green'

There are three main points of identity in the village that stamp it with its particular character, namely, the group formed by the parish church and the Rectory buildings; the tighter group of variously styled buildings at the road junction by the post office; and the loosely spaced group of larger buildings around the enclosed 'green'.

The Church of St. Mary, which was restored and enlarged by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1872-5, and provided with an imposing tower that followed the style of Gloucester Cathedral, is a prominent feature from more than one point in the village, particularly when one enters from Gilberts' Cross, and also when seen from the area of the 'green'. The view of the church over the brick wall of Stamford Cottage is impressive, and provides an air of timeless

continuity so often seen in villages of mediaeval origin.

The group of buildings around the post office is dominated by the boldness of colouring of the latter and its siting at the corner of the road junction, and takes the form of a fairly tight cluster of varied buildings culminating southwards in the contrasting feature of the 'Cat Inn'.

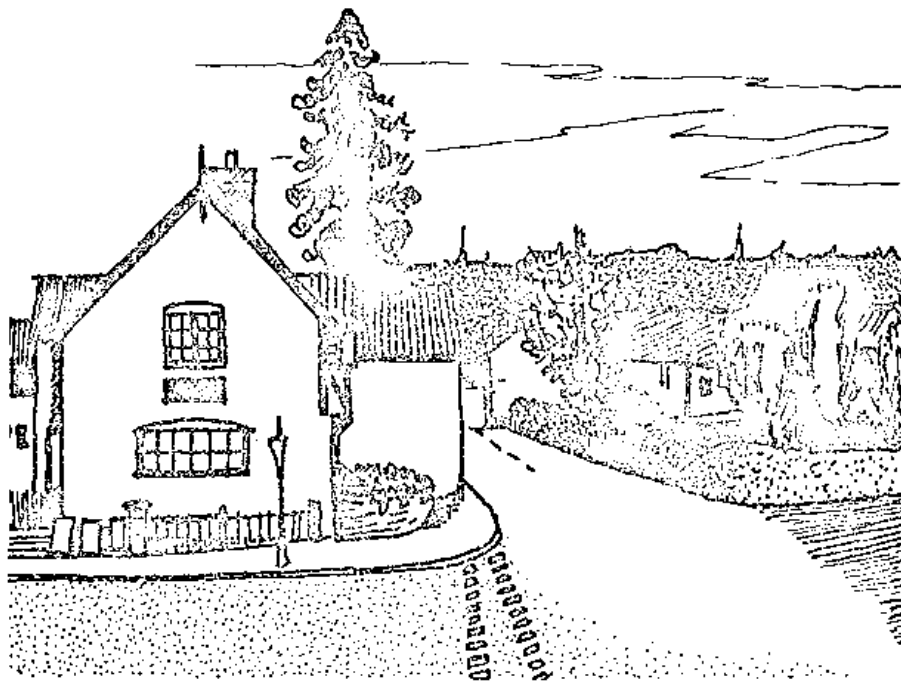
The informally arranged buildings surrounding the well-wooded enclosed 'green' look to the latter as the central feature, though the space between the buildings, particularly on the southern side, provides a loosely enclosed scene in which the brick wall of Stamford Cottage, the hedges and the trees of Elm House play an important part.

Apart from the Church of St. Mary the buildings of Enville village are not individually outstanding in their architecture though many are very pleasant, and a remarkable variety of domestic styles is displayed in so few buildings, with examples of 19th century adaptation of 'Tudor', 'Georgian' and 'Gothic', together with examples of particular local expressions of the day. Materials harmonise, with local red brick and tile as the unifying element, though the key buildings of the post office, the school and the inn are highlighted by means of contrasting external treatment. The basic visual impression of the buildings is one of informality, domestic scale, and red brick, which should provide the fundamental design basis for any future development that might occur within the village.

A notable feature of Enville is the amount of hedge and tree growth that helps to link the development that would otherwise, in places, appear scattered. Distinctive, if rather unusual, is the giant sequoia that stands in the foreground of the village school; the woodland in the grounds of Elm House provide a clearly defined edge to that side of the village; the solid wall of trees forming the edge of the Hall grounds is a noteworthy feature contrasting with the open field around the church, and the Scots pines and majestic yew in the churchyard act as a beautiful foil for the church.



The 'Cat Inn'  
and village street



the Post Office

Enville Hall, a fine house, is included in the Department of the Environment's list of buildings of architectural and historic interest as a Grade I building. The Hall is basically 18th century but in a mixture of architectural style. The north front is conventional classical 'Georgian', whereas the south front is Georgian Romantic, with turrets, battlements and Gothic motifs such as ogees and quatrefoils. The Hall was badly damaged by fire in 1904 which led to a complete internal renewal. Adjoining the Hall is a large contrasting red brick stable block that was added in the last century,



and which contains a notable central arch and cupola. It is the only part of the Hall that is clearly visible from outside the grounds to the passer-by.

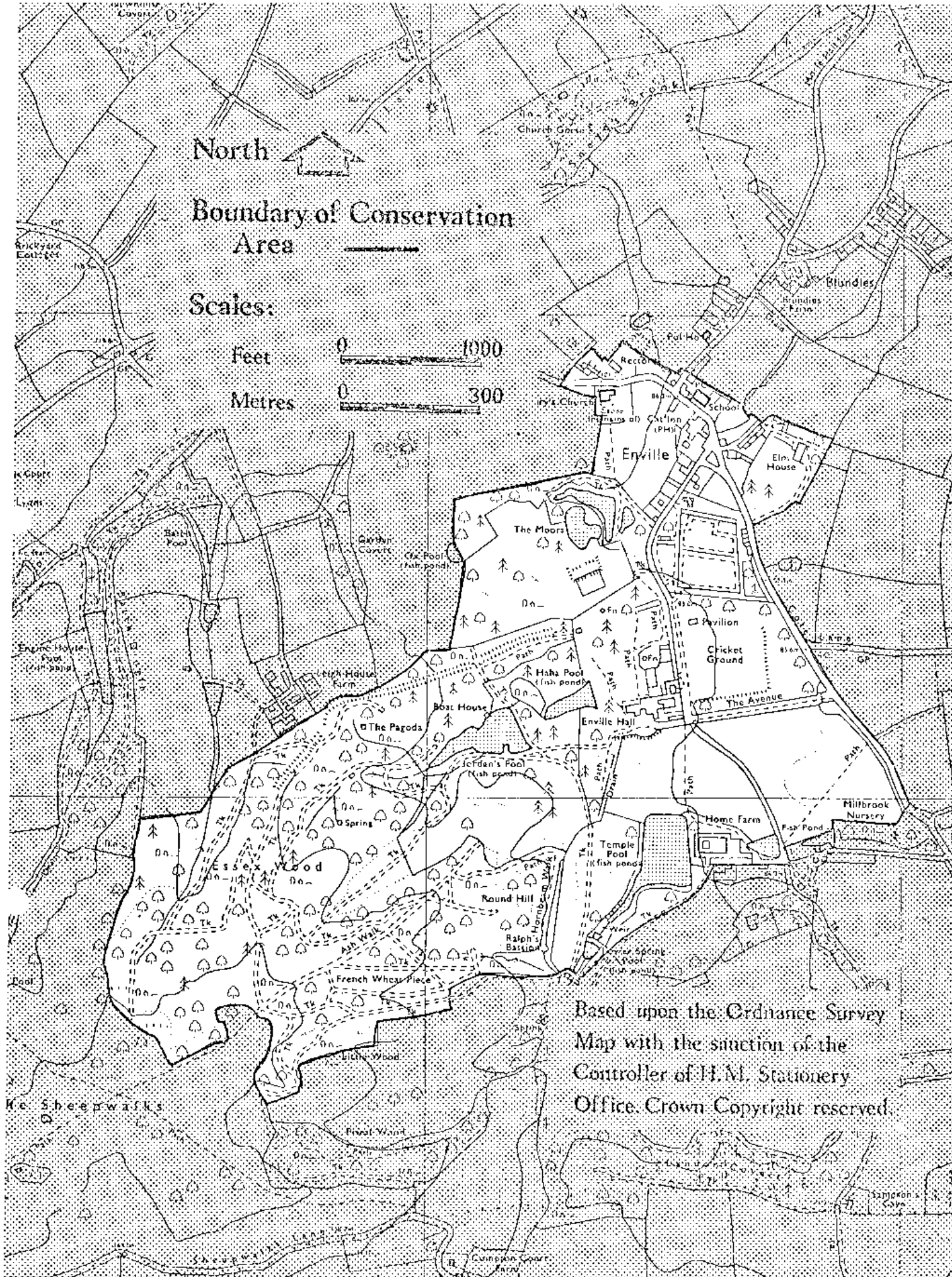
The Hall has the asset of fine, extensive grounds that adjoin the village on the south side and which were beautifully landscaped in the 18th and 19th centuries, almost certainly by Shenstone and in part by Sanderson Miller. The extensive woodland contains a series of ponds and is threaded with walkways, with a Gothic perpendicular style gateway boldly marking the entrance to the more formal Ash Walk. Between the woodlands are open meadows giving views of the Hall and surrounding hills, and there are contrasting areas of parkland containing many specimen trees.

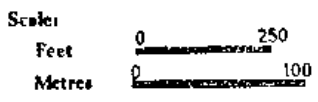
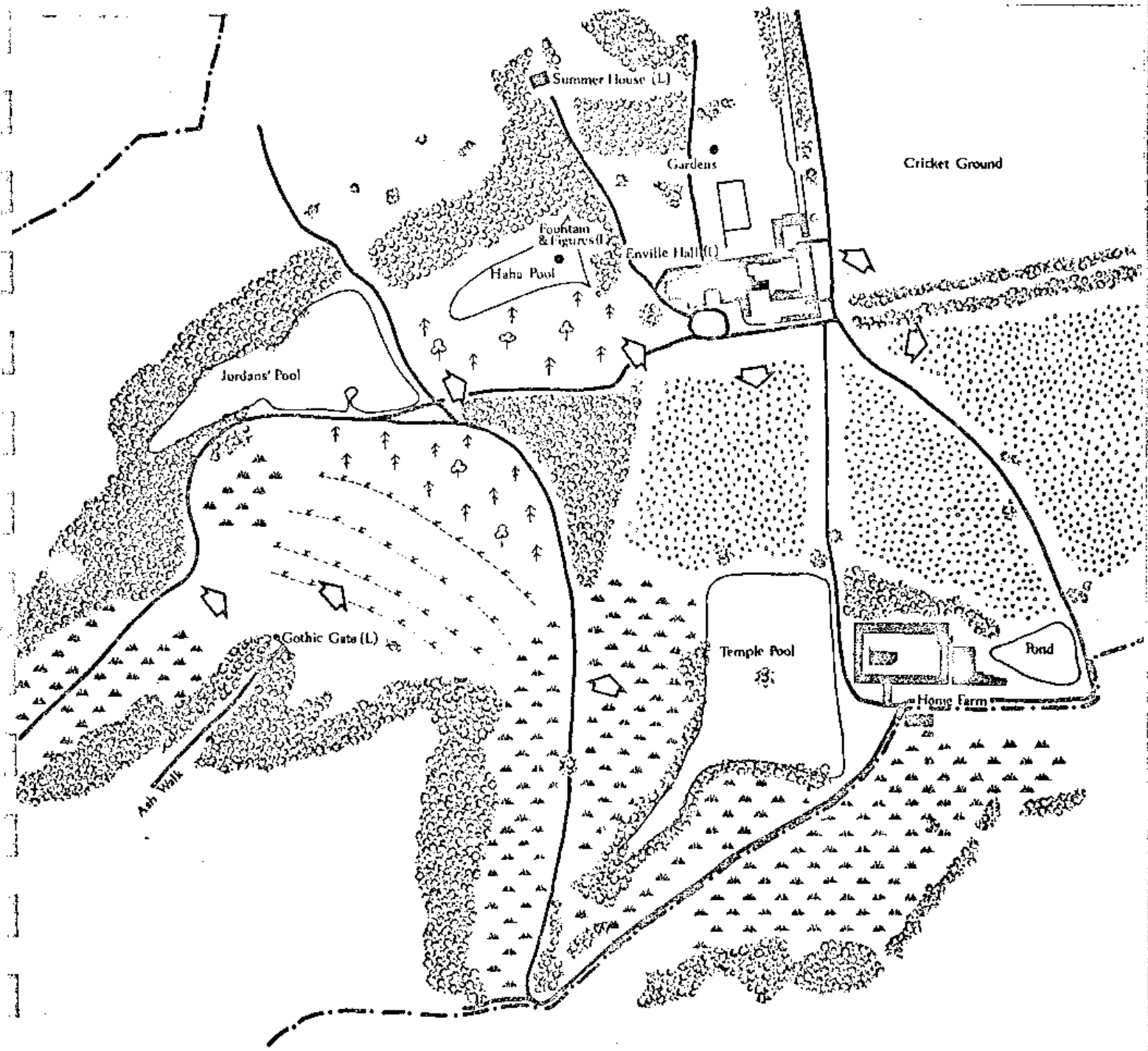
In the grounds are features which in addition to the Gothic gateway were provided to highlight the landscape of the park, namely an early precast concrete fountain and figures in the 'Haha' pool; a classical temple; and the Gothic summer house. These features are included within the statutory list of buildings of architectural and historic interest.

As Enville lies within the South Staffordshire Green Belt this provides a constraint to any large scale extension of the village. The emphasis of conservation in Enville will therefore be to ensure that any proposed infill development is sympathetic to the existing character, and to promote any minor improvements to the village scene that may be thought desirable.

#### The Hall



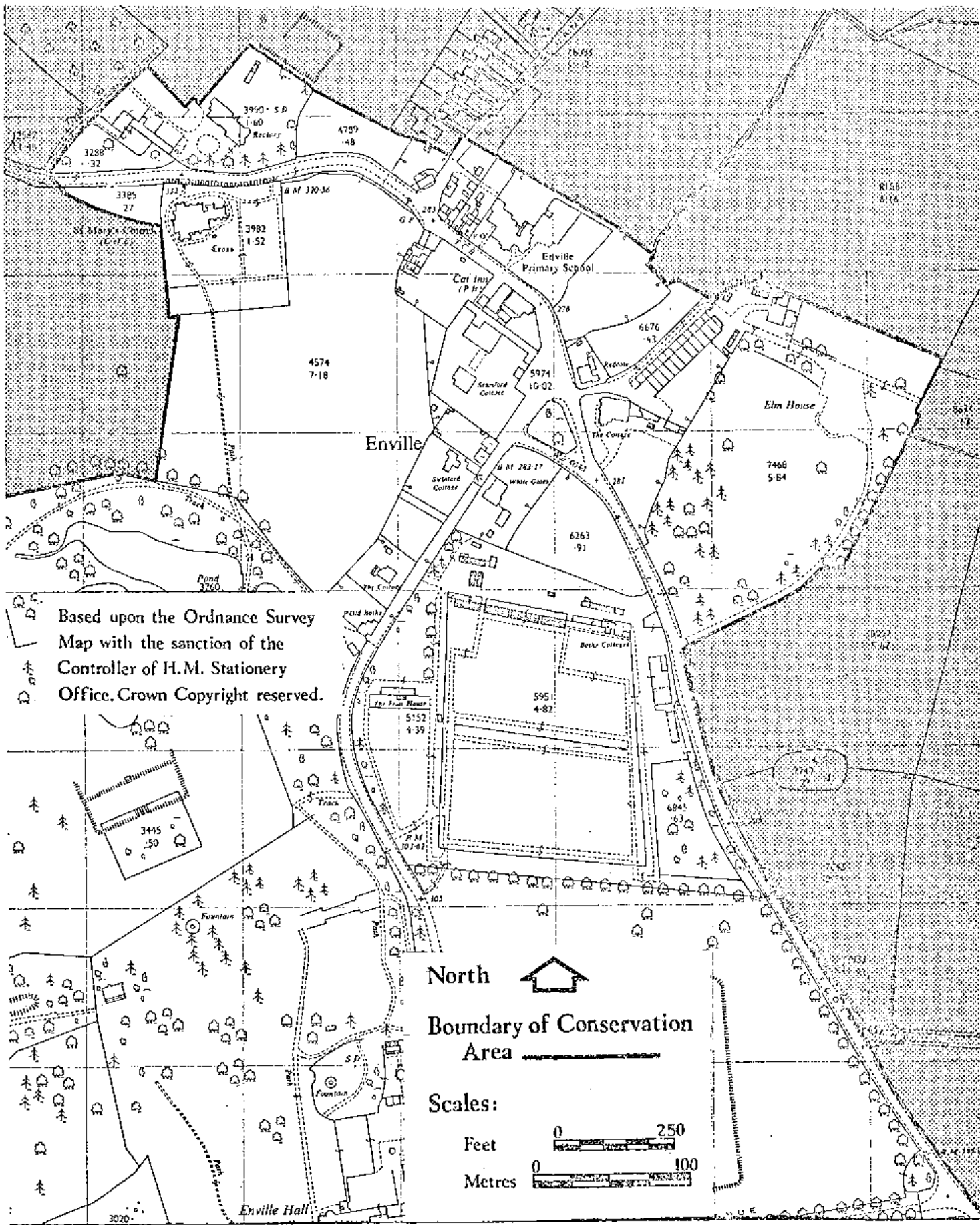




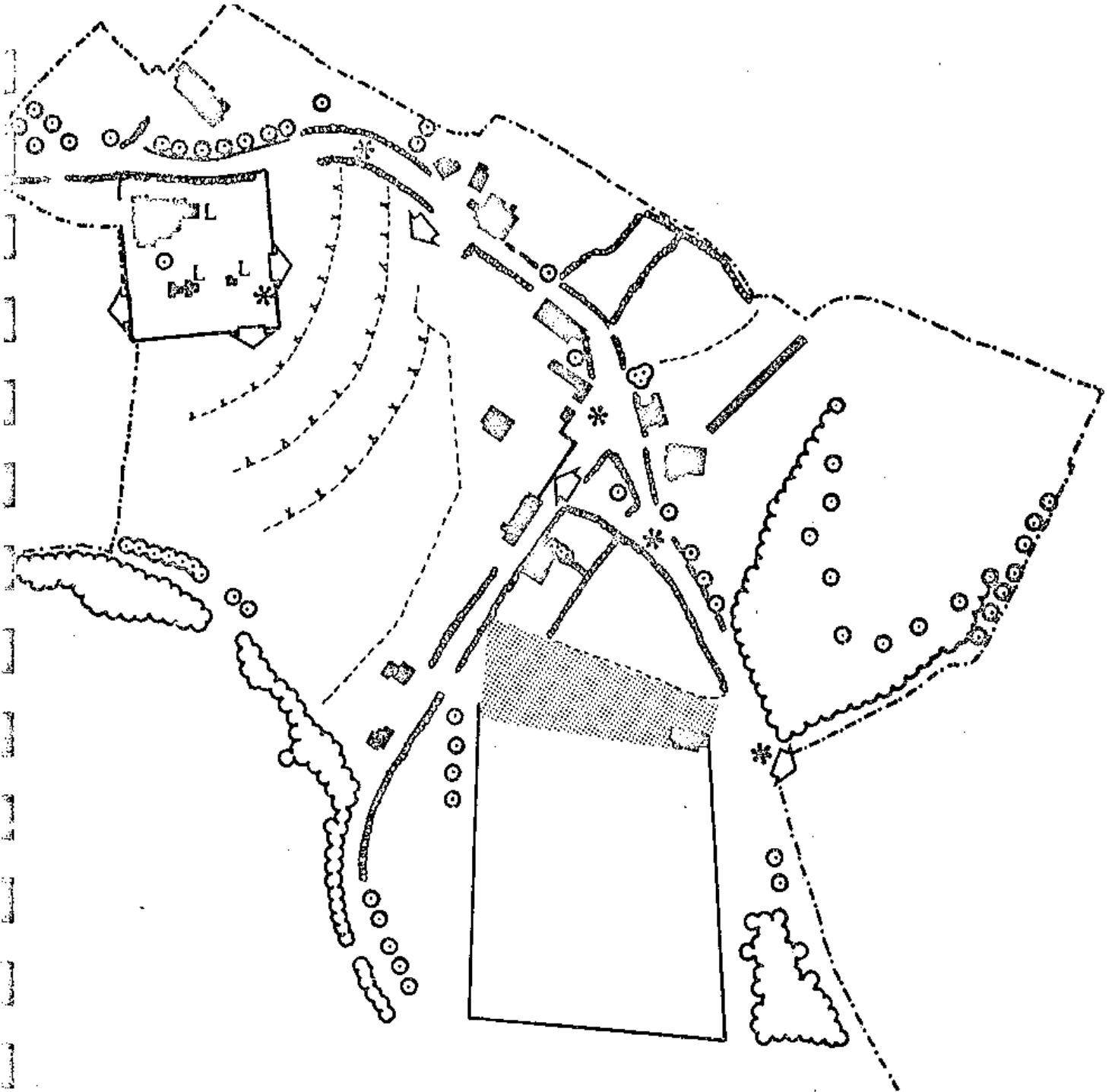
- ⊕ ⊙ Parkland
- Slope of land
- ⋯ Ploughed fields
- ▲▲ Pasture
- ⊞⊞⊞ Woodland
- Footpath
- - - Boundary of Conservation Area
- ⌂ Views

(L) Buildings listed by the Secretary of State for the Environment as of special architectural or historic interest












## THE IMMEDIATE SETTING OF ENVILLE HALL



# ENVILLE VILLAGE



**Visual Factors**

- |  |  |  |                                      |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
|  | Significant buildings.   |  | Hedge.                               |
|  | Buildings Listed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as of architectural or historic interest. |  | Significant trees and woodlands.     |
|  | High boundary walls/fence - effective enclosure.   |  | Focal points.                        |
|  | Boundary with vision over or through.  |  | Views.                               |
|  | Slope of land.   |  | Areas in need of visual improvement. |
|  |  |  | Boundary of Conservation Area.       |

**VISUAL ANALYSIS**

## FUTURE ACTION

The Conservation Area has been carefully considered by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the District Council and local amenity bodies.

A specific responsibility is placed upon the Local Planning Authority and the Minister to take account of the character of the Conservation Area when exercising their planning duties and grant-giving powers. Development proposals affecting such areas may also be advertised and account taken of representations received in determining each case.

The Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, makes it clear however that designation of a conservation area is only a prelude to action for preserving and enhancing its character and appearance. The present document is concerned with the reasons for designation. It analyses and defines the basic qualities of the particular features and groups of buildings which it is considered make a significant contribution to the character of the Area. Further reports will set out detailed policies and plans for the Area including recommendations to developers on types of development, on design and on materials considered suitable. The policies may include requirements for detailed information on particular classes of applications, advertisement of applications and proposals for retention of important buildings.

It may be necessary to prepare detailed proposals for improving the appearance of the Area by action such as reduction of traffic congestion, screening of particular features and provision of alternative outlets for undesirable development.

It is hoped that improvement and enhancement of conservation areas will not be completely dependent upon long-term proposals, or restricted by the uncertainties of individual development. Much can be achieved in the immediate future by collective action in street re-decoration, removal of untidy signs and advertisements and planting of trees. Public participation is essential to attract local interest and to support voluntary action by amenity bodies in restoring and improving the beautiful parts of environment.