Reasons for Designation

Local Authorities are required "from time to time to determine which parts of their area are of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance, and to designate those areas as Conservation Areas".

Randwick was designated as a Conservation Area on 28th June, 1990. It lies one and a half miles north-west of Stroud on the northern slopes of the Frome Valley where it enjoys splendid views across Stroud and the Severn Vale. It has been designated as a Conservation Area, due to its character in terms of building types and materials. The village, being centred around The Lane, has a predominance of traditional weavers cottages dating back to the seventeenth century. The pattern of development is unified by closely knit building form characterised by the general use of stone with slate or plain tile roofs. Oolitic limestone, which occurs above the village, was extensively quarried for local building, up to the nineteenth century. The scale and materials are, however, diverse throughout the village.

Steep footpaths, known locally as 'laggers', link the different parts of the village and give rise to pleasant areas free from the detrimental effects of vehicular access. Gardens and cottages are linked together by stone walls enhancing the uniformity of the village as a whole.

Randwick's annual fair, the Wap, held in May has been successfully revived in recent years and incorporates customs such as Mayor making, the Wap Queen and Cheese Rolling

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RANDWICK

CONSERVATION AREA No. 36

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
DIRECTORATE OF PLANNING, LEISURE & PROPERTY SERVICES

General History

Randwick Wood, now owned by the National Trust, crowns the spur above the village and conceals an ancient dyke, tumuli and long barrow. It now lies on the route of the Cotswold Way.

Randwick was apparently a fairly late settlement, and was not recorded in the Domesday Book. In the twelfth century the village, with parts of Standish Manor, belonged to Gloucester Abbey and by the early thirteenth century a church was established in the village. In 1800 the parish extended across the Cotswold escarpment to include Oxlynch and into the valley to include Ebley and Cainscross. During the latter part of the nineteenth century it was reduced to the much smaller parish it is today.

The main part of the village developed around the head of the valley at the level of the spring line and along the old Gloucester road. Many of the older buildings which survive date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

From the seventeenth century the local cloth industry formed a major part of the local economy. Many of the cottages were formerly inhabited by weavers who worked handlooms within their homes. In the late eighteenth century the village was described as very populous, chiefly inhabited by poor people employed in the woollen manufacture (Samuel Rudder 1779). The industry saw periods of booms and depressions causing great hardship to the weaving families. This way of life came to an end in the early nineteenth century with the introduction of steam power and power looms which saw the production of cloth move to the mills.

By the early nineteenth century, Randwick had become a poor community. Food was scarce, people undernourished and poorly clothed. Few children could read and fewer still could write, most even as young as eight years old worked at home or in the mills.

There was little growth in the village for nearly a hundred years until the introduction of modern water and sewerage systems in the 1950's. Since this time, modern building has included infilling within the old village and more extensive development on the former arable and orchard land to the south of the village.

The social and working patterns of the village have changed from a small and mainly self-sufficient community based on local trade and craft to a mainly residential area where its inhabitants often travel long distances to work.

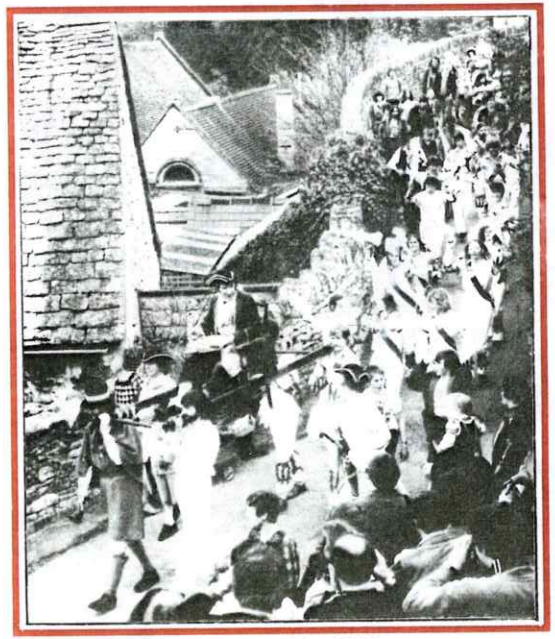


Photo courtesy of Allan Smith ARPS

RANDWICK WAP

Randwick's annual fair. the Wap, which was dropped because of drunkeness in 1892. was successfully revived in 1972. It is held on the second Saturday of May when a 'Mayor' of Randwick is elected and carried in procession to a pool south of the Church where a song, which recalls the local weaving trade is sung. Another obscure custom which is observed annually is the May cheese rolling. Three cheeses are carried to the Church. Here, after a blessing ceremony, each cheese is rolled three times round the Church, anti-clockwise. The cheeses are then cut up and distributed. This now takes place on the first Sunday in May.

Local Policies

The Council will exercise their powers under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 and associated legislation to ensure that the character of Randwick is maintained. Adopted local Policies and Principles for development in Randwick Conservation Area will be for:-

1. The preservation of the characteristic domestic buildings, unified by scale and materials and linked by stone walls. New development will be expected to be vernacular in design and of domestic cottage scale. Traditional natural materials should be used wherever possible and the theme of stone garden walling continued. Walls should be reinstated or relocated wherever possible following development.

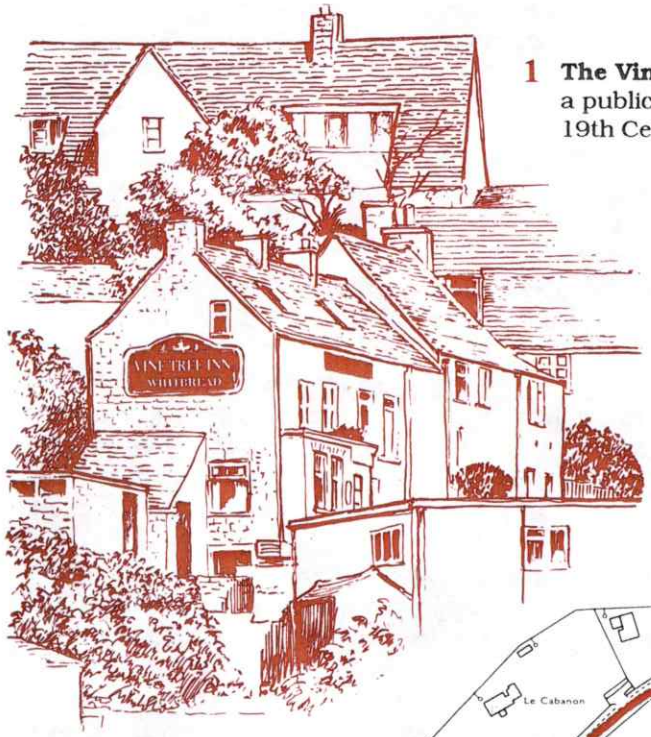
2. The improvement of the setting, with linking walls, landscaping, trees and hedges. Additions of this nature will be encouraged while removals, such as new accessways through walls, will be discouraged as far as possible.

3. The preservation of ancient field patterns and views. Proposals for development which would seriously affect the views from within and outside the village or disrupt the ancient fields to the south of the Conservation Area will be strictly avoided.

4. The maintenance of buildings and gardens important to the character of the Conservation Area. Proposals to demolish or extend important landmarks will be strictly controlled as will proposals for development on gardens which are important for the provision of space, green areas and pleasant views within the Conservation Area.

5. The enhancement of several areas of neglect or areas of detriment to the Conservation Area. Proposals to landscape land such as the open space north of Myrtle Cottage and east of Rose Cottage and Park View will be looked on favourably .

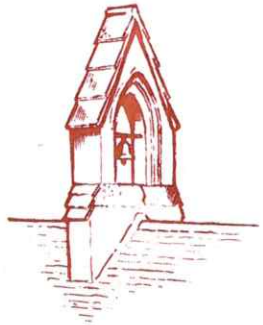
Randwick
CONSERVATION AREA

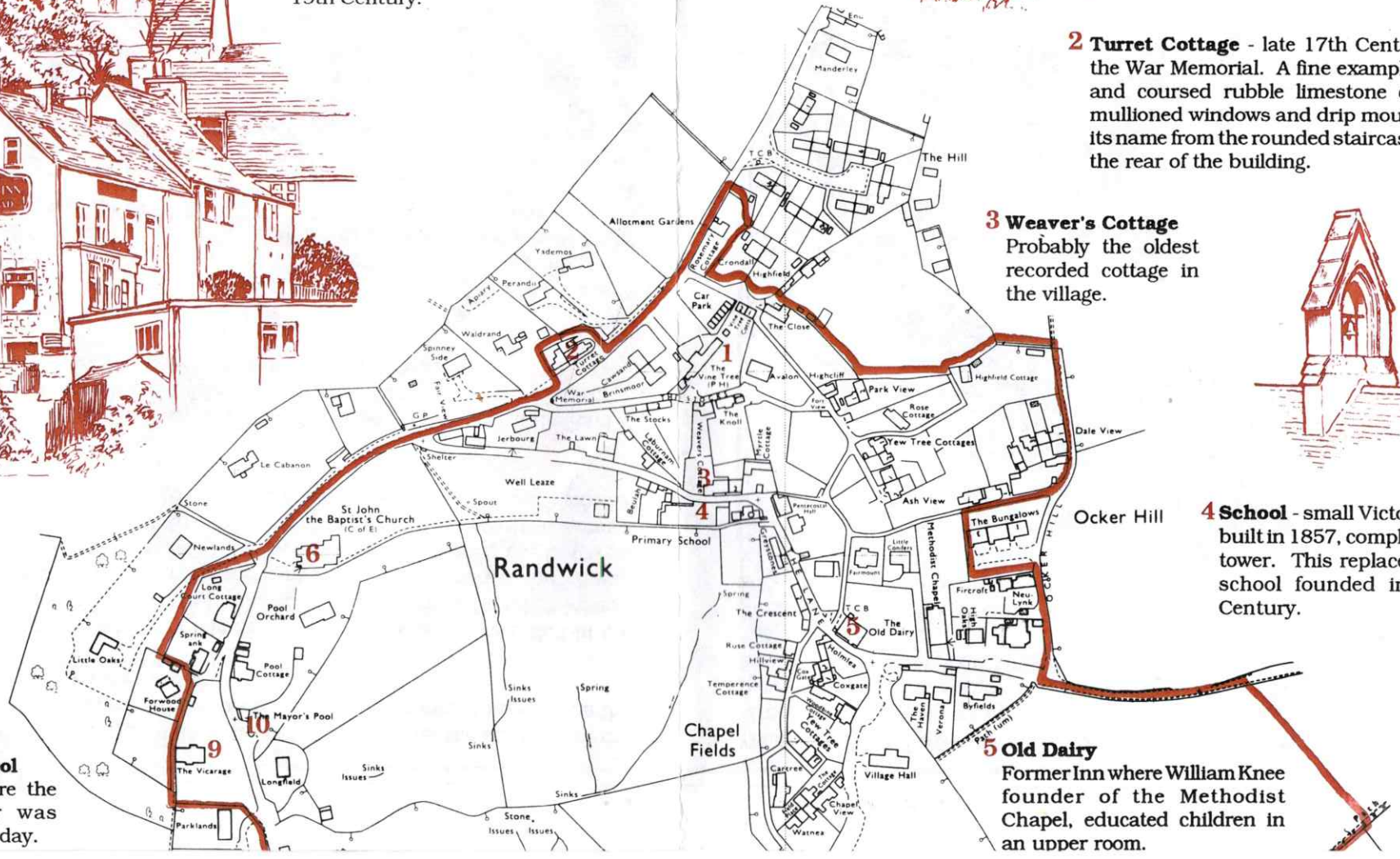


1 The Vine Tree - recorded as a public house since the early 19th Century.

2 Turret Cottage - late 17th Century opposite the War Memorial. A fine example of random and coursed rubble limestone cottage with mullioned windows and drip moulds. It takes its name from the rounded staircase - turrets at the rear of the building.

3 Weaver's Cottage
Probably the oldest recorded cottage in the village.





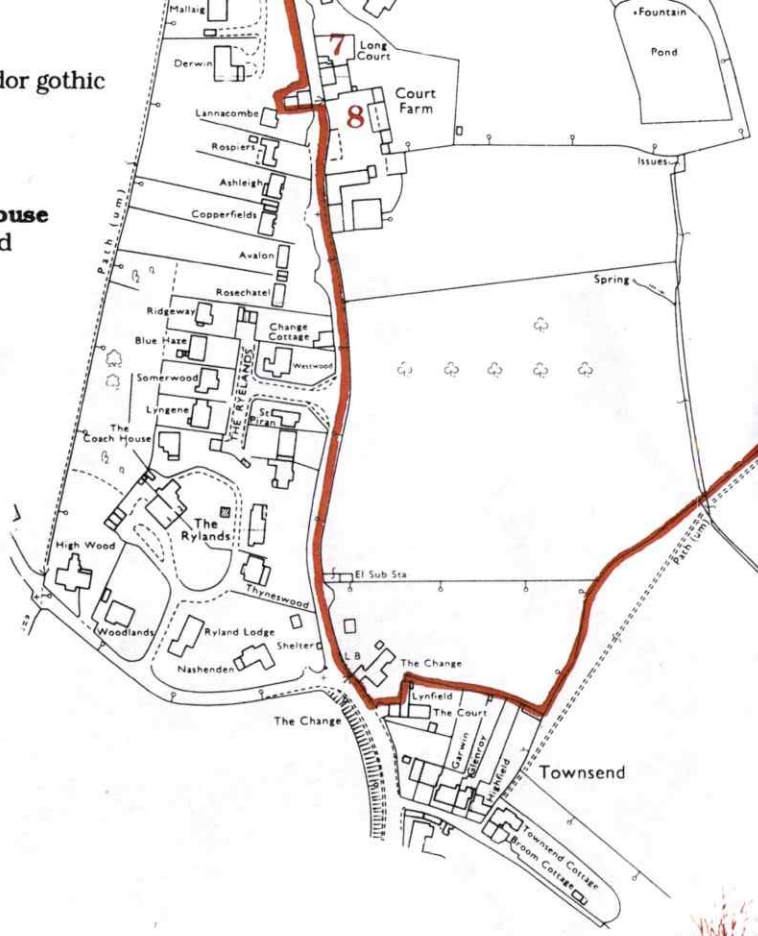
4 School - small Victorian School built in 1857, complete with bell tower. This replaced a charity school founded in the 18th Century.

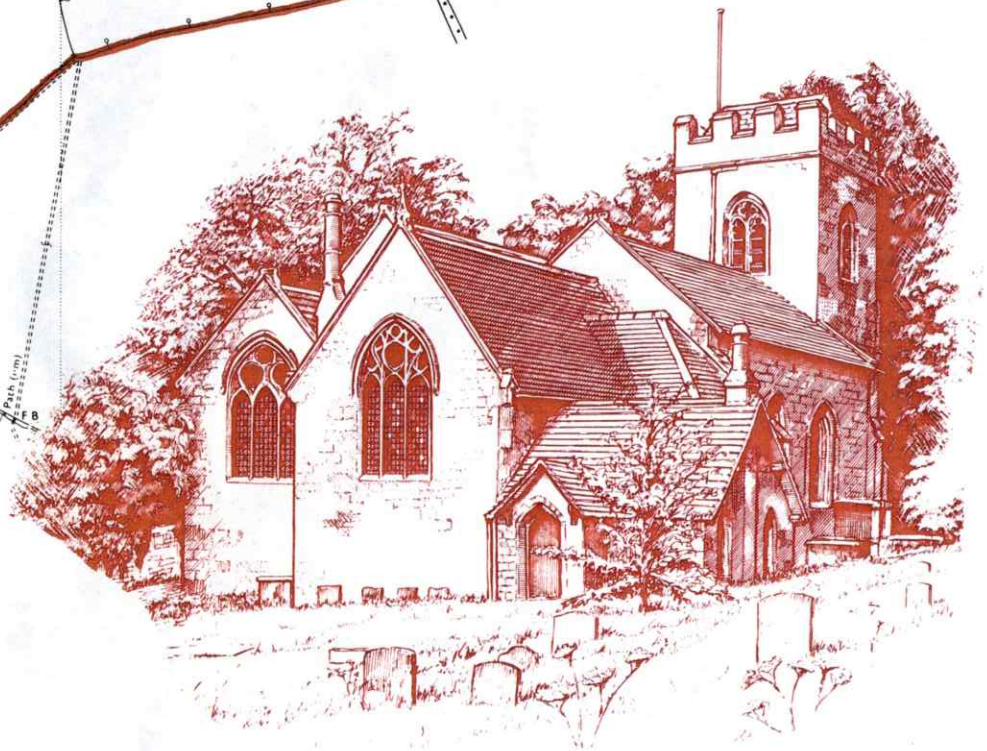
5 Old Dairy
Former Inn where William Knee founder of the Methodist Chapel, educated children in an upper room.

10 The Mayor's Pool
Horse pool where the elected Mayor was dunked on May day.

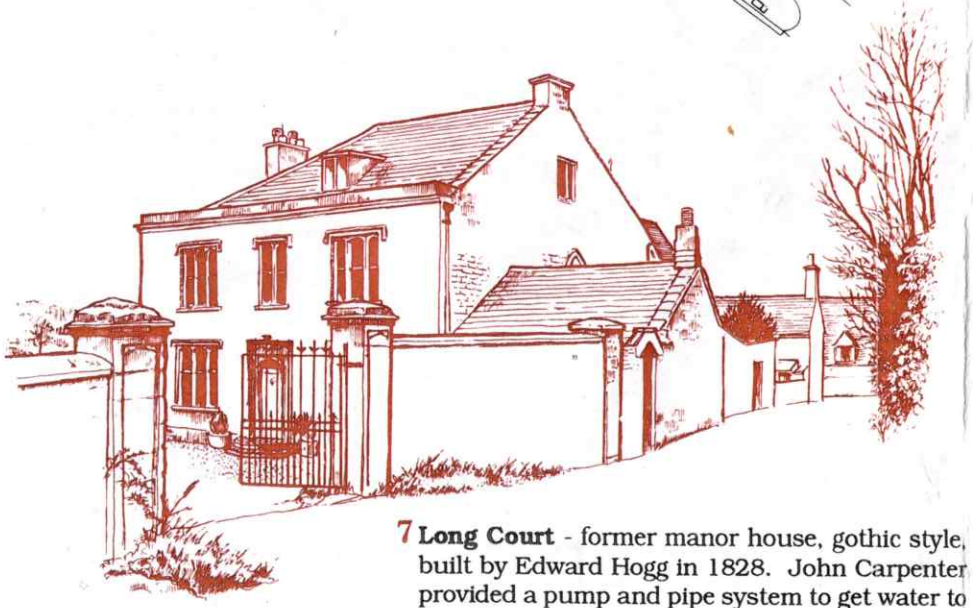
9 Vicarage
Cotswold Tudor gothic built 1844.

8 Long Court Farmhouse
17th Century, gabled farmhouse.





6 Church - 14th Century perpendicular tower with battlements and diagonal buttresses. Enlarged in the 18th Century and restored in decorated style in the 19th Century with further enlargement. Inside can be seen marble memorial tablets to William Knee, founder of the Methodist Church and John Carpenter, superintendent at Sunday School.
Various tombs of local clothiers can be found in the Churchyard for example, chest tombs to Randulph Meisy Preacher, died 1628 and two lyre ended chest tombs dated 1751 to the Chandler family.



7 Long Court - former manor house, gothic style, built by Edward Hogg in 1828. John Carpenter provided a pump and pipe system to get water to the village in the 19th Century.

Metres 0 25 50 75 100 200
Feet 0 100 200 300 600

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