

# Somersal Herbert

## Conservation Area Character Appraisal



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## INTRODUCTION

### The Purpose of a Conservation Area Character Appraisal

A conservation area is *an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*. They are designated under section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990). The Council is obliged by section 71 of the same Act to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of any parts of their area, which are conservation areas.

Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) has an approved programme to review its existing Conservation Areas (33 in total) and to consider other potential areas in their administrative boundary for conservation area designation, which have usually been identified, by a Town or Parish Council.

The contents of this Conservation Area Appraisal are intended both as a guide for owners and occupiers of buildings within the conservation areas and as a guide for the Local Planning Authority. The contents are a material consideration when determining applications for development, dealing with appeals or proposing works for the preservation or enhancement of the area.

This Appraisal document defines and records the special architectural and historic interest of the Conservation Area & identifies some opportunities for enhancement. The Appraisal follows the model set out in English Heritage guidance (Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals - February 2006).

This includes consideration of the following factors:-

- Context
- Origins and development.
- Archaeology
- Architecture and building materials
- Landscape and setting
- Character of the buildings & related spaces
- General condition
- Problems Pressures and capacity for change
- Policy and legislation
- Boundary review

The Appraisal considers the wider setting of the area, the historic development of the settlement and its immediate environs.

It should be noted that when considering the designation of a Conservation Area, or potential alteration of the boundary either by extension or reduction, the restriction of potential development within the area is not a factor. Reference in this regard should be made to the relevant national and local planning policy guidance and legislation. The relevant policies and legislation which would apply to development in this Conservation Area are outlined in more detail in Section 8 of this document.

## SUMMARY OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The distinctive features of Somersal Herbert Conservation Area include :-

- A general topography of gentle rolling hills, with the settlement located in a natural 'bowl in the landscape.
- Ancient lanes lead to and from the village, characterized by high hedgerows which contain the view.
- A settlement, which due to its location and access, appears remote and secretive and deeply embedded in the English countryside
- A distinctly rural environment characterized by vast areas of agricultural land
- A small built settlement comprising predominantly residential properties
- Distinctive steep embankments and high hedgerows forming road and field boundaries
- Long-range panoramic views across the lower lying village
- Tightly contained views within the built and landscape form.
- A number of historic buildings, many 'listed'.
- Somersal Hall and the Church of St. Peter are both prominent landmarks within the village.
- A number of outlying farmsteads with associated large agricultural outbuildings set within the landscape.
- The predominant building material is brick with a limited use of stone.
- Timber frame properties evident and a limited use of thatch.