

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.

Fritham



New
Forest
Conservation
Areas

In the heart of the Forest a narrow hedged lane, lined with small brick dwellings and farms, branches off the beaten track and crosses two steep valleys. Hidden by trees, this compact group of fields, which stands out so clearly on early Ordnance Survey maps, is all that remains of an agricultural settlement that has a recorded history of over a thousand years. Fritham is a village with a strong commoning tradition that has now lost all of its local services except for the pub. Although only Fritham Lodge is listed as being of special architectural or historic interest the many small buildings form an important part of the special rural character of this traditional settlement. However the modern houses, particularly those in the central area, create a jarring note in an area of otherwise mainly Victorian buildings.



Fritham Lodge



Cottage on fringe of forest

The surrounding landscape contains evidence of prehistoric settlement. The name Fritham probably originates from the Old English meaning an enclosed manor or settlement amongst the trees. Domesday Book has five entries relating to ownership in Fritham and records that almost all of the land had been taken into the Forest before 1086. Until the 1860s when a school was built on forest land at Fritham House all children had to walk to school in Bramshaw. The school building is now a private house because once again the children go to school out of the village.

The nearby Saxon settlement of Eyeworth was probably destroyed by William I. More recently it has influenced the development of Fritham. Between 1863 and 1921 the Eduard Schultz gunpowder factory provided much local employment and was well known for its smokeless powder. Today the only reminders of this are the neat late Victorian villas built for workers on the edge of the village.