

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.

Sway Tower



New
Forest
Conservation
Areas

This area south of Sway village centred on the junction of Barrows Lane and Flexford Lane was designated as a conservation area because of the group of nationally important early concrete buildings constructed in the second half of the 19th century by Judge Andrew Thomas Turton Peterson. The area is dominated by the tower he built - listed Grade II* - at 66 metres (nearly 200 feet) the tallest folly in the world. The tower is a landmark for miles around in this part of the forest. There are many other concrete buildings of different shapes and sizes from Arnewood Court and the model pig farm to extensive lengths of walls. Other interesting buildings built before Peterson's time include Avon Water House (Grade II) and Hazelhurst (unlisted).



Entrance to Peterson's Tower

Until the early 19th century the area contained just a few farms set in a field pattern that differs only slightly from that of today. The period of greatest change to the area came about following the purchase of Drumduan (now Arnewood Court) and other land by A T T Peterson in 1868. The coming of the railway brought a rise and subsequent fall in employment and this provided opportunities which combined with Peterson's interest in concrete and his philanthropic ideals to keep local people in employment.

Peterson was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire in 1813. He asserted his independence at an early age by running away from school and going to sea. After he returned home to be reconciled with his family he went to Cambridge where he qualified as a barrister. He spent many years as leader of the Calcutta Bar and Acting Judge of the High Court of Calcutta where he amassed a large fortune. The 38 years of his retirement were spent studying spiritualism and building concrete structures on his estate in Sway. He died in London in 1906.



Arnewood Towers House