

The Crick Village Design Statement

Adopted by Daventry District Council
as Supplementary Planning Guidance

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Contents

Introduction	3
Crick's location	4
Landscape character	4
<i>Landscape guidelines</i>	5
Enhancement of the village boundary	5
<i>Village boundary enhancement guidelines</i>	5
Origins of the Crick settlement	6
<i>Up to World War 1.</i>	6
<i>Between the wars</i>	8
<i>Post World War 2</i>	8
<i>Main 20th century housing developments</i>	8
Economy and employment	10
<i>Economy guidelines</i>	10
The vernacular style of Crick houses	11
<i>Cob</i>	11
<i>Stonework</i>	11
<i>Thatch</i>	11
<i>Brickwork</i>	11
<i>Windows</i>	12
Important buildings	12
Development guidelines	13
<i>Wall design</i>	14
<i>Roof design</i>	15
<i>Eaves and gutters</i>	15
<i>Windows and doors</i>	15
<i>Boundary features</i>	17
Street scene	18
<i>Street furniture and lighting guidelines</i>	18
Open spaces and views	19
<i>Views, within, into and out of the village</i>	20
<i>Open spaces and views guidelines</i>	21
Development design: a self-assessment guide	22
Appendix: Tree species native to the Crick area	23
Photographs	page 23 onwards
Maps, (buildings, open spaces and views)	final 2 pages

The Crick Village Design Statement

Introduction to the Village Design Statement (VDS)

The Crick Village Design Statement describes the visual character of the village: its setting in the landscape, the form of the settlement, and the character of buildings and spaces. It sets out guidelines on how its character and distinctiveness can be preserved and enhanced. It applies to all scales of development and is about managing change not preventing it.

Its application

The village is changed not only by large developments, but also by small day-to-day adjustments to homes and gardens, open spaces, paths and hedges, all of which alter the look and feel of the character of the village.

The VDS applies to the village settlement and the surrounding land. It is intended for use by anyone planning changes or new developments. It is addressed to:

- planners, developers, builders, architects, designers, engineers;
- statutory bodies and public authorities;
- householders and local businesses;
- local community groups.

The content of the VDS

The VDS deals with design issues. The character of villages is under threat from standardisation and poor design. Just because we can build anywhere in any design or material does not mean that we should.

It is important to understand the historical development of Crick because the past influences the present character of the village. New buildings and modifications to existing ones need to respect neighbouring buildings, their settings and their surrounding open spaces.

The VDS deals not only with buildings and their style but also village fittings and furniture, road features, near and distant views, and open spaces. All of these contribute to the village character.

So for changes small or large, the VDS provides information to inform your design decisions.

How it has been produced

Requested by Crick Parish Council, a steering group organised this VDS. The document was compiled from input and comment from the whole village. Every resident has had the opportunity to contribute. It therefore represents the views of a broad cross section of residents.

The steering group organised a workshop day on Saturday 23rd February 2002 to explain the project and to start to gather information and views. The workshop was publicised through a leaflet drop to every household, and it attracted wide participation. Subsequent progress was reported in issues of the village magazine, Crick News.

Following the workshop, the steering group analysed the information gathered and drafted a document for wider comment. Supplementary information was gathered to clarify particular issues identified at the workshop. This document represents the culmination of that effort.

Crick's location

Crick is located on the western edge of Northamptonshire near where the county borders Leicestershire and Warwickshire. It is about 14 miles north-west of Northampton, six miles east of Rugby and six miles north of Daventry, and is close to the A5 and to junction 18 of the M1. It lies beside the A428 Crick bypass, a local access road to the villages to its east.

Its altitude is about 150 metres above sea level. The parish is considerably larger than the village settlement. The parish covers approximately 1350 hectares and extends beyond the village settlement to Watling Street, to Malcolm Pratt's A428 garage, and to the far side of Cracks Hill.

Landscape character

Geology

Crick sits at the foot of the western uplands. A glacial till of clay soils mixed with gravels, pebbles and flints covers the hard marlstone that forms the scarp. The village sits on a slight rise of gravelly boulder clay, with springs running out of the scarp.

In the last ice age, Crick was near the southern edge of the polar ice cap. As it receded, the melting ice deposited hills and ridges of boulder clay. The Northamptonshire landscape then became submerged in a massive melt lake. This has resulted in the local pockets of silver sand and gravel, and the clays that the Crick brickyards used.

Landscape

From many locations within the village, there are long views of the low rolling hills that lie to the north and east. Green fingers of pastureland enter the village in a number of places to give the village its distinctive character. Footpaths radiate from the village across this surrounding land, which is mainly pasture with some arable.

The fields are commonly 5 to 20 acres in size, bounded by hedges mainly of hawthorn, elder, and ash. Some hedgerow trees have not been hedge-laid so the appearance is of hedges interspersed with mature hawthorn and ash trees.

Not many trees remain that are not associated with hedges; on Cracks Hill is a group of mature oaks. To the west of the Watford Road settlement an area of parkland contains mature oak and ash trees on old pastureland.

A number of trees in and around the village have Tree Preservation Orders and further small numbers are being planted, usually associated with development landscaping. Recent large scale plantings are along the margins of the bypass and the Crick Millennium Wood, a 7.5-acre woodland planted in 2002 adjacent to the east side of Cracks Hill. 80% of the wood is native species: a list appears in the appendix, page 23. This and the bypass planting will contribute significant wildlife habitat.

Since World War 2, farming practices have significantly changed the landscape and its wildlife. Long stretches of hedgerow have been removed, and many trees felled. The environmental effects have been widespread; for example few sparrows remain, once one of the commonest village birds. And in the 1970s, Dutch elm disease killed all the mature elms.

Landscape guidelines

Farmers and landowners are encouraged to manage land sustainably through wildlife-friendly farming, for example:

- maintain existing hedgerows and plant new ones;
- thicken hedgerows and link areas to provide wildlife corridors;
- re-instate hedgerows with native species and trees; for example reinstate the hedgerow and trees (grubbed out in the '70s) to define the width of the original Yelvertoft Road that runs from the bypass eastern roundabout to the Millennium Wood; shown on the original 1835 edition Ordnance Survey map, this 10 metre wide road and its verges was once as wide and as important as the existing road to Yelvertoft;
- reduce field sizes by more hedge-planting;
- maintain old pasture land to retain landscape character and protect native species;
- manage, create or restore field ponds.

Enhancement of the village boundary

The village settlement would benefit from belts of additional tree planting near the western boundaries of the village. This would attenuate the noise and visual intrusion of the M1, DIRFT, Eldonwall and the Midland Meat Packers site, which are in clear view of houses on the west side of the village.

The village considers that the suitable location for one such belt would be the ridge of higher ground that runs approximately north-south, to the west of the village, that is, from the edge of the village settlement at Main Road to behind the houses on Watford Road (see indicative dotted lines K on map 1). See also final paragraph of *Open spaces and views*, page 19, for a further such location.

Any proposed development for these areas should take account of this.

Village boundary enhancement guidelines

- Planting of native woodland species is to be encouraged– the areas considered suitable by the Village are indicated above.

Origins of the Crick settlement

Up to World War 1.

There is archaeological evidence of a settlement in the Crick area since the Iron Age. The Domesday Book recorded the village as Crec, derived from the Celtic word *cruc*, meaning cliff or rock (from the prominent nearby Cracks Hill). The population was then 120.

In the Middle Ages, as the forest was cut back, sheep farming and wool production initially provided a livelihood, and villagers cultivated their own holdings. You can still see evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation near the church (at E, map 1) and near Crack's Hill. Prior to 1776, Crick had four fields – north, south, east and west: North Field, Hall Field, Mill Field, and Heyn Field. Crick managed to survive the 14th Century when some neighbouring villages declined or disappeared from the Black Death. Among many crafts, the weaving industry expanded around that time. The loom was usually kept upstairs for maximum light and some cottages still have weaver's windows, for example in High Street and Lauds Road (see photographs page 30).

Although the main part of St Margaret parish church dates from the 13th century, its present shape mainly took form a century later. Stained glass windows, frescoes, altar hangings and lights were destroyed during the Reform and by Parliamentary troops on their way to the battle of Naseby. The bells were cast in 1601, 1610, 1611 and 1720, and restored to a full peal in 1998.

Crick lies on an old cross-country trade route between Oxford and Leicester via Crick and Lilbourne. Many merchants and travellers passed through the village. Because such travel was slow, many trades flourished to serve passing travellers as well as villagers. Thus the presence of two forges and the many inns.

By 1650 the population had risen to 336. By 1720 the population was 600, living in 128 houses; at that time there were only 183 houses in Rugby so Crick was relatively important. St John's College, Oxford, owned much local land and the church rector is still appointed in liaison with the college.

In 1776 the Enclosure Act swept away the old 4-field system and the present field pattern was set out. New straight roads were laid out with wide verges; such as the Watford and Yelvertoft roads, and the old road to Yelvertoft (m – map 2), now a bridle way. Older routes were abandoned but survive as grassy hollows in the fields.

Spinning and weaving provided local cottage employment. But the wool industry declined in Northamptonshire from 1790 and had all but disappeared by 1820.

As is common in Northamptonshire, the houses of the settlement were relatively low-cost cottages walled in cob or local stone with steeply pitched thatched roofs. They were usually only one room deep. A number remain in the village, for example the listed cottage at 38 Main Road.

Remains of stone pits occur in parts of the parish. There were several sand and gravel pits in and around the village, now filled in, which provided building material.

Early in the 19th century, brick making started near the village to supply the canal and, later, railway structures. At the same time, these bricks were used in local house construction. This is significant as they help create Crick's distinctive

character (see *Crick house design*, page 11).

Construction started on the Leicester branch of the Grand Union Canal between Foxton and Norton Junction around 1815. Brick makers in or near the village made some of the bricks. Canal trade, mainly coal and ironstone, peaked in the mid-1830s.

Crick brickyards operated from the early 1800s until around 1914. The brickyards were: Faulkners at the base of Wakefield's hill, to the west of the houses on Watford Road; Fosters (later Wards then Renolds) on the north side of the A428 beyond the canal; and the third on the site of Marsh Close.

The early 1800s were a hard time for people in cottage industries. In the depression after the Napoleonic wars, many migrated to expanding towns such as Coventry and others emigrated. Overseers of the poor acquired more than 30 Crick houses because people were too poor to repair or maintain them.

The village remained agricultural, with about 25 farms by the mid 1800s when half the village was in agricultural employment.

The United Reform Church was built in 1820 to seat 300.

The London to Birmingham railway opened in April 1838. Its construction in the preceding years brought work and more people to the village.

There were eight day-schools by the 1830s. One dated back to the early 1700s on the site of the working men's club; three were connected with the Congregational Chapel; the others were private.

The brick-built school next to the church (now the ex-servicemen's club) was opened in 1847, intended for 27 boys. The 'old school' opposite was the girl's school, built in 1816.

In 1868 the Primitive Methodist Chapel, now a private house off Oak Lane, was built to seat 150.

By 1880, the population had grown to 960. Crick was a self-contained community. There were 45 weavers, 37 farmers, and 91 tradesmen. This included a basket maker, two blacksmiths, bookmaker, brick makers, cooper, cordwainer, excise officer, glover, higgler (dealer), hog breeder, horse collar maker, maltster, mason, millers, saddle makers, shoemaker, soap maker, tailor, and wheelwright.

There were two forges for agricultural ironwork and horse shoeing on Main Road dating from mediæval times. The blacksmith's forge is now converted to accommodation at no 38 and likewise the Old Forge at 56 Main Road.

In the 1880s, money was left to provide a hospital for the aged and infirm at Crick Workhouse. It stood in Portlow Lane on the site of the present bungalows and continued until a larger one was built in Rugby.

Crick railway station, 3 miles from Crick (and nearer to Kilsby), opened in 1881 on the Northampton branch, on the other side of the A5 bridge from the freight terminal. It was closed in 1957.

The last Crick brickyard ceased production in 1914.

The present school was opened in 1915.

Between the wars.

Large numbers of the older houses were demolished after falling into disrepair, especially during the first half of the 20th century, and later to make way for new building developments. There is now a garden where some stood, for example on the site of the cottages between the St Margaret church and the Wheatsheaf.

In 1937 a bypass line was planned for the A428, to a route not far different from the present one.

In 1937-8, 18 council-owned houses were built on the north side of Bucknills Lane. Most are now privately owned.

Post World War 2.

During the late 1940s, an old abattoir stood behind the present Co-op. It was moved to the present Midland Meat Packers site, where it grew to become the largest cattle-processing factory in Europe, but is now contracting its operation.

Major housing developments were built – listed below.

The village bypass opened in June 2002, funded by the developers of the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal, which started operation in 1999.

How the settlement developed by area:

- the main 20th century housing developments since 1937 and their style

Larger groups of houses were built in the village from 1937 onwards and most were built since the 1960s, around 400 new houses in total. Their styles fall into related groups according to when they were built. In addition, individual or small groups of two to four similar houses have in-filled between others. Some were built as a ribbon development along the Watford Road. In the main, the 20th century developments, irrespective of any innate character, lack local sympathy and contribute little to Crick's visual style. Much of this post-war development made no attempt to echo the traditional building character of the village. Future development should be of more sympathetic design.

Key developments

- | | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 1937-8 | 18 houses | Bucknills Lane, north side |
| | | - brick built, mainly rendered, dark brown clay tile roofs |
| 1948-9 | 12 houses | Bucknills Lane, south side |
| | | - concrete panel factory built, dark brown clay tile roofs |
| 1952-4 | 58 houses | 50 King's Stile Close, 8 Portlow Lane |
| | | - red brick built, dark brown clay tile roofs |
| 1963-5 | 99 houses, dormer bungalows, bungalows | 42 Rectory Close, 24 Southfields Drive/Lauds Road, 17 Marsh Close, 16 Watford Road (east side behind service road) |
| | | - pale buff bricks and flettons with brown concrete tiled roofs. |
| 1971-3 | 39 houses | 14 Marsons Drive, 14 Well Hill Close, 11 Ashby Drive |
| | | - buff bricks with brown concrete tiled roofs. |

- 1972-4 13 houses The High Leys
- red bricks with brown concrete tiled roofs.
- 1975 20 houses Ellen Close
- mid-red bricks with brown concrete tiled roofs.
- 1989-91 15 houses The Paddock
- mid-red or buff bricks, some with mock-Tudor fascia planking, stone corner
quoins; brown concrete tiled roofs.
- 1989-91 38 houses Wilsons homes phase 1
- mid-red or buff brick, some with mock-Tudor fascia planking, brown
concrete or dark red clay tiled roofs
- 1997-9 50 houses Wilsons homes phase 2
- mid-red bricks with red or brown concrete tiled roofs; corbelled wall plates
and other detailing
- 2001-2 60 houses Wilsons homes phase 3
- mid-red or buff bricks with red or brown concrete tiled roofs; corbelled wall
plates and other detailing
- 2003-5 26 houses Wilsons homes phase 4
- mid-red or buff bricks with red or brown concrete tiled roofs; some corbelled
wall plates and other detailing

Economy and employment

Within the parish there are:

- small service and manufacturing businesses;
- tourism-related business, for example the pubs, restaurants, hotels and two marinas;
- Bakers meat processing site; and
- large warehouse units near the motorway junction.

The businesses vary widely in size. The first category comprises mainly micro businesses employing fewer than ten, mainly self-employed professional or highly skilled local residents. The second category is small businesses employing from 10 to 50, some of which are local residents. The last two categories employ between them more than 1,000, most of whom are unskilled or semi-skilled and who commute into the area. The farms in the parish now employ few people.

Many have moved to Crick because the village is well sited to commute to their work. So although there is local employment, it employs few of the village residents. Because of its central location, Crick is particularly convenient as a base for professional staff whose work requires them to visit a mix of locations in the UK and abroad, using the motorway network, rail and airport connections.

Economy guidelines

- An active business community helps to provide local employment; local employment opportunities are encouraged to help reduce commuting.
- Applications to start businesses within the village are welcomed provided they do not impact adversely on the local environment. Businesses should be aware of the community's needs, contributing where appropriate and being aware of the effects of noise, emissions or road traffic that their business could generate.
- New businesses that could employ professional staff are particularly encouraged by the village because of the large proportion of residents with such skills.
- In order to maintain the setting of the village, expansion of the nearby major industrial business sites should be designed to be away from and not encroach on the village. For example, there should be no further incursion towards the village from the Eldonwall estate.
- The village would not like to see expansion into green areas on the north side of the village by-pass, or in the open areas to the east of the canal.
- Buildings, whether in new or existing areas designated for expansion such as DIRFT, should be of a height and colour that blends with their surroundings, with landscaping to mitigate their visual impact. Their exterior lighting should not contribute to sky glow light pollution.
- The canal and its marinas are a Conservation Area; potential developers should contact the Local Planning Authority for advice.

The vernacular style of Crick houses

The original village houses are terraces fronting onto pavements, with the occasional archway leading to a yard or property behind. Or they are larger detached houses behind walls or hedges in their own land, for example, Areley House in Watford Road. Older houses that are not in terraces have off street parking, usually hidden from view.

The Village is keen to see such layout characteristics maintained and continued.

The older houses of Crick are of cob, local marlstone or brick, or a combination. The three local brick colours are detailed below. Some older houses are thatched, some slated, some tiled, each one with its own character. You see the occasional bricked up window-tax window; a fire insurance plaque, or a door high in a wall where a baker would have loaded flour from a wagon.

Around 30 older houses are grade 2 listed buildings.

The earliest houses are mostly cottages of basic unornamented construction using local materials, one room deep, almost all walled in cob or local stone with steeply pitched (circa 50°) thatched roofs. Their height to the eaves was generally lower than modern estate-built designs.

Cob

No totally cob-walled cottages survive, although some of mixed construction have cob walls disguised by rendering, for example White Cottage to the left of Queens House in Lauds Road (see upper photograph, page 31).

Stonework

The local stone is a hard marlstone. It is dark grey-brown as opposed to the paler yellow-brown of the Northampton and Oxfordshire limestones.

The stone construction is for the most part random-coursed rubble filled. Stone courses would be laid using a mud-dung mix, and later lime mortar, to form inner and outer faces; the gap was filled with stone rubble as it was built. There are no foundations; large stone slabs were laid direct onto a levelled earth perimeter. Long heavy stones were laid at the base, the courses reducing in height as the wall grew. Few examples were built entirely with more expensive dressed stone blocks.

Thatch

Some houses are still thatched but many covered the thatch with corrugated iron. Others are now permanently tiled or slated. Examples of originally thatched stone-built houses are 29-31 High Street, and the brick-faced stone-built 38 Main Road.

Brickwork

Many dwellings were re-faced with brick in the 19th century, but retain the stone behind the facing. This is evident from their thick walls, for example Queens House in Lauds Road (see page 31), which was originally stone built and thatched in 1780, but later refaced.

Three types of brick that were made in the Crick brickyards are found in the houses. The earliest are dark blue-red, said to be the type used in constructing the canal tunnels, as in the old school and a three-storey house at 27 High Street.

Many early walls have burnt header bricks (nearest the fire in the old kilns and

clamps) set in courses of dark red stretchers. Later, probably mid-1800s, lighter orange-red bricks were used, laid with thin lime-mortar joints typical of the Victorian era. Examples of both these styles are seen in Box Cottage, on the Main Road (see page 32).

The original brick-built Crick houses did not use buff coloured bricks. However some second-half 20th century developments used them presumably because of current fashion or to echo the local stone colour. Nor did any original brick-built Crick houses have stone quoins.

The 19th century brick-built houses were roofed with shallower pitch (circa 30°) dark purplish grey or black slate, as seen in the right hand side of Box Cottage referred to above. All the early brick-built houses used various patterns of corbelling below the roof line, with the gutter brackets spiked into the brickwork, characteristic of mass-produced pattern-book style houses of the time. Pantiles, or roofing using soffits or fascia boards are not characteristic of local design.

The Wheatsheaf is an example of both stone and brick build with a shallow pitch slate roof: the Main Road front, built first, is in stone and is likely to have been built with a steep pitch thatched roof. This would have been replaced in the 19th century by the shallower pitch slate roof when the brick extension was added along Church Street. The Shoulder of Mutton on the opposite corner has a brick-built third storey on the original stone building and shows similar features.

Windows

Few houses have windows with stone mullions or other dressed stone features on their facades. Some were 18th and 19th century modernisations.

Most houses were built with small timber casement windows, later often set beneath an arched brick lintel. Only a few late-19th century houses were built with sash windows; these houses are often two rooms deep rather than the ubiquitous earlier one-room deep. Some stone-built houses had a sash window or two as modernisation or replacements.

Few early casement windows survive with their original leaded lights; the leading was usually replaced as larger glass sheet became less costly. So most originally leaded timber framed windows are divided horizontally into two or three larger, almost square, panes as shown on page 35. They would not have been subdivided both horizontally and vertically into smaller panes as in Georgian sash windows, imitated by current factory-built mock-Georgian units.

The Manors have iron framed stone mullioned windows with diamond pane leaded lights, although both buildings have been refurbished over the years (Vyntners Manor was refurbished in the 1920s for example). Diamond panes were generally used up to 1700-1750, rectangular thereafter.

Important buildings

The buildings referred to here do not have Listed Building status; nonetheless their design and setting is considered important by the village. Some have historical significance. The letters refer to their location on the first map .

- Cranbrook Cottage (W), 2 King's Stile Close: a late 19th century brick-built stone-faced, slate roofed, house built onto an early 19th century structure and cellar with 1920s extensions; large stone and brick-built early 19th century

- outbuilding; all built onto the original servants quarters of the adjacent Hall; set in a substantial garden bounded by early 19th century walls; unique in the village.
- Ranmoor (C), Yelvertoft Road: a stone-built house of 17th century origins, half thatched with 50° pitch roof, half refaced with brick with 19th century 3rd story and 30° slate roof added; set in a large garden bounded by 17th century stone walls.
 - Areley House (N), 10 Watford Road, a large early 20th century architect-built house of historic interest now restored to its original single dwelling form; brick built with 40° slate roof; period windows, gothic-style arch over the single oak entrance door; square rear bays; interesting brick detailing on its four chimneys; early 19th century brick garden walls built on stone foundation. With its large gardens, unique in the village.
 - 6, The Marsh (V): a mid-19th century, brick-built house, with hipped slate roof, timber corbel detailing and timber portico; large brick-faced stone outbuilding with parapet-ended 50° pitch roof (originally thatched) used as garaging and workshop.

Development guidelines

Recent 20th century major developments with their open road layouts and standard house styles are of 'town suburb' design that does not reflect the character of Crick or any other village. If use of these designs continues, in time the village will be indistinguishable from nearby town suburbs.

- Future development should take note of and reflect local character.
- Developments should preserve and enhance the village layout of the central area of older houses, the greens, shops, pubs, churches and halls. New development should not distort this layout.
- Crick's village character derives to a large part from key older buildings, such as the Church, Chapels, Old Schools, Pubs, Manors and other older larger houses, some of which have substantial land holdings. Not all are listed; some are of historic or particular design significance. The combination of these buildings and the setting in their land holdings give the village its character. The map shows some key locations. The Village is keen to see such layout characteristics maintained and continued.
- Before designing any development, existing features of the site must be noted. Features such as trees and hedges should be retained and integrated into the development wherever possible.
- New developments should provide open green areas subject to planning criteria; refer to the Local Planning Authority for advice.
- Native trees should be planted on open spaces where appropriate, for example oak, ash, holly, field maple (see appendix for list).
- New housing should be in groups or clusters; small enclosed mews or courtyard-type developments are in keeping with local character and can be used to create a sense of community.
- The design and layout of roadways should serve the layout of new

developments, not determine them. Where multiple house developments are planned, they should present a random street frontage, not houses of uniformly spaced similar design.

- For security in new developments, off-road parking should be close to dwellings and residents should have an unrestricted view of their vehicles.
- In new housing developments, owners frequently use their garages as store rooms and do not garage their vehicles: local car crime targets such vehicles. Developers are encouraged to provide adequate storage space to enable garages to be used for vehicles, or for vehicles to be parked out of sight of the road.
- The roadside frontage landscaping of new developments should avoid tracts of small shrub cultivars that can give a suburban appearance. Where appropriate, random planting of native species of hedging and trees that reflect local character is more appropriate (see appendix).
- Where householders use high intensity flood- or security lights, they should be positioned and aimed not to dazzle passers by, road users or neighbours.
- The modern use of 100-mm upstand right-angled concrete kerbs detracts from village character. On non through-routes they should be replaced in due course with 50 mm bevelled kerbstones in reconstituted stone or, better still, with grass verges.
- Paving, whether pedestrian or vehicular, should be of a colour that reflects the local marlstone rather than concrete grey.
- Utilities should preferably be located in service strips adjacent to the roadway to avoid disrupting verges when renewed or maintained.
- Applications should be accompanied by written illustration on how the developer will achieve the principles set out in this document. The use of standard house types that fail to reflect this VDS is not acceptable. New developments and renovations should be of design and materials that take note of the vernacular design styles of the village (see *Vernacular style* pages 11, 12 and illustrations).
- Developers and owners should design buildings and their group layout to be sympathetic in proportions, form and design detailing. Masonry and roofing materials on new construction should reflect the original brick or stone styles and colours of the village. For example, they should continue the general feature of using some random coursed local stonework near older stone houses or walls. The illustrations show examples.

Wall design

- Dwellings with exposed (mock or genuine) timber framing are not appropriate to Crick.
- The insensitive use of masonry paint colours is discouraged because it changes the character of buildings, making them too dominant. The natural colour of the original materials should be visible and dominant, even if the stone or brickwork is distressed.
- Cob walls should be protected and maintained to manage and enhance their condition.
- Where structures are of stone or reconstituted stone, they should be the

darker grey-brown colour of local marlstone, not the lighter yellow brown Northampton or Oxfordshire stone colour and not shades of pale buff or light grey-buff of some reconstituted stone.

- Stone walling should be random coursed, that is, each course with stones of uniform height but random length, with the courses above and below of different and random height. Faces of the stone should be rough chisel dressed. Do not use repeat-pattern reconstituted block work that does not have continuous courses. Avoid reconstituted stone blocks of regular rectilinear outline and size; avoid stone-on-edge facing or cladding.
- Where structures are of brick, they should be smooth (not shiny) and of a blue-red, red or orange-red that reflects the original nearby styles and colours. For detail, see *Brickwork* page 11.
- Brickwork should be flush pointed with thin mortar lines, preferably 10 mms or less (local Victorian brickwork has 5-6 mms).

Roof design

- Roof pitch and covering should reflect the original styles to match the wall material, that is, steep pitch (50-55°, originally thatched) for stone walled buildings and shallower (30-35° originally slate roofed) for brick.
- Roof covering should be dark red, red-blue or dark brown sand-faced (not glossy) clay tile; or purple to black slate of natural riven appearance, not flat and shiny. Many village dwellings originally used local slate. Avoid pantiles ('Roman' tiles), which are not native to this area; also avoid concrete tiles.
- Where roofs are thatched, traditional thatch is long straw. Those planning to work with thatch should refer to the county-wide thatching policy. Further advice on this can be obtained from the Local Planning Authority.
- Stone-capped, raised gable ends were used on stone walled buildings after the 17th century.
- Elevations and facades should not be over-decorated or bear a mix of materials. For example, local older brick-built houses did not use stone quoins, lintels or mullions.
- Flat roofs should be avoided wherever possible.
- Chimney stacks should be astride the pitch of the roof, or be enclosed end-stacks, not protrude from gable end brickwork beside the roof. Chimneys should be of stone or brick, as appropriate, not stainless steel.

Eaves and gutters

- The use of soffit, fascia and barge boards should be avoided. Instead use corbelling below the wall plate with gutter supports spiked into the masonry.
- Avoid white or light grey rainwater goods in favour of dark brown or black.

Windows and doors

- Spacing of windows on facades should respect the character of the older properties, especially on the fronts of buildings.
- Irrespective of material of construction, windows should be of the proportion of the older timber windows. The pattern of glazing bars is important (see illustrations). Avoid subdividing the window into small (mock Georgian) panes. uPVC replacements should avoid thick stiles and cills, and mock

dividers. Top opening lights above casements are not appropriate. If leaded lights are used, panes should be rectangular, not diamond (pre-17th century, diamond panes were common; rectangular after that: example: see listed houses at 40 Main Road and 29-31 High Street).

- Stone mullioned windows are not in general use in the older stone walled buildings. Only one or two examples exist, for example in the more expensively constructed manors and the stone-built The Maltings on Main Road beside the Wheatsheaf.
- Doors should be panelled or planked with appropriate door furniture using simple canopies or porches where appropriate. Entrance doors' proportions should be wide (e.g. page 29), rather than narrow. Avoid glazing in front doors except in late 18th and early 19th century restoration.

Boundary features

- New or rebuilt boundary walls should be of brick or stone; they should not incorporate expansion joints, which are unsightly; use a flexible mortar (for example lime-based) to avoid the need. For preferred masonry colour, refer to *Stonework* and *Brickwork* page 11.
- Hedging should use local native species; see *Appendix* page 23.
- Walling or railings should be of a colour and style related to those nearby. Some older houses used to have iron railings, which would beneficially be restored by their owners.

Street scene

The old village was not designed for car ownership and lines of cars now front the old terraced houses. Older houses that are not in terraces have off-street parking, usually hidden from view.

Minimum street clutter should be the aim although it would be impracticable to recreate the uncluttered look of the pre-20th century village (see page 23, lower photograph), with clear grass verges without kerbstones or pavement, few lampposts, road signs or wiring poles. Nevertheless, some existing Crick street furniture is out of character. And high intensity blanket lighting detracts from the tranquil rural character.

Street furniture and lighting guidelines

To minimise unsightly clutter:

- street signage should be used only when vital to safety or essential for a specific need; where essential, it should be simple and minimal;
- any street furniture should use wood, brick or cast iron wherever possible rather than concrete or steel sheet or tube; any metal items should be painted a sympathetic colour (e.g. black or dark grey);
- signage for commercial premises should be in keeping with local village surroundings and should not be internally illuminated;
- power and telephone cables should preferably be underground;
- street lighting should be the minimum that ensures safety and security;
- downlighters should be used to reduce light pollution; to achieve this, their installation should ensure that they are aimed downwards rather than partly sideways.

Open spaces and views

Green open spaces within and surrounding the village are essential for:

- recreation;
- to provide the setting for houses;
- to provide a setting for the built-up areas;
- to provide vistas into and out of the village and to the countryside beyond.

It is important to retain and manage open spaces (letters refer to the first map), including the large number of mature trees:

- grass verges, for example those on the approaches to the village;
- the allotments and the ancient pasture and fields to either side of the old unmetalled Kilsby Lane;
- the old pasture lands that stretch to the visible horizon all around the village. These give distant views for example of Cracks Hill and the Millennium Wood, detailed further below;
- the Leicester branch of the Grand Union Canal at the eastern end of the village; Crick canal tunnel is one of the longest in the UK; the towpaths are used for walking recreation, and two marinas house more than 100 canal boats mainly of traditional narrowboat design; some are residences;
- the current designated Special Landscape Area to the east and north of the village settlement;
- the open areas within the parish boundary to the south of the DIRFT development between the A5 and Watling Street;
- the area currently used as the village playing field (B).

The green wedge of land from The Marsh to Oak Lane, including the open site of the original village settlement; this includes:

- the open land adjoining The Homestead (D), a listed building, that enhances the setting of the building, with views of Cracks Hill;
- the site of original settlement (E) – an important open space;
- the green areas (F) to the west of the Wilsons Homes development and within the development are important open spaces.

The green areas either side of Main Road on the western approach to the village, including the old Wash Brook should be retained. These include:

- the gardens of Crick Manor. The character of Crick Manor (H) derives not just from the building but from its gardens designed by Edwin Lutyens (with possible input from Gertrude Jekyll) around the end of the 19th century; its setting includes the adjacent rough garden and views of the adjacent rectory gardens;
- the garden of Crick Rectory (G), Main Road: the rectory garden is a visual extension of the rough gardens of Crick Manor (H); and of the old Wash Brook (J) across the road from it;
- the old Wash Brook (J) – an open space of historic importance to the village where, for centuries, village farmers dipped their sheep; this area together with the adjacent open areas (J) form a part of its setting;
- Well Hills (K) – open land to the west of the old workhouse and mill sites, and part of the open rear views of Vyntners Manor (P); this ridgeline is the

area furthest from the village that would benefit from a belt of trees (see indicative dotted lines) planted to screen and attenuate the sight and noise of the M1 motorway and industrial developments; see appendix for recommended planting;

- the large, landscaped gardens of Vintners Manor (L)
- gardens (M) adjacent to Vyntners Manor, that enhance the setting of this important listed building.

Other important open spaces are:

- The Marsh (P) – highly significant to the setting of the settlement; outward views are important;
- green fingers of original pastureland (R) coming into the heart of the old village from the canal; and containing the original boat horse lane;
- an area (S) of heritage importance believed to contain remains of monastery and monastic fish ponds; and the fields bordering it (U), forming an open aspect to the area;
- the protected Tree Preservation Order area (T) of open parkland.

The fields north of the current playing field (A), and in front of the Eldonwall development (partly illustrated page 24):

- These areas would benefit from an extensive mixed deciduous and evergreen tree screen to attenuate the sight of, and noise from, the M1 motorway and industrial developments. The Parish Council would like to acquire land in order to plant such a screen and utilise it as public open space.

Views, within, into and out of the village

Arrows and lower case letters on the second map show roughly the views and viewpoints that appear within the boundaries of the map. Capitals locate the area on the first map. The canal and Cracks Hill are beyond both maps' boundaries so views towards them are not indicated.

Important views within the village include:

- a: the area in Lauds Road looking towards The Marsh and towards the canal;
- b: the areas around and bordering The Marsh (P);
- c: the areas bordering the original village settlement (E);

Important views out of the village include, for example:

- Cracks Hill and the Millennium Wood, viewed from many of the roads to the north west of the village;
- the canal and its towpath and bridges viewed from roads to the north east of the village;
- b: views out of the village from The Marsh (P) area;
- d: Well Hills and the adjacent parklands and pasturelands (J), (K), (T), viewed from roads to the south west of the village;
- e: the pasturelands (R), (S), (U) to the south-east of the settlement, viewed from Main Road and from Watford Road;
- f: the pasturelands and parklands to the south-west of the settlement (K), (T) viewed from Watford Road and its adjoining roads;
- e, g: the open pasturelands to the south of Boat Horse Lane (S), (U) viewed from there and Watford Road.

Important views into the village include:

- h: the large landscaped gardens of Vyntners Manor and adjacent areas (L, M), viewed from the public footpath that runs to the rear of these properties;
- j: the old Wash Brook, and the distant views of the church and the Crick Manor and Rectory gardens; and of the houses and their gardens bounding the Main Road hill, viewed from near Well Hills;
- k: the old farm buildings and houses on the south east of the settlement viewed from the footpaths to the east of Boat Horse Lane.

Open spaces and views guidelines

- Developments should preserve and enhance important open spaces and views, described above and shown on the relevant map.
- The important open spaces described above, within and surrounding the village, should be retained and managed appropriately, including their mature trees.
- The open pasture lands, and large gardens of the older Crick buildings, described above and from page 12 onwards, form an integral feature of the settlement. Some green fingers of land provide a link with the open countryside beyond. These areas should be retained and managed appropriately.

Development design: a self-assessment guide

It is important to retain the rich variety of architecture and overall ambience and blend of each area of the village.

If you are proposing to improve, change or alter the exterior of your property, including paintwork, signs, garden or surrounds, then we would ask you to take the following steps. This will ensure that you will not adversely affect the appearance of your property and its surrounding part of the village. To understand what is appropriate, first read the sections on local design in ...*vernacular style* and *Development Guidelines* starting on pages 11 and 13.

Then:

- From some distance look at all aspects of your property. Note the original and distinctive features. Are any out of character with the rest of your property or those nearby?
- Closer to the house, note the details of the building (roof, chimneys, eaves, windows, doors, masonry, et cetera).
- Repeat both steps for the properties near yours.
- Will the changes that you have in mind be in keeping with the character you have observed? Can you remove out-of character elements? How can you amend your proposals to help retain the local heritage?
- Do your changes take account of the specific building design guidelines from page 13 onwards?
- Ensure that any architect or builder that you employ does the same.

If you are proposing new dwellings, refer to the points above to relate your new design to its location and setting. Refer to page 11 onwards on house design to understand the design features that will blend with those that are appropriate to the village.

Appendix

Tree species native to the Crick area

Apple, crab	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Birch, silver	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Buckthorn, alder	<i>Frangula alnus</i>
Cherry, wild	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Elm – see note	<i>Ulmus</i> – see note
Guelder-rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Hornbeam, common	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
Lime, small leaved	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
Maple, field	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Oak, common	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Rose, dog	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Rose, field	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>
Service-tree, wild	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>
Willow, goat	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Willow, white	<i>Salix alba</i>

Note:

Unfortunately the English Elm (*Ulmus minor vulgaris*, an inseparable part of the English landscape) has been virtually wiped out in the UK by Dutch elm disease. A fungus causes the disease, carried by certain beetles that can be carried by birds. However, at least three varieties of elm have been purpose-bred for their resistance to the disease. All three are similar in appearance to the English Elm and can safely be selected for local planting:

- *Ulmus hollandica* 'Christine Buisman';
- *Ulmus hollandica* 'Bea Schwarz'; and
- *Ulmus minor* 'Sapporo Autumn Gold'.