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Stoke D'Abernon Conservation Area

Stoke D'Abernon Conservation Area (Designated by Elmbridge Borough Council – 16 October 1979)

Statement of Designation

The area is based upon the ancient Church and Manor House of Stoke D'Abernon, which have a peaceful and pleasant setting on the banks of the River Mole. St. Mary's Church is a Grade I listed building of outstanding importance, which still preserves Saxon remains. The nave was built in the 10th Century and surviving portions of the apse are older still. Part of the north aisle dates from 1190 and the chancel from 1250. The Norbury Chapel was built in 1490, the remainder of the Church being a mid-Victorian restoration. The pulpit was given by Sir Frances Vincent in 1620 and has an oak sounding board with scrolled iron supports. A 17th Century hourglass remains in a wrought iron holder, a 17th Century communion rail, and a 13th Century oak alms chest. There are some fine paintings and stained glass. The Church also contains the oldest existing brasses in England.

The Manor House is a Grade II* listed building. The original Manor House of the D'Abernon Knights was replaced by an early Tudor timber house. Fragments of this 16th Century house remain, but in 1742-5, the Manor House was reconstructed by Sir Frances Vincent, in a plain brick masons style, with Baroque intentions, but without any ornamental detail. The space between the original wings was roofed over to form the lofty salon. Subsequent additions to the house were made in 1903 when a long columned loggia along the south side and a Baroque style entrance porch were designed by Sir Aston Webb. The interior has details in several 18th Century styles – the staircase is Baroque, the salon Palladian whilst the library is Adam-style.

The stable block and The Barn House are listed as Grade II *. They have an exterior dating back to 1630, and are attractive red brick buildings. North Lodge and South Lodge are both Grade II listed buildings dating back to 1869. North Lodge is a picturesque Cottage built of flint with stone dressings. South Lodge is built by patterned brickwork.

Attached to Holly Lodge is a hexagonal structure built in 1869 as an ornamental dairy, with walls partly lined with 17th Century dutch tiles. Holly Lodge itself is a flint cottage dating back to 1903 and listed for its group value with the dairy.

The grounds provide an attractive setting for the Manor House. To the South, terraced lawns slope down to the River Mole. Past the Church is a succession of flower gardens, beginning with a passage of herbaceous borders. These lead to a summer house and onto high clipped yew hedges. There is a sunken rose garden along the river bank and a wrought iron gate leads to another garden enclosed by beech hedges and containing a stone urn. There is a large walled kitchen garden with espaliers and miniature box hedges.

The juxtaposition of the Manor House, the Barn House and St. Mary's Church is unique in its rural setting. These buildings and their surroundings are of great significance in the scenery and history of Surrey and make this area worthy of Conservation Area Status.

For more information, please email us at [**tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk**](mailto:tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk)