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Borough Council  
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## **Downside Village Conservation Area**

### **Downside Village Conservation Area (Designated by Elmbridge Borough Council – 31 July 1979 and extended on 25 March 2014)**

#### **Statement Of Designation**

Downside is a small rural village two miles south of the centre of Cobham. The village is largely self-contained, possessing a chapel, two schools, a public house, a village hall, a recreation ground and until recently, a post office and stores.

It is an attractive village, centred upon a large rough triangular green and surrounded mainly by groups of 19th Century cottages. The whole village is set against a pleasant well-wooded rural landscape, much of which is owned and managed by the Cobham Park Estate. The Green itself contains a small island of picturesque cottages. The eastern side of the village is particularly attractive, with cottages fronting The Green and set against a rural background. Many of the cottages serve as accommodation for estate workers and are good examples of 19th Century cottage architecture, containing several decorative features. As a result of single ownership by the Cobham Park Estate throughout their life, these cottages have largely retained their architectural uniformity and the red brick facades appear completely unspoilt. A group of cottages of similar age near Horsley Road have unfortunately been greatly altered and extended although a few facades have remained virtually unchanged. Generally speaking, the south side of The Green is enclosed by a mixture of development, broken by modern cul-de-sacs of detached and semi-detached houses, but despite this, the rural character and identity of the village has been maintained.

There are a few buildings of special architectural or historic interest; the pump on the south-east side of the common, erected in 1858, and The Cricketers Inn, probably of 17th Century origin but with modern extensions on three sides. Tinman's Row, a row of 8 terraced cottages, is of particular interest, dating back to the mid 19th Century and built of brick with a slate roof. Some of the cottages still contain original horizontal sliding sash windows and the group makes an important contribution to the area. The two schools in the village are

attractive tile hung buildings dating back to 1867. Cobham Lodge, designed by J.B. Papworth and built in 1806 is a prominent building overlooking The Green.

Downside Village is unique in being the only remaining rural village in Elmbridge. Despite much recent development, the village has managed to retain a pleasant rural atmosphere rarely found so close to an urban area, and for these reasons, it is considered that the village merits Conservation Area status.

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