

5.0 ARCHITECTURAL QUALITIES

5.1 The architectural interest of Alport is derived from different elements including the building types, siting, massing, scale, styles, design, detailing and the use of locally sourced construction materials. The combination of these has created a visually rich and distinctive character to the Conservation Area.

5.2 There is no large scale, uniform development in the Conservation Area. Instead, Alport's built environment comprises dispersed clusters of detached and semi-detached dwellings, farmsteads and ancillary structures.

5.3 Buildings in Alport are laid out at different levels, their siting is primarily influenced by topography. Buildings in the northern part and south-eastern edge of the hamlet overlook those located on the valley floor. The main through road is at a much higher ground level than many of the properties. In the case of Lathkill Farm, the road obscures half of the front façade (see P.5.2.).



P.5.1. Alport: buildings laid out at different levels



P.5.2. Front elevation of Lathkill Farm visually obscured by the higher road level

5.4 The majority of front elevations of dwellings in the Conservation Area face either south or south-east. Buildings directly address the street or sit back from the road, behind

drystone walls, providing a virtually continuous building line.



P.5.3. Boundary walls contribute to a continuous building line

5.5 The majority of buildings in the Conservation Area are constructed in the local vernacular style. The simple and utilitarian forms and the use of local building traditions, details and materials have provided Alport with a distinctive identity.

5.6 There are seventeen listed buildings, covered by fourteen listed building descriptions, in the Conservation Area, see Section 15. The listed building descriptions for these properties can be viewed on [The National Heritage List for England](#). This is a high percentage of the overall building stock in the hamlet. The majority of the non-listed buildings in Alport are also of some historic and/ or architectural interest, making a positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area.

5.7 Houses and farmhouses are the predominant building types within the Conservation Area. The majority of these have at least one ancillary building such as a garage, barn and/or outbuilding.

5.8 Until the mid-twentieth century, agriculture, quarrying and mining were the principal industries in the area. This is also reflected in the building types within the Conservation Area and its wider setting. These include farmhouses, lead miners cottages, barns, stables and powder houses. Other structures in Alport associated with former commerce and industry include the purpose-built corn mill, joiner's shop and lime-kilns (see Section 4).

5.9 Dating buildings can be difficult, as many will have been altered over time, with extensions and other changes masking or destroying earlier fabric. Datable architectural styles and features were often adopted later in rural areas than in cities and towns, as styles and fashions radiated from metropolitan centres. However, architectural features, for instance windows and doors, along with plan forms and construction methods and materials can still provide a fairly reliable indicator of a building's construction date and/or alterations.



P.5.4. Left: Former entrance door, now blocked at Corner Cottage

P.5.5. Right: Partially blocked window opening

5.10 It is generally acknowledged that England went through a Great Age of Rebuilding during the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries (Hoskins 1985). Wealth from a thriving agricultural economy along with a desire for privacy and comfort are believed to have been the impetus behind the rebuilding. From this time onwards, many buildings throughout the country were constructed from more substantial materials and forms. This may well have been the case in the Conservation Area as there is no evidence of building fabric that pre-dates the seventeenth century.

5.11 Monk's Hall (see P.5.6.) is the oldest building in the Conservation Area, dating from the early seventeenth century. The central part appears to be the earliest, with its wide gable end, with low roof eaves, facing the street. Within this gable end there are gritstone mullion windows, a fire window and an early doorway framed with large quoins. This doorway is now blocked partially filled with leaded lights. At ground floor level of this gable end, there is also a 'triple cruciform window' surround with splayed mullions and transom (see P.5.9.). This window type is characteristic of the seventeenth century, influenced by Classical design and is generally considered high status.



P.5.6. Monk's Hall



P.5.7. Blocked entrance door at Monk's Hall



P.5.8. Fire window at Monk's Hall



P.5.9. Cruciform stone window surround, Monk's Hall



P.5.11. North-west gable end to Monk's Hall

5.12 The roadside gable end contains double chamfered gritstone surrounds at first floor level. The fire window also has a double chamfered stone surround. Generally, these features are characteristic of seventeenth century buildings. A chimneypiece on the external face of the western gable end of the central core suggests that there was another bay on this end. Above the chimneypiece is a large timber bressumer (see P.5.10.).

5.14 Many of the external features to Rheinstor Cottage suggest a nineteenth century date of origin. However, the three storey south-eastern section of the building is of a much earlier date. This part of the property has stone mullioned windows masked by render and later extensions (pers comm. Charlotte Gilbert). Internally, there is a Classical label with stopped ends over a first floor doorway (see P.5.13.) and evidence of band courses. These details along with the thick walls, approximately a metre wide, suggest that this building originates from the early to mid- eighteenth century.



P.5.10. Rear elevation to Monk's Hall



P.5.12. Rheinstor Cottage

5.13 The building also has coped gables, leaded lights with square comes and plank and battened doors. The ashlar chimneystacks are later additions, dating from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.



P.5.13. Classical label with stopped ends over internal doorway, Rheinstor Cottage

5.15 The majority of buildings in the Conservation Area are eighteenth or nineteenth century in origin. Mill Cottage (see P.5.14.) and The Cottage (see P.5.15.) are examples of buildings that date from the eighteenth century. Both properties are two storey, have flat faced square mullion surrounds containing two lights; and gritstone flat faced square surrounds to the entrance doors. There are also few fenestrations to rear elevations. Their plan forms are also likely to be similar, with the western bay to Mill Cottage probably being a later addition.



P.5.14. Mill Cottage



P.5.15. The Cottage

5.16 Brook View (see P.5.16.) and the northern section of Dene Cottage were also constructed in the eighteenth century specifically for local lead miners. Both dwellings have been altered extensively since this time. There are two doorways in the front elevation of Brook View. The one to the west, now blocked, was formerly a stable entrance for a pit pony (pers. comm. Isobel Bailey). The bay west of the current entrance door has a projecting low plinth, suggesting that this part of the building may have been rebuilt. The tooled gritstone window surrounds in the front elevation of this property date from the nineteenth century.



P.5.16. Brook View

5.17 Architectural features that are characteristically eighteenth century and are evident in the Conservation Area include coped gables, kneelers, quoins and windows with flat-faced, square mullions and elongated sills and lintels.

5.18 The gritstone window surround with an elongated lintel and square splayed mullion over the front door at Brook House suggests that the property also has eighteenth century origins (see P.5.18.). However, the building has been remodelled and this window could be constructed from re-used fabric. The rest of the window surrounds to the front elevation date from the nineteenth century.



P.5.17. Brook House



P.5.18. Window to the front of Brook House

5.19 The long agricultural building to the north-west of Rheinstor Cottage also contains a first floor stone window surround with over-sailing lintel and sill. The building has been remodelled a number of times since it was first built (see P.5.19.).



P.5.19. Window to the front of the property west of Rheinstor Cottage

5.20 Hillview, attached to the north elevation of Bradford House, is an eighteenth century dwelling built in the local vernacular. There is a mullion window with elongated sill and lintel, located at first floor level in the front façade of the property. The barn attached to the north-eastern corner of Hillview contains a flat headed arch with Doric columns, to a window opening. Above this, are stone panels with a diamond design in relief. These architectural features are normally found embellishing high status buildings, not small vernacular structures. These polite details are allegedly re-used fabric from a former assembly room for local miners (YWI 1931).



P.5.20. Hillview

5.21 A purpose-built corn mill stands at a break in the valley floor, in the eastern part of the hamlet (see P.5.21.). This structure originates from the eighteenth century but may well contain earlier fabric as a water-mill is known to have stood in this locality since the twelfth century (Cooper 1991).



P.5.21. Alport Corn Mill

5.22 The two storey corn mill was altered and extended in the nineteenth century. Its water driven equipment, including a 6.5m diameter iron breast-shot waterwheel, dates from this remodelling. The waterwheel is attached to the east elevation of the mill but screened from view by a high stone wall. Internally, the structure retains its lineshafts and five sets of millstones. The northern part of the building was constructed as a drying kiln. This comprises a two storey structure with a brick-arched kiln to the ground floor and a louvred ventilation turret on the roof ridge (HERs).



P.5.22. Alport Corn Mill

5.23 The packhorse bridges traversing the rivers Lathkill and Bradford primarily date from the eighteenth century. A number were widened and adapted in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century.



P.5.23. Mill bridge, north of the corn mill

5.24 Polite architecture was first introduced into the settlement in the late eighteenth century. Buildings of this type were often designed by architects and in the main dictated by Classical rules of proportion and detailing. This style percolated down through the upper to the new middle classes, assisted by a wide circulation of architectural pattern books.

5.25 Complementing these architectural forms were new features and ornamentations for example, sash windows, door hoods, panelled doors and refined mouldings.

5.26 Examples of 'polite' architecture in Alport include the front elevations to Haddonfields Farm, Rock House, Fern Glenn and Lathkill Farm. There is also evidence in the village where 'polite' detailing has been combined with the vernacular architecture, for example, the front façade to the ancillary building west of Rheinstor Cottage.

5.27 Haddonfields and Rock House are three storey properties with symmetrical front facades. Both buildings have coped gables, with additional ball finials to Rock House (see P.5.25.). The buildings also have central entrance doors with bracketed stone hoods and sash windows with simple dressed stone surrounds.



P.5.24. The front façade to Haddonfields partially screened by trees

5.28 Haddonfields was constructed in the late eighteenth century whilst the front part of Rock House was not built until the early nineteenth century. The rear elevation of Rock House contains much earlier eighteenth century building fabric, for instance flat faced stone window surrounds with elongated lintels and sills. The whole of the front façade to Rock House is ashlar stonework unlike Haddonfields that comprises roughly coursed limestone with gritstone dressings. At Rock House there is also an oculus window with a moulded gritstone surround centrally positioned at third storey level of the front facade.



P.5.25. Rock House

5.29 Other properties in Alport with early nineteenth century Classical detailing to front facades include Bradford House, Corner Cottage and Rheinstor Cottage. Characteristic features include sash windows with boxes hidden behind large stone window surrounds. Lathkill Farm has a raised central keystone as part of its front door surround (see P.5.26.). The former cottage west of Rheinstor Cottage has raised quoins and scribed vouissors to the lintels above the ground floor entrances in the front elevation, possibly based on a Gibbs surround (see P.5.27.).



P.5.26. Right: Front door, Lathkill Farm
P.5.27. Left: Former cottage west of Rheinstor Cottage

5.30 At least two semi-detached properties in Alport were built and/or remodelled as reflective pairs in the early nineteenth century. These are Riverside and Fern Glen and Rose Cottage and Sunnyview.

5.31 The symmetrical front elevations to Riverside (see P.5.28.) and Fern Glenn(see P.5.29.) contain nineteenth century features, e.g. large window openings with sash windows, a fanlight over the front door, four panelled entrance doors and distinctive tooling to stonework. Both properties also have a double-pile plan form. However, the coped gables suggest that the buildings may have earlier origins. Constructed in the twentieth century, the front porch to Riverside masks the original entrance door.



P.5.28. Riverside



P.5.29. Fern Glenn

5.32 The Gothic style is also evident within the settlement, as both Rose Cottage & Sunnyview have Gothic tracery tops to windows in their front elevations (see P.5.30.). There is also a Tudor arch door lintel to the east elevation of Lathkill Farm. This complements the arched headed windows in this elevation (see P.5.31.). These have double light window surrounds with recessed spandrels in the top corners. This fabric dates from the nineteenth century but is based on earlier designs.



P.5.30. Rose Cottage



P.5.31. Ornate window surround in the east elevation of Lathkill Farm

5.33 The quoined gritstone window surrounds to Cockpit Hill House, suggests that the property dates from the nineteenth century. A later bay has been added to the western gable of the property and the wall height has been increased.

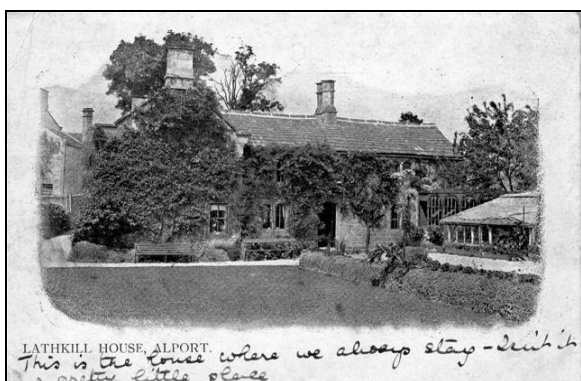


P.5.32. Cockpit Hill House

5.34 The front facades, of many of the properties were rebuilt or re-faced in the nineteenth century. This entailed whole façades being constructed entirely of gritstone rather than limestone with gritstone dressings. Examples can be seen at Lathkill Farm, Rheinstor Cottage, and Fern Glenn (see P.5.29.).

5.35 Improvements in glass production at this time also allowed for larger window panes. Large sash windows with larger panes of glass and dressed gritstone surrounds are the main characteristic of nineteenth century architecture in the Conservation Area.

5.36 Rheinstor Cottage and Lathkill Farm both had large glass-houses attached to them at the end of the nineteenth century (see P.5.33.). These have now been removed. There are a few modern glasshouses within private gardens in the Conservation Area, for instance Bradford House and Brook House.



*P.5.33. Glasshouse at Lathkill Farm, circa 1904
© Gordon Coupe*

5.37 The relatively little twentieth century development in the Conservation Area comprises Bridge House (see P.5.34.), Rock Cottage and Bank House. All three properties are built from local materials, have a rectangular plan form and are constructed from limestone with gritstone dressings. However, they differ from the earlier vernacular buildings by their tall narrow windows and higher room heights.



P.5.34. Bridge House

5.38 Large canted bay windows can be seen on the front facades of Rock House and Dene Cottage. These were introduced in the early part of the twentieth century.

5.39 There are two flat-topped above-eaves dormer windows at Rock Cottage (see P.5.35.) and another in the rear roof pitch of Rock House. Although this window type had been used much earlier elsewhere, they do not appear to have been evident in Alport until the twentieth century.



P.5.35. Rock Cottage

5.40 The Barn and part of the Coach-house, west of at Haddonfields, were converted to residential accommodation in the 1990s. Single storey extensions were added to both properties during this conversion works.



P.5.36. Modern Extension at The Barn



P.5.37. Part conversion of the Coach-house, Haddonfields

5.41 Other building work carried out in the twentieth century included the conversion of Monks Hall to two dwellings whilst Rock Cottage and Corner Cottage, both comprising two properties became one. A number of garages, outbuildings and glasshouses were built in the settlement during this time.

5.42 The hydro-electric turbine structure is the only new building in the Conservation Area to have taken place during the first decade of the twenty-first century. This work included the restoration of the tail-race to the corn mill.

5.43 There is no standard size for buildings in Alport. There are, however, a number of characteristics common to many of the buildings in the Conservation Area, particularly older properties. For instance, buildings have a rectangular plan form, based upon 2 or 3 bays. Older properties are normally one room deep, with gable widths no greater than 5 to 6 metres, and have low eaves and consequently low room heights.

5.44 The majority of dwellings in the Conservation Area are two or three storeys in height, many with attics and/or cellars. There is an architectural unity in the Conservation Area provided by a similarity of scale. This in turn

means that whether a building has one or more storeys it relates well in terms of proportion to its neighbours. Another unifying feature is the use of local materials, particularly limestone, which has been used for constructing buildings and the network of interconnecting drystone boundary walls in and around Alport.

5.45 Properties within Alport have a greater solid to void ratio with windows set back from the external wall face. Many of the windows are in pairs contained by stone surrounds. The third storey of the south-east elevation of Rheinstor Cottage contains relatively unique gritstone double arched windows and surrounds. However, the rear elevations of a number of the dwellings in the Conservation Area have no or very few windows. Elevations are generally free of embellishment or have simple detailing.

5.46 The roofscape is an important characteristic of the Conservation Area due to the prominence of roofs as buildings are laid out at different levels. Nearly all buildings in the Conservation Area have simple gabled roofs or valley (double gabled) roofs with ridgelines running parallel with the longest axis of a building.

5.47 Monks Hall has a relatively complex roof structure formed from gables, eaves dormers and lean-tos. There is also a relatively complicated roof form at Rheinstor Cottage (see P.5.38.), particularly the three sided hipped roof to the north end of the three storey building. There are also examples of simple lean-to roofs to later extensions and ancillary buildings. Chimneystacks are positioned at the gable end of dwellings and/or intermediately along the ridge, breaking up the 35°-40° roof pitches.



P.5.38. Complex roof forms, Rheinstor Cottage

5.48 The architectural character of Alport is also derived from the organic development of the buildings over successive periods. Many of the buildings in the Conservation Area have been extended and/or altered, in particular Rheinstor Cottage, Rock Cottage and Lathkill Farm.

5.49 There are a variety of ancillary buildings within the Conservation Area, comprising barns, workshops, a coach-house and garages. These vary in height, ranging from single to two storeys. There are also buildings in multi-use for example part of the ground floor to the Reading Room is the garage to Riverside (see P.5.40.) and the undercroft at Cockpit Hill House is used as a store for Rheinstor Cottage.



P.5.39. Garage, Brook House



P.5.40. The Reading Room

5.50 The majority of the larger ancillary buildings are/or were formerly associated with agricultural activity and often in multi-uses. For example, in the past the large combination barn to the west of Lathkill Farm was used as a hayloft, dairy and for sheltering livestock (pers. comm. Isobel Bailey). Another large purpose-built combination barn, located to the east of Dene Cottage, was converted to residential use in 1990s. Purpose-built stables and a large open-sided barn are situated south-west of Rheinstor Cottage.



P.5.41. Combination barn, Lathkill Farm



P.5.42. Stables & barn, Rheinstor Cottage



P.5.43. Open-sided barn, Rheinstor Cottage

5.51 Distinctive architectural features of these building types include arched cart entrances, hopper windows, ventilation slits, pitching and stable doors.

5.52 The Coach-house at Haddonfields formerly had a single storey building attached to its south-western elevation which lined the roadside. This almost formed a U-courtyard arrangement with The Barn until the 1980s when the single storey wing was razed.



P.5.44. Haddonfields Coach-house

5.53 Generally, in Alport there is no pattern to the siting of ancillary structures in relation to their host building. In the Conservation Area and its setting, a number of the older ancillary buildings form parts of boundaries. Other ancillary structures are detached and sited informally, following the topography.

5.54 A former joiner's workshop is the only evidence in Alport of a commercially active frontage addressing the street. Both the front and rear elevations of this nineteenth century property contain large window openings, the rear one retaining Yorkshire sashes.



P.5.45. Limekilns east of the corn mill

5.55 There are four limekilns in the Conservation Area, at least three of which are thought to originate from the early nineteenth century, if not before. Two are located immediately east of the corn mill and the other two by the entrance to the mill site.

5.56 The largest of these kilns is located to the east of the water mill (see P.5.45.). This structure is built into the side of a relatively steep natural bank, allowing access to both the top of the kiln and to the draw arch at the bottom. The kiln's pot is accessed via a path, to the east of

the site entrance. The pot's construction is unknown but is likely to have a brick inner skin. The external skin of the kiln is constructed from roughly coursed limestone. There is a brick fire mouth and the draw arch comprises a stone vault to provide space for a person to work in, drawing out the quicklime.

Key

(All dates are approximate)

- 17th century
- 18th century
- 19th century
- 20th century
- Structure may have earlier core
- Some extension or alteration to structure
- Conservation Area boundary
- Proposed Conservation Area Extension

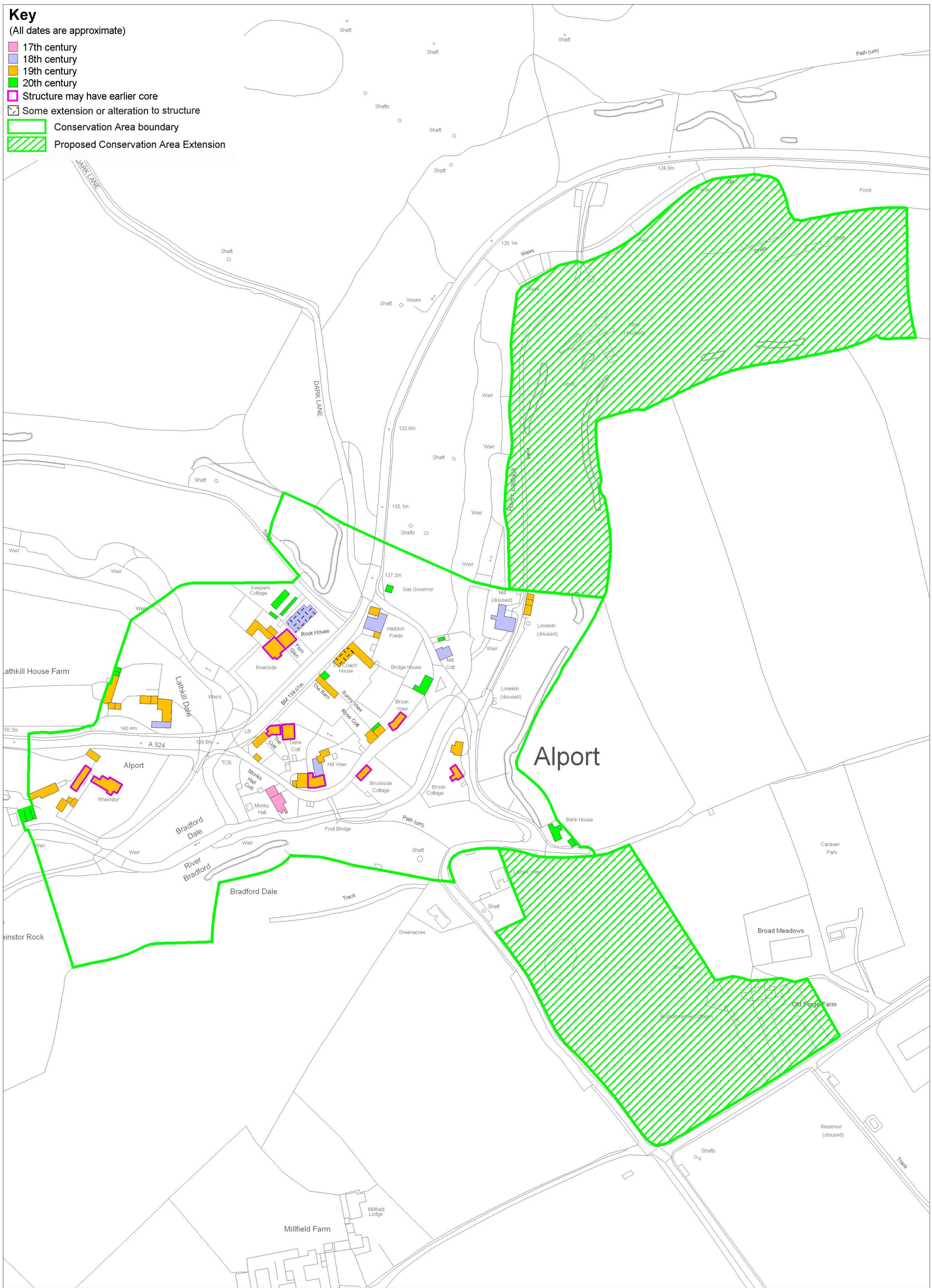


Fig.18. Architectural Development within Alport Conservation Area

6.0 PREVALENT & TRADITIONAL BUILDING MATERIALS

6.1 With the exception of a few small ancillary twentieth century structures, buildings in Alport are constructed from stone. The prolific use of the local stone throughout the Conservation Area has provided a strong unifying element. This not only creates a homogeneous appearance to the settlement but roots it in the surrounding landscape, reflecting the local geology.

6.2 As is typical of the White Peak, limestone is the predominant stone type and traditional construction material in Alport and its immediate setting. This stone has a characteristic grey-white colour and would have been won from local quarries. The walls of many of the older properties and boundaries are constructed from roughly hewn limestone rubble, either uncoursed or roughly brought to courses (see P.6.1.).



P.6.1. Limestone walling, roughly brought to courses

6.3 Historically, tufa was also used to construct buildings in Alport, primarily because of its local availability (see Section 2 for information on this stone type). Many of the buildings and boundary walls in the Conservation Area contain blocks of tufa (see P.6.2.). These include the rear elevation and a chimney at The Cottage (see P.6.3.), walls to Brook View, Lathkill Farm, Haddonfields and the cellar at Corner Cottage.

6.4 The majority of buildings in the Conservation Area are constructed from more than one stone type. For instance, the front elevation of Lathkill Farm is built from a red coloured dressed gritstone but the east gable end is constructed from tufa. The road-side elevation to Haddonfields is a mix of tufa, limestone and gritstone (see P.6.4.).



P.6.2. Left: Tufa walling to the small building south-west of the Reading Room

P.6.3. Right: Tufa chimney at The Cottage



P.6.4. Limestone, tufa and gritstone form the rear wall to Haddonfields.

6.5 A range of gritstones were also used in the construction of buildings in the Conservation Area. These vary in colour from red, pink-buff to lilac-grey. Gritstone would not have been won in the immediate locality but was probably brought in to Alport from nearby quarries at Birchover and Stanton. In contrast to limestone, the external faces of gritstone are normally tooled. Gritstone is a much softer than Carboniferous limestone therefore easier to work. A number of the properties in Alport had their south-facing facades re-built in gritstone during the nineteenth century. Examples include Lathkill Farm and Rheinstor Cottage.



P.6.5. Left: Quarter faced punched gritstone

P.6.6. Right: Dressed gritstone with gritstone quoins

6.6 Older structures in the Conservation Area can be identified by random rubble walls or roughly squared stone brought to courses. The use of ashlar and other finely dressed stonework for walls is a characteristic of late eighteenth and nineteenth century architecture.

6.7 The majority of buildings in the Conservation Area have tooled gritstone dressings. These include kneelers (see P.6.7.), tabling around stacks, copings (also referred to locally as pinions), quoins and window and door surrounds. There appears to have been a continuous tradition of using quoins in buildings in Alport, from the seventeenth century through to the twentieth century. The east gable end to Lathkill Farm has a crow-stepped verge detail formed from gritstone blocks (see P.6.8.). The east elevation of this property contains ornate stone arched window surrounds. There are simpler arched surrounds to the third floor window in the east elevation of Rheinstor Cottage. Sandstone Doric columns and dressed stone panels have been re-used in the south elevation of the barn attached to the north of Hillview.



P.6.7. Left: Kneeler and coping stone, Lathkill Farm

P.6.8. Right: Crow-stepped verge, Lathkill Farm

6.8 A range of tooling styles can be seen on the external faces of the gritstone used in Alport's buildings, including quarter faced punched (see P.6.5.) and sparrow pecked (see P.6.10.).



P.6.9. Left: Dressed stone window surround, Lathkill Farm

P.6.10. Right: Dressed stone window surround, Brookview

6.9 Several houses in the Conservation Area have a natural or light-coloured wet dash finish to external walls (see P.6.11.), for example Corner Cottage and Bradford House. There are also examples of plain render and pebbledash finishes (see P.6.12.) to some of the properties including Mill Cottage, Brookside and Cockpit Hill House. These rendered finishes often mask poor quality rubble stonework, making the property weather-tight and/or for aesthetic reasons. The subtle neutral colours of the local stone and render wall finishes provide unity to the Conservation Area's built environment.



P.6.11. Left: Wet-dash wall finish

P.6.12. Right: Pebble-dash wall finish and gritstone quoins

6.10 Buildings in the Conservation Area are laid out at different levels therefore roofs make a significant contribution to the character of the Conservation Area, particularly when viewed from higher parts of the settlement or its setting. There is no visible evidence that any of the properties in Alport were formerly thatched. However, cottages in the village allegedly had thatch roof coverings in 1827 (Youlgrave WI 1931).

6.11 Carboniferous sandstone slates (see P.6.13.), referred to locally as 'grey slate', cover the roofs of a number of properties within the Conservation Area, including Monks Hall, The Cottage and Bridge House.



P.6.13. Stone slate roof covering

6.12 Improvements in transport and infrastructure at the beginning of the nineteenth century led to an increase in mass-produced and non-indigenous construction materials in the area. These included blue slate, brick, clay tiles, glass, cast iron windows and rainwater goods.

6.13 Blue slate can also be found covering the roofs of buildings in Alport (P.6.14.). There are examples of slate roof coverings laid in diminishing and standard courses. Plain blue clay tiles have also been used as a roof covering to Dene Cottage and a variety of blue clay tiles cover the lean-to roof at the back of Mill Cottage, including plain, diamond and club tiles (see P.6.15)..



P.6.14. Left: Blue slate roof covering, diminishing and standard courses

P.6.15. Right: Different blue clay tile types covering the pent roof at Mill Cottage.

6.14 Modern roofing materials are also evident in the Conservation Area. For example, corrugated sheeting covers the roof of the barn to the north-west of Lathkill Farm.

6.15 Chimneystacks are also an important aspect of the roofscape in Alport with the majority of dwellings possessing at least one chimney. Most of the chimneystacks are built from gritstone ashlar with tabling, cornices and plinths (see P.6.16.).

6.16 There are also a few examples of blue engineering brick chimneystacks at Brook Cottage and Dene Cottage (see P.6.17.). There

are also blue and red brick chimneystacks at Brook View. There are no brick buildings in the Conservation Area. A brick lean-to structure attached to the west elevation of Rock Cottage was replaced in stone in 1997.



P.6.16. Left: Ashlar dressed chimneystacks

P.6.17. Right: Blue engineering brick chimneystack, Dene Cottage.

6.17 Traditional rainwater goods comprise cast iron gutters with half round profiles and cast iron hopper heads and down-pipes. The gutters are normally fixed to buildings with metal drive-in and stay brackets (P.6.18.) or rise and fall brackets. Buildings typically have mortared verges and often coped gables. Fascias and bargeboards are not part of the local tradition.



P.6.18. Drive-in gutter bracket with stay

6.18 There are a variety of window styles in the Conservation Area. The majority comprise either timber casement or sash windows (see P6.19). There are no U-pvc windows in the Conservation Area. All window openings appear to have gritstone surrounds and the windows themselves tend to be subdivided and normally have a vertical emphasis. The former joiners shop, near the Reading Room, has Yorkshire sashes to its rear elevation (see P6.20.).



P.6.19. Left, Sash window, Bradford House

P.6.20. Right: Yorkshire sash, Joiner's workshop

6.19 The earliest window type in the Conservation Area is the gritstone cruciform window surround in the front of Monks Hall. This property also has gritstone double chamfered mullion windows, characteristic of the seventeenth century. These frame leaded lights subdivided into small square quarries (see P.6.21.).



P.6.21. Double chamfered gritstone window surrounds and leaded lights, Monks Hall

6.20 The plain square leaded lights at Mill Cottage are characteristic of the eighteenth century. Some of the Gothic windows to the front elevations of Rose Cottage and Sunnyview are made from cast iron (see P6.22.). Dating from the early to mid-part of the nineteenth century, these windows were possibly manufactured in the Manchester locality (pers.comm. David Marsh) and transported to the area via the railways. These windows are fixed and subdivided into small panes of glass. Some have opening side hung lights, normally comprising four panes, within the window itself. This same window type can be found in properties elsewhere in the National Park, including Middleton-by-Youlgrave, Cressbrook and Ravensdale. Larger versions of this window type can be seen at Broadmeadow Cottages, to the south-east of Alport.



P.6.22. Gothic cast iron windows,

6.21 There are a variety of door types in Alport Conservation Area, all formed from timber. These range from plank and battened doors to six and four paneled doors (see P.6.23. to P.6.26.).



P.6.23. Left: Plank and battened door, Monks Hall Cottage

P.6.24. Right: Plank and battened door, Rock Cottage



P.6.25. Left: 5 paneled door, Bradford House

P.6.26. Right: Traditional plank door, former joiner's shop, north of Monks Hall.



P.6.27. Ornate wrought iron door handle, former joiners shop, north of Monks Hall

6.22 Land in and surrounding Alport is enclosed and therefore boundaries contribute significantly to the character of the Conservation Area. A range of boundary types can be found comprising drystone walls, mortared walls, hedgerows and metal railings. These not only provide enclosure and variety in both the streetscape and landscape but also reflect the use and status of the land they surround as well providing information on how the area has developed.

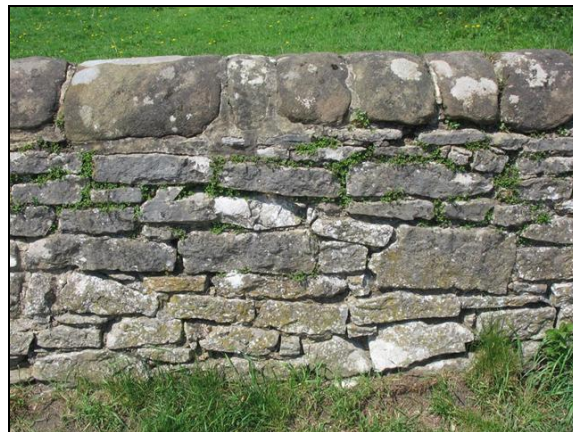


P.6.28. Left: Limestone boundary wall and privet hedge

P.6.29. Right: Tufa boundary wall, gritstone copings and cast iron railings.

6.23 Stone walls are the predominant boundary type in the Conservation Area, particularly on the higher slopes. The majority are constructed from the local limestone. Drystone wall construction prevails in and around Alport (see P.6.30.). These walls are generally tapered towards the top of the structure whilst larger pieces of stone, known as through or bonding stones, tie the stonework together. There is a particularly fine dressed gritstone wall to the front of Bradford House (see P.6.31.).

6.24 Some of the drystone walls, most notably to the main roadside, have mortared copings presumably to increase resistance to the elements. There are a variety of coping details to walls in the Conservation Area. These include tightly packed stones on end to dressed half round, hogback or saddleback copings. Wide gritstone flags form the copings to the boundary wall at Monks Hall. A large gritstone trough forms part of the eastern boundary wall to Rock House (see P.6.33.).



P.6.30. Drystone boundary wall



P.6.31. Left, Tooled gritstone wall, Bradford House.

P.6.32. Right, Mortared tufa wall with gritstone copings.



P.6.33. Trough forming part of the boundary wall, Rock Cottage

6.25 Various types of stone gateposts and piers punctuate the stone walls. These range from irregular roughly dressed pillars with round or flat tops, broached piers and dressed stone piers with pyramidal or ball finials. The gate piers to Monks Hall are of particular note (see P.6.34.), constructed from large dressed stone blocks, these have a robust appearance. Painted timber picket gates and metal gates form the pedestrian access to many plots whilst five bar timber or metal gates are used for wider entrances.



P.6.34. Robust gritstone gatepiers to Monks Hall

6.26 Railings form part of the boundary treatment to the front of building plots on the northern side of the main road in Alport. Many are historic and formed from wrought and/or cast iron. These are bedded directly into coping stones. A variety of finial designs can be found to the railings, including spear head and trefoil. There are particularly fine railings to the front of Lathkill Farm (see P.6.39.). These comprise wrought iron spearhead railings with urn finials at intervals.



P.6.39. Railings to the front of Lathkill Farm



P.6.35. Left: Dressed gate-piers, Fern Glenn

P.6.36. Right: Gate-piers with ball finials, Bank House



P.6.40. Left: Historic railings.

P.6.41. Right: Modern railings



P.6.37. Left: Dressed stone gate-pier and stile

P.6.38. Right: Stone pier with margin dressing

6.27 Roads in and around Alport were probably un-metalled dirt tracks or formed from compacted stone before the twentieth century. Postcards of Alport from the early twentieth century show these road types (see P.6.42.). Today, tarmacadam is the prevailing surface material for roads and the few pavements in the Conservation Area. With the exception of the main through route, roads are currently free of markings. This makes a significant contribution to the rural character and appearance of the settlement. There are also very few traffic signs within this Conservation Area. Some sections of road within this Conservation Area are flanked with grass verges. These provide an important visual amenity and make a significant contribution to the rural character of the Conservation Area.



P.6.42 Alport in the early twentieth century

6.28 Another rural characteristic of the Conservation Area is that there are few pavements.

6.29 There are examples of historic and traditional paving in the Conservation Area. The majority comprise gritstone flags. Most are sited within private spaces, to the front of properties, for example, at Monks Hall, Mill Cottage and Bradford House (see P.6.43.). Gritstone setts provide the ground surface to a small yard to the south-west of Rheinstor Cottage. Gritstone kerbs provide the edging to the triangular piece of grass in front of Bridge House and to the south side of a grass verge to the rear of the Reading Room. There are also stone squeeze-throughs at the entrances to the footbridge over the River Lathkill (see P.6.44.).



P.6.43. Stone flag paving, Bradford House

P.6.44. Stone squeeze-throughs on the footbridge

6.30 There is little street furniture in the Conservation Area. A traditional red K6 telephone-box stands on the bridge by the entrance to Rheinstor Cottage and Bradford Dale (see P.6.45.). The telephone box was purchased by Youlgrave Parish Council in 2009. The telephone equipment has been removed from inside the telephone box. To the side of this structure is a timber memorial bench. A traditional red post-box is located within the road-side elevation of the Reading Room (see P.6.46.).



P.6.45. Left: K6 telephone box



P.6.46. Right: Post-box in the back elevation of the Reading Room

6.31 There are a number of historic lamp-posts in Alport. A few of these have simple fluted cast iron posts, possibly dating from the early-mid twentieth century. These are located by the bridge north-west of Monks Hall; at the top of Joules Lane; and on the triangular piece of grass to the front of Bridge House. Another lamp-post sited near the footbridge, east of Monks Hall, has an ornate base and appears to be the same pattern as historically used in Bakewell (see P.6.48.). Light fittings to these columns are modern and utilitarian. A modern street light is also attached to the road-side gable end of The Barn. Stone bases to three former oil lamps survive on the flanking walls to three of the bridges in the settlement (see P.6.47.).



P.6.47. Left: Stone base to former oil street-light



P.6.48. Right: Lamp-post base, near the footbridge

7. SPATIAL ANALYSIS

7.1 The Conservation Area currently contains the majority of Alport village apart from Greenacres and Lathkill View on the south-eastern edge of the settlement (see Figs.2 & 3).

7.2 The Authority's Landscape Character Strategy and Action Plan (LSAP 2009) identifies Alport as being within the White Peak and typical of Limestone Dales. Key characteristics of this landscape type are steep-sided limestone dales; craggy outcrops and scree slopes; extensive patches of limestone grassland; a mix of ancient semi-natural woodland, secondary woodland and scrub; largely unsettled apart from occasional small settlements and historic mineral working, for instance quarrying and lead mining.

7.3 There are no panoramic views from within Alport as dalesides and woodland contain the settlement. The gentle rising topography encompasses and has defined the hamlet, by influencing its form, dictating the siting of buildings and to a large extent the shape and size of plots. This environment has also contributed to the relatively secluded appearance of the hamlet.

7.4 Alport is laid out at different levels with the village core based on the valley floor. The settlement form primarily consists of two connected roads with other routes leading into and/or branching off from this core.

7.5 The confluence of the rivers Bradford and Lathkill is a key component of the settlement. Both rivers contribute significantly to the character of the Conservation Area encompassing the majority of the hamlet to the south and east. The rivers cascade down from the north and west, through the village via a series of weirs. Alport is a quiet place and the sound of flowing water from the rivers contributes to the tranquillity of the place.

7.6 The Conservation Area has a predominantly rural character. Features that make a significant contribution to this character are an irregular settlement form, the local vernacular architecture, agrarian building and boundary types, green verges, hedges, individual trees, woodland and pockets of green open space. Narrow lanes and the absence of pavements from most of the roads are also important rural characteristics of this Conservation Area.

7.7 Most of the open space within the village form private gardens and allotments. These verdant areas and the woodlands that provide many of the edges to the Conservation Area help

soften Alport's built environment and integrate it within the surrounding landscape.

7.8 With the exception of the main road, routes in and adjoining the Conservation Area do not receive any significant traffic use; this helps maintain the quiet nature of the settlement.

7.9 A network of lanes, narrow footpaths, bridges and holloways connect spaces and routes throughout the settlement and with its wider setting. Many of these routes are laid out at a different level to the land they border.

7.10 Within the Conservation Area there is a strong sense of enclosure. This is created by land gradually rising to headland to the north and west; the steeper dale sides to the south and east; narrow lanes; woodland, hedges and individual trees; buildings and the network of drystone walls. Sunken holloways and roads within the overall Conservation Area also contribute to this character.

7.11 The Conservation Area has an unplanned form that has developed organically. This is reflected in the irregular arrangement of the buildings. There is no civic or formal open space to this Conservation Area or visible nucleus. There are also no landmark buildings within the Conservation Area, for example a church or village hall.

7.12 Plot sizes and layouts are also irregular with no pattern to the position of buildings on their plots. There are examples of properties sited centrally within their plot, set back from the road within well-stocked gardens, behind stone boundary walls and/or hedges. There are also examples of properties directly addressing the street via an elevation or gable end. However, a common feature is that the majority of the purpose-built dwellings in the village centre face south or south-east.

7.13 Alport's built environment comprises small clusters of detached and semi-detached properties, connected and/or enclosed by drystone walls. The Conservation Area contains a range of building types, styles, scale and massing. Buildings on the north-west side of the main road are architecturally grander than those in the rest of the settlement.

7.14 There are a variety of ancillary buildings from large combination barns to small outbuildings. Some car parking is contained within the curtilage of buildings with a number of plots containing a garage and/or parking space.

7.15 The settlement can be accessed via three roads. From the north, the hamlet can be reached along Alport Lane from Hawley's Bridge.

The hamlet can also be approached from the west along Alport Lane from Youlgrave or from the south-east down Dudwood Lane, off Harthill Moor.



P.7.1. Southern access road to Alport

7.16 A number of footpaths and bridleways lead into and cross the Conservation Area. From the north-west along Lathkill Dale, there is a footpath that enters the village to the north-east of Lathkill Farm. An ancient route from the north known as Dark Lane connects the village with Haddon Fields. In the south-west corner of the Conservation Area is a bridleway leading to Bradford Dale.



P.7.2. Entrance to Alport from Lathkill Dale

7.17 The main through road, severs the north-west part of the Conservation Area from the rest of the settlement. This is the only road in the Conservation Area flanked by pavements. From the west, this route enters the settlement steeply down Alport Lane. Here, there are long-ranging views towards the south-east to Stanton.



P.7.3. The main road from the west

7.18 An informal car-park is located immediately north of this road with timber fencing and shrubs separating this area from the curtilage of Lathkill Farm. Beyond this area, the side gables and roofs of a large combination barn are just visible. Slightly further along is Lathkill Farm itself, located at a much lower level than the road.

7.19 To the south of the road, a drystone wall stands at the back of the pavement. Here, the roofs to Rheinstor Cottage and part of the top floor to Cockpit Hill House can be seen. From here, long-ranging views to the south are obstructed by the steep limestone escarpments. Further along the main road, just before the bridge, a vehicle track sweeps round to the south-west.

7.20 Land to the south-east of this informal route comprises enclosed waterside meadow, primarily used as pasture. The rivers Bradford and Lathkill bound this land to the south and east.

7.21 Beyond the rivers to the south and south-west, steep limestone escarpments, covered with woodland, form the southern edge of the Conservation Area.

7.22 To the west, Rheinstor Cottage marks the entrance to Bradford Dale. Here, a cluster of dwellings and a range of agricultural buildings are laid out informally at a much lower level than the main road. The river Bradford, at the western end of the Conservation Area, is flanked by low stone walls. The bridleway continues south-west towards Youlgrave as land gently rises to the north and the steep dale-side extends to the south.



P.7.4. The eastern entrance to Bradford Dale

7.23 Immediately east of the large sycamore tree in the garden to Lathkill Farm, there is a gateway in the stone boundary wall lining the main road. This allows access to a footpath heading along Lathkill Dale. Here, is a small open grassed area, with timber post and rail fencing preventing access to the river Lathkill. A rammed earth footway continues north-west. From here there are short-ranging views of the gently rising hills beyond the river and glimpses through the scattered trees to the rear of the properties on the north-west side of the main road. The large barn and other ancillary buildings to the south-west of Lathkill Farm can be seen to the west of this space.



P.7.5. Access to Lathkill Dale off the main road



P.7.6. Views to the north from the east of Lathkill Farm

7.24 A narrow footpath with a compacted limestone surface continues to the north-west. The north-east of this route is screened by a row of trees; these help frame long-ranging views further north along Lathkill Dale.

7.25 The main road continues north-east, over the River Lathkill, via a bridge widened in the 1930s. On the bridge there are short-ranging views upstream of the river cascading down a series of weirs (see P.7.7.).



P.7.7. The River Lathkill west of Riverside

7.26 On the north side of the main road, a private strip of grassland is bounded to the east by the tufa retaining wall to the River Lathkill and a higher limestone wall to the north-west. This route provides a right of way to the rear of Riverside.

7.27 On the southern flank of the bridge is an informal group of street furniture, including a K6 telephone box, a timber memorial bench, grit and litter bins. This area is one of two focal points in the Conservation Area. There are views to the south of the confluence between the rivers Lathkill and Bradford and neatly laid out allotments to the west of Monks Hall. From this area the main road sweeps round to the north-east and a narrow lane branches to the south-east down towards Monks Hall.



P.7.8. Allotments immediately west of Monks Hall

7.28 The Reading Room is located immediately east of this road junction, with its rear elevation addressing the street.



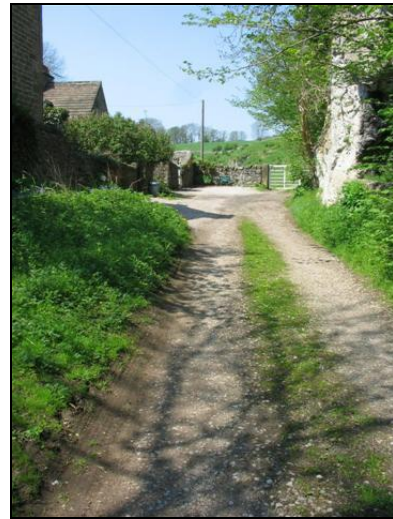
P.7.9. View to the north-east along the main road

7.29 Properties to the north-west of the main road appear grander than those in the rest of the Conservation Area. This character has been created primarily by the mannered appearance of the houses and their formal settings. In this locality, the larger dwellings are laid out in a row with ancillary structures forming a compact range to the rear. The main houses are set back from the road, within well-stocked gardens, separated by boundaries comprising stone plinths, metal railings and Beech hedges.



P.7.10. The north-western side of the main road

7.30 To the east of Rock House, a private unmetalled narrow lane, bordered by buildings and the Tufa Rock, leads to Rock Cottage and Stocking Field (see P.7.11.). The end of this short route forms part of the northern edge of the Conservation Area. From here, the land opens out and there are short-ranging views of open countryside (see P.7.12.).



P.7.11. Private track leading to Stocking Field



P.7.12. Stocking Field

7.31 Tufa Rock and small tufa outcrops stand between this route and Dark Lane, softened by grass verges, self-set trees and shrubs (see P.7.13.). The wide entrance to Dark Lane narrows as it steeply winds to the north. The southern part of this ancient holloway is bounded by tufa boulders, woodland and limestone drystone walls. Along this route there are long-ranging views over to the east.



P.7.13. Tufa outcrops to the east of the main road



P.7.14. Wide entrance to Dark Lane

7.32 Alport Lane is the northern entrance to the hamlet. Views out of the settlement from this area are blocked by bends in the road. A gas governor is concealed by woodland on the eastern flank of Alport Lane leading out of the settlement. This woodland forms part of the north-eastern edge of the Conservation Area.



P.7.15. North-eastern entrance to Alport

7.33 The north-eastern edge of the main road is provided by an almost continuous building line, comprised high boundary walls and two storey blank gable ends (see P.7.16.). Trees and shrubs in the garden at Dene Cottage, further south along the road, provide relief from the built form and create a more informal character (see P.7.17.). Here, the rear elevations of properties face the street.



P.7.16. North-eastern edge of the main road



P.7.17. South-eastern edge of the main road.

7.34 To the west of the Reading Room, a lane drops down into the lower part of the hamlet. High stone walls line this road. Within the eastern wall is a small single storey structure, a former

joiner's workshop. As the road descends in this area, views to the north, beyond the stone boundary walls, comprise the tops of houses. To the east, views are blocked by a cluster of two storey properties with woodland providing a backdrop.



P.7.18. A former joiner's shop forming part of the boundary



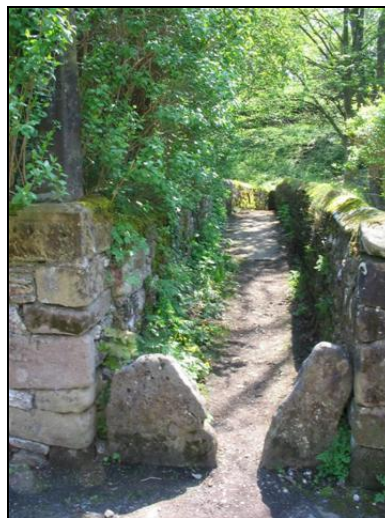
P.7.19. Views blocked by boundary walls

7.35 As the lane becomes narrower and relatively level, a small informal courtyard to the east provides access to the front of Hillview. (see P.7.20.). This space is enclosed by a group of single storey ancillary buildings to the north and two storey properties to the east and south.



P.7.20. Access to Hillview

7.36 Monks Hall is located to the south-west of the lane, facing the street but set back behind a robust stone boundary wall. Its domestic garden extends to the footbridge over the River Lathkill, to the east.



P.7.21. Footbridge over the river Lathkill

7.37 The road continues heading towards the north-east, bordered on both sides by stone walls varying in type and height. There is a break in southern wall, allowing access to a narrow footbridge over the Lathkill. Further along, the relatively blank rear elevation to Brookside Cottage forms part of the continuous boundary to the road.

7.38 Corner Cottage and Bradford House, on the northern side of the lane, help contain this part of the hamlet. The garden immediately east of Bradford House is at a much higher level than the road.

7.39 The picturesque front elevations of Rose Cottage and Sunnyview directly front the street. The building line is continued with a high boundary wall that connects the cottages to Brookview. There are no views north from this area as the road is at a much lower level than elsewhere in the settlement and visibility is obstructed by the buildings and walls. To the south, there are views of the verdant gardens to Brookside Cottage and the riverbank with limestone escarpments forming a backdrop.



P.7.22. The end of the lower lane widens out to the east

7.40 The westernmost bay to Brook View is at an angle to the street, the rest of the front elevation runs parallel to the road. A boundary wall connects this property with the neighbouring dwelling, Mill House, again directly addressing the street.

7.41 The north-eastern end of this road widens out. In the middle, a traditional lamp-post stands on a triangular grass island, edged by gritstone kerbs. This area is the other focal point in the Conservation Area.



P.7.23. Southern entrance to Joules Lane

7.42 This route bottlenecks to the north, rising up the steep Joules Lane, with Mill Cottage gable end to the road (see P.7.23.). There is a strong sense of enclosure to this lane provided by the narrowness of the road, directly bounded to the west by the high boundary wall to Haddonfields and to the east by another stone boundary wall with mature woodland beyond. Through this woodland there are glimpses down onto the corn mill. The top of this lane intersects with the main road at the northern entrance to the village.

7.43 The road to the south-east of the triangular grassed area leads directly onto Mill Bridge. On the bridge there are short-ranging views upstream. There are also views downstream towards the corn mill but the fall in

the river at this point and the dense woodland beyond obstruct views out of the settlement.



P.7.24. View of the packhorse bridge over the River Lathkill with the riverbank in the foreground



P.7.25. View of the village from on the packhorse bridge



P.7.26. View of the corn mill from the packhorse bridge

7.44 A private lane to the north-east of the southern side of the bridge leads to the corn mill. To the south, the road continues passing Brook Cottage and its garage to the west. Here, the road begins to rise to the south-east. To the east of this road are small fields with scattered trees contained further east by limestone escarpments. Looking back at the hamlet from this road, there are mid-ranged views of the village centre.



P.7.27. View of the village from the south side of the river Lathkill

7.45 The lane winds up the hillside to Bank House (see P.7.28.), flanked by low drystone walls, green verges, shrubs and trees. When viewed from the road, Bank House is visually prominent. This is primarily because the dwelling has been constructed on a much higher level than the road. Views from Bank House down towards the village are obstructed by woodland and bends in the road.



P.7.28. Bank House at the top of Dudwood Lane
P.7.29. Looking down Dudwood Lane

7.46 A vehicular access peters out to a public right of way beyond the garage to Bank House. Bordering the south side of this lane is a watercourse that falls into a culvert, runs beneath the road and discharges above the River Lathkill.

7.47 From Bank House there are long-ranging views to the south-east towards Broadmeadow. A public footpath continues east along a narrow tree-lined route, possibly an ancient holloway allowing access to fields.

7.48 The road turns back acutely on itself to the front of Bank House and continues steeply rising towards Harthill Moor, lined by trees.



P.7.30. Southern entrance to the Conservation Area

7.49 Above Bank House, a public footpath from the road descends the south embankment of the river Lathkill through woodland to the footbridge south of Bradford House. The path is partially lined with low drystone walls. From this area there are views, through the trees, down on the village core and to the northern side of Alport.



P.7.31. View down onto Brook Cottage from the south embankment of the river Lathkill



P.7.32. View from the southern part of the Conservation Area to the north

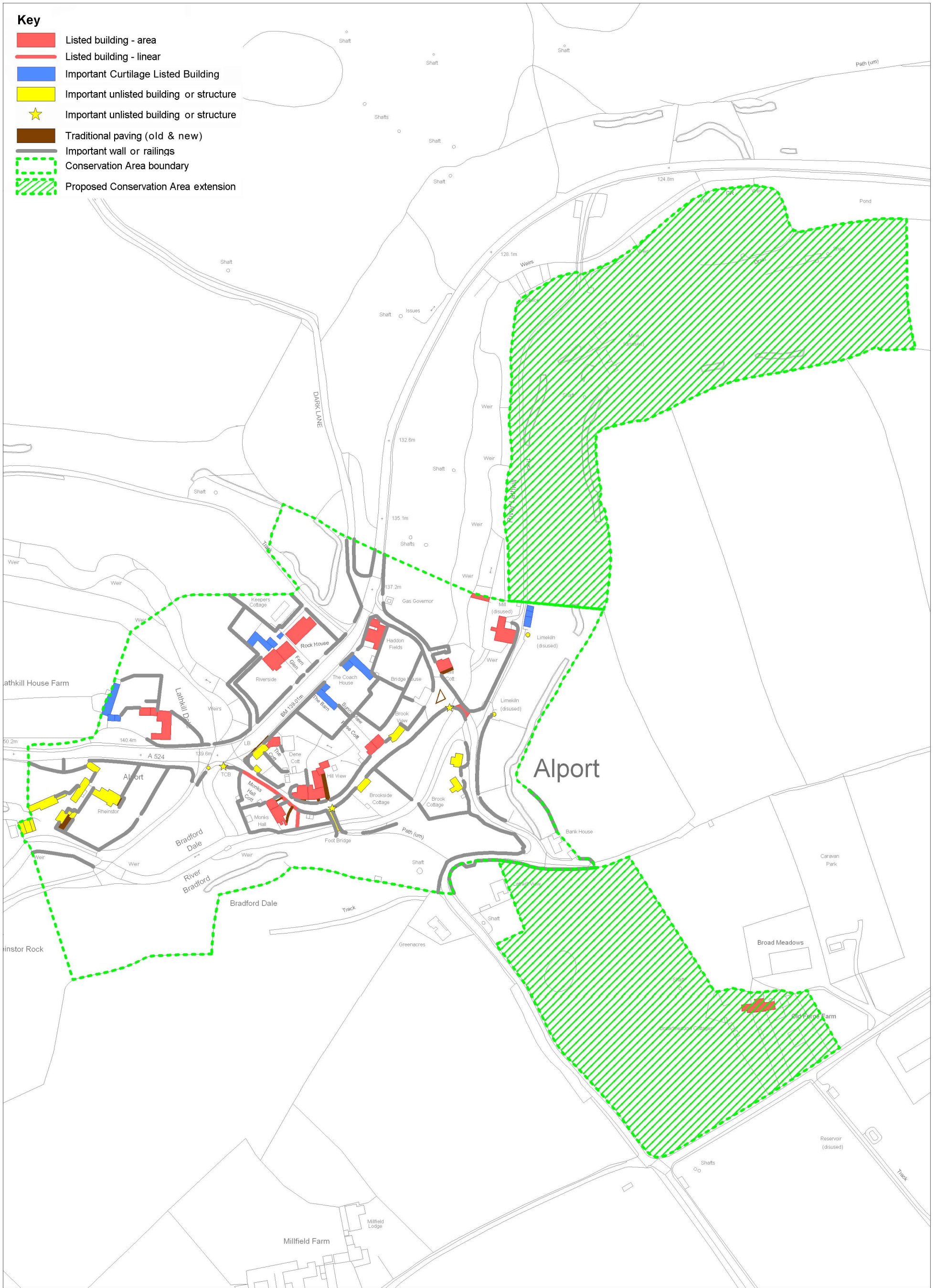


Fig.19. Streetscape Features within Alport Conservation Area

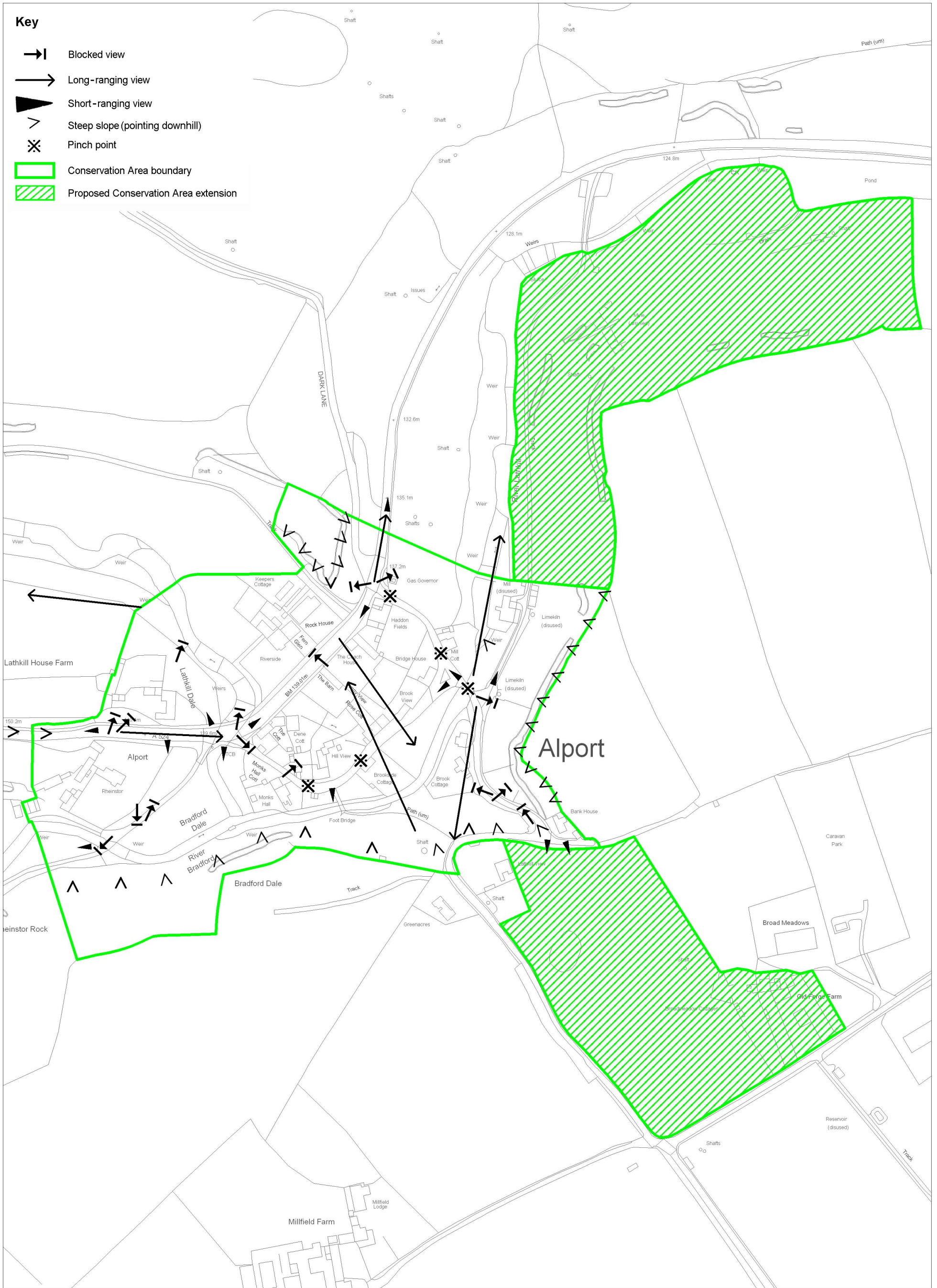


Fig.20. Views within Alport Conservation Area

8.0 GREEN & OTHER NATURAL FEATURES

8.1 The distinctive character of Alport is not solely derived from buildings. The rivers, trees, hedges, gardens, enclosed fields and other green spaces make an important contribution to the historic and aesthetic qualities. Generally, trees and hedgerows are integral to rural Conservation Areas as they form enclosures, screen structures and are part of the historic landscape. They also help maintain rural character and provide a harmonious transition from open countryside to built environment.

8.2 Obviously the impact of broadleaf trees on a Conservation Area changes dramatically throughout the year. Bare branches in winter create a completely different feel and allow different views to those of the summer months when trees are in full leaf. In Alport the presence of a significant number of evergreen trees and prolific ivy growth amongst trees and over walls, ensures that Alport has quite a green appearance even in winter.



P.8.1 Evergreens and Ivy give a green appearance in winter

8.3 The Authority's Landscape Strategy and Action Plan (LSAP 2009) identifies Alport Conservation Area as being within the White Peak. The White Peak is subdivided into four further landscape types; Limestone Village Farmlands, Limestone Plateau Pastures; Limestone Hills and Slopes and Limestone Dales. Alport Conservation Area is within the Limestone Dales category. More specifically Alport is within Lathkilldale and at the eastern entrance to Bradford Dale.

8.4 The Authority's 'Landscape Strategy and Action Plan' (LSAP 2009), White Peak identifies (p.12) the key characteristics as: steeply-sided limestone dales, craggy outcrops, cliffs and scree slopes, extensive patches of limestone grassland, interlocking blocks of ancient semi-

natural woodland, secondary woodland and scrub, largely unsettled apart from occasional mill settlement and historic mineral working (quarrying, lead mining).

8.5 The LSAP goes on to state (p.13) that, "Tree cover is a key feature of the dales, although in places its extent is limited. Some dalesides are extensively wooded with large tracts of semi-natural woodland dominated by Ash and Hazel." It goes on to say that, "Overall the woodland cover, coupled with the steep valley sides can create a strong sense of visual containment."



P.8.2 An Aerial View of Alport circa mid 20th century shows the extent of surrounding woodland © PDNPA

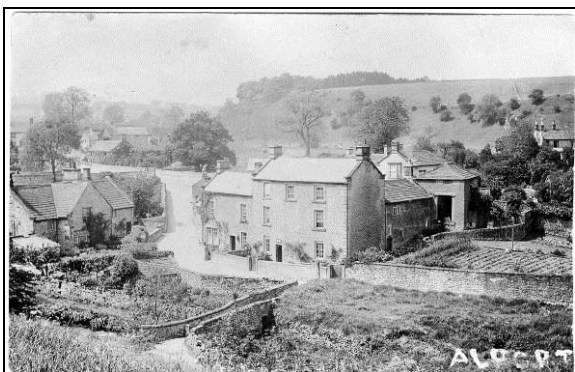
8.6 Alport is typical of a Limestone Dales settlement, having its origins in agriculture, quarrying, milling and lead mining. The southern bank of the Bradford/Lathkill, between Rheinstor Rock and Brook Cottage is covered with woodland masking the evidence of former lead mining activity; and it is nestled in a valley bottom with steeply wooded slopes to the south, west and east which create a strong sense of enclosure even in the winter months.



P.8.3 Trees add to the sense of enclosure even in Winter

8.7 Historically, Alport had a more open appearance with less tree coverage than it has today. A photograph, taken towards the end of the nineteenth century shows that Alport was quite heavily cultivated containing small gardens and allotments and far fewer trees. It is therefore

evident that much of the planting in the village took place around the end of the nineteenth and during the twentieth centuries.



P.8.4 Postcard of Alport circa 1908 showing sparse tree cover and gardens © Gordon Coupe



P.8.5 Allotments, west of Monks Hall

8.8 This seems to be confirmed by map evidence and none of the available historic maps prior to 1848 note the presence of any trees in Alport. However, maps tended to be drawn with a specific in mind and recording trees may not have been within the remit. It is unlikely that none were present. The 1848 Great Rowsley Tithe map (Fig.13), is the first to show any tree planting, and notes an area of woodland to the north of Mill Cottage which is still in existence today.



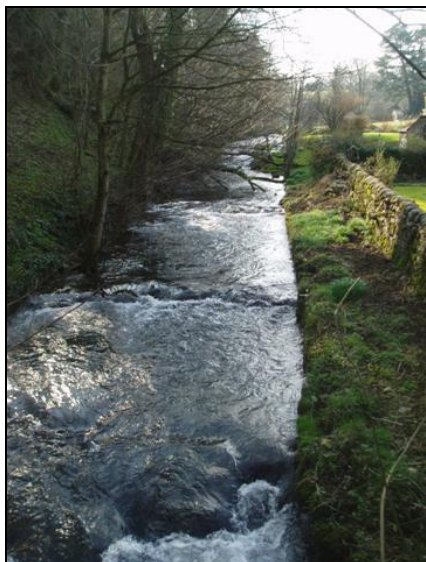
P.8.6 Trees behind Mill Cottage, This plantation is shown on the 1848 Tithe Map

8.9 The map of the Township of Harthill 1851 (Fig 14) shows escarpment trees to the west bank of the River Lathkill near Alport Mill. This indicates a mix of conifer and broadleaf trees. As this map is specific to Harthill, the majority of Alport is not shown.

8.10 The most detail is recorded on the Ordnance Survey maps, and the First Edition for Alport was published in 1879 (Fig.15). This indicates areas of mixed tree species growing along the steep slopes of the river bank, and broadleaf trees to the north-east of Rock House and Alport Mill. It also shows some trees growing in the grounds of Rheinstor Cottage, Riverside, Rock House and Haddonfields.

8.11 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1898 (Fig 16) shows the areas of mixed species and broadleaf trees as mentioned above but it does not show any trees within the grounds of individual properties. The Third Edition Ordnance Survey 1922 (Fig.17), does not show anything in addition to this apart from a group of trees in the grounds of Rheinstor Cottage.

8.12 The woodland on the steep slope at the side of the rivers Bradford and Lathkill is a mixture of ancient woodland with some natural regeneration. This includes mainly beech with some ash, elm and sycamore with a sparse under-storey of ivy, dog's mercury and wood false-brome. This is not only significant ecologically, but contributes considerably to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area providing a backdrop to many of the views within it.



P.8.7 Riverside trees dominate many views

8.13 The large number of trees and areas of woodland within Alport make it difficult to single out individual specimens of significance as they all play a part in the overall picture. There are however some veteran trees which are worthy of note. These include a large sycamore behind Rock Cottage which may be over 150 years old. Other trees of a similar age are two sycamores growing in the grounds of Lathkill Farm and an Ash tree on the eastern boundary of the Conservation Area near Bank House. The garden at Dene Cottage contains a Lime tree which is likely to be over 100 years old. It is significant in that it appears to be the only Lime tree in Alport. This garden also contains a beech of a similar age.



P.8.8 Veteran sycamore, Lathkill Farm

8.14 Alport contains a high percentage of non-native ornamental trees. Conifers are particularly common. Evergreen specimen planting is typical of the Victorian taste. Species would have been chosen for picturesque qualities. It is important to note varieties of conifer would have been newly introduced to this country from about 1840 onwards. They would

have been considered both exotic and fashionable. Of particular note is the collection of evergreens, possibly a pinetum, in front of Rheinstor Cottage which includes Corsican and Crimean Pines.



P.8.9 Collection of Conifers at Rheinstor Cottage

8.15 There are other types of planting which contribute positively to the appearance of the Conservation Area. There are many examples of plants growing on walls, some of which are self-set and some deliberately planted. These add softness and colour to the Conservation Area during the summer. Ivy is quite commonly found growing amongst woodland and over walls within Alport.



P.8.10 A combination of ivy and other plants soften the appearance of walls

8.16 There are a few examples of hedging in the hamlet; beech is found to the front boundaries of some properties on the main road. These are quite prominent in the street scene given their height and length and provide a distinctive rich rust colour in the winter months. There is also a Beech hedge to Bank House on the eastern boundary of the Conservation Area. In the centre of the settlement there are just two hedges, both privet, these are to the boundaries of Mill Cottage and Brook View.



P.8.11 Beech hedge in front of Rock House

8.17 Alport Conservation Area is rich in ecology. The river Lathkill, which enters the Conservation Area at its northern boundary, is part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This also forms part of the Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation (SAC). There is also an Area of Section 3 land to the north-east of the Conservation Area near Mill Cottage and the mill which consists of woodland on an ancient woodland site.



P.8.12 Part of Lathkill Dale SSSI is in Alport Conservation Area.

8.18 There is a Key Ecological Area, within the Conservation Area to the north-east near Mill Cottage and the Mill. Here the habitat consists of deciduous woodland and damp river margins, but the main reason for designation is the calcareous grassland.



P.8.13 Land near the mill is a Key Ecological Area

8.19 There are two Regionally Important Geological Areas (RIGS) within the Conservation Area boundary. Part of the Rheinstor Rocks RIGs is to the south of the Conservation Area near Rheinstor Cottage, and Alport Tufa and Caves RIGs covers the majority of the hamlet to the south of the main road.



P.8.14 Tufa outcrops near Rock House

8.20 Several protected species have been recorded in the Conservation Area including water vole, white clawed crayfish and the plant dark mullein. The white-clawed crayfish population in the river Bradford are considered to be the best example in the Peak District. These are particularly vulnerable from climate change, pollution, habitat loss and non-native species. Both the water vole and white-clawed crayfish are UK and local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species. For more information on the ecological designations and protected species, the Authority's Ecology Service should be contacted.

8.21 There are no formal green public spaces in Alport Conservation Area. Public footpaths near Lathkill Farm to the north and Rheinstor Cottage to the west give access to significant areas of informal green open space outside the Conservation Area.



P.8.15 The footpath near Rheinstor Cottage gives access to open space

8.22 There is little public open space within the Conservation Area, which means the field to the south of Rheinstor Cottage is quite noticeable and makes it an area of significant open space. This is in sharp contrast to the steep wooded slope behind it.



P.8.16 The open space opposite Rheinstor Cottage

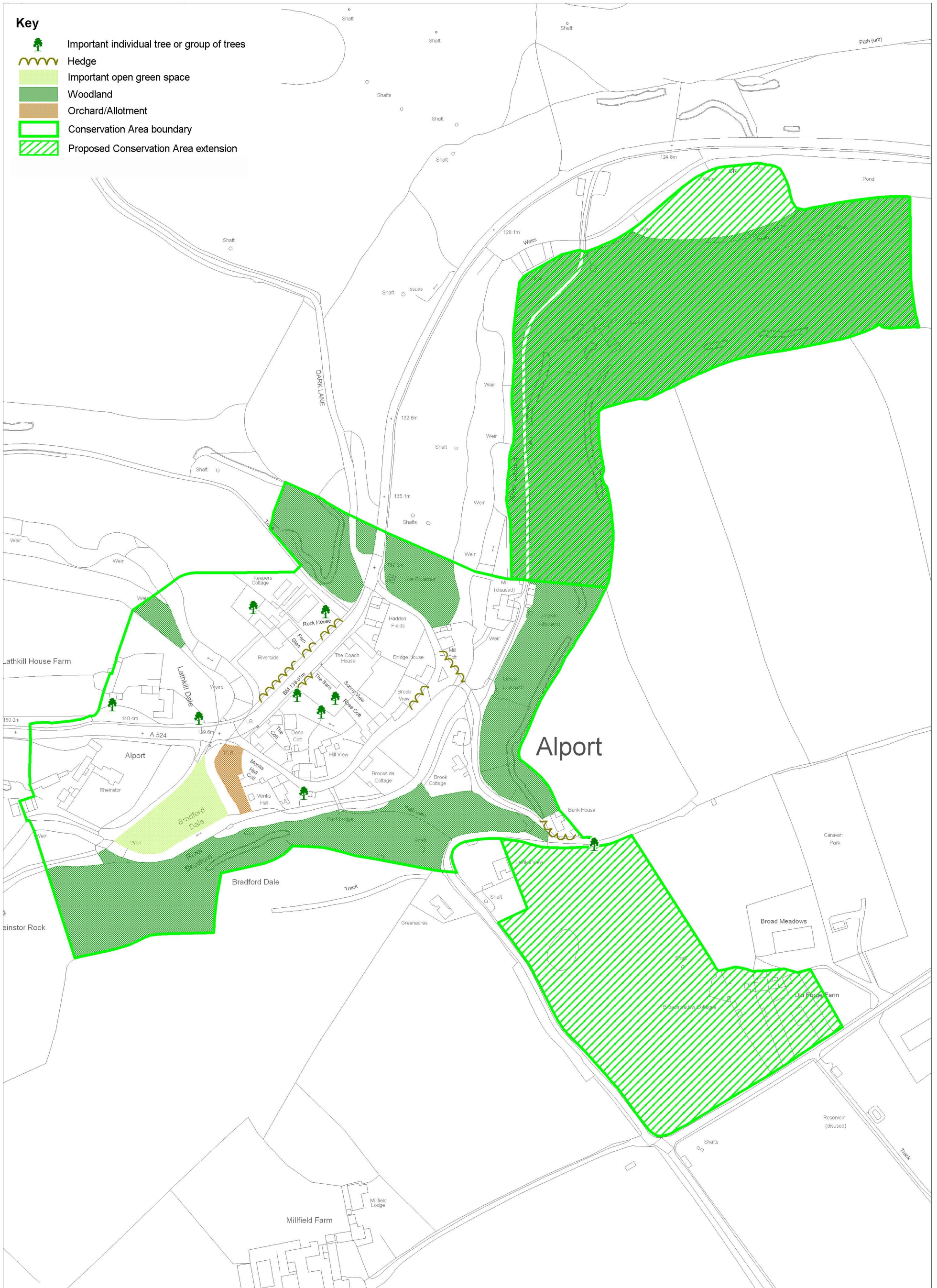
8.23 Alport Conservation Area is surrounded by significant areas of woodland which can be glimpsed in the distance, from many vantage points within the Conservation Area. These contribute positively to the character of the place.



P.8.17 Areas of distant woodland contribute to the character of the conservation area

8.24 Woodland within the Alport Conservation Area and its immediate setting is part of a Dedication Agreement between Haddon Estate and the Forestry Commission set up in 1981. As these trees are therefore managed and protected, they are exempt from the notification procedure which applies in Conservation Areas. However, for all other trees within Alport Conservation Area, trees with a trunk over 75mm in diameter are protected, and the felling, lopping

or topping of these trees may not be permitted without prior agreement.



9. CONSERVATION AREA SETTING

9.1 Alport is surrounded by dales and moorland which provide its landscape setting. Lathkill Dale is to the north-west, Bradford Dale to the south-west and Harthill moor to the south and south-east. As such, there are not many long-ranging views out of the Conservation Area, as most are blocked by dalesides or gently rising hillsides.

9.2 The majority of land that provides the immediate setting to Alport has a predominantly agrarian character, with pastoral farming prevailing. This land also contains evidence of early human activity in the form of burial barrows and standing stones. There are also relict lead-mining remains. These include the pock-marks of former workings, capped mineshafts and structures associated with the former lead-mining activity. It is clear from field boundaries and layouts, as well as mining and quarrying scars, that people have created this landscape over many centuries.

9.3 The Authority's Landscape Strategy and Action Plan (LSAP 2009) identifies Alport and its setting as within the White Peak landscape character area. This document classes land immediately to the north/ north-east and west of the village, including Alport itself, as 'Limestone Dales'. Land to the north-west, immediately east and south of the village is characterised as 'Limestone Village Farmlands'.

9.4 Alport and land to the west and north-east are typical of the 'Limestone Dales' character as they lie within dales deeply cut into the limestone, more or less hidden from view from the adjoining plateau landscapes. Steep limestone scarps and gentle undulating fields, enclosed by a network of drystone walls, provide the backdrop to the east and south of the Conservation Area (LSAP 2009).

9.5 The rest of the land surrounding the settlement lies within the 'Limestone Village Farmlands' landscape character area. This is characterised by limestone villages, set within a repeating pattern of narrow strip fields bounded by drystone walls (LSAP 2009).

9.6 Enclosed fields form much of the immediate and wider setting to the Conservation Area. To a large extent their shape and form have been influenced by the topography and reflect agricultural development in the area. The wider setting to the village contains fossilised strip fields, particularly to the north-west and south-west. These are identified by long narrow plots, often in an inverted S-shape. This historic landscape pattern suggests that cultivation of

land in and around Alport has medieval, if not earlier origins.

9.7 Small narrow fields, indicate that enclosure began relatively early around Alport. Enclosure of the Medieval strip fields created the fields to the south-east of the Conservation Area. Parliamentary Enclosure Awards and private agreements at the end of the eighteenth century resulted in the enclosure of large areas of commons and waste land beyond.

9.8 There is evidence of this planned enclosure type on Harthill Moor. Here, fields have a more regular pattern with straight boundaries. Another characteristic of this enclosure type is the network of straight narrow tracks and lanes that provide access to the fields.

9.9 Drystone walls, constructed from limestone, and hedges form an integral part of the landscape surrounding Alport. Buildings associated with agriculture and former lead mining activity are found in the fields and/or form part of the boundaries, for instance barns and powder houses.



P.9.1. Barn forming part of a field boundary, Harthill Moor

9.10 Trees make a significant contribution to Alport and its setting. The north to north-eastern setting to the village comprises the broadleaved ancient and semi-natural woodland of Baltic Wood, Shining Bank Wood and Coppice Wood. There is less tree coverage on the higher ground that bounds this Conservation Area; this is particularly the case on Harthill Moor, to the south. Here, tree cover is largely restricted to discrete groups of trees or individual specimens.

9.11 Lead extraction has been carried out in the vicinity of Alport since the fourteenth century and continued until the middle of the nineteenth century. A wealth of evidence of lead mining activity and associated industry survive in the area around Alport. The village and its wider setting is an important part of the Peak District's

rich lead mining legacy and as such is of archaeological, historical and ecological significance, contributing to the nationally important landscape of the Peak District National Park.



P.9.2. Powder House (Prospect Mine) on Harthill Moor

9.12 The village can be approached via a footpath along Lathkill Dale, to the north-west of the village. This limestone dale runs from Monyash through to Alport. Lathkill Dale forms part of the Derbyshire Dales National Nature Reserve (NNR) and the river is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.



P.9.3. Narrow footpath at the south-western entrance to Lathkill Dale

9.13 The field at the northern end of a private track to the east of Rock House, beyond the Conservation Area boundary, is known as Stocking Field. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries a variety of community events were held in this field (pers.comm. Isobel Bailey and Mrs.Walker). The field is relatively open with hills gradually rising to the north, blocking views to the north.

9.14 Dark Lane is an ancient holloway winding north to Conksbury and the deserted medieval village of Nether Haddon. From Alport for approximately 600metres north this route is a vehicular access bordered by limestone walls, blackthorn, ash and spruce trees. Beyond this point the route continues as a public footpath.

9.15 When approaching the village from the north along Alport Lane, the River Lathkill is to the east. Shining Bank Wood quarry is located to the north of this route.

9.16 The village can also be accessed to the south from Harthill Moor. There are no views of the hamlet from this area. This is because the moor is at a much higher level than the village, and woodland contains the hamlet to the south and east.



P.9.4. Entrance to Alport from Harthill Moor

9.17 The south-western edge of the Conservation Area marks the eastern entrance to Bradford Dale. This relatively short dale runs from Middleton by Youlgrave to Alport. The area is characterised by the River Bradford bordered by open waterside meadows with steep limestone escarpments, covered with woodland, to the south. Hills gently rise to the north, containing scattered groups of trees and drystone walls. A footpath leaves Alport to the south-west along the southern side of the River Bradford. This route passes Rheinstor Rock, a prominent reef knoll popular with rock-climbers.



P.9.5. Entrance to Bradford Dale

9.18 The main road from Youlgrave is the western entrance to the Conservation Area. When descending this route into the hamlet, there are views of the roofs of buildings in the village and long-ranging views over to Stanton-in-Peak to the south-east.



P.9.. Entrance to Alport from Youlgrave*