

Local list description and map for St John the Evangelist and Old Stanmore Church churchyard

Adopted at Cabinet 23rd September 2021

This area meets the following criteria for local listing:

- (A) **Date and rarity.** The older a designed landscape is, and the fewer the surviving examples of its kind, the more likely it is to have special interest. Likely to be designated are:
- i. sites formed before 1750 where at least a proportion of the original layout is still in evidence
 - ii. sites with a main phase of development post-1840 which are of special interest and relatively intact, the degree of required special interest rising as the site becomes closer in time
- (B) **Further considerations** which may influence selection, and may exceptionally be sufficient by themselves to merit:
- i. Sites having an association with significant persons or historic events
 - ii. Sites with a strong group value with other heritage assets

Summary and introduction:

The site includes the two focal points of the 1632 grade II* listed Old Stanmore Church which is a highly picturesque brick ruin, and the Church of St John the Evangelist of 1850 which is also grade II* listed. The former was built to replace a medieval church in place half a mile south here from 1300. The 1632 church is a rare example of an early Caroline Classicism brick church showing the impact of Inigo Jones. Whilst the site had a main phase of development after 1840 given the second church's construction then, and as many of the monuments date to the 19th century, a significant part of its origins date to the 1632 church, with many 18th century monuments. The churchyard's monuments, the churches (and associated lych-gate), and the lodge, are of value for both architectural interest and their historical association with significant persons. The grade II listed World War I war memorial of 1920 is in the form of a large Celtic cross and an imposingly large example of its type, one possessing considerable group value with the highly picturesque churchyard. The churchyard forms part of and has a strong group value with the Old Church Lane Conservation Area, and its other heritage assets within, which is protected due to its unusual mix of very old buildings and 1930s development in an

"Old-World" style which successfully attempts to mimic the historic buildings around it.

Details:

The two churches form the centre-points of the designed historic landscape: Old Stanmore Church built 1632 and attributed to Nicholas Stone, and St John the Evangelist built 1850.

Both are grade II* listed. The former is a highly picturesque roofless ruin constructed of red brick with Portland stone dressings and has a rectangular plan with west three-stage tower with diagonal buttresses and stair tower to the north-east corner; reinforced with later massive brick buttresses. The church is of significant architectural importance as a rare example of an early Caroline Classicism brick church showing the impact of Inigo Jones. It was stark in its simplicity without aisles or a choir. Churches of this period are relatively few. The ruin is open to the public each summer and some services are still held there, weather permitting.

The church also has historic interest given an association with significant persons. It was consecrated in 1632 by William Laud as Bishop of London (later Archbishop of Canterbury, who was arrested in 1641 for High Treason and beheaded in 1645), this church replaced an earlier medieval building and was paid for by Sir John Wolstenholme (1562-1639), a Collector of Customs and founder member of the Council of the Virginia Co. of North America. The family had come to Stanmore in 1540 and may have lived in the original Manor House where Sir John was born. A city merchant adventurer, he financed two expeditions to the north-west passage in 1610 and 1615. Cape Wolstenholme at the entrance to Hudson's Bay, Wolstenholme Town in 1618, the first English earl of abersettlers along James River in Virginia but in 1662 the townspeople were massacred.

Nicholas Stone, Master Mason to Charles I, was paid for a font and supplying a porch here. The coffin of the Fourth Earl of Aberdeen, Prime Minister in 1852-55 under Queen Victoria, is deposited in a vault here. Lord Abercorn is also buried here. There is also historic significance as the interior has numerous memorials and ledger slabs were retained and placed inside the tower. The Gothic Hollond tomb of 1867 was built (of red sandstone and marble) in the centre of the former nave, together with other Victorian graves. The Victorian mausoleum of the Hollond family of Stanmore Hall has been reduced to a horizontal stone slab as a result of vandalism. The coffins from the Hollond mausoleum were reinterred on the southern side of the churchyard in the 1950s, but the mausoleum remains in the brick church, in poor condition.

The church of St John was built in 1848-1850, a handsome building by Henry Clutton in Decorated Gothic style, with the former church unroofed at that time. The church has historic interest due to associations with significant persons given the monuments housed there, which were transferred from Old Stanmore Church. These

include those to: John Burnell (d.1605), John Dalton (d.1785), Sir John Wolstenholme (d.1699) under canopied monument, Sir John Wolstenholme (d.1634; effigy by Nicholas Stone), John Wolstenholme (d.1669), John Dalton (by Bacon 1791), Elizabeth Dalton (d.1812) and Fourth Earl of Aberdeen (by Boehm, 1875). There are numerous other C18 and early C19 wall monuments in the tower. Notably the church has 2-light stained glass windows by Edward Burne-Jones (1885) on its south aisle and there is a five-light east window, by Thomas Willement circa 1849 (artist in stained glass to Queen Victoria). Its north aisle has 2-lights circa 1896 in the style of C E Kempe, possibly by Burlison and Grylls

The large churchyard contains many tombs and monuments of architectural and historic interest scattered among the grass. These include the grade II* listed monuments: the Philip Jackson monument, an 18th century short obelisk, on scroll feet standing on plinth in the north-east corner of old church; the urn tomb to Mary Wood north of the east end of Old Church (born 176(?)) which is an urn with scrolls to corners of base, pedestal with wreathed circular panels on each side and the tomb of W S Gilbert (d1911) to the south west of the newer church of white marble and has an angel with wings displayed above a cambered slab and chamfered base. It also includes the grade II listed tomb of Betty Jellicoe d.1911 of Carrara marble a variant on the Athenian stela or grave-maker. or grave-marker, comprising a scallop-headed upright, against which is a high relief carving of an angelic girl, clutching a posy of flowers and soaring heavenwards. The inscription closes 'Gracious Saviour Gentle Shepherd / Little Ones Are Dear to Thee / Gathered with Thine Arms and Carried / In Thy Bosom May she be / Sweetly Fondly Safely Tended / From all Want and Danger free'. It is an unusual memorial, probably incorporating a portrait of the dead girl, encapsulating the tender sentimentality of its date.

Colonel Mark Beaufoy (d1827) is also buried here, an astronomer and physicist who erected in 1820 a 20 foot obelisk in the grounds of Glen House, which became RAF Bentley Priory, with inscriptions giving the height above sea level, latitude and longitude and compass bearings. At 23, he was the first Englishman to climb Mont Blanc and became Governor of Harrow School.

The churchyard also contains a connection to national events as it holds a grade II listed World War I memorial of 1920, in the form of a large Celtic cross, with interlace enrichment to the arms of the cross and upper parts of the shaft, provides an attractive landmark within the CA. It is of grey Cornish granite, roughly hewn to the base and its two-stage base stands on three square steps. It has good rectangular bronze panels to each side of base list the names of the 57 men of Stanmore who sadly did not return from action in the Great War; the front panel reads '1914 - 1918. Remember with thanksgiving the true and faithful men who in these years of war went forth from this place for God and the right, the names of those who returned not again are here inscribed to be honoured for evermore'. It is an imposingly large

example of its type, and one possessing considerable group value with the churches behind, and their highly picturesque graveyard.

There is an associated lych-gate to the church which is curtilage listed grade II*. It is of architectural interest due to its contribution to the streetscene and as it strongly complements the setting of the church St John Evangelist behind. Its very decorative carved oak details are of particular note.

The lodge in the churchyard, number 1 Uxbridge Road, is known as Hollond Lodge in memory of Robert Hollond. It is an attractive Victorian building with decorative tile roof, and ornate ceramic panels on walls. It has exposed timber framing in common with other buildings in the wider Old Church Lane CA. It is grade II listed.

The churchyard includes many fine trees including a huge old oak, two notable Yews and a large Sequoia. Neat clipped hedges surround the churchyard.

Sources:

London Parks and Gardens Trust, The London Inventory Historic Green Spaces, Harrow 2003

Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner 'The Buildings of England London 3: North West' Penguin 1999 edition

WW Druett, 'The Stanmores and Harrow Weald through the Ages', 1938

Old Church Lane Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy

Illustrations: Print of old church in 1807 in 'The Salubrious Air' Stanmore and Harrow Historical Society (n.d.)

London Gardens Online:

<http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk/gardens-online-record.php?ID=HRW044>

National List descriptions:

- Old Stanmore Church:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1079747>
- Church of St John:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1193096>
- Monument to Philip Jackson in churchyard of Old Stanmore Church, between east end and road to north:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1079748>
- Urn tomb to Mary Wood North of East End of Old Stanmore Church:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1358617>

