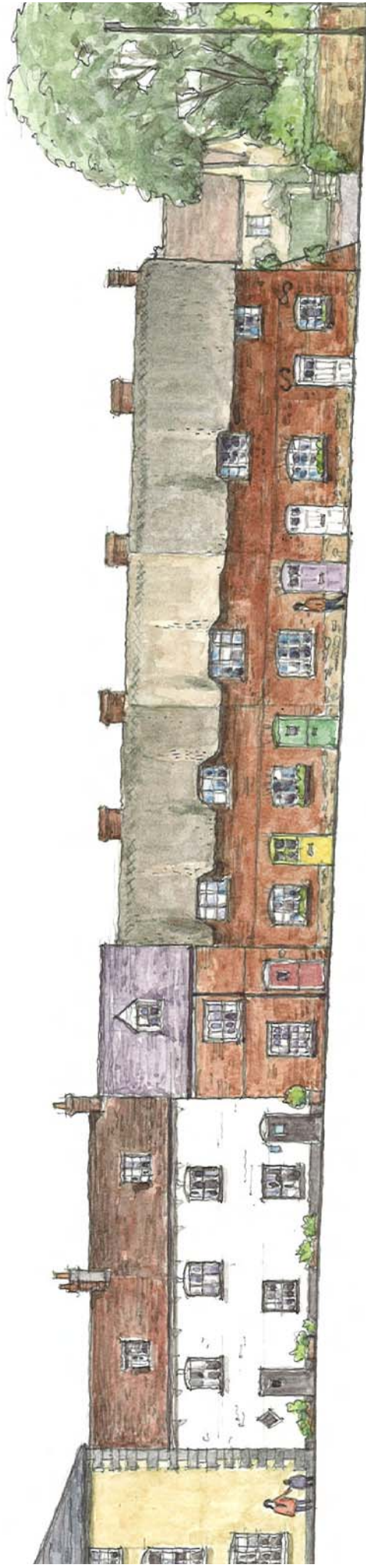


04 Elevation and section studies





Elevation and section studies

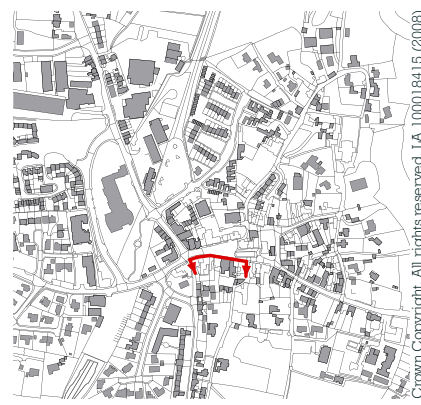
04.01 Market Place

This elevation of the west side of the Market Place (within the Historic Town Centre Character Area) shows the part that was redeveloped after the disastrous fire of 1729, with most buildings dating from the mid-18th century but with some later additions. As a facade, it makes an interesting composition incorporating both a degree of homogeneity and individuality. On the left, the outline of Market House is shown, that sits within and divides the market, and on the right of the elevation is The Row and the corner of Sturminster House.

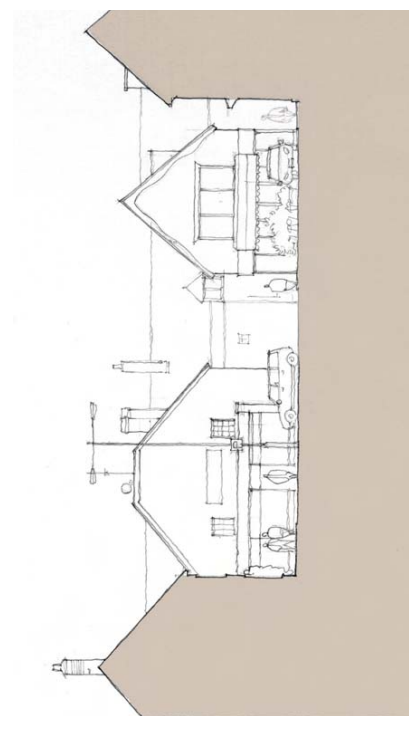
All the buildings are effectively 2 storey which gives a general consistency of scale and roof- and eave-lines with minor variations. (Most buildings have later attic conversions as evident from dormer windows) The most obvious variation is Lloyds Bank, a somewhat typical Edwardian town building in stone, red brick and render under a slate roof, that makes a carefully composed frontage that enlivens the more consistent forms and composition of the other buildings. Barclays Bank, the red/brown brick building (probably 1970s) on the right of the elevation, is altogether bland and uninteresting and it contributes nothing to the town's character.

Typical of Sturminster Newton old town, materials vary, ranging from red brick, local stone and painted render whilst roofs include a variety of slates or tiles, all slightly different, that create a subtle range of shades and textures.

The section through Market Place, that includes an elevation of Market House beyond and the Swan Inn in section on the left, illustrates well the small scale and the close containment of this important space within the town.



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Elevation and section studies

04.02 Church Street

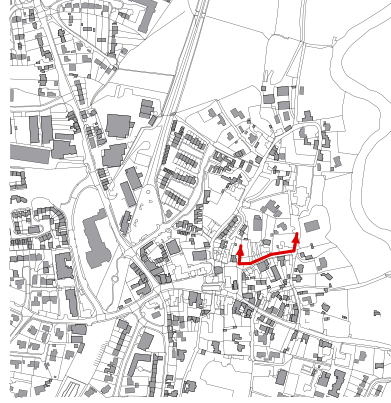
This elevation illustrates well what this study defines as the Edge of Town Character Area which despite its variety of house styles, ages, sizes and building materials makes a most pleasing composition.

On the left of the section, and closest to the town centre, is a large rendered Georgian building, unusually for Sturminster Newton 3 storeys in height, but with a typical fanlight above the door. Progressing down the street in a pleasing transition from town centre to leafy edge of town, is a charming row of late 18th century and early 19th century 2 storey thatched or slate-roofed cottages.

Beyond the cottages is a garden behind a brick and stone wall, and the trees within it make an important contribution to the street, relieving the tight-built frontages that face directly onto the pavement. The last building on the right of the elevation is Church Farmhouse. Its stone frontage is late 1700s, but its timber frame side wall facing onto the garden belies an early 16th century structure within. An adjoining stone shed on the corner is presumably a former farm outbuilding.

The section is interesting insofar that it reveals the extremely tight and small scale of Church Street which, although so confined, is one of the most delightful in the town.

Although not apparent from these drawings, a slight curve in the street prevents direct sight from one end to the other, and this encourages a sense of discovery for the visitor.



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Elevation and section studies

04.03

Rickett's Lane

One of the most pleasing features of the old town in Sturminster Newton is the easy and pleasant change of character and sense of transition between town and country. This is well demonstrated in this elevation along Rickett's Lane.

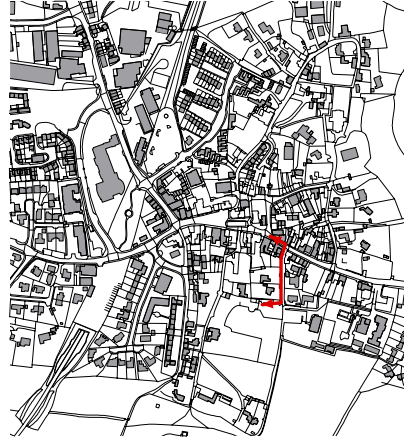
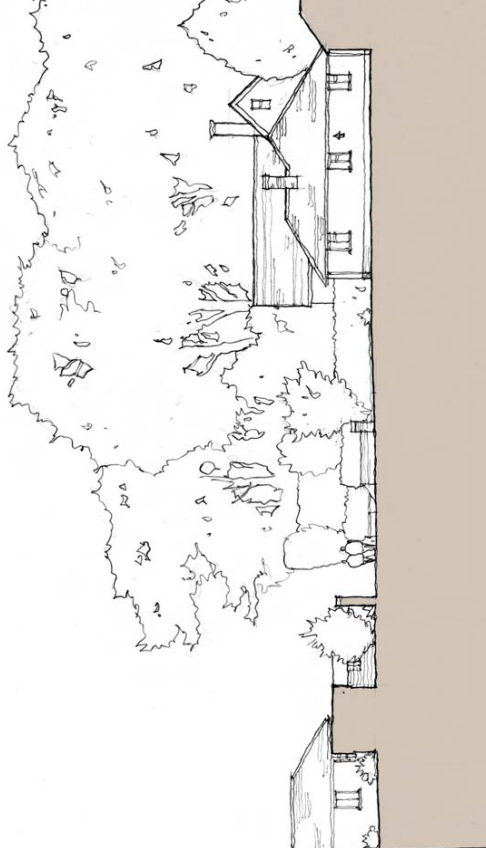
On the right of the elevation is Bridge Street, (within the Historic Town Centre Character Area) tightly enclosed by buildings hard up against the back of the pavement on either side. The dual pitch building and bow window on the building on the corner of Rickett's Lane makes a minor point of focus for the motorist approaching the town centre up Bridge Street.

On entering Rickett's Lane, (which forms part of the Southern Fringe Character Area) two semi-detached cottages with decorative banded tiles maintain the built frontage, but small front gardens introduce a degree of greenery that anticipates a leafier setting beyond.

After a small service/backyard area behind the buildings that face onto Bridge Street, the lane enters a leafy area with bungalows set back behind hedges. (Presumably 1960s infill of former orchards and market gardens) Mature trees dominate the skyline, relieving the unexciting roofline of the bungalows.

At the left end of the section, a fine Victorian building, presumably a former gatehouse for The Lindens, sits on the edge of extensive wooded grounds with adjacent open views to the south.

The section shows how little the buildings along the lane contribute to its sense of enclosure.



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Elevation and section studies

04.04

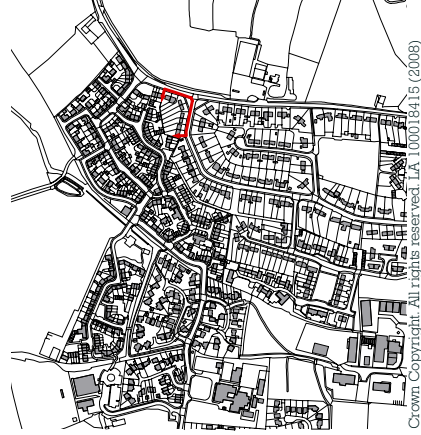
Manston Road/ Green Close

In marked contrast to the variations and subtleties of the old town, more recent development to the north is much more repetitious and homogeneous in character, as this elevation of Manston Road/Green Close (within the Rixon and Environs Character Area) demonstrates.

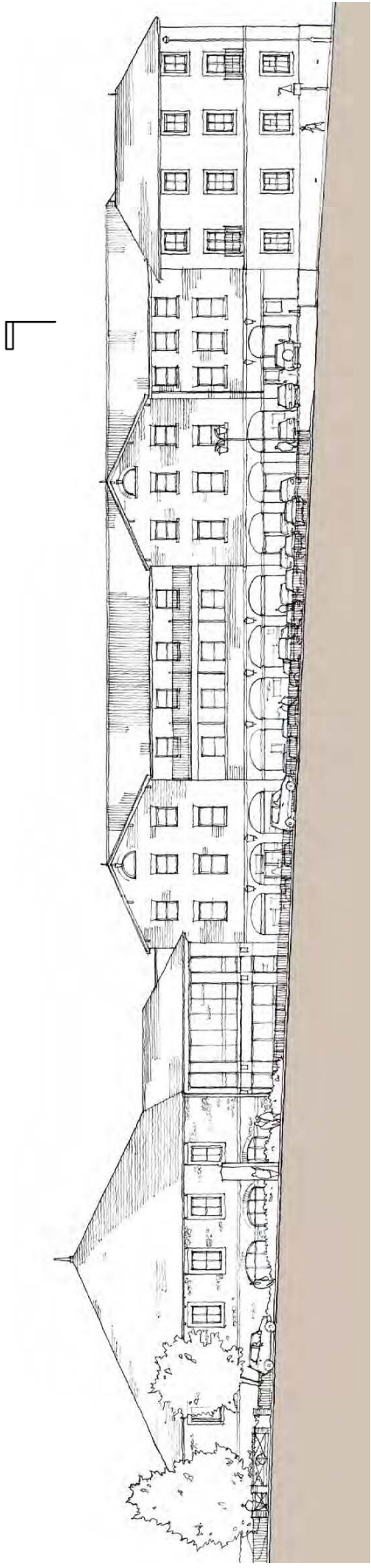
This standard type of red brick semi-detached 1 and 2 storey council house (probably constructed in the 1950s) is a type that is nationally ubiquitous, weak in character and wider townscape value. The lack of tree cover is also a common characteristic of this location and house type.

In this instance, a change of level between road and ground floor level reduces the presence of buildings onto the road on the downhill side, but it also limits the degree to which gardens have been surfaced to create off-street parking. This is otherwise restricted to where road and garden levels more or less correspond.

The section is revealing in that it shows the generous road and pavement widths, the considerable set-back of houses behind front gardens and the general lack of containment along roads. It makes a particularly telling point when compared against the sections of Market Place and Church Street. Although Market Place is the most important space within the town, the distance between frontages in Green Close is actually greater than in the Market Place.



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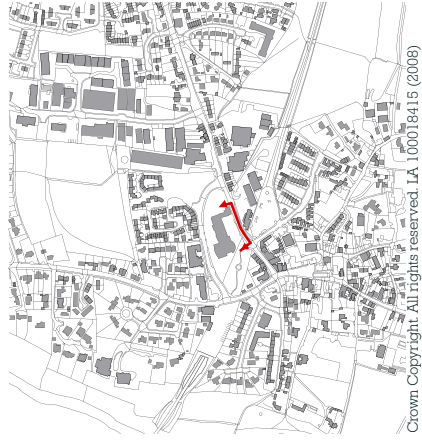
Elevation and section studies 04.05 Station Road (North)

This elevation of the new Exchange building and associated development, that includes a new Co-op supermarket, illustrates the marked change in the scale and mass of this new building from the rest of the established town. This elevation is located within the Central Regeneration Character Area.

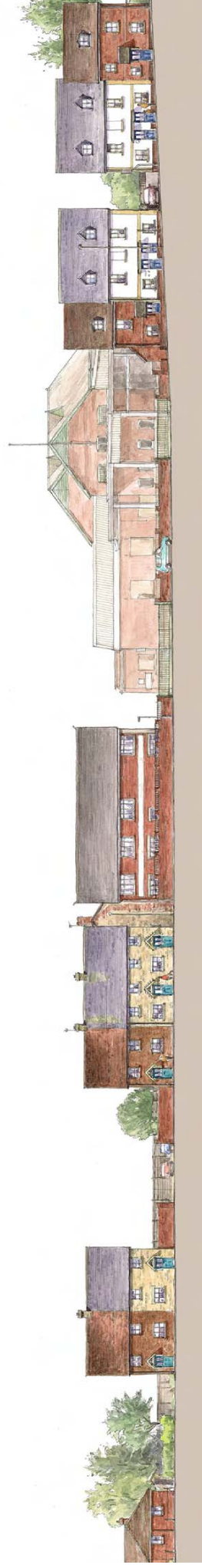
Whilst 3 storey development does already exist in the adjacent town centre, the extent of development on this scale marks a considerable departure from that which has gone before, excepting perhaps the industrial estate. Although an attempt has clearly been made to reduce the apparent mass of the building through the detailing of the facades, its bulkiness remains inescapable. (NB. Broad low pitched roofs)

The associated Exchange building, although also having a large footprint, reads as being much less imposing through its lower setting against adjacent ground levels and more varied form, although this has not prevented it from becoming a local landmark.

Although adjacent development is still incomplete, the section shows that the building has a considerable set-back from the road with substantially unscreened car parking to front and rear. Although the issue of parking space is clearly a very real issue in Sturminster Newton, such large set-backs from the road edge are nonetheless an uncharacteristic feature of the town.



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Elevation and section studies

04.06

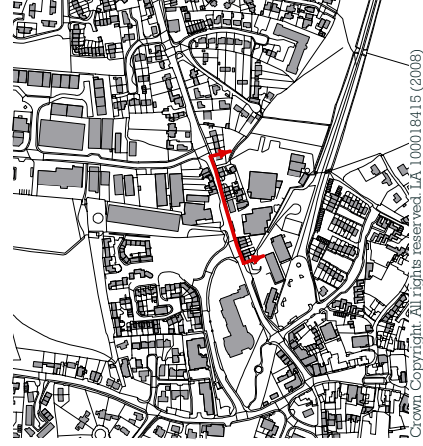
Station Road (South)

Station Road and the western part of Butts Pond have some very marked local changes in character. At the western end, Station Road has the large Exchange/Co-op development to the north with a variety of rather inconsequential retail buildings and unresolved space on the former station site opposite, as well as a rather substantial road junction. At the western end of Butts Pond, there is another inconsequential retail outlet, set back from the north side of the road opposite the entrance to the former Milk Factory and several recently-built cottages that relate in form and scale to a group of traditional buildings mostly on the north side of Butts Pond. (A typical or representative section does not apply in this instance)

The Milk Factory entrance and recent 2 storey cottages are illustrated in this elevation. It shows the general mass of part of the derelict creamery, mostly set back from the road and the new frontage established by several cottages, either semi-detached or in short terraces of three units.

The new cottages are built in red brick, white render with ochre banding or an imitation of the local stone, that is not altogether convincing, under tiled or slate roofs.

Looking along the road, the frontage is quite well defined, but the elevation of small cottages raises issues over the form and character of any new frontages of new development on the former Milk Factory site. Most of the buildings shown in the elevation, including the former Milk Factory site, lie within the Central Regeneration Character Area.



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