Hewitt&CarrArchitects

Heritage Statement

6 Shirley Drive, Alton, ST10 4BB
Mr G Stanley

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Completed By: Joe Shenton

1.0 HERITAGE STATEMENT
Description of the Area

1.1. Alton is a small village located on the Eastern side of Churnet Valley, between the market town of Cheadle, Staffordshire & the market town of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

1.2. The village was settled by the Anglo-Saxons who named it Alton, meaning "Aelfa's settlement". The oldest documented buildings are believed to date back to the 12th Century with Alton Castle, though many may have changed considerably since this period. The majority of the historical buildings existing today date back to the 18th & 19th Century with the development of Alton Towers by the Earls of Shrewsbury, along with the parks and gardens.

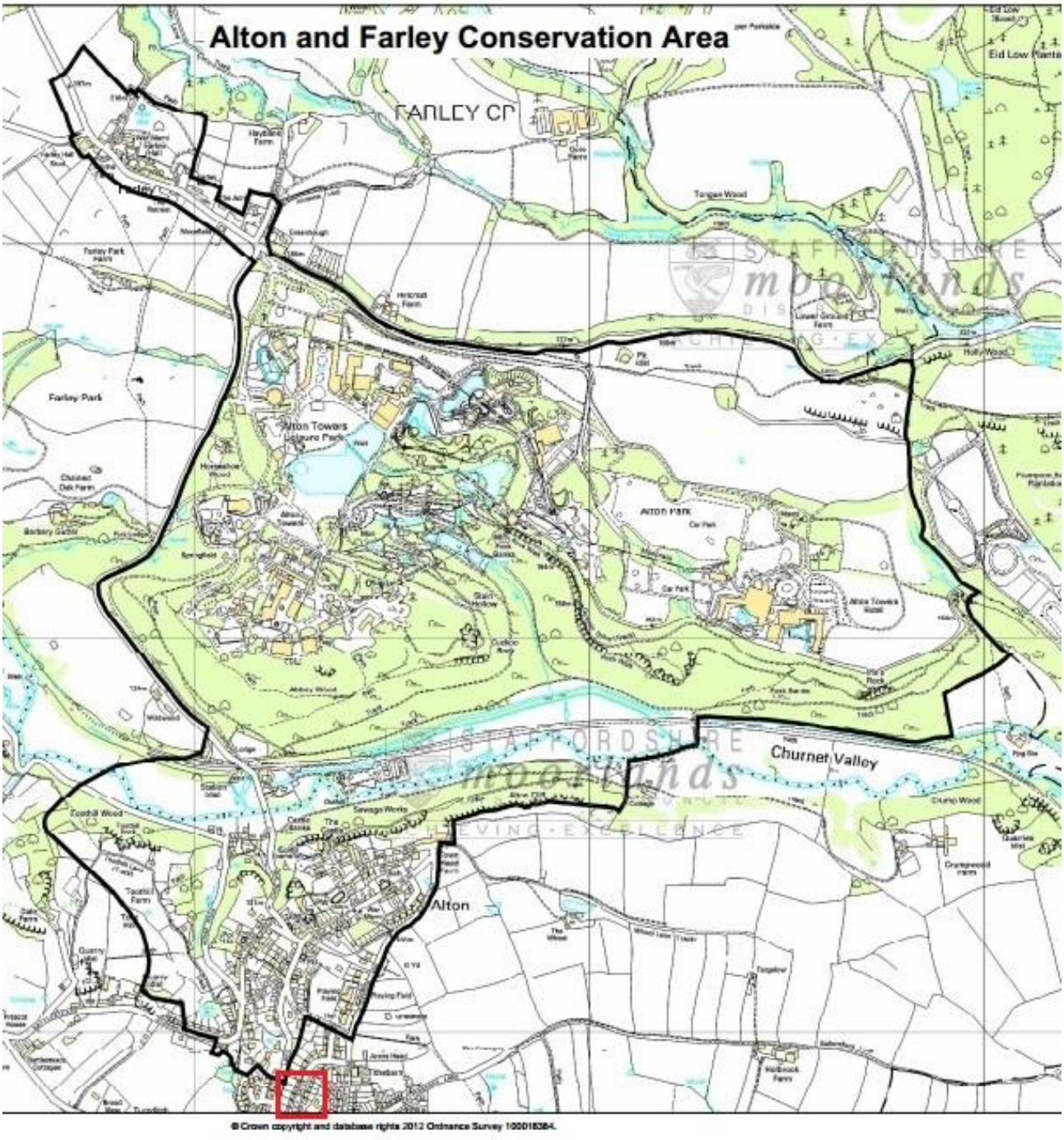
1.3. The conservation area is a diverse mixture of Architecture ranging from periods to design & materials, the majority of which are dated between the 17th &19th Century.

1.4. Alton & Farley was designated as a conservation area by Staffordshire Moorlands District council in 1971, and 6 Shirley Drive lies just outside the boundary, located to the South of the conservation area.

1.5. A conservation area appraisal was completed in February 2008. The boundary covers 3 main areas, Farley Hall to the North, Alton Towers in the centre & the village of Alton to the South.

1.6. The appraisal defines the general features that provide Alton with its distinctive character and interest as:

- Wooded slopes form a key element of the Alton landscape due to its location next to Churnet Valley, woodlands are a defining feature of the area.
- Buildings are a diverse mix of periods & materials reflecting Alton's development through history, the oldest dating back to the 17th Century.
- Finishes vary considerably with a combination of brickwork alongside painted or rendered finishes & (due to the abundance of stone quarries in the area) sandstone.
- Open space has been considered particularly important, the scattered nature of housing means each house is separated by a garden and where there are terraces, room has been left to the rear of each property to allow for garden space.
- The majority of larger buildings in Alton are brick built, though some have utilised the abundant sandstone with stonework finishes.



Red box indicates location of Shirley Drive

Conservation Area

2.0 HERITAGE STATEMENT
Assessment of its Significance

2.1. The historical significance of the conservation area of Alton is of utmost importance & ensuring that the typology & layout of the area is maintained is crucial to its development going forward.

2.2. Due to the hilly nature of Alton, maintaining existing views and the surrounding landscape is of high importance to the area to avoid creating imposing visual impacts from new buildings.

2.3. 6 Shirley Drive is a detached property as part of a modern housing development just outside the conservation area of Alton.

2.4. Shirley Drive is a mix of bungalows, detached & semi-detached properties. The property is offset from the street with a driveway leading to the front, as is the same for each house along Shirley Drive.

2.5. Each property along Shirley Drive has a very similar make-up of a modern brick, gable ended house, although each property has a variation in size & design with many being extended & altered. Each is of a standard brick construction & finish, although some have varying quantities of render, such as 6 Shirley Drive. The roofs are finished with concrete tiling.

3.0 HERITAGE STATEMENT
The Design Concept

1.1. The current concept is to extend the rear & side of the house, whilst adding a porch to the front. The proposal is intended to improve the longevity of the building for a growing family whilst improving the quality & external appearance of the property.

1.2. Externally the proposal will be subservient to the existing property, using existing materials but with an up to date style & design.

1.3. The proposal will provide additional space for the family to utilise that will be necessary as their family continues to grow, with additional kitchen & living space as well as a utility room.

4.0 HERITAGE STATEMENT
The Impact

4.1. Externally the proposed alterations will not impact on the significance of the cherished conservation area as the property is just outside the conservation area and it has been designed in such a way to be in keeping with the surroundings and the existing.

4.2. The proposal will not exceed the existing ridge height of the house, only being a single storey in height & as the majority will be based to the rear of the property, will not be visible to the roadside. Currently only the frontage of the house can be seen from the road as the rear backs onto Dimble lane, which drops below ground level of the garden & rear elevation which dense foliage & trees block from view of the road. Therefore, this should not have an imposing impact on the surrounding area, but remain in keeping the existing aesthetic.