



Marston Conservation Area



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Oxford City Council
LA 078921



Scale 1:4500

Designated 20 July 1976

Extended 1989

Marston Conservation Area, No. 16

The name of Marston is derived from the original settlement on the marshy ground bordering the water meadows of the River Cherwell. Initially, a hamlet of the manor of Headington, there have never been any substantial landowners in the village and the only large house of any obvious architectural grandeur is Cromwell House. Built in the early 17th century by Unton Croke, it is notable as the headquarters of General Fairfax in 1645 when the Parliamentary forces laid siege to Oxford.

The prevailing architectural character of the village is principally derived from the large number of small houses and cottages built in the local vernacular style. Ranging in date from the medieval period to the 19th century, they are constructed in a variety of materials, including stone and local brick, with thatched and tiled roofs. Together with the low stone walls which characterise much of the village, they produce an effect of mellow charm remarkable in a community so close to the City.

The setting of Marston is dominated by belts of handsome trees and the visible remains of the open fields of the medieval system of land tenure.

In seeking to conserve and enhance the special architectural and historic character of Marston, the South Oxfordshire District Council designated it a conservation area in July 1976, and rationalised the boundary on 12th December 1989.