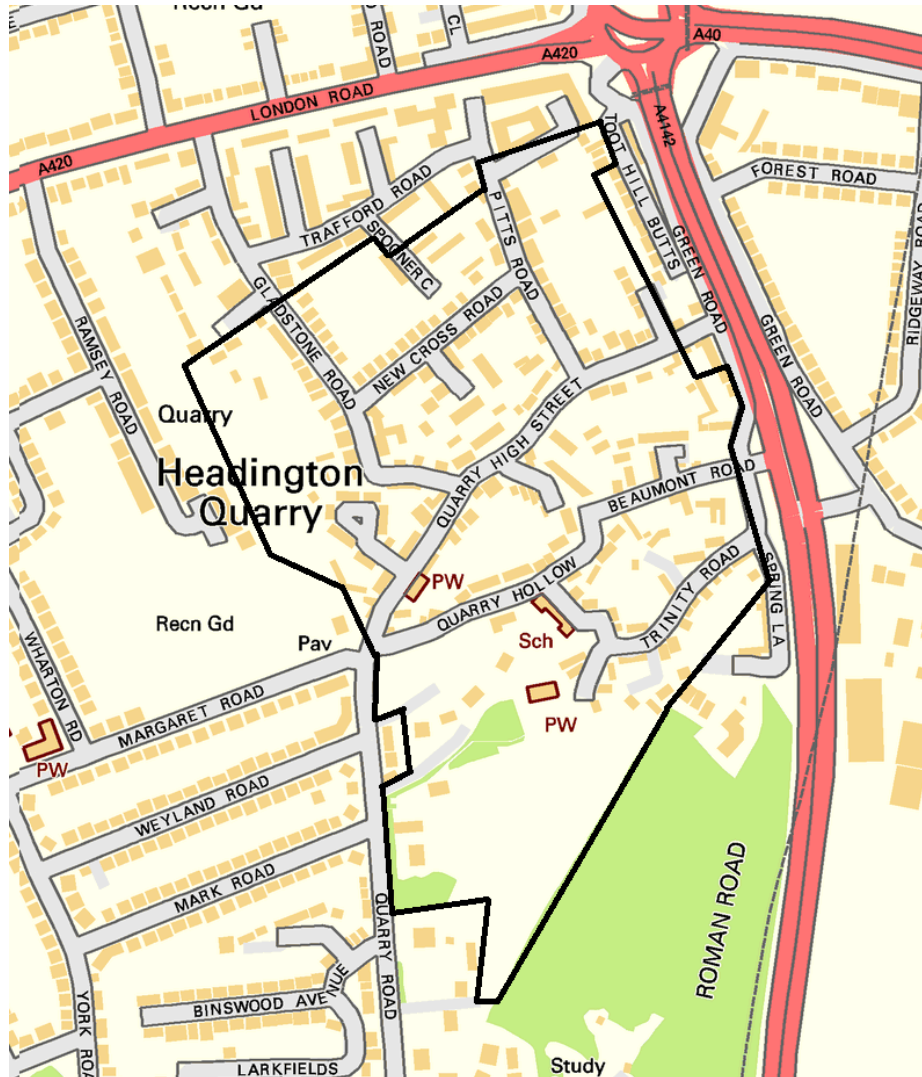




CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

CHARACTER AREA 14: HEADINGTON QUARRY



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

This DOCUMENT covers the Conservation area of Headington Quarry. Because the area has already been assessed by Oxford City Council in a Conservation Area Appraisal we have not undertaken a separate character assessment. A full description of the area's assets and its issues can be found by consulting the Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) at:

http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decP/Old_Headington_occw.htm. Lessons for new development arising from the area's issues are shown in the final section of this document.

The district has its origin in the extensive quarrying industry that provided much of Oxford's building stone in the medieval and later periods. Its older buildings colonized a landscape excavated by quarrymen. The oldest remaining are scattered stone cottages dating from the 18th century, built singularly or in terraces in the vernacular traditions of the locality. Many of the single houses have a symmetrical facade with a central entrance door and end chimney stacks. Increasing residential development took place in the second half of the 19th century after the run-down of the quarry industry, the construction of Holy Trinity Church (Gilbert Scott) in 1850 and of the Quarry School (James Brooks) in 1864, and brick became the predominant building material.

Today, the Quarry still forms a definable entity, with twisting lanes, rubble stone walls, and humble stone and brick cottages, sprinkled with newer homes, and criss-crossed with walled footpaths. The existence of abrupt changes of level has enabled much of the recent development to merge into the area without undue disruption.

Quarry shares general concerns about increased volumes of traffic. Here as elsewhere, old and eye-pleasing front walls and gardens are threatened by the construction of parking spaces. Residents wish to see the high standards which have been set for previous development continue to be applied to any future building.

GUIDANCE FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

- Long gardens (and not only those used historically for laundry) need to be protected from development.
- Although allowed under planning regulations, destruction of stone and brick walls (especially those fronting the street) needs to be resisted.
- Measures should be taken to reduce through traffic volume and speed.