

BRILL CONSERVATION AREA

Designated 16th July 1980

Brill is situated some 9 miles west of Aylesbury and 5 miles north-west of Thame. The village sits on a hilltop about 300-400 feet (90-120m) above the surrounding countryside, and is served by four roads which wind up the hill to meet in the centre. Immediately to the north-west of the village is an extensive area of registered common land and a small area of woodland said to be relic of the ancient Bernwood Forest which covered this part of Buckinghamshire.



The approaches to the village from the north-west across the common are dramatic, being viewed against woods on the ridge line. The road crosses the common between grassed hillocks and pits of the old brick clay and chalk workings. Tiles, bricks and pottery were manufactured in Brill from the 13th Century until the end of the 19th Century. The statutorily listed 17th Century post mill is an imposing feature on the common to the north-west of the village, but beyond this there is a sudden transition from open common land to an urban street scene.

The approach from the north skirting the common does not feature such a marked transition, there being isolated cottages scattered along the road as it climbs the hillside. Of particular importance, is a terrace of cottages on the north-west frontage of Temple Street which are listed buildings.

The entry to the village proper gives an impression of urbanity rather than one of a village street. The houses and shops are mostly terraced, and front directly onto the street. Despite their two or three storeys the overall scale is small and unpretentious.

The local building material is a soft orange/red brick, occasionally chequered with grey vitreous brick headers and dressed with red bricks in horizontal and vertical bands. Roofs are generally of clay tile with eaves overhanging and often with moulded or dentilled brick cornices. Windows are of varying types but usually small and flush with the brickwork. The result is a simple design with strong unity throughout the area.

The High Street widens out and curves into the first of two large enclosed spaces. The Square is registered common land and is bounded on three sides by more terraced cottages. Leading out south-westwards is Oakley Road. The view across The Square to The Manor House set amongst trees is particularly attractive and there is a fine row of trees flanking the southern side of the road as it leaves the village. The buildings skirting The Square, in particular the recently listed Waterloo House, afford fine townscape views when entering the village from this direction.

The second exit from The Square leads into The Green between small terraced cottages and an island of buildings including the Red Lion Public House. The Church is set back from The Green which is also registered common land. A curving and interlocking group of buildings lines Thame Road which is tree lined as it leaves the village.

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