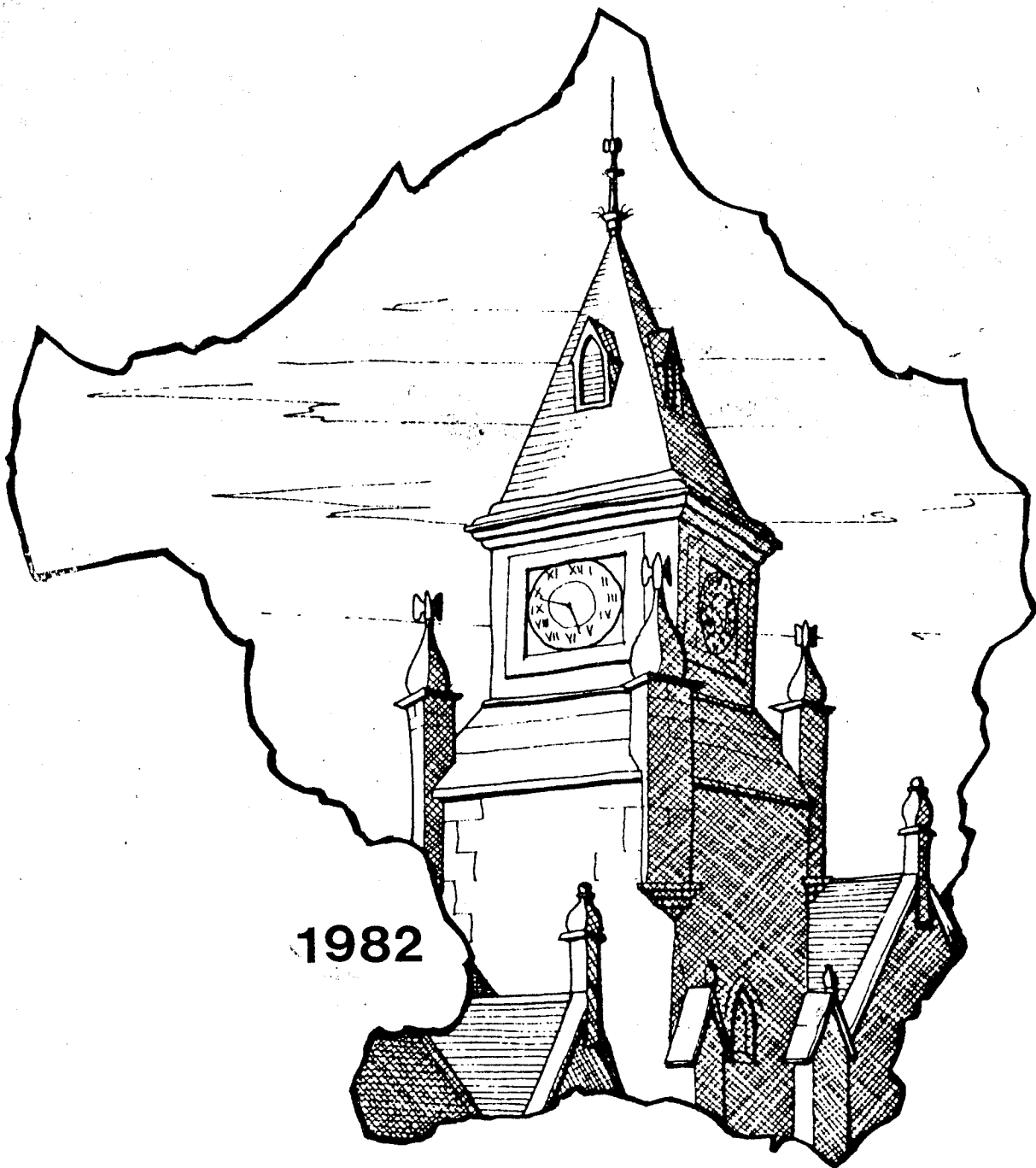


*First Draft
presented to Parish
Council 15th April '82*

ALSTON MOOR



ACTION PLAN

ALSTON MOOR ACTION PLAN 1982

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ALSTON MOOR ACTION PLAN 1982

PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE CONCEPT OF AN ACTION PLAN

A year after publication of Alston Moor 1980 An Appraisal, the Parish Council's Sub-Committee re-convened. It was considered appropriate to re-instate the committee after the lapse of a year in order to assess what changes had taken place locally since the publication of the Appraisal, what progress had been made towards furtherance of its recommendations in the light of recent correspondence, and to discuss future developments arising from this.

The first meeting of the revived Sub-Committee took place on Wednesday, 22nd April 1981 where these matters were discussed. A further meeting was held on 27th May where Mr. Stroughton of the Cumbria Tourist Board and Mr. Berlyn, (The East Fellside and Alston Moor Project Officer) were invited, principally to discuss the promotion of tourism in Alston Moor. As a result of this meeting it became evident that there is a need for an immediate plan of action to consist of further car-parking provision, improved and waymarked footpaths, possibly a picnic site and a tourist information board. It was indicated that this might practically be achieved with the aid of Tourism Growth Point backing and a Manpower Services Commission work scheme to provide labour.

In June 1981 the Appraisal Study Team met officials of Cumbria County Council's Planning Department in order to discuss the recommendations put forward in the Appraisal. One of the principal issues discussed was the need for financial assistance to improve properties within Alston Conservation Area where it was concluded that the most hopeful course of action would be to instigate a Town Scheme (as recommended in the Appraisal). The two other most significant issues to be raised were the possible development of industrial workshops and the possibility of continuing Manpower Services Commission Schemes into the next financial year.

1.2 BRIEF

Two aspects of these suggested proposals are in fact already being actively negotiated. These are the Town Scheme and industrial workshops which constitute an important part of the general aim to improve the economic well-being of Alston Moor. Their implementation has, however, yet to go ahead so they are included for completeness.

One factor which has considerable bearing on future developments in the Alston Moor area is the withdrawal not only of The North Pennines Tourism Growth Point Scheme, but also of Development Area status in August 1982. The latter affects not only Industrial Development but also Tourist Board grants which will no longer be available once Development Area status is lost.

Proposals to constitute the Action Plan would appear to fall into five main categories as follows:

1. The retention of Development Area status beyond August 1982.
2. Creation of industrial workshops.
3. Town Scheme
(and revision of Listed Buildings)
4. Manpower Services Commission Programme
(footpaths, picnic sites, car-parking, environmental improvements)
5. Printed Material
(guides and notice boards and signs)

ALSTON MOOR ACTION PLAN 1982

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.1 THE RETENTION OF DEVELOPMENT AREA STATUS

2.1.1 IMPLICATIONS OF THE LOSS OF DEVELOPMENT AREA STATUS

The loss of Development Area Status in Alston Moor is imminent in August 1982. The implications of this are far-reaching and perhaps not immediately obvious: Not only will there be loss of incentives to encourage growth of new industries (Regional Development Grants and discretionary Grants from the Department of Industry, and rent free periods in Advance factory premises of up to 3 years), but also grants from the Tourist Board would then no longer be available. This would mean withdrawal of grants of up to 49% currently available in Development areas.

A substantial sum of money, £168,000, has been approved by the Tourist Board in grant aid towards 14 projects within the parish of Alston Moor under the North Pennines Tourism Growth Point Scheme. (The Growth Point Scheme will also terminate from the beginning of August 1982.)

Withdrawal of Development Area assistance in August 1982 will effectively stop any future Tourist Board assistance being made available in Alston Moor.

(County Council grants and CoSIRA loans would still be available to small industries but no special incentives whatsoever would exist for the establishment of new tourist enterprises).

2.1.2 HISTORIC CONTEXT

Up until the end of July 1980 West Cumbria and Alston Moor were Special Development Areas whilst the rest of Cumbria was a Development Area. From August 1980 those areas were downgraded so that West Cumbria and Alston became Development Areas, the rest of Cumbria becoming an "Intermediate" Area. The Government now propose that West Cumbria should remain a Development Area, but the rest of Cumbria including Alston Moor would have no special status within the Department of Industry. (It would however remain a special investment area for the Development Commission and CoSIRA which would still make it possible for rural workshops to be built).

2.1.3 PROPOSAL

It is proposed that Alston Moor should retain its Development Area status and furthermore that the whole East Fellside and Alston Moor project area should be included as a new Development Area.

2.1.4 REASONS FOR PROPOSAL

i) The East Fellside & Alston Moor Project :

Sponsored by the Development Commission, English Tourist Board, Countryside Commission and Eden District Council, the East Fellside and Alston Moor Project is an experiment which was initiated in 1980 in order to seek ways of rejuvenating an ailing rural economy. An essential part of this proposal is to generate local employment in this area and thus halt the decline in population which notoriously leads to deterioration and loss of services for the remaining inhabitants.

continued.....

ALSTON MOOR ACTION PLAN 1982

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.1 THE RETENTION OF DEVELOPMENT AREA STATUS

2.1.4 REASONS FOR PROPOSAL CONT'D.

i) The East Fellside & Alston Moor Project cont'd.....

This project has been instrumental in encouraging a considerable number of new enterprises(particularly craft and tourist based projects) to establish themselves in the area.

In view of the fact that this area has been singled out for this special assistance it seems totally inappropriate to risk jeopardising the success of the project in stimulating tourist activities by withdrawing Development Area status.

ii) Less Favoured Areas :

Much of the East Fellside & Alston Moor lies within the Ministry of Agriculture's " Less Favoured Areas ", which implies recognition that assistance is necessary to make agriculture a viable proposition here. A supplementary income is often a necessity, there being at least as many part time as full time agricultural holdings within Alston Moor. In these areas tourist accommodation can therefore provide a valuable and much needed additional income, but the incentive of grant aid seems necessary to encourage farmers to take this step.

Even with the availability of grants it is only now that local land and property owners are beginning to realise the potential income available to them by restoring derelict properties for holiday accommodation. To remove this incentive when its effects are only just being noticed, will undoubtedly harm the local economy.

iii) Loss of grants for industrial development.

The 5,000 sq ft Advance Factory is now to be let after standing empty for almost 2 Years. The incoming firm will be given a rent free period (normally 2 years in Development Areas & 1 year elsewhere in Advance Factory premises), and will also be taking advantage of the Department of Industry's Regional Development Grants. These are grants of 15% in Development Areas (22% in Special Development Areas) available for new machinery and expansion. They are principally available to larger firms and are not aimed at small schemes (of under around £10,000). In addition " selective financial assistance " can be given in Development Areas. This is a discretionary grant for an overall project to produce more jobs (maximum 25% in Development Areas).

Without these special incentives, it will be even more difficult to attract medium sized or larger firms to the area.

The only industrial grants which will be available once Development Area status is lost, are aimed at small firms. These are the County Council's Small Firms Business Grants which are available only to firms with a total workforce of not more than 5 people including the proprietor, up to a maximum of £1,000. These grants are available for machinery, repairs & additions to buildings. This grant scheme has been in existence for twelve months, and already 5 grants totalling £4,326 have been approved in the Alston area. (CoSIRA loans are also available to small businesses, but these are at a high rate of interest & do not offer any great incentive for the establishment of small firms. These loans are also available for improvements to tourist operations, but are not available for new tourist schemes.)

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.1. THE RETENTION OF DEVELOPMENT AREA STATUS

2.1.4. REASONS FOR PROPOSAL CONT'D.

iv) Existing Work Patterns:

A few new businesses have become established in Alston Moor (largely out of the existing workforce) but they go only a small way towards solving the unemployment problem caused by the closure, two years ago, of the area's principal employer, Alston Foundry. Because of the area's isolation, commuting elsewhere is not really a viable alternative to many of those seeking work.

There are a high proportion of self employed workers in the area probably, in many cases, on low incomes where additional part time involvement in tourism can provide a more comfortable existence. Many such people would not have the capital necessary to embark on a project such as improving property to let as holiday accommodation, without some financial assistance. In common with the crofting communities of Northern Scotland, many families need to seek a variety of sources of income to maintain a living. Here, given the opportunity, tourism could play a vital role.

v) The future economy of Alston Moor & the East Fellside :

The future viability of Alston Moor (and other isolated settlements within the East Fellside area) as a thriving community would therefore appear to depend on a wide range of small scale activities. This would include both the development of rural workshops and expansion of tourist activities. Alston's isolated location means that the community must be as self-sufficient as possible in providing job opportunities and reliance on manufacturing alone is unlikely to provide this situation. The development of tourism must therefore be encouraged and Development Area status retained in order to actively promote this aim.

2.1.5. ACTION

It is proposed that action to secure retention of Development Area status is taken by the Parish Council as follows :

1) A letter containing the foregoing statement on Development Area status should be forwarded as soon as possible to :

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw (as local M.P.)

The Secretary of State for Industry (requesting that he amends his decision to withdraw Development Area status from Alston, replacing it with a proposal to designate all of Alston Moor & East Fellside Area as a Development Area.)

Copies of these letters to be forwarded to Cumbria County Council, Eden District Council, The Cumbria Tourist Board, CoSIRA, & the East Fellside & Alston Moor Project Officer.

ii) Publicity should be given to this cause by distributing a press release to local & regional newspapers, Radio Carlisle & possibly local television. This would not only define the arguments put forward for retention of Development Area Status, but also the proposed course of action, which would include lobbying the local M.P. and the Secretary of State for Industry & possibly further action to be resorted to if this first step does not yield satisfactory results.

iii) Investigation of Rural Planning Research Trust's E.E.C. sponsored project on "integrated rural development" which includes two case studies selected as displaying characteristics of "rural deprivation". One of these is Eden District.

ALSTON MOOR ACTION PLAN 1982

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.2 INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOPS

2.2.1 Phase Four of the Advance Factory programme for Alston now has Development Commission approval. The intention in this phase of factory development is to divide the 5,000 sq. ft. allocation into small workshops in both Alston and Nenthead.

2.2.2 Land adjoining the Co-op at Nenthead has been identified as suitable for small workshops, but as Alston is a more attractive proposition to prospective businesses it is essential that some workshop premises are provided in Alston.

2.2.3 A site at Fairhill adjoining Precision Products is currently the subject of negotiation by the County Council, but the problem with this site (or that proposed by the Fairhill Trust on neighbouring land) is that the County Highway Authority considers access to be inadequate and would require improvements to be made to the access road, Potters Lonning. English Industrial Estates are at present costing the scheme to establish whether it would be possible for them to go ahead with the proposal if this is to include the improvements stipulated by the Highway Authority.

2.2.4 As no other sites are currently available in Alston it is of the utmost importance that a site at Fairhill is developed. Bearing in mind the small scale nature of rural workshops it should be stressed that traffic generation is likely to be minimal (could not this be controlled by appropriate conditions in the lease of the proposed premises?)

2.2.5 ACTION

It is therefore proposed that the County Highway Authority be requested to accept a relaxation of standards at Potters Lonning in order to ensure that the development of much needed low cost workshops can be implemented in the near future.

ALSTON MOOR ACTION PLAN 1982

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.3 TOWN SCHEME AND REVIEW OF LISTED BUILDINGS

Town Scheme

2.3.1 Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council have agreed to fund a "Town Scheme" over 5 years with an annual contribution of £5,000 from Eden District and £1,000 from Cumbria County Council. The Department of the Environment is expected to meet this with an annual contribution of £6,000 providing a total of £12,000 per annum available for giving grants of 50% towards the cost of structural repairs to eligible buildings. The Department of the Environment's approval of the scheme is expected to be forthcoming early in 1982 and the Town Scheme should come into operation on 1st April 1982.

2.3.2 A total of 80 properties have been identified by officials of Eden District Council, Cumbria County Council and the Department of the Environment, as being suitable for inclusion in the Town Scheme.

Eden District Council will be informing all tenants and owners of eligible property of their inclusion in the Town Scheme and how this could benefit their property.

2.3.3 The Parish Council welcome the allocation of £12,000 per annum over the next five years for a Town Scheme in Alston, and wish to express their wholehearted support for the scheme.

Listed Buildings

2.3.4 It was proposed in the Alston Appraisal that the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest for Alston should be reviewed. This would help to ensure that any alterations to the more outstanding properties in the town are carried out sympathetically, and although some owners may feel that it would be onerous for their property to be listed, it can sometimes assist in obtaining financial assistance. In fact Alston is high on the County Council's priorities for revising the List and revision is likely to take place during 1982-83.

2.3.5 Properties which the Parish Council would like to see included in a revised Listing are indicated on the attached plan. This is by no means comprehensive and only includes the town centre, but these are considered some of the most important buildings by virtue of their age and visual qualities. (NOTE: Proposed Listed Buildings includes those already listed which it is considered should remain on the List).

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.4 PROPOSALS FOR CONTINUED MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION PROGRAMME

2.4.1 The present Manpower Services Commission Scheme is a joint scheme between Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council. There are three teams of six people with a supervisor for each team, so that it is possible for each group to be concerned with a separate project. This would enable, for instance, several footpaths to be worked on concurrently by different teams.

2.4.2. This Action Plan proposes that a programme of continuing M.S.C. projects should include the following:

- 1) A car park at Fairhill
- 2) Improvement and waymarking of footpaths
- 3) Provision of a picnic site at Blagill
- 4) Improved pedestrian access to the riverside in Alston
- 5) Improvements to Lemon Square in the Butts and the Market Square
- 6) Erection of Tourist Information Boards and direction signs
- 7) Improvements to public toilets behind the Town Hall

2.4.3 FINANCE

Improving and waymarking footpaths and creation of picnic sites in rural areas such as Alston Moor are eligible for grants of 50% from the Countryside Commission.

~~Further parking provision, tourist information boards, improvements to the Butts town footpath at Lemon Square, improved riverside access, a few direction signs within the built-up area, and possibly improvements to toilet facilities, could probably all be assisted under the North Pennines Tourism Growthpoint Scheme.~~

The County Council can provide trees for landscaping schemes.

It is envisaged that the remaining costs of materials would be met by the County, District or Parish Councils as appropriate.

*↑ Information boards displaying footpath maps,
x improved riverside access & provision of new toilets at
Blagill, could probably also be assisted by Countryside
Commission Grants.*

continued.....

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.4 PROPOSALS FOR CONTINUED MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION PROGRAMME

DETAILS OF PROPOSALS

2.4.4 Fairhill Car Park

The Parish Council believe that the new car park in the Station Yard (capacity 30 cars & 4 coaches) will not in itself be sufficient to solve parking problems in Alston and that it should be balanced by further parking provision at the opposite end of the town(i.e. Fairhill). The Fairhill Trust, who own the recreation ground at Fairhill, are willing to allocate land for the purpose of car parking as indicated on the enclosed plan.

It is unlikely that Eden District Council would be prepared to finance or contribute to a further car-park as their attitude is that the Station Yard car-park may well prove adequate.

It is probable that a Tourist Board grant and Manpower Services Commission labour would be available should the Parish Council be prepared to finance the scheme themselves. Provision of a car park at Fairhill would still thus be possible (depending on obtaining planning permission).

2.4.5 Improvement & Waymarking of Footpaths

It is proposed that the following routes should form the basis of a series of public footpaths of scenic and / or historic interest to be waymarked and improved where necessary. These should be backed up by descriptive leaflets and would be indicated on the proposed tourist information board. Hopefully they would also be the subject of personally guided walks during the summer, if guides are available for this purpose.

Short walks

(under 1 mile)

- 1) Gossipgate round trip from Crown Car-park via Jollybeard returning via The Butts.
- 2) Alston Market Square, Overburn, Methodist Church, Fairhill Cottages beside cemetery to Pennine Way(& riverside) back beside the Blue Bell or Cottage Hospital.
- 3) Ashgill Force (from roadside)

Medium-range walks

(4 miles or less)

- 1) Alston - The Butts, Gossipgate, Skelgill Force, Blagill (proposed picnic site) back at a higher level below the B6294.
- 2) Methodist Church Alston, Fairhill, Annat Walls, Natrass Gill, Bleagate, Pennine Way - Alston.
- 3) Garrigill, Pasture Houses, Ashgillside, Ashgill Force, returning via River South Tyne to Crossgill, then by road to Garrigill.

continued.....

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.4. PROPOSALS FOR CONTINUED MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION PROGRAMME

DETAILS OF PROPOSALS CONT'D.

2.4.5 Improvement & Waymarking of Footpaths cont'd.....

Longer Distance Walks

- 1) Alston, beside river to Randalholme, Kirkhaugh Church, cross river to Kirkhaugh hamlet or continue to Barraugh & cross river just before Slaggyford, join Pennine Way back to Alston.
- 2) Alston, riverside path to Randalholme, Kirkhaugh Church, Ayle, Clarghyll Hall, Mount Hooley, Gossipgate, Alston.
- 3) Alston (The Butts), Gossipgate, Skelgill Force, Blagill (proposed picnic site), Foreshield, Lovelady Shield, Browngill, (possible diversion to Wellhope Mine), Greenends, (Roughside), track down to River Nent, Nenthead.
- 4) Nenthead, Ashgill, Ashgill Force, riverside to Crossgill, Garrigill.
- 5) Garrigill, Pennine Way, Alston.

Apart from 1) above, these walks could follow on from one another, perhaps stopping on route, to form a much longer round trip (approx.21 miles)

2.4.6 Provision of a Picnic Site at Blagill

It is proposed that a picnic site should be created on waste-land situated on the site of a disused mine between the River Nent and Blagill Burn. This is ideally situated as a half-way stop either between Alston and Nenthead or on the return journey to Alston from Gossipgate and Skelgill Force. The site itself offers obvious potential for creation of a picnic site.

Hopefully research and excavation could establish features of interest now buried below the surface and some reconstruction may be possible. In this case an "interpretive" picnic site could be created which has educational value in addition to its qualities as a pleasant recreational area.

Further to any excavation and reconstruction work, a new access bridge would be necessary. Thereafter, provision of parking spaces, landscaping, picnic tables and seats would be required.

2.4.7 Improved Pedestrian Access to the Riverside in Alston

The riverside is at present a rather forgotten part of Alston and it is proposed that it should be made a more accessible recreation area. Two areas offer possibilities:

- 1) The area adjoining the South Tyne below the Youth Hostel where a stepped path down to the river with a few seats at the bottom would open up this area for people to enjoy.
- 2) The riverside adjoining the Tyne Willows playing fields, where it is suggested that a footpath at the edge of the playing fields should be demarcated (beside the Tyne Willows Caravan Park) leading to the riverside where some seats should be erected.

continued.....

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.4..PROPOSALS FOR CONTINUED MANPOWER SERVICES PROGRAMME

DETAILS OF PROPOSALS CONT'D.

2.4.7. Improved Pedestrian Access to the Riverside in Alston cont'd.....

Both these proposals should be signposted and shown on the Tourist Information Boards. The possibility of a footbridge from the Station Yard car-park should also be considered to allow more direct access to the river from the parking area.

2.4.8. Improvements to Lemon Square in the Butts and the Market Square, Alston

Lemon Square

Lemon Square is an untidy area of waste-land in the Butts located on the proposed pedestrian route from the Station Yard car-park to the town centre.

In view of the restoration work recently carried out and currently under way in this area, the potential for further property improvement, and Kearton's proposals to redevelop their old premises here, there is a need to improve Lemon Square to assist in uplifting the environment adjoining this proposed access to the town centre.

It is therefore proposed that an improvement scheme to include planting of trees and shrubs, hard landscaping (e.g. paving and cobbles), seating and provision of litter bins should be provided in Lemon Square.

The Market Square

The Market Square could be greatly improved by some tree-planting. Once mature this would help to soften the visual intrusion caused by parked vehicles. Further improvements to the small planted area and shelters at the top end of the Market Square would also be desirable. The road surface at this end of the main street is also in need of attention as a number of patches of tarmac exist within the area generally surfaced in setts.

It is therefore proposed that:

- 1) Trees should be planted where possible between the car-parking areas and pavements, spaced to enable continued vehicular access.
- 2) The small "landscaped" area and shelters should receive a facelift with renewed planting.
- 3) The County Highway Authority should be requested to re-instate missing setts.

2.4.9. Erection of Tourist Information Boards & Direction Signs

i) Tourist Information Boards

The tourist information boards would display tourist maps (see 2.5.) indicating places of interest and scenic footpaths within the Alston Moor area.

It is proposed that the tourist map would be displayed in the following locations:

- 1) Market Square
- 2) Station Yard Tourist Information Office
- 3) Town Hall
- 4) Nenthead (near, the Post Office)
- 5) Garrigill (on or near the green)

continued.....

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.4 PROPOSALS FOR CONTINUED MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION PROGRAMME

DETAILS OF PROPOSALS CONT'D.

2.4.9 Erection of Tourist Information Boards and Direction Signs cont'd.....

In the Market Square, Alston and in the vicinity of Nenthead Post Office it is proposed that rather than a single board displaying the above map, there should be a "Tourist Information Point". These are of a standard design, developed by the English Tourist Board. They display information on up to three faces and may be wall mounted (to display two faces). The Tourist Information Points could also contain a map indicating accommodation, caravan sites, etc. and other information useful to visitors. Elsewhere the tourist map previously described would be wall-mounted on a straightforward board.

ii) Direction Signs

The proposed direction signs could hopefully be provided by the County Highway Authority, and failing this, the Tourist Board would be asked for assistance. It is intended that these should be located within the built up area of Alston not covered by the proposed Countryside Commission sponsored footpath waymarking and improvement scheme. They should indicate access to the Butts, Overburn, the two proposed riverside areas, Gossipgate and Natrass Gill. (Although signposts for the latter two already exist, they are not obvious from the town centre).

2.4.10 Improvements to Public Toilets rear of Town Hall

It is proposed that once the newly improved toilets in the Station Yard become operational providing an alternative facility to the above, the more centrally situated public conveniences behind the Town Hall should be closed and renovated.

continued.....

ALSTON MOOR ACTION PLAN 1982

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.4 PROPOSALS FOR CONTINUED MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION PROGRAMME

2.4.11 ACTION

1) The foregoing programme of proposed Manpower Services Commission projects for the year 1982 - 83 should be submitted to the sponsors of the existing scheme, who are Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council, in order to seek their support and request that they obtain Manpower Services Commission approval. This should be done by March 1982 to hopefully enable consideration of the proposals prior to the start of the new financial year and thus ensure the continuation of the Manpower Services Commission programme for Alston in 1982 -83.

2) The following proposed projects should be submitted to the Countryside Commission requesting that they accept the principle of grant-aiding the following projects to meet 50% of the costs of materials and plant (subject to further details being provided).

- The proposal to waymark footpaths and carry out improvements and re-instatement where necessary.
- The provision of a picnic site at Blagill.

These proposals should again be submitted for consideration prior to the start of the new financial year if possible.

3) The following proposed projects should be submitted to the Tourist Board as part of an improvement scheme for Alston, requesting financial assistance (probably) under the North Pennines Tourism Growthpoint Scheme. This should be done as soon as possible as this assistance is almost certain to be withdrawn after July 1982 by which time projects must have been started to qualify for grant aid.

- Fairhill Car Park
- Improved pedestrian access to the riverside in Alston
- Improvements to Lemon Square (adjoining the Butts town walk) and the Market Square.
- "Tourist Information Points" and Boards
- Direction signs within the built up area of Alston if not provided by the Highway Authority.
- Improvements to the public toilets rear of Town Hall

4) Negotiate sources of finance not covered by Manpower Services Commission labour or grant aid towards capital costs.

This could be an agreement between Cumbria County Council, Eden District Council and Alston Moor Parish Council to each contribute a lump sum towards cost of materials involved. However, not all parties may wish to contribute to all the proposed projects (e.g. The Fairhill Car-Park), in which case separate agreements would have to be reached for certain proposals.

- 5) Approach County Highway Authority requesting that they:
- re-instate missing setts as part of a general plan to improve the Market Square.
 - provide direction signs as described in 2.4.9

6) Establish priorities for phasing work (This will depend on co-operation of land-owners for foot-paths).

Proposed Car Park at Fairhill:

7) A planning application for a car-park at Fairhill should be submitted to Eden District Council to co-incide with the submission of the proposed Manpower Services Commission programme.

continued.....

ALSTON MOOR ACTION PLAN 1982

PART 2 PROPOSALS

2.4. PROPOSALS FOR CONTINUED MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION PROGRAMME

2.4.11. ACTION CONT'D.

Footpaths:

- 8) Seek co-operation of landowners for carrying out improvements and obtain permission for waymarking footpaths.
- 9) Further research to determine locations for waymarking and needs for improvement (in some cases re-instatement) - Details of proposed routes may then have to be revised .
- 10) Liason should take place at an early date (March / April) with the producer of the proposed leaflets , and he should be made aware of priorities to enable leaflets to be made available first for those routes where work is likely to be completed first.

Picnic Site:

- 11) Establish ownership of site and seek their approval of the proposal and whether the site would be leased or bought, negotiate price.(April/May)
- 12) Research into history of site to commence in April and depending on the results of this, excavation may follow.

Improved Riverside Access:

- 13) Establish ownership of land below Youth Hostel and approach owners to permit the proposed provision of steps to the river, seating and signposting.

Improvements to Lemon Square & the Market Square:

- 14) Check location of services below the Market Square with statutory undertakers to ensure that tree-planting is possible.
- 15) Draw up detailed scheme for Lemon Square and establish planting locations and species for Market Square.
- 16) Liase with County Council over provision of trees.
- 17) Approach Samuel King's School to involve local school-children in tree-planting.

Tourist Information Boards & Direction Signs:

- 18) It will be necessary to obtain permission from the owners and / or tenants of buildings to which boards and signs are to be fixed. Once produced they can be erected at any convenient time during the operation of the Manpower Services Commission programme.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 19) It will be evident from the preceding paragraphs that a considerable volume of groundwork is required before many of the proposals can actually be implemented. It is therefore sincerely hoped that the proposal for a Manpower Services Commission post to be created on the East Fellside and Alston Moor Project materialises to assist in some of this work.

ALSTON MOOR ACTION PLAN 1982

PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.4 PROPOSALS FOR CONTINUED MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION PROGRAMME

2.4.12. PHASING

- 1) Car park:
This project will need to be started by July 1982 to ensure securing a grant from the Tourist Board.
- 2) Footpaths:
This will depend on co-operation of landowners, but suggested priorities:
 - Ashgill Force,
 - Gossipgate - Skellgill Force - Blagill) round trips
 - Annat Walls - Natrass Gill

Hopefully, footpath improvements could start in May so that at least some routes would be completed for the July/August holiday period. Continued work on waymarking and improvements would probably carry on throughout the year, weather permitting, aiming to complete as much work as possible in time for the next holiday season, i.e. Easter 1983 (depending on co-operation of landowners).
- 3) Picnic Site:
Ideally the site should become operational by late summer, although it is very unlikely to be completed by that time.
- 4) Riverside Access:
This proposal is not dependent on too many unknown factors and hopefully the two riverside areas could be created early this summer to be available for the main holiday season. *(The land concerned belongs to the Parish Council)*
- 5) Lemon Square & Market Square:
Details should be established during the summer but as these proposals are dependent on the planting season for trees, it is recommended that preparation of the ground and hard-landscaping should take place during September ready for planting in October/November.
- 6) Suggested Timetable:

April	Riverside Access	Public Toilets	(Additional ground-work
May	" "	Footpaths ✓	(required for implementation
June	Fairhill car-park		(of proposals
July	{ Gannigill Toilets	"	Blagill picnic site
August	{ Fairhill car-park	"	Tourist Information Boards & sig
September	Lemon Square	"	Blagill Picnic Site
October	{ Lemon Square	"	Fairhill car park
November	{ Market Square	"	" " "
December		"	
January		"	
February		"	
March	" "	"	" " "

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PART 2 - PROPOSALS

2.5 PRINTED MATERIAL

2.5.1 This will consist of tourist information maps previously referred to and footpath guides.

2.5.2 It is proposed that the information map should constitute a pictorial plan of the area showing scenic footpaths included in the Manpower Services Commission improvement proposals, and indicating local features of interest. (It may be desirable to inset the centre of Alston and possibly some drawings of local features such as Gossipgate, Ashgill Force and some old mining relics or buildings of interest).

2.5.3 The footpath guides ^{W/} should relate to the above map and to the improved footpaths and would be ^{descriptive} leaflets on the lines of a "town trail" but adapted to a rural context.

2.5.4 ACTION

1) It is proposed that Mr. Chandler of Sun Studio should be approached to see if he is willing to design and produce the footpath guides to fit in with the timing of footpath improvements. These would then be sold commercially by Sun Studio.

2) It is also proposed that ^{Sun Studio} he should be approached to design the tourist information map. It is hoped that this could be screen-printed by Eden District Council, and it would therefore have to be designed for the screen-printing process. It can be printed onto a plastic type material and additional copies for further locations and replacements if damaged would be readily obtainable. If printed by Eden District Council, the only cost to the Parish Council would be the design and materials, but if printed elsewhere, obviously printing costs would be involved. Possibly these maps could be sold at a modest price to local hoteliers etc., thus recovering some of the production costs.

PART 3 - FURTHER ACTION

3.1. RETENTION OF DEVELOPMENT AREA STATUS

Depending on the response received from letters to be written to the local M.P. and Secretary of State for Industry, it may be necessary for representatives of the Parish Council to go to London to lobby the Secretary of State for Industry in order to attempt to retain Development Area Status in view of the importance of promoting tourism within Alston Moor. This should be accompanied by wide publicity for this campaign in the press, local radio and possibly television.

3.2. INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOPS

Hopefully, the Fairhill site will be developed. Failing this, it will be essential to identify further sites for industrial workshops in Alston. If further sites become available they may be needed in future in addition to those at Fairhill.

3.3. TOWN SCHEME

The Parish Council should monitor the success of the scheme and offer encouragement to owners and tenants of eligible property.

3.4. MAN-POWER SERVICES COMMISSION PROGRAMME

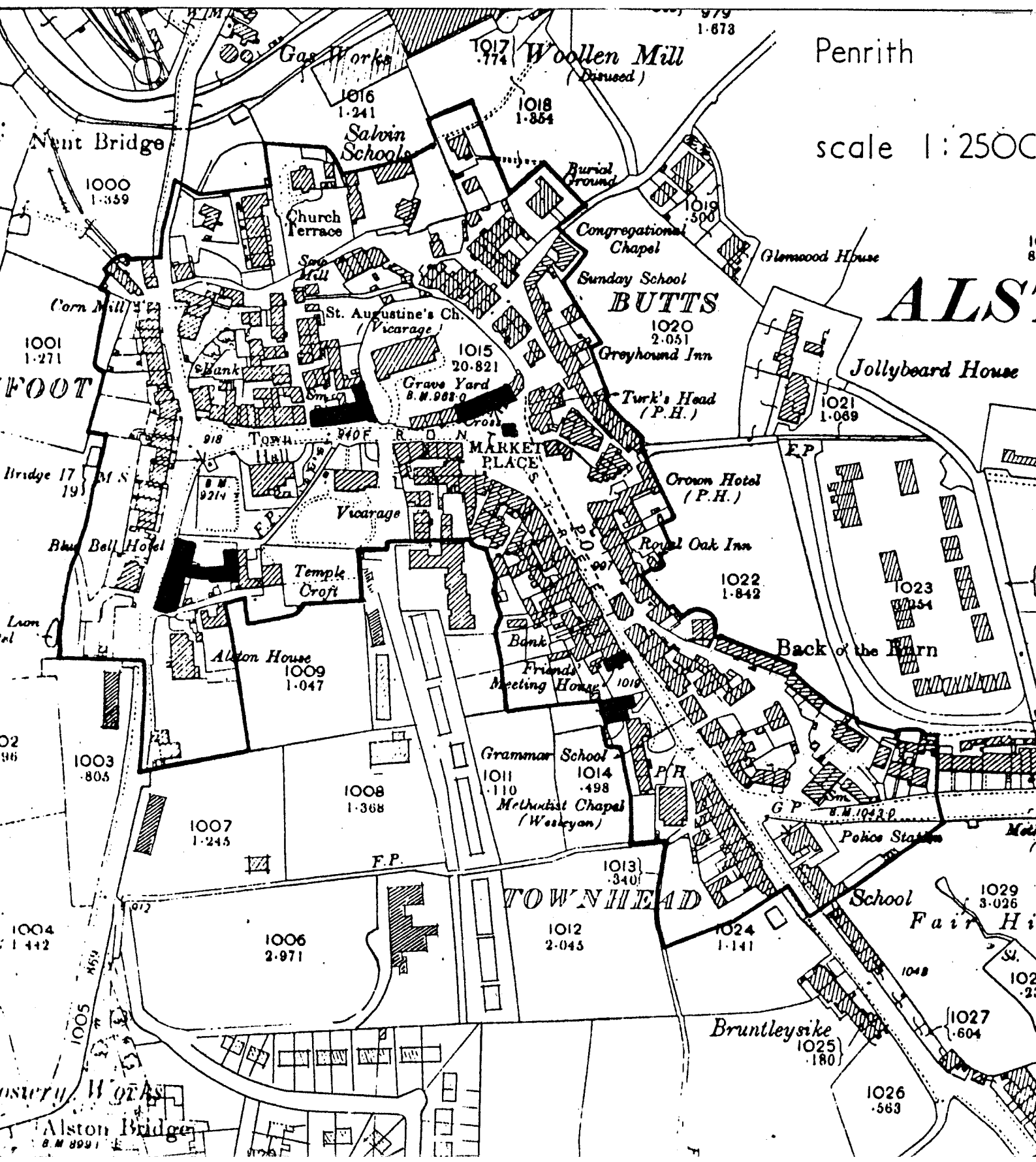
It is unlikely that the total programme proposed for Manpower Services Commission projects can be completed in one year. In particular, the footpath and picnic site proposals which require considerable work before teams go on site will probably remain incomplete at the end of the financial year in March 1983.

It will therefore be necessary to request extension of this programme for at least a further year if at all possible.

3.5. It is envisaged that the proposals set out in this plan may need to be adapted and revised to meet changing circumstances and it should therefore not be seen as a finite document but as a springboard for further action.

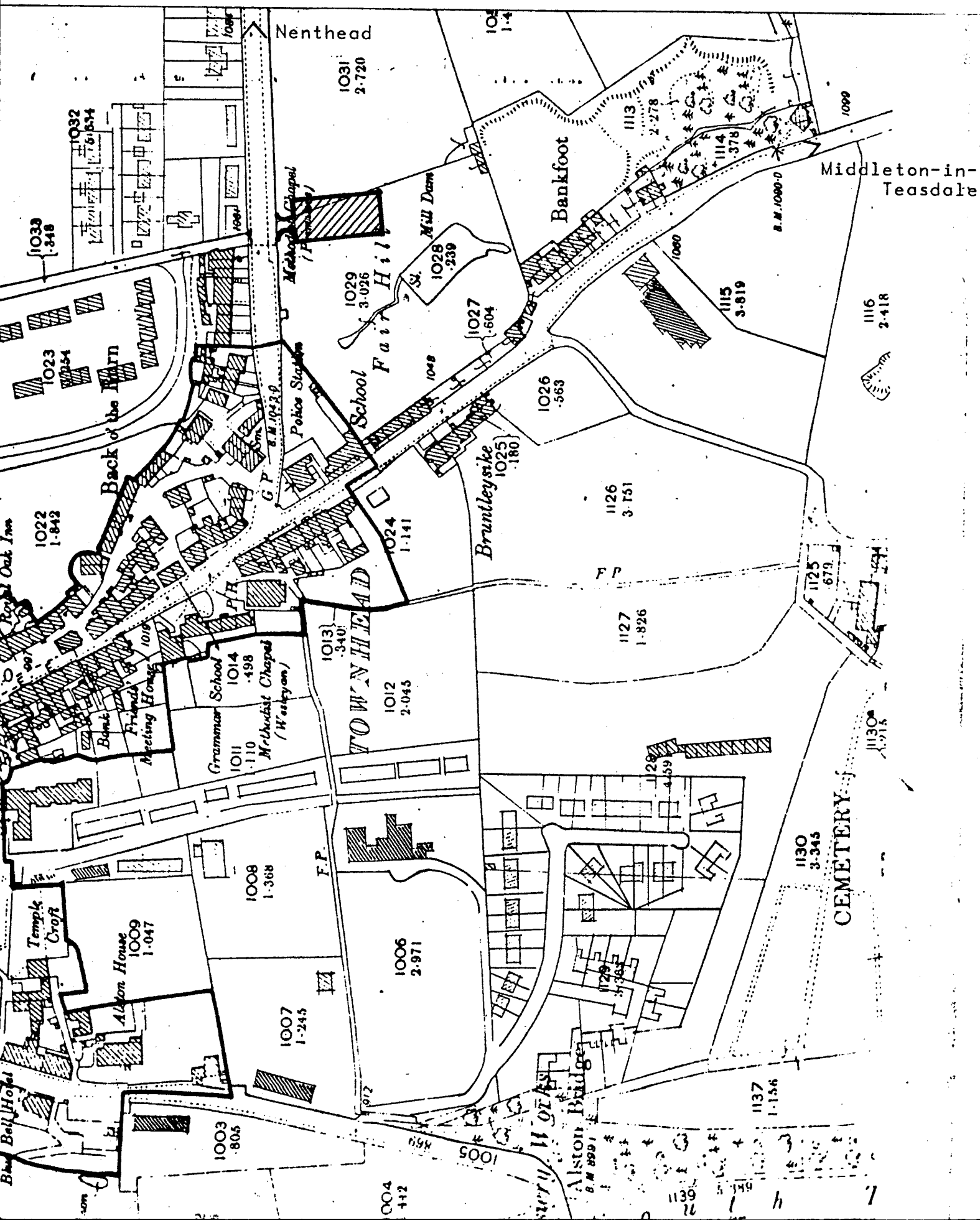
see 2.3.2

Proposed Listed Buildings (this includes those already listed
except where they are proposed to be
deleted.)



SITE FOR CAR-PARK AT FAIRHILL

see 2.4.4



Proposed for waymarking & improvement

_____ short walks
 _____ medium range walks
 longer walks

proposed picnic site

