

Sunlea, Planning – Heritage statement

Site situation and history:

Sunlea (which is not listed) is located in the village of Lea, which dates back to the Anglo-Saxon times pre 1066, the land within the village was owned by Malmesbury Abbey. The village is a conservation area, its designation primarily relates to its significance to the town of Malmesbury.

According to the Wiltshire and Swindon history centre, it states the following:

“The parish of Lea and Cleverton is situated east south east of Malmesbury and covers an area of approximately 1,600 acres. Although called by the name of two settlements only one has a church, situated at Lea, although there is another at Garsdon, now included in the civil parish. The western boundary is marked by the Bristol Avon, the north and eastern boundaries by its tributary Woodbridge Brook and the southern boundary is marked by the Swindon to Malmesbury road. Two streams flow north through the parish, with an area of Kellaways Sand in between, Oxford Clay is found in the east and Kellaways Clay in the west. The highest land is in the south and reaches 100metres.

The word Lea means wood or clearing in a wood, and Cleverton or Claverdon means clover hill, while Garsdon means grass hill. Most of the land was used for pasture over the centuries, and the parish lay within the boundaries of Braydon Forest.

Although little is known about the early history of the parish, it is thought to have ancient origins due to the simplicity of the parish boundaries and was owned by Malmesbury Abbey before the Norman Conquest, forming part of a large estate owned by the Abbey known as Brokenborough”.

Given the significance of this, there are a number of listed buildings within the parish and conservation area, which are near to Sunlea, which can be found on the next page.

Lea Conservation Area

HeritageCheck information summary

This A4 summary presents the information published by HeritageCheck for the Lea Conservation Area, with the key designation, heritage and planning information arranged in a clear report format.

Designation	Lea Conservation Area
Nation	England
Data source	Historic England
Designation status	Designated conservation area
Area	Approximately 18.9 hectares
Postcodes within area	6
Listed buildings	6 listed buildings — all Grade II

Heritage significance

HeritageCheck describes Lea as a designated conservation area in England, protected for its special architectural or historic interest. The conservation area covers approximately 18.9 hectares, making it a relatively compact conservation area compared with the UK average of around 45 hectares.

The information is identified by HeritageCheck as being sourced from Historic England. The area contains six listed buildings, all designated at Grade II.

Notable listed buildings

1	Barn to the South of Manor Farmhouse	Grade II	SN16 9PB
2	Church of St Giles	Grade II	SN16 9PB
3	Four Monuments in the Churchyard, 2 Metres South of Chancel, Church of St Giles	Grade II	SN16 9PB
4	Hillbourn Monument in the Churchyard, 7 Metres South East of Chancel, Church of St Giles	Grade II	SN16 9PB
5	Two Baker Monuments in the Churchyard, 1 Metre West of Tower, Church of St Giles	Grade II	SN16 9PB
6	Unidentified Monument in the Churchyard, 5 Metres South South East of Chancel, Church of St Giles	Grade II	SN16 9PB

Nearby conservation areas

HeritageCheck identifies the following nearby conservation areas and approximate distances from Lea:

Conservation area	Approx. distance
Little Somerford	2.3 km
Malmesbury	2.6 km
Charlton	2.6 km
Great Somerford	3.6 km
Rodbourne	3.7 km
Crudwell	6.4 km
Long Newton	7.3 km
Shipton Moyne	7.4 km

Conservation area considerations

HeritageCheck states that properties within Lea Conservation Area may face restrictions relating to demolition, tree work and certain exterior alterations. Tree work is subject to a six-week notice requirement. The website advises contacting the relevant local planning authority for the specific requirements that apply to a property or proposal.

The conservation area designation provides broader heritage protection across the area than the listing of individual buildings alone. Any development proposal should therefore consider both the character of the conservation area and the significance of nearby listed buildings.

Source and scope

Prepared from the information displayed on the HeritageCheck 'Lea Conservation Area' webpage. HeritageCheck identifies Historic England as the data source for the Lea conservation area information. This document is a formatted summary of that webpage and is not a substitute for the local planning authority's definitive conservation area records, boundary plans, or statutory heritage advice.

Source: HeritageCheck, Lea Conservation Area — <https://heritagecheck.co.uk/conservation-area/lea>

Data attribution stated by HeritageCheck: Historic England; Cadw; SpatialData.gov.scot; Open Government Licence.



Photos of the conservation area/ nearby listed buildings:

(Courtesy of Google street view):



Church of St. Giles and commonwealth war graves.

4.



Church of St. Giles in relation to Sunlea and The street.

Characteristics:

Examining the characteristics of the Lea conservation area, the architecture is refined, the local vernacular is consistent with stone buildings front of house, contrastingly there are a number of other buildings within the conservation area that are not as sympathetic to the original characteristics that the village exhibits, as seen here:



The street from the opposite way looking past 'Sunlea' towards St. Giles.

...showcasing more modern bungalows (circa 1960s) within the conservation area, whilst being less sympathetic in terms of architectural style, it does exhibit the same type of material facing in local stone, which sets a benchmark for the proposal for Sunlea.

The Proposal:

As per the drawings submitted for this application, the justification for the design is primarily focussed upon the stone external finish and other materials labelled, but also and form of the extension being subtle and discreetly positioned in a location that will not be seen from the public highway.

Furthermore, the proposal will be an improvement on the 'back of house' rendered existing rear elevation of Sunlea, with the addition of stone facing that mirrors the front of the house and the established local vernacular.

If there are any requirements for certain inclusions of design features, we would prefer that they are incorporated as planning conditions rather than a refusal.