

Manston and Hammoon

Parish Plan

2007



We've had our say, here's what we said and what we want to do!

Democracy (*noun*)

- Government by the people.
- A government in which the supreme power is exercised by the people directly or indirectly through a system of representation.

Preface

Thank you for your interest in the future of Manston and Hammoon. Your parish plan volunteers hope you enjoy reading this document and that you find it useful. We thank everyone who helped us by contributing their views and look forward to working together to improve our community's future.

What is a parish plan?

A parish plan is a document describing how a community currently sees itself, how it wants to develop and the actions required to enable that development. The scope of the plan is determined by the social, environmental and economic aspects of living and working in a parish as raised by the community during the development of the plan.

The key features of a parish plan are that

- Everyone has an opportunity to take part.
- Local features and characteristics that people value are identified.
- Local issues and opportunities for improvement are identified.
- Residents' aspirations for the future of the village are defined.
- An action plan to move towards this vision is created.

Why do we need a parish plan?

A parish plan provides guidance to organisations in the government, voluntary and private sectors that provide services to and influence the future of our villages.

By providing these organisations with a clear statement of what our community wants it helps them to make informed decisions on matters that affect us. It provides strong evidence to support applications for funding or efforts to make beneficial changes. These organisations are already responding to a number of completed parish and town plans.

How the 'Manston and Hammoon Parish plan' was created.

In 2005 Manston and Hammoon Parish council resolved to support the production of a 'parish plan'. A small team of volunteers began to work on the project and secured funding towards it from Dorset County Council. The project was announced in local publications and at the village fete. Organisations connected with the parishes were invited to participate.

An open questionnaire was designed, printed and distributed to all households in the two parishes. This questionnaire was intended to find out just what it was that everyone liked and disliked about the area and what they would like to see happen in the future.



A barbeque (*photo right*), to which all villagers were invited, provided an opportunity to discuss our villages' future with local district/parish/town councillors and representatives of other community organisations such as DCA (Dorset Community Action) and Sturquest. Input from these discussions and a public suggestions box was gathered and added to the questionnaire responses.

Following further promotion in local publications such as 'The Hill' and 'Unity.com', and having allowed an extended period for all feedback to be collected, the team collated and analysed the data. Where sufficient responses addressed the same points, it was possible to perform numerical analysis. Other views were less commonly held, but when combined within categories, helped build a picture of the feelings among our community.

During the summer of 2006 a brief summary of the feedback was delivered throughout the villages in a document titled 'What you said...', again with an invitation for further comment.

In September 2006 the data collection phase was closed and work began on the document you are reading now.

Manston and Hammoon – An overview

Summary and statistics

Manston (est. pop. 180) lies 2 miles east of the nearest market town, Sturminster Newton. Hammoon (est. pop. 40) is an adjacent settlement. Although divided by the River Stour, the two villages have close ties and are administered by a common parish council.

Together, the two villages comprise around 90 dwellings, several of which are farmhouses. The settlements are surrounded by open agricultural land. Although there is a concentration of dwellings around the junction of its two main roads, Manston's homes are spread across its 556 hectares, while the dwellings in Hammoon's 280ha are more centralised. Both villages have their own church but only Manston has a public house, village hall and recreation area (all of which are used by the surrounding smaller villages).

A modern abattoir, serving the local area, is situated on the outskirts of Manston and there are a number of small businesses based within the villages. However, all services (such as schools, doctors, dentists, shops, garages, etc.) must be obtained from larger settlements such as Sturminster Newton, Child Okeford, Gillingham and Shaftesbury. Public transport is confined to a very limited bus service and access to Nordcat.



St. Nicholas church, Manston

A brief history of Manston

The Domesday Book tells us that Manston was held then by a nobleman called Waleran and it was described as one of the 'fairest lordships in Dorsetshire'. A family called Maneston is recorded as dwelling here and presumably that's where the name originates, although there are also references to Manns Tun or Maun's Farm.

In those days it was a small self-sufficient agricultural community contained in one big field next to the river where villagers farmed, fished and milled corn for flour. This original village now lies buried under the field adjacent to the church. Legend has it that plague struck and caused the original settlement to perish.



Manston mausoleum, built to store bodies for Britain's first cremations.

The settlement we now know as Manston emerged over the centuries, spreading northwards and westwards from the original site. The Parish Church of St Nicholas was built in Norman times and as the village grew over the intervening years, Manston boasted a school, post office, Wesleyan chapel, public house and a smithy. However, possibly the most controversial feature of the village was the crematorium and mausoleum, built in the early c19th at Manston House.

Manston has had its fair share of characters, among them Henry Kaines from whose diary we get some fascinating insights of village life in the early 1800s. He tells of a fire at Higher Manston Farm in which he lost most of his possessions despite help coming from the Sturminster fire engine and people from local parishes. In another adventure, he set off in pursuit of one Ambrose Rideout who stole 69 guineas from Richard Foot in Godwins House and 'laid hold of him' in Child Okeford! Henry Kaines received a handsome reward and Ambrose was transported for life. At around the same time, there was a union between Manston and Hammoon when John Douch of Hammoon and Jane Foot of Manston married and set off to a new life in Australia – presumably more willingly than Ambrose Rideout.



Manston House Lodge

A hundred years later, another village character was William Courage, a triplet who was born at the Plough. His parents applied for the 'King's Bounty' - £3 to mothers of 3 children at birth as long as they all survived - but this was refused because Mr and Mrs Courage were deemed not to need it! William worked at Manston Farm from the age of 13 and was a church bell ringer all his life.

So, today, although Manston has lost many of its amenities, The Plough remains a popular watering hole, the village hall (built in the 1970's by the villagers themselves) hosts parties and clubs and the church is a marvellous example of Norman architecture, maintained over the years by a willing congregation.

A brief History of Hammoon

The origin of the name Hammoon is derived from the Saxon word “Hamm” (home) in conjunction with the name “Mohun.”

After the Norman Conquest in 1066, William 1st awarded lands around the town of Blandford to Robert de Mortain. Robert had in his entourage a knight called William Moion and for William’s faithful service, he was given was given the village of Hamm and it’s surrounding lands.

The name of Moion became corrupted to Mohun and in the 11th to the 14th Centuries the Mohun’s were the Lords of the Manor. Thus the village name became “Hamm of Mohun,” later abbreviated to Hammoon.

The village itself stands at the edge of the Stour river terrace. During the winter months it has suffered extensive flooding over the centuries and in 1891 the bridge over the Stour was completely swept away. Even today, unwary motorists who risk the floods may be stranded in the floodwaters. In the past Manston School, which served both villages, regularly recorded Hammoon children missing school due to bad weather and flooding.

Some of the ancient and interesting buildings in Hammoon are the Parish Church of St. Paul’s, the Manor House and the Farm House.



Hammoon Manor House



St. Paul's church, Hammoon

St. Paul's was built in the late 12th early 13th centuries. The north wall of the Nave is the earliest remaining part of the church, and is constructed of Hamm Hill limestone. The church has a register dating back to 1656.

The Manor House was built around 1500, the east part being added around 1560, and the northeast in the 17th century. It has Tuscan columns and mullioned Tudor windows. A Purbeck limestone porch was an addition in the 1600's. It has been described as "the most picturesque of its kind," by Sir Frederick Treves, author of *Highways and Byways of Dorset*.

Hammoon House was built as a hunting lodge by the 2nd Viscount Portman in the 1890's, so that his family and guests could hunt in comfort with the Portman Hunt.

Hammoon has never been a large village, but it has had some "larger than life" characters associated with it. During the 18th and 19th centuries, it was used as a storage place for smugglers booty. The contraband was hauled across the hills from Lulworth by such characters as Roger Rideout and Captain "Ducky" Pope, both gang leaders.

The village today, is a quiet rural place, concerned as it always has been with the farming industry. It remains one of the delightful small villages of Dorset.

The community view of our present and future.

So here we are in the twenty-first century with a fascinating snapshot of residents' opinions of their villages and surrounding infrastructure. It would be so interesting to be able to look back on results if a similar exercise had been carried out 50 or 100 years ago and to see what issues occupied our predecessors.

Today, reportedly, most folk are pretty content with life in Manston and Hammoon. Our villages are seen to have escaped large-scale development and, generally, what we lack in amenities and public transport, we more than make up for in the rural tranquillity of our countryside and the lovely views.

Residents do, however, want to see action on speeding traffic and many look for a way to walk more safely through Manston.

In very recent years, the number of road accidents in Manston has reached double figures. Some have required assistance from the Air Ambulance and one vehicle even landed on its roof in the children's play area, so the situation is serious. The survey also drew comment about a number of areas within the village that are scruffy or neglected and would benefit from improvement.

Hammoon residents communicated their concerns about flooding and the poor condition of their roads. The point was made about drivers who ignore the dangers in a flood and get stuck in their vehicles, causing problems for the emergency services and severe inconvenience to residents.

There are diverse views on community spirit and resources though most appreciate the efforts of local organisers and events. Some residents expressed a desire for community spirit to widen its focus and to adapt to a modern way of life. Of things we are less than happy with, a common theme is 'poor access', variously alluding to police, councillors, notice boards and information generally.

It seems that most of us believe we are fortunate to be living in Manston and Hammoon. Despite there being room for improvement there is a great deal to celebrate.

The strongest message was that most people do not want to see too much change.

The top 10 concerns requiring attention.

1. **Traffic and road safety**
 - a. Speeding (78% overall)
 - b. Volume of traffic (44% overall)
 - c. Area covered by speed limits (34% overall)
 - d. Fly-tipping and roadside litter (21% overall)
 - e. Road noise (13% overall)
 - f. Mud and muck (11% overall)
2. **Highway maintenance** (Hammoon 71%)
 - a. Flood management (Hammoon 65%)
 - b. Road surface
 - c. Verges
 - d. Ditches
 - e. Hedges
3. **Development control (protect our environment)** (67%+ overall)
4. Provision of pavements/footpaths (44% overall)
5. Community spirit and inclusion (Manston 20%)
6. More Visible policing (20% overall)
7. Parking improvements (Manston 19%)
8. Better Public transport (11% overall)
9. Parish notice-boards (Manston 11%)
10. Better access to local councillors, etc. (9% overall)

Percentages in brackets show the proportion of people who raised this issue in their reply.
Concerns relating mainly to one village show figures for the responses from just that village.

Action plan

The following actions were identified.

Action	Local coordinator	Potential solution Owner(s)
Traffic & Road safety	Carin Chiswell	
Meet/pursue with DCC		DCC
Meet/pursue with Police & Dorset Safety Camera Partnership		Police / DSCP
Meet/pursue with Parish Council		M&H PC
Investigate possible changes		M&H PC
Highways and Footpaths	Judith Hussey	M&H PC, landowners
Hammoon flooding - Work with DCC and the Environment Agency	Jacqui Wragg	M&H PC Flood warden
Contact DCC re. the condition of the roads, signs, etc		DCC
Identify owners of and address issues related to hedges.	All	DCC
Ensure maintenance schedule for ditches & verges is appropriate	Maggie Granlund	DCC
Provision of safe pedestrian routes (esp. to village hall, playground, pub and church). Working group needed.	Maggie Granlund	
Community spirit working group	Jane Williams	Village Hall?
Police – identify our beat officer & look into the 'Homewatch' scheme.	Mike Statham	M&H PC

Key to abbreviations:

DCC	Dorset County Council
NDDC	North Dorset District Council
M&H PC	Manston and Hammoon Parish Council
DSCP	Dorset Safety Camera Partnership

Action plan continued.

Action	Local coordinator	Potential solution Owner(s)
Recreation ground improvements	M&H PC	M&H PC
General tidy of village and hall.	M&H PC	Everyone
Development control – Develop a statement to provide guidance to M&H PC and NDDC	Mike Statham	M&H PC NDDC
Communications – Village website and address other issues able to be resolved by simple communication improvements.	Mike Statham	Local team M&H PC
Nuisances – Communicate with suppliers and causers of annoyances. Provide public guidance on how to report/address.	M&H PC	Everyone
Access to parish council, etc.	M&H PC	M&H PC
Parish notice-boards	M&H PC	M&H PC

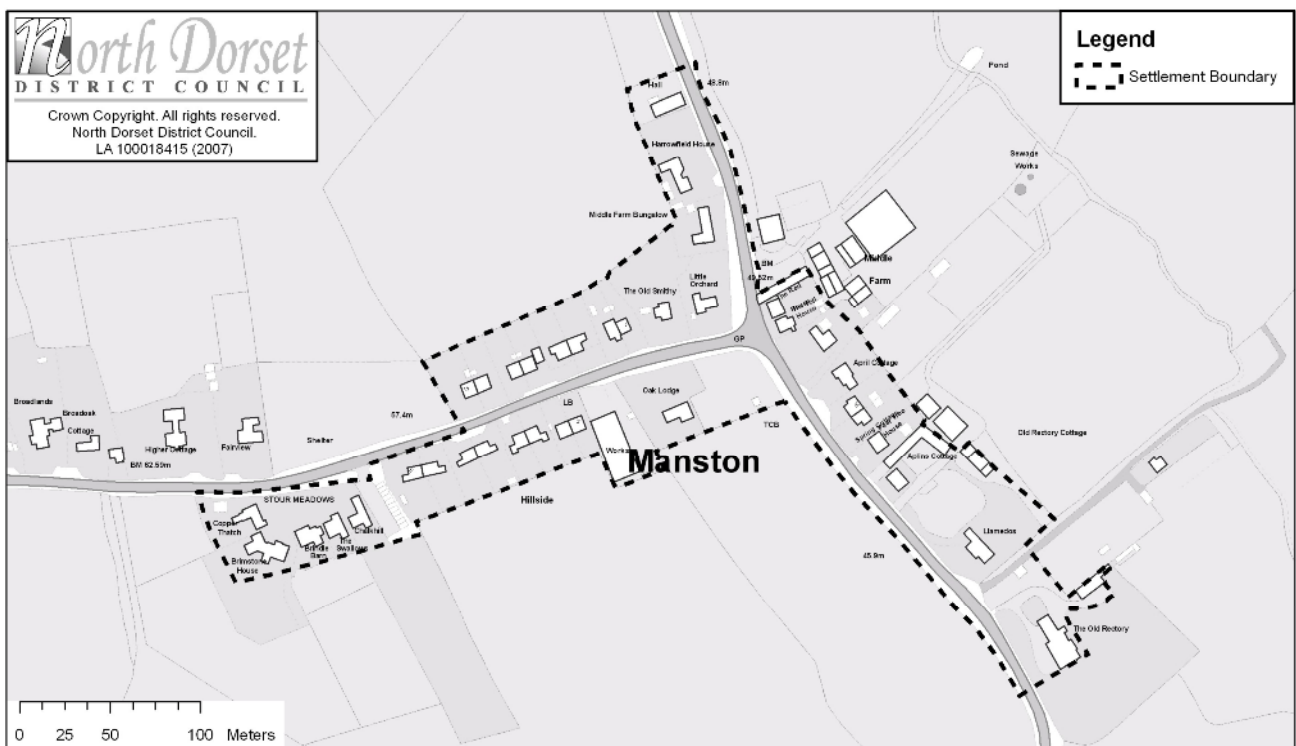
Timescale	
2005 - 2006	Public consultation, data gathering and analysis
April 2007	Publication of the Parish plan document
May 2007 onwards	Implementation of action plans as prioritised.

Appendix 1 Facilities in Manston and Hammoon.

Mains electricity	All areas, mainly overhead
Mains water	All areas
Mains Gas	Partial
Main drainage	Partial
Telephone	All areas. Mobile reception good on all main networks.
Broadband	All areas (speed limited by line quality)
Public telephones	Phone-box in each village and at 'The Plough'
Post Office	No (Child Okeford or Sturminster Newton)
Post-box	Both villages, regular service
Village Shop	No (Child Okeford or Sturminster Newton)
Public House	Manston only, 'The Plough'
Church	Both villages
Village Hall	Manston only, covers both villages
Playground	Manston only, covers both villages
Sports facilities	No (Child Okeford or Sturminster Newton)
School	No (Child Okeford or Sturminster Newton)
Recycling	Regular collection plus glass, paper and card dumpsters at 'The Plough', Manston
Petrol station	No (Shillingstone)
GP Surgery	No (Child Okeford or Sturminster Newton)
Dental Surgery	No (Sturminster Newton)

Appendix 1 *continued...*

Public transport	Infrequent buses and Nordcat
Library	No (Sturminster Newton)
Fire Station	No (Sturminster Newton)
Police station	Undesignated Beat Officer.
Neighbourhood watch	No
Publications	'The Hill' and 'Unity.com' both delivered. Blackmore Vale from 'The Plough', Manston
Pavements	No, see questionnaire responses!
Street lighting	No, see questionnaire responses!
Road network	'B', 'C' and minor roads with speed limits of 30/60mph
Rights of way	Various. Parish Council has a 'rights of way' officer.
Settlement boundary	Only defined for Manston, as shown below.



Appendix 2. A numerical analysis of questionnaire related responses.

(46 returns representing 71 adults).

(Numbers in brackets show a breakdown of Manston/Hammoon residents' responses.)

Quality of life

83% (80/94) love living here while 13% (15/6) think it's OK.

72% (74/65) like the open countryside and views.

65% (63/71) enjoy the peace and quiet of a small rural village.

42% (41/47) value their community and neighbours.

20% (24/6) would like to see more visible policing.

45% (46/41) felt very safe. 54% (52/59) felt fairly safe.

1% (2/0) are unsure of their safety.

Resources, communications and community spirit

	Phone-boxes	Post-boxes	The Plough	Village Churches	Village Hall	Recreation ground	Footpaths etc.	Bus Shelter	Recycling dumpsters
Manston	22	70	83	65	87	50	61	28	69
Hammoon	69	94	65	77	12	18	59	0	53
Overall	33	76	79	68	69	42	61	21	65

Percentage of responses valuing various village resources.

Appendix 2 continued.

	The Hill	Unity.com	Notice boards	Access to Parish Council	Community spirit
Positive	78% (74/88)	78% (78/77)	56% (52/71)	54% (50/65)	56% (50/77)
Negative	3% (4/0)	0% (0/0)	16% (20/0)	9% (11/0)	16% (20/0)

Percentage of positive and negative feedback received for communication and community spirit.

Traffic and highways

78% (76/82) have a problem with road safety and speeding vehicles.

34% (33/35) would like the speed limits extended to cover more of the area.

44% (30/88) are concerned about the volume or type of traffic.

32% (20/71) want improved maintenance of roads, verges, hedges, ditches, signs, etc.

21% (22/18) expressed concern over fly-tipping and roadside litter.

11% (11/12) thought there was too much mud/muck left on our roads.

19% would support improved parking facilities in Manston

44% of Manston responses were in favour of more pavements.

13% (15/6) found road noise a nuisance.

31% (20/65) had concerns related to flooding and flood management.

11% (24/6) were critical of public transport.

Appendix 2 continued.

Future development

Manston

6% want to see Manston grow while 22% would prefer *nothing more* and 67% *extensions and alterations only*.

33% would support *new quality* or *affordable dwellings* although many of the responses are qualified and/or conditional by type, scale and location.

Although 7% would support *new business premises* another 15% oppose it.

28% would consider other developments, by far the largest support being for a village shop.

Hammoon

No-one wants growth while 29% would prefer *nothing more* and 70% *extensions and alterations only*.

There was no desire for *new quality dwellings* but 23% would support *new affordable dwellings*.

6% would support *new business premises* while 12% would oppose it.

Appendix 3. Demographics

Manston

68 dwellings of which 78% are owner occupied.

180 residents of which 11% below 16 and 24% above 64 years of age.

65% of residents are in good health with 24% having a long-term illness.

13% were providing unpaid care.

95% Households have cars.

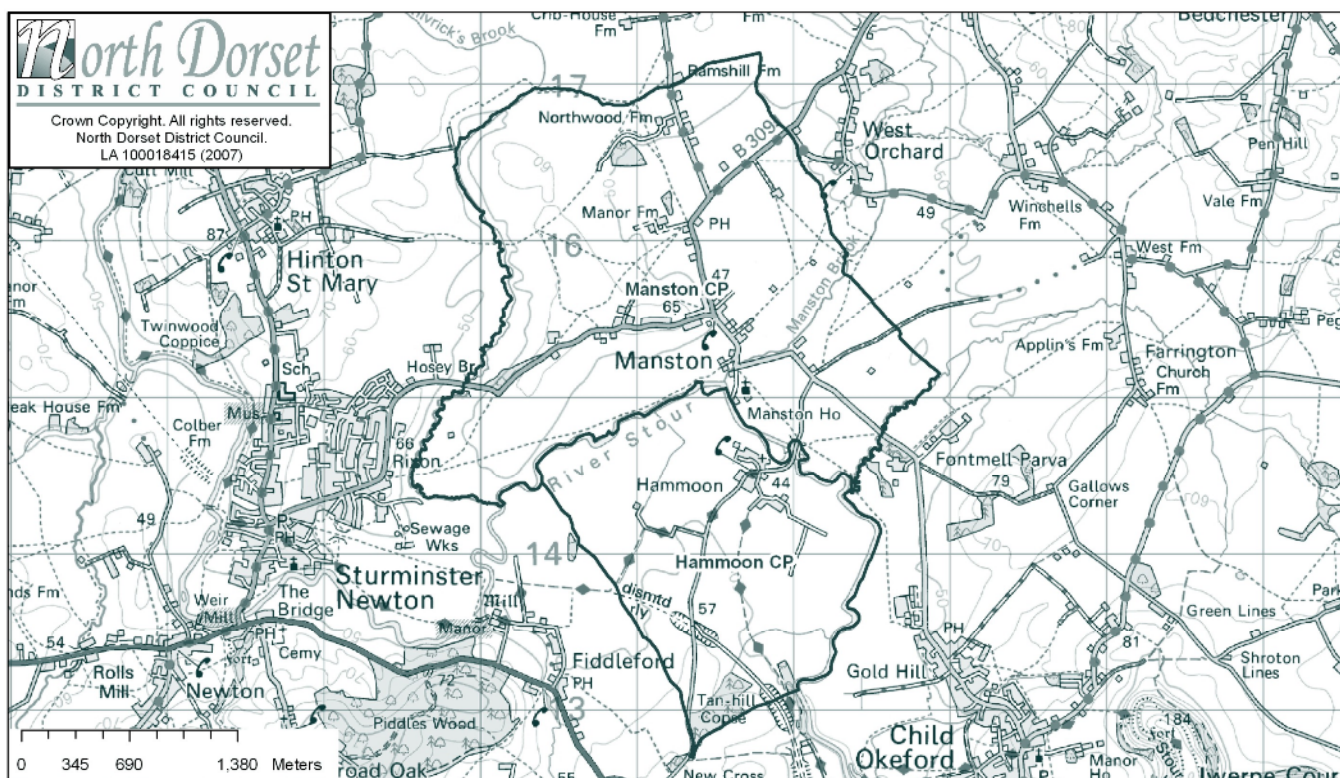
54% Population aged 16-74 are qualified to level 1 or less.

With 0% unemployment the workforce comprised of 23% in managerial/professional roles and 30.6% self-employed or similar.

Hammoon

17 Dwellings with 40 residents similarly situated to the figures given above for Manston but with a greater proportion of dwellings occupied by families with children.

(Sources: 2001 census with revisions from NDDC 2004 & 2005 population estimates)



Manston and Hammoon showing parish boundaries

Appendix 4.

Contacts.

Manston & Hammoon community website		www.manstonandhammoon.info
Manston & Hammoon Parish Council	01747 824775	Philip Knott (Parish Clerk)
North Dorset District Council	01258 454111	www.north-dorset.gov.uk
Dorset County Council	01305 251000	www.dorsetforyou.com
Sturquest community partnership	01258 471456	www.sturminster-site.net/sturquest.htm
The Environment Agency	08708 506506	environment.gov.uk
Highway maintenance	0800 232323	The 'Clarence' Helpline
Manston Village Hall	01258 472608	Mike Statham (Bookings Clerk)
Signpost Housing	01258 484800	www.signpost-group.co.uk
Dorset Community Action	01305 250921	www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk
Dorset Police	01305 222222	www.dorset.police.uk
Nordcat (community transport)	01258 472164	Helen Reed

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The Plough, Manston

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This document is dedicated to the late George Frampton whose encouragement and support, as Parish Council Chairman, helped initiate this project for our community.