

ENGLEFIELD GREEN

CONSERVATION AREA

Ingefeld

'Inga's open space'



Place-names make us familiar with the names of many Saxons. Most, like *Inga*, are otherwise unknown. A *feld*, though, was originally a large open area, used as pasture land by the community. The Rocque map dated 1768 (below) shows how, in time, this area became divided into separate arable fields, leaving only the heaths as open pasture. Much of the land was, however, still held in common.

The Rocque map also shows a series of houses grouped around an open area. This green, which gives the village its most distinctive characteristic, was actually a remnant of the much larger Saxon *feld*.



The 'thermal' windows (derived from classical Roman architecture) are a particularly nice feature of this 18th century building. It was originally the stable block to Englefield Green House, and was later converted to a coach house (as shown here). The coach house doors have now been replaced with windows.



Castle Hill is the largest building around Englefield Green. It was considerably enlarged on the 19th century, but the drawing shows (after a print of 1775) the original 18th century 'Gothic' structure, built for Sir John Elwell.

In 1851 Englefield Green was described as *'a most delightful spot, selected as the residence of many distinguished and wealthy families, and surrounded by the most enchanting scenery'*. Substantial houses for the gentry, mostly with connections to the Court at Windsor, had begun to be built in the 18th century. There seem to be more houses shown on Rocque's map than existed later. Were older, smaller, houses replaced by the larger buildings of the gentry?



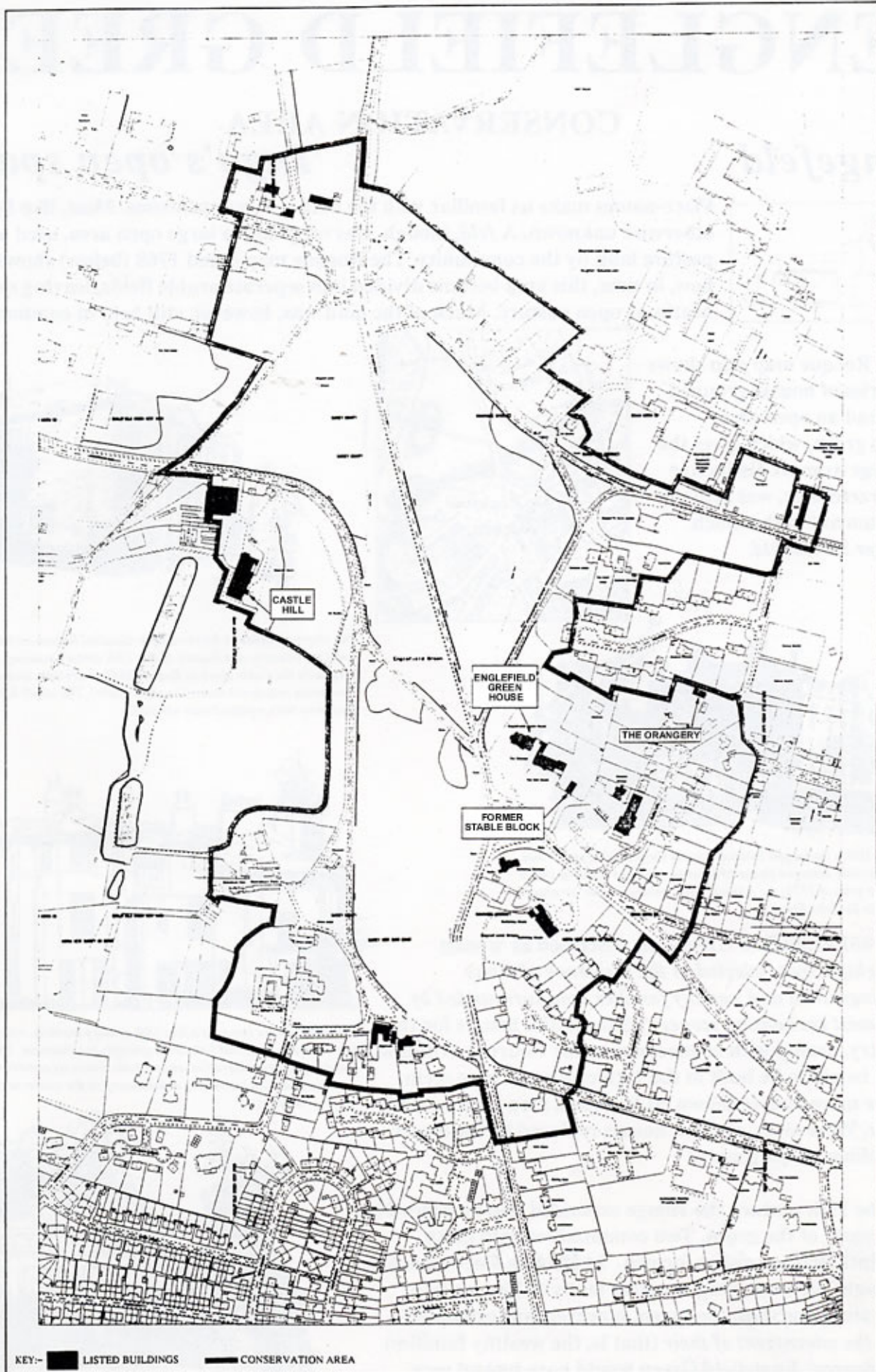
Englefield Green House is a fine 18th century building, with an elegant front and good internal features, especially the staircase. The untidy and irregular rear elevation, shown here, comes as something of a surprise and is an interesting commentary on the concerns of the original builders.

In the 19th century the village expanded and developed to the south of the green. Two communities with quite distinct characteristics formed. In 1814 an Enclosure Act brought the remaining common lands of the area into private ownership: the green, however, was exempted *'for the adornment of their (that is, the wealthy families) residences'*. Englefield Green would have looked very different today, had it not been for this decision.

Its open character was, however, preserved and it is this which gives it a distinctive charm today.



The orangery at Clarence Drive was built in severely classical ('Roman Doric') style. It is a rare survival of a garden building in the grand 18th century manner.



KEY: ■ LISTED BUILDINGS — CONSERVATION AREA



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