

FERNEY

Ferney is a small enclave of 15 houses, dating, as far as we know, from about the 17th century, or maybe even earlier, gathered in a horseshoe shape off the Uley Road. One enters the eastern approach through listed columns and beside a lodge gate house bearing the date 1760. The other, western approach, is a narrow footpath, although light vehicles do use it. At the top of this loop is a generous, open area, bounded in part by the listed walls which enclose the beautiful cottages and house of Ferney Hill, bounded on another side by a long line of TPO'd Yews, and finally bounded by a house which has the architectural style of many Cotswold houses of the 1750 – 1850 period. The proposed Greenaway runs straight across this wide space following the line of the River Ewelme which at this point is in a culvert.

This area alongside the stream may very likely have once been a mill; one of the buildings bears that characteristic shape/layout and the 1844 map of the area designates the stream bed where the Ewelme flows into Ferney as a mill pond.

From this southern end of Ferney the pedestrian has the choice of turning left along a permitted path into the town of Dursley (part of the proposed Greenway) or going more steeply up a footpath towards Chestal House and The Cotswold Way.

A SERIES OF PHOTOS SHOWING THE APPROACHES TO FERNEY WITH ITS SALIENT BUILDINGS AND LAYOUT.



The western lodge gates.



The lodge gate house with its dates



Looking back uphill towards the entrance, pillars and lodge



The Ewelme entering Ferney from where it was once a mill pond and going into the culvert



Looking up the path beside the river, entering Ferney from the east.



Some of Ferney's residences, with the walls bounding the wide space to the south



The wide area, at the top of the horseshoe



Gates of Ferney House



Opposite Ferney House gates, some of the Yews



The narrow footpath of the western approach to Ferney coming down from Yellow Hundred



The footpath continues on towards Ferney's walls in the distance



Here, the western and eastern approaches meet and go on towards town (left) or straight on to Chestal House and the Cotswold Way



On the left of the previous photo is this lovely old house in the style of many Cotswold buildings



Leaving Ferney in an uphill direction and looking back towards the Yews.

THE SOUTHERN EDGE BETWEEN THE TOWN AND FERNEY

The footpath between Ferney and Chestal House is the subject of some uncertainty as to its status. Recently two unlisted pillars – similar to the two listed and lower down at the entrance to Ferney – were claimed and removed by a nearby landowner, and there is some reason to think that the path may be surfaced with tarmac by the same person. Study of the history of ownership of this area is proving difficult and merits further exploration. The verges of the path are maintained lovingly by its neighbours and by members of Dursley in Bloom for all seasons, providing pleasure for the many long-distance walkers, families and dog walkers. The whole environment is worth this care and maintenance and also is due protection as a community asset.



Starting up the footpath from Ferney





Chestal's lodge gate house.

Now privately owned, this was once



One of the pillars has been removed from the end of this wall, opposite the lodge.

CONCLUSION

As residents of Ferney we feel that there is a considerable amount of unique character and history in this cul-de-sac which deserves to be further explored and given protection, and we would appreciate that a statement to this effect is entered into the Neighbourhood plan with the intention of establishing it as a valuable and unique part of the town, enhancing the experience for long-distance walkers, adding value to the Greenway project and preserving the essential spirit of this beautiful area.