

## Datchet Local List – Non-Designated Heritage Asset Information Sheet

Name, address, location of asset	Number	
Drinking Fountain North Green The Green Datchet SL3 9BJ	Is the asset ✓ In the Conservation Area ✓ In Datchet Parish	
OS Map and coordinates		
	SU 98690 77086 (Six figure SU986770)	
Significance of asset (NPPF)		
Archaeological    Architectural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Historic</b> Artistic    In the setting of a heritage asset		
Type of Asset Please select relevant category		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Monument</b>		
Description/History of asset		
<p><b>Drinking fountain 1886</b> (Image: Google Street View July 2019)</p> <p>The drinking fountain was the first public monument to be erected in the centre of the village, in 1886. It was the philanthropic gift of Lady Georgiana Needham, following the principles of the Metropolitan Free Drinking Fountain Association. Lady Needham, daughter of the Earl of Kilmorey, lived at Datchet House on London Road with a full battery of servants and at the very pinnacle of Datchet society. In 1886 she was in her 90th year, one of a family who all reached similar great ages.</p> <p>A typical Victorian monument, it bears biblical quotations on the subject of water while providing bowls for dogs and horses as well as villagers. It is made from prestigious pink and mottled Aberdeen granite, a monumental stone which was very fashionable at the time and favoured by the wealthy for their family gravestones in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. (There are other examples of its use in St Mary's Churchyard and for decorative additions to the church's interior, such a pillars around the chancel at the east end.)</p> <p>The body of the monument comprises four sections. From the base upwards these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large, tapered, four-sided base with rough-hewn finish to the faces.</li> <li>• Four-sided block mid-section with 'chamfered' top corners. Polished, arched faces with biblical inscriptions.</li> <li>• Octagonal, tapered upper-section with three decorative grooves.</li> <li>• Bell-shaped top section (added in 1990).</li> </ul>		



There are three bowls:

- Two on the south side for villagers and dogs; the villagers' bowl bears a two-deck inscription around its perimeter (see below).
  - One on the north side for horses, in a different honey-coloured mottled stone, in use as a planter.
- The pipe ends for water supply are visible above the bowls but there are no longer any taps.

**Inscriptions**

The inscription around the bowl for villagers records that the drinking fountain was 'ERECTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF DATCHET BY THE LADY GEORGIANA NEEDHAM OF DATCHET HOUSE 1886'.

The biblical inscriptions are as follows:

- South side: LET HIM THAT IS ATHIRST COME REV XXII. 17
- East: THOU GAVEST THEM MATTER FOR THEIR THIRST, NEH IX 20
- North: DRINK BOTH YE AND YOUR CATTLE KINGS 2 KINGS III 17
- West: I WILL GIVE UNTO HIM THAT IS ATHIRST OF THE FOUNTAIN OF THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY REV XXI 6

On the south-side, upper section, there is a later inscription: RESTORED BY BARKER BRIDGE HOUSE TRUST 1990

The fountain is presently 8' 9" tall. Originally there was a light on top, (possibly oil or gas initially, and then electric) and there is photographic evidence below of a number of different styles of lights over the years. The fountain originally stood in the centre of the village at the top of the High Street. By the mid-20th century (exact date unknown but certainly before 1977) it had become an obstruction to traffic and was in danger of being damaged itself, so it was removed to the grounds of Churchmead School where it languished for many years. The fountain was restored in 1990 by the Barker Bridge House Trust with a replacement top section and brought back to a safe place on North Green.

**Present condition and originality** (See also RBWM planning history and give details where relevant)



The fountain is in good condition but would benefit from a clean - there is moss growing on it. It is not currently connected to a water source. It used to be topped by a light but this has now been replaced by a bell-shaped stone section. The large bowl for horses is used as a planter and rain water collects in the two smaller bowls.

There are grants available for the restoration of existing fountains from [drinkingfountains.org](http://drinkingfountains.org)

Is site in use?	Give details of use
✓ YES	The bowl of the fountain is in use as a planter by Datchet Parish Council. There is potential for the drinking fountain to be brought back into use.

**Criteria** Fill in the relevant boxes stating the reasons why the asset meets these criteria.  
*(Please score to indicate how well the asset meets the criteria where 0 is not applicable, and 3 indicates very well.*

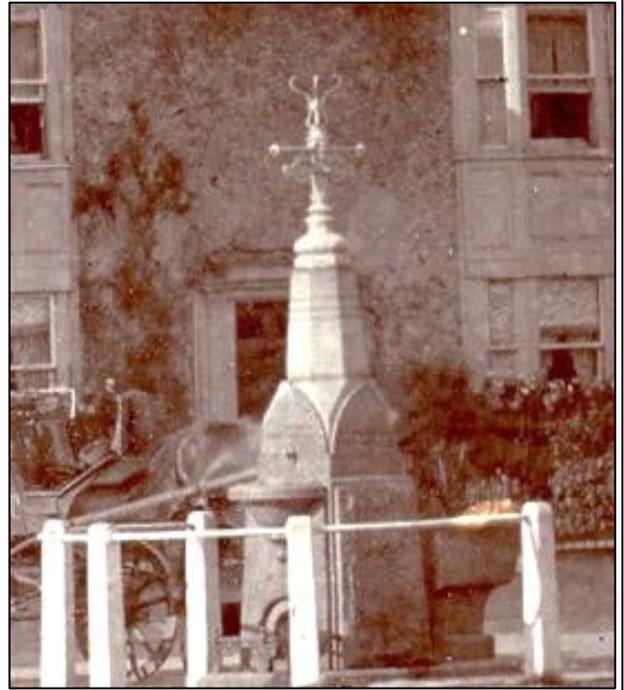
1. Has architectural interest or quality	<b>1</b>	The monument is attractive and well-crafted in granite which is well-preserved but it is mainly of historic interest. It was gifted to the village as part of the national movement to provide clean water for working people.
2. Is a landmark feature	<b>0</b>	
3. Has a relationship with adjacent designated heritage assets in age, materials, or in any other historically significant way	<b>3</b>	It is one of a group of monuments on the Village Greens, including the listed war memorial, which record historic events. It is positioned on North Green next to the Drinking Trough for cattle and horses.

4. Individually, or as part of a group, illustrates the development of the local area	0	
5. Has significant historic associations with features such as a historic road layout, a park or a landscape feature (designed or natural)	0	
6. Has historic associations with important people or past events	3	This was Datchet's first public monument to be erected on The Green. It was erected following the principles of the Metropolitan Free Drinking Fountain Association to provide people with fresh, clean drinking water. (During the 1854 cholera epidemic, the link was made between cholera and contaminated drinking water.) Drinking fountains were installed by philanthropic people, societies and local authorities. Datchet's drinking fountain was donated by Lady Georgiana Needham of Datchet House on London Road.
7. Reflects the traditional functional character or former uses of the area	0	
8. Contributes positively to the character or appearance of the area	3	The protected Village Greens are at the heart of Datchet's Conservation Area. The monuments on these Greens contribute positively to the historic character and setting of the village.
9. Other. Is there another reason it has special local value?	0	
<b>Have owners been notified?</b> (Give details of date, method, eg letter/email, response and comments)		
Datchet Parish Council has been notified, June 2021.		
<b>General feedback from members of the public</b>		
In a 2021 survey when residents were asked to nominate buildings and monuments for NDHA status, the historic non-listed buildings and structures around the Green were among those which received the most nominations.		
<b>Appendices</b> Give details of any supporting documents or sources, eg background history and websites		
<p>The following information is sourced from Janet Kennish's Datchet History website, <a href="http://www.datchethistory.org.uk">www.datchethistory.org.uk</a> and associated research and publications including a Datchet Village Society leaflet on Victorian monuments.</p> <p>The idea of freely providing clean water for working people was a national topic in Victorian times, when drinking fountains were installed by philanthropic people, societies and local authorities. This drawing, <i>right</i>, from the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain Association's journal, could have been the inspiration for Datchet's fountain, as well as for many hundreds of others across the country, with its bowl for dogs and light on top. And while there was no horse trough in the village, only the fountain's bowl, the trough from Windsor Road has now joined it to complete the scene. See also: <a href="https://datchethistory.org.uk/streetshouses/village-greens/victorian-monuments-on-the-green/">https://datchethistory.org.uk/streetshouses/village-greens/victorian-monuments-on-the-green/</a></p>		

Images

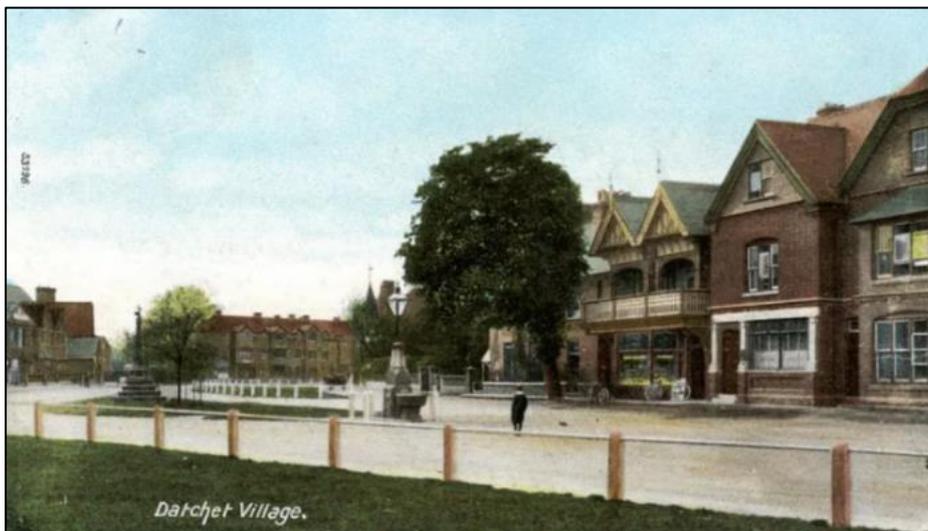


Above, and detail right: Postcard view from the High Street of the Manor Hotel and drinking fountain. Source: Royal Windsor Website. The image dates from the late 1880s/1890s as the fountain was erected in 1886 and the old houses seen behind the fountain were demolished in the early 1900s for the Bank and Bank House to be built.



Left: 1905 view and detail (Source *Datchet Past* by Janet Kennish)  
Note the different light at the top of the fountain compared with 1890 photograph.

Below: c1905 (postcard image and detail from Datchet History website). View of The Green, looking from east to west, showing the Jubilee Cross and the Drinking Fountain.





Left: Postcard dated 1915  
 Note another different light on  
 a much longer post above the  
 fountain. (See also the young  
 Jubilee Oak behind.)  
 Source: Ebay.



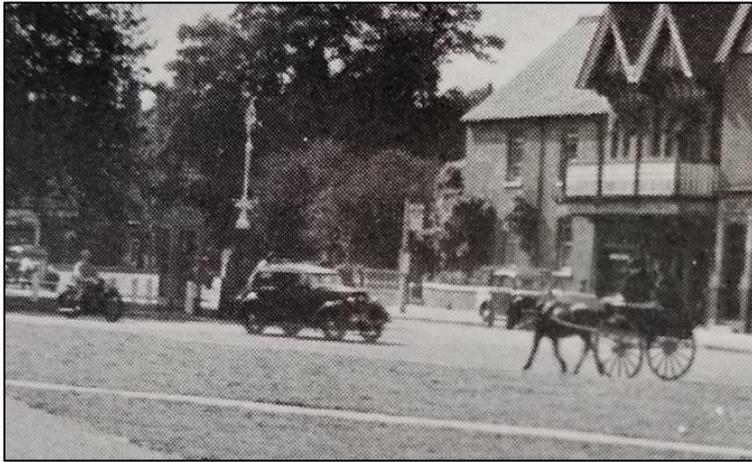
Left: 1947 during the floods  
 (source *Datchet Past*). The  
 fountain is still in its original site  
 at the top of the High Street,  
 now joined by a telephone box.

Right: c1946-49 an  
 'Official Guide to the  
 Parish of Datchet, Bucks'  
 was 'issued by Authority  
 of the Datchet Parish  
 Council'. There are two  
 images in this booklet  
 which show the drinking  
 fountain. It is just visible  
 at the edge of this first  
 image, right. See also  
 enlarged detail, far right.





Left: The drinking fountain can also be seen in this image from the same booklet, with enlarged detail below left. It also shows the listed WWI memorial on the right of the image.



Below: This postcard image shows the light at the top of the fountain in profile. It is a rather delicate, possibly Art Deco, style which seems at odds with the more robust design of the fountain. See enlarged detail, right. (Source Ebay. Date unknown. The car pictured in the High Street is a 1930s/40s pre-war type but the photo may be later. Red telephone boxes appeared from 1926.)



Following photographs taken 27 January 2021, Alison Crampin



### South face

Inscription around the bowl:  
ERECTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND FOR THE BENEFIT  
OF THE PEOPLE OF DATCHET  
BY THE LADY GEORGINA NEEDHAM OF DATCHET HOUSE  
1886



Inscription south face, above bowl  
LET HIM THAT IS AT THIRST COME REV XXII. 17

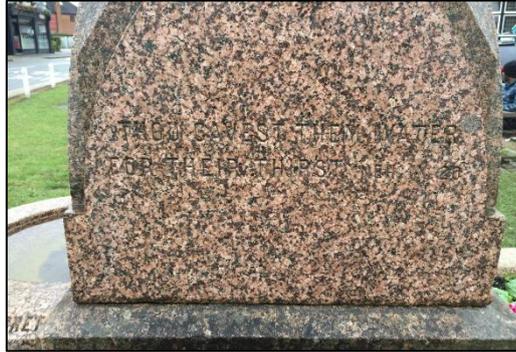


Inscription south face, top section  
RESTORED BY BARKER BRIDGE HOUSE TRUST 1990



### East face

Inscription on polished section:  
THOU GAVEST THEM WATER FOR THEIR THIRST,  
NEH IX 20



### North face

Inscription on polished face:  
DRINK BOTH YE AND YOUR CATTLE KINGS 2 KINGS III 17





### West face

Inscription on polished face:

I WILL GIVE UNTO HIM THAT IS ATHIRST OF THE  
FOUNTAIN OF THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY REV XXI 6



Date form completed

28 January 2021

By whom

Alison Crampin