

Datchet Local List – Non-Designated Heritage Asset Information Sheet

Name, address, location of asset	Number	
Datchet St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy The Green Datchet SL3 9EJ	Is the asset ✓ In the Conservation Area ✓ In Datchet Parish	
OS Map and coordinates		
 An OS map of Datchet, showing the River Thames to the west. A red rectangle highlights a building on The Green. Surrounding streets include B410 WINDSOR ROAD, B410 LONDON ROAD, B410 HORTON ROAD, and CHURCH ROAD. The map also shows a bus stop and a railway line.	SU 98833 77021 (SU988770)	
Significance of asset (NPPF)		
Archaeological Architectural <u>✓ Historic</u> Artistic <u>✓ In the setting of a heritage asset</u>		
Type of Asset		
✓ Individual building (Victorian section of village school)		
Description/History of asset		
<p>Description: The section of heritage value is the long, narrow series of Victorian brick-built buildings extending back from The Green. The original structure dates from 1843 with later additions. Elements of Gothic revival design reflect the religious drivers behind much 19th-century education; steeply pitched slate roofs, pointed arches on front-facing roof gables, decorative bargeboards, tall windows, and bell tower (later removed).</p> <p>History: The village primary school was founded by Rev Isaac Gossett, vicar of St Mary's Church, who set up a charity to raise the necessary funds to build the school and provide free education for the poorer children in Datchet. It was built on land given by the Lord of the Manor, the Honourable Walter Francis Montagu Douglas Scott, 5th Duke of Buccleuch and 7th Duke of Queensberry and opened in 1843.</p> <p>The original building comprised one schoolroom and a two-storey house for a schoolmistress. The room fronting the Green, with the stained glass window, was the second classroom which dates from the 1860s. (See layout plan under 'images'.) The last room to be added in Victorian times, in 1894, was at the far southern end, at a higher level than the rest of the school due to devastating floods; this was the only part of the building which was not flooded in 1947. Since then, major developments in the form of remodelling have brought the premises up to date and rooms have been added. The present-day school buildings now extend a long way back from the narrow village frontage.</p> <p>Sources: <i>Datchet Village School A History</i>, and <i>Datchet St Mary's From Village School to Primary Academy</i>, both written by local historian Janet Kennish.</p>		

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

The village school exterior today, viewed from Gossip Green, is very similar to how it looked in the Victorian era, although the chimneys, belfry and former entrance porch have been lost. The school buildings are well maintained.



1897



2019

Planning history: In applications for modern additions or replacement buildings, the visual amenity of the Conservation Area has been taken into account when granting planning permission. RBWM planning website has details of applications from 1991 onwards

Is site in use?

✓ YES

Give details of use

School. Education.

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	2	The buildings display many typical characteristics of Victorian school buildings, including elements of Gothic revival design which reflect the religious drivers behind much 19 th -century education.
2. Is a landmark feature	2	The school is a historic landmark feature on The Green, opposite St Mary's Church.
3. Has a relationship with adjacent designated heritage assets in age, materials, or in any other historically significant way	3	The buildings of St Mary's School and the former Working Men's Club represent an important stage in the Victorian social development of the village. They form a historical 'bridge' between the listed 15 th - and 16 th -century buildings to the north and west, and the present day.
4. Individually, or as part of a group, illustrates the development of the local area	3	The Victorian era delivered many improvements to the built environment in Datchet. In the early 1800s, the village's reputation was so low that it was known as 'Black Datchet'. Improvement began in the mid-1800s with huge changes to local infrastructure. The village centre Greens were created in the 1840s -1850s when the watercourse through the village centre was culverted, and the railway from Staines to Windsor arrived in the 1850s. The philanthropic energies of the Parish Church and wealthy Victorian families brought many improvements in people's lives. Both the school and the Working Men's Club were built on land given by the Duke of Buccleuch and were funded by public

	subscription, intended to contribute to the welfare of the working classes. Around this time, St Mary's church was also rebuilt and Datchet's mock-Tudor architectural style was introduced when the now-listed Manor House was restored and re-fronted in the 1870s.
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	St Mary's has been the village school for more than 175 years. The founder, Rev Isaac Gossett, who raised the funds to build the school 'for the free instruction of the poor' had become vicar of Datchet in 1814. He later went on to become Vicar of Windsor but continued to live with his family in Datchet. He was also chaplain to the Royal Family at Windsor Castle. Rev Isaac Gossett is still remembered at Founders Day celebrations.
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 Victorian school buildings contribute a visually-pleasing Victorian aesthetic to the historic setting of The Green.
9. Other. Is there another reason it has special local value? 3	The Victorian school buildings still house the village school.
Have owners been notified? (Give details of date, method, eg letter/email, response and comments)	
The headmistress was notified by email in June 2021.	
General feedback from members of the public	
In a 2021 survey when residents were asked to nominate buildings for NDHA status, the historic non-listed buildings around the Green were among those which received the most nominations.	
Appendices Give details of any supporting documents or sources, eg background history and websites	
Sources: <i>Datchet Village School A History</i> , and <i>Datchet St Mary's From Village School to Primary Academy</i> , both written by local historian Janet Kennish. Also Datchet History website, www.datchethistory.org.uk	
The school retains the original foundation deed, dated 1844, which states that it is to be 'under the management, control and inspection of the Vicar of the parish and to be used for the purpose of educating the children of poor persons resident in the Parish according to the Principles of the Established Church of England'. The <i>Windsor Express</i> on 20 November 1843 announced that: 'The Infant School at Datchet was opened for the free instruction of the poor of that village. The inhabitants feel themselves greatly indebted to the Rev. Isaac Gossett for the establishment of this charitable organisation, through whose strenuous exertions, aided by the liberal donations of the local gentry, so laudable and desirable an object has been accomplished'. Reverend Gossett is now remembered every year at the school's Founder's Day celebrations. (One of the subscribers to the fund was Queen Victoria's mother.)	

Images.



Left: 1877, *The Greens Looking East* by William Corden. Source Datchet History website and cover image of *Datchet Past*. The spire of the school's belfry is visible to the right of centre in far distance.

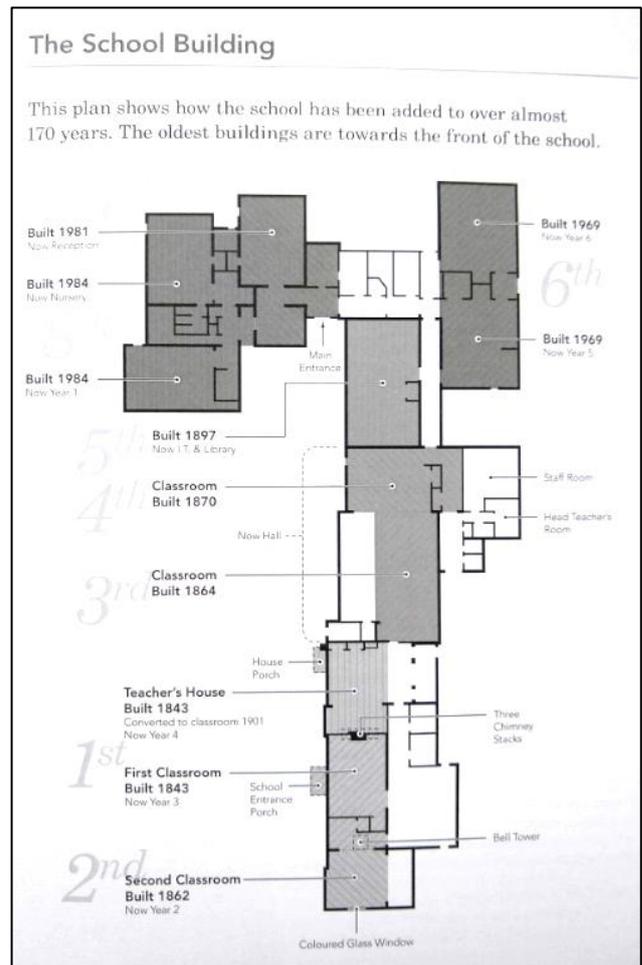


Left: 1891. From left to right, Working Men's Club, Farmhouse and St Mary's School, next to the coal merchant's sign. Source: Datchet History website



Above: Photograph taken c1913 showing the school buildings as they were from 1897. Source: Datchet History website. The building to the right of the flagpole was not part of the school. The pump, front left, was removed during WWII.

Right: See also plan from *Datchet St Mary's From Village School to Primary Academy*, by Janet Kennish, 2012. The front four classrooms date from the 1840s to the 1870s. The classroom at the front of the school, overlooking The Green, was the second one to be built in 1862, (now with a later window). Behind that is the first classroom and the former teacher's house; this is the oldest section. The group of three chimneys (since removed) served the fireplaces in the original schoolroom and the adjoining two-storey teacher's house. The original



schoolroom had a bell tower above its roof which no longer exists although the original bell hangs in the school hall. There was also a porch entrance, since removed. The last room to be added in Victorian times, 1897, was at the far end, see plan.



This WWI photograph shows local soldiers on parade outside the village school. Note the distinctive window and decorative bargeboards. Many would have attended St Mary's.
Source: Lewin family, Datchet Village Society photo archive



Google maps street view July 2019.
View of St Mary's from Gossip Green.



The stained glass window facing Gossip Green. Photographs by Alison Crampin 3 July 2021.



Images of the gables and decorative bargeboards.

Photographs by Alison Crampin 3 July 2021.



Eastern side.



Eastern side, furthest from Gossip Green.

Date form completed	By whom
29 January 2021	Alison Crampin