

## Carlton Stone in the Bosworth Area

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### Ask Aspect

*This is the column which responds to your comments, queries, memories and concerns about life in and around Market Bosworth. We either attempt to track down answers for you or usually hope that other readers can provide us with solutions.*

#### Carlton Stone In the Bosworth Area

We have been promising for a while to include a feature about Carlton Stone and its presence in the Bosworth area. Quite a few readers let us know about particular stretches of the stone that they were aware of while Nigel Palmer started off our research with a list of locations: The foundations of Rainbow Cottage [Shenton Lane corner] and the Alms Houses



[Market Place], plus the rear of the Corner House along Rectory Lane and most of The White House on Park Street in Bosworth itself; The Nursery Barn, Priory Lane, Coton; the hospitals in Sutton Cheney [part of a wall which borders the footpath adjacent to St. James Church]; Manor Farm at Carlton. The largest example in Bosworth is probably

subject of the teaser photograph included in last month's column.

This is the wall behind properties which front on to Station Road. This large wall of Carlton Stone could be former barns or even, according to local anecdote, what is left of a possible monastery or other religious building.

Chris Peat responded to the request for information with an explanation about Carlton Stone and photographs of most of the local examples. I have included his answer here in full.

He explained that much of the Midlands is underlain by the soft rocks of the Mercia Mudstone Group, within which are harder bands known as the skerries. One of the skerries is Carlton Stone, which occurs near the surface in the area between Carlton and Congerstone. It is known to have been quarried from a field known as *The Stone Pits* about 500m NW of Shackerstone Walk in Carlton, but was no doubt dug from other places round about and picked up from the fields. Chris has found not only the examples in Bosworth and Carlton but also in Barton in the Beans, Cadeby, Congerstone (where there are more surviving walls of Carlton Stone than anywhere else), and Sutton Cheney. The skerries outcrop elsewhere in the Midlands, and Chris has been surprised to find garden walls built of Carlton Stone in Attenborough, near Nottingham.

In Market Bosworth, Carlton Stone is most easily seen in the plinths to Rainbow Cottage and the thatched cottages in The Square, with a small section of retaining wall around the corner in Rectory Lane. The rear (south-facing) wall of the cottages next to Softley's in Station Road is of Carlton Stone, [the teaser photograph below left] but this can only be glimpsed in part from Warwick Close. Many older houses and outbuildings have footings or internal walls of Carlton Stone. The White House in Park Street is built of Carlton Stone, but is rendered.

The walls of the cellar of Richmond House in The Square are made of Carlton Stone, as is a small area at the bottom of one of the walls of the cellar at Bosworth Hall Hotel. I wonder whether the latter might be a remnant of the cellar of the 'faire mansion howse', 'newe builded' in 1588 on this site, referred to in *The History of Market Bosworth*, by Peter Foss?







barn between Sutton Lane and Far Coton Lane photographed in 2006 (h) and 2022 (i), after conversion into a dwelling. There are more examples shown in the second picture montage featuring Congerstone, Barton in the Beans, Sutton Cheney and Shenton.



The legend for these follows:

(a-b) Garden wall, Barton Road, Congerstone. The stone is laid in irregular courses, and some of the stones are rounded, suggesting that they were picked from the fields; (c) Photograph taken in 2006 of the wall on the northern side of the car park at Congerstone Village Hall. This wall included bricks and exotic boulders and showed sections which had been repaired or rebuilt at different times, sometimes without mortar. The section of wall nearest the camera has now been re-built and the remainder re-pointed; (d) Base of barn wall at Grange Farm, Barton in the Beans, built of cut blocks laid in courses. Note the Ordnance Survey bench mark in the centre; (e) Barn plinth, Ivy Lodge, Main St, Sutton Cheney; (f) Gable wall of Fox Covert Farmhouse, Congerstone; (g) Wall to The Hall, Cadeby. Here the gateway, pillars and highway boundary wall are a very fine example of Carlton Stone construction, using split stone in regular courses; (h) Projecting fireplace and chimney, Aqueduct Cottage, Shenton Lane.

Many boundary walls in Congerstone are built of Carlton Stone, and are identified as an important visual feature of the Conservation Area. Some of these walls contain blocks and boulders of other stone, no doubt picked from the fields. To preserve the character of the area, some

The legend for these photographs is as follows:

(a) The Stone House, Carlton; (b) Barn at Manor House Farm, Carlton; (c) Building plinth, Rotary Cottages, Mkt Bosworth; (d) Boundary wall, Manor House Farm, Carlton; (e) Rainbow Cottage, Mkt Bosworth; (f) Central section, Manor House Farmhouse, Carlton; (g) Gable wall of former barn preserved in later brickwork, Friezeland Farm, Mkt Bosworth; (h and i) Field



new walls, for example on the southern side of Barton Road, have been built of a different stone which has a similar appearance. Carlton Stone can also be seen in the northern gable wall of Fox Covert Farmhouse, and in many building plinths. The front of 'The Horse and Jockey' is rendered, but the western gable wall (apart from the chimney) is built of Carlton Stone. Around Carlton itself, the stone is best displayed in The Stone House, 24 Main Street, the farmyard wall next to the road at Manor House Farm, 45 Main St, and in the footings of the adjacent barn at right angles to the road. There is also some Carlton Stone in the footings of Church Cottage (38 Main St) across the road. The wall in front of 40 Main St next door to Church Cottage is not of Carlton Stone, but the closest look-alike that could be found when this new house was built, and is very much in keeping with its surroundings.

The central part of the farmhouse at Manor House Farm is built of Carlton Stone, and is possibly much older than the 17<sup>th</sup> century date ascribed to it in the Register of Listed Buildings. Probably best-known to walkers, Westfields Farmhouse, is built of Carlton Stone, while a recent extension was faced with reclaimed Carlton Stone and is in keeping with the older farmhouse. A recently built wall between the farmhouse and the farmyard was constructed of Carlton Stone scavenged from older farm buildings and the fields. Near to the footpath between Carlton and Market Bosworth, Harcourt Mill is built of Carlton Stone.

At Friezeland Farm, the gable wall of an old farm building has been preserved in the wall of a later brick barn. Between Shenton Lane and Far Coton Lane a brick field barn had a section built of Carlton Stone. When this was converted into a dwelling, the Carlton Stone was reclaimed, cut into slabs, and used as a cladding on the western part of the house. The slabs were

cut parallel to bedding, resulting in a striking new use of this ancient local material.

*Rather than split the article into parts I felt that it was useful to include this complete review of Carlton Stone in one issue. Many thanks to Chris Peat for providing all this information which I am sure will persuade many readers, while out walking, to go and have a look for themselves.*

The submitted plate were reduced in the printed version. The original plates are appended here.





**Plate 1 (above)**

a) The Stone House, Carlton; b) Barn at Manor House Farm, Carlton; c) Building plinth, Rotary cottages, Mkt Bosworth; d) Boundary wall, Manor House Farm, Carlton; e) Rainbow Cottage, Mkt Bosworth; f) Central section, Manor House Farmhouse, Carlton; g) Gable wall of former barn preserved in later brickwork, Friezeland Farm, Mkt Bosworth; h, i) Field barn between Sutton Lane and Far Coton Lane photographed in 2006 (h) and 2022 (i), after conversion into a dwelling.

**Plate 2 (overleaf)**

a-b) Garden wall, Barton Road, Congerstone. The stone is laid in irregular courses, and some of the stones are rounded, suggesting that they were picked from the fields; c) Photograph taken in 2006 of the wall on the northern side of the car park at Congerstone Village Hall. This wall included bricks and exotic boulders and showed sections which had been repaired or rebuilt at different times, sometimes without mortar. The section of wall nearest the camera has now been re-built and the remainder re-pointed; d) Base of barn wall at Grange Farm, Barton in the Beans, built of cut blocks laid in courses. Note the OS bench mark in the centre; e) Barn plinth, Ivy Lodge, Main St, Sutton Cheney; f) Gable wall of Fox Covert Farmhouse, Congerstone; g) Wall to The Hall, Cadeby. Note the accurate coursing using split blocks. h) Projecting fireplace and chimney, Aqueduct Cottage, Shenton Lane.



