

industry below. Later a civic park was added adjacent to the substantial villa developments on one edge of the development. Today it is a middle class residential suburb, with a few shops hanging on, several pubs, a replaced church and a mixture of terraced and villa streets. Once the script is read you can discern the Victorian layout and the initial terraces. There is little evidence of the 'buy one, let one' pattern of Grimsbury, but the street names and occasional villas of quality hint at the way in which much of the area moved rapidly up-market. Although 600 houses were built, not all lots were developed initially, so there is later, and contemporary, infill and some subdivision of the more substantial properties.

Here, at the same date as Banbury, Longton's citizens were both more loyal to the Freehold cause (street names), but set themselves physically 'above' the industrial town, and encouraged a longer period of investment. The result is less coherence in style, and a greater diversity of properties. Some streets fit more closely with the Freehold intention, many less.

### ***Stamford (Lincs.)***

Stamford, as the first town in England to be considered as a conservation area in totality, might seem a strange place to find a Freehold Land Society, although it fits with the view that the Societies were an attraction in rural areas, especially where land was slow to be released. A conservation area for Northfields was approved in 2005. The web site includes detailed analysis and maps of the area.

The northern area of the 'Northfields' site was awarded to the churchwarden of St. George's church in 1875 as a result of late enclosures and was then purchased by the Stamford Freehold Land Society for development. Clearly this was very late in the movement's history and it allowed development into the twentieth century.

I was able to visit Northfields in Stamford. This is, again, a hilltop site, overlooking the medieval town; again a 'new' residential suburb, adjacent to a civic park. A looser allocation of plots allowed more villa developments amidst the terraces, which fitted well in terms of materials (polychromic brick-work) with the slightly earlier development down slope. Infill of various periods was evident, few surviving services, and no pubs or church in the neighbourhood.

This is a community of developer terraces and spacious homes on substantial plots. Yellow brick with red banding, slate roofing and small front gardens are characteristic, and there is nothing of Grimsbury's tight pairs and trios. As in Dresden and Grimsbury, new windows, doors and boundary markers have often been subject to change.