

3/ The Design Guide:

(iv) Views and Topography

Ilminster is set within a valley with steep sides which form a key part of the towns unique character. Ilminster is surrounded by three hills; Beacon Hill to the North, and Herne Hill to the South. West and Pritwood Hill South East. All rise to a little over 100 metres and broadly contain the spread of the town and its immediate rural edge. To the west, the setting is less defined, with the town extending toward the open land of the River Ise valley, and an edge that is reinforced by the A303 road corridor.

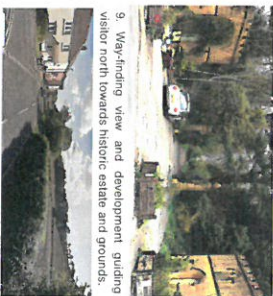
The steep sided valley topography restricts long distance views however it does mean that there are extensive views seen of countryside set above and between roof tops due to the taller hillside topography within the valley and from the town. The topography also influences the relationship between buildings, and the relationship of buildings to road.

Views of the landscape and the steep sided topography create a strong sense of place and is important for the community of Ilminster.

The pages below contain views in each character area, some of which comprise the identified 'protected views of Ilminster'.

ILMINSTER DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4:
 Given the topographical nature of Ilminster, views should be well considered in all development proposals, even if they are not included as one of the identified protected views of Ilminster. Development should be well composed around public view points, to particularly maintain existing views of open countryside and historic buildings. Views should be framed by new development where relevant. Development should maintain views from the public roads to the countryside, especially wide and extensive views. Development proposals must be integrated into the existing topography and take advantage of the sites unique characteristics, for example steep sites should contain stepped building forms. Extensive ground excavations should be avoided.

Historic Pre 19th Century Centre



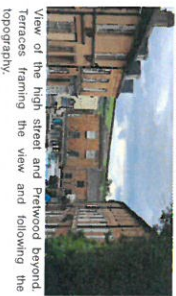
9. Way-finding view and development guiding visitor north towards historic estate and grounds.



17. Views to Pritwood Hill from Dilton Street over Shuddick Lane.



6. View from High Street looking down towards town centre and ridge line beyond. Terrace follows topography and frames the view.



View of the high street from Pritwood Beyond Terraces, framing the view and following the topography.

Terraces



5. Terraces following the topography and framing the view of Herne Hill beyond.



1. View from Beacon graveyard looking south-west over the west of Ilminster.



2. Long views from Beacon footpaths looking north-west to the River Ise. Dwelling has implied relationship with the street scene.

Villas



5. Open view from Villas towards Summerland and Herne Hill Beyond



5. View from apex of Station Road looking over the valley to the southern ridge line from the terraces.



Villa set above the street with a positive relationship of surveying the street but maintaining privacy.