

PORCHES

A guide for home owners and occupiers



Cotswold District Council

January 2001

CARING FOR THE COTSWOLDS

Porches and canopies are prominent features on many Cotswold buildings, adding interest to them as well as providing protection from the weather.

Porches need to be well designed and in keeping with the building to which they are attached.

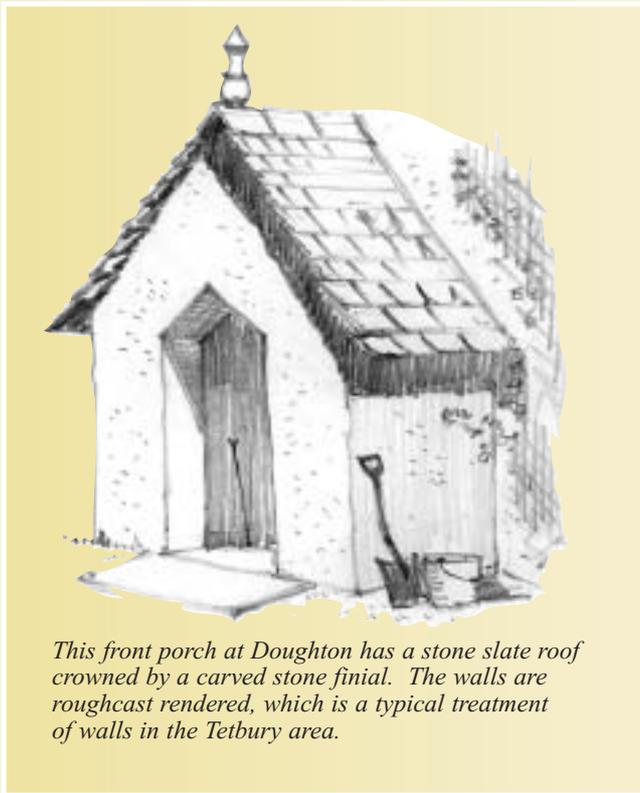
Many porches in the Cotswolds are constructed of local stone but other materials are used to good effect. Brick, timber and corrugated iron porches can provide a contrast to the homogeneous Cotswold stone.

This guide illustrates many attractive designs and the use of a variety of materials. We hope it inspires you to design the right porch for your property or to retain, repair and maintain an existing one.

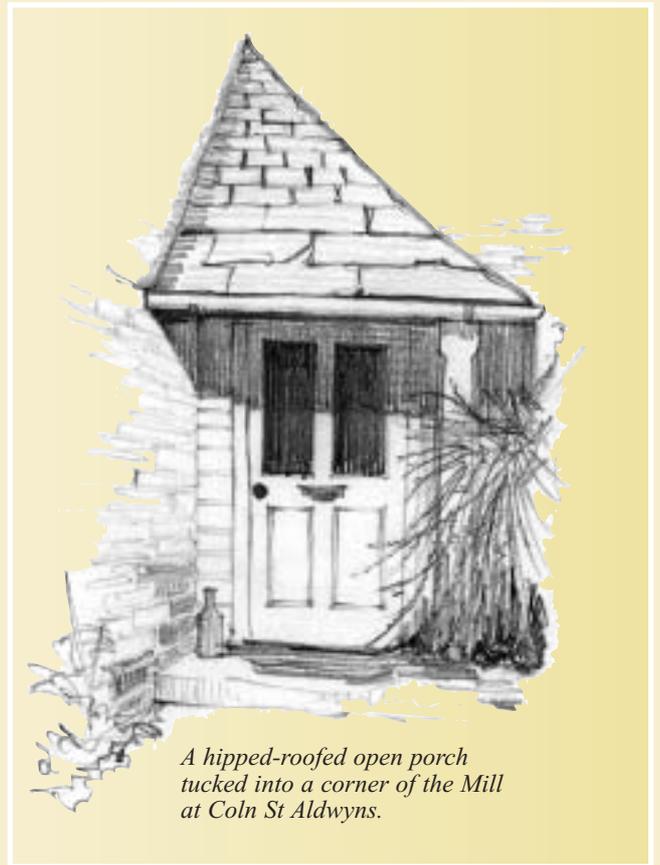
History

Historically, many traditional Cotswold houses had stone porches to provide shelter at their principal entrances.

Victorian and Edwardian builders often elaborated upon the local vernacular style and produced richly detailed examples with steep roofs, coped gables, carved kneelers and finials.

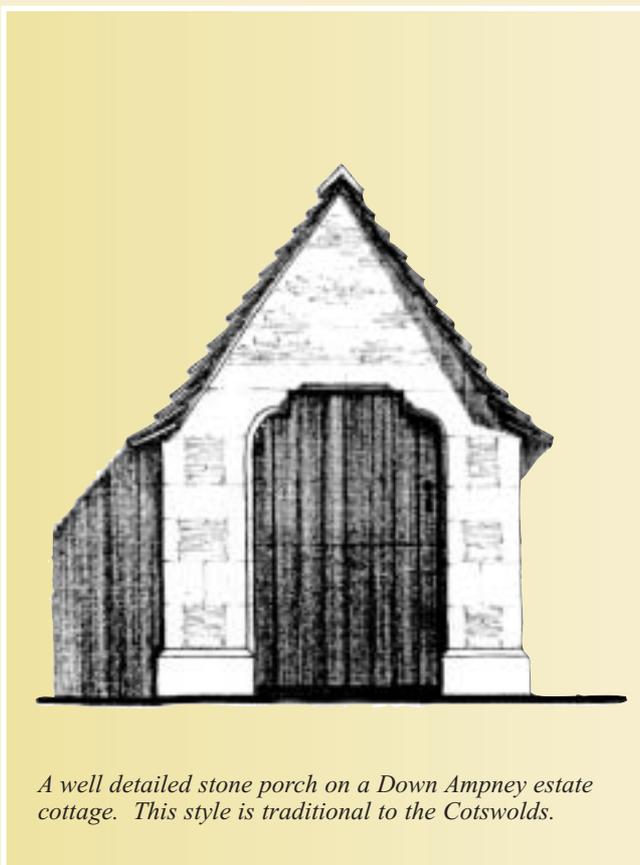


This front porch at Doughton has a stone slate roof crowned by a carved stone finial. The walls are roughcast rendered, which is a typical treatment of walls in the Tetbury area.



A hipped-roofed open porch tucked into a corner of the Mill at Coln St Aldwyns.

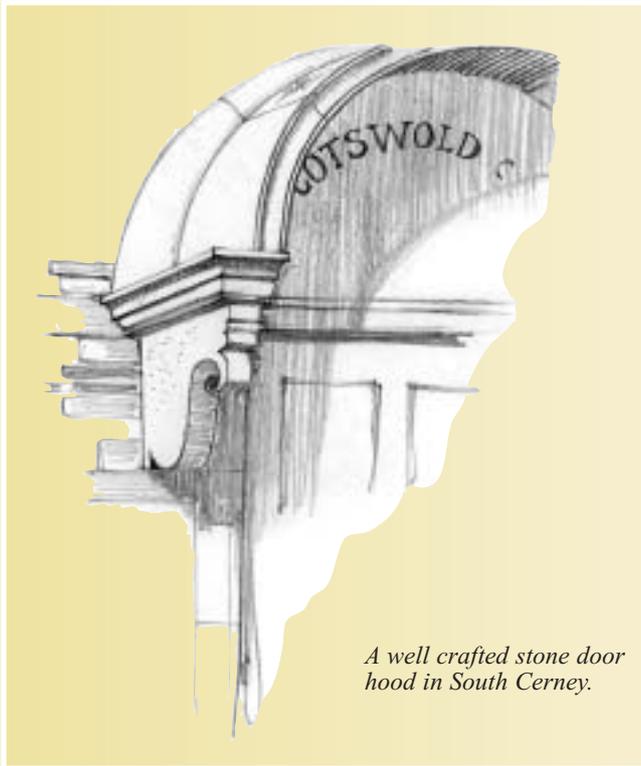
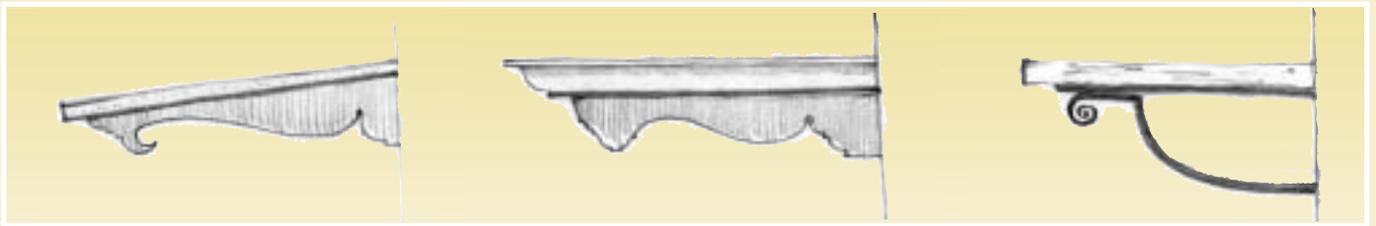
Simpler porches or open loggias are found protecting service entrances. The loggias were usually supported on timber posts set upon tapered stone plinths, and were roofed in corrugated iron as well as Cotswold stone slates, plain clay tiles or blue Welsh slates.



A well detailed stone porch on a Down Ampney estate cottage. This style is traditional to the Cotswolds.



An open service loggia with a simple roof of corrugated iron sheets, at Charlham Farm near Ampney St Peter.



A well crafted stone door hood in South Cerney.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, arched stone door hoods became popular, sometimes carved or fashioned in plaster to create a shell motif. These often display a very high standard of craftsmanship.

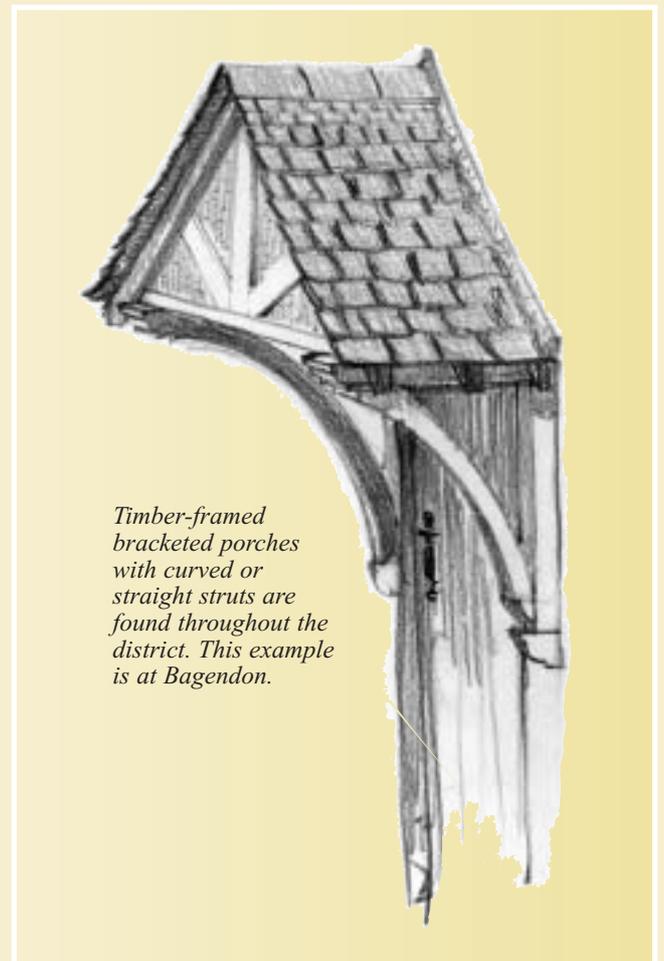
Simple, flat, stone cantilever canopies are by far the most common form of protection. The more basic are, quite simply, massive slates or slabs of stone, scarcely dressed at all; others, more commonly, are dressed limestone with either squared or *cyma recta* moulded edges. These are variously supported on brackets of stone, timber or iron, the pattern differing between areas (see top illustration).

Timber porches, roofed in Cotswold stone slates, plain clay tiles, Welsh slate or corrugated iron are also commonly found. Two basic types exist: those cantilevered from the wall, and braced back to it by straight or curved struts, and others supported on corner posts with either open, solid or lattice sides. Later enclosed examples are sometimes partly glazed.

At Coln St Aldwyns, the scissor-truss roof structure of some estate porches is exposed and elaborated by stop chamfering.



A Victorian porch on the Williamstrip Estate. The robust posts are stop-chamfered and the brackets distinctively shaped.



Timber-framed bracketed porches with curved or straight struts are found throughout the district. This example is at Bagendon.



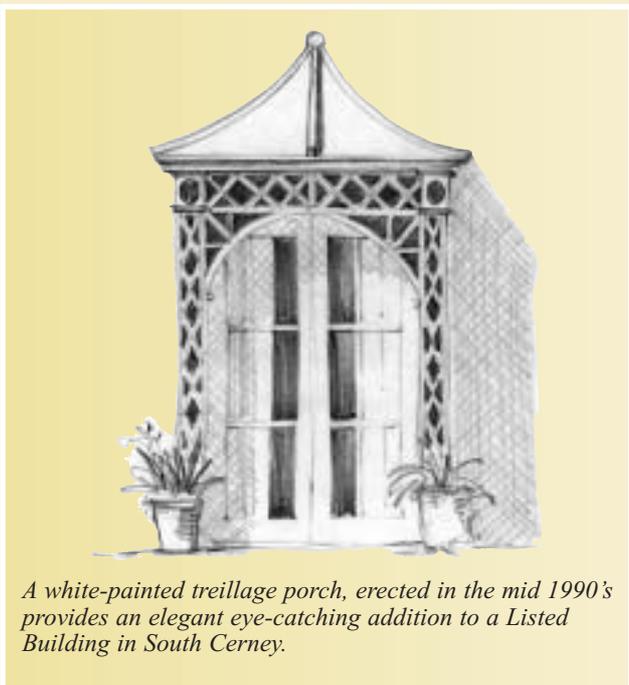
A simple bracket porch with a corrugated iron roof and "dagger" boarding on a Tarlton cottage.



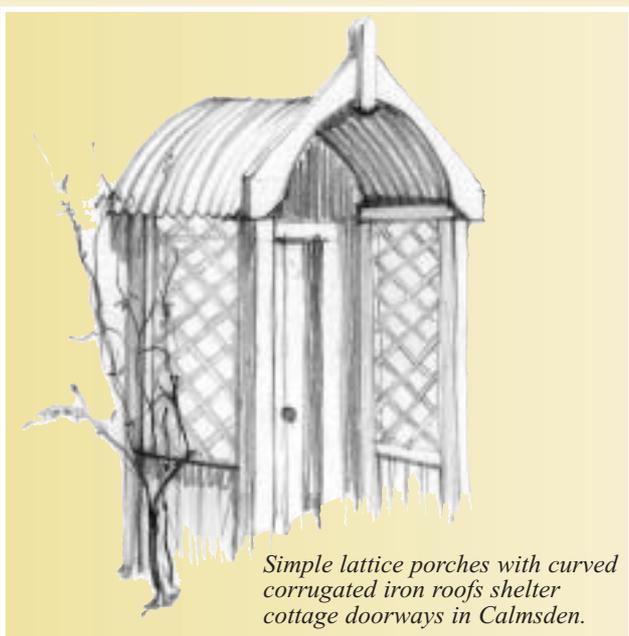
A "rustic" porch patterned with slender logs.



Timber-framed part-glazed porches were popular additions throughout the twentieth century.



A white-painted treillage porch, erected in the mid 1990's provides an elegant eye-catching addition to a Listed Building in South Cerney.



Simple lattice porches with curved corrugated iron roofs shelter cottage doorways in Calmsden.

Elegant, painted lattice or treillage porches became fashionable in the 19th century and were usefully employed to add a touch of urbane distinction to otherwise quite plain buildings.

Many farm labourers cottages have porches constructed of corrugated iron. There are good examples on the Bathurst Estate and in the villages of Calmsden and Chedworth. Cheap and easy to construct, they generally have a pleasing, simple appearance especially when painted in cheerful colours.

The tradition of incorporating porches on buildings has a place in the architecture of today. Historic examples such as those illustrated may prove inspiring. However, porches are not appropriate to all buildings. Caution should be exercised over those that are Listed or situated in a Conservation Area. It is important that new porches are appropriate in design and scale, to their "host" building.

Please note that Listed Building Consent and/or Planning Permission, may be required before the construction of a porch. Further advice is available from The Directorate of Development and Heritage.

Glossary of Terms

Cyma recta - a moulding whose profile resembles a wave.

Finial - an ornament which sits atop a verticle feature.

Kneeler - a large stone situated at the base of a gable.

Loggia - an open-sided covered and colonnaded structure.

Treillage - trellis-work.

Front cover illustration: An unusual and elegant early nineteenth century "box" porch crowned with three ball finials, South Cerney.

For further advice and information contact:
The Conservation and Design Service
Directorate of Development and Heritage
Cotswold District Council
Trinity Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1PX
Tel: 01285 623500 Fax: 01285 623900
www.cotswold.gov.uk

