



Figure 5.19 Design for ecological sustainability in Surrey.

THE RAILWAY COTTAGES, DERBY

(Designed by Derek Latham & Company Limited)
Two decades after their conservation was undertaken, the Railway Cottages in Derby (Figure 5.20) are a thriving urban village and a fine example of sustainable living. The village is not a self-sufficient community according to the strict definition by Mollinson. It does not, for example, produce its own food or energy but it has other features associated with sustainable development. There is a well-formed community which has been actively involved with the development. The community lives within walking distance of the city centre and a few yards from the railway station. While some of the residents own cars, the development is not dependent on the car for its continued existence. The Railway Cottages are located in an area where

there are many workplaces and job opportunities. The development also sets a high standard both for conservation practices and for environmental design, two criteria for defining sustainable development. The Railway Cottages in Derby are a particularly appropriate case study, illustrating the practical development of an urban village which adheres to many of the precepts associated with sustainable development.

The Railway Cottages were built in 1840 and are the earliest known railway company cottages in the world. They are adjacent to Derby's station outside the Borough boundary. Despite a campaign to save the cottages by Derby Civic Society, the Council in Derby was not persuaded to rescue them for council housing. They were scheduled for demolition, being on the line of a proposed inner relief road. The only