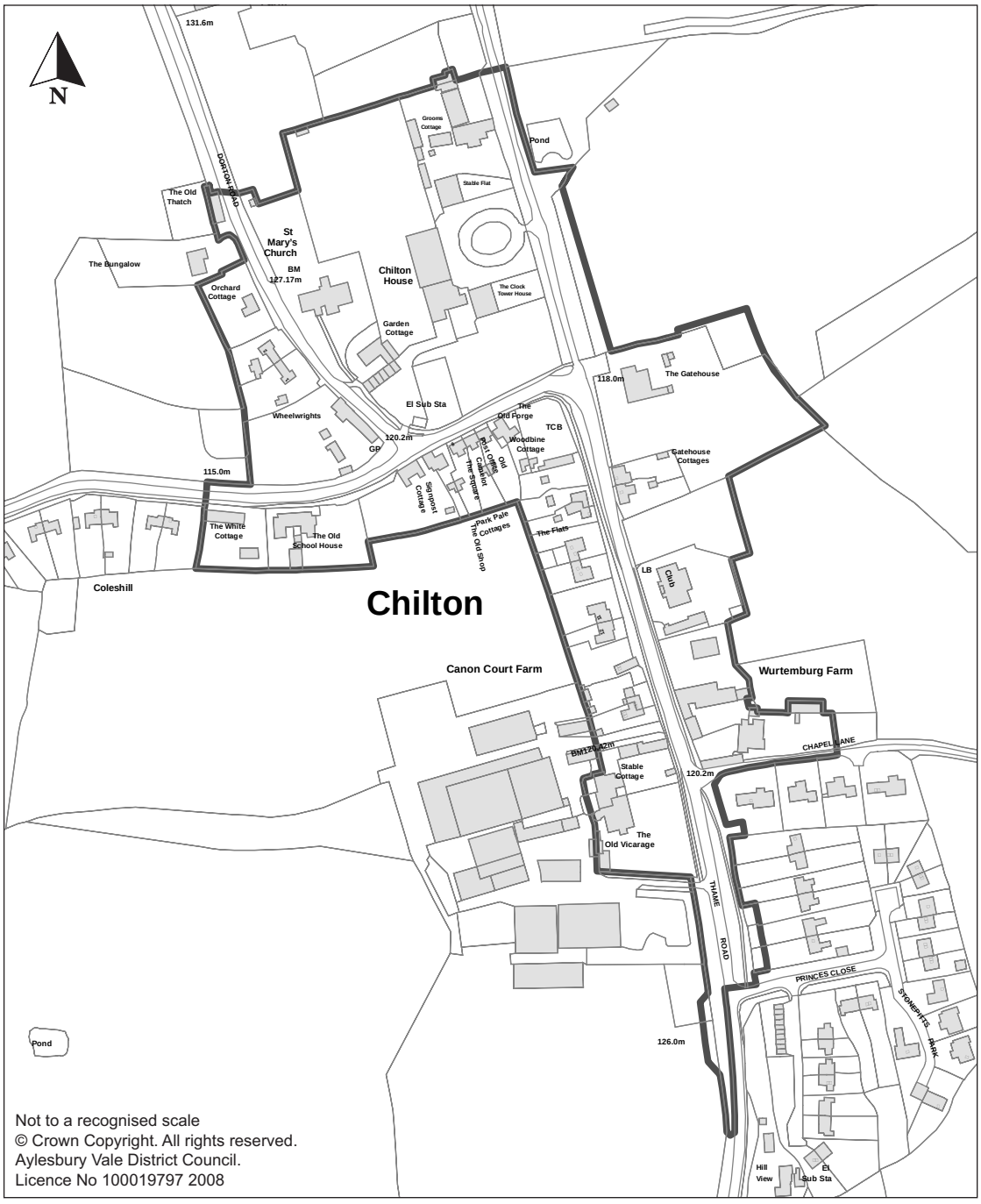
CHILTON CONSERVATION AREA

Designated 19th July 1989

The village of Chilton is situated some eight miles west south west of Aylesbury and three and a half miles north north west of Thame, astride the minor road connecting Long Crendon and Dorton. It lies in a small dip between gently undulating land comprised of a predominantly clay loam soil.



Not to a recognised scale
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.
Aylesbury Vale District Council.
Licence No 100019797 2008

The village forms a straggling ribbon extending predominantly north south along Thame Road and Church Road, with a small westerly projection extending along the southern side of Brill Road, at the northern end of the village. The village is dominated at its northern end by the twin, elevated buildings of Chilton House and the Parish Church of St. Mary's.

Chilton House is a large sixteenth century, Grade II* listed country house, now occupied as a nursing home. Originally constructed by Sir John Croke, in the form of a Roman H, it was substantially re-built, infilled between the wings and enlarged in 1740 for Chief Justice Carter and based on a reduced model of William Winde's Buckingham House in London. Occupying extensive walled grounds it comprises the house, two pavilions, each with clock towers, cour d' honneur and a more modern range of outbuildings.

The Parish Church of St. Mary's (a Grade I listed building) is constructed of coursed rubblestone, in stark contrast to the red brick of Chiltern House, immediately to the east. Originally dating from the twelfth century, the church was extended in the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Although somewhat "squat" in appearance, with its elevated plot, coursed rubblestone retaining wall and embanked graveyard, it dominates the junction of Church Road with Brill Road.

The southern approach, along Thame Road is bounded on either side by field hedgerows, over which are gained fine panoramic views north and west, as the road drops down the hill into the village. Modern development has taken place at the southern end of the village: on the eastern side of Thame Road, along either side of the cul-de-sac Princes Close; and, most recently, along the south side of Chapel Lane. Although occupying elevated ground the impact of these modern dwellings on the conservation area is lessened by the wide roadside verges, box hedges and a magnificent stand of Sycamore trees, (of which the village has many fine examples).

At the bottom of the hill, the character of the village changes perceptibly tight, high sided enclosure being provided by the brick and stone walling around the Old Vicarage and Wurtemburg Farm. Proceeding in a northerly direction along Thame Road the wall enclosure gives way to low hedging and a stand of six poplar trees. Whilst the buildings here are more modern, their scale, material finish and setting contribute to the overall pleasant appearance of the village.

At the northern end of Thame Road, the road turns sharply left into Brill Road, directly in front of the main entrance into Chilton House. The high walling around Chilton House is echoed by a substantial brick wall in front of the Gatehouse (a large and imposing listed dwelling), and by a lower rubblestone wall in front of the two listed cottages, The Old Forge and Woodbine Cottage.

The tightly knit group of cottages between the Old Forge, Signpost Cottage (at the junction of Brill Road with Church Road) and Wheelwrights in known locally as "The Square" and together they form a pleasant cohesive grouping. Their siting, closely abutting the roadside, reinforces the high sided enclosure provided by the walling opposite.

Beyond the Church Road junction, Brill Road begins to drop down the hill and fine views south and west are obtained between the more modern and spaciously set dwellings. Natural enclosure is provided on the northern side of the road by the steep roadside embankment and the small copse of deciduous trees.

In contrast, Church Road rises steeply between the embanked grass verges and high stone walling of Wheelwrights and the beautiful and imposing St. Mary's Church, towards the smaller, but equally fine, and listed Orchard Cottage, the Thatched Cottage and Townhill Farm. Beyond this point residential development gives way to gently rolling countryside, wide roadside verges, field hedgerows trees and fine panoramic views are afforded eastward over Home Farm towards Ashendon. Similarly, fine views eastward are obtained from the private lane giving access to Chilton House and Home Farm and from Chapel Lane, beyond Wurtenburg Farm and the four modern houses on the former allotment.

February 2008