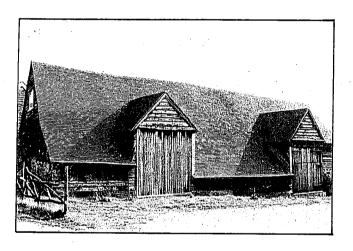
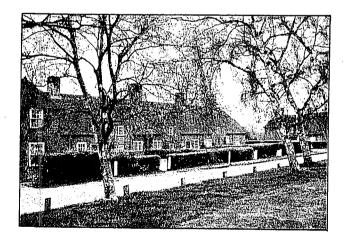
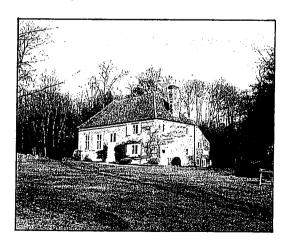
# **JORDANS**

# **CONSERVATION AREA**









CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The information contained in this booklet relating to the origin and history of Jordans has been abstracted from the following sources to which reference may be made for further details:

JORDANS - THE MAKING OF A COMMUNITY : Arthur L. Hayward

JORDANS DIRECTORY: Tenant Members' Committee.

Jordans 1980

JORDANS QUAKER MEETING: Alfred Stefferud and Karl

Showler

OLD JORD ANS Guest House and Conference

Centre Leaflet

These documents may be obtained (variously) from :-

The Tenant Members Committee (via The Secretary, Mrs J Summers, Tramore, Crutches Lane, Jordans);

Jordans Meeting House (The Warden);

Old Jordans Quaker Guest House and Conference Centre (The Warden).

Some of the Documents are available at local Libraries and at The County Reference Library, Walton Street, Aylesbury.

## Cover Photographs:

Top Left: Old Jordans Hostel and Granary

Top Right: Mayflower Barn

Bottom Left: Rowntree Cottages facing The Green

Bottom Right: The Meeting House

# **JORDANS**

# CONSERVATION AREA

# DESIGNATED BY CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL ON 28th APRIL 1987

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 DEFINITION AND DUTY TO DESIGNATE

1.1.1 The Town and Country Planning Act, 1971 (as amended) requires the District Council as Local Planning Authority to consider from time to time which parts of its area are "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance" and to designate such areas as "Conservation Areas".

## 1.2 CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

This statutory definition is deliberately wide in scope reflecting the 1.2.1 notable variety in the character of places throughout the country. Clearly there can be no standard specification for conservation areas, which will be of many different kinds. The one common criterion is that the area must have special character which is distinctive to it and of sufficient merit to be considered worthy of preservation and enhancement. "Special character" will probably be derived from a combination of some of the following features: the topographical site; attractive groups of buildings exhibiting a unity of scale, materials and/or density; a historic street pattern; open spaces such as village greens; enclosed areas; trees, either individual specimens or in groups; features of archaeological interest or historical association etc. In assessing suitability for designation the emphasis must be on the character of areas, rather than individual buildings.

## 1.3 CRITERIA FOR DEFINING THE EXTENT OF A CONSERVATION AREA

- 1.3.1 Designation means that a definable character of special interest predominates and the boundary of the area to be designated must be where the special character stops. For this reason the Conservation Area boundary will not necessarily be the same as "the village envelope", i.e., the extent of the developed area of the village.
- 1.3.2 Areas of open land may be included where these form the immediate curtilages of properties; where the space forms a vital gap in the street scene, or between nucleii of buildings; constitutes a focal point for buildings, or forms an intrinsic part of the setting of individual buildings and building groups and across which there are fine views of buildings. The inclusion of tree groups will often be appropriate, particularly where these enhance the settings of buildings, form a backcloth to them, or provide significant visual links between other features.

## 1.4 THE DESIGNATION OF JORDANS

1.4.1 It is considered that an area at Jordans possesses qualities of special architectural and historic interest which it is desirable to preserve or enhance and accordingly the Council has designated the area shown on page 2 of this booklet as a Conservation Area.

## 2.2 REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

- 2.2.1 The Conservation Area is an area of contrasts with regard to origin, physical characteristics and present day function, but is unified by social and religious history. Quakers became established at Jordans in the 17th century, initially occupying and worshipping at Old Jordans Farm and subsequently building their own special place of worship, The Meeting House, in 1688. The social and religious beliefs of the early Quakers matured and led, in the early part of this century, to the founding of what was intended to be a self-contained community in close proximity to the Meeting House and the original farmhouse, which by then had become a hostel for visitors.
- 2.2.2 Without Old Jordans Farm, now the Guest House and Conference Centre and The Meeting House, there would never have been a Jordans Village, such is the close tie of Quaker ideology. The "Old Jordans" part of the Conservation Area is strongly associated with worship, remembrance and social well being, both historically and in present day practice. In contrast, that part of the village which has Conservation Area status, is primarily a residential area incorporating the social amenities of a shop and village green.
- 2.2.3 The area comprising "Old Jordans" is considered worthy of Conservation Area status on account of its outstanding historical associations with the Quaker movement and the presence of the historic buildings of Old Jordans; The Mayflower Barn and The Meeting House. All three buildings are included in the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest which is compiled by the Secretary of State for the Environment. It is noteworthy that The Meeting House is one of only 13 buildings in the area of Chiltern District which are listed as Grade I buildings, out of a total of 949 buildings of all grades on the List.
- Part of Jordans Village is considered to possess special qualities as 2.2.4 a planned built environment which was deliberately created by the Quakers so that their social ideals could be established and practised in a living community. The area possesses a distinctive readily identitifiable character which emanates from the buildings, form and layout and has both special architectural and historical qualities. In Conservation Area terms, historical association needs to have physical expression in built-form evident today. For this reason the designated area is concentrated around The Green and adjoining "Rowntree" cottages where these form coherent groups which impart a distinctive area character. Other property fronting The Green on its north and east sides is included because it completes the enclosure of The Green and to give stronger control in the protection of the setting and that of the adjoining "Rowntree" Cottages.
- 2.2.5 **Chalky Field** is included for its contribution to area character in terms of imparting cohesion, enhancing the setting of historic buildings and permitting views of them from public vantage points.
- 2.2.6 These broad reasons for designation are elaborated in the following sections on "Origins and History" and "Characteristics and Visual Appraisal".

## 2.3 ORIGINS AND HISTORY

2.3.1 It is possible to relate the history of Jordans in two distinct parts. The first is about the old farmstead from which the place takes its name, the Quaker farmers who lived there, the Meeting House that was built nearby and the men and women who worshipped there and were buried in its graveyard. The second part concerns the building of the "new" village that some three hundred years later was founded and nurtured near to the old Quaker centre.

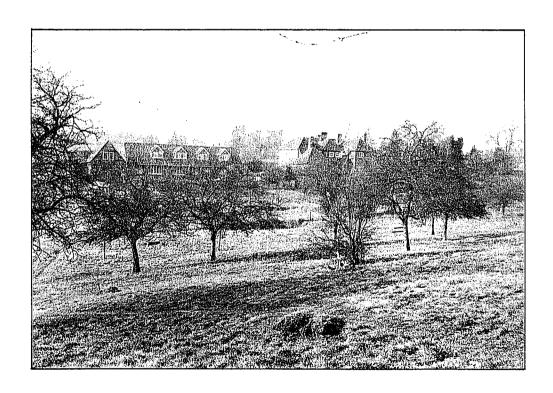
## 2.3.2 OLD JORDANS

Little is known of Old Jordans Farm before the 17th century, although mention is made in County records. It appears to have been a substantial yeoman's holding, but of no greater importance than many others in the Chilterns. The farm probably dates back to the late Middle Ages and it has been suggested that the name Jordans comes from the connection with the manorial family of Jourdemain. What is more likely, however, is that an early occupant or owner was called Jordan, the surname being known elsewhere in the County. Also, other farms in the vicinity, such as Austins, Ponds, Rawlings, Bottrells and Mumfords among others, commemorate some yeoman owner.

- 2.3.3 The recorded history of the farm begins in 1618 when Thomas Russell, the sitting tenant, bought the freehold of the farm which comprised 170 acres for the sum of £700 from the Fleetwoods of The Vache, Chalfont St Giles. At that time the house consisted of two rooms on either side of the old front door and two bedrooms above. In 1624 the new owner added a kitchen, now the dining room, with two bedrooms above.
- 2.3.4 In 1639 the son of Thomas Russell took over Jordans Farm. He was one of the early Quakers and subsequently meetings for worship began to be held regularly in the farm. Until the Declaration of Indulgence in 1688, there was much persecution of Dissenters with meetings frequently broken up by order of the local justices and those attending taken away to jail. It was during this period that William Penn, James Naylor, George Fox and other dedicated Quakers, each with their own place in English history, came to Jordans.
- 2.3.5 The Quakers own special place of worship, the Meeting House, was built in 1688 and in the graveyard are buried William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania in what is now the U.S.A., with his two wives and ten of their sixteen children. The regularity of meetings throughout the 18th century and were eventually discontinued in 1798 when there were no Quakers left in Jordans. It was not until 1851 that monthly meetings were resumed at the The opening of the Great Central Railway in Meeting House. and the consequent development of Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield brought several Quaker families into the District. Old Jordans Farm, which was falling into disrepair, was purchased by the Society of Friends and converted into a Hostel for visiting Quakers in 1911. The place was put in good repair, the farmyard laid out as a pleasant garden and the stables rebuilt as the Refectory. A wing was added in 1920. The attraction of new Quakers' families and visitors to Jordans led ultimately to the

founding of the "new" village in 1919 and the establishment of a nucleus of Friends constantly living there.

2.3.6 The buildings of Old Jordans Farm are now known as "Old Jordans Guest House and Conference Centre" and continue to serve the community as a centre for rest and inspiration for private guests, and for conferences and a wide variety of social functions. The Centre has contacts with Jordans Meeting House, but guests are not The main guest house, The Refectory and limited to Quakers. Gardeners Cottage all provide residential accommodation, which is available on either a short or long-stay basis. Much of the original structure of Old Jordans Guest House remains for visitors to see and includes the room built as a kitchen in 1624 where early Friends worshipped illegally. This room is now the dining-room and contains a door which may have come from "The Mayflower", the ship which took the Pilgrim Fathers to America. Mayflower Barn was originally the main barn of the farm and was built in 1624. It is a large, typical Buckinghamshire Barn and well preserved. It has been suggested that many of its beams were Local tradition is that they came from "The ships' timbers. Mayflower", which was broken up in 1624 at Ipswich, but historical evidence offers no solid proof. The present day Refectory was constructed in 1970 and replaced a building destroyed by fire in 1962, which itself stood on the site of the old farm stables. Today both the Barn and Refectory are used for conferences, lectures and a wide range of cultural and social meetings, activities.



OLD JORDANS QUAKER GUEST HOUSE and CONFERENCE CENTRE

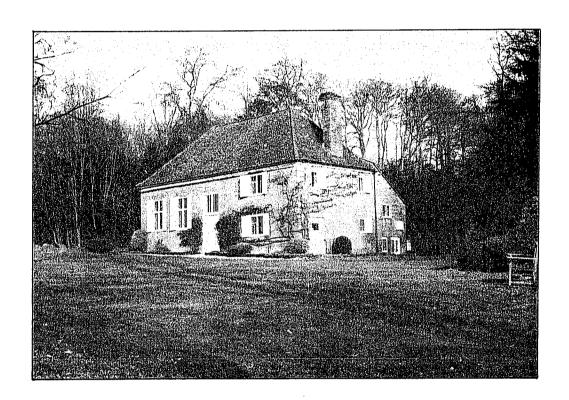
as seen from THE ORCHARD

From left to right:

Mayflower Barn; The Refectory; The Granary; Old Jordans Hostel

## THE MEETING HOUSE

2.3.7 Jordans Meeting is one of the oldest established Quaker Meetings and The Meeting House is probably the best known of all Friends Meeting Houses although it is not the earliest. Its fame arises not only from it providing the resting place of William Penn and other eminent early Quakers, but also from its setting and the simplicity of the building. It was built in 1688 by local craftsmen from local materials on land sold to The Society of Friends by the owners of Old Jordans Farm.



THE MEETING HOUSE as seen from the corner of JORDANS LANE and WELDERS LANE

The building consists of the main Meeting House, which takes about two-thirds of the floor area and the full height, with a two-storied addition on the east side. Joined to this addition and set back at an angle (north-eastwards) into The Dell, is a comparatively recent building, constructed in 1958. Some unrecorded alterations were made in 1733. In 1867, the Stable block along the back of the building was extended and the attic above the stables converted into additional rooms for the womens' meetings and later for the use of caretakers. Two rooms were made out of the stables in 1941 for the use of children's classes. A sizeable building was added on to the east side in 1958 to provide classrooms and additional warden's accommodation. This was carefully sited so as not to show from the graveyard side of the Meeting House.

- 2.3.9 Although alterations have been made, the main features of the original building remain largely unchanged. The plain hipped roof still has many of the original tiles. The interior is essentially the same as when it was first built. The windows and doorways are in their original positions and much of the window furniture and glass are original. The panelling and raised Ministers' stand probably date from 1733. The floor is of unmortared, close-fitting paving bricks laid on bare earth.
- 2.3.10 The Meeting House continues to serve its original purpose as a place of worship, religious education and remembrance, primarily for Quakers, but not exclusively so, and others may join them in worship "after the manner of Friends." Together with Old Jordans and the grounds, it also receives many visitors from both home and abroad, particularly The United States of America, attracted by its outstanding historic associations.

## THE BURIAL GROUND

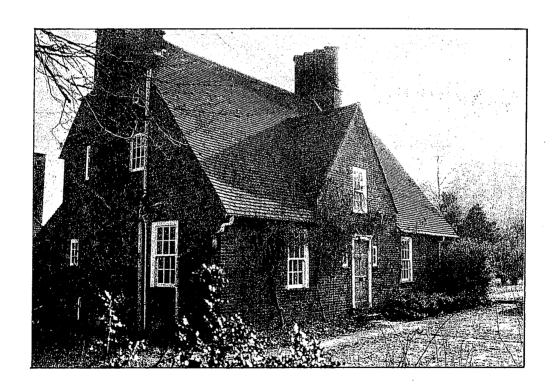
- 2.3.11 Part of the Burial Ground existed before the Meeting House as Quakers were not allowed to be buried in parish churchyards. In 1671 a quarter of an acre of land which adjoined Old Jordans Farm was sold to Friends by William Russell, a yeoman farmer. The first burial was of his daughter, Elizabeth, in 1672. Over four hundred burials were made during the next two centuries, including William Penn (1718), members of his family and his friends.
- 2.3.12 The remnants of a row of lime trees marks the northern boundary of the original burial ground. Beyond this a second row marking off a narrow strip of land added to the burial ground in 1761 containing the Vanderwall Vault and remains of the family of that name who lived at Jordans Farm in the 18th century.
- 2.3.13 When Jordans Farm was brought by Friends in 1911, the Westminster and Longford Monthly Meeting enclosed a portion of the adjoining orchard and laid it out as a new burial ground, adding a gate, the Westminster Gate, and a pathway from Jordans Lane. London Friends purchased the land in 1912. The use as a burial ground continues for both local Quakers and members of the Hampstead and Westminster Meetings.

## THE VILLAGE

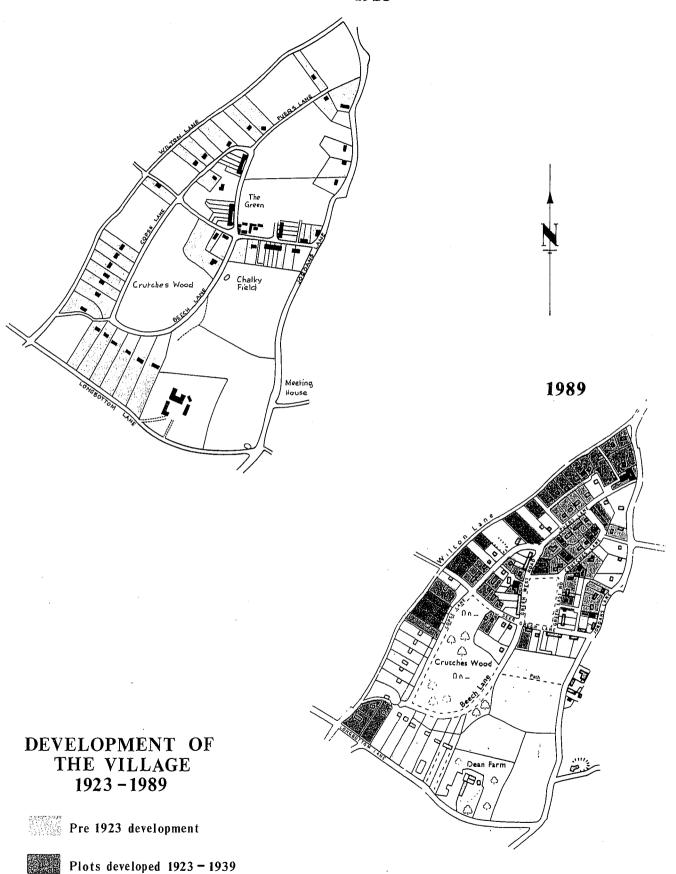
2.3.14 Jordans Village takes its name from Old Jordans. The idea of creating a Village Estate had its origins in 1915-16 when land became available and enabled Friends to fulfill a long-cherished wish to do something to preserve the surroundings of Jordans Meeting House. The impetus was the threat that the fields forming part of Dean Farm facing the Meeting House were going to be sold for speculative house-building. In an attempt to preserve the tranquil surroundings of the Meeting House and Old Jordans Hostel, a Committee of resident Quakers in the area was formed in early 1916, with a view to purchasing the fields under threat. The scheme proposed to achieve this went further than just the purchase of land to ensure the preservation of open countryside; the Jordans Committee which conceived the project, considered it an

opportunity to establish a Village that might embody Quaker principles. They raised capital to set up a Limited Company and the declared aim was to create a Village based on Christian principles and "in a manner serviceable to the national well-being by promoting suitable industries (Jordans Village Industries) and to establish and carry on religious, social, recreative and educational works and institutions". Residence was not restricted to Quakers.

- 2.3.15 The Plan put forward by the committee provided for new housing to be owned and managed by the community as a whole with houses leased to individual occupiers. Dean Farm, comprising 102 acres was purchased in 1918. The village plan, largely designed by the Architect, Fred Rowntree and which included cottage-type craft industries, as well as housing for resident workers and Quakers working elsewhere, was put to the then Amersham Rural District Council and approval given late in 1918. Work started at the beginning of the following year. The village dates its official founding as 15th February 1919, the date the commemorative bricks were laid on the foundations of the first house to be built. This is now known as "The Cottage" and fronts Seer Green Lane. The workers' cottages followed, all designed and built under the supervision of Fred Rowntree and were completed by 1923. A Village Hall for social events was constructed in 1919.
- 2.3.16 During the early 1920's Jordans Village Industries Ltd was formed but went into liquidation in December 1923. The craft workshops were located in the south-west corner of what is now the Village Green.



The First Cottage. 1919
"THE COTTAGE", SEER GREEN LANE



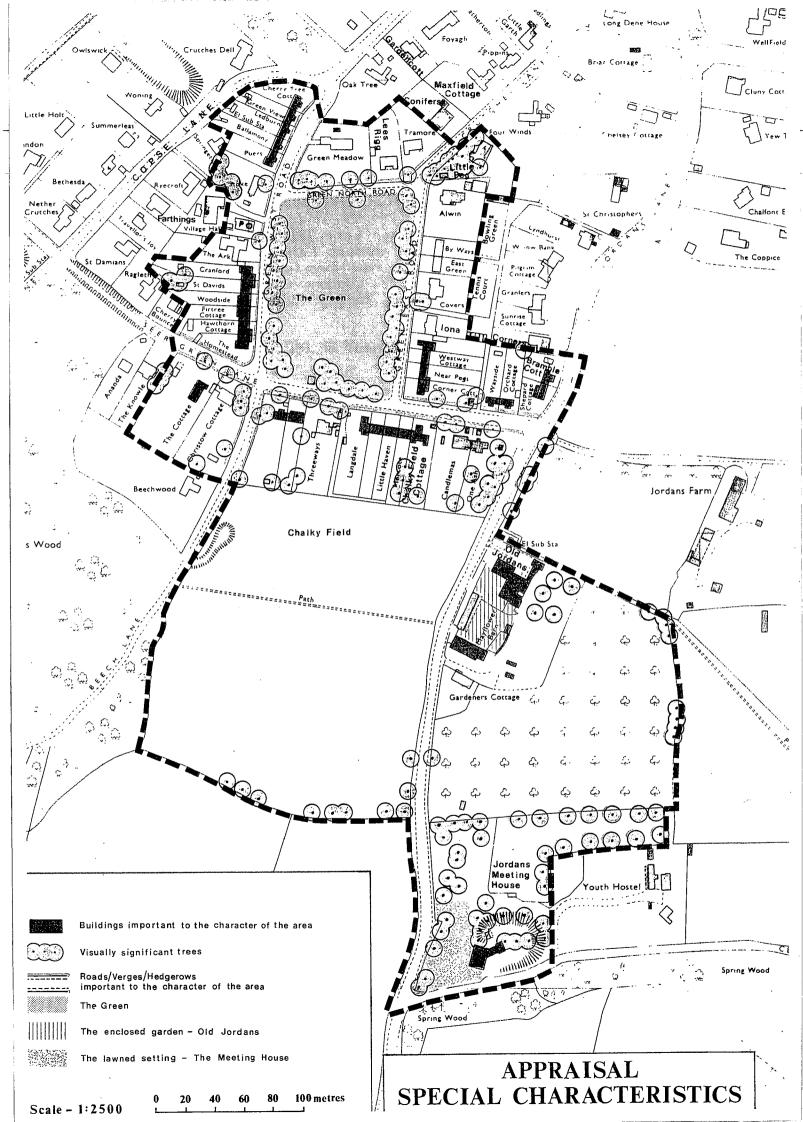
Plots developed 1939 - 1989

- Jordans Village Limited, which is a Friendly Society, was registered 2.3.17 Some further houses to Fred Rowntree's designs were constructed on plots on the out-lying parts of the estate, but by 1923 the requirement that all buildings should be designed by the Village Architect had been removed. Housing-building continued and by 1939 much of the land between Jordans Lane, Seer Green Lane and Wilton Lane had been developed. So too had the plots between Copse Lane and Wilton Lane and Beech Lane and Longbottom Lane. In the post-war years, further housing has been constructed on the remaining plots, mostly in the triangle bordered by Jordans Lane, Seer Green Lane and Wilton Lane, although some development has taken place to the east of Jordans Lane. The whole village and adjoining open countryside now form part of the Metropolitan Green Belt surrounding Greater London and Town and Country Planning Policies strictly limit further house-building and most kinds of development.
- 2.3.18 Stages in the history of development of the village are illustrated on the plans opposite.
- 2.3.19 A number of open spaces have been preserved in Jordans Village over the years to retain the character of a "Garden Village". These are Chalky Field, in 1923, The Village Green, in 1934, Crutches Wood and Cherry Tree Corner, both in 1940.
- 2.3.20 Jordans Village Limited continues to own property in the village and has control through restrictive covenants over the majority of other property. Responsibility for administering and maintaining the Village Estate is vested in the Committee of Management. Committee imposes its own planning and development controls within This is totally separate from control exercised by the Authority. The Committee Council as Local Planning administers and maintains village property, which includes the terraced cottages around The Green, the Village Hall, the open spaces, especially The Green and Crutches Wood, roads, sewerage and rent collection. The Tenant Members' Committee (T.M.C.) came into existence in 1921 and is the medium by which residents can play a part in the running of the Village. lt has 3 representatives on the Management Committee to safeguard residents' The T.M.C. also organises a number of social events and occasions during the year.

## 2.4 CHARACTERISTICS and VISUAL APPRAISAL

- 2.4.1 In terms of special characteristics and visual qualities, 4 sub-areas may be distinguished within the total designated area. Beginning with the origin of Jordans, these are:-
  - (i) Old Jordans Quaker Guest House and Conference Centre
  - (ii) The Meeting House and grounds
  - (iii) Chalky Field
  - (iv) Jordans Village

The Appraisal Plan on page 12 shows the relationship between the 4 sub-areas and illustrates their special characteristics.

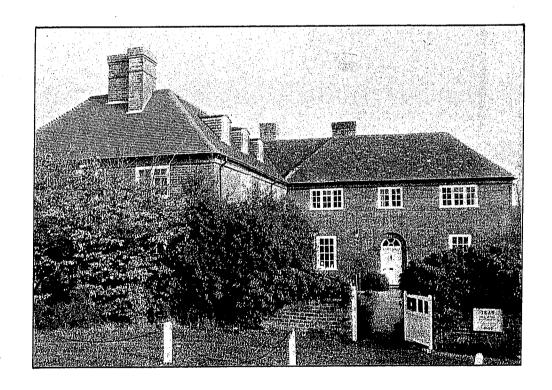


## OLD JORDANS QUAKER GUEST HOUSE and CONFERENCE CENTRE

2.4.2 "Old Jordans Quaker Guest House and Conference Centre" comprises a group of five physically separate buildings located beside Jordans Lane. Three of these are included in the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest approved by the Secretary of State for the Environment. All are Grade II items and are noted as having group value. The list descriptions are as follows:

## OLD JORDANS HOSTEL

"C18 with wing at right angles by Fred Rowntree, circa 1920. Red brick, hipped old tile roof. Dentilled eaves. Two storeys. Box sashes to south front of 4 bays with cross-casement to ground floor right hand bay. Door in bay 3. West elevation with first floor casements and 6 panel central door in round headed arch with inner arch. Casements to first floor, triple to outer bays, paired to central bay. Modern wing of 2 storeys with dormers. Casement windows. Tiled porch in re-entrant angle on fluted half columns.



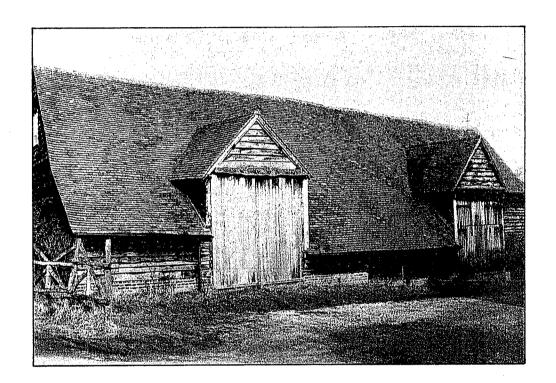
OLD JORDANS HOSTEL as seen from JORDANS LANE

#### MAYFLOWER BARN

"C17 timber-framed and weather-boarded barn of 3 bays, extended west by 2 bays C18. Two wagon entries, those to the south elevation in gabled projecting bays. Lean-to's between porches and west of left hand porch. Old brick plinth, repaired. Restored earlier C20 and barred casement windows inserted in north and end elevations. Old tile roof. Queen strut trusses with curved or straight braces to tie beams. Braced purlins.

Noted for Quaker Associations and held by some to

Noted for Quaker Associations and held by some to incorporate timbers from "The Mayflower" in which the Pilgrim Fathers sailed to New England in 1620."



## MAYFLOWER BARN as seen from JORDANS LANE

## GRANARY and WALL CONTINUING TO SOUTH

"C18 timber-framed granary with red brick infill. Hipped old tile roof. On brick piers except east wall which is built up on older flint wall with weathered brick coping, reinforced by raking buttresses of brick. Boarded door to west side. Flint and brick wall continues to south."



## OLD JORDANS HOSTEL and GRANARY as seen from THE GARDEN

## THE GARDEN SETTING

2.4.3 The Guest House; The Refectory; The Mayflower Barn and The Granary are grouped around an attractive formal garden arranged on three levels. This setting enhances the buildings and is an integral part of the group composition. The main elevation of Old Jordans Guest House faces this garden which comprises lawns, paved areas and flower beds with walls between the levels and flights of steps. The view across the garden to this elevation is well worthy of conservation.

#### THE REFECTORY

2.4.4 Although a modern building constructed in 1970, the Refectory is important for its group value in that it contributes to the enclosure of the garden and being constructed in traditional form and materials harmonises well with The Guest House, Barn and Granary. It is a rectangular building, single-storey and brick-built to the eaves, with upper floor accommodation contained within the pitched tiled roof space and lit by a series of dormer windows, also with pitched tiled roofs.

## GARDENERS COTTAGE

2.4.5 Gardeners Cottage is also visually compatible, being constructed of local "multi" bricks with weather boarding on the upper floor and a steeply pitched, hipped roof line with dormers and prominent rectangular chimney stacks. The timber framed windows contain leaded light casements. It dates from 1928.

## THE ORCHARD SETTING

2.4.6 To the south and east of the buildings are the grounds comprising a nursery garden and orchard on valley-side slopes. From this area views may be obtained of the buildings group and it comprises an essential part of their setting. The orchard also has an important linking function, contributing to the continuity of the Conservation Area by adjoining the grounds of The Meeting House.

## THE MEETING HOUSE

## THE GENERAL SETTING

2.4.7 Seclusion is the notable feature of the general setting of The Meeting House. The building is sited in a dell on the lower valley side and externally is largely hidden by trees and hedgerows. It cannot be seen from the village, or from Old Jordans Quaker Guest House and Conference Centre. On the approach via Welders Lane, the siting in the dell, combined with extensive tree cover, obscures all views. From Jordans Lane south of Welders Lane, there is the occasional glimpse of the building, but again it is mostly hidden by trees and hedgerows. Only from Longbottom Lane between Dean Farm and the junction with Jordans Lane, can The Meeting House be seen across the field which is owned by The Society of Friends.



THE MEETING HOUSE and THE GRAVESTONES

OF THE PENN FAMILY AND 'EARLY' QUAKERS

as seen from THE 'NEW' BURIAL GROUND

- 2.4.8 From Jordans Lane directly opposite the building, there is a clear view of The Meeting House in its immediate setting. This view is towards the main elevation and it is one of the most important views in the Conservation Area. The foreground comprises a lawn containing the gravestones of the Penn family and "early" Quakers and is an essentially simple setting which focuses attention on the building. Fine mature trees surround the dell and form a fitting background framing the building when viewed from most directions. The trees in the Youth Hostel grounds to the east also contribute to this setting and are included in a Tree Preservation Order.
- 2.4.9 The outstanding interest of The Meeting House is nationally acknowledged by its inclusion in the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest as a Grade I item.

  The list entry is as follows:

## JORDANS MEETING HOUSE

"1688 (formerly incised on cornice). Red brick, hipped old tile roof with coved cornice. Left hand section containing meeting room is one storeyed with 2 cross mullion diamond lattice casements with flat arches and panelled shutters. Four panel 2 fold door with astragal moulding and oblong 2-light wood mullion fan. Right hand section is 2 storeyed with paired casements. Panelled shutters. Ground floor flat arches. Altered 1717 (incised on brick on north wall). Interior: meeting room has original panelling. Gallery dated 1733.

In graveyard immediately outside are buried William Penn and members of his family and Thomas Ellwood (diarist, prominent Quaker and friend of John Milton). This meeting house by reason of its antiquity and its associations with William Penn and the early Quakers has very great historical interest.

RCHM I, 82 Monument 2, and VCH III, p 185."

## THE GROUNDS

2.4.10 Trees largely screen The Meeting House from within its grounds on the north side. These grounds include a wooded area; an open area of long grass and the "new" burial ground with the headstones all of similar size and shape standing in groups imparting a distinctive appearance. An informal pathway between the burial ground and open area and across the orchard to the north links The Meeting House with "Old Jordans" and appears to be well used.

## CHALKY FIELD

2.4.11 Situated between the grounds of "Old Jordans" and the gardens of the cottages on the south side of "the Village", Chalky Field is an area with the important function of physically linking these two parts of the Conservation Area, contributing to their setting and for providing views into them. The field comprises an open grassed area with no trees except in the perimeter hedgerows and contains a path across from Beech Lane to "Old Jordans" which may be used

by the public, although it is not a defined right of way. From both Beech Lane and Chalky Field there are views eastwards towards "Old Jordans" and the upper floors and roof lines of the Guest House; The Refectory; The Mayflower Barn and Gardeners Cottage may all be clearly seen. To the south and south east are fine landscape views of woodland. The Meeting House is not visible, being hidden by trees. Views to the north towards the cottages are mostly of the rooflines, and the upper floors due to the presence of the boundary hedgerow and trees.



## OLD JORDANS QUAKER GUEST HOUSE and CONFERENCE CENTRE

## AS SEEN FROM CHALKY FIELD

From left to right:

Old Jordans Hostel; The Refectory; Mayflower Barn; Gardeners Cottage.

## THE VILLAGE

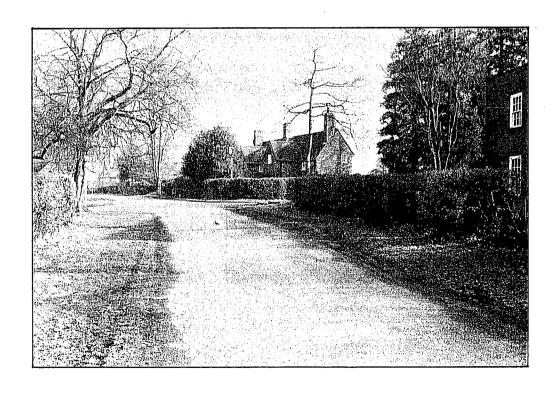
2.4.12 The Village was originally laid out on "Garden Suburb" lines, a layout which remains in evidence today and contributes significantly to the distinctive character of the area. Special architectural and historic interest emanates from the existence and particular features of The Green and its immediate surroundings, combined with the intrinsic qualities of the groups of cottages which partially enclose it.

## THE GREEN

2.4.13 The Green has a formal rectangular shape clearly defined on the ground by the road around its perimeter. As its name implies, it is an open grassed area of generally level appearance, but sloping gently down in its north-west corner towards the junction of Green West and Green North Roads. By reason of its openness it is an integral part of the setting of the cottages which front it. With

the exception of the north side, visually dominant features are the regularly spaced deciduous trees, many of which are Silver Birch. These trees are mature specimens of good shape with attractive foliage and line the perimeter, contributing notably to the pleasantness of place. In a social sense, The Green may be regarded as the focal point of Jordans Village. It is used by the local primary school as a sports field and has a cricket square marked out in its centre. In the south-west corner are sited the Village Estate Office and children's play equipment and in the north-east corner is a timber shelter. The Green itself is a public open space often used for outdoor recreation. Immediately adjoining it on the west side are the Village shop and Post Office and Village Hall.

2.4.14 The roads on all four sides of The Green, uniformly surfaced and bordered by grass verges backed by hedges along the frontages of adjoining dwellings, constitute an important part of the formal layout and component of area character. Other roads converge on The Green and it is a notable characteristic that there is a junction at each corner. Roads, verges and hedges are all well maintained. The hedges are of a similar height all round The Green and provide a clear boundary between the public and private areas of open space. These hedges accentuate the shape of The Green and the setting of the cottages which front it.



JORDANS VILLAGE - GARDEN SUBURB CHARACTER

SEER GREEN LANE looking towards Nos 1 & 2 THE GREEN

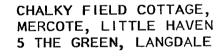
## "ROWNTREE" COTTAGES

The notable feature of these cottages is the similarity of their 2.4.15 architecture stemming from the fact that they were all designed and built between 1919 and 1923 under the supervision of Fred Rowntree. The cottages are predominantly in terraced form, but are otherwise in pairs apart from one detached building. The cottages are all small-scale in their proportions and exhibit a distinctive harmony and unity of appearance, resulting from the repetition of certain architectural features and continuity of building materials. The cottages are two storey, some with projecting bays and constructed of local brick with an orange hue with pitched plain tile roofs, orange-brown in colour. Most include dormer windows, mainly in a gabled form, which are prominent features of the architecture, together with the relatively large chimney stacks. The windows are timber, either casement or sashes and painted white, which contributes to the visual continuity. The doors are also timber, but painted various colours.



12 THE GREEN, WESTWAY COTTAGE NEAR PEGS, CORNER COTTAGE

PUERS, BALLAMONY, LEDBURN GREEN VIEW, CHERRY TREE COTTAGE







ROWNTREE COTTAGES - THE SIMILARITY OF THE ARCHITECTURE

## OTHER HOUSING

Other housing fronting The Green is of both inter-war and post-war date and of varied appearance. It is of compatible scale and proportions to the Rowntree Cottages. By reason of its location, this housing completes the visual enclosure of The Green thus complementing the "Rowntree" development, whilst mature trees in some of the curtilages contribute to enhancing the general setting.



## VIEW NORTH-WESTWARDS FROM THE GREEN TOWARDS THE JUNCTION OF GREEN WEST ROAD WITH GREEN NORTH ROAD

## VIEWS

- With regard to important views within the area, these are, from The Green westwards, southwards and eastwards towards the front elevations of the "Rowntree" cottages; from the junction of Green West Road with Green North Road, northwards towards the terrace containing "Puers", "Ballamony", "Ledburn", "Green View" and "Cherry Tree Cottage" and from the junction of Seer Green Lane with Jordans Lane, north-westwards towards the pair of cottages "Wayside" and "Orchard Cottage" and "Shepherd Cottage" and "Bramble Cottage". Trees feature prominently in all views.
- 2.4.18 Views into the area are notably limited. The Green is substantially enclosed by the buildings which surround it on all sides together with trees in the curtilages. Further housing directly adjoins the west, north and east. The roads which lead to The Green allow only partial views of it until The Green itself is reached. The main views towards the "Quaker Village" are as previously described, from the south from Chalky Field and from the east from Jordans Lane and the right of way to Jordans Farm.

# **CONSERVATION AREAS**

# GENERAL PLANNING CONTROLS AND POLICIES









Chiltern District Council 1995



## <u>CONSERVATION AREAS:</u> <u>GENERAL PLANNING CONTROLS AND POLICIES</u>

## **CONTENTS**

Section 1	Introduction
1.2	What is a Conservation Area ?
1.3	The elements of Conservation Area character
1.4	Conservation Area boundaries
1.5	Conservation Areas in Chiltern District
1.8	What is the effect of Conservation Area designation?
1.9	Listed Buildings
1.10	Building Regulations
Section 2	Planning Law Applying to all Conservation Areas in England and Wales
2.1	The Council's duties
2.3	General principles for dealing with planning applications in conservation areas
2.4	Some minor building works do not need planning permission
2.7	Article 4 Directions to prevent permitted development
2.9	Listed Building Consent for alterations or demolition
2.10	Conservation Area Consent for demolition
2.12	Publicity for applications
2.17	Protection for trees
2.23	Control of advertisements
Section 3	Chiltern District Council's Planning Policies
3.3	Requirement for fully detailed applications
	Policies which may be used when considering your planning applications
3.5	Building work
3.6	Protection of views
3.7	Changes of use of buildings and land
3.8	Demolition of unlisted buildings
3.9	Trees
3.10	Advertisements
3.11	Discontinuance Notices
3.12	Overhead lines and telecommunications development
3.13	Article 4 Directions
3.14	Shopfronts
Section 4	Design Guidance

## Front Cover:

Top: Highfield Close in the Weller Estate Conservation Area, Amersham-on-the-Hill Centre: Church Street in the Chesham Conservation Area

Bottom: House in the North Park and Kingsway Conservation Area, Chalfont St Peter

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This leaflet explains the general planning controls and policies which apply within Chiltern District's Conservation Areas. It should be read in conjunction with the leaflets on individual Conservation Areas, which set out reasons for designation, describe individual area characteristics, and include maps to show boundaries and features of special interest.

## What is a Conservation Area?

1.2 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (Section 69) defines Conservation Areas as "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". It is the Council's duty under this Act to decide which parts of its area meet this definition and to designate them as Conservation Areas; there is also an on-going duty to review them, at which time variations could be made to the area which they cover.

#### **Elements of Conservation Area Character**

1.3 As there is a great variety in the character of places there can be no standard specification for Conservation Areas. However, the one common criterion is that the area must have a special character which is of sufficient merit to be worthy of preservation or enhancement. This special character will probably be derived from a combination of some of the following features: attractive groups of buildings displaying a unity of scale, materials and/or density of development; a particular combination of land uses; a historic street pattern; open spaces such as village greens; enclosed areas such as market places; trees, individually or in groups; features of archaeological interest; an association with historical people or events, etc. In assessing suitability for designation the emphasis must be on the character of areas, rather than of individual buildings.



The Little Missenden Conservation Area



## Conservation Area Boundaries

Conservation Area boundaries must be drawn 1.4 where the special interest stops. For example, a Conservation Area will be unlikely to cover the whole of the developed area of a village. Areas of open land may be included where these form the immediate curtilages of properties. In addition, where a space such as a village green is important in the street scene, or constitutes a focal point for buildings, it may be included. Inclusion may also be appropriate if such a space forms an intrinsic part of the setting of individual buildings and building groups. The inclusion of tree groups will often be appropriate, particularly where these enhance the setting of buildings, form a backcloth to them, or provide significant visual links between other features.

## Conservation Areas in Chiltern District

1.5 At 1st January 1995 there were twenty Conservation Areas in Chiltern District, located as follows: (\* asterisked dates indicate years when Conservation Area boundaries were amended).

Area Covered	Year of Designation	No of Listed Bldgs included
Amersham Old Town Shardeloes Parkland	1969, 1992* 1992	151 5
Elm Close The Weller Estate	1992 1992	-
Chalfont St Giles Village centre	1969	33
Chalfont St Peter Gold Hill East North Park &	1992	-
Kingsway The Firs Estate	1992 1992	- -
Chenies Chenies Village, Chenies Bottom and adjoining countryside	1970, 1992*	31
Chesham Old Town & Town Centre	1970, 1987*	96

Area Covered	Year of	No of Listed
Chesham Bois	<u>Designation</u>	Bldgs included
The Common, Village centre and area around St Leonard's Church	1992	10
Cholesbury & Hawridge	222	20
Main Villages	1971	16
Coleshill	22/2	
Village centre	1992	7
Great Missenden		
Village Centre and Missenden Abbey Parkland	1969, 1992*	59
<u>Jordans</u>	,	
Old Jordans and part of village surrounding The Green	1987	4
<u>Latimer</u>		
Village & Parkland	1970, 1992*	12
Little Missenden		
Village centre	1970	33
Penn & Tylers Green		
Village and Church Road area (part in Wycombe District)	1971, 1992*	31
Penn Street Part of village, the Common & the Church	1992	8
The Lee Old Church & The Green	1980, 1992*	12



- 1.6 The Conservation Areas designated between 1969 and 1980 cover the historic cores of most of the district's towns and villages; they include over four hundred Listed Buildings within their boundaries. Those designated since 1980 consist of Historic Parklands, village cores and examples of suburban developments carried out since late Victorian times. The Conservation Areas encompassing twentieth century developments include very few Listed Buildings. They were mostly designated to preserve good examples of estate house building in this period.
- 1.7 The very different characters of these Conservation Areas mean that it is not possible to have a single comprehensive set of guidelines for their protection. Accordingly a leaflet has been prepared for each area to describe its own history and character, and the features in it which particularly merit preservation. These leaflets are available from the Council's Planning Department.

# What is the effect of Conservation Area designation?

1.8 When an area has been designated it becomes subject to extra planning controls which aim to preserve or enhance the character of Conservation Areas. Section 2 of this leaflet explains the controls which are set by Parliament in national legislation and Section 3 explains the Council's policies for implementing these controls.

## Listed Buildings

1.9 Buildings included in the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (compiled by the Secretary of State for National Heritage) are popularly referred to as "Listed Buildings". The List, a copy of which can be seen at the Council Offices, gives a brief description of the features which have led to each building being included on it. There are nearly one thousand Listed Buildings in Chiltern District, half of which are located in Conservation Areas. Indeed, in some of the District's Conservation Areas, the majority of buildings are listed.

## **Building Regulations**

1.10 Whether or not a building is in a Conservation Area, most building operations must comply with the Building Regulations on a variety of matters including structural soundness, drainage, fire prevention and insulation. The Council's Building Control Officers

will be pleased to provide advice. They can be contacted at the address shown on page 9.

## 2 PLANNING LAW APPLYING TO ALL CONSERVATION AREAS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

## The Council's Duties

2.1 The Council must pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of Conservation Areas in the exercise of any of its powers. These are mainly under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

This requirement will, in practice, mainly relate to the consideration of planning applications, Conservation Area Consents and notifications of intention to fell or lop trees.

- 2.2 There are 5 controls which are relevant to Conservation Areas and which are described in this section. These are exercised by the need for:
  - (1) planning permission
  - (2) Listed Building Consent
  - (3) Conservation Area Consent
  - (4) notification of intention to lop or fell trees
  - (5) stricter advertisement control

# General Principles for dealing with Planning Applications in Conservation Areas

2.3 Most building works and changes of use of land or buildings are defined in planning law as development and need planning permission. To be granted such permission each proposal for development should comply with the policies in the Council's Local Plans (see Section 3). In addition, before granting planning permission in a Conservation Area, the Council has to satisfy itself that the development will be in keeping with the character of the area. This is part of the Council's general duty as described in paragraph 2.1. In short, because of the importance of conserving the District's historic and architectural heritage, planning permission will not be forthcoming in a Conservation Area unless the proposed development, large or small, shows adequate sensitivity for the character of its surroundings.



# Some Minor Building Works do not need Planning Permission

- 2.4 Some minor building works, such as certain small extensions, do not require specific planning permission from the Council because they are given a general permission under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order, 1995. These types of small works are collectively known as Permitted Development.
- 2.5 Within a Conservation Area the amount and type of Permitted Development is more restricted than outside it. For example, the size limit for the construction of domestic extensions and outbuildings is less. Furthermore, the addition of exterior cladding to a dwelling and alterations or additions to its roof will require planning permission and there are restrictions on the installation of satellite dishes. Therefore, anyone proposing to carry out building or other works in a Conservation Area is strongly advised to contact the Planning Department first to find out whether planning permission is needed.
- 2.6 Even though these minor developments in a Conservation Area may not require planning permission, they can still harm the character or appearance of the area if they introduce designs or materials which detract from the historic character of their neighbourhood. Examples of this are where original windows and doors are replaced with ones of modern design, or materials, or where front gardens are replaced with hardstandings.



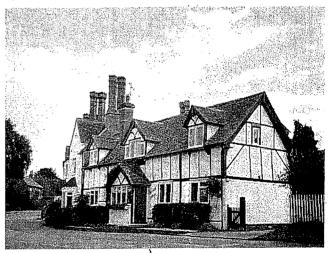
Old windows are part of an area's character and scale

# Article 4 Directions to prevent Permitted Development

- 2.7 The Council hopes that the special qualities of its Conservation Areas will be maintained through public co-operation and support. However, if it becomes evident that the special appearance of an area is being spoilt by unsympathetic Permitted Development (e.g. minor building works as explained in paragraph 2.4), the Council may take steps to remove the relevant Permitted Development rights. This would be done by making an Article 4 Direction (under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order), 1995).
- 2.8 The effect of a Direction is that minor works and changes of use listed in it require planning permission. A Direction may apply to the whole or part of a Conservation Area and to one or more classes of Permitted Development as the circumstances require. The Council's policy towards Article 4 Directions in Conservation Areas is set out in paragraph 3.13.

# <u>Listed Building Consent for alterations or</u> demolition

2.9 Most alterations to the interior or exterior of a Listed Building (including the demolition of any part of it) require Listed Building Consent from the Council in addition to any planning permission which may be needed. This is regardless of whether or not the building is within a Conservation Area. If works are carried out without Listed Building Consent a criminal offence is committed. The Council is able to prosecute the offenders or take enforcement action against them.



Listed Buildings in Chenies



## Conservation Area Consent for Demolition

- Anyone wishing to demolish an unlisted 2.10 building in a Conservation Area must first apply to the Council for a written grant of consent called Conservation Area Consent. In addition Conservation Area Consent is usually required for partial demolition. Application is made in the same way as an application for planning permission. Exceptions to these controls are explained in paragraph 2.11. In effect, these powers are the same as those relating to the demolition of Listed Buildings. The Council's policy concerning Conservation Area Consent is set out in paragraph 3.8. If demolition is carried out without consent an offence is committed and the Council may prosecute the offender; it may also require remedial action to be taken by means of a Conservation Area Enforcement Notice.
- 2.11 This legislation does not apply to Listed Buildings, ecclesiastic buildings and Scheduled Monuments, which are covered by different legislation. In addition the Secretary of State for the Environment has made a direction in DOE Circular 8/87 (Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas Policy and Procedures) listing the sizes and categories of buildings for which consent for demolition is not required. These include buildings of less than 115 cubic metres in volume but the list is lengthy and complex and the reader is recommended to consult the Planning Office before undertaking any work.

## **Publicity for Applications**

## Applications for Planning Permission

- 2.12 Having received an application for planning permission, the Council will consider whether that development would affect the appearance of a Conservation Area and, if so, will publicise the application. To do this the Council has to:
- (a) publish a notice in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the proposed development is situated:

and

- (b) display a notice on or near the site of the proposed development for not less than seven days.
- 2.13 The notice must describe the development proposed and indicate where a copy of the application with its plans and other documents submitted with it

can be seen by the public. The documents must remain available for a period of 21 days beginning with the date of the publication of the notice in the newspaper.

2.14 Once these notices have been published, the Council cannot make a decision on the application until the 21 day period referred to above has expired and the 21 day period from the date when the notice was first displayed on or near the site has also expired. These two periods normally run concurrently. Any comments relating to the application which are received during these periods must be taken into account when the Council makes its decision.

# Applications for Listed Building Consent and Conservation Area Consent

- 2.15 The procedure for advertising an application for such consent is the same as that for advertising planning applications and is described in paragraphs 2.12 2.14.
- 2.16 Chiltern District Council advertises all applications relating to Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.

## **Protection for Trees**

- 2.17 With certain exceptions, (see para 2.22) no works can be carried out to trees in Conservation Areas without the Council first having been notified.
- 2.18 Anyone wishing to cut down, top, lop or uproot a tree, which is not already subject to a Tree Preservation Order, has to give the Council six weeks' notice of their intention. The notice must be in writing, must state the work proposed and must identify the tree concerned. (An application form for this purpose is available from the Planning Department). The purpose of notification is to give the Council the opportunity to make a Tree Preservation Order where it considers that the tree should be retained. The Council's Policy for considering tree notifications is included in paragraph 3.9.
- 2.19 The Council keeps a register available for public inspection. This gives particulars of the notices received, together with details of the decisions made on them by the Council, as to whether or not to make a Tree Preservation Order.



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2.20 If, after being notified, the Council does not make a Tree Preservation Order, the works must be carried out within two years, failing which a further notice must be served on the Council.

2.21 If the work is carried out without notice having been given, or before the expiry of six weeks, the person carrying it out and the owner become liable to prosecution and fines and have a duty to plant replacement trees. These penalties are the same as those applying to contraventions of a Tree Preservation Order.



Can you imagine this corner of Gold Hill East without these trees ?

2.22 These requirements for notification do not apply to hedges, bushes or shrubs, nor to trees with a trunk diameter less than 75 mm (3 inches) at a point 1.5 m (5 ft) above ground level, nor to fruit trees cultivated for fruit production. In certain circumstances they do not apply to work by statutory authorities or certain government departments.

## Control of Advertisements

2.23 The designation of an area as a Conservation Area does not, by itself, significantly tighten controls over advertisements. Such additional controls as there are relate to illuminated advertisements displayed on business premises and to advertisements on hoardings. However, most of the District's Conservation Areas are within an Area of Special Control for the purposes of the display of advertisements. Within the Area of Special Control the types and sizes of advertisement that may lawfully be displayed without first obtaining consent from the

Council are limited. The Area of Special Control was designated by the Council in order to protect the character and amenity of the countryside and valuable townscapes. It was first approved in 1960 and modifications to its boundaries were confirmed by the Secretary of State in 1993. The Council's policy towards advertisements in Conservation Areas is outlined in paragraph 3.10.

2.24 Certain advertisements can be displayed without the need to obtain Advertisement Consent from the Council because they are granted a deemed consent under the Town & Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992. However, the Council has powers to issue a Discontinuance Notice to require the display of an advertisement which has a deemed consent to be discontinued. The Council's policy concerning Discontinuance Notices is set out in paragraph 3.11.

## 3 <u>CHILTERN DISTRICT</u> <u>COUNCIL'S PLANNING</u> POLICIES

The Council has a series of policies which it applies in Conservation Areas to ensure that development will preserve or enhance the special character or appearance of these areas. policies are contained in the two Adopted Local Plans for Chiltern District, [the Adopted Local Plan for Chiltern District (except Chesham Town Centre and Waterside) 1993 and the Adopted Replacement Chesham Town Centre and Waterside Local Plan 1993] and in the Chiltern District Local Plan -(Deposit copy) 1995. The following paragraphs give a general summary of these Policies together with the reference number of each policy in case you need to read it in full. If you intend to submit an application for Planning Permission, Conservation Area Consent or Advertisement Consent, or to notify the Council of intended work to a tree, we recommend that you read the complete relevant policies in the Local Plans together with their supporting explanations.

3.2 The policies are also applied where necessary on sites adjoining Conservation Areas in order to safeguard views towards and out from them. Other policies in the Local Plans are also relevant to development in Conservation Areas; for example, there are policies which protect the Green Belt and control certain changes of use of buildings. In addition, Policy GC1 aims to ensure that new development is of a high standard and is in keeping with the character of the locality. The Local Plans



are available for sale or inspection at the Planning Department or for inspection only at local libraries.

## Requirement for Fully Detailed Applications

- 3.3 To ensure that proposals involving the erection or extension of buildings can be assessed in relation to the special architectural and visual qualities of a Conservation Area, the Council will, in most cases, require fully detailed plans to be submitted with applications. These plans should show the siting, design and external appearance of the proposals, specify materials and means of access to the development and landscaping of the site (where appropriate). Details of the siting, elevations, materials and roof heights of existing adjoining properties will be requested when needed to assess the proposal in its setting.
- 3.4 The above requirement applies to all the Conservation Areas in the District. Only in exceptional circumstances will it be waived, for example, when the application is likely to be refused on a matter of principle (policy conflict), rather than detail. The Council has the power to require an applicant to submit such details as necessary to the determination of an application under the Town & Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988.

# Policies which may be used when considering your planning application

## Building Work

3.5 All building work should preserve or improve the appearance of the Conservation Area. Careful siting, following the established pattern of development, together with density, scale, bulk, height, design, external appearance which respect their surroundings will be important considerations. Natural materials should be used rather than synthetic ones.

(Policy CA1 from the Adopted Local Plans and from the Chiltern District Local Plan - (Deposit Copy).

#### Protection of Views

3.6 Views within and looking out of and into each Conservation Area should be preserved or enhanced.

(Policy CA2 from the Adopted Local Plans and from the Chiltern District Local Plan - (Deposit Copy).



View of The Lee Conservation Area

## Changes of Use of Buildings and Land

3.7 Changes of use in Conservation Areas will be permitted, subject to various provisos, in order to retain buildings which contribute to the historic character of the area. The Council also seeks to retain open land uses such as public open spaces which make a positive contribution to area character. Changes of use should not harm the historic character or appearance of a Conservation Area. Any associated additions or alterations to buildings should be sympathetic to their historic features and setting.

The environmental impact of the proposed use, for example, the amount and type of traffic generated, the need for parking space and the creation of noise, smell, pollution, vibration and general disturbance will be considerations when the Council determines your application.

(Policy CA3 from the Adopted Local Plans and from the Chiltern District Local Plan - (Deposit Copy).

## Demolition of Unlisted Buildings

3.8 The Council will not normally grant consent for the demolition of unlisted buildings which make a positive contribution to the character of a Conservation Area. Consent for demolition may be forthcoming if a building does not contribute to the character of a Conservation Area provided that:



- (i) redevelopment of the site would preserve or enhance the Conservation Area and detailed plans have already been approved, or
- (ii) there is no intention of rebuilding and the Conservation Area would not suffer as a result.

(Policy CA4 from the Adopted Local Plans and from the Chiltern District Local Plan - (Deposit Copy).

#### Trees

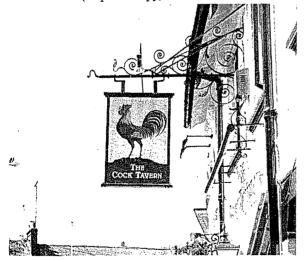
3.9 Trees in sound condition which are important in the street scene or landscape should be retained and their amenity value protected. The Council will normally make a Tree Preservation Order when notified of intended works to trees which would be damaging to the Conservation Area.

(Policy CA5 from the Adopted Local Plans and from the Chiltern District Local Plan - (Deposit Copy).

## Advertisements - General

3.10 The only advertisements which are truly in character with a Conservation Area are non-illuminated ones made of natural materials; these are therefore the most appropriate type to use. However, the Council recognises the needs of modern businesses and will accept certain types of discreetly illuminated advert provided that, as far as possible, they are made of natural materials and that, in all cases, they do not detract from the character of the area.

(Policies A1 and CA6 from the Adopted Local Plans and from Policies A1-A3 from the Chiltern District Local Plan - (Deposit Copy).



A hanging sign with external illumination

#### Discontinuance Notices for Advertisements

3.11 If an advertisement which is displayed with deemed consent (see para 2.24) is considered by the Council to be detrimental to the character of the area, or if it could cause danger for the public, the Council will serve a Discontinuance Notice to terminate its display.

(Policy A2 from the Adopted Local Plans).

## <u>Overhead Lines and Telecommunications</u> <u>Development</u>

3.12 Overhead electricity lines and telecommunications developments postdate the time of Conservation Areas and thus cannot be said to enhance or conserve their character.

The Council's strong preference is for new electricity lines to be laid underground.

Masts for telecommunications networks will not be permitted in a Conservation Area if a suitable site is available elsewhere.

Satellite dish antennas should be located away from prominent elevations and prominent roofslopes.

(Policy CA7 from the Adopted Local Plans and Policies OEL1, TD1 and TD2 of the Chiltern District Local Plan - (Deposit Copy).

#### Article 4 Directions

3.13 If minor building works or other operations which are Permitted Development (see para 2.4) are spoiling the character of a Conservation Area, the Council will make an Article 4 Direction (see para 2.7) to bring them under planning control.

(Policy CA8 from the Adopted Local Plans).

#### **Shopfronts**

3.14 Shop fronts which are truly in character with the historic periods represented by Conservation Areas are built of natural materials; their component parts are small in scale. Where such shopfronts still exist, the Council is anxious for them to be retained.

Where applications to rebuild or create other shopfronts are submitted to the Council it will favour those which have small scale design elements and use



natural materials; large expanses of plate glass are alien to a Conservation Area.

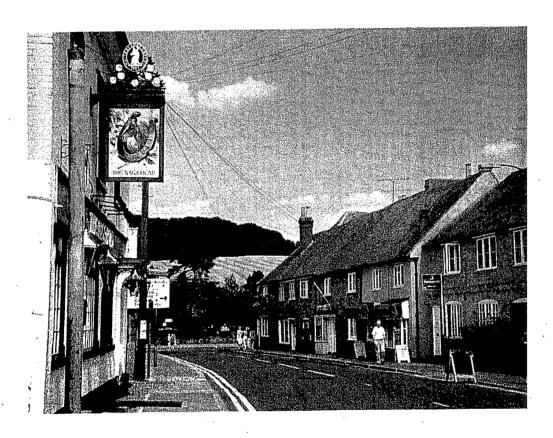
(Policy S10 from the Adopted Local Plans and Policy S11 from the Chiltern District Local Plan - (Deposit Copy).

## **DESIGN GUIDANCE**

If you intend to carry out any building works the Council's Planning and Building Control Officers will be pleased to give further advice. Discussions at an early stage, once rough plans have been drawn up, could save time and money. The leaflets relating to individual Conservation Areas should be referred to because they also give design guidance.

For further information and advice please contact the Planning Department at:

Chiltern District Council Council Offices, King George V Road AMERSHAM, Bucks HP6 5AW Telephone No: Amersham (01494) 729000



Whielden Street in the Amersham Old Town Conservation Area

Produced by Helen Wentworth of the Local Plans, Information & Monitoring Section Chiltern District Council - 1995

Price £2.00 (includes one individual conservation area leaflet)

