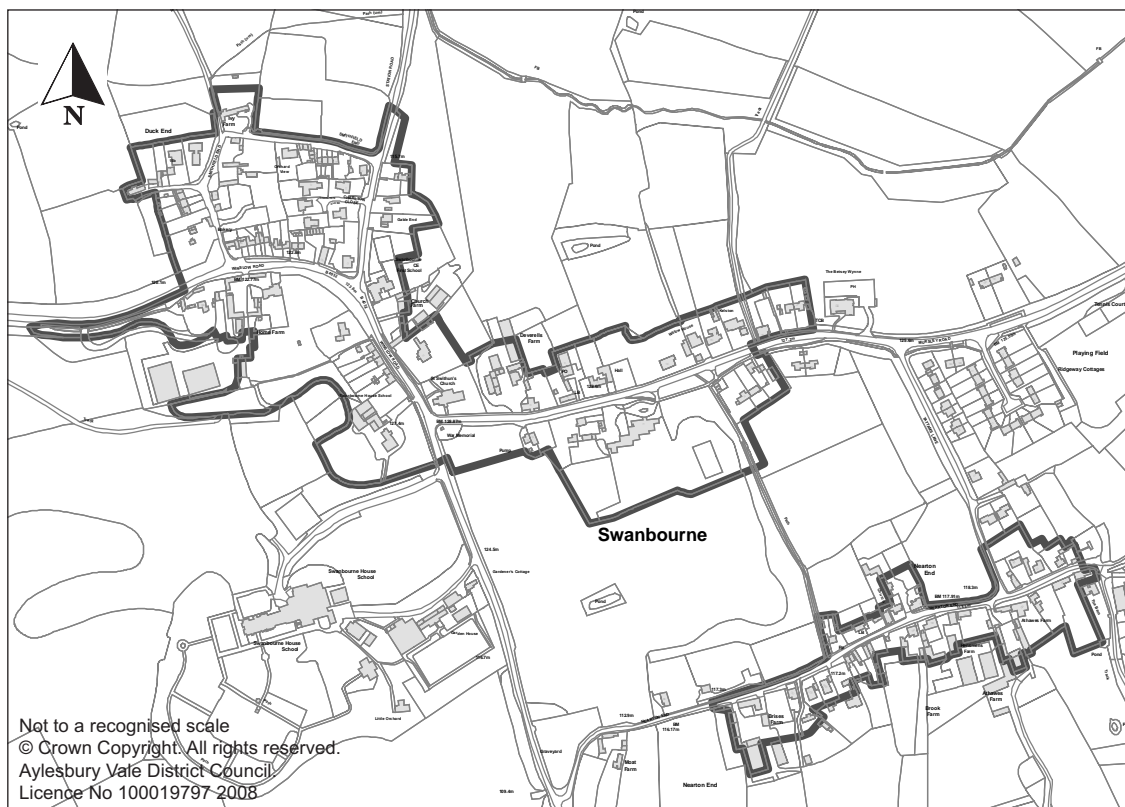


SWANBOURNE CONSERVATION AREA

Designated 19th July 1989

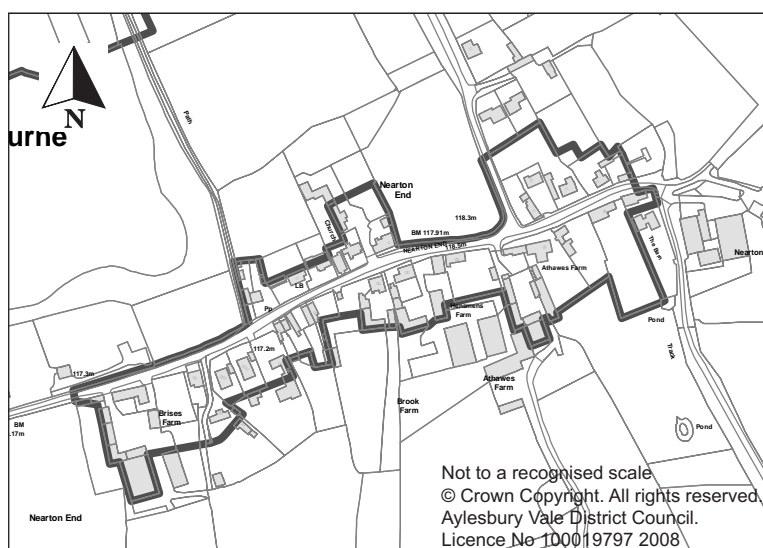
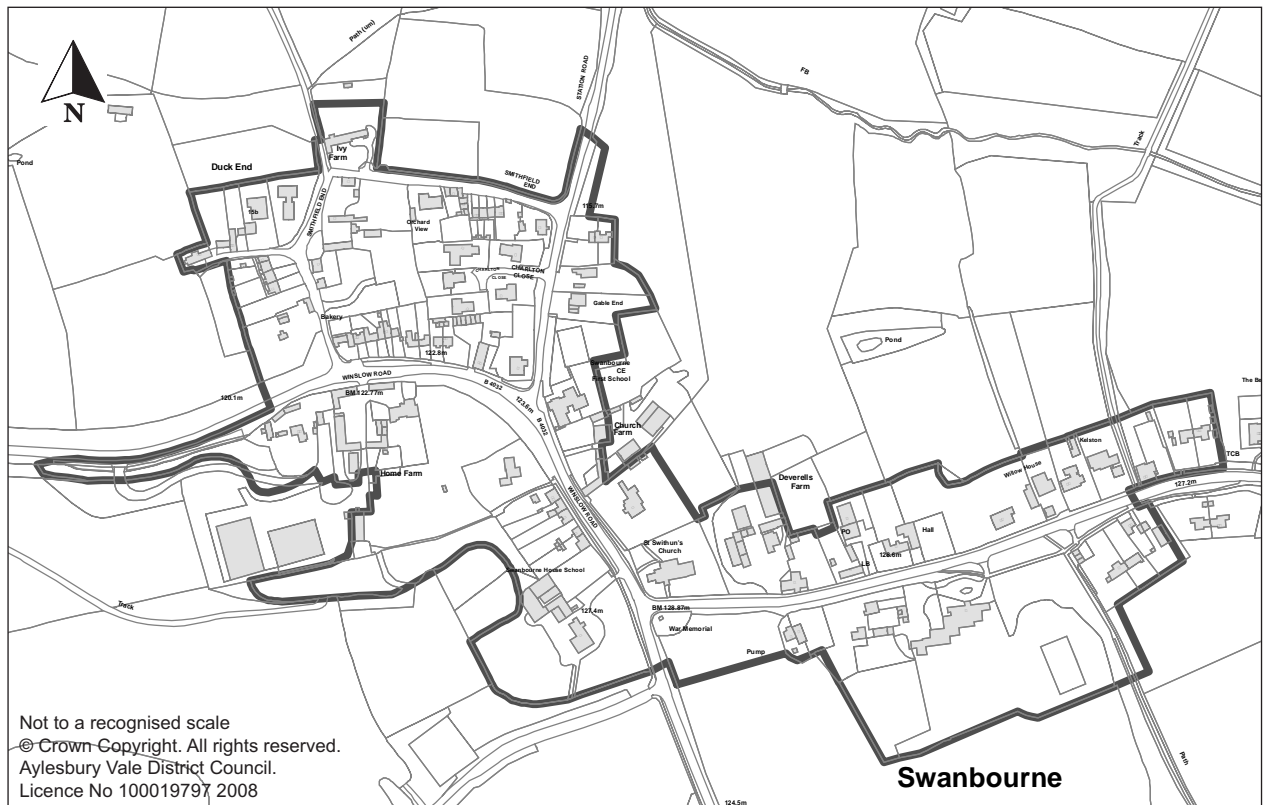
Swanbourne is situated two and half miles east of Winslow, and nine miles north of Aylesbury. It is a mellow, well preserved village, extensive parts of the original fabric having remained unchanged since the 17th Century. It possesses a wealth of period houses and cottages, many of which are Listed Buildings and a number of working farms, with distinctive barns and outbuildings, which form an integral part of the street scene.



Historically, Swanbourne was attached to the Manorial lands held by William I after the Norman Conquest and was later associated with the Abbots of Woburn. The existing loose-knit pattern of development also reflects the early medieval field system, the remnants of which can be seen in the number of narrow sunken lanes, high banks and paddock boundaries as defined by lines of remaining hedgerow trees. The surviving estate passed into the ownership of the Freemantle family during the course of the last century.

The surrounding countryside, although now missing its distinctive elms, is richly agricultural and provides a luxuriously treed parkland setting, which in places permeates through to the heart of the village. The village itself is sited on an elongated ridge with the main body of the settlement dispersed along the B4032 Winslow to Mursley Road, which winds through the village in a generally east-west direction.

The eastward approach to Winslow, along a winding country lane, is particularly attractive. As this road sweeps into the village, it is bordered by a wide grass verge and a distinguished group of trees. This part of the village is notable for its distinctive red brick dwellings and farm buildings, including the various barns and outbuildings around Home Farm situated on the south of the road. The flank walls of several of these front onto the road creating a strong sense of enclosure echoed on the northern side by a lower, though more extensive section of wall standing in front of a row of timber-framed, brick cottages.



Beyond Home Farm the road curves towards the south, with uninterrupted views towards the 13th Century Parish Church of St. Swithans. There is a significant break in the frontage at this point, created by an enclosed, irregularly shaped paddock which affords landscape views out across farmland to woodland beyond.

Smithfield End is a quiet picturesque part of the village, situated to the north of

Winslow Road and east of Station Road, a narrow lane which enters the village from the north. The square shaped block of land so enclosed, comprises a number of elevated paddocks and old orchards. Several interesting brick dwellings with thatched or tiled roofs can be found tucked away in the surrounding lanes, together with smaller cottages, such as Barrack Row which originated in the 15th Century.

As with Station Road, the approach from the south rises steadily towards the hub of the village. It is tree lined and flanked by high banks and hedges which preclude views into the village. The road passes to the east of Swanbourne House – a classically styled mansion built for the Fremantle Family in 1865 and set in extensively wooded grounds. The house is scarcely visible from the road and is now used as a Preparatory School.

On entering the village, at the junction of the Aylesbury, Winslow and Mursley Roads, the view suddenly opens out to reveal the imposing limestone features of the Parish Church with its battlemented square tower.

October 2008