

*This leaflet explains what a conservation area is and how it may affect you. It shows the boundary of one of the 33 conservation areas and points out some of the features which make it special.*

# Whitsbury



New  
Forest  
Conservation  
Areas

This attractive linear village forms part of the group of villages on the edge of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The village street with its hedges and low walls winds its way up to the wooded slopes of the Iron Age hillfort, a scheduled ancient monument. Perched above the straggling village of thatched timber-framed cottages and farms is the ancient stone and brick church of St Leonard with the old rectory alongside. Glebe House is a fine gentleman's residence dating from the 18th century in its small park. Carpenter's and Nippard's are good examples of 18th century brick farmhouses almost certainly encasing much earlier buildings while the turn of the century is represented by the typical red brick chapel and village hall. In spite of some modern development which has taken place just outside the conservation area the streetscene has changed little in the last hundred years or so.



View up the street from Nippard's Farm

The surrounding chalklands have been settled since earliest times. Flint implements dating from the Mesolithic period have been found indicating that the area was a focus for activity. Roman pottery and iron objects have also been found and some of these are now in Salisbury Museum. The hillfort dominates the top end of the village and it is easy to understand why its builders chose this site when you stand up on the footpaths and look at the views which extend for miles in all directions.

The manor belonged to the kings of England until the time of Henry I who granted it to the monastery of Reading. After the dissolution of the monasteries it moved into private hands and in 1623 it was bought by Sir John Cooper of Rockbourne. The old manor house has disappeared although its name lives on in the buildings of the racing stables situated on the fringe of the western hillfort ramparts.

A Church of England elementary school for 60 scholars was built by Edward Edwards in 1871. A memorial in the church commemorates his death in 1903. No trace remains of the school which has long since been demolished.



St Leonard's Church with its magnificent yew tree