

These are key features in the conservation area and the points relate to the numbered areas on the map.

**1** Whitsbury Castle Ditches is a multivallate hillfort and would have been a very impressive sight when first constructed. It has three banks and two ditches which enclose an area of about 6.5 hectares (16 acres). The banks and ditches are now overgrown with woodland while the interior is pasture. Flint finds from the Mesolithic period include a scraper and a blade. Roman pottery from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD has been found in gravel overlying the Iron Age occupation suggesting Roman and post-Roman occupation of this Iron Age fort. There are impressive views to the north and west from the public footpath around the outside of the banks.

**2** The exact date of the foundation of St Leonards Church - Grade II - is not known. However it formed part of the endowment of the monastery at Reading founded by Henry I and he died in 1119. The 18th century tower was rebuilt in 1878. In the chancel there are 19th century memorials to the Templeman and Purvis families. The south side of the churchyard is dominated by a very fine yew tree which is probably at least 200 years old and may be up to about 300 years.

**3** The village street scene has changed remarkably little over the last hundred years. Whitsbury is not on a through route and so only attracts local traffic and visitors. The narrow lane winds its way up the hill past cottages parallel and at right angles to it. The remaining agricultural buildings now have corrugated iron roofs, a cheap and easily fixed replacement introduced in the 19th century; they were probably once thatched.

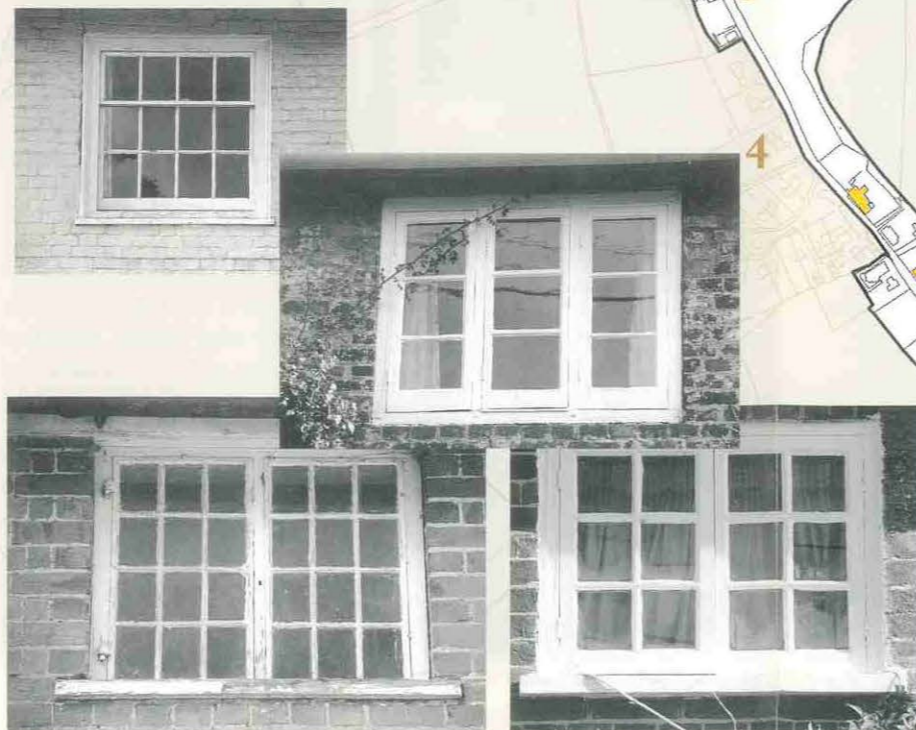
**4** Like all the villages around here the footpath system links the street with the fields behind the dwellings. The narrow steep path winds up from Carpenter's Farm past the parkland grounds of Glebe House and suddenly comes out of the woodland into the brightness of the churchyard.



Listed railings at Nippard's Farm



Typical outbuilding



A sample range of traditional window styles



These are some of the things that make Whitsbury special - they need to be looked after:

### History

- The relationship between the church and the settlement with its system of footpaths.

### Buildings

- The church and the old rectory form an important group.
- The brick houses of Carpenter's Farm and Nippard's Farm.
- The Manor House group of house and farm buildings of brick and timber frames with weather-boarding.
- Small cottages in English bond brickwork fronting or replacing timber frames with simple thatched roofs.
- Weather-boarded and corrugated iron agricultural buildings.

### Archaeology

- Whitsbury Castle Ditches is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- Evidence of occupation from the Mesolithic and Roman periods have been found.

### Landscape/Townscape

- The winding narrow village street with hedges.
- The cast iron railings in front of Nippards.
- The cottages north of Carpenter's Farm form an important tight-knit group.
- Cottages to the west are placed at right angles and those to the east parallel to the street.

### Setting

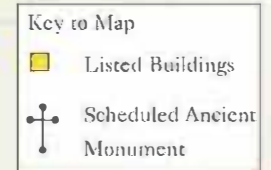
- Views down onto the village from the churchyard.
- Views north and west from Castle Ditches.



Barn at Carpenter's Farm



Methodist Church



Street scene at the turn of the century, very little altered today