

Clapham

Description of the Character and Appearance of the Conservation Area

Clapham is an attractive downland settlement with a strongly rural character. The Conservation Area, designated in May 1993, consists of two areas of contrasting form and character.

The first is based on the Western end of Clapham Street which contains principally Street fronted developments of varying ages and style which reflect the historic development of the settlement. These variations and the use of local materials (principally brick and flint), contribute towards an attractive linear street scene enhanced also by the existence of gaps and variety in front boundary demarcation (hedging, walling, fencing). Clapham Street contains a number of attractive buildings including the primary school, Numbers 172 to 175 and numbers 158 and 159 which are fine examples of Norfolk Estate Cottages of the 1840s; number 171, probably dating from the 17th century and numbers 155 and 156, a 17th century or earlier timber framed building currently being renovated. North house and south house are attractive large buildings set behind The Street frontage.

The rural character and setting of Clapham Street is also enhanced by the clear demarcation between the settlement and the fields and rural area beyond.

The second area, in contrast with more tightly knit character and appearance of Clapham Street is based on St Mary's Church, Church House and Clapham Farm. These form a very attractive, informal, traditional and loose group of buildings of particular architectural and historic interest; the Church dating from the 12th or 13th centuries and the Church House, originally a large farmhouse is a Grade II* star building of timber frame construction dating from the 17th century or earlier. The field to the south separates the group from the built up area based on Clapham Street and provides an open and rural setting and foreground to St Mary's Church, Church House and Clapham Farm.

Improvements to the visual appearance of the Conservation Area could include the undergrounding of the overhead telephone lines.

Extract from ADC Supplementary Planning Guidance