

HARDWICK CONSERVATION AREA

Designated 18th July 1990

The village of Hardwick lies north of Aylesbury, primarily on the eastern side of the A413 road to Buckingham. Ford Cottages, at the southern end of the village, are exceptional because they lie on the western side of the road, amongst many fine mature trees.



It is a compact village centred on a large square formed by The Green and Lower Road and contains a good array of Listed Buildings, distributed haphazardly throughout the village with no apparent order to their siting.

Although more modern development has been permitted within the village, such as along both West and North Views, this has not served to detract from the general form, character or appearance of the village.

An important feature of the village is the fine townscape and landscape views afforded from within it, south from the Church and Manor Farm towards Weedon and the River Thames, north from North View and Lower Road towards Whitchurch, east from Lower Road towards Aston Abbots and east from The Close between The Maltings and North View.

Along the western boundary with the A413 the seclusion and privacy of the village is maintained by high hedgerow and mature trees within the grounds of Hardwick Place, the trees flanking the A413 near Ford Cottages, and by high brick walling around Manor Farm. A curious feature of the village is the particularly large amount of walling which prevails, particularly around the older properties, and this lends an almost urban feel to some parts of the village.

The Church of St. Mary on the southern periphery of the village, is a Grade II* Listed Building. It commands the southern approach to the village and is prominent on the skyline, above the trees, as one approaches from the south. A monument in the churchyard, erected by Lord Nugent in 1818, commemorates the re-internment of the remains of 247 bodies believed to be those of soldiers killed in the Battle of Holman's Bridge in Aylesbury in 1642, during the English Civil War.

Other prominent Listed Buildings within the village include Poplars Farm, The Bell Public House and the Old Hardwick First School at the northern entrance of the village, also Rectory Cottage, Manor Farm and St. Mary's Cottage surrounding The Green.

Elsewhere other major buildings within the village, include the II* Listed Hardwick Place and Manor House Farmhouse on the south western periphery of the village. Their direct contribution towards the setting of the village are, however, rather limited by the extensive landscaping around their curtilages.

The incidence of trees and hedgerows within the village is a major factor contributing to its general setting and character. The most important groupings are those found around Hardwick Place, The Rectory, Rectory Cottage and The Bungalows on the western side of the village. Also, those in the grounds of The Maltings, on the northern edge of the village, those around Fern Cottage, Moat House, Manor House Farm and The Pits in Lower Road, those within the churchyard and those around Ford Cottages and along the A413, at the southern end of the village.

September 2008