

VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Enstone parish

Introduction: Landscape, Settlement, and Buildings

Enstone is a large rural parish in the limestone uplands south-east of Chipping Norton. Known as 'Enstone of the seven towns',¹ it included **Church and Neat Enstone** and (from west to east) the hamlets of **Chalford**, **Broadstone**, **Lidstone**, **Cleveley**, **Gagingwell**, **Radford**, and part of **Ditchley**, a wooded hamlet extending into Spelsbury. The parish church is located in Church Enstone, but Neat Enstone, on the main Woodstock–Chipping Norton road, was long the largest settlement, and by the early 18th century was a post town and coaching stop. A nearby grotto and waterworks attracted visitors from the 17th to the early 19th century. Outlying settlements shrank after the Black Death, with Broadstone and Chalford enclosed early, and Ditchley turned over to a single large farm and parkland attached to Ditchley Park, a mansion just over the parish boundary, which became the local seat of Enstone's lords from 1660. Remaining open fields were fully enclosed by 1844, and the coaching trade ended soon after with the arrival of the railway at Charlbury and Chipping Norton. Thereafter dwindling agricultural employment and council-house building reinforced Neat Enstone's role as the parish's main social focal point.



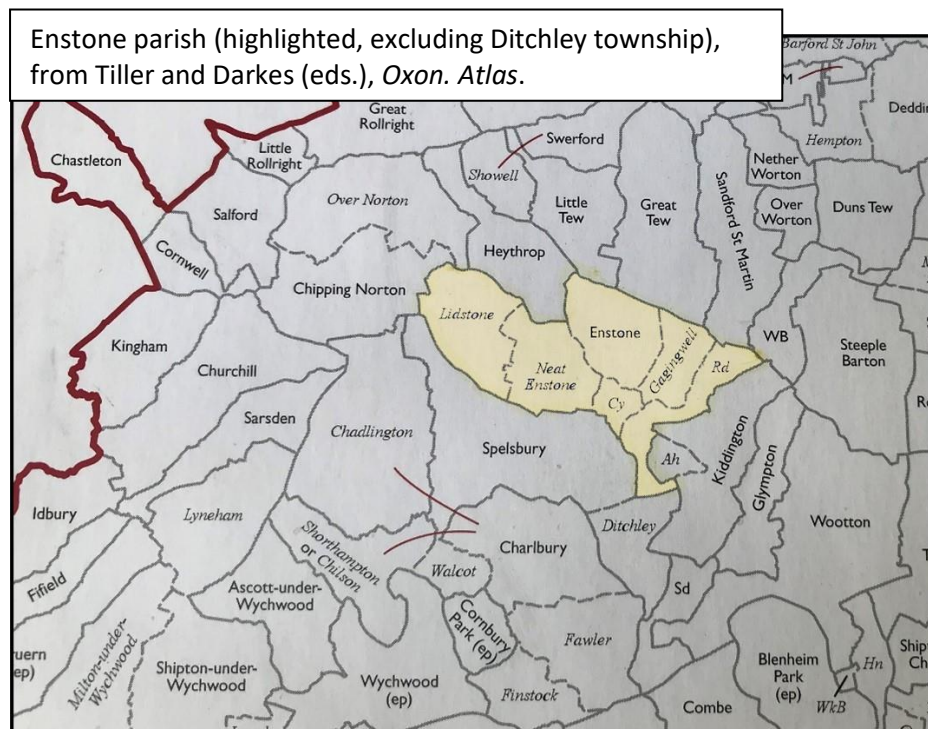
A view of Church Enstone, looking towards the Crown Inn.

¹ J. Jordan, *A Parochial History of Enstone in the County of Oxford* (1857), 3; *Lifting the Latch: A Life on the Land*, as told to S. Stewart by Mont Abbott of Enstone (2003 edn), 6.

LANDSCAPE, SETTLEMENT, AND BUILDINGS

Parish Boundaries

In 1881 the parish covered 6,245 a., making it the county's fifth largest.² Its boundaries derived from those of three separate early estates: the Enstone estate granted to Winchcombe abbey (Glos.) probably in 811, and the separate pre-Conquest manors of Chalford and Radford.³ The 19th-century northern boundary followed feeder streams around Heythrop Park before branching north-east to meet Green Lane, which it followed as far as Cuckold's Holt. From there it tracked field boundaries before re-joining a stream east of Oathill Farm. South of Radford it once more followed field bounds before heading south to take in a long tongue of land stretching as far as a stream formerly known as Boxden Lake in Kingswood Bottom.⁴ This south-eastern extension gave Enstone a portion of the woodland at Ditchley, which was shared with Spelsbury and with the royal manor of Bloxham some 13 miles to the north.⁵



² OS Area Bk. (1881); *VCH Oxon.* II, 215–24. The 1846 tithe award reckoned 6,177 a. (OHC, Enstone tithe award).

³ Below, landownership; and for Enstone manor bds, OHC, E36/3/1/E/2. Neighbouring Heythrop, Kiddington and Spelsbury may have also been defined in outline by the 9th century: *VCH Oxon.* XI, 133; below, Kiddington and Spelsbury.

⁴ OHC, E36/3/1/E/1–2; *PN Oxon.* II, 382 ('Boxden', 1300).

⁵ B. Schumer, *Wychwood: the Evolution of a Wooded Landscape* (1999 edn), 96; B. Schumer (ed.), *Oxfordshire Forests 1246–1609* (ORS 64, 2004), 9 n., 188–9 nn. Bloxham's woodland (King's Wood) was transferred to Stonesfield parish in the 13th cent.: *VCH Oxon.* XI, 183, 186.

The boundary with Spelsbury (which ran across Ditchley Park) was largely undefined as far as Deadman's Riding Wood in the 19th century, perhaps as a result of Sir Henry Lee's removal of field boundaries to form parkland around the house c.1605.⁶ Further west, the parish boundary followed the 'boundary of the people of Fulwell'⁷ in an irregular zig-zag course which probably marks the right-angled corners of former arable furlongs, before joining the Wychwood Way, an ancient route between Chipping Norton and Akeman Street.⁸ After crossing the River Glyme it cut east and then north (again with several zig-zags) past Southcombe in Chipping Norton.⁹ The only modern boundary changes came in 1985 when the Enstone part of Ditchley was transferred to Spelsbury in exchange for Fulwell, leaving the parish with 5,929 a.¹⁰

Internal township boundaries (of which Cleveley's were mentioned in 1341) can be traced on 18th- and 19th-century maps.¹¹ The Glyme separated the two Enstones and formed part of the boundary between Church Enstone and Cleveley, while other boundaries followed the limits of each township's open fields. Boundary markers included large stones, some of which may have been taken from prehistoric monuments.¹²

Landscape

Enstone occupies hilly and mainly open countryside, with a partly wooded southern extension at Ditchley.¹³ The River Glyme (which rises near Chipping Norton) cuts through the parish from the north-west, fed by numerous springs and by two tributary streams, of which one flows between the two Enstones and the other rises in Gagingwell.¹⁴ In the Middle Ages and later the Siltstone and Mudstone of the steep-sided river valley (at c.120 m.) supported meadow and pasture, while at Ditchley medieval assarting created numerous early closes, at least some of which were initially laid out as open fields with strips.¹⁵ Much of

⁶ Below, Spelsbury, landownership and econ. hist.

⁷ 'Foulwellingemere' (c.1278): *PN Oxon.* II, 350.

⁸ *VCH Oxon.* X, 127; XI, 183; below, communics.

⁹ OHC, tithe map; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XIV.12 and 16 (1881 edn).

¹⁰ West Oxfordshire (Parishes) Order 1985; *Census* 2011.

¹¹ OHC, PAR97/10/1D/3 (1341 ref.); *ibid.* E36/1/10/M/1 (1726 Ditchley map); *ibid.* Church and Neat Enstone enclo. awards; Bodl. MS C17:49 (111) (Gagingwell enclo. map, 1713); Brasenose Arch., B 14.1/37a3 (undated ?18th-cent. map of Broadstone and Lidstone); Ch. Ch. Arch., Maps Enstone 1 ('An Eye Sketch of Enstone Parish... 1776'). Township bdies mapped in A.G. Hann, 'Kinship and Exchange Relations within an Estate Economy: Ditchley, 1680–1750' (unpub. Oxford Univ. DPhil. thesis, 1999), vol. 2.

¹² HER, PRN 11330. For merestones, e.g. OHC, E36/3/1/CR/1.

¹³ For an impression of the landscape, *Lifting the Latch*, 5–6, 135–6, 197–8, 200.

¹⁴ OS Map, 1:25000, sheet 191 (1999 edn).

¹⁵ Below, econ. hist.

the rest of the parish (rising to c.214 m. near Southcombe in the north-west) comprised open fields overlying limestone, although Chalford and Broadstone saw some enclosure by c.1500,¹⁶ and Gagingwell and Radford in the 18th century, followed (on a larger scale) by the enclosure of Neat and Church Enstone in 1843–4. The enclosures introduced new hedged field boundaries,¹⁷ those north-east of Church Enstone being grubbed up in 1941–2 to establish a small military airfield, which closed after the war but was subsequently used by private gliding clubs and was recognised as a civil aerodrome in 1975.¹⁸ Surviving infrastructure includes the boarded-up control tower, ruined brick huts, and concrete tracks.¹⁹ Quarries for building and road repairs were established by the 17th century and probably earlier, notably in Gagingwell.²⁰



A ruined Second World War airfield building in Gagingwell.

Communications

The Woodstock–Chipping Norton road through Neat Enstone (the modern A44) supplied important early connections towards Worcester and Stratford-upon-Avon to the north-west

¹⁶ Geol. Surv. Map 1:50000 (solid and drift), sheet 218 (2007 edn); below, econ. hist.

¹⁷ e.g. OHC, Church and Neat Enstone enclo. awards.

¹⁸ K. Delve, *The Military Airfields of Britain: Northern Home Counties* (2007), 121; OS Map 1:10560, SP32NE (1938 and 1955 edns); *Witney and District Historical and Archaeological Society Newsletter* (Dec. 1978), p. 10; below, econ. hist.; social hist.

¹⁹ VCH fieldwork, Oct. 2023. For reused wartime bldgs: below, econ. hist.

²⁰ OS Maps 1:2,500, Oxon. XIV.16, XV.14, XX.4, XXI.1–2 (1881 edn); below, econ. hist. (non-agric.).

and with Oxford and London to the south-east.²¹ By the 17th century it was part of the preferred route from London to Aberystwyth,²² and the stretch between Oxford and Stratford was turnpiked in 1730.²³ Through-traffic encouraged the early establishment of hostelrys at Neat Enstone, which by c.1800 had gained the epithet 'Road Enstone'.²⁴ A branch called 'Old London Road', here a lane suppressed at enclosure in the 1840s, supplied an early route north-westwards via Chalford Green,²⁵ but there is no foundation to the claim that it and the road from Enstone to Kiddington via Cleveley and Radford represent the original main course of the Oxford highway.²⁶ In the north of the parish, Green Lane was part of an ancient drove route to Wootton,²⁷ and an inn was established at the Cuckold's Holt junction by the 1690s.²⁸ The Church Enstone to Bicester road (the B4030) through Gagingwell crossed the 13th-century or earlier bridge at Lower Heyford, and was turnpiked in 1793. That was connected with the Worcester Road by Stoney Bridge, which was mentioned in 1721 but was probably of considerably earlier origin.²⁹

North–south routes include the Great Tew to Charlbury road (the B4022), which skirts the Enstones. That route, turnpiked in 1800, gave access to Wychwood forest, and was known as the 'wood way' in the Middle Ages.³⁰ It crossed the Glyme at Woodford Bridge in Cleveley (mentioned in 1688), where the byname 'at bridge' (*ad pontem*) was documented in 1316;³¹ Chalford's medieval 'wood ford way' and Lidstone's 'wood way' probably crossed the earlier 'wood ford' there,³² while the 11th-century place names Chalford ('chalk ford') and

²¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1281–92, 420, 453; D. Royce (ed.), *Landboc sive Registrum Monasterii ... de Winchelcumba* (2 vols, 1892–1903), II, 202, mentioning 'Wyrecestrestret' in Cleveley's open fields c.1278; *VCH Oxon.* XII, 327.

²² J. Ogilby, *Britannia* (1675), London–Aberystwyth road; cf. OHC, E36/3/1/E/2 and E36/1/10/M/1 (the 'London road', 1718–26).

²³ *Oxon. Atlas*, 50–1. For 18th-cent. roads, Jefferys, *Oxon. Map* (1767); Davis, *Oxon. Map* (1797).

²⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 327, p. 275 (1802); Brewer, *Oxon.* 510. For inns, below, econ. hist. (non-agric.).

²⁵ Oriel College Arch., map of Chalford (1743); Jefferys, *Oxon. Map* (1767); Bryant, *Oxon. Map* (1823); OS Map 1:25,000, sheet 191 (1999 edn).

²⁶ As claimed in Jordan, *History of Enstone*, 16, 378–9, and repeated by F. Emery, *The Oxfordshire Landscape* (1974), 144.

²⁷ *VCH Oxon.* XI, 223, 247; R.M. Marshall, *Oxon. Byways* (1949), 30, 93–4; below (settlement).

²⁸ *VCH Oxon.* XI, 209, 223–4; below, econ. hist. (non-agric.).

²⁹ OHC, E36/3/1/CR/3. 'Church Enstone bridge' mentioned in 1660 was apparently the same structure: *ibid.* E36/3/1/CR/1.

³⁰ *Landboc*, II, 173 ('Wodeweye' and 'Wodeford' in Cleveley, c.1280).

³¹ *VCH Oxon.* XI, 224; OHC, E36/3/1/CR/1 (1668 ref.); TNA, E 179/161/8, rot. 3 m. 2d. (1316). For a descriptn of the bridge: H.J. Tollit, *Report upon County Bridges* (1878), 87–8

³² M. Lobel, *The History of Dean and Chalford* (ORS 17, 1935), 88 ('Wodeforddeswey' c.1300); Brasenose Arch., Lidstone 6 ('le Wodeweye', 13th cent.); *Landboc*, II, 173 ('Wodeweye' and 'Wodeford' in Cleveley, c.1280).

Radford ('riding ford') suggest other early river crossings.³³ A parallel road between Little Tew and Enstone was described as a *magna strata* c.1260.³⁴

Eighteenth-century turnpiking brought some improvement to main roads, although highway robberies continued sporadically,³⁵ and in 1763 a stone quarry on the outskirts of Neat Enstone was said to be a danger to travellers.³⁶ Toll gates were established on the Woodstock–Chipping Norton road in the far west of the parish (Burgess Gate) and on the Bicester road at Cuckold's Holt,³⁷ continuing until the roads were disturnpiked in 1877–8.³⁸ Changes to more minor routes included the diversion of roads in Ditchley in 1705, the stopping of a highway through 'the moores' in Gagingwell in 1713, and changes at enclosure in the 1840s, including the suppression of the Old London Road.³⁹ In the 1870s Albert Brassey constructed a new access road (The Drive) between his residence at Heythrop House and Enstone, which became a public road c.1928,⁴⁰ while Green Lane was cut in two in 1941–2 by the creation of the RAF airfield.⁴¹ By contrast the main road through Neat Enstone became a busy trunk road between the south coast ports and midlands, especially before the opening of the M40 extension to Birmingham in 1991.⁴²

Coaching, Carriers, and Post

Inns established from the 16th century served travellers on the main Worcester–London road through Neat Enstone.⁴³ In the 18th century innkeepers at the Talbot (now Enstone House) and Litchfield Arms supplied post-chaises for the gentry, and by 1786 William Morris of the Talbot ran an Oxford to Birmingham post coach,⁴⁴ a new and 'elegant' post coach from Chipping Norton to London calling there by 1817.⁴⁵ John Jolly (d. 1823) ran waggons to London, Birmingham, Worcester, and Stourbridge, and by the time his son and namesake

³³ *PN Oxon.* II, 348–9. Radford bridge, just south-west of Radford, was mentioned in 1725: OHC, E36/3/1/CR/3.

³⁴ *Oseney Cart.* IV, 223; *VCH Oxon.* XI, 247.

³⁵ Jordan, *History of Enstone*, 380–1; *Oxf Jnl Syn.* 25 Nov. 1776; 10 Nov. 1778, 11 Sept., 26 Nov. 1780. For milestones, HER, PRN 4399, 10039–40, 10050, 10092, 10149, 29237–9.

³⁶ OHC, E36/2/2/CR/134.

³⁷ *Oxf. Jnl*, 21 Dec 1793 (Cuckold's Holt); Bryant, *Oxon. Map* (1823). Burgess Gate (named presumably from its location on the boundary of Chipping Norton borough) was also a weighbridge: OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XIV.12 (1881 edn).

³⁸ Tollit, *Report upon County Bridges*, 23.

³⁹ Cal SP Dom. 1704–5, 114–16; Bodl. MS C17:49 (111); OHC, Church and Neat Enstone enclosure awards.

⁴⁰ *VCH Oxon.* XI, 132; OS Map 1:2,500, Oxon. XV.13 (1881 edn); OHC, PC97/A1/1; Enstone Local History Circle, 'A History of Enstone and Heythrop': copy of handwritten notes in OHC (1955 with later additions).

⁴¹ TNA, MT 78/29/17; OS Map 1:2500 SP 3926 (1976)

⁴² *Oxford Mail* 24 Feb. 1967 and 15 Feb. 1986; Enstone Parish Plan (2004), copy at OHC.

⁴³ Below, econ. hist. (non-agric.).

⁴⁴ *Oxf. Jnl* 21 July 1753, 23 Sept. 1763, 15 Oct. 1774, 11 Nov. 1786.

⁴⁵ *Oxford Univ. and City Herald* 27 Dec. 1817.

inherited the business at least 22 coaches and six waggons passed through Enstone each day.⁴⁶ Thereafter the arrival of the railway in the 1840s and the opening of railway stations at Charlbury (1853) and Chipping Norton (1855) brought the end of coaching and long-distance waggons, although local carrier services continued, and in 1883 a Church Enstone carrier travelled weekly to Banbury, Chipping Norton, and Oxford.⁴⁷

Carriers were replaced in the 1920s by motor omnibuses supplied by the Oxford Bus Company and by Worth's Motor Services, established in Neat Enstone in 1922 initially as a garage repairing motorcars and bicycles.⁴⁸ The Adams family also ran a motor waggon which moved supplies between their farm and shop in Neat Enstone and Charlbury station, and was available for hire.⁴⁹ By 1960 Worth's had a dozen buses, and ran an Oxford–Enstone service six times a day; it also supplied private-hire coaches, which latterly took over entirely from its scheduled services.⁵⁰ The Stagecoach company's Oxford–Chipping Norton bus still ran through Enstone hourly in 2023, while a community bus service set up in 1982 supplied a once-a-day connection with Witney on four days of the week.⁵¹

Enstone was a post town by 1708, acquiring money order services as early as 1792, a savings bank in 1861, and telegraph facilities in 1870.⁵² The Litchfield Arms and later the Talbot served as a posting house.⁵³ The post office, in Neat Enstone, was downgraded from a head to a sub-post office in 1893, but continued in 2023, having moved to the village shop (Adam's Stores) in 1998.⁵⁴ In the late 19th century letters came by train to Charlbury railway station, except those for Chalford which were sent by road from Chipping Norton. Local staff made deliveries on foot, by horse, and by bicycle, the first motorised van being introduced in the early 1920s.⁵⁵

Population

⁴⁶ Ibid. 12 July 1823; *Pigot's Dir. Oxon.* (1830 and 1842 edns); Jordan, *History of Enstone*, 378–9.

⁴⁷ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883).

⁴⁸ Ibid. (1924 and later edns); *Lifting the Latch*, Oxford bus photo (c.1925) btw pp. 110–11; J. Sykes, *Enstone: Report and Policy Statement* (1977): copy in OHC; OHC, OXO000783 (1988 interviews); below, econ. hist. (non-agric.).

⁴⁹ *Lifting the Latch*, 147–9.

⁵⁰ *Oxf. Times*, 24 June 1960; OHC, Banbury to Witney timetable (1976); Sykes, *Enstone: Report and Policy Statement*; *Oxf. Mail*, 28 May 1997, 2 Nov. 2004.

⁵¹ <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/oxfordshire/s3/oxford-chipping-norton/xoas003.o>;

<http://www.villagerbus.co.uk/index.php/history-of-the-villager>;

http://www.villagerbus.co.uk/images/Villager_V26-4.pdf (all accessed Aug. 2023).

⁵² K. Smith, 'Oxfordshire Post Offices' (revised 2022), accessed (Aug. 2023) at

<https://www.gbps.org.uk/tools/ukpo/pdfs/england/Oxfordshire.pdf>.

⁵³ *Pigot's Dir. Oxon.* (1830 and 1842 edns); Gardner's *Dir. Oxon.* (1852).

⁵⁴ 'Deputy Postmaster Appointments 1787–1849', accessed (Aug. 2023) at

<https://www.gbps.org.uk/information/po-appointments/names.php>; Slatter's *Dir. Oxon.* (1850); Gardner's *Dir. Oxon.* (1852); *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1854), Smith, 'Oxon. Post Offices'; *Witney Gaz.* 9 Dec. 1998; G. Binns (ed.), *The Story of Enstone* (1999), 22.

⁵⁵ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883); *Lifting the Latch*, 101–2.

Sixty-one tenants (including eight slaves or *servi*) were recorded in 1086, 47 of them on the bishop of Winchcombe's Enstone estate and 14 in Radford,⁵⁶ while in addition some of the 21 tenants recorded on the Dean and Chalford estate lived probably at Chalford.⁵⁷ Most presumably represented a household. By 1279 Enstone manor (which by then included Radford, Cleveley, Ditchley, Gagingwell, and Lidstone) had 88 tenants, and Chalford manor and the Chalford part of Dean and Chalford 21.⁵⁸ Neat Enstone (with 31 taxpayers) was the largest settlement by 1316, followed by Gagingwell (with 20), Church Enstone (16), Cleveley (15), Radford (14), Ditchley (10), and Lidstone (three).⁵⁹ Ten years earlier Chalford had eight taxpayers, but Broadstone only four.⁶⁰

Customary holdings on Enstone manor were being abandoned by the early 1340s, apparently reflecting agrarian difficulties,⁶¹ and the Black Death seems to have had a severe effect. In 1377 poll tax was paid by only 34 inhabitants over the age of 14 in Neat Enstone, compared with 23 taxpayers (possibly each representing a household) in 1327. Similar falls were recorded in Radford (29 individuals compared with 14 earlier taxpayers), Gagingwell (26 compared with 19), and Broadstone (with only six poll-tax payers).⁶² Derelict houses were mentioned in 15th-century court rolls, and abandoned house plots across the parish suggest long-term demographic decline.⁶³ Neat Enstone probably remained the largest settlement in 1524 (with nine taxpayers), followed by Church Enstone (with eight), Cleveley (seven), and Radford (seven). Gagingwell, Ditchley and Lidstone were smaller,⁶⁴ and Broadstone and Chalford seem to have been reduced to single farms.⁶⁵ Even so an estimate of 40 householders in the parish as a whole in 1548 was clearly an underestimate, since Enstone manor alone had 54 tenant houses in 1540.⁶⁶

Occasional later outbreaks of disease included epidemics in 1597 and 1609,⁶⁷ though in 1642 the obligatory protestation oath was sworn by 124 men, suggesting an adult

⁵⁶ DB, ff. 157, 161.

⁵⁷ Ibid. f. 157v.; Lobel, *Dean and Chalford*, 3.

⁵⁸ Rot. Hund. II, 739–42. Tenants of 8½ yardlands at Broadstone were not listed.

⁵⁹ TNA, E 179/161/8, rot. 3, mm. 1 and d. and mm. 2 and d. The 1306 and 1327 retns name fewer taxpayers, but suggest a similar ranking.

⁶⁰ TNA, E 179/161/10, rots. 11d, 13 and d.

⁶¹ Gloucestershire Archives, D678/1/M1/1/1–2.

⁶² Poll Taxes 1377–81, ed. Fenwick, 290–1. No figs. survive for Church Enstone or Cleveley, while Chalford was presumably included with Dean. Thirty-one people were taxed at Radford in 1381: *ibid.* 333.

⁶³ e.g. Gloucestershire Archives, D678/1/M1/1/15; below, settlement.

⁶⁴ TNA, E 179/161/170; E 179/161/177; E 179/161/198.

⁶⁵ Below, econ. hist. (medieval).

⁶⁶ *Chant. Cert.* 33 ('housing people'); TNA, SC 2/175/1, ff. 25–7.

⁶⁷ OHC, PAR97/1/R1/1.

population of c.250.⁶⁸ A hundred houses were assessed for hearth tax in 1662,⁶⁹ and in 1676 there were an estimated 250 adults in the parish, suggesting mid-century stagnation.⁷⁰ In 1738 the rector noted c.140 houses,⁷¹ and the number of baptisms and marriages (as well as tenants lodging ‘inmates’) grew significantly during the 18th century,⁷² leaving a population of 912 (in 197 houses) in 1801. That grew to 1,249 by 1851, and 20 years later the population of Neat Enstone was 322, Church Enstone 245, Cleveley 166, Lidstone 102, Radford 89, Chalford 88, Gagingwell 55, and the Enstone part of Ditchley 27. Subsequent decline, especially from the 1890s, left the overall population at 855 in 1921, but thereafter an increase to 969 by 1951 was followed by slight further growth to 1,241 in 2021, thanks partly to new housebuilding and to the inclusion of Fulwell from 1985.⁷³

Settlement

Prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon Settlement

Mesolithic activity is suggested by a microlith found north-east of Leys Farm,⁷⁴ while a significant Neolithic presence is indicated by remains of burial chambers and surface finds.⁷⁵ The name Enstone (‘Enna’s stone’) relates apparently to the portal dolmen located in Enstone Firs,⁷⁶ and remains of another burial chamber have been found at Lidstone,⁷⁷ a name which (like Broadstone) indicates above-ground remains still visible in the early medieval period.⁷⁸ A ‘horestone’ in Lidstone’s fields was mentioned in 1331,⁷⁹ the name being later transferred to the dolmen at Enstone. Cropmarks between Cleveley and Gagingwell include a possible long mortuary enclosure,⁸⁰ and flint tools have been found

⁶⁸ *Prot. Retns*, 86–7.

⁶⁹ TNA, E 179/255/3, mm. 29 (Church Enstone), 30 (Cleveley), 32 (Lidstone, Chalford and Broadstone), 34 (Fulwell and Ditchley), 35 (Gagingwell), 40 (Neat Enstone), 42 (Radford). Cf. *Hearth Tax Oxon.* 167–8, 172, 185.

⁷⁰ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 422.

⁷¹ *Secker’s Visit*, 59.

⁷² Hann, ‘Ditchley’, 94–6, incl. regional context; OHC, E36/3/1/CR/3 (for ‘inmates’ in the 1730s).

⁷³ *Census*, 1801–2021.

⁷⁴ HER, PRN 11481.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.* PRN 2256, 3893, 5262, 5596, 8802, 11482, 3311, 12951, 1271. For the local context: *VCH Oxon.* I, 239–41; Lobel, Dean and Chalford, 1–2; *Oxon. Atlas*, 10–13.

⁷⁶ H.E.L. Dryden, ‘The Dolmens at Rollright and Enstone’, *OAS Rep.* 37 (1899), 47–9; O.G.S. Crawford, *Long Barrows of the Cotswolds* (1925), 159–61; HER, PRN 2256; NHLE, no. 1012989 (Hoar Stone).

⁷⁷ HER, PRN 3893; *Oxonienia* 35 (1970), 103; 43 (1978), 241; Binns (ed.), *The Story of Enstone*, 71–2. For stones found in a field to the SW, HER, PRN 1565.

⁷⁸ *PN Oxon.* II, 347, 349.

⁷⁹ Lobel, *Dean and Chalford*, 92.

⁸⁰ HER, PRN 16876.

especially in the north of the parish.⁸¹ Bronze-Age remains comprise numerous barrows and ring-ditches,⁸² as well as surface finds.⁸³

Mid to late Iron-Age reorganisation (c.400 BC to 43 AD) included the construction of a dozen or so Banjo enclosures identified in aerial photos,⁸⁴ some of them associated with trackways and further enclosures.⁸⁵ Those were probably farmsteads or corrals for livestock,⁸⁶ and surface finds include pottery, burnt stone, and daub.⁸⁷ The extensive North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch enclosure, perhaps created around the time of the Roman conquest, cuts across the parish's southern tongue.⁸⁸ Extensive Roman remains to its south include a winged corridor villa at Ditchley, established c.70 AD and apparently largely abandoned c.200 AD, before being reoccupied in the 4th century.⁸⁹ Further north, pottery and burnt stone found south of Enstone Firs may indicate a kiln,⁹⁰ and a Roman hypocaust was uncovered close to the River Glyme in a garden at Neat Enstone.⁹¹ Pottery scatters suggest further settlement near Upper Farm in Cleveley⁹² and east and north of Leys Farm,⁹³ both sites lying close to the westernmost of two probable north–south roads which may have connected the area with Akeman Street c.2½ miles south of Ditchley.⁹⁴ Very late Roman activity is suggested by an early 5th-century coin hoard found c.600 m. north-north-east of the villa at Ditchley.⁹⁵

⁸¹ Ibid. PRN 12951, 5262, 5596, 8802, 11482, 3311.

⁸² VCH Oxon. I, 243; Jordan, *History of Enstone*, 29–30; HER, PRN 5595, 1271, 1273, 17053, 13457, 13890, 13421, 16876, 1563, 9200, 17070, 12214, 16177, 13890, 1579.

⁸³ HER, PRN 9779, 11480, 12952, and possibly 4996 and 5966.

⁸⁴ Ibid. PRN 9197, 8800, 15968, 12215, 13414, 17060, 17132–17133, 17131, 27566, 5716, 17130, 15871; A.T.O. Lang, 'From Ceremony to Stock: Banjo Enclosures of the North Oxfordshire Uplands', (unpub. University of Nottingham BA thesis, 2001): copy in OHC; idem, 'Defining Banjo Enclosures: Investigations, Interpretations, and Understanding in the Iron Age of Southern Britain', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 82 (2016), pp. 341–61, incl. Fig. 7.

⁸⁵ e.g. HER, PRN 9197, 17133, 17130; and for a further prehist. enclosure and trackway, ibid. 11753.

⁸⁶ For indication of internal postholes, HER, PRN 15968.

⁸⁷ HER, PRN 8800, 17060, 27566; cf. 'An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Enstone Airfield, Oxfordshire' (unpubl. John Moore Heritage Services report, 2018), for a nearby late Iron-Age settlement N of Green Lane in Gt Tew: accessed (Aug. 2023) at

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/organisationDetails.xhtml?organisationId=564>.

⁸⁸ D.B. Harden, 'Excavations on Grim's Dyke, North Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia* 2 (1937), 75–6, 79; J. Blair, 'The North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch: New Observations South of Akeman Street', *Oxoniensia* 86 (2021), 1–7; OS Map 1:2,500, Oxon. XXI.10 (1922 edn).

⁸⁹ C.A. Ralegh Radford, 'The Roman Villa at Ditchley, Oxon.', *Oxoniensia* 1 (1936), 24–69; P. Booth, 'Ralegh Radford and the Roman Villa at Ditchley: A Review', *Oxoniensia* 64 (1999), 39–49. For a tessellated pavement to the NW, found in the 1870s, OS Map 1:2,500, Oxon. XXI.10 (1922 edn). and for a villa at Callow Hill (just outside the parish), HER, PRN 1226.

⁹⁰ HER, PRN 11972 (just over the Spelsbury boundary).

⁹¹ Ibid. PRN 5965.

⁹² Ibid. PRN 11754.

⁹³ Ibid. PRN 5426, 9453–4.

⁹⁴ Ibid. PRN 11483, 29644; V. Wickham Steed, 'Roman Road Ditchley to Hordley, 1957–8', *Top. Oxon.* 2 (Spring 1959), 5–6, with map in ibid. 3 (Autumn 1959).

⁹⁵ C.H.V. Sutherland, 'A Late Roman Coin Hoard from Kiddington', *Oxoniensia* 1 (1936), 70–9; Ralegh Radford, 'The Roman Villa at Ditchley', fig. 7, showing it just over the Kiddington boundary. A

Little is known of early Anglo-Saxon settlement in the parish, but some hiatus may be suggested by the fact that Roman routes had little influence on the later road network. The wooded character of the parish's southern part is reflected in the Old English place-names Ditchley and Cleveley, the former meaning 'wood or clearing by the ditch' (a reference to Grim's Ditch), and the latter 'wood or clearing on a cliff'.⁹⁶ Further north, a more open landscape is suggested by names relating to the prehistoric stones at Broadstone, Enstone, and Lidstone, which incorporate the Old English personal names 'Brada', 'Enna', and 'Lēodwine'.⁹⁷ Possibly those recalled real or imagined past owners of local farms. The large Enstone estate was apparently established by the early 9th century, presumably including a manorial site which may (as later) have been in Church Enstone.⁹⁸ Small settlements elsewhere in the parish may have also existed, both Chalford and Radford (which were certainly extant by 1066) sharing a suffix ('ford') which is well attested in the period before c.730.⁹⁹

Medieval Settlement

The two hamlets of 'Church' (or 'Over') Enstone and 'Neat' (or 'Nether') Enstone face each other across the Glyme valley, and initially shared a field system.¹⁰⁰ From c.1300, however, each had its own fields and was separately taxed.¹⁰¹ As in the 17th century, Church Enstone's houses probably lay close together near the parish church (established by the 12th century), along with the adjacent manorial site, rectory house, and vicarage house.¹⁰² Neat Enstone was the larger settlement by the early 14th century, however, most likely reflecting its position on the London to Worcester road,¹⁰³ and probably had a more linear plan as later. Additional early occupation east of the main road is suggested by a large quantity of 12th- to 13th-century pottery found in a garden on the northern part Chapel Lane, a road which appears to enclose a former green.¹⁰⁴

similar hoard was found nearby in the 18th cent. (*VCH Oxon.* I, 329), and PAS records include numerous late 4th-century coins from the parish.

⁹⁶ *PN Oxon.* II, 348, 379–80 (recorded from 1208 and 1194 respectively).

⁹⁷ *Ibid.* 347, 349, noting the possibility that the first element in Broadstone could be 'brād' (broad).

⁹⁸ Below, landownership.

⁹⁹ B. Cox, 'The Place-Names of the Earliest English Records', *Journal of the English Place-Name Society* 8 (1975–6), 66; DB, ff. 157v., 161.

¹⁰⁰ *Landboc*, II, 174. *PN Oxon.* II, 349 suggests that 'Neat' may be 'nēat' (cattle), though Nether Enstone ('Netherenstan') was mentioned in 1390: *Oxon. Sessions of the Peace* (ORS), 103. Cf. Schumer, *Oxon. Forests*, 120 (Over Enstone); OHC, E36/18/10/E/2 ('the church town', 1690).

¹⁰¹ TNA, E 179/161/10; below, econ. hist.

¹⁰² OHC, E36/3/1/E/2; E36/3/7/M/1 (sketch map, c.1710); Jefferys, *Oxon. Map* (1767); below, landownership; relig. hist.

¹⁰³ Above (communics; popn).

¹⁰⁴ HER, PRN 13236; OHC, Enstone tithe award and map; and for signs of late-medieval shrinkage in this area, Binns (ed.), *The Story of Enstone*, 53. The lane is named from a former Wesleyan chapel built there in 1811.

The parish's other settlements were also polyfocal, although none followed the Enstones in splitting into independent villis. Chalford, in the west of the parish, now comprises just a farmhouse and a handful of houses at Old Chalford, together with a 19th-century farmhouse at Chalford Oaks, but c.1300 it covered a wider area, encompassing both 'Over' and 'Nether' Chalford.¹⁰⁵ Well-preserved earthworks at Nether Chalford (south of the Glyme) indicate houses laid out along a route leading to a ford, while traces of a two-cell building in a rectangular enclosure, aligned east–west, probably mark the site of a parochial chapel established by c.1175. A large enclosure nearby may mark a former manorial site.¹⁰⁶ Separate earthworks to the north-west, near Old Chalford farm, probably represent part of the site of Upper or Over Chalford, which may have been focused on the north side of the river.¹⁰⁷



Part of the well-preserved earthworks of the medieval settlement of Nether Chalford.

Nearby Lidstone survived in the 18th and 19th centuries as a clutch of roadside houses on a steep slope south of the Glyme, with a detached mill to the north, but may have been considerably larger in the Middle Ages.¹⁰⁸ A substantial area of medieval settlement to

¹⁰⁵ Lobel, *Dean and Chalford*, 89–90; below. 'Little Chalford' was mentioned in 1285: *PN Oxon.* II, 348.

¹⁰⁶ C.J. Bond, 'Grassy Hummocks and Stone Foundations: Fieldwork and Deserted Medieval Settlements in the South-West Midlands, 1945–1985', in M. Aston et al., *The Rural Settlements of Medieval England* (1989), 138, 142–3 and Fig. 7.2; HER, PRN 947; below, relig. hist.

¹⁰⁷ HER, PRN 3892 and 28121.

¹⁰⁸ e.g. OHC, tithe map.

the north-west is indicated by finds of 12th-century pottery and by well-preserved earthworks, including house platforms and an enclosure marked by standing stones, which may represent another former chapel yard. A separate area of earthworks close to springs on the east side of the road may mark additional house sites.¹⁰⁹

In the parish's eastern part, the hamlet of Cleveley is spread around road junctions, with earthworks in pasture closes suggesting additional medieval house sites.¹¹⁰ The name 'Upper Cleveley' was applied to the settlement's north-western part by 1400.¹¹¹ Radford and Gagingwell's layouts appear to have been similarly irregular, although in both cases springs probably provided focal points,¹¹² along with Gagingwell's substantial late-medieval stone wayside cross.¹¹³ Gagingwell's greater extent in the 13th and early 14th centuries (when it may have been second in size only to Neat Enstone) may be reflected in extensive earthworks especially north of the main street (the present-day B4030),¹¹⁴ although some of those appear to be the result of quarrying.¹¹⁵ The wooded hamlet of Ditchley, which extended into Spelsbury, probably had a similarly scattered layout with houses located along tracks,¹¹⁶ while the byname 'atte Boxe' (recorded in 1272) suggests one or more homesteads near Box wood.¹¹⁷

Widespread late-medieval contraction is reflected both by those earthwork remains and by documentary mention of vacant house plots (or 'tofts').¹¹⁸ Lidstone may be unusual in that much of its shrinkage probably occurred before 1316, when it already seems to have been very small.¹¹⁹ Chalford was largely deserted before 1480, Old Chalford Farm representing a partial survival (or later replacement) of the medieval settlement.¹²⁰ The picture was apparently similar at Broadstone, while earthworks at Cleveley, Gagingwell, and Radford indicate further partial abandonment.¹²¹

¹⁰⁹ HER, PRN 3894.

¹¹⁰ Ibid. PRN 5911, 8069, 877; Binns (ed.), *The Story of Enstone*, 53; OHC, Enstone tithe map.

¹¹¹ OHC, PAR97/10/1D/14. The 'south part of Cleveley' was mentioned c.1278: Landboc, II, 202.

¹¹² OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XV.14 and XXI.3 (1881 edn).

¹¹³ HER, PRN 2569; NHLE, no. 1052803 (Wayside Cross).

¹¹⁴ HER, PRN 975; OHC, POX0452882 (1981 aerial photo); Binns (ed.), *The Story of Enstone*, 54; above (popn).

¹¹⁵ VCH fieldwork, Oct. 2023. For quarrying at Gagingwell: below, econ. hist.

¹¹⁶ OHC, E36/1/10/M/1 shows those surviving in 1726. For an excavated structure identified (on slim evidence) as medieval, 'An Archaeological Watching Brief at Ditchley Park, Enstone, Oxfordshire' (unpubl. report for John Moore Heritage Services, 2013), 26–9: accessed (Aug. 2023) at <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/issue.xhtml?recordId=1121274&recordType=GreyLitSeries>.

¹¹⁷ Schumer, *Oxon. Forests*, 56.

¹¹⁸ TNA, SC 2/175/1 (dated 1540); Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 769, f. 25 (Gagingwell, 1559); above.

¹¹⁹ C.J. Reeves, 'A Medieval Village', *Oxoniensia* 36 (1971), 49–51, and HER, PRN 948, both mis-identifying the site as Over Chalford/Broadstone; Brasenose Arch., B 14.1/37a3; above (popn).

¹²⁰ K.J. Allison, M.W. Beresford and J.G. Hurst, *The Deserted Villages of Oxfordshire* (1965), 34; below, landownership; econ. hist.

¹²¹ Above (incl. popn).

Sixteenth-Century and Later Settlement

The parish's settlements seem to have experienced little growth in the 16th and early 17th centuries. Lidstone had only nine adult male inhabitants by 1642, and Chalford and the Enstone part of Ditchley just five each,¹²² while 20 years later 29 houses were assessed for hearth tax at Neat Enstone, 21 at Cleveley, 16 at Church Enstone, and nine at Gagingwell. Another 17 were spread across Lidstone, Chalford, and Broadstone (most of them probably at Lidstone), with seven at Radford and just one (Ditchley Park) at Ditchley.¹²³ In the early 18th century Church Enstone included houses along the street leading to the church and on the parallel street to the south, with a cluster of cottages east of the churchyard.¹²⁴ A map of 1713 shows some dozen houses at Gagingwell, and a more schematic 18th-century plan indicates eight at Lidstone.¹²⁵ A farmhouse was built in Old Chalford c.1695, and another at Cuckold's Holt in Gagingwell around the same time,¹²⁶ while the 18th and early 19th centuries saw some small-scale infilling and some new labourers' cottages built at Broadstone and Chalford.¹²⁷ A field barn at Chalford Oaks was upgraded to a farmstead between 1812 and 1823,¹²⁸ and other outlying farmsteads (some with similar origins) were built mainly after enclosure in 1844, amongst them Litchfield Farm and Furlong Farm.¹²⁹

Later development was concentrated in Neat Enstone, including council houses built in the late 1920s on The Drive and (in larger numbers) from the late 1940s to 1960s in Cleveley Road and Quarry Close.¹³⁰ The Litchfield Arms (demolished in 1974) was replaced a few years later by a small private housing development,¹³¹ with more private building at Venvell Close and The Spinneys, extended into Braybrook Close. A small amount of affordable housing was supplied at Clay Hill Close in 1992 (on former allotment land) and later at Chapel Lane, while a private development on the Oxford Road (called Enstone Leys) was under construction in 2023, comprising 29 houses in shared ownership or for rent.¹³²

¹²² *Prot. Retns*, 86–7. For a new-built cottage in Church Enstone in 1634, OHC, E36/3/1/E/1.

¹²³ TNA, E 179/255/3, mm. 29–30, 32, 34–5, 40, 42. Cf. *Hearth Tax Oxon.* 167–8, 172, 185.

¹²⁴ OHC, E36/3/7/M/1.

¹²⁵ Bodl. MS C17:49 (111); Brasenose Arch. B 14.1/37a3.

¹²⁶ Lobel, *Dean and Chalford*, 70; NHLE, no. 1052800 (Cuckolds Holt Farmhouse); Bodl. MS C17:49 (111) ('the Holt'); below, econ. hist.

¹²⁷ For cottages on the manorial waste, OHC, E36/3/1/E/2; E36/3/15/D/1.

¹²⁸ Oriel College Arch., DEL2; and for the early 18th-cent. barns, NHLE, nos. 1368058 and 1052795.

¹²⁹ OHC, Church and Neat Enstone enclo. awards; *ibid.* tithe map; OS Map 1:2500. Oxon. XXI.1 and XV.3 (1881 edn).

¹³⁰ TNA, HLG 49/1194; OHC, PC97/A2/1–2 (par. council mins); *Oxf. Times*, 24 June 1960 (mentioning 60–70 new council houses); Enstone Local History Circle, 'A History of Enstone and Heythrop'.

¹³¹ *Oxf. Mail*, 16 May 1974; Sykes, *Enstone: Report and Policy Statement; Lifting the Latch*, 39, 227.

¹³² *Witney Gaz.* 1 Aug. 1991 and 19 Nov. 1992 (eight houses); Sykes, *Enstone: Report and Policy Statement; Enstone Parish Plan*; Binns (ed.), *The Story of Enstone*, 14; VCH fieldwork (June 2023).

Electricity was introduced from the late 1930s and piped water in 1957.¹³³ A waterworks at Old Chalford, established by Chipping Norton borough in 1900, served the town rather than Enstone.¹³⁴

The Built Character

Surviving older houses, none obviously earlier than the 17th century, are mostly of coursed grey limestone rubble, some of them with ashlar or brown Marlstone (or 'ironstone') dressings and quoins.¹³⁵ Some stone slate and thatch survives, but Welsh slate and concrete tiles are now widespread.¹³⁶ The parish's only surviving medieval buildings (described below) are the church and the large stone-built and stone-slatted rectorial barn in Church Enstone.¹³⁷ Lost medieval structures at Chalford and Lidstone had stone foundations and included some two-roomed buildings apparently without cross passages, with others of just a single room,¹³⁸ while a chamber intended for individual occupation in Enstone in 1341 had internal dimensions of 20 ft by 12 ft.¹³⁹ Medieval domestic use of roofing slates is suggested by local bynames and by later evidence of slate pits,¹⁴⁰ and a chimney was apparently mentioned in a now-lost deed of 1403.¹⁴¹

Seventeenth- and 18th-century building work is much in evidence, although most houses remained relatively modest in size.¹⁴² In 1662 the great majority had three hearths or fewer, those assessed on four or more hearths being restricted to Neat Enstone (which had six of them), Church Enstone (four), and Cleveley and Radford (two each).¹⁴³ Wooden lintels and casement windows remain widespread, alongside 'polite' 18th-century and later features including symmetrical frontages, sash windows, and roof parapets. Piecemeal upgrading is evident at the so-called Manor House in Church Enstone, a probably 17th-century two-bay and two-storeyed farmhouse which was rebuilt in the 18th century, apparently by the locally prominent Marshall family. An east wing and extra bay (now a separate dwelling called West

¹³³ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1807/1; Enstone Local History Circle, 'A History of Enstone and Heythrop'.

¹³⁴ VCH Oxon. XXI, forthcoming.

¹³⁵ A.T. Jones, *Church Enstone: A Sketch Map of the Principal Points of Interest* (CPRE, 1977); E. Marshall, *An Account of the Township of Church Enstone...* (1868), 10–11; VCH fieldwork (June 2023). An early (and unusual) example of brick is the Wesleyan chapel of 1811 in Neat Enstone: below, relig. hist.

¹³⁶ For thatched roofs, e.g. NHLE, nos. 1368059 (Pinfolds); Enstone Local History Circle, 'A History of Enstone and Heythrop'; Binns (ed.), *The Story of Enstone*, 27–8.

¹³⁷ Below, landownership (rectory est.); relig. hist. (church archit.).

¹³⁸ Bond, 'Grassy Hummocks and Stone Foundations', 143.

¹³⁹ Gloucestershire Archives, D678/1/M1/1/1.

¹⁴⁰ Below, econ. hist. (non-agric.: crafts).

¹⁴¹ Jordan, *History of Enstone*, 217–23.

¹⁴² Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 309–10.

¹⁴³ TNA, E 179/255/3.

Manor) were added c.1800, and shortly afterwards the whole building was heightened to create a useable attic storey.¹⁴⁴ Broad Close, on the Little Tew road to the north, is an early 18th-century gentleman's residence with a symmetrical three-window front of c.1790, incorporating 12-pane sashes,¹⁴⁵ while the more modest (and more irregular) Five Chimneys retains 17th-century chamfered beams and early 18th-century panelling in a first-floor room.¹⁴⁶



Substantial houses elsewhere in the parish include Radford House (most likely built by the Marten family), its mid 17th-century L-plan incorporating a double-gabled two-windowed front with stone mullioned windows. The butt-purlin roof has re-used medieval smoke-blackened timbers, and internal features include stop-chamfered beams, 17th- and 18th-century doors, and a stone fireplace with moulded mantle of c.1700.¹⁴⁷ Manor Farmhouse in Lower Cleveley is (along with its stone gate piers) of late 17th- or early 18th-century date, its sash-windowed front, the result of remodelling c.1800, featuring a central gable above a gabled stone porch.¹⁴⁸ The 17th-century mullioned and transomed Upper Farm in Upper Cleveley, extended in the early 18th century, includes an impressive detached rectangular dovecot.¹⁴⁹ Smaller houses include semi-detached cottages or cottage

¹⁴⁴ D.R. Clark, 'Manor House, Church Enstone' (OBR Rep. 487, 2022); cf below, social hist.

¹⁴⁵ Enstone Local History Circle, 'A History of Enstone and Heythrop', incl. photos and plan; NHLE, no. 1200418 (Broad Close); Country Life, 16 Sept. 2017.

¹⁴⁶ NHLE, no. 1052799 (Five Chimneys); Enstone Local History Circle, 'A History of Enstone and Heythrop', incl. photos and plan.

¹⁴⁷ NHLE, no. 1052813 (Radford House); OHC, E36/3/1/E/1 (Thos. Marten, 1634); TNA, E 179/255/3, m. 42.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid. nos 1052810 (Manor Farmhouse); 1368065 and 1300784 (gate piers).

¹⁴⁹ Ibid. no. 1200473 (Upper Farmhouse); J. Bond, 'Cleveley Dovecote', SMA (1979), 87–8; N. Fenner, 'Upper Farm, Cleveley: Historic Building Assessment and Heritage Impact Assessment' (unpubl. report, 2023). For work in the 1970s. incl. construction of a pond: Binns (ed.), *The Story of Enstone*, 39.

rows, typically now combined as a single dwelling. Examples include Heythrop Cottage and Pinfolds in Church Enstone, the latter apparently incorporating earlier farm outbuildings.¹⁵⁰

The housing stock was gradually improved from the late 19th century. A group of nine cramped cottages north-east of the church was demolished in 1876,¹⁵¹ while new houses included Naboth's Vineyard, a semi-detached pair of Welsh-slatted and minimally gabled houses built by Viscount Dillon (as lord) in 1886, next to the recently erected National school.¹⁵² Private houses continued to be built of stone, but the 1920s semi-detached council houses in large plots on The Drive were pebble-dashed with concrete-tiled roofs, incorporating catslides and first-floor dormers. The plain 1950s council developments at Cleveley Road and Quarry Close are likewise in pebble-dash or brown brick, incorporating modest cornices and (in a few cases) gables.¹⁵³ As elsewhere, barns and outbuildings were converted to domestic use from the late 20th century, notable examples including Taillards Barn in Gagingwell, tall and stone-built with a Welsh-slate roof.¹⁵⁴ Larger modern houses include the Italianate Drystone Hill House (built in 1923 for Miss Janet Bruce),¹⁵⁵ the Georgian-style (and flood-prone) Willowbrook in Radford (c.2020),¹⁵⁶ and the lavish, gabled and mullioned Church Enstone Hall of 2017, designed by Charles Lowe & Sons for John Alexander.¹⁵⁷



Taillards Barn, Gagingwell.

¹⁵⁰ NHLE, nos. 1200308 (Heythrop Cottage); 1368059 (Pinfolds); D. Clark, 'Winchcomb, Church Enstone' (OBR Rep. 380, 2019 (revised 2022)).

¹⁵¹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1806 (consecrn of churchyard extension).

¹⁵² Enstone Local History Circle, 'A History of Enstone and Heythrop'; datestone.

¹⁵³ VCH fieldwork, Oct. 2023.

¹⁵⁴ Binns (ed.), *The Story of Enstone*, 41; *SMidIA* 28 (1998), 65; VCH fieldwork, Oct. 2023.

¹⁵⁵ Kelly's Oxon. Dir. (1928 and later edns); Enstone Local History Circle, 'A History of Enstone and Heythrop'; *Country Life*, 23 Aug. 2005; *Lifting the Latch*, 94, 222.

¹⁵⁶ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9712437/The-REAL-horror-stories-million-pound-properties-raffled-auction.html> (accessed Aug. 2023).

¹⁵⁷ <https://www.charleslowe.co.uk/new-build-formal-country-house-chipping-norton>; info. from John Alexander.