

2 The Neighbourhood Plan Area

2.1 The 2013 Parish Boundaries

The Parish Council of Chelveston-cum-Caldecott was created in 1895 under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1894 and has had a strong record of local governance ever since. Since its formation, there have been two changes to the boundaries, one in 1987 and one coming into force during 2015 through the Community Governance Review (2014). In preparing the Neighbourhood Development Plan, great care has been taken to ensure that the 2015 boundary change is taken into account.

Figure 2.1 shows the extent of the parish boundaries prior to the CGR (solid blue line). The Parish has shared boundaries with the Northamptonshire parishes of Higham Ferrers to the west, Stanwick to the north and Newton Bromswold to the South. It also lies on the Northamptonshire-Bedfordshire boundary with Dean & Shelton parish to the northeast and Melchbourne & Yelden parish to the southeast.

The border with Bedfordshire (now Bedford Borough a unitary authority) has important implications for planning matters concerning the former Chelveston Airfield.

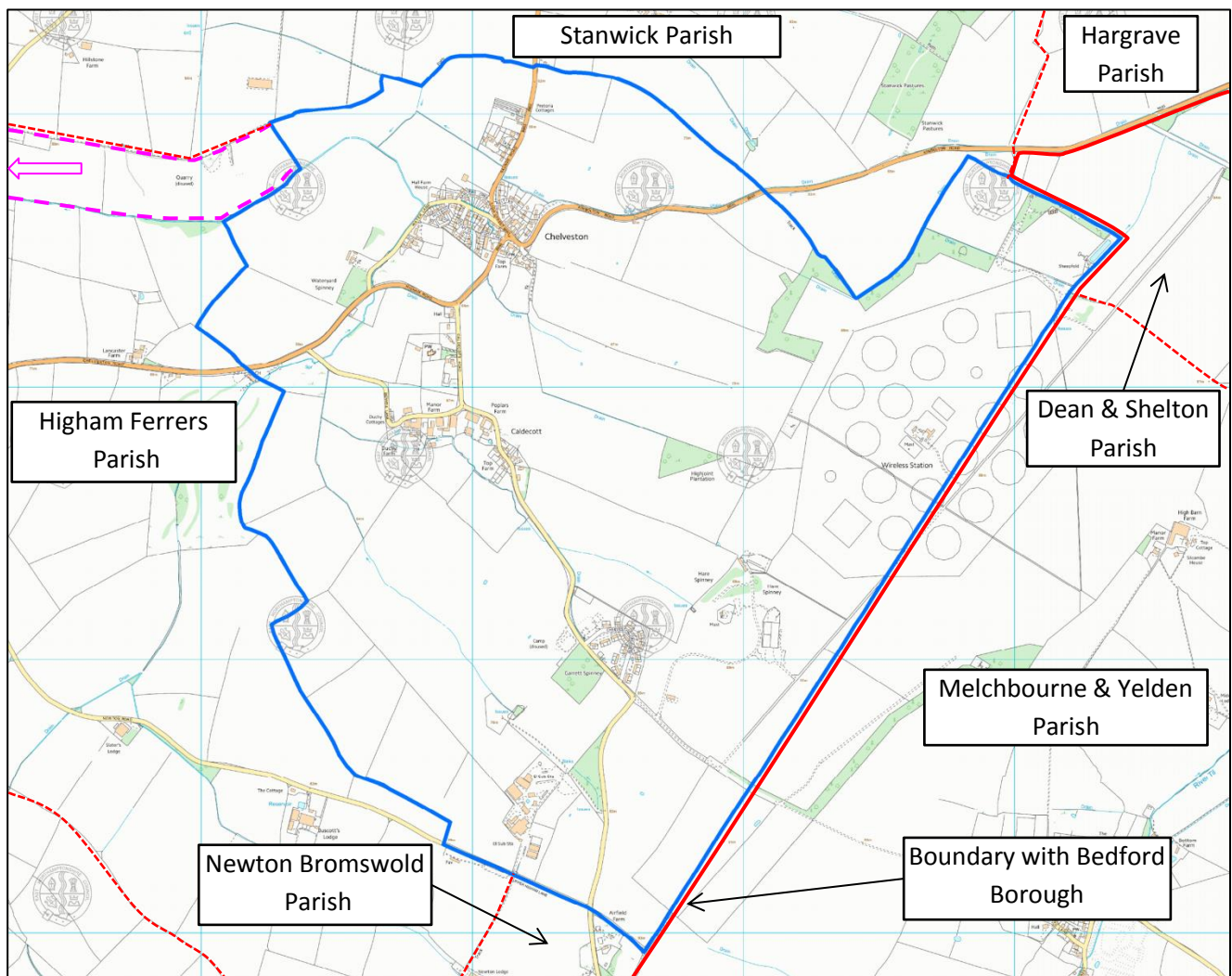


Figure 2.1: 2013 Parish Boundary (solid blue) – 1987 Boundary (dashed pink)

2.2 Historical context for the boundaries and civic relationships

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott is equidistant from the towns of Higham Ferrers and Raunds (3km) but from a civic perspective it has always had a closer association with Higham Ferrers. It shares District and County Councillors with Higham Ferrers Lancaster Ward.

Links with Higham Ferrers certainly go back to Norman times and possibly pre-date this. Chelveston-cum-Caldecott was mentioned in the Domesday Book as Celuestone and Caldecote and after the successful invasion of England by William the Conqueror (1066), the manor of Chelveston-cum-Caldecott was part of the manor of Higham Ferrers given to his son, William Peverel.

In common with Higham Ferrers, the Parish has long associations with the Crown. The Duchy of Lancaster still has large holdings of land in Higham Ferrers Parish some of which extend into Chelveston-cum-Caldecott and which are important from a planning and amenity perspective.

The Parish separated from the Higham Ferrers manor sometime in the 14th century and passed through a succession of families until it was granted to the Disbrowe family in 1812 by George III. After passing by marriage to the Wise family, the estate was sold in 1919 by the last Lord of the Manor - Lt Col Henry Edward Disbrowe Disbrowe-Wise JP.

The Disbrowe/Wise family took their responsibilities towards the Parish seriously and were responsible for creating *the Educational Foundation of Abigail Bailey and Ann Levett*, still an important Village Charity and for the building of the Village School, now the Village Hall. Philanthropy, community giving and charitable works have been an important feature of Village life since the foundation of the *James and Thomas Sawyer* charity in 1703. Many of the Village features and amenities have been developed and maintained through these means rather than through civic funding.

The historical parish boundary was changed by the East Northamptonshire (Parishes) Order 1987. Prior to this boundary change, an additional strip of the Parish, one field wide, ran from the edge of the village down to the River Nene, between the parishes of Higham Ferrers and Stanwick. Part of this strip is shown by the dashed pink line in Figure 1. Historically, this strip of land provided an access route from the Chelveston quarries to the railway station at Irthlingborough.

2.3 Community Governance Review (2014)

As part of the Community Governance Review (2014) undertaken by East Northamptonshire Council, the opportunity was taken to review the parish boundaries to ensure that they were best suited to modern land usage.

Three anomalies were identified and proposed for resolution, each of which had implications for the Neighbourhood Development planning process. These anomalies and their proposed resolution are shown in Figure 2.2.

- **Site 1:** Two small fields south of the B645 that formed part of Stanwick Parish were proposed for transfer into Chelveston-cum-Caldecott. The B645 then became the parish boundary in this area and all of the Northamptonshire land adjoining the former Chelveston Airfield became part of the Parish.
- **Site 2:** The 2013 parish boundary in the northwest crossed a field following the line of a hedgerow that had long since disappeared. In order to align the boundary with a strong land feature, the whole of that field was proposed for transfer to Stanwick Parish.
- **Site 3:** The East Northamptonshire (Parishes) order 1987 removed *Chelveston Cliffs*, a historically important quarry feature, from the Parish and moved it into Higham Ferrers along with the other

fields that lead down to the River Nene. The 2014 review proposed the restoration of the field containing the quarry feature back to the Parish.

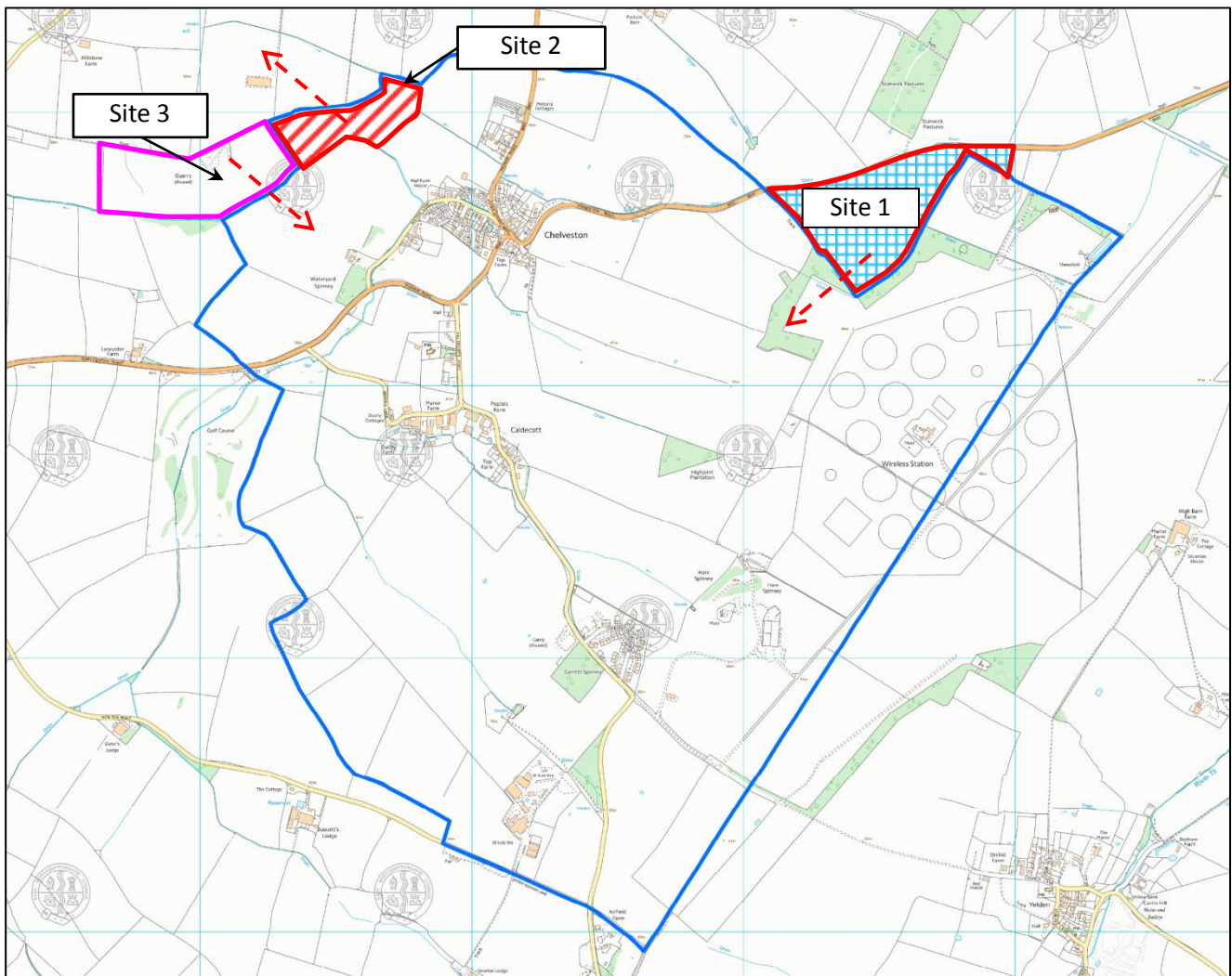


Figure 2.2: Boundary changes under 2014 CGR

In making an application for the initial declaration of a Neighbourhood Planning area, the Parish Council needed to take these changes into account.

Site 1 is arable land adjoining the site of the former Chelveston Airfield. As it was not part of the Parish when the Neighbourhood Plan Area was originally designated, it could not formally be included as part of the original application. However, an agreement was reached with Stanwick Parish Council that this site would be excluded from their application for the declaration of a Neighbourhood Plan Area. The Chelveston-cum-Caldecott NDP therefore considers the future of this site and the site will be included as part of the designated plan area by a later amendment once the CGR is completed.

Site 2 is arable land forming part of a field transferred into Stanwick Parish. It was specifically excluded from the initial application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Planning Area so that it could be included later by Stanwick Parish Council. The Chelveston-cum-Caldecott NDP does not consider this field in detail but our presumption is that the site will remain arable or grazing land and not be subject to development.

Site 3 was already included within the scope of the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan area which was declared and approved by order well before the CGR process was undertaken. It could not therefore form

part of the Chelveston-cum-Caldecott application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Planning Area. However, discussions with Higham Ferrers Town Council have concluded that Site 3 will not feature in their Neighbourhood Development Plan, other than to acknowledge its transfer to Chelveston-cum-Caldecott. Within the context of the Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Neighbourhood Development Plan, site 3 is acknowledged as an important historical and landscape feature which should be protected from development.

In summary the initial application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Planning Area for the Chelveston-cum-Caldecott NDP was: **The 2013 Parish boundary less Site 2.**

Following the orders implementing the CGR (2014) amendments to the Neighbourhood Planning Area designation will be proposed so that the Chelveston-cum-Caldecott NDP actually considers **The 2013 Parish boundary plus Site 1, less Site 2 plus Site 3.**