Character Zones

4.5 Chorleywood Common Conservation Area covers a large expanse of land with varying characteristics. To provide a detailed analysis the area has been broken down into five different character zones. These are as follows:

- **Character Zone A** - the area along Rickmansworth Road/Chenies Road
- **Character Zone B** - the buildings along Dog Kennel Lane
- **Character Zone C** - Chorleywood Bottom, encompassing Common Gate Road and the Metropolitan Railway line
- **Character Zone D** - Station Approach and Common Road and associated buildings
- **Character Zone E** - the open common and the Dells (Artichoke Dell and Cherry Tree Dell and Apple Tree Dell)

Character Zone A

4.6 Character Zone A forms the northern section of the Conservation Area (as detailed in Appendix 3) and is dominated by the busy Rickmansworth Road (which becomes Chenies Road). This is used by traffic travelling north-west towards Chenies and Chorleywood Village and south-east to the M25. It contains eight Grade II Listed buildings, situated along Rickmansworth Road:

- The Court
- West Lodge
- East Lodge
- The Manor House
- Christ Church
- Well House
- The White Horse Public House
- K6 Telephone Kiosk

4.7 There are also a number of unlisted buildings that are of architectural and historic interest which provide a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. These include:

- Tollgate Cottage
- Wyatt's House
- Appletree Farm Lodge
- The Gate Public House

4.8 Some of the buildings referred to above require advertisements for their business use, which are subject to restrictions as per Government Guidance. The red-brick built Wyatt’s House which is established as the Estate Agents Peter Robson & Co has retained three out of the four original windows and uses a restrained colour scheme for its sign, although this is considered large for the elevation.

4.9 The Shell garage occupies a large plot. It does not fit in with the “character and appearance” of the Conservation Area, situated adjacent to Wyatt’s House, and is a significant intrusion. Although the height of the structure is in line with the neighbouring streetscape, the “Shell” sign with petrol prices and logo does dominate the vista entering and leaving the area.
4.10  To the north of the Rickmansworth Road is Solesbridge Lane, part of which has been included within the Conservation Area. Some of the houses included provide good examples of early 20th century terraces, although many of these are interspersed amidst modern housing.

4.11  As outlined above, The Court fronted by East and West Lodges are Grade II Listed buildings of early 20th century red brick construction, set around a walled courtyard. The Court is an attractive key building, which forms part of the vista approaching the eastern side of the area. The Court and the associated Lodge Houses are in good condition, although the latter suffer from accumulative pollution due to their close proximity to the busy Rickmansworth Road.

4.12  The two public houses – The White Horse and The Gate – are situated on the approach into the Conservation Area. They are both accompanied by hard-standing for parking. The Grade II Listed White Horse, dating from the 16th century, would benefit from a planting programme along the borders to soften the appearance of the extensive car-parking area. This type of planting had been successfully used in the past to screen the car-parking area at The Gate Public House but has since been removed, providing a large open expanse of hardstanding which is dull in appearance and creates an unattractive feature within the street scene. The soft landscaping should be re-instated to soften the appearance of the hardstanding within the Conservation Area and street scene. Both buildings provide a positive contribution to the streetscape in the Conservation Area.

4.13  On the opposite side of Rickmansworth Road to The Gate Public House, there is a Grade II Listed red K6 telephone kiosk (designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott). This creates a positive feature in the Conservation Area and street scene.

4.14  Apple Tree Farm Lodge, whose survival or name may have historical precedents in Chorleywood Common’s use for common grazing, could be considered for inclusion on the Local List of Buildings for its architectural merit. This is a fine red-brick building with a date plaque, tile-hanging and distinctive chimneys. Adjacent to it is Tollgate Cottage, built in brown brick, with red brick detail, which is located on the corner of Dog Kennel Lane and the Rickmansworth Road.
4.15 Further west into the area, Rickmansworth Road is lined with mature trees on both sides, with an opening to the south side for the cricket green and car-parking around Christ Church. The trees partially screen the view of the Grade II Listed Manor House and the neighbouring unlisted Manor House Cottage from the road.

4.16 The Manor House, dating to 17th century or earlier, consists of an immaculate white-washed brick building with a timber-framed core. It is in good condition and retains a large curtilage of mature trees and open land which enhances its key position opposite Christ Church and the Common. Quaker meetings were held at The Manor House where William Penn attended meetings. A small Quaker cemetery is also located within the grounds of The Manor House.

4.17 Travelling north-west from the Manor House, Chorleywood Lodge Cottage commands its own substantial estate. It is set further back from the road and heavily screened by mature poplars, oaks and dense shrubs. There are additional office buildings and industrial units which do not enhance the main building, but are partially hidden by hedges or shrubs. Chorleywood Lodge Cottage is a white rendered symmetrical 1920s-1930s building, with two-storey high bay windows either side of a double colonnaded porch. It was the site of the British Baking Industries and has since been converted into the Chorleywood Beaumont Retirement Home with the addition of some residential development.

4.18 Bordering the land surrounding Chorleywood Lodge Cottage is Chorleywood House, towards the far north-west of the Conservation Area. It is in a remote position at the end of a long private road (defined by numerous small halved wooden posts), with open spaces, small woodlands and ancillary buildings. The main house and associated buildings are now private residences but have retained the characteristics and appearance of the original structures. Some of the farm buildings around Chorleywood House Farm, visible from Chenies Road, have fallen out of use over the past few years. The surviving structures are built using the prevalent building materials of the area i.e. flint and red brick.
4.19 Chorleywood House Estate is bordered by a continuous low wall of alternate knapped flint and red brick which can be seen most clearly along Chenies Road. The same theme of flint and brick is used for Chorleywood House Farm and its large barn and elsewhere in the Conservation Area. Within the estate boundary, the farm buildings are mainly built of brick; others have timber-frame cores and weather-boarded gables. The Entrance Lodge to the main house is an attractive brick building with decorative tile-cladding and painted wooden barge-boards – a suitable building for the Local List.

4.20 Chorleywood House is Locally Listed, (as is the Walled Garden on the estate). It consists of a red brick building of domestic revival styles and has a castellated two-storey high red brick porch with two plaques, an inscription and stone dressings. Towards the rear of the house, stone fittings and trellis work survive from the former landscaped gardens, with topiary in the front garden.

4.21 On the other side of the Rickmansworth Road, Christ Church Anglican Church, the cricket ground, pavilion and two small permissive parking areas impinge upon the open space of the Common.

4.22 Christ Church and its surrounding graveyard is positioned on the edge of the Common and is detailed as a notable feature on early maps. It was built in 1845, with remodelling in 1869-70 by G.E. Street, using knapped flint, with Bath and Wycombe dressings. The church is a Grade II* Listed building and a local landmark with its spire and buttressed tower which can be seen from the cricket pitch. A low wall of flint and brick edging encloses the graveyard along the Rickmansworth Road. It also continues in front of Christ Church Junior School, (begun in 1853 and enlarged in 1860) as far as the vicarage. The school buildings reflect the building style of Christ Church, by adopting knapped flint and stone window dressings. There are some unattractive modern extensions – a flat roof, single storey extension at the front of the school; a cylindrical flat roof grey breeze block annexe attached to the church tower. These additions which avoid using the traditional flint and brick building materials have a detrimental effect on the overall character and appearance of the site.

4.23 The cricket ground and associated pavilion preserve the open character of the Conservation Area. There is an adjoining small car park beyond the pavilion, which is screened from the cricket pitch by small woodland, and a small car park next to the pavilion. The activities associated with the Common, school, church, cricket club and meeting hall contribute to the character of the conservation area.

4.24 The view out of the Conservation Area, towards Chenies, is lined with trees and shrubs screening the properties along the road. There are also grass verges, wooden fences and low brick walls which add to the rural aspect of the Conservation Area. Traffic signs such as the large chevron with yellow fluorescent backing on the bend of Chenies Road, are not suitably scaled or coloured in line with the “character and appearance” of Chorleywood Common Conservation Area. Similarly, other signs on the Rickmansworth Road suffer from the same treatment i.e. oversized with fluorescent backing. Although necessary, traffic signs and road markings can be integrated into Conservation Areas as per Government Guidance.