

Listed buildings

21. Caversfield church probably dates back to the Saxon period with important developments in subsequent centuries. Most recently, its graveyard has been used for airmen who died in WWII. It is listed at Grade II*. Across the road, Home Farmhouse dates from the early 17th century. I was not invited to inspect this building, but note from its listing and from views across the road that it is of a high quality, probably built of local materials, and may still have some of its historic agricultural buildings. I was told that the historic Caversfield House burnt down. However, its range of outbuildings, walled garden and overall layout demonstrate its evolution over time as part of a landed estate with its own church and farmlands.
22. Much of the church's significance lies in the rare survival of early fabric, later alterations and, to a lesser extent, its more recent war graves. The farmhouse is probably notable for its age and quality. While Caversfield House is not listed, in my assessment the layout and extent of survival of historic structures within its grounds represent a significant heritage asset. As confirmed in evidence⁶, an aspect of the significance of the church, farmhouse, outbuildings and garden to the house, is derived from their interaction as a group. The church was probably built for, or by, the landowner strengthening the tie between these buildings. Although now separated by the B4100, I find that the historical association of this grouping, that is the relationship between the house, church and farmhouse, together with the surviving layout and buildings to the house, to amount to a heritage asset of some significance. Evidence at the Inquiry⁷ added the fact that Caversfield House was used as military accommodation during WWII, tying it even more closely to the church.