



# ABBOTTS ANN



The village name Ann was derived from the Celtic river name 'Anne' meaning 'Ash Tree Stream' (now known as the Pillhill Brook).

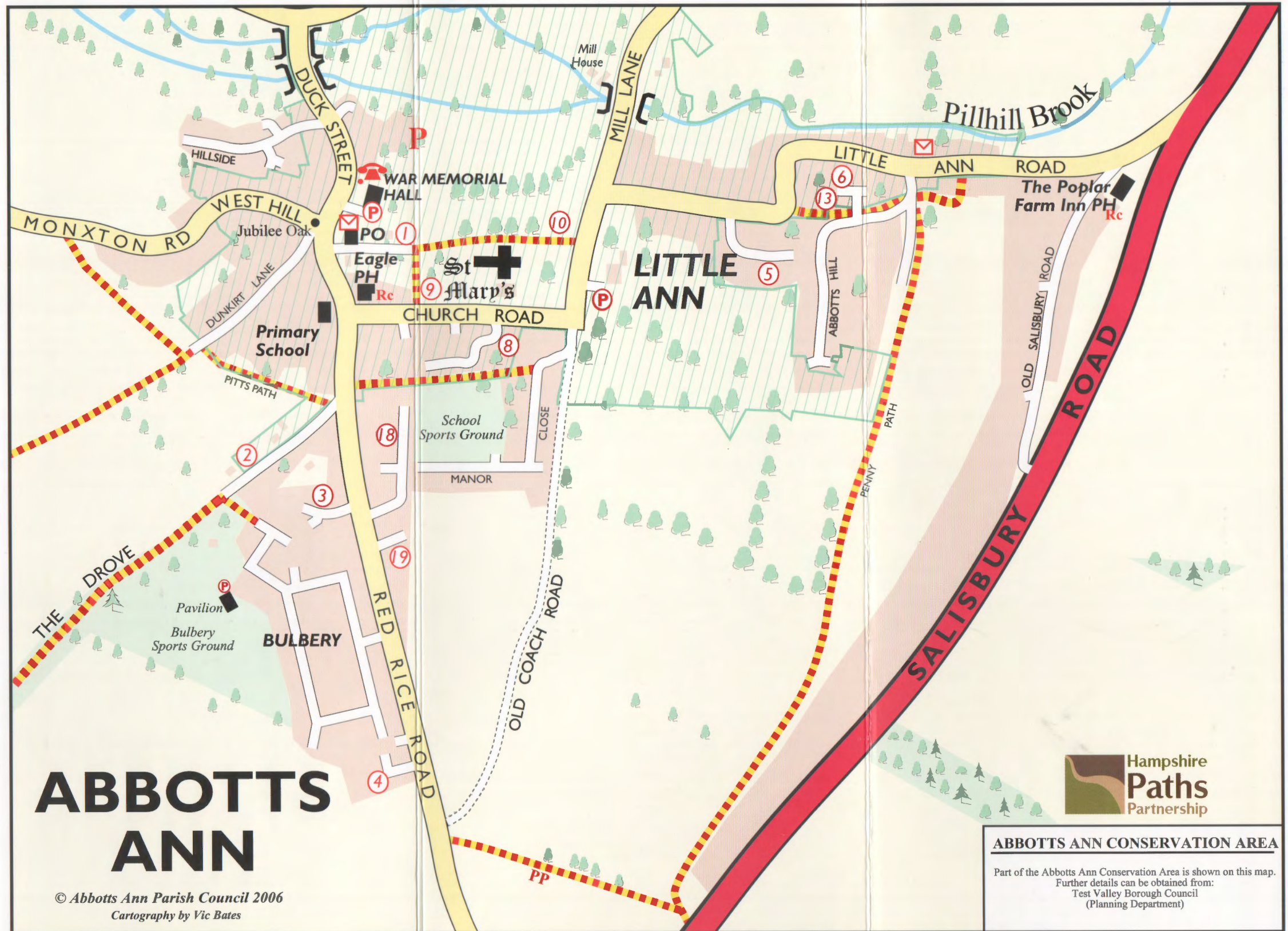
The first settlements in the area can be traced back to 50BC when the Atrebates cleared the forests and cultivated the land. During Roman rule the village prospered, and at the end Dunkirt Lane a large Roman Villa was built. Mosaics taken from this villa are now in the British Museum.

The long narrow and roughly rectangular boundary is characteristic of the West Hampshire chalk land parishes. Defined in Saxon times, or possibly earlier, this shape ensured that Abbots Ann had its share of river, down land and richer waterside meadows. Before the Norman invasion the land was granted to the Abbey of Hyde and became known as Anne Abbatis (the 'Estate on the River Anne belonging to the Abbot'). Little Ann was granted to the Abbey of Wherwell. After the dissolution of the monasteries the estates passed back into secular hands.

In 1716 Thomas Pitt (the grandfather of William Pitt the Elder), the former Governor of Madras who had bought the Manors of Abbots Ann and Little Ann, demolished the old church and replaced it with the one we see today. The Church has the largest collection of 'Virgins' Crowns in England.

In 1806 Robert Tasker settled in Abbots Ann and later took over the Blacksmith's business. He and his brother developed the first iron plough, which became so popular that they set up a new works (the Waterloo Iron Works) in Anna Valley. Robert Tasker built the village school on its present site in the village, and leased it to the Revd. Samuel Best, the Rector of Abbots Ann. Built 39 years before education became compulsory, the school was one of the first in England to take children of all denominations.

Between 1915 and 1924 the Red Rice Estate, which included Abbots Ann and most of the surrounding countryside, was sold. In 1934 the Government bought Little Park for the new 'Land Settlement Association', creating the largest influx of population since AD500.



## ABBOTTS ANN

© Abbots Ann Parish Council 2006  
Cartography by Vic Bates



**ABBOTTS ANN CONSERVATION AREA**  
Part of the Abbots Ann Conservation Area is shown on this map.  
Further details can be obtained from:  
Test Valley Borough Council  
(Planning Department)

### STREET NAMES AND FOOTPATH NAMES

#### STREETS

- 1 Church Lane
- 2 Webbs Lane
- 3 Warren Drive
- 4 Criswick Close
- 5 Abbots Close
- 6 St Mary's Meadow
- 8 Church Close
- 18 Catherine's Walk
- 19 Timothy's Field

#### FOOTPATHS

- 9 Short Path
- 10 Church Path
- 13 Donkey Path

### KEY

- Telephone Box / Post Box
- Parking
- Recycling Centre
- Track
- Footpath
- Permitted Path
- Conservation Area

### COUNTRY CODE

Please observe the Country Code and take your litter home with you. Please do not allow your dog to foul a footpath. Thank you.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Cherry Irwin for allowing me to use her drawing of a Virgin's Crown. I would also like to acknowledge all the help and advice that I was given, by residents of the parish, in preparing this map.

DGD