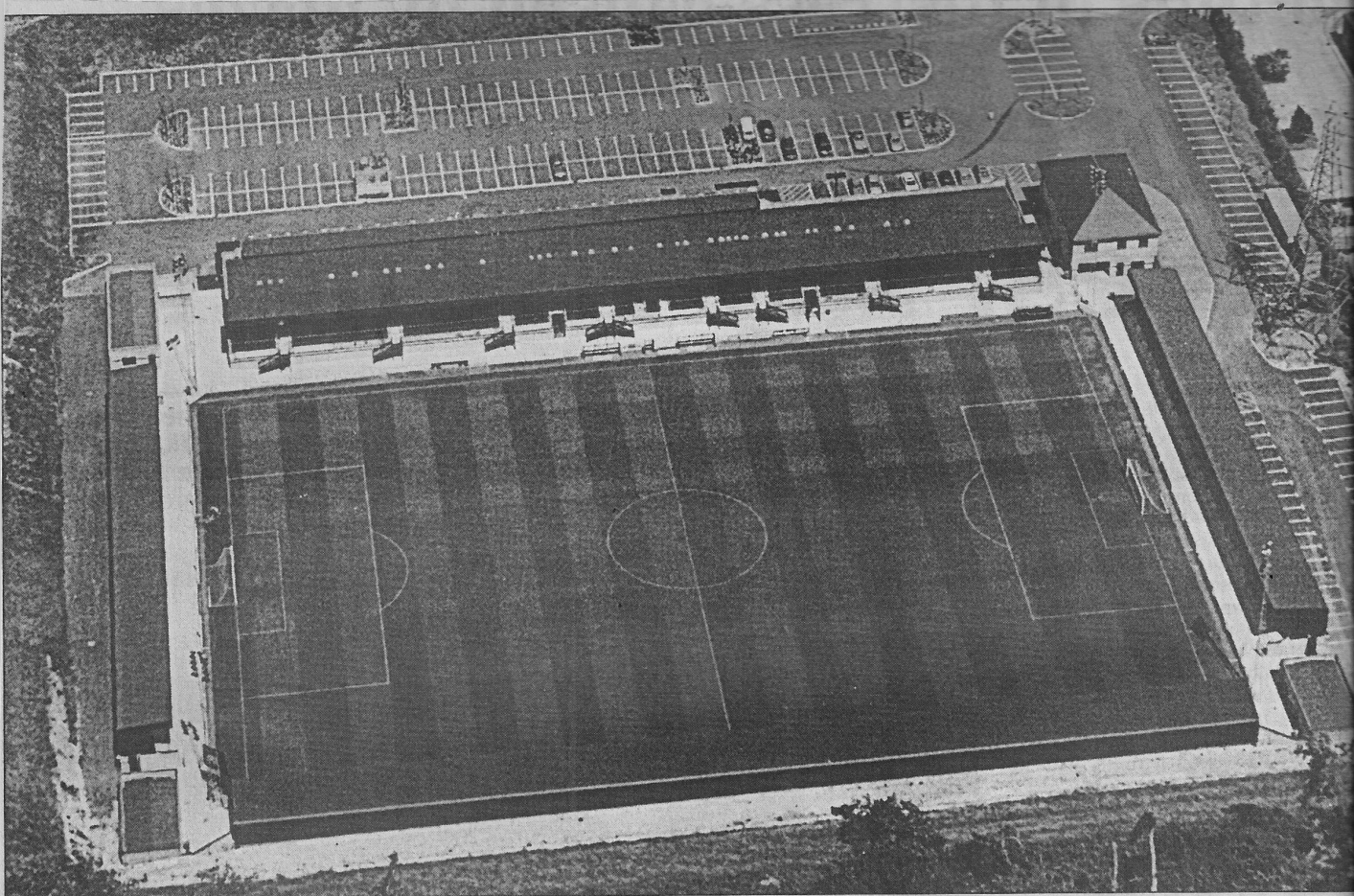




Adams Park: Home of the Blues now in Division Two of the Football League, but residents dread match days because of the cars

Blues' success puts a strain on parking

FOOTBALL has had as much an impact on Sands as the factories and fields that came before it.

Since Wycombe Wanderers arrived at their Adams Park stadium on Hillbottom Road in 1990, residents have seen an upsurge in traffic as supporters watch the club's meteoric surge to the top.

School caretaker David Carter, 55, lives on Lane End Road near to the ground. He thinks the numbers now swarming to matches have had a disastrous impact on the area's parking.

David said he has nothing against football but added: "I think if they are going to have a football pitch they should not have it on a trading estate."

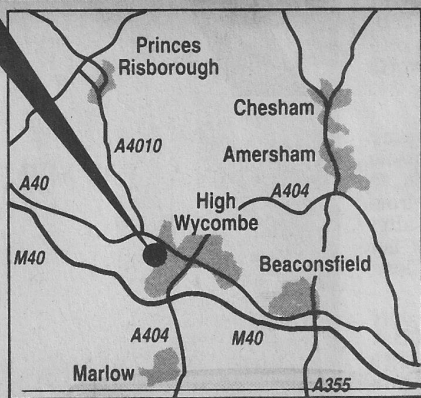
At the area's only pub, The Hour Glass in Chapel Lane, plastic beer containers are now routine on match day, with a doorman exercising discretion on any away supporters who turn up.

The Sands Residents' Association was formed to redress locals concerns such as halting the spread of traffic and the expansion of Wycombe Air Park at Booker.

While SRA welcomes the success of the club, it still fears Wanderers' expansion into the Green Belt area

SANDS

This week, in our series on the area's villages and towns, **NICK HUNT** looks behind the industrial image of Sands



and, last year, tried to block the permission it was eventually given for a training pitch.

Currently, the association would like to see the start of a park-and-ride scheme to cope with the ever-increasing numbers.

Mark Austin, sales and marketing manager at the club, said they wanted to have a good relationship with locals. He said: "As a whole, our relationship with the people of Sands is very good."

He added that Green Belt restrictions meant only football clubs can use the site. "It's in everyone's best interest to find the best way of solving the parking problems."

Many, though, believe Sands and the western side of High Wycombe need an injection of fresh development.

Chip shop owner David Livett wants to see a three-and-a-half acre site off Mill End Road become home to a Sainsbury's or Tesco.