

## 2. A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH OF ARDLEIGH

Ardleigh stands on a flat gravel plain in open countryside between Colchester and Manningtree. The parish measures some 6 kilometres east to west and about 5½ kilometres north to south. It consists principally of agricultural land, but there is an obvious village centre, in the vicinity of St Mary's Church and the A137/B1029 crossroads.

To the west and south of the village centre, there is a valley system, which may no longer be very apparent to the casual passer-by. Ardleigh reservoir fills a large part of one of these valleys and the only obvious sign of that valley's existence is at John de Bois Hill. However there is also a hilly, sunken lane leading down into the wooded area of Spring Valley, which is strikingly different in atmosphere from the essentially flat land on which most of Ardleigh lies.

### Relationship of Buildings to the Landscape

#### THE PARISH OF ARDLEIGH

