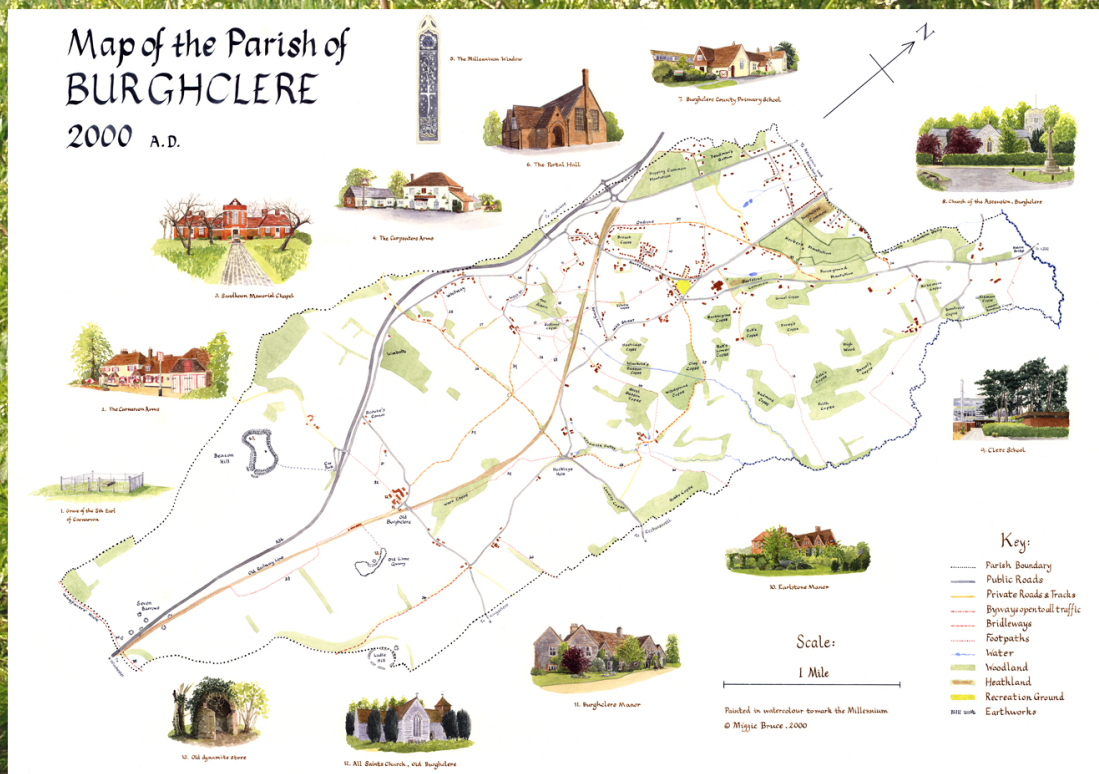


# Activities in Burghclere



In this "Activities" pdf you will find details of many of the clubs and organisations within Burghclere village, in Hampshire UK.

If you live in the area, and would like further information, please contact any of the people named on the following pages.

They will be pleased to help, and make you welcome at their meetings.

*This document was originally designed as a 'Welcome Pack' by Burghclere Parish Council and is © Neill Bruce*

# Useful Information

## **Refuse collection**

Grey Wheelie Bins are emptied in Burghclere on Thursday or Friday mornings. Ensure your bin is placed at the entrance to your property or at the bottom of your drive by 7.00am.

Green Wheelie Bins are provided for newspapers, cardboard, tins, drink cans and plastic bottles, and a green box is provided for glass bottles, both of which are collected on alternate weeks.

You can also get 25 litre 'Green Waste' bags, if you go to Basingstoke & Deane website, and search 'green waste'. They make a charge per annum.

**In the village car park**, by the sports field, there is an Air Ambulance clothes bank for good quality clothes, to be sold in aid of this most essential service. Please put items in a bag. There is also a book recycling bin, and a **special plastics** bin, which takes all those food trays you get so many of. No polythene or polystyrene in either though.

## **Eggs and Farmyard Manure at Dodds farm**

Dodds Farm, Well Street, Burghclere is a working farm. We sell Free Range Eggs, and a self service system is operated in the Old Dairy in the Farmyard.

We can also help with Farmyard Manure for your Garden, and Paddock Maintenance which includes Tractor Hedge-cutting.

We sell small bales of hay and straw.

To place an order please telephone 278647 or 278206.

## **Police**

Our beat officer is PC Richard Baldwin, who you can Email at <richard.baldwin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk> or ring 101, and ask to be connected.

Our Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) No 12960 John Dullingham, and CSPO No 71 Sarah Ratcliffe.

## **Member of Parliament**

Our Member for Parliament is Kit Malthouse, who may be contacted by any of the following means:

email <kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk> telephone 01264 401401

or by letter to his constituency office at 2 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP.

## **Village Web Sites**

A great deal of information about the village may be found on

<www.burghclere.net>, and the new web site <burghclerevillage.uk> has lots of useful and historically interesting information to download, including this document as '**Village Activities**'. All are in pdf format.

*Cont'd*

## County Councillor

Burghclere is represented on Hampshire County Council by Tom Thacker, who was elected for the Whitchurch and Clere Division.

Tel: 01962 846441 email: <tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk>.

## Borough Councillors

Our Basingstoke and Deane Borough Councillors for Burghclere, Highclere & St Mary Bourne ward are:-

John Izett, Tel: 01635 254400;

email <cllr.john.izett@basingstoke.gov.uk>

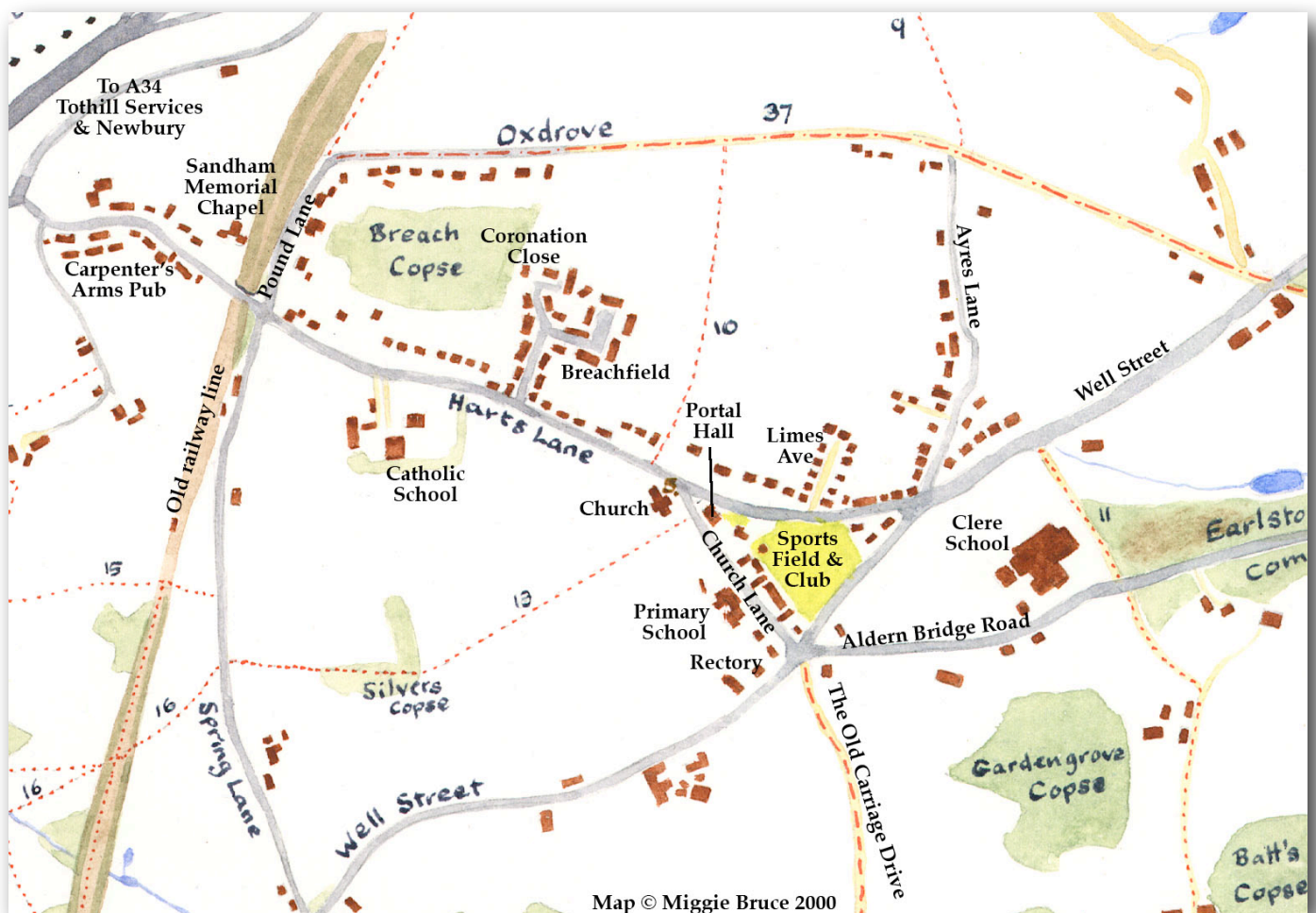
Graham Falconer, Tel. 01635 253144;

email <cllr.graham.falconer1@basingstoke.gov.uk>

## Mobile Library

Sadly due to cuts in funding, the mobile library no longer visits the village, but for further library information look up <<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library/library-servicesforyou>>

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council <[www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk)>  
Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH. Telephone 01256 844844



*The Village Centre in 2000. Red dotted lines are public footpaths, with their numbers. Red dashed lines are bridleways, and red dotted and dashed lines are Byways open to all traffic (BOAT)*

# Parish Council

The Parish Council meet in the Committee Room at the rear of the Portal Hall on the first Monday of each month at 7.30 pm (except Bank Holidays). You will find the date and agenda for the forthcoming meeting on either of the two notice boards situated at the corner of Harts Lane and Breachfield, or near the entrance to the Primary School. If you have internet access, then look at their website <[www.burghclerepc.co.uk](http://www.burghclerepc.co.uk)>

Members of the public are invited to attend any of the meetings, and may raise relevant issues with the councillors.

The eight members are each elected to serve a term of four years, and the last elections were held in May 2014.

The current councillors are listed below and you may contact them at any reasonable time, if you require help or information on village matters.

**Chairman:**

Peter Harvey 278609

Briony Canning 278485

Richard Carrow. 528885

Ian Findlay 278125

Clifford James 278455

Geoff Morton 278196

Sandra Whiting 278206



*The Committee Room is on the left of the Hall, through the gate.*

**Clerk:**

Ms Sadie Owen

Tel: 01635 254492

<[clerk.burghclere@parish.hants.gov.uk](mailto:clerk.burghclere@parish.hants.gov.uk)>

The Parish Council also acts as the trustee of the Pinder Recreational Trust, which is responsible for maintaining the Portal Hall and the Sports Ground.

An "Annual Parish Assembly" is held in May during which the Parish Councillors, Borough Councillor and County Councillor report on issues dealt with over the past twelve months and outline their plans for the forthcoming year. The evenings are always well attended by local people who enjoy wine and refreshments during the presentations.

# Portal Hall



The Parish room, as it was then known, was completed in October 1890 on land donated by the Earl of Carnarvon. It has seen many activities during its one hundred plus years, including billiards, reading, village quizzes, jumble sales galore, a skittle alley, and numerous clubs; even a rifle range!

Licensed, and able to seat 160 for an audience, 140 for a sit-down meal, and 100 if a dance area is required; there's a modern kitchen and closed bar area.



Two layouts for weddings  
in recent times.





The Portal Hall as the film set, dressed for Downton Abbey's wedding of Mr Carson & Mrs Hughes

Today the Hall is used by the the pre-school, WI, short mat bowls, the annual Parish Assembly, planning meetings and as a keep fit venue, etc. The annual Harvest Supper, weddings, birthday parties and many other private functions also take place here.

Over the past few years the Portal Hall has enjoyed various visits by a TV film company whilst making the popular drama series Downton Abbey.

The location manager was pleased to find a hall close to the principle location site of Highclere Castle, with no pitch markings for various ball games on the floor and the original vaulted ceiling in all its glory



Listening to the speeches, at the Downton wedding

The Portal Hall was dressed in 1920's style to play its part as the Downton School which saw it filled with children in period costume receiving their annual awards,

presented by various stars of the TV series. The Portal Hall alias Downton School has been dressed for various other social events in the Drama Series.

The Hall often hosts wedding receptions, making use of the lawns at the side and front of the building for the guests to enjoy the pleasant surroundings in the centre of the Village. Over the last few years, the Hall has undergone major refurbishment.

New toilet facilities have been built, and a modern heating system installed, together with a new lighting and sound system.

The hall therefore offers unrivalled modern facilities within the area.

To make a booking, use the dedicated website <[www.portalhall.co.uk](http://www.portalhall.co.uk)> or telephone the Booking Administrator on 01635 278618 email address [bookings@portalhall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@portalhall.co.uk)



The Portal Hall as the film set, dressed for Downton Abbey's School presentation day

# Church of the Ascension

The village church for Burghclere is the Church of The Ascension. It was mainly built in 1838, and extended in 1875 by construction of the long Chancel, the Organ Chamber and Choir robing area to the South side, and the Vestry on the North side. It is a grade II listed building, built in the Victorian Gothic style, faced in flintwork with stone dressings and slate roofs. The Tower at the West end formerly had a spire which had to be removed in the 1960s and now has its walls headed by battlements. On the North side there is the Millennium Window, which was the last one designed by the renowned glass engraver Sir Lawrence Whistler, before his death in 2000. This window was engraved by Sally Scott, and dedicated on 18 July 1999. The church is opened daily for private prayer and visits.

Burghclere is the largest Church in the benefice of Burghclere with Newtown, and Ecchinswell with Sydmonton, and forms part of the northern border of the diocese of Winchester. Services are generally choral, and could be said to be not high C of E. The Rector lives in the Rectory in Well Street. The living dates back to Saxon times, and the early Church of All Saints can be found some 3 miles away at Old Burghclere. It is also open daily, but does not have regular Services.

Current Service details, plus names and telephone numbers of the Rector and Churchwardens, may be found in the 'News from the Villages', available monthly at the Sales Table within the Church of The Ascension; service details are on the notice boards.

*Below, the Church is beautifully decorated every year for the Christmas services. Right, the west front in 2007.*



All this information can be found at <[www.ubbnes.org.uk](http://www.ubbnes.org.uk)>

# The Community Café

A Community Café, Book Exchange and Produce Stall is held in the Church of the Ascension, Burghclere every Thursday between 10.30 am and 11.30 am, and is open to everyone.

It is a wonderful hour to get together with neighbours and friends. Coffee and biscuits are served and our attendance varies between 30 and 60, but we can accommodate more!

The two photos show the Christmas 2016 café and carol singing

Photos© Neill Bruce



Photo by Neill Bruce. © Free for Church use

# *Burghclere Church Choir*

The choir of the Church of The Ascension at Burghclere consists of mixed voices singing in four parts: sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. The group of - usually fourteen - singers is a lively mix of enthusiastic members. The choir practises every Thursday evening in the church from 8 pm to 9:15 pm. After rehearsals, many members retire to the Carpenters Arms for refreshments.

As well as singing at regular church services, the choir sings at weddings and also gives concerts. The choir has a high standard and a very good reputation in the area, and is asked to sing at weddings in other churches.

There is no audition to join the choir, and those interested in finding out more can simply come along on a Thursday evening to listen and join in, or contact Christine Clark on 07771736215: email <[ceclark54@yahoo.com](mailto:ceclark54@yahoo.com)> You can be assured of a warm welcome.



*Drawing © Miggie Bruce*

# *Burghclere Bell Ringers*

One of England's most ancient hobbies.  
Unpaid - but rewarding  
Frustrating - but fascinating!  
All ages - all shapes and sizes

Burghclere bell-ringers at the Church of the Ascension welcome visiting ringers, lapsed ringers and those interested in learning to ring.

We practice on Wednesday evenings between 7.30 and 9.00pm.  
Sunday ringing usually commences at 9.00am - before the 9.30am service, but please check with Tower secretary, or the Village News as some services are later.



For further information please contact:

Miggie Bruce (Tower Secretary)  
01635 278342 Miggie Bruce <[miggieb@brucephoto.co.uk](mailto:miggieb@brucephoto.co.uk)>

or Ros Brandwood (01635 48937) <[ros.brandwood@btinternet.com](mailto:ros.brandwood@btinternet.com)>  
or the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers website: <[www.cccbr.org.uk](http://www.cccbr.org.uk)>

# *Newtown and Burghclere Handbell Ringers*

Newtown and Burghclere Handbell Ringers are a small group who get together once a week on a Monday afternoon for friendly practice.

In the 1980s, we raised money from the sale of the original Newtown Church Handbells and, with grants from Basingstoke and Deane and Hampshire County Council and other general fundraising, were able to purchase a magnificent 3½ octaves of Whitechapel handbells.

We practise for our own pleasure and play a wide range of music, from light classical to folk tunes and Christmas carols.

We enjoy playing at local events and provide entertainment at residential homes and for other groups such as 'Singing for the Brain', the Stroke Club and the Blind Club. We are especially busy around Christmas with a carol-based programme.

We would welcome anyone who would like to 'have a go' – please contact Jackie on 01635 49080 or Rachel at [rachel.santer@outlook.com](mailto:rachel.santer@outlook.com). The ability to read music is an advantage but not essential.

Similarly, please contact us if you would like us to entertain at an event you are organising.

We look forward to hearing from you.



# Neighbourhood Watch

Burghclere Neighbourhood Watch includes all villagers. We are united in our desire to help the police reduce the incidence of crime in the area. Registered subscribers currently receive occasional newsletters from the Police and other associated bodies. You may be asked to keep a look out for vehicles, and pass on information about suspicious callers etc, which seems to work very well.

Register NOW, by contacting Bob Hills on 01635 276050  
or by e-mail on bob@foxgloves.me.uk

**PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU DON'T REGISTER WITH BOB, HE WON'T KNOW YOU ARE OUT THERE!**

If you don't use e-mail, Bob will try to make sure you are kept up to date with important news.

The Police Newsletter is sent to the Watch co-ordinator who sends it by e-mail to all residents who have registered.

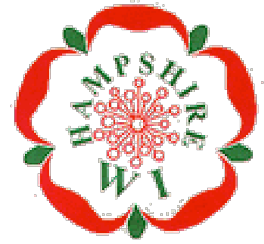
Our beat officer is PC Richard Baldwin, who you can Email at <richard.baldwin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk> or ring 101, and ask to be connected. Our Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) are No 12960 John Dullingham, and CSPO No 71 Sarah Ratcliffe

It is important to remember that if you need instant police attendance, you should ring 999. If you just wish to report a 'non-emergency' crime, or late-discovered theft, then the 101 number is best, as Richard & Damon may be off duty. By all means email them after reporting it, but it is the 101 number that will immediately get your incident onto the police records, and they will be able to give you an incident number for your insurance.

If you can use e-mail, please make sure that any neighbour who can't do so knows the latest news. Thank you.

# Women's Institute

The Women's Institute is now the largest and most influential voluntary women's organisation in the country. It enables women to turn their interests into achievements, and their concerns into campaigns. Founded in 1919 our membership is drawn mainly from the two adjacent villages of Burghclere and Newtown. We are also part of the North Downs Group.



<http://www.hampshirewi.org.uk>  
and select Burghclere and Newtown  
for the year's programme

We are a group of 66 friendly ladies of mixed ages and skills, and would be delighted to welcome new members. Apart from our monthly meetings, when we have a variety of speakers, we also organise theatre outings and other social activities. We have had workshops on various topics, such as needlecraft, genealogy and greetings cards.

We are known in the community and are involved in local functions and seasonal events. One of our responsibilities is ensuring that flowers are placed on the War Memorial.

We enjoy being involved with our fellow villagers in community projects while the county activities enable us to indulge our many varied interests, with additionally, theatre visits and workshops.

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (excepting August) at 09.45am in the Portal Hall, Burghclere. There is ample opportunity to meet with, and make new friends, so why not come along and see for yourself what we do - you will be most welcome.

If you would like to know more about us, please give our President, Amanda Wason, a ring on 01256 893553.



*A ploughman's lunch (above)  
and (left) tending the Burghclere War Memorial*

# Good Neighbours

Burghclere and Newtown Good Neighbours Support Service is a group of people who, where possible, help out as good neighbours when other means are not available. For example:

**Providing transport for doctor or dentist**  
**Collecting prescriptions**  
**Changing a book at the mobile library**  
**Walking your dog when you are unwell**  
**Helping with form filling**  
**etc. etc.**



Good Neighbours  
Support Service

If you need help of this kind then ring one of our co-ordinators:

Hilary Banks      278482  
Ros Brandwood   48937  
Bob Hills         276050

If you think you could become one of our volunteers then ring our secretary Mary Cornwall on 38109 and she will send you details, or telephone the chairwoman Briony Canning on 278485 and she will brief you on how we operate. Your help would be greatly valued.

*Lunch at the Carpenter's Arms, and an opportunity for volunteers to meet and compare notes*



# Burghclere Pre-School

**Burghclere Pre-school** was set up in January 1999 with four children. It was the brain-child of a group of mums who felt they wanted pre-school provision within the village. Now we have a thriving setting for up to 26 children between 2 and 5 years old to learn and develop.

Our sessions are held every day in the village hall where we have a large area to offer various activities and resources for the children. We have a small outside play area which we use daily. We ensure that all the areas of learning and development, as directed in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, are covered. Our sessions are:

<b>Hours</b>	<b>lunch club</b>
Monday – Friday 9.00 am - 3.00pm:	12.00 - 1.00 pm:

We can be flexible on session times to suit the needs of parents e.g. 9.30 am - 2.30 pm or 10.00 am - 2.00 pm etc. Fees are £4.75 per hour payable half termly in advance. Government funding of 15 or 30 hours is available from the term after the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday. We also take funded and non-funded 2 year olds.

Our staff are fully trained to a high standard. We have a range of activities for all ages and stages, please come along and visit us.

Our most recent Ofsted report, September 2017 said that '**the setting was at a GOOD rating**'.

## Session Plan

9.00 - 9.15 am	Welcome and registration
10.00 – 10.30 am	Café style snack is offered
9.30 - 11.05 am	Free Play inside and out
11.05 – 11.15am	Tidy up time outside
11.15 - 11.30 am	Key Group time
11.45 am - 12.00 pm	Tidy up time/circle time
12.00 pm	Home
12.00 - 1.00 pm	Lunch time
1.00 pm	Home
1.15 - 2.15 pm	Free play inside and out
2.15 - 2.30 pm	Café style snack is offered
2.30 - 2.45 pm	Tidy up time
2.45 - 2.55 pm	Story time/end of session
3.00 pm	Home time

For further information please come along to the Portal Hall during term time and speak to Hayley or visit our website - [www.burghclerepreschool.co.uk](http://www.burghclerepreschool.co.uk); or Facebook page at [Burghclere Pre School](#). Telephone number: 07749 316968

# Burghclere Sports and Social Club



**The friendly club  
in a friendly  
village!**

Burghclere Sports Club  
Harts Lane, Burghclere, Newbury  
Berkshire, RG20 9JD

Telephone: 01635 278642  
Email: [info@burghcleresportsclub.co.uk](mailto:info@burghcleresportsclub.co.uk)  
Website: [www.burghcleresportsclub.co.uk](http://www.burghcleresportsclub.co.uk)

Like Burghclere Sports Club on Facebook



Burghclere Sports and Social Club is a family orientated club with activities throughout the year.

We welcome both members and non-members to join us for a drink and participate in Monthly Quiz Nights (last Friday of the month), fortnightly Bingo (Thursdays), Friday Night Cash Draws and the occasional themed food night.

We show coverage of major sporting events on a large screen TV and have all the BT Sport channels. The club supports a wide variety of sports teams playing football, cricket, darts and pool – new players are all welcomed, just ask at the club if you would like to get involved.

Free Wi-Fi is available within the club. We also have a well-stocked bar serving snacks, non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks. The club also has outside bar facilities for anyone that is looking for a bar for a party or event.

Pop in and see one of our friendly bar staff who will go through the membership benefits (one of which is enjoying reduced bar prices). Non-members are always welcome.

## Opening Hours –

Friday: 18:00hrs onwards

Saturday and Sunday: 11:00hrs onwards

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 18:30hrs onwards (on Pool nights only)

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 18:30hrs onwards (on Bingo nights – fortnightly)



# *Short Mat Bowls*

Every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the Portal Hall, a group of villagers get together for a couple of hours to play bowls.

A game most people can manage with a little practice.

Come along and watch for the first time and see if you would like to try it.

Everyone is very welcome, tea and biscuits half way and it's all very informal.

Contact Bob Hills on 276050, or <[bob@foxgloves.me.uk](mailto:bob@foxgloves.me.uk)>



*Left to Right:* Barry Perrot, Maggs Lansley, Ron Allan, Bob Hills, Margaret Hills, Gerry Hogan, John Childs, and Patrick Wason

# Horticultural Society

The Burghclere and Newtown Horticultural Society dates from 1927 when the first Summer Flower Show was held. Before this an annual show had been held in conjunction with other surrounding villages as far south as Crux Easton.

Today we have about 90 members, mainly from Burghclere and Newtown, who all share an interest in gardening. We organise various events throughout the year which are publicised in the 'News From The Villages' and in an annual newsletter distributed in October. Our subscription is £3 a year.

We have three Shows each year, a daffodil show in April, the Summer Flower Show in early August and a small Autumn Show in late September or early October. These are friendly, local, competitive events and new exhibitors are both needed and welcomed.

During the winter we have four talks on gardening topics on the third Tuesday of November, January, February and March in The Portal Hall Club Room.

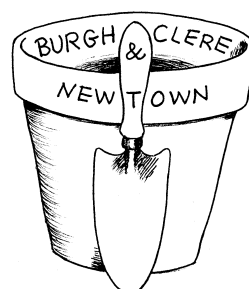
There is also a Christmas Party at the beginning of December, which is held in Newtown Village Hall.

In the summer, we have a coach outing to a garden of interest. Over the years we have visited Wisley, Kew, Hidcote, Ryton Organic Gardens, Great Dixter and others.

Join us by paying £3 to the Treasurer  
Chairman: Doug Ellis (278844)  
Treasurer: Miggie Bruce (278342)  
Secretary: Liz Ellis (278844)



2015 Summer show



# *News from the Villages*

News from the Villages covers all the villages in our area, namely Burghclere, Newtown, Ecchinswell, Bishops Green, Sydmonton and Old Burghclere. It is delivered to 640 households by volunteers.

It is published 11 times a year, and with a fair wind, should arrive on your doormat by the start of the new month, excluding August. In it you can find all sorts of information, from diary dates of jumble sales, concerts, meetings and other events, to reports of the goings-on at parish council meetings in the villages and of organisations like the W.I. and local schools. There is also the Notice Board with, for example, karate classes, or a lost cat, keys found, or personal messages.

In the middle of the magazine is a list of church services taking place in the three parish churches, and inside the front cover a list of useful telephone numbers of people and organisations round the parish. If you need something, or want to sell something, you can let the Editor know and she'll put in your own (free) ad. in the Free Local Ads page.

There is also a wealth of commercial advertising, so you can leaf through and find the number of your local cab firm, builders, MP, the pub, shrub nursery, milkman, joiner or toddler group.

Please send Advertising copy to Bob Hills: <[bob@foxgloves.me.uk](mailto:bob@foxgloves.me.uk)> who is also responsible for booking the advertisements. Tel: 276050.

There are lots of other bits and pieces in the magazine: Nature Notebook, a seasonal recipe, sometimes a cartoon, a page from the Rector, local history, or a comic spoof newsletter.

What you see in the magazine depends largely on what is happening and who has sent something in.....contributions and suggestions are very welcome.

We are very keen to have upright format colour photos that are of local interest, and those taken by modern mobile phones are usually good enough for an inside cover or a full cover illustration. Email the images just as they came off your camera/phone to <[neillb@brucephoto.co.uk](mailto:neillb@brucephoto.co.uk)> and also Editor <[susan@oxdrove.com](mailto:susan@oxdrove.com)> Send in written contributions by email to Susan.

It's much better if copy is sent electronically as that minimizes the chance for errors to creep in. You can also telephone Susan on (01635 278295) if you'd like to discuss a contribution.

To receive News from the Villages, you need to telephone Katy Collins on Tel:01635 45676. <[katy@collinsclan.co.uk](mailto:katy@collinsclan.co.uk)> A year's subscription will cost £3.50.

# Parish Tree Warden

Like many other parishes in the country, Burghclere has a Parish Tree Warden. The role of a Parish Tree Warden is to be the eyes and ears of the parish on any matter concerning trees. They are not qualified experts, so definitely cannot give an official opinion on the safety or condition of any tree, but they can put you in touch with the professionals who can.

Neill Bruce is the Burghclere Tree Warden, and holds a copy set of the Tree Preservation Orders for the parish, which can be referred to if a preserved tree is thought to be under threat, or if you want to check the trees on your property. If you would like to know more about Tree Wardens, or are interested in becoming one, contact either Carol Tuxford at <Carol.Tuxford@basingstoke.gov.uk> or Neill Bruce, or any of the Tree Officers at Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council on 01256 845500.

There are many training days for new Tree Wardens, all of which are completely free. You will also get a regular magazine, and be kept aware of any special events. Support is available with leaflets etc. for many of the Nation-wide tree planting schemes that are organised.

You ought to care about your village and its trees and hedgerows. Try and imagine it without either, and see how great a role they play. You should contact a Tree Warden if you believe that trees - which are of benefit to the area - are threatened by development, or just at risk.

Through Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council's tree officers, a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) can be put on either one, or a group of trees in a very short space of time.

To be worthy of inclusion, any tree(s):-  
Should be visible from a public place.  
Their removal would have a significant impact on the local environment.  
Be in reasonable health and condition.

TPOs should be used selectively to protect the better quality trees and not as a blanket form of protection.

Your Burghclere Tree Warden is:-  
Neill Bruce. Tel: 278342

Email <[neillb@brucephoto.co.uk](mailto:neillb@brucephoto.co.uk)>



# *Sandham Memorial Chapel*



Near the centre of the village stands Sandham Memorial Chapel. Often referred to as an 'unexpected treasure', the Chapel was inspired by the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua, decorated by Giotto. The artist Sir Stanley Spencer had first seen photos of this Chapel whilst studying at The Slade in London in the early 1900s and determined there and then that one day he would be able to create what he called "A Holy Box" of his own.

During the Great War Spencer had served initially as a medical orderly before transferring to Macedonia where he also saw service as a Private Soldier on the front line. On his return to England, he was encouraged to return to his idea of building his 'Holy Box' as a means of personal redemption as well as a record of his memories of caring for and working alongside the ordinary soldiers and servicemen of WW1 and their everyday routines.

Instead of painting scenes of battle-ravaged countryside, Spencer shows the everyday lives of soldiers at the front and the work of the Medical Orderlies who help care for the sick and wounded. Over 19 large canvases covering three of the walls of the Chapel these scenes are brought vividly and poignantly to life.

The Chapel and the paintings were commissioned in 1923 by a local couple, Mr and Mrs J L Behrend, who lived at Grey House, which was on the track leading to Palmer's Hill House. The Behrends subsequently decided that the Chapel should be in memory of Mary Behrend's brother, Harry Sandham. Sandham had served in France and Macedonia during the War, and like Spencer and indeed others suffered from bouts of malaria. Not long after his return he succumbed to illness complicated by his suffering from malaria and subsequently died in early 1920, too late to be recognised as war dead.

The Chapel was built by 'Heads' - a local firm of builders, who also built a cottage for Spencer and his family to live in whilst he was working on the paintings. This dwelling in Pound Lane first known as "Chapel View" is now called "Sandham House".

The Chapel was dedicated in 1927, and the paintings were completed in 1932. It was gifted to the National Trust in 1947.

The Chapel is open from March to December, but please look at our website [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel) to check for open days and times or `phone 01635 278394. Information regarding open times is also displayed on the front notice board beside Harts Lane.

Sandham was the subject of major works as part of the 2014 First World War anniversary which included a new garden of reflection which has been greatly appreciated by visitors and now in its fourth year is becoming ever more established. The exhibition rooms again created in 2014 provide a good introduction for visitors before entering the chapel itself. In addition 2018 sees a new display of art work inspired by the key messages from the often forgotten Salonika campaign by a group of homeless veterans as part of the national Away from the Western Front charity initiative.

Sandham is a great place for children to visit either with their families or as part of a school visit and there is a brand new guide just for children and a trail for younger ones for the 2018 season. Sandham wants to encourage more school visits and can now deliver specially designed packages for these visits.

Sandham has a packed events programme throughout the year including workshops, exhibitions, talks, theatrical & musical performances and monthly poetry readings and services. Full details of all of the events are on the website [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel) or you can email at [sandham@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:sandham@nationaltrust.org.uk) or call 01635 278394.

The Sandham staff always welcome any enquiries from villagers thinking of joining Sandham's band of volunteers. There are a variety of roles on offer to suit all from working in the Chapel, in the Gardens or as "front-of-house" to welcome visitors in Visitor Reception. Enquire by Email or telephone at [Sandham@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Sandham@nationaltrust.org.uk) , 01635 278394



National Trust/John Miller

# *Herbert Plantation*



This 62 acre (25 hectare) wood lies between Oxdrove, Well Street, Burghclere Common and Broken Way. It was bought in 1983 by Hampshire County Council to prevent its development, and to provide a public amenity. It is managed by a committee of representatives of the County and Borough Councils, together with local residents appointed by Burghclere Parish Council. In 1986 it was designated a Countryside Heritage Site, and in 1995 it was declared a Local Nature Reserve.

There are 57 out of a possible 101 local species of ancient woodland vascular plants, amongst them solomon's seal, wood sorrel, primrose, bluebell, dog's mercury and wood spurge. Wild violet and strawberry, and several species of ferns abound. An unmanaged wood for many years, much of the 'pioneer' birch has recently been removed to reveal such subdued species as oak, beech, ash, cherry, lime, hazel and yew. Currently there is a move to create glades and other butterfly habitats, and recently some hollies have been coppiced to reveal several fine oaks that were being smothered.

Roe and muntjac deer, fox, weasel, and long-eared bat have been seen, whilst both adder and grass snakes can be found sunning themselves on warm days. A great many bird species have been seen, from long tailed tits to woodcock, mallard, ravens, sparrow hawks, red kites and buzzards.

*Continued overleaf:-*

Some of the interesting species of butterflies and moths noted are purple emperor, silver washed fritillary (*below*), white admiral and speckled wood. The Devon carpet moth was also found here in the 1980s, in one of its most easterly locations, and is one of the large number of moths in the wood. More than 215 species of (mostly inedible) fungi have been identified.

You are invited to visit the dedicated section on the new village web site. Go to <[www.burghclerevillage.uk](http://www.burghclerevillage.uk)> and choose **Herbert Plantation** from the menu, for a range of pdfs to download.

This will provide you with a detailed map, a section with ten notable trees that you and/or your children can find from the map, a list of the Fungi found in recent years, as well as a full taxonomic list for the serious biologist. There is even a full detailed history of the wood, plus a list of butterflies, and lots of colour photos of plants and insects.

The Herbert Plantation is there for all to enjoy the walks, but you are requested to kindly keep to the paths, and only ride bikes with care and consideration for the wildlife, path surfaces and other walkers.

No horses. motorbikes or quad bikes, please.

For further information, contact the chairman of the management committee, Neill Bruce on 01635 278342 or by email on <[neillb@brucephoto.co.uk](mailto:neillb@brucephoto.co.uk)>.



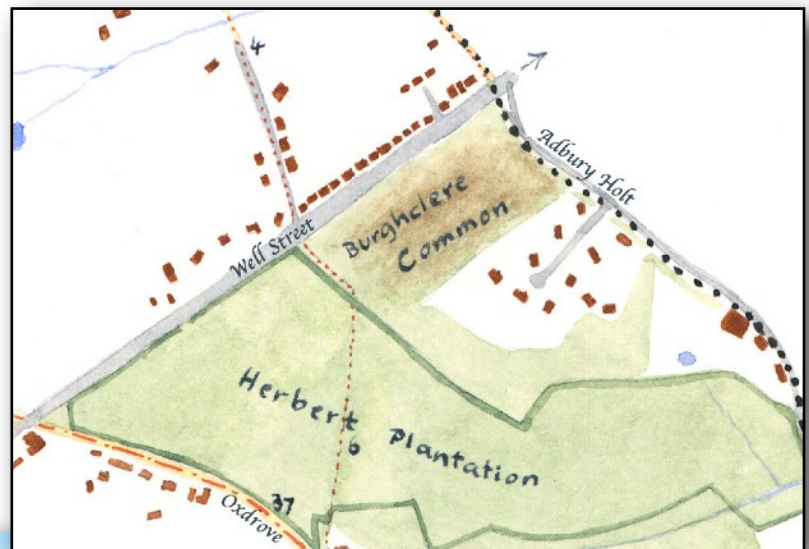
The Hampshire County Council contact is the Northern area Sites Manager, Mrs Nicki Paton on 01252 870425, where you can leave a message if she is out on site. She is based at the Yateley Common Country Park, Near Blackbush airport.

# Common Land

There are two areas of Common land in the Parish - Burghclere and Earlstone Commons. They are geographically separated from one another by a 62 acre (25.5 hectare) wood known as the Herbert Plantation, which is managed as a Local Nature Reserve by Hampshire County Council, and by a track known as the Oxdrove. You will find a full description of the Herbert Plantation on the previous pages in this Welcome Pack.

BURGHCLERE COMMON has an area of some 13.2 acres (5.5 hectares) and lies on the plateau gravels at the northern edge of the parish. About half of the area of the Common was, until 1999, dominated by ling heather. However, following an infestation of heather leaf-beetle, its vigour is much reduced. The Common is suffering some birch and pine invasion from surrounding woodland, and in recent years from purple moor grass, but is now being actively managed to restore some of its former glory.

The Common is registered under the Commons Registration Act (1965), as a Village Green and so has free public access, but no common rights. Its ownership is registered as Burghclere Parish Council. It also falls within the Hampshire County Council registered Burghclere Common and Herbert Plantation Site of Nature Conservation Interest.



EARLSTONE COMMON covers an area of some 23 acres (9.3 hectares) and like Burghclere Common, it is also on the plateau gravels. Whilst much of the Common is fairly level, the ground slopes away along the north western boundary which abuts a small meadow. The Common is mostly covered by birch scrub and Oak/Holly woodland but maps from 100 years ago show it as mostly open land.

Ownership is registered as The Public Trustee. Strictly, legal rights of access are limited to the Inhabitants of Burghclere, there being no public footpaths. No common rights or bylaws exist. The land is held in trust for the use of the inhabitants of Burghclere by deed of conveyance dated 17.12.1904.

Neither of these Commons is mapped as Access Land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, unlike the much larger Newtown Common (which lies outside this Parish to the North of the Adbury Holt lane).

Full details of both of these Commons may be found on the Burghclere Village Website [www.burghclerevillage.uk](http://www.burghclerevillage.uk)

Volunteer work parties take place during the winter months to help manage these commons for their wildlife interest and public access. If you are interested in taking part in these please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council Ms Sarah Bosley, on 07974655210, or look for news in the News from the Villages.



# The Old Lime Quarry

The Old Burghclere Lime Quarry is both an important Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The reserve is 5.2 hectares in extent with a perimeter of 1.5 km. Its Grid reference is SU 472 573.

Quarrying began in the late 1880's soon after the nearby railway opened in 1885. The work continued there with varying degrees of success until the 1930's. In the 1970's Hampshire Wildlife Trust leased the quarry from Porchester Estates to manage it as a nature reserve.

Small Blue, Green Hairstreak and Duke of Burgundy butterflies are present, though very precarious. Clouded Yellow migrants are seen some years and there are the usual Marbled White, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Gatekeeper, Peacock etc. In 2013, 3 or 4 Dark Green Fritillaries were recorded. By 2016 there were between 9-&11.

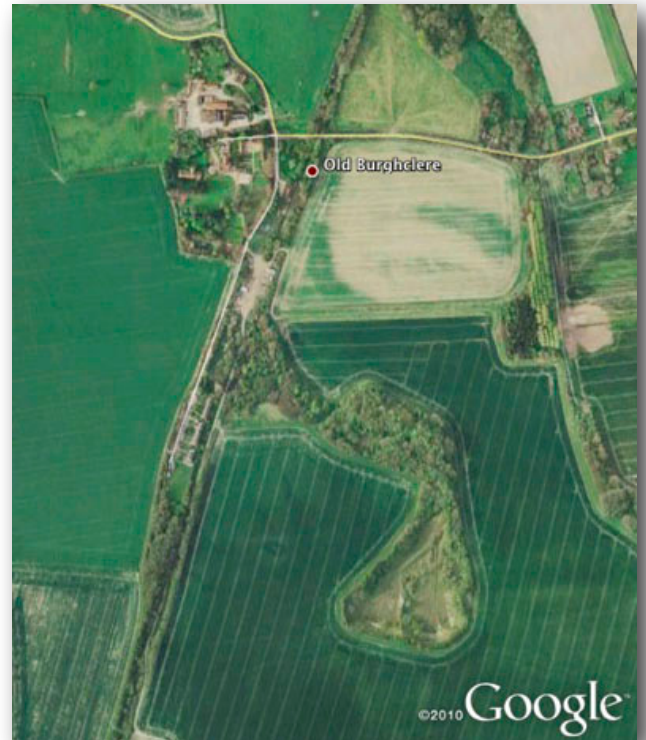
There are several rare or uncommon species of flower such as Fly Orchid, White Helleborine, Common Twayblade, Kidney Vetch, Rock Rose and Lady's Bedstraw.

In order to discourage the rabbits from nibbling at the emerging flowers a number of enclosures have been erected year on year. It takes one or two seasons before any real benefit is seen but it is proving to be a valuable project. However, the important Kidney Vetch is still struggling for survival and consequently the number of Small Blue butterflies is declining to a dangerously low level.

The Lime Quarry is open to members of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, but is now very difficult to access, and you should discuss this with the Highclere estate before attempting to go there.

If you are interested in learning more about the Lime Quarry and the plants and animals that can be found there, please contact Briony Canning on 01635 278485. Briony will be pleased to share her enthusiasm for this beautiful spot with you.

Main enquiries to  
Mervyn Grist, Butterfly Monitoring  
on 01264 358737



*Small Blue cupido minimus*  
Resident: range declining  
Size: 25mm Habitat: Grassy  
slopes on all soils  
Larval food: Kidney Vetch

# Village History

Burghclere and Highclere are ancient settlements that were recorded in Domesday as "Clere" but by 1208-09 were accounted for separately on the pipe rolls of the Bishop of Winchester. Newtown, "Novo Burgo de Clere" (new town), was created from a portion of Burghclere in 1218 when the Bishop of Winchester, who held the manor for the support of the monks, was given leave to hold a weekly market.

However, in the south of the parish it is possible to see the remains of much earlier civilisations. Alongside the A34 are Bronze Age barrows, and nearby the Iron Age fort and hut circles atop Beacon Hill. On the opposite side is Ladle Hill with an unfinished fort and dew pond on its summit.



*Looking East towards Old Burghclere from Beacon Hill, which is in Burghclere Parish*

Lying between these hills is the nucleus of Old Burghclere where there are earthworks of a deserted medieval village. In the 1980s some Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in a nearby field so it is very likely that an earlier settlement lies beneath the earthworks. The 12th century All Saints Church, 14th century Burghclere Manor and 18th century Manor Farm, plus some later scattered dwellings, complete the early settlement.

A mile or so north of Old Burghclere are the hamlets of Whitway and West Street comprising mainly 18th century cottages. 'Whitway Cottage' a 16th century thatched and whitewashed cottage, standing end on to the road, is the oldest cottage in Burghclere and one of the 27 listed buildings in the parish.

The building of the primary school (1837), Church of the Ascension (1838) and the coming of the railway (1885) focused the later development on to the centre of the parish.

*Earlstone Manor*



*Continued overleaf:-*

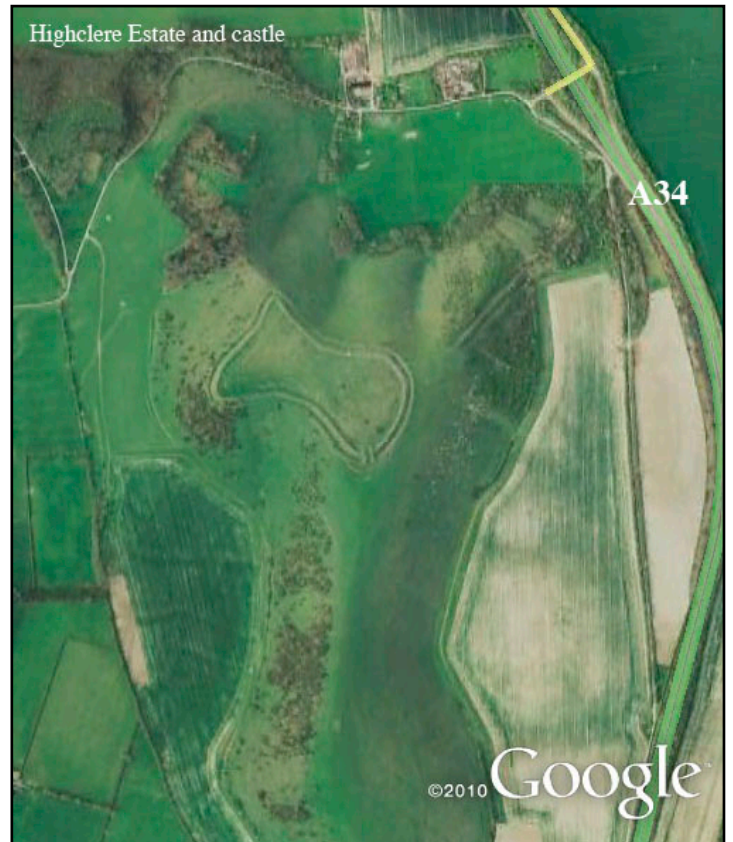
This has become the established 'village' of Burghclere where, though not a quintessential English village green, the Recreation Ground houses a thriving Sports club set in a triangle of roads that is the focal point for the Church, schools, old people's bungalows, Portal Hall and Millennium Garden. The Portal Hall hosts meetings and entertainments for the various societies and the Village Quiz, and is elegant enough for other formal gatherings.

Surrounding this hub of social life are beautiful areas of farmland, woodland and common that can be accessed by a fine network of footpaths (see **Walking** and **Local History** on the new village web site <burghclerevillage.uk>) During the 20th century various schemes and covenants have served to save some of these areas for posterity; Earlstone Common, Burghclere Common, Herbert Plantation Local Nature Reserve, Old Burghclere Lime Quarry Nature Reserve and the Recreation Ground.

Development in the parish has been slow but steady, resulting in a still pleasantly rural feel that manages to encompass modern living with traditional aesthetics: a precious but vanishing concept.

If you would like to know more about Burghclere, ancient or modern, you can borrow "The Story of Burghclere" from Newbury library. (ref. and borrowing sections), Alternatively I am happy to chat to you if you call me - Briony Canning - on 278485.

*Watercolours © Miggie Bruce, from her Millenium Map*



*Beacon Hill Iron Age fort*



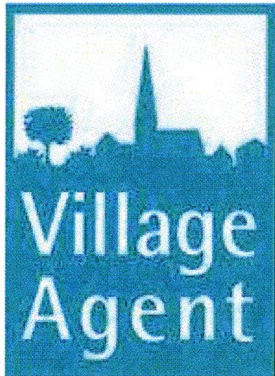
*All Saints Church, Old Burghclere*



*Burghclere Manor*

# Village agent

A new venture by Hampshire County Council, the Village Agent is here to guide you towards those who can help with any of the problems listed. Forms are available in the Portal Hall, on the Church table, and the Carpenter's Arms bookshelf by the door. And there is one in the pocket at the back of this pack. Or just ring the mobile number.



Name:

Tel:

Are you looking for information or advice?  
Let us point you in the right direction!  
Indicate below what kind of information  
you are looking for and we will do our best  
to help you find it!

Your local Village Agent.

**Bob on 07831 430890**

**Benefits – what you may  
be entitled to**

**Blue Badge Scheme**

**Community groups/ Social  
Clubs/Courses in your area**

**Computer/internet Help**

**Cookery Classes**

**Council Enquiries**

**Council Tax**

**Safety Around the Home**

**Safety Out and About**

**Home Fire Safety**

**Reliable Tradespeople**

**Gardening help**

**Help in the Home**

**Getting to the Doctors**

**Finding Residential Care**

**Keeping Warm at Home**

**Support from your Library**

**Meals on Wheels**

**Nuisance Calls**

**Personal Care**

**Preventing Falls**

**Scams**

**Assistance with Shopping**

**Transport**

**Voluntary Sector**

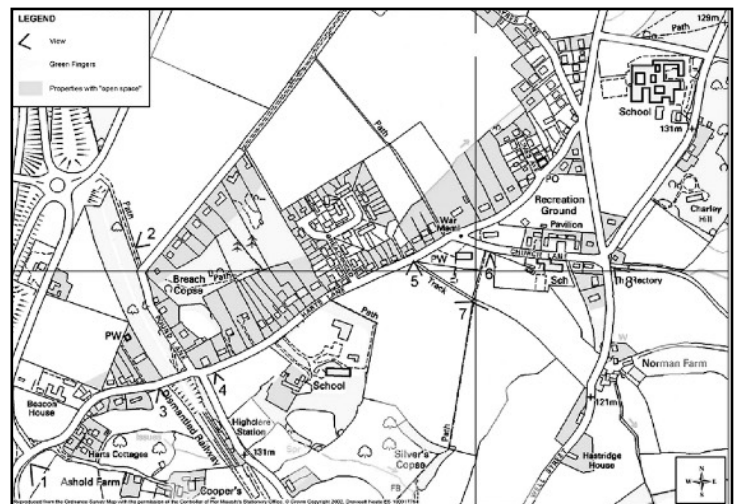
# Village Design Statement

The object of the Design Statement is to reflect the views of those living in the parish of Burghclere as regards the existing and future housing, business facilities, recreational and other amenities of the parish as a whole, thereby helping to ensure that any new developments are sympathetically designed and located so as to fit in with those qualities and local characteristics that are particularly valued by residents.

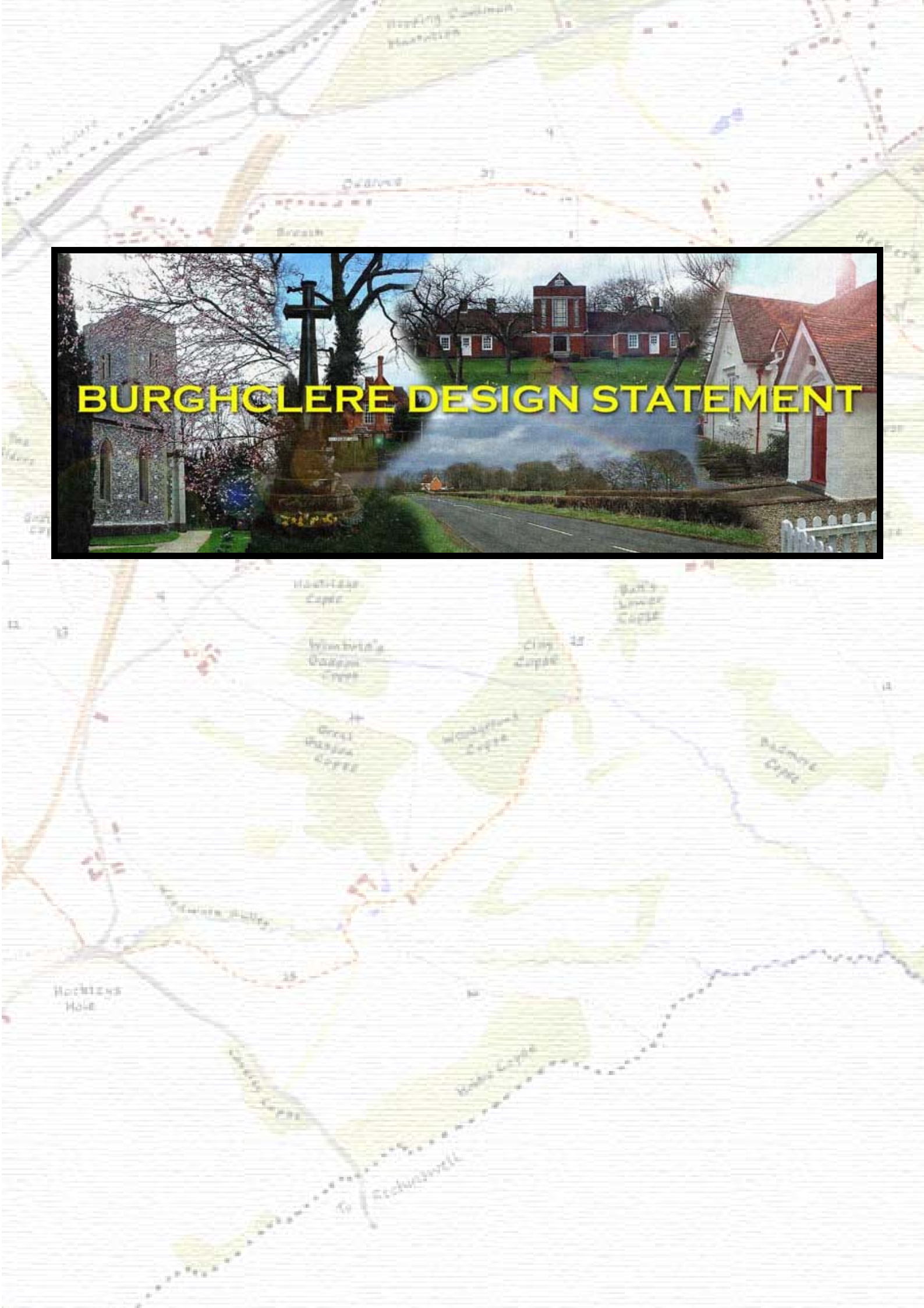
It was firstly approved by the residents of Burghclere, secondly the Parish Council, and finally Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Now that it has been adopted by the Borough Council it will be referred to by Planning Officers before they make a planning decision that affects this area, and it will also be expected that applicants will consult the guidance before preparing proposals.

So, for the first time all members of our community have had the chance, through the Burghclere Design Statement, to have a direct input into establishing guidelines in advance of applications being received. It is designed to help manage change, at whatever scale it occurs in this area and it is about how planned development should be carried out in the parish. This will help to ensure that any development is in harmony with our local setting and makes a positive contribution to our local environment. ***This Design statement follows this page.*** There is also a new Neighbourhood Plan under preparation.



*A selection of village properties*



# BURGHCLERE DESIGN STATEMENT

## **BURGHCLERE DESIGN STATEMENT**

The object of this Design Statement is to reflect the views of those living in the parish of Burghclere as regards the existing and future housing, business facilities, recreational and other amenities of the parish as a whole, thereby helping to ensure that any new developments are sympathetically designed and located so as to fit in with those qualities and local characteristics that are particularly valued by residents.

### **How was it produced?**

Following an open meeting on the 29th November 2000 a committee of volunteers worked for over a year to produce the design statement. Consultation with residents was carried out throughout the period using a variety of means including a questionnaire, a project day, exhibitions and meetings with interested groups. The working draft was made available to the parish for comment via the Burghclere web site and in printed form. Responses to the draft have been taken into account in this statement.



*Villagers attend the workshop held in the Portal Hall May 2001*

### **Who approved it?**

First, the residents of Burghclere, secondly, the Parish Council and finally, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

### **What influence will it have?**

The Burghclere Design Statement was adopted by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance for this area. This means that it will be referred to by the Planning Officers before they make a planning decision that affects this area and it will also be expected that applicants will consult the guidance before preparing proposals. So, for the first time all members of our community have had the chance, through our Burghclere Design Statement, to have a direct input into establishing guidelines in advance of applications being received. It is designed to help manage change, at whatever scale it occurs in this area and it is about how planned development should be carried out in the parish. This will help to ensure that any development is in harmony with our local setting and makes a positive contribution to our local environment.

## History

The parish has a long history. There are Bronze Age barrows to the south of Beacon Hill, where there was an Iron Age settlement. There is mention of a church at Burghclere in the Domesday survey. It is thought that the parish developed at the southern end with the mediaeval village at Old Burghclere. Following The Black Death this was deserted and is now only visible as irregularities in the ground. The oldest building is the Church of All Saints started circa 1100 and built in stages until the 14th century. It has an aisle-less Norman nave restored in 1861.

Close by is the Manor House dating back to the 14th Century. In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17th centuries buildings were erected along Whitway and West Street, many of which are still standing. Many of these are amongst the some fifty listed buildings in the Parish, the majority being south of Harts Lane. These range from modest farm buildings and cart sheds to cottages, larger houses and public buildings including The Church of the Ascension in Burghclere Village circa 1838, the Primary School circa 1837 and the Portal Hall opposite.



*Burghclere Primary School*



*Parsons Corner*



*Sandham Memorial Chapel*

One of the finest examples of an early Primitive Methodist Chapel, built by The Reverend Thomas Russell in 1864, can be seen in Harts Lane, it has recently been converted to a residence known as Parsons Corner.

The Sandham Memorial Chapel, built in the 20th Century, contains the internationally important paintings by Sir Stanley Spencer undertaken between 1926 and 1932.

Development began to accelerate during the early to mid 19th century, after which the arrival of the Didcot to Southampton railway in 1885 with its two stations, ("Highclere Station" for Burghclere Village and "Burghclere Station" for Old Burghclere) was probably the catalyst which brought about the enlargement of the settlements. This started with some late Victorian houses, continuing with the steady growth of building before the First World War. This development continued both between the wars – when The Highclere Estate sold a large tract of land to pay death duties in 1925/6 - and shortly after the Second World War. Thus, over the centuries the population has moved from the high chalk in the south to the lower lying areas in the north.

## Open spaces



*Rhododendron walk – Herbert Plantation*

Throughout the parish there is a feeling of space with views to the Downs through and across the open aspects which are of great importance in maintaining the rural character of the area. Some of these areas achieve a degree of seclusion and identity due to mature trees of mainly indigenous species. The agricultural and equine fields within and around Burghclere village create a rural feel, an involvement with the countryside and provide attractive views and vistas.

Of particular significance are those opposite the rectory, on either side of the church, adjacent to Spring Lane, opposite the Sandham Memorial Chapel and adjoining Coopers Lane. For many years Burghclere Parish Council has fought hard to retain these "fingers of countryside" which all penetrate to the heart of the village. Together with the open areas found to the north side of the village centre these are largely responsible for its rural aspect, which can be clearly seen on the village centre map. It is worth mentioning that 65% of all questionnaire responses emphasised the importance of the views to the Downs and 33% of those specifically mentioned the field opposite Breachfield, with the views it can afford and the space it provides halfway along the main village road.



*View 5 from Harts Lane*

In many of the settlements, housing development has taken place only on one side of the road, which creates a feeling of space when travelling through the area. Many properties have open land behind or adjacent and this also adds to the feeling of space. This can be clearly seen on the village centre map. Whitway/West Street and Old Burghclere are surrounded by open fields, which emphasise the rural character of these settlements. The playing fields belonging to both The Clere School and to the Primary School together with the Recreation Ground with its sports pavilion and children's playground form an integral part of the village character and it is important that they are retained in their entirety for their current use. The Recreation Ground is a designated Village Green and is identified as Open Space in the Local Plan. Burghclere Common, Earlstone Common and the Herbert Plantation provide attractive areas in which to walk and enjoy the wildlife. All three sites are Countryside Heritage Sites and The Herbert Plantation is designated a Local Nature Reserve having flora of particular importance in the county. Beacon Hill also has public access and affords some interesting flora, as well as panoramic views.

## The Landscape setting

The parish of Burghclere runs (except for the Newtown enclave) from the River Enborne in the north to Ladle Hill in the south-east and beyond Beacon Hill in the south-west. It is a large parish covering some 2075 hectares (5,270 acres.) From a height of 262 metres (842 ft.) in the south it descends to under 80 metres (262 ft.) in the north. The soils of the parish are predominantly chalk in the south and gravel overlaying greensand in the north, giving rise to alkaline and acid conditions respectively and hence to a wide diversity of flora and fauna.



*View 19 Over Ridgemoor*

Although the parish is predominantly rural, the spread of development over the years has created several distinct settlement areas. The largest is Burghclere village itself, whilst Old Burghclere lies to the south and Whitway/West Street is to the west. Northern settlements include Tothill, Sheepwash Lane, Heatherwold, Adbury Holt and Aldern Bridge. These settlements are indicated on the main Burghclere map. There are farming and equine premises generally throughout the parish.

There are numerous large and small areas of woodland, and extensive planting has been carried out as part of the screening of the Newbury bypass and the Whitway diversion of the A34 further to the south. There are lengthy, broad hedgerows, some of which are ancient, many with mature trees growing in or near them. Burghclere village itself is so well provided with trees that even in winter it is largely concealed from the surrounding countryside. There are springs and many streams in the lower part of the parish that feed into the river Enborne, and early houses and farms were sited to make extensive use of them.



*View 7 Looking towards Watership Down*



*Earlstone Common*

Approximately half of the parish lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Its boundary within the parish is shown by the dotted green line on the main Burghclere map. Within the AONB are several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Burghclere village directly abuts open countryside on all sides as do the other settlements and isolated dwellings. The Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Assessment also recognises the strong character and sense of place of the surrounding countryside.

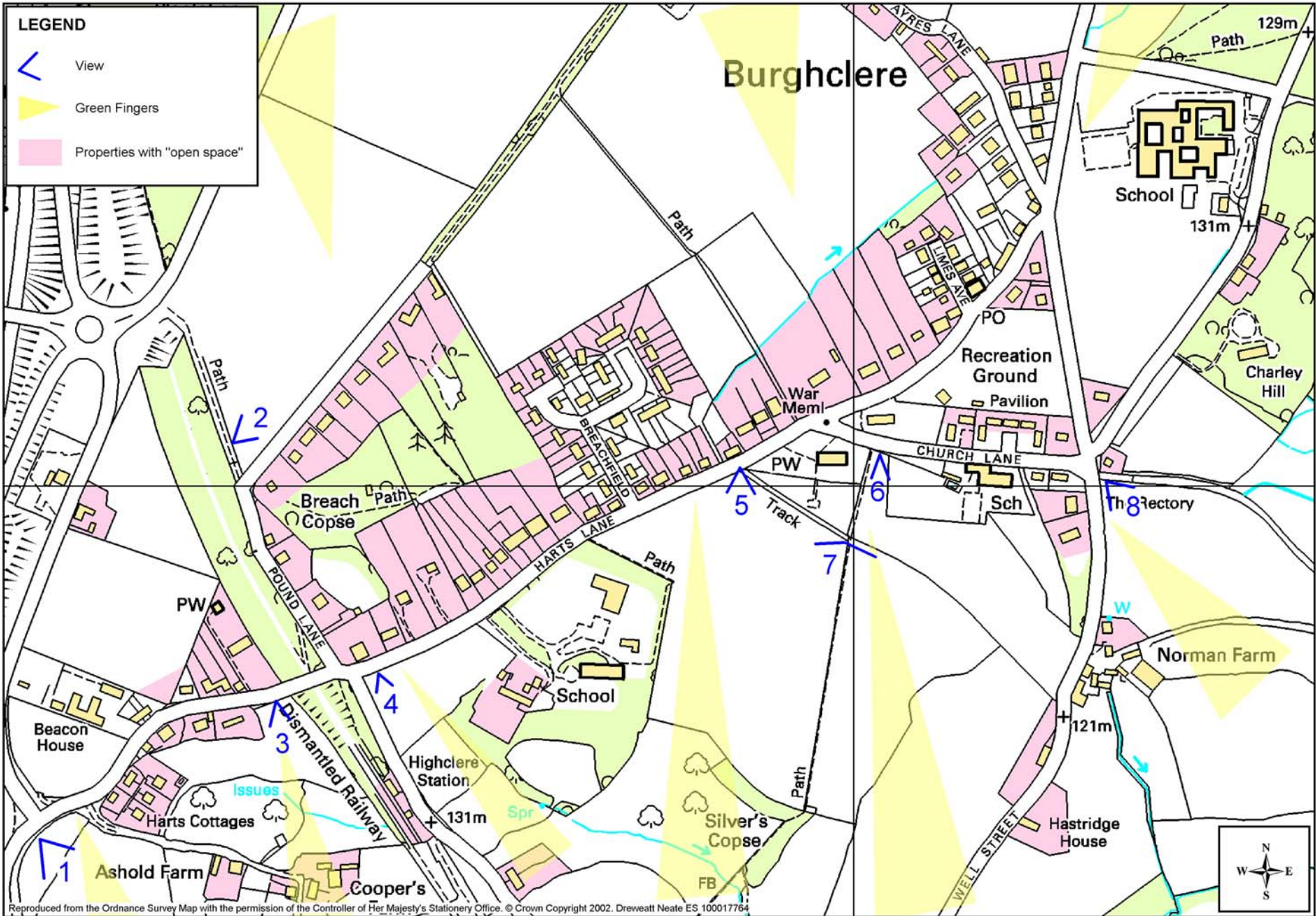


View 4 from Harts Lane

## **List of important views into and out of the area.**

**Views 1 to 8 are marked on the central village map.**

- 1 From Harts Lane looking south east to Hannington and Watership Down over the AONB. *Grid reference 461 606.*
- 2 From the Pound Lane footpath, looking north east between Hopping Common and the Oxdrove. *Grid reference 463 611.*
- 3 From opposite The Sandham Memorial Chapel, looking south over the AONB. *Grid reference 464 607.*
- 4 From opposite Grange Cottage, looking south towards the Downs. *Grid reference 465 608.*
- 5 From Harts Lane, opposite Hannington View and Church View cottages, looking south east towards the downs. *Grid reference 469 610.*
- 6 From the start of footpath 13 in Church Lane, opposite The Portal Hall, looking across the glebe field towards the Downs and view point 7. *Grid reference 470 610.*
- 7 From footpath 13, just south of the churchyard. A panoramic view from west, through south to east over open country to the downs. *Grid reference 470 609.*
- 8 From Reeves Cottage, east of the junction of Well Street and Church Lane, which affords views east over open farmland, south to Watership Down and south west to the dismantled railway line. *Grid reference 473 610.*



# THE PARISH OF BURGHCLERE

Scale:

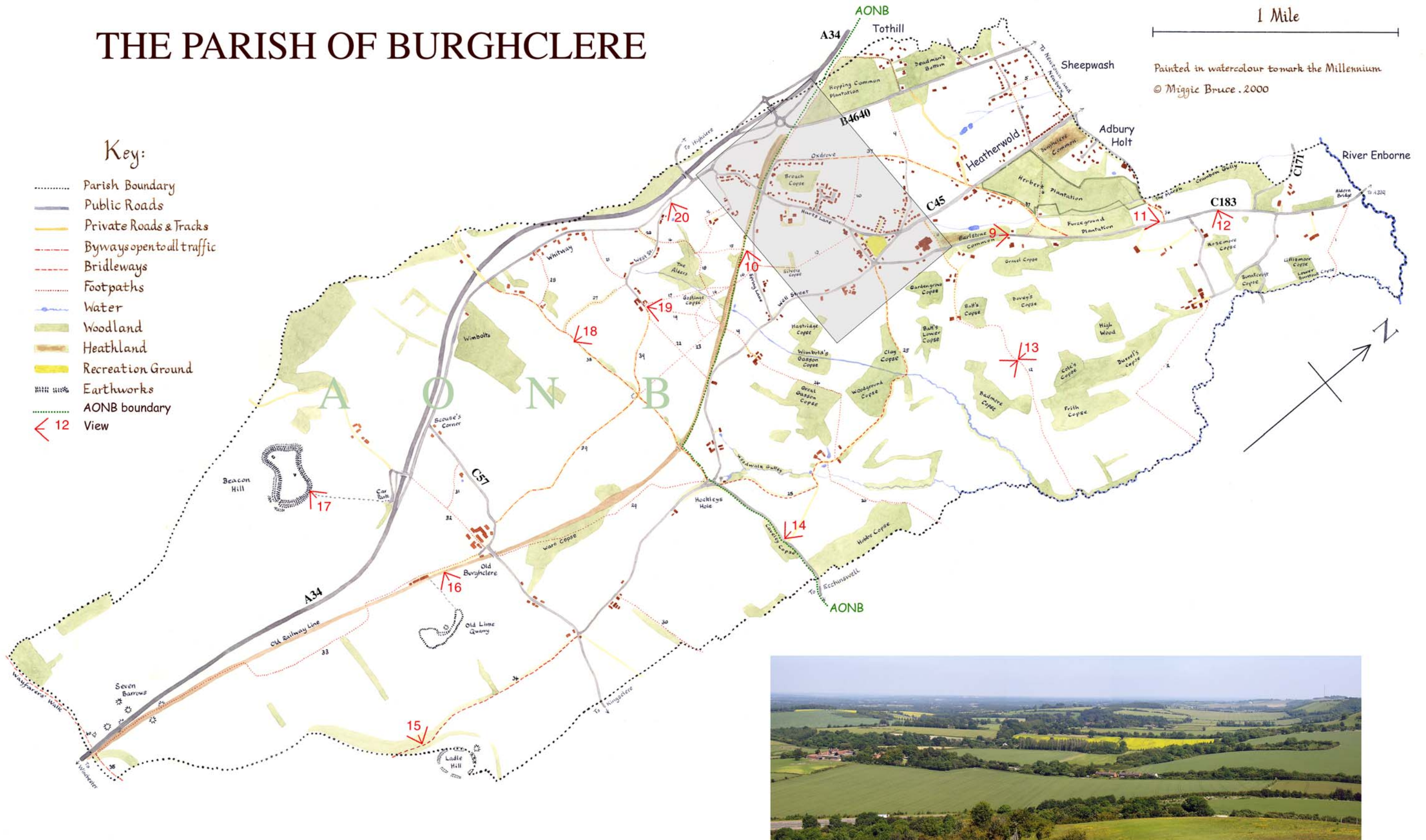
1 Mile

Painted in watercolour to mark the Millennium

© Miggie Bruce . 2000

## Key:

- ..... Parish Boundary
- Public Roads
- Private Roads & Tracks
- - - Byways open to all traffic
- - - Bridleways
- - - Footpaths
- Water
- Woodland
- Heathland
- Recreation Ground
- Earthworks
- ..... AONB boundary
- ← 12 View



View 17 looking east from Beacon Hill



View 20 from West Street

## **List of important views into and out of the area (continued)**

**Views 9 to 20 are marked on the main Burghclere map.**

- 9 From Earlstone Common, on the Adbury Road, looking towards the village of Burghclere itself. *Grid reference 477 618.*
- 10 From footpath 15 between Spring Lane and the old railway line. South east over Dodds Farm and beyond to Watership Down. *Grid reference 467 604.*
- 11 From Broken Way, near the junction with the Adbury road, looking to The Herbert Plantation and Burghclere Village. *Grid reference 483 626.*
- 12 From the Adbury Road, looking south east across Adbury Park towards The Downs. *Grid reference 485 630.*
- 13 From footpath 12, looking both north and south. *Grid reference 482 613.*
- 14 From the Ecchinswell Road, at the junction of the driveway to Earlstone Manor, looking towards Ridgemoor Farm, Burghclere Village, Adbury Park and across to Greenham Common. *Grid reference 482 593.*
- 15 From the west bank of Ladle Hill, north west towards Old Burghclere. *Grid reference 477 568.*
- 16 From Old Burghclere, looking south east towards Ladle Hill. *Grid reference 469 577.*
- 17 From the top of Beacon Hill looking across Old Burghclere. *Grid reference 459 573.*
- 18 From just east of the junction between Stubbs Lane and BOAT 38, looking north over the AONB towards both Burghclere village and Greenham Common. Even in winter Burghclere is largely hidden by trees. *Grid reference 463 592.*
- 19 From junction of footpaths 17 and 19 opposite Ridgemoor Farm house, looking east to the dismantled railway line and south east to Hannington and Watership Down. *Grid reference 465 597.*
- 20 From the junction between the old Winchester Road and West Street, looking east and south east to Hannington and Watership Down. *Grid reference 461 603.*

## Transport and roads



*Junction of Church Lane and Well St*

The B4640 (previously the route of the A34) still attracts a considerable and growing volume of traffic, often to feed into the Newbury bypass (A34T) at Tothill. The increased traffic flow and further development at New Greenham Park pose a threat to local lanes and this is already apparent in terms of vehicle movements on the C57 from Kingsclere to Beacon Hill.

There is a network of rural lanes in the parish, which form attractive approaches to Burghclere village with views over the surrounding countryside. Many have wild flowers in their verges, and some form hollow ways. These lanes reflect the history of the parish. West Street, for example, follows an ancient route to Winchester, which has since been superseded.



*Well Street*

## Footpaths and byways



*'Green Lane' BOAT 38*

The rural nature of the parish is enhanced by extensive views over the countryside, which constitute a valuable and beautiful amenity. The preservation of these views is important. A list is given in the appendix and they are also identified on the main Burghclere map as well as the village centre map.

The parish is honeycombed with over forty footpaths, bridleways and byways, which are noted on the main Burghclere map. All are much used by the inhabitants of the parish and visiting walkers from further afield.



*BOAT 39 looking south*

## Architectural characteristics and settings

There are domestic and rural buildings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. Buildings in the Georgian period have sash or casement windows, hipped roofs, some with slate coverings and overhanging eaves. Late Victorian buildings are mainly in red wire cut bricks having typically Victorian ornate gables and other embellishments (such as denticulation).



Many of the older cottages and some more recent buildings have roofs with hipped ends, most being covered with plain clay or concrete tiles. There are a number of properties with interesting and ornate chimneys, and a number of the traditional farm buildings have weather boarded elevations. Some of the older buildings are thatched, adding to the diverse character of this rural parish.

Brick is the predominant material used, being of a variety of colours and sometimes colour washed. Some buildings have tile hung elevations. There are slate coverings to some of the late Victorian and early 20th century buildings especially those in Heatherwold.



Many of the original modest houses have been considerably extended, some to a high standard so as to blend in with the original building and harmonise with the surrounding properties, but there are examples of poor quality extensions with architectural features out of keeping with the original building. Infilling has occurred on some of the larger plots, without detriment to the spacious character and appeal of the settlements.

Many residents have commented that some of the more recent buildings do not blend in well with nearby properties. Design guidance should in future avoid buildings that do not blend in well with nearby properties and are not compatible in terms of style, setting and proportion.



A common feature running through most of the settlement areas within the parish is the means of enclosure of the dwellings. Many are enclosed by broad leafed hedging, shrubs and mature or maturing trees giving the appearance of a woodland setting even in the main settlement of Burghclere Village.

The use of close-boarded and panel fences to frontages is comparatively rare, and should be discouraged as it has an urbanising influence. There is some post and rail fencing interspersed with shrubs and bushes and a few examples of brick walls.



## Building form



Most buildings were completed during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries with many different styles typified by the fashion and vogue of the time they were built.



There are, however, pockets or groups of dwellings with similar architectural features and age. Examples are turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century houses in Heatherwold, bungalows in Limes Avenue and Pinewood Drive, and detached houses at Adbury Holt built in the 1960s.



A common feature running through the parish is that houses or bungalows when built were set well apart, with space between their neighbours of at least half the building width allowing for good landscaping features and privacy even for quite modest and architecturally plain buildings.

Many dwellings are of two storeys but there are a large number of single storey dwellings built between the 1920s and the 1960s. There are relatively few terraced houses except for some small groups built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Semi-detached houses are scattered throughout the parish but are few in number.



Breachfield is the one development within the parish that was built as a relatively large housing estate by the Council either side of World War II.

Most buildings in the parish were built individually over the years with comparatively few of recent origin. Where footways exist, they usually have grass verges, and are found only on one side of the road. Few roads and lanes have hard kerbs, maintaining the rural feel of the area.



## **Building guidelines**

New development should be individual dwellings or small groups. They should be of a scale in keeping with the village and surrounding settlements. Any development should include a variety of house sizes and reflect the need for smaller houses for sale or rent.

New buildings should generally be single or two storey incorporating interesting and sympathetic architectural details and features, using materials appropriate to the locality.

The scale and proportion of new buildings and extensions should harmonise with neighbouring properties, retain a spacious feel between nearby dwellings and relate to the landscape settings. It is recommended that illustrations accompany planning applications, where appropriate, to show how new buildings will relate to their neighbours and the street scene. This will allow better assessment to be made of the character of any new development.

Extensions should be sympathetic with the existing architectural features of the building and fit in with the character of the neighbourhood. They should not be of a size or number resulting in an overdeveloped site, which loses the sense of the original house being detached from its neighbours.

Flat roofs and over-large dormer windows should be discouraged as they are generally uncharacteristic of buildings in Burghclere.

Garden enclosures should preferably be with broad-leaved hedging, trees and shrubs, but where appropriate, timber post and rail could be used. Gates should be in keeping with the size and style of the dwelling.

Landscaping should retain existing mature trees and shrubs where possible. New planting should be of indigenous species where it adjoins public spaces or the adjoining countryside.

Any development of residential or non-residential brownfield sites, particularly where they are in the AONB should fit in with the surroundings and not detract from the beauty or amenities of the countryside within the parish. Any such redevelopment should accord with the landscape guidelines set out below and the other guidelines and principles contained herein and within other Supplementary Planning Guidance. Conversions of non-residential buildings should also have regard to the guidelines in this Design Statement.

When renewing utilities, underground routing is preferred in order to reduce the visual impact of poles and overhead lines. Electricity and telephone companies should be encouraged to share their poles. Mobile phone companies should also be encouraged to share masts.

Where roads have buildings on one side only, it is important that this feature should be retained in order to preserve the rural feel within the area. This applies particularly to the centre of the village and is illustrated on the village centre map.

## **Landscape guidelines**

The rural nature and quality of the AONB and other unspoilt landscape within the parish should be preserved. This should not preclude alterations, improvements, other buildings or structures as long as the proposed changes are in keeping with their immediate surroundings and do not detract from the beauty or amenities of the countryside within the parish. Nevertheless the planning policies which apply to these landscape areas should be strictly applied throughout the parish.

Proposals that have an urbanising influence on the character of both the landscape and the settlements are not appropriate within the parish. An example would be the provision of street lighting. The Highway Authority should ensure, in accordance with its own guidelines for special areas (HCC, "The Highway Environment, Design Guidelines for Special Areas, a guide to good practice", 1993), that the essential rural character of roads and lanes in Burghclere is protected.

No developments should take place that obstruct existing views into or out of settlements from roads, footpaths or other local rights of way. This is particularly important for views of the Downs and across the rural gaps

The preservation of open spaces and maintenance of wooded areas, trees and spinneys, including Burghclere Common, The Herbert Plantation, Earlstone Common and the disused railway line is of vital importance.

The playing fields at The Clere School and The Primary School, together with the recreation ground, form a valuable amenity and it is important that they are preserved in their present form and use.

The "exception" policy in the Local Plan, which may permit affordable or low cost housing within or immediately adjacent to rural settlements, is subject to the development being sympathetic to the character and appearance of adjoining countryside. It should not result in the loss of a gap which provides attractive views into or out of a settlement.

## **Transport and Roads guidelines**

The network of narrow rural lanes with hedges and grass verges that are characteristic of the Parish of Burghclere should be retained and protected and reference should be made to "The Highway Environment: Design Guidelines for Special Areas; a guide to good local practice", HCC, 1993.

The hedges and grass verges that border many of our rural roads and lanes are the habitat of an abundant variety of flora and fauna and should, wherever possible, be protected. Inappropriate traffic, whether by reason of excessive weight or length, should be discouraged from using the parish's narrow rural lanes in order to protect their fragile verges.

Development that will cause inappropriate traffic, whether by excessive weight or length, to use the parish's narrow rural lanes including the C45, C57 & C183 should be discouraged.

The introduction of kerbs on both sides of the roads would be inappropriate as it would have an urbanising influence. Again the Highway Authority should ensure that these should be in keeping with its design guidelines for rural areas.

The introduction of new footways should be avoided in order to maintain the rural feel and look of parish roads unless such footways are required for safety reasons and their design and specification is appropriate to the rural context

The use of rural routes through the parish by through traffic should be discouraged by appropriate road signage. These include the C45 from Harts Lane to Newtown, the C183 from Harts Lane through to the A339 and the C57 from Kingsclere to Beacon Hill.



*View 10 from footpath 15*

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