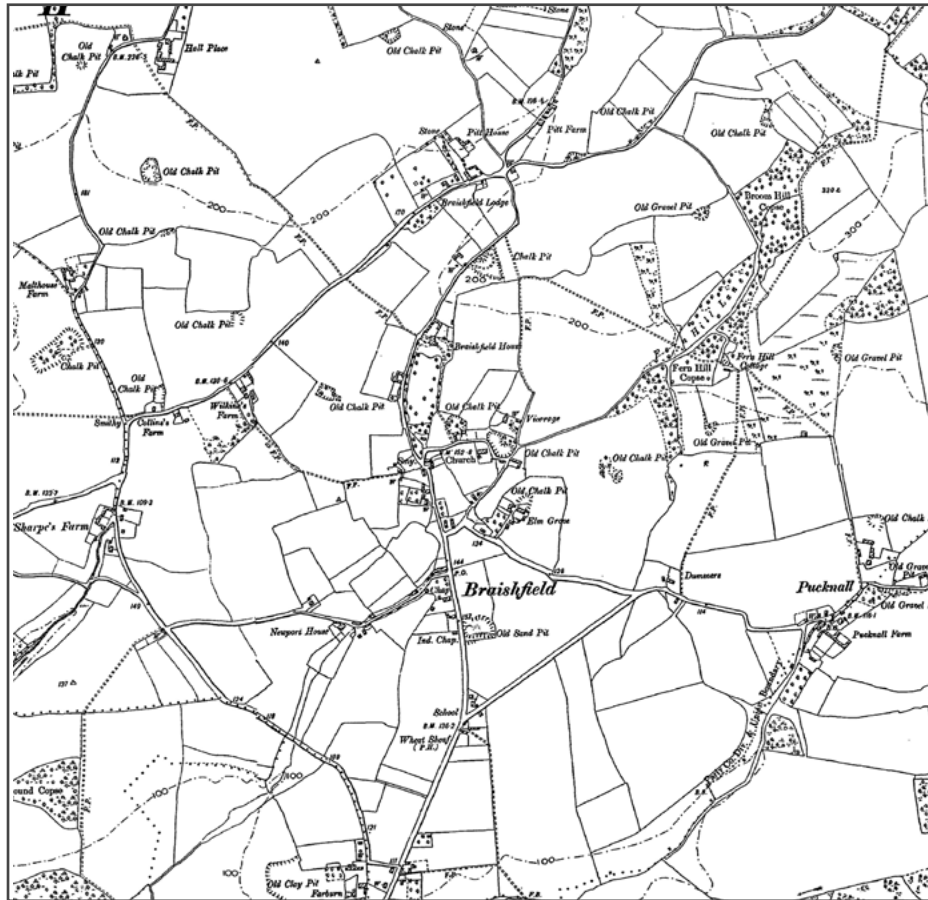




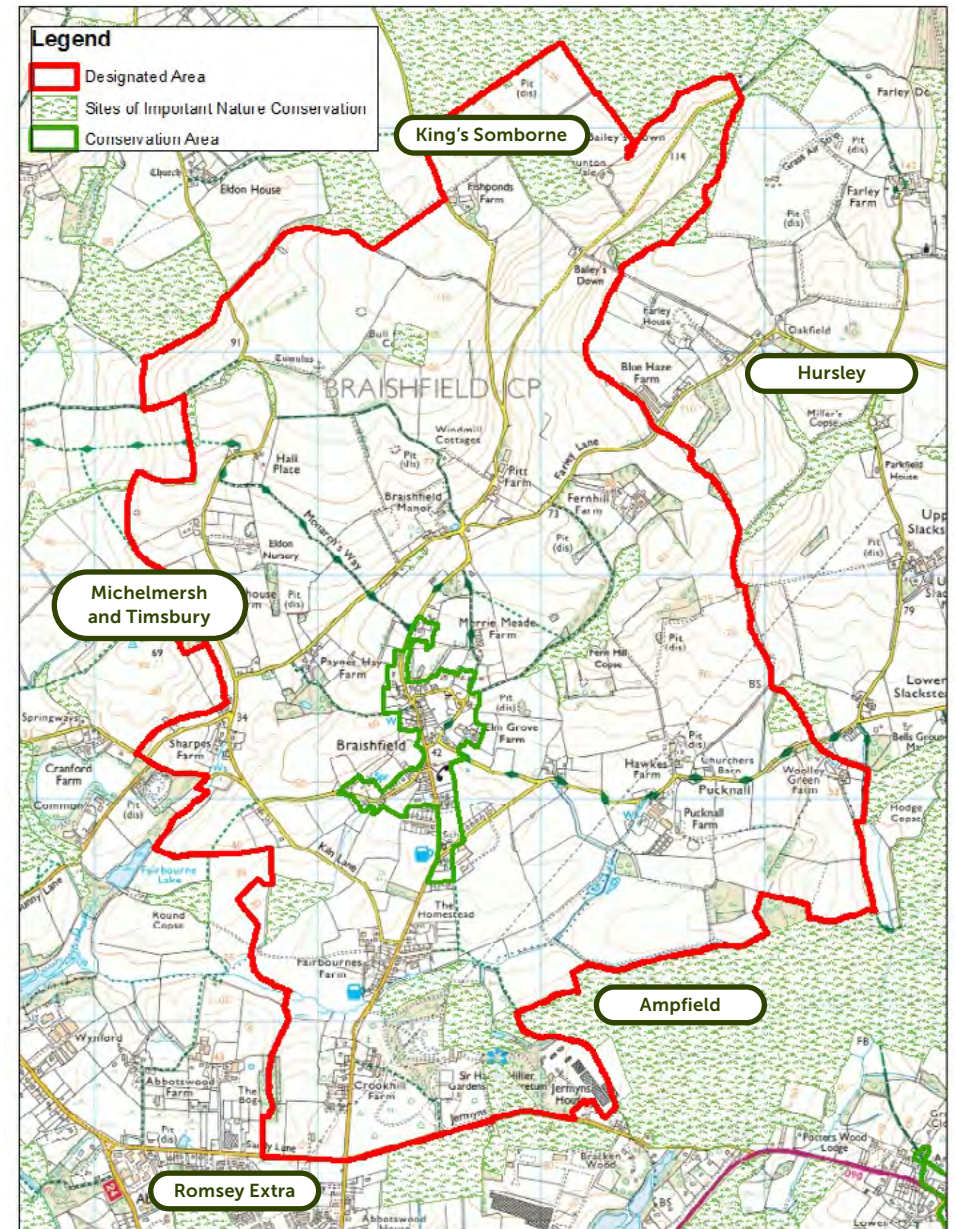
Village Design Statement for the Parish of Braishfield

Braishfield



Braishfield hamlet layout 1895.

Braishfield is historically a village made up of a collection of hamlets with each centred around local farms, and although there has been some growth in recent years there has been no infilling and that settlement pattern remains.



Braishfield 2020 and surrounding parishes.

Introduction

The origin of the name Braishfield gives rise to interesting debate. Some state that the name was first documented in the Middle Ages in 1235 as Braishflede, meaning “brow of hill” or “open land or fields”. There is an early reference to the name being a derivation of bramble fields but most believe that the origin of the name is derived from “brassy fields” where “brassy” means soil of poor quality or flinty. Indeed many Braishfield born people still call it ‘Brassshfield’.



Village entrance sign.

1. Community interest and vision

Braishfield has its own unique sense of place. As residents we value its local distinctiveness and setting and hope, by sensible planning management, to protect its essential character for the future.

2. Its appeal as a tranquil rural village with character and beauty depends not only on the quality and design of its housing stock but in equal measure on the combination of its hamlet layout, the open spaces and farmland between the hamlets and its setting. Located in the countryside it is surrounded by fields and hedgerows. It does not have a two lane main road running through it and only narrow country lanes connecting the village centre with the outlying hamlets and neighbouring villages.

3. Any significant change to any one of those contributors will

change the character of the whole village.

4. For that reason, some of the observations and recommendations refer to areas that are outside the village boundary or be considered as concerned with matters outside the scope of a VDS. However, they have been included because they are clearly important to the overall appeal of Braishfield, and related planning decisions.

5. The Village Design Statement (VDS)

The VDS records what is special about Braishfield in the view of its residents. It describes the existing look and feel of the village, identifies its specific characteristics, highlights the features of the village that we value and gives guidance designed to protect them.

6. Developers are strongly advised to take into account the impact of their proposal on all these important features.

7. It is also written to help developers take into account local preferences and guidance to help them comply with Test Valley Planning Policy and relevant supporting documents.

8. Who should use it?

The VDS is addressed to all authorities with the powers to regulate development and activities within the village and anyone who is intending to make changes in the village that could affect its character. Such changes include alterations to existing homes, gardens, paths, hedges or open spaces, as well as proposals for new building.

9. It is therefore addressed to:

- Residents, householders and businesses
- Designers, architects and engineers
- Planners, developers and builders
- Statutory bodies, public authorities and utility companies.

10. In this VDS the term development encompasses all structural work, from new builds to extensions and alterations.

11. How did we prepare it?

We have had visits to sites to photograph and describe them, a village questionnaire and at the beginning of the process an open meeting to brief and consult villagers. Sadly, because of the 2020 corona virus restrictions we have not had public meetings or presentations, but the residents have had the opportunity to comment on and contribute to the online draft document. The VDS represents the collective opinion of the people of Braishfield.

Appendix 1 to this document contains a summary of consultations and survey results.

12. The planning processes

The Braishfield Village Design Statement was approved by the Parish



War Memorial.



All Saints Church.

Council on 2nd November 2021, and adopted by Test Valley Borough Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance on 23 February 2022.

13. It will be taken into account when assessing planning applications for the village and is also an important guide for everyone in the village.

14. Any reference to a paragraph in this document is by page followed by para number.

History

Although the ecclesiastical parish of Braishfield was only formed in 1855 and the civil parish just under a century later, there is evidence of human activity in the area in the Palaeolithic era, about 50,000 years ago.

At Broom Hill there is evidence of intermittent settlement from the late Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and late Saxon periods. The site is particularly noted for the range and quality of Mesolithic flint tools, and it would have been visited seasonally by Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. In later periods of settled agricultural activity, from the Neolithic period onwards, the site would have been inhabited for longer periods.

1. The Romans settled at Fernhill not far from the Mesolithic site. A late third century bath house was excavated in 1976, part of a much older villa complex consisting of at least six substantial buildings which were occupied long before the construction of the bath house.
2. Little is recorded of Braishfield until 1043 when, as part of the manor of Michelmersh, the lands were donated by Queen Emma to the cathedral clergy at Winchester. Much of this holding was later released to secular landowners, including two Oxford Colleges, one of which owned land in the village up to the Second World War.
3. In the Middle Ages Braishfield consisted of a number of large but scattered farmsteads, some of which survive today, including Pitt Farm, Elm Grove Farm, Sharpes Farm, Fairbournes Farm, Paynes Hay Farm, Pucknall Farm and Hall Place.

4. The oldest building is believed to be at Fairbournes Farm where the granary building formed part of the farmstead from circa 980AD. The site formed one of the boundaries to Michelmersh Manor and was known as Feora Buman from which the present name is derived. Archaeological evidence suggests that Hall Place was a major fourteenth century manor site.
5. There were two large commons in the village before the Enclosures in 1794, Casbrook to the west and a 138-acre area covering most of the southern part of the present village from the site of the war memorial. The oldest buildings with medieval origins are to be found around the periphery of these ancient commons.

6. The Parish Church of All Saints was built in 1855 and designed by prominent Victorian architect William Butterfield.

Historic Braishfield



A Bronze Age beaker found at Fernhill.



A Palaeolithic axe (left), a Mesolithic axe (right) and a collection of microliths all found in the area.



The United Reformed Church.

7. At that time there were already three non-conformist chapels, only one of which remains as the United Reformed Church built in 1818.



The barn at Hall Place (Eldon Lane).

8. The Braishfield Public Elementary School was opened in 1877 bringing public education to the village children, although there were two small schools in the village prior to this date.



Village School.

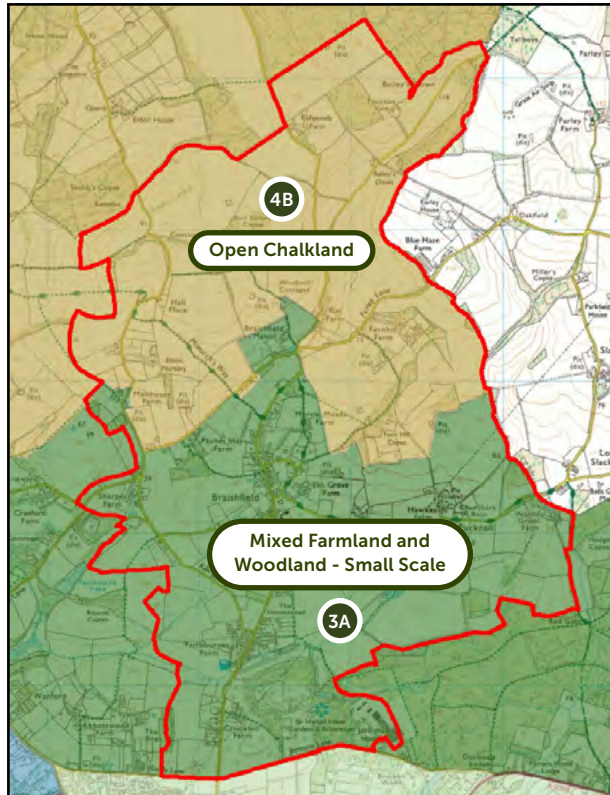


Elm Grove Farm (Dummers Road).



The barn on saddle stones at Pucknall Farm (Dores Lane).

Landscape and Countryside



Map Key

The parish contains two principal landscape forms as identified in the Landscape Character Assessment. 3A Baddesley mixed farm and woodland 4B Michelmersh to Ampfield wooded farmland area. See TVBC Landscape Character Types and Areas for details. Natural England's "National Character Area profiles 130. Hampshire Downs and 128. South Hampshire Lowlands" provide wide landscape context.

For details of SINC's (Site of Interest for Nature Conservation) in Braishfield contact Hampshire Biodiversity Centre

1. Braishfield is situated four miles north of the centre of Romsey and covers an area of about three square miles. The village setting is broadly beyond the immediate influence of major roads, airports, pylons and industrial activity. It is a quiet and peaceful country village.

2. Braishfield is the main settlement in the TVBC landscape character assessment area 4B known as the Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland area LCT4. This is an area with some woodland associated with farmsteads and areas of uncultivated land and is dominated by an intimate pattern of small fields.

3. Woodlands are a mixture of broadleaved semi-natural and secondary woodland, and conifer plantation. Some of the woodlands are designated Ancient Woodland.



Above: Braishfield from the east.

4. Landscape

The countryside surrounding the village is made up of mixed arable and pasture, farmland and woodland.

5. Over the years farming activity has shaped and preserved the landscape which comprises rolling hills, small fields bordered by well-established hedgerows and generous copses of native trees, particularly oak. Around the village there are a large number of disused chalk pits, reminders of domestic and industrial activity in the past that now provide havens for wildlife.

6. In the south, the village is bordered by the world-famous Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum.

7. Nature and wildlife

The countryside around and within the village with its small fields, areas of woodland, old chalk pits and extensive

hedgerow has great wildlife value, actual and potential. Where copses of native trees and shrubs have been allowed to grow into thickets, they provide excellent havens for wildlife and birds.

8. The verges along the lanes are vibrant with wild flowers during the spring and summer. The pond is a key feature of the village. It is an important focal point as a wildlife haven, and its preservation and maintenance are considered important.

9. Several fields near the centre of the village have been left uncultivated and these are generally regarded as valuable open spaces that provide fertile hunting ground for barn and tawny owls, buzzards, kestrels, red kites and sparrow hawks, and sanctuary for a very wide variety of birds and butterflies.

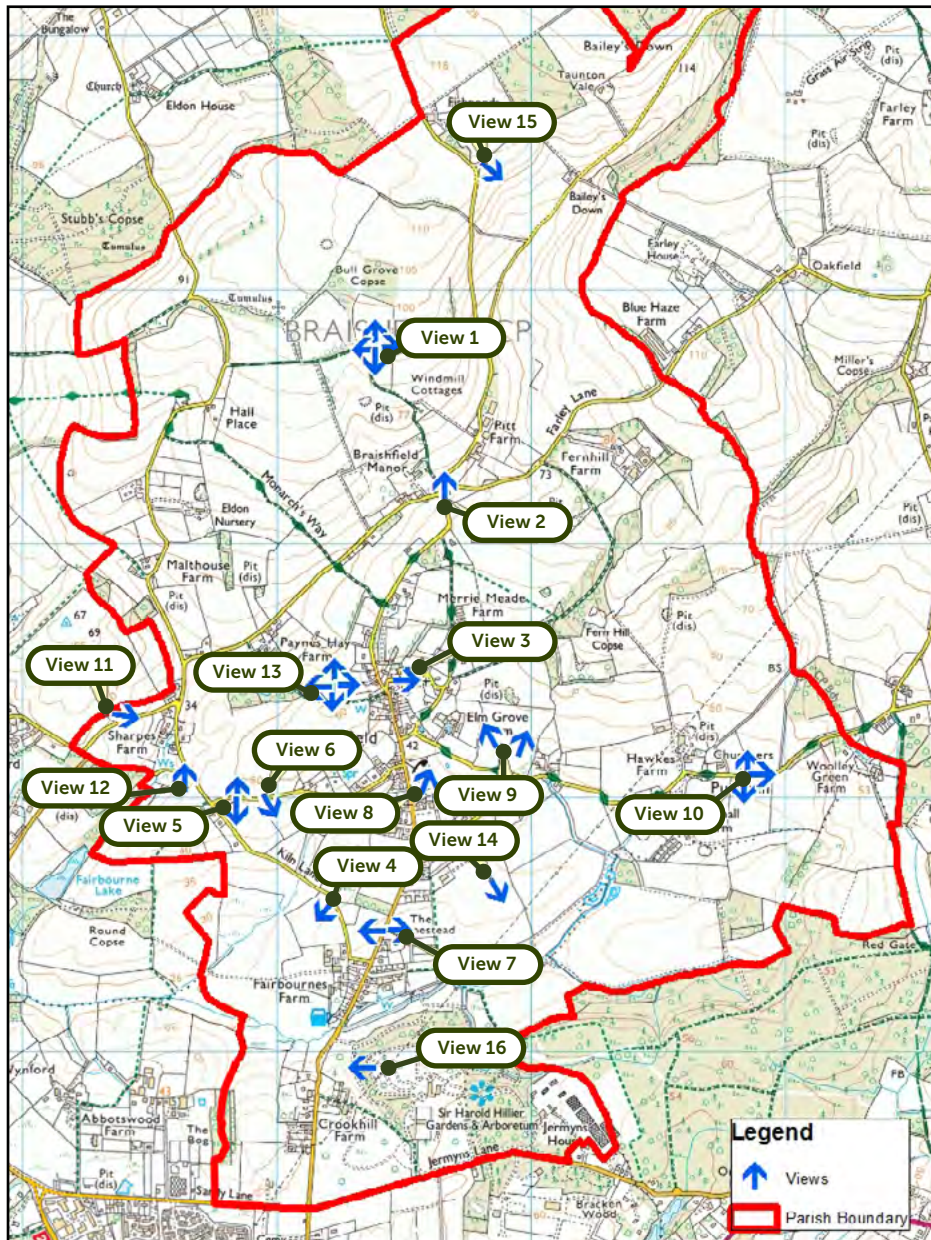
10. The impact of development on wildlife sites should be minimised. The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre should be consulted to establish the location of wildlife sites.

11. Views

The landscape provides opportunities for enjoying views from all parts of Braishfield, from the roads and lanes within the village looking out, and from the network of footpaths that cross the parish. This abundance of views is widely appreciated as a much-valued characteristic of our village. Some show glimpses of the important open spaces.

12. The parish supports the key aims of improving and protecting the natural environment by seeking to maintain the landscape and encouraging the enhancement and restoration of biodiversity.

Views



View 1. There are outstanding panoramic views from footpath 11 next to Windmill Cottage across Braishfield towards the New Forest and the Isle of Wight.



View 2. View from footpath 8 looking north to the Manor.



View 3. From Church Lane there are views to the east of the All Saints Church. The paddock and churchyard are recognised in the Conservation Area assessment as an important village open space.



View 4. View of farmland from Kiln Lane south towards Fairbourne Farm.

Views

View 5. From the junction of Kiln Lane with Newport Lane there are splendid views to north and south of farmland, rolling countryside and woodland.



View 6. From Newport Lane there is a view to the south showing unspoilt countryside, meadows and woodland as far away as Sandy Lane.



View 7. On both sides of Braishfield Road between Kiln Lane and the Wheatsheaf there are important views of the open countryside and woodland.



View 8. From Braishfield Road between the recreation ground and war memorial there are views across the allotments towards Elm Grove Farm and further to Fern Hill Copse with glimpses of the church tower.



Views



View 9. From Dummers Road the views across the cricket pitch beyond to Fern Hill epitomise the beauty of the open spaces in Braishfield.



View 10. From Does Lane past Pucknall the views towards Fernhill Farm and south towards Ampfield Wood show a pleasing balance of woodland and meadow.



View 11. Farmland to the east of Lower Street looking north.



View 12. View of Lower Street into the valley of 19th century white cottages tucked into the hills.

Views

View 13. There are fine 360-degree views from the highest point of footpath 4 which runs from Braishfield Road to Paynes Hay Farm.



View 14. View from Common Hill Road across farmland to Ampfield Wood and over farmland separating village centre from Pucknall and Pucknall from Crook Hill (see Open Spaces 7 opposite).



View 15. On the Furzedown Road, from the corner at Northwood House looking south, is a panoramic view across open countryside.

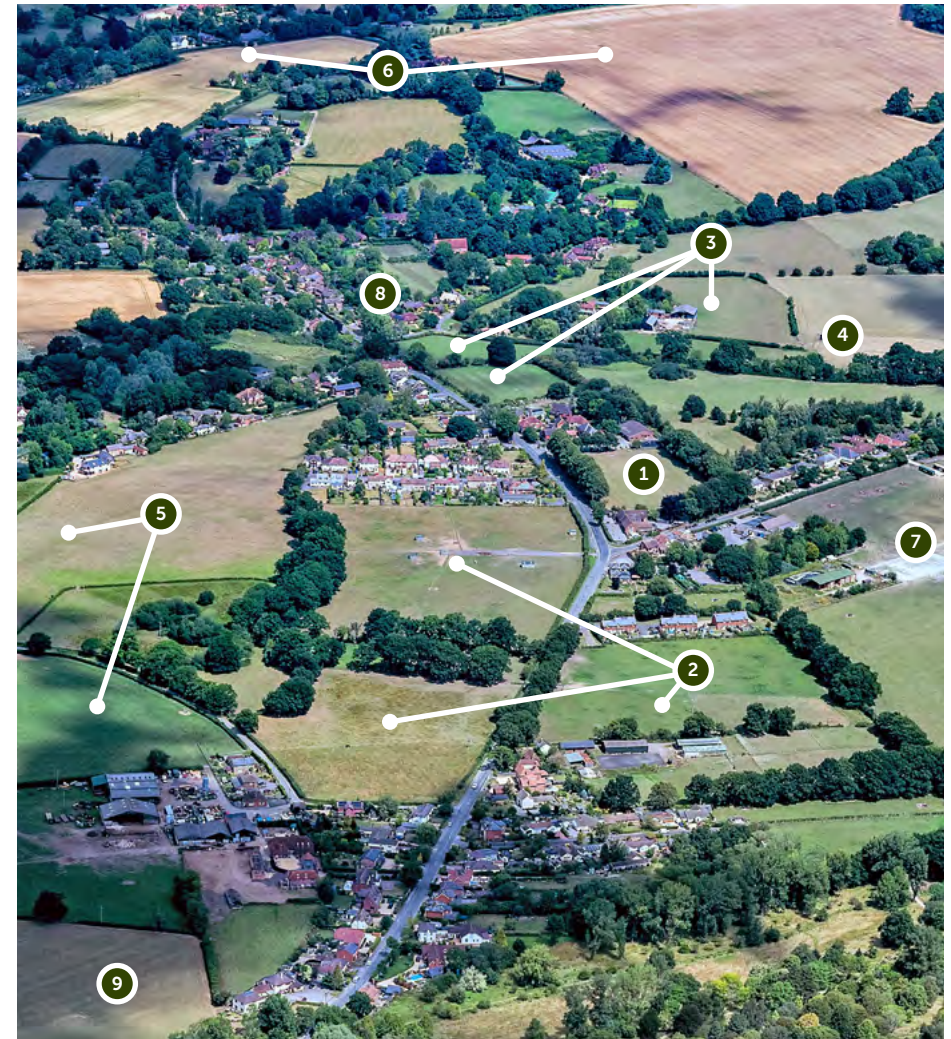


View 16. View from John Bevan Path of farmland to the west which forms part of the gap between Braishfield and Romsey Extra.



All the views listed above are shown on the map on page 10.

Open Spaces



Some of the many open spaces in and around the centre of the village.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Recreation ground. | Crook Hill from Lower Street. | Braishfield Road and north of Newport Lane. |
| 2. Farmland to the east and west of Braishfield Road. | 6. Farmland separating centre from Pitt. | 9. Farmland to the west of Braishfield road which is part of the important southern border of the village. |
| 3. Elm Grove farmland. | 7. Farmland separating centre from Pucknall. | |
| 4. Cricket ground. | 8. Farmland to the west of | |
| 5. Farmland separating | | |

Open Spaces



Elm Grove farmland between war memorial and Blackthorn Close.



Farmland north of Sandy lane between Braishfield and the outskirts of Romsey.



Fields either side of Braishfield Road.

Open Spaces Guidelines



Farmland to the west of Braishfield Road and north of Newport Lane.



Recreation ground and football club.



Village pond.

1. Open spaces within the village and the farmland which separates the hamlets as shown on pages 18/19 and views page 10 help to define the village and should be protected.

2. Developers should consult

- "Green Infrastructure Guidance (NE176)", Natural England, 2009.
- "Town and Country Planning Association Biodiversity by Design". TCPA, 2004.

Guidance

G1. Development proposals should be informed by the TVBC Landscape Character Assessment - landscape strategy and guidelines for areas 3A and 4B, and should protect and if possible, positively contribute to the important views 1-16 (see page10).

G2. All open spaces are very important to the setting and character of the village and need to be protected to preserve its historic character.



Baileys Down

Pitt Farm

Fernhill Farm

Braishfield Manor

Pitt

Merrie Mead Farm

Paynes Hay Farm

Lower Street

All Saints Church

Elm Grove Farm

Pucknall

Cricket ground

War memorial

United Reformed Church

Village hall, shop and playground

School

Recreation ground

Social club

The Wheatsheaf

Fairbournes Farm

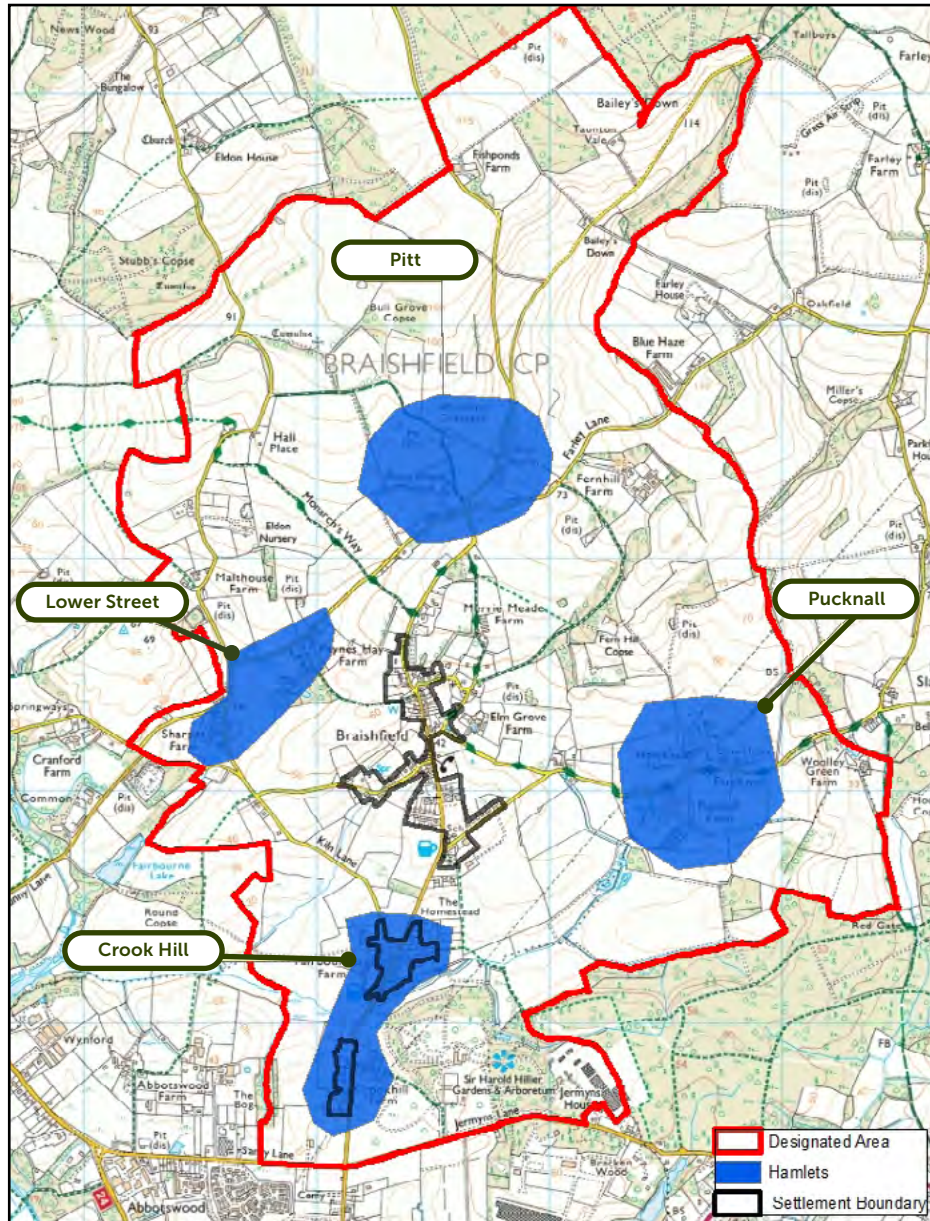
Oak Close

Dog and Crook

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum

Crook Hill

Settlement Pattern



Indicative locations of the hamlets.



View of the village looking south east.

1. The defining characteristic of the village is the presence of open countryside and farmland found right at its centre, separating hamlet from hamlet.

The hamlets have no formal status or agreed boundaries but they are geographically separate. For the purposes of the VDS each includes all the properties in and around the four areas indicated on the map on page 20.

2. In line with its settlement pattern, Braishfield with 12 farms and associated dwellings in the locality had no defined central focus, such as a village green. However, there are several houses from the 16th and 17th centuries in what is now the central core of the village which predate the church, the arrival of which in the 19th century was

the catalyst for further localised growth.

3. The area between the two churches and the social club contains many of the village amenities: churches, school, village hall and shop, social club, the Wheatsheaf public house, recreation ground, playground, war memorial and village pond. This area is generally, and locally, referred to as the centre.

4. Most of the buildings in this area line the roads. Although there has been some backland development, where houses have been built in some older and larger gardens, there are very few big groupings of houses. There are several important trees here, and the row of lime trees planted in 1935 to commemorate the George V's silver jubilee.

5. Even within this central area there is a farm (Elm Grove). Its fields along Braishfield Road and along both sides of Dummers Road bring farmland into the heart of the village. Other important open spaces near the centre include the paddock by All Saints, the land north of the allotments, the recreation ground the fields to the west of Braishfield Road and north of Newport Lane, and the fields next to and opposite the Wheatsheaf.

6. These open spaces and the trees are highly valued by residents and ensure that the rural nature of the village is protected. They provide a mixed landscape with wildlife corridors, hedges providing sanctuary for a large variety of creatures and smaller mammals including bats.

The Centre and Conservation Area

Buildings



Orchard Cottage.



The Square.



Cottages, Newport Lane.



Yewtree Cottage.



Old Village Stores.



Boares Garden.



Wheatsheaf.



Houses in Hill View Road.

1. The central part of the village was designated a Conservation Area in September 1981.

2. The area extends from Braishfield House in the north to the Wheatsheaf in the south and from Newport House in the west to Elm Grove Farm in the east.

3. Any new development within the Conservation Area should seek to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area (area inside green line).

4. As such there are some restrictions with regard to the demolition of buildings and the felling of trees. Some buildings of local interest are identified in the Conservation Area designation document and proposals to alter or extend them will be considered in the light of the need to protect the character of the Conservation Area. For guidance and assistance consult TVBC.

5. New buildings will be required to be designed to protect or enhance the character and appearance of this Conservation Area.

6. The photographs opposite are of buildings in the Conservation Area and village centre.



Above. Shaded area is the Settlement Area with the Conservation Area outlined in green.

Settlement Pattern

Pitt Hamlet

1. This hamlet is centred on Pitt Farm and Braishfield Manor and is the most northern part of the village.

2. Nearly all the houses in this area are converted properties that once formed part of Braishfield Manor and the neighbouring Hursley Estate.

3. Braishfield Lodge, Manor and Manor Gatehouse and Pitt Farmhouse are listed buildings. Apart from the few farm cottages for estate staff there are only two new builds

4. This is a particularly rural part of the village and feels very much in the countryside and is separated from the centre and Lower Street by farmland. The northern gateway passes through the hamlet of Pitt towards Parnholt Woods and King's Somborne.

5. Monarch's Way passes through the hamlet which is connected to the



Aerial photo of hamlet centred on Pitt Farm.



Above. Pitt Farm (King's Somborne Road).

Right. King's Somborne Road from north looking south towards the centre. Left to Farley Chamberlayne and right to Lower Street.

centre by the King's Somborne Road.



Houses in Pitt Hamlet



Pitt Farm Cottages.



Manor Cottage.



Coombe Willow.



Bowling Green Cottage.



Old Forge Cottage



Windmill Cottage.



Thatched Barn.

Settlement Pattern

Lower Street Hamlet and Eldon Lane

1. These western scattered and low-lying settlements are based around Sharpes Farm, Paynes Hay Farm and Malthouse Farm in Eldon with the main part of the present Lower Street hamlet surrounding Sharpes Farm. Six of the buildings are listed, including Sharpes Farm and Barns which date from the 16th century with additions in the 18th century.



Aerial photo of hamlet centred on Sharpes Farm.

2. Because of the existence of what are possibly ancient earthworks the hamlet is in a site of potential archaeological interest.



Above Sharpes Farm.
Right Lower Street junction with Newport Lane to the centre and Kiln Lane to Crooks Hill.

3. The hamlet is visible from the top of Newport Lane but not from any other part of the village. Lower Street is the western gateway to Braishfield and is reached by narrow, rural lanes which lead on to the Casbrook area with Bunny Lane, Timsbury, Michelmersh and Kings Somborne via Eldon Lane heading north. It is connected to the centre

and other hamlets in the village by a network of narrow country lanes passing through farmland.



Houses in Lower Street Hamlet



Glencoe and Applewood.



Axminster Cottage, Middle Cottage and The Cottage.



Broom Hill Cottage.



Malthouse Farm, Eldon.



Hall Place, Eldon.



Green Acres.

Settlement Pattern

Pucknall Hamlet



Aerial photo of Pucknall centred on Pucknall Farm.

1. The hamlet of Pucknall lies along Dores Lane in the eastern part of the parish. Surrounded by farmland, and traversed by Monarch's Way the settlement clusters around ancient farms: Hawkes Farm (early 18th century) and Pucknall Farm (16th century). Both are listed buildings, as are an adjacent barn, granary, and stables. In total eight of Pucknall's buildings are listed, one of which (Wellbrook) has a late medieval timber frame, with Churchers Barn originating in the 16th century.

play an important role in creating and maintaining the character of Braishfield. It is connected to the village centre by Dores Lane.



Pucknall Farm.



T junction of Dummers Road and Dores Lane from bottom of Common Hill.

Pucknall is the eastern gateway to the village and the narrow, rural lanes from Sparsholt passing through the hamlet and farmland

Buildings in Pucknall Hamlet



Churchers Barn.



Pucknall Cottage.



Whites Cottage.



Pucknall House.



Hawkes Farm.



Bramble Cottage.

Settlement Pattern

Crook Hill Hamlet



Fairbournes Farm.

1. Crook Hill is the most southerly of Braishfield's hamlets. It is situated in countryside, between Fairbourne Farm, believed to be the oldest farm in the village dating from the 10th century and Crook Hill Farm on higher ground to the south.



Aerial of Crook Hill with Fairbournes Farm. top left of hamlet.

2. Housing is a good mix of sizes characterised mostly by detached homes as well as some period terraced properties. The main property age range is from Victorian to the present day. The Dog and Crook public house, one of two pubs in Braishfield, is situated in the hamlet.

high amenity and wildlife value.

3. This southern gateway to Braishfield is defined by many large mature, mainly oak, trees which provide a distinctive village entrance with

4. The fields to the west of Braishfield Road (bottom left of the picture) are very important and the village defining boundary between Braishfield and Romsey Extra.



Kiln Lane leading to Lower Street.

Houses in Crook Hill Hamlet



The Oaks.



Fairbourne cottages.



Oaklands.



Katoomba.



Brook House.



Crook Hill cottages.

Buildings

History and Growth

1. Braishfield, like most villages in Hampshire, has a mix and full range of housing types, from the very old and listed to the recently built modern and eco designed. There are large, small, single storey, detached, semi-detached and terraced houses. There are no three-storey town house style dwellings or pattern book developments as can be found in neighbouring developments in Romsey.

2. The one thing that they have in common is that they all sit comfortably in their setting and alongside their adjacent more established hamlet properties. Any alterations, conversions and new build should not give the feel of overcrowding and should aim to maintain that balance.

3. Each site or property will produce a slightly different challenge but in order to preserve the very special look and feel of Braishfield the developer should aim to ensure that

what they propose will fit in seamlessly with the immediate setting, street-scene and surroundings.

4. Any development should only affect a slight shift in village design and not that generated by a cut and paste type development.

5. Developers should ensure that the new building does not dominate or overcrowd the plot, neighbouring properties or the street scene and should not obstruct any of the important village views.

Extensions should normally respect the original architectural style however, provided the construction and design are of high-quality, a different style which successfully integrates/ complements the original it will be permitted.

6. Developers should preserve or provide trees and hedgerow to soften the impact of buildings to the street scene and neighbours.

7. Photographs on this page are examples of buildings designed to blend into the village scene and opposite are examples of recent new builds in the village including two successful small developments.

Stand alone modern builds and conversions



Murcheson Lodge.



Springwood.



Conservatory in conservation zone.

Conversions



The Newport.



The Newport (public house).

Extensions



April Cottage extension.

New Builds



Pitch Side.

Small Scale Developments



Blackthorn Close (brownfield site development).



Oak Close (COMD 9 scheme development).

Buildings

Styles and Features



1. There is a very wide range of building styles, influenced by the ages, sizes and types of buildings and subsequent alterations.



2. The village has a balanced mix of detached, terraced or semi-detached houses, bungalows and chalet bungalows. The mixture of styles is an important characteristic of the village and should be preserved.



3. **Architectural details**
It is possible to discern local rural features in some of the traditional buildings. Examples include: low rooflines, half hipped gables (Hampshire cropped gables), timber framed porches, small windows in proportion to the size of the building, eyebrow windows, cottage style windows (two pane casement), and windows with segmental arches above.



4. **Building materials**
The choice of building material strongly influences the overall appearance of a building. In Braishfield many different materials have been used in construction over the years. Generally, the residents prefer those where local or natural materials have been used.

5. Local materials found in existing buildings that are particularly liked by residents include: handmade local brick or rendered chalk walls, thatch, handmade plain clay tile or slate roofs, timber framed windows and timber doors.

Architectural detail, building materials and gates.

Top to bottom: Dormer window set in a clay tile roof. Eyebrow window under a thatched roof. Traditional cottage window with segmental brick arch. Five-barred wooden gate.



Architectural detail, building materials outbuildings.

Top to bottom: Cottage porch. Well-proportioned chimney and slate roof. Half hipped gable. Brick and wood outbuilding with pitched clay tile roof.



Above. Flint wall.



Top right to bottom:
Wood cladding.
Tile hanging.
Traditional oak door.

6. **Environmental impact**
It is considered important by the residents that all new building within the village should be designed to minimise impact on the wider environment. Taking into account the guidance given above, buildings should also be designed and sited to be energy-efficient, non-polluting and constructed of sustainable materials wherever possible.



Guidelines



1. Development proposals should be able to demonstrate that they are appropriate in terms of layout, design, scale to both the immediate context and to the wider village setting and that the workmanship will be of high quality.

Guidelines

G3. New development should be proportionate to its plot, neighbouring buildings and sit comfortably in the immediate street-scene.

G4. Any extension should normally be similar in style, constructed of similar materials and be subservient to the main building. Refer to G10.

G5. Development proposals need to respect the hamlet layout of the village and its open spaces.

G6. The use of traditional materials and methods, where appropriate should be encouraged.

G7. New development should be supported by an appropriate landscaping scheme that reflects the character of the immediate area and the rural nature of the village.

G8. Any new development should minimise its impact on the wider environment by using sustainable, non-polluting materials and energy efficient design. Renewable energy equipment should be positioned so as to blend in with the local street scene.

G9. Any new building design needs to maintain local roof lines, take account of local architectural details and either incorporate them or blend in with them.

G10. Architectural improvements and

innovative design should be allowed as long as they are in sympathy with the village and the rural nature of its surrounds.

G11. All external lighting should be muted, not produce glare or adversely affect the rural character of the night sky. The use of continual and bright external lighting should be avoided.

G12. Directional advertising signs for new housing, or any other operation outside the village should be banned. Reduction in street furniture should be encouraged.



1. Boundaries are typically provided in the form of hedgerows, walls and fences. Native species mixed hedgerows are common and encouraged as appropriate to the rural setting of the village. There are also good examples of beech hedges, and yew hedges. Examples of non-native species include leylandii and laurel.

2. There are examples of old cob and cob and flint walls, that blend in well within the village, brick walls and picket fences as well as long stretches of wood fencing.



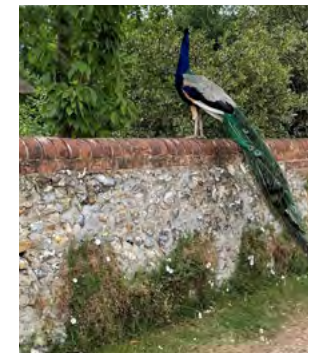
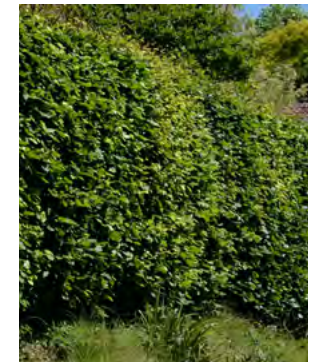
A beech hedge.

G13. Boundary structures should be in sympathy with the building and its environment.

G14. Native species hedges are preferable to fences, or to hedges of non-native species.

G15. Where walls are necessary, they need to be of local materials and appropriate construction, in sympathy with the house and its surrounding.

Boundaries



Top: A hornbeam hedge.
Above: A cob and flint wall.
Left: A picket fence.
Below: A yew hedge.



Footpaths

These following issues are outside the scope of the VDS, but are very important if we are to protect the feel and appeal of the village.

1. The many "ways" which have been used by foot over the years are marked indelibly into the landscape. Some were for local use, others linked hamlets to more serviceable roads and neighbouring parishes. Fernhill Lane (footpath 13) is an old road. Dark Lane (footpath 11) is a bridleway to Eldon Road, part of an ancient route to Michelmersh and beyond, while others (footpaths 4 and

12) are church paths.

2. The Monarch's Way crosses the parish from west to east and is believed to be based on the route taken by Charles II after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

3. All those living in Braishfield appreciate this heritage. The countryside opened by the footpaths for all to enjoy is treasured and must be preserved.

Recommendations for consideration

G16. Footpaths are vital and need to be well maintained.



Monarch's Way.

Braishfield Roads and Lanes

Gateways, roads and lanes

1. The southern gateway to Braishfield which connects it with Romsey is the only two-lane road leading into and out of the village. There is no through two lane main road. Entering Braishfield it passes through fields to the west and the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens to the east both of which with their systems of fields, hedgerows, trees provide natural open space which separate the settlement areas in the village from Sandy Lane and Jermyn's Lane and most importantly outer Romsey. Preserving this most important open space "gap" is



Eastern gateway. Dores Lane heading east to Winchester.

essential if Braishfield is to remain a village.

2. The eastern, western and northern gateways are country lanes passing through Pucknall, Pitt and Lower Street. These lanes have very few, if any, established passing points and are not suitable for two-way traffic.

3. Within the village the outlying hamlets are all connected to the centre and each other by a network of country lanes built to support the local community, often using old established farm tracks and drove ways. These lanes are also unsuitable for two-way traffic or heavy



One of our many lane and road restrictions in the village.



Braishfield Road to Romsey with John Bevan Way.

vehicles. The absence of main roads is essential to the village's quiet and rural character.

4. All of the lanes are bounded by hedgerow, ditches or grass verges with many retaining native wild flowers. None have separate foot-ways and are highly valued and well used by the residents (and others) for walking, riding, cycling and running. They are of great importance to the rural economy and those that work in it by providing safe and attractive riding lanes for the local riding stables. However, the surfaces, edges, hedges and verges of the lanes are now being damaged by the ever-increasing levels of traffic of all sizes seeking short cuts.

Braishfield Lanes

5. The increased and in many cases the unnecessary use of these lanes by through traffic seeking short cuts and the speed at which many travel, endangers all users of the lanes and spoils their quiet enjoyment of the countryside.

6. Any developments must take into account the limited capacity of the local network of lanes.



The single track lane to King's Somborne our northern gateway.

G17. The quiet narrow lanes and minor roads that traverse the village are essential to giving the village its very special rural feel and need to be retained and protected. There is no desire for wider roads.

G18. The verges, hedges and ditches that border the lanes and roads need to be protected and enhanced.

G19. Although it is accepted that large



Road restriction entering the village.



Pucknall Farm Stables, Equestrian centre.

vehicles will need to access farms for agricultural purposes, the use of smaller vehicles for collection and distribution to farms and industrial sites should be encouraged.

G20. The volume of traffic passing through the village, accessing farms and industrial sites should be kept at current levels, and every effort taken to protect the narrow lanes.

G21. Developments must not be allowed to overload and destroy the fragile lane network.

G22. Speed limits need to be enforced.

G23. Signage and clutter, such as unnecessary street furniture, should be restricted.

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Development should integrate, respect and complement the character of the area in which the development is located in terms of layout, appearance, scale, materials and building

styles; should not detract from the dominance of, or interrupt important views of, key landmark buildings or features... Development will not be permitted if it is of poor design and

fails to improve the character, function and quality of the area.

Test Valley,
Adopted Local Plan
2011-2029
Policy E1 (Extract)