

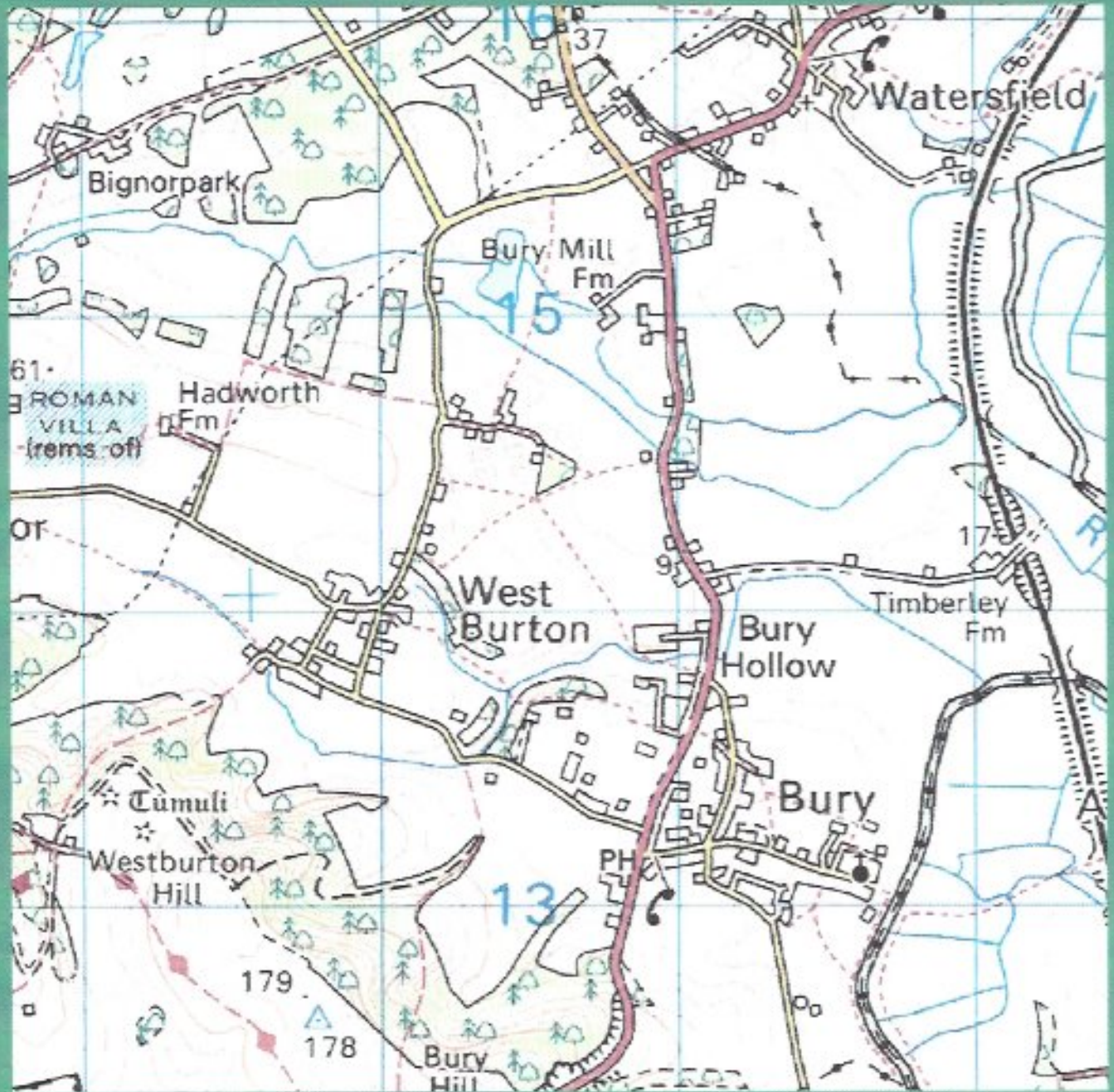
BURY  
AND  
WEST BURTON

VILLAGE  
DESIGN  
STATEMENT

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# Bury and West Burton Village Design Statement

## Introduction

*The residents of Bury and West Burton enjoy a unique environment, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), that has evolved gradually over many years. The parish is situated at the bottom of the scarp face of the South Downs and straddles the A29 trunk road.*

*The number of parishioners on the electoral role in 2003 was 556, of which 221 live in Bury, 61 in West Burton and the remainder outside these population centres. The area is very rural and it is the wish of the residents that future developments, large or small, preserve its unique characteristics. The Parish Council therefore encouraged an independent working party to take on the task of preparing a Village Design Statement so that the views of the residents were a matter for public record and would be treated as additional planning guidance by the planning authorities. All residents have had an opportunity to contribute to the process that has led up to this document.*

*This Village Design Statement, which is based on the views of residents, therefore identifies the characteristics which the residents consider are key to the creation of the present environment, and makes recommendations for their preservation.*



*Barn conversion, Church Lane.*



*View of Bury from Bury Hill.*



*West Burton Lane adjacent to Cookes House.*

*Dorset House School, formerly Bury Manor.*



### Description of area

*Bury* is a small West Sussex community flanked by the River Arun to the east, the South Downs escarpment to the south and the A29 Dorking to Bognor Regis trunk road to the west. It comprises primarily three roads; The Street, which was the original main road although not wide enough for vehicles to pass easily in several places; Church Lane, which is a cul de sac leading down to the old wharf beside the river and Houghton Lane, which is narrow and winds southwards along the river valley to Houghton. The

Street and Church Lane form the old part of the village with some in-fill of modern properties whereas Houghton Lane and Coombe Crescent are mainly 20th century properties.

Houses are generally set back from the road and, in many cases, on generous sized plots which allows a number of mature trees to grow in established gardens. The majority of these properties have been built of local materials. Horsham stone, because of its size and weight, has only been used for roofing

on larger properties like the church, Cookes House and Bury House. Slate, a common building material in the 19th and 20th centuries elsewhere, was little used because of the cost of transport although Slate Cottage in The Street is slate hung as well as slate roofed. The overall impression of the village is a combination of trees, hedgerows and flint walls behind which lies a rich variety of houses both in age, style and size. This overall impression is a key feature of the village and should therefore be retained.



*Bury Hill from the Down*

Bury has a church aided primary school and a private preparatory school, a church, a village hall incorporating a part-time post office and a public house. In the recent past the village also boasted a second public house and a village shop but insufficient demand has caused them to close. Changing needs and freely available personal transportation put increasing pressure on all local facilities. Village halls are under threat through lack of income and the financial problems of the Church are never far from the headlines. It is anticipated both will expand their activities if they are to survive and generate sufficient funds to maintain these properties which are so important to the life and appearance of the village.

Apart from the church the most substantial properties are Bury Manor, now a preparatory school, and Bury House, the home of the late John Galsworthy.

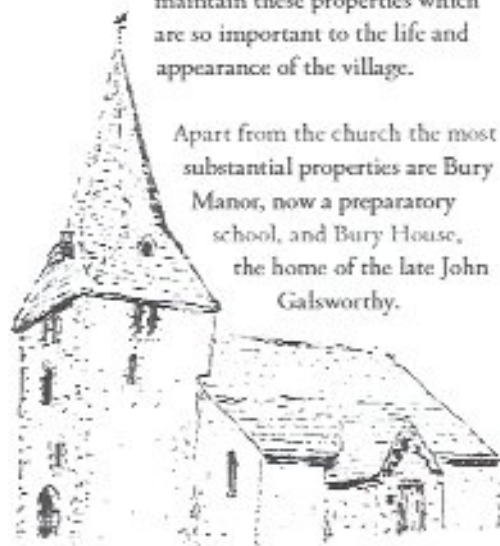
A number of the properties close to Bury House were built by him and are named after places or characters in his books. Other smaller properties are several hundred years old and contain many interesting architectural features. It is notable that many of these old properties have been much changed over the years and it is no part of this design statement to attempt to prevent change continuing to occur. The object, however, is to retain the ambience created by this gentle evolution by setting guidelines that will allow evolution to continue in a sympathetic way.

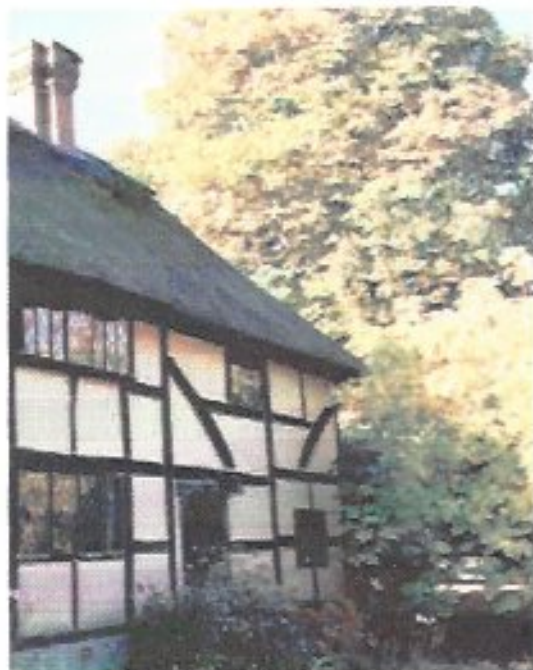
The parish has a good mix of all age groups although like many rural communities the percentage of retired people is increasing. There are few employment opportunities close to the village although a number of villagers work in businesses on the A29 or in the schools. A few still work on surrounding farms. Other employment has to be found in local towns so villagers are very dependent on private cars. Bus services connect with local towns but are not sufficiently frequent to make them a viable alternative. The nearest train station is over 2 miles by road but a more frequent service is available from Pulborough, which is 5 miles away.



*Lillywhites, West Burton - a 15th Century hall house.*

**West Burton** is a hamlet on the west side of the A29 tucked into the bottom of the South Downs escarpment. It is built on a Saxon figure of eight design still apparent today and features several larger houses indicating a historically prosperous agrarian community. The oldest house in the village is Lillywhites, a 15th century hall house, but Cookes House is notable for its elegant gateway and gardens designed either by or after





the style of *Gertrude Jekyll*. The three stone balls on the gateway signify that the owner contributed funds to the fight against the Spanish Armada. West Burton has no church and is connected to Bury not only by road but also by an ancient footpath known as the coffin trail. The overall impression is one of tranquillity and seclusion and these are key aspects that this community wishes to retain.



*Cookes House, West Burton.*

#### Environment

The majority of the parish lies between the chalk of the Downs and the clay of the Weald, with much of the area on fertile upper greensand. With the chalk to the south and the water meadows of the River Arun to the east the area has a very rich and varied avifauna which should continue to be supported. The wealth of mature trees and hedgerows does much to create the unique impression of the area. A detailed environmental statement is given in Appendix 1 (*Environment, page 12*).

#### Historical context

The Romans colonised the area and remains of their occupation can be found in the adjacent parish of Bignor. The main highway of Stane Street also passed close by. After the departure of the Romans social life and agricultural practices changed little until the 16th century. A series of technological and social changes over the next 400 years created the community as it is now known. A more detailed note of the impact of these changes is given in Appendix 2 (*History, page 17*).



### Distinctive areas

The description of the parish identifies two centres of population, Bury and West Burton. Bury has two distinct areas stemming primarily from the age and nature of the properties.

The older part of Bury is The Street, which was the original main road through Bury, and Church Lane. Many of the properties date back several hundred years and reflect the relatively recent change from a primarily agricultural community to one supporting a high proportion of retired people. The properties and their



*The Street, Bury.*



*The Street, Bury.*

surroundings are a good example of how downland villages have evolved and will continue to evolve if its unique characteristics are respected.

The thatched roofs, local stone or timber for house walls, walled gardens and mature hedges all combine to create a traditional impression.

West Burton is similar in many respects although it has always been smaller and the properties more widely distributed. However, the same evolutionary process has taken place and should be allowed to continue.

The second part of Bury is Houghton Lane and Coumbe Crescent where properties are mostly 20th century and



*Corner of Church Lane and Houghton Lane, Bury.*

built to a higher density. The properties are more visible as there has been less tree and hedge planting.

As a result of these differences some of the recommendations appropriate to the older parts of the village may not apply to the younger properties. The list of recommendations has been noted accordingly.





*Coombe Crescent, Bury.*

### Building materials and styles

The character of the village is influenced by the use of certain materials particularly on the older properties and it is expected that these materials will continue to be used on those properties and new properties so as to help preserve the character of the village. The following is a list of the most commonly used materials and styles.



*The Street, Bury.*



*Hanover Close, off Coombe Crescent, Bury.*

- Thatch made from reeds, originally taken from river banks, has been used for hundreds of years and continues to be used extensively in the village, perpetuating this specialist craft.
- Hand-made clay tiles have replaced the thatch in some instances and would have been manufactured locally from Wealden clay.
- Wealden clay moulded bricks have been used in 20th century construction
- Locally quarried stone has been used in combination with Downland flints for both houses and walls with brick lacing providing the structure and details of individual character.
- Oak boarding, originally used on timber framed structures, is still being used as an attractive cladding material and an alternative to tile hanging.
- The addition of porches quite often gives the building its individual character.
- Gates and walls define the boundaries and can complement the special character of the village.
- Particular features of the village inform the visitor and provide interest and insight into village life.

## Results of consultation

The recommendations at the end of the Statement are a distillation of the views of the residents. An awareness of the project was created by articles in the parish magazine, a publicity table at village events, photographic competitions for adults and children and a questionnaire that was delivered to all houses in the parish. All residents, therefore, were able to respond to a questionnaire and 31% took that opportunity. They also were invited to attend a public meeting to discuss those responses and have had an opportunity to comment on the draft of this statement. The questionnaire was designed to tease out people's views on a number of issues and the following were the main points that could influence planning decisions:

- Bury and West Burton enjoy commanding views of the Downs that significantly adds to its character.
- The Arun and particularly the area of and around the Wharf provide an attractive recreational area.
- The character of both villages is heavily influenced by flint walls and boundary hedges.
- With the exception of Coombe Crescent in Bury the lanes of both villages are relatively free of permanent on street parking.
- The majority of recent changes to properties use materials that complement the style of surrounding buildings.
- The parish has certain amenities like the Church, Village Hall, Children's Play area and Recreation Ground that aid the social life of the village.
- Certain buildings were identified as "important" to the character of the Villages like the Church, Bury Manor, Bury House, Lillywhites and Cookes House in West Burton and various smaller thatched properties.
- Retain open areas namely the Glebe Field, Bury Green, Bury Wharf, Cricket Ground and fields south of Houghton Lane and between Houghton Lane and Church Lane.
- Provision of adequate off road parking for Coombe Crescent, Bury Wharf and the Church.
- Conversions of redundant farm buildings for commercial purposes should be subject to restrictions covering all types of environmental pollution.
- New buildings and extensions should use materials that complement surrounding properties.
- Rooflines should not obscure views of the Downs.
- The need for affordable housing should be recognised.

## Recommendations

The residents of Bury and West Burton are most concerned to ensure that their parish continues to evolve in a way that preserves its character of a downland village. Therefore, it recommends that the following guidelines be adopted when considering future planning decisions. These guidelines are only applicable to the main residential areas of Bury village and West Burton or new developments adjacent to those areas and some will not apply to all properties. As described in the section on distinctive areas, the residential areas have been divided into areas A, B and C as in the table to the right.

<b>Church Lane and The Street, Bury:</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Houghton Lane and Coombe Crescent, Bury:</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>West Burton:</b>	<b>C</b>
1. Views of the South Downs from public areas and paths should not be obscured. <i>These views are a key part of the outlook from the village and are an attraction to many visitors.</i>	<b>A/B/C</b>
2. Existing hedgerows should be preserved. <i>These provide important environmental as well as visual benefits.</i>	<b>A/B/C</b>
3. New boundaries should be marked either by hedge or flint walling. <i>Boundaries should continue to provide environmental and visual support for the overall appearance of the village.</i>	<b>A/C</b>
4. New plantings should be of indigenous trees or shrubs.	<b>A/B/C</b>
5. Leylandii or similar evergreens should not be used as hedging. Indigenous trees and shrubs provide food sources for many types of wild life that is increasingly affected by the removal of hedgerows on surrounding farmland.	<b>A/B/C</b>
6. Building materials should be in keeping with the age of the property. <i>Some modern materials do not blend well with older properties and can impair the visual impact.</i>	<b>A/C</b>
7. Building design should be sympathetic with surrounding properties. New building or extensions should harmonise with the style of surrounding properties to maintain the overall impact of the area.	<b>A/C</b>
8. New properties and substantial extensions should include sufficient off-road parking for two cars. <i>Parking is a major problem on narrow village lanes and can impede emergency and service vehicles.</i>	<b>A/B/C</b>
9. Alterations to properties should be done in materials appropriate to the age of the building. <i>Poorly designed or constructed garages weaken the overall impact of the area.</i>	<b>A/B/C</b>
10. Overcrowding of properties should be avoided. <i>New development should be on plots that reflect the plot sizes of adjacent properties. Care should be taken to ensure that new development is sympathetic with the surrounding area.</i>	<b>A/B/C</b>
11. Existing footpaths should be protected and styles should be in traditional materials. No development should be allowed to close or obstruct parish foot paths as these are much used by residents and visitors.	<b>A/C</b>
12. New developments should only be permitted if drainage arrangements are adequate. <i>Foul water capacity is presently at its limit and frequently fails in heavy rain. Without improvement, additional burden on the pumping station will cause more frequent failure.</i>	<b>A/B/C</b>
13. New roof lights should only be permitted when in keeping with the age and design of the property and do not create an invasion of a neighbour's privacy. Certain types of roof lights can look inappropriate on listed and older buildings. They can also allow intrusive views into neighbours' buildings.	<b>A/B/C</b>
14. Care should be taken to coordinate the installation of road furniture so that it harmonises with its environment. Road furniture is essential but, if uncoordinated, can have a bad visual impact.	<b>A/B/C</b>

# Environment

## Appendix 1

### Geology landform and soils

The parish is located on the southern edge of the Weald and sits on a variety of different sedimentary deposits from the Cretaceous era, which were laid down under water some 80 or more million years ago. The horizontal layers of different sediments which made up the Weald were then heaved up into a long East to West fold during the period of geological activity when the Alps were formed. Subsequent weathering down and removal of the top of the fold has exposed the different layers of sediments, with the harder and more resistant standing up above the softer layers. This process has left Bury and West Burton sitting to the North of the uppermost, youngest and hardest of the sediments, the Chalk, which forms the steep escarpment of the South Downs.

Both villages are located on the Upper Greensand layer, which is older than the chalk and is found immediately below the chalk escarpment. The different layers of progressively older sedimentary rocks occur in narrow bands of between one and two kilometres wide running east to west across the parish with Gault clay and Folkestone beds occurring in the centre and north of the parish. The pattern of narrow east to west bands

of different sediments had led to the slightly undulating topography of the area where the harder rocks are expressed as ridges, and the softer sediments as troughs. So we find that if we head north from the two villages, we drop down from the Upper Greensand onto the softer Gault clay, only to rise up again onto the slightly harder deposits of the Folkestone beds as we pass through Bury Gate heading towards Fittleworth.

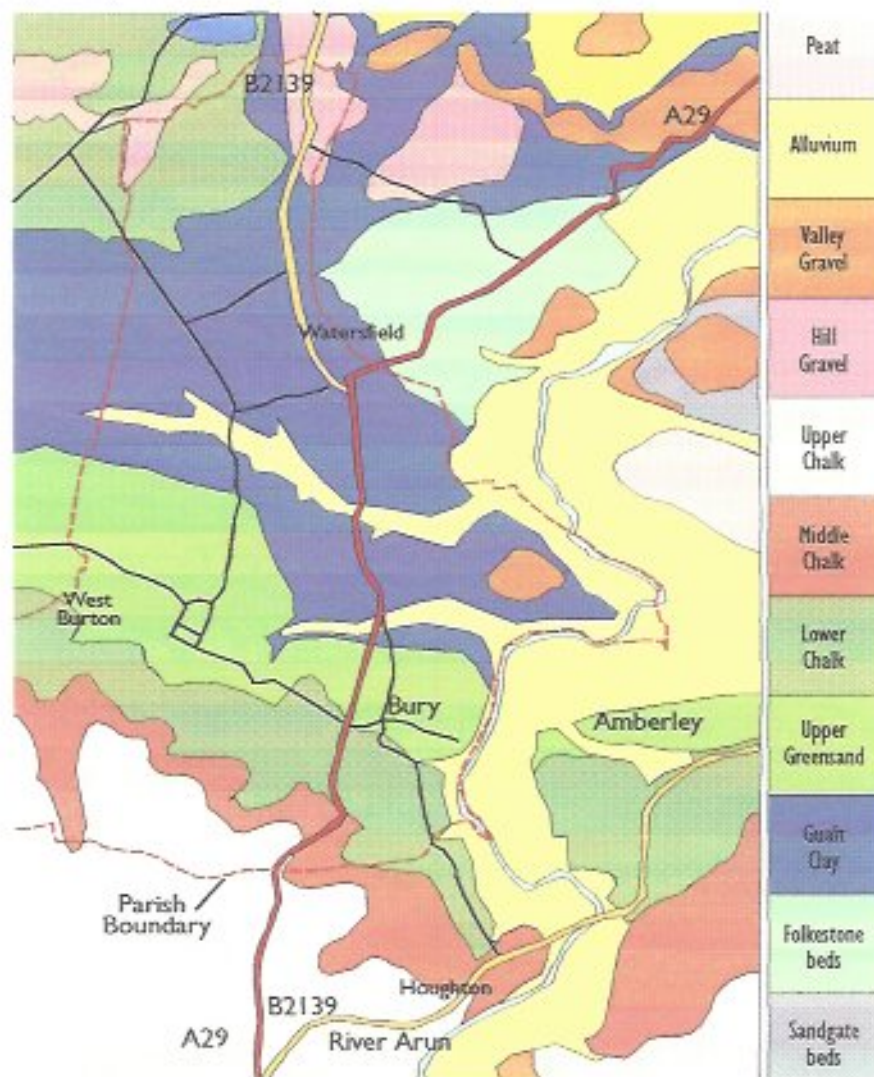
The river Arun has had a major impact on the landform of the parish. The river has scoured one of only four major valleys running south from the Weald through the South Downs to the sea. The valley is relatively narrow through the Downs but widens out to the north of Houghton Bridge to form a wide area of relatively low lying floodplain. This is mostly to the east of the river in Amberley parish, but some of the river floodplain lies to the west of the river to the north and south of Bury. The different sedimentary deposits have determined the character of the soils, and their suitability for cropping. If we start with the youngest deposits on the Downs, the soils are shallow well drained silty soils derived from the chalk and clay with flints (to which chalk weathers down). Although modern farm

equipment and agro-chemicals have permitted these soils to be used for the production of cereals, prior to the last war there would have only rarely been ploughed and would have been used for extensive sheep grazing. The steep chalk escarpment has very thin dry soils which are cropped where less steep, but in general remain as woodland. The soils derived from the Upper Greensand are of variable depth but can become waterlogged, particularly where the sandstone is close to the surface. The soils derived from the gault clay are heavier, poorly drained and liable to waterlogging. In contrast, the soils in the northernmost part of the parish are free draining sandy soils which naturally tend to produce either woodland or heathland, such as in the process of being restored on Lords Piece.

### Evolution of the landscape

The nature of the soils, the drainage characteristics of the land, and the natural vegetation has determined the ways in which the different parts of the parish were firstly cleared and then farmed in pre-historic times. The upper downland, on the top of the Downs is likely to have been cleared by either late stone or bronze-age peoples during the period between 6,000 and

2,000 years BC. The higher ground of the Downs was one of the first areas cleared by prehistoric peoples, who were migrating into southern England using the land bridge which existed across the Channel until approximately 6,500 BC. They cleared the land in order to carry out a form of settled agriculture, which consisted of cropping small fields with early varieties of cereals, as well as grazing stock. The steep land of the escarpment is unlikely to have ever been cleared, although timber and other products would have been harvested from the woodlands. All of the woodland which remains on the escarpment within the parish today is classified as semi-natural ancient woodland, as it is believed never to have been fully cleared. In contrast, the majority of the remainder of the parish has been cleared or subject to various forms of agriculture since most probably some 3000 years BC. Areas of woodland were slowly cleared, and in many cases the clearance process was undertaken in such a way that narrow strips of woodland were retained to act as boundaries between fields. These strips which are known as either shaws or rucs are a common feature of the Weald and can be seen beside the roads in the north of the parish.



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# Landscape character areas

## The river valley

The lowest lying parts of the parish are found in the Arun valley, and are still vulnerable to flooding, although flood embankments were built beside the river during the 1960's. These areas are normally flat pasture land, subdivided by drainage ditches and hedges. Willow trees occasionally occur along the sides of the ditches, but not generally along the river. The steep flood embankments separate the river from the surrounding landscape, but also provide an elevated footpath from which to view the river. The Arun is tidal through the parish, and is subject to a considerable tidal range, which can expose a 3-metre strip of mud at low tide, or can threaten to wash over the flood embankments when spring tides and flooding coincide.

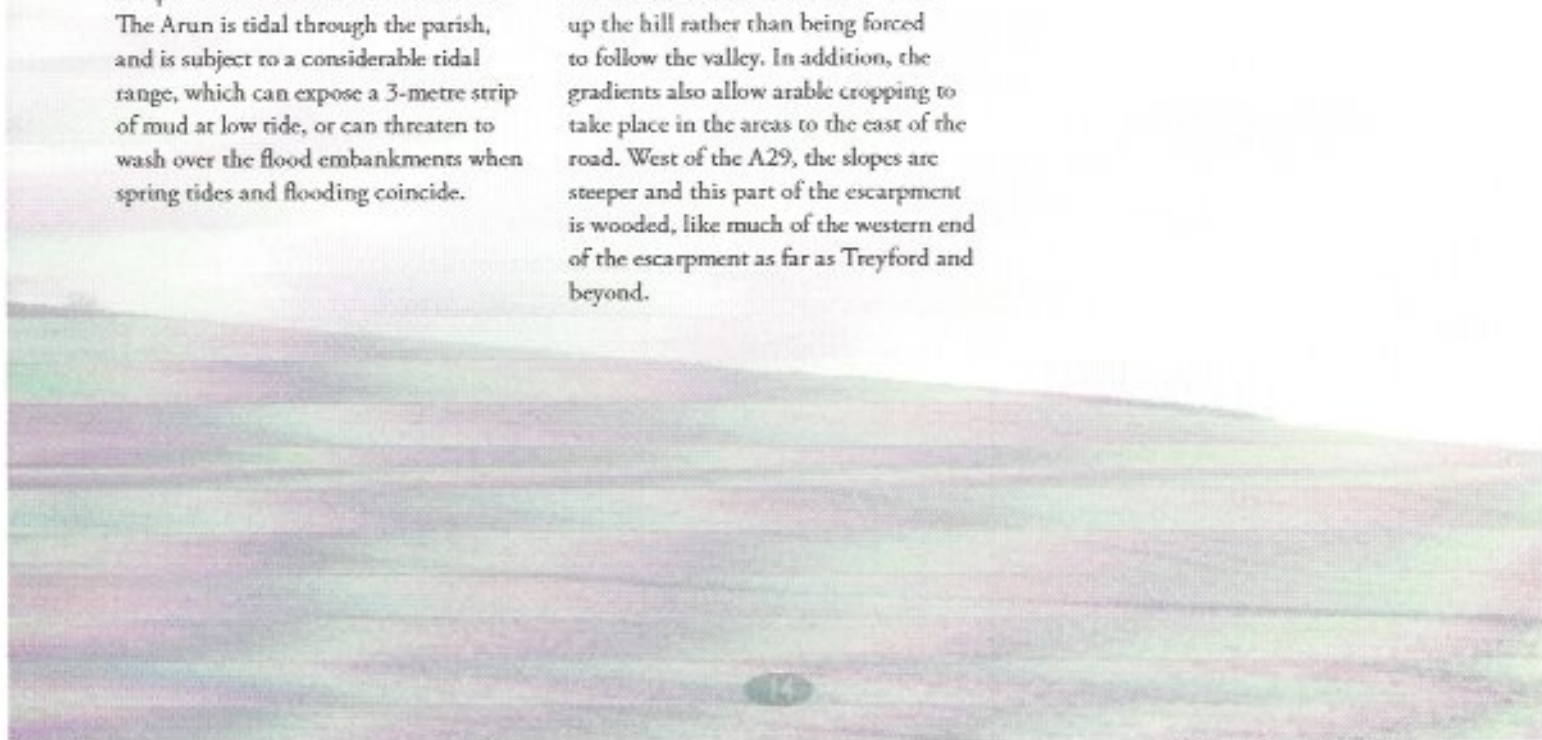
## The chalk escarpment

The chalk escarpment is one of the most visible features of the parish, and provides one of the more memorable views to travellers on the A29 to Bognor road, which climbs Bury Hill. In most parts of the South Downs the escarpment is too steep to be ploughed, and has consequently remained as either chalk grassland or woodland.

Between Houghton and Bury, however, the escarpment is not so steep and this has allowed the main road to be cut up the hill rather than being forced to follow the valley. In addition, the gradients also allow arable cropping to take place in the areas to the east of the road. West of the A29, the slopes are steeper and this part of the escarpment is wooded, like much of the western end of the escarpment as far as Treyford and beyond.

## The upper downs

The upper Downs are areas of rolling chalk located to the south of the escarpment, which now consist primarily of large arable fields, although parts of the steeper land are wooded. This land would most probably have contained areas of open chalk grassland prior to the campaign to feed the nation during and after the Second World War, which led to large areas of chalk grassland being ploughed.



### Green sand ridge

The green sand ridge, at the foot of the downs, includes the two villages of Bury and West Burton. The areas around and within the two villages contain numerous small grass paddocks and former orchards. These must once have supported young farm livestock, pigs and draught horses from the small farmsteads which were located in the villages. The post war changes in farming have led to the merging of holdings, and the selling off of the houses, and conversion of barns and even pigsties to residential accommodation.

The paddocks are now used for ponies or mown for silage by a local farmer. The greensand ridge was once a significant orchard fruit growing area with cider production one of the main uses. The first edition ordnance survey shows numerous orchards, which no longer exist. Nevertheless, some old fruit trees and small orchards survive in this area. The lanes within the villages are deeply sunken, resulting from centuries of erosion by hooves and cartwheels, prior to the advent of tarmacadam. The steep edges of the lanes are overgrown with trees or bushes, which shade the lanes even on bright sunny days.

Away from the villages the ridge is relatively flat, and is largely subject to arable cropping.

### Clay/woodland mosaic

There is a steep slope down from the greensand onto the soils derived from the gault clay. The land is poorly drained, and surface streams and ditches flow east towards the river Arun. This area is a relatively small scale mosaic of woodlands and shaws, combined with small grassland fields. The largest woodland in this area is Dukes Copse, part of the Bignor Park estate.

### Reading beds/heath land

The northern most part of the parish is an area of former heathland, which has suffered from both afforestation (Pine trees have naturalised much of southern England's heath since the 1900's) and ploughing. A successful attempt to restore heathland is progressing well in the North western-most part of the parish. The area known as Lords Piece is being restored through grant aid from a Countryside stewardship agreement.



### Nature conservation interest

The position of the parish straddling the junctions of a range of different geological strata has provided the basic range of conditions for different habitats to develop. Consequently, in the past the parish would have contained important habitat types such as wetland, ancient woodland, chalk grassland and heath. Unfortunately, as a result of agricultural changes over the last century many of these habitats have either been lost or deteriorated. The wetland areas have been drained and improved the ancient woodlands and hazel coppice has been left unmanaged, the chalk grassland has been ploughed up, and the heathland has become overgrown with pines and scrub. As a consequence very little of the parish is designated under wildlife legislation, apart from the escarpment woodland to the west of West Burton, which is within the Duncton to Bignor escarpment SSSI.

Although therefore not subject to national wildlife designations the parish contains a good range of worthwhile areas. There are wide range of significant species of mammals, birds, reptiles and insects in the parish, and the escarpment woodland, and the heathland support a wide range of plant species. Even the

road verges, hedgerows and sunken lanes hold a range of flowering plants such as nettle leaved bell-flower, meadow sweet and hop. The school playing field and the verge of the A29 even have a population of orchids which have survived the gang mowers and rabbits.

### Agriculture and land uses

The majority of the parish is subject to quite intensive agricultural use, either dairying in the lower lying areas, or cereal cropping on the higher land. Current production techniques provide little opportunity for wildlife, although the strips of woodland, the shaws and rucs, can act as a refuge for some wildlife. The woodland areas are generally either unmanaged, or managed for pheasant shooting.

There has been a change in national agricultural policy during the last 15 years, from a policy of increasing production to policies encouraging more environmentally sensitive production methods. This has been implemented through the former MAFF's agri-environment schemes, such as the South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Scheme. This was set up in 1987 and extended to the West Sussex downs in 1988. The southern section of the

parish, and the river valley area is sited within the ERA boundary. Farmers within the area are eligible to join the scheme, which supports low intensity grazing of existing grassland and of grassland reverted from arable cropping.



# History

## Appendix 2

Like most small Downland villages, on the fertile greensand, running at the foot of the chalk ridge, Bury's history over hundreds of years depended on agriculture and rural industry. In the 1900s, Bury was the same size as in the 1835 tithe map, 3340 acres of which 2000 arable, and still reflected patterns of 16th century life, work and leisure, custom and worship. Its size and population had altered little since the 1821 census.

Up to then, changes had come in waves: the long erosion of commons by enclosure from the 1580s; the growth in size of estates – whether aristocratic like Norfolk and Egremont, or gentry families of Cooke, Upperton and Higgons – and the parallel decline of small yeoman farmers; agricultural reform and mechanisation, road and river transport improvement in the early 1800s which opened Bury up to trade in timber, chalk and lime from Arun wharf; and the “great rebuilding of the 17th/18th centuries which saw timber houses modernised with stone underpinning and chimneys, brick quoins to windows and doors, and tiles replacing thatch (slate being a 19th century innovation).

In 1910, village life still centred on the Church and three or four pubs. West Burton, its wayside shrine long ruined, was noted as “a perfect nest of Sussex gentry notwithstanding its out of the way position”. The road as always ran to one side, greatly improved up Bury Hill by the Duke of Norfolk in 1803 but not yet tarred. The village school, Church-aided, had been built in 1876 but was closer to Lark Rise than the Butler Act of 1944, teaching a range barely wider than reading, writing and religion. Ancient Martin's Farm had just burned down and Bury House built in its place for the famous novelist John Galsworthy. Cobbett had noted in *Rural Rides*, how much better was the health of workers in a village where mixed role occupation including forestry prevailed, compared with richer grain areas of East Sussex.

Yet real change had already begun. From the 1870s the so-called agricultural depression forced all landowners to accept lowered rents by cutting labour and introducing scientific rotation: threshing machines became common though horses still ploughed for another thirty years. Land sales of the late 19th century and after WWI brought in outsiders. Further land sales after World War I, in 1919-21, restored the position of the small farmer-

owner. Retired folk from London moved down seeking a rural vision which was already obsolescent and by 1945 would be obsolete.

Twentieth century technology brought the motorcar and the omnibus. Car drivers seeking a rural idyll demanded tarmac and got it in the 1920s, the same time as the Southdown Omnibus Company began to run Bury's residents beyond their old limits on horseback of Pulborough and Arundel. By the end of the 1930s, early planning legislation prevented further ribbon development from reaching up on to the sheep-grazed Downs; and from 1947 the Town and Country Act contained expansion of the built environment in perpetuity. Prices of houses and cottages, in the £200-£500 range from 1870 to 1940 rose after World War II, slowly at first and then in massive inflationary waves 1967-73, 1983-89, and throughout the 1990s.

Huge consequences followed. A village which had held between four and six hundred people for two hundred years, supported by growing wheat, barley and oats, timber and lime production and livestock husbandry, acquired a middle as well as an upper class and a new age distribution where the retired balance

the young. Agricultural occupation fell from 22% in 1900 to 5% in 1990. Bus, car and motorbike brought mobility and the road took over from what had once been the great Arun waterway. Joined by canal to the Rother, the Wey and eventually Chichester between 1790 and 1823, under Lord Egremont's improvements, the tidal river reverted to a fishing backwater flooded annually across the Wild Brooks to Amberley.

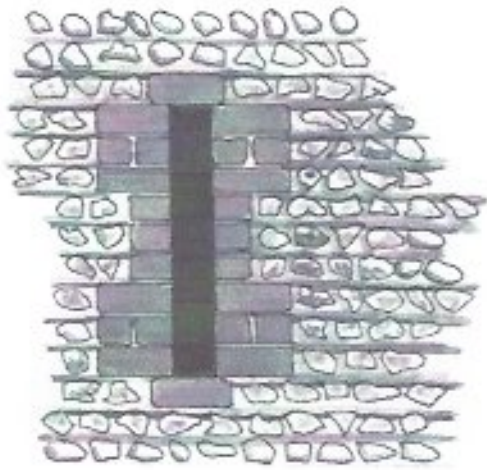
Mobility and education, and the new occupations of the 1950s brought more cultural changes and the country itself shaded into "countryside" – an attitude reflected in the arrival of formal conservation and the Sussex Downs Conservation Board. In appearance, Bury also changed, physically with local authority housing on its south side and brand new houses on the periphery; slow erosion of Church-going, and the disappearance of the last truly village pub The Black Dog (later, and Duck). To this day, the Village Hall, with its part-time Post Office, the Church fête, the primary school (one of the best in Southern England) and the Glebe Field survive; so does a village bus.

The Earls of Norfolk who held Bury Manor in the later middle ages, parted

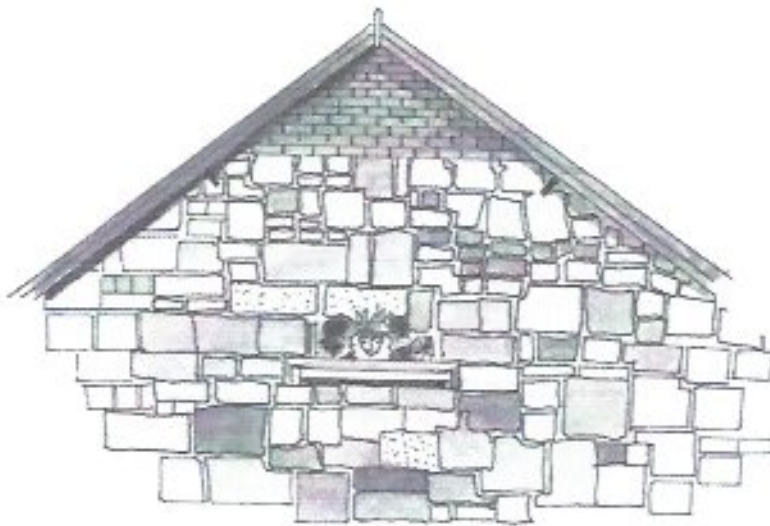
with it to found their Arundel College, and then took it back in 1545 after the monasteries' dissolution, would not be completely lost today: the medieval Church stands as it did. Cooke's House dates from the 1590s. The Victorian mansion proposed in 1875 was never built. Very many of the houses in Church Lane and in the Saxon figure of eight layout hamlet of West Burton retain much of their 17th century features. The windmill and watermill are gone, the latter burned down in 1925, and the Manor, now Dorset House School, is much altered. But its great barn, typical of a rich farming area, is unconverted. Few others in the parish now are, though the conversions allowed follow a generally successful path between demolition and artificial preservation. Timberley Farm has barely altered in two hundred years.

Streets and roads mostly follow the lines of earliest maps. Luckily for the harmonious mixture of 17th and 20th century houses, they still lack pavements and street lighting. But behind the miscellany of front doors and improved windows, central heating, main water and drains, and electricity stand between Bury and the open fires, cesspits, wells and oil lamps of 1910.

A thousand years of Bury's history leave an unusual residue: a balanced village, in terms of adaptation to change without abandoning agricultural traditions, religious and cultural life: a balance between old and young (but not between high and low cost housing) and so far, a balance between the demands of a much better off community than the 1900s could have imagined, and the real needs of two villages which have remained, fortunately, some distance from the main road and highly protected. The coming National Park poses difficult choices, for example car parking, lavatories and picnic areas. But Bury and West Burton have faced greater changes, from enclosure of common land to speculative 1930s building, and survived.



Brick quoin detail ventilating flint barn.



Random rubble masonry forming the gable end to the former village shop.

## Acknowledgements

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*Bury villagers at the New Millennium celebrations, July 2000.  
(Photo courtesy of Catherine Oliver.)*