

# Character Area D: Billingshurst Road



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### Summary

Billingshurst Road is the section of the A272 that enters Wisborough Green from the east with a series of left and right hand bends after an initial short straight. This main trunk road carries consistent traffic with peak time and seasonal increases. It has a pavement on the north side from the village pond as far as Oakwood, giving pedestrian access to the village centre for the entire ribbon development of mixed housing situated on the slightly rising ground to this side of the road. The majority of properties are set back from the road with long front and rear gardens. Many houses on this side are partially hidden by high hedging running along the inside of the pavement. The southern side has verges and lower native hedgerows with wide ranging views across open farmland and areas of woodland. There are some mature trees at intervals alongside the road and two individual houses before the entrance to Harsfold Lane which dips down past the allotments and falls away to the River Kird and beyond. This lane has been identified as the favourite walk and scenic view by residents.

### Landscape Character

This area of the village is characterised by the extensive scenic views across farmland to the South Downs, and the beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> century church situated in an elevated position on a small hill overlooking the road at the entrance to the village centre. The pavement curves past the churchyard to Glebe Way where mature trees then provide a leafy tunnel and wide verges create a sense of space and distance from the road in places. Bridleways, footpaths, green lanes and farm lanes all exit from both sides of this road leading to a variety of landscapes including enclosed meadows, woodland, livestock paddocks and open fields and pasture.

### Main Characteristics

- Landmarks include St Peter ad Vincula Parish Church, allotments, Scout Hut and Simmonds Bridge across the River Kird.
- There are two small commercial yards behind housing to the north of the road and sewerage works discretely hidden within the southern landscape.
- Most houses are two storey, all individual buildings have good sized mostly rectangular plots with large front and rear gardens and detached garages.
- Buildings are mainly brick and tile, with steep gabled roofs, some dormer windows and most properties have a single brick chimney.
- Windows are mostly casement with some larger windows and glazed doors on the ground floor.
- There is no public parking along the road apart from the one lay-by from the green lane to the ex-police house. Double white lines run along the carriageway. Residential parking is off street and most houses have gravelled or tarmac surfaces to the driveways.
- There are extensive views and vistas of varying landscapes and of Billingshurst Road from Harsfold Lane, including the fine view back to the church and graveyard.
- There is a paved cul-de-sac immediately prior to the churchyard to the north which includes the current Vicarage and the site of the original Victorian Vicarage.
- A green lane runs from the A272 through two rows of mature trees exiting onto Newpound Lane. Off the A272 it has an open aspect with wide grass verges and single lane vehicle access track as it passes three single storey properties and a builders yard, before becoming a typical bridleway with tree cover.
- One large character house has been converted to multiple residential units in a sympathetic manner. Farnagate House is the only Listed Building.

# Character Area E: Durbans Road



# Character Area E: Durbans Road

## Summary

Durbans Road is a link road from the A272 to the B2133. It begins at the exit from the village centre after passing the Cricketers Arms Public House and the short row of housing that follows. It carries consistent traffic which, although lighter than the main trunk road, includes some heavy vehicles which is seen as an issue by residents in this area. The initial section of road on leaving the village is straight with rural views to either side. A pavement borders the road to the west terminating at Brooklands corner but continuing on the east side past the two rows of mixed housing that border the road along a shorter straight stretch. It finishes just past the last pair of semi-detached Victorian villas where a popular footpath enters surrounding farmland, eventually linking with Newpound Lane at several points. Durbans Road continues downhill, curving into the dip at Brookbridge where a brook crosses under the road into woodland and fields beyond. There are four additional houses situated after the dip as the road rises up again before opening out with a wide verge area to the left with native hedgerow on both sides. There are views of mixed arable agricultural farmland and woodland approaching the B2133 junction.

## Landscape Character

Heading away from the village the land is relatively flat to the east with open fields with livestock visible and far reaching views to properties bordering Newpound Lane. There are scenic views of slightly rising parkland to the west with some mature trees and an open driveway. The pavement and low hedging along this section gives a sense of space and open landscape. A green lane that starts as a service lane to Brooklands Farm also opens up the landscape before disappearing into an overgrown bridleway bordered by woodland to emerge onto Kirdford Road. There are enclosed paddocks to the left and a good view of the village and church steeple looking back from this corner. Proceeding out of the village, views from the road are limited due to development although pylons and power lines are visible in the distance. There are three footpaths that lead across the landscape at various points along Durbans Road.

## Main Characteristics

- Being a link to the A272 it suffers with some heavy traffic. Brookbridge corner is perceived as a dangerous corner where there have been several accidents, some causing significant damage to a mature tree situated very close to the road just after the brook crossing.
- Pylons and power cables are visible across open countryside halfway down Durbans Road.
- A green lane and three footpaths access other areas of Wisborough Green from the road.
- Vehicles park on the roadside opposite properties bordering the east side reducing the road to one carriageway. Most properties also have hard standing for parking within the plots and some have garages, either detached or attached.
- There is a wide range of housing styles including three timber framed farmhouses, a converted barn, pairs of semi-detached Victorian villas, small cottages, larger individual detached houses and some newer houses built in traditional Sussex style. There are also several bungalows some of which have been converted to chalet style.
- Most houses are detached two-storey, the Victorian villas are higher with roof conversions. Some originally single storey bungalows have been converted to chalet style with the addition of dormer windows above the lower roof lines.
- All houses, except three, front the road and boundaries are a mix of hedges, timber fencing, iron railings and brick or stone walls.
- Plots are mostly regular on both sides, the majority have long narrow rear gardens but the front gardens are noticeably smaller. The last villa in the row has only a small garden that runs around the property.
- Well maintained, wide verges in front of one section of the housing on the western side also gives a sense of openness and space despite the higher hedging and woodland to the east. This has recently been reduced in height to give glimpses of the farmland beyond.
- Building materials consist of a range of brick, some local, in various colours with clay tile roofs, one roof is Sussex stone. There is one row of houses that are half rendered and painted, some older properties are timber frame and tile hung.
- Roofs are mainly gabled with a range of pitches and over hanging eaves. Chimneys are mostly single working brick chimneys.
- Windows are a mix of sash, crittall and casement depending on the age of the properties.
- Buildings of note: Sweephurst Farm, Brooklands Farm, Woodstock Cottage and Brookbridge Cottage, the Victorian villas have been sympathetically extended. There are 5 Listed Buildings.
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