

Lurgashall



Design Statement

Contents

Topic	Page
Introduction	2
A Brief History of the Parish	3
Parish setting and composition	4
Map of Village Conservation Area	5
Existing buildings	6
Architectural Details	8
Walls	8
Roofs	8
Chimneys	8
Windows	9
Doors, Porches and Conservatories	9
Garages	9
Agricultural Buildings	9
Boundary Walls	10
Gates and Fences	10
Modern Architecture and Building Materials	11
Public and Commercial Buildings	11
Future development	12
Buildings	12
Housing	12
Agricultural Buildings	12
Walls, Gates and Fences	12
Modifications to Existing Buildings	13
Economic considerations	13
New extensions, conservatories and garages	13
Barns and outbuildings	13
Building Materials	13
Views and open spaces	14
Environment	15
Roads and verges	15
Car parking	15
Footpaths and bridleways	15
Utilities and street furniture	16
Light pollution	16
Flora and fauna	17
Trees and Hedges	17
References	18
Acknowledgements	18
Glossary of Architectural Terms	18
Appendices	
1 Existing Activities and Land Usage	19
Employment	19
Clubs and Organisations	19
Other activities	19
Camp sites	19
2 Local brickworks using Wealden clay	20
Millenium Map	Back cover

Introduction

This Design Statement has been prepared by residents of the Parish of Lurgashall to distinguish and express elements in design and features of their environment which they believe to be important to retain in order to protect the character of the Parish. The Statement is aimed mainly at providing guidance to supplement the policies of Chichester District Council contained in their Local Plan 1st Revision, April 1999 and to assist in the planning of any future developments in the Parish. The Statement will require review if and when the Local Plan is further revised. It also relates to other issues of concern to the Parish which are not currently addressed by the Local Plan or by planning regulations. It reflects the views of residents, local government officers and local businesses as well as a cross-section of local people from different occupations.

The Statement was drafted by a representative team following a well-attended Design Workshop held in the village on 23rd March 2002 at which relevant features of the Parish were illustrated and opinions gathered. Copies of the 13th draft of the Statement were circulated for comment to the District Council, to consultees nominated by the Council and to representative businesses in the Parish. There was a public presentation of the draft on 17th January 2004 at which further opinions were sought and both the Presentation and the draft were made available on a Lurgashall web site. The draft was finalized, taking into account all comments received, and a Statement of Consultation was prepared for submission to the District Council. The Statement was adopted by Chichester District Council's Executive Board on 6th April 2004 as supplementary guidance to the First Review Chichester District Local Plan adopted April 1999.

In the past there have sometimes been planning issues which have resulted in unsatisfactory or inappropriate development in the Parish as seen through the eyes of its residents. These imperfections will not disappear with the advent of a Design Statement, but there is a chance that they will be reduced by a clear explanation from the Parish of what is considered acceptable. If the statement makes this clear it will have succeeded, since the local planning authority will have been given a yardstick by which to measure its own actions.

Throughout its deliberations the Design Statement team has been guided by the advice of the Countryside Commission in its publication '*Village Design*' and by help and advice of the Planning Department of Chichester District Council and from the West Sussex County Architect. It was particularly struck by the assertion that "design statements are not about whether development should take place, but about how it should be carried out, so that it is in harmony with its setting and makes a positive contribution to the local environment". In our statement we have tried to bear in mind the maxim that we would be concerned with "managing change, not preventing it".

A Brief History of the Parish.

It seems likely that about a thousand years ago Lurgashall was no more than a clearing in the dense forest that then covered the Lower Weald. The distinctive triangular shape of the Green at the centre of the village may derive from clearing operations by the earliest settlers anxious to establish grazing for their animals. The cottages, houses and other buildings round the Green have taken the place of the huts which our ancestors built on the perimeter to ensure that nobody encroached on the precious grazing.

The name Lurgashall is thought to be Saxon in origin and may come from the name of a reputed Saxon chieftain, Lutegar, who used the settlement, then an isolated and self-sufficient farming community, during his travels along the Roman road between London and Chichester. The village church dates from Saxon times.

The remote village was not mentioned in Domesday Book, but following the Norman conquest it was allocated to River Manor and the Manor of Diddlesfold, which no longer exist.

In the 15th century land was enclosed and sheep farming began. By the 16th century Lurgashall was a prosperous place, and some of the more substantial houses of that period remain today. The inn, dating from 1537, was given its present name of Noah's Ark in the seventeenth century.

From earliest times the Wealden forest, with its abundance of fuel, water and easily accessible ore, had been the site of a thriving iron industry. Lurgashall mill pond may well have played a part in this as a "hammer-pond", and it is thought that the iron founder William Yaldwyn may then have been active in the area in producing iron, especially in the large, and probably illegal, "bloomery" near the mill pond. He built Blackdown House in 1640 and became one of Cromwell's generals in the Civil War. It is thought likely that some of Lurgashall's satellite settlements – Hillgrove, Roundhurst and Dial Green – may also have started as sites of iron-foundries.

Glassmaking was another prevalent local industry as the appropriate materials - clay, ironstone and water were readily available together with timber for the kilns. The only remaining link is that Jobson's Lane was reputedly named after one of the glassblowers living in the parish at that time. There is also a small area in one of the fields at Lower Roundhurst Farm said to be the last vestiges of a glassmaking site.

During the Civil War a Puritan Rector was installed, resulting in considerable damage to the church. However, following the Restoration, Lurgashall recovered to prosper in the 18th Century. Many houses were gutted to provide proper central chimneys and upper storeys for sleeping, with the open-hall ground floors divided into separate rooms.

The poet Alfred Tennyson also built a house on Black Down in 1868 – Aldworth – and his wife founded a school at the nearby settlement of Roundhurst. Neither that school nor the one in Lurgashall have survived, having closed in 1923 and 1951 respectively.

Lurgashall is no longer an isolated farming community, although it still gives the impression of being on the way to nowhere. The Green retains its characteristic triangular shape and the asymmetrical design of its houses. The art historian Nikolaus Pevsner described it as "glorious", and there is no doubt that it would be recognisable to our ancestors as the quintessential and unspoiled Sussex Lower Weald village that they knew.

Parish Setting and Composition

Lurgashall, with its population of about 600, lies in the centre of the Haslemere, Midhurst, Petworth triangle on the northwest borders of West Sussex and southwest Surrey in the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (currently designated to become part of the South Downs National Park in 2006). Covering some 1800 hectares (4770 acres) of the northwest corner of the Low Weald, it comprises a mixture of gently undulating agricultural and broadleaf wood land.

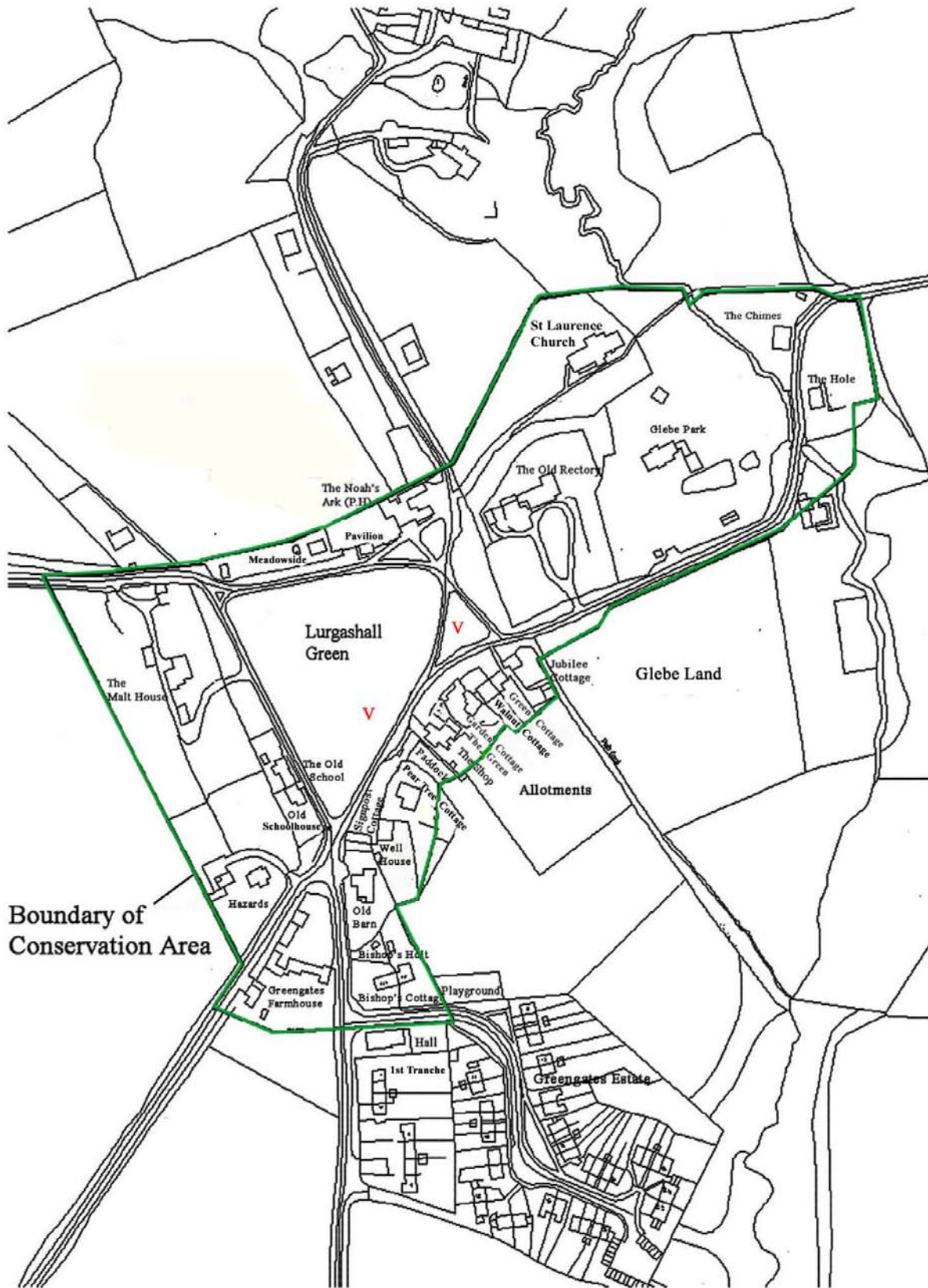
Black Down (280m [900 ft] and the highest point in Sussex), consisting of 250 hectares (617 acres) owned by the National Trust, is an important area in the northwest of the Parish and is part of the Lower Greensand belt that surrounds the central Wealden Basin. Unlike the low-lying clays, this terrain produces a contrast in vegetation, where conifers, rhododendrons and heathers grow in abundance.

The River Lod runs through the southwest section of the Parish into Mill Pond (formerly the site of Lurgashall Mill, now resited at the Weald and Downland Museum in Singleton), before joining the River Rother three miles to the south. There are many small streams criss-crossing the Parish and a number of ancient ponds.

The village centre with Church, Shop, Public House and traditional triangular village Green and its surrounding cottages, is included in the Conservation Area shown on page 5. The original green was probably larger, encompassing the site of the Old Rectory and Glebe Park. There are several satellite settlements, each with its own Green or area of common land for grazing, perhaps established to cater for later arrivals in the area – for example, iron-smelters, glass-makers, charcoal-burners, shepherds. The form and location of many of the old buildings in the Parish are related to their past function in servicing the community, such as forges, wheelwrights, bakeries, malt house and farm buildings.

The hamlet of Hillgrove lies to the northeast, and that of Roundhurst sits on the lower slopes on the eastern end of Black Down. Other small groups of houses are to be found at Dial and White's Greens. There are nine Sites of Nature Conservation Importance in the Parish – Black Down, Lurgashall Mill Pond, Tanland Copse, Upper Barn Hanger and Mire Hanger, White's Green, Windfallwood, Quell Wood, Quellwood Common and Dial Green. The location of these is shown on the illuminated map on the back page.

The existing activities and land usage in the Parish are summarised in Appendix 1.



Lurgashall Village

Existing Buildings

Houses and cottages dating back several centuries abound in Lurgashall. Architectural styles and materials vary between timber-framed, tile-hung, stone-built and brick-built. Local building materials from Saxon times to the present were mainly timber – mainly Wealden oak, Lower Greensand and Horsham stone and Wealden clay tiles and bricks, manufactured locally.

With modest and varied roof heights, and front to back dimensions determined by earlier methods of construction and materials, buildings surrounding the Green are absorbed by the landscape and the surrounding high ground, leaving the impression of conscious continuity, almost of timelessness. H S Roots noted that in 1900 that “wherever you looked through a space between two buildings you could see the green fields and the trees beyond”. Most houses are well set back from the road, reflecting past use of space in front of the houses for keeping livestock, wood-stacks or gardens.

The heart of the village is approached by any of four narrow lanes which open up onto The Green, with its cricket pitch (where cricket has been played for over 200 years), cottages, shop and pub. The vernacular architecture, which can be found throughout the Parish, is typified here in the houses and cottages, with their gardens, clustered on and around the Green. These are mostly bounded by low stone walls, picket fences or hedges.

The Church of St Laurence and the sandstone Old Rectory are situated to the east of the Green. The church today still shows signs of Saxon and Norman architecture, as well as later additions of the 16th, 17th and 19th Centuries. The “Pilgrims’ cloister” along its southern side with its Horsham stone roof, was said by E V Lucas in his 1904 book *Highways and Byways in Sussex*, to have been built “for the accommodation of remote parishioners who therein ate their dinner between morning and evening service”. It is now used as a vestry.



The Vestry

In the churchyard stands a memorial to thirty three parishioners who gave their lives in the two world wars.

On the north side of the Green is the Noah’s Ark public house built mainly of old brick and stone with tile-hung elevations. Nearby is the cricket pavilion (formerly the forge) and Meadowside, brick built, with adjacent granary.



North side of green

On the south side of the Green is the village shop and a cluster of cottages in a variety of styles, mostly brick, some tile hung.



South side of green

There is a group of timber framed whitewashed cottages, formerly 4 cottages and now a pair.

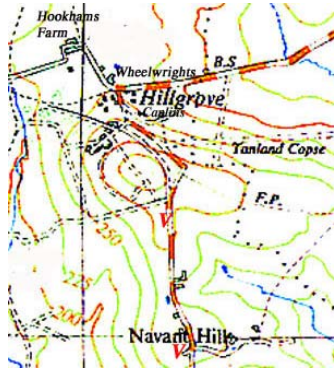


Lurgashall Design Statement

To the west of the green are the Old School, the Old School House and the Malthouse.



In Hillgrove notable among the old buildings are Hookhams Farm, Wheelwrights and Caplins.



Hookhams Farm

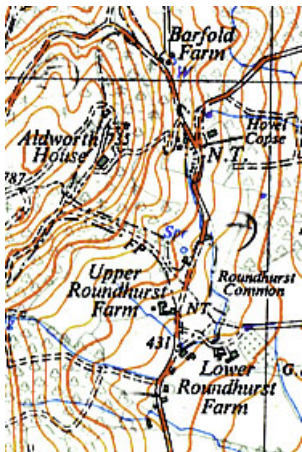


Caplins



Wheelwrights

In Roundhurst, Upper Roundhurst Farmhouse contains fine examples of moulded dressings



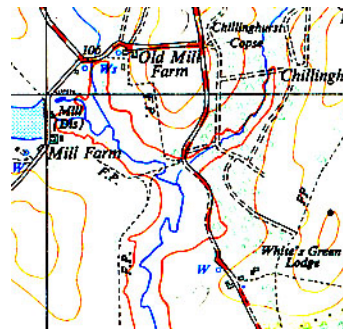
Old Manor Farm

There are a number of 16th and 17th century buildings in the settlements around Dial Green and Windfallwood Common.



Houses in Dial Green

There are other settlements at White's Green and near the Mill pond.



White's Green

Most buildings on Lurgashall Green are listed, as are many houses and outbuildings in outlying parts of the Parish (see Supplement available from the Parish Council.). Their architecture is sympathetic to the Sussex countryside and should be referred to in future planning considerations.

- *If period buildings are modified or demolished without the prior agreement of the Planning Authority they should be required to be restored in the original form. (Refer to the Listed Buildings Legislation.)*

Architectural Details

The following illustrations depict some examples of features that should be retained in future buildings or modifications in the Parish where relevant.

Walls

Walls are:-

local sandstone – some with noggins - often with brick quoins and string courses.



Wealden clay brick in shades of red, grey and brown.



Frequently upper elevations are clad in clay tiles in similar colours.



Timber-framed houses abound.



Roofs

As well as gabled roofs, hipped & half-hipped roofs are common. A local feature comprises a gabled roof at one end, with hipped or half hip at the other.

There are a number of catslide roofs.



Roof pitches are commonly steep (of the order of 60° to the horizontal). and eaves to many are no more than 4m. above ground level. Roofs are mostly clad with hand-made local clay flat and bonnet hip tiles. Similar tiling has also been used on elevations. Modern pantiles and slates, which are not indigenous, can be found in the parish. There are slate roofs to some Victorian or Regency buildings.

Chimneys

Chimneys are generally brick built, many with elaborate corbelling. Some are capped with stone slabs on corner piers (sometimes referred to as ‘Sussex hood’ chimneys) but others have clay pots of varied styles and colours.

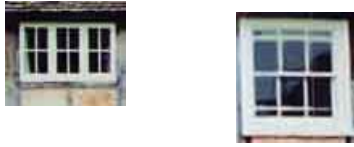


There are examples of buttressed chimneys and step-gabled chimneys.



Windows

White painted, timber, hinged-casement and sash windows are most common.



There are a number of stone mullioned windows; those in the Old School House having metal-framed panes with rectangular or diamond panel leaded lights in keeping with the architecture.



Dormer Windows with tile-hung cheeks and gabled roofs are common.



Doors, Porches and Conservatories

There is a wide variety of door styles in the older buildings but not many original doors remain.



Few of the older cottages and houses were built with porches, although some have had them added.



Not many of the older houses, apart from the Victorian properties, have original conservatories but a number have been harmoniously added.



Some dominate smaller dwellings or are constructed with unattractive materials.

Garages

Out-buildings to some older properties have been adapted for garaging. Some new garages have been built in the vernacular style and/or concealed from view.

An example of new building sympathetic to the Parish architecture is a new garage to Meadowside, timber-built with a half-hipped roof in the vernacular style.



Agricultural Buildings

Original agricultural buildings are mostly timber-framed, stone- or brick built, under clay tiled roofs.

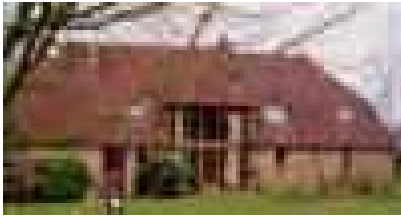


Many old barns are falling into disrepair



Lurgashall Design Statement

Some have been converted into modern homes

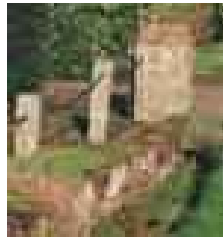
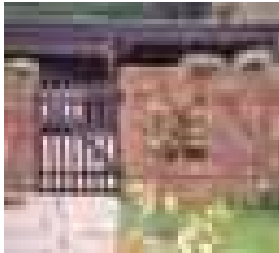


Boarded gates are uncommon but can be attractive.



Boundary walls

Stone walls on property boundaries are attractive features.



Split chestnut or oak post-and-rail picket fences are indigenous, whereas larchlap or boarded fencing are not.

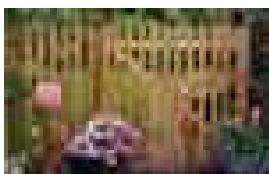


Gates and Fences

Traditional 5-barred oak gates, either single- or double are found on some driveways.



Wicket gates to pathways are of timber palisade and framing (occasionally painted) or of ornamental wrought ironwork.



Modern Architecture & Building Materials

Changes came in the 20th Century as local rented accommodation declined: tied cottages were sold, and so the 50-unit housing estate at Greengates – a product of its time - was built by Chichester District Council in the 1960s and completed in the 1970s. Standard, cheaper building materials were used countrywide. Although the first tranche of Greengates, built fronting Mill Lane, consists of an acceptable variety of styles and sizes; later houses on the estate were not so attractive, using concrete pantiles for roofs, concrete hanging tiles and other non-regional materials.



Greengates, 1st Tranche.



Greengates, 2nd Tranche.

Other 20th Century houses and extensions built in the parish were not always in harmony with the local landscape and architecture: local materials have not always been used, walls are white-painted, which does not blend with the landscape, or too much use has been made of dominant or aggressively large areas of glass, noticeable from miles away.

Public and Commercial Buildings

There are several public and commercial buildings in the village which serve the needs of the community and which should be preserved.

The Parish Church



The Parish Church of St Laurence continues to provide regular services for Anglican Christian worshippers, baptisms, marriage- and burial services and occasional musical events. The Rector now serves three parishes. The future of the building is dependent on that of the Church of England and of the tenets of English society.

The Village Hall



The Village Hall was built on land donated by Lord Leconfield to commemorate the Coronation of George V and Queen Mary in 1911.

This is the only public meeting place available to the parishioners, and, as such, it should have a role to play in the future. However, since it is under-used and requires a substantial amount of upkeep, its future is uncertain.

The Public House



The Noah's Ark, a mellow 16th Century inn, is a central feature of the village attracting both parishioners and visitors for indoor and outdoor enjoyment.

The Shop



The Shop is important to the village. It continues to provide villagers with a necessary service including a Post Office, despite pressures from supermarkets in nearby towns, and reduces the use of road transport. It also provides a place for village people to meet.

There are a number of other commercial buildings elsewhere in the Parish which provide local employment..

Future Development

Buildings

Housing

The existing houses in the Parish were built piecemeal, and grew organically over the years.

The Local Plan adopted in 1999 does not define any settlement policy areas in the Parish..

- *Any new buildings which comply with the Local Plan Exceptions Policy (RE1) should enhance the landscape by use of designs of form and scale and with features in keeping with the village architecture. The Parish is not suitable for 'innovative' or urban architectural designs.*
- *Any prospective developers must provide the Planning Authority with realistic perspective drawings or computer images illustrating the relationship between proposed new building or modified buildings and the existing surroundings.*

The exception to the organic growth is Greengates Estate, a development which lacks imagination and where the houses vary little in style. The pantiles on the roofs and PVC doors and windows do not reflect local vernacular.

It is apparent that small properties are being systematically extended, with the result that few small cottages remain.

It is important that Lurgashall provides a mix of housing. This should include accommodation, for purchase or renting, remaining affordable for young people and for the elderly who wish to stay in the village. The provision of sheltered housing might release some rented property in Greengates Estate for young couples.

- *Any new housing should be small individual properties or in small groups sited outside the Conservation Area and such that it may be harmoniously absorbed without impairing the balance of the character of the Parish.*
- *Dwellings should not be seen as so "cut off" as to be looked on as "apart". Homes should be seen as gentle organic growth rather than foreign additions. New buildings should give the impression of being landscape-dominated, through evolution rather than planning.*
- *Any new buildings, including garages and outbuildings, should be of styles and constructed of materials sympathetic to the locality.*
- *Apparent bulk of new or modified buildings should be limited, particularly when they are prominent on a skyline.*
- *Roof pitches on new developments should reflect those on adjacent buildings. Flat roofs are not appropriate.*

- *The ratio between areas of window openings and walls should be similar to that in older houses in the Parish.*
- *Average-sized windows with small panes would be compatible with the architecture of the Parish. Exceptions to small pane (glazing bar type) windows could include larger sash windows of Victorian character where considered appropriate. Large 'picture windows' which reflect light should be avoided.*
- *Rooflights or solar panels should not be constructed in locations in which they could be out of harmony with Parish architecture.*

The majority of domestic dwellings in the Parish have two storeys, some with attics, and there are few bungalows. It is therefore preferable that, to maintain the scale and style of local architecture, any new houses should be two-storeyed. Additionally, with the future in mind, they should provide sufficient accommodation to enable an occupant to work from home.

- *Any new house should be two-storeyed, except when intended solely for the elderly.*
- *They should provide accommodation for occupants to work from home.*

Agricultural and Other Commercial Buildings

Agricultural and other commercial buildings are important features in the Parish and should be subject to the same control as domestic dwellings.

- *Any new agricultural or other commercial buildings should be carefully sited and designed to reduce their apparent mass so as to minimise impact on the wider landscape.*
- *Within economic constraints, they should be constructed of a form and materials sympathetic with the landscape.*

Walls, Gates, Fences and Driveways.

Future developments should retain the character and appearance of existing boundaries to properties or fields in the Parish.

- *Retain, repair or improve walls and stonework.*
 - *Encouragement should be given to the use of hedges of native species, picket or post- and rail fences, local stone or local stock brick for boundaries.*
 - *Use traditional materials and styles for new fences, gates and stiles. Boarded or metal-sheeted fencing or gates are not suitable.*
- The construction and layout of driveways may significantly affect the setting of a property.
- *Design of driveways to avoid their prominence and to meld them into the setting should be encouraged.*

Modifications to Existing Buildings

Economic Considerations

The worth of small-scale local economic activity is fully recognised, particularly where this provides employment for residents of Lurgashall and adjacent parishes. With the switch from a labour-intensive agricultural economy to that of a largely service one, local employment opportunities have declined.

- *Encouragement should be given to those small businesses which are able to sympathetically modify older buildings for commercial use in a manner that is in keeping, in terms of both size and type, with the rural character of the Parish. Similar support should be given to individuals who wish to adapt private residences in order to work from home.*

New Extensions, Conservatories, Garages and External Attachments.

Future new building in Lurgashall is most likely to be extensions to smaller properties.

In the past additions, including porches, have not always been in keeping with the scale and style of the original.

- *Extensions should be in proportion to, and not engulf, small cottages.*
- *Styles and features should not be mixed in the same building.*

Rooflights, solar panels, aerials and dishes detract from the architecture.

- *Rooflights, solar panels, aerials or dishes should not be so located as to impair or be out of harmony with the architecture of buildings.*

Considerable care should be taken in the siting of conservatories to reduce their impact and to maintain the sense of scale – particularly in the Conservation Area.

- *Conservatories or subsidiary buildings should be sited where they would not detract from the façade of a house and should not be PVC framed.*

Barns and Outbuildings

Old derelict farm buildings contain intrinsic features of Sussex architecture. In the context of future planning, their owners should be permitted and encouraged to renovate them in the original style and with sympathetic materials for alternative use

- *Rather than allow redundant farm buildings to fall into disrepair, it is preferable to permit sensitive conversions for alternative residential or small business use. However appropriate vernacular building materials should be used.*
- *Before designing any conversion, reference should be made to the Guidance Note: "Farm Buildings and Barn Conversions", available from Chichester District Council.*
- *Chimneys and dormer windows should not be added to barns.*
- *The scale of tall openings on long sides of barns should be maintained reflecting their original use.*

Building Materials

The indigenous building materials described above, may not be any longer available in new supply, particularly stone. However reused materials or some new materials which harmonise with the Parish architecture and landscape may be found. Local brickworks, using Wealden Clay for bricks and tiles are listed in Appendix 1.

- *Where possible the re-use of original materials should be encouraged. Where it is impossible to use these, materials should generally be of similar sandstone or clay based products in subdued red or brown hues. (see Appendix 1). Hand-made clay tiles should be used. Light red or yellow clay tiles should be avoided.*
- *In new development, galvanised steel, PVC windows and doors, slate and concrete tiles and pantiles should generally be discouraged, although slate roofs may be appropriate for modifications to some Victorian or Regency buildings.*
- *The greater use of lime and appropriate sand aggregates should be encouraged (e.g. in mortar joints and rendered panels between timber framing). Panels could be left to weather naturally, or lime-washed using neutral colours rather than brilliant white.*

Views and Open Spaces

Important views of Black Down to the northwest and Pitshill and Bexley Hill to the south and southwest can be seen from the Village and from other parts of the Parish. Typical viewpoints are marked **V** in the maps on pages 5 and 7.



Black Down from Northhurst Farm, Dial Green.

The exceptional far-reaching views from the footpaths on Black Down across the Weald to the Sussex Downs, Chanctonbury and Cissbury Rings, the Shoreham Gap and to the sea beyond draw many visitors at all times of the year.



View from Black Down

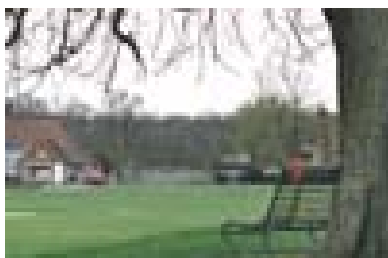
The hamlet of Hillgrove and the houses on neighbouring Navant Hill also benefit from fine and distant views.



Pitshill from Navant Hill

- ***Impairment of these views by any development should be avoided.***

In addition to the Village Green, other vital open spaces in the village itself include the field and allotments behind the dwellings on the south-eastern edge of the Green. These are drawn into the heart of the village by the green space between the Shop and Pear Tree Cottage. This also leads the eye outwards to the countryside beyond.



South View from Village Green

It is equally important to preserve the Glebe Land (currently a football field) to the east of Jubilee Cottage.

- ***It is essential that these features be afforded maximum protection.***

Elsewhere in the Parish the areas where the countryside embraces or penetrates as “green fingers” between the several communities are essential features. The rural atmosphere of the Parish is enhanced by grazing animals in these open spaces.

The mill pond is a particularly attractive asset.

The Mill pond.



- ***These spaces must be preserved.***

The current trend to encourage reduction in English farming production and to adopt new strategies for land use have severe implications for the future of the Parish. Alternative use of land, including set-aside, could profoundly alter its character. It is therefore essential that future land use be subject to planning control sympathetic to the continuance of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with due consideration of the impact of developments on the environment and the amenities of the Parish.

- ***Continued use of land for farming must be encouraged.***
- ***Excessive use of land for camping should not be permitted.***
- ***No permanent buildings or caravans associated with camping should be allowed.***
- ***The use of land for golf courses or other leisure pursuits, or car boot sales, would be detrimental to the environment and to the local traffic and amenities and should be prohibited.***
- ***Waterborne activities on the Millpond should not be permitted.***

Environment

Roads and Verges

Much of the rural character of the Parish is shaped by some 25 kms (15 miles) of minor roads and lanes (most bounded by ancient hedgerows, areas of trees, verges and manorial waste)..



The use of these lanes has increased greatly in volume, size and speed of traffic, particularly by heavy goods and other large vehicles, which creates serious erosion and damage to verges and banks as well as danger to drivers, cyclists and local residents, noise, fumes and disturbance to wildlife.

- *New developments or changes in use resulting in significant increase in size or volume of traffic or noise pollution, or requiring roads to be widened or straightened, should not be permitted.*
- *New access to properties should be so sited as not to impair the nature of lanes or cause hazards.*
- *The Local Authority should ensure that the character of the roads and lanes is preserved and the installation of pavements, concrete kerbs and other unsuitable elements is avoided.*
- *Efforts should be made to reduce volume and speed of traffic.*
- *HGVs should be discouraged from using inappropriate highways as ‘rat-runs’.*
- *Suitable traffic calming measures and new road signs and markings should only be introduced where they are demonstrably necessary.*
- *The Local Highway Authority should apply DOE guidelines with sensitivity to ensure that siting, layouts, signing and markings are as unobtrusive as possible in keeping with the rural environment.*
- *It should be borne in mind that signs and markings can encourage driving speeds in excess of 30mph, endangering people and wildlife.*

Car Parking

Of considerable effect on the environment of the village, as opposed to the wider Parish, is parking of cars on and around the Green. The ownership of cars by residents and the volume of visitors arriving by car have steadily increased in recent years and now causes congestion and damage to the Green, as well as spoiling the scene. The village residents perceive this as a major problem and would wish to find a solution.

- *A solution to the problem which is not deleterious to local trade or to the ambience of the village needs to be sought.*
- *Any new development should provide sufficient vehicle parking areas within its curtilage such that parked cars are neither dominant nor prominent.*
- *Residents should be encouraged to garage their vehicles whenever practicable.*

Footpaths and Bridleways

Lurgashall has a network of 60 kms (thirty eight miles) of ancient footpaths and bridleways. These link the various settlements in the Parish and allow easy access to woods, common land and fields.



- *They should be actively protected for enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.*

The responsibility for upkeep of these Rights of Way is currently delegated to the Sussex Downs Conservation Board and, where appropriate, the National Trust.

- *Public Rights of Way should be kept open and in good repair.*
- *Significant diversions should be considered on their merits and, if desirable, opportunities to create new routes should be encouraged.*

Utilities and Street Furniture

The overhead electricity cables and telephone wires are often very noticeable and the installation of new ones should be resisted.



The design and siting of any unavoidable should be co-ordinated and visually acceptable.

- *Ensure consultation and agreement by Local Authorities, utilities and other agencies on the provision of all street furniture.*
- *Re-route, screen or place underground, where practicable, all cables and wires.*
- *Encourage shared use of poles.*
- *Communication masts and wind-power generators should not be erected in the Parish.*
- *The two red telephone boxes (adjacent to the Green and at Gospel Green) should be preserved. The modern one at Shopp Hill is incongruous.*
- *The Victorian post box in the wall at Parkhurst should be kept.*



- *The six black and white finger posts should be preserved for as long as is practical by regular maintenance.*



Light Pollution

The Parish is protected from the major light pollution of the nearest large towns by surrounding hills and still offers views of the night sky which should be preserved and enhanced.



Night view of Parish and surrounding districts

- *External lighting should be limited to sensitively-positioned sensor-controlled security lights, directed downwards.*



- *Street lighting in the Parish is not appropriate*

Flora and Fauna

Lurgashall is rich in flora and fauna although modern farming techniques and the pressures of living patterns of the 20th century have caused the spread of species to diminish.

- *The impact of any potential developments on flora habitats and wildlife habitats should be taken into account in planning.*
- *The indigenous flora and fauna in hedgerows and verges should be preserved by avoiding cutting in seeding and nesting periods.*

Trees and Hedges

Trees are an important element and contribute greatly to the environment of the Village centre and the Parish as a whole. There are individual trees and wooded areas, which are visually significant.



The Village chestnut tree

- *Significant trees and important wooded areas should be cared for and conserved by their owners. When such trees reach the end of their lives, they should be replaced with indigenous species.*

Broadleaf woodlands, containing mature indigenous species, shelter some endangered species of flora and fauna. Visitors come from far afield to admire the snowdrop and bluebell woods.



Bluebell wood

Ancient mixed hedgerows border the lanes and fields.



Typical Mixed Hedgerow

- *The wealth of ancient hedgerows and flora throughout the Parish must be preserved. New plantings should use native species. Coniferous trees and hedges should be discouraged*

Little has been done to care for, maintain and regenerate the woodlands and hedgerows in the latter part of the 20th century.

- *Landowners should be urged to participate in schemes to replant trees and hedges or to regenerate by layering (through the use of grants, etc).*

References

Village Design. Making local character count in new development. Advisory Booklet. Countryside Commission. 1996.

Owning a Listed Building. Department of the Environment. November 1985.

Guidance Note: Farm Buildings and Barn Conversions. Chichester District Council.

Acknowledgements.

The Lurgashall Design Statement team is grateful for financial grants and promises made by the Lurgashall Parish Council, the West Sussex County Council, “Awards for All”, the Sussex Downs Conservation Board, the Chichester District Council and the Lurgashall Fete Committee. The team also acknowledges help and advice given by the Planning Department of the Chichester District Council and the West Sussex County Architect and by many other people in the Parish and beyond.

The Design Statement team included Malcolm Caird, Iola Christian, Anthony Flint (Editor), Charles Gillmore, Christopher Herdon (Co-ordinator), Jacqueline Lawson, Anthea Martin-Jenkins, Michael Oakland (Administrator), Beverley Pask-Hughes, Paul Read, Jennipher Stephenson, and Andrew Tate.

The map on page 5 has been based on a map provided by and with permission of Chichester District Council.

The maps of various settlements on page 7 are based on Ordnance Survey mapping and are reproduced by kind permission of Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright NC/A7/04/26537.

The night view on page 16 is an annotated copy of an image by courtesy of Earth Sciences and Image Analysis Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center.

The back cover has been based on an illustrated Millenium map drafted by Caroline Wilding for Lurgashall Parish Council.

Glossary of Architectural Terms.

Bonnet tile	Bonnet shaped tile used at corners of hipped roofs, fairing into the roof slopes
Buttressed	Having a stone or brick raking support
Cat-slide	Curved roof extending to eaves near the ground
Corbelling	Projections of stone, timber, etc. jutting out from a wall
Hipped roof	Roof having ends as well as sides sloping
Mullioned	Having vertical elements dividing window lights
Nogging	Brickwork between timber framing
Palisade, picket fence	Fence of pointed pieces of wood
Pantiles	Roof tiles transversely curved to an S-shape, one curve being much larger than the other
Step gabled	Having stepped, triangular upper part of wall at end of a ridged roof
Quoin	Stone or brick forming angle; corner stone
Vernacular	(In the context of building) Indigenous or native
Wicket gate	Small gate for pedestrian access

Appendix 1

Existing Activities and Land Usage.

Employment

A reduced amount of arable, cattle, sheep and fruit farming, and forestry, continue in the Parish. There is an increasing variety of small businesses which include the public house, the village shop and post office, cider makers and wine makers, painters and decorators, an organic beef shop and a home for people with mental disabilities. There is a small industrial site. In addition there are specialised home industries, including clock making and design, interior designing, dressmaking, art work, computer graphic design, sculpting, and bee keeping, as well as professional consultancy. There is other employment in home help and gardening.

A number of the inhabitants who are not engaged in local employment commute to work elsewhere.

Clubs and Organisations

There are few clubs in the Parish, and this can be seen as a reflection of social changes. The Cricket Club continues to provide sport of a reasonable standard and opportunities for all (notably juniors) to play. However there is a lack of adequate changing facilities. Any new building to solve this problem must be approached with particular sensitivity since it will almost certainly be within, or very close to, the Conservation Area. The football club still exists, albeit with a current shortage of local players.

Other organisations include the Women's Institute, the Guild of St Laurence, the Horticultural Club and the Village Fete and Village Hall Committees.

Other Activities

The allotments provide a facility for village inhabitants to grow produce.

There is a children's playground opposite the village hall.

Camp Sites

There are several camp sites in the Parish, most of which are small and discreetly located. However a 40- acre site at Park Farm used for camping by the Woodcraft Folk of Wimbledon has been the subject of considerable controversy; the subject is at present under discussion with the District Council and DEFRA. Problems that have arisen, particularly during summer weekends, include traffic congestion, noise and disturbance and unruly behaviour. The District Council has objected to the Woodcraft Folk's application for a 'Certificate of Exemption' which would generally enable camping to take place without planning permission. The Woodcraft Folk also applied for planning permission for permanent accommodation on the site which was refused by the District Council as it was out of keeping with the environment and was also dismissed on appeal.

Appendix 2
Local Brickworks

Baggerridge Brick plc, Lynwick Street, Rudgwick.
Cranleigh Brick & Tile, Baynards, Rudgwick, Sussex.
Ashpark, Shillinglee Road, Plaistow.
Ibstock Brick, Coolham.
Cranleigh Tiles, Ewhurst Road, Cranleigh.
Pitsham Brickworks, Midhurst.

