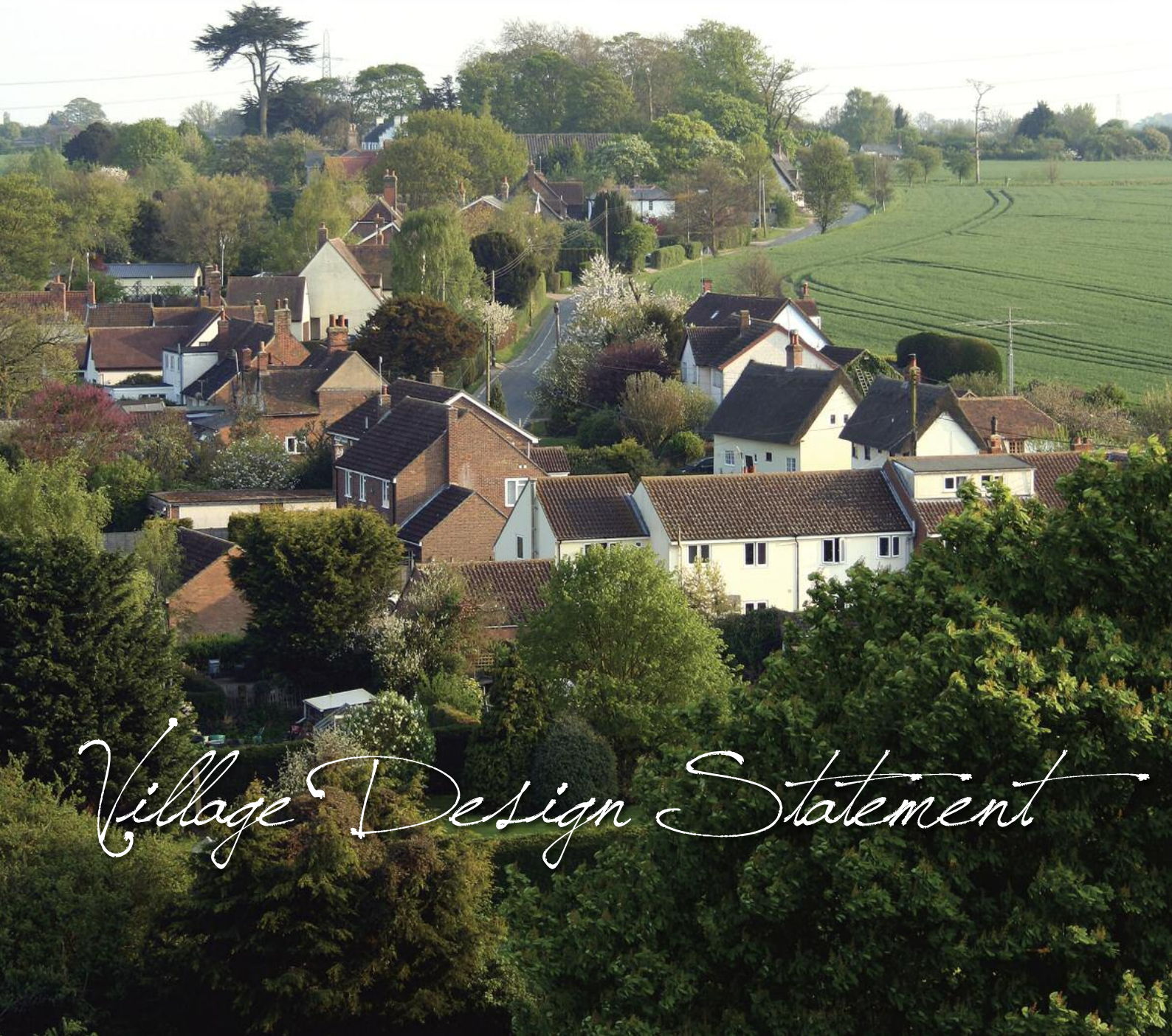


# GESTINGTHORPE



*Village Design Statement*



# GESTINGTHORPE PARISH BOUNDARY





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INSIDE FRONT COVER: OS MAP OF GESTINGTHORPE PARISH

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INSIDE BACK COVER: VILLAGE ENVELOPE WITH PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY



# BACKGROUND

*“We, the people of Gestingthorpe, believe our village to be a very special place. To some, it may appear to be a typical North Essex village, but we believe it to possess more distinctive characteristics.”*



*Looking south along Church Street towards Audley End.*

This document explains why our village is so special. It was produced by a committee of Gestingthorpe residents, who firmly believe in the aims and proposals of the Village Design Statement (VDS), and to whom it has brought pleasure in their continual discoveries of the history and evolution of the village. However, the VDS is not a historical document. It describes how, with the knowledge gained from our collective inheritance, we are able to retain and develop what is best in our village and the surrounding countryside within the parish.

## WHAT IS THE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT?

This Village Design Statement gives a detailed description of Gestingthorpe, the individual character of its main areas and buildings, and the important features of its design and historical evolution. It identifies the physical qualities and characteristics of the village and the surrounding area that are valued by the residents and any particular features that they would like to preserve and protect. Most importantly, design guidelines are provided for how these existing features should be reflected in any future development.



*Looking north-east at the crossroads.*



*The parish church of St Mary the Virgin.*

In these few pages, you will be given a short account of Gestingthorpe's past, together with a description of its present day character, and some proposals about how we might like the village to develop in the future. We hope you will enjoy reading it.

*The VDS is about managing change in Gestingthorpe, not preventing it.*



# BACKGROUND

## WHO IS IT FOR?

It is for the residents, to help them know more and appreciate the village, including those who want to undertake work which will involve the planning process.



Oates Cottages under development in 2009.

The VDS has been considered within the context of the Braintree District Council Local Plan Review 2005 to ensure that guidelines are appropriate to BDC's planning policy.

This Statement will influence future development within Gestingthorpe and its approval by the District Council means that the Village Design Statement will become a "material consideration" in the determination of planning applications and it will be a positive influence to future development and change.

## HOW WAS IT PRODUCED?

After a public meeting in July 2008, at which the Advisor from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) explained the philosophy and reasons behind a VDS, a group of interested villagers agreed to steer the VDS process through to its final production. A committee of about a dozen residents was formed. In the spring of 2009, after several committee meetings, a photographic workshop took place in which over twenty residents carried out a comprehensive photographic survey of the Parish.



Braving the weather for the photographic survey.



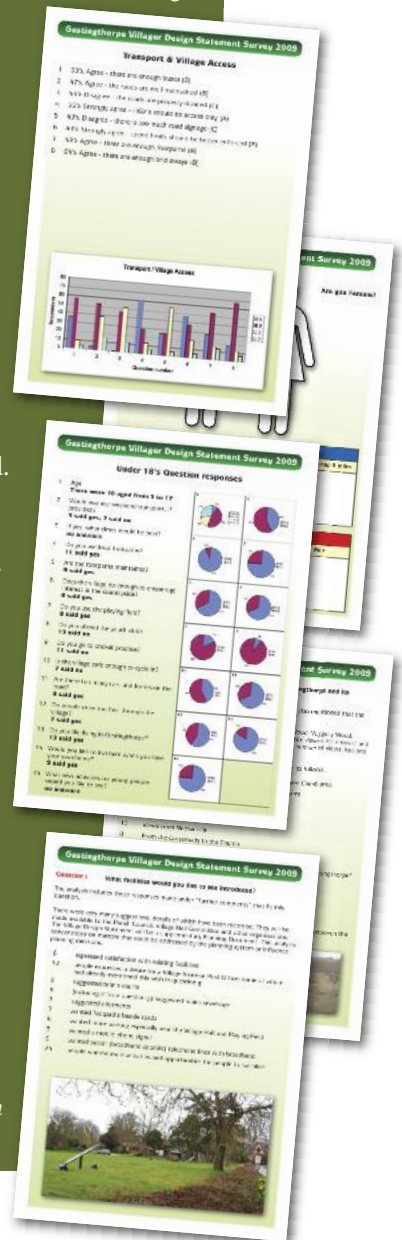
The residents of Gestingthorpe were kept informed and consulted at every major stage of the VDS production, by means of:

1. Invitations to all VDS committee meetings.
2. A questionnaire asking residents about their opinion on the characteristics of the village and on their issues.
3. An exhibition in the village hall in which the results of the photographic workshop and the detailed analysis of the questionnaire responses were displayed. Further valuable comments were put forward by the residents.

In June 2010, work commenced on the initial draft of the VDS. The committee was continually updated on the contents of the draft.

Liaison with the Braintree District Council Planning Department was needed before the VDS could be considered to be ready for printing.

*A full outline of the production process is shown in the Appendices.*





# VILLAGE HISTORY

Geological and weathering processes have, over millions of years, fashioned Gestingthorpe's rolling terrain. With the retreat of the last ice-age about 10,000 years ago, our local countryside changed from tundra to thick forest. The hunter-gatherer lifestyle evolved into a more settled agricultural existence in about 3,000BC - flint tools and a Bronze Age axe have been found near to Wiggery Wood.

Over the period AD43-410, there is evidence of at least two Romano-British sites in the Parish, the

major settlement being located to the east of Hill Farm. The Roman road which connected London to north Norfolk passed through, or lay close to, Gestingthorpe.

Following the collapse of Roman

authority in Britain in AD410, eastern Britain slowly became Anglo-Saxon. Present day place names give a clue to our heritage. For example, it was the East Saxons who came to 'Es-Sex'. Interestingly, the village name of Gestingthorpe is derived from "an outlying settlement of Grystel's followers". It eventually became part of the Hinckford Hundred.

A church is likely to have been built in Gestingthorpe by AD1000, by which time the rather irregular shape of the parish boundary would have been established. One "tentacle" of the Parish stretches towards Bulmer brickyard to

the east, another reaching over 3 miles south-east from the church towards the A134 road, and to the west it encompasses Parkgate Farm.

The Domesday Book of 1086 informs us that the Parish then had two manors - one being at Overhall, (now called Gestingthorpe Hall) and the other at Nether Hall. The latticed network of lanes, footpaths and trackways that we know today were almost certainly in existence in Saxon-Norman times.

It is thought that the population increased for the next two centuries, and that by about AD1300 the local landscape would have been largely recognizable to us today, albeit more wooded.

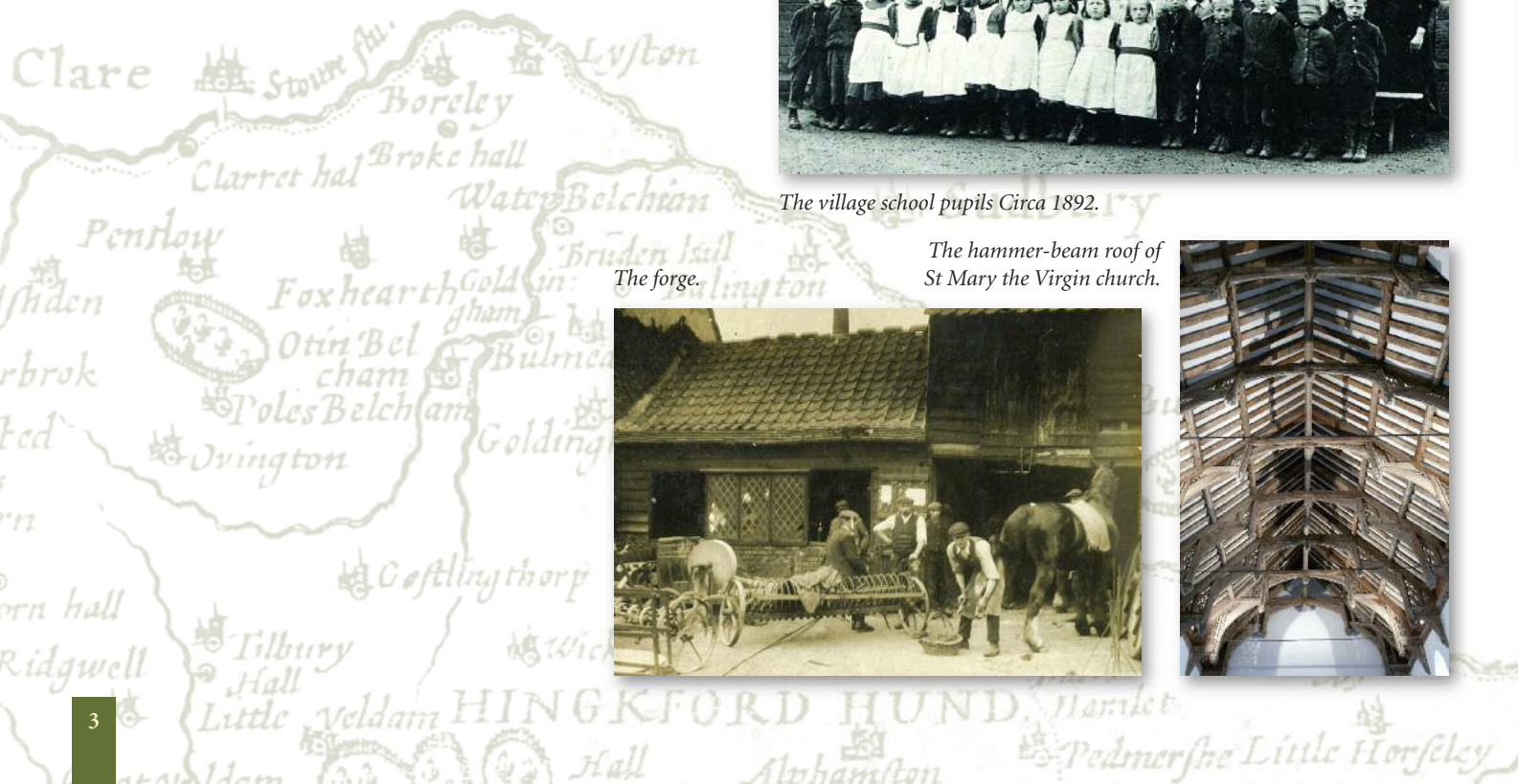
*Gestingthorpe Hall with its impressive 18th century frontage.*



Artists impression of Gestingthorpe Roman Villa Circa AD 250. © Benjamin Perkins.



The village school pupils Circa 1892.



The forge.



The hammer-beam roof of St Mary the Virgin church.





# VILLAGE HISTORY



*Church Street  
Circa 1928.*

Some parts of the parish church of St Mary the Virgin date from the 14th Century. The church is famous for its splendid east window and stained glass windows donated by the Oates family in the late 19th Century, and especially for its impressive 'double hammer-beam' roof and locally made red brick tower.

Overhall underwent substantial rebuilding work around 1735. A school was established in 1855 and in 1965 this was converted to the present much-used village hall.

## RECENT AND SOCIAL HISTORY

As with all villages in north Essex, farming has been the mainstay of the communities for centuries. Gestingthorpe's population in 1871 was 766, of whom 185 were farm workers. Some fifty others were employed in the two brickworks and iron foundry, whilst the remaining workers, such as cobblers, blacksmiths, thatchers and wheelwrights supplied the skills necessary to support the community.

By the mid 20th Century the brickworks were closed, and although the blacksmith remained until 2002, none of the traditional skills remain as businesses in the village today. The village still has a public house known as The Pheasant (formerly The Red Lion), but in earlier times there were two shops, (one incorporating an off-licence), a baker and a separate off-licence within the village.

In 1801, the village consisted of 83 houses - today Gestingthorpe has 170. The population declined at the end of the 19th Century as many families were attracted to towns and cities for guaranteed industrial employment. By 1901, the population had fallen to 475, and this continued to decline through the agricultural depression of the 1920's



*Church Street  
Circa 2011.*

and 1930's, reaching its lowest number of 325 in 1971. Gestingthorpe's population has remained steady at about 400 for the past twenty years.

Although the village retains four working farms, employing some local labour, most of the population commutes daily to their employment, by car. The village school closed in 1965 and consequently the village children attend schools in neighbouring villages and beyond.

Many social events are held in the village throughout the year with cricket played on the playing field, and the village hall hosting weekly and monthly meetings for the youth club, Parish Council and upholstery classes, an annual village barbeque, quiz evenings or private functions.

Although most of the adult residents work away from the village, there remains a strong farming ethos, with farmers and farm workers living in or close to the village.

The completion of six affordable houses in 2009 has provided accommodation to ensure that some residents with family connections in Gestingthorpe can remain in the village.

## ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Gestingthorpe's main land use is arable farming, with crops of cereals, rapeseed, sugar beet and beans. The mainly deciduous woodland provides timber for fuel and construction, as well as offering areas for managed game activities. Agriculture, countryside conservation, gardening, and game-keeping provide local employment.

Some residents, including several builders, work from home. Others run businesses or work for others from home. The introduction of high speed broadband into the village in 2008 was a great benefit, enabling more people to spend time during the week working from home. However, the majority of the working population of the village and all school children commute out of the parish for the working week.



*The old  
bakery at  
Audley End.*



# CHARACTER AND LANDSCAPE SETTING



*The Milky Way over Gestingthorpe.*



*Footpaths at Hill Farm.*



*Looking north from Audley End.*



*Church Street looking south.*

Gestingthorpe is one of the few lowland areas of England that remains tranquil and has the benefit of dark skies. It lies mainly between the Belchamp Brook and the Wickham Brook. The valleys of these brooks, and the streams that feed them, create an undulating base on which to display the mix of fields, woods, hedgerows, and trees that form the special landscape character.

Although Gestingthorpe is a linear village, it has a definite heart centred around the church and village hall. Along with the village playing field, with its cricket and children's play area, this area represents the main focus for most social activities. Almost all of the buildings in this area are listed.

There are two main settlements within the Parish. The main one extends from the crossroads along North End Road, Nether Hill, Sudbury Road and along Church Street as far as Delvins. Within this settlement Braintree District Council has drawn the 'Gestingthorpe Village Envelope', in which further suitable development may be permitted.

Further south along Church Street is the settlement of Audley End, which has its own Village Envelope. The current Village Envelopes protect the separation of the two settlements and the open nature of the village, which parishioners value.

In recognition of Gestingthorpe's rolling countryside's special landscape character, extra protection is provided through Policy RLP79 of the adopted Braintree District Local Plan Review 2005.



*The Pheasant public house.*



*Due South.*



# CHARACTER AND LANDSCAPE SETTING

The Parish boundaries incorporate outlying small hamlets and farmsteads, including the houses along Pot Kiln Chase, The Crescent and those further along Sudbury Road near the ford.

The main characteristic of the village properties is that there is no uniformity. Period and thatched houses are located adjacent to more modern dwellings.

There are open views from the village to the east towards Hill Farm and west towards The Leys Wood and Parkgate Farm. High voltage power lines/pylons dissect the south of the Parish running from east to west.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

- 3.1 Developments should not be permitted that detract from the rural character and the linear nature of the village.
- 3.2 Developments must reflect and complement the character of the immediate surrounding area particularly with regard to scale, density and mix of designs.
- 3.3 The special landscape character should be emphasised and retained, in particular the important views from the village overlooking the countryside beyond must be safeguarded.
- 3.4 Development should not normally be permitted outside the village envelopes.
- 3.5 The provision of allotments in the village should be encouraged.
- 3.6 Footpaths and bridleways must be preserved for the benefit of the whole community.
- 3.7 Development should protect the open character and setting of the village approaches.
- 3.8 The village playing field should be protected from development and safeguarded for its social and community value.
- 3.9 Farm building conversion should be permitted, but only for uses which will not affect other guidelines within this document.

*Extension awaiting cladding with traditional tile and render.*



*The Barracks.*



*St Mary's Church in winter.*



*Lane leading to Hill Farm.*



*The ford off Sudbury road.*



*This must be The Moat!*

*Church.*

*Due North.*





# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - A GREEN VILLAGE



*The road from Bulmer heading west into the village.*



*Looking south up Nether Hill.*



*The bluebell blanket in Wiggery Wood.*

*The duck pond at the hall.*



*Poppies line a field boundary.*

When viewed from any of the approach roads, Gestingthorpe appears to be dominated by the greenery of the rural landscape. Trees, hedgerows and grass verges line the roads and present a natural visual passage into the countryside of arable fields, woods and copses. Many mature specimens including oak, chestnut, sycamore and poplar can be spotted. The variety of trees is regularly being added to with rarer types such as Ginkgo and Katsura (Toffee Apple Tree). Some 500 trees have been planted in the arboretum at Gestingthorpe Hall, and a large plantation of native trees has been established at Hill Farm.

The village has a number of ponds, the largest sited within the grounds of Gestingthorpe Hall. These provide a valuable habitat for waterfowl that may be seen throughout the seasons. As one would expect in such a rural environment, bird life is abundant with in excess of eighty different species being observed throughout the year.

Wild flora thrives in the parish. Wiggery Wood, which is privately owned, has been opened to the local village community for a short time each year in order that they can enjoy the blanket of bluebells and other wild flowers.

With careful searching around the village during spring and summer one may find rare orchids among the primroses and poppies.

Farmers in the village have joined environmental stewardship schemes, established to conserve and enhance the landscape through the encouragement of wildlife further maintaining our rural heritage.



# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - A GREEN VILLAGE



*Properties along the Sudbury Road.*



*Moat Street looking north.*



*Delvyn's Lane.*



*Old beech in Leys Wood.*



*Looking west to Pot Kiln Chase.*



*Tree plantation at the hall.*

*Gestingthorpe's latest residents.*



## DESIGN GUIDELINES

Developments must respond sensitively to the existing natural environment in the following ways:

- 4.1 Existing trees and hedges in and around the village must be preserved and protected wherever possible.
- 4.2 The planting of native hedging and broadleaf species must be encouraged, where appropriate, to retain the leafy character of the village.

- 4.3 The grass verges in the village should be retained and maintained. Any new development should include ample provision for parking.
- 4.4 New development should include the planting of native boundary hedges.
- 4.5 New buildings should incorporate alternative energy resources. All development should be designed to be energy efficient where possible.



# BUILDING CHARACTERISTICS



*Edey's Farm is full of history.*

Gestingthorpe has evolved slowly over the centuries mainly in a linear way along Nether Hill down Church Street, and on to Audley End and The Moat where it joins the road to Castle Hedingham, forming a fragmented ribbon development.

There is a wide variety of architectural styles that would appear to be unrelated. The abundance of established trees

and bushes, especially along Sudbury Road, Church Street and Audley End, help to present a coherent picture of rural development. The only stretch of roadside pavement is from the Church to the playing field. Some properties are set back from the roads, whilst others, especially some of the very old properties, almost front the edge of the road.

The main density of the development of the village over the years has been along Church Street, bringing together houses of different



*Church Street circa 1900.*

character. The individual style and proportion of buildings, and the space around them gives Gestingthorpe its special character.

Most of the older properties are of timber frame

construction with thatch or tiled roofs, their age ranging from early 15th century through the Georgian period to the Victorian/Edwardian periods, and are fronted by gardens and hedging. A number of contemporary style dwellings have been added within the village, some fronted by brick walls and/or iron railings.

Additional village development lies along the Sudbury Road. The houses on the northern side of the road are all late 20th Century, brick built with tiled roofs. A small group of affordable

*Parking bay along the Sudbury road.*



homes adjoins the eastern end of these properties and was completed in 2009.

Further eastward along Sudbury Road are several clusters of houses, comprising Pot Kiln Chase, The Crescent and Hill Farm Cottages, ranging in age from 15th Century to modern style, and blending well into this heavily wooded area. Two period houses are located very close to the east boundary of the parish, access to both being along the lane that passes through the Bulmer Brick and Tile Company.

## SURVIVING FEATURES OF INTEREST IN GESTINGTHORPE

Gestingthorpe's developed history can be traced back to Bronze Age times. Several notable architectural features and dwellings have survived which help to show how the village has evolved through the centuries. Some of these are listed below:

**The Roman Villa at Hill Farm** - Extensive excavations have revealed the layout of the original villa, along with many roman artefacts. Hill Farm itself has some interesting Grade II listed barns and a traditional dovecote.

**St Mary's Church** - Built on the site of a much earlier church, parts of the present structure date from the 14th century. A Grade I listed building, it is famous for the massive brick tower, its hammer-beam roof, and the strong association of the Oates family with various features in the church.

**Gestingthorpe Hall** - A handsome Georgian structure built on the site of a much earlier 12th Century dwelling. A Grade II\* listed building, it was the former home of the family of Capt Oates, the well known Antarctic explorer.

**Edey's Farm** - A Grade II\* listed building with strong medieval associations with the De Vere family of Castle Hedingham.

**The Clamp** - The location of a former brickyard.

**Nether Hall** - An Edwardian building probably erected close to the Domesday Manor. The farm buildings are Grade II listed.

**The Village Hall** - Located near the church. Until 1965, this was the village school.

**The Forge** - This Pre-Victorian building remains in use as a blacksmiths forge.

**Alvaston Cottage** - A Grade II listed cottage, some parts dating back to the late 15th Century. The cottage became the first Gestingthorpe Post Office in about 1900.

**Ashley Cottage** - A Grade II listed cottage, originally the home of the school headmistress.



# BUILDING CHARACTERISTICS

## ROOFS, EAVES AND CHIMNEYS

Roof materials on the village properties are generally clay tile or slate. Thatch is found on the old timber framed cottages located in Pot Kiln Chase and along Church Street. All buildings have brick chimney stacks, with most having clay pots, and some having attractive brick designs.



Buildings generally have gabled side elevations or hipped roofs with some having leaning gables. Eaves are usually simple with guttering fixed on metal brackets, or plastic in the case of the more modern houses.



## WALLS

There is some variety in the external wall fabric. All the thatched houses have traditional painted rendering, and some have pargetted walls. Extensions to most of these properties have been faithfully built to the style and colour of the main house.



The large numbers of Victorian/Edwardian dwellings are mainly brick in construction, with some having the date of construction prominently featured. Most of these properties were built with bricks from the local brickyards operating at that time.



The later village houses, built using modern materials and techniques, are invariably finished in brick, or partially rendered and painted. Some have small areas of paneling or weatherboarding.



## WINDOWS AND DOORS

There is much variety in the style of windows and doors. Most of the early cottages have windows characteristic of their period, modern replacement windows having been carefully selected to match the cottage character, in accordance with local planning policy. These could be casement, and may be leaded, but all installed in proportion to the scale and dimensions of walling. The Victorian/Edwardian windows are often a sash design. A few houses have mixed window material such as wood and uPVC. Some houses have front doors and others side entry doors.

Most doors are painted, although a few have been left in bare wood in order to weather naturally. A number of properties have porches, some of which have been added in recent times.



## DESIGN GUIDELINES

- 5.1 Alterations and extensions to existing buildings should blend in style and materials with the existing buildings and village appearance.
- 5.2 Village development should continue to be carefully monitored by the Parish Council, to ensure local circumstances are taken into account when BDC considers applications or other planning matters.
- 5.3 Roof heights should be in keeping with adjacent buildings.
- 5.4 On new buildings, modern design and materials are acceptable if they blend in with existing styles.
- 5.5 Affordable housing outside the village envelope should only be permitted if the proposals are in accordance with Policy RLP6 for the Local Plan Review, or its successor.
- 5.6 External materials should be used to reflect local traditions and vernacular styles in all external treatments.
- 5.7 Designs should respect the existing landscape and create the context for new landscaping to contribute to the overall character of its setting.



*Rectory Farm.*



*The old bakery at Audley End.*



*Seven Sisters cottage.*



*Park Gate Farm.*



# HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



*The Pheasant Public House.*

**G**estingthorpe is essentially a residential village with four working farms. The village pub, The Pheasant, located at Audley End, draws patrons from outside the village, with its restaurant serving locally sourced food. Many homes have two cars, some have more. The residents usually park their cars in their drives. The Sudbury Road has a parking bay. Parking on the main roads in the village is not encouraged, particularly close to bottlenecks.

The majority of larger vehicles which use the main roads through the village are the service buses and the farm vehicles. Traffic through Gestingthorpe has increased over the last few years.

## The four main entrances to the village are:

- The north end of Nether Hill from Belchamp Walter
- The west end of the Sudbury Road from North End
- The east end of the Sudbury Road from Bulmer
- The south end from the Sudbury-Hedingham road into Moat Street

The entrance at Nether Hill is quite narrow, whilst The Moat has a relatively wide dual entry. The Sudbury Road is a good country road, much of it having been recently re-surfaced. All these roads are tarmac surfaced. Grass verges, hedgerows and trees line the roads.

The parish is criss-crossed with many footpaths and bridleways, all of which are used by villagers and ramblers. Most are well maintained, clearly marked and easily accessed. This network of footpaths passes through woods and along field edges, abundant in flora and fauna.



*Nether Hill.*



*North End Road.*



*Sudbury Road.*



*Moat Street.*





# HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

- 6.1 The use of village roads by through traffic, especially HGV's, should be discouraged.
- 6.2 Any new commercial or residential development should include off street parking spaces. On street parking should be discouraged.
- 6.3 Development must not encroach on to the existing network of footpaths. They must be retained and extended where possible.
- 6.4 Any advertising and signage should respect the context of the village; it should be low key, in colour, size and lighting, and in keeping with a rural area.
- 6.5 The village should remain a "dark village" with no streetlamps within the village.
- 6.6 Utility services should seek to minimize the visual impact of their installations and should be encouraged to re-site overhead cables underground. Developers should be encouraged to locate new telephone and electricity connections underground.
- 6.7 A mobile phone mast could be erected in the village, but siting and appearance are of crucial importance, and the village community must be consulted.
- 6.8 Any opportunity to improve pedestrian or vehicular safety should be taken.



There are three post boxes, on Nether Hill, in Church Street and near The Moat. A public telephone, now listed, is located next to the church. There is an over-abundance of road signs. A mobile traffic calming sensor has recently been installed. This can be positioned at four locations on the village roads. There is no street lighting, thus, the village remains 'dark', which adds to its appeal, especially when clear skies allow the Milky Way and star views to be enjoyed. The village has no mains gas supplies and few properties have mains drainage. LPG, oil and coal have to be brought in by road. Overhead cables create clutter and their supporting structures detract from the appearance in certain parts of the village. The overhead cables in Church Street are particularly intrusive. The village benefits from broadband coverage through line-of-sight wireless technology, a significant advantage in this rural area. Mobile phone signal coverage however, is restricted and unreliable.



# CONCLUSION

Some 36% of the questionnaires issued to residents brought responses. These responses were augmented by further comments and opinions raised at the later VDS exhibition held in the village hall. A selection of these responses is presented in the Appendix. The final analysis of all views and opinions was



*Cricket on the playing field.*

carried out by the VDS Committee and, as far as possible, considered within the framework of the Braintree District Council Guidelines. Thus, all future development in Gestingthorpe should be considered in the light of these guidelines, with particular thought given to the following points.

## TO RETAIN:

- the existing road layout
- and maintain existing footpaths and bridleways in the parish
- open spaces and open aspects around the village
- and maintain unkerbed verges lining the village roads
- hedges on plot boundaries
- village facilities including village hall, pub, post boxes and playing field

## TO PRESERVE:

- and maintain listed properties and interesting features within the village
- and replace when necessary existing significant trees, hedgerows and woodland

## TO ENCOURAGE:

- the planting of trees in and around new properties
- sympathetic traffic calming measures
- co-operation between Gestingthorpe Parish Council, Braintree District Council, public utilities, local landowners and potential developers with an interest in Gestingthorpe



*Bringing in the harvest.*

## TO DISCOURAGE:

- high density building
- uncharacteristic alterations and additions
- oversized building on infill plots
- housing development outside the village envelopes
- new development and land usage in the parish which would cause noise or light pollution
- development which uses materials inappropriate to the character of the area
- development which would interfere with the wireless broadband links upon which the villagers depend
- excessive road signage in the village

## AND FINALLY, TO CHERISH THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY ASSETS

- the playing field
- the Pheasant Public House
- St Mary's Church
- the village hall
- the peace and tranquillity of Gestingthorpe



*The memorial to Captain Oates.*



# CONCLUSION



*The playing field from the church tower.*



*The pub.*



*St Mary's Church.*



*The village hall.*



*Peace and tranquility.*

*The unique character of Gestingthorpe can only be preserved by careful planning and thoughtful use of available building space.*

*Everything must be done to preserve the distinctive character of our village.*



# APPENDIX 1.

A thorough analysis of the responses and opinions taken from the VDS Survey and VDS Exhibition covered thirteen pages. A selection of the comments is presented below. Virtually all the comments agree overwhelmingly with the sentiments expressed in the final two sentences of the Conclusion section on page 14.

## TRANSPORT AND VILLAGE ACCESS

- There are enough buses
- The roads are well maintained
- HGV's should be for access only
- There is too much road signage
- Speed limits should be better enforced
- There are enough footpaths and bridleways

## BUILDINGS

- Alterations should blend in style, materials and appearance with existing buildings
- Roof heights should be in keeping with adjacent buildings
- To keep it's character, village development should be carefully monitored
- Buildings in gardens should be restricted to preserve the village's open aspects
- Modern design and materials are acceptable on new buildings if they blend with existing style
- New buildings should incorporate alternative energy source

## ENVIRONMENT

- Field and garden hedges should be preserved
- Native trees should be preserved and new native trees planted
- The open countryside around the village should be preserved
- Light pollution from surrounding towns and some village properties is intrusive
- Property boundaries should fit in with the rural environment

## FAVOURITE PARTS OF THE VILLAGE

- Playing field, the pub, the old houses along Church street, footpaths, woodlands, the village hall, the fields behind the houses, St Mary's Church and the church green

## FAVOURITE VIEWS OF GESTINGTHORPE

- Views over the church, Oakley Wood, Wiggery Wood and the Clamp area
- From Hill Farm to the village
- From Gestingthorpe Hall to Audley End looking east
- From the Pheasant pub and Audley End looking west
- Views of the church

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT GESTINGTHORPE?

- Peace and quiet, tranquillity, rural aspect, village life, footpaths and playing field, no street lighting, low crime/vandalism, open spaces, the pub, the church and limited new building





# APPENDIX 2.

## VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT DIARY - GESTINGTHORPE

DATE	MEETING/EVENT/PUBLICATION	NUMBERS PRESENT/ DISTRIBUTION	OUTCOME/EVENTS
03/07/08	AGM Parish Council	25 inc. Council members, District Councillors and VDS representatives	Outline of VDS given by Jan Cole
08/08	Public Meeting to elect VDS committee	12 present	VDS committee formed, Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer elected
29/9/08	First "proper" meeting of VDS committee Jan Cole present	12 present	Planning/Timetable agreed
24/11/08	Second meeting of VDS team Progress report Parish Mag	17 present	Constitution agreed Dates arranged for future meetings
13/01/09	Meeting in Pot Kiln Planning photo workshop	5 present, inc. Secretary and Treasurer	Timetable for photo workshop day on 28/03/09 Village to be informed
09/02/09	Progress report in Parish Magazine Meeting in village hall	15 present, inc. J Cole and Bulmer VDS reps.	Preparation for workshop. First draft of village history produced. Leaflet design for workshop agreed.
28/03/09	Photographic Workshop Village hall and parish	20+ present, inc. J Cole. Four groups.	Exploratory photo shoot. Despite poor weather, obtained good initial results.
20/04/09	Meeting in village hall	13 present, inc. Jan Cole	Brief discussion of photo shoot. Initial discussions of village character. Groups formed to develop the questionnaire and also the VDS intro and VDS history.
15/07/09	Meeting in village hall	10 present	Draft questionnaire discussed and amendments suggested. Village character for Church St presented. VDS questionnaire to be printed and distributed in early September.
Aug/Sept 09			Several changes made to questionnaire format. Amendments inserted. Final version sent to printers 3/10/09.
10/10/09			Questionnaires delivered to every residence in Gestingthorpe.
14/10/09	Meeting in village hall	13 present	Discussion on questionnaire collection. Amended timetable agreed. Exhibition planned for April 2010. Finance update. AGM to be 25/11/09. Youth Club to be involved with VDS.
15/11/09 to 30/11/09			Collection of questionnaires
25/11/09	Meeting in village hall	12 present	AGM. Committee chosen. Analysis of questionnaires started.
11/02/10	Meeting in village hall	15 present, inc. Jan Cole	Discussion of questionnaire analysis. Art competition organised. Exhibition date set for 24/04/10, Financial report.
27/03/10	Village Tour	CH and AD	Selection of photos for competition at Exhibition.
24/04/10	Exhibition	VDS Committee	Exhibition in Village Hall. 58 visitors. JC in attendance.
13/05/10	Meeting in village hall	13 present	Report on exhibition
09/06/10	Meeting in village hall	11 present	Discussion on layout of VDS document. AD and DN to prepare over summer.
15/09/10	Meeting in village hall	15 present, inc. Jan Cole	1st VDS draft submitted for discussion. Amended draft to be ready by 31/10/10
08/11/10	Meeting in village hall	10 present, inc. Jan Cole	AGM. Update of VDS draft
07/01/11	First draft of Gestingthorpe VDS delivered, by hand, to Braintree District Council		
10/02/11	Meeting in village hall	9 present, inc. Jan Cole	Discussion of finances. JC explained May deadline date. Items on VDS draft discussed.
14/02/11	Useful comments/ suggestions from RCCE and BDC for first draft		
12/04/11	Meeting in village hall	11 present inc. Jan Cole	Final draft agreed. Editing/design team to produce VDS brochure.
19/04/11	Initial draft sent to BDC		Final draft accepted by BDC. Recommends completion of VDS with added photographs.
May/June 11		Editing/design team	Acquisition of photographs, maps etc. for full VDS
27/06/11	Meeting in village hall	10 present	Approval of VDS draft for submission to the Parish Council.
07/07/11	Meeting in village hall	16 present, inc. PC	Approval of VDS by PC



# APPENDIX 3.

## FLORA AND FAUNA OF GESTINGTHORPE

*“What particularly worries me, is the fact that so many of our nesting bird and wild flower sightings are of only one, or two pairs or sites. The whole ecological spectrum is held precariously in the balance. That is why it is so essential for all of us to continue making this special effort to identify what is left, and then attempt to preserve it.”*

Peter Minter, Bulmer, 1982

As in all rural areas, North Essex can boast of an extensive range of wild life. From an earlier ecological survey carried out at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe and Hole Farm, Bulmer, the following lists of the flora and fauna have been

extracted from *The Long Furrow* by Ashley Cooper, published 1982. The lists are not comprehensive. They are presented to give a flavour of the abundant wild life which may be observed in Gestingthorpe.



### BIRDS - OVER EIGHTY SPECIES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED, INCLUDING:

Starling	Skylark	Goldcrest	Heron
Pheasant	Jay	Snipe	Lapwing
Marsh Tit	Little Owl	Wren	Song Thrush
Moorhen	Dunnock	Linnet	Mallard
Collared Dove	Yellow Hammer	Kingfisher	Rook
Magpie	Lesser Redpoll	Stock Dove	Crow
Tree Creeper	Kestrel	Bull Finch	Jackdaw
Tawny Owl	Robin	Green Woodpecker	Sparrow Hawk
Mistle Thrush	Cuckoo	Pied Wagtail	House Sparrow

### PLUS MIGRATORY BIRDS, INCLUDING:

House Martin	Fieldfare	Twite	Garden Warbler
Spotted Flycatcher	Swallow	Chiffchaff	

### BUTTERFLIES:

Orange Tip	Green Veined White	Brimstone	Peacock
Red Admiral	Small Tortoiseshell	Comma	Large White
Small White	Meadow Brown	Painted Lady	Small Skipper
Common Blue	Small Copper	Ringlet	

### MOTHS - OVER THIRTY SPECIES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED, INCLUDING:

Blood Vein	Snout Moth	Dot Moth	Garden Tiger
Common Heath	Clouded Border	Common Wainscot	Swallow Tailed Moth
Willow Beauty	Ghost moth	Herald Moth	Brimstone Moth



# APPENDIX 3.

## WILD FLOWERS - A SHORTENED LIST OF POSSIBLY HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES:

Ox Eye daisy	Corn Marigold	Cowslip	Spear Thistle
Spotted Orchid	Black Nightshade	Lesser Celandine	Ground Ivy
Honeysuckle	Shepherd's Purse	Lesser Periwinkle	Basil Thyme
Wood Wort	Ragwort	Bladder Campion	Shepherds Needle
Meadow Vetchling	Teasel	Stitchwort	Sowthistle
Bee Orchid	Red Campion	Yellow Iris	Hawksbeard
Field Scabious	Sneezewort	Germander Speedwell	Cuckoo Flower
Cuckoo Pint	Knapweed	Agrimony	Lesser Bugloss
Meadow Cranesbill	Fleabane	Rosebay Willow Herb	
Dwarf Mallow	Bluebell	Burdock	
Scarlet Pimpernel	Burnet	Leaved Speedwell	

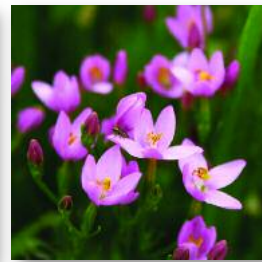
## MUSHROOMS AND FUNGI

Ink Caps	Shaggy Parasol	Yellow Stainer	Lilac Thickfoot
Puff Balls	Fairies Bonnet	Candlesnuff	and several Boletus

## ANIMALS, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Rabbit	Fox	Badger	Brown Hare
Grey Squirrel	European Mole	Muntjac deer	Roe Deer
Wood Mouse	Field Mouse	Pipistrelle Bat	Common Frog
Common Toad	Common Newt	Adder	Grass Snake

*Recent bird and mammal sightings (2011) include Buzzards, Barn Owls, Hobbys and Fallow Deer.*





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## THE GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT TEAM



<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	Chris Harman
<b>VICE-CHAIRMAN</b>	Steve Bolter
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Mary Bolter
<b>TREASURER</b>	Leslie Crumpton-Taylor
<b>EDITING AND BROCHURE DESIGN</b>	Tony Dagnall, Debbie Nott Andy Craig, Claire Smith
<b>ALSO</b>	Hugh Cannell, Ashley Cooper, Terry Flower Ben Hoogewerf, David Nott, Elaine Sharp Michael Sharp & Wilfred Teverson

**FOR THEIR GUIDANCE, SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT THE VDS TEAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK:**  
Jan Cole, Community Engagement Officer at the Rural Community Council of Essex.  
Emma Boaler, Planning Policy Officer (Development and Enterprise) at Braintree District Council.  
Dean Fisk, Corporate Systems Manager (ICT Services) at Braintree District Council.

**NOT FORGETTING:**

The Gestingthorpe villagers for assisting and providing the team with their photographs, opinions of the village character, and offering their ideas and expectations for its future development.

**AND FINALLY:**

The VDS team would like to thank:

Peter Sims, for allowing his photograph of the Milky Way over Gestingthorpe to be used.

Peter Nice for allowing use of historic photographs of Gestingthorpe.

Ashley Cooper, for allowing his painting of Roman Gestingthorpe to be used, and for supplying the lists of the flora and fauna as shown in Appendix 3, as well as providing the historical background of the village required in Chapter 2.

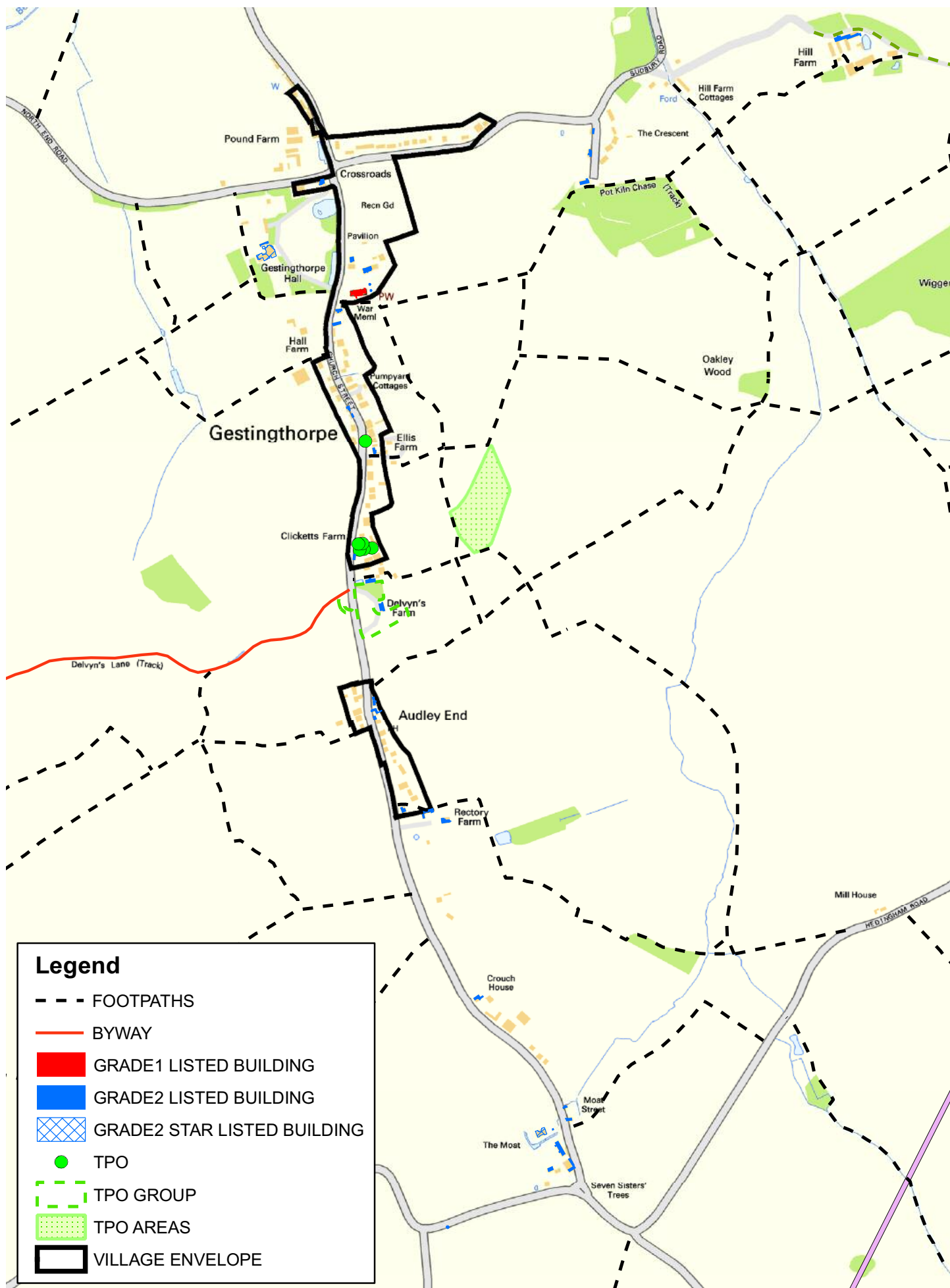
MDA Marketing for designing the layout of the VDS brochure - [www.mdamarketing.com](http://www.mdamarketing.com)

Peter Minter, of The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company, for allowing the use of his quotation at the start of Appendix 3.

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# VILLAGE ENVELOPE - WITH PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY





EXAMPLES OF ARTWORK REPRESENTING GESTINGTHORPE, SUBMITTED BY CHILDREN OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE VDS EXHIBITION 24TH APRIL 2010

