

## Yorkley / Yorkley Slade

### Introduction

- 53.1 Yorkley and Yorkley Slade together form one of the larger settlements on the southern edge of the Forest Ring. They are situated on high ground between Pillowell and Oldcroft and their joint population is about 1160. They provide a good range of local services and facilities. The settlement is continuous but can be divided into two distinct areas. Yorkley itself shows the typical original layout of the Forest Ring settlement, generally dating from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Yorkley Slade or Slad is now dominated by modern housing estates in a more regular layout. Modern house building has taken place in both parts of the settlement, and this has had a most significant effect on the once spacious and open character of Yorkley/Yorkley Slade.
- 53.2 To the north the village is bounded by forest, and to the south by agricultural land. The settlement is a prominent feature in the landscape due to its position on high ground. Evidence of the former importance of the coal mining industry remains only in the form of industrial artefacts. The built-up fringes of Yorkley bounded by forest and agricultural land have been much less affected by recent infilling. The settlement is one of a number of nearly continuous settlements around the fringes of the forest. It is the close relationship of these settlements to the Statutory Forest itself and the extent, nature and variety of the open spaces within the settlements, which gives this landscape its special character.
- 53.3 The generally amorphous shape of the settlement means it has no obvious centre or focus. There is however a range of local services comprising two shops (including a Post Office) and two public houses, a school, a health centre and a recreation hall. In addition there is a substantial recreation ground. There is some local employment available locally at Whitecroft, however Lydney is within 5 kilometres and a major employment centre.
- 53.4 In the past residential development and infilling in the settlement has had a significant effect upon the form of the village. Many of the former open areas typical of the Forest Ring settlement have been developed, which has detracted from the character of the village. The strategy of the Plan will be to retain as far as possible the remaining character of the settlement, particularly by protecting open areas and ensuring any further development is appropriate to its surroundings.
- 53.5 The present population of Yorkley (with Yorkley Slade) is about 1160, which corresponds to a housing stock of about 458. On 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2004 there were outstanding consents for a further 10 dwellings in Yorkley.

### Development Strategy and Settlement Character

- 53.6 Yorkley is set on the edge of the Forest. The setting is a most attractive one which will be safeguarded from intrusive development. It is also generally conspicuous, giving rise to the need for careful attention to the visible effect of development viewed from outside the village. The strategy for Yorkley/Yorkley Slade is one of conservation of the attractive elements of the settlement, and the careful control of the details of future change to ensure compatibility with the underlying settlement character. Those areas which are more sensitive to the effect of development will be the subject of particular policies to achieve a greater degree of control to ensure the character of the area is respected by new development. Infilling, small groups of dwellings and single dwellings will be permitted on suitable sites within the settlement.
- 53.7 The strategy of the Plan will be to protect important open areas, including areas of forest waste. There are some important open areas remaining in Yorkley/Yorkley Slade. Most of these are forest waste, but some of equal merit are enclosed areas which make a major contribution to the character and form of the settlement. The fringes of Yorkley are especially well provided with informal areas of open space.

The principal open areas are shown on the Inset Map. However, small areas of forest waste abound, often in the form of roadside verges. These may be too small to show on the Inset Map, but are equally deserving of protection from development because of their contribution to the overall character of the settlement. The open countryside around Yorkley/Yorkley Slade will remain largely unchanged.

- 53.8 An area towards the western boundary of Yorkley contains several Important Open Areas. This and another area to the east include many of the older traditional buildings of Yorkley. Although they have experienced a degree of change, these areas still retain much of their original character, most notably an open spacious layout punctuated by areas of forest waste and small paddocks. All new development in these areas should complement their established character. The plan's general approach to these locally distinctive areas is contained in Policy (R)FBE.2, and they are shown on the Proposals Map inset.