

## Forest Edge South NDP - Whitecroft Characterisation Final

The village lies in a valley running roughly north-south. The centre of the village is a staggered crossroads where the east-west road joins the main north-south B4234 for a short distance while crossing the railway and the brook.

The views from the village are therefore of its opposite half and the surrounding forest. From the east side, Pillowell and Yorkley can be seen atop the hill opposite and from the west side Brockhollands sheep meadows. Bream lies on the sunset horizon.

### West Whitecroft

On the western side of the village, Park Hill rises quite steeply to a ridge. With Woodlands Close, it comprises about a hundred houses, some ex-council properties.



The main access to the Forest is at the top of park hill past Park Hill Lodge; this route is very popular with dog walkers and well-used. There is an open stand of mature oaks on forest waste at the top of Park Hill.



Below Park Hill, the east-west road is called The Bay. It runs flat from the fish and chip shop over the bridge to the Miner's Arms. A hundred years ago this was the site of several shops. These are on the south side and are steadily



being modernised into houses.

At the top of Park Hill on the south side of the road is the Royal Oak pub, which closed a few years ago with an uncertain future.

Saunders Green is a park landscape hamlet to the south west of the main village in rough, biodiverse pasture. There is an allotment site of 20 well-used plots and a small



trading estate.

## East Whitecroft

On a former factory site on the north side of the B4234 from Lydney there is the 2015 Whitecroft Gardens estate of 50 households, These are of brick construction with some houses having cream rendered frontages. There is a play area for small children in the centre.



Between the estate and Wesley Road/Rudge Brook there is wasteland which it is proposed will be landscaped by the district council, but at present is overgrown.

Opposite these on the

south side of the B4234, the Pin Factory was opened in 1910 in the buildings vacated by The Patent Fuel Works. It is a series of single story units plus the original 19<sup>th</sup> century two-storey stone building. It is currently the subject of a planning application to build houses.



At the railway crossing group of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century stone built cottages, some are detached, others semi-detached, that flank a small road that takes one to the railway station, now part of Dean Forest Railway.



On the right of New Road, at No 1, is the former 1930s Pillowell and Yorkley Co-Operative building, which is in desperate need of renovating. The road bends to the left with Pillowell Road to the right, and on the right is the former Post Office and grocery



stores, which that has been converted into private residences. Whitecroft no longer has a shop.

Over the level crossing, the B4234 turns right/north and is flanked by industrial units, built in the 1950s and 60s. They house a variety of businesses, including a bric-a-brac emporium, motorcycle repair shop, tyre sales, second-hand cars, welding and ambulance services.

Beyond the units the houses are on the right-hand side only. These are a mixture of three 19<sup>th</sup> century stone cottages and 1930s semi-detached houses.



Whitecroft Gym is housed in a 1935 former social services building, next to Whitecroft Memorial Hall built in 1924 to honour six local men killed in the Great War. This is very fully used by many local organisations.

Next to the hall is the 1930s original village telephone exchange, now a private residence.

A small estate called of nine individually designed detached houses and bungalows plus three more end with the 1970s telephone exchange, still in use and now with a mobile phone mast. Beyond that lies the B4234 leads to Parkend though thick forest, flanked by the Cannop Brook to the left and the railway to the right.

### **Pillowell Road, Grove Road and Wesley Road**

This is the road to Pillowell and Yorkley and is essentially a ridge climbing the valley slope in an easterly direction. On either side are quiet residential streets with two small estates. This north-western part of the village is mainly small detached houses, many of these being bungalows. Many sit in generous plots, although quite a few of these are now infilled with further houses, with more in process. It has an open feel, with some



park landscape and fences mainly low.

The chapel along Wesley Road is the highest point of the village.



The northern edge of the village is bounded by continuous forest which is easily permeable. There are at least two proper pathways at either end of Grove Road, which are used daily by pedestrians, cyclists and occasionally horse riders.



Whitcroft Rec on Grove Road, with a football pitch, clubhouse and car park, is the largest formal public space. There are several other green spaces between houses, such as the araucaria on Charleswood Road and a bench at the top end corner of Grove Road.

The Rudge Brook runs through this part of the village to join the Cannop/Lyd by the Miner's Arms. Trout can be found in this stream. A small number of perry pears, mostly Blakeney Reds, remaining from C19<sup>th</sup> orchards.