

# Parish of Little Bardfield

## Village Design Statement

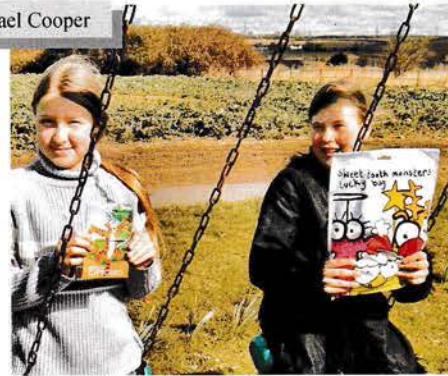
Little Bardfield ~ Oxen End ~ Hawkspur Green



# Contents

Introduction & Process Involved	page 3
Conclusions from Consultation	page 4
Settlement Pattern Map	page 5
Hamlet History & Built Environment	page 6
Farming & Commerce	page 15
Roads, Pavements & Street Scene	page 16
Appendix & Questionnaire	page 20
Footpath Map	page 22
Credits & Acknowledgements	page 23

Maggie &amp; Rachael Cooper



## Introduction

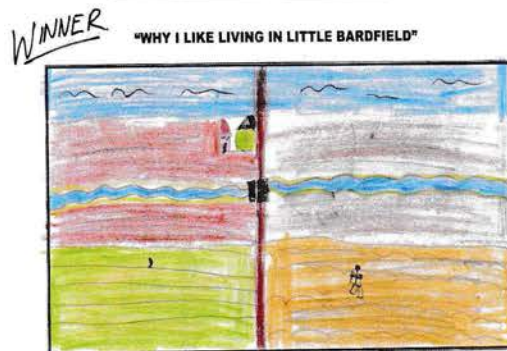
This village design statement (VDS) is a detailed record of the existing character, features and design of the village. It contains guidelines on how the village should be respected in the future in any development. It will highlight the characteristics that local people value and want to conserve and protect. It is an advisory document for planners, designers, developers and local people. It involved wide participation in its production to represent the views of the village as a whole. This VDS expresses the views of the community that work and live in it; on the sort of change it would accept, even welcome in the future and does not just produce a potted history of how it was in the past.

This VDS is also to be considered within the context of the Local Plan and the Structure Plan to see what issues and recommendations can be used to guide and influence the way the planning system operates by being adopted as Council Approved Guidance and hopefully later as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

The parish of Little Bardfield comprises the village of Little Bardfield and two hamlets: Hawkspur Green and Oxen End.



Winning competition entry

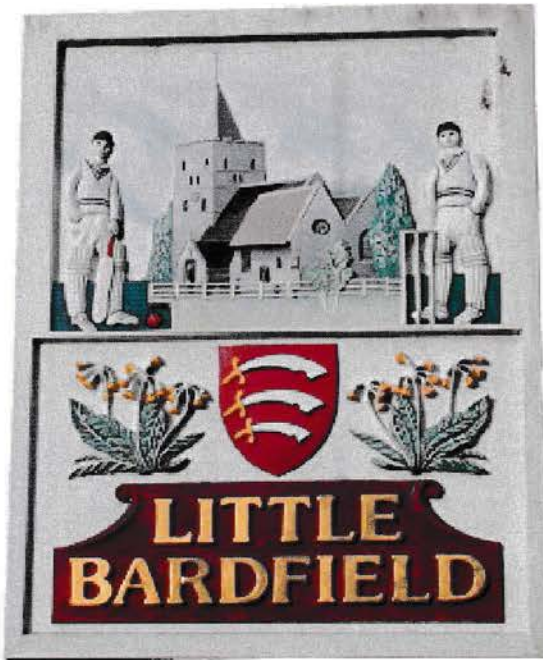


## Process involved

Following a parish meeting, a core team of nine people, from the parish of Little Bardfield, formed a committee to set a timetable for the VDS. This involved consultation with The Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE), Uttlesford District Council and the community. Committee meetings took place and a questionnaire was produced, then hand delivered to all properties in the parish. A photographic exhibition was held to show the community the results of the questionnaire. Photographs of the area were used to illustrate the results followed by an open forum to discuss issues covering housing development, roads, pavements and street lighting, conservation and the environment, commerce and transport. The draft VDS was then reviewed by the Parish Council and Uttlesford District Council planners. At a public meeting in the village, the draft VDS was presented as a consultation exercise to gain acceptance and additional comment before the final document was agreed. In order to encourage our younger villagers, we held a drawing competition entitled "Why I Like Living in Little Bardfield" that was won by Maggie Cooper age 10 from Hawkspur Green, shown on the left of the picture with her sister Rachael who came second in the competition.

## Conclusions from Public Consultation

A questionnaire was created to gather information from the residents on how they felt about living and working in Little Bardfield. The questions were agreed having regard to other design statements completed in Essex and guidance from the Rural Community Council of Essex.



From the results of the questionnaire the following conclusions may be drawn:

- ~This rural setting would not be an appropriate location for housing estate type development and because of lack of infrastructure this type of development was not wanted.
- ~Development in the future should only be infill and developments in small clusters.
- ~Extensions to new and existing buildings should be sympathetic in scale and design and use traditional materials similar to the surrounding buildings.
- ~Conversion of redundant buildings into housing met with approval
- ~Any new development should include off-street parking. Off-street parking must be enforced because of the traffic hazards caused by parked cars on the winding lanes and roads
- ~Consideration should be given to accommodation for the elderly, first-time buyers, and low cost housing.
- ~Because of the hazards of speeding traffic through the village, speed activated road signs were felt to be the preferred method of traffic calming as they would not detract from the rural character of the village.
- ~Property perimeters should be hedges rather than fences or walls to preserve the rural appearance of the area.

~It was clear that street lighting and overhead utilities were not wanted. Wherever possible, utilities should be underground.

~The verges and hedgerows are an important part of the village and the protection of the natural environment should continue to be supported by way of preservation orders and tree planting.

~The verges need to be preserved because in some places a few utilities do pass under them. Also to protect the Bardfield Oxslip that grows wild throughout the village.

~The street scene of old brick and flint walls with natural hedgerows was strongly felt to reflect the character of the village so options other than fencing should always be considered.



Bardfield Oxlip

~Additional daily community transport should be strongly encouraged as it enables residents without transport to make that link to doctors, shops and family.

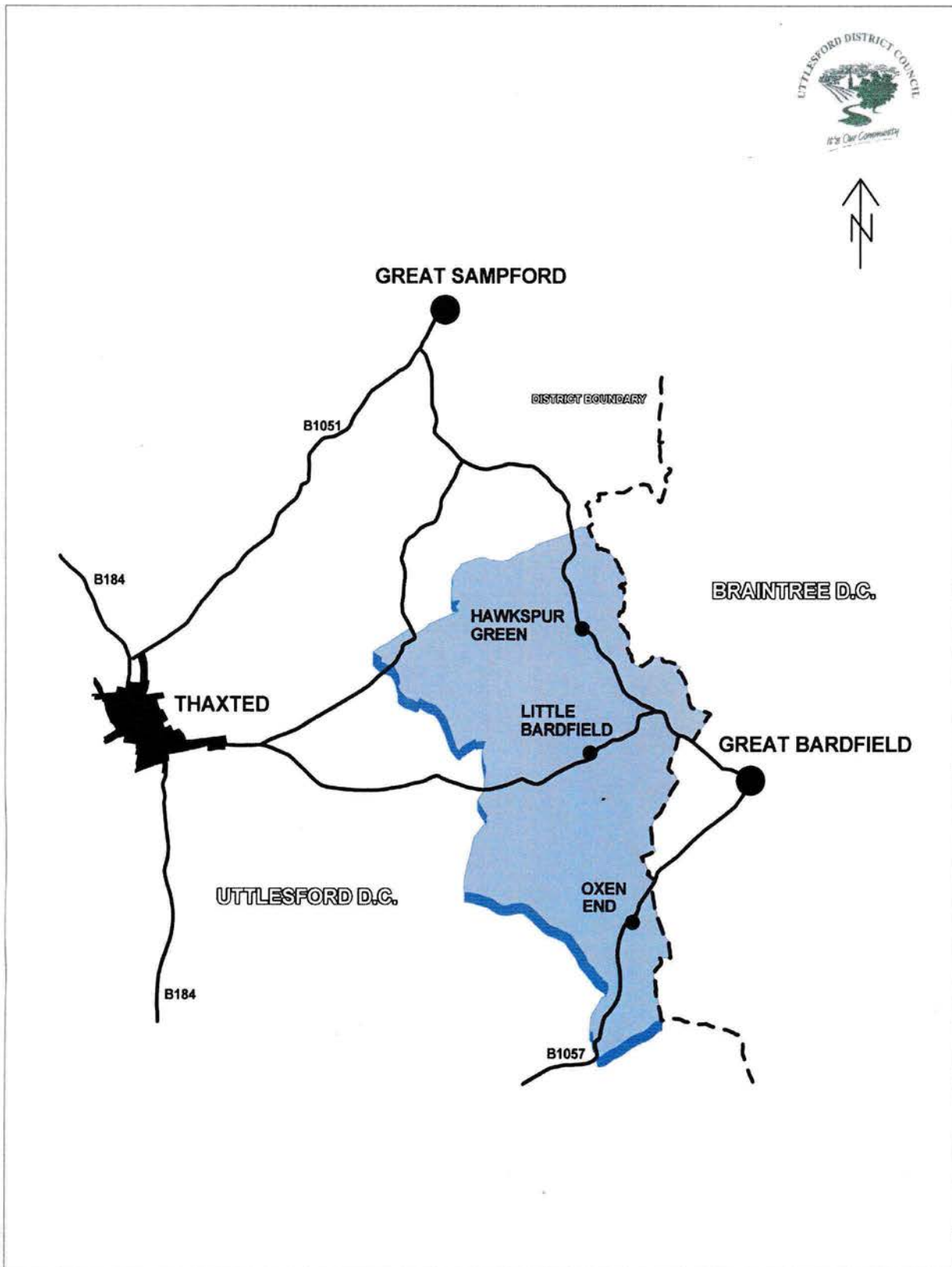
~It was indicated that any further light industrial development was not wanted by the community.

~A footpath map of the village was needed to encourage the use of footpaths and the conservation of the environment.



Spread Eagle Public House  
Circa 1910

# The Parish of Little Bardfield



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Uttlesford District Council Licence No: 100018688 ( 2006 ).

DATE:23/03/2007

MAP REFERENCE:TL6431

SCALE:1:50000

# Hamlet History and Built Environment ~ Little Bardfield

Little Bardfield is a dispersed settlement with no consistent building style at any period having emerged. However, some common characteristics are observed across the parish's housing stock and the great majority of the older properties, as well as more of recent origin, do conform in their external appearance.



Rose Cottage

It is more apparent in the building materials, that the majority of the pre-twentieth century houses are of timber-frame construction rendered in white or pastel-coloured lime plaster while the rest are built of red-brick, some of which are also rendered.

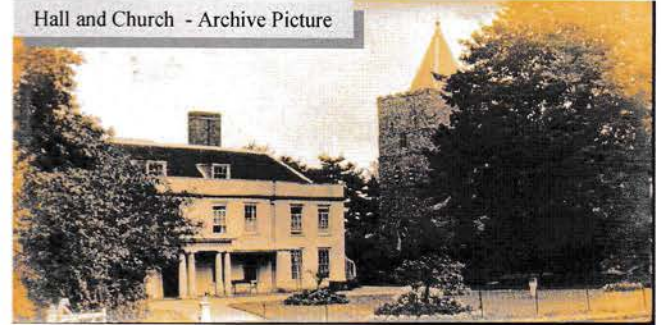


Almshouses

The pre-eighteenth century timber-framed buildings would generally have been thatched when built with long straw but the majority have long since been re-roofed with red tiles. These tiles can look very fine when of mixed colour (an effect often created in the past by unintentional uneven firing). An example of this can be seen on the almshouses.



Eagle House



Hall and Church - Archive Picture

Tiles can look dull and uninteresting where they are the uniform machine-made product. Brick houses in Little Bardfield quite frequently have slate roofs and as these are heavier, the pitch of the roof is often shallower with an inclination in the range 35 to 45 degrees compared to 50 to 62 degrees which is more usual for tiled roofs. However, steep pitches like these are also in evidence in the centre of the village where numbers 2 and 3 Bakers Cottages and Eagle House (formerly the Spread Eagle Pub) have possibly the steepest roofs but are also slate covered showing how it is hard to generalise.



Appletrees — Archive picture

### Comment from public consultation

"I think it is important to remember that Little Bardfield is a small village set amid the beautiful countryside. It is not an urban community and must not develop into one."



2 & 3 Bakers Cottages

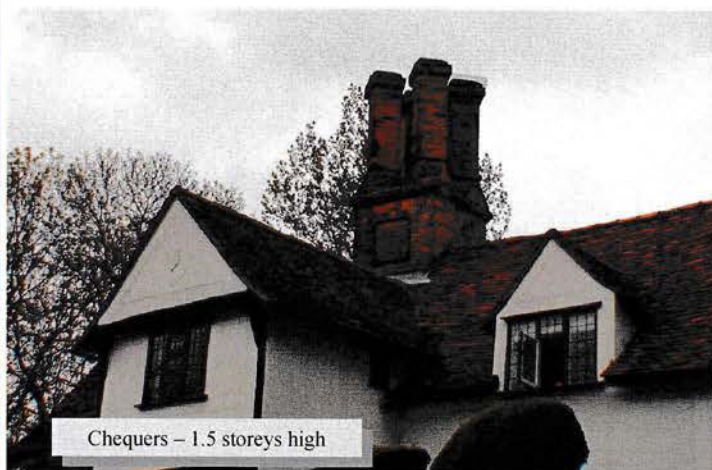


## Little Bardfield ~ continued

Many properties are constructed gable-end on to the road making the steep pitch of the roof more noticeable with decorative bargeboards as a feature with examples still seen today. This tendency is too dominant in some places where a property has been constructed transversely, without the benefit of gabled dormer windows as at the Almshouses or in a sympathetic modern building like "Blakemore". A surprisingly jarring note can sometimes be introduced, simply from the house's aspect in relation to its neighbours. Many of the houses have had their upper storey rooms constructed partially within the roof space as a consequence of the steeply pitched roof. These buildings may be described as one and a half storeys high and even some of the largest houses in the parish fit this description. Chequers is a prime example. The houses of two full storeys that fit best alongside them are often those where the roof line sits immediately on top of the upper storey windows such as Manor Cottage and Coft Hall in Oxen End.

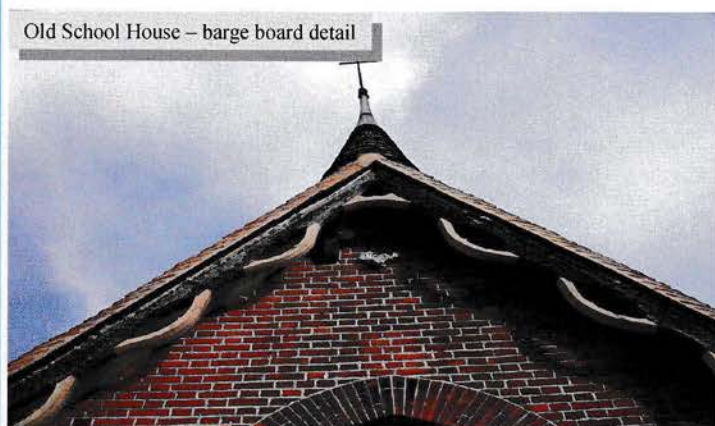


Hall Farm – shallower pitch roof



Chequers – 1.5 storeys high

Roof shapes are by no means wholly gables though, for there are also some excellent examples of the half-hipped form, including Grove Farm in Oxen End. One or two roofs of the kind described as hipped and gabled (that is with the lower part of the gable hipped instead of the upper part), as may be seen at Guivers and quite a lot that are fully hipped.



Old School House – barge board detail

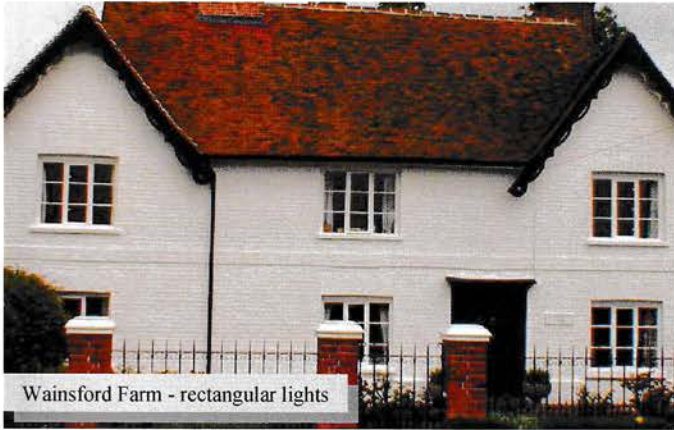
These comprise a distinct sub-group of houses in the parish, often characterized by their greater width, requiring a broader, shallower roof, and in consequence, most are slate-covered and examples can be found in all parts of the parish from Mill House in Hawkspur Green to Hall Farm near St Katherine's church and Grove House in Oxen End.

### Comment from public consultation

"The character of the parish, as a very small village and hamlets that is not just a dormitory, but is distinctive and should be preserved."

Windows take a variety of forms, but the most typical at Oxen End are probably those consisting of three simple rectangular lights, giving rise to a window that is one and a half times as broad as high. An example may be seen at The Cottage, the same form can be seen in other parts of the parish as at Squirrels, Wainsford Farm and the Almshouses again. Sash windows, of course, are found chiefly on houses built or remodelled in the eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries; such as The Old Rectory and Gambers Hall in Hawkspur Green which has an especially fine display with all its glazing bars intact. See the planning guidance at the end of this section for related policies.

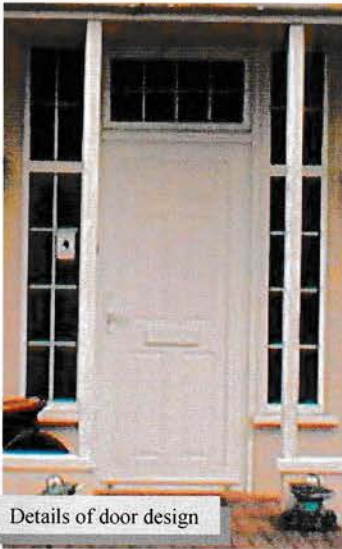




Wainsford Farm - rectangular lights



Details of door design



Details of door design



Hedge, garden walls and fences around the village, which rarely exceed 80cm in height, not only usually look right but also help to create a sense of community. This is in sharp contradiction to the tall fences and security brick walls increasingly evident in some parts of the country, that can only promote the feeling of "each man in his castle" and give a more urban feel to the streetscape. See the planning guidance at the end of section for related policies.

Doorcases and their surrounds are mostly simple throughout the parish but there are one or two notable examples including Hall Farm and Hill Hall. Other features seen occasionally include decorative brick chimneys, but even plain brick chimneys nearly always look better on older properties (including smaller houses) where they are given an altogether greater prominence such as on 2 & 3 Bakers Cottages.



Chequers - sea stone wall



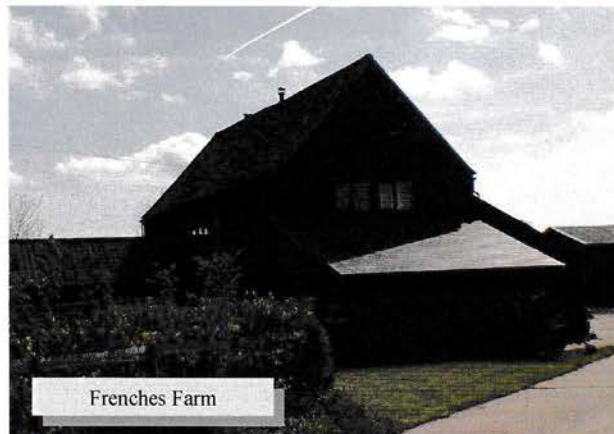
Little Bardfield Hall — brick wall

**Comment from public consultation**

"We feel that any future building development—be it low cost or otherwise—would need such vast expenditure to improve/supply services. i.e. No gas, no mains sewage, low water pressure and a very poor road in and out of the village—as to make it non-viable."

## Oxen End

Oxen End lies to the southeast of the Parish of Little Bardfield and is two miles by road from Little Bardfield, via Great Bardfield. It is a rural hamlet comprising 15 residences, some of which are on the Dunmow Road (B1057) and the rest are close to the horseshoe shaped road that leads off this main road. Each home enjoys views of the surrounding farmland. Fields are used for arable cultivation and some sheep are kept. Leading up to Christmas, free-range turkeys are reared at Frenches Farm and then sold for the Christmas table.



Frenches Farm



Scouts help plant hedges at Frenches Farm

Apart from these homes, no new properties have been built and this has meant that its rural character has been maintained. There are a number of trees and extensive hedgerows, surrounding fields and gardens, which support an abundance of wildlife and animals in this area. Although there is no mains drainage, streetlights or a gas supply, most residents do not see this as a negative aspect of living at Oxen End. There is a regular bus service to Chelmsford, a post box and now a Notice Board. Oxen End often goes unnoticed as there are only two small wooden 'Oxen End' signposts by the main road (B1057). One of the signposts is placed on a grass island and passing agricultural vehicles and heavy lorries have largely destroyed the grass island. The grass verges along the main road have also seen a similar fate.

There are two working farms at Oxen End: Frenches Farm and Fann's Farm. The latter, although in Oxen End, is in the Parish of Great Bardfield. Until the 1970s, the former owner of Grove House also farmed the land in this area. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the land and properties near Grove House were copyhold of the Manor of Little Bardfield Hall. There were two thatched barns adjacent to Grove House and these were converted into family homes in the early 1980s. Recently, the barn at Coft Hall has also been converted into a family home. Three timber-framed thatched cottages remain in Oxen End, but the others were partially or completely destroyed by fire. When damage was limited to the roof, tiles replaced the thatch. In other cases, brickbuilt houses replaced these cottages. In the last fifty years, three bungalows have been built at Oxen End.

### Comment from public consultation

"More road signs are needed at Oxen End to show motorists there are side roads where cars and tractors may be entering or leaving. Also signs to indicate concealed drives and request for motorists to drive with care through Oxen End."

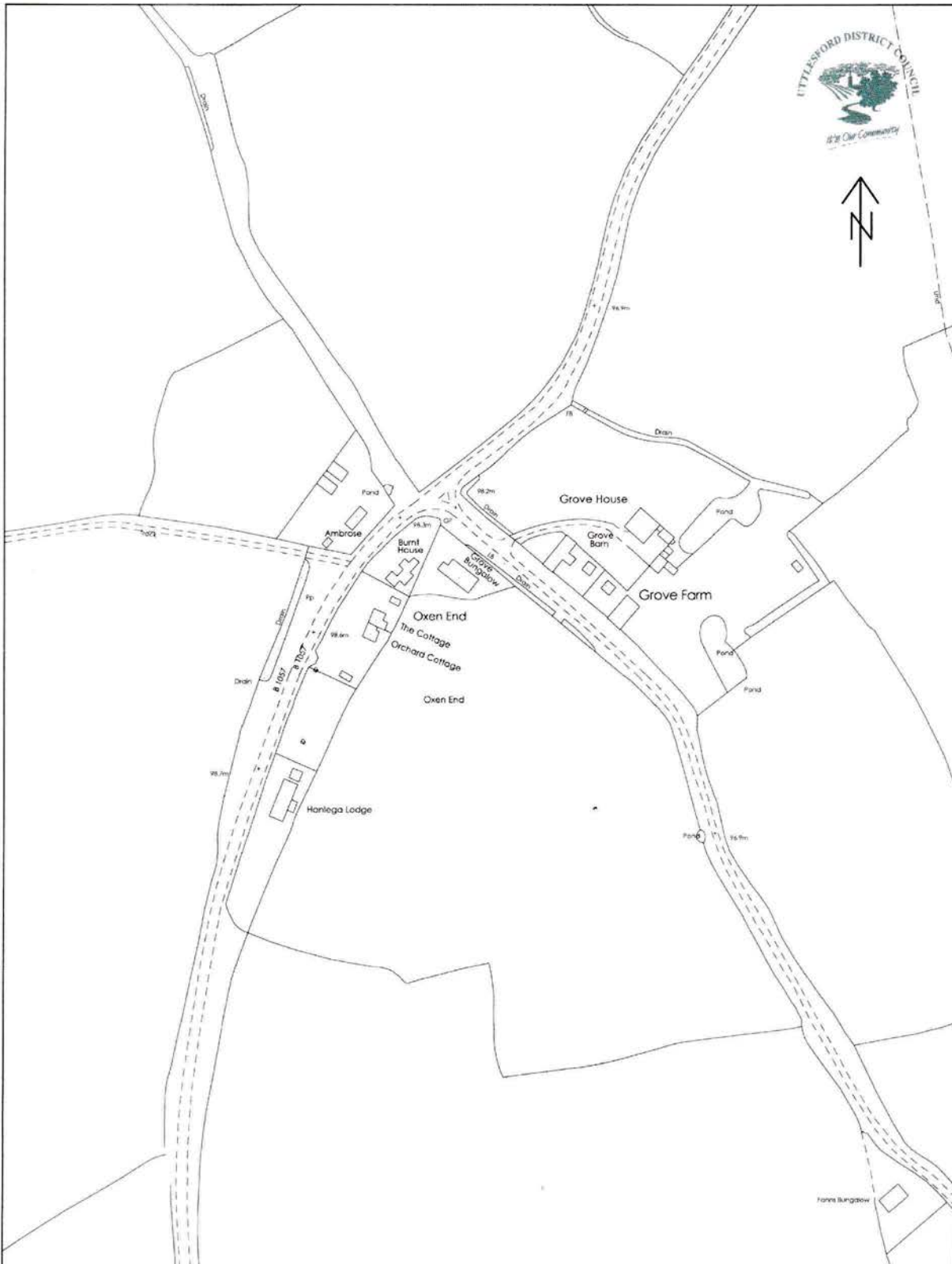


Brazenhead Gate



The Cottage

# Oxen End Hamlet ~ centre plan view

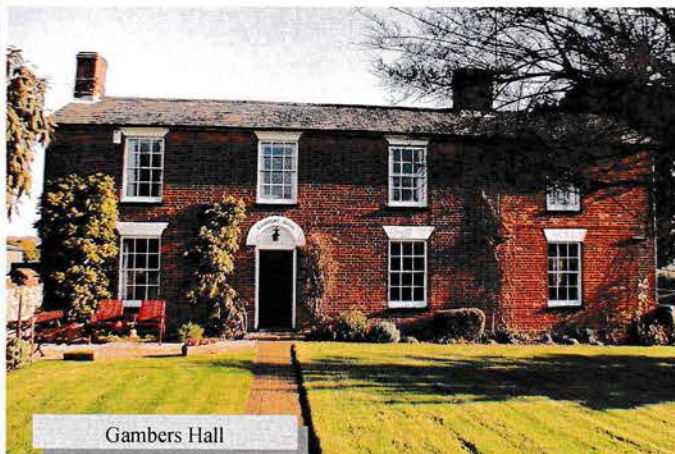


Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
 Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
 Uttlesford District Council Licence No: 100018488 ( 2006 ).

DATE:22/03/2007    MAP REFERENCE:TL6629SW    SCALE:1:2500

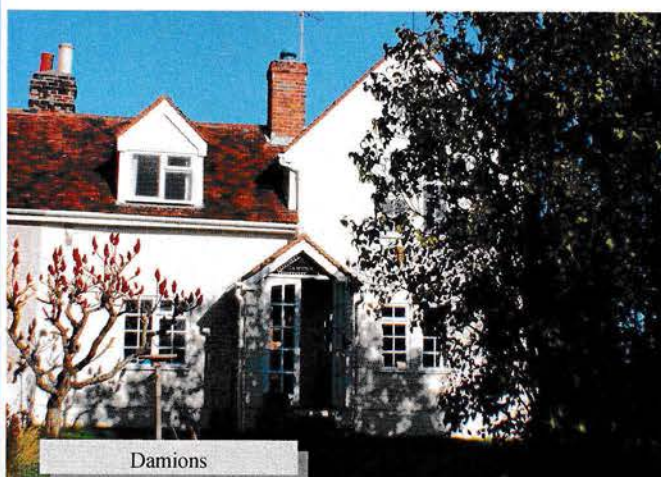
# Hawkspur Green

Hawkspur Green lies to the north of Little Bardfield along a currently unnamed road that in the distant past may have been known as Kings Highway. It starts in the south at the junction of Cook's Lane and runs up to just north of Gambers Hall. The eastern boundary is the River Pant. To date, there are no identifying name signs for the hamlet. It is surrounded by farmland and is an area of special landscape value with protected lane verges and wide views to the east across the Pant valley. There are numerous trees and extensive hedgerows which, with the surrounding fields, support plenty of wildlife.



Gambers Hall

Apart from one cluster, the properties are well spaced along both sides of the road and originate from the 1500s through to the 1970s when the last property was built. The earliest buildings include Gambers Hall, Damions, Hill Hall and Salmons Farm. There is little commonality of architectural style and the majority of the properties have been changed in appearance over the years especially some which originally were or replaced farm workers cottages. Although there is no mains drainage, streetlights or a gas supply, most residents do not see this as a disadvantage of living in Hawkspur Green. It has a post box and a new notice board. There is only a single bus once a week to and from Braintree.



Damions



Hill Hall

Originally all of the hamlet properties were associated with farming but now only two remain. Gambers Hall continues with arable farming. Coopers Transport's main activity is the bulk transportation of agricultural products and materials. There are also two long established pheasant shoots, one on either side of the roadway.



Hawkspur Camp building

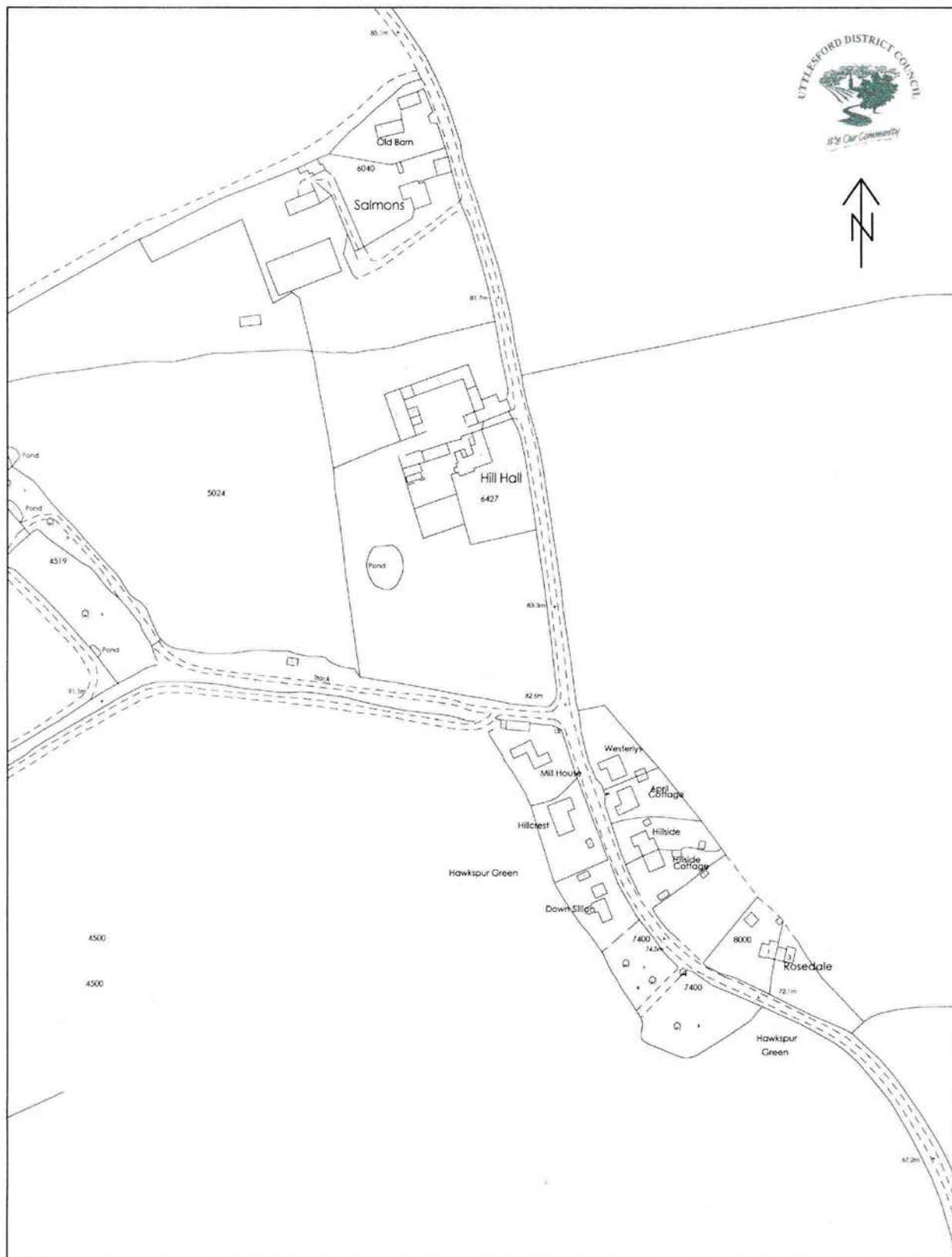
An historic novelty is the Hawkspur Green Q Camp which was set up in 1936 as a utopian experiment to give training in life skills to socially excluded young men aged between 17 and 25. This concept was different from the authoritarian model of approved schools and anticipated many of the ideas on residential child care which became common in later decades. Upon the outbreak of war the Camp's use changed to a variety of Government directed purposes eventually being totally disbanded in the mid 1940s.

The flight path of the proposed second runway at Stansted Airport will pass over the centre of Hawkspur Green at less than 1000 feet.

#### Comment from public consultation

"With the changing patterns of work very few people will be employed within the village, which in turn affects housing demands. Any development must preserve the character of the village in style and scope."

# Hawkspur Green Hamlet ~ centre plan view



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
 Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
 Uttlesford District Council Licence No: 100018688 ( 2006 ).  
 DATE:22/03/2007      MAP REFERENCE:TL6532SE      SCALE:1:2500

Parish of Little Bardfield Village Design Statement

## Little Bardfield ~ Oxen End ~ Hawkspur Green

## Planning Guidance on the built environment

The inhabitants want extensions to new and existing buildings to be sympathetic in scale, design and materials. Infill housing development and development in small clusters is acceptable but ideally the building of new single large properties should be avoided. Traditional materials similar to surrounding buildings should be allowed. Any new housing must make allowances for off street parking. Street lighting is not wanted by the residents. This document is supplemental to the Uttlesford Local Plan and supports the following policies;

**GEN 2 Design.** This is a very rural village and we support sympathetic development and support the following policy. Development will not be permitted unless its design meets all the following criteria and has regard to adopted Supplementary Design Guidance and Supplementary Planning Documents.

- a) it is compatible with the scale, form, layout, appearance and materials of surrounding buildings;
- b) it safeguards important environmental features in its setting, enabling their retention and helping to reduce the visual impact of new buildings or structures where appropriate;
- h) it minimises the environmental impact on neighbouring properties by appropriate mitigating measures.

Supplements S7 and H6 with regard to redundant buildings being converted into housing as this is a good idea supported by the residents.

**GEN8 Off Street Parking.** Development will not be permitted unless the number, design and layout of vehicle parking places proposed is appropriate for the location, as set out in Supplementary Planning Guidance "Vehicle Parking Standards", Parking on the street does create an increased risk of accident. The inhabitants want off street parking to be enforced because of the narrow roads in the village as described in the previous sections.

**ENV1 Conservation Areas.** Development will be permitted where it preserves or enhances the character and appearance of the essential features of a Conservation Area. Development involving the demolition of a structure which positively contributes to the character and appearance of the area will not be permitted.

**ENV2 Listed Buildings.** Development affecting a listed building should be in keeping with its scale, character and surroundings. Any listed buildings should be retained

**E5 Re-use of Rural Buildings.** The re-use and adaptation of rural buildings for business uses, small scale retail outlets, leisure uses or for tourist accommodation will be permitted in the countryside, including the Metropolitan Green Belt, the Countryside Protection Zone and beyond, if all the following criteria are met;

- a) the buildings are of a permanent and substantial construction;
- b) they are capable of conversion without major reconstruction or significant extension;
- c) the development would protect or enhance the character of the countryside, its amenity value and its biodiversity and not result in a significant increase in noise levels or other adverse impacts.
- d) the development would not place unacceptable pressures on the surrounding rural road network.

**H5 Dwelling Subdivision.** The subdivision of dwellings into two or more units will be permitted if the character of the area would not be adversely affected.

**H6 Conversion of Rural Buildings to Residential Use.** The conversion of rural buildings to dwellings will be permitted if all the following criteria apply:

- a) it can be demonstrated that there is no significant demand for business uses, small scale retail outlets, tourist accommodation or community uses
- b) they are in sound structural condition;
- c) their historic, traditional or vernacular form enhances the character and appearance of the rural area;
- d) the conversion works respect and conserve the characteristics of the building;
- e) private garden areas can be provided unobtrusively.

**H8 Home Extensions.** Extensions will be permitted if all the following criteria apply:

- a) their scale, design and external materials respect those of the original building;
- b) there would be no material overlooking or overshadowing of nearby properties;
- c) development would not have an overbearing effect on neighbouring properties.

We support the ambitions of Uttlesford District Council's strategic aims in the Futures Community Plan protecting and enhancing the environment and the character of the Uttlesford District, appropriate economic development improving the supply of good affordable homes to meet the needs of the local community.

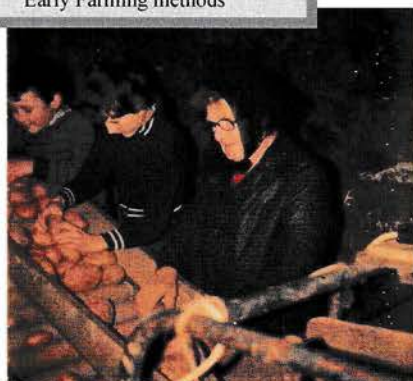
## Farming and Commerce

The majority of the 10 square kilometre area covered by the parish is farmland and has been for many years. Seven farms cover the area with a reduction in the last ten years as a result of three farms being merged or let to neighbouring farmers. The crops grown have not changed drastically over the last ten years and neither has farm management changed although the number of people employed has reduced, with most of the farms being run by the resident farmer and family. Mechanisation has changed the way a farm is run. Fewer people are needed, but they must be very skilled in handling the modern machines.

There has been no dairy farming in the parish since 1957 when the unit at Paul's Farm closed. Beef is still raised on rented out land. Turkeys are farmed in Oxen End with over 2500 being produced for the Christmas season. In the past crops grown included potatoes, oats, grass for seed and linseed. Currently wheat is grown for bread, animal feed and to produce seed for other farmers. Barley is produced for malting, animal feed and for seed. Sugar beet for sugar and possibly for ethanol in the future. Oilseed rape is grown for oil, both for industrial use and for bio-fuel. Field beans, autumn and spring varieties are grown for human consumption, bird seed and animal feed. Field peas, depending on the variety, are grown for tinning by Campbell's or for animal feed.



Early Farming methods



In the late 1950s horses were still working the land with a combine harvester and trailers to take away the crop to store, with the threshing being done during the winter months. In the 1960s self propelled combine harvesters appeared and the grain was threshed and carted in bulk by trailer to silos. Sugar beet was harvested by hand, washed and then topped by hand. Today it is all mechanized right down to the single seed being sown rather than thinned out later by hand as it was done before. Mustard (for Coleman's of Norwich) and linseed used to be grown, but they became unprofitable because of the distance for haulage. Oats are no longer grown because it is easier to grow wheat and barley and combine them with modern machinery.



Coopers Transport

Small family farms will only survive if they can find and supply a niche market as mechanisation will mean larger farms become more profitable. Crops will become used more for industrial purposes such as fuel and could change the look of the farmland in the future. See the planning guidance at the end of the section for related policies.

### Comment from public consultation

"The area needs some light work for young mums to be able to get jobs locally."

## Planning Guidance on farming and commerce

Brick/flint walls and natural hedgerows must be retained and maintained. There should be a greater use of tree and hedgerow preservation orders and verges must be maintained. Redundant buildings converted to housing is a good idea.

We support the ULP (Uttlesford Local Plan) in the following policies;

### ENV3 Open Spaces and Trees

The loss of traditional open spaces, other visually important spaces, groups of trees and fine individual tree specimens through development proposals will not be permitted unless the need for the development outweighs their amenity value.

ENV8 Other Landscape Elements of Importance for Nature Conservation. Development that may adversely affect these landscape elements:

Hedgerows	Plantations
Linear tree belts	Ponds
Reservoirs	River corridors
Semi-natural grasslands	Orchards
Larger semi natural or ancient woodlands	
Green lanes and special verges	
Linear wetland features	

Networks or patterns of other locally important habitats will only be permitted if the following criteria apply:

- the need for the development outweighs the need to retain the elements for their importance to wild fauna and flora;
- mitigation measures are provided that would compensate for the harm and reinstate the nature conservation value of the locality.

Appropriate management of these elements will be encouraged through the use of conditions and planning obligations which are enforced by the Council.

GEN7 Nature Conservation. Development that would have a harmful effect on wildlife or geological features will not be permitted unless the need for the development outweighs the importance of the feature to nature conservation. We feel that this rural location must be maintained. Measures to mitigate and/or compensate for the potential impacts of development, secured by planning obligation or condition will be required.

S7 The countryside to which this policy applies is defined as all those parts of the Plan area beyond the Green Belt that are not within the settlement or other site boundaries. In the countryside, which will be protected for its own sake, planning permission will only be given for development that needs to take place there, or is appropriate to a rural area. This will include infilling in accordance with para 6.13 of the Housing chapter of the Plan. There will be strict control on new building. Development will only be permitted if its appearance protects or enhances the particular character of the part of the countryside within which it is set or there are special reasons why the development in the form proposed needs to be there.

## Roads, Pavements and Street Scene

### Little Bardfield

The road passing through Little Bardfield is the Bardfield Road and comes from Thaxted to Great Bardfield. It has a speed limit of 30mph which is not always observed. The road winds through the settlement and is only a single carriageway. This makes exiting from drives or side roads (such as Styles) a problem when traffic is speeding through the village. A pavement on one side only runs along half of the village on the northern side, but parking cars on the pavement does result in a passing hazard because of the narrow winding road. Boundaries are low hedges or redbrick walls and verges next to raised open farmland, a typical Essex field boundary to a sunken roadway. Power and telephone cables all run over ground on columns and are often compromised by trees and hedges causing power failure in storms for example. No street lighting runs in Little Bardfield and is not wanted by the inhabitants. An ancient footpath links St Katharine's Church to Oxen End and was used as a burial path with some ancient hedges running along it. Footpaths radiate out of the village and a special footpath map of the area has now been produced to promote their use. It is considered that cycle ways and paths are not appropriate for the narrow road in the village.



Thaxted Road - past

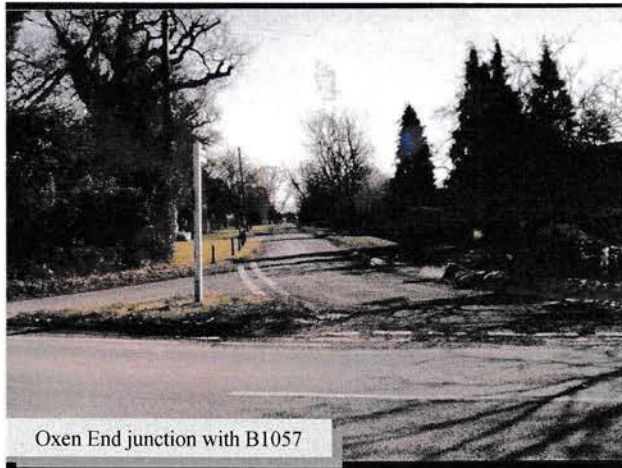


Thaxted Road - present



### Oxen End

The main road passing by Oxen End is the B1057 Dunmow Road and is a single carriageway from Great Dunmow to Great Bardfield. A lane links Oxen End to the road but the national speed limit means traffic travels at 60mph past the lane. No pavements exist and the verges do not have kerbstones so the boundaries are grass which means turning traffic does damage to the services running at the edge of the road. Oxen End has no street lighting and the inhabitants do not want street lighting. See the planning guidance at the end of this section.



Oxen End junction with B1057

### Hawkspur Green.

The un-named road, which passes through Hawkspur Green from Little Bardfield in the south to Little Sampford in the north is a single track road. There are no passing places for cars to use and, with a deep ditch along parts of the road, this means that motorists have to go into residents' drives or onto roadside verges and banks to allow any oncoming vehicles to get by. No pavements or street lighting exist and the inhabitants do not want street lighting. No speed limit is in place, but as it is a single track road 30mph would appear to be appropriate and speed limit enforcement is wanted by the inhabitants. See planning guidance on this matter at the end of this section



Hawkspur Green narrow lane

**Little Bardfield Village Cricket Club** has been in the village for over 75 years but not always on its present site as it has had three moves. The present site is on the southern side of the road opposite Bakers Cottages and behind Three Chimneys. This thriving club has adults in the Marshall Hatchick Two Counties Division 5, the PDQ Cars Division 4 and the Herts and Essex Cricket League. In the local area it runs its own colts league as under 15's and under 12's level which have fed successfully to the North and West Essex District teams. Facilities include the Hugh Craig Cricket Pavilion modernised in 2000 to include a modern kitchen and changing rooms. The pavilion is used by the village as a polling station for local and general elections. Social membership for local residents encourages support and helps fund raising.



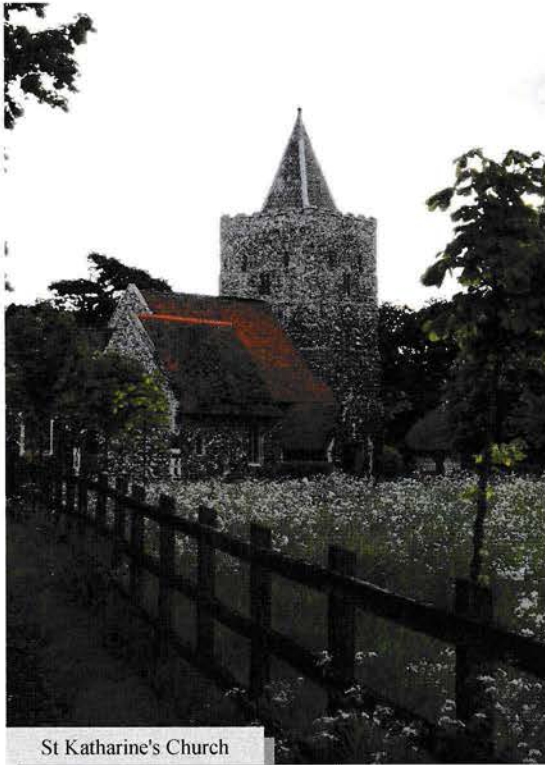
Hugh Craig Pavilion

### Comment from public consultation

"The speed limit should be enforced from the Thaxted side of Bard Hill Cottage, Little Bardfield, right through the village."



Street sign near Chequers



St Katharine's Church

**St Katharine's Church**

The nave and tower of St Katharine's church date from 1040, the chancel and porch from the 14th and 15th centuries, and the sacristy and organ chamber from the 19th century. The church underwent two extensive restorations in 1856-7 and 1866. On the latter occasion it was entirely re-decorated internally by G.F Bodley, one of the most significant Victorian church architects. Bodley's decorative scheme was restored during the internal restoration work in 2006. Of particular note are the pre 14th century rector's grave stone found underneath the Victorian floor which is now displayed in the porch, the 1688 Renatus Harris organ, Bodley's altarpiece including possibly the oldest tabernacle in the Church of England (1866), and the 1914-18 war memorial which commemorates one-fifth of the men of military age from Little Bardfield who died during the Great War. The church has also been presented with a statue of its patron saint. Further to the work in 2005-6, additional work is in progress to complete its restoration and to add current day facilities.

**Comment from public consultation**

"Speeding through the village is getting progressively worse - traffic calming would be very welcome."

**Comment from public consultation**

"The bigger the airport gets the more traffic we will get coming through the village."

The public consultation revealed this parish to be a desirable place to live because of its rural location and its beautiful landscape. Wildlife in the area is varied and plentiful due to the small population and no major development in the area. Trout are now a common sight in the River Pant in the north east of the village. Many places in the village have hives and produce local honey. Hunting was carried out in the area before the ban, now they just ride out on local farms. Game birds are bred in the village supporting a valuable shooting industry for the area.

Here is a list of some of the wildlife commonly seen in and around the village:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Barn Owl                                  | Badger           |
| Bats                                      | Blackbird        |
| Buzzard                                   | Canada Geese     |
| Collar Dove                               | Crow             |
| Cuckoo                                    | Dunnock          |
| English Partridge                         | Fallow Deer      |
| Fox                                       | Green Woodpecker |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker                  |                  |
| Grey Wagtail                              | Hare             |
| Hedgehog                                  | Heron            |
| House Martin                              | Jackdaw, Jay     |
| Kingfisher                                | Lapwing          |
| Little Owl                                | Muntjac Deer     |
| Nut Hatch                                 | Pheasant         |
| Pigeon                                    | Rabbit           |
| Robin                                     | Rook             |
| Sparrow Hawk                              | Skylark          |
| Snipe                                     | Sparrows         |
| Squirrel                                  | Starling         |
| Swallows                                  | Swift            |
| Tawny Owl                                 | Tree Creeper     |
| Weasel; Mink                              | Wren             |
| White Egrets                              | Yellow Hammer    |
| Long Tailed, Coal, Great and Blue Tits    |                  |
| Gold, Green, Bull & Chaff Finches         |                  |
| Frogs, Toads, Newts, Adders, Grass Snakes |                  |



Squirrel



### Footpaths

There are 13 numbered footpaths throughout the Parish of Little Bardfield with some connected to form longer routes. For the most part, the footpaths follow field boundaries and open farm tracks although some do pass small remnants of woodland where patches of old woodland indicator plants such as Dogs Mercury can be found. One path running from Pauls Croft towards Oxen End has been taken over by scrub and is now occupied by badgers. A complete map of footpaths for villagers use has now been compiled and added at the end of this document.

Although the parish has few woodlands, there are a number of trees with protected status—possibly because of the general lack of woodland. These include a row of Holly, Oak, Ash and Horse Chestnut running along the south side of the road from the cricket pitch to the entrance of Styles. A row of Lime in-between the Alms Houses and Styles also have protected status. In addition, all the trees within the land of St Katharine's church and Little Bardfield Hall have the same status.

Considering the evidence for old, lost woodland and hedges along a number of paths and other routes, it may be beneficial to reinstate some lengths of hedgerow. Such a development, in liaison with local farmers, would certainly enhance the landscape and increase the range of wildlife in the parish.

### Comment from public consultation

"Trees and hedgerow should be cut back and ditches to be cleaned out to let surface water run freely."

## Planning Guidance

on roads, pavements and street scene

From this section on each part of the parish it has been highlighted that traffic problems need to be noted and action taken to enforce speed limits. Traffic calming measures are needed and must be appropriate for the location but ramps and chicanes are not wanted by the inhabitants.

Parking on the street creates an increased risk of accidents and off street parking to be enforced because of the narrow roads in the village.

It is felt that utility cables should be underground.

Verges and hedgerows on these country lanes should be protected and the natural environment preserved.

Public Transport: Additional daily community transport should be encouraged to supplement the existing once a week service. We support the use of community transport in our village.

This document supports the ULP in the following policies;

### LC1 Loss of Sport Fields and Recreational Facilities

Development will not be permitted if it would involve the loss of sports fields or other open space for recreation, including allotments. Exceptions may be permitted if either of the following applies:

- a) replacement facilities will be provided that better meet local recreational needs;
- b) the need for the facility no longer exists.

### GEN1 Access

Development will only be permitted if it meets all of the following criteria:

- a) access to the main road network must be capable of carrying the traffic generated by the development safely.
- b) the design of the site must not compromise road safety and must take account of the needs of cyclists, pedestrians, public transport users, horse riders and people whose mobility is impaired
- c) it must be designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities if it is development to which the general public expect to have access
- d) the development encourages movement by means other than driving a car.

## Appendix ~ Questionnaire sample

<i>A. Housing Development</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
1. Extensions to new and existing buildings should be sympathetic in scale, design and materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Converting redundant buildings into houses is a good idea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. First time buyers / low cost housing development should be allowed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Accommodation for the elderly should be allowed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. 3-5 Bed family housing development should be allowed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. No housing development should be allowed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Housing development should be infill only	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Housing development should be in small clusters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Housing development should use traditional materials similar to surrounding buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. New housing should make allowance for off street parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do present planning policies ensure that alterations and extensions are conducive to the local environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Additional housing development should not exceed 5 new dwellings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Additional housing development should not exceed 10 new dwellings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 <b><i>B. Roads, Pavements and Street Lighting</i></b>			
1. More pavements are needed along the roads and lanes in the parish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Traffic calming is necessary along through routes -			
Speed Ramps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rumble Strips	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chicanes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. More street lighting is needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Establishment of cycle paths should be encouraged	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. There are too many road signs in the parish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Street parking creates an increased risk of accidents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Utility cables should be underground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. General condition of Parish notice boards is satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 <b><i>C. Conservation and the Environment</i></b>			
1. Brick / flint walls and natural hedgerows are part of the character of the parish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public open spaces in the parish should be encouraged	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. More trees should be planted and roadside flower beds created	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Existing hedgerows should be preserved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The upkeep of verges is important	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Should footpaths and Bridle ways be maintained to a higher standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Should a greater use be made of tree and hedgerow preservation orders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Should there be better signing of footpaths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Appendix ~ Questionnaire sample

### SURVEY QUESTIONS.....(cont'd)

#### *D. Commerce.*

- |  | <i>Agree</i>             | <i>Disagree</i>          | <i>Don't Know</i>        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. There should be no further light industry development in the parish | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. It is essential to encourage a pub for the parish                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### *E. Transport*

- |  |                          |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Additional daily community transport should be encouraged to supplement existing once-a-week services | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

#### *F. General Issues*

- |   |                          |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The Parish Notice Board requires re-positioning to be seen                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. A map of the parish with footpaths is a good idea  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Greater promotion of the uses of St Katherine's Church would be beneficial               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Greater promotion of the uses of the cricket club and its facilities would be beneficial | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Are existing recycling facilities adequate   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Would a village fete or similar function help to bring our community together            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### *General Comments*

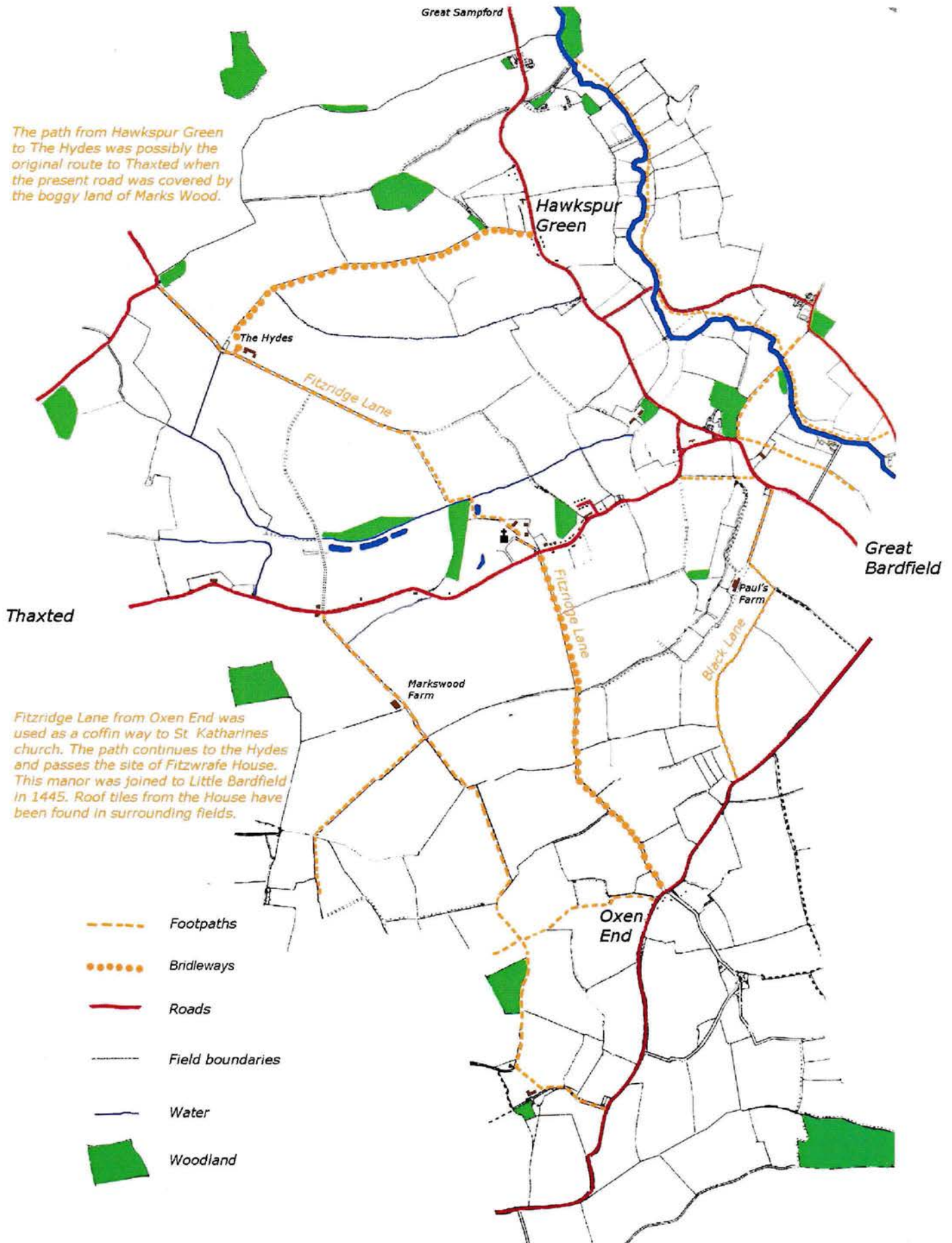
- What improvements would you like to see in the parish?
- The further development of Stansted airport may threaten our community and futures. What, if anything, as a community, should we be doing?
- Any other comments you would like to be taken into account?

Please feel free to use this area for any questions or comments.

### Survey Questions

For the purposes of this survey please indicate the area in which you consider yourself to be part of:-

Little Bardfield  Oxen End  Hawkspur Green



## Little Bardfield Footpath Map

## Credits and Acknowledgements

The VDS Committee wish to thank:

The Rural Community Council of Essex for their guidance, Uttlesford District Council for their initial finance to start the project, and Little Bardfield Parish Council for their support and finance to complete the production of this Village Design Statement.

The Little Bardfield Village Design Statement was produced by:  
The VDS Committee consisting of:

Amanda Boon  
Paul Boon  
Colin Canfield  
Maddy Carter  
Tim Carter  
Terry Cutmore  
Lindsey Gumbrell  
Gerry Head  
Charles Thompson

Contributions and advice from:

Carole Ware (RCCE)  
Chris Hobbs (RCCE)  
Mary Gardener  
William Gardener  
Reverend Robert Beaken  
Tony Hayward  
The Bardfield Times

Graphic design: by Paul Boon  
Edited by: Amanda Boon and Terry Cutmore

Cover: village sign by Linda Richardson  
Photographs: by Members of the VDS Committee, villagers of Little Bardfield including Mrs E Judson and Mr D Perkins from Great Bardfield.

Other sources of reference to be used in conjunction with the VDS are:  
Uttlesford Local Plan adopted January 2005  
Uttlesford Futures Community Plan

Project duration: June 2005 to May 2009

Printed by: M&B Print Solutions, Great Dunmow, CM6 1HD

# The Four Seasons in the Parish of Little Bardfield

