

Gateway 4 Coalway Rd from Parkend

Location

4. Parkend Road/Coalway Road/Lords Hill

This gateway approaches Coleford from the south-east from the direction of Parkend and passes through Coalway. It is a minor road and is mainly used by local traffic and by tourists, especially from CSMA at Whitemead and from the Dean Forest Railway. The parish boundary starts near Dark Hill, with Nags Head plantation either side of the road.

Landscape

The road is ascending through an area of open deciduous woodland and small hedged paddocks as it reaches Coalway.

The grass verges open out into small patches of meend, some containing one or more mature deciduous trees

It continues to rise gradually until it reaches Coalway crossroads, a focal point where the routeway crosses the road that links the settlements of Coleford's eastern arc.

The one shop/post office functions as a centre for Coalway: the other 3 shops have closed, and 2 are converted to houses.

From here the route descends gently down Coalway Road before dropping more steeply down Lords Hill to the town centre.

From Coalway Road there are glimpsed views to the south-west across the golf course towards High Nash and Milkwall but they are somewhat obscured by the trees on the golf course. From Lords Hill there are views north-westwards across the town centre and towards Scowles.

Settlement character

On the western side of the road entering the parish there are a number of nineteenth century cottage style detached properties separated from the road by a grass verge and lane. On the eastern side of the road is a paddock bounded by a tall hedgerow.

At the north-western end of the paddock, where Parkend Walk joins the Parkend Road there is another small meend with nineteenth century cottage style properties clustered around it.

Opposite are the side walls and gardens of two late twentieth century semi-detached properties with a walkway between them leading to the Crown Meadow estate.

Next to this are the gardens and car park of The Crown Inn which side onto the road. Opposite is the end of the green space noted at Parkend Walk,



50 Approach from woods and meend



51 The shop on the corner is local Forest grey limestone with slate roof. Many surrounding older buildings are rendered. The bus is going toward Coleford



52 The view of the oak is somewhat marred by the electricity transformer. The meend has been part mown and the paddock is to the right. A valuable green space.



53 Crown Inn. The field adjoining has been developed for modern housing

Next to the Crown Inn, as the road curves towards the west, is one detached dwelling with a large garden parallel to the road behind an old stone wall. There is then a terrace of four 18C cottages and, at the Coalway crossroads, the former Britannia public house which is now subdivided into flats.



54 Yellow lines assist visibility at a busy crossroads

Opposite the Crown Inn is the entrance to a small development of late 20C detached houses sited surrounding a walnut tree in a cul-de-sac. Several of these houses front or side onto Parkend Road, but the original stone boundary wall has been kept.



55 The cattle grid is to stop the roaming

Forest sheep as noted by the sign

This stone wall continues to the crossroads, fronting a substantial villa style property constructed of forest stone for the quarry owner which stands out. It shows some stone mullion windows, dressed grey Forest stone, stone architrave and porch and neatly cut stone walling stone for the boundary wall into which the railings are set. Note the roof is now tiled.



56 Built for Mr Immins from his own quarry, this is a notable example of skilled local stone masonry.

The gateway now becomes Coalway Road and begins a gentle descent towards Coleford town centre. There is a greater mix of land use and building age.



57 Both schools use the same entrance, not far from the crossroads, and it can be very busy. A crossing patrol person is evident at start and close of school

On the north-eastern side of the road, there are three 19C cottage style properties before the entrance to Coalway Infants and Junior Schools.

On the north side there is a linear, but mixed age set of dwellings (mid-20C and 19C) including yet another former pub subdivided into flats; substantial individually styled detached properties set well back on their plots and dating from the late 19C/early 20C. (These are stone, some rendered). After the junction with Holcot Road, is a late 20C two storey block of flats built on a brownfield site. The housing density then increases with a row of nine individually designed detached houses (mid 20C) followed by 11 individually styled detached bungalows dating from the 1960s. All these are brick, often rendered. All are a similar distance from the road with front gardens and walls.



58 The development is one side of the road only, leaving an open vista over the Golf Course.



On the south-western side of Coalway Road there is far less residential development giving the road as a whole a semi-rural open aspect – not suburban. Off the crossroads there are just three properties this side, then the entrance to Coalway Recreation Field and Mushet United’s pitch.



59The Rec. has a fenced carpark parallel with the road which is used to help with schools start and finish times, when the road is very busy. The layby is often full.

Beyond this the road follows the boundary of the Forest of Dean/Bells Golf Course and has a grass verge rather than a pavement on this side of the road. There are only four properties built along this boundary before the road becomes Lords Hill, a cluster of two bungalows and a house dating from the mid-twentieth century and an individual nineteenth century cottage (now made into two).



60View of High Nash through the gap in the cluster of houses on the southern side of the road

On the north-eastern side, when Coalway Road becomes Lords Hill at Whitehall Farm (listed), the descent starts and there are more older properties as the edge of the town centre is approached. Further down the hill there are 2 properties, one older and one modern. This one is now used as a care home. Both properties have large plots.



61Whitehall Farm (listed) where the road name changes, to Lords Hill. It is Georgian and three storey, stone and slate roofed with sash windows.

Next is Bells Field, an open space/ playing field accessed off Lords Hill and bounded by a high old stone wall. Owned by the Town Council, it is intended for leisure/community use. There is a short distance here when there is no housing either side of the road. The green separation from Coleford is seen as important by local people.



62Although green either side of the road, the high stone walls give an impression of being closed in.

Beyond Bells Field the road narrows and the housing density increases again. There are two detached houses with gardens set slightly above road level, one of these is late 20C infill. The remaining houses along the road date mainly from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They have very small front gardens and no garages. One property has three storeys. A small cul-de-sac development of 20C detached houses with garages stretches off Lords Hill to the north



63 19C properties rise up the steepest part of Lords Hill. The pavement is narrow, and pedestrians with large pushchairs/ wheelchairs/ scooters are forced to go into the road as it narrows

Just before Lords Hill reaches the Old Station Way junction there is a terrace of very small cottages dating from the 18C originally with an open back garden accessed via a path at the lower end of the row.



64Modern housing behind the 18C terraced cottages. Note the alterations to the slate roofs and variety of porches.

These are opposite another modern development of town houses, the Parish Room (Old School House) and the listed Old Vicarage. All are outside the Conservation Area.

On the south-western side of Lords Hill, opposite Bells Field (left) is the entrance to Bells Hotel and Golf Course (right) the former school and below this the steepest part of Lords Hill.



65



66The steep hill and curve is picked out with red road markings as HGVs and buses may be in the middle of the road. The restored stone house is right on the road

There is a small modern red brick cul-de-sac development of detached and semi-detached town houses some of which are three storeys.

Below the Old School House, now converted into single storey apartments, at the junction with Old Station Way is a late 20C court of two storey houses.



67Old School House

From that junction, the road leads to Gloucester Rd traffic lights and congestion is significant, including back past the junction. The manhole in Lords Hill by the lights, can lift when intensive rain occurs, with flood effect. The development site "The Marshes" on the junction is vacant and not beautifully fenced off.

Key views

Across Bells Golf Course towards High Nash and Milkwall.

From Lords Hill across Coleford town centre



68The construction site for a supermarket, currently stalled, just at the entry to the town centre from Lords Hill.

Key features

- The Crown Inn
- Eskimarket, corner shop
- Coalway Infants and Junior Schools
- Coalway Recreation Ground
- Bells Field
- Bells Golf Course and Hotel



69Boundary stone on the outskirts of the parish

Positive features and special qualities

- Approach alongside Green Ring and golf course
- Taste of the forest with woods, meend, Forest stone buildings
- Georgian architecture
- Functions at Coalway

Negative features and detracting elements

- Busy Coalway Cross
- Narrow section of road down Lords Hill
- Stalled supermarket site

Looking ahead

- Review supermarket site and complete
- Community use of Bells Field