

Gateway 5 Perrygrove, High Nash and Old Station Way

Location

5. B4228 Perrygrove Road/Old Station Way/High Nash

This gateway approaches Coleford from the south from the direction of Lydney , St Briavels and Chepstow. It is a very rural approach to Coleford, although once the town is entered the main industrial areas are clearly visible. Consequently this route carries a high volume of commercial vehicles and lorries as the Suntory factory and the main industrial estates are easily accessible from this direction. (Although there is a weight restriction at High Nash on the final stage into the Town Centre.) It is also used by visitors as two main tourist attractions, Puzzle Wood and Perrygrove Railway, are accessed directly off the road.

Landscape

The road passes through open deciduous woodland as it reaches the boundary of Coleford parish at the Lambsquay crossroads. From here it descends gently to the junction with Pingry Lane, before rising again to the traffic lights at the crossroads with High Nash and Tufthorn Avenue which is also the start of Coleford's main settlement area. For much of the route there is a ridge of higher land to the east.



70 Rural woodland entrance to Coleford by Lambsquay

Between the Lambsquay crossroads and the Tufthorn Avenue traffic lights there are very few buildings. The road passes through farmland, mainly pasture. The field boundaries are mainly hedgerows, but there is some fencing. The road has grass verges, and close to Lambsquay, where the verges are wider, there are mature deciduous trees along the roadside (70).

At the traffic lights the route then splits into two, one descending to the town centre via High Nash, and the other descending to the east of the town centre via Old Station Way.



71 Approaching the traffic lights at Tufthorn where the route splits, up a rise.

There are views across fields to the Suntory factory from Pingry.

Settlement character

Near Lambsquay, on the eastern side of the road is the fenced boundary of a garden centre. Next to this is a large nineteenth century, three storey villa style property set back in its own grounds, approached by a long drive and screened from the road by mature trees and a tall evergreen hedge.

A footpath from Milkwall reaches the road next to a pond at the northern edge of the grounds.



72 Individual 19C dwelling

The only other buildings on the eastern side of the road before the Tufthorn traffic lights are reached are those associated with Perrygrove Farm. These are largely screened by a hedge, but the traditional style 19C farmhouse is partly visible. Beyond the farm is the entrance to the Perrygrove Railway visitor attraction. Apart from these, to the east of the road are hedgerows bounding small fields that rise away from the road to a line of trees at the crest of the ridge.



73 Perrygrove Railway runs through fields and by woods



To the west of the road, the land use is again predominantly pasture. The hedged fields are larger and the landscape flatter with deciduous woodland in the background. Within these fields, parallel to the road, is the grassed car park for Puzzle Wood and the house and out buildings of Lower Perrygrove Farm which is part of the visitor attraction.



74 Suntory Ribena factory viewed over Puzzle Wood car park

Here the road narrows with a curve and small hump in the road, consequently road markings are evident to warn traffic. North of the Puzzle Wood complex is the road junction with Pingry Lane and the driveway to Pingry Farm, the outbuildings of which form a small business park.

The sign is the most visible from the road due to tall hedges. Until this gateway reaches the traffic lights there are grass verges rather than pavement.



75 Road markings by Perrygrove Railway

76 Pingry business park



At the traffic lights the urban zone of Coleford begins, and this gateway splits into two. a)The eastern branch remains the B4228 and descends into the town as Old Station Way. It is a modern road dating from the 1980s and bypasses the town centre. It became the focus for development on former greenfield sites and has late 20C commercial and industrial units on its eastern side as well as two entrances to small industrial estates. These are largely screened by trees.



77 Garages and green verges : modern industrial and commercial units accessed by a purpose-built road avoiding the town centre.

On the western side of the road are 1980s residential estates. No houses front on to the road. There are walls and fences marking the boundaries of gardens and green play areas, the side walls of houses and two roads that lead into the estates. Both sides of the road have pavements and grass verges. Further into town, to the west, the road passes the Main Place and the Pyart Court shopping development both with associated parking.



78 Pyart Court below Old Station Way, and with parking. The cycle path crosses in the background

On its eastern side the road passes a small area of grass and mature trees which marks the entrance to the cycle path to Milkwall along the old railway line.



79 The cycle path crosses by the Main Place

It then passes a development of warden assisted bungalows and a short row of terraced town houses before it reaches its junction with Lords Hill.

b) The western branch from the traffic lights is the original route into Coleford town centre from this direction. The road swings sharply westwards for a short distance, fringed by tall dense bushes and grass verges before turning northwards again, passing a fenced field and the access road to the Suntory factory. It rises slightly before beginning a continuous descent through the residential area of High Nash into Coleford town centre.



80 Suntory is the turning right, and the car is approaching from the traffic lights around the sharp bend. HGVs have to proceed slowly in the centre of the road.

For much of the route, the houses are of uniform design, semi detached and short terraces of former council houses, dating from the early 1920s. They have short front gardens and no garages, leading to a large amount of on street parking which can cause traffic issues as this road is a bus route and is used by large commercial vehicles. The houses on the western side are set slightly above the road level. There are pavements on both sides of the road but no grass verges.



81 The double decker No 31 to Gloucester passes on street parking. The weight restriction prevents HGVs using this gateway

Part way down the hill, on the western side, is the Roman Catholic Church with its accompanying hall and vicarage. These date from 1933. Beyond this point the road name changes from High Nash to Cinderhill and the style and age of the houses become more varied. There are some cottage style houses dating from the nineteenth century interspersed with both early and late twentieth century housing. Most of the properties are very close to the road, some having no front gardens. However, some of the houses have gardens to the side of the property running parallel to the road and giving a greater sense of space. The gardens tend to be fronted by walls of varying heights, many of them constructed of forest stone.



82 St Margaret Mary's RC Church

On the western side of the road there are two roads leading to mid and later twentieth century housing developments.



83 David Mushet lived at Forest House, and perfected the Besemer process. His son Robert discovered self-hardening steel. It is now a hotel and restaurant.

Close to the town centre the road passes the Forest House Hotel, a substantial three storey property dating from the 18C and associated with the Mushet family.

On the eastern side of the road, just before the town centre is reached, housing gives way to services. There is a doctor's surgery, fire and ambulance station and a cadet hut immediately before the entrance to the main car park, the presence of which again makes this an important gateway into Coleford.



84 View of the Clock tower and Coleford with the main car park just on the right past the white cadet hut

The Forest of Dean District Council offices are off this roundabout too.

Key views

- Across fields from Pingry northwest to Suntory factory (74)



85 From top of Old Station Way/ High Nash, glimpsed views of Bells Golf Course beyond industrial estate.



86 From Cinderhill north to Coleford town centre. Fire Station on the right.

Key features

- Lambsquay crossroads
- Puzzle Wood (74)
- Perrygrove railway (73)
- Tufthorn Avenue/Old Station Way lights (71)



87 Robert Forester Mushet commemorated

- a)
 - Suntory Factory (74)
 - Fire and Ambulance Station (86)
 - Surgery
 - Cadet Hut (84)
 - Forest House Hotel (83)
 - Mushet plaque at corner of Mushet Place (87)
- b)
 - Petrol Station in Old Station Way (77)
 - The Main Place (79)
 - Pyart Court (78)

Positive features and special qualities

- Woodland entry with views
- Major attractions at Puzzle Wood and Perrygrove on main route in
- Old Station Way designed appropriately to take HGVs, restricted on other High Nash route
- Fire, Ambulance, St John Ambulance and Doctors' surgeries all off this Gateway

Negative features and detracting elements

- High Nash narrows with on street parking
- Impact of HGVs

Looking ahead

- Aldi permission at traffic lights
- Adjacent land to existing factory could be site for further expansion