

# LANDFORD VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

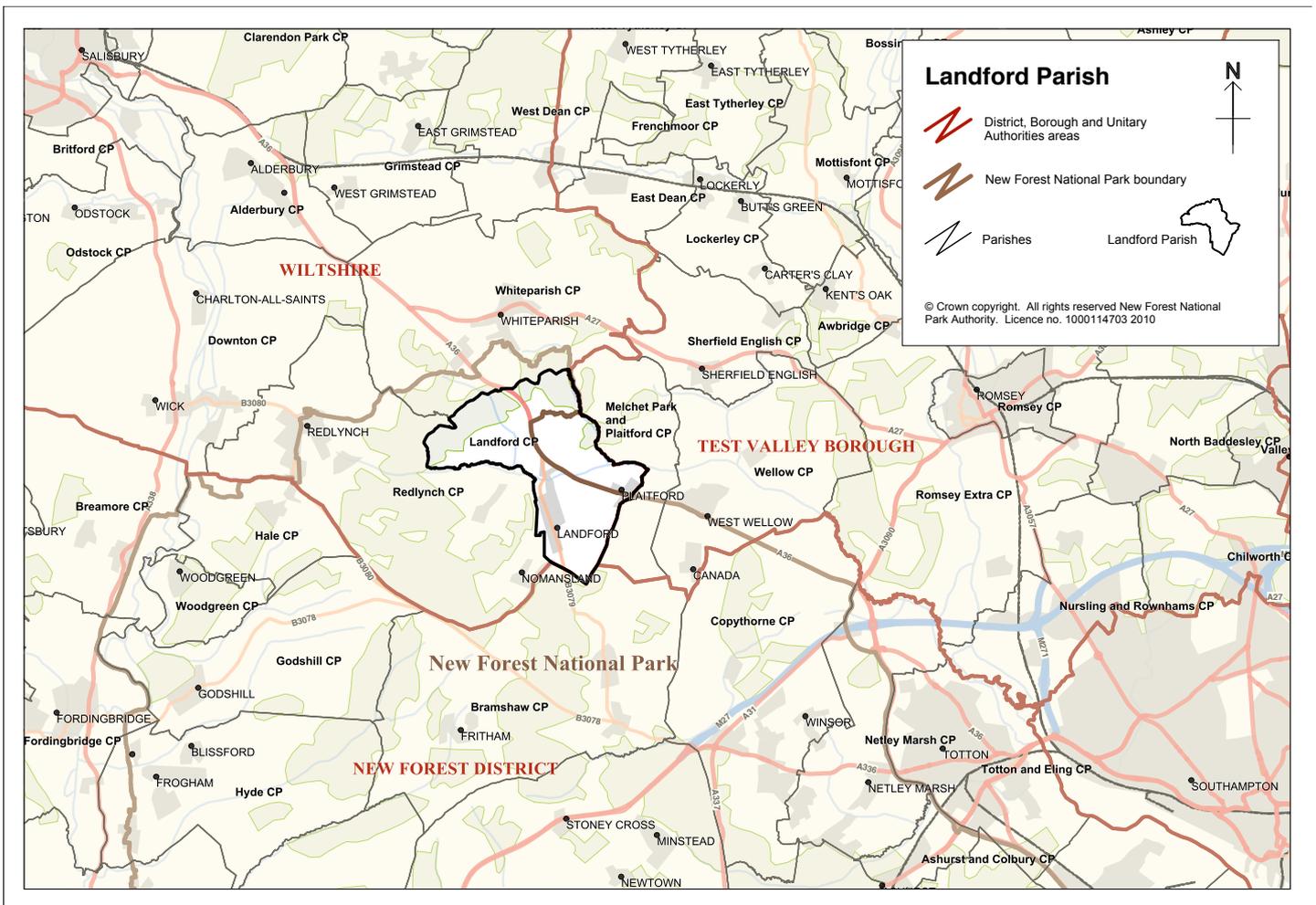
## 2 Village and Community Context

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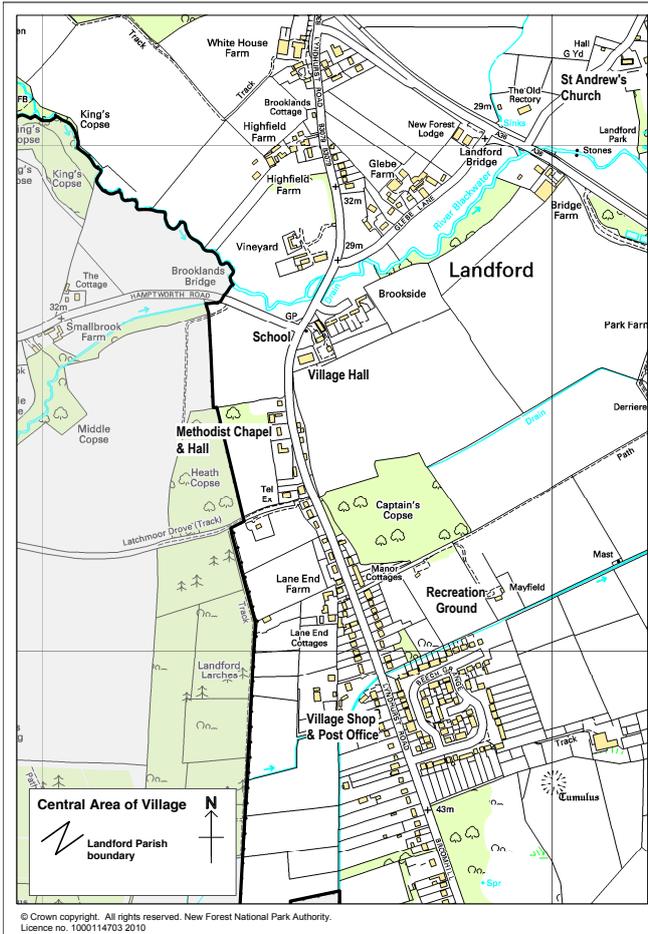
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### 2.1 Location

Landford lies halfway between Salisbury and Southampton in the south east corner of the county of Wiltshire. The neighbouring parishes are Whiteparish to the north and east, Plaitford (now in Hampshire) to the south and east, Bramshaw to the south and Redlynch to the west. The village and a large proportion of the parish are now within the New Forest National Park.



## 2.2 History and Development



Village centre

At Earldoms there is an Iron Age camp in woodland and an excavation in 1929 found 18 burial urns of the late Iron Age in a small circular mound. There were settlements in other parishes and the indication is that there was prehistoric activity in the parish even if there was little permanent settlement.

There are signs of Roman settlements in nearby parishes and it is likely that they and their successors used Landford for iron working. Pottery was made at nearby Fritham. The Saxons conquered this part of Wiltshire in the early 6th century but when settlement occurred is unknown. By the 10th and 11th centuries there was a small community here and a mill on the river Blackwater.

The Domesday Book of 1086 provides an idea of the size of the settlement. There was enough arable land to maintain two ploughs, a mill and six bordars<sup>1</sup>. This indicates a fairly small community with a population of between 20 and 30. The pasture is one league (more than a mile) by half a league while the woodland is four by four furlongs. The large area of woodland that was regarded as royal forest is not included. The estate was held by Otho, and as his father held it before the Norman Conquest it is likely that he was a Saxon, probably employed as King's forester.

A church is believed to have been here in the

11th century and it seems likely that the main house would have been nearby, as Landford Manor is today. With only six other households it is likely that settlement has always been scattered throughout the parish and there may not have been nucleated settlement around the church.

In 1377 there were 48 poll tax payers (people aged over 14 years) compared with 55 in Cowesfield and 36 in Hamptworth. It is difficult to estimate population from the poll tax as there were evasions of payment and the number of children of 14 and under is unknown but the comparison would indicate that the whole parish of Landford was smaller than the settlement of Cowesfield in Whiteparish. It is quite probable that there were less than 20 families in Landford at this time.



Landford Manor

With rights of common in the forest for the farmers and smallholders there would have been a problem with straying animals and a pound for these was established. The name Pound Hill indicates where this was in later centuries and it could well have been here from medieval times. In 1540 the manor passed to the Dauntsey family and their descendants. Sir John Dauntsey rebuilt Landford Manor House in c.1600.

<sup>1</sup> [bordar - A person ranking below villeins and above serfs (slaves) in the social hierarchy of a manor, holding just enough land to feed a family (about 5 acres) and required to provide labour on the demesne on specified days of the week].

From 1577 the tenants had surrendered rights of common pasture in one of the early steps by the landowner to begin enclosure of the forest. This started in 1610 when the parish can be considered to no longer be part of the royal forest.

The Andrews and Dury map of Wiltshire in 1773 shows a very scattered settlement in the parish. There is no settlement on Landford Common and very little on North Common. Landford Mill is still working on the river Blackwater and by 1776 Landford Lodge, formerly called Breach House, was rebuilt for Sir William Heathcote of Hursley (Hampshire) who had the greater part of the earlier house taken down. The chief crops were wheat, barley and turnips and livestock was also kept in a mixed farming economy. The area in the south of the parish was still unenclosed and remained so until 1861.

During the 18th century the cottage industry of lace making spread into the parish from Downton. This provided an extra income for families when wives and daughters made lace at home. The industry continued through the 19th century and into the early 20th century. Two roads that meet in the parish were turnpiked in the 18th century and this must have increased the traffic between Salisbury and Southampton through this quiet corner of Wiltshire. Without an inn it is unlikely that any of the commercial coaches stopped, except as a special favour.



Lyndhurst Road

Landford Common was enclosed in 1861, with most of the land allocated to Lady Nelson (640 out of 740 acres) but with one acre allowed for a stone and gravel pit and four acres for exercise and recreation for the villagers. Land to the south of the track, now New Road, was sold at £15 an acre for people to build on from the 1870s. From then onwards houses were built around the two roads across the common giving a V shape of ribbon development on Broomhill (part of Lyndhurst Road) and New Road.

Administrative changes in the area meant that Plaitford was transferred from Wiltshire to Hampshire in 1895 but in 1896 Landford received the Earldoms from Whiteparish. Although the population had fallen to 231 in 1891, from a high point of 278 in 1861, it rose to 358 in 1901. This is an indication of the new houses, and later bungalows that continued to be built in the parish during the first half of the 20th century.

The modern pattern of settlement on Landford Common (Broomhill and New Road), Landford Wood and Northlands (North Common) was now established. A new bakery was built in 1912 and, in addition there was a grocer, village shop, a shoe shop offering repairs, a builder, a plumber, a wheelwright and undertaker, a blacksmith and garage, a confectioner, market gardens, and an agricultural machinist.



Pound Cottage A36



Landford Post Office 1926

During the First World War the carrier's wagon was replaced by a local bus service to Salisbury while by 1921 the Wilts and Dorset Omnibus Co. were operating services locally. In the 1920s this was chiefly an agricultural parish and in 1927 the chief crops were wheat, barley and turnips. The village pound still remained although little used. [Located on what is now the Landford Poacher and car park.]

In more recent times from 1950 onwards, there was a considerable increase in the building of new dwellings. In 1951 council houses were built at Brookside, near to the school, and Northlands House (now The Cedars Nursing Home) was converted to flats. Also in 1951 the neglected village recreation ground was restored, let to the Landford and Hamptworth Sports Club, who undertook to manage it, and it re-opened on 19th May with sports, a fete, and a tea. It was also used by Landford School for games and sports, and equipment was installed in the children's play area.



New Road 1830

After World War II increasing prosperity, increased ownership of the motorcar, freedom to travel, and an

increase in population led

to a demand for more housing. Within Landford this led to a surge in building activity, including infill along Lyndhurst Road and New Road and the new developments off Forest Road.



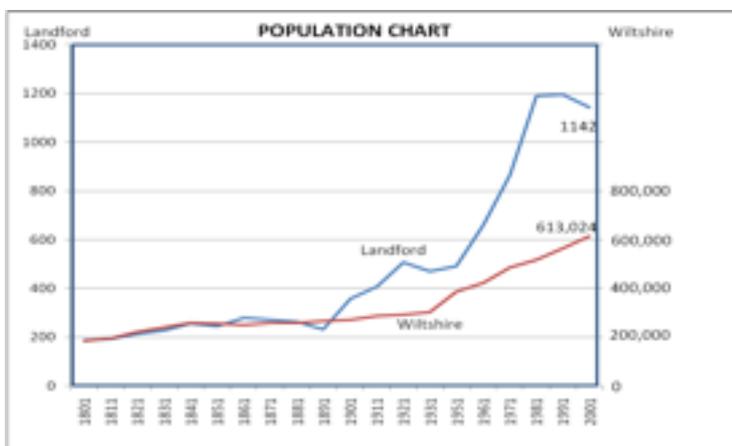
Landford Bridge A36 from River Blackwater

A new housing estate, Beech Grange, was developed in the 1970s.

The appearance of part of the village was profoundly changed in 1975 when the A36, Salisbury to Southampton trunk road, was completely rebuilt from Partridge Hill on the Hampshire borders to the Earldoms. Many fine trees were lost as a result of this,

although some were replaced, and the Church of St. Andrews now looks down upon constant streams of vehicles passing along the A36. In 1989 the first known licensed premises came to the village when the Landford Poacher opened its doors.

The increase in housing has led to a considerable increase in the population and demand on local services. The 2001 Census returned a total population of 1142 consisting of 555 males and 587 females occupying 450 households. The average age was 44 with 111 people aged 75 or over.



A full history of the early development of Landford can be obtained from the Wiltshire Community website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/getcom2.php?id=133](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/getcom2.php?id=133)

## 2.3 Industry & Employment

There is no heavy industry in Landford or large operations offering mass employment. As in many rural areas where farming has ceased or been rationalised, farm buildings have become redundant and converted to other uses. Light engineering and service industries have taken over several of the old farms in Landford. These include Whitehouse Farm and Wickets Green Farm. Others such as Landford Common Farm have converted to a stud and the barns converted to industrial units. The parish has just one industrial site at the Sand Pits in Giles Lane, which contains a mixture of light engineering and transport operations.

For centuries employment in Landford has been focused on agriculture, but with the changing demographics new employment opportunities have evolved. In addition to farming and farm related activities, there are employment opportunities in horticulture, forestry, equestrianism, light engineering, building trades and tourism. Farming continues to make an essential contribution to the landscape and visual setting of the village, and small local businesses help to provide local employment and add value to the local economy whilst maintaining the rural nature of the area.

**GOAL 2.3.1** - To encourage employment in the village with a primary focus on farming and small businesses, self-employment and professional services. Heavy or mass production industries are considered inappropriate.

## 2.4 Shopping



Although there is no specific village centre as such, the Landford Stores and the Post Office do create a focal point with their close proximity to the Recreation Ground. Other retail outlets include a farm shop selling fresh vegetables and animal supplies, a service station and second hand car sales room, a garage and MOT centre, a garden centre with gift shop, the lavender farm with visitor centre and a shop for carpeting and flooring. There are also shopping outlets in nearby Wellow, and others within a short distance, including Romsey. For such items as clothing, furniture or more substantial purchases the cities of Salisbury or Southampton are about 11 miles from Landford.

The local shops provide a vital service to the village, especially for the elderly and those who rely on public transport.

**GOAL 2.4.1** – To retain the village shops and post office by encouraging people to make more use of them, thus ensuring their viability.

## 2.5 Education

The school at Landford is located in Lyndhurst Road, next to the Village Hall and opposite the junction with the road to Hamptworth. The original school was built in 1842 to replace the dame school that had existed from at least 1818. Lady Nelson provided the site for the schoolroom, schoolmaster's house, garden and playground, while money for the building came from local private subscriptions, a grant from the National Society and a government building grant. The school and school house were built for just over £300.

The school building has played an important role in the historical development of Landford and local people brought up in the village have fond memories of school days spent there. The building itself adds character to the area due to its architectural features and historical significance.<sup>2</sup>

**GOAL 2.5.1** – To retain the school building so that it can continue its service to the community.

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<sup>2</sup> The School is included in the list of Buildings of Special Interest, Appendix 3.

In more recent times the school has struggled to maintain its quota of pupils and in 2009 it was amalgamated with the neighbouring school in Nomansland. The school is now known as the New Forest Church of England Primary School. Key Stage 1 pupils attend the site in Landford, whilst Key Stage 2 & 3 pupils attend the site in School Road, Nomansland. Part of the attraction of any village is its local school and the quality of education it provides. Following primary education, pupils move on to secondary education in Salisbury, Downton or Romsey.



Landford School c.1900

**GOAL 2.5.2** - To ensure local educational services for future generations it is important to retain a village school.

## 2.6 Community

There has always been a good community spirit in Landford, however since the inception and completion of the Landford Community Plan there has been a much stronger community involvement and more support from residents. There are three churches of different denominations providing services and social contacts across the village. The Landford Village Hall and the Methodist Hall provide facilities for indoor sporting activities and also meeting rooms for organisations such as the parish council and for several local clubs and societies (see 2.7 below). The community will benefit considerably by implementing the actions detailed in the Plan.

**GOAL 2.6.1** – To support the implementation of the actions detailed in the Community Plan (2008-2013)<sup>3</sup>.

The Whiteparish & Landford LINK Scheme is run by a group of volunteers and provides a “Good Neighbour” service not only to Landford, but across six parishes to the south east of Salisbury. The Landford Community Partnership has also been formed to both monitor and facilitate the actions laid out in the Community Plan. Resulting actions by local people include the creation of a First Responder group to provide first aid in the event of an emergency before paramedics can attend, the development of a Village Directory and also a Welcome Pack for residents new to the area. The current development of an active and expedient neighbourhood watch scheme will help to deter crime.

Local people also make use of facilities and activities organized in the neighbouring parishes of Redlynch (Hamptworth and Nomansland), Bramshaw and Plaitford. Similarly, residents of these neighbouring areas make use of the facilities in Landford, creating a community across both parish and county boundaries.

**GOAL 2.6.2** –To foster a sense of caring and well being for others; a genuine community spirit.

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<sup>3</sup> See Reference 9.1

## 2.7 Leisure & Social Activities

The Village Hall and Methodist Hall are used by a number of local groups and organisations for a wide selection of activities. These include short mat bowls, several keep fit classes, karate, gymnastics for the young, badminton, line dancing, and a youth group. The halls are also used for social events such as the occasional public meeting, the annual Quiz Night, and other fund raising events. The Village Hall holds the Autumn Fest on alternate years, with its competitions for local produce, cakes and jam together with stalls for a whole range of goods and other fund raising activities. The preceding “scarecrow” competition held in 2008 attracted the attention of the local press and media, with many visitors from outside the parish touring the area taking photographs.



Recreation Ground

The recreation ground facilities have been upgraded recently with modern play equipment for the younger children and the installation of an all weather basketball/netball court. During the winter months the sports area is used regularly by a couple of football teams, and in the summer by a cricket team. The pavilion and toilet block will be modernised as finances allow keeping them up to standard and encouraging more use of the facilities. The Landford Summer Fair is also held on alternate years (alternating with the Autumn Fest) on the recreation ground. This involves a large number of local people both in staging the event and as participants on stalls, and attracts people from far and wide.

### **GOAL 2.7.1 – To promote more sport and active pastimes for all ages.**

The Landford Poacher is the only public house within the parish and it has a restaurant. There is also the Royal Jaipur Indian Restaurant and Take-away. For those that wish to travel a little further afield, there are several country pubs and restaurants in the neighbouring parishes.