

**Submission  
Appendix A  
Coleford  
character  
assessments**

**C Gateways into the Town Centre  
8 Cycle path  
from Parkend**



C

## 8. Gateway 8 Cycle and Foot Path from Parkend along disused railway

### **Location**

This gateway enters Coleford from the south, bringing in many visitors to the town, who like to be active participants in the countryside and local heritage. They come into the Parish from the main Forest cycle path which links into Cannop, Beechenhurst by the junction at Fetter Hill with the Ellwood Rd. Hence it is a useful off-road route to connect with public transport by rail from Lydney (and Parkend Station of the Dean Forest Railway). A number of attractions are nearby this route.

### **Landscape**

Open deciduous woodland at the entry into the Parish is dotted with old quarries – fenced off for safety. There is a short ascent towards a series of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including Dark Hill Ironworks (see 112 below).

112. Dark Hill from cycle path (Scheduled Ancient Monument)



113. Aaron's Pond by Dark Hill



Going between quarries, drift mines, colour works, this is a feast of high level industrial archaeology, all within the Forest and with a gentle gradient as it uses old narrow gauge rail routes very gradually towards the built up area of Coleford. This national route 49 is well-used by both local people and tourists

The industrial heritage is still evident either side of the route within ancient woodland or interspersed with meend, wild flowers and heavy with bracken in season.

There is evidence of wild boar activity on the grass verges eg onto the road at Milkwall.

114. Cycle path en route to Gorsty Knoll and Milkwall



At Milkwall Bridge the road is crossed by the industrial zone of the southern arc, where the Colour Works used to be (although one building remains, it is covered in ivy and needs conservation, see Appendix G).

116. Crossing of cycle path at Milkwall Bridge, by industrial cluster in bottom of valley, signed left 118

115.

Just past here the old railway line goes into a cutting, which precludes much view for about half a mile.



117. To the south the more urban landscape is screened from the cycle path by shrubs. Narrow entries using bridges cross a minor stream



118. Trees and shrubs fill the sides of the track



However, as the valley opens out there is an open green feel to the north in particular, over the Bells Golf Course. This includes a lake and minor watercourse, with swell of the hill toward the hotel. Mature deciduous trees are evident both on and around some edges of the course, especially at the skyline.

119. Lower part of Bells Golf Course showing mature trees and reeds



120. shows lake alongside cycle track, used for watering if needed, but in the previous field called "The Damps" as it was wetland and fed by the small stream. Looking north east the copse on Edenwall edge of course links into the wildlife corridor



### Settlement character



From the edge of the parish it is some distance to Milkwall where a dispersed settlement on Gorsty Knoll (Green Ring 3) can be seen occasionally. The edge of the Southern Arc is where the path crosses the road by the small industrial units on the old Colour Works site. These are valued for their employment, but could benefit from some improvement to layout/appearance.

121. Old Colour Works and related site

The crossing at Old Station Way is offset to the pelican crossing, further east than the Main Place. Many people use the library and community facilities, and walk dogs along the cycle path. There is a dog waste bin by the south

side of Old Station Way. Kings Meade accommodates people over 55 who would appreciate easier access. There is a development site alongside existing bungalows and the cycle path.

*122. Entry into town from Old Station Way, alongside The Main Place, by cycle racks, then into car park*



#### **Key views**

- Over Dark Hill *photo 112*
- Over golf course *photo 118*

#### **Key features**

- Dark Hill Ironworks (SAM)
- Titanic
- Disused railway route
- Colour Works (Valued Heritage Asset, not designated)
- Gorsty Knoll meend and Milkwall Enclosure
- Cycle racks

*123. Stone to mark start of cycle path at Milkwall*



#### **Positive features and special qualities**

- Access through trees and the Green South
- Off road, prepared trail with some signage
- Heritage entrance to industrial archaeology
- Natural value in landscape and species, by Gorsty Knoll
- Views over Bells Golf Course and lake

#### **Negative features and detracting elements**

- Follows cutting into town, past modern industrial estates

#### **Looking ahead**

- Improve the appearance of Milkwall Bridge industrial area, possible cycle centre along route?
- Add on Scarr to Clearwell Iron Mine and Puzzlewood cycle/footpath loop
- Investigate and address better location for crossing at Old Station Way



*124. Town entry by Pyart Court, next to GWR museum, then into large car park with public conveniences. Lacks attractive features*