

Gateways into Coleford

There are a number of roads which lead into the hub of Coleford [both the town and the parish]. As well as providing access to and from Coleford locally, they also act as important gateways, giving visitors a first impression of the town and its surroundings. They are also reflective of changes over time along a routeway, and perhaps update/reinforce views of local people. NBThe main traffic lights at Gloucester Rd/Bank St/Lords Hill and Old Station Way can be found in the Town Centre part ii.

Each of these gateways will be considered separately.

Starting in the north and moving clockwise, the roads that meet in Coleford are:

1. The Gorse/Sunnybank Road
2. Gloucester Road [B4028] from A4136 Gloucester
3. Speech House Road passing through Broadwell [B4226] from Gloucester
4. Coalway Road from Parkend
5. Perrygrove Road [B4228] from Chepstow
6. Newland Street from Newland & Redbrook
7. Staunton Road [B4228] from Monmouth

See map of assessment areas

Gateway 1 The Gorse

Location

1. The Gorse/Sunnybank .

This enters Coleford from the north and provides a routeway for local traffic from the Berry Hill/ Hillersland/English Bicknor area and for tourists from the Christchurch camp sites and Symonds Yat area. The Gorse has a junction with the A4136 at Berry Hill Pike where Monmouth to Gloucester route crosses. However traffic wishing to access Coleford from this road is more likely to do so via the B4228 Staunton Road from the west and the B4028 Gloucester Road from the east.



1 Berry Hill Pike is a key junction on the boundary of the parish. To the left is the route into Coleford, to the right is to Christchurch campsite, Monmouth is straight on and Gloucester

behind the photographer.



2. Fields both sides of the road, with a few detached houses on the south side within the parish boundary. Lower Lane filling

station on the skyline, green on south side.



3. A car sales and outdoor clothing outlet are situated opposite the filling station. High street lights indicate the busy A road status and use by HGVs

(including quarry lorries).

Landscape

From the A4136, and the Pike, at elevated location at the top of the rim of the Coleford bowl, there are rural, open views all around: shorter to the north, toward Berry Hill and long views to west, east and south.



4. Looking back to the Pike (named after the turnpike house once there).



5 View north toward Berry Hill over pasture, still in Coleford parish, but north of the A4136.



6View west over arable land toward Crossways, Staunton Rd and the AONB



7View over the Green Ring around and into Coleford town, toward Gloucester Rd

From this point The Gorse descends steeply (12) providing views of the town centre and the Victoria Road residential area

Settlement character

Within two minutes walking distance of Five Acres crossroads (in West Dean Parish) are:

- Gloucestershire College The relocation of this facility to Cinderford has been under discussion for some years. It provides Further Education including 16-18 general education, and for Sept 15 is adding more vocational education (from Mitcheldean) into this campus.
- Lakers School provides secondary education for children in the Coleford area
- Five Acres Leisure Centre and running track
- Gymnasium



8The crossroads (Five Acres) past the pub, lead to the College, Leisure Centre and Gymnasium and Lakers school

Travelling south from Berry Hill Pike, apart from the house shown right, there is open farmland bounded by fences and hedgerows on both sides of the road. This provides an open, rural approach to the town and is also an important green space separating Coleford from Berry Hill.



9This isolated house near the crossroads has never been occupied since it was built

The Gorse Bungalows, a row of 10 terraced almshouses, constructed in the 1880s are of typical late Victorian design. These are a key feature and landmark of the area, and brow the hill. They are smaller, single storey properties let to older local residents. The hill steepens significantly down into town.

Next door on the eastern side is a single large modern detached property set back from the road and screened by a hedge.



10. The Gorse Almshouses, with small layby, built of stone and slate with classic porches and short chimneys

Southwards, there are fields again on both sides of the road until on the western side there is a short cul-de-sac of late twentieth century bungalows.

This marks the start of the continuous residential development on the western side of the road, the rest of the route being lined by houses forming the edge of the Sunnybank Estate (see Coleford residential).



11. Looking back to the brow of the hill, with the entrance to the Hospice on the right behind the hedge

However, the gateway maintains a semi-rural feel as there is a high grassy bank topped by an old hedgerow and a service road between the houses and the road.

These houses maintain their elevation as the road descends steeply to meet Staunton Road. Consequently the grassy bank becomes steeper, higher and more extensive.



12 Reverse of 11 above, with green funnel view opening out to the town landscape. Bus route and route to Christchurch campsite

The view over the town is revealed



On the eastern side of The Gorse the fields extend further south towards the town centre and before the area of continuous

housing is reached, there is the entrance to The Great Oaks Hospice (13) which is set back in a field and cannot be seen from the road.



Next to this is The Coombs Residential Care Home (14) housed in a converted mid-nineteenth century mansion set in its own

grounds with mature trees that screen it from the road.

South of the Coombs is the road accessing the Coombs Park residential area flanked by two detached properties dating from the 1960s. Beyond, there is a pedestrian route into the town centre down Sparrow Hill, now a no-through road but which used to be the road into Coleford.

15 Green edged pedestrian route into the centre, away from the busy junction below

Then as The Gorse approaches Staunton Road, there is another small development of early post-war former council houses.

Again they are separated from the road by a service road, an old hedgerow and a grass verge. On the western side, the houses are slightly below the level of The Gorse, unlike the east.



16 Traditional, but still semirural look at the junction into the town, keeping the red telephone box.

Key views

- From Berry Hill Pike across fields to Staunton Road (6)
- to Gloucester Road and Baker's Hill in the south-east.(7)
- Over Coleford town centre and the Victoria Road area while descending The Gorse(12)

Key features

- The Gorse Almshouses (10)
- Great Oaks Hospice (13)
- The Coombs Residential Care Home (14)

Positive features and special qualities

- A green approach, increasing in density, but still green toward the centre of Coleford
- Green signposted separate pedestrian footpath into town
- Views in all directions over the green ring, with changes in gradient

Negative features and detracting elements

- Steep way out of Coleford toward Christchurch, along a busy road, especially for cycles
- Icy in winter, although gritted as bus route

Looking ahead

- Cycle path alternative being debated for construction from Christchurch