

## Gateway 6 Newland St, Whitecliff

### Location

#### 6. Whitecliff/Newland Street

This gateway approaches Coleford from the southwest. It is a minor road carrying mainly local traffic from villages such as Newland and Redbrook. Scenically this could be considered as one of the most attractive approaches to Coleford, adjacent to the AONB. As the road system eventually connects with the Wye Valley, this is a gateway that could be used by visitors to the area.

### Landscape

The road approaches Coleford along the floor of the valley occupied by the Whitecliff Brook. There is an upward gradient as the road approaches the urban area of Coleford. The valley is fairly narrow with steeply sloping sides to both the north and the south.

Consequently there are no long views from within this gateway.

For most of its route through Coleford Parish, this road passes through an area of dispersed housing along the roadside, separated by small paddocks, woodland and large garden plots running parallel to the road. The road is narrow and quite busy at times

There are no footpaths until the built up area of Coleford is approached and stone walls are the most common form of property boundary.

### Settlement character

The entrance to a disused quarry and the remains of the Whitecliff Furnace give testament to the industrial past of this area. Most of the properties date from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. There is very little modern development until the road passes under the old railway bridge close to the town centre. Travelling towards Coleford town centre from the junction with the Highmeadow road, on the southern side of the road there are four widely spaced cottage style properties, set in their own grounds and dating from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. All are recently renovated.



88 the Whitecliff valley is wooded, steep sided and green, belying its industrial past. It is "down in".



89 Lorries use the middle of the road at certain pinch points.



90 Junction with Highmeadow Rd and entry from Newland. Wye Valley AONB woodland is behind the photographer

On the northern side there is an area of deciduous woodland. When this woodland ends there is an open area with buildings currently used as garage specialising in vehicle repair. Opposite this is a small cluster of attached cottages which front directly onto the road, This cluster is added to by a substantial house set in its own grounds including an orchard; four detached, individually styled and well spaced properties set close to the road including one mid 20C development. All are backed by woodland and small paddocks rising up the valley sides.

*91 Gardens alongside the road and near to Whitecliff Brook, culverted here.*



Continuing towards Coleford, on the southern side, the road is lined by trees and bushes preventing any view of the hill slope beyond. On the northern side of the road is the entrance to a large former quarry, now used as an off road driving centre. Next to this is a mid twentieth century bungalow, The Collies, used as a small respite care centre.



*92 The old quarry entrance*

On a flat platform of land is the remains of Whitecliff Furnace and an eighteenth century cottage. These are backed by a steep slope leading to the flat course of a former tramway. Beyond this is an area of trees and bushes obscuring any view of the slope.



*93 Whitecliff Furnace (scheduled ancient monument) where Mushet perfected the Bessemer process*

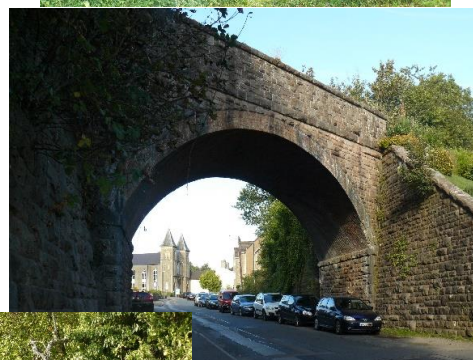
This then gives way to long narrow fields of pasture running parallel to the road and sloping up to the old tramway and a line of deciduous trees. These fields are bounded by hedges, stone walls and wire fences. A footpath crosses the road from north to south.



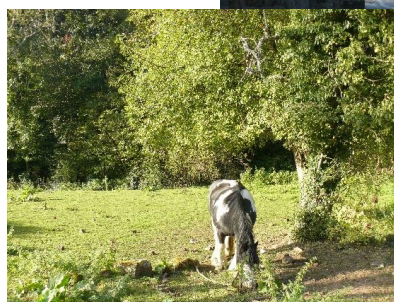
*94 Rock Lane and the Burial Path cross the road*

It is from this point that there is a narrow pavement on the northern side of the road. Until the old railway bridge is reached only one residence, an eighteenth century cottage style property, fronts the road in this section. On the southern side there are three residences, two 3storey 18C houses with no front gardens, one being Whitecliff House, and a mid 20C bungalow.

*95 Railway Viaduct*



They are separated from each other by their gardens which run parallel to the road and have walls and tall mixed species hedges. There is then an area of pasture before there are two detached properties and two pairs of semi detached houses, all dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. All are very close to the road with very small or no front gardens.





Once the old railway viaduct is reached there is a sudden change in the settlement pattern. The urban area of Coleford begins, with a continuous line of buildings on both sides of the road apart from one small car park and a road junction with Bowen's Hill, both on the northern side.

There are pavements on both sides of the road except under the viaduct where there is some on street parking.

On the northern side there is a three storey late twentieth century industrial unit. Next to this are two short rows of late twentieth century terraced houses with very small front gardens and parking behind. Beyond this is a small car park, the Baptist Church, and then a small development of apartments, with parking behind, dating from the late twentieth century, before the junction with Bowen's Hill. On the southern side, after the railway bridge, there is a late 20C three storey development of apartments, with a small area of lawn in front of them and access to parking behind..

There is then a line of detached and semi-detached properties built very close together and with very small or no front gardens, but access to long steeply sloping gardens behind. They mainly date from the 18 and 19C but with some 20C infill



96 Newland St looking toward the Baptist Church; engineering firm on the left in the modern building



97 listed Baptist Church dating from 1858 and converted to 2 storeys



98 Gaps in linear settlement showing long uphill steep gardens

### Key views

No real views except when right into the town centre: just a short view up Newland Street from the Bowen's Hill junction to the Clock Tower.

### Key features

- Baptist Church (97)
- Old Railway viaduct (95)
- Whitecliff Furnace (93)
- Off Road Centre in former quarry(92)
- The Colliers Respite Centre



99 Whitecliff House 18C

### Positive features and special qualities

- Green entrance from Wye Valley AONB and Green West
- Heritage features eg Whitecliff Furnace

### Negative features and detracting elements

- Minor road in winding and steep sided valley floor – lacks sun for much of the winter

### Looking ahead

- Maintain the best green gateway into Coleford