



Industry and Agriculture

Agriculture has experienced a huge change in the last 20 years within the UK and the same can be seen within the parish. External factors, such as changing policies with their move away from farming output and more towards agri-environmental schemes, public perception and economic conditions have meant that livestock enterprises have been abandoned.

Only arable operations remain due to their better profit margin, though the method of production has changed too. Government and EU policy require a sustainable balance between arable production and

the protection of biodiversity within the countryside. This has brought about many changes that can be seen within the parish, such as six metre field margins around many of the arable fields to protect hedges and watercourses, a staggered hedge trimming cycle and set-aside.

The other key diversification among the remaining two farms has been an involvement in the equine industry, satisfying the increasing demand for leisure activities within the countryside. This has been evident both in the provision of stables and grazing



Sympathetic modern development at White Lodge

and in the production of hay for horses, rather than the more abundant agricultural livestock of the past. The trend away from traditional farming practices towards leisure provision looks set to continue.

Several farm buildings, along with redundant farmyards within the village, have been converted into housing (*Cross Farm, The Stackyard and Manor Farm*) along with a larger mix of residential and work units outside the village at *White Lodge* and soon at *New Lodge*.

A redundant farm building should only be declared as such if it has a history as a genuinely used farm building over an established period and its structure is substantial enough to warrant redevelopment.

A1. Industry, agriculture and land use Guideline

- Replacement of agricultural buildings declared redundant because of lack of suitability should be at the same site.
- Any change of use should be sympathetic in size and scale so as not to detract from the rural setting.