

MOSS END CHARACTER AREA STUDY

Introduction

Moss End lies on the A3095 between Bracknell and Maidenhead. It is home to the popular Shepherd's House restaurant and Moss End Garden Village, formerly a garden centre. Warfield Hall is a distinctive estate in the area, built in the 1840s. It is a rural and semi-rural area of few houses and much farmland.

History

Moss End was originally an area of Warfield which was owned by Easthampstead House, and was called Mosselands.

Rose Cottage, in Bottle Lane, was once an Elizabethan inn designated as being within Windsor Forest. It was then known as The Leathern Bottle. Inside was a 17th century baking oven. It became a private house in about 1650 and a replacement public house was then built at Jealott's Hill called The New Leathern Bottle.

Warfield House is Grade II listed. Built in the 19th century, it was rebuilt in the 1870s after a disastrous fire, by William King. The house has quite a military connection. Field Marshal Sir Charles Brownlow lived in the house after his marriage to William King's daughter, Georgina. He was greatly involved in village affairs. Sir Thomas Sopwith bought the house in 1939 and lived there until 1952. It was used in the 1970s in the film *The Eagle Has Landed* – as the American Military HQ. An icehouse in the grounds of the hall is also Grade II Listed.

Also in the 19th century, there was a "tin chapel", a type of prefabricated ecclesiastical building made from corrugated galvanised iron, which was run as part of the Filey Mission. It is now a greenhouse site at Moss End Farm.

Accessibility, Roads and Rights of Way

Moss End lies on the B3095 between Newell Green and Jealott's Hill. It is a through road running between Bracknell and Maidenhead with speed limits varying between 30mph and 60mph.

There are lanes leading off the main road to the west and east. There are also many footpaths and bridleways spreading out across the farmland and countryside. (Refs). Frost's Folly carpark, on Weller's Lane, is the starting point for a number of round routes for ramblers.

Landmarks

The most notable landmarks in Moss end are Moss end Garden Village, a complex of some shops including an antiques centre and a butcher, and the popular restaurant The Shepherd's House.

Natural Landscape and Open Spaces

Moss End is principally rural in aspect with much open countryside and farmland, much of which is green belt. There is little development, some housing being the result of the redevelopment of former farm dwellings.



Dwelling Types

Warfield Hall Grade II Listed

Warfield Hall is a large country house set in parkland. It is early 19th Century with later extensions and re-furbishments. It is painted render (white) with low pitched slate roofs of differing heights behind parapets. The hall is part 2 and part 3 storeys with several large chimneys with corniced heads and clay pots. Plinth, plat band, moulded cornice and plain parapet and sash windows. It has many internal features of interest. The road bridge and ice house in the grounds are separately listed (under Binfield Parish).

Tudor Cottage, Buckle lane Grade II Listed



This cottage and the adjoining house are now one building. It was built in the late 16th Century, altered and extended in the late 19th and 20th Centuries. It is part timber frame with painted render infill, part painted render. Old tile gabled roofs of different heights.

Rose Cottage, Bottle Lane Grade II Listed



This house was built in the 15th Century. It was altered in the 16th Century and extended mid and late 20th Century. It is timber frame with part painted brick infill and part painted render infill with old tile gabled roofs.

Facilities and Services

There are two bus stops on the route of the number 53 bus, operated by First Group. The route starts in Binfield and passes through Bracknell before traversing Moss End on the way to Maidenhead and finally Wexham Park Hospital.

There are a number of shops at Moss End Garden Village. These include a butcher, equestrian supplies, pet shop, farm shop, garden centre, antiques and assorted independent retailers.

