

Whitegrove, Lawrence Hill and Quelm Park

1. Introduction

Whitegrove, Quelm Park and Lawrence Hill are urban developments, a community of modern homes built in the early 1990s. These urban settlements currently lie to the south-east of Warfield Street on the edge of some of beautiful rural scenery, lying north of the A329 road, approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) north-east of Bracknell town centre.

To the west of Whitegrove is Lawrence Hill, to the north are fields marked for development, to the north-east lies Westmorland Park, to the east Warfield Park and to the south you will find Lily Hill Park.

Whitegrove attracts those wishing to live in the heart of Berkshire, close to pleasant countryside yet within easy reach of Bracknell town centre with its fast direct rail service from Bracknell to London Waterloo as well as excellent transport connections with the M3, M4, M25 within easy reach.

Lawrence Hill is a northern suburb of Bracknell in the English county of Berkshire. It stands within the civil parish of Warfield.

Quelm Park is the newest of Bracknell's housing estates. It is named after the ancient Quelm Lane, an ancient thoroughfare that runs north-south through the development.

"Quelm" is thought to mean gibbet and may derived from the Old English cwelm, cwealm meaning 'death, murder, slaughter', perhaps where local highwaymen were hung, once stood in the vicinity. Quelm Lane is haunted by the ghost of a man on a white horse who, children are told, will steal them away if they are out late at night. Dogs will, apparently, not walk down it.

Quelm Park was built in the latter 1990s as a planned urban extension to Bracknell; however it lies entirely within the parish of Warfield, forming the Quelm Ward of Warfield Parish Council.

2. History

Whitegrove is a new housing estate that has spilled over into the modern parish of Warfield from neighbouring Bracknell. Its original name of Warfield Green is said to have been chosen as an ironic play on a slogan popular with anti-development protestors who wanted to keep Warfield green! An old name for the area was Edmunds Green.

Historically two thirds of the Parish of Warfield land was permanent grassland, the rest being predominantly arable with some woodland. So it is not surprising that the land on which Whitegrove was built was purchased from a farmer Mr Moor.

Within the development is ancient woodland, Whitegrove Copse, which is also designated a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Local Wildlife Site (LWS) for its high wildlife value. It has been wooded since at least 1600 and possibly longer. The name may relate to the spring blossoms of hawthorn and crab apple.

Rachel's Lake is a feature of Harvest Hill in the heart of Whitegrove and historic sources claim a lady friend of Colonel John Walsh who owned Warfield Park with its grottoes, lakes of terraces, was a chronic depressive who drowned herself in this pool known as Rachel's Lake. (Her ghost is said to haunt the bridge on the north side of the park, but she also runs screaming down Jigs Lane with John hot on her heels!) - http://www.berkshirehistory.com/villages/warfield_ham.html

The Westmorland Park balancing pond was created in the early 1990s to store excess water during heavy rainfall. It is owned and maintained by Thames Water. Westmorland Park was established as part of the public open space provision within the Whitegrove housing development

and was transferred to the ownership of the council in 1999. **The Quelm Stone**

The Quelm Stone is a [standing stone](#) located near the Quelm Park Roundabout on Harvest Ride, at OS grid reference SU 8697 7087. It is made of sandstone, measures 1460mm long, 995mm wide and 260mm deep, and is estimated to weigh 1,158 kg. It is thought to have been deposited here about 14,000 years ago by a retreating glacier during the [last glacial period](#).

Lawrence Hill: Wick Hill, which is unlikely to have been named after a Roman *Vicus*, probably has its origins in an ancient Saxon dairy farm. Bracknell was once well known for its hand-made brick production, and the longest lived of the old brick firms, Thomas Lawrence of Bracknell (or TLB for short) started off at the foot of Wick Hill. The brown clay to be found in this area was ideal for making rich warm red-fired bricks, some of which were used in the construction of Westminster Cathedral!

3. Roads/Rights of Way/Accessibility

Everywhere in Whitegrove is within easy walking distance helped by green corridors for cyclists and pedestrians.

Quelm Park: The settlement lies west of the [A3095 road](#), south of the Bracknell Northern Distributor Road "Harvest Ride" and is approximately 0.75 miles (1.21 km) north of Bracknell town centre.

Lawrence Hill: The settlement lies near to the [A3095 road](#) and is approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) north-east of [Bracknell](#).

4. Landmarks

Whitegrove has at its heart a community hub complete with a Superstore, library, surgeries, small businesses, recycling point, Parish office and Community Centre.

The minute tributary of the River Thames, Bull Brook, cuts through the heart of Whitegrove, joining the Cut which feeds into .

Whitegrove houses two great local primary schools:

Warfield Church of England Primary School
Whitegrove Community Primary School.

5. Street Scene and dwelling Types

The majority of people living in Whitegrove in employment are in managerial, professional and technical occupations and the most common housing type consists of family homes of three and four bedroom properties.

The roads are primarily cul-de-sacs although there are some drive through roads like Westmorland Drive and some homes front the busy Harvest Ride. Many of the 3 and 4 bedroom properties have

their own driveways while 2 bedroom terraced houses are built around allocated parking to the front.



Family homes are predominantly detached and semi-detached houses with either integral, detached and linked double or single garages with only a very small number of homes having double or single garages at the rear of the property. These family homes have front and back gardens and pleasant frontages.

In this neighbourhood of modern homes you will find subtle variations in the roof tile colours and elevation treatments to ensure each home has a distinctive style and character.



Some homes have dark window frames and are built of a dark brick.

Some family homes have whitewashed frontages.



At Top Common you will find some homes in dark brick, with dark frames, styled like coach houses.

In other homes lighter brick and white frames are the order of the day. Some of the new homes have a time-softened appearance rarely seen with new properties.



As well as family homes there are starter homes: one and two bedroom units. The maisonettes have their own front door in keeping with the style of the neighbourhood while apartments are in two-storey dwellings.



Warfield Chase and Oxfordshire Place, were built as recently as 2004 by Millgate. Oxfordshire Place consists in Whitegrove consists of four and five bedroom detached family homes.



At Warfield Chase apartments have been built to the highest of standards using traditional construction methods and are in keeping with the style of the neighbourhood. In both Oxfordshire Place and Warfield Chase there are subtle variations in the roof tile colours and elevation treatments to ensure each home has a distinctive style and character.



Many of the new family homes have conservatories and gardens laid to lawn.



Semi-detached housing and terraced housing are particularly popular close to the community hub and the main bus stop.



Three story apartment blocks have the same exterior features and appearance as the housing stock to blend with the area.

6. Natural Landscape



Common land use includes Beauty spots and open green spaces including **Westmorland Park**, an eight-hectare site with a large variety of recreational facilities, network of paths, play areas and pavilion, a lake well stocked with fish, ducks and swans, tennis courts, playing fields and car park.



Whitegrove Copse is an area of ancient woodland which is a valuable wildlife habitat and landscape feature, as well as an attractive place for woodland walks. It has hoggin and narrow wooden board bridges which form a 'figure of 8' route around the copse.

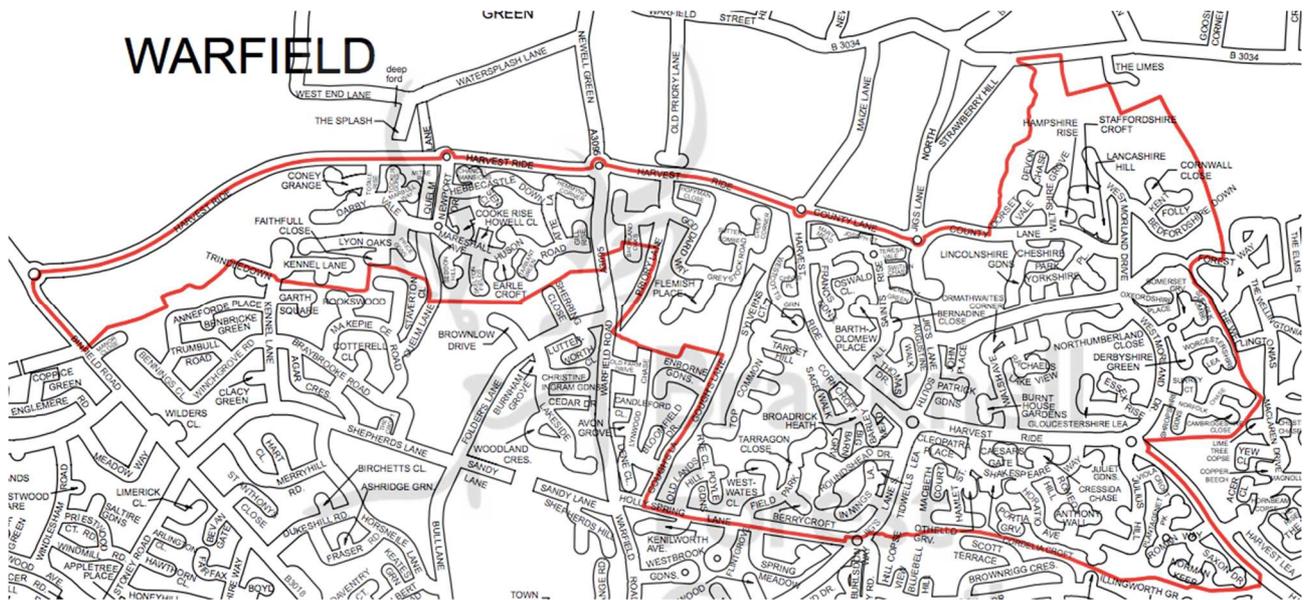


Harvest Hill is an open meadow space with Rachel's View pond and playground.

7. Facilities and Services

Whitegrove is a stimulating environment with happy, purposeful young people. Local families support sports and community clubs. Whitegrove Football Club has over 360 children, boys and Girls, ranging from under 7's to under 17's playing in a number of local leagues. There are four Brownie packs, a Beavers and Girl Guides. There are three nurseries held adjacent to Warfield Primary School, Whitegrove Community Centre and at the pavilion, Westmorland Park. Small businesses and a superstore are located at the community hub along with a recycling point, library and community centre.

The crime rate is low and Whitegrove falls within the Windsor parliamentary constituency. Electorally, Whitegrove comes under the Warfield Harvest Ride ward of Bracknell Forest Council shown below:



http://www.berkshirehistory.com/villages/warfield_ham.html

http://www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk/find_via_parish_details.asp?parish=Warfield