

## Introduction

- 26.1 Fulking is a small, compact village situated under the lee of the South Downs in the heart of the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is a relatively remote village being about 4.5 miles from Hurstpierpoint, Henfield and Upper Beeding.
- 26.2 The focal point of the village is The Street where most of the dwellings are located. Leading off from The Street are the village's two other roads, Clappers Lane and Stammers Hill. These are largely 20th century extensions to the settlement. The Street is much older in origin with many of the buildings listed, a significant number dating from the 17th century. Fulking has facilities which include a recreation ground, equipped children's play area, church, church hall, pub and a pre-school playgroup.

## Policies and Proposals

### Built-up Area Boundary

- 26.3 A built-up area boundary is defined for Fulking in order to conserve the rural setting of the village and to protect the surrounding countryside from unnecessary development.

### Conservation Area

- 26.4 In April 1984 the Council designated the area enclosing The Street as a Conservation Area in recognition of its special character and appearance.
- 26.5 The buildings vary in age and style. In The Street many predate the 20th century with a significant number of 17th century origin. Several of the buildings are listed. These include a number of timber framed dwellings and also a number with thatched roofs and brightly painted walls.
- 26.6 The following features, in particular, contribute to the character of the Conservation Area:
- the high banks, trees and hedges in and around the area which contribute positively to the rural character;
  - the attractive flint roadside walls which heighten the compact character of the village;
  - the predominant use of natural and traditional building materials such as cobbles, thatch, flint, tile hang, render, timber and slates;
  - the meandering line of The Street and the absence of any set building line; and
  - the presence of several individual features of interest such as the village pump, old style red telephone box and several wrought iron gates.

### Area of Importance for Nature Conservation

- 26.7 The Beeding Hill to Newtimber Hill SSSI lies just over 100m to the south of Fulking. This

SSSI, situated on the scarp slope of the Downs, covers an area of 272.9 ha. It is of both biological and geological importance as in addition to three nationally uncommon habitats it includes Devil's Dyke, the most remarkable of all chalk dry valleys in Britain.