

# **Bishops Caundle Past and Present**



**Prepared in 2002 by Adrian Harding**



## THE PAST – THE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE

*‘At Peace time, who but we  
should goo  
to Caundle for an hour or two  
.....in Caundle for a day at least  
you woudden vind a scowlen  
feace,  
or dumpy heart in all the pleace’*

So begins a poem by William Barnes entitled “*Bishops Caundle*”, which describes celebrations in the village that followed the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. It was part of “*A second Collection of Poems in the Dorset Dialect*” published nearly 50 years later, but in the poem Barnes clearly recalls the merrymaking on a day when he was in his early teens and visiting from his home a few miles east near Sturminster Newton.

The origin of the name “*Caundle*” is unclear. It has been suggested that it is Celtic in origin, and was originally the name of the range of low hills that lies mainly to the north of Bishops Caundle. Whatever the meaning, “*Caundle*” must have been the name for the general area, since there are now four adjoining parishes that use it, and several other Caundle place-names survive or are known from older records. The lord of the manor of Bishops Caundle was the Bishop of Salisbury, hence the name.

There is a Caundle brook, which wends its way around the villages before joining the river Lydden, which is itself a tributary of the Stour. In the past, Caundle has sometimes been corrupted to “*Candle*”, and “*Bishops Candle*” has a nice ring to it. The village has good views across the western end of the Blackmore Vale towards the chalk uplands. When looking at the uplands from Bishops Caundle, Bulbarrow and its masts are prominent, as is the wooded Dungeon Hill which projects from the chalk almost due south.

Considering this prominence across the Vale, it is no surprise that both hills were chosen as sites for hillforts in the Iron Age.

Bishops Caundle is a mix of old and new buildings. The older ones are of local stone and are often thatched. They generally cluster around the parish church, but outliers can be found here and there among the lanes. Much of the village stretches along the main road, the A3030, running from near Sherborne towards Sturminster Newton.



The section in the middle of the village has probably been in existence since the Middle Age, but other parts were constructed on a new line around the middle of the 18th century during the boom in turnpike roads. The numbering of some of the houses are those of Sherborne Castle Estate, which owns many of the houses, hence the high numbers.



The Church is not the Church of Saint Peter and Paul as is often thought, but is in fact without a dedication, since the name of the Saint or Saints to whom it was dedicated has been lost.

Much of the main body of the church dates from the 14th century, with the tower and other features dating from the 15th. Victorian 'restoration' and partial rebuilding of the nave dates from the 1860s - around this time a new pulpit, reading desk and reredos (the ornamental screen behind the altar) were added, the work of James Forsyth of London (1826-1910).



The north aisle has a large and imposing memorial dedicated to various members of the local D'Aubeny family and their relations the Herberts. The memorial was erected in 1815, coincidentally the same year as the Battle of Waterloo celebrated in William Barnes' poem. The D'Aubeny's claimed to have come over with William the Conqueror.

In the south aisle there is a memorial window to a Major Haverfield, who died in 1896. Below is a memorial tablet to his wife Evelina. After her husband's death she became a suffragette and during the First World War she went over to the Western Front to offer her services as a nurse. Her offer being rejected, she went to Serbia, where she was able to follow her chosen vocation. She stayed on after the War, eventually dying in 1920 from influenza. There are still a hospital and a statue in that country dedicated to her.

The list of Rectors just inside the door makes interesting reading. It includes Thomas Perham whose 50 years tenure, between 1512 and 1562, was all the more remarkable since he survived in office despite all the religious changes during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth I.

Another was Henry Watkins (1632-80) who was ejected in 1646 during the Civil War as a 'bad preacher' and had to wait until 1661, the year after Charles II's Restoration, before being himself restored to his post. There is a wooden panel inside the tower that bears the arms of Charles II and the date 1661, and it is tempting to think that a grateful Watkins put it there.



The eastern end of the village (the older part) enjoys the protection of having been designated a conservation area. The adoption of the County Plan in November 1998 also drew a boundary around the centre of the village which restricts the size and type of any future development within those areas.

The Church is the only Grade I listed building in Bishops Caundle, but there are numerous Grade II listed buildings which give the village it's distinctive character and appearance. These are listed below.

Cornford Bridge	C 15 with C 18 improvements
Wake Court Farmhouse	C 16 North Wing and C 18 East Wing
No 505	Late C 18 thatched cottage
'Thatchers' , Bere Lane	C 18 / C 19 thatched cottage
No 515, Bere Lane	C 18 / C 19 thatched cottage
The Bridge at the Borough, between Bishops Caundle and Holwell	
'The Priors' , Brown Street	C 17 thatched cottage
Lime Tree Farmhouse	C 18 farmhouse
No 542 'Church View'	C 18 with earlier core
'Saddlers Cottage'	C 18 with earlier core
'Spring Cottage'	C 18 with earlier core
'Byways'	C 18 farmhouse
No 544, '2, The Old Forge'	Late C 18 thatched cottage
No 545, '1, Old Forge House'	Late C 18 thatched cottage
Manor Farmhouse	Late C 18 farmhouse with earlier core
Manor Farmhouse Barn	Early C 19 barn
Manor Farmhouse Granary	C 19 granary of brick with irregular bond
'The Orchard'	C 16 with C 17 rear wing
'Bishops Caundle House'	C 1800 former Rectory
No 543	C 18 tiled cottage
'White Hart Inn'	C 17 with earlier core
No 547	C 18 / C 19 thatched cottage
No 548	C 18 / C 19 thatched cottage
'Holt Lane Cottage'	C 18 / C 19 thatched cottage
'Holt '	C 18 / C 19 thatched cottage
'Ryalls Farmhouse'	Early C 18 farmhouse



## THE VILLAGE AT PRESENT



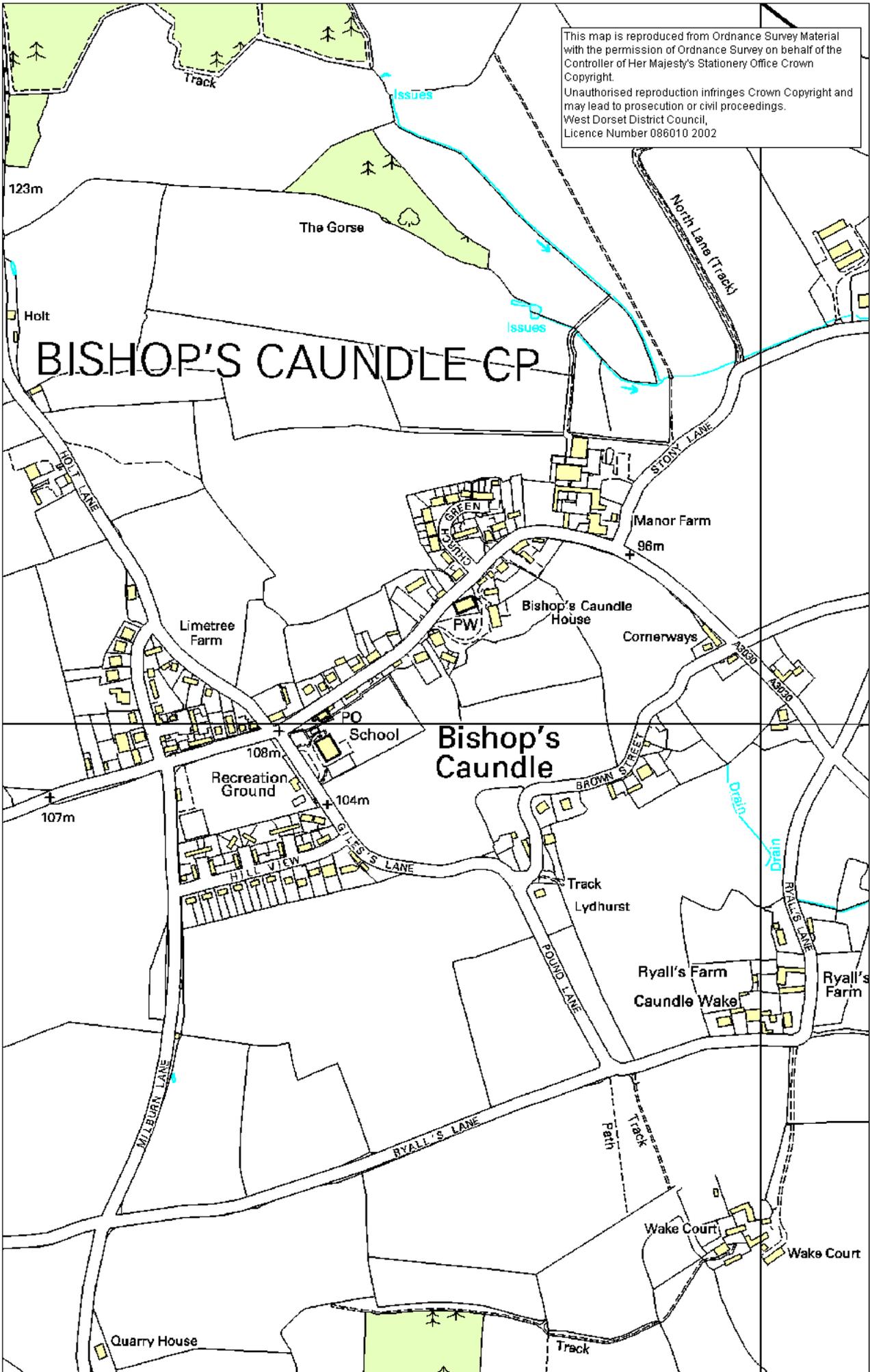
The village of Bishops Caundle lies along the A3030 midway between the market towns of Sherborne and Sturminster Newton. Sherborne lies 5 miles to the west whilst Sturminster Newton is six miles to the east. The village is in the heart of the Blackmore Vale. It is administered by the West Dorset District Council and overall by Dorset County Council.

The village has within its curtilage 166 dwellings containing 330 residents. The dwellings are on top of an escarpment which runs east to west and this affords many residents with fine southerly views. The eastern end of the village (the older part) enjoys the protection of having been designated a Conservation area. The adoption of the County Plan in November 1998 also drew a development boundary around the centre of the village which restricts the size and type of any future development within those areas.

The A3030 runs directly through the centre of the village allowing easy vehicular access. The village can be separated into two main parts, east and west. The eastern half consists of older building, mainly of stone, some with thatched roofs (the exception being a recent development known as Church Green which is a cul-de-sac to the north side of the A3030), the western half consists mainly of two post world war two developments known as Hill View (south side of A3030) and Curtis Close and Curtis Court (north side of A3030). There are other newer dwellings, small in number, spread throughout the village. There are other dwellings along Brown Street, Ryalls Lane, Giles Lane and Milburn Lane all to the south of the A3030.

There are a number of footpaths around the village, giving the opportunity to explore and see the village from different perspectives.

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## THE WHITE HART INN



The inn is a 300- or 400-year-old pub originally belonging to Hall & Woodhouse, but now an independent Free House. Much of the wood inside is original. The White Hart is a common pub name in the area and the Blackmore Vale has been known as the Vale of the White Hart - there may be connections with the local legend of the stag spared by Henry II but later killed near Cornford Bridge by a local official, for which the locals were taxed in punishment.

There is also a nice local story about one Isaac Monkhouse. In the 19th century he was Rector in nearby Holwell and also a Justice of the Peace. He held his court here in the White Hart, and if nothing of interest was happening he sent a servant out into the bar to provoke a fight, thus ensuring that at least the next session would have more business.



The inn has a garden, complete with an adventure course for the children. There is also a skittle alley, which is available for hire for private parties.



## CAUNDLE SERVICE STATION

The village is fortunate to have a service station, offering fuel, a shop and a full range of servicing facilities.

## BISHOPS CAUNDLE POST OFFICE AND SHOP

We are lucky to have the benefit of a post office and general store which offers a full range of postal services, and a varied selection of groceries, including baked goods freshly baked daily. There is a daily paper delivery service available

