

= West Worldham =

West Worldham is a small village in the East Hampshire district of Hampshire , England . It is 2 @. @ 1 miles (3 @. @ 4 km) southeast of Alton . Hartley Mauditt and East Worldham are nearby , which along with West Worldham form the Parish of Worldham . West Worldham contains some eighteen houses with a population of about 50 ; about half the population of 1851 , when it was 98 . Of note is the Manor Farm and cottage and the late 12th century St Nicholas Church , both Grade II listed buildings .

= = History = =

Archeological findings in the fields between West and East Worldham reveal that the area has been visited and inhabited since at least the Palaeolithic era . An Iron Age hillfort , dated to around 100 BC , lay on the summit of King John 's Hill , to the east of East Worldham . The Romans built a road from Chichester to Silchester that passed below the hill over what is now Green Street and Pookles Lane .

The village is believed to have been part of " Werildeham " , mentioned in the Domesday Book . At this time , Worldham manor was held by Marshal Geoffrey de Venuz . However , the first mention of West Worldham as a village is in a document dated October 1277 . In the late 12th century , Richard de Annecy granted the newly built church of St Nicholas of Worldeham to Hamble Priory .

During its history , Worldham has been spelled in many different ways , including Verilham , Worldham and Werldham in the 14th century and Wardelham in the 16th century . An early occupant was Thomas Paynil , who " died possessed of West Worlddham lands and tenements " . During the reign of Edward II , " John Paynel was seized in his demesne as of fee of certain tenements and lands afterwards called the manor of West Worldham and Matilda " . Godwin held Worldham during this period , and the land was assessed at 1 hide and 1 yardland . In 1428 , the village had " not ten domicilia tenantes " . During the medieval period , the area was a noted hunting ground , and the descendents of Geoffrey de Venuz established a private deer park and hunting lodge near here .

The naturalist and ornithologist Gilbert White immortalised the localities of the region , including West Worldham , in his *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* (1789) . In 1846 , Henry Moody , curator of the Winchester Museum , wrote about West Worldham , " a perpetual curacy in the gift of Winchester College , worth according to the Parliamentary returns £ 38 ; but has since received two additional endowments of £ 200 from Queen Anne 's Bounty , and £ 200 from the warden and fellows of Winchester College , who are the appropriators of the tythes , and patrons of the living . " In the next decade , John Dutton , 2nd Baron Sherborne was lord of the manor and his son , James Dutton , 3rd Baron Sherborne , was noted to be its owner in the 1870s . In the late 1800s , William Wickham , MP , was the Guardian of West Worldham . By the early 20th century , the parish of Worldham remained under ownership of Winchester College and the Dutton Estate .

In May 1944 , a Junkers Ju 188 was shot down by a Mosquito nearby and its debris was scattered across the village , including the church wall . Later , the inhabitants had to be evacuated when a bomb fell into the field opposite Manor Farm , and had to be defused and removed by the Royal Engineers . In 1962 , the Dutton Estate holdings were sold to seven tenant farmers who retained the land they farmed but sold the remaining woodlands and properties .

= = Geography = =

West Worldham is located in the eastern central part of Hampshire , in the southeast of England , 2 @. @ 1 miles (3 @. @ 4 km) southeast of Alton and 5 @. @ 1 miles (8 @. @ 2 km) by road northwest of Bordon . In 1862 , West Worldham reportedly had an area of 447 acres . The landscape is dominated by farmland and several woods such as Hamble Pits Copse , Wild Duck Copse , Little Wood Copse , Warner 's Wood and Pheasant Wood are in the vicinity . There are also rich and dry meadows , as well as greensand . Beyond some slopes is the junction of Oakhanger

Stream with River Wey , while the extreme western end of the Weald is situated nearby . Chloritic Marl , characterised as a narrow band at the base of the Chalk Marl , is seen in the lane leading from Alton to West Worldham , and also north @-@ west of Selbourne . Blanket Street connects the village to Hartley Mauditt just to the southwest and East Worldham , a mile to the northeast . At East Worldham this road meets the B3004 road (Caker 's Lane) near The Three Horseshoes . The other road leads to the southwest beyond Little Wood Copse and joins the B3006 road (Selbourne Road) . The nearest railway station is Alton , 2 @.@ 1 miles (3 @.@ 4 km) northwest of the village .

= = Economy = =

In 2001 West Worldham had a population of about 50 people , out of 336 people who lived in the Parish of Worldham . Most houses in the area date to the pre @-@ 20th century ; however in recent times numerous farm buildings have been converted to housing and for industrial purposes . According to the parish website , there are now " two significant industrial developments within the parish " . The local economy is based around agriculture , particularly cattle farming . Beef cattle , sheep , grain crops , and hops are the main sources of income , Farmers from West Worldham traded in Southampton and Alton throughout its history . Most inhabitants are either retired or commute to nearby towns to work . Worldham Golf Course is located just to the north of West Worldham . The Jalsa Salana , an annual convention held at Oaklands Farm in East Worldham , attracts numerous people from surrounding areas .

= = Notable landmarks = =

Manor Farm House is a Grade II listed building and the farm and its cottages are the main feature in West Worldham . It was owned for some time by the Broce family . Manor Farm is one of the UK 's twenty @-@ three Feather Down Farms . Pullens Farmhouse is also a Grade II listed building , and although its inscription dates to 1652 , it shows medieval characteristics .

Adjacent to the Manor Farm is St Nicholas Church , small church dated to the late 12th century , which forms one of eleven churches in the Northanger benefice . It fell into ruin and lost its roof before it was restored in the late Victorian period in 1888 . It is a single @-@ cell building , with 2 small lancets on the north side , and contains windows dated to the 15th and 16th century . The two doorways date to the 13th century , and the timber @-@ framed porch on the south side to the 15th century . The interior is described as " plain , with a piscina in the east wall and 2 in the nave , an octagonal font , and 3 wall monuments of the late 18th century . " The church became a listed building on 31 July 1963 .