

FACTS ABOUT THE HAMLET OF BUGFORD, EAST DOWN

Bugford nestles in the hollow that straddles one of the tributaries of the River Yeo, along the lane that connects Stonecombe to East Down and Clifton. The river is merely a stream at this point, however an old and pretty bridge spans the water, allowing minor traffic to use this narrow but typically Devon lane to link the parish.

Bugford is typical of many old Devon hamlets, starting life as one or more farm worker's cottages, with out-buildings. Over the years the houses have been developed and extended, and the barns and out-buildings converted to dwellings. Some buildings have also fallen by the wayside.

Originally Bugford comprised of only five dwellings; Bugford Cottage, Grattons Cottage, East Down Mill, Sillery Cottage and Woodbine Cottage.

East Down Mill used to grind the corn for local farmers, using the River Yeo for power. After the Mill closed down in the 1940's, it appears to have been abandoned and steadily fell into disrepair with its walling stone being sold for other building projects. The remains can still be seen from just along the public footpath that runs in front of Millwood Barn, leading to Ford Farm. It and its attached leat with some land was owned by Grattons Cottage and was sold to the owner of Bugford Cottage in the early 2000's.

The property that is now known as Millwood Barn used to be a barn for cattle and pigs belonging to the then occupiers of Bugford Cottage.

Mr. Bawden and Mr. Mugridge, the occupiers of Bugford Cottage and Grattons Cottage, were farm hands employed by Ford Farm, which lies about 1 mile west along the River Yeo, and they used to travel by pony to work daily, as well as tend to their own domestic stock.

Mrs. Hockridge, who used to be the village school cleaner, lived at Woodbine Cottage.