



# live

## Great Budworth Village Housing



### Project Profile

Great Budworth is a spectacular village in Mid Cheshire on the edge of the Arley Estate. In the latter years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century it has become the backdrop to many film and television productions requiring a compact portrayal of idyllic English Village life. In the early Eighties we were asked to assist a developer who had inherited an outline planning approval to develop a three acre site on Westage Lane, the eastern approach to the village.

The greenfield site brought open country up to the roadside opposite which is now a row of post-war concrete tile-clad council houses. Our challenge was to settle new development into the landscape and the extremely rich vernacular architecture of the village. The notable Victorian architect John Douglas had been retained by the Estate to re-order many of the properties in the village in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In addition to adding a number of new buildings in his own inimitable style he replaced many thatched roof cottages with steeper pitches clad in tiles and added many tall, ornate chimneys and dormer windows.

Our scheme had to meet the demands of contemporary motor-driven lifestyles and the strictures of the Highway Authority whilst at the same time achieving variety and intimacy of scale to complement the existing character of the settlement.