

Newsletter Number 9 for May 2016



Introduction

My son telephoned us last year. I knew it wasn't Christmas or his mother's birthday so Mother's Day must be near. Everyone says its sons not daughters. They call when they need advice. I asked him where he was and he replied that he did not have a clue. The alarm went off at 5 a.m. and he put the postcode in the Sat Nav and arrived about 9 a.m. He was commissioning another massive pump. After he looked out of the window for me we worked out that he was in or near Pembroke Dock. All that journey across the dawn landscape of South Wales from the Forest of Dean had passed by in the form of a Sat Nav image. I was quite cross.

Later I was driving across France. It was that usual nervous journey to get to the ferry at Ouistreham (Caen) on time. The Sat Nav indicated we were on time and the credit card was ready for the next péage. My wife asked where we were and my only thought was 3 hours and 20 minutes from the ferry. I was as foolish as my son.

From now on the passenger has a road atlas map on their knee and we know where we are and can enjoy identifying the countryside and the towns as we pass by. In fact the change is stronger in that our map entices us to leave the congested motorways of the UK and use the A and B roads for the journey. It will be a little slower.

In this newsletter we will be focusing on the value of maps. Maps not only enhance your journey but can provide masses of information on change within your town. For this newsletter we have collected a series of maps to show change in Winchcombe. It will take time for you to work your way through the changes so be patient. Later in the newsletter we provide information on the sources of these maps.

Depending upon your computer you may be able to zoom in on this map for a closer view.

[The Winchcombe Town Trust, Registered Charity No. 234734]

Winchcombe 1883

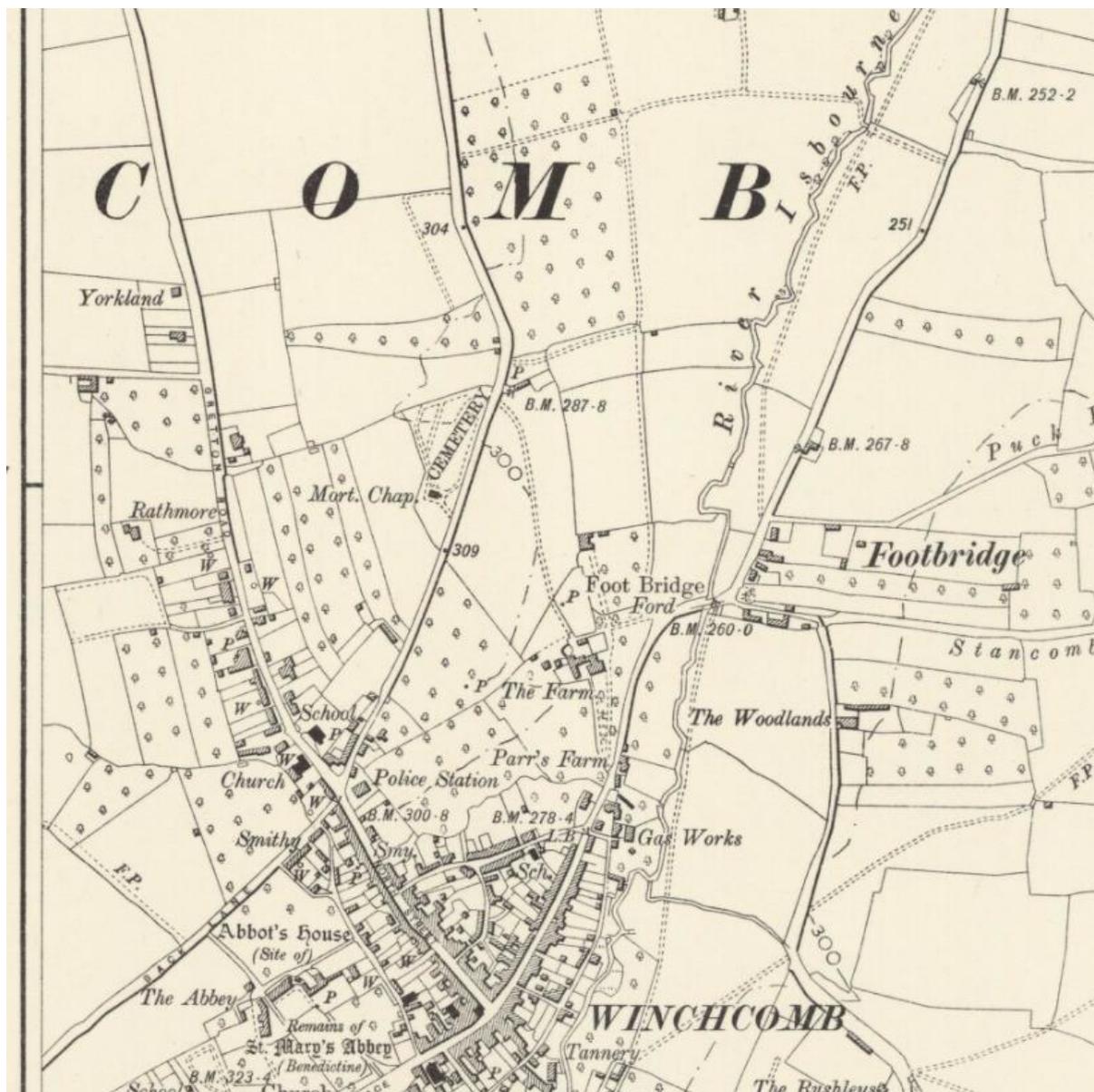


Sheet XX.NE showing the SW corner enlarged dated 1883

Features of the 1883 map include:

- Note the cemetery on Greet Road provided for Dissenters in 1857 and cost £700
- The Town Hall in the centre of the town was rebuilt in 1871 in Elizabethan style by architect William Henry Knight
- The Gas Works
- The Corn Mill on the Isbourne east of Silk Mill Lane
- The Tannery at the rear of the George Hotel.

Winchcombe 1903



Sheet XX.NE showing SW corner enlarged and dated 1903

Barbara Edward commented on the 1903 map: I see Rathmore (off Gretton Rd) shows up well. It was demolished to build the Rathmore estate houses in the '70s. The fine trees which were planted in its grounds still stand, now bigger than ever. There's a good photo of the house in the A3 Folder. It's typical of the dressed-stone houses put up by Yiend the local builder. There's several on Gretton Rd and Cleeve Hill.

Rathmore belonged to well-known Vicar Rev. Robert Noble Jackson. I guess it was built for him. I noted in the census his wife was born in Ireland, so I've guessed they named their new house after the Irish Rathmore. In the 1940s Rathmore was bought by a rich Coventry industrialist W H Bassett-Green, who renamed it Bassett House. The 2 names have been used in the estate roads Rathmore Close & Bassett Close.

Bassett-Green was a philanthropist, giving money to local organisations (including the Girl Guides) and national causes. I put his obituary in the A3 folder and it makes very interesting reading. I hope you get lots of extra information about places on the map. I've got lots more myself.

Changes 1883-1903 include:

- Rathmore and Yorkland houses built along the Gretton Road
- Cemetery now has a chapel
- The Ford at Footbridge and Police Station appear
- Smithy appears in Back Lane and North Street
- Note how the basic road pattern has persisted.

Winchcombe 1921



Winchcombe 1921 Sheet 20.07 SW corner

The pen marks over the Gas Works were inserted in 1944 by the Ordnance Survey indicating that it should be omitted for strategic reasons.

The area shown on this 1921 map is larger than those shown on the earlier maps. This is a product of central Winchcombe appearing at the very south west corner of the earlier maps.

Parr's Farm, on Hailes Street is marked. See later comments by Sally Dodwell (nee Burton).

The River Isbourne shows several signs of diversion and weirs to provide water to the tannery and mills.

The largest area of housing development is in a ribbon along the Gretton Road.

A miniature rifle range is shown to the north of Castle Street.

Call for maps

Winchcombe Museum has a very small collection of maps. In fact we have about four maps. If you have any old Ordnance Survey maps of the area, or tourists maps of the Cotswolds or worn out Road Atlases you would like to give away why not drop them at the museum. Others will find them useful when they research the area. Thank you.

Further information received on items in Newsletter 8.

The shield

I gather that the shield on the old hospital in North Street shows the Winchcombe Coat of Arms. Another copy of the shield is to be seen on the front of the museum just above the stocks.

The fountain

The fountain described as standing outside what is now Lloyds Bank I am told was called the Waddingham Memorial Fountain. It was erected in 1910 and demolished in the 1950s. I have yet to confirm this information.

Bostock House

John Silcock writes: Thanks for Newsletter No 8, which I enjoyed reading. One tiny additional piece of information about the Cottage Hospital/Bostock House, North Street: in the late 1940s, 1950s and at least early 1960s, it housed a shop selling wools and other knitting materials. It was run by a Mrs Light and I think she and her husband lived there.

New correspondent

Sally Dodwell writes:

Dad worked in Lloyds Bank on the Cross before Bank moved. I used to go and count something for him on the occasional Sat morning. It was right on the corner where Sue Ryder is now. He worked in Lloyds Bank at The Cross. He was sub manager in the present building under Mr Davis.

I remember the Doctors' Surgery where the Bank is today. Dr Short and Dr Spiridion...he had a daughter at Cheltenham Ladies' College named Sarah

Has anyone mentioned the hilarious Winchcombe Pantomime, all local characters, the highlights being Dr Short and Dr Spiridion!! It was brilliant.

We lived at Parr's Farm from mid1950s till 1961 where Dad, Ralph Burton, reared pigs. (See comment on Parrs Farm in the notes on the maps – ed.).

George Bostock helped in our garden for many years.

I was quite friendly with The Finch family at The Pottery and have recently met Anthony Finch there. He was on holiday from Africa where he lives.

My parents were friendly with The Adlards, The Graveney's at The George Hotel and Drs. Short & Spiridion. How lovely to read about old Winchcombe...it's in my bones!

Rose Bond writes:

I was born in Winchcombe, 65 Gloucester Street, and I have been doing our family tree - my dad Pash and my grandmother Major her family have lived in Winchcombe since 1630 that I know of, found that church records were in Latin before that, once I started doing this 'got hooked', again thank you.

Availability of former Ordnance Survey Maps

The 1883 and 1903 maps are held by the National Library of Scotland. They have kindly given permission under licence (Number 2016 101 maps) for this newsletter to use these maps. The Winchcombe Folk and Police museum is very grateful for this permission.

If you would like to look at the full sheets of these maps type in 'nls maps' in your search engine. (e.g. Google). This will take you to the index. Then select Winchcombe in the box that appears top left. If you want to purchase a map the prices are:

Maps (Size)	Print price	Postage
A4	£5.52	£3.00
A3	£8.64	£7.20
A2	£11.40	£7.20
A1	£18.00	£7.20

The Winchcombe 1921 map is from the 'Godfrey Edition'. More than 1900 maps have been published in the series, including titles from Cheltenham (2 maps), Chipping Norton, Fairford, Gloucester (4 maps), Malvern (4 maps), Moreton-in-Marsh, Oxford (2 maps), Stroud, Tetbury, Tewkesbury, Worcester (4 maps). The sheets cost £3.00. To view the range of maps go to www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk and select South West England. If you want a hard copy catalogue send a stamped addressed envelope to Alan Godfrey Maps, Prospect Business Park, Leadgate, Consett, DH8 7PW. Winchcombe Police and Folk Museum is grateful to Alan Godfrey Maps for permission to reproduce part of one of their maps for the purposes of this newsletter.

Springtime in May with bluebells around Winchcombe

