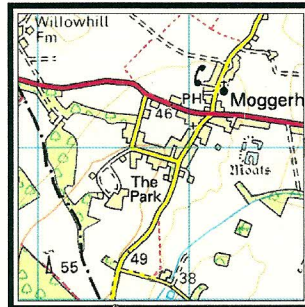


my house history

THE HISTORICAL RESEARCHER'S
MAP PORTFOLIO

for



24

PARK

ROAD

The *my house history* team are pleased
to present you with their research
into the mapped history of

24 PARK ROAD, MOGGERHANGER, BEDFORD, MK44 3RN

Ordnance Survey © National Grid Reference TQ144486

The historical maps included are extracts from two scales of Ordnance Survey country-wide surveys, dating from circa 1850 to the 1970s presented in separate sections. The number of maps in each section is determined by the number of times the OS surveyed your area. To provide context, a contemporary OS *Landranger*® map and aerial photograph is also included, all centred on your home.

© www.myhousehistory.co.uk

my house history is a trading division of Map Marketing Limited
Unit 4a, Hatherleigh Industrial Estate, Holsworthy Road, Hatherleigh, Devon, EX20 3LP.

Telephone: 0843 2160 466 Fax: 0843 2160 448 Email: service@myhousehistory.co.uk

Table of Contents

SECTION 1 - Your House In Its Landscape

- 1.1 A Profile of Landscape Character
- 1.2 Current Ordnance Survey® Landranger® Map at 1:50,000 scale
- 1.3 Legend for Landranger Mapping

SECTION 2 - Your House In Its Locality

- 2.1 Historical Ordnance Survey Maps at 1:10,560 scale
- 2.2 Legend for Ordnance Survey Historical Mapping

SECTION 3 - Your House In Its Neighbourhood

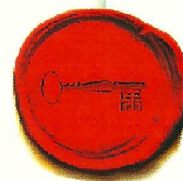
- 3.1 Historical Ordnance Survey Maps at 1:2,500 scale
- 3.2 Legend for Ordnance Survey Historical Mapping
- 3.3 Aerial Photograph Centred On Your Home

SECTION 4 - Further Research

- 4.1 Ways to Expand Your House History Investigations

SECTION 5 - Fact Sheets

- 5.1 Insight On Aerial Photography
- 5.2 A History of Ordnance Survey Mapping (1841-1945)
- 5.3 Land Registry Records
- 5.4 Census Returns
- 5.5 Tithe Apportionment Maps & Schedules
- 5.6 Valuation Office Maps & Field Books



Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands *- A Profile of Landscape Character*

These claylands comprise most of central and northern Bedfordshire and western Cambridgeshire. There is a distinct boundary to the east, where they run down to the level fenlands, and to the south where they meet the chalklands which run between Dunstable and Cambridge. To the south west there is a more gradual transition towards the Upper Thames Clay Vales and Midvale Ridge. To the north lies the Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge, while the valley of the river Nene marks the junction with the adjacent Northamptonshire and Leicestershire Vales. Within, but distinct from, the Claylands character area the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge to the south provides a contrasting narrow island of acidic soils with associated woodland and parkland. Predominantly an open and intensive arable landscape, with large fields often bounded by open ditches with few hedgerow trees, as seen here at Offord Hill, Cambridgeshire. The area comprises a broad sweep of lowland plateau, dissected by a number of shallow valleys, including the rivers Great Ouse and Ivel. It is typically an empty gently undulating lowland landscape with expansive views of largescale arable farmland, contained either by sparse trimmed hedgerows, open ditches or streamside vegetation. Further east, field size typically increases. There are scattered ancient woodlands which tend to be clustered most noticeably in a band to the north of the area; elsewhere the woods are more isolated, yet form important visual and wildlife features. There are a number of distinctive sub-areas of varying scale. Firstly, between Bedford and the M1 is the Marston Vale, a broad valley dominated by the effect of clay extraction and the brick industry. Here, chimney stacks punctuate the skyline and the strong smell of burnt clay frequently permeates the atmosphere. Enormous pits exist throughout the Vale, a few of which are currently being worked. Other pits are either derelict, have been restored to water uses, or are utilized as major landfill sites. The latter create prominent domed landforms in the level Vale. The extent of these industrial areas is often concealed from the public roads but is more visible from the elevated railways and Greensand Ridge. Belts of mature poplars often emphasise the presence of these intrusive features. Secondly, a similar landscape exists south of Peterborough. Thirdly, the valleys of the rivers Great Ouse and Ivel pass through the centre of the plateau lands. West of Bedford the Great Ouse meanders down from Buckinghamshire, firstly around the northern edge of Milton Keynes and then through a picturesque and enclosed landscape of water meadows and attractive limestone villages towards Bedford. North of the confluence with the Ivel at Tempsford, the valley broadens to create long distance views and big skies. Here, the fertile alluvial soil and river gravels combine to create a mosaic of market gardening, mixed with past and present mineral extraction of sand and gravels particularly north of Sandy. River pollards and meadows line the flood plain and river, most notably between St Neots, Huntingdon and St Ives, before meeting the fens at Earith. Grafham Water, one of the largest man-made reservoirs in England, is an important base for water-based recreation and nature conservation. The lake is imposed on the local landscape, dominating the immediate locality but separated from the surrounding arable landscape by gentle hills and woods. A final sub-area is the corridor of the river Tove and Grand Union Canal to the west. Here mills, locks, weirs and riverine pollards create a distinctive environment. The canal then runs

southwards through Milton Keynes alongside the river Ouzel passing through a series of linear parks and amenity lakes.

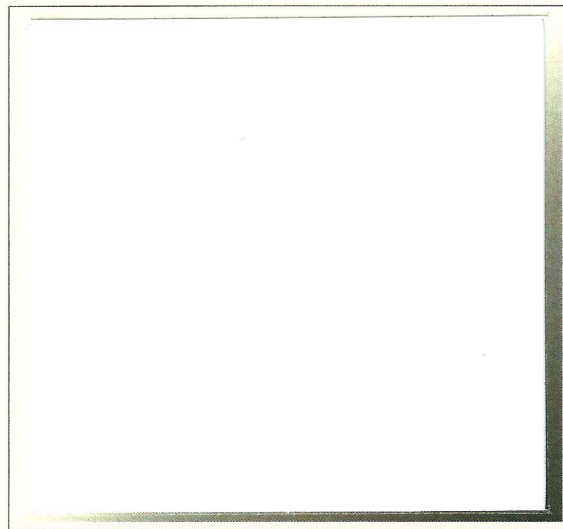
The majority of the arable claylands are uniformly but sparsely populated. Small villages nestle in gentle valleys while isolated hamlets and farmsteads are widely dispersed, particularly north of Bedford. Linear settlements, like Riseley, are common in the area. Notable houses and grounds include Kimbolton Park and Croxton Park. The grandest example however is at Wrest Park, Silsoe, the estate of the de Grey family. The French Baroque/Rococo style house, built c.1835, is unique in England. The formal gardens (English Heritage) comprise canals, pavilions and radiating vistas within woodland. High density housing development on the edge of urban areas, such as Cambridge, results in further development pressures on landscape features and the cumulative landscape impact can be very dramatic. Traditional building materials in the villages comprise a mix of brick, thatch, render and stone but there is no over-riding cohesion to the area; rather more localised pockets of style or materials. Most notable are the warm limestone villages of the upper Great Ouse at Olney, Harrold, Odell, Turvey and Felmersham, many of which contain elegant Northamptonshire-style church spires and distinctive multi-arched stone bridges, for example at Harrold, Turvey and Bromham. The towns along the lower Great Ouse contain a notable range of buildings including the High Street at Godmanchester which has many fine Georgian town houses. Along the river, causeways and medieval bridges - including the rare bridge chapel at St Ives - are distinctive features. Historic coaching towns along the Great North Road, for example at Stilton and Buckden, are now bypassed and provide the atmosphere of a bygone age. Kimbolton with its red tiled town houses is a small yet distinguished model settlement. The associated 'Castle' was the final home of Catherine of Aragon. It was later extended by Vanburgh and Adam. The Georgian Swan Hotel, on the Ouse at Bedford, is referred to by Pevsner as the most noble English hotel. Settlement in the 20th century has continued from its historic pattern along the rivers and A1 corridor. There has been extensive yet undistinguished expansion of existing towns, eg Bedford, St Neots, Biggleswade and Huntingdon. These often present raw industrial and residential built edges to the open countryside, thereby degrading the river valley settings. Power lines and the gas fired power station at Little Barford provide further modern intrusions in this corridor. To the west of the area adjacent to the M1, Milton Keynes has developed since the 1960s. The city, with its grid-iron road pattern, extensive open spaces, tree planting and sleek modern buildings, is both a showcase new town and major regional shopping centre.

The Ordnance Survey Landranger® Series

SCALE 1:50,000
1 ¼ INCHES TO 1 MILE

2009 Edition

This contemporary map is included to illustrate the points made in the section on landscape character and, as it has been centred on your house for your convenience, it provides a context for the rest of the maps in the Portfolio.



Historical Perspective

At this scale the resolutely straight lines of roman roads can be seen clearly against the meandering network of more homegrown routes. The topographical information helps to illustrate the reasons for settlements springing up where they did - in valleys close to water sources, at the intersection of important routes or in sheltered bays along the coastline being but a few. The language of place names and the type of archaeological & historical features, clearly marked on this map, can all give clues to the age of settlements in your area.

Landranger Series

Current Edition

Scale 1:50,000 1 1/4 inch to 1 mile



© Ordnance Survey 2009

Legend for Landranger Series

ROAD AND PATHS

Not necessarily rights of way

Service area
Junction number

M1 Elevated
Motorway (dual carriageway)

Motorway under construction

Unfenced Dual carriageway
A 470
Primary Route

Sans clôture Footbridge
A 493
Primary route under construction

Main road

Main road under construction

Nicht eingezäunt
B 4518
Secondary road

A 855 B 885
Narrow road with passing places

Bridge
Road generally more than 4m wide

Road generally less than 4m wide

Other road, drive or track

Path
Gradient: steeper than 20% (1 in 5)
14% to 20% (1 in 7 to 1 in 5)

Gates Road tunnel

Ferry P Ferry V
Ferry (passenger) Ferry (vehicle)

ABBREVIATIONS

CH Clubhouse	CG Coastguard
MS Milestone	P Post office
PC Public convenience (in rural area)	MP Milepost
TH Town Hall, Guildhall or equivalent	PH Public house

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

† Site of monument	✠ Battlefield (with date)	VILLA Roman
• Stone monument	✠ Visible earthwork	Castle Non-Roman

Information provided by English Heritage for England and the Royal Commissions on the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Scotland and Wales

HEIGHTS

Contours are at 10 metres vertical interval

144 Heights are to the nearest metre above mean sea level

Heights shown close to a triangulation pillar refer to the ground at the base of the pillar and not necessarily to the summit

ROCK FEATURES



LAND FEATURES

Electricity transmission line (pylons shown at standard spacing)

Pipe line (arrow indicates direction of flow)

Buildings

Public building (selected)

Bus or coach station

Place of Worship

- with tower
- with spire, minaret or dome
- without such additions

Chimney or tower

Glasshouse

Helipoint

Triangulation pillar

Radio or TV mast

Windpump/wind generator

Windmill with or without sails

Graticule intersection at 5' intervals

Quarry

Spoil heap, refuse tip or dump

Coniferous wood

Non-coniferous wood

Mixed wood

Orchard

Park or ornamental ground

Forestry Commission access land

National Trust-always open

National Trust-limited access, observe local signs

National Trust for Scotland

BOUNDARIES

National

District

National Park or Forest Park

County, Unitary Authority, Metropolitan District or London Borough

WATER FEATURES

Contour values in lakes are in metres

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Footpath

Road used as a public path

Bridleway

Byway open to all traffic

Public rights of way shown on this map have been taken from local authority definitive maps and later amendments. The map includes changes notified to Ordnance Survey by 1st June 2000. The symbols show the defined route so far as the scale of mapping will allow. Rights of way are not shown on maps of Scotland.

Rights of way are liable to change and may not be clearly defined on the ground. Please check with the relevant local authority for the latest information. The representation on this map of any other road, track or path is no evidence of the existence of a right of way.

OTHER PUBLIC ACCESS

Other route with public access

National Trail, Long Distance Route, selected Recreational Paths

National/Regional Cycle Network

Surfaced cycle route

National Cycle Network number

Regional Cycle Network number

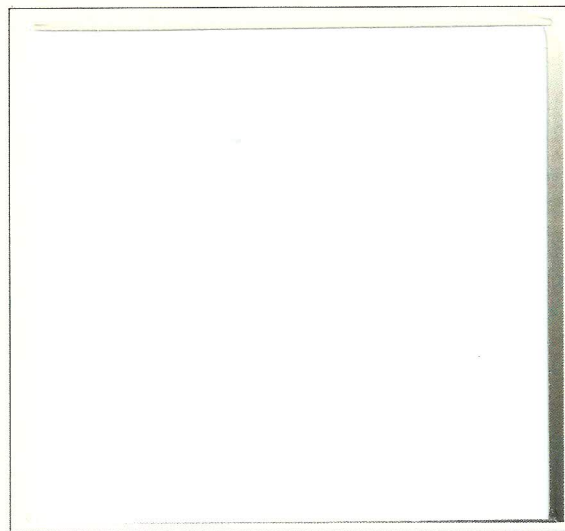
Danger Area Firing and Test Ranges in the area. **Danger!** Observe warning notices.

The Ordnance Survey County/National Grid Series

SCALE 1:10,560
6 INCHES TO 1 MILE

*First published in 1846
with later revisions in various areas until the 1970's*

We have included all of the available map editions
in this date range that cover your property



Historical Perspective

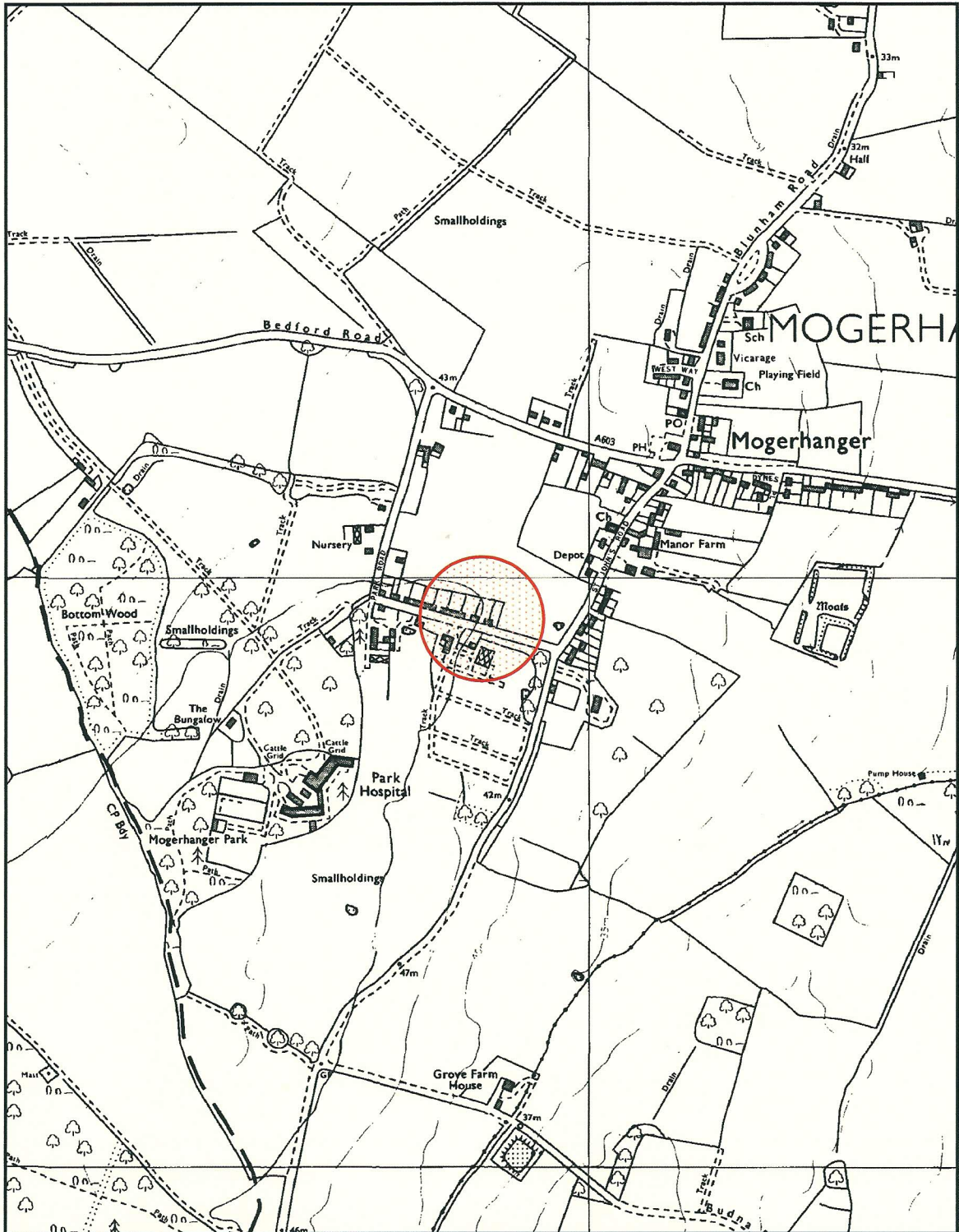
The map extracts in this section show the land use in your area from the late 1800s. In rural areas and in areas now overtaken by suburbs you can see if your property had a small orchard or was near a water meadow system, mill pond or a copse that may well have disappeared by the last revision of the series. Field boundaries will give you clues as to land ownership and changes in agricultural usage.

In more built-up areas you may see, or maybe be part of, the evidence of the Victorian property boom, terraces of middle class and artisan housing, with the more expensive houses having larger gardens, often near the now formalised public parks. You might see local schools, shops, allotments and pubs that would have been used by previous residents of your house and that have since been removed and built over. In areas affected by bombing during World War Two, you can see a fascinating glimpse of what existed on your, and your neighbour's land before the blitz, and what remained standing afterwards.

National Grid Series

Published: 1978

Scale 1:10,560 6 inches to 1 mile

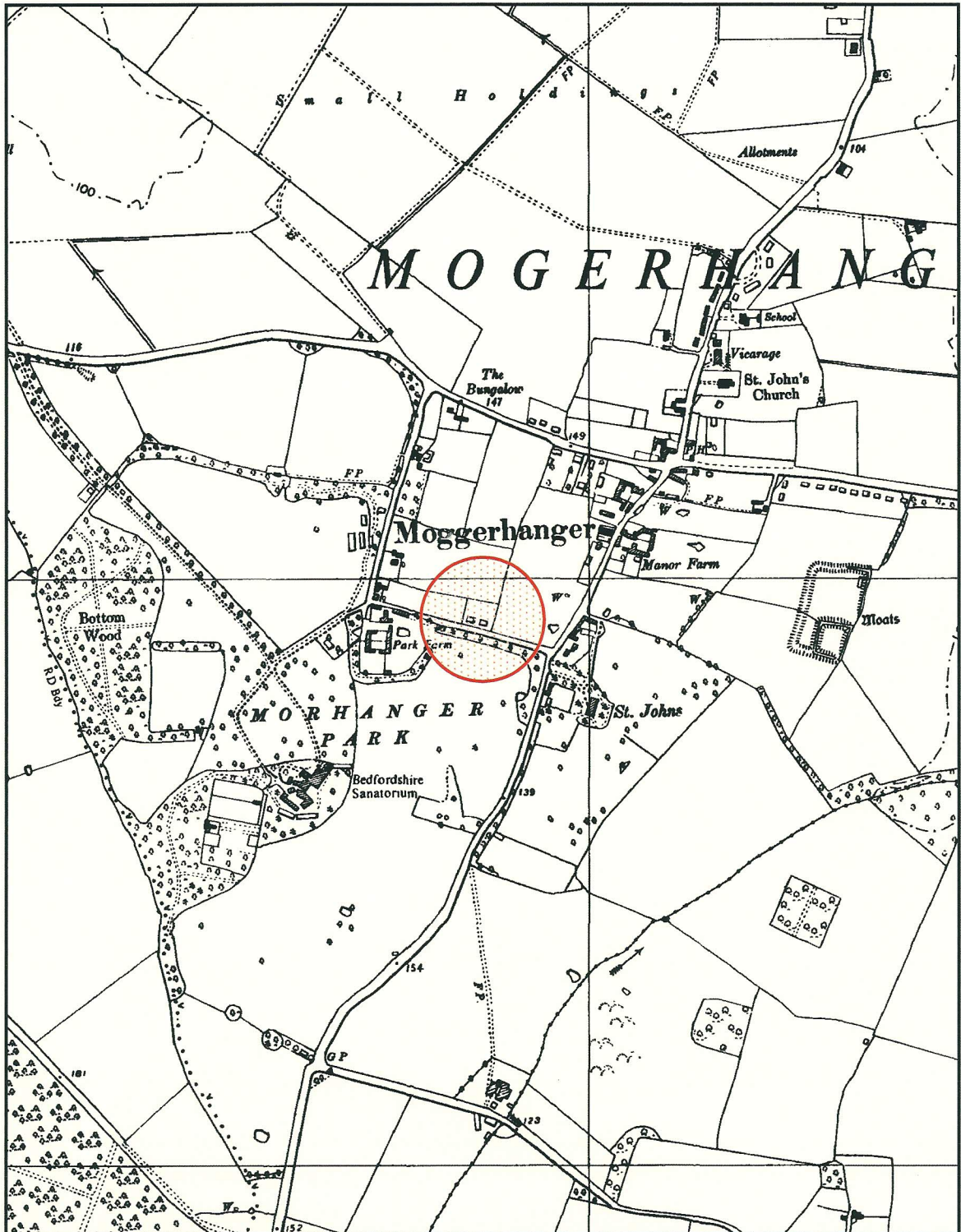


© Landmark Information Group and Ordnance Survey 2007

National Grid Series

Published: 1960

Scale 1:10,560 6 inches to 1 mile



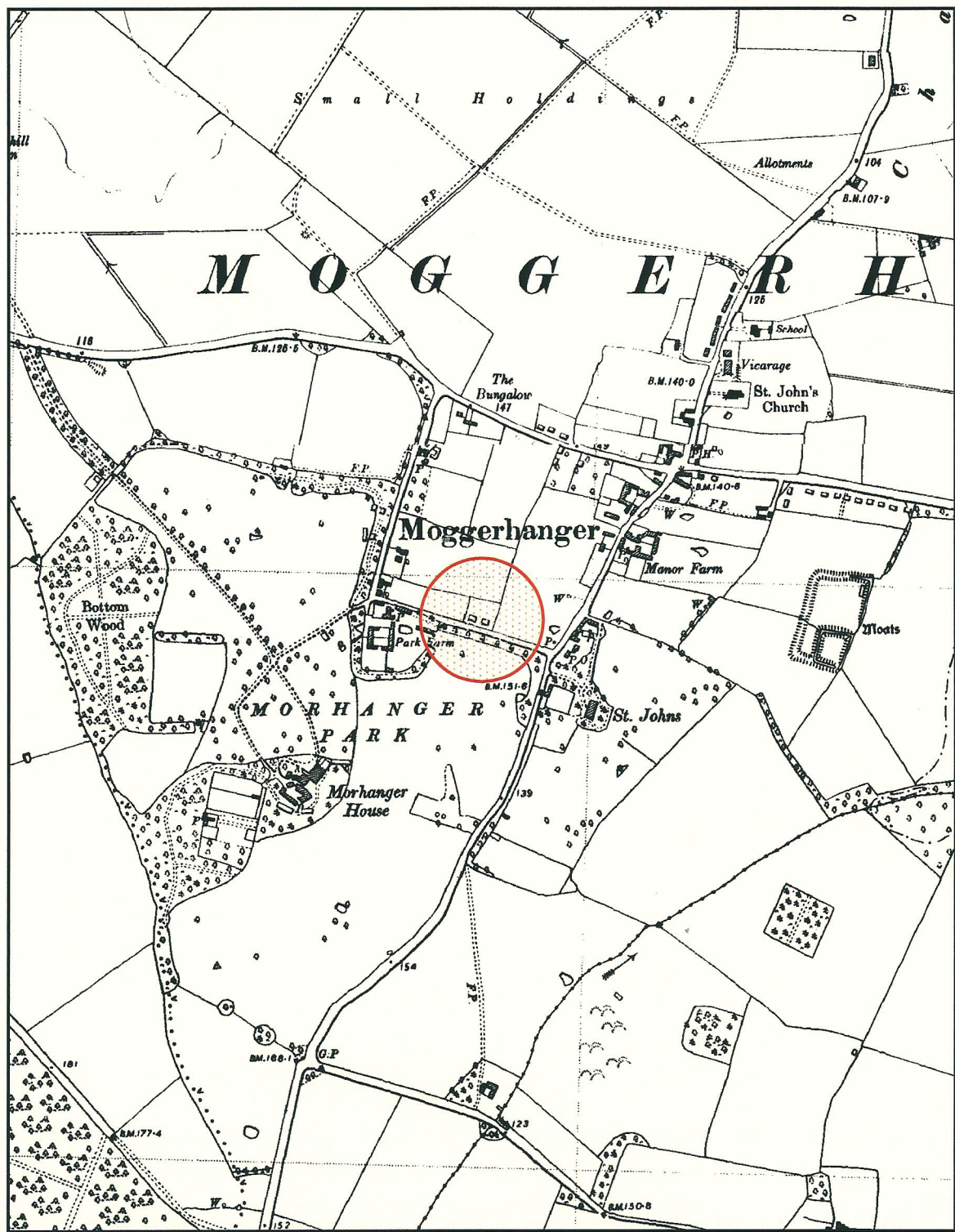
© Landmark Information Group and Ordnance Survey 2007

County Series

County: Bedfordshire

Published: 1950

Scale 1:10,560 6 inches to 1 mile



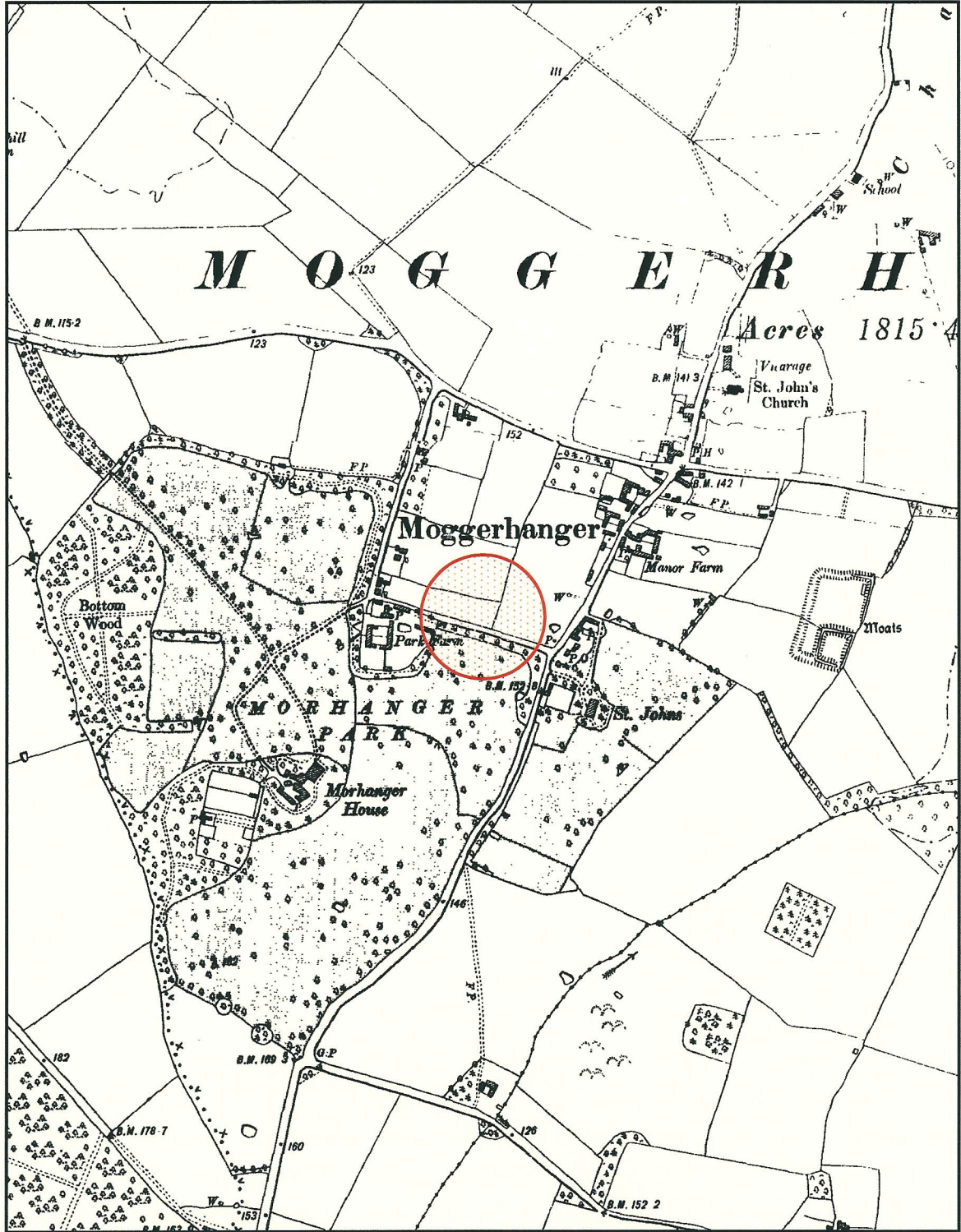
© Landmark Information Group and Ordnance Survey 2007

County Series

County: Bedfordshire

Published: 1902

Scale 1:10,560 6 inches to 1 mile



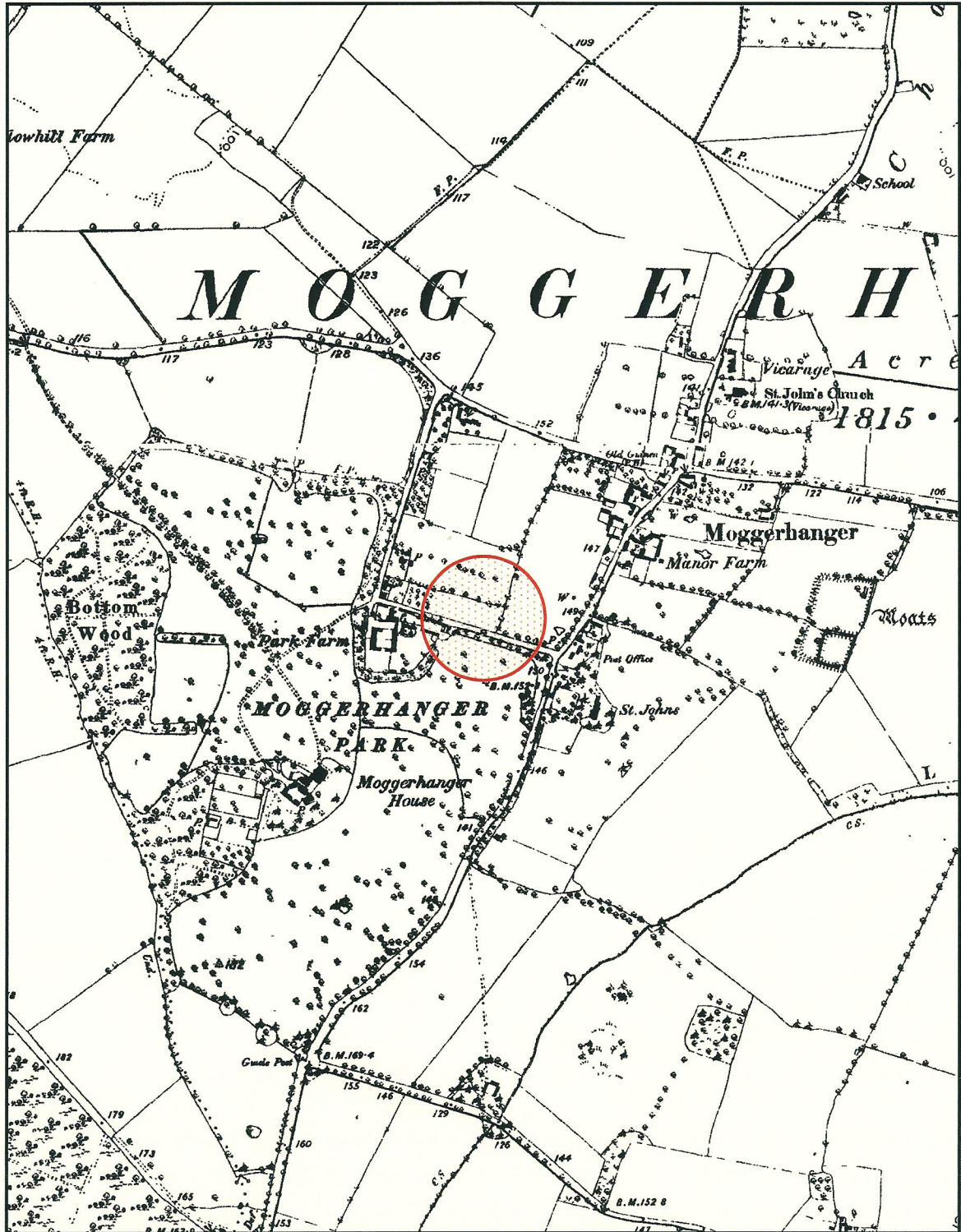
© Landmark Information Group and Ordnance Survey 2007

County Series

County: Bedfordshire

Published: 1891

Scale 1:10,560 6 inches to 1 mile



© Landmark Information Group and Ordnance Survey 2007

Legend for Historical Mapping

Symbols and signs

<p>Woods</p> <p>Fir</p> <p>Deciduous</p> <p>Mixed Wood</p> <p>Brushwood</p> <p>Reeds</p> <p>Oziers</p> <p>Orchard</p> <p>Parks</p>	<p>Marsh</p> <p>Level Crossing</p> <p>Railway over Road</p> <p>Road over Railway</p>	<p>Other Pits</p> <p>Gravel Pit</p> <p>Quarry</p> <p>Railway over River</p> <p>Road over Stream</p> <p>Road over River or Canal</p> <p>Road over Stream</p> <p>Road over Stream</p> <p>Raised Road</p>	<p>Shingle</p> <p>Sand Pit</p> <p>Roofed Building</p> <p>Greenhouse</p> <p>Ruin</p> <p>Antiquity (site of)</p> <p>Triangulation Station</p> <p>Electricity Pylon Pole Transmission Line</p> <p>Sloping Masonry</p> <p>Gravel Pit</p> <p>Sand Pit</p> <p>Other Pits</p> <p>Quarry</p> <p>Refuse or Slug Heap</p> <p>Boulders</p> <p>Dunes</p> <p>Trees, Coniferous</p> <p>Non Coniferous</p> <p>Scrub</p> <p>Bracken</p> <p>Heath</p> <p>Rough Grassland</p>
---	---	--	---

Road	TK	Where unfenced, shown by pecked lines.
Track		
Path	Path	
Ministry of Transport Road Numbering	Motorway M1 or A6(M) Trunk Road A(1) Class 1 Road K34 Class 2 Road B186	

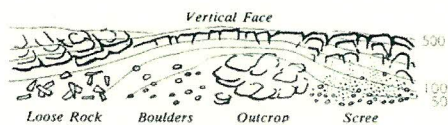
Standard Gauge	<p>Cutting</p> <p>Embankment</p> <p>Road over</p> <p>Foot Bridge</p> <p>Road under</p> <p>Level Crossing</p>	Multiple Track
Narrow Gauge		Siding, Tramway or Mineral Line

Coppice	
Orchard	
Reeds	
Marsh	
Saltings	
Direction of flow of water	Shingle Sand
Lake, Loch or Pond	

Boundaries

Counties (Geographical)	-----
County & Civil Ph.	-----
Administrative County & Civil Parish (Part of Geographical County)	+ + + + +
County Boroughs (England)	Co. Boro. Bdy.
Parliamentary County Divisions	Parly. Div. Bdy.
Parliamentary Boroughs	Parly. Boro. Bdy.
Divs of Parly. Boroughs	Div. of Parly. Boro. Bdy.
Municipal Boroughs	Munl. Boro. Bdy.
Urban Districts	U.D. Bdy.
Rural Districts	R.D. Bdy.
Civil Parishes	-----
Catchment Areas	C.A. Bdy.

Rock features

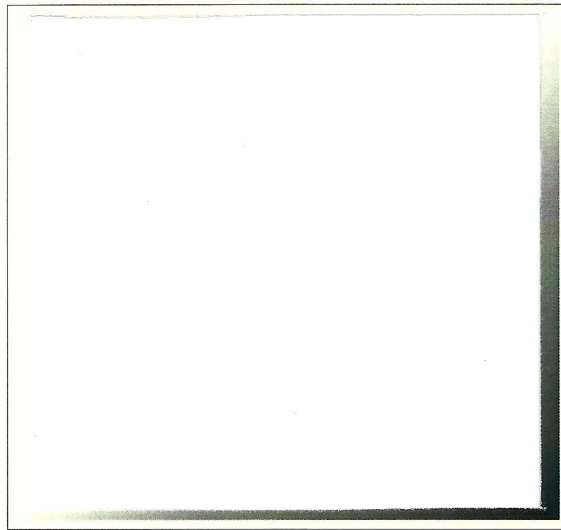


The Ordnance Survey County/National Grid Series

SCALE 1:2,500
25 INCHES TO 1 MILE

First Published 1854 with later revisions in various areas

We have included all of the available map
editions that cover your property up to WW2



Historical Perspective

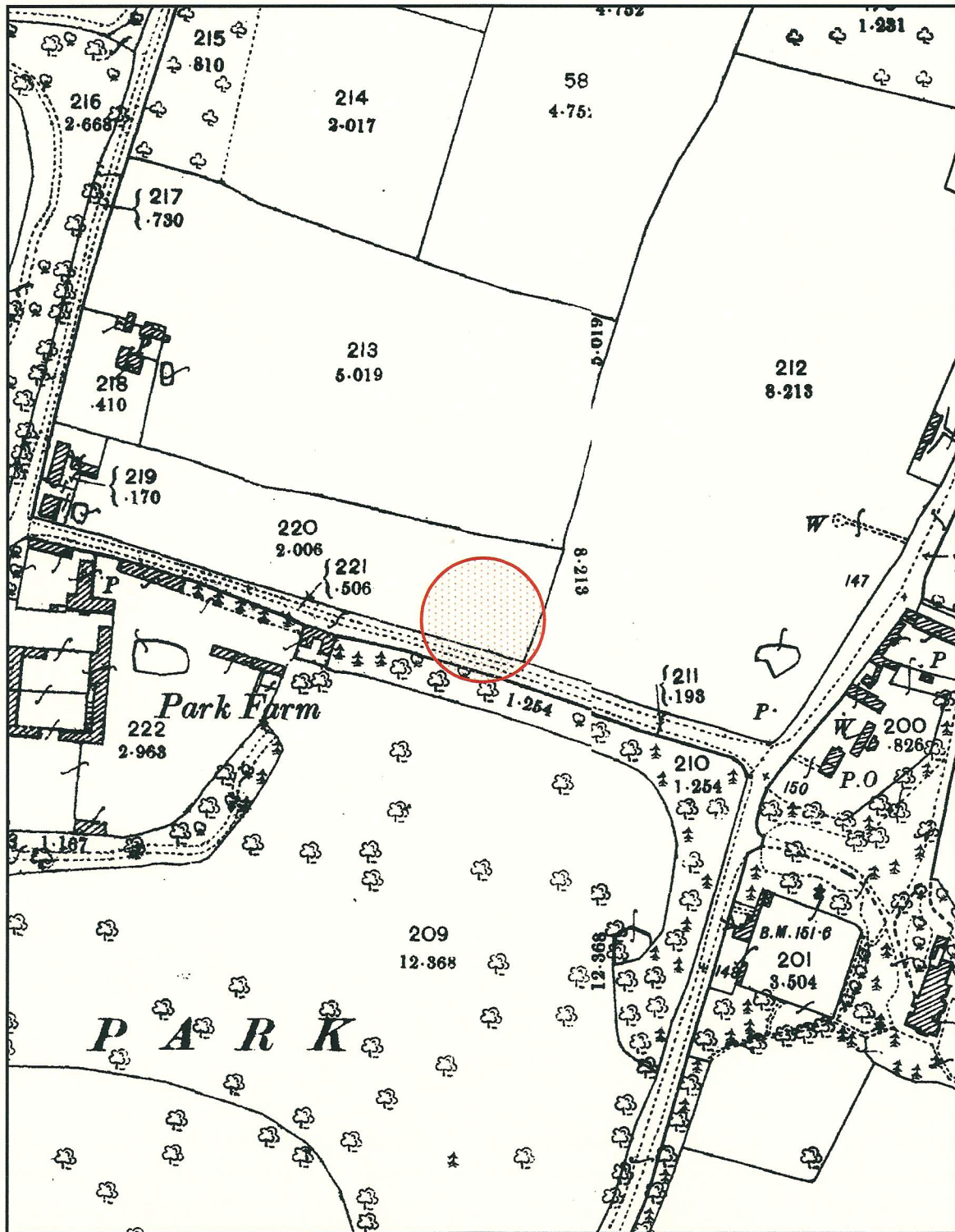
This series gives you a closer view of your property for the years covered. You can see buildings, boundaries and land ownership in much greater detail. In some areas the mapping can be so comprehensive that you can identify where your well was, if you had one, and if a previous resident had an outside privvy, as they often did, or a pigpen, where it had been. The detail on some properties is such that you can tell if your house had a conservatory, a kitchen or dairy lean-to or even a small front porch at some time during the period. This level of detail is even more poignant in areas where bombing erased everything.

County Series

County: Bedfordshire

Published: 1901

Scale 1:2500 25 inches to 1 mile



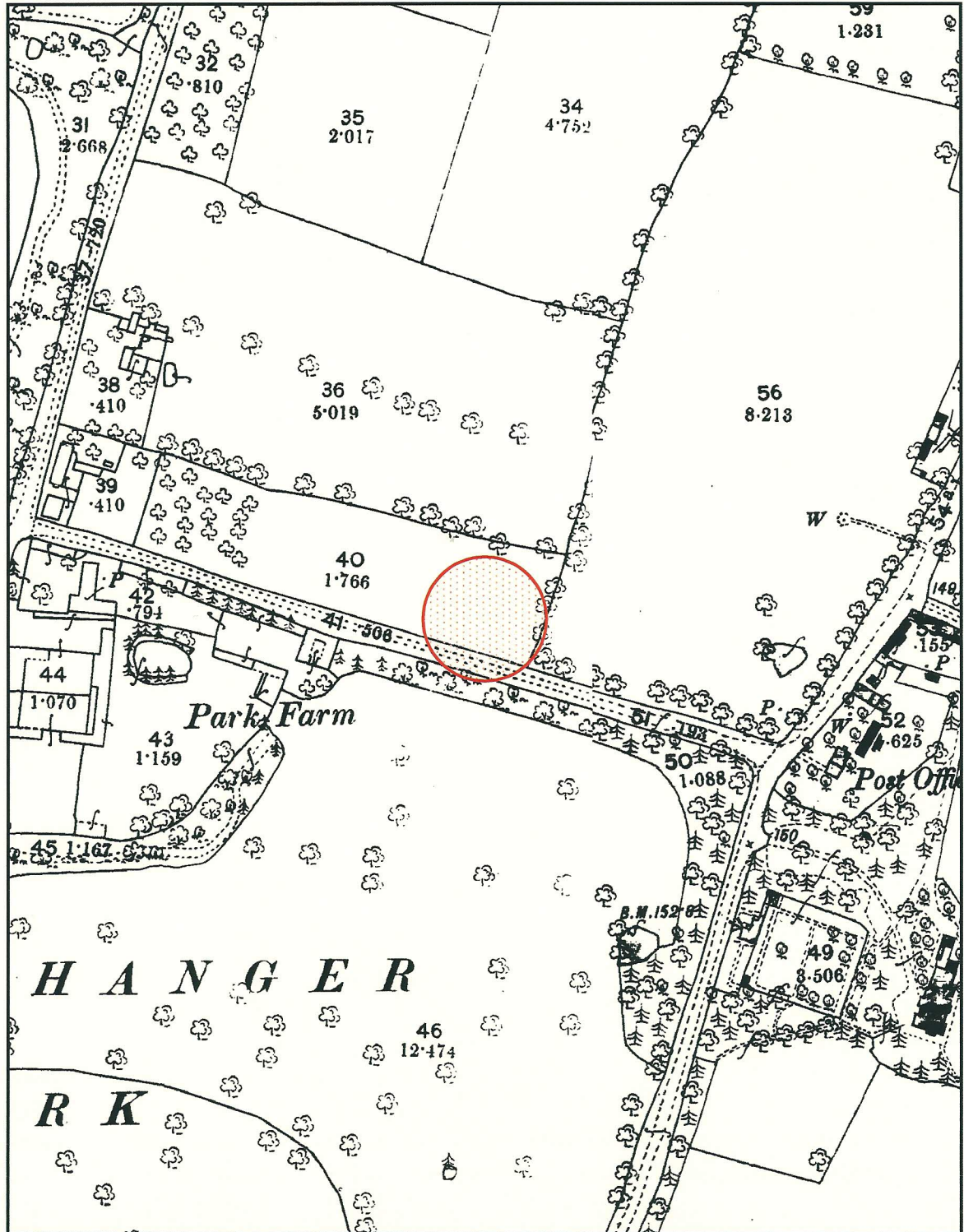
© Landmark Information Group and Ordnance Survey 2007

County Series

County: Bedfordshire

Published: 1883

Scale 1:2500 25 inches to 1 mile



© Landmark Information Group and Ordnance Survey 2007

Legend for Historical Mapping

Symbols and signs

<p>Woods Fir Deciduous</p>	<p>Marsh</p>	<p>Other Pits</p>	<p>Shingle</p>	<p>Roofed Building</p>
<p>Mixed Wood Brushwood</p>	<p>Reeds Osiers</p>	<p>Gravel Pit</p>	<p>Sand Pit</p>	<p>Glasshouse</p>
<p>Orchard</p>	<p>Level Crossing</p>	<p>Quarry</p>		<p>Run</p>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>Railway over Road</p>	<p>Railway over River</p>	<p>Road over Stream</p>	<p>Antiquity (site of)</p>
	<p>Road over Railway</p>	<p>Road over River or Canal</p>	<p>Sunken Road</p>	<p>Triangulation Station</p>
		<p>Road over Stream</p>	<p>Raised Road</p>	<p>Electricity Transmission Line</p>
				<p>Pylon Pole</p>
				<p>Sloping Masonry</p>
				<p>Gravel Pit</p>
				<p>Sand Pit</p>
				<p>Other Pits</p>
				<p>Quarry</p>
				<p>Refuse or Slag Heap</p>
				<p>Boulders</p>
				<p>Dunes</p>
				<p>Trees, Coniferous</p>
				<p>Non Coniferous</p>
				<p>Scrub</p>
				<p>Bracken</p>
				<p>Heath</p>
				<p>Rough Grassland</p>

Road		Where unfenced, shown by pecked lines.								
Track										
Path										
Ministry of Transport Road Numbering	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Motorway</td> <td>M1 or A6(M)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trunk Road</td> <td>A1(T)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class 1 Road</td> <td>A34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class 2 Road</td> <td>B186</td> </tr> </table>	Motorway	M1 or A6(M)	Trunk Road	A1(T)	Class 1 Road	A34	Class 2 Road	B186	
Motorway	M1 or A6(M)									
Trunk Road	A1(T)									
Class 1 Road	A34									
Class 2 Road	B186									

Standard Gauge	<p>Cutting Embankment</p> <p>Road over Foot Bridge</p> <p>Road under Level Crossing</p>	Multiple Track
Narrow Gauge		Siding, Tramway or Mineral Line
Coppice		
Orchard		
Reeds		
Marsh		
Saltings		
Direction of flow of water		Shingle Sand
Lake, Loch or Pond		

Boundaries

Counties (Geographical)	
County & Civil Ph.	
Administrative County & Civil Parish. (Part of Geographical County)	
County Boroughs (England)	Co. Boro. Bdy.
Parliamentary County Divisions	Parly. Div. Bdy.
Parliamentary Boroughs	Parly. Boro. Bdy.
Divns of Parly. Boroughs	Div. of Parly. Boro. Bdy.
Municipal Boroughs	Munl. Boro. Bdy.
Urban Districts	U.D. Bdy.
Rural Districts	R.D. Bdy.
Civil Parishes	
Catchment Areas	C.A. Bdy.

Rock features

Vertical Face

Loose Rock Boulders Outcrop Scree

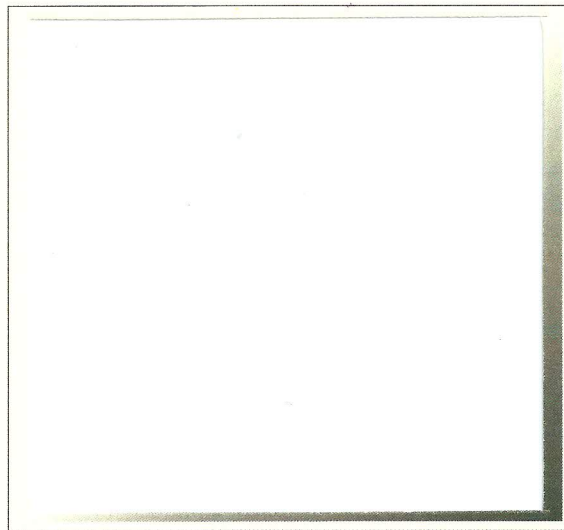
500
100
50

Aerial photography Centred on your home

**SCALE 1:2,500
25 INCHES TO 1 MILE**

*Published between 2003 and 2009
In 60,000 segments and individually digitally 'stitched' together.*

*We have reproduced this for you at the same scale as the maps in section 3
to help you identify features more easily*



Historical Perspective

Aerial photography, apart from being a fascinating snapshot of the very recent past, can also reveal traces of a much more ancient past that maps often fail to portray. Archaeological remains of human activity often betray their presence in colour changes, 'parch marks', and shadows appearing in areas of grassland, like public parks, and in cropmarks or grazing in fields around the edges of suburbs or villages. Evidence of Iron Age roundhouses or the 'road' patterns of deserted medieval villages appear occasionally in the colour changes in the lawns of ordinary back gardens. Larger features like medieval ditches surrounding settlements or more extensive roman villa sites often span 2 or 3 properties or the gardens of a whole terrace. The exact location of the Bishop's Palace was discovered in Greenwich Park lawns using aerial photography.

Aerial Photography

Published: 2003 - 2008

Scale 1:2500 25 inches to 1 mile



RGB Aerial Photography © GeoPerspectives 2009

Further Research

- Ways to expand your house history investigations

1) Land Registry Records

For a small fee you can obtain a copy of the latest registered title deed for your property from the Land Registry (www.landreg.gov.uk). This document will contain a useful plan showing the extent of the property and the registered title may also refer to former owners. It is also worth searching local historic records for earlier property deeds. These deeds may well show the names of former owners going back as the Deeds showed occupation over the 15 or 30 year period used to prove title. If you have a mortgage your lender usually holds these Deeds if the property has not been registered.

See Section 5.3 for a more detailed guide on how to access these records.

2) Census Returns

Taken every ten years from the mid 19th century, the census returns can help you discover more about the previous occupants of your home. The 1841 census was the first, but offers limited details about the occupants of homes. The next census in 1851 contains greater detail including the full name, age, place of birth, marital status and relationship to the head of the household. Census returns are closed to the public for 100 years. Therefore, the 1901 census is the most recent available and can be viewed online (www.ancestry.co.uk).

See Section 5.4 for an overview on Census Returns data and a guide to accessing this information.

3) Tithe Maps & Schedules

Between 1836 and 1854, roughly two thirds of England and Wales was surveyed as part of reform of the ancient tithe system. The resulting Tithe Maps and Schedules record the names of property owners and occupiers.

See Section 5.5 for a more detailed guide to exploring these records.

4) The 'New Domesday'

The Valuation Office Survey (1909), also known as 'Lloyd George's Domesday', was undertaken to assess the value of property for tax purposes. The detailed maps and written records it generated will provide, amongst other interesting details, the names of the property owners and occupants.

See Section 5.6 for a more information about this area of research.

5) Local tax records

Local tax records such as local rates, land and window taxes can help you trace the names of previous occupants of your home. Local rates vary greatly depending on where you live. Look for rate returns in your local records office. The land tax was levied on land in England and Wales between 1962 and 1963 and the annual records usually list both the owner and occupier. These records are usually held at county record offices but a complete set from 1798 is held at the National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk).

Records for the Window tax (levied from 1696 to 1851) are mostly held at the National Archives.

For further information on researching house history and genealogical subjects, we are pleased to recommend the following publications:

- D. Austin, M. Dowdy and J. Miller, *Be Your Own House Detective*, BBC Books, 1997)
- N. Barratt, *Tracing the History of Your House*, (PRO, 2001)
- P. Christian, *The Genealogist's Internet, 2nd Edition*, (The National Archive, 2004)
- M. Herber, *Ancestral Trails, 2nd Edition*, (Sutton Publishing/ Society of Genealogists, 2004)

The Internet features a vast selection of websites that could prove useful in any further research you may wish to undertake. In addition to the websites annotated elsewhere in this Portfolio, the *my house history* team suggest looking at the following websites. Please note that *my house history* is not responsible for the content of these websites.

Hidden House History

(www.hiddenhousehistory.co.uk)

The Online House Detective

(www.house-detective.co.uk)

Historic Houses Association

(www.hha.org.uk)

British Association for Local History

(www.balh.co.uk)

Local History Online

(www.local-history.co.uk)

Federation of Family History Societies

(www.ffhs.org.uk)

Family Records Centre

(www.familyrecords.gov.uk)

Society of Genealogists

(www.sog.org.uk)

Insight On Aerial Photography

- from 1858 to today

The earliest aerial photography dates from 1858 when Gaspar Felix Tournachon photographed the French village of Petit - Becetre from a balloon and later Paris in 1868. Considering the complexity of photographic processes in those early days (it required up to twenty minutes of processing from sensitising the photographic plate to development and all the equipment required to be placed within the balloon's basket), this was quite a remarkable feat. The first aerial photograph taken from an aeroplane was captured by no less than Wilbur Wright in 1909.

With dry plate techniques and improvements in camera technology, photographs could be taken from a variety of platforms: aircraft (including airships), kites and even pigeons equipped with specially designed breast mounted cameras. During both World Wars, military planning and strategy requirements drove rapid developments in aerial photography. This led to infrared photography to help identify military targets that were camouflaged (hidden to conventional colour or black & white photography).

Today, in the UK, current aerial photography is used for a large variety of purposes in both the private and public sectors. From utilities and local government planning, through to estate agents who use the images to visually show property boundaries, the applications are vast. Aerial photography is also used by the Ordnance Survey for updating their premier national map data set, OS MasterMap™.

Since approximately 1999, the whole of England and Wales has been photographed from the air using a carefully planned flying programme. For England alone, this resulted in over 60,000 individual aerial photographs! Each photograph was digitally scanned and images then "stitched" together with its neighbour to create a seamless aerial photograph. This process also corrected the photographs to make them fit with the mapping by taking out distortions inherent in the photography.

The aerial photograph contained in this Portfolio is an extract from that data set and is displayed at 1:2,500 scale to allow comparison with historical mapping at the same scale in this Portfolio. As a photograph is a "snapshot in time", the date of the image is included on the print.

The team at *my house history* is able to supply additional aerial photographic prints centred on a place of choice and in a range of sizes.

A History of Ordnance Survey Mapping

- from 1841 to 1945

As the name suggests, the history of Ordnance Survey mapping is directly linked to military needs; the twin threats of Scottish rebellion and war with France were the impetus for the first military surveys in the mid eighteenth century. By the early nineteenth century the driving force behind the creation of detailed mapping in England and Wales was to administer property taxation and also to support rapidly expanding engineering projects, such as the development of the railways.

In 1840 the Treasury agreed to fund a survey of the country at 6 inches to the mile (scale 1:10,560), leading to the 1841 Ordnance Survey Act. This Act gave government surveyors a legal right to 'enter onto and upon any land' to survey the land. The resulting scales used to create the mapping were variously mapped at a scale of 1:2,500 for all urban and semi urban locations and in selected urban areas more detailed mapping at 1:1,056, 1:528 and 1:500 scales. Mountain, moorland and rural areas were mapped at 1:10,560 scale. Commencing with the mapping of Lancashire in 1841, this intensive mapping of Great Britain was completed in 1896. Every county was then revised between three and five times prior to 1945. These maps were to become the bedrock of all geographical records of a locality from that period forward.

In 1935 the Davidson Committee was established to review Ordnance Survey's future and as a result the National Grid reference system was introduced. In addition to being a metric system, individual meridians for each county were abandoned and mapping was based upon a single meridian of longitude leading to a seamless map covering Great Britain.

The historic Ordnance Survey maps reproduced in this Portfolio were extracted from County Series and post-1944 National Grid Series mapping. Some of the maps may have been created using a number of individual maps that have been digitally "stitched" together. This process means that the date shown for some extracts may be displayed as a date range rather than a single date.

It is important to note that maps are only as good as the survey undertaken and, therefore, are limited to displaying the detail at the time of the survey. It took time to convert the survey information into maps so many years could elapse between the survey date and the map publication date. In rural areas (because the rate of change is less than urban locations), the update cycle was longer, leading to fewer published maps and a gap in some cases of up to fifty years between surveys. Urban areas were surveyed far more regularly and, therefore, many more maps exist, published at shorter intervals.

Land Registry Records - Title Registers & Title Plans

When the Land Registry registers a property they prepare two documents: a Title Register and a Title Plan. The Title Register records, amongst other things, a description of the property, who owns it and rights of way affecting the land. Of more immediate interest and relevance to the mapping in this Portfolio is the second document, the Title Plan. Title Plans typically are displayed at 1:1,250 scale and may be useful and informative when compared to the other extracts in this Portfolio.

The Title Plan is prepared using Ordnance Survey mapping at the time of property registration showing the legal boundaries of the land ownership. This is usually depicted on the map by a red outline around the property. There may be other colours or markings on the Title Plan, the significance of which would be explained in the property's Title Register. This plan also contains the unique Title Number of the property and annotates the scale at which the map is displayed. It should be noted that most properties are registered but not all (notably those that have not changed ownership).

Care should be taken when interpreting the red line on a Title Plan as marking the boundary. The word "boundary" has no special meaning in law. However, in land ownership, it is understood in two ways:

The legal boundary - is the line which is not visible on the ground which divides one person's land from another's. It is an exact line having no thickness and is rarely identified with any precision either on the ground or in the deeds.

The physical boundary - is a physical feature such as a fence, wall or a hedge.

The legal boundary may be intended to follow the physical boundary, but this is not always the case. For example, the legal boundary may run down the centre of a hedge, along either of its sides, or anywhere within or beyond it.

Two further notes on Title Plans.

- The Register will only show information concerning the ownership of boundary features if this information was available in the deeds lodged during registration.
- Title Plans are not as a matter of course updated, so the map base in the plan may be out of date.

You can obtain copies of your Title Plans and find out more about how to interpret this document by visiting

www.landregistry.gov.uk

Census Returns

- from 1801 onwards

Amongst the most important sources for house historians are the decennial census returns, as they provide a detailed insight into the lives and family relationships of people living in each individual household. House historians use these documents to identify previous occupants of their properties. It can be quite difficult to extract relevant information, especially from earlier returns when house numbers and street names were less common.

The first national census for England and Wales took place in 1801. In this and the subsequent 3 censuses (up to 1831), the local census enumerators generally only recorded the number of people in a household along with their age group and sex. Much of this data has been lost or destroyed and what remains is held locally in parish records.

The census returns from 1841, it should be noted, are fairly brief and research there would benefit from cross-referencing to the appropriate Tithe Apportionment Map & Schedule (see Section 5.5 for more information). A typical entry in the 1841 census record will contain, amongst other items, forename & surname, age rounded down to the nearest five years if over 15 and occupation.

The returns for the censuses taken in 1851 (and for the subsequent 40 years to 1891) each contain roughly the same information listed above, but much expanded from the 1841 returns. This includes for - each individual - the relationship to the head of household, age at last birthday, and any medical disabilities members of the household might have suffered from.

The returns of the 1901 census contain the same data as recorded from 1851-1891, expanded to include whether an individual was an employer or employee and, in the Isle of Man, language spoken.

Census returns from 1841 - 1901 are currently in the public domain and available from a number of commercial sources. Census information for a particular county for a specific census year, for example, can be purchased on CD. Census returns are also widely available on the Internet with basic information usually available free of charge. Full access to the census returns is available at a price.

Census return information is protected by law and remains confidential for 100 years after the census date. The 1911 census will, therefore, not be released to the public until January 2012.

Tithe Apportionment Maps and Schedules

- from 1836 to 1854

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the ancient system of paying one tenth of one's produce to the local church known as tithes had become unfairly weighted against those in rural areas as urbanisation and industrialisation created a new distribution of wealth. In order to redress this imbalance, the taxation assessment system was reformed by the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836.

Between 1836 and 1854, approximately 11,800 townships or parishes (roughly two thirds of England and Wales) were reassessed under the Act. The results of these surveys were recorded in two documents; a Tithe Map and accompanying Schedule (or Award). The Tithe Map displays the area with the individual land plots outlined and numbered. The Schedule (cross referenced to the Tithe Map number) records the names of property owners and occupiers, describes the land (state of cultivation/size of individual plots), documents details concerning any arbitration arising from disputes in the level of payment and, finally, confirms the tithe payable. Together these two documents are known as the Tithe Apportionment. Three copies were produced and your local County Record Office should have at least one set with another set being held by The National Archives. The third set was filed with parish records, many of which no longer exist.

The first step in conducting further research with Tithe Apportionments is to establish whether the parish or township in which the house is situated was included in the apportionment process. If it was, these documents could provide a valuable source for additional information concerning your house, the people who have lived there and the profile of the surrounding community. That said, the Tithe Maps are often difficult to interpret as the survey pinpoints plots of land rather than houses as such. Very few 'modern' identifiers are included on the maps (e.g. road names), so researchers often resort to more modern maps to find the correct plot of land. Again, it is important to remember some parts of England and Wales, particularly towns and cities, were not covered by the Tithe Apportionment survey.

Valuation Office Maps and Field Books

- from 1910

The 1910 Valuation Office survey, also known as the 'Lloyd George's Domesday', was undertaken to assess the value of property for tax purposes. England and Wales were divided into 13 regions and further sub-divided into 118 Valuation Districts. Two sets of maps for each Valuation District were compiled (over 50,000 maps) to detail all land and the property built upon it. Each plot of land was assigned an assessment or hereditament number. Details of the property were then recorded in an accompanying Field Book. These documents have been deposited at The National Archives, Kew.

Accessing these records is a tricky business, as there are various scales of map (urban and rural) and the regional district boundaries used in the survey are not always easy to follow. This is a time consuming task. First you need to locate the relevant map on which the house stands (using Ordnance Survey sheets and special reference grids) and then obtain the correct document reference from 'The National Archives' catalogue. Once you have ordered the map, the next step is to identify the property on it. It will be assigned a unique hereditament number, usually marked on the map in red or green depending on the region. Next you will need to consult a range of other indexes to establish the correct Valuation Office District, find the Income Tax Parish for the property and, finally, order out the correct Field Book in which the hereditament number falls. As you can well imagine, this process is difficult and there is plenty of room for error to creep in. If you order the wrong Field Book (there are over 90,000 volumes in this archive!), you will have information on someone else's house!

The Field Book entry for the property will give you the names of the owner, occupant, interest of owner, date of former sales (sometimes left blank), particulars of the property and (occasionally) other notes, remarks or even sketches.

Coverage is fairly comprehensive for most of England and Wales, although maps for Portsmouth, Southampton, Coventry and areas around Chelmsford and Chichester were lost in the Second World War, as were many Field Books for these areas.