

A Guide to Bathford

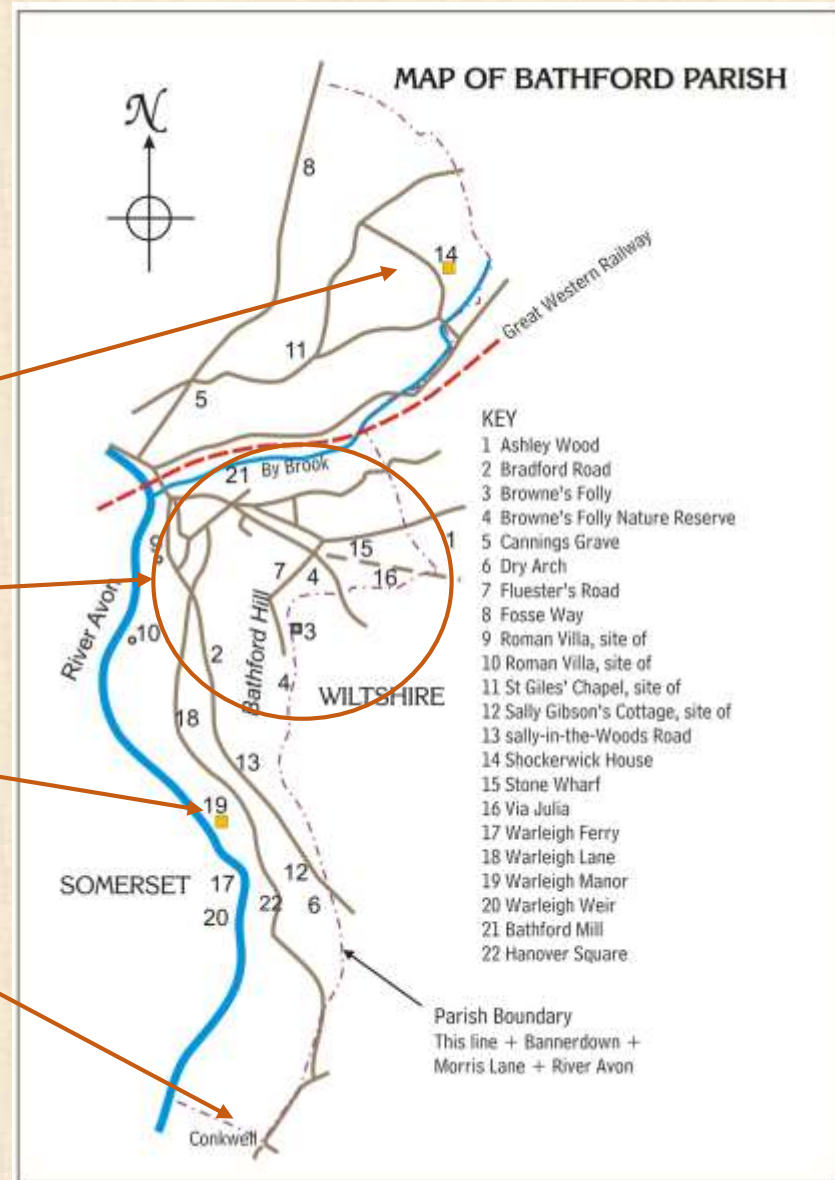


Painting by Mrs Tackle (1808 – 1877), Brunel's Bridge at Bathford

This map, created for 'Bathford, Past & Present', Second Edition, shows the boundaries of the parish. Shockerwick House and hamlet lie to the north.

The main part of the village lies between the river Avon and the By Brook.

Warleigh Manor & cottages lie to the south with Conkwell at the southern boundary of the parish.





Brunel's rail bridge over the road to Bathford village and to Bradford-on-Avon. The Crown Inn is visible in the centre of the photograph below. The bridge was built 1840/1.

Inscription reads:

Erected by Bathford
Parish Council to
Commemorate the
Queen Elizabeth II
Diamond Jubilee 2012



Brunel's bridge over the river Avon. Built c.1840/1.
The first train passed over it in June of 1841.



The Bridge over the By Brook



This bridge was built in 1665. Beside it was a ford, in use up to the mid 1900s. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The bridge actually has three arches but the third one is buried under the earth bank on the right of the photograph. The plaque is over the right hand arch in the photograph. The river was also known as the Box Brook and the Weaver.



The inscription reads:

"These are the names of Sir Thomas Bridges, Knight, Sir William Basset, Knight, Alexander Popham, Esq., John Harington, Esq., Warwick Banfill, Esq., Peter Roynon, Esq., Justices of the Peace. Anthony Carew, Esq., George Clark, Gent., John Tresurers and Surveyors. Steven Broad and George Grumbolld and John Woodward, John Pearce, William Jones, Workmen. 1665".

The Crown Inn



The Crown Inn was certainly open in 1757 when the Turnpike Trustees held their meetings there on the up-keep of the roads.





Bathford Hill with the Rugby field on the left, and The Crown on the right



Bathford Hill houses, the two on the right, built before the mid 1700s when the road was raised to create a more even gradient so their original front doors are below the current road level.



Bathford Hill, the village Lock-up. Also served as the mortuary. It was built in 1837. also called the 'Blind House' – having no windows.

The Paper Mill,

Owned now by De la Rue. Now makes high security paper for passports etc. for an international market.

A mill was in existence at the time of the Domesday Book of 1086 and continued to the present day with various functions throughout.



Continuation of Bathford Hill beyond the paper mill.



The former Bakery
It provided bread from the early 1900s until it closed in 1995.



View looking down Bathford Hill from
the Village shop. Behind the trees on
the right lies Rock House and beyond
that Titan Barrow – see the next page.



Titan Barrow. Built by John Wood the Elder c.1748

The west face of Titan Barrow. The right-hand part was added by the retired bishop of Bath & Wells, the Rt. Rev^d. Wynne Wilson when he bought the house in 1939.



The entrance from the bridge way opposite Church Street.



Rock House, built c. 1704.
Opposite the Bathford Village Shop.

Bathford Community Village Shop. Run by a manager and staffed by volunteers. It was originally the 'New Inn', or just the 'Inn' until 1994 when it became the Post Office and stores. The Post Office closed in 2006 And reopened as a community enterprise shop.



The Bathford Village Shop





Celebrating the 10th
Anniversary of the
Village Shop in 2016.

The Village Green

The Village Green above the shop.
The Village Club, formerly the Royal
British Legion, is on the left beyond
the trees.





A Summer Church Service on the Village Green

Ashley Road

Two views of Ashley Road, once called Brewery Lane. This was the high road from Bath to London until c.1757 when the High Street was built as a Turnpike road.

Quarrying Bath stone from the hill above Bathford was one of the main jobs in the village which, being dusty work, resulted in a large number of pubs and alehouses in the village.



The building on the left was once the Blacksmith's forge, later the Smiths Arms pub. The building on the right was once the Star Inn.



Looking back towards the main road.

Bathford's High Street - leading up to Kingsdown and on to Melksham. The entrance to Ashley Road is on the far left.



Part way up High Street is the former Baptist Chapel, now unused. The lane to the left is Chapel Row, built for the quarry workers.



Chapel Row, leading to Dovers Lane and the old Chapel Sunday School, shown on the right, was opened in 1849.



High Street

View from near the top of High Street looking back down to the village centre, This road was created as a turnpike road in the late 1750s.



The Allotments

Between High Street and Ashley Road. They were created by an Enclosure Act in 1860.



View from the Bannerdown Road.

Bathford School. Originally built in 1839 at the southern end of Church Street was moved here in Dovers Park by 1970.



The front door from Dovers Park.
This entrance and the new hall
were built in 2010.



The new hall and playground from
the Birdcage Walk footpath

The Old Bathford School

Built in 1839.



View from the south, early 1840s
From Bathford Society collection



Present day, view from Church Street.
Now a private residence.

The 'Pepper Pot' – Pre-school.
Located in the grounds of the main school.



The Pepperpot play area within
the main school playground.



The School from Mountain Wood.



Church Street leads off
from Bathford Hill below
the Village Shop.



The old butcher's shop in Church
Street; no longer selling meat!



The former Post Office in Church Street.

Cottages in Church Street with the well-used Parish Hall on the right



Cottages and houses along Church Street





Where Church Street joins
Pump Square.

One of the village Pumps at the start of
Pump Lane outside Sycamore House.
The water was declared not fit for
drinking or cooking in 1904.



Bathford Manor

From Pump Square the first turn on the left, Manor Drive, leads to Bathford Manor.

Built c. 1770 for George Booth Tyndale and later lived in by Mr Eleazer Pickwick amongst others.





Pump Lane

The lower end of Pump Lane,
with Caroline Cottage below.

The inscription over the door is:
“T^{Sp} 1662”





Cottages that were once part of Manor Farm.



Church Farm – now a private house.

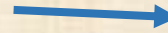
At the top of Pump Lane.

Pump Lane continues south across the Bradford-on-Avon Road and on to Warleigh and Conkwell.



View looking down the church path, locally called the Drung.

Sycamore House - facing Pump Square. Built on the site of the original Manor Farm this was built in 1894 for Major Wallace Adair. Later owned by James Dyson and family.



Continuing down Church Street you come to Eagle House, built c. 1760. From WW2 it was used as an approved school until 1983.



Continuing further down Church Street, just before the church, is Briscoe House. built c. 1870.

The Parish Church of Saint Swithun



Saint Swithun's Church.

Rebuilt in the 1870s to replace a small ancient church.





Looking towards Batheaston



Looking south along the Limpley Stoke Valley

Views from the top of
the church tower.



Looking north along Church Street

Bathford from afar



Warleigh Manor and cottages.

The present manor house dates from 1815, replacing a much older house which was a few hundred yards to the south. The Skrine family had lived in the valley for some 500 years, until 1956 when the last member of this branch, Miss Anna Dorothea Skrine, died. It is now divided into private apartments.





The well and street in Conkwell.
The houses on the left are in Bathford parish whilst those on the right are in Winsley.



Browne's Folly. On the sky-line above Bathford, often associated with Bathford, is actually just in Monkton Farleigh parish, Wiltshire. Built in 1848 by Wade Browne of Monkton Farleigh manor



Shockerwick House

To the north east of the village lies the Grade I listed Shockerwick House built, about 1750 by John Wood the Elder on the site of an earlier house, for Mr Walter Wiltshire, who owned gaming rooms in Georgian Bath. Now a BUPA Care Home.

Above Shockerwick House is Lower Shockerwick Farm and beyond that the hamlet of Shockerwick leading up to Bannerdown.

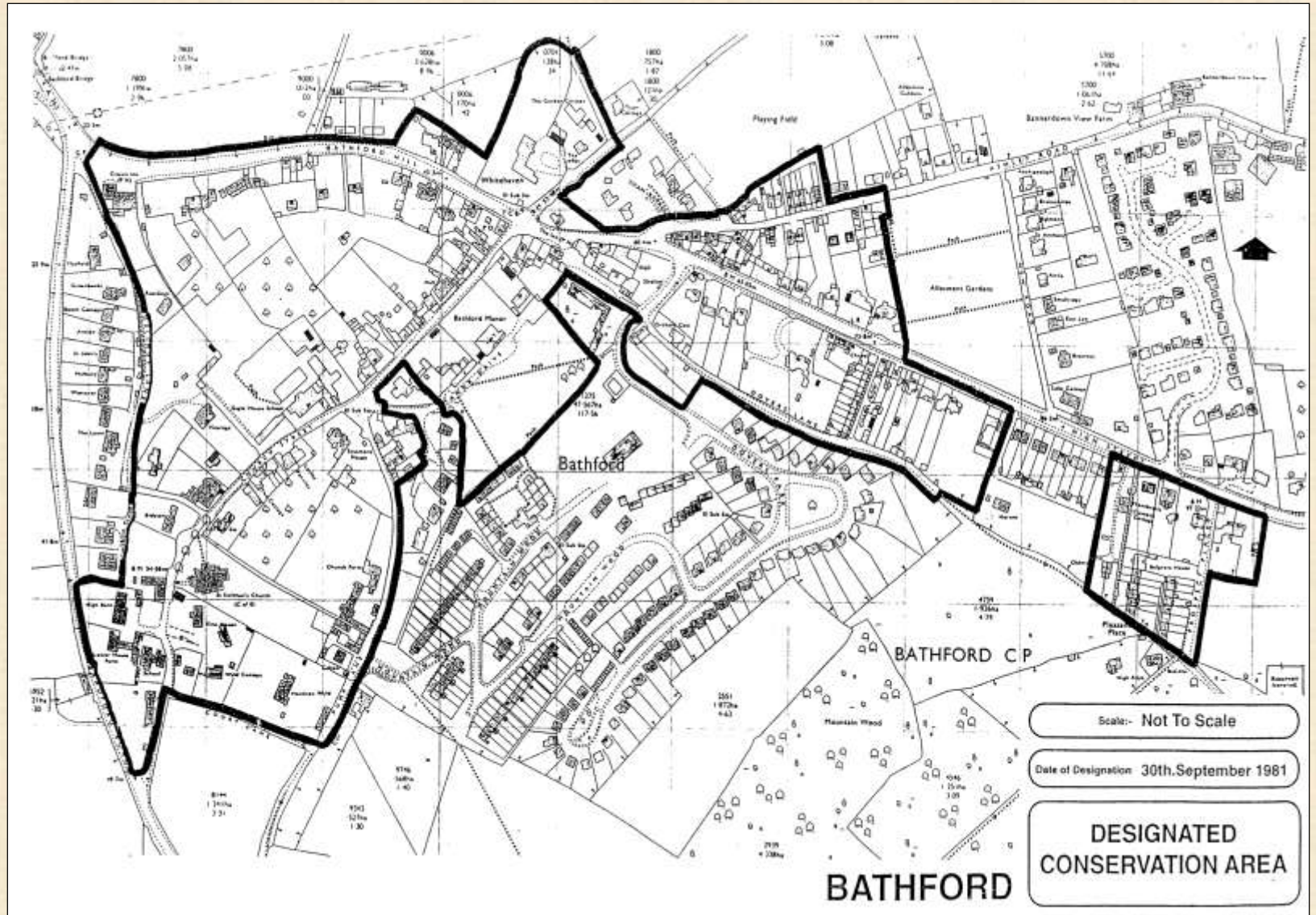




Aerial View showing the old and new parts of the village. Meadow Park, on the far left of the railway, continues as far as Morris Lane. The railway, A4 and By-Brook run up the valley towards Box and beyond.

Photograph by Derek Hawkins.

Dovers Park
Mountain Wood
Garstons.



Scale:- Not To Scale

Date of Designation 30th.September 1981

**DESIGNATED
CONSERVATION AREA**

BATHFORD

For further information on Bathford, the village shop sells a Guide, an A3 size sheet folded for convenience, and a softcover book, 'Bathford, Past and Present' – second edition, The first edition, out of print now, was by Mr. Godfrey Laurence and was updated and expanded to over 110 pages in 2010, including many more illustrations, many in colour, by David Howells.

The Bathford Parish Council website contains information and links to local organisation websites.

For Local History of the parish visit:

www.bathfordsociety.org.uk

All photographs, except the aerial photograph of Bathford, are by myself.

David Howells.

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