

From Moredon Bridge to Sparcells tunnel

the pastoral responsibility of All Saints Lydiard Millicent, our parish neighbours being the Purton Evangelical Group of St Mary's Purton and Purton Methodist Church



The perambulation started at 9 am at the Northernmost extent of our Parish, [SU118870] on the old Moredon Bridge (there being a newer road bridge) over the Swindon to Gloucester Railway line. The boundary line comes along the footpath on the old line of the road from the direction of Peatmoor. There is nothing other than

the railway, to mark the boundary at this point. The boundary line goes from here along the railway to the south east.

In 1228 the boundary of Bradon Forest was documented at Spersolt (Sparcells) though at that time it was probably at the River Ray Elder Bridge (Elborough Bridge) 300m to the north east of here. The railway opened here in 1841 and our boundary was moved to the railway line in 1990.

From here we walked south east through the hedge and undergrowth, cutting or bending only brambles and without breaking any branches, just north of the railway line. There is no public access at this point. We headed towards the new road just a few metres away, crossing the road at the end of the Armco



barrier.



At [SU118869] just to the east of the new road bridge over the Swindon to Gloucester Railway line, there are road signs facing north east on both sides of the road stating "West Swindon" that mark the boundary here. The boundary line goes from here along the centre line of the railway, to the south east.

From here we climbed the road barrier and walked on a public footpath which was fairly overgrown and then quite sullied with litter, towards the south east along the boundary fence of the railway.



At [SU121867] a tributary of the River Ray, flowing east and then north from Peatmoor lagoon runs in culvert under the railway at this point.

In 1228 this river formed the boundary of Bradon Forest, upstream through Lydiard Tregoze (the present Lydiard Park) and towards Midgehall (more or less the M4 Junction 16).

It was quite a jump across, so to save using a portable bridge, we clambered up the parapet, holding onto the fence. There is no safe public access at this point. Having crossed the river we headed south west in a tunnel under the railway.

Pastoral responsibility changes here, from All Saints Lydiard Millicent to Holy Trinity Shaw

Our parish neighbours change here, from the Purton Evangelical Group of St Mary's Purton and Purton Methodist Church to St Mary's Rodbourne Cheney

