

From Mannington to Hay Lane

the pastoral responsibility of Toothill,
our parish neighbours being St John the Baptist & St Helen, Wroughton



At [SU131838] the boundary heads WSW towards Blagrove, following the North fence of the railway embankment. There is a public footpath close to the boundary, then further from the boundary but parallel to it, and we followed this. There are no other specific markers of the boundary.



We reached the new footbridge over the railway at [SU121830] and crossed the railway. There was at the time a pedestrian-only level crossing some way to the west of this point. At the date of perambulation this was being closed by the council, the right of way across the railway to be removed – the footbridge is by far the safest method. At the south side of the footbridge we crossed into the field and turned right along the field boundary until we came to a suitable crossing point. It turned out not to be particularly suitable, a very wet ditch, a multiple strand barbed wire fence and a large muddy puddle beyond. Evidently this public right of way is not quite yet open. We managed, and regained the railway embankment south fence and followed it to the south-west. The civil parish boundary clearly follows the north fence of the railway. The line of the ecclesiastical parish used to follow the stream that almost parallels the railway first on the north side then on the north side, the line was tidied up using the line of the railway when the joint parish of The Lydiards was formed in 1981. There is nothing specific to mark it here.



At [SU113826] the public footpath runs alongside the railway under the M4 motorway, how convenient!

Since 1981 the boundary continues towards the Hay Lane bridge, where the boundary turns south away from the railway onto an ancient line heading along the western side of Hay Lane. Apart from a very overgrown hedge line there is nothing to mark it. We followed Hay Lane, crossing the new road and gaining the western side near Blooms Garden Centre at [SU109823]



Hay Lane marks the route of a pre-historic trackway from Avebury to Cricklade, known as “The Ancient Way” “Saltharpeswaye” or Salthrop Way. Clearly this has formed a boundary between manors since before parishes existed.

Pastoral responsibility changes here, from Toothill to St Marys Lydiard Tregoze

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