

From Oaklands to Restrop Road

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

At [SU040862] the Queen Street junction our parish boundary is a few metres to the South of Wood Lane – and follows a ditch and bank through woodland. There are many trees in the hedge. As we follow Wood Lane to the East the parish boundary comes closer to the current line of the road and is often visible as a line of trees or a slight bank in the front



gardens or road frontage of the properties on the right hand (South) side. Apart from these clues there is nothing to mark the boundary here.

The boundary continues towards The Firs where it crosses the road on a line that may be parallel to the hedge on the right at [SU047863] and enters The Firs wood for a few metres before re-emerging to join the hedge line on the left of the road at the gate at [SU049863]. There is nothing apart from the clues in the line of hedges to mark the boundary here.

The boundary follows the left hedgerow (North side, though the OS map implies the civil parish boundary is at the right hand South side) along Wood lane to the bend at [SU052863]. The OS (25k "Explorer" series) map shows a boundary stone supposedly on the right hand side of the road at the field boundary. This is not evident, despite some searching. Local knowledge suggests it was stolen (!) about 10 years ago.



The boundary continues to follow the left (North, though the OS map continues to show the civil parish boundary at the right hand South side) hedgerow along Wood Lane to its junction with the B4696 "Ashton Keynes" road, and across it at [SU055865] where there is a boundary stone at [SU 0561 8651] on the East side of the road.

At [SU055865] the boundary continues along a hedge line behind Plain Farm house and across the farmyard, continuing up the field boundary to the East of the Farm.



Due to animal operations and ground condition, we diverted a few metres to the North around the Farm buildings and regained the boundary line just to the East of them. There is an evident hedge line with several large trees to mark the boundary here. At this point we also gained a dog, that didn't want to go home, clearly wanting to perambulate with us (...and seemed to know the way)

At [SU059866] the boundary continues up the middle of a field, about 20-30 metres from the field boundary to the left. There is nothing evident to mark the boundary here. There access across (but not along) the boundary line on a public footpath.

At [SU063868] we diverted to the North of the boundary through a couple of gates and walked round to the West, then North then East of the fishing lake. The boundary crosses the fishing lake on an Easterly line to the island, then a Northerly line and crosses the field boundary to the North and goes round in a semi-circle about 20 metres in diameter to join the stream beyond to the East. There is nothing to be seen on the ground to mark the boundary line here, apart from a couple of trees and the stream in its ditch. There is no public access here.

The boundary continues to follow the stream upstream and broadly to the South.

This part of the parish boundary was recorded as a boundary of Bradon Forest in 1225 as the stream without 'Gustinglee'

We diverted back to the public footpath at [SU064867] and



walked to the bridge at [SU 0653 8673] where there is a boundary stone on the East side of both the stream and the bridge



We followed the stream and the boundary upstream to a [SU065865] where we initiated the rescue of a horse stuck in a ditch, and continued on footpaths to the bottom of Green Hill and the road. The boundary follows the stream round and between the properties here and is not accessible; there is nothing to indicate it.

The horse was subsequently rescued, supposedly by the use of a JCB to lift it out of the stream. A vet saw to its grazed leg, and it is apparently fine.

The dog was tied up by someone who seemed to know its owner. A later enquiry revealed its location had been telephoned through and a daughter was dispatched in a van to deliver said animal. No dog rustlers we!

The boundary apparently, though for no discernible reason, heads up the left hand (East) hedge to SU066863) just short of Holly House (which is outside the parish) cuts across to include the road up to this point and the right hand (West) hedge row and back down the hill to [SU065864] just above the front gate of WoodSide, where it heads across their front garden and turns left back up the hill approximately parallel to the road and about 20 metres from it. The overall effect (apart from puzzlement) is to exclude the properties on the right hand (West) side of the road from the parish, but to include much of their gardens.. The boundary line then crosses the front garden of the Hollies on the right and crosses the side turning at [SU067862]. Apart from a few large tree stumps in the hedge on the South side of the lane there is nothing to mark the boundary here. The boundary continues across the garden on the cottages uphill from here and re-emerges to the lane at the right hand (West) hedgerow at [SU067862]. We walked round the road rather than across everyone's gardens – as the line is visible from the road, if not actually marked by anything discernible.

Along this stretch the civil parish boundary is shown as being behind the Eastern property boundaries of all the properties on the East side of Green Hill. This may be much more sensible and includes all these properties in the civil parish of Lydiard Millicent, but is not so much fun.



At [SU068861] the corner of Green Hill, the ecclesiastical parish boundary crosses from the right hand (West) side of the lane to the left hand (North East then North) side of the lane, though there is nothing to indicate this apart from the clues in the property boundary lines.

Along the rest of Green Hill to the East, our boundary line follows the left hand (North) hedgerow and property frontages except where properties have been built or extended over the frontage towards the existing line of the road. The boundary is never more than a couple of metres from the road, to the North of it, and is clearly visible unless in someone's front parlour, or garage. We walked along the road side to the bend at [SU077860]



At [SU077860] the boundary line heads slightly left into the field to the North of the road and follows the (extremely wide) hedge Eastwards towards Restrop road. This is the edge of the "Restrop Farm and Brockhurst Wood" Site of Special Scientific Interest, the geology, physiogeographic features, flora and fauna may not be destroyed, damaged or disturbed without committing an offence under Section 28 P(6) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as incorporated by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). We followed its line to the first field boundary, the stile on the public footpath goes in the wrong direction – heading towards the civil parish boundary which lies a field further North from here, so we returned to the road and walked East to the junction of Green Hill and Restrop Road. We turned left and walked down to the gate next to the hedge line where the boundary line emerges onto Restrop road at [SU079861]

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