

# BwB Neighbourhood Plan

## History & Heritage

### Initial Evidence Paper

**Version 2 15/06/18**

#### *Sources:*

A) [https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/page\\_downloads/Bierton-Conservation-Area-Jan-2008.pdf](https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/page_downloads/Bierton-Conservation-Area-Jan-2008.pdf)

Produced by Aylesbury Vale District Council, this document comprehensively describes the Conservation Areas around the village of Bierton, and in doing so provides an excellent history on the development of the village.

B) "The Story of Bierton", by Michael Griffin and Robin Thurston, 1994  
Written to celebrate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. James the Great, Parish Church of Bierton.

C) "A Young Person's Guide to the History of Bierton, Broughton and Hulcott", by Honor Lewington, 2000

Written as a gift to the children of Bierton, Broughton and Hulcott to celebrate the Millennium.

D) <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

Produced by a partnership including the Dept. for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Natural England, this is a multi-layered online map application with a considerable amount of data!

## Overview

Source A is a lengthy and technical document, but in seeking to justify the existence of Conservation Areas provides much detail on the history and development of the village of Bierton. It also provides information on many additional reference sources.

Sources B and C are more narrative and anecdotal in form. When considering future developments in the parish, it may be that heritage – what still exists in the area, in the form of architecture, land use, listed buildings, for example – is relevant. But is history – what has happened in the past without necessarily leaving any evidence behind? For example, it is known that lace making was at one time an important cottage industry in Bierton, and that there was a lace making school in the village. However, as nobody knows where this was, is it relevant now? Nevertheless, a sense of history may inform a sense of community, so this Evidence Paper will record or refer to both history and heritage.

Source A describes Bierton as containing “an eclectic mixture of historic buildings ranging in date from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries”. Although its basic nature is that of a linear village, its proximity to Aylesbury has “led to the construction of a significant number of modern buildings...At the south-western end of the village, modern development stretching along Great Lane and Parsons Lane has partially obscured the linear character of historic development in this part of the village”.

In addition, and after the time of all the sources, additional pressure has created “modern” housing estates on the Bierton/Aylesbury boundary, and of course there is the new Kingsbrook development in the

parish – its location in effect providing a barrier between Bierton and Broughton, where once was just countryside. The 2450 houses proposed for this latest development will, eventually, dwarf the 1000 or so dwellings in Bierton.

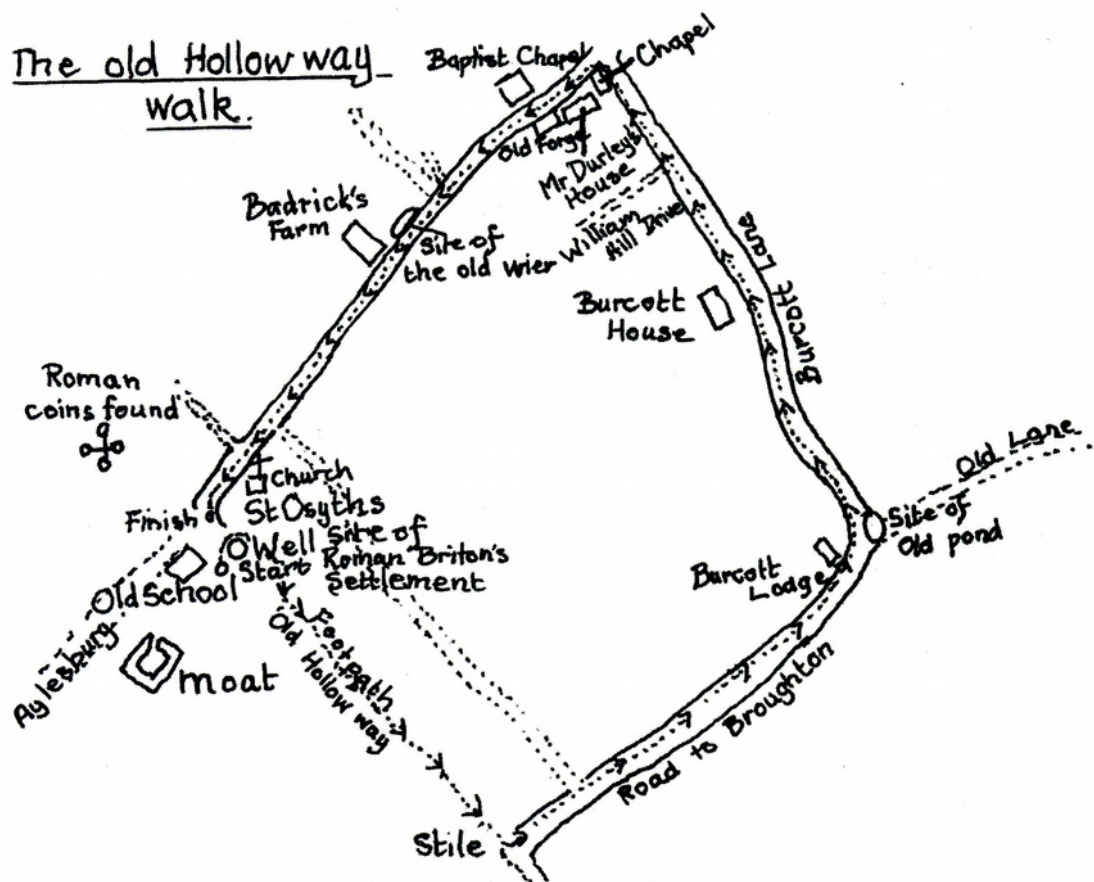
## Timeline – approximate!

- c 4000 – 2350 BC: evidence of Neolithic activity in the area around the site which is now occupied by St. James Church
- c 2400 – 1800 BC: evidence of Bronze Age settlement, again in the area around the site which is now occupied by St. James Church
- c 43 AD: Roman villa constructed near what is now the site of St. Osyth's Well
- c 420 AD: Anglo Saxons are carrying out "Ridge and Furrow" farming – evidence still in local fields
- c 900 AD: the body of the martyred St. Osyth rests in Bierton (maybe!), giving rise to the legend of the never-running-dry village well, or the healing powers of the village well – take your pick!
- 1060 AD: sources are referring to Bierton as "Burgh-ton", meaning "fortified farm", and to Broughton as "Broch-ton", meaning "farm by the brook"
- 1086 AD: Domesday Book refers separately to both Bierton and Broughton (although some dispute about the accuracy of the information)
- 1250 AD: chapels built in both Bierton and Broughton
- 1294 AD: first rector of Bierton appointed
- c 1294 AD: present church in Bierton is first built
- c 1535 AD: Broughton chapel disappears, starting the decline of this area as a dwelling place
- 1536 AD: Henry VIII gives land in Bierton to Jane Seymour – and then to Anne of Cleves, and then to Catherine Howard, eventually passing to Elizabeth I!
- 1533 – 1603 AD: farmers in the area grow wealthy, and build new timber-framed houses
- 1642 - 1651 AD: during the Civil War, Bierton was Parliamentary; Cromwell may have stabled his horses in the church
- 1652 AD: brick outside walls replacing timber-framing
- c 1740 AD: barn built at Hulcott end of Bierton – now known as "Bob's Barn"
- 1773 AD: Corbet hanged on the last gibbet in the county, at the north-eastern end of Bierton (now Gib Lane). His body hangs there for 20 years, and as a result a footpath is created to run along the backs of the houses on the northern side of Aylesbury Road, so that folk do not need to pass the body
- 1780 AD: Enclosure Act results in loss of Broughton green to common people
- 1801 AD: census records the population of Bierton with Broughton as 518
- 1815 AD: Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal is opened, running through the parish
- 1831 AD: Baptists' chapel built
- 1839 AD: Aylesbury to Cheddington railway is opened, running through the parish. A level crossing, with a house for the crossing keeper, is built at Broughton – hence the name Broughton Crossing, which is all that is left. This point is now a boundary of the new Kingsbrook Development.

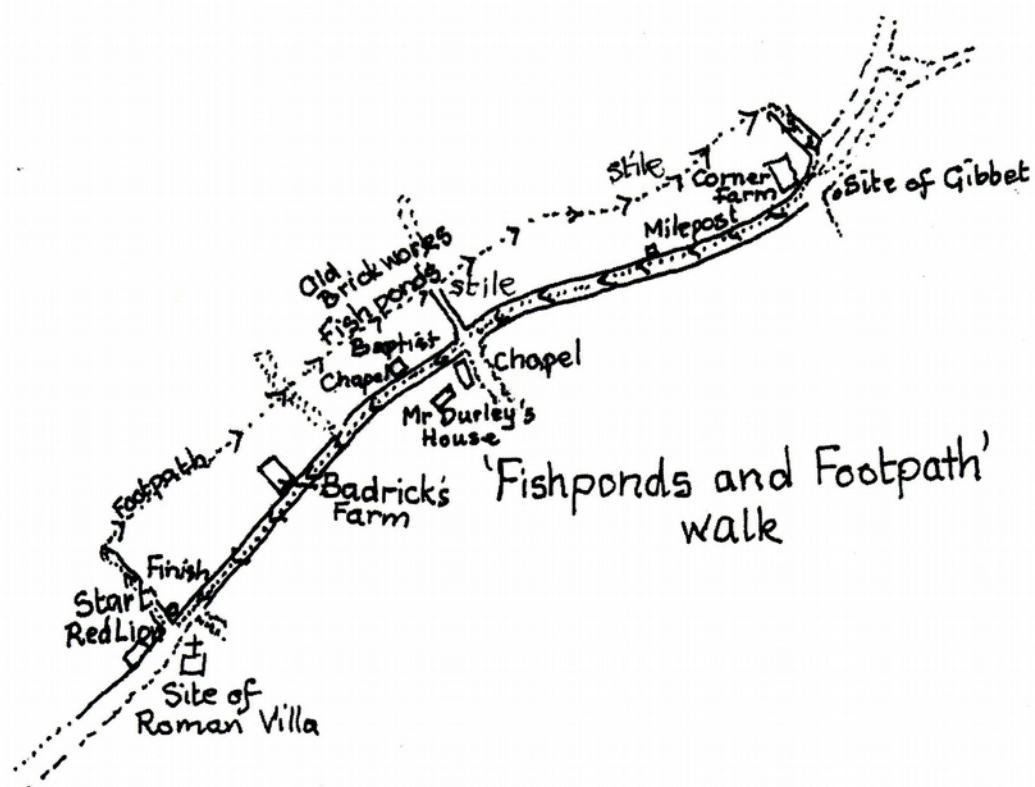
- 1850 AD: Bierton Brickworks operating in Brick Lane – the pits from which clay was dug are now called the “fish ponds”
- 1850 AD: Rothschild becomes the main landowner and instigates much improvement to buildings
- 1877 AD: Methodist church built
- 1881 AD: census records the population of Bierton with Broughton as 680 (383 adults and 297 children)
- 1963 AD: new school in Parsons Lane opens
- 1965 AD: railway ceases to be used
- 1969 AD: remains of Roman villa discovered by archaeologists
- 2001 AD: census records the population of Bierton as 1771
- 2015 AD: Kingsbrook development (2450 houses) building starts, with “Oakfield Village” - 492 homes

These sketches, reproduced from source C, are intended to encourage walking around the parish. They are not to scale, but may help to locate some of the buildings and sites mentioned in this Evidence Paper:

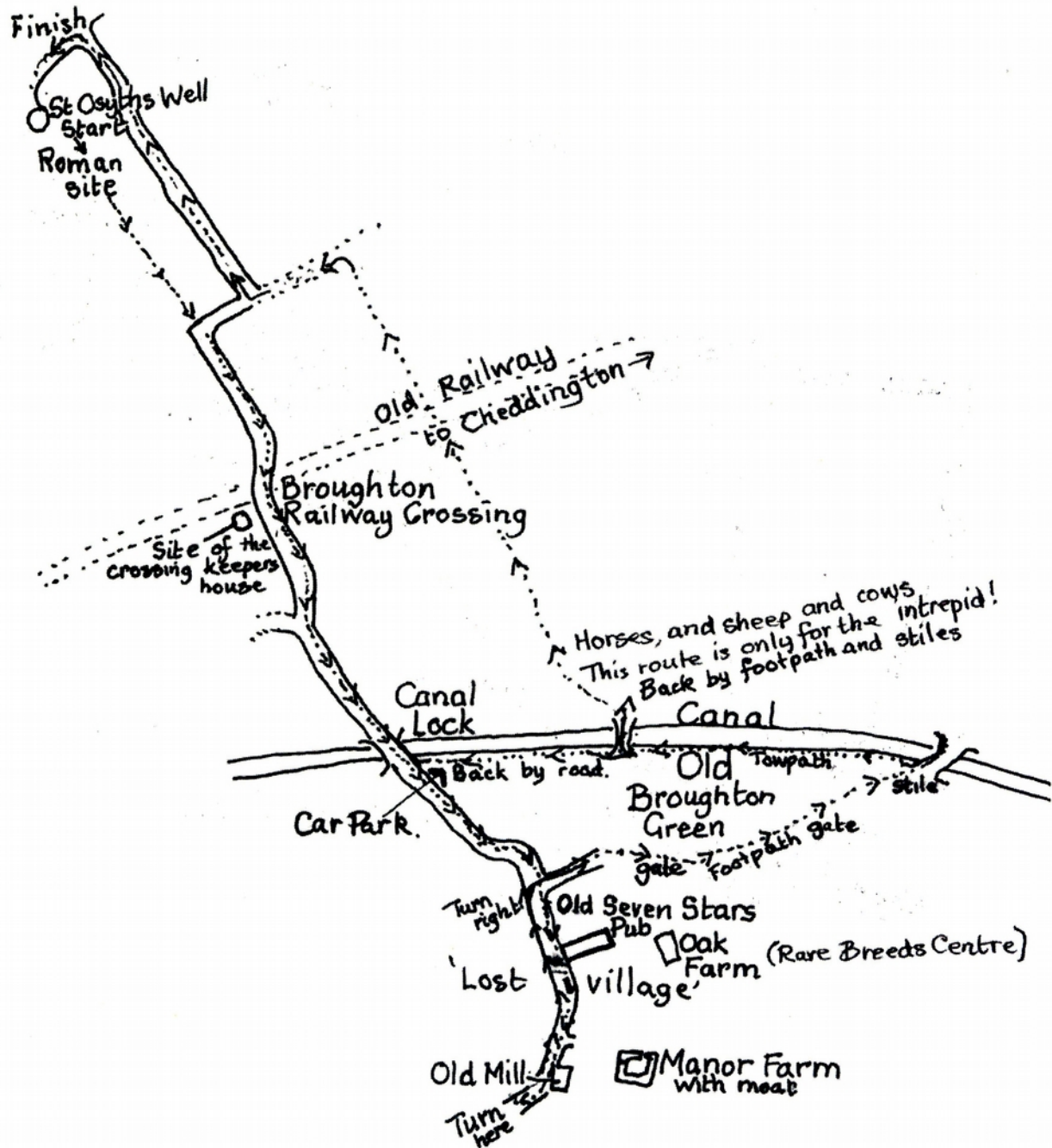
### Walk 1 - The 'Bierton Old Hollow Way' Walk



## Walk 2 - The 'Bierton Fishponds and Footpaths' Walk



### 3 - The 'Broughton Railway and Canal' Walk



Note that in the last sketch, the new Kingsbrook development lies between Broughton Railway Crossing and the canal, extending across the road to the left.

### Significant Buildings and Sites – a selection

- St. Osyth's Well – legendary healing powers
- St. James Church - 14<sup>th</sup> century parish church, listed Grade I
- The Red Lion - 17<sup>th</sup> century public house, listed Grade II



- Bierton House - 18<sup>th</sup> century house, listed Grade II
- Redberry House - 18<sup>th</sup> century house, listed Grade II
- Old School, Aylesbury Road - 19<sup>th</sup> century former school building
- Old Vicarage, Aylesbury Road - 19<sup>th</sup> century former vicarage
- The Bell - 19<sup>th</sup> century public house
- Bob's Barn - 18<sup>th</sup> century farm barn, heavily restored
- Wesleyan Chapel - 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Primrose Cottage - 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal, Bridges 11, 12 and 14 - 19<sup>th</sup> century canal engineering

As can be seen in this map, the Parish also has one scheduled monument, in the village of Bierton, an area known as The Moat:

