

John Rocque's Map of 1761

Some comments on the details shown on the map, made by members of the Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society, September 2019

1. The pound lock and the toll bridge are yet to be built. The large downstream island, where the toll bridge will later go, appears conjectural.
2. Bridle Road approach is more to the north than shown on the Rocque map. It was probably moved when emparked for Coombe Lodge (now Coombe Park, built 1792).
3. The only feature of present day Whitchurch Hill that is apparent is the triangle south of what it now the recreation ground – everything above that was Whitchurch Common, running into Goring Heath.
4. The Alms Houses, built in 1724, were in the midst of the expanse of Goring Heath.
5. Coombe End, as we know it, is Comb Green and the settlement on Whitchurch Common was mainly south of the present Goring Heath Road.
6. Collins End is spelled as at present. This is where the original King Charles Head was.
7. A track leads down from Whitchurch Hill to Bozedown Farm through what is now Bozedown House.
8. There is no longer the track cutting the corner of Hardwick Road across to Path Hill (continuing up to The Baulk). The modern road continues to Hardwick gates before turning up the hill, and ignores Town Lane (which is still the width of a cart track).
9. The map predates the Enclosure so field boundary hedges are speculative and ignore the 'great' fields of East Field, Park Field etc. with their strip farming.

John Rocque (originally Jean; c. 1709–1762) was a surveyor and cartographer. He is now mainly remembered for his map of London. He began work on this in 1737 and it was published in 24 printed sheets in 1747. It was by far the most detailed map of London published up to that time and remains an important historical resource. He also surveyed and published maps of Middlesex, Oxford, Berkshire, & Buckinghamshire in 1760. These maps are more schematic and not a survey as started by the Ordnance Survey 1809.