

BEATING THE BOUNDS

Iain Wakeford © 2014

You might be forgiven, if you have looked at the previous pages on this site, in thinking that only Woking and Chertsey were recorded in this area before the writing of the Domesday Book. But Byfleet was recorded in 727 - fleet or fleet being an old name for a stream (its location being 'by [the] fleet') - with Pyrford following in 956 and Send in about 960-2.



Crockford may refer to 'crops' of pottery, being deposited near the ford as some offering to the ancient river gods!

Nearby the 'herestreat' (a military road), may mark the route of a Roman Road (mentioned in my article on the Roman period).

Crockford Bridge, Addlestone.

Published by W. Bates & Son, Chertsey.

Horsell isn't recorded until the 13th century, but a number of other 'minor' place names do make their way into the records before the Norman Conquest, including Egley (or Egceanlea – Ecga's Clearing) – as in the road between Woking & Mayford, recorded in about 1005 (if the 12th century records of Eynsham Abbey in Oxfordshire are to be believed).

The 7th century bounds of Chertsey Abbey record many local places for the first time including Weybridge, Woburn and Crockford at Addlestone, as well as Mimbridge (bridge near the field of mint) and Sythwood (possibly 'scythe shaped wood') at Horsell.

Of course the present day Sythwood on Goldsworth Park is just a modern commemoration of the old name, with the original wood being more or less where Knaphill Nursery used to be and the 'Lower Knaphill' area.

The later 9th century bounds of Chertsey, recorded in King Alfred's Charter of about 889, are slightly different and mention for the first time Wintersells (Wyntredeshulle), Fullbrook (fule brok – or foul brook) and Durnford (derneforde) – the latter apparently meaning a 'secret' or hidden ford.

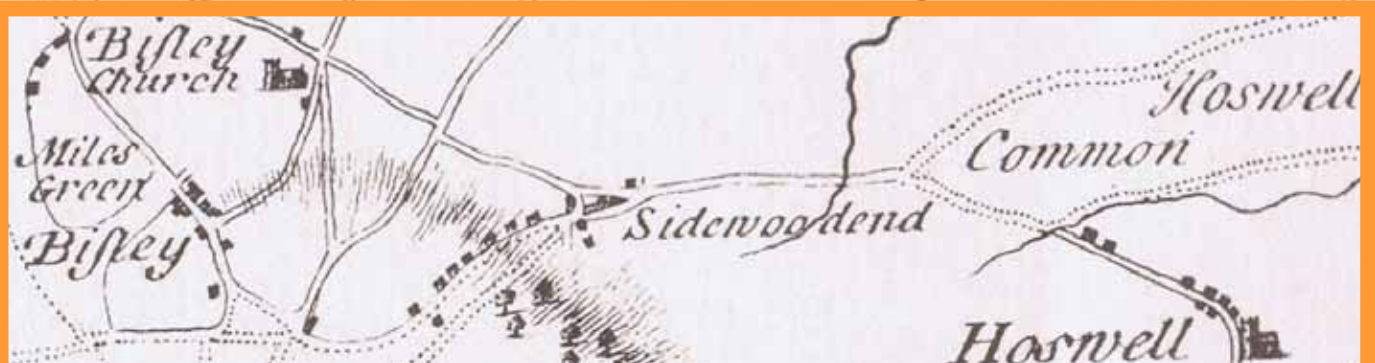
Wintersells was at one time a farm off Oyster Lane (before Brooklands Race Track was built) and is now commemorated in the industrial estate and road near Byfleet & New Haw Station.

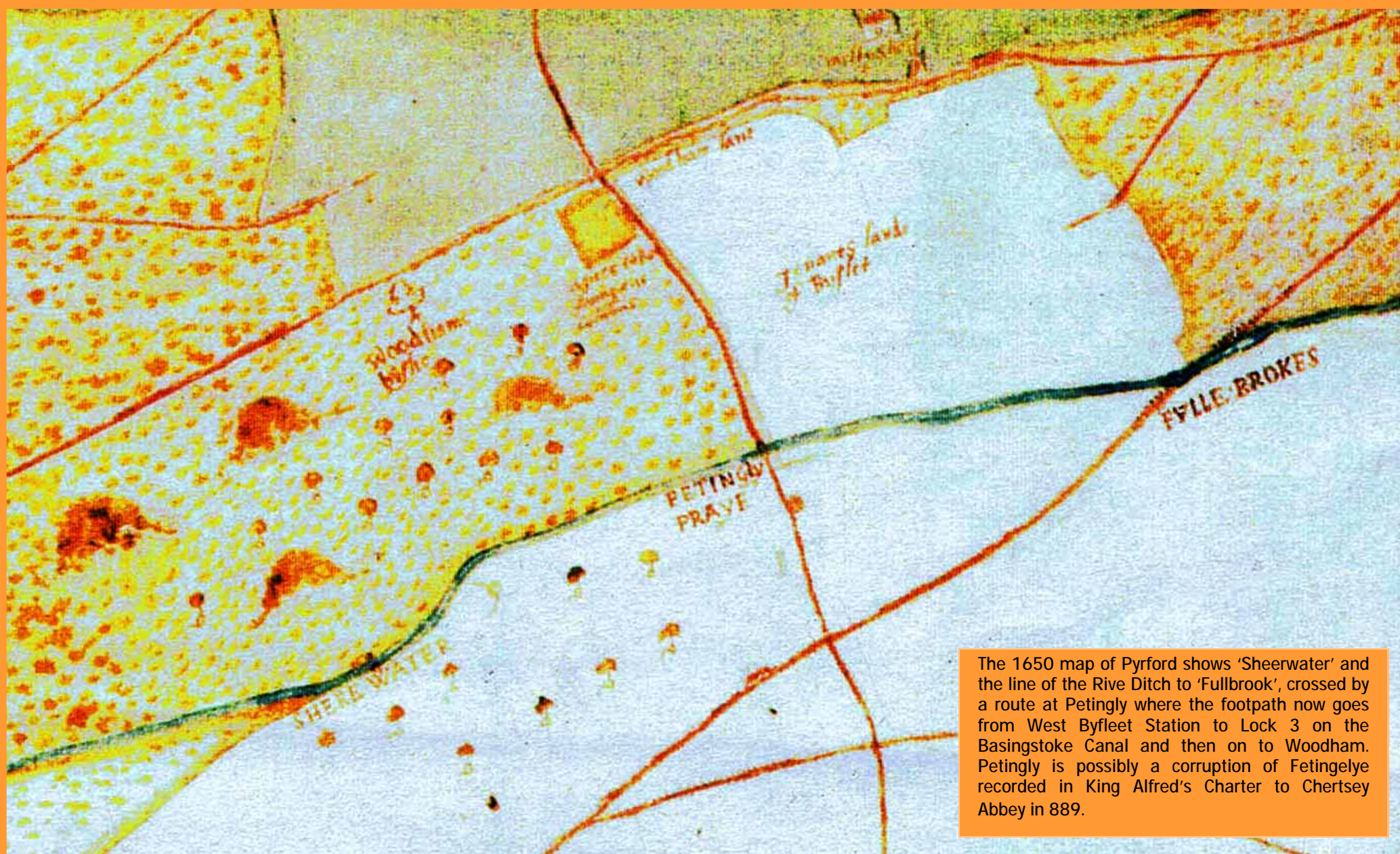


Egley (left) was apparently first recorded in the 11th century whilst both Sythwood (below – shown here as 'Sidewoodend') and Durnford date from the late 7th century and 9th centuries respectively.

The ford at Durnford was replaced by a bridge by at least 1605, when it was recorded as Derneforde Bridge. Later corruptions of the name record 'Dunford Bridge' in 1749 and Darneford Bridge in 1765.

The picture, right, shows the reconstruction of the bridge in the 1950's





The 1650 map of Pyrford shows 'Sheerwater' and the line of the Rive Ditch to 'Fullbrook', crossed by a route at Petingly where the footpath now goes from West Byfleet Station to Lock 3 on the Basingstoke Canal and then on to Woodham. Petingly is possibly a corruption of Fetingelye recorded in King Alfred's Charter to Chertsey Abbey in 889.

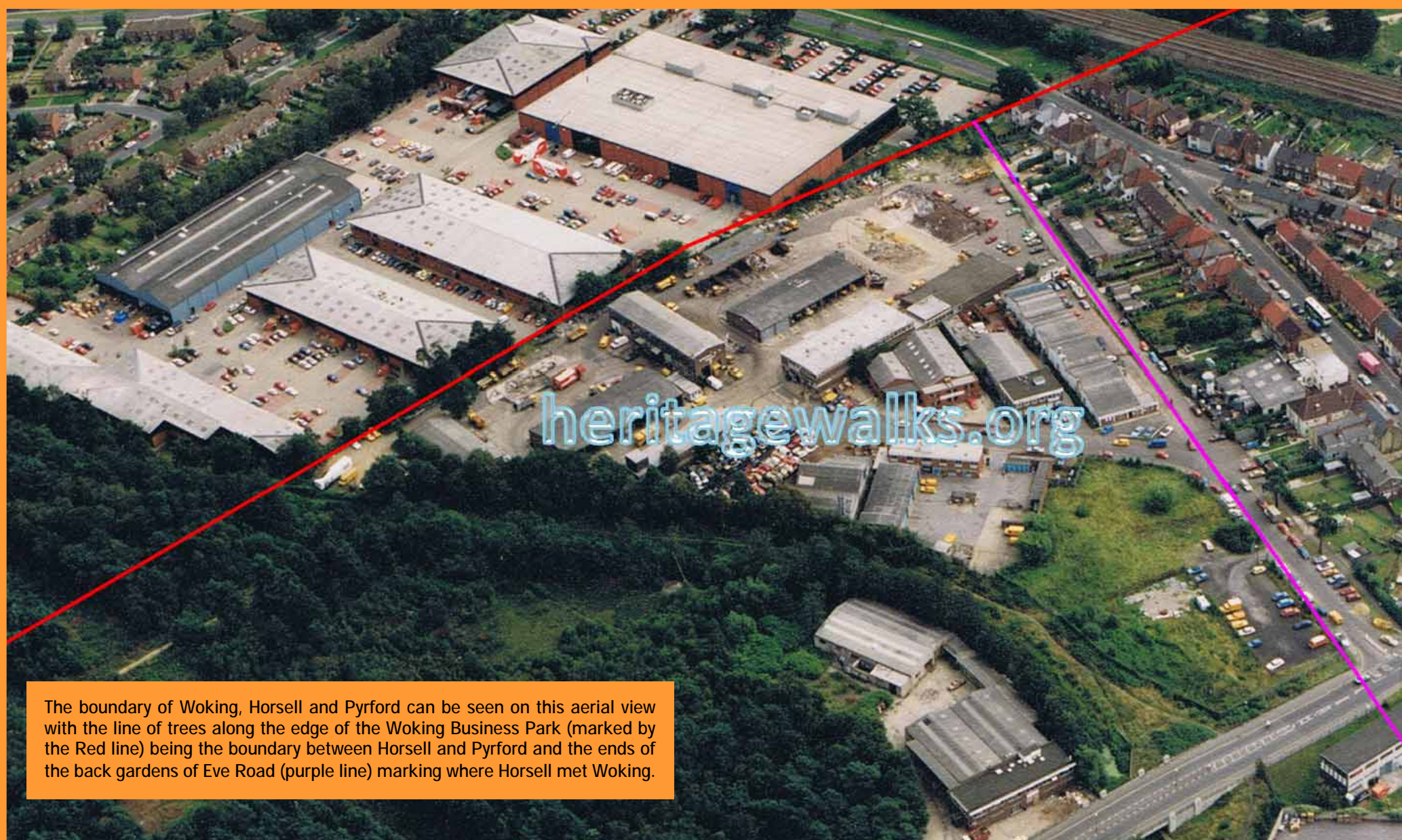
The Fullbrook is interesting as it appears to be an alternative name for the Rive Ditch an old stream that is now mainly piped underground, but can still be seen running alongside the canal at West Byfleet – its iron-stained colour perhaps a clue to its 'foul' look in the late 9th century. 'Rithe' in Old English apparently means

'ditch', so the later name is actually a tautology. The stream appears to have been the boundary between Woking and Horsell (its valley recorded in 'Vale Farm' at Goldsworth), and evidently fed the old Sheerwater Lake before flowing into the River Wey at Byfleet. An old

estate map of Pyrford dating from about 1650 doesn't show the lake, but does show the stream with the name Sheerwater, Petingly Prave and Fullbrook clearly marked. It has been suggested that Petingly could be a corruption of Fetingelye recorded in King Alfred's charter of 889 immediately after Fullbrook.



The Rive Ditch at West Byfleet (beside the Woodlands Avenue Car Park) is orange through the iron-rich water. Perhaps this is the 'foul' looking stream of the Chertsey Abbey charters?



The boundary of Woking, Horsell and Pyrford can be seen on this aerial view with the line of trees along the edge of the Woking Business Park (marked by the Red line) being the boundary between Horsell and Pyrford and the ends of the back gardens of Eve Road (purple line) marking where Horsell met Woking.

After Fetingelye the boundary goes on to a boundary stone before reaching Durnford and it has been suggested that this long-lost stone may have once stood on the edge of Sheerwater, where the parishes of Woking, Horsell and Pyrford once met.

In 933 Byfleet was confirmed as being part of Chertsey Abbey's lands along with Bisley (Busselegh – a clearing overgrown with bushes), the church of which may also feature in the bounds of Pyrford in 956 as 'eccles hamme' – a religious enclosure (from the Latin

When Boundary Lane was still a boundary

Many people think of the Basingstoke Canal as being the 'natural' boundary between Woking and Horsell but the real boundary, as the name should suggest, was along Boundary Road and Boundary Lane – the latter being obliterated in the 1970's by the construction of Victoria Way (but pictured here along with the canal in the 1960's).

That is why the play area of Boundary Road

and 'Brook House Common' have escaped from development as they were part of Horsell Common and not part of Woking Common bought and later developed by the Necropolis Company in the 1850's.

The boundary continues along the edge of Horsell Moor where the houses are on the Woking side of the boundary and the green on the Horsell side.





'eclisia' meaning church). This has promoted some to speculate that the nearby Holy Well (dedicated, like the church, to St John the Baptist) may have been used in Roman times as a Christian Shrine, the tradition of which remained in memory (if not use) into the middle of the 10th century.

The charter giving the manor of Pyrford to Westminster Abbey clearly shows that at that time all of Horsell was within the Manor of Pyrford, explaining perhaps the lack of any reference to Horsell until several centuries later. Indeed as well as Eccles Hamme, the bounds record Parley (Pear Clearing) and Millbrook, as well as other places on Horsell's border with Chertsey's lands, including Mimbridge, Durnford and Fullbrook.

But when the River Wey wasn't a boundary

Whilst some people wrongly think that the Basingstoke Canal was the boundary between Woking and Horsell, others could be forgiven for thinking that the River Wey at Plough Bridge was also the border between Byfleet (top in this aerial view of the 1960's) and Cobham (at the base of the picture). In fact the ancient boundary for some reason departed from the course of the river a few hundred metres upstream and headed to Foxwarren, Silvermere and across St Georges Hill – part of which until the

1930's was in Byfleet, part in Cobham and part in Weybridge (see map below).

Indeed the name 'Plough Bridge' is thought to originate from the original Plough public house that was in the building later known as Plough Farm (bottom right of the picture), until 1840 when the landlord apparently got so fed up with his cellar flooding and spoiling his ale, that he decided to move the pub to a new site on the 'high ground' of Byfleet High Road.

The old course of the river (shown on the map below) is marked by the line of trees across the centre of the picture, rejoining the main stream at the bridge.

Before the 1930's boundary changes, the border of Byfleet (marked in red) left the River Wey just upstream of the Manor House, to cross to Foxwarren, Silvermere and over St. George's Hill.

