



The Maldens and Coombe Heritage Society

(Founded 2012)

WHERE EXACTLY IS MALDENS AND COOMBE?

Julian McCarthy

We all talk about it and feel that we know the area but have you ever stopped to think of where the boundary of the old borough or urban district council actually is?

No, nor had I as there are far more important things to be doing.

However, I was out on a walk a few weeks ago and stumbled across a boundary marker on the A3 and this set off the little man inside my head (specifically, the one who deals with 'finding things out') and he made all the others restless and so the little man who reads maps, the little man who controls my feet teamed up and made me get out there and look to see what I (we) could find.

Both yesterday and today, this little team of men who run around inside my head filing information, making me do things etc. saw the brilliant sunlight, felt the warmth and teamed up. Feet taking me out the house with 'I must find out' echoing through my head.

(Just in case you are worried, I DO realise that there are no little men inside my head but is far more interesting to suggest that others made me get up and go out as opposed to appearing sad and having nothing better to do than just venturing out to find the boundaries of the Malden and Coombe district.)

Anyway, armed with a copy of an old map of the Borough of Malden and Coombe I set off and memory told me that there was something at Beverley Bridge by the Robin Hood Roundabout and that is also the most northerly point of the Borough so that is where I started.

The map and photos below set out what I found along the route and I cannot claim to have walked the whole of the boundary (as the little man controlling my feet had brought the man who drives the car with him and they took it in turns telling me what to do!!).

The little man who doesn't like walking alongside rivers didn't come so that part of the borough has not been fully explored.

So I set off yesterday and early (well for me) this morning, for Beverley Bridge and I hope you find some of the following of interest.

The map I obtained from a booklet for the Borough and the colours depict whether the boundary is water or land.



This is at Beverley Bridge (South side), looking South towards Beverley Brook and the playing fields. On the map above this is at the top of the page, looking at the blue line of the river. The path I am now going to take you is effectively anti-clockwise around the map.



This marker in the centre of the bridge appears to confirm that the boundary is the centre line of the brook and that on one side you would be in the London County Council area whereas cross the middle of the brook and you would be in the old Surrey County Council.



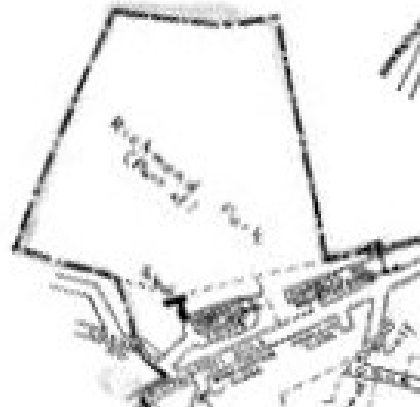


Looking at the north side of the bridge I was amazed to find the worn inscription and marker points telling that the bridge was built 1734 and then 'widend' 1770 (ish). I found this image on line



Looking north from the Bridge the Brook runs into Richmond Park but it is clear from the map that, immediately after entering the park the boundary turns and runs south west, following the line of the park, but just inside. There is a path way alongside the wall of the park and it is likely that the boundary is the wall.





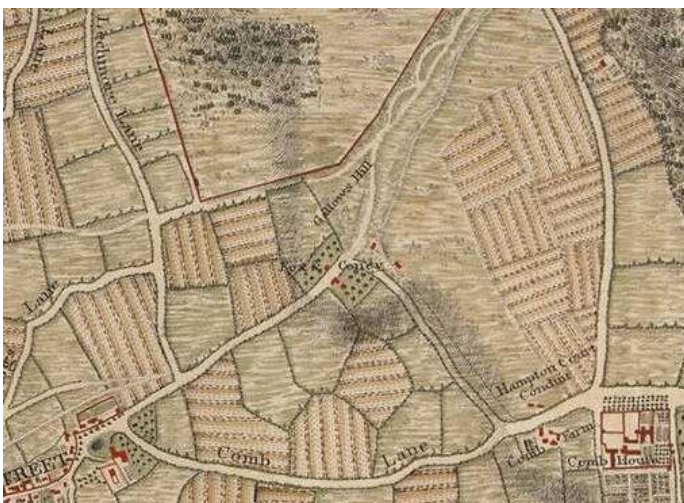
This map (in the park) is quite revealing as I didn't quite understand the trapezium shape to the boundary (top left of the Borough map until I rotated it and compared it with the Park map.

It is clear the borough included the section of the park leading from the red 'you are here' Ladderstile gate, north on the track until it intersects with the west track to Ham gate and then southwest down the side of the park to Queen's Gate and then back east .



Just west of Crescent Road and east of the Kingston Lodge Hotel (or whatever the pub is now called) is a white boundary marker depicting the separation of Kingston upon Thames and Malden and Coombe.

It is interesting to note that the gallows for Kingston were situated just outside the borough boundary. Rocque's map 1746 shows the triangular gallows (see the small image bottom right the gallows are depicted just right of the word Gallows) were on the opposite side of the road from the road alongside the pub. So in the photo above, the gallows appear to have been on the left of the road leading up the hill, just where the block of flats now stand.



I could find no markers anywhere between Kingston Hill and Kingston Road. There are none crossing Coombe Lane West, which surprised me as this is an old established road and prime for marking. So I continued up and down the side roads until reaching Kingston Road.



There are two boundary markers on the Kingston Road between New Malden and Kingston. The photos above shows one just west of aptly named Boundary Close on the Kingsmeadow side of the road, heading for Kingston. On the opposite side of the road to the right of the path is another marker.





Looking from the path toward Boundary Close on the south side of the road.

Moving onward along the map I went down Green Lane (off south Lane) and looked at the Hogsmill. No markers but understandable bearing in mind the river is the boundary.



Looking north towards the Kingston Road



Looking South towards the A3



Looking North from the A3 Kingston By pass



Looking South toward the A3 Kingston By pass



Looking East on the A3 (towards New Malden (back to Tolworth) and South on the Hogsmill.

Continuing to the next 'crossing' I found a small stone UDC marker by the bollards to the bridge over the Hogsmill at the bottom of Sheephouse Way



Looking north toward the A3 from Sheephouse Way bridge.



Bollard and boundary marker



Looking south from the Sheephouse Way bridge.



Nothing found by St John's church.



But then, in the Avenue, just down from Malden Road, I found what I believe is the Southern-most boundary marker for the Borough



In Green Lane north east of Worcester Park Station (on right) Looking South



In Green Lane north east of Worcester Park Station looking North



End of Green Lane looking south



End of Green Lane looking north



Motspur Park / West Barnes Lane Bridge looking south and there, on the bridge between the two road names is another boundary marker.





Looking North



Blakes Lane bridge looking south





Finally an east marker, where the Beverley Brook crosses the Kingston by pass, just south of the Coombe Lane 'flyover' / bridge.

From here the Beverley Brook (apparently (says Wikipedia (so it MUST be true!?) named after the now extinct European Beaver) flows north from here across Wimbledon Common, to the east of the Kingston bypass and back to the first photo in this series.

So there you have it, the boundary of Malden and Coombe Borough.

(J McCarthy 9th March 2014)