



# The Maldens and Coombe Heritage Society

(Founded 2012)

## WHERE WAS THE WATERFALL AND FOOTBRIDGE ?

Julian McCarthy

Earlier today I was looking through some old photos and I came across this which refers to a waterfall in Coombe Road New Malden.



There is not really that much to go on from the picture other than a hunch that the water course, over which the bridge is crossing, is Coombe Brook, which runs alongside the golf course and is a tributary to the Beverley Brook. Oh yes, I also have the clue provided by the 'tudor-esque' house in the background.

I thought it worth a stroll up to the brook to see what I could see.

Initially I thought that the photo might have been taken looking to the east with the tudor style building being that on the corner of Coombe Road and Alric Avenue.

However, in walking past the building and looking at the pattern of the faux tudor timbers it was apparent that this was not the building in the distance.

I could see that this obviously was not on the golf course and so the only other direction that this could have been taken is looking west from Coombe Road.

However, if you have walked along to the stream, where Coombe Road becomes Traps Lane you will see that there is no stream on the West side of the road and it just 'appears' on the east side and then runs alongside the golf course and the house next to the golf course.





East side of Coombe Road  
Coombe Brook just “appears’



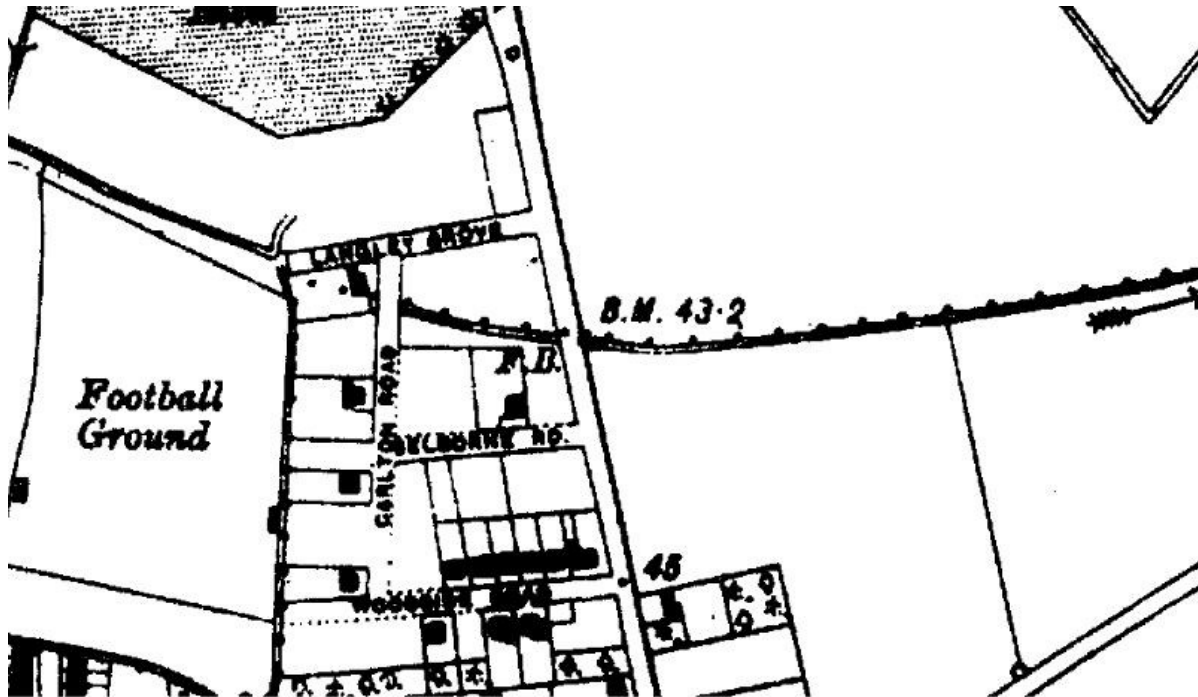
West Side of Coombe Road  
No sign of the Brook

Well, I thought, there is no west part of the brook now but what if there was? I recalled some old maps indicating the brook running west. So I took a detour along the streets west of Coombe Road and Traps Lane and there, on the corner of Carlton Road and Langley Grove I found the building in the picture.



So it appears that the photo was taken from Coombe Road / Traps Lane where Coombe Brook crosses under the road, looking slightly north west. I wondered if the bridge was referenced anywhere.

Checking ordnance survey maps and on the 1920 map, sure enough, there is a footbridge marked to the west of Coombe Road and the house on the corner of Carlton Road and Langley Grove is there and , strangely, it is positioned directly in line with the brook.



So today's (pointless) mini-quest is completed and the question as to where was the footbridge is clearly answered by the positioning of the house and the note re F.B. on the map.

Yes, I know that looking at the map may have provided the answer in the first place but finding the building in the photo removed any doubt.

However having looked at the map and the house and then looked again at the route of the brook I have to ask .....

"Why on earth would someone have built the house in the picture house directly over the path of the brook in the first place?"