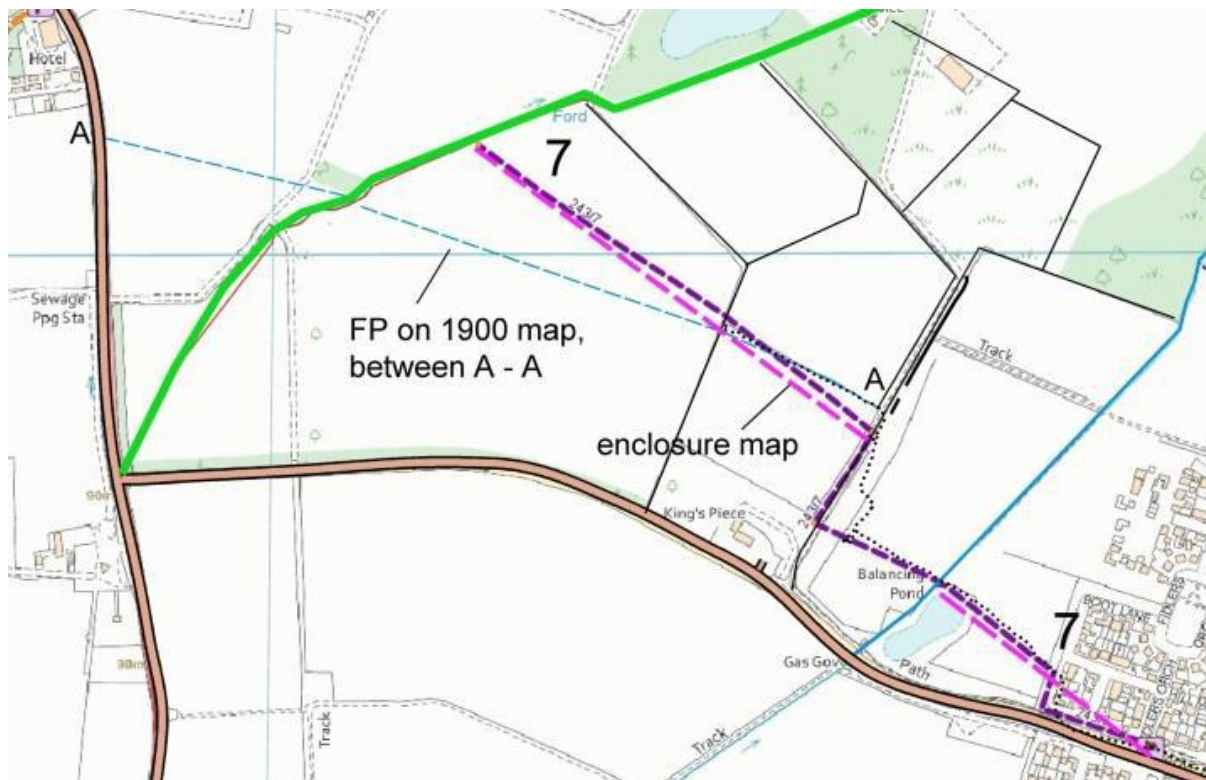


## Harwell Parish Council – update on DMMO Footpath 7

**Below are the notes submitted to OCC in 2022 to support application for DMMO for including old route of Harwell Footpath 7 on the Definitive Map. Additions for August 2023 are in blue font.**

Asking OCC to reinstate the former route of footpath 243/7, as per the OS Map 1900, as shown on the plan below marked A-A, so that the path can continue as in former days beyond the parish boundary.

OCC says Enclosure maps would supersede OS maps. Unlikely to get route A-A adopted even with evidence.

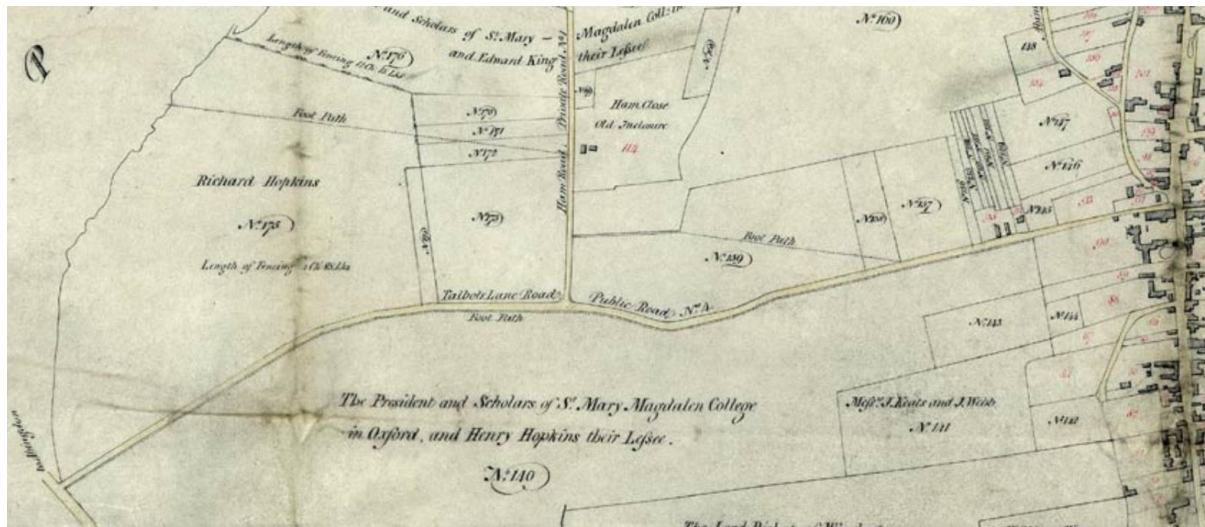


The current Rights of Way map route of Footpath 7 is marked with the black dashed line. The parish boundary is shown in green and the line of the enclosure map in purple

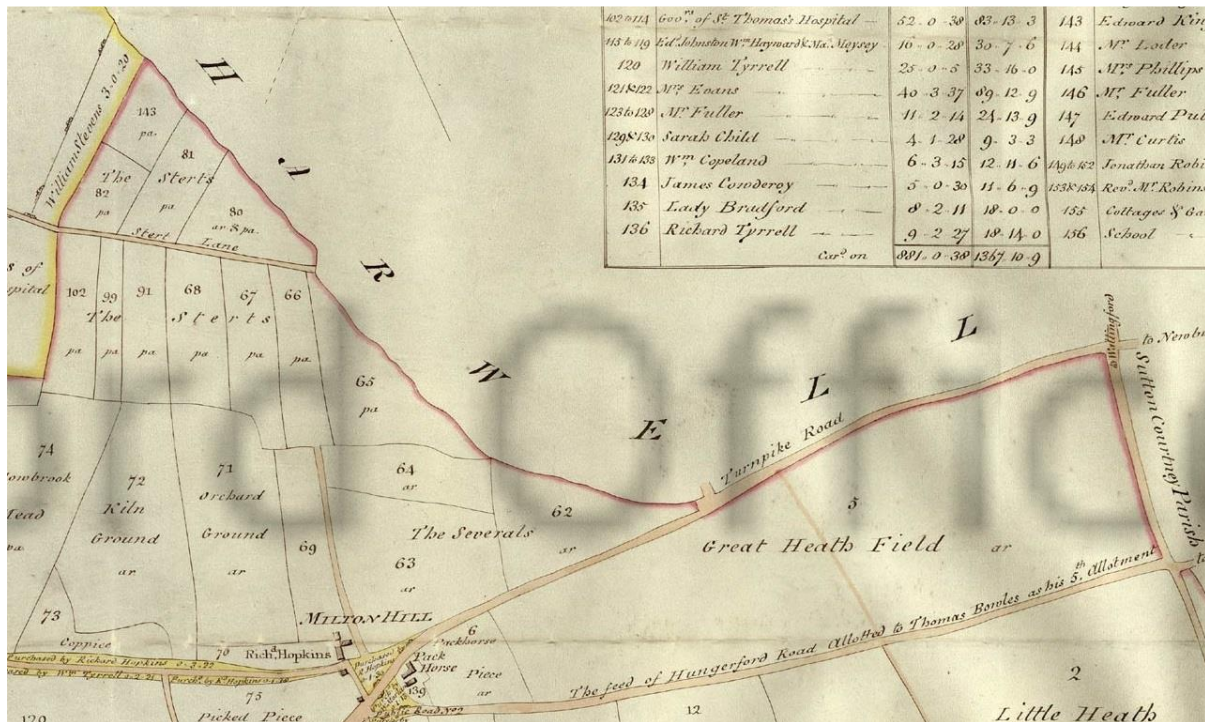
The National Library of Scotland (NLS) has given the OS map the date range 1888 to 1913 because it is a composite map of many sheets. The two sheets relevant to this item are the Berkshire XV NW and SW sheets which are dated 1900. Most of the path is on the NW sheet:



Other evidence includes the Enclosure Map 1804;



Milton Enclosure Map 1810;



Full response from OCC and clerk's notes alongside in italics;

1. It looks like the Inclosure Award placed the path where it is on the Definitive Map. If so, that would almost certainly trump a route shown on an OS map, undermining any application you make. What might have happened is that, sometime between Inclosure and the late 19th century, the path was moved. If it was, you should try to obtain evidence of that. At that time, paths would have been diverted by magistrates at Quarter Sessions. QS records are kept at the Berkshire Record Office (not

that they are always complete) and these should be looked at for evidence that the path was legally diverted.

*There is some evidence in office files re: searches made in the 1980s and 1990s, when orchards blocked the route and fences were erected. No mention of Quarter Sessions.*

2. You state that villagers could give evidence. Is this evidence of long term use of the route you are claiming? That would help.

*In the files various residents have complained about the path being closed or blocked. OCC and the old Berks council have intervened but the route claimed has not always been the same. Would need new evidence in agreement with the route the PC wants to claim.*

3. Regardless, have you made any contact with the owners of the land, pointed out the situation and suggested they might like to talk to us? It might be that we can accommodate a route, make changes if necessary, which gets us from A to B with the least trouble? Does depend on their co-operation though.

*Landowner knows about the application for the A-A route as he was issued a notice as part of the application. His family have been approached various times over the years to address various problems with the path. It still makes sense to try and extend the path as it currently ends abruptly.*

*Next steps –*

*Contact landowner?*

*Is land likely to be used for housing in near future? In that case developers would seek a diversion or closure.*

*Decide whether to proceed with current route application. If PC still wants to go ahead evidence of use and of former route will be required.*