

Historic Map Regression of the area opposite The Boot Inn

The earliest available map dates from 1769 and depicts the Manor of Soulbury, then owned by Jonathan Lovett. The area opposite The Boot Inn comprised approximately five enclosures and four buildings, three positioned gable-end onto the road and one set back. The enclosures are labelled with their tenants, including W. Taylor, a farmer, and the Parrett's.

An early Ordnance Survey Map from 1813 depicts the site as part of one large field. The only buildings depicted within the site are to its far south but these are not shown in great detail.

This area formed part of a larger agricultural field on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map and incorporated trees along its eastern boundary. Immediately north-west of this area, within the larger field, a trackway from the main road, split in two. The first track headed north-west behind the house plots (fronting the Church to the north-west) and terminated at the rear of Church Farm. The second track headed southwest across fields.

East of this area, on the opposite side of the road was Manor Farm, comprising a dispersed farmstead with buildings depicted along the roadside and set further back, amongst enclosures, gardens and orchards. North of it was the Boot Inn (a Public House) and a small cluster of buildings located on the corner of the main road, running northeast. The buildings north-west of the area, opposite to the Church were located along a trackway, which led towards the front of Church Farm. Fields spread out south, south-west and south-east of the study site.

In 1889 this area formed part of a Lot 29 in the sale of the Liscombe Park Estate, which extended over the majority of the village. The plan of the sale did not include any details on the Lots but The Northampton Mercury reporting after the auction in August 1889 described Lot 29 as comprising Church Farm, which failed to sell. Manor Farm formed Lot 9 and its acreage extended to the north-east of the farm. The lot was withdrawn prior to the sale but three cottages adjacent (south-east) to Manor Farm were sold.

There were no depicted changes to this area by the publication of the 1899 Ordnance Survey Map. In its immediate vicinity, this area's larger field was subdivided to the south-east, creating a small paddock. In the wider vicinity, a trackway between the properties northwest and the church had been made into a road, which still terminated at the front of Church Farm.

Ernest Robinson, owner of the Liscombe Park Estate from 1906 put 8 dairy farms on to the market in 1918. The accompanying plan for the sale particulars depicted the Soulbury dairy farms covering a large portion of the village to the north-east of this area, including Manor Farm.

In 1921, the plan accompanying sale particulars for the Liscombe Park Estate depicted property and land for sale covering the remainder of Soulbury village, in particular

south-west of the Church, including Church Farm. At this time this area formed part of Church Farm and a residence named The Cottage, both located to the north-west of this area. The majority of the field incorporating this area formed pasture ground for Church Farm. However, a small paddock was listed as part of The Cottage Lot and was let to a third party. The precise location of this paddock is unknown but the subdivided area of the field, to the south-east corner would seem logical and therefore this paddock would have fallen outside of this area.

This area was depicted as unchanged on the publication of the 1925 Ordnance Survey Map but the wider vicinity had undergone greater alteration, following the various sales of the Liscombe Park Estate.

The trackways north-west of this area were no longer depicted and the north-west corner of the field, adjacent to The Cottage had been created into a new field. The north-east boundary of this new field had been planted with a narrow band of trees.

The paddock located in the south-east corner of this area was completely planted with non-coniferous trees.

Two of the cottages south-east of Manor Farm, sold in the 1889 sale had been demolished and replaced with a terrace of cottages parallel to the road. These were included within the 1921 auction and were described as eleven, two bedroom modern cottages, with sitting room, kitchen, scullery and outside washhouses and built from red brick and slate. Manor Farm's farmstead remained similar in plan.

A narrow strip of trees was depicted around the land immediately south of the church. While two new properties had been built on High Road, between the Boot Inn and the newly erected War Memorial.

This area and its wider vicinity was depicted as unaltered between the publication of the 1925 and 1938 maps, up until the 1978-1979 Ordnance Survey Maps.

The 1978-1979 Ordnance Survey map did not depict the narrow strip of trees along the eastern boundary of this area but otherwise remained unchanged. Immediately to the south a pumping station had been erected between this area boundary and the now mixed tree plantation to the south.

A terrace of three houses and a detached dwelling was depicted north-east of this area, infilling between The Boot (Public House) and Manor Farm. However, Manor Farm remained active in use, with a variety of new outbuildings set further back from the road.

North-west of this area the field adjacent to The Cottage was depicted as an orchard. A separate orchard ran behind the properties located along Church Lane. Church Farm was renamed Church Farm House and a house named Rohan had been erected in the grounds of the farmstead, suggesting that the farm had probably ceased working.

There had been some isolated residential infill along the eastern side of High Road, between The Boot and the War Memorial.

This area and the wider vicinity remained unchanged upon the publication of the 1982 Ordnance Survey Map. However, in the early 1990s Manor Farm became inactive and its outbuilding demolished and remodelled into residential dwellings forming Manor Close. In 2015, planning permission was approved for the residential conversion of a stable and the erection of two new dwellings within the grounds of The Cottage and within the Conservation Area, north-west of this area.