

Feltham's Private Roads.

There were 6 such 'roads' in the area – i say roads but it is true to say that they were little less than tracks for farm carts, and were maintained by those who owned or used them.

They are identified and described in the document pertaining to Enclosure of the Parishes of Feltham, Sunbury and Hanworth [1802].

Some of these roads have since been incorporated into more modern roads or lost under the built environment.



Private road No 1 - branched off the road known for many years as Walton Bridge Road now Chertsey Road. It was close to the fields called 'Short Blackengrove and Long Blackengrove Shots' which could be found on an area,

following enclosure, to be known as Low Field.

There is still a small track way in evidence with its own gate. The area now is used for the grazing of horses. [image]

This private road, in the 17 & 18th centuries and possibly before, enabled ease of access to the strips of land owned by the likes of Mrs Redford, Edmund Hill [Gunpowder Manufacturer and Lord of the Manor], Mrs Mary Ride, William Weekly Shore, Zachariah Foxhall, John Shirres and The Duke of St Albans.

Ownership today is by Tayhomes (Greenhams) but even of that we are not sure as there have been plans put forward with regard its future use!

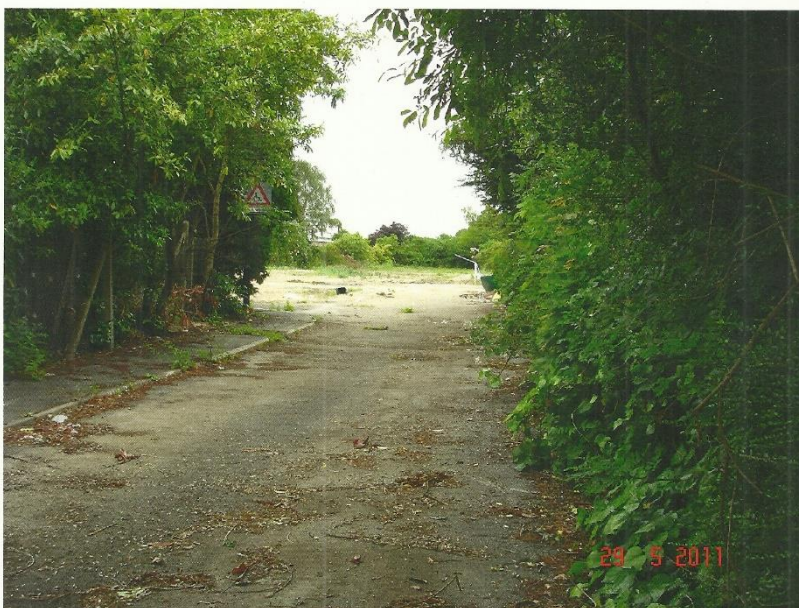


Private Road No 2 - this road today is known as Browells Lane, although it is likely that originally it was referred to as Lyon Lane, as it predates the Browell's

coming to Feltham by some 100 years.

Commencing at the Red Lyon it led to an old property called The Grange which was built around 1747 for a Mr Burgoyne. Another large mansion in the lane is 'Feltham Place' built around 1770 for Mr & Mrs Villebois.

This road also enabled access to the strip like plots of land worked by Joseph Lyons, Rev George Stone, John and Sarah Long, although they were minors – their parents dying within a short period of each other, Thomas Burgoyne, the Duke of St Albans and Mrs Frances Villebois - she having no less than 12 'strips' most of which bordered a mysterious piece of land known as 'Upper Smitchells Meadow'



Private Road No 3 - this short spur of a road, still in existence but known only as the road that lead to Eldridge House, (off Hounslow Road) its origin however appears to have been for a more major purpose as it is shown on

the map used by General Roy for his Base line measurements of



1784 where it is extended to show a road from Harlington to Hanworth but more east than the road of today, i.e. from Uxbridge and Harlington Road.

It is interesting to note that the area where the farm was, pre-1800, was referred to as 'Church rate free' which in turn inferred common-able lands.

However the road took on a more local purpose when Sparrow Farm

came into existence in 1864.

On the 1871 census the farm was owned or farmed by 44 year old Robert Farley with his wife Sarah and 7 children.

In 1881 we have a William Nutt - but he is noted as being "farm labourer" with wife and Children – at this time it was in the ownership by the Duke of St Albans - Nutt was still there in 1891.

By 1901 the farm was worked by the Barnham family with the ownership being given 'in 1914' to Sir Frederick Pollock.

Farming ended in 1954 with the last resident being Mr & Mrs Wyatt they had a daughter named Sheila. The farm was abandoned in 1967.

Today we have the large housing estate known as Sparrow Farm although access is via other roads. Interestingly we now have a 20mph zone which transports us back to when only slow Horse and Carts or tractors used the area.

Private Road No 4 - described on the Enclosure Act of 1802 as *one Publick Bridle Road and footpath and Private Carriage Road*

and Way - branching out of the Hounslow Road near the new bridge over the Hampton Court Cut - into Chapel Lane otherwise Rookery or Feltham Street or even the Broadway, but now Bedfont Lane.

The main part of the private road was however from its northern end where it branches out of Staines Road.

It appears that at least two thirds of 'the lane' was Publick from 'High Street end to a point near a dwelling called Southville Villas' from there up to Staines Road being for 'private' use
[image]



Private Road No 5 - this road is said to have lead to Ship Lane and was for the benefit of William Weekly Shore (Shore Close) and George Stone (Stone Crescent).

Branching off Bedfont Lane (private road no 4) the first 100 yards or more of its route is the footpath – together with an old hedgerow, east of the grass area next to Southville Road. this road led to some ancient allotments.

The old private road today forms a major part of Southville Road.





Private Road No 6 - 'near a place once called Bedfont Corner can be found the beginning of this old Private road' It is probable that area was given the name 'Bedfont

Corner' because it was where the Parish Boundaries of Feltham and Bedfont met.

This road, as with Private road number 5, gave alternative access alongside the hedge that marked the Bedfont border and led to the very same enclosures as described previously.

It is marked today by the controlled exit gate from what nowadays is Fairholme Estate – [image] a desirable place of residence.

As I have said the 'roads' in the main, today are put to another purpose and it is interesting to note that all bar one 'Browells lane' have not been given a name.

