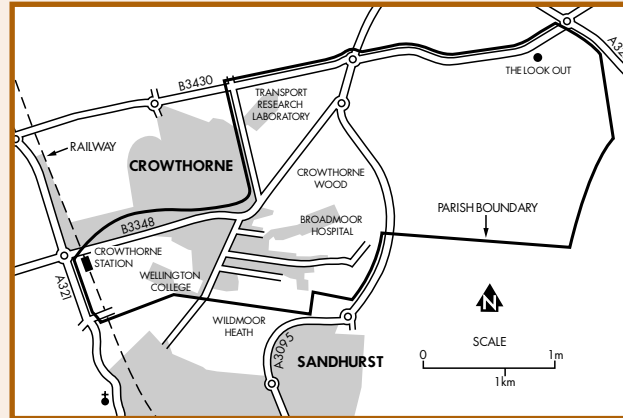


THE PARISH CHURCH

The first Church was opened in 1868, a wooden structure, where the Fire Station stands today. Land was given by Mrs Gibson of Sandhurst Lodge for the present Parish Church of St John Baptist and money raised through public subscription. The Church was consecrated in 1873 and Crowthorne became an Ecclesiastical Parish in 1874, by which time the population was over 700, and a Civic Parish in 1894. In 1875 the Church of England School was opened.



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THE TRANSPORT RESEARCH LABORATORY

TRL is an independent organisation, providing research based technical help in surface transport issues.

A state of the art driving simulator, a mobile air pollution monitoring unit, a heavy engineering hall capable of testing large structures to destruction and a 3.8 km test track are amongst its many facilities at its Crowthorne base.

TRL was founded in 1933 and today employs around 500 people.

Other leaflets available on local history include the Parish Church of St John Baptist Crowthorne, History of Sandhurst, The Making of Bracknell New Town, The Great Forest, Ancient Highways and Coming of Railways.

For a full list ring 01344 354124 or visit our Website at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Leisure Services
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Time Square Market Street
Bracknell Berkshire RG12 1LR
Tel: 01344 354124

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This leaflet is available in large print, braille, or on audio tape on request, please contact 01344 354124 for further details



BRACKNELL FOREST CROWTHORNE A BRIEF HISTORY



**OPEN SPACES, COUNTRYSIDE
& HERITAGE SERVICE**

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CROWTHORNE, A BRIEF HISTORY

EARLY DAYS

Crowthorne, a name that dates back at least to Anglo-Saxon times, was the place in the Great Forest of Windsor where the walks of Sandhurst, Bigshot and Easthampstead meet. From even earlier times, there is the great hillfort, built 2500-2700 years ago, known as Caesar's Camp. This is marked by a ditch nearly a mile long, enclosing the spur of the hill where there was a stockaded encampment. Roman remains have also been found, probably relating to settlements along the important Staines to Silchester Road, known today as The Devil's Highway. There was also a small settlement at Sandhurst, probably round the site of the present St Michael's Church, situated on a prominent spot overlooking the River Blackwater.

CROWTHORNE GROWS

On Norden's map of 1607 Crowthorne is shown as virtually uninhabited. All this was to change! The poor quality of the land for farming and the restrictions on the population enforced through stringent Forest Laws kept the development of Crowthorne at a standstill until the Enclosure Acts of around 1813 released land for sale. The land was cheap but conveniently near London to attract buyers. In 1853 about 30 dwellings are marked on Walters' map, scattered across a wide area.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE

Wellington College was opened in 1859 as a national memorial to the Duke of Wellington, funded by public subscription. It was a charitable institution for the education of orphaned British Army officers' sons, together with some sons of serving Army officers. At that time there were no made-up roads to the



Wellington College in 1906

school from Blackwater Station so getting to and from the College through the winter mud could be very difficult! Benson Road is named after the first headmaster and the public house (Ye Olde Prince) was named after Queen Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred, who laid the foundation stone.

BROADMOOR HOSPITAL

Broadmoor Hospital was opened in 1863 as Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum in what has been described as 'an empty barren waste'. The grand frontage designed by



Broadmoor Hospital in Edwardian times

Sir Joshua Jebb reflects the sense of power and authority the institution had over its inmates. The criminal lunatic was a new category of prisoner, the majority of whom were murderers.

A VILLAGE IS BORN

Wellington College and Broadmoor Hospital needed services and the village of Crowthorne quickly grew up between the two institutions, greatly helped by opening a railway station in 1860 after a £500 donation by Wellington College. The census of 1871 is remarkable for the birthplace of Crowthorne inhabitants. Of the heads of the 57 households, not one had been born in Crowthorne and only John Watts came from the nearest village, Sandhurst.



Children on Morgan recreation ground celebrating the coronation of King George V in June 1911