



MAGNA BRITANNIA;
BEING
A CONCISE TOPOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT
OF
THE SEVERAL COUNTIES
OF
G R E A T B R I T A I N.

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VOL. I.—PART II.

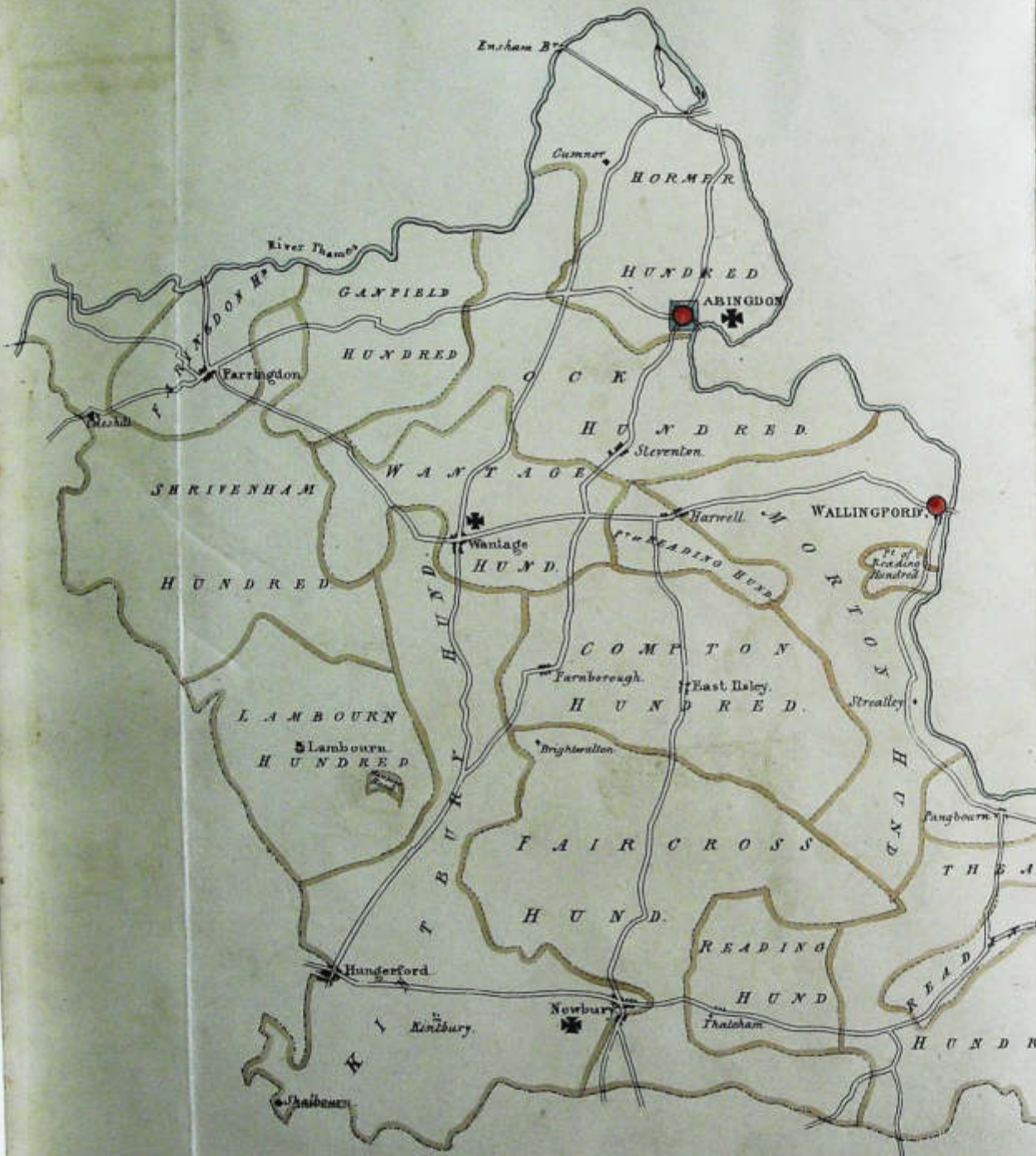
CONTAINING

BERKSHIRE.

LONDON:

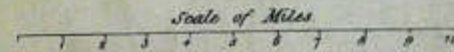
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1813.



Berkshire.

Population in 1831. 145,200.
Assessed Taxes in 1830 £31,446.



Explanations.

- Boundaries of Hundreds Brown
- Principal place of County Election
- Borough Towns to return 2 Members
- D^o D^o to return 1 Member.
- Polling Places

Robt. Hudson
Lieut. R.E.





of Domesday: the charters for the others are to be found among the records in the Tower.

Population.

It appears by some observations on the ancient population of this county, (communicated by Dr. Beke, Professor of Modern History at Oxford,) that, at the time of the Norman survey, it amounted to between 40,000 and 45,000 souls; and he supposes, that, in 1377, the number was nearly the same; for, in that year, the heads taxed were 22,723, exclusive of paupers, children, and the clergy; but both these periods, he observes, were not many years after events of the most destructive nature; for "Every page of the Domesday survey indicates the desolation caused by the Norman invasion; and the pestilence in the reign of Edw. III. appears, on credible evidence, to have carried off one-third of the people." In 1700 the number of inhabitants in this county is said to have been about 75,000. The number of inhabited houses in Berkshire, in 1801, according to the returns then made to Parliament under the Population Act, was 20,573, of uninhabited houses 622, and of inhabitants 109,215: of these 52,821 were males, and 56,394 females: 38,155 were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 16,921 in trades, manufactures, or handicraft.

The following account of the numbers of houses, families, and persons, is taken from the above-mentioned return, and arranged alphabetically:

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Abingdon	-	-	867	22	1037	4356
— Barton	} Townships of Abingdon {	-	1	0	1	13
— Norcot		-	14	1	14	69
— Shippon		-	29	0	29	128
Aldermaston	-	-	132	0	142	672
Aldworth	-	-	50	4	50	273
Appleton	-	-	65	3	87	341
Arborfield	-	-	29	2	42	171
Ardington	-	-	65	2	65	344
Ashampsted	-	-	58	1	70	314
Ashbury	-	-	122	0	142	654
Aston Tirold	-	-	60	2	60	294
Avington	-	-	13	0	13	57
Barkham	-	-	37	4	39	185
Basildon	-	-	127	5	135	623
Beech-hill	} Tything in the Parish of Stratfield Saye *	-	35	2	35	184

* Stratfield Saye itself is in Hampshire.

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	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Beedon	62	1	62	303
Beenham	70	2	73	381
Befils Legh	19	0	20	99
Binfield	150	8	178	808
Bisham	86	0	114	596
Blewbury	120	4	120	553
——— Aston-Upthorpe	37	2	39	196
——— Upton				
Boxford	37	1	59	293
——— Westbrook (in Boxford)	23	0	28	123
Bradfield	153	6	153	678
Bray	506	21	526	2403
Bright-waltham	78	0	80	420
Brightwell	101	5	110	491
Brimpton	84	1	88	330
Buckland	128	1	153	690
——— Carfwell (in Buckland)	8	1	9	37
Bucklebury	215	3	223	1122
Burghfield	130	2	146	738
Buscot	75	2	83	409
Chaddleworth	61	1	77	385
Cheveley	170	1	171	735
——— Leckhampstead	43	1	68	330
——— Winterbourne				
Childrey	81	3	84	402
Chilton	48	2	48	244
Cholfey	161	6	161	814
——— Moulsoford (in Cholfey)	32	1	36	152
Clewer	191	4	212	1007
Coleshill	51	0	69	261
Compton	97	2	102	488
Compton-Beauchamp	23	0	23	119
Cookham	325	9	346	2239
Great Coxwell	43	4	59	241
Cumner	63	0	91	406
——— Botley	18	2	18	68
——— Bradley	1	0	1	7
——— Chawley	13	0	13	72
——— Chilfwell	1	0	1	7
——— Hill-end	13	0	18	64
——— Stroud	11	0	12	64
Denchworth	33	0	44	229
Drayton	90	3	90	484
Dudcot	34	0	38	181
				Eaton

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	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Eaton-Hastings	22	1	20	137
Enborne	46	4	58	275
Englefield	62	0	119	336
Faringdon	304	5	381	1691
— Little Coxwell	42	1	51	225
— Hospital	7	0	7	48
— Littleworth and Thorpe	32	0	34	189
} in the Parish of Faringdon				
Farnborough	42	0	43	213
Fawley	25	2	38	186
Finchampstead	83	1	96	463
Frilsham	42	3	42	187
Fyfield	67	5	82	315
East Garston	111	2	128	609
Goosey	21	0	27	139
Grampound Township *	36	1	42	172
East Hagbourn	102	2	112	499
— West Hagbourn (in the Parish of East Hagbourn)	39	1	38	196
East Hampsted	87	4	114	566
Hampsted-Marshall	49	0	67	271
Hampsted-Norris	168	5	173	855
West Hanney	70	4	74	330
— East Hanney	112	0	115	535
— Lyford	24	0	30	124
} in the Parish of West Hanney				
Harwell	122	0	141	671
Hatford	19	0	19	114
East Hendred	118	5	155	683
West Hendred	62	5	63	309
North Hinksey	25	0	30	111
South Hinksey	36	2	40	162
Hinton	54	1	54	275
Hungerford †	383	15	402	1987
Hurley	170	0	179	915
Hurst†, Newland liberty	55	0	63	258
— Whitley liberty	116	4	117	616
— Winnerish liberty	64	5	82	329
East Illey	112	2	135	512

* The Berkshire part of the suburbs of Oxford, lying within the parish of St. Aldate's in that city.

† Part of the parish of Hungerford (not included in the above return) is in Wiltshire, containing 55 inhabited and one uninhabited house, 57 families and 305 inhabitants.

‡ The liberty of Broad Hinton, which is in this parish, lies in Wiltshire; it contained, in 1801, 75 inhabited houses, the same number of families, one uninhabited house, and 406 persons not included in the above return.

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	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
West Ilsey	48	0	63	341
Inkpen	127	7	127	590
Kentbury	282	8	332	1430
Kingston-Bagpuze	56	1	63	280
Lamborn	197	3	220	964
— Upper Lamborn	64	0	75	346
— Blagrave	65	2	72	337
— Eastbury and Bockhampton	79	1	83	398
} in the Parish of Lamborn {				
Langford	79	1	85	356
— Little Faringdon (in the Parish of Langford)	23	1	27	131
Letcombe-Basset	45	0	45	230
Letcombe-Regis	95	1	98	394
— East Challow	53	2	55	229
— West Challow	27	0	27	185
} in the Parish of Letcombe-Regis {				
East Lockinge	57	2	59	245
Longworth	79	0	85	401
— Charney	40	1	43	216
— Draycot-Moore	20	1	27	141
} in the Parish of Longworth {				
Marcham	144	0	144	607
— Frilford	23	2	31	148
— Garford	37	1	40	183
} Hamlets of Marcham {				
Maidenhead (in the Parishes of Cookham and Bray*)	156	4	179	949
Milton	66	0	66	310
North Moreton	55	2	64	282
South Moreton	72	3	74	320
Newbury	931	34	971	4275
Padworth	44	0	48	218
Pangbourn	78	2	131	593
Peasemore	54	0	56	266
Purley	27	1	27	153
Pufey	16	2	16	65
Radley	46	0	78	368
Thorpe-wick (in Radley)	3	0	4	25
Kennington (in Radley and Sunningwell)	17	2	21	86
Reading (Parish of St. Giles)	651	10	769	3416
— Whitley (in the Parish of St. Giles)	4	0	4	28
— Parish of St. Lawrence	561	13	706	3170
— Parish of St. Mary	539	9	660	3156
Remenham	56	2	66	299
Ruscomb	27	0	37	170
Sandhurst	34	2	43	222

* The houses and inhabitants in Maidenhead, seem to have been included also in the returns of the respective parishes of Cookham and Bray.

Sandleford

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		Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Swallowfield	-	165	4	174	890
Thatcham	-	407	17	419	1995
— Greenham	} in the Parish of { Thatcham {	132	3	135	633
— Midgham		43	0	58	340
Tidmarsh	-	24	3	27	134
Tabney	-	13	0	13	79
Tylehurst *	-	254	8	262	1353
Uffington	-	76	6	109	432
— Balking	} in the Parish of { Uffington {	31	0	32	173
— Woolston		38	0	57	208
Ufton	-	53	0	67	334
Wallingford, Parish of All Saints	-	17	0	18	80
— Clapcote, in the Parish of All Saints	-	8	0	8	55
— Parish of St. Mary the More	-	154	3	184	721
— Parish of St. Peter	-	75	1	80	396
— Wallingford Castle, extra-parochial	-	3	0	3	14
Laurence Waltham	-	111	7	116	572
White Waltham	-	115	6	116	552
Wantage	-	473	16	493	2339
— Charlton	} Hamlets of { Wantage {	46	2	56	247
— Grove		93	2	95	397
— West Lockinge		14	0	14	60
Warfield	-	158	2	161	820
Wargrave	-	222	3	276	1134
Wasing	-	9	0	18	102
Welford	-	170	4	193	866
Old Windfor	-	118	6	132	669
New Windfor †	-	507	33	580	3122
— Didworth, a Hamlet of Windfor	-	13	0	15	75
Windfor Castle	-	0	0	0	239
Winkfield	-	258	9	293	1465
Witham	-	40	0	58	246
Little Wittenham	-	23	2	25	134
Long Wittenham	-	94	0	116	451
Wokingham Town	-	280	18	314	1380
Wokingham Parish (exclusive of the Town)	-	135	4	144	647
West Woodhay	-	22	2	29	109
Woolhampton	-	43	0	60	322
Wotton	-	43	0	48	236
Yattendon	-	52	1	52	253

The parish of Catmere, which is omitted in the parliamentary report, contains 13 houses and 69 inhabitants; eleven of the houses, containing 45 inhabitants, are in the hamlet of Lilly.

* This parish, in 1783, contained only 206 houses and 1058 persons.

† Exclusive of that part of the town which lies within the parish of Clewer, and is stated in the report to contain 168 inhabited, and 3 uninhabited houses, 226 families, and 688 inhabitants.

Baronet; the family became possessed of Buckland, their Berkshire seat, by a marriage with the heiress of Yate. Sir Walter James James, who was created a Baronet in 1791, took the name of James, on inheriting the estates of a family, who had considerable property in the neighbourhood of Hungerford, and other parts of the county, for nearly two centuries. His own paternal name was Head, being descended from a family of considerable antiquity, who acquired Langley and other estates by purchase from the De la Poles^a. Sir W. J. James has not of late resided at Langley. Sir Francis Englefield, when advanced to the dignity of a Baronet in 1612, was described of Wotton-Basset, in Wiltshire; his ancestors had resided for many generations at Englefield, in this county, where at a very early period they held the manor under the Barons Paganel and Somery. The manor of Englefield was forfeited in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but some property in that parish remained, till very lately, in the family. The immediate ancestors of Sir Henry Charles Englefield, the present Baronet, who is descended from Anthony, the fifth son of Sir Francis above mentioned, were of White-Knights, in Sunning, which having been sold, he has now no residence in the county, but still retains a considerable estate in the parish of Sunning. Fawley, the seat of the Moores, whose ancestor was created a Baronet in 1627, was sold by Sir John Moore, in 1765, to the Vansittarts. The present Baronet, Sir Thomas Moore, resides in Hampshire. The ancestors of Compton Reade, who was created a Baronet in 1660, being described of Barton, near Abingdon, resided at that place as early as the reign of Henry VIII. The present Baronet is of Hunt-ridge in Oxfordshire. Barton Court, and other estates in Berkshire, are still in the family, being now the property of the Dowager Lady Reade. William Stonhouse, whose ancestors were settled at Radley, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was created a Baronet in 1618. Another patent was granted to the family in 1670, under which the present Sir Thomas Stonhouse, who resides in the East Indies, enjoys the title. The Radley estate has passed by a female heir to Sir George Bowyer, whose father, the late Admiral Bowyer, being then of Radley, was created a Baronet in 1794, and in 1799 succeeded to the title of his elder brother, Sir William Bowyer bart. of Denham-Court, in Buckinghamshire. The late Sir Charles Knowles was of Lovel-Hill, in the parish of Winkfield, when created a Baronet in 1765. Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, when created a Baronet in 1783, was of Holly-Grove, in the parish of Old Windsor, but has since quitted the county. Sir Henry Martin, when created a Baronet in 1791, was described of Lockinge, in this county; but he had no other connection with that place, than occasionally

^a From the information of Sir W. J. James bart.

Wallingford, -	the feat of	The late Mr. Justice Blackstone, now the property of his son.	Old Windsor Lodge, -	the feat of	Wm. Webber esq.
Waltham Place, -		George Grant esq.	Winkfield Park, -		Thos. Bingley esq.
Wasing, - -		Wm. Mount esq.	——— Place, -		Stanlake Batson esq.
Welford, - -		J. A. Houblon esq. (unoccupied).	West-Woodhay, -		belonging to Robert Orby Sloper esq. at present unoccupied.
West Court (Finchamsted,) - -		Rev. Ellis St. John	Woodley (Sunning), -	the feat of	Mr. James Wheeble.
White's Place (Cookham), -		G. H. Leycester, esq.	Woodside House (Old Windsor), -		Rev. Dr. Ogilvie
Willows (Bray), -		Townley Ward esq.	Woolhampton, -		Mrs. Crewe.
Old Windsor Manor house, -		H. Isherwood esq.	Woolley Park (Chaddleworth), - -		Rev. P. Wroughton.
			Yattendon, - -		I. A. Gallini esq.

Fuller, after quoting the list of Berkshire gentry, as returned by the commissioners in the twelfth year of Henry VI. adds, "Gardeners complain that some kinds of flowers and fruits will not grow prosperously, and thrive kindly, in the suburbs of London: this they impute to the smoke of the city offensive thereunto. Sure I am, that ancient gentry in this county, sown thick in former, come up thin in our age."

"Of names which were in days of yore,
Few remain here of a great store."

It is remarkable, that there is not one family descended, in the male line, from any of the gentry enumerated in the above-mentioned list now left in the county; and it is believed, that Sir H. C. Englefield is the only person so descended, who possesses an estate in it. Many of the Berkshire gentry, nevertheless, are of ancient families, who have been long settled in the counties, from which they have emigrated. The Eystons, of East Hendred, although their name does not occur in the list, were settled at that place in the reign of Edw. III.; having, by a marriage with the heiress of De Arches, become possessed of the manor, which has descended, in an uninterrupted male line, to the present proprietor. The Clarkes became possessed of Ardington, their present residence, in the reign of Henry VII. The Southbys have been settled at Appleton about two centuries; and the Seymours, at Inholmes, about the same time; the Loders were of Harwell, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards of Balldon Park, in Kentbury, from whence they removed to Hinton; the Prices were of Farnborough, as early as the middle of the 17th century; the family of Justice have been settled for several generations at Sutton-Courtney; the Vanfittarts, for nearly a century, at Shottesbrooke.

Among

Among the deserted and dilapidated mansions of the extinct gentry may be reckoned Little Shefford, the seat of the Befils family, and afterwards of the Fettiplaces; Ockholt, the seat of the Norris family; Shillingford, the seat of the Packers; and Welford, the seat of the Archers. Yattendon, another seat of the Norris family, has been pulled down, and Befils-Legh, which was the seat of the Fettiplaces, and afterwards of the Lenthalls.

Geographical and geological Description of Berkshire.

THIS county is of a very irregular form: according to Rocque's mensuration, it is 207 miles in circumference: its greatest length, from Old Windsor to the County Cross, near Hungerford, 42 miles: its greatest breadth, from Witham, near Oxford, to the borders of Hampshire, south of Newbury, 28 miles and an half; and its narrowest, from the Thames, by Reading, to the borders of Hampshire, in a direct south line, only seven miles. It is bounded on the north by Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, on the east by Surrey, on the south by Hampshire, and on the west by Wiltshire; at the north-west corner it just touches upon Gloucestershire. A part of Wiltshire, detached at a considerable distance from the rest of that county, lies in the neighbourhood of Wokingham and Reading, surrounded by Berkshire, including part of the parishes of Wokingham, Hurst, Shinfield, and Swallowfield. Two Berkshire parishes, Langford and Shilton, lie on the north side of the Thames, surrounded by Oxfordshire.

The following valuable observations on the geology and agriculture of this county, have been obligingly communicated by Dr. Beke:—"By a careful measure of Rocque's Map^b of Berkshire, corrected as to longitude and latitude, by the trigonometrical survey, and the astronomical observations which have settled the longitude of Oxford, I find that Berkshire contains about 464,500 acres. The parishes of Langford and Shilton are included in this calculation, which lie north of the Thames, and are surrounded by Oxfordshire, and the parts of Wiltshire are omitted, which lie in and near the precincts of Windsor Forest.

"The basis of the following geological and agricultural division of Berkshire is Rocque's map, of which the topographical accuracy is very highly and deservedly esteemed. Changes have happened since his survey was taken, chiefly in consequence of inclosures; but their effects are accounted for in the following estimate, which may be depended upon as not materially erroneous.

^b Rocque makes the area of Berkshire somewhat too large as to geographical extent; but, on the other hand, he considerably under-rates the measure of degrees, and consequently his scale of miles is a little too long, and his calculation in acres too low.

of nearly four miles. Another is that from Botley to the upper end of Cumner meadow through Berkshire, which will save a distance of more than seven miles and a half out of eleven.

The Thames in its course through Berkshire, produces barbel, pike, trout, and various other common fish, besides carp and tench, supposed to be brought thither by floods. There are numerous fishing weirs on the river, which are esteemed very injurious to the navigation. It has been frequently proposed that an application should be made to Parliament for power to purchase them.

The river Kennet having divided this county from Wiltshire for about two miles, enters it at Hungerford, thence it passes by Avington and Kentbury (to which it gives name) and between Hampsted-Marshall and Spene to Newbury, near which town it is joined by the Lambourn. At Newbury it becomes navigable*, and passes thence through a rich vale, leaving the villages and hamlets of Thatcham, Woolhampton, Beenham, Englefield, Theale, and Tylehurst, on the North; and Brimpton, Wasing, Aldermaston, Padworth, Upton and the Sulhamsteads on the South, till it reaches Reading, between which town and the neighbouring village of Sunning it falls into the Thames, its course through this county having been nearly 30 miles.

The Kennet produces a great variety of fish, among which are trout, pike, barbel, perch, eels, cray-fish, chub, roach, and dace; there are no barbel west of Newbury; the trout of this river have long been celebrated for their size and flavour; Fuller speaks of them in his *Worthies*. The editor of the *Magna Britannia* mentions the trout of the Kennet as being of a prodigious size, and speaks of one 45 inches in length, taken at Newbury. A gentleman of that town (Mr. Toomer) had in his possession, not many years ago, three trouts which weighed 15lb. each, two of them had been fattened in his stew, the other was of that weight when taken out of the river. At another time he had a trout in his stew, which grew till it attained the weight of 17lb. it was given by him to the late Lord Craven, who sent it as a present to her Majesty.

The river Loddon, the subject of Pope's fable of *Lodona*, rises near Aldershot in Hampshire. At Blackwater it begins to be a boundary between that county and Berkshire, and so continues for about eight miles, passing between Sandhurst and Yately. It enters Berkshire in the parish of Swallowfield, and passing by that village and between Shinfield and Arborfield, crosses the Wokingham and Reading road at Loddon bridge, the Bath road at Twyford, and falls into the Thames

* It was made navigable from Newbury to Reading by an act of Parliament which passed in 1715.

† Near this village it is joined by the Aubourn.

Silchester and Lawrence-Waltham : it is said that there are some traces of the latter to be found near Mr. Palmer's house in the neighbourhood of Wokingham. There is a great bank south of the Kennet, and another as remarkable north of it ; and though the last, which is called the Giant's Causeway, certainly bears towards the ford of the Ikening-Street, over the Thames at Streatley, yet both of them appear to me to have been rather the boundaries of some British tribe, than parts of any Roman road : and it is by no means impossible that the former may be the continuation of Wanfdike, the eastern end of which is unknown.

“ The *Ikening* or *Ikeneld-Street*, whose course we have before traced through Bedfordshire to the borders of this county, enters Berkshire by a ford over the Thames at Streatley, still preserving its old character, with no marks of having been paved or raised ; and here, as in many other places, it divides into two great branches : one of these, under the name of the *Ridgway*, continues on the edge of the high ground by Cuckhamsley, Letcombe, and White-horse hill, into Wiltshire, and this I conceive to be the proper Ikening-Street ; while the other, under the name of the *W/stridge*, according to Stukeley, goes by Hampstead Hermitage, and the long lane, towards Newbury and Street to Old Sarum^s.

Dr. Beke mentions part of a Roman road from Silchester, passing in a right line almost due east through Stratfield-Mortimer, Stratfield-Say, and Stratfield-Turgin, falling into the great Western-road near Blackwater ; and another on the Berkshire hills called the Old-street way, which may be traced from Wantage to Thatcham, from whence it was probably continued to Silchester. He also mentions “ a remarkable foss, about a mile and a half from Silchester on the north-west, which begins about a quarter of a mile to the south of Ufton church, and runs straight through the whole of the parishes of Ufton, Padworth, and Aldermaston, excepting where interrupted in two or three places by boggy vallies of very small extent. The common people call it *Grimmer's Dike*.”

^s Mr. Wise has described the course of the Ikeneld-street, or, as it is called in Berkshire, the Ickleton-way, as proceeding from Streatley on the Thames to Blewbury, but is uncertain of its course from hence to Wantage ; “ but immediately after it has passed Wantage, it goes, as he observes, by its true name Ickleton-way, all under the hills (as before, under the Chiltern through Bucks and Oxfordshire) between them and Childrey, Sparsholt, Uffington, and the Whitehorse-hill, leaving Woolston and Compton on the right hand ; thence to Ashbury and Bishopston, pointing towards Abury in Wiltshire.” We have been favoured with the following notice of its course from Wantage to Streatley by Mr. Church, surveyor of Wantage. “ The Ickleton-way has been ploughed up across Wantage Eastfield till it enters Charlton (a hamlet of Wantage) ; it then passes through West Lockinge-brook, in Ardington parish. It passes by White's barn in Sparsholt-Court manor, and is afterwards ploughed up for some way, but appears again, after crossing the Newbury-way, by Wiltshire's and Halve-hill barns, in East Hendred parish ; from thence through the parishes of Harwell, West Hagbourne, and the hamlet of Upton, to the village of Blewbury, and through the parishes of Aston-Tirrold, and Cholsey, to Moulsoford on the Thames, and thence to Streatley ; from Upton to Streatley, it forms part of the new turnpike road from Wantage to Reading.”

“ Another

“ Another very old, and perhaps a Roman road enters the county on its north westerly borders from Wiltshire, under the name of the Port-way, a title common to Roman roads in many parts of the kingdom : it passes near Uffington, Wantage, and Hendred, and seems to point for some spot south of Wallingford. If it crossed the Thames below Wallingford, it may possibly join the road leading from Dorchester to London. Traces of a road from this north part of Berkshire are also visible between Wantage and Thatcham, under the name of the Old Street, from whence it probably proceeded towards Silchester.

“ The only certain *itinerary stations* within the limits of Berkshire, are *Spinæ* and *Bibraçte*. With respect to the first, the resemblance of the name, the bearing of the different roads, the distance and other marks, as I observed before, well known to antiquaries, have led all writers to agree on fixing it at or near Spene ; but there is greater difference of opinion in determining on the site of *Bibraçte*. Mr. Whitaker, in p. 43 of the appendix to the first vol. of his History of Manchester, is strenuous for Bray : but Bray must be at least 25 miles from London by the nearest road ; and the 12th iter of Richard, from which alone we obtain any notice of this station, places *Bibraçte* at the distance only of 20 ; nor can I learn that any traces of a Roman road have been discovered either to the W. or E. of the town, or that any coins, or bricks, or other considerable marks of a station, have been dug up on the supposed site of it. We cannot therefore decide on this point till after a more accurate examination : at the same time, we must allow that Bray has as fair a claim as any place in its neighbourhood, (though the distance perhaps might better suit Old Windsor,) to the honour of having been a Roman station.

“ I am not ignorant that a third *itinerary station*, that of *Pontes* mentioned in the 7th iter of Antonine, has been supposed by some antiquaries to be situated in Berkshire, and that Mr. Horsley in particular, whose opinion is always entitled to respect, inclines to place it either at Old Windsor or St. Leonard's hill ; but as what has been advanced on this subject is merely conjectural, and the arguments seem in my opinion to be more in favour of Staines, we cannot reckon *Pontes* among the Berkshire stations, its site being on the opposite bank of the Thames, without stronger reasons than have yet been produced.

“ It is an odd circumstance, that while *Spinæ* and *Bibraçte*, which are two acknowledged Roman towns, have no certain remains to identify their situations, there should be another town in the same county, abounding in Roman remains, of whose ancient name we are ignorant : this is Wallingford, which appears to have been of great importance so early as in the time of the Conqueror, where the form of the ramparts, not the castle which is of later date, is pronounced by many judges to be Roman, and where coins of the Emperors Posthumus, Gordianus, &c. have been often found. These circumstances have led all our antiquaries to agree

was given to Pembroke College, which was founded in 1624, principally with a view to this benefaction; Richard Wightwick, rector of east Ilsley and Hampsted-Norris, who is esteemed the joint founder, having only endowed it with three fellowships and four scholarships. At present there are very few boys in the school at Abingdon, who are on the foundation. It has been many years a flourishing seminary. Thomas Godwin, the learned author of the *Roman and Jewish antiquities*, was head-master of this school. Among persons of eminence, who have received their education here, may be reckoned Lord Chief Justice Holt, Dr. Newcome, the late primate of Ireland, already mentioned as a native of this town, the late Rev. Richard Graves, author of the *Spiritual Quixote* and many other works; and, among living characters, the Rev. Thomas Wintle, rector of Brightwell, the able translator of the Prophet Daniel; and William Holwell, the editor of *Dionysius Halicarnasseus*.

A person of the name of Bennet left a benefaction for the education of six poor boys, who are instructed by the usher of Royse's school.

ALDERMASTON, in the hundred of Theale, lies south of the Kennet, on the borders of Hampshire, eight miles S. E. of Newbury, and about 12 S. W. of Reading.

The royal army, under the command of Colonel Gage, on its route from Oxford to Basing House, in 1644, halted at this village; on their return, finding the enemy in possession of the place, they went by another road^a. The Earl of Essex was with his army at Aldermaston, in the month of October, the same year, and marched thence by way of Padworth and Bucklebury Heath, to Newbury^b, immediately before the second battle which was fought near that town. The Earl of Manchester lay at Sir Humphrey Foster's house, the 17th of October, on his route from Reading to Newbury^c.

The manor of Aldermaston is said to have been given to Richard Achard, by King Henry I.^d It certainly was in the possession of one of that family and name, so early as the year 1229^e, and continued to belong to his descendants in the male line, till about the year 1358, when it passed by marriage to the De la Mares^f, and from them about 1500 to the Forsters. Sir George Forster, who was sheriff of Berkshire and Oxfordshire in 1514, married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of John De la Mare esq. His father, Humphrey Forster, who served the office of sheriff for the same counties in 1472, is described by Fuller as of Aldermaston:

^a Clarendon's Hist. of the Rebellion, 8vo. II. 529. 531.

^b Heath's Chronicle, p. 64.

^c Coates's History of Reading, p. 42.
Edw. III.

^d Leland.

^e Col. Rot. 13 Hen. III.

^f Esch.

it appears more probable that he was of Harpeden, in Oxfordshire, which was the family seat before they became connected with Aldermaston. Sir Humphrey Forster, son of Sir George, was one of the esquires of the body to King Henry VIII. His descendant, Sir Humphrey, was honoured with a visit from Queen Elizabeth in 1601; in 1620 he was created a baronet. William Lord Stawell, having married Elizabeth, only daughter of William Pert esq. sole heiress, in right of her mother, of Sir Humphrey Forster bart. by whose death the title became extinct in 1711, became possessed of this manor, which passed to Ralph Congreve esq. in consequence of his marriage with Charlotte, only surviving child of Lord Stawell above mentioned, by his wife Elizabeth. Aldermaston is now the property of William Congreve esq. a collateral relation of Ralph Congreve above mentioned, who died without issue.

Aldermaston-house, the seat of Mr. Congreve, was almost wholly rebuilt by Sir Humphrey Forster in 1636. A large stack of chimneys in brick-work, variously ornamented, evidently exhibits the remains of a much more ancient mansion. The windows of the hall, and some other rooms, are decorated with coats of arms in stained glass, representing the matches of the families of Achard, De la Mare, and Forster. The hall is very lofty, and is surrounded by a spacious gallery. The house having been lately fitted up, and all the ornaments restored as they were in 1636, exhibits a curious specimen of the style of decoration then in use.

In the parish church are several monuments of the Forster family, particularly an altar tomb of alabaster, with the figures of Sir George Forster, who died in 1526, and his wife Elizabeth, heiress of the De la Mares; round the sides, under Gothic canopies, are small figures of eleven sons in armour, and eight daughters, with the angular head-dresses of that time. The tomb of one of the ancient family of Achard is denoted by the arms, but the inscription is gone.

The benefice of this parish, which lies in the deanery of Reading, has been called a vicarage, but improperly; there is no income whatever annexed to it, and the minister has been appointed, ever since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by the lord of the manor, without any particular form, and without receiving institution from the bishop. The lord of the manor has, ever since that period, received all the tythes, both great and small, which were formerly appropriated to the priory of Sherbourn, paying a small quit-rent to Queen's College, in Oxford^s. It is erroneously stated in Bacon's *Liber Regis*, that the patronage of the *Vicarage*, as it is there called, is vested in that college. X

* From the information of the Rev. Mr. Bird, the late minister.

Robert Dixon, minister of this parish in 1706, built four alms-houses for poor widows.

There are three annual fairs at Aldermaston, May 6, July 7, and Oct. 11.

ALDWORTH, in the hundred of Compton, and deanery of Newbury, lies in a very retired situation, about five miles from Market-Illey; about 11 miles from Newbury, by way of Hampsted-Norris; about nine miles from Wallingford; and about 12 from Reading, by way of Streatley. The manor of Aldworth, which, at the taking of the Norman Survey, had belonged to Theodoric the goldsmith, was conveyed in 1276, by Thomas de Clare, to Robert de Musgros, and confirmed to him and his heirs the same year, by the royal charter^b. Hawise, daughter and heir of this Robert, brought it in marriage to the noble family of Ferrars, of Chartleyⁱ, together with the manor of Hampsted-Norris, formerly called Hampsted-Ferrars, and other estates in this neighbourhood. There was another manor in Aldworth, which, with that of De la Beche, in the same parish, belonged, as early as the reign of Edward II. to the De la Beches. Edmund De la Beche, Archdeacon of Berks, who was of this family, was committed to Pomfret Castle in 1322, for being concerned in the escape of Maurice Lord Berkeley, and Lord Audley, from Wallingford^k. Sir Nicholas De la Beche had the superintendence of the Black Prince's education, and was afterwards lieutenant of the Tower^l. In 1338, he had the king's licence to make a castle of his mansion, called De la Beche, in this parish^m. In 1340, King Edward III. having returned from France, sorely incensed against those whom he had entrusted with the care of levying money in his absence, for not making him timely remittances, displaced some of his principal ministers, and committed several of the judges, and Sir Nicholas De la Beche, to the Towerⁿ. De la Beche was soon restored to favour, was employed the following year in the wars of Britany, summoned to Parliament as a baron in 1342; and in 1343 was made seneschal of Gascony^o. He died in 1347, without issue. Margaret, his widow, married Sir Thomas Arderne, and resided at another seat of the family, Beaumys Castle, near Reading; from whence she was forcibly carried away by John de Dalton, and his accomplices, in 1349^p. It has been said, that the heiress of the De la Beches, of Aldworth, married into the Whitlock family^q; but this match appears to have applied to a branch of the De la Beches, which continued much later in the male line^r. The Aldworth estates, immediately on the death of Nicholas

^b Cart. 4 Edw. I.

ⁱ Dugdale.

^k Holinshed.

^l Holinshed and Dugdale.

^m Pat. 12 Edw. III.

ⁿ Holinshed.

^o Dugdale.

^p See Rot. II. 126. and

Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, p. 461, 462.

^q See Ashmole's Collections.

^r John

Whitlock, ancestor of Sir James and Sir Bullstrode Whitlock, married Agnes, daughter and heir

survived him only a few months; being succeeded in his title and estates by his son Francis, a minor.

Thomas Yonge, the eldest son of Thomas Yonge, one of the justices of the Common Pleas in the reign of Edward IV. and ancestor of Sir George Yonge bart. settled at Basildenⁿ. His descendant, Roger Yonge esq. who died, in 1684, at the age of 96, "having been 60 years in the commission of the peace," lies buried in Basilden church. When the Norman Survey was taken, there were two churches at Basilden. It is probable that one of them was at Upper-Basilden, about two miles from the present parish church. The great tithes were formerly appropriated to the abbot and convent of Lyra, and afterwards to the college of Shottesbrooke^o; they are now the property of Sir Francis Sykes; he is patron also of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Wallingford. Basilden Heath was inclosed by an act of parliament passed in 1744.

BEEDON, formerly BUDON, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about 8 miles from Newbury, on the road to Oxford, and 2 miles and a half from Illsey. It was formerly one of the seats of the Lisle family. Alice de Lisle had the royal licence to make a park at Beedon in 1336ⁿ. It afterwards passed, by marriage, to the Berkeleys, and was probably one of the estates alienated from that noble family by the Marquis of Berkeley. This manor has been in the family of Reade for more than two centuries, and is now the property of the dowager Lady Reade, together with the manor of *Stanmore*, a hamlet of this parish, and the impropriate tithes, which formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. She is also patroness of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury. Beedon church was formerly a chapel to Farnborough.

BEENHAM, in the hundred and deanery of Reading, lies on the north side of the Bath road, about 8 miles from Newbury, and about 10 from Reading. The manor belongs to the Rev. Sir Charles Rich bart. who purchased it in 1793; previously to which it had been, for a considerable time, in the Marquis of Annandale's family. The Rev. Mr. Bostock, elder brother of Sir Charles Rich, has a seat in this parish, which he inherited from the Hopsons. The Rev. Thomas Stackhouse, author of the History of the Bible and the Body of Divinity, was vicar of Beenham, and lies buried in the parish church, where is a tablet to his memory with the following inscription: "Juxta reconditum est quod mortale fuit Thomæ Stackhouse, A. M. hujus ecclesiæ per annos 19 vicarii, qui pro Christianâ

ⁿ Kimber's Baronetage.

^o See Leland's Itinerary, vol. v. p. 129.

^r Cart. 10 Edw. III.

vide

fide strenuus admodum propugnator non sine gloriâ militavit; qui plus scire volunt scripta sua consulant. Ex hac vitâ, gratâ alterius vice corpore suo solutus emigravit Octobris Idibus A. S. 1752. *Ætatis suæ 72.*" There are memorials in the parish church for the Hopsons and Beringtons. The great tythes, which were appropriated to the abbey of Reading, were purchased by Sir Charles Rich of Philip Lybbe Powys esq. in 1802. Mrs. Mary Stevens, widow of the late incumbent, is patroness of the vicarage.

BESILS-LEGH, in the hundred of Hormer and deanery of Abingdon, lies about 5 miles to the south-west of Oxford on the road to Faringdon. The manor belonged anciently to the family of Legh^a, from whom it passed, by a female heir, to that of Befils. On the death of William Befils esq. in 1516, the manor of Befils-Legh devolved to Edmund Fettiplace, who married Elizabeth, his daughter and sole heir^c. William Lenthall, speaker of the long parliament, purchased Befils-Legh of the Fettiplaces, and occasionally resided there; his son, Sir John Lenthall, was governor of Windsor castle under Cromwell. He died in 1681, and lies buried at Befils-Legh, where are a few other memorials of the family. In the manor-house at this place, now pulled down, was formerly the celebrated picture of Sir Thomas More's family, now at the priory in Burford, the seat of John Lenthall esq. who is lord of the manor of Befils-Legh and patron of the rectory.

BINFIELD, in the hundred of Cookham, and deanery of Reading, is situated in Windsor forest about three miles north-east of Wokingham, and nearly 11 south-west of Windsor. The manor was, in 1548, surrendered by Lord Sandys to King Edward VI. and has ever since been in the crown. There are three inferior manors in the parish, the most extensive of which is the property of Claude Ruffel esq. who has a seat at Binfield. This estate, described as the manor of Binfield, was purchased, in 1595, of the Staffords of Bradfield, by John Dancastle esq. whose descendant of the same name conveyed it, in 1754, to William Pitt esq. uncle of the present William Moreton Pitt esq. by whom it was sold, under an act of parliament in 1778, to Buckworth Herne esq. By subsequent alienations it passed through the hands of William Coxe esq. and Lord Kinnaid; of the latter it was purchased, in 1795, by the present proprietor. A second manor, called Depers, or Diaper, was some time ago the property of Mr. Webb, afterwards of Col. Hawley, and now of Mr. Zechariah Boulton. The

^a Thomas de Legh was lord of the manor in 1316. See *Nomina Villarum*. Harl. MSS. No. 6281.

^c Esch. 7 Hen. VIII.

versity of Oxford, was rector from 1691 to 1697^f. The Rev. Thomas Wintle, the present rector, has distinguished himself as an Hebraist, particularly by his able translation of the prophet Daniel.

BRIMPTON, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about six miles south-east of Newbury. The manor belonged formerly to the Brimptons^g, afterwards to the family of Stoke^h. The Wollascots, a Roman Catholic family, possessed it for nearly two centuries; upon the death of the last heir male, it passed by marriage to the Earl of Fingal, who sold it, about the year 1786, to the late John Crewe esq. of Boleworth Castle, in Cheshire, together with the manor of Salford, in this parish, both now the property of his widow.

The Knights Templars are said to have had a preceptory at Brimpton. When the survey of Domesday was taken, there were two churches in this parish; one in Roger de Lacy's manor, the other in Robert Fitzgerald's. Adjoining to a farmhouse, about half a mile from the church, are the remains of an ancient ecclesiastical building. In the parish church are some memorials of the Wollascots. The great tithes of this parish, together with the patronage of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Newbury, have long been annexed to the manor. *Hide-end* is a hamlet in this parish.

BUCKLAND, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies a little to the north of the London road, four miles from Faringdon. The manor was, in 1227, the property of Hugh de Bocland, either son or grand-son of Hugh de Bocland, the grand-Justiciar or chief-Justice of England; his grand-daughter, Matilda, brought it in marriage to William D'Averanches, a Norman baron. They had a daughter who married Hamon Crevequer, and left co-heiresses, one of whom (Ifolda) having married Nicholas de Lenham, this manor was enjoyed by their posterity, till about the year 1376, when it was recovered, after a long suit, by Sir Thomas Befils, as being descended from a daughter of John D'Averanches, son of William and Matilda; whereas the Lenhams were descended from a daughter, who, as was before-mentioned, married Hamon Crevequerⁱ. The manor, thus recovered, continued in the Befils family till 1425, or later. Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet, was possessed of it in 1436; his daughter, Alice, brought it in marriage to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. Upon the attainder of Edmund De la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, King Henry VIII. granted it to his favourite Sir Charles Brandon, whom he

^f Biograph Brit.

^g Cart. Edw. II. Esch. Edw. III.

^h Esch. 5 H. VI.

ⁱ From the papers of the Rev. Dr. Rawbone, who has been many years making collections for this parish, from which he has obligingly permitted us to take notes.

The verses were written by himself, for some other occasion, and placed here by his widow, who thought them peculiarly applicable to his own character.

The rectory of Wargrave, which had been appropriated to the abbot and convent of Reading, was granted, by King Edward VI. to Richard Cecil: Lord Braybrooke is the present impropriator, and is patron of the vicarage, which is in the deanery of Reading.

Dr. William Derham, author of the well-known work, entitled *Physico-Theology*, was vicar of Wargrave from 1682 to 1689^a.

Hare-Hatch and Kiln-Green are in this parish.

Mr. Aldworth, in 1692, charged the impropriate rectory with the payment of 5*l.* *per annum*, for the education of poor children of this parish. Mr. Robert Pigott, in 1796, gave the interest of 6700*l.* 3 *per cent.* Bank Annuities, for the instruction and clothing of 20 boys and 20 girls, of this parish: a part of the annual income is appropriated, very judiciously, by the will of the benevolent donor, to be paid in weekly allowances to the parents, to operate as an encouragement to them to send their children regularly to school, and continue them there a proper time: the allowances are to increase gradually, during five years, if the children shall so long continue in the school.

WASING, in the hundred of Faircross, lies eight miles to the south-east of Newbury. The manor, which had belonged to the college of Le Vaux, near Salisbury, was granted, by King Henry VIII. in 1543^b, to Sir Humphrey Forster, of Aldermaston, in whose family it continued till the year 1607^c: it is probable, that it was then purchased by John Blacknall esq. who died seized of it in 1625. The heiress of Mr. Blacknall married Sir Ralph Verney, ancestor of the late Earl Verney. The manor of Wasing is now the property of William Mount esq.; his father bought it, in 1760, of Mr. Coope, who had purchased it of the Verney family. The manor house, a handsome modern building, is a conspicuous object from the Bath road: adjoining to it is the parish church, a small ancient structure, the inside of which has been lately modernized, and very neatly fitted up. Mr. Mount is patron of the rectory, which is in the deanery of Newbury.

WELFORD, in the hundred of Faircross, lies about six miles from Newbury, on the road to Lambourn: the manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon, is now the property of John Archer Houlton esq. grandson of the late John Archer, descended from John Archer, some time one of the barons of the

^a Biograph. Brit. esq. of Aldermaston.

^b Pat. 35 Hen. VIII.

^c Papers in the possession of William Congreve