

The Past in Maps

As we reach another milestone in our history series, it is perhaps a good time to reflect upon some of the topics covered over the past twelve years. One way to remind the regular reader, or introduce local history to the newcomer, is to look again at old maps of Bicton since they illustrate both the development of cartography and the evolution of our landscape.

By exploring the area with such maps in hand, one can recognise what has survived from the past and what changes have occurred since. For instance, take a close look at the shapes of buildings shown. You may even be living in one of them yourself.

Even amongst the distorted shapes drawn by John Rocque, there are clues to road changes, the location of Thomas Wright's tree nursery and the unenclosed heathland. Those heathland pools are also features which are relevant to today, as developers and road builders encroach.

In other words, there is plenty to 'read' in such historical documents.





