

John Poyntz Spencer (1835-1910)



The "Red Earl"



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Earl Spencer

"The Messenger of Peace."



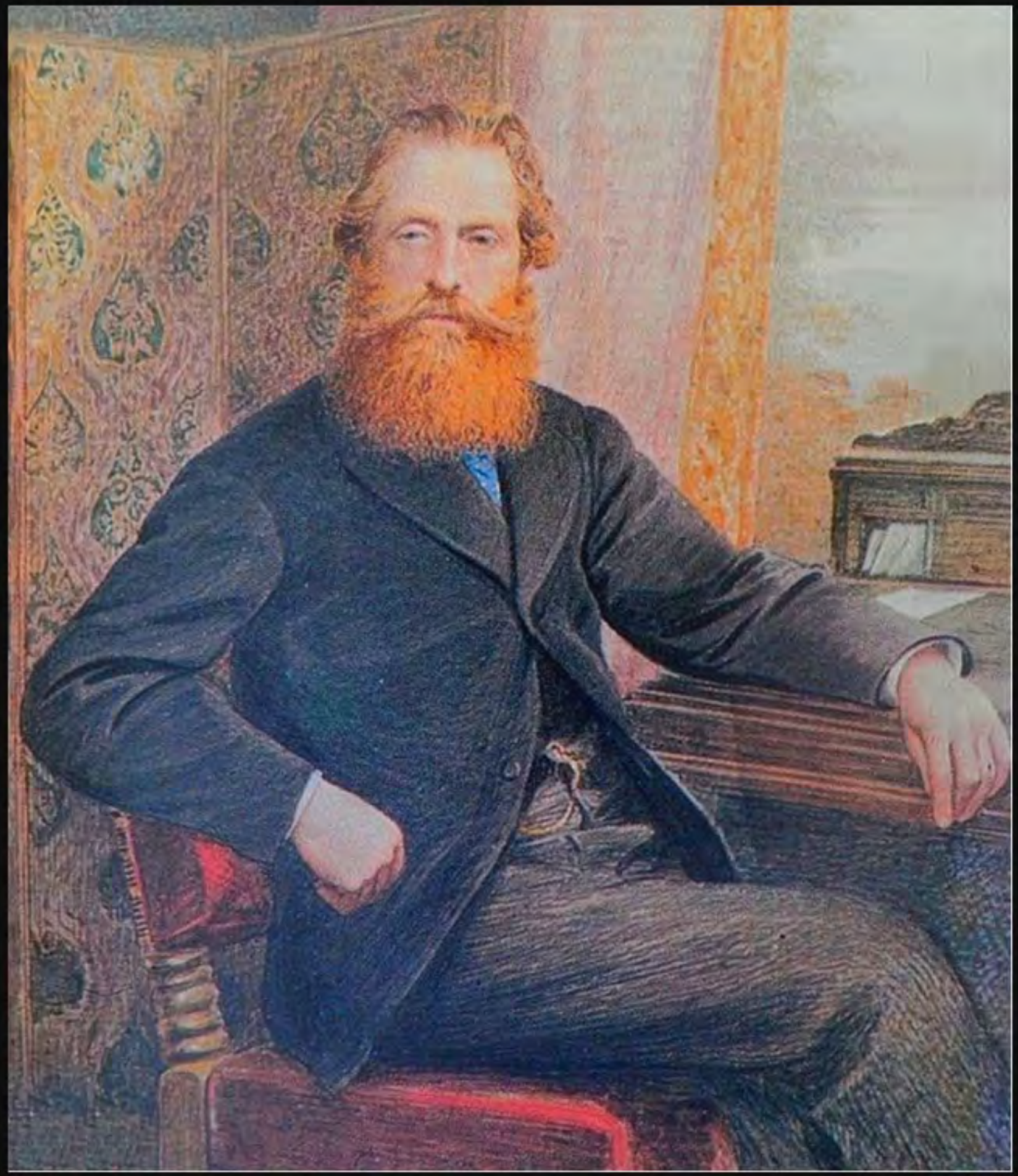
The Right Hon.
JOHN POYNTZ SPENCER, EARL SPENCER, K.G., P.C., D.C.L., LL.D.
Late Lieutenant of Ireland

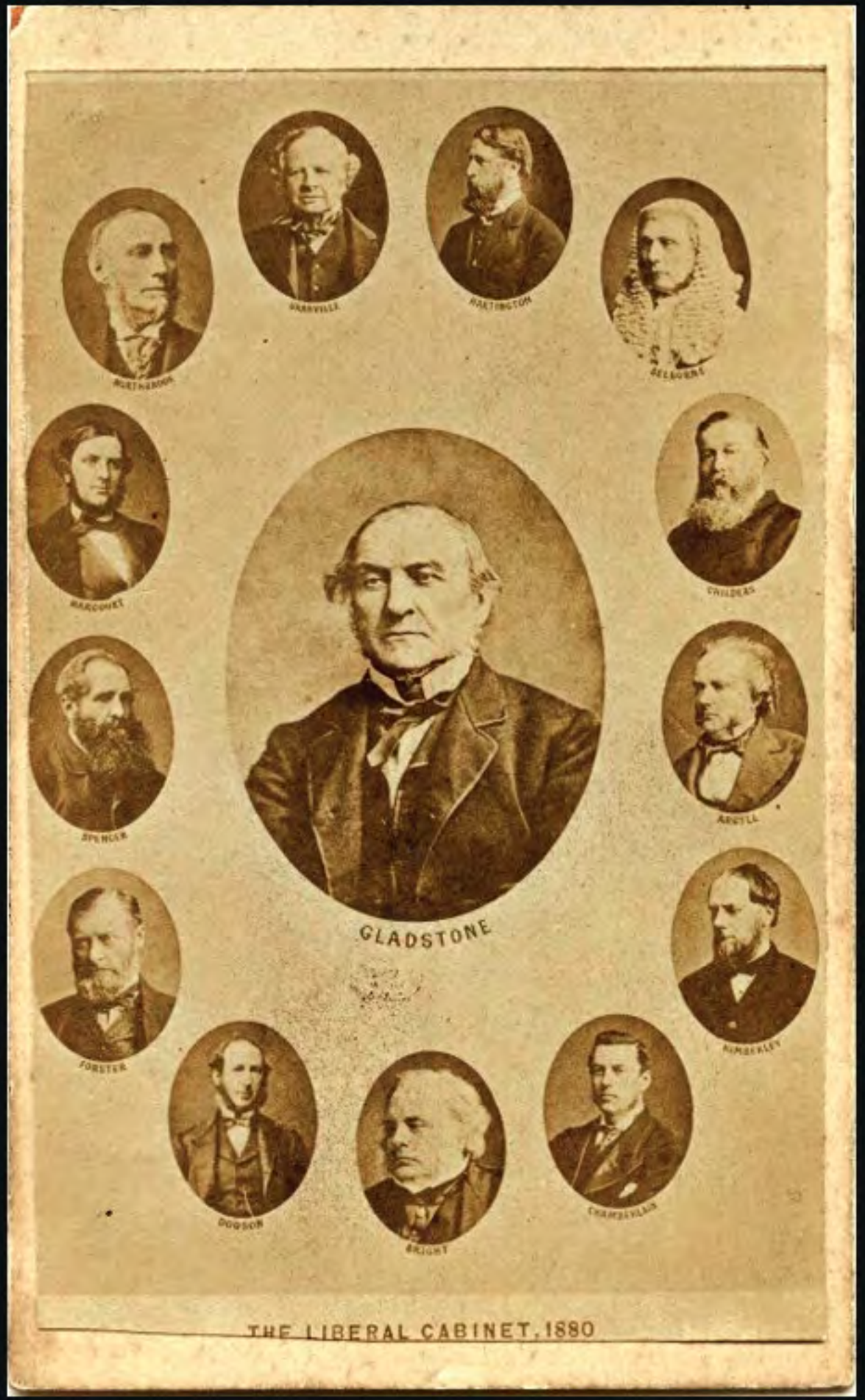




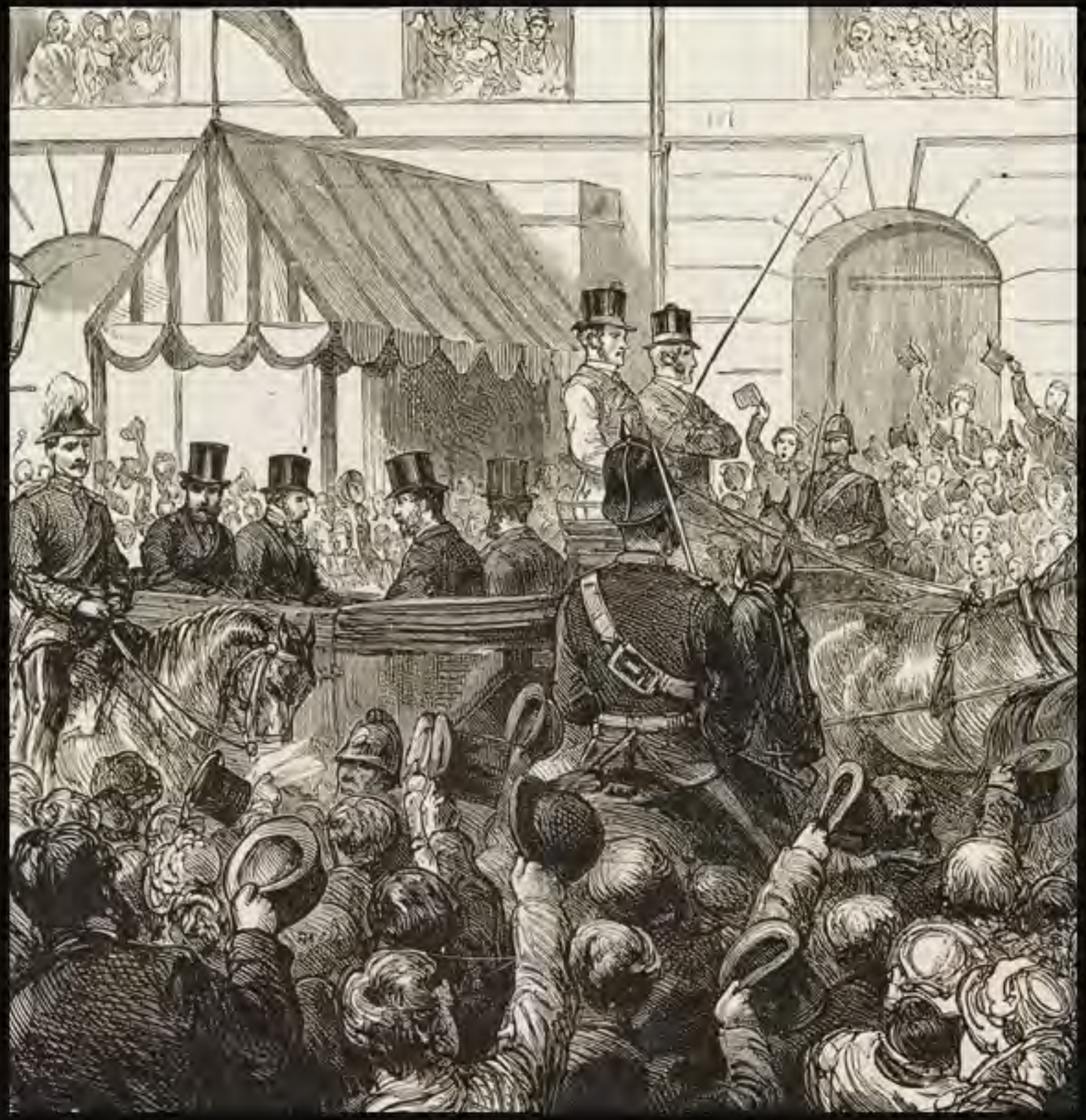








THE LIBERAL CABINET, 1880



"Earl Spencer and the Land Question"

EARL SPENCER AND THE LAND QUESTION.

Henry Poyntz, Earl Spencer, has been chosen by the "Liberal" party to govern Ireland as Lord Lieutenant. The question which the Whig Radicals of the day have chosen to agitate for the purpose of attaining power, place, pay, and patronage, is the destruction of the Protestant Church in Ireland. Unfortunate Ireland, thus to be chosen as the battle ground of English faction! Every one really knows that the United Church of England and Ireland is not now and never was a practical grievance—that the leaders of Irish treason and rebellion for the last twenty years have never alluded to the Irish Protestant Church as a cause or pretext for sedition and that the disendowment of the Protestant Church in Ireland, and the endowment out of Protestant revenues of the Popish College of Maynooth, and the confiscation of Protestant property to maintain lunatic and idiot asylums, which will be directly under the control of Popish priests, will do nothing to conciliate the Papist population, whilst it will infuriate the Protestants thus infamously plundered and oppressed.

But the real question in Ireland is the land; and we propose to shew from Earl Spencer's dealings with land questions in England, how admirably he has been chosen to settle the land question in Ireland.

His lordship is an earl by prescription, and not in consequence of any service he has rendered in any way to God or man—to his kind or to his country. He inherits a noble fortune—the finest Library in England—the choicest works of art in Europe. He is also Lord of the Manors of Wimbledon, of Wandsworth, and of Clapham, three common parks stretching for many miles to the south-west of London, and to these the three or four millions of inhabitants of the great metropolis were indebted for fresh air. In the times of Lord Spencer's ancestors immemorially these Commons have been used for grazing, for pastime, for exercise, for purpose of health and enjoyment. Where he found paradise he has made morasses—where health, fever; where life was sustained, invigorated, and prolonged, he has striven to produce pestilence and death.

As Lord of Wimbledon, moreover, he attempted to make inclosures. The inhabitants broke them down. He then endeavoured to procure an Act of Parliament to give him in fee simple the best part of Wimbledon Common to build on for his own use and profit, the remainder to be an enclosed park, of which he was to be the master, with the profits of the grazing, the public to be subject to the will and caprice of Lord Spencer. To the credit of the House of Commons this most iniquitous Bill was rejected. What he next attempted we cannot refer to, as the inhabitants are now embarked in a stupendous Chancery suit to ascertain and define his rights and theirs.

Lord Spencer is Lord of the Manor of Wandsworth. Here numerous enclosures have been made. Some of the inhabitants resisted the enclosures. Hundreds of the lowest tramps and gypsies were permitted to squat in front of their properties, to burn their fences, outrage all decency, till the aggregation of filth and excrement made small-pox and typhus imminent. In times before he was Lord, Wandsworth Common was matchless for its beauty and its usefulness.

One half of the Common has been excavated, so that through the winter it is under water. Notices are set up that the land may be had "for any purpose;" that "rubbish may be shot" there, of which the inhabitants for miles round avail themselves, to deposit rotting vegetable refuse, excrementitious deposits, liquid filth, oyster shells, house sweepings, and an indescribable collection of nuisances which no decent language could designate. Another part of the Common is used for the deposit of millions of loads of horse refuse and dust bins. These are sorted and sifted; and a fire was kept burning for months, generating and distributing the most unutterable stench. Other wrongs might be enumerated; but here, too, as at Wimbledon, the inhabitants are embarked in a Chancery suit with Lord Spencer, involving untold expenditure; so we can say no more, except to quote a saying in a recent vestry meeting, that "Wandsworth Common was one of those God-forsaken spots that even the policemen never interfered with."

Lord Spencer is also Lord of a portion of Clapham Common. Here he was applied to for a renewal of the lease to the principal inhabitants, under which, at an inconsiderable expense, it has hitherto been kept a park, unenclosed, unparalleled for its picturesque beauty, its freedom, its use for every purpose of pleasure, enjoyment, and sport. He refused to renew the lease. Another part of Clapham is held of another Lord, Mr. Bowyer, not a nobleman by prescription, but a noble man by nature. Mr. Bowyer renewed the lease of so much of Clapham Common as he was Lord of for thirty years at a nominal rent.

It is said that Earl Spencer and his Countess have apostatised to Rome. This is not to be wondered at. "He believes that God; what in the name of God does he believe of God?" says old Thomas Carlyle. He no doubt thinks that he will require some priestly aid to fall back on when his great day of account shall come.

In the meantime, from his dealings with land in England, Lord Spencer's appointment to govern in Ireland would seem to be fatuous.—*Will-o'-the-Wisp.*

Ballyshannon Herald - Saturday 26 June 1869

1869

He [is] Lord of the Manors of Wimbledon, of Wandsworth, and of Clapham, three common parks stretching for many miles to the south-west of London, and these the three or four millions of inhabitants the great metropolia are indebted for fresh air.

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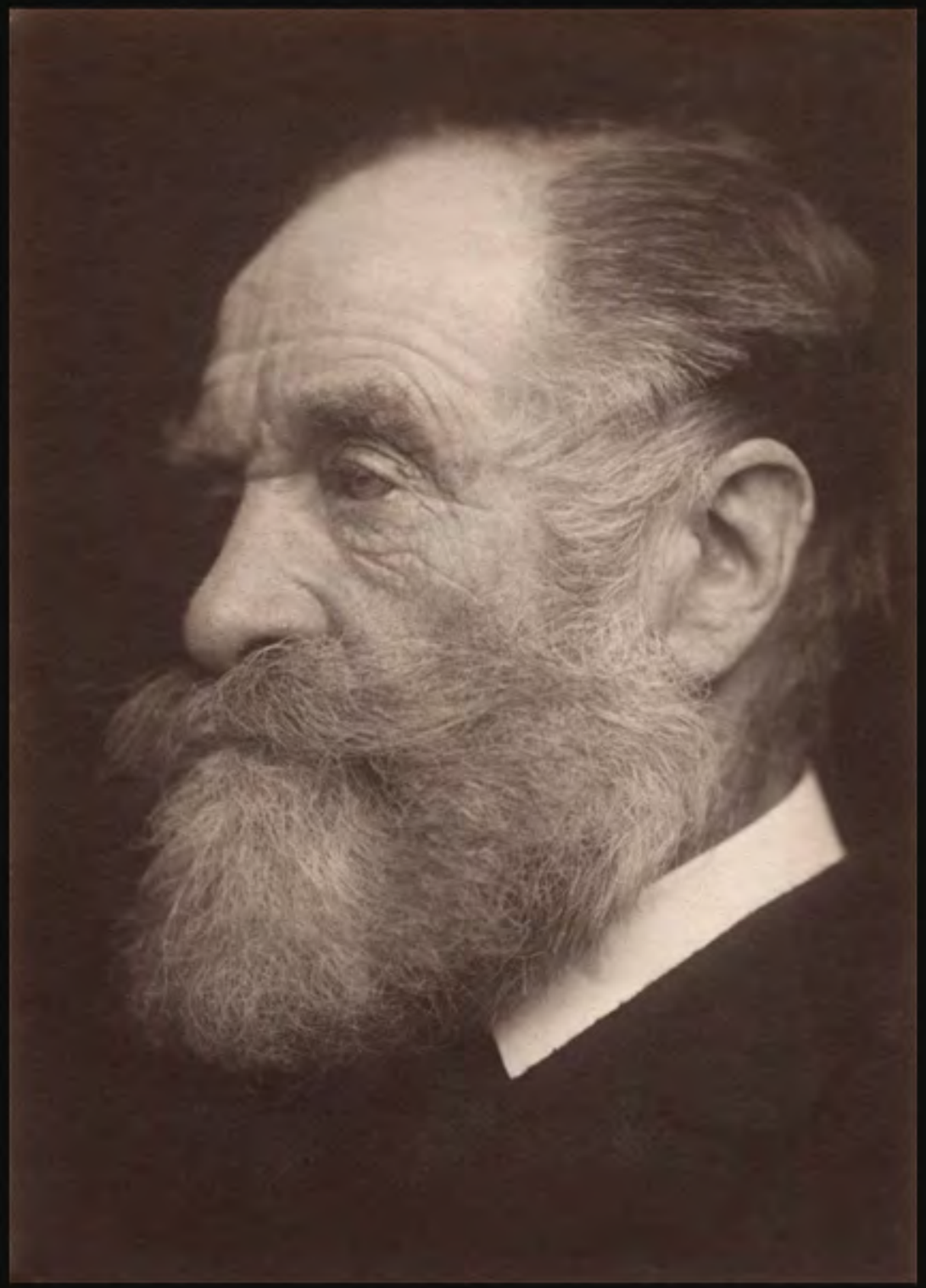
Will o' the wisp

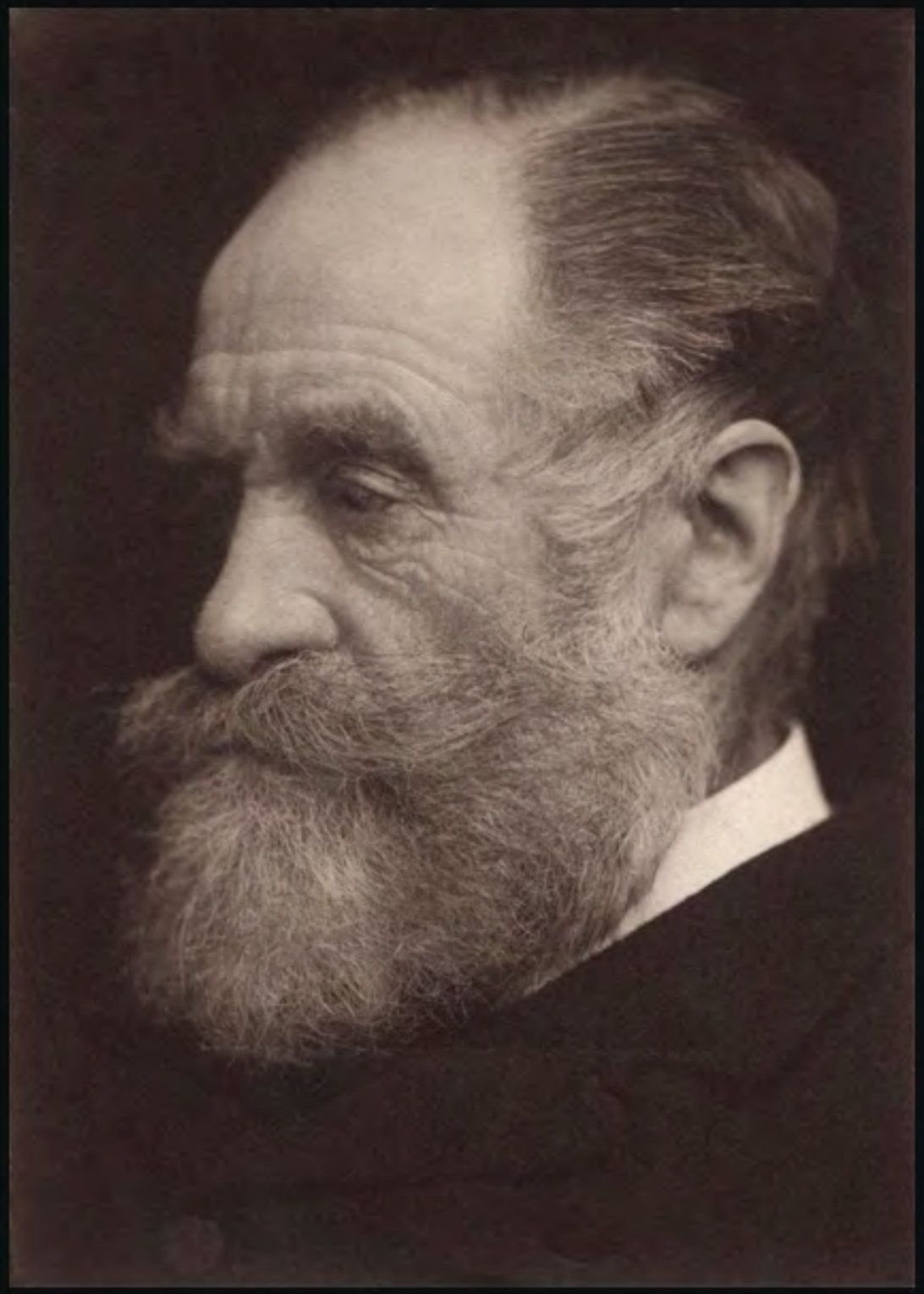
Ballyshannon Herald, 26 June 1869

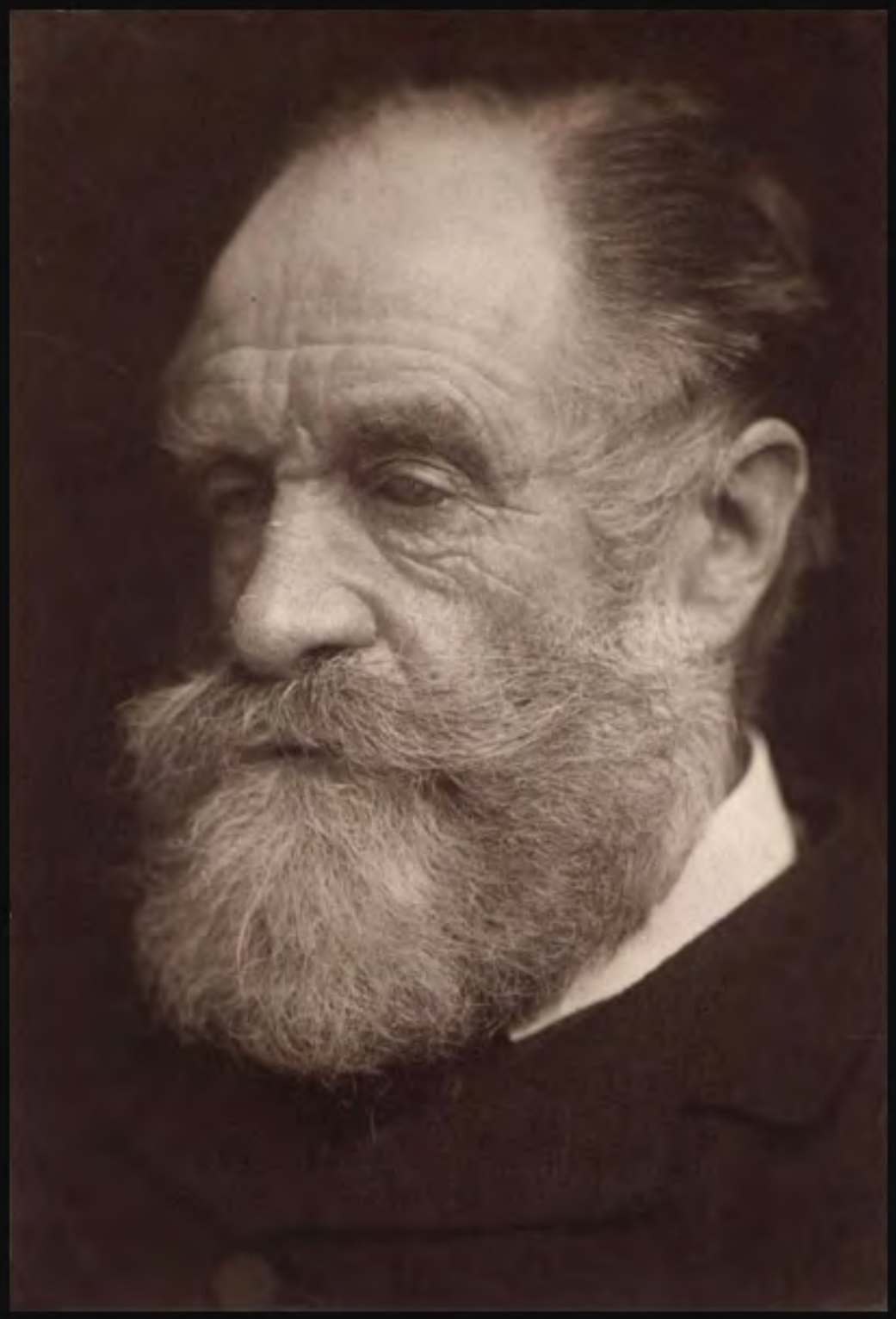
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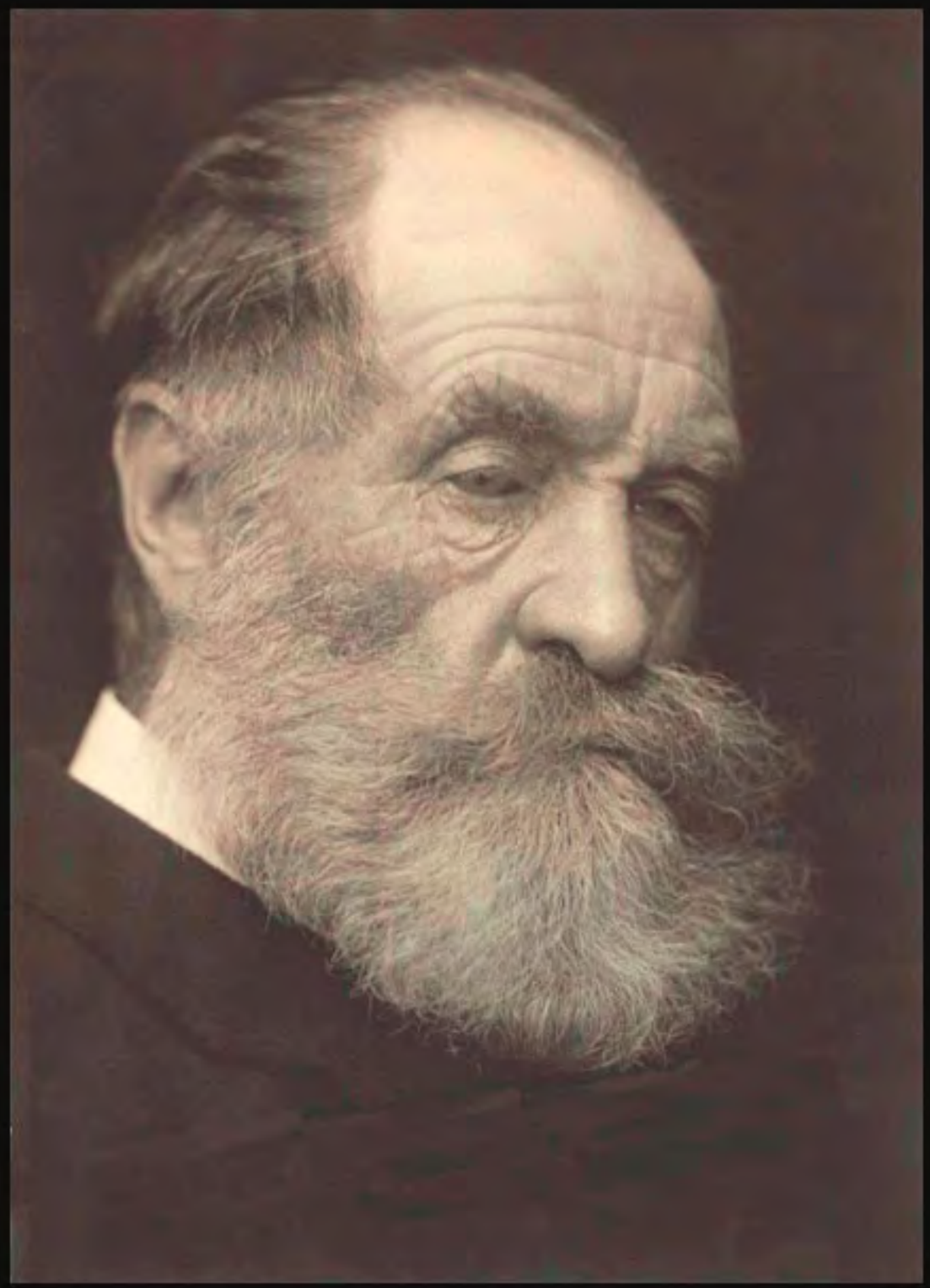
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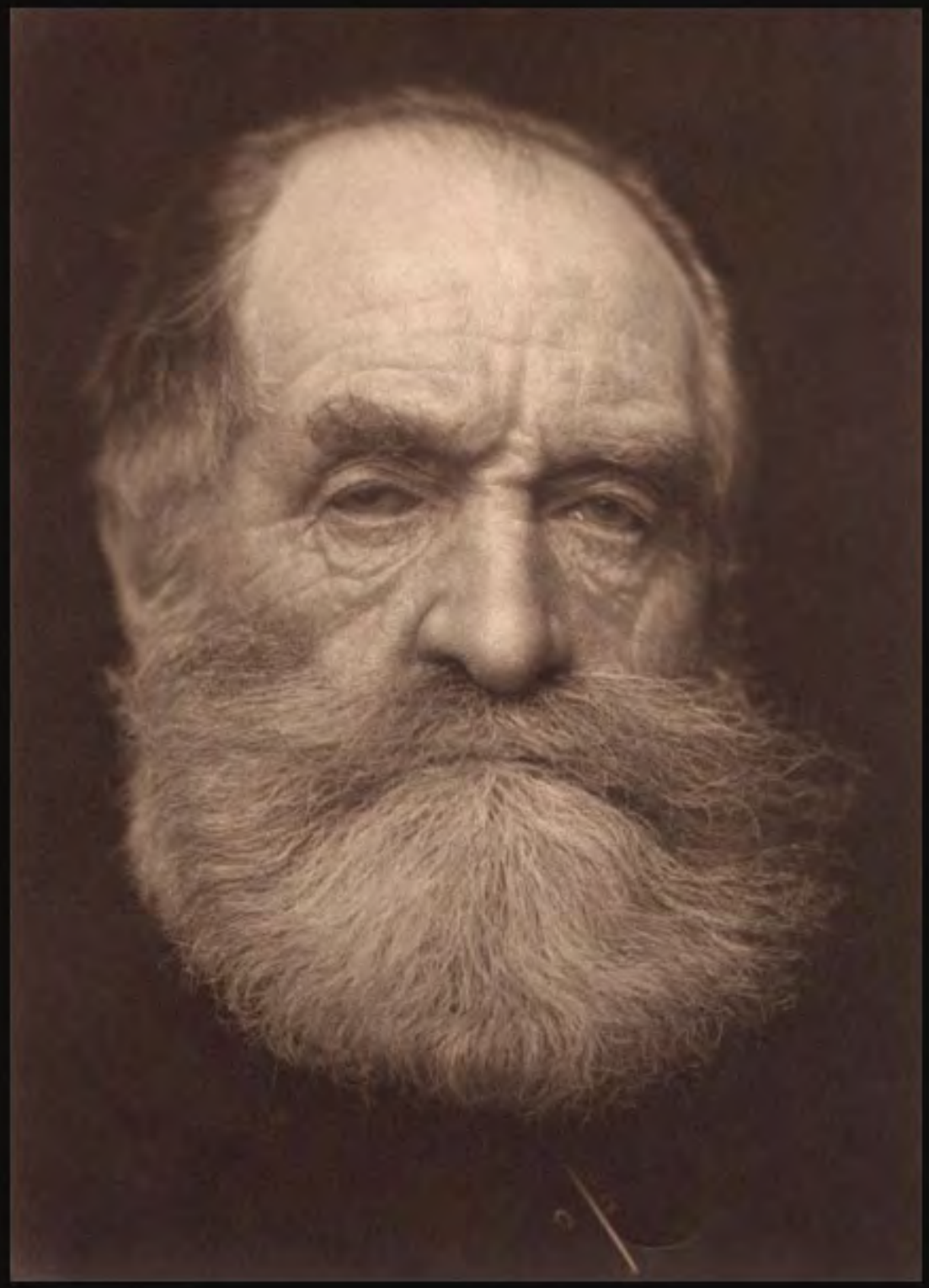
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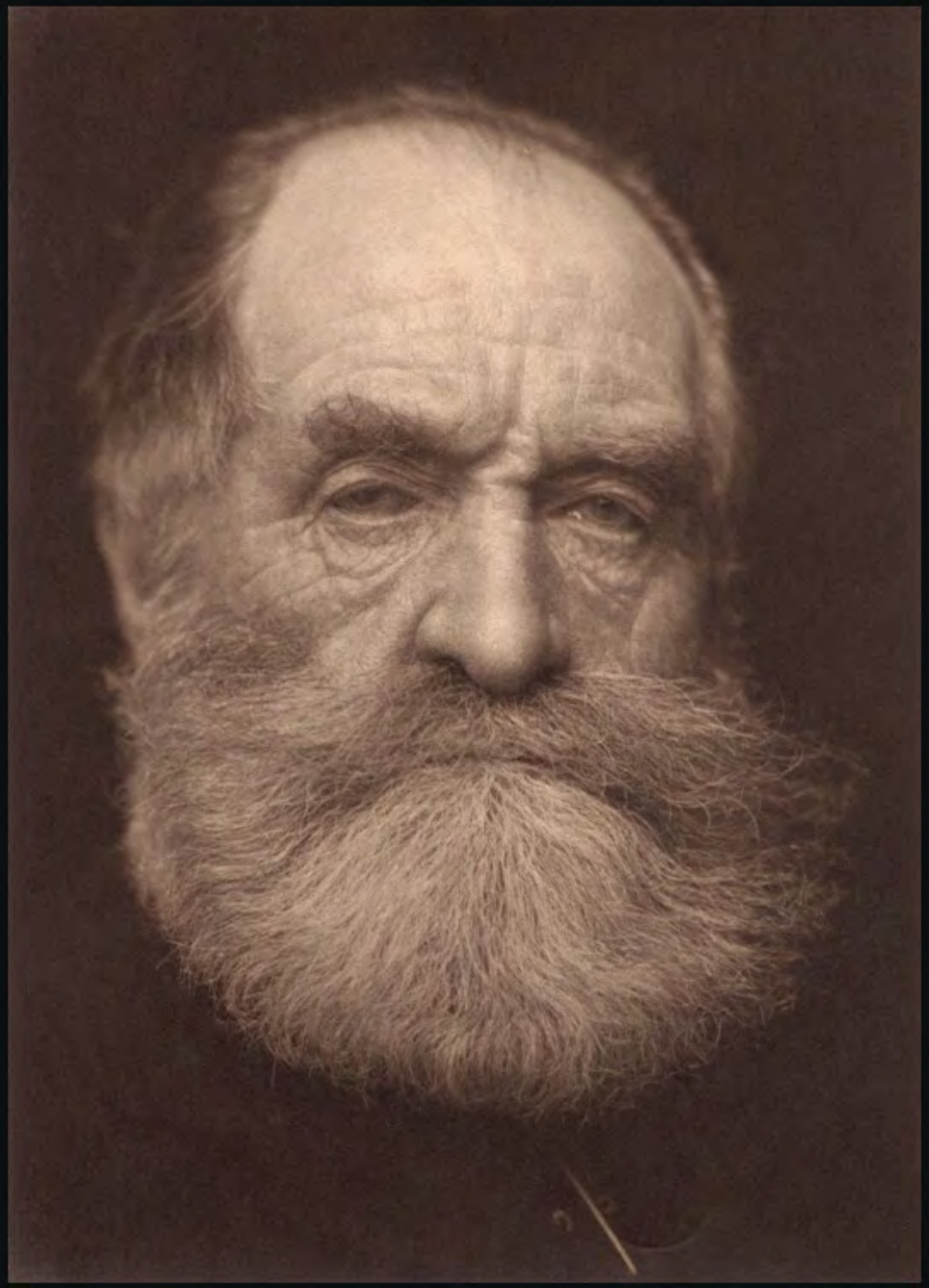














John Buckmaster...







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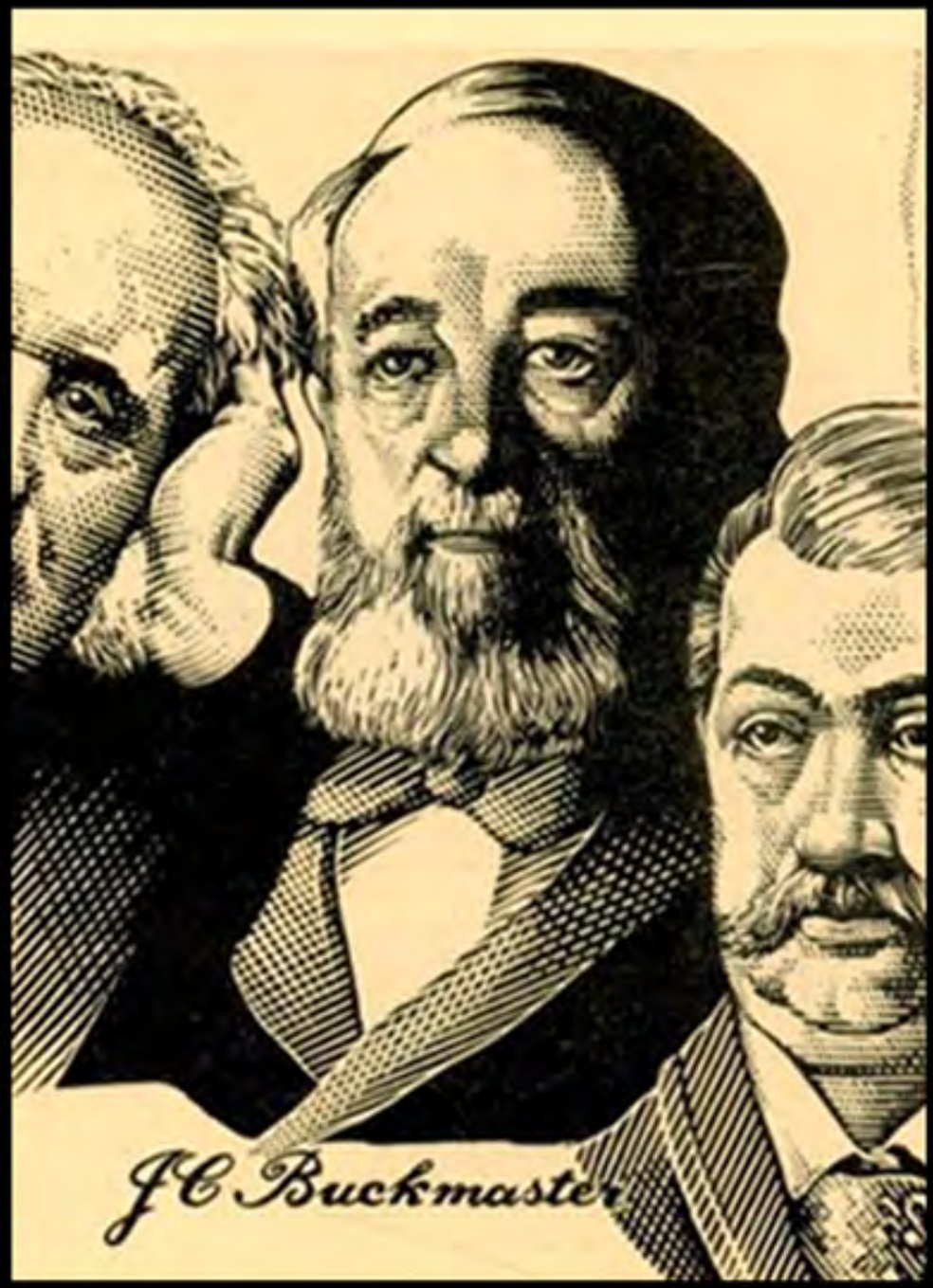
JOHN CHARLES BUCKMASTER
A bastard from Bucks who gave science to the working people

JOHN HENRY PEPPER
Showman of science, thrilling his audience with burning phosphorus

JAMES MAURICE WILSON
The inspiring Manxman who gave us ornithopachynsipaedia

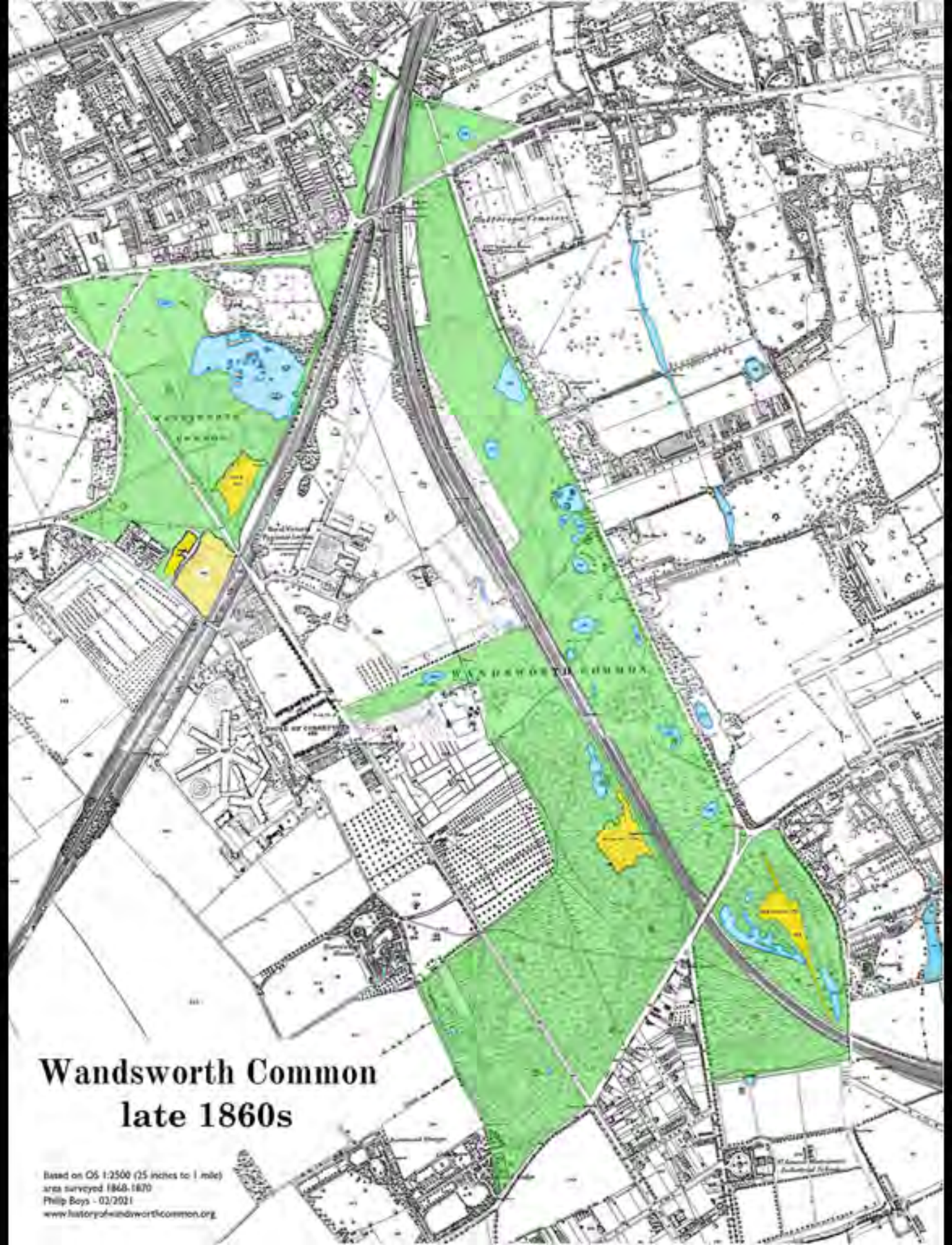
HENRY EDWARD ARMSTRONG
Pioneer of do-it-yourself chemistry

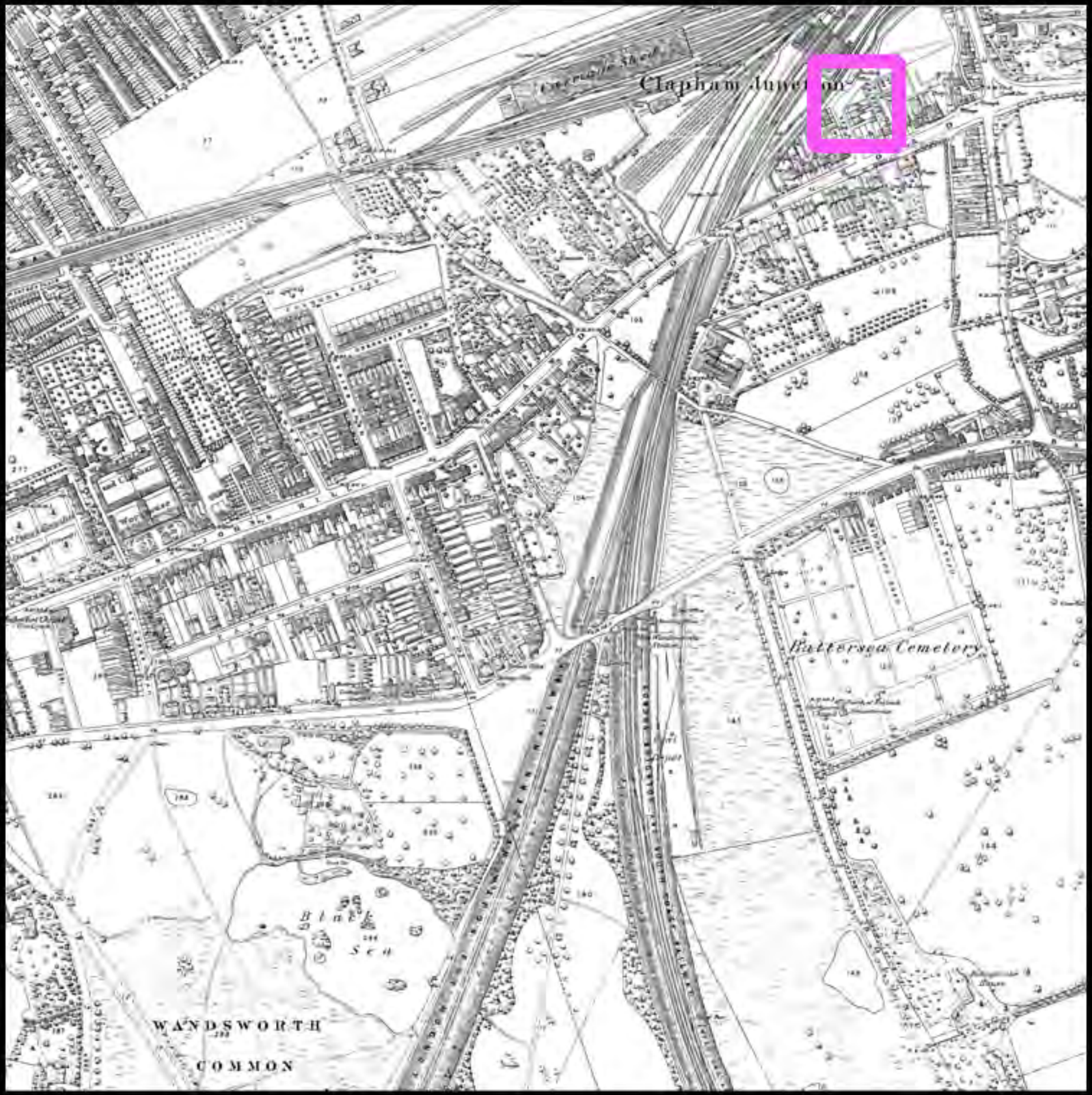
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JOHN CHARLES BUCKMASTER

A bastard from Bucks who gave science to the working people


WANDSWORTH COMMON
Wandsworth Common
late 1860s
Based on OS 1:2500 (25 inches to 1 mile)
area surveyed 1868-1870
Philip Boys - 02/2021
www.historyofwandsworthcommon.org

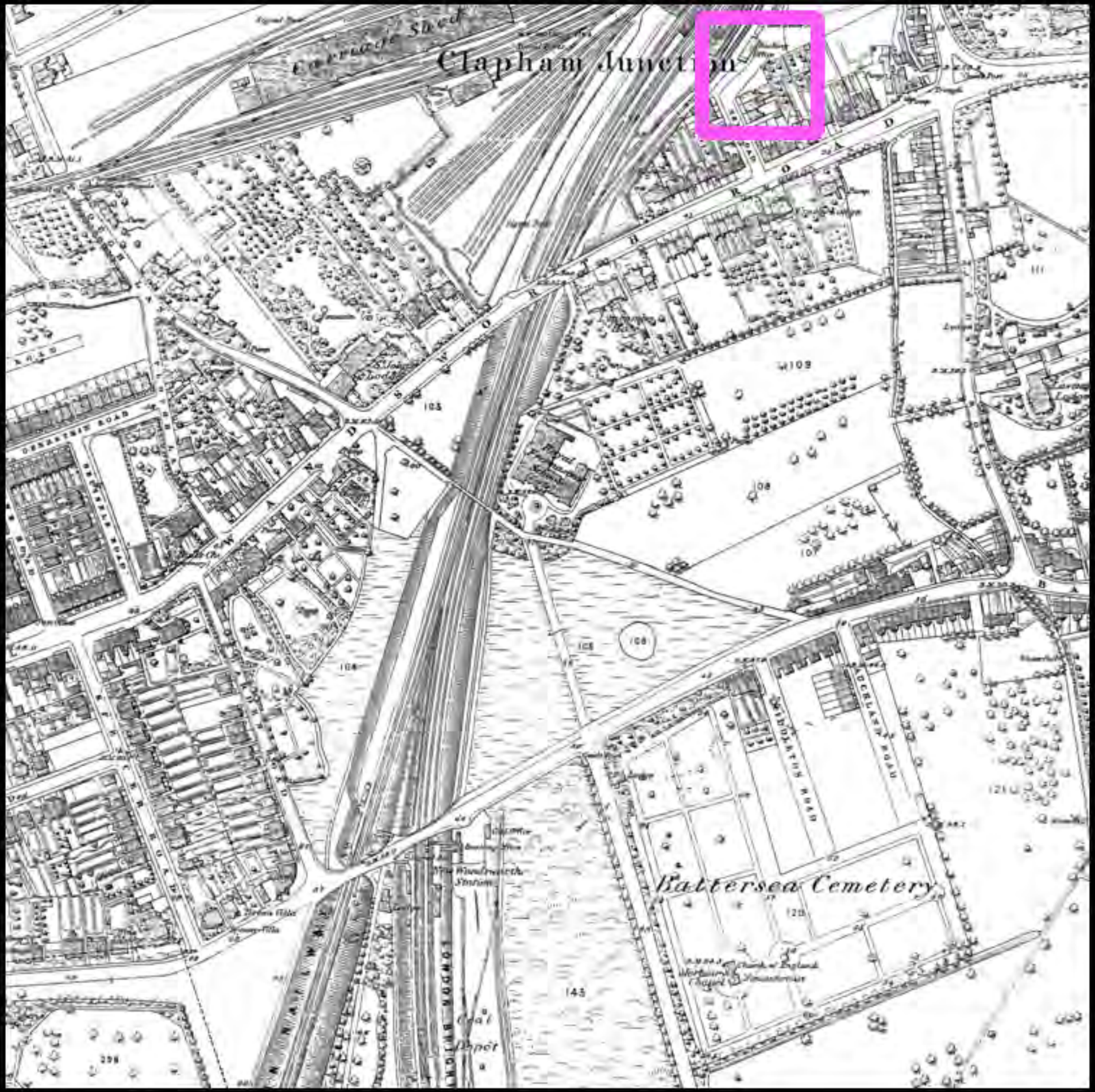

Clapham Junction
Battersea Cemetery
Black Sea
WANDSWORTH
COMMON

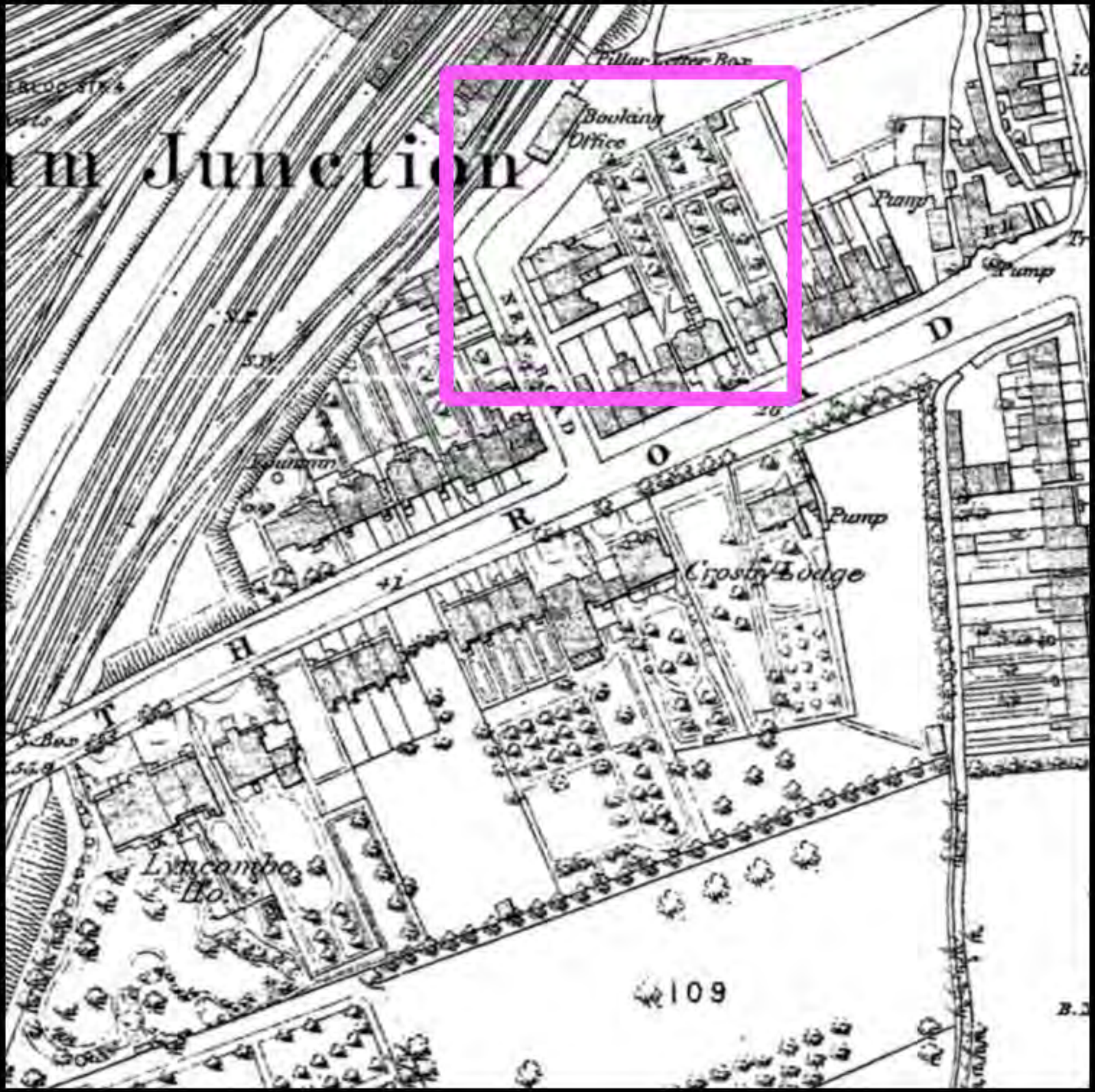
"Before we got married we had to find a house. Our income was small, and we had to be modest in our rent. After going about within a mile radius of my work, we settled on a compo. thing called a villa.

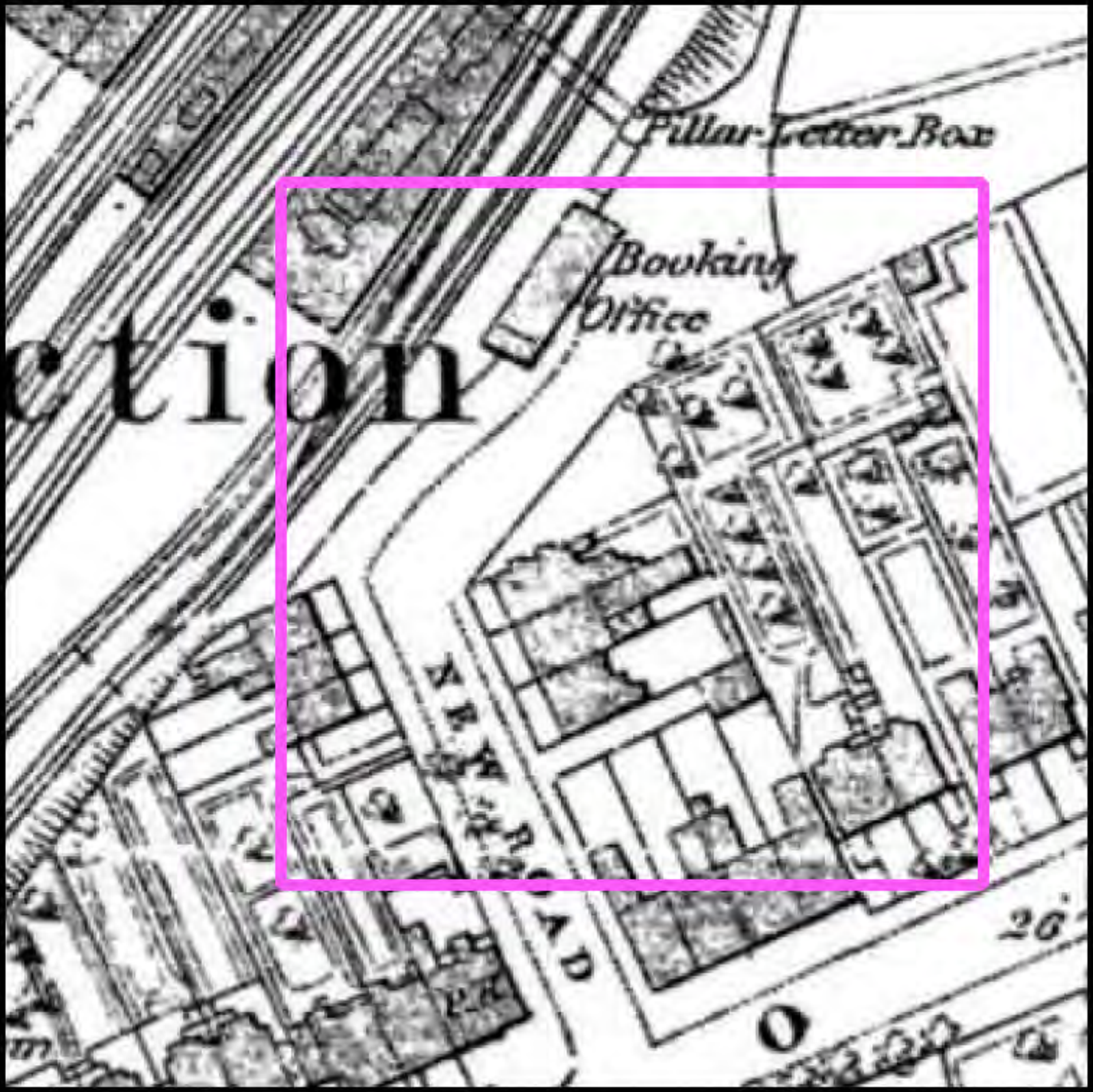
I hated it, but my future wife thought it would do very nicely, as all future wives do.

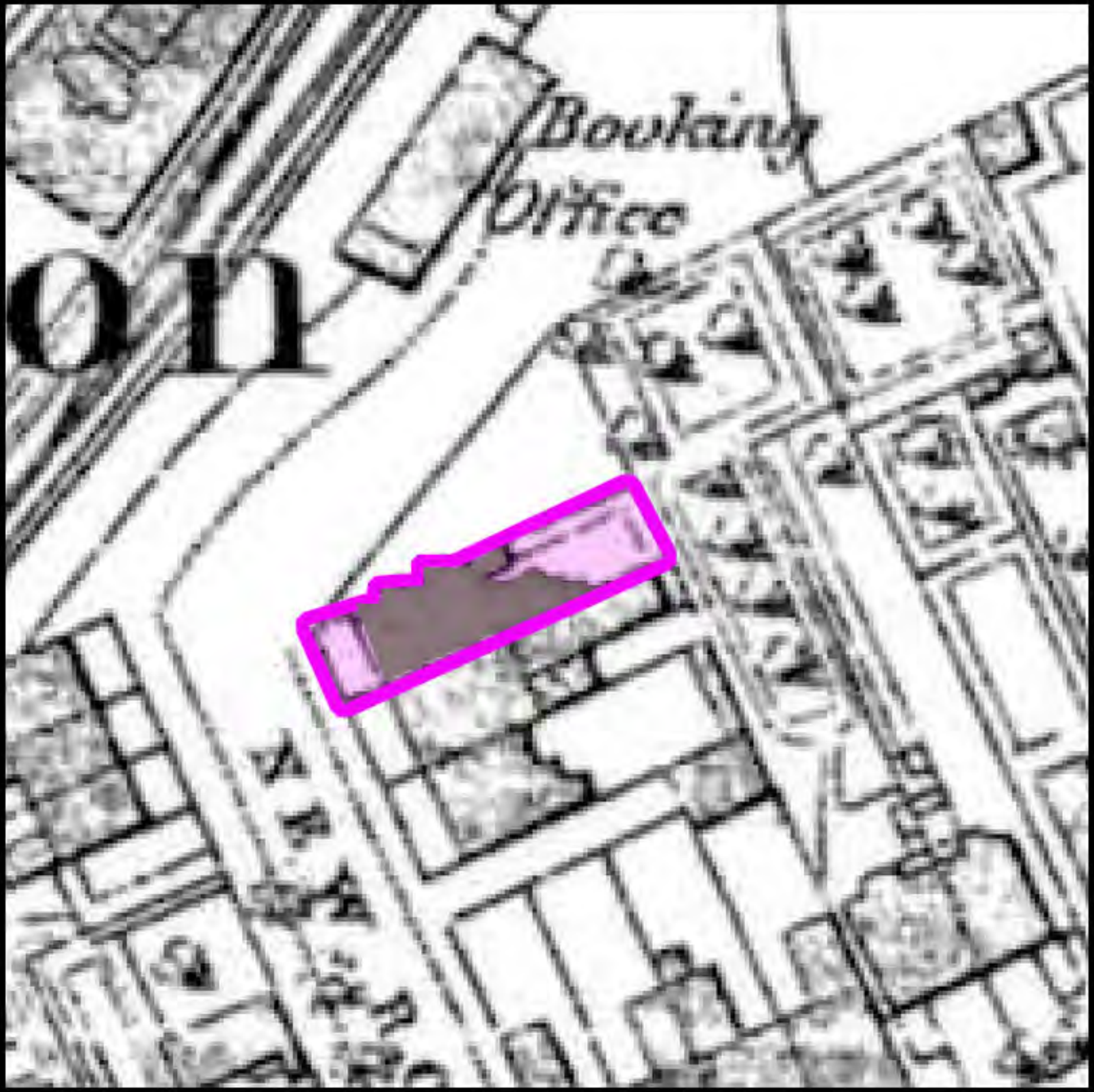
I was only reconciled to it because it was in a muddy lane, surrounded by cabbage gardens and orchards, and on a spring evening I could sit in a little garden, not much larger than the house, and scent the hawthorn and lilac and hear the cuckoo.

The house was a wretched, jerry-built affair, and gave us no end of trouble and expense...


Clapham Junction
Battersea Cemetery


m Junction
Bowling Office
Pump
Pump
Pump
Cross Lodge
Lyncombe Ho.
109


Pillar Letter Box
Booking Office
tion
O


OH
Booking
Office

"The story of two poor gravel diggers...

"I WAS SITTING quietly one evening with my family after a hard day's teaching, which is the hardest of all work, when two gravel diggers from the common wished to see me.

They came to tell me that they were born in the parish and had been gravel diggers for years, and their fathers before them.

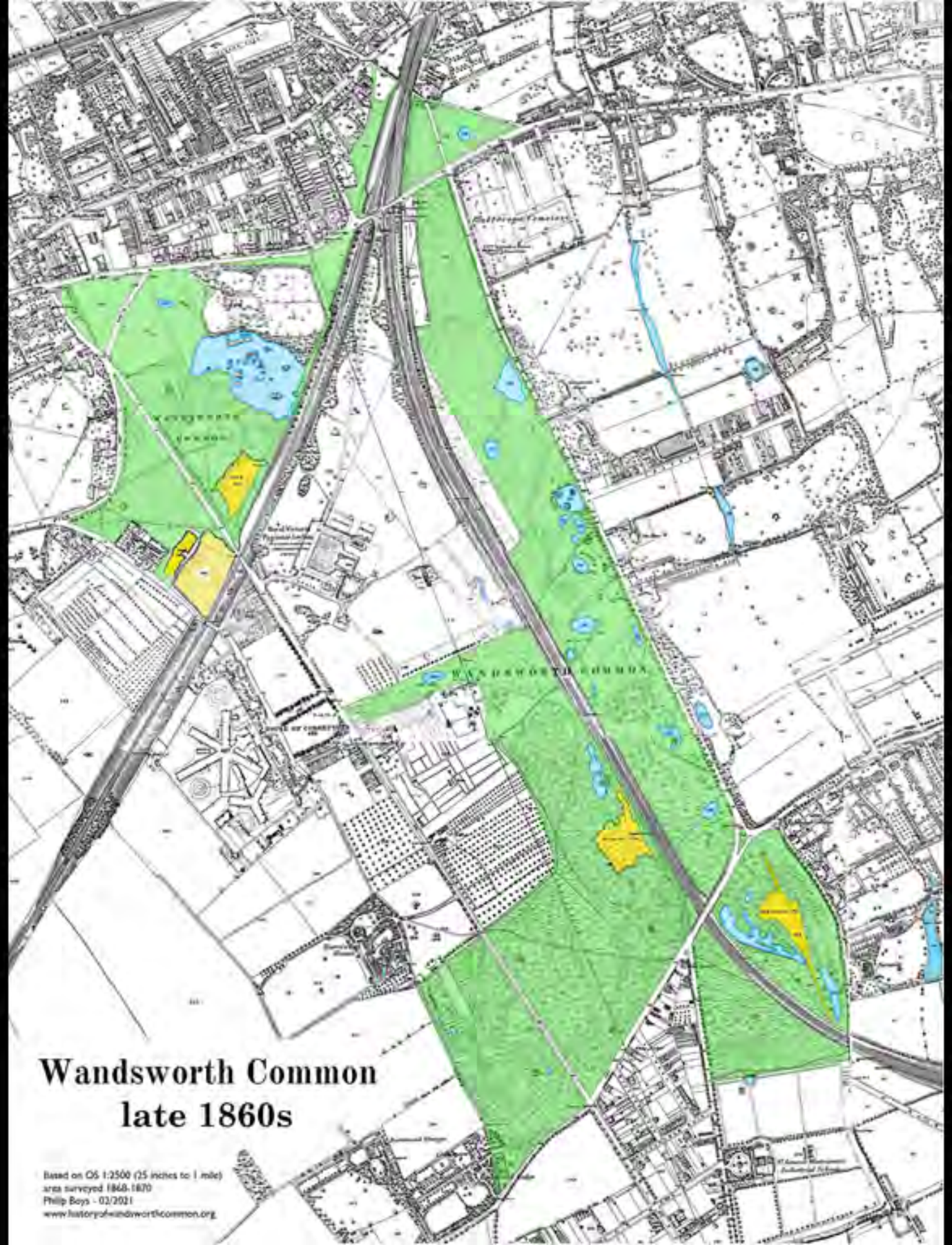
They had no gardens or allotments; but had planted a few rows of potatoes on an exhausted part of the pit, and just as they appeared above ground a gentleman who called himself the lessee, and who had recently added six acres of the common to his own private grounds, came with two men and levelled their crop of potatoes, and told them if they did it again he should have them up.

"They had come to ask my advice.

My first impulse was to go with these men
and break down his fence; I felt so angry
that, had I been single, I was prepared to risk
the consequences, but it was of no use sacrificing
a wife and family in what I then believed to be
the assertion of a right.

If I had succeeded I should have been crowned
with laurels; if I had failed, as I probably should,
the public would have called me a fool, and would have
allowed me to go to prison and my wife and family
to the union.

"A London suburban common in danger...


WANDSWORTH COMMON
Wandsworth Common
late 1860s
Based on OS 1:2500 (25 inches to 1 mile)
area surveyed 1868-1870
Philip Boys - 02/2021
www.historyofwandsworthcommon.org

"I saw, what everybody saw, that the common was fast melting away.

Private owners adjoining the common were constantly making improvements by adding portions of the common to their own property.

The railways had enclosed acres not required or provided for in these acts, and in time this surplus was divided among their head officials.

Six acres were enclosed for a telescope which was never put up, speculating builders turned a greedy eye on what remained, and here and there, like the scouts of an army, things called villas sprang up like mushrooms.
.

Battersea Cemetery

WANDSWORTH COMMON

Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum

WANDSWORTH COMMON

"The tallest and ugliest production of compo. and rotten bricks at the corner of each street were intended for public-houses.

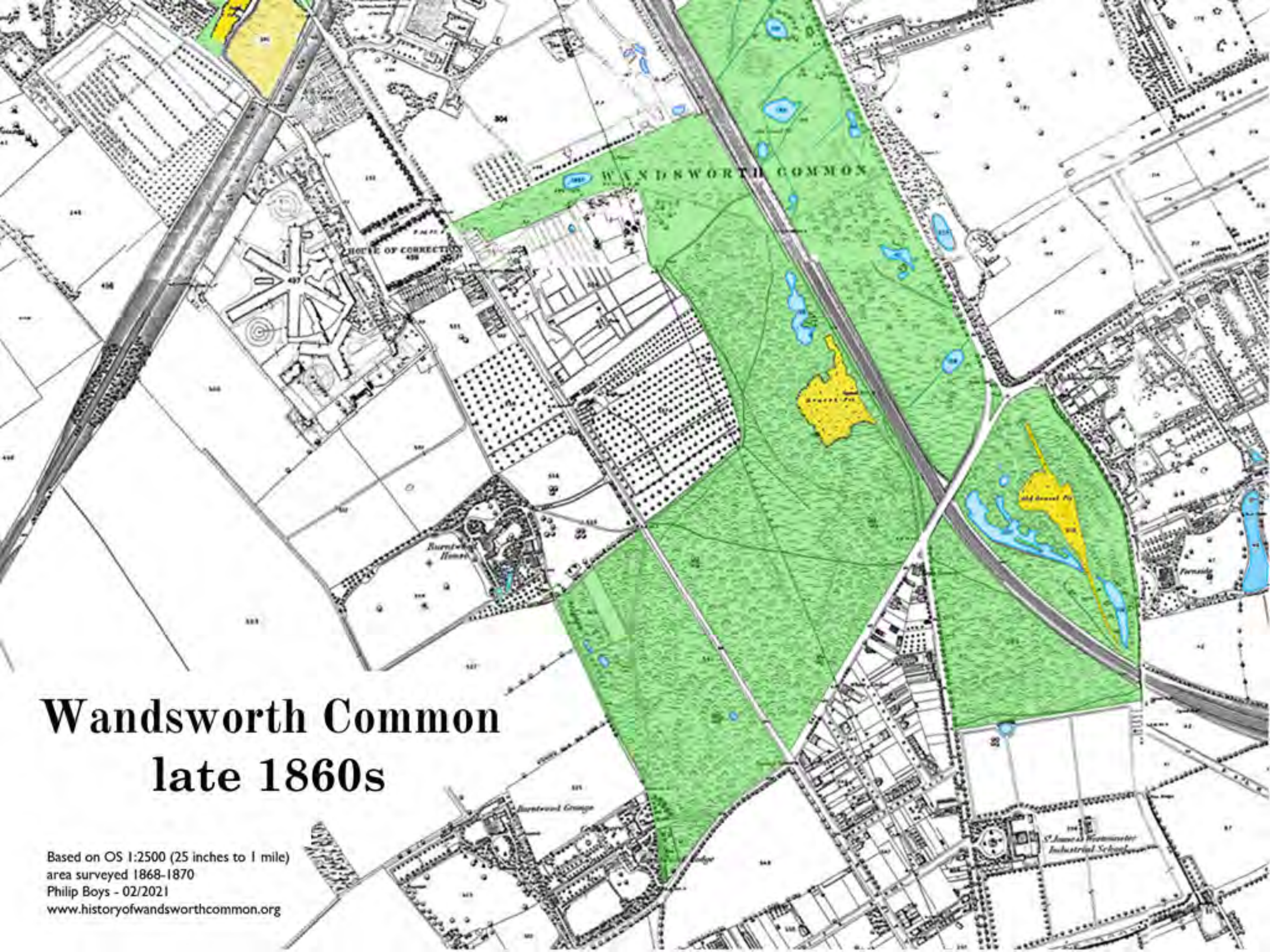
The common was threatened on every side, and the increasing army of land-grabbers and jerry-builders would soon have joined hands on the last square foot of turf, and one of the most lovely commons within a few miles of Charing Cross would have become a wilderness of bricks and chimney-pots.

We were told there was no remedy.

"The gravel-pits were filled up with garbage and rubbish for the foundations of eligible villas and ground-rents.

All these enclosures were no doubt made with the formal sanction of the lord of the manor on the representation of his agents, and as the common was for the most part surrounded by poor inhabitants there was no money for litigation, the only cheap comfort was to grumble.

The adjacent common was, on the other hand, surrounded by rich merchants and bankers with large houses and grounds, and any attempt on the common even for railways was threatened with a powerful resistance.



Wandsworth Common late 1860s

Based on OS 1:2500 (25 inches to 1 mile)
area surveyed 1868-1870
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"Begin agitation...

"I was unable to help these poor potato men, but it occurred to me that a letter to the newspapers might attract attention.

I wrote three letters to the daily papers.

Only one, the Standard, inserted the letter, but this was sufficient; other letters followed, and there was evidently a strong growing public sentiment against the further enclosure of commons near London.

12 July 1862

John Buckmaster's first letter

South London Press

WANDSWORTH COMMON ENCROACHMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me, through the medium of your valuable journal, to call the attention of the public to the shameful encroachments on their rights to Wandsworth Common, which have been going on for a long time past? The evil is rapidly increasing, and unless a vigorous stand is at once made by the owners of property in the neighbourhood, all that now remains of this once beautiful common will shortly be confiscated to private and monied interests. Quite recently, indeed, from four to five acres have been enclosed in a strong fence by the Brighton Railway Company, and this convenient little piece of business has been quietly arranged between the company and the lord of the manor, who seems entirely to ignore the existence of freeholders, copyholders, and the parish authorities. I myself am a freeholder of property adjoining the common, and as I see the open space, which is so great a boon to residents, being gradually fenced in, I cannot refrain from asking by what right or title does the lord of the manor dispose of our rights to the railway company and others? I believe I am correct in asserting that the proceeding is utterly illegal; and if any one had the funds or the courage to try the question I believe this wholesale disposal of land might be stopped. But surely, sir, this is a matter to be taken up by the vestry whom the ratepayers in their blissful ignorance imagine to be the protectors of the parish rights. Yet the vestry, say nothing, and watch the proceedings in apathetic silence. Either their supineness is caused by a want of business abilities or a disgraceful neglect of duty. To conclude, I do sincerely trust that there may be a determined stand made by the freeholders and copyholders, and that by a united action we may preserve the common from further spoliation on the part of monied or other influence.

I am, Sir, yours, &c., M. R. C. S.

St. John's-hill, Wandsworth, July, 1862.

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St. John's-hill, Wandsworth
July, 1862

"See lord of the manor...

ENCLOSURES ON WANDSWORTH-COMMON.—Yesterday a deputation, consisting of the Rev. J. S. Jenkinson, vicar of Battersea; the Rev. W. Hodgson, member of the Wandsworth Board of Works; Mr. James Walton, churchwarden of Battersea; Mr. W. Todd, Mr. M. Sawson, Mr. Buckmaster, and Mr. Corsellis, vestry clerk of Battersea, had an audience with Lord Spencer, lord of the manor, relative to the enclosures on Wandsworth-common. After a memorial to his Lordship on the subject had been read, Mr. Buckmaster made a statement to his Lordship upon the desirability of open spaces being preserved for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. Earl Spencer replied that he was most anxious to continue the friendly relationship which had always subsisted between himself and the parish, and that at present he had no intention or idea of any scheme for enclosing any portion of the common; that he concurred in the views expressed by Mr. Buckmaster concerning the desirability of providing open spaces for public recreation in populous localities, and that if at any future period such a plan should be brought under his consideration he would bear this in mind. He believed that out-door games and exercises greatly contributed to the happiness and morality of the humbler classes, and any future scheme for enclosures would be considered with reference to that object. His Lordship did not see how the recent enclosures of the railway, which were, he believed, the only considerable ones that had been made since his succession to the property, could now be interfered with, but there was not the slightest objection to further inquiry being made in the matter; the parochial authorities ought to have urged their objections at the proper times. After some further explanations from Mr. Walton and Mr. Todd, the deputation thanked his Lordship for the very favourable consideration he had given the matter, and then withdrew.

The Times, 10 October 1863

The Times
10 October 1863

"ENCLOSURES ON WANDSWORTH-COMMON.

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favourable consideration he had given the matter,
and then withdrew."

"After some difficulty we obtained an interview with the lord of the manor, and after discussing the matter in the presence of his agents and lawyers he asked, "Do you question my right to dispose of the common?"

All the other members of the deputation were dumb.

I waited to hear what they would say, but as no one spoke I replied, "I am sorry to say, my lord, that we do question your right.

He turned on his heel, his lawyers followed, and we were shown the door by his footman.

"No sooner were we outside than the other members
of the deputation turned on me and said I had greatly
offended his lordship and destroyed all hopes
of a settlement, and yet the question of right
was the great question at all our meetings.

"I wrote a respectful letter to the lord of the manor, pointing out the importance of what was left of the common for health and recreation, and reminded him that these privileges had been enjoyed undisputed, in the language of lawyers, from the time "whereof the memory of man faileth not.

This brought back a rough letter about agitation and rights of property.

I sent my letter with his lordship's reply to the Times, which brought a very angry letter back saying the letter was not intended for publication; to which I replied that it was not marked private, and I felt the subject was of too much public importance to be dealt with privately.

"I had reason to believe that his lordship had been kept in ignorance of the facts by his agents and lawyers, who had represented me as a demagogue and attributing to me language which I should never dream of using; but give a lie a few hours' start and it is impossible to overtake it.

Local people involved in agitation

"A public meeting was held in each of the parishes adjoining the common.

During the summer we held large open-air meetings and collected money for the coming fight.

We went to neighbouring parishes in a waggon drawn by a pair of horses and held open-air meetings.

Resolutions were passed, but still the enclosures went on.

23 August 1867

"Mass-meeting...

"After the interview with the lord of the manor it was decided to hold a mass-meeting on the common.

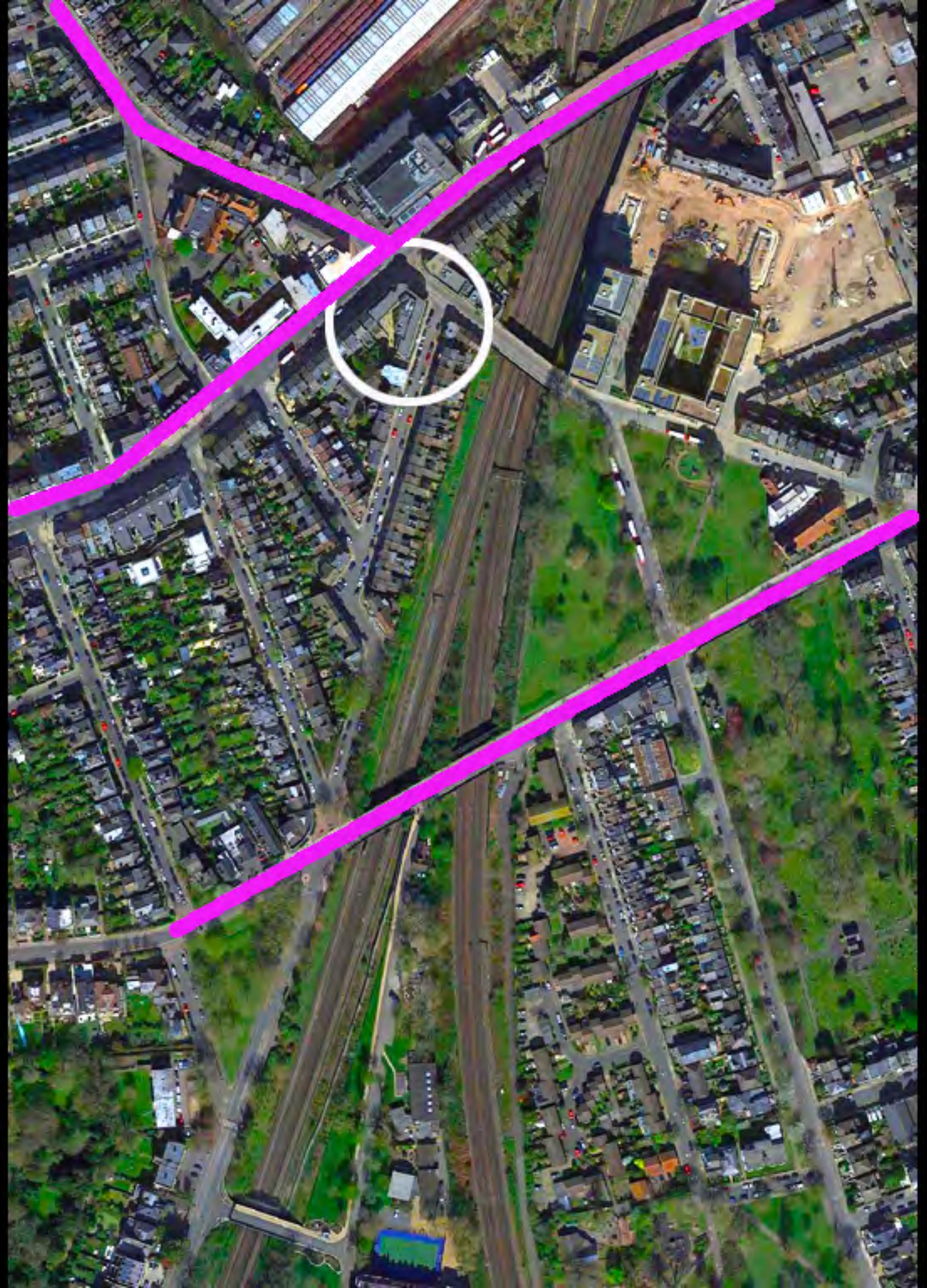
It had been hinted in some of the papers that the only way of bringing the matter to an issue was to destroy the fences and knock down the houses.

The impression had got abroad that something of this kind was intended at the meeting, which was to be held in the last enclosure.

Plough Rd

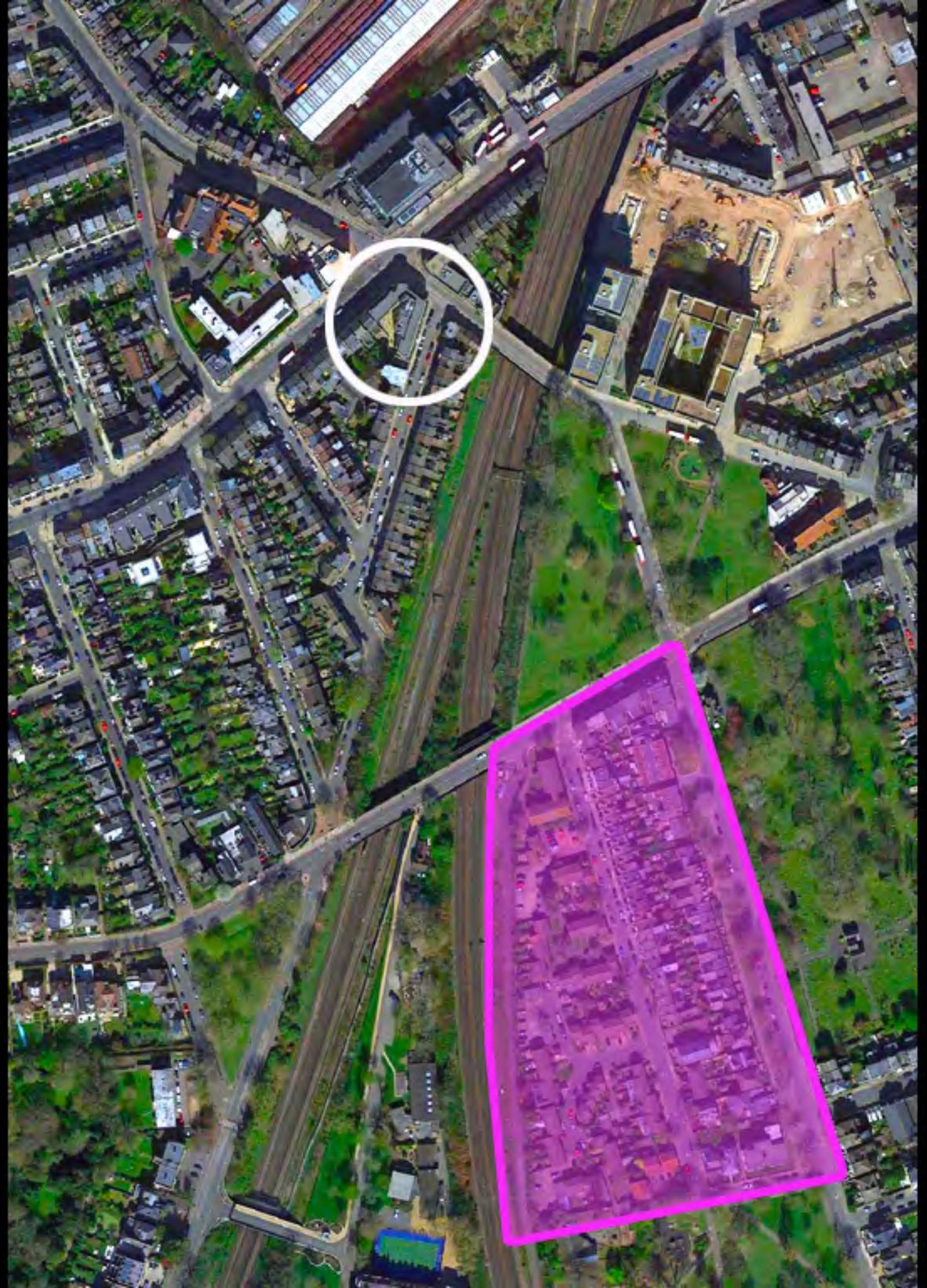
Plough pub

St John's Hill



Battersea Rise

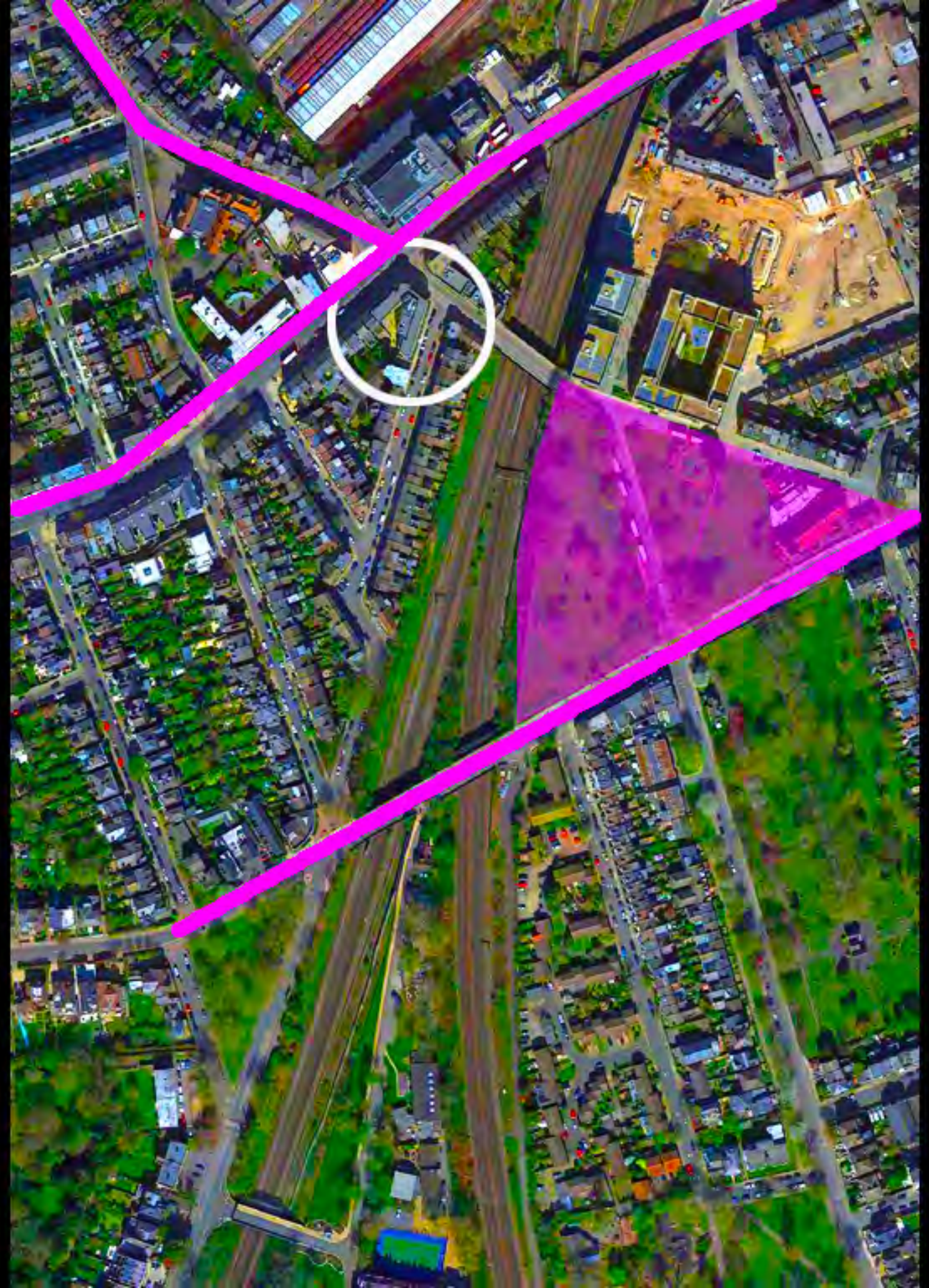
Plough pub



Plough Rd

Plough pub

St John's Hill



Battersea Rise

"Police on scene...

"The Commissioner of Police sent about a hundred policemen, who were hidden behind trees and furze bushes.

The waggon was placed in position near the last enclosure.

We had an informal meeting of a few of the committee, and when we saw the men assembling in large numbers armed with pickaxes, sledge-hammers, crowbars, and saws, some of the committee thought it would be better not to hold any meeting, and they left.

"I was in the waggon with only two others out of twenty.

The inspector of police was riding backwards and forwards like a general on a field-day.

He rode up to the waggon and said he had been instructed by the Commissioner of Police to deliver to someone a letter.

I read the letter, which was to the effect that I should be held responsible for any unnecessary destruction of property, but the removal of one or two rails, to raise the question of right, would not be resisted.

"Fear riot, but I persuade crowd to disperse...

"I knew the removal of one or two rails in the presence of some hundreds of armed and excited men, who were calling out "Give us the order to begin! " could only end in disaster and riot.

I saw the peril of the situation, and made a speech in which I pointed out that this wholesale and retail robbery of the common had been made by rich men who had acres of their own.

I mentioned the potato incident, and that the right of landowners to land which had not yet been disputed would be disputed if they laid claim to the commons.

"I have always fought what I believed to be the battle
of the poor and the oppressed, and I begged and entreated
of them to go home quietly and avoid the public-house.

Any conflict with the police would ruin our cause and destroy
all hope of success.

They all retired peaceably, and when everything was quiet
the police went home without any engagement.

I had acquired considerable influence over the men by
my deep sympathy with their loss of the common.

WANDSWORTH COMMON.

Great Meeting Last Night.

Yesterday a great meeting of the inhabitants of the parishes of Wandsworth and Battersea was held on the piece of land lying close to Clapham Junction, between the Freemasons' Schools and the cemetery. Between 4,000 and 5,000 were present at the commencement of the meeting, which had been convened in accordance with a promise made at the Spread Eagle, a few nights before, that the assembly should take place, and the destruction of the fence surrounding a portion of the Common enclosed by the Brighton Railway Company, signalise its gathering. Earl Spencer learning this, applied to Sir Richard Mayne for a body of mounted police to be on the spot to check any damage. The request was granted, the officers being placed under the direction of Superintendent Wayne, V division. The railway company appeared also to have prepared resistance to any aggression, for a suspicious number of "navvies," in the conventional smocks and red caps, stood in knots among and in the outskirts of the crowd, apparently ready for emergency.

The proceedings commenced with an address from Mr. J. C. Buckmaster, M.A., churchwarden of Battersea, who was supported by the presence of Messrs. Rose, Wallis, Bevington, Lambert, and other friends. He commenced his address by imploring all present to abstain from from any act of violence, which would injure their chance of success, for all they had now to do was to protest against cruelty and injustice. Up to 1831 there had been no encroachment for generations; in that year a road was made from Burntwood to Nightingale-lane, and £700 paid by the Battersea Bridge Company to the parish for its construction and maintenance. In 1835 Battersea opposed the South Western Railway, on the ground that it would interfere with the rights of commoners, and a sum of £80 was paid into Chancery as compensation for those rights. These encroachments, however, tended to benefit the public; but next came others by private individuals, such as Mr. Wilson's, near the Black Sea, and Mr. M'Kella's, only permitted by the Court Leet on the promise that the ground should not be built on. But the latter had since enclosed double the area the Court Leet sanctioned, having obtained the consent of the Lord of the Manor, and now the whole was appropriated to building purposes—("hear, hear," and applause)—depriving the people of the light, the exercise and the air they enjoyed. Then, now, at the last moment, they were told they had "no right whatever on the Common," though the House of Commons had said otherwise. If they were trespassers, why didn't Lord Spencer order them off, and punish them for being there?—(laughter)—when they saw the Common taken away without reasons assigned—ay, and that huge board before them, "This land to be let on building leases," it was time to take action. It was no secret that he meant to have that board down. He then gave the history of the taking of the land he referred to by the railway company, and concluded a vigorous address, which was loudly cheered throughout, by an appeal to those present to abstain from violence that night, since it might endanger future success. Two or three gentlemen had arranged privately to break down that fence, and so assert their rights, fortified in the act by the expression of public opinion there manifested.

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Mr. Rose, who was constantly cheered, avowed himself a personal enemy of Lord Spencer. He, like all Englishmen, liked lords—("no, no")—lords who did something in return for the mighty privileges Providence had showered on them.—not such as Earl Spencer, who had endeavoured to wrest the law to his own private profit, and the injury of his fellows. He had told him to his face that this enclosure was an act of lawless violence. (Cries: "We'll have it down.") He had exhausted every right he possessed of pasturage and gravel; and now, by God's assistance and the laws of the country, should be made to disgorge this land. After deprecating violence he pledged himself to go to law with the earl within a week, and obtain an injunction to preserve the 36 fine elms that fringed the view. But everything must be done legally, quietly, discreetly, and wisely, care being taken not to be jockied into a wrong course or commit violence. Then they might rely that the matter should be fought out successfully, and show the railway company that they could not deal in public land: "or, *sub rosa*, pretendedly only, sell it to Mr. Geo. Todd." He told them that he did not believe in that sale at all. There was no notice of it on the land, or he would have stopped it, as he had another attempted sale of another part. In conclusion, he mentioned that 15 years ago Wandsworth Common was more beautiful than Clapham. Because the latter was surrounded by wealthy people who resisted encroachment, it was preserved, as henceforth this should.

The following resolution was then carried unanimously: "That this meeting regards with extreme sorrow and regret the enclosures which have taken place on Wandsworth Common, and urges the committee appointed for its preservation to take every step to restore the privileges which the public have enjoyed from time immemorial."

Mr. Buckmaster then made a closing speech, producing roars of laughter by the repetition of the distich:

> The crime is great in man or woman,
> Who steals a goose from off the Common:
> But who shall plead the man's excuse,
> Who steals the Common from the goose?

Cheers were then heartily given for Mr. Buckmaster, Mr. Rose, and the committee, with groans for Lord Spencer.

At this part of the proceedings, Mr. George Todd clambered on the waggon, which, sheltered from the sun by a photographer's caravan, formed the rostrum for the speakers, and was greeted with a continuous din of groaning that made his voice inaudible a foot from his lips. Addressing Mr. Rose, he said, "I understand you to say, 'I'm the nominee of the railway company. My name is Todd.'"

Mr. Rose replied, "You know where to find me if you want to do that, put it in writing."

As Mr. Rose refused to answer the questions of Mr. Todd, that gentleman left the waggon, and though to some extent protected by some bricklayers and navvies that were near, was roughly hustled by the crowd till he found a harbour of refuge in the railway premises.

The people did not immediately disperse, but stood about in groups on the Common till late in the evening. Up to the time of going to press we had been informed of no disturbance.

"Public interest and enthusiasm were created
which extended to other parts of the metropolis.

The agitation, which began with the labouring and some
of the middle classes, gradually extended to others of greater
wealth and influence, until at last we had a powerful and
wealthy committee.

A gentleman in the neighbourhood whom I had opposed
at elections became a close friend on this question,
and he offered to put five hundred or a thousand pounds
in the bank, if we could raise a corresponding sum,
and become plaintiff.

March 1870...


Sir Henry Peek, Bart.

Sir Henry William Peek (1825 – 1898)

PRESERVATION OF
WANDSWORTH COMMON.

To the Working Men and others of Battersea, Wandsworth, Lambeth, and other parts of South and West London.

The preservation of Wandsworth Common for the purposes of healthful recreation and enjoyment, is a question of the greatest importance to the Working Men of this District. The present condition of a large portion of this Common, the unsightly holes and heaps of rubbish in various parts, the ENCLOSURES which have been made, and the character of the buildings erected on portions of such enclosures, give some idea of the future uses to which the remainder of the Common will probably be applied unless a stop is put to further encroachments. The agents of the present Lord of the Manor appear to act as if the Common were private property, instead of being common land. For a long time, thousands of people have been lamenting and grumbling about the gradual reduction in the size of the Common, but this does of course not stop it. Now, however, Mr. H. W. PEEK, M.P., has come forward as the Champion of the Common, and has made a very spirited offer in the following letter, dated February 7th 1870, addressed to Mr. Buckmaster :—

" The public may grumble as much as they please, that will never stop encroachments or enclosures. What " I have been thinking of is this; round Clapham Common there are many wealthy gentlemen, some of whom are " beginning to be alarmed at Lord Spencer declining to renew the lease of that part which belongs to him—and in " the neighbourhood of Wandsworth there are many well-to-do people. If these will pay £4,000 into a bank, I will " add £1,000, and as a Battersea copyholder, would at once commence proceedings to take up everything irregular " during the legal term, which I believe is 20 years.

" I will hold myself bound to this offer till June, 1870, but no longer."

In consequence of this letter, the following Committee has been organized for collecting the sum specified, viz.:

Mr. JAMES LORD, St. John's Hill,
Mr. C. LAMBERT, Wandsworth Common, } Treasurers.

Mr. J. C. BUCKMASTER, St. John's Hill,
Mr. BICKERDIKE, Elm Terrace, St. John's Hill, } Secretaries.

Mr. C. ECCLES, Lavender Sweep.	Mr. TOM TAYLOR, Lavender Sweep	Mr. CONDER, Park Road.
Mr. F. BERTOLACCI, Park Road.	Mr. H. WHITING. Lavender Hill.	Mr. BASS, Battersea.
Mr. CUMMINS, Nightingale Lane.	Mr. M. WHITING, ditto.	Mr. OULDS, 25, LavenderRoad.
Mr. WARRINGTON, ditto.	Mr. E. R. RANSOME, Wandsworth Common.	Mr. HUNTER, Louvaine Road.
Mr. G. JENNINGS, ditto.		Mr. N. SENIOR, Lavender Hill.
Mr. J. ROSE, Nightingale Lane.	Mr. MILLIS COVENTRY, ditto.	Mr. GREVALLE, Lavender Hill.

A number of influential gentlemen have already promised sums varying from £25 to £100 each, but as the amount to be raised is considerable, and as the Common is if anything more valuable to Working Men than it is to those who have private grounds and gardens of their own, this appeal is made to you, to assist as much as may be possible, and that without loss of time.

You should at once make arrangements in your respective factories and localities, for paying weekly subscriptions to some one of your number, or employers, until the time comes for handing the amount over to the Treasurers.

If you wish to see the 150 acres of Common yet left, preserved for the enjoyment of yourselves and your children, you must lose no time:—You see the date named in the terms of Mr. PEEK's offer !—Now let us show him that we are willing to meet him in the same patriotic spirit, and when the victory has been won, you will have both pleasure and pride in the thought that you helped, according to your ability, in preserving the Common for the benefit of yourselves and those who come after you. We must all pull together—and may you long enjoy, in your spare time and holidays, the pleasure of breathing the pure air of UNENCLOSED WANDSWORTH COMMON !

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1870

PRESERVATION OF WANDSWORTH COMMON.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Received Here

TOWARDS THE £5,000 FUND.

Fund of £5,000 for the Preservation of Wandsworth and Clapham Commons.

SUBSCRIPTIONS UP TO APRIL 14th 1870.

H. W. Peek, Esq., M.P., £1,000.

To BATTERSEA Committee.

Mr. James Lord	£100	0	0
Mr. M. Whiting	50	0	0
Mr. Noel Whiting ...	50	0	0
Mr. H. Whiting	50	0	0
Mr. C. Eccles	50	0	0
Rev. J. S. Jenkinson ...	50	0	0
Mr. E. R. Ransome ...	50	0	0
Mr. C. Lambert	25	0	0
Mr. J. C. Buckmaster ...	25	0	0
Mr. Millis Coventry ..	25	0	0
Mr. Hunter	25	0	0
Lady Pollock	25	0	0
Mr. Hadfield, ...	25	0	0
Mr. Scrivens, ...	10	10	0
Mr. J. Hewitson	10	0	0
Mr. Tom Taylor	10	0	0
Mr. Young	5	5	0
Mr. Turner (on collecting card)	5	0	0
Mr. Clark Butcher ...	5	0	0
Mr. Gravell	5	0	0
Mr. Bickerdike (on coll. card)	5	0	0
Mr. Conder, (on coll. card)	5	0	0
Mr. Amor	2	2	0
Mr. Creasey	1	1	0
Mr. Godfrey, ...	1	1	0
Mr. J. Horrocks, Stationer	1	1	0
Mr. Price	1	0	0
Mr. Benison, the Newsman	0	2	6
	£617	2	6

To WANDSWORTH Committee.

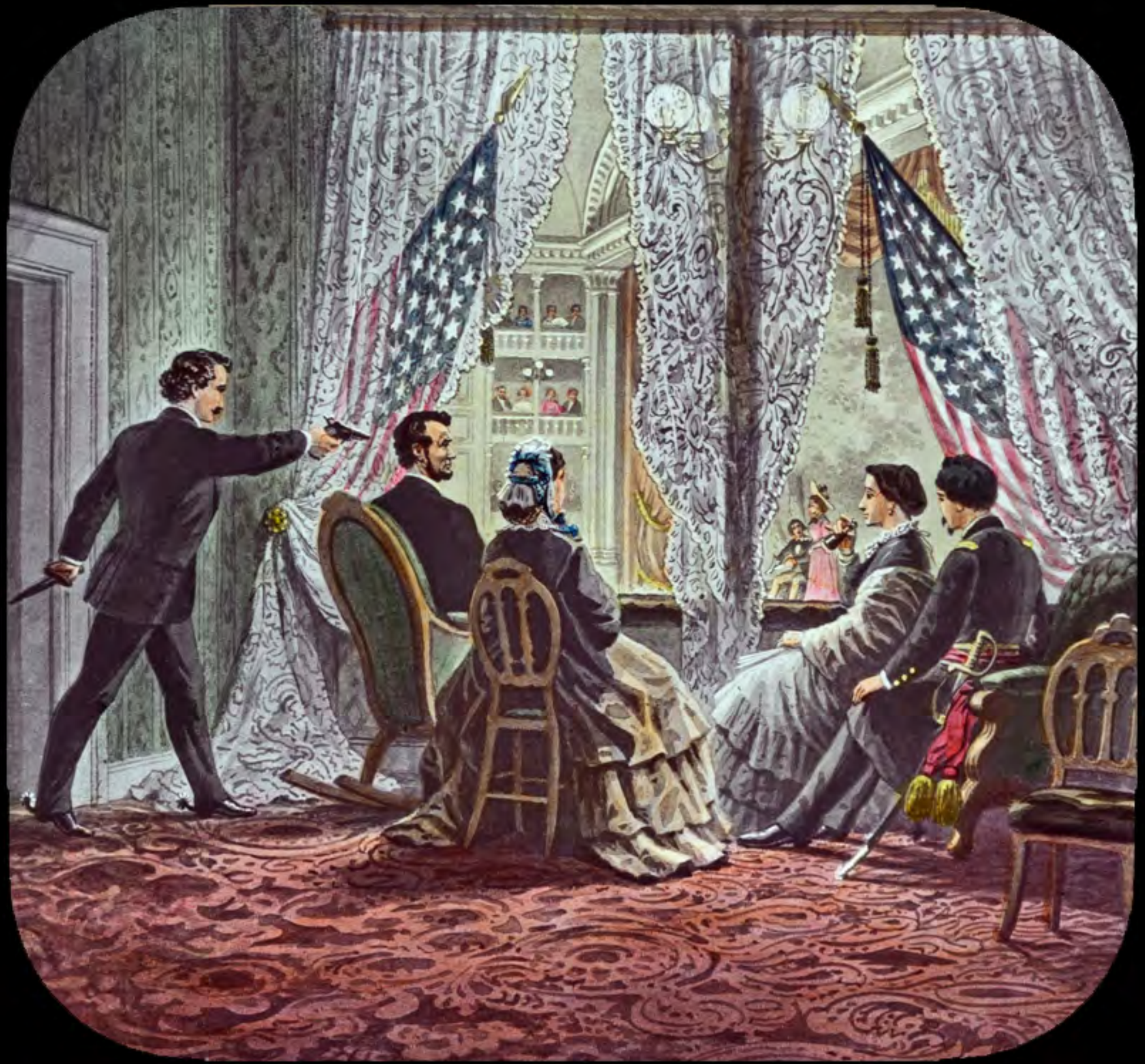
Mr. James Du Buisson ...	200	0	0
Mr. J. B. Bevington	50	0	0
Mr. Ambrose P. Boyson ...	50	0	0
Mr. E. R. Ransome	50	0	0
Mr. T. S. Watson	25	0	0
Mr. T. S. Howell	25	0	0
Mr. Edward Coventry ...	10	0	0
Mr. Geoffrey Bevington ...	10	0	0
Mr. Mason (on collecting card)	10	0	0
Mr. N. G. Walsh ...	5	5	0
Mr. C. Bell (on collecting card)	5	0	0
Mr. W. Atkinson (on collecting card)	5	0	0
Messrs. Gray & Lucas Ironmongers	3	3	0
Mr. Heisch	2	2	0
Mr. R. Moir	0	10	0
T. Worsfold, Gardener to J. B. Bevington, Esq. ...	0	5	0
Working Man named Forrester, at Public Meeting	0	2	0
	£451	8	0

"We raised a large fund, and then discovered he had
no standing as plaintiff.

As soon as we had money the lawyers
came to us with advice.

We petitioned the House of Commons, we sent deputations
to the District Board, we memorialised the Metropolitan Board
until at last they insulted us and refused to see us.

Poetry to the rescue ...





Tom Taylor



PITY POOR LUCY!!

Unlucky to go to the Monday Popular with Cousin Bess (from the Country) who will do her Hair d la (Ugly—that is, Taste Fashion.

MODEL CONCERTS.

Bravo, Mr. Mapes! Your Saturday Winter Concerts, in their way, are model concerts. Thanks to your good judgment, the programmes are arranged to please all ears excepting long ears, such as are not moved by any concord of sweet sounds, and whose owners, though not fit perhaps for tension, stratagems, and spoils, are certainly not suited to the Crystal Palace concert-room.

Another admirable point in your programmes is the notice that an interval of five minutes will occur after the symphony which begins each of your concerts, and another interval before the final overture or other instrumental work. The lighter music in the programme is performed between these pauses; and people who like songs, but cannot understand a symphony, thus have their exits and their entrances without disturbing other persons of more educated taste.

In music, as in other matters, this is a free country, and every Briton has a right to quit a concert in the middle if it pleases him to do so. But he has no right to annoy other people by his egress, which he is sure to do by leaving in the middle of a piece. There are various tastes for music as there are for every other sort of mental food. Some like the turtle of Beethoven, some the venison of Mozart; while others only relish the lollipops of Verdi, or the trifles light as air which are whipped up for the dance. A man—say, a Manx—who wishes to be popular must cater for all tastes; but he must take care in so doing that the dishes do not clash. The lovers of Beethoven have a right to growl and grumble if their hearing of a symphony be disturbed by the incoming of the lovers o' a dance-tune or a sentimental song; nor is there any reason why people should not hear the last piece in a programme in silence if they like. But, in general, no sooner is the last piece commenced, than silks begin to rustle and boots begin to creak; and the music is performed with a stirring genial accompaniment which quite destroys its beauty, and robs its would-be hearers of the treat for which they wait.

So, bravo Mr. Mapes! *Mr. Punch* applauds your effort to obtain a quiet hearing for Beethoven and Mendelssohn; and *Mr. Punch* would simply hint that the person who in future interrupts their hearers should be regarded as a monster whom it were from flattery to call a brainless ass.

It is mainly Mr. Mapes who has raised these model concerts to their present existence, and in consequence a fund is being raised for Mr. Mapes, to which the public are invited to subscribe to testify the pleasure he has given to the public.

THE WARNING OF WANDSWORTH COMMON.

Muswell lay still on fair West Hill,
Wandsworth snored silent nigh;
But for yell and scream of the whistling steam,
As the darkling trains roared by.

That sound alway, both night and day,
Must Clapham Junction hear,
Now Battersea plains are a place of trains
That 'spangus trat did rear.

'Twixt whistle's yell, that rose and fell,
I heard a voice of woe,
Though the Black-sea blushes it scarcely stirred,
So faint it was and low:

An eldritch sound that thrilled the ground,
And through the air did roar;
'Twas the Spirit of Wandsworth Common that called
To the Spirit of Wimbledon!

Spirit of Wandsworth Common.
Sleep'st thou, Brother?

Spirit of Wimbledon Common.
Brother, nay!

Sleep from me is scared away.
Round my skirts surveyors stride,
Through my furze-brakes builders glide;
Bold invaders, plotters sly,
Meting me with pace and eye.
Chain and tape—ah, woe is me!
Draw around my dingles fee—
'Tis for this I watch and weep,
Now when happier Commons sleep!

Spirit of Wandsworth Common.
Waking, Brother, thou dost well:
'Twas for want of watch I fell.
As secure I sleeping lay
In the shade of Spencer's name,
Foemen cut my skirts away,
Left me scarred and bared to shame.

Well thou knowest once how leaves,
Robed in green, I met the spring;
How my birch-plumes used to wave
O'er golden gorse and purple ling;
How the April-lovers knew me,
Summer loiterers flocked unto me;
What rich feasts of light and air
'Neath the blue sky's breezy tent,
I would spread—life-giving fare—
To the pale Poor, city-pent!
Happier Commons, thou, than I
Basked not under Surrey sky:
Poorer, fairer Commons none
Took frown of cloud, or smile of sun.
So I slept—till evil morn
Stript and scarred me, bark and bone;
Think, oh think, what I was then,
See, oh see, what I am now!

My green robe's a tattered shred,
Gold and purple 's rent away;
Torn the birch-plumes from my head,
E'en my very skin they flay!
Take my bones to mend the roads,
But me o'er with vile abodes—
Hideous Cockney villa spawn,
Each squat in its cote of lawn!
And a prison glares and glooms
From its iron-windowed tombs;—
Barrel-place o' the living, here,
And a cemetery, there!
Schools, asylums—well I ween,
Little children are my joy;
In old times my gladdest green
Was put on for girl and boy:
And my lap was full of flowers
To make sweet their playing hours.
But the more I love their play,
From their schools I turn away.

But e'en schools I 'd bear to take,
All for Charity's sweet sake.
No such plea my soul resigns
To the hateful iron lines,
That my wasted forehead scow,
Growing ever, more and more!

Then be warned, ere 'tis too late,
Brother, by a brother's fate,
If thou sleep, as I have slept,
Thou wilt weep as I have wept.
Spencer is a noble name,—
Noble still a Spencer's aim:
Yet though Spencer spurns reward,
And though Spencer seeks not pelf,
Better than a'en Spencer's guard,
Is his gased that guards himself.
I know how the shoe doth pinch—
And this tale each even doth tell—
Brother, do not give an inch,
Lest, perchance, they take an ell!

A CASE FOR LAWSON AND CO.



The attention of the United Kingdom Alliance is directed to the subjoined announcement which has appeared in the papers:—

"Contract for Rum for the Navy.—Her Majesty's Government has accepted the tender of Messrs. Stiggs White & Co. for a further supply of rum to the extent of 40,000 gallons."

From the antecedents of the United Kingdom Alliance it may be hoped that they will see the necessity of sending a deputation of teetotallers to wait on Lord Palmerston, and remonstrate with him on allowing the Admiralty to encourage the liquor traffic, and provide sailors with the means of indulgence in the consumption of ardent spirits. If they are only true to themselves, they will not be restrained from taking this step by any apprehension of being contemptuously howled out, and of incurring public ridicule anew by a fresh act of conceited folly and impertinence.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE, 1875.

(If the Ladies go on at their present rate.)

WESTMINSTER.—Lady Emily Slashubash and Miss Gallopers were brought before Mr. Selby, charged, the former with throwing stones in Hyde Park, and the latter with assaulting the police.

Police-Constable A 256 said that he saw the prisoners in the Park, by the Serpentine, at about five in the afternoon, just when the ring was full; and thinking, from their manner, that they were bent on mischief, watched them. He heard the prisoner Gallopers say to the prisoner Slashubash, "Em, old girl, I 'll give you six to one you don't knock that groom's hat off once in seven shies." The other prisoner said "Done!" and threw a large stone, which passed close to the groom's head. At the third shot she knocked his hat off; whereupon the witness took both the ladies into custody. The prisoner Gallopers was very violent and abusive, threw her cigar in his face, and struck him a severe blow in the eye, from which he had suffered great pain ever since.

The Prisoner Gallopers. How was I abusive?

Witness. You called me a low, area-sneaking Bobby. (*Laughter.*)

Jerry Hicks said—I am a groom, and yesterday was sitting on horseback, leading another horse, when my hat came off.

Mr. Selby. Came off, Sir? Mind what you are about, Sir! Was it not knocked off?

Witness. It may have been.

The worthy Magistrate failed to get any further information from this witness, in spite of threatening him with an action for perjury; and the Prisoner Slashubash loudly expressed her opinion that the witness Hicks was a "brick."

Mr. Selby said that these assaults on the police by ladies of the Upper Classes were becoming shamefully frequent. He must make an example. He should fine them each three dozen of white kid gloves, or, in default, have them locked up for two hours in the Pantechnicon.

Madame Charles, who was present, immediately paid the fine.

Marylebone.—Lady Rumpington and Miss Bazar de Spenser were charged with dog-fighting for a wager in Kensington Gardens, against the Act; and Miss Watkins, with four other ladies, were charged with aiding and abetting, and obstructing the police in the execution of their duty.

Park-Keeper Higgins said, that early yesterday morning he was looking for a blue-nosed baboon which had strayed away from a lady the night before, and got lost in the new Mandrake plantation of the Acclimatisation Society by the Serpentine, when Sir Cowper Collas came up to him, and informed him that a large number of fashionably-dressed ladies were assembled by the Round Pond. He immediately dispatched a messenger for a large force of constabulary, and cautiously proceeded to the spot. A large crowd of excited ladies were assembled. The prisoners Rumpington and Watkins were encouraging the prisoner Spenser in a loud tone of voice. They were all very abusive.

Miss Watkins. How was I encouraging?

Witness. I heard you call out three or four times to Miss Spenser, "Go it, Sir-ah! I 'll hold your bonnet." (*Laughter.*)

The Magistrate. You say that the other ladies were abusive. What how?

Witness. They said I 'd been shaving, and kept calling out, "How 's Duke?"

The Magistrate. I don't see much in that.

The Court Clerk explained to his Worship that Lord Duke had recently been forced to put a stop to Croquet in the Gardens in consequence of the riotous proceedings of the ladies playing. At the last great match between Belgravia and Tyburnia, there had been a regular set-to with croquet hammers, and one case had terminated fatally.

The Magistrate said that he was determined to put an end to this sort of thing. It was a most extraordinary and most unfortunate thing, that the young women of the present day should be led away by the delusion, that acts of "flatness" like this could be attractive to any one whose opinion was in the least degree worth having. By the style and tone which they had lately chosen to adopt, the women of England were throwing to the winds all that vast influence which their mothers had possessed, and had used for so much good. The ambition of the girls of the day was, it seemed to him, to make themselves rivals in the follies of the more unthinking of the other sex, who despised them, while they encouraged them. The Prisoners were each fined eight boxes of chocolate drops, or in default to be locked up in the Hanover Square Rooms for half an hour.

The Prisoners, who were evidently taken aback by the severity of the sentence, asked, through Lady Rumpington, whether the chocolate was to be "Masson" or "Menier."

The Magistrate. Half of each.

After a short delay, Mr. Gunter, of Berkeley Square, and M. Menier, of Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, appeared and paid the fine. The Prisoners left the Court in their carriages.

HERE AND THERE.

SUNG BY CLOWN.

Here we are! Let you and me
Think how long we 've here to stay.
We are here now, ah, but we
Shall be there another day!

When we weren't here, there we were.
Here when we no more remain,
There again we shall be there,
Shouting, "Here we are again!"

ASTRONOMICAL NOTICES FOR 1865.

BY THE ASTRONOMER FLEGMAN.

Some "dark" phenomenon may appear in the course of the Derby day, but not equal to the original "Eclipse."

The transit of Venus will take place along Hatton Row, round the Park, and through the crush-room of the Opera. Observers are coming from every quarter of the Globe to watch this constellation of beauty.

Charles's Wain has consented to have its *axle* taken by Chief Baron Pollock.

Aries and Taurus have engaged Mr. Coxwell's balloon to bring them to the Cattle Show.

The next Pope may be Leo.

THE WARNING OF WANDSWORTH COMMON.

MIDNIGHT lay still on fair West Hill,
Wandsworth snored silent nigh;
But for yell and screams of the whistling steam,
As the darkling trains roared by.

That sound alway, both night and day,
Must Clapham Junction hear,
Now Battersea plains are a place of trains
That 'sparagus erst did rear.

'Twixt whistle's yell, that rose and fell,
I heard a voice of woe,
Though the Black-sea birches it scarcely stirred,
So faint it was and low:

An eldritch sound that thrilled the ground,
And through the air did run;
'Twas the Spirit of Wandsworth Common that called
To the Spirit of Wimbledon!

Spirit of Wandsworth Common.
Sleep'st thou, Brother?

Spirit of Wimbledon Common.
Brother, nay!
Sleep from me is scared away.
Round my skirts surveyors stride,
Through my furze-brakes builders glide:
Bold invaders, plotters sly,
Meting me with pace and eye.
Chain and tape—ah, woe is me!
Draw around my dingles free—
'Tis for this I watch and weep,
Now when happier Commons sleep!

Spirit of Wandsworth Common.
Watching, Brother, thou dost well:
'Twas for want of watch I fell.
As secure I sleeping lay
In the shade of SPENCER'S name,
Foemen cut my skirts away,
Left me scarred and bared to shame.

Well thou knowest once how brave,
Robed in green, I met the spring:
How my birch-plumes used to wave
O'er golden gorse and purple ling;
How the April-lovers knew me,
Summer loiterers flocked unto me;
What rich feasts of light and air
'Neath the blue sky's breezy tent,
I would spread—life-giving fare—
To the pale Poor, city-pent!
Happier Common, then, than I
Basked not under Surrey sky:
Freer, fairer Common none
Took frown of cloud, or smile of sun.
So I slept—till evil men
Stript and scarred me, back and brow;
Think, oh think, what I was then,
See, oh see, what I am now!

My green robe 's a tattered shred,
Gold and purple 's rent away;
Torn the birch-plumes from my head;
E'en my very skin they flay!
Take my bones to mend the roads,
Dot me o'er with vile abodes—
Hideous Cockney-villa spawn,
Each squat in its cube of lawn!
And a prison glares and glooms
From its iron-windowed tombs;—
Burial-place o' the living, here,
And a cemetery, there!
Schools, asylums—well I ween,
Little children are my joy;
In old times my gladdest green
Was put on for girl and boy;
And my lap was full of flowers
To make sweet their playing hours.
But the more I love their play,
From their schools I turn away.

But e'en schools I 'd bear to take,
All for Charity's sweet sake.
No such plea my soul resigns
To the hateful iron-lines,
That my wasted forehead score,
Growing ever, more and more!

Then be warned, ere 'tis too late,
Brother, by a brother's fate.
If thou sleep, as I have slept,
Thou wilt weep as I have wept.
SPENCER is a noble name,—
Noble still a SPENCER'S aim:
Yet though SPENCER spurns reward,
And though SPENCER seeks not pelf,
Better than e'en SPENCER'S guard,
Is his guard that guards himself.
I know how the shoe doth pinch—
And this tale each corn doth tell—
Brother, do not give an inch,
Lest, perchance, they take an ell!

1865

PUNCH, March 4 1865

Midnight lay still on fair West Hill,
Wandsworth snored silent nigh;
But for yell and scream of the whistling steam,
As the darkling trains roared by.

That sound alway, both night and day,
Must Clapham Junction hear,
Now Battersea Plains are a place of trains
That ‘sparagus erst did rear.

‘Twixt whistle’s yell, that rose and fell,
I heard a voice of woe,
Through the Black-sea birches it scarcely stirred,
So faint it was and low:

An eldritch sound that thrilled the ground,
And through the air did run;
‘Twas

THE WARNING OF WANDSWORTH COMMON...

THE COMMONS TO THE RESCUE!

Rise Barnes and Streatham! Wandsworth rise,
At Wimbledon's loud summons!
We can't afford to let a Lord
Play tailor to our Commons.

The coat I'd save that Nature gave,
Though sorely torn and tattered.
The gorse gold-lace frayed off its face,
The turf's green velvet battered.

That coat though rough I would not doff,
In spite of gods and men, Sir,
To show myself, my skirts cut off,
In what is called *a Spencer*.

1865

THE CRY OF THE COMMONERS.

Ho, Wandsworth to the rescue! Ho, Clapham to the front—
Ho, Wimbledon! Ho, Tooting! Ho, Streatham, share the brunt!
Earl Spencer, the devourer of Commons, opes his jaw,
To swallow such small fragments as yet have 'scaped his craw.

By cantle after cantle he has cribbed the broad domain
Where once the cows of Commoners grazed o'er the unfenced plain.
Till with Prison and Reformatory, with coal yard, Church and School,
A wretched, ragged remnant's free from brick and mortar's rule.

Furze, fern and broom are banished; black pales shut in the sward:
Birch, grove and poplar clump give way to the builder's hideous hoard:
And perky villa residence, or flimsy six-roomed row,
In still encroaching ugliness around the common grow.

So benevolent of purpose, so open of his hand,
I 'd rather that his Lordship had been of his own land;
If he wanted to give sites for Schools, and ground for prisons thus,
Ad libitum, he might have given, so he had not plundered us.

There's Peek will give his thousand, if his neighbours raise their four,
To fight the cause o' the Commoners, and down-trod rights restore:
While a rough and ready regiment—whose acts I don't excuse—
Will pull down Corteker's palings, in defiance of the blues!

But as 'tis better to appeal to law, than law defy,
As the Court and not the Common is the place the cause to try,
Come forward with your money your Commons to defend,
Stout Wandsworthites and Claphamites—and fight to the bitter End!

1870

"We published a large map of the common...

"We published a large map of the common as it was in 1820 and as it was in 1865, showing the enclosures, with the names of the men who made them and, as far as we knew, what they paid for them.

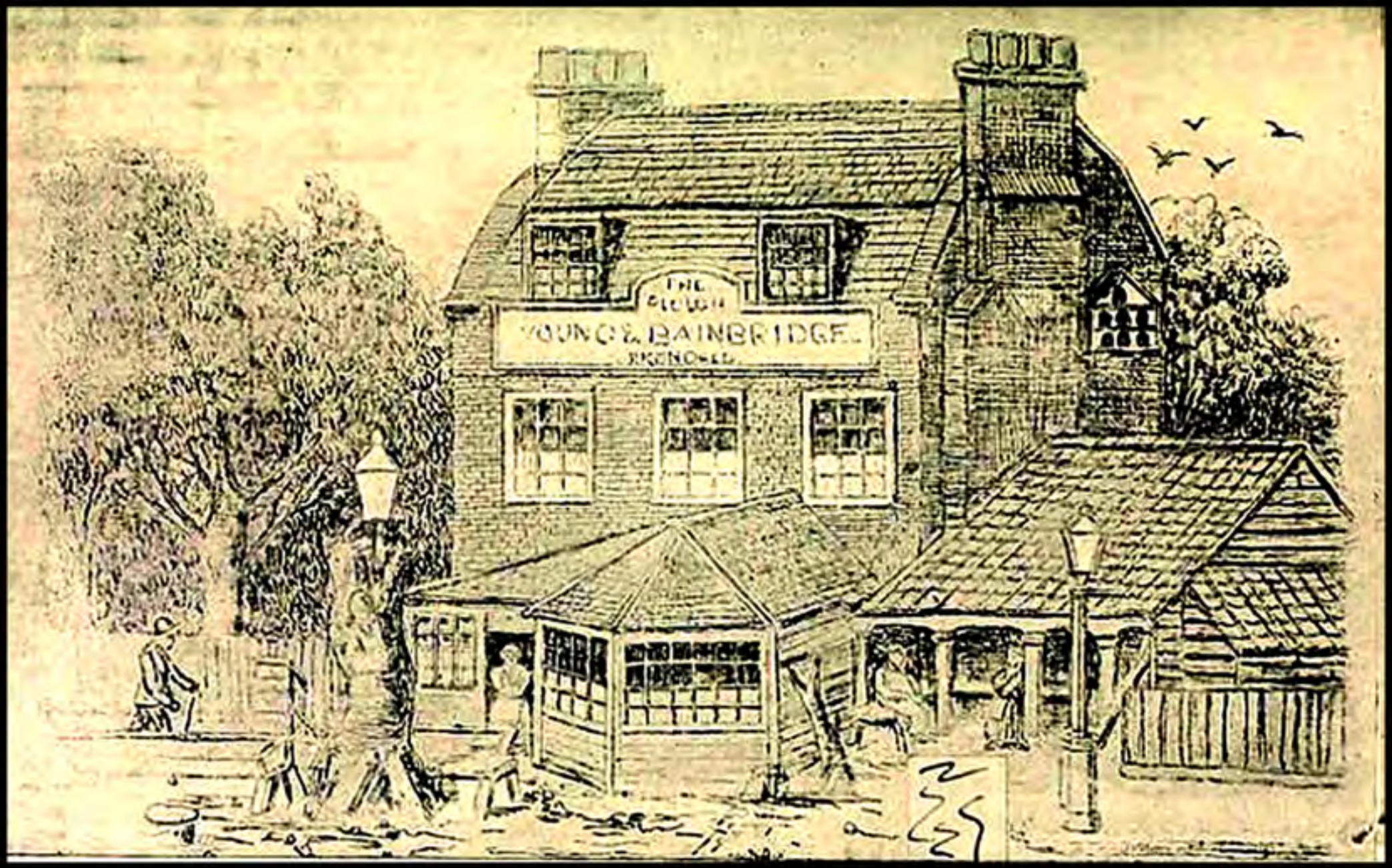
Land not worth half a crown an acre for agricultural purposes was now worth a thousand pounds an acre for building, and this increased value was entirely due not to the lord of the manor, but to the growth of population.


11
9
11b
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1b
1a
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11a
1c
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5
House of Correction
11
Wandsworth Cemetery
4
7
6
2
11


11
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11b
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1b
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THE PLOUGH
A2036
Google


Google



1701



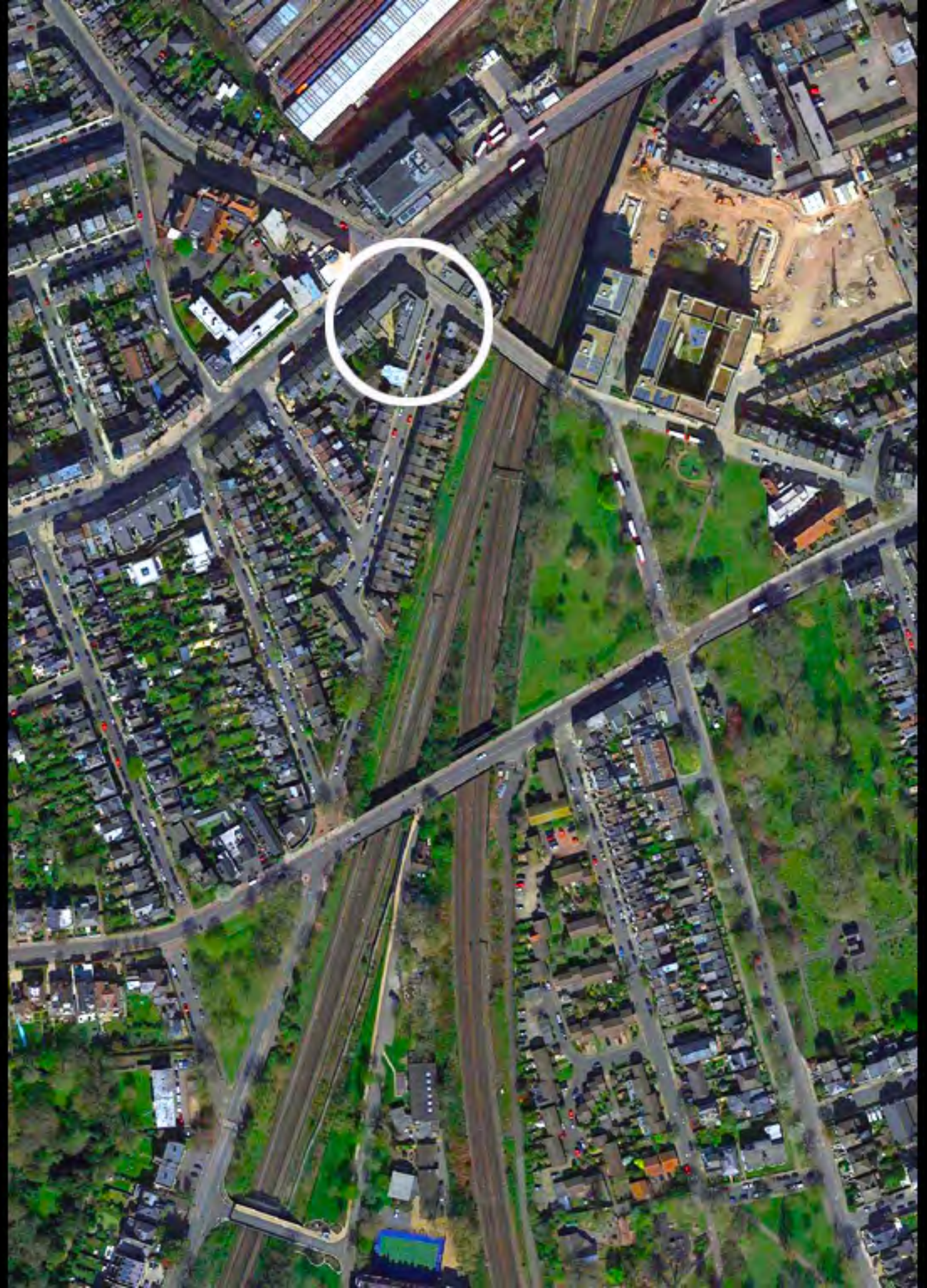
1920



1991



Plough pub



Plough pub

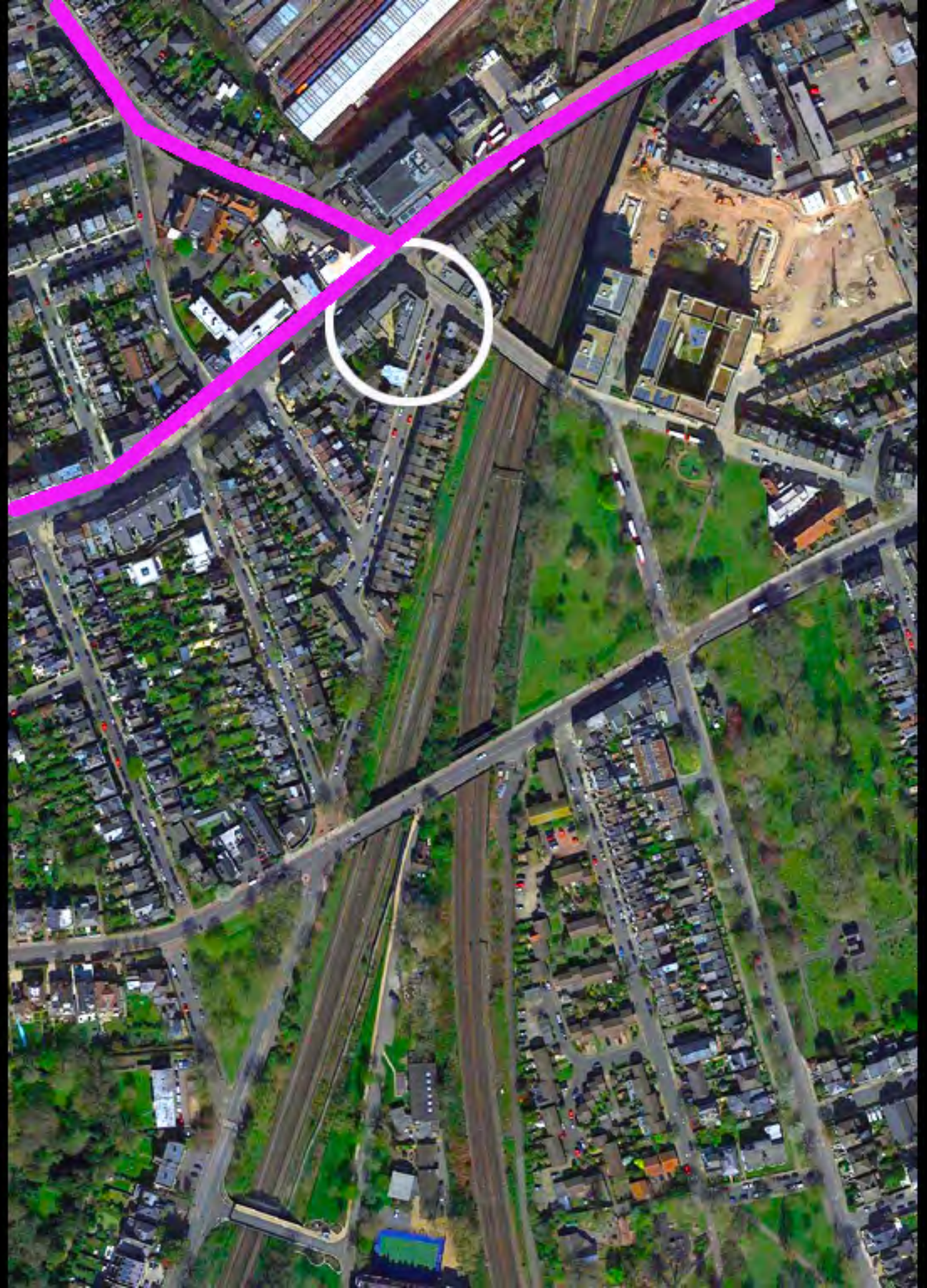
St John's Hill



Plough Rd

Plough pub

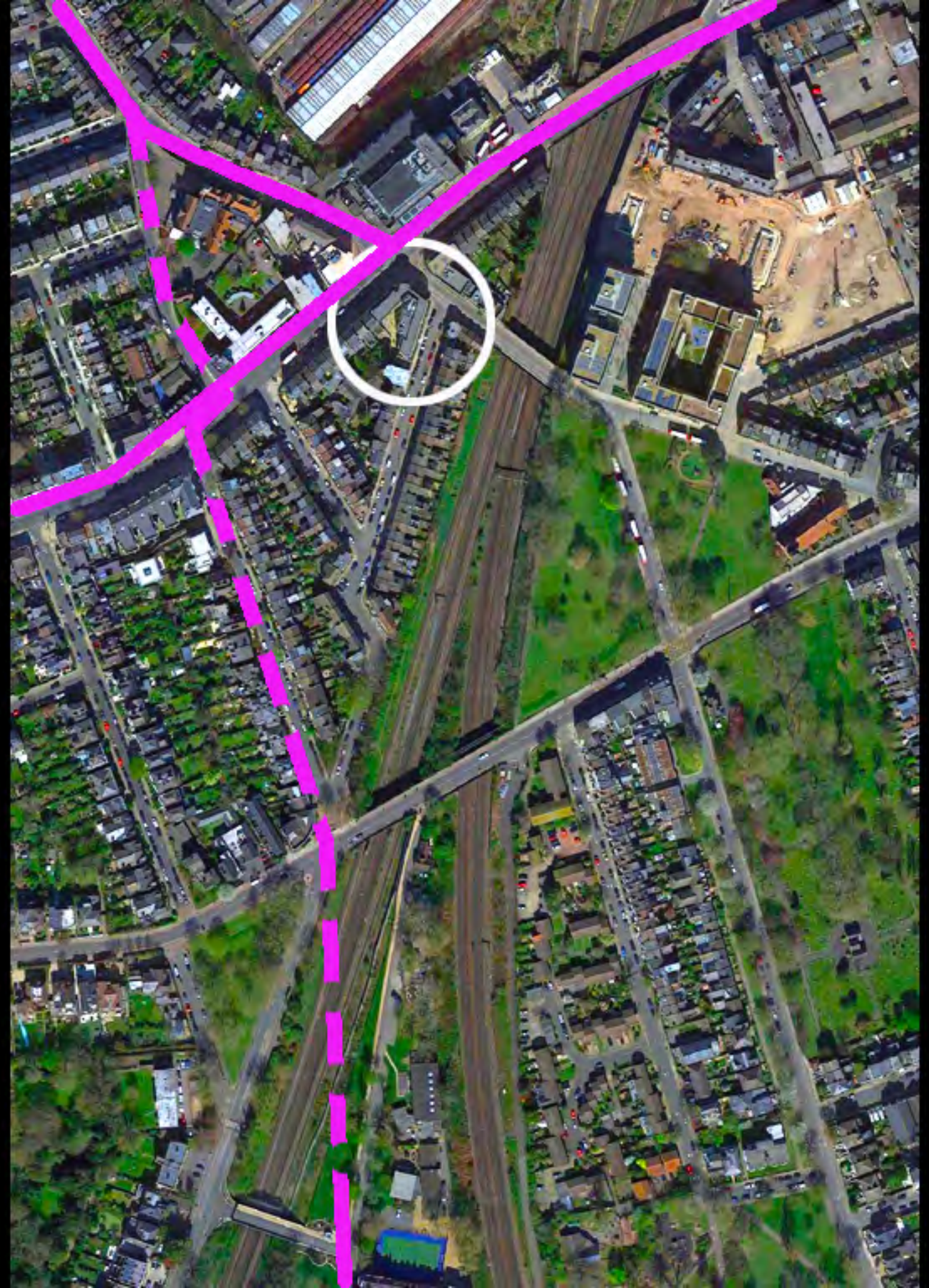
St John's Hill



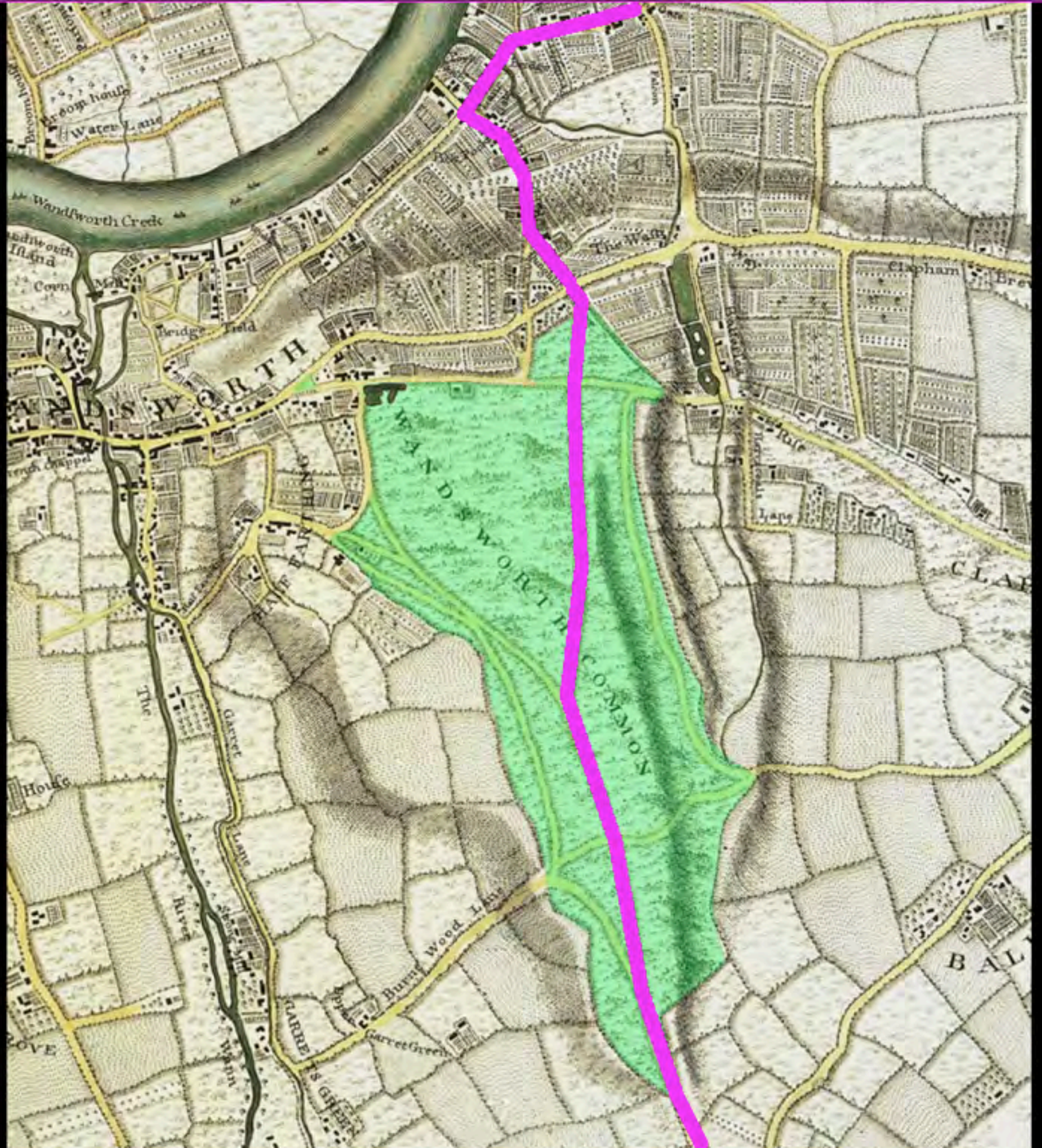
Plough Rd

Plough pub

St John's Hill



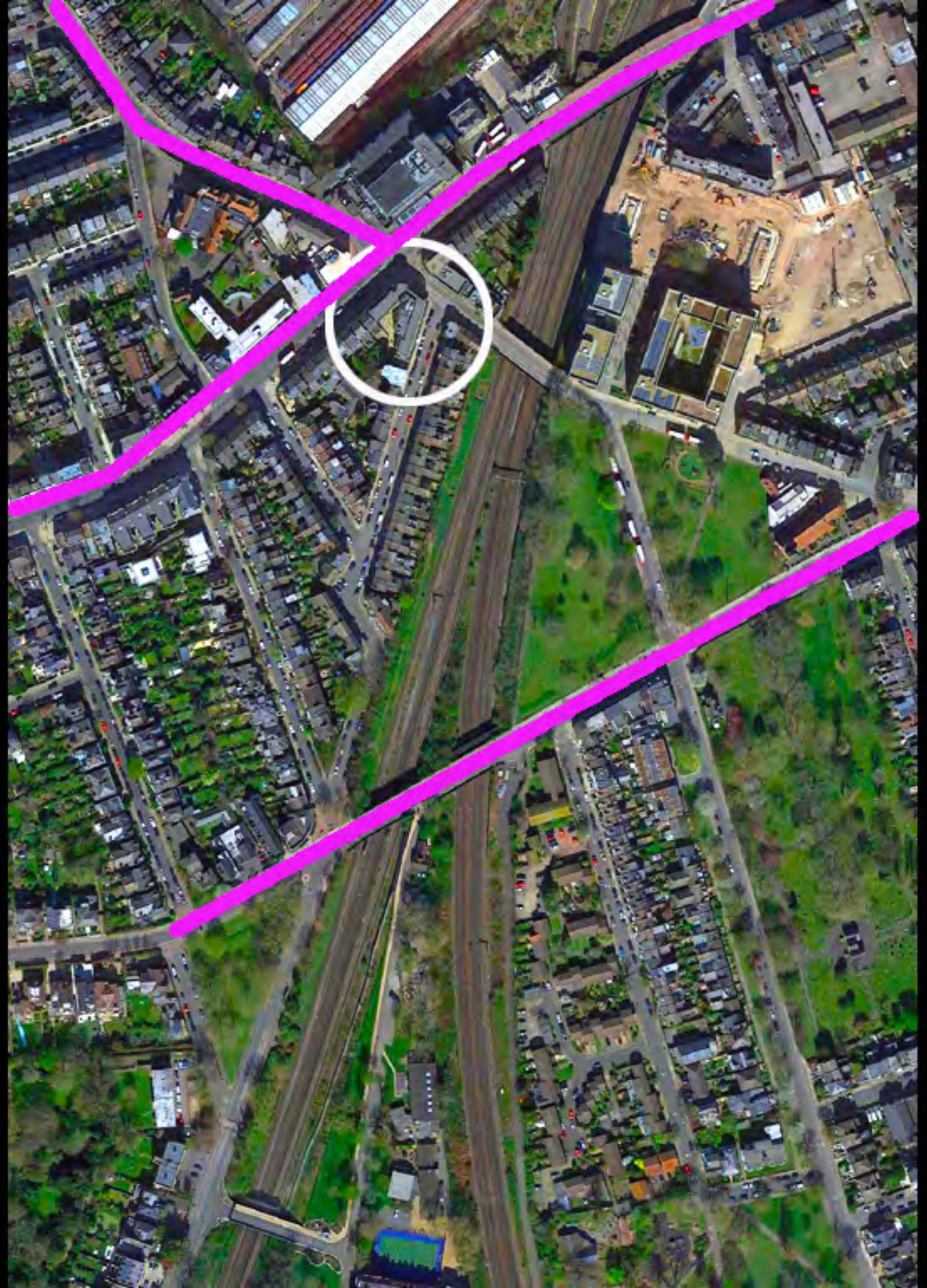
The Ghost Road


Wandsworth Creek
Water Lane
Bridge Field
WANDSWORTH
WANDSWORTH COMMON
The Wash
Clapham
Rate
Lane
The
House
River
Garret Lane
Burntwood Lane
Garret Green
CLARRET'S GREEN
BALHAM

Plough Rd

Plough pub

St John's Hill

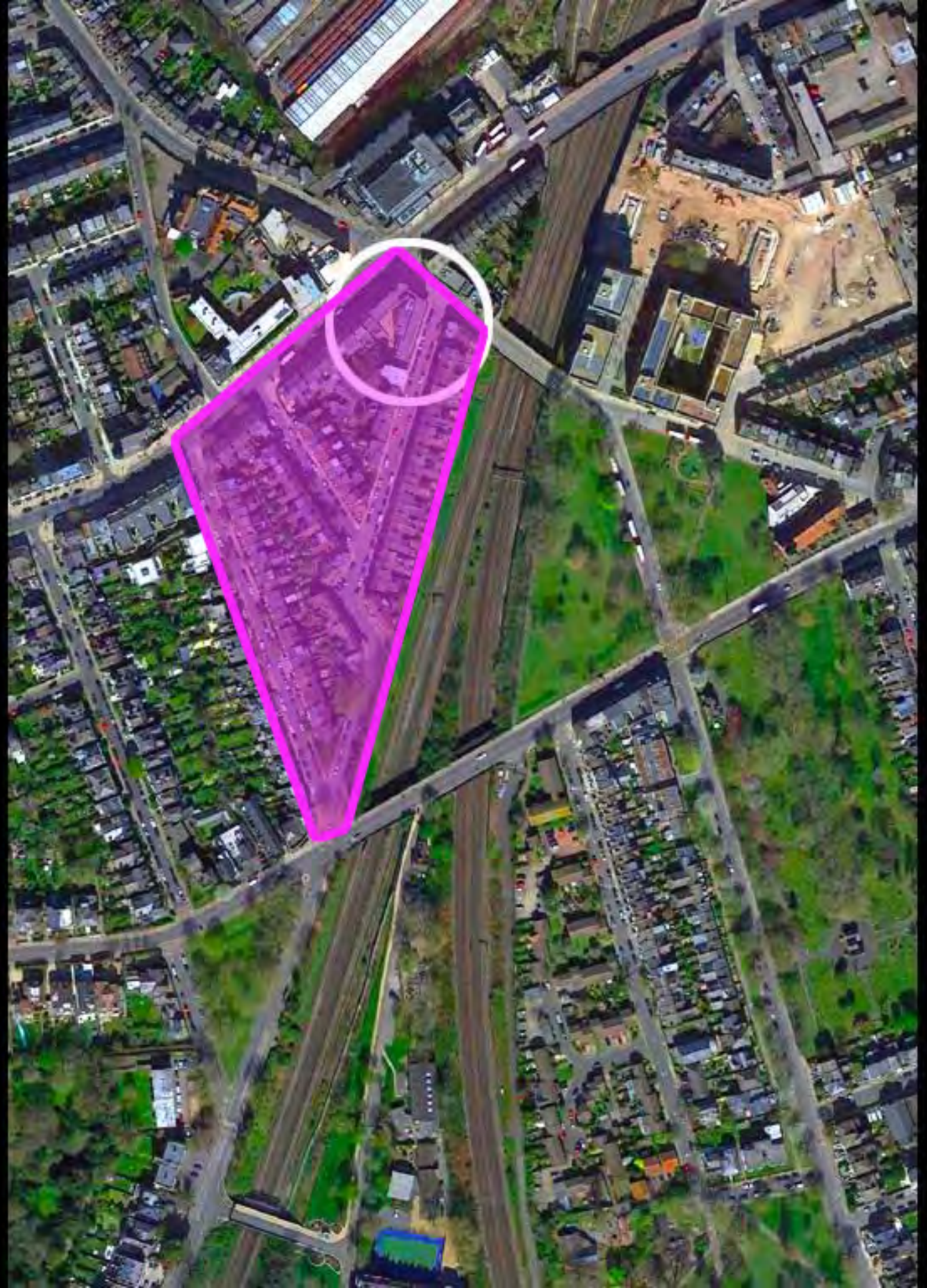


Battersea Rise

Plough pub



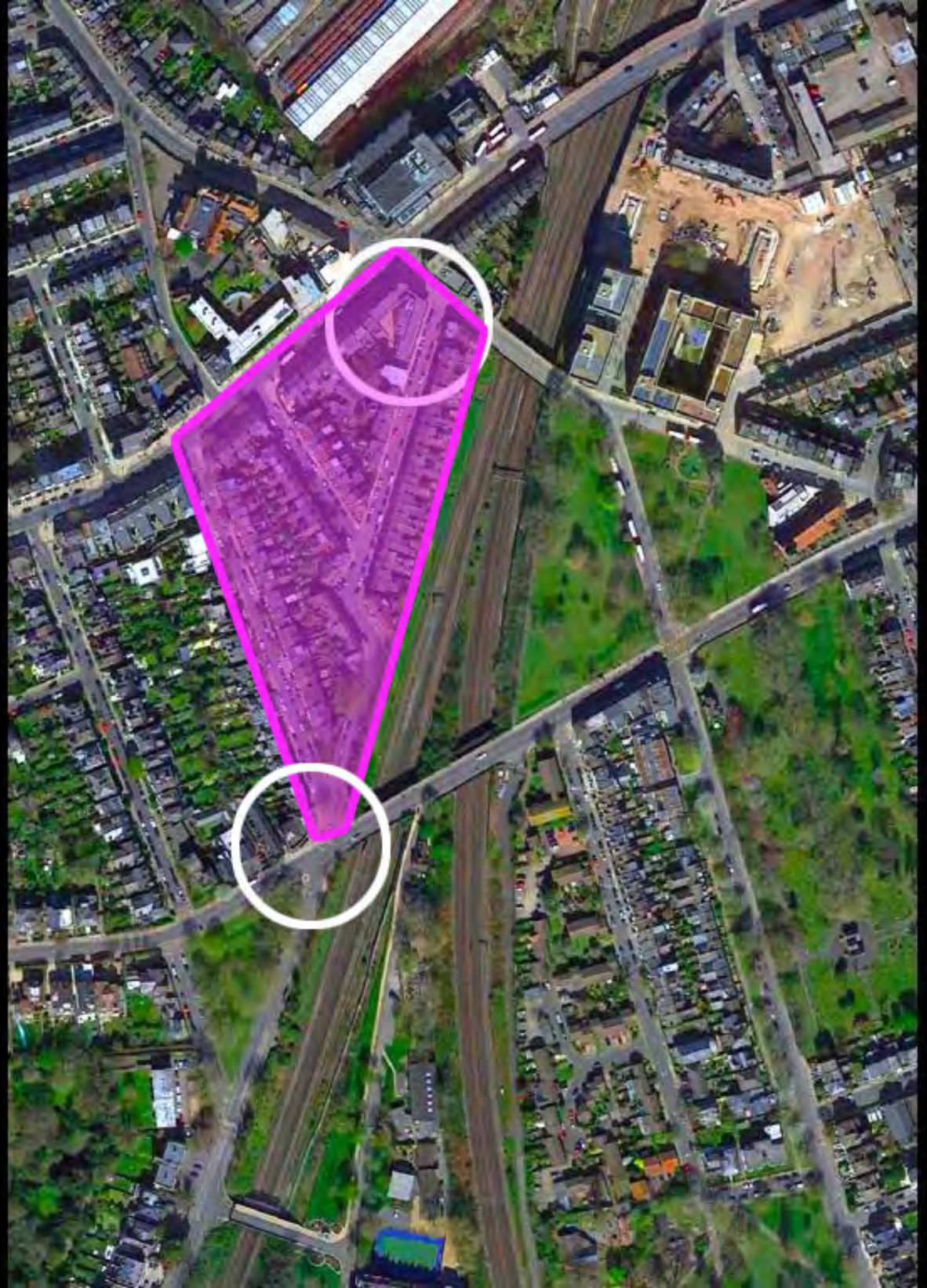
Plough pub



Plough pub

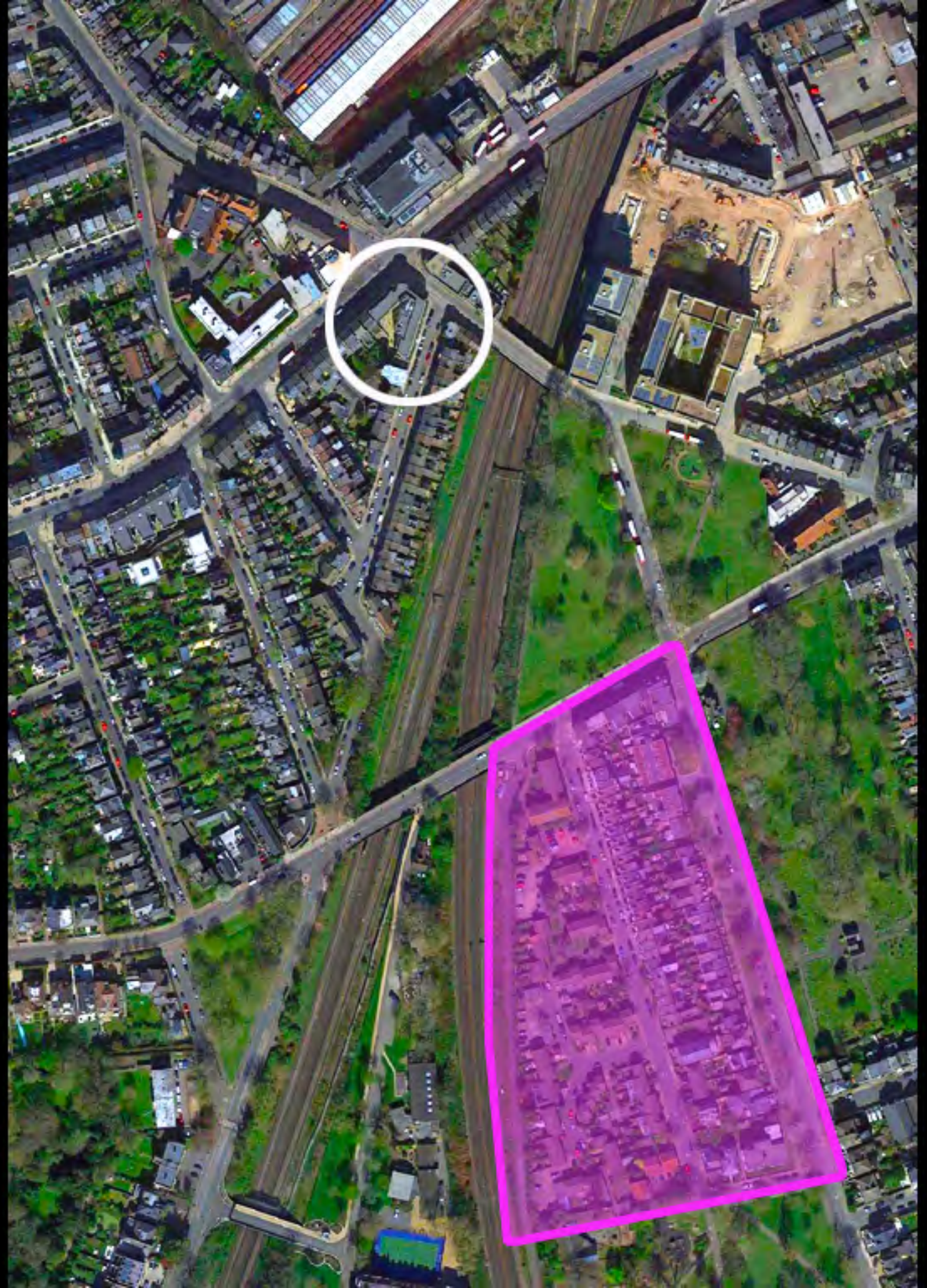
Freemasons Hotel

(Roundhouse)

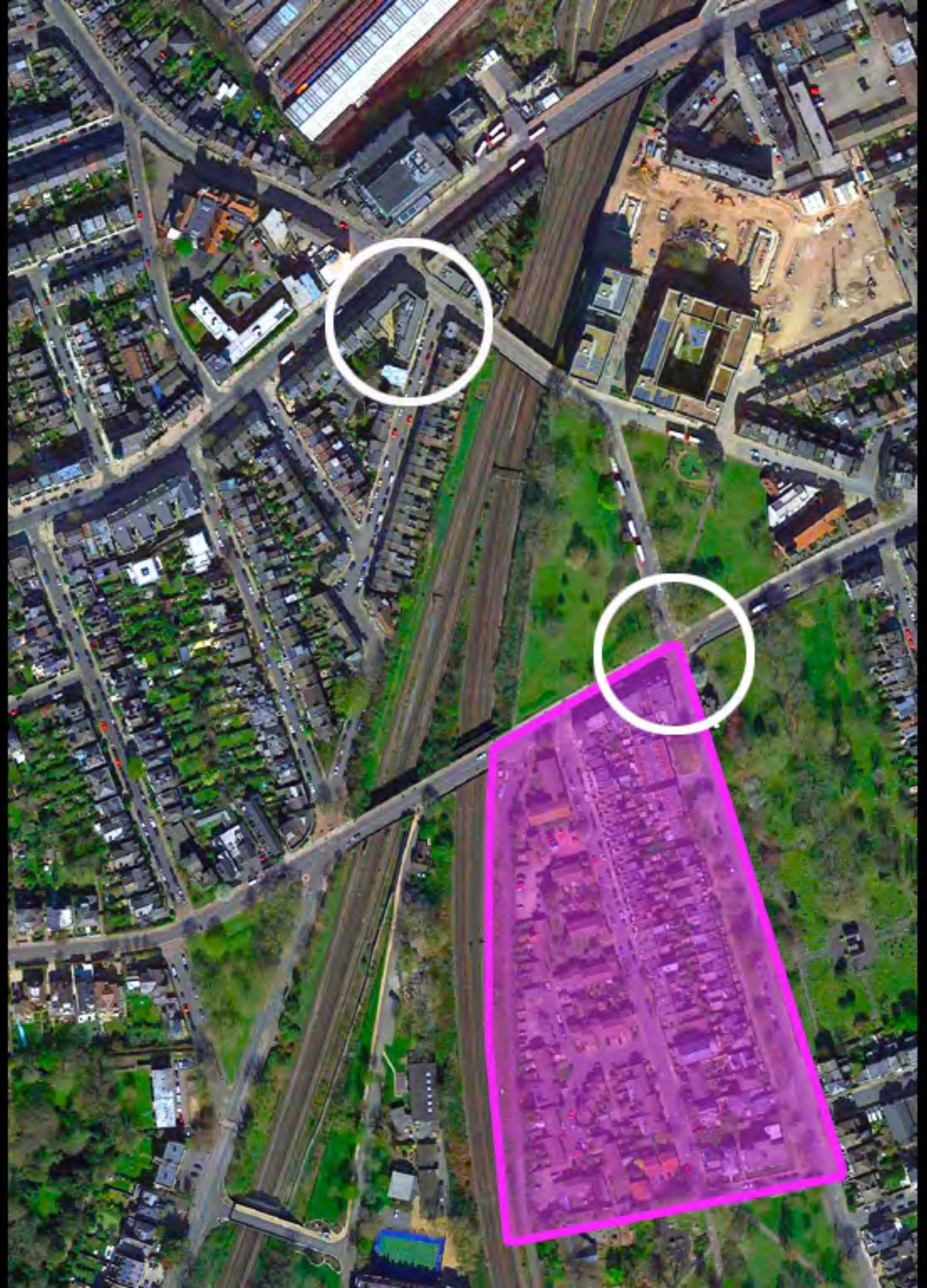



THE ROUNDHOUSE

Plough pub



Plough pub



Lord of the Manor pub

WANDSWORTH COMMON

"E'en now the devastation has begun,
And half the business of destruction done"

To the Inhabitants & Working Men OF WANDSWORTH & BATTERSEA.

Will you allow Bankrupt and Speculating Builders, Land Societies, Beershop Keepers, Railway Companies, Tailors, Gentlemen and Noble Lords, to rob you and your children of their Common Rights and Footpaths, and the liberty of walking on God's earth without a struggle? During the last thirty years enclosures have been made by the late Mr. W. Kellar and the late Mr. Wilson, the enclosure for the Telescope, the enclosures by the Railway Companies, the Patriotic School, the St. James's Industrial School, the enclosure by the Prison, the enclosure by Mr. Costeker and Mr. Smith, making a total of upwards of 200 acres! Most of these enclosures have been filched from the Common and resold for enormous profit.

WHAT'S THE REMEDY? Down with the fences! Preserve your Footpaths, show Lord Spencer and the Vinegar Men on the Board of Works, who have neglected their duty, that you are determined to maintain your rights like true Liberals and keep them like true Conservatives.

Follow the Noble Example of Mr Augustus Smith, who destroyed three miles of fence on Berkhampstead Common; the Men of Wigton who broke down the Fences erected by the Earl of Galloway; the Men of Buckinghamshire who broke down the Fences of Northall Common; the Men of Surrey who broke down the Fences on Shalford Common, Shalford Common,and so Preserved their Rights.

Men of Battersea and Wandsworth, GO AND DO THOU LIKEWISE!

Cursed is he who removeth his neighbours' Landmark, and robbeth the poor of his inheritance, and joineth land to land to increase his riches.

DOWN WITH THE FENCES!

WANDSWORTH COMMON

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And half the business of destruction done"

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Cursed is he who removeth his neighbours' Landmark, and robbeth the poor of his inheritance, and joineth land to land to increase his riches.

DOWN WITH THE FENCES!

"One evening's scene...

"A footpath which ran diagonally across a piece of the common was stopped at both ends, and the land added to the gardens of adjoining owners.

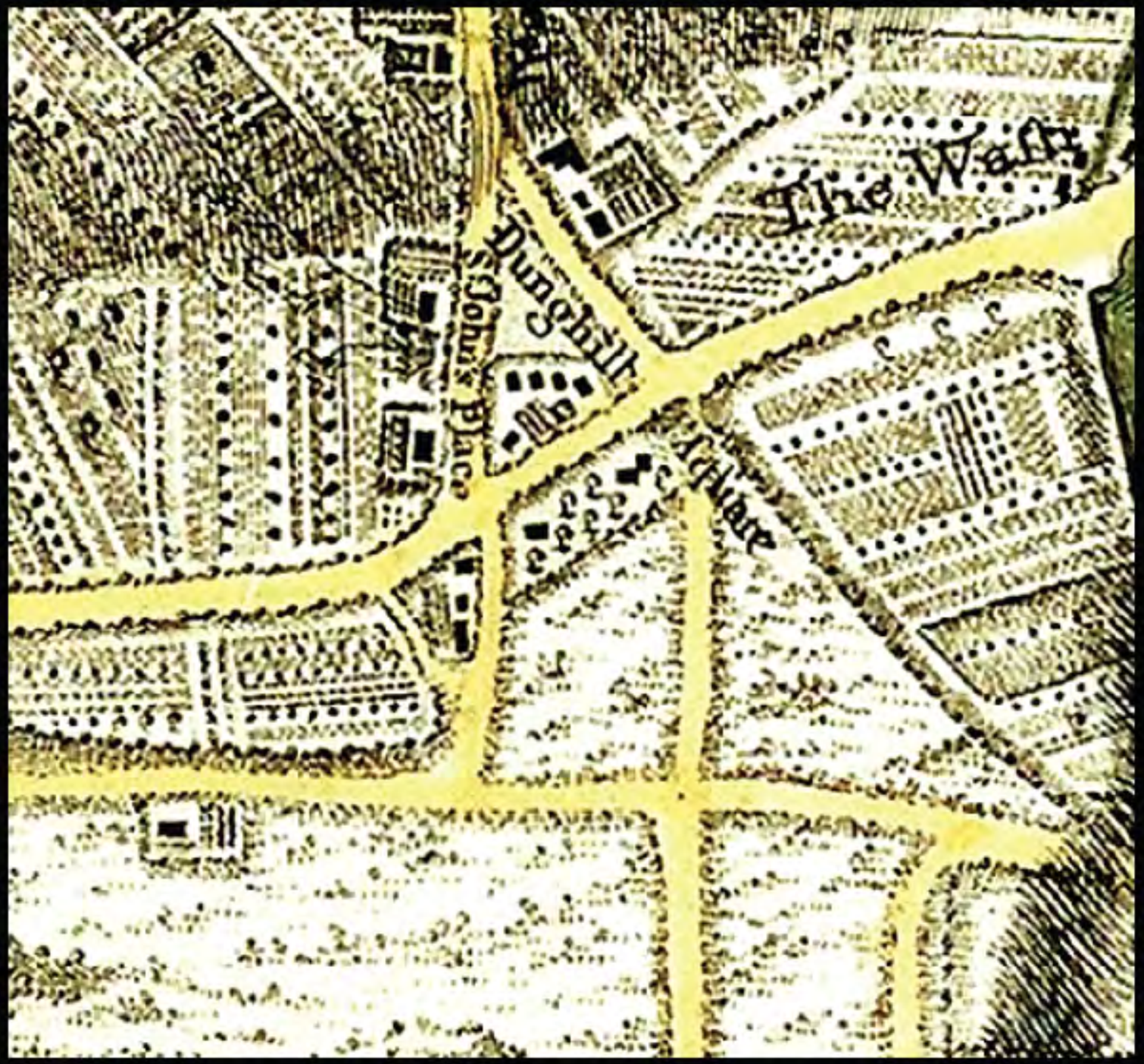
This enclosure deprived the public of a convenient footpath, and stopping it created much ill-feeling and indignation.

The enclosure was protected at both ends with a high closed fence of a most formidable character, lined inside and out with sheet-iron.

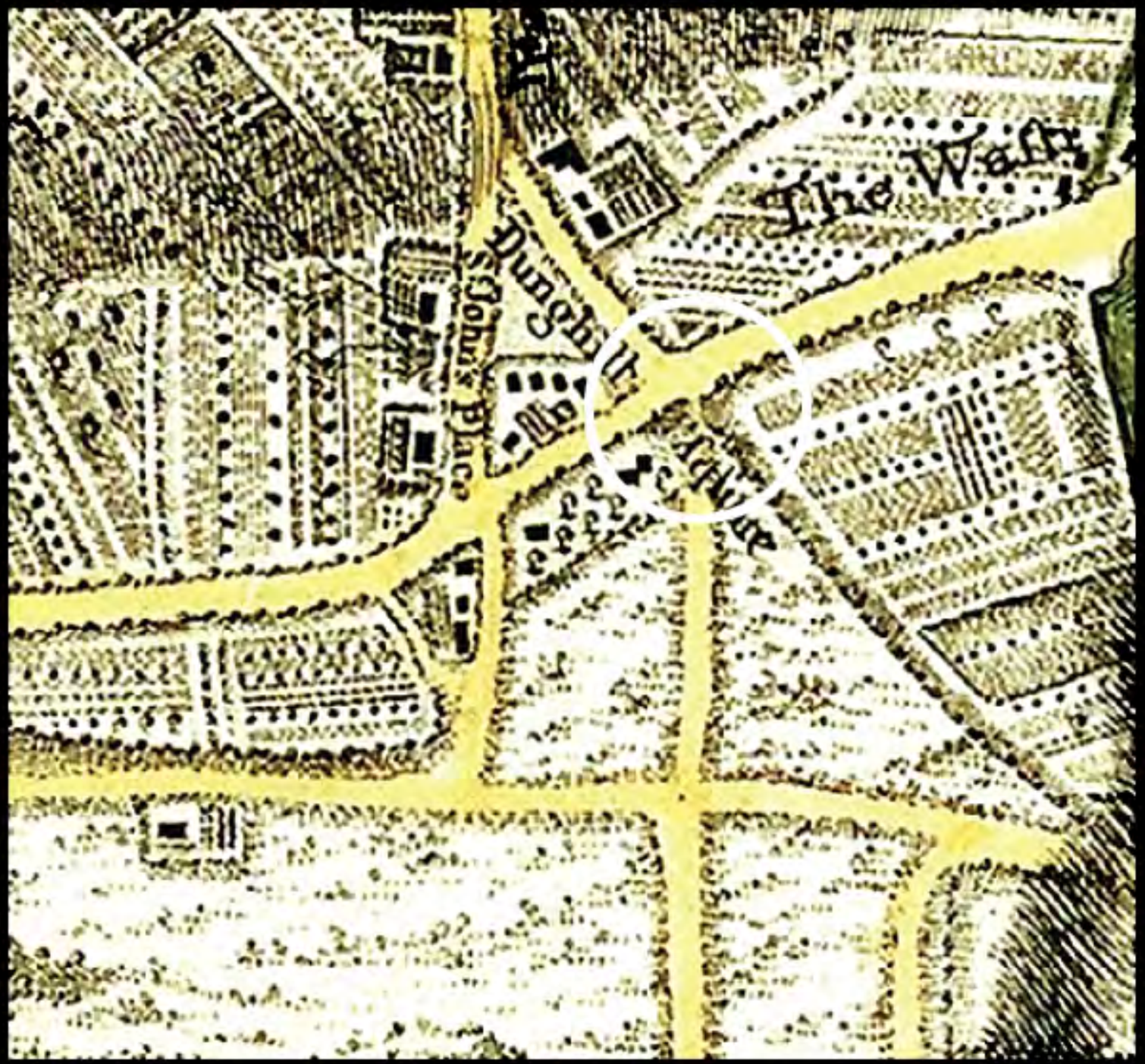
The one boundary was the railway, and the other the gardens of the common-stealers.

Men would assemble in small detachments in the evening and look at the fence.

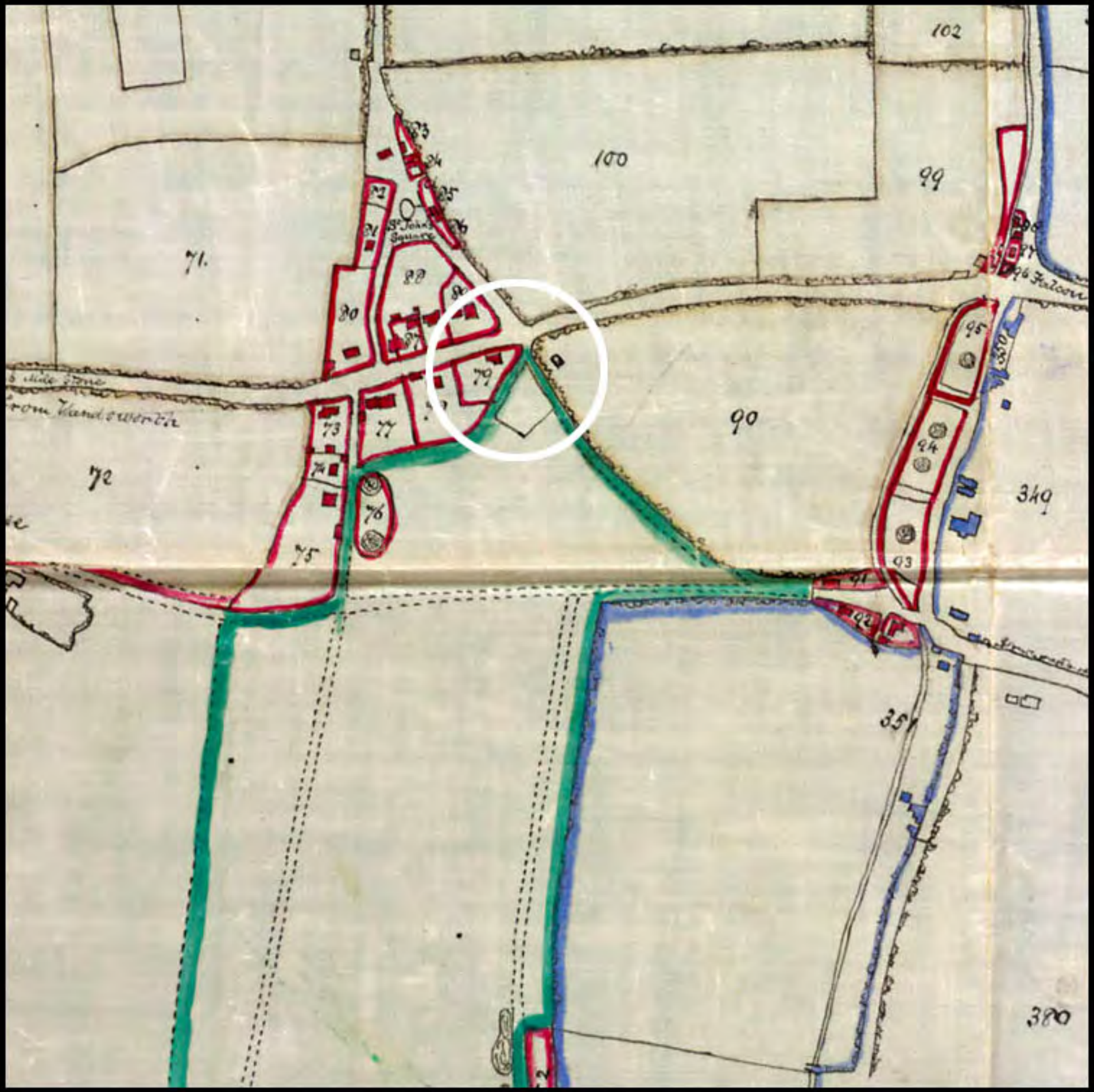
"The police were on the lookout. They expected a siege some evening, and they were not disappointed.



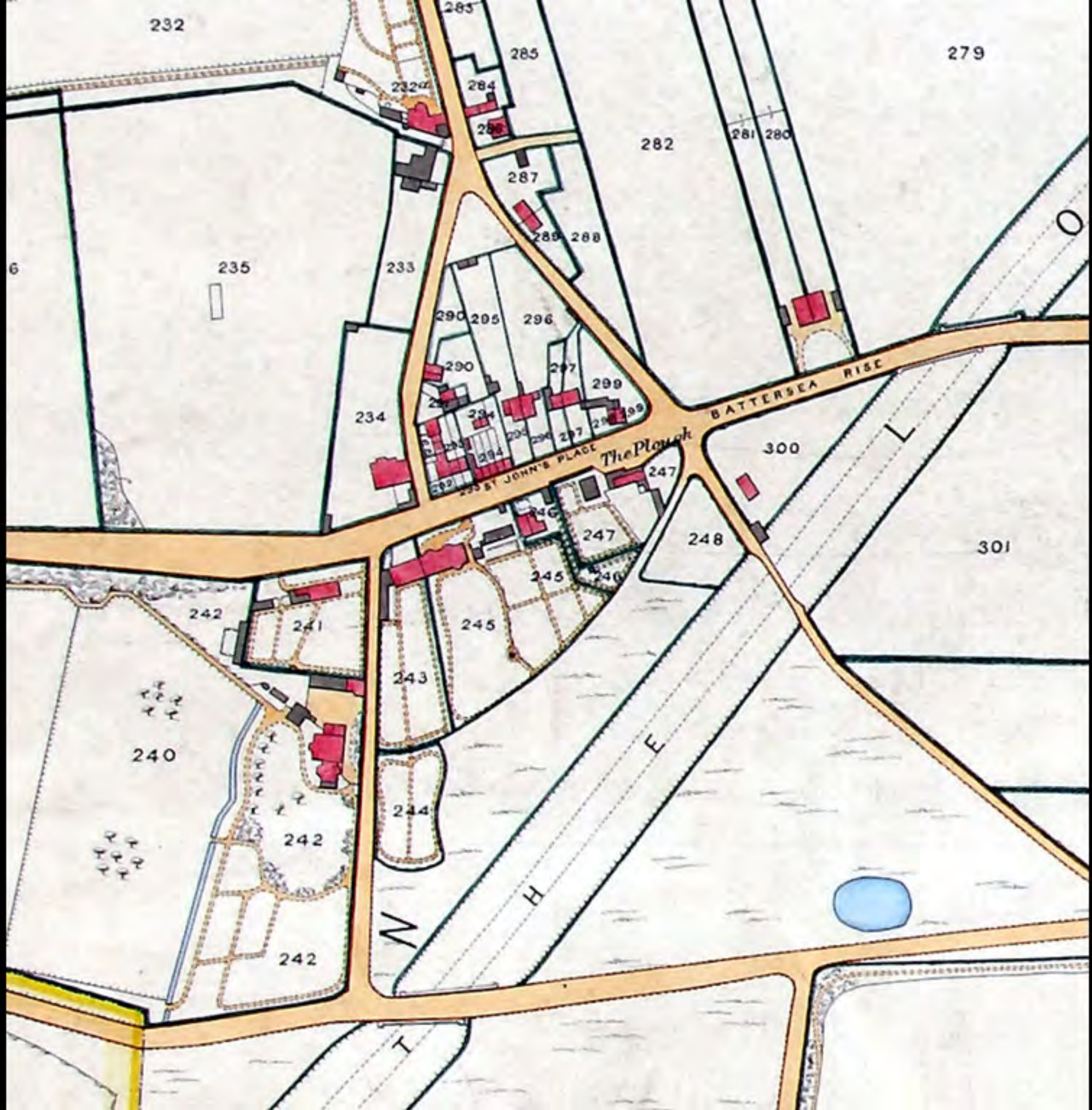
1740s



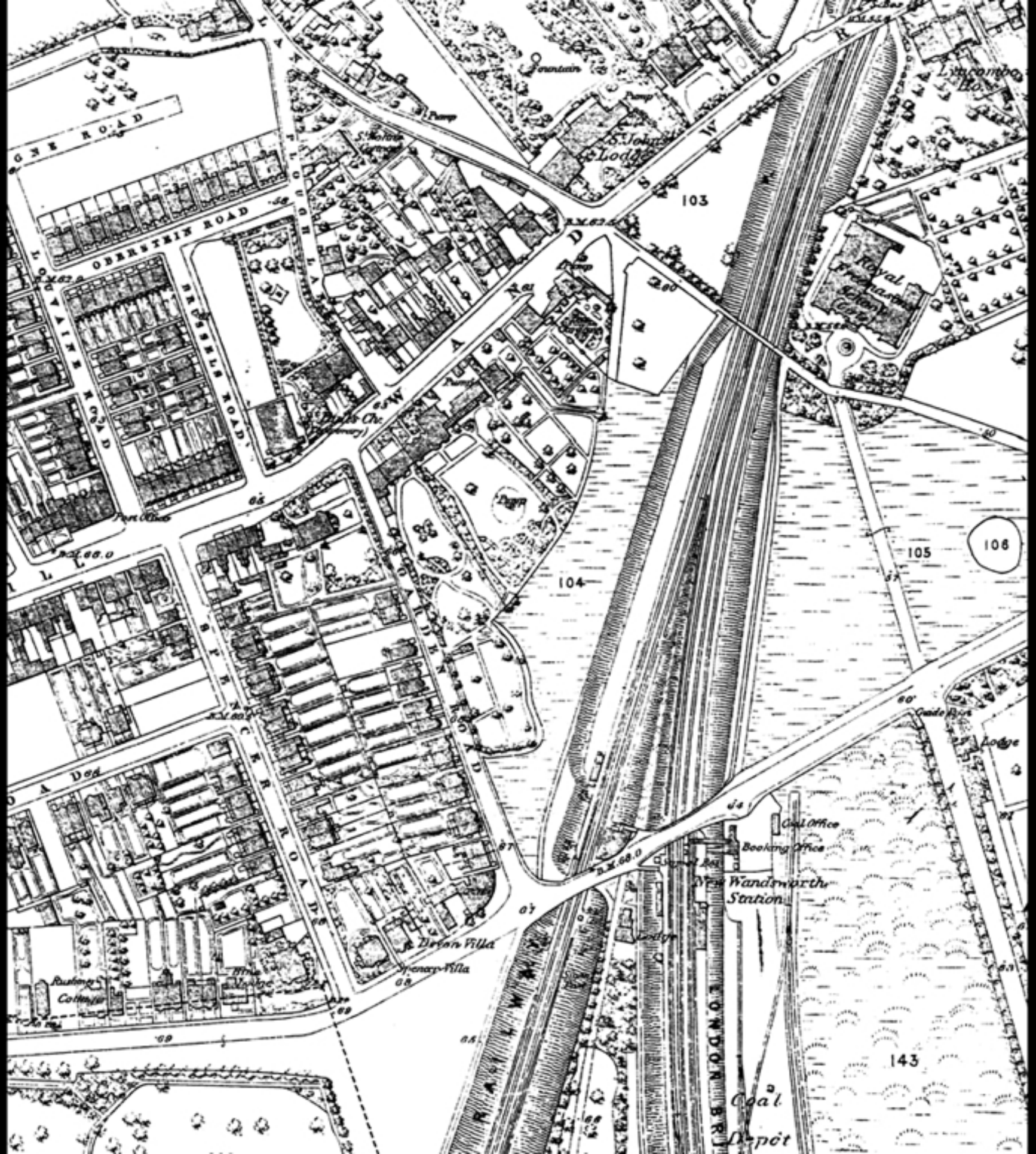
The Plough


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St. John's Square
Falcon

1787


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The Plough
BATTERSEA RISE
ST JOHN'S PLACE
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1839


LONDON ROAD
OBERSTEIN ROAD
BRUSSELS ROAD
ST ANNE'S ROAD
ST ANNE'S TERRACE
ST ANNE'S ROAD
Fountain
Pump
St. John's Lodge
Lyncombe House
Royal Freemasons School
103
104
105
106
107
108
143
Coal Office
Booking Office
New Wandsworth Station
LONDON BRIGHTON & SOUTH COAST RAILWAY
Coal Depot
Goods Yard
Lodge
Pump
Ch.
Rectory
Cottages
Villa
Villas
Terrace
Row
Road
Place
Avenue
Gardens
Square
Crescent
Grove
Walk
Court
Mews
Buildings
Cottage
Lodge
Yard
Dock
Basin
Bridge
Tunnel
Station
Depot
Office
Works
Factory
Warehouse
Chapel
Church
Hall
School
Institute
Hospital
Infirmary
Asylum
Workhouse
Prison
Barracks
Fort
Battery
Tower
Monument
Obelisk
Cross
Statue
Fountain
Pump
Well
Reservoir
Tank
Gasworks
Waterworks
Sewage Works
Refuse Destructor
Cemetery
Burial Ground
Allotments
Recreation Ground
Playing Field
Bowling Green
Tennis Court
Golf Course
Racecourse
Cricket Ground
Football Ground
Swimming Pool
Baths
Public Library
Museum
Art Gallery
Theatre
Music Hall
Cinema
Public House
Hotel
Inn
Club
Post Office
Telegraph Office
Telephone Exchange
Police Station
Fire Station
Coastguard Station
Lifeboat Station
Pier
Jetty
Landing Stage
Slipway
Boathouse
Lighthouse
Beacon
Buoy
Mooring
Anchorage
Quarantine
Customs
Harbour Master
Dock Office
Graving Dock
Dry Dock
Floating Dock
Pontoon
Wharf
Quay
Warehouse
Crane
Hydraulic Crane
Steam Crane
Hand Crane
Weighbridge
Coal Hole
Coal Shoot
Coal Office
Booking Office
Waiting Room
Ladies Waiting Room
Gentlemen's Waiting Room
Refreshment Room
Bookstall
Left Luggage
Parcels Office
Goods Office
Goods Yard
Goods Shed
Cattle Dock
Horse Box
Carriage Dock
Engine Shed
Turntable
Signal Box
Level Crossing
Gate
Lodge
Keeper's House
Platform
Subway
Footbridge
Overbridge
Viaduct
Arch
Pier
Abutment
Retaining Wall
Embankment
Cutting
Tunnel
Shaft
Adit
Quarry
Pit
Mine
Colliery
Brickfield
Kiln
Clay Pit
Sand Pit
Gravel Pit
Chalk Pit
Lime Kiln
Limeworks
Cement Works
Asphalt Works
Tar Works
Oil Works
Petroleum Depot
Gasholder
Gasworks
Waterworks
Sewage Works
Refuse Destructor
Cemetery
Burial Ground
Allotments
Recreation Ground
Playing Field
Bowling Green
Tennis Court
Golf Course
Racecourse
Cricket Ground
Football Ground
Swimming Pool
Baths
Public Library
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Theatre
Music Hall
Cinema
Public House
Hotel
Inn
Club
Post Office
Telegraph Office
Telephone Exchange
Police Station
Fire Station
Coastguard Station
Lifeboat Station
Pier
Jetty
Landing Stage
Slipway
Boathouse
Lighthouse
Beacon
Buoy
Mooring
Anchorage
Quarantine
Customs
Harbour Master
Dock Office
Graving Dock
Dry Dock
Floating Dock
Pontoon
Wharf
Quay
Warehouse
Crane
Hydraulic Crane
Steam Crane
Hand Crane
Weighbridge
Coal Hole
Coal Shoot

1870

WANDSWORTH.

Samuel Sullings, a sawyer, aged 21 years, was charged with being concerned, with other persons not in custody, in wilfully damaging a wooden fence enclosing a kitchen garden belonging to Mr. John Costeker, of St. John's-hill, Wandsworth.

Mr. Charles Costeker, solicitor, conducted the case. He said the complainant was lessee of a piece of ground running by the side of the railway, and facing the Wandsworth-road. It was enclosed by him in December, 1868, and since then put into cultivation. Persons had the liberty to wander over it for a number of years, and erroneously supposed that they had a right of way across it. In September last Mr. Clark was found injuring the fence by hacking the gates at night, muffled up, which would be in the recollection of the magistrate, who fined him forty shillings in addition to the damage of ten shillings. Since then he had trespassed upon the land, and the complainant commenced an action in the Court of Queen's Bench, in which the question of the right of way was raised. Certain pleas were entered, but the defendant in the case suffered judgment to go by default with costs. The complainant had remained in possession of the land ever since, but on Wednesday last about 300 men of the roughest kind came to the place and knocked down the gates fronting the Wandsworth-road, and a considerable portion of the fence. Fruit trees were damaged, and an immense amount of injury was done to the property. He submitted that even if there was a right of way it did not extend to more than a path of four feet wide, and that the parties had no right to act in the way they had done.

Police-constable West said that on Wednesday afternoon he was on duty at New Wandsworth, where he saw the prisoner, who called upon the mob to assist him to break down the gates. He threw a heavy stone at the gates, and after he got them down he jumped upon them and broke the panels. He picked up a large stick and walked across the ground. He said, "This is our place, boys, and we'll stick to it." Witness went after him and took him into custody.

In reply to the magistrate the complainant said Earl Spencer was Lord of the Manor. The land was formerly part of Wandsworth-common, but the Lord of the Manor sold his right over it in 1836.

Dr. Dayman said he was bound by the decision in the action. It was very desirable, no doubt, that open spaces in crowded localities should not be enclosed, but he doubted whether the public could claim to keep open Wandsworth-common without an Act of Parliament. He fined the prisoner 40*s.*, in addition to 15*l.*, the amount of damage, and in default ordered him to be imprisoned for six months.

Richard Ross and *George Jackson*, boys under orders of detention in the Wandsworth Reformatory, were brought up on remand, charged with wilfully setting fire to the hay loft, by which several workshops were destroyed.

Mr. John Leyland, the manager, said that on questioning Jackson he stated that Ross told him to set fire to the place, and gave him the materials to do it with.

In answer to the charge Jackson said Ross did not tell him to do it.

Mr. Dayman committed both boys for trial.

London Daily News – Friday 15 April 1870

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Witness went after him and took him into custody.

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Dr. Dayman said ...it was very desirable, no doubt, that open spaces in crowded localities should not be enclosed, but he doubted whether the public could claim to keep open Wandsworth-common without an Act of Parliament.

"He fined the prisoner 40s., in addition to £15, the amount of damage, and in default ordered him to be imprisoned for six months."

London Daily News

Friday 15 April 1870

"Young man arrested and imprisoned...

"One stupid young fellow, who had recently come up from the country to work in the gardens, took up a large stone and deliberately knocked down some palings.

His companions saw the police and called him away, but he was deaf, and the police took him into custody, and he was locked up.

I happened, fortunately for myself, to be away, but, unfortunately for the young man, the whole affair was so sudden and unexpected that no arrangements were made to defend him.

The next morning he was brought before the magistrate, confessed his guilt, and expressed his sorrow.

He was sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment.

"The common-stealers pleaded damage and pressed for a heavy punishment as an example.

If instead of pleading guilty he had pleaded a right, the magistrate must have dismissed the case.

On my return I called on his employer, who expressed his willingness to give the man work when he came out of prison.

I at once prepared a memorial to the Home Secretary for his liberation.

"I first went to the parson of our district and asked him to sign it.

Now this man, who had often expressed to me his full sympathy with our efforts, began to make all sorts of excuses.

The common-stealers formed part of his congregation.

They were wealthy and subscribed liberally to his church, and unless they first signed it he could not without giving offence.

This was the representative of the Church of the poor man, which ought to have protected him against the greed and avarice of the rich.

I should never have gone to him but for his frequent private expressions of approval and encouragement.

"Petition for release...

"I placed a table in front of a shop where hundreds of persons passed daily to the railway, and in the course of two days obtained nearly a thousand signatures.

I took the memorial at once to the House of Commons. Sir Charles Dilke suggested I should leave it at the Home Office.

"I knew what would become of it if it found its way to the Home Office. It would probably be referred to every person, from the messenger to the Assistant Secretary, who would refer it from one to the other, whose business would be to initial and write on it,

'Seen - refer to Brown - look up precedents,'

'Refer to Asst. Sec. for instructions,'

'Refer to committing magistrate.'

"And before all was finished the young man would have done his time.

"I pressed Sir Charles Dilke to take it direct to the Home Secretary, who was in the House, and explain the circumstances of the case and its urgency.

I called next day at the Office and found that the matter had been referred to the committing magistrate, who offered no objection to the prisoner's release, and I expected in a day or two the governor of the prison would receive an order accordingly.

But no order came.

"I called again at the Home Office, and was informed that the papers had been forwarded to Balmoral.

I waited two or three days, when I was informed there had been some mistake, and the papers would be returned to Balmoral at once.

"Get him released...

"After the young man had served his term of imprisonment all but two days, the governor received an order for his release.

A few days after his imprisonment his poor mother came up from Suffolk in great sorrow and went direct to the police-station, where she was informed by somebody, which every body denied, that I was the cause of her son's imprisonment.

I was deeply grieved when she came to my house, and her sorrow was the sorrow of a mother.

I gave her some tea, made her comfortable, and lodged her for the night.

"I sent for the treasurer of the Common Fund, and we sent her home with the assurance that her son would not suffer or lose his character.

She was much hurt when she applied at the prison to see her son.

The door was slammed in her face, and she was rudely told to be off about her business.

A person in distress is more sensible of kindness than those who have never tasted the waters of deep sorrow through the errors of their children.

"A procession to meet him at prison...

"When his companions heard of his release they procured a van and decorated it with ribbons, laurels, evergreens, and flowers.

An armchair was placed in the centre for the prisoner.

A band of music arrived at the prison gates, and the prisoner was received with hearty expressions of sympathy and goodwill.

The band, with van and procession, moved slowly to the scene of the late battle, for which the young man had suffered ten days' imprisonment.

"The procession stopped as long as the police permitted
it in front of the houses of the common-stealers
and played, almost to the bursting of their instruments,
'See the conquering hero comes,' with occasional yells of
'Who stole the common?'

The procession moved through the parish to the
schoolroom, where I presented the prisoner with a new suit
of clothes and five pounds, provided by the committee.


images: george rex






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ST MARK'S SCHOOL. 1866.

"I persuaded the audience to go quietly home.

I sent two men with the prisoner to his lodgings.

Some of the men had been drinking and were getting noisy
and troublesome, and when they are in that state
you may as well try to persuade a milestone to go home.

"I did all I could, and as the young man was safe I left the
others, and the next morning two or three of them were
fined five shillings each.

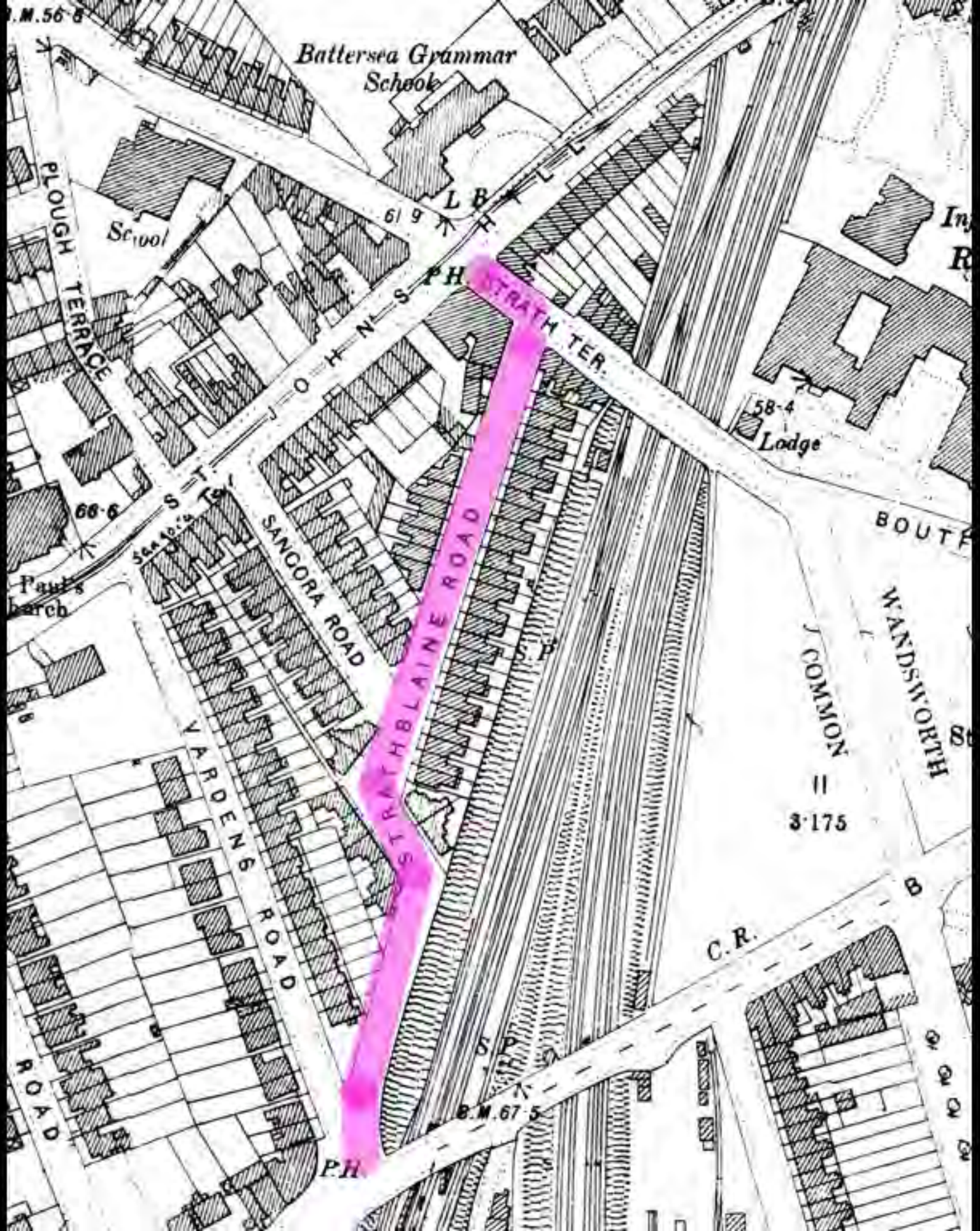
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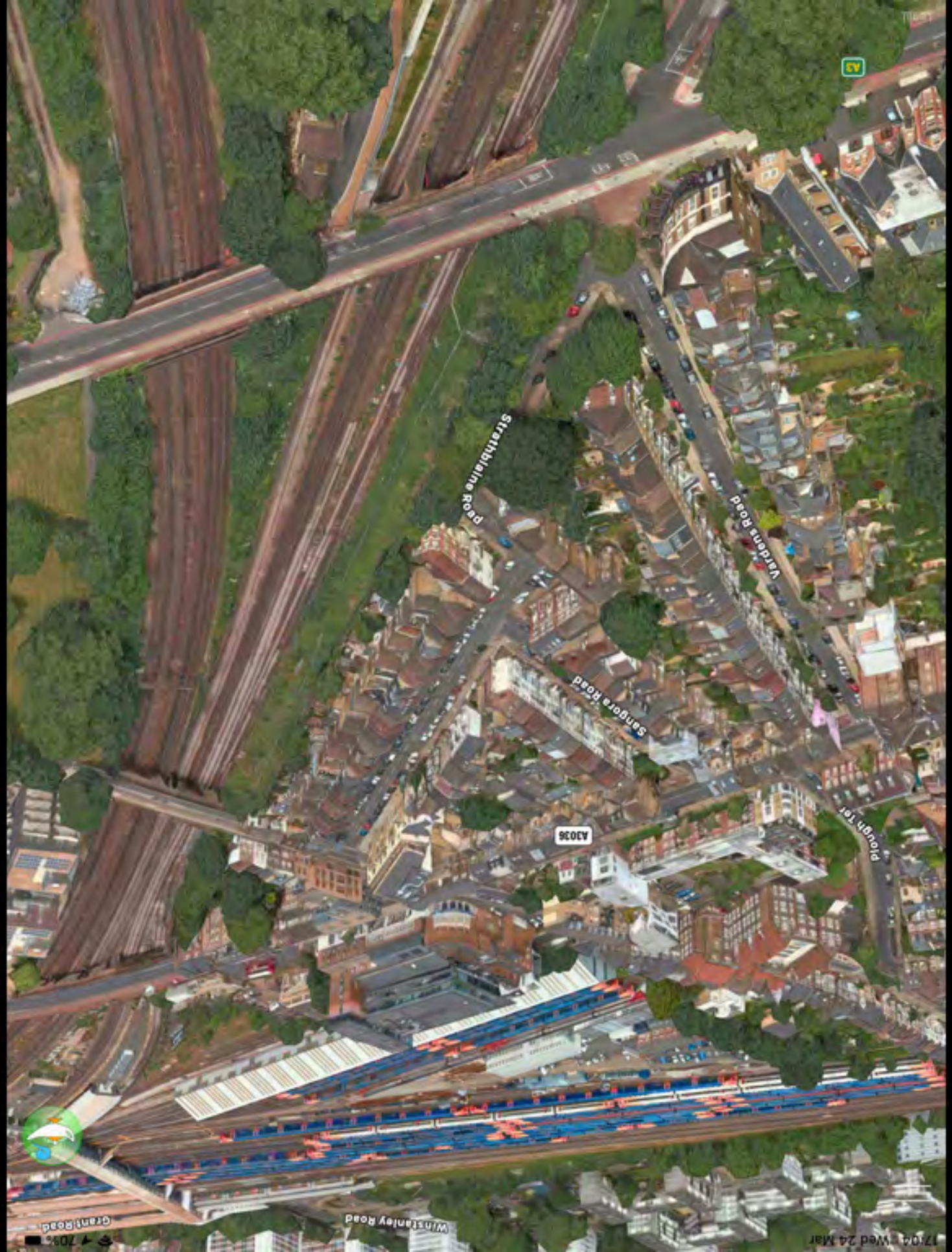
WANDSWORTH COMMON.—Samuel Sullings, who was imprisoned with hard labour for breaking down fences at Wandsworth Common, and subsequently released on a memorial presented to the Home Secretary by Sir C. W. Dilke, M.P., was entertained by a number of his fellow-workmen at the Infant School, Battersea, on Saturday. Sullings appeared in a new suit of clothes, hat, and boots, which were paid for by a few friends. The workmen have made a subscription, which will be placed in the Post-office Savings Bank. Mr. Churchwarden Buckmaster occupied the chair, and made a speech, in which he endeavoured to show that those who had erected the fences were more guilty than Sullings; and the idea of saying to poor men, when their rights and enjoyments were taken away by rich people, that if they felt aggrieved they could proceed by action at law or indictment, was simply adding insult to injustice. (Cheers). The chairman then referred to various matters connected with the common, and expressed a hope that it would not be necessary for working men to suffer imprisonment in defence of what they believed to be their rights; he looked with hope and confidence to the result of the forthcoming City meeting. Three cheers for Mr. Buckmaster, three groans for those who had enclosed the common, and a vote of thanks to the vicar for allowing the use of the schoolroom, concluded the proceedings.

South London Press, 16 July 1870

"Three cheers for Mr Buckmaster,
three groans for those who had enclosed the common,
and a vote of thanks to the vicar for allowing
the use of the schoolroom...


Battersea Grammar School
PLOUGH TERRACE
School
L B
61·9
JOHN S PH STRATH TER.
58·4
Lodge
66·6
Paul's Church
SANCORA ROAD
STRATHBLAINE ROAD
VARDENS ROAD
P.H.
B.M.67·5
C.R.
WANDSWORTH COMMON
3·175

1893

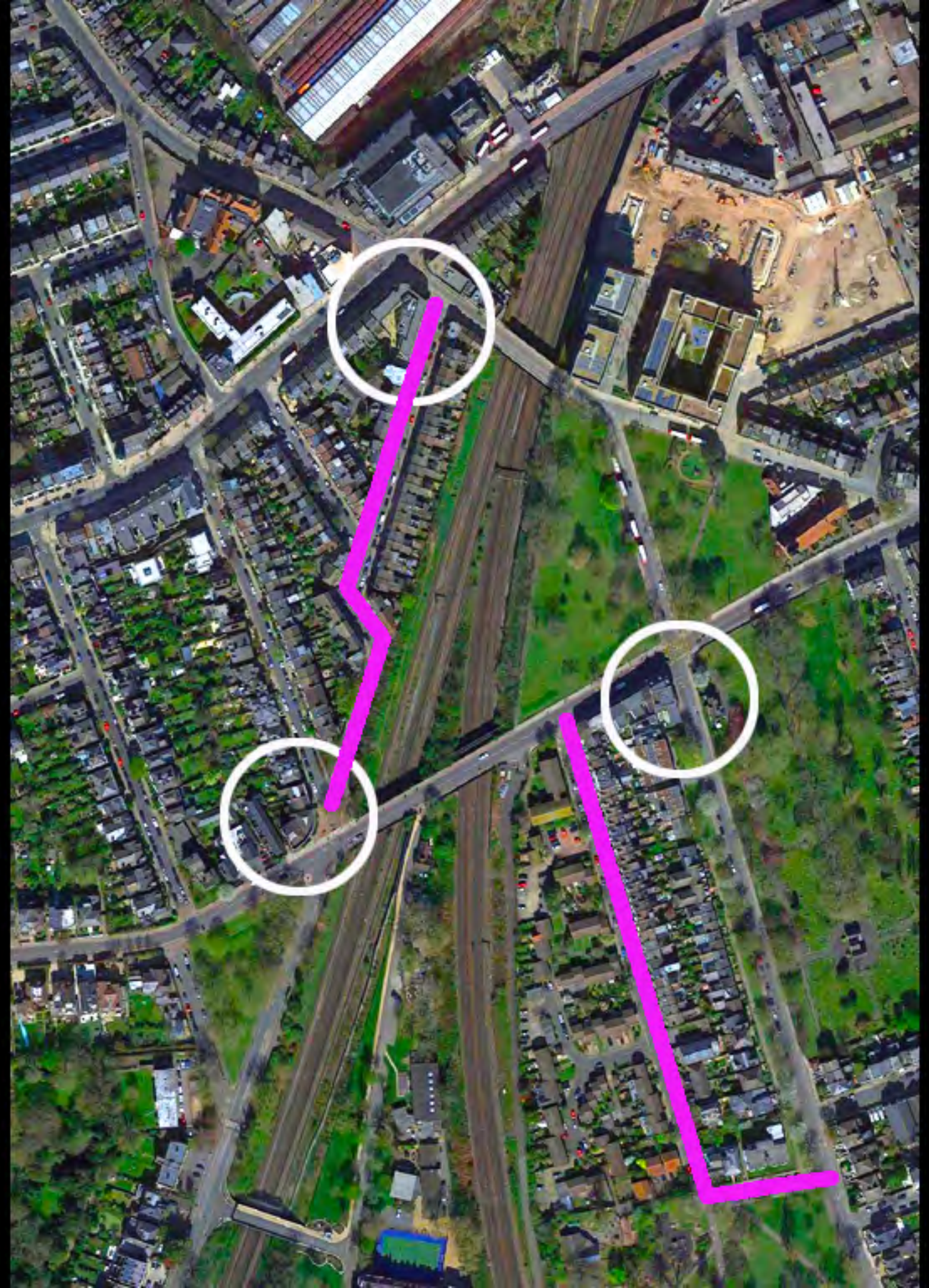

A3036
Strathblaine Road
Vardens Road
Sangora Road
Plough Ter
Winstanley Road
Grant Road
17:04 Wed 24 Mar


A3036
Varndens Road
Sangore Road
Plough Ter
Winstanley Road
Grant Road
17:04 Wed 24 Mar

Plough pub

Strathblaine Rd

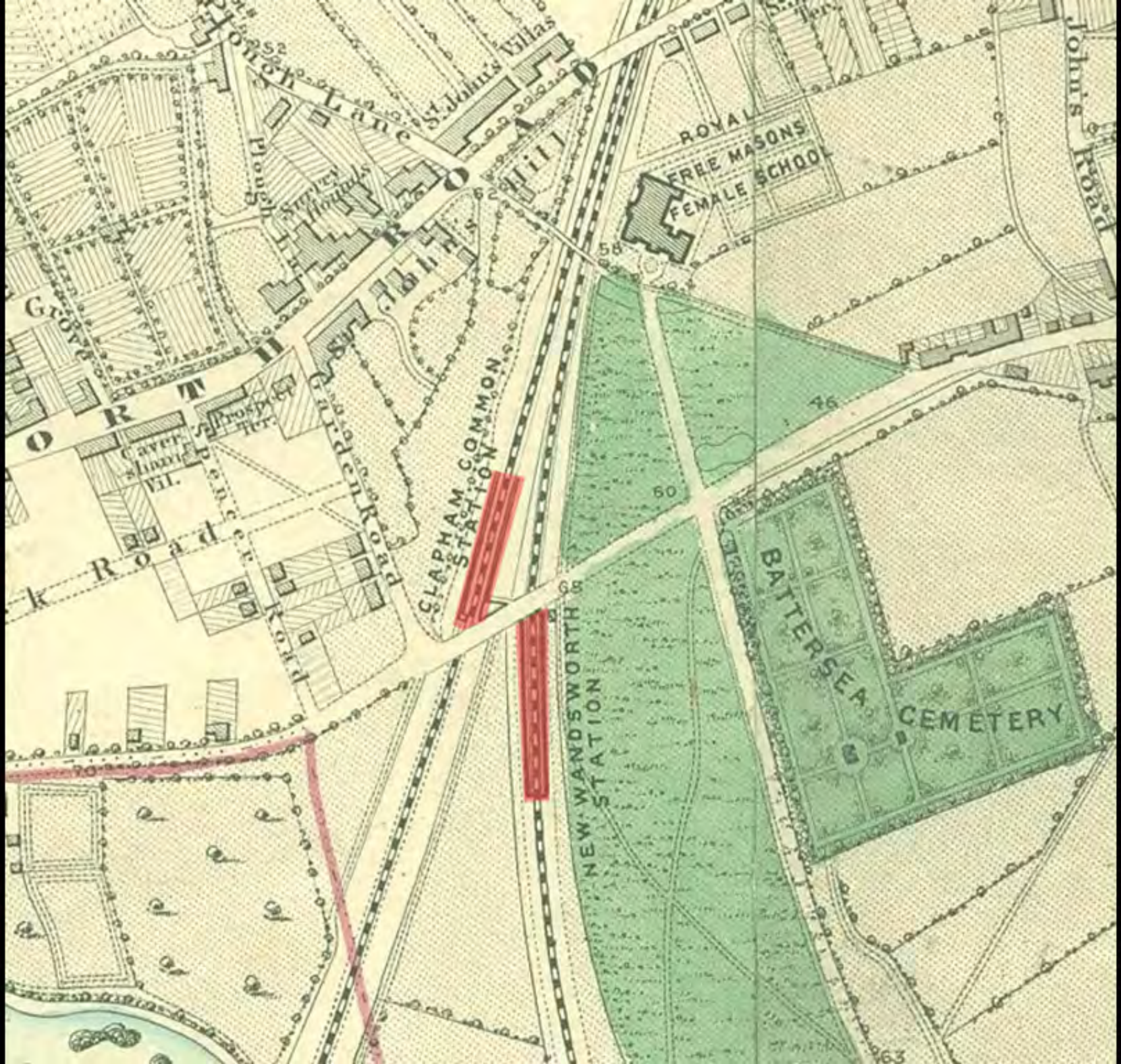
Freemasons' Hotel

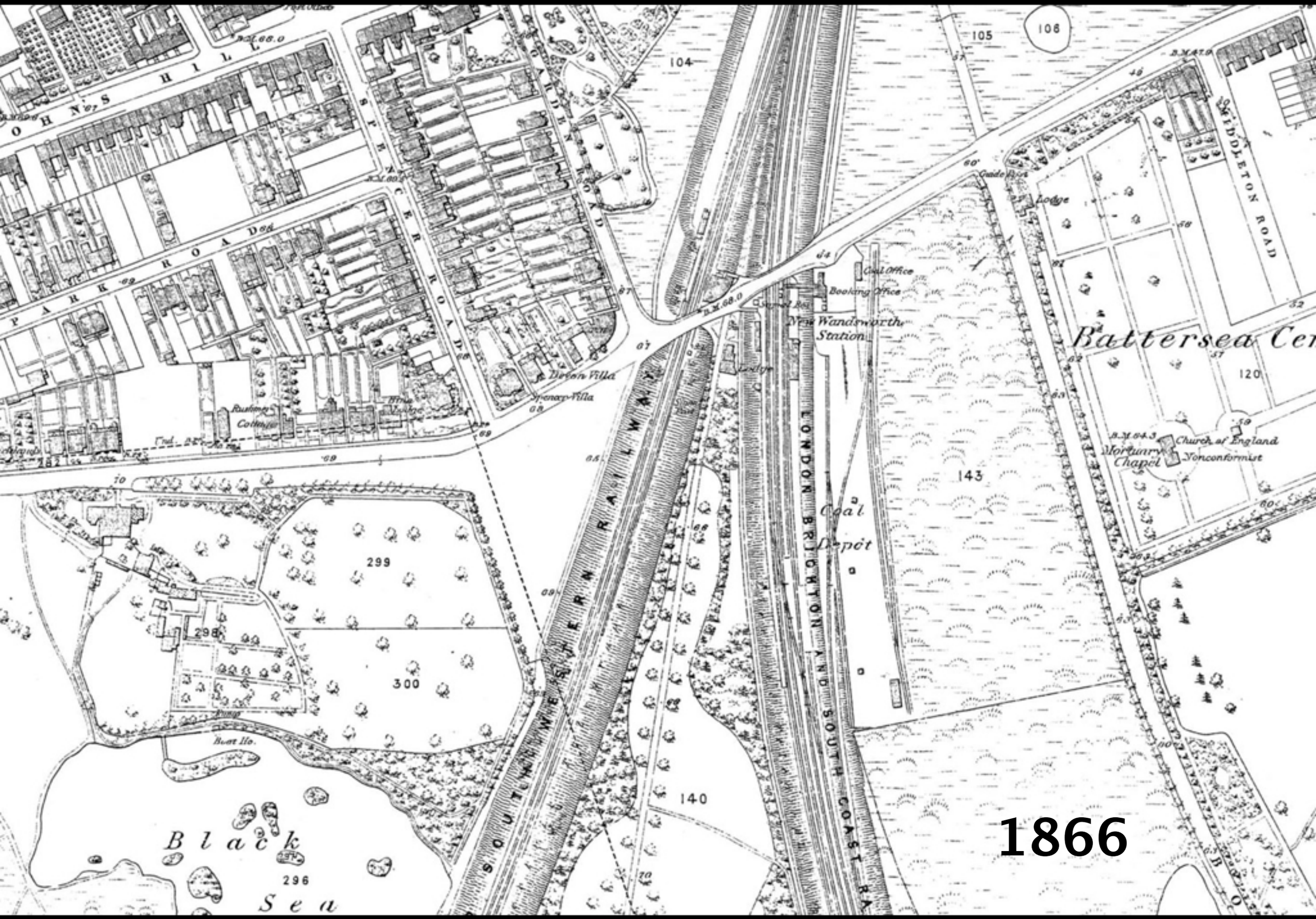


Lord of the Manor pub

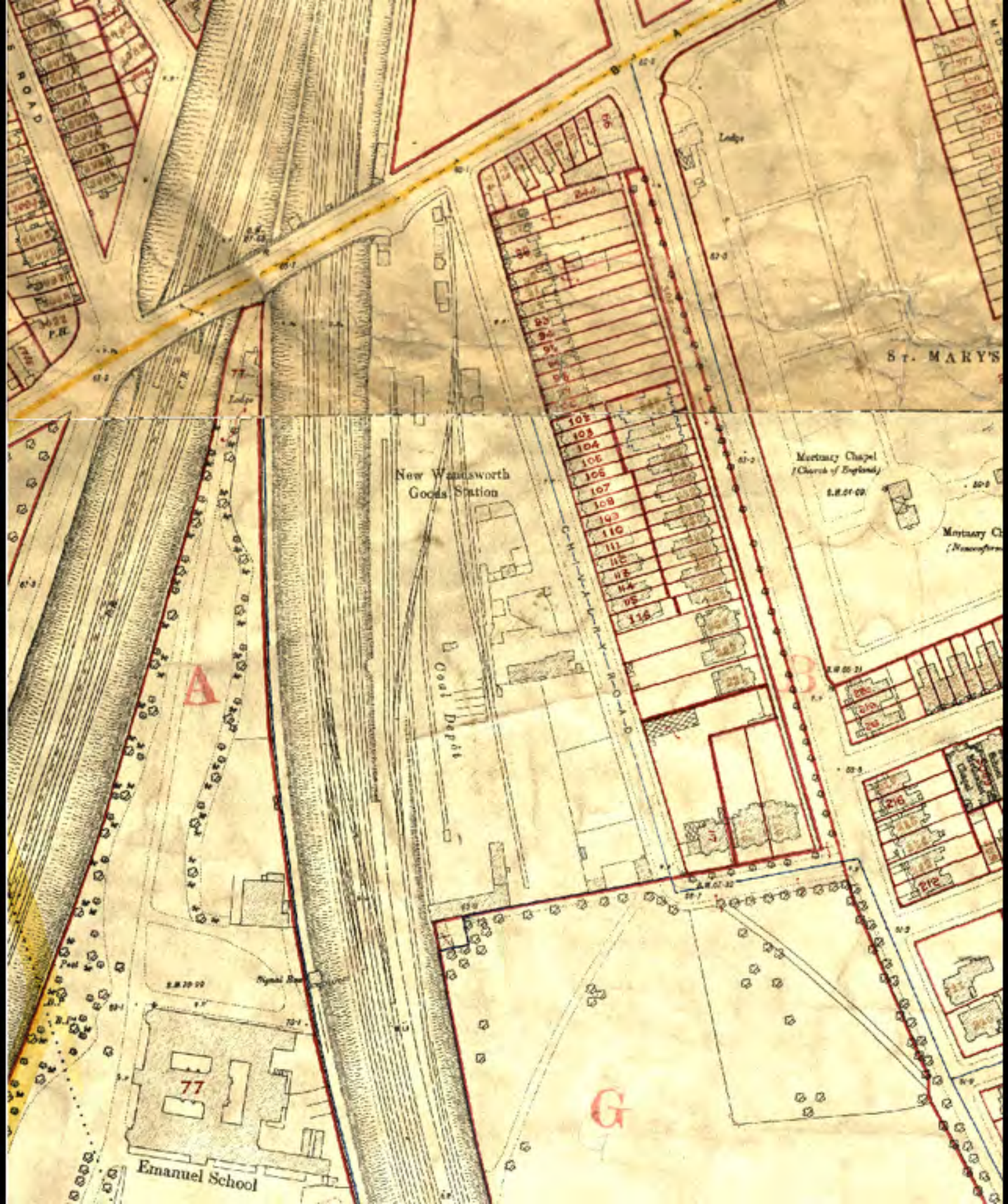
Chivalry Rd

1862

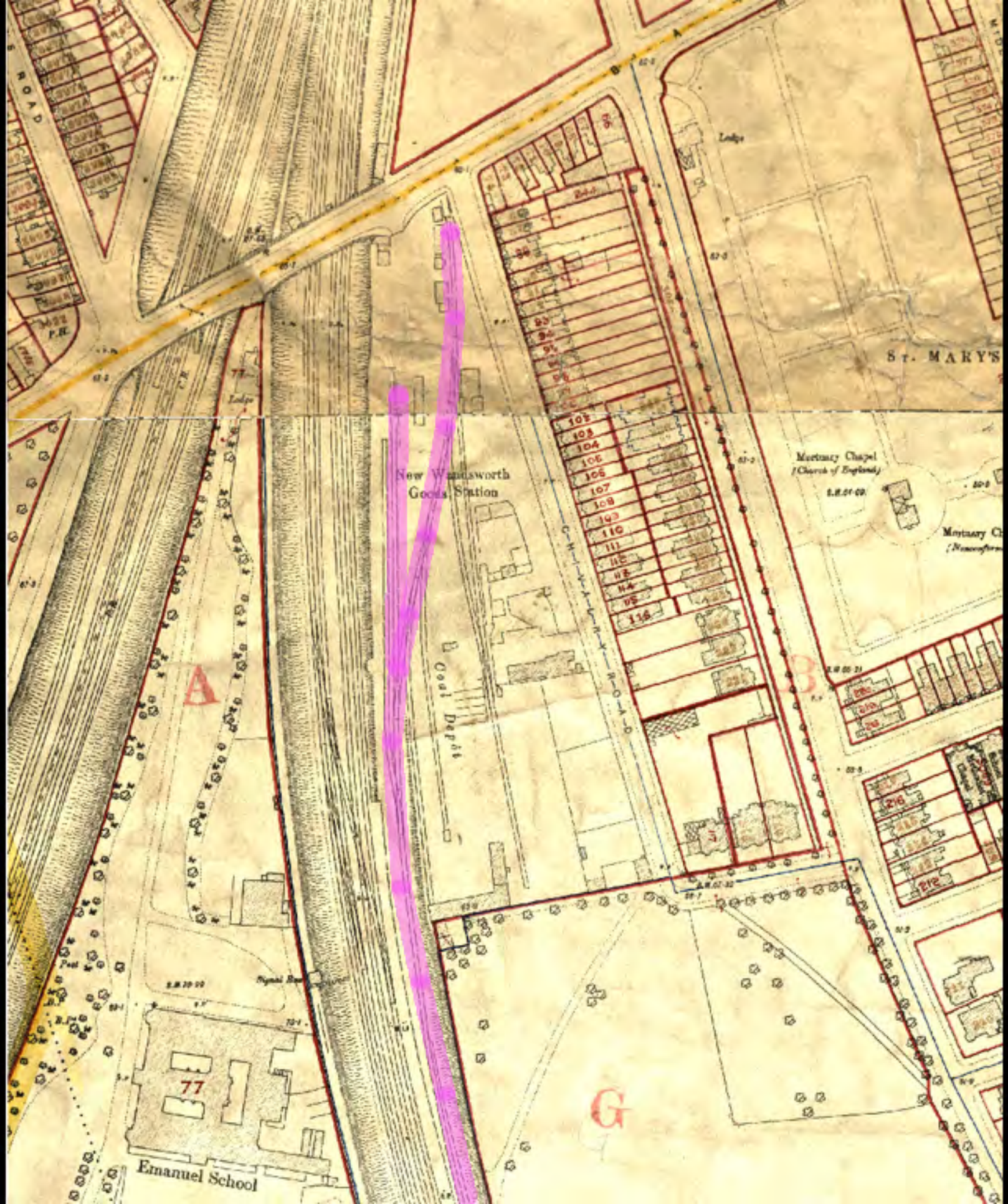

Church Lane
St. John's Villas
Poplar Terrace
Grove
Road
Cavendish Villas
Prospect Terrace
Garden Road
CLAPHAM COMMON STATION
ROYAL FREE MASONS FEMALE SCHOOL
St. John's Road
58
46
60
63
NEW WANDSWORTH STATION
BATTERSEA CEMETERY


O H N'S H I L L
PARK ROAD
SPENCER ROAD
Devon Villa
Rushmere Cottages
Hillside Villa
Guide Post
Lodge
Coal Office
Booking Office
New Wandsworth Station
Battersea Cem
SIBBLETON ROAD
Church of England Nonconformist Mortuary Chapel
WANDSWORTH
LONDON BRIGHTON AND SOUTH COAST RA
SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Coal Depot
Boat Ho.
Black Sea
104
105
106
120
140
143
296
298
299
300

1866


New Wandsworth
Goods Station
Coal Depôt
Mortuary Chapel
(Church of England)
ST. MARY'S
A
B
G
77
Emanuel School
105
106
107
108
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
216
215
214
212

1910


ROAD
Lodge
St. MARY'S
New Wandsworth Goods Station
Mortuary Chapel (Church of England)
Mortuary Ch
(Nonconformist)
Coal Depôt
A
B
G
77
Emanuel School

1910


JOHN NEAL
COAL MERCHANT
JOHN NEAL
COAL MERCHANT
JOHN NEAL
DEPOT

c.1900

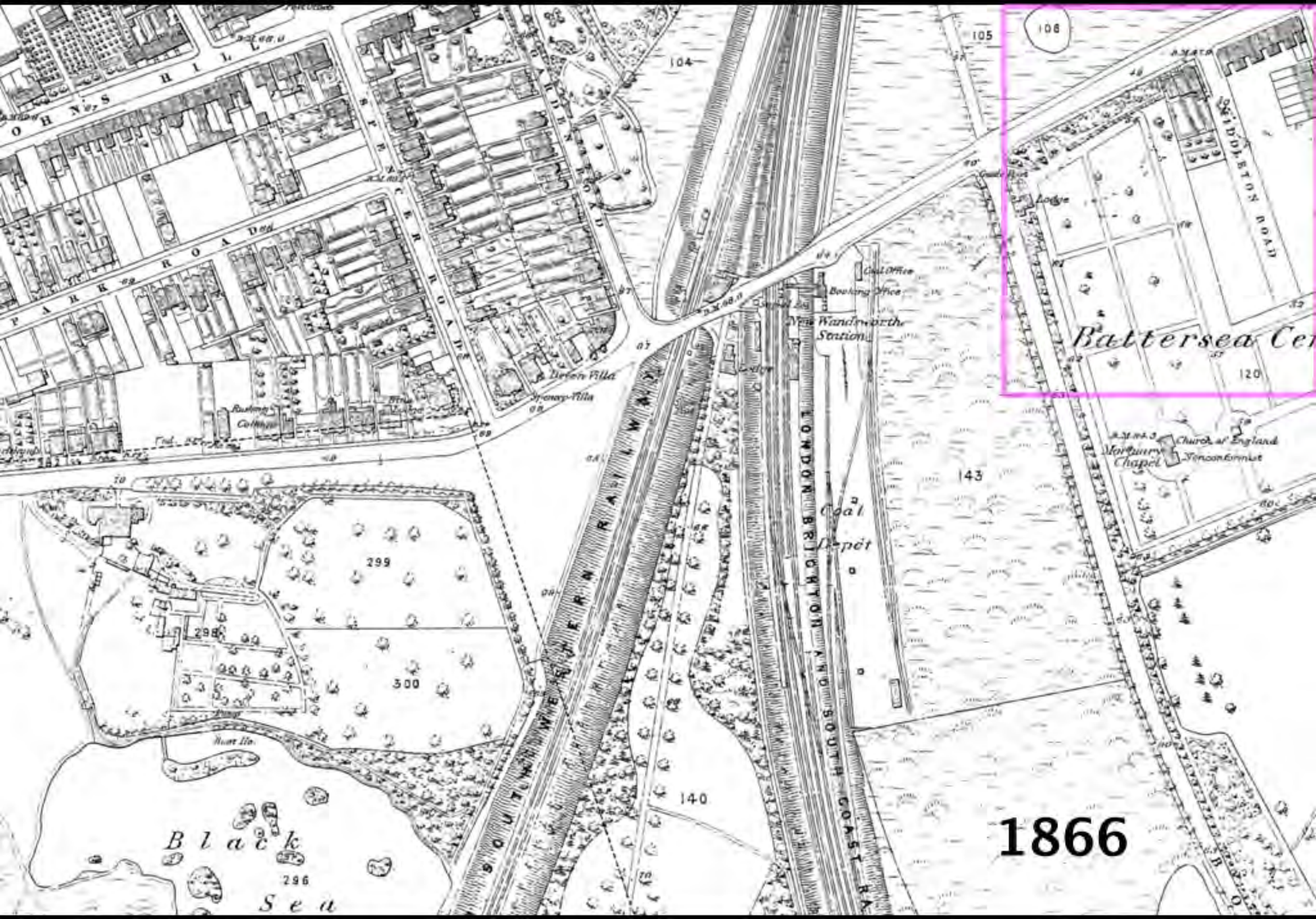

17:09 Wed 24 Mar
68%
Bolingbroke Grove
Chivalry Road
Arundel Close
Bolingbroke Grove
Chivalry Road
Mallinson Road






20
BUCKMASTER ROAD


BUCKMASTER
ROAD


O H N'S H I L L
P A R K R O A D
S P E N C E R R O A D E
Battersea Villa
Tenney Villa
Bolton Villa
Bowling Green
Cottages
Reading Room
Coal Office
Booking Office
New Wandsworth Station
LONDON BRIGHTON AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY
SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
LOWER BOLTON ROAD
Lodge
Battersea Cem
Mortuary Chapel
Church of England
Nonconformist
Coal Depot
Black Sea
Hunt Lia.
105
104
106
120
143
140
299
298
300
296

1866



Stanley Owen Buckmaster (1861–1934) 1st Viscount Buckmaster



Stanley Owen Buckmaster (1861–1934) 1st Viscount Buckmaster

"Our first battle began and ended in a police court. But there was a still more formidable battle preparing...