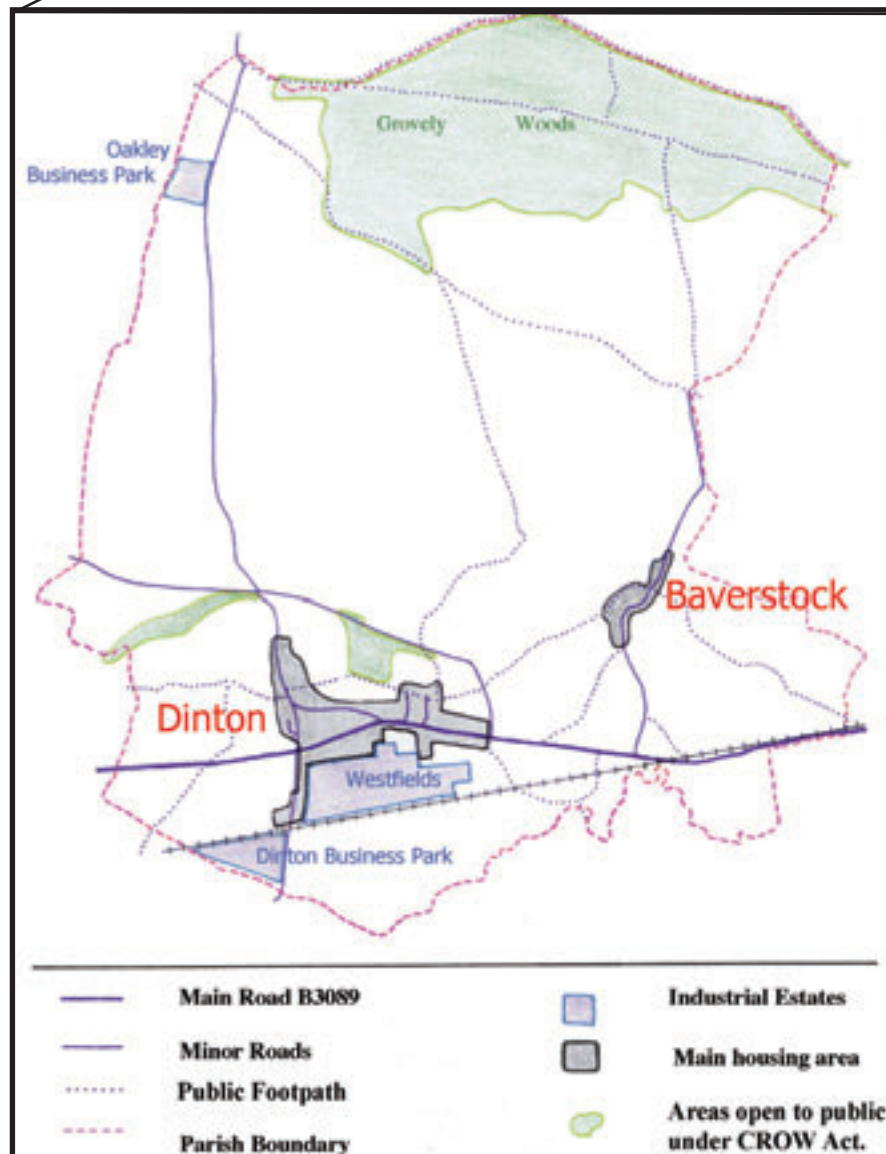


### The Parish of Dinton



# OUR PARISH

## Geography

Dinton is a small parish in the South West of Wiltshire, with a population of approximately 600, situated 9 miles west of Salisbury, in the valley of the River Nadder.

The Parish of Dinton can be divided into four distinct areas by the underlying rock strata. From north to south these are:

- Clay with flints on the high ground - covered by Grovely Wood.
- Chalk downland forms the largest area of the parish
- A narrow ridge of greensand
- The southern quarter is mainly gault clay

In the past the greensand has been quarried for building stone and the clay has been dug for brick-making.

The Parish of Dinton consists of the larger village of Dinton together with the small village of Baverstock (formally a separate parish) to the east, and a few outlying houses. It has a Parish Council of 7 councillors and is represented on Salisbury District Council by the District Councillor for Fonthill & Nadder Ward. It is also represented on Wiltshire County Council by the County Councillor for Chalke & Nadder Division. At present it comes within the Parliamentary Constituency of Salisbury, and the European Parliament Electoral Region of the South West. It also comes within the area of the South West Regional Authority.

The B3089, which passes through the centre of the village, leaves the A30 at Barford St Martin and joins the A303 to the west. It acts as a shortcut between Salisbury and the A303 and has shown a considerable increase in traffic in the last few years. It provides lorry access to industrial estates in Dinton and Tisbury. There is a minor road through the village, from Wylve in the north to Fovant in the south. This road is narrow and winding especially where it cuts through the greensand ridge to the north of the village. There is also the old turnpike road which leaves the B3089 at the eastern side of the village and climbs to the crest of the greensand ridge and follows it westwards to Teffont; this again is quite narrow.

There is a railway line running through the Parish. It was once the Southern Railway main line to Exeter and beyond but was reduced to a single line beyond Salisbury in 1966 following the Beeching Report. Dinton station also closed at the same time. The nearest stations are Tisbury - 5 miles to west or Salisbury - 9 miles to the east.





## History

Dinton has a long history. It is recorded in the Domesday Book as Domnitone, owned by the Abbess of Shaftesbury Abbey. Soon after the dissolution of the monasteries the village came into the hands of the Herbert family. William Wyndham acquired land in the village in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century and built a large house in Dinton Park. The depressed state of the rural economy during the First World War led to the Wyndham estate being sold to Bertram Philipps in 1916. The Pembroke Estate sold their land in the village in 1918 mainly to the tenants. Bertram Philipps donated Dinton House, which was to be known henceforth as Philipps House, to the National Trust in 1943 along with land, farms and cottages. The rest of the land was sold off in 1948, again mainly to the tenants.

During the Second World War, the land to the South of the B3089 was requisitioned by the Government and a large depot was built for the American Army Air Force. After the war, the depot was taken over by the Admiralty and Royal

Air Force. This depot closed down in March 1995. The wartime hangers are still there and are now used for warehousing.

The area at the north-eastern end of the Parish also became a military storage depot with munitions being hidden under the trees of Dinton Beeches and Grovely Wood. Part of this has subsequently become a small industrial estate.





## Employment

50 years ago Dinton was a mainly agricultural village with 13 dairy farms and orchards. The majority of the population was involved in agriculture and ancillary trades. Today there are only 3 working farms, none of which produce milk. There are a few sheep and cattle but the majority of the farm land is arable. The orchards have all disappeared. Today there are few agricultural workers. The industrial estates provide the main employment in the village, but the majority of those in employment travel further a field to work, mainly to Salisbury.

