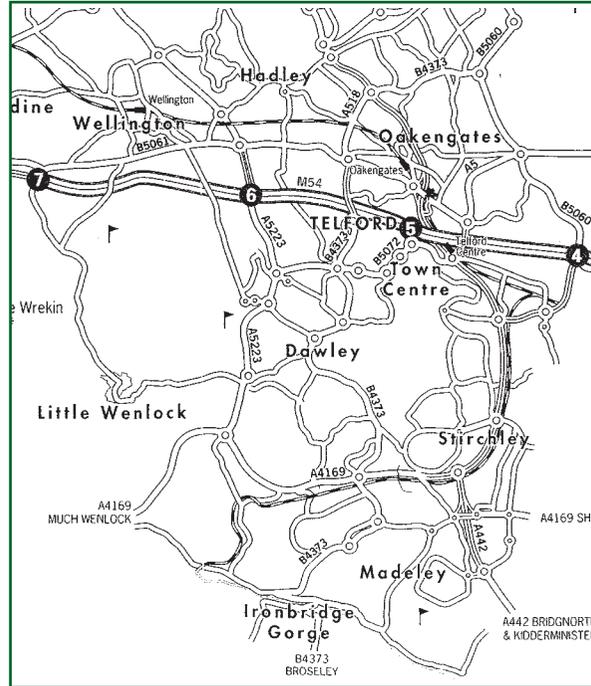
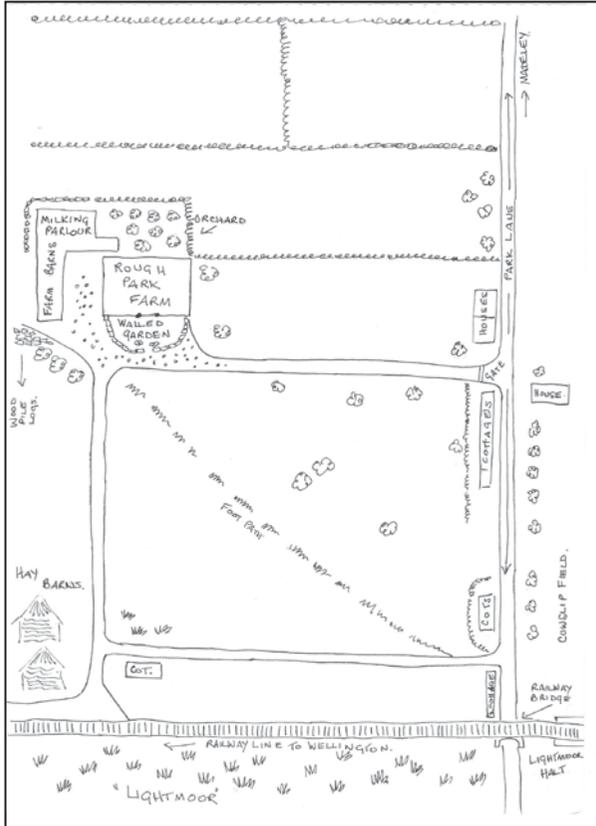


## How to get to Madeley

## Parish Places No. 2



Compiled by Jean Edwards and Shelagh Lewis  
assisted by the  
Madeley History Group.

*Sketch of Rough Park Farm during 1940s and 1950s, supplied by Shirley Nixon*



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## Rough Park Farm

May 2010

## Rough Park

Rough Park House is a detached 18th century house that is Grade II listed. It is undoubtedly on the site of an earlier building which may well date back to medieval times. The existing house is of whitewashed brick with a plain tile roof with stone-coped gable ends and brick dentil eaves. It is of single pile plan and of three storeys with three bays. The sash windows have glazing bars in segmental headed openings. There is a central Doric doorway with engaged columns and pediment and there is a large plaque above the doorway. There are brick chimney stacks over gable ends and a two-storeyed gabled wing at the rear.

Rough Park has now been vacant for a number of years and has been the target of vandals, arsonists and fly-tippers.



The property originated as a farm house at the centre of a substantial holding. As recently as the 1940s and 1950s it continued to operate as a farm with a mixed arable / cattle economy. The house, which stood high above the fields looking down towards Lightmoor and the railway line to Wellington, was cream-coloured and the pillared front entrance was an imposing feature of its approach. The front garden was bounded by a half circular wall with holly bushes at the gate. The

windows were shuttered and the entrance hall had a patterned tiled floor and a wide staircase. At the back of the house was an orchard where damsons grew as well as crab, cooking and eating apples and where hens ran free and pigs foraged. To the rear and side of the house were barns and a milking parlour. The surrounding land included farm workers' cottages as well as hay barns and cattle-feed stores.

During the 1960s Rough Park ceased to be a working farm and became a popular riding stables of which many current Madeley residents have fond memories. The riding stables closed in the early 1990s and, since then, the



property has been empty. It has changed hands several times and has been the subject of numerous planning applications none of which has been deemed suitable. In the context of Woodside,

Rough Park is the only surviving building of Georgian origin and still clearly retains many of its original features despite its derelict condition. As such its importance is greater than such a building would be if sited in an area where historic properties were commonplace.

The area known today as Rough Park incorporates the land which was attached to the original farm



and, perhaps, a slightly wider area. During the later 18th century coal mining took place in the of Rough Park area (centred on NGR SJ681050) although the mine does not seem to have been either a long-lived or a

particularly successful operation. It was probably operated by the Madeley Wood Company but this is uncertain and the date of its final demise is not recorded. However, Dr Ivor Brown\* has noted that the general area was used



as private golf course, for the management of the Coalbrookdale Company, early in the 20th century.

At present (April 2010) the future of the building still hangs in the balance.



\*Retired mining engineer and recorder of the history of mining in this area