

Public Houses



The Bell Inn, Bath Road, West Overton

There were two inns at West Overton in the 18th century both located adjacent to the two bridges into the village. The George Inn was in existence in 1736 but there is no mention of it after 1827 (WRO 490/1, WRO 778/2). The other inn was initially named the New Inn in 1814 but changed its name to the Bell Inn in 1823.

The brewing of Kennett ale seems to have taken place at East Kennet farm where a malthouse was included in the lease dated 1745. This became a small brewery that survived until 1931. It used the water from a local spring and an inn called The White Hart Inn was attached to the brewery to serve the travellers on the London to Bath coach route. Many of the buildings were destroyed by fire in 1955.

Lockeridge had two inns. The Masons Arms which closed in 1956 and the Who'd A Though It. There was an inn on the A4 at Lower Fyfield called the fighting Cocks Inn in 1811 (Kelly's 1848). It was demolished, together with the adjacent cottages and chapel, in 1933 to make way for the widening of the A4.

Source: West and East Overton. A Collection of Documents And Maps. Extracts with permission of Clive Dorling, who retains copyright.