

**A GUIDE TO SOURCES OF
INFORMATION
ON
BASINGSTOKE'S HISTORY**

Compiled by

BOB & BARBARA APPLIN

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Amendments

20/03/11

Victoria County History - Revision of the Basingstoke Hundred entry.

The working group under Dr Jean Morrin of the University of Winchester has started posting articles on the Explore web site : <http://explore.englishpastforeveryone.org.uk>. These include article on the 1851 census, education, the Massaginian Riots and St Michael's church. Additional items will be added as they become available.

The VCH site provides free access to reliable local history materials, produced by academics and volunteers. Photographs, paintings, drawings, maps, text, transcribed documents and audio files are organised thematically. Find them by clicking on a Theme title or by using the Items tab to filter the material to suit your interests. Or just click on a Theme icon or group of icons (the red VCH logo) to find Items in your locality.

Abbreviations

BAHS Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society

HA&LS Hampshire Archives & Local Studies

HBG Hants & Berks Gazette, later The Basingstoke Gazette and now The Gazette

HCC Hampshire County Council

HCMAS Hampshire County Museums and Archives Service

HFC Hampshire Field Club

HRO Hampshire Archives and Local Studies at the Hampshire Record Office

J Journal

L&SWR London & South-Western Railway

TMoB The Making of Basingstoke

Introduction

This bibliography of publications on Basingstoke's history and guide to other sources of information arose out of our editing of Eric Stokes's *The Making of Basingstoke (TMoB)*, published by BAHS in 2008. That book traces the history and development of Basingstoke from prehistory to the present day, and is recommended to anyone interested in Basingstoke's history.

The bibliography is an extensive, but not totally comprehensive, list of books and reports on local topics of historical and related relevance. Some minor booklets in the Local Studies collection of Basingstoke Discovery Centre, that do not add additional information to that contained in the references cited, have been omitted. It has been created to extend the usefulness of *TMoB* to anyone interested in Basingstoke's history. Deliberately, no references to the Civil War sieges at Basing House have been included (other than **Godwin**) – we could trace nothing that refers to the effect on Basingstoke. An earlier compendium of references by **Margaret Willoughy** (*sic*), *Bibliography of Basingstoke*, 1973, contains 162 references, including 25 to Basing House; a copy is in the Local Studies section of Basingstoke Library.

We have deliberately not extended the guide to sources to include national sources, for example The National Archives on-line catalogue, as we feel anyone researching to that degree of detail will already be fully aware of their potential.

A **.pdf** version of this document is available on request. We would be pleased to receive notice of omissions, corrections, suggestions for additions etc for future updates. Please contact us at [**bandbapplin@btinternet.com**](mailto:bandbapplin@btinternet.com)

This document will be updated as further publications are noted or information gathered. The most up-to-date version will be published on the BAHS web-site [**www.bahsoc.org.uk**](http://www.bahsoc.org.uk)

Sources of Information

The Local Studies Section of Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

The Local Studies Section has an extensive collection of local documents, maps, books and booklets, including most of those referenced below. The Local Studies catalogue is available on-line at [**www3.hants.gov.uk/library**](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library) – click on the on-line catalogue link and search using '**Basingstoke**' (over 600 entries will be produced). The *Hants & Berks Gazette* (fore-runner of *The Gazette*) and *The Gazette* are available on microfilm in the Centre. For many years, until his death in 2002, the local amateur historian Arthur Attwood contributed a weekly article to *The Gazette*. Since then Robert Brown did the same until 2009. The Monday edition of the paper has a regular feature by Richard Garfield, *Memories on Monday*. The Discovery Centre also holds copies of the *Basingstoke Review* published between 1958 and 1966 and *Expanding Basingstoke* bulletins 1967 – 1974 (also available in the Resources Room at the Willis Museum). A short-lived *Basingstoke Mail* was published

between 1973 & 1976. *Hampshire - The County Magazine*, *Hampshire Life* and *The Hampshire Chronicle* have occasional articles on Basingstoke and its surrounding area; the Discovery Centre displays the current issues of these journals. The *Basingstoke Observer* published as a free-sheet and the short-lived (2007/8) *Basingstoke Independent* are noted here for completeness.

Other newspapers

Prior to the establishment of *The Hants & Berks Gazette* in 1878, the main newspapers covering local news were *The Hampshire Chronicle*, Winchester, and *The Reading Mercury*, Reading; microfilm copies of these are not yet available on-line but are available for consultation in the respective town libraries. A short-lived *Basingstoke Standard* was published in competition to the *Hants & Berks Gazette* in the 1880s; copies from issue no.30 (January 6, 1882) are held in the British Library's newspaper collection at Colindale.

The Resources Room at The Willis Museum

This has an extensive collection of Basingstoke documents, including an unpublished manuscript copy of a history of Eastrop parish (which contains errors) and transcripts of diaries, notes and scrap books of Samuel Attwood, George Woodman, George Willis and others, as well as maps and a large collection of photographs. It also has several notes on the derivation of Basingstoke street names and Arthur Attwood's collection of photographs; these are currently (January 2011) being catalogued. A more extensive collection of photographs and a collection of 19th century Basingstoke traders' billheads are held at the Hampshire County Museum & Archives Service (HCMAS) headquarters at Chilcomb House, Winchester. HCMAS also has a fine collection of maps of Hampshire, many of which may be viewed on the Portsmouth University web-site www.envf.port.ac.uk/hantsgaz. HCMAS can be contacted at www3.hants.gov.uk, and follow the links. Normally an appointment should be made to visit Chilcomb House.

Hampshire Archives and Local Studies (HA&LS) at the Hampshire Record Office (HRO) in Winchester

HRO holds the originals of many of the Borough and Church records from the earlier centuries, as well as documents relevant to Basingstoke from private sources, including estate and other maps. Many of the documents were transcribed (and in some cases translated from the Latin) by Baigent & Millard in the late 19th century for their *A History of the Ancient Town and Manor of Basingstoke* (held in Basingstoke Library and the Willis Museum). Serious students are recommended to consult this book, which was one of the major sources of information for *TMoB* used by Eric Stokes, particularly for some of his early chapters. The HRO's catalogue can be accessed on-line at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives/catalog.htm>. A search using 'Basingstoke' will produce over 13,500 references, whilst, for example, 'Basingstoke Corporation' will refine this to 250 references. The documents referenced under the Finding codes **8M62**, **10M57**, **23M72**, **46M74** and **148M71**, in particular the last reference, contain a wealth of information. HA&LS has produced an on-line resource, **Access Hampshire Heritage**, to provide access to typical archive sources for the history of a neighbourhood at www3.hants.gov.uk/archives/ahh.htm

Each of these collections (Discovery Centre, Museum and HRO) should be searched thoroughly as they are the major sources of information and are continually updated. For example, the HRO has been given the collection of documents that Arthur Attwood had gathered over many years and which he used as the basis of his weekly *Basingstoke Gazette* articles mentioned above: **HRO 50A07**.

Other searchable sources

The *Newsletters* of BAHS and the Friends of the Willis Museum regularly contain articles on Basingstoke topics. An index to the Friends of the Willis Museum's newsletter is available in the Resources Room at the Willis Museum.

The HFC journal, *Hampshire Studies* (until 1994 *The Proceedings of The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society: Proc HFC*) and *The HFC Newsletter* carry occasional articles on the archaeology and history of the Basingstoke area. A complete run of *Proc HFC* and *Hampshire Studies* is held by Southampton University's Hartley Library. See **King, Anthony** in the alphabetical listing for cumulative indices of volumes 21 to 60 (1958 - 2005). HCMAS headquarters at Chilcomb House, Winchester also holds a set with an index to volumes 1-20.

All building developments have to have a Archaeological Assessment prepared and the County Archaeologist can require investigations to be made prior to work starting and/or a watching brief kept during any ground disturbance. Reports of these operations are deposited with the County Archaeologist. Reports on the major excavations are published in *Hampshire Studies* or other archaeological journals. The County Archaeologist should be consulted (www.hants.gov.uk and follow the links) for the references to the reports on the more recent archaeological work, for instance at Beggarwood Lane, Rooksdown, Park Prewett and Old Kempshott Lane.

The Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading has the Wallis & Steevens archive and some information on other Basingstoke companies associated with agriculture.

The Thornycroft Basingstoke factory technical archive is held by HCMAS at its Chilcomb House headquarters at Winchester; there are no staff records in this archive but Wessex Film & Sound Archive at HRO has taped interviews with former Thornycroft workers. The Thornycroft Society also holds records of the Basingstoke factory's activities. The Lansing Bagnall photographic archive is held by HCMAS at Milestones Museum, Basingstoke.

The Basingstoke entry in *Hampshire Treasures*, noted in the alphabetical list, published in 1979, contains, amongst other data, a comprehensive listing of the then-known archaeological sites and reported finds and a list of 'Buildings, Monuments and Engineering Works' that were considered worthy of recording. Each entry gives an Ordnance Survey Grid Reference, where known, and a brief description of the subject.

The *Victoria County History*, Hampshire, vol IV, 1911, (available in the Discovery Centre) has a major section on Basingstoke in the chapter for the Basingstoke Hundred; it draws heavily on the information in Baigent & Millard's *A History of the Ancient Town and Manor of Basingstoke* and provides an authoritative summary of the history of Basingstoke as understood in the first decade of the 20th century. It is currently being revised. During the revision, the input documents and data will be placed on the VCH web site, www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk, as they become available.

A website at www.hantsphere.org.uk, run by Hants Library and Information Service, gives sources of Hampshire information and photographs. A search using 'Basingstoke' will produce over 200 images and over 900 text entries – many not on Basingstoke itself, but on the surrounding area and many not of relevance to a student of the history of Basingstoke. It is nevertheless a worthwhile source to interrogate.

An additional website, www.visionofbritain.org.uk, has information on Basingstoke between 1801 and 2001, including maps, historical description and statistical trends from the censuses; however it is a commercial site and some information has to be paid for.

The Basingstoke Talking History project (a joint BAHS and Willis Museum project) is recording recollections of residents, covering the inter-war period to the recent past. A particularly important series of interviews with medical professionals covers the evolution of medical practice before and since the introduction of the NHS and up to the present day. This ongoing collection, with synopses and transcriptions of the interviews, is available for consultation in the Willis Museum's Resources Room. The master recordings are deposited with the Wessex Film and Sound Archive at HRO.

An internet search using “**Basingstoke history**” will produce, apart from various societies’ and official sites, sites posted by individuals containing summaries of Basingstoke’s history. The information carried by these personal sites is often copied from the **Wikipedia** site, <http://wikipedia.org.uk/wiki/basingstoke#history> The detail and quality of these extracts is variable and the information should be verified for accuracy before being repeated.

The national census input data for the 1841 to 1911 censuses are available on-line from several commercial sources, eg **Ancestry** (1841 – 1901) and **FindMyPast** (1841 – 1911) which allow a restricted amount of free use. Copies of these censuses (to 1901) may be consulted at HRO and may be copied for a per page fee. The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council’s web-site www.basingstoke.gov.uk has a detailed analysis of the 2001 census for the Borough, broken down by electoral ward.

Portsmouth University has digitised the majority of the early maps of Hampshire from the late 16th century onwards. Basingstoke is shown, not always accurately, in relation the surrounding towns. The maps can be viewed at www.envf.port.ac.uk/hantgaz

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(Ed) indicates that the entry is an edited collection of work.

We make no claims for the quality or accuracy of the material cited.

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The HRO's Hampshire Photographic Project has digitised over 10,000 Hampshire photographs, including many from the Basingstoke area; these are available for viewing on the internet.

On-line catalogues to both of the above are at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives/catalog.htm>

Robert Brown has extensive collections of photographs of Basingstoke and Basingstoke events taken over the last 50+ years and of information used as source material for his books and articles. He is preparing a list of his articles published in *The Basingstoke Standard (March 1984 – July 1987)*, *Hampshire - The County Magazine*, *The Gazette (1998-2009)*, *The Reading Evening Post (1977 - 1978)*, *The Southern Evening Echo (1961 – 1985)*. A copy of the list will be given to Basingstoke Discovery Centre and the Willis Museum. He has contributed photographs and articles to nine books since 1963 in addition to his books noted in the bibliography. He can be contacted at **43 Doswell Way, Basingstoke, RG21 5HH**.

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