

COACHING WALL

On the south side of the High Street stands a high flint wall around 90 feet long. This is a 250 year old, grade 2 listed coaching wall, one of only two in West Sussex. The wall was originally 8 feet high but a further 3 feet was added in 1850 to prevent people who were passing by on stage-coaches from being able to see into the garden behind the wall! At the time the road through Beeding was part of the coaching route from London. As the road along the valley to Shoreham was not yet built, stage-coaches had to go through the village and up the Bostal Road to the junction at the top. Here they could either turn right for Shoreham via Mill Hill, or go straight ahead for Brighton. It is hard to imagine a fully-laden stage-coach making it up the Bostal Rd. in all weathers, so perhaps the passengers had to get out and walk up the hill.

In 1997 a 40ft section of the wall, belonging to Pond Farm House, had to be demolished and rebuilt at great expense after it was declared unsafe by Horsham District Council. This shows the importance of conserving the wall as part of our history.

Pat Nightingale, Jan. 2006.



Photograph by Pat Nightingale, March 2000

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When two new houses were built behind this wall in 2007-8 (now called "Hole-in-the-Wall Cottages") the builders were not permitted to knock any part of the wall down to gain access, therefore all materials had to be craned in over the wall, or taken through the small gate.