

## 9. Osmington – Discovering the Ridgeway

03.05.18



Emmie's Cottage and the Coach House drawing by John Wykes extract from [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com)

### Key Features

Osmington is a well-preserved village with stone cottages, narrow lanes and a rich landscape quality. Carved into the chalk hillside to the north is a figure of George III on horseback, the most prominent backdrop visible from the main road and public footpaths.

The parish is divided into two parts by Upton Brook and the A353 with the historic core and St Osmunds lying at its centre flanked by the remnants of many farms interspersed between houses, White Horse Farm, Court Farm, Charity Farm, Netherton Farm, Hills Farm, East Farm, West End Farm and Hall Farm.

The building stock is of high quality, with two Grade II\* buildings, 3 significant gentry houses, Osmington House, The White House and The Old Rectory, vernacular cottages and unlisted Victorian buildings with group value.



The Forge Barn and Longhouse

Properties are arranged along the back of footpath along the main road and Church Lane which leads downhill to a junction with West End Lane and wraps back along Village Street to Chapel Lane emerging on the roadside opposite East Farm House. The Parish Church is sited on higher ground to the west with a backdrop of the ruins of the Tudor Manor house.

There are substantial stone boundary walls linking and enhancing groups of buildings including the wall at the end of the pub garden and lining the path between the two lanes between the former Methodist Chapel and 1897 lych gate.



Entrance to the Vicarage, the lych gate and former pub garden

## Origins and Settlement Pattern

In the mid C10 King Athelstan gave the village of Osmington to the Abbey of Milton. Milton Abbey owned Osmington for the next 500 years until the Dissolution of the Monasteries when Elizabeth I gave the village to Sir John Ashley. She gave the farm in Osmington to George Watkins which passed through various owners until at the beginning of the C18 when Awncsham Churchill a bookseller and MP acquired a large area of land in Osmington, Ringstead and Poxwell.

Osmington passed through the Churchill family and subsequently bought by Robert Serrell Wood in 1745 who maintained the land through 3 generations and one of his grandsons, Edward Atkyns Wood demolished the former manor house and built Osmington House in 1857 in a more private location above the village on Roman Road.

The elder grandson Robert Serrell Wood, according to the tithe apportionment of 1839 owned a third of the land at that time and the other major land owners included Lady Jane St John Mildmay.

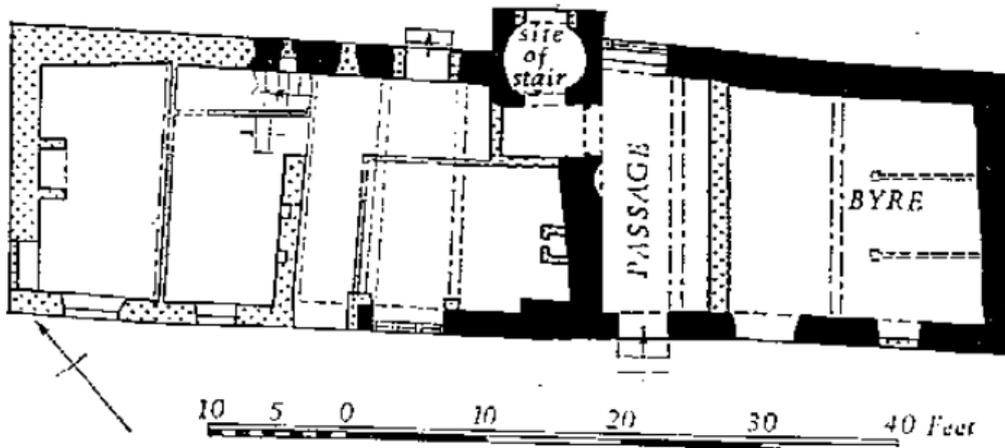
The tithe map of Osmington, Dorset shows buildings, field gates, sand or stone pits, hill-drawing, footpaths and/or bridleway, bridges and coastline. In one field there is a sketch of a man on a horse [White Horse chalk figure].



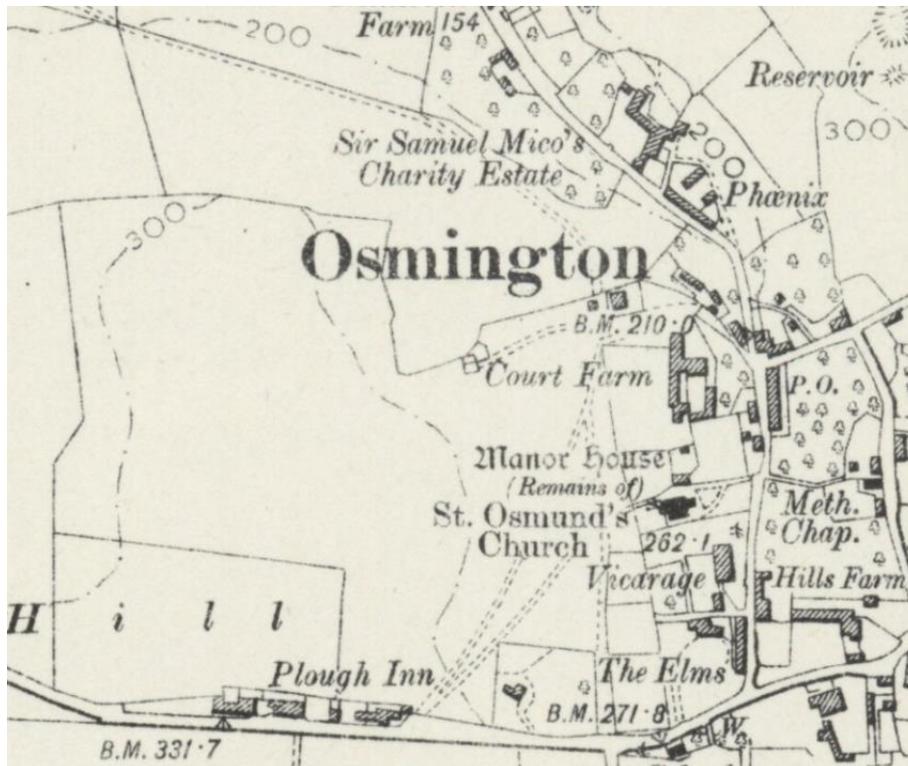
Tithe Map of 1839

## Listed Buildings

There are 16 listed buildings in the village, two are Grade II\* entries including the Parish Church of squared local rubble and Hamstone dressings of 1170 origins, mostly rebuilt in 1846 by Benjamin Ferrey. The second high-status house is The Longhouse (Charity Farm) & Attached Forge at the north end, a long house, familiar from Devon, late C16, purchased in 1665 by the Corporation of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis with a bequest from Sir Samuel Mico, who intended the rent to be devoted to the preaching of an annual sermon in St Mary's Weymouth, and to the relief of the poor (J Hutchins, History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset II). It is a long house with dwelling and byre under one roof but party reconstructed and much altered.



Plan of Charity Farm listed Grade II\* now renamed as The Longhouse



Extract from 1942 Map

A circular tour of the village at the southern end of Church Lane takes in the following buildings of special architectural and historic interest:



The White House, The Old Vicarage.

The White House formerly The Elms was built in 1830, with two full height bow windows quite unlike the shallow window bows of Weymouth.

The Old Vicarage, two storey plus attic with rubble walls is mostly rendered with stucco and a slate covered roof and it was restored in 1819. John Constable RA, romantic landscape painter, stayed here in 1816.



The Church is dedicated to St Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury and founder of the first Cathedral in the C11.

The remains of the C16 Osmington Manor, two storeys and of squared rubble, ruinous and has no roof. There are two Grade II listed entries are monuments in the churchyard.



Buttress Cottage C18, The Post Office and Shrubbery Cottage 1783 thatched 1800 and Stone Lane Cottage early C18 or earlier.



Nutmeg Cottage, Wessex Cottage mid C18 and Jasmine Cottage C17 formerly two cottages.



The West Wing, Osmington House mid C19.

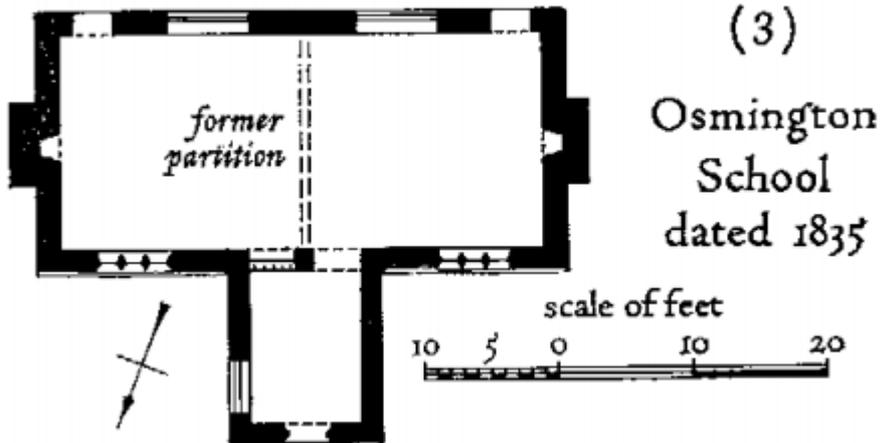


The Phoenix and East Farm House (1697).

## Summary of Other Quality Buildings

The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments refers to many of the unlisted buildings of one storey and attics with wall of rubble and thatched roofs and they are of the later C18 or early C19 century.

The Old School is rendered and tiled roof dated 1835. It is Tudor in style and has a large porch with outer doorway leading to two classrooms – now a private house with external projecting chimney stack on both gables ends.



The Finches, Emmie's Cottage and The Coach House, Lytch Gate Cottage.



Thatched bus shelter with 1935 silver jubilee bench, commemorative stone to David Parry- Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Rifle Brigade, killed in action in France 3 August 1944, The former Village School.



Charity Farm House, Cart Shed and Shell Cottage.



Rose Cottage, The Old Chapel on Chapel Lane.



Good examples of ironmongery.



The Well and pump on Church Lane.

There is WW2 archaeology in Osmington, June 6th is a well-known date amongst historians for it was this day in 1944 that the D-Day troops left Weymouth to fight in France. Osmington played its part in the operation providing a strategic home to Canadian troops at Osmington house on Old Roman Road in the lead up to D-Day.

Today evidence of their occupation is still visible from the bridleway, the Canadian's air raid shelter is still standing on the opposite side of Roman road from Osmington house just over the hedge.

## Key Views



View of Osmington House from the churchyard.

The varying topography, particularly the dramatically undulating main road and higher ground to the west and east of the core provides views over parts of the village. Strip Lynchets on south facing slopes of Hillside at West Ringstead. East Farm and The Sunray Pub are minor landmarks.

### **Palette of Materials**

The stone used in buildings in Osmington is Portland worked as ashlar and rubble, boundary walling and provides a consistent silver grey colour to the buildings with some render and local brown brick, thatch and slate roofs. Stone eaves courses can be seen on some slate roofs.

Local building traditions have bequeathed some details, notably stone mullioned windows, wooden casements and vertical sashes.