

ROBERT EXCELL HERITAGE AWARD 2025

JOINT COMMENDATION AWARD OF £250

Awarded to:
Terry Smith of
**North Crawley Historical
Society**
for Local Heritage Signage



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MKHA Milton Keynes
Heritage Association

EXCELL HERITAGE AWARD 2025

The Awards are given annually, in remembrance of our late Chair, Robert Excell, to highlight the best work completed by a heritage organisation, society, or individual over the past year.

The Joint Commendation Award of £250 is made to North Crawley Historical Society, to be used to fund further local heritage work.

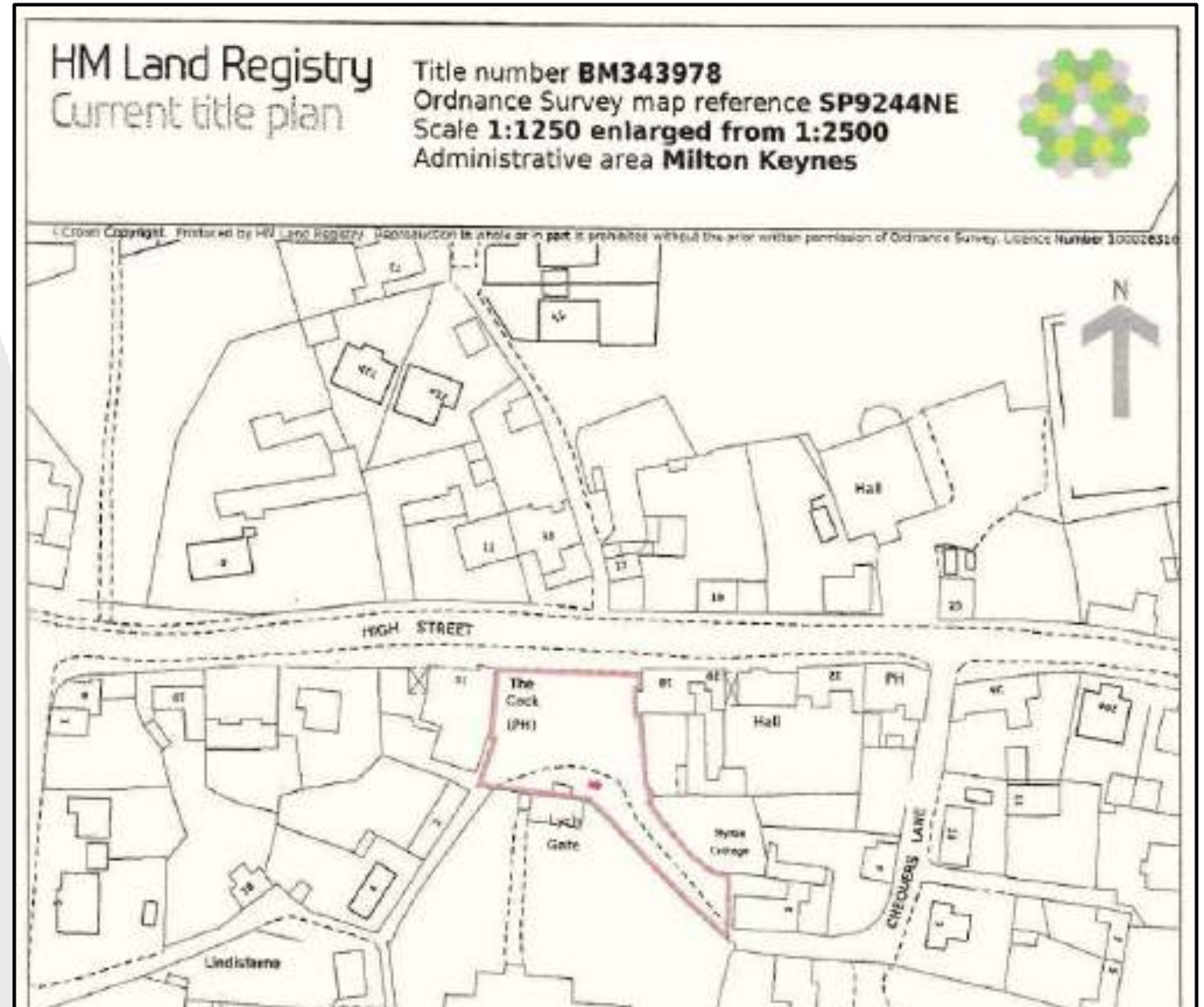
Citation – the judges were impressed by the partnership working to produce heritage signage for the benefit of all visitors to the village.

Award presented by Bill Griffiths - June 19th 2025, at Bradwell Common Community Centre



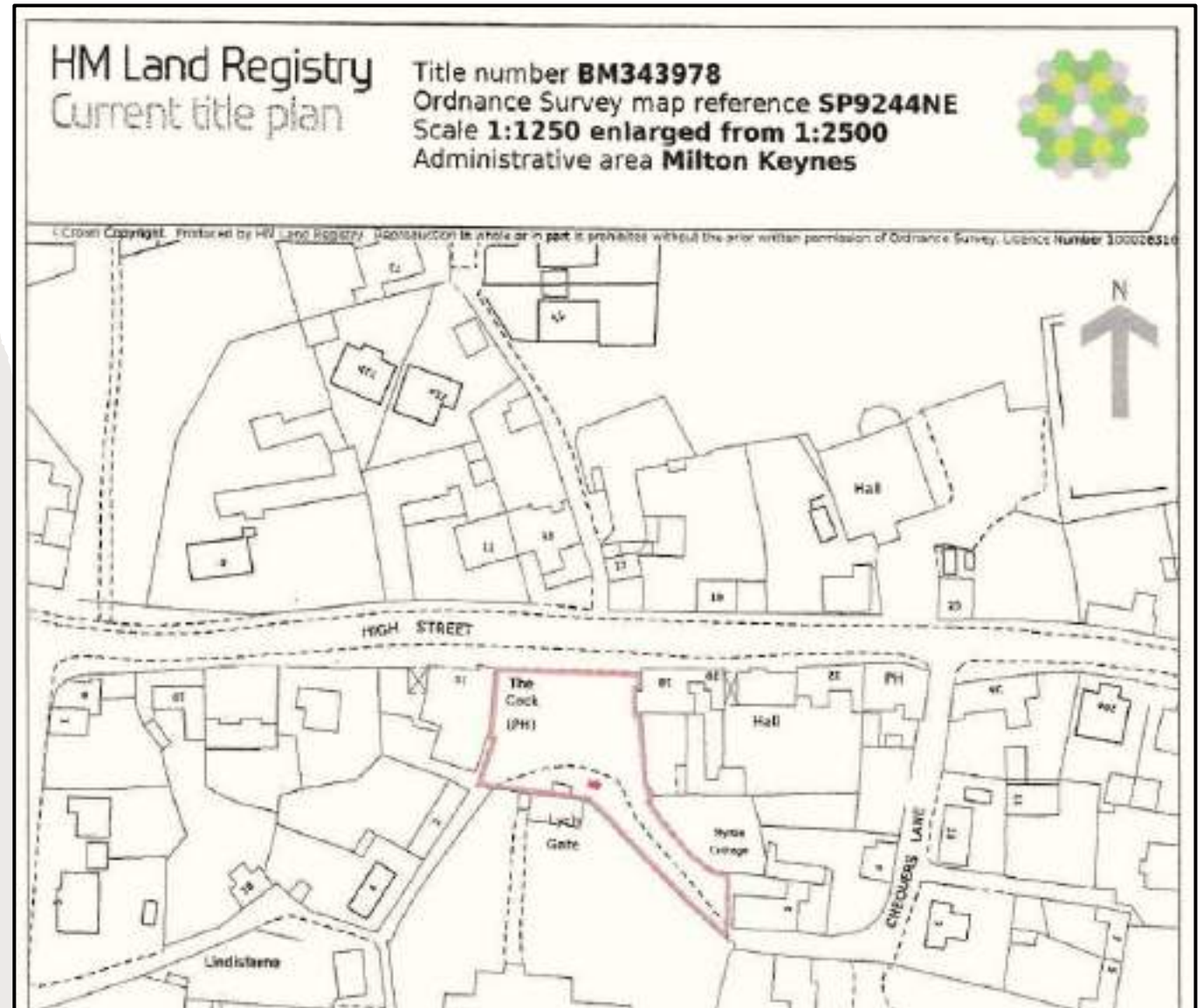


What to do with a bit of waste ground?





Historic association with old name 'Waste Ground' might be lost



North Crawley Historical Society



North Crawley Parish Council

Co-operative working

Decided on historic sign to coincide with the 250th Anniversary of the Enclosure of North Crawley in 1773but

- Neither Society or Parish Council had funds

North Crawley Historical Society



North Crawley Parish Council

Decided on historic sign to coincide with the 250th Anniversary of the Enclosure of North Crawley in 1773but

- Neither Society or Parish Council had funds
- Applied to MKHA and awarded £750 grant but still insufficient but....
- Council VAT registered and able to leverage costs + volunteer labour



Terry Smith



**THERE ARE ALWAYS
“WAYS AND MEANS” !**

North Crawley Historical Society



North Crawley Parish Council

Re-use of previous artwork

(Copyright generously donated by
the original artist)

Terry Smith



North Crawley Historical Society



North Crawley Parish Council

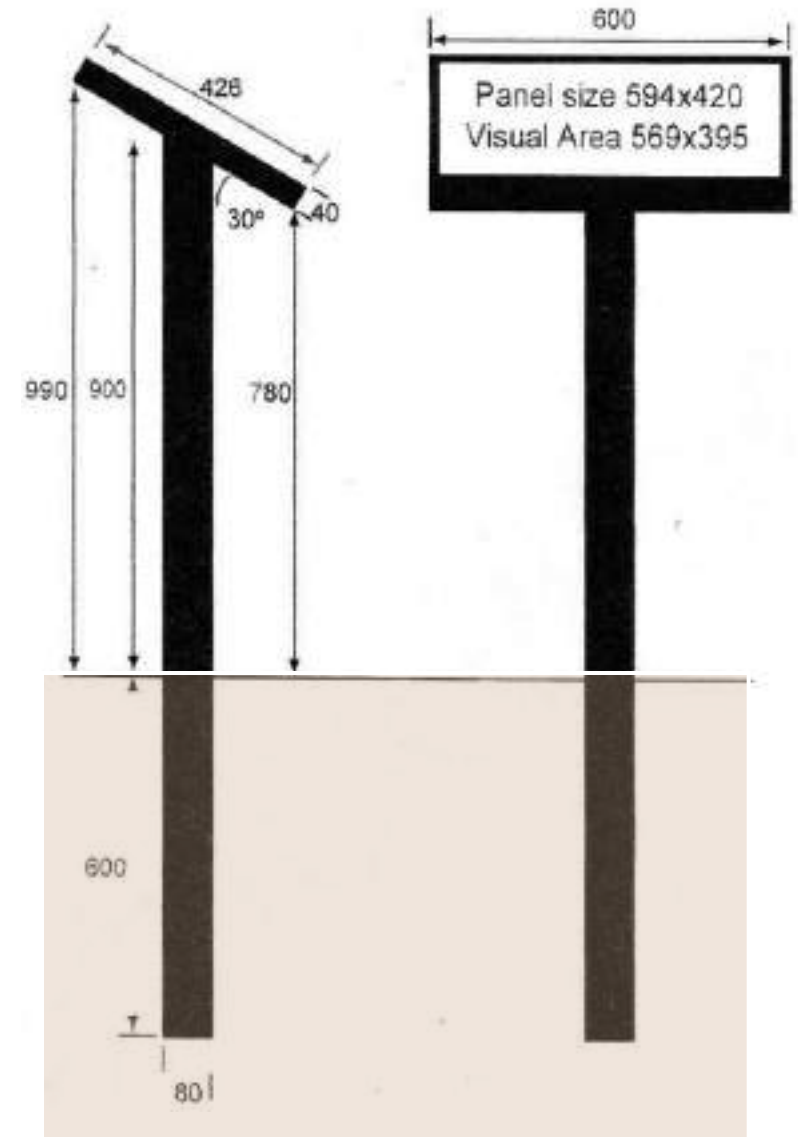
Materials at cost and volunteer labour to erect sign but.....
additional costs of planning permission
'to erect an advertising sign' had to be covered

Stand Cost	£1065
Planning charge	£ 342
Sundry materials	£ 20

Total £1427

FitzpatrickWoolmer

Structure Type : Musketeer (modern)
Material : Steel
Size : A2 (single leg)



New text clearly identifies the history of the patch of land clearly as 'The Waste Ground'

"THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF NORTH CRAWLEY"



The settlement in what is now North Crawley predates the Norman Conquest. In the Domesday Book dated 1086, the village consisted of several hamlets - Herolfmede, Herulfmede and Herouldmede - all linked to Hardmead.

In medieval times, villagers had strips of land on three large open fields farmed in rotation - cereals, roots, and fallow. The Manors had demesne (owners) land attached and pockets left over were called "Waste Ground" where the poorest of inhabitants could grow food. This site in which you are standing, still known as the Waste Ground, was also part of an older burial ground where human remains have been found. This square was used as a pound for cattle or sheep being driven to and from markets and the men could lodge overnight. The Waste Ground is now in village ownership.



St. Firmin's church is one of only three churches in Buckinghamshire mentioned in the Domesday Book.

With your back to the church lych gate on the left is The Cock (probably 18th century). Across the road, with the redbrick front and gable, was The Castle public house which has internal features dating from 16th century, but with new fronts.



The Cock hosted the last Manorial Court held by the Earl of Exeter and The Castle hosted other Manorial Court meetings. In 1772, parliament ended the three-field system in North Crawley after some 800 years and the enclosure award of 1773 allocated land to individual villagers according to their open field plot holdings.

The War Memorial was erected in 1920 by public subscription. The house with the large stone chimney on the right (Charity Cottage) was once part of a pair of "Feoffee" houses held in trust as a type of alms house.



North Crawley Historical Society



The board describes the historic centre of North Crawley and the surrounding buildings of the 'Waste Ground'



North Crawley Historical Society

Historical Society
Chairman John
Brandon gave a
short speech before
Christine Stapleton
the NCHS Secretary
unveiled the project

