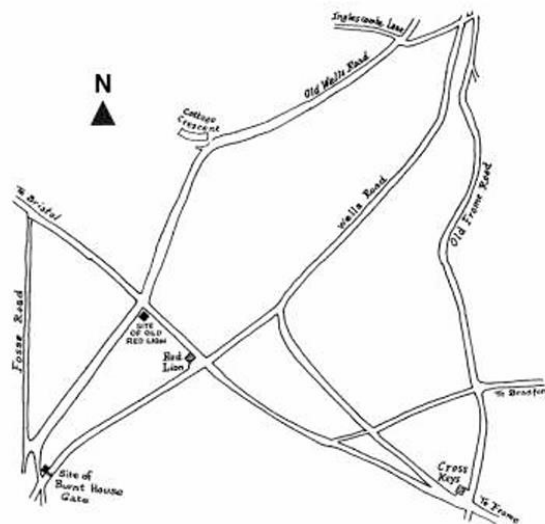


THE RED LION, ODD DOWN



Site of the Old Red Lion on Odd Down, showing the new site on the Wells Road.

The present “Red Lion”, by the roundabout on Odd Down, at the present Frome Road/Wellsway junction, was moved from its old site after Macadam had laid out the new part of the turnpike route to Wells in the 1820s (cf. Thorpe’s Survey of a 5-mile radius of Bath, 1742, and the Lyncombe & Widcombe Tithe map, 1839). The corner site of the old “Red Lion” is now marked by the Odd Down Pharmacy, with its modern frontage built onto a much older structure (possibly part of the old “Red Lion” premises), standing on the south-eastern side of the junction of Frome Road with the “Old Wells Road” (now Upper Bloomfield Road). The whole length of the present Bloomfield Road and Holloway, although an ancient route, is not to be confused (as it, and the present Wells Road from Odd Down to the Bear Flat, often have been) with the Roman Fosseway from Wells, which almost certainly turned at Odd Down along the line of the Saxon boundary of Lyncombe (still partly represented by the present Old Fosse Road there) to reach the river in the vicinity of the present Victoria Bridge, nearly half a mile west of the old walled city of Bath.



Site of Old Red Lion - looking west.

The modern structure of Odd Down Pharmacy has been built on to what is possibly part of the Old Red Lion Inn. The road in the foreground is simply a side road leading from Frome Road into the former Old Red Lion Quarry. Upper Bloomfield Road runs across the direction of focus beyond the car parked on the wide pavement in front of the premises. Part of the Co-op can be seen at Noad’s corner on the opposite side of Bloomfield Road.