

From "*Annals of Bath from the Year 1800 To the Passing of The New Municipal Act*" by R Mainwaring §:

"On the night of 8th July [1828], an alarming and destructive inundation occurred, occasioned by a tremendous fall of rain, so sudden and powerful, that it appeared as if a huge water-spout had burst over the city, accompanied by thunder and extremely vivid lightening, and which continued, without intermission, for many hours. The consequences to the parish of Widcombe were peculiarly fatal and destructive. An immense body of water, collected in a reservoir behind a mill contiguous to Widcombe-house, forced a high artificial bank formed at the end, and burst forth with fearful rapidity, spreading destruction on every side, lofty trees were torn up by the roots, and the rushing of water resembled that of a mighty cataract. The affrighted inhabitants of the adjoining dwellings hurried to their upper stories, the lower part being instantly filled to the depth of several feet. Indeed, it was almost miraculous that the mill itself was not washed away."

The (Bath) *Mayor's Guide Newsletter* No. 28 Nov 1986 p61 refers to the flood and the source of the flooding:

"... On the opposite side of the road (Lyncombe Vale) was a reservoir serving the razor mill which occupied the site of the present Citroen Motors. The retaining wall gave way in 1828 causing severe flooding and damage."

The garage subsequently became an Audi one and is currently unoccupied.



From the family of William Bendall (1778-1837), who had a mill in Claverton Street and a house in Carriage Road called Widcombe Mill Cottage ¶:

Memorandum made the 6th day of November 1840 to certify that we the undersigned have compared the enclosed with the original and know it to be a true and correct Copy thereof.

The registration was made in the family Bible in our Father's own handwriting.

From a Flood which overwhelmed Widcombe Mill Cottage, Bath, the 8th July 1828 the Bible itself was so delapidated as to induce its being sold and the original of the enclosed was extracted from the end, which was written half on the back of the last chapter of Revelations and half on the fly-leaf of the Bible.

The document is now in the possession of Mrs. Harriett Sheppard (the 2nd daughter) of No. 8 Dorchester St. Bath.

HARRIETT SHEPPARD
ELIZABETH HIBBARD

MERCY HIBBARD
ALFRED BENDALL

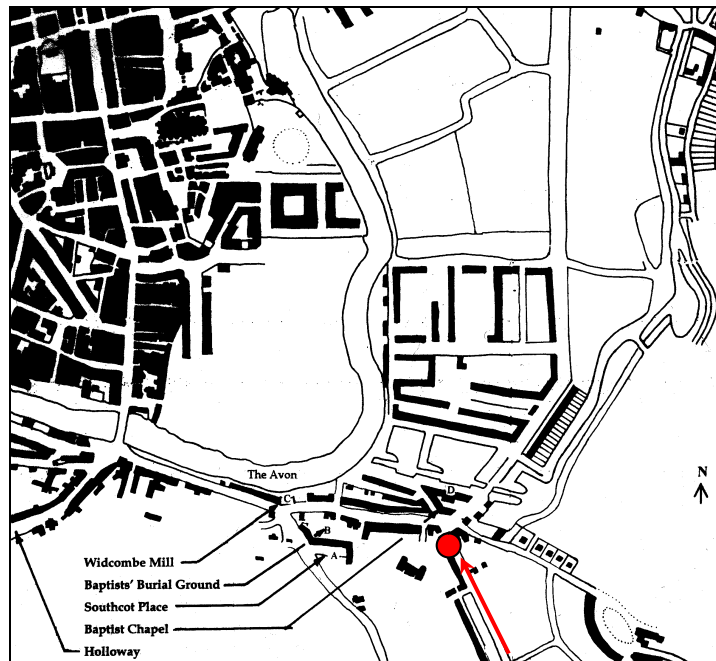
§ a copy is available at Bath Library

¶ Visitation of England and Wales Vol 12, 1917, p 5

The mud and water went down Prior Park Road. On the side of the White Hart was a plaque indicating how far up the mound reached; the location is shown by the arrow:



The plaque was removed in the 1980s, was inside the building for a time but its whereabouts now are unknown.



Sketch map of Widcombe and the surrounding area from an early 19th century map.

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