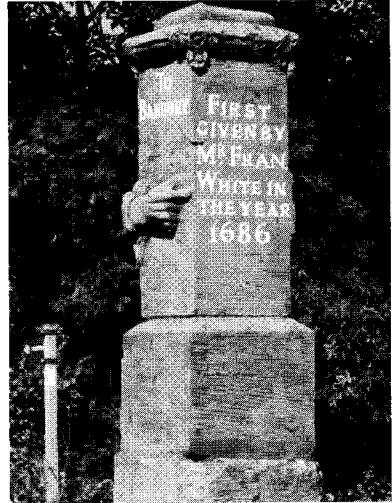


amalgamated into enclosed fields. The Enclosure Act also defined the course and width of public roads, and you can see that the Balscote road shown on the previous map has been relegated to what is referred to as a “Foot Way” (under “209”). The position of the Guide Post, offset from the modern road junction, may be explained by its respect for the pre-Enclosure Balscote road.



*The Inscription on the Guide Post says “First Given by Mr. Fran[cis] White in the Year 1686”.*

Francis White of Wroxton is a rather obscure figure. There is a reference to him as steward to Lord North of Wroxton Abbey in 1680, among the North family papers in the Bodleian Library [MS North adds. b.7]. In Trinity College archives he appears as “Francis White of Wroxton, Gent.”, co-lessor of Wroxton Abbey (with Sir Dudley North) in a lease of 1684, and again in leases of 1688 and 1692. Oxfordshire Record Office has little on him, but his name does appear in the Oxfordshire Quarter Sessions index. He was a signatory to two petitions by the inhabitants of Wroxton, in 1689 and 1690, against one John Lucas, a silk weaver, and Richard Hedges, a labourer, who are described as “nightwalkers, robbers of hen roosts, eavesdroppers and violent”. John Lucas was further alleged to have “committed divers evils and disorderly acts within our liberties”. The 1689 petition asks that “this honourable Court do take some order with said Lucas so to secure us from his evil doings”. In other words, a seventeenth century ‘ASBO’.