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This volume covers a dozen parishes straddling the south-west end of the Chiltern hills close to Reading, Wallingford, and Henley, contained within a large southward loop of the Thames. Most began as 'strip parishes' stretching from the river onto the Chiltern uplands, and remain largely rural, though from the 19th century Caversham became a densely settled suburb of Reading across the river, while Sonning Common is now one of Oxfordshire's most populous non-urban centres. Gentrification and tourism gained momentum after the arrival of the railway from 1840, especially affecting riverside villages such as Goring and Shiplake. Settlement and buildings, farming and woodland, and social and religious history are all explored in depth within a systematic framework. Contains 117 b/w maps and illustrations; 8 colour plates; 509 + xvi pp.



Places covered: Caversham (with Kidmore End); Checkendon; Crowmarsh Gifford; Eye and Dunsden (with Sonning Common); Goring; Ipsden (with Stoke Row); Mapledurham; Mongewell; Newnham Murren; North Stoke; Shiplake (with Binfield Heath); Whitchurch.



The Victoria County History

Based in the Institute of Historical Research in the University of London, the VCH (founded in 1899 and dedicated to Queen Victoria) is systematically creating an encyclopaedic history of England's places and people from the earliest times to the present day, county by county. Its unique parish histories, published in the famous 'big red books', draw on intensive archival research and first-hand fieldwork. To find out more visit www.history.ac.uk/research/victoria-county-history.