

# NOW and THEN

## Gravel Lane, Ringwood



Early 20th Century

**G**ravel Lane was once also known as The Drove or Love Lane, according to Dr Little, a well-known doctor and local historian. In past centuries it was part of the drove way for driving animals from the New Forest into Ringwood. Drivers and their animals would continue over the diagonal path across the Furlong (now the main car park), down the narrow part of Meeting House Lane into the Market Place, especially on Market Day.

When the new A31 bypass was built in the 1970s, Gravel Lane was cut into two parts joined by a subway. The early 20th century photo shows the part of Gravel Lane nearest to the town, which is still recognisable today. This part remains

an attractive path retaining much of its past rural appearance.

On the right of the old photograph are the grounds of the Manor House.

In the early 1960s neo-Georgian style houses were built here fronting onto Gravel Lane; this part is now renamed Linden Gardens. On the left of the old photograph is the fence of the gardens of the Elms, a large house which was demolished when the new roundabout and Mansfield Road were constructed in the

1970s. The remaining piece of this ground is now Dr Little's Gardens. Note that the traditional lamppost has been replaced by a modern one of far less attractive design, although it is hidden by trees during the summer months.



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