

There have been some occasions when there has been confusion about exact locations in the village, especially with reference to road works and planning applications.

Only the roads in Corscombe village (for about 140 houses) will be considered at this stage.

national highways numbering

OS maps

electoral register

censuses

postal addresses

Google and web information

local knowledge/tradition + Corscombe Village Housefinder map

[illegible]

Dorset CC 2005

ROAD NAME SIGNAGE

The village is a designated 30mph area and is so signed.

There are two CORSCOMBE signs, both on the C37 at north and south entries to the built up area. There is no name board at the west end approaches.

There are HIGH STREET signs at each end.

Other roads signed are Hackney Hill and Norwood Lane.

The small cul-de-sac developments of the 1970/80s are signed. From west to east:

- Linhay Lodges
- The Barton
- Barrow Lane
- Yew Tree Farm
(Pine Close)
- Woodfold View
- Church Farm
- Court Close
- Chafyn Grove

Some unsigned roads have generally accepted names:

- Pound(s) Hill – from the Fox Inn to Benville;
- Court Lane – short cut from C37 to High Street;
- Lovelands and Ryewater Lane from High Street/Hackney Hill

junction;

- Weston Lane to Weston from Lovelands;
- possibly* Ford (Glen) Lane – from C37 at the church to Catsley.

Common Lane is an unpaved track from Corscombe to Halstock. The southern section has two branches to the High Street. The eastern leg has no houses but is sometimes referred to as Brickyard Lane recalling the 19th century brickworks, now vanished. The western leg, which joins the eastern leg at Farmers End (previously a settlement) is now variously called Farmers End Lane or, puzzlingly, Cross Lane.

High Street and Fudge Hill.

Corscombe from early times was described with “its main street climbing up the steep hillside” that is from Court (the administrative centre of the parish till 16th century) to the church. It is still so described on Visit Dorset online. The road at right angles to this going west was a string of farms, smallholdings and cottages on a west Dorset route east-west on the north of the downs. High Street is a 20th century naming. Before this parts of the road were called ‘the Street’ or ‘Corscombe street’. The whole area was included under Court in early censuses and ‘the village’ by 1901.

Now High Street is agreed and signed as running from Lower Farm to the C37.

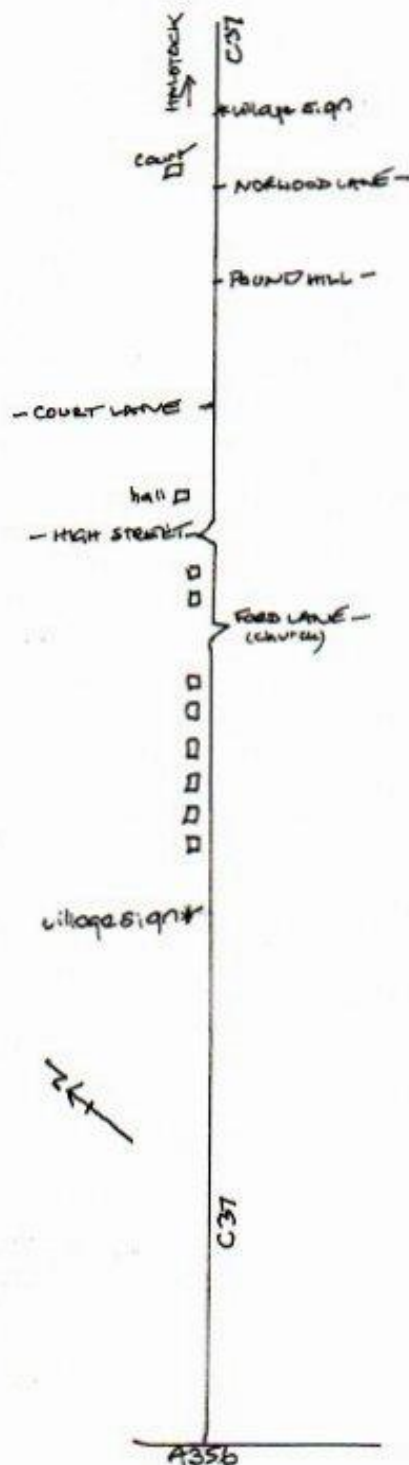
Fudge Hill is named after the Fudge family who lived and traded by the stream and had a sawmill mid 18th to 19th century. The hill strictly is between the stream at Down Cottage and Pines/Pope's Cottage. Beyond this the road is flat. However Google have extended the name to include extension to the C37. This has caused some confusion.

So, Fudge Hill is part of the High Street. It is separated in the electoral register. Does it need signing? Or can it stay in folk memory?

THE C37, COURT HILL AND SLEIGHT(S) HILL

The C37 is the road running from the A356 through east Corscombe and Halstock to the A37 Dorchester-Yeovil road. South of Halstock it is known as the Corscombe road; north of Corscombe it is known Halstock Road but is unsigned.

The naming of the portion between Court and the A356 is extremely muddled.



The whole length between Court and A356 is called Court Hill by Google.

In local use **Court Hill** goes from Court/the Fox either to High Street junction or Church junction; from either of these junctions to the top of the hill is locally called **Sleight(s) Hill** – and the whole of the top length to the A356, Sleights.

Sleights, village in N Yorks – “level fields” from old Norse sletta= a smooth level field

The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place Names ed Watts CUP 2004

Sleight, Dorset (Sleyte 1327) - from Old English ‘a sheep pasture’

Discover Dorset Place Names, A. D. Mills, Dovecot Press 2008

So, logically, the name Sleights should be reserved for the upper level section; Sleight Hill for the actual incline up to it.

In fact older residents say Sleights only referred to the top section “above the gate” (up to about 1960 the fields on the downs were unfenced and there was a gate across the road into the village where the Corscombe sign is now).

The name Sleights (Hill) is used indiscriminately by agencies. Does this need standardising/agreement/signage??

Are more signs needed? Who might they help? Action? or OK as is?!

FH 07072026

Appendix:

BOOBS

Highways called a site meeting at 'Oak Lane' to discuss placing of signs on southern approach to village. Oak Lane runs from Catsley to Benville.

Planning application for Lombards originally described as 'Oak Lane, unnamed road to A356'; subsequently 'Slight Hill' (sic)

Road works 'Fudge Hill' actually High Street by pumping station/Woodfold View.

Roadworks at 'Curry Hole Lane' – actually on the road by Corscombe mill. Curry Hole Lane was "the nearest named road to the works site". It is in fact a muddy untarmacked track across fields. On advice this was changed to 'Halstock road' and then to C37.

Roadworks on Ryewater Lane: diversion advised along Common Lane. Totally unsuitable mud lane!

The Corscombe Open Gardens guide 11 July names the whole road south of the Fox as Court Hill

Dorset County Officer writes: "You mentioned the (currently) unnamed street is known locally as Sleights Hill. **We have no record of this name in our database**; however the street could officially be named this if the Parish Council and the property owners were in agreement that it should be the name (this would be for the whole stretch from the A356 to the Ford Lane/Court Hill junction".