

Downton Agricultural College

Founded 1880 , maybe previous year, in N.Charford

Principal, Professor Wrightson, followed by his son.

One of two wellknown such colleges in England but eventually gave way to others as the land available was not adequate for expansion.

In 1884 a major train crash took place on the edge of the property where the rail track was near the river. The staff and students rushed to the scene and helped rescue passengers, even so five people died, two or three from drowning. As a mark of their appreciation the rail company gave the college a large silver cup...known now as The Wrightson Cup.

The college closed in 1906 and the building is now in private hands.

The Cup was passed down to Prof. Wrightson's grandson and his widow (who died three years ago) bequeathed it to the Downton Society. It is now on permanent loan to the Trafalgar School and is awarded ,each year, to a student who has in some way done something special.

The present owner of N.Charford Farm is Mr Peter Harding and he would have more extensive information.

<u>GRAVEL CLOSE</u>	EAST SIDE (from junction with Marie Avenue)
<u>GREEN LANE</u>	Cedar House
<u>GREENACRES</u>	Stanbury View
<u>HAMILTON PARK</u>	Former occupiers: Hedley John Weeks (1950s-1960s).
<u>THE HEADLANDS</u>	School House
<u>HIGH STREET</u>	Trafalgar School for Downton
<u>THE HIGHWAY</u>	Downton County Secondary Modern School (known affectionately to ex-pupils as The Academy) was opened in 1965. In the early 1970s the school became a comprehensive and changed its name to Downton School.
<u>HYDE LANE</u>	
<u>JOANNA CLOSE</u>	
<u>LODE HILL</u>	The school was renamed the Trafalgar School for Downton in October 2005 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the local association of the Trafalgar (formerly Standlynch) estate that had been given to the family of Lord Nelson in 1815.
<u>LONG CLOSE</u>	
<u>LOWER ROAD</u>	Downton College Of Agriculture
<u>MARIE AVENUE</u>	
<u>MESH POND</u>	This was actually way over the border at North Charford Manor House, accessed at Lions Lodge. However, it is included here as it employed a number of villagers and was a highly respected institution in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
<u>MOOT CLOSE</u>	
<u>MOOT GARDENS</u>	The college was opened in 1880 and closed in 1906. It's President and Principal, Professor John Wrightson MRAC FCS, was an acknowledged expert on agricultural practices and was the author of the Downton Series of text books, published by Cassell & Company during the 1890s.
<u>MOOT LANE</u>	
<u>PARKERS CLOSE</u>	
<u>ROMAN MEADOW</u>	Professor Wrightson's son Archibald, who was born in the village, was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry while serving as a Lieutenant with the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion in November 1915.
<u>SALISBURY ROAD</u>	
<u>SAXON MEADOW</u>	The college used the fields and meadows to the north of the road. Staff and students were on hand to assist the injured when the Downton rail disaster occurred on 3 June 1884 (see entry under Pile Bridge, Moot Lane). In recognition of their acts Professor Wrightson awarded them with a specially made cup. In 2005 the Downton Society donated the Wrightson Cup to the Trafalgar School for Downton, and it is now presented annually to a pupil that has demonstrated a particular brand of courage.
<u>SAXONHURST</u>	
<u>SCOTTS CLOSE</u>	
<u>THE SIDINGS</u>	
<u>SLAB LANE</u>	
<u>SNAIL CREEP</u>	
<u>SOUTH LANE</u>	
<u>SQUAREY CLOSE</u>	
<u>STANDLYNCH</u>	
<u>TWYNHAMS CLOSE</u>	
<u>WARRENS LANE</u>	
<u>WATERSIDE</u>	