

MILESTONES

From 1767 mileposts were compulsory on all turnpikes to inform travellers of direction and distances, to help coaches keep to schedule, and to calculate the charges for changes of horses at the coaching inns. The distances were measured from Westminster Bridge in London and were also used to determine postal charges before the uniform postal rate was introduced in 1840.

The Southwater milestone that marks 40 miles from London is sited near the lay-by adjacent to the Fieldings. The 39-mile marker, no longer there, was by the Southwater Junior School, and the 38-mile marker was located near Hop Oast roundabout. The latter seems to have been removed when the roundabout to the RSPCA building in Wilberforce Way was constructed.

In January 2008 SLHG arranged for the 40-mile marker to be renovated by Lionel Joseph of Forest Green.

