

**Historic Kidderminster Project Ref: 461**  
**Elderfield Lodge, 50 Coventry St, Kidderminster**  
**OS Grid Ref: SO 83707695**  
**Author: Bob Millward**  
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**Description**

Elderfield Lodge is at the top of Coventry St next to the property 'Elderfield'. It is part of an elegant row of houses approached by a side road overlooking Coventry St and St George's Church. The row of eight properties goes under the collective name of 'Elderfield Gardens'.



**Figure 1. Elderfield Lodge, Elderfield Gardens.**

The architect has made a bold statement at the front of the house. The yellow facing brick is decorated with contrasting 'terracotta' styled moulded and plain brick string courses, with matching pediments, lintels, eared architraves and parapet to the false roof balcony. The roofing is slate and there is a full dormer window over this elevation.



**Figure 2. Rear view of Elderfield Lodge.**

The side and rear of the property are much plainer than the front, although the standard red brick construction is alleviated just a little by the use of yellow bricks for over-window segmental lintels. A plain dormer projecting from the slated roof provides a view out to the rear from the second floor. The single storey outhouse facilities are original to the property.

At some time in its history the house was converted into flats but has since been re-converted to a family residence by the present owner.

### **History**

The first record related to this property is a Conveyance dated 26<sup>th</sup> May 1883: Mr John Findon, Grocer of Kidderminster, sold a plot of land for £105/7/11d to Mr Edwin Heath, licensed Victualler of Kidderminster. The plot measured 1050 Sq. Yds., and was part of a larger parcel of land 2 acres 1 rood and 33 perches situated at Elderfield lying near to St George's Church. The sale was subject to an access right of way for other owners of the remaining portions of the larger parcel of land.

All the houses in Elderfield Gardens were built after 1885: the O.S. Survey Map for that year shows the land divided into plots, but with no houses. However, Elderfield Lodge is more likely to have been built between 1896 and 1901 for the following reasons. The census taken on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1901 establishes that 7 houses in Elderfield Gardens had been erected by then. John Heath (painter & decorator) is listed with wife Matilda and servant Lucy Edwards in the 7<sup>th</sup> property in the row, next to Elderfield House. This building can clearly be identified with Elderfield Lodge (see Figure 3).

However, in the earlier 1891 census John Heath is listed as living in the 6<sup>th</sup> property (of only 6 houses) in Elderfield Villas, again next to Elderfield House. Occupiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> houses (Maria Pennell and Alfred Findon, respectively) were the same in each census so it seems likely

that in 1891 John Heath was living in the semi-detached property next to Alfred Findon before Elderfield Lodge was built. This idea is reinforced by a deed dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 1896 describing a plot land (without mention of a house) being conveyed from Edwin Heath to John Heath.

A much later a Conveyance for this property, dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 1966, was made when Carpet Manufacturer and Local Historical publisher Ken Tomkinson, of High Habberley House, set up a trust with Trustees Geoffrey Frederick Schoelles and Roger Wilfred Tomkinson. In March 1974 the Trustees sold the major part of the long garden (see Figure 3) to Worsley Homes Ltd. and a housing development now stands close to the rear of this and neighbouring properties.

There are now 9 house in Elderfield Gardens Nos. 48 and 49 are infill inserted between 1924 and 1938 on the site of the empty plot shown in Figure 3 to the left of Elderfield Lodge.

### Location

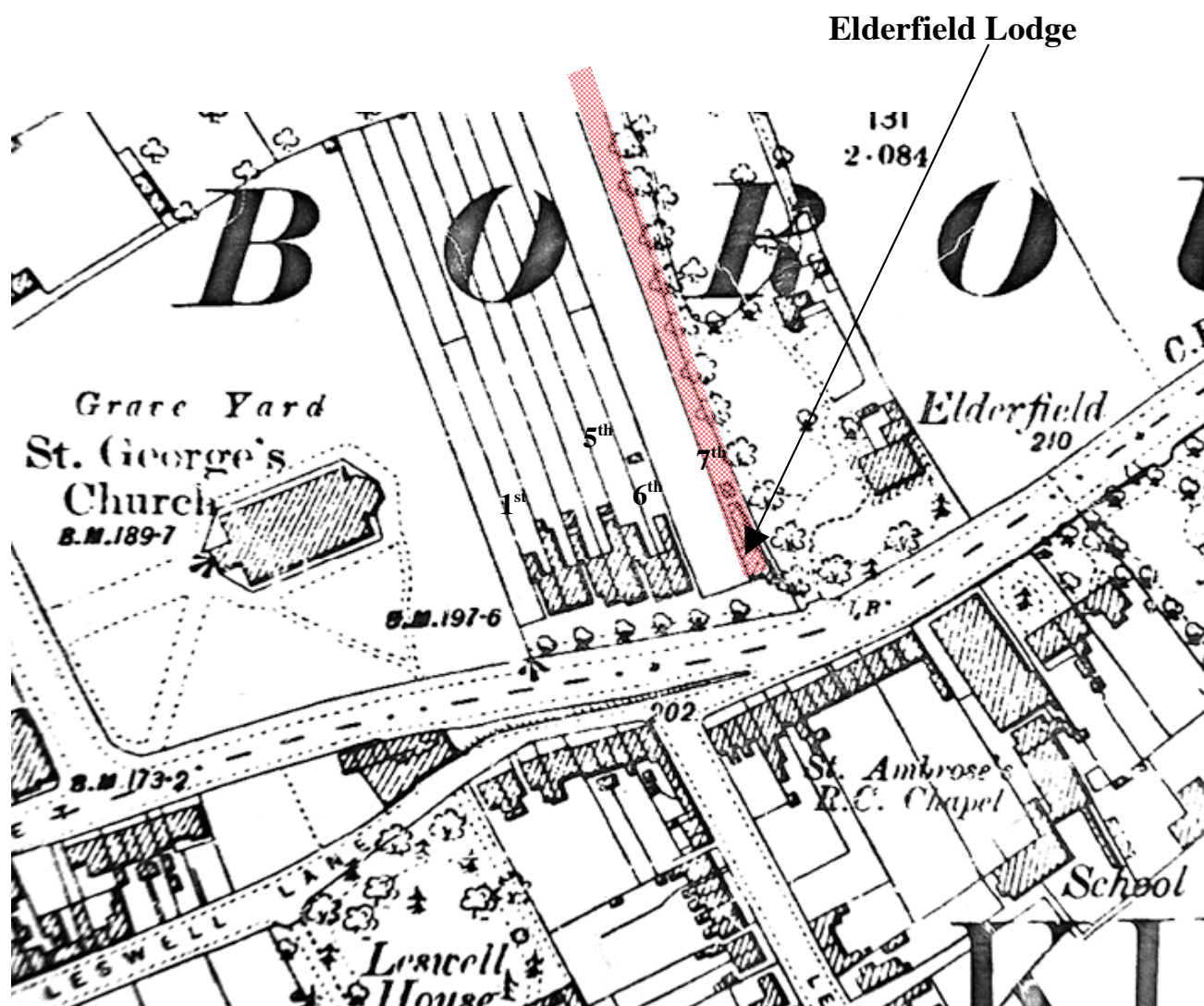


Figure 3. Elderfield Lodge is shown shaded pink  
OS 1902. Map Grid Ref: 83707695

## **Sources**

1. Background information with permission to take photographs and examine historical deeds were kindly provided by Mr Perks in March 2007. My thanks for his patience for allowing a protracted study of the deeds for this property and deeds related to next door property 'Elderfield House'.
2. O.S. Maps from Kidderminster Library.