

## Notes on buildings, building stone and quarries in Goodrich civil parish, Herefordshire

### Background

Until the re-organisation of parish boundaries in the 1970s, Goodrich ecclesiastical parish was divided into three parts, as shown on the map below. This is a summary of the accurate maps drawn up for each parish in the 1830s to 1840s, for the purpose of tithe commutation.

However, a more important organisation for civil matters at least from the later 11th century was the manor. The extensive manor of Goodrich included the ecclesiastical parishes of Goodrich, Whitchurch, Ganarew and places in Llangarren and Llanrothal.<sup>1</sup> Although the buildings and quarries of the current civil parish of Goodrich are the subject of individual study, the manor is important when considering the sources of stone available.



Figure 1. Map of parishes around Goodrich derived from the tithe commutation maps of the 1830s to 1840s. The colours show the detached portions of parishes at this time. ©Geoff Gwatkin, with kind permission

At the time of the Domesday survey there were a number of freeholders in the manor who could presumably have quarried their own land, but the majority of quarries were on the manorial waste (i.e. non-cultivable and non-pastoral land) which was mostly the steep and rocky hillsides. In Goodrich manor there were substantial areas of manorial waste which could be quarried for stone: Coppett Hill [Copped Wood Hill historically], Huntsham Hill and the Great and Little Downards. Apart from the Great and Little Downards, which are mainly limestone, the majority of building stone in Goodrich manor is sandstone or conglomerate. Very large chunks of the conglomerate layer periodically fall downhill towards farmland and need not be quarried as such.

In theory, all stone quarried on the manorial waste could only be raised with the consent of the lord of the manor or his officers, and a small charge could be levied. However, no record of these has yet been found in the manorial documents.

## Goodrich civil parish - known quarries

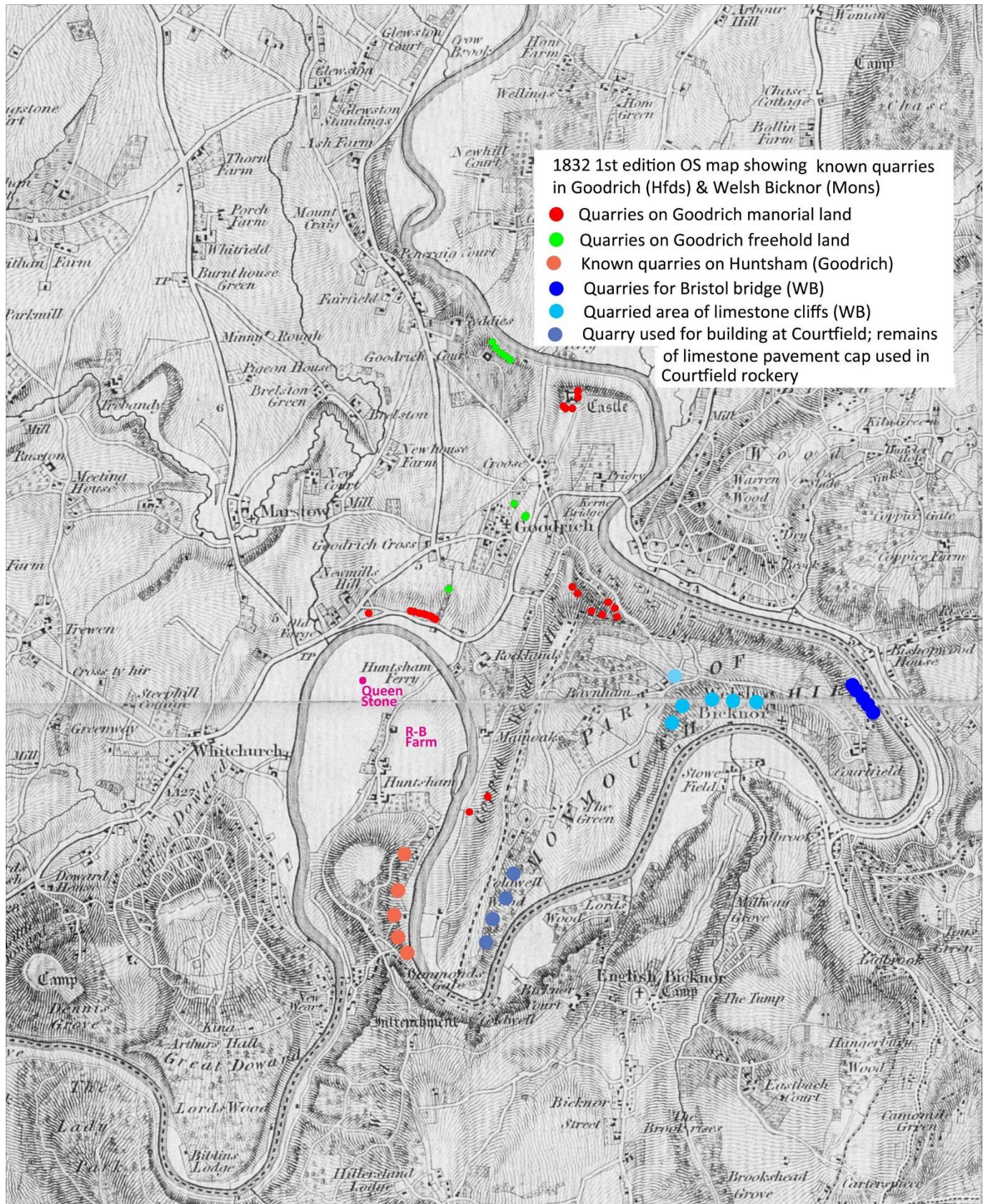


Figure 2. Map of Goodrich and environs in 1832, showing known quarries in Goodrich marked in red, also the location of Huntsham and the Great and Little Downards

There were a number of encroachment settlements in the manor on the manorial waste, some now deserted, and the small cottages were built from stone quarried on the spot. Although these encroachers were fined i.e. they had to pay 'rent' there is no record of them being charged for stone, maybe because the houses they built

remained in the lord's ownership. The surviving stone-built earlier houses in Goodrich (say before the mid-18th century) tend to be built from greyish, less pebbly conglomerate blocks, which can be shaped more easily. There may have been many more fallen blocks of this stone available pre-1750. A number of these houses are early timber-framed houses later clad in stone.

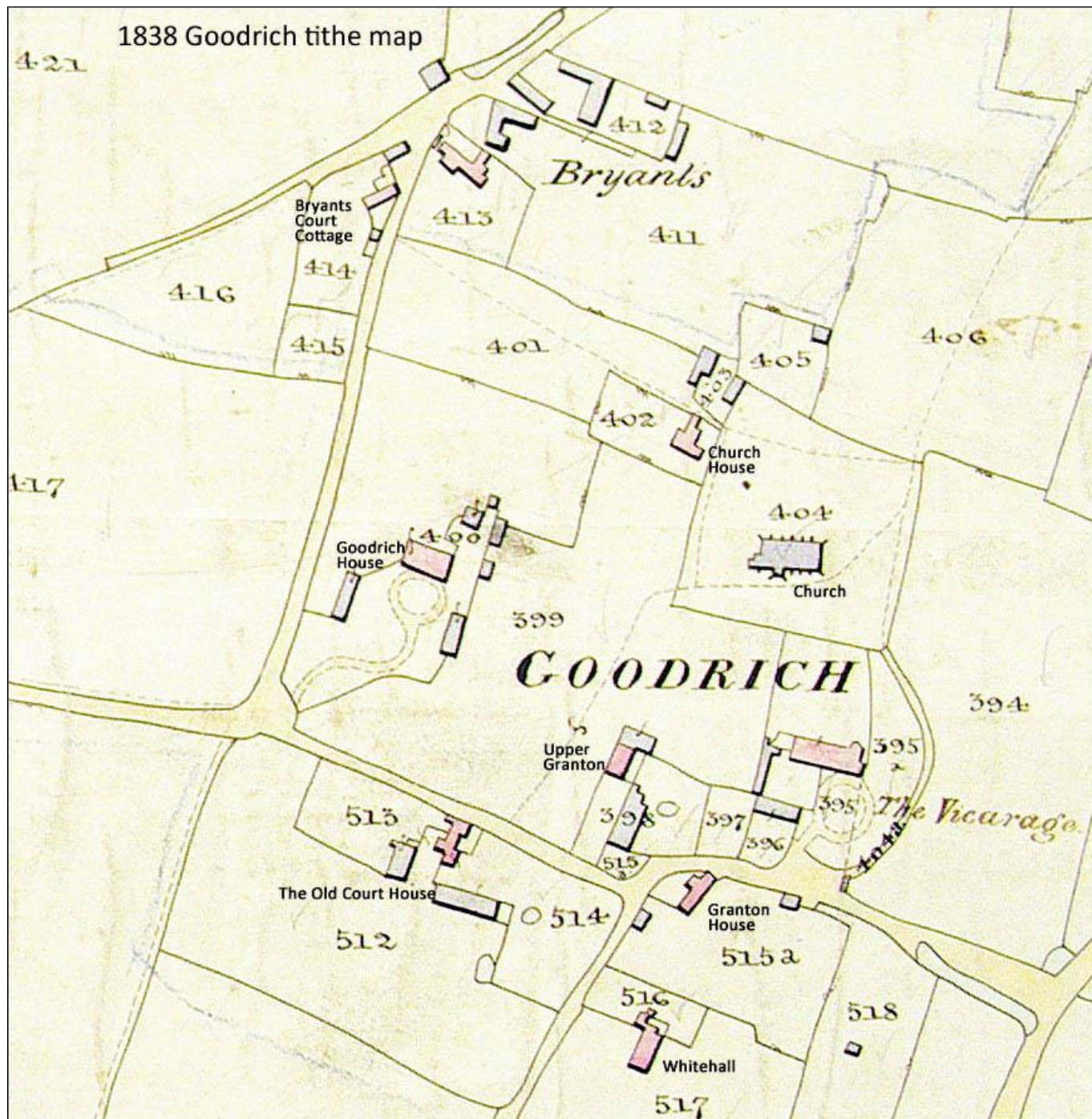


Figure 3. 1838 tithe map - area around Goodrich church with names. Some of these buildings were part of the survey. By kind permission of Herefordshire Archives Service (HAS)

**Quarries on manorial land**

1. On the west flank of Coppett Hill there is a quarry, the track to which was used for target practice by the military from the later 19th century onwards. Below this, much nearer to the river, is a small quarry.
2. To the west of the Goodrich-Welsh Bicknor road, just before the Bicknor boundary, there is a large quarry and within a short distance further large quarries to the left of the footpath leading up Coppett Hill. Since the early 19th century the upper quarries have lain within the parish boundary as marked by a stone wall. However, this wall was built by the Vaughans on the Goodrich side of the original parish boundary. A large lime kiln lies below

the footpath, and spoil heaps lie both above the footpath and below the road on Goodrich land, hence originally the limestone used was in Goodrich. The boundary has always been disputed.

3. The origins of the stone for most of the castle was thought to be the moat. The early keep was said to be Forest of Dean stone in the past but this seems unlikely from a logistic point of view.

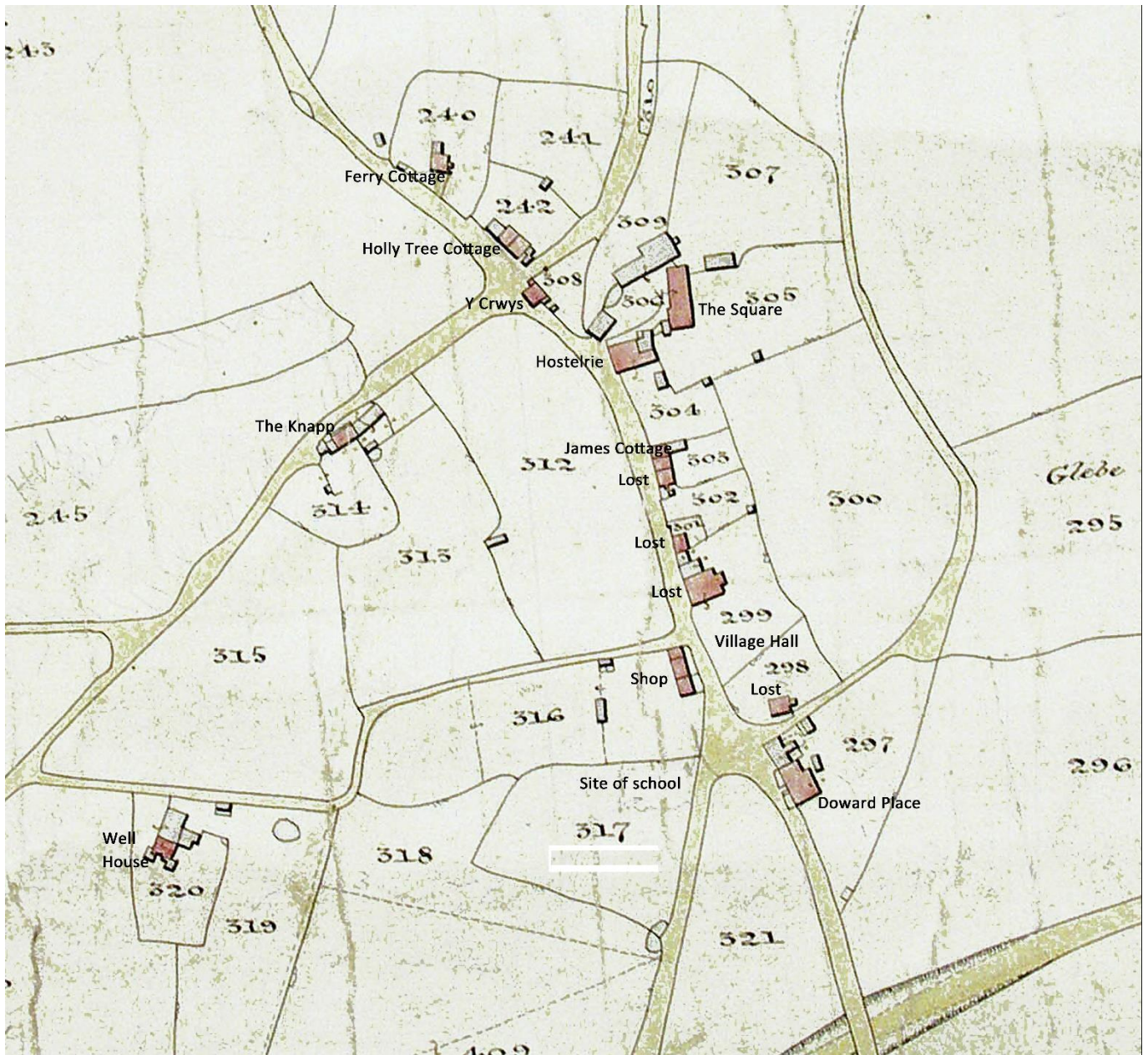


Figure 4. 1838 tithe map - area near the school, village hall and pub which were surveyed and other buildings noted. By kind permission of HAS

**Other quarries** This list is far from exhaustive. The conglomerate which falls onto freehold farmland e.g. at Mainoaks farm and Huntsham Court was probably used in their construction. Documents survive from the building of **Goodrich Court** to show that most of the stone was quarried from below the Court site.

Below the **church** there are depressions in the field where stone may have been excavated for alterations to the building (394 on to the 1838 tithe map), when this land was owned in right of his wife by Osborne Yates. His wife had inherited **Goodrich House** which was built soon after 1700, and Yates owned another quarry (now filled in) at tithe 532 which may be the source of its stone. He also owned a small quarry in field 406.

**Roofing materials** Although few buildings are now roofed with locally-sourced sandstone tiles, this was not so in the past, examples including Charlton and The Old Court House. Pantiles still exist on some buildings, source unknown. Evidence has recently emerged that the nave and chancel of the church were thatched in the 1840s.

**Pre-historic use of stone in the manor**

The earliest known human use and alteration to the form of constructional stone is the shaping of the unseen, buried portion of the Queen Stone, situated on farmland on the flat Huntsham peninsula (Fig. 4). The grooves in the exposed part of the sandstone may or may not be natural. The farmland here is mainly alluvial as it floods regularly, but large boulders are available on the slopes of Huntsham Hill to the south. On the flattish summit of Huntsham Hill quantities of worked flints and flint debris have been found, and also a Mesolithic axe on the Huntsham farmland.

In 1959-70, a Romano-British farmstead was excavated not far away on the same peninsula, though raised slightly above the floodplain.<sup>2</sup> Three buildings were excavated: an aisled barn, a five-room and corridor house and a main nine-roomed building (Fig. 5). The establishment seems to have come into being in the middle of the 2nd century.

The building materials were identified as coming from Huntsham Hill: Upper and Lower Old Sandstone, red and green clays from the Tintern Sandstone group and quartz conglomerate. Stone roof tiles were used.



Figure 5 (above) Huntsham R-B villa, excavated walls, Plate XXXV for *TWNFC* article

Figure 6 (left). The Queen Stone, showing the underground portion. *TWNFC* 1926 pp.188-191

Huntsham Court, the most important house on the Huntsham peninsula, dates from the early 17th century, according to RCHME,<sup>3</sup> whose surveyor made no particular mention of the columns supporting the porch, which are popularly supposed to be Roman columns. There is documentary evidence of quite well-off families living in this area, so it may not be the earliest house on the site.

Figure 7. Huntsham Court porch, from a postcard



In the post-Roman period there is no evidence that there was any building in stone. Although there were early Welsh churches in the area as evidenced by the Llandaff charters (see overleaf), they were almost certainly timber-framed.

**Goodrich Buildings post-Conquest**

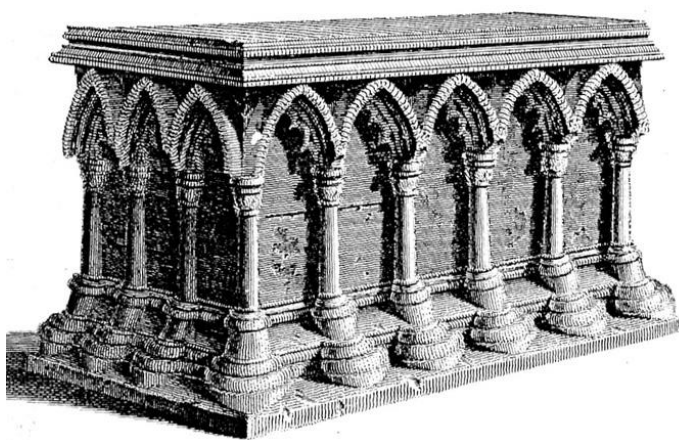
This section details buildings in approximate chronological order of the first surviving building on the site, as far as is known. A number have been surveyed for the building stones project and were chosen to give a wide spread of date and function. Many of the older buildings are timber-framed with later stone facing or have been rendered when they were originally stone.

**Goodrich castle** The earliest name for Goodrich - the manor, not the parish - was *Godrichescastel* or variants thereof. Although there is no firm evidence of the date of the erection of the first stone building on the site, it is thought to be the keep, dating from around 1120-40, though opinions differ on this. The stone is quite a different colour from the rest of the surviving buildings, and used to be thought to be 'Forest of Dean stone'. A number of stone surveys have been made of the castle and there is no need to repeat them here.

**Goodrich church** The earliest churches in the area are known about from the Llandaff charters, a set of charters by virtue of which the see of Llandaff, in about 1120, hoped to claim the churches named from the see of Hereford on the grounds that Llandaff had owned them historically even as far back as the 6th century. Unfortunately many of them are forgeries, but some do contain enough information to indicate that Whitchurch, Ganarew, Marstow, Welsh Bicknor and *Pencreic* above the Wye are ancient foundations. They are likely to have been timber buildings.

About 1100 William fitzBaderon, lord of Monmouth and possibly by right of his wife, granted to Monmouth priory the income of the church of Goderic's castle apparently with the consent of Hadwise his wife and her two daughters Iveta and Advenia.<sup>4</sup> This does not imply that the church was in the castle, as this was also the name of the manor. About 1144 the name Egidus [Giles] for the church at Goodrich is given when the previous charter was confirmed. Probably the church was on the same site as it is today, as the earliest date given by the RCHME surveyors for surviving parts of the structure - the arcade and presumably the chancel, nave and north aisle - is early 13th century i.e. not long after. In 1204 the manor was granted to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, so they would seem to date from this period. If this is true, it raises the question as to why virtually doubling the capacity of the church should be necessary.

The tomb now standing at the eastern end of the church under the arcade is a poor shadow of its former self. It has not been improved by being painted all over in grey.<sup>5</sup>



On the left is the tomb as published by Bonnor in 1799; on the right the other side of the tomb today. Not only has an arcade been lost, the lid is on upside down. The guilty party is Sir Samuel Meyrick who, as his newly-built house Goodrich Court did not have a pew allocated to him,

persuaded the church authorities to allow him to move the tomb to build his pew. It was already partially dismantled by September 1829.<sup>6</sup> Supposedly the style of the tomb dates it to around 1280 - there is a somewhat similar tomb in Bridstow church. There are speculations that the tomb is that of Richard Talbot, founder of Flanesford Priory, who died in 1356, and whose tomb was initially in the Priory.

The church has been added to altered over the centuries: porch - 15th; tower - ; exterior steps to belfry - 18--; organ chamber - . a major renovation took place in the 1870s under the architect J. P. Seddon. Internally a musician's gallery was installed then removed; pews were installed then. The floor was tiled, new windows were installed, the pulpit moved, the walls clad in panelling. Sadly, the original medieval font went missing not later than October 1758,<sup>7</sup> to be replaced by a poor one some time before 1849<sup>8</sup> and then replaced again in the late 1800s.

A detailed history of the church is in preparation and will be available online. [Surveyed]

**Y Crwys**

This building is believed to have been an ancient chapel, located on the important crossing of the road from the old Goodrich Ferry and the road from Ross via Pencraig to the village. *Y Crwys* originally stood in a small patch of ground right in the middle of the crossroads, and this part of the village took its name, Croose, of which there are many variations, though the name *Crwys* is shown on the first edition OS maps (1813) albeit slightly further north. At the time of the 1718 Goodrich manorial map it belonged to the lord of the manor and is described as a prison.<sup>9</sup> Presumably it had taken over this function after the castle had been slighted in the Civil War.



At the time of the tithe map (1838) *Y Crwys* stuck out into the road which went directly in front of Holly Cottage next door. By 1869, however, Holly Cottage had a small garden in front and *Y Crwys* was just back from the road.<sup>10</sup>

As the pyramid tops to the gateposts of each property are the same, it is likely that Sir Samuel Meyrick built these walls after he acquired *Y Crwys* in 1843<sup>11</sup> and Holly Cottage in 1844 (see below), though he may have re-used stone from Holly Cottage. An etching of *Y Crwys* in Charles Nash's *Goodrich Court Guide*, 1845 (right), shows the pyramid tops in place.<sup>12</sup>

Meyrick made extensive repairs and alterations at *Y Crwys*, renewing a rooftop cross part of which he claimed to have found *in situ*. He also added a carved stone coat of arms on the front and a turreted staircase, but unfortunately this deceived the RCHME surveyors into thinking it was totally a Victorian concoction. [Partially surveyed]

**Flanesford Priory**

On 12 October 1346 the bishop of Hereford authorised canons Thomas Talbot and Roger de Breynton to lay the foundation stone of Flanesford priory in his absence, and on 18 December 1346 Richard Talbot was granted a licence to found a priory of canons regular of the order of St Augustine, in a place called 'Flanesford' within his lordship of Castle Goodrich, and to endow the same in frank almoin with that place and the orchard thereof, nine messuages, three mills, five virgates and 254 acres of land, 23½ acres of meadow and 63 acres of wood within that lordship and

Walleford, Hopmaloyse [Mansel], and Paynswyk and the advowson of the church of Westbury, said to be held in chief.<sup>13</sup> This was a generous endowment; the fact that Flanesford remained one of the minor monastic establishments was probably due to the imminent Black Death.



Flanesford Priory when the RCHME surveyors visited, probably in 1927

RCHME agreed with the mid-14th century date for the main building, though thought that one three-trefoiled window head was 15th-century. The taller buildings visible above are built on substantial stone plinths; though not all of the same height they are at least 40cm high and must have taken a substantial amount of time to build. As the plague was to affect the country three years after the foundation, it raises the question as to whether the plinth was laid and then building was interrupted for some considerable time. The sandstone used is particularly red, and in consequence is quite weathered. Some doubt is now being expressed as to whether the excavated moat stone from Goodrich castle was used in the castle's later construction - maybe Flanesford is a possible alternative. [Surveyed] Note red sandstone tested on right face fized

**Whitehall**

This house is probably the oldest secular domestic building in the village, being originally an open hall-house, the decorated open central truss being hidden until relatively recently. The decoration dates it to the early 15th century. Its name probably reflects the fact that originally it was timber-framed, but it was faced in stone probably in the 16th century, when an intermediate floor was inserted.

It is located on the southern side of the church, in a group of buildings which include The Old Vicarage, the Old Court House and timber-framed Upper Granton (not surveyed). This area was known anciently as Granton. [Stone not surveyed]

**The Old Vicarage**

At the time of the 1838 tithe map the living accommodation at the vicarage occupied a long block facing south, with outbuildings forming two other sides of a square with it. However, the eastern half of this block is faced with well cut and dressed stone blocks, the western end is built of reddish sandstone rubble. The front door of the vicarage lies in the centre of the eastern block and carries a coat of arms dated 1710, when Richard Langford was installed on the death of Martin Johnson.



To the left of the front door is a room with a massive stone fireplace with a cooking crane, but stylistically this seems much older than 1710 and is probably one of the few remains of an older vicarage.<sup>14</sup> The stone used has unusual markings which are being investigated. [Partially surveyed]



<p><b>The Old Court House</b></p>	<p>The RCHME surveyor's account of this house states that there is documentary evidence of an earlier house on the site, but this cannot now be confirmed. It also says that the oldest part of the building, nearest the road, is 16th-century, of which there is some evidence, although the house seems to have been turned into a 'mansion' from the 1620s by Richard Tyler, a manorial official who looked after Goodrich castle throughout the Civil War. The kitchen fireplace is made from massive stone blocks possibly removed from the castle. The cellar was originally not below ground level and the lower level of stonework is made with dressed well-cut blocks.</p> <p>There a stone outbuilding adjacent to the house which has a door with large hinges dated variously to the 16th (RCHME) or 17th centuries, the door being made to fit into a stone reveal with holes for baulks of timber to make it defensible from the inside. The oldest masonry is the typical finer grey conglomerate. All stonework in the house is sandstone. [Surveyed]</p>
<p><b>Ye Hostelrie</b></p>	<p>Separated from <i>Y Crwys</i> by the gateway to a former farmhouse lies <i>Ye Hostelrie</i>. The RCHME surveyors again dismissed this as a Victorian gothic creation by Sir Samuel Meyrick, but in fact this had an earlier 18th century life as a pub called variously the <i>Anchor</i> and the <i>Crown and Anchor</i> perhaps because it was at one time owned by a Wye barge family. However, from the internal style it is probably 17th century or earlier in origin. It is clear from the tithe map that Meyrick added only a facing in stone to part of the original building (on the left in the picture), and behind it there seems to be a plinth for an original timber-framed building.</p> <div data-bbox="284 875 831 1339" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Meyrick's design for <i>Ye Hostelrie</i> exists in one of his letters to his friend George Shaw in 1846 and is almost exact.</p> <p>The entrance on the left was to be for the 'profanum vulgus to approach the tap room'; that in the tower (now the ladies' lavatory) for the more refined. The gothic chimneys were designed by Meyrick and echo the chimneys on the <i>Gasworks</i> which belonged to Goodrich Court and which lies on the road from Pencaraig, though they were originally on the impressive gatehouse lying on the A40. The part of the building one the far right was designed by Meyrick as a ballroom. In the 1851 census the pub was called 'The Meyrick Arms'. [Surveyed]</p>
<p><b>Holly [Tree] Cottage</b></p>	<p>This house is now stone-clad but inside there is extensive timber-framing. The house and some lands were given by William Gardyner of Whitchurch in 1622 for buying 'ornaments, books and other convenient necessaries' for the parish church of Goodrich. The gift was known as 'Gardyner's Charity' and was administered by trustees who included the vicar and church wardens. The rental income from the land and house are recorded in the parish accounts, and also work on the 'Church House' itself. The occupant shortly before the mid 1780s was Abel Saunders, a mason, who also worked on the house, and in 1790 there was extensive stonework done there including paving, building a garden wall and pantiling. This is almost certainly the date of the stone-cladding. Sir Samuel Meyrick bought the house and lands in 1844 from the charity trustees.<sup>15</sup></p> <p>In 1637 an enquiry was held into the previous ownership of the property.<sup>16</sup> At this time it was called 'Grigg's House' and there is a suggestion that an earlier occupant had had a 99-year lease, which would date it to the 16th century. [Not surveyed]</p>

<p><b>Bryants Court</b></p>	<p>Bryants Court lies to the north-west of the church; the name was formerly 'Bryans' in the 19th century and earlier. The house forms a T-shape and a two-storeyed outbuilding lies adjacent to the north, which has an eroded date panel above the top door. This was supposed to have the picture of a talbot, but this may be a likeness due to erosion. The reason for the 'Court' name is not known, as there is no evidence that the manorial courts were ever held here. There are other farm buildings some adjacent to the road. Mostly greyish sandstone has been used for the buildings, but the windows of the two-storeyed building and the farmhouse have been altered in the 19th century.</p> <p>The farm was bought by the Goodrich Court estate in 1853, and from the deeds acquired the property can be traced back to 1732 though it is probably much older in origin. [Surveyed]</p>
<p><b>Goodrich House</b></p>	<p>Goodrich House lies to the west of the church and was built by George White, an ironmaster who leased the iron works at New Weir (Symonds Yat) from the lord of Goodrich in the later 17th century. The house was built in the early 18th century on, as far as is known, a virgin site. it and the service buildings are built mostly in greyish sandstone typical of the period. [Partially surveyed]</p>
<p><b>Doward Place</b></p>	<p>This is now a terrace of three dwellings next to the crossroads where the road to the castle begins. The 1838 tithe map (297) shows clearly the layout of dwelling house and outbuildings. It was described as 'two houses and gardens with shop and outbuildings', one occupied by Richard Ball and the other by William Cockshell (Coxsell), both owned by William Black. There is no division shown in the dwelling.</p> <p>From the photo in the Felsted School book, taken during or just after WWII, the original house was the part furthest away from the Castle Lane crossroads with three upstairs windows - one can just see the quoins. Then the part at the end with a curved top to the upstairs window was added, I think before the tithe map, and at some time the whole roofed over. The barn at the end was then converted to a house. The photo below shows Doward Place during the occupation of Goodrich Court by Felsted School during WWII. The face of the two dwellings nearest the camera are now rendered, but the stone is clearly the local sandstone.</p> 

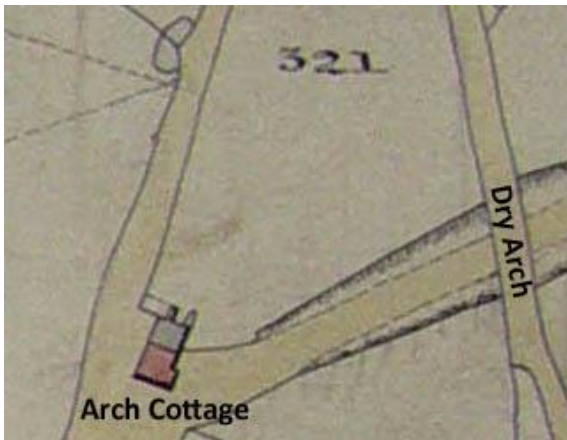
**The Dry Arch**



The road from Doward Place leads to Welsh Bicknor and within 100m crosses over the new road from Kerne Bridge, built in 1828, which leads westwards towards Old Forge. This viaduct is known as the Dry Arch, and can therefore be dated accurately. The cutting in which the new road runs was cut out of the sandstone rock, and probably this was used to build the viaduct.

**Arch Cottage**

Shortly after Kerne Bridge was built in 1828, a short-lived attempt was made to run a coach service through Goodrich. Arch Cottage was built with a large arch in the middle where the coach could run through. Passengers could wait in a room upstairs on one side of the arch and the domestic offices were on the other, eastern end. The 1838 tithe map below shows its position near the Dry Arch.



Above a 1920s photo shows the entrance for the coach passengers and the decorative window of their waiting room - both gone. The photo left shows the filled in arch for the coach to go through. There are stairs at both ends of the cottage, and until relatively recently it was necessary upstairs to go up several steps at either end to cross from one end to the other. Now this only has to be done at one end. The history of the building can be traced from the outside, west face.

**Charlton**

Following the road towards Welsh Bicknor, the first house right on the road is now called Charlton. The rear faces the road, and the only visible part of the small, original house can be seen. This was an encroachment settlement on a small common there but the house and its land were acquired by Sir Samuel Meyrick in 1841. He set about designing an extension to the house, owned in her own right by his last housekeeper, whose husband was present at Sir Samuel's death in 1848.

The large extension was faced in grey stone reputed to be from the Forest of Dean, which is remarkably similar to used to gothicize *Ye Hostelrie*, at the same time in Meyrick ownership. The Meyrick-designed part of the house is nearest the camera; the far bay-windowed part is later. The near bay window was moved in the 1880s or 90s after a wrap-around conservatory leading to the gothic front porch was removed. The roofs of this part of the house were made of stone tiles. [Surveyed]

**Goodrich Old School**

In 1838 the meadow (no. 317 on the tithe map) where the school was to be built was glebe land belonging to the diocese. Although there is census evidence of a schoolmaster in Goodrich in 1851 it is not known where he taught. In 1853 the land, formerly glebe, was conveyed for the purpose of building the school.<sup>17</sup> The school lies at right-angles to the road, the oldest part being furthest away from the road with a yard in between. In 1857 a proposal was made to extend the building over this yard for an infant's school; the plans exist showing that end of the school which stands today, minus the leaded light window but with the ashlar facing. A new fireplace was built at the road end, and the 1857 plans show tiered seating for the infants. The body of the school was built from reasonably regular greyish sandstone blocks, though the source is not known. On the roadside ashlar blocks have been used. In the photograph the road runs to the right.



The diocese had retained ownership of the fields in the school area, and when a new school was scheduled proposed to sell the steep land for luxury housing. This was defeated by a village group and the area is now a village green space, but the old school was sold for development into housing. It has been in a progressively derelict state for more than a decade.

**Goodrich  
Village Hall**



The village hall was originally built as a Reading Room for the local people by the Moffatt family, who had bought the Goodrich Court estate from the Meyrick family early in 1870, and was eventually gifted to the village. It is substantially built in brick with sandstone facings and leaded light windows. Although the date of 1888 appears on the pendants to the apex of the barge boards it is not on the 1889 OS map, nor does the Goodrich Court stables built at about the same time.



The stables do not appear on the 1884 Goodrich Court sale particulars map - they were still next to the house. (Goodrich Court was not actually sold at this time). Even the ball on top of the stable is the same as those in this early photo of the village hall.

Goodrich Court still had the original floor plan in 1884 i.e. the large extensions built by the Moffatts had not taken place. Therefore it is logical that the work took place between 1884 and 1888, at least as far as the village hall is concerned. The firm concerned was in 1950 called L. W. Barnard, of Cheltenham. Its records are in Gloucester Record Office.

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<sup>1</sup> As evidenced by the suitors who had to pay homage to the lord of the manor of Goodrich at the regular manorial courts. The Herefordshire Archives contain a substantial number of Goodrich manorial documents, including manorial court rolls dating from *circa* 1500. They are written in Latin until the 18th century and can be difficult to handle and transcribe.

<sup>2</sup> Taylor, Elizabeth, 'Report on the Excavations of Huntsham Romano-British Villa and Iron Age enclosure 1959-1970', *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club (TWNFC)*, XLVIII Part II (1985), pp.224-281.

<sup>3</sup> RCHME is the abbreviation for the *Royal Commission for Historical Monuments of England*. Herefordshire was one of the earliest counties to be surveyed - in the Goodrich area in 1927.

<sup>4</sup> See Rosalind Lowe, '*Villa Chachebren* or New Court, Marstow: a Monmouth Priory estate', *TWNFC*, Vol 55 (2007), pp.112-119.

<sup>5</sup> The 1927 RCHME surveyor's photo shows it unpainted.

<sup>6</sup> Herefordshire Archives (HARC), BF16/22, letter from Meyrick 9 September 1829.

<sup>7</sup> Goodrich parish overseers books.

<sup>8</sup> Sir Stephen Glynne visited the church and remarked on it

<sup>9</sup> Herefordshire Archives, AW87.

<sup>10</sup> 1869 Sales Particulars of Goodrich Court.

<sup>11</sup> Letter Sir Samuel to Thomas Pettigrew, 31 Oct 1843, Osborn Shelves Pettigrew, Beinecke Library, Yale. RTR doc 431 is a copy of the indenture of the sale from the Guardians of the Poor to Sir Samuel, although in fact it was owned by the lord of the manor but he apparently washed his hands of it.

<sup>12</sup> There is a copy of Charles Nash's guide in the Herefordshire archives.

<sup>13</sup> *Monasticon*, VI, p.534.

<sup>14</sup> In the early 1600s, because of a court case, we know there was a gate into the churchyard from the vicarage. There is also a description of the vicarage buildings in 1623 in a terrier *viz*: 'a mansion, 2 barns, 1 stable, 1 sheepcot, 1 milhouse, 1 beasthouse,...'

<sup>15</sup> Private collection of deeds, no. 204.

<sup>16</sup> TNA, E 178/5338.

<sup>17</sup> HARC BF16/64.