

# **HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS**



**HAN 72      2001**

**WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**



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### HAN

Herefordshire Archaeological News (HAN) is published by the Archaeological Research Section (ARS) of the Woolhope Field Naturalist's Club, **Charity No. 521000**.

HAN is free to members of the Archaeological Section, who also receive a bi-annual Newsletter. HAN is also available for sale to non-members from Roz Lowe (address inside cover). - cost for HAN is £5.00, postage included.

Annual membership of the ARS is £5.00 - enquiries to Secretary. This is additional to membership of the Woolhope Club which is £13.00 single or £15.00 per couple annually - enquiries to the Hon. Sec:

## Notes for potential contributors to HAN

### CONTENT & OVERALL STYLE

The Archaeological Research Section (**ARS**) is interested primarily in investigating ancient remains on or under the ground of Herefordshire and its boundaries. All articles published in HAN should be related to such physical or archaeological features, which may have been visited already in ARS field trips. Papers which consist solely of historical research, and which do not have the possibility of physical investigation, are more suitable for submission to the main Woolhope Club for consideration.

Contributors should only submit papers which state the reason **why** they have been written and **what** they are seeking to say. For example, it may be proposed that a farmhouse includes the remains of a medieval religious settlement. Physical evidence [stonework, earthworks, aerial photos, ground features relating to early maps etc.] should be described, as well as archival research. [ARS members would be delighted to carry out a field investigation for potential contributors who have a proposal based on local knowledge or archival evidence only.] Please do not include in your text lists of deeds, wills etc. unless they have a direct relevance to the point of your article. In any case, the details should be listed as footnotes or an appendix.

If you need any more information please contact any member of the Editorial committee. (addresses inside HAN69 onwards, or ARS newsletters 1998 onwards) Contributions should reach the editorial committee not later than 1st May if they are to be considered for publication in HAN for that year.

### TEXT

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If you send a contribution on paper, it must be typed, unless very short. PLEASE make sure that the typewriter ribbon used is clear, and that you do not use creased paper. Corrections should be made in the margin in pencil and on no account should any be made in the actual text. The software used to scan your text does not like to find anything other than text, writing between the lines, or text which is crooked. Please number your pages lightly in pencil at the bottom, and leave good margins.

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Footnotes should be numbered consecutively throughout each article with figures in the superior position and outside punctuation marks. Footnotes should be typed on separate sheets at the end of the article.

### ILLUSTRATIONS

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The maximum size for scanning is A4, but figures may be reduced (retaining their correct proportions) for space reasons. This makes it important that lines are clear, and that there are not objects with wide ranges of scale.

Scales should be provided on the figures and, where necessary, on plates. They should be in metres and should not be too dominating a feature of the drawing. Scales in feet may included if desired. A North point should always be provided on maps and plans.

### COPYRIGHT

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All **acknowledgements** should normally be omitted from the main text and placed in a paragraph headed 'Acknowledgements' at the end of the article,

### Field Meeting to the Little Hereford area by Rosamund Skelton

Sixteen members turned out on bright and breezy day to brave the muddy fields in search of earthworks of past settlements and other economic activities in the area. A field meeting was held on 11th May 1997 at Little Hereford to look at the church and the earthworks site adjacent. For this reason I will only comment on the church and the mill site nearby as they relate to medieval settlement in the parish, as the church is described in HAN 68, Autumn 1997, pp43-4. The Chancellor of the Cathedral of Hereford owned the manor of 7 hides in Little Hereford in 1086, 3 of these hides were waste. Upton, a village situated in the part of the parish south of the river, was separately recorded as a two hide manor and continued to be separately recorded from Little Hereford in the tax lists throughout the middle ages.

In Pope Nicholas's tax of 1291 the church was valued at £20 which is a high value and could indicate that this was an early 'minster' church serving the whole of the surrounding area rather than just the nearest villages. This might also account for its position more or less on its own close to the banks of the river. It is also recorded that it had a crypt which was filled in with concrete in the 1920's because of flooding. The only other church in Herefordshire with a crypt, other than the cathedral, is Madley which was a place of pilgrimage in the middle ages; the holy relics being housed in the crypt. The presence of a crypt here may be a clue to a past history now lost.

Apart from the earthworks which it has been suggested were associated with King Stephen's sojourn here for two or three months (see HAN 68) and a small castle possibly belonging to the Delameres, there is no visible evidence for a village housing the 17 villeins recorded in Domesday 1086, close to the church.

The Hereford Record Office has a Map of the Manor of Little Hereford dated 1775

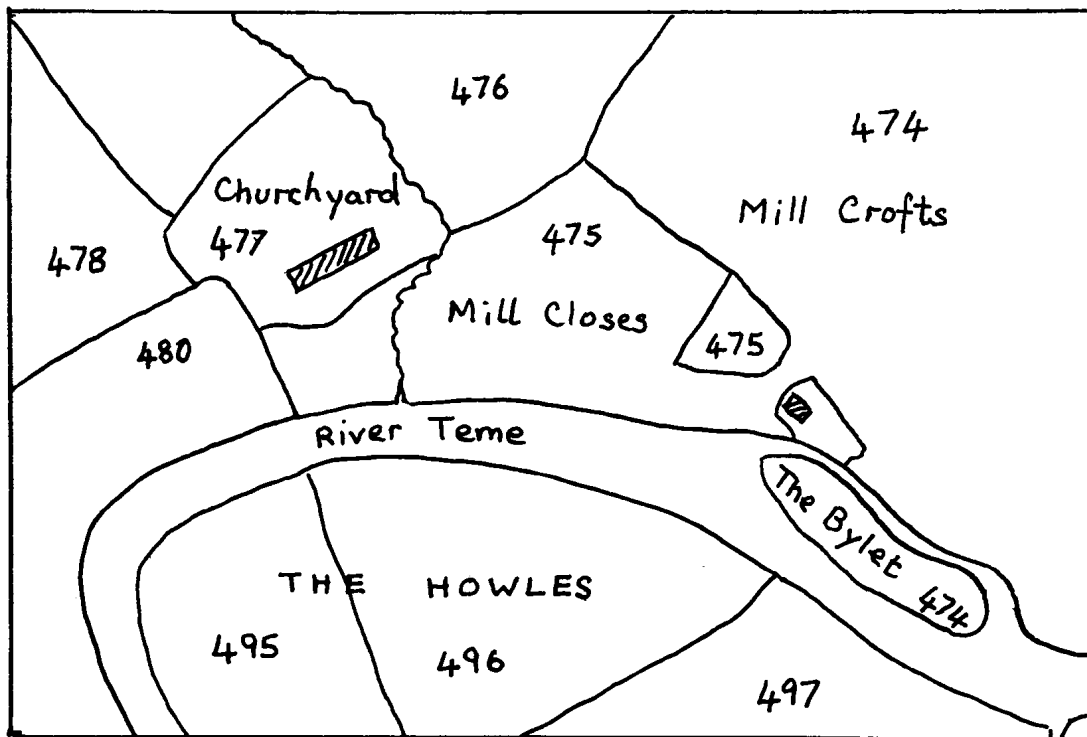
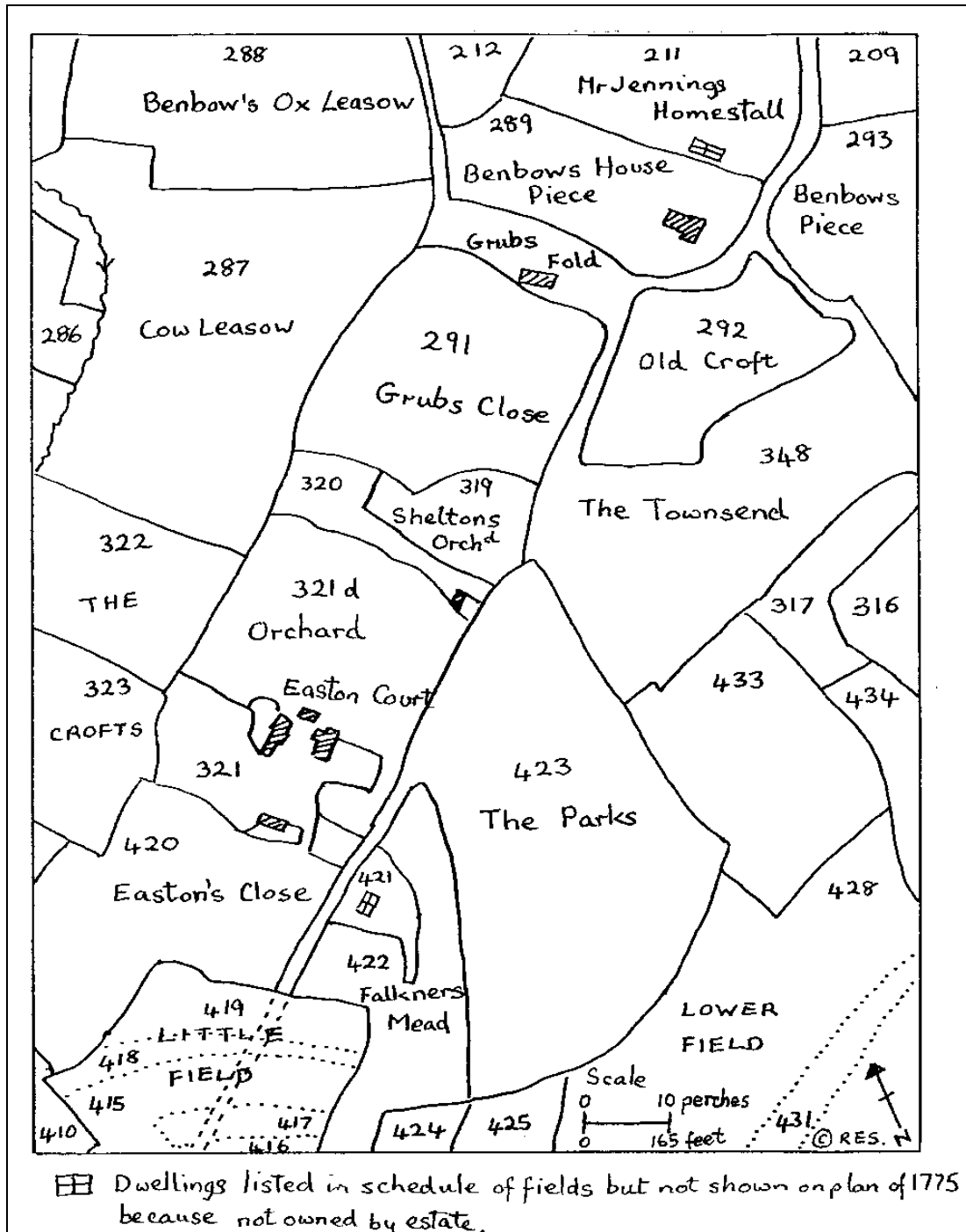


Figure 1 Extract from 1775 plan of Little Hereford HRO C94/129 (Rosamund Skelton)

surveyed by Joseph Powell (C94/129). This map and its associated survey provided invaluable information for this meeting. One interesting feature shown on this map which had vanished by the time of the Tithe Map in 1840 was the presence of a small island labelled 'The Bylet' in the river. This was just opposite the south end of the triangular earthwork enclosure adjacent to the church, which on the 1775 Map shows a rectangular building which may have been associated with a mill on this site as the enclosure is called 'Mill Closes'. Elizabeth Taylor in her article in *Trans Woolhope* NFC XLVIII (1996), 481 suggested that 'bylet' names are associated with mill weirs and leats, and this is another example to add to her list.

The plan of 1775 shows no houses on the meadowlands lying beside the River Teme and by 1840 there were only 4 dwellings in the meadows south of the main road. (Two of these are listed in Powell's Survey details, but because they were not part of the Manorial estate they were not shown on the plan). All the arable lands were on the upper river terraces and it is here that Bryhampton and Easton are located, while Middleton and Woodhampton lie on higher ground above the terraces.



**Easton** or "Estetone" is mentioned in 1348 EM (Coplestone-Crow,103) and an interesting exchange of lands is recorded in HRO no.AH81/8 33755 between William de la Mare, son of Oliver de la Mare and his sister Ameline.

"6 virgates of land in the manor of Little Hereford, in exchange for Werinch which Oliver, their father, gave her as a dowry.

Viz: ½ hide which William son of Robert held in Estiton:

- 1 virgate which Reginald Cythred held in Middleton:
- 1 virgate which Alured son of Salomon held in Middleton:
- 1 virgate which Philip Forester held:
- 1 virgate which Reginald son of Godfried held.

To hold as a dowry, by usual service owed to the crown and the chief lord.

Witnesses: Thomas de Upton: Hugh his son: Hugh Carburnell: John de Elford, Geoffrey de la Mare, Geoffrey his son, Henry de Bureford".

Unfortunately it is not dated, but the names suggest the middle ages and probably before 1346 (the black death) as the units are still virgates and a ½ virgate, whereas after 1346 it is likely that the loss of population would have resulted in the amalgamation of such holdings into larger units.

This indicates that Middleton and Easton co-existed at this period and since both lie close to their arable fields it is likely that this is also where the 17 villeins (usually occupying 1 virgate holdings) of 1086 were also living.

#### Easton

The 1775 plan and survey shows 7 dwellings still standing between the present location of Easton Court and extending east of Easton Farm, now there are only these two dwellings. In the fields called Grubs Close(481) and The Old Foldyard(482) in 1840, known as Grubs Close and Grubs Fold in 1775, are visible earthworks of a group of dwellings with their croft boundaries and stones close beneath the surface of the pasture. Below is a rough sketch plan of the site with a hollow way along the north boundary of the field. Some of the hollows are now being filled in, and a piece of decorated medieval floor tile was picked up in the gateway in the SW corner of Grubs

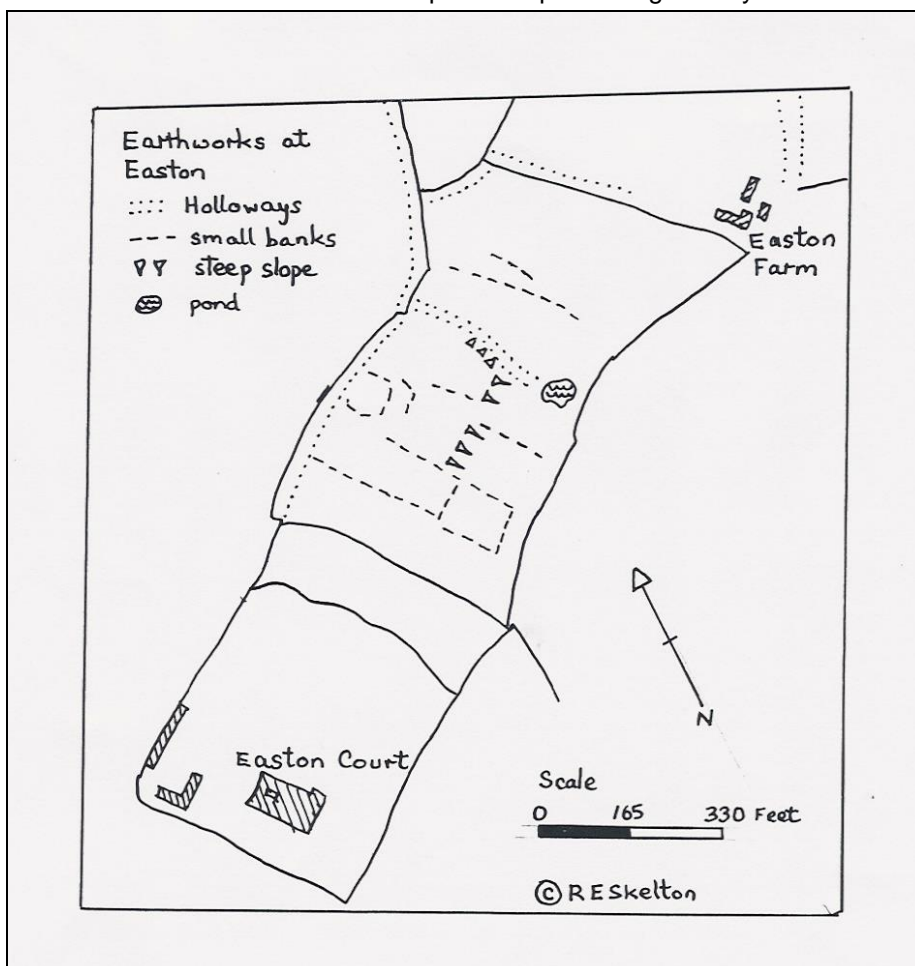


Figure 3 Sketch map showing earthworks near Easton court (Rosamund Skelton)

Close (probably brought in from somewhere not too far away).

Easton's Close has evidence of medieval ridge and furrow to the west of Easton Court formerly no doubt part of Little Field shown on the 1775 plan as an open field still containing unenclosed strips. To the east lay the Lower Field, again containing unenclosed strips.

### The Leominster Canal

We then moved down to the Lodge and walked eastwards to look at the bridge built of stone to carry the re-routed drive to Easton Court over the Leominster Canal between 1791 and 1794. One side of the bridge has lost a substantial amount of the facing stone and a hole in the arch is patched with a piece of corrugated iron. Even so the bridge is one of the most substantial still standing over the old canal. The canal bed survives here very clearly and the towpath structure has also survived beneath the bridge.

### Leat near Middleton

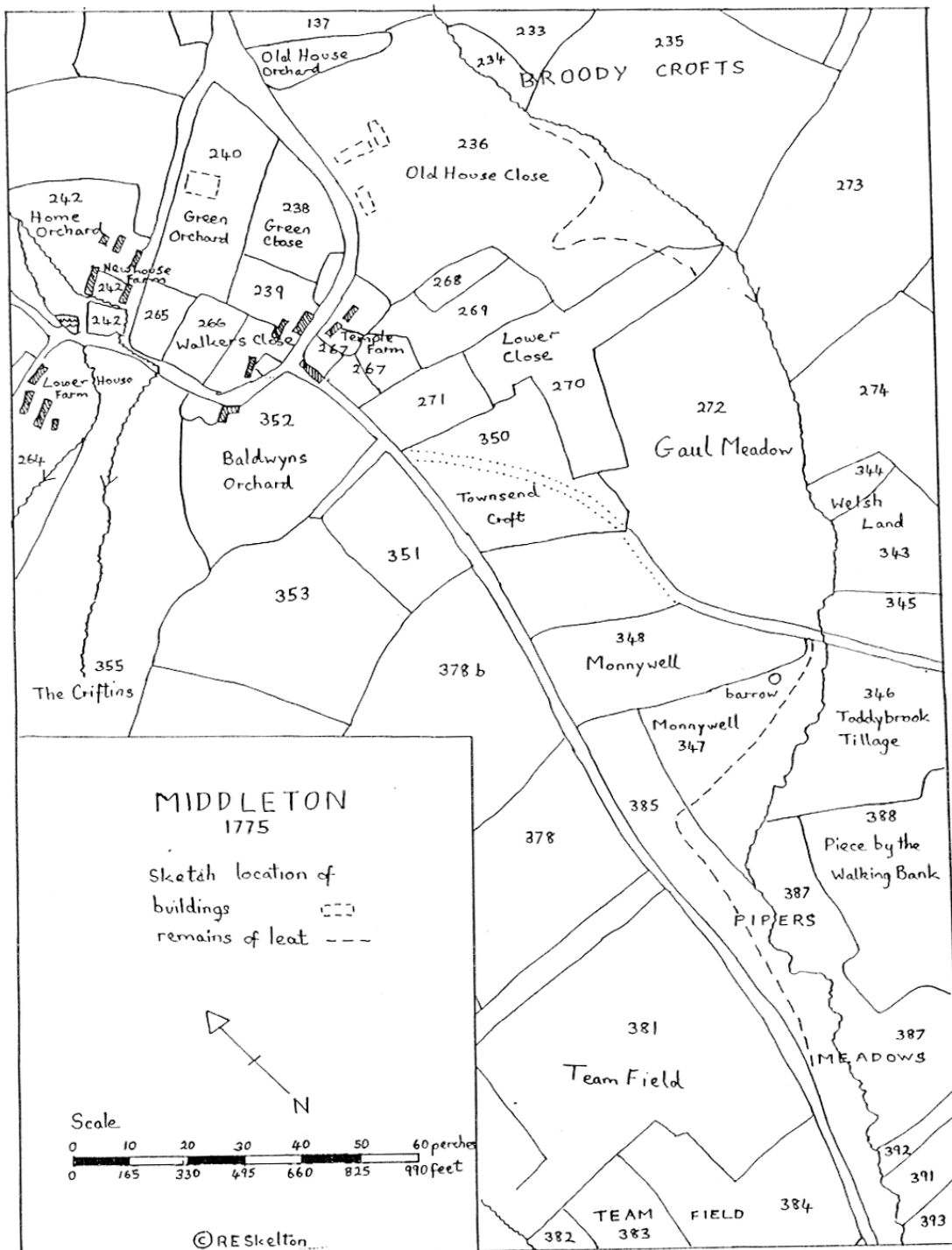


Figure 4 1775 Map of Middleton (Rosamund Skelton)



After a pleasant lunch at The Temeside Inn by the bridge over the Teme we visited the fields called Piper's Meadow and Monnywells on the copy of the 1775 plan (Fig 4). The route of a leat about two metres wide at the top and 1 metre deep is sketched on the plan. The leat fades into the line of the roadside hedge opposite the Temple Cottages. There is a steepening in the valleyside here and it is possible that this leat may have fed a mill wheel at this point. If so there is very little physical evidence, which would suggest it has been out of use for more than two centuries. Another possibility is that the leat may have been used to supply water to the canal by 1794. The widening of the road for modern traffic has probably obscured the feed point to the canal which passes beneath the road about 100 metres further down the hill. The leat can be clearly seen as far as the hedge separating Monnywell field from Gaul Meadow. Gaul Meadow, unlike Monnywell, has been thoroughly ploughed, virtually eliminating the line of the leat, but it reappears again in Lower Close and Old House Close fields to the north, as far as a small tributary draining from Temple Farm down to the main brook.

North of the tributary it is less well defined due to trampling by cattle. It was however judged inadvisable to pursue the line at this time because the field was full of pregnant cows and a bull. We are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Hodges and Mr Dave Hodges for permission to look at these fields.

The Monnywell fields had not been ploughed and showed where the old hedge bank between the two Monnywell fields on this map used to be and the associated ditches of Piper's Meadow adjacent to Monnywell field.

Close to the old boundary between the two Monnywell fields is a low circular mound about 6 metres diameter with slight indications of a ditch around it. As there is no sign of any depression in the top it is suggested that this may be a bronze age round barrow. It is not far from the stream and to the west of the leat.

### **Middleton**

In Old House Close just to the north of where the public footpath leaves the road is a very hard level rectangular platform which suggest the location of a previous building on this site to the north is a low wet area with further raised areas to the north. It looked as though this might be a deserted farm site, explaining the name of the field. There was also evidence for old ridge and furrow east of the building platform.

Continuing north along the road we turned into Green Orchard by the public footpath this field, Green Close and Barnets Croft are all now one field with an old holloway along the route of the old road shown on the plan above leading to what was later called New House Farm and is now called Mistletoe Bough. The section of road near to the old farm has been filled in some time ago no doubt when it ceased to be a road. There is evidence of a substantial house platform in Green Orchard and a low wet area in Green Close which might be either an old fold yard or possibly the source of clay for bricks to build the Georgian brick house at New House Farm. This, apart from a Methodist Chapel built about 1805 seems to be the only brick built house in Middleton, and all the rest are mainly timber-framed. We would like to thank Mrs Porter for permission to look at these fields.

### **Upper House Farm**

We are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Spink who very kindly allowed us to look at their timber-framed house and barn. Both had very interesting features. The barn has a scissor truss in association with what appears to be C17 framing, and what is now an interior brick wall looks as if it was originally an end wall with a later partly timber-framed extension added. This building has the exterior steps typical of a granary building.

The house itself has bay posts a foot square in the two bays west of the central fireplace. and the interior one of these posts has a large roll moulding on the SW corner of the post splaying slightly outwards. This suggests that it was originally part of an ornamental exposed roof truss. The steep angle indicates that it may have supported a thatched roof. The current 17C roof trusses have been raised about 0.5m above the top of the bay post and the original wall plate has been cut out, possibly in order to insert the winding staircase into the attic. Cross beams support joists with a 10cm hollow chamfer showing adze marks making a ceiling above the

level of the top of the bay posts. Taken with the other evidence this suggests that the ceiling has been inserted into an originally open medieval hall.  
The stone built inglenook fireplace was added onto this hall at some stage but the back of the fireplace at first floor level is of brick with decorative bricks protruding to

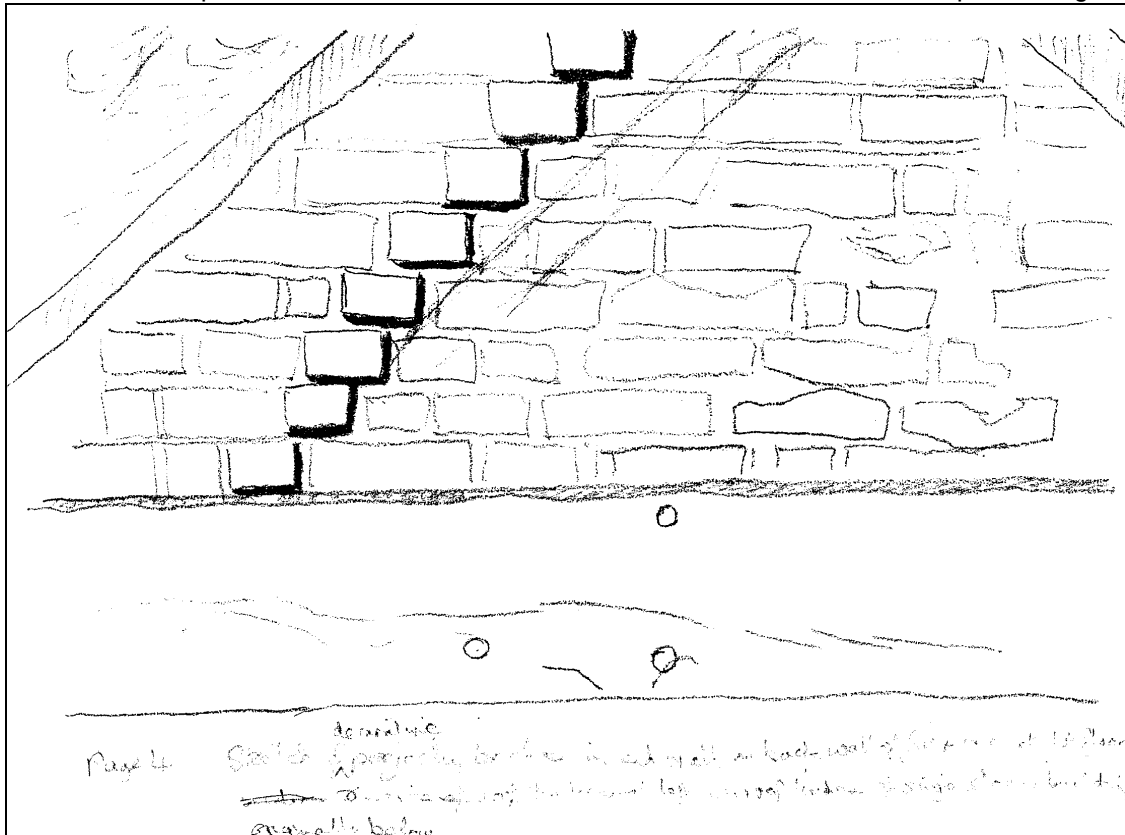


Figure 5 Protruding bricks on the exterior wall of inglenook fireplace

make a roof shaped outline presumably intended to be seen and suggesting that at that period the adjoining building was only one storey high so that the decorative bricks were visible. This is confirmed by the marks left by the roof rafters resting against the wall, to be seen in Fig. 5.

Interestingly the front door is a baffle entry on to the fireplace addition, and the early C19 staircase is located on the opposite side of the fireplace, a typical layout in a baffle entry house but the style of the staircase is much later than would be expected and presumably is a modification of the original stair in order to give access to the second floor added to the original single storey east of the fireplace.

### Field visit to Stretton Grandison by Jean O'Donnell

On May 7th. 2000 A.R.S. members met at Stretton Church to look at several sites in the parish. An aerial photograph showed the outline of a large building on the land by the bend in the present road (A). The bend was caused by a road diversion in the medieval period, so that the site belonged to the original cluster round the church. The area looked larger than the church and was probably a hall house with adjacent buildings or barns. It looked intriguing and was in a field called the Folly on the 1813 Enclosure map. It was disappointing to find that dumping had taken place and there were no signs of any earlier buildings. Before 1939 there had been a tennis court there but the shape did not correspond with this origin.

The next site identified on the aerial photographs, taken by the RAF in the 1950s, showed a trapeze-shaped enclosure in field (B). This matched a site that had produced Roman pottery on earlier field walks. The twenty members of our group walked the site in a rough grid and over 200 finds were gathered; most of them Romano-British.



Figure 1 Stretton Grandison showing sites mentioned in test

Then to Yarkhill, passing the site where two Celtic heads had been found at Covender (SO 607 425). At Yarkhill the site of the moated homestead had been revealed recently by clearance. It was a square platform next to the River Frome and had very good water works round it. Yarkhill church was also visited. Yarkhill formed part of the



Finally, the moated site at New House was observed at SO 445 645. One water-filled arm remains on the far side of the same Roman road and the full extent had been revealed by crop marks in previous years. Earlier field-walking had produced medieval finds including decorated tiles. At the end of the afternoon the group inspected the Romano-Celtic heads resident at New House at the home of Brian Willder who found them. {See article following for photograph of the heads}

### **Roman Stretton by Jean O'Donnell**

The landscape of Stretton Grandison is typical of the valley of the River Frome. The low-lying meadows are overlaid with alluvium from regular flooding. This ensures rich soils for arable crops and good pasture for animals. The meadows were an important part of the local economy through centuries. The land rises to the N. west of the present village and is bounded by the river Loden and the Hide brook which are natural boundaries to the parish. The crossing of the river Frome, which must have changed course over the centuries, was always important. In historic times there seem to have been two water courses, one of which was called *the olde brook* in the 17th. century.

A Roman road from Gloucester crossed the River Frome towards the Leintwardine complex of forts, and another branched off to Clyro at a cross roads in Stretton. Here, an auxiliary fort (4.8 acres) was found by Arnold Baker in 1969 on an aerial photograph he had taken. The fort was one of the strategic points of the early Roman advance into present-day Wales. Field walking at the time (1970) produced numerous surface finds including a coin of the 15<sup>th</sup> century by the schoolchildren of the local Secondary school at Canon Frome, with a variety of pottery including Samian by the Woolhope Archaeology section and later by the WEA local history class. It was also suggested from the photographs that a mansio or posting station lay along the road.

The aerial reconnaissance undertaken by Chris Musson on behalf of the Woolhope Club in recent years has revealed a another great oblong enclosure which has been identified by Keith Ray as an outline showing walls of a small town close to Blacklands farm. The dark soil has shown up on other photographs but this is the clearest outline of an enclosure which stretches across the present main road. This is close to the fort site and is greater in extent than Magnis. It has long been thought that a small town or civil settlement existed here. When the Hereford to Gloucester canal was being constructed in 1842, during excavation for foundations for an aqueduct over the River Frome, some interesting objects were found in black soil 12 feet down. These included: a steelyard complete with weight, two gold bracelets, a bronze lamp stand, Samian pottery and many animal bones. This provided convincing evidence of a civil settlement. It has been identified with a missing town on an itinerary as Epocessa - place of horses, which could be logically applied to a posting or cavalry station.

Even more intriguing was the discovery made by deep ploughing of two stone heads near the boundary with Yarkhill down Watery Lane (1983-84). They were near the confluence of the Loden and the Hide brook -a place where a water shrine might be expected. These heads were set up in a kind of grotto as may be seen in Gloucester museum. They have been identified as Romano-British by Martin Henig. This type of water shrine would be related to a civil settlement and native population.<sup>1</sup>

Last year, from an old aerial photograph taken nearly fifty years ago I identified another crop mark showing a trapeze -shaped enclosure with a road from it leading to the walled town site. The archaeological section of the Woolhope Club came with me to fieldwalk the field on May 7th 2000 after pottery confirming the site as Roman had already been found there by Ann and Brian Willder during the previous year. Our endeavours produced over 200 sherds of pottery, plaster, tile, glass, pieces of a quern, slag and some samian pottery. The site was walked in a rough grid which resulted in a concentration of building materials towards the centre of the site.

What has made it more intriguing as a feature of the landscape is that it was still being recorded some 1200 hundred years after the sub-Roman period, on a local 17<sup>th</sup> century map<sup>2</sup> where it is clearly outlined on the common meadows as some kind of enclosure with banks. [Fig. 2]

Where did the people of this small market town go? It is evident that the site was abandoned because of flooding. Sea levels rose in the 5th.century and the dark soil is typical of abandoned settlement. The depth of finds under the canal at 12 feet and others at 9 feet suggest that the amount of flooding became a problem and the people

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<sup>1</sup> Jean O'Donnell Two Celtic Heads Trans. Woolhope Nat. Fld.Club XL V (1986) p501

<sup>2</sup> HRO W76/55

left for the slopes above the river and sheltered near their former hilltop, near the present church.

It is a likely villa site for the church is built on a platform below Homend bank on top of which there was a hillfort. In other places such as Putley, Dormington, Whitchurch

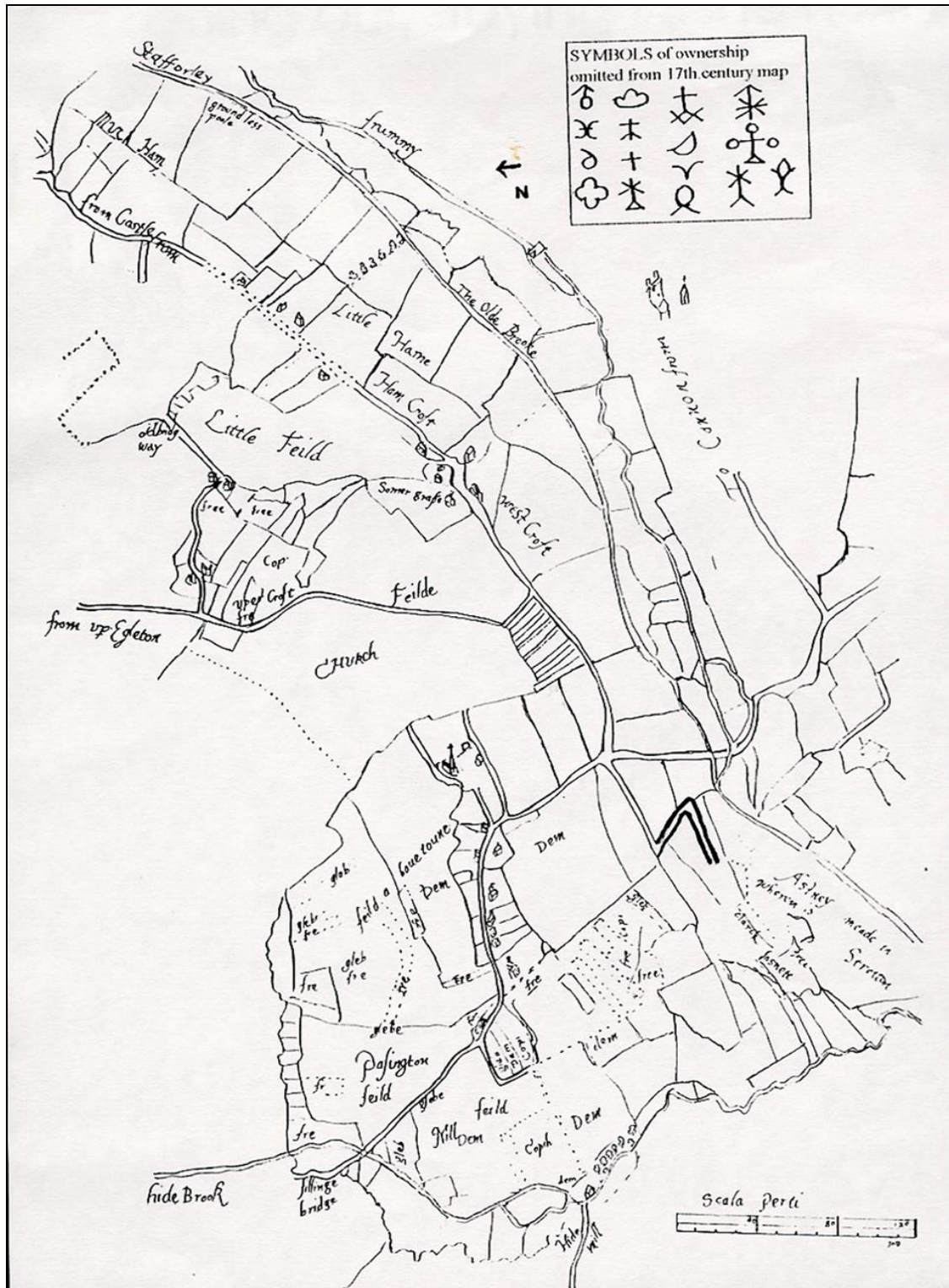


Figure 2 17<sup>th</sup> century map of Stretton Grandison showing residual shape of trapezoid enclosure  
[Note that the river is called the 'frummy' which suggests the pronunciation at the time Ed.]

and Bishopstone churches were built on or near villa sites. In 1878 an oil lamp with

elaborate decoration was found in the side of a pit near Homend bank. St. Catherine's well is also nearby offering abundant spring water.

This settlement would have formed the nucleus of the present village. The boundary with the present township of Egleton means that the hillfort lay within it rather than Stretton but this artificial boundary was probably made when the great Deanery of Frome was created and Egleton was an estate given to the Bishop. Before this it was possibly part of a multiple estate which formed part of Radlow Hundred. The *eccles* name may record the memory of an early Christian church for such names indicate this, and it is perhaps why this detached estate was presented to the Church. To support this idea a legend is linked to the building of Much Cowarne church, only a mile from Egleton. This tells that every night the stones were moved until it was relocated and built on the present site. This occurs in other places where archaeology has confirmed that an early church has been recorded in folk-memory. Egleton never did have a church in the medieval period - and in the 19th century burial rights were allowed at Stretton rather than distant Bishop's Frome.

We have to imagine that the native population continued to farm and grazed the animals on the rich meadowlands. The urban structure disappeared with the breakdown of Roman administration, and with less trade and demand for food the intensity of cultivation would have declined and woodland and waste became more abundant.

Saxon penetration did not reach this area until the mid 7th century and the British or Celtic church was operating when St. Augustine visited the British bishops in 602. The bishop from Hereford is said to have attended the meeting. The first settlers to come were evidently impressed by the Roman legacy of the road for they called it Stretton or the settlement by the Straet. One of the important common fields was known as Passington. This is an early Saxon name meaning the place of Passa's people. This field is furthest away from the site of the village and points to a kind of co-existence. From the 18th century or earlier this was still the end of the settlement and known as Town's End.

We can only speculate about the nature of the Roman town which grew up outside the fort and beside the cross roads. Finds of Samian point to an early settlement but there are indications that there was continuing occupation throughout the Roman period. Much of the large area of Roman settlement has been scheduled but finds need co-ordinating and analysis. Much more recording and surveying is planned by Herefordshire Archaeology when Foot and Mouth has ceased to be a problem. Watch this space for what promises to be a very important Roman site in Herefordshire.



## **Celtic Heads by Jean O'Donnell**



Figure 1 Celtic head at Much Cowarne (M Hewitt)

Another interesting head has been observed recently at Much Cowarne. It is situated on Pank's Bridge over the keystone facing downstream on the river Loden (SO 627 483). Local farmer Martin Hewitt sent a photograph to me and referred the discovery to Dr. Keith Ray.

The bridge was rebuilt in 1928 possibly by G.Jack, County Surveyor, who being an amateur archaeologist may have put the head in place. The question is where did it come from? Would he have done this if it were alien to the site; it seems more likely that it was in or near the river. As it is the same Loden that is associated with the Yarkhill heads it is even more intriguing.

The head has some similarities: it has a long face with round eyes and a straight hair cut in the same stylistic manner as other Celtic heads of the Roman period. It is local sandstone.

Although Dr .Ray was convinced of its early date doubt has been expressed by Martin Henig of the Institute of Archaeology in Oxford. He considers it to be medieval in origin and possibly Romanesque.



Figure 2 Male head from Yarkhill ( J O'Donnell)



Figure 3 Female head from Yarkhill (J O'Donnell)

There are enough heads in our churches to support this, or are they carrying on a local tradition? It would be useful to know of any other heads that are not in churches so that we can gather photographs together and make a Herefordshire collection that will aid dating by style and location. Please send me details of any you have observed. A photograph would be a bonus.

Jean O'Donnell 5 Broadlands Lane, Hereford. HRI 1 HZ

### Field Meeting to the Llanveynoe area by Graham Sprackling

Twelve members met at Llanveynoe church (SO 303 313) on Sunday 2nd July 2000, at 10.30am. for a field meeting led by Graham Sprackling. The weather was stormy and we explored the churchyard as we waited for a service to finish. The view is superb from this elevated site. It has been suggested that the original foundation, perhaps a simple construction of daub and wattle, may have been some yards away in the field behind the church. The church is now dedicated to St. Peter, but the name suggests an original dedication to St Beuno, an early Welsh saint.

The church was rebuilt in the 13th. century, restored in the 19th. century and enlarged in 1912. It is constructed with local sandstone. Inside are two notable carvings: incised stones believed to be of pagan or early Christian origin. They are described in detail in HAN 66 (1996). In the churchyard is a standing cross, reputedly the only monolithic standing cross in Herefordshire. It has short arms and has a groove down its length. As the cross was for many years fallen and lying on the ground, it has been thought that the groove may have been cut when it was used for some drainage purposes. The cross may be contemporary with the stones inside the church. Short arm crosses may be the link between pagan standing stones and early Christian influence among the celtic people.

Mr Neville Powell, a local farmer, then escorted us to a ruined farmhouse several

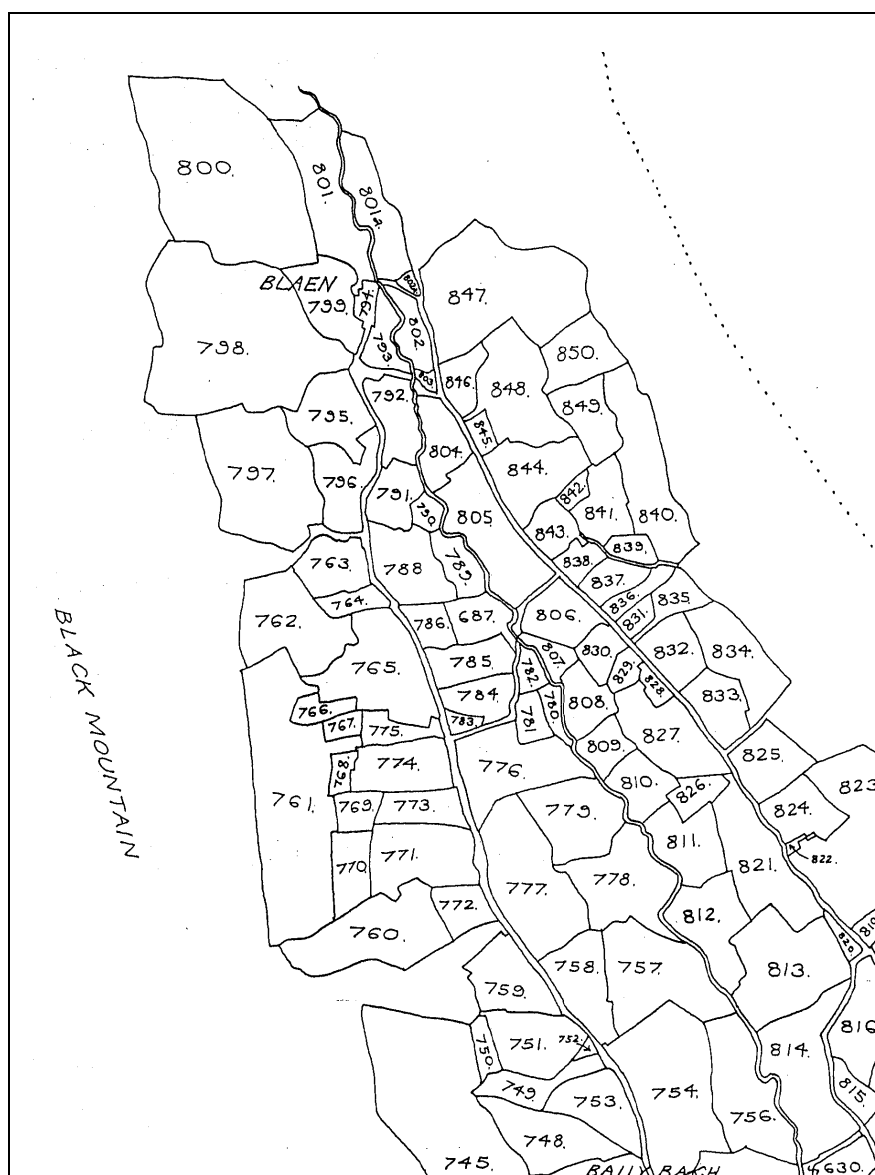


Figure 1 Llanveynoe Tithe Map

miles away. Scattered along the length of the Olchon valley are over 20 ruined and

abandoned farm sites and cottages. Farms of this type often of only 50 acres or less had only a small acreage of arable land. They relied on their rights to graze sheep on the upland common areas such as the Black Hill. Livestock farming was the major interest.

The large number of holly hedges and even holly woods in the vicinity reflect its use as a winter fodder. Further down the valley is Holly Farm. Horses and colts would also have been a marketable commodity, useful also as a form of transport in the difficult terrain.

**The Blaen** ( SO 278 337) lies positioned sideways on to the road. This was a stone tiled, longhouse type farmhouse, of coursed sandstone rubble construction. Of late 17th. century date, it has a full length lean-to at the rear of the house. Entry was from the gable end near the large fire-place.



Figure 2 Blaen Farmhouse (G Sprackling)

Just outside in the yard a yew tree and the remains of a small pond can be seen. A few yards away is a stone barn, now roofless, and further down the road another barn and pig sties. All the buildings are ruinous, and we were told by Mr Powell have been plundered for building stone .

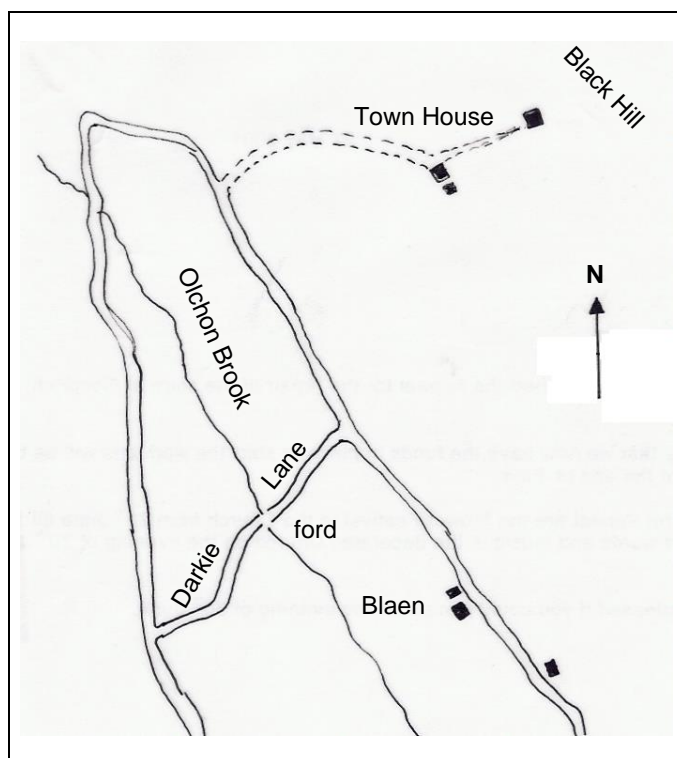


Figure 3 Sketch map of area (G Sprackling)

After leaving the Blaen, 300m further up the road on the left, we were shown the entrance to a deeply sunk hollow way called 'Darkie Lane'. On the map it can be seen to go steeply down the slope towards a ford over the Olchon Brook, across another small stream eventually joining a lane which serves Olchon Court, Pencilley and Auburys Farm on the opposite side of the valley. Bearing in mind orientation - northward facing and between two mountain ridges - very little daylight would have penetrated this deeply sunken lane. There is also a 'Dark Lane' in Ewyas Harold.

**Town House** lies at SO 277 335. Another 300 yards on from Darkie Lane, on the right, a trackway runs up the steep slope to this ruined farmhouse and barn. Similar in style to other farms in the area, this dates from around the late 17<sup>th</sup> C and is a longhouse type, built of local sandstone and with stone tiles.

Kelly's Directory of 1913 shows it occupied by Vear Smith. By the 1930's it is no longer mentioned. A stone barn 100 yards away from the house is in reasonable condition. High up on the gable end is a small loading door. There are no outside steps as in some haylofts known as 'Tolats' (Welsh - Taflod := a loft) in Welsh areas. Mr Powell called it what sounded like a Booki? .The Welsh Bwt(iau) = a hole, which is basically what it is. As he had never seen it written down, we can assume a corruption from the Welsh word. As at The Blaen the remains of stone built pig-sties are also evident.

With regards to its name of 'Town' House, this has always been a puzzle when applied to an isolated dwelling such as this. There is a 'Town Farm' on the other side of the hill at Craswall, but that is more closely integrated into the surrounding habitations. Perhaps we should remember that although scattered, many dwellings have disappeared from around the Llanveynoe farm as well as a local chapel, and it may at one time have been the principal farm of the tun or settlement.

After thanking Mr Powell for showing us around, we made our way back to the Bull's Head public house at Craswall.

#### **Acknowledgments**

Thanks are due to Mr Neville Powell for showing us around the ruins of The Blaen and The Town House farms in Llanveynoe parish.

The Blaen is described by Jim Tonkin in Trans. Woolhope Nat. Field. Club Vol. XXXIX 1967 pt 1. Some notes on the Celtic cross-incised stone found near Llanveynoe Church, can be seen in HAN 66 (Autumn 1966, p47), and were compiled by Nina Weddell.

### **Field visit to Cwmyoy church by Graham Sprackling**

After a morning leading us on a guided tour of the hillfort at Twyn-y-Gaer, Ruth Richardson had to leave us. Most members took a picnic lunch in a field nearby. Two people went to the Queen's Head Inn. Our numbers depleted by a few more departures, Graham Sprackling took us to the interesting church at Cwmyoy.

#### **St. Martin's Church, Cwmyoy (SO 2 98 234)**

This dedication is not very common in Monmouthshire, though there was also an ancient chapel at Bwlch Trewyn not far away, dedicated to St. Martin.

After 1100 AD Cwmyoy came under the Priory of Llanthony; the manor having been



Fig. 1 Cwmyoy Church

given to the priory by Hugh de Lacy. In 1533 following the dissolution of the monasteries, the priory with all its churches and manors was given to Sir Nicholas Arnold, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. Previously Cwmyoy had been served by monks from the Priory. Afterwards, curates were sent to minister at Cwmyoy. In 1830 it became a vicarage linked to Llanthony. In 1969 it was joined to Llanfihangel Crucorney and Oldcastle .

The name 'Cwmyoy' is from the Welsh Cwm (valley) and iau (yoke) referring to the topography of the site; the valley near the church being deemed be shaped in profile like a yoke. The strange misalignment of the building and the tower is due to the subsidence and slipping of the underlying rock and soil affecting its foundations.

There are many interesting features inside the church. Some of the monuments, and the communion rail itself are 17th. century. There is a coat of arms of the Cadogan family. There are six bells in the tower, but not all are rung for safety reasons. Many of the finely carved tombstones have interesting inscriptions.

The medieval cross in the churchyard is believed to be one of the crosses on the pilgrim way to St. Davids. An unusual feature of the cross is the small mitre on the carved head of Christ. Lewis Lewis the incumbent installed in 1855 named the north and south gates of the churchyard, Bridget Gate & Eliza Gate after his two daughters. As we walked along the lane behind the church Rosamund Skelton showed us a map marking the site just outside the church boundary wall, where an inn called 'The Black Lion' once stood. We identified the position as a stony area by the roadside. At the end of the lane we looked at a stone built house which was formerly the old school.

### Field Meeting to Newton St Margarets by George Charnock

At Newton St. Margarets, on the afternoon of Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2000, we were met and welcomed by our guide for the afternoon; George Charnock, a Woolhope Club member. George has lived in Newton for 35 years and is a keen observer of its features and history. It was explained that Newton and St. Margarets were two separate and distinct parishes, their linking appeared to date from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and may have been introduced by the Post Office to distinguish this Newton from other Newton's in the County.

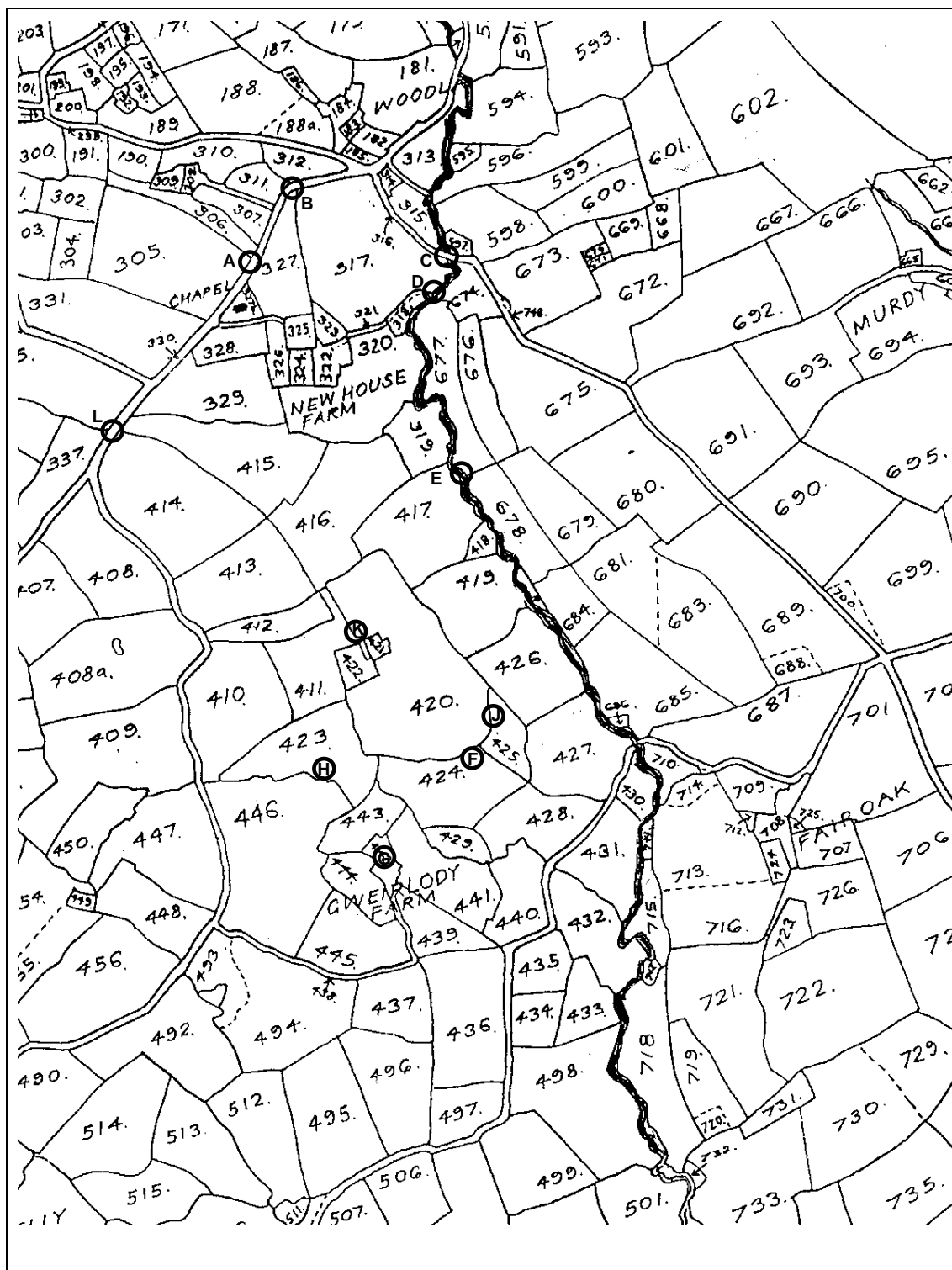


Figure 1 Newton & St Margarets Tithe Maps showing points mentioned in text (G Charnock)



Newton was a "Township of Clodock" and until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century part of the Diocese of St. David's. The older name for the area is Maes-coed, Welsh for 'clearing or field in the wood'. This name still persists in modern ordnance survey maps in the form of Lower, Middle and Upper Maes-coed. Residual commons exist at both Lower and Upper Maes-coed. That at Middle Maes-coed was finally enclosed shortly before the Tithe Map of 1844 following authorisation by an Act of Parliament of 1815.

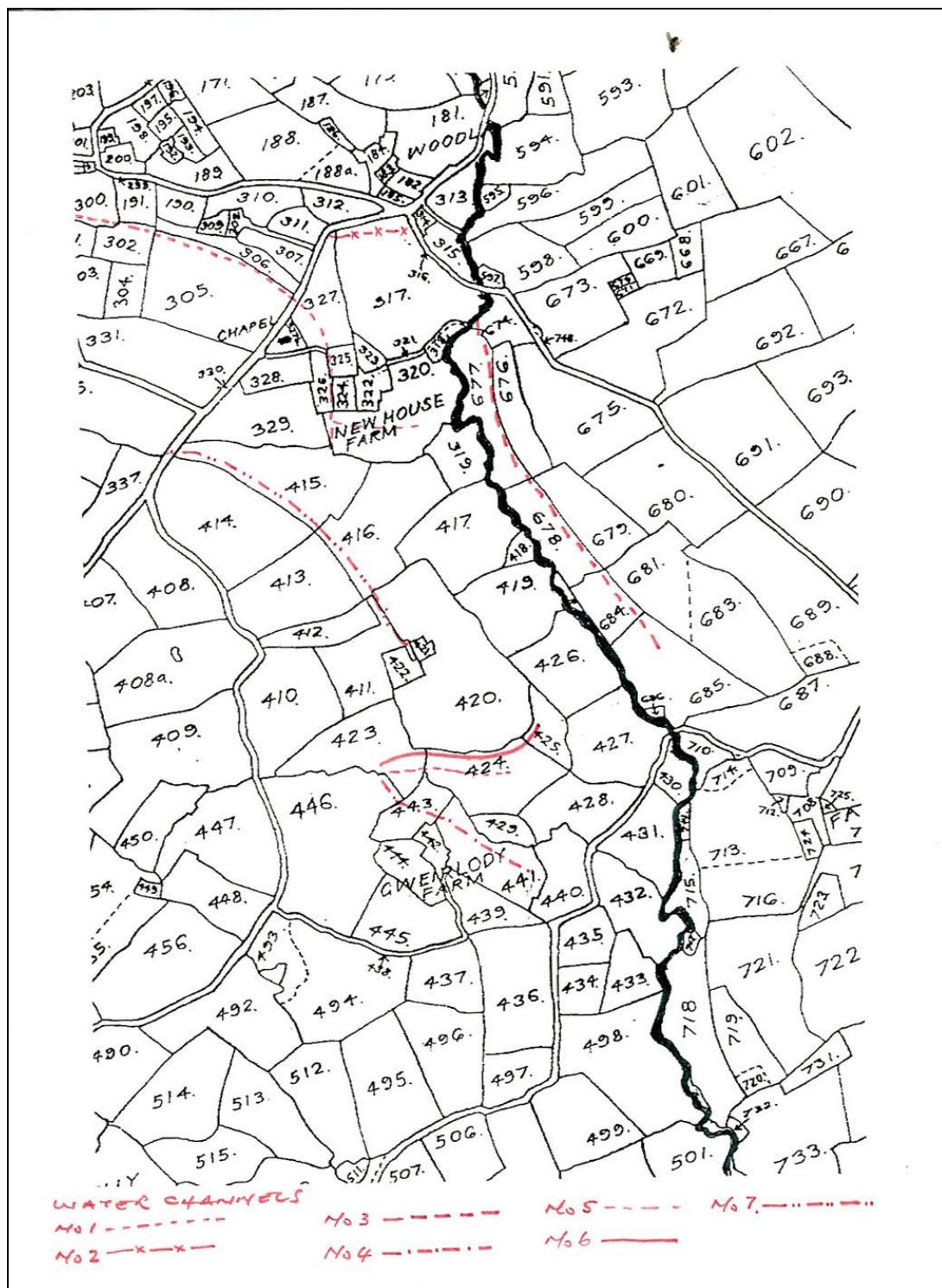


Figure 2 Newton & St Margarets Tithe Maps showing water channels (G Charnock)

Newton has no ancient monuments, the Chapel dates from 1833 and St. John's Church from a few years later. The main historical and archaeological interest lies in

its settlement and field patterns, illustrating a process of piecemeal enclosure; its place names, which of older fields and farms are of Welsh origin; its road and green lane patterns; its quarries of earlier stone working and a series of water channels of various ages and purposes.

The day's explorations would be mainly focused on some of these water channels. Most of our walk would be away from public footpaths, on private land by permission of John Price of Newhouse farm.

Our tour started at the chapel [tithe map 327b]. At map reference 3473.3300 (point A on the map) a distinct change in the gradient of the roadway was noted. This is due to a crude slab bridge, which carries the road over a water channel (channel 1), the channel is easily seen in the adjacent fields [306 & 327]. This channel starts some 300m away at 3450.3315 where it drew water from an unnamed brook and conducted it to the stock yard of Newhouse farm, and then on to take the overspill to join another brook in a dingle at 3477.3275.

Shortly before it joins the second brook there are remains of a stone diversion weir by which the water could be led into a second channel running across Great Tanhouse Meadow (tithe map field number 320). The main channel (now long disused) was perhaps about 1.10m wide and 0.60m deep. Its purpose would have been to bring water to the farmstead for stock, that it was laid out to give a continuous flow may indicate a secondary use for toilet flushing whilst the facility for diversion to the lower meadow was probably for irrigation.

At 3482.3310 (point B) the roadway crosses the unnamed brook of Sunny Bank dingle. Looking over the wire fence to the South, slight remains of another man made water channel (channel 2) are to be seen. These appear to have taken water from the dingle stream to tithe map field 317 which has the name Lloynd Meadow. From evidence of an early mortgage document this field is believed to be an original part of an early freehold farmstead. In the 16th Century such farms in the parish were typically about 40 acres in size and located on the periphery of the then extensive commons, later by progressive enclosure additions and consolidation they became 200-300 acres in size. Since this water channel was constructed the bed of the feeder stream has sunken considerably by erosion, further evidence of the age of some of these channels.

At 3504.3300 (point C) we left the public road to follow the Dulas Brook downstream. Dulas is Welsh for black or dark water. For a while the brook forms the parish boundary between Newton and St.Margarets - before 1548 it would have been the boundary between England and Wales. A few metres downstream from the road a series of large stones across the bed of the Brook were pointed out. These are the remains of a dam which was used to raise the level of the water and divert it into another water channel (channel 3) which can be traced to 3520.3250, where it enters a field and has been ploughed out. It probably went on to Mill Wood at 3535.3180. Only the place name remains - there are no signs of mill buildings. At 3505.3280 the channel is very evident and there are remains of a stone regulating sluice. The channel was about 1.10m wide and 0.60m deep before erosion and natural filling in. Near the take off point of this channel the remains (point D) of an old sunken roadway now disused and over grown was noted, this crosses the Dulas Brook by ford, and the manmade channel by a stone slab bridge before rising up through the wood towards Bacton. It is thought that this roadway predates the present one, and at that time would have been the main route from Middle Maes-coed to Hereford.

There is a very pleasant waterfall in the Dulas Brook at 3510.3260 (point E) . Here the water cascades over a rock slab edge to fall 3-4 metres. It was interesting to note the pronounced change in the nature of the brook occasioned by this waterfall. Upstream the brook meanders to and fro across the meadows, its bed on rock, its banks shallow with little or no loose stone in its bed. Downstream from the fall the brook is contained in a deep ravine perhaps 5 or more metres deep and about the same across. Its bed is marked by a series of deep pools and is filled with rocks which are large near the waterfall and get progressively smaller as one goes downstream.



The mechanism of the river bed formation is very evident. Water over the fall, with

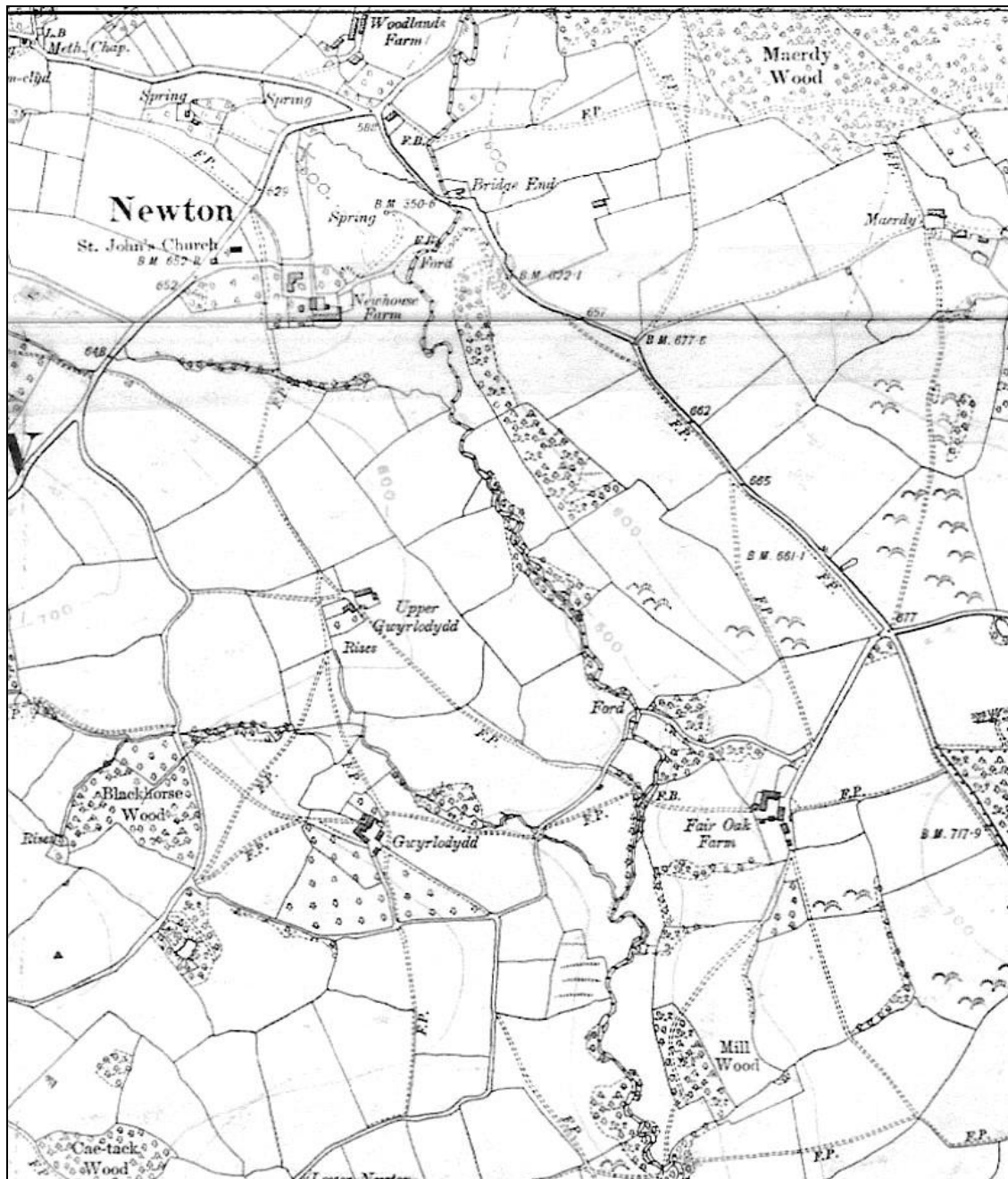


Figure 3 OS map of Newton St Margarets

time excavates a deep pool at its foot. The stone slab bed over which the water falls is perhaps half a metre thick and under laid with softer formations. Once the pool is formed these soft formations are eroded until the slab is undermined and sections break off. The waterfall then retreats and the process starts all over again. George said he had observed this action over many years, and the waterfall was currently retreating at the rate of about 1 metre in 25 years. The distinct ravine is about 400 metres in length and probably represents 10,000 years work by the brook. The brook contains trout, eels, and crayfish. Mink have been noted and there are now less trout than in earlier decades.

We left the brook side to climb up to 3507.3226 (point F). This is an interesting site with fine views down the Dulas Brook valley towards Dulas and Ewyas Harold. Below us we could see Gwylodydd farmstead (point G) in a feeder valley to the main brook. This farm which is not seen from public roads has its own story.

One Walter Marsh (1743-1822) enlarged it in the second half of the 18th Century. Over a period he took in several parcels of land to form a composite farm of over 160 acres. He was an important man of the area in his time, and he seems to have had financial backing from a Mr Richard Hankins who it is thought was a life long friend from boyhood days. Richard Hankins, by his mother, was a grandson of the then farmer of Newhouse farm. We can imagine their boyhood adventures on the common where they would have been sent to watch over the cattle grazing there. Richard's family were wealthy Hereford merchants and he went on to own extensive properties in the County, in Bristol, and in London. He died a wealthy man in London.

Walter Marsh was one of the executors of his will, a copy of which is in the Hereford Record Office. In 1795 Walter Marsh rebuilt the Gwyrlogydd Farmhouse and some of its out buildings, some of these contain high-class vernacular stonework.

From this viewpoint three more man made water channels (channels 4, 5 & 6) were noted. The take off point for all these is the Gwyrlogydd dingle brook at about 3480.3221 (point H). One of these flows south east, across field 441 where it can be plainly seen as a contour mark. The other two channels were from the left side of the feeder brook and flow into field 424. Remains of stone diversion dams still exist in the bed of the brook. The Gwyrlogydd channel and the lower of the channels to field 424 appear to have been for irrigation purposes, not to be confused with water-meadows, the fields being far too steep for standing water. The third channel is of more interest, much more labour was involved in its construction and its channel now forms the contour field boundary between fields 420 and 424. It terminates in a peculiar piece of ground which the tithe map has as orchard 425 (point J). This is a platform site and is believed to be the site of a pre 14th Century farmstead now completely extinct. If this is so then it would have been one of the very earliest occupation sites of the Maes-coeds, and would have been then located on what was then the west edge of the common with four or five enclosed fields on the warmer land facing south. The water channel would have brought water to the farmstead and its construction have been a pioneering work perhaps consolidating the title to the land. There must have been more than one family seeking good land to settle and such labour would have been respected. Evidence suggests that by about 1400 this site was deserted and the homestead re-established on adjoining land freshly enclosed from the common at 3487.3240 (point K); marked on the OS map as Upper Gwyrlogydd and now known as Oldhouse. The position of the gateway between fields 425 and 420 is further evidence of this ancient occupation site. Over the centuries gates and their posts may be changed many times but their location remains as evidence of past usage.

The party was received at Oldhouse and fortified with tea and cake. They were able to see the internal timber features of the house which experts date to about 1500 and which themselves reflect a rebuilding of an earlier house.

The last water channel (channel 7) to be noted in the afternoon was one which ran from 3454.3273 (point L) to the old farmyard at Upper Gwyrlogydd. This would have brought water from a minor brook to the farmstead for stock purposes. The domestic water is from an excellent spring which still serves the house.

The afternoon finished where it started - at St Johns Church. In the course of our walk we had seen seven separate water channels within the compass of a relatively small area. These had been made to serve a variety of purposes, and none of these purposes corresponds to that which people generally associate with Herefordshire, and with Rowland Vaughan's water works of the Golden Valley .

Note. All the features described are on private land. Permission to view must be obtained in advance from Mr A J Price of Newhouse Farm.

# Field Meeting to Goodrich by Roz Lowe

The proposed field meeting to Huntsham and Coppet Hill having been postponed by the foot & mouth disease restrictions, the morning of Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2001 was spent by a small group of members being guided by Roz around an accessible part of Goodrich, prior to an afternoon exploring research sources on the Internet.

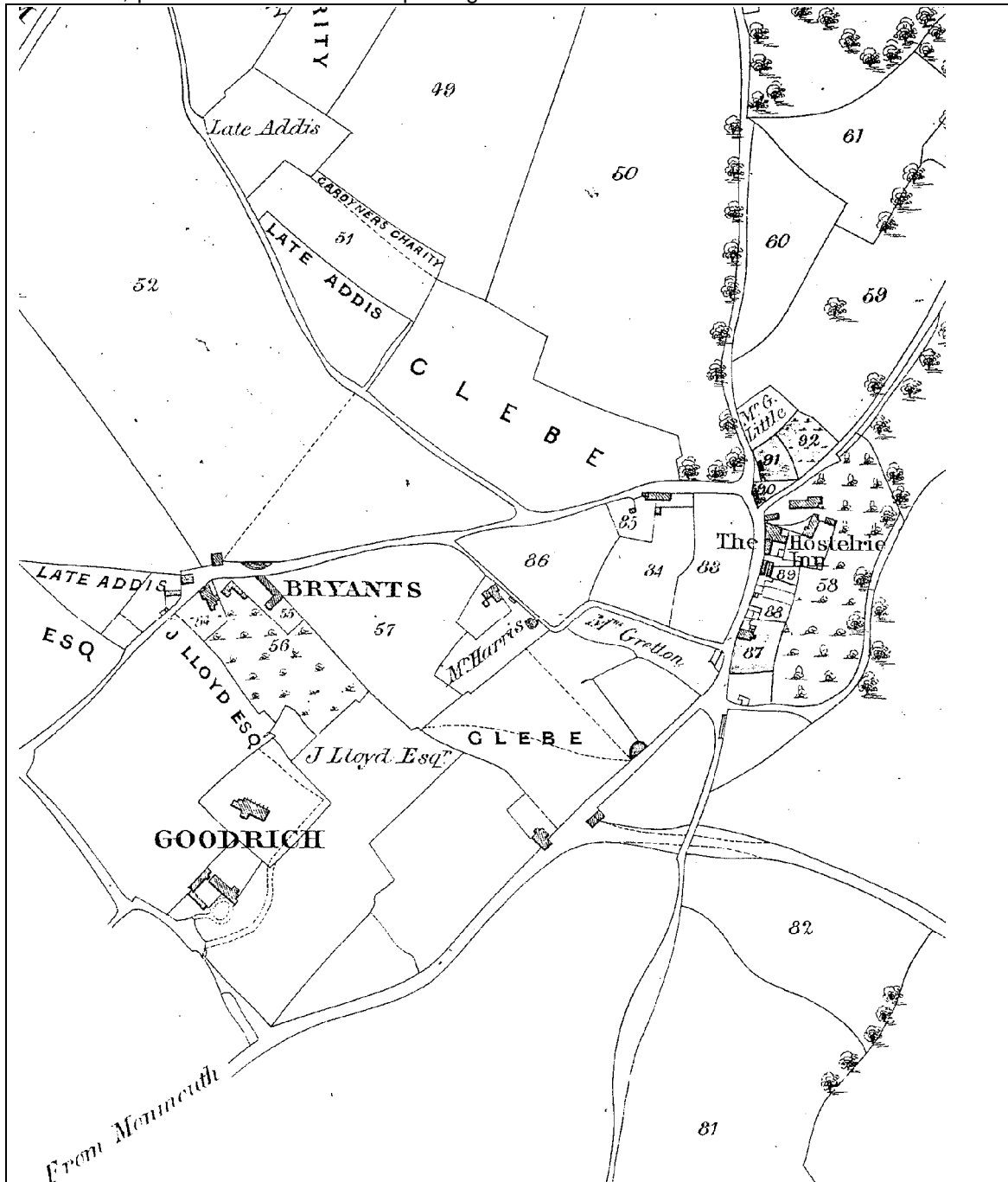


Figure 1 Goodrich from 1869 Goodrich Court Sales Particulars (Hereford Lib) N to top

The 'centre' of Goodrich today is defined in most peoples' eyes by the pub Ye Hostelrie and Jolly's shop. Many people comment on the fact that the church seems to be isolated from these traditional definers of a village centre.

The fact is that Goodrich has never had a centre in the usual meaning of the word, just a number of settlements that have grown up around important functional locations such as crossroads. Outside these locations, there were separated farmsteads, and groups of squatters' houses on the manorial waste.

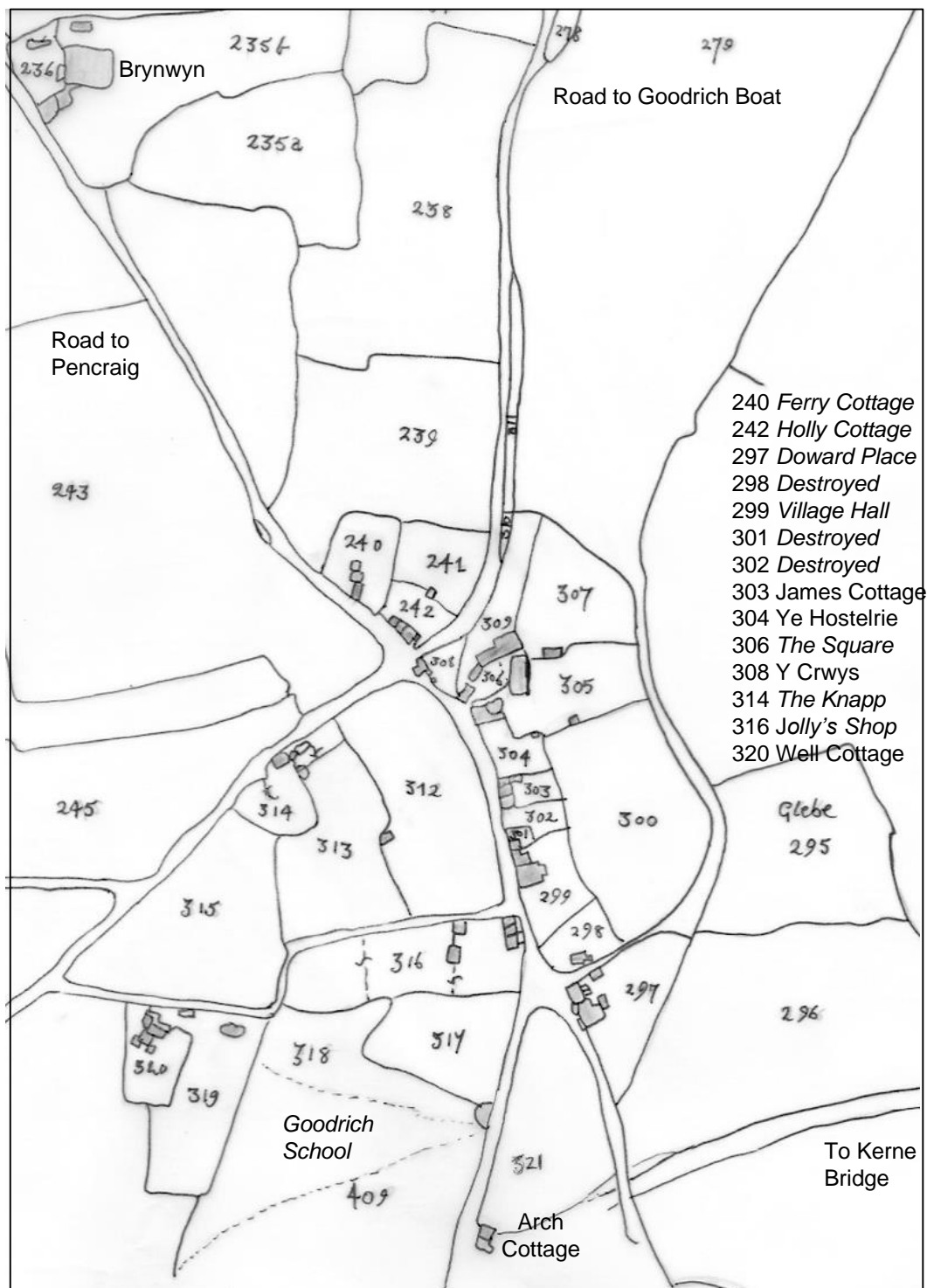


Figure 2 Goodrich tithe Map 1839 with annotations (R Lowe)

Firstly, we looked at the houses in the area containing the shop & pub. This has been known variously as Croose, Crews, Crwys etc. from before the 16<sup>th</sup> century. There is no reason to think that the name does not mean 'Cross', as the road from the ancient Wye ferry & ford below Goodrich Castle (Goodrich Boat) crosses the road leading towards another ancient Wye crossing at Huntsham. Afterwards, we visited another area of settlement around the church, and then the church itself.

Tracing the history of buildings in the Croose area has been greatly facilitated by access to a private collection of deeds, the result of the purchases of Sir Samuel Meyrick and his successors to the Goodrich Court estate. By the time the estate was

sold to the Moffatt family in 1870 the Meyricks owned virtually all the houses in Croose. A catalogue of these documents has been deposited at Hereford RO, and they will be referred to as RTR [catalogue number].

The crossroads familiar to most visitors to Goodrich is where the road to Goodrich Castle turns off the main road through the village. This is also the point of departure for the road to Welsh Bicknor, which now crosses the Kerne Bridge road by a viaduct called the 'Dry Arch'.

Before the building of Kerne Bridge in 1824-8, there was an ancient ford on the same site, already called 'Flanesford' when the priory was founded there in 1346. The road from this ford led up past the priory to join Castle Lane where a cottage now stands, described as being 'newly built' in 1871. (RTR 63) This house was the home at one time of Titus Morgan, who used to guide visitors around Goodrich Castle, and who was not averse to doing excavations regarded by Meyrick as 'lacking system'.<sup>1</sup> Morgan lived at tithe no. 298 in 1839, now replaced by a modern bungalow. The older houses on the corner of Castle Lane and the Welsh Bicknor road (tithe no. 297 - now called **Doward Place**) were shown on Isaac Taylor's 1767 Wye Navigation map.

On the corner of the Kerne Bridge road and the road through Goodrich (tithe no. 321 ) lies Arch Cottage. The name does not refer to its proximity to the Dry Arch, but rather to the visible high arch, now filled in, in the centre of the cottage. Originally this was an open archway running right through the house, high enough for coaches to pull underneath, and for travellers to descend in the dry. On one side of the arch there was a large kitchen downstairs, with a closed stairway to a heated waiting room for the passengers. On the other side were rather less affluent quarters, as well as a stable for horses. It's not known how long the building was used for its original purpose. Until the mid-1990s, when Mr M E P Watkins lived there, the arch was intact inside which was rather inconvenient when walking between bedrooms. Unfortunately a recent owner has lowered the arch inside, and there do not appear to be any photographs of it in its unaltered state.

Returning towards Ye Hostelrie, past the new and old schools, we came to **Jolly's shop**. At the time of the tithe map (no. 316), this was split into three dwellings, owned by Richard Elsmore. John & Mary Hill had bought the property in 1805, having borrowed money from the local Friendly Society which used to meet at the Cross Keys pub. It had been bought by Thomas Wanklyn from John Pritchard tailor in 1782, when the property had a (cider) mill & orchard. (RTR 438)

Opposite Jolly's, were tithe nos 299, 301 & 302. These have all been replaced by a modern house, the War Memorial and the Village Hall. The Village Hall is a listed red-brick building faithfully built in Jacobethan style in 1884. It was originally a Reading Room, donated to the village by the Moffatt family, successors to the Meyricks at Goodrich Court. One of the buildings demolished in building the hall (no. 299) was a former blacksmith's shop and house. This had been used by the parish as a poorhouse by contract with Philip Carter in the 1830s, before the Ross Union Workhouse relieved Goodrich of the responsibility. The only relic of this group of buildings is **James' Cottage**, a small timber-framed house probably 17<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>1</sup> College of Arms T W KING HER MISC. Vol 12 f29



Figure 3 Jolly's Shop circa 1906. Ye Hostelrie is on the right, and Y Cwys in the centre. This view no longer exists

The next building on the tithe map is 304, just a small building at right-angles to the road in 1839. By 1869, it had been extensively extended & 'gothicked' by Sir Samuel Meyrick, and was then '**Ye Hostelrie**', but in the 1851 census it was the Meyrick Arms. So far from being, as RCHM would have it, an 1830's building, it has a considerable history as an inn, and the original building probably dates from the 17<sup>th</sup>



Figure 4 Ye Hostelrie probably early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Sir Samuel bought it from Samuel Wall in 1845, when the tithe no. was 304, and it was described as a 'beer house' called the Crown & Anchor.(RTR 200a) Presumably the name comes from its proximity to Goodrich Boat. The 'Anker' was

often the venue for Goodrich's manorial courts during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. An earlier deed in this group (RTR 187) describes the lease for 21 years in 1728 to Jonathan Crumpton, who was by June that year described as an 'innholder of Goodrich' when a writ was issued for his apprehension on a charge of disturbing the peace. (Gwent RO D917.578)

There is a design for the remodelling of the Anchor in the British Library, supposedly by Blore, the architect of Goodrich Court, which was never implemented. The external & internal design was largely based on one possibly by Sir Samuel, which he draws in a letter to his friend, George Shaw the architect, dated 3 Jan 1846.<sup>1</sup> The old building to the left of the new was joined to it by a passageway, for the vulgar to approach the taproom. Gentlemen used a door in the tower, which gave them access to the upstairs function room with removable partitions. In spite of extensive internal alterations, the vulgar passageway is still used for access to the inn, but the gentlemen's entrance has been blocked to make a ladies lavatory. The chimneys are to the same design as those of Goodrich Court (demolished 1950), some of the chimneys from which can be seen at the Gasworks, which lies between the Hostelrie and the A40 dual carriageway. A pond shown behind the inn in the tithe map now supplies an old well in the cellar, and a pump behind.

To the left of the Hostelrie is **The Square**, a terrace of six houses which is all that remains of the ancient Croose farmhouse. The farm buildings covered nos. 305, 306, 307 and 309 on the tithe map. The farmhouse, which lay mainly between 305 and 306, survives as the central block of the terrace. The rest of the farm buildings were mostly demolished, and the stone presumably used to extend the farmhouse for estate cottages, though there are still traces in the garden walls. According to an auction notice of 1806<sup>2</sup> the farmhouse house had been 'new built', but one doesn't know how long this formula had been repeated, and another building was mentioned which may have been the original farmhouse.

Number 308 on the tithe map is a tiny, ancient building called '**Y Crwys**'. Originally it lay on an 'island' between two arms of the road leading down to Goodrich Boat.<sup>3</sup> The bottom of the 3 storeys of the building lies at least 2 metres below the level of the current road passing in front, the drop giving some idea of the hundreds of years of wear and tear that had carved the holloway. The house next door, number 242 on the tithe, lies almost at current road level, but itself dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The building of Kerne Bridge from 1824 eventually killed off the Goodrich ferry, and the road became absorbed in the gardens of Y Crwys.

The origins of the building are shrouded in mystery. It is certain that it was used as a gaol after the slighting of Goodrich Castle in the Civil War, and is shown as such on the Goodrich Manorial map of 1718, when it was a manorial possession. There has been speculation that it was a wayside chapel, originally the site of a cross, but it is certainly a very ancient structure. It had fallen into a fairly ruinous state when it was rescued by Sir Samuel Meyrick in 1843. By that time the ownership of the building was unknown, and eventually the parish claimed it, so that it could be sold. He and his builder set to to excavate it from the surrounding accumulation of silt, but were extremely disappointed to find no interesting artefacts<sup>4</sup>. Although the restoration was supposedly supervised by Blore, there is no evidence. New doors were made, and the roof repaired.

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<sup>1</sup> Chethams Library, Raines collection, E.5.6

<sup>2</sup> National Lib Wales Twiston-Davies 3845

<sup>3</sup> HRO AW87 Goodrich Manorial Map

<sup>4</sup> NLW MS6656C ff70, 71



Figure 5 Y Crwys from Nash, Goodrich Court Guide

Next to Y Crwys lies a house now called '**Holly Cottage**' (tithe 242). Samuel Meyrick bought this from the parish of Goodrich in 1844, when the lands & cottage were described by their tithe map numbers. It should be called 'Gardiner's Cottage', as the house and lands comprising this 'estate' were given to Goodrich Parish by William Gardiner of Whitchurch on 20 May 20 James 1 [1622] by an indenture of feoffment between Gardiner and Edwd Savaker vicar of Goodrich, John Fisher of Goodrich and John Fisher his son, Roger White of Goodrich and John White his son & William Weare of Goodrich yeoman..for buying ornaments, books and other

convenient necessities for the parish church of Goodrich. The Gardiner family had by this time had a long association with Goodrich as manorial officials. It was no doubt due to this that they took a lease of the mill in Lower Lydbrook<sup>1</sup> which belonged to the lord of Goodrich Manor, who in turn had been granted it as a former possession of Flanesford Priory. They also farmed at Hunderton near Hereford. The will of William Gardiner of 1540 mentions his house at 'Croose'.<sup>2</sup>

A little way further on is a house now called '**Ferry Cottage**', tithe 240, but in fact the original Ferry House was down below on the side of the Wye. This house was called Woodland Cottage when it was added to the Goodrich Court estate by the Moffatt family 1889. It had been acquired by the Little family on the break-up of the Weare estate in 1803, but its age is not known.

Retracing our steps to Y Crwys, our last call in Croose was at **The Knapp** (tithe 314). 'Knapp' or 'Nap' means a hill or rise, and the road does rise from Y Crwys. There is an old well just over the road from the Knapp, usually hidden by greenery.. The Knapp has been much altered, but there has been a house at the site at least since 1602, when a rental of Goodrich Manor mentions 'John Bamforth of the Knappe'.<sup>3</sup> Bamforth, who died in 1605, was very much involved in the restoration of the New Weare at the Doward from 1588, and was clerk of the ironworks there employed by the Earl of Shrewsbury<sup>4</sup>. The dwelling was presumably thus fairly high status at that time.

From Croose we made our way up past the Knapp to the second area of settlement, around the church of **St. Giles** (tithe 404). St Giles has a large graveyard, surrounded until the 1970's mainly by farmland. The ground falls sharply away to the east, and in the meadow below there are pits which are probably where the stone for the body of the church was quarried. One reason for the establishment of the church at this point was no doubt the reliable spring which rises on the eastern side in a small dingle between 404 & 466. This spring is only one of a series running along a fault line from the Old Forge area through the church & Croose to the Goodrich Court headland.

The first house we came to is a farm, **Bryant's Court**. The 'Court' refers to the fact that at some time the Goodrich Manorial court is supposed to have been held in the upper storey of a granary there. There is a red dog (talbot) on the wall, but this may be a fire insurance symbol. Sir Samuel Meyrick's heir, Augustus Meyrick, bought the Bryant's Court estate in 1853. Bryant's Court farm covers tithe numbers 412 and 413.

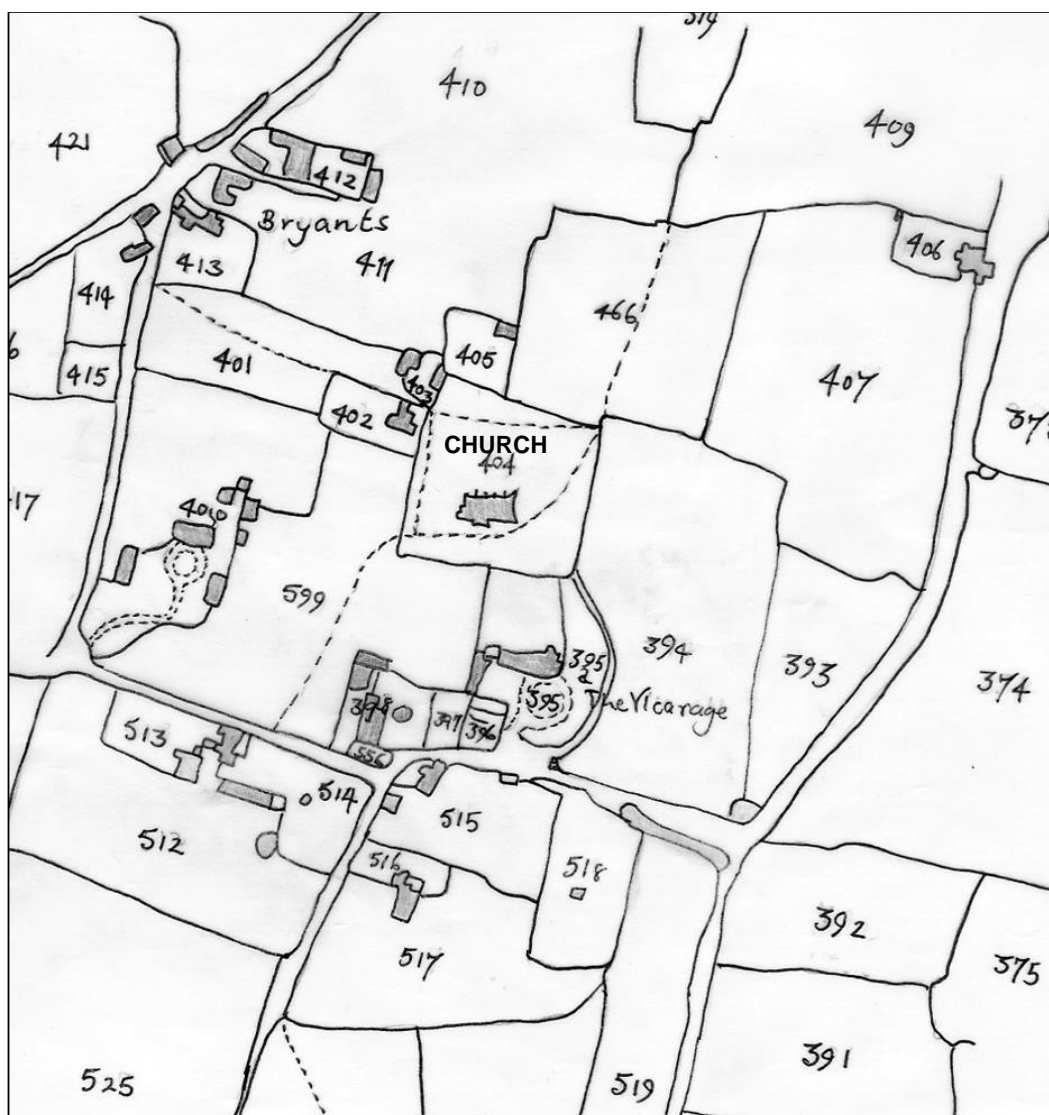
<sup>1</sup> See HAN71 p40 on

<sup>2</sup> Hereford RO

<sup>3</sup> Hereford RO G38/1/117

<sup>4</sup> National Lub Wales. John Lloyd Papers 1938133 37-40





|                    |                            |                        |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 395 Vicarage       | 404 St Giles Church        | 513 The Old Courthouse |
| 398 Upper Granton  | 406 The Old Forge          | 515 Granton            |
| 400 Goodrich house | 412 Bryant's Court farm    | 516 Whitehall          |
| 402 Church House   | 413 Bryant's Court house   |                        |
| 403 Church Barn    | 414 Bryant's Court Cottage |                        |

Figure 6 Goodrich tithe map Church area (R Lowe)

On the opposite side of the road from Bryant's Court is a cottage now called '**Bryant's Court Cottage**' (tithe 414). In an indenture of 1732 (RTR 359) was devised 'all that messuage or tenement with apps. Known by the name of Lancing Field or Bryans together with the Smiths shop there and all outhouses & other buildings and also one orchard & garden & close of arable containing 1 acre adjoining to said messuage lying between the way which leadeth from Bryans to Granton and the portway which leadeth from Goodrich passage towards Monmouth' in a mortgage by Taylor the blacksmith. Although the Taylors lost ownership of the smithy, it seems that they were still there smithing in 1839 at the time of the tithe map. It was a prime site for a smithy – the 'portway' leading from Goodrich boat to Monmouth was a busy road until well after Kerne Bridge was built, though by the time of the tithe map the original road lying alongside nos. 414 & 416 had been diverted along 2 sides of a triangle alongside 414, 415 & 417 and then west to Goodrich Cross. This was on account of the rightful state of the road.

Goodrich church has no easy access for car drivers. Opposite 414 a footpath leads to the churchyard. This is now an unmade road serving some of the new houses that have obscured the church's original isolation. At the bottom of the path lies **Church House**. This house probably dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and has timber framing not visible from the outside.



Figure 7 Church House from churchyard Date & origin of photo unknown

Returning to the road by Bryant's Court, the next house of interest is **Goodrich House** (Tithe 400).

The front of Goodrich House is now invisible to the road, owing to a high conifer hedge. A number of the ancillary buildings have been converted into houses, or incorporated into others, and new houses have been built all over the former gardens. Goodrich house itself was built by George White, the son of another George White, an ironmaster who leased for 99 years from the Earl of Kent the iron forge at New Weare at the foot of the Doward. According to Duncumb & to Bradney, who give slightly different accounts of the White family, George White I was originally from Newnham, was the manager of Monmouth Forge, and had lived at Monmouth. There had, however, been well-to-do Whites in Goodrich from the 16<sup>C</sup> and he may have been related to them. George White I bought the New Wear from the Duke of Kent, Lord of the Manor of Goodrich and founded the new iron works there in 1685. According to Bradney, when writing about the Tintern ironworks<sup>1</sup>, it was George White II, his son, who built Goodrich House circa 1736 on the site of 'Goodrich Court'. The explanation for this may be that George White had lived in 'The Old Courthouse' which is described later, which is just across the road from Goodrich House. Although Goodrich House is supposed to have been built in 1736, there are architectural features which Jim Tonkin has identified as possibly late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>1</sup> Bradney Hist of Monmouthshire p261



Figure 8 Goodrich House

(Date & origin of photo unknown)

George White II had no son, and Goodrich House descended mainly in the female line. An eventual descendant was J C Lloyd, the historian of the South Wales iron making industry, whose papers are deposited at the National Library of Wales. They contain original notes made by George White II from the notebook of Anthony Bamforth, mentioned earlier in connection with the Knapp.



Figure 9 The Old Court House

(date & origin of photo unknown)

Turning left at the entrance to Goodrich House, the road drops down the hill. On the right is **Old Court House**, no 513 on the tithe map. In the photograph (Fig. 9) the right hand wing is painted, but the timber framing is now uncovered and visible from the road. RCHM considers that this house dates from the late 16C. The cellar lies beneath the timber-framed wing, which would imply that it was a parlour cross-wing.



The name is derived from the fact that manorial courts were supposedly held in the barn (now ruined) behind the house. About 100m down the hill from the Old Court House, a lane turns off to the right, originally leading to one of Goodrich's common fields. A short distance down the lane lies **Whitehall**, tithe map no. 516.



Figure 10 Whitehall

From the outside, Whitehall looks as if it is a well-built 17<sup>th</sup> century house. The southern end is now a modern extension with Georgian windows, which replaced a lean-to building which had housed animals. On the far left of the photo (north) a Victorian lean-to extension obscures the end wall, but inside the roof space of the extension a fireplace is visible half-way up this wall. The house has obviously been truncated at this end.

On entering through the porch visible in the photo, one is confronted by a massive inserted chimney breast. The main room to the right has finely moulded ceiling beams.

Only in the last few years has restoration work revealed the massive raised cruck of the central arch of the original open hall. The timbers were decorated with a raised zig-zag pattern on the inner side, and there is a decorated circular boss at the apex. Jim Tonkin dates this style of decoration to the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In the loft, the beams are heavily sooted, only the timbers which replaced the original louvre being clean.

The photo shows the house before the modern extension on the right. This western end of the original building has also been lost, as there is another pair of crucks just inside the end wall which just shows on the right of the photo. The main block of the house as it looks in the photo therefore only represents the middle, open hall section of the original house. Presumably there was a solar on the right of the open hall, and service rooms on the left where the well still lies.

This house is the oldest secular building (apart from the castle) in Goodrich, as far as we know, but at the moment its early history is not identified. The house was definitely owned by the Tyler family in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, as its position is identifiable on the

Goodrich Manorial map of 1718<sup>1</sup>, when it is owned by Warren Tyler. This Warren was descended via Richard Tyler from another Warren Tyler, who is described as a gent. in the 1665 Hearth Tax, when he had 5 hearths. There is a near contemporary manorial terrier<sup>2</sup> from 1663, which also describes this Warren's possessions. He was son of Richard. He had two freehold messuages, one at Graunton lately owned by William Jones and also a 'Mansion house, outhouses..', which is described as 'built upon a suite[?] acre' and therefore subject to a heriot. Which of these two is Whitehall? It is possible that the building originally belonged to Monmouth Priory, which had been granted Goodrich Church in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. At the dissolution, many of the possessions of the Priory were bought by the lord of the manor of Goodrich, and some were sold again before 1700. The name 'Granton' or 'Graunton' survives in this part of Goodrich in two houses. Returning from Whitehall, the next old house is now called **Granton**, no 515 on the tithe map. Granton is now a substantial house, but when the painter Joshua Cristall



Figure 11 Granton – the home of Joshua Cristall, after much rebuilding

first

came to Goodrich in 1823 it was a small cottage. Cristall was to live in the house for most of the rest of his life, only returning to London in 1841. When he died in 1847 his body was returned to be buried in Goodrich next to that of his wife. There is a plaque to him on the road wall of the house. In the biography of Cristall written by a Goodrich resident<sup>3</sup>, there is a reproduction of a Cristall painting of Granton, unfortunately laterally inverted, which cannot be reproduced here for copyright reasons. As well as showing the small size of Granton, there is an excellent view of Goodrich Vicarage in the background.

On the opposite side of the road from Granton lies the entrance to the field in front of a house now called **Upper Granton** (tithe 398).

<sup>1</sup> Hereford RO AW87

<sup>2</sup> Hereford RO O68/1/21

<sup>3</sup> Joshua Cristall by John Tisdall, Lapridge, 1996



Figure 12 Upper Granton, seen from the field next to the church

Although the front of the house has been faced in stone, the side and back elevations show the extensive timber-framing evident inside. The wing nearest the camera is a later addition, as there is an outside wall enclosed by it. RCHM considers that it was built in the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and extended later in the same century.

The last secular building we looked at is the **Old Vicarage**, tithe 395. RCHM considers that one of blocks of the double pile main block has 17<sup>th</sup> origins. From the side view (see Fig. 13) the front block looks newer. The most famous vicar of Goodrich was Thomas Swift, grandfather of Jonathan Swift. He built New house, a curious three-armed house now on the far side of the A40 from Goodrich Church, in 1636.

It could be assumed that the current vicarage was built subsequent to his tenure, but in fact there is a copy of a church terrier of 1623<sup>1</sup> which describes the vicarage thus 'One mansion or dwelling house, two barnes, one stable, one sheepcote, one milhouse, one beasthouse with the sheers and penthouses adjoining in two folds, one garden, one orchard and the Churchyard.' These different parcels are easily identifiable in the tithe map of the vicarage area. The painting of the vicarage by Cristall shows the building to still have mullioned transoms at that date, circa 1830, and also a small copper roofed building on the level at the start of the hearse road to the church, which goes around the curved wall of the vicarage garden. It's interesting that the curved wall of the vicarage grounds was already in place by the time of the tithe map in 1839. As this was the only path capable of taking a hearse, it may have no more significance than an attempt to give the garden wall stability.

The house was extensively altered in the mid 1870s. a fact exhaustively detailed in a detailed 28 page specification to the builders<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately the accompanying plan is missing – it may be in the Cathedral archives. On page 26, the instruction is to take down the upper portion of the summer house in the 'Monks' Garden' and re-tile it. The numerous outbuildings are all altered.

<sup>1</sup> Hereford RO HD5/2/23

<sup>2</sup> Hereford RO BH71/1



Figure 13 East side of vicarage (foreground), curved garden wall & St Giles. Goodrich House is directly behind the vicarage.

We next visited St. Giles church. Notes on this will be included in the description of the deferred field visit to Huntsham and Coppet Hill which will take place in 2002, foot & mouth disease permitting.

Abbreviations:                Hereford R O or HRO – Hereford Record Office  
                                       RCHM – Royal commission for Historic Monuments

Note that the RCHM evaluations for Goodrich, many of which were done in the 1930's, are often inaccurate. At this time a house was only evaluated from the roadside, unless it obviously had considerable antiquity. Y Crwys and Ye Hostelrie were thus condemned as 19<sup>th</sup> century Gothic, and not worth further investigation. Documentary evidence makes their earlier history clear.

Unfortunately acknowledgements for the photographs cannot be given, as they are copies of copies which have been circulating in the village for some time. Their date and provenance is unknown.