

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 78 2007

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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HAN

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Annual membership of the ARS is £5.00 — enquiries to Membership Secretary via the Club's website. This is additional to membership of the Woolhope Club.

Field Meeting to Whitchurch by Roz Lowe

This afternoon meeting took place on 18 November 2006 - a cold and blustery day though dry. It was attended by 2 ARS members and 7 Goodrich local history group members.

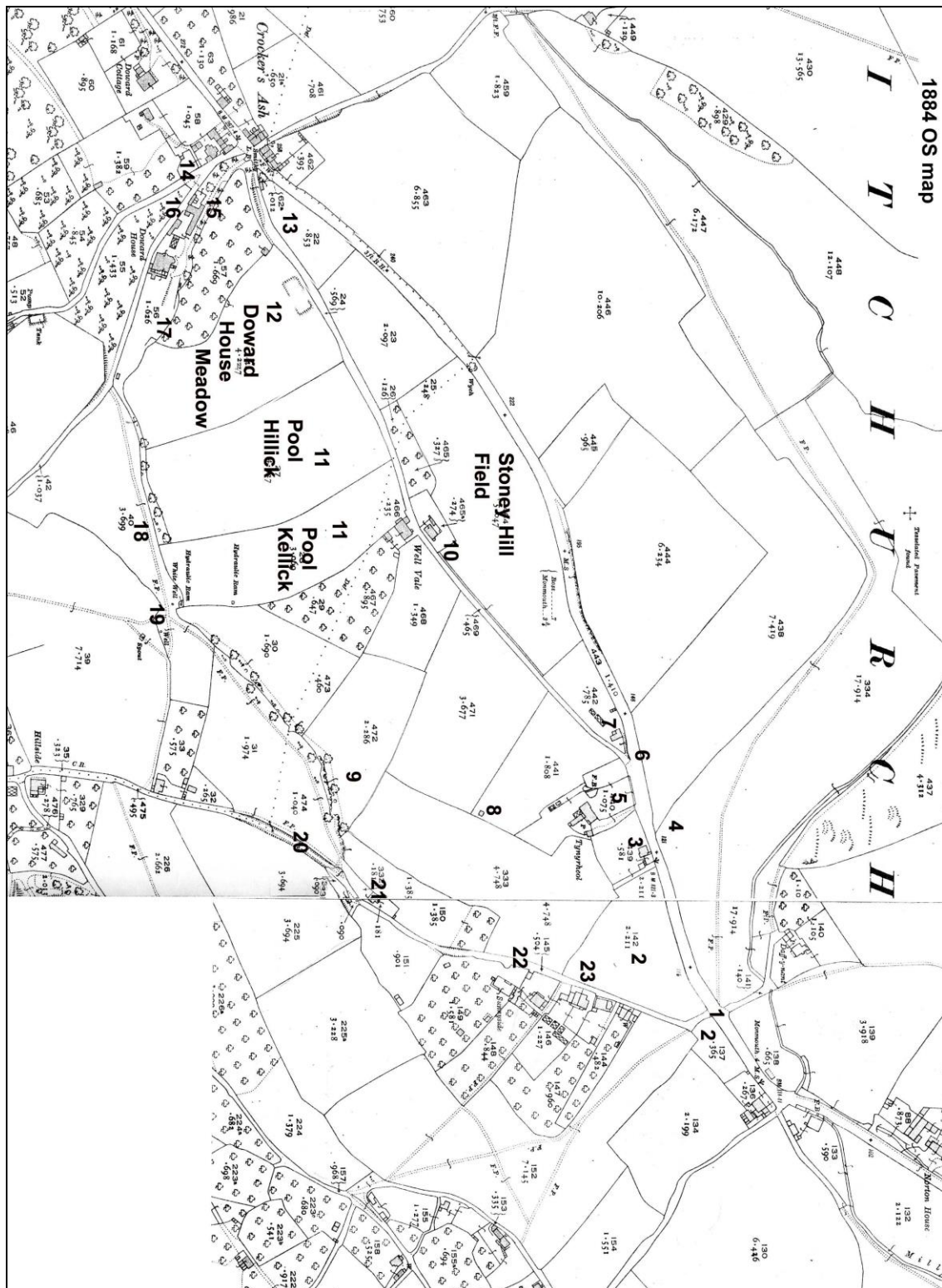


Figure 1 OS map showing the features passed during the field meeting

The purpose of the field visit was to find out how many interesting historical features could be seen during a short walk around parts of the parishes of Whitchurch and Ganarew, using odd pieces of information gathered from a number of archives.

The parishes of Whitchurch and Ganarew lie within the manor and lordship of Goodrich, which extended far beyond the parish of Goodrich. Fortunately, the late M. E. P. Watkins was a keen local historian and was instrumental in ensuring that Goodrich's manorial records were transferred from the offices of a Monmouth solicitor to Hereford library. They are now in the Herefordshire Record Office, and date from the beginning of the 16th century. There are many rentals and manorial court records. One of the most important is a book of maps and associated survey (AW87), showing the extent of the lord's demesne land in 1718. This map has been used for other field visits in Goodrich, though one important map is missing - that of the Dowards - probably detached when the woodlands were sold to the forerunner of the Forestry Commission in the early 1800s.

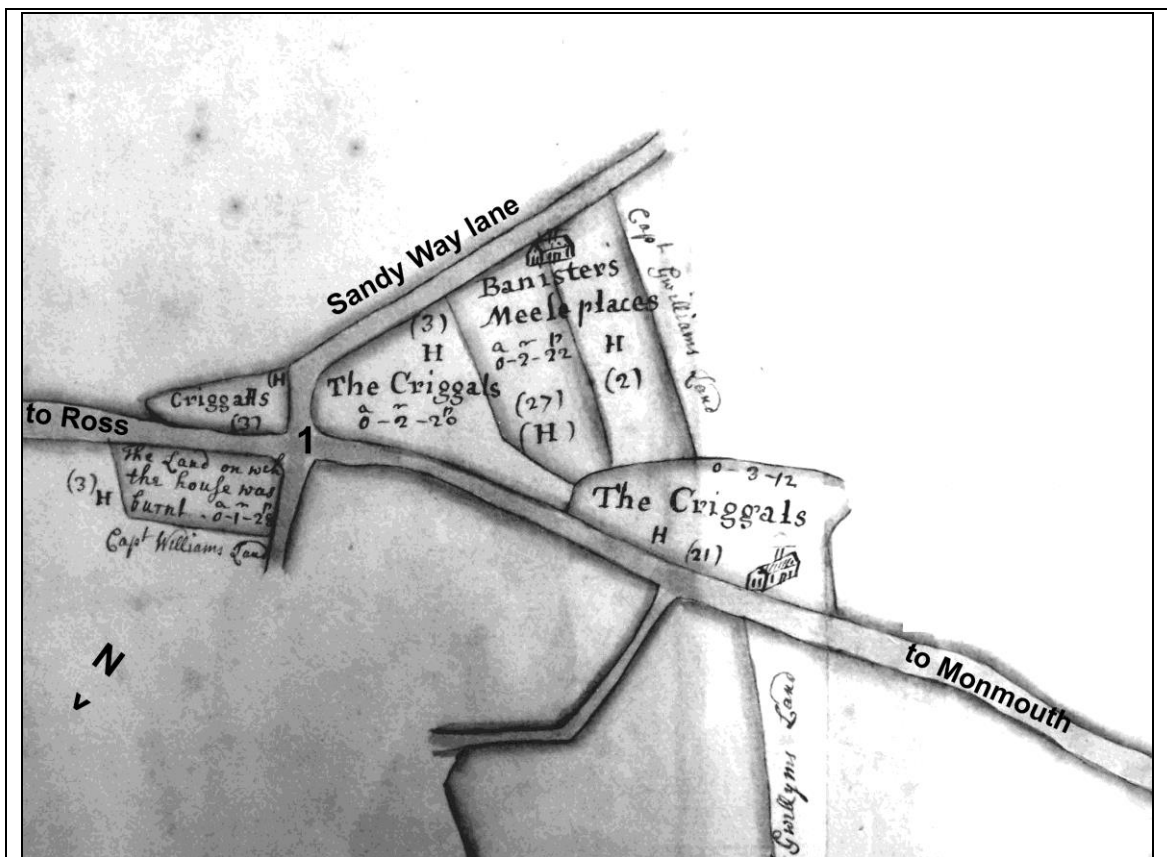


Figure 2. 1718 Goodrich Manor survey (AW87)¹. The number 1 is in the same position as on the previous map

¹ HRO, AW87.

Nowadays the traffic on the A40 dual carriageway thunders past the starting point of the walk at (1), which lies on the old A40, the old main road from Whitchurch to Monmouth. It has obliterated the northern corner of the plot called 'the land on which the house was burnt', but it is still possible to follow the old main road towards Monmouth to the top of the pass. If one looks closely at the OS map you can see that many of the side roads to the old A40 have gates across them - most important if herds of animals were being moved along the road. This crossroads was called 'Differnant's Cross' after Daff-y-nant farm just to the north.

The pieces labelled (2) were small fields in the 1718 Goodrich manor map. They were called the 'Criggals', and belonged to the lord of the manor, which they still did in 1847 at the time of the tithe map. The word 'criggal' is probably from the Welsh 'creigl' meaning a rocky place, or rocks near the surface - Stoney Hill is just up the road. The 1718 map can be overlaid on to the tithe map, which proves that the house (3) shown in the westernmost 'Criggal' field is still there, and is called Pound Cottage. The tithe map shows a pond at position (4).

Through the trees (5) can be seen a substantial house, called 'Tynyrheol' in 1884, and it seems to be no. 673 on the tithe map, when it (with 674 & 5) was owned by John Brown, maybe the father of John Brown Jr. of Well Vale House (10). The house name means 'the house in or by the way'. In 1881 the owner seems to have been away, as a female servant, a groom and the woman's husband (an agricultural labourer) lived here.



Figure 3. Tynyrheol - now a substantial house

Further along a road (now called Well Vale road) diverts to the left (6), only to re-join the old main road again at Crocker's Ash crossroads. The 1718 map continues towards Monmouth to the border of the manor, where it shows Goldsmith's wood at the top of the pass, but it shows no sign of this road. However, it seems that there have been two ways for a long time, perhaps because the Well Vale road flooded in winter. We know this because of a large collection of Whitchurch deeds in the Devon Record Office in Exeter.²

Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe was a descendant of the Powell and Gwilym families who owned Old Court in Whitchurch, and she inherited their considerable estates. Her father died before she was born, and her mother the day after. She had a very adventurous life, travelling with her husband to 18th-century Canada where the family are well known. The Simcoe family came from Devon, so all the documents relating to Elizabeth's Herefordshire estates have been deposited there. She was alive at the time of the tithe map, so we can identify her landholdings.

The little house at (7) is shown on the tithe map as belonging to Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe. There is a deed in Exeter which shows the two ways were there in 1675, when there was a bargain and sale by William Taylor of Dixton, yeoman, son and heir of John Taylor of Goodrich, yeoman and Elizabeth his wife, decd. to Richard Gwilym of Whitchurch, esq. The premises concerned comprised one house, a garden and an acre of land, between the two ways leading from Differnant to Crokers Ashe and John Morris's land, for the consideration of £5. The previous owner of John Morris's land was Nicholas Hoskins: the house and its garden and land had been sold to John Taylor, dec., William Taylor's father by John Phillpott of Whitchurch. The house shows all the characteristics of an encroachment by the roadside, and in fact some documents mention 'Stoney Hill common', Stoney Hill being the field just above the house, though the house was not shown as such in the 1718 map.

We failed to spot the little barn marked as (8) on the map, which is shown on the tithe map. We took the Well Vale road, and as we looked up the meadows on the left of the road we could see the trees along the boundary above a sharp drop (9) - this was probably originally the boundary of the Dowards when they were one woodland, though the drop was best appreciated from above.

The substantial house on the right of Well Vale road at (10) is now called Well Vale House and was built in 1710, according to the owner whom we met on our walk. In the tithe map John Brown Jr. owned the house (which was also called the Malt Shovel Inn, though it may not have been an inn by 1847) and the considerable number of buildings on the opposite side of the road, which are all gone now. John Brown Sr. was the owner of Lewston not far away. In 1795 the buildings (but seemingly not the house) were offered for auction, when it was called 'The Malthouse' and consisted of: a substantial malthouse, cider mill house and cider mill, stable and slaughter house and 8 acres of meadowland and orcharding, with rights of pasture on Doward Hill and a perpetual spring of water called the White Well. William Davis was tenant in 1795.

The auction notice says that the house 'adjoins the Turnpike-road leading from Whitchurch to Monmouth'. This wasn't strictly true, as the part from the end of Monmouth-Ganarew road (turnpiked 1755) at Crocker's Ash to Old Forge was not taken over by the Hereford Turnpike Trust until 1819. There are traces of stone walling along the road, and a very elegant iron fence post just before one reaches the house.

² Devon RO, 1038, M/T/7/85



Figure 4. The house (7) 'between the ways'

The house was a school in the 1881 census run by Mary Watkins, a spinster, and her widowed sister Ellen Reardon, together with another teacher and a female servant. The 12 pupils were all male boarders, aged between 8 and 13: seven were relatively local and included the Goodrich vicar's son.

The origins of the house appear to be an encroachment on the common behind, where there are large rocks. If so, it was not shown on the 1718 map as an encroachment, and the owner believes the current house is built on earlier foundations. The owner showed us various items that had been dug up locally, including Roman coins and a Roman brooch in the shape of a dolphin.

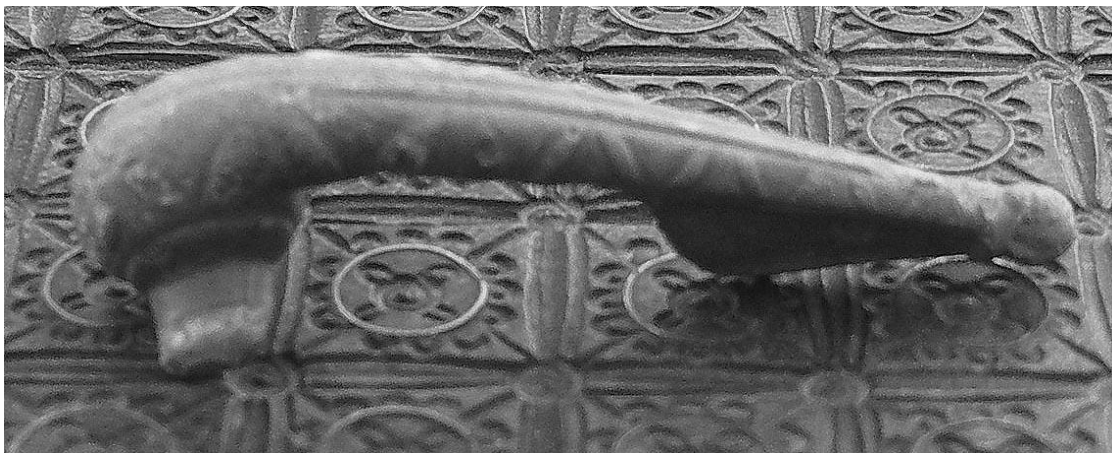


Figure 5. Dolphin-shaped Roman brooch found near Crocker's Ash.

There is an 18th-century deed which seems to relate to the house in the National Library of Wales.³ On July 19, 1783 Thomas, Lord Foley, baron Kidderminster, co. Worcs., eldest son and heir of Thomas, Lord Foley, dec., who was the eldest son and heir of Thomas Foley of Stoke, co. Her. released on trust to Thomas Pryce of Duffryn, co. Glam., esq. property in Whitchurch, described as 'all that messuage dwelling house in parish Whitchurch wherein Philip Drew & Eliz his wife did formerly inherit & dwell and also that close orchard & parcel of land with apps. 1 acre lying together between the lower way leading from Whitchurch towards Crockers Ash in the waste & common there called Stoney and the lands heretofore of Roger Morris but then of James Morrison on all or most parts thereof and also that close or parcel of pasture or meadow land called Stoney Hill Meadow 6ac. and also that close of meadow land known by the name of Stoney acre and also all that close or parcel of arable land called or known by the name of the pikes or pipes 4ac. all in Whitchurch were heretofore in tenure or possession of Thomas Phillpotts and then of Anthony Bamford yeo. as tenant to said Joseph Hardwick.' It recites that a fine was levied before the court of the manor of Goodrich in 1741, and that in the same year Thomas Foley bought the land as a trustee for Thomas Pendril, and that in 1772 Thomas Pendril sold the land to Pryce for £207. This clearly relates to Well Vale House, and it may be possible to trace it back through the Goodrich manorial records.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY THOMAS HOPKINS,
 On Friday the 23d of January, 1795, at the
 Crown Inn, in Whitchurch, Herefordshire,

A FREEHOLD ESTATE, called
THE MALTHOUSE,
 situate in the parish of Whitchurch, adjoining the
 Turnpike-road leading from Whitchurch to Mon-
 mouth; consisting of a substantial Malthouse,
 Cider Mill-house, and Cider Mill; a Stable and
 Slaughter-house; with about Eight Acres of rich
 Meadow Land, and Orcharding, with an ex-
 tensive right of Common on Doward Hill,
 esteemed one of our first Sheep-walks; likewise,
 on the upper part of the Meadow Land is a per-
 petual Spring of Water, called the White Well,
 the water of which may be conveyed in the driest
 season over any part of the Meadow Land, and
 leads to the Malthouse; now in the occupation of
 Mr. William Davis, the tenant. The Purchaser
 will be in full possession on the 2d of February
 next.

— The tenant will shew the premises; and
 for particulars apply to Mr. Hughes, at Marflow
 Court; or the Auctioneer, in Rofs.

Figure 6. 1795 *Hereford Journal* advert.
 Thanks to Heather Hurley for this



Figure 7. Iron post in land next to Well Vale
 Hous

³ NL W Leonard Twiston Davies 2 3557



Figure 8. Well Vale House from across the valley. The Malt House buildings opposite the house have mostly disappeared

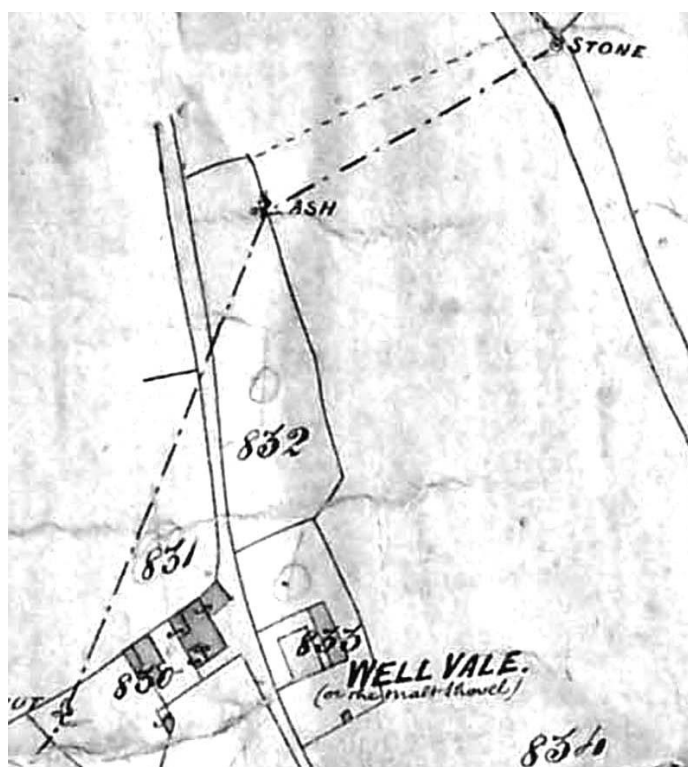


Figure 9 (right). Detail of Well Vale house from the 1847 Whitchurch tithe map.

The house is 833, the malthouse etc. is 830. The house, buildings and most of the fields around were owned by John Brown Jr. John Ralph Norton owned 83; also Norton House, a handsome farmhouse in Whitchurch's main street.

The fields (11) to the left of the road as we approached Crocker's Ash are called Pool Kellick and Pool Hillick in the tithe map - this is the Welsh 'Pwll Helig' and means 'pool with willows', probably from when the spring made pools at the bottom. The meadow (12) shows a large raised platform in the OS map. It is believed to be the remains of a tennis court.

The road rises sharply just before Crocker's Ash. According to the owner of Well Vale House, there used to be a winch to wind carriages up the slope - though it's difficult to see how this would have worked.

The building (13) in the angle between the Well Vale road and the main road is now ruinous, though there appear to be blocked in windows on the Well Vale road side. A small building is shown on the tithe - the holding is called 'shed yard & meadow' and is another Simcoe property. The Devon records have deed which probably refers to this holding.⁴ It refers to an exchange between Rudhall Gwilym of Whitchurch Court, Whitchurch esq. and Katherine his wife and Roger Morrys, Thomas Morrys his son and Joyce his wife, all of Whitchurch in 1670. 'Premises: three parcels of arable land containing eighteen acres; two parcels being called the Poolerelicks with a barn on one of them, lying near Crokers Ashe in Ganarew, the other parcel lying between the two ways from Whitchurch to Monmouth called Stony hill; in exchange for one tenement, barn, garden and orchard containing one acre, in which the Morrys family now lives,...' It seems strange that the Gwilyms (Simcoe ancestors) should exchange such large fields for bits and pieces, but in 1675 (see 7) John Morris owned Stoney Hill, possibly another son of Roger Morris.

This brought us to Crocker's Ash: previously this must have been an important junction for wood and other materials coming down from the Dowards, and animals being herded up for pasture. There are five roads meeting here - six if you count the track at (14) which leads to the Little Doward. The houses and gardens in the north angle of the crossroads still belonged to Llangarren parish at the time of the tithe map - a curious echo (perhaps) of a time when the parish of Llangarren was the remnant of Eryng which had been nibbled away by later manors.

Doward House at (15) has variously been a fine house, a hotel and is now divided into flats. There are remains of the cobbled floors of the outbuildings shown on the map, and at (16) a old Nissen hut. As we walked up the road past the back of Doward House, it seemed from the lie of the land at (17) that the house site lies *inside* the original boundary of the Dowards, and may have its origins in another encroachment, but we do not have the 1718 map for this area.

At this point we diverged from the main road up to the Doward to follow a footpath inside a hedge which probably marks an ancient boundary of the Dowards, as some of the trees are large, and there is a substantial drop to the fields below (18). There is a house almost due south of this point, which was called Little Kilnhouse farm in 1841. The larger farm further uphill towards King Arthur's Cave has been known as the 'Killyards', a typical loss of the 'n' of kiln, and was part of the lord of Goodrich manor's demesne lands, so its rental can be traced in the manorial records. It's not sure what the original kilns were for, but 'the Killyards' was leased by George White from the manor in 1703. White was an ironmaster who also leased New Weir forge from the lord, so possibly they were processing limestone for use at the forge. It passed to White heirs, and eventually to Osborne Yeats, as it is mentioned in his marriage settlement of 1800.⁵ Also included was '...the tenement or dwelling house with garden adjoining called Whitewell near the Killyards, the close called Robert Philpots close at Whitewell....' Whitewell (19) must have been an important well for the area - according to the sale particulars it never runs dry. All the fields around it are named after it, and there were a number of paths leading to it. There are the remains of a brick cistern, and also the base for one of the hydraulic rams shown on the OS map.

⁴ Devon RO 1038 M/T/7/85

⁵NLW Penpont deeds catalogue Supplement No 2336-7 Sep 16 1800

At (20) we joined another sunken road. This has been well used for hundreds of years, probably by pack-ponies and animals going to graze the Little Doward as well as walkers.

At (21) is the house called 'Littlefield'. It seems to have been called 'Suit acre' in the past. The owner has recently bought some deeds ranging in dates from 1740 to 1794, which give details of successive owners & occupiers. In 1740 John & Anne Jones mortgaged the property and it remained so until the 1760s when it devolved to the Beavan family. The name Suit Acre is not mentioned in the 2 latter documents (1789 & 1794) which may indicate it had been sold off or perhaps the name had gone out of use. This implies that the owner had to give suit at Goodrich manorial court, and Thomas Beavan of Little Field is mentioned as a freeholder of the Manor in 1780, though like all freeholders he had to pay an annual fee (13s 10d) to the lord. On 29 Aug 1757, John Jones of Littlefield rented some more land called Tomeys from the manor. Hopefully earlier information will come to light in the manorial records.



Figure 9 Two views of Littlefield

The house is extremely well-built, and although not a major house must have been relatively important.⁶

I have acquired the 1772 deed of the marriage settlement of John Beavan and Ann Pritchard, daughter of Thomas Pritchard of Old Court (he was probably renting it) whose trustees were George Mynd of Ash in parish Bridstow and John Dew of Whitchurch. Thomas Beavan, John's father, had conveyed to him in 1768 the property, but with a number of provisos, including an annuity of £20; four barrels of cider yearly; to give him the best bed and various sheep and the use of the horse. In addition, there was provision for Thomas's daughters Sophia (Tommy), Ann (Hill) and Jane and Elizabeth his unmarried daughters, plus £40 to William Beavan, Thomas's other son. It helped that Ann Pritchard brought £100 as her portion.

The property concerned was the house called Littlefield, the 'Suit acre' a 4 acre close adjoining and two other pieces of land of 8 acres. At that time, Ann Jones was living in Little Field. John, Ann and Thomas Pritchard could all sign their names.

Further down the road, called Sandy Way, there are a number of good-sized houses. Using the tithe map numbering, we noted the following:

- No. 205 - Sunnyside - very decorative; the owner in 1847 was Joseph Green;
- No. 206 - also Joseph Green;
- No. 207 was 2 houses - owner: William Philpott;
- No. 208 was a pub owned by William Tombs;
- No. 210 was owned by John Tombs.

⁶ Tithe 201 and 202

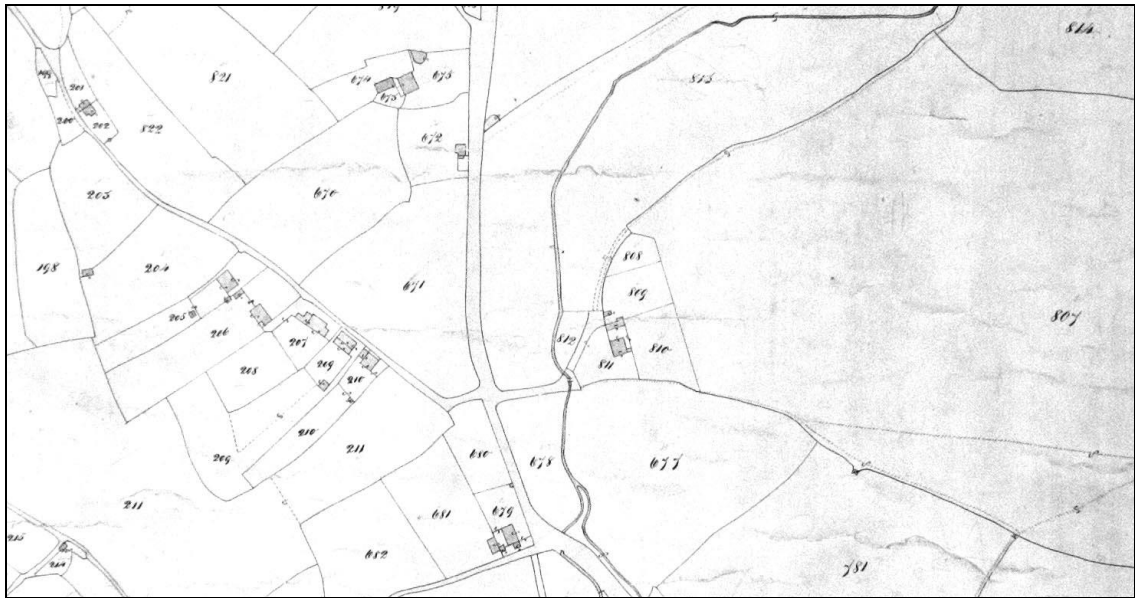


Figure 10. Whitchurch tithe map showing start of Sandyway lane

Referring to fig. 2, the field opposite the houses at the end of Sandyway lane, no. 671, was the site of the land called 'Banister's meese places'. By the time of the tithe map the house shown here had disappeared.

The meaning of 'meese' is under debate. Some dictionaries talk about it meaning some topographical feature such as 'moss' or a small field. However, it is quite clear from many other documents that meese places had special rights attached to them, possibly of ancient demesne. Owners of meese places had to be consulted about enclosure of commons such as the Doward or Longrove, and it would seem that they had ancient rights on these commons. John Freeman, who is currently working on the place names of Herefordshire for publication does not have a definition. Although the vicar of Goodrich had the tithe of most crops on the lands in the parish of Goodrich, the parson had the tithes of that on any land in the parish of Goodrich but in the Lordship of Wilton-on-Wye, and on 'meese places'. This does not seem to be a new debate - these is a document in the Goodrich parish collection c.1800 where Mr. Hill is speculating on the meaning of 'mese'.⁷

In the 1718 map and accompanying rental, the piece of land called 'Banister's Meese place with a cottage built thereon' had as tenant-at-will Robert Chest; the Criggals had Thomas Dew, as did 'the parcel on which the house was burnt'.

Some of the houses at the lower end of Sandyway lane date to the 18th century or earlier, and it is hoped to add to this account in due course.

⁷ HRO, BF16/22-30

Caradoc, Sellack, a brief history by Heather Hurley



Figure 1: Caradoc 1985⁸

The origins of Caradoc are legendary, its name suggests an ancient encampment reputedly constructed by Caratacus when resisting the Roman invasion, but the site has never been properly investigated. It lies in the parish of Sellack, which was recorded as Baisson (Baysham) at Domesday.

Although the de la Mare family were at Caricradok from 1281, it was Roger de Somery who died seised of the manor in 1291, when it reverted to the de la Mares. In 1308 the property consisted of a messuage, garden, dovecote, 2 ploughlands of 80 acres each, pastures and woodland occupied by the de la Mares until the 1440s. The Abrahalls acquired Carrycradok possibly through marriage, and were paying wool tithes in 1568. During the next decade Carycradock passed to Richard Mynors, a large estate of a messuage, toft, 2 gardens, 40 acres of land, 50 acres of meadow, 600 acres of pasture, and 120 acres of wood. It appears that John Abrahall retained an interest in the property because it was John Abrahall who sold Cary Craddock to Rowland Scudamore in 1594.

⁸ Hurley Collection

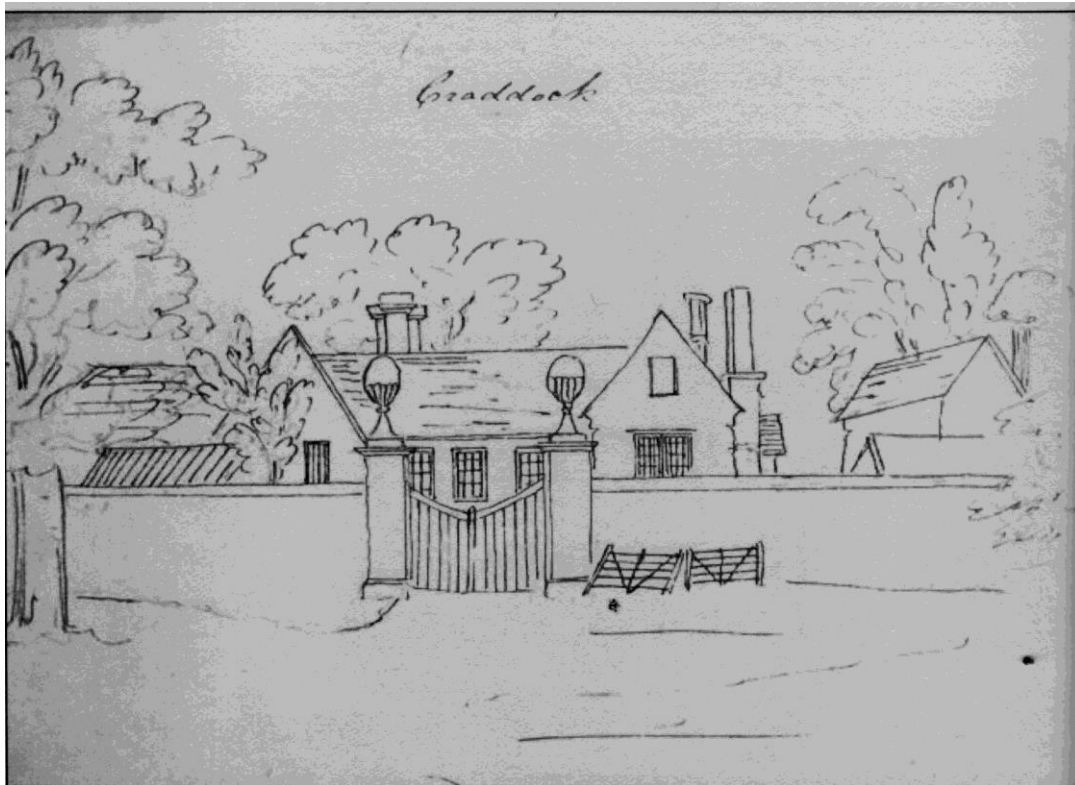


Figure 3. Caradoc, 1820¹⁰

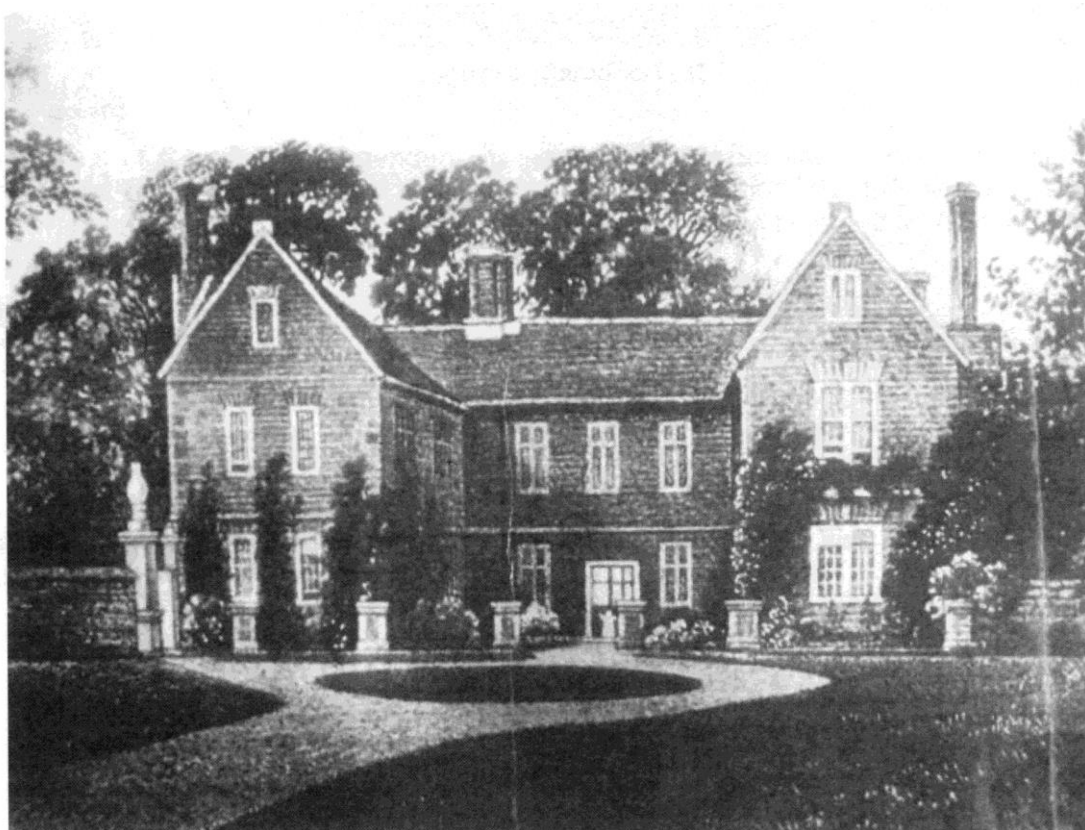


Figure 4. Pre-1860.¹¹

¹⁰ Hereford Central Library, A F Preece.

¹¹ Kim Brooker

Rowland was the brother of Sir John Scudamore of Holme Lacy, who received legacies from the family which may have funded the purchase of Baysham and the remodelling of Craddock. When he died in 1630 the newly built mansion consisted of a hall, great parour, little parlour, cellar, dairy, at least eight bed chambers, servants quarters, kitchen, an old hall, a mill housing cider, and an assortment of agricultural implements and livestock. It is understood that part of the earlier house still stood containing a kitchen, hall and chamber together with a barn. Near the church was the Canons Barn full of rye and barley, and beyond the church was Baysham with its barns, sheepcotes, cow houses and outhouses. After Rowland's death Cradocke continued to be owned by the Holme Lacy Scudamores, and in 1639 a curious agreement was made between Viscount Scudamore and Richard Phelps for a lease allowing the tenant of the new house to brew in the old house, but to move to Baysham if the Scudamores needed to return to Cradocke. During the Civil War in 1644 a party of parliamentary soldiers came to Seilack intending to destroy the churchyard cross and chancel window, but fortunately they were entertained nearby and forgot their evil intent.

During the late 17th and early 18th centuries Craddock was occupied by various members of the Scudamore family, and it may have been during this period that another story became legendary. Apparently a mentally unstable Scudamore was kept locked in an attic room, and to relieve his boredom he painted pictures on the walls with his own blood. When John Scudamore of Craddock died in 1714 the estate passed to his elder brother the third Viscount, who died two years later leaving Craddock to his wife's father Lord Digby, who allowed John Scudamore's wife to remain at Craddock after her second marriage to William Dew.

The Dews leased the Caradoc Estate of 322 acres from the Digbys until 1863 when the house with its court yard enclosed by lofty stone walls was offered for sale. Craddock then contained a hall, dining room, parour, kitchen, cellars, six bedrooms, a drawing room, attics and the farm premises. It was purchased by Elisha Caddick of Leadon Courth, who dramatically altered the mansion. His son advertised the Caradoc Estate for sale in 1904 and by 1910 it had been purchased by Colonel Heyward. After the death of the Heywoods the property passed to their married daughter Katie Gaze, a race horse trainer, and in 1978 was sold to another race horse trainer, John Edwards, who kept the estate and sold the court to John Onslow Edwards. It was between these sales that a fire gutted the listed building in 1986, which at present is being sympathetically restored.



Figure 5. Fire at Caradoc, 1986¹²

¹² Shoesmith and Morriss, 1987



Figure 6. Figure 5. Fire at Caradoc, 1986¹³

Dates and Sources

Name and situation suggest an ancient fortified site (Dun). At Domesday Baisson (Baysham) later known as Sellack parish (DB):

1291 Roger de Somery of Caircradoke Manor

1292 Peter de la Mare held Carycradok (ET)

1295 Thomas de la Mare 1281 did service 40 days for shct c Hereford for worth a barded (bard) horse (mid 13th century deeds at: PRO MH)

1308 Robert de la Mare ordered to deliver manor of Cancai'c :c .Jcy s wife CL (ET)

1308 Robert de la Mare Sen. died, his heir Peter **14** years. presumably inherited the messuage, garden, dovecote, 2 plough lands of 80 acres each pastures and woodland IPM (Dun)

1400 Philip de la Mor of Eveston and Carcradok to his sons John and Gilbert all his lands M(ET)

1443 John Abrahall died seised of Carrycradok Dun (Abrahall probably acquired the property through his third marriage to daughter of Richard Moore (Rob)

1568 Abrahalls paying wool tithes at Sellack (CA)

1576 John Abrahall sold to Richard Mynors. Carycradock, a messuage, a toft. 2 gardens, 40 acres and, 50 acres meadow, 600 acres pasture. 120 acres wood (HRO)
(1590 deeds at PRO MH)

1594 Cary Craddock sold from John Abrahall to Rowland Scudamore (Dun)

1611 Rowland Scudamore purchased 4 acres called Bythalls (PRO)

1619 Rowland Scudamore purchased Baysham (PRO) (MH)

1625 Rowland received legacies from Scudamores (PRO) (MH) may paid for rebuilding

¹³ Shoesmith and Morriss, 1987

1630 Rowland Scudamore died, survey and inventory of Craddock and Baysham PRO (ET)
(list of rooms with contents and land with field names)

1639 Agreement between Viscount John Scudamore of Holme Lacy who owned Cradocke, and Richard Phelps to live in the new house, and brew in the old house, and move to Baysham if required (HRO)

1644 Civil War Incident (Webb)

1663 James Scudamore son of Vis. John Scudamore (MA)

1688 James Scudamore died at Cradock (Rob) (1691 Cecil died, was he the Scudamore of the legend)

1710 Lease of Baysham PRO (MH)

1713 John grandson of James died at Cradock, reverted to 3rd Vis James of Holme Lacy (Rob)

1840 Edward Earl of Digby of Caradoc owner, tenanted to James Dew 322 acres (TM)

1863 Sale Particulars of Craddock Estate (HRO)

1864 Sold to Elisha Caddick Rob (he remodelled the mansion)

1904 Sale Particulars (HRO)

1910 Sold to Colonel Haywood (S & M)

1960 After death of Haywoods passed to married daughter Katie Gaze (S & M)

1976 Katie Gaze died (S & M)

1977 Sale Particulars (HRO)

1978 Purchased by John Edwards (S&M)

1984 Sale Particulars of Court only (HH)

1984 sold to John Onslow Edwards (S&M)

1986 Gutted by fire RG

Abbreviations

L	— Close Rolls	Dun	— Duncumb
DB	— Domesday ET —	Elizabeth	Taylor
HCA	— Hereford Cathedral Archives	HH	— H Hurley
HRO	— Hereford Record Office	IPM	— Inquisition Post Mortem
MA	— Militia Asses	MH	— Master Harvey's Exhibit
Rob	— Robinson	RG	— Ross Gazette
S&M	— Shoesmith & Morriss	TM	— Tithe Map
Webb	— Webb's Civil War		

Green Lane Farm, Clifford *by Roz Lowe*

In HAN75 Rosamund Skelton reported on a farm buildings survey a party of ARS members had made at Green Lane Farm, Clifford. (SO 2607 4492)

We were recently contacted by the owner to tell us that she had just removed a large concreted area in front of her front door, which lay in the beautifully cobbled small farmyard. To her horror she found that the concrete was supported on some metal struts and a few sheets of corrugated iron. Underneath was a large inlined pit, 3 metres in diameter and at least 5 metres deep, empty apart from some rubbish. A previous occupant of the farm, *circa* 1950, remembers that something was filled up, but cannot remember if it was a well or a cistern. Either way, it would surely have been lined so the stones must have been robbed. The pit will have to be filled and safely re-covered, so it has been recorded while we have the chance. Our thanks to the owner, Mrs. Bowdler.



Figure 1. The front of the house in 1984.



Figure 2. Pit viewed from above



Figure 3. The location of the pit, September 2007. In 1984, the entrance to the front porch was offset, so people were less likely to pass across the pit

Photo Survey on Coppett Hill, Goodrich by Roz Lowe

Coppett Hill, Goodrich was part of the waste of the manor of Goodrich, and I have led a number of field meetings and surveys to Coppett Hill. Most of the cottages on Coppett Hill have been greatly altered and extended over the years, but one, Wyeseide, remains in its original condition, if unoccupied (SO 5828 1885 **SMR 31454**). It lies near an occupied cottage (Woodbine) where the owner has lived for many years. She married into a family who had lived on Coppett Hill for years before that time. Until recently, the family used to make their own cider using a cider mill in an outhouse. The equipment is still *in situ*, and she kindly offered to let me make a photo-survey of it, which I did on 10 November, 2006. At the same time I investigated the building to the north-west of Wyeseide cottage, which turned out to be a ruined house, not an outbuilding as previously thought from the size.

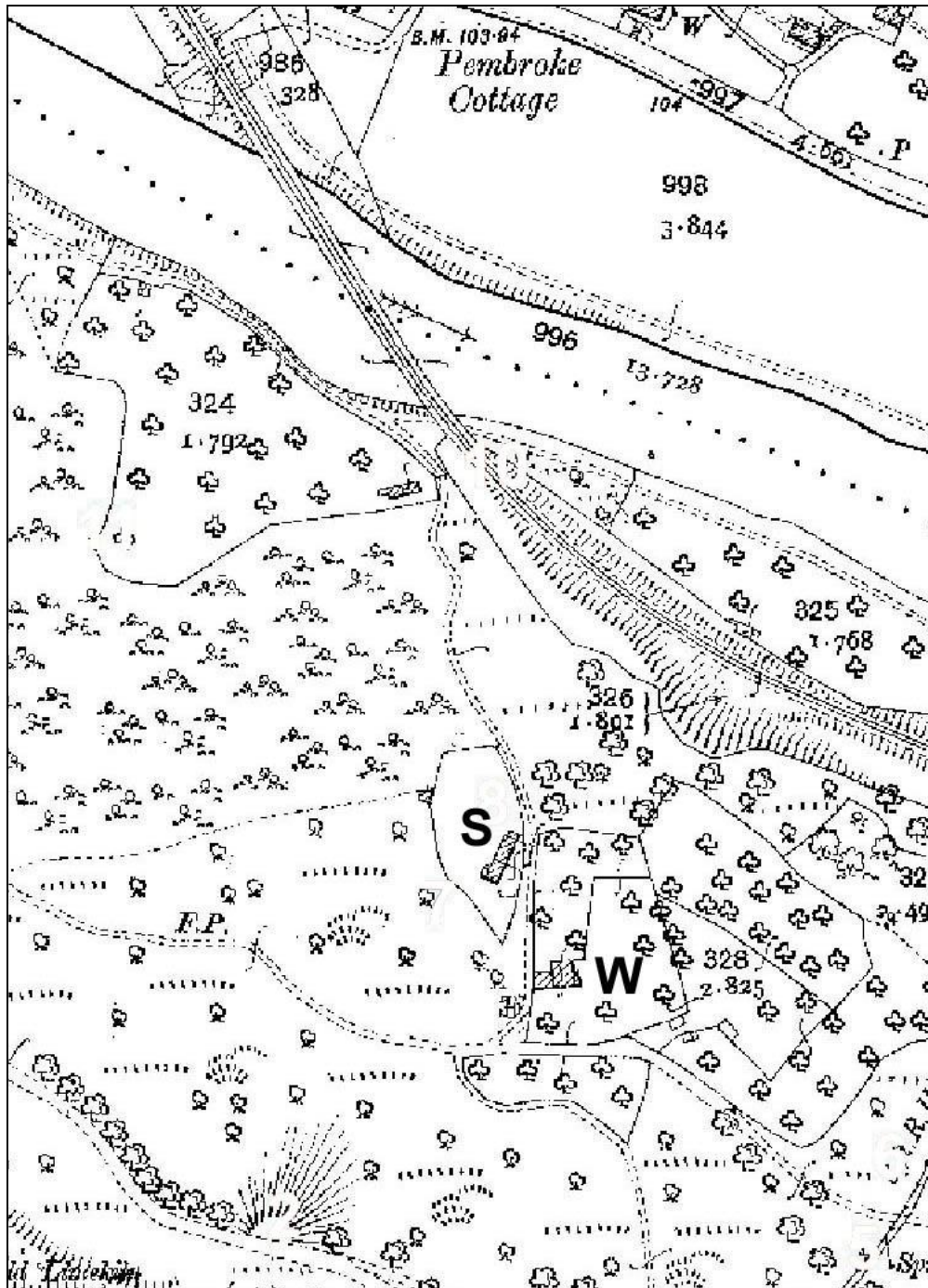


Figure 1. 1884 OS map with the Wye towards the top of the frame. Wyeseide cottage is to the right of **S**, Woodbine cottage is to the left of **W**. The unnamed dwelling is to the NW of Wyeseide.

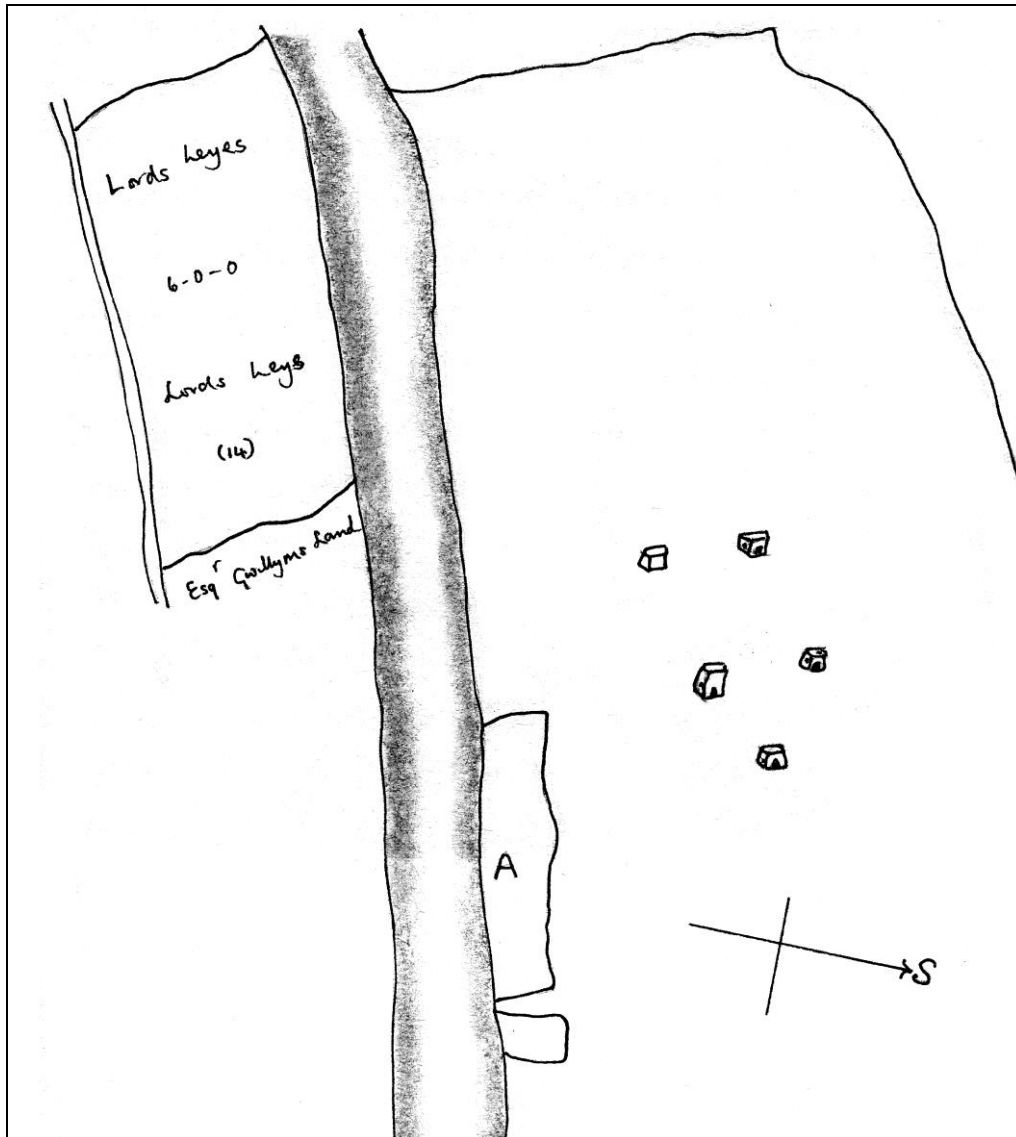


Figure 2. The area around Woodbine and Wyese is shown as a group of 5 hovels on the 1718 Goodrich manor survey (HRO AW87). As they have no chimneys they are probably just shelters for limestone workers, and they are not shown as encroachments. The houses are situated on one of the few relatively flat pieces of land on this side of the hill. Some cottages shown on the tithe map were destroyed when the railway tunnel was built. A large spoil heap from the lime workings can be seen cascading from the Courtfield road at the bottom of the OS map frame.

A steep public footpath leads between the two cottages down to the Wye Valley Walk; near to the river it passes the entrance to the disused railway tunnel which runs under Coppett Hill to re-emerge opposite the old Dickinson's works in Lower Lydbrook. The railway bridge still remains there for the convenience of walkers.

It also passes Ferry Cottage, which has had a timber-framed wing added. This is not in the local tradition, as houses on Coppett Hill were always built of sandstone quarried on the hill itself. The ferryman there saw his business partly taken away by the railway, as people used to use the railway bridge to avoid the tolls at Kerne Bridge, just upstream, and also as a short cut, though there was a ferryman cum gamekeeper (Thomas Morton) living on Coppett Hill in 1881. The railway bridge was also used by soldiers making their way to the rifle range on the other side of Coppett Hill, and the path they took up from the river is still known as 'Soldier's Path'. After the railway closed and the bridge was removed Kerne bridge was the only means of crossing the river.



Figure 3. Wyeside cottage - the houses in the background are across the Wye. One of the many deer on the hill is running for cover.



Figure 4. Woodbine cottage from the side. The cider mill lies on the other side of the house.

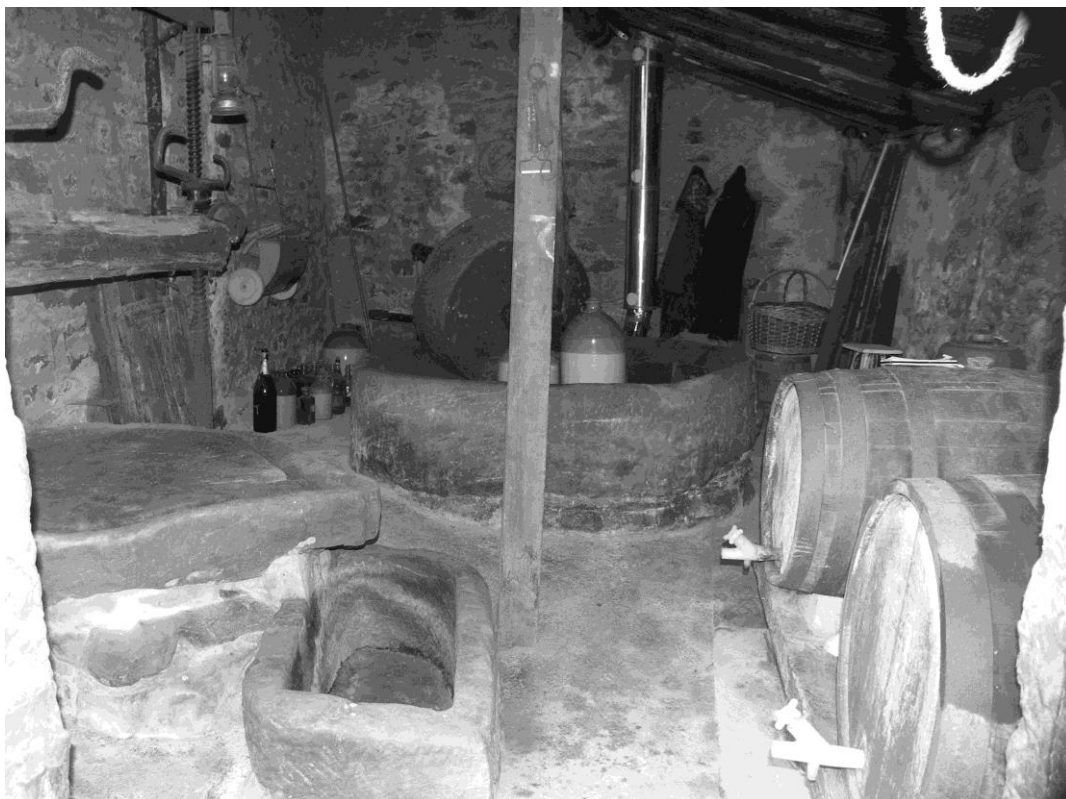


Figure 5. The cider house from the door, with the mill itself somewhat obscured by a central roof support. Note the cider barrels to the right, the cider press to the left.

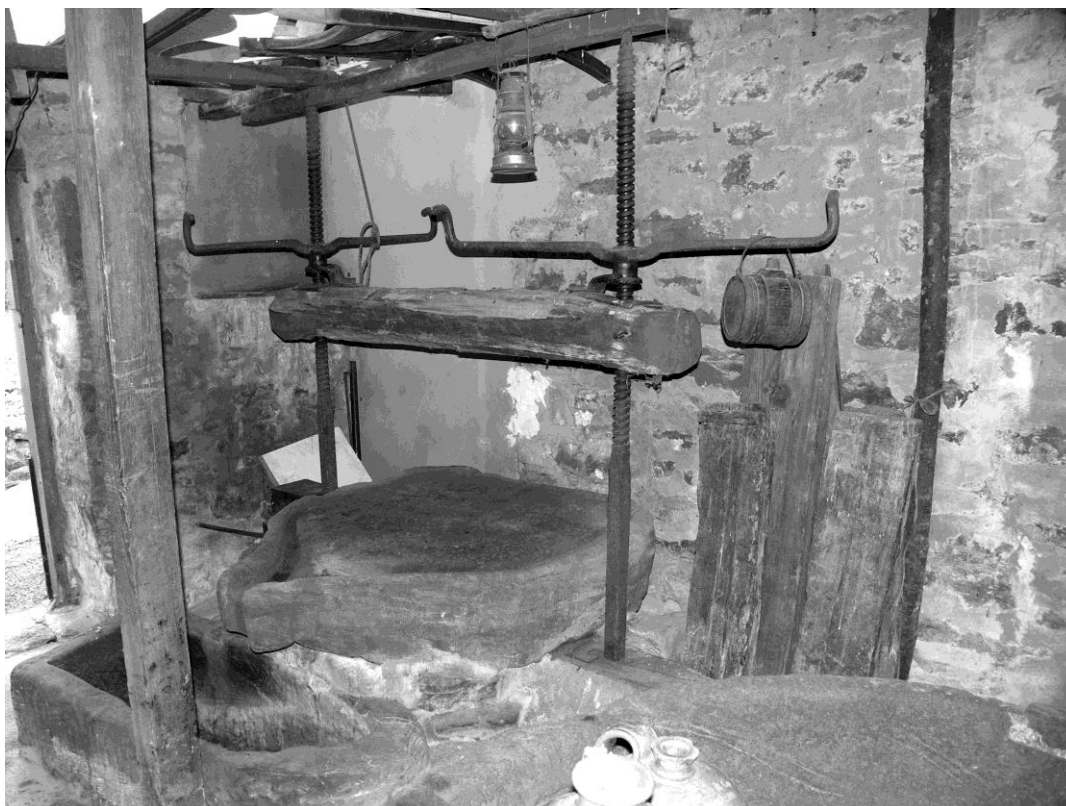


Figure 6. The cider press. The boards which spread the load over the layers of apple pulp are leaning against the wall; a small barrel for taking cider into the fields is hanging on the arm of the press.



Figure 7. The cider mill showing the shaft fixed with wedges in the mill stone.



Figure 8. Detail of the upright socket and shaft of millstone.



Figure 9. The well-crafted shaft of the millstone. It was pulled or pushed around by the cider-makers themselves, using the harness that can be seen still attached.

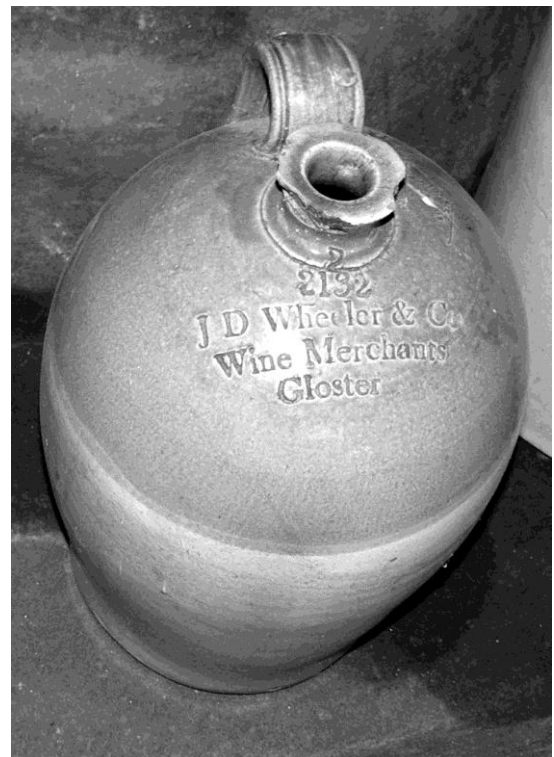
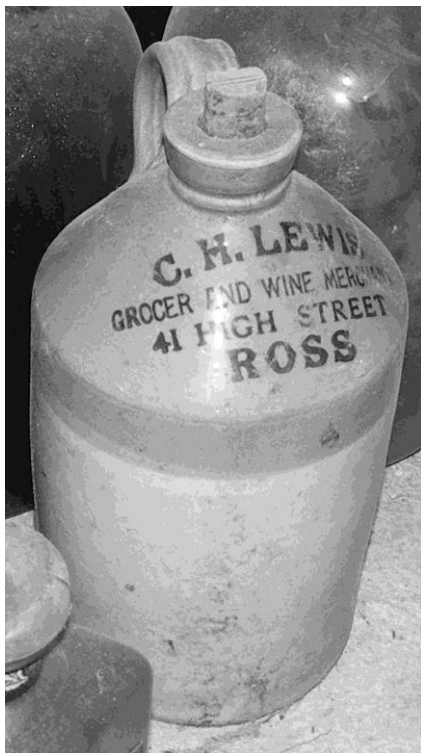


Figure 10 & 11. Local cider jugs.

The cottage to the north-west of Wyeside



Figure 12. Ruined cottage to NW of Wyeside.



Figure 13. End gable of the cottage, showing external chimney stack.

The size of the cottage in Fig. 12 can be judged by the overall width relative to the front door. Internally it is about 3 metres square, though it is well-built. It is not shown on the tithe map, but is there by 1884. It's possible that it was built for a railway worker - George Griffin, a platelayer, his wife and 5 children lived on the hill in 1881. Apparently a family with a large number of children occupied the cottage early in the 20th century. There is only room for two tiny bedrooms above a low ceiling, though there is an attached outbuilding and privy.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the owner of Wyeside and Woodbine for her kindness in letting me record her cider mill, and for sharing her knowledge of the people of Goodrich and Coppett Hill.

Hergest Ridge Field Day by Rosamund Skelton

Millenium Aerial Photographs taken by Chris Musson on behalf of the Woolhope Club Archaeological Research Section showed some interesting circular features on top of Hergest Ridge near the Trig Point. They were then deposited at the Herefordshire Record Office.

On the 1st April 2007, a sunny but chilly day, 6 members and one visitor set out to investigate and record these features at ground level, coming to the conclusion that they were stone cairn barrows for reasons explained later.

Hergest Ridge is composed of sedimentary rocks, the grey-brown mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Wenlock and Ludlow Strata, but many of the stones used to build the barrows are glacial erratics brought here from other sources. Some are of Hanter Hill Gabbro stones derived from an outcrop of a distinctive gabbro on the neighbouring Hanter Hill to the west. This is an igneous rock composed largely of dark green and white crystals. Glacial erratics can still be seen scattered about elsewhere on the hill. Nine of these barrows were recorded, five of which had been photographed by Chris Musson, and are numbered on the plan.

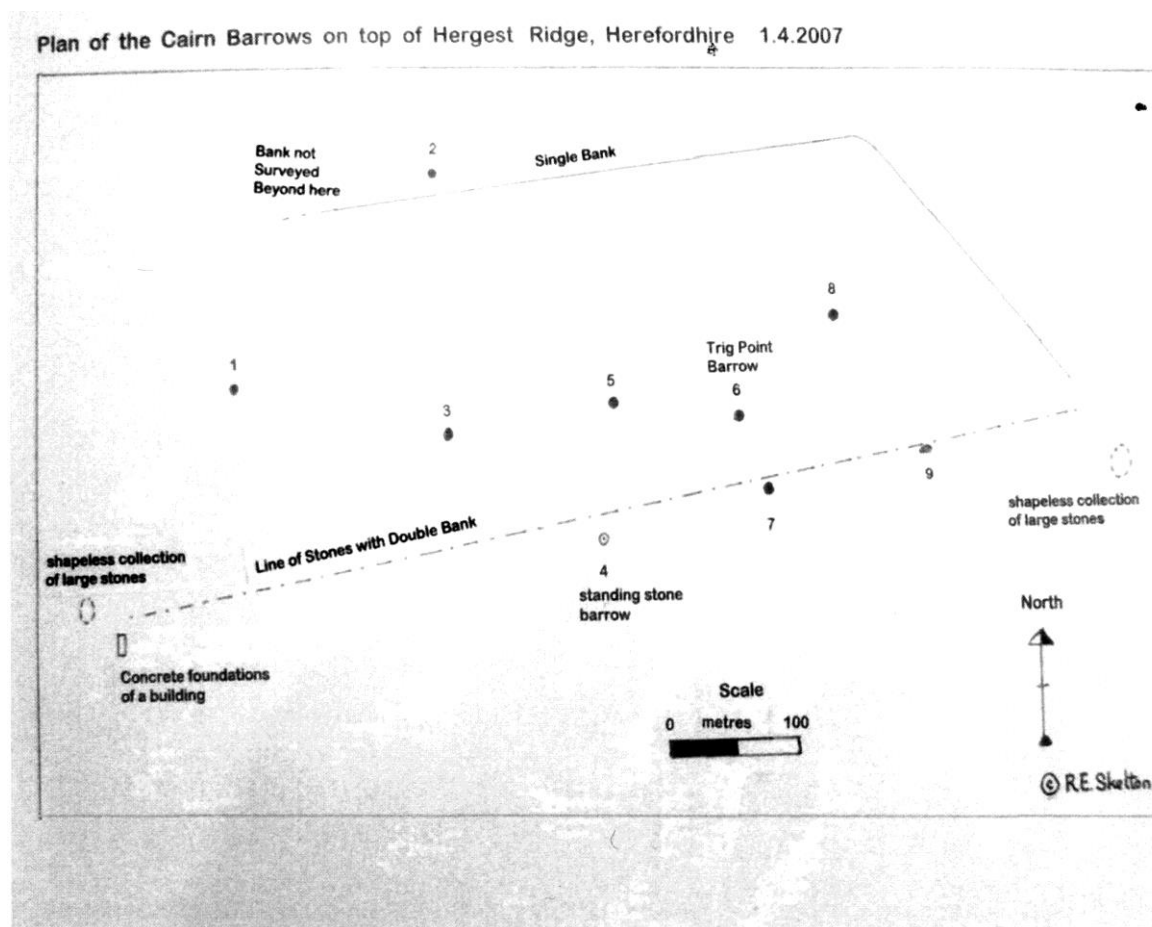


Figure 1: Plan of the cairn barrows showing the relative positions of the circular features, a double bank with a line of stones together with a higher single bank which surround the hill top

The diameter of each group of stones was measured. Each were photographed using a six foot ranging rod for scale. Grid references were recorded using a Global Positioning Satellite [GPS] device. The plan attached (Figure 1) is based on these figures.

The plan shows how the barrows are laid out on the hill top, barrow 3 is nearest to the highest point on the hill whereas the Trig Point next to barrow 6 is slightly lower down the hill. The aerial photograph (Figure 3) shows barrows 5, 6, 7 and 8 viewed from the north. Barrow 4, the 'standing stone barrow' may also be on the photograph, but because it is only 2.40 x 3 metres in diameter, it is difficult to see.

Barrow	Outside of ditch	Inside of ditch	Stones only
1	8 metres	6.50 metres	
2			5.70x7.10metres
3	14 metres	12.40 metres	
4			2.40 x 3 metres
5-short axis	7.50 metres	5.10 metres	
5 - long axis	11 .10 metres	9.30 metres	
6 - north-south axis	13 metres	9.80 metres	
6 - east-west axis	11.50 metres	7.90 metres	
7 - short axis	9.70 metres	7.80 metres	
7 - long axis	12 metres	8.50 metres	
8 - short axis	11.10 metres	7 metres	
8- long axis	12 metres	9.10 metres	•
9	8.50 x 6.70 metres		3.40 metres

Figure 2. Table showing measurements of the barrows, ditches and stones



Figure 3. Aerial photograph showing some interesting circular features on top of Hergest Ridge

Stone Cairn Barrows

The barrows are composed of substantial stones between 0.60 and 0.90 metres wide 0.90 and 1.20 metres high, surrounded by ditches measuring about 0.75 metres wide. The diameter of the stone part of the barrows vary between 5.10 and 12.40 metres as detailed in the table above (Figure 2). The setting of the stones within the encircling ditches and their location on a hilltop suggest that these are Bronze Age cairn barrows. Some of the groups of stones appear to be set into the earth, but others are resting on a layer of small stones embedded vertically in the earth. The inside edge of the ditch generally coincides with the outer edge of the stones although in some places one or two stones have been dislodged and lie across the ditch.

The large stones appear to be glacial erratics, probably left on the ridge when the last glaciers retreated. Each group of stones is enclosed by a shallow circular ditch very close to the stones, although in some places one or two stones have been dislodged and lie across the ditch. The diameters of the barrows are listed above.



Figure 4: Barrow 1

Locally it is suggested these cairns were formed by clearance of stones for agriculture, this seems unlikely since there are still many large glacial erratics scattered over the hill top amongst the cairns.



Figure 5. Barrow 4: The 'Standing Stone' barrow



Figure 6. Barrow 6: The 'Trig Point' barrow

Barrow 6, adjacent to the Trig Point, contains a prominent stone bearing a circle of white quartz near the centre of the barrow and facing upwards so that it can be clearly seen. Francis Lynch, excavator of the Brenig Valley barrows in Denbighshire, describes a 'platform cairn of stones' which had 'a marked concentration of shiny, white pieces of quartz at the very centre' This is an interesting similarity between two stone barrows about 66 miles apart, as the crow flies.

It is difficult to tell whether the barrows are in their original condition. Barrow 2 which is surrounded by encroaching gorse bushes seems to have a greater abundance of stones, many of a smaller size than those on the more easily approached and visible barrows to the south. This may indicate that any smaller stones have been removed from the more exposed barrows. This barrow has no discernable ditch, possibly because of the surrounding gorse.

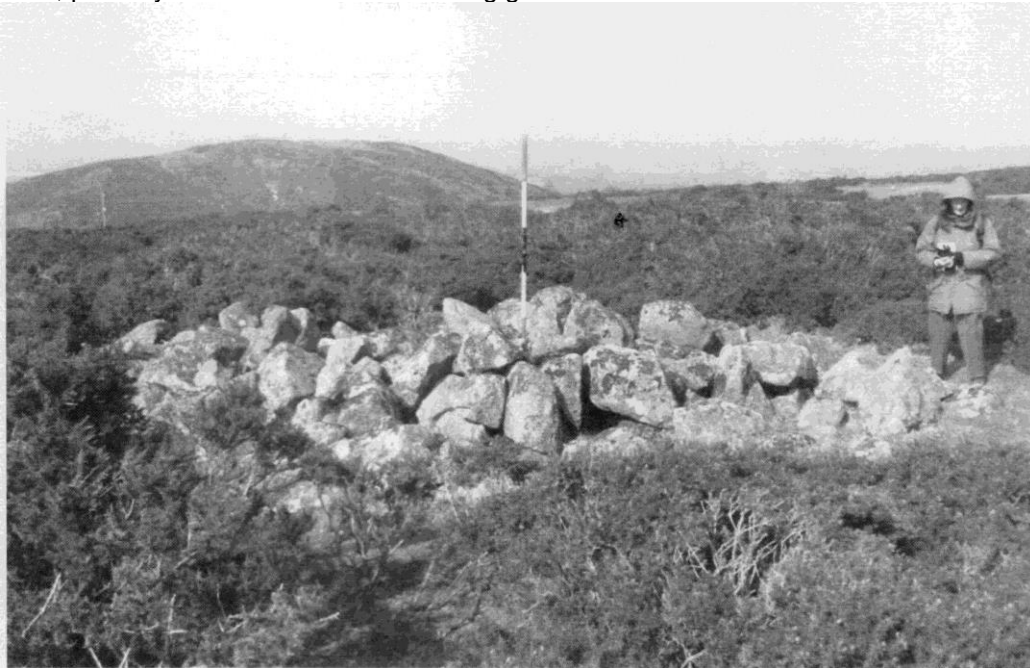


Figure 7. Barrow 2



Figure 8. White quartz stone in Barrow 8

Line of Stones

There is a row of low stones the tallest of which is no more than about half a metre running in an east to west line south of the main area of barrows. The stones are set between two low banks 0.20 to 0.30 metres high. Even where there are no longer upright stones, the two banks form a continuous feature as shown on the plan and visible on the aerial photograph and on the ground. There are no longer visible terminal features at either end of the line.



Figure 9. Walking beside the line of low stones set in double bank



Figure 10. An odd stone on the route of the single bank

Starting about 3 metres further to the east of the eastern end of the line of stones and slightly to the north is a higher single bank which also has the odd stone scattered along its route, one on top of the bank but most lying to one side or the other of the bank. The eastern end is buried in the bracken so it is not readily seen, but near to Barrow 2 it forms the edge of the more grassy area to the south where the bigger barrows lie, while to the north lie thick gorse bushes and bracken. The full length of the bank was not surveyed due to lack of time, but it was seen to curve southwards parallel to the line of the Off a's Dyke Footpath and finish near to the west end of the line of stones. The survey of the single bank was carried out by myself on another day and was not fully completed due to lack of time. I observed however that the single bank curves around and heads towards the west end of the line of stones and stopping just before it reached them.

Parallel Ditches and Banks



Figure 11: Small parallel ditches and bank

Between the line of stones and the single bank another set of features can be seen on the aerial photograph. This is a series of alternating small parallel ditches and banks, slanting in an approximately south-south-east direction from the north bank to the line of stones about 20 metres apart. The ditches and banks are each 20 metres away from and parallel to each other. The ditches are easier to see on the ground than the banks and both are much easier to see on the aerial photograph. Parallel ditches are also detectable on the aerial photograph south of the line of stones but running in a more north to south direction. These ditches appear to be 40 metres apart which may mean that the alternating banks are not showing up on the photograph or may not actually be there.

Two of the ditches to the north of the line of stones are focussed on the centre of Barrows 6 and 8 and another ditch forms the western boundary of Barrow 5, while yet another passes close to the western side of Barrow 3 but does not touch its encircling ditch. At first the possibility of these ditches being later agricultural drainage was considered but was dismissed: no-one would focus a drainage ditch on a pile of stones and also it would not account for the separate banks. It seems possible that these may form part of the burial area and have some ritual significance, but their function can only be guessed at.

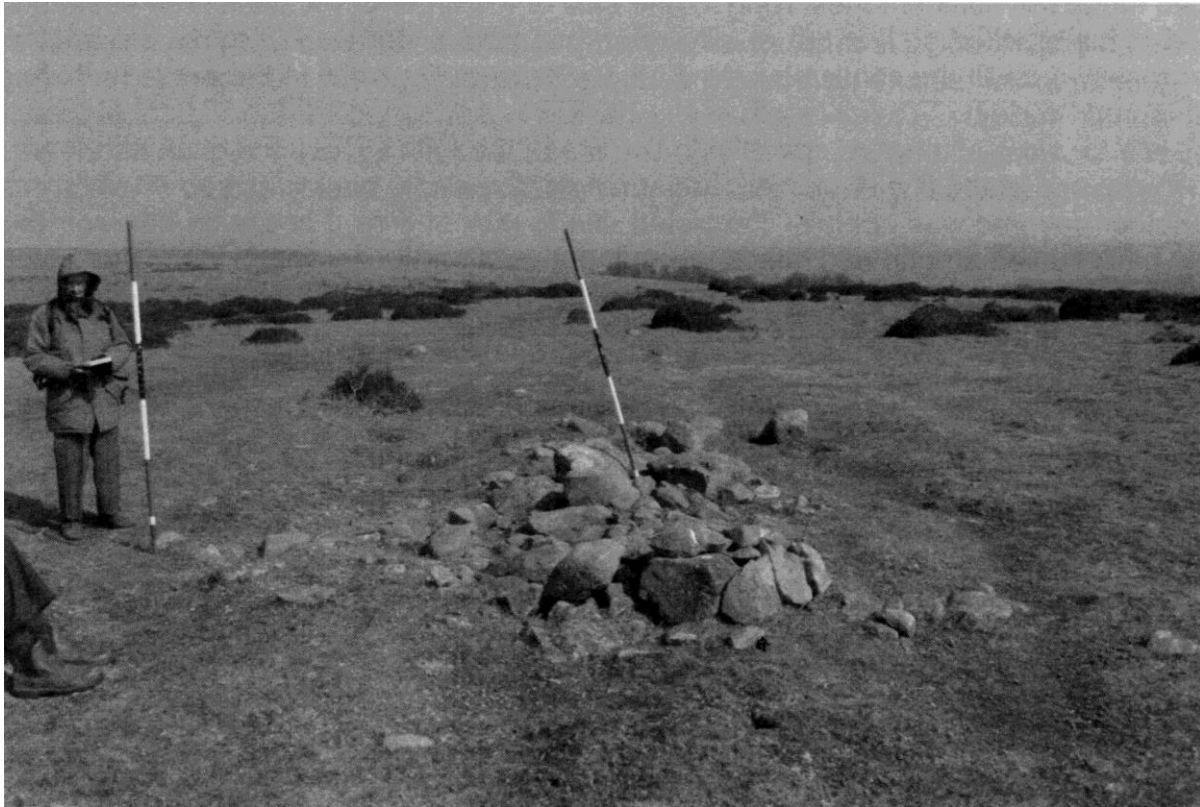


Figure 12. Barrow 9



Figure 13. Barrow 8

Shapeless collections of stones

There is no detectable formation to these stones and they are not surrounded by any ditches. The one at the west end is close to the location of the concrete foundations of a building which measures 6.90 by 12.90 metres. It may be that the stones occupied the site of the building and were moved to allow it to be built. The collection of stones at the eastern end is larger and may represent clearance during the Second World War for the land to be used for agriculture. It is said locally that the piles of stones on this hilltop were cleared by bulldozers, it is obvious that the similarity of nine of these 'piles' with cairn barrows recorded elsewhere in the country confirms their 'barrow' status, but this collection does not seem to have any features relating to a barrow.

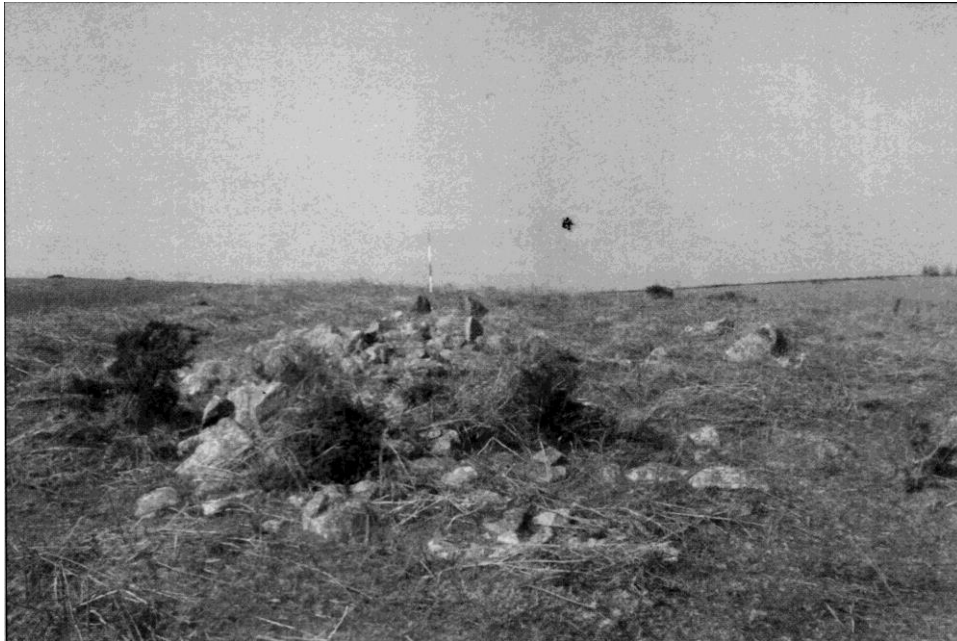


Figure 14: Eastern shapeless collection of stones



Figure 15: Barrow 3



Figure 16: Barrow 5



Figure 17: Barrow 7

Conclusion

Nine of these barrows appear to be cairn barrows built of stones available locally, and within the enclosure formed by the single bank on the east, north and west and the stones on the south. Three barrows lie south of the Line of Stones and of these Barrow 4 is very distinctive being only 2.40 x 3.0 metres in diameter and having a very tall stone 1.30 metres high in the centre surrounded by much smaller stones. It lies almost equidistant from barrows 3, 5, 6 and 7. Barrow 9 looks as if it was pre-existing when the line of stones was built which damaged and disturbed it. It would be desirable to find out how far some slight ditches visible on the aerial photographs go and whether there is another enclosure bank to the south. The spacing of the barrows is interesting in that they are not close together like many of the groups on Salisbury Plain neither are they as widely spaced as those in the Brenig Valley in Denbighshire, which vary from 1 to 0.20 of a kilometre apart scattered around the head of a valley. These are all in a fairly level area and vary from 50 to 200 metres apart. The shapeless collection of stones appear to be clearance during the Second War.

Field Meeting to Croft Castle, North Herefordshire *by Margaret Feryok*

This meeting took place on 3rd September 2006 with six people and the leader in attendance. The weather was sunny apart from a few light showers earlier in the day. The reason for the visit was to explore the woodland around Croft Castle in north Herefordshire. Various aspects of Croft Castle and its environment had already been examined and assessed on four separate occasions. The leader of this guided tour, Margaret Feryok, was employed by Archenfield Archaeology in 2005 to carry out the mapping of historic features with the use of a GPS (Global positioning system). All features were photographed and briefly described, and entered onto a database.



Figure 1: The southern boundary: Common Wood

To begin with the group entered the woodland by Hill Farm. They walked in a northerly direction up the road which runs through Lucton Common. A disused hollow-way running parallel to the present road was noted. It was nearly a metre deep and about two metres wide and probably an older version of the present road which runs the entire length of the main Croft Woodland, coming out onto Bircher Common at the north-eastern edge of the woodland. The group were going to look at features in Common Wood; the southern boundary being the most striking of these features.

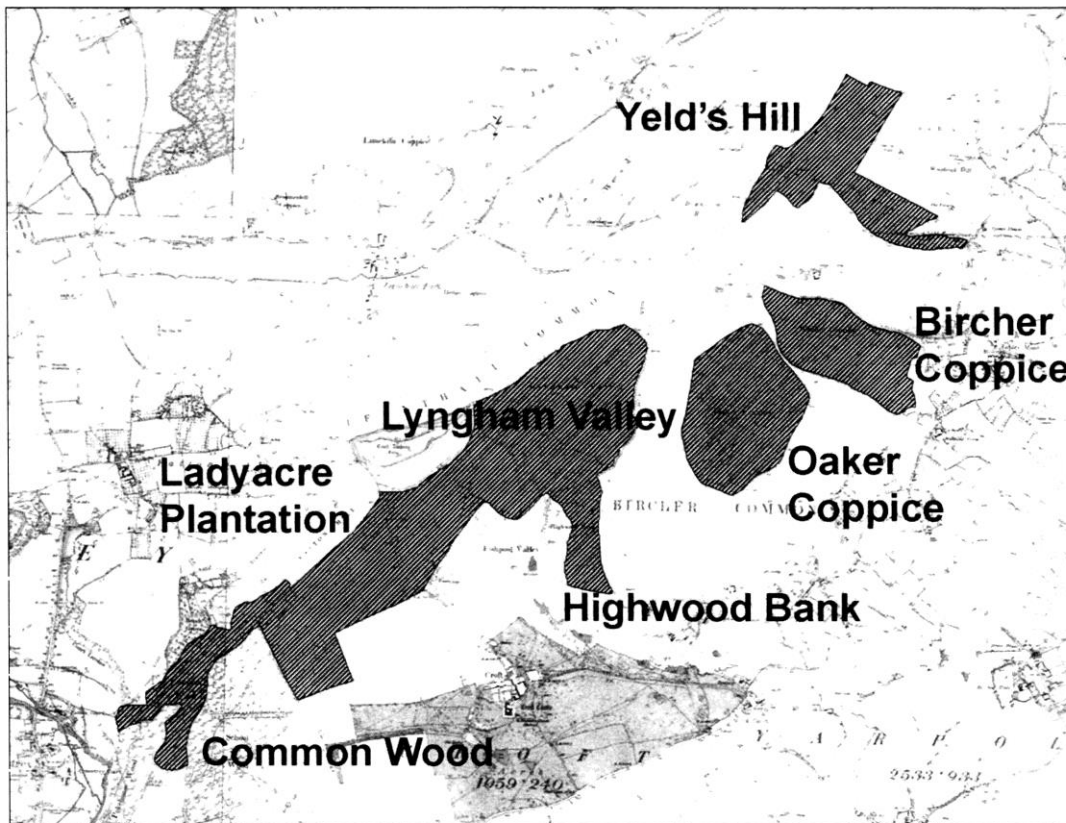


Figure 2: OS First edition map showing the woodlands surveyed

The boundary consists of a line of very large pollarded oaks many of which are 3–4 metres in circumference. The line of trees were spaced at intervals of about 10 metres and stood on a low bank of about 0.20 and 0.30 metres in height. This was a good example of woodland plants, and particularly trees, are an indicator of age and use and can be particularly an archaeological feature. A very rough way to calculate the age of the trees and particularly oaks is to assume that each centimetre in girth represents about 1 year of its life. Old and those which are pollarded can grow more slowly so these trees may be older than three or four hundred years suggested by the circumference of its trunk.

Following the boundary westwards as it curves around the edge of the woodland, a conifer plantation, the group came upon a small (0.02 metres high) bank which went through the pollarded tree boundary and continued south as a hedge line. North of the boundary continued for two or three metres before disappearing into the newly ploughed furrow of the conifer plantations.

At the western edge of the pollarded oak boundary, after a gap of about 10–20 metres was another bank and where it was well-preserved was roughly 1 metre high and 2 metres wide. The bank ran along the top edge of the very steep western slope of the hill on which D Wood lies. Bluebells grow quite thickly along this bank in places this being another indicator of great age. At the northern end of the bank the boundary continued down the steep slope which was marked by a line of coppiced hazels about 5–10 metres apart. Just to the east of the northern edge of this bank is a junction of three hollowways. The eastern track has another bank of similar size on its southern side. These two banks and the oak boundary completely enclose the southern section of Common Wood. Perhaps it was enclosed to keep livestock in (or out)—as its name suggests as this was indeed common ground and not part of the Croft Estate.

Most of the group continued north-westwards along a track which curved downwards around the west-facing side of the hill. About half way down one or two walkers climbed up an extremely steep bank which runs along the uphill side of the track. This was part of a double bank which runs parallel to the track about three or four metres above roughly equal in size, about two metres wide on top and at a distance of roughly 3 metres apart. It is extremely overgrown with young trees, shrubs and brambles.

The group discussed what this feature could be. Some suggested that it might be an outcrop of Croft Ambrey Hillfort which lies 1.50 kilometres to the north although the vegetation does not appear to be old enough. The hillside beside these tracks are very disturbed and full of old tree roots, logs and brambles suggesting that the hillside was dug out or quarried and then backfilled and the banks made to stabilise the hillside above the track. There is a small quarry near the top end of the track and quarries have been found elsewhere on the hillside. Maybe the ditches were old tracks when logs would have been dragged down the hill by horses.

At the bottom of the hill was a very large and old chestnut tree with a circumference of 6.20 metres growing out of an old coppice stool near the present boundary of the woodland. Very large veteran trees and even their dead hulks were recorded in the survey. The tree might mark an important point on the boundary overlooking a natural causeway, a ridge of higher ground called Court Larches which runs across the narrow valley between the hill of Common Wood and Croft, and a small hill fort called Pyon Wood about 1 kilometre to the north-west.

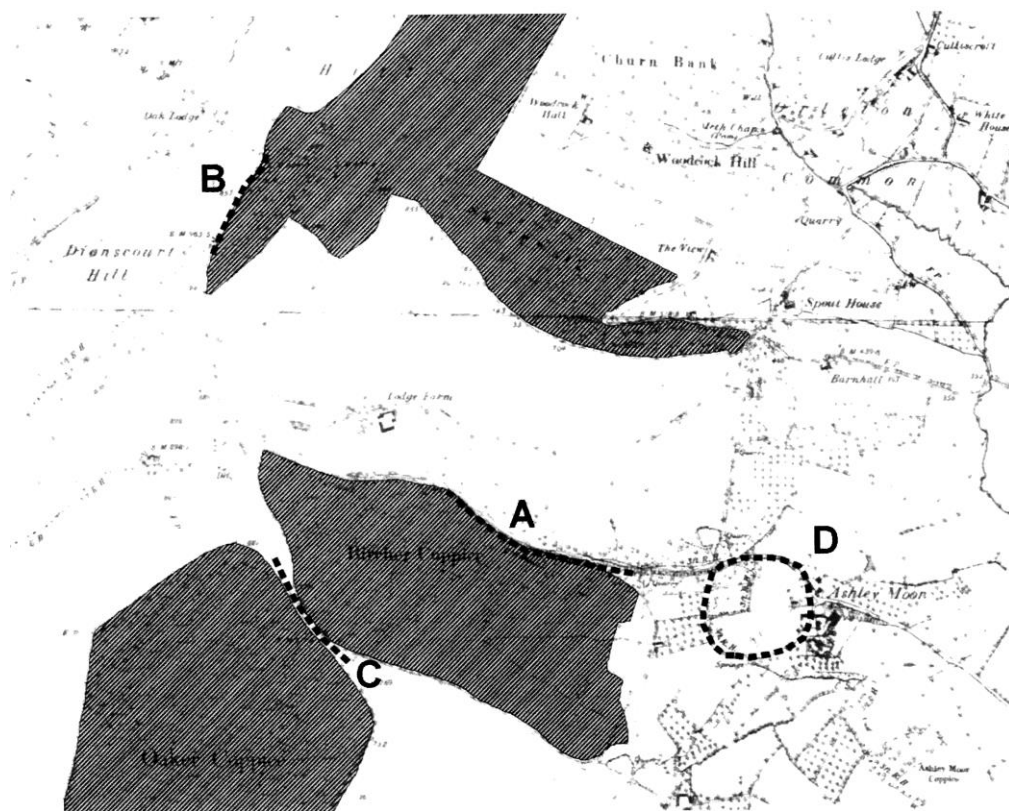


Figure 3: Map 2- features referred to in text

Figure 3: Map 2- features referred to in text

- A:** double lynchets or terraces on the north-eastern side of Bircher Coppice Hill
- B:** terraces on the western side of Yeld's Hill
- C:** bank between Bircher Coppice and Oaker Coppice
- D:** round field feature, possible old enclosure at the eastern end of Bircher Coppice.

We walked back up the hill and reached the top of Common Wood. The boundary between Common Wood and Ladyacre Plantation is marked by a pair of very large beech trees with circumferences of 3 and 4.90 metres growing on a bank 0.25 metres high and 1 metre wide and with a ditch two metres wide. Beech trees grow slower than oaks, but even so these trees showed that the boundary was several hundred years old.

Carrying on in a south-eastward direction, we passed a triple parish boundary meeting point for Aymestry, Lucton and Croft, and Yarpole, one of two such points in this woodland (the other being at the north-east edge of the woodland at Whiteway Head). There were some double boundary banks which run parkway between the western edge of Ladyacre Plantation and the eastern edge of

School Wood when several large old chestnut trees were noted at the northern end of the banks

The group then proceeded north-east along a track in Ladyacre Plantation toward Croft Aymbrey Hill Fort. All the bracken has been mowed down so it was possible to see the earthworks and ditches of the fort. After noting some hornbeam trees (which are not native to the area) and pillow mounds near the stile on the southern edge of the fort, we arrived at the south-western facing gate of the fort and stood on one of the adjacent banks. From there it was possible to see Burfa Bank, a low hill fort at the eastern valley in Wales, about 17.50 kilometres to the south-west. The fact that this gate faces the relatively small simple fort suggests a relationship between the two.

After lunch the group went on to Bircher Coppice and parked in a large quarry (7 metres deep and 50 metres wide) at the north-eastern end of the woodland. There are a number of charcoal-burning platforms on the northern edge of this woodland which is on a very steep slope heading down into a narrow heavily shaded stream-cut valley.



Figure 4: Terraces on the northern side of Bircher Coppice

There is ample evidence of industrial activity throughout Bircher Common but it is particularly prevalent on the steeper slope and on the edge facing away from the prevailing westerly wind. The whole area around the north-eastern edge of the woodland consisted of c possibly ancient, broadleaf woodland covering about one quarter of the area of the north side of Bircher Coppice. This woodland continued on the slope across the road, over a stream—and carried on down both sides of the road going toward Ashley Moor Farm about 300 metres east of the gate which marks the entrance of the woodland. All the rest of the woodland of Bircher Coppice comprises mature conifer plantation.

There were two lynchets or terraces which run almost the entire length of the bottom of the northern side of the Bircher Coppice Hill. These are cut by some of the quarries and one or two of the charcoal burning platforms which may have marked the parish boundaries between Croft and Yarpole parishes and Orleton to the north and could possibly be remains of a woodland boundary bank or remains of some old roads. The terraces are on average about one metre high and two to three metres wide.

The group walked the whole length of the northern side of the hill and arrived at the entrance to the track which leads north to Yeld Hill. This track was thought to be part of a system in which grazing animals move from Bircher Common to Yeld Hill. The Mortimer Trail crosses the southern end of this track and looking south Ivington Hill could be seen in the distance.

At the top of the hill the track splits into three as it enters Yeld Hill woodland. The middle track continues bending toward the north-east. On the eastern side of this track which runs along part of the parish boundary between Aymestry and Orleton is a very dramatic looking series of up to four terraces which lie on the side of one large three-to-four metre high terrace. The terraces vary in size but are up to a metre wide and half a metre in height.

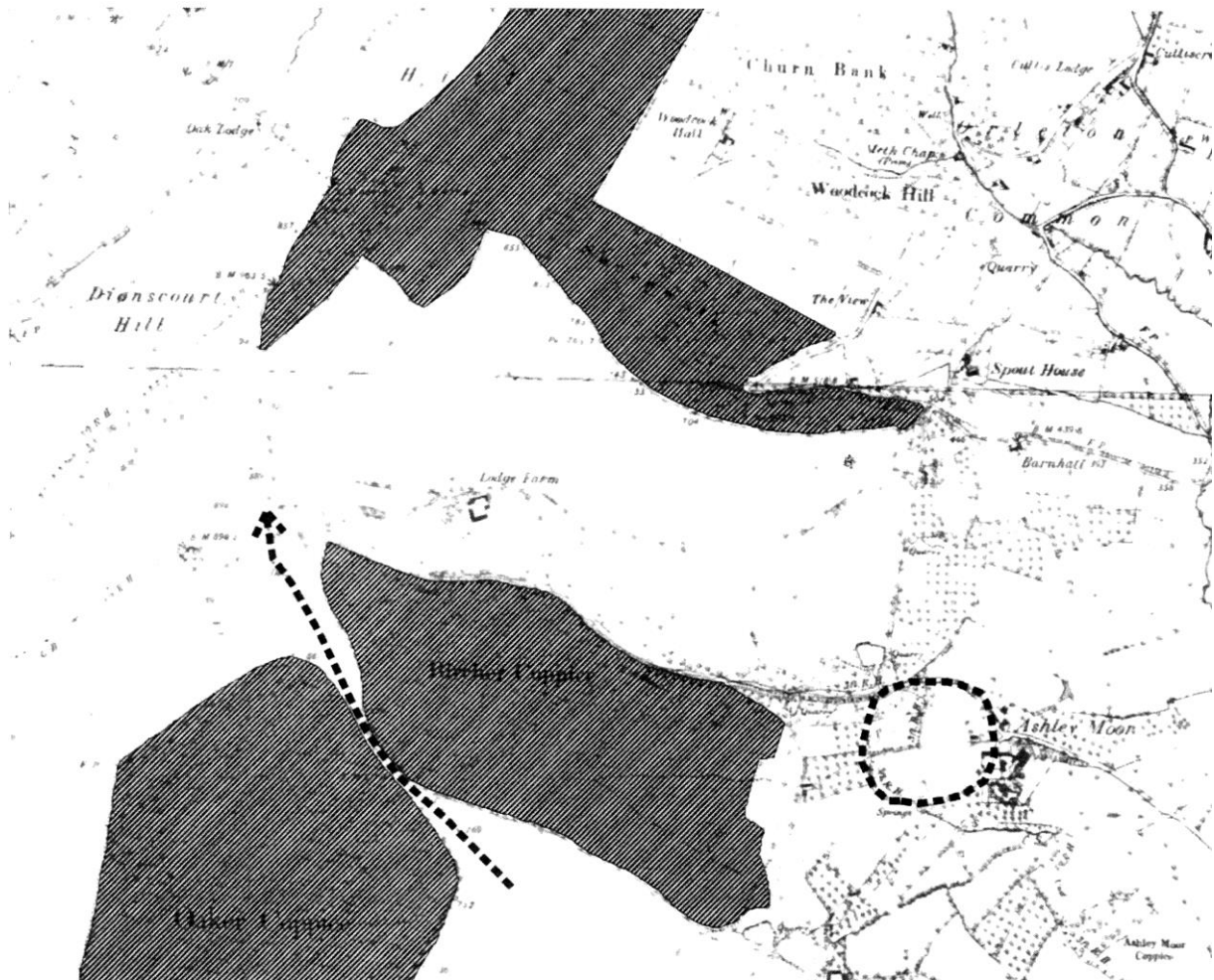


Figure 5. Map 3—possible animal herding routes between Yeld's Hill and Bircher Coppice with round field feature, a possible animal enclosure

There are mature, although not particularly old, hardwood trees on the terraces which form part of the western boundary of Yeld Hill woodland. The group walked up and down the track which runs alongside the feature whilst speculating about its function and how it was formed. Perhaps it was a combination of old path terraces or part of the parish boundary — one of the terraces disappears when the boundary leaves the line of the feature. Maybe it was a geological feature or the result of quarrying. Another road runs along the top of the large terrace and the broad-leaved woodland down a steep slope to the west where there is a bank, a number of tracks and possibly charcoal-burning platforms. This may be an example of a steep slope, which is unsuitable for agriculture, instead was used for forest industrial activity. We concluded that the answer could be found by carrying out more historical research on Yeld Hill, which had not traditionally been a woodland but open pasture, and the area to the west of it. It might have belonged to nearby Dion's Court.



Figure 6: Terraces on the western edge of Yeld's Hill

As the group returned down Yeld's Hill they became separated; the majority proceeded southwestwards. A series of banks and ditches converge and create a narrow gap between Oaker and Bircher Coppices but the features were obscured by bracken at this point. It wasn't until the group reached a spot south of the modern road running between the two woodlands that the earthworks were visible as the shade from large trees keep the bracken growth down..

These features are well-known and have been recorded but they were still worth seeing. They were part of an old system of herding sheep and cattle between Bircher Common and Yeld Hill. They are hollow-ways, probably formed by grazing animals. They consist of two banks which define the edges of Oaker and Bircher Coppices. In the 25 metre-wide space between them is a series of two, three and four banks and ditches which are intermittent and irregular, weaving together and angling away from each other as they reach the northern and southern extremities of the gap.

The intentionally-made banks around the woodlands are about one metre high. The other banks and ditches tend to be slightly smaller. The bank around Oaker Coppice has very large pollarded beech trees, up to 4.40 metres in circumference, evenly spaced about ten to twenty metres apart. This looks similar to the first boundary in at Common Wood. Between the bank around Bircher Coppice, which is less well-made and the woodland itself, is a space of about 20 metres wide, in which runs a currently used road and an old road bed. This shows how much area the woodland had lost since the original boundary bank was made. As the gap between the two woodlands widens out toward Bircher Common in the south-east, following the edge of Bircher Common in the south-east, the boundary bank bends further to the southeast, following the edge of Bircher Coppice more closely. It was hard to see in the summer though, being heavily covered in bracken.



Figure 7: Oaker Coppice

The group walked sothwards along the eastern edge of Oaker Coppice to look at a curious feature which I had found there. It was a very large ditch, over one metre in depth and 6 —10 metres in width. She had traced about halfway across Oaker Coppice before it disappeared in conifer plantation ploughing. It runs out of the woodland onto the common immediately east of the woodland and ends in a large depression, about 20 metres wide and 0.75 metres deep, looking like an old pond bed. I had thought the ditch could be a hollow-way. It is oriented towards the direction of Whitehead Way, but the opinion of the group was that these features were too large to be anything but natural.

The group then walked down the hill across the common going right around Bircher Coppice. Except where it was mown the whole common is heavily overgrown with bracken and the group discussed how long it would take to revert back to woodland. The banks of a well- known sub-rectangular, reputedly Iron Age enclosure on the eastern side of the common were not seen. At the bottom of the hill the group saw the largest of all the quarries seen that day which was on the southern corner of Bircher Coppice. It is 7 metres deep and 50 metres wide.

Most of the group went home at this point but three walked down the road toward Ashley Moor in order to examine the edge of a circular pattern of fields. It is a sub-circular shape made up of three fields tucked into the edge of the woodland on the road running eastwards from the north-eastern corner of Bircher Common and Yeld's Hill (see Map 3). The eastern edge of the circle is covered by the house and outbuildings of Ashley Moor. There was not much to be seen and it would be useful for this area be subject to further study.

Field Meeting to The Batch, Sarnesfield by Roz Lowe

This farm survey took place on Sunday, 5 August 2007, the morning farm survey having been cancelled because of the recent foot and mouth disease outbreak. It was attended by myself and Rosamund Skelton, who had arranged the visit with Mr. & Mrs. Colin Phillips, the farmers. We would like to thank very much for their hospitality.

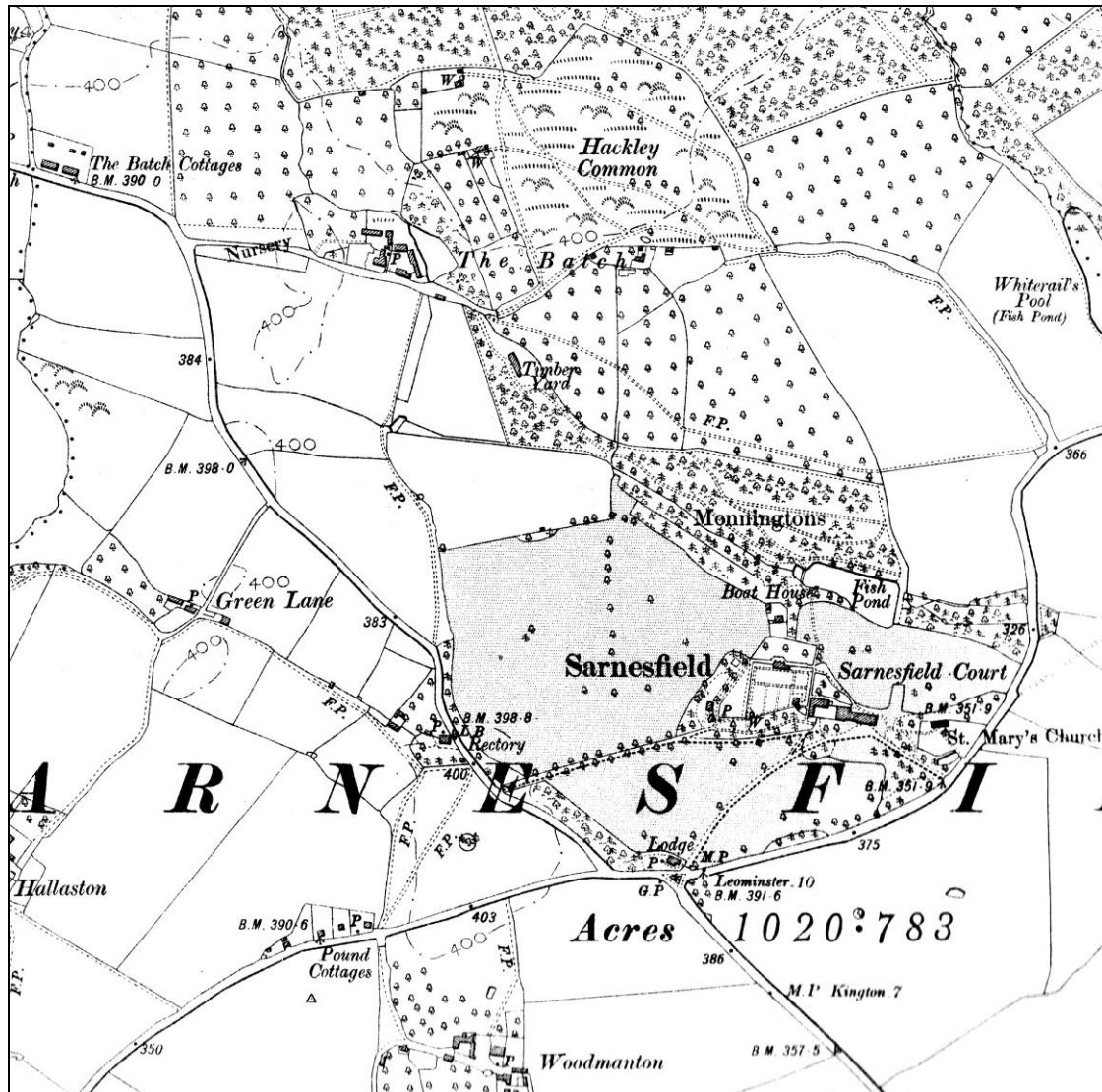


Figure 1. OS map 1905 showing The Batch and environs

The Batch is a farm belonging to the Sarnesfield Court estate for brickworks nearby to the east, not for the farm].¹ It has a special interest for the Woolhope Club as George Marshall, one of our most illustrious members, lived there. George was born in 1869 in Somerset, and his father, George William Marshall, had purchased the Sarnesfield Court estate in 1890.² George took up residence at the Batch in 1894, but moved to Breinton in or about 1906. During his time at the farm he made alterations to the house, and also took a number of photographs there. Fortunately these have been preserved and are at Herefordshire Record Office [HRO] as the George Marshall Additional Deposit. Although he was the eldest son the Sarnesfield Court estate was left to his next brother, Isaac, who died a bachelor and his brother William succeeded. Members of the Marshall family still hold the estate today, though Sarnesfield Court was pulled down in the 1950s.

Sometime earlier, the Sarnesfield Court estate belonged to the Monington family, and there are records going back at least to the late 15th century which associate the family with Sarnesfield.³ There is a tradition that John Abel the master carpenter (c.1578-1675) lived at the Batch.⁴

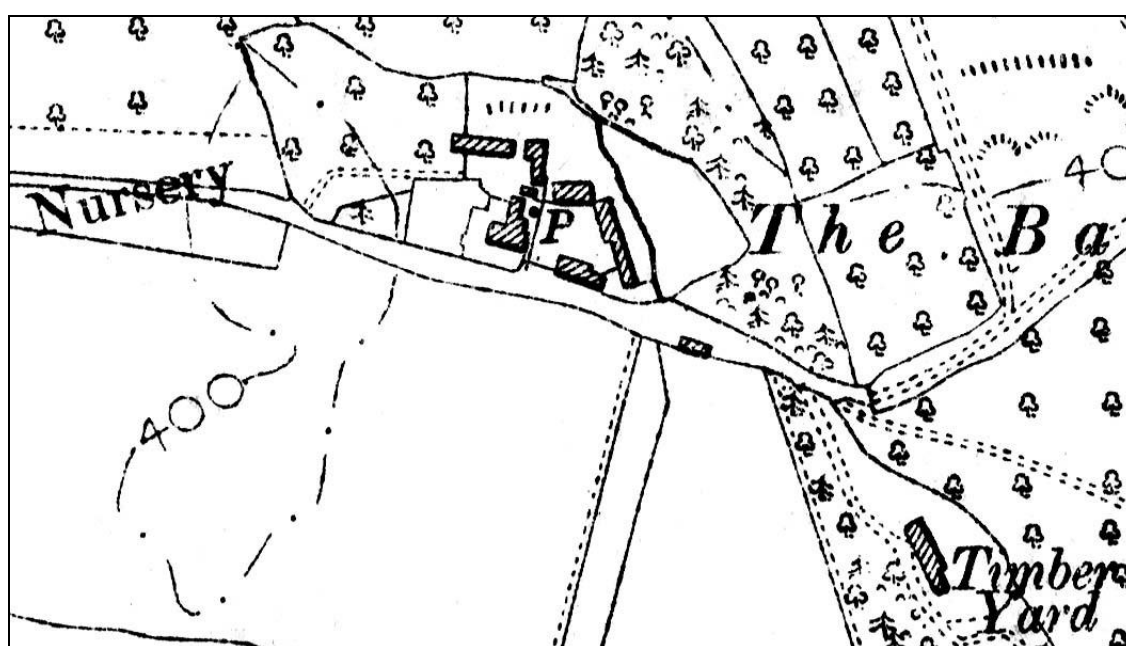


Figure 2. Detail from 1905 OS map. North to top.

¹ SO 366 515, SMR 31567

² See Frank Pexton's article on George Marshall, TWNFC, 1991, pp.18-23.

³ See catalogue of The National Archives [TNA].

⁴ His tomb at Sarnesfield describes him as 'architector', and mentions that he was in his 97th year.

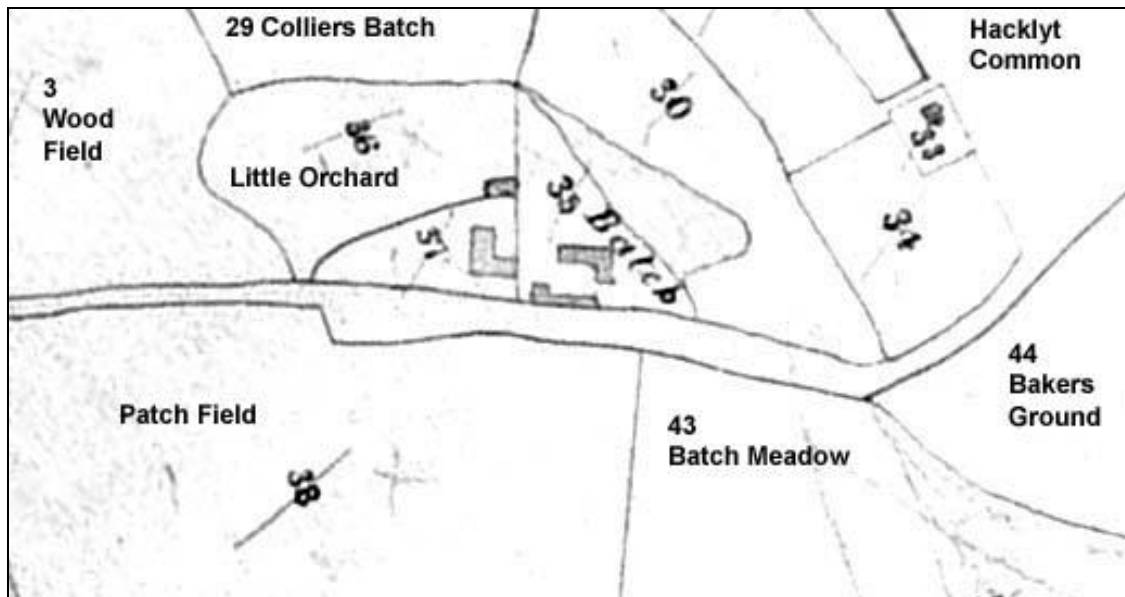


Figure 3. Detail of the Batch from the tithe map, with some field names inserted. (HRO Diocesan Record. ©Herefordshire Archive Service [HAS])

It's interesting that the 1905 map was in fact re-surveyed in 1902 from the original survey in 1885, as this is just the time when George Marshall was making alterations to the farm, and also when his photos were taken. The farm buildings surrounding the 'P' in the 1905 map are substantially the same today, but between that date and that of the (somewhat ill-drawn) tithe map major movement and re-orientation of the buildings had taken place. The irregularly shaped enclosure to the north-east of the word 'Batch' on the tithe map is a large pond.

The farmhouse is in number '37' on the tithe map, with no entrance into it from the road being shown. It is not obvious from the maps that there is a substantial drop of about a metre from the flattish ground where the house is built and the farmyard on the other side of a wall. The farmyard slopes to the south-east corner. One of the alterations to the layout was to make a larger entrance to the farmyard, and a separate entrance to the farmhouse. The building labelled **1** (see figure 4) was truncated, and a new brick gable end was built on, and brick was used to extend it. Remains of the earlier stone building can still be seen on the side facing the farmyard.

There are different bricks used in the alterations to **1** and new buildings around the farm. On the road side of **1** some which are used end-on are vitrified, and others look less mass-produced. It is possible that these come from the brickworks (disused by OS 1891). In the 1881 census Daniel Dance, a brickmaker from Gloucester was living with his family at the Batch, though not with the farmer himself, James Hobby from Radnorshire.

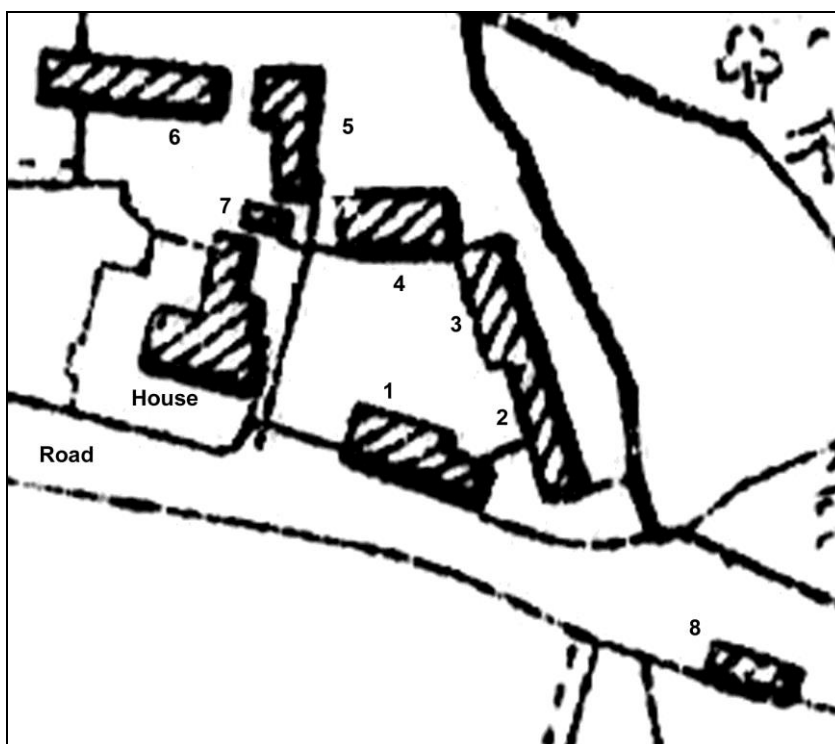


Figure 4. 1905 OS map

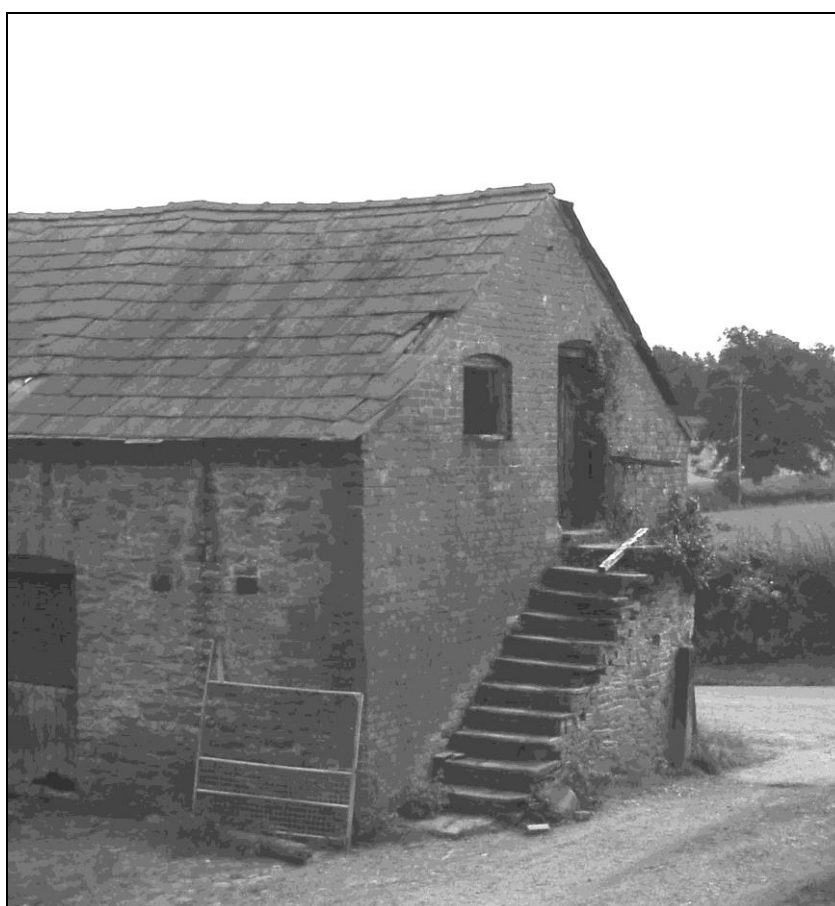


Figure 5. Truncated end of building 1



Figure 6. Building 1 - original stone wall retained but altered



Figure 7. Buildings 3 (left) and 2 (right) from farmyard

Brick used for buildings **4** and **7** [or **7**'s replacement) seem factory-made. Building **2** is long and low, with an added flat roof at the front containing animal housing. Building **3** is most interesting, because it appears from the title map that neither **2** or **3** were in their current positions then. Building **2** has been built since, but **3** is a much older timber-framed barn with evidence of re-erection from two styles of carpenter's marks. It is interesting therefore that one of George Marshall's photos from May 1901 (fig. 8) shows the corner of a timber-lapped building where the brick-built building **4** now stands. It seems possible that **3** was moved from here to its current position, though the roof is a little low.



Figure 8. View from the farm yard towards the back of the farmhouse. The timber-lapped building can just be seen on the right of the picture. The picture also shows clearly the timber-framed entry block with staircase added to the original farmhouse, and also pigsties in the garden beyond.⁵

⁵ by kind permission of Herefordshire Archive Services (HAS) Ref. AA17/194/21. ©HAS



Figure 9. Timber-framing inside building 3, ground floor animal housing



Figure 10. Uprights in building 3. Note carved stop on upright in south-western corner.

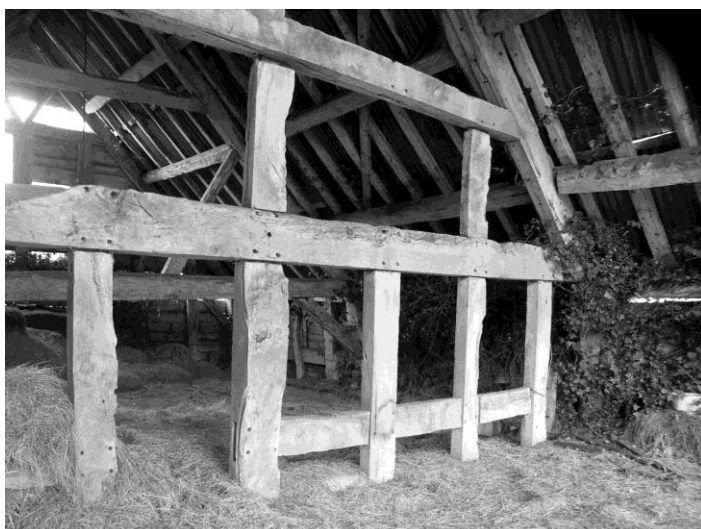


Figure 11. Loft of building 3

The barn has 3 bays, with unusual uprights supporting the tie beams on the end gables and intermediate bay divisions. Some are crude replacements, but others seem original. The upright in the south-west corner has a carved stop. The barn has been given a rear support wall of breeze blocks, and extra supports inside. The timbers have the slots and holes for the oak wattle, which in one place to the rear of the barn still exists. The corrugated iron roof has been newly painted, so hopefully it will stand for a few more years yet, though the southern end is out of repair.

Building 4, which was not on the tithe map, has a fine set of animal stalls underneath and a granary above. It is not obvious from the OS map, but the western end is open to allow a full wagon to pass beneath, or indeed stop for passing grain into the granary (fig. 13). The stall are well-designed with water-troughs for each animal which it can operate as it wants.



Figure 12. An early George Marshall photo, taken at 11.10 a.m. on 7 December, 1897 with a 3 second exposure. Note the timber-framed barn to the left of the picture, behind the house, which can also be seen in fig. 17.⁶

⁶ HRO AA17/192. © HAS



Figure 13. Building 4, made of red brick. Entrance to the animal stall by the door.



Figure 14. Entrance to passage between animal stalls



Figure 15. Cattle water fountain

The eight-stall cattle unit which occupies most of building 4 was well-built, with unusual touches such as the almost Japanese-style arch from each set of four bays into the middle passage. The farm is noted for its prize-winning stock.

Buildings **5** and **7** on the 1905 map are interesting. Fortunately, George Marshall recorded them in 1897 and 1904. It cannot have been long after 1904 when **7** was demolished to be replaced by a two-storey building with garages underneath, and steep stairs to a room always known as the 'schoolroom' which seems also to have been used as a local meeting room. The domestic offices lost were reduced to a lean-to on the end of the old farmhouse. The schoolroom building shows traces at the back of having been butted up to a building on another alignment, the remains of the front part of building **5**, itself in fact three separate structures. All these buildings have been replaced by more modern ones. Although a building is shown on the tithe map, without the photograph we would have been unaware of the possible cruck-built structure, which may be a house, though there does appear to be an arch under it. Fortunately Marshall took photos from slightly different viewpoints.



Figure 16. the Batch from the road, August 1904.⁷



Figure 17. The Batch from across the road, showing the end of the Dutch barn.⁸

⁷ Ref. HRO AA17/193 (© HAS)

⁸ Ref. HRO AA17/193 (© HAS)

In fig. 17 from August 1904 we can see that a Dutch barn has been built to the east of building 5, presumably (though not necessarily) building 6. It is amazing that this building, with the tie-beams made of timber rather than steel, still stands. It is now joined with a roof to another Dutch barn, nearer the house, and this may also be an early model.

There are other buildings in the area with the Dutch barns, the farm having to expand in this direction as it was constrained by the pond (which lies in a steep dip) on the other.



Figure 18. 2007 - the Dutch barn shown in fig. 17 is the one of the right with the timber beams.

The building in place of no. 7 is the 'schoolroom' and garage. This is made of the factory-style brick, but there are nice details. The letterbox for the 'schoolroom' is Art Nouveau in style. The building is difficult to photograph, as it is hemmed in with other buildings and cars.

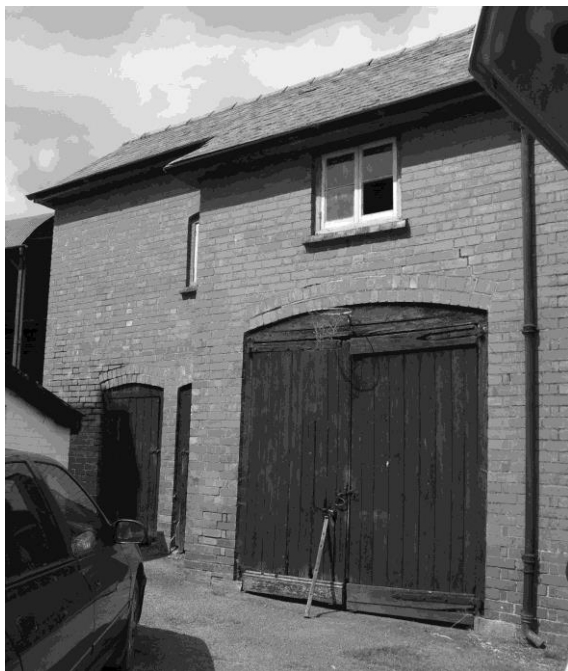


Figure 19. The 'schoolroom' and its letterbox.

The schoolroom is simply lined in wood, with a place for a stove and some small chairs still there. Childrens' paintings are pinned to the sides of the windows, but they are now faded to nothing. As the building was not here until after 1904, it seems unlikely that it was built to educate local children. Maybe itinerant fruit-pickers came to this area in season.

There is yet another building, **8**, a machinery shed down the road from the farm which is looking rather shaky.



Figure 20. Building 8 - a machinery shed.

On the OS map is a timber yard, now disappeared, which can be seen in the background to another photograph - though it looks more like cottages.



Figure 21. Timber yard in 1898. (HRO AA17/192 © HAS)

The location of The Batch

Strictly speaking, it looks as if 'The Batch' is not just the farm itself, but the area around the farm. Somebody described as living at 'Batch' may therefore not be living in the farmhouse. The name means 'hill' in Welsh. Just to the north-east of the Batch farmhouse lies an area called on the 1905 map 'Hackley Common', where there are a few cottages. It is variously called 'Hackley' and 'Ackley' in the 1861 and 1841 census, and 'Hackney' and 'Hacklyt' in the burials transcription on the internet. The tithe map also calls it 'Hacklyt', which points to the true origin of the name, that of the Hackluyt family.

The farmhouse

The intention of the farm survey was to restrict ourselves to the farm buildings, but the fact that the original building is timber-framed and of some age meant that we investigated further. The house can be divided into four main blocks, in date order: the original timber-framed farmhouse; the eastern block nearer to the road; the inset block with the stairway added to the original farmhouse; the western front block near to the road. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips were keen to know when this last block of the house was built.

Fortunately, the tithe map shows the first front block added, but not the block inset into the original timber-framed farmhouse. We have Marshall's photos for 1901 which show the inset block with the stair added to the timber-framed building added, and also from the same batch the construction of the new addition in March 1898.(see next fig.).⁹ The photos from 1904 show it completed.¹⁰

⁹ HRO AA17/192.

¹⁰ HRO AA17/193.



Figure 22. The Batch showing the extension being built taken 13 March 1898 at 3.30 p.m. (HRO AA17/193 © HAS)

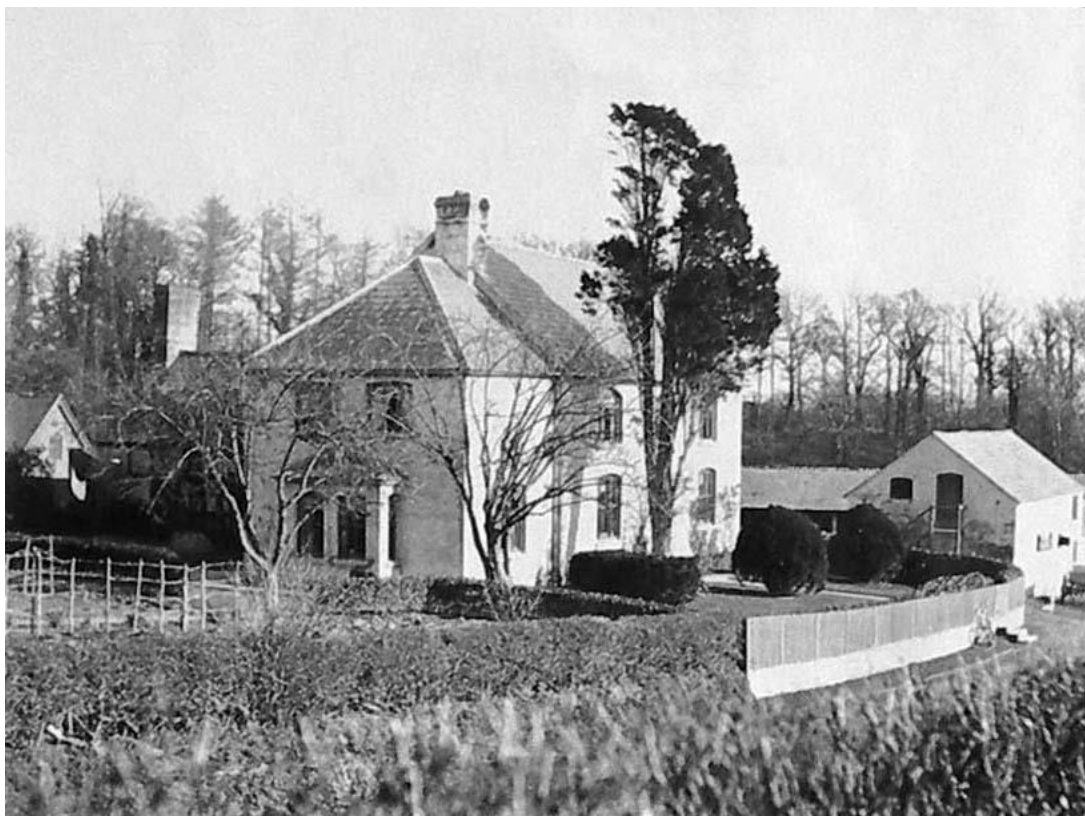


Figure 23. The extension completed March 1901. (HRO AA17/174/16. ©HAS)
Life at the Batch in Marshall's day looks very jolly. The family is shown practising archery in the field across the road from the house.



Figure 24. Two views of archery in progress, 26 August 1904. (HRO AA17/193. ©HAS)

Even more extraordinary is the fact that George Marshall photographed the sitting-room of the house in 1897. He noted the exposure and time as usual: 7 December at 11.00 a.m. There are two views of the same table, the left one in the next figure taking 5 minutes, the right 3 minutes. The relative exposure of parts of the photograph are not quite right, but they give a good impression. The earlier photographs in this collection are on glass plates, but by 1905 they are on paper. They have been photographed with the aid of a lightbox.



Figure 25. The only two photographs of the inside of The Batch from the George Marshall collection. They have been put side by side so that one can see that he moved the camera a very short distance between the two shots. (HRO AA17/192. © HAS)



Figure 26. Rear view of Batch March 1901. Note the pump marked on the OS map. (HRO AA17/194. ©HAS)

Before the Marshalls arrived, the Batch was in the hands of tenant farmers. In the early part of the 19th century the Ricketts family were the occupiers. It wasn't a particularly healthy location for them: Thomas buried 15 December 1814 aged 28; William 29 January 1818 aged 78; Emma 17 January 1821 aged 28 and Ann 17 December 1825 aged 66. Another Ann was buried in the summer of 1805, having died just two days before her wedding to Thomas Haynes of Broxwood.¹¹

There is the most information about James Ricketts, who seems to have been a bailiff for the Monington family of the Sarnesfield Court estate, from 1820 onwards when he earned £20 p.a., and later he was tenant of Upper Broxwood and bailiff for the Cox family. There are many letters and accounts from him in the Snead-Cox papers.

Relations between him and Thomas Monington family became soured when Monington by sharp practice tried to take advantage of him. This led to a case in the Court of Equity, the papers for which are at Kew, and unexamined.¹²

However, there is a copy of a printed petition in the Snead-Cox papers in which he sets out his case, giving details of his complaints (see figs. 27 and 28). It seems amazing that he should be prepared to make improvements to the farm at his own expense for a lease as short as 9 years. This included 'hauling materials for a range of new buildings.' The Batch had a succession of tenants: at the time of the tithe map it was James Powell, at the 1841 census when it was Joseph Lloyd.

¹¹ HRO AL76

¹² TNA J90/563

RICKETTS, *versus* MONINGTON.

SIR,

I take leave to lay before you the circumstances of my case, in relation to Mr. Monington.

In the year 1827, Mr. Monington proposed to grant me a lease of the Batch farm, and accordingly gave Mr. Saunders, the then Agent and Steward of the Sarnsfield Estate, verbally, and by letters, directions to draw out a rough draft of a lease of the same for nine years, which was done by Mr. S., fair copied, delivered to, and paid for by Mr. M., in order that I should immediately commence improvements on the farm. Under the faith of the said lease, I immediately commenced breaking up wood-lands, draining, stocking up old fences and planting new ones, filling up old ditches, levelling meadow lands, &c., and hauling materials to a range of new buildings; the whole of these improvements, amounting to from £150 to £200, were at my charge, and entered upon with a full expectation of having a return from the same before the expiration of my lease. During the time the said improvements were going on, Mr. M. observed to me, *how well I was doing them*, when I took the opportunity of saying to him—"the improvements are great, but you have not completed the lease of the farm, you promised me;" when Mr. M., replied, (in the hearing of a third person, who has made affidavit of the same,) "I certainly did promise you a lease, but I don't see, between you and me, why you should wish to put me to the expense of putting it on stamps, as it will cost me £20 to do so; but, I give you my word and honour I will never raise your rent, and will be the last man to take advantage of improvements." I answered, "since you say you will not raise my rent, I don't wish to put you to any unnecessary expense." This was the reason that the lease was not executed.*

However, to my great surprise, in October, 1831, I received a letter from Mr. M., stating that he then required one of the best pieces of meadow land belonging to the farm to be given up to him, leaving the remainder of my farm afterwards to stand at the old rent, and in case I should disapprove of the same he should immediately put 2s. per acre on the whole

*The following is a copy of a letter which, about this time, I received from Mr. MONINGTON.

(COPY.)

"TO MR. JAMES RICKETTS,

"Since my last session, I have heard from Mr. Saunders, which induces me to write you these few lines. I told you, I think in my last, not to be under any apprehensions about a lease of your Farm, and I now have to tell you, that Mr. S. informs me, amongst other things, that he is now occupied in making out your lease, but merely observes, that in it he intends making a clause, reserving to me the right of occupying such lands near the Mansion-house, as I might hereafter possibly wish for, for planting or otherwise; therefore, I presume the lease will be in all other respects such as we agreed upon when I last saw you.

"Courage therefore, and do your best. Best compliments to Mr. Cox, from your well-wisher,

"MONINGTON WESTON.

"December 1st, 1826.

"Direct when you write next, to No. 9, Richmond Terrace, Clifton, Bristol."

Figure 27. James Ricketts letter page 1. (HRO J38/94. ©HAS)

James Ricketts was at Upper Broxwood in 1841 when he was aged about 50 and a bachelor. Again things seemed to have gone wrong, as there are papers about his debts, and an inventory of his effects at Upper Broxwood after his death.¹³ [An earlier bailiff at Upper Broxwood had been imprisoned for debt.] After so much tribulation it would have been pleasing if he had lived to a ripe and trouble-free old age. However, on 11 March 1846 he fell from his horse in Bromyard and died as the result of his injuries. As the *Hereford Times* of 21 March

¹³ HRO J38/37/various

tells us, he was followed to his death by his brother William of the Rea in Bishop's Frome, who was 71. The Batch probably owed a good deal of improvement to him.

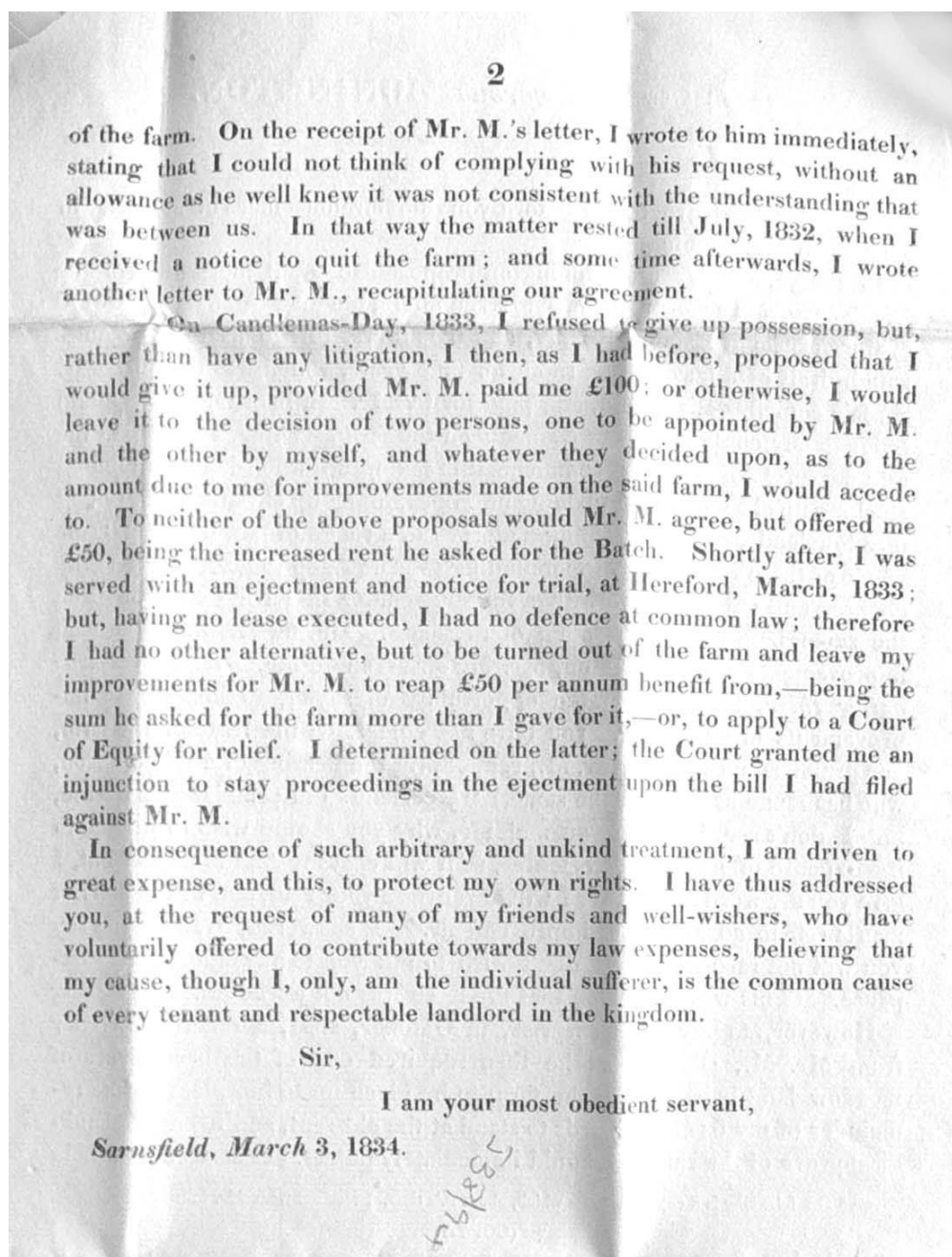


Figure 28. James Ricketts letter page 2. (HRO J38/94. ©HAS)

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the owners for allowing the ARS to photograph the farm, and Herefordshire Archive service for allowing us to use the pictures. All 2007 photographs by Roz Lowe.

Landscape Origins of the Wye Valley by P J Pikes

Archenfield Archaeology Ltd, in cooperation with the River Wye Preservation Trust, carried out the second year of this part of the Leader+ Herefordshire Rivers Project. This community-based project has used a wide range of tools to investigate and interpret the landscape of the parishes of the Wye Valley between Mordiford and Wilton. These are HolmeLacy, Fownhope, Bolstone, Ballingham, Brockhampton, Kings Caple, Hentland, Sellack, HowCaple, Foy, Brampton Abbots and Bridstow.

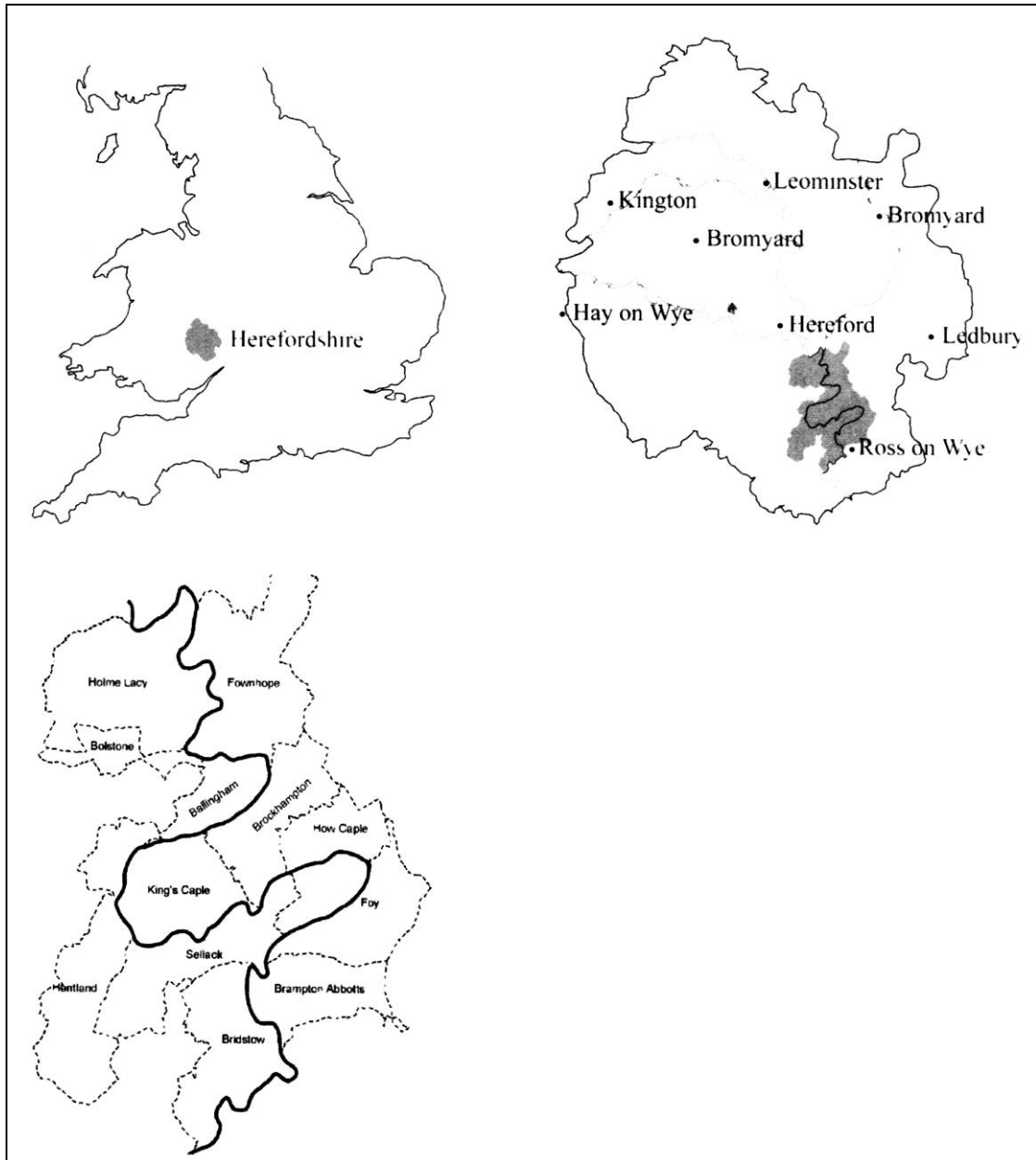


Figure 1: The area of study of the Landscape Origins of the Wye Valley Project

We are calibrating maps of the area which date from the 17th century to the mid 20th century, and are overlaying them onto modern maps and vertical aerial photographs. This is demonstrating changes of boundary and land-use over the last 300 years. Previously unused information from the 19th century tithe apportionments have been entered into a database and linked to GIS data. The project has a large documentary element, and a group of volunteers also studied originally material dating from the 13th century onwards. It had been some time since any member of the group had been given Latin prep!

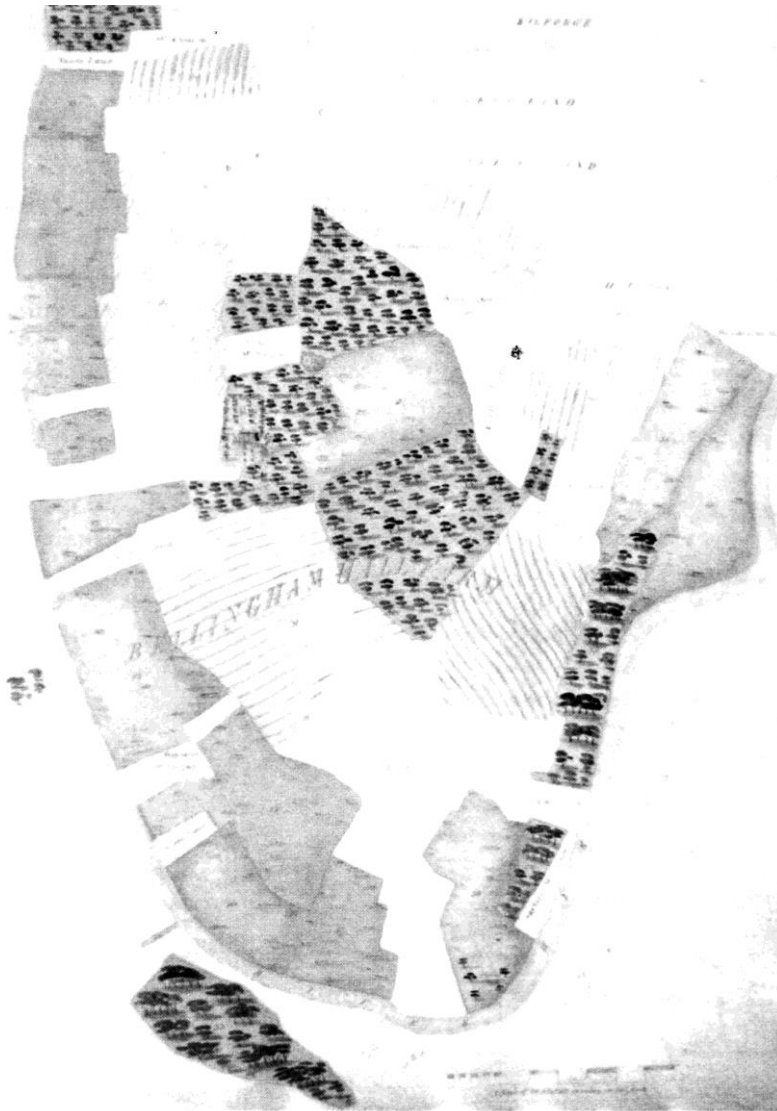


Figure 2 Estate map of Ballingham by Richard Frizell, 1780¹

An opportunity was taken to record the survival of old buildings in the area. Each building recorded by Royal Commission on Historic Buildings in the 1920s was re-visited, and if possible photographed. The base data were the original notes and photographs of the RCHB inspectors held by the National Monuments Record in Swindon.

Selected parishes were searched for hollow-ways, a project element initiated by the late David Bick, and these too are being added to the data-set.

Other groups and individuals examined material concerned with the barge traffic on the Wye before the arrival of railways while the Hereford to Ross railway, itself a major landscape feature, was also studied. Oral history was a particularly rich source of information about more recent changes to the area.

¹ The map is reproduced here by kind permission of the Scudamore family.

The study area is partly in Archenfield and landscape analysis is being used to compare the English with the Welsh settlement patterns. By and large, the old Archenfield areas are lacking in nucleated settlements and their churches tend to be isolated.

Most of the aerial photographs held locally and in the National Monuments Record photographs were used, and new photographs taken. These were used to identify a number of new and to re-interpret some known ones—a possible promontory fort at now been demonstrated to be a pair of ring-ditches.

A small number of individual farms were examined in some detail. Walk-over surveys and building analysis were carried out and a record made of the changing nature of these farms—there are many more 'cuses and far fewer cattle and sheep than there were fifty years ago.

Earthwork surveys were carried out, both by plane table and alidade by Hentland Church and by EDM at a moated site in Fownhopepe parish, and a geophysical survey of the eastern half of Capler Camp hill-fort in Brockhampton parish discovered a circular structure. This was the only such structure in the area and looked very much like a large Iron Age round-house. The survey would certainly have found other such features had they been there so it is unlikely that Capler was ever the site of permanent habitation.

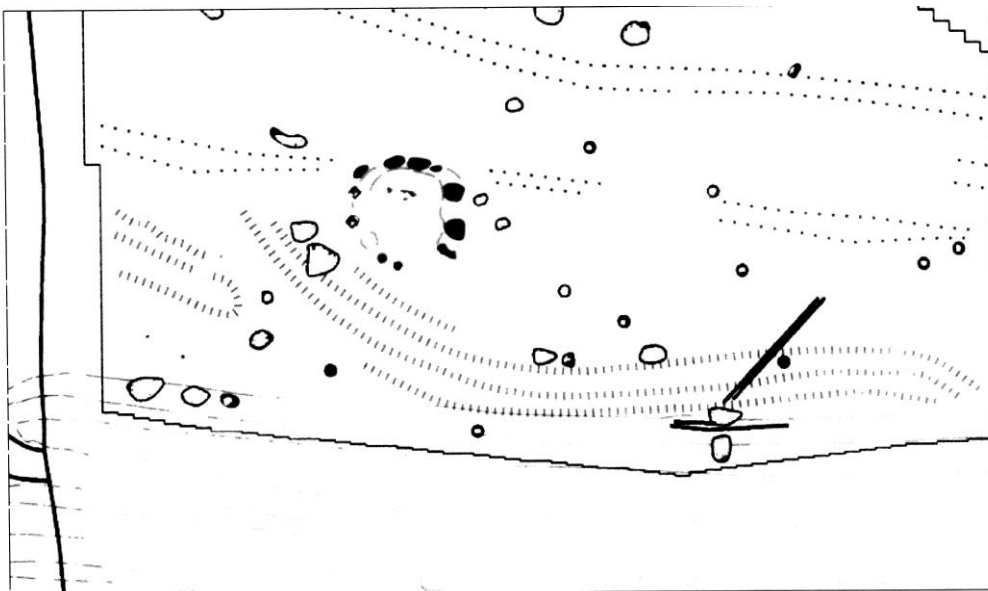


Figure 3: Geophysical surveying revealed this circular house-like structure on Capler Camp, the only one of its type found on the eastern half of the hillfort. [Image by Archaeophysica Ltd]

Field-walking produced a large number of finds of all periods, helping to interpret the crop-marks visible in the aerial photographs. In particular, the amount of Romano-British material has increased the number of known sites of that period.

Specific questions were addressed by targeting resources. A Roman road had long been postulated leading east to west across the Kings Caple peninsula. The excavation of a metalled surface on this route, at Red Rail ford near Hoarwithy, demonstrated this to be postmedieval. The route itself is a different issue and may well pre-date the Romans.

A larger fieldwork project was carried out in a field near Gillow Manor in Hentland parish. Of all the sites revealed by the aerial photograph study, this was the most intriguing, consisting of two adjacent enclosure features. With the cooperation of the farmer, the group walked the field and recovered artefacts which included a Mesolithic microlithic and a Romano-British brooch. The concentration of finds were plotted and the field was then sown with peas while the volunteers carried on elsewhere.



Figure 4: Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age scraper



Figure 5: The excavations at Gillow

In August, after the harvest, the area of the crop-marks was geophysically surveyed and, using this information, trenches were machine-excavated across parts of the site. A six-week excavation demonstrated that the larger enclosure was a Romano-British settlement with finds dating to the later 1st/earlier 2nd century AD. Like other sites of the period, this appeared to be an agricultural settlement carrying out metal-working as a cottage industry.

Within the smaller enclosure a compacted layer of clay and stone sealed an area of burning and large quantities of smashed medieval pottery. This lay on a layer of dark material, clearly re-deposited from elsewhere. With post-holes below this layer, the stratigraphy took on more complexity than had been anticipated. Analysis of the material from this excavation will continue and more fieldwork is planned.

The first phase of the project will appear in a monograph to be published by Logaston Press.

Information on this project can be found at www.wyevalleyhistory.net. This project was part- financed by the European Union (EAGGF) and DEFRA through the Herefordshire Rivers LEADER+programme.