

# HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



**HAN 80      2009**

**WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**RESEARCH**

**SECTION**



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### HAN

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The Woolhope Club Archaeological Research Section wishes to acknowledge the funding support of the Herefordshire Rivers LEADER+ Programme. This contribution has enabled the ARS to purchase equipment including a digital camera and Global Positioning System (GPS), used in visits reported in this journal.

### **Baynhams Farm, Welsh Bicknor by Roz Lowe**

Before restoration work started on Baynhams Farm in Welsh Bicknor I was given permission by the occupants to make a photographic survey of the buildings. This farm is one which has been indentified by the Herefordshire Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project. Bicknor is an isolated parish, separated from Gloucestershire on the south by the Wye and on the south from Goodrich by the steep slope of Coppet Hill Common. The only modern access is via a road leading uphill from the Castle Lane crossroads in Goodrich which was improved from a track in the early 1800s. The previous 'main' road climbed the flank of Coppet Hill (where it can still be seen as a deep trackway) before dropping down past the drive to Baynhams Farm, and thence to Courtfield.

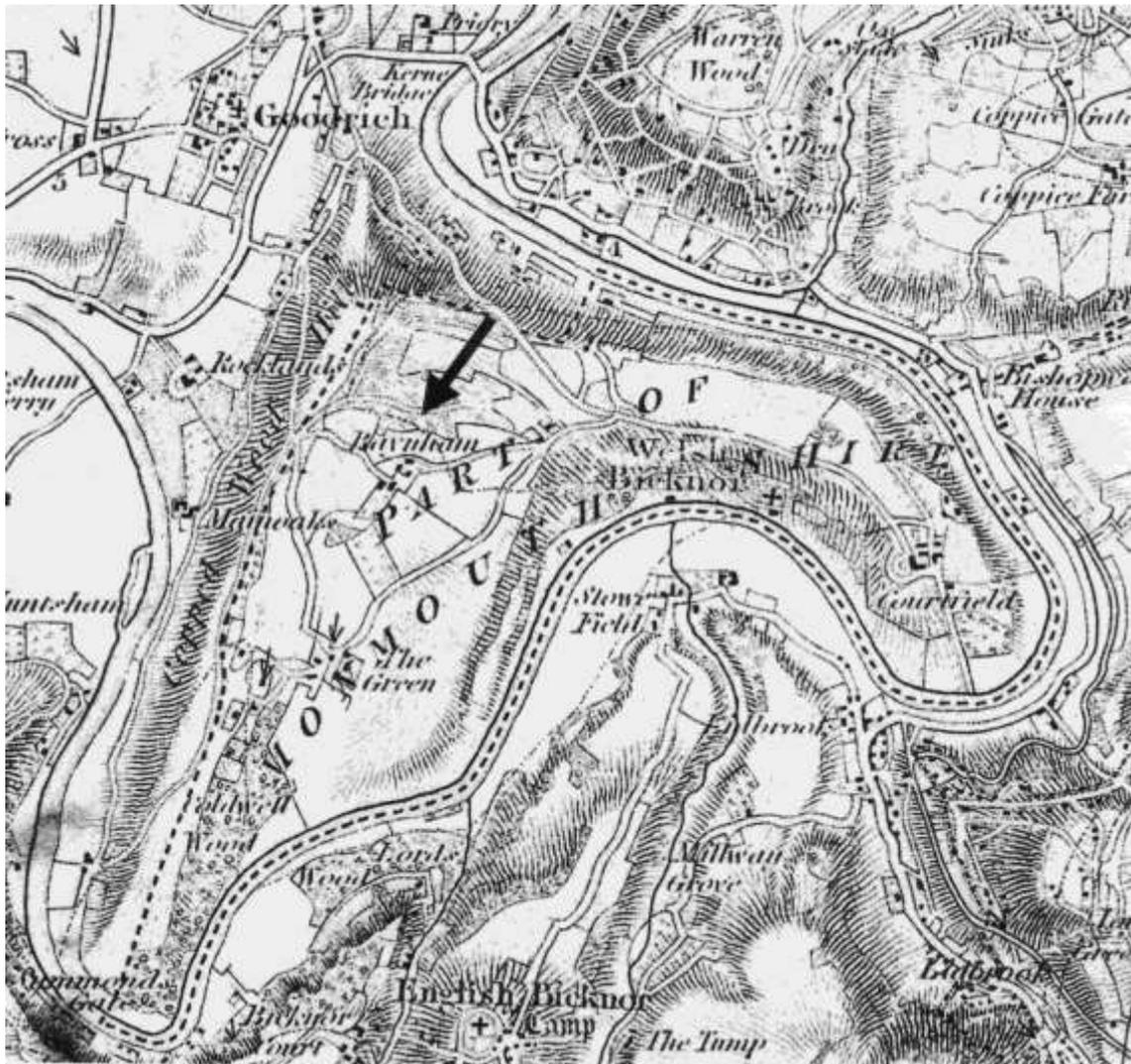


Figure 1: 1832 map of Welsh Bicknor. Baynham [sic] is arrowed. The old road reaches the summit of Coppet Wood Hill (the old name of Coppet Hill) just to the left of 'Baynham'

The Vaughans of Cour(field) have been Lords of the Manor of Welsh Bicknor since the marriage in the mid 16th century of James Vaughan to Sybil, one of the two daughters of John Gwilym of Gillow who was Lord of the Manor. Although there are records of sales of land (apparently), the Vaughans have held the freeholds of most properties in the parish for a long time, acquiring the last of these (the church and the youth hostel) relatively recently.

The front of Baynhams (as it is usually called) farmhouse looks 18th or early 19th century. The name is of considerable antiquity in the records, however, so there may have been a house here for a very long time. Welsh Bicknor was originally part of the Lordship of Monmouth, and did not belong to Herefordshire until the 1850s. Many of the muniments originally in Courtfield, the seat of the Lord of

the Manor, were deposited at the National Library of Wales, but although Duncumb mentions some in his History of Hereford there is only a typescript catalogue and an incomplete card index at the National Library. Many of the 20 card boxes with the records are entirely uncatalogued, though on a visit I made a list of the kind of items in each box. Some of them are of considerable age, the earliest dating from the 13th century.

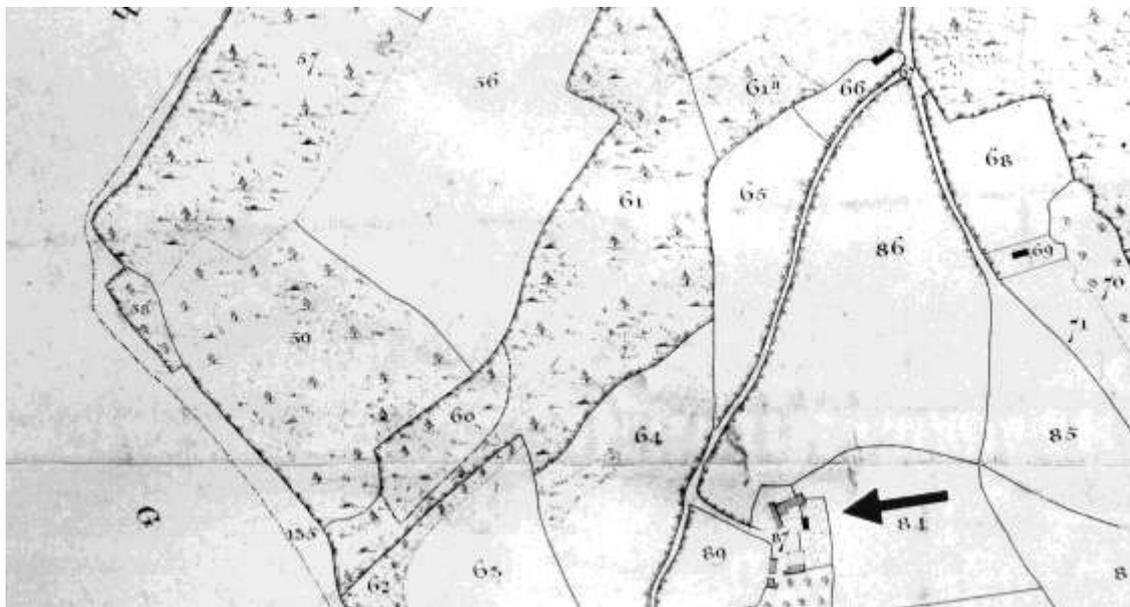


Figure 2: Tithe map based on a 1792 Courtfield Estate map. Baynhams lies to the left the arrow. The farmhouse is the building at the bottom right of the group. Plot 66 (top left) shows the tithe barn.

The surname *'Baynham'* is derived from the Welsh *'ab Eynon'*. A female Vaughan descendant of the Baynhams of Newland married into the Vaughans of Courtfield in the late 17th century and brought with her the Manor of Ruardean, but the Baynham name appears before this.



Figure 3: Front of the farmhouse

In Faraday's Calendar of Probate Acts Hereford 1407— 1550, there is the following entry: *'Walter ap Eynon of Bickenor Wallensis. Administrators were the distinguished Master*

*Ralph Hannyes & James Beynham & Roger Beynhan.*<sup>1</sup>  
Possibly these were his sons.

In the Courtfield Muniment,<sup>2</sup> Walter and Joan Kyrle of Walford assign to Richard Mason of Welsh Bicknor the remaining years of a lease which describes the boundaries of a messuage called *'beynames grove' and land near Baynhams as ... in breadth to the highway leading to beynames meadow* ... In deed 283 dated 10 May 1638 Richard Vaughan of Baynam Monmouthshire, son & heir of John Vaughan of Courtfield makes a post nuptial settlement on his wife Bridgett mentioning a messuage which he'd purchased from William Creed.



Figure 4: North-west side of farmhouse

The rectangular front block of the farmhouse faces north-east, with a lean-to extension to the north-west. It has been joined at some date to a pre-existing block to the south-west — or, conversely, the join was made from the rear block to a front block which has since been replaced. The chimney stack in the main building visible on this side has a carved stone surround (Figure 5).

The south-west block is almost square, well built with quoins and a very slight batter at the base. The pointing somewhat disguises the fact that the roof has been raised using poorer coursed rubble, to provide a third storey. A brick chimney indicates where a bread fireplace has probably been installed inside, though it is blocked off. There is a curious eye-shaped window next to it (Figure 6).

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<sup>1</sup> Instance 1491 p89 Walter Beynham

<sup>2</sup> No. 306, on 20 January 1558/9.



Figure 5. Stone fireplace



Figure 6. Oval window



Figure 7. Blocked window between buildings

There is evidence of a blocked window opening in the south-west block between it and the front block (Figure 7).

The south-west side of the square block is totally blank, but the south-east face has a centrally-placed window on each floor – the upper clearly later – and a ground floor door on the left. The arches above the door and windows are well crafted, though the door has been moved (Figure 8).

There is a large cider press base with a stone chute, presumably for the crushed apple to be fed to it. The cellar is under the front block of the house, entered from outside by a door with a well-crafted lintel (Figure 9). A spiral stone staircase leads to the cellar from the floor above.



Figure 8 (above) South-east face



Figure 9 (right). Cellar door from inside



Figure 10 (lef).

Cellar window in south-east of front block. There may be another blocked window under the render to the left

### **The farm buildings**

The farm buildings still have the layout as shown on the tithe map. They have been photographed for the record.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank the occupants for letting me photograph Baynhams.

## Farm Buildings Survey, Thatch Close, Llangrove by Roz Lowe

By kind permission of the owners, Mr & Mrs Drzymalski, Rosamund Skelton and I were allowed to survey Thatch Close in May, 2009. The farm buildings were being renovated, and we were glad of the chance to record them in advance.

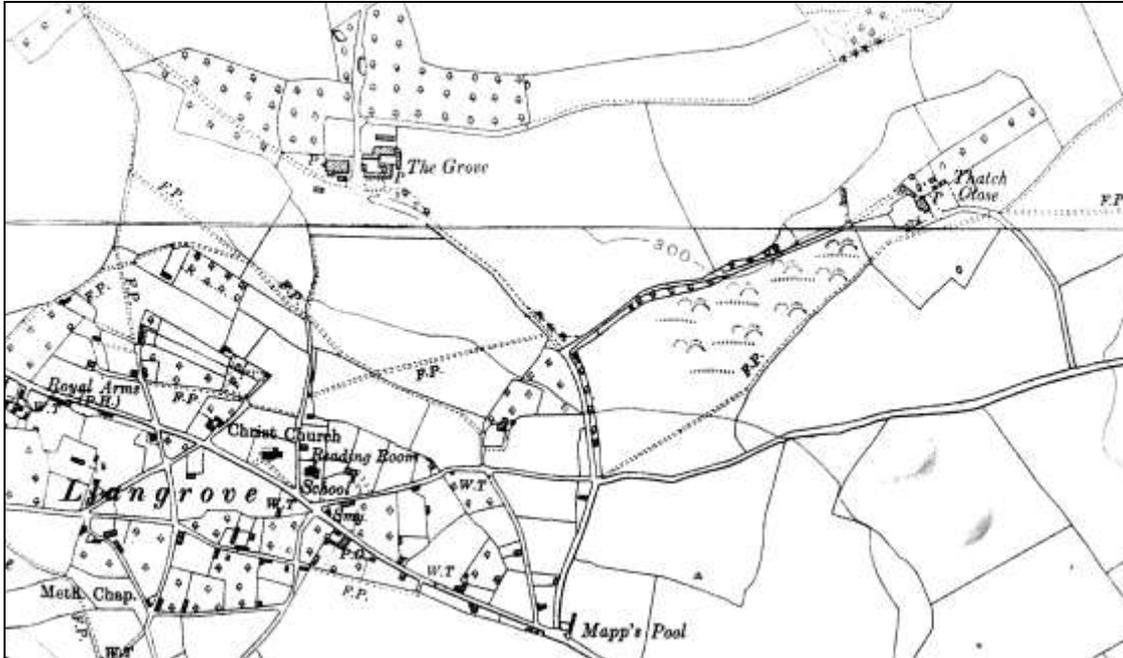


Figure 1. OS map, based on 1887, re-surveyed in 1903 re-published 1913. North to top of all maps except where noted.

Thatch Close (SO 535 196) lies to the north-east of the settlement of Llangrove, on the edge of the parish of Llangrove, but at the time of the tithe map Llangrove parish did not exist, and it was in Llangarren.

The name is curious, as the existing farm buildings do not have the steep roofs one would expect with thatch, and in any case this is an area of stone tiles and sometimes pantiles. It was called such at the time of the tithe map (1840). The farm was probably known by another name earlier, but so far it hasn't been identified.

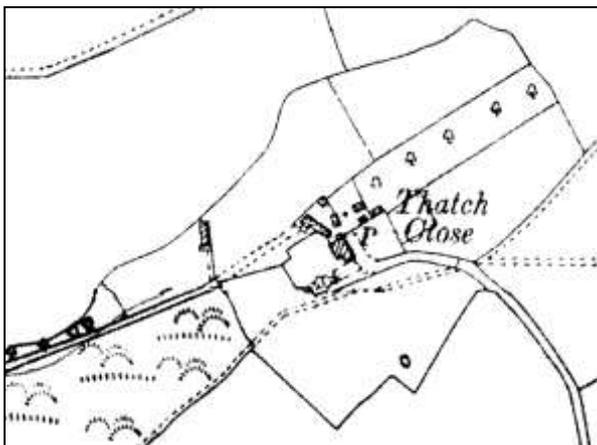


Figure 2. Detail of Thatch close from 1887 surveyed OS map. An extension has been added to the south side of the square house block in Fig. 3

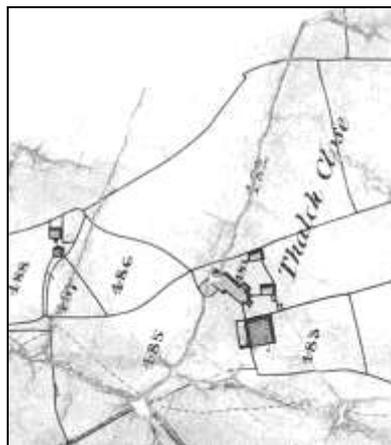


Figure 3. Tithe map detail. The house is the large square block. Oriented to match OS map. The access road came via field 485 in 1840

Thatch Close was owned in 1840 by the Reverend Matthew Henry Jones, Doctor in Divinity, who had considerable property in Llangarren and Whitchurch. In 1851 he was living in Monmouth with his wife

Matilda (Hailes), whom he apparently married in 1834, and her sisters. He died in 1852 in Monmouthshire, when he devised various of his property after Matilda's death to his nephew John Jones MD. and his niece Mary Jane Vaux both of Langstone Court, children of his brother Rev. John Jones. This included Greenway, Great Trewen, Little Trewen and Simmonds Trewen. The first three are in Whitchurch.

The Rev. Thomas Jones, father of Rev. John Jones, had purchased in 1794 the Langstone Court estate, which included a number of farms in Llangarren and Whitchurch, from Robert Vernon Atherton Gwilym (who changed his name to Robert Vernon Atherton Atherton) and whose wife had large estates in Lancashire. It seems very likely that Thatch Close could be identified in the Langstone Court estate records, where the Gwilyms had been seated since the 17th century.

In 1841 Sarah Green (89) with John Bennett and his wife Mary (perhaps her daughter) were living in the farm and running it. A Sarah Green was baptised 9 July 1749, the daughter of Timothy Green and Sarah, and a Sarah Green married Michael Bennett on 18 October 1770 at Hentland. They had five children: Elizabeth, Michael, Sarah, Anne and John the youngest, who was baptised 11 August 1780 at Hentland. Sarah Green died in 1842, and John Bennett in 1858 aged 87. As he was 70 in the 1851 census we can be pretty sure he is the right one, but in that case why was Sarah surnamed Green and not Bennett in 1841? Timothy Green was one of the witnesses of the wealthy James Ballard of Tretire in 1778.



Figure 4. The farmhouse looking from the south-east. The older block to the right of the picture is covered with scaffolding and difficult to photograph. The later extension is nearer.

In the title map the farmhouse is almost square, but by the 1880s there is an extension to the south. We were told by the owner that people came from abroad claiming that this room had been a chapel established in 1839 or so where their ancestors had been baptised. This is a bit of a mystery, as there is no record of a full-time chapel here, but in HAN76 I said:

'At the time of the tithe maps, Rev. Hugh Hanmer Morgan held the Church & churchyards of Bosbury, Little Dewchurch and Llangarren, plus numerous glebe lands etc. in Lugwardine & Michaelchurch Escley. As well as Chapel meadow, he held a very small piece of land on which a non-conformist chapel and schoolroom had just been built no 575 which is on the end of the field 574. This chapel is now a house.'

It is unlikely that the Reverend Jones baptised children at Thatch Close, as he was not a non-conformist. Perhaps the ancestor hunters were confusing it with the one in tithe 575. It is possible that the room was built as a schoolroom, as there is a record of a school. In 1863 there was a new National School, but before that, in 1856 there was a free school, Mrs Eliz James schoolmistress, and a John Edwards schoolmaster, at Hanover or Lanover(?). He was there in 1851 but not her.

The fields that make up Thatch Close in the tithe map have been associated with it since that time, and maybe for many years previously.

Tithe field no.	Name
468	Crab Tree Close
479	The two acres
480	Home orchard
481	Barn Fold & Rickyard
482	Barn Close
483	House & Garden
484	Ash Meadow
485	The Pleck

The largest farm building on the tithe map, the barn, lies at an angle to the house. From the rear (south-west) it looks as if the part of the barn with the threshing doors was built first, with coursed rubble walls but better quoins, and then another building was built onto it nearer to the house, with the floor at a higher level. This building has a loft and a window with leaded lights.



Figure 5. North-eastern side of the threshing barn

The threshing doors of the barn have gone, and a window has been inserted to make a well-lit room.



Figure 6. North-eastern side of the threshing barn, at its junction with the newer part next to the house. This gives a fair indication of the various buildings which have been added to the original barn



Figure 7. The beams in the threshing barn either side of the threshing floor

There was no evidence of re-used older timber in any of the farm buildings, but we were not able to examine the roof timbers in the older part of the main house, which is claimed to be Georgian. The other buildings shown on the tithe map are mostly still in relatively good condition, and have their roofs intact. Without exception they are sandstone, and coursed rubble.



Figure 7. Window in part of barn nearest house



Figure 8. Rear of threshing barn showing junction with building nearer the house

There are two buildings where walls only remain, which are shown to the east of those present on the tithe map. A broken cider press stone lies sadly in one. The other, which remains only as one wall, has tethering rings in a row, hinting at the former prosperity of the farm.

None of the outbuildings would seem to have an earlier date than the mid-18th to mid-19th centuries. It may be that when Rev. Thomas Jones bought the Langstone Court estate they were built to replace earlier ones.

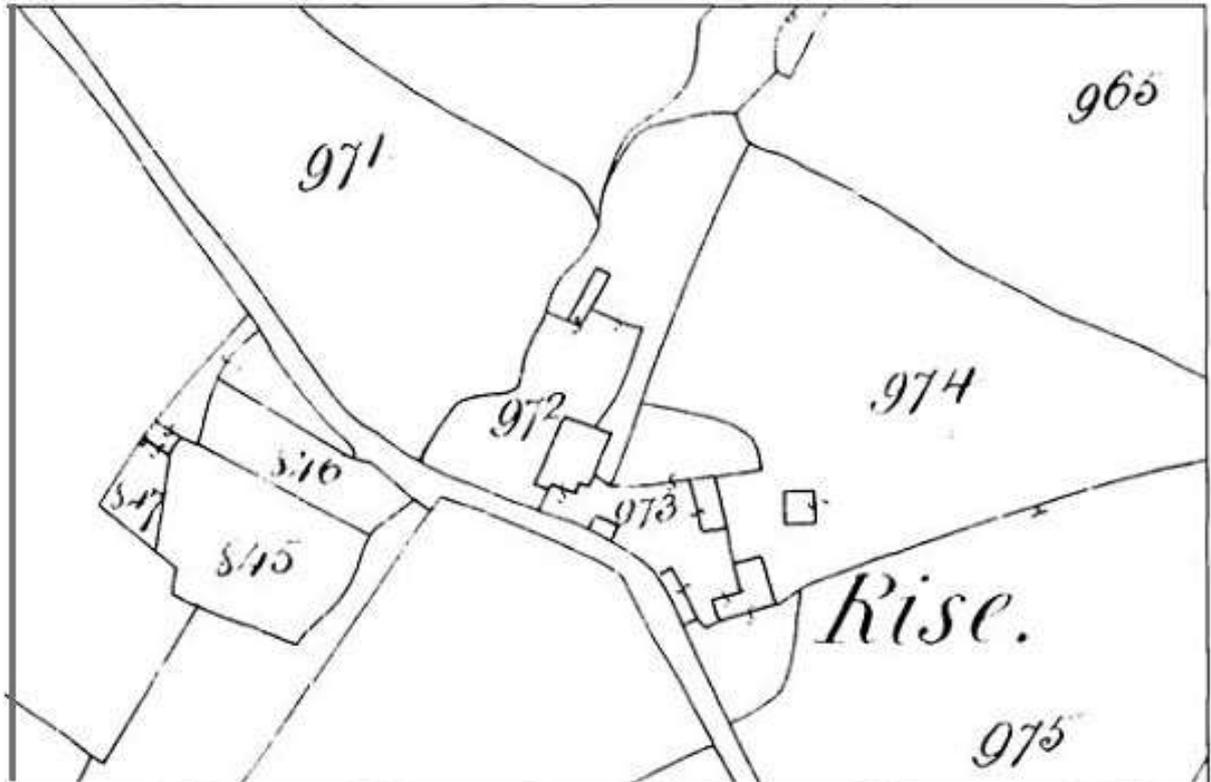
The full photographic survey will be placed in the SMR office in due course.

#### **Acknowledgements**

We are very grateful to the owners who entertained us to coffee and cakes afterwards. As they have a B&B business, they have a website: [www.thatchclose.co.uk](http://www.thatchclose.co.uk), where photos of the house without scaffolding can be seen.

## Rise Farm, Fownhope by Heather Hurley

In July 2009 the Fownhope Local History Group was led on a walk to Rise Farm below Capler Damp. These were the notes used by the author to describe the history of the farm.



**Figure 1: 1843 tithe map**

Francis Powell acquired Rise Farm in 1797 and after his death in 1833 his son Richard Powell inherited the *'Farm and Lands called the Rise together with the Cider Mill'*. Since then the farmhouse and buildings have been re-built and re-arranged, probably by Richard Powell, during the mid 19th century, and were offered for sale in 1848 as:

*'70 acres arable and meadow land, 14 a Coppice Wood. Farm house and newly erected barn, stable, wain-house, granary, cider mill, piggery. Well cultivated planted with Choice Perry and Cider Fruit. And capable of making 100 hogsheads in a Season.'*

In Herefordshire, cider was made from varieties such as White-Sour, Elliot, Red-Streak, Fox-Welp, Royal Wilding, Stiar and Crab apples. It was sometimes produced as a cash crop, but was usually used by the farmer's family and his labourers. After crushing the apples and pressing to extract the juice, farm cider was produced without the addition of cultural yeast, as the fermentation relied upon the natural yeasts in the apples to produce a still, cloudy, acidic, invigorating and thirst-quenching drink. The cider was kept in casks called hogsheads which generally held fifty-four gallons, but at this date the *'Herefordshire hogshead was almost double that number of gallons'*. Recently there has been a revival in traditional cider and perry making, and it is said that *'the finest cider is made' within sight of May Hill*.

J E C Peters in his Historical Report on the Farm Buildings at Rise Farm suggested that none of the surviving buildings are dated to before 1840, as seen from the 1843 tithe map, compared with the 1890 estate plan: It was noted that the farmhouse was moved to its present site after 1843 and that the granary, slaughterhouse and cider mill had a lean-to cow shed of brick added at a later date. The slaughterhouse has two beams to hang the beasts, the cider mill and press are intact and the cider house is in use.



Figure 2: Cider mill

The barn on a steep slope has a threshing floor with a chaff house on the left. There is evidence of a fire and the north wall has been re-built, and the adjoining stable bears a date stone 'RP 1840' and contains three stalls with mangers and a hay loft above. The pigsties and open shed appear to be on the pre-1840 site and the open barn adjoins a five bay cattle bier now used for storing wood.

The farm passed to John Farmer and others before it was purchased by the Brockhampton Estate in 1906.

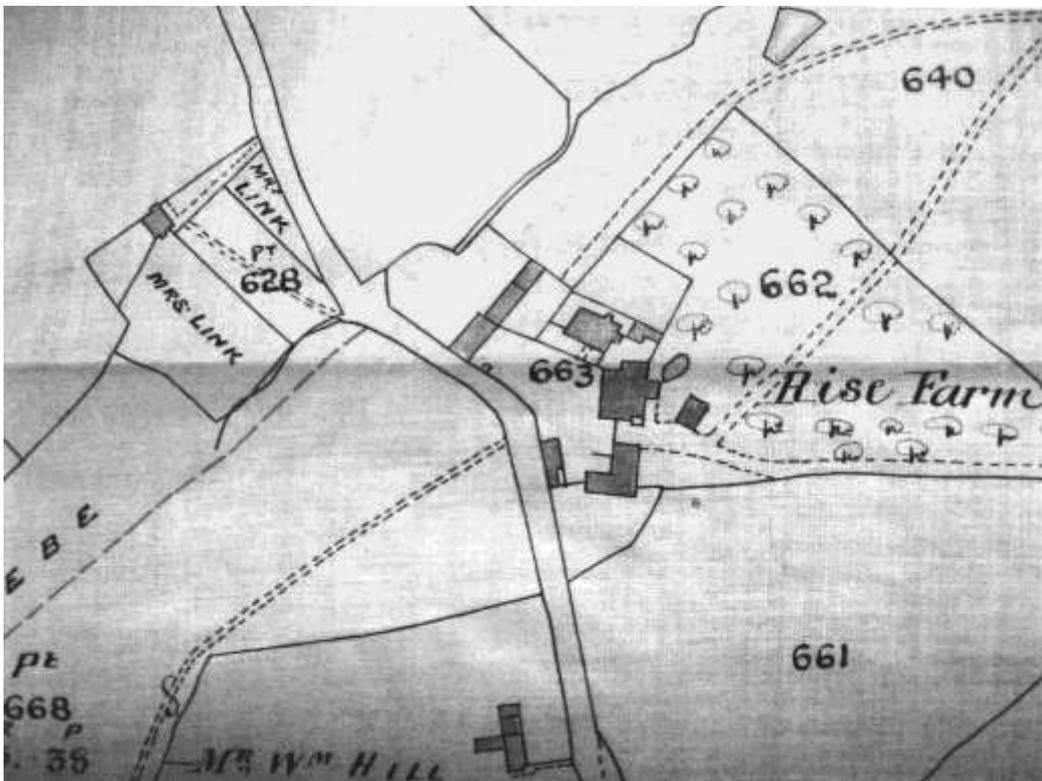


Figure 3. 1890 part of Brockhampton Estate plan

**Date and Sources**

797	Francis Powell, abstract of title HRO <i>T991ii145-55</i>
833	Francis Powell, LOWV project
833	Francis Powell, will from John Powell
840	RP date stone on stable
843	Richard Powell
843	Fownhope tithe map and apportionment
848	sale, Hereford Journal
851	Thomas Price, directory
858	John Price, directory
890	Brockhampton Estate plan, HRO AS58
932	part of Brockhampton Estate, Upper Buckenhill History, 2009, private
942	Mrs Stone & Sons, directory, MAF survey TNA
008	Landscape Origins of the Wye Valley, edited by Heather Hurley
007	J E C Peters, An Historical Report on the Farm Buildings, private report

## Old Forge Bridge, Goodrich *by Roz Lowe*

In HAN 69 I wrote a report about the visit made by the ARS to Goodrich, looking at iron-working sites in particular. We went to the derelict mill at Old Forge, which had operated as an iron forge in the 16th and 17th centuries, and I remarked then on the fine stone bridge over the Garron.<sup>4</sup> At that time was not able to take a photograph, but have now done so. The bridge was designed by John Gethi' and built by the contractor John Parsons in 1824, at a cost of more than £400.



Figure 1. Old Forge Bridge from the downstream side, about 200 metres before the Garron meets the Wye. The other side is decorated identically



Figure 2. Old Forge Bridge - details of the parapet

## Short reports from 2009 by Rosamund Skelton

### Little Mountain, near Llanerch-y-coed, Clifford Parish 26 March

We are grateful to Dr Keith Ray for showing a small group the three circular enclosures on this hilltop. The low banks with shallow ditches outside would be obscured when the bracken grows up; these are thought to be cemeteries of the Bronze Age period probably containing cremated urn burials. Lower down the hill in the wood, we saw the remains of two early lime kilns which had previously mistakenly been recorded as a long barrow. I have seen an estate map held in the Hereford Record Office, dated 1791, which shows a limekiln in an adjacent field to the south.

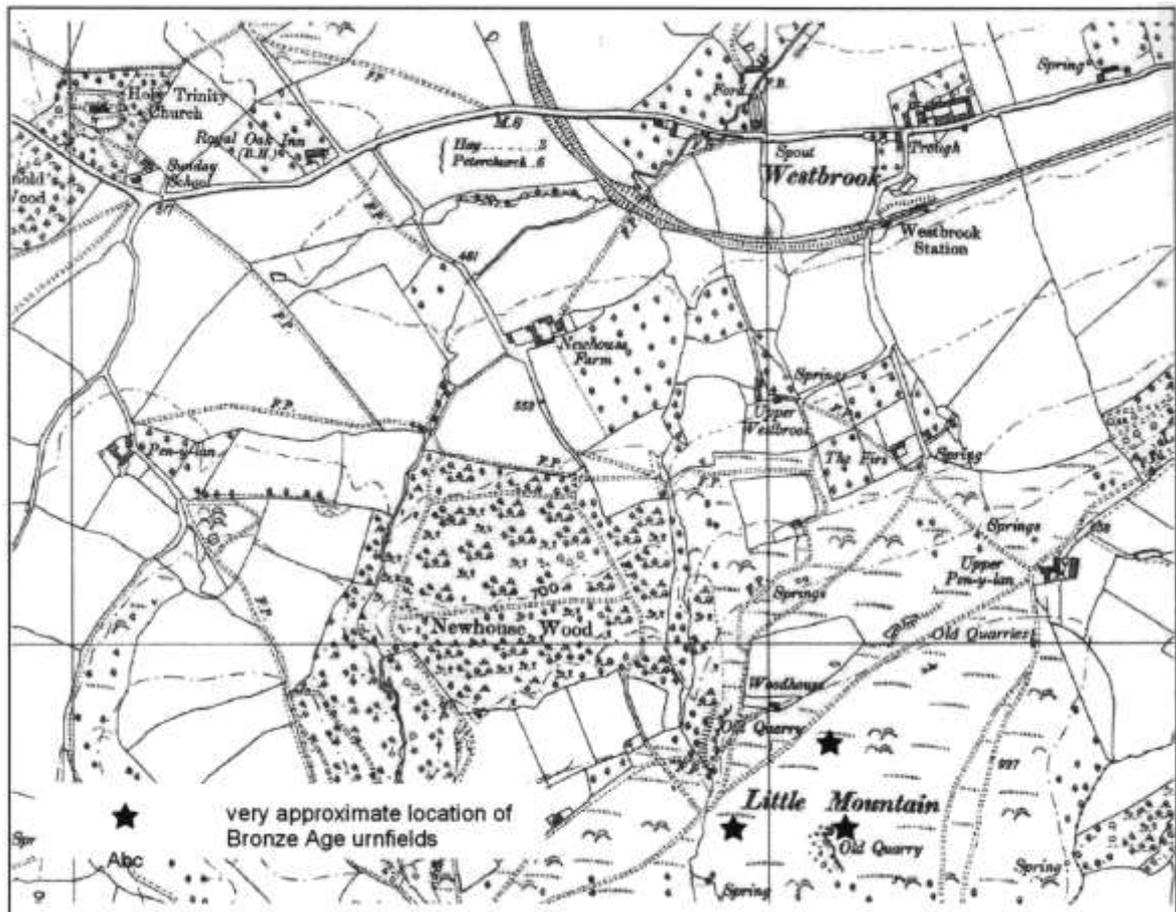


Figure 1. Bronze Age urnfields, Clifford

### Investigations at Newcourt, Bacton Parish - 10 May

Ruth Richardson led a meeting to look at the site of Newcourt; a house built in 1452 by Harri Ddu ap Gruffudd the great-grandfather of Blanche Parry which was her childhood home. Subsequently her grandfather Miles ap Harry created a deer park as a setting for the house. There are plans dated 1822 indicating the site of the house in relation to the existing Newcourt farmhouse in the valley below. There is also a copy of a picture of the house dated 1891 as it was in 1814. The quick access to the site was up a very steep slope behind the farmhouse to where there was a level area quite close to the site of an old motte and bailey castle. This level area is now covered with trees but there is evidence that rubble may have been bulldozed to make it level for the planting of the trees. Some pottery was found in mounds around the roots of some of the trees. Ruth suggested that the main carriage drive to the house would have been from Bacton via Newton village and St Margaret's Church, giving a more level approach and allowing the extent of the deer park to be appreciated by visitors thereby enhancing the status of the family. A remnant of the sunken access road within the wood was also investigated, it passes to the east of a pond fed by a local spring which would seem to provide a feature on the approach to the house. It was a bright and breezy day.

### Investigations in the Colwall area - 6 June

Rebecca Roseff who is researching manorial documents for Colwall led a most interesting walk despite some drenching rain. The route was east across meadows on to the low hills, south along the ridge past a historic springline to Evendine, west to the Malvern Forest edge settlement of Colwall Green, the moated site at Brockbury Hall and Colwall Church, the Bishop's Lodge and his medieval park, returning eastwards past Mapleton through the fields and a local conservation area. Many thanks to Rebecca for the hot drinks and refreshments which cheered us both before and after the walk.

### Credenhill, excavations in the hillfort - 19 July



Figure 2: Romano-British pottery from Credenhill hillfort

This is the largest hillfort in Herefordshire and it is the third and last year of exploratory excavations by Herefordshire Archaeology for the Woodland Trust who own the fort. A large area at the north end has been cleared of trees giving views across the full width and out to the surrounding landscape. The trenches have revealed a section through the outer main rampart, some evidence of structures in the form of beam slots in the centre of the fort, together with pottery, mainly Roman but some Iron Age as well.

Led by Rosamund Skelton.



Figure 3: Excavations in progress at Credenhill

## Farm buildings recording – 2 August

Farms at Covenhope and Shirley, both in Aymestry Parish were recorded by kind permission of the owners. Led by Rosamund Skelton.

## Newcourt Park boundary and lodge site in Bacton Parish by *Mary Pullen and Rosamund Skelton*

Following on from the field trip to Newcourt led by Ruth Richardson, Mary and Rosamund set out to look for evidence of the other features mentioned by Ruth forming part of the setting of the Newcourt Park which there was documentary evidence, the park and the park lodge.

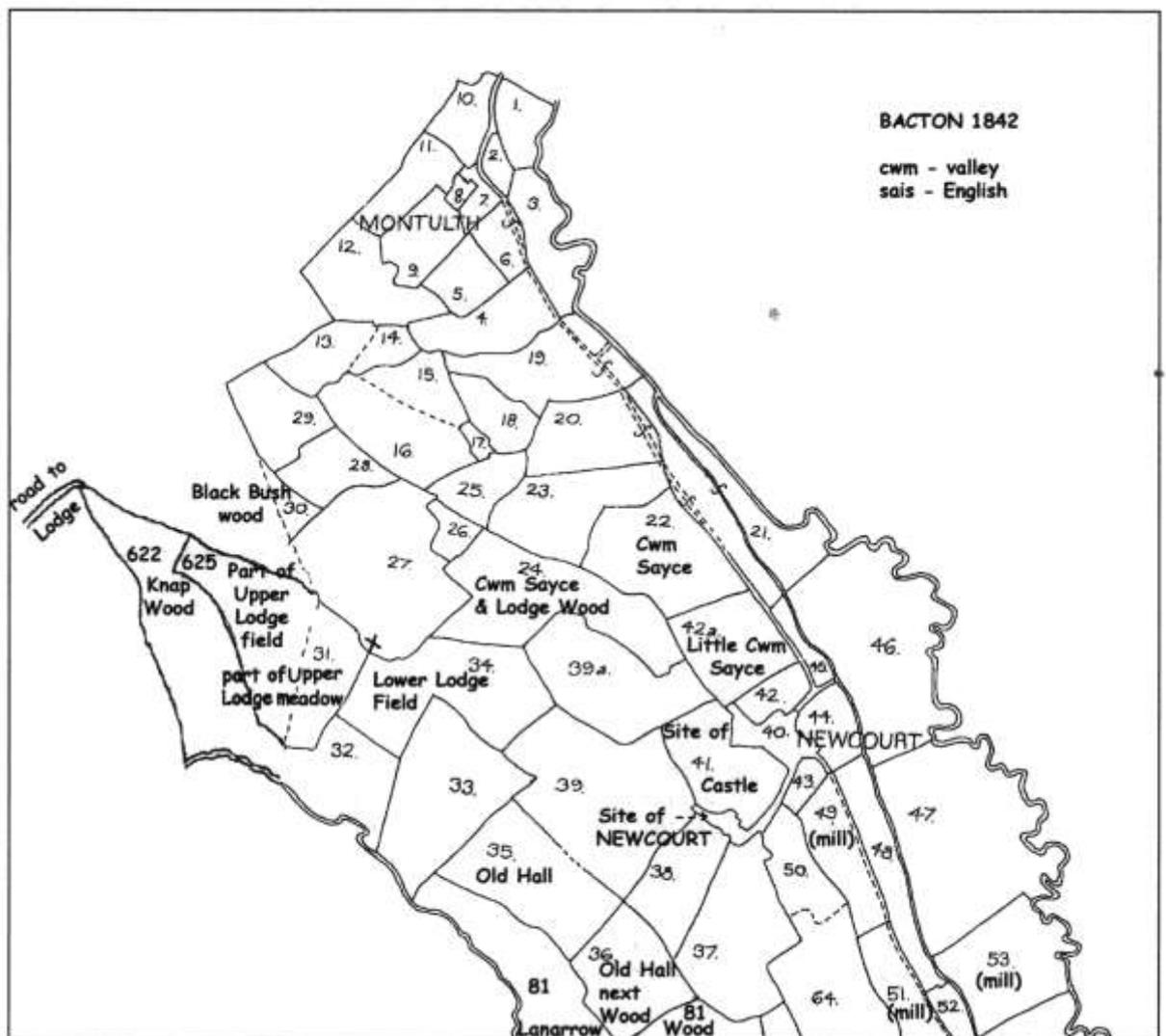


Figure 1: Possible site of lodge, marked 'X', in field 27 on tithe map of Bacton and St Margaret's (© G Gwatkin)

## Newcourt Park, Bacton

A possible site for the lodge was marked by an X by Ruth on a copy of the tithe map at the meeting of three hedges on that map. The fields have since been slightly reorganised and that location appears to correspond now with the meeting of two hedges and a wire fence (Grid reference SO 365 338).

The modern north-west/south-east fence and hedge line marks the top of a ridge here and provides a very good view of the whole of the park on either side of the ridge. Just north of the grid reference point we observed a level area with two clumps of nettles in the centre, west of this by

the fence was an oak tree at the foot of which lay some substantial stones — later in a chat with the farmer he said that this area was very stony and the large stones had been thrown from there to the foot of the tree when the area was ploughed. The soil over that area was very thin indeed and turned up a lot of *'china'* and glazed ware — his father referred to it as *'the pottery'* and thought pottery was made there. The large stones seem to suggest that there may have been a building there — is it possible that a ruinous or still standing lodge was reused as a pottery by itinerant potters? If that were so, the pottery would include *'wasters'* ie deformed pottery which had been thrown away. Otherwise the pottery may just indicate an occupied site, such as the lodge. Further investigation if the area is ploughed might clarify these points.

The farmer also said there was a limekiln just to the east of the main track through the wood in or near to Millfield Coppice. The geology map shows a band of the Bishops Frome Limestone in this location and this band broadens out to occupy a large part of the field called *'limekiln field'* on the tithe map — this seems a very likely source of lime for the building of Newcourt, or perhaps even earlier, the building of the motte and bailey castle nearby. Early limekilns tended to be dug into the ground and fired in the ground, built limekilns came later on.

Proceeding north beside the wire fence which crosses level ground with no indication of a bank or ditch for a park pale beside it, we reached a track (Grid reference SO 362 339) as is shown on the west side of the eastern boundary of the field to the north. This field was formerly part of Trap Wood but it has been cleared of all but a few park-like trees, south as far as the brook. The track does have evidence of a low bank on either side and it continues northward and would join the lane identified on the map as *'the road to the lodge'*. Westward, this lane leads to St Margaret's Church and for part of the distance has a ditch on either side.

Ruth Richardson said that a document describes Newton as *'by the park pale'* which suggests that the park extended west as far as Newton. However this was farther than we felt able to walk, so we turned south from St Margaret's Church through Park Wood along a track to Maerdy passing a newly dammed pool on the stream rising in Maerdy Wood which flows through Maerdy Lawn Wood and passed Bacton Manor to the River Dore. Maerdy appears to have once been a small hamlet, having several decayed buildings near the surviving farmhouse. One of these is a small cruck cottage later converted to a barn and possibly a piggery. The track through Lawn Wood was very difficult to follow, particularly the crossing of the stream which lay in a steep sided valley. Conclusions regarding the lodge: there certainly appears to be some evidence for a building at GR SO 365 338 and placed as it is on the summit of the ridge would provide a good overview of the Dore valley to the east and the minor valley to the west as far as Park Wood. Medieval park lodges had two basic functions to guard against poachers and to provide a base from which the hunt could be organised and viewed. Hence a central position with good visibility was needed. There is no evidence on the ground for a park pale by the lodge and since Cwm Sayce and Lodge Wood are located to the east, lower down the side of the Dore valley, perhaps a search for evidence of a park pale should be made lower down the slope to the east in or adjacent to these woods.

See [www.blancheparry.com](http://www.blancheparry.com) & *Mistress Blanche, Queen Elizabeth I's Confidante* by Ruth E Richardson, Logaston Press 2007.

### **Field Meeting to Much Marcie and Aylton by Jean Currie**

ERRATUM I regret that in the above article from HAN 79 I omitted part of paragraph one on page 30. Apologies to Jean Currie for this.

The end of this paragraph should read: The church records show that Robert Ayleway and his wife Elizabeth had four daughters around the mid century. In 1705 it was in the hands of the Bowdler family. The Bowdler family were still there in 1794. On the enclosure map of 1797 it was listed as part of the money of Homme House. In 1828 Robert Hughes was the tenant. In the 1841 Census it was occupied by David Hughes. By the time of the 1861 Census it was occupied by James Powell. The Powell family purchased the house and farm in 1922 and remained as owner occupiers until 1991 when it was bought by Richard and Aly White.

