

# **HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS**



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**WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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## HAN

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### **Lea Bailey Lodge, Hope Mansell by Allan Ockenden**

The Lea Bailey is the only section of the ancient Forest of Dean to lie within Herefordshire (although it previously belonging to Gloucestershire). It occupies a broad dome to the east of the Hope Mansell Valley and is covered in forestry plantation. By the end of the 18th century the timber reserves in the Lea Bailey, as with many other parts of the Forest, had become depleted and the area subject to encroachment with the building of many cottages and annexation of small plots of land. A Parliamentary Act of 1808 “for the increase and preservation of timber in Dean and New Forests” resulted in a programme of re-forestation and in the case of the Lea Bailey, the creation of a substantial new inclosure. In order to protect this new planting and the deter further encroachment, a new foresters lodge was built in around 1810; one of 24 so called ‘Glenbervie lodges’ which were erected in various parts of the Forest under the aegis of the then Chief Commissioner for Woods and Forests; Lord Glenbervie who was Surveyor General between 1803-10.<sup>1</sup>



**Figure 1: Photo of Lea Bailey Lodge provided by E M Adams; son of the last Forestry worker to tenant the lodge**

The lodge was situated at the high point of the enclosure and north-east of the Newtown settlement at NGR S063441992. In the mid 19th century these lodges became redundant and while some survived to be sold off as private homes, the Lea Bailey Lodge having poor access and no utility connections was demolished. Its inclosure is still clearly marked on the current 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map although little is readily seen of it today; the site having been planted with Douglas Fir in the 1960s.

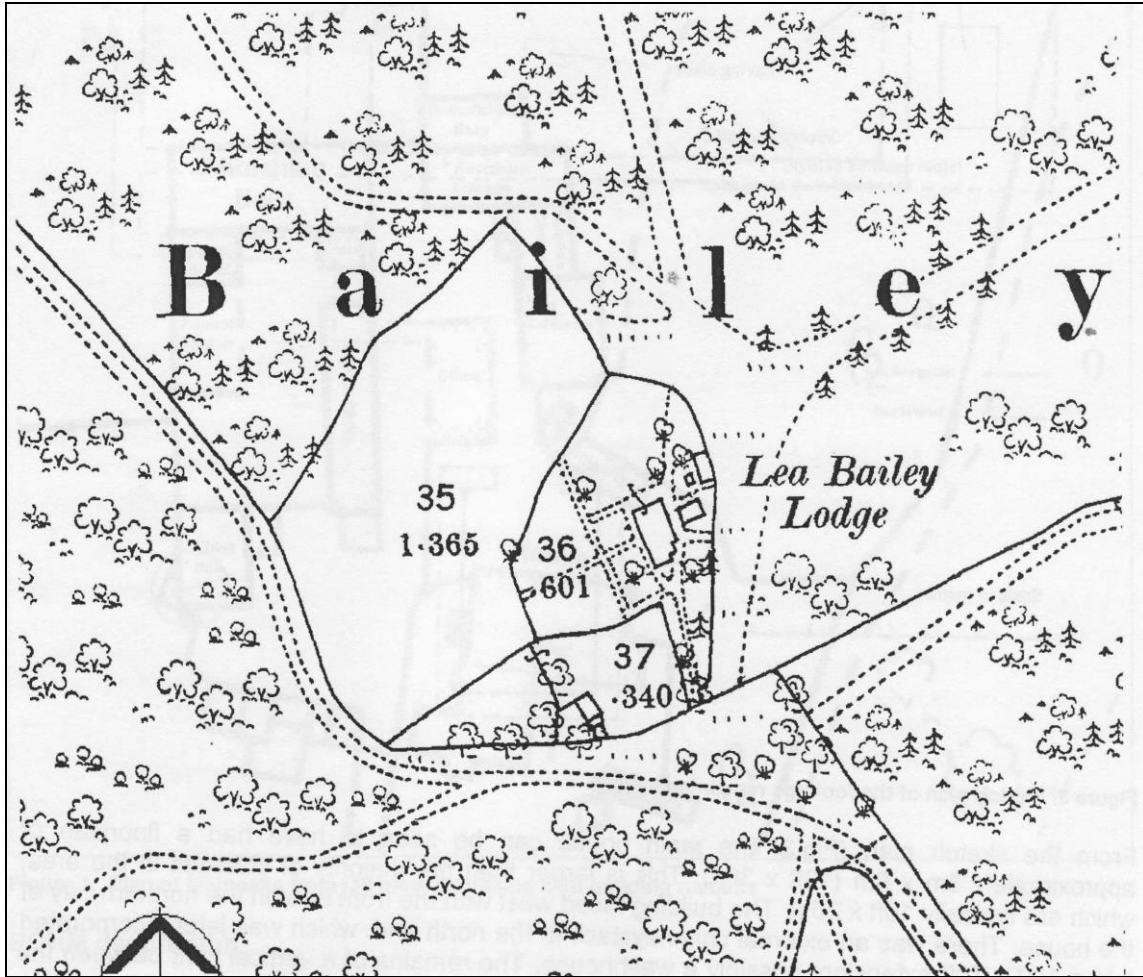
The 1889 1:2500 OS (Fig.2) shows the lodge in great detail showing the garden around the house, some small enclosure and a paddock in all about 2.3 acres. The layout of forest rides has changed little in the last hundred years and the position of the lodge is easily located today. Careful inspection at the site reveals one or two isolated remnants of hexagonal mesh boundary fence and an overgrown bank and hedge on the east side. The faint outline of the demolished buildings can just be made out under forest undergrowth including the separate structure adjacent to the forest drive on the south of the plot. A zig-zag track which lead down to Bailey Brook and Hope Mansell can also still be traced through the woods although it is now disused.

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<sup>1</sup> 1808 Act “for the increase and preservation of timber in Dean and New Forests”

The photograph (Figure 1) was taken by James Adams (probably in the 1920s) who lived there as a forestry employee from about 1897 to 1931 before retiring to The Langetts, Hawthorn Hill, Drybrook. He died in 1945 and is buried in Hope Mansell graveyard.<sup>2</sup> From this photograph the lodge appeared to be a modest two storey stone cottage with slate roof in four bays and very much in the local vernacular style.

Inspired by this photograph and fearing further damage to these tenuous remains as the result of forthcoming forest harvesting, the author decided to make more detailed investigation of the remaining traces of the lodge In January 2010.



**Figure 2:** Excerpt from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series sheet 1889 showing detailed layout of the lodge and its grounds.

The basic layout of the footings was inferred from the shallow humps amongst the trees. Undergrowth and rubble was cleared at key points sufficient to and fix key features such as corners and the front and back faces of walls and enabling the floorplan to be confirmed. The position of the front door with a substantial stone threshold was found on the west side and it was also found that the stone flag floor appears to be in tact throughout the main part of the house. Remnants of external flagstone paths to front and rear were also uncovered. The structure had been removed almost completely down to a level just above the floor although some sections remain up to 1 m above ground. The lack of debris suggests that it was a careful demolition with both the roofing slates and walling stone being recovered and removed from site.

<sup>2</sup> EA Adams, (2005) Personal communication

On the south end is a pit about 1.8 x 1.0 m and at least 600mm deep. A broken paving slab may be the remains of an old cover. A faint outline of an a walled enclosure around this area is seen but this was probably an external feature. Its purpose is obscure but since no other sign of a well was located, it may have been a cistern for collection of roof water.

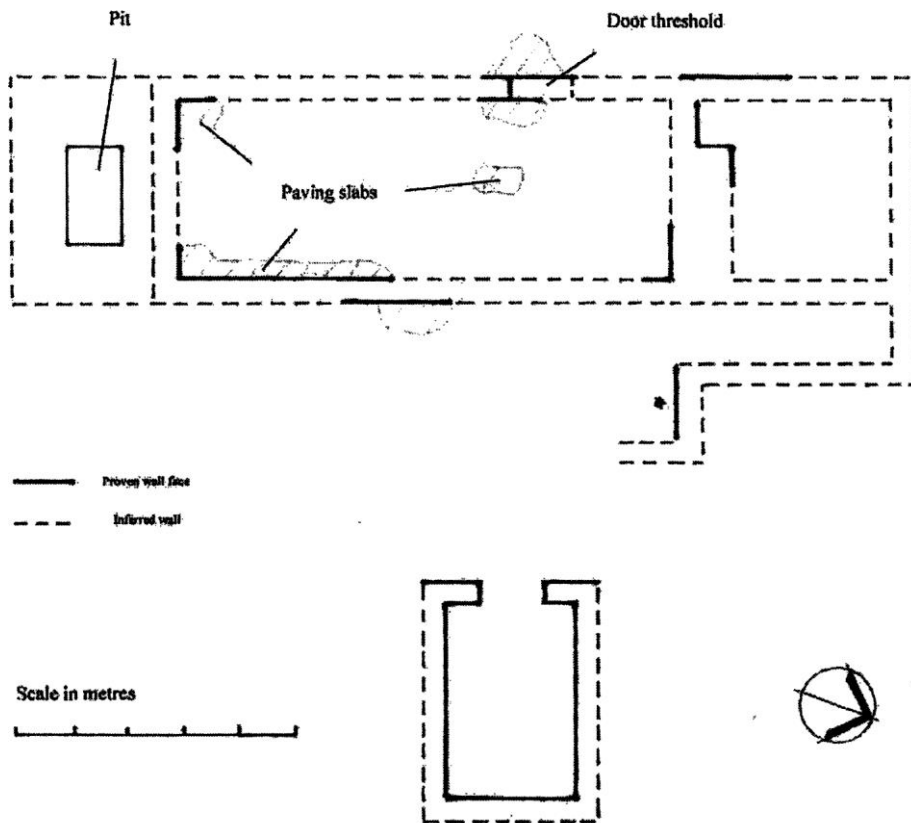


Figure 3: Sketch plan of the footings remaining in 2010

From the sketch plan (Fig.3) the main house can be seen to have had a floorplan of approximately 3m x 9m (10ft x 30ft). This is larger than the majority of cottages in the area, which are typically 10ft x 20 ft. The building faced west with the front door in the northern bay of the house. There was an external chimneystack at the north end, which was later incorporated into a 10ft x 10ft extension; possibly a washhouse. The remains of a vertical joint between the two structures was clearly seen. A variety of other walls were traced to the rear of the house indicating a possible rear outshut and a separate stone shed. All these findings correlate well with the photograph and old OS plan.

The lodge would have had an inscribed stone above the doorway giving the name of the inclosure, its area and the name of Glenbervie.<sup>3</sup> This, alas, appears to have disappeared.

<sup>3</sup> G Waygood, (200314) *The Dean Forest Lodges*; New Regard 18,5 and 19,5 p. 22

### Photo survey of Mainoaks, Goodrich by Roz Lowe

In 2002 I led a field meeting to Huntsham and Coppet Hill, Goodrich. The account of the meeting was published in HAN73. At that time we were unable to visit the farmstead of Mainoaks (SMR 33565, SO 57034 17676), as it was let out as holiday cottages. Since then the ownership has changed, and the new owners re-furbished the holiday accommodation in the latter part of 2009. With their kind permission I had the chance to make a photo-survey of the house and buildings while the work was in progress.

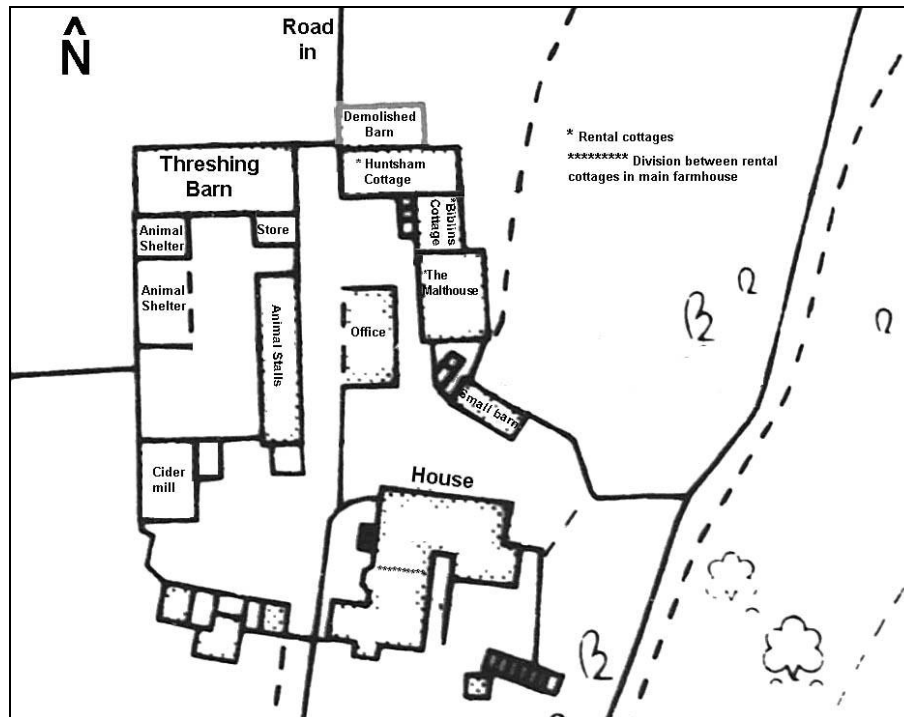


Figure 1. Plan of Mainoaks from OS map, annotated with building names

### RCHM description

*'The House is of two storeys and basement; the walls are of sandstone-rubble with ashlar dressings and some timber-framing; the roofs are covered with slates. It is of 15th-century origin, and a crutch [cruck] and part of the E wall remain of this date; in the 16th century it was almost entirely rebuilt on an L-shaped plan.*

*The S wing was added early in the next century, and towards the end of the century the E wall was partly refaced and a stair inserted in the S end of the building; modern additions and alterations include a W extension to the S wing and a low extension to the S of the E wing. At the E end of the S front is an inserted late 17th-century ashlar chimney-stack with a moulded capping.*

*The E end of the E wall has exposed timber-framing; the rest of this wall is probably medieval in origin but has been refaced with 17th-century ashlar; a gabled dormer with a two-light square-headed window was inserted in the 17th century.*

*Near the E end of the S wall of the NE wing is a segmental-headed window with eight diamond-shaped wooden mullions.*

*Inside the building there is a considerable amount of exposed timber-framing and some stop-chamfered ceiling beams and joists.*

*The late 17th-century staircase at the S end of the house has moulded string and turned baluster.*

*At the E. end of the E wing is a fireplace with a wide flat arch.*

*On the first door of the S wing at the head of the stairs is a 17th-century panelled door and a strip of re-used carved frieze with the date 1629.*

*Spanning the building on the S. side of the main chimney is a large truss built up on a medieval crutch which springs from the ground floor and forms a rough two-centred arch beneath the present roof; at the S end of the house the wind-braced roof has collars and side purlins; the E wing has a tie-beam; king-post and collar.*

*The Barn N. of the house, is of 16th-century date with an early 17th-century extension on the S. The walls are of roughly squared and coursed ashlar, and rubble and the roofs are covered with tiles and slates. Some of the original windows are blocked; the remaining ones have four or five lights with diamond-shaped mullions of wood; the upper range in the E. wall are loop-lights. The W. door has monolithic head and jambs. The N gable has a bulls-eye window. The roof is in four bays with trusses of queen-post type.*

*The 17th-century addition has, in the W wall, two two-light square-headed windows. In the S wall is a door to the first floor with an elliptical head, and a two-light square-beaded window similar to that in the W wall. The roof is of collar beam and side-purlin construction.'*

### Historical notes

The earlier form of the name 'Mainoaks' is *Manox* or *Mannocks*, and there was a Robert Manok of Goodrich named as a juror in the IPM of 1372 as to the possessions of Elizabeth Talbot (Duncumb). Thomas Manoke was mentioned in the account of Thomas Vaughan, reeve of the Manor of Goodrich Michaelmas 33 Henry VI [1454] (**HRO O68/II/31**).

The farm was later owned by the prominent Weare family, who may well have taken their name from the nearby Old Weare, as the earlier form A Weare or A Were was common in Goodrich. Unfortunately a William Weare who lived at Mainoaks in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century died in 1766 leaving a young family and large debts.<sup>4</sup> His widow Elizabeth (by then married to Mr. Banfield) became involved in two Chancery cases with the debtors. one dating from 1770 and one from 1773.<sup>5</sup> Details of the furniture at Mainoaks on his death were given in HAN73, but my incomplete transcription of the Chancery case also included a list of debts for the funeral arrangements of Thomas Weare, William's father who died in 1771, of whom more later.<sup>6</sup> It seems likely that the case could not proceed fully until Thomas Weare had died, and William's heirs inherited the estate and the funeral expenses.

Peter Embery for a coffin	1-3-0
John Duckmore for a black cloth & crape for the coffin	2-14-9
Richard Panter for a shroud	2-8-2
John Hopley's bill for scarves & hatbands	27-1-5
Jane Matthews for app & cloaks	0-15-6
Abel Matthews for a tombstone	4-11-6
Mr Keyse his bill for proving the will in the PCC advertizing creditors etc	6-19-0
James Bowen for the use of Mrs Deam[sic] Perkins amongst other monies due for annuity[plus more 2 X £100]	3-5-8

<sup>4</sup> Although William Weare died in August 1766, his undated will was not proved in the PCC (Prerogative Court of Canterbury) until 1769. It was hard to identify as he gives no place names, but from the internal evidence it was he. This makes it clear that his wife Elizabeth, named as daughter of William Weare tenant of the large Priory farm in Goodrich, was pregnant at the time of his death, but also that she was his second wife. His first wife, also Elizabeth, was the daughter of Thos? Mays??. The writing is very faded, but as this is TNA copy, the original will (in his own hand, according to the will) may be more legible. At the time of his death he had two living children by his first wife, a boy and a girl (possibly Elizabeth bapt 1763 in Newnham) both unnamed. Later evidence from a document at Gloucs RO (D2957/328/6) shows that in 1797 Thomas Weare of Giddis in Goodrich was the eldest son of William Weare (d 1766), who was called 'of Newnham' - he had estates in both places. The child that Elizabeth Weare was expecting when William died in 1766 was baptised on 23 January 1767, a boy named William. A number of the marriages have not been found.

<sup>5</sup> PRO C12/1027/27 and C12/1245/5

<sup>6</sup> Thomas Weare's burial on 13 April 1771 is not in the Goodrich PRs, but is on the Forest of Dean FHS index of Forest of Dean and surrounding area CMDs, presumably from the BTs.

[some omitted] Elizabeth Llewellyn amongst other monies for carriage of goods from Newnham to Mannox	5-0-0
Daniel Ellis	100
Eliz Skinner mortgage of £100 plus interest plus bond of £100	
Ann Harris of Goodrich by note of hand	60-0-0



Figure 2. The front of Mainoaks house. Merged photo

It is extraordinarily difficult to photograph the front of the house, as there is a wall close in front of it, and the yard in front of that drops away. The house faces the Wye, and behind the house Coppet Hill rises steeply. From the front the house gives little indication of age, but there is a timber-framed wing at the back, though not of such age as the middle section which housed an open hall dated as 15th century.

Note the very wide front door which may have been the original cross-passage. However, the passage it opens onto now separates the hall from a later cross-wing.



Figure 3. Exposed timber-framing at rear of farmhouse





Figure 4. Rear of farmhouse looking NE. The NE wing may have been a cider house or similar at one time, or animal housing. Merged photo

Inside the S cross-wing of the farmhouse, the bottom of the crucks are clearly visible, but the hall has been ceiled, and a massively beamed floor inserted.



Figure 5. Inserted ceiling in S cross-wing of farmhouse

A stairway was inserted in the late 17th century at the S end of the S cross-wing. Upstairs, the open crucks are visible in one of the bedrooms. The inserted chimney stack is visible in Fig. 7. If any boss had existed it has been lost.



Figure 6. Open cruck in first-storey bedroom in farmhouse, W wall.



Figure 7 Open cruck in first-storey bedroom in farmhouse, E wall.



Figure 8. Opposite crucks above, wall next to the cross-wing at the S of the farmhouse

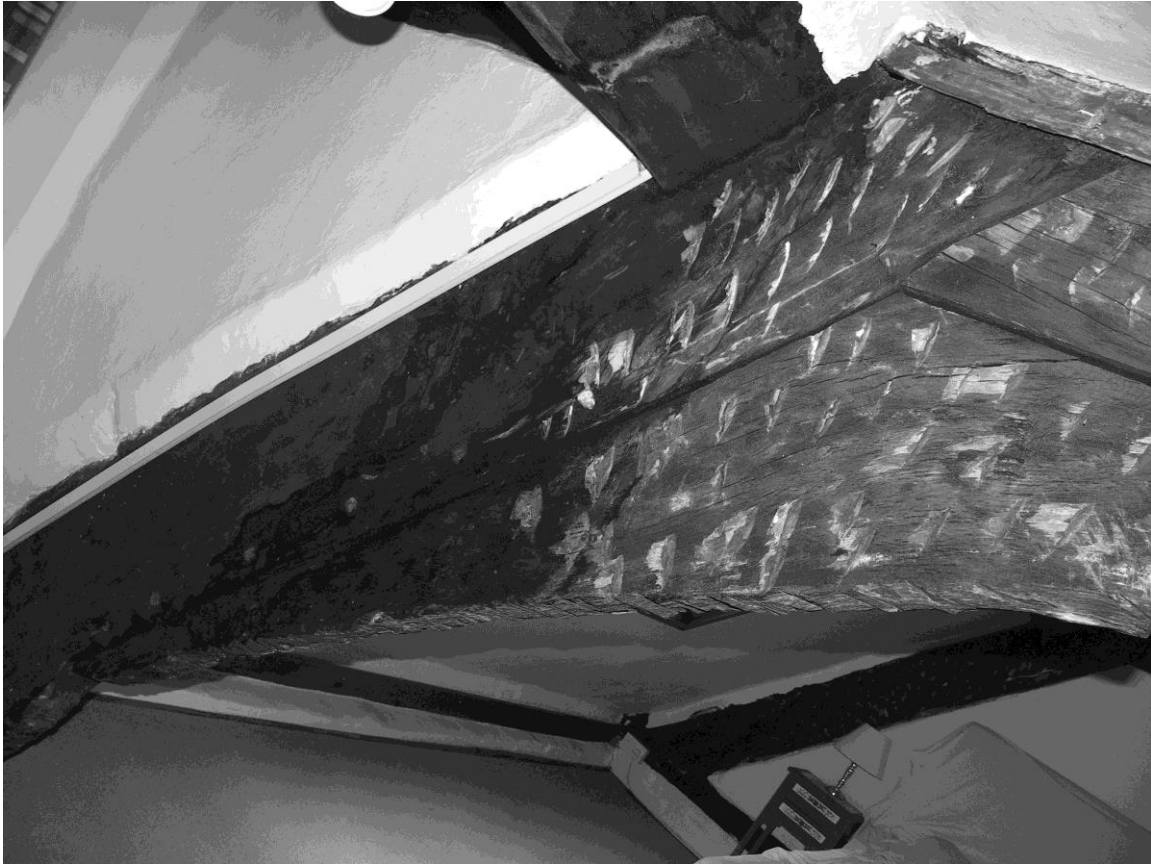


Figure 9. Back of open cruck blade showing joinery detail; adze marks to take plaster



Figure 10. The middle bay of the S cross-wing of the farmhouse, S-facing roof timbers. The middle bay is a landing with an open-topped bathroom area.

The northern bay of the farmhouse is also cased in stone on the north aspect (Figs. 11, 12). The outside does not lead one to expect the substantial beams upstairs, on the E end of this cross-wing. A passage has been made on the S side to serve the bedrooms.



Figure 11. N aspect of farmhouse, left  
Figure 12. N aspect of farmhouse, right



Figure 13. Cruck in inserted upstairs passage. the door head is modern  
The re-used timber in the E gable-end (not visible outside) may have come from an earlier building.



Figure 14. Re-used timbers in E wall of N cross-wing

Downstairs in this N cross-wing, the floor-level at the E end is substantially higher than the W end, again raising the suspicion that the E end was once a separate building. The kitchen lies at the E end, and contains a massive stone fireplace. To one side there is a stone opening for a bread oven, and below it a hole for the bread oven fire. On the right hand side of the massive wooden lintel over the kitchen fireplace there is an engraved inscription (Figure 15 right):

**T W**

**1717**

From some privately-owned documents I have catalogued, William Weare & Eleanor Tovey married in 1679. Their joint estate included Mainoaks and was divided into 4 parts for their 4 sons, but Thomas Weare, one of the sons, bought back the quarters from the other 3 in 1714 and 1721. In February 1721/2 Thomas Weare of Goodrich married Elizabeth Bayse at Churcham. Presumably it is this Thomas Weare whose name is on the lintel. He was the father of William Weare the bankrupt.





Figure 16. Kitchen fireplace and to the right the apertures for the bread oven and fire.

The north-west corner of the farmhouse has similar stops on one of the the heavy ceiling beams to those in the ground floor ceiled hall at the southern end, but the timbers are less well-cut and finished.

### **The farm buildings**

In front of the farmhouse is a cider house containing the cider mill and press.



Figure 17. Cider house

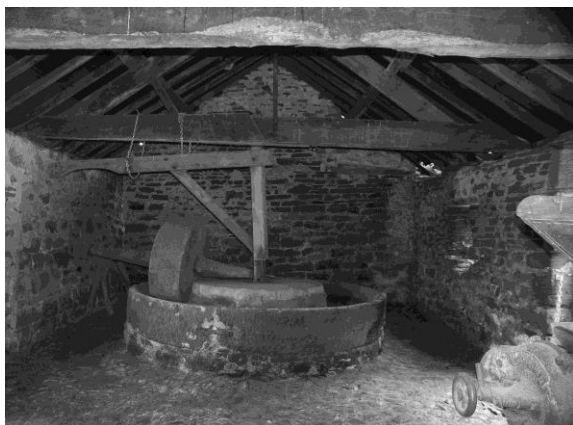


Figure 18. Cider mill

The cider mill was clearly horse-driven as can be seen from shaped beam. The uprights of the cider press have burn marks from taper sticks which have been knocked into the wood. The circular stone used in the press is very similar in shape to one in my house, and the tank is made of the same sandstone conglomerate found on Coppet Hill.





Figure 19 (above). Cider press and cutter



Figure 20 (right). Another press and stone

Immediately to the north of the main house is a small barn, Fig. 21. To the north of that is a complex of 3 holiday cottages, apparently made from two original buildings. The upstairs room in the 'Malt House' has some cruck beams. The RCHM considers that this part of the complex of buildings is a 17th-century extension to the south of a 16th-century barn.



Figure 21. Small barn to N of house



Figure 22. The 'Malt House' to N of the small barn

The beams are workmanlike and suited to an outbuilding rather than a house (Fig 23). The ground floor is rather a puzzle, because it has been divided into two at about the location of the crucks, though now the partition is removed. The southern section has stone corbels on the western wall, but there are no beams running east-west for them to support, though there is a massive central beam running north south. The northern section has a massive beam running east-west, but it is inserted in the western wall very close to one of the stone corbels.



Figure 23. The beams in the malthouse. Two photographs were merged because of the difficulties of including both crucks in one shot.



Figure 24. Front (W) of Biblins Cottage

The building attached to the Malthouse to the north, 'Biblin's Cottage', was quite clearly a barn, as the typical slits (RCHM - looplights) are visible at the rear (E) on the upper storey. However, the RCHM surveyors noted the monolithic doorhead on their visit in the late 1920s, and also that there were blocked windows and those not blocked had wooden mullions. So the lower windows at the rear may have been there then.

They mention too the 'bull's eye window' in the northern gable - what I would call an owl-hole.

The 16th-century roof timbers described by the RCHM surveyors are concealed and not available to view.

The survey does not mention the building attached to Biblin's Cottage on the right (W) in Fig. 25 (Huntsham Cottage).

This is presumably because at that time they were not interested in buildings built later than 1714.



Figure 25. N gable of Biblin's Cottage

However, the stone used in the construction is good quality and it is well built. Presumably the upstairs was used as a granary or store as there are steps to it, shown in Fig. 24, unless these are the remnants of steps to an entrance to the upper floor of Biblin's Cottage, which would explain the owl hole for a granary.

### **Threshing Barn and other farmyard buildings**

To the west of the farmhouse and the buildings just described lie a number of other buildings, at a lower level than the farmhouse and between it and the river Wye, which lies about 150m or so away. In the worst floods these buildings are affected.

The threshing barn was gutted by fire a few years ago, but the walls appear relatively unaffected (Fig. 26). There is a later lean-to to the south, which is one of the buildings around a stock yard, which retains in some places older cobbles. Most of these buildings are used for storage. Some still have feeding mangers.

I hope in due course to see the original notebooks of the RCHM surveyors. These contain much more information than the printed volume quoted at the beginning of the article.

### **Acknowledgements**

The renovation work has been carried out to a high standard and with due regard for the historic nature of the buildings. I would like to thank the current owners and their manager for letting me make this photo survey. There are more pictures of the farmstead and the renovated cottages on [www.mainoaks.co.uk](http://www.mainoaks.co.uk).

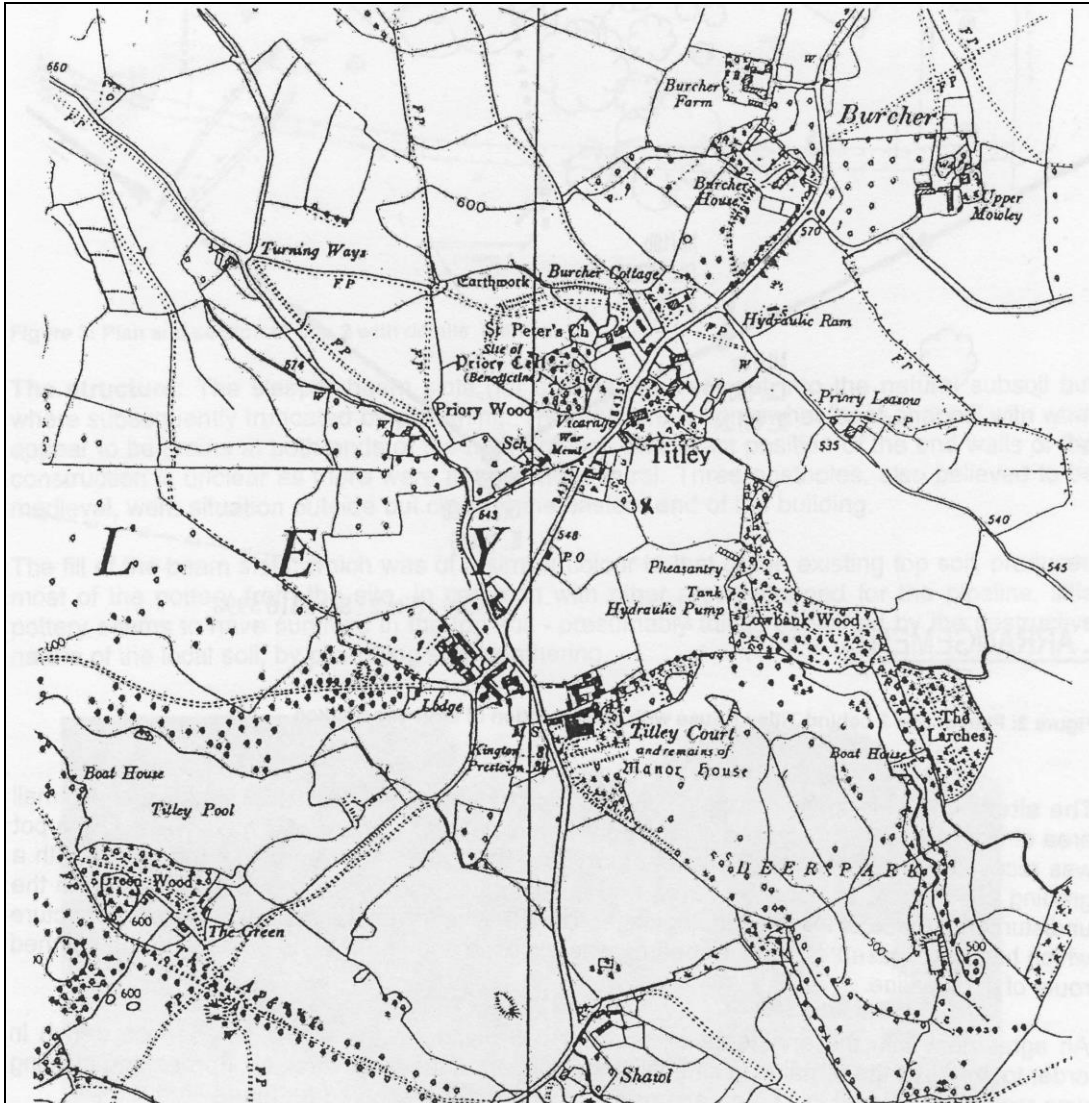




Figure 26. Threshing barn

**The Lost Chapel of St Tirella? Titley Court, Titley** by Stephen Clarke and Jane Bray  
[Ed.: an abridged version of the report by Stephen Clarke and Jane Bray for Monmouth Archaeology/Monmouth Archaeological Society]

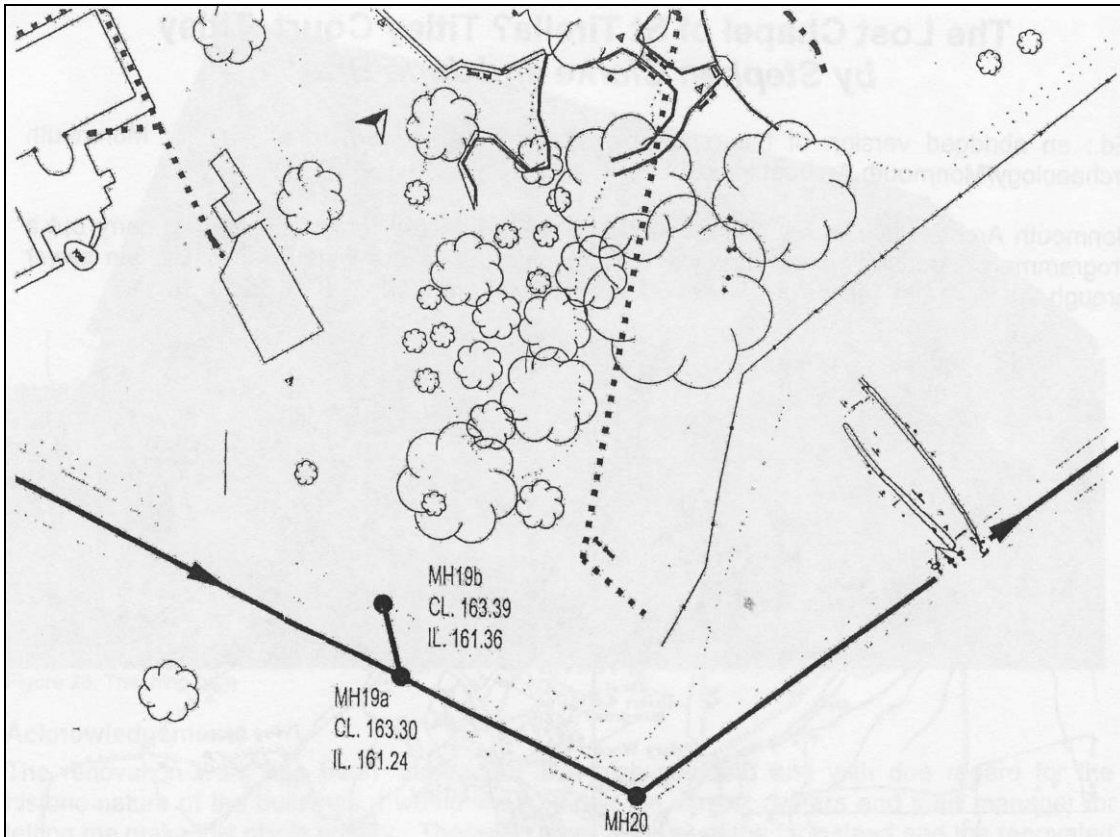
Monmouth Archaeology was commissioned by AMEC Capital Projects Limited, to carry out a programme of Archaeological Survey and Recording during the installation of a main sewer through the village of Titley from July to December 2004 (centred at NGR 50 33 60).



**Figure 1: Titley: 1964 Ordnance Survey Map**

Two previously unknown medieval sites were discovered during the watching brief, one in the AMEC compound and the other in the field behind Titley House. The first site contained pottery dated to the late 13th and early 14th centuries but there were two sherds of Worcester cooking pottery suggesting earlier occupation (Hereford Fabric CI, see Vince 1985).

The second site in the field behind Titley House (SO 3316 5998) contained a small assemblage of recovered pottery mostly dated to the late 13th and early 14th centuries but the inclusion of Hereford Fabrics A4 and CI suggests a longer period of 'activity'. The structure may have been the Chapel of St Tirella which is recorded in a Terrier of Titley Priory of c.1403A.D.



**Figure 2: Plan of Site 2 behind Titley House with cross-section of structure marked**

The site: During the topsoil stripping for the pipeline in the field behind Titley House a small area of dark soil was recognised as a timber beam slot and a sherd of a medieval cooking pot was recovered. The groundwork contractors agreed to the careful removal of the topsoil with a grading bucket over an extended area and this was followed by hand-excavation down to the undisturbed surface of the archaeological horizon. The remains of a medieval wooden structure which had been based on sleeper beams was exposed and found to be directly on the planned route of the pipeline.

An agreement with the engineers allowed for a deviation in the line of the service trench in order to preserve the remains in situ. With the support of the site owner, Mr Forbes, the building was recorded, covered in Teram, and reburied where it is preserved for future study.

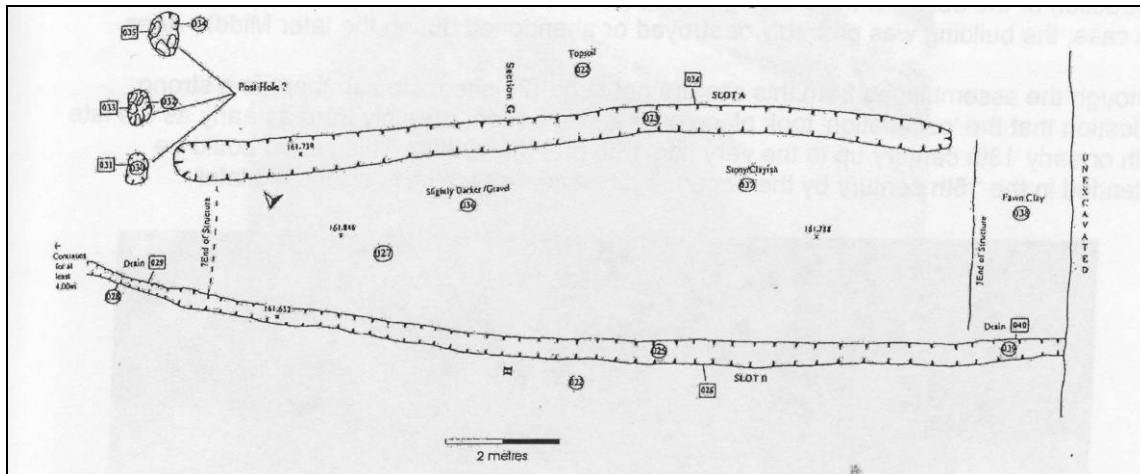


Figure 3: Plan and section of Site 2 with details marked.

**The structure:** The sleeper beam slots (for soleplates) were set into the natural subsoil but were subsequently truncated by ploughing. The structure is somewhat 'boat-shaped' with what appear to be drains at both ends of the northern slot. The exact position of the end walls of the construction is unclear as there were not cut into natural. Three postholes, also believed to be medieval, were situated outside but close to the eastern end of the building. The fill of the beam slots, which was of a similar colour to that of the existing top soil, produced most of the pottery from the site. In common with other areas stripped for the pipeline, little pottery seems to have survived in the top soil, presumably this is explained by the destructive nature of the local soil, by ploughing and weathering.

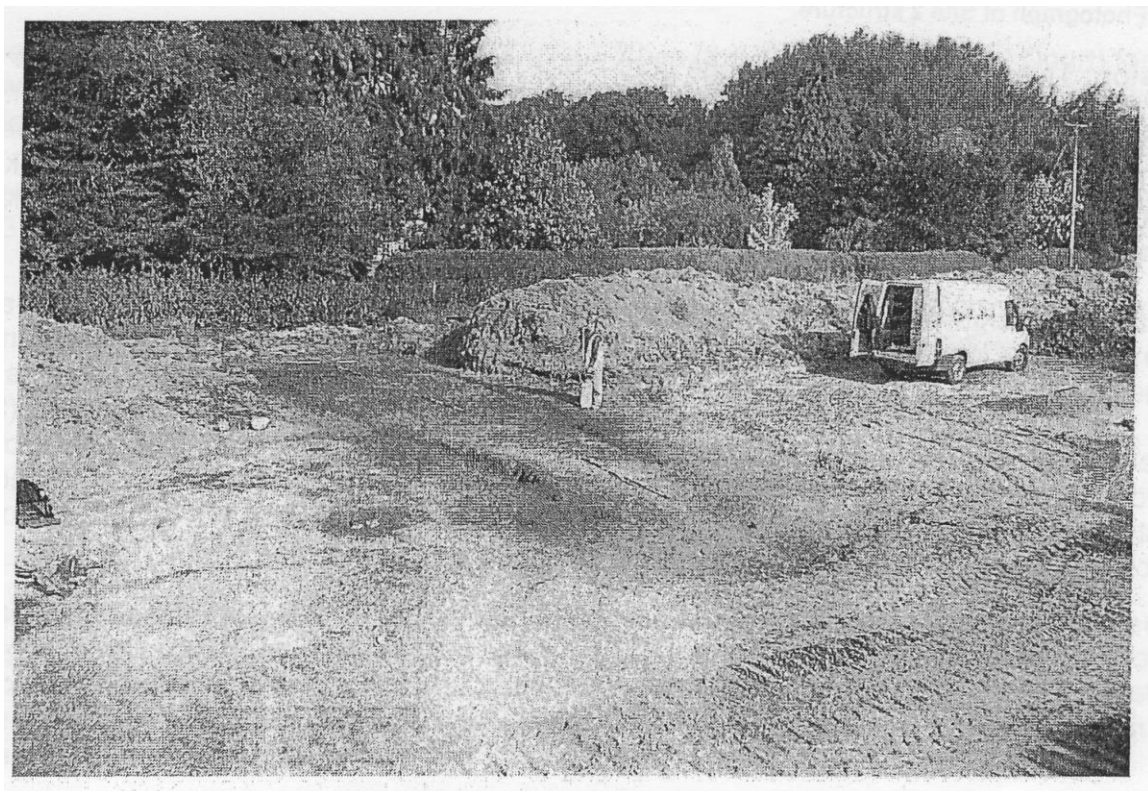
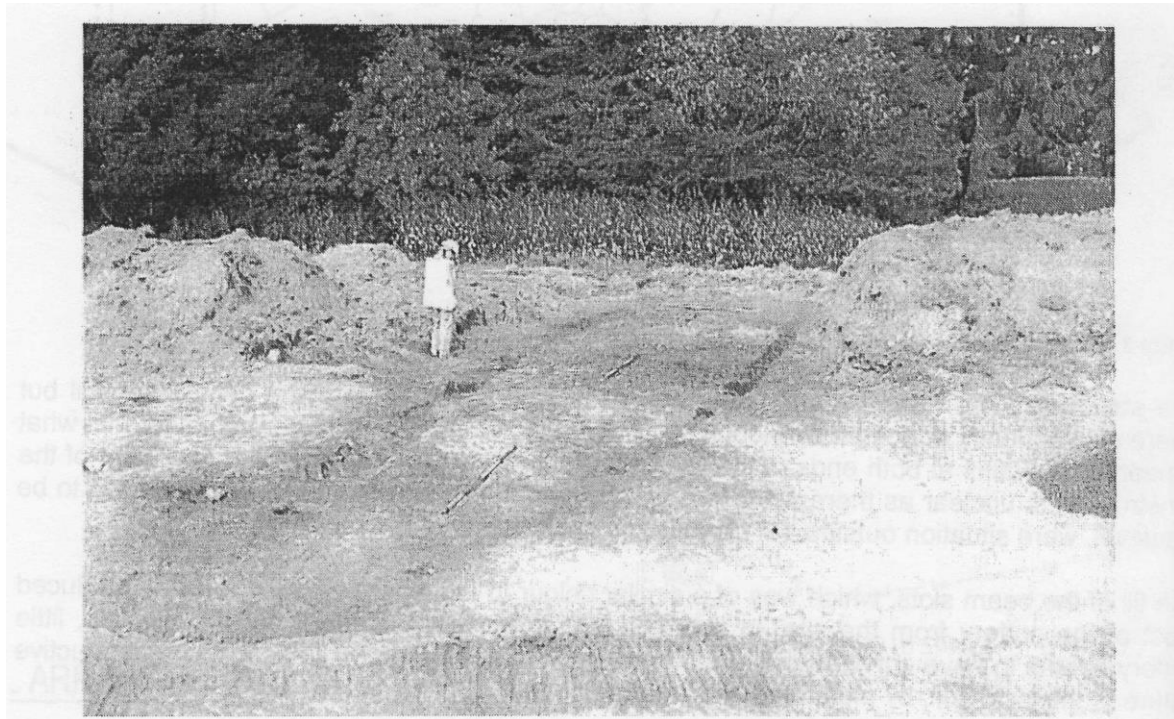


Figure 4: Photograph of longboat-shaped structure.

**Dating:** The pottery dating is based on research by Dr Alan Vince and the fabric codes are as established by him from Ron Shoesmith's excavations in Hereford (Vince, A. 1985). The pottery from the beam slots would probably have been deposited during or after the destruction or the decay of the building and could therefore date from that or an earlier time. In this case, the building was probably destroyed or abandoned during the later Middle Ages. Although the assemblages from this site are not large (28 sherds in all), there is a strong indication that the 'occupation' took place over a long period, possibly from as early as the late 12th or early 13th century up to the very late 13th or 14th century. This period could be extended in the 15th century by the documentary evidence which is discussed later.

**Discussion:** This structure is of a strange boat-shape, similar, for instance, to an enclosure for funneling sheep prior to shearing or dipping, although there would seem to be little point in basing such a pen on foundation beams. Surely, post and wattle fencing would have been used. Another possibility is that it is a barn or a cow shed but neither of these seem very likely to produce a pottery assemblage, especially one which may have accumulated over a long period of time.

It was at first thought that the slots were the foundations of a longhouse but there are also problems with that idea. Although it may have been ploughed away, there is no sign of a central passageway dividing the building as in many houses of this period, secondly, there is no hearth; this is important as the two hearths in the medieval house in the AMEC Compound (Site 1) were worn deeply into the natural subsoil and the hollows survived, even though all wooden wall slots (assuming these existed) had been ploughed away. One would also expect domestic occupation to leave a more substantial rubbish assemblage like that in the compour: especially if it was spread over a long period, as appears to be the case here.



**Figure 5: Photograph of Site 2 structure.**



Figure 5: Photograph of detail of site showing post-holes

We are grateful to Mr Roger Pye and Mr David Forbes (the landowner of Titley Court) for the following: A transcription of a Terrier of the Priory of Titley, with a note recording that it was copied by Henry H. Phelps, Vicar of Titley, from a manuscript in the possession of E H Greenly, Esq of Titley Court, September 1899. The document describes the Hall (the Manor House) and various properties of the Priory and a note on the copy is: Cf. Win. Coll. Court Roll 8 Hy IV (AD 1403).

"There is one garden or enclosure adjoining to the Manor on the North parte full of shrubbs and trees for free pasture conteyning eight acres which was wont to be allotted to the Tennants for five shillings for pasture.

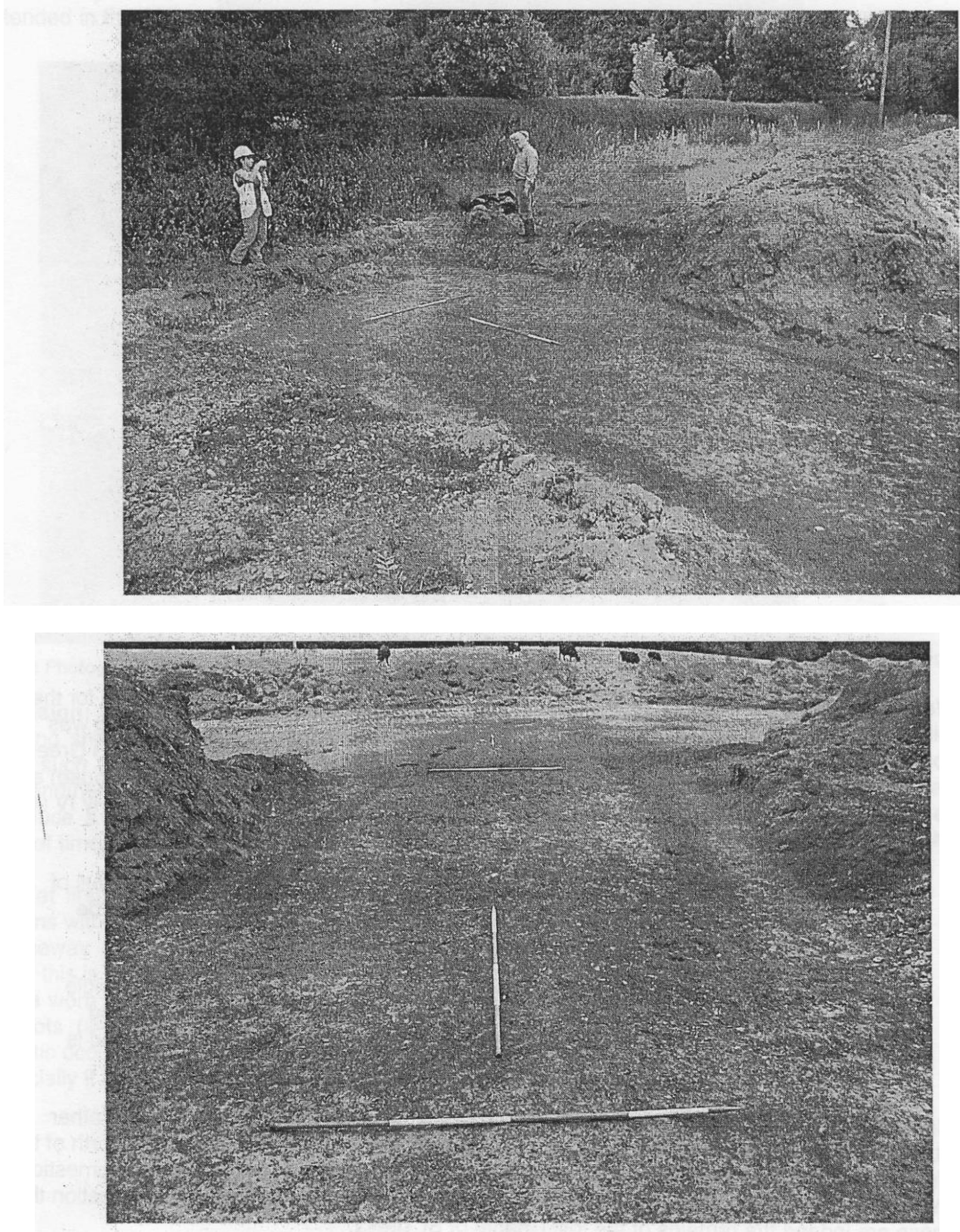
In the same garden there is a Chapel of St Tirella in which they offer their candle offerings the which was funded out of devotion but it is unknown by whom and conteyneth in length at the bottom forty foot and in breadth fiefteene foote and is covered in tile." Considering this Terrier and the archaeological evidence, it seems possible that the rather strangely boat-shaped and enigmatic structure at Titley is this Chapel. Its situation north of the manor, its orientation, dating, paucity of household refuse lack of a hearth or other domestic evidence and its remarkably similar measurements, all combine to support the suggestion that these are indeed the remains of the lost Chapel of St Tirella.

One would not expect a large amount of pottery on a chapel site (there was a lot more on the AMEC Compound house, Site 1) but what might be found is likely to have been deposited over an extended period. This was the case on this site even though there may have been more destroyed by agricultural activities. One would not expect a hearth or central passageway in a



Chapel but one would not be surprised to find the building running roughly east-west (certainly within the limits of variation amongst medieval churches) as is the case here. The remains are also to the North of the manor-house, as was the Chapel. The Terrier shows that at the time, much of the estate was ruinous and decaying, so the absence of any later medieval material might indicate that the days of the Chapel, were also numbered.

The tiles recorded on the Chapel roof were probably of wood (shingles), as were those on the hall and the church (described in the same documents) so the building would have left little trace in the archaeological record.



**Figure 6 & 7: Two photographs of Site 2 in detail.**

**Other Sites:** A rim sherd of an Iron Age jar was recovered from the soil of a mole hill before the field was turned into a compound. The pot contains acid igneous Malvernian Rock and an almost burnished finished. It was confirmed as Iron Age by the late Dr Alan Vince who commented that the rim form looks very much like that of the 'Native' vessels seen in Gloucester, which are dated to the first and second centuries A.D. (Peacock, D.P.S., 1968). A small honey-coloured struck flint was found in the topsoil opposite the Stag Inn close to where a Mesolithic blade was recovered at SO 3300 6000 (SMR No. 6236)

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### **References**

Mr Roger Pye and Mr David Frobes (Titley Court) provided a copy of a transcription of a Terrier of the Priory of Titley, with a note recording that it was copied by Henry H Phelps, Vicar of Titley, from a manuscript in the possession of E H Greenly, Esq of Titley Court, September 1899.

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