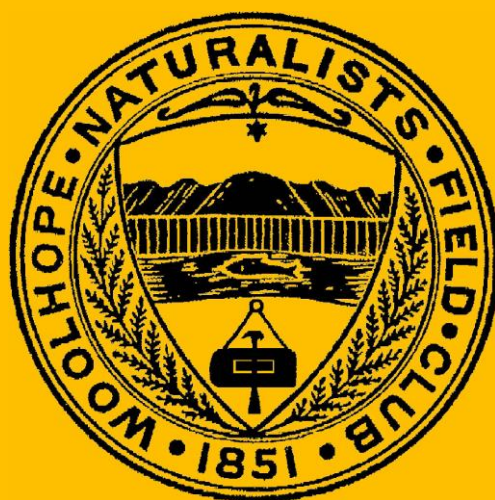


# **HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS**



**HAN 82 2011**

**WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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## HAN

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Annual membership of the ARS is £5.00 - enquiries to Secretary - **Mrs B Harding, com**. This is additional to membership of the Woolhope Club which is £13.00 single or £15.00 per couple annually - to **Mr I Porter**.

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## Milestone Survey 2010 by Heather Hurley

The Milestone Society held a surveying weekend at Ross during April 2010 and requested help from the Ross & District Civic Society. A few members chose a network of roads to investigate that were known to have been turnpiked during the 18th or 19th centuries. Armed with instructions, record sheets, maps, garden sheers and cameras the routes were explored by car and foot.

### Turnpike System

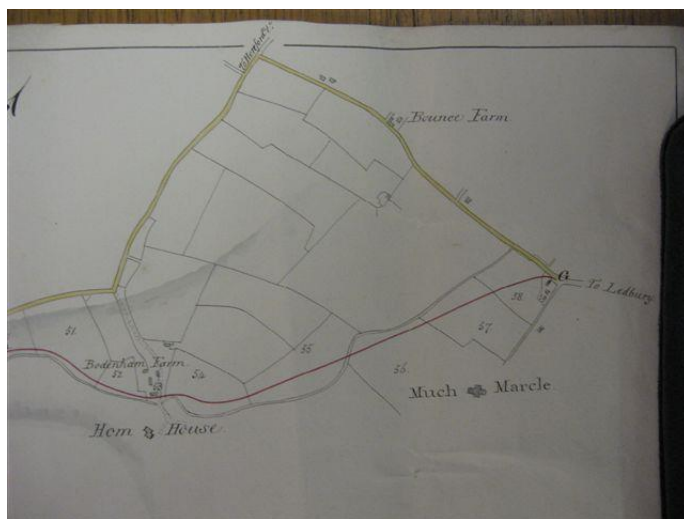
Since the Highway Act of 1555 parishes were responsible for the upkeep of their roads, but during the later part of the 17th century they were unable to cope with the growth of traffic. This resulted in the turnpike system, first introduced on the new Great North Road, enabling road users to contribute towards the maintenance upon payment of a toll. An Act of Parliament was required for groups of roads to be turnpiked, and by 1750 this system had spread throughout the country like a spider's web. Capital was raised to set up the trusts that were empowered to erect gates, receive tolls, choose collectors, appoint surveyors, erect milestones and signposts.

### Milestones and Mileposts

The presence of milestones and mileposts along the highways usually indicate a turnpike road, although some may have predated the turnpike era. Most of the 18th century milestones were made of stone and the later 19th century mileposts of cast iron were manufactured in the local foundries. The style varied between districts and from one trust to another, and should be easy to locate at every mile, but many have been lost due to road widening and digging ditches, others have been damaged by hedge cutters or removed for use in buildings.

### Lea to Hereford Road

An example of the milestone survey is along the road now the B4224 leading from Lea to Hereford. This sixteen mile stretch was turnpiked by the Gloucester and Hereford Trust in 1726 together with the other route through Ross, which were both transferred to the Hereford Trust in 1730. The road from Lea follows a course from Castle End over ancient crossroads at Fiddler's Cross, Bromsash, Crow Hill and Old Gore before continuing through Fownhope, Mordiford and Hampton Bishop to Hereford.



### Plan 1833 of new linw Ross to Much Marcle HRO Q-RWt-29

The Ordnance Survey Sheets of 1960, 1970 and 1977 of 2 ½ inch to 1 mile were used to locate the milestones and mileposts clearly marked on the maps as MS or MP with the occasional mileage shown. Out of sixteen depicted on the maps only seven were still visible including one on the A40 at Castle End, where the road branched off from the Gloucester to Ross road. Other stones of note were the obelisk in Fownhope churchyard dated 1907 and a weathered inscription of a possible boundary stone on Mordiford bridge.

### Other Roads Surveyed

Ross Civic Society members also surveyed the roads from Mordiford to Dormington turnpiked in 1810, from Holme Lacy to Hereford turnpiked in 1789, the road from Ross to Hereford via Hoarwithy turnpiked by the acts of 1730 and 1749 and the Ross to Much Marcle new line of 1835 replacing an inconvenient route turnpiked by the Ross Trust in 1749. The completed record sheets and photographs were sent to the Milestone Society and to Herefordshire Archaeology.

### Sources

Ross Civic Society, *Milestone/Milepost Report*, 11th April 2010

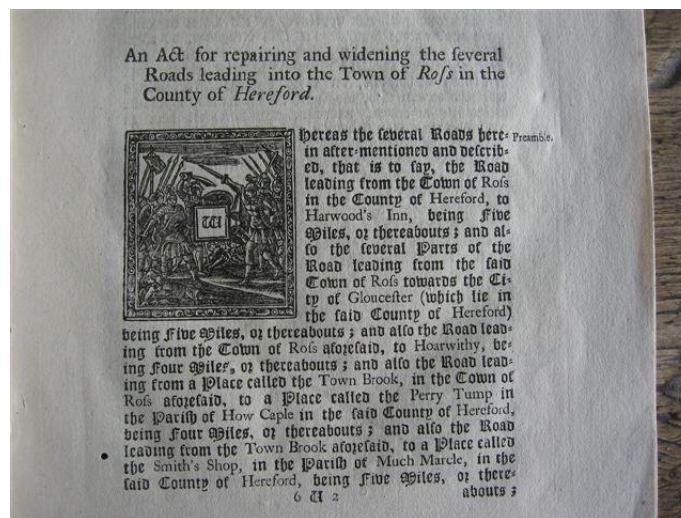
H. Hurley, *The Old Roads of South Herefordshire*, 2nd edition 2007

M. Benford, *Milestones*, 2002

G. Wright, *Turnpike Roads*, 1992

Hartpury Historic Land & Building Trust, *Milestones*, 2003

[www.milestone-society.co.uk](http://www.milestone-society.co.uk)



### Ross Road Act 1749

## Milestone/Milepost Report

surveyed by Heather & Jon Hurley on 11th Apr 2010

Lea to Hereford now B4224 TP by Glos/Her TT 1726

OS sheet 62/72 1977 ed.



**1. Lea - MP on Glos/Her (A40) at Castle End Ross 4/Glos 12 found 654217  
grubby condition**

MS on Lea/Her at Castle End not found

MS at Fiddlers Cross not found



**2 Upton Bishop - MS near Crow Hill found 640265  
stone hidden in hedge, no writing, plate missing, bolt holes**

MS at Grendon Court not found

MS at Perrystone not found

**OS sheet SO63 1960 ed.**

MS at How Caple Crossways not found

MS at Falcon not found

**OS sheet SO53 1970 ed.**

MP at Capler not found





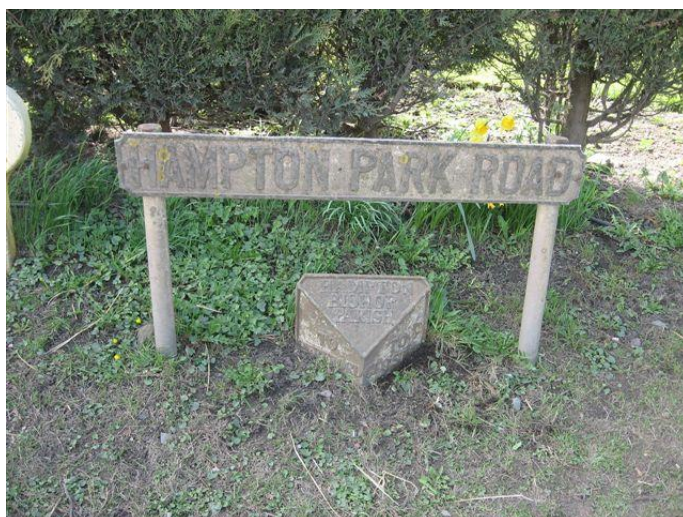
3. Fownhope - MP at Nash Hill Her7/Glos19 found 588341  
good condition, made by Harding Bros. Hereford
4. Fownhope - Obelisk in churchyard 1907 Ross 8/Her 6 581344  
good condition other places mentioned, not marked on map  
MP at Mill Farm not found  
MS at Lucksall not found
5. Mordiford - probably BS found on bridge with Hereford visible 570374  
Inscription weathered



6. Hampton Bishop - MP near bridge Her 4/Glos 22 found 567374  
Chipped top, in hedge, bit grubby



**7. Hampton Bishop - MP in village Her3/Glos23 found 552381 in good condition**



**8. Hampton Bishop - MP under road sign for lacking miles 539389 Her/Glos but no miles, almost buried, grubby and nearly missed**



**9. Hampton Bishop - Salmon pub Her1/Glos25 found 524392 all words visible, otherwise hidden in bank, good condition**



**Mordiford to Dormington TP by Hereford TP 1730 new route 1810**  
**OS sheet SO53 1970 ed.**

no MS or MP found at Larport or Priors Court

**Holme Lacy to Hereford now B4399 TP 1789 by Hereford TT**  
**OS sheet SO 53 1970 ed.**

MP near Holme Lacy College not found

MP at Barry's Cross not found



**10, Dinedor - MP after Railway at Rotherwas Her3/HL3 found 538378**  
**grubby and covered in brambles**



**11. Bullingham - MP Bullingham after 2nd rail bridge Her2/HL4 found 522382**  
**very grubby**

**Hereford to Ross via Hoarwithy TP 1730 Hereford and 1749 Ross TT**  
**OS sheet 53 1970 ed.**

MPs Bullinghope, Raven, Aconbury, Caldicott, Little Dewchurch, Woodlands  
not found

**OS sheet SO 52 1972 ed.**





**12. Hentland - MS at Shepponhill Her 8 weathered in wall,  
found 550278**



**13. Bridstow - MP on A40 TP 1726 altered route Her13/Ross1 found 584245  
defaced, Perkins & Bellamy**

## **Field Meeting to the Hills North of Presteigne**

### **1<sup>st</sup> May 2011 by Marge Feryok**

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May Marge Feryok led a joint meeting of the Woolhope Club and the Radnorshire Society to examine some features she has been looking at on Stonewall and Reeves Hill, about 4.5 km (nearly 3 miles) north of Presteigne where she lives. Some of the features were on the Radnorshire or Welsh side of the border. The Radnorshire Society was represented by Marge herself. The five members of the Woolhope Club at the meeting were Rebecca Roseff, Gerald Dawes, Sarah Zaluckyj, Rosamund Sketon and Janet Cooper. It was a fine warm sunny day.

Marge's interest in features on the 400m high hills north of Presteigne began several years earlier when she was asked to investigate a stone wall on the appropriately named Stonewall Hill. The local legend was that the wall was of Roman origin. The stone is gradually being robbed out, disappearing into local gardens and walls. There are relatively few sources of good building stone in the Presteigne area. The conglomerate type limestone which makes up the wall was quarried from nearby. The stones in the wall are about 0.30m x 0.20m in size. It is a dry stone wall about 0.40m in thickness varying in height up to about 0.50m. The wall sits on a small bank which brings its total height to about 1 m. The robbing of the stone has given it a ragged appearance and much fallen stone lies around it.

The wall (Herefordshire SMR no. 38460) runs for about 800m along the eastern side of the small one track road which goes from Stapleton to Knighton. This is said to have been the main route between Presteigne and Knighton before the B4355 about 1.5 km to the west was built. The wall lies right on the national boundary between England and Wales (Herefordshire and Radnorshire). It also forms the western side of a rabbit warren (Herefordshire SMR no. 20646) which was built and owned by the Harley family of Brampton Bryan which is about 6 km to the north east. The date of the origin of the wall and warren is unknown but it is first mentioned in a lease dated 1723 between Thomas Harley and Thomas Legge of Willey. This is the parish where the warren is situated. The wall is also shown on Issac Taylor's map of Herefordshire dated 1754. In the lease the wall is described as going from an old ditch running from a corner of a hedge in the south, to a common roadway in the north. It must have given Stonewall Hill its name.

The first place that the group visited was this old ditch or track which largely still runs on the south eastern edge of the warren. A low bank about 0.50m high containing frequent stones could be seen along the edge of the warren on this side. This formed the north western edge of a 10m wide track with another stone filled bank on its south eastern side. The warren itself is well recorded and there are several pillow mounds, quarry pits and small enclosures which could be seen on the hilltop. It is on private property so the group did not venture on to it.

The group walked to a low mound about 400m from the southern end of the footpath. During her research of the area Marge had obtained aerial photographs and a list of recorded features from the National Monument Record in Swindon. This mound (NMR no. 1398235) had been described as a possible barrow. The group looked at it and thought that its size, about 20m by 10m, slightly oblong shape and position on a relatively steep hillside, did not

make this seem likely. It contained small stones and vegetation which suggested it may have been the remains of a small building.

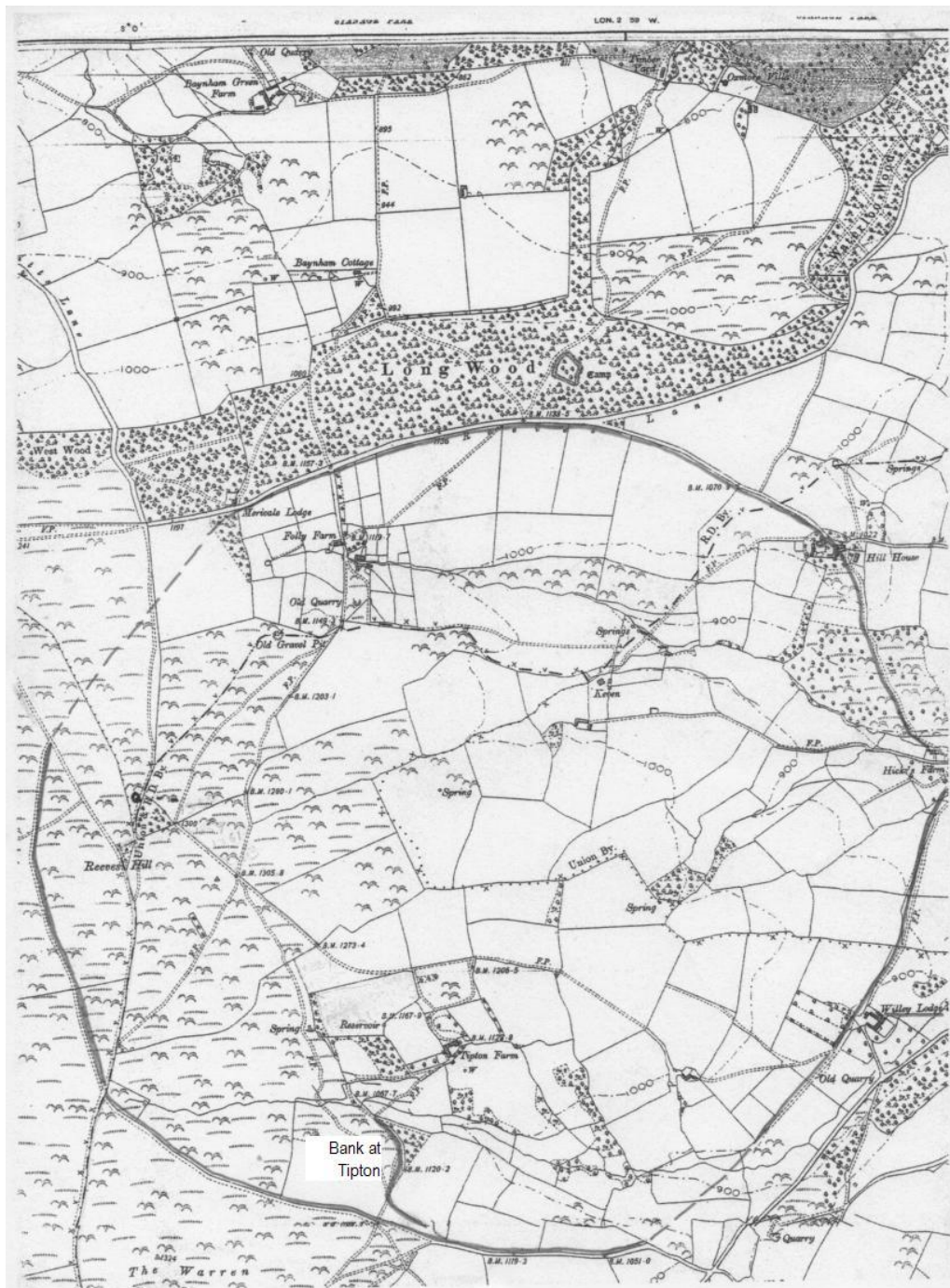
The mound overlooked the ruined site of Willey Court which was just hidden by an overgrown hedge about 200m to the south east. The warren could have been part of Willey Court (Herefordshire SMR 9386) estate which may have medieval origins.

The warren is bounded on its northern side by a road which goes from the national boundary toward Lingen 2.5km to the south east. The 1845 Presteigne Tithe map indicates that the warren had been enclosed from common land which was at the top of the hill but several field names suggest it once included land to the north of this road. Perhaps these fields had been included in the warren before it had been formally enclosed by boundaries. The incompleteness of the warren enclosure is a mystery. With a wall on only one side it was plain the rabbits would get out. How could people on the common be stopped from taking them?

The group then went to the northern end of the wall to see the remains of a bank which lay in a ploughed field full of crop. It ran north-west from the junction of the Knighton-Stapleton road and the road going towards Lingen at SO 3178 6899. It was about 10m wide and 1-2m high. This bank, which shows up on aerial photographs, appears to be part of a circular boundary which encloses a large area on the tops of Stonewall and Reeves Hill. Marge saw that this bank was part of a system of roads and footpaths which could be seen on the First Edition OS map as well as the OS map of 1953. The bank was more clearly visible to the group as an earthwork about 5m wide and up to 2m high running along the northern side of the road to Lingen where it goes between Tipton Farm to the north and the land belonging to Willey House to the south, about 800m south east of the above grid reference. Here it had old woodland plants such as bluebells and wood anemones growing on it. Another larger bank ran down the western side of the track leading to Tipton Farm House. Marge thought that the first bank may have been the boundary of a park or woodland that once encompassed the whole of the top of Stonewall and Reeves Hill. The bank on the western side of the track to Tipton Farm was perhaps a boundary put up when the field to the west became common and the park or woodland had been reduced in size. A field name to the west of this bank is Hunts Gorse which suggests a hunting park. It may have been part of Willey Court which is only about 400m south of the road. Other field names within this enclosure which suggest the area was a park or woodland enclosed by a bank are Forest Field and Bank Piece. The roads, paths and field boundaries which indicate this large round area run west of the current road from Stapleton to Knighton, up to the southern edge of Long Wood, along the road to Hill House Farm ( which has a bank in the hedge on its western side, and south east through Hicks Farm and Willey Lodge. Although no park or woodland is recorded for Willey, there are Domesday entries of woodland at adjoining parishes of Norton to the west and three hedged enclosures to contain deer at Lingen to the east. The western extent of the bank was recorded as 06 in CPAT Report No. 95 which is an archaeological evaluation of the area for the proposed Reeves Hill Wind Farm, a controversial development which was first planned for the area in the 1990's. The application is still pending and the people living in the area sharply divided on the issue. A small portion of lynchet which may be part of the boundary is recorded on the Herefordshire SMR as 137711. It lies between Hicks Farm and Willey Lodge.



Because the bank goes across the national boundary and lies in two separate archaeological authorities it may not have been seen as one whole features before.



**Map of the possible banked enclosure and bank on track to Tipton Farm.**

After looking at the banks the group went to Willey Lodge, (Herefordshire SMR no. 9386), a farm on the south eastern side of the area enclosed by the bank. Marge had obtained permission from the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Davies to look at the house and the tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Lomax were expecting us. They took us on a tour of the house and attached old barns. The present house has features from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is built of local limestone with some sandstone edging especially on the fireplaces. The walls of the house are

very thick. The house has a timber framed upper storey. Some of the timbers in the attic are finely chamfered. Several features, especially the stairs and first floor landing are of original 18<sup>th</sup> century construction. Grindstones had been made into a seat in the lovely front garden. There were no clearly medieval features visible in the house or barns but the sitting of the house in the landscape was quite dramatic.



**Photo of Willey Lodge on its mound looking north west.**

It sits on a platform which juts out from the steep eastern side of Reeves Hill overlooking a stream which has been dammed to make four ponds or the remains of ponds. It became apparent after walking around the outside of the house that there was a hollow going around the northern, western, and southern sides of the house. When viewed at a distance, from the road on the eastern side, it looked like a defended site, a house built on top of a motte. Marge thought that this may have been the site of a hunting lodge associated with the possible park surrounded by the bank.

In doing research after the walk that day, Marge discovered that medieval hunting lodges were often built in such defended positions, like a tower surrounded by a moat. The Great Tower at Clun Castle is thought to be part of the original castle rebuilt as a hunting lodge in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Why hunting lodges were sited in this way is not known. Rosamund Skelton said that they were sometimes used as gaols to imprison people who had violated the strict forest and hunting laws of the period. Certainly in the largely lawless medieval Welsh Marches, building a defensive site, especially one located on its own away from local settlements is perfectly understandable. Later research showed that the house had changed its name several times. On the 1815-1833 First Edition Surveyor's map it is called Willey Farm. On the 1845 Tithe map it



is called Upper House. On the First Edition OS map it is called Willey Lodge by which it was known ever after. Marge has been unable to find out when the house was called a lodge and whether there were any pre 19<sup>th</sup> century references to a lodge. There are no obvious medieval remains or features in or around the house but the name, the location on the edge of a possible park, and the ditched, defended position of the house do make its origin as a hunting lodge a possibility. Perhaps it was part of the estate of nearby Willey Court.

The group ate lunch at Willey Lodge. The Lomaxes supplied coffee and dessert. After this the group made their way about 5km to the west to visit Old Impton Farm. This farm house, (which is presently owned by the Wilding family), has nothing to do with the features on Stonewall Hill but Marge had seen pictures of it at the Welsh NMR in Aberystwyth and wanted to take the group to a site on the Welsh side of the border.

Old Impton is a late medieval hall house (wood dendro dated to 1471) which was modified in the Tudor period to become a winged house with the addition of a jettied porch on its eastern side and two new ranges built on the north and south sides of the original hall building. It has very beautiful and detailed carving and wood work. No one was at the house when the group arrived but Marge had permission to go in and the group walked all over the great rambling house. As well as the spectacular porch there were many architectural details such as the roll moulded beams, candle burns and hooks in the living rooms, the basement and the many upstairs rooms to examine. Marge, Rosamund and Janet spent some time trying to work out the sequence of construction which was not easy to see. Later reading, especially a description of the house in *Houses and History in the Marches of Wales Radnorshire 1400-1800* by Richard Suggett, made the history of the construction of the house clearer.





### **Photo of carved wood detail on Old Impton porch**

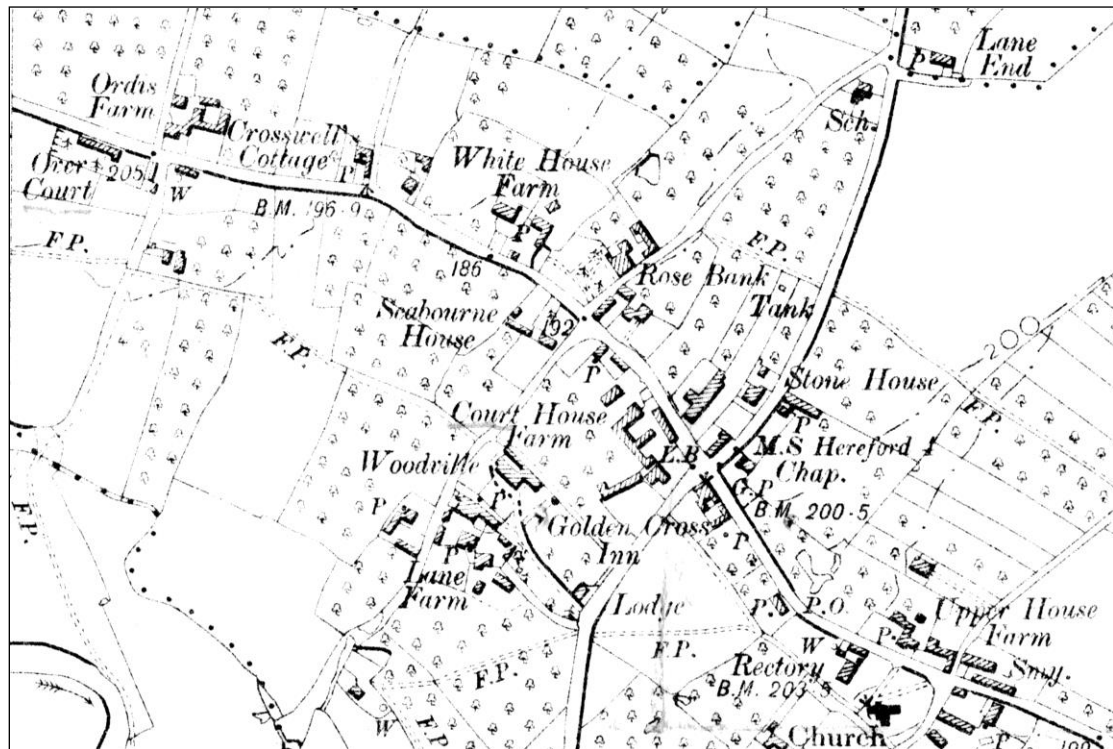
The weather helped to make it a beautiful and interesting day. It ended with the group back at Marge's house for coffee and cake. They looked at and discussed maps and other documentary evidence Marge had collected during her research.

## **A survey of *The Creswells*, Sutton St Michael by Rosalind Lowe**

Rosamund Skelton and I were invited to have a look around *The Creswells*, prior to some building work, by a Club member. She wanted to know if we could find out more about the history of the house, the origin of the name which is on the nameplate [*The Creswells*] and, if possible, when it might have been built.

The house lies on the north side of the Sutton St Michael to Marden road, as can be seen from the map below where it is called Crosswell's Cottage.

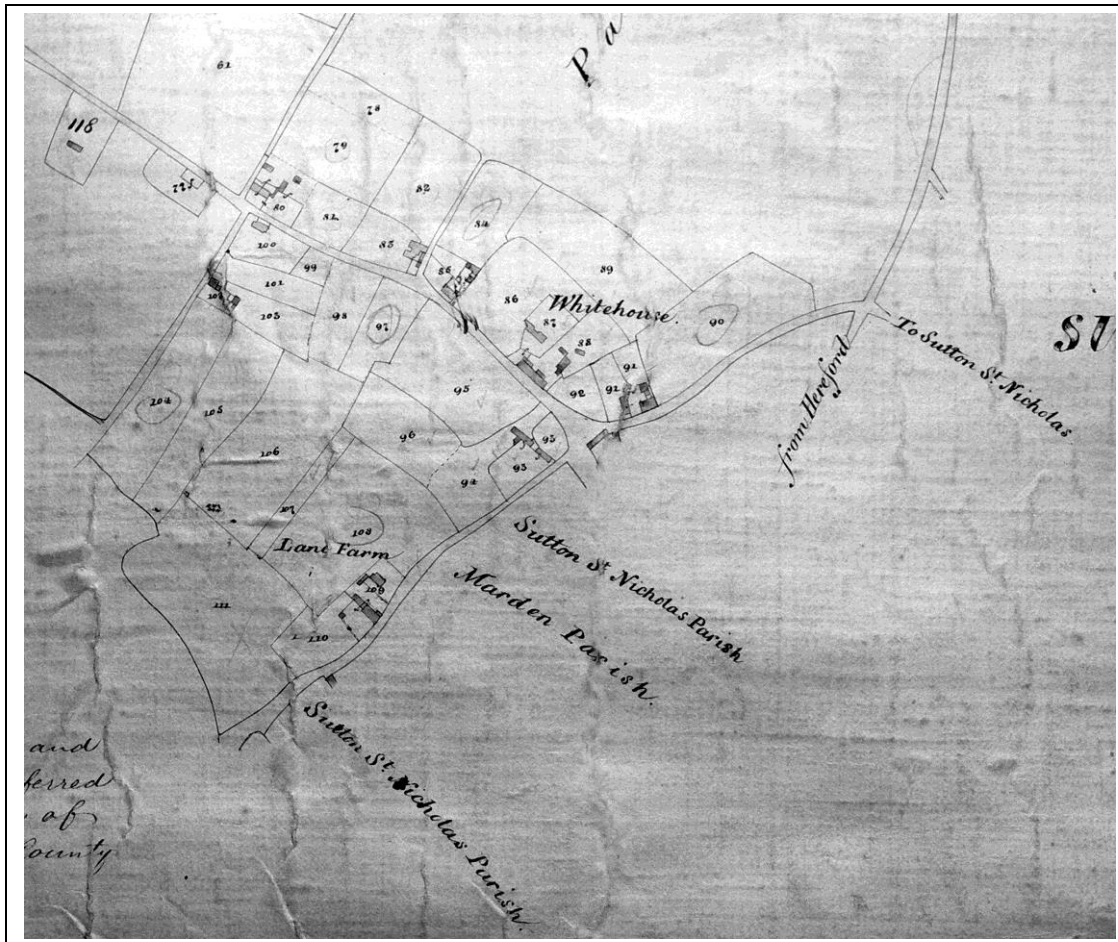
### **Maps of the area**



**Figure 1. OS map surveyed in 1885 and revised in 1902. North to the top**

The parish boundaries between Sutton St Michael, Sutton St Nicholas (the church to the bottom right of the map) and Marden parishes are rather complex in the area. Crosswell's Cottage is in Sutton St Michael. The main road from Hereford now runs northward from the middle bottom (south) of the map past the Golden Cross Inn towards the school. In the 1843 tithe maps for St Michael and St Nicholas its path was the same, although the pub was then called the Cross Inn.

However, c.1726 a map was made of the manor of Marden (HRO, J94/1). In this, the main road running through the settlement from north to south was one going to the west. (Fig. 4). To illustrate the point, it's necessary to give both tithe maps (Figs. 2 and 3), as the join between the parishes ran down the older road.



**Figure 2. Sutton St Michael tithe map, 1843. Crosswell's cottage is no. 83 (left from Whitehouse), 118 is St Michael's church**

Figure 3 is Sutton St Nicholas tithe map, 1843, west side. It is on a different alignment from the Sutton St Michael tithe map, but can be rotated to fit. Hawkers Hill leads northwards from the junction with the (Golden) Cross Inn. The OS map and Sutton St Nicholas tithe map both show the St Nicholas church.

In figure 4 it can be seen that the new main road to Hereford has been made by cutting through the fields beside some gardens. The triangle of land between the old and new cross roads was originally laid out in narrow strips facing the east-west main road and seem likely to be the remnants of open field strips. They are also visible in fig. 5.



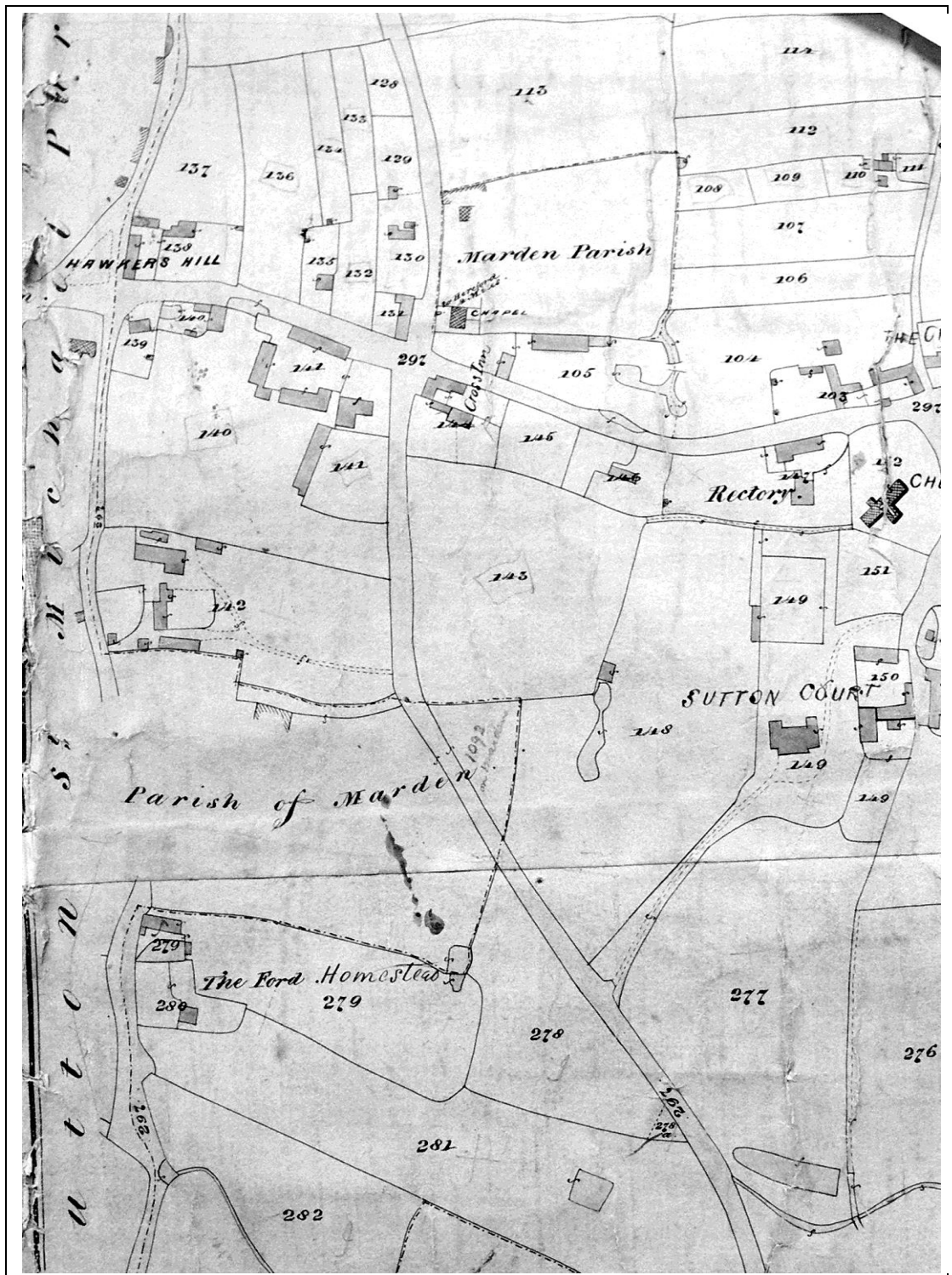


Figure 3. Sutton St Nicholas tithe map, 1843

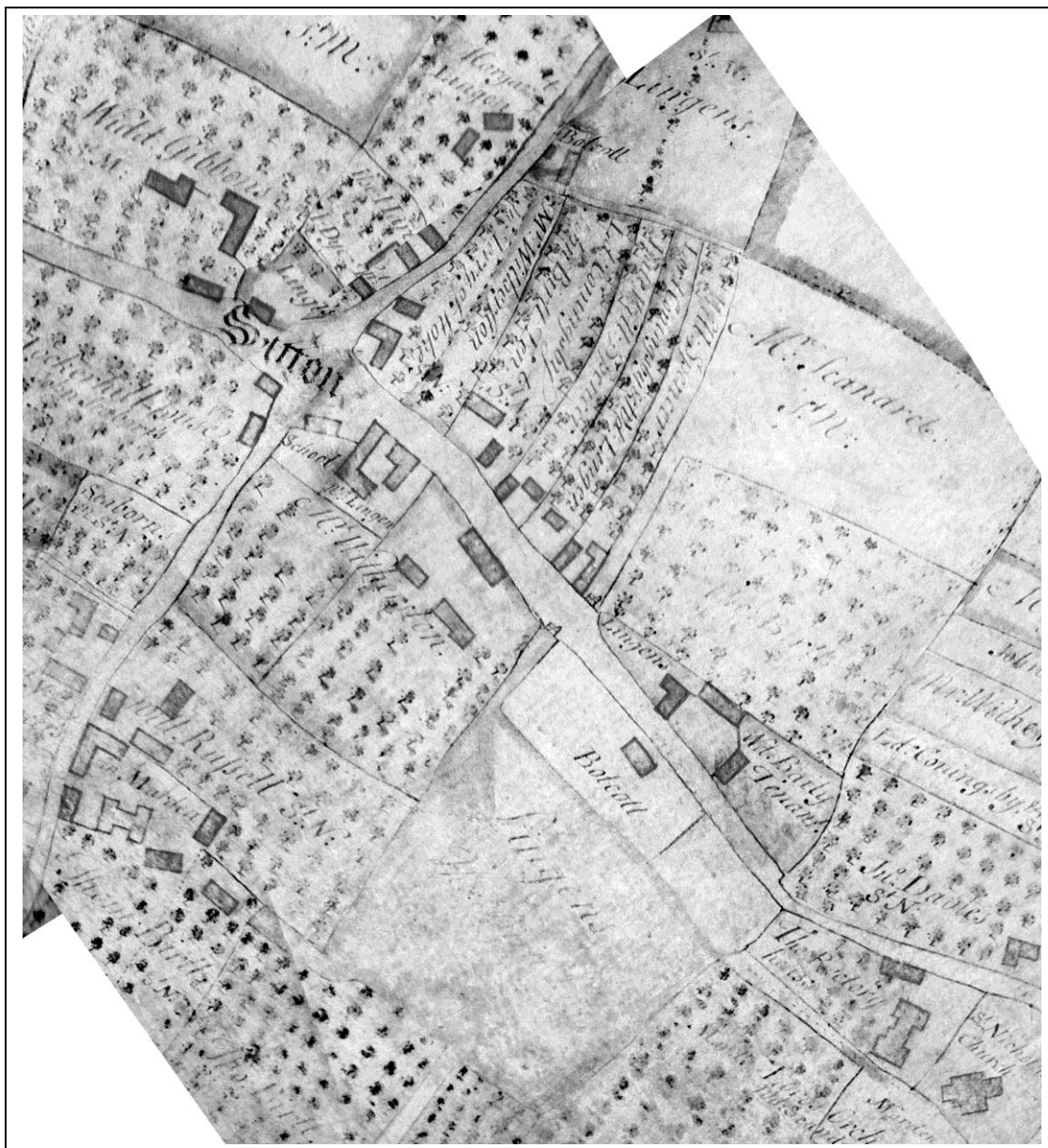


Figure 4. Part of the c.1726 map of the manor of Marden. Sutton St Nicholas church lies in the lower right corner

There is also a series of ten maps in the National Archives at Kew, which were drawn to accompany the Enclosure Award of 21 July 1819 for Marden, Sutton St Michael, Sutton St Nicholas and Withington (MPLL 1/10 - fig. 5). The bill was originally promoted in 1808, so the map was probably drawn shortly before. Although there is little time between then and the tithe map in 1843, there are changes to buildings in the interim.



**Figure 5. The enclosure award map of Marden, the Suttons and Withington 1808-19**

## Crosswell's Cottage in maps

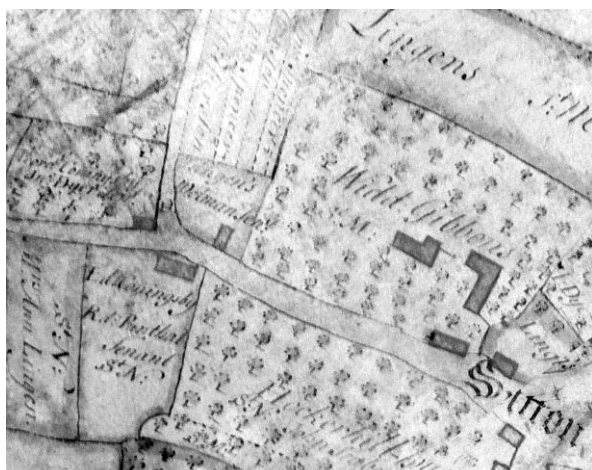


Figure 6. Map of the manor of Marden c.1726



Figure 7. Detail from enclosure map 1808-19



Figure 8. 1843 tithe map of Sutton St Michael

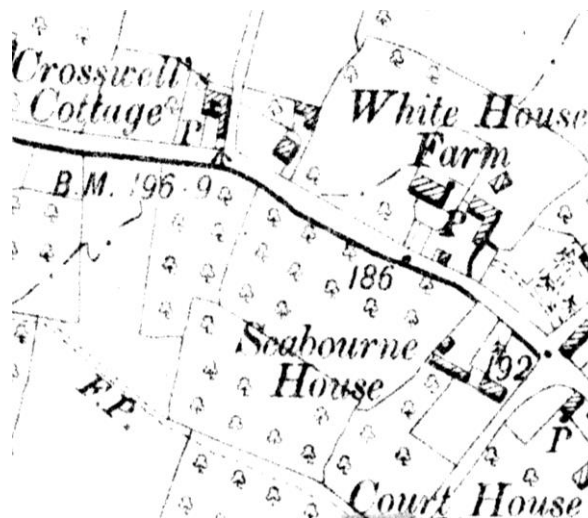


Figure 9. OS map surveyed 1885 revised 1902

A word of caution: although the 1726 map should show all buildings, the enclosure award map may not if the property was not affected by the award. There is a suspicious absence of field boundaries opposite Crosswell's Cottage which are shown in the maps from dates either side. However, there is a large building in the 1726 map to the south of the road fronting Crosswell's Cottage which has disappeared and does not re-appear in later maps, though there is a pair of cottages near the site. This may be associated with road-straightening at this point, as both Crosswell's Cottage and the building shown in plot 86 on the tithe map are shown very near to the road in 1726. It's difficult to see, but there is a gate in the lane between these two buildings.



### **The history of the name 'Crosswell's'**

The wording in the Crosswell's Cottage plot in the 1726 map says 'Lord Coningsby Jn<sup>o</sup> Dyer Ten'. On 13 October 1726 Anne Dyer married Edward Crosswell in the church of Sutton St Nicholas. Anne may have been the Anne daughter of John and Margaret Dyer who was baptised at Sutton St Michael on 20 February 1692. Neither Crosswell nor Cresswell are common names in Herefordshire and they are probably not derived from the name Craswall which is, unsurprisingly, found on the western border of Herefordshire. Edward and Anne would seem to have had children Margaret (1730), Ann (1732) and John (1735) all baptised at Sutton St Nicholas. A John Creswell had children Joseph and Martha baptised at Sutton St Nicholas on 9 May 1779.

At the time of the Enclosure Act, William Pitt of Rose Maund claimed right of common for freehold lands in Sutton St Michael and Sutton St Nicholas which 'are in William Crosswell's hands' - not 'lands' as it says in the online catalogue entry (HRO, J56/II/20). There is a list of 27 small named acreages in the Lake, Upper, Middle and Lower Fields, plus 'Five Cow-rights in the Wisthays.'

Crosswell's Cottage was field no. 83 in the 1843 tithe map, owned by William Constable. In the 1841 census his house is not named. He was a weaver aged 55 with a wife Alice and he had a son James aged 21 who was a shoemaker. By 1851 William was still in the same house, presumably, but James had moved to next-door-but-one, and was pursuing his trade as shoemaker. By 1861 William had died (1855 or 7) and so had Alice (1856). James the shoemaker was living in a dwelling called 'Addis's', but by 1871 he was living at 'Cross Wells' and in 1881 & 1891 at Creswell(s) Cottage. His widow Mary Ann was still living there in 1901. This began the tradition in the house of the 'shoemaker's shop' which persists until today.

From the fact that that Crosswell's was owned by Lord Coningsby in 1726, we can be sure that it was within the manor of Marden, which included parts of the Suttons. According to Robinson, the manor of Marden, having been owned by the Crown when it was confiscated from Francis Throckmorton after he took part in Wyatt's rebellion in 1554, was then leased to the Coningsbys and eventually purchased in 1702 by Lord Coningsby. It passed to the Arkwright family of Hampton Court in 1809. There is a series of the records of the manor in the Record Office, which may shed light on earlier ownership.

There are no Dyers or Crosswells in the Suttons and surrounding parishes in the Hearth Tax or Militia Assessment lists in the mid 1660s, nor in the Henry VIII Taxes volume. Therefore it seems likely that the house took its name from a period of occupation by Edward and Anne Cresswell and their descendants in the second half of the 18th century. At the moment the manorial records and land tax records have not been searched, but they should settle this theory.

In the 1851 census there was a James Constable, born c.1786 who farmed 50 acres, and owned considerable property at the time of the tithe map. He lived at 'Ordis' Farm, the next house along the road towards Marden - see fig. 1. (Probably this is the 'Addis's' where James the shoemaker was living in 1861, evidence of a family relationship, maybe.) Born in Sutton St Michael, he was no doubt the James baptised at Sutton St Nicholas in 1786, son of William and Frances; a Frances Newton married a William Constable in Bodenham in 1779. They had children Frances (bap. 1789), Walter (1793), Sarah and Susannah both bap. (1799). Since there is a considerable gap between William and Frances's marriage and James's baptism, it seems possible that William (born c.1781) was James's elder brother. As James was well-off, perhaps he gave Creswell's Cottage to his brother.

William Constable m 1779 may be the William Constable who died suddenly in the kitchen of James Constable at Sutton St Michael on 3 December 1827. An inquest was held on 6 December when it was decided on the oaths of two people present (James Preece of Sutton St Nicholas and a young girl Milborough Nott of Bodenham) that it was natural causes (HRO, A95/V/W/e/192).

### **Location and plan of the house**

From the map it can be seen that the house is located at a place where a 'road of husbandry' leading to the open fields leaves the main road. It is possible therefore that the original site was taken as an encroachment from the 'waste' of the manor. Certainly the early house platform is some way above the level of the husbandry road. The piece of land between the platform and this road (now overbuilt) is fairly narrow, so this may have been stolen from the road.

The house was visited by the RCHME surveyors and copies of the plan (fig. 10) and their photograph (fig. 11) and another from 1957 (fig. 12) follow. The 1957 photograph is

unlikely to be a copy of a second RCHME photo because there is no large tree behind the house.

In fig. 12, in the angle between the facing wing of the house and the 'shoemaker's shop' is a door. This leads into the room shown with a 'cider mill' in fig. 10, and its level gives some idea of the drop between the main house platform and the floor of the cider mill area.

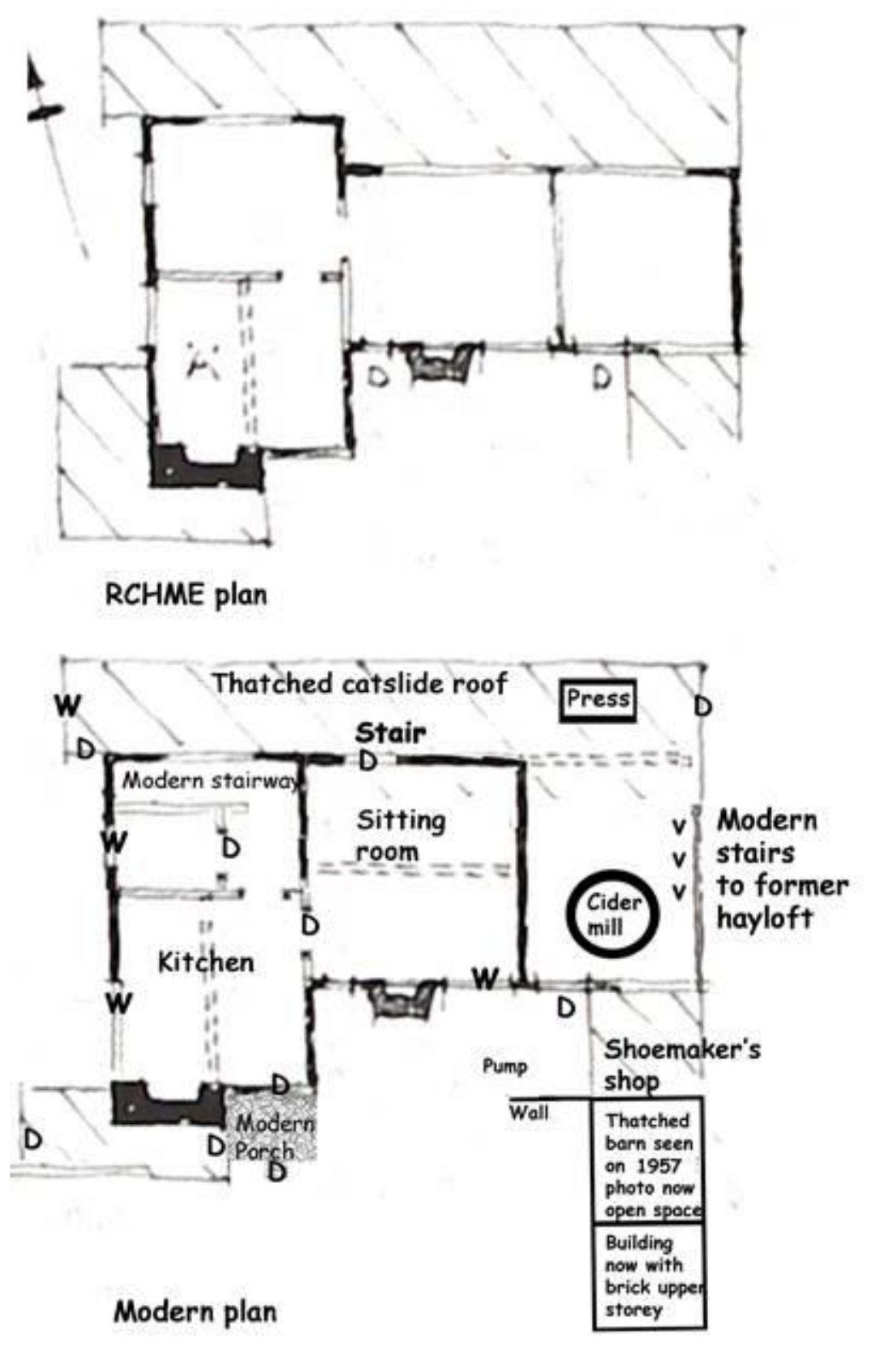


Figure 10. Comparisons of the RCHME plan (above) and a re-working of the plan after our visit



Figure 11. The RCHME photograph

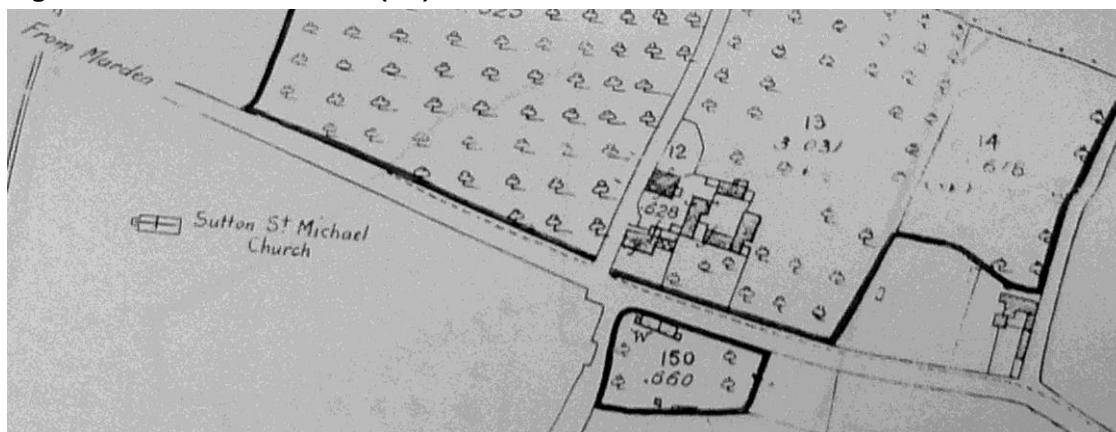


Figure 12. The photograph from 1957. Note the thatched barn to the right

The house does not look substantially different today, as the photograph below (fig. 13) was taken during our visit. the most obvious change is that the thatched barn which was to the right of the picture has disappeared.



**Figure 13. The house in 2011 (RL)**



**Figure 14. Plan from 1923 deed.**

This plan is a from a 'Conveyance of three fifth shares in Ordis Farm....' dated March 23rd 1923. Creswells Cottage is on the right, outside the black boundary which indicates the property concerned in the deed. It is quite clear that the thatched barn ran right up to the 'shoemaker's shop' which itself abutted onto the right hand side of the house and which can be seen in fig. 13. The wall which divided the yard of the house survives in part. It may well be that the half of the thatched barn nearest to the road survives as the open-sided building with a brick upper storey as shown on the plan.

### **The house construction**

Please refer to figure 10 for the plans. The original house platform seems to cover the area of the L-shaped block containing the kitchen, stairway and sitting room. However, an examination of the roof timbers at the join between the two arms of the L shows that the block containing the kitchen and the stairway was built first. This is hardly a surprise, because the large fireplace in the kitchen must surely have been the original.



The wooden lintel above the opening of the hearth is made from a fairly crude piece of timber. It seems that this aperture has been mended considerably and it is unlikely that the lintel is original (fig. 15).

Lowe, Creswells, Sutton St Michael



**Figure 15. Lintel of kitchen fireplace and beam (RS)**



**Figure 16. Latch (RL)**

The large ceiling beam is substantial and has flat chamfers and a plain scroll stop. This beam is similar in design and shape to the cross beam in the sitting room, so that although the sitting room wing was added to the original kitchen block, the fact that they also share the building platform would seem to indicate that not much time separated the two builds.

The size of the timber used in the timber-framing in these two parts of the house is similar, and the square panels a consistent size.

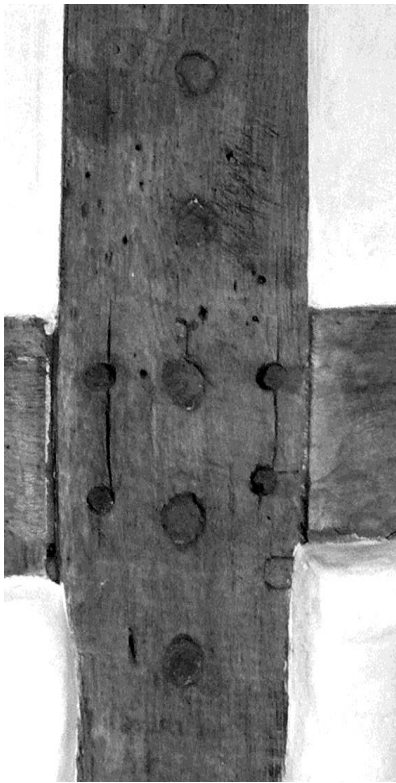
There is an early-mid 17th-century latch on the door between the kitchen and the passage to the stairs, though the door may have been moved. (figure 16, left).

The RCHME surveyors noted that they were refused access to the house, hence on their plan they have shown the north end of the kitchen block projecting beyond the north end of the sitting room block; this is not the case, the north wall runs straight along, the joins between timbers being at the junctions of the two blocks. No carpenters' marks were seen on this, the former outside wall. Some of the panelling has been infilled with brick.

A door now leads from the kitchen to the sitting room. As one goes through this door, the wall to the left in the sitting room has traces of a wall-painting on the plaster infill between the timber-framing. The pattern is reminiscent of folded and draped cloth, in a pale brown and dark red palette.

Another door (with another old latch) now leads through the north wall of this room to a new staircase which takes one down to the ground level below the house platform. Several of the upright timbers inside the sitting room in this north wall have vertical columns of circular depressions in addition to the holes for the timber-framing pegs, some running floor to ceiling (figure 17). One would normally expect these depressions, which aren't deep, to hold the ends

of staves which had had the panel filling woven around them - but they normally run vertically with the thinner woven sticks or twigs horizontal. As the uprights with the holes are only separated by a panel or two, i.e. too close to delineate separate rooms, it may be that these timbers have been turned through 90°.



**Figure 17. Part of a vertical column of depressions in an upright timber (RL)**



**Figure 18. Symbol in a horizontal timber in the sitting room (RS)**



**Figure 19. Junction of the older kitchen block roof (to the right) and a timber of the sitting room block (RS)**



**Figure 20. Possible attachment trench for a pentice support (RL)**

Another (horizontal) timber in the room, on the east wall, has a symbol incised into the wood (figure 18). A later fireplace has been put into the south wall in the sitting room, with an external chimney. Upstairs, the join between the kitchen block roof and the sitting room block can be seen at the entrance to the bedroom over the sitting room (fig. 19). The inserted timber (painted white) on the left is part of the wall of this bedroom.

At some time the building was extended on the north side, but the sequence of events is difficult to work out. It seems quite possible that there was originally a pentice. There is some evidence for this on the outside of the original north wall, where there are at least two places where the timber uprights have trenches where the pentice supports could have been connected (fig. 20). What is not obvious from the plan is that the floor of the wrap-around extension under the catslide roof is not only at a much lower level than the floor level of the older part of the house, but also that there is a considerable slope from the kitchen end of the extension towards the cider mill (fig. 21). The kitchen end of the extension now sticks out past the line of the original kitchen block (see fig. 22), but from evidence in the north wall of the extension this is a later addition.



**Figure 21. Slope of ground level of extension. (RL)**



**Figure 22. Entrance into extension. (RS)**

Inside the wider end of the extension where the cider mill lies some of the earlier thatch has been exposed under plastic sheeting. The extension has no upper floor along its northern wall as the slope of the roof is too great, but there is an upper floor above the cider mill, formerly a hay-loft accessed from outside, but now there is an internal staircase to it. In this room the end of the upper floor of the sitting room block is exposed (Fig. 23). This timber framing would have been open to the outside. There are some punched carpenters' marks (Fig. 24)



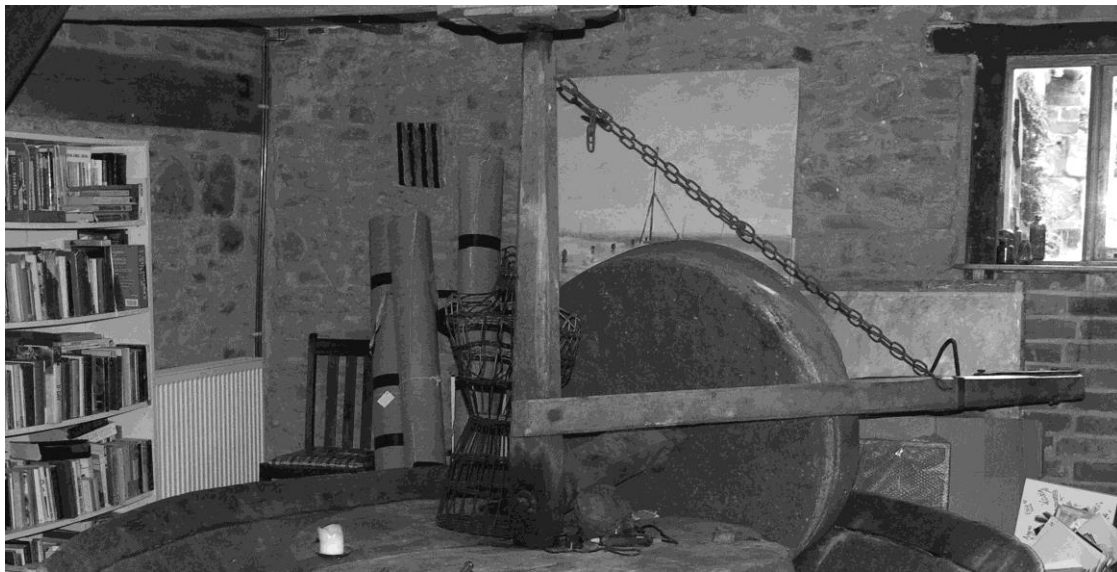
**Figure 23. Outside wall of sitting room wing (RL)**



**Figure 24. Punched carpenters' marks (RS)**

The opposite end of this previous hay barn, which butts onto the husbandry road to the east of the plot is stone on the lower floor level, then brick at the base of the first floor level, finally timber-framed in the apex of the roof. The timbers are fairly thin.

The most interesting features of the lower floor are the cider mill and the cider press shown on the plan. The cider mill occupies a good proportion of the floor space; it is still usable. The external diameter is 8 feet (2.43m) and the width of the channel across the top is 2 feet, which means the central hub is 4feet in diameter. (Unfortunately the lower half is obscured in fig. 25 below.)



**Figure 25. Cider mill showing the pushing bar (RL)**

It would seem that at some stage the original (conjectural) pentice was converted into a covered space by erecting a wall on the north side of the building platform and throwing a roof across from it to the house roof. The further extension to the hay loft with cider mill under and the extension of the catslide roof (at both ends) to the current extent may have happened in two phases. The other feature of this lower level is the cider press (fig. 26).





**Figure 26. Two views of the cider press (RL, RS)**

The cider press is very difficult to photograph, but these two photos should give a good idea of its shape and the massive nature of the cross-beam, which is supported on much flimsier uprights. The cross-beam is symmetrical front to back and top to bottom i.e. it has matching chamfers and stops on all four 'edges' of the beam. The beam is about 12" front to back and 17" top to bottom, the flat face between the chamfers on the front is 10" and the chamfers are 5" wide. The chamfers are virtually flat.

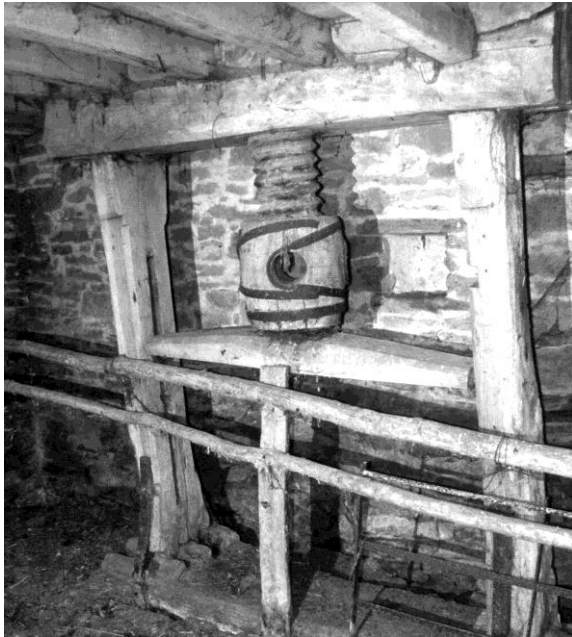
z by a single wooden peg seen projecting from the beam. This, in effect, makes it easily demountable, though it must weigh a considerable amount. The timber of the beam has a rich patina and it was impossible to tell what it was. The end stops are beautifully and elegantly carved. The metal screw for the press is almost certainly a replacement for an original in timber.



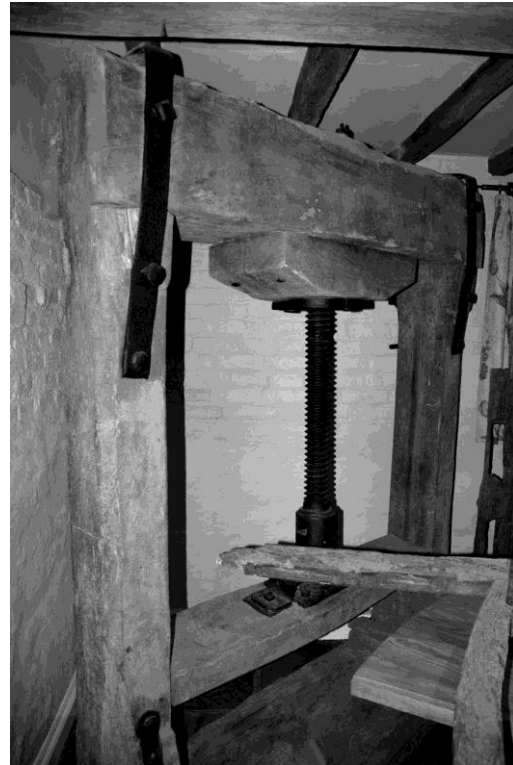
**Figure 27. Date on the cider press upright**

At first glance it seemed impossible that such a beautiful beam should have been originally designed for a cider press, certainly one for a humble cottage. However, Duncan James has seen a few similar beams in his travels around the older timber-framed houses of the county, and has kindly sent some examples (figs 28 and 29). There is a possibility that the press beam (and perhaps the mill as well) were moved from somewhere else to the house, and the roofing of this part of the house was done to shelter them. The date '1808' has been carved into one of the uprights (fig. 27) and may signify the date the press was set up here, which would fit comfortably with the style of the additional door at the western end of the lean-to. This leads to the orchard, as it happens.

The enclosure map (1807-8, probably) does not show the addition to the western end of the catslide roof, and in fact the extra building containing the cider press and mill does not seem to be there either. It seems that a good case can be made for dating this to 1808.



**Figure 28 (above).** A cider press in Steventon Manor barn. The wooden screw is 18th century. The beam has a slight chamfer (Duncan James)



**Figure 29 (right).** The cider press from Whitbourne Old Rectory. No chamfers, but a massive cross-beam (Duncan James)

Neither of the presses above have a cross-beam of the quality of that at Cresswell Cottage, nor did one I photographed at Mainoaks, a wealthy farm in Goodrich. It is possible that it came from the building shown in the 1726 map lying on the opposite side of the main road from the cottage, which had disappeared by the enclosure map of 1808-7. This was owned by Lord Coningsby but tenanted by 'Rd: Panthal' ; it is difficult to read, but a Richard Pantall married Anne Gibbons in Sutton St Michael in 1673 and had children including another Richard.

### **The shoemaker's shop**

Immediately adjacent to the south of the cider mill building is a later single-storey single-roomed building known as the shoemaker's shop. The entrance faces onto the yard now but there appears to be a blocked-up doorway facing onto the husbandry road, and this could have been used to enter James Constable's shop. It has a chimney so was heated.

### **The thatched barn**

The shoemaker's shop was fitted into the gap between the building with the cider mill and the thatched barn shown to the right of fig. 12. The enclosure map does not show a building here, just a couple of lines (of walls?). It would seem very likely that as well as the erection of the building over the cider mill and press a new barn was constructed. All would have required the services of the thatcher. The end of the barn nearest the shoemaker's shop has gone, though the lower part of the stone wall adjacent to it remains. The rest of the barn or a replacement remains as a building which has lost one side, and so is open to the elements. The lower part of the wall next to the husbandry road is stone, maybe an earlier boundary wall, but the upper part and the other two walls are brick. The 1957 photo (fig. 12) shows it was lapped, so maybe there was timber-framing underneath.

### **The wash- or bakehouse**

The best view of this building is from the west of the house (fig. 30). It is hard to see from the front of the house because its roof slopes towards the front.



**Figure 30. View from the west side of the house of the added outbuilding. (RL)**

The north side of this building is mostly built in stone, as is the back of the bread oven, but the rest is brick. It is shown on the 1843 tithe map, but whether it was originally all stone and then partially rebuilt in brick is not known.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The *Cresswells* is a well-built house probably constructed in the early to mid 17th century by or for a relatively well-to-do tenant of the Coningsby family. It may have superseded an encroachment dwelling on the edge of the junction between the main road and the husbandry road leading to the open field to the north. Given the lack of a platform for it, it seems unlikely that there was cross-wing to the east of the remaining house.

The extension of the house northwards along its length and further at either end may well have been around 1808. As this often happens on change of owner it may have been when the Constable family came into it. Further research in the land tax returns and the Coningsby records might confirm this.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to thank the house owner for showing us around the house. Also thanks to Duncan James for photos and advice of cider presses. Other photos were taken by Rosamund Skelton (RS) and Roz Lowe (RL).

## **Field Meeting in Stoke Lacy Parish on Sunday 5th June, 2011 Rosamund Skelton**

My attention was first drawn to Stoke Lacy parish by the survival on the Tithe Map of 1842 of parts of the old open fields still divided into unenclosed strips. These were Great Field south of the A465 from Hereford to Bromyard and SE of the village, Huddle Field north of the A465 and west of the village and Cross Field on either side of the A465 and NE of the village near the Plough Inn, and Wilden Field NW of Upper Woodend Farm.

The first objective was to investigate evidence on the ground for the route and source of the leat feeding Huddle Mill. The other objective was to assess the nature of the settlement in Stoke Lacy in relation to the four surviving open fields on the Tithe Map of 1842. The Land Tax records for the parish of 1777, 1799 and 1810 name two divisions.

In 1777 the Lower Division included the Rectory lands and a total of 6 holdings paying more than £1 in tax with 15 more minor holdings. The other division had Lodenbrooke written beside it and had 8 large holdings, one of which was Hall Place north of Stoke Cross, and 20 minor holdings. In 1799 the Lower Division was called the "1st Division" and Lodenbrooke was called the "2nd Division". The 1st Division may have been the village stretching from Church House Farm to Stoke Hill to the south including the Rectory and Nethercourt. The Great Field and Huddle Field may have been associated with the village holdings as part of a two-field system as there are few other houses or farms around these fields. The 2nd Division includes substantial isolated farms such as Mintridge and Newton, but there is also the farm at Upper Woodend and a straggle of small houses climbing up the hill to the location of Wilden Field.

Meeting initially at the car park by the church, we set off to look at the remains of Huddle Mill and to find the mill leat which supplied it with water. The ruins lie about half a mile north of the big mill in the middle of the village, on the River Lodon. As can be seen from the photograph the ruins are composed of both brick and stone walls possibly of the 19th century. A ditch is visible near the NW corner of the ruin and strangely the square brick built chamber seems to have an opening in each of the four sides. One or two are "door" sized whereas the others are smaller and may indicate the location of the wheel. But the smallness of the building is puzzling. Jean Hopkinson produced a copy of a photograph of a timber-framed cottage which is shown to the west of the mill site on the Tithe Map. This photograph is in the Bromyard Local History collection. Owing to the presence of a large number of frolicsome bullocks gathering around us I deemed it unwise to try and pursue the line of the leat which seems to follow the line of the field boundary between Hales Hopyard and Mill Meadow on the east side of the river. Jean recalls this line having trees along it in the past but there is neither hedge nor trees now.





## Huddle Mill

Retreating to the village we collected the car and drove down the narrow lanes to Upper Woodend Farm. The farmhouse is timber framed and may be 17th century. The long barn adjacent to the road is also timber framed with the structure being largely concealed by weather boarding. We had permission to look at the barn whose centre portion has cruck frame trusses resting on low stone wall foundations with a few woven infill panels but mostly weather boarded. The cruck frames suggest a possible late medieval date for this part of the barn. The west end had lower stone foundations of a later build with roof trusses resting on the timber framed walls which were also weather boarded. Lower Woodend was a stone built house with brick quoins and may be 19th century, it is shown on the Tithe Map of 1842. Driving on up the lane with widely scattered houses, a few of them timber framed, we stopped to look across the Lodon valley to where Huddle Field occupied the crest of the opposite side of the valley on fluvo-glacial deposits as also does the Great Field further south on the same side of the valley. It is noteworthy that all the open fields lie on the high interfluvies between the minor tributaries of the Lodon ranging in height from 125m to 145m.

At "The Folly" a very tall 17th century high-status timber-framed house, we turned round to go and have refreshments at the Plough Inn at Stoke Cross. After lunch we looked at the just visible remains of ridge and furrow in The Cross Field beside a public footpath leading to Crossfield Common and then drove past Hall Place and Tuthill Farm and down the lane to the footpath north of Upper Sough Farm. By this time the weather was deteriorating so after a walk across what had once been Wilden open field, where there did not appear to be any traces of ridge and furrow, we looked at the remains of a stone built cottage adjacent to the road. This seems to have had two storeys, with one room on each floor and a small side extension added at a later date. The cottage appears on the Tithe map of 1842 and may have been built in the late 18th or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is the only surviving ruin of a number of



cottages shown on the east side of Wilden Field.

## Derelict cottage near Wilden Field

## CONCLUSIONS

The evidence from the Tithe Apportionment for the following farms in the village confirm that each of them has a few acres in both Great and Huddle Fields and in no other fields, Upper House, White House and Brick House. Church House Farm on the other hand has 3 pieces in Wilden Field and none in any of the others. It is still a possibility that the village had a two field system based on Great and Huddle Fields, but further research is required.

Wilden Field seems to have a different history from the other open fields, in that most places owning land within it, do not own land in any of the other open fields. It is quite noticeable that small houses are scattered around all sides of Wilden Field on the Tithe Map, although now only a few survive on the east side while the west side has a small metalled lane giving access to the houses. The ruined cottage mentioned earlier, represents one of the vanished cottages on the east side. A few of the houses are timber-framed dating to the 17th or 18th centuries and more incorporate fragments of timber framing with later stone or brick built extensions. This suggests that owners of land in this field may have seen advantage in building houses on their own plots rather than remaining in a central "village" location or that the field was developed at a later date than the other open fields in the parish and therefore the location of houses took a different form. A critical factor would be the accessibility of a water supply so presumably there is easily accessible water on this high ground. More research may throw further light on this settlement pattern. Cross Field like Wilden Field has been settled by scattered cottages, but does not appear to be linked to any other of the open fields, in the way that Great Field and Huddle Field are in various holdings.

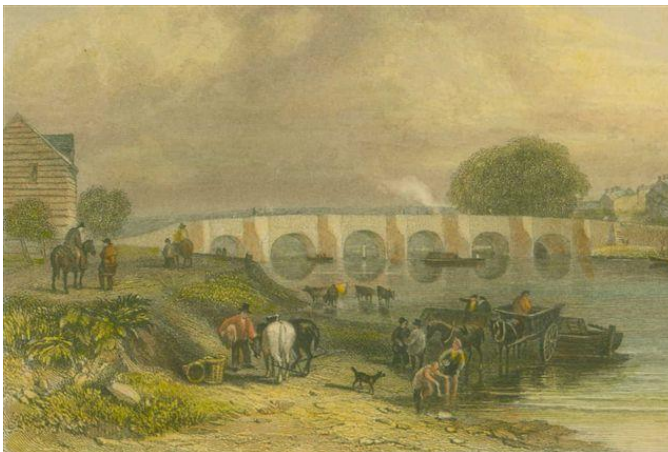
## Field Meeting to the Riverside at Ross on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 by Heather Hurley

This was a joint meeting with the Friends of the Herefordshire Record Office to walk along the riverside looking at sites associated with navigation, river crossings, riverside trades, the Wye tour and Wilton Castle. The river has been important in the development of Ross providing water, fish, power and communication.



### Under the arches of Wilton bridge (Photo: Fenny Smith)

Starting at Wilton Bridge we descended on the south side so that the unaltered side of the late 16th century stone bridge could be seen, passing through one of the arches. It was built as a toll bridge enabled by The Bridge act of 1597 and completed by 1600. Previous to this there had been many accidents at the ford and ferry crossing due to the “furious and dangerous” river and the overloading of boats. The Act allowed the Lord of Wilton to be compensated for the loss of the ferry, and in 1612 Thomas Webbe’s will enabled the bridge to be made free from the toll. Over the years the bridge was continually repaired and strengthened and in 1939 it was widened on the north side to allow military vehicles to cross. There were proposals to restore the bridge to its original width but in 1993 with the agreement of English Heritage the bridge was refurbished as it is. In the plague years of the 1630’s Ross was in quarantine, so provisions were left at the parapets and payments were left in buckets of vinegar to prevent infection. During the Civil War of the 1640’s, one arch of the bridge was destroyed and the ford rendered impassable by the Royalists. The sundial was erected in 1718 by Jonathan Barrow and reads: *‘Esteem thy precious time which pass so swift away; Prepare then for eternity, and do not make delay’*.



Wilton wharf 1840 by W. Radclyffe co Mrs S Preece



Wilton barge 1755

HRO C59-6 CRW\_8282



Wilton Quay and Wharves: from the late 17th century a serious attempt was made to establish the Wye as a commercial waterway with the first known cargoes recorded from Wilton about 1720. Warehouses and coal wharves were constructed to serve the river trade. Cargoes included coal, hampers, bottles, cheese, bags, peas, grain, pantiles, timber and large quantities of bark for tanning. A common barge in 1763 was 50 foot long, 11 feet wide and between 18 to 20 tons with a hauling rope, mast and square sail. Boats were hauled upstream by ropes ties high up on the mast pulled by men.

The Ross wharves were situated either side of the road on the east side of Wilton Bridge, where in 1810 Charles Jones of the Cleeve freighted flour, wheat and lime on the river. In the 1820's many tradesmen loaded and unloaded goods which included wine, pots, soap, nails, leather, paper, cheese, herrings etc.



#### **Ross dock 1800s B Powle (H Mus)**

Wilton Castle was built to control the river crossing and dates from the 13th century on the site of a motte and bailey. The Longchamps were Lords of the Manor in the 13th century and it subsequently passed to the de Greys and then the Brydges by inheritance. In 1578 Charles Brydges converted part of it to a Tudor mansion and during the Civil War that part was burnt down by the Royalists while John Brydges was at church. It was then left as a charred and ruined building until it was bought by Guy's Hospital in 1731 who built part of the existing house in the gatehouse. The site was sold with just over 2 acres of land in 1961.

Walking beside the river, the height of the causeway from the foot of the cliff on which the town stands to the bridge is very apparent, with a large arch near the cliff and several smaller ones further along to allow the floodwaters over the riverside to disperse through the causeway. In the medieval period the road and causeway from Ross to Wilton was repaired by the Bishops of Hereford because they owned the Manor of Ross and good access to the town would be necessary for trade. In 1602 Joan Herbert of Alton bequeathed 40 shillings for the mending of the causeway and John Kyrle raised funds to restore the causeway at the end of the 17th century, which was commemorated by an inscribed pillar which has since disappeared. The steep Dock Pitch (now Wye St.) was replaced during the 1830's with Wilton Road to provide an easier gradient for horses.





**1989 Wye Invader (photo: Heather Hurley)**

Ross Dock was in use from the late 17th century when navigation up and down the river was established and in 1720 Ross enjoyed 'a good trade on the River Wye'. In 1827 'great quantities of cider, hops, oak-bark, wood, wheat and timber' were exported downstream, and 'coal, slates and heavy goods' were imported. The river trade began to decline after the completion of the Hereford to Gloucester Canal in 1845 and ceased after the opening of the railway in 1855. In 1989 the 150 foot long, 230 ton motor barge called the Wye Invader took one year to navigate the Wye from Ross to Hereford.

The Wye tour: from 1750 John Egerton, Rector of Ross, entertained his wealthy friends and relatives, treating them to a boat trip down the Wye to explore and admire its untamed beauty. It created a fashion, attracting poets, writers and artists seeking the Picturesque. The Wye tour was commercialised by boatmen and innkeepers. In July, 1802 Lord Nelson and his guests after breakfasting at the Swan & Falcon decided to take a boat to Monmouth instead of the carriage. Followed by the excited townsfolk the party walked through the town and descended through the pleasure grounds of Walter Hill (now Merton House) and embarked on a pleasure boat. We saw the arched gateway in the stonewall surrounding the garden, through which Lord Nelson passed onto the riverside.

The Hope & Anchor is the pub by the old dock and now has extensive open air seating on the riverside. In the late 18th century, Stephen Lane a victualler, shared the premises with a basket maker, glazier and a flax dresser in a building owned by Joseph Evans in 1782. This property blossomed into the Hope & Anchor serving beer and cider to thirsty bargees and people on the Wye Tour. A succession of pleasure boat proprietors and boat builders ran the pub in the 18th century. Before the parish boundary alterations in 1931, a strip of land along the river was within Bridstow Parish as was Wilton.

Wilton Bridge and ford were probably the earliest river crossing here, the next in time being the A40 river bridge at Bridstow designed by Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick and completed in 1960 to link Ross and the A40 to the M52. Another river crossing was the Mill Brook Roving of 1779 where the tow path crossed the river near the mouth of the Rudhall Brook. At the foot of Wye Street (formerly Dock Pitch) there was a private boat probably operated by Henry Dowell & Sons, boat builders at the Hope & Anchor during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Continuing on beside the river to the Rudhall Brook we turned up along the brook to the site of the One Mill fenced off with iron railings. This, called the New Mill was built in the early 15th century and later was known as the One Mill was worked by the Morgan family. From the mill pond a leat supplied water to power the engine at the waterworks near the Hope & Anchor, which had pumped water from the river up to the town since the time of John Kyrle in 1705. By 1820 Thomas Tovey was running the waterworks which supplied water to every house at a reasonable rate. Towards the end of the 19th century the expanded population needed an improved supply, and the One Mill became disused and was demolished.



### **Rope Walk Ross (Photo: Fenny Smith)**

Returning down the path beside the leat, known as the “Rope Walk”, a reminder of the rope manufactured from hemp grown locally, at the Rope House and along 300 yards of this walk. In 1779 the rope maker, John Newton, held utensils and stock valued at £150 in his workhouse. Heather showed us a piece of rope made from flax. Baskets were also made on the riverside from withies grown locally.



**1907 Domesday oak HCL**

### **Domesday Oak (photo: Fenny Smith)**

Turning up beside the Hope & Anchor we climbed up through Blake’s Garden. This garden, on the site of demolished buildings and the town baths, was dedicated to the memory of Thomas Blake (1825-1901) one of the many Ross benefactors. At the top beside the pavement is the socket stone of a medieval cross that is thought to have stood at the junction of the High Street and Edde Cross Street. A shaft was discovered in the grounds of Merton House in 1917, but it was not the right size for the socket. Returning along Wye Street to the Wilton Car Park, on the other side of the river in the middle of the horse shoe bend, could be seen two parts of a single tree, this is the “Domesday Oak”. In 1896 the circumference was 45 ft and only calculated to date from the 15th century. In 1907 the tree was photographed and was considered to be 1100 years old.

Finally the trip was rounded off by an excellent tea at Wiltondale by the kind invitation of Shirley Preece to whom many thanks for her hospitality.

Compiled by Rosamund Skelton from notes by Heather Hurley.