

# HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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## HAN

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### **Editorial Message** by Rosalind Lowe

I must apologise to ARS members on two counts:

- firstly that it has been so long since you have received a copy of HAN. As you know, this has been because we did not have enough papers submitted to make a decent volume.
- secondly, that too many of the papers in this HAN are by me, some of them lengthy. HAN gives us the space to record buildings, in particular, in a more detailed way than is possible in the Club's main *Transactions*. Whether papers are written in consequence of a field visit by the ARS or the main Club, or as the result of being asked by the owner to make a survey, a lot of effort goes into researching the history and topography of the site in order to give a rounded picture. Hopefully these notes on sources make the paper more interesting for ARS readers.

**Moor Abbey, Middleton-on-the-Hill** by Rosalind Lowe and David Lovelace, with contributions from Rosamund Skelton, John Freeman, Edward Peters and Joan Grundy

David Lovelace organised a field meeting on 16 May 2015 for the main Woolhope Club, initially to see Moor Abbey's historic landscape features and its veteran trees, but also to observe a tree-growth measurement experiment he was conducting. Two Club members, Roz (Rosalind) Lowe and Rosamund Skelton, had made a survey of some of the farm buildings in 2013 to assist an application for funding for renovation. As this had been successful and the work completed, it was decided that the visit could be extended to cover the buildings and the historical research that had taken place in 2013. Twenty Club members and friends enjoyed a full day at Moor Abbey. We were fortunate to have with us expert members John Freeman (place names), Edward Peters and John Grundy (farm buildings and their use) and Robert Walker (dovecotes) to give us their views.

**'Moor Abbey' place name**

In the recent past it has been believed that the 'Abbey' name implied that Moor Abbey was the site of a monastic establishment. However, John Freeman told members that he believed that 'Abbey' is a corruption of the name of the original owners of the estate. The first mention of Moor Abbey appears to be in c.1280x90 in the cartularies of Reading Abbey, when John de St Aubin granted the manor of *La More*, *Westintone* and *Witesy* to the abbey. *Westintone* and *Witesy*, both names now lost, appear also to have been in or near Middleton on the Hill. A John de Sancto Albino (St Aubin), possibly another John, had held the manor of Middleton in 1243 (Book of Fees). In 1291 Leominster Priory, the daughter-house of Reading Abbey, had two carucates at *Mora*. Then in the 1292 Assize Roll the Abbot of Reading and six others are accused of disseising Adam Aubyn of his free tenement in *Westiton'* and *More Aubyn iuxta Leoministr'*. In 1386 Reading Abbey acquired the whole lordship of *Awbynsmore* from William Awbyn. In 1407 the name is again *Moreaubyn*, but in 1595 we find *Moreabyn* and in 1609<sup>1</sup> *Moore Abin*. By 1651<sup>2</sup> the name had reached more or less its modern form, *Moore Abby*; in c.1675 it was described as 'a gentile seat of John Waldron' (Blount's collections for a history of Herefordshire).

So we can trace the development of the name from the simple *La More* through *More Aubyn*, *Awbynsmore* and *Moreaubyn* to *Moor Abbey*. The addition *Abbey* seems to have been a refashioning of *Aubyn*, *Abyn* by the process known as folk-etymology (the replacement of an unfamiliar, 'opaque' form by a more familiar, 'transparent' one). The change was understandable and not inappropriate, since the place had formerly been a possession of Reading Abbey.

**Moor Abbey history**

As part of the 2013 survey, some historical research was done because this can point to changes of ownership when major building work is often undertaken. Since 2013, the closure of Herefordshire Record Office has put a stop to the research, though more early information can probably be found.

At the Dissolution the properties of Leominster Priory, which belonged to Reading Abbey, including Moor Abbey came into the possession of the Crown in the form of the manor of Leominster. It was then granted to various tenants who would normally just have taken the revenue. James I granted it to his favourite George Villiers, Marquis, later the 1st Duke, of Buckingham. The latter was assassinated in 1628 when in his thirties, while his son George was still an infant. George 2nd needed money and supposedly sold Moor Abbey to one Phillips, son of Leominster's MP possibly about 1630. George had a gift for alienating people, and he was lucky to be given back his possessions after the restoration of Charles II in 1660. In spite of the Civil War, there is a book in Herefordshire Record Office dated 1651 which contains a list of all the 2nd Duke's properties in Herefordshire which had fallen into the hands of Henry Marten, son of one of Charles I's regicides. Moor Abbey is shown among them, and the acreage of Moor Abbey belonging to Thomas Phillips is given. Freehold landholders had to pay an annual fee to the lord of the manor of Leominster, in this case, which was Marten. Among the named fields is 'Hoppiard' which was 0a.0r.24p (perches). The 2nd Duke died childless in 1687, and his property was dispersed, but in any case Moor Abbey had gone was no longer in Buckingham's ownership by this time.

The RCHME surveyors noted in 1933 that there was a damaged fireback in one of the outhouses, with the date 1637 and the initials PC (or could it be CP?).

In 1671 a Matthew Pitt of Moor Abbey died. He was a rich man who left all his property to the children of his sister Mary who was married to a John Waldron. They had numerous children including a younger son Matthew, to whom Moor Abbey was bequeathed in Matthew Pitt's will.<sup>3</sup> This Matthew and his wife, another Mary, had a son and heir Matthew. Matthew Waldron senior had money difficulties and in 1719, with the agreement of his wife and heir, he leased the farm and part of the house to John Smith of Edwin Ralph, while retaining the use of a good part of the farmhouse.<sup>4</sup> This lease specifically mentions that Smith had 'the young hopyard in the Hayse and liberty to cut down and carry hoppoles...to the said hopyard and the liberty to make use of a kiln for drying the hops'. Smith also had liberty to 'cut down three cords of wood to make coal [charcoal] for the drying of hops should there be occasion'. The Waldrons agreed 'to build one or two new kilns as there shall be occasion.' Does this mean that there was already a hop kiln, but more may have been built?

No mention is made of pigeons or squabs - a notable exception as Smith's crops would pay the price for a dovecote and an arrangement would need to be made about the rights to the squabs. These were an important source of quality meat early in the year and again in the later summer, and had a high selling price.

### The 18th century and later

By 1737 Matthew Waldron of Moor Abbey raised a mortgage for £240 with Thomas Smith of Stoke, Burford.<sup>5</sup> In this deed it says that Matthew Pitt had purchased Moor Abbey from George, late Duke of Buckingham and Reynold Graham, the latter presumably holding the Duke's mortgage. This would place the date of the purchase between 1660 and 1671.

It is not entirely clear how Moor Abbey came into the possession of the Edmunds family, but the John Edmunds who owned it in 1841 was married in 1805 to Ann Pitt. He had two sons, John George and Thomas. Thomas ran the farm as a bailiff, initially for his brother John George who disappeared from Moor Abbey in the 1850s. Thomas had four sons, John George, Thomas, Richard and George Henry. George Henry died in 1907, Thomas in 1916 and Richard in 1938, all having remained single. Richard appears in a court case in 1918, when he was fined for not cultivating the nominated amount of land under the various acts put in place because of WWI. It is clear that possibly because of manpower shortages Moor Abbey and the other farms he owned (Bilbury, Nunupton and Drayton) were largely uncultivated and in some cases infested with rats.

### The layout of Moor Abbey buildings

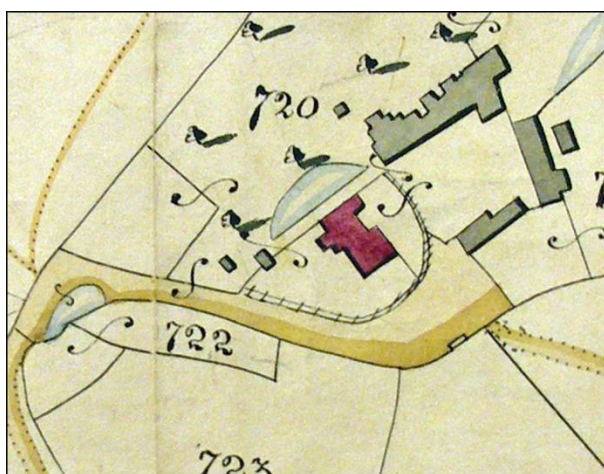


Figure 1. 1841 tithe map showing house (red) and farm buildings (green), most around the yard.

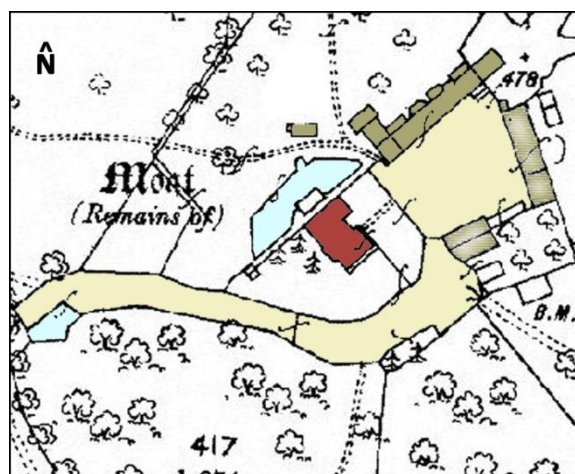


Figure 2. The 1885 OS map; the buildings surveyed in 2013 in darker green to the north.

### The 2013 survey

In 2013 Roz and Rosamund were unable to access all rooms in the buildings for safety or security reasons, but member Edward Peters had made a survey of these some years before.

The buildings surveyed are in two lots: firstly, a long range of buildings to the north-west of the farmyard, comprising parts known as granary, dovecote,<sup>6</sup> cowhouse, hay barn and an open building with silos (see Fig. 3); secondly, a separate building which may have been a wash-house, cookhouse and/or brewery with an attached bell tower, to west of the first block. On the tithe map a small building is shown to the north-west of the long range, but is unlikely to be the tower alone.

What is not apparent from the maps is that the land slopes sharply from the south down to the farmyard, when it levels out. Springs rise on the hillside and feed the pond below the house. The wide curved roadway or track to the south of the house, shown separated from the house by a fence in the tithe map, is higher than the level of the pond below the house, the northern wall of which is considerably built up to retain the water. Whether in fact there was a *wet moat* originally is therefore open to question, though the 1719 lease specifically mentions 'the Garden within the Mote', which could only be to the south-east of the house, as there is no other room for it.

### The main range of farm buildings surveyed

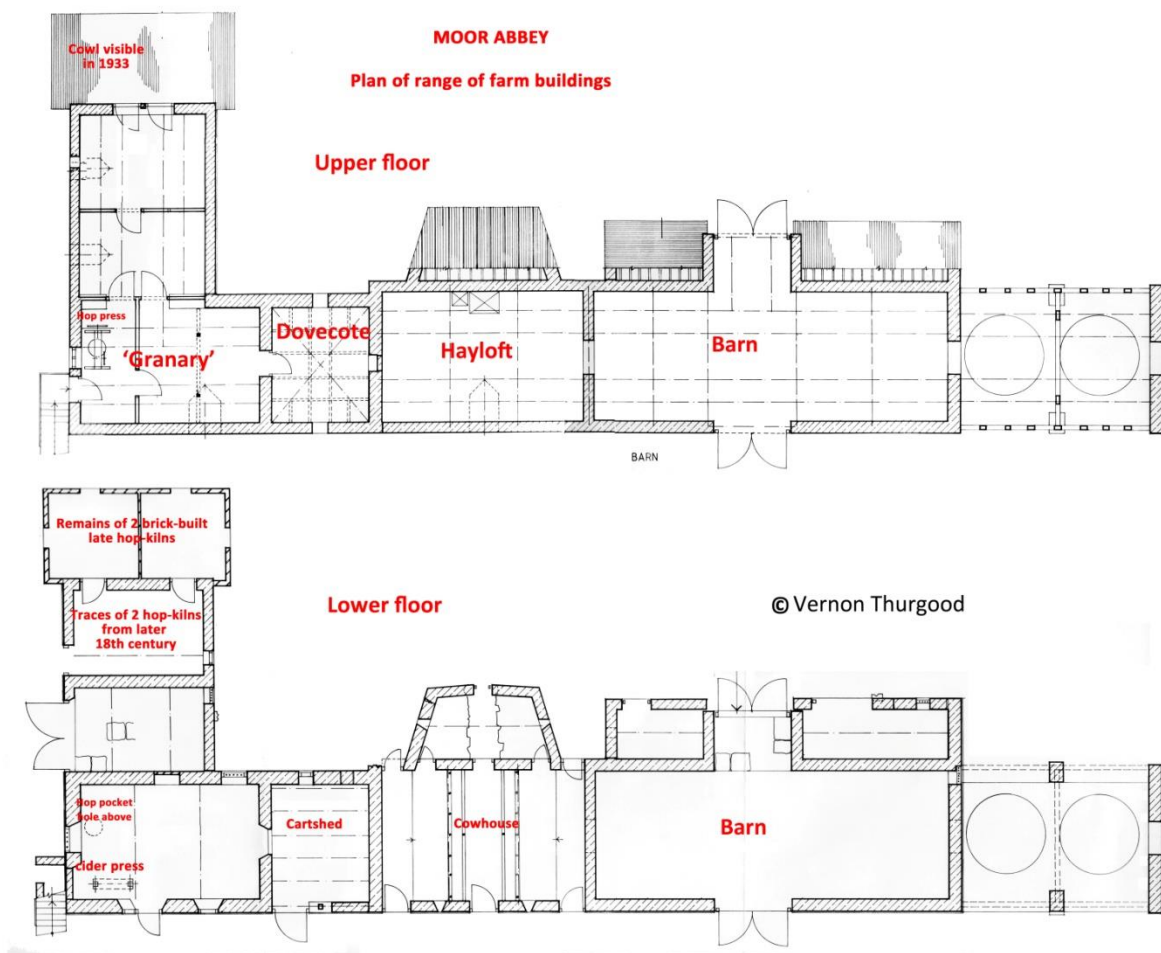
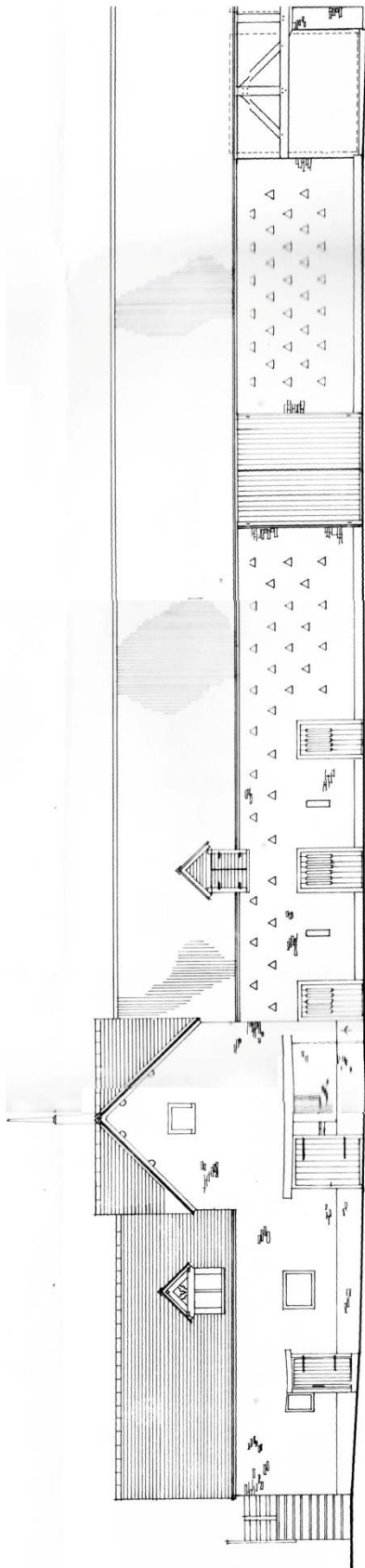


Figure 3. Plan of the large block of buildings, annotated with names and descriptions. (Basic plan by kind permission of V. Thurgood)



**South-east or front elevation of dovecote and barn range.  
Drawing copyright Vernon Thurgood.**

**Left and right : Buildings in Feb. 2013**

**Below: renovated buildings in May 2015**



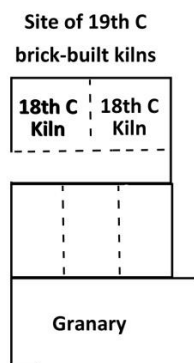
**Figure 4. Front or south-east elevation of the granary, dovecote and barn range.  
(Elevation by kind permission of V. Thurgood)**



Figure 5. Rear or north-west elevation of the granary, dovecote and barn range. (Elevation by kind permission of V. Thurgood)

## Hop kilns

From historical material going back at least until 1651 it is clear that hop-growing was a source of income which carried on into the 20th century. At the rear of the granary block a pair of late brick-built hop-kilns have been recently demolished. Next to them, but now inaccessible, were the remains of another, earlier pair, probably later 18th-century, identified by Edward Peters. His comments are given in quotes. He says 'the extension to the north-west [i.e. from the 'granary' backwards] dates from the second half of the 18th century for hop-drying internal kilns of this type normal in the area from the 18th century up to c. 1840s. I was able to see inside the ground floor in 2009.' As we have seen earlier, there was talk of hop kilns by 1719.



In the earlier wing behind the granary there were two separate rooms. 'The far room had two floor beams, indicating a passage across the building against the roof truss, with a longitudinal beam from it, forming two square areas, the kilns. The drying floors will have been some two feet above the present upper floor level, to help the draught. Whether there was a cowl or ventilator on the roof to let out the hot air is not now apparent, as the rafters have been renewed.

The hops will have been brought in by the gable-end door upstairs in the granary [and] taken to the kilns [and] after drying spread out on the upper floor to cool etc. The presence of a hop pocket hole in the larger part of the granary suggests that at least by this stage the granary was no longer so used.

Figure 6. Kiln plan

Was it moved to the house?'

The four openings in the rear gable relate to the kilns added in the late 1870s or early 1880s, replacing the two internal ones. The new kilns had cones over - see the RCHME photo (Fig. 7).'



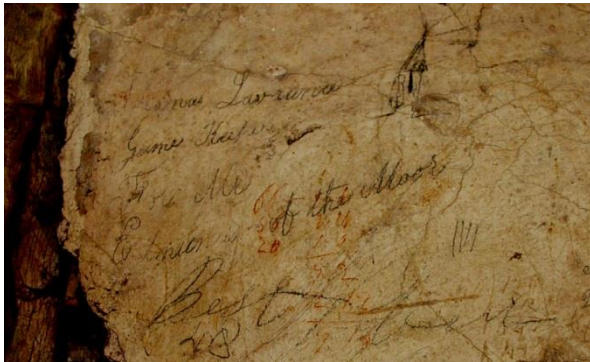
Figure 7. Photograph taken by the RCHME surveyors - survey made in 1933. Note the hop kiln cone visible on the left. Note too the clay tiles on the granary and dovecote roofs, and the corrugated iron roof over the cowhouse and barn. (By kind permission of English Heritage ©)

The original buildings in this range may have been timber-framed. There is a plinth, which can just be seen in Fig. 7, but this could have been an original part of the stone wall.



'The drying floor would have been level with the cills of the upper openings. The redundant kilns would then have been refloored at the same level as the granary. This floor was again remade c.1960 when a stair inserted in c.1880 was removed (information from farmer, 2009).'

In the upper storey of the granary near the entrance door is a mechanical hop-press by W. Weeks & Co. of Maidstone, whose company records start in 1892. This stands over a hole in the floor where the long hop-pocket would have been inserted. There was another pocket hole in the granary floor nearer the dovecote; the latter is accessed only from the upper floor of the granary.



Apotropaic signs, in this case daisy wheels, noted in 2013 on the wall between the granary and the dovecote have now been protected by perspex sheeting. There are also some graffiti on the wall opposite the entrance from the side steps, saying 'Thomas Lawrence Game Keeper to Mr Edmunds of the Moor'

Figure 8. Graffiti with sketch of dovecote?

### Granary and cider house

Edward considers that the granary dates from the late 17th to early 18th centuries, and that the room underneath was probably always intended for cider making. Downstairs, a door in the south-west gable has been blocked by the outside stone steps to the granary (and dovecote) upstairs. The cider press has had its top beam replaced, which is dated 1827. The upper floor has always had two rooms from an early stage, but the reason for this is not clear. The dormer window on the south-east face of the granary is well shown in the 1893 Watkins photo (Fig. 11). The square leaded lights shown in 1893 and 1933 have gone, but the decorative side pieces and framing above remain.



Figure 9. The south-west face of the block, looking towards the brick-built 19th-century hop kilns.

Figure 10. Detail of the inbuilt gable-cotes.

The well-glazed and decorative dormer window in the granary is something of a mystery, as it seems inappropriate for such an outbuilding. Perhaps it was moved from the house when this was re-built or re-furbished.



Figure 11. Photograph of the south-east face of the main range, showing to stone tiles on all buildings, the dormer in the 'granary' and the dovecote. Note the gully arrangement of the four-gabled dovecote roof, the box cote below the window and what looks like a louver for the birds to enter on the top. This latter had gone by 1933 after the re-roofing had taken place (see Fig. 7).

The exterior of this dovecote bears a resemblance to that at Upper Bache, Kimbolton, shown on page 101 of Robert Walker's *The Dovecotes and Dovecotes of Herefordshire*, which is thought to be dated 1747.<sup>7</sup> Kimbolton is very near to Middleton.

### Dovecote (dovecote) and cart shed

The next building in the range was possibly a cart-shed with the dovecote or pigeon-house above. In 2013 the wooden nest boxes were falling from the walls, and the stone floor was unsafe.



Figure 12. Interior of the dovecote viewed from the granary upper floor in 2013.



Figure 13. The roof timbers in 2013, taken with difficulty as there was no access to the dovecote.



Figure 14. View of the new nest boxes put in the dovecote.



Figure 15. The roughly-cut joists in the cart shed under the dovecote.

The stone floor has now been strengthened and new stone put in where necessary. When the buildings were surveyed in 2013 we were surprised at the crude nature of the joists in the cart shed and the roof timbers in the dovecote. The only timber to be finished to the usual standard in the cart shed is the lintel which supports the front opening - and then only at the front where it will be visible. However, Edward Peters comments that this lack of finish is not unusual.<sup>8</sup>

He says: 'I am happy with the dovecote being of late 17th/early 18th century date from the roof shape, also with there having been wooden nest boxes from the beginning.' At the time of the 2013 survey we were concerned to identify if there were signs of an early, medieval dovecote, which could be expected to have stone nesting holes built into the walls, and might have had monastic connections. It seems unlikely that the collapsed nest boxes seen in 2013 were original, as they were far too clean to have housed pigeons for 300 years.<sup>9</sup> The junction between the gabled walls and the roof are full of holes which would have allowed the birds to escape. The doorway from the granary is

low, as was usual in dovecotes. The cart shed has two windows, one blocked at the rear. The lintels are re-used timber from an earlier building; Edward's opinion is that these are original openings.



Figure 16. The rear of the dovecote in 2013.

Note the cowhouse, which appears from the front to have been added to the dovecote, is brought forward from the line of the wall of the dovecote. Edward thinks there was a lean-to on the back of the dovecote, the rafters being fitted to the inserted timber just below the string course; the string course does not appear on the front of the building. This often appears in dovecotes, as somewhere for the pigeons to perch before entering. Four-gabled roofs also gave the birds a sheltered side of the building to rest on, but in this case it is probably a drip-course to waterproof the junction of the lean-to roof and the wall..

At the front of the dovecote, Fig. 11, originally it was thought that this was designed as a cartshed when the dovecote was built. However, the infill of the wide opening, which stands a little proud of the line of the building as is seen by the shadow on the Watkins photo, has been carefully rebuilt with the 'plinth' line running through it. There is access to the cartshed via a door in the lower floor of the granary, which seems to be contemporary with the door to the dovecote immediately above it. Such a doorway might be needed to unload material in the dry. It proved impossible to take a photograph in 2015 comparable to Fig. 16, owing to the large stack of bales in front of it. The area above the stringing has now been rendered.

### **Cowhouse and Hayloft**

Owing to the possibly unsafe nature of the cowhouse ceiling access was not possible in 2013, but Edward did survey it in 2009. He says, of the barn plus cowhouse range, 'this is of one build, cross wall original, probably late 18th-century. Slit vents relating to the cowhouse, triangular would not have worked there....The rear projection [of the cowhouse is a ] contemporary calfpen. Loft over for

hay or straw, dropped into rear feeding passage. Loft filled through dormer or opening in wall to barn.' Joan Grundy says that each animal would have been tethered to the upright poles.



Figure 17. Interior of cowhouse, showing the middle feeding passage.



Figure 18. Chamfered and pegged beams and uprights of stalls.

### **Barn**

The threshing floor is off-centre. Edward's view is that 'this barn replaced a timber-framed barn which did not reach up to the dovecote, two trusses to the north-east end re-used from that, see mortices and pegholes for [the] wall posts. Mortices on the underside of the tiebeams indicate cross-framing in the timber-framed barn, not apparently repeated in the stone one. The roof trusses in the south-west half date from the stone re-building. Joan suggested that although the maps show no porch facing the farmyard, there may have been a pentice.

The lean-tos on the back of the barn were added, the longer one was originally open-fronted for loose cattle...' Joan notes that it is surprising that a dovecote would have been next to a barn with triangular holes, which would have allowed easy access to the pigeons. They could have accessed the barn and hayloft via the window in the dovecote, which may indicate that the dovecote was not important at the time the stone hayloft/barn building was put up, or that it may have had a shutter. The wall of the barn next to the silo store has triangular vents, indicating that this end was next to the open air.

### **Building with silos**

Edward notes that this building was a cartshed at one time, but there is much re-used timber. Cut-off joists show that there may have been an upper floor which would have been weak. The tithe map is a puzzle here, and may indicate a lean-to, though the angle of the end of the building is strange.

### **Other farm buildings not examined**

There are two other substantial buildings around the farmyard, not the subject of the grant and not examined in 2013. One is a large barn with slit vents all up its north gable with a lean-to attached, housing a large bull in 2013 (Fig. 22). The other (Fig. 23) was a stable.



Figure 19. Barn gable next to hayloft.



Figure 20. Barn gable next to silo store.



Figure 21. Rear porch of the barn.



Figure 22. Gable of barn to north-east of farmyard.



Figure 23. Building to east side of farmyard.

### The bell tower and attached building

The tithe map (Fig. 1) shows a small square building but not in the right place, and the 1884 map (Fig. 2) shows it in the correct position with the attached building, a later addition.



Figure 24. Bell tower in 2013.



Figure 25. Cookhouse/Brewhouse attached to tower in 2013.



Figure 26. Bell tower showing plinth

The bell in the bell tower was supposedly used to summon the hands to their meal in the attached building which is in two parts, with a copper and a brick-built hearth in the part nearest the tower. The lowest part of the tower has a plinth but it may not indicate rebuilding if stone slabs were laid across to act as a damp course in the boggy situation - the remains of the moat lie above it as can be seen in Fig. 27. This building has been renovated and is now watertight.



Figure 27. Renovated bell tower and building in 2015.

There are two Dutch barns, both having curved corrugated iron roofs. On the barn to the north-east of the barn range, which is the earlier of the two, there is no visible maker's plate. This has timber wallplates and tie beams with iron raking struts to roof sheets, iron posts with iron braces to the timber tie beams and wall plates. Lean-tos have been added on each side, and also an addition to the front. Comparing the various maps supplied is instructive. The Dutch barn to the north-east of the main range is not in the same orientation as the current one, confirmed by aerial photos. Unfortunately, the 1972 map doesn't go far enough north to be quite certain what has happened here.

The other barn faces the barn range. The maker's plate is of Alexander & Duncan Ltd, Lion Works, Leominster - dateable, as it became a limited company in 1912.<sup>10</sup> There are iron roof trusses, to fit curved roof sheets - no iron rods. It has had lean-to's added on each side, of different dates, one fairly recent. (Dutch barn information from Joan Grundy)

#### **Historical information about the farm buildings**

John Freeman has pointed out since the meeting that the 1609 rental<sup>11</sup> includes a description of the house and buildings occupied by John Phillipps:



*Dom' mansio' iii spac', unum horr' iii spac', unum bovil' ii spac', gardin', pomar' et Cl'm adiacen' cont' per est' 1 acr'*

A dwelling-house of 3 'spaces' (rooms or bays), a barn of 3 'spaces' (?bays), a byre of 2 'spaces', a garden, an orchard and close adjoining, containing by estimation 1 acre.

### **The 1719 lease details**

The 1719 lease from the Waldrons to John Smith spells out in some detail the obligations on both sides, allows deductions to be made about the farming activities at the time. Common form and unnecessary repetition is indicated by '...':

'This indenture made 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March...1719 Between Matthew Waldron the elder of the Moor Abby in the parish of Middleton-on-the-Hill in Co. Hereford gent. Mary his wife and Matthew Waldron the younger of the City of London hosier their son and John Smith of the parish of Edvin Ralph in co. aforesaid yeoman of the other part ...[Waldrons have] demised... to Smith ... Moor Abby... in the parish of Middleton-on-the-Hill... house outhouses buildings barns stables **the cider mill** folds gardens orchards lands arable meadows leasows feedings pasture grounds and **Hop ground** [etc] All which sd messuage [etc] now in the possession of the said Matthew Waldron the elder (*except...The Hall Parlour pantry and chambers over them the two garrets over the dairy the **Garden within the Mote** the summering of a horse The young **hopyard in the Hayse** and liberty to cut down and carry hoppoles of the sd premises to the sd hopyard and the liberty to **make use of a kiln** for drying the hops which shall grow in the sd hopyard And also the fish pools and all and all manner of Timber trees standing growing and being upon the said premises and free liberty to fall and cut down and carry of the same And also all mines and minerals of what nature and kind soever and free liberty to raise and dig stone and carry of the same allowing reasonable satisfaction for the damage that shall or may be done thereby. And also the liberty to cut down and carry of the sd demised premises all sufficient and necessary firewood for the use of the sd Matthew Waldron the elder Mary his wife and Matthew Waldron the younger their heirs and assigns)*

To have and to hold the sd messuage [etc]...twelve years... the yearly rent of 92 pounds and 10 shillings of lawful money at Michaelmas and Lady Day... and paying therefore one Hogshead of cider (over and above the rents above mentioned) out of every 20 Hogsheads which shall be made...**And** furthermore that the said John Smith...will during the said term well and sufficiently repair... messuage(except the roof of the same and the windows in that part of the house before excepted and referred) and all outhouses edifices and buildings thereunto belonging in good reparation and order... And the same in such good reparation and order shall and will deliver up unto the said Matthew Waldron [etc] at the expiration...of the said term **And...**the said John Smith...shall not during the sd term crop cut down or grub up any **Oak Ash Asp[en?] or Poplar...**without consent...**And Also** that the sd John Smith shall ...use and employ in and upon the sd premises and not elsewhere all the **Hay strew [straw?] and fodder** which shall be raised upon the sd premises and shall use and employ all the **dung and compost** thence issuing? upon the sd premises and not elsewhere and shall leave all the **strew dung and hoppoles** at the end of the said term for the use of the said Matthew Waldron [etc]...**And Also** that the said John Smith..shall not ...plough break up or convert into tillage or hop ground any of the **antient pasture or meadow** grounds (except orchards) without consent...

**And** the sd Matthew Waldron [etc]...shall covenant and grant to...the sd John Smith...they...shall and will pay and discharge the land tax for the premises and half the window tax and all payments for the tenements in proportion to the rent paid for the same during the sd term **And also** will keep in good and sufficient reparation and order the roof of the dwelling house and all that part of it before excepted and reserved. **And Also** will allow and pay for **three tuns of Coals** yearly according to the price thereof at the **coal pitts**<sup>12</sup> during the sd term for the use of the sd John Smith ...in that part of the house before excepted and referenced as often as he or they shall have occasion. **And Also will build one or two new kilns** as there shall be occasion. **And Also** will erect and build a new **chamber**

**chimney** or allow the said John Smith his executors administrators and assigns the use of one in that part of the house before excepted and reserved as often as they shall have occasion

**And Also** that it shall...be lawful...for the said John Smith... to have and cut down of in and upon the sd premises sufficient and necessary house boot [*sic*] hedge boot plough boot wein [*sic*] boot and fire boot during the sd term so be aforesaid employed upon the said premises.... **And Also** that it shall...be lawful...for the said John Smith...to have and break up any quantity of **hopground** not exceeding ten acres and to have and put down Hoppoles of the said premises for poleing the same during the said term leaving them behind as aforesaid at the end of the term And it is hereby agreed that the **fishpoole meadow** shall be a part of the said hopground **And Also** that it shall...be lawful...for the said John Smith...yearly and every year during the said term to...cut down three cords of wood to make **coal [charcoal] for the drying of hops** if there shall be occasion and two dozen of **hogsheads hoops** yearly to be used upon the premises and not elsewhere **And Also** it shall...be lawful for the sd John Smith...to have the use of the Fold and the beasthouse and some convenient ground for his cattle to sit and lie upon until the first day of May next after the end of the said term. **And Also** it shall be lawful for John Smith...to have the standing and growing of all such winter corn and barley that shall be standing and growing... for the said term until harvest next after the end of the said term without paying anything and therefore with Free liberty and use of a barn to house the said grain in and to thresh and winnow the same and shall also have the use of some convenient rooms in the said messuage or dwelling house to **keep the said grain** and to lodge servants in until the first day of May next after the housing of the said grain **And also** the said John Smith...at and under the yearly rents reservations covenants agreements herein before referred and expressed and contained shall and quietly and peacefully have hold use posses and enjoy the said demised premises with their appurtenances during the said term without the let suit or hindrance of the said Matthew Waldron [etc]. ‘

On the outside of this deed there is a note that John Smith will also pay the 10s tithe and also that after 3 years he can leave the lease upon payment of a fine.

As remarked before, if there was an active dovecote at this time it seems extraordinary that it was not mentioned in the lease; there is a cider mill; there does seem to be a hopkiln already in existence which the Waldrons reserve the right to use, and they will covenant to build one or two new kilns if there is occasion. Smith is allowed to keep his grain (and house his servants) in a room in the house.

## The historic landscape around Moor Abbey



Figure 28. The current layout of the fields at Moor Abbey, with the path of the landscape walk shown as a red and white line. the smaller loop being walked before lunch, the larger after. For north see Fig. 29 which is on the same orientation. Field names and numbers are taken from the 1841 tithe map, those in brackets were not part of the Moor Abbey estate at that time.

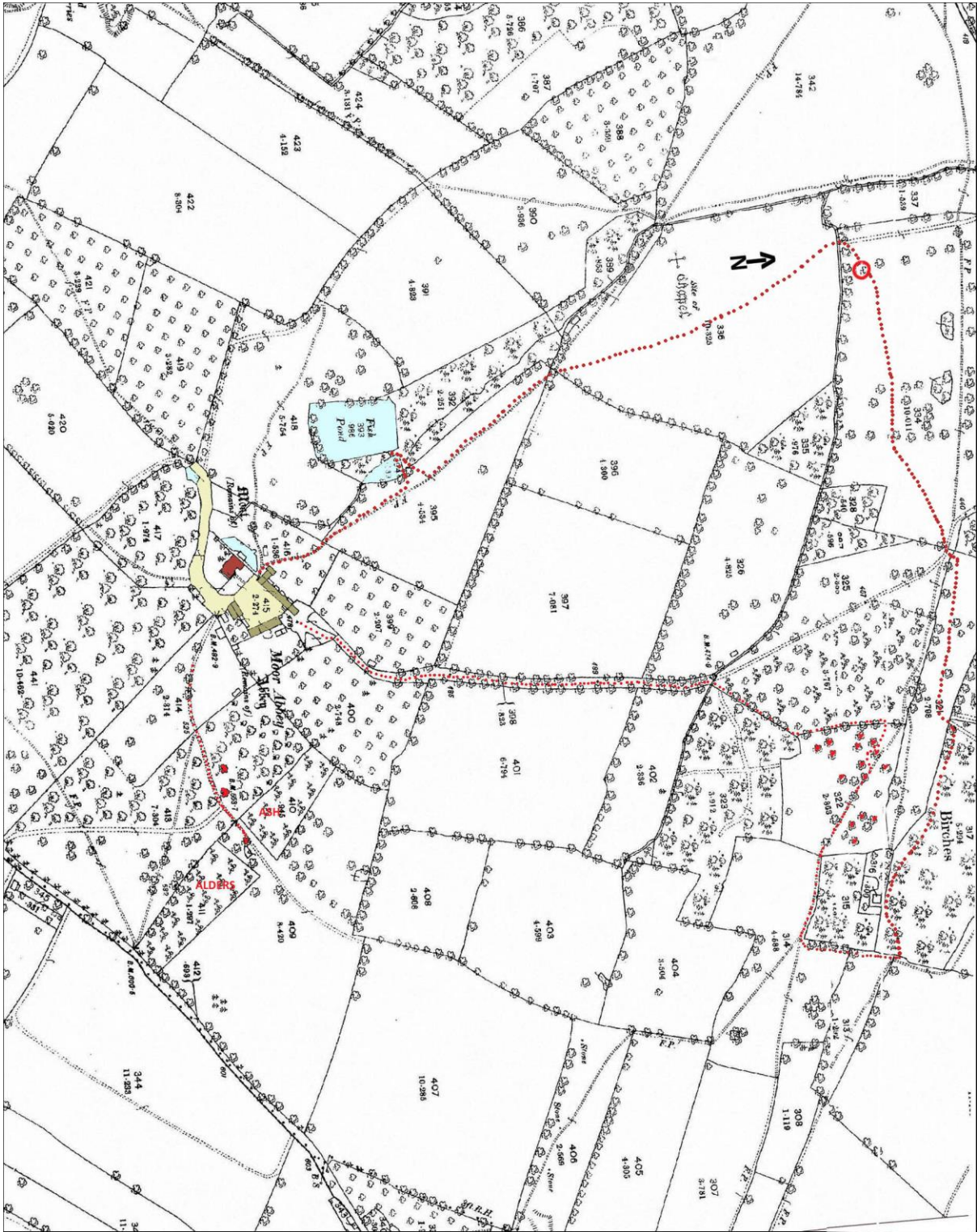


Figure 29. The same landscape from the 1884 OS first edition 25 inch map. Note the remarkable continuity of field boundaries. Trees which were the subject of special interest on walking around are filled in red; the growth experiment tree is ringed in red near the top right of the map.



Figure 30. The 1841 tithe map rotated to the same orientation as the other maps. The easiest way to access Moor Abbey is off the B4112 which runs along the bottom left of this picture. The way through the farmyard is of a lower status and originally would have come across an open field.

No	Name	Type	Acreage
420	Lower Hounds Furlong	Pasture	11-0-31
422	Glass Croft	Meadow	14-2-33
523	Far field leys	Ashbed	0-1-33
524	Far Hays	Pasture	7-2-19
525	Hays Orchard	Or & Arable	3-1-27
526	Tylers Well Orchard and Sally bed	Meadow	4-2-27
527	Broadmeadow Hopyard	Hops	2-3-30
528	Broadmeadow	Meadow	7-3-11
529	Lower Gatehouse field	Arable	4-0-14
530	Broad such? Meadow	Meadow	5-0-30
531	Hounds Furlong	Pasture	6-1-32
536	Upper Hounds Furlong	Pasture	3-0-35
537	Ashbed	Plantation	0-1-10
702	Sheeping field	Arable	10-0-13
705	Sheeping Leys	Pasture	9-2-4
706	Ashbed	Plantation	0-3-27
707	Left hand Cowpasture	Pasture	9-1-33
708	Pear Tree Orchard	Or & Arable	1-1-16
709	Vineyard Orchard	Or & Arable	1-1-35
710	Upper Gatehouse Field	Arable	6-1-30
711	Upper in Broadmeadow	Meadow	2-2-31
712	Middle Gatehouse Field	Arable	6-2-35
713	Fishpool meadow	Meadow	4-3-24
714	Hays Hopyard	Hopyard	3-3-14
715	First Hays	Meadow	2-2-0
716	The Bogs	Meadow	5-2-4
717	Large Pool	Water	0-3-29
718	Nursery between pools		0-0-25
719	Fish Pool meadow	Or & pasture	2-0-23
720	Homestead and Orchard		3-0-9
721	Rickyard & Nursery		0-2-28
722	Garden & Nursery		0-1-15
723	Paddock	Pasture	1-2-8
724	Bogs Orchard and Nursery	Or & Arable	3-0-22
725	Stonehill Field	Or & Arable	3-0-18
726	Stonehill well field	Arable	12-0-19
727	Stonehill well nursery	Meadow	3-0-13
794	Cuckoo bed	Pasture	4-3-36
795	Right hand cowpasture	Pasture	10-1-0
796	Tuggs Leys and nursery	Arable	6-3-26
797	Tuggs Leys Field	Arable	7-0-14

Table 1. Field names of the More Abbey estate owned by John Edmonds in 1841 from the tithe apportionment book. Pasture marked in red shows signs of having been wood pasture, as do fields 535 and 539, not part of Moor Abbey. 532 to 534 have names with 'birches'; they belong to John Edmonds but as part of the Middleton House estate.

### Landscape visit - morning session

Members' cars were parked as indicated in Fig. 30, and before inspecting the farm buildings the group followed David Lovelace to look at some of the trees and landscape features. David used the 1884 1st edition OS 25" map to show where individual trees had been marked. The tithe map layout and field names were compared with a recent aerial survey. Although a number of fields were designated as 'pasture' in the tithe apportionment, he showed that these fields were in fact 'wood pasture', as they held trees which pre-dated the tithe map, and showed evidence of ancient pollarding. From the woodland-type field names it was possible to identify still-existing alder woods and areas where hop-poles had been planted. Old ash wood-pasture still exists at Moor Abbey.



Figure 31. Members walked diagonally across field 707 (Left hand Cowpasture) along the trackway shown in the 1884 OS map.

Field 707 is shown as a field without trees in the 1841 tithe map.<sup>13</sup> However, before the far boundary is reached the trackway crosses a significant ditch with one tree of substantial girth. The boundary between 707 and 706 (Ashbed) is also marked by a ditch. The track leads on through between 706 and an alder plantation into 705 (Sheeping Leys). The alder plantation has been made out of Sheeping Leys, as it was not shown on the tithe map, but was there by 1884.



Figure 32. The upper end of the ditch at the boundary between 707 and 706 (Ashbed).



Figure 33. The alder plantation carpeted with bluebells.

The oak we had come to examine lay in this section between the two blocks of woodland. The girth was measured at just over eight metres. Members then returned towards the parked cars and from there to the farmyard buildings.



Figure 34. The oak above the trackway.



Figure 35. The girth measured just over 8m.

### Landscape visit - afternoon session

After eating our sandwiches and drinking cups of tea supplied by our hosts in their warm farmhouse kitchen, the second part of the landscape visit went through the farmyard and shortly passed along a straight stretch of road between Upper Gatehouse Field (710) on the uphill side and Middle Gatehouse Field (712) and Lower Gatehouse Field (529) which now form one field on the downhill.



Figure 36. Upper Gatehouse Field (710)

From the maps and the lie of the land and the name 'Field' it would seem obvious that this field must have been originally one long open field. In the 1651 and 1609 surveys the names of the fields are given and an attempt has been made to compare them (Table 2). There is no point in comparing acreages as given, though the 1651 list seems to compare in size with the tithe map in some fields.





Figure 37. Middle and Lower Gatehouse fields, now one (712 and 529).

Date:1651	Type:size a.r.p	Date:1609	Type: a.r.p
Moore Abbey house etc	1-0-34	Dwelling house etc.	1a
Ashe greene Meadow	M:1-3-8	Ashgrove?	M:2r
Broad Cuche? Meadow	M:4-3-0	Broadshcych?	M:1a+
Little Meadow	M:0-3-12		
Broad Meadow	M:8-3-0	Broad Meadowe	M:2a
Hudele Meadow	M:3-1-0	Huddell	M:1a+
Pirrie Meadow	M:3-0-0	Pirrye meadowe	M:1a+
Pirrie Meadow Hedland	M:2-1-29	Pirrie meadowe headland	M:2r
Haies Meadow	M:2-0-18	The Nether hayes	M:2r
Eastod Meadow	M:2-0-0	Easton meadowe	M:2r
		Hounsfurlonge plock	M:2r
		Oldfeilde	P:2a
		Upper Whitefeilde	P:1a
		Lower whitefeilde	P:1a
		New Tyndinge	P:+a
Upper Moore	P:18-0-32	Upper Moore	P:2a+
Lower Hayes	P:6-2-16		
Lower Marshe	P:2-3-0		
Hoppiard	P:0-0-24		
Over Hownsfurr Land	P:4-0-6		
Over Heath	P:15-3-0	The Heath	P:1a
Lower Heath	P:10-1-0		
Sheepinge feild	A:15-1-6	Shippinge feild	A:8a
Nun feild	A:9-1-24	Nunfeild	A:7a
Up~ Nun feild	A:6-3-8		
Stone hill feild	A:17-3-28	Stonewall feild?(in common field)	A:8a
Lower hounes furland feild	A:9-0-16	Hounsfurlonge leazowe	P:
Glasse Croft orr	A:17-1-13	Lace Crofte	A:7a
Gate house feild	A:21-3-24	the feild at the gate(in common field)	A:15a
M: meadow	P: pasture	A: arable (field)	

Table 2. The field names in 1651 and 1609 compared where possible.

The name 'Gatehouse Field' raised some expectation that there might indeed have been a gatehouse at the entrance to a monastic estate, but the 1609 survey shows that at that time it was

called 'the field at the gate'. John Freeman also noticed that at the same date Rowland Pitt who held an unnamed dwelling house also had land in a common field called 'le gate feyld'. The tithe number for Lower Gatehouse Field is within a set of tithe map numbers which belong to Middleton House, which happens to be owned by John Edmonds (presumably the same one). It is possible therefore that this field came into the Moor Abbey estate by a separate route.



Figure 38. Broad such meadow (530).<sup>14</sup> In 1884 it was sparsely populated with trees, some of which are still standing.



Figure 39. Entrance into Hounds Furlong (531). From this view and Fig. 40 Hounds Furlong seems to have few trees, but the 1884 map shows that to the right of the track it was fairly densely treed. In 1841 the field is described as 'pasture' - but must have been wood pasture.

There are three 'Hounds Furlong' fields, Lower (420), (531) and Upper (536). Yet again, the names would suggest that there was an open field here. 536 seems to have been cut down to provide a field called Orling Park (535 - not Moor Abbey) and possibly 537 (Ashbed).



Figure 40. Hounds Furlong (531) from Lower Hounds Furlong (420).



Figure 41. Standing in Hounds Furlong, members are looking into Upper Hounds Furlong (536), which in the tithe apportionment is described as 'pasture'. It is shown as woodland in 1884. It was not possible to see if there were, in fact, large trees remaining from wood pasture.

Members passed along the hedge line and entered Orling Park (535), an oddly shaped field which is now open to 539, also Orling Park, both belonging to William Childe of Rock. 'Orling' is associated with alder, but in this case both fields have groups of large pollarded ash trees.



Figure 42. Group of pollarded ash trees in Orling Park (535). Both 535 and 539 are described as 'pasture' in the 1841 tithe apportionment.



Figure 43. View from Orling Park (535) to Orling Park (539).

The field boundary separating them has been removed but a flattened area marks the line of it. The Orling Park fields still retain the curious shape seen on the tithe map. The woodland encroaching to the left is The Birches (534), and to the right Ashbed (537). Ashbed obscures the right-hand side of New Tindings (538), part of Rock. It seems that any open field here was already changed by 1609. The Gatehouse fields, if combined into a single large field would be only two-thirds the length of the combined Hounds Furlong fields, so maybe another explanation for the Houn(d)s Furlong name should be sought.



Figure 44. Group of pollarded ash tree in Orling Park (539).

The group passed in front of the ash trees in Fig. 44 to be able to get into The Birches woodland, in doing so going briefly into Withersfield. The tithe apportionment shows that the Rev. John Langley owned 543, a separate part of Withersfield which was meadow, then a much larger part (544) which was arable. The distinction is preserved today: 543 has run wild, 544 is ploughed.



Figure 45. Withersfield 543, meadow in 1841, preserved as a separate entity from Withersfield 544 to the left.

Members turned towards the Hounds Furlong direction by entering woodland called The Birches (534 and 533) on the tithe map. The wood boundary was quite strongly marked and there was a very large field maple and a large pollarded near the edge. Interestingly, 534, nearest Orling Park, was shown as arable in 1841 but by 1884 trees had appeared; 533 was described as 'pasture' in

1841, and looks like wood pasture in 1884. There were various ancient trees in The Birches (Fig. 46) but the boundary between 533 and 534 has disappeared, so they may have been survivors from the wood pasture. There had been a cottage in the wood, not shown in 1841 but shown in 1884; in winter some bricks and stone can be seen, and it has the tell-tale snowdrop display in spring.



Figure 46 (left). Old pollard in The Birches.



Figure 47 (above). Part of Long Birches (532) looking away from the boundary with Lower Hounds Furlong.

We exited the woodland half-way along the long, thin field called Long Birches (532). This was pasture in 1841 but there were few trees which could have survived from wood pasture.



Figure 48. Part of Long Birches (532) looking towards the boundary with Lower Hounds Furlong. Briefly entering Hounds Furlong, the party went into Lower Hounds Furlong (420), 'pasture' in 1841. The 1884 map shows individual trees, presumably large ones, along what appear to have been field

boundaries. However, there are no such boundaries in the 1841 tithe map. Some of the trees are still there, and one of them is the site of David's tree-measuring experiment. It is indicated on both the 1884 and the aerial photo map by a red ring.



Figure 49. David approaching the tree with the measuring experiment.



Figure 50. Other oak trees in the same line of large trees shown on the 1884 map, photo taken from the experimental oak.

### **Summary of the experiment**

The rate of growth of the girth of young oaks has been tested and documented, but no experimental work has been done on the same measurement for old oaks. Spot measurements have been taken of various notable trees by the Woolhope Club, and these have been repeated relatively recently.



Figure 51. David Lovelace taking a girth reading from the experimental tree.

This experiment is a trial to see if meaningful data can be obtained and whether it can be used to inform tree dating.

It is important that the same position of measurement is accurately maintained across the measurement period, otherwise measurements are meaningless.

In this experiment, girth increment is measured by means of a steel tape encircling the trunk so that it overlaps on itself as a self reading vernier (Figure 52). The tape is supported by lugs screwed into the bark at intervals around the trunk located in a horizontal plane so that the tape can move freely but nowhere touches the surface of the trunk. One end of the tape is fixed onto a lug and the other end via a spring so that as the shape of the tree changes the spring loaded end of the tape moves relative to the fixed end. Girth measurements with a resolution of a fraction of a mm. are taken by photographing the tape where it overlaps itself with a macro lens and are plotted against the reading date.

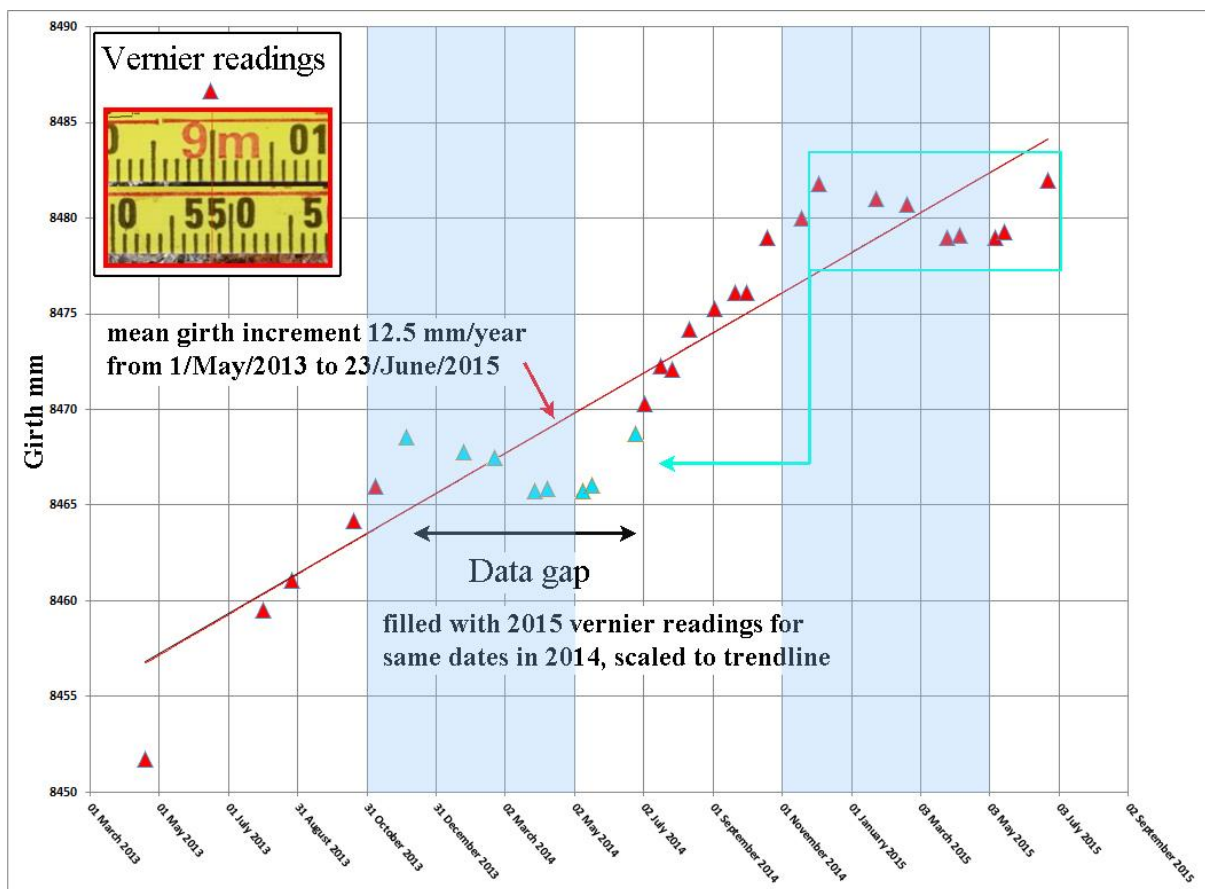


Figure 52. The inset shows the vernier reading; the graph shows the results from the experimental tree March 2013 to May 2015 (©David Lovelace)



At the time of writing the experiment has been in progress for just over 2 years and the results are plotted in Fig. 52 showing a mean growth rate of 12.5 mm per year over this period. Linearly extrapolating from the current girth of 8480 mm produces a figure of 678 years for the age. Tree ring measurements for some felled pre-senescent open grown oaks indicate girth increment rates in the range 20 to 25 mm a year, so this age will be an over estimate. Considerations of weather, tree crown size, historic limb loss and differential thermal expansion all complicate such age estimations. Improvements to the experiment are planned including using a nearby nearly dead veteran oak as a control and automating the girth readings

Leaving the experimental tree in Lower Hounds Furlong, members followed the diagonal foot path shown in 1884 across Broadmeadow (528), which has retained that name since 1609 (Fig 53). The 1941 War Agricultural Executive Committee survey of Moor Abbey shows this field was ordered to be ploughed. Quantities of an unusually large, pale double form of Lady's Smock or *Cardamine pratensis* were noticed. A gate in the corner of the field led to Fishpool Meadow (713). The 1884 map indicates the site of an ancient chapel not far from the gate, but no upstanding remains were apparent, though there are some undulations in the ground there (Fig. 54).



Figure 53. Broadmeadow, looking towards the gate to Fishpool Meadow

Woodland has grown up around the fishpool or 'Large Pool' as it is described on the tithe map (717). The pond is fed indirectly by the outflow from the springs on the hillside above the Moor Abbey buildings, therefore its size varies considerably. The tithe map (Fig. 23) shows some water management systems in place both near the large pool itself, but also downstream where a small rill ran through Broadmeadow towards Broad Such Meadow - perhaps this is the source of the 'Broad Such' name. Woodland has obscured the traces.



Figure 54. Fishpool Meadow, looking towards Moor Abbey farm buildings - supposed chapel site on left of walkers.



Figure 55. The 'Large Pool'. Surrounding trees have been killed presumably by water-logging. The field clasping the pool was called 'The Bogs' in 1841 (716). The small leat shown on the tithe map still enters on the left of the picture.



Figure 56. The rear of the farm building range.

### Acknowledgements and Thanks

The Club is most grateful to the Moseley family for allowing access to their farm and for the interest they have shown in our visits. They have given us much useful information. They have also been most hospitable and the warmth of their kitchen and the lavish tea were gratefully received.

We are grateful to Vernon Thurgood, English Heritage and the Herefordshire Archive Service for allowing us to use their material. Thanks also to all the members who have helped to put together this report on the visit and the research that has been done. Hopefully more will come to light which can be passed to members in due course.

### References

<sup>1</sup> the National Archives (TNA), LR2/217, a 1609 survey of Leominster manors . Thanks to John Freeman.

<sup>2</sup> Herefordshire Record Office (HRO), A63/1/305, A63/1/306.

<sup>3</sup> HRO, BD/29/ also contains several hand-written list of births etc. for the Waldron family, and also details of deeds.

<sup>4</sup> HRO, BD29/9/1.

<sup>5</sup> HRO, BD29/9/2.

<sup>6</sup> For consistency the term dovecote is used throughout, though dovecot is more often used now.

<sup>7</sup> This is an excellent, straightforward book on the development of dovecotes, correcting some long-held ideas on the use of their produce. There is a gazetteer of Herefordshire dovecotes and associated structures.

<sup>8</sup> See Edward Peter's article 'Hop Kilns in the West midlands up to 1900' in *Historic Farm Buildings Group Review 12*, Summer 2010, pp.5-15.

<sup>9</sup> Unfortunately, funds did not stretch to dendrochronology.

<sup>10</sup> Malpas, Ann. 1999. *French Barns, Cambridge Rolls and Register Grates. Ironmongery and farm machinery from the Lion Works*. Leominster History Study Group.

<sup>11</sup> TNA, LR2/217.

<sup>12</sup> Is this a reference to coal from the Mamble coalfield which is about 25km away, or to charcoal?

<sup>13</sup> Only rarely do tithe maps show non-woodland or non-orchard trees (David Lovelace).

<sup>14</sup> The name of this field is a mystery. John Freeman notes: '...I read *prat' voc' Broadschych* in 1609 and...what looks like *Broad Cuche Meadow* in 1651. *Cuche* is [strange], as I'd have expected *Suche*. The letter which begins *?Cuche* doesn't look anything like either capital 'C' or 'S' in the rest of the document! The element here must be what the OED puts under *sitch* (Old English *sīc*), sometimes appearing as *such(e)*, which it defines as 'a small stream of water, a rill or streamlet, esp. one flowing through flat or marshy ground, and often dry in summer; a ditch or channel through which a tiny stream flows. As members entered field Hounds Furlong (531), Broadsuch Meadow lay on their left, separated by a cleaned-out ditch or small stream.

### Field Meeting to part of Docklow parish by Rosamund Skelton

A small number of members gathered for lunch on 8 June 2013 at the King's Head pub on the A44 near Docklow church. The purpose of the visit was to investigate physical remains of earthworks and the development of the landscape and some of the houses in the part of the parish lying south of the main road, using public footpaths. The route led south down the footpath opposite the church into the fields that in the 19th century formed part of the park associated with Docklow Manor.

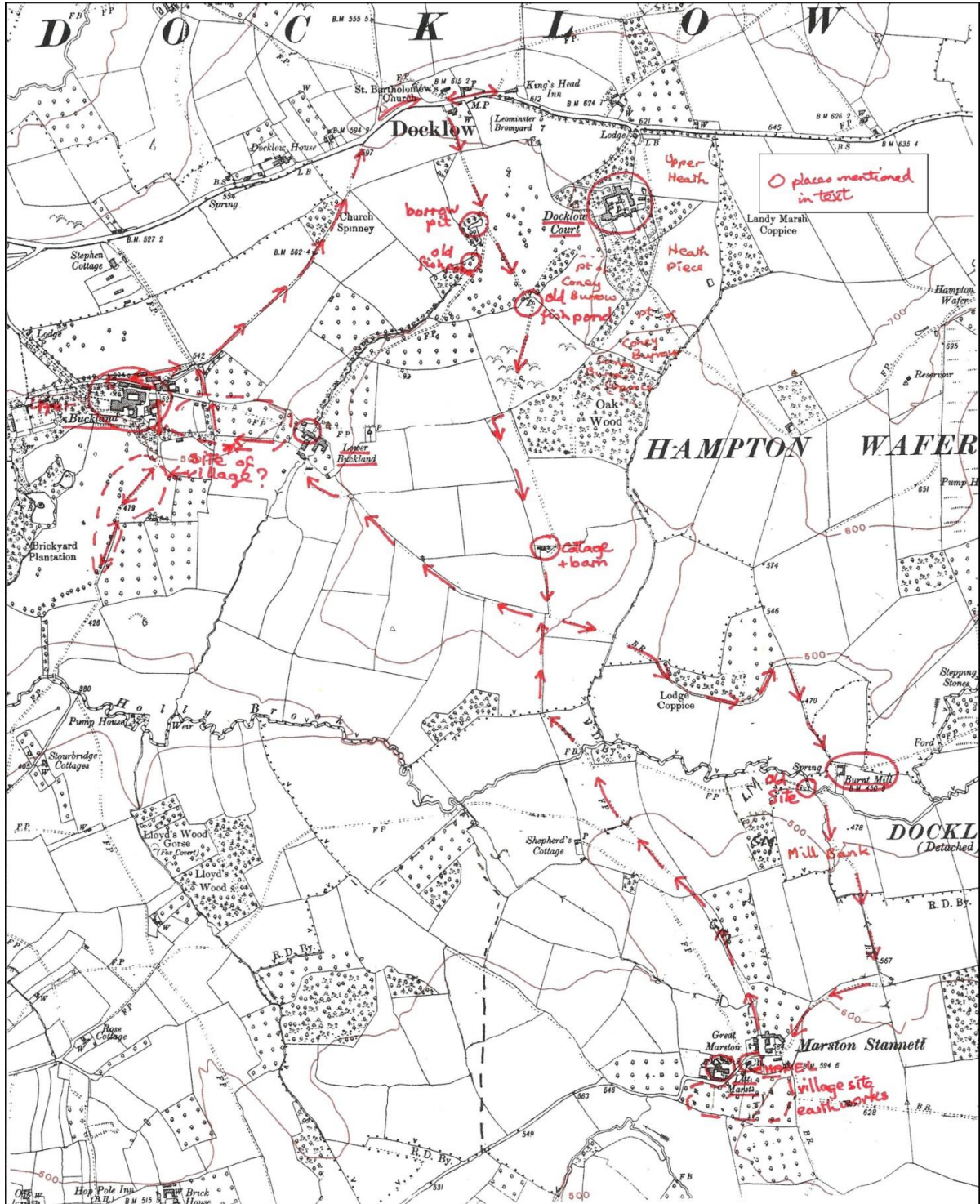


Figure 1. Plan of the sites visited during the field trip using the 1930 OS map



Figure 2. View southwards from Docklow along the footpath

### **Docklow Manor**

Docklow Manor and park do not appear on the 1841 tithe map and all the land on which they now stand formed part of the estate of Upper Buckland owned by Mr William G. Cherry in 1841. There was however a small agricultural building near the site. In 1885 **Docklow Court** and its adjacent farm buildings were shown on the Ordnance Survey map but it is now called Docklow Manor. Prior to the building of this house and farm, three of the fields to the east were called Upper Heath and Heath Piece and two neighbouring fields to the south of these were called Coney Burrows. These names possibly indicate a lack of fertility in this area and also suggest the presence of a rabbit warren here at some time in the past.

### **Ponds and a Cottage**

The pond seemed fairly deep and appeared to have the remains of a stone building at the SW corner but nothing was shown on the tithe map of 1840 in this location neither pond nor building. The pond is shown on the 6 inch OS map of 1885 but no building; it is possible that this may have been a 'borrow pit' supplying clay to make bricks for the construction of the farm buildings. The house itself is built of stone with a slate roof, but the farm buildings are of brick. On the small stream to the west of the first pond and well below it are the silted up remains of a pond caused by damming the stream. Possibly this was a fish or wild fowling pond for the park. Proceeding along the public footpath to a point S of Docklow Manor on another small stream, there is a similar silted up pond with a dam, probably provided for a similar purpose. Following the footpath southwards to the ruins of a cottage and stone barn at Grid Reference SO 566.563, submerged in vegetation. This was not shown on the Tithe Map of 1841, but is shown on the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1885 and on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile map where it appears to be a house with a small adjoining building and a garden surrounding it. Possibly this was a farm labourer's cottage and the public footpath respects its existence, passing to the east of it and due north through the middle of the field to the north.

### **The Burnt Mill**

Continuing eastwards and south around Lodge Coppice, the site of the Burnt Mill near the Holly Brook was reached. This was a house with outbuildings shown on the tithe map of 1841 but there

was no evidence of any water supply which could have enabled a mill to operate in that location. The site is now just a grassy mound with some stones visible in places. It seems probable therefore that the original 'burnt mill' was in a slightly different location. There is some evidence of stone walls adjacent to the Holly Brook where there is a substantial waterfall at GR 572.558, on the parish boundary between Marston and Docklow. Maybe this is a location for a mill site; there is certainly a sufficient drop to drive a mill wheel - the walls on either side of the waterfall maybe the vestiges of a mill site (Figs.4 & 5).

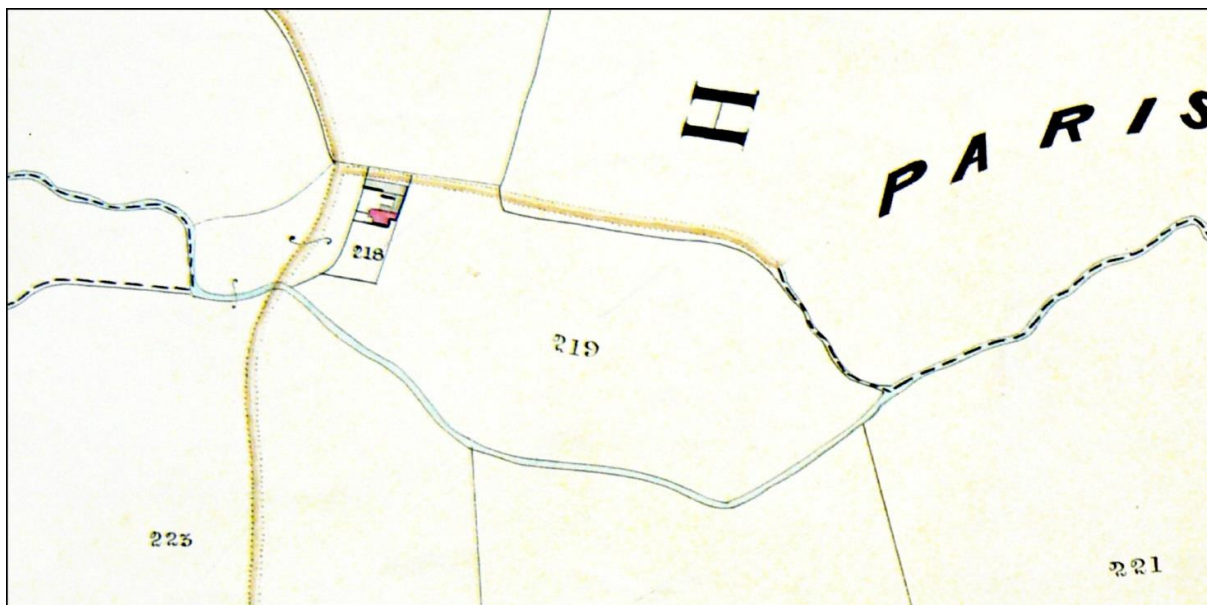


Figure 3. Burnt Mill on the tithe map. Holly Brook is the watercourse to the south-west of the house



Figure 4. Possible mill site near Burnt Mill



Figure 5. Showing depth of stone-walled waterfall

The earliest reference I have found so far to 'The Burnt Mill' is in the 1808 Land Tax when it was owned by Lord Essex and occupied by Edward Walker; by 1809 it was owned by Mr Arkwright and still occupied by Edward Walker. The tax paid was 17s 6d half yearly. The earliest reference to a mill in this vicinity is in a document dated 1682 on the 10th day of June:

'between Thomas Coningsby of Hampton Court in the County of Hereford Esq of the one part and Henry Stansbury oldest son of Thomas Stansbury of Marston in the parish of Pencombe...doth demise lease and set to farm unto Henry Stansbury all that messuage or tenement called and known by the name of Marston Mill otherwise Hampton Wafer Mill in the parishes of Docklow and Hatfield or in one of them in the said County of Hereford and now in the possession of one Philip Powell and all buildings ...thereunto belonging And also one meadow called the Byletts Meadow one parcel of

pasture ground called the Mill Bank and one other pasture ground known by the name of the Horse Pasture now lately divided into fower parts one whereof is converted into a hopyard and alsoe three several crofts of arrable land...the said demised premises are and doe lye within the parishes of Docklow and Hatfield.'

The field called Mill Bank is identified on the tithe map and lies south of the Holly Brook opposite the location of the house and farm buildings existing at that time and also adjacent to the possible location of the earlier mill site. However, why Hatfield is mentioned as a parish for the location of this mill is a puzzle as Hampton Wafer was an extra parochial area and amalgamated with Docklow parish in 1894 (see note below). It is possible that there was another mill site along the Holly Brook as the two most southerly fields in Hampton Wafer border the Brook and Marston parish and in Hampton Court Estate documents dated 1859 are called Mill Field and Far Mill Field. However there are no obvious signs of such a site on that stretch of the Holly Brook. The Mill Field is very close to the possible site of the earlier Burnt Mill site.

Note: Hampton Wafer was identified as 'extra parochial' in 1841 as was Burnt Mill and its lands, which adjoined Hampton Wafer. There is no documentary record of Hampton Wafer being part of Hatfield Parish. The existence of a chapel at Hampton Wafer is recorded 'in the Bishop's Registers in 1340/41, 1349, 1350 and 1378. In 1527 the patron is given as the Bishop and in 1531 as Sir Humphrey Coningsby' (Stanford 1967 TWNFC p89).

### **Marston Stannett**

Fording the brook, a footpath rises up the hill through a young wood to what remains of the village of Marston. The oldest standing building is the stone and partly timber-framed west wing of Lower Marston with a fine timber-framed late 14th-century porch on the front (Fig. 6). At the east end of the wing is 'a 20ft span cruck truss with a tie beam partly cut away and another cross beam above with a series of struts forming two ranges of foiled openings. Some of the timber-framing with chamfered studs is also of late 14th-century date' (*R.C.H.M. Herefordshire* Vol. II East p.151).



Figure 6. Lower Marston - late 14th-century porch

### Marston Chapel

Marston Chapel was rebuilt in 1868 and designed by Haddon. There are now some side walls remaining, shrouded in ivy with a young thicket growing up around the walls. The Victorian flooring tiles are still visible in places within the building (Fig. 7). It is spoken of as being demolished in 1957 (Brooks & Pevsner - *Herefordshire* 2012 p550) but a photograph taken in February 1969 shows the east window still standing to gable height (Fig. 8).

It is probable therefore that it was just the roof which was removed in 1957. In the parish records for Humber there is a note about the opening of Marston Chapel in 1711. Was this a previous rebuild of a medieval chapel? C.J. Robinson (*Manors and Mansions of Herefordshire*, p.230) records that Mrs Hurt restored and re-endowed the chapelry in 1774. Prior to this the Manor of Marston had been held for several generations by the Hurt family.

### Lower Buckland

Descending the hill, crossing the Holly Brook and turning westward along the bridleway we reached Lower Buckland Farm. This is an attractive timber framed farmhouse. The northern cross-wing has large timber framing which is older than the southern wing which indicates wealth by the use of small timber framing, probably 17th C (Fig. 9). Looking eastwards at the house, two red brick labourers' cottages can be seen in the distance which are probably those built by Nicholas Heygate at the request of Richard Arkwright when he leased the property to Nicholas in about 1866 (Fig. 10).



Figure 7. (above) Tiles at Marston Chapel



Figure 8 (right). Marston Chapel in 1969 showing walls still standing



Figure 9. Lower Buckland showing cross-wing with older, larger timber-framing than the main house





Figure 10. Lower Buckland showing the cottages probably built by Nicholas Heygate in about 1866

### **Buckland**

The bridleway continues past Lower Buckland to Upper Buckland House (Buckland on Fig. 1). Early documentation collected by Thomas Bird FSA, Hereford, in 1827 from 'Memoranda relating to the County of Hereford' found amongst the papers of the late Thomas Berrington Esq. (possibly of Canon Pyon?) states that 'Buckland was a village'. In his will of 1654 Richard Cornwall of Upper Buckland mentions his 'well beloved friends Philip South of Grendon and William Morris of Buckland gentlemen to be overseers of this my last will and testament'. William Morris of Lower Buckland was buried in 1684 in Docklow. Following the footpath around the east side of the house and gardens towards Risbury there are some slight earthworks on either side of the path which may be evidence of house platforms and tracks. The footpath itself follows a slightly sunken broad track descending towards the Holly Brook. These earthworks together with the terracing of three fields between Upper Buckland Farm buildings and Lower Buckland Farm, accessed by a sunken way on the north side now no longer used, suggest a possible location for the vanished village.

### **Upper Buckland House**

This is a house with an interesting history, part of which can be seen in its chimneys. The earliest visible chimney is that at the east end and is of a similar ornamental brick style to a chimney at Stokesay Castle which is dated to 1641. The RCHME surveyors did not list the house, possibly because they did not notice the chimney and investigate further.

The westward extension of the house seems to have been built by Arthur Evans, an East India Company merchant who purchased the house in 1757. In his will of 1770 he left his 'new house of Buckland' to his wife. It seems likely that this is 'the gabled house of stone-rubble and brick-work' which Robinson describes as being converted by Capt. E. N. Heygate in 1860 'into a more uniform red-brick mansion'. In 1820 the property was purchased by a businessman from Leominster, William George Cherry who on his death left it to his wife. Mr Cherry had also made alterations to the property as in his will he requested that 'the kitchen of the farmhouse should be completed'. There are two chimneys which seem to relate to Mr Evans's extension; they are square with two string courses. It is possible that a third square chimney relates to a later extension by Mr Cherry.

The house and estate of Upper Buckland was acquired by Captain Edward Nicholas Heygate of the Royal Engineers about 1860. In the census of 1861 both Nicholas and his brother Robert were resident in Upper Buckland together with Andrew and Edward, Nicholas' sons aged 2 and 1 years, 2 nursemaids, a housekeeper and a groom. Nicholas was aged 33, and Robert was described as a farmer aged 31.

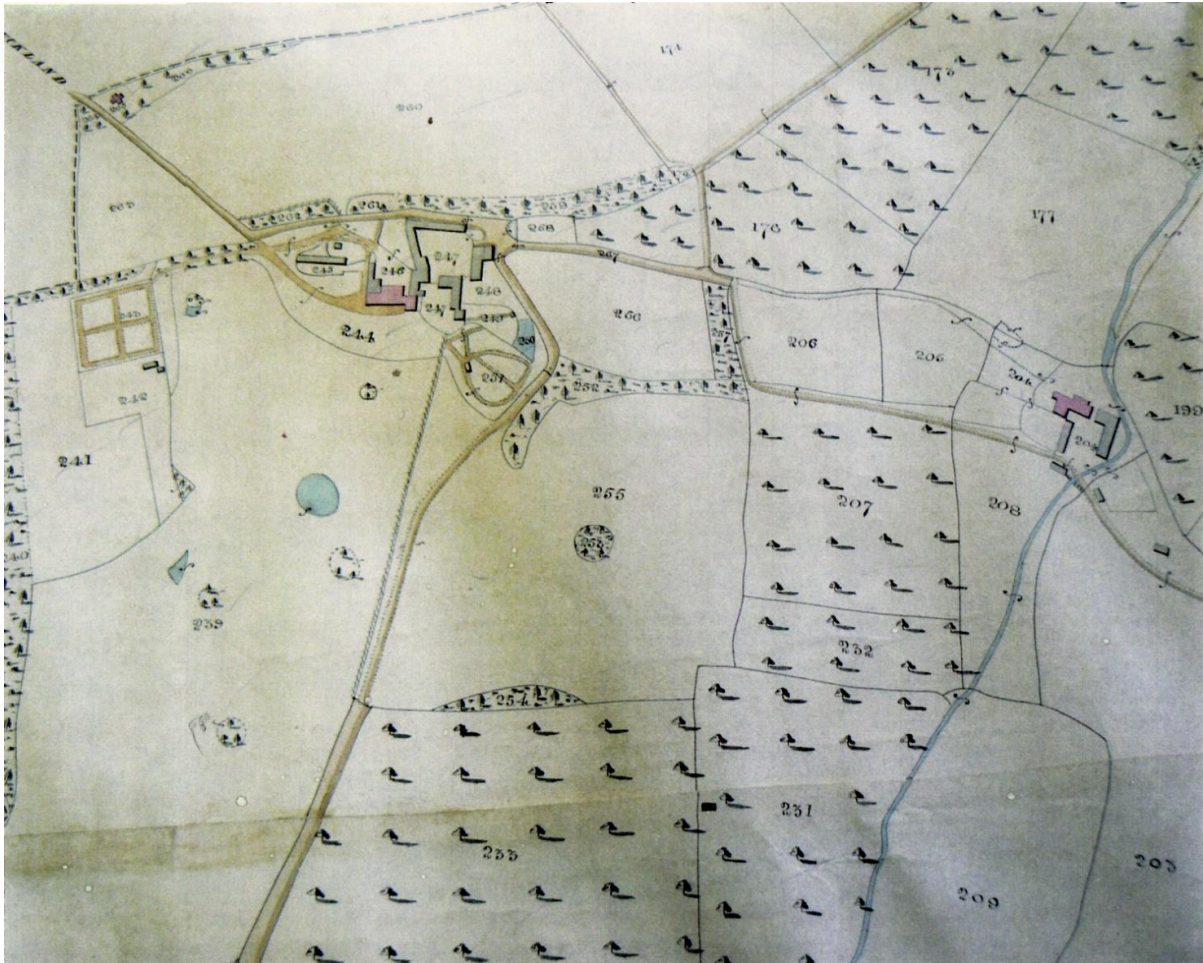


Figure 10. The 1841 tithe map showing Lower Buckland to the east and Upper Buckland with its extensive gardens and buildings to the west. In both cases the main house is coloured pink and the outbuildings blue.

The extension by Captain Heygate at the west end of the house incorporates two rooms with bow windows and a portico entrance with three tall long narrow chimneys above. Captain Heygate also appears to have cased the whole house in brick, adding another bay window at the east end. This took place about 1866 when he was in correspondence with Mr Arkwright mentioning his proposed 'burn' of bricks which would enable him to build the two labourers' cottages at Lower Buckland. These were required by Arkwright as part of the agreement to rent Lower Buckland farm by Heygate. His reason for renting it was that he wanted to be able to hunt across the land; he was therefore allowed to sublet to a farmer who was agreeable to him hunting. The extensive works of casing the whole house may explain why Louise Thomas said that 'the clay was dug from the lake pits to the south-west and moved to the house by railway. Parts of the railway still exist, incorporated into the farm buildings.' (Davey & Roseff - *Herefordshire Bricks and Brickmakers*, p.86).

As a soldier in the Royal Engineers no doubt moving the clay (or was it bricks ?) by rail might seem a good option for such extensive works. Between 1841 and 1884 the main access to the house was switched from the south side as shown on the tithe map in 1841 to the north side as shown on the 6 inch scale OS map of 1884. It seems likely that this was an innovation by Captain Heygate as part of his general renovation of the appearance of the house, and the provision of a pillared portico entry on the north side. The OS Map of 1885 shows the parkland around Upper Buckland extending into fields north and south of the house and including the walled garden to the west.

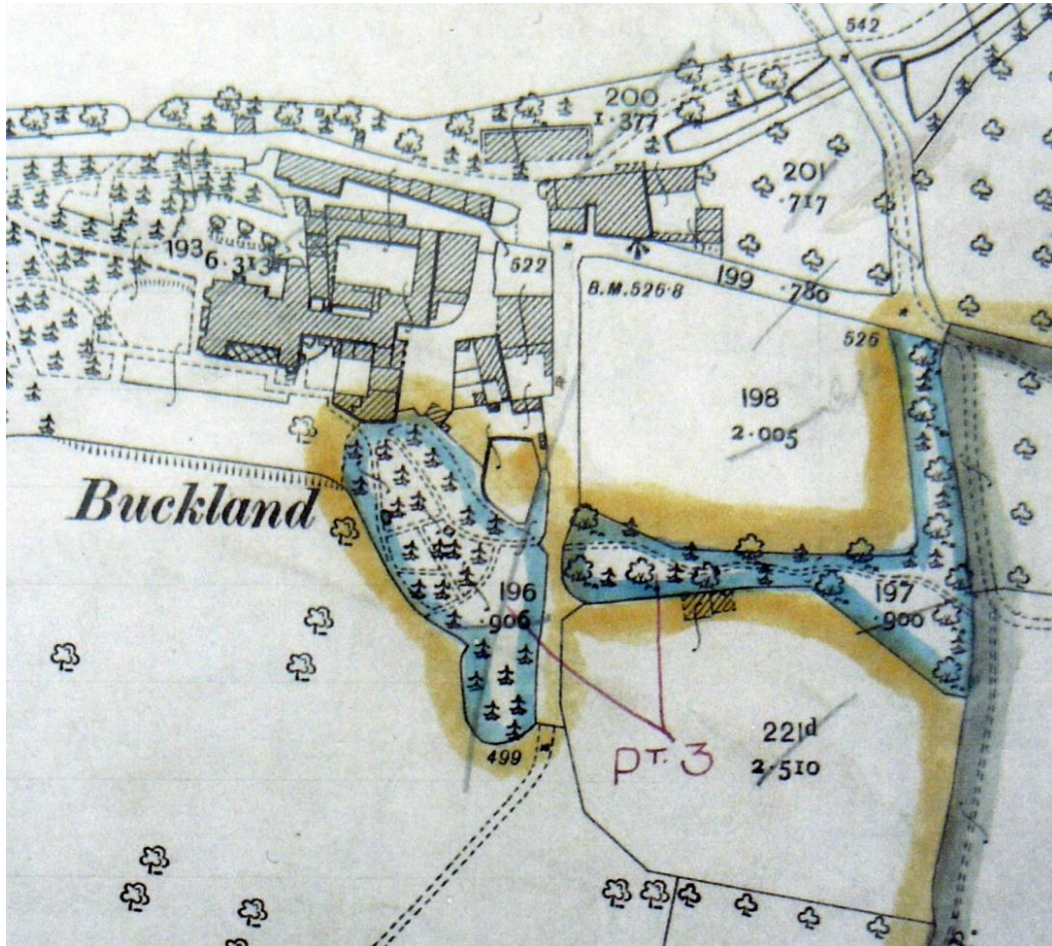


Figure 11. The 1885 OS map (revised 1902) showing the extensive changes to the house made since the time of the tithe map.



Figure 12. The bow-windowed west front of Buckland House in 2013. The oldest chimney is the second from the left in the picture and is shown in more detail overleaf.



Figure 13. The windows facing the camera lie on the north side of Buckland House. The early chimney on the east side is partially obscured by one of the later chimneys probably built by Mr Cherry.

### **The Sad Story of Carwendy, St Weonards by Rosalind Lowe**

Most Woolhope Club members know of a large house in their area which was pulled down (or blown up) any time after WWI or WWII, when servants were no longer available or affordable or where the family had run out of heirs.

What is probably less well documented is the number of older farmhouses which have suffered the same fate in more recent times. ARS members paid a visit a few years ago to Greenway in Whitchurch, a roofless ruin which can be seen from the Daff-y-nant service station on the A40. Its fate was sealed in the 1980s when the roof tiles were used to cover a replacement farmhouse nearby.

### **Carwendy**

I shall use the name 'Carwendy' in preference to others, but it has been called other variations including *Caerwendy*. There is no evidence of a fort of any kind; the early names seem to be based on Car-, one of the earliest being a reference in the *Llyfr Baglan* in 1607 to 'Thomas Ridheid of *Careweney*' quoted by *Duncumb*.<sup>1</sup> The name 'Ridheid' would seem to confirm the identification, as will be seen later.

Carwendy suffered demolition in 1984, but its sad decline had started with an absentee owner in the 19th century. The current owner lives in a bungalow built to replace the old house. He asked me whether there was any truth in the statement that one of the doors of the old house had shown the scars of an attack during the Civil War on Scottish soldiers who were sheltering there. There were supposed to be the marks left by a cannonball which had been fired at the building.

As Carwendy was listed by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England (RCHME) surveyors in the late 1920s it has an HER (SMR) record, **6807**, but there is little information there. The grid reference is **SO 46548 25081**. The demolition of a listed building meant that the Council's planning department were involved, so there was a substantial file of material, including letters from Jim Tonkin (who looked at it with his buildings group from across several fields) and the Ross Civic Society, who made a photographic survey now in Herefordshire Record Office.<sup>2</sup> The HRO photos were printed at a time when textured surfaces were in vogue, and are difficult to photograph or scan, and the HRO closure has meant that no more attempts have been made. The negatives no longer exist. The Council's own photos and the other material in the planning file were microfiched and then destroyed. Unfortunately the Council's fiche reader couldn't cope very well with the result, though I have made an effort to improve the photos. The original photos in the RCHME surveyors' notebooks do survive.

### **The topography around Carwendy**

It has proved impossible to compress a map of St Weonards sufficiently to show a known point of reference such as the church or Treago and also Carwendy, for it lies on the edge of the parish 'about 2 m. to the W.N.W. of the church' according to RCHME. The land dips sharply to the west of the church down to a stream where a small road leads past Treago on flatter land and then starts to rise again towards a high ridge. Below the summit of the ridge lie a number of farms, of which Carwendy is one. The land here is steep but at least lies in the rain shadow of the ridge.

Nowadays the approach to the farm is via a track leading from the road from Treago, but from the 1839 St Weonards tithe map this was merely a trackway, as the main entrance appears to run towards the north-west meeting the road which runs along the ridge above (Fig. 1). By 1839 this way in was already compromised by a large barn built in its path. The site slopes steeply, a small part of the farm yard now being level, but it is believed that demolition debris from the house was used to do the levelling.

Hardly any of the numerous farm buildings now remain, some having been demolished relatively recently. An aerial photograph taken in the mid-1980s (Fig. 2) shows the bungalow on the site of the original house, somewhat elevated above the farmyard to the right, and to the right again the large threshing barn, already roofless and now gone. The owners say that an old flight of stairs

still exists in the slope between the bungalow and the farmyard. The large barn to the top right of the photo is modern, but the other two buildings to the top right and bottom centre are old. There is a date stone over the doorway of the building bottom centre which appears to show 1796.

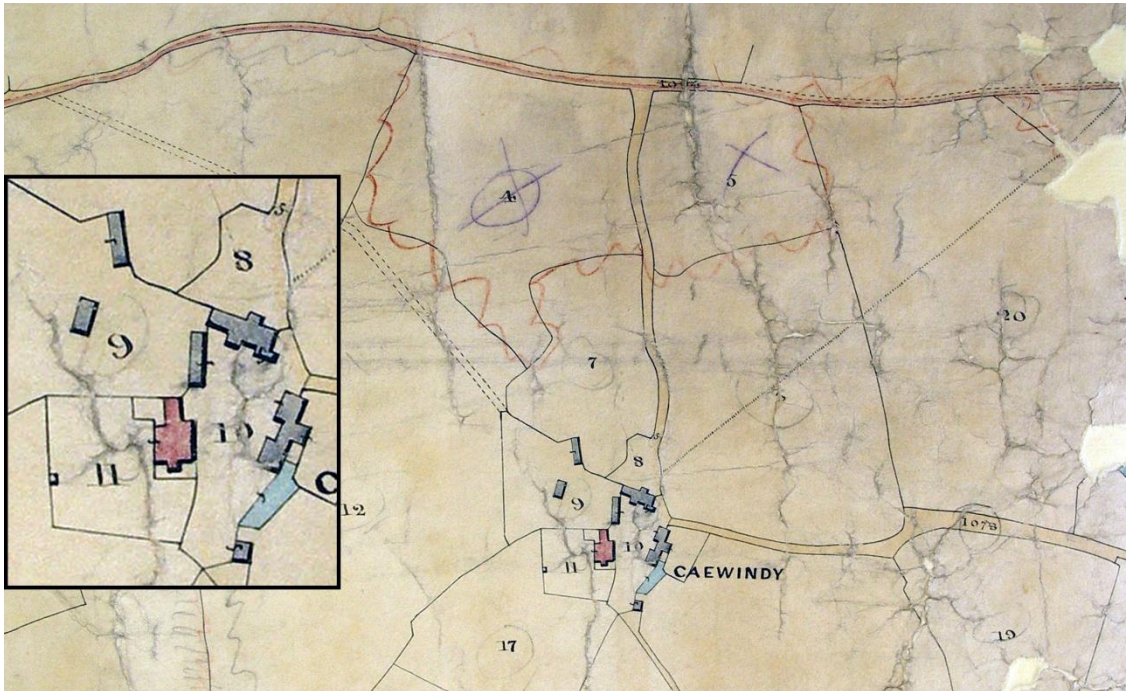


Figure 1. Carwendy from the 1839 St Weonards tithe map, with detail inset. North-west to the top



Figure 2. Aerial photo of Carwendy in the mid-1980s showing the bungalow on the site of the old house. The roofless threshing barn lies to the right of the figure 10 on the tithe map

## The RCHME survey

The report of the surveyor's visit in the late 1920s/early 1930s is not dated, but the surveyor was G. E. Chambers. Often the survey of a property would take half a day, so the photographs were taken separately.<sup>3</sup>

**B.**

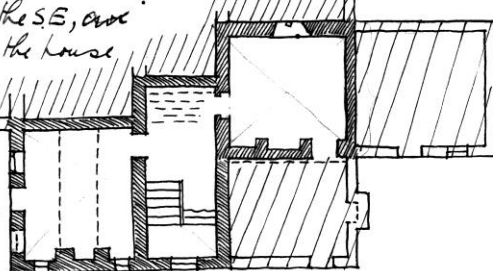
**RECORD CARD FOR SECULAR MONUMENTS.**

(N.B.—Detail of special interest is to be entered here, but described fully on a separate card.)

1. Name and situation of Monument (with owner's Name and Address). *Carwendy*

2. General appearance: (a) No. of storeys, *Two, with attic basement*  
 (b) Building materials, *Local sandstone rubble & ashlar*  
 (c) Roofs, *slate*

3. Historical development (with dates and small sketch plan).  
*An irregular shaped house, built on a steep slope, so that there is a basement on the E side above. only. The northernmost room to the basement is of 15<sup>th</sup> c. date. The two rooms opening off to the S.E., over ~~east of the~~ *east of the* ~~basement~~ *basement* and the upper part of the house on this side, were added early in the 17<sup>th</sup> c. In more recent years the house was extended to the west, & modern additions built against the original wing on its E, & N. sides. The interior*



4. Special features (if any) *has been for the most part remodelled.*

5. Elevations: (Beginning with the main front, and mentioning, in the following order:—(a) Walls; (b) Gables; (c) Doors; (d) Windows; (e) Chimneys; (f) Rainwater heads and pipes.)  
*The doors & windows are modern, the chimney stacks have been rebuilt above the roof*

Figure 3. First page of the RCHME surveyor's report. Parts of the building considered to be post-1720 are not given on the plan. ©English Heritage by kind permission



Figure 4. The RCHME photograph of the north-eastern front of Carwendy, which faces the threshing barn and is the bottom face of the house in the plan above. The truncation of the chimneys is in the original photograph. No notes were made on item 6, 'Grounds'. ©English Heritage by kind permission

I have transcribed the rest of the surveyor's notes below.<sup>4</sup> There are very small, faded thumbnail sketches in the notes as indicated.

'7. Interior: (Disposition of rooms, if original, giving fittings as they occur (see list), beginning with the ground floor, following with the basement, and working up to the attics; staircases in the same manner.)

<b>Fittings:</b> (Reminder list)	In the modern addition in the N.E. corner is a re-used moulded beam [sketch].
(1) Ceilings	The 15th C. room adjoining has a wide fireplace, now blocked. In it S. wall is a doorway with stop chamfered jambs of ashlar. The head is missing. In the W. wall is a square headed two light window with a stone mullion with chamfered edge. The room has a segmental arched vault of stone.
(2) Cupboards (fixed)	Adjoining this room to the SE is a 17th C staircase with square newel posts with moulded panels; turned & moulded balusters and moulded hand rail resting [?]. The stair is in five flights, the lower steps are of stone.
(3) Doors and Overdoors	The SE room to the Basement has two moulded ceiling beams. The door into the S wall has a square chamfered head & chamfered jambs [sketch]. Adjoining it on the E side is a blocked window.
(4) Fireplaces and Mantel-pieces	The room on the Ground Floor above the 15th C basement has moulded [ <i>sic</i> , sketch] and joists. Along the S wall is a panelled partition of 17th C date [sketch]
(5) Glass	
(6) Paintings	The roof has collar beams & side purlins but has been largely rebuilt with the old timbers.
(7) Panelling	



Figure 5. The RCHME photo of the south-east front. Note the threshing barn in the background. ©English Heritage by kind permission

The printed volumes of the RCHME survey of Herefordshire can be disappointing, as they rarely include photographs of humbler dwellings. Pre-demolition, it was hoped that items such as the staircase could be saved for re-use, but I have not found any record of what actually happened.

The RCHME surveyors said that the condition of the house was 'bad'. In the fifty or so years between the RCHME survey and the proposed demolition the roof tiles had disappeared, and once this has happened the end was inevitable.



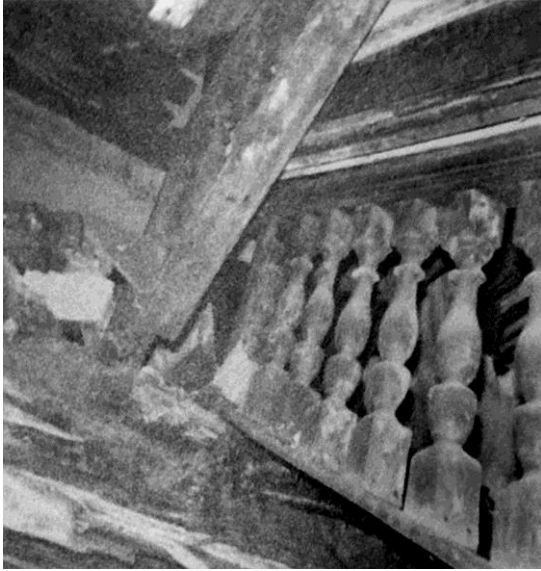


Figure 6. The Ross Civic Society (RCS) photograph of the staircase as described by RCHME



Figure 7 (right). The RCS photograph of the 15th C window as described by RCHME

By the time the Ross Civic Society made their survey visit a large baulk of timber had crashed on the staircase. All the roofs were gone except, ironically, that over the room with the bay window on the north-east face. This had been tile-hung at the RCHME visit but was corrugated iron by the 1980s.

The photos of the RCS visit which are at HRO were stuck on cards, and a number had fallen off and become separated from the cards. In early 2012 they were being conserved and a search made for the missing photos which may add extra information.

One of the two outbuildings in field 9 on the tithe map survives in part, or its roofing material may include re-used timbers from the old building. The photographs of the outbuildings taken on my visit will be deposited with other material at the Record Office and in the SMR.

### ***The Priddeth family***

The RCHME surveyors dated the earliest part of the building to the 15th century, and for once it is possible to trace the name of later owners or occupiers from the present day back to that period in Saint Weonards. In Appendix 1 I give a list of Priddeth records from early sources for Herefordshire and in Appendix 2 some Priddeth wills. Baptismal and marriage records for the family at St Weonards are available online at Family Search, but not before 1620, possibly because the incumbency was shared with Llangarren where some earlier records exist for the Priddeths.

The names of the family from the earliest probate wills (see Appendix 1) make it clear that the local version is 'ap Rythyd' or variations. Duncumb suggests it is from '*Prydydd*', a poet, but it is clear from Welsh surname textbooks that the early form ap Ryrd and its later variations was a common personal name along the Welsh Marches. In fact, it is an interesting example of the evolution of the name 'ap Rythid' to 'Priddeth' or even 'Priddy'.

### ***Early Records***

Philip, son of Henry ap Riryd of Herefordshire, was a creditor in a case held in 1309-13, and the record is in the National Archives (C 241/79/172).

Delphine Coleman, in her history of Orcop, mentions Carwendy, although it is now in the parish of St Weonards, and states that the farm offered suit in the manor of Orcop. This was one time in the ownership of the Myndes of Much Dewchurch, and as such some records passed to the National Library of Wales, which has a good calendar of the Mynde collection (MC) online. There seem to be only a few court rolls of Orcop. The ap Ririd name appears at an early date. In 1437 William ap Ririd was (it appears) a dower trustee for Phillip ap

Guillim Grono; Thomas ap Ririd was a witness (MC 180). The land was granted back again in 1439 (MC 140). William ap Rired was a witness in 1451 (MC 83).

### ***Linking the later records***

The current owner kindly made his deeds available to me. Most were fairly modern, but one did recite an earlier deed in which Benjamin Priddeth Donne, the owner of Carwendy, raised a mortgage on the property. He was also the owner at the time of the 1839 tithe map, and a possible descent from the ancient Priddith or Ap Ryddyth family of St Weonards can be traced *albeit* with the usual cautionary remarks. The family name has many variations.

Benjamin *Priddy* Donne was baptised in 1811 at Llanwarne, the son of John Donne<sup>5</sup> and Sarah (possibly Bickerton, who married a John Donne at Aconbury in February 1809).

From this point backwards the different lines of descent become rather confused. Tacy, daughter of Mr William Prideth died in 1734 aged 30. In 1751 William Prideth of Carwendy, gent. died aged 37 [number unclear - probably older]. A William Pridith of St Weonards had voted for Sir Hungerford Hoskyns at the 1722 elections.

A Benjamin Dunn married Ann Priddeth 28 June 1732 at St Weonards. A record of their marriage settlement is in the National Library of Wales (NLW).<sup>6</sup> Benjamin was the son of William Donne of Pengethley, yeoman, and his wife Anne; Anne was the daughter of William Priddeth of Caerwendy, gent. Anne's marriage portion was £200.<sup>7</sup> They had a number of children including: William (bap Hentland 1735); Benjamin (bap 1739 Hentland) and John (bap 1743 at Hentland).

These were not the first marriages between the Donne and Pryddith families: Richard Pridyth married Joan Donne in 1583 at Hentland and John Prydith married Margaret Donne in 1588 at Llangarron.

Walter Priddy of Carwendye, yeoman, is mentioned in the marriage settlement of Thomas Dew and Catherine Priddy, Walter's natural sister, in May 1666.<sup>8</sup> Walter Prydith married Joan Weare in 1662 at St Weonards.



It may have been John Pridith the elder whose will was proved in 1598 who lost the silver shilling found in the grounds, identified by Hereford Museum as being minted at the Tower between 1591 and 1594 (Fig. 8).<sup>9</sup>

Figure 8. Obverse of the silver shilling found at Carwendy. (Museum reference: HESH-D6E9C5)

Without a complete set of deeds, wills and church records it would be difficult to trace definitively the descent of the Carwendy property in the Priddeth family were it not for the series of taxation records in the National Archives. These are in TNA/E179/118, and those for 1559 to 1622 (ten assessments) for the hundred of Wormelow have been photographed.<sup>10</sup> The valuation of land or goods for individuals is explained fully in *Lay Taxes in England and Wales 1188-1688* available from the National Archives bookshop. Not all individuals were included in each assessment, but in general the individual was assessed on either land (T for terram) or goods (B) to bring in the most revenue.

For only one year, 1585, is more than one Pryd(d)ith (usual spelling) listed in St Weonards. For 1559, 1568, 1571, 1585, 1590, 1592, 1594, 1598 and 1600 the one John Pryddith only is assessed at 20s for land. In 1585 Richard Pryddith also is assessed at 20s; in 1622 William Pridith only is assessed, again in land for 20s. 20s is an average value for land, the Mynors family as the largest landowner usually being assessed at £3. As Philippe Pryddythe was the only family member assessed in the last Henry VIII assessment in 1547 possibly John (1559) was his son.

The descent of the name Philip is borne out by some documents in the National Archives which may relate to the family including a dispute in Herefordshire concerning John and Margaret Prydyth, the executors of Philip Prydyth, in the reign of Henry VII, and another Herefordshire dispute between Pryddith and Pryddith in 1661. These will be searched when time allows.

### What about the Civil War bullet marks?

An apparently simple question has led to a very interesting history of Carwendy and the Prideth family. The original mystery, however, remains unanswered. John Webb, in his *History of the Civil War in Herefordshire* tells how Scottish soldiers came to St Weonards but, because the wife of the owner of Treago threw open the doors and made them welcome, St Weonards was saved from damage and no claims for reparation were made after the war was over. A Cromwellian camp was supposed to have been set up in the fields below Carwendy. During her research on the history of Orcop Delphine Coleman used a manuscript history of the parish written by the Rev. Norris Dredge, vicar of Orcop 1893 to 1909.<sup>11</sup> In it he gives the story of the bullet holes and says that they could still be seen. Presumably the occupier at that time told him the story, but whether it was true we shall never know.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Herefordshire Record Office who gave permission to use the pictures of items in their possession, Heather Hurley for permission to use her photos of Carwendy and English Heritage for allowing publication of the RCHME notebook photos.

### Appendix 1. Priddeth names and dates

Abbreviations: CalP: Calendar of Hereford *Probates 1407-1550*;

SW: Sancti Waynardi, St Weonards

HTH8: *Herefordshire Taxes in the reign of Henry VIII*

HMA: *Herefordshire Militia Assessments 1663*

HTX: 1663/4 Hearth Tax

HMI: Herefordshire marriage index to 1650

Duncumb: *Hundred of Wormelow*

Source	Ref	Page	Year	P in ref	Name	
CalP	74/6	70	1474-5	p 3-5	Thomas ap Ryryd	of Llangarren E:Robert Hugyns of same & Thomas ap Davy of SW
CalP	87/212	118	1487or8 26.11.	p153-4	Hugh Aprithid	of SW. (p.154 ap Ridith) Elen his relict (1488/9 p357:& David his son
CalP	508/233	189	1509 Mar 27	256	Sibil ap Rithid	of SW A:Robert Morris & Wm Moris son of same
CalP	534/328	269	1535/6 Mar 20	468	Maud Williams	of SW E: William Pryde
HTH8			1536			St W not mentioned
HTH8	43Ww9	214	1543/4		Willo Pr(id)yth	B £10/ 6s8d
HTH8	43Ww9	214	1543/4		Alicia Pr(id)yth	B xl [sic] 40s/ 4d
HTH8	45bWw16	252	1545		Will Predythe	8s
HTH8			benevolence			
HTH8	45aWw18	280	1543 subs		Willm P(red)ythe	£10/ 3s 4d
HTH8			1545 subs			missing
HTH8	47Ww7	394	1545sub 1547		Wm Prydythe	B £8/5s 4d
HTH8	47Ww7	394	1545sub 1547		Philippe Prydythe	T 20s/ 2s
HMA		183	1663		Wa: Priddith	£6-0-0
HMA		183	1663		Edw: Priddith	£1-10-0
HMA		183	1663		Tho: Priddith	£1-0-0
HMI			1605 Mar 3		John Priddie	m Margery Vaughan at Hentland
HMI			1631 Apr 30		Thomas Priddish	m Jane Phillipps at Hereford St John
HMI			1583 Nov 11		Richard Pridyth	m Joan Donne at Llangarron
HMI			1631 June 25		Edward Prithie	m Margery Bradford at St Weonards
HMI			1630 Oct 28		William Prithie	m Catherine Prichard at St Weonards
HMI			1588 Jun 17		John Prydith	m Margaret Donne at Llangarron
HMI			1601 Feb 16		Alice Pridie	m Richard Treherne at Lugwardine
HMI			1630 Nov 10		Joan Prithie	m Thomas Boughan at St Weonards
HMI			1631 Jan 23		Sibil Prithie	m George Horseman at St Weonards
HMI			1596 May 4		Anne Prydy	m John Bougham [Boughan] at Hereford St Nich
HTX					Walter Pridith	3 hearths
HTX					John Pridith	2 hearths

HTX			Thomas Prydith	1 hearth
HTX			Edward Prydith	1 hearth
HTX			William Prydith	1 hearth
DunW	29	1671 Hearth Tax	no Priddeth	

**Duncumb:**

- p70. in St Weonards church, a memorial tablet to Tacy, daughter of Mr William Prideth, died 27 April 1734 aged 30.  
p72. churchyard: 1. Mary, wife of Thomas Preddy of the Werndee d. 8 Nov 1857 aged 77 and Thomas Preddy d. 20 Dec 1863 aged 84.  
2. William Preddy of the Gorsty Close d. 12 Jan 1879 aged 52. Mary Ann his wife d. 24 Sep 1891 aged 75.  
p73.  
1. William Priduth of Carwendy, gent. d. 1751 aged 37. [figures uncertain]  
p75,  
1. Elizabeth wife of Thomas Watkins and daughter of W<sup>l</sup> Prideth of Carwendy, gent. d. ..Dec 17.. aged 73 [could be Walter Prideth]

**Appendix 2. Wills**

The earliest will or administration found registered for the Priddeth family given as living in St Weonards is Hugh Aprithid in 1487 or 8.<sup>12</sup> However, from the list in Appendix 1 there is one possible earlier will, that of Thomas ap Ryryd (1474-5). As is often the case in the Hereford diocese Act books no extra information is given in Hugh Aprithid's entry.<sup>13</sup>

Transcriptions of early wills and inventories found so far are given below; some are rather difficult to read.

**1. 1556 will of William Predythe of St Weonards**

*In the name of God Amen. The second day of May in the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and six. I Willm Predythe of the parish of Saint Waynards within the diocese of Hereford sick? in Body and perfect of remembrance do make my testament and last will in this manner. First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god and to our saint Mary and to the prayers of all saints and my body to be buried when time shall require.*

*Item I give and bequeath to Hugh my son xi (11) sheep Also I will that Hugh my said son shall maintain at School until he be of lawful age. Item I give and bequeath to Maude Elizabeth and Johan my daughters to any of them five pounds of lawful money of England. Item I give and bequeath to my godly father for the tithes forgotten iijid (4d).*

*Item I give and bequeath to Johan my wife a Cow.*

*Item I will to hom-- me the Day of my burial vj (6) tapers.*

*Item I give and bequeath to Thomas my son all my heritage (?heritable) lands with all the horses(?) pertaining or che-- or by my [...].*

*Item I give the xv (15) pounds of money that my son John is indebted(?) to me for my purchase lands that he hath of me to be paid to my daughters.*

*Item the residue of my goods moveable and immoveable I give and bequeath to Johan my wife and to Thomas my son Item I constitute ordain and make my true and lawful executors Johan my wife and Thomas my son. For witnesses of this my last will and testament Richard Smythe curate Robert Wathen Thomas Wathen Thomas Were and Phelipe Jones*

**2. 1598 will of John Pridith the elder of St Weonards**

*Unfortunately the film of this will has proved difficult to read, and the original will be consulted when time allows. John Pridith was a yeoman and disposed of his stock and 'edifice'.*

**3. 1631 will of John Prideth St Weonards**

*In the name of God Amen the twentieth day of November in the year of our lord god 1631*

*I John Pridith of the meadow in the parish of Saint Weynards and county of Hereford yeoman do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following*

*Imprimis I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god my maker etc*

*Item I do give and bequeath one ewe unto my god daughter Johan ??*

*Item I do give and bequeath unto my brother Thomas six children ix sheep to be delivered at my.. next after they are shorn*

*Item I do give and bequeath unto my godson John Pridith my brother Thomas son twenty shillings to be paid upon the day of the marriage of my daughter Sybyll if it shall so happen Item my will is that my wife shall have my lands during her life and after her decease I do give and bequeath it unto my daughter Sybyll and to the heirs of her body begotten and for want of such heirs unto my foresaid godson John Pridith and his heirs for ever*

*Item I do give and bequeath all my goods cattle chattels household stuff implements of household moveable or immoveable whatsoever unto Margery my wife whom I do make sole executrix of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I have set my hand and seal mark*

*witnessed by John Mynors William Grome? John Pridith William Pridith John Jones*

**4. 1636 will of Richard Priddith, citizen and merchant taylor of London.**

*sister Joan wife of Thomas VAUGHAN; brothers William & Lewis PRIDDITH; John BAKER.*

*Executor: sister Frances PRIDDITH widow.*

*Witnesses: William PRIOR, Stephen EVANS citizen & carpenter, & Ellen BUSTLER widow.<sup>14</sup>*

Note: The testator was apprenticed 1618 son of John PRIDDITH of St. Weonard, co. Hereford husb.

### 5. 1667 Administration Bond of Walter Pryddith St Weonards

Joan Pryddith widow of Llangarren and John Hopkins of Tretyre Michaelchurch on 26 April 1667 to give their bond that the goods chattels etc of Walter Pryddith will be duly administered. signed at Hereford.

### 6. 1669 Sep 13 Inventory of John Prideth St Weonards

A true and perfect inventory of the goods and chattels of John Prideth of the parish of St Wannards in Co Hereford yeoman deceased taken [blank]

	£-s-d
Item One yoke of oxen and a Horse	7-0-0
Item Three cows	6-0-0
Item Three ? and six sheep of all sorts	8-10-0
Item can't read	2-15-0
Item of Rye - - wheat in the barn the w--y of twenty five bushels	3-0-0
Item of barley loose in ? fifteen acres?	6-10-0
Item of hay and clover one lade	8-10-0
Item two wains and two ploughs and other implements of husbandry	1-5-0
Item two beds and bedsteads and one truckle bed and bedstead	2-10-0
Item six pair of sheets and five pair of napkins and two towels	1-10-0
Item four bolsters and three covers and a coverlid and three blankets and one pillow and pillows bearehand? two board cloths	1-15-0
Item of wool in the house four stone	3-0-0
Item two table boards and frames and three joint forms and one chair	0-12-0
Item Two cobots [cupboards?] and cobot cloths and two chests and one press	0-10-0
Item two brass pots and a iron pot and four brass chetels [kettles?] and a brass pan and two brass collets [skillets?]	1-10-0
Item ten dishes of pewter and three candlesticks and two flagons	0-15-0
Item of ? of all manner to the value of	1-5-0
Item three hocsets[hogsheads] and one barrel and other copper & wa--	0-12-0
Item the deceased mans [cloots] clothes	1-10-0
Item things unnamed or forgotten	0-?-0
Item One chattell lease for eight years yet to come worth above the rent referred	02:00:00
<b>Total</b>	<b>53:07:00</b>

Apprizors not given

### 7. 1681 will of Walter Priddy of Carwendy St Weonards

In the name of God ..eighteenth day of October in three and thirtieth year of the reign of Charles the Second etc. I Walter Priddy [sic] of Carwendy in the parish of St Waynards in the county of Hereford and being infirm in body [but of] perfect memory thanks be to almighty god do make & ordain this my last will and testament in manner & form following.

First & above all things I commend(?) my [soul] into the hands of Almighty god my Creator hoping to be saved through the merit of Jesus Christ my only saviour and redeemer & my body to be buried in Chr[istian]burial according to the direction of my executors hereafter named And as concerning my temporal estate wherewith it hath pleased Almighty God to allow me I dispose off in manner & form following

**Whereas** Anne my beloved wife for advancement and preferment of her children by me begotten hath agreed to release & convey unto my son William Priddith [sic] within two years after my decease the moiety or one half of the lands tenements & hereditaments ..her jointure ..is that the said William shall have the same moiety of the said lands tenements & hereditaments within two years of my decease

I do give and devise the same unto my son William & to his heirs & assigns for ever. And I do also give & devise the other moiety or one half of the lands, tenement & hereditaments which my wife hath for ..her jointure unto my said son William Priddith to have and to hold unto him his heirs and assigns forever from ....[paper folded] .ately after the determination of my w[ife]

I give & devise all ..the rest & residue of my lands tenements meadows pastures woods underwoods & hereditaments whatsoever unto my said son To have and to hold to him his heirs and assigns To his uses etc immediately after my decease paying the ...lea..yes here..mentioned That is to say the sum of fifty pounds unto my son John Priddith within six(?) years after the date hereof And the like sum of fifty pounds unto my son W..within 8 years of the date hereof And the like sum of fifty pounds unto Yates? one of the other of my sons within ten years after the date hereof And also unto my daughter Anne Priddith the sum of one hundred and sixty pounds within four years after the date of this my will And my will is if ..do bee.....legacy aforesaid never? paid in manner aforesaid And my will is that if it shall happen that other of my sons shall happen to decease before the time.. & appointed for payment thereof That then he or or other that shall be so unpaid shall enter into the the ???fully satisfied and paid Also I do give all my cider vessels unto my son William ... unto my beloved wife Ann.. I do make and ordain ...Tho Scudamore Henry Morse my executors witnesses: Roger Mynors James Badham Thomas Cooke ?G Priddith

**8. 1681 Inventory of Walter Pridith of Carwendy St Weonards Dated November 2 1681**

*An inventory of the Goods and Chatles of Walter Pridith lately deceased of the parish of St Waynards in the County of Hereford.*

	<i>£-s-d</i>
<i>Imprimis</i>	<i>3-10-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 5 beds? with blankets and - to each End?	<i>8-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 19 pairs of sheets	<i>4-10-0</i>
<i>Item</i> Pillows @& p...s	<i>?-12-0</i>
<i>Item</i> Napkins 5 dozen & ?	<i>0-13-3</i>
<i>Item</i> 5 table cloths	<i>0-12-6</i>
<i>Item</i> 4 Towels	<i>0-7-5</i>
<i>Item</i> 2 bushells ???	
<i>Item</i> ?	
<i>Item</i> 8 pewter dishes	<i>?-1-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 3 wier(?) candlesticks & 1 ?	<i>0-1-6</i>
<i>Item</i> 1 dozen ..pewter..	<i>?-1-6</i>
<i>Item</i> 7 pewter plates	<i>0-3-6</i>
<i>Item</i> one pewter flagon	<i>0-2-6</i>
<i>Item</i> 3 tin(?) pans 1 sauce pan 1 ???	<i>0-5-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 3 small table boards & eight old chairs	<i>0-10-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 3 spinning wheels	<i>0-4-6</i>
<i>Item</i> 2 small t.. 4 t.... j bowls	<i>0-3-0</i>
<i>Item</i> Links(?) & pothooks fleshooks?	<i>0-1-5</i>
<i>Item</i> 2 old ... 1 old ...	<i>0-6-0</i>
<i>Item</i> household provisions eg butter cheese & ? & bacon	<i>3-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> other small things & lumber belonging to the house	<i>0-3-4</i>
<i>Item</i> 4 old coffers and old trunks (??)	<i>0-7-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 3 stone of locke(?) wool	<i>0-12-0</i>
<i>Item</i> linen & woollen yarn(?) ..flax...	<i>1-10-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 2 hogshead of cider	<i>7-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> ij barrels & Kind..	<i>1-2-0</i>
<i>Item</i> ??	<i>0-6-8</i>
<i>Item</i> 5 bags 2 old ? 2 wallets	<i>0-12-5</i>
<i>Item</i> Killheare?	<i>?-5-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 5 bed steads	<i>?-7-5</i>
<i>Item</i> 1 cider mill	<i>1-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 3 iron bound wains	<i>3-15-0</i>
<i>Item</i> Ploughs harrows string(?) & yoke	<i>1-10-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 8 oxen	<i>20-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 8 cows	<i>16-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 10 young cattles	<i>16-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 6 calves	<i>10-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 5 horses mares & colts	<i>9-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 100 & 50 sheep of all sorts	<i>22-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 7 great ? pigs	<i>4-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 37 small st.. pigs	<i>3-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> 1 spit ? shovel & tongs 1 warming pan	<i>0-5-0</i>
<i>Item</i> poultry of all sorts	<i>1-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> grain in the barns viz wheat(?) rye barley peas & oats	<i>30-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> corn sowed on the ground 19 acres	<i>6-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i> Hay	<i>5-0-0</i>
<i>Item</i>	<b>Total 173-14-0</b>
<i>Item</i> Assessors Rogers(?) Mynors William ??	

*Proved 3 December 1681*

<sup>1</sup> Duncumb, Wormelow Lr Div. Pt 1, p. 60. This reference was kindly given to me by John Freeman who considers that the derivation of the name is possibly from *cae* for field and *ywenni* for yew trees.

<sup>2</sup> Heather Hurley took the photographs and published an article on Carwendy in the Ross Civic Society newsletter April 1984. HRO reference BJ44/1.

<sup>3</sup> See my article on the RCHME survey of Herefordshire in *Essays in honour of Jim & Muriel Tonkin*.

<sup>4</sup> This is an economy measure, as one is not allowed to publish pictures which have been taken from photocopies and has to buy scans or photos of the material. The scans of the photos and plan cost me £30.

<sup>5</sup> When Benjamin *Pridith* Donne married Mary Anne Cooke at Ross on Wye in May 1838 he was a miner (*sic*, not minor), but his father John Donne was a farmer.

<sup>6</sup> NLW, *Tredeggar* (8)/111/160.

<sup>7</sup> £200 is worth about £30,00 if using RPI or £340,000 if using average earnings.

<sup>8</sup> HRO, Q/RD/5/15.

<sup>9</sup> Worth today about £8 (RPI) or £140 (average earnings).

<sup>10</sup> TNA/E179/118/246 1559, /256 1568, /280 1571, /310 1585, /338 1590, /346 1592, /358 1594, /373 1598, /391 1600 and /431 1622.

<sup>11</sup> Delphine Coleman thesis is HRO, AD26. Rev. Dredge's notes are HRO.

<sup>12</sup> Faraday, *Calendar of Probate & Administration Acts 1407 - 1550*.

<sup>13</sup> Not all Act books (HRO, HD4 series) have been photographed to search for entries.

<sup>14</sup> Abstract from Vol 27, f313 of registered Wills for the Commissary Court of London, London Division; from the Herefordshire Wills website

**Aylton Court barn renovation - an update by Rosalind Lowe and Ian Aitken**

In early 2008 Jean Currie led a party of thirteen on an ARS field visit to the Much Marcle area which included a stop at Aylton Court, where the adjacent timber-framed barn was undergoing extensive repair and renovation. The visit was reported in HAN 79 (2008 pp.28,33,34 - there are no pages 29-32).

By mid 2014, I was living at The Old Court House in Goodrich, where the January storms had revealed the parlous condition of the timber-framing and where extensive repair was necessary. The specialist carpenter engaged for the work was Ian Aitken, who had worked on the Aylton barn restoration. This has enabled me, using Ian's records and photographs, to write a fuller article on the barn for ARS members.



Figure 1. The south-east face of Aylton barn before restoration



Figure 2. The back of the barn before restoration





Figure 2. A cruck on the south-east face with the church in the background

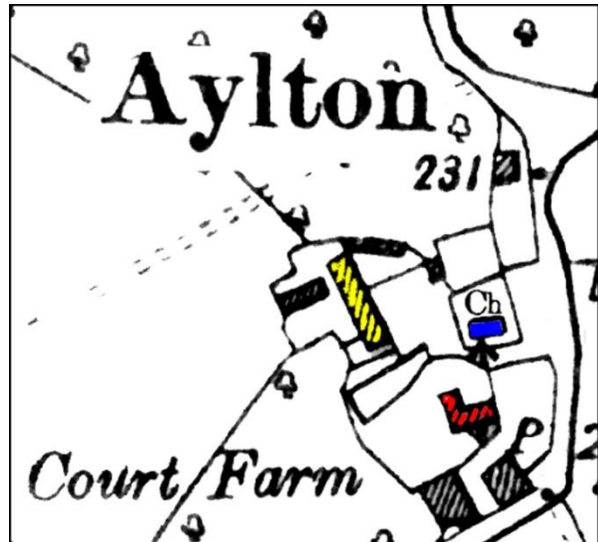


Figure 4. Aylton barn is the building in yellow, the church in purple and the Court Farm in red

Aylton Court Farm forms part of a group of buildings which also contain Aylton church. There is no village centre *per se*.

The original RCHME surveyor remarked about the barn that it was ‘timber-framed, and of six bays with crutch-trusses of mediæval date; the whole frame leans heavily towards the S.’

As part of the restoration process, funding was given for the timbers to be dated, and the full report can be found on the internet.<sup>1</sup> It was carried out by Dr Martin Bridge of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory. I quote directly:

*Twelve timbers associated with the primary construction phase of the barn were sampled including crucks, posts, braces and wallplates. Nine of these timbers were subsequently dated. They appear to form a single group of timbers, most likely felled within a short period. Two timbers retained complete sapwood, both being felled in the winter of AD 1502/3. and it seems likely therefore that the barn was constructed in AD 1503, or within a year or two after this date.*



Figure 5. The two most north-westerly cruck pairs seen clearly with the roof off



Figure 6. The interior of the barn after clearance but before work started



Figure 7. Looking along the exposed crucks



Figure 8. The finished barn with repaired timbers

In HAN 79 Jean Currie gave an account of the early history of Aylton. It had been important in Anglo-Saxon times; the manor had descended via the de Broye family to the Walwyns by the 15th century. Dr Higgins from Birmingham University, who had been investigating the history of Aylton, considered that some possibly re-used crucks in the barn may be earlier than the 1502/3 date, and are perhaps re-used timbers from a rebuild of the Court at this time.

A major expenditure of this kind often happens with a change of owner or long-term occupier. Jean told us that Fulk Walwyn had specified in his will of 1509 that the manor of Aylton should be sold to pay his debts but maybe this did not happen. The will of Thomas Walwyn, his son, was proved in 1532, and in it he specifically mentions the manor of Aylton. He says that he has enfeoffed James 'Baskerfelde' and George Delabere 'and other' of and in his manor of Aylton for his life and after this they should sell the manor to provide £60 for the marriage of his daughter Blanche and to pay his debts etc. If his son and heir Richard objects then Agnes, Thomas's wife and executor shall have Dormington as well. According to Robinson, *Mansions and Manors of Herefordshire*, Fulk was the son of Richard Walwyn fl. 1453. There doesn't seem to be any useful conclusion as to the reason for the barn to be built at the given time from this.

### Aylton church



Figure 9. Aylton church

In 2008 ARS members visited the church, when Dr Higgins told members that Aylton was a significant place pre-Conquest, and that the current church, of which RCHME says the 'Nave' was built probably early in the 12th century, and has unusually thick side walls. The *Chancel*, except perhaps the N. wall, was re-built in the 14th century,...', probably stands on an earlier site.

Robert Bevylye of Ayleton (PCC will 1517) asked to be buried in the parish church of Ayleton 'within the great churche dore of the south side of the same'. He bequeaths unto the high 'awter' 3s 4d for tithes forgotten; to the 'sepulcre' there 10s; to the torches 10s; to the rood loft 10s; to the

'bellys' 10s. He had land in Stamford, Chesterton (Hunts.) where his family was based and Rutland, and his son was to go to grammar school and then to Cambridge. His daughters were still unmarried so it seems likely that he was still a young man and may have been new money. His wife Elizabeth was executor.

According to Family Search, although Robert's family connections were at Chesterton, his mother was Margaret 'Suggewas' born about 1448 of 'Dildey' (Didley?) in Herefordshire. Her father was John, and there is an *Inquisition Post Mortem* for John Seggewas in the National Archives, dated somewhere between 22 August 1485 - 21 August 1486 (C 142/1/135). Unfortunately these dates are around the period between the battle of Bosworth on 22 August 1485 and Henry VII's coronation on 30 October. John's name does not appear in the printed IPM calendar for Henry VII, available online.<sup>2</sup> Richard III's IPMs are being worked on.<sup>3</sup> The IPM may give more information. He was clearly a well-off man and must be another candidate for the re-building.

It has not been possible to examine Hereford diocesan wills because of the closure of Herefordshire Record Office.

I would like to thank Ian Aitken for the use of his photos.

## References

<sup>1</sup> <http://services.english-heritage.org.uk/ResearchReportsPdfs/001-2007WEB.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://archive.org/stream/calendarofinquis02grea#page/n5/mode/2up>.

<sup>3</sup> [http://richardiii.net/downloads/2014\\_IPM\\_project.pdf](http://richardiii.net/downloads/2014_IPM_project.pdf).

### **The Old Court House, Goodrich** by Rosalind Lowe

In early 2012 I lived at Charlton in Goodrich, an interesting house whose history had led to me writing the biography of Sir Samuel Meyrick of Goodrich Court. Quite unexpectedly, by September 2012 we had moved to The Old Court House just across the valley [HER 5716, Grid Ref. SO 5709 1894]. (Note that the HER record is partially incorrect and there is no evidence that I have been able to find of it being a pub called the Red Dog!).

I had always been interested in the property and had brought Jim and Muriel Tonkin to look at it with Jim's old houses group; his report appears in the 1997 *Transactions* pp.138-9. In October 2013 a number of ARS members met at the house to look at the documentary evidence and examine the fabric.

The name of the house suggested that at some time it had been used to hold the Goodrich manorial court. My earlier researches had even indicated a possible owner of the house during the Civil War - Richard Tyler, a manorial official. Goodrich is very fortunate in that a large amount of manorial material survives in Herefordshire Record Office (HRO) and this has enabled the descent of the house to be followed.

Equally, the architectural history of the house post-1600 can be pieced together from the existing fabric, maps, photographs, a house-warming present and a lucky find in a Leominster antiques shop.



Figure 1. The Old Court House in 2012.

#### **The exterior of the house**

The main axis of the house lies south-west/north-east, but for convenience say north-south. The timber-framed wing on the right lies to the north of the central block and is immediately adjacent to the small road which runs from the Cross Keys on the A40 and descends steeply to the B4229. Goodrich parish does not have a central focus but a number of discrete settlement areas. The Old Court House forms part of the settlement area around the church which has some of the oldest houses in the parish and which was previously known as Granton or Graunton, though this name has now been attached to several individual houses.

The house is not all it seems at first glance; the timber-framed wing on the right is clearly genuine, but a closer examination of the apparently timber-framed wing on the left shows that the wing does not project forward to match the one on the right and the timbers are mere surface-dressing, albeit some are re-used and old. (This fact was not detected by our expensive surveyor!) A 'matching' wing is, of course, what one might expect to find in a house of this style and age.

We have been very fortunate in that there are pictures of the front of the house from the 1870s through to the present and that they are confirmed by the shape of the building in the 1838 tithe map and later OS maps. There is documentary evidence of ownership of the property before 1600, and indeed the house was described in 1663 (see later) as built on a 'suit acre' i.e. the owner is one of the 'suitors' of the manor. They can possibly be identified with early freeholders of the manor; in the case of Goodrich manor, which includes Whitchurch, Ganarew and parts of other parishes, these are the major farms such as Treworgan, though one or two are smaller properties.

The oldest picture of the front of the house is an undated watercolour I found some years ago in the Leominster antiques centre, and I bought it as it shows the church area of Goodrich as seen from near to my old house (Fig. 2). It so happens that I have more recent postcards of the same view, and also HRO has plans for a remodelling of the vicarage and its outbuildings dated 1876. The watercolour clearly shows the vicarage and its outbuildings in the pre-1876 form as it now has a double-pile block facing out of the picture. On the right of the picture, above and to the left of the vicarage is the house now known as Upper Granton and above that again is the side of Goodrich House and the blank wall of one of its barns with a pointed front gable - this is now a house. All these details are correct, so the fact that it also shows The Old Court House with two matching timber-framed wings and a low chimney to the left of the central block is probably correct.



Figure 2. Part of the watercolour of Goodrich by 'EWB'. The Old Court House is on the middle left of the picture; the vicarage at the bottom right. Granton House lies below The Old Court House

The mystery was partly resolved by a house-warming present. To the east of The Old Court House lies a house now called 'Granton House', which was the home of the watercolourist Joshua Cristall in the first half of the 19th century. Sometime before 1911 it became the home of the Oliver family; it has passed from this family by inheritance to the current owners. Mrs Oliver, who was living in the house in 1911, painted a watercolour of The Old Court House which at that time lay directly across a small lane from Granton House - the exact date is unknown (Fig. 3). The owners of Granton House very kindly gave the picture to us when we moved in. Although naïve, the details as shown are all correct; there is the lead insurance plaque above the front door, for example. The two-storey projecting south wing is shown as a single-storey lean-to. The building behind it can now be seen. What had happened to the south wing? No report of a serious fire can be found in local newspapers,

though maybe the insurance plaque, which is for the Guardian Fire & Life Assurance company, has a bearing on it.<sup>1</sup> However, the north wing was riddled with death watch beetle and damp so maybe the south wing fell down. The watercolour explains the curious late 19th-century/early 20th-century photographs which have survived (see figures 5 & 6). Neither show the south wing - maybe it was not picturesque enough.



Figure 3. The Old Court House painted by Mrs Mary Oliver before John Hill died in 1920

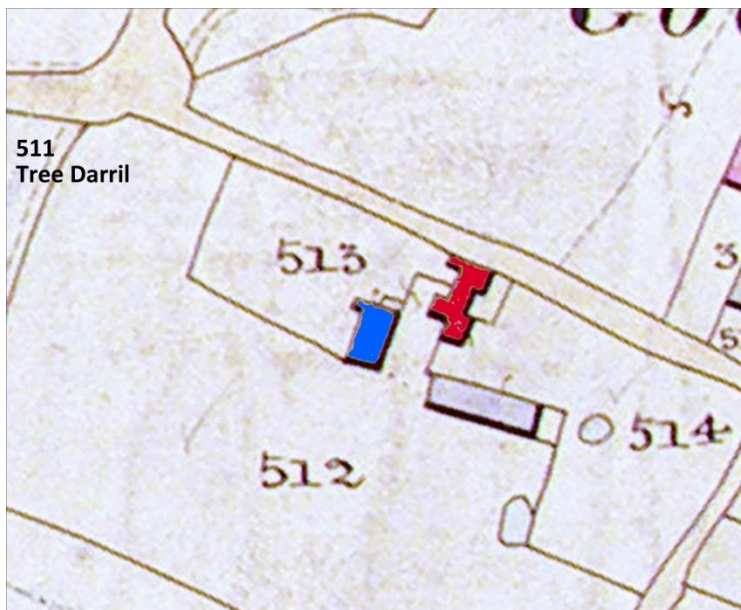


Figure 4. 1838 Goodrich tithe map showing projecting south wing of house in red - north to the top. Barn is blue.

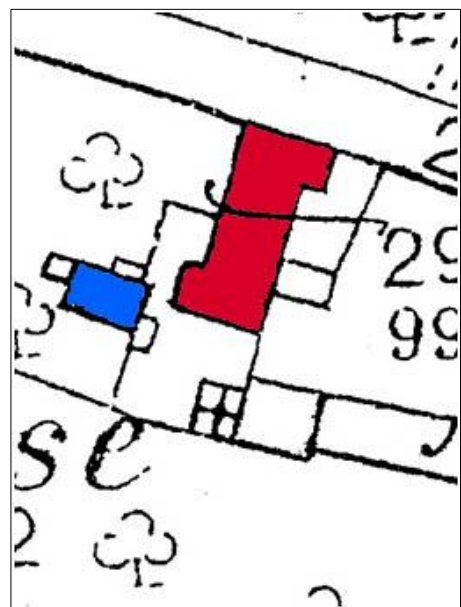


Figure 5. 1887 OS map showing no projection of the south wing





Figure 6. This photograph seems to be a little earlier than Figure 7, judging by the plants in the garden. Access to the yard in the front of the house was obviously allowed, so the south wing could have been photographed



Figure 7. The lady is no doubt Mary Ann Hill wife of John Hill; he had two wives of the same name



Figure 8. The stacked stones placed as a garden feature, probably part of the pump

The watercolour is the only picture or photograph to show clearly a curious feature in front of the left-hand ground floor window. It resembles a stack of four circular stones and is in the location of a well. The well was marked on the RCHME plan but is now covered by concrete and a manhole cover. It is very large and stone-lined, so large that one side disappears under the stone wall of the house. When examined in the summer of 2012 it had 5 metres of water in it. In the centre of the well is a large vertical iron pipe, similar to another one in the cellar under the north wing, to supply a pump.

At the time of the tithe map in 1838 the house was occupied by William Fisher and, as there was another William Fisher nearby at Bryant's Farm, the one at The Old Court House was designated William Fisher (Pump). There are references to the house being called 'The Pump House'; e.g. in 1846 Eliza, daughter of 'William Fisher of the Pump House' was married in the nearby church and the way from the house to the altar was strewn with flowers by villagers. A central feature in the rose garden outside the current south wing of The Old Court House must surely be part of the strange pump object, with a mill stone added on top (Fig. 8). This is so securely fixed on that we hesitate to remove it to confirm there is a hole in the middle.

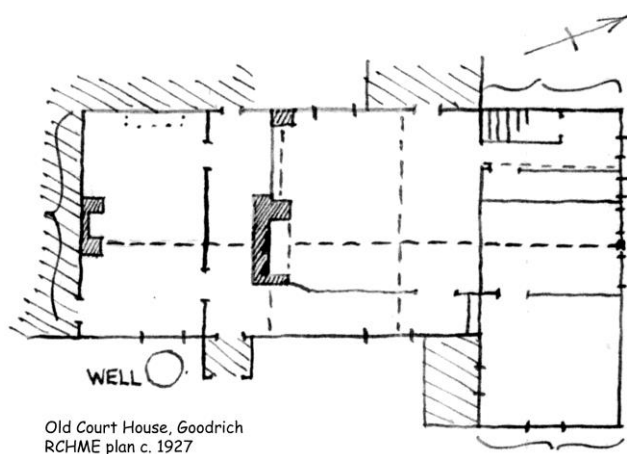
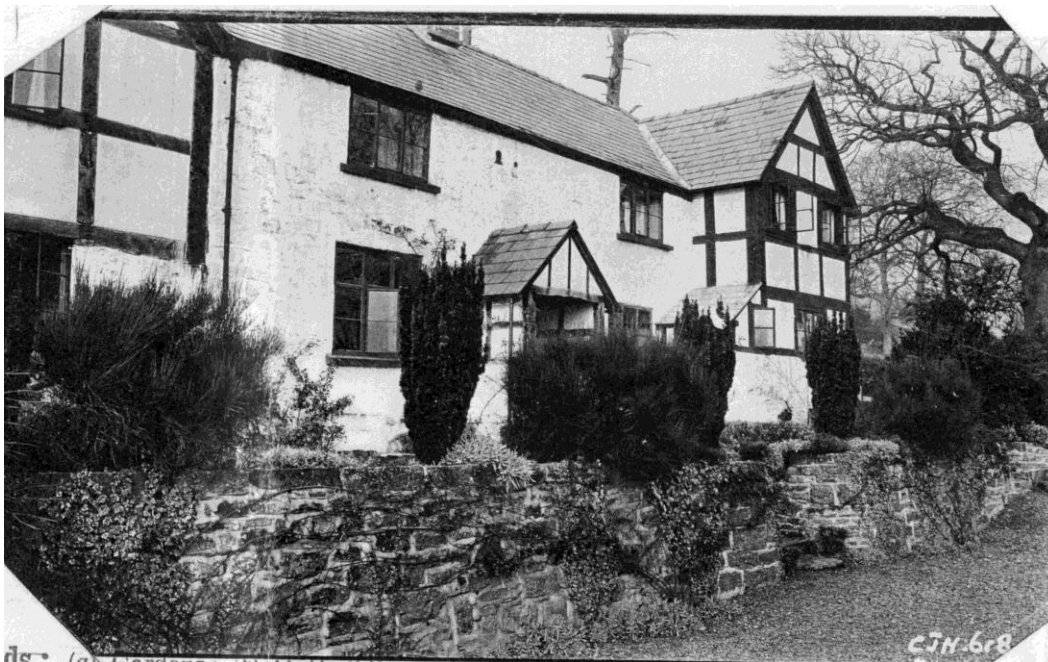


Figure 9. The photograph from the RCHME surveyor's notebook, c.1927 and the RCHME ground plan. Reproduced by kind permission of English Heritage ©

The houseowner in 1927 made extensive alterations after purchasing the property in 1921, which included re-building the south wing and extending it to the west to join it to the 'barn' which can just be seen above the 'lean to' in the naïve painting (Fig. 3). Note that the north-south dotted line through the massive kitchen fireplace indicates the original centre line of the house (see later); on the west wall of the room to the left of the entrance dotted lines probably indicate where a chimney breast was removed, according to the owner; there was an doorway from this room to the room on the south, (now blocked); the entrance to the kitchen was immediately to the right of the entrance door (now blocked and with the entrance on the other side of the chimney breast).

### House orientation

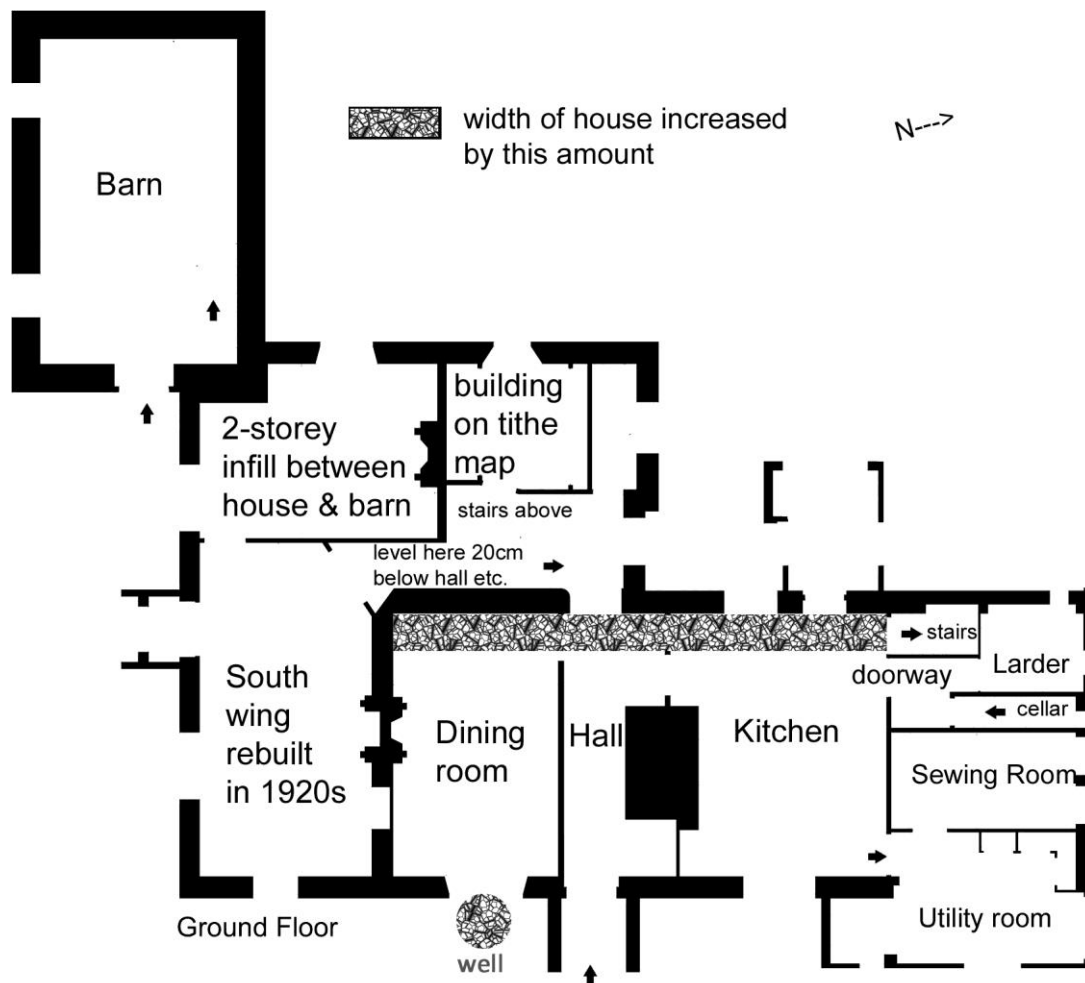


Figure 10. Ground floor plan of The Old Court House in 2012

I am most grateful to Duncan James, the Woolhope Club's Buildings recorder, who visited the house and wormed his way around the lofts. He pointed that for an originally well-to-do establishment it is unlikely that the main entrance would have overlooked the farmyard. As this is much lower than the house the effluent could drain away, so this is its original position. Also, the well is not usually sited outside the front door but outside the back. The wings commonly project towards the back rather than the front, though in this case the north wing seems to have projected from the main part of the house westwards as well. This projection had disappeared by 1887.

The whole building is, in effect, cut into the hillside which rises to the west, the ground lying about 1.5m higher than the back wall of the house only some 2m away from it. Any entrance from the road next to the house would necessarily be constrained. It is possible that the projection shown on the tithe map was a porch.

## Interior clues

By the time the RCHM surveyors visited, the kitchen fireplace was already blocked, as indicated by the dotted line on their plan (Fig. 9), where they showed the internal sides of the hearth at right angles to the lintel. In fact, when it was unblocked, the sides proved to be angled and each side built from three large angled and dressed stone blocks between 30 and 50cm high and 50cm wide at the widest (see Figs. 11 and 12). The heavy wooden lintel had been raised at some time by about 30cm and the fill above the stone blocks is plastered rubble. The depth of the fireplace was reduced by some 30cm, and the chimney shaft above reduced in diameter. At the same time two iron crane supports were inserted in the right side.

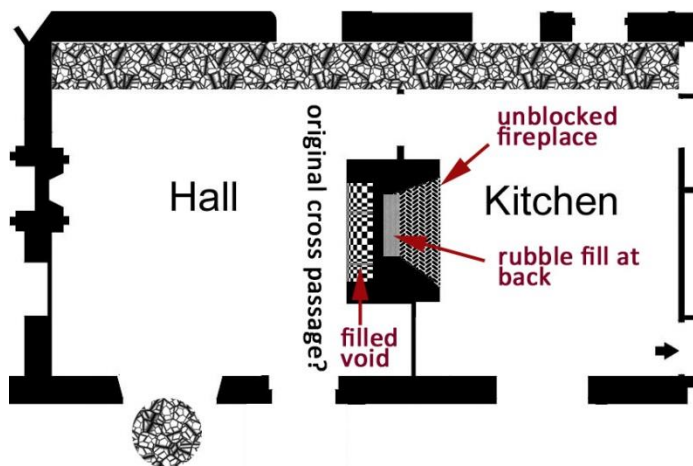


Figure 11. Kitchen/hall hearth arrangement



Figure 12. Unblocked fireplace

I had already noticed that the kitchen fireplace was not placed on the central axis of the main block; Duncan was able to confirm that in the roof the kitchen chimney breast showed the scar of a former roof line centrally placed and much lower.

The width of the doorway between the kitchen and the larder/cellar lobby has been reduced by about 14cm on the east side with an inserted piece of timber. The western doorway upright has been reduced by about the same amount to allow for a stairway to be made, when the western wall of the house was moved about 1m further west and aligned with the original west wall of the north wing. Obviously the roof was raised at the same time as this extension was made. Almost certainly at this time the central block was faced in stone; certainly the front has been re-faced as can be seen from Fig. 9 where the stone front overlaps half of the timber-framed panels on the south side of the north wing. The positioning of the well under the stone wall confirms this. It is possible that some timber-framing remains inside the stone, as the dining room has a very deep windowsill.

Substantial new beams were put in the kitchen ceiling on the new central axis, one above the massive lintel of the fireplace. The ground floor of the north wing also seems to have been re-organised, with new beams and partitions and perhaps this is when the stone steps to the cellar were made. Some later 17th-century wattle and daub is exposed in the new partition walls, different from earlier hazel twig wattle and daub which has been found in the timber framing surviving in the upper north wing. Curiously, the floor of the north wing is some 25cm above the level of the kitchen floor. The kitchen floor may have been lowered, as the sole plate of the north wing was cut through to make the doorways from the kitchen to the utility room and the stairs.

In January 2014 strong winds and rain caused water to pour into the utility room from above, and to cut a long story short, the north wing has been completely repaired and renovated, in the process revealing some interesting features. The raising of the roof was confirmed by the way the front stone facing was built up to the north wing panels—in fact, a new wall had to be built in the bedroom next to the north wing, leaving a void between it and the bedroom panel in the north wing. The lath and plaster of this new wall is unlikely to be earlier than 1750, and this is confirmed by an unusual find made in the void. Our carpenter spotted broken bottles and china but also a

garment much chewed by mice. This was a youth's waistcoat, made of faded fine red silk, lined in linen with faded green buttons and buttonholes - an expensive hand-made item. Althea Mackenzie of Hereford museum has dated it to about 1760. The void was not easily accessible, even from the loft above, as it is right under the eaves. It seems likely that it was a deliberate deposit - a 'spiritual midden'. Even in the 19th century the tradition persisted of putting sharp objects at the north-eastern corner of a house, against evil spirits, and also of depositing well-loved garments.



Figure 13. 18th-century waistcoat deposited in the wall void

It is not possible to tell from the difference in shape of the house between the 1838 tithe map and the 1884 OS map whether the roof was raised after 1838. However, the style of the lath-and-plaster and the faded nature of the wistcoat suggests that it was done in the late 18th/early 19th centuries. The expense involves suggests that the work was done on a change of owner. In 1741 Thomas Fletcher bought it from the Tyler family who had owned it for over 100 years. He spent a lot of money on it before he died in 1771 (see later historical notes).

The RCHME surveyors noted an apparently 16th-century timber in the roadside larder window, but in Duncan's opinion the window may have been adapted from a long window which ran along the roadside. When the west face of the wing was being renovated, a modern replacement window was removed and found to have replaced an oriel widow, as the upper part of the oriel window and tenons were still in place (Fig. 14, 15). The woodwork was repaired and a new oriel window inserted (Fig. 16). Since then, the carpenter has found a similar window at Lower Wythall, Walford.



Figure 14. Upper part of the oriel window all in one piece, seen from above.

Nearest the caption are the sockets for the window uprights which hold the glass; at the rear, the tenons which went into the mortises of the timber-framing of the house wall are still intact. The equivalent tenons at the bottom of the window had been sawn through but were still in place inside the timber-framing. Unfortunately all the timber-framing on this face apart from the corner-posts and the principal rafters had either been removed, replaced with soft wood or had the consistency of Christmas cake. They were replaced with seasoned oak. Below the oriel window the cross-timber had been removed and has been replaced with a massive new beam to stabilise the frame. This necessitated the raising of the oriel window. Below this any timber-framing had been replaced fairly recently by a single skin brick or breeze block wall. This has been retained but has been insulated.



Figure 15. Oriel window before repair



Figure 16. Re-made orielle window in 2015

In the front (east) face of the house, where the initial damage was found, more of the timber-framing could be retained after substantial repair (see Fig. 1). Ironically, the original roof timbers were in good condition. To retain the roof in position while timbers were taken out, repaired and/or replaced, all flooring from the attic to the cellar was removed and the roof supported on internal scaffolding. The removal of flooring revealed that death-watch beetle infested timbers, probably from the demolished south wing, had been re-used in the 1920s as joists in the utility room floor.

In 2012, the ceiling in the cellar had been covered by corrugated iron sheets, held up by softwood props. In fact, the ceiling was intact, and we were able to verify that the corrugated iron was to make an air-raid shelter as it retained a delivery label dated 20 September 1940.



Figure 17. New sole plate being manoeuvred into position

The only timber which had to be replaced was the sole plate i.e. the timber under the ground floor windows. As the corner posts, though worm-eaten, were still massive enough to do their job and remained *in situ*, the new sole plate had to be inserted from the road, and took four men to lift it

(Fig. 17). Other details suggested by the earliest watercolour (Fig. 2) also came to light. Although Fig. 2 shows curved timbers and a small window in the apex of the face of the north wing, these had been replaced by a square panel. However, the mortises in the principal rafter were too large and slanting for the tenons of the current horizontal beam, and confirmed the arrangement in Fig. 2.

The north wing has 4 massive corner posts, which when revealed showed themselves as jowled. That at the SW corner is partially shown in Figure 18. It is about 3.60m tall. There are also two flat-sided posts mid-way along the wing also jowled. It is possible that all 6 were cut from one massive tree - the curved outermost sides of the corner posts are inside the house. On the upper floor it is not possible to access the underside of the middle tie-beam and it's possible there was just one room, but on the ground floor of the north wing it is evident from mortise holes that at one time there were two equal rooms, not three. Exposed wattle-and-daub in the re-arranged partitions is later than the early wattle-and-daub in the upper floors.



Figure 18. SW Jowl post



Figure 19. 17th-century hinges on 'barn' door

The cellar walls are stone-built; the lower courses are made of regular well-cut blocks, but the top 1.5m are made of poorer stone. This may indicate that an earlier building has been extended upwards. There is a small window with well-cut stone around it on the south side with the sill at current ground level, and the remains of a wide doorway on the east, now 2/3rds below ground level which was built up before the earliest photograph.

There is another interesting building, described as the 'Barn' in the plan above (Fig. 10) and which is seen behind the lean-to south wing in Fig. 3. This building had originally been free-standing, as shown on the 1838 and 1885 maps, but was joined to the house in the 1920s. To the left (S) of Fig. 20 there is a ruined shell, and this marks the largest extent of the building in 1838, and slit windows in outer walls show it was indeed a barn at one time. However, the lower courses of the current building are made of superior stone, many of the local conglomerate, and there are small blocked windows on the lower floor.



Figure 20. East face of 'barn'



Figure 21. One of pair of strap hinges on barn door

The most interesting feature is the doorway. The door has an identical pair of decorated 17th-century hinges (Fig. 19). It opens inwards and fits neatly within a rebate chiselled from the stone blocks surrounding the doorway; there are opposing holes in the door surround to take baulks of timber to fortify the door from the inside. Later it was used to store cider, no doubt, as on either side the doorway curves have been chiselled away at waist height to allow barrels in. Fig. 3 shows that originally the opening to the left above the doorway was larger, possibly shuttered, and that there was a window to the right with a thick vertical strut. This may be the stone found nearby (Fig. 22).



Figure 22 (right). Possible window strut

The building seems, therefore, to have been rather more than a common outbuilding - could it have been the location of the manorial court?

Also found embedded in garden steps was one side of a stone fire surround, from the style 17th-century.



## Identifying the House in historical records

The earliest use of the description 'Court House' has been found in a sale advertisement in the *Hereford Journal* of 11 October 1862 (Fig. 23).

GOODRICH, NEAR ROSS, HEREFORDSHIRE.

NOTICE OF THE SALE OF THE  
**Ancient Court-House of Goodrich,**  
And 76a. 3r. 19p. of LAND,

SITUATE in the far-famed parish of Goodrich, midway between the towns of Ross and Monmouth, and in the midst and commanding views of the magnificent and charming scenery with which this locality abounds, comprising near views of hills, vale, woodland, and water of unrivalled beauty, with the grander beauties of the Welsh mountains in the distance.

In addition to the situation being one of the most delightful in England, there is the advantage of the land being of rare fertility, and, in an agricultural point of view alone, offering a most desirable investment.

The Dwelling-House is one of the most ancient in the neighbourhood, and is the Old Manor Court-House. It is situate within 200 yards of the parish church, and may, at a moderate expense, be restored and made a very comfortable residence.

The greater part of the land lie near to the Cross Keys, and the turnpike-road from Ross and Monmouth runs between them, giving great facility of access, and rendering the really beautiful building sites which the property offers additionally valuable.

The beauties of the neighbourhood, owing to the numerous visitors who have of late years indulged their love of the picturesque in it, are too well known throughout England to require more than a passing notice; but it may be as well to mention that they include the River Wye, Colonel Meyrick's castellated Mansion, Goodrich Court, Copped Wood Hill, the Doward Hills, Symonds' Yat, and the Coldwell Rocks.

The River Garron, famed for its trout fishing, adjoins part of the property, and the Wye is within a quarter of a mile of the Estate.

Ross is five miles and Monmouth the same distance from the Estate, with both of which places there is railway communication, the former having a first-class station on the Great Western line, and being within a four hours' ride to London.

Building materials of all kinds are obtainable close at hand.

As sites for the erection of villa residences, the property is well worth the attention of persons desirous of entering into a building speculation.

It is seldom that a property with so many attractions and advantages as this possesses is found in the market.

The whole will be offered in suitable lots to

**PUBLIC COMPETITION,**  
**BY MESSRS. DOWLE AND STEPHENS,**  
At the **HOSTELRY**, in the village of Goodrich, on **TUESDAY**, the 21st day of **OCTOBER**, 1862, at 2 for 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Full particulars, with plans, will be published in good time before the sale, and may be had of the **AUCTIONEERS**; of **Mr. THOMAS POWELL**, of Old Forge, Goodrich; of **Messrs. SMITH and FORTUNE**, 16, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury; or of **Mr. HENRY MINETT**, Solicitor, Ross; and **Mr. POWELL** will, on application to him, cause the Property to be shown and give all further necessary information respecting it.

Figure 15. Sale advertisement, 1862. Sadly, no copies of the plans have been found

There is no record of the house being occupied in the 1861 census, and in 1851 few houses in Goodrich were named. The earliest deeds which came with the house date from the 1890s, but do recite that the house was once called 'Goodrich Court Farm'. However, this may be because Augustus Meyrick, who inherited Goodrich Court from Sir Samuel Meyrick in 1848, purchased a number of properties including the Old Court House and Bryant's Court Farm.

When researching my book on Sir Samuel and Goodrich Court, I was given the opportunity to catalogue a tin trunk of some 700 deeds relating to the Goodrich Court estate.<sup>2</sup> As this was before the advent of digital cameras a small proportion only were scanned, but sufficient notes were made to enable the tracing of the property from its ownership by the Tyler family from the mid 18th century until the present day.<sup>3</sup>

Prior to that, four generations of Tylers had owned the property until 1741, when Richard Tyler III and his mother Florence, widow of Richard Tyler II, sold it to Thomas Fletcher I and paid off a mortgage with Daniel Woodward.<sup>4</sup> This had been taken out in 1737 and described the various fields and two dwelling houses, one in 'Crews' occupied by tenants, next to *Ye Hostelrie* pub and the other known as Granton where the Tylers lived. In his will proved in 1771, Fletcher notes that the 'estate he purchased of Widow Tyler and her son had cost him above £600...'

Thomas Fletcher I's son, Thomas II, inherited the Goodrich estate, and in 1806, after his death without issue, the Goodrich property was sold by auction.<sup>5</sup> Even though the tithe apportionment lay only 32 years in the future, many of the field names do not agree although often they can be identified by their description. No copy of the plan accompanying the 1806 sale particulars has been found. Lot 22 was the farmhouse at 'Cruise', although the farmhouse was now new built, possibly by Thomas Fletcher I.

Not for the first time, field name evidence has been crucial in establishing ownership of a house. In 1663, Thomas Jones, secretary to the 11th Earl of Kent who was lord of the manor of Goodrich, made a survey of the manor, part of which survives in the HRO.<sup>6</sup> Frustratingly, the survey was accompanied by a map which has not survived, but luckily the text concerning the Tyler family has.

It was probably commissioned as the result of the death of Richard Tyler I, who was buried at Goodrich on 29 May 1663. He had been the local manorial official in charge of Goodrich for more than 30 years i.e. during the Civil War. (For full details of his life and career see the later paper) He was succeeded by his eldest son, Warren, whose possessions in the manor are described though possibly not completely. Apart from land leased from the manor and some copyhold land, part of Warren's freehold land is listed.

He owned a messuage at Graunton which William Jones had lived in and granted to him on 28 March 4 Charles I i.e. since Charles came to the throne on 25 March 1624/5 this was in March 1628/9.<sup>7</sup> The holding was described as in 3 parts:

- 'The Mansion house outhouses ... consisting of an orchard garden & a yard (4a. Or. Op.)
- 'One close of arrable called Tredevett adjoining unto the aforesaid house... (9a. Or. Op.)<sup>8</sup>
- 'One other close of arrable called Pentire...' (16a.Or. Op.)

Jones noted that 'This house is built upon a suit acre & therefore a quit? herriot due upon the death of each suitor.'

The Tyler properties including Tredevett and the house where Warren Tyler had lived were mentioned again in the marriage settlement of Richard Tyler II in 1718.<sup>9</sup>

In the 1838 tithe map, William Fisher (Pump) owned the field called Tree Darril (511), which lay adjacent to The Old Court House's garden and orchard (512 and 513) in the tithe map (Fig. 4). One of the Goodrich Court deeds<sup>10</sup> recites the property concerned including a field called 'Tredevett or Tredarritt'.

In fact, the inventory taken immediately after Richard Tyler I's death in 1663 gives a list of the rooms in his house - there is no other house of this date in the Granton area of such a size (see Appendix A for the inventory).

### **Earlier owners of the property**

When the timber-framed wing was being restored, it seemed a good opportunity to have the timbers dendro-dated. Unfortunately, a number were elm, even the kitchen fireplace lintel, and could not be used. Those few timbers which gave a useable sequence of rings did not match any known database samples. This may be because no other local houses have been sequenced; New House in Goodrich is dated 1636, so if it is ever sequenced a match may be possible.

However, using taxation records in the National Archives a possible ownership sequence has been built up.<sup>11</sup> In 1622, shortly before Richard Tyler bought the property from William Jones, William was assessed at 20s in land. In 1600, William Jones and Katherine Gardyner were assessed at 20s for land formerly of George Gardyner. In 1579 George Gardyner had married Jane Seyse, and their daughter Katherine was baptised in 1583. William Jones and Jane Gardiner widow were married in 1591. It is not known when George died. Previous to this, John Gardyner was assessed at 20s in 1598, 1594 and 1592. A John Gardyner of Goodrich's will is dated 1581 though it is not known when he died, maybe the John buried in 1583. He leaves all his property to his son George.

The Gardyner family appear as manorial officials from the 15th century in Goodrich. In William Gardyner's will dated 1540, he leaves his second ox to John Gardyner the younger of Granton, perhaps his grandson as he has a son John also.

It seems possible therefore that there is an early association of the property with officers of the manor and may explain why the manorial courts should be held there.

## Appendix A: Inventory of Richard Tyler I, died 1663

This inventory gives a good picture of the wealth Richard Tyler had managed to acquire during his period of service in Goodrich. It is written on a piece of parchment 137cm long by 11cm wide.<sup>12</sup>

A true and perfect inventory of all & Singular the goods cattells chattells and personall estate of Richard Tyler late of Goodrich in the Countyof Hereford Gent deceased taken the fourth day of June Anno domini One Thousand six hundred sixtie three and apprized as followeth:

Rye growing upon the ground:	33½ acres	xxv£	xvs	£25 15s
Wheat "	7½ acres	xj£		£11
Pease "	38 acres	xxviii£		£28
Barley "	50 acres	xxxvij£	xs	£37 10s
Oates "	2 acres	xiijs	iiijd	13s 4d

15 Oxen		lxx£		£70
14 cowes & a Bull		xluiij£		£44
10 yonge beasts of all sorts		xix£	vjs viijd	£19 6s 8d
7 weaning calves		ijj£	xs	£3 10s
7 colts of all sorts		x£	xs	£10 10s
5 horses or naggs + 1 mare		xij£		£12
54 swine of all sorts		xxiiij£		£23
211 sheep of all sorts and 38 lambs		xl£		£40
<b>Corne &amp; graine in his house</b> and in the barnes & malts		lxxxj£	xijs	£81 11s

### Goods in the house

in the <b>little chamber over the Hall</b> where the little chimney [ <i>sic</i> ] one bedstead woole one table board bookes and other goodes att		xiiij	xvjs	£13 16s
in the <b>decedants bed chamber</b> chaires cushions & other goods therein		ix£	vjs ijd	£9 7s 2d
goods in the <b>cheese chamber</b> att		iiij£		£4
in the <b>cocklofte</b> one bedd and bedsted		xs		10s
in the <b>hall</b> tables boards frames, chaires, stooles, cushions and other goods		ijj£		£3
in the <b>parlor</b> goods of all sorts therein		ijj£	xjs	£3 11s
in the <b>Sider house</b> goods & vessells sider & other goods		v£		£5
In the <b>maydes chamber</b> two bedds & bedsteds two trunckes and other goods		ijj£		£3
In <b>Mr Keysells chamber</b> one bedsted two truncks and other goods		xxs		20s
in the <b>chamber over the milke house</b> two bedds and bedsteads one chayre two stooles two table boards with frames one iron backe one pair of andirons and the goods of the decedants there		vj£		£6
in the <b>chamber over the kitchen</b> one bedd with the furniture and two bedsteds and other goods of the decedants there att		ijj£		£2
in the <b>kitchen</b> goods of all sorts therein and thereto belonging		iiij£	xiijs	£4 13s

in the milke house and inner roome goods there		
as one table board leaden milk pannes and		
the like	lijs	52s
Provision for the house as beefe, bacon,		
butter, cheese and the like	x£ xvijjs	£10 17s
Silver spoons of all sorts one silver ca~ and salt	vj£	£6
pewter and brass	iiij£ xixs	£4 19s
money in purse of the decedant	v£	£5
the decedants wearing apparell	v£	£5
one lease held under Mr Machin	x£	£10
lease held under the Countess of Kent	xxv£	£25
one querne mill	vj£ xiijs	£6 13s
Plough Tack as waines carrs ploughes yoakes		
strings and other engines belonging to husbandry		
both within doores and without and all other goods		
whatsoever heretofore not expressly inventoried	xiiij£ vjs vjd	£13 6s 6d
signed by		
John Savaker Tho. Howell Tho. Weaver Tho. Phillipps		Apprisors
<b>The sume totall of the inventorie</b>	<b>clj£ viijd</b>	<b>£551 0s 8d</b>
[Note that the total is £552 0s 8d.]		

### Layout of the house in 1663 and 2013 compared

The correspondence of the rooms in 1663 and 2013 can be surmised:

1663	2013
little chamber over the hall	
decedants bed chamber	
cheese chamber	
cocklofte	door and partition in loft
hall	hall plus dining room
parlor	ground floor room in S wing
sider house	
maydes chamber	
Mr Keysell's chamber	
chamber over the milke house	
chamber over the kitchen	bedroom over kitchen
kitchen	kitchen
milke house and inner room	

### References

<sup>1</sup> By January 1823 the Guardian Fire & Life Assurance company was advertising in the *Hereford Journal*, when the local agent was Mr John S Collins of Ross.

<sup>2</sup> A copy of the catalogue has been deposited at the HRO.

<sup>3</sup> Sequence of ownership of the Old Court House:

<sup>4</sup> Goodrich Court collection (GRC) 381, schedule of deeds belonging to the Fletcher family auctioned in 1806.

<sup>5</sup> National Library of Wales (NLW), Leonard Twiston Davies (2), 3845. Transcribed not photographed.

<sup>6</sup> HRO, O68/1/21. Thomas Jones was mentioned in Richard Tyler's will as 'his honoured friend'.

<sup>7</sup> HRO, O68/1/21.

<sup>8</sup> In 1663 the measurement of acreage was possibly in Archenfield units, which are about 1.83 times smaller than the statute measure, though Tree Darril or Tredevett field is given as 9a 0r 0p in 1838, 8a 0r 23(32?)p in 1806 and 8a 1r 32p in 1663 which is pretty accurate, although the boundaries may have changed. (Devon Record Office, Simcoe documents, 1038/M/T/7, acreages of 10 pieces of land in Llanwarne are given in both Archenfield and statute units).

<sup>9</sup> NLW, Mynde, 5062.

<sup>10</sup> RTR, 346, mortgage dated 1893

<sup>11</sup> TNA, E179, entries for 1622 1600 1598 1594 1592 1590 1571 1568 1559.

<sup>12</sup> Gloucs. R. O., D33/359.

### **Richard Tyler c.1589 to 1663 - sometime Constable of Goodrich Castle by Rosalind Lowe**

Although Richard Tyler was a fairly obscure man, his name does appear in several books about the history of Goodrich and its castle, sometimes with inaccuracies. He had the unenviable task of administering Goodrich manor, including the castle, during the Civil War. He cannot be blamed for keeping his head down and perhaps feathering his nest and improving his house at the same time.

In the course of his duties, he was in regular correspondence with a figure on the national stage - John Selden, who became manager of the estates, including Goodrich manor, of Henry Grey, earl of Kent. Henry had married Elizabeth Talbot, one of the three surviving daughters and heiresses of Gilbert, seventh earl of Shrewsbury who died in 1623, and so became owner of Goodrich in right of his wife. After some delays, Thomas Duck formally took possession at the different locations of the Kents' separate lands in Herefordshire, Richard Tyler attending a number of these events during the spring of 1632 for details of which see later.<sup>1</sup> Selden was a lawyer, MP, and author of many books on constitutional law, philosophy and Judaism, for example. It is believed that he and Elizabeth Kent married after the earl's death in 1639.

### **The Tyler family**

Although it is known when Richard Tyler I was born to within a couple of years,<sup>2</sup> it has not yet been possible to find where he was born or his parentage. There is reason to suppose that it was at St Briavels, in the Forest of Dean, but the early parish registers are lost. The name Tyler is not uncommon, but only one Tyler of note appears in the Gloucester Visitation of 1623. On the herald's visit a number of prominent individuals were considered to see if they could be described as 'gentilmen'. William Tiler of St 'Brevails' was not so considered, and Richard Tyler of St Briavels, probably Richard Tyler I's son-in-law and nephew, declared in 1682 that 'I know of no Coat of Arms belonging to me.'<sup>3</sup> However, William Tyler was prominent enough to be a trustee in 1625 of a charity bequest in the will of William Whittington of St Briavels, along with Sir Richard Catchmay of Bigsweir and Warren Gough, gent, Richard Tyler I's father-in-law since 1622.

There is also a strange connection with the parish of Culmington in Shropshire, near Ludlow but in the diocese of Hereford. A Richard Tyler was born there in 1588 to Edward Tyler, and on 12 January 1644/5 Warren Keysall, son of Richard I's daughter Dorothy and John Keysall was baptised at Culmington. Dorothy and John had married perhaps in some haste on 24 May 1644 at nearby Sibdon Carwood. The names Tyler and Gough are frequent in the registers, now online.<sup>4</sup>

### **Richard Tyler's early career**

From the time that Richard Tyler first appears in the records, in 1611, he is described as a 'gent'.<sup>5</sup> This is significant, because he isn't old enough to have earned the appellation from his own endeavours - it must reflect the status of his family as perceived by local people, some of them gentry. The documents concern an enquiry on behalf of the Crown into the state of the woodland in the Forest of Dean, in particular the spoilage caused by the ironworks there. Depositions were taken from several people, including Richard Tyler, at Lydney on 24 September 1611 in front of Sir Walter Montague and Sir George Huntley, amongst others. At that time Tyler was living at Eccleswall, aged 22 (or thereabouts), and for the past 3 years he had had 'his abydinge' near the Forest. Also, he had been employed as a clerk to an ironworks for more than 3 years, and had lately been employed by HM Commissioners measuring part of the Forest. It has been stated (and repeated) elsewhere that Richard Tyler was a lawyer, but this does not seem likely given that he was working in the ironworks from the age of 19 or so. The fact that he was living at Eccleswall is significant, as this was one of the Kents' Herefordshire properties and may have influenced his decision to move to Goodrich.

On 2 September 1622 he was one of the witnesses of an indenture whereby the Gardiner family of Lydbrook sold a piece of land at Gabbs or Gabba Mill there to Thomas Smart so that he could build a dam to power his battering works.<sup>6</sup> Cyril Hart, in his *Industrial History of Deans* says that Richard Tyler took over the works from Thomas Smart in 1627 and operated it until c.1637.<sup>7</sup> This was probably the same works as that mentioned in another lease of 1633, whereby the Gard(i)ner family

sold a battering work or iron mill in Lydbrook in the tenure of Richard Tyler to Benedict Hall.<sup>8</sup> Benedict Hall, in a letter to Richard Tyler in 1640, calls himself 'your loving friend'.<sup>9</sup> The outside is addressed 'To his very good friend Mr Richard Tiler at Godrich Castell...' The Gardiner family in Lydbrook were closely related to the Gardiners of Goodrich.

There is also a 1628 feoffment by Thomas Reve of Ruardean to John Jones of Dingestow and Richard Vaughan of Welsh Bicknor of a parcel of land in Lydbrook adjoining to a forge '...now in the occupation of Richard Tyler gent to set and lay charcoal and other coals to the use of the said forge...'<sup>10</sup> In 1631 John Selden drafted a letter for Elizabeth to the 1st earl of St Albans, recommending Richard Tiler, sergeant of her castle at Goodrich in Herefordshire, as tenant of a mill in the Forest of Dean.<sup>11</sup>

### **Richard Tyler at Goodrich**

There is an (unconfirmed) note in a handwritten list of deeds concerning Goodrich of Richard's first purchase of land in Goodrich in 1616, when he bought an acre of land in a common field called Akemore field from John Marten and his wife.<sup>12</sup> In 1621 there is a re-lease by Richard Tyler to John Fisher and William Jones of ten acres of land in two closes 'behind the town' next to the way from Goodrich castle to Welsh Bicknor.<sup>13</sup> It is confirmed in 1623 by a glebe terrier of that date which mentions closes 'behind the town between land of Richard Tyler gent and the demeane'.<sup>14</sup>

There are several records of Tyler purchases in Goodrich. One has already been mentioned: the 1663 survey when it was said that a property at Granton was granted to Richard Tyler by William Jones on 28 March 4 Charles I i.e. March 1628/9.<sup>15</sup> There is also a final concord in the manorial court recording the purchase by Tyler from William and John Jones of a messuage etc. in 'Graunton and Hentland' in Goodrich dated 14 February 2 Charles I i.e. February 26/7.<sup>16</sup> The 'Graunton and Hentland' designation is of no help, as until the re-organisation of parish boundaries Goodrich was split into 3 pieces, the majority of the parish being in this part. However, this is almost certainly a record of Tyler's purchase of the Court House; although the dates do not match exactly the date of a final concord just records the agreement to sell. When Richard Tyler actually moved to live in the Court House is unknown. If, as seems likely, he extended it into the 'mansion' described in his inventory it may not have been for some time.

The Tyler family also owned for many years an old farmhouse, rebuilt in the late 18th/early 19th centuries, next to Ye Hostelrie pub.<sup>17</sup> There is a quitclaim from Thomas Gardyner dated 28 March 24 Charles I (1648) which would seem to refer to Tyler's original purchase of this property. Thomas was the eldest son of William Gardyner of Whitchurch; William and his brother John were the children of John Gardyner late of 'Croose' and they had sold the property.<sup>18</sup>

Richard Tyler had other land; in 16-9 (the date is obscured) he had taken a 99-year lease from the manor of the Upper, Middle and Lower Homme grazing lands near to the Huntsham ferry. After his death in 1663 the other two lives still in being were those of his son Warren, then aged 30, and his daughter Dorothy, 28. He had married at St Briavels on 27 October 1622, Mary, the daughter of Warren Gough of St Briavels.<sup>19</sup> His two certain children, Warren and Dorothy, were not baptised in Goodrich as the parish registers date from 1558 but there is no record, but they were born within a couple of years. When Mary his wife died is unknown, but as no further children are mentioned it may have been fairly early. Tyler held a piece of copyhold land, 11 acres of arable in Yaxton field which he had acquired on 2 November 1637.<sup>20</sup> He also took a lease in 1656 for 11 years of two small pieces of land near the Court House.

However, his major commitment was a lease from the Earl and Countess of Kent noted on 21 September 1631 of Goodrich Castle, its outhouses and lands for 3 years renewable at £71 a year, commencing in the following March.<sup>21</sup> This must have included the rich lands lying between Flanesford Priory and the castle itself, as on the cessation of the lease he was allowed to take away corne in the fields. He was also allowed 'hedgeboot, cartboot[?], ploughboot, yokboot[?], and fireboot'. For their part the Kents undertook to 'repayre the Castle & houses except thack[?] and walinge to the outhouses'.

This is no doubt why he sent in his accounts for the 'repayre of the Castle of Goodrich' from 8 July 1631 to the 20 January 1631/[2]. These include lime for mending the 'seelings & other places' (3s); 6s to James Fyllye for plastering about the rooms of the castle...6 days; 5s to a mason for taking down an old stone wall at the Priory [Flanesford]; 8s 6d to the same mason for mending decayed places about the castle and pitching[?] under the gatehouse and mending the 'harthes' of the 'chymneys'; 25s to the mason for making of 100 perches of stone wall in needful places about the Priory and Castle of the old stones...; 10s 9d to the glazier of Monmouth for mending the glass about the castle; 15s 1d for new locks and keys and mending others; 15s 6d for 'squaring a tree in Penyard and for quartering the same, and for making a sawpitt to mend the gallery and other places about the castle.<sup>22</sup> On 20 June 1632 there is a list of items presumably from Tyler:<sup>23</sup>

10. 'Touchinge the Moudinge of the gallery & the conduite pipes'

11. 'There be certayne decayed stubb trees in the Ringe of the Castle growndes which was inclosed with a pale, being decayed?] If those stubb trees may be allowed towards yt, i will either wall yt with stone or quicksett yt, which wilbe four tymes the value of the trees.'

The Flanesford priory lands at least seem to have been in the hands of the family again in 1669, for when Richard's grandson Warren Keysall bought land in Walford, and he was described as 'of the Priory and parish of Goodrich.'<sup>24</sup> However, the lease is not shown in the 1663 survey.

### **The Earl and Countess of Kent claim her inheritance**

In the Selden documents in the Bodleian Library there are records of official visits made in 1632 on behalf of the Earl and Countess to the lands in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire which the Countess had inherited after the death of her father in 1623.<sup>25</sup>

From January 1631/2, Richard Tyler sent in accounts including those for the necessities ordered by the Earl and Countess of Kent for 'the entertaynment of her Commissions'.<sup>26</sup> It cost £15 for the entertaynment of Mr Claxton 'and '3 that came with him' viz 'from the 8<sup>th</sup> of 7<sup>br</sup> to the 22<sup>th</sup> [sic] of the same', and various 'other gentlemen...'.<sup>27</sup>

The procession of the Commission around the Kents' Herefordshire and Gloucestershire properties is interesting. The records are given in the order as bound in the Selden manuscripts volume which is not in date order. On the 9 April 1632, Thomas Duck and Benjamin Hare took possession of the castle, manor, hereditaments etc. on behalf of the Kents after the reading of their commission to do so, in the presence of Richard Tyler, Joseph Okey and Wm Gwyllym. On 13 April Duck and Hare went to the various tenements held of the manor and formally took possession, in the presence of William Gard[i]ner, Richard Tyler, John Fisher, William Weare, Thomas Hannis, James Lane and William Rea: Bayliue (*or some of them!*), of their lands and tenements and in addition those of Dr Godwine, Hopkin Edwards, John Clarke, Rudhall Gwyllym and the forge with its implements.<sup>28</sup>

On 14 April they were on the Dowards, on the 16th they took possession of Pooldye meadow, Broadmeadow, Huntsome ferry, Goldsmiths Wood, the Lady Meadow all in Goodrich manor. On 10 April they were on the Chase in Walford looking at coppice wood; on the same day at Penyard Park. On the 11th they were at 'Coughton Chappell, of Richard Smith's tenement of a Free Burgadge in Ross And of a tenement in Mansells Hope...'

The 18 April saw them at the manor house of Eccleswall, where Tyler attended. They also took possession that day of Talbotts Meadow, which was approximately where the car park and sports area to the south of Wilton bridge now lie.<sup>29</sup> Sergeant Hoskyn's mill at 'Bootons poole', Thomas Porter's meadow and 'the steelwork tooles & implements there' were visited in the presence of Richard Tyler.

On the 19th and 20th they were at Longhope manor to take possession, which included Longhope's wood; other properties are named. On 21st they went to Huntley - Tyler was there. On the same day they went to Leigh (presumably The Lea). On 17 April they went to Credenhill; Tyler was there also. The value of the farm at Credenhill is given: the land at 340a. @3s. per acre is £51; the sheep pasture called the park and one other field 160a. is £24; the mowing of 40a? of hay with

?math £40; the grazing of 14 oxen per ann beside the keeping of horses and young cattle £10.

The reports of the visits are followed by descriptions and valuations of woodland around the various manors<sup>30</sup> then by a few pages of questions to be answered. Maybe Richard Tyler had to take copious notes.

The visit to Credenhill would have proved useful in 1637, when Tyler was one of the deponents in an action by the Earl of Kent against Francis Smith of Credenhill.<sup>31</sup> Tyler's statement was taken at the new market house in Hereford on 11 October, when he was described as 48 years old or thereabouts, thus confirming his birth year as 1588/9. He had visited the manor house and farm where Smith had been living on 25 March 1633 immediately after Smith's departure, and had found things in a shocking state. Much wainscotting had been removed from the house, for example, and about thirty locks and keys and other door furniture had gone. However, it must be said that Smith said, amongst other things, that his grandfather had put up the wainscot.

On 20 June 1632 a list of points to be checked was sent from London.<sup>32</sup> Against point 4 - 'A Warrant for the Constable of the Castle of Goodrich to receive the prison[er?]s there' there is the remark 'Rd Tiler is made Constable'.<sup>33</sup>

In August 1632 Tyler had to write to Selden apologising for being unable to remit all the moneys due to the Kents,<sup>34</sup> but his hand was strengthened by an official document from the Kents dated 2 December 1632 whereby they appoint their 'servant Richard Tyler Constable of Goodrich Castle gent A true and lawfull attorney Agent and Deputy for us.'<sup>35</sup>

### **Goodrich in the Civil War**

Richard Tyler's primary responsibility in Goodrich was to the Countess of Kent, the Earl having died in 1639. John Selden, who lived with the Countess until her death and may have married her, supported the Parliamentarians.

The Goodrich Castle guide book, written by Jeremy Ashbee, remarks on the repairs to the castle supervised by Richard Tyler in the early 1630s, and seems to take the fact that Tyler had leased the castle and its lands as evidence that he and his family had actually lived in the castle itself. Ashbee then goes on to say that Tyler and his family were forced out of the castle, moved back in after the war and then had to move out again when it was slighted. I know of no evidence for this. A more detailed account including the Selden material is given in Ron Shoesmith's recently published book on Goodrich Castle.

Richard Tyler submitted an account for losses he had suffered from the occupation of Goodrich Castle by Royalist forces under Henry Lingen from 'the feast of St Michael' 1644 i.e. 29 September to August 1646.<sup>36</sup> This has to be read like any insurance claim would be, with a slightly cynical eye. There is no doubt that Tyler suffered from having to move or sell stock away from the Flanesford Priory farm lands next to the castle; he also suffered the loss of timber, straw and of the profit he would have made by his occupation of the land. He claimed £20 for his 'imprisonment' and loss in ready money and other things. The Priory buildings were damaged and he had to repair them. It may be that the stout 'barn' at The Old Court House, with its provision for barricading the heavy door from the inside, was built as the result of his experiences.

Although the Countess was a Parliamentarian sympathiser, Goodrich Castle was ordered to be slighted, and Richard Tyler was paid £10 for supervising the work.<sup>37</sup> No doubt he was able to dispose of the material to bring this sum up to a reasonable level. It is possible that the massive stones of the kitchen fireplace at The Old Court House were acquired in this way.

### **Richard Tyler's last years**

There are good sequences of the Goodrich manorial court rolls shown in Herefordshire Record Office catalogues, but there are none between October 1636 and September 1654.<sup>38</sup> Similarly, there are no



court rolls between October 1656 and September 1658; October 1662 and September 1663; November 1663 and May 1664. The latter gaps may reflect a lack of manorial management.

Richard Tyler was in his mid-70s when he died, well-off by the standards of the time. His house was comfortable - his son Warren had 5 hearths taxed in 1665; by 1671 this had risen to 7.<sup>39</sup> Warren may have been a disappointment to him; his grandson Warren Keysall was living in the house at the time of Richard's death and was his executor. His daughter Dorothy had nine children in all: Warren, Mary, Thomas and Joyce<sup>40</sup> by John Keysall; Dorothy, Francis, Richard, Jeremy and Thomas by Thomas Tipping or Typping. Thomas was baptized in 1661 at Culmington.

Richard was buried at St Giles, Goodrich, very near to his house. The church was much altered in the 19th century, but earlier accounts make no mention of a memorial to him. The College of Arms holds the archives of Thomas King, a friend of Sir Samuel Meyrick with whom he visited local churches, noting armorial glass and monuments, but it has not been possible to see these yet.<sup>41</sup>

## References

<sup>1</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra.

<sup>2</sup> See later evidence of cases where his age is quoted.

<sup>3</sup> Visitation of Gloucester, 1623, p198. Available to download online. Also online is *A list of persons who were disclaimed as gentlemen of coat armour by the heralds at the visitations of the various counties of England*, which gives a good account of the process. In theory, 'gentleman' was a strictly defined term and it was an offence to use it unless you were entitled to do so. Interestingly, John Selden wrote *Titles of Honour* in 1614 on this subject.

<sup>4</sup> At findmypast.co.uk - register images available.

<sup>5</sup> The National Archives (TNA), E178/3837. Photostat copies at Gloucs. R.O. in the Cyril Hart collection, D3921, I/24.

<sup>6</sup> Gloucs. RO, D1677/GG676.

<sup>7</sup> Hart, Cyril, *The Industrial History of Dean*, p.34.

<sup>8</sup> Gloucs. RO, D1677/GG780.

<sup>9</sup> HRO, O68/I/41.

<sup>10</sup> National Library of Wales (NLW), Courtfield MSS, 811.

<sup>11</sup> Lambeth Palace Library (LPL), Misc. papers of John Selden and Sir Matthew Hale, MS 3513, f.13.

<sup>12</sup> Herefordshire Record Office (HRO), L24/74. This list may date from the time that the Goodrich manorial records were brought to Hereford from Monmouth.

<sup>13</sup> HRO, Hopton Collection, No. 5. The lease and re-lease system was the way purchases of land were arranged.

<sup>14</sup> HRO, HO/2/5/23.

<sup>15</sup> HRO, O68/I/21.

<sup>16</sup> HRO, these documents are in R90.

<sup>17</sup> This property appears in deeds, wills and manorial records at the same time as The Old Court House.

<sup>18</sup> 'Croose' alias Crews or Cruse is the name of this area of Goodrich, no doubt named after the crossroads between the road up from Goodrich ferry and the road from Pencraig towards Welsh Bicknor and Huntsham ferry.

<sup>19</sup> The Gough family were wealthy landowners in and around St Briavels, part of their wealth deriving from the marriage of Warren Gough's father George to Mary, daughter of William Warren, thus bringing in the forename Warren.

<sup>20</sup> HRO, O68/I/21. Yaxton was the earlier name of Rocklands, and Yaxton field may be synonymous with Old Field, as both would seem to occupy the land which runs from the 'Dry Arch' over the Goodrich-Welsh Bicknor road down towards Huntsham bridge.

<sup>21</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, f. preceding f.31.

<sup>22</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, f.14.

<sup>23</sup> Selden 113, f.22 verso.

<sup>24</sup> HRO, N53/LC1275.

<sup>25</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, ff.65-67. The documents are bound as a volume but not the 1632 sheets are not in date order.

<sup>26</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, ff.12-14. The folio numbers are awry here - 14 appears twice. The 'Commissions' - it does not seem to say 'Commissioners'.

<sup>27</sup> Later, in July 1632, Tyler claimed for 'one dozen and a half of kidd leather gloves sent up to her honou)re (18s) more for 2 ddo and a half of gloves and 6 kiddskins sent to her ho(nou)r the first of novem - 33s in toto'.

<sup>28</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, f.65 and subs.

<sup>29</sup> HRO, AW87, 1718 Goodrich manorial map.

<sup>30</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, f.68. Not all folios are numbered but the following is f.69..

<sup>31</sup> TNA, E134\13CHAS\MICH10. Thanks to David Lovelace for photographing and transcribing this.

<sup>32</sup> Selden 113, f.22.

<sup>33</sup> The letters have a common symbol for an omitted 'er' followed by 's'. This makes sense of 'receave' if it was 'prisoners'.

<sup>34</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 125 supra, f12 (75) probably but no folio no can be seen.

<sup>35</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 125 supra, f20 (83).

<sup>36</sup> HRO, O68/I/38.

<sup>37</sup> Shoesmith, Ron (ed), *Goodrich Castle*, (2014), Chapter 8 by Pat Hughes, pp.71-84, a good account of the castle in the Civil War.

<sup>38</sup> With the HRO closure it has not been possible to check these dates against the documents.

<sup>39</sup> Duncumb, Wormelow Lr Div. Pt 1.

<sup>40</sup> Joyce was baptised in 1652 in Goodrich.

<sup>41</sup> College of Arms, Thomas William King, *Heraldic Miscellanies*, vol. 16. It is not clear whether the College still allows individuals to view or photograph this collection, for which a substantial fee may be payable.

**Ironworks and woods from the Selden MSS in the Bodleian Library by Rosalind Lowe**

The paper on Richard Tyler made use of the Selden MSS in the Bodleian library.<sup>1</sup> I had already searched most sources for my 2010 Presidential Address to the Club about the history of New Weir *alias* Symonds Yat, and in passing mentioned Old Forge in Goodrich and the furnace in Whitchurch.<sup>2</sup> However I was unaware at that time of the Selden MSS, but in researching Richard Tyler's life I photographed most of the MSS and have found much interesting material relevant to local iron-working in the 17th century.

As I pointed out in my paper, the Earls of Shrewsbury were enthusiastic promoters of the production of iron on their estates, and they had plenty of natural resources both in south Herefordshire and nearby in Gloucestershire to help them to do this. When Richard Tyler came on the scene, the Kents, successors to the Earls of Shrewsbury, acquired a man with first-hand knowledge of both ironworks and the management (and value) of woodland for ironworks.

The Selden manuscripts date from about 1619 to the early 1630s, when the Kents were belatedly taking possession of the Countess's inheritance from her father, Gilbert, seventh earl of Shrewsbury who died in 1623.<sup>3</sup> As part of the process, enquiries were made into the assets and income of the estates e.g. leases and woodland. There are 'to do' lists for facts to be checked, and notes of assessments made of possible value and income from the assets.

The two collections of manuscripts, Selden 113 *supra* and Selden 125 *supra*, are bound in volumes in somewhat random order. They contain details of the Kent's other estates in Derbyshire and Staffordshire as well as those nearer to home. Often an item about the woodlands or ironworks is just one of a number on the same folio. Not all folios are numbered or have a date, and a number of hands are evident, though not often identifiable. Note that on many documents a forge is mentioned. In a very few places the location of the forge, at Old Forge (or New Mill Hill) next to the bridge over the Garron on the old A40, can be identified.

**'A brief computacone of the gayne to be made by making of Barriron at the Fordge'<sup>4</sup>**

The chardge of a lo	Imprimis the cutting and cording of two cord			
of coales & the	and a half of wood which being made will			
woorke	make a load of coales is valued at	s - d		
	The coalinge thereof	3s	}	£ s d
	The carriedg valued at	2s - 6		
A loade of coles	The wood itself at 4s per cord	4 0		
worthe - 24s		10 0		00 - 19 - 06

For the making of a Ton of Irone into Barrs

Three lo: of Charcoals 19s - 6d per load	£2 - 18s - 06d	}	£11 - 3s - 06d
One ton 7 <sup>c</sup> [cwt] of Raw mettle at £5 per ton	£6 - 15s - 00d		
The hammermans Wadges per ton	£1 - 00s - 00d		
The Clerk wadges particular payment estimated at 10s per ton	£0 - 10s - 00d		

The Fordge will make 200 tons per ann and better      A Tone of Barriron is worth £13 - 5s  
 and soe cleared      £2 - 1s 6d

Allowe 11s 6d for Cassualtyes  
 and soe there is 30s per ton cleered

And soe for makeing 200 tons per annum the  
Cleere gayne (allowing befur 4s per cord  
for the wood) will amount unto }£300 per annum

#### **Valuations of woods and timber**

There is a list of timber sold by 'Mr Purefoie' between 1625 and 1631, presumably not for charcoal or barking.<sup>5</sup> A tree raises 15s; a dead tree 8s; 57 tons of timber £28 12s 6d; one grove of wood £12. On 16 September 1631 Mr Tiler paid £5 18s for timber and 8s 4d for wood.

Presumably in 1631 or 1632 there is a valuation of the Kents' woods<sup>6</sup> - on the reverse of the folio is a valuation of the wood felled by Sir John Kirle in 1631.

**Penyard park** conteyneth in the whole 650a 3:ro 28p [?] the Lawne - 71a 17ro cutt by Sir John Kirle 208a-2ro-10p one meadowe bottome conteyning 9a, the Castle orchard cont 4a and 8a-1ro-1p allowed for the furnes and other \*\*\*\* Total - £700

There is alsoe tymber in Penyard beside worth £150

**Linton's Wood**...in the whole 252a 2ro 20p, whereof 136a 3ro cutt the last year by Sir John Kirle, and 4a of waste & inclosures being deducted, the wood consists of 111a 3ro 20 p [vucutt] of 12 years growth at 50s the acre Total £279 - 13s - 9d.

**The Chase** in the parish of Walford...containing in the whole 124a 1ro 20po whereof there is 9a 2ro 8po of arable land, and 6a cut by Sir Giles Brydges which being deducted the Chase consists of 109a - 3ro 12 po of coppice wood of 14 years growth at £4 the acre Total £439 - 06s - 00d.

#### **'Necessary things to be remembered and considered of...'**

The reverse of the folio with the Barriron computation is the start of a numbered list of 23 'necessary things' to do.<sup>7</sup> Only interesting entries will be mentioned:

2. Coughton Chappell and sundry other Chappills and Chappell yards granted to Mr John Stratford by lease from my lord & Mr Purefoy; about 8 years to come the d[ate?] being Feb: 10th 1620: Rent per annum 12d, noe fyne.'
3. Side note that Mr [William] Kirle also desires to renew his lease for the Chase having about 6 years to come.
6. touching the keeping of Penyard Park,Geo. [boscored] the old keeper may be allowed but 6 kine or cattle & a horse, it is fit to joyn his son with him for a trial, that it may be the better seem unto [.] but some one must be appointed to oversee them both.
15. George Wyrrell of Monmouth to take care of the Doward.
23. [Another hand] [Mr Gwillim] also will make it appear that my lady hath as good right to the vicarage of Goodrich as to the Castle.<sup>8</sup>

On 20 June 1632 another list of points to be considered was written, it appears, in London:<sup>9</sup>

1. Sir John Kirle touching the Tithewood and Bark in Penyard Parke
3. Questions [...] to be answered touching the water turned from the Lo: Mill out of the right Course
5. How to dispose of the 80 young trees which Sir John Kirle barked and are now remaining in Penyard Parke
7. A Warrant for George Bonnor and Thomas Bonnor for the keeping of Penyard Park with some fit allowance to be allowed [ ] their allowance of old was 6 kyne, a horse, £4 13s 4d for [...] meade, £2 13s 4d for wa[d]ges and for a coat 10s.

8. Upon the land of two copy holders in Eccleswall manor, here by some old Stoggell trees<sup>10</sup> which do augge? [auger?] the land. The tenant desires to give my Lady some reasonable price for them, and so ...

For example, there is a note of the proposals made by Thomas Duck and Richard Tyler to George Kemble concerning 'the letting of the forde and the cuttinge of the [Kents'] woods.'<sup>11</sup> Alongside are Kemble's replies in his own hand:<sup>12</sup> On the next folio is a an almost duplicate list of of Duck and Tyler's proposals to Sir John Kirle, and the replies of Sir John also in his own hand. The forge concerned is that at Old Forge in Goodrich. There was a furnace and water-driven hammer there for refining the pig iron supplied at this time from the large furnace which processed iron ore and cinders at Whitchurch.

**Duck and Kent's proposals**

The Forge with all things belonging to be let for 21 years at the yearly rent of one hundred pounds

Or otherwise to be let for 21 years reserving £40 rent per annum after 9 years purchase commeth to £540

Or otherwise to be let for one year at the rent of one hundred pounds

The Chase to be sold being being 109a. at £4 the acre - £436  
Linton's wood to be sold vizt that part which is uncut being 111a. and valued at £3 10s per acre is £388 10s

Twenty acres in Penyard to be cutt this year at £3 per acre £60

The woods to be left well stored; to be cleared in reasonable time, and such timber and great trees to

**Kemble's replies**

I will give for 21 years £80 per annum and if you please pay half years rent beforehand or if £20 of the £80 be taken off I will give £160 for a fine and £60 per annum and £60 per annum for 21 years

In regard I have & must disburse £2000 in the stocking & building of the works although I am willing yet & am not able to give a fine.

I will give £80 for one year.

After that I have owed? it I will give a valuable rate which shalbe done before Mychaelmas if god permit.

\*One hundred pounds at the sealing of the lease and £60 twelve months after

**Sir John Kirle's replies**

1. Allow me 1800 cords of wood yearly (within 4 or 5 miles of the Forge) at 3s. 4d. the cord as I gave to all others: or 600 loads of coals at 20s. a load (a price indifferent in regard of the incosiderable rates of iron). I will give £100 a year for the Forge and appurtenances, for 21 years or £400? fine and £40 per annum which cannot well be brought to pass unless you suppress the Furnace, which is not yet built but newly begun. If this may not be then I ? the Forge for a year and I will pay £50 for it in present pay which is £10 more than I? was paying.

2. The Chase is not to be sold but by the cords, in regard Sr G Bridges under cutter of Tallbotts meadow once in the year doth cut and varry away what he pleaseth, and hath (by virtue of a lease from Mr Purefoy) cut the last year 3 acres ?. This wood doth consist of Sally and hazel and I cannot afford to give more than 3s. 4d. the cord, my accustomed measure.

3. Lintons wood in like manner 3s. 4d. the cords being very small wood.

4. Penyard I will give 4s. the cord. It is oken-wood.

5. The woods that I cut shalbe well stored and I wilbe bound to clear all that is barked within the year and to pay for it all at or before the time.

be preserved, as shalbe  
thought fit and convenient

What is reserved for timber I desire  
may first be marked to avoid  
contention.

The rate of the woods by I will give by the Cord Forest  
the cord if they be so sold measure 4s. 6d. per cord  
is 5s. per cd upon the stub

The rate of the load of coal I will give by the load of coals  
(charcoal) delivered at the Forge delivered at the Forge 22s per  
Forge is 24s. per load load.

The tithe to be discharged That is but fit.  
by the buyer of the woods  
if it be sold by greater or  
by the acre  
The tithe you must discharge if any  
be due out of all woods. Timber out  
of Penyard for the reparacon of the  
Forge if needs require and not  
otherwise is desired.

The Bark excepted of all if the wood be bought by the  
the wood to be sold lump the bark goes with it.  
[signed] George Kemble

Kirle writes in addition: 'If Mr Gwillim will neither be sensible of the losses my Lord receiveth by the erecting this new furnace nor of the benefit he doth and is to receive of the lands he now holdeth by lease under them but rather chooseth a present benefit in receiving £50 or £60 to hinder and [...] my Lords £500 in refusing to take of Kemble who hath not yett buylte but now is buylding the furnace I then will geve to my Lorde and Ladie a valuable consideration presently for a lease of 21 yeares of all such lands as he howldeth under their honors years in reversion. And I knowe no reason why my Lord and Ladie should (for him) neglect their own profitt he beinge no immediate tennant but challengeth and deriveth his interest from on Kinge [*sic*] whos assignment (yt is sayde) he cannot shewe.' This is interesting as it gives a fairly accurate date for the furnace, possibly that at Whitchurch which was in operation in the 1650s, then on the site of an 'ancient furnace'.<sup>13</sup>

Kemble and Kirle's replies are followed by an analysis of their two offers.<sup>14</sup> In fact, an indenture of lease for the forge was made between the Kents and Kemble on 9 April 1633 for seven years £80 per annum.<sup>15</sup> There is an inventory of the utensils and implements at the forge, at the end of which there is the note: 'three greate plats of Caste Iron sett under the Anvill in wt one tonn which if Sr John Kirle does not make good to Mr Kemble then they must be noe pte of this inventory.' There is also a note on another list of points dated 26 August 1632 'Ther is one greate wheele at the Forge called the Chaffery wheele out of reparations [?] and most of the Chemneys which also to be sufficiently left by Sr John Kyrle.'<sup>16</sup>

## Conclusion

The Selden manuscripts represent a short time period in the management of Goodrich and other local manors owned by the Shrewsburys and the Kents but they are full of historical detail. A full transcription, when time allows, will reveal much about the management of the Kents' local manors.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, 125. Note that some of the MSS are in a detached portion.

<sup>2</sup> 'New Weir, Whitchurch or Symonds Yat: from ironworks to tourist destination', *TWNFC*, Vol. 58 (2010), pp.25-56 and Plates 1&2.

<sup>3</sup> There were inheritance disputes, I beleive, which delayed the process.

<sup>4</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, f.9.

<sup>5</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, f.8.

<sup>6</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, f.68.

<sup>7</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, f.9v, 11, 11v. Folio 10 is a loose slip of paper inserted here.

<sup>8</sup> This may be Mr Gwilym of Whitchurch sometime a lawyer, and skilled at making her right appear solid.

<sup>9</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, f.22.

<sup>10</sup> Stoggell trees are old pollards useless for timber (info: David Lovelave)..

<sup>11</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Selden 113 supra, f.50.

<sup>12</sup> Spelling corrected.

<sup>13</sup> Hereford Library, Large Pamphlet Box, transcript of TNA/E134, 24/25 Charles II, Hilary No 15 Hereford.

<sup>14</sup> Selden 113, f.53.

<sup>15</sup> Hereford Library, Hereford Diocesan Register 1634-1667 transcript, pp.155 -9.

<sup>16</sup> Selden 113, f.70v.