

WP52

lwb 11/10/96

Windows 2, 4 & 5

The Saxon boundary of the dairy farms and Downland (1) attached to the East Overton charter of 939AD followed a track which divides Fyfield from the parish of West Overton (1), down to the lynches of the south headlands (4), and the Dillon Down or Overton Sheep Down (2), the eastern boundary of which was bounded with stones in 1811. Smith, however, refers to it as 'Ruckley Down'. In the Survey of the Lands of William, First Earl of Pembroke in 1562, there is mention of the *pastura vocata Dyllinge* of 31 acres. To the east, at the northernmost end of Fyfield was Fyfield Tenants Down in the late 18th century and the Sheep Down in 1811 and 1819 (3).

The very northern end was referred to as Hackpinn Down by A& D in 1773 and 'Hackpen' by Smith in 1885 (15). However, Hackpin Sheep Down and Cow Down were where Overton Down is now in the late 18th century (15). There is a note from the Registry of the Lord Bishop of Sarum, dated 15(?)8, of 'there are one hundred sheep lease upon the Downe of Hackapenn amonge the sheepe and flocke belonginge to the farme and manor of Overton nowe is the tenure or occupacion of Mr Richard Kingemill Esquire called Hackapenne Flock', in 1608 there was 'one hundred sheepe lease uppon Hackpenne' and in 1671 again there was a 'one hundred sheepe lease upon the Farme Downe belonging to Hacpin'. A large proportion of the western side of this Down was given over to agriculture in 18XX when Parson's Penning was constructed.

Wroughton Mead (5) was called Rowden Mead on the A&D map of 1773, where it was shown with a diamond shaped wood in a diamond shaped mead. By the late 18th century it was Rodden Mead, though in 1811 it was unnamed, but noted as belonging to the duke of Marlborough, in 1819 it was called Roddon and Rowden Mead in 1885. Wroughton Copse (6) was Rodden Copse in the late 18th century, Roydon Copse in 1811, no name in 1819 and Wroughton Copse, above Wroughton Mead, in 1885. Both these names, however, are noted much earlier. In the Survey of the Lands of William, 1st Earl of Pembroke, Roddons Close at 25 acres is noted, Roddon Cowdowne, *que est pastura valde bona*, Roddon Cowleaze and Roddon Copice. Rowden, Dyllinge and Lockridge downe are also mentioned. For earlier references to Raddon see Chpt 5.

To the east, the land was called Rodden Cow Down in the late 18th century, East Overton Cow Down in 1811 and Overton Cow Down in 1819. It was also at that date when the new fence line at the Mead is noted for the first time (8), though this fence line is not on the current 1:25,000 map. The square pond (SU 141716) at the eastern side of the Mead is also noted for the first time in 1819 (12). The dividing line between the Cow Down and Fyfield Tenants Down is noted on the 1811 map as; 'This part of the down is divided by hills called Dillions' (9). Dillions or Dillons are, according to The English Dialect Dictionary of 1900, 'earth-heaps to mark boundaries on the Downs' and may well come from the Old English *dælan*, meaning to divide or bestow; a *dælydnes* is a division.

Across the northern edge of Wroughton Copse was 'The Old Bath Road Disused' in the late 18th century and lightly marked as 'Preshute Road' in 1811 and called 'the ancient trackway called Old London Way' on the Inclosure map of 1815/6 (10). The southernmost end of Overton Sheep Down was marked by a holly stump (11) and further south the line between the Fyfield Tenants Down and Lockridge Down is again marked by a holly (13) in 1819. To the south-east of Wroughton Mead the land was called Rodden Sheep Down in the late 18th century (16)

At some point between 1811 and 1819 the Delling Cottage was built, though in 1819 it was called 'Keepers House'. The cottage was surrounded by a garden with another in the SW corner of the enclosed land. To the east of the house was a square pond adjoining the perimeter fence which encircled the cottage, covering an area roughly twice that of Wroughton copse. A gate, directly south of the pond, allowed access to the house. This more or less square area was shown by Smith in 1885 and called 'Overton Delling'.