



Swan House, Tarrington, Herefordshire:
archaeological monitoring and building recording

Huw Sherlock, Robert Williams and P J Pikes
2001



archenfield archaeology ltd

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Archenfield Archaeology Ltd is a multidisciplinary archaeological consultancy, offering a complete range of archaeological advice and services to the public and private sector. We specialise in giving archaeological advice to developers, housing associations and private individuals. We also undertake archaeological intervention, from monitoring to full-scale excavation; building survey; landscape and geophysical surveys and community-based historical and archaeological projects.

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Thanks are also due to Mr & Mrs Parry for their help in providing additional documentation.

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Cover Photograph: Swan House frontage



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Summary

Archenfield Archaeology were commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Parry to carry out an archaeological building survey and watching brief during work carried out at Swan House, Tarrington, Herefordshire, in March and April 2001. The building survey showed that, in its current form, Swan House is typical of a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century building, although a number of features tend to support the Royal Commission inspector's thesis that it has a seventeenth century origin.

The watching brief revealed only one feature of possible medieval origin, a wooden beam found in situ was recorded during the observation of groundworks associated with the construction of a new double garage.

1.0 Introduction

NGR (SO) 36180 24052

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record - Event No. 31055

Hereford City Museum Accession No. 2001-3

Mr & Mrs Parry (the clients) commissioned a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Swan House, Tarrington, Herefordshire. This was in accordance with the brief issued by the Herefordshire Council Archaeology Service dated 18th December 2000 which was issued in response to Planning Application NE2000/2171/F for permission to make alterations to the existing building and to construct a garage.

It was considered that the proposed development would potentially affect a site on which archaeological remains of importance may exist. Swan House is a Grade II listed building. The available archaeological information suggested that a programme of archaeological works was necessary to fulfil the aims of the County Structure Plan and the District Local Plan.

This document describes the conduct and results of this project.

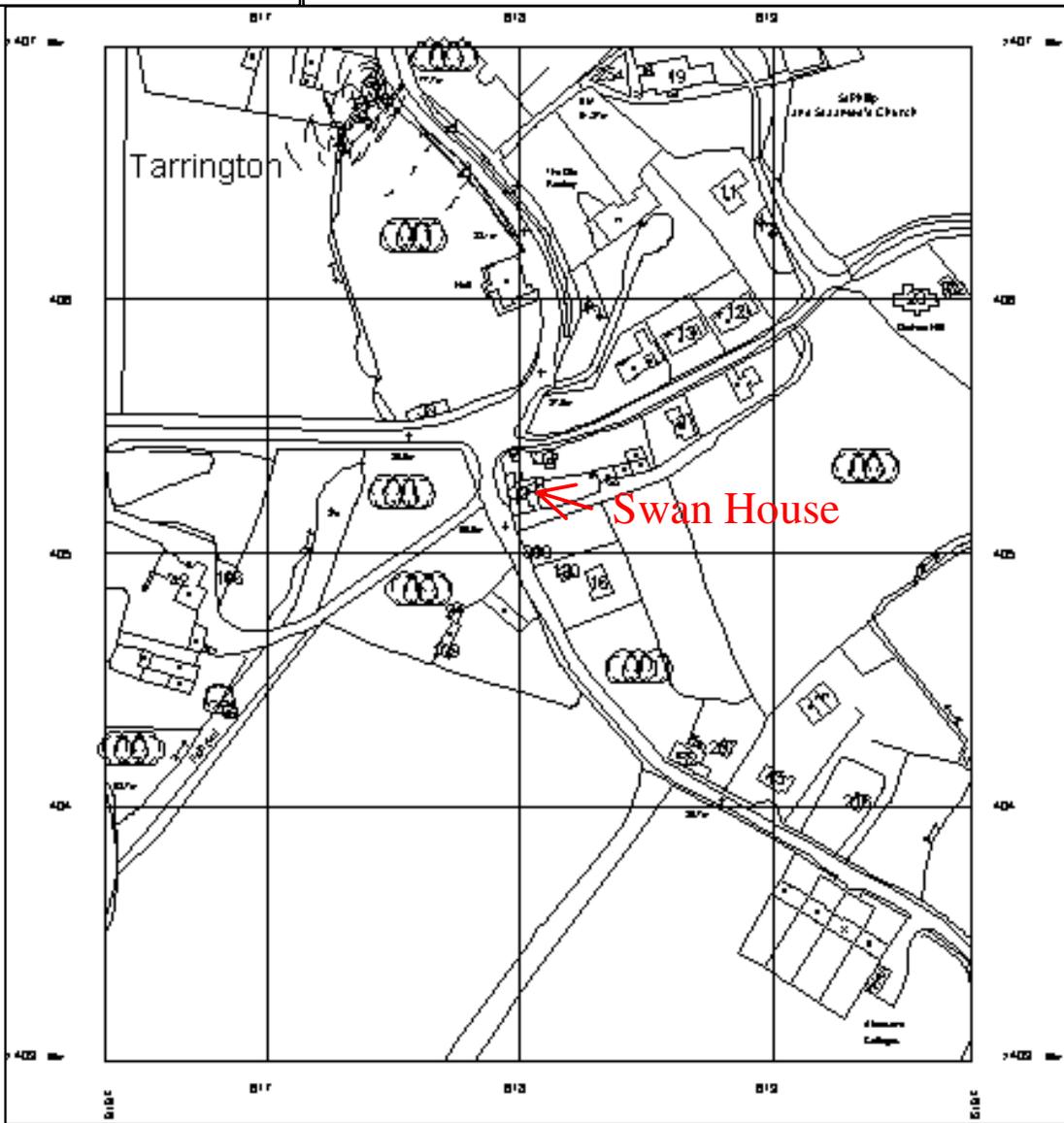
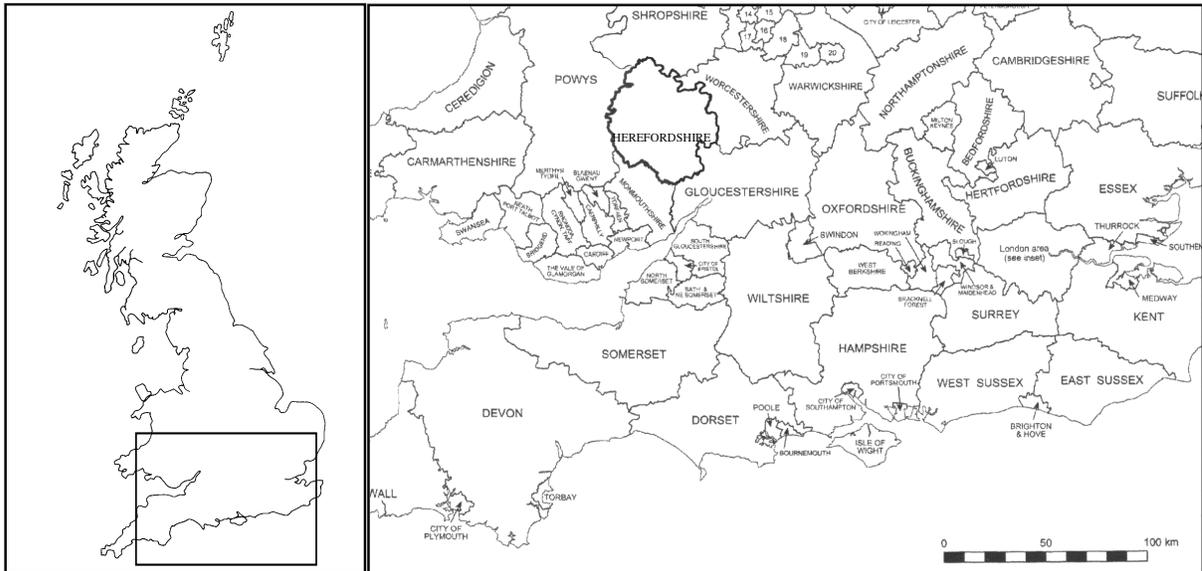


Figure 1: Location plan (OS Superplan data reproduced under license drawing ref. number 26104030)

2.0 Geological, historical, architectural and archaeological background

2.1 Geological background and land use

Tarrington is about 11.5 km (just over seven miles) from Hereford and 11 km (just under seven) from Ledbury.

The site lies in the southern part of Tarrington, at the junction of three lanes. It is close to the core of the village and some 150 metres from the church.

The centre of Tarrington, including the area of the church and Swan House, sits on an outcrop of the Raglan Mudstone formation. This is surrounded by Quaternary glacial head, except to the west where an outcrop of the Rushal sandstone formation is exposed (British Geological Survey map - 1:50,000 Series 198).¹

Currently the site is occupied by Swan House, a two-storey, grade II listed building with ancillary buildings and gardens.

2.2 Historical background

*'Lusty Tarrington, lively Stoke,
Beggars at Weston, thieves at Woolhope'*²

In Domesday Ansfrid de Corneilles held the manor of *Tatintune* in chief (Thorne and Thorne, 1983). Tarrington seems to have been two manors before the Conquest, held by the thegns Alwold and Ernwy.

At this time it possessed 3 hides which paid tax and had two ploughs in lordship. There were 5 villeins and 12 bordars with 9 ploughs, together with 8 other men. The assessors said that one more plough was possible. There were also 4 male and 3 female slaves.

In 1066 a part of Tarrington appeared to have been a separate manor held by Arric. Ansfrid also held this part in Domesday but from Roger de Lacy, lord of Weobley, rather than the king (Ansfrid was Roger's cousin by marriage). Here there was ½ hide, which paid tax and 1 plough in lordship. There was also 1 bordar and 3 slaves.

The name Tatintune, recorded as Tadinona between 1135 and 1144 and Tadynton in 1306, seems to be based on the Germanic personal name Tāta (Coplestone-Crow, 1989). Tarrington is a recent evolution of a name that was certainly Taddington in the 17th century. Taddington in Derbyshire is given as simply an INGTŪN formation – 'the TŪN of Tāta's people' (Ekwall, 1936).

In 1350 the manorial rights were transferred to Edmund de la Barre. The descent of the manor followed then to the Bodenham family and then to the Foleys. Paul Foley acquired Stoke Edith House from Sir Thomas Cooke in 1683. In the agreement there was a special stipulation that Foley should supply Cooke with an annual consignment of cider during the lifetime of the latter.³

The church at Tarrington was a possession of the alien Benedictine priory at Monmouth, a cell of the Abbey of St Florent près Saumur on the Loire (Cowley, 1977, p14). This meant that in times of war with France, the king had the vicarage in his gift. A Hundred Years War gave kings ample opportunities to use such temporalities and this right was certainly exercised by Edward III.

¹ Both are formations of the Old Red Sandstone - the Raglan formations are probable derived by rivers migrating across a plain, while the earlier Rushal formation is believed to be a fossilised shoreline (Brandon, 1989, p11).

² Local rhyme (Leather, 1912, p254)

³ Document in the Foley Collection in Herefordshire Record Office – E12/IV/163/5

In 1346 John Plowfield was presented to the parish, the 'temporalities of the priory of Monmouth in the king's gift because of the war with France'.⁴ In January the following year John de Rendlesham was given the living.⁵ Rendlesham did not last long either, for in February he exchanged Tarrington for Welsh Bicknor, whose priest, John de Grymesby moved to Tarrington.⁶ In March 1348 Grymesby was succeeded by John de Playford⁷ and in June 1349 by John Brid. Henry de Herlaston followed in August⁸ and seems to have lasted for a relatively long period, for it was not until December 1352 that another incumbent was needed and Walter de Atherston became the vicar⁹. In January 1353 John de Plowevelde was presented¹⁰ but presumably there was some sort of problem because in November 1354 de Atherston was still the incumbent when he exchanged the benefice of Tarrington with Adam de Waltham¹¹. In November 1361 John de Penyard was appointed¹² and after this the frequency of appointments declines - an entry for 1396 records the appointment of Thomas Killon¹³ leading to the inference that de Penyard may have lasted for 35 years. However, Monmouth Priory would have had its temporalities restored during brief periods of peace and may have appointed vicars itself during these times.¹⁴

The village itself would have followed the standard pattern for an agricultural settlement in lowland England with open fields being farmed in strips. In 1796 the 450 acres of open fields, meadows and pastures of Tarrington were 'ordered to be divided, allotted and enclosed'. The survey was to be undertaken by David Pain, Land Surveyor, of the City of Hereford.

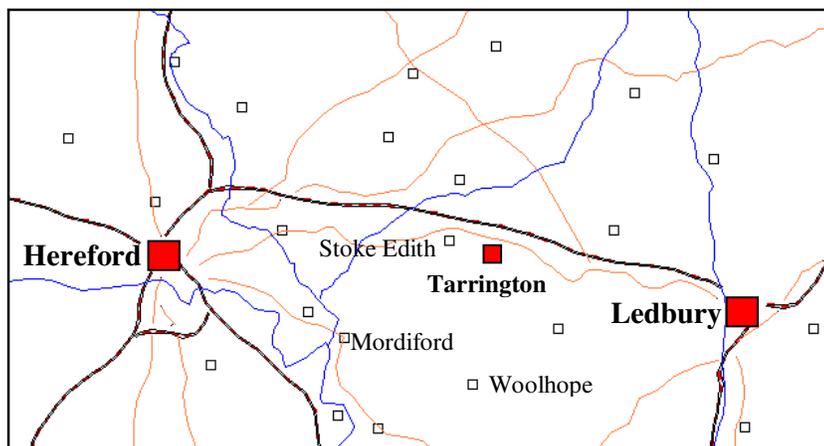


Figure 2: The Locality of Tarrington - communications circa 1900

Tarrington had good communications with the outside world. The original road through Tarrington ran immediately to the north of Swan House. To the west this road originally passed above Stoke Edith House and in the late 18th century the

4 Calendar of Patent Rolls for the reign of King Edward III, 9th August 1346.
 5 Calendar of Patent Rolls for the reign of King Edward III, 22nd January 1347
 6 Calendar of Patent Rolls for the reign of King Edward III, 26th February 1347
 7 Calendar of Patent Rolls for the reign of King Edward III, 18th March 1348
 8 Calendar of Patent Rolls for the reign of King Edward III, 26th August 1349
 9 'void by the resignation of Henry de Herlaston', Undated – but filed with the Calendar of Patent Rolls for December 1352.
 10 Calendar of Patent Rolls for the reign of King Edward III, 10th January 1353
 11 Calendar of Patent Rolls for the reign of King Edward III, 10th January 1353
 12 Calendar of Patent Rolls for the reign of King Edward III, 14th February 1361
 13 Calendar of Patent Rolls for the reign of King Richard II, 9th April 1396
 14 The Black Death, arriving in England in 1348, is not likely to be the cause of these institutions.

owner, Edward Foley MP, removed it further north on the advice of Humphrey Repton.¹⁵

This was an important local road, being the main road from Hereford to Worcester and London. In 1644 a party of Parliamentary horseman came along this road, and after some dispute they shot dead the Tarrington parish priest, John Pralph. The roads of Tarrington (those which were not turnpikes) were maintained at the expense of the parish. In 1831 William Hutt was paid one shilling a day for working on the roads.¹⁶

The Poll Tax returns for Tarrington in 1377 recorded 136 males and females of 14 years of age or more (Fenwick, 1998). In 1664 there were 102 houses in the parish of which 71 householders paid Hearth Tax (Faraday, 1972). The parish was always agricultural with a population almost exclusively engaged in working the land or providing services for those who did. Occasionally local events suggested the deeper undercurrents of such societies - in 1774 the body of a newborn baby girl was found, together with a stone, in a sewn-up bag in a fishpond at Tarrington.¹⁷

In 1801 the population was 431, rising to 488 in 1811, 500 in 1821 and 540 in 1831.¹⁸ The male population engaged in agriculture in 1831 consisted of 12 farmers employing 61 labourers and 3 smallholders with no labourers. 36 other men worked in retail or handicrafts and there were 19 other males of 20 years of age or more who had no employment. That was the total for the parish – there were no 'capitalists, bankers, professional and other educated men' and in the whole hundred of Radlow, which included the town of Ledbury, only one man was employed in manufacturing.



Figure 3: Extract from the Tarrington Parish Tithe Map of 1838

¹⁵ Humphrey Repton (1752-1818) was the successor to Lancelot 'Capability' Brown as the leading landscape gardener of his day. He remodelled the grounds of both Stoke Edith House and Prestwood in Staffordshire for the Hon. Edward Foley in the first half of 1790 (Hyams, 1971, p 144).

¹⁶ A notebook containing the surveyor's accounts for the parish roads in the 1830s in the local collection in Hereford City Library.

¹⁷ Hereford Journal, 1st September 1774

¹⁸ Comparative Account of the Population of Great Britain for the years 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831

The Hereford to Worcester railway line was opened in 1861. Three stations were built between Hereford and Ledbury. The middle of these was built at Tarrington, although it was called Stoke Edith Station, and was about 1100 metres north of Swan House. From here trains ran regularly to Hereford and Worcester and the Great Western Railway would run 'hop-picker's specials' to bring in the workforce needed to pick the hops which were a major crop in the area. From 1885, passengers could change at Ledbury Junction Station for Ledbury Town and Gloucester. The site of Stoke Edith Station is now Station Cottage.

Swan House appears in the land tax assessment of 1787 as 'The Swan', where the proprietor was the Widow Hodges. In 1789 William Hodges was the owner and by 1809 the title had passed to Sarah Hodges. Three Hodges had been recorded in 1665 as paying hearth tax in the parish – both Eliza Hodges and Richard Hodges had one hearth, and Thomas Hodges two.¹⁹ It is not possible to say which, or indeed if any, of these was the occupier of Swan House.

In 1823 the Land Tax assessment has the entry for the proprietor -'Edward Thomas Foley esq – late Hodges', Foley having acquired Swan House since the previous year's assessment. The Foleys owned the property until Ellen Joyner purchased it in 1919.

In 1792 Thomas Pritchard was the occupier of The Swan. Thomas Beavan followed him in 1793, and was still there in 1797. The occupant between 1801 and 1803 was the proprietor, William Hodges. An entry in the assessments for 1804 lists Richard Smith as the occupier and in 1807, Richard Nutt. Richard Nutt remained until 1815 and was replaced as occupant by William Nutt who is entered for the years 1816 and 1817.

A longer term of tenancy began with John Taylor in 1818. He was still the occupier in 1823 but in 1824 he was replaced by Anne Taylor. It seems at least possible that the family was involved in the butchery trade from the first. Anne, at any rate, was described as a butcher in 1831 when she is recorded as living at The Swan with B Taylor, J Taylor and another Anne Taylor.

It seems likely that the B Taylor of 1831 was Bennett Taylor, who was Foley's tenant at Swan House at the time of the tithe apportionment in 1838. In the 1841 census Bennett Taylor, a 41-year-old butcher, occupied The Swan, together with eight-year-old Anne Taylor and Elizabeth, a servant of 28 years of age. By 1851 Bennett seems to have prospered for in the census of that year he is described as a 'farmer of 70 acres employing 3 labourers'. He was now 51 years old and was recorded at The Swan with Mary Taylor, his wife, and also 51. For some reason Taylor preferred the name Benjamin, and it is as Benjamin Taylor, farmer, that he appears in the local directories for 1851 and 1857.

The 1861 census records Isaac Williams at The Swan. Isaac, like his predecessors, was also a butcher. The entry records that he was 41 years old and that his wife, Elizabeth, was 43. A two-week-old daughter was also called Elizabeth. Other occupants were Anne Mathews, a 13-year-old servant girl and William Williams, a 14-year-old apprentice who may have been a family member.

Isaac is still recorded as the butcher at The Swan in the 1871 census, but he had acquired a new wife, Susanne, a woman of 41. His daughter, the younger Elizabeth was now 10 years old.

¹⁹ Transcription of the Hearth Tax assessment for Michaelmas 1665 by J Harnden, in Herefordshire Record Office

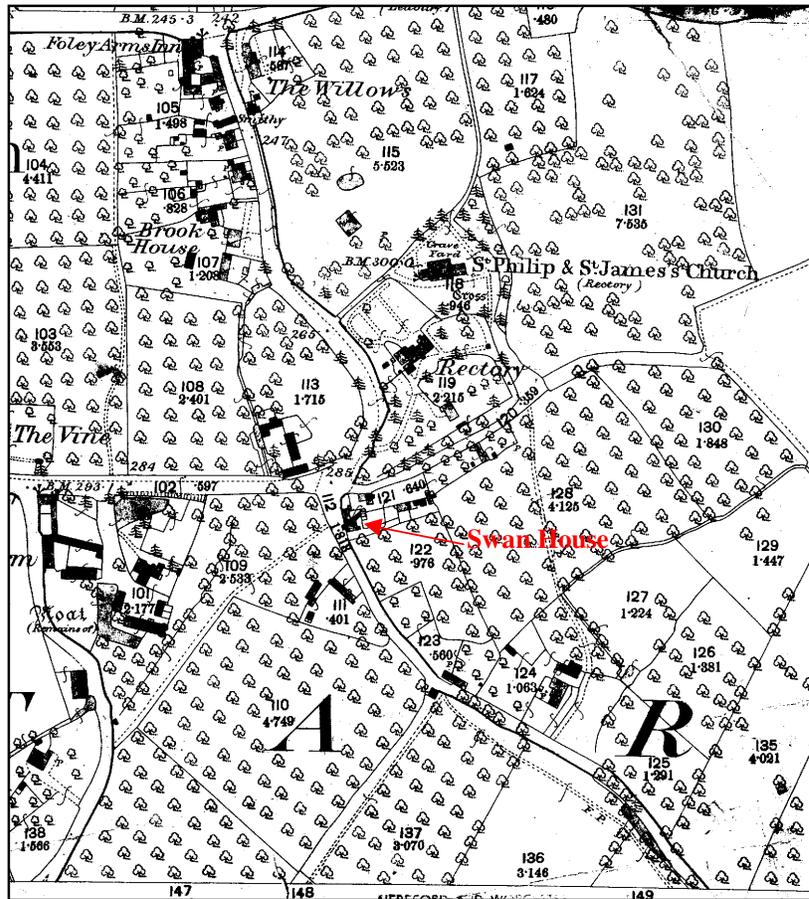


Figure 4: Extract from the OS 1887 1st edition 1:2500 plan

A change of use was imminent, for in 1881, Swan House, was occupied by the Jones family. John Jones was a shoemaker and shopkeeper, aged 36. His wife Jane was 34, and they had four children – Ellen, 10; Annie, 8; William, 5, and 2-year-old Ada. All the children had been born in Tarrington apart from William, who had been born in neighbouring Stoke Edith. However the 1891 census records that by that year John Jones was describing himself as a farmer and that he was helped on the farm by his son William, now 15.

In 1919 Mrs Ellen Joyner the tenant of Swan House, purchased Swan House from the Foleys. The property is described on the conveyance as 'All that messuage or dwelling house known as Swan House, with the Cart Shed, Cowhouses, Stables and Wainhouse thereto belonging together with all those three pieces of orcharding and grass land containing by admeasurement Five acres One rood and Eleven perches or thereabouts as the same are now in the occupation of the Purchaser as Tenant.'²⁰

Ellen Joyner was married to a Charles Frederick Joyner and the indenture specifies that the property is for her 'to hold the same unto and to the use of the Purchaser in fee simple as her separate estate free from the debts or control of the said Charles Frederick Joyner'. Mrs Joyner had been listed as a farmer in Tarrington in 1913 and was still listed as such in 1929.

In 1934 Mrs Elizabeth Smith was a shopkeeper at Swan House and in 1941 she was listed more specifically as a baker and shopkeeper. In 1934 Mrs Elizabeth

²⁰

The parties to the indenture, and the schedule, are included in Appendix D

Smith was a shopkeeper at Swan House and in 1941 she is listed more specifically a baker and shopkeeper. Her son, Dudley Smith, was 22 years old when the family moved into Swan House. He recalled that there was a large baking oven in the kitchen where the bread was baked. His father carried the loaves around the village in a basket. This grew into a larger business which involved two other sons, Geoff and Percy, and another shop was opened at Drury Cottage which sold sweets. Dudley Smith died in 2001, aged 90.²¹

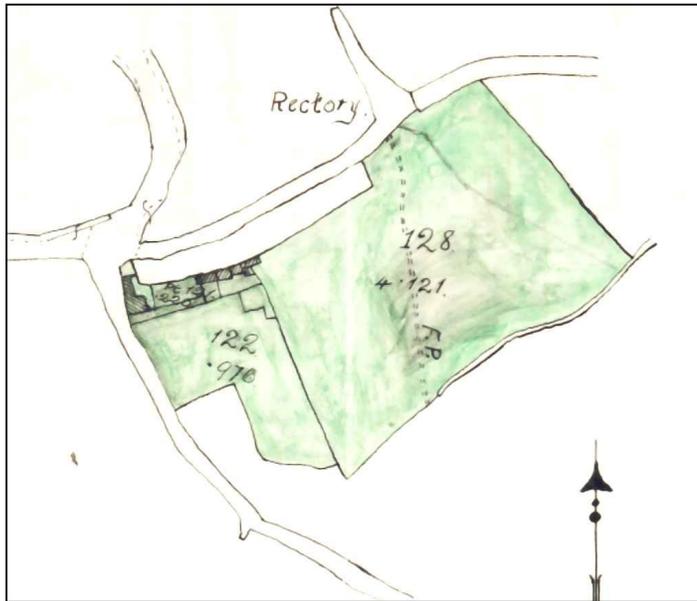


Figure 5: The property on the conveyance of 1919

2.3 Archaeological background

Very little archaeological work has been carried out in the parish. The village is a medieval settlement²² and features recorded include a moat²³ at Tarrington Court to the east of Swan House. Other features include a possible house platform²⁴ at Barr's Orchard and a churchyard cross.²⁵ Medieval pottery has been found close to Swan House - both to the south and to the east and an earthwork feature, interpreted as medieval, is recorded in the Herefordshire SMR as being immediately opposite Swan House on the western side of the lane.

²¹ Hereford Times 25th October 2001, quoting the 'Tarrington Tatler'
²² Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record 25825
²³ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record 1714
²⁴ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record 22502
²⁵ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record 1623; Scheduled Ancient Monument 29876

3.0 Project aims and objectives

The aims of the project were: -

- To make a photographic and drawn record of the building at RCHM Level 2.
- To monitor all groundwork undertaken by the contractor.
- To make a record of the extent and depth of all such groundwork.
- To make a record of any archaeological features or deposits exposed.
- To record the presence of archaeological material within the trenches and in the spoil removed during excavation, and to retrieve any potential dating evidence.
- To make a record of all finds and any environmental material recovered.
- To ensure that if any environmental evidence was preserved, that a sufficient sample be retained to allow for further analysis.
- To ensure that the location and of the area excavated was accurately recorded on a suitably scaled plan.
- To record negative evidence and to consider its implications.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Field methodology

The following methodology was employed: -

- The building was recorded by making an annotated ground plan based on the architect's drawing. The east and west elevations of the building were drawn in outline, with construction breaks and blocked windows etc indicated. All the external elevations were recorded photographically, as were significant architectural features.
- Suitably qualified archaeologists monitored all activity that involved disturbance of the ground surface.
- An assessment of the archaeological significance of finds, structures and deposits was made and appropriate action taken.
- Structures and stratigraphic sequences observed were recorded on scaled drawings and the position of all work disturbing the ground, and any archaeological features, was located on them.
- The presence of artefacts and was recorded with a description of their type, quantity and original location. The spoil was scanned for significant finds but none were observed.
- All descriptions of structures and deposits, photographic records and drawing numbers were recorded on the relevant data capture documents in accordance with Archenfield Archaeology's standard site recording procedures.
- Significant features were, where possible, photographed next to an appropriate scale rule, and a board displaying a unique context number. Each photographic exposure was recorded in the photographic log.

Staff carrying out the monitoring of the groundwork followed the guidelines laid down in the Archenfield Archaeology Health and Safety Policy.

Archenfield Archaeology conforms to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual arrangements in Field Archaeology. All projects are, where applicable, carried out in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeology Standards and Guidance or Draft Standards and Guidance.

4.2 Processing methodology

- The building was analysed in terms of its architectural history and all drawings were prepared to archive standard.
- All retained artefacts and ecofacts were subjected to further analysis.
- Huw Sherlock examined the ceramic material recovered and has provided spot dates.
- All data were entered into a Microsoft Access relational database

5.0 Results

5.1 The Building



Plate 1: Swan House from the west.

Methodology

The building and its settings were assessed and analysed by suitably qualified employees of Archenfield Archaeology.

It was agreed with the clients that the Architect's plans and elevations would be used as a base for further archaeological surveying. This was relevant especially where the renovation work may have affected the building and its settings.

The archaeologically annotated drawings produced are as follows:

Ground floor plan	Scale 1:50
Cellar plan to main house	Scale 1:50
East elevation	Scale 1:100
West elevation	Scale 1:100

A photographic survey was also carried out on components of the building that were affected by any developments. A 35mm format camera was used and both colour and black and white films were taken.

Outline description of Swan House

The house is listed as Grade II²⁶ and, according to the outline survey conducted in the 1930's by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments (RCHM), is assumed to have been built in the late 17th or early 18th century. The RCHM also state that it was re-modelled and extended in the late 18th or early 19th century.

Swan House is L-shaped and of two storeys with a basement. There is a later lean-to attached to the northern elevation and an outhouse containing the bathroom, which is joined to the main house by a covered passageway. There are two rooms plus a kitchen and pantry on the ground floor, and four bedrooms. There is visible evidence both internally and externally for the re-modelling which was carried out to the house.

The external walls of the main house are of rubble stone but they have been heavily painted or whitewashed over. The extensions were built in brick and stone.

The west elevation of the property faces the main road, while the main entrance to the house is at the rear.

The house has a hipped clay-tiled roof with king post trusses. The single pegged struts which generate off the principals are then nailed to the tie beams. The trusses contain a single tier of purlins, trenched into the principals. There are three chimney stacks.

Exterior description - Main House

north elevation

On the ground floor there is a central door which has a single casement window above. Unless otherwise stated the casement windows have leaded rectangular panes. The lean-to is attached to this elevation.

south elevation

The south elevation contains four windows and two smaller, square basement windows, one of which has diamond shaped mullions. The upper and lower windows on the western side are blocked or blind.

west elevation

The west elevation has six windows, the upper central window is blind. The only window in the house to have a stone lintel and no brickwork patching is the ground floor south window of this elevation.

The entrance to the basement is square-framed and appears to be of late 17th or early 18th century date. It has a porch with two supporting posts set in stone. The door has two strap hinges with the lower one partially obscured by the later addition of a toe board.

On the south and west elevations the ground floor windows have a small gabled hood over each window head.

east elevation

The east wall of the house, which includes the main stack and the northern cross wall containing the stairs, has a stone plinth. The upper parts of these walls are composed of bricks, coursed in a Flemish bond. This elevation only contains one small casement window at first floor level.

²⁶

RCHM, Vol 2, p184.

The wooden porch which was attached to this elevation was removed by the client, Mr Parry, during the course of these latest renovations. Two stone corbels set within the brickwork to support the roof of the porch were revealed, and two further holes which once supported the fabric of the porch were apparent at a lower level either side of the door.

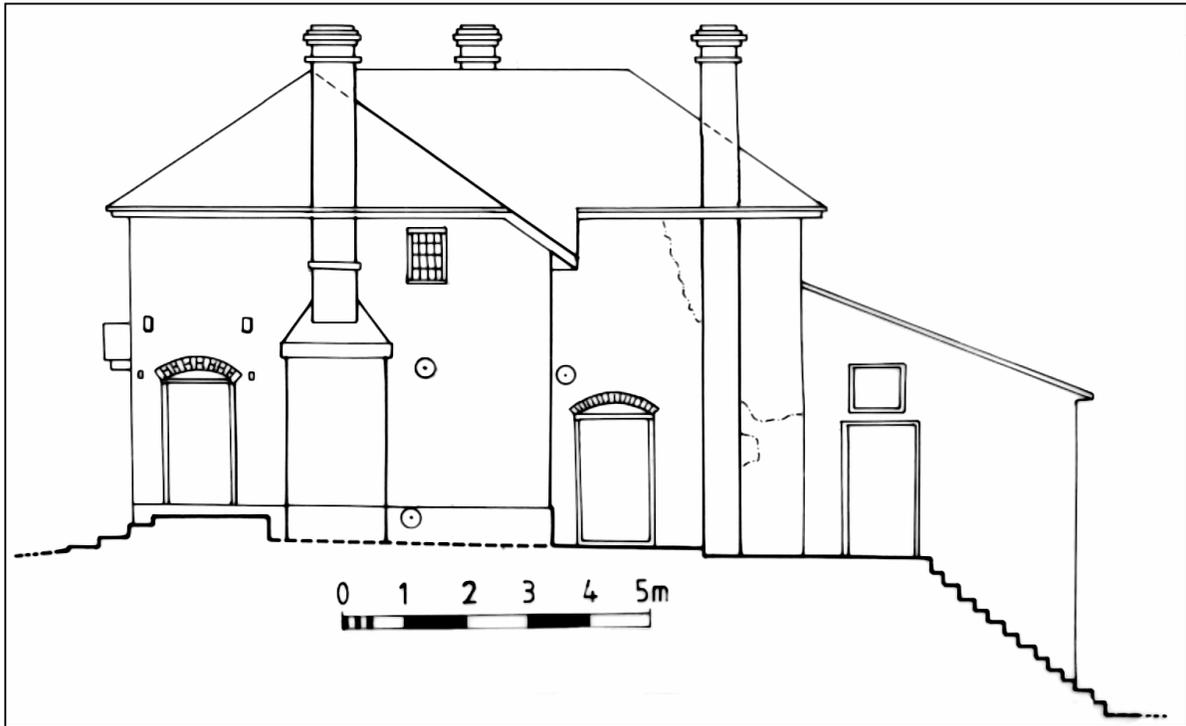


Figure 6: Swan House – East Elevation

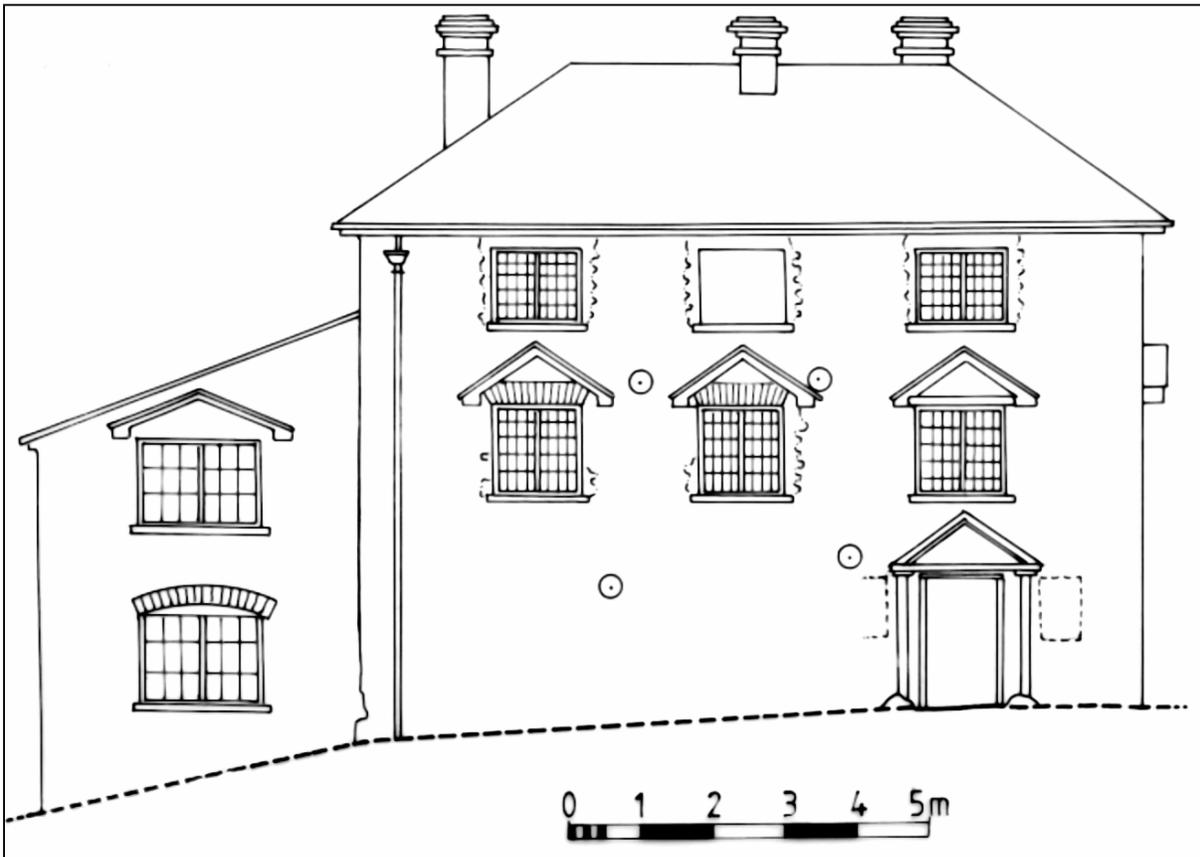


Figure 7: Swan House – West Elevation

The Chimney Stacks

There are three brick chimney stacks. The east wall external stack has a stone plinth below with brickwork above. There appears to be only a ground floor fireplace connected with this stack which was the main fireplace for the original house.

The internal stack in the south-west room is situated in the northern wall and has a fireplace on its south face at ground floor level. There was a fireplace in the same position on the first floor which is now blocked. At a later date another fireplace was built in the adjoining north bedroom. An inserted section of stack was added to the eastern side of the original stack. This can be seen in the attic.

The far eastern corner of the northern part of the house contains the third stack. Originally there was a fireplace associated with this but as it is now blocked the true width cannot be assessed. Refurbishment occurred in the corner of this part of the building, probably associated with the addition of the lean-to building running from the main house northwards. Construction breaks on the external east wall face (Figure 6) show a mix of stonework and later brickwork.



Plate 2: The West Porch.

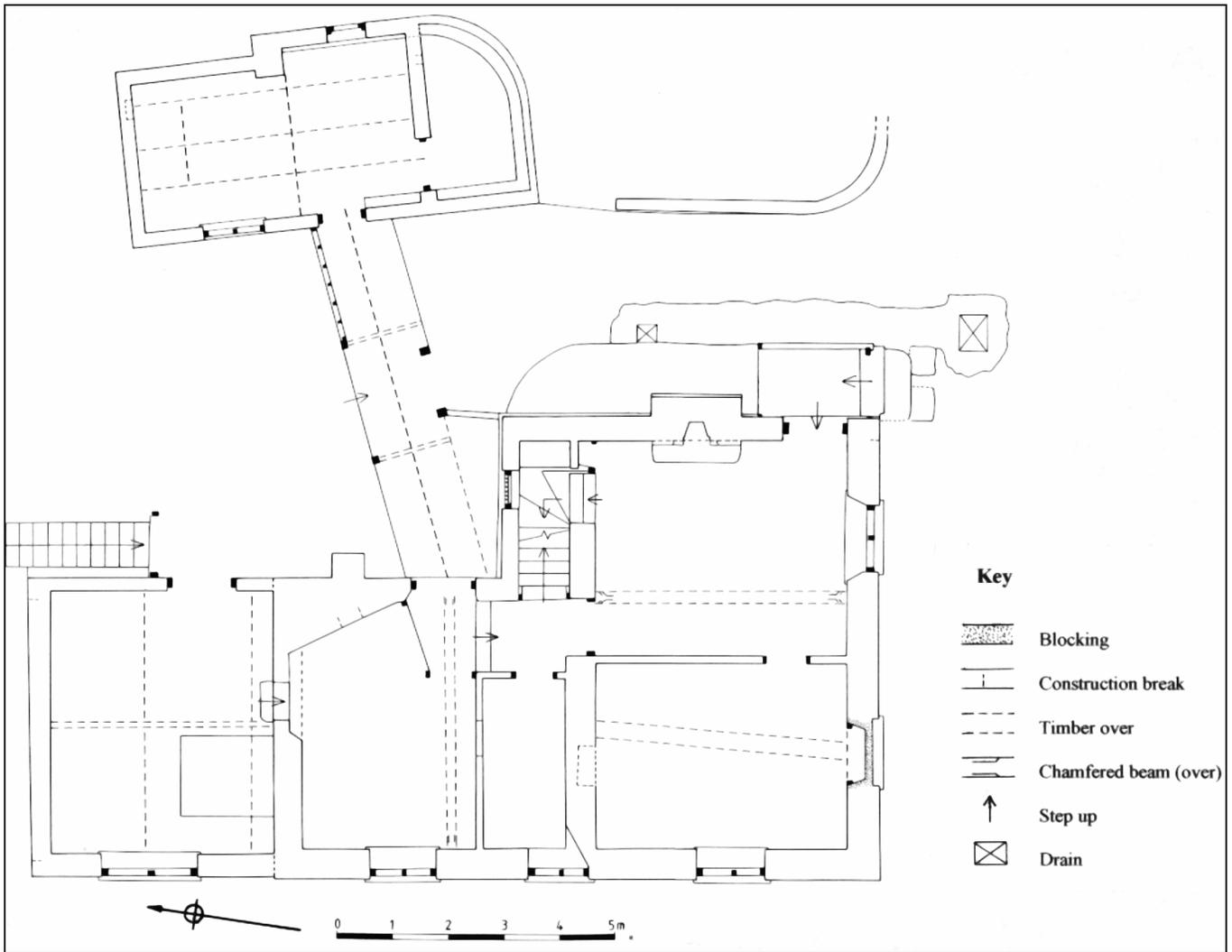


Figure 8: Swan House – Ground Floor Plan

the northern lean-to

The lean-to is a later addition and comprises a ground floor and a basement. The roof is covered in modern tiles. The east and west walls are generally composed of brick while the north elevation is built mainly in stone, although there are elements of brick to be found, especially around the door surrounds and the quoin work on the corners of the walls.

The main access is through a central door leading from the main house, but there is another entry from the east elevation at the rear of the house. From here a flight of stone steps leads to the basement level to a two-door entrance on the north elevation. A wooden trap door can be seen in the south-west area of the ground floor.

The west elevation has two wooden-framed casement windows. The lower window has a segmental head whilst the upper window has a gabled hood, which matches those on the main house.

the basement

The basement is situated directly beneath the east-west part of the house and is the same size and shape. Entry is from either a flight of stone steps set into the north-eastern end of the basement internally or externally through door in the west wall. As you descend from the interior steps to the basement a small window is

set in the north wall which has six diamond-shaped mullions and a hinged internal-facing shutter. There are some areas of stone walling around the bottom of the steps which have been re-modelled with brick.

There are several windows within the basement, some of which are blocked. These include two blocked windows at either side of the door in the west wall. The southern window shows signs that the reveals were splayed; the sill of this window is 1.16 metres from the basement floor. The northern one, which is completely blocked, is visible from a scar in the stonework from the internal face. There is no indication of its northern edge, which means that this entire corner has probably been re-built.

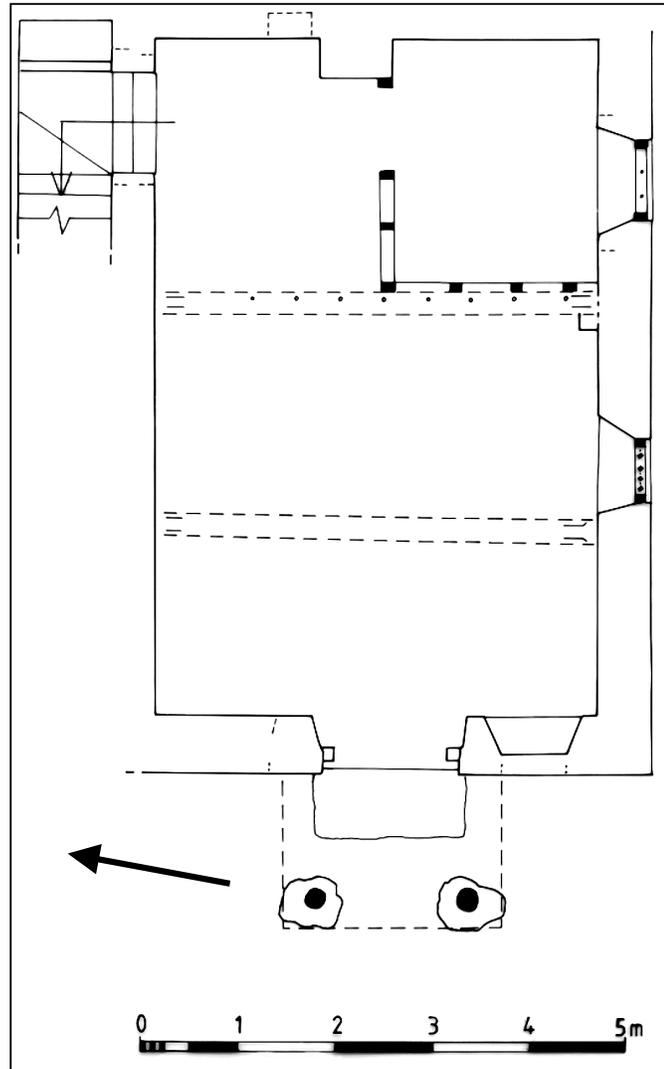


Figure 9: Plan of the Basement

Two smaller windows on the southern wall light the basement. These also have splayed edges and wooden frames. The west window had four diamond-shaped mullions, three are still intact, one is missing. In-between the mullions are thin vertical metal bars. The eastern window has construction breaks on either side of its internal face but these are not apparent on the external face. This window

frame is later as it has no mullions but simply has two vertical iron bars within the frame.

There are two ceiling beams within the basement running north-south. The western beam is chamfered and has run-out stops at its south end but there is no indication that there are stops at the northern ends.

The eastern chamfered beam shows signs of re-use as it has a series of evenly spaced peg holes that run along one edge of the timber. This timber may not have been long enough to span the room as its southern end is supported by a stone corbel which may have been inserted to support the beam.

The south-east area of the basement was used as a storeroom. There is timber framing with brick in-filling abutting the corbel and ceiling beam. At some stage the framing and stone walling was plastered on its internal face. The upper parts of the frame show signs that it was covered with evenly spaced horizontal slats. Discolouring on the external face of the timbers reveals where the slats were once open. A door once divided the main basement and this smaller area, but it has now been removed. Similarly there are indications that there was previously some shelving which was subsequently removed.

This corner of the basement also contains the lower section from the external stack above. It is composed of brick and is presumably to support the fireplace hearth above.

Above the door entrance in the west wall is a re-used timber which has two pegged slip mortises. This has been heavily chopped and turned on its side.

The Interior of the Main House

ground floor

The main entrance to the house is from the east elevation leading to the south-east and south-west rooms which are centrally partitioned. Each of these rooms has a ceiling beam running in a north-south direction. There is a door set in the southern half of the partition and one on the north wall of the south-east room leading to a stone-flagged area. The entrance to the basement is directly to the east and the pantry to the west. The floor level drops from here as you enter the kitchen area.

the south-east room

This room has a ceiling beam which is chamfered with a notch and run-out stop and seems to be set awkwardly over a door in the north wall. The window in the south elevation is the only one on this floor with internal splayed edges. This room contains the stairs leading to the first floor.

the south-west room

The ceiling beam in this room has been boxed in and its origin cannot be ascertained - neither can any chamfers or stops be seen. This timber has been moved at its north end to accommodate a fireplace. The southern window is blocked and has been utilised as a cupboard with angled sides; however this is no indication that this window has splayed edges.

the kitchen

The kitchen has two doors, the one on the north wall leads to the northern lean-to, while the one on the east wall leads to the covered passageway and the outhouse.

There seems to be only one ceiling beam in the kitchen. This runs in an east-west direction and is slightly off centre. It is chamfered on both sides but has a plain

run out stop unlike the beam in the south-east room. The kitchen also contains a thin, angled wooden partition, with its own door at one end.

The door in the north wall of the kitchen was probably inserted for access into the northern lean-to, as the setting around the door looks awkward.

the pantry

The pantry measures 3m x 1.50m and has shelving on its north wall. The entrance door has a grill above it. The north wall contains a larger grill and has a central iron bar within its frame.

There is a window in the east external wall and an internal cross-wall returning half way into it where the wall has been shaved to give full light into the pantry. This is anomalous as it would surely have been more logical to build the window further north within the west elevation so that the whole of the window would have been in the pantry.

first floor

The upper floor has four bedrooms. A small glass skylight situated in the roof lights the stairs to the first floor. The trusses within the roof seem to be in the same alignment and proximity as those on the ground floor. There is a storage cupboard within the landing space at the top of the stairs.

At some stage the two extra windows which are visible but blocked on the outside may have been utilised. One is in the south-west bedroom on the south wall and one in the north bedroom on the west wall. As the walls in the bedrooms have been plastered over, there are no longer any signs of these internally. It is uncertain whether they were built blind or were blocked at a later date. The window in the north bedroom corresponds with the shaved pantry window, although no evidence of shaving appears on the upper window.

South-east Bedrooms

This was originally a large room which has been divided into two by a partition. The northern of these two rooms is lit by the only window in the east elevation - this has one splayed edge. The room contains a storage space above the stairs. There are no visible signs of fireplaces in either of these rooms.

South-west Bedroom

This room has two windows, one on the western wall and one on the southern wall which is blocked or blind. There is a blocked fireplace on the north wall.

North Bedroom

The north bedroom has two windows and an inserted fireplace. There is a built-in cupboard in its northern corner.

The Outhouse

The outhouse lies directly eastwards from the main house to which it is attached by a covered passageway.

It is a single-storey building, rectangular in shape except for the south-east corner which is rounded. The northern part of the roof is gabled and is covered in modern tiles while the southern section of roof is of a lean-to design and is covered with slate. The building has two casement windows.

There is a small stack situated within the east wall but there are no signs of a fireplace, instead it seems it was simply made to take a metal flue from a detached coal heater.

The latter use of this building seems to have been a wash-house/bathroom. All the fixtures and fittings had been removed prior to this survey. The southern part of the building shows signs of having been a coal-bunker, as there are remnants of coal and blackening on the walls. This part of the building is semi-circular in shape and has a stone plinth with the upper parts composed of brick. The northern half of the building is entirely composed of brick in Flemish bond.

Water was fed into the outhouse by way of two pipes that ran alongside the garden path.

Outhouse Privy

This is a simple small lean-to privy built against the east boundary wall at the top of the garden. It is built of Flemish bonded brick, with a door and window on the same elevation and it has an unplumbed toilet. The roof is covered in pan tiles. The walls and ceiling are plastered internally. Rainwater was collected from the privy roof at the top of the garden from water tanks situated on the west elevation.

Building Conclusions

The house as it stands today has many characteristics of a typical late 18th or early 19th century building, for example the hipped roof. However the RCHM Listing of 1952 states that there may have been an earlier rectangular building which was built in the 17th century and re-modelled and extended in the early 19th century.

There are also RCHM hand-written notes from the 1930s which suggest that the original house was rectangular in plan, the north-projecting arm being added during the remodelling, and the house was timber-framed on a stone base. The notes mention that only evidence for this seems only to be a small exposed portion of timber on the south of the house. The main reasoning for this latter theory is the fact that there are no other houses of the 17th century date in the neighbourhood that are of stone.

The first mention of Swan House is in 1787 when the Widow Hodges inhabited it, although, as mentioned above, there were Hodges in the parish in 1665. The suspicion that an earlier, rectangular-shaped timber-framed house stood on the site in the 17th century comes from a number of architectural details.

One of these is the window in the pantry on the ground floor. On the west elevation, internal face, at the point where an east-west running wall cuts halfway through this window, the wall has been shaved back at an angle to allow full light to enter the pantry. However, if this wall were original it would seem logical to have placed the window slightly to the north or to the south so that the whole of the window would be in one room. It is also a possibility that this window may have simply been erroneously built. Evidence for the first floor window which is directly above, is not apparent as it is blocked.

The doorway in the basement (see Plate 2) has strap hinges on the door that are of a 17th century type (Alcock and Hall, CBA 1994). This does not, however, necessarily mean that the door is an original feature of the house as it may have been re-used.

There are some re-used timbers in the basement. The first is the east ceiling beam which has a run of peg holes (now disused) and is of dubious length where the corbel was added to help it span the width of the basement. The second side-turned timber over the basement door has two pegged slip mortices. If, however, there was an original timber-framed house there seems to be little evidence of re-use. The timbers could have come from elsewhere and as yet none can be dated.

The east wall of the house, which includes the main stack and the northern cross wall containing the stairs, has a stone plinth but it is not seen to follow through to any other elevations. The rubble coursed stonework, however, and the use of whitewash on the external faces and plasterwork on the internal walls may have hindered the identification of construction breaks.

So, although the RCHM notes claim that Swan House was built as a rectangular-timber-framed building in the late 17th - early 18th century, this cannot be verified other than by a full survey.

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5.2 The Stratigraphy

Introduction

There were three areas of excavation. The first two trenches (A and B) were excavated ahead of building construction while the third area (trench C) was excavated for use as a storage area for building materials.

During the clearance of the garden a large amount of re-used worked stone was found. It seems probable that a number of these architectural fragments came from the nearby church of St Philip and St James, which was re-modelled in the 19th century. In particular a pair of springers from the base of an arch may have originally formed part of the earliest phase of the church fabric. These stones will remain in-situ and are available for further study to be carried out. A photographic record of a number of architectural fragments was made and has been included with the site archive.

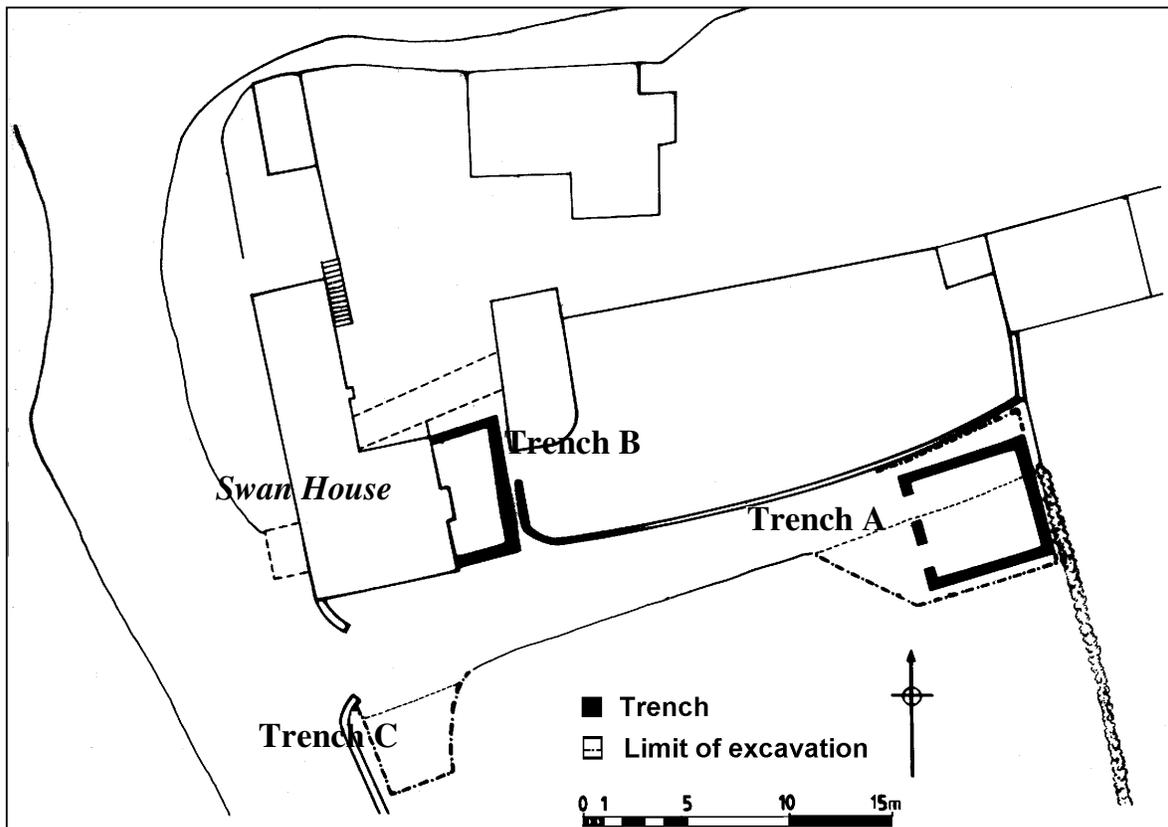


Figure 10: Trench Plan

Trench A

This trench was situated within the garden area to the east of the house and was excavated for the insertion of footings for a new garage. As the garden was uneven, the first phase of this operation was the levelling of the area by machine in order to achieve a level surface from which the footing trenches could subsequently be dug. Initially the topsoil was stripped from an area measuring 8m north-south by 7.20m east-west using a JCB.

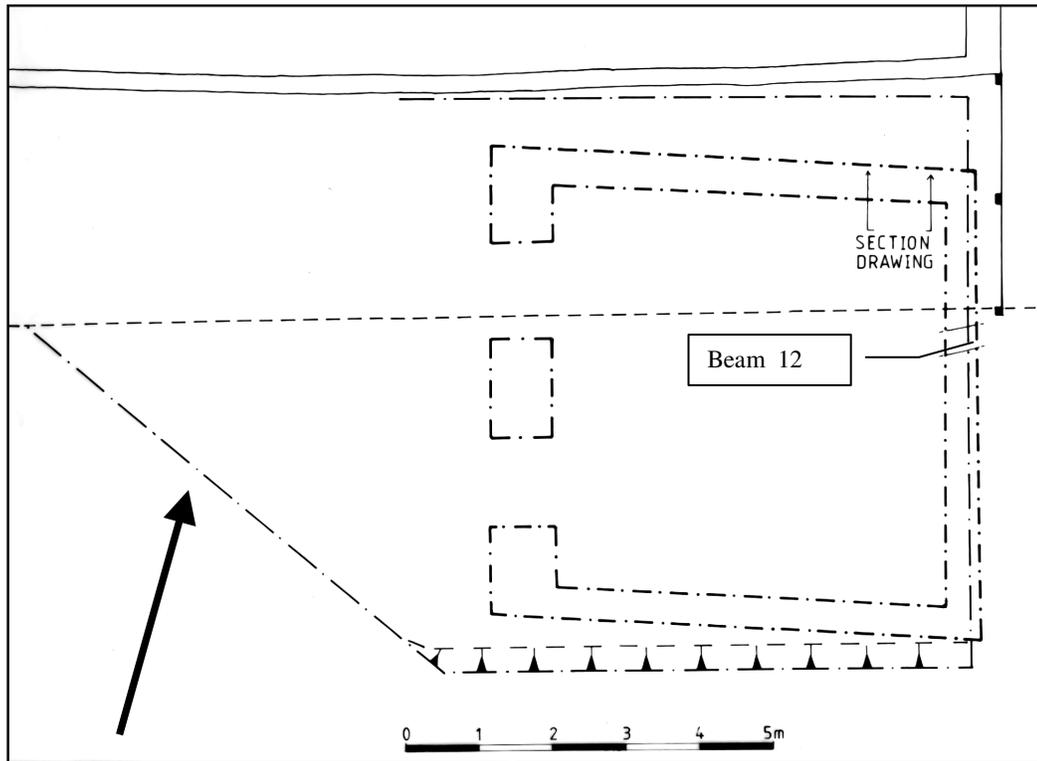


Figure 11: Plan of Trench A

From the south-western extent of this area the ground sloped off to meet the edge of an existing driveway or path and from there it levelled out to meet its surface. This was observed before any topsoil was removed at the northern edge of the trench. The path extended outside the trench in both directions. After this initial phase the original southern boundary of the path was seen.

The depths of the bottom of the trench varied. At the north-east side the trench was 0.44m (93.69 OD) while the south-east end was 0.80m below the present ground level (93.64 OD). The western side of the trench, before it was levelled off to meet ground level, was 0.55m deep (93.6 OD at the south-western corner and 93.19 at the north-western corner).

From the present ground level a band of mixed tarmac and scalplings (7) measuring 0.05m lay on top of the driveway. Directly beneath this was layer 8, consisting of building rubble, mainly fragmented brick, 0.15m thick. Also contained within this layer were fragments of slate, floor tiles, pottery, and stone fragments. A selection of finds from this layer was retained.

Beneath this a burnt layer 9, (0.03m thick) was seen and directly below this was 10, a 0.26m thick layer of hard-core consisting of stone scalplings.

Natural red-brown clay (11) was seen immediately beneath this at 0.49m down from the top of the driveway.

The second phase of work for this area was the digging by machine of the footing trenches themselves. This consisted of a squared area within the lowered portion described above. The trenches were 0.45m wide and were taken down to a maximum depth of 1.04m from the present ground level at the southern side of the trench. The whole area was also stripped by machine during this second phase and on the north-east side of the excavated area the depth changed to a maximum depth of 0.52m (93.61 OD at the north eastern corner).

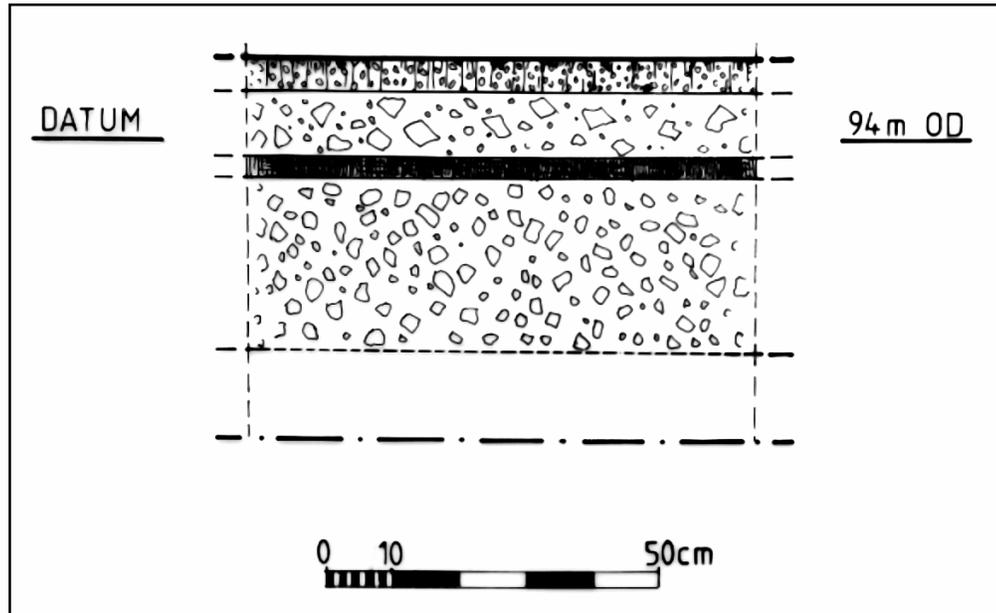


Figure 12: Trench A - section



Plate 3: Beam 12 found in Trench A

In the eastern trench, running north-south, a worked section of timber (12, see Plate 3) was encountered. This lay directly at the limit of the depth of the excavation. The length was not determined but the width was 0.28m by 0.18m. The sides of this timber had been squared off. There was a nail on top of the

timber which was retained as a sample find. The sections of the trench did not have any evidence within them to show how the timber was inserted. This timber was covered in a PVC membrane and left in situ.

The western side of this run of trenches was not a single trench as it had two inward stubs on the north and south ends both measuring 1.30m in (total) length by 0.80m wide. A central pier trench measuring 1.30m x 0.8m wide was cut within the line of the two stubs. No archaeological features were encountered within these trenches. These trenches were back-filled with concrete and no further excavation was carried out.

Trench B

The garden to the rear of the east side of the house was covered in concrete (1), which had been laid within the last ten years. When the concrete was removed it was noticed that the underlying services had not been completed and were therefore redundant. The concrete removed was on average 0.10m thick.

Trench B, which was situated directly east of the main house, was excavated for the footings of a new conservatory and was positioned around the old porch and a small garden area. In plan the trench was "U" shaped.

Directly beneath concrete layer 1 a trench 7.15m in length by 0.50m wide, running in a north-south direction was dug by machine to a depth of 1.05m (91.02 OD) at its northern end and 1.18m (91.07 OD) at its southern end.

Below a layer of hard-core (2), which was 0.13m thick, was a thin burnt layer (3) 0.04m thick. Directly beneath this lay natural heavy red-brown clay (6). This had been cut by pit 5, measuring 4.20m in length and centrally positioned within the east section of the trench. The burnt layer lay directly on top of this pit although it did not cover its entire length.

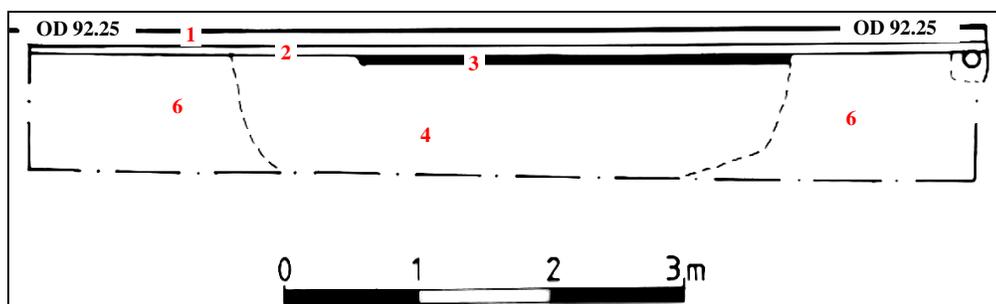


Figure 13: Trench B - section

The pit was not seen in the west section and the bottom was not determined as it carried on past the limit of excavation of this trench. The fill of the pit (4) was a silty, mid-brown soil with frequent charcoal flecks, stone, animal bone, and fragments of pottery and mortar/plaster fragments. A selection of these finds was retained.

A field drain was also seen in the east section at the south end of the trench. It consisted of a circular clay pipe 0.07m in diameter by 0.30m in length.

This section of trench was back-filled with concrete and no further excavation took place.

At a later date, two trenches were hand-dug at either end of the main trench. Each trench ran in a westerly direction and both abutted the east wall of the house. These trenches were both 0.50m in width and went to the same depth as the first trench, 1.05m north and 1.18m south trench.

Trench C (see figure 9)

This trench was just inside, and to the south of, the main gate and was dug as an accessible storage area for incoming building materials and for the removal of spoil. An area approximately 5m x 4m was dug by machine to a depth of 1 metre at its southern end and, like trench A, the northern end was levelled off to meet the height of the original driveway. The only feature encountered was the original southern edge of the driveway. This was found to be wider than the current driveway, suggesting that the stone walling at the entrance was originally broader.

5.3 The Finds

The pottery

A total of 7 sherds of pottery were retained. All of this material came from unstratified contexts. Three of the sherds are undiagnostic body sherds, with one being in a buff orange unglazed fabric and the other two being tin glazed blue and white transfer printed wares. One sherd appears to be from the rim of a porcelain teacup and has a green transfer print design. The other two sherds are part of a handle, with a blue and white design under a tin glaze and a base sherd from a cup or saucer in plain white porcelain. All of these sherds are thought to be of 19th or early 20th century date.

The clay pipes

Two clay pipe bowls were found by the owner when digging his garden. These were retained for further analysis. One of the bowls carries a stamp on the body of the bowl reading 'WN'. This would appear to be of a similar type (Peacey type 'Q', Peacey and Shoemith, unpublished) to pipes manufactured in the Bristol and Gloucester area between 1700-1760 (Oswald, 1975, 56).

The second bowl is a smaller, globular bodied bowl with an unevenly roller-stamped cordon below the rim (similar to Oswald type 16). This would appear to be similar to pipes produced in north Herefordshire at Pipe Aston and Lingen during the period 1600-1640.

6.0 Conclusions

Swan House occupies a significant position at junction of several roads. It is reasonable to expect that an earlier building stood here. Medieval house platforms are recorded in the orchard immediately to the east and medieval pottery has been found in the area.

The possibility that Swan House was a public house in the 18th century cannot be ignored. The 1787 land tax reference to 'The Swan' certainly seems to suggest that this was the case. It is not likely, however, that such a use would leave any structural evidence. In 1869, the adjacent parish of Stoke Edith was totally without a public house, as were some other Herefordshire parishes - Bartestree, Dormington, Edvin Loach, Kenchester, Laysters, Rochford, Tedstone Delamere, Tedstone Wafer and Westhide.²⁷

The only pottery found during the project was a relatively small number of later post-medieval sherds. The lack of material of medieval date indicates that any traces of medieval occupation in the areas affected by the development have been truncated by later activity. This would seem to be the case in trench B where a large pit has been dug, probably during the remodelling of the house.

²⁷

An article quoting from a teetotal publication which listed parishes without pubs in a number of English Counties - Hereford Times, January 23rd 1869. The paper adds - *'It is but fair to remark, however, that those counties which contain the largest number of parishes free from public houses are cider counties, in which the agricultural labourer receives from the farm his customary quantity of cider.'*

The earliest date for any of the pottery that was found within this feature is contemporary with the date of the remodelling of Swan House. The absence of any earlier material suggests that either the assertion made by the RCHM inspector is incorrect (see above p.20), or that the 19th century remodelling of the house has destroyed any evidence relating to an earlier phase of occupation.

The only feature that may relate to an earlier phase of occupation of the site was found in trench A during the excavation of the footings for the new garage. The timber beam that was observed in-situ could possibly be the sill beam of an earlier timber-framed building. It was not possible to identify any cut in the section of the trench for the insertion of this beam, and no dating evidence was found. An iron nail was retrieved from the beam, and this has been retained for further analysis.

7.0 Archive deposition

The primary project archive, consisting of the excavated material and any original paper records, will be prepared and stored in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Guidelines for the Preparation and Storage of Archives. The primary archive will be stored with Hereford City Museum.

A copy of the digital archive, stored on CD and consisting of context, artefact and ecofact data, together with the site plan and selected photographs, will accompany the primary archive.

The client, in consultation with the project manager, will make provision for the deposition of all finds from the excavation with the Hereford City Museum. On completion of the fieldwork and the processing, collation, recording and analysis of the finds from the excavation all finds will be handed over to the museum staff, along with the project archive. Arrangements will be made with the museum for the transfer of title.

8.0 Publication and dissemination proposals

Paper copies of this report will be lodged with the Archaeological Adviser to Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record and Hereford City Library. A short note on the project will be prepared for publication in the Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club.

CDs of this report, together with the supporting archival material will be available from Archenfield Archaeology.

Archenfield Archaeology will retain the complete photographic record, including the negatives.

Appendices

Appendix A: Ownership of Swan House

Year	Name	Source
1787	Widow Hodges	Land Tax Assessment
1789	William Hodges	Land Tax Assessment
1807	Sarah Hodges	Land Tax Assessment
1823	Edward Thomas Foley esq – <i>'late Hodges'</i>	Land Tax Assessment
1850	Lady Emily Foley	Conveyance - schedule
1919	Paul Henry Foley	Conveyance
1919	Elizabeth Joyner	Conveyance

Appendix B: Occupants of Swan House

Year	Name	Occupation	Source
1787	No occupier listed		Land Tax Assessment
1789	No occupier listed		Land Tax Assessment
1792	Thomas Pritchard		Land Tax Assessment
1793	Bevan [sic]		Land Tax Assessment
1794	Thomas Beavan		Land Tax Assessment
1795	Thomas Beavan		Land Tax Assessment
1797	Thomas Beavan		Land Tax Assessment
1801	Himself (i.e. the proprietor William Hodges)		Land Tax Assessment
1802	himself		Land Tax Assessment
1803	himself		Land Tax Assessment
1804	Richard Smith		Land Tax Assessment
1807	Richard Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1808	Richard Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1809	Richard Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1810	Richard Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1811	Richard Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1812	Richard Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1813	Richard Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1814	Richard Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1815	Richard Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1816	William Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1817	William Nutt		Land Tax Assessment
1818	John Taylor		Land Tax Assessment
1823	John Taylor		Land Tax Assessment
1824	Ann Taylor		Land Tax Assessment

1825	Ann Taylor		Land Tax Assessment
1827	Ann Taylor		Land Tax Assessment
1828	Ann Taylor		Land Tax Assessment
1829	Ann Taylor		Land Tax Assessment
1830	Ann Taylor		Land Tax Assessment
1831 ²⁸	Ann Taylor	butcher ²⁹	Notebook containing census of Tarrington
1838	Bennett Taylor	³⁰	Tithe apportionments
1841	Bennett Taylor	butcher	Census
1851	Bennett Taylor	farmer ³¹	Census
1851	Benjamin Taylor ³²	farmer	Lascelles, 1851
1857	Benjamin Taylor	farmer	Parker, 1964
1861	Isaac Williams	butcher	Census
1869	Isaac Williams	butcher	Kellys
1871	Isaac Williams	butcher	Census
1881	John Jones	shoemaker	Census
1891	John Jones	farmer	Census
1913	Elizabeth Joyner	farmer	Kellys
1914	Elizabeth Joyner	farmer	Kellys
1917	Elizabeth Joyner	farmer	Kellys
1919	Elizabeth Joyner	farmer	Deed
1929	Elizabeth Joyner	farmer	Kellys
1934	Elizabeth Smith	shopkeeper	Kellys
1941	Elizabeth Smith	baker and shopkeeper	Kellys

²⁸ Notebook from Tarrington parish records in Herefordshire Records Office – K14/80 titled ‘An account of the population & number of acres in Tarrington in the County & Diocese of Hereford in the Hundred of Radlow and Deanery of Weston, May 30th in the Year 1831’

²⁹ This is the earliest record which lists occupations. It is possible that the Taylor family were butchers when John Taylor was the Occupier of ‘The Swan’ in 1818

³⁰ The tithe apportionment does not record occupations

³¹ This change of occupation seems to be more than just a change of emphasis – in 1851 Taylor is employing 3 labourers – see census entries below

³² B Taylor seems to use the name Benjamin in preference to Bennett when possible – i.e. in directories.

Appendix C: Census entries for Swan House

year	name			
1700's	William Hodges Sarah Hodges <i>Samuel</i> ^x <i>William</i> ^x William Hodges Sarah Hodges James Anne <i>Sarah</i> ^x <i>Mary</i> ^x <i>Elizabeth</i> ^x	This is not a census but a list of households in Tarrington in the 1700's. ³³ These are two separate households, neither of which were necessarily residents of <i>The Swan</i> . However, a William Hodges is the proprietor of the property in 1787 and the occupier between 1801 and 1803 and a Sarah Hodges the proprietor between 1807 and 1823. The ^x denotes a person under 16		
year	Name	age	occupation	where born
1831	Anne Taylor B Taylor J Taylor Anne Taylor		butcher	
1841 ³⁴	Bennett Taylor Anne Taylor Elizabeth Fawk	41 8 28	butcher servant	
1851	Bennett Taylor Mary Taylor	51 51	farmer ³⁵ wife	Tarrington Monmouth
1861	Isaac Williams Elizabeth Williams Elizabeth Williams Anne Mathews William Williams	41 43 2 wks 13 14	butcher wife daughter servant apprentice	Somerset Tarrington Tarrington Yarkhill Monmouthshire
1871	Isaac Williams Susanne Williams Elizabeth Williams	46 41 10	butcher wife daughter	Redbrook, Mons Shobden, Herefordshire Tarrington
1881	John Jones Jane Jones Ellen Jones Annie Jones William Jones Ada Jones	36 34 10 8 5 2	shoemaker & shopkeeper wife scholar scholar scholar	Tarrington Tarrington Tarrington Tarrington Stoke Edith Tarrington
1891	John Jones Lydia Jones Annie Jones William Jones Cicely Jones Clara Jones	46 45 18 15 10 8	farmer wife	Tarrington Tarrington Stoke Edith

³³ Notebook from Tarrington parish records in Herefordshire Record Office (M27/4) – *inhabitants of Tarrington by Household*.

³⁴ The property is referred to as *The Old Swan* in this census, otherwise it is *The Swan* until the 1881 census when it is *Swan House*.

³⁵ *'farmer of 70 acres employing 3 labourers'*

Appendix D: Sale of Swan House to Ellen Joyner, 2nd December 1919³⁶

“Indenture between Paul Henry Foley of Stoke Edith Park in the County of Hereford (Hereinafter called “the Vendor”) of the first part, Vincent Frisby of Lynton in the county of Bedford and Sir Charles Roderick Hunter, formerly of 54 Egerton Crescent but now of 36 Draycot Place in the County of London, Baronet, and Arthur Paul Foley of 5 Bury Street in the County of London, Esquire (Hereinafter called “the Trustees”) and Ellen Joyner, wife of Charles Frederick Joyner, of Swan House Tarrington in the County of Hereford (Hereinafter called “the Purchaser”)”

Schedule to the Conveyance

1 st November 1850	1 st Part	Henry Hall, Viscount Gage and Elizabeth Maria, Viscountess Gage
	2 nd Part	Lady Emily Foley
	3 rd Part	Sir Henry John Lambert, Lord Montague William Graham and Henry Damien Phelps
23 September 1867	1 st Part	Lady Emily Foley
	2 nd Part	Lord Montague William Graham
	3 rd Part	Honourable Robert Charles Herbert and Reverend Charles Smith
	4 th Part	Lord Montague William Graham, Robert Charles Herbert and Charles Smith
26 th August 1880	1 st Part	Lady Emily Foley
	2 nd Part	Robert Charles Herbert
	3 rd Part	Reverend William Henry Lambert, Reverend Cyril Randolph
	4 th Part	Robert Charles Herbert, William Henry Lambert and Cyril Randolph
7 th February 1900	One part	Paul Henry Foley
	Other part	Thomas Mainwaring Bulkely Bulkely Owen
19 th March 1901	One part	Honourable Robert Charles Herbert, Reverend William Henry Lambert and Reverend Cyril Randolph
	Other part	Paul Henry Foley
8 th February 1904 ³⁷	1 st Part	Paul Henry Foley
	2 nd Part	Dora Langley, Spinster
	3 rd Part	Right Honourable Henry Thomas Baron Foley, Henry Knollys Foster and Vincent Frisby
16 th March 1908	1 st Part	Paul Henry Foley
	2 nd Part	Sir Charles Roderick Hunter
	3 rd Part	Henry Knollys Foster, Vincent Frisby and Sir Charles Roderick Hunter
23 rd November 1908	One part	Paul Henry Foley
	Other part	The Eagle Insurance Company Limited
23 rd September 1908	1 st Part	Paul Henry Foley
	2 nd Part	Henry Knollys Foster
	3 rd Part	Vincent Frisby and Sir Charles Roderick Hunter M.P.
	4 th Part	Arthur Paul Foley Esquire

³⁶ Document held by the client

³⁷ Marriage Settlement between Paul Henry Foley and Dora Langley

24 th July 1918	One part	Julian Ernest Sandford Kemp and Norman John Carter on behalf of The Eagle Insurance Company Limited
	Other part	Paul Henry Foley

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