



Figure 2c.
The wider landscape: 1843
 (based on 1843 Tithe Map)

The land use around the Roman villa is taken from the Chedworth Tithe map of 1843. The Chedworth parish boundary in this area runs along the (historic) line of the River Coln. A section of the river, to the north of the site of the Roman temple, had been straightened by this date and so the river and parish boundary no longer correspond. The 1777 map by Isaac Taylor is to a very small scale but does not appear to show a straight section to the river. This may be unreliable evidence, but could suggest that the river was straightened at some date after 1777 but before 1843.

The following extract gives the relevant entries for the area immediately around the Chedworth Roman Villa, taken from the Tithe apportionment for E. Parish of Chedworth, 26 June 1842:

Landowner	Occupier	Number	Name + description	Cultiv. code	Area a. r. p.
Eldon, Right Honorable John Scott, (Earl of IH)	IH	740	Great Hucknell Hill Wood	W	124 1 21
"	"	741	Little Hucknell Hill Wood	W	16 3 36
"	William Lane	744	House, garden, bam		31
"	"	745	Hutnash Field	A	28 0 21
"	"	746	In Lower Meadow	P	1 0 21
"	"	747	Corner Meadow	P	2 14
"	"	748	Falkham	A	7 3 4
"	"	749	Clay Field	A	8 1 24
"	Joseph Powell	750 753 754	} } Meadow x 3 }		Total: 2 21

The pattern of woodlands and field boundaries shown on the 1843 Tithe map is very similar to the present-day pattern. The only significant differences are that Clay Field and the higher slopes of Hutnash Field are now woodland.

Until the First World War, most of the Chedworth Woods were coppice with standards. Nearly all the timber was used locally. The coppice - mainly oak, ash, maple, hazel and wych elm - was cut on a rotation of about 20 years. Ring count evidence collected in the 1950s indicated that a fair number of mature standard oaks had been planted around the middle of the 18th century.

In 1807, the Stowell Park estate (as it had become by then) was bought by Sir William Scott. Under his ownership, a considerable amount of new planting was carried out, both in the woods and as shelter belts. Again, ring count evidence has indicated that the first conifers were probably planted in Chedworth Woods in the 1820s. Larch, Norway Spruce and Scots Pine were planted singly or in small, random groups. In-fill planting continued until the early 1900s, by which time the woods were well-stocked.