



Figure 2e.  
The wider landscape: 1924 Ordnance Survey map

The Midland & South-Western Junction Railway had been built in 1889-90.

The Chedworth Woods still occupied much the same area as shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map. However, the southern part of Hutnash Field (north-east of the Roman Villa) was now used as a nursery. The woodlands appear to have reached their peak by the start of the First World War. They had large reserves of mature timber and healthy, well-managed coppice. During 1917, the Timber Supply Department of the Board of Trade commandeered all standing timber and coppice in Chedworth Wood, west of the railway, as well as other woods to the west including Dean's Wood, Foxley and most of Withington Wood. Several sawmill sites were established. This was the first time that large-scale felling had taken place in the woods. In the early stages, horses were used to haul the timber out of the woods but, in due course, railway sidings were built in the woods specifically for this purpose. After the war, the woods were gradually handed back to their original owners and some were re-planted. The 1924 Ordnance Survey map shows a large area west of the railway as scrub; this area remained as scrub and coppice until the 1950s.

Stowell Park estate was sold in 1923. Between 1924-25, the new owners cut and sold much fine larch and oak from both the Chedworth 'Big' Wood and the Yanworth Woods. Some timber was also felled for estate use but, from 1926 until 1939, a few acres were cleared each year and re-planted. Although several woods in the area were hard hit again during the Second World War, Chedworth Wood appears to have remained more-or-less intact. Since the 1950s, replanting has tended to be on a 'fill the gaps' basis.<sup>1</sup>

The quarry on the hillside opposite to the Roman villa, east of the River Coln, has grown in size between 1884 and 1924, indicating that it was still being worked during that period.

<sup>1</sup> Hand written notes by N Irvine, written 1970s. GRO. The A N Irvine Collection. D9249