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**The Hop Pocket, Bishops
Frome:
A Whole Farm
Archaeological Survey**

**Herefordshire Archaeology Report
No. 182**

Report prepared by
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Herefordshire Archaeology is Herefordshire Council's county archaeology service. It advises upon the conservation of archaeological and historic landscapes, maintains the county Sites and Monument Record, and carries out conservation and investigative field projects. The County Archaeologist is Dr. Keith Ray.

The Hop Pocket, Bishops Frome: A Whole Farm Archaeological Survey

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Summary

The survey described in this report (SMR 42795) was carried out during February 2005 as one in a series of whole farm surveys. In turn, these formed part of the Frome Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation Project.

The Hop Pocket covers 376 acres and has been in the same family almost continually for the last 400 years. The main emphasis of the farm now is the Hop Pocket Craft Centre, but for many years the Pudges were known as hop farmers. Some hops are still grown, but the secondary output of the farm is turkeys. Over the last century land use and farming practices have changed dramatically and this has had an impact on the historic landscape. Some features of this landscape, however, have been preserved or are in the process of being re-established. There are historic features recorded on the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record, but no other earthworks were identified during the survey. This may be partly due to the impact of intensive arable farming, and partly to the time limitations on this survey. Nevertheless, important information regarding the history of the landscape and agriculture of the area has now been recorded.

Disclaimer: It should not be assumed that land referred to in this document is accessible to the public. Location plans are indicative only. NGRs are accurate to approximately 10m. Measured dimensions are accurate to within 1m at a scale of 1:500, 0.1m at 1:50, and 0.02m at 1:20.

Figure 1 is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Herefordshire Council. 100024168. (2005)

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Introduction

This report provides an account of a whole farm survey of The Hop Pocket, Bishops Frome (SMR 42795). The survey was carried out as part of the Frome Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation Project during 2005. The project was part financed by the European Union (EAGGF) and DEFRA through the Herefordshire Rivers LEADER+ Programme and English Heritage, and was carried out in partnership with the Bromyard and District Local History Society. The idea behind the project was to try to learn more about the historical development of the Frome Valley (and especially the river environs) from the earliest continuous human occupation of the area 12,000 years ago, up until the present day. A core aim of the project was to involve the local community in a series of events and activities exploring the Valley's rich heritage and human impact on the landscape.

The farm surveys were an important part of the project as they helped to indicate how agricultural practices have altered the landscape over time, to raise awareness of archaeological features, and to provide an oral history element. The farm visits comprised of a rapid walkover survey and systematic observation of historical features. This was undertaken where possible with a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS). Where possible, the farmer or landowner accompanied the surveyor, providing a first hand account of the history of land use and agricultural methods. The surveys were only possible through the kind co-operation of the landowners/farmers, permitting access to their holdings and devoting half a day or more of their time.

This report describes the location of The Hop Pocket, the methods and field conditions of the survey, and any previous known observations regarding the historic environment. Results of the survey are given on a field-by-field basis, with comments provided on land-use.

Location

The Hop Pocket is located at NGR SO 66261 47198 and the farmland lies within the parishes of Bishops Frome, Much Cowarne, and a small amount in Castle Frome. The farm is approximately 8km south of Bromyard with land both east and west of the River Frome. It consists of 45 land parcels, covering 376 acres.

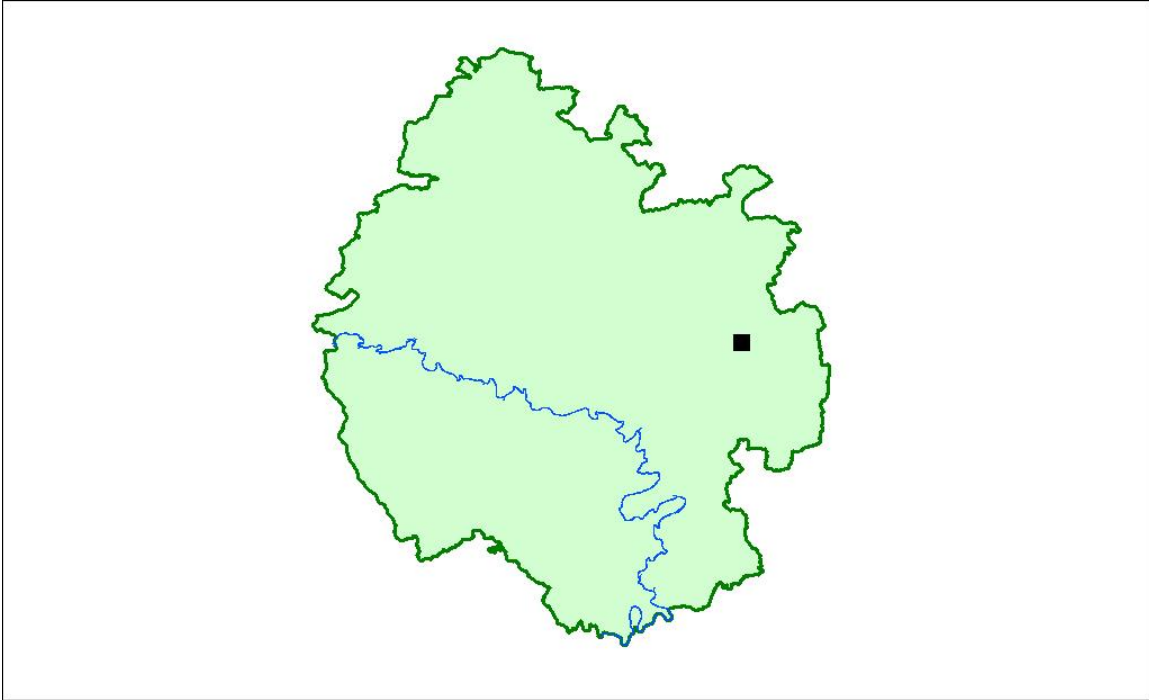


Figure 1: Location map. Ordnance Survey © 100024168 (2005)

Method

The whole farm survey at The Hop Pocket was undertaken on February 7th 2005 and progressed in three stages, following a format devised specifically for the Frome Valley project. Initially, a check was made of the Herefordshire SMR, and historic maps were consulted, such as the 1880s 1st edition Ordnance Survey map and the Tithe Apportionment Maps for Bishops Frome (1844), Much Cowarne (1847) and Castle Frome (1841). The second stage of the survey involved an interview with the landowner John Pudge. This provided an opportunity to gain information on the current farming practices and how these may have changed over time, any farm management schemes that might be in place, as well as any known historical features on the farm, or oral histories. The interview would also provide insights into the farm's recent history and previous owners. The third stage was a systematic walkover of the landholding; each land parcel was recorded individually and assigned a number or, where possible, the field name given by the landowner.

Field conditions

The survey was undertaken in February 2005. This meant that conditions were good for the recognition of earthwork features, as vegetation was low enabling excellent visibility. The weather was relatively good on the day of the survey, making earthworks more clearly visible in low sunlight.

Previous fieldwork / records

The County Sites and Monuments Record was consulted prior to this survey. All entries are within the boundaries of the Hop Pocket.

SMR	Site name	OS	Site type	Period	Description
30776	Wind pump	6630 4745	Wind pump	Modern	Wind pump shown on 1964 1:10,560 map but not on 1 st ed OS or 1998 OS maps
30777	Cheney Court Mill Race and Weir	6650 4470	Mill Race and Weir		Mill race and weir from Cheney Court Mill, running south west to join River Frome 40m south of Kingstone Bridge
18253	Cottage site	6491 4720	Cottage and orchard site	Post-medieval	Post medieval dwelling shown on 1844 Bishop's Frome Tithe Award
18314	Homestead site	6511 4755	Homestead site	Post-medieval	Post-medieval dwelling shown on 1844 Bishop's Frome Tithe Award
18311	Homestead	6520 4755	Homestead and sawpit orchard	Post-medieval	Post-medieval dwelling shown on 1844 Bishop's Frome Tithe Award
18315	Fishpools, Fishpool Meadow	6518 4750	Fishpond	Post-medieval	Post-medieval fishpond shown on 1844 Bishop's Frome Tithe Award
4707	Bromtrees Hall	6410 4790	Dwelling	Post-medieval	Bromtrees Hall was a small redbrick house built around 1722
7438	Pigeon House, E of Bromtrees Hall	6425 4790	Dovecote	Post-medieval	18 th century pigeon house
18198	Fishpond, SW of Bromtrees Coppice	6435 4805	Fishpond	Post-medieval	Fishpond and withy bed shown on 1844 Bishops Frome Tithe Award
23724	Paunceford Cottage	6195 4719	Cottage	Post-medieval	Brick cottage with stone coursing at bottom
7431	Moat, Pauncefort Court	6207 4715	Moat	Medieval	Homestead moat, now reduced to dry E arm

Results

Documentary sources

The investigation of documentary sources for this landholding has not been exhaustive. The main cartographic evidence utilised for this survey has been the available Tithe and Ordnance Survey mapping, along with the relevant Sites and Monuments records.

Recent history and current farming practices

John Pudge tells me that the Hop Pocket has been in the Pudge family since the late 16th century. The family lived in the farmhouse continuously, except during the early 20th century when a Pudge remarried a woman younger than his eldest son, causing a great rift between him and his offspring. The house was subsequently left to his second wife rather than his son and heir, and she occupied it for ten years before it was sold at auction. All the furniture and family heirlooms were sold, but the house itself was bought back by the sons.

The Hop Pocket now covers 376 acres and consists of New House farm and Brooklands. The farmland is spread between the parishes of Bishops Frome, Much Cowarne and Castle Frome, and quantities of it have been bought or sold off during recent years. 200 acres of Paucefort Court were bought between 1953 and 1954; Moorend Field was purchased during the 1970s, when the farm had reached a total of 600 acres. Some of the Paucefort land was sold around 1999, and some of it was given to John Pudge's sister when their father died.

The main emphasis of the farm now is tourism, with the large-scale and extremely successful Hop Pocket Craft Centre. The second most important emphasis is turkeys: 100,000 birds are reared each year in 300ft x 60ft sheds, with three 'crops' per year for 15-16 weeks each. The Craft Centre was set up in 1988 in a small area of the hop kilns, and stemmed from Mrs Pudge's involvement with selling jugs for the Women Farmer's Union. The business started with 42 crafts people, and has expanded four times on the same site. In 1999 the old hop store was converted into the Craft Centre, incorporating 3 units inside to rent out to tenants, and a Plant Centre outside. The Craft Centre and restaurant are run by the Pudges, with up to 400 sale return crafts people. The Pudges buy from a further 300 companies, and there are now over 12,000 different types of products sold at the Craft Centre.

Before the Craft Centre came to dominance, the main emphasis of the farm was hops. The Pudges had been known as hop farmers for a long time, and during the 1960s John Pudge was growing 140 acres of hops and harvesting a further 10 acres for a neighbour. By the 1970s this was reduced to 110 acres of hops, and remained as such until 1997 when the hops were drastically reduced to 45 acres. The amalgamation of Breweries into large international companies reduced the demand for hops in this country, as Brewers began buying hops in from abroad, and many hop farmers were forced to shift emphasis

during this time. Mr Pudge had already begun rearing turkeys in 1995, and in 1998 he started to diversify into growing mint. He also grows wheat on the arable land as turkey fodder.

There have been many changes to the type of farming and the farming regime at the Hop Pocket since John Pudge was a boy living on the farm. He remembers that they reared cattle on the farm, around 250 per year right through to 2 ½ years old, until the Hereford Cattle herd was sold in the 1950s. A small amount of oats was grown, originally cut with a binder and later with a combine. In 1965 they took on the dairy herd at Pauncefort Court, and started milking in 1967, increasing the 36 cows to 2 dairy herds of 250 Friesian cows in total and rearing all replacements themselves. 2 herdsmen looked after the cows. Problems with disease resulted in a reduction of the herd, and eventually a Government Scheme paid for them to cease dairy farming for four years. During this time Quoters came in and the herd was re-established in the late 1980s. They sold out for good in 1997 as part of the turkey agreement.

Today there are 2 full time and 2 part time workers on the farm, but during the 1960s there were 35 full time workers. In May and June there would be an extra 30 people on the farm to help tie the hop poles, and 60 –90 people on picking machines during September and October. Mr Pudge can just remember the end of the 1950s, when 200 people came to help handpick the hops at Pauncefort Court. The population of Bishops Frome would rise from 600 to 6000 during the picking seasons, and extra policemen were called in to help keep things in order. Workers came from the Black Country, Wales, and included tinkers, gypsies and travellers. The workers who stayed at the Hop Pocket tended to be Welsh; it is clear from many accounts that the different groups of workers remained very separate, and often came into conflict. As Bishops Frome only had three shops, the farms would run their own, and schools ended their summer term later, closer to the harvest, so that children could help with the picking. The migrant workers at the Hop Pocket originally stayed in the cattle barns, and later in tin barracks, some of which can still be seen at the farm today.

There have been significant changes in the use of machinery at the Hop Pocket. Originally they would grind all their own oats and wheat for cattle feed with a binder, until the arrival of the Combine. The gears of the corn drills used in arable farming had to be changed manually. Hops were hand picked until the hop machines were introduced around 1952, which reduced the number of workers needed during harvest. The farm acquired 3 picking machines and 7 hop kilns, which had to be rebuilt after a fire in 1954. There were 3 more kilns at Pauncefort, making 10 in total. At the beginning of the 1960s the farm was producing over 1000 hop pockets per year.

Today Pudge owns a fleet of 20 tractors, including the narrow type used in the hop rows as well as the larger new ones. He remembers 14 tractors corn drilling in Silverland at once during the height of the arable production at the Hop Pocket. 2 large tractors are used for arable farming and mint, etc. 3 or 4 years ago he gave up his hop picking machines, and although he still grows some hops a neighbour harvests these.

Bromtrees was a 5-storey mansion purchased by the Pudge family during the late 19th century. The panelling inside the house had been stripped out and sold to America. During the early 20th century 1 ½ storeys were removed and the roof was replaced by flat tin. The migrant workers lived here during hop picking season. The building was demolished around 1973; the cellars were concreted over and a dairy yard put over the top. The current house Bromtrees Hall was built around 1954.

Green Lane was closed to the public in 1890. Mr Pudge allowed those who had property along it use the route, but he has since bought up the properties and there is no public access.

Buildings

There were 21 buildings recorded at the Hop Pocket:

1. Four turkey sheds built in 1995 and 2001. Steel frame with corrugated metal cladding and roof.
2. Bromtrees Hall, a brick 2-storey building with clay tile roof, built in the 1950s. Currently lived in.
3. Barns used to store machinery. Previously used to house sheep or cattle. Steel frame with corrugated metal cladding and roof. Built in the 1920s or 30s.
4. Limehouse and hop kilns. Not used as kilns in memory. Part stone and part steel frame, with corrugated metal cladding and an asbestos/fibre cement roof. Current use agricultural.
5. Dairy complex and cubicle shed used for storing wheat. Steel frame with breezeblock infill and corrugated metal roof.
6. Steel frame, open sided garages and tractor sheds used to store machinery.
7. New barracks. Used to house migrant workers during the 1950s.
8. Dutch barn and cattle shed for grain storage.
9. Hop shed. Steel frame with corrugated metal cladding and roof.
10. Craft shop. Weatherboard treatment makes it hard to detect framework. Clay tile roof. 1-story. Commercial.
11. Plant Centre. Timber frame with clear Perspex infills and roof. 1-storey. Commercial.
12. Plant/Craft Centre. Steel frame with corrugated metal cladding and roof. Commercial.
13. Craft Village. Stone building with weatherboard treatment and corrugated metal roof. Commercial.
14. Craft Village. Steel frame with corrugated metal cladding and roof. 2-storey.
15. The farmhouse. Part stone, part brick, with clay tile roof. 2-storey. Domestic.
16. Herb distillation complex. Part brick, part steel frame, with corrugated metal cladding and roof.
17. Old railway carriages. Now used for storage.
18. Ladies toilet and shower block. Breezeblock building with corrugated metal roof.
19. Bolly Bazaar. As above. Commercial (part of Craft Centre).
20. Craft Centre. As above.
21. Craft Centre. As above.

Field names and past farming practices

John Pudge provided a great deal of information about all 45 land parcels, enabling the recent history of the land use and names of these fields to be documented. Some of the fields retain the same boundaries and names as on the Tithe Apportionment maps of Bishops Frome, Castle Frome and Much Cowarne. Boundaries have been added and removed, and John Pudge or his ancestors have renamed some of the fields for various reasons. The use of these fields has changed many times over the years, reflecting the shifting emphasis in farming. Some, such as old orchards and fields that have been hop yards since the turn of the century, preserve aspects of the historic landscape and agricultural history.

Pole Hopyard

Formerly two fields: Richley Orchard and Pole Hopyard. Hedge removed in 1980, and now an arable field. Mr Pudge can't remember it as a hopyard but it was one at some stage. Shown as two fields on the tithe map: Richley Orchard (arable orchard) and Copsy Meadow (pasture).

Ashbed

Marked as Ashbed on the tithe map. Previously known as Silverland Coppice and used for hop poles.

Silverland

Name same as on tithe map; was an arable field then and is now.

Pool Hopyard

This field is named Pool Pasture on the tithe map. Name changed when hops were put in. The hop yard was removed in 1999 but the field still retains the same name. The field is now used to grow spearmint.

Bromtrees Coppice

This is the main coppice on the farm. Named by John Pudge. Marked as Coppice on tithe map.

Walk Orchard

This has always been one field in memory, but on the tithe map it is divided into five fields including Walk Orchard (arable orchard), Butcher's Orchard (pasture orchard) and Clock House Crofts (pasture orchard and pasture). It was always an orchard in memory, until this was removed between 1968 and 1969. It is now an arable field.

Tar Tank Front Meadow

This was the meadow fronting the old Bromtrees mansion. Named because it had a tar tank for tarring the hop poles. Now occupied by the turkey sheds. This field is called Barn Close on the tithe map.

Left of Track

An area of coppice marked as a fishpond and withy bed on the tithe map; there is still a pond there today.

Right of Track

This is another area of coppice, as shown on the tithe map.

Pigeon House Hopyard

This is still a hop yard and hops have been grown in here for 80-90 years. It became a hop yard in the 1890s, and the tithe map shows it divided into Pigeon House Croft (pasture) and Common (hop yard), and part of Wire Sward (pasture). The name Common suggests that this was almost certainly common land at one stage, although it's shape on the tithe map indicates that it was probably in private ownership by this time.

Ox Pasture

Exactly the same shape and name on the tithe map. Previously Kent Hopyard, as the wirework on the hop poles was originally done on Kent four-string hop work. It returned to its tithe name when the hop yard was removed in 1999, and is now used to grow peppermint.

Top Hopyard

Named by John Pudge's grandfather. There were hops in here from the 1920s until 1998, and it is now an arable field. On the tithe map it is divided into Hyde Park (pasture) and part of Wire Sward (also pasture).

Reservoir

Named when the reservoir was put up in 1950. The front half next to Bromtrees was an orchard until the 1960s, but the whole field is now used to grow spearmint. On the tithe map this area is occupied by Ten Acres (pasture orchard and arable) and Wire Field (arable) with an area enclosed as a plantation.

Moorend Field

This field has the same boundaries as on the tithe map, but the name has changed (Great Hopes Field on the tithe). It has always been an arable field in memory. The field was purchased from Moorend Farm during the 1970s.

New Hopyard

Originally this and Farmers Old Leys (see below) were one field (a hop yard). The hop yard was put in during the 1960s, and before this it was pasture and trees. On the tithe map it is divided into 4 fields: Oatfield (arable, presumably oats at some stage), 2 arable orchards both named Oatfield Orchard, and Far Oatfield Orchard (also arable orchard).

Farmers Old Leys

John Pudge's father, known as Farmer, used to call it Old Leys, and this is its name on the tithe map. It was a hop yard at the time of the tithe, was a hop yard in memory until 1998, and is now used to grow peppermint.

Oak Meadow Hopyard

Added 'Hopyard' to its tithe name. There have been hops in here since the 1970s, but it has been pasture and arable land in memory.

Big Wire

It has always been called such in recent memory. On the tithe map it is called Lower Wire Field (arable). As long as John Pudge can remember, it has always been in arable rotation, and was used as pasture when they had dairy cows.

The Nursery

Previously Little Wire (as on the tithe) but changed to The Nursery when hop roots were grown here during the 1960s. Now used to grow spearmint.

The Nursery Coppice

Shown as a withy bed on the tithe map. It is now a small coppice.

The Harp Wire

Known as 'The Harp', this is divided into Upper Wire Field and The Wirefield (both arable) on the tithe map, with two small areas marked 'garden' and 'pig run'. It has always been arable in memory.

Harp Shelter

Previously used as sheep pasture, it is now part of the old trackway known as Green Lane.

Walton Front Meadow

Wire meadow and half of Lower meadow on the tithe map (both pasture fields). Previously occupied by barns belonging to Upper Walton (house long gone). Now used to grow peppermint.

The Maiden's Blush

Named because it was formally an orchard of the Maiden's Blush variety. On the tithe map the homestead Upper Walton occupies part of this field; the rest is split between Ten Acres (arable), Wainhouse Orchard (an orchard and hop yard) and part of Mares Close (arable orchard). Now used to grow apple mint, a type of spearmint.

The Bridges

John Pudge can remember this as three or four fields used as rough grazing. It was named The Bridges when these boundaries were removed due to its proximity to Five Bridges. On the tithe it includes part of Mares Close, an arable field called Up Croft, and two dwellings with associated gardens/pasture orchard. One of these is marked Mansel's cottage and garden. There was also a small pasture called Little Meadow. The field is now used to grow MP2, a type of peppermint.

The Barn

This is the furthest field away from the Hop Pocket itself. It was originally called The Green Barn, as there was a barn there. It was bought in the 1950s and was a hop yard until 1964. It has been arable ever since. On the tithe map it is divided into High Marsh Field or Six Acres Hopyard, although it is marked as an arable field, and The Corner Piece.

The Current Field

Currents were grown in here during the 1950s when the land was purchased with Pauncefort Court. On the tithe map it has the interesting name Witch Field Orchard and is marked as an arable field.

The Barracks

New hop-picker barracks were built here in the 1950s. The old barracks nearby were made of tin. On the tithe map it is marked as grassland.

Brickyard

On the tithe map this is The Stalls Orchard (grassland) belonging to Pauncefort Court.

Beech Tree Field

The houses next to this field are called Beech Tree. Rough grass/pasture.

Cames Green

Also known as Canon Green or Church Field, as rented from the church. This field is in arable rotation. On the tithe map it is a pasture called Home Meadow.

The Cow Leaser

This is in arable rotation and has the same name as on the tithe map.

Cow Leaser Track**Rowley Hopyard**

As on the tithe, except it was three pastures collectively named Rowley, and another called Upper Rowley Meadow. It has been a hop yard since the 1950s.

The Poplars

A poplar patch planted in the 1950s for matchsticks. The trees were felled two years ago and the area has been left to regenerate until it is replanted as woodland. On the tithe map it is a pasture called Little Fleet Meadow.

Farrs' Meadow

A local family the Farrs used to own it. The River Frome forms the eastern boundary of this field. On the tithe map it is pasture called Upper Meadow.

Back of Chestnuts

This is a wooded area behind Chestnuts House, with the river forming its western boundary. It is marked 'poplars' on the tithe map.

Chestnut Orchard

Traditional cider apple orchard with standard orchard trees. A pasture named The Swill on the tithe map, and associated with two buildings. The river forms its western boundary.

Front Meadow

Also known as New House Front Meadow. Always named as such in memory. Set aside as a bird sanctuary. Lower Field Leaser (pasture) on the tithe map.

The Back Orchard

John Pudge remembers cider apple trees in this field. These were removed in the 1970s, and it became grassland. It is now the car park for the Craft Centre.

Wood Yard

A wood yard and scrap yard since the turn of the century, it was cleared in 1978 and is now occupied by grass, buildings, and the mint distillation plant.

Brookland Orchard Road Site

Previously same field as Brookland Orchard Hopyard Site (see below), they were split into two fields in the 1970s. It is a standard orchard, cleared and replanted during the 1950s.

Brookland Orchard Hopyard Site

Previously an orchard, removed during the 1970s, and has been used as a hop nursery. It is now an asparagus field. This field, along with Road Site (above), is recorded as Swill on the tithe map, and indicated as pasture land.

The Long and Short Length

Named by John Pudge's grandfather, this was a hop yard from the turn of the century, and its produce won prizes in the National Brewers Competition in the late 1920s/early 1930s. It is part of Frogend Field on the tithe map.

Brooklands Hopyard

This has always been a hop yard in memory, although on the tithe map it is marked as pasture (Moucher's Corner). The hops were removed in 1998 and the field is now used to grow apple mint. A stream, shown as a mill leat on the tithe map, forms the north boundary of this field.

Archaeological features identified

There were no archaeological features identified on this land holding. This is probably partly due to the fact that most of the land has been subject to intensive arable farming at some stage. As it was such a large land holding it was not possible to carry out a thorough walk over survey of every single land parcel. Orchards and pastureland were prioritised over arable fields. Even the orchards, however, had mostly been subject to landscape change.

Farm management schemes

The farm is being managed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Under the guidance of the scheme, John Pudge has left half an acre of bird cover in Pole Hopyard and the Harp Wire, along with Front Meadow. This field and Chestnut Orchard are also otter holts. The ponds in The Back Orchard and Walk Orchard have been restored. Mr Pudge has also allowed public access through Brookland Orchard Roadsite, which was replanted with standard orchard trees under the scheme. Trees have also been replanted in Chestnut Orchard, along with part of the hedge. Mr Pudge plans to plant and regenerate more hedges around the farm's boundaries in the future under this scheme.

Impact of the river

The River Frome runs directly through the Hop Pocket land and some parts of the farm are susceptible to flooding. John Pudge particularly remembers the flood of July 1968. Cames Green flooded rapidly but hay was being grown in there and was used to block up the hedgerows, creating a contained lake for a few days. The field known as Brooklands has also been prone to flooding. The house and the main buildings do not flood. Mr Pudge tells me that the river has eroded away part of his land.

Discussion

The Hop Pocket is extraordinary in that it has been in the same family almost continuously for the last 400 years. Even during recent years the land use and farming practices have changed dramatically. The farm produced large quantities of hops for many years, and the Pudges were traditionally known as hop farmers. This had to change abruptly during the 1990s due to circumstances beyond their control. The main emphasis of the farm is now commercial, with the hugely successful Craft Centre, but the farm also produces turkeys, and distils its own mint.

The survey has drawn attention to the ways in which farming practices have changed over the last century. There has been a phenomenal reduction in the number of workers on the farm, due to changes in technology and shifting emphasis. The shape of the landscape has also changed; boundaries have been removed and added, arable land has been intensively cultivated. Some parts of the farm preserve aspects of the historic landscape; there are fields that retain the same shape and boundaries as on the Tithe maps, and fields that have been hop yards for over a century. Aspects of the historic landscape are also being re-established or regenerated under the guidance of the Countryside Stewardship scheme.

Historic features within the boundaries of the farm have been recorded on the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record, including the millrace and weir for Cheney Court Mill, the sites of various post-medieval cottages and homesteads, and the remaining earthworks of Pauncefort Court's medieval moat. During walk over survey no other earthworks were identified, although there was not sufficient time to completely cover every single land parcel. Intensive arable farming may have removed earlier features.

An important outcome of this survey is that we now have a documented account of changing land use and agricultural practices, the impact of this on the historic landscape, and the reasons why these changes take place, thanks to the oral history provided by John Pudge. Information is passed down generations but without writing it down, much can be lost.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank John Pudge for permission to conduct the survey, for giving up his time to be interviewed and for providing extensive and valuable information.

Archive

45 landscape record forms
21 building record forms
Field notes
This document

Validation

Herefordshire Archaeology operates a validation system for its reports, to provide quality assurance and to comply with Best Value procedures.

This report has been checked for accuracy and clarity of statements of procedure and results.

Dr Keith Ray, County Archaeologist