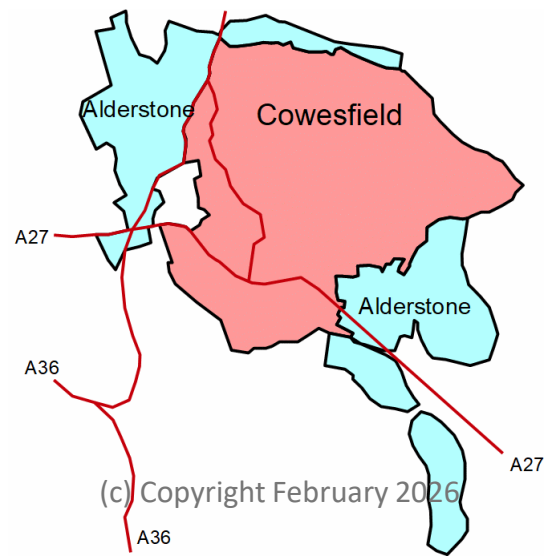


Cowesfield

A story of three small manors

19th February 2026



Outline of this talk

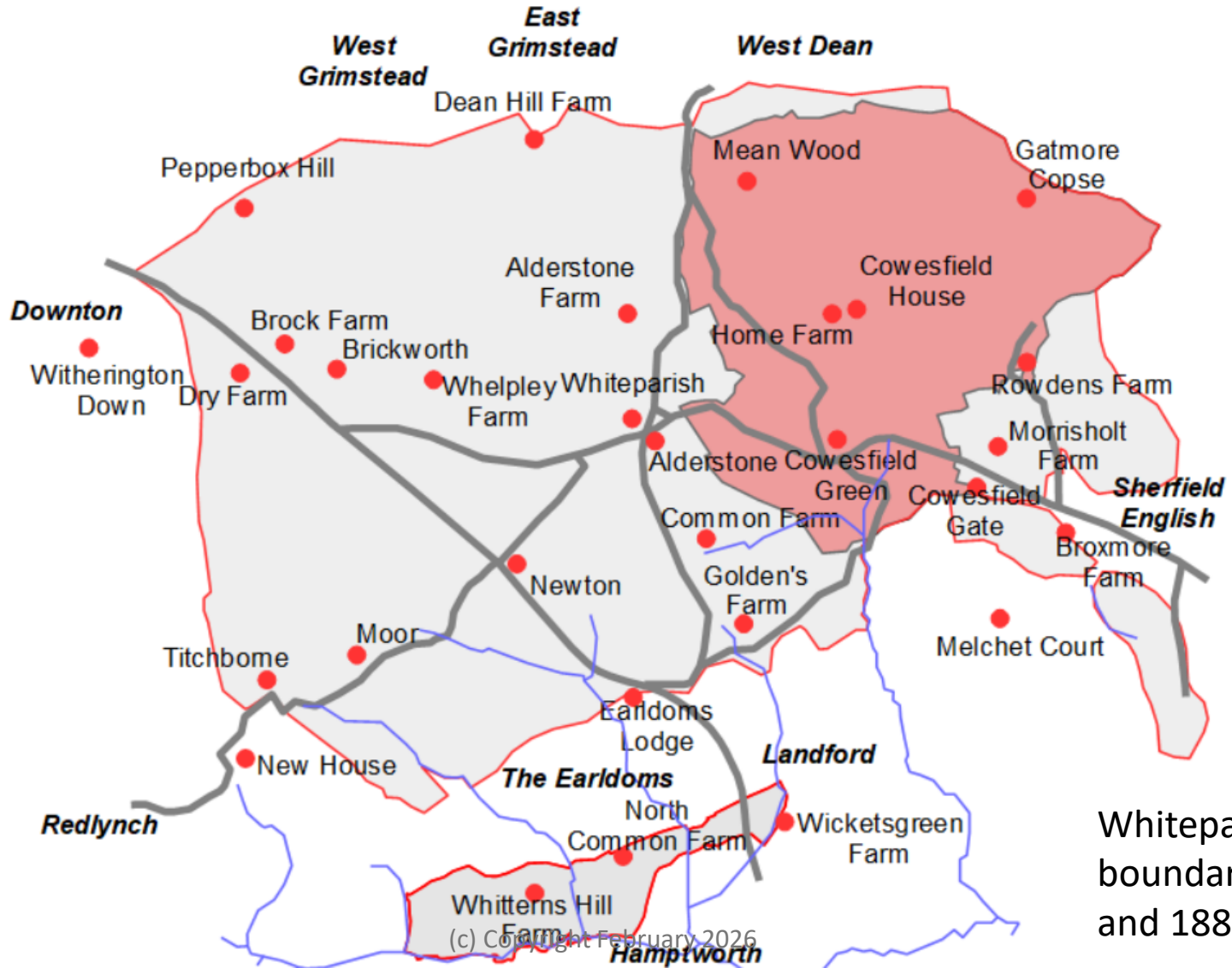
- Look at each of the three manors
 - Cowesfield Esturmy
 - Cowesfield Spilman
 - Cowesfield Louveras
- Cowesfield Common and Wood and the piece of Alderstone Common alongside it
- Selected topics around Cowesfield
 - Cowesfield Green
 - Cowesfield Gate
 - Cowesfield Nurseries
 - Cowesfield Brickworks (in Cowesfield Esturmy)
 - Cowesfield Tithing and its Chapel (likely to have been in Cowesfield Spilman)
 - Cowesfield House (in Cowesfield Spilman)
 - Old roads and a new one: Miles Lane
- Joint holdings and final breakup of manor lands
- I'll flood you with information – these slides are now on my website and I'll give you the link at the end

Whiteparish, Frustfield and Cowesfield

What's where

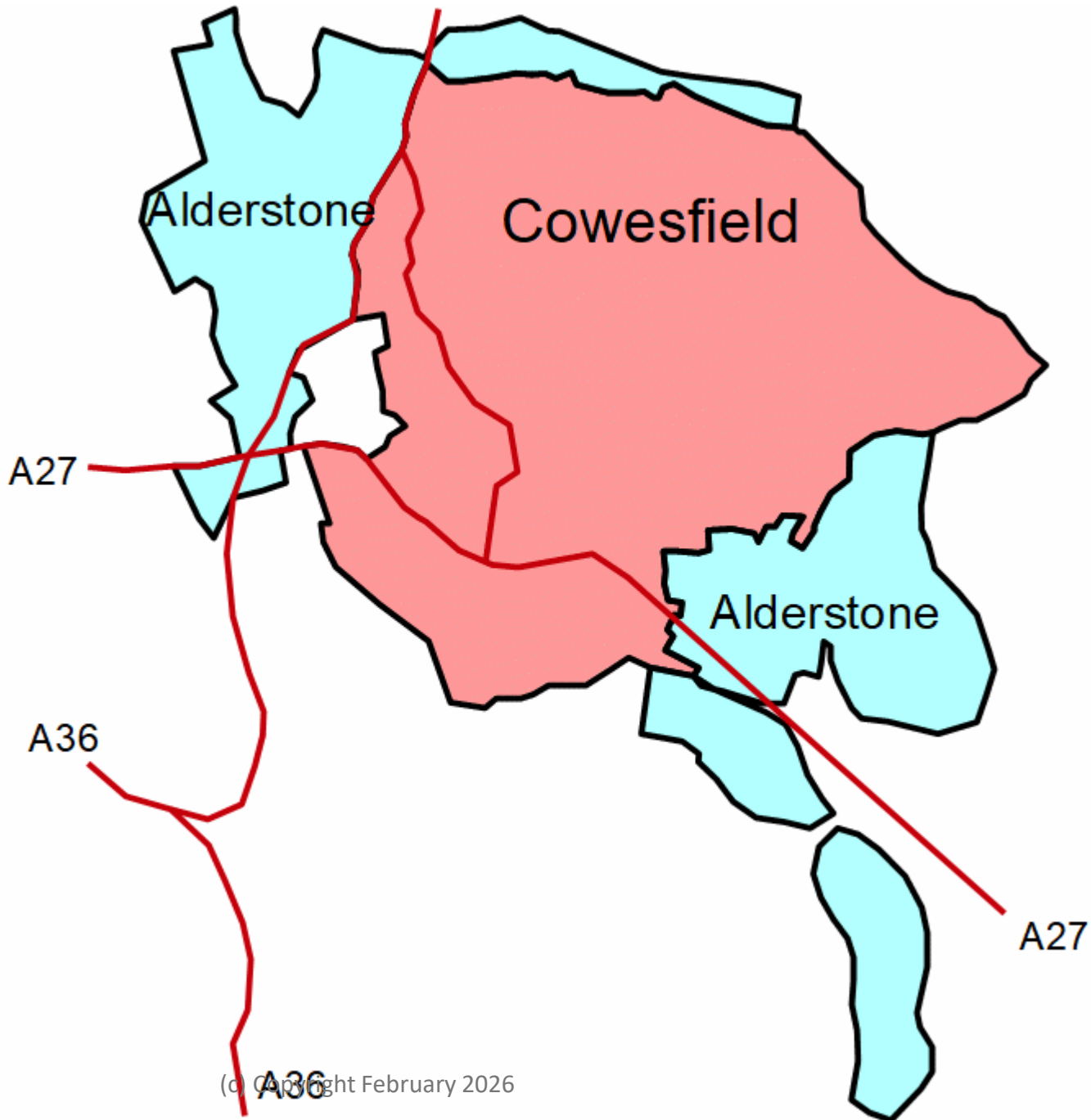
- **Frustfield** – a Hundred that included modern Whiteparish, Cowesfield and Landford
- **Whiteparish**
 - A new name from around 1278 for a growing settlement that expanded around Alderstone manor to include Alderstone, Whelpley, Blaxwell and Cowesfield Esturmy manors
 - Also the name of the parish
 - Whytechyrche in 1278 for Alderstone church, a recognisable Whyteparosshe by 1301
 - Alderstone was also used as the name for the church for a long time after that
- **Cowesfield**
 - Historically
 - Two Saxon manors and one later Norman manor – the three manors of this talk
 - Now
 - Cowesfield Green Houses are in two manors: Cowesfield Esturmy and Cowesfield Spilman
 - Cowesfield Gate is in Alderstone manor

Cowesfield within the parish of Whiteparish



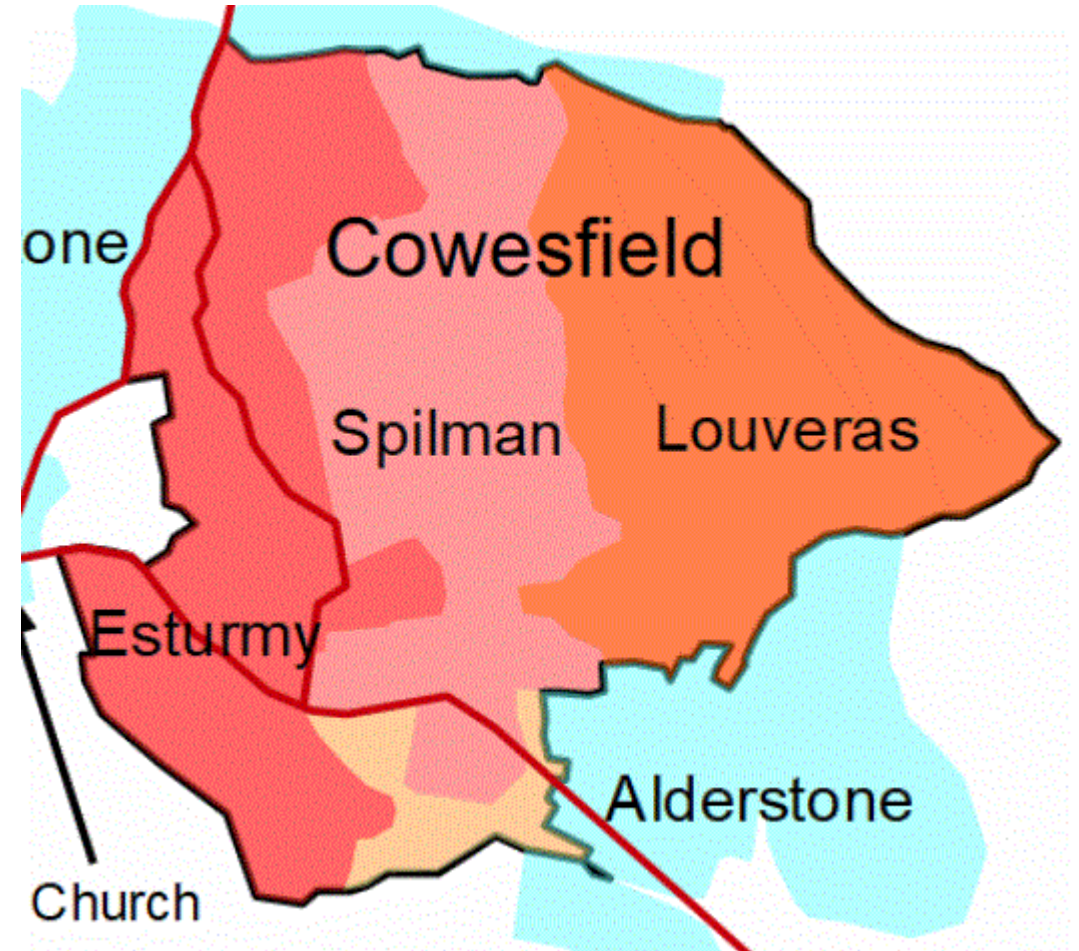
Whiteparish before the boundary changes of 1885 and 1886

A closer view



The Three Cowesfield manors: Esturmy, Spilman and Louveras

- Three family names: Sturmy, Spilman and Louveras
- Boundaries blurred with time...
- ...and with joint holdings
- Expansion limited by growth of neighbouring manors



Evolution of the names

Cowesfield

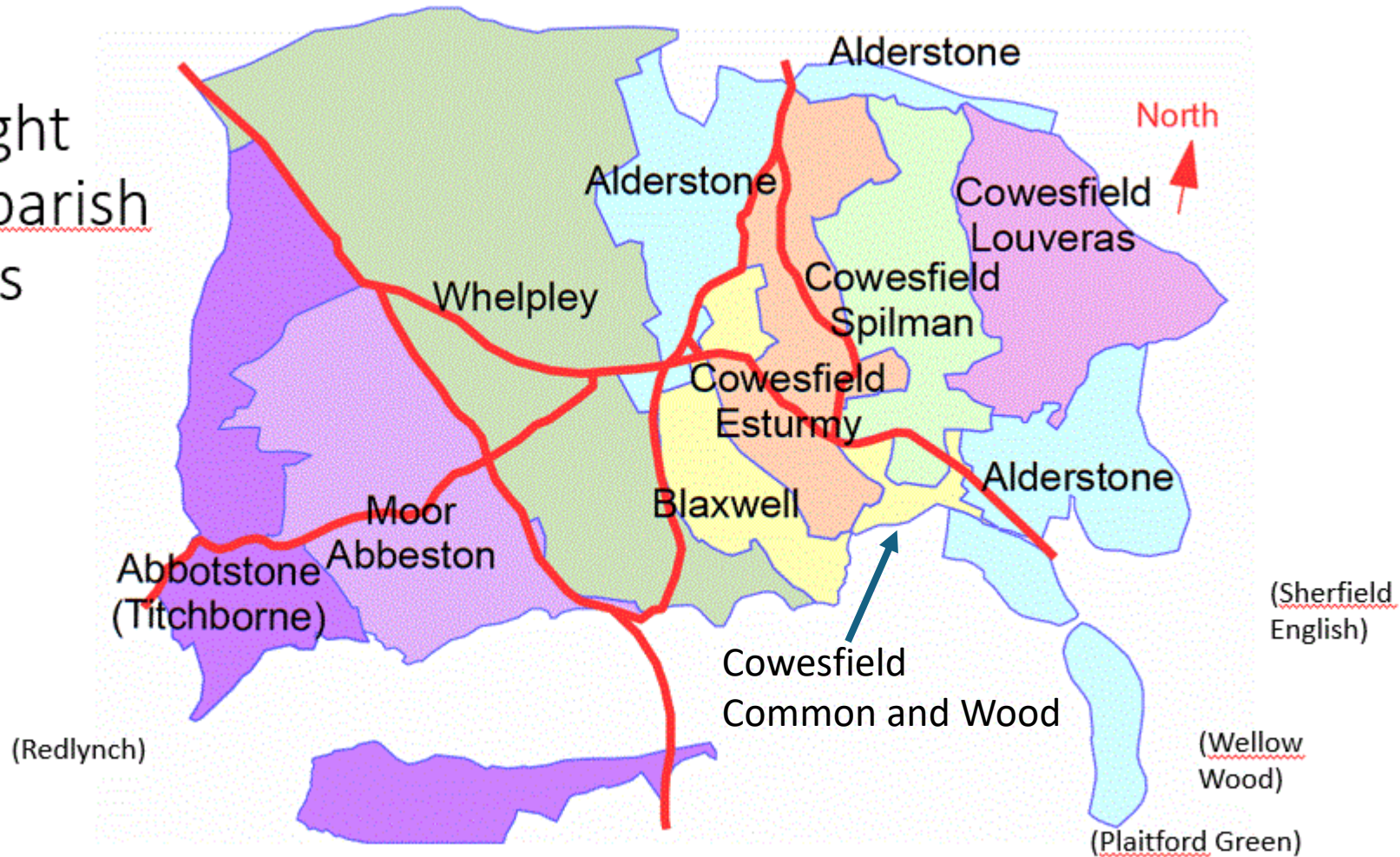
- Cuulestone (Esturmy) 1086
- Colesfeld (Spilman) 1086
- Couenefeld 1166
- Cuulesfeld 1166, 1197
- Cuvelesfeld 1198, 1236 1166, 1197
- Cuflesfeld 1257
- Covelesfeld 1268
- Colestun 1272
- Couuelesfeld Loveras 1337
- Culesfeld 1255
- Coulesfeld (Esturmy) 1279
- Cowesfeld 1504-15
- Cowsfield 1812 OS map, 1844
- Cowesfield 1876 OS map

Family names: Louveras, Esturmy, Spilman

- Luveraz 1198, Loverace 1268, Loveraz 1272, Luveraz 1279, Loveraz 1402
- Sturmid 1086, Esturmy 1198, Sturmy 1402
- Spileman 1272, Spylman 1402

A wider view, the Eight Whiteparish Manors

The eight
Whiteparish
Manors



Manors without manor houses?

- The history of the Cowesfield manors is such that there are no ancient manor houses
- These must originally have existed, but modest by later standards
- **Cowesfield House** is the closest to a manor house, but most of the manor was in other hands by the time it was built
- The house now known as **Cowesfield Manor** was the farmhouse of Cowesfield Green Farm in 1842, then renamed Cowesfield Manor Farm by 1872
 - Divided into Cowesfield Manor and Cowesfield Manor Cottage by 1966
 - The Warren 1978, Parkwater Farm by 1990
- The Cowesfield manors were small estates with small populations
- Typically held along with groups of other manors
- Often run remotely from elsewhere in the country by absent lords of the manor

Frustfield and Cowesfield

- The Hundred of Frustfield – 9 manors, 8 in Whiteparish plus Landford
- Cowesfield manors had 2 and 1.5 hides in 1086
- 1086 The Hundred of Frustfield then contained 7 manors (with Landford)
- Just over 11 hides together
- By contrast Downton manor paid tax for 97 hides

- The hide is not a reliable measure of area
- Often represented as 120 acres, in some areas 40, 48 or 60 acres
- Taxation was often around £1 per hide

A 'Hundred' of small manors: value in 1086

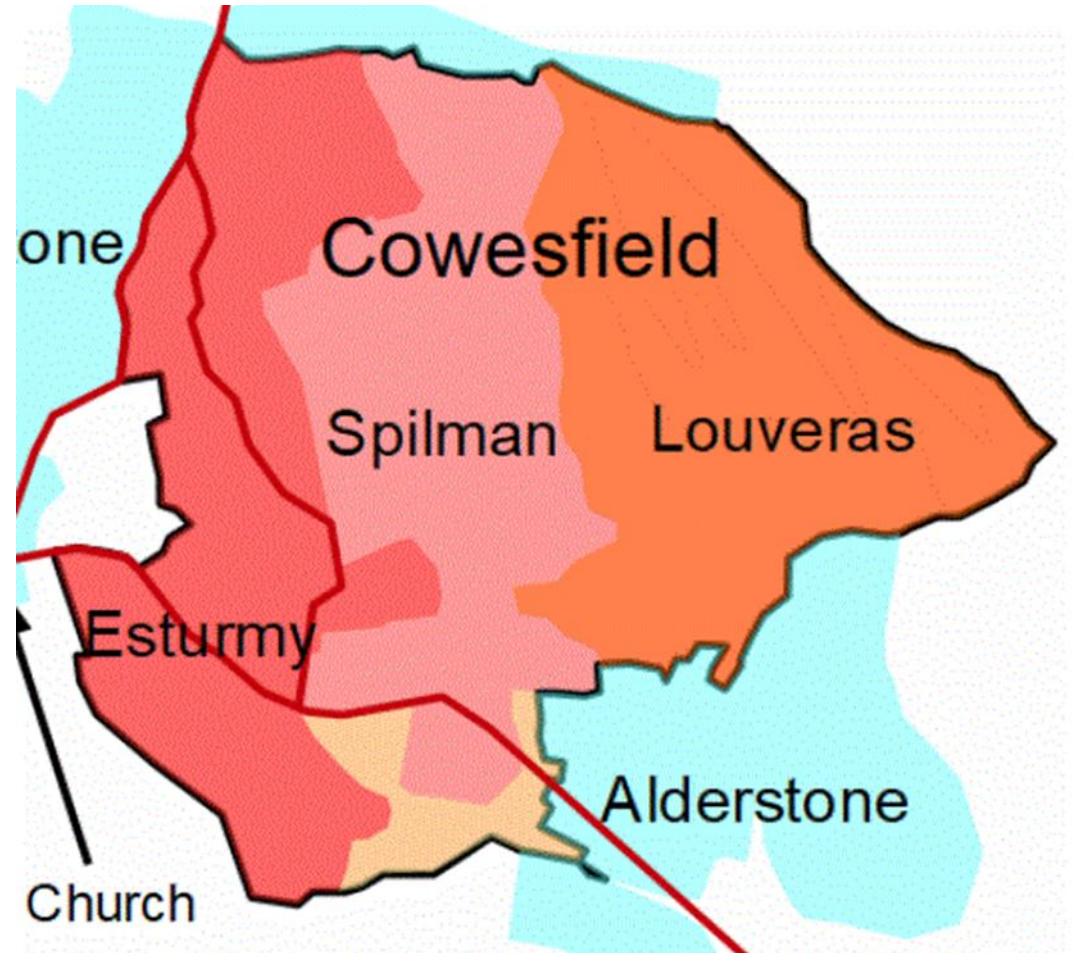
Modern name	DB name	Hides	DB Value	Today's money
Whelpley	Fistesferie	3	50/-	£2.50
Cowesfield Esturmy	Cuulestone	2	30/-	£1.50
Moor	Fristesfeld	1	20/-	£1.00
Landford	Langeford	2	15/-	75p
Cowesfield Spilman	Colesfeld	1.5	10/-	50p
Alderstone	Ferstesfeld	1	10/-	50p
?	Ferstesfeld	3/8 (1.5 virgates)	5/-	25p
?	Cristesfeld	¼ (1 virgate)	15 pence	6.25p

- 1 virgate = ¼ hide
- Cowesfield Louveras was set up later
- Holdings in Frustfield either Frustfield or Cowesfield
- Size on this map assumes 1 Hide = 120 Acres



The three Cowesfield manors in more detail

- A few historical points
- Relate to modern features



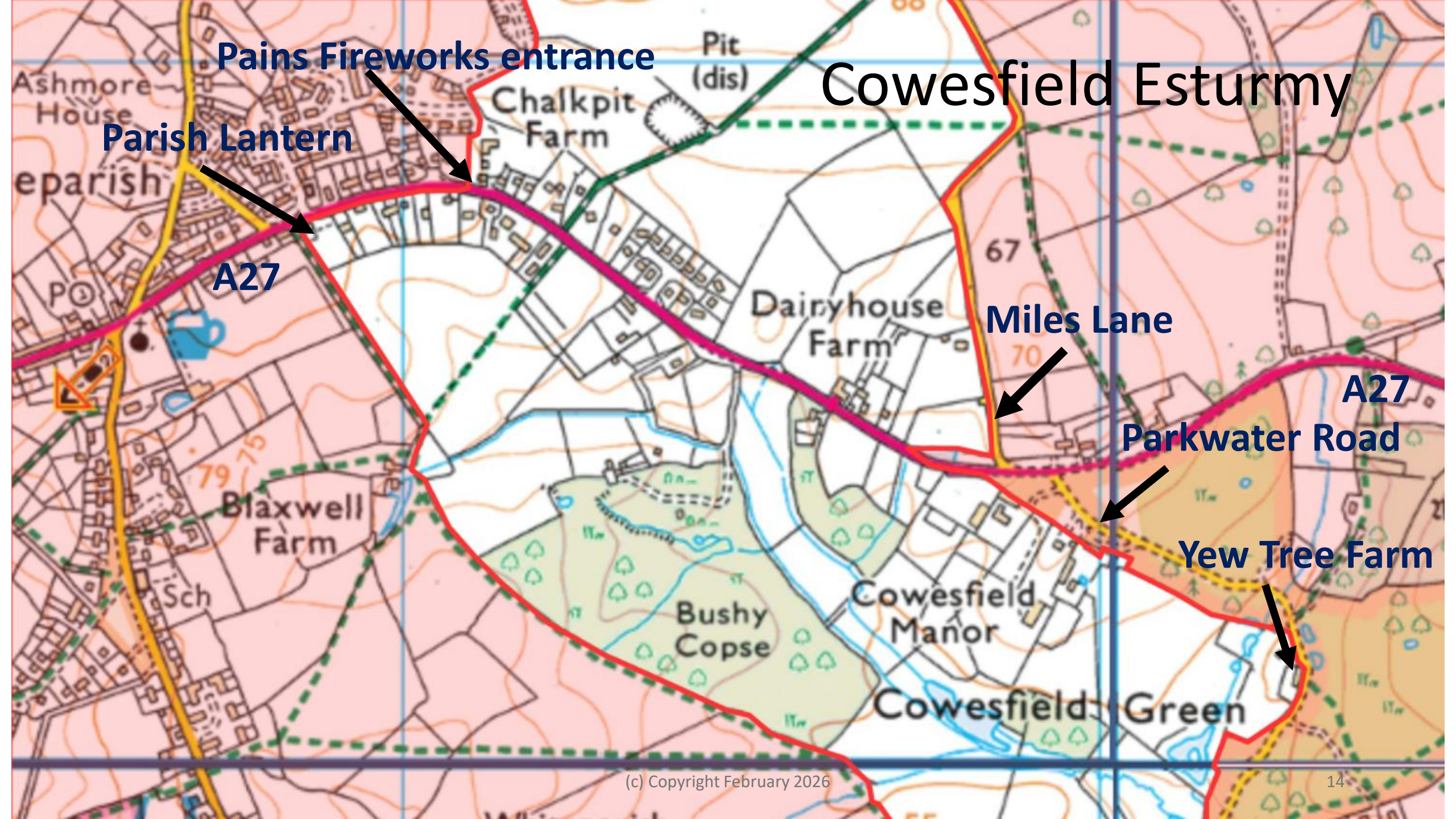
Cowesfield Esturmy

- Existed before 1066
 - Held by Aluric, the Saxon holder
- 1086 Domesday Book
 - Held by Richard Sturmid, hence Esturmy
 - The larger of the two Cowesfield manors at that time

.LXI. Ricard ten de rege Cwlestone . Aluric tenuit T.R.E. 7 geldb p .ii. hid . Tra . ē . ii . caṛ . De ea . ē in dñio . i . hida . 7 ibi . i . caṛ . 7 ii . uiffi 7 viii . cofcez cū . ii . caṛ . Ibi pastura . ii . q̄z lḡ . 7 una q̄z laṛ . 7 tntd filuæ . Valuit . xv . solid . Modo . xxx . solid .

TERRA RICARDI STVRMID:





Pains Fireworks entrance

Parish Lantern

A27

Cowsfield Esturmy

Chalkpit Farm

Pit (dis)

Dairyhouse Farm

Miles Lane

Parkwater Road

A27

Blaxwell Farm

Yew Tree Farm

Bushy Copse

Cowesfield Manor

Cowesfield Green

Ashmore House

eparish

PO

79 75

Sch



Blaxwell

Alderstone

Blaxwell

Cowesfield Esturmy



Blaxwell

Cowesfield Esturmy

Blaxwell



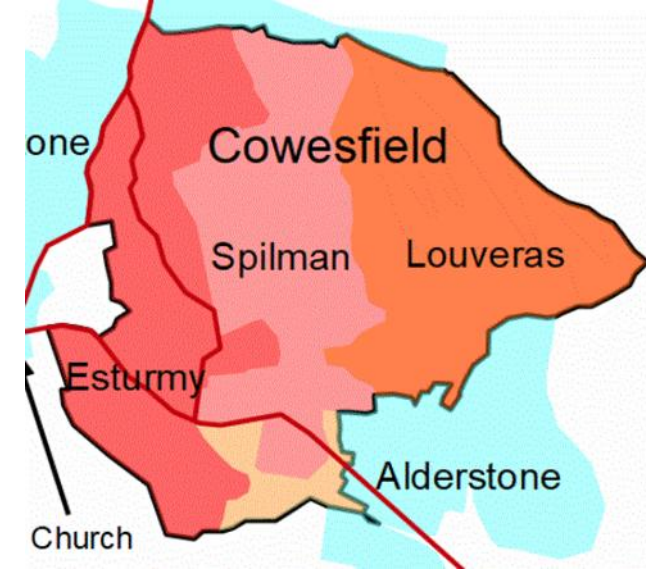
Cowesfield Esturmy

Blaxwell

History and origins

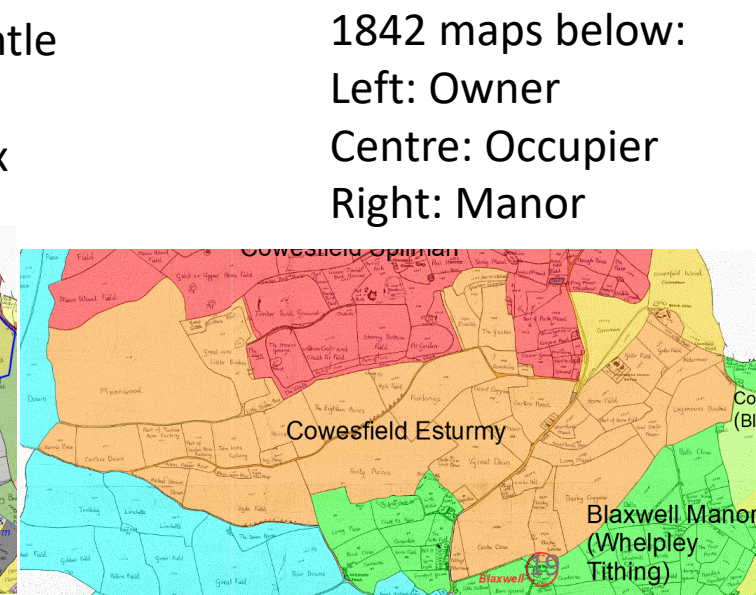
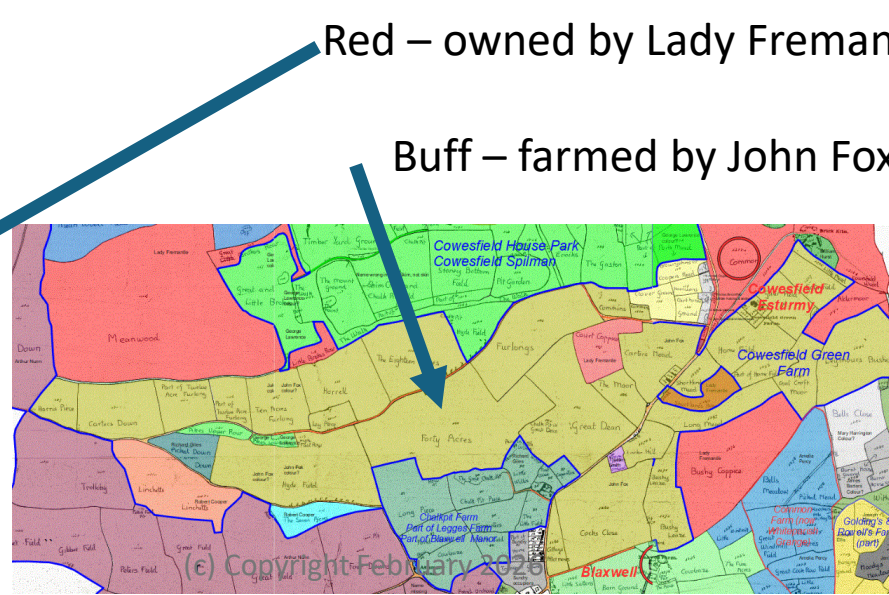
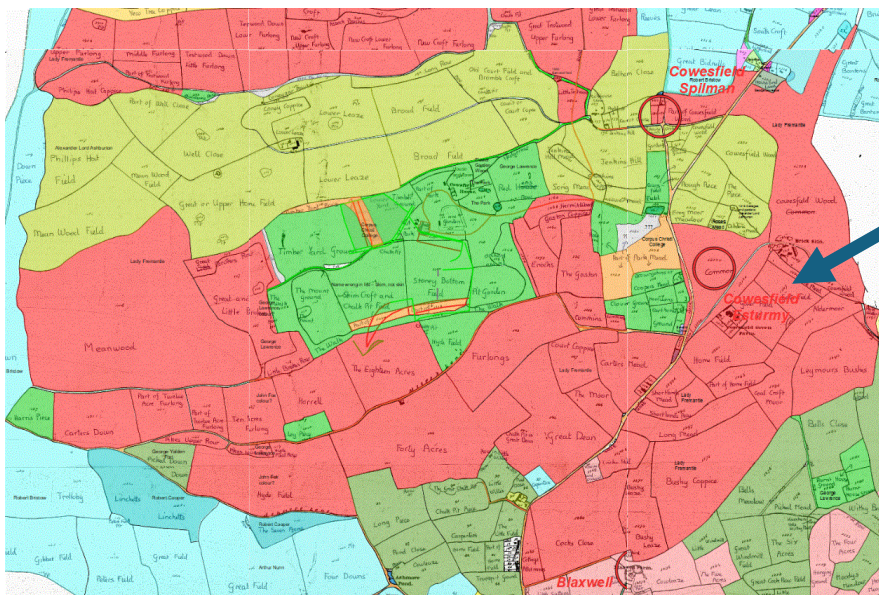
Cowesfield Esturmy

- Saxon origins, probably quite late
- 1068 Domesday Book
 - Richard Sturmy holds Cowesfield Esturmy from the King. Aelfric held it before 1066; it paid tax for 2 hides. Land for 2 ploughs, of which 1 hide is in lordship; 1 plough there; 2 villagers and 8 Cottagers with 2 ploughs. Pasture 2 furlongs long and 1 furlong wide; woodland as much. The value was 15s; now 30s.
 - Cottager – the lowest class of peasant, often cultivating only a very small area of land
- 1317 North Field pasture was enclosed [Taylor ref 24: CRO 192/31, account roll for Cowesfield Esturmy]
- By the 15th and 16th century the site was mostly depopulated, with its open fields partly enclosed.
- Stayed in the family, Esturmy -> Seymour until 1601



Cowesfield Esturmy later story

- 1676 sold to George Pitt, passed to son George, first Lord Rivers
- 1777 sold to Sir John Elwell, passed to his daughter
- 1842 held by his daughter, Lady Fremantle
- 1842 Almost all farmed by John Fox as Cowesfield Green Farm



Red – owned by Lady Fremantle

Buff – farmed by John Fox

1842 maps below:
 Left: Owner
 Centre: Occupier
 Right: Manor

Cowesfield Esturmy in the 1840s

- After her father Sir John Elwell died, the manor was owned by Lady Selina Mary Fremantle (nee Elwell, married twice: Hervey, Fremantle)
 - Not listed in Whiteparish in any census (genealogy websites very confused here)
- Between 1809 and 1815 the Fox family had moved to Whiteparish from Eling
- The family lived in Cowesfield Green Farm, which is now Cowesfield Manor and Parkwater Farm
- They also occupied the house that is now Dairy House Farm and Dairy House Barn next to it, now converted
- In 1841 farmed by John, Ann and Stephen Fox, aged 30, 25 and 25 with 464 acres, the third largest farm in the parish (with 4 servants/farm workers)

Cowesfield Green Farm in 1842

- 1841 census John Fox
 - John Fox (aged 30) with presumably a sister Ann (25) and brother Stephen (25), agricultural labourer James Biffin (20), a female servant Harriot Halett (15) and two other young women Eliza Pinnick (25) and Clarissa Drake (20) 464 acres
- 1851 John and Stephen had both married and divided the farm
 - John and his wife Sophia, two children aged 2 and 8 and a 16 year old servant, 230 acres and 18 labourers
 - Stephen and his wife Sarah, three children aged 1, 3 and 5 and a 17 year old house servant, farmed 62 acres with 3 labourers
 - An Anne Fox married William Sutton in 1841 in the church, possibly the same Ann/Anne
 - 172 acres unaccounted for in this division, intended for Ann? a new tenant?
 - Remember John and Stephen Fox – they'll feature briefly later in the talk

Cowesfield Esturmy

- Sold off in lots by auction in 1940 and 1941
- More details later

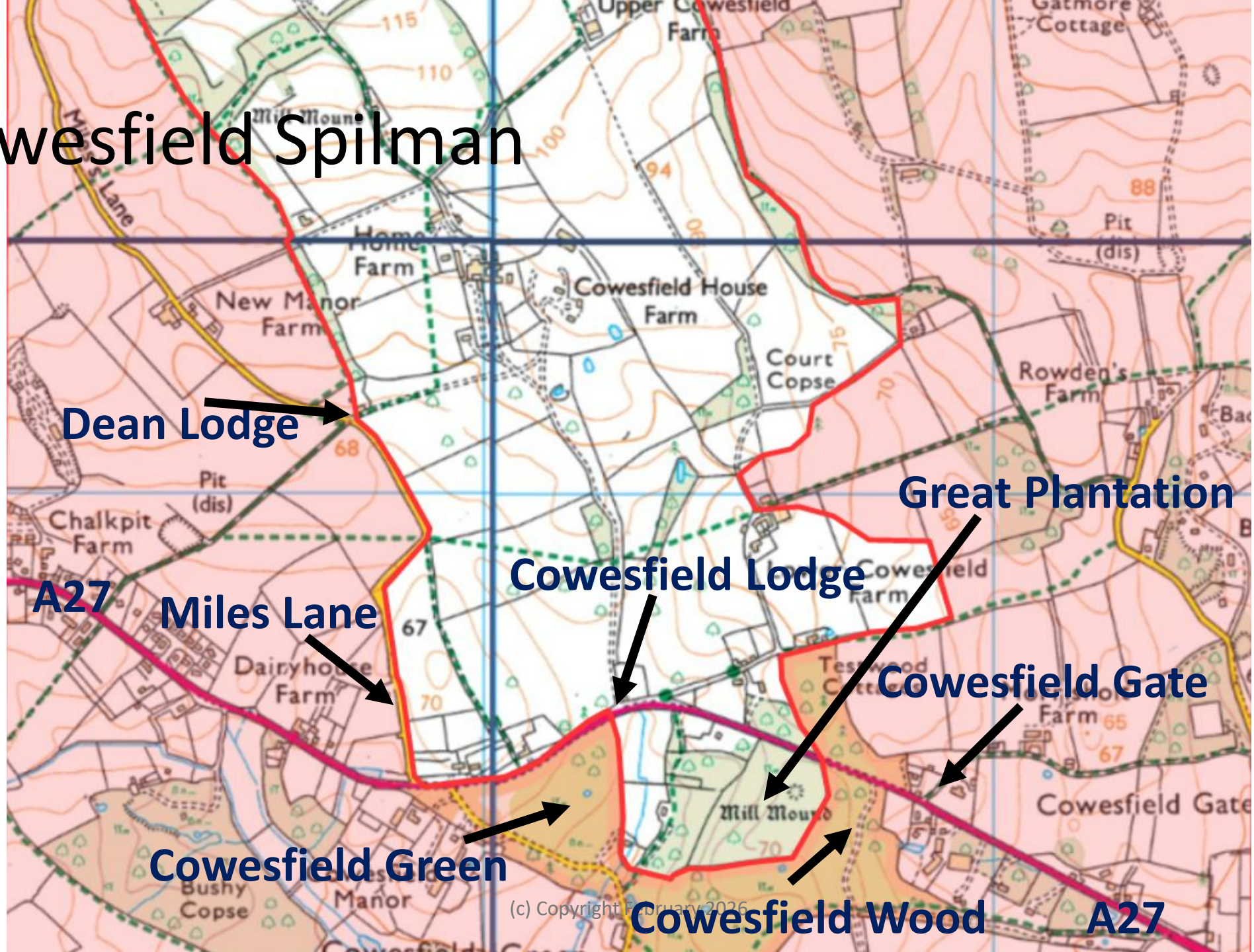
Cowesfield Spilman

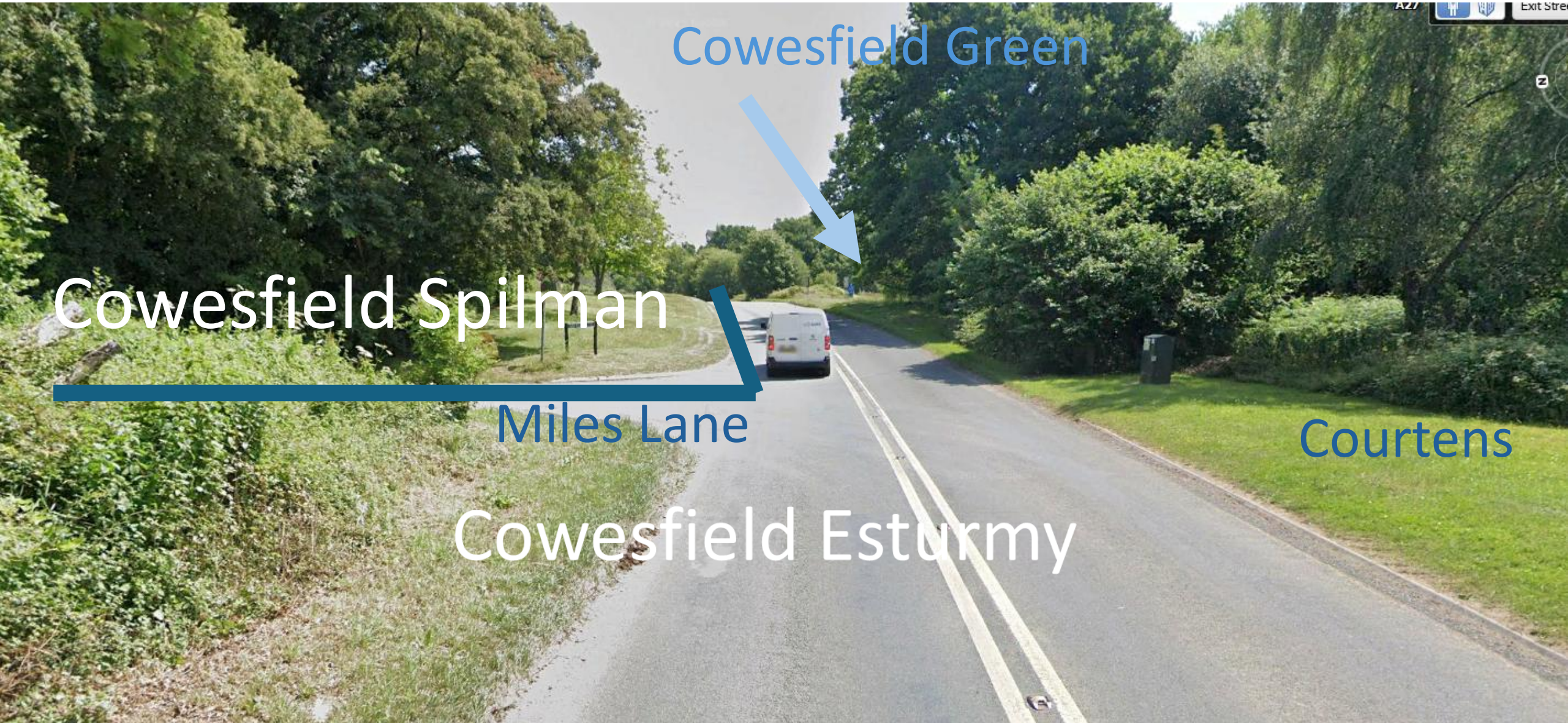
- Includes the houses north and east of Cowesfield Green
- Effectively most of what we think of as Cowesfield today

BRICTRIC 7 Aluui fr̄ ej ten⁹ COLESFELD. T.R.E. Valet . x . liḅ.
geldḅ p . i . hida 7 dimid̄ . Tra . ē . i . caṛ . ḡ ibi . ē cū . III . coscez.
Ibi . II . ḡrent⁷ filuæ minutæ . Valet . x . folid̄.



Cowesfield Spilman





Cowesfield Green

Cowesfield Spilman

Miles Lane

Cowesfield Esturmy

Courstens



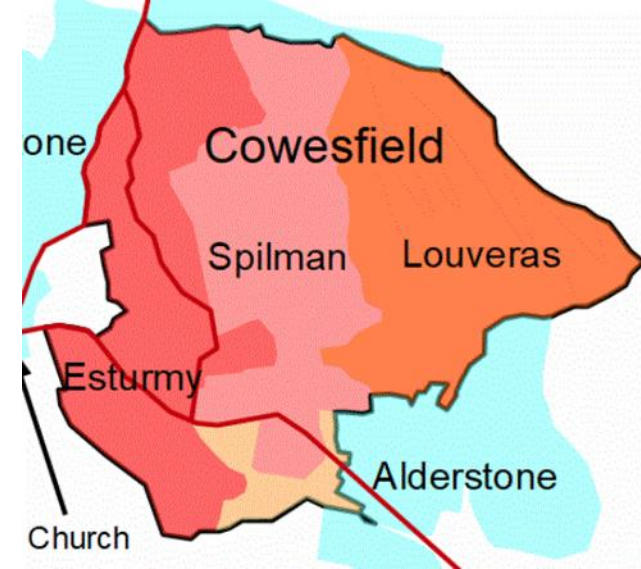
Cowesfield Spilman

Alderstone
(Cowesfield Gate)

History and origins

Cowesfield Spilman

- Saxon origins, probably quite late
- 1086 Domesday Book
 - 67 Land of Odo and other Thanes of the King
10 **Brictric** and his brother **Alwy** hold COLESFELD (Cowesfield Spilman). Before 1066 it paid tax for 1 1/2 hides. Land for 1 plough, which is there, with **3 Cottagers**. Underwood, 2 furlongs. Value 10s.
- 1400 10 acres of arable in strips bounded by enclosures
 - [Taylor ref 49: Corpus Christi Oxford Twyne transcripts LA 2d 268]
- 1620 A map shows there were still strips in the common fields
- Later 17th century documents make no reference to strips, only to closes and fields, so enclosure probably complete.



Brictric of Cowesfield Spilman

- Domesday Book didn't generally provide surnames
- There is a prominent Brictric with a sad tale attached
 - Not the Cowesfield Brictric
 - Held widespread West Country land holdings
- Who declined the romantic advances of Matilda
- Matilda went on to marry William the Conqueror
- Acting as regent years later when William was away, she threw Brictric into prison and confiscated his lands
- He died in prison and she retained ownership of his land

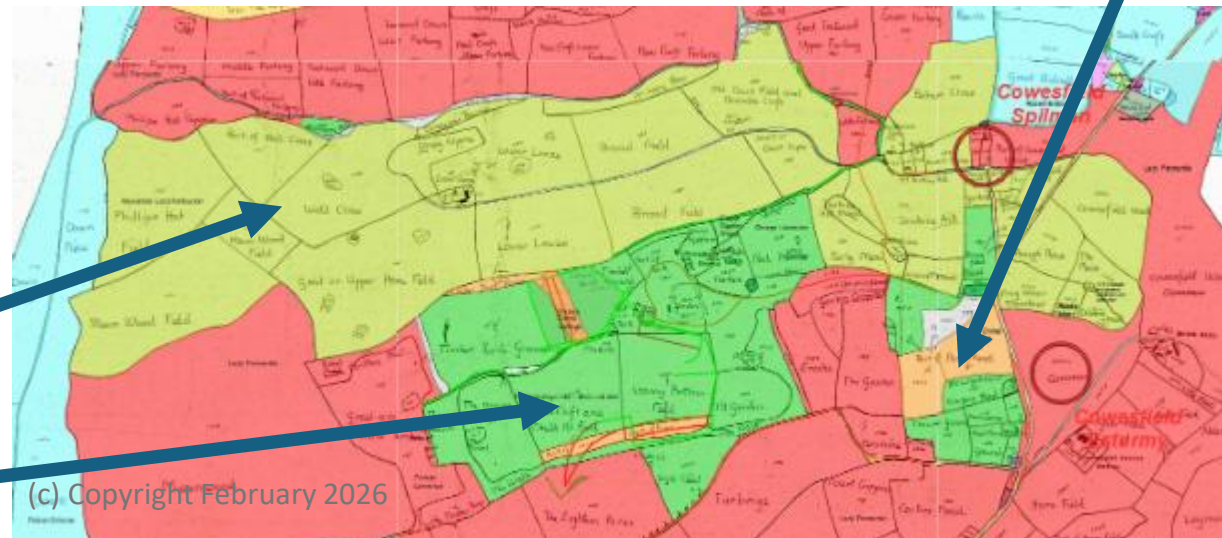
Cowesfield Spilman later story

- 1307-1327 Land split between two daughters of Sir William Spelman
 - *Catharine, wife of Richard de Testwood (manor title)*
 - Matilda, wife of John de Grimstead
- 1408 Still held by the Spilman family
- *By 1426/7 Sir William Sturmy of Cowesfield Esturmy*
- 2 parts by 1771
 - 1) 1783 to Melchet Park
 - 2) Retained as 'manor'

Buff – Alexander Lord Ashburton
Attached to Melchet Park

Green – Cowesfield House
Included manor title

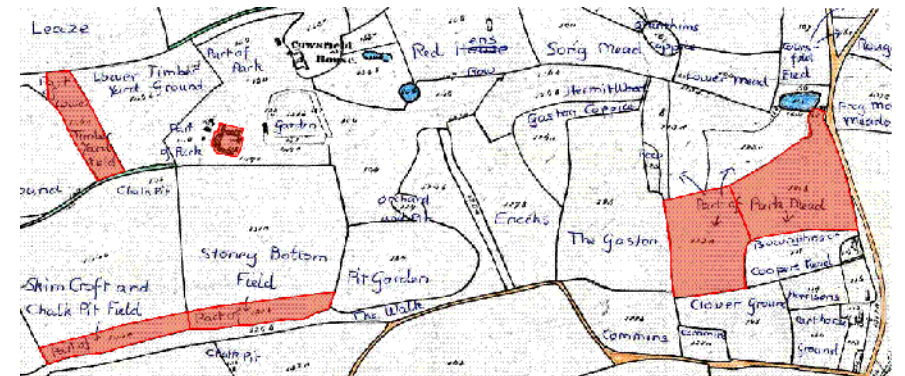
Orange – Corpus Christi
College, Cambridge

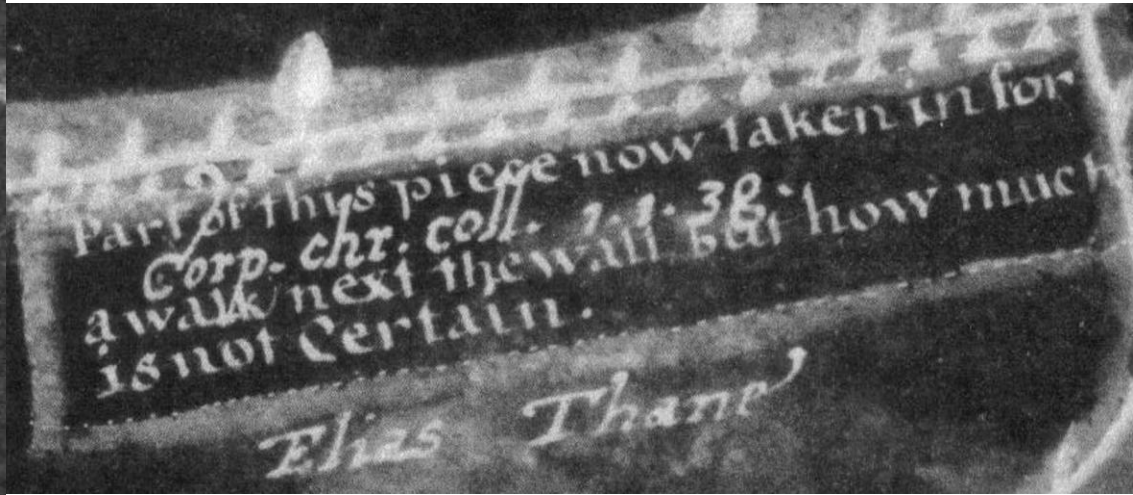
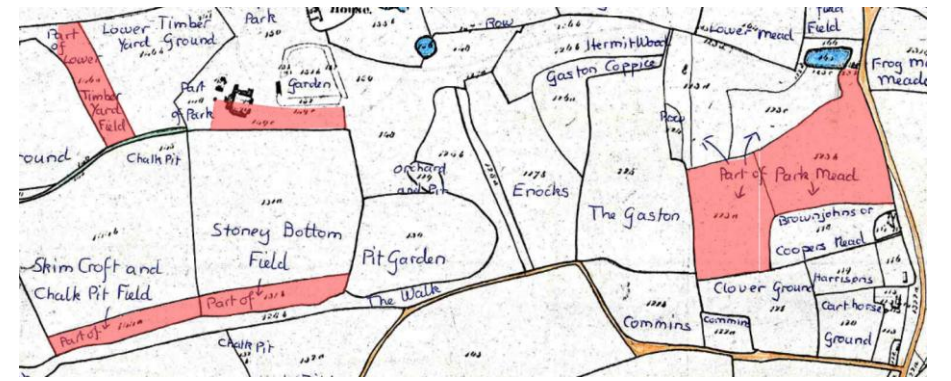
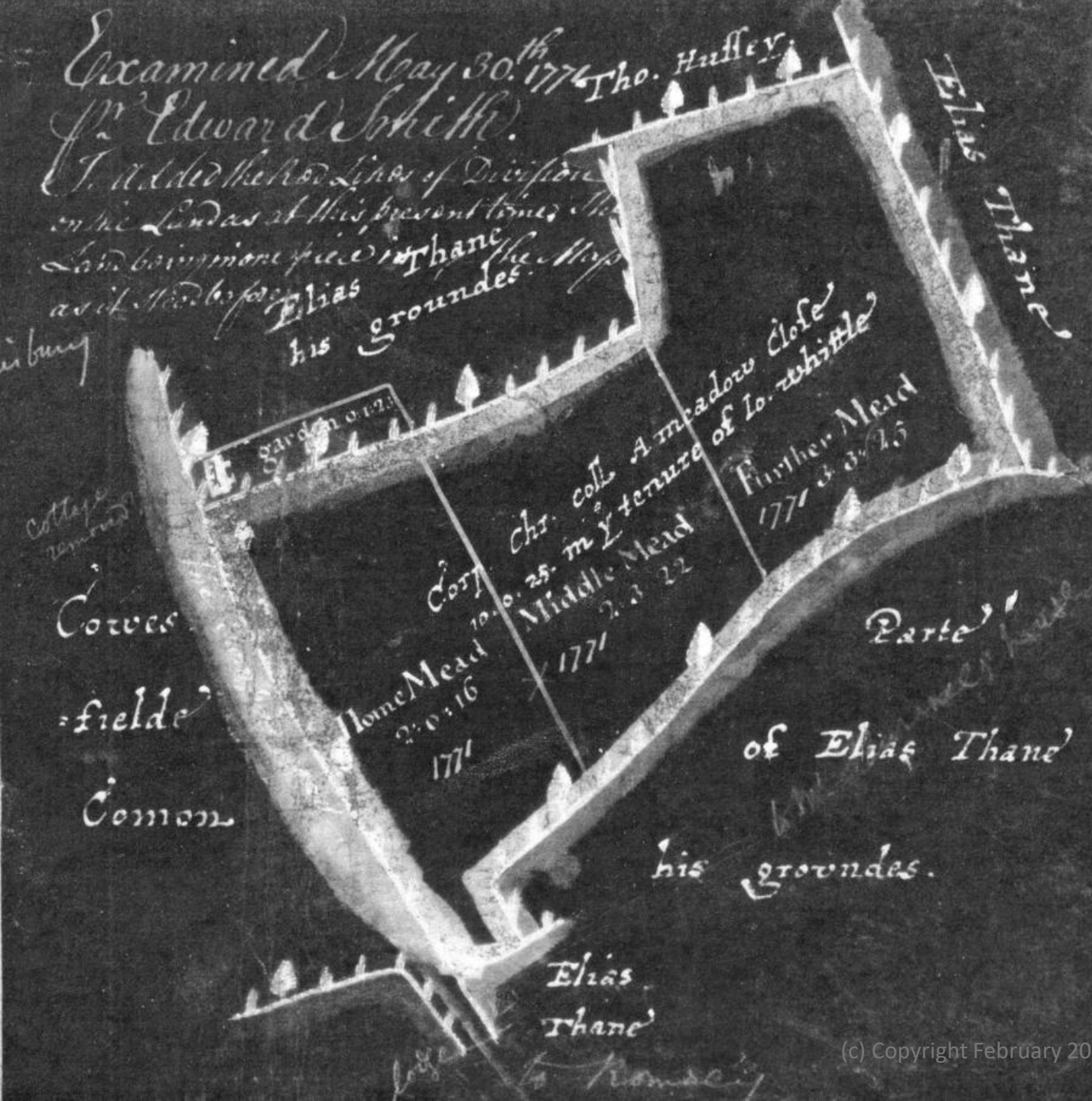


Corpus Christi land at Cowesfield Spilman in 1620, court case in 1771

- Lord of the manor Elias Thayne
- Gave land to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge in 1620
- Court case in 1771 claimed the college had appropriated extra land
- Claim was made on a copy of a 1620 map
- No idea what the outcome was...
- But it preserved the 1620 map
- Carbon black and shellac?

Corpus Christi College	LAWRENCE, George, esquire	123a, Part of Park Mead, Pasture, 4-1-2, -.
Corpus Christi College	LAWRENCE, George, esquire	123b, Part of Park Mead, Pasture, 6-1-11, -.
Corpus Christi College	LAWRENCE, George, esquire	131b, Part of Stoney Bottom Field, Arable, 1-3-27, -.
Corpus Christi College	LAWRENCE, George, esquire	144a, Part of Skim Croft & Chalk Pit Field, Arable, 1-2-6, -.
Corpus Christi College	LAWRENCE, George, esquire	146a, Part of Lower Timber Yard Field, Arable, 1-3-3, -.
Corpus Christi College	LAWRENCE, George, esquire	149b, Farm Yard & Buildings, -, 0-0-38, -.
Corpus Christi College	LAWRENCE, George, esquire	149c, Part of the Park, Pasture, 1-0-31, -.





Corpus Christi land in 1842

- Had been granted 1620 by Elias Thayne
- Expanded areas were contested in 1771
- 1842 Farmed by George Lawrence, esquire along with his own estate around it, presumably paying Corpus Christi
- This 'fossilised' four mediaeval strips

1842 Tithe Map

(c) Copyright February 2026



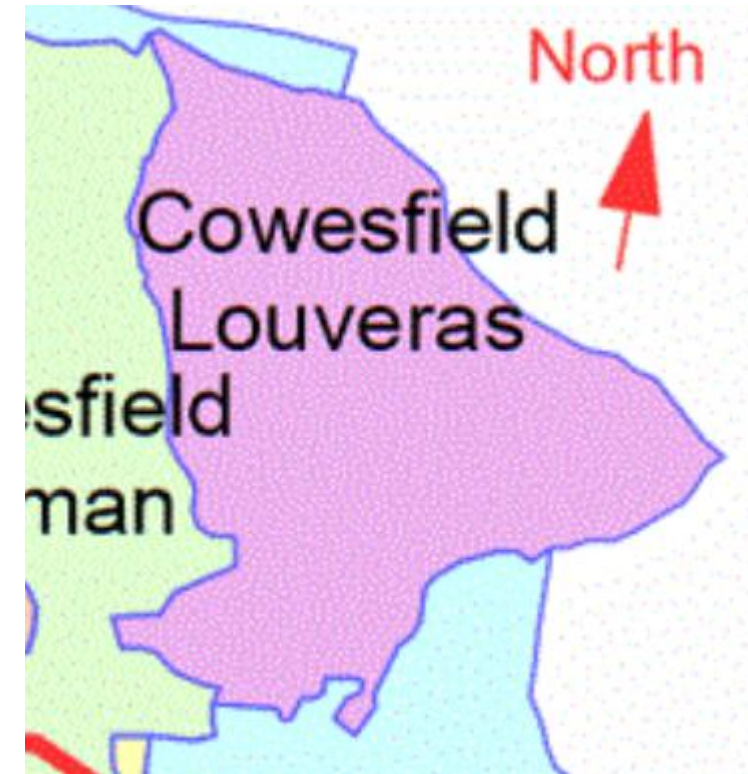
Cowesfield House was in Cowesfield Spilman

- A significant grand house
- Its park occupied a relatively small part of Cowesfield Spilman
- This is the closest we can get to a manor house
- More detail to come later
- Along with Broxmore House in Alderstone nearby, it would have suited the National Trust well

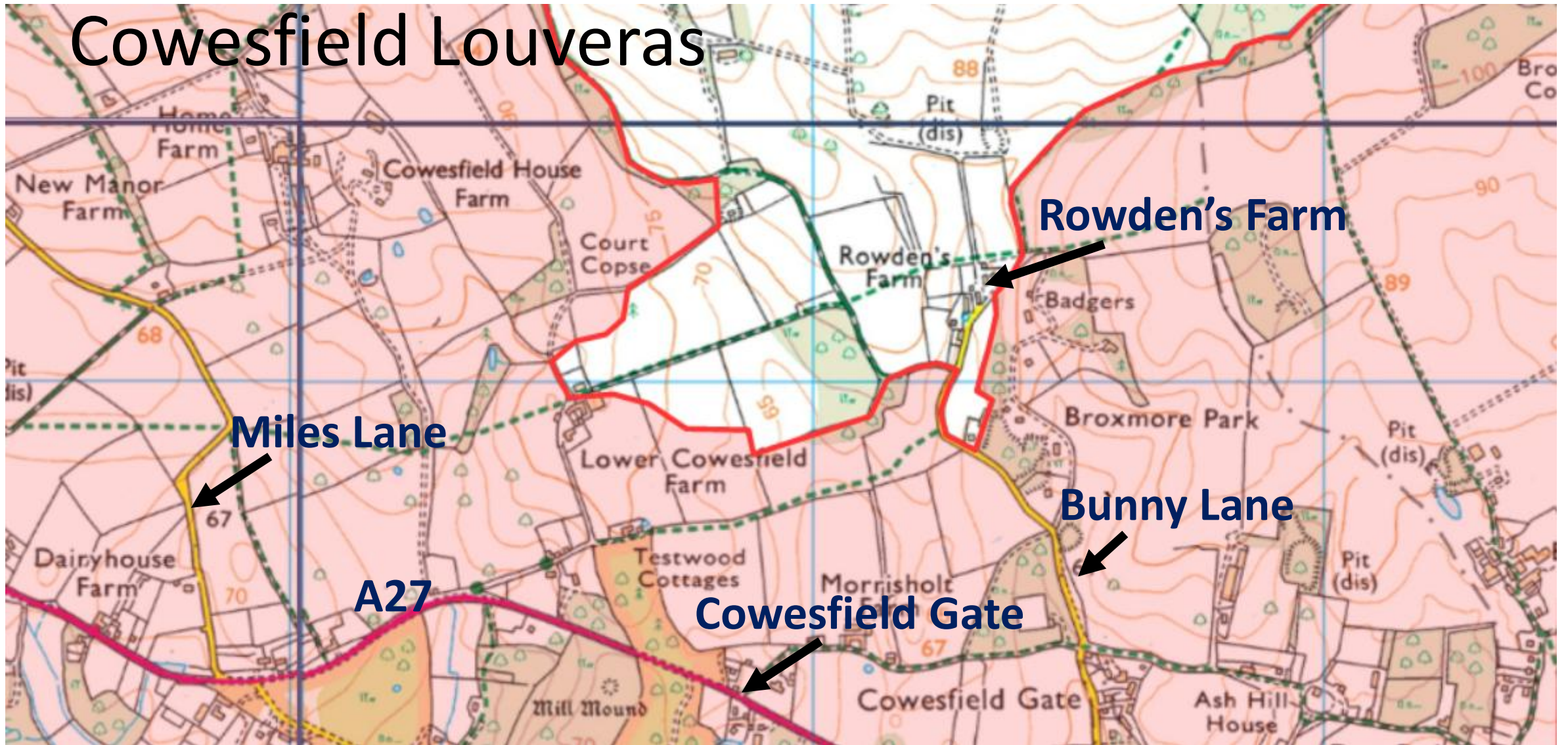


Cowesfield Louveras

- Not on the main road network
- The A27 turnpike road bypassed it completely
- A late manor, later than the 1086 Domesday Book
- First record we have is from 1165/6



Cowesfield Louveras





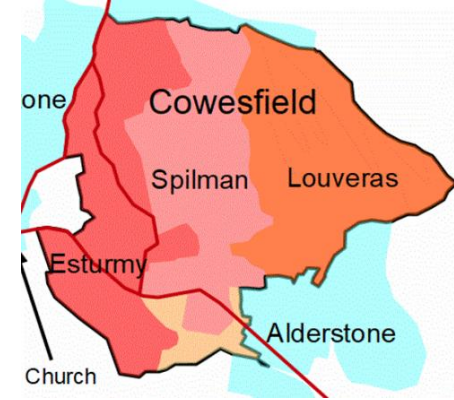
Cowesfield Louveras

Alderstone

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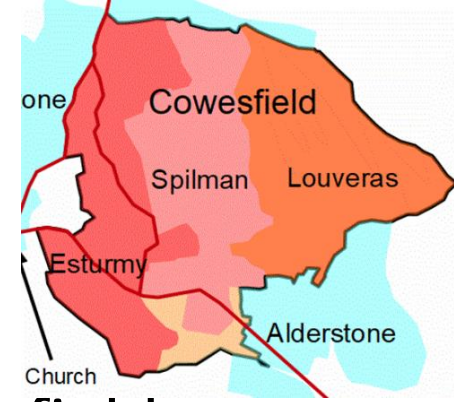
History and origins

Cowesfield Louveras



- Not in Domesday Book, Norman in origin
- 1165/6 William de Louveras held a knight's fee in Cowesfield Louveras from Walchi (Walter Waleran)
- 1332 passed from Stephen Loveras to Roger Normand and wife Joane
 - Possibly only part of the manor?
- 1349 2/3 of the 120 acres of arable demesne could be sown, so probably 3 open fields
- 1349 all tenants except three freeholders died of the plague and these were later removed [Taylor ref 45: Wilts IPM 1327-77 206 & 257]
- 1590/1 Thomas White passed to son Thomas [Matcham p71]
- By 1642 purchased by Edward St Barbe of Alderstone [Matcham p71]
- 1760 Anne Kemshead, daughter and coheir of John St Barbe sold to Sir John Elwell [Matcham p71]

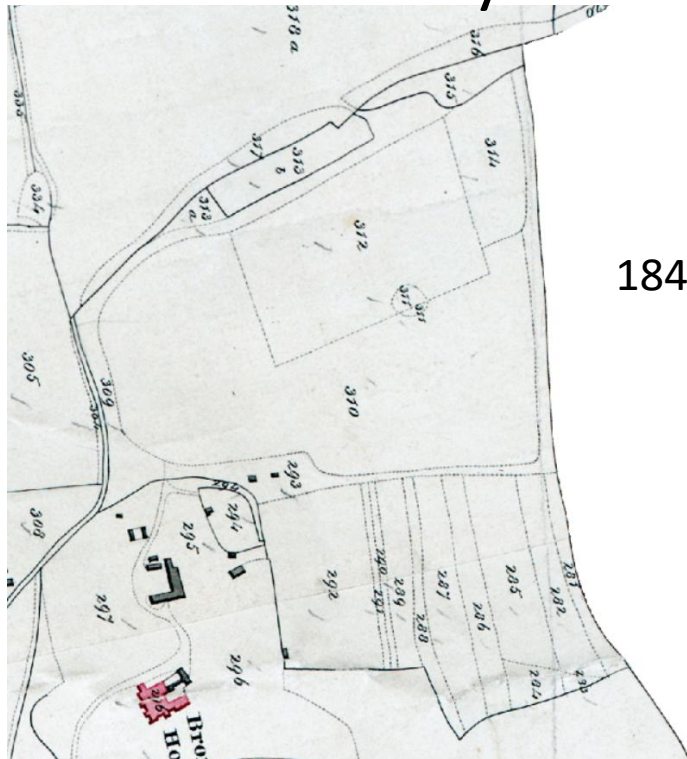
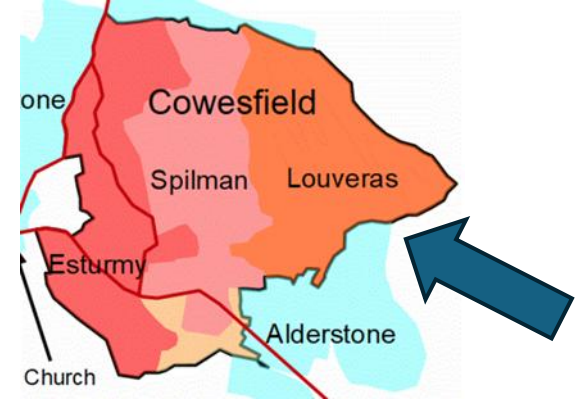
Cowesfield Louveras later story



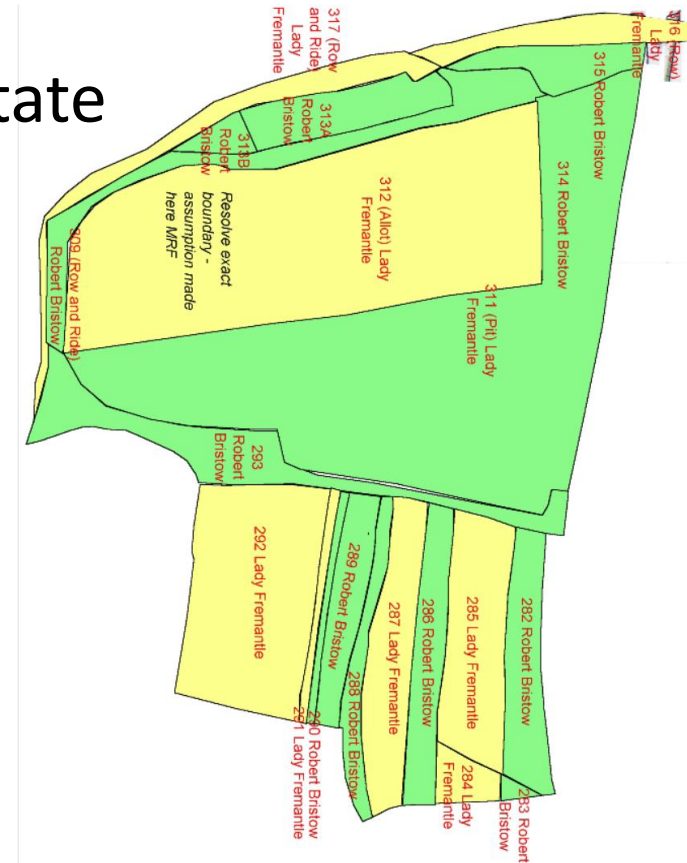
- A few years later in 1777 Sir John Elwell also purchased Cowesfield Esturmy, so owned two Cowesfield manors, but not adjacent ones
- Both passed to his daughter Lady Fremantle
- From 1812 Robert Bristow of Alderstone rented Cowesfield Louveras as part of his Broxmore House estate, ironic as but for the 1770's sale it would have been his
- The last remaining arable strips in the parish were still in Cowesfield Louveras/Alderstone in 1842
- The footpath from the village to these strips still stops on the Hants border in the middle of a field

Last arable strips in the parish

- Later redivided oddly between Alderstone and Cowesfield Louveras
- 1842 Cowesfield Louveras owned by Lady Fremantle
- Farmed by Robert Bristow as part of the Broxmore Estate



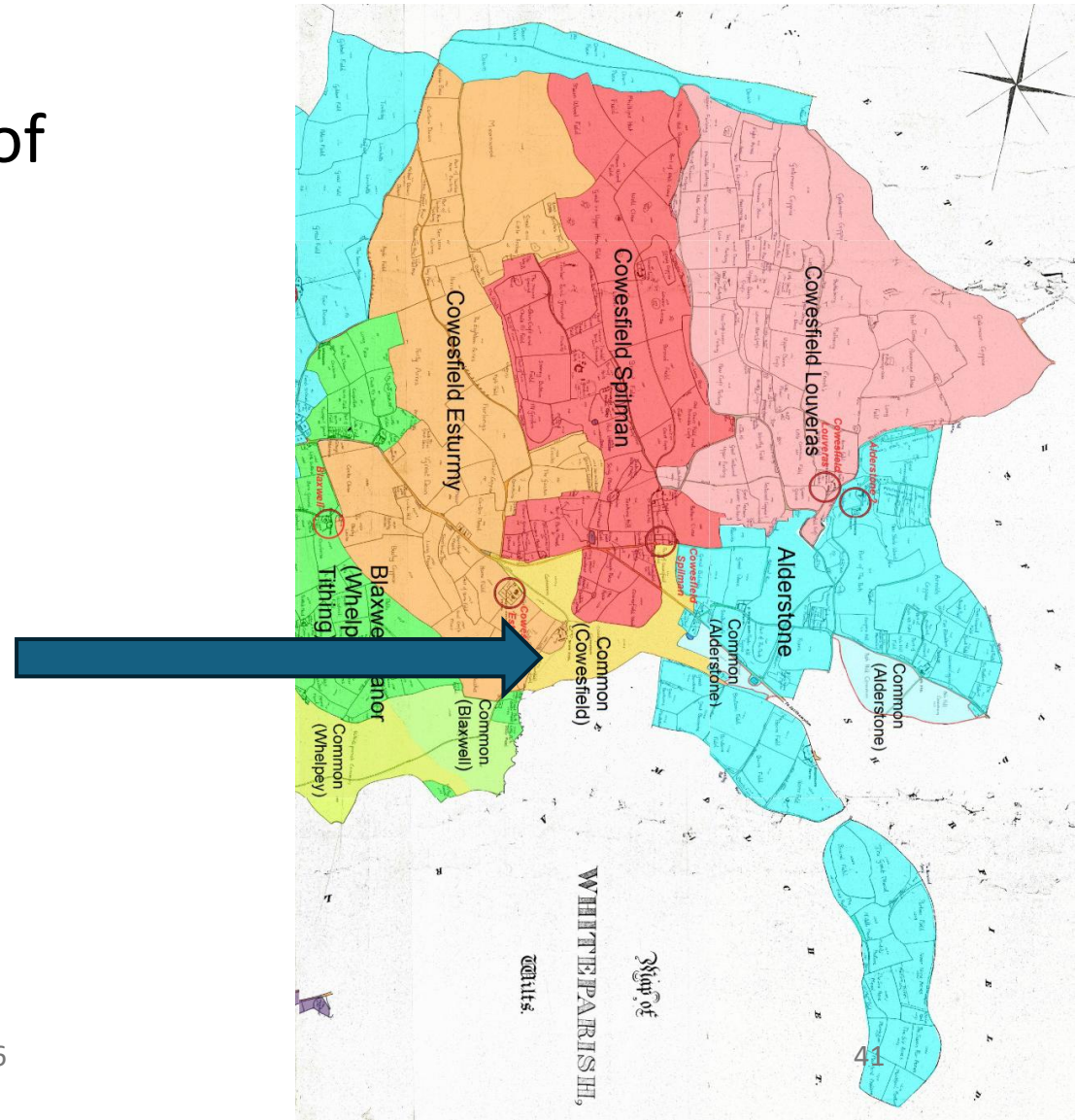
1842 Tithe map



Ownership:
 Green - Alderstone
 Yellow - Cowesfield Louveras

Cowesfield Common and Wood

- Remaining common pasture and waste of Cowesfield Esturmy and Spilman
- Let's look at that in more detail





Esturmy

Spilman

Spilman

Alderstone

A27

Cowesfield
Common

Great
Plantation

Spilman

Moor's
Hole

Alderstone
Common

Esturmy

Cowesfield
Wood

Sherfield
English

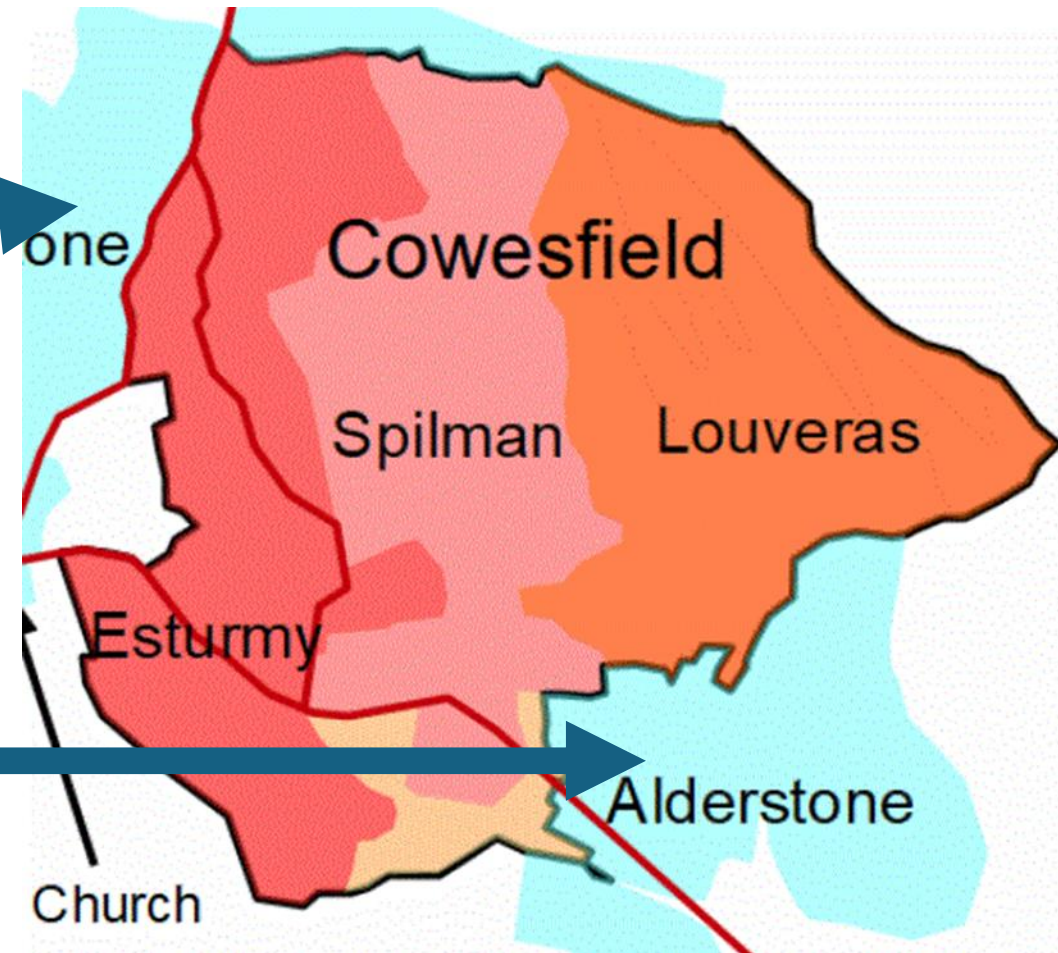
A27

Alderstone

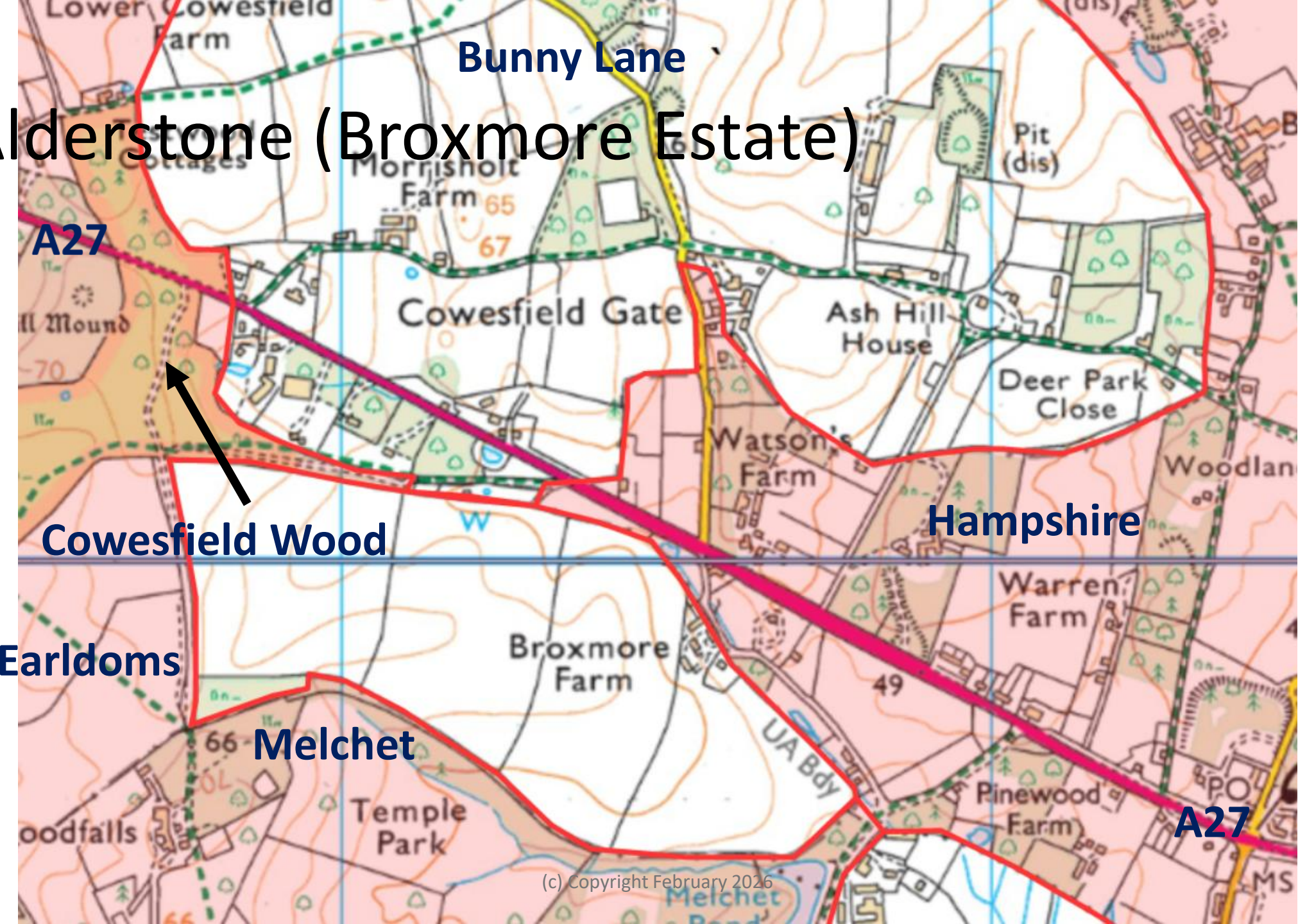
Earldoms

To complete the story we need to go on into the eastern part of Alderstone manor

- The western part forms the centre of Whiteparish
 - Includes the church
- The eastern part of the manor includes the Broxmore estate
 - The Alderstone Manor House, Park and farmland from 1812)

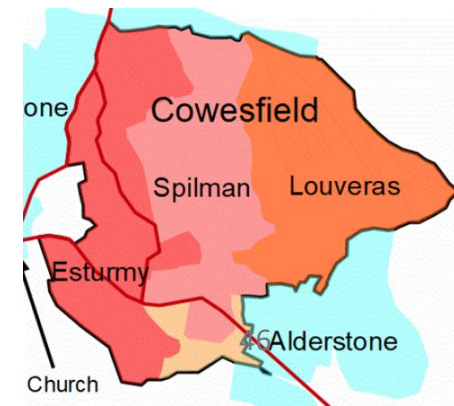


Alderstone (Broxmored Estate)



Cowesfield Gate

- Grew up after the Salisbury-Romsey-Southampton (A27) Turnpike was established in 1756
- A new settlement on the new road, not in Cowesfield but in Alderstone
- On the boundary between Alderstone Common and Cowesfield Wood
- There were several proposals for a side gate on the turnpike there or nearby that was finally located on Common Road next to number 8 Croft Heights
- Almost certainly the gate between Cowesfield Wood and Alderstone Common to prevent grazing stock from straying between the manors
- Just one building is in Cowesfield Wood
 - (A small part of Gate Cottage site)
 - The one building owned by the lord of the manor of Cowesfield Spilman



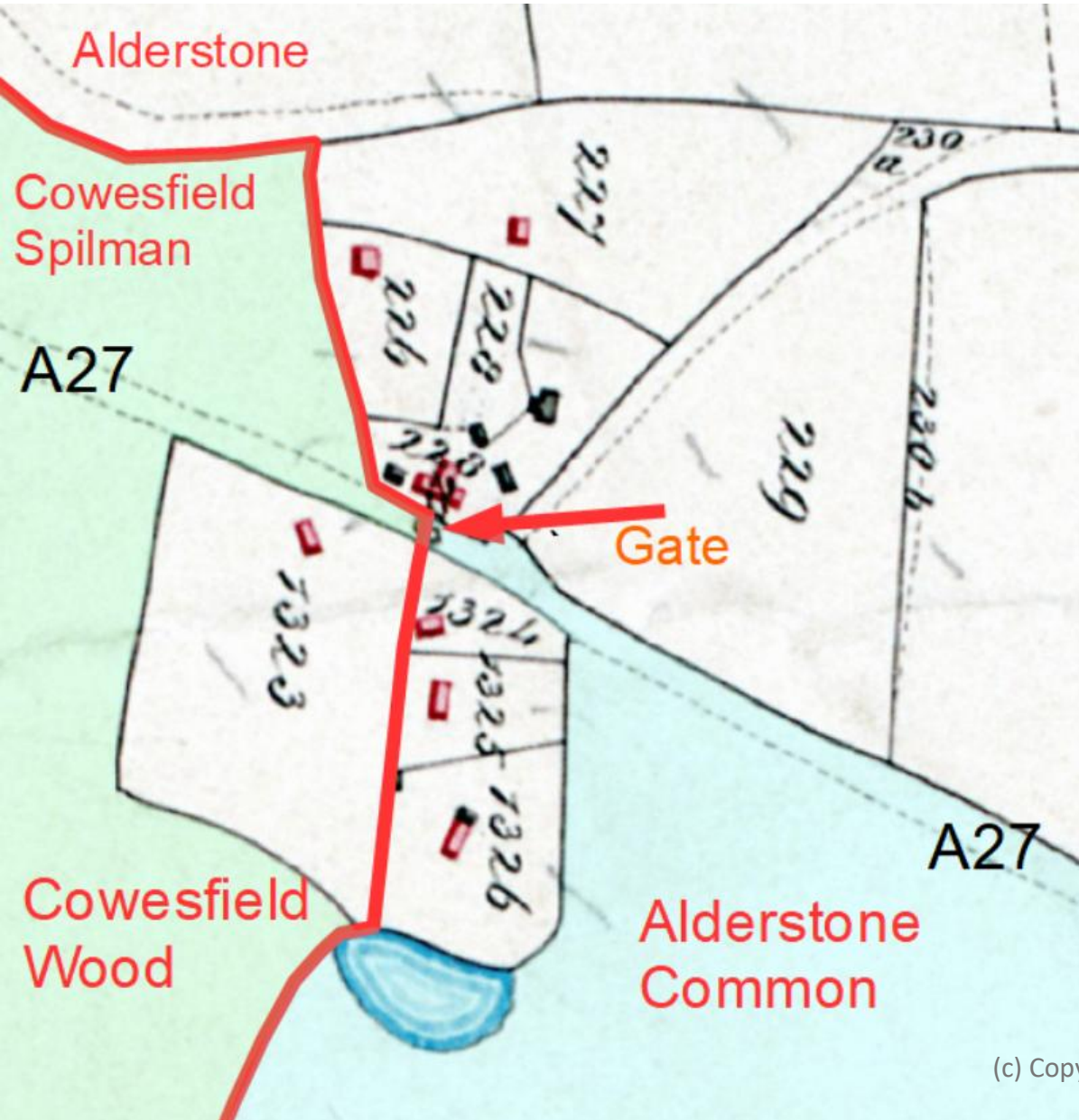
Cowesfield Wood and Alderstone Common

- Commons
 - Green – Cowesfield
 - Blue – Alderstone
- 1323 George Lawrence
- 225 & 226 Robert Bristow



- (Cowesfield Common and Wood.odg)

Cowesfield Gate 1842 - 2025



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Gate

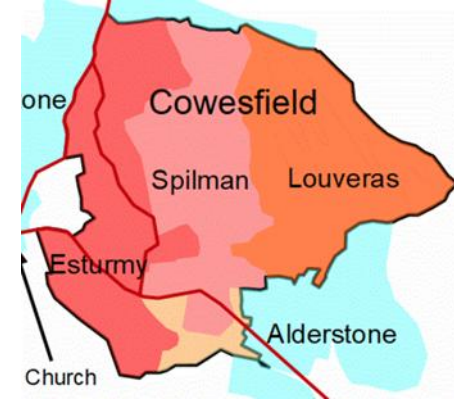
New link to old road
to the Old Sherfield Church
After the Turnpike was built

Old road to Sherfield English before turnpike

- Turnpike 1756 to 1878



The name 'Cowesfield Manor'



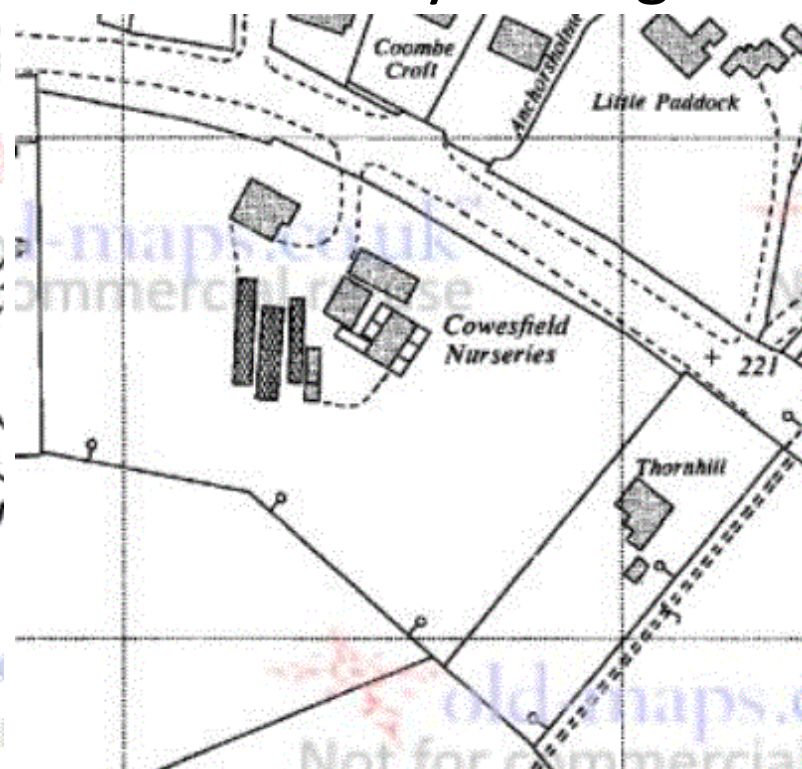
- After 1760 Sir John Elwell bought Cowesfield Louveras
 - Then in 1777 he also bought Cowesfield Esturmy
- Cowesfield Spilman had been divided and Cowesfield House built
 - Technically it was a manor house, but with only a third of the original manor lands
 - References to Cowesfield Spilman manor simply faded away
- Cowesfield Manor in due course became the name for the two separated manors, excluding Cowesfield Spilman between them
- The farmhouse of Cowesfield Green Farm was replaced between 1857 and 1876 and the farm renamed Cowesfield Manor Farm, quite possibly by the tenant who followed John and Stephen Fox's tenure
- The rest of the farm buildings were separated as Parkwater Farm
 - Cowesfield Manor Cottage in 1966, The Warren in 1978 and Parkwater Farm in 1990

Cowesfield Nurseries (Cowesfield Esturmy)

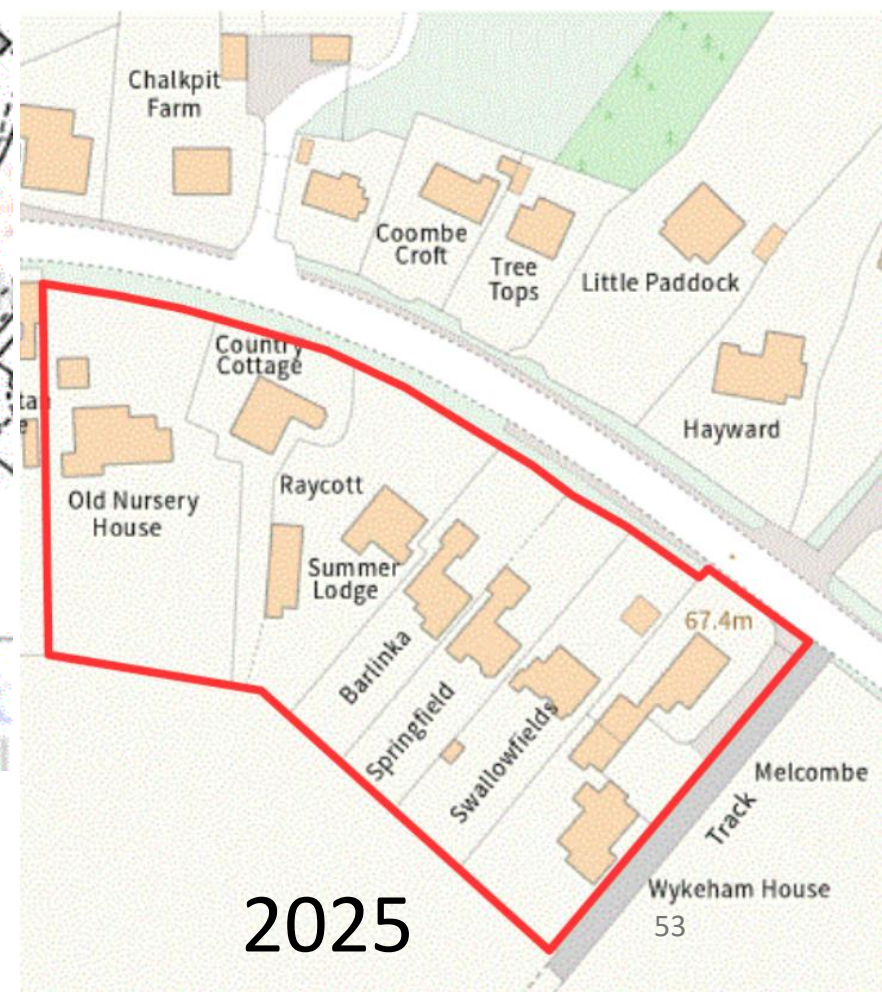
- On A27 opposite Pains Fireworks
- The house is now known as Country Cottage



1901..1925

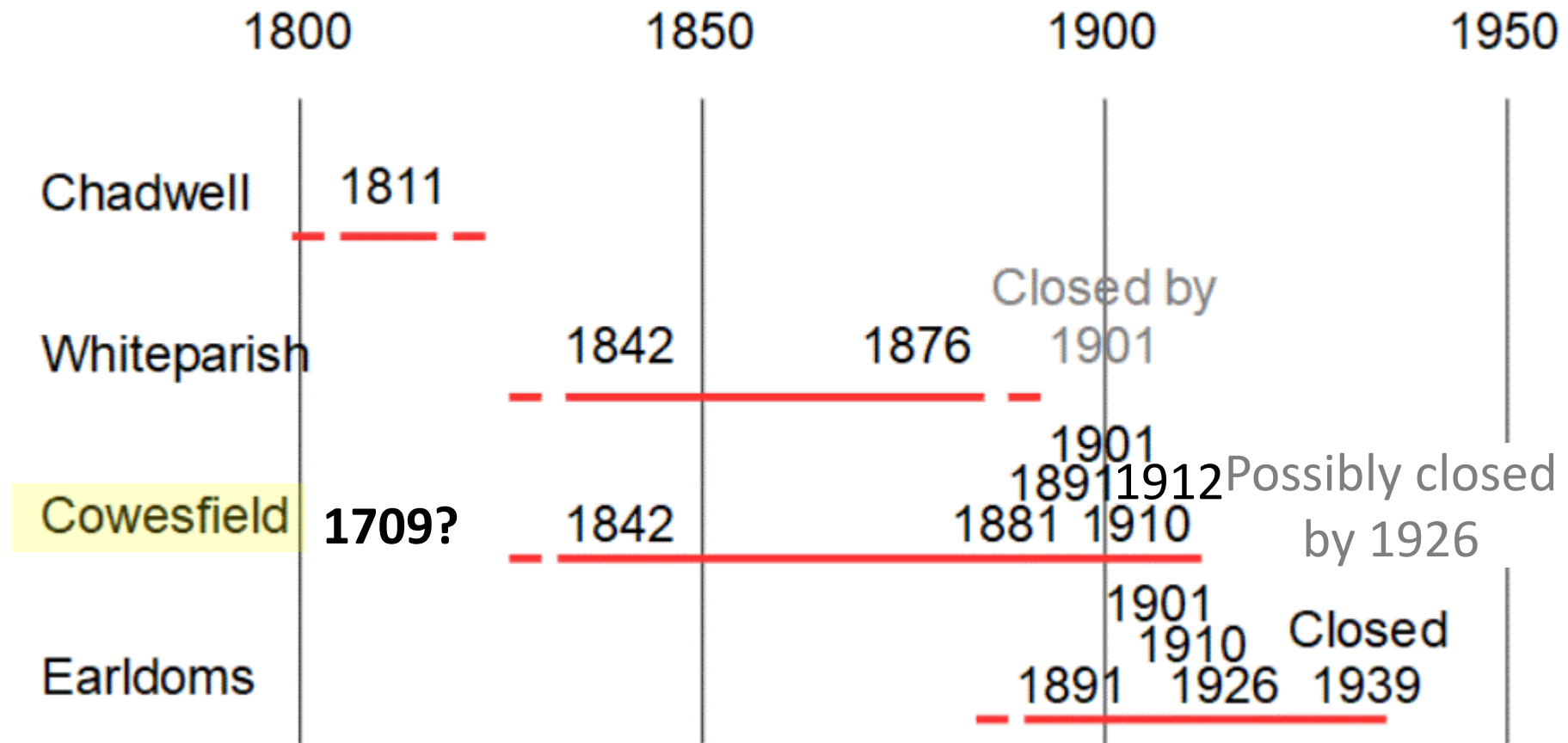


1966..1978



2025

Brickworks in Whiteparish

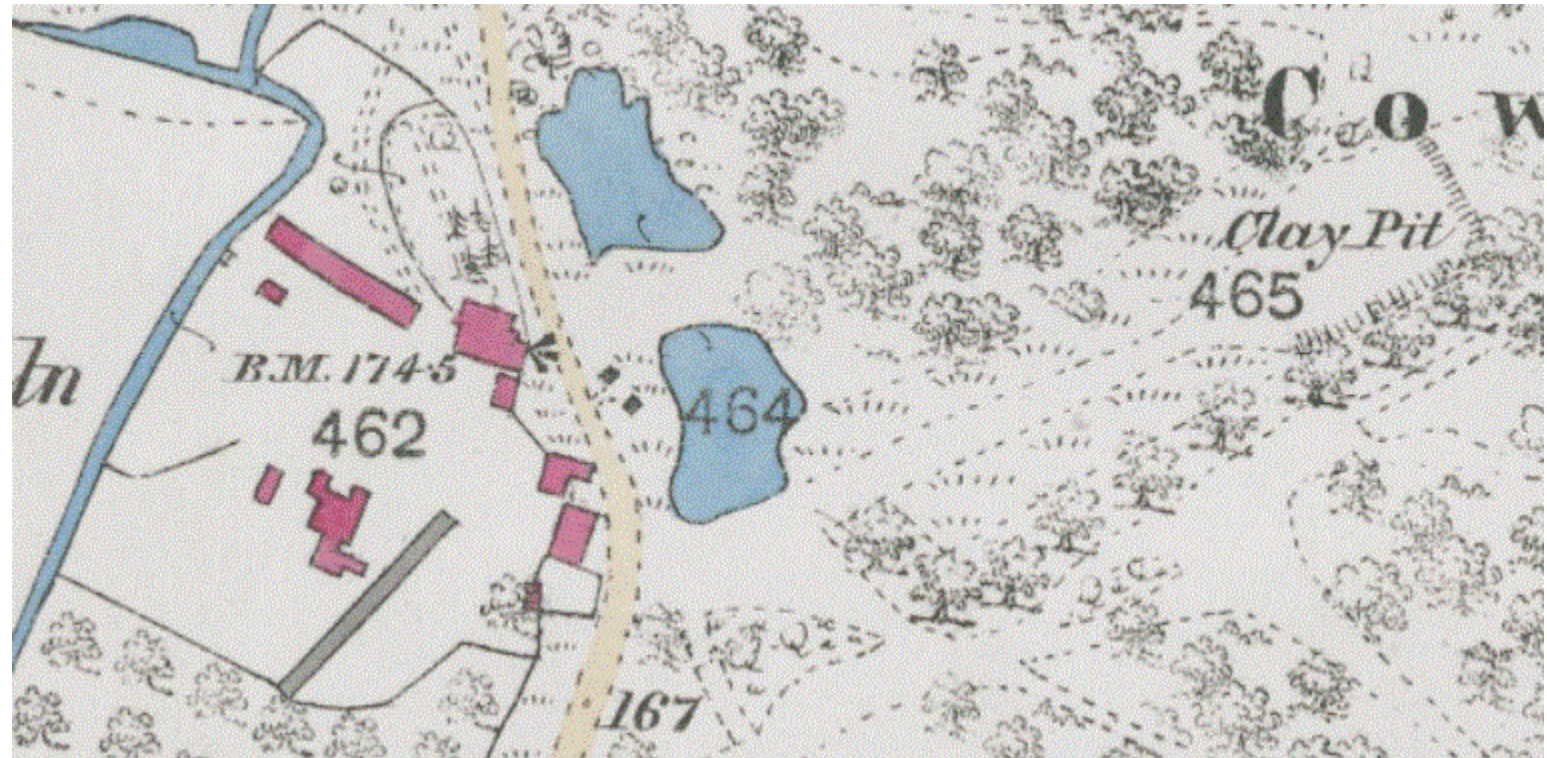
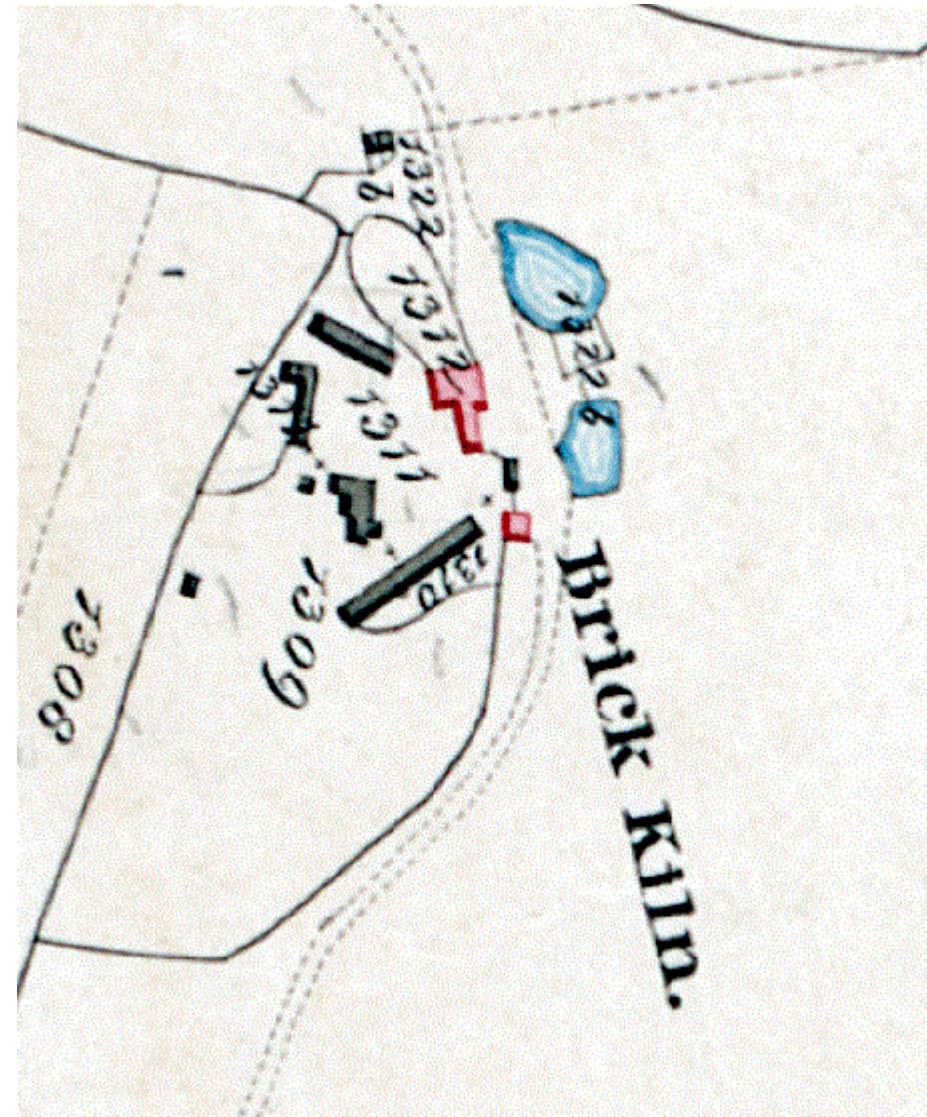


Cowesfield Brickworks

1842

- Now Yew Tree Farm and The Barns on Parkwater Road

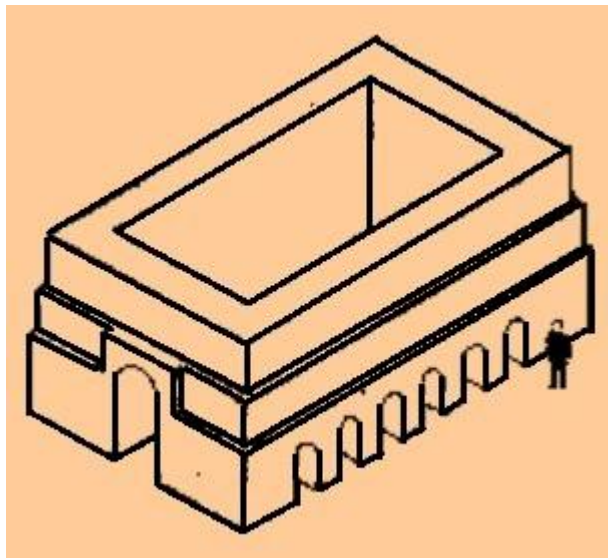
1876





1909

1926



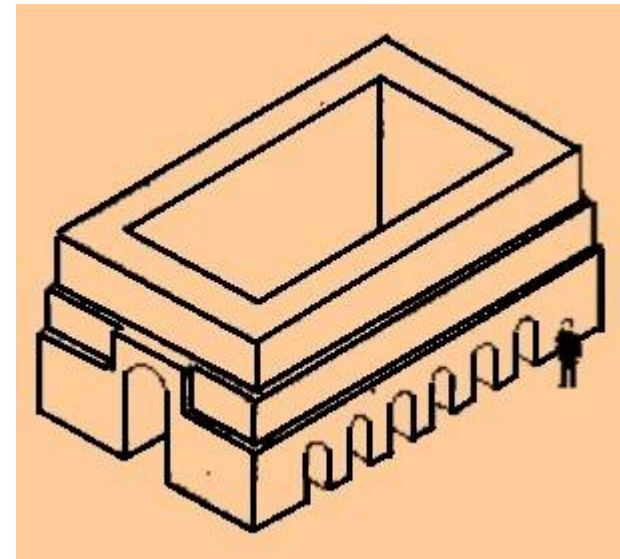
Scotch or updraught kiln



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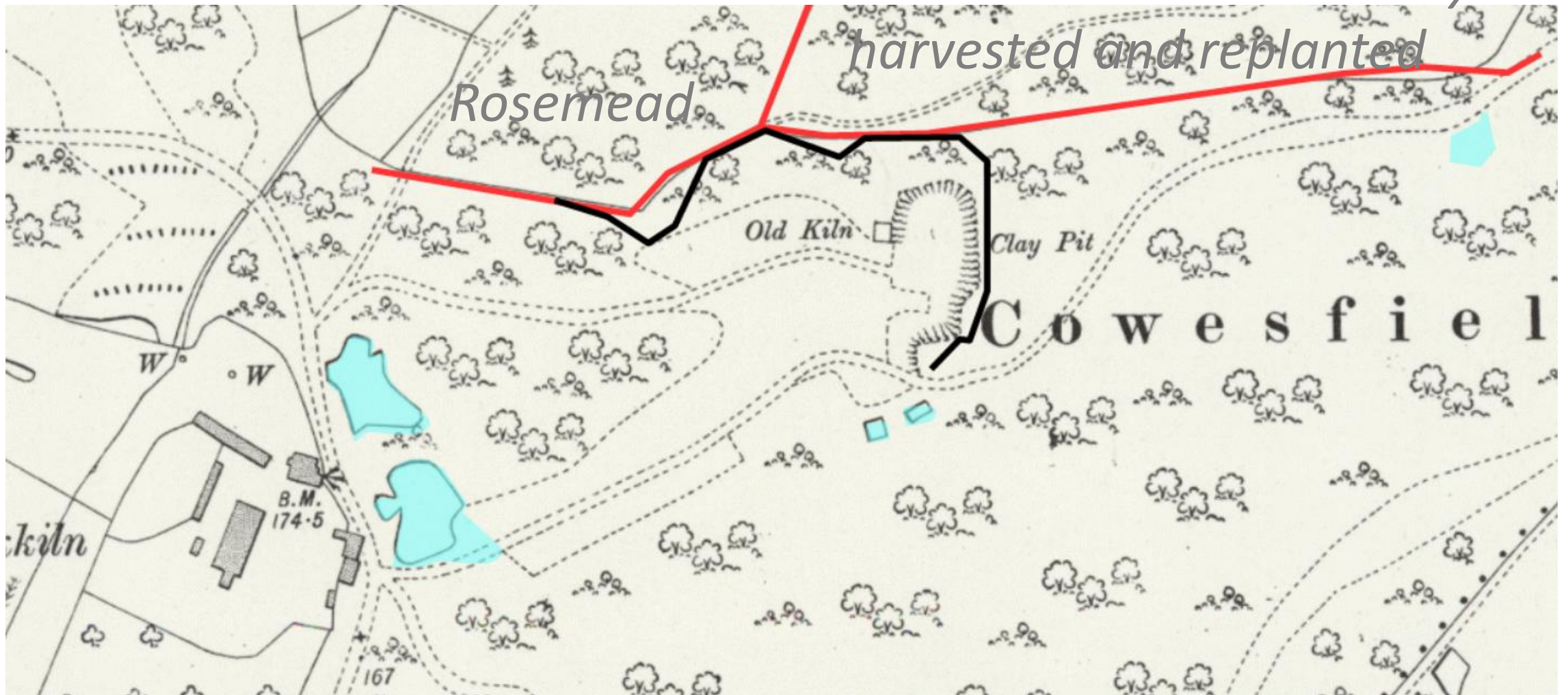
Scotch kiln

- Details for a similar kiln elsewhere in the country
- Built of red brick
- Rectangular in plan, 9m by 5.8m (30 feet by 20 feet)
- Wall thickness of 1m (3 feet), capped by stone flags
- Stands to a height of 3.7m (12 feet)
- The south end is entered by a round-arched doorway, known as a 'wicket'.
- The north end wall is also pierced by a wicket, raised to the first floor level to allow for stacking above head height.
- The E and W elevations are pierced at their bases by rows of seven fire-holes, lined with refractory brick containing coal ash from the last firing c.1940.



Modern banks and ponds over 1909 map

Great Plantation - recently harvested and replanted







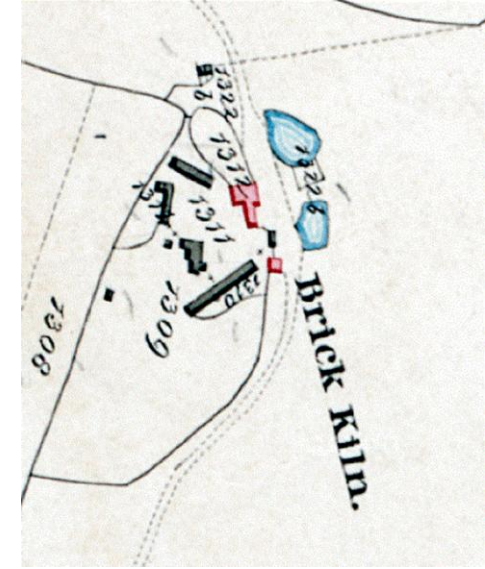
Great Plantation



Cowesfield Brickworks

- A serious and sizeable business, as were the other brickworks
- In a talk to the Whiteparish History Group on 16th September 2021 Jamie Wright added a few details about Cowesfield Brickworks to his talk on Fisherton and Bemerton Brickworks
- He mentioned large numbers of bricks and (roofing) tiles being manufactured in Cowesfield.
- The County Jail in Fisherton Street Salisbury (1822-1870) was roofed with tiles from Cowesfield Brickworks
- A will of that time showed stock of some 17,000 bricks and 15,000 tiles – enough bricks for a couple of 3 bedroom houses, tiles for four houses
- Perhaps 60,000 to 70,000 bricks per firing from a rough calculation

Cowesfield Brickworks in the 1840s

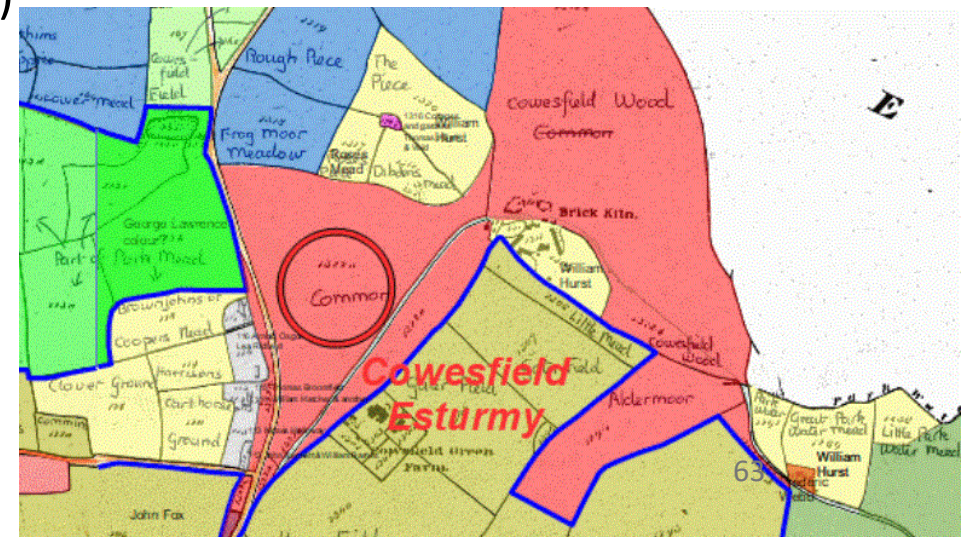


- 1842 William Hurst occupied the pale yellow land below and owned part of it
 - Used 22 acres, owned 4.3 acres, rented out a house and garden [Excel spreadsheet]
 - Rented from Lord Alexander Ashburton, Lady Fremantle and George Lawrence
 - Cowesfield Esturmy and Cowesfield Spilman
 - Lived in what is now Yew Tree Farm and The Barns
- 1841 Mary Hurst 45 Brick burner, HoH (as above, from Whiteparish 1841 census)
- 1851 Mary Hurst 57 Brickmaker
- 1861 Mary Hurst 68 Brickmaker 45 acres employing 3 men 4... [further text missing from the transcription used]
- 1841 James Hurst 20 (as above, from Whiteparish 1841 census)
- 1851 James Hurst 33 At home
- 1861 James Hurst 43 Brick burner

1841 census

HoH	Hurst, Mary	f	45	Brick Burner	Wiltshire
	Hurst, James	m	20		Wiltshire
	Hurst, Arnold	m	15		Wiltshire
	Hurst, Charles	m	13		Wiltshire
	Hurst, Sarah	f	10		Wiltshire
	Hurst, Charlotte	f	8		Wiltshire

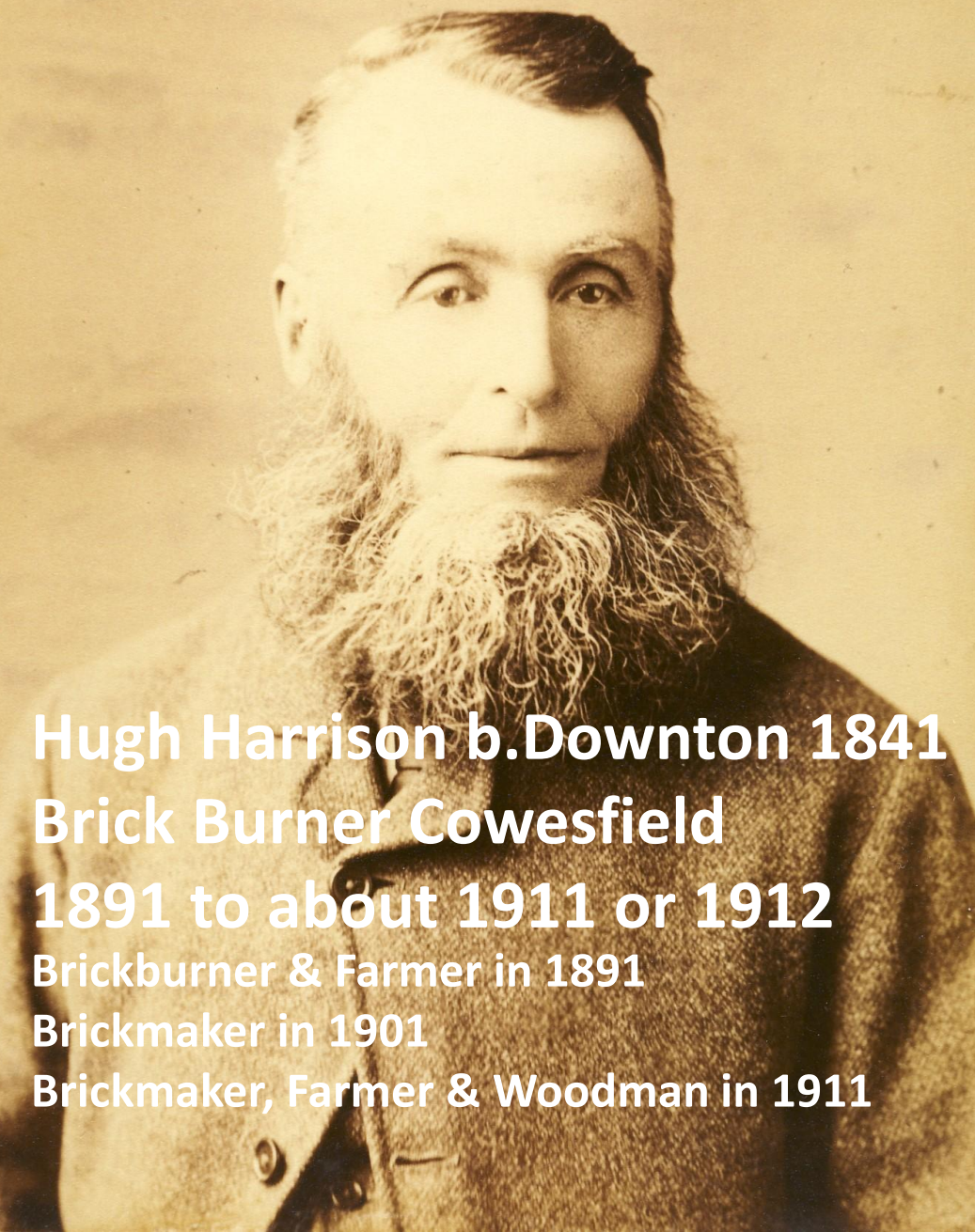
(c) Copyright February 2026



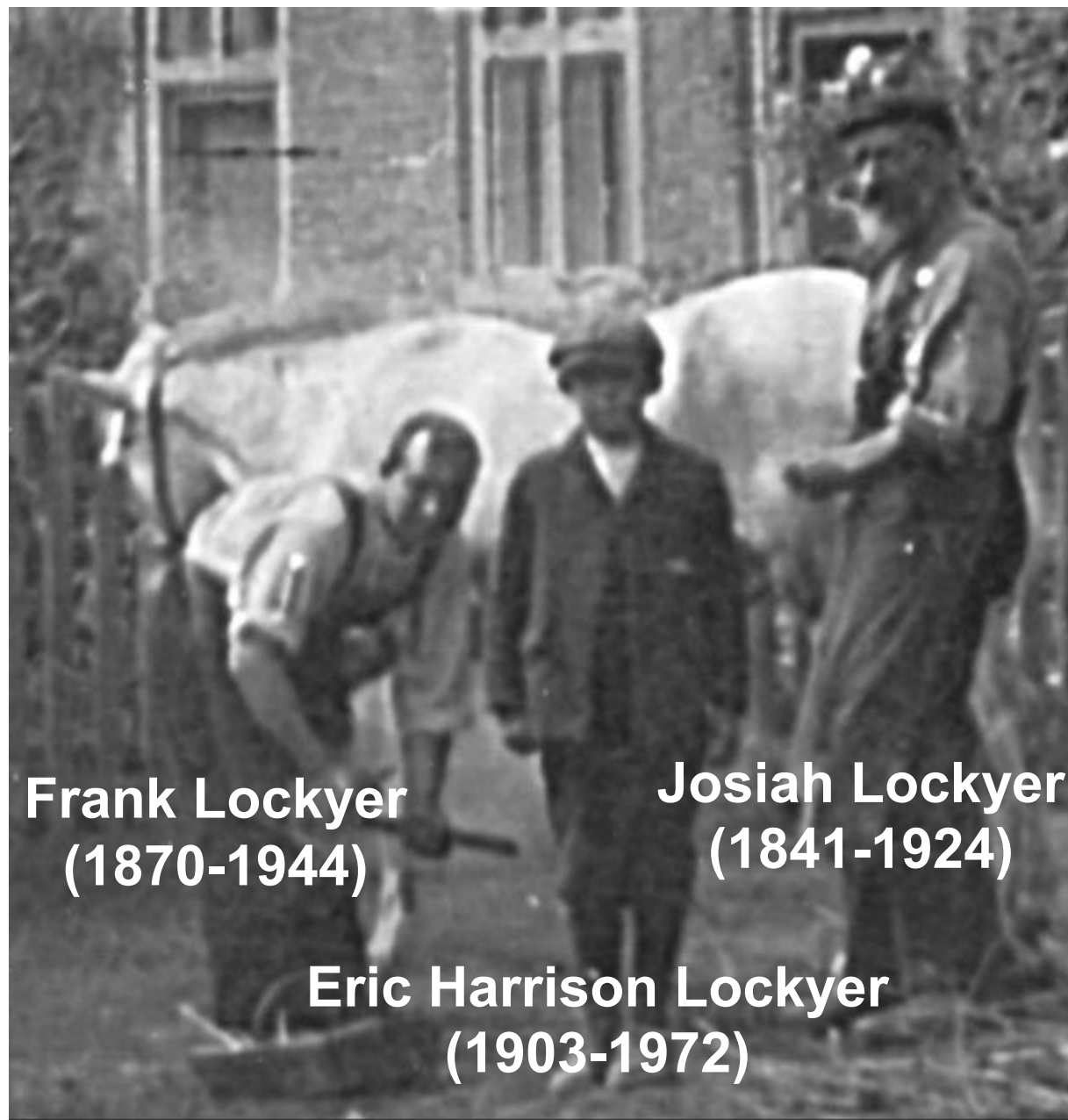
Gordon Lewis – last month's speaker on Imber



From Gordon Lewis



Hugh Harrison b. Downton 1841
Brick Burner Cowesfield
1891 to about 1911 or 1912
Brickburner & Farmer in 1891
Brickmaker in 1901
Brickmaker, Farmer & Woodman in 1911



Frank Lockyer
(1870-1944)

Josiah Lockyer
(1841-1924)

Eric Harrison Lockyer
(1903-1972)

Cowesfield Chapel

- Served Cowesfield Tithing
 - one of four tithings served by a church or chapel: Alderstone, Abbotstone, Whelpley
- The Chapel served all three Cowesfield manors
- We don't have any record of its dedication or location
- Chaplains were appointed in turn by the Lords of the three manors, but curiously not in obvious sequence, between 1306 and 1464
- Generally took the name of the latest appointee's manor, so...
 - Cowesfield Esturmy Chapel
 - Cowesfield Spilman Chapel
 - Cowesfield Louveras Chapel
- Rosalind Johnson working on the Victoria County History of the village, found another name for the chapel, again is the same building

Date	Description	Patroni (Patron)	Capellani (Chaplain)
1306	Capel. Coulesfield	Stephanus Loveraz	Ric'us de Couelesfeld
			Roberti de Askeby
	Decimae de Covelesfeld (tithes of)	Stephanus Loveraz	Rob'us de Compton, p.r. Roberti de Askeby
1314	Covelesfeld decimas dominicorum [Sunday tithes]	Stephanus de Loveraz	Will's de Hungerford
1335	Capell' de Covelesfeld Spileman	Gilb's & Joh'es de Torstwode	Walterus de Burton
1341	Loveraz in Coulesfeld porcio decimarum de feod. & dominio de Loveraz (portion of the tithes of the fee and domain of Loveraz)	Rogerus Norman de Southampton	Henricus de Lotegarshale
1344	Capel. Covelesfeld Spileman	Joh'es & Gilbertus de Testwode	Thomas Wedmour de Bristol
			Henrici de Lutegarshalle
1349	Covelesfeld Loveraz porcio decimarum (portion of the tithes)	Thomas Kerdyff firmarius manerii (lord of the manor)	Nich's de Wynton. p.r. Henrici de Lutegarshalle
	Capel' Coulesfeld Spileman	Joh'es & Gilbertus de Testwode	Johannes de Anstigh
			Benedicto Tynchewyk
1383	E. Couvelesfeld	Will's Esturmy	Johannes Pygot, permut' cum Benedicto Tynchewyk (exchange with)
1400	Capel' Coulesfeld Sturmy	Will's Esturmy miles (soldier)	Ric'us Marleburgh
			Johannis Pygot
1428	Loveraz in Coulesfeld, porcio decimarum (portion of the tithes)	Thomas Ryngwode arm'r, Dom's de Loveraz (lord of Louveras)	Will's Passenger, p.m. Johannis Pygot
1454	Capel' Cowlesfeld Loveraz,	Ep'us per laps'	Will's Forde
1464	Capel' Cowlesfeld Loveraz	Tho's Ryngwode armiger (squire)	Michael Cleve, p.m. Will'i Forde

Cowesfield Chapel was not mentioned when Whelpley and Abbotstone chapels were seized in 1546

Cowesfield Chapel – where was it?

- Sadly, we don't know
- There is associated land...
 - Chapel Copse
- Chapel Park is a later name associated with Broxmore Park, dating from 1812, long after the chapel vanished
- This is in Alderstone, not Cowesfield Louveras



Cowesfield House

- A late 16th farmhouse built on part of Cowesfield Spilman in the open fields on the smaller 'half' of the divided manor
- 1767 bought by Henry Dench and turned into modest country house with park and ornamental garden
- 1808 bought by George Wyndham, bankrupt in 1810
 - Bankrupt in July 1810 on the collapse of the Salisbury banking firm of Bowles, Ogden and Wyndham and the Shaftesbury firm of Bowles, Ogden, Wyndham and Barrow, following a run on the bank after the failure of the unrelated London bank of Brickwood and Co.
- 1815 bought by Sir Arthur Pagent and significantly enlarged (architect Tatham)
- 1818 bought by George Lawrence
- 1887 and 1907 William Frederic Lawrence listed as the owner
- New Manor Farm on Miles Lane (Forty Acre Lane) built between 1900 and 1924
- Requisitioned by the army in World War II
- Demolished 1949

Cowesfield House

THE SALISBURY AND WINCHESTER JOURNAL, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1949



Cowesfield House, Whiteparish, the 20-room mansion which was formerly the home of the late Mr. W. F. Lawrence, once Postmaster-General, and which is to be demolished. Unoccupied since the war, its boundaries are still skirted by rolls of barbed wire as a reminder of Allied military requisition. First stages of demolition will be on Wednesday when everything within the walls is to be dismantled. Six thousand square feet of flooring and 100 doors are among the listed items. When these have been removed demolition contractors will begin work on the mansion's skeleton.

The Salisbury and Winchester Journal

Friday, October 14, 1949

THE SALISBURY AND WINCHESTER JOURNAL, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1949

- Cowesfield House, Whiteparish, the 30-room mansion which was formerly the house of the late Mr. W. F. Lawrence, once Postmaster-General, and which is to be demolished.
- Unoccupied since the war, its boundaries are still skirted by rolls of barbed wire as a reminder of Allied military requisition.
- First stages of demolition will be on Wednesday when everything within the walls - and some outside - will be auctioned. Six thousand square feet of flooring and 100 doors are among the listed items.
- When these have been removed demolition contractors will begin work on the mansion's skeleton.

Cowesfield House



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1844

Engraving in Matcham's Hundred of Frustfield book

1940

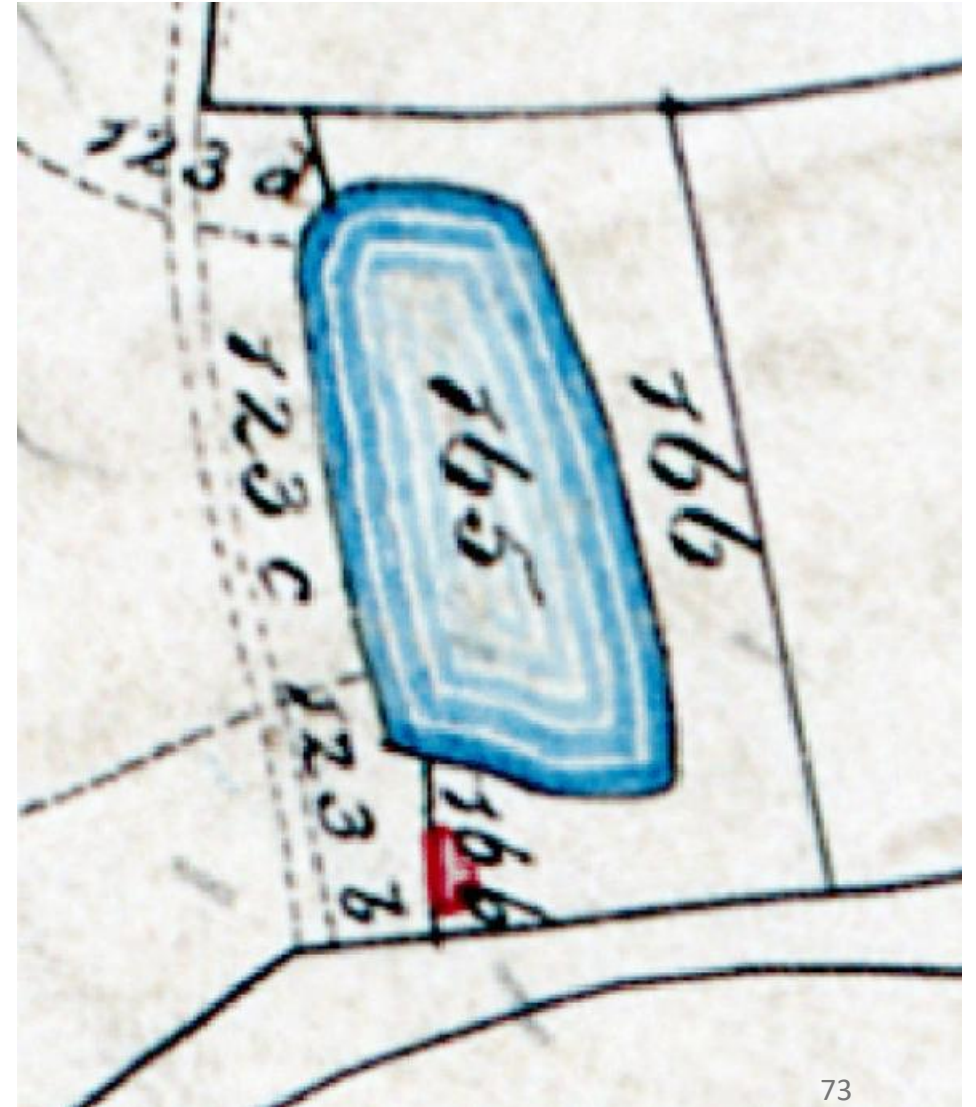
Newspaper photo

Cowesfield House Park

- Started from 1767 by Henry Dench
- Lodge on A27 at Cowesfield Lodge

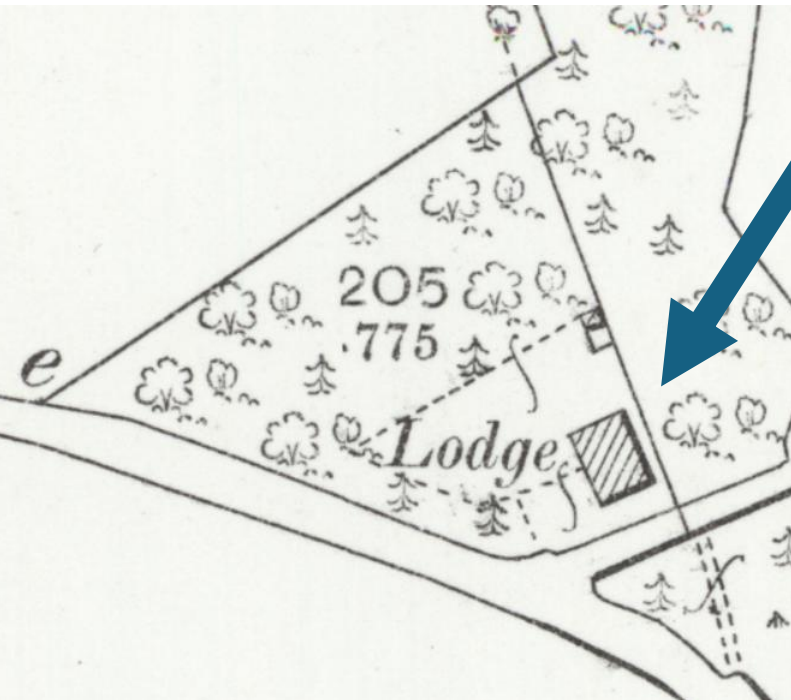


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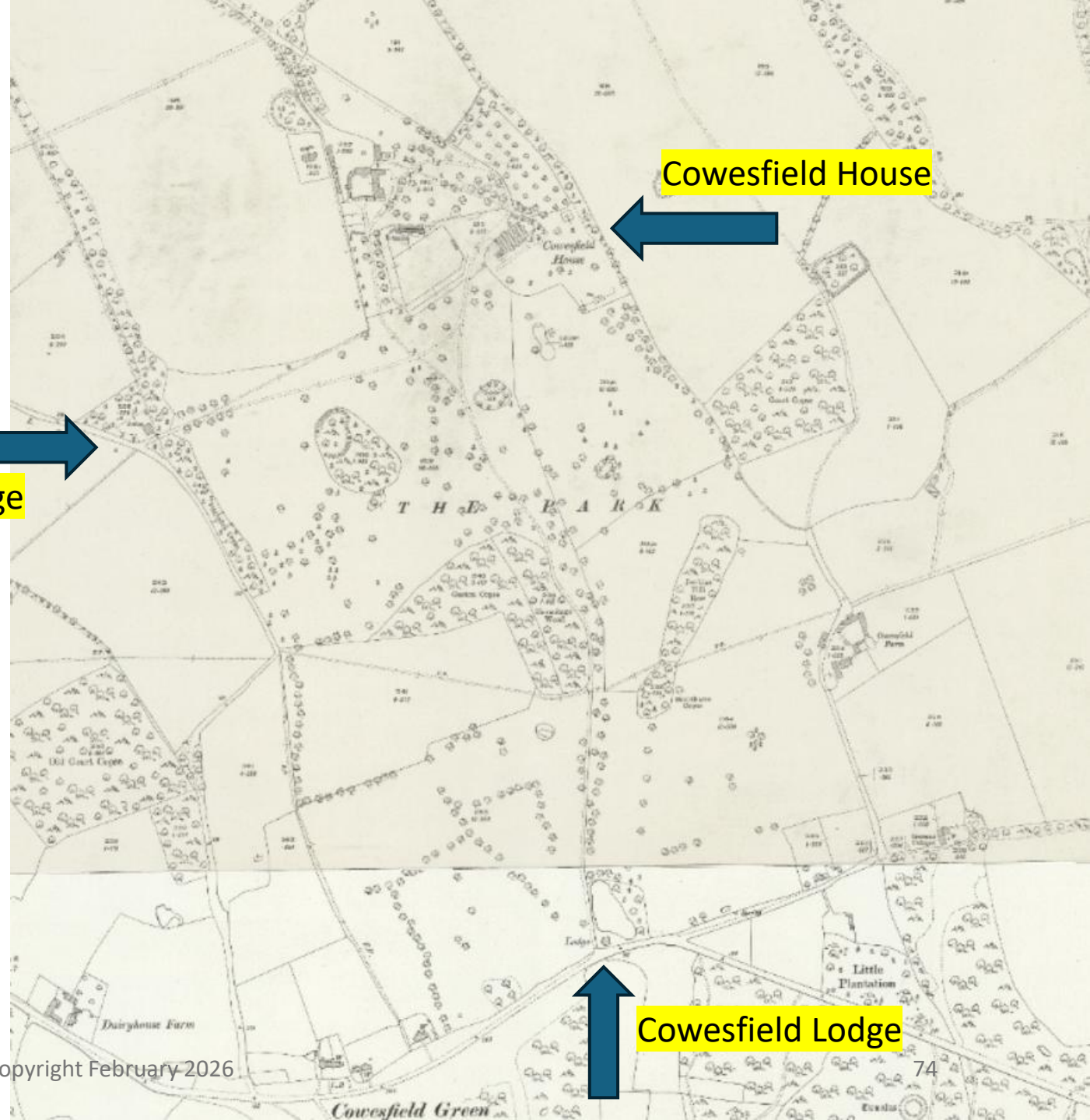


Dean Lodge on Miles Lane

- A later lodge on Miles Lane
 - Now much enlarged



Dean Lodge

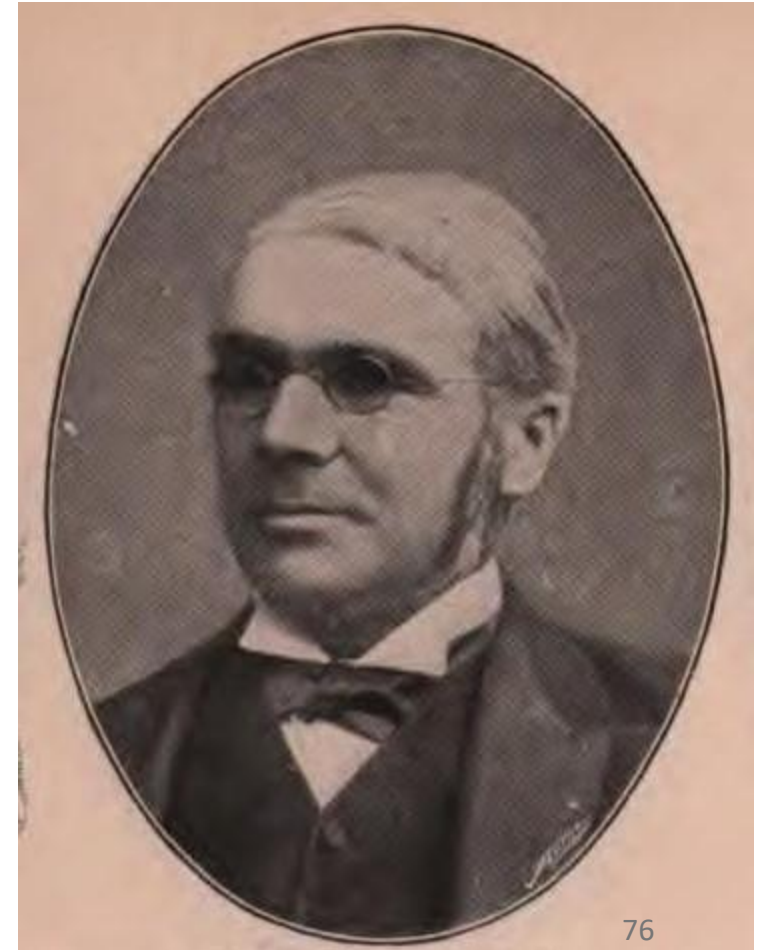


Cowsfield House


Cowsfield Lodge

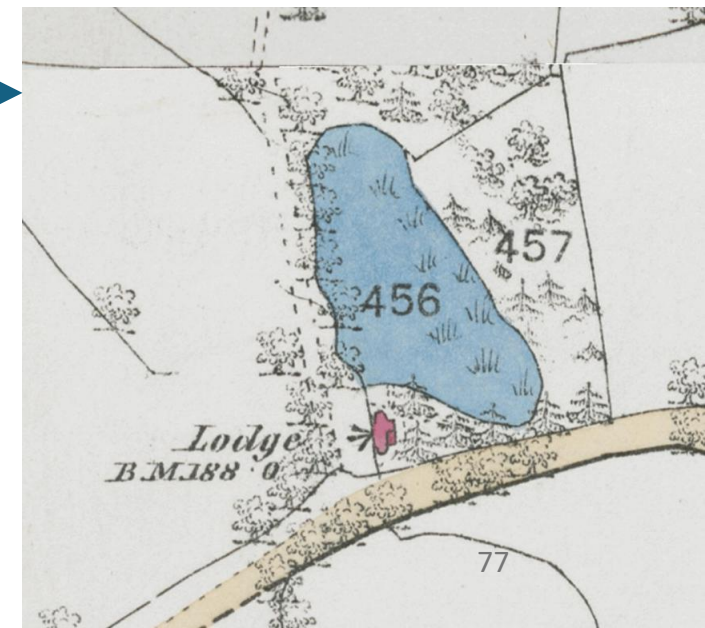
William Frederic Lawrence

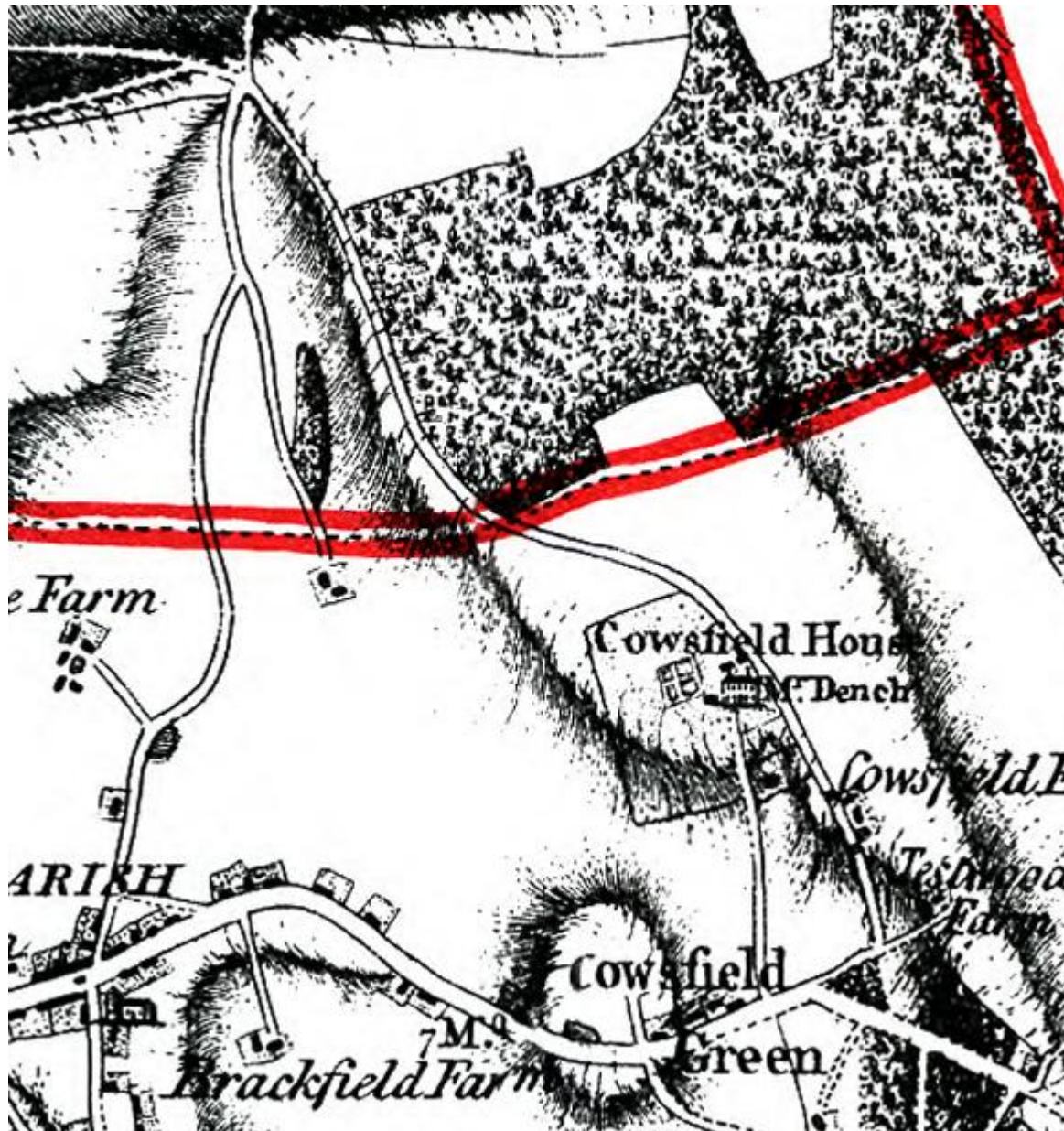
- 'Squire Lawrence'
- MP for Liverpool Abercromby 1885 to 1906
- J.P. for Wiltshire
- Died 1935
- Reputedly once Postmaster-General but I can find no record of this



Miles Lane

- The old road to West Dean went close to Cowesfield House
- A new road was constructed round the Cowesfield House park
- George Lawrence bought 1818, d.1861, Sarah Brisset Lawrence d.1868
- Miles Lane not there in 1773, there by 1806, Pagets sold in 1818, therefore probably Henry Dench diverted the lane
- Cowesfield Lodge is on the 1842 Tithe Map 
- Dean Lodge not on 1876 map, is on 1900 map
- New Manor small building already there in 1842
- New Manor farm and barn there in 1924, not in 1900





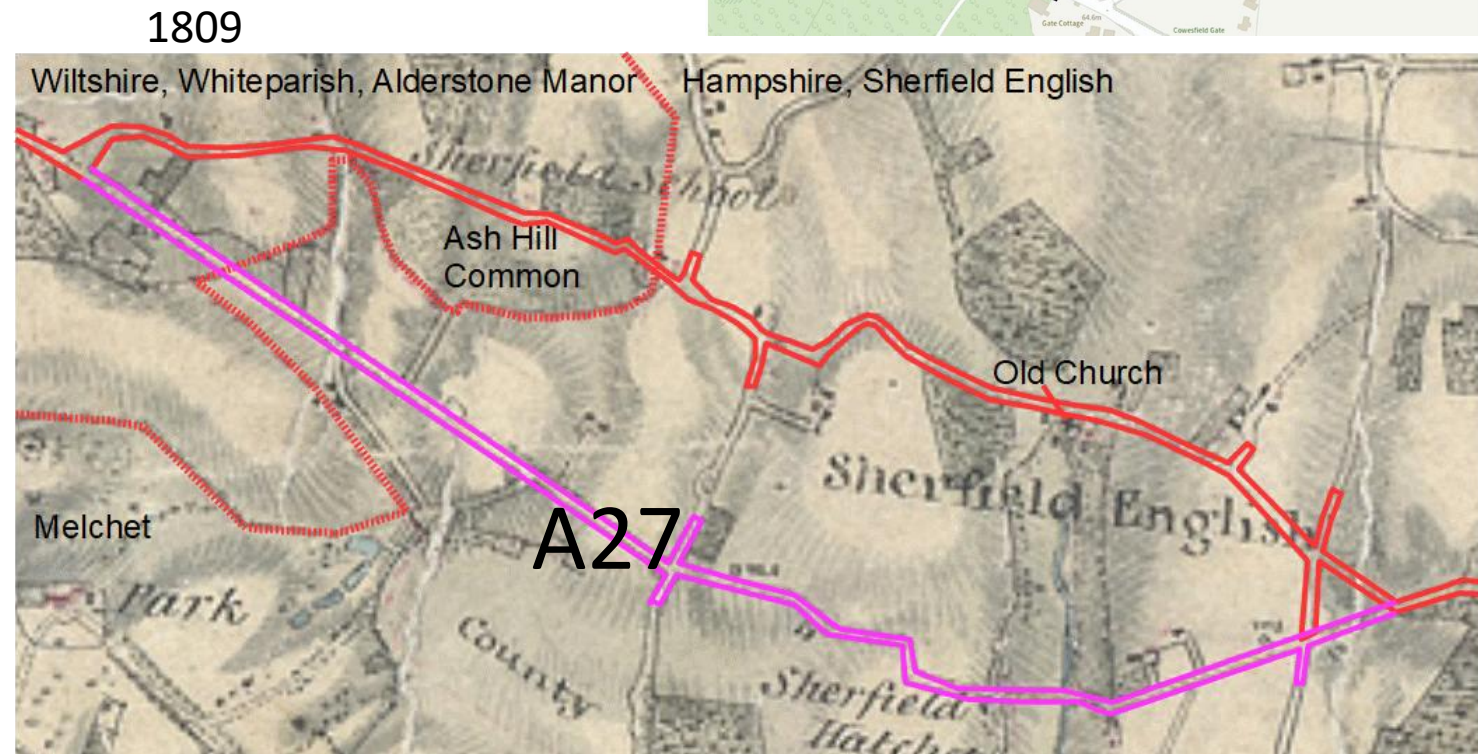
1773 Andrews and Drury map



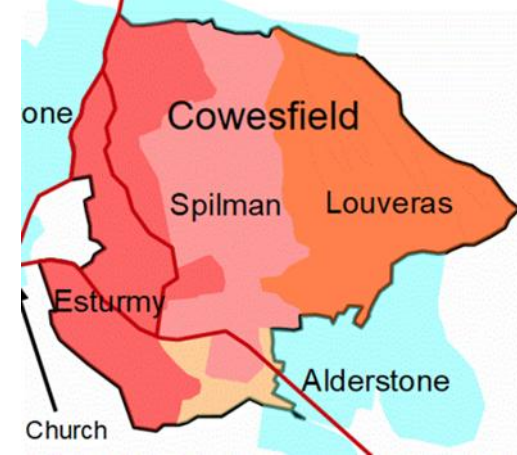
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Roads before the 1756 turnpike

- Main road to Sherfield English passed Ash Hill House and the old Sherfield Church, now just a churchyard on Church Lane
- The Salisbury-Romsey-Southampton turnpike is now the A27



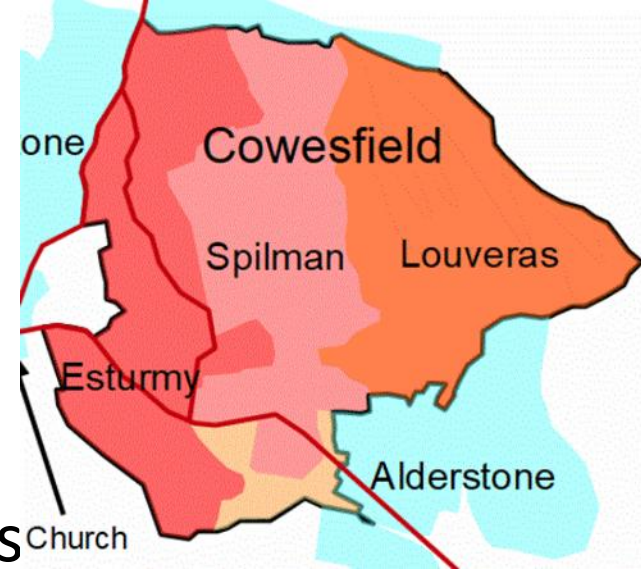
Joint holdings of manors



- Joint holdings contribute to the complexity of the later history
- As small manors, often held only as part of an individual's holding of manors, scattered across the country in many cases
 - Many combinations with combinations of Plaitford, Abbestone, Alwardbury, More, half the Manor of East Grimstead and West Grimstead, Southampton, Fittleworth and lots more
- Combinations of Cowesfield manors or parts of them confuse the story:
- **Esturmy + Spilman**. In the reign of Richard II (1377-1399) the Seymours of *Covesfield Esturmy* gained Cowesfield Spilman by the marriage of Maud, second daughter of Sir William Esturmy to Roger Seymour, and the family still retained their property in the neighbourhood in 43rd Elizabeth 1600/1601, but it was then divided again
- **Esturmy + Louveras**. By 1426 parts of Cowesfield Esturmy and Louveras were held together. Around 1760 they were brought back together when Sir John Elwell bought each in turn
- **Alderstone + Louveras** Louveras bought by Edward St Barbe of Alderstone in 1642, sold in 1760 to Sir John Elwell
- Broxmore House in **Alderstone** was built in 1812 by Robert Bristow, who then rented most of Cowesfield **Louveras** to form part of his estate. As above, his family had previously owned this.

Cowesfield Esturmy and Louveras Sale of 1940

- Auction in 1940
- Manors of Cowesfield Esturmy and Cowesfield Louveras
 - 21 lots
- Second auction in 1941 of lots that didn't sell
 - 11 lots
- Titles to the two manors have since changed hands for a nominal £5 each
 - 1979: incorporeal hereditaments, changed hands for nominal considerations of £5 in 1947, 1948 and 1964 – and probably also since 1979



Sale of the Broxmore Estate, 25th Nov. 1947

- Broxmore House, Romsey Road, Whiteparish (demolished 2 years later)
- Ash Hill House, Romsey Road, Whiteparish
- Morrisholt Farm, Whiteparish
- Ash Hill Cottage, Whiteparish
- Broxmore Farm, Romsey Road, Whiteparish
- West Entrance Lodge, Romsey Road, Whiteparish
 - There were two lodges by the A27, now Westlyn and East Lodge
 - The entrance drive from them crossed Bunny Lane to get to the house

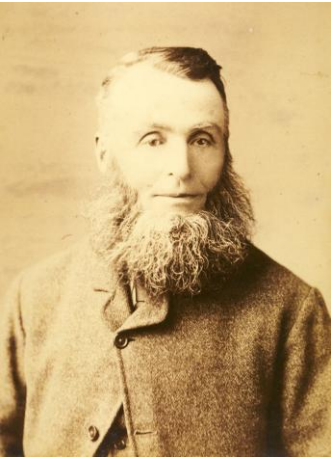
Fire at Cowesfield House Stables

- Back to the heyday of Cowesfield House
- Edward VII's coronation celebrations in Whiteparish
- Thursday afternoon, June 26th 1902
 - The King suffered from appendicitis three days earlier
 - Coronation was delayed until 9th August
 - The King asked for local celebrations to go ahead as planned

A fire broke out on Thursday afternoon at the stables belonging to Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., of Cowesfield House, and owing to the scarcity of water the buildings were completely burnt out, the damage being estimated at over 1000l. Cowesfield House is situated on the southern slope

A fire broke out on Thursday afternoon at the stables belonging to Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., of Cowesfield House, and owing to the scarcity of water the buildings were completely burnt out, the damage being estimated at over 1000l. Cowesfield House is situated on the southern slope of Deane Hill, about a mile and a half from the village of Whiteparish, and commands an extensive view of the surrounding country. The stables, which were a comparatively new structure, were fortunately built at some little distance from the house, and consequently Mr. Lawrence's country seat was at no time in any danger of becoming involved in the fire. Mr. Lawrence was in London, and the servants and the whole of the employes on the estate had gone to the village to take part in the festivities which had been arranged in honour of the King's coronation. However, John Bailey, one of the keepers, returned to Cowesfield, shortly before five o'clock, in order to feed the pheasants. On arrival he found that the stables, a building about 100 feet by 30 feet, were on fire. The flames were just breaking through the roof, and the fire had apparently got a good hold of the premises. There were three valuable carriage horses in the stables, and, picking up a large coal hammer, Bailey rushed round to the front door. He found the door locked, and he at once smashed it open. The place was full of smoke, but the fire, which evidently originated in the loft above, had not penetrated to that portion of the premises where the horses were kept. Two of the animals were got out without any difficulty, but the third, a young horse, was very frightened, and Bailey only persuaded it to leave the building with considerable difficulty. Meanwhile the fire had been noticed by Mr. Hugh Harrison, a brick-maker, of Cowesfield, who, with four men, was at work in a field close by. Mr. Harrison, with Fred Bell, Henry Light, and Frank Lockyer, got the carriages and dog cart out of the stables as quickly as possible, and Charles Light went on a horse to Whiteparish to telegraph for the Salisbury Fire Brigade. At each end of the stables were rooms occupied by the gardeners and coachman respectively, the carriages standing underneath. The centre block was occupied by the horses, and above was a clock tower and a long loft filled with hay and straw. At the rear of the stables and adjoining them were a number of farm buildings and a large barn. A message was sent to Melchet Park, Lady Louisa Ashburton's seat, for a small manual which was kept on that estate. As soon as it became known in Whiteparish that a fire had occurred at Mr. Lawrence's stables, there was a general stoppage from the field in which the coronation festivities were taking place. Almost all the men made their way to Cowesfield, and for some hours the festivities fell very flat, the members of the band which had been engaged for the occasion, relinquishing their duties for the more stirring excitement of the fire. In about a quarter of an hour nearly a hundred men had reached Cowesfield. The stables were by this time a perfect furnace, and as it seemed hopeless to try and save them an attempt, which proved successful, was made to cut the fire off from the adjacent farm buildings and barn. Drinking troughs, supplied with water from a well at Cowesfield House by means of an oil engine, stands only a few dozen yards from the stables. Buckets of water were passed along a line of men from the trough to the burning building, and with the assistance of a ladder the fire was prevented from spreading beyond the stables. Lady Ashburton's engine was not long in arriving, and a hose was then placed in the water tank and pumped on to the burning building and the portion of the barn nearest the stables. The pressure was necessarily very low, but a steady stream of water was poured on the flames. The fire spread with great rapidity along the roof of the premises, and the whole building was soon ablaze. The stables were built of red brick, and the roof was covered with tiles, which cracked with loud reports and shot in all directions as the water touched them. It was evident that nothing could save the stables from destruction, but notwithstanding this about a hundred men worked zealously for several hours with the manual from Melchet Park. It was a strange sight that presented itself to the spectator. The majority of the men had rushed from the festivities at Whiteparish in the garb, which in villages usually does duty for Sundays and holidays, whilst others were attired in white flannel trousers and cricket shirts. Here and there was a labourer or cartier in corduroys and shirt sleeves, but all alike, whatever their station in life and however faultless their attire were ready to lend a hand to subdue, if possible, the flames, which threatened to destroy the whole of the burning premises. By half-past six the upper part of the stables had become nothing more or less than a fierce furnace. The flames were dancing round the clock tower, leaping higher and higher every minute. The clock stopped at 6.30 p.m., and a few minutes afterwards the tower fell with a tremendous crash. The roof shared the same fate directly afterwards, and the falling of the timber and tiles amongst the straw and hay was followed by a coruscation of sparks of extraordinary brilliancy. The Salisbury Volunteer Fire Brigade received the call about six o'clock, but great difficulty was experienced in obtaining horses, owing to the fact that it was on Bank Holiday. It was 25 minutes to seven before Captain Fawcett and eight or nine men left the Fire Station in Salt-lane on the steamer. They arrived at Cowesfield about eight o'clock, but their services were of little avail owing to the scarcity of water. No attempt was made to pump water from the drinking trough, and our representative was informed that the engine, which is capable of pumping 600 gallons per minute, would have emptied the well in a very short space of time. The only course open was to allow the fire to burn out, and, if possible, prevent the flames from reaching the barn. Under the direction of Captain Fawcett this was effected, and Mr. Lawrence's stables burned until only the brick walls remained. The greater part of the furniture belonging to the coachman and the gardeners was removed before the flames reached their quarters. How the fire originated is not known.

Hugh Harrison and Frank Lockyer...



leave the building with considerable difficulty. Meanwhile the fire had been noticed by **Mr. Hugh Harrison**, a brick-maker, of Cowesfield, who, with four men, was at work in a field close by. Mr. Harrison, with Fred Bell, Henry Light, and **Frank Lockyer**, got the carriages and dog cart out of the stables as quickly as possible, and Charles Light went on a horse to Whiteparish to telegraph for the Salisbury Fire Brigade. At each end of the stables were rooms occu-

Link to tonight's slides and my Whiteparish website

- Tonight's slides

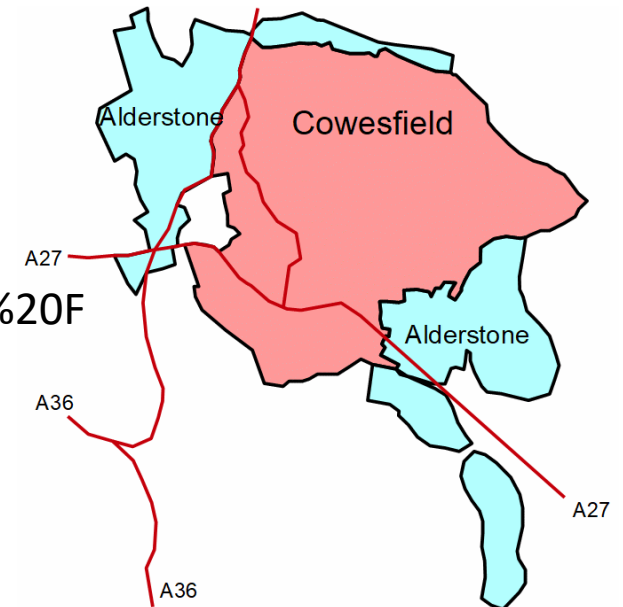


<http://www.younsmere-frustfield.org.uk/Whiteparish/Cowesfield%20Talk%2019th%20Feb%202026%20for%20website.pdf>

- My Whiteparish website
 - See next slide for instructions

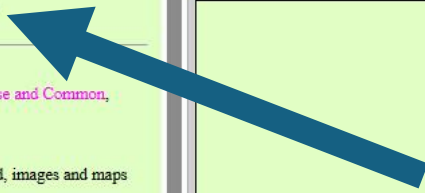


http://www.younsmere-frustfield.org.uk/Whiteparish/Whiteparish_local_history.html



[Return to website top level](#)

[Index to all pages](#)



Whiteparish Local History

Whiteparish local history

Welcome to Whiteparish

Use this link for the alphabetic index

A [Whiteparish local history](#) page from [younsmere-frustfield.org.uk](#)

The parish of Whiteparish lies in the southeastern corner of Wiltshire midway between Salisbury and Romsey and the parish boundary forms the county boundary with Hampshire on the east side. The village is a ribbon development along the four roads that meet by the church, further houses being distributed in the central area.



The centre of Whiteparish from the church gate (April 2020)

This web site explores the story of the old Hundred of Frustfield, which included the modern parishes of Whiteparish and Landford and a large section of the New Forest now in Redlynch parish. Discover within these pages an account of the history, geography and geology of this forest edge village, sandwiched between the royal forests of Melchet, Clarendon and the New Forest, and whose woodland was for a time within Melchet Forest.

January 2026 Revising and enhancing [Ash Hill House and Common, Commons](#)

October 2025 [New Forest Fungi](#)

September 2025 [Churchyard Natural History](#)

August 2025 [Whiteparish brickworks](#) partly uploaded, images and maps not yet complete, working on [Welsteads](#)

July 2025 [The Street house analysis](#), updating [Whiteparish Brickworks](#) on Common Road between the modern surgery and telephone exchange

June 2025 [Alderstone Green](#) the "village" green for Alderstone Manor at the heart of Whiteparish, updating [Post Office and Village Stores](#) (changes not yet uploaded)

May 2025 Updated [Whiteparish Garage](#) , [Whiteparish Grange \(Common Farm\)](#), [Whelpley Farm](#) and [Tithe map](#)

April 2025 writing up notes on [Sussex churches](#). Also started pages on [Hampshire churches](#) and [Wiltshire churches](#)

March 2025 [VCH notes](#)

February 2025 [Covesfield sale 1940](#) breaking up the Covesfield estate of the manors of Covesfield Esturmy and Covesfield Louveras, [Hearth Tax 1662](#), significant updates to [Vicars and Rectors](#)

January 2025 [Poundside Cottage](#) uploaded, [The Pound](#), [Jewsons](#) and [Barter's Farm](#) updated. Updates to [Covesfield Brickworks](#) and [Covesfield Nursery](#)

November 2024 [Origin of the name Whiteparish](#)

September 2024 Working on [Covesfield Green Farm/Covesfield Manor](#), adding a set of 14 [photographs](#) from the web, updating [Romsey Road](#)

August 2024 [Alderstone Farm](#) now uploaded and working on [the Nunn family of 1842](#), updating [Brickworth Road](#) and the [House name index](#) with further properties covered on that page. Also working on [Manors](#) and the pages for each of the eight manors, updating [Manors and Commons](#), [Manors - introduction](#).

July 2024 Much of my time has been taken up recently preparing a talk on the memorials inside All Saints Church in Whiteparish, presented on 14th July 2024 in the church. All the material presented is now available here: [Church memorials talk](#).

May 2024: working on [Abbotstone/Titchborne manor](#).

April 2024 [Meadow Court Geology](#), [Covesfield Chapel](#), also referred to as [Covesfield Louveras Chapel](#), [Covesfield Spilman Chapel](#) and [Covesfield Esturmy Chapel](#), plus an introductory page to [Alderstone Manor](#) and its church, now Whiteparish church. Lords of the manor from 1725 to 1947 were the [Bristow](#) family

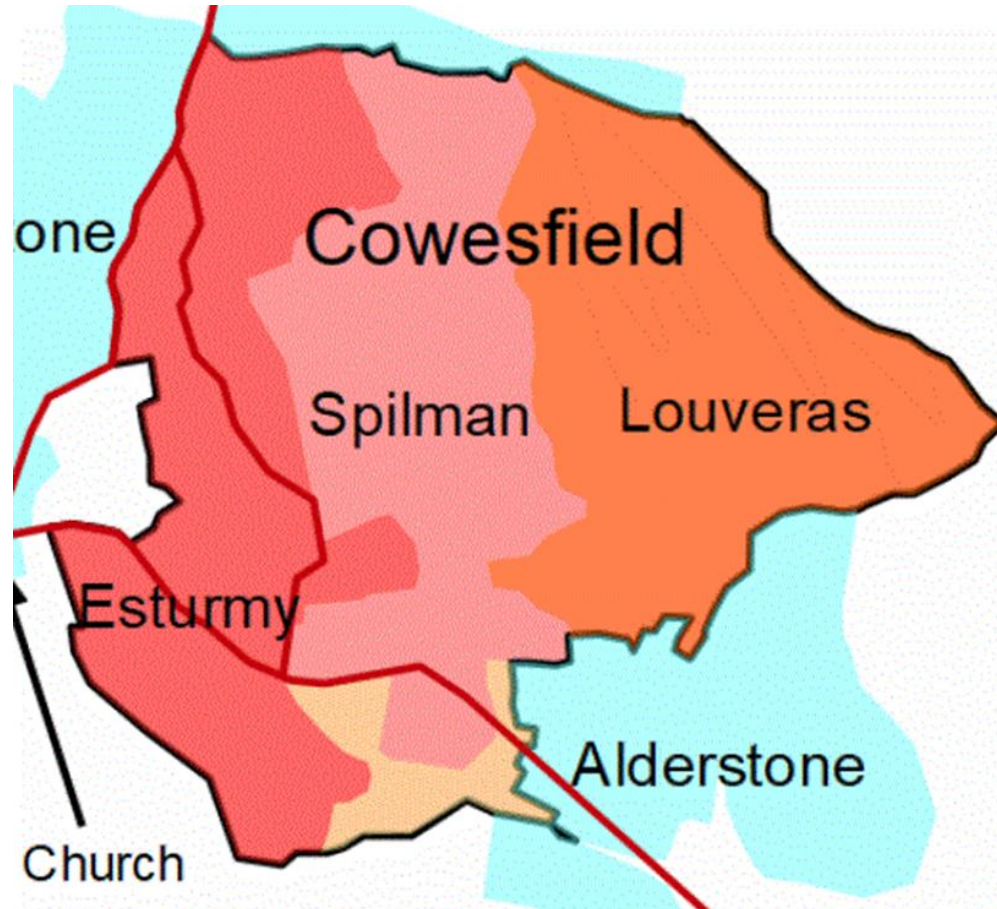
Pages covering Romsey topics are now in a new website area here: [Romsey](#)

Blue links in this contents list are publicly available but purple ones are restricted to the author only

A brief history of Whiteparish and Covesfield

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The end – thank you for listening



A manslaughter trial in Cowesfield Spilman – or Esturmy?

- Snead – the handle of a scythe
- Certificate concerning Mr Cates, June ye 16th 1696 WILTES. - We, whose names are und'rwritten, being Jurors sum'oned and sworn to enquire how James Wells, late of White Parish, in the said County, came by his death, do, by good evidence, find that the said James Wells, being cut by his Master Cates, for not sending, and denying to send him the key of his Garden door, he, the said James Wells, having the Snead in his hand of a Scithe, gave his said Master two hard thrusts in the Stomach with the end of his Snead, and one hard thrust in the bottom of his Belly, and the said Master, catching hold of the said Snead, thrust his Rapier through the body of the said James Wells, which was the only cause of his death, and we do, therefore, find the said Mr. Cates, his Master, to be guilty of Manslaughter, and no more. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands the day and year above written.