

THE HISTORY OF HANKERTON

A Presentation by
Susan Mockler and Anne
Goodyer
November 2022

WHY IS HANKERTON THERE?

Introduction - the name of the village

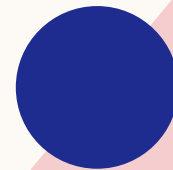
Where is it?

Evidence of habitation – archaeology and
finds

Buildings

Population

Why is it still a small village?



HOW FAR BACK CAN WE TRACE ITS NAME?

680 and 901 – appears as Hanekyntone in Saxon Charters

1065- Hanekynton in Codex Deformations – Saxonici

1222 – Hanekinton – Charter from the Salisbury Register

1249 - Haneketon

1290 – Hanekenton – Edward III de Hanekyngtone – Exchequer Inquisitio

1367 – Hankynton – Close Rolls

1399 - Hankyngton

1428 – Hanketon – Feudal Aida Assessments

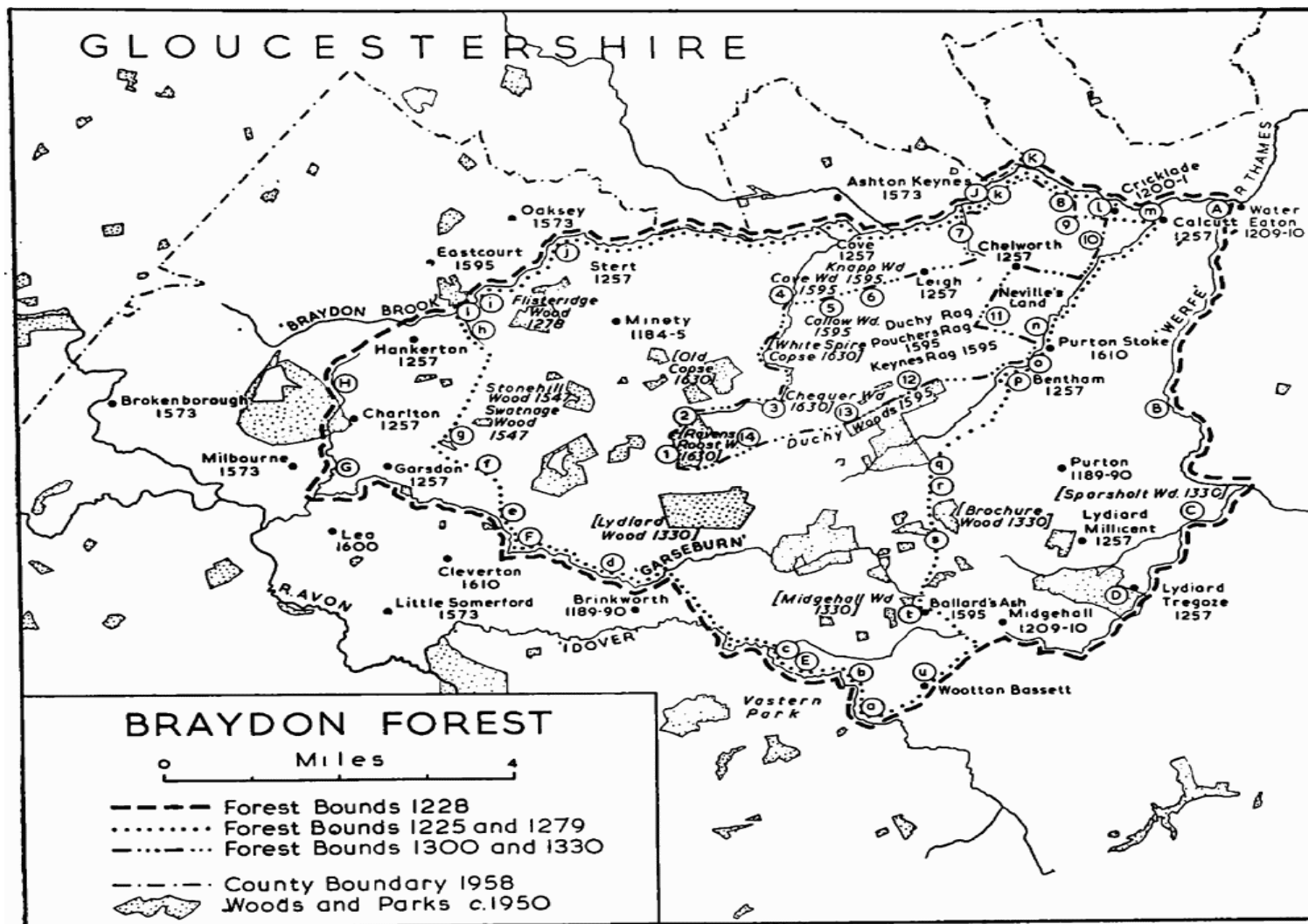
1491 – Hankerton – Inquisition Post Mortem

And we think probably.....from the Anglo-Saxon period when **Haneca** (a person) had a **ton** (farm) in this area. A Saxon Charter refers to *hanan welle*, probably the headwater of the Swillbrook which marks the Parish boundary to the north. (Wiltshire place names by Richard Tomkins.)

PLACING HANKERTON

Maps :
Braydon Forest
Parish map
Wiltshire
Aerial photographs
taken in 2005

Hankerton History – Braydon Forest



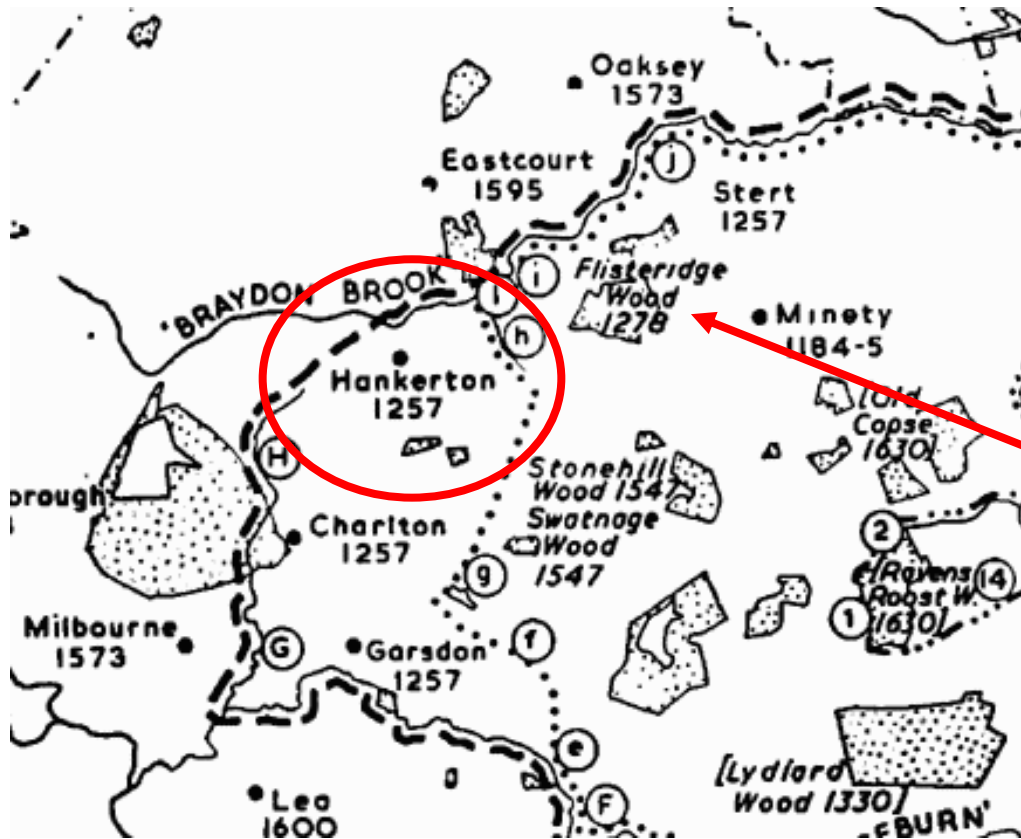
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/wilts/vol4/>

Established after the Norman Conquest

At its height in the 13th century, the forest of Braydon covered around 50 square miles

It was primarily used as a hunting forest for Royalty being a rich source of red and fallow deer. Allegedly Henry VIII dined at Tower House, Malmesbury after hunting in Braydon Forest.

Hankerton History – Braydon Forest 2



<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/wilts/vol4/>

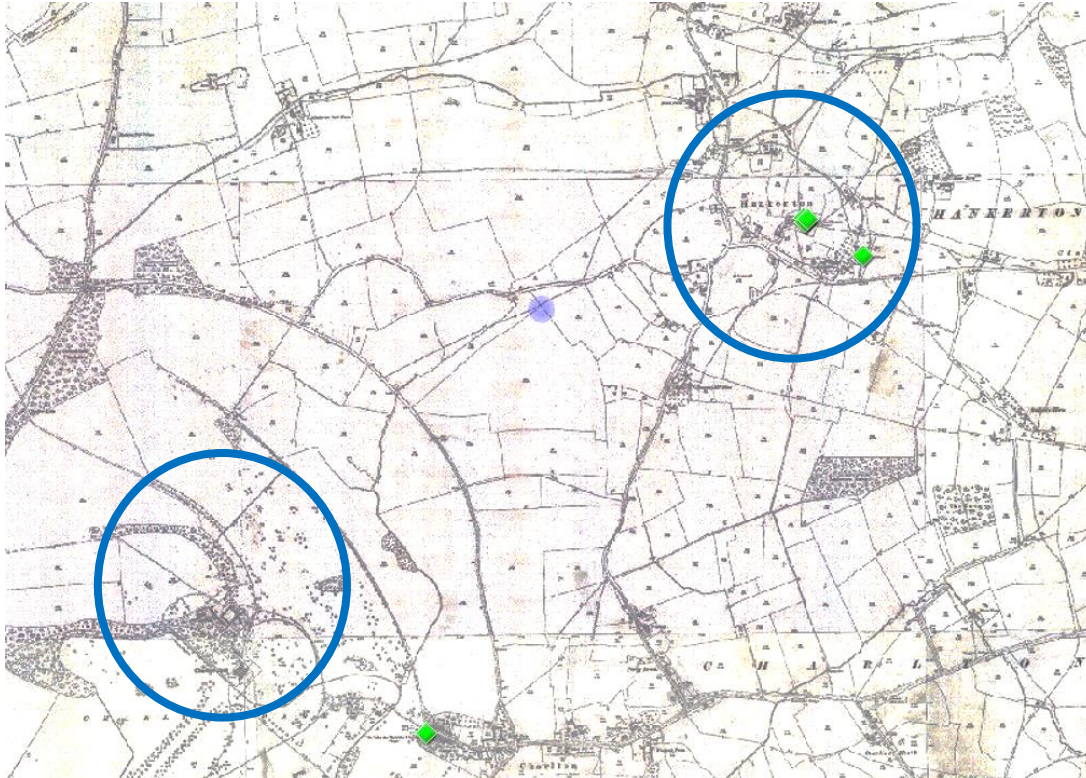
Hankerton was included in Braydon Forest from 1228 to 1279.

Special laws governed the Royal Forests and in the mid-13th century Hankerton is recorded as one of the villages summoned to attend the Forest Inquisition to settle disputes.

Hankerton parish was not well wooded. One exception was Flisteridge Wood, in 1257 it was claimed that Malmesbury Abbey's woods of Flisteridge had been afforested by King John.

The open pasture and woods of the purlieus of the forest were used in common by the lords and tenants of manors near the forest. Particular parts were claimed for, and perambulated by, each manor. Often a source of dispute.

Hankerton History – Charlton Park



Hankerton is less than 2 miles north east of Charlton Park Estate with fields in between

Hankerton Manor was sold to Sir James Stumpe in 1553 following the dissolution of Malmesbury Abbey.

It has remained in the family passing down to the Earls of Suffolk.

Hankerton History – Charlton Park

PRIMARY CONTINUED.

LANDOWNERS.	OCCUPIERS.	Total Quantities.	Total Rent Charge					
			Payable to Vicar.			Payable to the Imperpetual		
		a r p	£	s	d	£	s	d
Suffolk and Berkshire The Earl of (continued)	Brought Forward	1885. 2. 32	251.	11.	6	4.	5.	9
	William Blizard	6. 1. 22	0.	8.	3			
	John Blizard	4. 1. 33	0.	4.	6			
	John Panter	6. 2. 32	1.	0.	0			
	Thomas Law	0. 3. 6	0.	2.	6			
	Thomas Noyce and Others	7. 2. 10						

The Tythe records of 1841 show that 53% of the land in Hankerton was still owned by the Earl of Suffolk

The majority of land was farmed by tenant farmers.

Hankerton History – Charlton Park



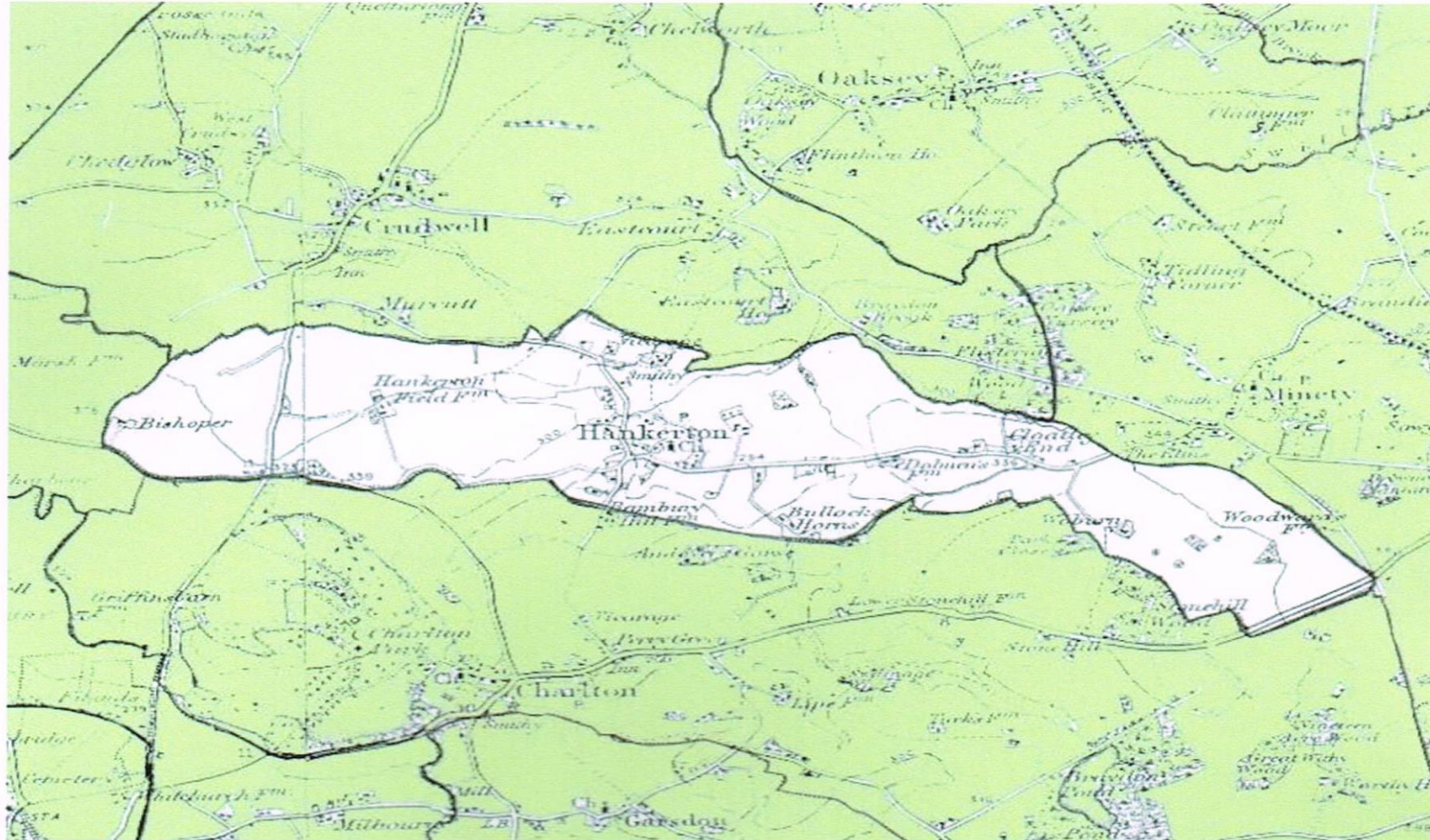
<https://womad.co.uk/2022-gallery/>

Although still a major landowner the Earl of Suffolk is not a significant figure in the village

His pheasants roam village gardens

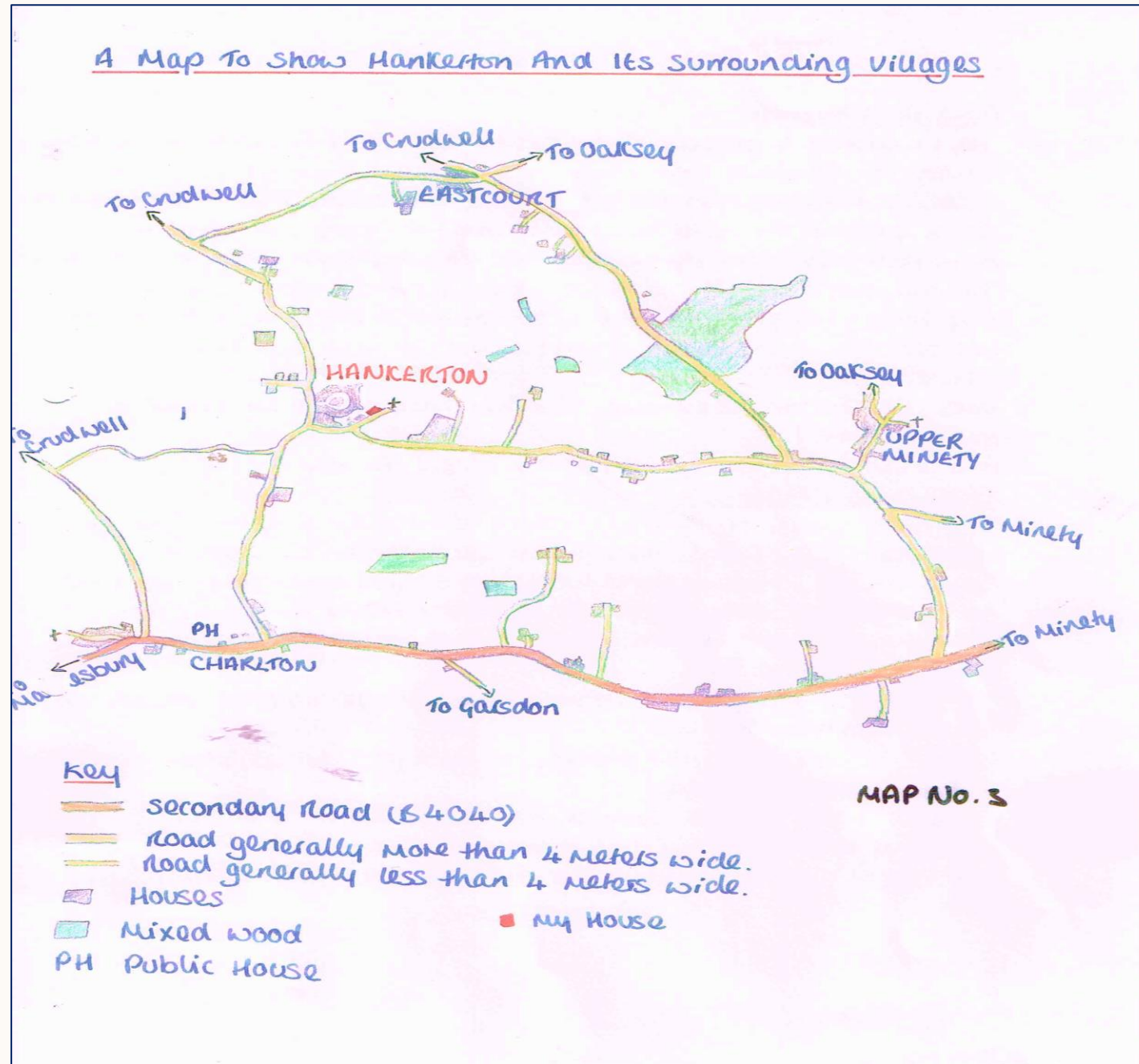
In summer the strains of Womad drift across the fields

The parish of Hankerton is one of the most northerly in Wiltshire. It is long and narrow, approximately 5 miles by 1.2 miles and situated 3.4 miles north-east from Malmesbury.



From a study of Hankerton by Emma Bowkett 1995.

Secondary pupils wrote these as a history project. John Lewin and George Ferris provided most of the information at the time in the 1990s.



Why here?

Water – from springs and brooks

Good soil for farming

Wood – Braydon Forest

Areas of sand, stone and clay

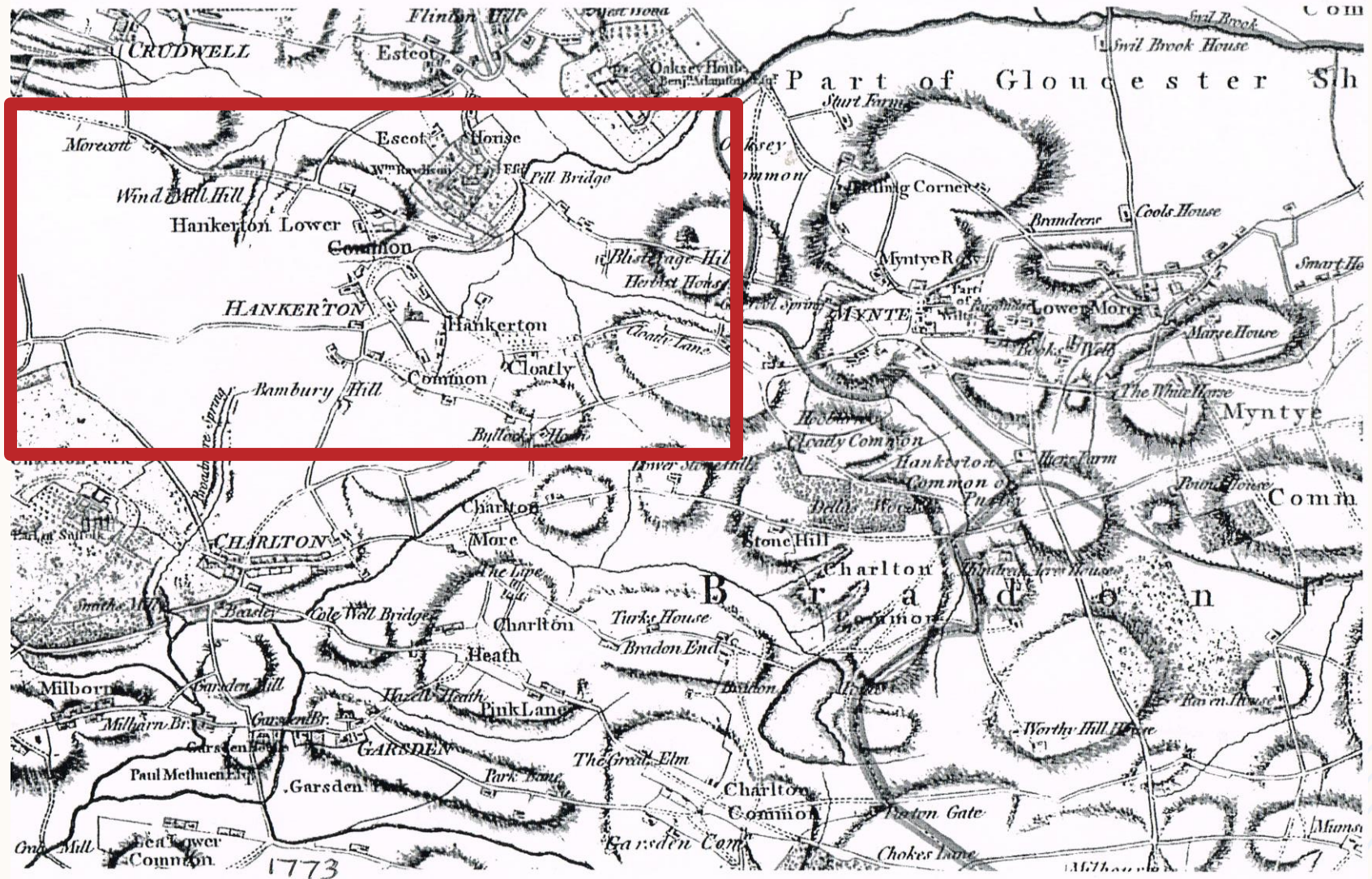
Hankerton is a long, thin parish with only one sizeable settlement, that of Hankerton itself. The parish stretches about 5 miles from Bishoper Farm in the west (separated from the main parish by the B4040 in late 18th century) to the Cricklade- Malmesbury Road in the east. It is only 1 mile wide from north to south. Cloatley and Bullock's Horn are small settlements within the parish. It covers 2,300 acres.

The land in Hankerton rises to 110metres above sea level , the lowest point being 90meters above sea level. Virtually all the land drains to the Thames via the Swillbrook and Braydon Brook . It is subject to flooding and the main floodplains are to the north and east.

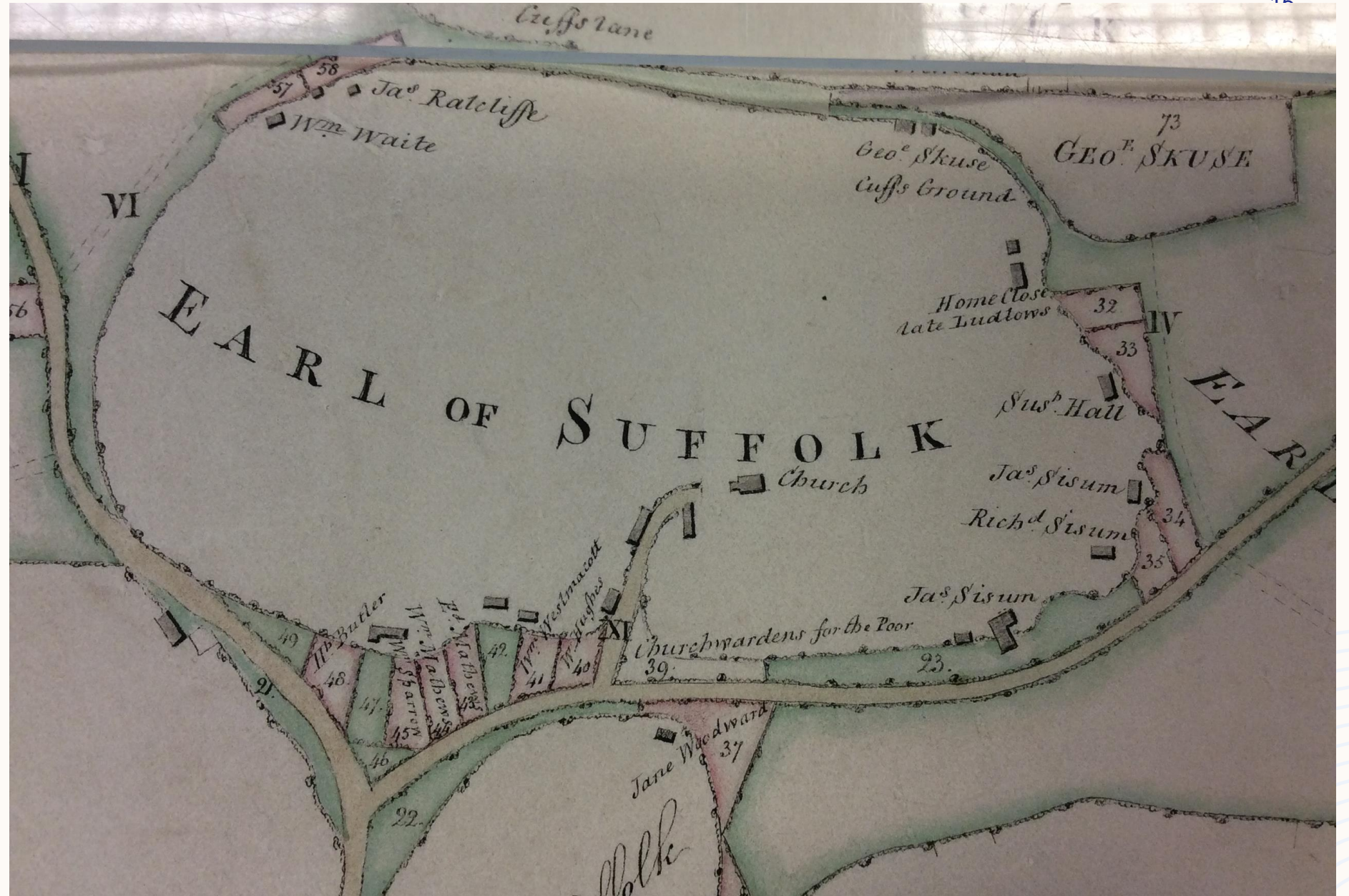
A map of Hankerton from 1611 drawn by John Speed



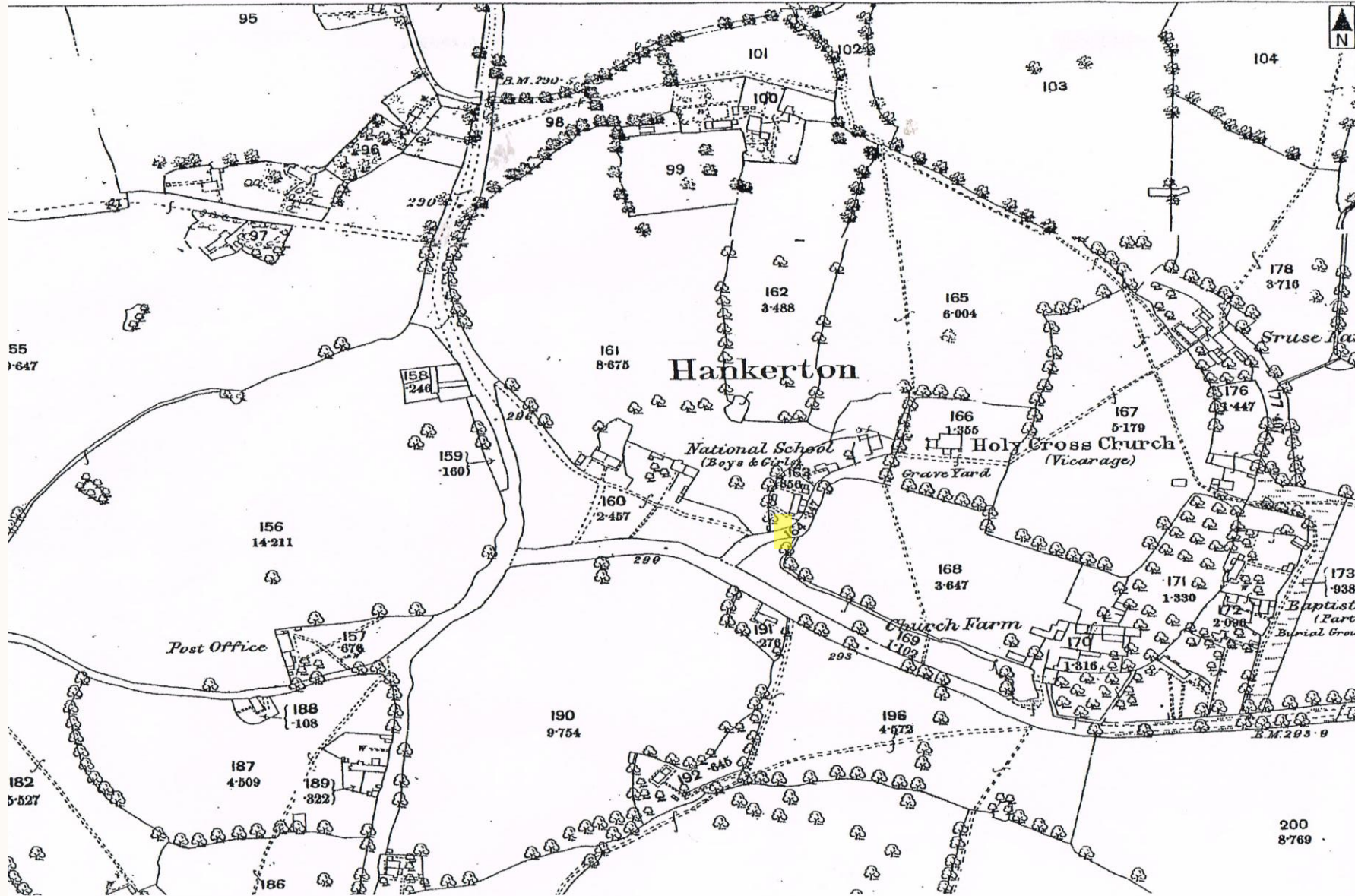
A map of
Hankerton
1773



1785
Manor of
Hankerton
surveyed by
H.A.
Biedermann



Hankerton 1886



Map Scale: 1:2500

Print Date: 19 October 2006

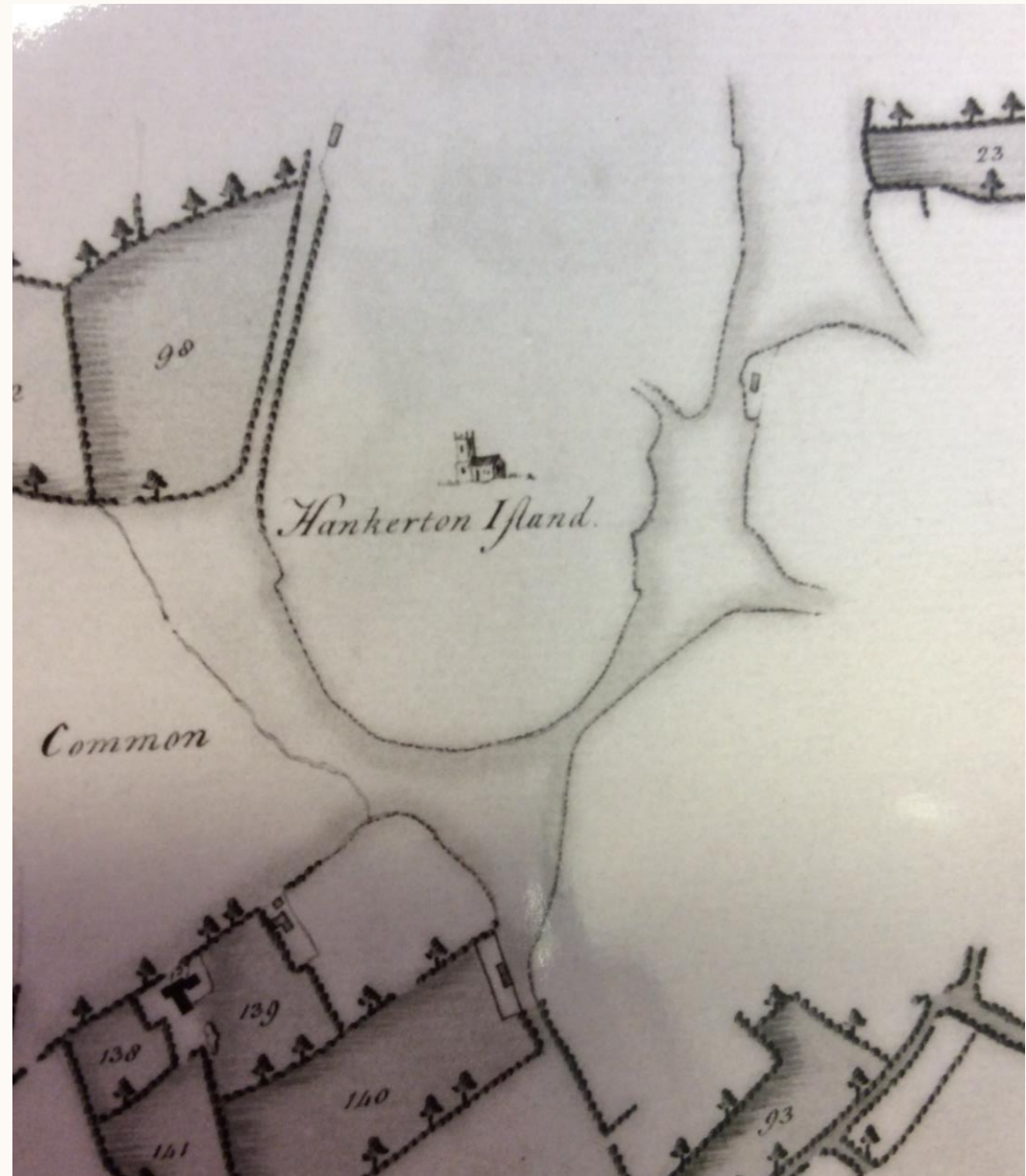
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ENGLISH HERITAGE
 1 Waterhouse Square, 130-142 Holborn,
 London EC1N 2ST
 Tel: 020 7873 3000 Fax: 020 7873 3001
 www.english-heritage.org.uk

Hankerton Island

The map drawn by
H.A. Biedermann in
1785 for the Right
Hon. Earl of Suffolk
and Berkshire.





**Aerial view of
Hankerton
looking west.
2005**

**Hankerton
looking east.
2005**



Parish boundaries

Earliest reference relates to the Drove Road which went from Wales to London. The Bishops of England Deed 901.

The boundaries of the parish were fairly set by 1100 enclosing two windmills, a quarry, farm land and part of Braydon wood.

In 1200 in the Registrum Malmesburiense Lord William, Abbot of Malmesbury and John de Hankerton were in dispute over the drovers road. Droving continued until the mid 19th. Century.

The 1809 enclosures map and tithe map of 1841 are sources of information about who owned what parcels of land. There were disputes between landowners as well as with the parish of Charlton which claimed land adjoining Hankerton. The Men of Cloatley walked the boundary – but so did the men of Charlton!

Links to Malmesbury, Crudwell and Charlton

Links through the church to Crudwell:

Hankerton was built as a chapel of Crudwell church and throughout the years most of the vicars were appointed by the Rector of Crudwell. The vicars of Crudwell also had land and fields (therefore an income) in Hankerton. Hankerton is included as part of Crudwell in the Domesday Book.

Links to the Abbey:

Manor Farm, Hankerton was part of Malmesbury Abbey's Crudwell Estate and may have been an early endowment. The Abbey held Hankerton and Cloatley until the Dissolution.

Links to Charlton :

In 1552 the Crown granted Hankerton Manor (without Cloatley) to John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland who sold it to Sir James Stumpe, the then owner of Charlton manor. The Hankerton lands then descended through the family to Michael Howard, Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire in 1941. The estate land in Hankerton was about 1,225 acres in 1840, reduced to 1988 to 800 acres. Cloatley was never part of the Charlton estate being granted to William Sharington in 1542.

A Long Record of Being Inhabited

This dispersed village has been inhabited from the palaeolithic period (**one find of chert hand axe, prehistoric enclosure**).

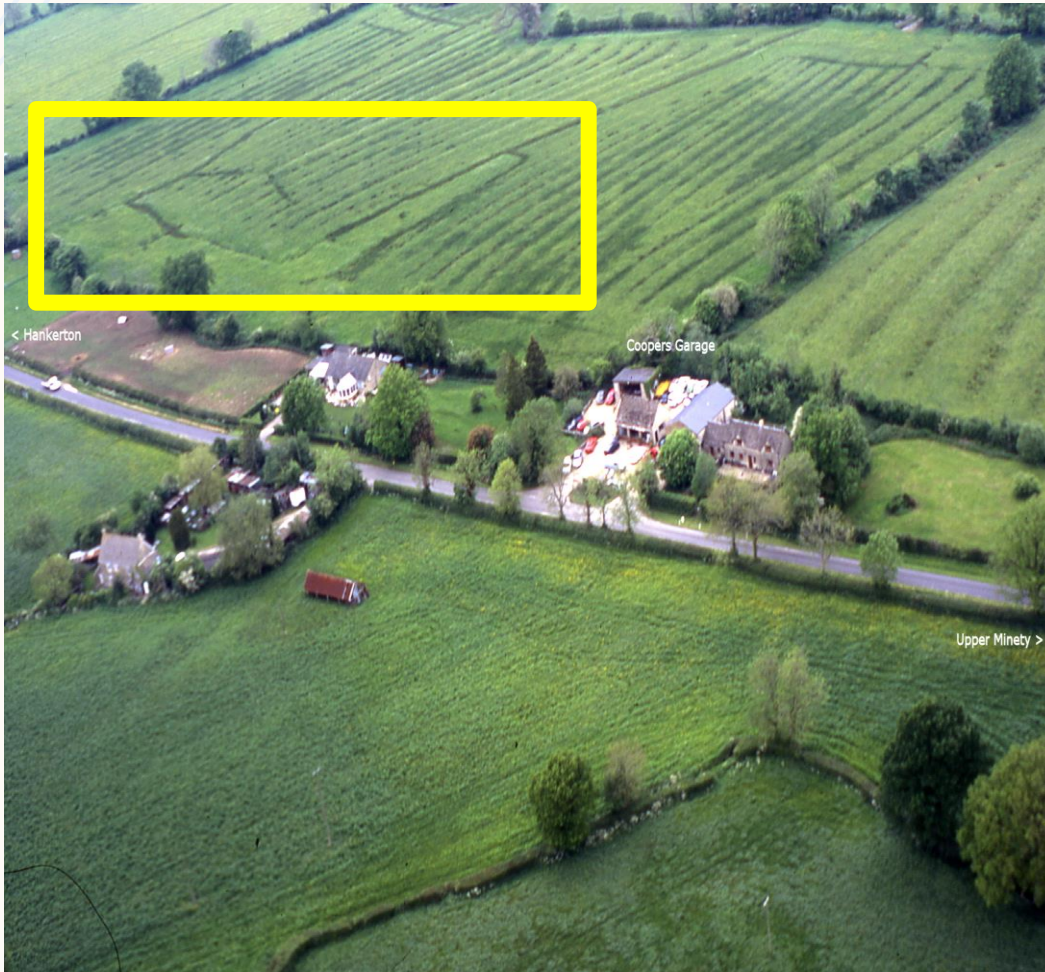
Through the Iron Age (**shape of village and field system to the west**), Roman period (**finds of coins**)
The Anglo-Saxon period (**name and buildings**) the medieval period (**pottery, key, farming records, links to the Abbey in Malmesbury, Braydon Forest records, field system, trackway, medieval village sites.**)

Church and school records, directories, the census and finds (**a ring, skirt lifter**) indicate the survival of a small population through to the 19th. century and up to the present day.

The village has remained a small settlement with farming as its main source of employment, with the development in the 20th century of a few small enterprises such as Cooper's Garage, Priory workshops, Beauty Parlour, fabric shop, and horse liveries. It did have its own post office from 1889 until the middle of the 20th. Century.

Is this the reason it always remained a small village?

By-passed by the canal(even though Charles II thought it a good proposal – he could see , ‘the virtues of the plan’ but ‘monies were wanting.’) and railway it has retained its small village appeal.



The remains of foundations for medieval houses can be seen to the left of the house.

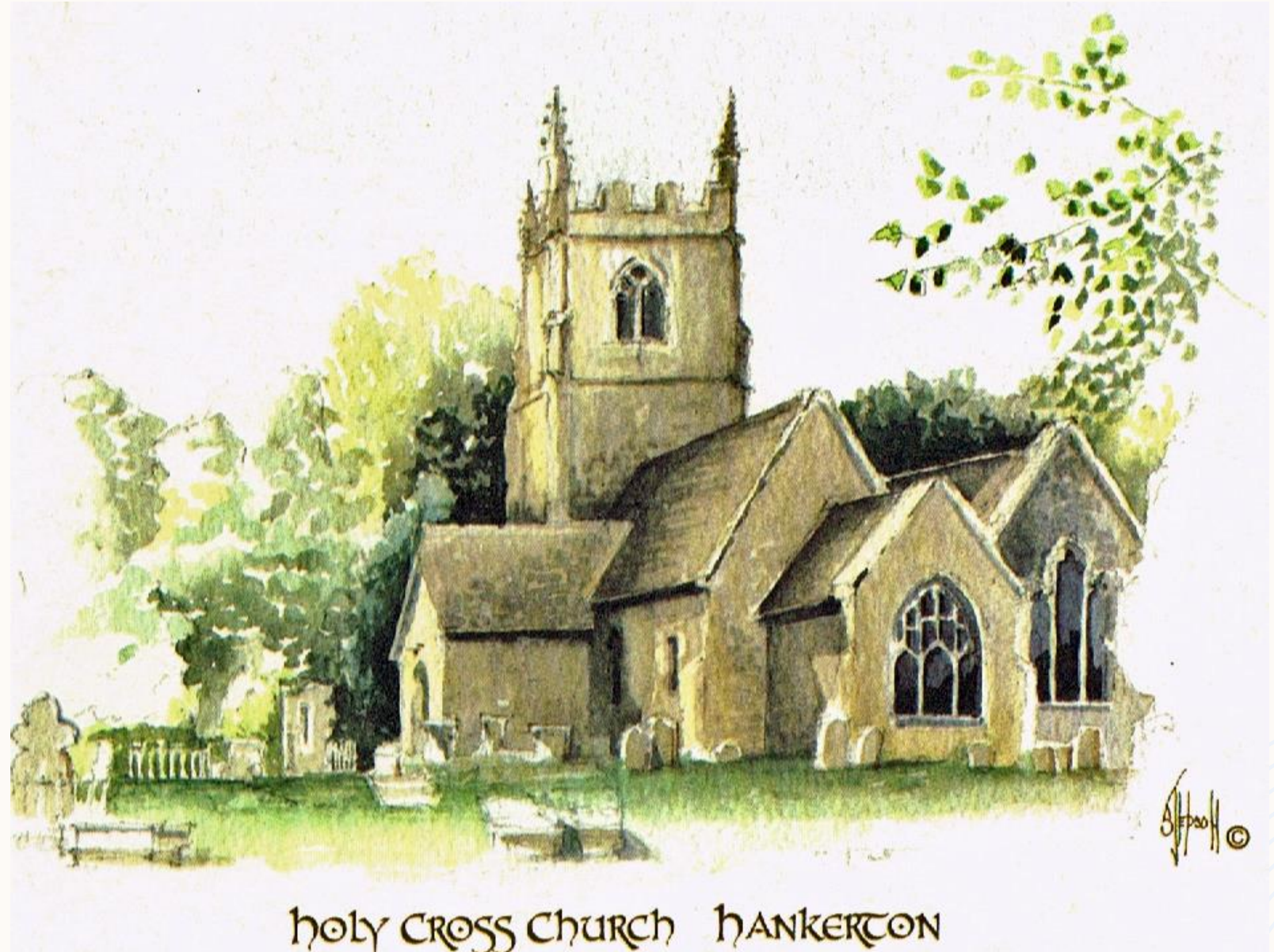


The field at the bottom of this slide has the footprints of medieval houses/ shrunken village, field system and trackway .

Buildings of note

The Church
Manor Farm
School
Chapel
Vicarages

A picture painted by
Steven Jepson of
Earls Barton
Northamptonshire,
for cards to raise
money for the
church.



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS HANKERTON

The church is 12th Century when it was built as a chapel of Crudwell church. North aisle and porch 13th century, chancel arch 14th (chancel rebuilt in early 1900s by local carpenter, Mark Woodward). All windows renewed in 15th/16th centuries.

In 1222 a vicar had been ordained but the church remained dependent on Crudwell until 1445 when a graveyard was licensed.

- Names of vicars recorded from 1358.
- The baptism book has been in constant use since 1881 – and there is still more room!

The church consists of a nave, north aisle and south porch with a west tower housing some significant bells.

The north aisle has been converted into a community area with the removal of the pews.



Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.
The Nave, taken from the vestry under the tower.
21 March 2008

The wall tablet by Joseph Nollekens was put in 1775 to commemorate the Earle family. Charity boards on the right for the Lady Frances Winchcombe (1706, bibles and prayer books) and Ludlow charities.

(Peter Wyman 2008.)



Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.
The North Aisle, now used as a community area.
The photo is taken from just in front of the long-disused choir stalls – which, it is hoped, will be removed in the near future to enlarge the community area.
21 March 2008

Tower has
date stone
of 1531.

Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.
Church Tower from south-west.
ST 97231 90772
11 May 2008



Bells:

Treble: Thomas Geffries of Bristol c 1520

2nd: Roger Perdue of Bristol 1613

3rd: Henry Fefferies of Bristol c 1540

Tenor: unknown founder c1400

They are all described as being 'maiden' which relates to the fact that the bells have not been tuned or turned since their casting and installation.

Bell Frame: The bells are supported on a kingpost oak frame bearing the date of 1600 and initials R.W. and R.H. which is the earliest surviving dated frame in Wiltshire.

The bells have not been rung for many years and the assembly is described as one of the most interesting and unspoilt belfries in Wiltshire .

Presentation title

1600
RW:RH

Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.
The bell chamber in the upper
part of the bell tower at
Hankerton Church.
05 April 2008

Mike Lewis



Mike Lewis



Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.
The bell chamber in the upper
part of the bell tower at
Hankerton Church.
05 April 2008



Hankerton

Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.
The bell chamber in the upper
part of the bell tower at
Hankerton Church,
05 April 2008



Non- Conformists

Hankerton had a number of non-conformists over the years –

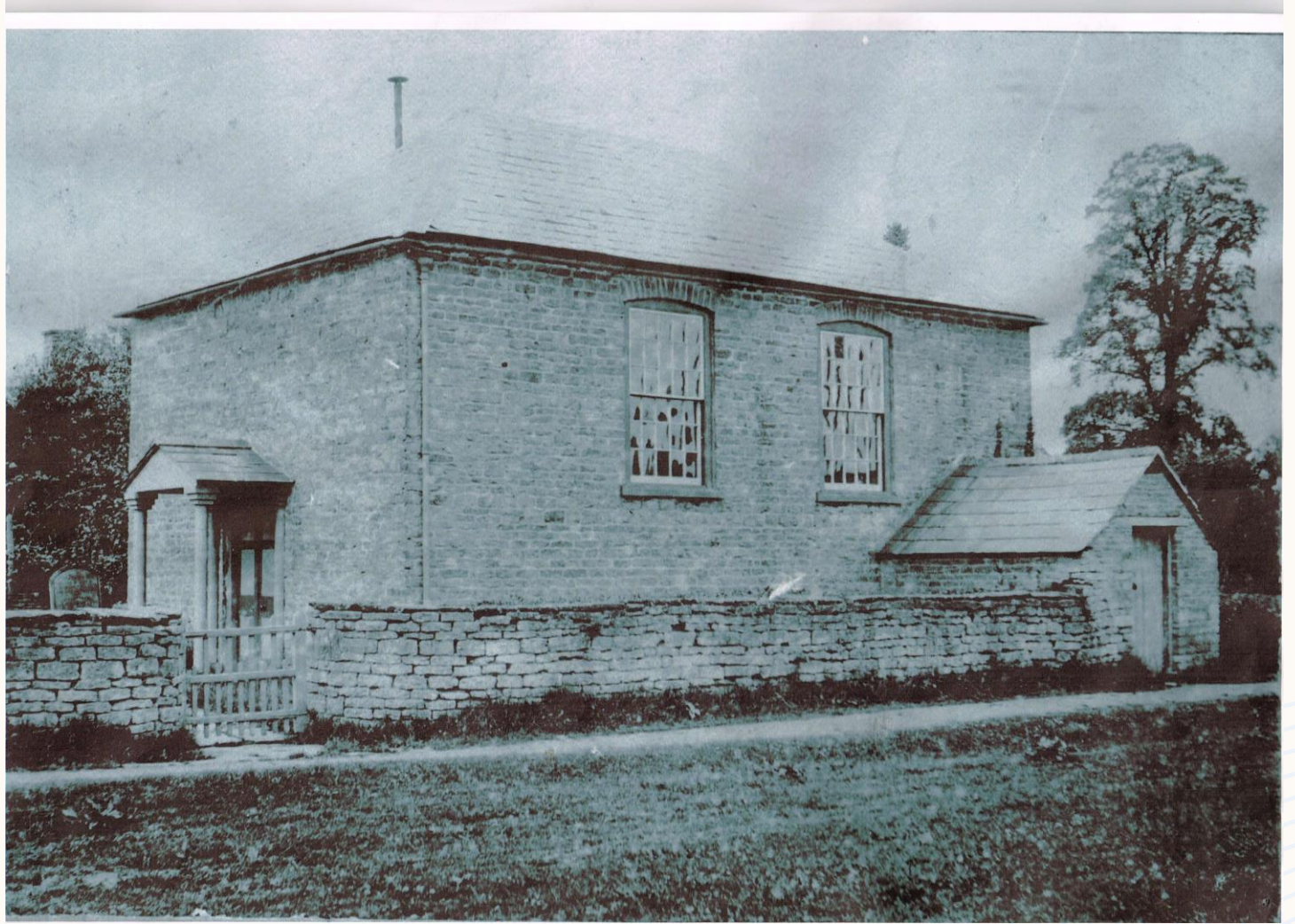
Between 1809 and 1833 Calvin Methodists met in their own homes.

Strict Baptists built a chapel (in Chapel Lane) in 1837 .

On census Sunday 1851 attendance at services were 100 and 120 people.

The last service was held in 1968 , the chapel closed and sold in 1971.

Still links to the family of Charles Pennell , the deacon, through Jenny Todd and more!



Hankerton

Original
vicarage for
Hankerton
built in the
16th.

Century?

1903

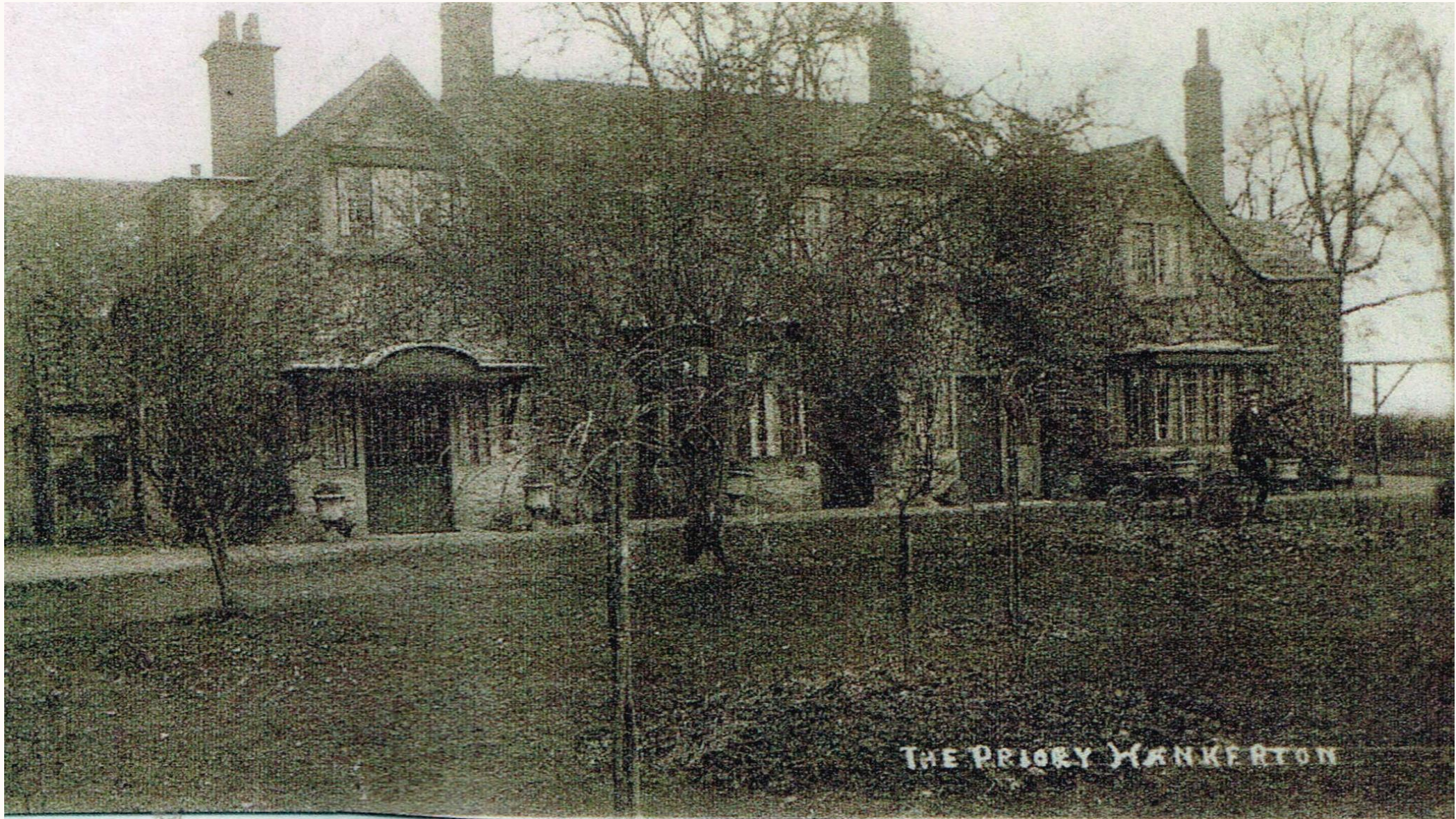
extended .

Architect

H.S.

Bertadano.

Now called
The Priory.



The Old Vicarage
Built-in 1905-6

Architect
H.S.Bertadano.

Private dwelling
from 1954.





**The Old School House,
home of Philip and Georgina Carter.
ST 97197 90741
11 May 2008**

Hankerton School

The wife of Thomas, Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire, had paid for 25 children to be taught in 1827.

The National School was built next to the church in 1850-2 and was well run with 40-50 children in 1858.

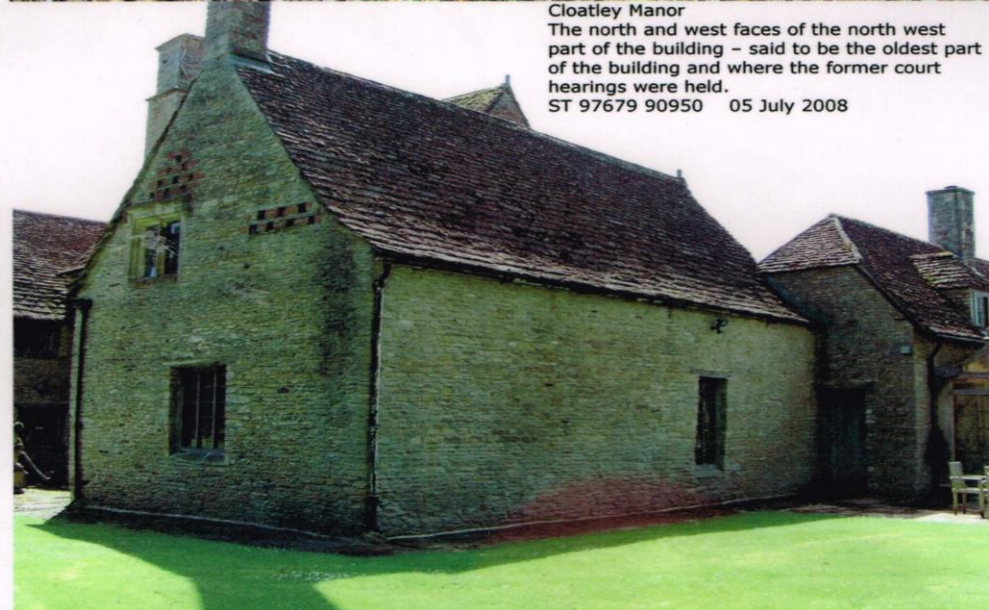
There are good reports of the education received and of pupils being given time off for harvest or poor weather (the ceiling was collapsing one winter so there was no school) and flooding.

The school had fluctuating numbers and closed in 1922 but due to pressure from parents was reopened in 1930.

For the next 36 years the school educated local children but as numbers decreased the pupils were transferred to Charlton and the to Lea schools.
Hankerton School finally closed in 1966.



Cloatley Manor
Front of main house.
ST 97715 90904
05 July 2008



Cloatley Manor
The north and west faces of the north west
part of the building – said to be the oldest part
of the building and where the former court
hearings were held.
ST 97679 90950 05 July 2008

Manor Farm

The house was originally known as ‘Urdeleys’ when it belonged to Malmesbury Abbey, later it became Clotely Manor, Manor Farm and Cloatley Manor.

There has been a building on this site was from the 9th. Century. And the oldest part of the house remaining dates from the 12th. Century. Most probably: The house was used as a guest house by the abbey and also as the manorial court for the Abbey.

It continued as a farm until 1986 when it was sold to an antiques dealer who rescued it from a near derelict state, renovating every room and the old staircase fashioned from one oak tree.

The Priests hole was discovered at this point.

The house has since been carefully looked after by two further owners respecting the heritage as well as the farm land that has never had modern, chemical fertilizers on it and boasts lovely meadows of wild flowers. Part of the estate was sold to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and is now a managed area for the enjoyment of all.

POPULATION

Highest recorded
Highest population was in 1841 when there were 417 residents. The lowest was recorded in 1961 as 178.

In 1347 Hankerton and Cloatley had 114 poll-tax payers and in 1377, 61.

1676: 190

1801: 286

Poor Relief £232 to 27 adults, 36 children, 17 occasional

1831: 413
Poor Relief £300

1841: 417

1851: 371

1861: 393

1871: 383 (included Cloatley and Bullock's Horn 112)

1901: 252

1951: 217

1961: 178

1971: 195

1981: 289 (new houses in Follyfield)

1991: 314

2022: estimate: 300+

OCCUPATIONS

1871 Census

Over the years the main occupations of the male inhabitants have been connected to farming and recorded in this census were – farm labourers, farmers, and herdsman, agricultural engine driver, whitesmith, (tin), stonemason, gardener, highway labourer, ploughboy, tailor while those of the women have been as domestic servants, dressmakers, launderess, farmer, schoolmistress, shopkeeper, ladies maid, dairy maid, companion and seamstress.

In 1871 pop 383 there were 13 farmers (11men, 2 women) who employed 22 men and 12 boys.

Other occupations:

Agricultural workers : 130

Scholars: 59

Domestic servants: 8

Tilers/plasterers: 7

Dressmakers: 6

It **now** remains as a village of commuters, schoolchildren and retirees with two full time and one-part time farmers, a garage and some local enterprises at the Priory .

Farming – earliest records :

Strip farming – many owners and renters: 1616 document .
Unfortunately the map that should accompany this list has been lost.

In 1693 three fields named were Home, Mersell and Murcot and these we can trace.

The Document of 1616.

'A booke of the surweighe of all arable landein Common within the Manor of Hankerton taken from Anno Domini 1616'.

Sadly the map to accompany this document has been lost so we do not know which fields are being referred to!

Names such as : *Upper Grimme furlonge, The furlonge upon the west side of Portwaye shootinge upon the Meade beginning east, The Garston furlonge on the west side of Portwaye beginning on the east side, The furlonge off Gringells stile beginning on the south side.....and what is Dunge Pott furlong...and where was it?*

In all 29 freeholders and tenants held strips of land all over Hankerton totalling 415 acres with total personal holdings ranging from 38 acres to less than 1 acre.

1
 A booke of the Surveighe
 of all the Arable lande & me
 in Common within the Manor
 of Hankerton taken Anno Domini
 1616

First in a furlonge & fere called
 lomen. & dyarston by mynynge on
 the East side

Statute estima:

scresro. 2. ch. 2. p. 20. p.

John Dicke	0	2	16	0	2	0
Hen: Tucke	1	0	16	1	3	0
Elza: woodwarde	0	0	32	0	0	20
free Roge: Currier	0	0	23	0	0	20
Elza: woodwarde	0	1	27	1	0	0
free Jo: warnforde	0	0	15	0	0	20
Elza woodwarde	0	0	15	0	0	20
Elza: woodwarde	0	1	20	1	0	0
free John warnforde	0	0	30	0	1	0
Elza: woodwarde	0	0	35	0	1	0
John Dicke	0	2	6	1	0	0
Jo: Browne	1	0	8	2	0	0
John Gedge	0	0	17	0	0	20
free Jo: warnforde	0	0	18	0	0	20
Elza: woodwarde	0	0	17	0	0	20
Jo: Burgesse	0	0	15	0	0	20

12

The furlonge at Gingells stile beginninge
on the South side

	est:	Stat:
John Browne	0-1-0-0-1-20	
Tho: webbe	0-1-0-0-0-38	
John Dicke	0-1-0-0-0-34	
Luke Panter	0-1-0-0-1-16	
Hen: Yarnton	0-1-0-0-1-15	
W ^m : Stocke	0-1-0-0-1-3	
Hen: Yarnton	0-2-0-0-2-12	
free Jo: warnforde	0-1-0-0-1-7	
free The Parson of Crudwells yerd	0-1-0-0-1-2	
Jo: Looker	0-1-0-0-1-6	

Lower mease hill furlonge
beginninge weste

	est:	Stat:
Walter Rundle	0-3-0-0-3-18	
free Jo: warnforde	1-0-0-1-0-25	
W ^m : Necke	0-2-0-0-2-14	

Common fields of **Wankerton** 1616
 The Names and quantities²⁵
 of Freeholders and Tenants
 Lands both by Estimation
 and Statute measure

	as of 1616	as of 1616	as of 1616
Elizabeth Woodcock	27-2-30	30-0-32	
Edmond Browne	7-0-0	8-0-21	
Henrie Tuck	34-0-0	30-1-5	
Henrie Yarrton	31-5-0	32-3-17	
Henrie Miles	7-1-0	7-1-24	
John Browne	36-2-0	37-2-34	
John Looxar	18-0-0	17-3-32	
John Dick	34-2-10	32-2-29	
John Burges	4-2-20	3-1-7	
John Gegg	9-0-0	7-1-38	
John Bakar	0-3-0	0-1-27	
John Curtice	15-1-0	15-3-5	
free John Waruforde	37-4-10	38-1-3	
free John Coopar	19-0-0	19-2-15	
Henrie Curtice	0-2-0	0-2-2	
Luke Pantar	8-1-0	7-1-4	
free Pson of Crudwell	6-5-0	6-0-39	
Robert Pantar	1-2-0	1-0-31	
free Roger Curriar	4-1-20	3-3-6	
Thomas Webb	11-5-0	11-0-37	
William Beale	11-0-20	14-3-38	
Widdow Gegg	3-3-0	4-1-9	
Wid: Perrin	9-2-0	10-1-9	
Wid: Hayward	16-3-0	16-3-15	
William Browne	4-1-0	5-0-5	
William Stock	12-2-10	11-3-39	
Water Rundle	21-0-0	22-0-12	
William Neck	13-0-0	14-3-16	
free William Church	1-1-0	1-0-8	

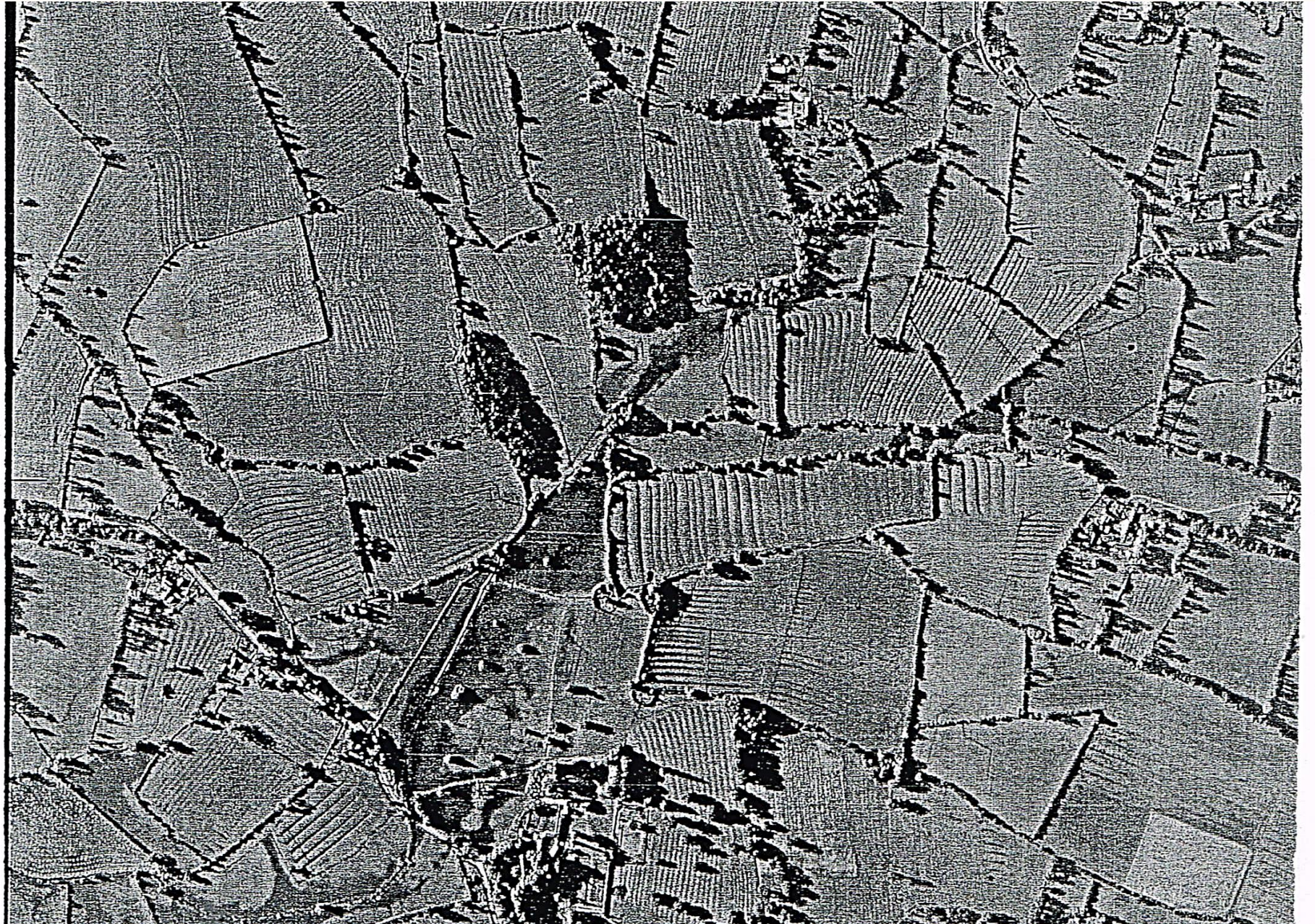
Suma Sumar 381-0-0 415-2-39

whereby The freeholders
 land contain } 68-2-30 68-3-31

Presentation title

Aerial
photograph
6th. September
1946 by 540
Squadron.
To Note: how
many fields are
covered by
ridge and
furrow – the
strips named
in the
document of
1616.

Kind
permission of
the NMRC
(now Historic
England)





Cloatley Manor

Ridge
and
furrow
still
visible
in
2005.



FARMING

Small farms persisted in Hankerton until the late 18th. Century. Husbandry was regulated by the manor court.

As part of his improvement of his whole Wiltshire estate Lord Suffolk initiated many changes in Hankerton between 1790 and 1810.

Inclosures 1808: land was enclosed and the open fields incorporated into farms. A small allotment was made for each dwelling in the parish.

Intending to improve drainage , roads and buildings and to promote tillage by providing threshing machines, Lord Suffolk invited farmers from Northumberland and Scotland and found new tenants for about half his land in 1809. The Hislop family moved into Cloatley Manor.

Between 1840 and 1939 arable farming declined to about 200 acres but cattle, sheep and pigs were kept.

Hankerton farms and farmers can be traced using Kelly's Directories from 1848 – 1911 and the Census.

Memories of farming in Hankerton

Desmond and Ruby Hatton lived in Hankerton between 1953 and 1976. Des has recollections of working at Brook Farm from the age of 11 as a stable lad. He was then employed on the farm doing the milking, ploughing (both with a horse drawn plough and then tractor), planting , hedging, ditching and looking after the horses. During this time the farm had 10 workers who looked after

- ❖ 34 horses with 11 stables
- ❖ 45 dairy cows ,
- ❖ sheep, pigs, ducks chickens, geese
- ❖ arable fields

In 1977 there were 710 acres of arable land and about 900 cattle on farms in the village.

Present day:

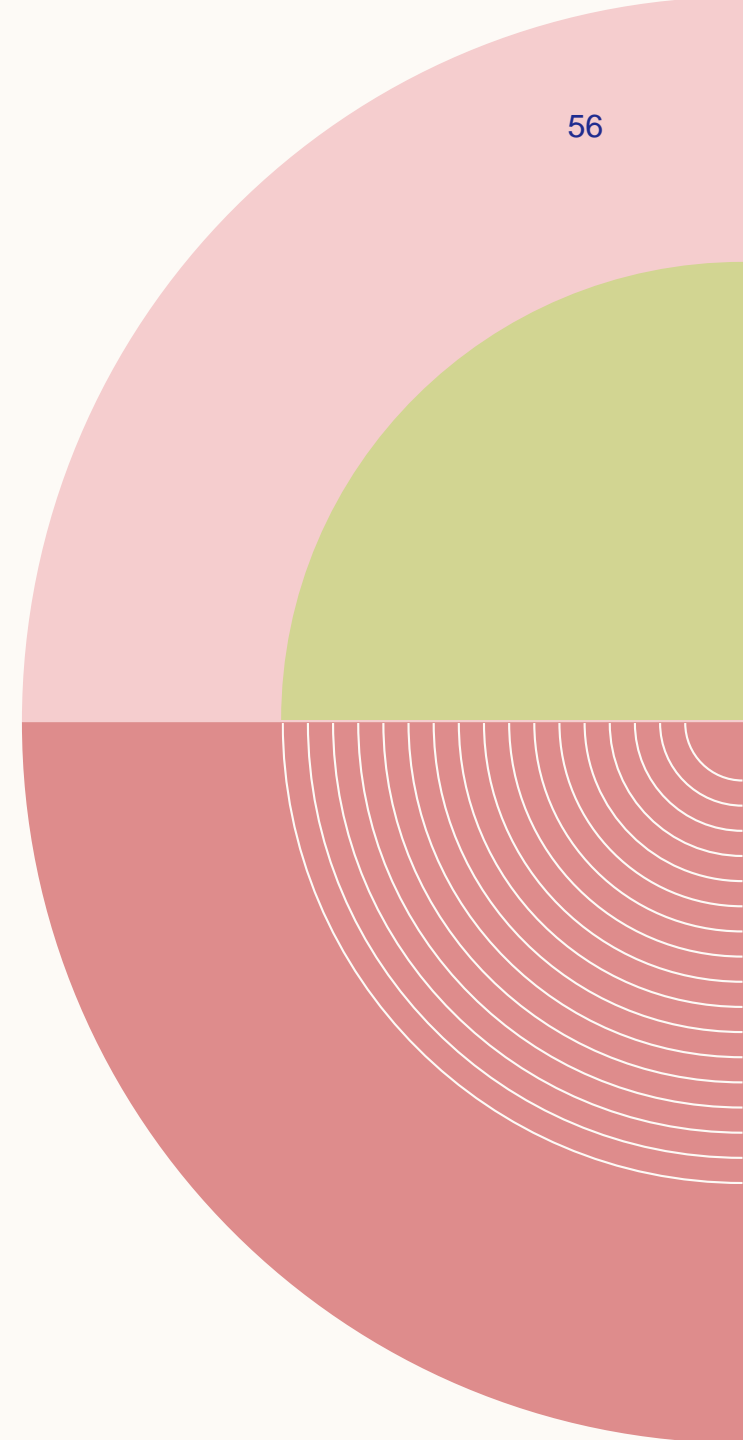
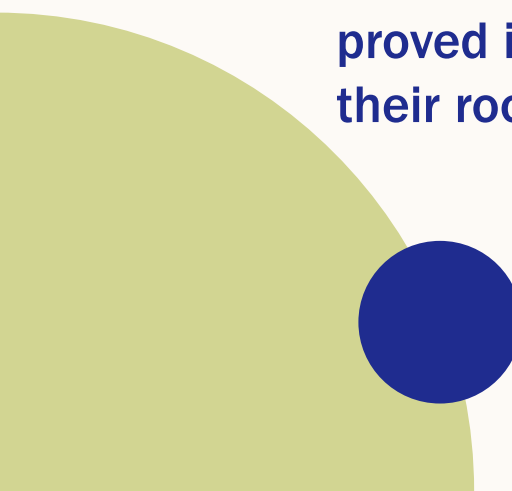
The farms have gradually been reduced in number to one arable and one dairy farm 2022. Sheep farming continues (2) as well as farms used for livery for horses .

SUMMARY

Hankerton is a small village with a small population that has traced its history with a little bit of luck and lots of work.

The support we have received from the village has meant that many happy hours have been spent chasing down information in order to tell the story of just a few acres in Wiltshire.

Two exhibitions in the Athelstan Museum spread the story and numerous village exhibitions have proved interesting for residents and families tracing their roots back to Hankerton.



THANK YOU

To all of the members of the Hankerton History Group who have done so much research over the last 14 years, Peter Wyman for photographs as part of our Living Heritage project (2008), Mike Lewis for recording the bells and grafitti, the Parish on-line clerk, Wiltshire and Swindon History center (who offered us a space to work when the center was not open so that we did not disturb others!), English Heritage (NMRC) and past residents for their memories.

November 17th 2022