

# To all to whom these presents may come – Commentary on the Child Okeford Inclosure Award

by Kevin Pearce. May 2017

My thanks to John Houseley for providing much information on the families of Child Okeford and for finding the newspaper advertisements also to David Pope who using the inclosure map as a base has produced some very clear maps used in the text.

## General Description of the Award.



The award is handwritten on parchment and is stored folded secured by tape. The photograph shows the award opened and the writing on the outside. At the top the writing reads “Signed Sealed and delivered by the within named John Martin | the word “Trenchard” having been first interlaced after the word Dillon in twenty four places | in the presence of Septimus Smith <sup>1</sup>

Francis Smith”

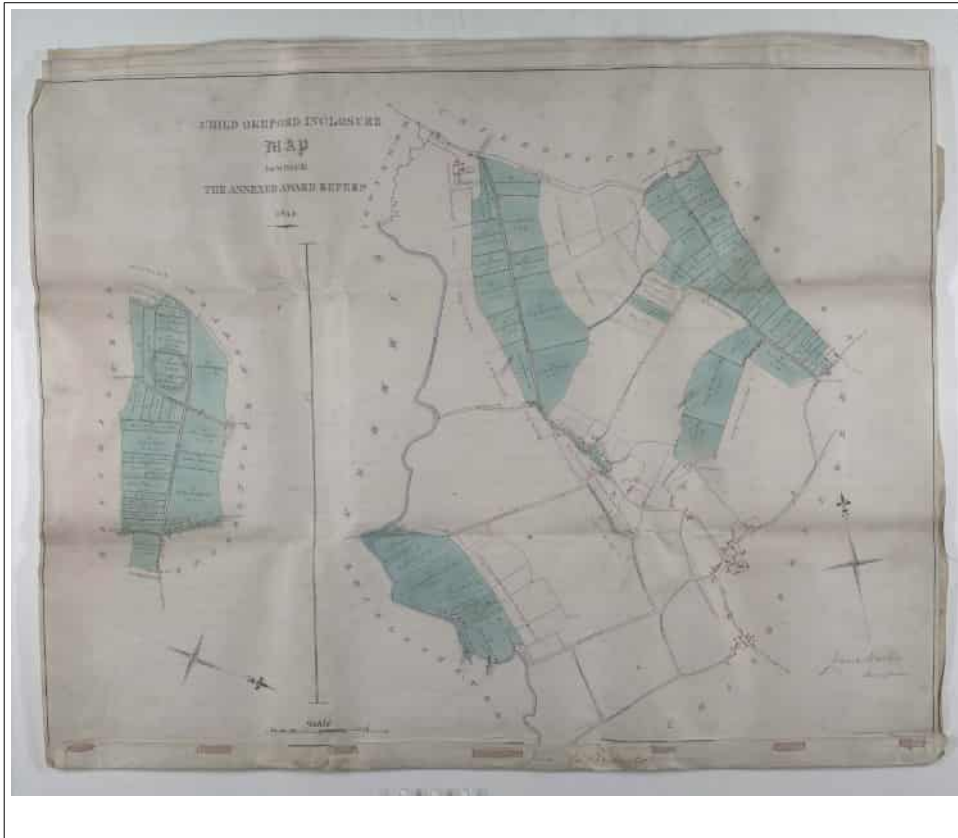
In the middle is the title – Child Okeford Inclosure Award and an acquisition labelled no 28.

Below this is the inscription

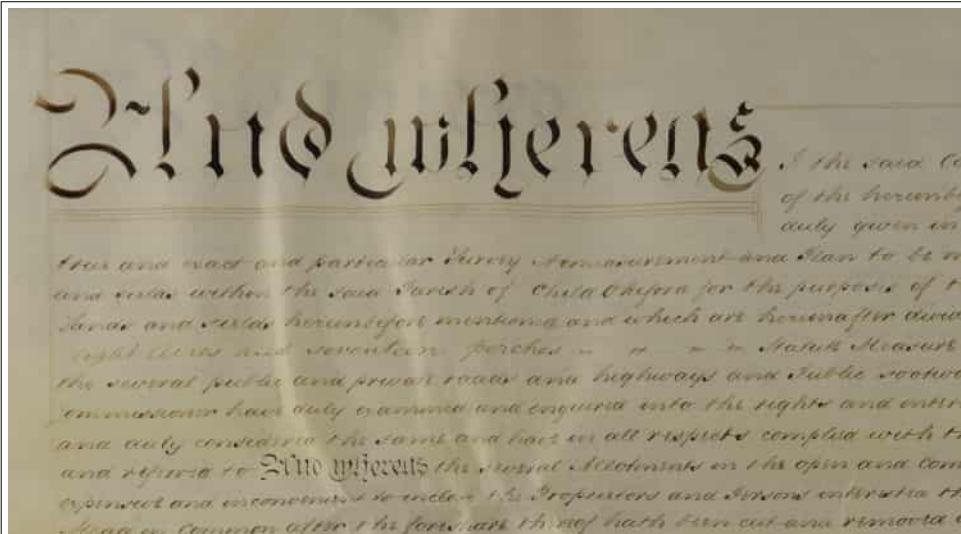
Received and enroled [sic] in the records of the County of Dorset the twentieth day of March 1847 and initials HE.

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<sup>1</sup> Septimus Smith was a solicitor in Blandford and his son, Francis was his clerk.



The award comprises 12 sheets stitched together with tape at the bottom; when opened the map forms the front sheet. The first page of the text of the award is in fact the last page of the pile of sheets and all the other sheets of the award have to be folded forward before it can be read. As they are hinged at the bottom and are quite large this means that it is difficult if not impossible to read except when standing and leaning over it. Each subsequent page is read by folding it backwards.



The text is hand written in a mixture of normal hand written script and a form of Gothic script. At intervals there are parts of the text which are larger, Gothic, capitalised or all three or any combination. I have used **BOLD ITALIC** to represent this.

There is very little punctuation in the document, no more than three or four comma's and where there is it is irregular in its application. The text just flows from one subject to another. Capitalised words sometimes denote a new sentence but unfortunately this is not very reliable as words are also capitalised in an irregular way in the middle of sentences. The text has been transcribed as it appears on the page; I have not added any punctuation nor have I altered any spelling to a more modern form, in particular "inclosure" which was the term used then has been retained rather than the more modern "enclosure".

Much of the award is repetitive and couched in the terms of the 1801 General Enclosure Act which laid down guide lines to be followed when drawing up an award. The use of such language would doubtless reassure the authorities that the processes recommended had been followed.

What's missing?

The award is the final document sent to the Inclosure Commissioners. What it does not have is any minutes, notes, field books or any of the other factors that determined how the award was arrived at. We do not know how many rights of common were claimed and rejected for example. It is the end result of a process and sadly we do not know have the details of that process. In many ways that would be more interesting than the award itself.

The Original Text	Commentary
<p><i>To all to whom these Presents shall come</i></p>	<p>At first sight this may appear to be a biblical phrase or have something to do with the gift of the common land to the farmers. In fact it is a legal term that is still used today. “these presents” refers to <a href="#">this particular document</a>. The term is used in several places within the award. In modern parlance it might be thought equivalent to “To whom it may concern this document ...”. This however conveys only part of its meaning. The phrase is used in documents where no specific recipient is intended. So the Queen uses it in letters patent. A modern example, quoted in the Oxford English Dictionary is “A breach of any of the covenants on the part of the tenant contained in these presents shall be .....</p> <p>It was a standard phrase used at the beginning of most if not all inclosure awards.</p>
<p><i>I <b>John Martin</b> of Evershot in the County of Dorset Land Surveyor Send Greetings</i></p>	<p><b>John Martin was both a land surveyor</b>, valuer and Inclosure commissioner. He was based in Evershot and in 1841 was 64 years old. His wife had died aged 54 in 1838 leaving him with a son Arthur who was also to become a land surveyor. He had very extensive knowledge of Dorset having surveyed a large number of Parishes in the course of his work for the Tithe Commission and had previously been appointed by the Parishioners of Child Okeford to prepare the Tithe Map and apportionment in 1841. He was to die in 1862 at the age of 85 in his home in Evershot.</p>

Where as in and by a certain Act of Parliament made and passed in the seventh year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the fourth intituled “*An act for facilitating the inclosure of Open and Arable Fields in England and Wales*” **Reciting** that there were in many Parishes Townships and Places in England and Wales divers open and common Arable Meadow and Lands and Fields and the Lands of the several proprietors of the same were frequently very much intermixed and dispersed and *it would tend to the improved cultivation and occupation of all the aforesaid Lands within such Parishes Townships and places and be otherwise advantageous* to the proprietors thereof and persons interested therein if they were enabled by a General Law to divide and inclose the same **And reciting** that *an Act was passed in the Forty first year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the third* intituled “An act for consolidating in one Act certain provisions usually inserted in Acts of Inclosure for facilitating the mode of proving the several facts usually required on the passing of such said Acts” **And also reciting** that another *Act was passed in the first year of the reign of His Late Majesty King George the Fourth* intituled “An Act to amend the Law respecting the inclosing of Open Fields Pastures Moors Commons and Waste Lands in England” Pasture Lands and Fields and the Lands of the several proprietors of the same were frequently very much intermixed and dispersed and *it would tend to the improved cultivation and occupation of all the aforesaid Lands within such Parishes Townships and places and be otherwise advantageous* to the proprietors thereof and persons interested therein if they were enabled by a General Law to divide and inclose the same **And reciting** that *an Act was passed in the Forty first year of the*

This extensive and very repetitive part of the award details the various Acts of Parliament regulating the inclosure process. Until 1963 Acts of Parliament were named according to the Regnal year in which they were passed. *This act was passed in to law in 1836 and was the act under which Child Okeford [CO] was inclosed.* The interesting thing here is that there were no “open and Arable” fields left in CO and only one common Meadow field – Net Mead. What was to be inclosed was the waste or common land which was not in fact covered by the act! Presumably however the presence of Net Mead conferred legitimacy on the process. Also within this section are the standard reasons given for inclosing the land – *the dispersion of the selions in open arable fields, the tendency of inclosure to improve cultivation and be “otherwise advantageous.”* This point is moot amongst historians even today some of whom feel that inclosure was more about personal gain than the general good.

Next comes a summary of the various acts of Parliament which, before 1836 had been passed to regulate inclosure. The problem was that inclosure often led to the extinguishing of rights of common [see later] and legal disputes frequently arose.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century attempts were made to prevent these in a complex way. Landowners intending to inclose would fabricate legal cases which would be heard in the Courts of Exchequer or Chancery. At the last minute those objecting to inclosure would withdraw and the Court would give its verdict that inclosure was legal. It was intended that the process [which was costly] would prevent genuine objections from poorer land owners and give a quasi legal air to the whole process. Not surprisingly this was

<p><i>reign of his late Majesty King George the third intitled “An act for consolidating in one Act certain provisions usually inserted in Acts of Inclosure for facilitating the mode of proving the several facts usually required on the passing of such said Acts” <b>And also reciting</b> that another Act was passed in the first year of the reign of His Late Majesty King George the Fourth intitled “An Act to amend the Law respecting the inclosing of Open Fields Pastures Moors Commons and Waste Lands in England”</i></p>	<p>not popular, Parliament for one saw its sovereignty undermined and in any case it did not stop genuine objections.</p> <p>During the 18<sup>th</sup> century it became the practice that inclosure could only proceed under a Private Act of Parliament [brought to Parliament by the landowners] since statute law overrode the common law. This however was expensive and there was no standardisation of practice. The act “passed in the Forty first year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the third” [1801] laid down a set of principles that were to be adhered to whenever a Private Act was brought to Parliament. The final act mentioned here “passed in the first year of the reign of His Late Majesty King George the Fourth” [1821] gave the person overseeing the process greater powers of managing the transition from the open field system to an inclosed system of farming.</p>
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<p><i>It was in and by the said Act of Parliament now in recital amongst other things <b>Enacted</b> that from and after the passing thereof it should be lawful for two thirds in Number and Value such Value to be ascertained as thereinafter mentioned</i></p>	<p>The 1836 act established an Inclosure Commission which received proposals for inclosure. If seven-eighths of the proprietors were agreed, inclosure could be carried out without the appointment of commissioners. If this was not possible then Two-thirds in number and value of common arable or meadow or pasture fields could appoint one or more commissioners who would then oversee the process and was a guarantor of fairness. His proposal went to the Commission and if accepted the effect was “as if enclosure had been authorised by a special Act.” A copy of the award was deposited in the parish church.</p>
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<p><i>of the several persons who should be seized or possessed of or entitled in possession to or interested in possession in <a href="#">any rights of Common</a> or other rights in any Open and Common Arable Fields including any untilled slips or Baulks therein/or any open and Common Meadow or Pasture Lands or Fields in any Parish Township or Place in England or Wales known by <a href="#">Metes and Bounds</a></i></p>	<p>This specifies those who were entitled to be considered in the process of making the award – the <a href="#">commoners</a>. See below.</p> <p><a href="#">Metes and bounds</a> is a system or method of describing land, used in England for many centuries, and is still used in the definition of general boundaries. The term “metes” refers to a boundary defined accurately by measurement. Bounds refers to a more general boundary description, such as along a certain watercourse, a stone wall, an adjoining public road way, or an existing building. The system is often used to define larger pieces of property (e.g. farms), where precise definition is not required.</p>
<p>The word “common” appears in several places in the award. It has several meanings; for centuries much of the land was farmed using an “open fields” system. Typically there would be three arable fields and crops would be rotated between the fields. The fields were large, uninclosed and farmers had numerous small strips of land scattered throughout the fields. Efficient farming could only be achieved by all the farmers working together. Ploughing, sowing and harvesting required everyone to work “in common” and the fields became known as the common arable fields. Meadow land was divided up into strips for mowing at harvest time but afterwards, since cattle could not be taught to graze in tidy strips, they were all turned out together, hence the term common meadow.</p> <p>Population density was much less then and there weren’t enough people to farm all the land of the parish. Large amounts, known as the waste remained uncultivated and unpopulated. Owned by the Lord of the Manor the waste acted as a reservoir of land which could be brought into cultivation when required and as a source of timber, minerals and so on. In mediaeval times the waste land was vital for the overwintering of cattle and sheep and even though the land belonged to the Lord he had little choice but to allow the villagers to use it. In time the <i>custom</i> of the manor in allowing the villagers to use the waste became a <i>right</i> of the villagers to use the waste, and was protected at law. Rights of common <sup>2</sup>were attached originally to the ownership of arable land in the village, and owners of land with rights attached to it were “commoners”, the term having nothing to do with social status or wealth. From mediaeval times it was possible to own land under what today we would call a long lease. Tenants held the land according to the terms [customs] used by that particular manor. Details were recorded in the manor court roll and a copy given to the tenant hence the term “copyhold customary tenant[s]” referred to in the award.</p> <p>As the centuries passed rights over common land began to be sold off with the purchaser not having to own any land or even live in the parish. These “rights” were not considered under the inclosure award.</p>	

<sup>2</sup> Defined as the right of one man to make a profit from the use of land belonging to another.



By the 1840's areas of waste were usually named "the common" but described as "commonable"; in other words it was available for use only by "commoners". Later in the century waste land, particularly in the London, began to be used for recreation and in 1865 the Commons Preservation society was started to preserve them for the use of everyone.

*or occupied according to known and legal rights/except as thereafter provided as tenant in Fee simple or in fee tail General or special or for life or lives or by the Courtesy of England or for any other Estate of or as of Freehold or for years determinable on any life or lives or for any term of years whereof One Hundred years should be unexpired or as a holder of Lands or rights of Copyhold Customary Tenant right or other Tenure of some Estate or interest equal in quantity to the Estates thereafter mentioned or any of them and for the*

John Martin had to decide who was entitled to a share of the common [waste] when the land was inclosed. This section specifies what categories of land tenure would be considered to confer rights of common and therefore a share of the land to be inclosed. Tenant in fee simple is what we would call a freeholder today- a person who possesses land or property for his life and that of his heirs. If it was entailed [tail in the document] some clause was attached; "General" meant to his direct heirs by any spouse "Special" meant to heirs of particular spouses or family members if he had no direct heir.

It is commonly believed that a married woman [until the 1882 Married Women's Property Act] could not own property. Until this time, on marriage, a woman's **personal** property became her husband's. If her husband died his property could be passed to an heir other than his wife. To avoid the distress this would cause she was usually entitled to a dower -about 1/3rd of her husbands property- until she died. A daughter could inherit **real**<sup>3</sup> property i.e. an estate in land from her parents. On her marriage her husband came to possess all her personal property and could dispose of it as he would and pass it to his heirs on his death. However in the case of his wife's **real** property he never came into full possession. He would only own the rents and any profit from this land. If he died the whole estate would return entire to the wife and he could not pass his

3 Real property is land which is the property of some person and all structures integrated and affixed to it. Personal property is anything else a person may own.

wifes real property to his heirs.

**Courtesy of England** was the name given to the situation when the wife died and was seized [in legal possession] of real property. The husband only had a certain interest in the real property [the right to the rents etc] but the title to the land passed to the wife's heir. However if the husband and wife had had a child together then the husband became a “tenant for life” and retained the rights to the rents etc – Courtesy of England was the equivalent of a male dower. The rules were very complex the child had to be born alive. Crying was the strongest evidence of its being born alive but it had to be born during the life of the mother. It was not uncommon for the mother to die in labour the husband could not become a tenant by Courtesy of England because, at the instant of the mother’s death, the land descended to the child, while he was yet in his mother’s womb; and the estate, being once so vested, could not afterwards be taken from him [or her].<sup>4</sup>

**Copyhold or Customary tenure** was a system whereby a tenant held land according to the Customs of his local manor. As a result much variation in practice existed. The details were entered into the court roll of the manor and a copy was given to the tenant. There were broadly two types; Copyhold of Inheritance was the most secure as it was inherited by the tenants heirs in the same way as freehold land could be inherited so long as the appropriate fines [the old way of referring to fees] were paid. Copyhold of lives was for a set number of specified lives, usually three but could be renewed by payment of a fine to the lord.

<sup>4</sup> Blackstone Commentaries on the Laws of England 1765-1789. He makes an interesting comment about Caesarean section which was at this time done occasionally after the mother death. In this case although the child was born alive it only did so after the mother death and so the husband could not be a tenant by courtesy.

	<p>According to the General View of the Agriculture of the County of Dorset 1812 Copyhold in Dorset generally was on the decline. According to the Author William Stevenson this was because of the frauds practised on the Lords of the Manor “by the customary tenant marrying in the last decrepid [sic] stage of old age to very young girls by which according to the custom of copyhold tenures in this county the wife is entitled to her free bench on the husbands copyhold.”</p> <p>Copyhold was finally abolished in 1925 but had been largely replaced by what we now call freehold and leasehold by an Act of 1852. In fact according to the General View of Agriculture leases for three lives or ninety nine years were common in the county BUT these had no rights of common attached to them.</p>
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<p><i>Guardians Trustees Feoffee for Charitable or other u*ses Husband or Committee of such person who at the time of any agreement for or on the making of any inclosure authorised by the Act now in recital should be an infant idiot lunatic or <b>femes couvertes</b> or under any other disability in such manner and with such consent as was thereinafter mentioned to inclose such open and common Arable Meadow and Pasture Lands and Fields or any of them and to extinguish <b>the right of Inter commonage</b> which should exist as well over as in respect of such lands <b>Provided</b> that no such inclosures should take place without the consent in writing under the Hands of two third parts in number and value of the persons so seized</i></p>	<p>Next follows provision for those who were under a legal disability. It specifies who would be considered as having legal responsibility; <b>Guardians Trustees Feoffees etc. Feoffees were mediaeval trusts; the Tenures Abolition Act 1660 abolished feudalism but established trusts persisted.</b></p> <p>An unmarried woman or “feme sole” had the right to own property and make contracts in her own name. A married woman or “<b>feme couvert</b>” had no legal rights or obligations distinct from those of her husband. As far as the law was concerned husband and wife were one person, and that person was the husband. A married woman could not own property,<sup>5</sup> sign legal</p>
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5 See note above

<p><i>possessed entitled or interested as aforesaid or of the Guardians Trustees Feoffees Husbands or committees as aforesaid of each of the said persons who might be under disability</i></p>	<p>documents, enter into a contract, obtain an education against her husband's wishes, or keep a salary for herself. It is this notion that underlay the principle that husbands and wives could not testify for or against each other. Judges and lawyers referred to the overall principle as "coverture".</p> <p>Blackstone in his commentaries with all seriousness writes the following;</p> <p><i>The civil law gave the husband the same, or a larger, authority over his wife; allowing him, for some misdemeanors, flagellis et fustibus acriter verberare uxorem [To beat his wife severely with whips and sticks], for others, only modicam castigationem adhibere [with moderate punishment]. But, with us, in the politer reign of Charles the second, this power of correction began to be doubted... Yet the lower rank of people, who were always fond of the old common law, still claim and exert their ancient privilege: and the courts of law will still permit a husband to restrain a wife of her liberty, in case of any gross misbehavior.</i></p> <p><b><i>THESE are the chief legal effects of marriage during the coverture; upon which we may observe, that even the disabilities, which the wife lies under, are for the most part intended for her protection and benefit. So great a favorite is the female sex of the laws of England.</i></b></p> <p>The waste or common was uninclosed, unoccupied and uncultivated. Adjacent manors would often agree rights which allowed them to “share” each others common – <b>the right of intercommonage</b>. This was a practical way to prevent accusations of trespass by animals from different manors.</p>
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<p><i>as aforesaid such value to be ascertained by the Assessments of the <b>Poor Rates</b> of the respective Parishes or Townships for the then current year</i></p>	<p><b>The Poor rates</b> were used to decide who was or was not included in the “two third parts in number and value of the persons so seized possessed</p>
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<p><i>which Assessment of the Poor Rates in case they should not be made according to the full annual amount or value of the Tenements and Property thereby assessed should be increased or diminished so as to represent the full or true annual value of the several lands fields and rights liable to be affected by the intended inclosure and where the lands were extra parochial or no poor rates should exist in respect of any such lands then by the full or true annual Values thereof</i></p>	<p>entitled ....” I have not been able to track any records for Child Okeford Poor Rate but I suspect the wording of this section reflects a bigger problem with the calculation of the rate. An example quoted in Enclosure Records for Historians <sup>6</sup> records that the Poor Rate in Southease [East Sussex] varied from 9s in 1839 to 4s 2d per pound in 1843. Clearly this would make a huge difference to who was or was not included in the “two thirds parts in number and value”. The answer in the Southease example was to average the rate over 7 years.</p> <p>The Commissioners role was to oversee the inclosure process and the post was usually advertised [although I have not found such an advert] in the local press. He in turn had to organise a valuation and survey of the land to be inclosed. The most important part of this was the valuation. John Martin was known to the Landowners of Child Okeford from his survey undertaken for the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 and completed four years previously. It must have reassured them that he was a commissioner valuer and surveyor. Doubtless they hoped the cost to them would be reduced compared to employing separate valuers etc.</p>
<p><b>Provided</b> also that no such inclosure should take place nor should any previous Agreement for that purpose be binding until a public meeting of the Proprietors and Persons interested in the lands intended to be inclosed should have been previously called for the purpose of taking the expediency of such inclosure into consideration by notice under the hands of three or more of such Proprietors or persons interested such notice to be affixed on the <i>principal outer door of the Church or Chapel of the</i></p>	<p>Concerns over the tendency of large landowners to inclose land in, as one author put it, “relative privacy” led to a clause in yet another Inclosure Act [Acts for improving the cultivation of common fields. 13 George IV. (1773), c. 81.] made it a requirement to post any notice of intention to <a href="#">inclose on the Church door</a>.</p> <p>We do not have any record of such notice unfortunately.</p>

<sup>6</sup> Phillimore press 1980 author Steven Hollowell

<p><i>Parishes Townships or Places wherein the Lands intended to be inclosed should lie or in case there be no such Church or Chapel then on the Door of the Church or Chapel of some adjoining Parish Township or Place And also advertised in some Newspaper circulated in the County wherein such Lands laid at least fourteen days before the said intended Meeting</i></p>	<p>Subsequent meetings were advertised in the Dorsetshire County Chronicle</p>
<p><i><b>Provided</b> that such inclosure might after such Meeting be proceeded with by and with the consent in writing of two thirds parts in number and value of the Proprietors and Persons interested in the lands intended to be inclosed notwithstanding some of the Parties who might approve of and consent to such might not be present at such Meeting and might signify their consent thereto after the same should have been holden <b>And it was further Enacted</b> that whenever the persons whose consents were thereby rendered necessary to any such inclosure should have consented hereto in manner in that behalf therein authorised and required it should be lawful for the <b>Major part in Number and value of the Proprietors</b> of and persons interested in the Lands divided and inclosed or their known Agents who might be present at a Meeting to be called for that purpose to nominate and appoint in writing under their hands one or more Person or Persons not interested in the Premises to be a Commissioner or Commissioners for dividing allotting and inclosing and he and they are and were thereby <b>empowered to Divide allot and inclose</b> all or any of the open and Common Arable meadow or Pasture Lands or Fields in any such Parish Township or place or in any Parishes Townships or places adjoining or lying within two miles of the aforesaid Parish Township or Place which might have been agreed to be divided allotted</i></p>	<p>Having agreed that the process of inclosure should go ahead the <b>Major part in Number and value of the Proprietors</b> [even though not all might have been present at the initial meeting] another meeting was to be held at which time a Commissioner or Commissioners to carry the process of inclosure through was to be appointed. Clearly the farmers of Child Okeford were happy to entrust the process to as single commissioner – John Martin.</p> <p>As mentioned before various legal means were employed to inclose land culminating in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the use of Private Acts of Parliament. This was necessary as only Statute Law passed by Parliament could override the common law. Inclosures by other means were thus always vulnerable to being challenged at some later date by a Commoner who might claim that he had not been consulted. The 1836 act was one of two [the other was the Tithe Commutation Act of the same year] which allowed the appointment of Commissioners who, having complied with the principles of the Act[s] were then <b>empowered to divide allot and inclose</b> and the final award would be as binding in law as statute law.</p>

<p><i><b>And it was further enacted</b> that the said Commissioner or Commissioners or Umpire should he or they was or were required to cause notice in writing to be affixed to the respective Church or Chapel Door of the Parish Township or Place wherein the land intended to be inclosed were situate or if there be no church or chapel then in some conspicuous public place there And also a like Notice to be published in some Newspaper circulating in the County wherein such lands laid of the time and place of his or their attendance or meeting and of all other subsequent attendances or meetings for executing the power thereby or in and by the said therein recited Act vested in him or them ten days before any such Meeting (meetings by adjournment only excepted)</i></p>	<p>Having been appointed, the next step was for the Commissioner to call an initial meeting. Again we have no record of this.</p>
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<p><i><b>Provided</b> always that all the Meetings of the Said Commissioners shall be holden in one of the Parishes or Townships wherein the lands to be inclosed are situate or within seven miles of the Boundaries of one of them And it was further enacted that it should be lawful for the said Commissioner or Commissioners to set out and allot and award and land tenements or hereditaments whatsoever whether situate within the Boundary of such open and common lands or fields as aforesaid or making such Exchange or Exchanges should be respectively Infants Femes Couvertes Idiots Lunatics or under any other legal disability or who should be beyond the Seoys [???] or otherwise disabled to act for themselves himself or herself or of the Trustees or Feoffees or Charitable Parochial or other uses or of the person or persons having power to sell and dispose of the hereditaments and premises which should be so</i></p>	
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*exchanged (such consent to be testified in writing under the Common Seal of the Body Politic Corporate or Collegiate and under the hands of the other consenting parties respectively/and all and every such Exchange and Exchanges so to be made respectively should be good valid and effectual in the law to all intents and purposes whatsoever adjoining thereto within the Parishes Townships or Places in which the lands to be allotted and inclosed are situated or any of them in lieu of and in exchange for any other lands tenements or hereditaments within the same Parishes Townships or Places respectively or any of them or within any Parish Township or Places adjoining to the said Parishes Townships or Places respectively or any of them Provided that all such Exchanges should be ascertained specified and declared in the Award of the said Commissioner or Commissioners and be made with the consent in writing or the Proprietor or Proprietors of the hereditament and premises which should be so exchanged whether such Proprietor or Proprietors should be a Body or Bodies Politic Corporate or Collegiate Corporation aggregate or sole Rector Parson Vicar or other ecclesiastical person or persons or a Tenant or Tenant in fee simple or for life or in fee tail special or general or by the Courtesy of England or for years determinable on any life or lives by and with the consent of Leysor or Leysors but not otherwise or with the consent of the Guardians Husbands Committees or Attorneys of or acting for any such Proprietor or Proprietors who at the time of making such Exchange or Exchanges should be respectively Infants Femes Couvertes Idiots Lunatics or under any other legal disability or who should be beyond the Seoyes [???] or otherwise disabled to act for themselves himself or herself or of the Trustees or Feoffees or Charitable Parochial or other uses or of the person or persons having power to sell*

**Exchanges** of land had been taking place for centuries by mutual agreement. In the days of the open fields, where a farmer may have had many selions or strips throughout the parish, it made sense to try and consolidate them. The 1836 Act allowed those who were likely to receive newly inclosed land to swap their new allotment for land previously inclosed by mutual agreement.

Since land was in fact exchanged between Lord Rivers and George Peach notice would have had to be given of their intention.



<p><i>and dispose of the hereditaments and premises which should be so exchanged (such consent to be testified in writing under the Common Seal of the Body Politic Corporate or Collegiate and under the hands of the other consenting parties respectively/and all and every such Exchange and Exchanges so to be made respectively should be good valid and effectual in the law to all intents and purposes whatsoever</i></p>	
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<p><b>And Whereas</b> <i>Sir Edward Baker Baker Baronet George Peach Esquire and John Baldwin being three of the Proprietors or Persons seized or possessed of and interested in possession in rights of Common in the open and common lands and fields known by metes and bounds and also occupied according to known and legal rights situate within the Parish of Child Okeford in the said County of Dorset and hereinafter more particularly mentioned <b>Did</b> in pursuance of the herinbefore recited Act on or about the twenty ninth day of November One Thousand Eight Hundred and forty one by notice in writing under their hands duly call a Public Meeting of the Proprietors and persons interested in the said open and common lands and fields to be holden on Monday the twentieth day of December then following at the hour and place therein specified for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of dividing allotting and inclosing the said open and common Meadow or Pasture lands or fields which notice was affixed on the principal outer door of the Church of the Parish of Child Okeford aforesaid and also advertised in the Dorset County Chronicle and Somersetshire Gazette a newspaper circulated in the said County more than fourteen days previous to the said twentieth day of December</i></p>	<p>We are told the names of the <i>Proprietors</i> who initiated the process of inclosure. They are listed in order of rank!</p> <p>Firstly there is Sir Edward Baker Baker Bart. For someone of such credentials he had minimal land in Child Okeford about 12 acres in total. The Baker family first come to prominence in 1448 when Richard Baker married Joan Bromley [sic]who held [owned] the Township of Bromley. By 1686 there had been eight generations of Bakers seven of whom were sons named “John”. In 1715 the family experimented with a son named William and their luck ran out; William had a son Peter William Baker, who now bought Ranston House and Estate from the Ryves Family. He was MP for Corfe Castle but unfortunately died without issue . His sister Elizabeth Baker married into the Littlehales family and must have inherited the estate presumably being required to incorporate the Baker name into her sons name. He was called John Baker Littlehales, and he in turn had a son, Sir Edward Baker Littlehales who having rendered “important services to his country” in the army was created a Baronet in 1802. His son added another Baker to his name and it was this son Sir Edward Baker Baker who held the estate in 1845. He died without issue</p>
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	<p>after 1870.</p> <p>George Peach owned 122 acres and was a self made man, John Housley researching him writes “he joined the army at the age of 21 [about 1800] as a hospital mate and in ten years worked his way up the medical ladder to become a full army surgeon”. He could have been the original “Sharpe” of Bernard Cornwall fame, seeing extensive action in the Napoleonic wars. He retired to Dorset in 1815 and married Elizabeth Fox of Mapperton and lived in Charminster ; in 1836 they moved, with their five daughters to Millbrook House and he established himself as a country squire with substantial land holdings.</p> <p>John Baldwin [1782-1857] was a member of a very ancient family <sup>7</sup> within the village. He was the third son of an earlier John Baldwin [1758-1828]. The 1840 Tithe Map shows him farming 4.35 acres for the Rector Charles Edward North in CO but owning no land in the village itself. The reason for this is that he had spent most of his farming career as a tenant farmer in the neighbouring parish of Hammoon. He sold up there in 1841 and Housley has found mention of him in the CO Vestry minutes from 1844. As the family owned a house in CO it is probable that he had rights of common that allowed him to be one of the “proprietors”.</p>
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<p><b><i>And whereas</i></b> a Meeting was accordingly holden in pursuance of the aforesaid Notice on the said <i>Twentieth day of December One thousand Eight Hundred and forty one</i> when the several proprietors then present <i>Did in writing under their own hands resolve to divide allot and inclose</i></p>	<p>This first meeting held on <i>20/12/1841</i> was called to agree on the inclosure but clearly something went wrong as they were not able to attract to the meeting <i>two thirds in number and value of the several persons interested in the said open common meadow or pasture lands or fields</i> they were</p>
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<sup>7</sup> I can do no better than refer the reader to John Housleys’ “Child Okeford The End of an Era 1816-1860” for a full description of the Baldwin, Wiltshire, Baverstock, Rossiter [and many other]families. I am greatly indebted to him for allowing me to use some of the results of his research in this paper.

<p><i>the same open and common Meadow or Pasture Lands or Fields and to extinguish all rights of inter commonage which should exist in and over the said lands and ground but the person or persons at the said Meeting <b>not comprising two thirds in number and value of the several persons</b> interested in the said open common meadow or pasture lands or fields the Solicitor to the Landowners was thereupon directed to obtain the consent in writing of two thirds in number and value of the several persons interested as aforesaid and then cause a Meeting to be convened for the purpose of appointing a Commissioner to carry the inclosure into effect</i></p>	<p>forced to get their solicitor to “drum up” support for their proposals.</p>
<p><b>And whereas</b> <i>two thirds in number and value of the several proprietors or persons who were interested in possession of the said open and common lands and fields Did at and after the holding of the hereinafter mentioned meeting and prior to the meeting next hereinafter recited duly consent in writing to the said open and common lands and fields being inclosed and also divided and allotted under the provisions of the said Act of the seventh year of his late Majesty King William the Fourth <b>And whereas</b> at a Meeting duly called and holden on the <b>ninth day of May One Thousand Eight Hundred and forty two</b> pursuant to due notice the major part in number and value of the proprietors and persons</i></p>	<p>It took nearly 6 months for the requisite approvals to be gathered from all the landowners. In the event there were 33 beneficiaries of the inclosure award as well as the Overseers of the Poor but we do not know how many others claimed to have rights of common. Given these numbers the time scale does not seem unreasonable.</p>
<p><i>interested in the said open and common meadows or Pasture Lands or **** or their known agents present at such Meeting Did nominate and appoint in writing under their hands me the said <b>John Martin</b> (not being interested in the said premises) to be the Commissioner for dividing</i></p>	<p><b>John Martin</b> was appointed at the May meeting; we do not know whether the post was advertised or whether he was appointed simply because he was known from his previous work with the Tithe Map.</p>

<p><i>allotting and inclosing the same in accordance with the power and authority to them for that purpose given in and by the hereinbefore recited Act</i></p>	
<p><b><i>And Whereas</i></b> <i>I the said Commissioner have duly taken and subscribed the <b>Oath</b> required by the said recited Act before exercising the powers given to and vested in me by virtue of the same as such Commissioner as aforesaid</i></p>	<p>We have no details of the <b>oath</b> that was taken.</p>
<p><b><i>And whereas</i></b> <i>I the said Commissioner Have held divers and sundry Meetings for carrying the purposes of the hereinbefore recited Act into execution in pursuance of and subsequent to public notice duly given in manner therein directed</i></p>	<p>The first advert we could find was in the Dorsetshire County Chronicle dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 1842 in which Martin called a meeting for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 1842.</p>

**DORSET.**  
**CHILD OKEFORD INCLOSURE.**

**I JOHN MARTIN**, of Everahot, in the County of Dorset, Land Surveyor, the Sole Commissioner appointed for INCLOSING the OPEN and COMMON PASTURE LANDS called or known by the several Names of the Higher Common, the Lower Common, Gobson's Common, Net Mead, Gold Hill, Lea Gold Lane, and West Lane, situate within the Parish of Child Okeford, in the County of Dorset, under the powers and provisions of an Act of Parliament passed in the sixth and seventh years of the Reign of King William the Fourth, do hereby give Notice, that I shall hold my **FIRST ATTENDANCE or MEETING** for the general purposes of the said Inclosure, and for executing the powers by the said Act of Parliament, and by an Act of Parliament passed in the forty-first year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, vested in me as such Commissioner, on **MONDAY**, the Twenty-second day of **AUGUST** next, at the hour of Twelve o'Clock at Noon, at the **BAKER'S ARMS INN**, in Child Okeford aforesaid, at which time and place all Persons and Bodies Corporate, Politic, or Collegiate, who shall have or claim any Common or other Rights to or in any such Lands so to be divided and inclosed, shall deliver or cause to be delivered to me an Account or Schedule, in writing, signed by them or by their respective Husbonds, Guardians, Trustees, Committees, or Agents of such their respective Rights or Claims.

And also, in what Rights and for what Estates and Interests they claim the same respectively, distinguishing the Freehold from the Copyhold or Leasehold, and on Non-compliance therewith every of them making default therein shall (so far only as respects any claim so neglected to be delivered) be totally barred and excluded of and from all Right and Title in or upon such Lands so to be divided respectively, and of and from all Benefit and Advantage in or to any Share or Allotment thereof.

Given under my Hand this Fourth day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-two.

**JOHN MARTIN**, Commissioner.

This first meeting was held at the Bakers Arms Inn at 12.00. At this time Martin would have received claims from those that had rights of common either over the lands to be inclosed or the “waste” or common land. Since the only field to be inclosed was Netmead the majority of rights would have been over the common itself. Proforma were usually provided for the claimants to use and it was necessary to distinguish whether the rights were being claimed by freeholders or by copyhold or leaseholders. In the case of copyhold the right would revert to the Lord of the Manor as copyhold land was a form of tenure tied to the manor. Any freeholder could issue leases and when these ran out the right of common would revert to the freeholder.

Rights of common were not always easy to prove. The original right would have been granted by the Lord of the Manor according to local custom and as the centuries advanced records were frequently lost; if, as occasionally happened, rights were challenged in court it was not unknown for village elders to be called as witnesses to the longevity of these customs. It is not known if there were any problems in relation to claims in Child Okeford since although we have the final award we have none of the documents, drafts, odd notes etc that went into its making.

**DORSET.**  
**CHILD OKEFORD INCLOSURE.**

**I JOHN MARTIN, of EVERSNOT, in the County of Dorset, Landsurveyor, the Sole Commissioner appointed for INCLOSING the COMMONABLE LANDS situate within the Parish of CHILD OKEFORD, in the said County of Dorset. DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that I shall hold my NEXT ATTENDANCE or SITTING for the purposes of the said Inclosure, on WEDNESDAY, the 5th day of OCTOBER next, at the hour of Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, at the GREYHOUND INN, in the Town of BLANDFORD, in the said county. And I DO HEREBY GIVE FURTHER NOTICE, that the Account or Schedule of Claims delivered to me from the several Persons having or claiming any Common, or any other Rights to or in the Lands intended to be Divided, Allotted and Inclosed, are left at the Office of Mr. SEPTIMUS SMITH, Solicitor, in Blandford aforesaid, and at the Dwelling-House of Mrs. SUSANNAH NEWMAN, called the UNION ARMS INN, in Child Okeford aforesaid, for the inspection and perusal of all Persons interested or claiming to be interested in the Premises, their respective Agents or Attornies, who may take Copies thereof or extracts therefrom respectively. And if any Person or Persons, or Bodies Politic or Corporate, interested or claiming to be interested in the Premises, shall have any Objection to offer to any such Account or Schedule of Claims, the Particulars of such Objection must be reduced into Writing, and signed by them or their respective Husbands, Guardians, Trustees, Committees or Agents, and delivered to me at or before my said next Attendance or Sitting by me now appointed for that purpose; and no such objection will be afterwards received unless for some legal disability or special cause to be allowed by me.**

**Dated this 22nd day of September, 1842.**  
**JOHN MARTIN, Commissioner.**

John Martin's second meeting was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1842 as advertised by the advert above from September 1842. In this case the meeting was to be held at the Greyhound Inn Blandford. It would appear that by this time all claims had been submitted and details of these were to be discussed at the meeting. Moreover copies of the claims were to be held by Mr Septimus Smith a solicitor in Blandford and at the house of Susannah Newman who owned and ran the Union Arms Inn in Child Okeford.

The purpose of this was to give those concerned the opportunity to peruse each others claims and to object to those claims if necessary.

With the exception of the Union Arms which now exists as a private dwelling all the other Inns mentioned are still fulfilling their original purpose.

*And Whereas I the said Commissioner have caused a true and exact and particular Survey Admeasurement and Plan to be made and completed of the said open and Common Meadows or Pasture Lands and fields hereinbefore mentioned and which are hereinafter divided and allotted contain together by measurement Two Hundred and eighty eight Acres and seventeen perches # # # # Statute Measure*

The phrase “a true and exact and particular survey Admeasurement and plan” was the phrase used in the text of the 1801 Inclosure Consolidation Act mentioned above. The total area to be inclosed was 288 acres 17 perches, not a large area. The land was surveyed and measured using a Gunter's chain; this comprised 100 links amounting to 22 yards in total length.

An area 10 chains long by one chain wide constituted an acre [4840 square yards].

One quarter of a chain [5.5yards] was known as a Rod; a Rod x Rod [i.e. a square rod] was called a **perch**.

Thus an acre can also be envisioned as a strip made up of 40 rods long by 4 rods wide – that is to say it comprises 160 perches.

Just to complicate matters groups of 40 perches comprised a **rood**. So there were 4 roods to an acre.

This may all seem very cumbersome but it worked for the good reason that fields were not always square or rectangular. Odd irregular shapes could thus be accommodated without resorting to all sorts of complicated maths.

<p><i>And Whereas I the said Commissioner have proceeded to set out and appoint the several public and private roads and highways and Public Footways hereinafter particularly mentioned and described <b>And Whereas</b> I the said Commissioner have duly examined and enquired into the rights and interests of the several persons interested in the said intended division and allotment and duly considered the same and have in all respects complied with the directions and provisions in the hereinafter recited act mentioned and contained and referred to</i></p>	<p>Its worth remembering that this award was a legal document prepared for parliament and once accepted by the Inclosure Commissioners would have the effect of statute law. This was no trivial document, it may seem that the language is repetitive and formulaic but Martin is, in effect, affirming that he has acted in accordance and compliance with the law - the literary equivalent of swearing under oath.</p>
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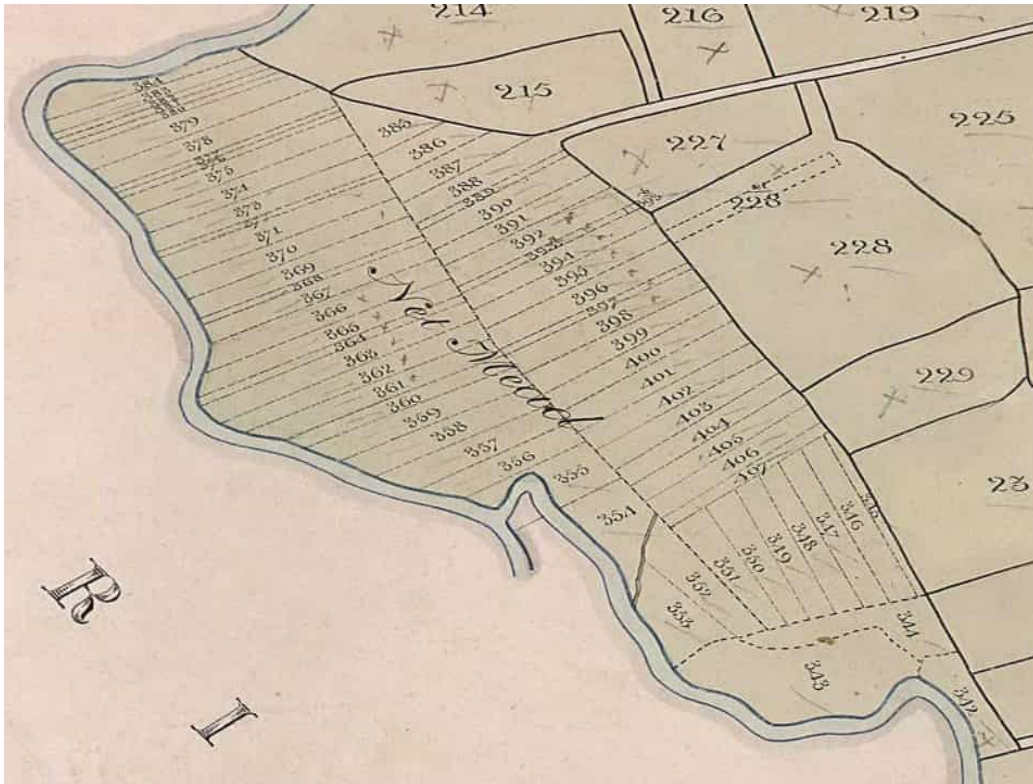
<p><i>And Whereas the several allotments in the open and common Meadow hereinafter allotted and divided called <b>Net Mead</b> being small and expensive and inconvenient to inclose the Proprietors and Persons interested therein are desirous of stocking and depasturing their Allotments in the said Net Mead after the foreshare thereof hath been cut and removed and of sharing such produce as may grow thereon under proper regulations and they having made such application to me in this behalf as is in and by the said several Acts or one of them required I have determined on an attentive view and full consideration of the Premises to award order and direct all the said Allotments in the said Net Mead to be laid together and to be stocked and depastured in Common from and after the time hereinafter mentioned and to make such orders and regulations for the Equitable enjoyment thereof and for the participation of the produce thereof as are hereinafter contained and which I think beneficial and proper for the said several parties interested therein</i></p>	<p>The award proper begins here and starts with the fate of the field known as <b>Net mead</b>. On the Tithe Map of 1840 it is the only field to be shown divided into strips. However this was probably always a meadow and not an arable field [The name Net Mead derives from Neat, old English for cow]. Originally rights of common were attached to the arable land but of course the animals needed hay for overwintering. As a result each farmer was allocated an amount of meadow land in proportion to his arable holdings and this is what is represented.</p> <p>How did the system work? A clue is given in the alternative name for this field “Lot Mead” found in other documents. We have no evidence for Child Okeford but the process has been described elsewhere.<sup>8</sup> The farmers would first draw lots. They would then proceed to lay out strips in the grass prior to mowing. This was done according to the lot order and size of the holding. The strips would be marked with the farmers “mead mark”- a wooden plaque with the owners unique pattern on.</p>
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8 The English Village Community and the Enclosure movements W E Tate 1967



	<p>The hay was hand mown with scythes and each owner removed his share. Scything did not result in a close cut and there was usually sufficient grass left for cattle to graze over the winter. All farmers with rights of common in the field would then turn out their cattle onto the field. Since it was impossible to get cattle to graze in strips and the strips were too small to fence off a system known as Common of Shack had developed. This allowed farmers with commonable rights to turn their cattle out onto the field without being accused of trespass. Common of shack was not a true common right since it was arranged by mutual agreement of the commoners and not a right granted by the lord of the manor. These rights were often “stinted” or limited, usually by the number of cattle and the length of time they could be left on the field. After inclosure this right would have disappeared. There were 15 landowners with rights in this field and since to inclose what were quite small areas was impracticable. They determined on a pragmatic approach of “no change” and continued depasturing the cattle after the harvest in common. This right has persisted as Netmead is the only area of land in the Parish which is registered as common land albeit with a much reduced number of commoners having rights over it.</p>
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The tithe map shows Net Mead divided up into numerous “virtual” strips. Previously inclosed fields are shown bordered by solid lines those in Net Mead by - - - lines. This was the custom on tithe maps when showing uninclosed fields.

Note the small strip in field 228. This is known as a quillet and other examples are found on the tithe map. They are a remnant of the open field system. This is another “virtual” strip. In the tithe file the field is numbered 228a and 228b and are owned by George Peach and farmed by John Baverstock. In other examples on the map the main field is owned by one person and the small quillet by another.

*Now therefore I the said Commissioner **DO** make this my Award as follows / that is to say / that I the said Commissioner by virtue of the hereinafter recited Act of Parliament passed in the seventh year of his late Majesty King William the Fourth and in exercise and execution of the Powers and authorities therein and thereby to me given and of every other power and authority enabling me in this behalf **HAVE** set out and appointed and **DO** hereby declare and Award the f\*\*\*<sup>9</sup> **Public Carriage Roads and Highways Private Carriage Roads and Driftways and Public Halterways Footways through and over the lands and grounds hereby divided and inclosed and next hereinafter mentioned and described that is to say***

The inclosure process was often used to improve local infrastructure ; roads were so important they usually comprised the first part of the award. The Commissioner was required “to set out and appoint the **publick [sic] Carriage Roads** and Highways, through and over the Lands and Grounds intended to be divided, allotted, and inclosed, and to divert, turn, and stop up, any of the Roads and Tracts, upon or over, all, or any Part of the said Lands and Grounds, as he or they shall judge necessary, so as such Roads and Highways shall be, and remain thirty Feet wide at the least, and so as the same shall be set out out in such Directions as shall, upon the Whole, appear to him or them most commodious to the Publick”. Land drainage was also important but did not apply to Child Okeford.

The terms used used in these awards were highly specific and are occasionally referred to in the courts. In *Dunlop v Secretary of State for the Environment* [1995], for example, the court had to decide on the meaning of the terms Private and Public used in the “Glatton with Holme” Inclosure Act of 1820. It had been argued that, in effect, Private meant public [sic]. It comes as no surprise that the judge concluded that this was nonsense and that the terms mean precisely what you think they mean!

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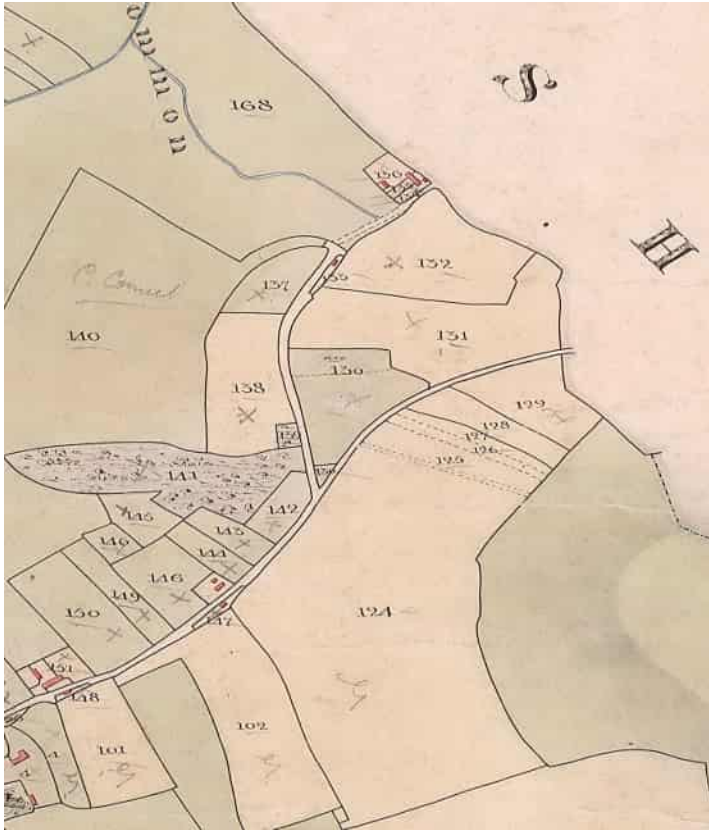
9 You might think this unreadable word should be “following” but there are not enough letters on the award for this to be the case.

## Public Carriage Roads and Highways

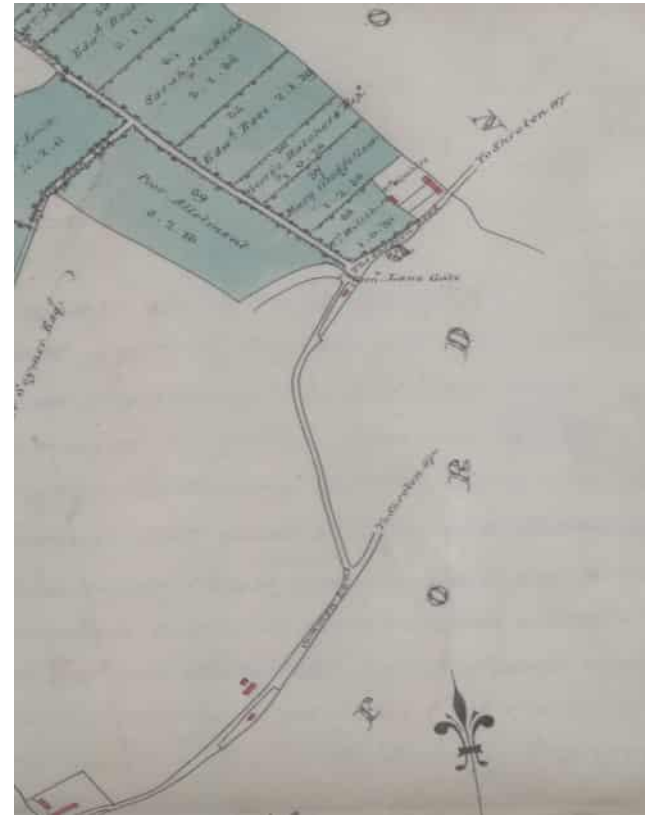
### ***The Shroton Road = a***

*One Public Carriage Road and Highway of the Breadth of Thirty Feet called The Shroton Road and marked with the letter a on the Map hereinto annexed commencing at Common Lane Gate in the Higher Common and extending Northeastwards in its present track leading towards Shroton*

The Tithe map of 1840 [Left below] show that the principal road to **Shroton** was what is now known as Sandy Lane. The current Shaftesbury road did not exist it stopped in the Higher Common at the Common Lane Gate where after it is shown as a minor track. The Inclosure award required construction of the Shroton road beginning at what is now shown on the OS map as “the common drove” but which was also to be built under the terms of the award when it was known as the “Higher Common Road”. The inclosure map [right] shows the direction of the road- what happened after it passed the short distance into Shroton we do not know. Shroton was wholly inclosed in 1548 and the tithe map shows a track in 1840 being the continuation of the track shown above; did they also undertake to build a road?



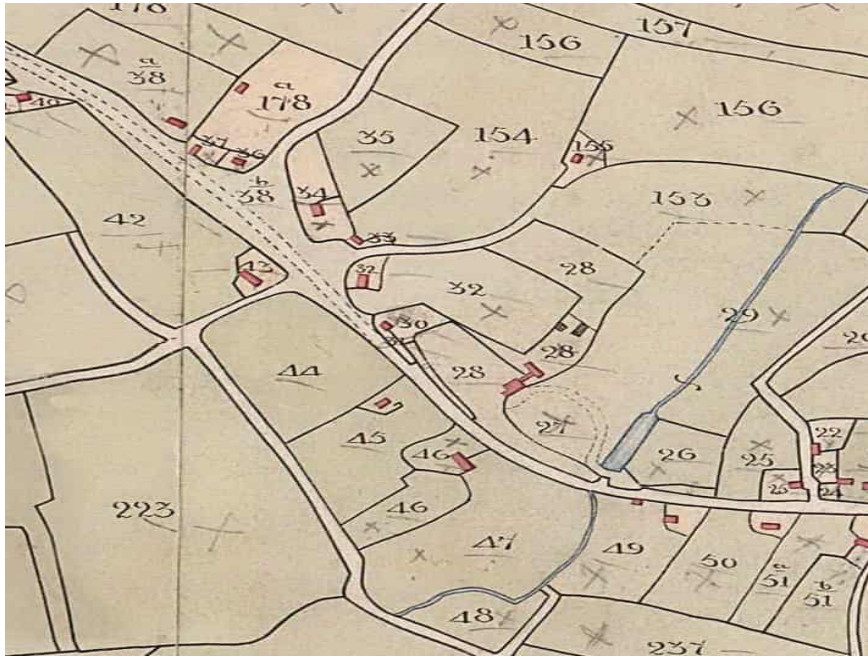
The Tithe map shows no continuous road out of the village by what is now the Shaftesbury road. Shroton was reached via Sandy Lane between plots 131 and 129. Today this is probably what all such “roads” in the village were like then; a rough farm lane which at times was very muddy.



The Inclosure award shows that a new road to Shroton, “The Shroton Road has to be constructed” marked “a”.

*The Lower common road = b*

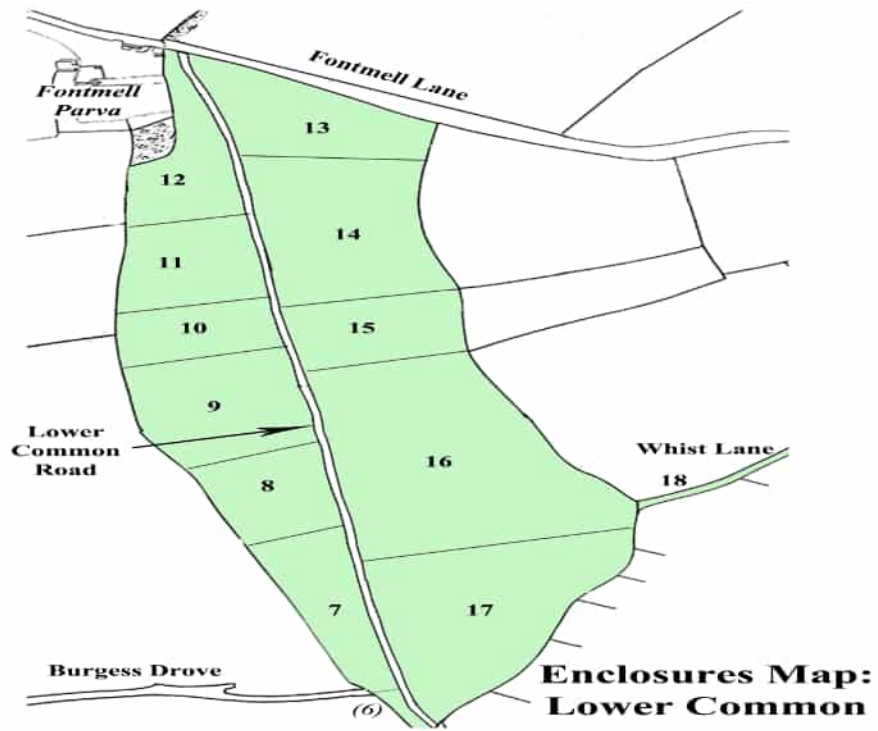
*One other Public Carriage Road and Highway of the Breadth of Thirty feet called the Lower Common Road marked with the letter b on the said Map commencing near a Cottage of Mrs Susan Abbot at Gold Hill and extending Northward in its present track over Goldhill and the Lower Common until it enters Fontmell Lane leading towards manston [sic].*



The Tithe Map [1840] is shown and no 32 is the cottage of Susan Abbott which I take to be the still extant “Gold Hill Cottage”. Although the reproduction of the map does not show it clearly the area, b38 through which the === track runs was in fact common land [it is shaded pale green] and known as “Gold Hill Common”. It was used for agricultural purposes as its state of cultivation is given as “pasture”. The road through the village thus ran out at the foot of Gold Hill and there was no carriageway or lane across the Lower Common other than a track as indicated by the dotted line.

The track between a 178 and 35 is Ridgeway lane and is not coloured and since only titheable land was coloured not cultivated. At its lower end it ran into the Gold Hill common and at its upper end into the Higher common. It was not thus a road but a lane serving only the fields it ran between.

The award required the construction of what is now the lower common road allowing, for the first time a connection for wheeled vehicles to get to Hammoon, Manston and Sturminster. It will be appreciated that until this time in the absence of the Lower Common Road and the Shroton Road the village was in effect a cul-de-sac



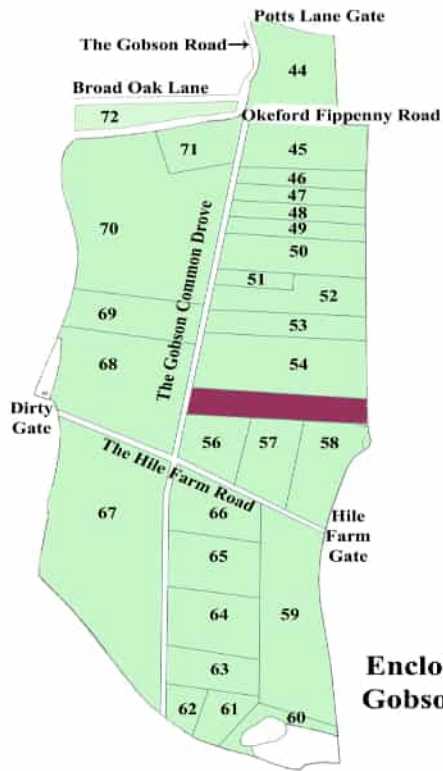
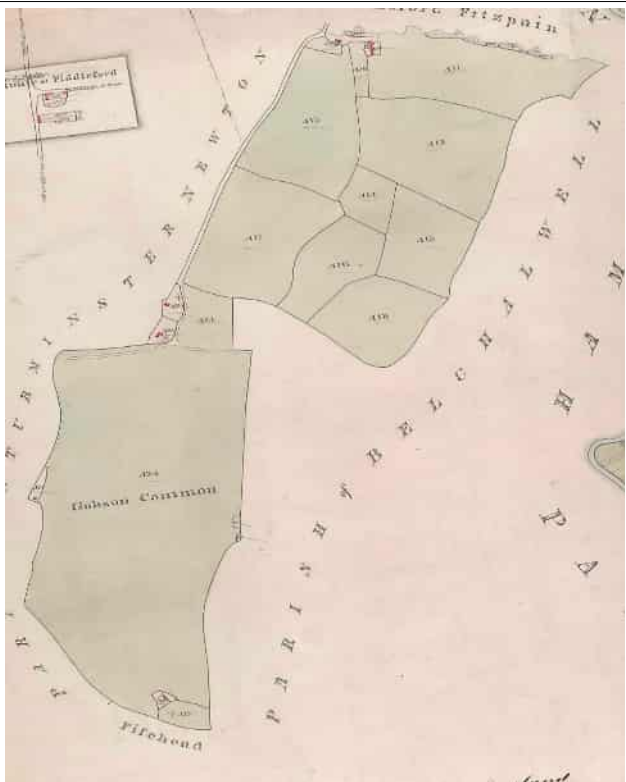
The newly constructed “Lower Common Road” and other lanes mentioned in the award. In the original notice published in the Dorsetshire C above “Whist Lane” is referred to as West lane in the announcement made in July 1842. At some past time the whole of this area must have been common land. The St Loes had at some time inclosed a part of it near Fontmell Lane [the fields shown unnumbered in white on this map.]

Similarly the common had been inclosed with fields off the Ridgeway Lane. Whist Lane thus was in modern parlance a green corridor between the upper and lower common open to all. It could not be allowed to remain as common land once inclosure of the common took place- it had to go.

<p><i>The Gobson road = c</i></p> <p><i>And One other Public Carriage Road and Highway of the breadth of Thirty feet called The Gobson Public road and marked with the letter c on the said Map commencing at Pats Lane Gate and extending Southward in its present track over part of Gobson Common until it enters the Okeford Fitzpaine Road</i></p>	<p>How Gobson Common [a name now not traceable on any map] came to be a part of Child Okeford Parish is another story. On modern OS maps it found just South of Broad Oak near Sturminster and the whole area is known now as Banbury Cross. In 1840 there were no roads crossing it. The Gobson Road is now known as Angers Lane. Hutchins History of the County of Dorset 1870 refers to this as Andyers or Aungiers after the farm here.</p>
<p><i>And I the said Commissioner do hereby direct order and award that the said Public Carriage Roads and Highways hereinbefore described shall be and remain of the Breadth aforesaid between the ditches or other fences adjoining the same and shall be for ever hereafter amended and kept in repair by such persons and in like manner as the other public roads within the Parish of Child Okeford aforesaid are by law to be amended and kept in repair</i></p>	<p>Once built the Public Carriageways were to be maintained at public expense but the Private Carriageways were to be repaired and paid for by the landowners.</p>
<p><b><i>Private Carriage Roads and Driftways and Public Halterways and Footways</i></b></p>	<p>Private carriage roads were use only of the landowners with property or fields adjacent to the road. The driftways [or droves] were similarly limited. One wonders how much loss of access the villagers suffered from the introduction of these private roads. Only owners with property or land adjacent would have been legally entitled to use them for wheeled transport [carriage road] or driving sheep or cattle [Driftway or Drove] but the public could still have led a horse on a bridle or walked along them.</p>



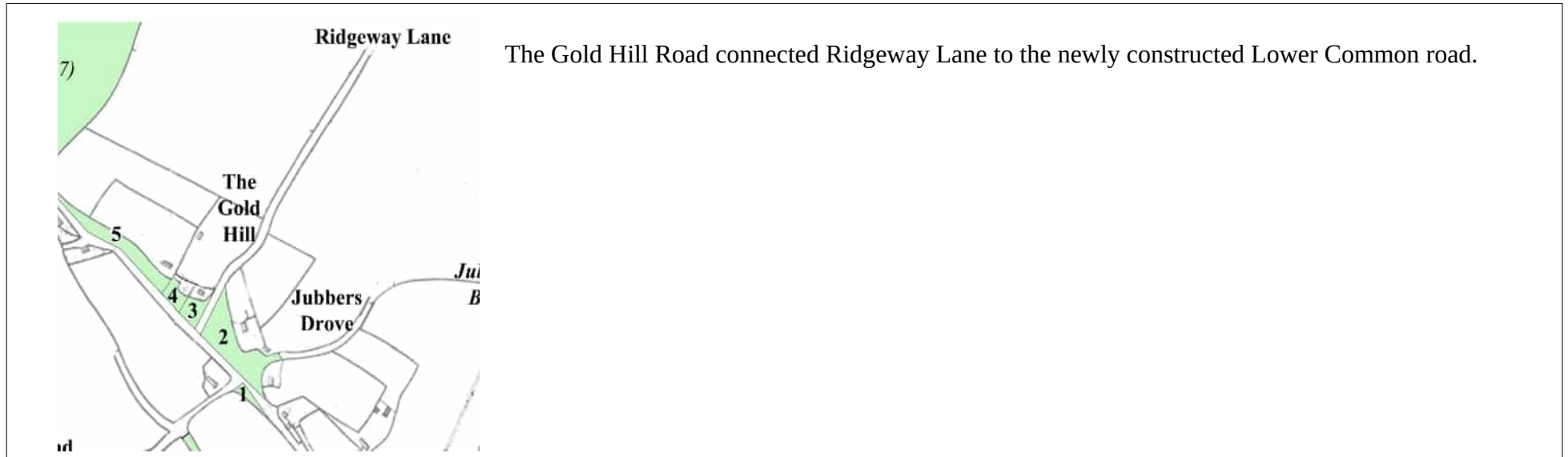
<p><i>The Okeford Fitzpaine road      d</i></p> <p><i>ONE Private Carriage Road and Driftway and Public Bridleway and Footway of the Breadth of Twenty Feet called the Okeford Fitzpaine Road and marked with the letter d on the said Map commencing at Broad Oak Lane Gate and extending Eastward in its present track over part of Gobson Common to a Gate called Fipen Okeford gate leading towards Okeford Fitzpaine</i></p>	
<p><i>The Gobson Common Road      e</i></p> <p><i>ONE other Private Carriage Road and Driftway of the Breadth of Twenty Feet called The Gobson Common Drove and marked with the letter e on the said map leading out of the Okeford Fitzpaine Road between Allotments to Robert Goodfellow and the Devisees of the late Reverent Nathaniel Templeman respectively and extending Southward over Gobson Common until it enters an Allotment hereinafter awarded to John Trowbridge and Henry Ker Seymer esquire.</i></p>	
<p><i>The Hill Farm Road      f</i></p> <p><i>ONE other Private Carriage Road and Driftway of the Breadth of Twenty Feet called the Hill Farm Road and marked with the Letter f on the said Map leading out of Sturminster Common at Dirty Gate and extending eastward over part of Gobson Common until it enters Gobson Common Drove and thence in the same direction to Hill Gate leading into Hill Farm the Property of George Meggs Esquire in the Parish of Belchalwell</i></p>	



**Enclosures Map:  
Gobson Common**

On the 1840 Tithe Map there are no roads of any sort running through Gobson Common. Post inclosure the area was thick with them!

<p><i>The Gold Hill Road      <b>g</b></i></p> <p><i>ONE other Private Carriage Road and Driftway of the Breadth of Twenty Feet called The Gold Hill Road and marked with the letter g on the said Map branching out of the Lower Common Public Road at Gold Hill between two several Allotments to George Peach Esquire and extending Northeastward until it enters Ridgeway Lane</i></p>	<p>The Ridgeway Lane was shown on the Tithe Map but at its lower end merged into the Gold Hill Common [marked 1-5] opposite. Tithe maps were only concerned with tithable land and roads or lanes crossing such land was always shown as the land they occupied could not grow crops and thus could not be tithed. Tracks or paths which did not affect the tithable land were either not shown at all or by ===.</p> <p>On the Tithe Map [see above] the Ridgeway lane ran into Gold Hill Common and the whole of this area was tithable; it cannot therefore have had within it any road that affected the tithable value and so it is reasonable to assume that until construction of The Gold Hill Road shown below there was no substantive road connection between the lane, the common or the village.</p>	



*The Burgess Drove Road*      **h**

*ONE other Private Carriage Road and Driftway of the Breadth of Twenty feet called the Burgess Drove Road and marked with the letter h on the said Map branching out of the Lower Common Public Road in a Westerly direction between Allotments to George Peach and Henry Ker Seymer Esquire respectively and leading into Burgess Drove*

Suffice it to say that this road still exists at more or less its original width. It is shown on the map of the Lower Common road above. Today it has a foot path running through it.

*The Ridgeway Road I ONE other Private Carriage Road and Driftway and Public Bridleway and Foot way of the Breadth of twenty Feet called The Ridgeway road and marked with the letter I on the said map leading out of Ridgeway lane and extending eastward over part of the Higher Common to a Gate leading into Shroton Drove.*

This “road” is nowadays reduced to a narrow and muddy path. A shadow of its former self.

*For some reason there is no J listed*

*The Fontmell Road k*  
*ONE other Private Carriage Road and Driftway and Public Bridleway and Footway of the Breadth of Twenty feet called the Fontmell road and marked with the letter k on the said Map branching out of the Ridgway road between Allotments to Leah Holdway and Henry Luke Dillon <sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire respectively and extending Northward and Westward over part of the Higher Common until it enters Fontmell Drove.*

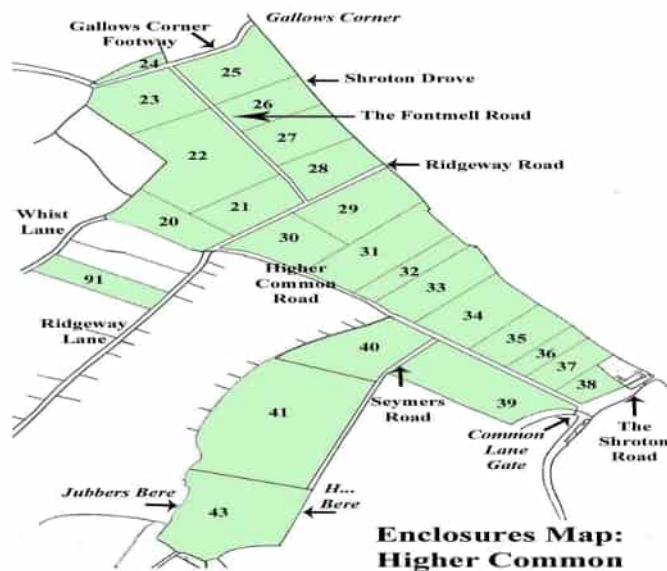
On the modern OS map is a lane known as Porters Hill Lane [on the Tithe Map its called the Fontmell Lane, on the inclosure award Fontmell Drove] which runs from Fontmell Parva house to Gallows corner <sup>10</sup>; On the Tithe map this lane ran from Fontmell Parva and stopped in the higher common; it did not connect up with Gallows corner. The reason for the existence of this latter lane is a mystery. Today it is a wide bridal path some 30’ wide and the tithe map shows it to be a similarly wide lane. What was it for? We do not know – as a drove road it would have failed as it led from nowhere and ended up nowhere.

The inclosure award required The Fontmell Road to be constructed between another newly constructed road [the Ridgeway road] and the end of the Fontmell Lane. Today all traces of it are gone and the whole of this part of the Higher Common, which after inclosure was divided into 7 separate fields, is now one large one.

<sup>10</sup> Why is it called gallows corner? We have no idea but the Shroton Tithe map lists a “hanging” field next to it.

<p><i>The Higher Common road l [L]</i></p> <p><i>ONE other Private Carriage Road and Driftway and Public Bridleway and Footway of the Breadth of Twenty Feet called the Higher Common Road and marked with the letter l on the said Map leading out of the Shroton Public Road at Common Lane Gate and extending Northward over part of the Higher Common until it enters the Ridgeway Road</i></p>	<p>Another road much reduced in size; for about half its length it is has been reduced to a footpath the other half is a road. Nevertheless in the “footpath” section its former glory can just be made out with drainage ditches and banks either side. The name has changed; on the modern OS map its called the Common Drove and the Shroton road has now become the Shaftesbury road.</p> <p>Of the Gate there is no trace; gates were commonplace at the entrances to the Common presumably to stop stock wandering off. Post inclosure they were not needed and gradually disappeared.</p>
<p><i>The Seymer Road m</i></p> <p><i>AND ONE other Private Carriage Road and Driftway of the Breadth of Twenty Feet called Seymers Road and marked with the letter m on the said Map branching out of The Higher Common Road between Allotments to Mary Lock and the Parish Officers of Child Okeford respectively and extending Southward to an Allotment to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire.</i></p>	<p>The roads’ name and the person it was named for have long been forgotten but the Seymer road still exists; reduced to “track” on the OS it is actually in good condition.</p>
<p><i>The Gallows Corner Footway n</i></p> <p><i>ONE Public Footway of the Breadth of Four Feet called The Gallows Corner Footway and marked with the letter n on the said Map leading out of the Fontmell Road in the Higher common and passing along the Northern Boundary of an Allotment to Sir Edward Baker Baker in and easterly direction to Gallows Corner leading to Iwerne Minster</i></p>	<p>This foot way was to be constructed from the junction of the old Fontmell Lane and the new Fontmell Road; it appears that this was never intended to be a main thoroughfare as it is given as a narrow 4’ wide footway. Today it is a fully fledged lane being a continuation of Porters Hill Lane/Fontmell Lane and does indeed join up to the Gallows corner. Whilst the Fontmell Road from which it sprang has gone completely. Such is the</p>

fate of roads and footways.



Gallows corner footway, Fontmell Road, Ridgeway Road, Higher Common Road, The Shroton road and Seymers road were all constructed as a result of the inclosure award.

### What is not in the award.

An advert of 12<sup>th</sup> February 1844 mentions two other footways which are not mentioned in the final award.

13 One public footway of the breadth of four feet called the Drong footway leading out of Crate Drong and extending eastwards over an allotment to George Peach Esq at Ham Knaps to ??Ham Bars leading towards Shroton

14 One other public footway of the breadth of four feet called Jubbers footway commencing at Jubbers mere extending eastward over an allotment to the aforementioned George Peach Esq to the said ??Ham Bars leading towards Shroton.

<p><i>Which said Private Carriage Roads and Driftways and Public Halterways and Footways I the said Commissioner do hereby declare shall be and for ever remain of the several Breadths hereinbefore respectively specified and I do also declare that the said Private Carriage Roads and Driftways are set out for the use of the Owners and Occupiers for the time being of the several messuages old inclosures and new allotments adjoining thereto and to which the same respectively lead AND that the Public Halterways and Footways are set out for the use of all persons whomsoever having occasion to pass over the same</i></p>	<p><i>I the said Commissioner do hereby declare shall be and for ever remain of the several Breadths hereinbefore respectively specified – given the current condition of many of these Private Carriage roads he must be turning in his grave.</i></p> <p>The nature of the roads was carefully tailored to the requirements of the landowners. Most of the private roads are <i>private</i> carriage roads and <i>private</i> driftways but public halter ways and footways. This stopped unwanted wheeled traffic and illegal droves but did not hinder the workers on their way to the fields.</p>
<p><i>AND I the said Commissioner do hereby declare order and appoint that the Grass and Herbage arising growing and renewing on the said roads hereby Awarded shall for ever belong to and be the sole right of the Proprietors of the several Allotments which shall next adjoin to the said Roads and Ways on either side thereof as far as the Crown of the Road And in all cases where the said Roads are set out between Old inclosed Land and Allotments the Grass and Herbage arising thereon shall belong to to and be the sole right of the Proprietors of the said Allotments only</i></p>	<p>Every bit of land was potentially usable by someone and it was intended that no unauthorised use should be made of the land. Animals could be grazed on a tether by the side of these roads and this put a stop to that ; the <b>grass and herbage</b> were the property solely of the proprietors and woe to those who graze it illegally.</p>
<p><i>AND I the said Commissioner do hereby further direct that the said several Private Carriage Roads and Driftways and Public Bridleways and Footways hereinbefore awarded shall be for ever hereafter made repaired and kept in repair by and at the expense of the several Owners and Proprietors for the time being of the several Allotments set out and allotted by this my Award and that every Five Pounds expended in the</i></p>	<p>It is tempting to think that the amount paid for the repair of the roads was in direct proportion to the amount of land awarded ; this could be checked by calculating the percentage of the repair cost that each proprietor paid and dividing it into the acreage that was awarded them. As some owners were responsible for the roads in Gobson Common and Child Okeford I calculated the amounts each owed out of £10. The results are shown in</p>



<p><i>necessary repairs thereof shall be raised in the Shares and Proportions mentioned in the following schedules And that such Shares and proportions be collected from time to time and the amount expended by the Waywardens of the said Parish of Child Okeford for the time being.</i></p>	<p>appendix A. Although there is a rough correlation between the amount paid and the acreage it is by no means simple. A casual glance shows that the majority paid between 8.5d and 10d per acre. However there were a few notable exceptions. Lord Rivers for example paid a whopping 1s 10d per acre as did Rev N Templeman whereas one of the biggest landowners, George Peach only paid 6d.</p> <p><a href="#">I wonder whatever happened to this requirement?</a></p>
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**Schedule** for the repair of Private Roads in the Home Commons.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
Henry Luke Dillon^Trenchard Esq	-	2	-	Lawrence Edward St Loe	-	7	4
Susan Abbott Lifehold under Dillon Trenchard	-	2	-	John Baldwin	-	6	10
George Hatcher .....do.....	-	-	8	Robert Baldwin	-	4	-
Sarah Jenkins .....do.....	-	2	-	Sir Edward Baker Baker	-	3	9
Mary Lock .....do.....	-	3	-	Reverend Edward Wills	-	2	-
George Melmoths Representatives .....do.....	-	2	5	William Wiltshire	-	8	-
William Melmoth Lifehold under Dillon Trenchard	-	1	-	George Holdway	-	5	-
John Rossiter .....do.....	-	2	-	Leah Holdway	-	2	-

Edward Rose .....do.....	-	1	5	John Baverstock	-	2	9
Robert Rossiter .....do.....	-	2	9	John Harvey	-	2	-
Edward Rossiter .....do.....	-	2	-	Mary Goodfellow	-	1	-
George Peach Esquire	-	18	8	Reverend Charles Edward North	-	5	-
Henry Ker Seymer	-	10	5	TOTAL	£	5	-

<b>Schedule</b> for the repair of Private Roads in Gobson Common
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	£	s	d		£	s	d
Henry Luke Dillon <sup>Trenchard</sup> Esq	-	2	6	Robert Baldwin	-	2	6
George Hatcher Lifehold under Dillon Trenchard	-	-	7	William Wiltshire	-	3	10
Sarah Jenkins .....do.....	-	2	6	Reverend Nathaniel Templeman Representatives	-	11	5
Mary Lock .....do.....	-	5	-	Leah Holdway	-	1	3
George Melmoths Representatives .....do.....	-	2	-	John Baverstock	-	2	6
William Melmoth Lifehold under Dillon Trenchard	-	1	3	John Harvey	-	2	-
John Rossiter .....do.....	-	1	3	Mary Goodfellow	-	10	-
Edward Rose .....do.....	-	1	3	Robert Goodfellow	-	2	-

Robert Rossiter .....do.....	-	2	6	James Crouch	-	3	10
Edward Rossiter .....do.....	-	1	3	John Troubridge Lifehold under Seymer	-	2	9
Lord Rivers	1	2	8	Jane Matcham	-	-	7
Lawrence Edward St Loe	-	3	10	Thomas Sedlin	-	3	9
John Baldwin	-	7	-	TOTAL	£	5	-

Now begins a long series of allotments to various beneficiaries. The state of agriculture in 1845 may be approximated from the state described by the survey undertaken in 1840 under the auspices of the Tithe Commutation act. The 1840 tithe apportionment file listed each plot of titheable land in the village subject to the tithe.<sup>11</sup> There were 427 titheable plots including 63 in the field known as Netmead. In total the parish covered some 2100 acres. Of these plots there was/were;

1 church and yard	2 parsonages	1 malthouse	1 pound
87 houses [and gardens]	5 gardens [no houses]	26 Orchards	2 stables
9 Coppices	4 areas of commonable lands	328 plots listed as pasture, meadow or arable	

328 plots are listed as pasture, meadow or arable and were thus given over directly to agriculture. 44 people are described as landowners and 26 as “occupiers”. Of the 44 landowners listed by the tithe survey the inclosure award describes 10 of them as “Lifehold under Trenchard” and one person

<sup>11</sup> The tithe was a tenth part of the annual increase of the produce of the earth. If it was grown as a crop or bred for agricultural or other use, a tenth part was given to the rector of the parish who might be a resident incumbent or an ecclesiastical appropriator such as a bishop, prior, prioress, monastery, nunnery or college. Not all land was titheable -if it produced no agricultural produce for example such as a mine or quarry but this was not the case in Child Okeford where the whole of the land in the parish was tithable.

as “Lifehold under Seymer”. It is likely therefore that these 11 owners held the land under a copyhold arrangement. This was effectively a long lease usually attached to a series of lives; they were given by the lord of the manor who kept a record of the lease in the manor court rolls and the copyholder had a copy. The terms of copyhold tenure varied and depended on the customs of the manor; the land held usually had rights of common attached which was why these land owners were eligible for land under the Inclosure award. An indenture found recently in the Saxon Inn revealed that copyhold arrangements were still common in the 1820’s; the “Saxon” indenture listed three lives for whom the term was “ninety nine years, four score years and nineteen and ninety nine years”. The indenture was for William Kerley one of the recipients in this award and since customary rights did not attach to ordinary leases he was almost certainly a copyholder.

The remaining 33 owners were presumably either freeholders or owners with long leases other than copyholders. The occupiers might be presumed to be tenant farmers on short leases who did the actual farming. The situation however is complicated; for example of the 44 landowners 7 also occupied land belonging to others. A typical example is George Peach; he is listed as a landowner and from his background we can assume he was a freeholder. Most of his land was occupied by Edward Rossiter and John Baverstock but on some plots Peach is listed not only as the owner but the occupier as well. In the 1841 census Rossiter and Baverstock are both recorded as Farmers; but were they farming Peachs’ land in their own right or for him ? We do not know. Peach as well as being a land owner , and occupier of his own land also occupied a small amount of land belonging to George Melmoth. The size of the landowners holdings varied considerably – Elizabeth Trenchard for example owned some 232 acres but several others owned only an acre or two.

Under the Inclosure award 244 acres were divided between 33 landowners and the Overseers of the Poor. This was all “commonable” land; that is to say it was uncultivated, unpopulated land available to villagers who had rights of common on it. The most frequent right of common was that allowing cattle to graze on it.

One field only is mentioned by name and that is the 42 acres field known as Net Mead or Lot Mead. The award continues what was a long-standing arrangement whereby the field was divided up into strips from which hay [the foreshare] would be cut. These were, as we might put it today, “virtual” strips, measured out on the ground at the time of the hay harvest but in reality not divided physically by hedges or fences.

The complexity of the situation regarding rights of common are revealed here. 15 of the 33 landowners received this nominal allocation of the foreshare but only 2 out of the 10 life-holders under Henry Luke Dillon Trenchard did.

Similarly 14 of the 33 were allowed to depasture their cows after the hay harvest but a slightly different 14 to those awarded the foreshare. Likewise there was no direct link between the size of the foreshare and the number of cows that could be depastured; John and Edward Rossiter had none of the foreshare but were able to depasture 5 cows whereas Mary Goodfellow and John Harvey had small amounts of the Foreshare but were not able to depasture any of their cows.

<p><i>Allotments to Henry Luke Dillon Trenchard no 28</i></p> <p><i>AND I the said Commissioner by virtue of the Power and authority aforesaid HAVE set out allotted And awarded by these Presents DO set out allot and award UNTO and for Henry Luke Dillon <sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire</i></p> <p><i>ALL THAT Allotment of land situate in the Higher Common containing Two Acres three roods and thirty seven perches and numbered 28 on the said Map bounded on the East by Shroton Drove on the South by the Ridgeway Road on the West by the Fontmell Road and on the North by an Allotment to John Harvey</i></p>	<p>On the award the name is given on the left side of the document with the numbers of the plots below. A vertical line down the award seperates the names and numbers from the award proper which is on its right. There are no horizontal dividers anywhere in the award.</p> <p>The awards all conform to a standard form; “Unto and for xxxx All that land situate in xxxx containing x acres x roods and x perches and numbered x on the said Map bounded on the North South East and West by xxxx”</p>
<p>No 55</p> <p><i>ALSO All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing Two Acres Two roods and two perches and numbered 55 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Mary Lock on the South by lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by Allotments to James Crouch,</i></p>	<p>The award starts with Henry Luke Dillon Trenchard; there is no indication as to how the order of recipients in the award was arrived at but the Trenchard family held one of the two Manors of Child Okeford for several hundred years having acquired the Manor of Child Okeford Superior in 1485 by John Trenchard. In 1829 the last of the direct male line ended with the death of William Trenchard. The estate was then held by his</p>

<p><i>John Harvey and John Baverstock respectively and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove</i></p>	<p>illegitimate sister, Elizabeth Trenchard, for her life with reversion to the grandnephews of William Trenchards wife Hester. These were William Trenchard Dillon and his younger brother Henry Luke Dillon. Elizabeth died in 1840 and William Trenchard Dillon inherited but died without issue in 1846 when Henry Luke Dillon inherited. On the inclosure award Henry Luke was written originally as Henry Luke Dillon but he adopted the Trenchard name which then had to be inserted presumably after the award had been written out.</p> <p>In most awards the name of the Lord of the Manor was specifically identified but this is not the case in CO. Further work needs to be done on the status of the manor in 1845 as it is not clear that there was any “Lord” as such. Having said that however it is of note that Henry Luke Dillon <sup>^</sup><sub>Trenchard</sub> is mentioned first in the award despite him receiving a modest award of 5.5 acres. Also noteworthy is that the next recipients were all “lessees” with HLDT being named as reversioner. Does the order listed in the award indicate social status? Probably not as after the lessees the next person mentioned is George Peach – a mere surgeon, with Henry Ker Seymer MP and Lord Rivers mentioned after him.</p>
<p><i>No 73 AND ALSO the Foreshare of all that allotment of Land situate in Net Mead containing Three acres one rood and nine perches and numbered 73 on the said map bounded on the East by old inclosures belonging to the said Henry Luke Dillon <sup>^</sup><sub>Trenchard</sub> and George Peach Esquire respectively on the South by and <b>old inclosure</b> belonging to Mrs Susan Turner and by the River Stour on the West by an Allotment to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire and on the North by an Allotment to William</i></p>	<p>The Open Field system was not universal throughout the country. Devon for example never adopted the system. Did Child Okeford have an open field system? This award refers on several occasions to <b>old inclosures</b> and this, or “antique inclosures” is the term used commonly in such awards to refer to inclosures that had taken place prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Since you cannot inclose that which was not once open we may assume that there was at some stage an open field system.</p>

Melmoth.

*Allotment to Susan Abbott No 20 AND for Susan Abbott as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon <sup>^</sup>Trenchard as Reversioner All that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher common containing Two Acres Two roods and Twenty six perches and numbered 20 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by Allotments to George Holdway and Leah Holdway respectively, on the Southeast by the Ridgeway Road, on the Southwest by an old inclosure belonging to the said Susan Abbott and on the Northwest by old inclosures belonging to Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire*

The national census was commenced in 1801 but the first four censuses recorded the number of households only. The 1841 census was the first to list and name individuals and we are lucky that the Tithe Map of Child Okeford was drawn in 1840 so that we can identify some at least of the parishioners.

Susan Abbott is referred to in the schedule of road costs as “lifehold under Trenchard”. In the body of the text she is referred to as Lessee but in the Tithe apportionment file she is listed as an owner of some 12.5 acres.

Land tenure is very complex and by 1846 many farmers were probably holding short term [albeit renewable] leases; what we would today call tenant farmers. Tenancy of this type did not confer ownership of the land and did not usually have rights of common attached. Copy hold tenure was different. They were ancient tenures<sup>12</sup> and often had rights of common attached. A copyholder could also sublet the land on a shorter term lease to others. The Tithe record for Susan Abbott indicates that her 12.5 acres which she owned was occupied by “John Oliver and others.” From the fact she could sublet and the fact she had rights of common I surmise she was a copyholder.

Oddly she does not appear in the 1841 census but on the tithe map of 1840 she is owning and occupying Gold Hill cottage. In 1851 she was living in Gold Hill Cottage; aged 72 she was described as a farmers widow and was

<sup>12</sup> So ancient that Blackstone [Commentaries on the Laws of England (1765-1769) ] denied that new copyholds could be granted. Two elements were necessary ;”That the lands be parcel of, and situate within, that manor, under which it is held” [and] “That they have been demised, or demisable, by copy of court roll immemorially. For immemorial custom is the life of all tenures by copy; so that no new copyhold can, strictly speaking, be granted at this day.”

	<p>living with Eliza Ames age 31 ,servant.</p> <p>The occupier John Oliver lived at the house [72b] on the tithe map which he owned and is listed as a glazier in the 1841 census. His wife Mary Oliver is also mentioned in the award.</p>
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<p><i>No 79 <b>AND ALSO</b> the Foreshare of All that Allotment of Land situate in Net Mead containing One rood and sixteen perches and numbered 79 on the said Map bounded on the East by an old inclosure belonging to the said Susan Abbott on the South by an Allotment to Ann Pain on the West by an Allotment to William Kerley and on the North by an allotment to Robert Baldwin.</i></p>	
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<p><i><b>Allotments to Representatives of George Hatcher</b> No 36 <b>Unto</b> and for the Representatives of George Hatcher deceased as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon <sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as reversioner All that Allotment of land situate in the Higher Common containing One Acre and Twenty Eight Perches and numbered 36 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by Lands in the Parish of Shroton on the South East by an Allotment to Mary Goodfellow on the Southwest by the Higher Common Road and on the Northwest by an Allotment to Edward Rose</i></p>	<p>Another copyholder? In 1841 he is recorded as a farmer of 60. His wife is not recorded so is presumably dead. He living with twin son and daughter, Richard and Amelia aged 20 and a daughter Matilda of 15.</p> <p>By 1846 when the award was made he had died but the rights that he had as a copyholder were continued on to his representatives presumably his son Richard who would by then have been of age.</p> <p><b>Hatcher</b> also owned a small amount of land [13 acres] most of which was farmed by an Edward Head of whom no further details can be found. Hatcher did occupy about an acre himself.</p>
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No 51

**AND ALSO** All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing two roods and thirty one perches and numbered 51 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Robert Rossiter on the South and West by an Allotment to Sarah Jenkins and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove -

[Allotment to Sarah Jenkins](#) no 34

**UNTO** and for Sarah Jenkins as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon <sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as Reversioner All that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher Common containing three Acres One rood and thirty six perches and numbered 34 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by Lands in the Parish of Shroton on the Southeast by an Allotment to Edward Rose on the Southwest by the Higher Common Road and on the Northwest by an Allotment to Edward Rossiter

In a land tax return from 1832 [Sarah Jenkins](#) is listed as a leaseholder with John Osmond as her tenant. The Tithe map apportionment file shows she owned 15.7 acres but did not occupy a house in the village. Her land in 1840 was being worked by John Ozement [presumably Osmond], John Oliver and Richard Symmons. No trace of John Osmond has been found and although there are several Sarah Jenkins in the census in Dorset we cannot say which one she was.

No 52

**AND ALSO** All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing Two Acres One rood and thirty eight perches and numbered 52 on the said Map bounded on the East by Allotments to the Representatives of George Hatcher deceased and Robert Rossiter respectively on the South by Lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by an Allotment to the representatives of George Melmoth and on the North by the Gobson

<p><i>Common Drove</i></p>	
<p><i>Allotment to Ann Pain no 77</i></p> <p><i>UNTO and for Ann Pain as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as Reversioner the Foreshare of all that Allotment of land situate in Net Mead containing One acre numbered 77 on the said Map bounded on the East by old inclosures belonging to George Peach and Susan Abbot respectively on the South by an allotment to William Melmoth on the West by an Allotment to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire and on the North by an Allotment to William Kerley and Susan Abbott respectively</i></p>	<p>Born 1771 she is listed as “Independent” in the census. Her nephew was William Matcham and she also had property in Iwerne Minster. <b>Ann Pain</b> was 70 in 1840.</p>
<p><i>Allotment to Mary Lock No 40</i></p> <p><i>Unto and for Mary Lock as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as Reversioner All that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher Common containing Four acres two roods and six Perches and numbered 40 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by the Higher Common Road on the Southeast by Seymer Road on the Southwest by an Allotment to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire and on the Northwest by old inclosures</i></p>	<p>In the 1841 census <b>Mary Lock</b> is recorded as living in the village, aged 60 with her daughter age 30. She is listed as “Independent”. Curiously there is no record of her owning a house [or occupying one for that matter] in the Tithe apportionment file compiled in the year before.</p>
<p><i>No 54</i></p> <p><i>AND ALSO All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing Five acres and twelve Perches and Numbered 54 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to the Representatives of George Melmoth on the South by lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the</i></p>	

<p>West by an Allotment to Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove</p>	
<p>Allotments to Representatives of <b>George Melmoth</b> No 30</p> <p><b>UNTO</b> and for the Representatives of George Melmoth ^ deceased as Lessees and Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as Reversioner All that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher Common containing Three Acres one rood and Eleven perches and numbered 30 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by an Allotment to John Rossiter on the Southeast by an Allotment to Robert Rossiter on the Southwest by the Higher Common Road and on the Northwest by the Ridgeway Road</p>	<p>The <b>Melmoths, George</b> and William are a bit of a mystery. What relationship did they have to each other? In the census there are several Georges and Williams and even a set of brothers with this name [agricultural labourers living in Durweston] but none really fit the profile.</p>
<p>No 53 <b>AND ALSO</b> All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing One Acre three roods and Twenty Five perches and numbered 53 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Sarah Jenkins on the fourth by Lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by an Allotment to Mary Lock and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove</p>	
<p>Allotment to William Melmoth No 1</p> <p><b>UNTO</b> and for William Melmoth as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as Reversioner all that Allotment of land situate at Gold Hill containing fifteen perches and numbered 1 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Lower Common Road<sup>and</sup> on the West by <b>an old inclosure</b> belonging to the said William Melmoth</p>	<p>This is the smallest allotment of land awarded; it was logical to give it to William Melmoth as it was adjacent to a field, “<b>an old inclosure</b>”, which he owned called Peddle Mead. This field was bounded by Netmead lane and Lego lane [sic]<sup>13</sup>; today it is occupied by houses in a close called Olivers Mead.</p>

13 Of which more later.

No 32

**ALSO** All that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher Common containing One Acre two roods and five Perches and numbered 32 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by lands in the Parish of Shroton in the Southeast by an Allotment to Edward Rossiter on the Southwest by the Higher Common Road and on the Northwest by an Allotment to Robert Rossiter

No 48

**ALSO** All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing One Acre One rood and one perch and numbered 48 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Edward Rossiter by Lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by an Allotment to John Rossiter and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove.

No 76

**AND ALSO** the Foreshare of All that Allotment of Land situate in Net Mead containing three roods and seven perches and Numbered 76 on the said map bounded on the East by an old inclosure belonging to George Peach Esquire on the South by Allotments to Henry Luke Dillon <sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire and Henry Ker Seymer Esquire respectively on the West by another Allotment to the said Henry Ker Seymer and on the North by an Allotment to Edward Rossiter

*Allotment to John Rossiter No 29*

**UNTO** and for **John Rossiter** as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as Reversioner All that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher Common containing Three Acres two roods and thirty seven perches and numbered 29 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by Lands in the Parish of Shroton on the Southeast by an Allotment to Robert Rossiter on the Southwest by and Allotment to the Representatives of George Melmoth and on the Northwest By the Ridgeway Road

Taken from Child Okeford “End of an Era 1815-1860” John Housley.

“The house where the post office now stands was rented to a farmer called **John Rossiter**..it is obvious there is some blood relationship between the Trenchards and the Rossiters..In 1841 there were 41 Rossiters living locally and 33 Trenchards in Dorset.”

“in 1819 he married Sophia Clarke of Branscombe in Devon. They had 6 children..they rented Okeford farm and some 300 acres employing 12 men and boys”. Most, but not all of this land was owned by Henry Luke Dillon Trenchard.

*No 49*

**AND ALSO** All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing One Acre one rood and one Perch and numbered 49 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to William Melmoth on the South by lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by an Allotment to Robert Rossiter and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove

*Allotment to Edward Rose No 35*

**UNTO** and for Edward Rose as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as Reversioner all that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher Common containing Two Acres one Rood and twenty nine Perches and

**Edward** was a shopkeeper in Sturminster Newton aged 50 married to Christian age 40 and had a daughter Christian Mary Rose aged 5. In 1840 he owned about 11 acres in Child Okeford all of which was being farmed by Richard Symmons. He lived in an area of Sturminster called “Bridge Newton” in the census and occupied a couple of acres of land in

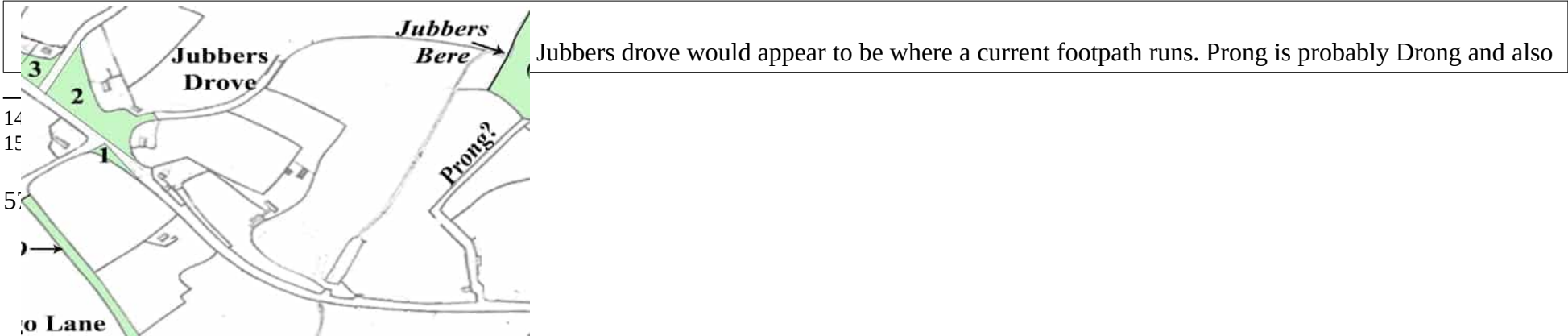
<p><i>numbered 35 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by Lands in the Parish of Shroton on the South by an Allotment to the Representatives of George Hatcher on the Southwest by the Higher Common Road and on the Northwest by an Allotment to Sarah Jenkins</i></p>	<p>Sturminster owned by Lord Rivers.</p> <p>Symmons is listed in the census as a farmer aged 60 living with Charlotte Berry 55 a female servant and Levi Millar 35 a male servant. He lived at the house in plot 76 on the Tithe Map.</p> <p>Rose left the fields he owned in Child Okeford to his wife in a will of 1852 but no record of death has been found.</p>
<p>No 46</p> <p><b>AND ALSO</b> All that Allotment of Land situate in Gobson Common containing One Acre one rood and one Perch and Numbered 46 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to the Devises of the Reverend Nathaniel Templeman on the South by Lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by an Allotment to Edward Rossiter and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove</p>	
<p>Allotment to <b>Robert Rossiter</b> No 31</p> <p><b>UNTO</b> and for Robert Rossiter as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as Reversioner all that Allotment of land situate in the Higher Common containing Four Acres two roods and seventeen perches and numbered 31 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by lands in the Parish of Shroton on the Southeast by an Allotment to William Melmoth on the Southwest by the Higher Common Road on the Northwest by allotments to the Representatives of George Melmoth and John Rossiter respectively</p>	<p><b>Robert Rossiter</b> was the eldest of John Rossiter's brothers [he had three all together]. He married Caroline Kerley [ a relative of William Kerley presumably] had seven children and was apparently a butcher and beer seller. In 1840 he held a tiny amount of land [less than an acre] but the inclosure award gave him nearly 7.5 acres</p>

<p>No 50</p> <p><b>AND ALSO</b> All that Allotment situate in Gobson Common containing Two Acres three roods and four perches and numbered 50 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to John Rossiter on the South by lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by Allotments to Sarah Jenkins and George Hatcher respectively and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove</p>	
<p>Allotment to <b>William Kerley</b> No 78</p> <p><b>UNTO</b> and for William Kerley as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as Reversioner the Foreshare of All that Allotment of Land situate in Netmead containing two roods and thirty three perches and numbered 78 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Susan Abbott on the South by an Allotment to Ann Pain on the West by an Allotment to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire and on the North by an Allotment to Robert Baldwin</p>	<p>William Kerley is another mystery man. We can trace a little of his history from a recently discovered Indenture [behind a framed OS map in the Saxon Inn] dating from 1828. In 1817 he had sold land to Samuel Vaisey [a butler in the employ of George Snow of Langton Long] for a sum of £200. In 1828 he had repaid the loan and reclaimed the land. He is described as being “of Child Okeford” and in several land tax records is described as a tenant of “Mr Locke” another mystery man. The indenture records indicates he had several plots of land in the village; we know he is married to Elizabeth, and it is she who is shown as the owner of the Kerley land in the village. The census's are of no help as though several William Kerley's are found none are recorded in CO.</p>
<p>Allotment to <b>Edward Rossiter</b> No 33</p> <p><b>UNTO</b> and for Edward Rossiter as Lessee and Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire as Reversioner all that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher</p>	<p><b>Edward Rossiter</b> was the third of John Rossiters’ brothers. He farmed at Gold Hill mostly as a tenant farmer to Henry Luke Dillon Trenchard but oddly he also farmed a small amount of land for his brother John. He held</p>

<p><i>Common containing Three Acres one rood and one perch and numbered 33 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by Lands in the Parish of Shroton on the Southeast by an Allotment to Sarah Jenkins on the Southwest by the Higher Common Road and on the Northwest by an Allotment to William Melmoth</i></p>	<p>about 11 acres in his own right and had 3.8 awarded in the inclosure award.</p> <p>One wonders how his brother Robert who was not a farmer and with a smaller amount of land got a larger inclosure award.</p>
<p><i>No 47 <b>AND ALSO</b> All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing one Acre one rood and one perch and numbered 47 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Edward Rose on the South by lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by an Allotment to William Melmoth and on the North by the Gobson Common drove</i></p>	
<p><i>Allotment to <b>George Peach Esquire</b> No 2</i></p> <p><i><b>UNTO</b> and for George Peach Esquire All that Allotment of land situate at Goldhill containing three roods and three perches and numbered 2 on the said Map bounded on the East by Farm Premises belonging to George Peach Esquire and by a cottage and Garden belonging to Mary Oliver on the Southeast by a cottage and orchard belonging to Susan Abbott on the Southwest by the Lower Common Public Road and on the Northwest by the Goldhill Road Which said Allotment is hereby Awarded Subject to a Private Carriage Road and Footway of the Breadth of Twelve Feet to Cottages and Gardens belonging to the said Susan Abbott and Mary Oliver respectively and to Jubbers Drove</i></p>	<p>At some earlier time a swathe of the common had been inclosed and a lane, the Ridgeway lane had been created to serve the fields thus formed. At the lower end the Ridgeway lane ran into a remnant of common land called Gold Hill common which occupied plots no's 2,3,4 and 5 and was to be inclosed. In very simple terms Inclosures could take place under the Statute of Merton [1235]; cases brought to the Court of Equity in the 16<sup>th</sup> century; Private acts of Parliament in the 1700's and then finally the General Acts of inclosure from 1801 on. It is anybodies guess when the land either side of Ridgeway lane was inclosed; what we do know is that there are no Private acts of Parliament for CO in the 18<sup>th</sup> century so it is likely that this land was inclosed either under the Statute of Merton or in a case before the Court of Equity in the in the 17<sup>h</sup> century- albeit no evidence is available to support any of this.</p>



	<p>A private carriage road, the Gold Hill road was ordered to be constructed to connect Ridgeway Lane to the lower common road [see above]. Since this road, was private it effectively blocked access to the Ridgeway Lane to any other than the landowners on either side of it.</p> <p>An additional road was ordered to be constructed [not specified in the Private carriage road section] to connect certain premises as described. Jubbers Drove [a Mr Jubber is recorded in a quarter session record from 1727] appears to be run past Gold Hill Cottage and through to the field known as Jubbers. Today it is a footpath.</p> <p>The inclosure map also shows other features not immediately related to the award. For example Jubbers Bere and Hooms {??} Bars. There is also a “Drong” which we will mention later; drong has a well established definition; “a passageway or lane especially between walls or hedges”<sup>14</sup> but Bere is contested<sup>15</sup> and probable simply means a piece of rough scrub or copse.</p>
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is a footpath.

No 3 4 and 5

**ALSO** All those three several Allotments of Land situate adjoining each other at Goldhill containing two roods and thirty six perches and numbered respectively 3,4 and 5 in the said Map bounded on the Northeast by Dwellinghouses and Gardens belonging to **James Arnold** John Eyres and Thomas Tuffin on the Southeast by the Goldhill Road and on the Southwest by the Lower Common Road which said Allotment Numbered 3 is hereby Awarded Subject to a Footway four feet wide to the said Dwellinghouse and Garden of the said James Arnold and which said Allotment numbered 4 is hereby Awarded subject to a Footway Four Feet wide to the said Dwellinghouse and Garden of the said John Eyres

**James Arnold** [60 in 1841] was a carpenter living with his son Charles aged 25 and John Eyres was a shoemaker age 85 living with a housekeeper Mary Sheppard age 70. Thomas Tuffin was a farmer and his family still farm in the village today.

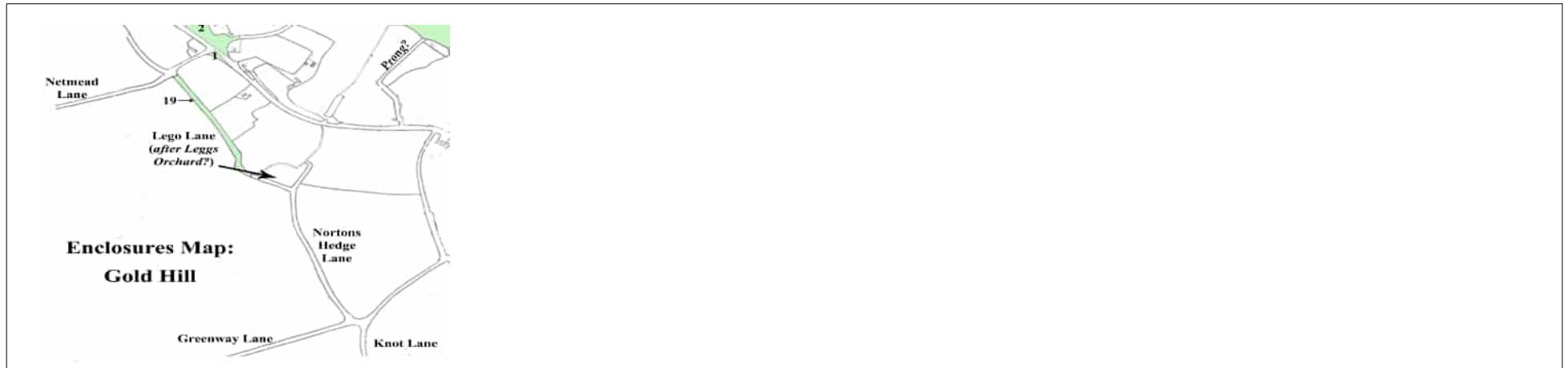
What is curious about the dwelling houses is firstly they occupy exactly the same amount of land, 11 perches, and that they were build within the common land – a practice that was outlawed by an act of Elizabeth 1.

No 6 **ALSO** All that Allotment of Land situate in the Lower Common

<p><i>containing Twenty Nine Perches and numbered 6 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Lower Common Road on the South by a Garden belonging to William Rossiter on the West by Lands belonging to the said George Peach and on the North by Burgesses Drove</i></p>	
<p><i>No 8 <b>ALSO</b> All that Allotment of Land situate in the Lower common containing Three Acres Three roods and twenty eight perches and numbered 8 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Lower Common Road on the South by an Allotment to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire on the West by an old inclosure belonging to the said George Peach and on the North by an Allotment to Robert Baldwin</i></p>	
<p><i>No 16</i></p> <p><i><b>ALSO</b> All that Allotment of land situate in the Lower Common containing Fifteen acres one rood and fifteen perches and numbered 16 on the said Map bounded on the East by an old inclosure belonging to the said George Peach on the South by an Allotment to William Wiltshire on the West by the Lower Common Road and on the North by an Allotment to the Reverend Charles Edward North</i></p>	
<p><i>No 18</i></p> <p><i><b>ALSO</b> All that Allotment heretofore used as a Lane Called Whist Lane leading from the Lower Common to the Higher Common but now agreed to be allotted And hereby awarded to the said George Peach containing One rood and thirty perches and numbered 18 on the said Map bounded</i></p>	

<p><i>on the North by an old inclosure called Down the property of the said George Peach and on the South by other old inclosures belonging to the said George Peach and others respectively</i></p>	
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<p><i>No 19 <b>ALSO</b> All that Allotment heretofore used as a Lane called <b>Lego Lane</b> leading to old inclosures but now agreed to be allotted and hereby awarded to the said George Peach containing two roods and three perches and numbered 19 on the said Map bounded on the East by old inclosures belonging to William Melmoth Henry Ker Seymer Esquire and the said George Peach respectively and on the West by other old inclosures the property of the said George Peach.</i></p>	<p>Of all the findings on the Inclosure map this was the most surprising. The name Lego is curious; could it be a corruption of “leggs”, the name of an area of Glebe land at its lower end. The lane leading from Lego Lane is shown as Nor tons Hedge Lane on the inclosure map and still exists but is not known as this in the village; it is universally known as legal lane! Presumably a further corruption of “lego”.</p> <p>The land either side of Lego Lane was surrounded by old inclosures. How the lane itself had survived is not known. Only the common land could be inclosed so presumably the landowners believed it to be common land. One suspects that nobody know the exact status of the lane. It cannot be imagined that inclosure of either Lego Lane or Whist lane added much to agricultural efficiency but access to the land had to be denied so they had to go. Some 150 + years later the local farmers Mr and Mrs Cross opened a permissive footpath across the land effectively reinstating the old lane.</p>
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No 43

*ALSO All that Allotment of Land situated at Ham Knaps in the Higher Common containing Six acres two roods and twenty two perches and numbered 43 on the said Map bounded on the East by an old inclosures belonging to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire called Ham on the South by old inclosures belonging to the Right Honorable <sup>George Pitt</sup> Lord Rivers The Reverend Charles Edward North and the said George Peach respectively on the West by other old inclosures belonging to the said George Peach William Wiltshire and Thomas Hawkins respectively and on the North by an Allotment to the said Henry Ker Seymer*

The name Ham Knaps does not occur in the tithe map as it was not yet inclosed. Ham was an old English word for an inclosure often in the bend of the river; Knaps is the crest of a hill. The field concerned does indeed border a stream but is not on the crest of a hill.

No 59

**ALSO** All that Allotment of Land situate in Gobson Common containing Seven Acres and thirty one perches and numbered 59 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Hill Farm Road on the South by Hill Farm the property of George Meggs Esquire situate in the parish of + +Belchalwell on the West by an Allotment to John Trowbridge and on the North by Allotments to Leah Holdway The Poor of the Parish of Child Okeford Thomas Sedlin Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire and William Wiltshire respectively which said Allotment is hereinafter allotted and awarded in Exchange to the Right Honorable George Pitt Lord Rivers

No 82 **AND ALSO** the Foreshare of All that Allotment of land situate in Net Mead containing Five Acres and Fourteen perches and numbered 82 on the said Map bounded on the East by an old inclosure belonging to the said George Peach on the South by an Allotment to John Baldwin on the West by the River Stour and on the North by an Allotment to Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire

[Allotments to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire No 7 UNTO](#) and for Henry Ker Seymer Esquire All that Allotment of land situate in the Lower Common containing Four Acres two roods and six perches and numbered 7 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Lower Common Road on the South by Burgess Drove <sup>Road</sup> on the West by an old inclosure belonging to the said Henry Ker Seymer and on the North by an Allotment to George Peach Esquire



The Seymer family bought the Manor of Hanford in 1599 <sup>16</sup> and were the lords thereafter. Hutchins says that “the manor has long been extinguished”. One of the Manors in CO had been owned by the Trenchard family and the other by the Capel family. Hutchins says, “In 1653 this Manor was conveyed to Sir Edmund Capel” and then enigmatically “Hence it came through the Haysomes, whose daughter and heiress Bridget married Henry Seymer..”. Who the Haysomes were I have not been able to discover but by now [the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century] the Seymer family were Lords not only of Hanford but CO as well.

Bridget and Henry Seymer had a son, another Henry who married a Grace Ker [of Berwick] whose mother was a member of the Pitt family. They too had a son- Henry Seymer, born in 1782 who adopted the Ker name in 1830 for reasons unknown. He died in 1834 but not before siring a son in 1807 called as you might expect -Henry Ker Seymer. It is this Henry Ker Seymer who was the recipient of these awards. He was High Sheriff of Dorset and also one of the three Dorset MP’s. He died in 1864 leaving a daughter as his sole heir. He is the only one of the people mentioned in this award of whom a photograph exists.

**No 41**

**ALSO** All that Allotment of land situate in the Higher Common containing Eleven Acres two roods and thirty three perches and numbered 41 on the said Map bounded on the Southeast by an old inclosures called

Crate Cottages still exist and on the modern OS map there is indeed a road marked probably the [private Roadway](#) mentioned here . On the Inclosure map this appears to be the road named “Drong”.

16 Hutchins History of Dorset 1871

<p><i>Ham belonging to the said Henry Ker Seymer on the Southwest by an Allotment to George Peach Esquire on the Northwest by old inclosures and on the Northeast by an Allotment to Mary Lock WHICH said Allotment is hereby awarded Subject to a <a href="#">private Roadway</a> Twenty Feet wide on the Eastern Boundary of the same for the use of George Peach Esquire and his Tenants at Crate Cottages-</i></p>	
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<p>No 74</p> <p><b>ALSO</b> the Foreshare of All that Allotment of Land situate in Net Mead containing Four Acres one rood and fifteen perches and numbered 74 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Henry Luke Dillon<sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire on the South and West by the River Stour and the back water and on the North by an Allotment to William Melmoth.</p> <p>No 75 <b>AND ALSO</b> the Foreshare of All that Allotment of land situate in Net Mead containing Three roods and twenty seven perches and numbered 75 on the said Map bounded on the East by the back water on the South by lands in the Parish of Shillingstone on the West by the River Stour and on the North by an Allotment to Robert Baldwin.</p>	<p>This award is unusual as the plots are adjacent in Net Mead but no 75 is in fact an island. The tithe map is not helpful but comparison between the Inclosure map and the 6" to the mile OS map of 1913 shows a complex arrangement of what must be assumed to be artificial waterways. The proximity of the now defunct Bere Marsh Mill suggests they were created for some purpose to do with it. Today the "island" is a nature reserve and the modern OS map refers to the waterways as "drains". Some indeed appear to have been filled in but the foot bridge [FB] at the end of the two foot paths still exists. The modern bridge over the Stour is near the vertical line the other bridge has disappeared .</p>
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*Allotment to **Lord Rivers** No 67*

***UNTO** and for The Right Honorable George Pitt Lord Rivers All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing twelve acres one rood and thirty two Perches and numbered 67 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Hill Farm Road on the South by the Gobson Common Drove and on the West and north by lands in the Parish of Sturminster Newton*

George Pitt-Rivers, 4th Baron Rivers was born in 1810 and was known as George Beckford until 1828. He was a British peer and politician holding a place as a Lord-in-Waiting in several governments, migrating from the Tory to the Liberal Party over the course of his career. He commanded the Dorsetshire Yeomanry Cavalry for a decade. His four sons all suffered from a lung disease, and only the youngest briefly survived him to inherit the barony.

<p><i>Allotments to Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire No 12</i></p> <p><b>UNTO</b> and for Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire All that Allotment of land situate in the Lower Common containing Three Acres one rood and twenty Eight Perches and numbered 12 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Lower Common Road on the South by an Allotment to The Reverend Charles Edward North on the West by old inclosed lands belonging to the said Lawrence Edward Saintloe and on the North by Fontmell Drove</p>	<p>The St Loe family had bought the manor in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. Historic England's entry for the house reads; "House c.1665 with wings of c.1864. Original house probably for Edward St Loe of Knighton, C19 work for the Bower family by George Evans of Wimborne."</p> <p>From John Houseleys book Child Okeford 1815-1860 The End of an Era we read: "Lawrence Edward had matriculated from Balliol College Oxford at the age of 18 and married Catherine Allen of Okeford Fitzpaine at the age of 31. Exactly when he took over Fontmell Parva House [FPH] is difficult to ascertain but he was in residence in by 1815 at the age of 55. In 1841 he is listed in the census<sup>17</sup> as living in FPH with his son Charles."</p> <p>Both Charles and his other son eventually left FPH and in 1863 it passed into the hands of the Bower family.</p>
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<p><i>No 13</i></p> <p><b>ALSO</b> All that Allotment of land situate in the Lower Common containing Five Acres two roods and two perches and numbered 13 on the said Map bounded on the East by an old inclosure belonging to the said Lawrence Edward Saintloe on the South by an Allotment to John Baldwin on the West by the Lower Common road and on the North by Fontmell Drove</p>	
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17 The entry is actually for "Louis" St Loe.

No 24

**ALSO** All that Allotment of land situate in the Higher Common containing one rood and thirty perches and numbered 24 on the said Map bounded on the North and East by old inclosures belonging to the said Lawrence Edward Saintloe and on the South and West by the Fontmell Road

No 65

**ALSO** All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing two Acres three roods and thirty two perches and numbered 65 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to William Wiltshire on the South by an Allotment to George Peach Esquire on the West by an Allotment to Thomas Sedlin an on the North by the Gobson Common Drove

No 83

**AND ALSO** the Foreshare of All that Allotment of Land situate in Net Mead containing Nine Acres three roods and Four perches and numbered 83 on the said Map bounded On the East by old inclosures belonging to George Peach Esquire and The Reverend Charles Edward North respectively, on the South by an Allotment to the said George Peach on the West by the River Stour and on the North by an Allotment to the said Reverend Charles Edward North

Allotments to *John Baldwin* No 10

*UNTO and for John Baldwin All that Allotment of Land situate in the Lower Common containing Three Acres and Eight Perches and numbered 10 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Lower Common road on the South by an Allotment to Robert Baldwin on the West by old inclosures belonging to George Peach Esquire and The Reverend Charles Edward North respectively and on the North by an Allotment to the said Charles Edward North*

See Houseleys for details of this family.

No 14

*ALSO All that Allotment of Land situate in the Lower Common containing Eight Acres One rood and seventeen Perches and numbered 14 on the said Map bounded on the East by an old inclosure belonging to Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire on the South by an Allotment to The Reverend Charles Edward North on the West by the Lower Common Road and on the North by an Allotment to ++ ++ ++ ++ Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire*

No 68

*ALSO All that Allotment of Land situate in Gobson Common containing Six Acres two roods and thirty eight Perches and numbered 68 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Robert Baldwin on the South*

<p><i>by the Gobson Common Drove on the West by the Hill Farm Road and on the North by a Cottage and Garden belonging to Job Trowbridge and by Lands in the Parish of Sturminster Newton</i></p>	
<p>No 81</p> <p><b>AND ALSO</b> <i>the Foreshare of All that Allotment of Land situate in Net Mead containing two Acres and nine perches and numbered 81 on the said Map bounded on the East by old inclosures belonging to George Peach Esquire and Susan Abbott respectively on the South by an Allotment to Robert Baldwin on the West by the River Stour and on the North by an Allotment to the said George Peach</i></p>	
<p>Allotment to <a href="#">Robert Baldwin</a> No 9</p> <p><b>UNTO</b> <i>and for Robert Baldwin All that Allotment of land situate in the Lower Common containing Six Acres two roods and nine perches and numbered 9 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Lower Common Road on the South by an Allotment to George Peach Esquire on the West by an old inclosure the property of the said George Peach and on the North by an Allotment to John Baldwin</i></p>	<p>Robert was 60 in 1841 apparently living alone -farmer. In 1851 listed as 70 living with housekeeper</p>
<p>No 69</p> <p><b>ALSO</b> <i>All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing Two Acres three roods and two perches and numbered 69 on the said Map</i></p>	

<p><i>bounded on the East by an Allotment to Mary Goodfellow on the South by the Gobson Common Drove on the West by an Allotment to John Baldwin and on the North by Lands in the Parish of Sturminster Newton</i></p>	
<p>No 80</p> <p><b>AND ALSO</b> <i>the Foreshare of All that Allotment of Land situate in Net mead containing three Roods and one Perch and numbered 80 on the said Map bounded on the East by an old inclosure belonging to Susan Abbott on the South by Allotments to the said Susan Abbott and William Kerley respectively on the West by the River Stour and on the North by an Allotment to John Baldwin</i></p>	
<p>Allotment to <b>Sir Edward Baker Baker</b> No 25</p> <p><b>UNTO</b> <i>and for Edward Baker Baker Baronet All that Allotment of land situate in the Higher Common containing Four Acres two roods and four perches and numbered 25 on the said Map bounded on the East by lands in the Parish of Shroton on the South by an Allotment to The Reverend Edward Willes on the West by the Fontmell Road and on the North by an old inclosure belonging to Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire</i></p>	
<p>No 86</p> <p><b>AND ALSO</b> <i>the Foreshare of All that Allotment of land situate in Net Mead containing two Acres and Eleven Perches and numbered 86 on the</i></p>	

<p><i>said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to The Reverend Charles Edward North on the South by an Allotment to Leah Holdway on the West by the River Stour and on the North by an Allotment to John Baverstock.</i></p>	
<p><i>Allotment to The <a href="#">Reverend Edward Willes</a> No 26</i></p> <p><i><b>UNTO</b> and for The Reverend Edward Willes All that Allotment of land situate in the Higher Common and containing two acres two roods and twenty perches numbered 26 on the said Map bounded on the East by Lands in the Parish of Shroton on the South by an Allotment to John Harvey on the West by the Fontmell Road and on the North by an Allotment to Sir Edward Baker Baker</i></p>	<p>In 1840 the Reverend Willes is listed on the electoral register for Sturminster. He is said to live in Walcot Parade Bath and is given as a Freehold Farmer. In the 1841 census he is listed as being in Walcot aged 65 living with his wife Phillips [sic] aged 50 two daughters Jane 25 and Charlotte 20 Frances 15 and Lea Moon aet 20 a female servant.</p> <p>He held extensive lands in Blandford as well and is listed in the 1838 tithe map there. It was not apparently glebe land either. He does not appear to have held any land in CO on the tithe map.</p> <p>His father was possibly Edward Willes 1694-1773 the Bishop of Bath and Wells.</p>
<p><i>Allotment to <a href="#">William Wiltshire</a> No 17</i></p> <p><i><b>UNTO</b> and for William Wiltshire All that Allotment of land situate in the Lower Common containing Nine Acres three roods and six perches and numbered 17 on the said Map bounded on the Southeast by old inclosures on the West by the Lower Common Road and on the North by an Allotment to George Peach Esquire</i></p>	<p>See Housley for details of the Wiltshire family.</p>

<p>No 38</p> <p><b>ALSO</b> All that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher Common containing One Acre and twenty perches and numbered 38 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by a House and Orchard belonging to the said William Wiltshire on the Southeast by the Shroton Public Road on the Southwest by the Higher Common Road and on the Northwest by an Allotment to Mary Goodfellow</p>	
<p>No 66</p> <p><b>ALSO</b> All that Allotment of Land situate in Gobson Common containing Two Acres three roods and thirty one perches and numbered 66 on the said map bounded on the East by the Hill Farm Road on the South by an Allotment to George Peach Esquire on the West by an Allotment to Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire and on the North by the Gobson Common Road</p>	
<p>No 90 <small>AND</small> <b>ALSO</b> the Foreshare of All that Allotment of land situate in Net Mead containing One Acre and Thirty Eight perches and numbered 90 on the said Map bounded on the East by an old inclosure belonging to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire on the South by an Allotment to John Harvey and Mary Goodfellow respectively and on the West and North by the River Stour.</p>	
<p>Allotment to the Representatives of the late <a href="#">Reverend Nathaniel Templeman</a> No 44</p>	<p>There are many Nathaniel Templemans in the records , one married an Elizabeth Churchill at Stock Galyard in 1861. 4 years later a Nathaniel</p>



<p><b>UNTO</b> and for the Devises of the late Reverend Nathaniel Templeman deceased All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing Four acres and twenty eight perches and numbered 44 on the said Map bounded on the East by an old inclosure belonging to the said Devises on the South by lands In the parish of Belchalwell on the West by the Okeford Fitzpaine Road and on the North by the Gobson Common Public Road</p>	<p>Templeman was baptised in Wimborne and it is this one who is probably the reverend. If so he is found in 1831 on the electoral roll living in the parish of CO and is recorded as “clerk” . [Charles Edward North is also listed as a clerk. Is this how priests were recorded ?] He died in April 1844. It may be supposed he was a wealthy man as he also had extensive holdings [presumably Glebe] in Belchalwell.</p>
<p>No 45</p> <p><b>AND ALSO</b> All that Allotment of Land situate in Gobson Common containing two acres and thirty two perches and numbered 45 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Okeford Fitzpaine Road on the South by Lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by an Allotment to Edward Rose and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove</p>	
<p>Allotment to <b>George Holdway</b> No 22</p> <p><b>UNTO</b> and for George Holdway All that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher Common containing Seven Acres and twenty perches and numbered 22 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Fontmell Road on the South by an Allotment to Leah Holdway on the West by an Allotment to Susan Abbott and by an old inclosure belonging to Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire and on the North by an Allotment to John Baverstock</p>	<p>Houseley found a record indicating that Georges’ father , also Geordedrowned himself in 1828 as he was known to have fits of insanity. George Jnr as eldest child would have been expected to inherit solely. In the 1840 tithe apportionment file he is recorded as owning, jointly with his brother Robert [the second son] some 16 acres. George Jnr died at the age of 51 but his brother Robert lived to 96. Did George have some disability that precluded him managing the land and caused his relatively early demise.</p>

<p>Allotment to <i>Leah Holdway</i> No 21</p> <p><i>UNTO and for Leah Holdway All that Allotment of land situate in the Higher Common containing two acres three roods and eight perches and numbered 21 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Fontmell Road on the South by the Ridgeway Road on the West by an Allotment to Susan Abbott and on the North by an Allotment to George Holdway</i></p>	<p>Leah Holdway nee Ames was wife to George Snr. A land tax entry from 1832 shows she was a tenant of George Holdway- ie her own son. In 1841 she was 70 , living with Martha her daughter and both are listed as dairywomen. This seems to be a modest description as she is recorded in the tithe file as owning 12 acres. Leah died in April 1847.</p>
<p>No 61</p> <p><i>ALSO All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing One Acre and Twenty seven perches and numbered 61 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to the Poor <sup>^ of the Parish</sup> of Child Okeford on the South by an Allotment to John Trowbridge on the West by the Gobson Common Drove and on the North by an Allotment to Jane Matcham</i></p>	
<p>No 85</p> <p><i>AND ALSO the Foreshare of All that Allotment of land situate in Net Mead containing One Acre and seven Perches and numbered 85 on the said Map bounded on the East and South by an Allotment to the Reverend Charles Edward North on the West by the River Stour and on the North by an Allotment to Sir Edward Baker Baker</i></p>	
<p>Allotment to <i>John Baverstock</i> No 33</p> <p><i>UNTO and for John Baverstock All that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher Common containing Three Acres two roods and twenty seven</i></p>	<p>John Baverstock married the older sister of John Rossiter.</p>

*Perches and numbered 23 on the said Map bounded on the North and East by the Fontmell Road on the South by an Allotment to George Holdway and on the West by an old inclosure belonging to ^ Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire*

*No 56*

*ALSO All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing One Acre three roods and thirty six perches and numbered 56 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Henry Luke Dillon ^Trenchard Esquire on the South by an Allotment to John Harvey on the West by the Hill Farm road and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove*

*No 87*

*AND ALSO the Foreshare of All that Allotment of land situate in Net Mead containing One Acre and three perches and numbered 87 on the said Map bounded on the East by and old inclosure belonging to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire on the South by an Allotment to Sir Edward Baker Baker on the West by the River Stour and on the North by Allotments to Mary Goodfellow and John Harvey respectively*

<p><i>Allotment to <a href="#">John Harvey</a> No 27</i></p> <p><i>UNTO and for John Harvey All that Allotment of land situate in the Higher Common containing Two acres three roods and thirty seven perches and numbered 27 on the said Map bounded on the East by lands in the Parish of Shroton on the South by an Allotment to Henry Luke Dillon <sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire on the West by the Fontmell Road and on the North by an Allotment to the Reverend Edward Willes</i></p>	<p>Another mystery man. There are numerous John Harveys in the 1841 census but the nearest one to CO is an agricultural labourer of that name living in Durweston.</p>
<p><i>No 57</i></p> <p><i>ALSO All that Allotment of Land situate in Gobson Common containing Two Acres one rood and ten Perches and numbered 57 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Henry Luke Dillon <sup>Trenchard</sup> Esquire on the South by an Allotment to James Crouch on the West by the Hill Farm Road and on the North by an Allotment to John Baverstock</i></p>	
<p><i>No 88</i></p> <p><i>AND ALSO the Foreshare of All that Allotment of Land situate in Net Mead containing thirty six perches and numbered 88 on the said Map bounded on the East by an old inclosure belonging to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire on the South by an Allotment to John Baverstock on the West by an Allotment to Mary Goodfellow and on the North by an Allotment to William Wiltshire</i></p>	

<p><i>Allotment to <b>Mary Goodfellow</b> No 37</i></p> <p><i>UNTO and for Mary Goodfellow All that Allotment of land situate in the Higher Common containing One Acre two roods and thirty eight perches and numbered 37 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by lands in the Parish of Shroton on the Southeast by a Garden and an Allotment belonging to William Wiltshire on the Southwest by the Higher Common Road and on the Northwest by an Allotment to the Representatives of George Hatcher deceased</i></p>	<p>Mary Goodfellow was 70 in 1841 living in Fiddleford with an 8 yr old boy George Samson and Sarah Rose a 30 yr old female servant. She does not appear to own or occupy any land in CO according to the tithe file so one wonders how she acquired land under the inclosure award.</p>
<p><i>No 70</i></p> <p><i>ALSO All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing Ten Acres three roods and nine perches and numbered 70 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Robert Goodfellow and by the Okeford Fitzpaine Road on the South by the Gobson Common Drove and on the West by an Allotment to Robert Baldwin and on the North by Lands in the Parish of Sturminster Newton</i></p>	
<p><i>No 89</i></p> <p><i>AND ALSO the Foreshare of All that Allotment of Land situate in Net Mead containing two acres and twenty nine perches and numbered 89 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to John Harvey and on the South by an Allotment to John Baverstock on the West by the River Stour and on the North by an Allotment to William Wiltshire</i></p>	

<p>Allotment to <i>Robert Goodfellow</i> No 71</p> <p><i>UNTO and for Robert Goodfellow All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing One Acre and Twenty perches and numbered 71 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Okeford Fitzpaine Road on the South by the Gobson Common Drove and on the West and North by an Allotment to Mary Goodfellow</i></p>	<p>In 1841 Robert and his wife Phoebe were living in Fiddleford and listed as farmers. They were presumably related to Mary Goodfellow but it is not known how. There is a will from 1799 of a Robert Goodfellow who left his estate to Mary Amos his daughter. Did she then take her fathers name? Where did Robert jnr come from?</p>
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<p>No 72</p> <p><i>AND ALSO all that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing three roods and thirty two perches and numbered 72 on the said Map bounded</i></p> <p><b>BOUNDED</b> <i>On the North and East by Lands in the Parish of Sturminster Newton and on the West by the Okeford Fitzpaine Road</i></p>	
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<p>Allotment to <i>James Crouch</i>.<sup>18</sup>No 58 <i>UNTO and for James Crouch All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing two acres three roods and twenty six perches and numbered 58 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Henry Luke Dillon <sup>^Trenchard</sup> Esquire on the South by lands in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by the Hill Farm Road and on the North by an Allotment to John Harvey</i></p>	<p>This chap does not appear in the census of 1841 although there is a James Crouch living in Motcombe.</p>
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<sup>18</sup> Normally the beginning of each new allotment is placed in the margin of the document however for James Crouch it is placed in the main body of the document. The next entry is entered in the usual position.

<p><i>Allotment to <a href="#">John Trowbridge</a> No 60</i></p> <p><i>UNTO and for John Trowbridge as Lessee and Henry Ker Seymer Esquire as Reversioner All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing One Acre and numbered 60 on the said Map bounded on the North and East by Allotments to Leah Holdway and George Peach Esquire respectively on the South by Lands in the Parish of Belchalwell and on the West by the Cottage and Garden held by the said John Trowbridge under the said Henry Ker Seymer Esquire</i></p>	
<p><i>Allotment to <a href="#">Jane Hatcham</a> No 62</i></p> <p><i>UNTO and for Jane Hatcham All that Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common containing two roods and twenty seven perches and numbered 62 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to the Poor of the Parish of Child Okeford on the South by an Allotment to Leah Holdway and on the West and North by the Gobson Common Drove</i></p>	
<p><i>Allotment to the Poor of Child Okeford No 39</i></p> <p><i>UNTO and for the <a href="#">Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor</a> of the Parish of Child Okeford for the time being/in trust for the Poor of the said Parish for ever / All that Allotment of Land situate in the Higher Common containing Five Acres two roods and thirteen Perches and numbered 39 on the said Map bounded on the Northeast by the Higher Common Road on the Southeast and Southwest by an old inclosure called Ham the Property of Henry Ker Seymer Esquire and on the North by</i></p>	<p>Prior to 1834 and the passage of the Poor Law Amendment act each parish had to appoint [annually] two <a href="#">Overseers of the Poor</a> who set the Poor rate, collected and distributed it. After 1834 responsibility for Poor relief passed to “Unions” of parishes and CO joined the Sturminster Poor Law Union which was formed in December 1835. This was run by a board of 22 Guardians and in theory the post of “Overseers of the Poor” became redundant. In CO however, as in many other Parishes the post continued and in 1843 Edward Rossiter [a farmer] was appointed as Overseer of the <i>Parish</i>. The name may have changed but the role had not. Despite being</p>

<p><i>Seymer Road</i></p>	<p>appointed Church warden in 1845 his good character was called into question in 1847 when he was summoned by the then Overseer of the Parish for non payment of Poor rates.<sup>19</sup> It appears then that the post had not disappeared and was still involved in the Poor Law.</p>
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<p>No 63</p> <p><i>AND ALSO All that Allotment of Land situate in Gobson Common containing two Acres and numbered 63 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Thomas Sedlin on the South by an Allotment to George Peach Esquire on the West by Allotments to Leah Holdway and Jane Matcham respectively and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove</i></p>	<p>In total 7 acres were given to the Poor of Child Okeford, 2.4% of the total. Many inclosure acts made provision for such land to be awarded but as far as I can see it was not until the Inclosure Act of 1845 that it became a statutory requirement. Allotments to the “labouring poor” were not new but were regarded with some ambivalence. It was widely believed that the Commoner, in possession of an acre or two with common rights, was naturally indolent. They would work to provide for their own subsistence but little else and that this afforded them an independence that some saw as threatening. A part of the political establishment saw inclosure, with the loss of rights of common as a way to produce a wage earning class that would not have the luxury of “independence”. As the agronomist Arthur Young had said in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, “I know nothing better calculated to fill a country with barbarians ready for any mischief than extensive commons.” To his credit at the dawn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century he had changed his mind believing, correctly, that the loss of rights of common had resulted in much hardship, depopulation of the countryside and a rise in poor rates. The land given to the Overseer of the Poor was in lieu of the loss of common rights to unnamed commoners not eligible for an award of land. We do not have details of who they were but typically in other</p>
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<sup>19</sup> Housley Child Okeford 1815-1860 The End of an Era



	<p>inclosure awards they would have been people who claimed a right of common but were unable to prove it. The land awarded to the Overseer of the Poor would have been rented to villagers and the rents used to reduce the Poor rate. For the poor commoner used to keeping his cow for free on the common the ability to rent and contribute to his own poor relief was not a particularly good deal.</p> <p>One of the unstated intents of inclosure was to extinguish rights of common for reasons given above and allocating land to the poor [even for a rent] worked against this policy. As an MP Sir J Graham said in 1843, "such allotments would be conducive to the comfort of the labourer if kept within very narrow limits. The land allotted must not be considered by the labourer as a provision for his family."<sup>20</sup></p> <p>The Hungary 40's changed things. From 1845 on there were extensive famines caused by cereal harvest failures and then came the potato blight. In such circumstances allotments began to be viewed more favourably. In 1876 such allocations became known as "field gardens" and became protected in law.</p>
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<p><i>Allotment to <b>Thomas Sedlin</b> No 64</i></p> <p><i>UNTO and for Thomas Sedlin All that Allotment of Land situate in Gobson Common containing Three Acres and thirty perches and numbered 64 on the said Map bounded on the East by an Allotment to Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire on the South by an Allotment to George Peach Esquire on the West by an Allotment to the Poor of the</i></p>	<p>Thomas Sedlen [according to the census] lived in Shilling Okeford [Shillingstone]. He was 44 in 1841 and had a son also called Thomas. He is described as a farmer and died in 1871 leaving an estate under £450, at the time he was called a yeoman.</p>
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20 Hansard 11 April 1843

Parish of Child Okeford and on the North by the Gobson Common Drove

<p><i>Allotment to The <a href="#">Reverend Charles Edward North</a> No 11</i></p> <p><i>UNTO and for The Reverend Charles Edward North as Rector of the Parish of Child Okeford for and in respect of his Glebe rights of Common All that Allotment of land situate in the Lower Common containing Four Acres and one rood numbered 11 on the said Map bounded on the East by the Lower Common Road on the South by an Allotment to John Baldwin on the West by an old inclosure belonging to the Glebe and on the North by an Allotment to Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire</i></p>	<p>If you wish to be remembered in history its best to be rich or famous, or eccentric or educated; preferably all four. Norths great-great-grandfather had been attorney general to Mary of Modena and had a large estate in Norfolk. Charles Edwards’ father, Fountain North, was ill treated by his father and ran away to sea later settling at Hastings where he “divided his time between there and Hampstead, Middlesex, where he built a house ‘with a flat roof, bulwarks, and portholes, like a man of war’s deck, on which he used to pace up and down, firing off cannon from it on all great occasions and birthdays’.”<sup>21</sup> Fountains eldest, son Frederick was later to enter Parliament the youngest, Charles Edward entered the church.</p> <p>Born in 1780 he went to Trinity College Cambridge and got his BA in 1802 and was appointed Deacon at Winchester in 1803. After various appointments he was appointed [he probably bought the livings] Rector of Portland in 1811 and of Child Okeford in 1815. He gave up the Portland Rectorship in 1835 but continued in CO until his death in 1863.</p> <p>Prior to his appointment in 1815 CO had two rectors – Child Okeford Superior and Child Okeford Inferior, probably reflecting the fact that there had originally been two manors. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century we find that some rectors occupied both rectories. Norths’ predecessor, Henry Hall for example is described as rector of CO superior and of CO inferior. North was the first to occupy CO “superior and inferior” i.e. a single combined rectory.</p>
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21 History of Parliament on Line

	<p>As well as the tithe of approx £250 he must have also had a considerable income from the Glebe land which was in his possession and to which he was to acquire another 8 acres following the award. It was customary for rectors to be given an award approx 20% in excess of what others might be allotted; this was said to reflect the fact that although they gained the land they had lost the tithe. It probably had more to do with the fact without the approval of the church it was unlikely that inclosure proposals would succeed.</p>
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<p>No 15</p> <p><i>ALSO All that Allotment of Land situate in the Lower Common containing Three Acres three roods and Twenty Perches and numbered 15 on the said Map bounded on the East by old inclosures on the South by an old inclosure belonging to the Glebe on the South by an Allotment to George Peach Esquire on the West by the Lower Common Road and on the North by an Allotment to John Baldwin</i></p>	
<p>No 84</p> <p><i>AND ALSO the Foreshare of All that Allotment of land situate in Net Mead containing Six Acres two roods and six perches and numbered 84 on the said Map bounded on the East by old inclosures on the South by an Allotment to Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire on the West by the River Stour and on the North by an Allotment to Leah Holdway and by an old inclosure belonging to Henry Ker Seymer Esquire</i></p>	

*Exchange between Lord Rivers and George Peach Esquire*

*AND I the said Commissioner by virtue of the power and authority aforesaid and at such request by and with such consent and in such manner and form as required and directed by the said recited Acts ABOVE set out allotted and awarded And by these presents Do set out allot and award in Exchange UNTO and for the said George Pitt Lord Rivers*

*Allotment in Exchange to Lord Rivers No 59*

*ALL THAT Allotment of Land situate in Gobson Common containing Seven acres and thirty one perches and numbered 59 on the said Map hereinbefore awarded to George Peach Esquire and by him agreed to be allotted and awarded in Exchange to the said <sup>^ George Pitt</sup> Lord Rivers bounded on the East by the Hill Farm Road on the South by Hill Farm the Property of George ++ Meggs Esquire situate in the Parish of Belchalwell on the West by an Allotment to John Trowbridge and on the North by Allotment to Leah Holdway The Poor of the Parish of Child Okeford Thomas Sedlin Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire and William Wiltshire respectively Which said Allotment hereinbefore lastly allotted and awarded to the said George Pitt Lord Rivers is in my Judgement and shall be deemed and taken to be a Just and full compensation to him the said George Pitt Lord Rivers of and for all and singular the estate right and interest of him the said George Pitt Lord Rivers of and in an old inclosure situate in the Parish of Child Okeford called Ridgeway and numbered 91 on the said Map next hereinafter allotted and awarded in Exchange to George Peach Esquire*

That 2 acres and 39 perches should be swapped for 7 acres and 31 perches and that this should be considered “Just and full compensation” seems rather strange. No explanation is given in the award; there was a clear advantage for Lord Rivers who having already been granted 12 acres would have had a useful area to farm. George Peach appears to have had less to gain; the rationale of the exchange is a mystery.

*Old Inclosure in Exchange to George Peach Esquire No 91*

*AND UNTO and for the said George Peach Esquire All that old inclosure of Meadow or Pasture Land situate in the Parish of Child Okeford called Ridgeway containing two acres and thirty nine Perches and numbered 91 on the said Map before part of the Estate of the said George Pitt Lord Rivers and by him agreed to be allotted and awarded in Exchange to the said George Peach Esquire bounded on the Northeast by land belonging to Thomas Monk on the Southeast by Ridgeway Lane on the Southwest by Land belonging to Mary Lock and on the Northwest by Whist Lane hereinbefore allotted and awarded to the said George Peach*

*AND I the said Commissioner do hereby declare order and direct that the said old inclosure herein lastly allotted and awarded to the said George Peach is in my Judgement and shall be deemed and taken to be a just and full compensation and satisfaction to him the said George Peach of and for all and singular the Estate right and interest of him the said George Peach of and in the said Allotment of land situate in Gobson Common within the said Parish of Child Okeford and numbered 59 on the said Map hereinbefore allotted and awarded in Exchange to the said George Pitt Lord Rivers*

Names of Persons	Number of Cows to be stocked and depastured by each person	Names of Persons	Number of Cows to be stocked and depastured by each person
Henry Luke Dillon Trenchard Esquire	Eight	George Peach Esquire	Fifteen
Edward Rossiter Life hold under Trenchard	Three	Reverend Charles Edward North	Nineteen
William Kerley ---Do----	Two	John Baverstock	Three
William Melmoth -----Do-----	Two	Sir Edward Baker Baker Baronet	Fourteen
Henry Ker Seymer Esquire	Six	John Rossiter	Two
John Baldwin	Eight	Leah Holdway	Three
Robert Baldwin	Two	Lawrence Edward Saintloe Esquire	Two
William Wiltshire	Four		

*And I do hereby further Award Order and Declare and Direct that from the said third #<sup>22</sup> day of September in each year to the said fourteenth day of February # in the following year the said several fifteen last named parties shall have the exclusive enjoyment and participation of the produce of the said Allotments situate in Net Mead aforesaid and in the proportions and in the manner hereinbefore directed ordered and*

In this section Martin deals with the “rights of common” in Net Mead. From 14<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> September the grass was allowed to grow prior to the hay harvest. The hay that was cut is described as the foreshare in the award.  
From 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 13<sup>th</sup> February fifteen owners were allowed to “have the exclusive enjoyment and participation of the produce of the said

22 There is no indication as to why these marks were inserted.

<p><i>regulated and that during that period no other person shall have any right to the enjoyment thereof or any part thereof or to the participation of any produce to grow thereon <b>AND</b> I the said Commissioner <b>DO</b> hereby adjudge determine and award that the said several and respective Allotments and parcels of land and rights of depasturage on the said Allotments in Net Mead hereinbefore particularly mentioned and described and made set out assigned and awarded to and for the several persons aforesaid are and, I the said Commissioner <b>DO</b> by this my Award declare the same to be in lieu and bar of and by way Exchange Satisfaction and compensation for his her and their <sup>^several</sup> former plots pieces and parcels of land and rights of Common in over and upon the Commons and other Commonable and Waste Lands agreed to be divided allotted and inclosed as aforesaid</i></p>	<p><b>Allotments</b>". Cutting hay with a scythe did not result in a particularly close cut and the produce referred to here was simply the remaining grass which in any case continued to grow. Up to ninety three cows could be depastured on the field during this time according to the table above.</p> <p>Whilst most of those who had foreshare also had the right to depasture cows three of those who had the foreshare, Susan Abbot, Mary Goodfellow and John Harvey had no right to depasture their cows. Conversely John and Edward Rossiter were allowed to depasture their cows but had no foreshare.</p>
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<p><i>And I do therefore by these Presents further award that the said several and respective Allotments and parcels of land and rights of depasturage so set out assigned allotted and awarded as aforesaid and every part and parcel thereof respectively with the appurtenances shall and may be held and enjoyed by the said several persons to whom the same are hereinbefore mentioned to be assigned allotted and awarded as aforesaid or by such other person or persons as are or shall entitled to the same respectively according to their several and respective Estates Rights and Interests therein And I do hereby order and direct that <i>the said several and respective Allotments except the Allotments in Net Mead aforesaid Shall be well and sufficiently Fenced by the respective owners and proprietors thereof with proper Banks and Quick set Hedges on such sides</i></i></p>	<p>This was a standard inclusion in most awards</p>
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of the *Boundary Lines* thereof as are described by the representation of the *Hedges* thus delineated on the said Map <sup>23</sup> Ecccc Ecccc Ecccc

for Example the *Fences* of the Allotment numbered 14 on the South and West sides thereof to be made by John Baldwin the Owner thereof and that all the said fences shall be completed on or before the thirty first Day of December One Thousand Eight Hundred and forty seven And I do hereby order and direct that all the *Fences* so made shall be for ever thereafter kept in repair by the respective owners proprietors or occupiers of the said Allotments for the time being




<sup>23</sup> At this point are inserted three sets of 5 letters which appear to be as described.



<p><i>And I the said Commissioner do hereby declare that in making the said several Allotments I have had due regard to the quality situation and convenience as well as to the quantity of the same respectively and have estimated the rights and interests of all The persons to whom the several allotments have been made and awarded as hereinbefore particularly mentioned according to the real and just yearly value thereof ascertained pursuant to the said recited Acts</i></p>	
<p><b>AND LASTLY</b> <i>I the said Commissioner in further execution of the said recited Acts have this day held a Special general Meeting pursuant to the Notice thereof given as directed by the said several recited Acts and have read over and executed this my award in the presence of such of the proprietors as have thought proper to attend <b>AND</b> I do declare this to be my Award in the Premises</i></p>	<p>This meeting was held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September at the Crown Inn. Note that by this time Blandford was known as Blandford forum.</p>

**CHILD OKEFORD INCLOSURE.**  
**JOHN MARTIN**, of **EVERSHOT**, in the County of Dorset, Land Surveyor, the sole Commissioner appointed for **ALLOTING** and **ENCLOSING** the **OPEN** and **COMMON-ABLE LANDS** in the Parish of **CHILD OKEFORD**, in the said County, under the powers and provisions of an Act of Parliament passed in the 6th and 7th years of the reign of King William the 4th, chapter 115, **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE**, that I shall hold a **MEETING**, at the **CROWN INN**, in **BLANDFORD FORUM**, in the said County, on **MONDAY**, the 14th day of **SEPTEMBER** instant, at **Twelve o'Clock at Noon**, for the purpose of Reading over the Draft of my **Award**, when and where the **Proprietors** and **Persons** interested may, if they think proper, attend.  
Dated this first Day of September, 1846.  
**JOHN MARTIN**, Commissioner.

*AND WITNESS* whereof I the said John Martin the Commissioner above named have hereunto set my hand and Seal the Thirteenth # day of January in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and Forty seven



Oddly the signature is NOT appended to the award. This is from the Tithe map.