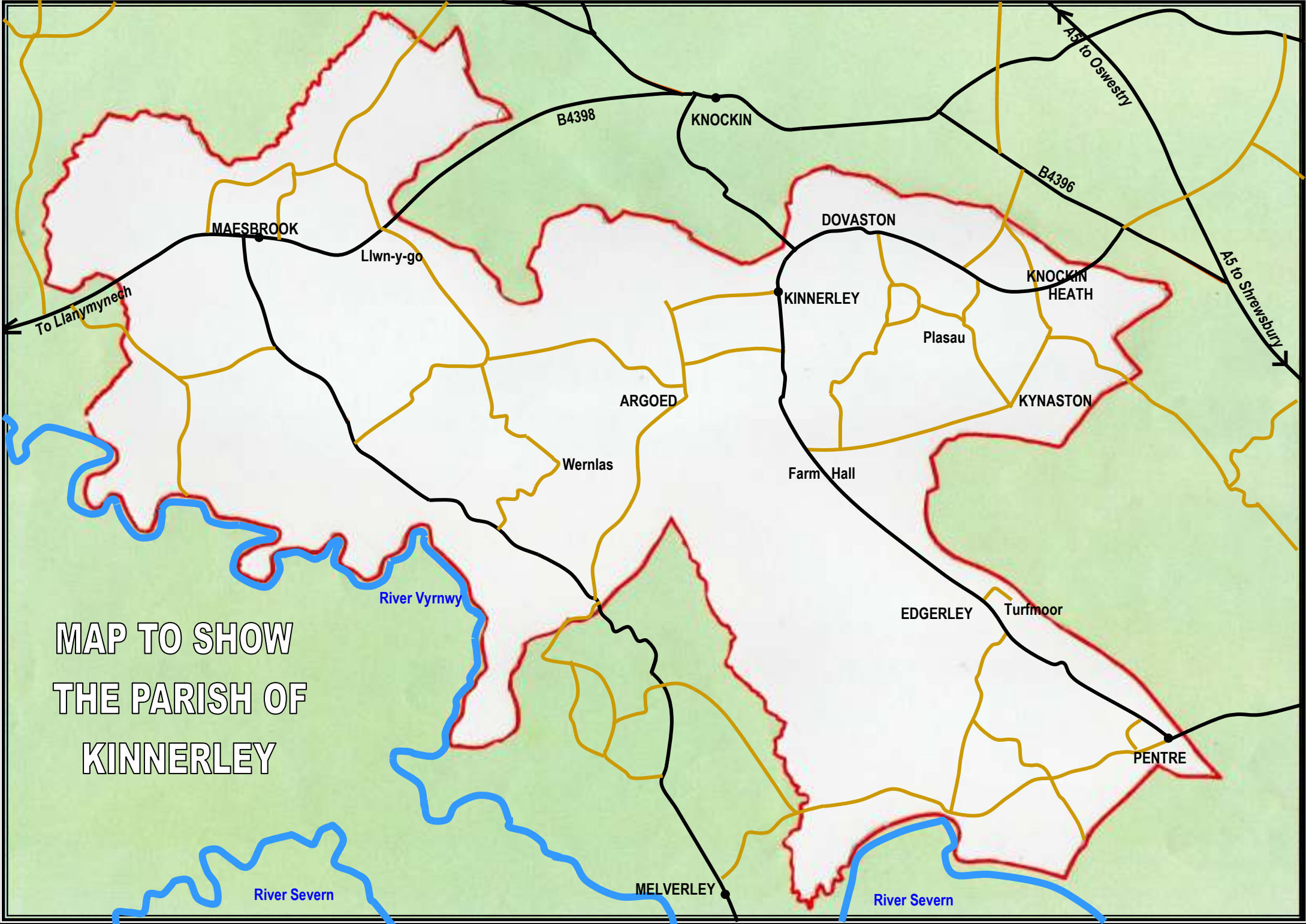


Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment



The Parish of Kinnerley



MAP TO SHOW
THE PARISH OF
KINNERLEY

MAESBROOK

Llwn-y-go

B4398

KNOCKIN

B4396

DOVASTON

KINNERLEY

KNOCKIN
HEATH

To Llanymynech

Plasau

A5 to Shrewsbury

ARGOED

KYNASTON

Wernlas

Farm Hall

River Vyrnwy

EDGERLEY

Turfmoor

River Severn

MELVERLEY

River Severn

PENTRE



Kinnerley Parish Fête

Peggy Maybury

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Foreword by the Chairman of Kinnerley Parish Council

The Parish of Kinnerley has evolved over the centuries into the thriving community it is today. The influences of the past are to be seen all around us in the landscape, the architecture and the people. As a result of this continual evolution and development over the centuries the area does not have a particular period or architectural style as do some other areas of the country. What we have instead is a diverse mix of architectural styles generally reflecting the period of construction.

The agricultural landscape also exhibits the same diversity, reflecting the period the developments or alterations took place. The diversity of farming production and landscape has produced some very interesting wildlife habitats in the Parish. Part of this diversity is due to the varying soil types across the Parish and the effects of flooding from the Rivers Vyrnwy and Severn on the lower parts of the Parish. Man has also greatly influenced the landscape, particularly during the latter half of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The Parish Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment is a further development of the Parish Plan completed in 2005. The Parish Plan was very much about how the residents of Kinnerley Parish felt about their community and how they wanted to see it develop. The Parish Design Statement seeks to record the built environment without commenting on its suitability or desirability. The Landscape Character Assessment will provide a similar record of the many and varied landscapes and environments in the Parish.

I am sure everyone concerned will find this document to be a useful, accurate and informative record of Kinnerley Parish in 2007.

Betton Cambridge
Chairman Kinnerley Parish Council

On Monday 15th January 2007 the Kinnerley Parish Design Statement was presented to the Parish Council and formally adopted.



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The picture shows ridge and furrow field patterns on the Pentreheylin and the Maesbrook flood plain. The River Vyrnwy is in the foreground and the line of the old railway at Maesbrook in the background. The curved ridges are medieval, formed by ox-drawn ploughs.

Introducing the Parish Design Statement for Kinnerley Parish

The Parish of Kinnerley has a landscape made up of villages, hamlets, scattered houses and farms, all set within a varied countryside. The survival of this visually attractive and pleasant living and working environment can never be assured as there will always be pressure for change. At the present time, 2007, there is concern over the difficult times farmers are facing, as well as anxiety over environmental sustainability and the pressures of development on the countryside.

Within the last few years there has been a change of emphasis on the way development takes place. Government Policies now state that “good design is part of the planning process”. At the same time the Regional Planning Guidelines have stated that “planning authorities should ensure that development is consistent with the need to conserve the landscape and wildlife and to improve the quality of the rural environment”. Without a sound knowledge of the built environment and the landscape in which it is placed, it is difficult for sensitive development to take place.

Government Policy PPG7 (2006) states that “Local Planning Authorities should prepare policies and guidelines that encourage good quality design throughout their rural area, using tools such as Landscape Character Assessments and Village Design Statements and the design elements of the Parish Plan”. The Oswestry Borough Local Development Plan is currently being reviewed.

It is, therefore, particularly appropriate at this time for our Parish to produce a description of its own landscape and built environment and to describe the ways that the two blend together, so that any new planning proposal can be based on sound data.

This study, The Parish Design Statement for Kinnerley Parish, is made up of two sections, The Village Design Statement and the Landscape Character Assessment for Kinnerley Parish, in which the built and landscape environments of the Parish have been described in a formal, structured way. The Village Design Statement also includes a series of Planning Guidelines, based on existing National, Regional and Local Policies and, in particular, on the views expressed by the residents of the Parish in the Parish Plan, reinforced by further consultation with residents.

This study has three objectives:

- To create a greater awareness of the landscape and environment in which we live.
- To provide the data, together with a set of Planning Guidelines, which will assist the Local Planners to develop our Parish in a sensitive way.
- To stimulate debate about future built and environmental development based on accurate, up to date data.





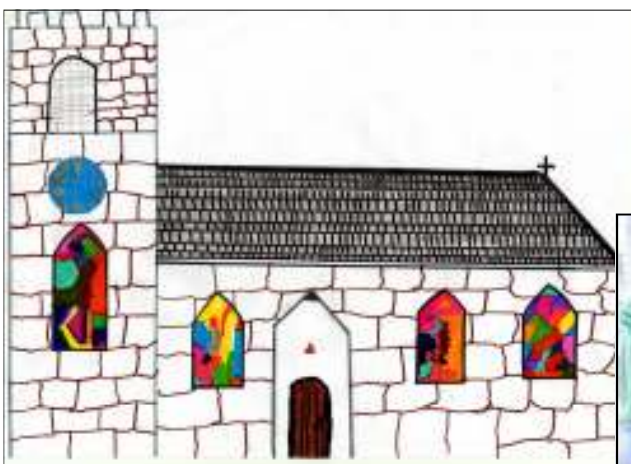
Laurel Cottage, Maesbrook 1805
Daisy-Belle Morris
Aged 7 years



Kinnerley Church
John Finney
Aged 8 years



Kinnerley Parish Map
Matthew Burton
Aged 9 years



Kinnerley Church with stained glass windows!
Samuel Burton
Aged 6 years



My House
Alice Gunnery
Aged 8 years

1 Introduction

The Parish of Kinnerley is in the administrative Borough of Oswestry, on the western side of the County of Shropshire. It is bordered on the south and west by the Rivers Severn, Vyrnwy and Morda; to the east is the A5 trunk road, linking the Parish to the national road network.

The Parish covers an area of over 2,300 hectares and, in addition to the principal village of Kinnerley, has two other villages, Maesbrook and Pentre, and seven hamlets, Dovaston, Edgerley, Farm Hall, Knockin Heath, The Wood, Kynaston, and Plassau. Individual farms, houses and cottages are scattered throughout the landscape. Altogether, there are some 430 households.

1.1 What is a Village Design Statement?

The aim is to have good quality development with good quality design, which suits its location and enhances its neighbourhood.

A Design Statement is not intended to influence whether or not development should take place. That is the responsibility of the Local Authority and its Planning Officers. It is not meant to, nor is it intended to, stop development and change from happening. However, it should help to influence the way that any new development melds into our Parish, by describing the qualities and characteristics that people value in the Parish and its landscape. It should provide guidelines for the design of all new development and:-

- describe the visual character of the built environment
- be compatible with statutory planning guidelines, both local and national
- be suitable for approval as a supplementary planning guidance
- be applicable to all forms and scale of development
- be about managing change, not preventing it
- be used by the Borough and Parish Councils when considering planning applications
- promote good design, which is central to Government guidance on planning

It should be used by everyone involved in the process of change, because change in a village's appearance is brought about not only by large scale development, but also by adjustments to individual properties. Change is caused by development of all types, including small extensions and alterations to homes and gardens, open spaces, paths and hedges.

The Village Design Statement for the Parish of Kinnerley has been drawn up to complement the statutory planning policies, which are themselves going through a revision process, as the present Local Development Plan is being replaced by the Local Development Framework. The Local Development Plan is, and the Local Development Framework soon will be, available in Oswestry. These are the definitive documents, which these guidelines will support and supplement.

This Village Design Statement includes Guidelines and Check Lists for anyone undertaking building construction within the Parish of Kinnerley. These guidelines have drawn considerably on those already in force through the Oswestry Borough's Local Development Plan. The guidelines should help to inform architects and developers of those aspects of development which are considered important by the residents of this Parish and help members of the Parish to comment on any future planning applications. Evidence that the guidance set out in this statement has been fully taken into account will make it more likely that the Parish Council will find an application acceptable.

1.2 The Parish Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment

This section describes the Village Design Statement (VDS). The second section of this document is a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). Together, they form the Parish Design Statement (PDS) for the Parish of Kinnerley

Sketch of Kinnerley Village School



1.3 The Parish Plan

In 2005, Kinnerley Parish Council produced its own Parish Plan, in which Parishioners were asked:

Should a Parish Design Statement be produced, using the information provided by your answers? 97% of respondents agreed that this should be undertaken. Subsequently, in January 2006, the Parish Council agreed that the Parish Plan Steering Group should prepare a draft Village Design Statement for scrutiny by the Parish Council. At a Parish Council meeting on 15 January 2007 this Parish Design Statement was formally accepted and is to be presented to the Oswestry Borough Council, to become a material consideration for all future development taking place in the Parish of Kinnerley.

This document has been produced by members of the Parish Plan Steering Group, and a group of local residents. They were helped by many individuals from within the Parish, who had particular knowledge of their own locality. It has also been based on the consultation that took place during the preparation of the Parish Plan.

Advice has been sought from the Forward Planning Officers of Oswestry Borough to ensure that our Village Design Statement will be compatible with the new Local Development Framework.

1.4 Government Policies

This Village Design Statement identifies those planning and development issues that are important to the community. It gives clear guidelines on the standards that we wish to see achieved in our Parish, wherever change takes place; change which may come from planners, developers, home owners and statutory bodies. These guidelines are in line with and support existing, local, regional and national policies. **The Village Design Statement should be our tool for ensuring that these standards are met in our Parish.**

For example:-

The Regional Spatial Strategy envisages a region **“rich in culture and environment, where rural renaissance is achieved, which is recognised for its distinctive, high quality natural and built environment”**.

For example:-

Government Policy PPS1 (2005) states that the aim of all those involved in development should be for **“high quality and inclusive design to create well mixed and integrated developments”**.

and:

to encourage the **“protecting and enhancing of the historic and natural environment, the quality and character of the countryside and its existing communities”**,

and:-

to **“ensure high quality development through good and inclusive design”** and **“developments should be visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping”**.

For example:-

Government policy PPG3 (2006) states **“a particular settlement should always be respected in terms of density, scale and environmental quality. Villages vary in character and what might be appropriate in one could be out of place in another”**.

For example:-

Government policy PPG7 (2004) states **“Local Planning Authorities should prepare policies and guidelines that encourage good quality design throughout their rural area, using tools such as Landscape Character Assessment and Village Design Statements and the design elements of the Parish Plans”**.

For example:-

Government policy PPS7 (2004) states **“good design should contribute positively to making places better for people. Design which is inappropriate in its content, or fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions should not be accepted.”**

For example:-

Government policy RRS2 of Regional Spatial Strategy, Policy CF2, states **“in rural areas the provision of new housing should generally be restricted to meeting local housing needs. Local housing needs constitute needs arising from the immediate area, excluding migration from elsewhere.”**

For example:-

Government policy PPS1 (2005) states that **“community involvement is an essential element in delivering sustained development.”**

1.5 The Communities

Kinnerley Parish is more than just a number of villages and hamlets. Each has its own vibrant and individual community. A glance at the Parish magazine, The Telescope, and the Kinnerley Parish website, show just how many community activities take place.

A Village Design Statement for the Parish of Kinnerley has, therefore, been prepared, which has considered Kinnerley Village, Maesbrook Village and the built landscape along the Kinnerley to Knockin Heath road, as three separate built environments. In addition, Pentre Village and the outlying hamlets, where development pressures are low, have been described and included in the overall Design Statement.

2 The Built Environment

2.1 Kinnerley Village

Introduction

Kinnerley Village is the largest settlement in the Parish, with approximately 150 households. The village is situated more than a mile away from the two nearest main roads; one is the B4396 which runs through Knockin and the other the main A5 trunk road. This gives the village a slightly “off the beaten track” feel. It is, however, at the centre of a system of lanes, which link Kinnerley Village to the scattered hamlets within the Parish and to the national road systems. The presence of the church, pub, shop, school and Parish Hall make it the centre of the Parish, although all of the other villages have their own very active communities.

Evolution of the Village

There is evidence that in Saxon times there was a church on the site of the present St. Mary's church, although records of the village, before the building of the existing west tower in the 1600s, are scant. The original road layout within the village still exists and early maps reveal scattered houses along these byways. This pattern of development within the historic core of the village remains largely unaltered, although there has been some infilling.

By the middle of the 19th century, the present pattern of development had been established, with the Church, two pubs, the existing Cross Keys and the Swan (now Cleveland house), all sited in the centre of the village, around what is now the green. Also sited around the village green are the Village Shop and its associated buildings, a cottage next to the site of the Village Pound, now no longer visible, and a small house with detached garage, which, in the past, was first the blacksmith's and then the butcher's shop and abattoir. The green itself was formerly the site of the village Primary School; this was demolished in the 1980s, by which time it had already been replaced by a new school on the southern edge of the village.

In addition to the development around the church, there were a few dwellings along Vicarage Lane and Church Lane, as well as scattered cottages outside the central core of the village, along Heathwaen Lane and towards Bankfields.

Apart from limited infilling within the village centre, little development took place until the 1930s, when a small number of semi-detached council houses, Lady Ida's, were built, away from the centre of the main village, on the junction of the Knockin and Dovaston roads. In the 1960s, additional semi-detached council built bungalows were added to this development.

In the 1950s and 60s, more council houses were built on the southern edge of the village. This was a small, linear development, adjacent to the site of the new Kinnerley Primary School.

In 2000, there was a further development of 27 houses, Coly Anchor, on the far side of the school, on the southern edge of the village. This development was designed around its own green, and provided a mixture of low cost and medium sized houses.

One characteristic of the village is that, of the houses built since the 1930s, a substantial proportion have been built by the Borough Council to rent to local people. Many of these have, in recent years, been purchased by their tenants and, as a result, the proportion of affordable housing in the village has decreased. The houses, built as infill within the historic village centre, have tended to be larger and built for private purchase. Throughout this period, there has been a pattern of enlargement and upgrading of the original cottages, which has again reduced the number of lower cost houses.

Setting in the Landscape

The village is set within an agricultural landscape, with well managed fields, hedges and mature hedgerow trees. It is sited on slightly higher ground than its surrounds with, a short distance away, on the southern side, the flood plains of the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy and, on the other sides, intensively farmed, agricultural land. The views, to the south and west, of the Breiddens, South Shropshire and Welsh Hills are of great beauty. A particular feature and charm is the way in which the adjoining fields surround and extend into the village, in a natural way, preserving the agricultural setting. This is emphasised by the attractive fields, which follow the flood plain of the Weir Brook, as it runs through the centre of the village.

The village has a linear pattern of development, with housing following the original medieval road system. Groups of houses have been built on the “spine road” running north to south through the centre of the village, leaving the heart of the settlement largely unchanged. The absence of estate type development, within the historic core of the village, has helped to maintain the village's historic character. The most recent development at Coly Anchor has been carefully and sensitively designed on the outskirts of the village.

The Village Shop and Post Office



House Styles

A characteristic of the village is that it does not have a typical style of building; the wide range of building types reflects the pattern of growth of the settlement over the centuries. This variety adds to the interest of the village.

In order to describe the built structure of Kinnerley Village, five different areas of development have been identified (see map):

- 2.1.1 The historic core of the village
- 2.1.2 The housing at Lady Ida's and Mountside
- 2.1.3 The development at Mayfield
- 2.1.4 The Coly Anchor development
- 2.1.5 Industrial premises

➔ Indicates valued views

2.1.1 The Historic Core

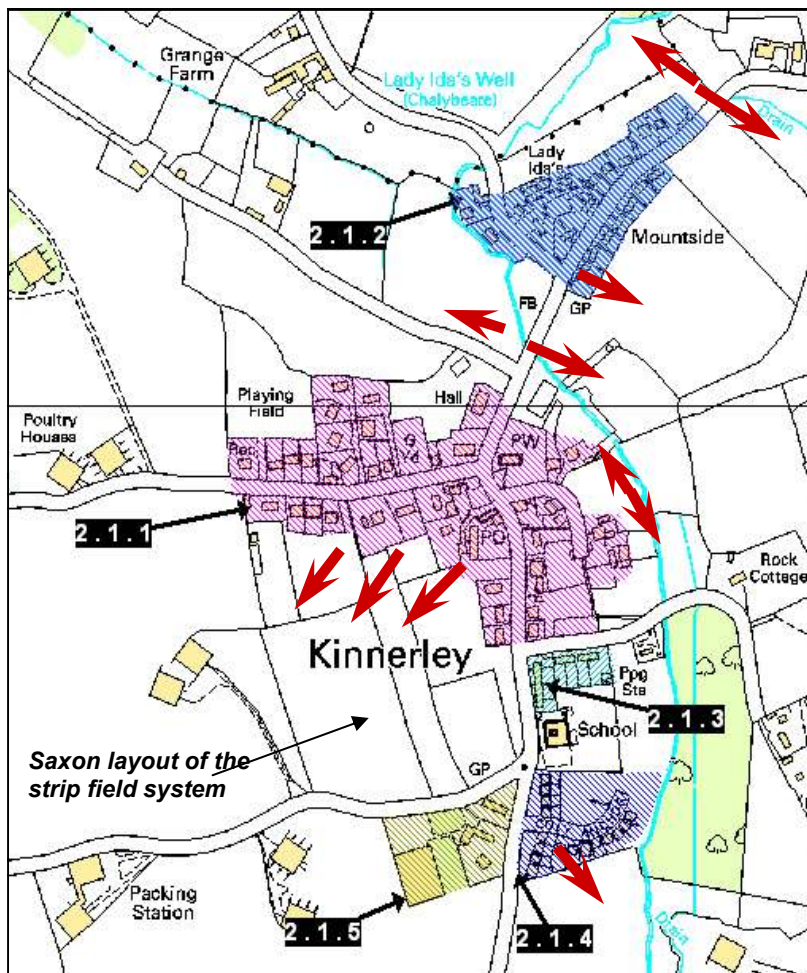
At the core of the village is the church which, taking note of the circular wall and awkward curve of the road, could be a "henge", a pre-Christian site on which, at a later date, was built a wooden Saxon church. The church dominates the village centre and green, from which radiates a medieval pattern of lanes. The church is constructed of local red sandstone, one of the traditional construction materials of the area.

The Saxon layout of the strip, open field system is still clearly visible in the layout of the hedges and roads.

The green is surrounded by various buildings, constructed in a rich pattern of styles. The Village Shop built, unusually for Kinnerley, in yellow, "Oswestry" brick, is associated with a number of older farm buildings, reflecting its past as a combined shop, bakery and farm. Behind these buildings is an attractive red brick cottage, and opposite is the Cross Keys pub, brick built and partially painted white.

While 18th century, red sandstone cottages are found frequently throughout the Parish, only one example, Hazelcroft, which has been considerably enlarged, remains within the village.

Most cottages have been either replaced, extensively enlarged, improved, rendered or painted, usually white. Their origin, as small sandstone or brick cottages, is often difficult to trace.



Other notable buildings include Cleveland House, (once the Swan Pub), Holly House, and the old Vicarage, all Georgian buildings.

Houses 1930s to Present Day

The overall impression is of a piecemeal development of houses of different sizes and styles. The construction of 26 additional houses in the village since the 1950s has increased the number of dwellings in the historic core from some 11 to 37. These have melded well into the pattern of the village, due to their low density and attractive gardens.

Most of the pre-1900 houses are of a mellow, red brick, with little detailing or decoration. The predominant brickwork of the newer houses is manufactured red brick, occasionally combined with white render. These newer houses have been built throughout the village, often as piecemeal infilling in gardens or as replacement of existing cottages. They have been constructed in a number of styles, using modern materials.

Development has been on a small scale, which has mellowed comfortably into the street scene, as the gardens and trees have matured.



2.1.2 Lady Ida's and Mountside

Before the 1930s the only houses in this area were a small cottage, a smallholding and a red brick house, Brookside, which at one time was the Post Office.

During the 1930s eight semi-detached council houses were built (Lady Ida's). A further fourteen semi-detached bungalows were added in the 1960s (Mountside) and a later addition of six semi-detached bungalows were built behind the existing houses at Lady Ida's. Subsequently, four privately owned dwellings were built, completing the infilling of the area. All have attractive views and have integrated into the surrounding countryside, as their hedges and trees have grown.



2.1.3 Mayfields

In the 1950s and 60s, a council house development of ten semi-detached houses was built, on a greenfield site, on the southern edge of the village. These are pleasant red brick houses in rectangular plots, with good sized front and rear gardens.

2.1.4 Coly Anchor

At the end of the 20th century, a green field development of 27 houses and bungalows was built on the southern edge of the village. These houses are arranged around a central green. It is a mixed development of three and four bedroomed, detached houses, two and three bedroomed bungalows, three bedroomed semi-detached houses and some affordable housing. Mains drainage was supplied to the whole village at this time.



The dwellings have been constructed in a variety of modern styles, although all are brick built with tiled roofs. The front gardens, which look onto the central green, are unfenced, while the back gardens face open countryside. Street lighting is of an urban rather than a rural intensity.

2.1.5 Commercial Premises

On the southern edge of the village, a storage and haulage business operates, using purpose built warehouses as well as some of the large Second World War ammunition bunkers.

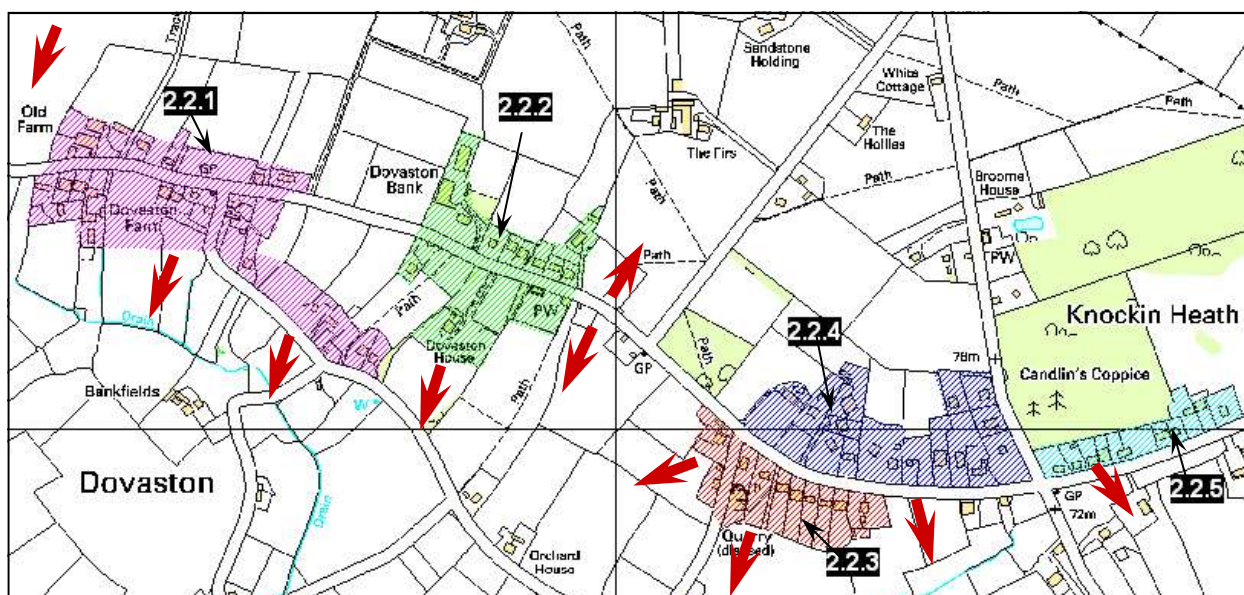


Future Development

There is limited scope left for infilling within the historic core of the village, if it is to retain its uncluttered and open appearance. Development of any scale is, therefore, more likely to take place on the periphery of the village.



2.2 Knockin Heath and Dovaston



The numbers on the map refer to the text below

 To indicate valued views

Introduction

Since the 1950s, any housing development within the Knockin Heath and Dovaston areas has taken place along the corridor of the main road from Kinnerley to Knockin Heath.

Evolution of the Built Landscape

In the 1950s, there were 40 dwellings, scattered along the one mile length of this road corridor, of which 12 were smallholdings or farms. Since then, 47 additional houses have been built; of these 87 houses, only one is still a working farm/smallholding.

These scattered dwellings have been linked by modern, infill houses so that there are now five distinct blocks of housing on the roadside (see map above). As the development has been linear, patches of ribbon development have been created; the appearance of an open, rural landscape has been changed to one which is now semi-rural, particularly where dwellings face each other across the road. The development has taken place on an *ad hoc*, piecemeal basis, over a number of years, as individual plots have gained planning approval. There has been no overall development plan as, almost without exception, each new dwelling is of a different design.

The pattern of development has changed during this 50 year period. Earlier dwellings were bungalows or small detached houses; during the time of the present Local Development Plan, few small properties have been built, as developers concentrated on four/five bedroomed houses built for the open market. There are no main drains.

Setting in the Landscape

In the 1950s, the road from Knockin Heath to Kinnerley passed through pleasant open countryside with fine views of the South Shropshire and Breidden Hills. The landscape characteristic of the area was one of clusters of houses at the road junctions, where Kinnerley Road meets the various small lanes, with individual small farms, smallholdings or cottages, scattered at intervals along the road.

2.2.1 Lower Dovaston

Location

At the end of the Second World War, Lower Dovaston was a hamlet, consisting of a cluster of cottages at the junction of a narrow lane, which joins Kinnerley Road, at the bottom of Dovaston Bank. It had a shop and a pub, both of which are now closed. There were three farms/smallholdings on the road towards Kinnerley, and scattered cottages/smallholdings along the lane at the bottom of Dovaston Bank.

Development

Around this road junction, apart from some enlargement and improvement, no major changes have taken place. On the road towards Kinnerley, however, there has been considerable ribbon development, on both sides of the road, changing the rural appearance of the area. On the lower lane, in addition to the two sandstone, squatter cottages and a brick built, white cottage, three modern bungalows have been added.

House Styles

There remain some pleasant examples of vernacular buildings, although the modern housing along the road to Kinnerley now dominates. Two crofters' cottages and the old pub are good examples of local sandstone buildings; other 19th century brick-built cottages have been painted or rendered, most have been enlarged.

The two farms have attractive brick barns and outbuildings. The 18th century Dovaston Farm was originally of sandstone and half timbered construction, although the fine barn is 19th century. The other farm, Old Farm, is also of half timbered construction, now concealed by pebble dash rendering.

Since the 1960s, eleven modern dwellings, both bungalows and detached houses have been built, along the road to Kinnerley, filling all gaps between the original farms, smallholdings and cottages.

2.2.2 Upper Dovaston

Location

At the top of Dovaston Bank is a small group of buildings, the most prominent of which is the United Reformed Church, its school building and the walled graveyard. Until the 1950s, the only other buildings were two cottages, two smallholdings and two detached houses, one of which is the Manse.

Development

Six modern dwellings have been built along the northern side of the road, between the two original smallholdings. The overall impression is now one of a moderately high-density, linear development, with open countryside behind.

On the southern side of the road, apart from the upgrading of one sandstone cottage and the proposed rebuilding of the other, no change has taken place since the mid 19th century. The buildings are well spaced and have fine, open views towards the Breidden Hills.

House Styles

The dominant buildings are the red brick, 19th century United Reformed Church (URC), its sandstone schoolroom (the original Church), and the associated, walled churchyard. Since the 1950s, six new dwellings have been constructed opposite the URC; two bungalows and four detached houses, three of which have been built close to the road, and to a modern town design.

Two detached, red brick houses, the Manse and a Victorian house, are sited well back from the road. Also set back from the road are the two former smallholdings, one of which has been rebuilt as a large, chalet type house, Dovaston Bank Farm, and Maple Cottage, largely unchanged.

2.2.3 Dovaston/Knockin Heath

Location

In the 1950s there was a cluster of two cottages and a wooden bungalow at the junction of the lane, known as Vinegar Hill, and the Kinnerley Road. A semi-detached, sandstone smallholding, further along the road, was the only other building. All have fine views, from their rear gardens, to the South Shropshire and Breidden Hills.

Development

Linear development has taken place along the road, so that the spaces between the original houses have been infilled. There is now a row of dwellings, mainly bungalows, parallel to the road to Kinnerley and facing houses on the opposite side of the road.



House Styles

The two sandstone cottages have been enlarged, and the wooden bungalow replaced with a detached house. The appearance of the semi-detached sandstone cottages has changed; one is soon to be enlarged and the other has a large, detached house in its narrow garden. Five bungalows have been built to a similar design of grey brick, with some rendering; the four new detached houses are brick built and of individual design. They all have large back gardens and fine views, except for the newly built, detached house, which has little garden.



2.2.4 Knockin Heath (i)

Location

Prior to the 1950s, there were only two dwellings on the north side of the road to Kinnerley, a large detached house in its spacious grounds and a small cottage, surrounded by open fields.

Development

Development began in the 1950s and has continued on an *ad hoc* basis, until by 2006 all available plots have been either developed or have been given planning permission. The rural feel of the area has been kept; the houses do not all face directly onto the road, and have large, open, front gardens, and good-sized back gardens, overlooking fields. These gardens, together with the many hedgerow trees that have been retained, are a feature of the area.



House Styles

A substantial house, in large grounds and a small brick cottage, presently being enlarged, are the only pre war dwellings. There are now an additional nine bungalows and five detached houses. All have been constructed in a variety of individual styles and sizes. Two of the detached houses have been built in an Edwardian style, three are red brick, and one has a pebble dashed exterior. This is an area characterised by low density housing, set within large, open and well wooded gardens; there are some tall leylandii hedges.



2.2.5 Knockin Heath (ii)

Location

In the 19th century there were two cottages, one at each end of this narrow landscape of small crofters' fields, sited between the road in front, and mature mixed woodland behind. During the 1930s, a pair of red brick, semi-detached houses was built, half way between the two cottages.



Development

Infilling of the area began in the 1950s, when the first bungalow was built. Since then, the whole area between the two cottages has been developed.

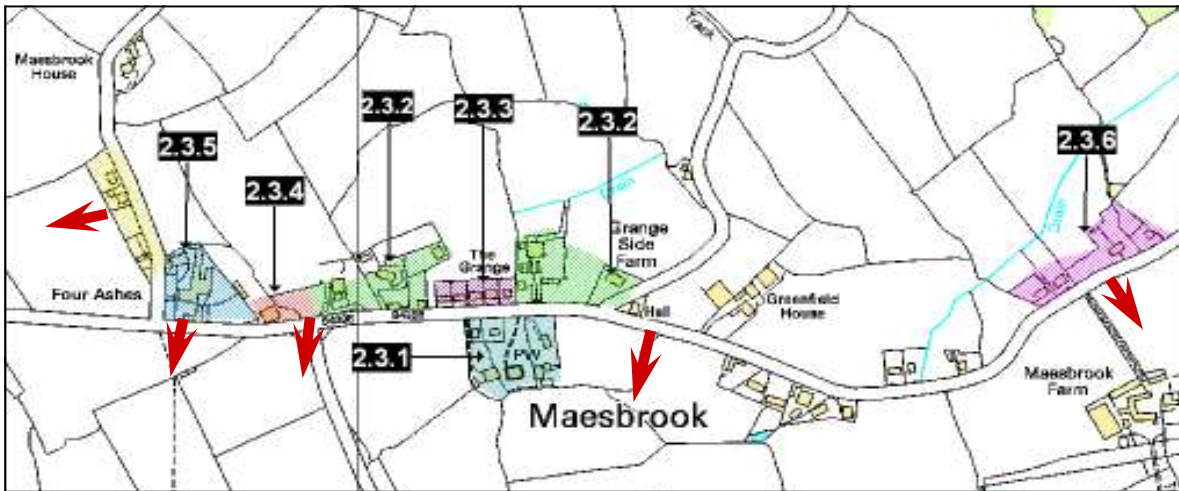
The first developments were dormer bungalows, but more recently two-storey houses have been built, with the most recent addition being larger than its neighbours. The dwellings all have private back gardens, adjoining Candlin's Coppice; from the front there are fine views across to the Breidden Hills. This has been a piecemeal, linear development with a wide range of housing types and styles. Red brick predominates, although the original stone cottages have been either rendered or pebble dashed.



The area retains a rural feel, with open countryside in front, the ancient woodland behind and mature oak or Scots pine in some gardens. This rural feeling has been enhanced wherever the front boundaries are hedges, rather than walls, and where drives are gravel, rather than brick paving.



2.3 Maesbrook



The numbers on the map refer to section headings in the text below → indicates valued views

Location

Maesbrook Village is in the north west corner of the Parish, spread out along the busy main road, the B4398 which, at Llanymynech and Knockin, links with the national road systems. While the development of the village itself has followed the road in a linear form, the remainder of Maesbrook ward, which is tranquil and rural, is served by narrow, single-track roads and is unsuitable for further development. Much of the area is within the flood plain of the River Vyrnwy, which is subject to regular flooding.

Evolution of the Village

Maesbrook Village is an old settlement, which has altered over the centuries, although the speed at which the village has grown accelerated in the latter part of the 20th century. The original settlement pattern had been one of farmhouses, individual houses and cottages, dispersed throughout the ward of Maesbrook.

Over the years the village evolved around an area formerly known as Maesbrook Green. This green was a narrow strip of common, stretching from what is now the Black Horse pub to the junction of the road to The Wood and Osbaston. Through the centre of this green ran the road to Llanymynech and Knockin, formerly a turnpike road, now the B4398. The green is no longer common land, as it was absorbed by the adjoining landowners, many years ago. However, it is within the area of this green that the village of Maesbrook has developed, expanding along the edge of the road, infilling between the older properties. The Baptist Chapel next to the Village Hall was demolished in 1987, although the Methodist Chapel at the eastern end of the village is still very active. There has been further development, on a piecemeal basis, along the main road towards Knockin. These houses are isolated from the main village by the busy road and the lack of pavements.

Setting in the Landscape

Maesbrook ward has, as its western and southern boundaries, the Rivers Morda and Vyrnwy with their extensive flood plains. To the north and east, the land rises slightly and is well wooded with small fields and well maintained hedgerows. A network of narrow, winding lanes link the village of Maesbrook with the individual farms and cottages, scattered throughout the landscape. Animal husbandry and some arable production are the main agricultural activities, with recreational horse riding becoming increasingly common.



At the end of the Second World War, the village, like so many rural villages, was largely self-sufficient, with its small shop, post office and pub, as well as its Church, Methodist Chapel and Village Hall, (the village school closed in 1928). This self-sufficiency has changed; the shop and post office closed a long time ago, although the pub, the church and the chapel are still very active.



During the latter part of the 20th century there was a decline in agricultural prosperity and a reduction in local employment opportunities. Agriculture, though still the main economic activity in the area, is no longer a major employer; 70% of the working population of Maesbrook have jobs outside the area. As the bus service can, at best, be described as rudimentary, people commute to work by car.

House Styles

There is no centre to the village, as a consequence of the village being a linear development, stretching along a busy road. However, the Village Hall, Chapel, Church and Pub are popular meeting points.



The dwellings are usually detached; most have attractive views of the Breidden Hills to the south-west and Llanymynech Hill to the west. As recent development has been confined to the northern side of the road, almost all of the houses have views and a feeling of space, within an open countryside. The main road, while providing convenient access for those wishing to commute, bisects the village, separates the various groups of houses, is intrusive in terms of noise and represents a danger to pedestrians. This is exacerbated by the absence of pavements to give safe access to the scattered groups of houses on the periphery of the village. There is no main drainage.



During the last ten years the pattern of development throughout the Parish of Kinnerley has often been one of larger “executive” houses, with few small houses for first time buyers or the elderly. This trend has been particularly evident in Maesbrook.

2.3.1 Houses on the south side of the road

The small cluster of older buildings, in the vicinity of St. Johns Church, are the only buildings within the village development area which are on the south side of the road. The Church was built in 1878, of limestone quarried from Llanymynech, and from 1941 was part of Knockin Parish. In the 1990s, it became a Parish Church in its own right. Adjacent to the Church are a smallholding, a bungalow, Garth, built in 1874 as the Village School, and two detached houses.



On the south side of Maesbrook, some little way out of the built area of the village, is a cluster of buildings, a builder’s yard and a number of dwellings, which include the stone built Old Smithy. These are in open countryside, outside any development area.

2.3.2 Houses on the north side of the road

The built area is bounded on the western side by the Black Horse pub and on the eastern side by the Village Hall. Between these two buildings, in the centre of the street, is a stone cottage, formerly the old post office and shop, and the stone built Laurel Cottage; both have been recently enlarged and improved, but have retained much of their original appearance. The Grange, further along the street, is a late 19th century, brick farmhouse, now enlarged. Any spaces between the buildings, from the Black Horse to the Village Hall, have either been or are soon to be developed, as planning permission has been granted.



2.3.3 Bungalows

The first development of any scale was the row of five small bungalows, built in the 1960s. These are of red brick construction, with tiled roofs, and garages, set in rectangular garden plots, with front boundaries of low hedges or walls.

2.3.4 Development at Bron Awel

Further infilling took place towards the end of the 20th century, when an up-market development of two houses and a bungalow was built in the grounds of Bron Awel, formerly a farmhouse. These dwellings are of a pleasant red brick construction, with tiled roofs. Recently, a small house has been built behind this development. All of these dwellings have fine views to the south of the Breidden Hills, and to open countryside to the rear, except where limited, uncharacteristic backfilling has taken place.

2.3.5 Development at Four Ashes Farm

The latest development, Orchard Park, has taken place in the old farm yard of Four Ashes Farm. This is an uncharacteristic design and layout for the location, consisting of five six-bedroomed houses, within a walled compound, with no pavement connecting them to the rest of the village. These houses dominate their plots, as the gardens and parking areas are small.

2.3.6 Other Development

The only other area, where building has been permitted during the period of the last Local Development Plan, is some distance from the main village, along the road to Knockin, and is not connected by pavements to the main village. At the end of the 20th century, the spaces between the three bungalows and the two semi-detached houses were infilled with three detached houses, built of modern red brick with tiled roofs. The houses are sited away from the road, although some now have double garages in the front gardens. A fourth house is being built on a small site in the garden of one of the semi-detached houses. Several years ago planning permission was granted for a local needs, self-build scheme at the junction of Wernlas Lane and the main road. This was not taken up and the field is now outside the development boundary. Areas outside the existing development plan have not been described.

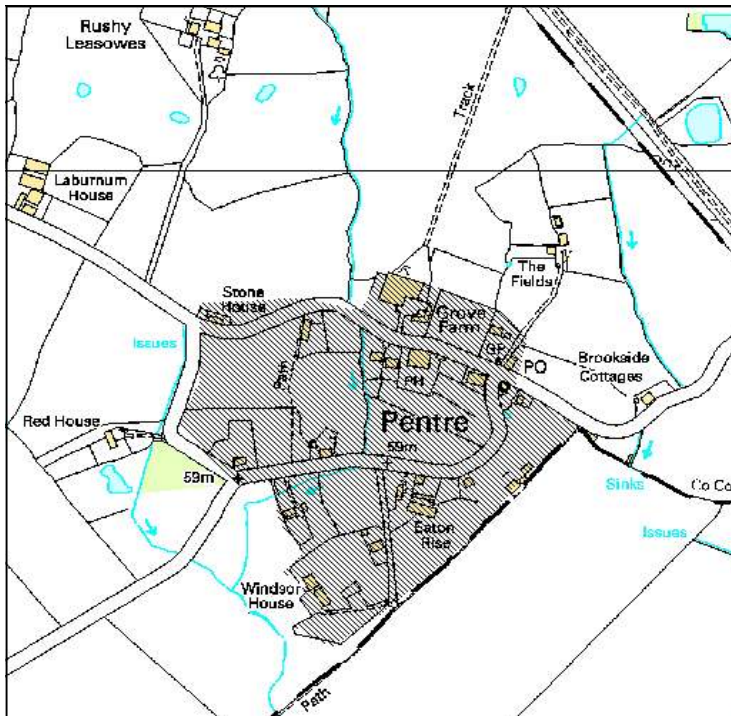


2.4 Pentre Village and the Other Hamlets

In addition to the village of Kinnerley, the village of Maesbrook and the hamlets of Dovaston and Knockin Heath, the Parish also contains the village of Pentre and hamlets at Kynaston, Plassau, Farm Hall, The Wood and Edgerley, which, because they are either within the flood plain or served by very narrow lanes, have had little or no new housing. Outside these settlements are a number of farmhouses and single properties, spread fairly evenly throughout the Parish, which are an important part of the attractive and varied landscape.

All of these areas are outside the development boundary of the existing Local Development Plan, a status which is unlikely to change.

2.4.1 Pentre



Location

The road from Kinnerley to Nesscliffe passes through the centre of Pentre, a small village on the eastern boundary of the Parish, on the edge of the flood plain of the River Sever. It is a low-lying area, subject to occasional seasonal flooding. In medieval times, Pentre must have been a village of some status, with its watermill and courthouse, no longer visible, except for field markings, and the road leading to the loading area on the banks of the River Sever. The village has never had a church or a school, but, in the past, it had two shops, a post office and a pub; these have now been reduced to a part-time post office and a pub.

Evolution of the Village

Along the road, which runs through the centre of the village, were sited the pub, two shops and some cottages, with other cottages and crofts a little distance away. The number of houses and their layout within the village has scarcely altered since the 19th century. Most of the dwellings have been carefully sited on slightly higher ground and avoid flooding in all but the worst years. Over the years, alterations, enlargements and change of use have taken place, as well as a little infilling. A few houses have been completely rebuilt on their original sites, using modern materials.

The old railway line, linking Shrewsbury to Kinnerley and Llanymynech, passed along the northern boundary, but this line has been closed for many years. Pentre Station, around which a small business park has grown up, is outside the Parish boundary.

Setting in the Landscape

The village still retains much of the hedgerow and field patterns of the 19th century, when small fields were attached to the squatters' cottages and crofts. These remain part of the village landscape so that it has retained its unspoilt and open appearance. The houses, within the village, are linked by a circular loop road, which leads off the main road. Most dwellings either face onto the road in the centre of the village or onto this circular road system. Thus any alteration or extension, even at the rear of dwellings, is very visible to the neighbours. Hedgerow trees, particularly oak and some willow, are all part of the village landscape.

Large conifer hedges, conspicuous playground equipment attached to the pub, a large, unlandscaped pub car park and a scrap yard affect this quiet landscape.

House Styles

Pentre is a village which has changed little in recent years, as the risk of flooding has discouraged development. Most of the houses either retain many of their original features or have been rebuilt on the foundations of the old crofts. Sandstone and timber framed houses are still evident, but the predominant material is red brick, mellowed and locally produced for the older houses, while modern, machine-made brick, usually red, has been used for alterations, enlargements, and new houses. The dwellings are usually detached, most are two storey, although there are some bungalows. The one large, modern conservatory on the pub is very visible.

Houses of Note

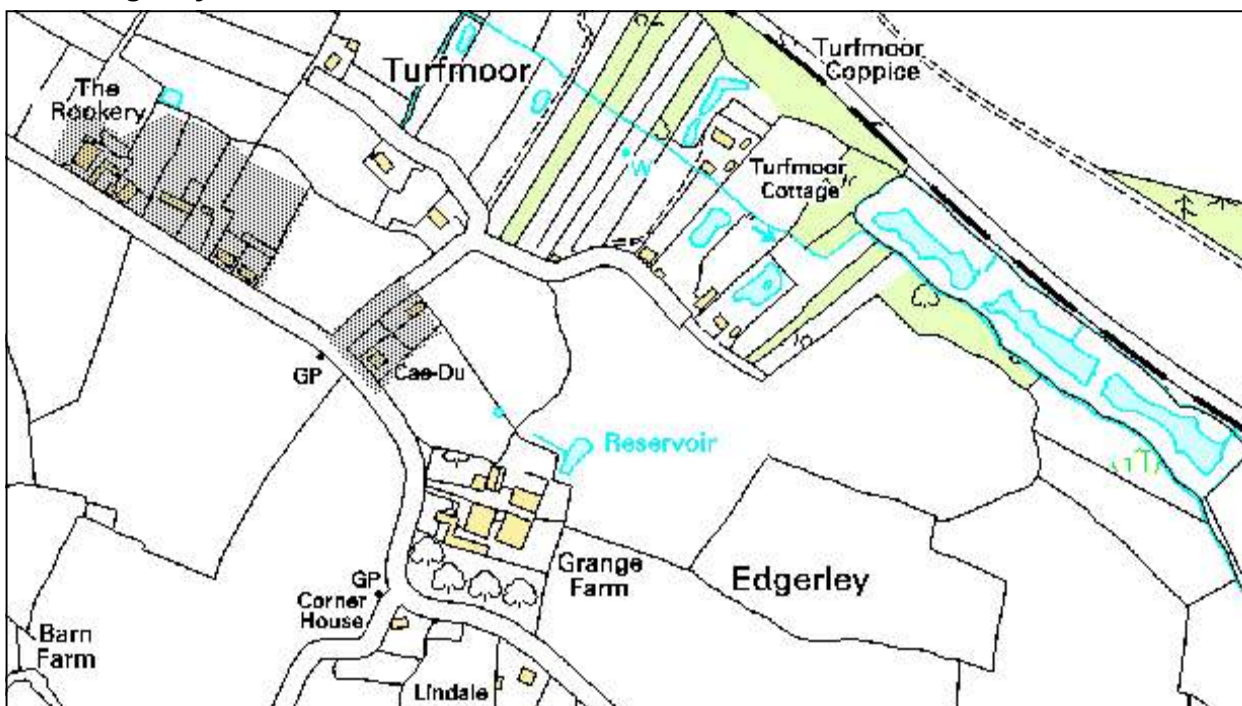
There are two Grade II houses of note; Rushy Leasowes, a small 18th century farm house and Red House, a late 17th century farmhouse with an attached 19th century malt house. Another house of interest is the half timbered 18th century Grove Farm House.

Nesscliffe Camp

Just outside the Parish boundary lies the Nesscliffe Military Camp, which was built at the same time as the ammunition dumps, just before the Second World War. The tranquillity of an otherwise quiet Parish is adversely affected by the noise of the military helicopters and small arms fire, especially during night exercises.



2.4.2 Edgerley



Location

This is a small linear row of dwellings and farm buildings on the north side of the main Pentre/Kinnerley road, with fine, uninterrupted views across the flood plain to the Breidden Hills. The older farmhouses, set back from the road, have large front gardens. The post-war bungalows have smaller front gardens and are closer to the road.

Behind is Turfmoor, with a scattering of cottages and small fields, all part of a landscape derived from peat digging activities. A short distance away, in open countryside, is Grange Farm, together with Corner House and Lindale.

Evolution of the Hamlet

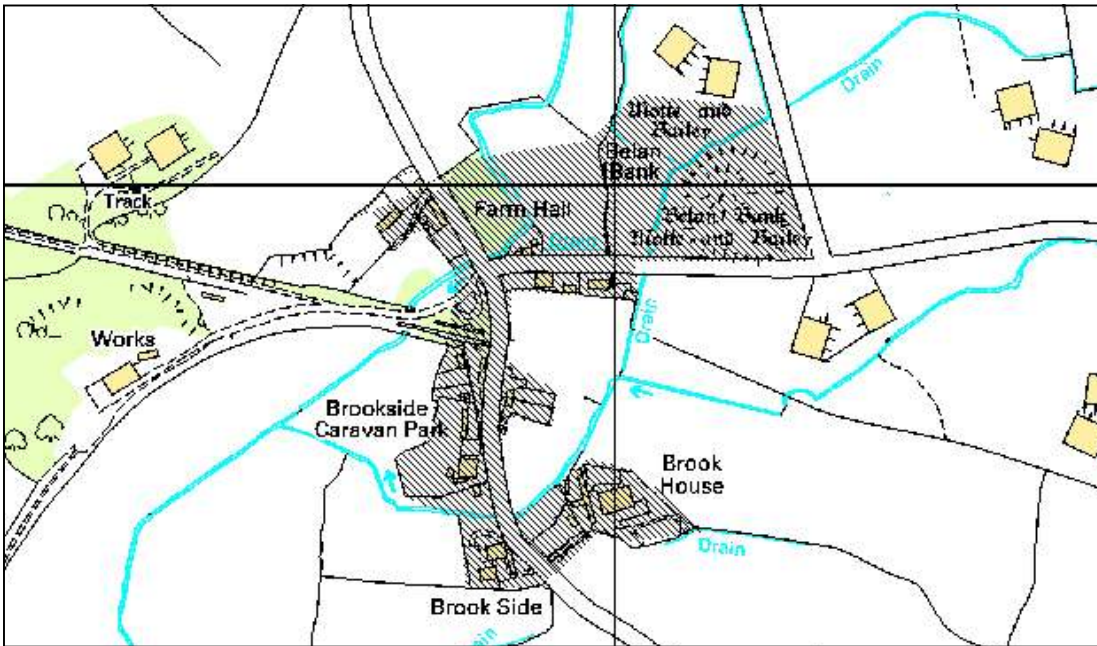
At the end of the Second World War, this row of dwellings consisted of three farms, only one of which is still a working dairy farm. The other farmhouses have been enlarged and a barn/cowshed has been converted into a dwelling. Three modern bungalows have been built further along the road. Grange Farm, which is outside this group of dwellings, is also a working dairy farm.

House Styles

While the three farmhouses have been altered, improved and enlarged over the years, they remain a pleasant group of vernacular buildings, constructed of a variety of materials, some half timbered, some brick and some sandstone. The Rookery, a working farm, is probably the oldest property, with its original cruck beam construction still evident. Its farm buildings are red brick and date back to the Victorian era. The three bungalows, in contrast, are modern, brick and of post-war construction. The garages and farm buildings are to the side or behind the houses, although recently a large garage has been built in front of one of the farmhouses.



2.4.3 Farm Hall



This is one of the most historically interesting areas within the Parish of Kinnerley, as it contains the sites of an early Norman motte and bailey castle, the watermill, with its associated millpond, and the remains of Kinnerley Railway Station and engineering workshops. There is also evidence of brick works in the area. The earth works of the castle are eroding and the millpond has silted up. The demise of the railway station and its engineering works occurred in the 1960s, when the Ministry of Defence closed down the goods services. Most signs of the brickworks have disappeared. The lower lying areas are subject to seasonal flooding as the Weir Brook backs up whenever the Vyrnwy River floods.



Location

The hamlet of Farm Hall is situated where the Kinnerley to Pentre road meets the Kynaston road. On the edges of this built landscape are three farmhouses. On one side is Farm Hall, with its associated farm buildings, which have been converted into residential dwellings. On the other side are two farmhouses, one still an active dairy farm.

Between these farmhouses is the site of Kinnerley Station, now completely derelict and overgrown with trees, although one of the original timber bungalows, built for the railway staff, is still in use. On one side of this old station, there is a permanent caravan site. There are still some pitches for touring caravans; six permanent bungalows have recently been added.



In addition to the caravan site, there are two semi-detached houses on either side of the old Railway Bridge, a cottage on the site of the old mill and one post-war detached house.

Brookside—the evolution of a cottage to a large farmhouse

Setting in the Landscape

The extensive regeneration of trees along the abandoned railway line and station, as well as the hedgerow trees, gives the area a well wooded appearance. The other significant landscape features are the steep railway bridge, and the two brooks, which run through the centre.

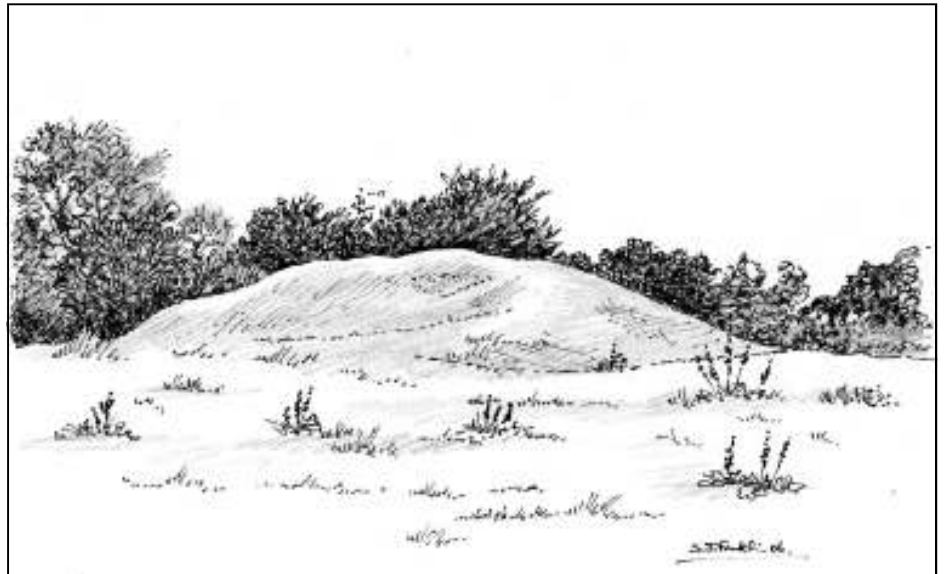


House Styles

Apart from the six bungalows on the caravan site, all of the dwellings are of different styles and building materials, reflecting the periods in which they were constructed. All have brick or sandstone walls. The older houses have slate roofs, while the newer houses have tiled roofs. The farmhouses are all old; Farm Hall is a Grade II listed building of the late 16th to 17th century, and is largely unaltered; Brookside has a Georgian front extension, added onto what was originally a small sandstone cottage. Brookhouse Farm is a 17th century farmhouse which has been enlarged during the 18th and 19th centuries. The Mill Cottage has been recently enlarged and the brickwork rendered and painted; the semi-detached houses have both been enlarged. The houses on the caravan site are white rendered, “permanent”, mobile homes, with red tiled roofs.



A sketch of the motte and bailey castle at Bellan Bank



Aerial photo of the motte and bailey castle at Bellan Bank



2.4.4 Kynaston



Location

The hamlet of Kynaston consists of two clusters of houses, separated by a field and three separate farms, a little distance from the hamlet. There has been no recent development, apart from the conversion of some farm buildings into cottages.

House Styles

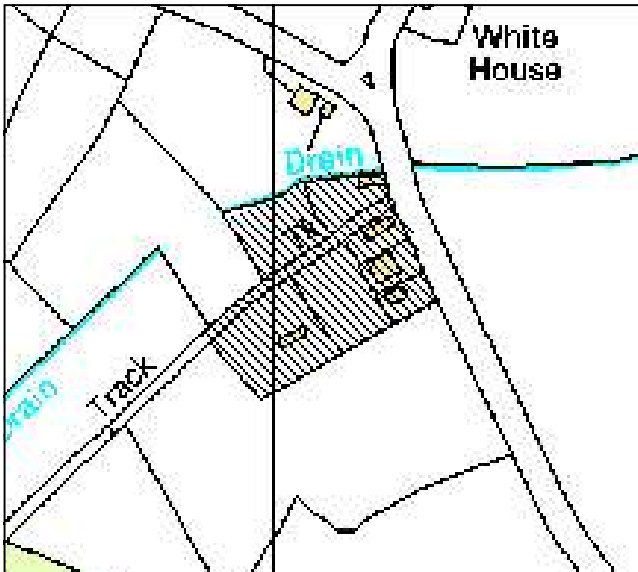
This is an unchanged area; three of the houses, all Grade II listed, are clustered together, around an unmade-up lane, at the point where it joins the public highway.

These are Kynaston Farmhouse, an imposing, three storey, 18th century, red brick house with its own ice-house, The Laurels, a late 17th century farmhouse, with 19th and 20th century additions, and the White House, a mid 17th century dwelling with later additions. The timber outbuildings at the White House are also Grade II listed. The 1930s farm buildings have been converted into two cottages.

A short distance away, on the site of an old malt house, is a semi-detached terrace of cottages, built in the 19th century, and a small brick cottage of the early 20th century, built on the site of a former squatter's holding; the latter has recently been enlarged. All dwellings are of red brick construction, with slate or tile roofs.



2.4.5 Plassau



Location

A small group of houses, surrounded by open countryside, situated on the side of the road from Dovaston to Kynaston and the lane known as "Plassau Lane". This grouping of houses on the junction of roads or lanes is a common landscape characteristic throughout the Parish.

Setting in the Landscape

The historical pattern of this built environment has been maintained, although the original cottages have been enlarged. The six houses are in two distinct groups, four on the road, at the entrance to Plassau Lane, while further up the lane are two timber-framed houses. These two groups of houses are quite different and are separated from each other by small fields, which still retain some of their original field patterns of squatters' enclosures.

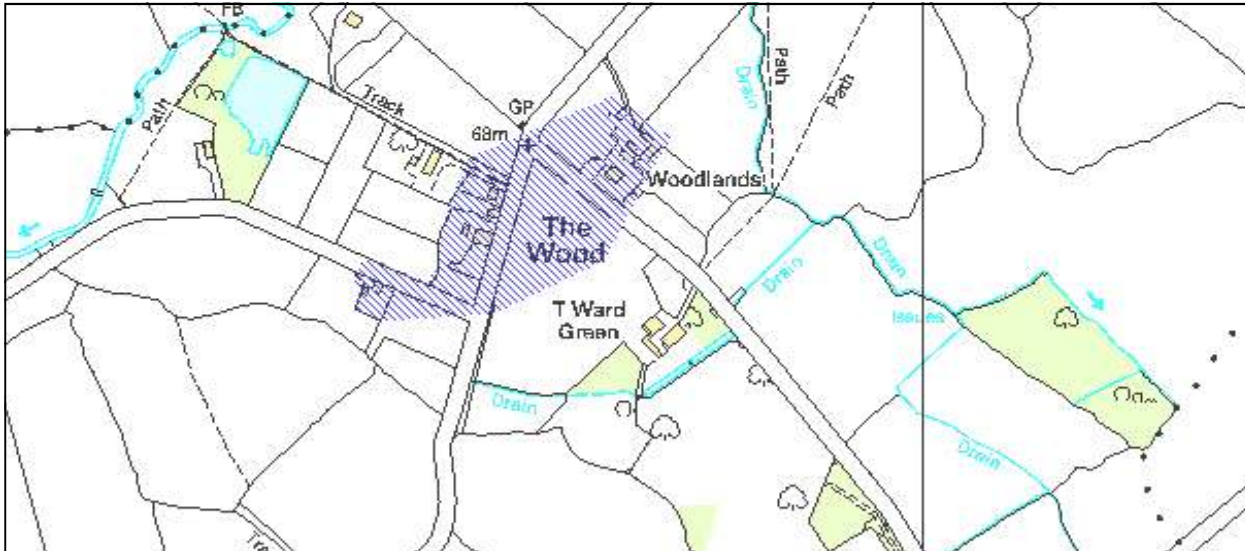


House Styles

The two houses in Plassau Lane are both Grade II listed. One is a complete and unaltered example of a 'squatter's cottage'. The other is a 17th century farm house, which has been enlarged, the cow sheds incorporated into the house and an annex added. New timber clad stabling and yards for horses have been recently built. At the entrance to the lane, the two cottages have been enlarged and their exteriors rendered and painted. A red brick cottage, built in the 1920s, has recently been enlarged and now dominates its site, as well as that of the adjacent bungalow, which was built in the 1980s. The garages are small, unobtrusive and set to the side of the dwellings, apart from the large garage of the enlarged red brick cottage. Only one dwelling has a brick paved driveway.



2.6 The Wood - Maesbrook



Location

The hamlet of The Wood is made up of a small cluster of dwellings along the roadside, at the junctions of Whip Lane with The Wood Lane and Fields Lane. The Wood, is set in its own grounds away from the other cottages. This group of dwellings is some distance from the village of Maesbrook, in a wooded area, with small fields and high hedges.

Setting in the Landscape

The pattern of development of this tiny hamlet is one of squatters' cottages, with their rectilinear paddocks, built on the edge of what was Osbaston Wood Common. This pattern of development has not altered, though the four cottages have been enlarged and improved and a small bungalow has been added. The other buildings are a modern house, with stabling and The Wood, an interesting early 17th century farmhouse, and its collection of farm buildings. The whole area has a tranquil and rather remote feel.

House Styles

Of the four cottages, two are still red brick, while the other two, after alterations, have been painted white. The small, modern bungalow is brick built, with stone cladding, while the only other modern house is brick built. The Wood is a Grade II listed farm house, with associated farm buildings, including an old malt house.



3. Recommendations and Guidelines

Planning applications have, by law, to be determined according to the development plan and other material considerations. Furthermore, unless material considerations indicate otherwise, planning applications can only be determined according to the Local Development Plan. The development plan consists of the Regional Spatial Strategy, The Shropshire County Structure Plan and the Oswestry Borough Local Development Plan. This Village Design Statement and the Landscape Character Assessment, which together make up the Parish Design Statement, is intended to be of material consideration. It is our expectation that this document will be acknowledged by the Local Planning Authority as a material consideration, for all development taking place in Kinnerley Parish. All plans are reviewed from time to time, and the Oswestry Borough Local Plan is at present under review in the Local Development Framework, although, at time of drafting this document, the Local Development Framework had not reached a stage at which any of its policies could be taken into account.

3.1 The Setting of the Villages and Hamlets within the Landscape

The landscape around and within the various villages and hamlets gives them their own unique characteristic. The views from within these settlements, to the countryside beyond, also highlight how, throughout their long existence, they have continued to co-exist with the open countryside. The visually distinct countryside around the settlements reflects their place in the agricultural landscape, as all of them are bordered by small fields, open spaces, trees and hedgerows. The wide views of the hills, which border the Parish, are a valued characteristic. Many hamlets and dwellings are affected by narrow lanes, lack of public transport and absence of services. Kinnerley is the only village in the Parish with the services of a school, shop and pub. However, the road into the village has a dangerous, narrow entrance between high stone walls, and two blind corners. Traffic on this road can be considerable at peak periods.

The Oswestry Borough Local Plan, Chapter 9.

“Development should avoid undesirable and unnecessary development within or on the edge of settlements and in open country”.

Government Planning Policy Strategy, Nos 3,7,13 propose

“strictly control new housing (including single dwellings) in the countryside away from established settlements”.

G1 Guidelines

- i. *Planning applications should conform to the policies of the Local Development Plan or its successor, the Local Development Framework.
- ii. When applications for Outline Planning Approval are considered, fundamental design and style considerations should be agreed at this Outline stage.
- iii. The characteristic linear form of the settlements should be respected by any development to retain the feeling of open space and to maintain the views.
- iv. *Backland development should be avoided.

***Guidelines marked with an asterisk are taken from the Oswestry Borough Local Development Plan**

- v. The design policy should be for variable building lines and houses of different sizes and designs as:
 - housing on both sides of a road creates the feeling of a uniform, suburban street scene; this is out of place in the countryside.
 - any new development on approaches to villages and hamlets should not be in a suburban, uniform and ribbon style.
- vi. All sites put forward for development should be adequately serviced, including foul water drainage.
- vii. Housing development should be resisted outside the existing settlements of Kinnerley, Maesbrook, Dovaston and Knockin Heath.
- viii. The open spaces between villages and hamlets have important landscape characteristics. They are vital to the appearance and integrity of these individual settlements and should be respected.
- ix. All views in and around a development site deserve special consideration. Development of the site should respect and maintain these views. The remaining, visually important open spaces within the village of Kinnerley, particularly those associated with the flood plain of the Weir Brook, should be respected and retained, as should the spaces between the five areas of development at Dovaston and Knockin Heath (see Section 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3).



3.2 New Houses

The Importance of Good Design

Good design should be a part of the development process. The appearance of any new development should be a material consideration and should blend in with its setting, having its own distinctive layout. Good design should respect and enhance the adjacent houses, should not dominate the natural landscape and should upgrade the Parish's Built Environment. Materials and design features should be sympathetic to the established character of the village (PPS1, PPS3 and OBLP policies H4 and H16).

Local Housing Needs

The Regional Spatial Strategy states that "in rural areas the provision of new housing should generally be restricted to meeting local needs". Local Needs are defined as "needs arising from the immediate area, excluding migration from elsewhere".

Question 75 of the Parish Plan: Respondents stated that housing was required to meet the needs of young people and small families. There was little local demand (5% of the community) for large houses. Of the remainder, 77% saw some need for smaller houses.

During the last thirty years there has been a gradual upgrading and enlargement of the original housing stock in this area, as well as a trend, in recent years, to build larger "executive" style houses. These two factors have caused a shortage both of housing for young people and of homes that are within the price range of many of the local community. This has been exacerbated by the sell-off of rented homes under the policy of 'right to buy'. A range of housing to sustain our community may be needed; however, houses should be built to meet identified local needs and not for the speculative market.

There is no dominant style of housing in Kinnerley Parish; development over the years has been either as small scale, planned sites or as one-off, piecemeal development. This small scale development of affordable or rented accommodation met much of the needs of local people, and is considered to have been a success.

G2 Planning guidance for new build:

- i. All development, however small, should make some contribution to the local infrastructure, when required by Oswestry Borough Council or Kinnerley Parish Council.
- ii. There must be room for innovation and scope for the use of new materials, but in a fashion sympathetic to the character of the village.
- iii. *Houses should be designed to a high quality in sympathy with the scale, height, and details of the surrounding properties.
- iv. Smaller houses are in keeping with the particular character of the area. All development should consider the need for a range of house sizes to meet known local demand for smaller houses (see Parish Plan, Housing and Development).
- v. An overall design strategy for the development of any site of more than one potential plot should be agreed before any planning approval is given for that site.
- vi. Where a decision has been made to restrict the size of a dwelling for design reasons, relevant permitted development rights should be removed.
- vii. Future expansion of houses designed and designated as low cost houses should not be permitted, safeguarding their original purpose and avoiding the use of affordable housing allocations for general market housing purposes.
- viii. *All planning applications should have specific landscaping proposals attached.
- ix. *Consideration should be given to the potential impact of any change to the street scene and the surrounding areas
- x. Standard, “off the shelf”, urban houses that do not reflect the character of the area should be avoided.
- xi. *The density of any development must be carefully balanced to provide an acceptable level of adjacent green/amenity space.
- xii. Any future development should be designed in a manner which respects the existing small settlement patterns and continues the sense of evolutionary growth.
- xiii. Site plans should show ratios of buildings, open spaces, verges and planted areas. Layout and scale of adjacent housing and its relationship to the new development must be described.

Oswestry Borough Local Plan:

- *“All new development should be designed to a high standard”.
- *Its aim is “to promote a pattern of development which will help to reduce the overall need to travel”.
- *“All new housing developments should be designed so that they contribute to the general character of the area”.



3.3 Infill Development

While the same criteria apply to infill development as for new build, the primary design requirements for infill development are to avoid a cramped appearance and to retain important gaps, views and open spaces.

OBLP defines infill development as **“one or two buildings occupying a site within an otherwise extensively developed frontage”**.

G3 Guidelines

- i. *The size, shape and orientation of the site should be sufficient to enable its development without significantly prejudicing the residential amenity of the locality. In particular, any substantial loss of privacy to the neighbouring properties should be avoided.
- ii. *The development of a site should not involve the loss of those open spaces, which make a special contribution to the character of the area.
- iii. *The development should not affect the setting of the original dwelling or the character of the street or village scene.
- iv. *Cramped development and that which dominates the neighbouring properties should be refused.



3.4 Building Appearance

While there remain some vernacular buildings within the Parish, the overall impression, in those areas where development has taken place, is either of recent, piecemeal, infill development, with individual houses built almost at random, or small groups of houses, built to a common design as social or low cost housing.

The predominant appearance of the buildings is of the unfussy use of red brick as the main building material. The use of different coloured brick or stone, to pick out detail, is not characteristic. The brick outlines of the houses are generally simple, with the roof shape or windows giving any architectural interest. Dentilated brickwork at the eaves, usually the only decorative use of brick, adds to the appearance of the building.

Roofs on the older houses were, almost without exception, made from slate, and were low pitched with modest eaves. New houses generally have grey cement tiles.

Developers should be aware of the recent initiatives by the Government to raise the environmental efficiency of housing (Government Publication “Code for Suitable Homes”). They should also be aware of the Government’s goal to achieve zero carbon new homes within a decade.

G4 Guidelines

- i. Modern architecture is to be encouraged, but should be of high quality design and of good design principles.
- ii. Building should meet the highest possible insulation and environmental standards. New houses, including low cost houses, should be designed to be energy efficient.



- iii. Roof pitch and height should respect those examples of the local vernacular in the locality and, where appropriate, the surrounding buildings. Flat roofs will not be acceptable.
- iv. New brickwork should match existing shades and styles used in the neighbourhood. This will usually be good quality red brick or sandstone. Use of other colours should be avoided, unless chosen to match the existing dwelling or immediately adjoining buildings.
- v. Within the historic core of Kinnerley Village, traditional building materials should be used; these are sandstone or red brick, slate or slate substitute roofing tiles and traditional casement or sash windows.
- vi. Dormer windows, for both new buildings and extensions to existing buildings, should not dominate and should be in scale with the other windows. Two dormer windows often appear more pleasing than one.



Advisory

- Before painting, rendering, cladding or otherwise covering original brickwork, consideration should be given to the potential impact of the change on the local street scene.
- When windows, doors or boundary walls, which are part of the street scene, are replaced, care should be taken to use materials which retain the harmony of the building and the street.

3.5 Extensions to Buildings

The visual impact of extensions or conservatories can be great, affecting the appearance of the street and the privacy of neighbours.

Oswestry Borough Local Plan states that “It is important that any proposed extensions to existing buildings respect the character and amenity of the existing dwelling, any adjoining dwelling and the area as a whole”.



G5 Guidelines

- i. *An extension, including conservatories, should fit into the curtilage of the existing building, without significantly affecting the amenities, outlook or privacy of its neighbours.
- ii. *The site should not be overdeveloped so that essential amenity and parking spaces are lost.
- iii. *The extension should not, because of scale and design, result in a building which subordinates the original.
- iv. *The extension should use materials and be of a size and appearance to harmonise with the original dwelling and the character of its surroundings, including adjacent houses.
- v. Dormer windows should be smaller than the windows on the lower storey and should have gabled or hipped roofs. Two dormer windows are often more pleasing than one.
- vi. The design should be in conformity with existing proportions of window to wall and design of roof.
- vii. *The extension should not significantly alter the established street scene.
- viii. Porches should not be out of scale with the façade.



3.6 Conversions of Buildings to Dwellings

During the last 30 years, the proportion of people finding jobs within the Parish has dropped. Every effort should be made to help people to work from home, as it is important that the Parish develops as a place where people work as well as live. Farmyards and farm conversions are, for planning purposes, considered to be greenfield sites.

Question No.9 of the Parish Plan confirmed that nearly 70% of those economically active and living in the village travelled away from the Parish for work.

Regional Spatial Strategy 2 has as one of its aims “reversing the movement of people away from the Urban Areas” and “supporting local communities without encouraging decentralisation”.

G6 Guidelines

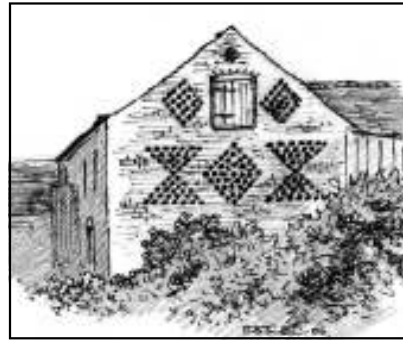
- i. To avoid the Parish and its Villages becoming a dormitory or commuter area, encouragement should be given to housing designs with work space attached or incorporated, to encourage small businesses to set up within the Parish. These would only be approved in residential areas if the uses were appropriate, quiet, unobtrusive and within Use Class B1.
- ii. *Conversion of existing buildings should be allowed only if the applicant can show that every reasonable effort has been made to secure business reuse. Any application should be supported by a statement to this effect.
- iii. The buildings must be in a sound state and capable of conversion without extensive alteration, rebuilding or extension.
- iv. Farm buildings erected after the Second World War are generally unsuitable for conversion.
- v. *The external appearance of the development should respect the original appearance of the building.
- vi. New farm buildings or stables should be sited and designed in such a way as to reduce their apparent mass. Their impact should be reduced by careful location, wherever possible, close to existing buildings.

3.7 Boundaries

As the road enters the centre of Kinnerley Village, it narrows and passes between the high sandstone walls of the churchyard and the Cross Keys pub. In the older parts of the village, particularly Vicarage Lane, sandstone walls also front on to the road. However, most boundaries are of traditional hedging (hawthorn, holly, privet and some laurel). The widespread use of hedges, some clipped, some less manicured, has helped to give the village a feeling of privacy. Mountfield has more formal boundaries, having attractive, well maintained privet hedges, while the more recent housing often has fencing and brick wall boundaries.

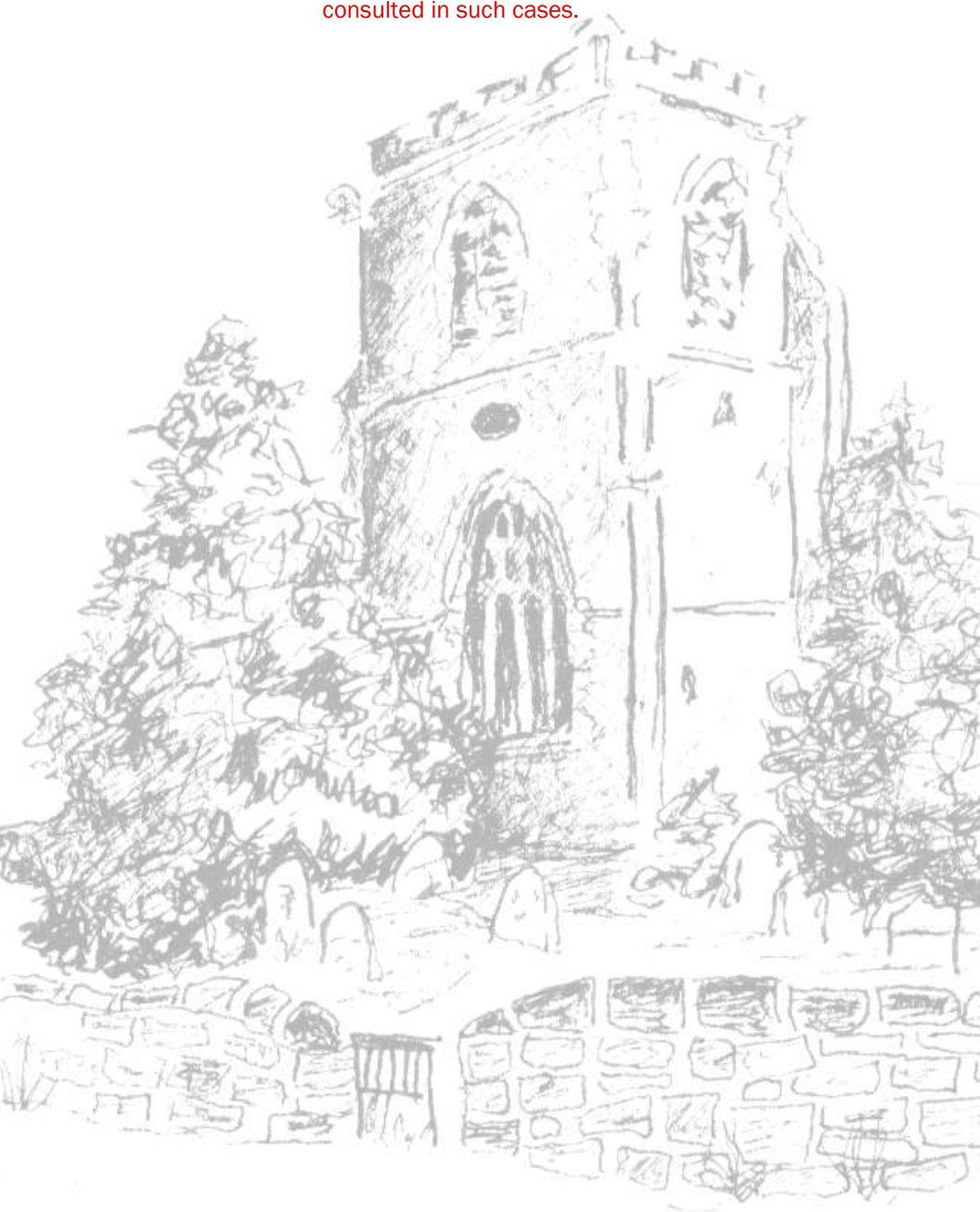
The Coly Anchor development, with its open fronted gardens without boundaries, and its central green, has a pleasant, spacious feeling.

In other parts of the Parish, the type of boundary differs from house to house; however, the traditional roadside boundaries are native hedges, stone walls and, occasionally, picket fences. Panelled fencing, high walls, tall leylandii hedges or high ornamental gates are usually associated with more recent developments.



G7 Guidelines

- i. Boundaries, hedges, walls or fences, for any new development should blend with those of adjacent properties, reflecting the general landscape character of the area.
- ii. Where screening is necessary, a hedge of native hedgerow species is preferred. Exotic species, such as leylandii, should be avoided.
- iii. Roadway boundaries, walls, gates or fences should be no more than 1.2 metres high to maintain and reflect the open aspect of the housing within the Parish. Secondary boundaries between dwellings should be no more than 2 metres.
- iv. All development should be landscaped in a manner appropriate to the rural character of the area. Where no landscape proposals are made at the time of the application, a condition may be appropriate, requiring approval of landscaping before development commences. The Parish Council may wish to be consulted in such cases.



3.8 Garaging and Driveways

Throughout the Parish, the front gardens and boundaries of the different properties form an important feature of the landscape. Where houses have been set back from the road, a feeling of space and openness has been maintained. Garages are usually at the side or rear of the houses.

G8 Guidelines

- i. Prominent garages are a suburban feature, out of character in a rural area. Houses should have unobtrusive garages, ideally positioned behind the dwelling.
- ii. New garages or extensions to existing garages should use materials that match or relate to the existing buildings. Pitched roofs are desirable.
- iii. Garages should be in scale with the house and the plot.
- iv. The location of the garage, the size and design, as well as the hard standing areas, should be clearly shown on all planning applications.
- v. A large area of hard landscaping with parking areas, dominating the front of the property, is not desirable.
- vi. Driveways should preferably be gravelled rather than tarmaced or brick-paved.



3.9 Gardens

In the villages and hamlets, the gardens and the trees within them create important open space, not only around the dwellings themselves, but also for the adjacent houses and neighbourhood. They form an important part of the village landscape.

Oswestry Borough Local Plan states that “settlements often contain larger dwellings, set in their own grounds, which make a significant contribution to the character of the settlement. The subdivision and development of their curtilage should not be allowed if it affects the setting of the original building or the character of the landscape or street scene”.

G9 Guidelines

- i. New houses should have gardens appropriate to their size and that of their neighbours.
- ii. *Building a dwelling within a garden should not involve the sub division of the curtilage in such a way that this adversely affects the setting of the original dwelling, the adjacent houses or the character of the village or hamlet.
- iii. *The size, shape and orientation of the site should be sufficient to enable its development, without significantly prejudicing the residential amenity of the locality.
- iv. *The use of a garden as a building site should not involve the loss of any open space, which makes a special contribution to the character of the area.



3.10 Trees

Throughout the built area, there are many examples of mature native trees, particularly oak, ash and alder, which add greatly to the rural ambience of the built environment. These trees are in the hedgerows along the roadside, on the approaches to the villages, on the boundaries of the houses or within the gardens themselves. They are of particular importance, as they give a sense of place and add greatly to the atmosphere of a rural village.



G10 Guidelines

- i. Important trees and hedges which contribute to the site should be incorporated into the design of the site and retained.
- ii. The planting of native, broad-leaved trees should be encouraged in the landscaped areas around any new development.

The act describing Tree Preservation Orders places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to ensure that adequate provision is made for the preservation and planting of trees when granting planning permission, by imposing conditions and making Tree Preservation Orders.

3.11 Open Spaces

Kinnerley Village is fortunate to have a number of public open spaces owned by the community. The protection and enhancement of these open spaces, together with the network of footpaths in the Parish, is an important responsibility.

The playing fields:- a large open space behind the Parish Hall, used as a children's playground and site for the village fete.

Peel's Plantation:- a community woodland, which is both a recreational and wildlife area.

Halston field (and the Brook Piece):- a public tennis court with space for a bowling green.

The Green:- an open, grassed area in the centre of the village.

The football field:- a rented facility.

Coly Anchor:- a green in the centre of the housing development.

The cemetery:- a peaceful oasis in the centre of the village.

In addition there are:

a disused quarry at Dovaston and a small pond at Kynaston, which are common land, owned by the Parish Council.

As well as these formal open spaces, the informal open spaces within the villages and hamlets contribute to the amenity and character of the area.

All of these open spaces are well maintained; the Parish is fortunate to be largely free of graffiti, litter, fly tipping and vandalism.

G11 Guidelines

- i. New developments should give a priority to landscape design. Important landscape features such as trees, hedgerows and walls should be protected.
- ii. If any new development is to be located alongside rural roads, it should be screened by areas of landscaping between the development and the surrounding countryside. Plantings should include native trees and shrubs.

3.12 Roads, Pavements, Verges, Footpaths and Street Furniture

The management of the roads, verges, pavements and footpaths is the responsibility of the Highways Authority of Shropshire County Council. However, their appearance, upkeep and improvement has considerable visual impact on the rural and built environment of the Parish. Their upkeep, in a way that reflects the rural nature of the Parish, is an important issue for residents of the Parish and the Parish Council.



3.12.1 Roads

The majority of the working population commute from the Parish, almost exclusively by car. In addition, there is a considerable amount of traffic generated as children are taken to and from school and as customers visit the local shop. While cars make up most of the traffic, there is also a regular passage of heavy goods vehicles, visiting the storage depots on the far side of Kinnerley Village or passing through Maesbrook.

The narrow road from Kinnerley, which passes through Dovaston and Knockin Heath is, consequently, busy.

The B4398, which passes through the centre of Maesbrook, links Llanyrnnech with the A5 trunk road. It is a fast road with a lot of traffic, no enforceable speed limit and inadequate pavements

The lanes from Kinnerley to Pentre are narrow and carry commuter and local traffic, some of which travels at unsafe speeds. Some speed control systems on the road from Knockin Heath to Kinnerley are anticipated shortly.

The Borough Council, as far back as 1996, was aware that a further increase in traffic on the narrow roads within the Parish would be difficult to sustain.

Oswestry Borough Local Plan, LE14 states: “planning permission will not be granted for any use of the former Ammunition stores in the Kinnerley area which is likely to increase the volume of heavy goods traffic on local roads”.

Policy TR1 states: “Any new development proposals should be located so as to limit the need to travel. Development proposals, which generate unnecessary levels of private traffic, should be resisted”.

The Regional Spatial Strategy has as one of its aims: “to reduce the need and demand for travel”.

G12 Guidelines

- i. The Highways Authority should ensure the preservation of the character of minor roads and verges, incorporating layouts suitable to the rural environment.
- ii. The Highways Authority should avoid urbanisation of the appearance of the roads, resulting from installation of concrete kerbs and other inappropriate constructions, including obtrusive signs and road markings.
- iii. All development proposals should be accompanied by a “Transport Impact Assessment”, giving thought to pedestrian access to the local facilities and to children accessing the school. Any proposals which give rise to unnecessary levels of traffic should be refused.
- iv. New development which is likely to give rise to a marked increase in the volume of heavy goods vehicle traffic should be avoided.
- v. Ways of improving the safety of the roads in the Parish for cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians should be an important consideration. Particular thought should be given to improving access to school by children on foot or bicycle.
- vi. The road through Maesbrook, the B4398, should have enforceable speed limits.



3.12.2 Pavements

The lanes within Kinnerley Village are narrow and some are unadopted. Wherever there are pavements they are narrow; however, due to the narrow roads, widening the pavements is not an option.

Maesbrook Village, where development has stretched along the main road, has only intermittent pavements. The busy, dangerous highway and the lack of pavements at the peripheries of the village, have isolated the outlying houses and discouraged those residents from walking into the village centre.

Question 23 of the Parish Plan: 63% of the residents of Maesbrook supported an extension to their existing pavement.

Question 23 of the Parish Plan: Over 60% of residents, living in other areas of the Parish, did not want to have any pavements.

G12 Guidelines (cont)

- vii. Maesbrook needs a safe pedestrian and cyclist access for those people living on the outskirts of the village
- viii. No other hamlet or village requires any further roadside pavements as these would represent unsightly urbanisation of this rural Parish.

3.12.3 Verges

Throughout the Parish the wide verges along the roadside are a landscape feature and are often the only safe pedestrian refuge along these narrow roads. They are also a valuable wildlife corridor and need protecting. The edges of these verges are being steadily eroded by heavy traffic, particularly, but not only, on the roads through the Dovaston and Knockin Heath area.

Question 66 of The Parish Plan, identified the verges as being of very great importance to all residents of the Parish.

G12 Guidelines (cont)

- ix. The encroachment of the road onto the grass verges, caused by traffic damage, should be halted. When Shropshire County Council Highways Authority repairs the edges of the roads, the verges should also be repaired, care being taken so that the width of the grass verge is not reduced.
- x. The road entrances to dwellings should not be kerbed across the grass verges, as this creates a hazard for walkers.
- xi. Developers should return grass verges to their original condition after construction has been completed.

3.12.4 Footpaths

There is a good network of stiles and footpaths, which are generally in good condition and are regularly used.

G12 Guidelines (cont)

- xii. Ways should be sought of making one or two of the footpaths suitable for pushchairs and young children.
- xiii. Ways of increasing the use of footpaths, and providing safe pedestrian access to the school and shop should be investigated.



3.12.5 Street Furniture

Appropriately for such a rural area, there is limited street furniture both in Kinnerley Village and the outlying villages and hamlets. The centres of the villages and hamlets do not look cluttered. A postbox and telephone box, a bus shelter and bench, some unobtrusive street signs, and some sign posts with attractive finials are characteristic. The street lighting in the newest development, Coly Anchor, has been designed to different standards to that of the rest of the village.

G12 Guidelines (cont)

- xiv. The existing signposts, with their attractive finials, should be copied, if any more sign posts are considered necessary.
- xv. Any future need for street or road signage should be carefully assessed and kept to a minimum. There is no demand for further road signs or road names in the Parish. All road signs should use the correct, vernacular name.
- xvi. The need for additional street furniture should be considered with care. Standardised items, more appropriate to urban areas, should be avoided.
- xvii. The Parish is in one of those areas where light pollution is limited. Care should be taken to ensure that future developments do not alter this.
- xviii. The need for street lighting, in all but a few selected places, should be queried. The level of street lighting provided at the newest development, Coly Anchor, seems more suited to an urban area.
- xix. New or replacement street lights should adopt best practice to reduce glare and light pollution.
- xx. Replacement or renewal of street lights should use energy efficient systems.

Advisory

- Private security lights should be activated only by movement within the curtilage of the property, and should shine down and not into the road, as this creates a hazard. All security lights should be on a short time switch.
- The traditional postboxes should be retained, as should as many of the telephone kiosks as possible.
- Any proposed new speed restriction signs should be sensitively placed so as to be as unobtrusive as possible, although visible enough to inform speeding drivers.

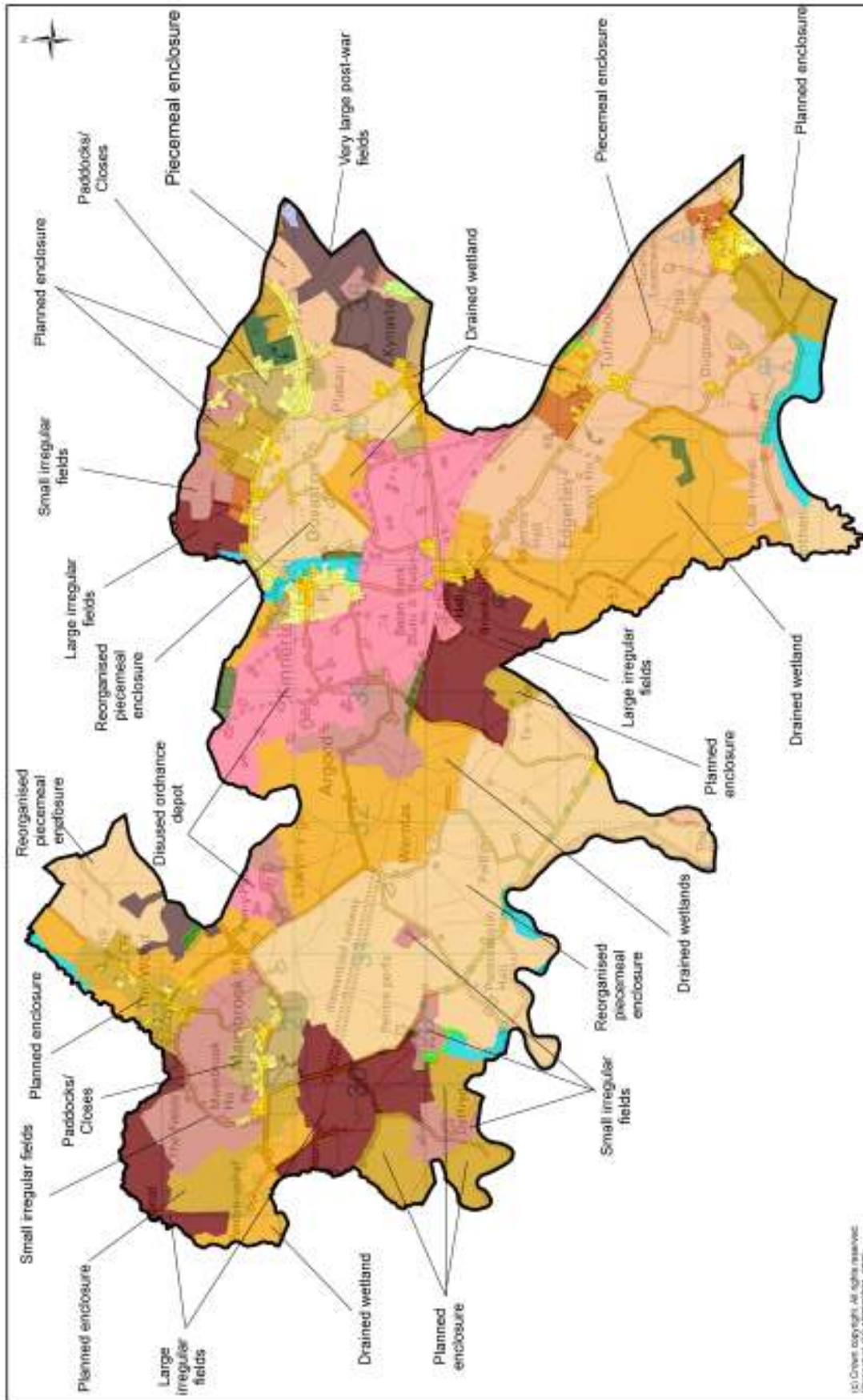


Landscape Character Assessment for the Parish of Kinnerley



Reproduced by kind permission of Mr G Toms

Site of old watermill and ridge and furrow cultivation at Pentre



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Shropshire
County Council
The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Map 1 Historic Landscape Character Assessment of Kinnerley Parish
Map showing different enclosure patterns

1. Introduction

1.1 The Scope

The countryside which makes up our Parish (approximately 2,300 hectares) is one which we all appreciate and enjoy in our own different ways. It has a surprisingly diverse landscape; from the heath lands of Knockin Heath to the flood plains of Maesbrook, Pentre and Edgerley. It is a Parish of contrasts and has a fascinating variety of small landscapes, each with its own character.

This document identifies and describes the key features and characteristics of the various micro-landscapes within our parish. This has been done by carrying out a Landscape Character Assessment, a process which divides the landscape into units of land with common characteristics. It is a structured approach, which recognises the fundamental role played by farming, both past and present, in shaping the landscape, as well as the influences of geology, soils, landform and the ecology.

It should be stressed that Landscape Character Assessment is concerned with the appearance of each distinct and discrete landscape, not with its quality or value, nor does it set out to compare one landscape with another.

The Landscape Character Assessment of Kinnerley Parish *describes the distinct, different patterns of our landscape, which make our Parish different from all others.*

1.2 Landscape Character Assessment

It is only after gaining an understanding of the landscape and of how places differ, that it becomes possible for Planners to ensure that development is well sited and sensitive to its location. Landscape Character Assessment enables the differences between the varying landscapes to be understood and serves as a framework for sound planning decisions, which respect local distinctiveness and sense of place.

Benefits of Landscape Character Assessment:

- Helps everyone to appreciate the landscape in which they live.
- Enables us to understand and agree what it is that makes a particular place distinctive.
- Influences Local Planning Authorities when development plans are prepared.
- Influences individual planning decisions on the scale, quality and location of new development.
- Encourages Planners and Developers to take into account the quality and diversity of the landscape.
- Supports the aims of any biodiversity plans for the area.

1.3 Methodology

This study is based on the methodology and approach described in the “Landscape Character Assessment” guidelines of the Countryside Agency. In addition, we have worked closely with the Sustainability Group, Community and Environmental Services, Shropshire County Council, which gave us training and direction. There were four main stages involved in the production of this report:

- Collection of data and maps
- Identification on aerial photographs of the various different landscapes within the Parish, with the help of Historic Landscape Characterisation Data
- Field work to describe the landscapes, to confirm the boundaries and to check the data in the field
- Collation of information and writing up

1.4 The data

A considerable amount of information and data relating to Kinnerley Parish was already available. This has been the foundation on which the **Landscape Character Assessment of Kinnerley Parish** has been based. In particular we have drawn on the following documents:

- SCC Landscape Description Unit Report, September 2004
- The Shropshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment
- The Shropshire Landscape Typology, published by Shropshire County Council, 2006
- The Soil Survey of England and Wales, Soils of the Midlands
- British Geological Survey

2. Shropshire Landscape Description Units (LDUs)

Shropshire County Council, through its Sustainability Group, has divided the County into some twenty seven Landscape Description Units. These descriptions are wide ranging and cover areas throughout the County of Shropshire, including Kinnerley Parish. Map No 2, on page 44, shows that Kinnerley Parish has been divided by Shropshire County Council into Five Landscape Descriptions Units. These are described below.

This Landscape Description Unit Report, together with the Shropshire Landscape Typology, (section 3), which has also been produced by the Shropshire County Council's Sustainability Group, is the foundation on which our work has been based. (See Map 1 on page 41 and Map 2 on page 44).

2.1 LDU No SP35, (found around Dovaston)

"A rolling landscape, underlain by Mesozoic, (Triassic), sandstone which gives rise to impoverished sandy soils. Land use is one of intensive arable production, which has destroyed much of the area's cultural pattern due to the loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Settlements are a mixture of both red brick and tile and sandstone buildings, with the highest concentrations of local stone being around the quarries of Nesscliffe and the Cliffe".

2.2 LDU No SP34a and 34b, (found around Edgerley Ridge and Upper Maesbrook)

"A low-lying flat landscape probably derived from woodland clearance. The sandy brown earths are surprisingly damp throughout, giving rise to numerous streams and damp meadows. Land use is mostly pastoral with localised areas of arable. The cultural pattern is one of a settled landscape with houses and farms tending to be clustered around road junctions. The quality of habitat and habitat network remains high, largely due to low intensity pastoral farming systems and the presence of good quality hedgerows and the disused canal and railway lines. The historic cultural pattern has only been modified by the WW2 ammunition dumps in the south-east".

2.3 LDU No SP59, (found around Lower Maesbrook and Edgerley)

"A flood plain landscape over poorly drained alluvial soils. Land use is predominantly moderate intensity, pastoral production, which has helped to preserve much of the area's cultural pattern. There is little woodland, although the landscape appears well wooded in places due to hedgerow and watercourse trees. Settlement comprises a sparse dispersal of farmsteads and dwellings. These occupy slightly elevated areas within the flood plain while the lower-lying areas remain unsettled. The cultural pattern remains currently intact, although hedgerow loss / decline is altering field patterns locally".

2.4 LDU No SP85, (found around Knockin Heath)

"A gently undulating landscape underlain by Mesozoic, (Triassic), sandstones that gives rise to free draining, sandy soils. Intensive arable cultivation forms the dominant land use, which has resulted in the loss of some hedgerows and trees. The dispersed

settlement pattern mainly comprises 19th century brick farmsteads, with some wayside cottages in the southern part of the unit. The pattern of regular geometric fields with straight hedges, broad straight roads and relic heath land vegetation (e.g. bracken and occasional gorse) along the road verges are all typical of areas enclosed from lowland heath land in the 18th and 19th centuries".

2.5 LDU No SP84, (found around Tir-y-Coed)

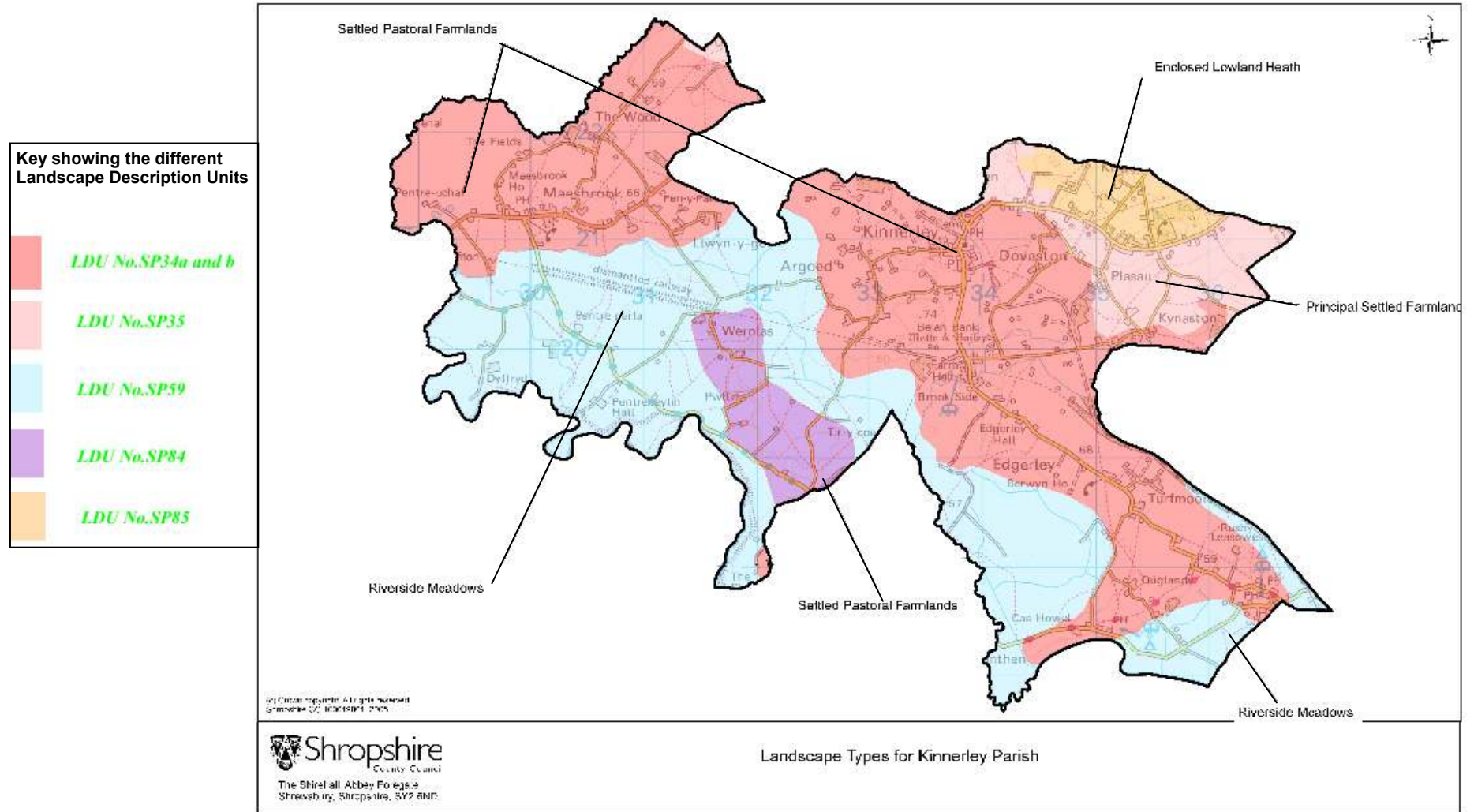
"A slightly elevated flood plain 'island', with heavy clay soils over glacial tills. The land use is moderate intensity, pastoral production, as a result of which the ancient field pattern has been retained. The landscape has a well wooded appearance due to the abundant hedgerow trees. The settlement pattern is predominantly one of dispersed farmsteads, with small hamlets towards the southern end of the unit at Cross Lanes and Melverley Green. The field pattern is largely derived from piecemeal enclosure of medieval open fields between the 14th and 17th centuries, and ridge and furrow survives as extant earthworks in many of the fields".

3. The Shropshire Landscape Types

In the section above, Landscape Description Units have been described, which make it possible to distinguish one landscape from another. Often the same individual variables that together make up a landscape occur repeatedly in different areas. Thus different geographical areas can have similar landscape characteristics. These landscapes are called Landscape Types. The Shropshire Landscape Typology has identified four Landscape Types in Kinnerley Parish. See Map No 2 on page 44. The characteristics of these four types are described below.

3.1 Enclosed Lowland Heaths

Enclosed Lowland Heaths are gently rolling landscapes that occur throughout northern and eastern Shropshire, in areas with predominately sandy, impoverished soils. These are medium to large scale agricultural landscapes, which have evolved from extensive areas of open heath land and 'waste' (common rough pasture) over the past three to four centuries. They are characterised by an ordered pattern of rectilinear fields, straight roads and scattered farmsteads.



Map 2: showing: (1) Landscape Types for Kinnerley Parish
 (2) Landscape Description Units (LDU) based on SCC Data—See text

3.2 Principal Settled Farmlands

Principal Settled Farmlands are prevalent throughout northern Shropshire, mainly in association with Permian and Triassic sandstones. These are settled lowland landscapes of small villages, hamlets and scattered farms, with varied soil conditions that are predominately used for mixed farming.

3.3 Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Settled Pastoral Farmlands, located mainly in the northern and western parts of Shropshire, are lowland agricultural landscapes. Heavy, often poorly drained soils are one of the defining characteristics of this landscape type and have traditionally been associated with livestock farming. This land use means that the historic pattern of small to medium, sub-regular, hedged fields has been retained in most places.

3.4. Riverside Meadows

Riverside Meadows are landscapes, often linear, associated with the well defined flood plains that border the major rivers in the County. The rivers are flanked by extensive areas of waterside meadows, defined by hedge and ditch boundaries, which are used for seasonal grazing, within a predominately pastoral agricultural farming system. Due to the frequency of flooding, the Riverside Meadows remain largely unsettled.

4. Landscape Character Assessment of Kinnerley Parish

The Kinnerley Landscape Character Assessment has used these Shropshire County Council data of Landscape Description Units and Landscape Types as its base. These, however, are broad brush descriptions, covering the whole of Shropshire, carried out at the large scale of 1:50,000. At this scale, it is not possible to describe in detail the variety of landscape that occurs within our Parish.

The Landscape Character Assessment of Kinnerley Parish has, therefore, been carried out at a scale of 1:10,000. Working at this more detailed level, it has been possible to describe the many variations in the landscape of the Parish. Fifty one distinct, micro-landscapes have been described, referred to in this report as Landscape Parcels.

4.1 Landscape Parcels

Landscape parcels have been defined as *“a small area of land, which is distinctive and can be differentiated from the neighbouring landscapes around it by its own individual landscape characteristics”*.

A written description of each of the 51 distinct Landscape Parcels is presented in Section 6 of this report. The landscape parcels are described under the seven subheadings of: geology and landform, soils and land use, ecology, tree cover, enclosure, communications, and built environment.

4.2 Geology of the Parish

Kinnerley Parish lies towards the southern end of the large Cheshire/Staffordshire/Shropshire Plain. This is an area of gently rolling landscape, with some prominent ridges and individual sandstone hills. The whole of this plain is underlain by Triassic Sandstones, marls and pebble beds. In Kinnerley Parish the sandstones are of the Kinnerton, Chester Pebble Beds and Wilmslow formations. These beds were laid down some 205-250 million years ago, when this part of the Earth was entirely desert and seas.

Harder, more resistant rocks in these beds have given rise to such prominent features as Nesscliffe Hill and Grinshill, but there are none as prominent as these in Kinnerley Parish. However, small outcrops of sandstone can be found in the Parish.

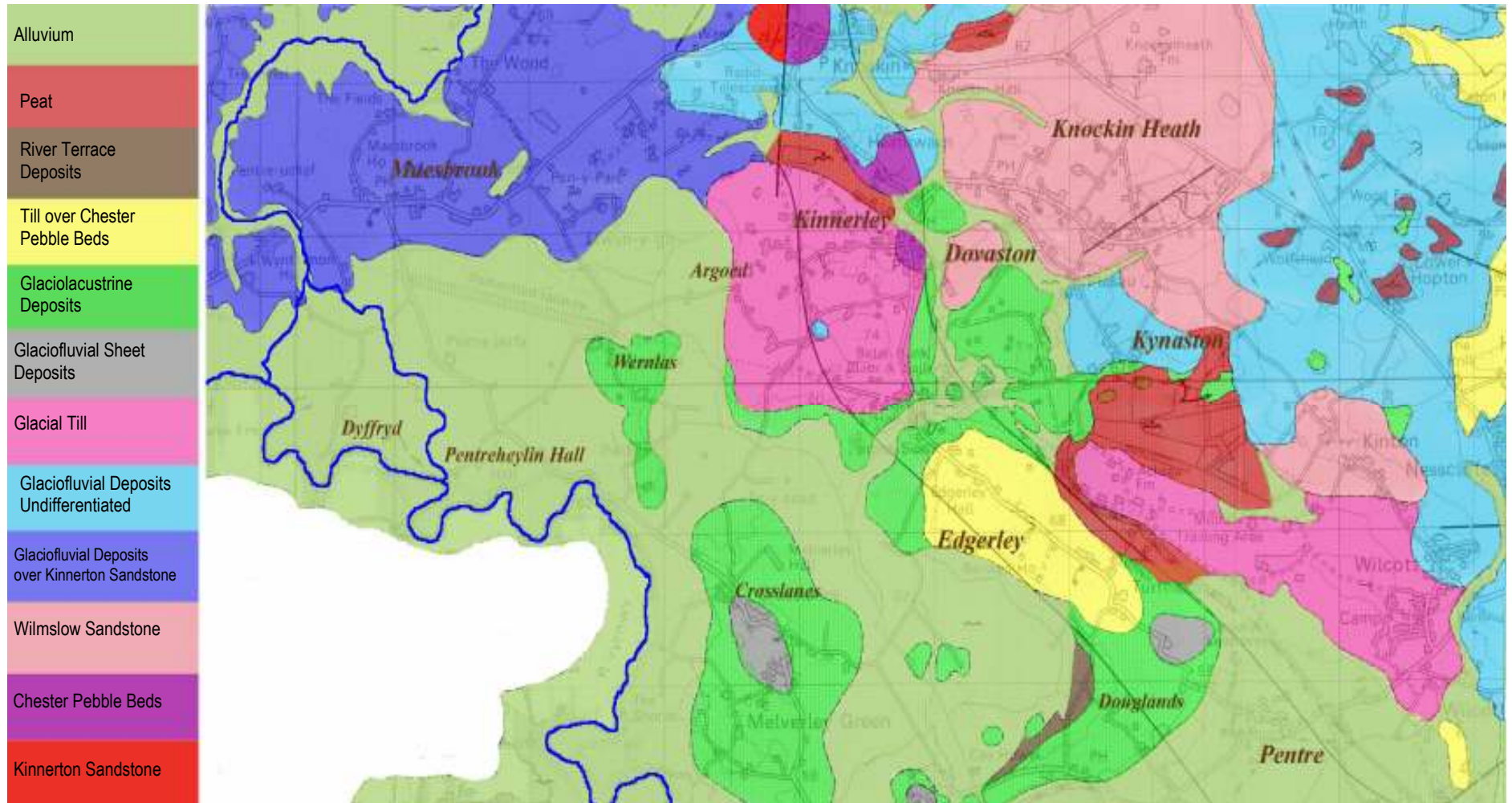
The Triassic rocks of this area have been modified by two important, geologically recent, events, glaciation and the action of the rivers and streams, especially the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy. (see map 3, page 46).

4.2.1 The sandstone areas of the north and east of the Parish

The area around Maesbrook is underlain by Triassic Kinnerton Sandstone, but this is rarely seen on the surface, as it is overlain by glacial deposits. However, the sandstone does give rise locally to reddish, relatively sandy soils. Further to the east, Wilmslow Sandstone underlies the Parish and this has strong influence on the physiography, especially on the land which borders the Kinnerley-Dovaston-Knockin Heath road. This area, slightly higher than neighbouring areas, has a small disused quarry where reddish and cream coloured sandstones were extracted for use as building materials. The stone is quite soft and weathers badly; the poor condition of parts of the stone work of St. Mary's Church in Kinnerley village bear witness to this. An example of this sandstone outcropping can be seen in Bankfields Lane, Kinnerley Village. The whole of the slightly higher ground of Bankfields is an area where the sandstone lies close to the surface, there being no glacial deposit cover. There are small areas of sandstone exposed in Kinnerley Village, part of the Chester Pebble Beds formation.

The relatively sandy nature of the soils in this area is well illustrated by the clear waters of the Weir Brook, which are normally quite devoid of suspended sediment, and the sandy nature of its deposits can often be seen on the stream bed.

Map 3 Showing the Geology of Kinnerley Parish



4.2.2. Glacial deposits

In much of the central area of the Parish, the sandstones are covered with glacial deposits, laid down in the Ice Ages, which occurred within the last 2.5 million to 10,000 years. These glacial deposits are of varying thicknesses and are locally absent in some areas. They were dumped when the glaciers retreated, and were dispersed by rivers and streams formed from the glacial melt waters, or deposited on the bottom of lakes. Lakes were formed when the vast quantities of water produced by the melting glaciers were draining away. One such lake was Lake Lapworth, covering a huge area, including much of what is now our Parish.

All these deposits were variable in type, ranging from clays, through sands and silty material, to quite large boulders. The latter were carried by the glaciers, and deposited when the glaciers retreated, during periods of global warming. Examples of glacial derived boulders, (“erratics”), can be seen throughout the Parish in fields and by the roadside, (for example at Argoed Farm). These are totally foreign to this area and have been transported here from as far afield as the Lake District and North Wales. These deposits give rise to rather heavier soils than those of the sandstone areas to the north and east.

4.2.3 Alluvial deposits on the river plain

The very flat areas in the south, (around Dyffryd and the Quabbs) and south east, (at Pentre and Edgerley), are formed of alluvium deposited by the Rivers Severn, Vyrnwy and Morda in recent geological times, largely since the last Ice Age. These are fine grained, but not necessarily clayey, deposits laid down during periods of flooding. These give rise to loamy soils, which, while often wet, drain relatively quickly. The flood plains of the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy are quite extensive in Kinnerley Parish and there may be evidence of river terraces, slightly higher, but flat areas, indicating former levels of the flood plain. The alluvium is probably largely underlain by glacial deposits, but while there is no direct evidence of this in the Parish, there are gravel layers in the floodplain of the Maesbrook area.

4.2.4 Peat deposits

A particular consequence of glaciation was the formation of local areas of peat beds, for example at Turfmoor. These occurred when large isolated areas of ice remained after the main glaciers had melted. Eventually, these too melted, leaving large wet depressions, encouraging the characteristic flora found in peat deposits.

4.3 Field Patterns and Enclosures

One of the defining characteristics of a landscape, particularly when it is being described on a micro, rather than a macro-scale, is the shape and appearance of the existing hedgerow enclosure pattern. The pattern and appearance of the fields reflect, not just present day use, but also the evolution of the landscape, after centuries of use. It is an interpretation of the process by which the present day field pattern and landscape have evolved under the influence of agriculture. The data provided in the Shropshire Historic Landscape Assessment was used as the base data on which the different field enclosure patterns were described. Field patterns are also a reflection of the landform, land use, the soils and their underlying geology.

See map 1 on page 41 showing Historic Landscape Character Assessment of Kinnerley Parish based on field enclosure patterns.

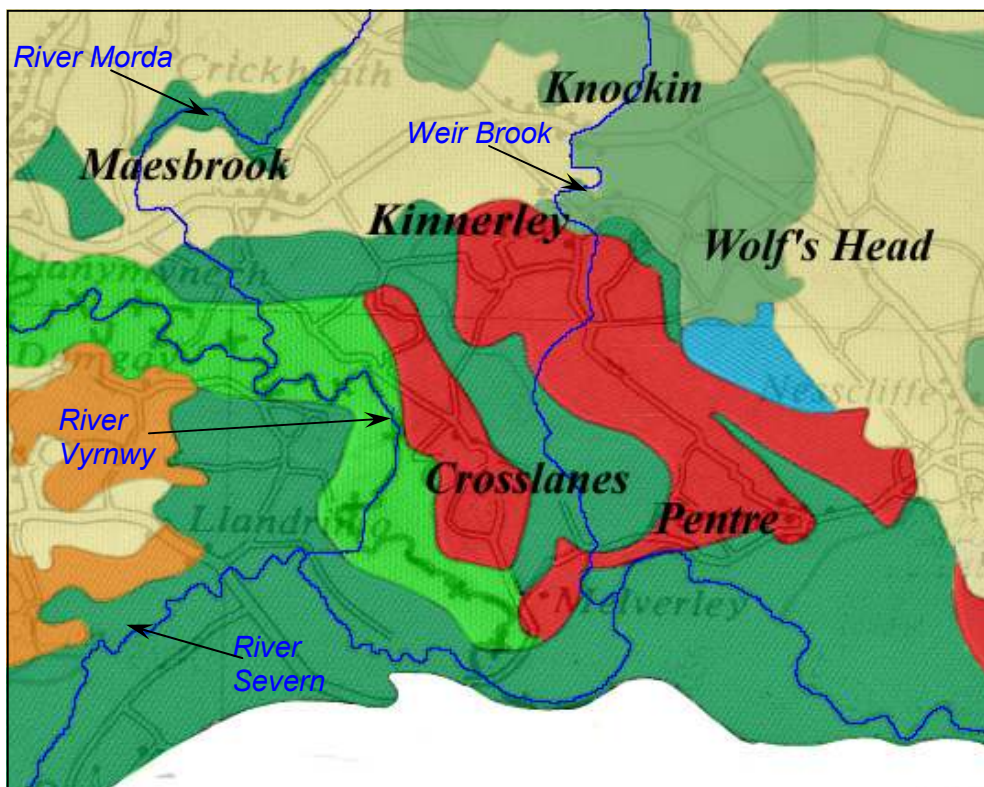


A glacial derived boulder or “erratic”

4.4 Soils of Kinnerley Parish

The data from The Soil Survey of England and Wales shows that six main soil associations cover the Parish of Kinnerley (see map 4 below).

<p>Fine loamy, brown earths East Keswick Soil Association</p>	<p>East Keswick Soil Association Fine loamy brown earths with some gleyed soils. Typically found on the Maesbrook Plateau</p>
<p>Alluvial soils Conway Soil Association</p>	<p>Conway Soil Association. Fine silty soils found on flood plains. Greyish brown silty clay loams. Typically found on the flood plains of Maesbrook and Edgerley.</p>
<p>Alluvial soils Teme Soil Association</p>	<p>Teme Soil Association Fine, deep, permeable brown alluvial soils. Dark, greyish brown silty clay loams. Typically found on the flood plains of the River Vyrnwy, but closer to the river than the Conway series</p>
<p>Peat/Peat Loam Adventurers' Soil Association</p>	<p>Adventurers' Soil Association Semi-fibrous peat soils, black loamy peats. Typically found at Turfmoor and Treginford.</p>
<p>Loamy, silty soils Pinder Soil Association</p>	<p>Pinder Soil Association A slowly permeable brownish fine loamy and silty soil over clayey soils. Typically found around Edgerley Ridge and Gully Lane.</p>
<p>Reddish, sandy soil Bridgnorth Soil Association</p>	<p>Bridgnorth Soil Association A well drained, reddish, sandy and coarse loamy soil developed from Permo-Triassic sandstone. Typically found around Shepcote Lane, Knockin Heath.</p>



Map 4 Soils map of Kinnerley Parish

Landscape Character Assessment for the Parish of Kinnerley

5. Description of the Landscape Parcels of Kinnerley Parish

While the boundaries of the different landscapes are shown on the maps by firm lines, usually following a distinctive feature such as a field boundary or lane, it should be understood that change from one landscape to another is not usually so abrupt or clear cut. The boundary should be seen as the place where the characteristics of one landscape parcel have changed and are visibly different to that of the neighbouring landscape. Change is, however, usually gradual rather than abrupt.

Eleven landscapes, described below, have been identified within the Parish. The descriptions of these eleven landscapes are set out below.

The micro-landscapes within these eleven groups have been further subdivided into fifty one different Landscape Parcels. The descriptions of the individual parcels, each of which is numbered, is given in section 6. (**See map 5 on page 50**)

5.1. Principal Settled Farmland at Knockin Heath and Dovaston

A gently undulating landscape, with extensive open views across large post-war fields. Soils are sandy loams derived from Triassic sandstones. Arable farming is the dominant land use, however, in those areas where there are cottages or smallholdings, the land use is semi-intensive pastoral and the enclosures have kept their late 18th century field boundaries and their small size.

Landscape Parcels Nos.1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 5a.

5.2 Enclosed Lowland Heaths at Knockin Heath

A gently sloping landscape of light, grey, sandy soils, overlying reddish or yellow, weak sandstone. Land use is largely woodland, with some intensive arable, where the fields have been enlarged and hedgerows removed. Straight roads and wide verges are a feature. Gorse and bracken indicating its heath land origin are still present in the hedgerows.

Landscape Parcels Nos. 6, 7 and 8.

5.3 Settled Pastoral Farmlands at Gully Lane and Treginford

A flat pastoral landscape at the base of the sandstone derived slopes. The soils are wettish silts or clay loams, with numerous streams and ditches. There are some areas of peat/peat loam, together with heavier soils at the southern end.

The landscape is one of overgrown hedges and dense, oak hedgerow trees, amongst numerous Second World War ammunition dumps. Land use is semi-intensive pastoral agriculture.

Landscape Parcels Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 13a.

5.4 Settled Pastoral Farmlands on the Edgerley/Pentre Ridge

A landscape slightly raised above the flood plain. The soils are brown silt loams, overlying glacial deposits. Some areas are intensively managed arable and dairy pasture, with a consequent loss of hedgerows and their associated trees. However, in the southern areas, the land use is semi intensive pastoral. It is an enclosed, ancient landscape, with signs of the old ridge and furrow cultivation and very little loss of hedgerows. Smallholdings and settlements are sited on slightly raised ground.

Landscape Parcels Nos. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.

5.5 Riverside Meadows of the River Severn Flood Plain, at Pentre/Edgerley

An open, flat, flood plain landscape, associated with the Weir Brook and the River Severn. The land use is pastoral, with little arable farming, as the whole area is prone to flooding. Trees are sparse and usually associated with the numerous ditches, drains and small streams. The soils are alluvial silts and clay loams.

Landscape Parcels Nos. 20, 21 and 22.

5.6 Riverside Meadows of the River Vyrnwy Flood Plain, at Pentreheylin and The Quabbs

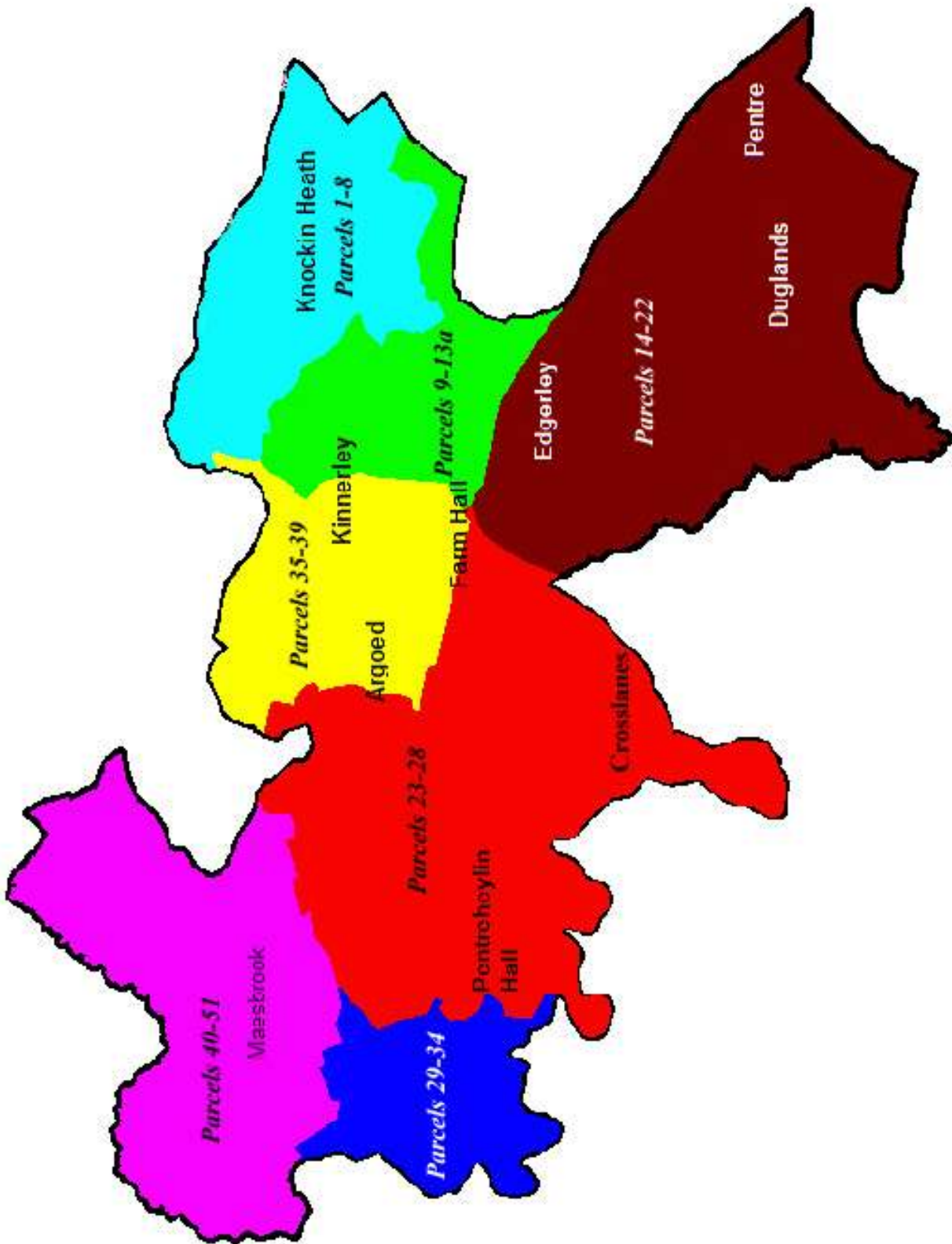
A large area of open flood plain, subject to seasonal flooding. Land use is one of intensive arable farming in large rectilinear fields to the south-west, while to the north-east, (The Quabbs), the land use is predominantly semi to low intensive pastoral agriculture, with willow trees an important landscape feature.

Landscape parcels 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27.

5.7 Settled Pastoral Farmland at Wernlas and Tir-y-Coed

A landscape, with numerous small streams and ditches, draining towards the Weir Brook, formed from land with a slightly raised topography, surrounded by an alluvial flood plain. Farmsteads are sited on this slightly raised area, surrounded by the alluvial soils of the flood plain, on which no settlements are to be found. The soils are slow draining, sandy, clay loams overlying glacial till. Land use is mostly pastoral with limited arable. Fields are small scale, enclosed, with little loss of hedgerows. *Landscape Parcel No. 28.*

Map 5 Location of Landscape Parcels within Kinnerley Parish



5.8 Riverside Meadows of the Rivers Vyrnwy and Morda Flood Plains, at The Dyffryd

A flat landscape lying within the flood plains of the Rivers Morda and Vyrnwy. The soils are mainly free draining, alluvial, silty clay loams, prone to flooding. The land use is mostly pastoral, with a little arable. The intact hedgerows are particularly species-rich and contain some fine trees.

Landscape Parcels Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33,34.

5.9 Principal Settled Farmland at The Argoed

A wide landscape of large, arable fields interspersed with many former ammunition dumps. Soils are brownish, clay loams, derived from glacial till deposits. This landscape slopes gently towards the flood plain to the south and west. In those areas, adjacent to the flood plain, field sizes are smaller, hedgerows are intact and the land use is predominantly pastoral.

Landscape Parcels Nos.35, 35a, 36, 37, 38 ,39.

5.10 Settled Pastoral Farmland on the Maesbrook Plateau

A flat plateau, raised slightly above the flood plains of the Rivers Vyrnwy and Morda. The soils are freely draining, reddish loams to the north, becoming silty clay loams to the south; as the land slopes towards the flood plain, there are wetter areas, many now drained. There are also some small wooded areas to the north, on peat soils. The land use is one of mixed

farming, with medium to large arable fields on the reddish loams and, more commonly, semi-intensive pastoral farming on the heavier soils adjacent to the flood plain. These are areas of streams and silty clay loams, where the field sizes are smaller and the landscape well wooded.

Landscape Parcels Nos. 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51.

5.11 The Railway Land

The whole length of the abandoned railway line has turned into an important ecological landscape, providing a terrestrial corridor from Pentre to Maesbrook. The area has regenerated as a result of many years of neglect and now has a cover of mature and semi-mature deciduous trees, with a secondary layer of shrubs, such as elderberry, briars and blackthorn.

Some lengths of the old track, on the higher ground, have been incorporated into adjoining fields. When the line was built a raised embankment was constructed, to enable the line to cross the Maesbrook floodplain, using materials from a long, narrow burrow pit, which runs along its northern side. This deep trench, which now acts as a drainage channel, is known locally as The Dyke, and adds to the ecological importance of the railway landscape.

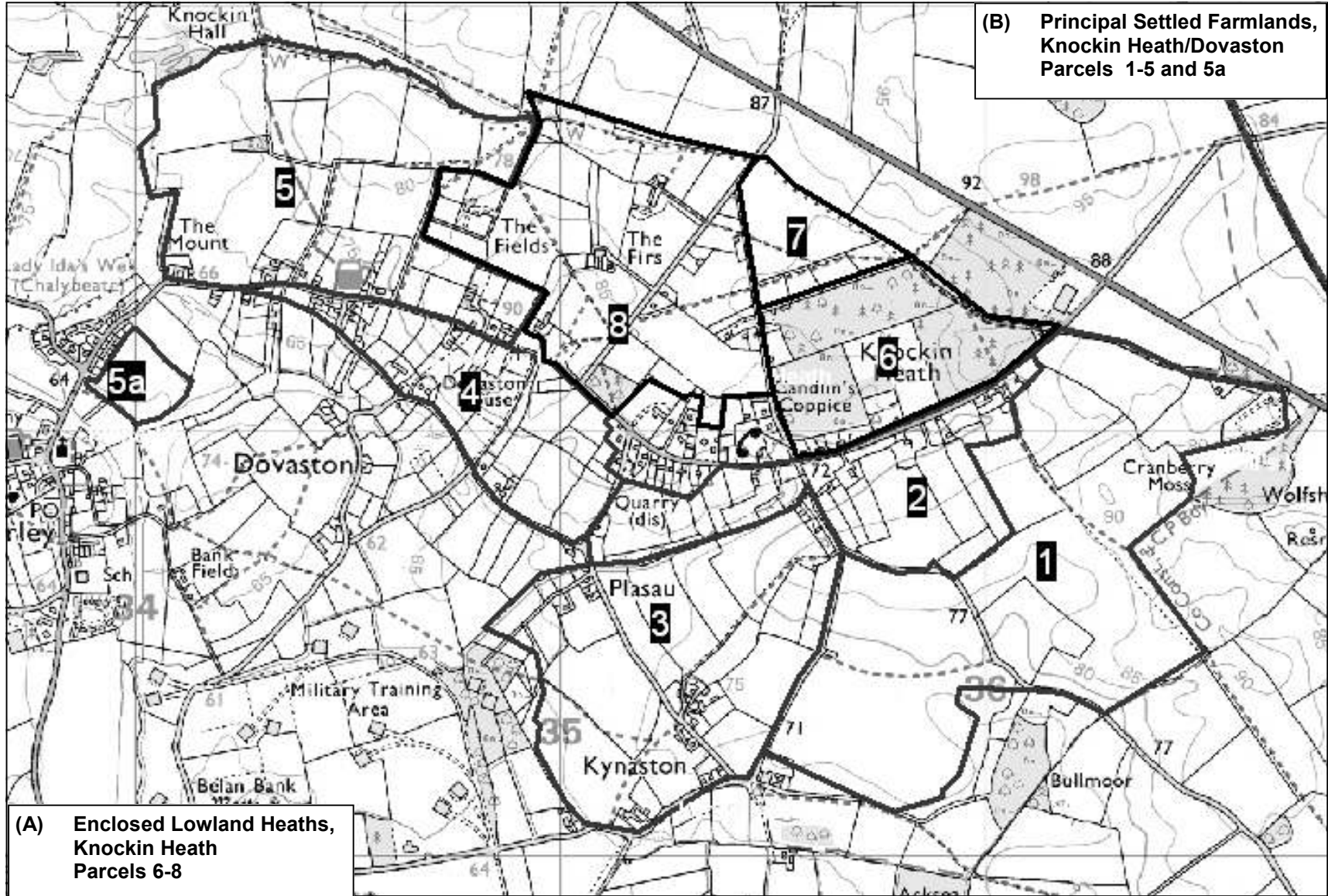
6. Description of Landscape Parcels

Each of the 51 Landscape Parcels is described in this section, pages 54 to 173.

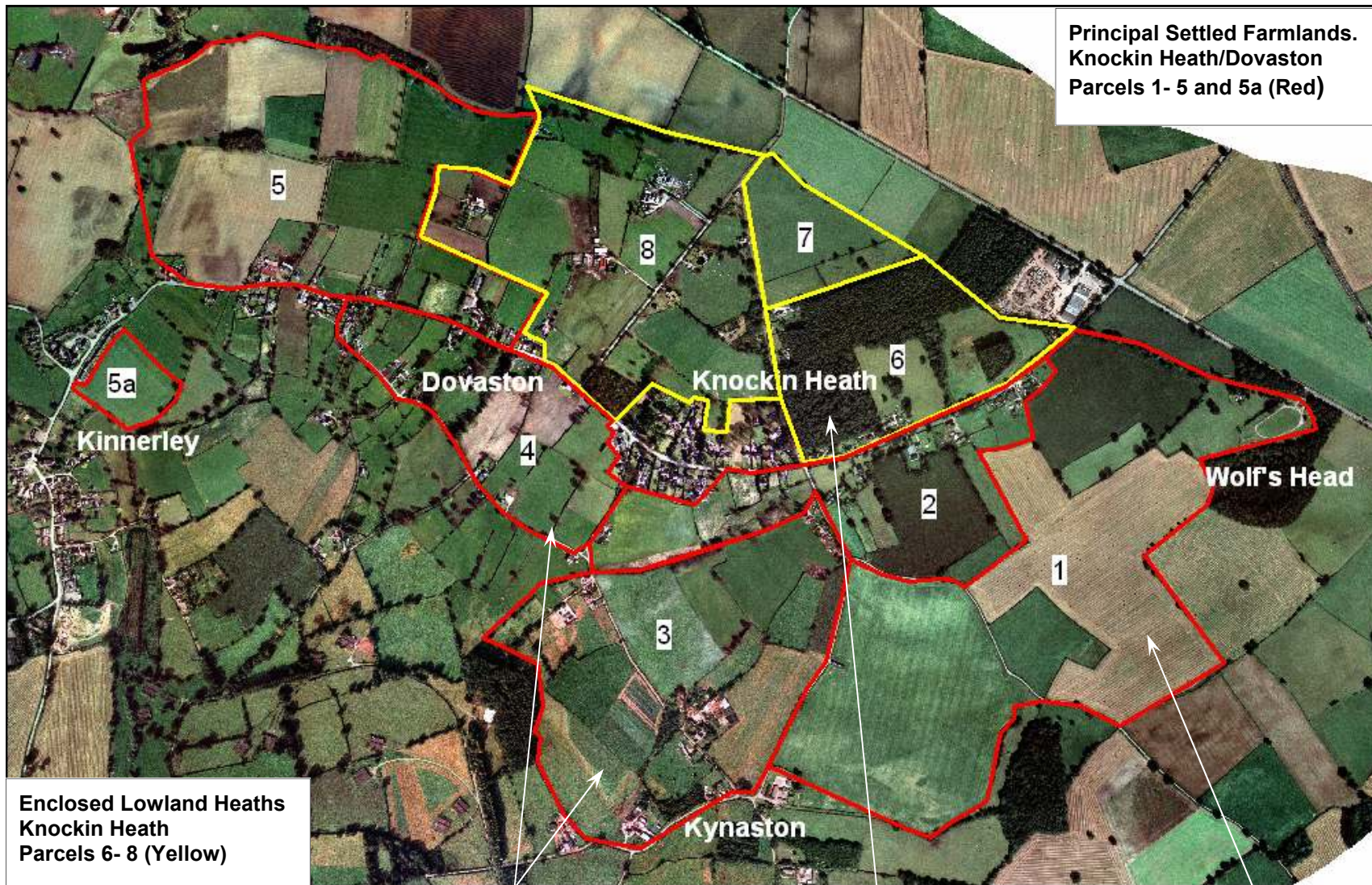


Photograph showing the Rivers Morda and Vyrnwy in full flood and the raised Maesbrook Plateau

Map showing location of landscape parcels Numbers 1—8



Map showing location of landscape parcels Numbers 1—8



Principal Settled Farmlands.
Knockin Heath/Dovaston
Parcels 1- 5 and 5a (Red)

Enclosed Lowland Heaths
Knockin Heath
Parcels 6- 8 (Yellow)

Gently Sloping
Bridgnorth Soil Association
Reddish Sandy Loams

Grey Heath Soils
Bridgnorth Soil Association
Loamy Sand

Gently Sloping
Bridgnorth Soil Association
Reddish Sandy Loams

Principal Settled Farmlands

Knockin Heath Parcel number 1 (61 ha)



Large open fields

Intermittent hedges and few hedgerow trees



The 1845 historic map shows 42 fields; the 2000 aerial photograph shows 7 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

Knockin Heath Parcel number 1 (61 ha)

Open landscape of large arable post-war fields in a gently rolling landscape. Reddish sandy loams over Triassic Wilmslow Sandstone. Tree cover is sparse, made up of scattered hedgerow trees. Open views across to the Breidden and south Shropshire Hills.

Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating landscape with extensive views
- Soils derived from Triassic sandstone
- Arable farming dominant, with some improved pasture
- Medium to large fields of modern origin, giving an open aspect
- Large enclosures, with few ancient field boundaries
- Field boundaries of hawthorn, often fragmented and incomplete
- Sparse hedgerow trees, mainly oak with some ash

Geology and Landform

A rolling landscape which slopes towards the lower heavier glacial till soils. Its underlying geology is of Triassic Wilmslow Sandstone.

Soils and Land Use

The light, sandy soils are reddish, sandy loams derived from Permo-Triassic Sandstones. On the higher slopes, the soils are a light, loamy sand, belonging to the Bridgnorth Soil Associations, while on the lower slopes, towards the heavier glacial till soils, the soils begin to merge into silty loams, overlying sandy clays. It is an intensively arable area, with some leys.

Ecology

Patches of bracken in hedgerows reflect the light, sandy soils. There are few trees within the landscape, but there are ecologically important woodlands on its boundaries, at Cranberry Moss and Bulmoor Wood. Terrestrial corridors are generally weak, except along the edges of natural drains or green lanes.

Tree Cover

The trees associated with this landscape are intermittent hedgerow trees, with one or two isolated field trees, remnants of previous hedgerows. The hedgerow trees, usually mature oak with a sprinkling of ash and the occasional sycamore, are sparsely scattered along the hedges, but are, even so, an important landscape feature. There are no woods or coppices within this landscape. There are wide

sweeping views to the South Shropshire Hills, the Breidden Hills and the Welsh Hills.

Enclosure

Much of the original enclosure pattern of this landscape would have been the result of piecemeal enclosure, when fields were created out of medieval open fields by informal agreement. As a result of the need to increase production in the later 20th century, the fields have been enlarged to medium and large, sub-regular fields.

The hedges are hawthorn with some crab apple, blackthorn and elderberry. They have been intensively managed and in places are no longer intact, while in other areas the hedges have grown unchecked and the hawthorn is now tall and leggy.

Communications

A green bridle path on the northern Parish boundary and a narrow, winding country lane with steep sides and high hedges.

Built Environment

The landscape is empty except for a disused touring caravan site, alongside Cranberry Moss, a small bungalow and a red brick farmhouse with ancillary farm buildings.



Principal Settled Farmlands

Knockin Heath

Parcel number 2

(21 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 39 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 23 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

Knockin Heath Parcel number 2 (21 ha)

An area of cottages/smallholdings and small, irregular fields, which have retained their original enclosure pattern, associated with crofters' or squatters' enclosures. Predominantly pastoral land use, in a landscape gently sloping towards the edge of a stream. Soils are light, reddish, sandy loams.

Key Characteristics

- Gently sloping valley of well drained sandy loams
- Land use mainly pastoral
- Tree cover limited to scattered hedgerow trees and the dense tree-lined stream
- Fields around the cottages are small and rectilinear
- The settlement pattern is one of smallholder cottages scattered at intervals along the road side

Geology and Landform

The underlying geology is Triassic Wilmslow Sandstone. The ground slopes evenly towards Plassau Brook, where the slopes level out and the ground becomes wet.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are a freely draining sandy loam, belonging to the Bridgnorth Soil Association. On the level ground, next to the stream, the soils become heavier and peaty and are often waterlogged. The land use is low-intensive pasture, apart from one, large, arable field.

Ecology

The small field sizes and the waterlogged lower areas associated with the stream provide good habitats, particularly alongside the stream, where patches of rushes and other wetland flora are present. The hedgerows vary; while some are intensively managed, others, particularly those associated with the smaller fields, are overgrown and fragmented. Lack of management means that some of the hawthorn hedges have become tall and leggy. Ecological corridors are strong only in those areas adjacent to the stream. The small, disused sandstone quarry, which is common land, is overgrown with brambles and self-set ash trees and is ecologically important.

Tree Cover

Intermittent trees occur within the hedgerows; these trees are mainly mature oak, with some sycamore. A dense line of trees runs along the banks of the stream. Most of these trees are alder of mixed ages, some of which appear to have been coppiced in the past. Willow is also present. These, together with the tall, unmanaged hawthorn hedges, create a strong feeling of enclosure, with restricted views.

Enclosure

While there has been some loss of hedgerows, the old field pattern remains intact. The original cottages/smallholdings, are surrounded by a series of small, irregular, rectilinear fields formed from paddocks associated with squatters' enclosures, along the edge of the former heath. The sandstone, squatters' cottages are still part of this landscape. The enclosure pattern, away from the cottages, is one of rectilinear, narrow fields, a result of piecemeal enclosure from open fields. Hedges are mainly hawthorn, particularly those which are intensively managed, but there is a wider range of species in the less intensively managed hedges; these include hop, blackthorn and tree species such as sycamore and oak.

Communications

The main Kinnerley road, with its wide verges, and two narrow lanes. There are no footpaths.

Built Environment

Wayside cottages occur at intervals along the road, although some infilling with modern dwellings has taken place.

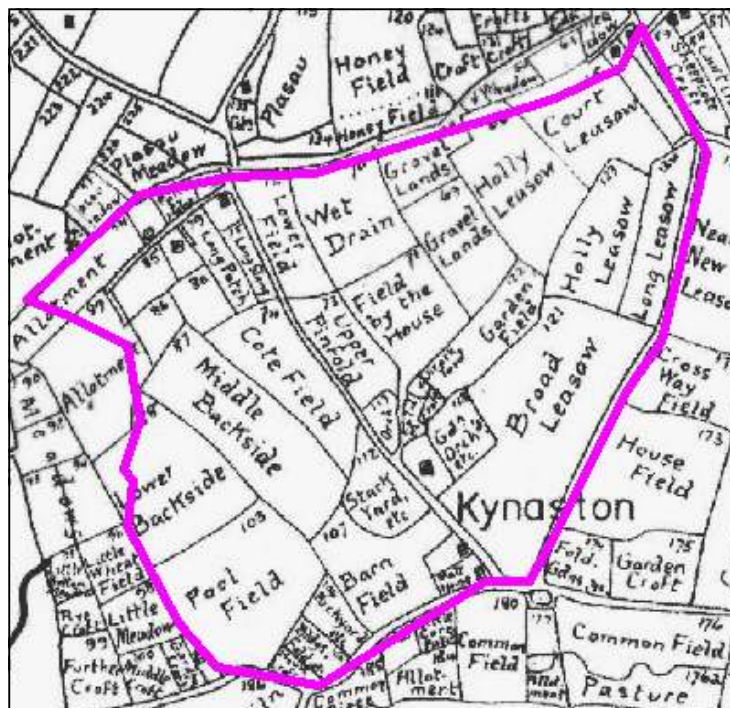
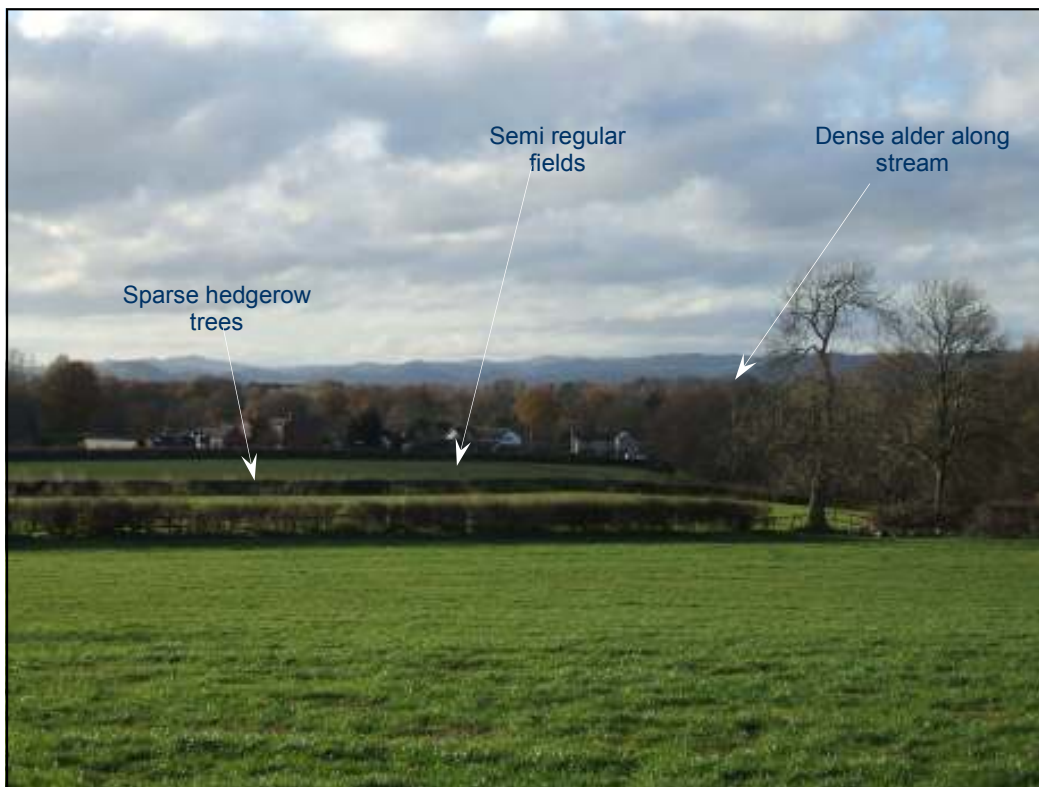


Principal Settled Farmlands

Kynaston

Parcel number 3

(35 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 23 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 12 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

Kynaston Parcel number 3 (35 ha)

This is a gently sloping landscape of mixed farming on the lower slopes of the sandy loam, heath land soils. The land use is mainly intensive grassland, although there are some areas of arable. Tree cover is sparse, except around the hamlet of Kynaston.

Key Characteristics

- Gently sloping landscape, with steeper slopes towards the stream on the north side
- Free draining sandy loams, derived from Triassic sandstones
- Permanent pasture, with localised arable cropping
- Small blocks of trees associated with settlements
- Scattered oaks and ashes along hedgerows and dense alders along stream
- Medium sized semi-regular fields enclosed by hedges
- Small narrow lanes and scattered farms

Geology and Landform

The underlying geology is Triassic Wilmslow Sandstone, which has created a gently sloping landscape. The slope levels out as it approaches the heavier soils derived from the glacial tills, while on the north side, the slope is quite steep, as it drops down towards Plassau Brook.

Soils and Land Use

These are light, free draining soils of the Bridgnorth Soil Association, which are a reddish brown, sandy loam. These soils become progressively heavier as the glacial till is approached. In those areas where the till intrudes into the lower slopes, the soils become silty loams and, in places, silty clay loams. Land use is predominately stock or sheep rearing on improved pasture or leys, but some arable crops are grown. The management of horses is an important activity.

Ecology

Terrestrial corridors of good ecological value follow the side of the brook and link with the clusters of trees around the hamlets. However, some of the more open, intensively farmed fields have a limited ecological value, as the hedges are intensively managed with sparse hedgerow trees, but, where they are intact, there are good corridors.

Tree Cover

The small mixed woodland, mainly oak, willow and cherry, and the large mature native trees around the hamlet of Kynaston, provide an area of good tree cover. The hedgerows themselves have only sparse hedgerow trees. The dense row of alder and willow along the side of the brook is a feature. Unusually, there is more ash than oak in the hedgerows, together with a few substantial sycamores, all of which are mature trees.

Enclosure

This is a landscape of medium sized, semi-regular fields, enclosed on a piecemeal basis before the late 17th century. The cultural pattern is intact, although there has been some field amalgamation and some of the larger fields have been subdivided with wire or electric fences. The hedgerows are intensively managed hawthorn, but with a wide range of other species, including elderberry, blackthorn and sycamore.

Communications

A network of narrow lanes with steep banks and wide verges and two footpaths.

Built Environment

Two small hamlets and a number of small farms are dispersed at intervals along the lanes. Five of the fourteen houses in the area are Grade II listed.



Principal Settled Farmlands

Dovaston

Parcel number 4

(18 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 22 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 14 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

Dovaston Parcel number 4 (18 ha)

A landscape, underlain by Triassic sandstone, giving rise to reddish brown sandy soils. The landscape slopes quite steeply to meet the level glacial till soils at their base. While there are some areas of arable agriculture, the area is mainly pastoral. The hedgerow system is still largely intact.

Key Characteristics

- Prominent landform of a moderate slope, rising abruptly above the flat, glacial till plain
- Shallow, free draining sandy loam soils, overlying red sandstone
- A pastoral landscape, with two blocks of intensive arable land
- Patches of bracken on field and road edges
- Medium sized, rectangular fields, with thorn hedges
- Tree cover of scattered hedgerow trees, predominately oak
- Wayside cottages and sandstone holdings along the roadside

Geology and Landform

The landform is an even, moderately steep slope, where the underlying Triassic Wilmslow Sandstone landscape drops away to meet the level, heavier, glacial till soils. The landscape is visually prominent, as the slope contrasts clearly with the flat plain below.

Soils and Land Use

The soils belong to the Bridgnorth Soil Association, the red underlying sandstone giving a light sandy loam of variable, although often shallow depth. The dominant economic activity was smallholder dairying, now replaced by the grazing of sheep and horses.

Ecology

Vestiges of bracken in the field boundaries and uncultivated field corners reflect the free draining sandy loam soils. There are areas of neutral/acidic, semi-intensive pasture, usually grazed by sheep. There is no woodland, although a few of the boundaries have localised, dense hedgerow trees. Ecological corridors are variable; those hedges which follow the slope are generally intact, giving reasonable access to the wetter fields at the base of the slope; those across the slope are often fragmented and the gaps fenced.

Tree Cover

The trees associated with this landscape are intermittent hedgerow trees, although there are some small coppices, which link with the hedgerows. The hedgerow trees are usually mature oak, with a sprinkling of ash and the occasional sycamore. They are an important landscape feature, as are the groups of exotic trees planted in gardens. There are wide, sweeping views to the South Shropshire Hills, the Breidden Hills and the Montgomeryshire Hills.

Enclosure

It is a landscape of medium to small, regular-shaped fields, which have straight, intensively managed hedges, some of which are declining. Piecemeal enclosure from open fields was completed before the end of the 17th century. On the northern side of the parcel, along the edge of the former heath, there remain some squatters' enclosures of small rectilinear paddocks, clustered around smallholdings. Hedgerows are predominantly hawthorn, but include sycamore, hops, hazel, elm, holly and blackthorn. Many hedges now have gaps, sometimes repaired with rails. The loss of intact hedgerow is usually associated with areas of arable farming.

Communications

The Kinnerley to A5 road, the narrow, winding, single-track lanes, with steep banks, and two footpaths.

Built Environment

Individual smallholdings and crofts at intervals along the roads. These small sandstone cottages remain a feature of this landscape.



Principal Settled Farmlands

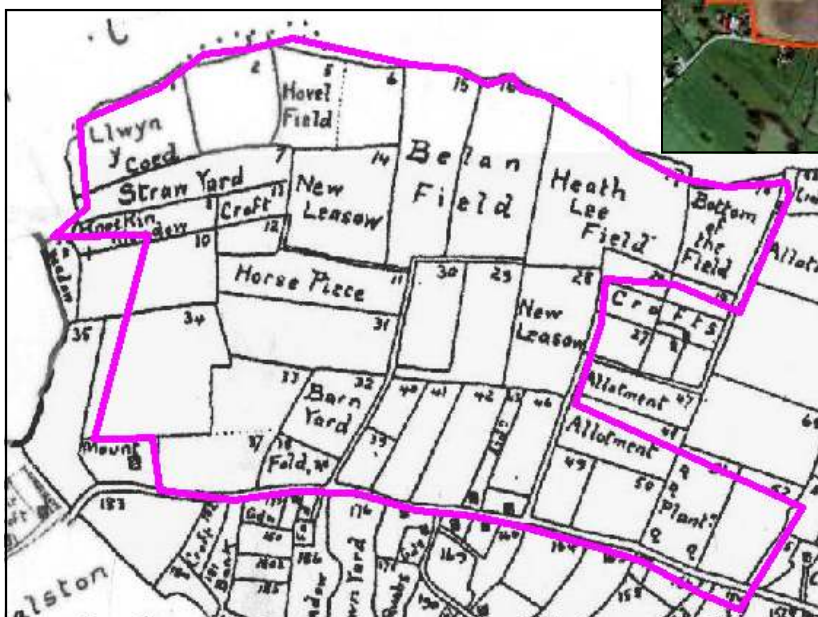
Dovaston

Parcel numbers 5 and 5a

(42 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 34 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 11 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

Dovaston Parcel numbers 5 and 5a (42 ha)

Open landscape of very large arable post-war fields, sloping towards the Weir Brook. Apart from a small wood, tree cover is sparse, Soils are reddish brown, light sandy loams.

Key Characteristics

- Sloping, open, large arable landscape with extensive views
- Triassic Wilmslow Sandstone geology
- Arable farming dominant
- Medium to large fields, of modern origin, giving an open aspect
- Large linear, post-war enclosures
- Scattered, sparse hedgerow trees

Geology and Landform

The geology is one of soils derived from Triassic Wilmslow Sandstones. The landscape slopes from the edge of the sandy heaths, westward and southward, towards the Weir Brook, where the slope levels out and the soils gradually change to those derived from glacial tills and peats. The area 5a, Halston field, has been included in this parcel (see maps on pages 72/73).

Soils and Land Use

These light, sandy loams, of the Bridgnorth Soil Association are freely draining. In the past, it was an area of mixed farming, but land use now is one of intensive arable agriculture, which has removed much of the area's cultural pattern, due to the loss of hedgerows and their trees. There are wide sweeping views to Llanymynech Hill, the Welsh Hills and the Breiddens.

Ecology

The main ecological corridors are along the bridle path and the watercourses. The regularly managed Weir Brook has few trees. The smaller watercourses have more tree cover, in an area where intensive farming and loss of hedgerows has left few other ecological corridors.

The woods are isolated by farmland. A bridle path through the centre of this area, with fine hedgerow oak and ash trees, is an important feature.

Tree Cover

Trees make little impact on this landscape, apart from a small wood of mixed species, which is surrounded by arable fields. The ash and oak trees associated with the hedgerows are intermittent. A feature of this landscape is a row of oaks, which line the bridle way. Localised examples of mature ash and the occasional sycamore scattered within the hedges, although sparse, are an important landscape feature. The northern edge of this landscape is lined by a dense row of trees, alder and ash which follow the line of a small stream.

Enclosure

The original enclosure of this landscape was the result of piecemeal enclosure. Agricultural intensification has seen the creation of large post-war fields to meet the requirements for increased production in the later 20th century. Over most of the area the hedges are intensively managed. In those areas where stock is grazed, the hedges are reinforced with wire fencing or replaced with stock fences.

Communications

The main road, a bridle path, with steep banks and high hedges and footpaths.

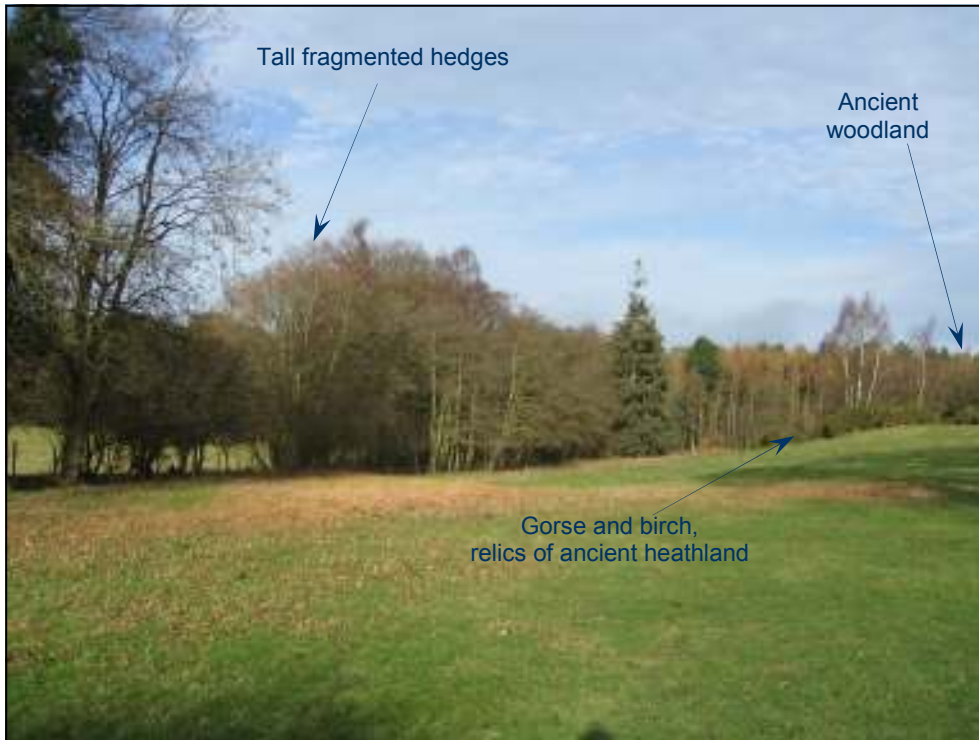
Built Environment

It is an open, quiet landscape with one small farm and some dispersed cottages.

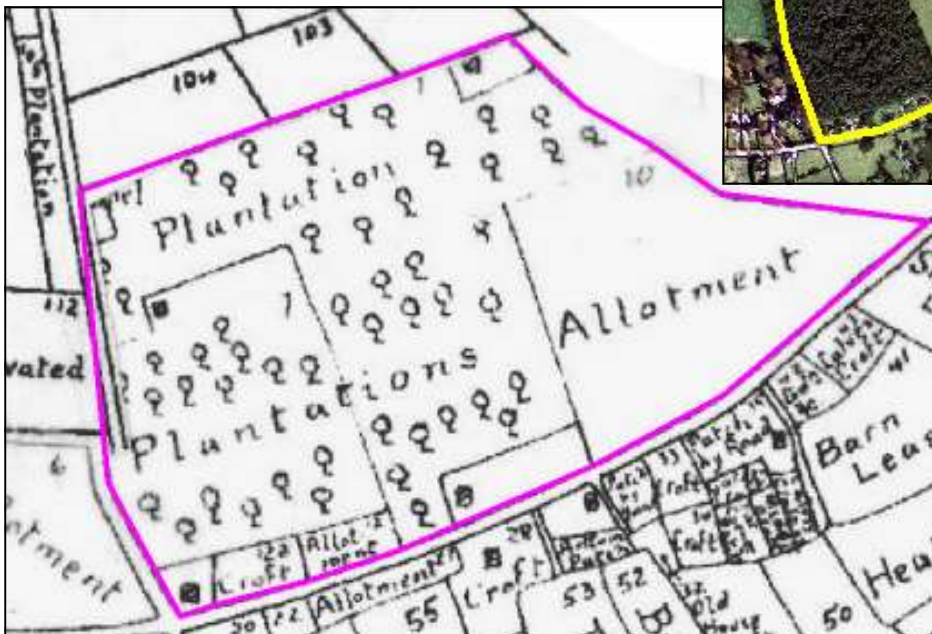


Enclosed Lowland Heaths

Knockin Heath Parcel number 6 (18 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 3 fields.
 The 2000 aerial photograph shows 3 fields



Enclosed Lowland Heaths

Knockin Heath Parcel number 6 (18 ha)

This is an area of gently sloping, sandy, impoverished soils, with an ordered pattern of sub regular fields, a feature of which is a block of mature mixed woodland.

Key Characteristics

- Largely woodland, with some semi-intensive pasture. A disused sand pit in one field is a feature
- Well drained sandy, heathland soil
- Open fields showing evidence of their origin from woodland and heath
- The major landscape feature is a mature plantation of conifer and oak.
- Field patterns are sub-regular

Geology and Landform

This is a gently sloping landscape, derived from acid heath land. The soils have been created from the underlying geology of Triassic Wilmslow Sandstone.

Soils and Land Use

The underlying sandstone has given rise to a light, grey loamy sand of varying depth, often shallow. The soils are Bridgnorth Association, grey sandy loams. Extraction of sand in the past, creating a sand pit, is indicative of the light, sandy nature of these soils. Much of the area is covered with unmanaged woodland, some of which is comparatively recent conifer plantation, while other areas have been wooded since at least the late 18th century. The small fields are semi-intensively managed pasture.

Ecology

Evidence of the heath derived landscape can be seen in localised clumps of gorse, bracken in the hedgerow and the occasional birch tree in the fields. The grassland is semi-improved, although some areas have been re-sown. The major habitat is unmanaged woodland, some of which is classified as ancient woodland. The trees are mainly Scots pine, as well as a substantial quantity of oak and other native trees, particularly sycamore. Bracken, gorse and small patches of whinberry are also present.

Ecological corridors are good. The hedgerows adjacent to the road, principally hawthorn, are intensively managed. The internal hedgerows are overgrown and contain a mixture of species.

Tree Cover

The area is tranquil and rural, with dense woodland on one side and open views towards the Breidden Hills on the other. The overall impression is of a largely wooded landscape; even within the fields there are large clumps of mature trees, either Scots pine or oak. The oaks are relics left when the original woodland was cleared. These have created wide, wooded corridors along the hedgerow boundaries, adjacent to woodland. Birch, holly and sycamore are also present as hedgerow trees, although oak predominates.

Enclosure

At the end of the 18th century, the entire area was wooded, with the exception of one field. The enclosure pattern is one of sub-regular fields with sinuous boundaries adjacent to the woods, while other boundaries, along the roadside, are straight. The roadside hedges, largely hawthorn, are intensively managed. The internal hedges are overgrown, fragmented and contain a mixture of species, including elderberry, gorse, birch, hazel, holly and oak.

Communications

The main Kinnerley road, a small lane and two footpaths.

Built Environment

There is a small, 1930s, prefabricated bungalow in one corner of this parcel and a row of modern houses on the roadside. The sandpit, now disused, is a feature.



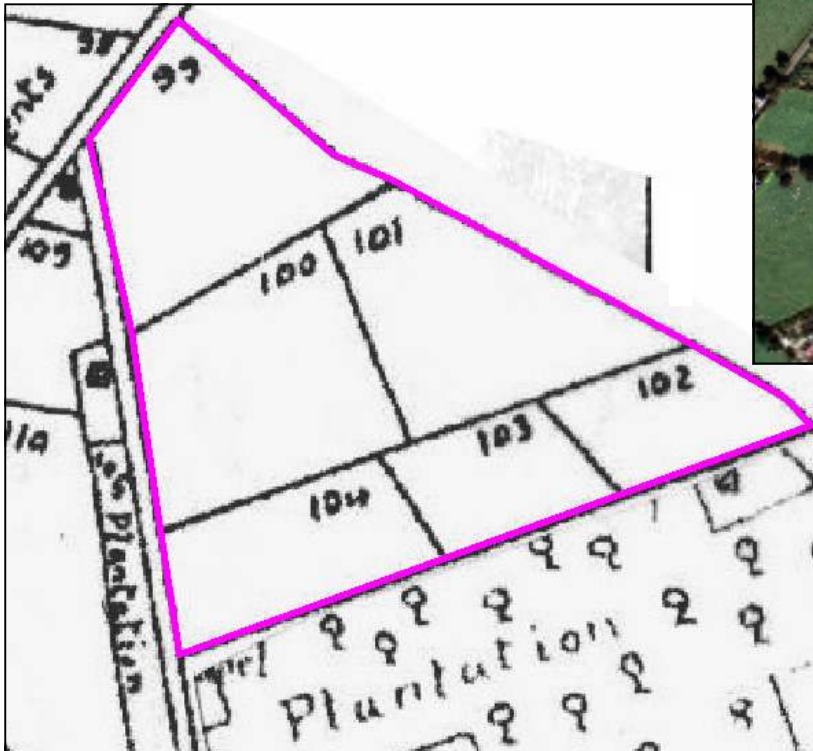
Enclosed Lowland Heaths

Knockin Heath Parcel number 7 (7 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 6 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph shows 3 fields



Enclosed Lowland Heaths

Knockin Heath Parcel number 7 (7 ha)

Gently sloping landscape derived from sandy, acidic heathland. An open landscape where modern agricultural practices have enlarged the field size. Tree cover is sparse and hedges are intensively managed

Key Characteristics

- The landform is of moderately sloping fields with even gradient
- Well drained, grey, sandy, acidic soils
- Small to medium rectilinear fields divided by straight hedges
- Gorse and bracken associations in hedgerows and field corners
- Hedgerow tree cover sparse

Geology and Landform

The underlying geology is one of Triassic Wilmslow Sandstone, in places close to the surface; it is overlain by pale, sandy, grey topsoil. This is an evenly sloping landscape, derived from heathland.

Soils and Land Use

The sandstone bedrock has formed a light, loamy, sandy soil of varying depth, often shallow, belonging to the Bridgnorth Soil Association. These soils drain rapidly and some wind erosion can occur on bare, cultivated soils. Intensive arable agriculture is practised where the field size has been enlarged; where the fields have retained their original size, associated with a smallholding, there is permanent pasture.

Ecology

In those areas where the fields are small and arable agriculture is not practised, the fields have been heavily overgrazed by horses. There is evidence of high populations of rabbits, which also contribute to the heavy over grazing. Some patches of bracken and gorse are still visible in the hedges. The ecological value varies; that part of this parcel which abuts a substantial wood, together with the existing hedgerow system, provide some terrestrial corridors. This area has also retained a few of its hedgerow trees, mainly oak, which together with a tall unmanaged hawthorn hedge adds to the area's ecological diversity. The remainder of the area is intensively farmed, with little of ecological interest.

Tree Cover

With the exception of the large wood along the eastern boundary, tree cover is sparse, creating wide, open views. Where intensive agriculture is practised, hedgerow trees are insignificant. In the fields alongside the wood there are scattered oaks both within the hedgerow and as relic trees, marking old hedgerow boundaries. The overall appearance is of two different areas, one without trees and intensively farmed, and the other with a wooded appearance, enhanced by the large wood running alongside.

Enclosure

This area owes its character to planned enclosure of former heathland, which was completed by the late 18th century. The fields have very straight boundaries, giving the area a geometric appearance. One large field has been created out of three, while the three small fields, associated with the smallholding alongside the wood, are unchanged. Hedgerows are predominately hawthorn, although there are other associated species, particularly blackthorn. Many of the hedges are wide and intensively managed. Recently post and rail boundary fences have replaced the hedges in the fields associated with the smallholding.

Communications

The lanes within this parcel are straight, narrow and have wide, uniform verges. There are two footpaths

Built Environment

This is an empty landscape, apart from one cottage, now much enlarged, adjacent to the wood.



Enclosed Lowland Heaths

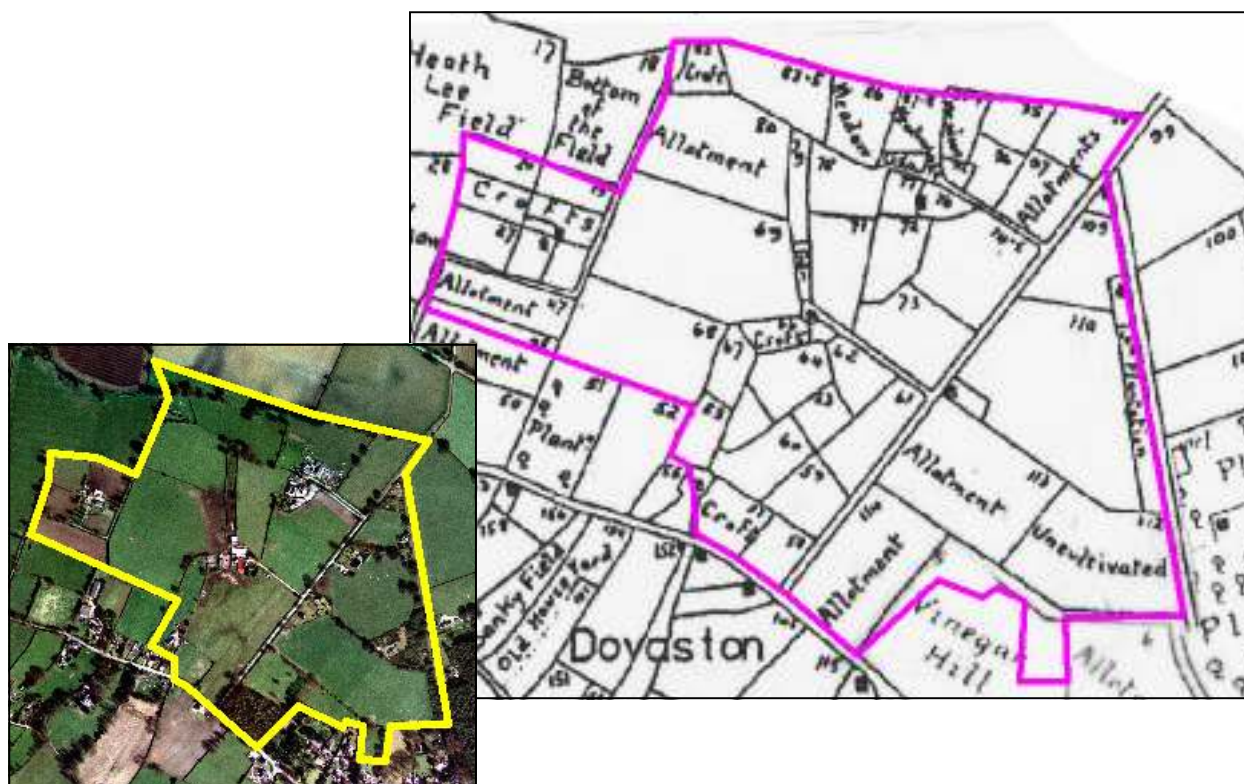
Knockin Heath/Dovaston

Parcel number 8

(36 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 42 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 19 fields



Enclosed Lowland Heaths

Knockin Heath/Dovaston Parcel number 8 (36ha)

A gently undulating, intensively farmed, mainly pastoral agricultural landscape, with smallholdings and small cottages throughout the landscape. The hedges are intensively maintained, with scattered hedgerow trees.

Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating landscape with distant views
- The landscape is derived from ancient heathland
- The soils are derived from Wilmslow Sandstones
- Medium rectilinear field systems with straight boundaries
- Predominately intensive dairy farming, some arable and some less intensively managed grassland
- Field boundaries are thorn, largely intact
- Hedgerow trees are intermittent, usually mature oak, but also other native species
- Straight country lanes with wide verges
- Smallholdings, usually sited away from the road

Geology and Landform

This is a gently undulating landscape created from open heath land during the 17th and 18th centuries. The underlying geology is one of Triassic Wilmslow Sandstone.

Soils and Land Use

The soils, which belong to the Bridgnorth Association, are grey loamy sands with low water holding capacity. Dairying and intensive grassland husbandry are the predominant land use. There are small areas of less intensively managed grassland.

Ecology

Much of the grassland is a rye grass/clover mix, with few other species present. The main ecological habitat is the hedgerow system, largely intact, which provides terrestrial corridors. In those areas, where the fields have been enlarged, the hedgerow network is more fragmented and is of less ecological value. The well wooded, small ditch on the northern parish boundary provides good corridors.

Mature oaks and other indigenous trees in the hedgerows add to the ecological diversity.

Tree Cover

Although the area has the feeling of being well wooded, this is largely the effect of intermittent, mature, hedgerow trees; some fine oak, ash and sycamore. A few mature field trees and a small wood, made up largely of oak, larch and holly, give the area a reasonably wooded feel. There are wide views to the Breidden Hills.

Enclosure

The enclosure pattern is derived from a mixture of squatters' enclosure and planned enclosure of open heathland. Field systems are principally small to medium rectilinear fields with straight boundaries. While the size of many of the fields has increased substantially, those adjacent to the small farms retain the original small size and rectilinear shape, typical of squatters' enclosures. Most of the hedgerows are intensively managed, although a few hedges have become tall and fragmented. The hedges are species-rich, particularly along the bridle paths, including blackthorn, elm, crab apple, elderberry and hazel. Gorse and bracken are also present in the hedgerows.

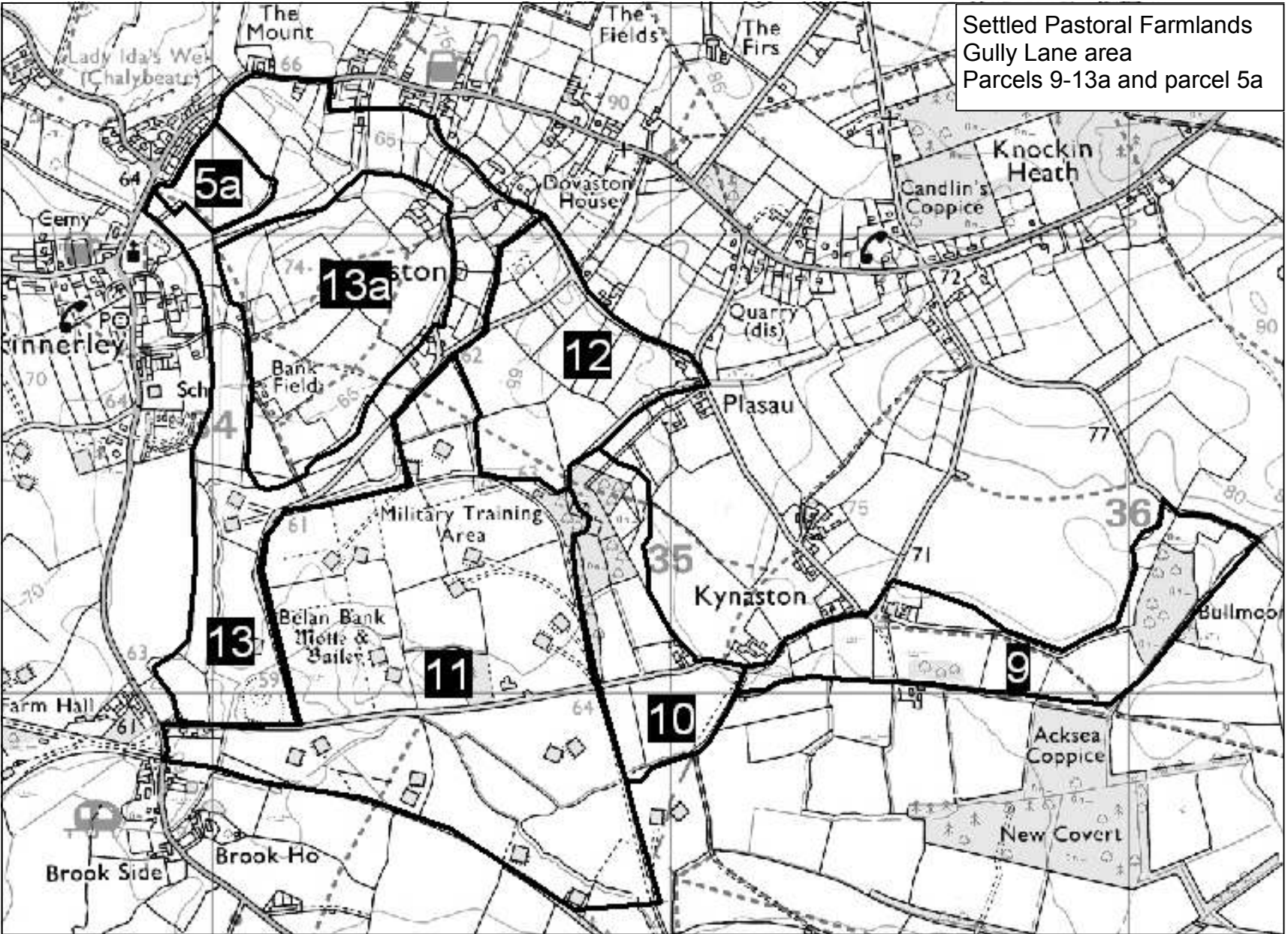
Communications

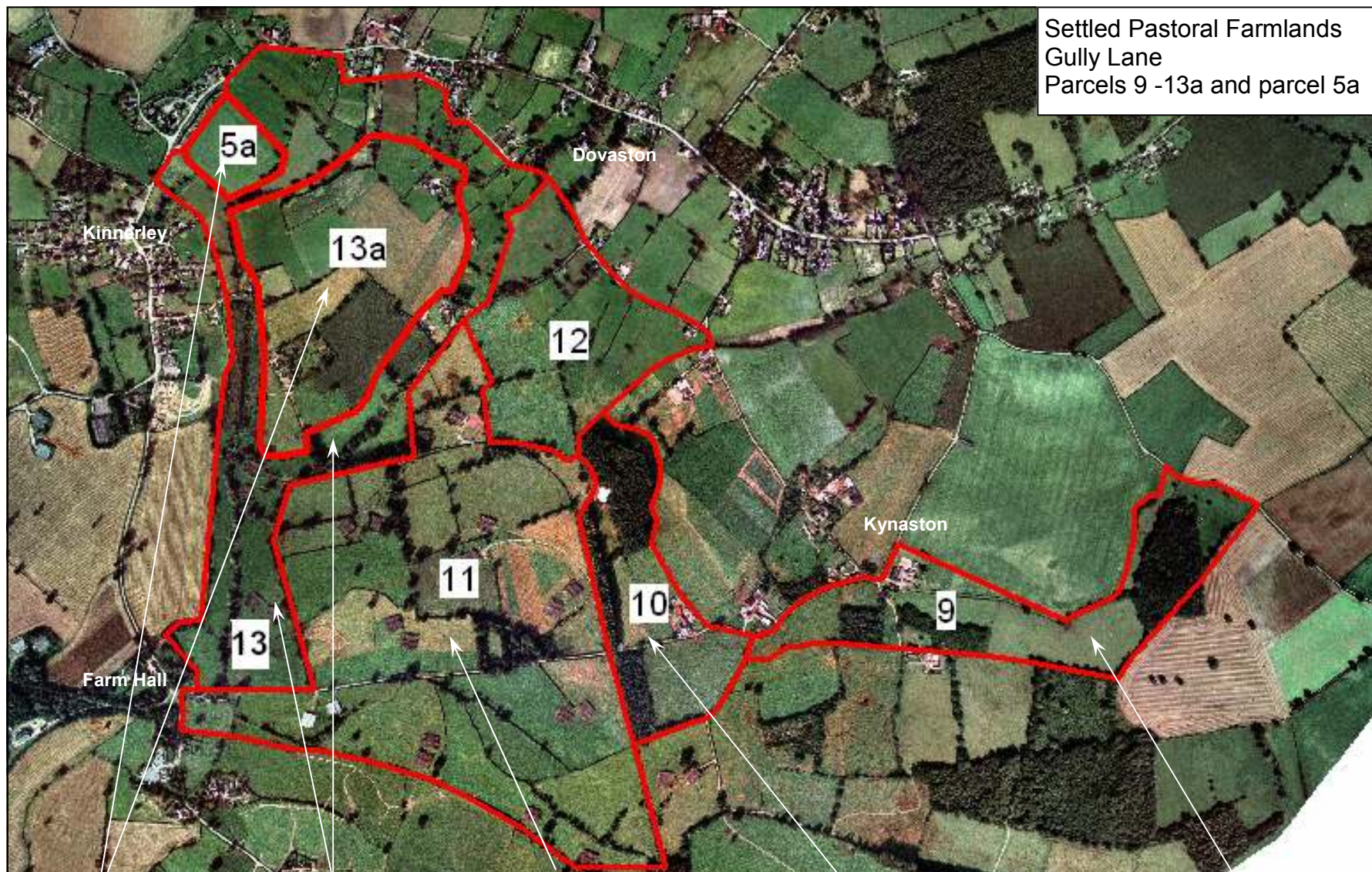
The roads are narrow and straight, with very wide verges, while the farm holdings are usually connected to the road system by their own lanes. The area has a network of footpaths as well as a bridle path from Dovaston to Knockin.

Built Environment

The built landscape is sparse, consisting of scattered farm holdings within their own boundaries and individual wayside cottages.







Sandy Loamy Soils
Bridgnorth Association

Sandy Clays

Loamy Silts
Pinder Association

Peat/Peaty Loams
Adventurers' Soil Association

Peaty Loams
Adventurers' Soil Association

Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Kynaston

Parcel number 9

(19 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 21 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 8 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Kynaston Parcel number 9 (19 ha)

A narrow strip of pasture, with restricted drainage, at the base of free draining heath soils. Field patterns are constrained by the narrow strip between the lanes on one side and the ditches, woods and coppices on the other. It is a well wooded area which includes the ancient Bullmoor Wood.

Key Characteristics

- Flat grassland in a low-lying area, where the glacial deposits meet the sandstone geology
- Soils either peaty loam or silty clay loam
- Streams and ditches lined with alder and, less commonly, oak and ash
- Stands of alder and mixed woodland a dominant feature
- Enclosures follow the shape of the streams, woods and ditches
- Small pools and wet areas

Geology and Landform

A flat area at the base of the free draining upland heaths. Ponds or wet spots occur in low-lying areas. The soils are derived from glacial deposits.

Soils and Land Use

The sub-soil is a slow draining, clay loam, overlain in some areas by black peaty loams and in others by sandy clay loams. Soil Associations are Adventurers' Series in the peaty areas and Pinder Association in areas of heavier soils. The water table is high and the fields are often wet in winter. The land is used for grazing. Mixed woodland and clumps of alder, largely unmanaged, are a dominant landscape feature.

Ecology

This is an area of high ecological value, with good quality terrestrial corridors. A green lane has species-rich hedges and, in places, where the saplings have not been checked, sycamore and other hedgerow trees. This lane leads to Bullmoor Wood, an ancient, unmanaged mixed woodland. The other boundaries are small streams, Acksea Coppice and other woodland. Wherever there are hollows, there are a number of ponds and wet areas, often associated with clumps of alder and oak. The streams are densely wooded, with well developed terrestrial corridors, which contrast with the adjoining areas of open farmland.

Tree Cover

The area is well wooded, with dense clumps of woodland, belts of trees along streams and

alder clumps on the edges of the fields. Isolated trees, usually oak, occur where hedgerows previously existed. Bullmoor Wood is an important ancient woodland. In the wetter areas and alongside the streams and ditches, the predominant species is alder. In areas of woodland and hedgerows, oak, ash and sycamore are present. The several small ponds are associated with clumps of trees, usually alder, often oak and occasionally willow.

Enclosure

This damp landscape has a high winter water table. Most of the hedges and enclosure patterns of the 18th century have been retained. Enclosure patterns are those of small irregular fields with sinuous boundaries, together with drained wetland fields and squatters' enclosures. These field patterns probably evolved from an area of common, wet pasture land. The hedges alongside the road are intensively managed and have few hedgerow trees. However, the green lane, which forms one of the boundaries, has species-rich hedges, as have those hedges associated with the fields adjacent to Bullmoor Wood. Hawthorn is the main species, but holly, guelder rose, elderberry, honeysuckle, blackthorn and sycamore, as well as bracken are also present.

Communications

A single narrow lane, with wide verges. A green lane giving access to fields and a lane leading to a small cottage.

Built Environment

One farm house and associated farm buildings.

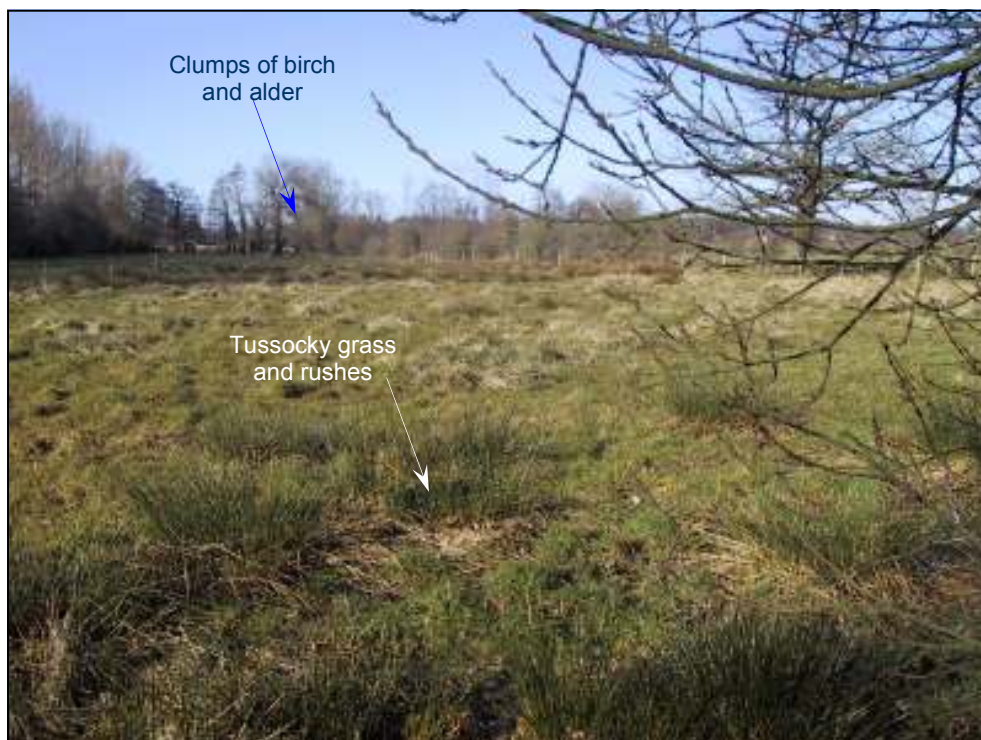


Settled Pastoral Farmlands

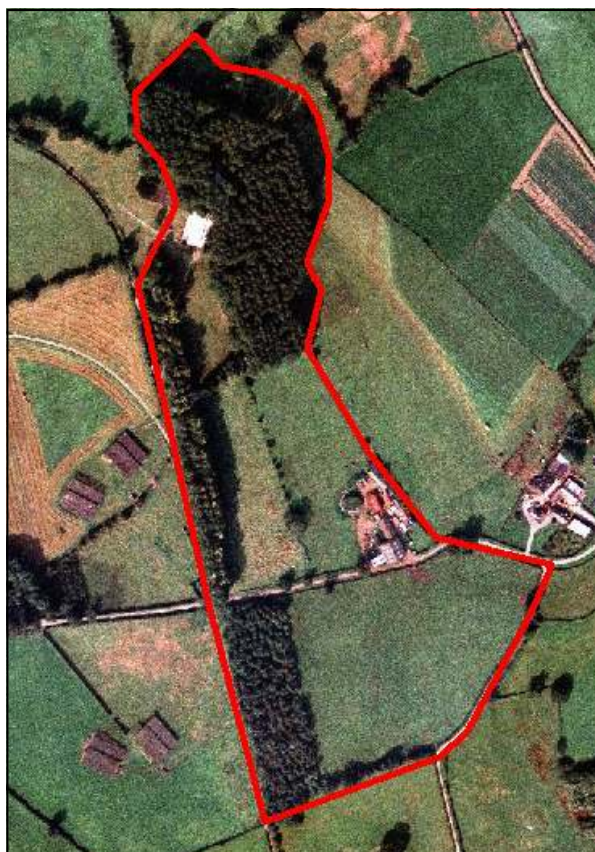
Kynaston

Parcel number 10

(13 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 17 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 5 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Kynaston Parcel number 10 (13 ha)

A small, level, boggy pasture area, associated with wet peaty soils. Enclosure boundaries are small, rectilinear, with fenced ditches in the wetter areas and hawthorn hedges in other areas. Small plantations of poplar along the line of the railway and groves of alder and birch in low-lying areas are a feature.

Key Characteristics

- Small, flat, low-lying fields with rectilinear boundaries
- The peaty areas waterlogged, with rushes and coarse grasses
- Dairy farming on areas of improved grassland
- Hedgerow trees are uncommon and often over mature
- Plantations of poplar trees along the railway line and birch and alder in the wetter, low-lying areas
- In areas of improved grassland, the hedgerows are intact, but are absent or vestigial along the boundary ditches in the boggy areas
- Derelict railway line on the boundary

Geology and Landform

A flat, low-lying landscape, which has standing water in hollows and un-drained areas. The underlying geology is one of glacial till deposits.

Soils and Land Use

In the low-lying areas, the top soils are a black peat or loamy peat, of the Adventurers' Soil Association, above a heavy silty clay loam. In the other, slightly raised areas, the soils are sandy clay loams, overlying heavy sandy clay loams. The heavy nature of the sub-soils is confirmed by one of the field names, Brick Kiln Meadow. Where the fields have been drained, there is intensive pasture management for dairy cows. In those areas where the soils are peaty, the grassland is unimproved, boggy, with rushes, while in some of the wetter areas, there are stands of alder and birch.

Ecology

This is an area with high ecological value. Along one side is the old railway network; an important ecological corridor, which links this area to Turfmoor, Pentre and Maesbrook. While there is some intensively managed grass sward, the low-lying, boggy fields contain either unimproved, coarse grasses and rushes or patches of alder or

birch growing under waterlogged conditions. The hedges, in areas of improved pasture, are intact and intensively managed, while the boundary ditches in the peat areas are fenced and hedgerows are largely absent. Areas of alder and birch are unmanaged and have thick undergrowth of wetland flora.

Tree Cover

A distinctive feature of the whole landscape is the lines of poplars planted along the railway line. These are now mature and are a major feature on this flat landscape. A mixed plantation of birch, alder and some wild cherry, together with a large block of unmanaged alder gives this area a wooded appearance. In the intensively managed grassland areas, there are a few oak hedgerow trees, while in those areas of waterlogged peat, the sparse boundary trees are over mature and dying back.

Enclosure

The enclosure pattern of these small rectilinear fields, is one of squatters' enclosures on former common land, established some time before the end of the 18th century. While some of these small fields have been enlarged, the original field pattern is still intact. The straight field boundaries vary, with managed hawthorn hedges in those fields where the pasture management is intensive. In the boggy, wet areas, the field boundaries are either fences alongside open ditches or, particularly alongside the poplar plantation, very neglected and overgrown alder and hawthorn.

Communications

A narrow lane, with wide verges; the track bed of the derelict railway line which is now used as a farm road.

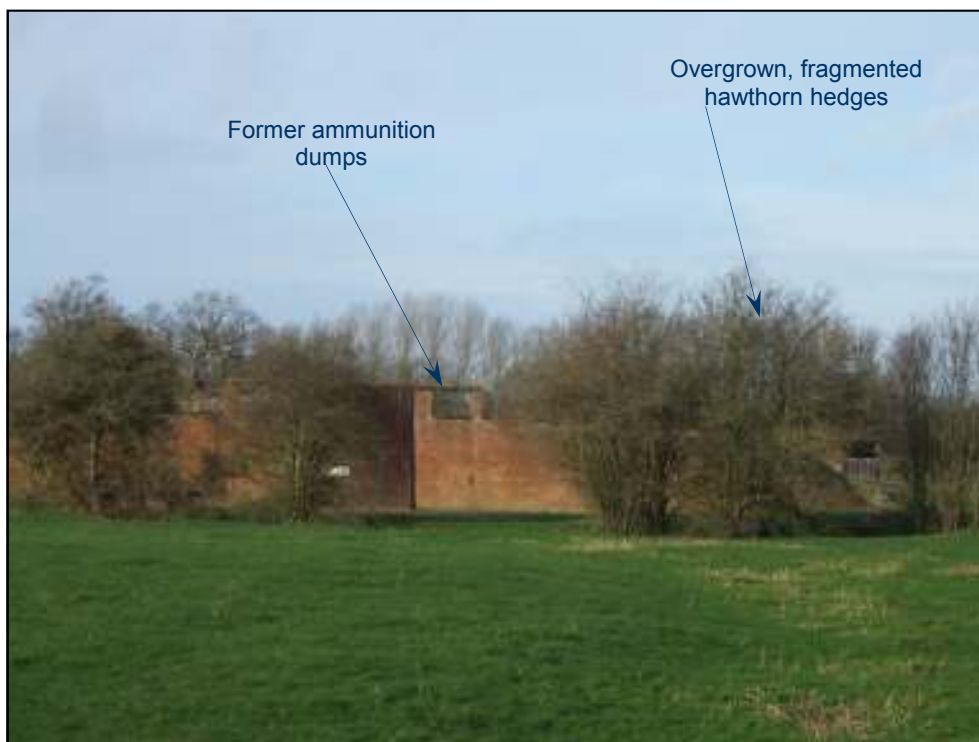
Built Environment

A single traditional smallholding.

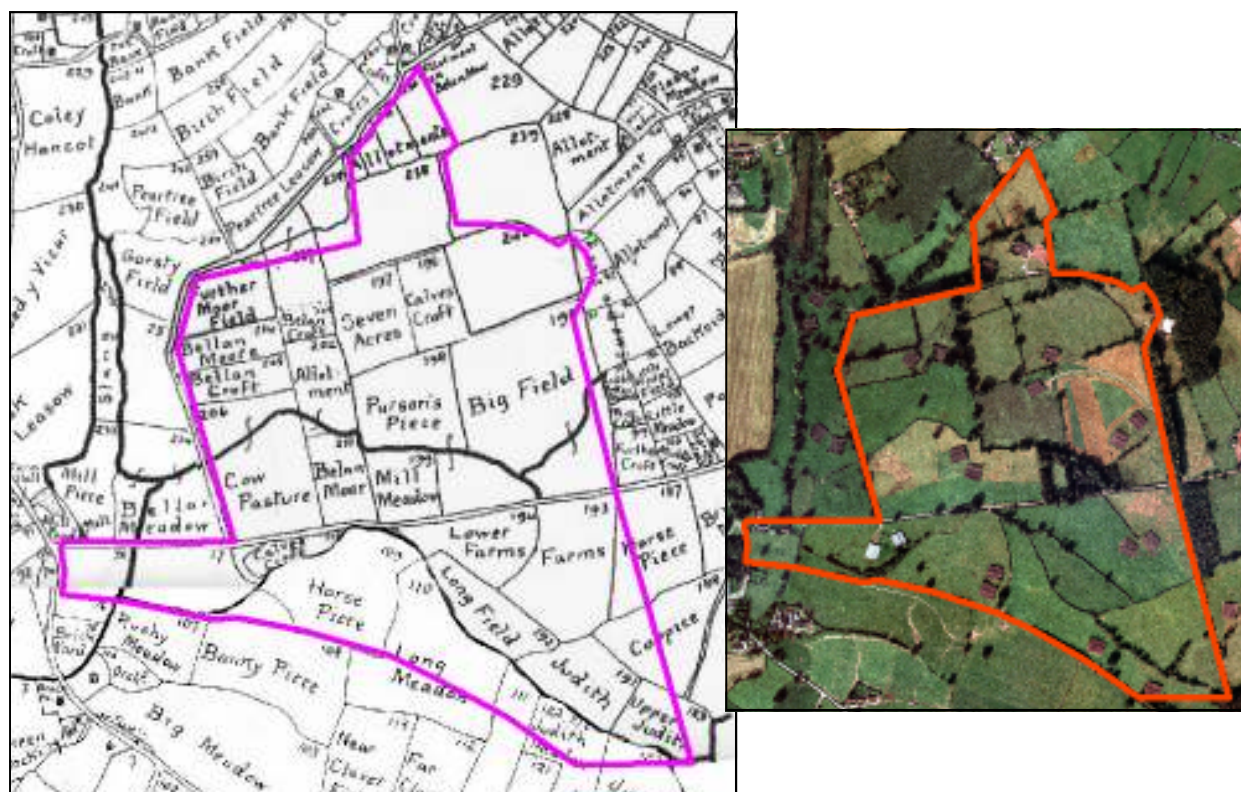


Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Gully Lane Parcel number 11 (60 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 30 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 19 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Gully Lane Parcel number 11 (60 ha)

The dominant landscape feature is the large number of Second World War ammunition bunkers. The small fields often have overgrown hedges and deep ditches and streams running through a flat landscape. Dense hedgerow trees and tall hawthorn give this area an enclosed feel.

Key Characteristics

- Flat pastoral landscape, intersected with a series of small streams and ditches
- Patches of rushes in low-lying spots
- Sandy, silt loams or clay loams and, in wetter places, areas of loamy peat
- Traditional pastoral agriculture
- Prominent trees, particularly oak and tall hawthorn hedges
- Small to medium, sub-regular fields
- Large numbers of disused ammunition bunkers throughout landscape
- Narrow lanes, often with dense, oak hedgerow trees

Geology and Landform

A low-lying, flat landscape, intersected by a series of small streams or ditches, often with deep, steep sides draining towards the Weir Brook. The geology is of underlying glacial till deposits at the base of the Triassic Sandstones.

Soils and Land Use

The soils, belonging to the Pinder Soil Association, are sandy silt loams, overlying poorly draining, clay loams. The area is damp and gives rise to numerous streams. It is farmed at a low intensity, due to its use by the military as a troop training ground. The whole area is grassland, either semi-improved or improved.

Ecology

Small fields and the network of streams, neglected hedges and corridors of poplar trees provide good habitat corridors. Wherever there are low-lying hollows, the ground is marshy with rushes and coarse grasses. Hay is still made. The old railway tracks, many of which are overgrown, also provide good ecological corridors, due to encroachment of briars, scrub trees and other flora. Oak trees in the hedgerows are a feature of the area. The hedgerows are often unmanaged and fragmented and associated with small ditches and streams. Regeneration of scrub and small trees around the ammunition bunkers has created islands of good habitat, in otherwise open fields.

Tree Cover

Dense rows of poplar trees, planted by the military and now mature, run parallel to and alongside the derelict railway track. These, in this flat landscape, have become a distinctive landscape feature. The dominant tree in the hedgerows is oak, an impressive landscape feature. These are complemented by widespread oak field-trees throughout the landscape. Alder is common, as is hawthorn, which, in places, has been allowed to grow, unhindered by hedge cutting. There are a few small plantations, often of alder, and some clumps of native trees, including wild cherry and Scots pine, which have been allowed to grow around the edges of the old military buildings and bunkers.

Enclosure

The enclosure pattern is of irregular and rectilinear fields, enclosed from common rough pasture. The field shapes and sizes have kept many of the original field patterns. Engineering works, dating from the time when the railway system and ammunition bunkers were built, has altered some boundaries. The intensively managed roadside hedges, while largely hawthorn, contain a wide mixture of other species, including blackthorn, dogwood, wild cherry, guelder rose and wild plum. The hedgerows within this landscape, often overgrown and fragmented hawthorn hedges, have become landscape features. Briar and elderberry are common.

Communications

Small, narrow lanes with either ditches or wide verges. The old railway lines are used as internal roads to the fields and bunkers. There are two footpaths.

Built Environment

The main line of the Old Potts Railway forms one boundary of this landscape, within which is an abandoned network of old railway tracks, constructed to serve the now mostly derelict ammunition bunkers. Some of these bunkers are now used as agricultural sheds. There are no dwellings or farm buildings within this area.

Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Dovaston

Parcel number 12

(16 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 22 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 10 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Dovaston Parcel number 12 (16 ha)

A flat, low-lying landscape, with deep ditches and small streams. Hedgerow trees are a feature. An area of small to medium sized fields, where pastoral farming dominates.

Key Characteristics

- Low-lying, rather wet area, with small to medium rectilinear fields
- Sandy silt loam and clay loam soils
- Pastoral agriculture, based on cattle, horses and sheep
- A network of small streams or ditches
- Mature oaks in the hedgerows and alongside ditches and streams

Geology and Landform

This is a low-lying, flat landscape, intersected by a series of small streams or ditches, often with deep, steep sides. It is a damp area, often waterlogged in winter, when surface water collects in hollows. The geology is one of underlying glacial till deposits at the base of the Triassic Sandstone. The area, which is damp, gives rise to numerous streams draining towards the Weir Brook.

Soils and Land Use

The soils, belonging to the Pinder Soils Association, are sandy silt loams, overlying heavy clay loams. These become gradually heavier and more waterlogged towards the western side, where smaller fields and the network of streams are dominant features. In wetter, low-lying areas, the surface soils are a darker, peaty loam, overlying clay loams. The whole area is pastoral, with semi-improved or improved grassland, used to graze sheep, cattle and horses.

Ecology

Although this parcel has no military ammunition bunkers, some of it is owned by the army and it has remained a pastoral area. The small fields and traditional pastoral agriculture has helped to maintain good terrestrial corridors, both along hedgerows and streams. In this low-lying area there are a number of mature oaks, as well as fully grown hawthorn in neglected hedgerows. The fine oaks are a feature of the area. The streams and drainage ditches are densely lined with a variety of trees, alder being the most common, but oak, willow, sycamore and ash are also present. Many of the main ditches are regularly maintained and are, therefore, ecologically less valuable.

There are a significant number of boggy and rushy areas, often in fields where hay is made. It used to be an area where water-loving species such as king cups were common, but no longer, as there has been considerable drainage carried out since the Second World War.

Tree Cover

This landscape has a well wooded feel, due to the small fields, surrounded by dense hedgerow trees. The majority are mature oaks, although there are many examples of alder, ash, some sycamore and the occasional willow. A double row of mature poplar trees running along the line of one of the derelict railway lines is a prominent feature. There are good views of the distant hills, filtered through the tree cover. The presence in some areas of tall, hawthorn hedges, adds to the enclosed feel of this area.

Enclosure

The field patterns have two main origins. In some areas they are rectilinear and boundaries follow the straight drainage ditches, typical of drained wetland. In these areas, the hedges are fragmented and fences more prominent. In other areas, the enclosure pattern is not regular, but one of small, irregular, rectilinear fields, derived from piecemeal enclosure of open fields. Wherever the fields have been retained by the military for training, there has been little change of hedgerow pattern. Wherever the land is in private ownership there has been some loss of hedgerows, but the old field pattern is still largely intact. The hedges are species-rich; in addition to the hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, elderberry, wild plum, wild rose, holly and blackberry are present. There are also small sections of elm hedges.

Communications

Narrow winding lanes, one footpath and the old railway tracks, now used as farm tracks.

Built Environment

Smallholdings and cottages are dispersed at intervals along the lanes.

King Cups



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

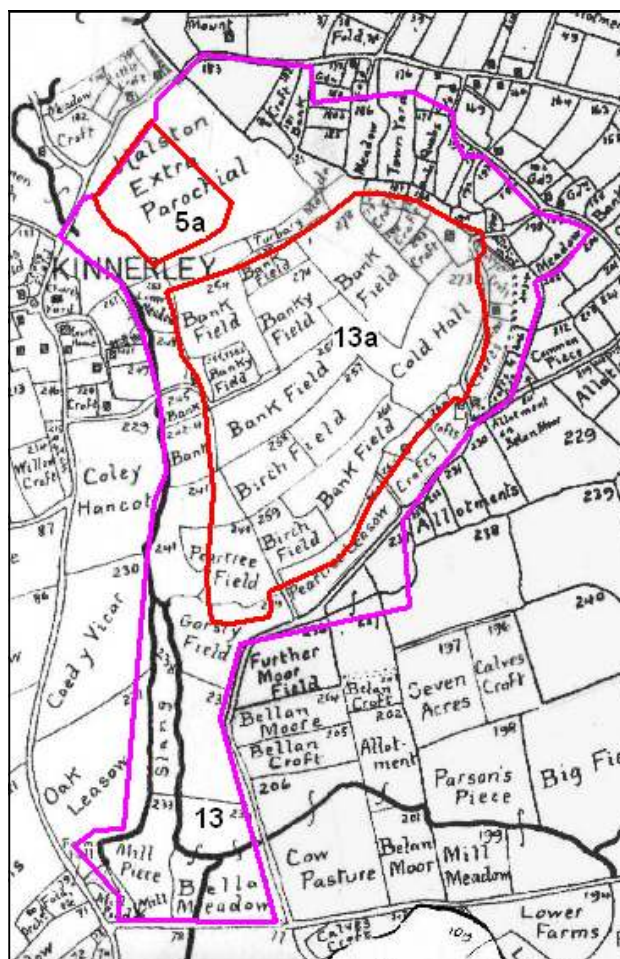
Dovaston/Kinnerley

Parcel number 13

(34 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 41 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 33 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Dovaston/Kinnerley Parcel number 13 (34 ha)

A landscape of small damp fields associated with streams and ditches. The soils, which are derived from glacial till deposits, are poorly drained. It is a low-lying area of small fields, with irregular boundaries, associated with brooks, streams and ditches.

Key Characteristics

- Narrow waterside meadows, drained by small streams
- Seasonally waterlogged, heavy and poorly drained soils
- Some alluvial soils, associated with the streams
- Semi-intensive pasture, with patches of unimproved grassland
- Localised patches of rushes
- Dense trees along the water courses, widespread alders, willow and some oak
- Eroded remains of a motte and bailey castle, and some derelict bunkers

Geology and Landform

This is a narrow, flat, low-lying landscape at the base of the raised sandy soils. The area corresponds to that shown on historic maps as Belan Moor. The landscape is associated with brooks and streams, which run through narrow, gently sloping meadows. The underlying geology is that of glacial till clays, although there are also small areas of alluvium and peat.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are variable. Most of the soils are seasonally waterlogged, clay loams, over-lying heavier, gleyed, poorly drained clay loams, of the Pinder Soil Association. There are also small areas of peaty loams and, in limited areas, the soils are derived from alluvium. The low-lying areas retain water throughout the winter, are boggy and commonly have rushes growing. The predominant land use is low-intensive pasture management for stock grazing. One smallholding is now a kennels.

Ecology

As part of the drainage management programme, the Weir Brook has become an over-managed stream with limited trees and flora. The smaller streams, however, often have dense lines of alder, willow and some oak, providing good ecological corridors.

This is an area of unimproved meadows, although a few fields are intensively managed. The whole area has good ecological potential. Many of the poorly drained fields retain their waterlogged status into the summer, providing good habitats. The hedgerows are intact. One field is being managed to encourage wild flowers, particularly *Fritillaria*.

Tree Cover

While there is only one small, recent plantation, mainly poplar and birch, which is intensively managed, the whole area has a wooded feeling, due to the numerous trees in hedgerows and along the banks of the brooks and streams. The hedgerow trees are usually oaks, but there are also examples of sycamore and ash. In the wetter areas, alder is the dominant tree species; along the stream banks willow is also common.

Enclosure

The fields are small, with irregular or sub-regular, often sinuous, boundaries. These have been influenced by the pattern of small streams and the narrow landscape. This field pattern has evolved from a mixture of squatters' enclosures and drainage of former common meadowland. The hedgerow pattern is intact, except for one area, where there has been military engineering works. In the well managed hedges, predominantly hawthorn, other species are also present, including blackthorn, willow, maple, hazel, holly, guelder rose and dog rose. Old field names suggest that turf cutting was carried out in one area.

Communications

A network of narrow winding lanes and two footpaths.

Built Environment

There are a few widely dispersed cottages or small farms along the sides of the lanes. At the southern end of this landscape are the remains of old "Kinnerley Castle", at Bellan Bank, (a motte and bailey castle), the silted up millpond at Farm Hall and a small number of Second World War ammunition bunkers.

Elderberry



Principal Settled Farmlands

Bankfields

Parcel number 13a

(22 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 17 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows
13 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

Bank Fields

Parcel number 13a

(22 ha)

A prominent, dome-shaped landscape, which slopes down to the wetter, heavier soils at its base. It is an open landscape, with wide views. Its land use is a mixture of pasture and arable.

• **Key Characteristics**

- Roughly circular area, rising to 10 metres above Kinnerley Village
- The geology is Triassic Wilmslow Sandstone, with till deposits on the lower parts
- Extensive views to the east and south west
- Land use is mixed arable and pasture
- Boundaries are hedges with scattered trees

Geology and Landform

The area is a prominent, dome-shaped area, reflecting the underlying sandstone geology. It forms an outlier from the Knockin Heath area to the east. The lower sections join the glacial deposits, giving rise to a wetter scene. There are extensive views from the higher ground to the west, Nesscliffe, and to the south-west, the Breidden Hills. Views from the lower ground are restricted by the land forms.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are a noticeably reddish, free draining sandy loam of the Bridgnorth Soil Association. Where the soils meet the darker, heavier soils at the base of this dome, they become darker and wetter. It is an area mainly of intensive pasture, leys and some arable.

Ecology

Those areas that are intensively farmed have limited ecological value. However, there are areas of semi-improved grassland and on the northern, steeper side, there is a small area of unimproved grassland. Hedges are generally in good condition, intact and with good links to the adjoining areas. These corridors are important, linking this raised, rather open landscape with the wetter areas, which surround it and which provide a semi-marshy habitat. In places, the tall, overgrown hedges and the scattered trees give this area further ecological interest.

Tree Cover

The intensive agriculture, associated with this light soil, has reduced the number of hedgerow trees, which are now intermittent. There are however, some fine examples of sycamore, as well as a few oak and some ash. The small lane leading to the area is lined with a dense row of trees, mainly sycamore. There is also a prominent avenue of hedgerow oaks leading up to one of the dwellings. This is an open landscape, with wide views.

Enclosure

The enclosure pattern is one of piecemeal enclosure from open fields probably completed by the late 17th century. Agricultural intensification in the later 20th century resulted in the enlargement of some fields, although the historic pattern of small irregular fields is still largely intact. The boundaries are straight, of mixed species, with intact hedges. The main species is hawthorn, which, in places, has been allowed to grow tall and leggy. Other species are hazel and blackthorn, as well as ash and sycamore. Hedge trees are sparse and scattered, with some isolated, mature field trees of sycamore and oak.

Communications

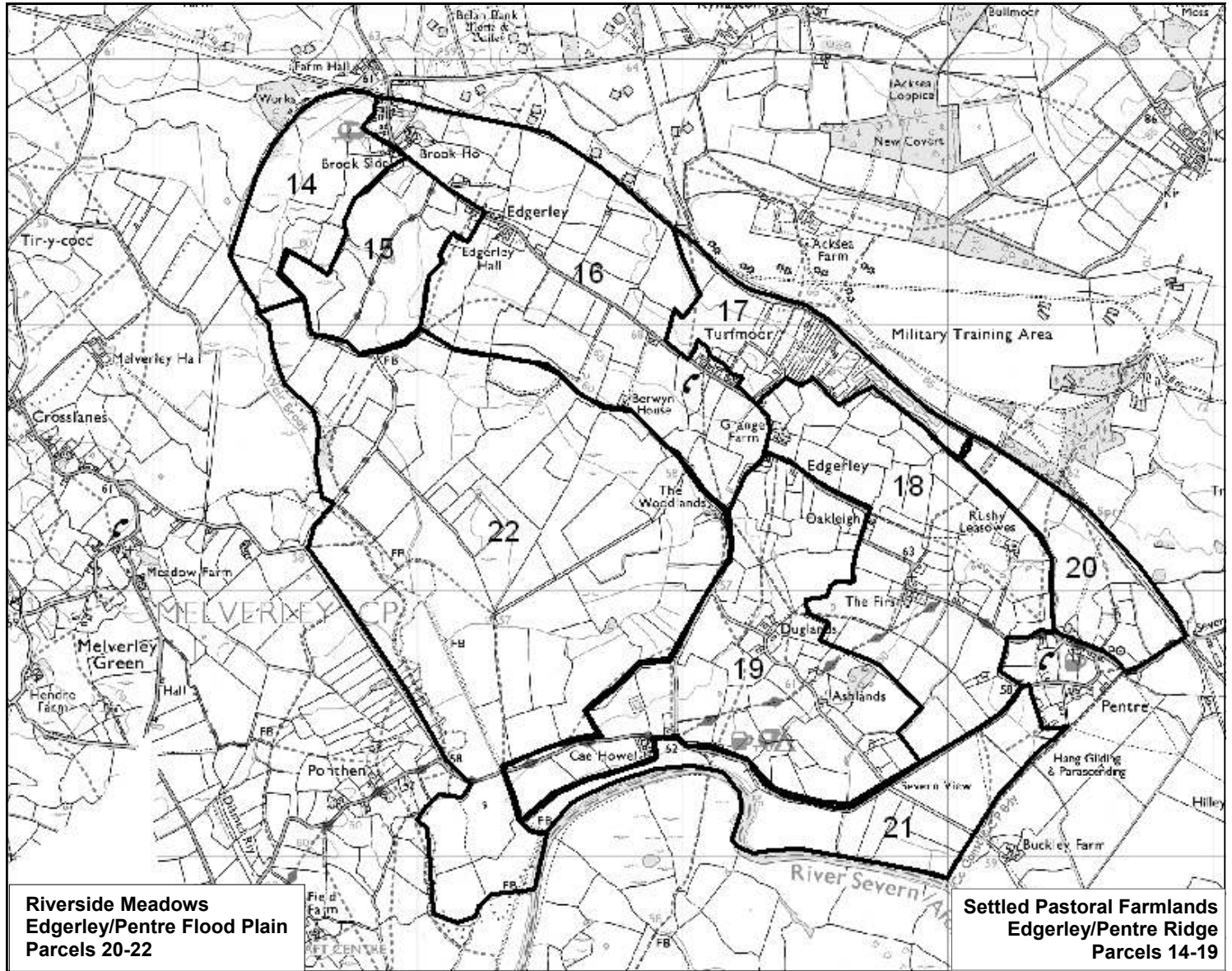
No roads cross the area, although it is approached by a lane. There are well used footpaths.

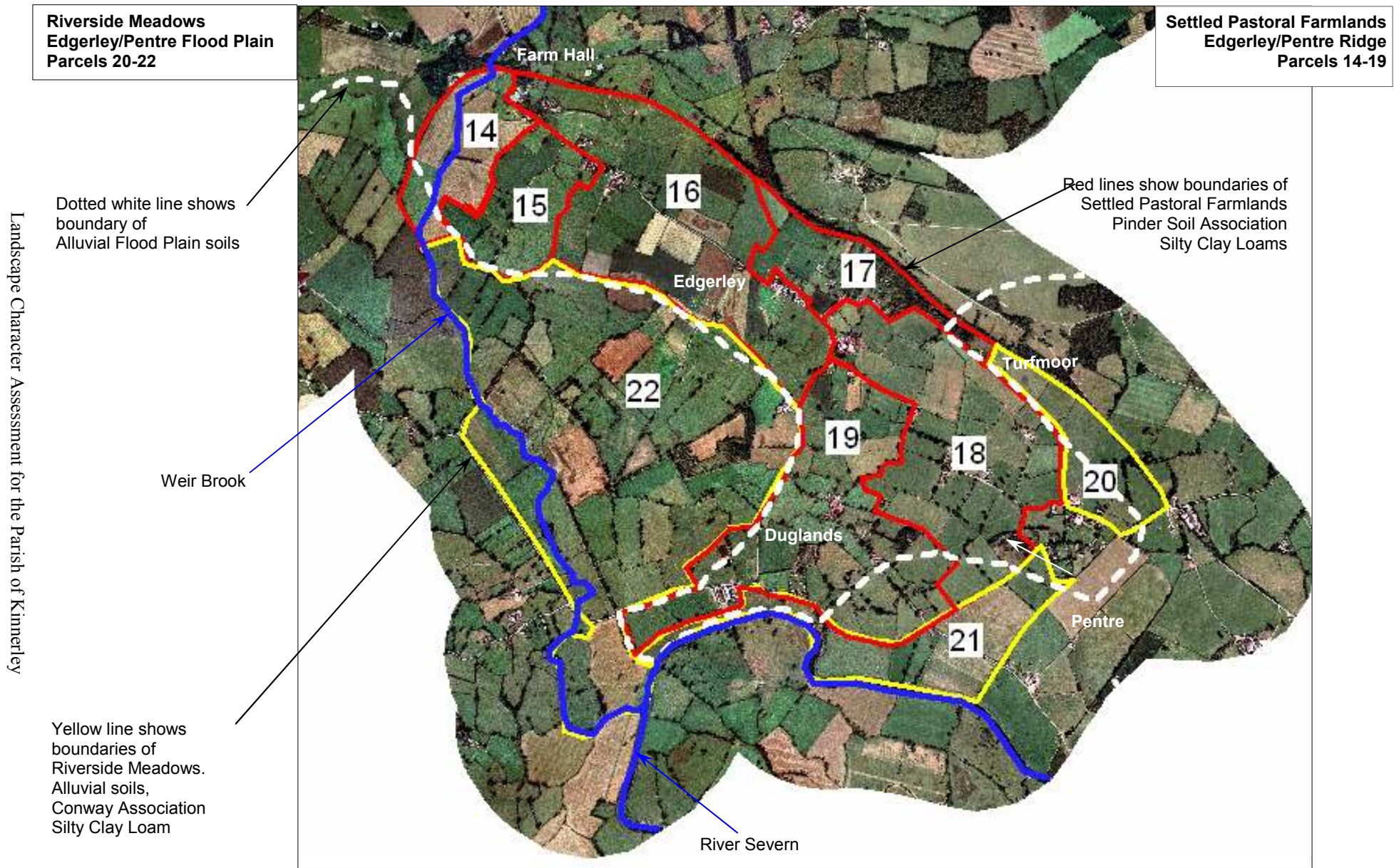
Built Environment

There are three dwellings.



Exposed sandstone outcrop along lane leading to Bankfields





Landscape Character Assessment for the Parish of Kinnerley

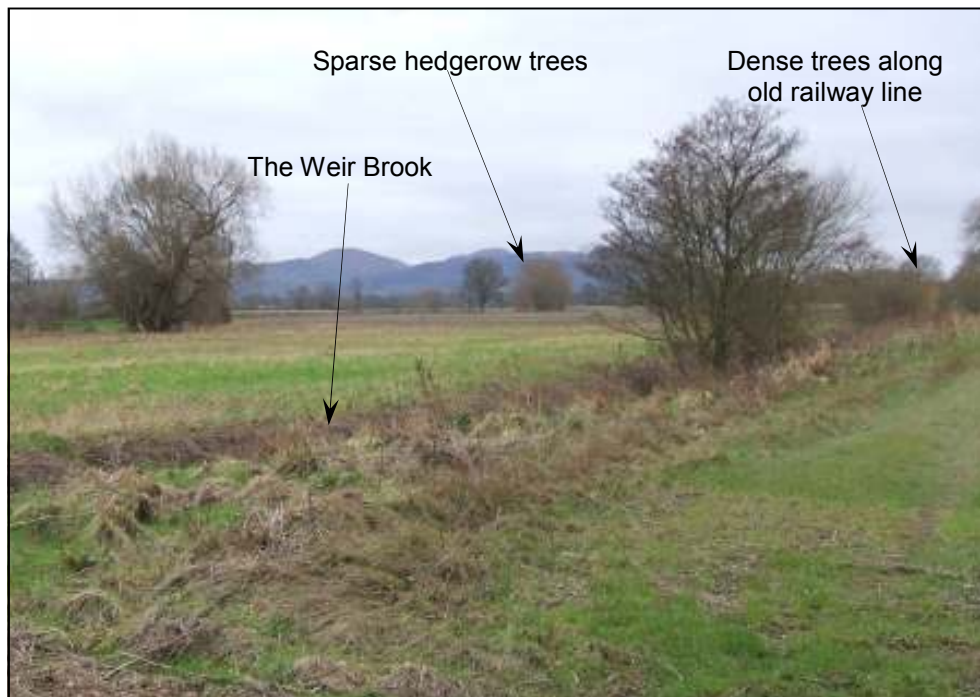
The whole of the Severn Vyrnwy confluence flood plain area is of national ecological importance

Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Edgerley Ridge

Parcel number 14

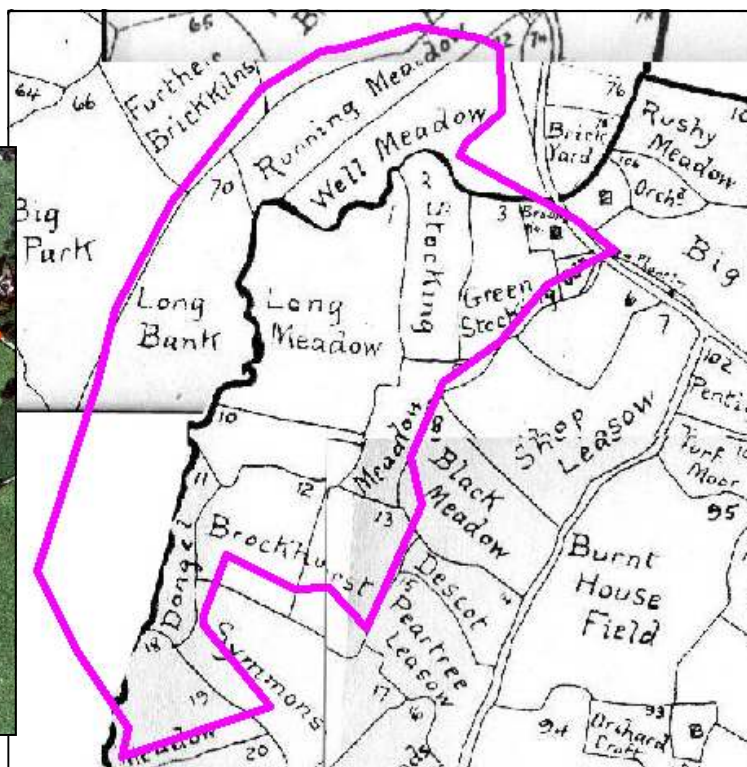
(27 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 13 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph

shows 6 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Edgerley Ridge Parcel number 14 (27 ha)

A flat, low-lying area of arable and pastoral farming, drained by the Weir Brook, affected by occasional flooding. Field shapes are irregular, long and narrow. The field boundaries are the Weir Brook, the old railway line, and fragmented hedges, in some places overgrown. Hedgerow trees are insignificant. The dense trees along the old railway line are a feature.

Key Characteristics

- Low-lying irregular shaped fields, which are prone to flooding
- Land use mainly arable, with a small area of unimproved grassland
- A belt of trees, marking the old railway line
- Hedgerows fragmented, some overgrown
- The Weir Brook runs through the centre

Geology and Landform

A flat, wet, low-lying landscape, prone to flooding, which forms part of the flood plain of the Weir Brook. The underlying geology is of poorly draining, glacial till deposits. There are long, wide views across the open flood plain to the Breidden Hills.

Soils and Land Use

The soils, which belong to the Pinder Soil Association, are silty clay loams, overlying heavier, slow draining, clay loams. Most of the area is under intensive arable cultivation, although there is a small area of unimproved pasture. Waterlogging in winter is common, but this has been reduced through field drainage and deepening and straightening of the Weir Brook.

Ecology

The Weir Brook runs through the centre of this block, but its value as an ecological corridor has been reduced by regular management for flood alleviation measures. The sides are regularly cleared and there are few trees or shrubs on the banks. There are strips of unimproved grassland adjacent to the brook. One side of this landscape is bounded by the old railway station and abandoned railway track, which is well wooded and provides an important terrestrial corridor. The hedgerows vary, in some places they are intact and overgrown, while in others, the hedges are fragmented and provide weak corridors.

Tree Cover

Apart from the dense belt of trees, marking the line of the old railway lands, the tree cover is insignificant, limited to a few isolated trees on the banks of the Weir Brook and in the hedgerows. Species are willow, alder, sycamore and ash, with occasional oak trees in the hedgerows.

Enclosure

The original enclosure pattern of small, wet meadows, some of which may have been assarts, has been changed by the engineering works associated with the old railway line and the straightening of the Weir Brook. The modern field system is one of rather long, narrow, drained fields, with irregular field boundaries. Hedges are not a landscape feature, except in those places where they have become tall and overgrown. Hawthorn and blackthorn are the dominant species.

Communications

None

Built Environment

The site of the old railway station and engineering works, hidden in the trees, a caravan site and a sandstone farmhouse.



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

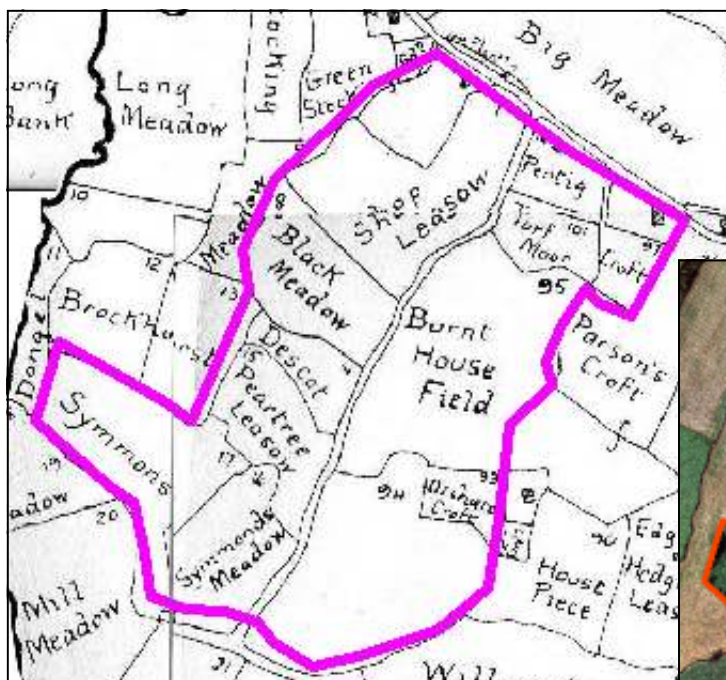
Edgerley Ridge

Parcel number 15

(28 ha)



Sinuous hedges.
Sparse tree cover



The 1845 historic map shows 13 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 10 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Edgerley Ridge Parcel number 15 (28 ha)

A flat landscape, which gently slopes towards the flood plain of the Weir Brook. Field boundaries are intact and unaltered, with dense hedges and a scattering of mature oak trees. A green lane runs through the centre.

Key Characteristics

- Sandy clay loam soils, prone to winter waterlogging and seasonal flooding
- Pastoral agriculture, with some arable on higher ground
- Some ridge and furrow still present
- Species-rich hedgerows with some oak hedgerow trees
- Wide green lane through the centre

Geology and Landform

The landform is flat, with the fields sloping gently towards the Weir Brook flood plain. Much of the lower land is liable to flooding. The underlying geology is glacial till deposits. There are wide, distant views to the Breidden Hills.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are a sandy clay loam, of the Pinder Soil Association, overlying compact clay loams. In the lower areas, which are prone to flooding, the top soil has more alluvial silt. The main farming activity is dairy production, with some arable. Some of the pasture fields still retain their original ridge and furrow patterns, and another has an unusually uneven surface and the historic field name of "Turf moor".

Ecology

This is an area with good terrestrial corridors and intact, dense hedges. The green lane, which runs through the centre, has species-rich hedgerows and wide verges. There are examples of intermittent, mature and veteran hedgerow trees, particularly along the lane. The fields are intensively managed grassland and become very wet during the winter months. The low-lying fields are also subject to seasonal flooding.

Tree Cover

Tree cover is sparse, consisting of scattered, intermittent hedgerow trees, mainly over mature oak. The only tree cover is a small group of trees in a low-lying area on the edge of the flood plain.

Enclosure

These are piecemeal enclosures of small, irregular fields with sinuous and dog-leg boundaries, enclosed from former open fields. The hedgerows are largely intact, and, particularly along the green lane, are species-rich and dense. Blackthorn is the predominant species, replacing hawthorn almost completely in those areas where regular flooding is common. Hazel, maple, holly and trees species are also present. While some hedges are intensively managed, a few hawthorn hedges have been allowed to grow tall and leggy.

Communications

A narrow lane, a wide green lane through the centre and a footpath.

Built Environment

A single red brick farm house and associated farm buildings.



A veteran tree at Edgerley

Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Edgerley Ridge

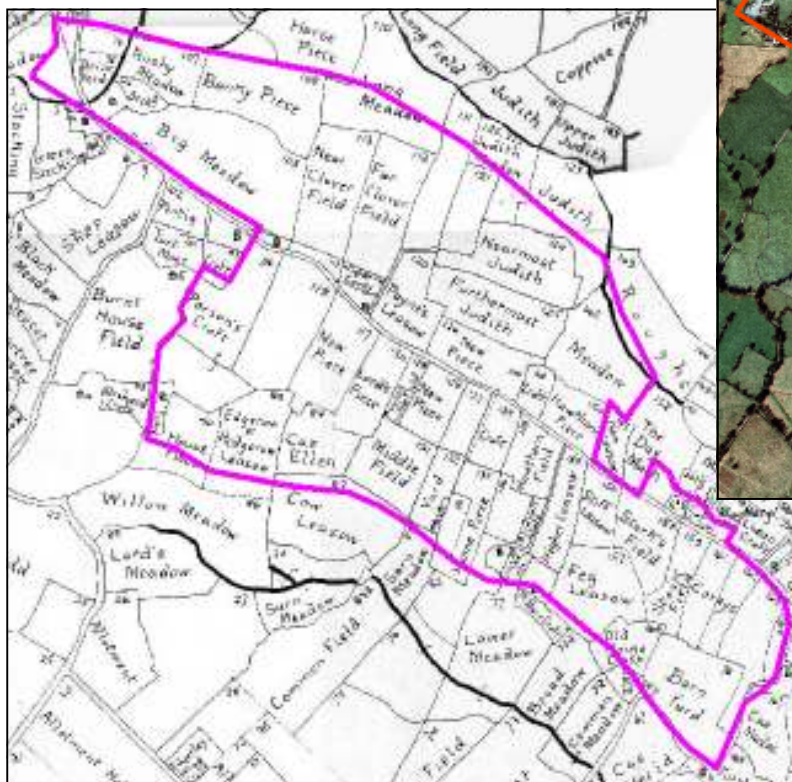
Parcel number 16

(96 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 52 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph shows 19 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Edgerley Ridge Parcel number 16 (96 ha)

This is an intensively farmed, mainly dairy area, raised slightly above the flood plain. The field sizes are medium to large, have geometric boundaries and have been enlarged since the Second World War. It is an open landscape with insignificant tree cover and wide open views across the flood plain to the Breidden Hills.

Key Characteristics

- The flat landscape gently slopes towards the Weir Brook flood plain
- Brown silty loams overlie glacial till deposits
- An area of intensive dairying and arable farming
- Hedges intensively managed and, in some areas, replaced by wire fences
- Hedgerow trees sparse
- Dense line of trees along the abandoned railway line
- Medium to large rectangular fields, enlarged during the post Second World War period

Geology and Landform

A slightly elevated ridge, which slopes very gently toward the Weir Brook flood plain on one side and towards the peaty loams and small streams associated with Turf Moor on the other side. The underlying geology is glacial till deposits.

Soils and Land Use

The brown silty loams/clay loams, belonging to the Pinder Soil Association, are often waterlogged in winter due to the underlying, heavier clay soils. In those areas adjacent to Turf Moor, there are small areas of peaty loams. The main farming enterprises are pastoral, particularly dairying, although arable crops are also grown.

Ecology

Ecological corridors are not strong, as the fields are large and, in many areas, the hedges fragmented. However, the tree lined, abandoned railway line, running along one side, does provide a good corridor. Hedgerow trees are insignificant and there are no woods, but there are a few low-lying or peaty areas and small patches of rushes in the fields adjacent to Turfmoor.

Tree Cover

The tree cover is limited to sparse hedgerow trees, usually oak, although ash is also present. A line of poplar trees, planted by the military along the line of the abandoned railway, is highly visible. Self-sown, native trees have also grown up alongside the railway. These are mainly ash and sycamore, although there are some oak.

Enclosure

The original enclosure pattern was one of rectilinear piecemeal enclosure. These old field patterns have been lost, as field sizes have increased, due to agricultural intensification in the later 20th century. The hedges, usually hawthorn and blackthorn, are intensively managed. In areas under regular cultivation, the hedges have become fragmented and, in some instances, have been replaced by wire fences.

Communications

A narrow country lane passes through the centre, keeping to the ridge of this slightly elevated area. There are well maintained footpaths and the disused railway track.

Built Environment

Brick built farmhouses and other dwellings are sited along the central lane.



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Edgerley Ridge

Parcel number 17

(26 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 37 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 22 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Edgerley Ridge Parcel number 17 (26 ha)

A low-lying area of peat/peaty loams, which has an enclosed, overgrown landscape of narrow rectilinear fields, with tree lined boundaries, waterlogged woodland and ponds.

The higher ground has sub-regular enclosures with trees along the boundaries.

Key characteristics

- Area of historic peat extraction. Narrow field boundaries of the original turf diggings are still demarcated
- Areas of dense trees, mainly alder and willow
- Some areas of boggy, unimproved grassland
- The higher ground has brown, silty, clay loams and small rectilinear pastures
- Clumps of natural regeneration of willow, alder and ash in the peat areas
- Recently created ponds
- Scattered cottages along the edge of the old moss and the lane
- Densely wooded abandoned railway line

Geology and Landform

The land slopes gently towards an ancient peat moss. In these low-lying areas, the water table is high and, where no drainage has taken place, the area is wet and boggy. In the past, turf was extracted by hand from narrow strip fields and the distinct demarcation between each strip is a characteristic of the landform. There are a number of ponds and pools; some have been constructed as fish ponds. The underlying geology is of glacial till origin, with low-lying areas filled with peat.

Soils and Land Use

Brown silty loams/clay loams, of the Pinder Soil Association, occur on the slightly raised southerly side, a grassland area. On the lower slopes, the topsoils become a peat or a peaty loam of the Adventurer Soil Association, with an underlying subsoil of heavy clay loam. Some of the area has been drained and incorporated into the gardens of cottages, built on the periphery of the peat beds. In other areas, the strip fields are used for low density stock grazing or in one case for fish ponds. There are areas of natural regeneration of willows, alders and ash, as well as small plantations.

Ecology

The area under intensively managed pasture is not of particular ecological value, although the hedgerow corridors are intact and the oak trees stand out.

The old moss/peat area is of great ecological interest, particularly those areas which have been neither turned into gardens nor extensively drained. These are areas which are permanently wet. In places there are patches of unimproved tussocky grass; in others there are dense thickets of native trees, particularly willow, birch and alder, growing under waterlogged conditions. The peat area joins the abandoned railway line, where there has been a regeneration of deciduous trees together with a thick undergrowth. Two small streams rise from this area; one flows towards Pentre and the River Severn, while the other flows towards the Weir Brook. The area has a secluded and enclosed feel.

Tree Cover

The intermittent trees in the hedgerows of the higher, drier areas are predominantly oaks. The peat area has completely different tree species. The old, narrow peat fields are still clearly demarcated by lines of either ash or alder. The very well grown ash trees are, in particular, a significant characteristic of the area; oaks are not represented. In other areas, willow, alder, hazel and ash have regenerated naturally, either as thickets or individual trees. Some managed plantings have also taken place. Abutting the peat beds is the embankment of the old railway line, which has become a long corridor of mature trees, particularly sycamore and ash. There has also been a dense planting of poplar on the far side of the embankment. This has created a tall and distinctive landscape feature.

Enclosure

The higher, drier areas have field patterns of small/medium rectilinear fields, associated with squatters' holdings. The intensively managed hawthorn hedges contain blackthorn and hazel. The land, where the peat was harvested, was divided into long strips of peat beds, separated by ditches. These strips are demarcated by ash and some alder, with long, narrow thickets of overgrown shrubs, particularly hazel and alder.

Communications and Built Environment

On the higher ground, on the edge of the peat area, there are a few scattered cottages and bungalows, linked by a narrow lane.

Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Edgerley Ridge

Parcel number 18

(80 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 57 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 32 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Edgerley Ridge

Parcel number 18

(80 ha)

A flat landscape, with localised, small, waterlogged depressions; much of the area is subject to periodic flooding. Underlying soils, derived from glacial till deposits, overlain by brown sandy silt loams/clay loams. Dense hedges surround reorganised piecemeal enclosures with characteristic straight sides.

Signs of ridge and furrow cultivation are common.

Key Characteristics

- A flat landscape, which periodically floods
- Hollows and depressions are seasonally wet, often rushy
- Medium-intensive stock rearing
- Tree cover restricted to hedgerow trees
- Medium sized fields, many still with evidence of ridge and furrow systems
- Smallholdings well spaced within the landscape

Geology and Landform

The topography, which is generally flat, has a slight slope in the direction of the River Severn and its flood plain and is drained by a number of streams and ditches. The fields are often uneven, with distinctive areas of depressions and rushes. Although periodic flooding occurs, much of the area is above the flood line, in all but exceptional years. The underlying geology is one of glacial till deposits, with one small area of sand and gravel.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are sandy silt loams or clay loams, belonging to the Pinder Soil Association, overlying a poorly draining sandy clay subsoil. This has been a traditional dairy area, which has been largely replaced by medium-intensive stock rearing. Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation is a common characteristic of the area.

Ecology

The area is under permanent grassland, usually intensively managed, although some areas are under semi-intensive management. Hay is an important crop. The presence of numerous, small, seasonally water-filled depressions is an important feature. There are a number of small drains running through the area, which, together with the hedgerows, form useful terrestrial corridors.

Tree Cover

Tree cover is sparse on the northern side of this landscape and consists largely of intermittent, scattered oak trees within the hedgerows. The tree cover increases progressively towards the southern end of the landscape where there are dense lines of hedgerow trees. These are usually oak, although ash is common and there is also the occasional sycamore tree. Willow is present in the wetter places.

Enclosure

This is a landscape of medium sized, rectilinear fields derived from piecemeal enclosure of open fields, before the end of the 17th century. This pattern is still largely intact. As the area is pastoral, ridge and furrow survives in some fields. The fields are enclosed by blackthorn and hawthorn hedges, although other species are also present, including field maple, hazel and elderberry. Blackthorn is dominant in the wetter areas. In places, the hedges are intensively managed and intact, in other places they are fragmented, leggy and reinforced with wooden or wire fencing.

Communications

A narrow winding lane with wide verges and a network of well maintained footpaths.

Built Environment

A small number of isolated farms, cottages, a small chapel and the site of a medieval mill.



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

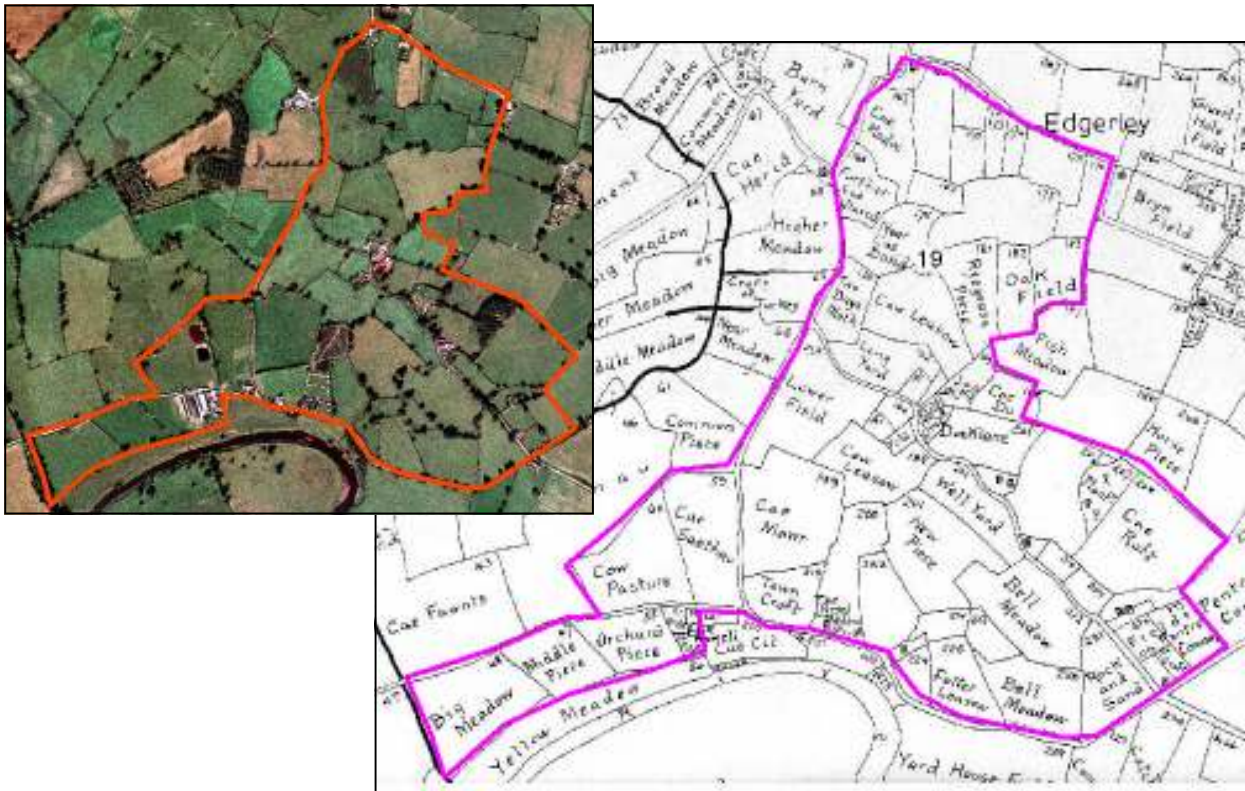
Edgerley Ridge

Parcel No 19

(88 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 57 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 49 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Edgerley Ridge

Parcel No 19

(88 ha)

A flat, enclosed landscape, with localised, small, waterlogged depressions; much of the area is subject to periodic flooding. An ancient, largely unchanged enclosure pattern, derived from the piecemeal enclosure of the medieval open fields. Signs of ridge and furrow cultivation are common. Hedgerow trees are extensive.

Key Characteristics

- A flat landscape, the lower lying areas periodically flooded
- Localised hollows within the fields hold water throughout the winter months
- Dairying has been replaced by low intensive stock rearing
- Extensive tree cover within the hedgerows
- Fields are generally small and irregular, many still with evidence of ridge and furrow
- Smallholdings well spaced along the lanes on the higher ground

Geology and Landform

The topography is generally flat, although the fields themselves are often uneven with low hollows or depressions. There is a slight slope in the direction of the River Severn and its flood plain. Although seasonal flooding occurs, much of the area is only affected in exceptional years. A number of small streams and ditches bisect the area. The underlying geology is one of heavy glacial till deposits.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are sandy, silt loams and silty, clay loams of the Pinder Soil Association, overlying poorly draining, sandy clays. The area has been a traditional dairy area, which has now been replaced by low intensive stock rearing. Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation is a common characteristic of the area.

Ecology

The area is predominantly grassland, much of it under semi-intensive management. Hay is still an important crop. The presence of frequent, small, water-filled depressions and a number of small streams and ditches is an important ecological feature. In some areas the ridge and furrow system has created lines of rushes and wetland flora in the furrow bottoms.

It is an area of small fields, often with tall untrimmed hedges and characteristically, well wooded hedgerows, mainly oak. In the centre of the parcel is a small deciduous, ancient wood. As most hedgerows are intact the environmental corridors are good.

Tree Cover

There are two small woods in this landscape, one of which is an ancient deciduous wood, containing oak, cherry, ash and some willow. The other wood is a more recent plantation of deciduous trees. The hedgerows support rows of trees, often dense and usually oak, although ash, willow and alder are also present. Some of the ash is in poor condition and dying back. Sycamore trees are less common. In the wetter places, willow is more common than alder. The area has an enclosed feeling, as the views of the Breidden Hills are filtered out by the trees.

Enclosure

This is a landscape of small, irregular fields, formed from piecemeal enclosures between the 14th and 17th centuries. This pattern is intact and remains largely unchanged. The fields are enclosed by blackthorn and hawthorn hedges; other species also present include field maple, dog wood, holly and elderberry. Spindle is common and is a feature. The blackthorn is dominant in the wetter areas. There is considerable variation in the hedges; in places they are intensively managed and intact while in others the hawthorn hedges are fragmented and have been allowed to grow tall.

Communications

A number of lanes, one of which serves as an argae, pass through this landscape. There is a network of well maintained footpaths.

Built Environment

A dispersed pattern of scattered farms and small cottages.



Blackthorn

Riverside Meadows

Pentre

Parcel number 20

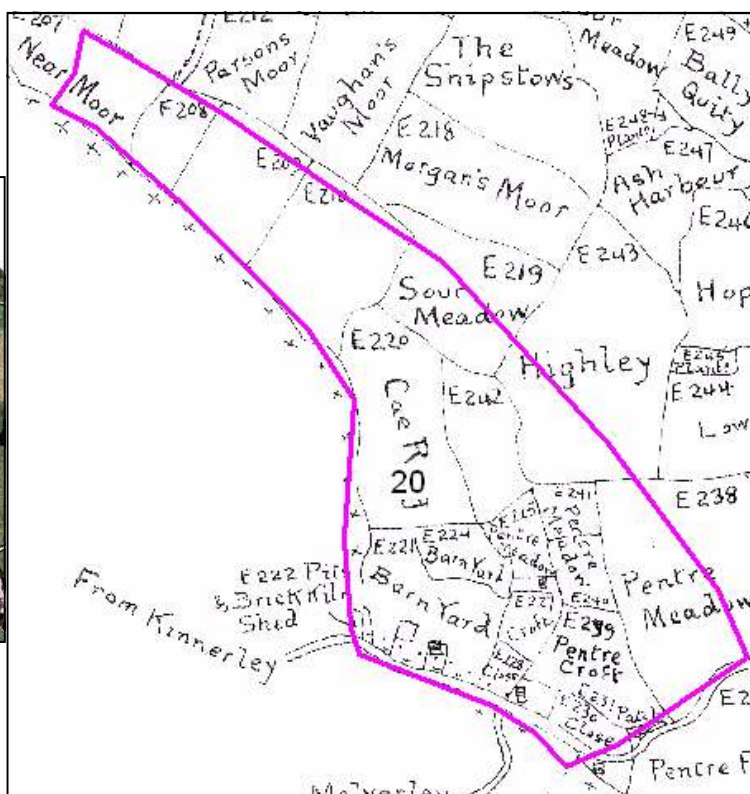
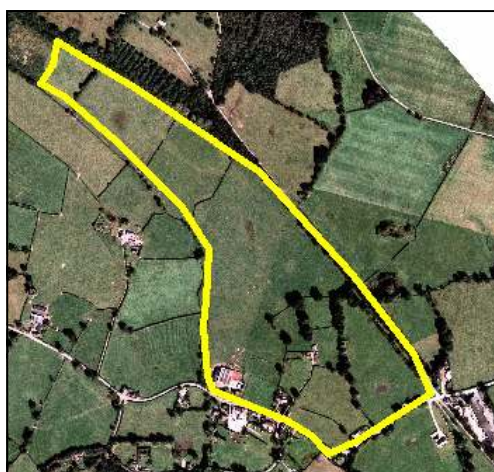
(24 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 18 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph

shows 14 fields



Riverside Meadows

Pentre Parcel number 20 (24 ha)

A flat, pastoral landscape alongside the railway embankment. Much of the area subject to occasional flooding. Soils derived from the alluvial flood plain of the River Severn.

Occasional wet and rushy low spots. Dense hedges surround reorganized, piecemeal enclosures with characteristic straight sides. Wooded areas associated with Turfmoor and the railway embankment.

Key Characteristics

- Flat landscape, although the fields themselves are uneven
- Large parts of the area occasionally waterlogged
- Low-lying areas waterlogged during the winter months
- Dairying has been replaced by medium-intensive stock rearing
- Tree cover limited to sparse hedgerow trees
- A dense line of trees along abandoned railway line
- Medium sized fields, some still with evidence of ridge and furrow
- Smallholdings on the higher ground, otherwise an empty landscape

Geology and Landform

A flat and narrow landscape alongside the raised railway embankment. The fields are often uneven, with distinct low depressions. The soils are derived from alluvium associated with the River Severn, which overlie poorly drained, glacial till clay deposits.

Soils and Land Use

The soils, belonging to the Conway Soil Association, are alluvial deposits of silty clay loams, overlying heavier, sandy clay soils. The variety of the soils in this landscape is reflected in their alluvial origin; in addition to the silty, clay loams, there are pockets of sand/gravel and peat. Signs are still evident of areas where sand/gravel was extracted. Dairying has been replaced by medium-intensive stock rearing.

There is evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation.

Ecology

It is a pastoral landscape of medium intensity cattle rearing. The presence of small, water-filled depressions is an important ecological feature. The abandoned railway, now overgrown, provides an excellent corridor, as do the intact hedgerow systems, which are intensively managed.

Tree cover within the landscape is insignificant, consisting of scattered oaks in the hedgerows. The regeneration of woodland along the railway embankment and tree plantations on the edge of Turfmoor give the area a wooded periphery. A small brook, Pentre Brook, runs through this landscape, linking these open fields with the woods.

Tree Cover

The trees on the abandoned railway, which forms one boundary of this parcel, and young woodland on the edge of Turfmoor, which provide another, are the only areas of woodland. The line of poplar trees along the embankment and the self-set, native trees, including sycamore, cherry and ash are significant features. Alder is present in the wetter areas. There is no tree cover in the farmed areas, apart from sparse, oak hedgerow trees. There are unrestricted views across the flat landscape to the Breidden Hills.

Enclosure

This is a landscape of medium sized, rectilinear fields, derived from piecemeal enclosures and rearranged at a later time, due to the disruption caused by the construction of the railway line. The fields are enclosed by strong, intensively managed blackthorn and hawthorn hedges. A pattern of small squatters' paddocks is associated with the smallholdings. These hedges are often tall hawthorn.

Communications

Well maintained footpaths. The railway line, on the boundary, has been abandoned for forty years.

Built Environment

A small farm.



Badger

Riverside Meadows

Pentre Common

Parcel number 21

(41 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 18 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 12 fields



Riverside Meadows

Pentre Common Parcel number 21 (41 ha)

A flat, low-lying landscape alongside the river Severn, with large geometric fields, enclosed by wide hawthorn hedges. There are few trees.

Key Characteristics

- Flat, large, rectangular fields
- River Severn on the southern boundary
- Alluvial soils, prone to flooding
- Open landscape with few trees
- Irregularly shaped, grassland fields alongside the river bank, with signs of old terraces

Geology and Landform

This is a flat, low-lying landscape, adjacent to the River Severn, with extensive views towards the Breidden Hills. The soils are derived from river alluvium, overlying glaciolacustrine deposits. Water tends to stand on any low-lying areas.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are alluvial, silty clay loams of the Conway Soil Association, deposited by regular flooding of the River Severn. The soils have a good water-holding capacity and surface water seeps away only slowly. Land use, largely pastoral, with some limited arable, is constrained by the threat of flooding. Permanent pasture is present in those areas beside the river, where the fields are narrow and the ground uneven or sloping, showing the old river terraces.

Ecology

The large fields and the intensively managed hedges have reduced the ecological value of this area, apart from those areas adjacent to the river bank. Drainage and intensive agricultural production has reduced its value as a wetland habitat.

Terrestrial corridors are weak. There are few trees. However, along the river bank, there are clumps of willow, alder and, occasionally, ash. The permanent pasture and riparian flora create good ecological corridors.

Tree Cover

There are few trees in this landscape apart from a line of trees running alongside the road and some riverside willows and alder.

Enclosure

The field pattern is one of distinctive geometric field boundaries, characteristic of the planned enclosure of former wet pasture, common land. The hedges are intensively managed hawthorn with some blackthorn. Alongside the river, the fields are under permanent pasture and are shaped by the twists and turns of the river.

Communications

The roads within this parcel are straight, reflecting the pattern of the enclosures. Traces of the old route from Pentre to Meverley, marked by a depression and a line of oak trees, can be seen alongside the existing road.

Built Environment

Due to the risk of flooding and the low-lying nature of this landscape, there are few houses or farms in this area and these are located on any higher ground. They include the 17th century sandstone pub and Cae Howell, a late 16th century timber-framed building.



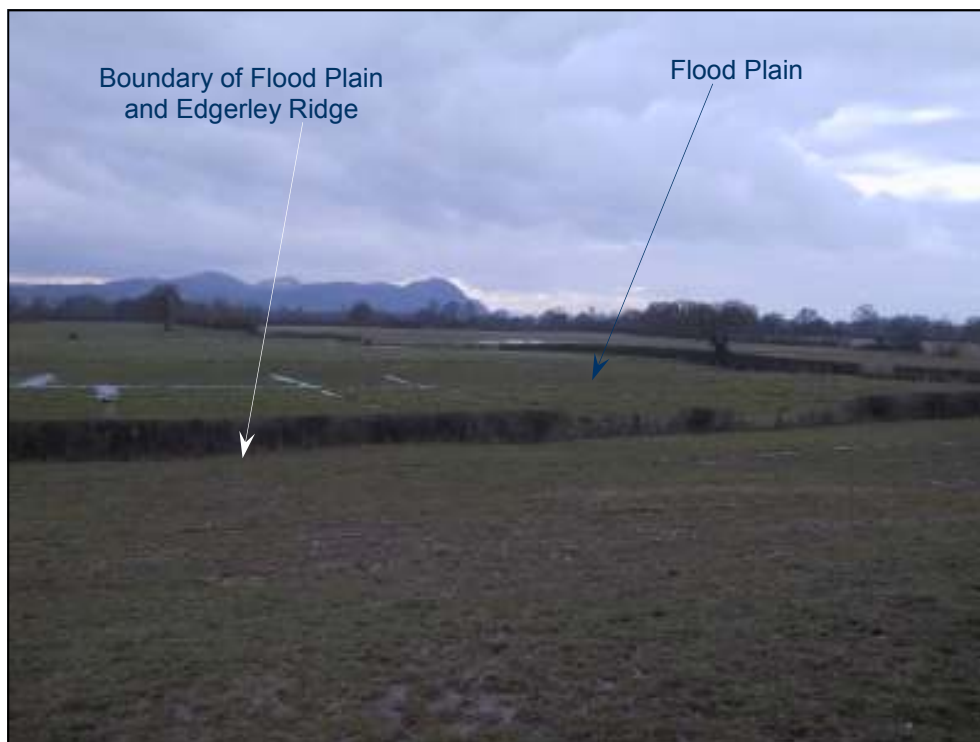
Curlew at Cae Howell, Edgerley

Riverside Meadows

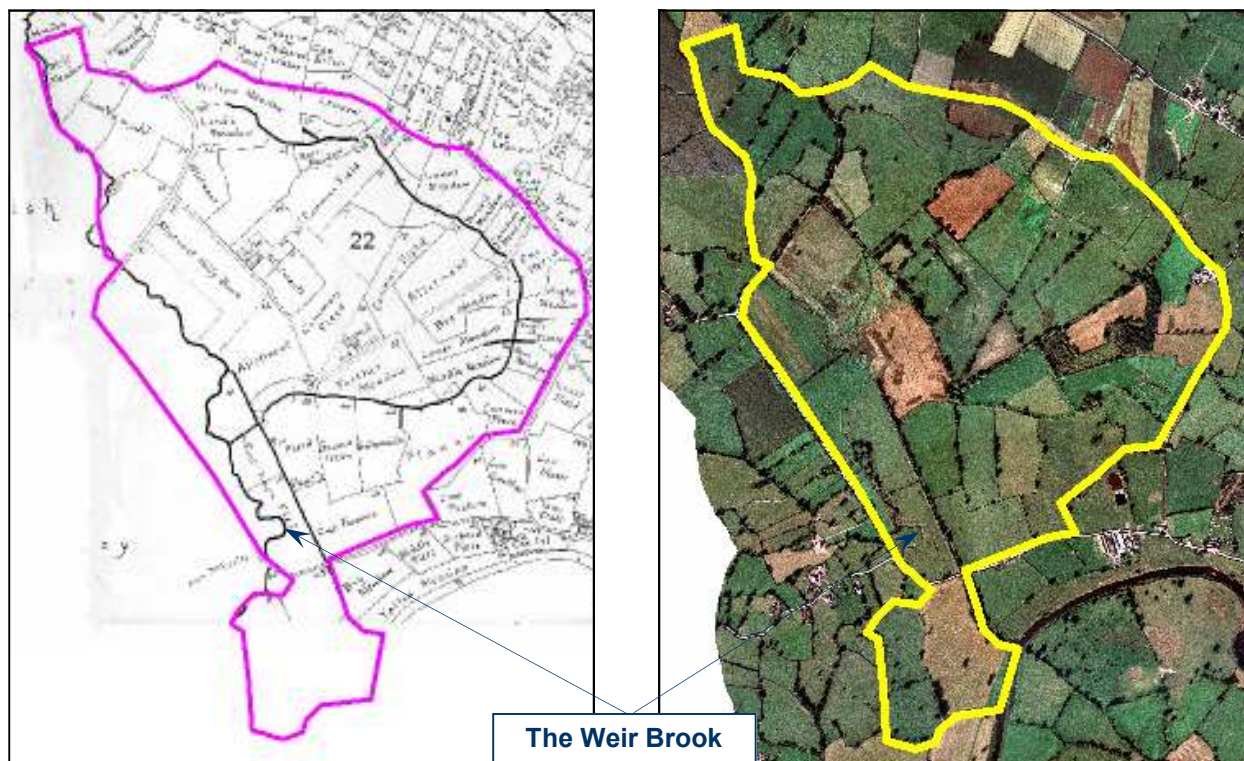
Edgerley

Parcel number 22

(199 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 55 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 44 fields



Riverside Meadows

Edgerley Parcel number 22 (199 ha)

A low-lying flood plain, stretching from the base of the raised plateau of Edgerley Ridge towards the Weir Brook and the River Severn. Slow-moving streams and ditches drain towards the Weir Brook and River Severn. An area of sparse trees with an enclosure pattern which reflects the layout of the streams and ditches. It is a pastoral area, used for grazing, hay and silage making.

Key Characteristics

- A low-lying, flat flood plain of small streams and ditches draining towards the River Severn and Weir Brook
- Clay loams underlie alluvial deposits of silty clay loams
- An area of grassland used traditionally for grazing
- Field boundaries follow the lines of ditches and small streams
- Hedges are fragmented
- Argae and drainage works are features

Geology and Landform

The area is a flat, low-lying, open flood plain with a network of ditches and brooks, draining into the River Severn and the Weir Brook. The underlying geology is glaciolacustrine deposits, overlain by alluvial soils.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are silty, clay loams of alluvial origin, belonging to the Conway Soil Association. The soils drain slowly and are wet throughout the winter months. This area is used largely for grazing. There are small areas of arable crops as well as hay and silage.

Ecology

This area has great ecological and wildlife potential and is of national importance, particularly when allowed to perform as a natural flood plain. The brooks and streams give valuable fresh-water habitats, although the banks of the larger streams and ditches are intensively managed and their ecological value thus reduced. The pasture is grazed or harvested throughout the summer. There are, however, wet spots and hollows, where the grass is less intensively managed and the ground waterlogged. Hedgerows vary, some are intact, while others are fragmented or supplemented with fencing.

Hedgerow trees, usually oak or willow, are sparse, except along the sides of lanes or streams. There is one small mixed-species plantation with good terrestrial corridors along the sides of the adjacent lane. There are a number of ponds and hollows, where water stands throughout the year, often associated with willow and alder.

Tree Cover

A landscape of insignificant tree cover, except for one small wood. Hedgerow trees, mainly oak, are present and, over short stretches, can be quite dense. Along the ditches and small streams are lines of trees, often willow and alder, but oak is also present. The tree cover varies, being quite dense along some of the larger drains and streams. Within the landscape there are ash trees, some of which appear to be dying back, and also the occasional oak and sycamore.

Enclosure

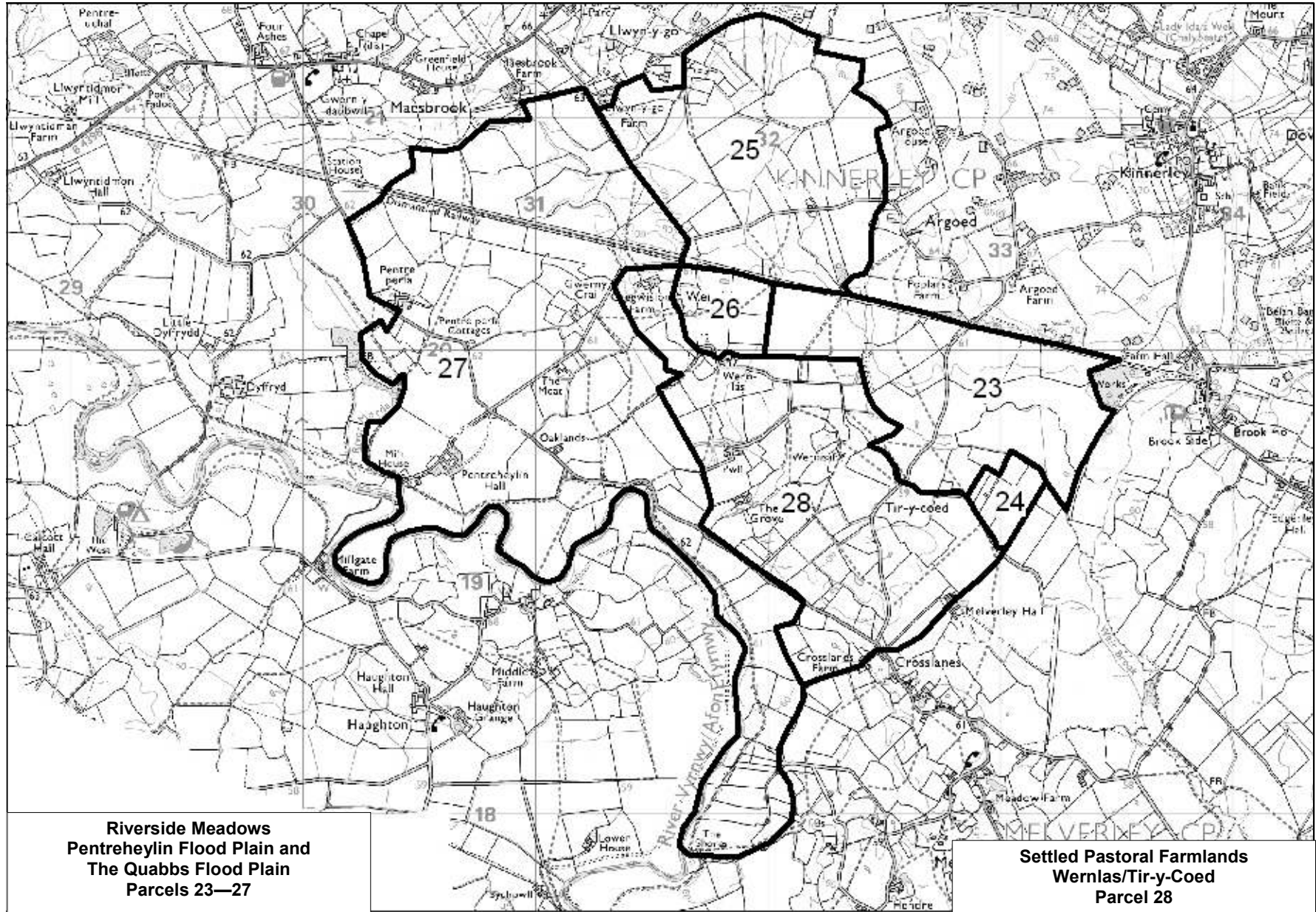
The field pattern mainly comprises drained wetlands, enclosed from former common meadowland in the 17th and 18th centuries. There are also some fields derived from piecemeal enclosure of open fields on the edges of this landscape. Many of the field boundaries follow drains or ditches, along which run either hedgerows or wire fences. Along the line of the ditches and drains, the field boundaries are straight. This contrasts with those boundaries which follow the streams. Hedgerows are often weak and fragmented and include post and rail or wire fences. In areas where there are only scattered, isolated trees, the landscape is open. The range of hedgerow species is low, mainly blackthorn and hawthorn.

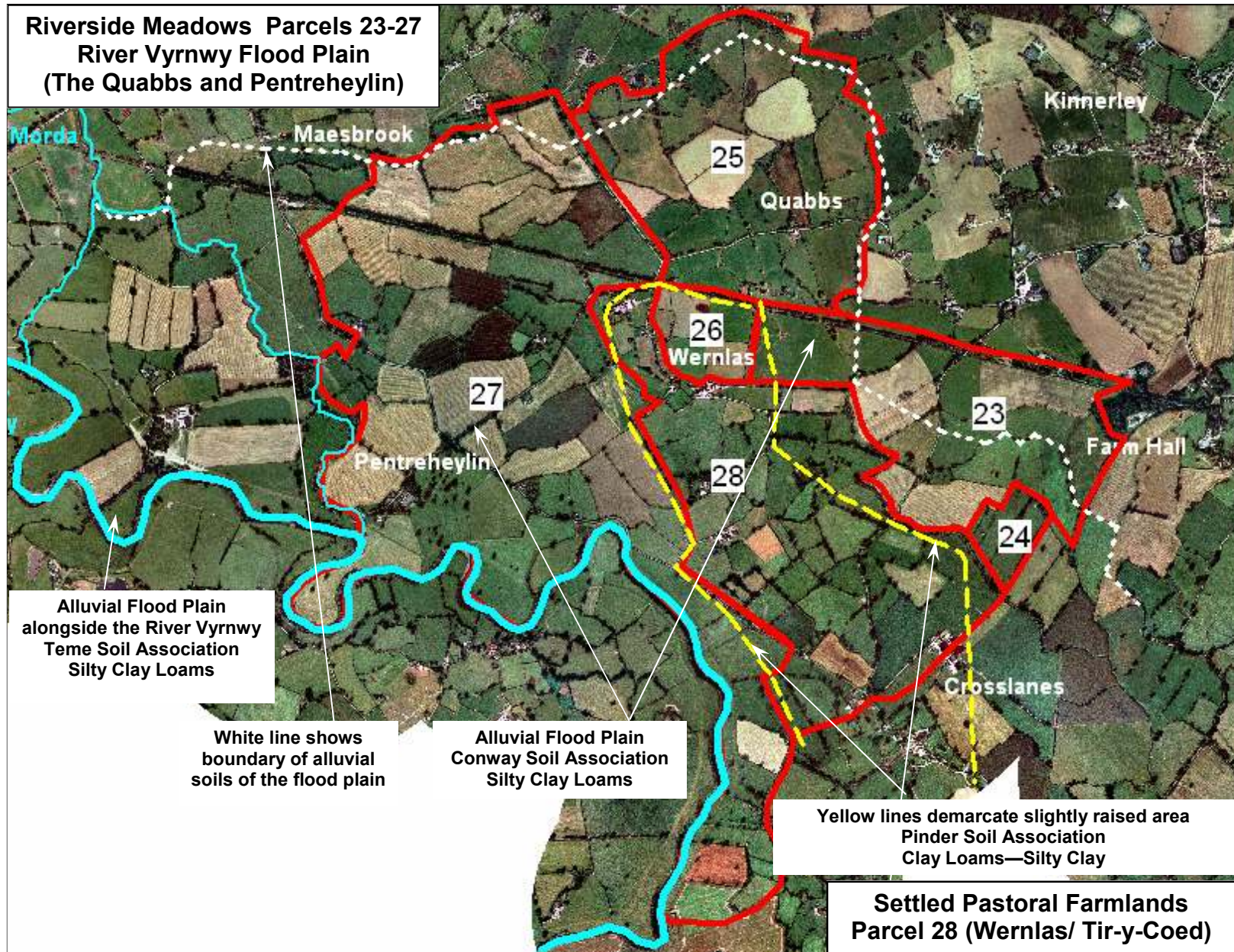
Communications

Lanes alongside the edges of the flood plain and occasional footpaths.

Built Environment

No housing has been built on the flood plain, but scattered, isolated cottages and small farms occur on the periphery. The argae and banks of some of the larger drains are prominent features.





The whole of the Severn Vyrnwy confluence flood plain area is of national ecological importance

Riverside Meadows

Vyrnwy Flood Plain

Parcel number 23

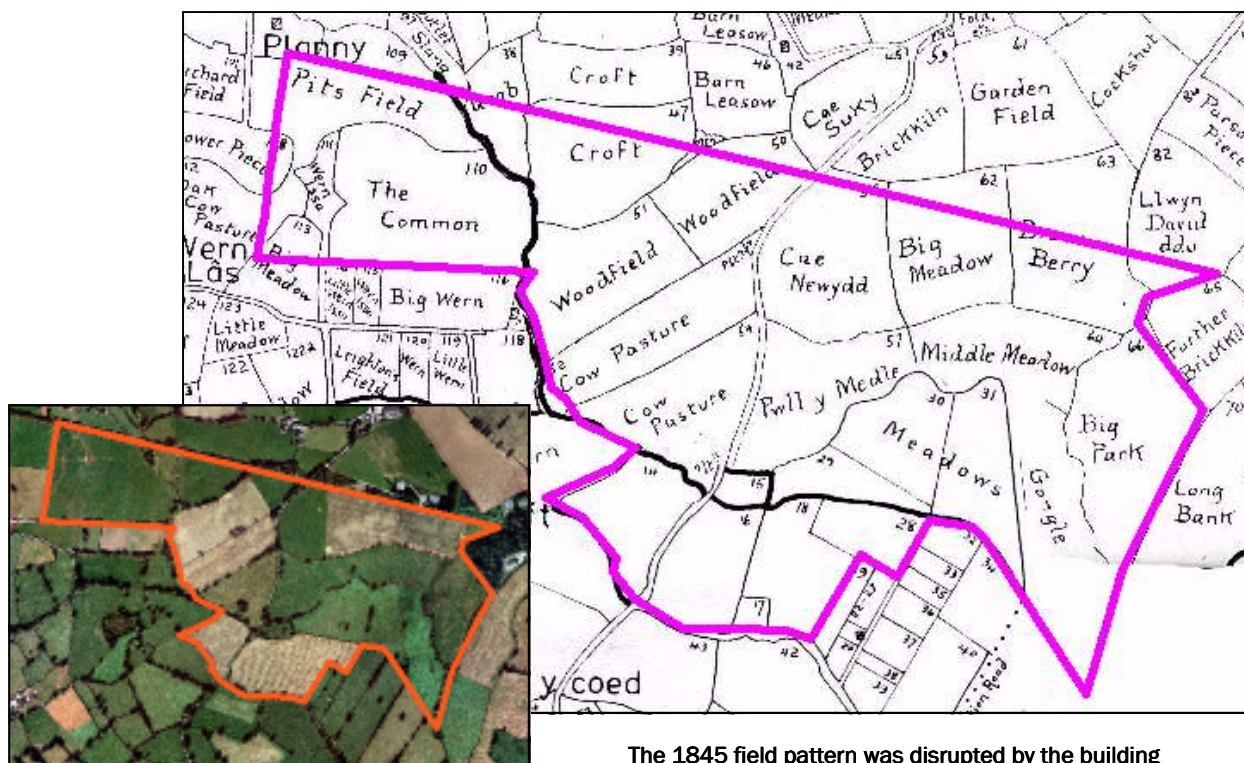
(75 ha)



Small streams with willows

Irregular enclosures

The 1845 historic map shows 26 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 13 fields



The 1845 field pattern was disrupted by the building of the railway

Riverside Meadows

Vyrnwy Flood Plain

Parcel number 23

(75 ha)

A flat landscape, with open fields and small streams or ditches. Tree cover is restricted to hedgerow trees. In places along the water courses, which are the western tributaries of the Weir Brook, there are dense lines of scattered trees. The dense mixed woodland along the abandoned railway track is a landscape feature. This area is on the edge of the flood plain of the River Vyrnwy and parts of it are subject to seasonal flooding.

Key Characteristics

- Flat, very gently undulating fields
- Prone to flooding in the winter months
- Silty clay loams/clay loams over heavy clay loams
- Small areas of rushes in damp depressions
- Dense tree line alongside the railway
- Small streams and ditches, often well wooded

Geology and Landform

The topography is flat, with localised hollows or scrapes. On the northern side, the underlying geology is one of heavy glacial deposits, while on the southern side the soils are derived from alluvium. The heavy, clay nature of the subsoil is confirmed by the old field names on the boundary of this area, which include Brick Kiln and Further Brick Kilns.

Soils and Land Use

This landscape is one where the alluvial silty clay loams of the flood plain, belonging to the Conway Soil Association, meet the sandy clay loam of the Pinder Soil Association, as the topography slopes down towards the flood plain. It is an area where modern drainage and well maintained streams have increased productivity. Land use is pastoral with some arable.

Ecology

The small streams, the western tributaries of the Weir Brook, are a valuable freshwater habitat, while the green lane at Gwern-Ys-Hir is of particular importance. Roadside hedges provide good terrestrial corridors. The base of the hedges is open, with little undergrowth, due to the thick deposit of detritus, deposited by regular flooding. The scrapes and water-filled low spots, together with the banks and the margins alongside the hedges, often lined with trees, also provide good environments. The lane leading to Gwern-Ys-Hir has species-rich ground cover and tall hedges lined with trees.

Tree Cover

Hedgerow trees appear frequently and give the area a wooded appearance. The main hedgerow trees are oak, with some fine specimen oaks within the fields. This landscape abuts the old railway, which is well wooded with a mixture of regenerated deciduous trees and conifer plantations. There is dense tree cover along the banks of the streams; with oak and alder being predominant. Willow is present on the edges of the small ponds, usually in association with alder and oak. The green lane at the end of this landscape has a wide range of trees, including willow, alder, oak and, occasionally, field maple; many of these are substantial trees. Sycamore and ash are also present.

Enclosure

This landscape contains a mixture of “large irregular” and “drained wetland” type fields; the latter being the product of boundary alterations in the mid 19th century. Both field patterns derive from small irregular flood plain meadows, which were gradually enclosed from common open meadowland, from the late medieval period onwards. Whilst some consolidation of fields occurred in the later 20th century, particularly in those areas disturbed by the construction of the railway, most of the fields still retain their late 18th century boundaries. Many of the boundaries are irregular, following the banks of streams and ditches. The hedges alongside the green lane are particularly species-rich and have been allowed to grow unchecked. Blackthorn and hawthorn are the predominant species, but field maple is common, with dogwood, alder, hazel and elderberry also present.

Communications

A small winding lane, with a wide verge, an overgrown, small green lane and some footpaths.

Built Environment

There are no buildings.

Riverside Meadows

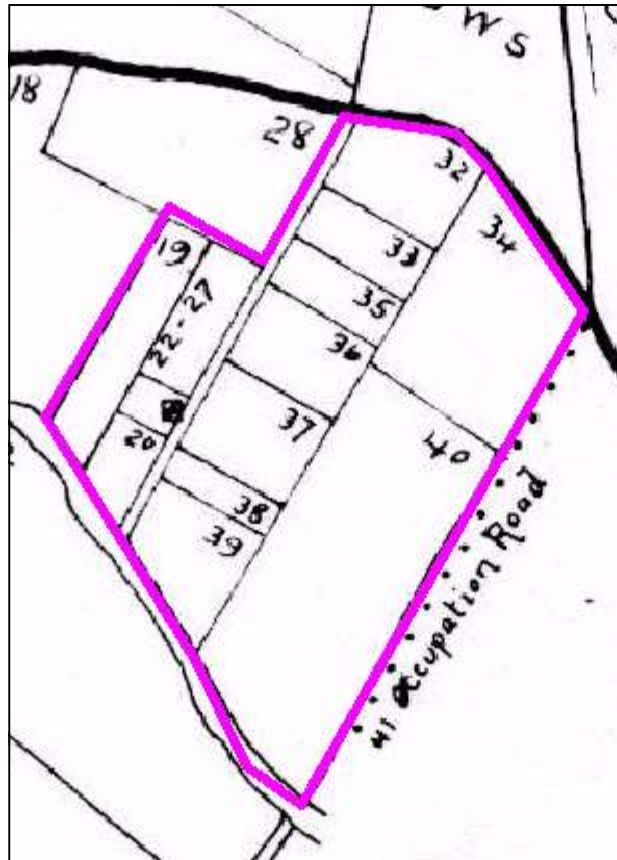
Vyrnwy Flood Plain

Parcel number 24

(8 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 12 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 5 fields



Riverside Meadows

Vyrnwy Flood Plain

Parcel number 24

(8 ha)

An area of long, narrow rectangular fields associated with planned enclosure and drainage of former common meadowland. A flat, low-lying landscape, enclosed by high, species-rich hedges and drains. Large, mature trees within the hedgerows and occasionally within the fields.

Key Characteristics

- Low-lying, flat rectangular fields
- Silty clay loams, prone to seasonal flooding
- Scattered trees along dense hedgerows
- One abandoned smallholding
- Land use pastoral

Geology and Landform

A flat landscape within the alluvial plain of the River Vyrnwy. The geology is based on alluvial soils, overlying heavy, glacial deposits.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are a brownish grey, silty clay loam, of the Conway Soil Association, overlying heavy clay loams. These fields are prone to seasonal flooding and are under pasture. The deep ditches help to remove the excess winter water but, even so, the fields remain wet throughout the winter. Grazing, silage or hay making is the normal land use.

Ecology

This is an isolated area; the smallholding is no longer inhabited and has been abandoned, the hedges are thick and tall and the lane itself is little used. While the pasture is intensively managed, the terrestrial corridors are intact; the hedges are tall and species-rich. The small stream is not over managed and provides good habitat. The wide lane is largely undisturbed, so that the ground cover is also species-rich and the grass is tussocky.

Tree Cover

The scattered hedgerow trees within this landscape are mainly oak, which also appear as large specimen trees within the fields. The trees lining the lane are much more varied. Alongside the ditch, willow and alder are common and ash is the dominant tree.

Hedgerow trees are represented by oak and field maple, as well as ash and sycamore. The stumps are still visible of a group of walnut trees cut down some years ago for timber.

Enclosure

The enclosure pattern is one of regular, rectangular fields, created through the planned enclosure and drainage of common open meadowland. In the 18th or early 19th century a smallholding was established adjacent to the lane. The fields were originally enclosed with hawthorn. The species are now much more varied and include blackthorn and hazel. The hedges, alongside the lane, are thick, tall and species-rich. While blackthorn is common, there are areas where tall hazel bushes have grown up from coppiced stools; other areas have clumps of dogwood, elderberry and, very commonly, maple. It is a very enclosed and isolated landscape.

Communications

A little used farm lane and one footpath.

Built Environment

A derelict red brick smallholding. Apart from a broken cattle crush, there are no signs of any farm buildings.



Riverside Meadows

Vyrnwy Flood Plain

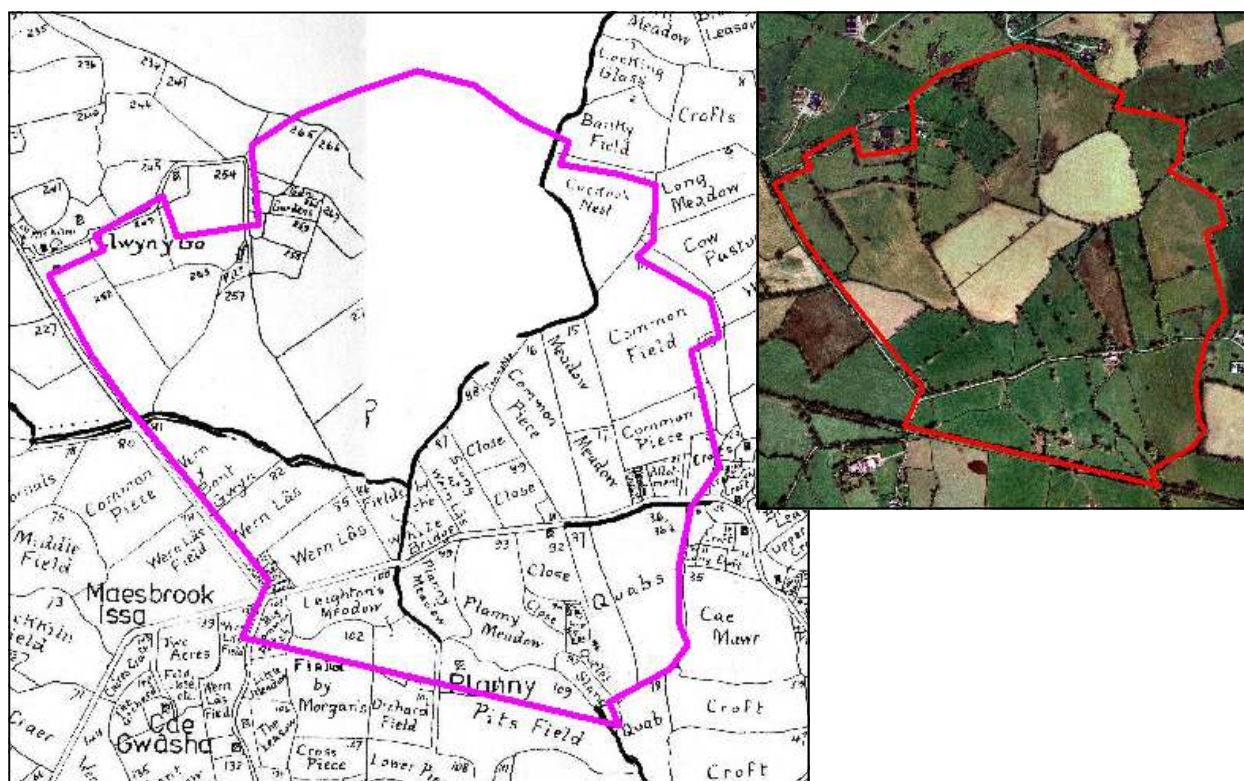
Parcel number 25

(101 ha)



The 2000 aerial photograph shows 32 fields.

The historic 1845 map is incomplete



Riverside Meadows

Vyrnwy Flood Plain

Parcel number 25

(101 ha)

A very large area of low-lying land, poorly draining and susceptible to extensive flooding by the River Vyrnwy. The enclosure pattern reflects the extensive drainage system of straight, deep drains. The fields are enclosed by tall, overgrown hedgerow species, including a high proportion of willow, or by open, fenced ditches.

Key Characteristics

- An open flood plain, with fields defined by drainage ditches and streams
- Soils are silty clay alluviums, which are seasonally flooded
- Land use is low intensity, pastoral agriculture
- Localised areas of rushes and tussocky grasses
- Dense willows along some ditches and streams

Geology and Landform

This is a low-lying, flat landscape, with soils derived from river alluvium. There are numerous drainage ditches, in an area which is subject to extensive flooding from the River Vyrnwy. The underlying geology is glacial deposits.

Soils and Land Use

The low-lying land is normally damp, with characteristic marsh plants and rushes. The land use is of semi-intensive to unimproved pastoral, although occasionally some fields are ploughed. The soils are silty clay loams belonging to the Conway Soil Association. In one area willow has at some time been planted as a commercial crop, but is no longer managed.

Ecology

The main ecological habitats are the fields of semi-improved or unimproved pasture. In some areas, these are now being managed in ways which encourage ground nesting birds. An occasional pasture has reverted to an almost complete cover of rushes and water-loving flora. The boundaries are intact, but not dense, made up of tall hedges of mixed species, with extensive hedge trees. These tall, rather neglected hedges, which follow the line of the drains, have produced a high quality habitat. Where the ditches are fenced and there are no hedges, the fields have an open, exposed appearance.

The drains and ditches are important wildlife corridors, as well as being fresh-water habitats. The other good terrestrial link to adjacent areas is the disused railway, with its numerous mature trees and extensive undergrowth.

Tree Cover

The characteristic appearance of this landscape is one of large grass fields, enclosed by tall hedges, along the edges of the ditches. The hedgerow trees are predominantly scattered willow, sometimes alder, ash and the occasional oak. The views of the Breidden Hills are filtered by the tall, rather unkempt hedges. Other areas have insignificant hedgerow trees and are often exposed.

Enclosure

The fields have boundaries which follow either the irregular sides of streams or, more commonly, have the geometric straight lines of drained wetlands. They were created through the enclosure and drainage of an area of former common meadowland in the 18th or early 19th century. Some alterations to the field pattern occurred in the later 19th century as a result of the construction of the railway line. In some areas the boundaries are the ditches themselves, reinforced with post and wire fences. In other areas there are mixed hawthorn hedges, intensively managed while in other areas the tall unmanaged, mixed species hedgerows predominate, being made up of willow, hawthorn, blackthorn, maple and hazel. The cottages at Llwyn-y-go have kept their field patterns resulting from squatters' enclosure in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Communications

A minor road passes through with little visual impact.

Built Environment

Two small cottages on the very slightly raised area at the Quabbs and the Old Station House at Wernlas crossing.

Riverside Meadows

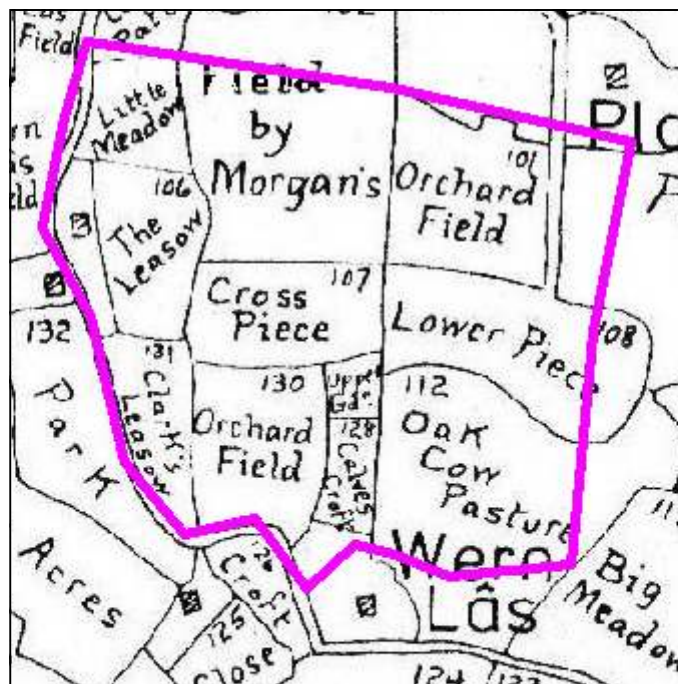
Vyrnwy Flood Plain

Parcel number 26

(13 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 13 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 9 fields



The 1845 field were patterns disrupted by the building of the railway



Riverside Meadows

Vyrnwy Flood Plain Parcel number 26 (13 ha)

A small landscape of flat pasture, with a medium, rectangular, piecemeal enclosure pattern. Land use is pastoral. Ponds and waterlogged hollows are present.

Key Characteristics

- Flat landscape on the southern side of the abandoned railway
- Silty clay loams over glacial deposits
- Rectangular fields bounded by dense hawthorn / blackthorn hedges
- Small irregular fields along the roadside
- Waterlogged depressions with rushes
- Hedgerow trees absent

Geology and Landform

The underlying geology is one of glacial soils. It is an area of level fields, with some hollows and low spots. The area is liable to occasional flooding.

Soils and Land Use

The subsoil is a heavy, loamy clay derived from largely alluvial deposits, although in the Wernlas area glacial deposits are present above the alluvium.

The soils are slow draining in winter and are usually wet until the late spring. Land use is modest pastoral grazing for beef and sheep production.

Ecology

The abandoned railway on the north side of this Parcel is the most important ecological corridor in this landscape. The field hedges are intact, but are not species-rich, being largely hawthorn or blackthorn. There are insignificant hedgerow trees. The few low, rushy spots, which remain damp into the early summer, are ecologically important, but are not linked by good quality terrestrial corridors.

Tree Cover

The field hedges have insignificant hedgerow trees. Most of these are in those hedges, which form part of a more ancient enclosure pattern alongside the road.

The abandoned railway on the northern side of the Parcel is wooded; the main species being ash and sycamore, with some oak present. Alder is present wherever there are damp areas.

Enclosure

This rectangular, planned enclosure pattern was created in the mid to late 19th century, following the construction of the railway line, through the reorganisation of an ancient pattern of small pasture fields. The intact hedges are hawthorn, with some blackthorn, intensively managed but with gaps in places. Alongside the lane are a number of paddocks, remnants of the original squatters' enclosure pattern. These have sinuous hedges, enclosing sub-regular fields. The sinuous hedges are declining, have gaps and are often reinforced with wire and post fences.

Communications

The abandoned railway and a small winding lane.

Built Environment

There are no buildings, apart from the ruins of a cottage which was occupied within living memory.

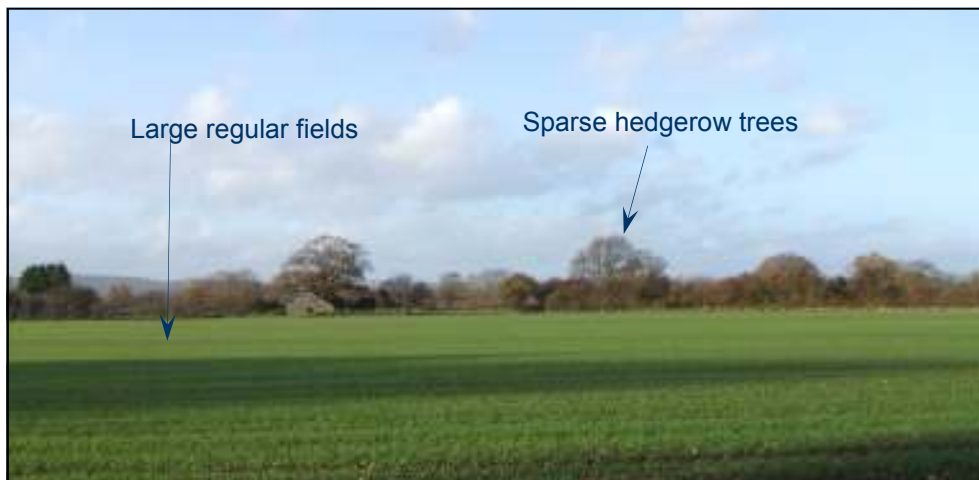


Riverside Meadows

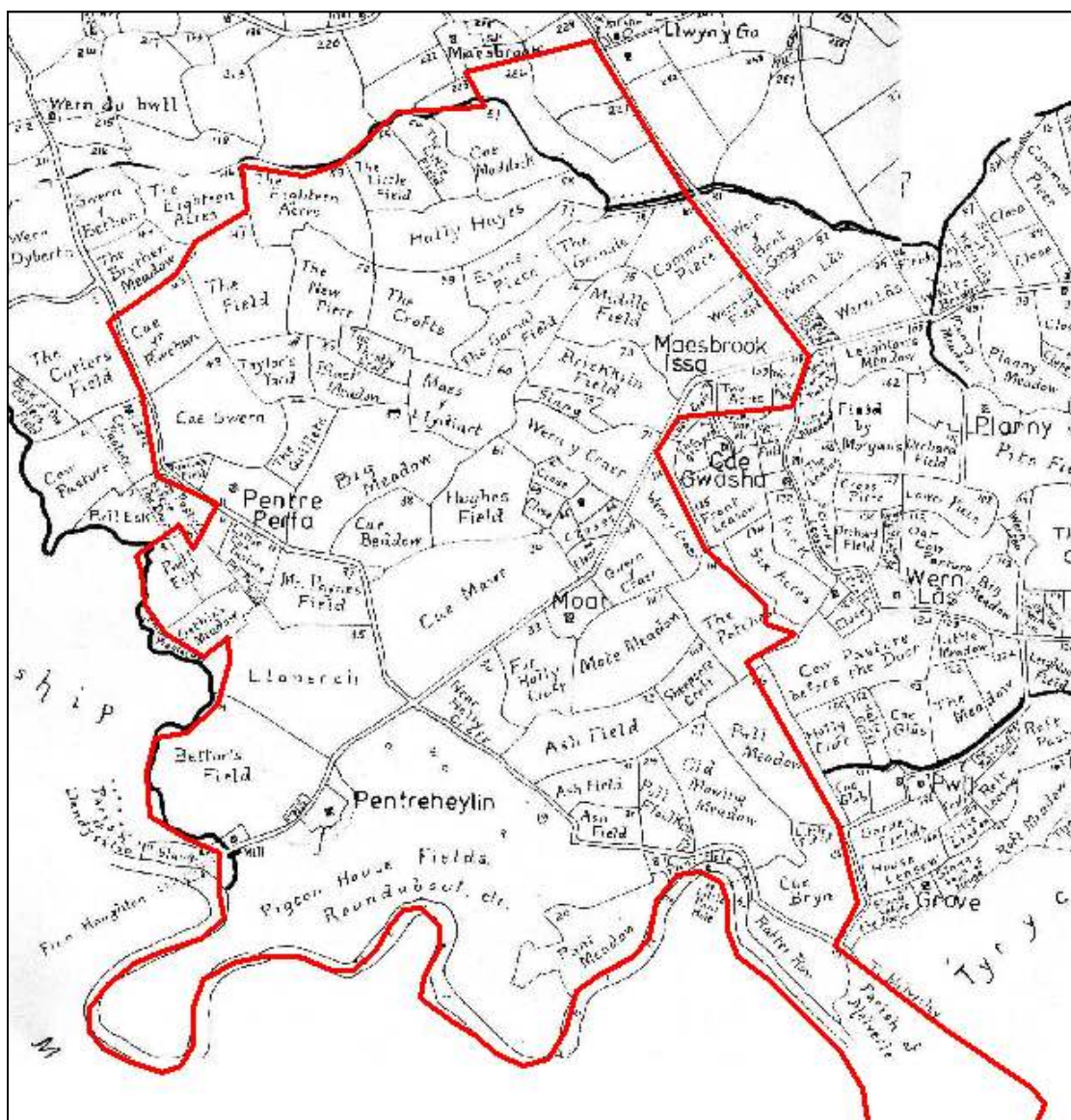
Vyrnwy Flood Plain

Parcel number 27

(260 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 65 fields



Riverside Meadows

Vyrnwy Flood Plain

Parcel number 27

(260 ha)

A flat, open landscape, lying between Maesbrook and the River Vyrnwy, forming part of the Vyrnwy/Severn flood plain. The area is intensively farmed, now mainly arable although formerly dairy farming; permanent pasture is common along the river banks.

Key Characteristics

- Large tract of flat land between Maesbrook and the River Vyrnwy
- Part of the flood plain of the Severn/Vyrnwy confluence
- Well drained, alluvial soils, with some wetter areas
- Intensive arable farming
- Fields are large and irregular in shape
- An area of park like grounds around Pentreheylin Hall

Geology and Landform

The area is formed from silty clay alluvium deposited by the large rivers in the area. The landform is that of an open flood plain. There are extensive views to the Breidden Hills, Llanymynech Hill and the Oswestry Uplands, filtered in part by hedgerow trees.

A feature of the area is the extensive argae, built as flood protection. This follows the River Vyrnwy about 10 feet above the surrounding land. The River Vyrnwy, (and the nearby Rivers Morda and Severn), are characterised by their habit of flowing in channels cut deep into the alluvial plain. At times of persistent and heavy rainfall, the two rivers overflow their banks, forming a lake several miles across.

Soils and Land Use

Although flat and liable to flooding, the area has an actively managed appearance. Previously an area of dairy farms, most fields are now used for arable farming. There are some areas of improved pasture and a few fields of unimproved pasture, particularly beside the river. Regular flooding helps to maintain the quality of the soils, which in areas adjacent to the River Vyrnwy, are silty clay loams, alluvial soils of the Teme Soil Association; further away from the river the soils are the more impermeable, damper soils of the Conway Soil Association. Land on the northern side of the flood plain, draining towards the Weir Brook, is wetter and lower lying with a higher water table than land bordering the Vyrnwy.

Ecology

It is an area subject to flooding. The River Vyrnwy, and the streams draining into the Weir Brook, provide a valuable fresh water habitat, particularly in those areas associated with permanent pasture. The field drains, which lead towards the River Vyrnwy, have been dug only to remove flood water, as the soils themselves drain freely. Most of the fields are large and under intensive arable management. The tall hedgerows are species-rich and intact, providing good terrestrial corridors. The old railway line passes through this area and provides a rich corridor, including well grown trees. There are a limited number of hedgerow trees.

Tree Cover

The overall appearance is of an open landscape. However, the park like grounds around Pentreheylin Hall contain a collection of fine, mature trees, mainly oak with some lime. Spaced at intervals around the nearby fields, willow saplings are being grown, for the manufacture of cricket bats. Other areas of tree cover include a small, mixed plantation and some groups of trees on the edge of the argae, which include a group of juvenile elm trees. The hedgerow trees are sparse, mainly oak and willow in the low-lying areas. A wide range of trees grow along the railway, particularly ash and sycamore. Willow is found in wetter areas.

Enclosure

The field pattern largely derives from the piecemeal enclosure of open fields with further amalgamation in the later 20th century. The fields are large and irregular, usually bounded by one or more straight hedges, some of which are actively managed, others are overgrown and straggly. Around the farms and smallholdings, there are still some remnants of an older field pattern of small rectangular fields. There are a few isolated field trees, remnants of former field pattern boundaries. The hedgerows are species-rich with hawthorn as an important species. Hazel, blackthorn, elm and other trees are also common. Ridge and furrow is still visible in some areas of permanent pasture. (See photograph on page 5).

Communications

Several minor roads, straight, with wide verges.

Built Environment

Apart from Pentreheylin Hall and the Mill, there are a few dispersed smallholdings and farms.

Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Tir-y-Coed

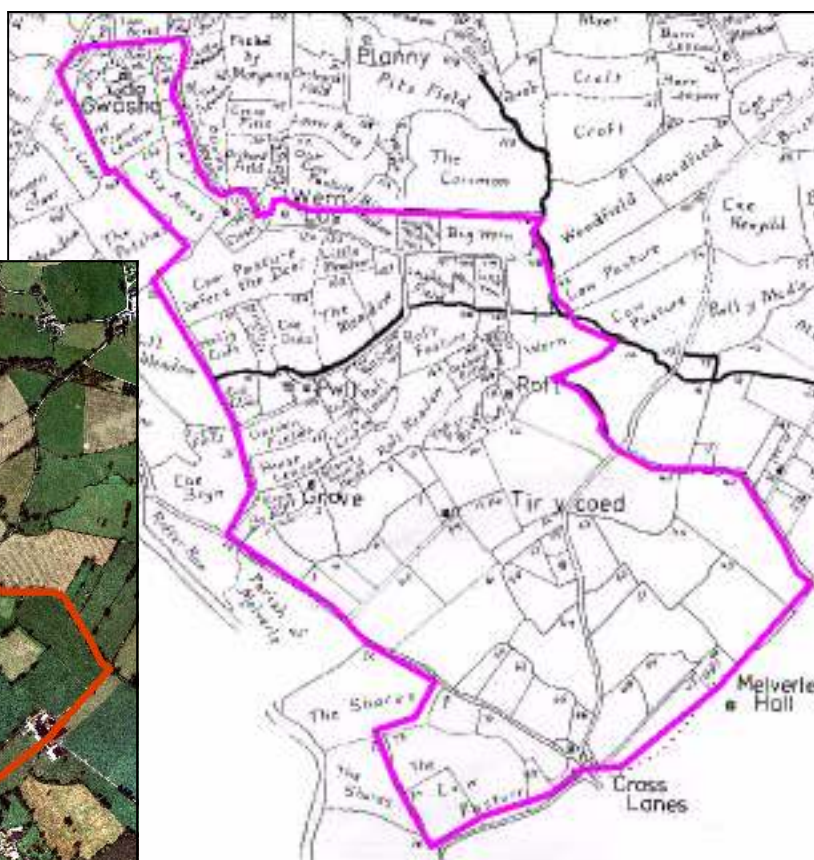
Parcel No 28

(124 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 95 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph shows 56 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Tir-y-Coed Parcel No 28 (124 ha)

A small scale, enclosed pastoral landscape on a flat, but very slightly raised terrace, surrounded by the alluvial flood plain. The hedgerows enclose medium to small fields, many of which retain their original enclosure boundaries. There are dense trees along the numerous streams and ditches.

Key Characteristics

- A flat landscape, with low-lying wet areas and ponds
- An area subjected to seasonal flooding
- Slowly draining, silty loams over glacial clays
- A predominately pastoral landscape
- Small to medium fields surrounded by tall hedgerows
- Ditches and hedges with dense linear rows of trees
- Farms at intervals along the lanes, sited on slightly raised ground, particularly to the north

Geology and Landform

It is a low-lying, rather flat area, which is subject to seasonal flooding of damp hollows or low-lying ground. The subsoil is a heavy, loamy clay derived from largely alluvial deposits. In the Wernlas area glacial deposits are present above the alluvium.

Soils and Land Use

Most of the soils are brownish silty or sandy clay loams of the Pinder Soil Association, often waterlogged in the winter months. Due to the likelihood of flooding and the wet soils throughout the winter, land use is largely pastoral. There is some intensive grassland for dairy farming, but most of the pasture is used for medium-intensive stock rearing. This, very slightly raised area, is described as a Flood Plain Island, which has seasonally wet soils due to slow run off and slowly permeable subsoils. (*Severn/Vyrnwy Land Management Initiative 2004*).

Ecology

It is an area of tall hedges, small streams and ditches and narrow ponds along the roadside, which were formerly used as cattle watering points. These all provide freshwater habitats and good terrestrial corridors. Where the pasture is intensively managed, particularly in areas where land use is dairy farming, the hedges are also intensively managed.

Where the pasture is less intensively managed, the hedges are taller and the terrestrial corridors, including some green lanes, are intact and link up with the networks of small streams and ditches that meander through the area. Ponds, scrapes and wet spots, often with rushes, are present in many of the fields.

Tree Cover

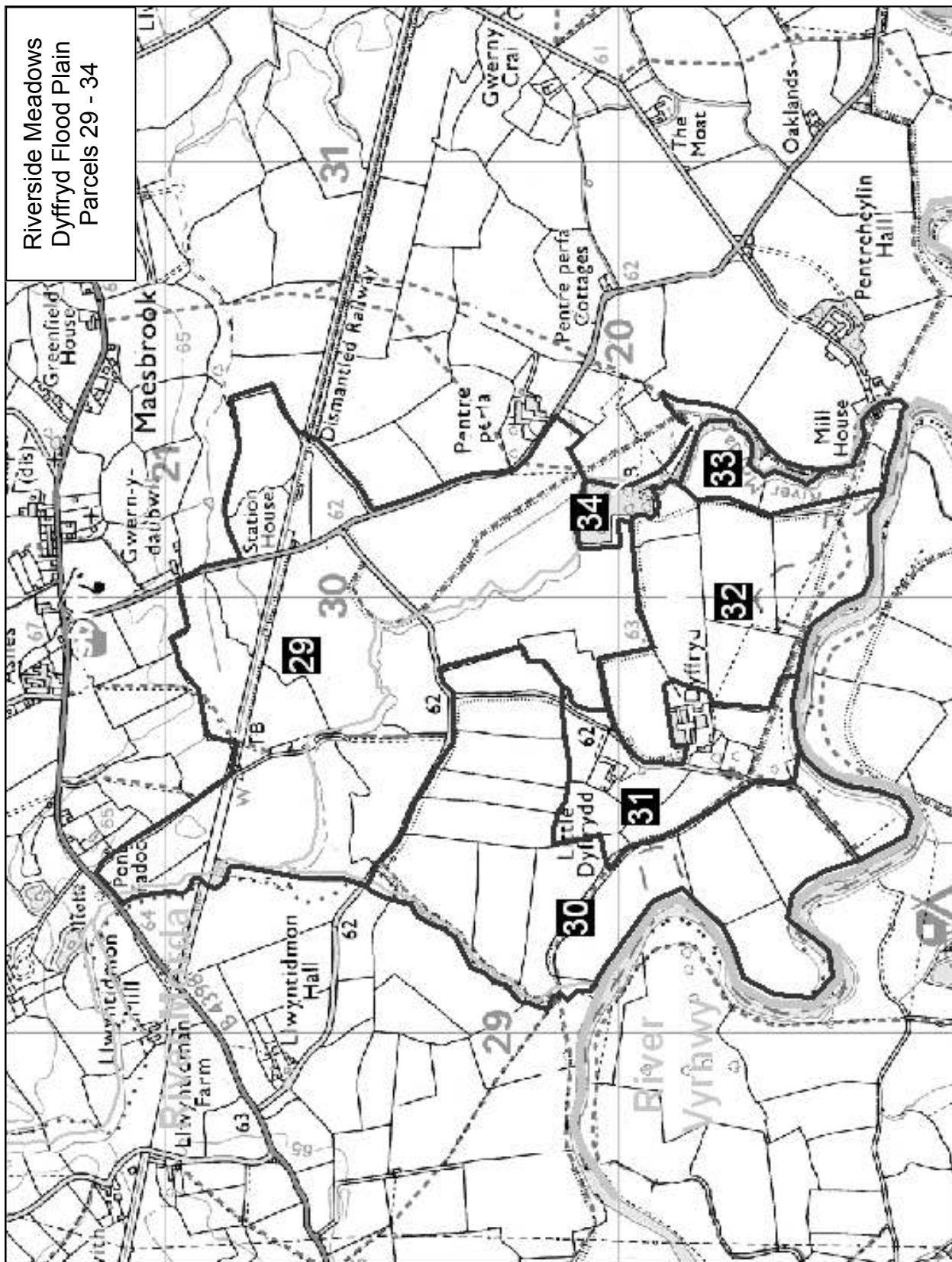
The hedgerows contain scattered boundary trees, often oak, but ash and sycamore are also present in significant numbers. Along the sides of the streams and on the edges of the ponds, willow and alder are common, although oak is also present. The area has a wooded, enclosed feel, with filtered views of the Breidden Hills. Although many of the oaks are mature or over mature, some young hedgerow trees are present, mainly ash. It is one of the few areas in the Parish where there are juvenile trees.

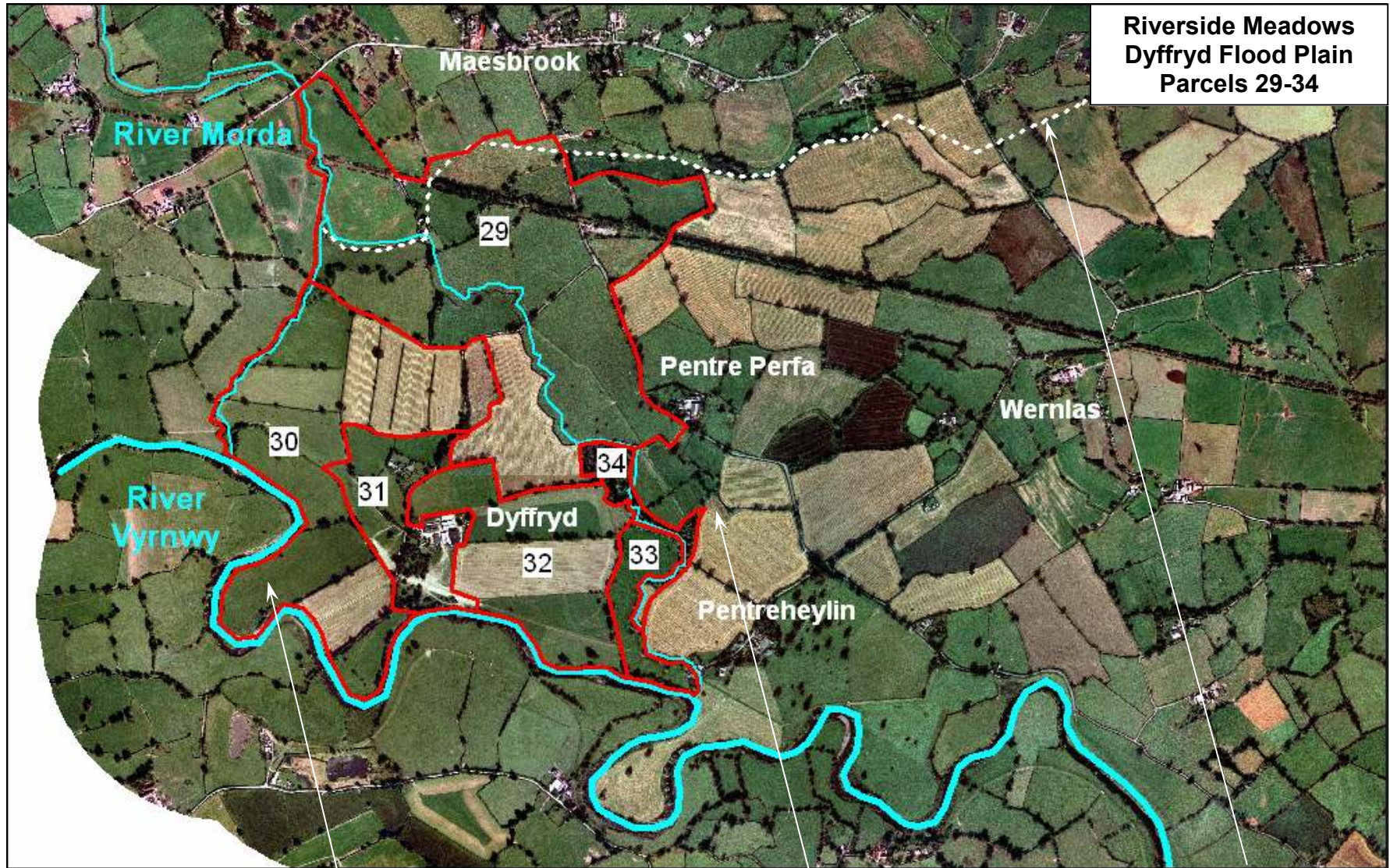
Enclosure

The pattern of small to medium sub-regular fields was created through piecemeal enclosure of open fields between the 14th and 17th centuries. Although some boundaries have been straightened it has remained largely unaltered since the mid 19th century. Ridge and furrow survives as earthworks in some fields. While many fields have one or two straight boundaries, often one or more of the other boundaries are irregular, sometimes due to the need to follow the banks of streams. The fields are enclosed by hedges, which are often tall and sometimes gappy. Blackthorn is common, as is field maple and hazel. Where the hedges are tall, hawthorn predominates. Where the boundaries follow the banks of streams or drains, there are lines of willow and some alder. Occasionally hedgerows appear as double rows of hawthorn and hedgerow trees. Many of the hedgerow bottoms are choked with debris from past flooding, which has restricted undergrowth.

Communications and Built Environment

Scattered brick built farms and buildings linked by narrow, winding lanes, a number of farm lanes, green lanes or tracks giving access to the fields and abandoned dwellings.





Riverside Meadows
Dyffryd Flood Plain
Parcels 29-34

Alluvial Flood Plain
Teme Soil Association
Fine Silty Clay Loams

Alluvial Flood Plain
Conway Soil Association
Silty Clay Loams

White line shows limit
of alluvial soils of flood plain

The whole of the Severn Vyrnwy confluence flood plain area is of national ecological importance

Riverside Meadows

Dyffryd Flood Plain

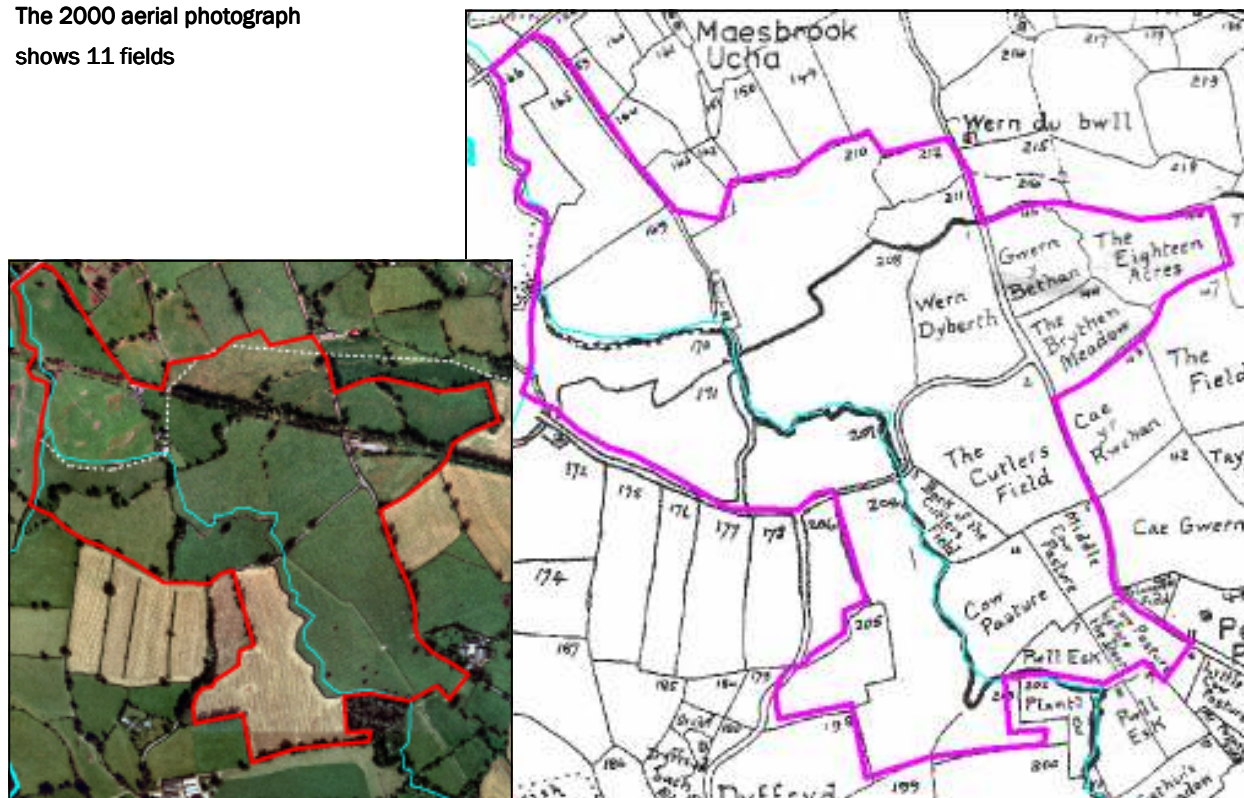
Parcel number 29

(11 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 22 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph shows 11 fields



Riverside Meadows

Dyffryd Flood Plain

Parcel number 29

(11 ha)

An area of large flat, irregular fields through which flows a branch of the River Morda. This permanent pasture, is subject to flooding by the River Vyrnwy, which backs up into the River Morda. The floodwater then follows the Maesbrook branch of the Weir Brook.

Key Characteristics

- Flat land, on both sides of the River Morda, with some wetter areas
- Very large fields, with few boundaries
- Land use is pastoral
- An argae passes through the centre, with the river on the western side
- Open landscape, with wide views

Geology and Landform

This flat, open area is part of the Vyrnwy/Morda flood plain, and is underlain by river alluvium. It is subject to extensive flooding from the River Vyrnwy, and to a lesser extent the River Morda, which run through its centre, with an argae on the river's eastern boundary. The fields show a distinct pattern of previous ridge and furrow ploughing.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are fairly wet, with good drainage. They are silty clay loams of the Teme Soil Association, overlying river alluvium. The soils of the Teme Association drain more readily than those of the Conway Soil Association, which are further from the banks of the Rivers Vyrnwy and Morda. The soils are often wet throughout the winter months, while some of the hollows retain their moisture for longer periods after the floods have receded. The land use is predominantly old pasture, intensively farmed.

Ecology

This is an open landscape, through which a branch of the River Morda flows, which in the past served the mill. The river banks and open ditches are managed, are not overgrown and have very few trees or shrubs on the banks. The hedges along the roads are well managed and are, in places, species-rich. Other hedges, including those which follow the ditches, are tall and lightly managed. The hedgerow trees are generally sparse, but are dense in some places. The fields are large, with the occasional, straggly hawthorn, indicating the line of an old hedge. Terrestrial corridors, including the managed banks of the River Morda, are weak. The pasture is actively managed. These low-lying areas often have standing water, after heavy rain or floods, which attracts duck, geese and swans.

The abandoned railway to the north of this area provides a landscape feature of mixed, semi-mature trees with scrub undergrowth. It is an important terrestrial corridor.

Tree Cover

This is an open landscape, in which trees make limited impact. There are few trees or shrubs on the banks of the River Morda, but there is a fine row of hedgerow oak trees on the roadside. Hedgerow trees in other areas are sparse. Within this landscape, there are tall hawthorn, which occur both as isolated, small trees and as lines along the ditches, in association with a mixture of willow, ash, some oak and the very occasional elm tree.

Enclosure

This is a wide landscape, with few hedge boundaries, apart from those that follow the roads and the banks of the streams or ditches. The present day field pattern is largely the product of late 19th century agricultural improvements. It derives from an earlier pattern of piecemeal enclosure from open fields. The road to the Dyffryd has been straightened, the fields have been enlarged and, particularly where the railway cuts right through this landscape, the enclosure pattern has altered. The tall hedgerows are usually hawthorn, with some ash and oak hedgerow trees. Along the roadside, the hawthorn hedges are intensively managed. In places they are particularly species-rich; the hawthorn has been crowded out by dogwood, field maple, blackthorn, hazel and, particularly, elm.

Communications

Two small lanes and footpaths follow the argae.

Built Environment

The only building in the parcel is the Old Station House, originally Maesbrook Station on the Shrewsbury-Llanymynech line and now converted to a dwelling. The argae are prominent features.

Riverside Meadows

Dyffryd Flood Plain

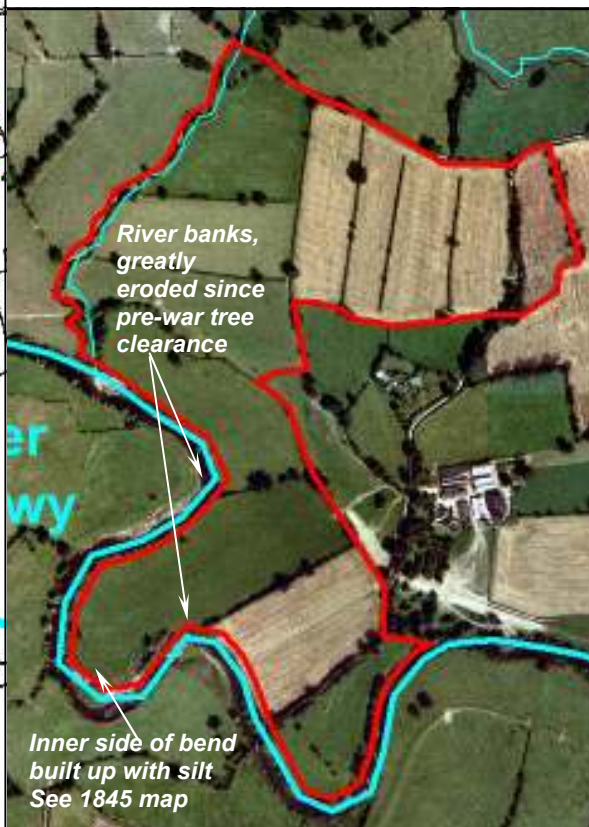
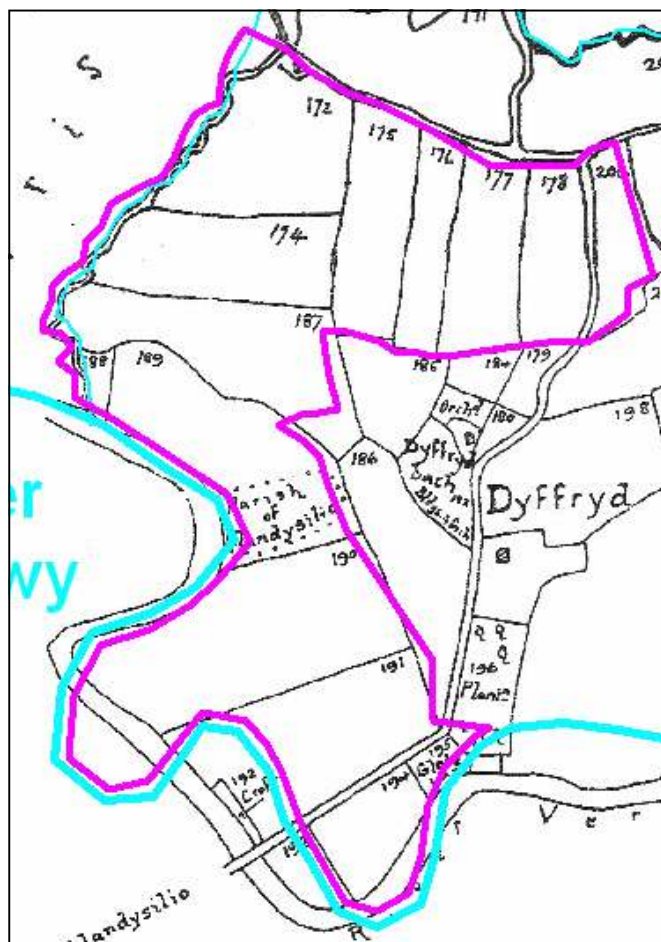
Parcel number 30

(42 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 12 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph shows 12 fields



Riverside Meadows

Dyffryd Flood Plain

Parcel number 30

(42 ha)

A large, pastoral landscape of rectilinear fields, beside the Rivers Vyrnwy and Morda. Flat low-lying fields, often flooded, alongside meandering tree-lined river banks. There are no small streams; ditches take away the flood water from these free draining alluvial soils. Argae are an important landscape feature.

Key Characteristics

- Flat land bordering the River Vyrnwy
- Enclosure pattern of rectilinear fields, often with one boundary alongside a river bank
- Liable to flooding
- Managed grassland and limited arable
- Straight boundaries are mainly thorn
- There are no buildings

Geology and Landform

This flat open landscape, which lies alongside the Rivers Vyrnwy and Morda, is subject to seasonal flooding. The soils are derived from river alluvium. The River Vyrnwy and the River Morda are inconspicuous, lying in deep channels, cut through alluvium. Part of the extensive system of argae, which line the Vyrnwy and the Morda, cross this area. These argae rise about 6-8 feet above the surrounding flood plain, and form a distinctive feature of the landscape.

An interesting feature is the loop shaped nature of the parish boundary to the west of Dyffryd Farm, which brings a small parcel of land on the east side of the Vyrnwy into Wales. This represents one of two former loops of the river in this area, which have now been cut off, but are still clearly visible.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are fairly wet, silty, clay loams of the Teme Soil Association, with some sandy material in the finer grained soils. The land use is semi-improved or improved pasture with some areas in arable rotation.

Ecology

The hedges, alongside the lanes, are unusually species-rich. Those hedges which follow the sides of ditches, and those which are close to the river, are tall, with a wide mixture of species. They are not intact as strong overland flood flows have a disruptive effect on hedgerows. The main ecological habitat is the River Vyrnwy and, to a lesser extent, the managed river banks of the River Morda. These provide a valuable fresh water habitat, with their associated trees and banks.

The pasture alongside the river adds to this important ecological environment, particularly where it is less intensively grazed. Those areas where the soils are permanently damp are important habitats of flora, ground insects and birds, such as curlew and herons.

Tree Cover

The scattered hedgerow trees are large and well grown. They are often oak but also include ash, sycamore and a few large field maples. Alongside the River Vyrnwy there is a line of willow, with some alder and the occasional oak or ash. These have regenerated since 1938 when all trees were cleared. The River Morda, which is now managed mechanically, has few trees on its banks, apart from the occasional small willow. The various streams and ditches have scattered trees, usually ash and tall hawthorn.

Enclosure

The landscape is characterised by relatively uniform, medium sized rectilinear fields with straight boundaries. The field pattern has not changed since the late 18th century, by which time these wet meadowlands had been enclosed and drained, to remove flood water quickly. The hedgerows along the lanes are unusually species-rich; elm is present in abundance, together with dogwood, maple, hawthorn and blackthorn. Internal field hedgerows are leggy, gappy, tall hawthorn, covered in briars and dog rose.

Communications

Two small lanes cross this landscape and the footpaths follow the argae. The lane leading to the River Vyrnwy formerly continued across a ford to Four Crosses but is now impassable.

Built Environment

The only building is a derelict stone barn.



Curlew

Riverside Meadows

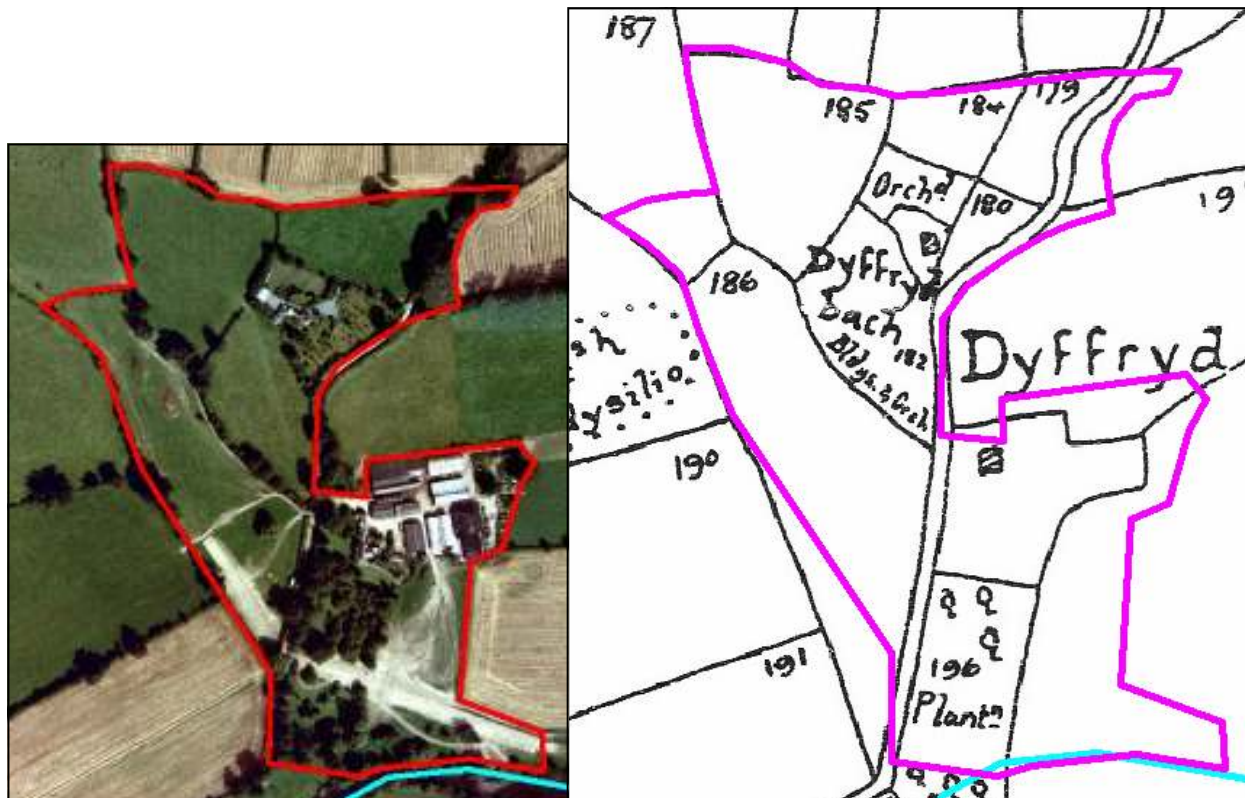
Dyffryd Flood Plain

Parcel number 31

(13 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 11 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 7 fields



Riverside Meadows

Dyffryd Flood Plain

Parcel number 31

(13 ha)

An area of small irregular fields, surrounding two farmhouses. The fields inside the argae are low-lying and damp. The main landscape features are the farmhouses and their associated buildings, the orchards, particularly the filbert and cob nut plantation, the fine amenity trees and the orchards around the farms.

Key Characteristics

- Flat land containing two farmhouses and farm buildings
- Mainly pasture land with some orchards adjacent to the houses
- Alluvial soils which drain fairly quickly
- Land subject to regular flooding, with some protection from argae
- Cob nut and filbert orchards, no longer in commercial production

Geology and Landform

The land lies on the alluvium of the River Vyrnwy flood plain. The landform is flat, with wide views of the Breidden Hills to the south.

Soils and Land Use

These alluvial soils are seasonally flooded and are silty clay loams or clay loams, belonging to the Teme Soil Association. Although subject to regular flooding, these soils are reasonably free draining. Land use is pastoral, dairy farming and stock rearing; there is an unmanaged filbert orchard normally under-grazed by calves.

Ecology

This area has the usual habitats associated with this flood plain; the hedges are species-rich, but not always intact, the pastures are managed, while the river banks are lined with those trees associated with wet conditions, including willow, alder, hazel, hawthorn and bramble. The filbert plantation, with its dense clumps of hazel bushes, many with large stools at their base, is set in unimproved grassland. These tall grasses and the tree cover make this plantation an ecologically important area. The stone wall provides a useful home for mosses and lichens. The banks and margins of the river are important wild life habitats, particularly in those areas where river bank margins are not intensively grazed.

Tree Cover

The area has a wooded feel, due to the collection of amenity trees around the houses, many of which are well grown, specimen trees, including one oriental plane. The filbert plantation is no longer worked commercially, although in the past such plantations were the centre of notable social occasions at harvest time. Willow, alder and hawthorn are present along the river bank. Elsewhere there are sparse, but fine examples of hedgerow trees, usually oak and some ash.

Enclosure

The field pattern has remained largely unchanged since the late 18th century and comprises an ancient pattern of small irregular paddocks. Subdivisions of a slightly later date are evident in the form of straight hedgerows. Boundaries are intact and managed along the side of the roads. Elsewhere, tall, gappy hawthorn, reinforced with post and wire fences, is common. The roadside hedges are particularly species-rich, with hawthorn, dogwood, blackthorn, elm, hazel and other tree species.

Communications

A lane serves the two dwellings and there are footpaths along the argae.

Built Environment

Records of Dyffryd go back to at least 1619, when it was owned by Sir Richard Hussey. Little Dyffryd dates from 1713. There are a range of old and newer farm outbuildings and an old drift house surmounted by a dovecot.



Filbert

Riverside Meadows

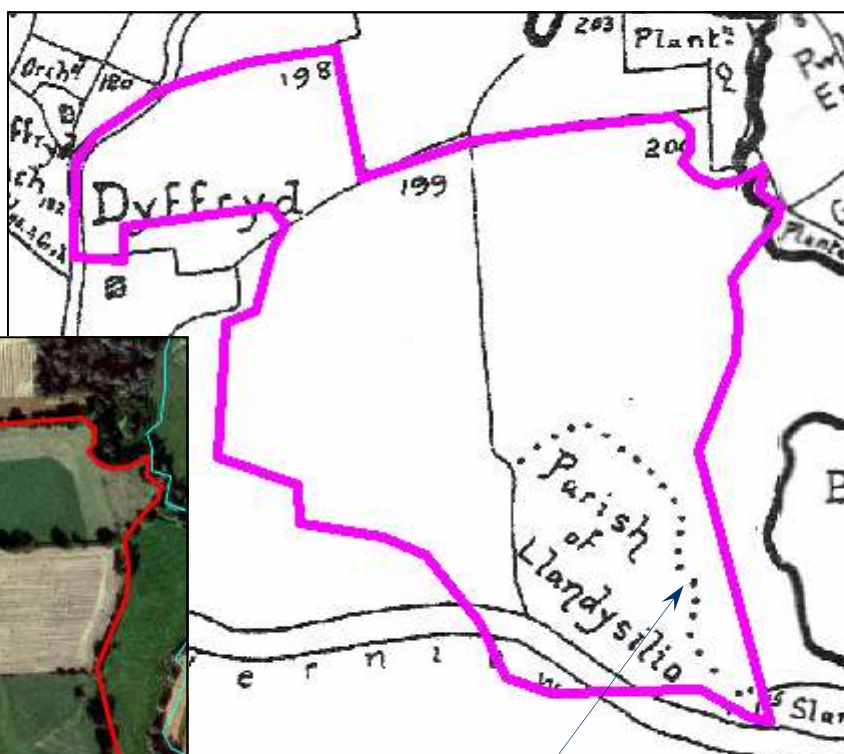
Dyffryd Flood Plain

Parcel number 32

(22 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 3 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 4 fields



Note: The old course of the river
Compare the position of the river in both maps

Riverside Meadows

Dyffryd Flood Plain

Parcel number 32

(22 ha)

An area of flat, low-lying fields in the flood plain of the River Morda and the River Vyrnwy. The argae are substantial landscape features. It is a landscape of mixed farming, with the areas between the river and argae under permanent pasture. The line of willows along the river bank is a common landscape feature of the area.

Key Characteristics

- Flat open fields bordering the River Vyrnwy and protected by argae
- Soils are free draining, but subject to flooding
- Enclosure patterns are fields with rectilinear, straight boundaries
- There are argae bordering the River Vyrnwy to the south, and a drain to the east
- Mixed farming land use
- Remains of a previous course of the River Vyrnwy are discernible

Geology and Landform

The landscape, bordered by the River Vyrnwy, is a flat flood plain, low-lying and underlain by alluvial deposits. It is an open landscape, with clear views to the Breidden Hills to the south. The fields are given some protection from flooding by the argae, but these are not sufficient to prevent widespread flooding in very wet years.

The Parish boundary, which follows the river, makes a distinctive loop away from the present course of the river for a few hundred yards. This represents a palaeochannel, which remains clearly visible on the ground. This area has quite different flora from the surrounding permanent pasture, and includes sedges and tussocky grasses.

Soils and Land Use

The soils, although subject to regular flooding, nevertheless still drain relatively quickly when the waters recede. The soils are silty clay loams of the Teme Soil Association. It is the tree line that defines the river, rather than the river itself, which has cut deeply into the alluvium. Some hollows remain wet, long after the floods have receded. Land use is both arable and pasture with good examples of ridge and furrow.

Ecology

This area has the usual habitats of a flood plain; riparian flora along the river bank and the less intensively managed pasture next to the river bank; beyond are more intensively farmed fields. The River Vyrnwy is a moderately wide river, with water of a reasonable quality, making it and its banks a valuable fresh water habitat, except where it has been invaded by Himalayan Balsam. The hedges are species-rich, but not always intact. The pastures inside the argae are intensively managed. The river banks, and the permanent pasture associated with them, are lined with trees associated with wet conditions, including willow, alder, hazel, hawthorn and bramble. The wet areas found in the hollows of the permanent pasture, including the loop of the old river bed, are only wet after floods. Tussock grasses appear when repeated flooding kills off other grasses.

Tree Cover

The tree cover is insignificant within the landscape, except in areas associated with the river and ditches. There are lines of hedgerow trees, usually oak and ash, with some willow, scattered along the boundaries on the edge of this landscape. Occasional field trees are present in those areas under permanent pasture; these include some mature sycamore, and tall hawthorn. The river banks are lined with willow, interspersed with alder and the occasional tall hawthorn.

Enclosure

The enclosure pattern is one of straight field boundaries, created in the later 19th century, through the rationalisation of an earlier field pattern. The boundaries are either hedges or post and wire fencing. The sparse trees in the tall hawthorn hedgerows are oak and ash with the occasional willow.

Communications

A footpath along the argae and a small lane.

Built Environment

A substantial argae is the main feature.



Riverside Meadows

Dyffryd Flood Plain

Parcel number 33

(6 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 2 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 2 fields



Riverside Meadows

Dyffryd Flood Plain Parcel number 33 (6 ha)

A narrow, low-lying strip of irregular shape, restricted by the banks of the River Morda, at its confluence with the River Vyrnwy. An enclosed, pastoral area of unimproved grassland, surrounded by rivers and drains, which is subject to seasonal floods. The rivers are marked by lines of trees.

Key Characteristics

- A small area of pasture alongside the River Morda
- Small flat fields, bounded by a ditch and the Rivers Morda and Vyrnwy
- Land subject to regular flooding
- Irregular field boundaries, with post and wire and some fragmented thorn hedges
- Habitats include the river banks and riverside pasture
- There are no roads or buildings

Geology and Landform

This parcel forms part of the alluvial flood plain of the Rivers Morda and Vyrnwy. At the south east corner of this landscape the Morda Millstream joins the River Vyrnwy. This flat landscape parcel has open views to the Breidden Hills and the Welsh Mountains.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are alluvial, silty, clay loams, belonging to the Teme Soil Association. These low-lying soils are subject to regular flooding and are therefore seasonally wet; however they are reasonably free draining. The fields are used for semi-intensive pasture and may be cut for hay or silage.

Ecology

The habitats are restricted to the fragmented hedges, pastures and to the river banks, where the inundation flora of willow and alder create an ecologically important zone. There are good terrestrial corridors along the banks of the rivers and drains. The Rivers Vyrnwy and Morda provide valuable freshwater habitats, associated with the banks and their trees. The pasture alongside the riverbanks adds to this important ecological environment. As these pastures are not heavily grazed, this landscape is of particular value, set as it is between the two river corridors.

Tree Cover

The banks of the River Vyrnwy are lined with scattered willow and the occasional alder. Throughout the area there are sparse individual trees, oak, sycamore and an occasional ash. Tall overgrown hawthorn help to give this landscape an enclosed feel, with limited views to the north.

Enclosure

This isolated landscape is a narrow neck of land between the River Morda and argae. These physical constraints set the shape of this landscape, whose main boundaries are the rivers themselves. The hedges are declining, gappy and in many places are made up of tall, unmanaged hawthorn. The wide northerly end floods early and a post and wire fence restricts cattle from this area in times of flood.

Communications

A footpath along the Vyrnwy argae.

Built Environment

There are no buildings. The argae are a feature.



Riverside Meadows

Dyffryd Flood Plain

Parcel number 34

(4 ha)



Overgrown withy beds



The historic map shows 2 fields.
The aerial map shows 2 fields.



Riverside Meadows

Dyffryd Flood Plain

Parcel number 34

(4 ha)

A small area of neglected withy beds in a wet, low-lying spot, surrounded by well managed ditches. The eastern edge of the plantation of withy beds is bounded by the River Morda and its argae. For this study the mill branch of the River Morda has been taken as the geographical boundary between the Pentreheylin and Dyffryd Riverside Meadows.

Key Characteristics

- An elongated, flat area containing the slow flowing River Morda
- An abandoned patch of withy beds
- Wet soils, in a low-lying area
- Overgrown and unmanaged woodland, a valuable wildlife habitat

Geology and Landform

This small, elongated area, flanking the River Morda for about half a mile, is only a few hundred yards from the River Morda's confluence with the River Vyrnwy. It lies on the alluvial flood plain of the River Morda, and is subject to regular flooding in the winter. The landform is flat, with deep ditches and a small raised argae on the southern end.

Soils and Land Use

The area is one of wet, silty clay loams of the Teme Soil Association. In the past, the area was used as managed withy beds. These were plantations of osier (a type of willow which produces, on regular coppicing, very flexible stems, or withies). These were used for basket making, eel traps, thatching spars and fencing. The area is now unmanaged, and overgrown. This area is shown as "Plantation" on the 1845 map, an indication that withy cultivation was taking place here some 150 years ago.

Ecology

Undisturbed, abandoned withy beds in a wet environment, such as this, provide a valuable wildlife habitat for both birds and insects, and a rich source of food for farmland and woodland birds. This landscape is wet and provides an ecological environment, which has become rare. Pasture and soils at the edges of the withy beds are also damp, and offer a scarce habitat for ground nesting birds and wetland flora and fauna. At the northern end, wet hollows and open ditches also provide valuable habitats. A pool has been excavated and attempts are being made to encourage otters to build a holt.

Tree Cover

The entire parcel is covered in abandoned willow trees of all sizes, from coppiced stools to mature trees. The occasional mature oak tree, usually covered in ivy, some alder and some large, overgrown hawthorn shrubs are to be found on the edges of this parcel.

Enclosure

The parcel is bounded by water on both sides, the River Morda and its associated drains.

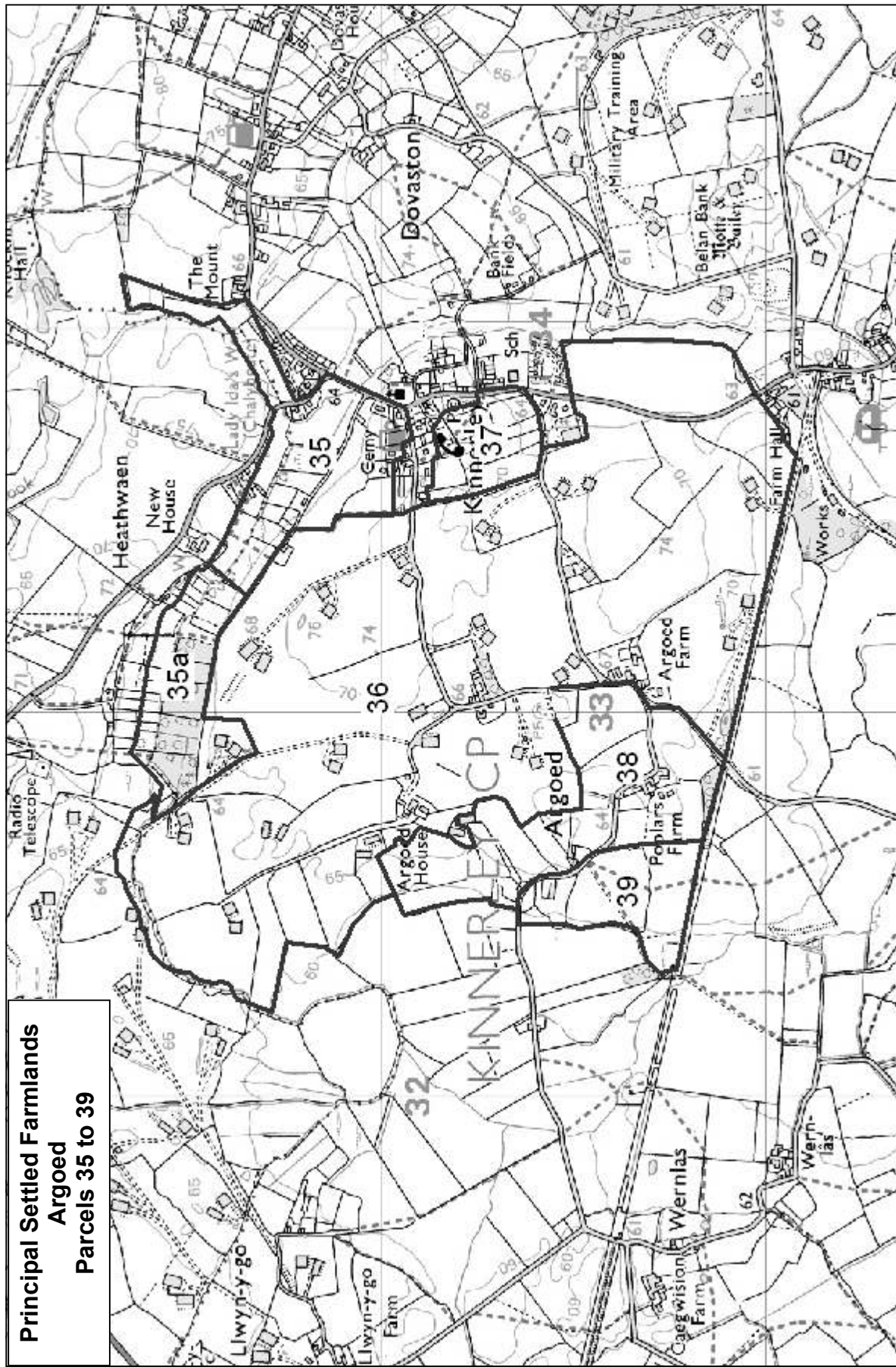
Communications

There are the remains of a footbridge, which connects to the withy beds.

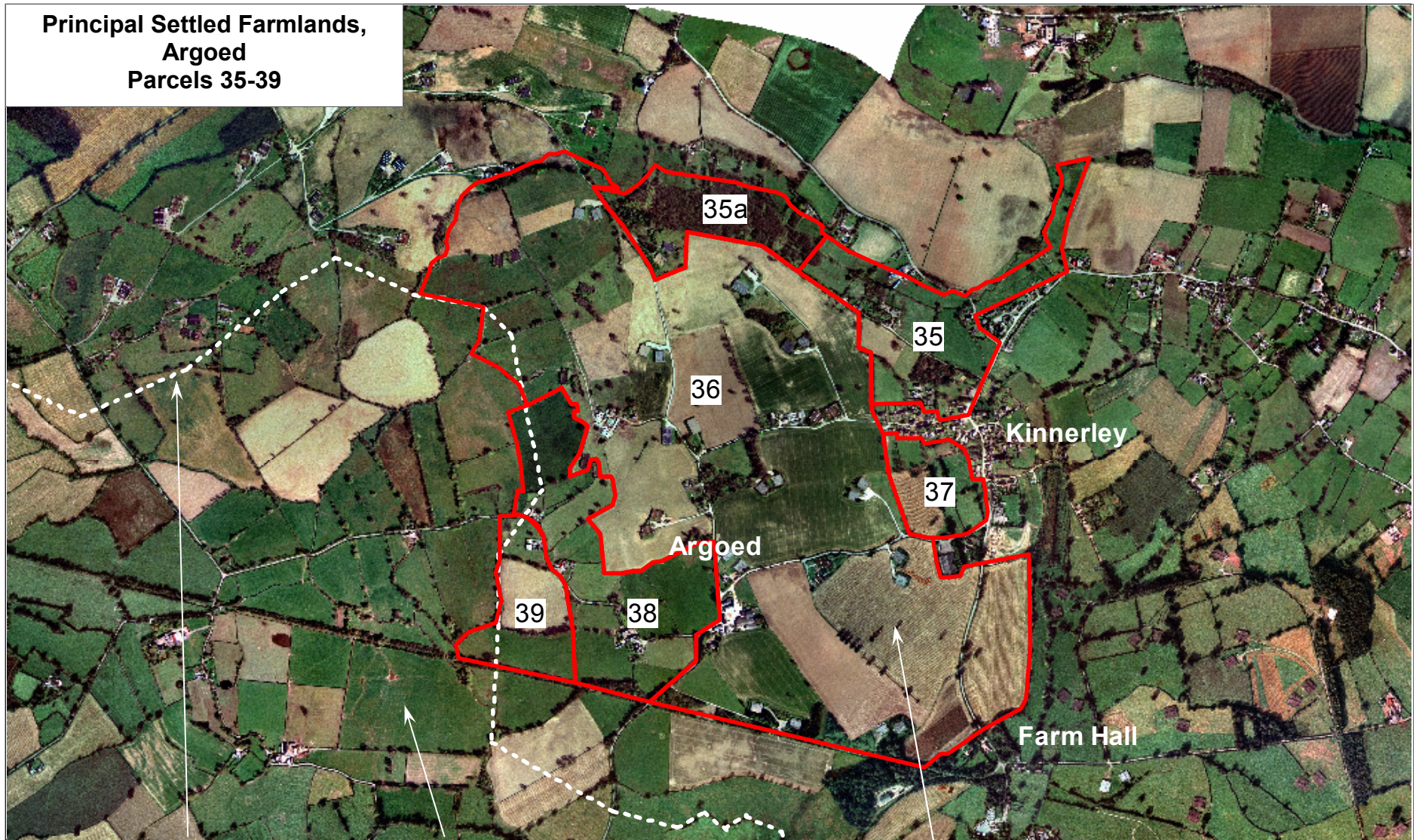
Built Environment

There are no buildings. The Morda argae runs along the elongated eastern section, joining the Vyrnwy argae at Pentreheylin.





**Principal Settled Farmlands,
Argoed
Parcels 35-39**



White line shows the boundary of the alluvial soils of the Flood Plain

Alluvial Flood Plain
Conway Soil Association
Silty Clay Loams

Pinder Soil Association
Silty Clay Loams—Clay Loams

Principal Settled Farmlands

Argoed Parcel number 35 (18 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 18 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 12 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

Argoed Parcel number 35 (18 ha)

A strip of flat open pasture through which passes the meandering Weir Brook, with few trees on its banks. The stream marks the parish boundary for part of its course.

A pastoral landscape with some woodland and scattered cottages.

Key Characteristics

- A small, flat, narrow area, adjacent to the Weir Brook with limited views
- Soils are dark peaty loam or heavier, sandy clay loams
- Low-lying areas, often wet in winter
- Semi-improved pasture land
- Small areas of mixed woodland
- Boundaries are hedges with some ditches
- Scattered stream bank and hedge trees
- Main habitats are fields, streams and woods
- The only buildings are the three houses in Heathwaen Lane

Geology and Landform

The geology is of recent alluvial and glacial deposits, giving rise to poorly drained soils, peaty in places. The landform is mostly flat, but slopes towards the stream on its western boundary. The views are restricted by landform and tree cover, except at the end of Heathwaen Lane, where the Breidden Hills are a feature.

Soils and Land Use

The soils on the higher, slightly sloping ground are quite wet, heavy, brown, sandy clay loams, belonging to the Pinder Soil Associations. On the flat land, adjacent to the brook the soil is a black silty peaty loam, belonging to the Adventurers' Series. Land use is restricted to grazing, hay or silage making.

Ecology

Hedges are generally intact with good corridor connections to adjacent areas. The stream banks are regularly cleared, reducing the ecological value. In areas of high water table, adjacent to the brook, the pasture is ecologically important, particularly when it is not under intensive management. The mixed woodland is an important wildlife habitat, which has good terrestrial corridors to the adjacent fields, the village gardens and the Weir Brook. Heathwaen Lane is an important, although highly managed corridor, which runs through the centre, connecting this peaty area alongside the Weir Brook to the woodland to the north.

Tree Cover

This landscape has a wooded feel with its community wood, Peel's Plantation at the western end, the hedgerow trees, the woodland at the northern end and the amenity trees planted around the houses. The community wood contains a mixture of conifers and deciduous trees, including wild cherry, oak, ash, sycamore and some larch. As a community wood, it is lightly managed both for recreation and wildlife. It has tall, overgrown hawthorn hedges. Hedgerow trees are mature, scattered and predominantly oak. Other hedgerow species include ash and some young amenity trees along the lane, including chestnut and beech. There are a few isolated, individual trees in the fields and scattered willow and alder in the wetter areas, adjoining the Weir Brook.

Enclosure

The parcel incorporates a number of small rectilinear fields, created through the enclosure and drainage of Heathwaen moss, as well as some small paddocks immediately adjacent to Kinnerley Village. The fields are enclosed by intact hedges of mixed species, and the stream banks. Hedgerow trees, some of which are immature, are intermittent. There is an occasional post and wire or wooden fence.

Communications

A quiet, highly managed lane runs through the centre and joins the main road into Kinnerley Village. There are a number of footpaths.

Built Environment

Three dwellings along the central lane. The impact of these is low.



Principal Settled Farmlands

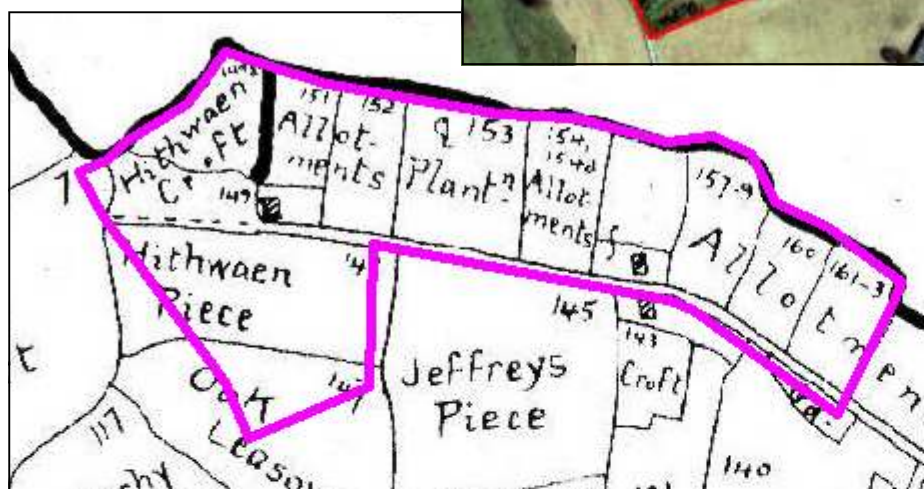
Argoed

Parcel number 35a

(10 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 11 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 1 field



Principal Settled Farmlands

Argoed Parcel number 35a (10 ha)

An extensive area of mixed woodland in a wet, boggy area, which forms part of the peaty alluvial areas, associated with the Weir Brook flood plain. A low-lying area into which the surrounding fields drain.

Key Characteristics

- A low-lying flat landscape
- An area of wet, peaty bog
- A land use of mixed woodland
- Boundaries of ditches and neglected hedges

Geology and Landform

A peat moss, overlying an area of glacial till origin, with wet, peaty loam soils. The landform is flat, as it is part of the old Haethwaen moss, which is associated with the flood plain of the Weir Brook. The adjoining fields slope down gently towards this narrow strip of peat moss.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are peaty loams of the Adventurers' Soil Series, with extensive growth of mosses throughout the woods. It is a very wet, boggy area, which in the 1845 field map was described as an area of allotments, which were served by Haethwaen Lane. It is now an area of unmanaged woodland.

Ecology

The habitat is a wetland area, with a cover of semi-natural trees. The undergrowth is extensive, made up of numerous fallen branches and trees. It is an unusual habitat, with good terrestrial corridors to the adjacent fields; it links in with the loamy peats associated with the damp soils of the Weir Brook's alluvial flood plain.

Tree Cover

The whole moss is covered in mixed woodland, largely alder, unmanaged and neglected.

Enclosure

It was an area that in the late 18th century was divided into narrow allotments, reached by a lane along one side.

The block of mixed secondary woodland is surrounded by a ditch on one side and by fencing, some of which is not intact, on the other sides.

Communications

Private lane.

Built Environment

No longer any dwellings.



Principal Settled Farmlands

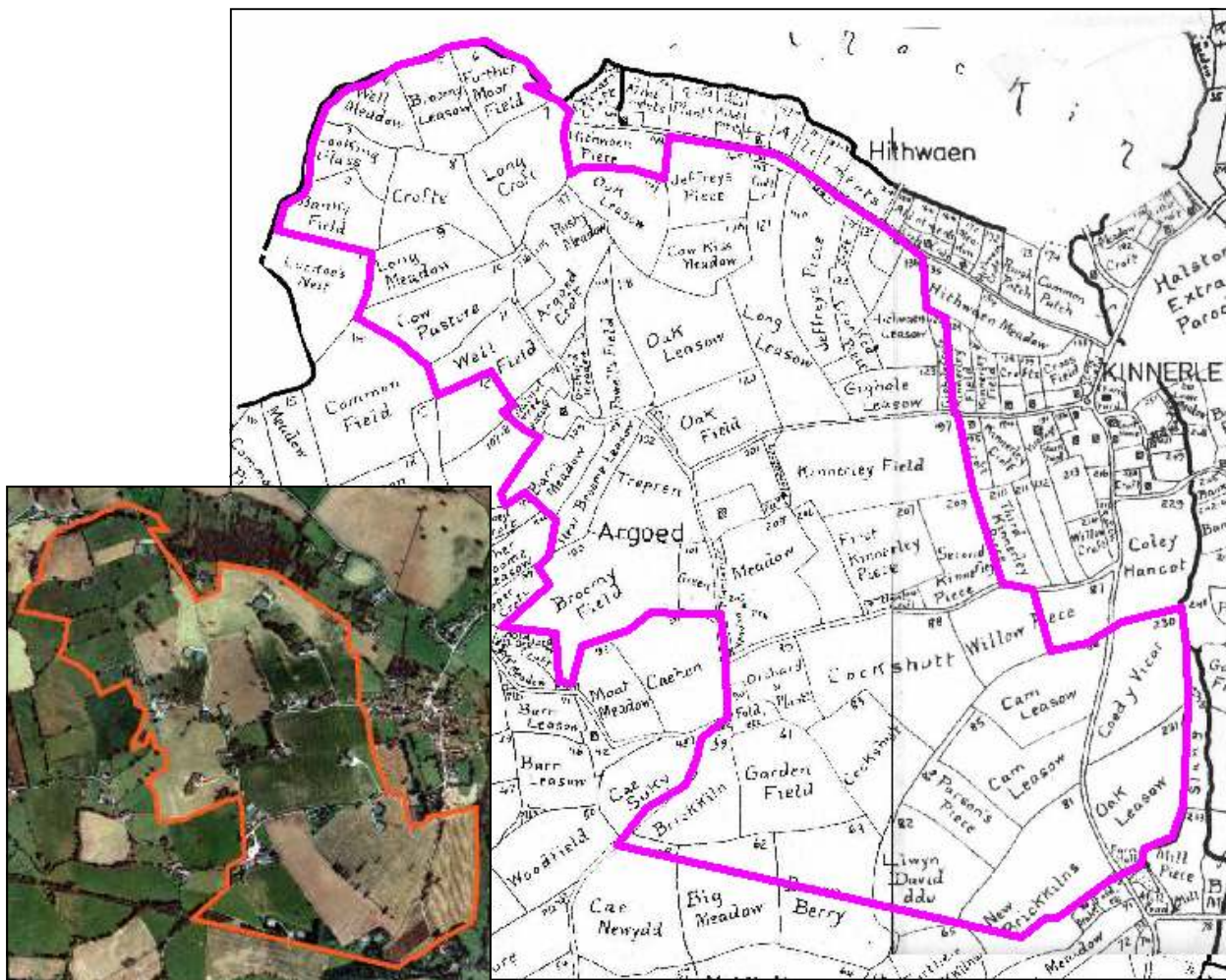
East Argoed

Parcel number 36

(144 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 52 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 23 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

East Argoed Parcel number 36 (144 ha)

A wide landscape of large arable fields with many abandoned ammunition dumps. There are extensive views to the Breidden Hills in the south-west, and to Llanymynech Hill and the Berwyn Mountains to the north-west.

Key Characteristics

- An open landscape of large fields with extensive views
- Soils are a brownish clay loam, derived from glacial till deposits
- Large arable fields
- Relatively few boundaries, mainly mixed species hedges
- Scattered hedgerow trees are present
- A large number of former ammunition dumps and other military buildings
- A wooded, disused railway on the south side

Geology and Landform

The soils are derived from glacial till deposits. The land rises gently towards the centre and, from the higher points, there are extensive views to the Breidden Hills and the Berwyn Mountains. Large fields give the landscape an “open” feel.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are light brown, sandy silt clay loams or clay loams of the Pinder Soil Association. They gradually become a more reddish brown, loamy soil, towards the north-west. The underlying soils are sandy clay loams. As the land slopes down towards the Weir Brook and the Vyrnwy flood plain, there is a tendency for the silt content to increase. Land use is intensive arable agriculture.

Ecology

The main habitats are the arable fields and their boundary hedges. While the existing hedgerows are intact, the number of terrestrial corridors is limited. There is recent evidence of active management of the hedges, with gappy areas being replaced with new hedging plants. Hedgerow trees are sparse, apart from an occasional small area of dense, oak hedgerow trees. Large boundary margins have been left around the edges of the fields, providing good corridors. Other important habitats are the many ammunition bunkers, around which scrub has grown, and the semi-natural, mixed woodland in the grounds of the former Argoed Hall.

The whole of the southern boundary of this landscape is formed by a disused railway line, now completely overgrown with mature trees. This is a part of an important corridor habitat, which stretches right across the parish. There is a small pond in the south-west corner of the landscape, which is overgrown and surrounded by bushes and trees.

Tree Cover

This open arable landscape has a significant number of small woods, as well as uncultivated areas around some of the Second World War ammunition dumps. There are fine groups of oak and sometimes sycamore, either as rows marking the site of old hedges, or within the existing hedgerows. An avenue of oaks marks the site of the old Argoed Hall. There are conifer plantations adjacent to the disused railway line, and more extensive mixed woodland around the site of the old engine sheds and railway line, at the former Kinnerley Junction Station.

Enclosure

The original enclosure pattern of piecemeal enclosure from medieval open fields was destroyed by military engineering. The enclosure pattern now is one of large fields created as a result of late 20th century agricultural intensification. Along the lanes which pass through this landscape the pattern of sinuous hedgerows remains. Hedgerow trees are sparse and scattered, but a few hedges have an almost continuous line of oak trees. The predominant hedgerow species is hawthorn, with a mixture of blackthorn, elderberry, sycamore and ash.

Communications

The area is crossed by several minor roads and farm tracks. There is one footpath.

Built Environment

The area is dominated by a large number of former ammunition bunkers and other military buildings, some of which are now used as storage and poultry sheds. Remnants of old railway buildings are present on the site of the former Kinnerley Junction Station. There are two farms, one horticultural nursery, three dwellings and the derelict remains of buildings associated with Argoed Hall.

Principal Settled Farmlands

Argoed

Parcel number 37

(7 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 8 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph shows 7 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

Argoed Parcel number 37 (7 ha)

A small, private landscape, with an enclosed, ancient pattern of fields, still having signs of the old strip fields, the Saxon open-field system. The small paddocks are used for semi-intensive grazing, with some arable. They have rectilinear boundaries and are adjacent to the village of Kinnerley. Hedgerow trees are a feature, with some fine oak, sycamore and ash, through which the views of the Breidden Hills are filtered.

Key Characteristics

- A gently south sloping, small landscape with extensive views to the Breidden Hills
- The soils, which are of glacial till origin, become damp at the lower end of the slope
- Land use is one of semi-intensive grazing, with one intensively farmed arable field
- Linear enclosures, reflecting their origin from ancient field patterns
- Boundaries are intact hedges of mixed species
- Scattered mature hedge trees, mainly oak, with some ash.
- No dwellings or other buildings are present within the landscape, which is on the edge of the village
- A small boggy pond at the southern edge

Geology and Landform

The geology is one of recent glacial till deposits. The landform is flat, with a gentle slope southwards.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are loamy clay, brown earths, belonging to the Pinder Soil Association, overlying heavy clay loams. Most of the fields are used as low-intensive pasture land (occasional sheep, cows and horses). One enlarged field is used for arable production.

Ecology

One of the main habitats is the semi-improved pasture. The field boundaries are fragmented hedges of mixed species, mainly in good condition, with reasonable links to adjacent areas. The areas, where horses are customarily kept, have been heavily grazed and have little ecological value. Some of the hedges, are overgrown and provide good terrestrial corridors, both into the village and its gardens and into the more open countryside.

There are scattered hedgerow trees of oak and ash and two field trees, an indication of the position of former hedges. The village has spilt onto the edges of this landscape, the gardens providing good wildlife habitats.

Tree Cover

The only trees in this area are associated with the hedgerows and the gardens. The sparse hedgerow trees, are mainly oak, with some ash and the occasional sycamore. They are an important landscape feature and give this area, with its small fields and overgrown hedges, an enclosed feel. Oaks and ash are present as mature trees. There are few young trees. Fine views towards the Breidden Hills are filtered through these trees.

Enclosure

The enclosure pattern still reflects the ancient boundaries of the former medieval strip fields. The piecemeal enclosure which followed has resulted in a pattern of small paddocks with slightly sinuous boundaries. Apart from the loss of one hedge to form a medium sized arable field, and the encroachment of the village along the northern edges, the enclosure pattern is largely intact. There are some places where hedges are fragmented and have been allowed to grow unchecked. The main hedgerow species is hawthorn, but elm, field maple and blackthorn are also present. This ancient landscape is bounded on two sides by gardens of the encroaching village.

Communications

A minor, unobtrusive road, and one footpath.

Built Environment

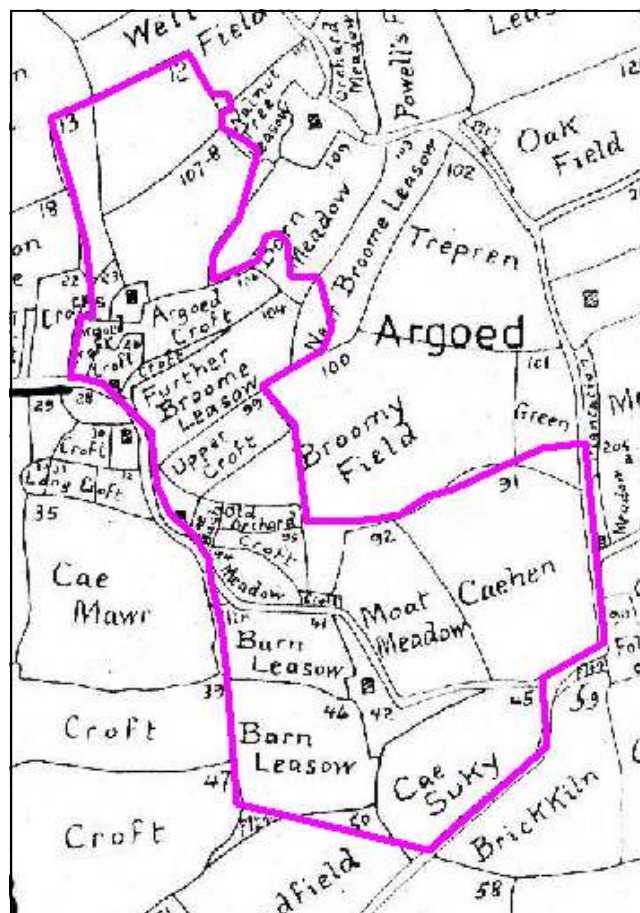
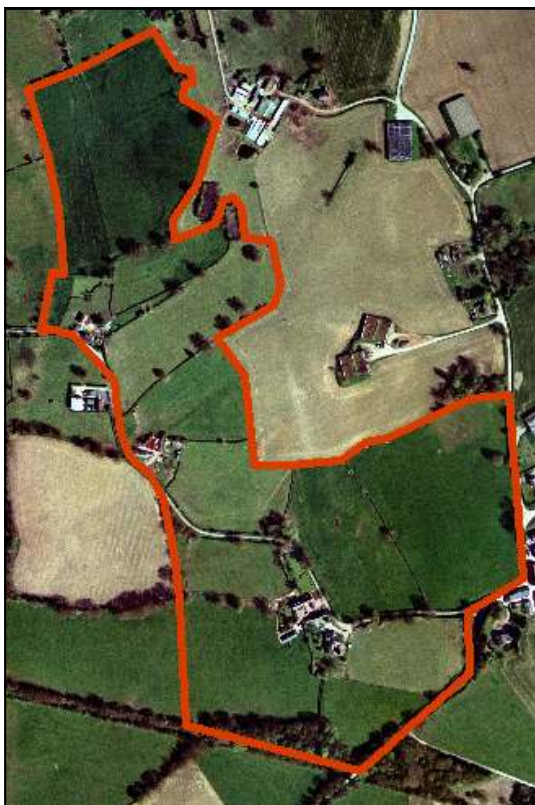
The expansion of the village has resulted in a number of detached bungalows and houses being built on the northern periphery of these fields; all have good views to the Breidden Hills.

Principal Settled Farmlands

Argoed Parcel number 38 (24 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 24 fields.
 The 2000 aerial photograph shows 10 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

Argoed Parcel number 38 (24 ha)

A pastoral area, which slopes gently from the arable areas on its northern boundary towards the Vyrnwy flood plain. A landscape of small to medium fields, tall hedges and hedgerow trees. Soils become more silty as the flood plain is approached.

Key Characteristics

- Flat land, with open extensive views to the south and west
- A pastoral landscape with moderate intensity of use
- Soils derived from glacial till deposits
- Enclosure patterns of rectilinear or irregular fields with straight boundaries
- Boundaries are mixed species hedges
- Sparse hedge trees, mainly oak, with a few isolated field trees
- Ecological corridors are intact

Geology and Landform

The geology is one of recent glacial till deposits. The land is nearly flat, with some slight undulations and a very gentle slope towards the flood plain. This pastoral landscape has on the one side intensive agriculture with open fields and on the other, western side, the land drops away onto the extensive flood plains of the River Vyrnwy. It has an open aspect in all directions and extensive views of the Breidden Hills to the south and of the Oswestry Uplands to the north-west.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are damp, clay loam or silty clay loams of the Pinder Soil Association, above poorly draining clay loam sub-soils, derived from glacial deposits. An area of seasonally damp soils; land use is semi-intensive pastoral.

Ecology

The habitats are typical of many parts of the Parish, consisting of boundary hedges and their associated trees. The hedges are intact; some are intensively managed while others are tall and unchecked, with scattered hedgerow trees which add to the ecological diversity. On the southern edge is a small section of the disused railway line forming a linear ecological corridor, providing an extremely valuable wildlife habitat.

Tree Cover

Tree cover is intermittent, except along and to the south of the road side, where there are some fine sycamore trees. Other hedgerow trees include oaks, ash and the occasional willow in wet areas.

As the land slopes towards the flood plain, willows become more common. The railway line has good tree and shrub cover, particularly sycamore and ash, with an undergrowth of willow, alder, elderberry, blackthorn and briars.

Enclosure

The enclosures pattern is one of medium sized, rectilinear or irregular fields, which were probably established as small closes at the edge of the open fields. Considerable realignment of the field boundaries took place in the 1860s, when the railway line was constructed. This was followed by further boundary changes when the ammunition dumps were built during the Second World War. There are localised boundaries of post and wire fencing, The overall impression is of intact hedges which are, in places, tall and unmanaged. While hawthorn predominates, these are species-rich hedges, containing blackthorn, hazel, maple, elderberry and some willow. Elm is also present as a hedgerow shrub.

Communications

A single minor road and one footpath.

Built Environment

A farm, no longer a working farm, and its associated buildings now converted to residential dwellings; two smallholdings and a pumping station.

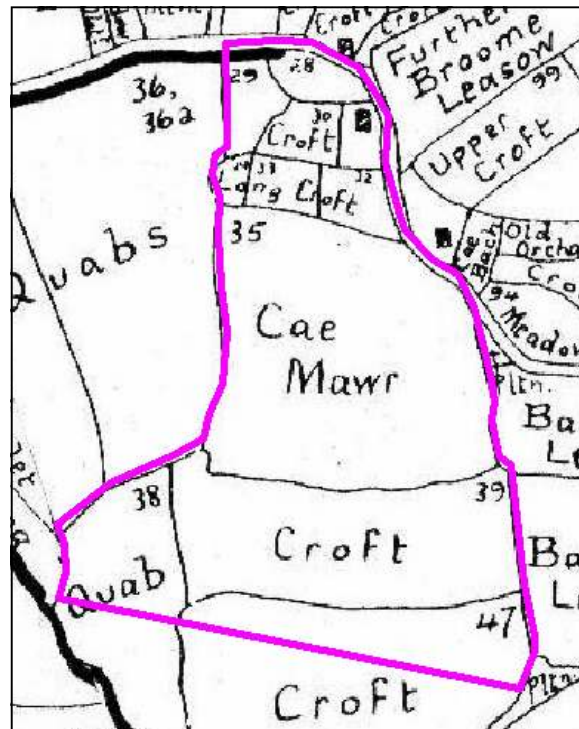
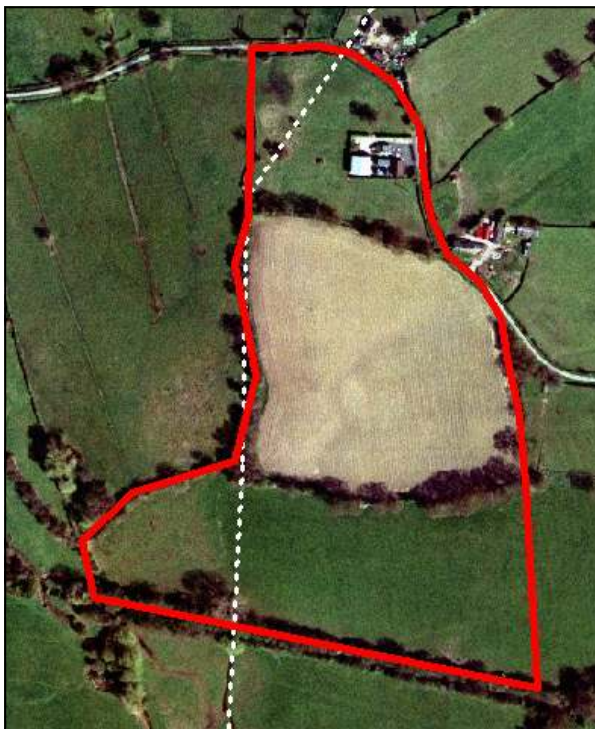


Principal Settled Farmlands

Argoed Parcel number 39 (9 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 9 fields. The 2000 aerial photograph shows 4 fields



Principal Settled Farmlands

Argoed Parcel number 39 (9 ha)

Flat pasture land, which slopes down and joins the alluvial flood plain of the Vyrnwy. A pastoral landscape, of small to medium fields, tall hedges and hedgerow trees. Soils become more silty as the flood plain is approached. The soils are damp, particularly in winter and the lower areas are prone to seasonal flooding.

Key Characteristics

- A flat landscape, sloping quite rapidly to the level flood plains of the River Vyrnwy
- Open, extensive views to the south and west
- Semi-improved pasture, moderate intensity of use
- Alluvial silty clay loams and sandy clay loams over glacial till soils
- Boundaries are mixed species hedges
- Scattered hedgerow trees, mainly oak and some willow

Geology and Landform

This pastoral landscape is on the edge of the extensive flood plains of the River Vyrnwy, where alluvial soils have been deposited on recent glacial till deposits. The land is flat, with some slight undulations, before it drops away to this flood plain. It has open aspects in all directions and extensive views of the Breidden Hills to the south, and of the Oswestry Uplands to the north-west.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are damp, clay loam or silty clay alluvial loams of the Conway Soil Association, above poorly draining clay loam sub-soils, derived from glacial deposits. The soils of the slightly raised ground above the flood plain are sandy clay loam of the Pinder Soil Association. Land use is pastoral.

Ecology

The habitats consist of boundary hedges and their associated trees. The hedges are intact and often tall and unchecked and provide good terrestrial corridors onto the drained, open pasture of the flood plain. There are scattered hedgerow trees, which add to the ecological diversity. To the south of this landscape is a small section of the disused railway line. This forms a linear ecological corridor, providing a valuable wildlife habitat. In places the improved pasture is grazed intensively; less so towards the southern side of the landscape.

Tree Cover

Tree cover is one of scattered hedgerow trees; oak, willow and sycamore are all present. The disused railway line has good tree and shrub cover, particularly sycamore and ash, above a mixture of elderberry, blackthorn and briars. Willows and, less often, alder are present in the wetter areas.

Enclosure

These fields probably originated as small closes at the edge of open fields, but there has since been some realigning of the field boundaries, when the railway line was constructed. The overall impression is of tall, under-managed, intact hedges. While hawthorn is a common species, these are species-rich hedges, containing blackthorn, hazel, maple, elderberry, and some willow.

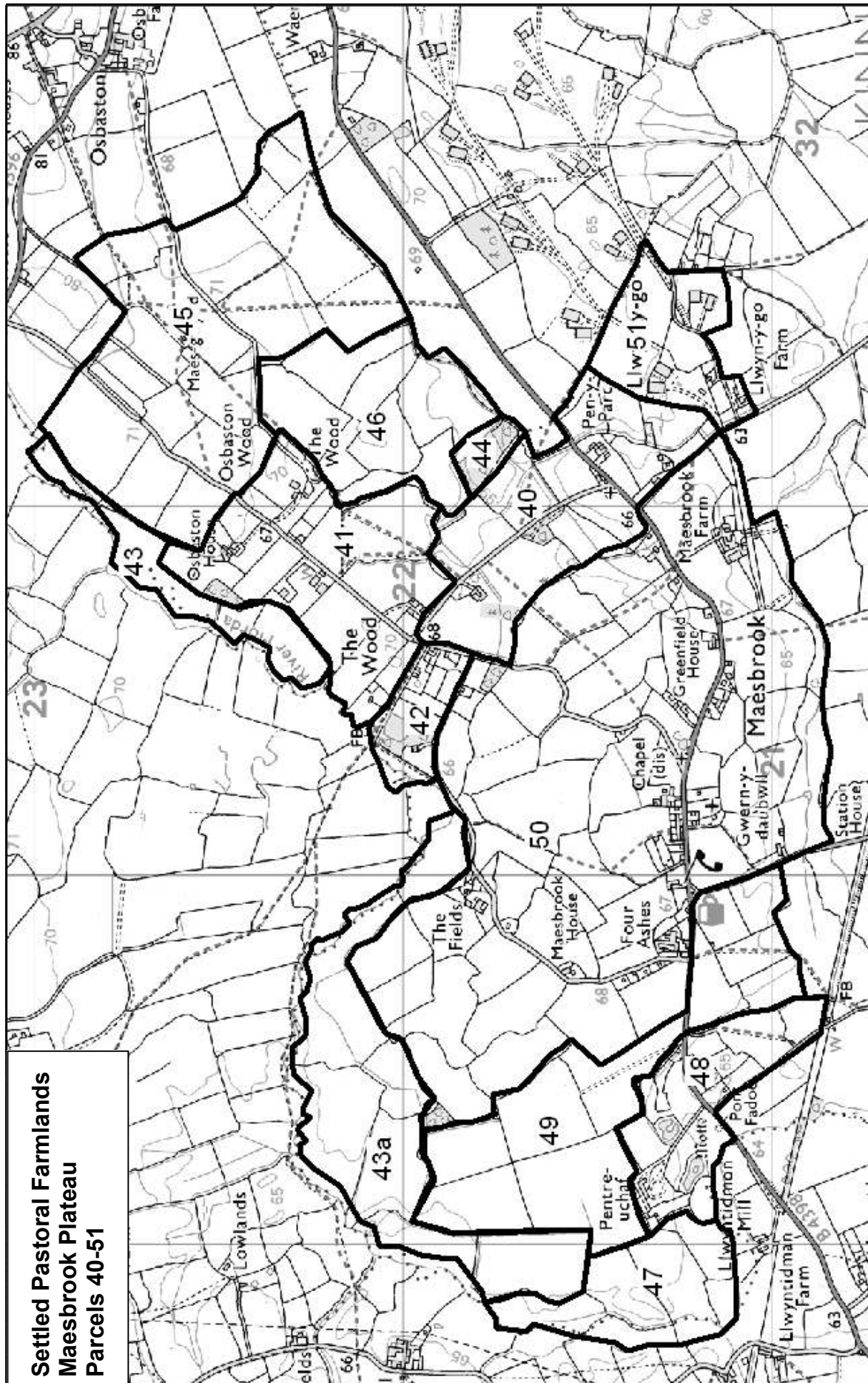
Communications

There is one footpath.

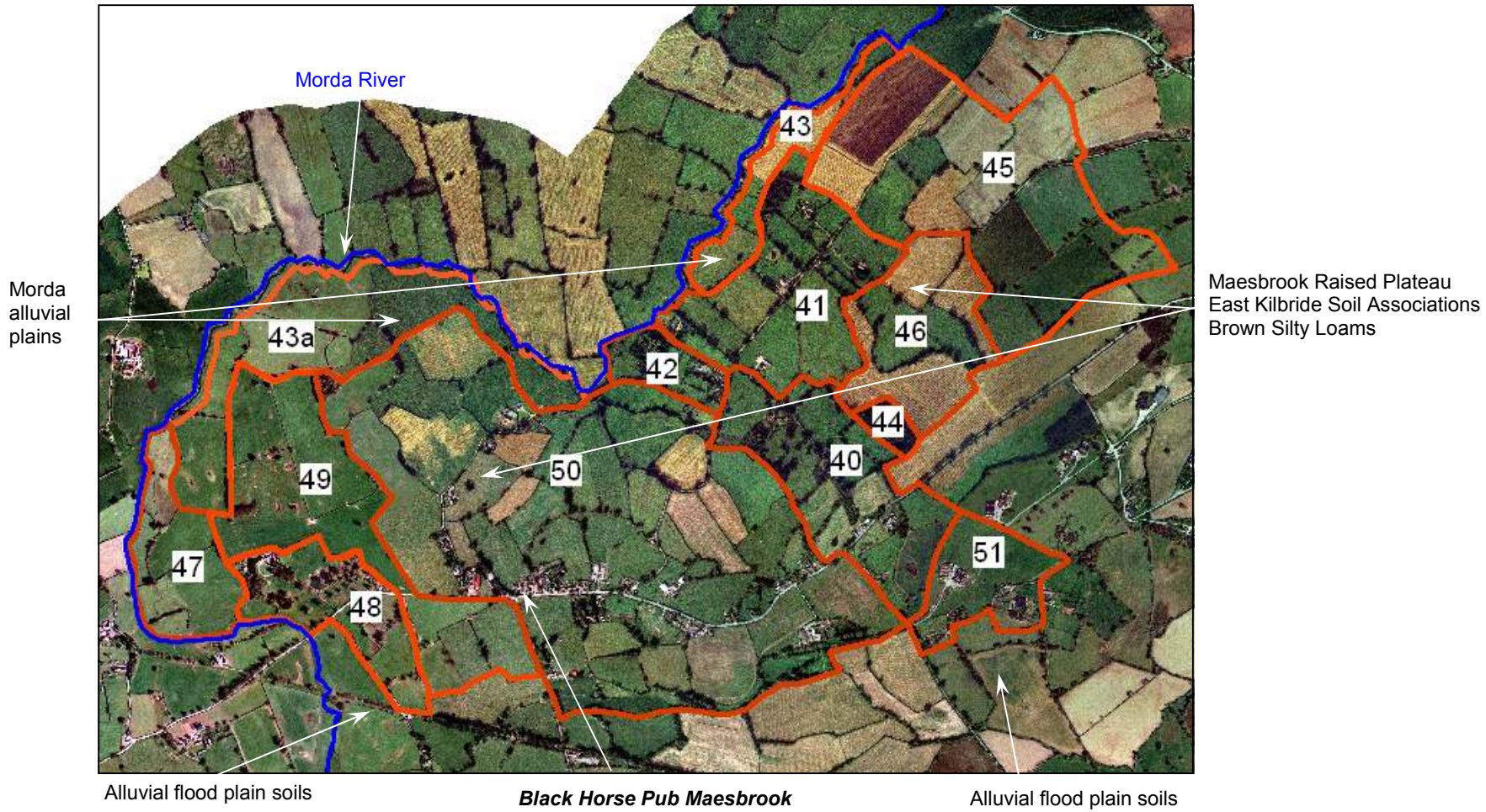
Built Environment

The old railway track.





**Settled Pastoral Farmlands
Maesbrook Plateau
Parcels 40—51**



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

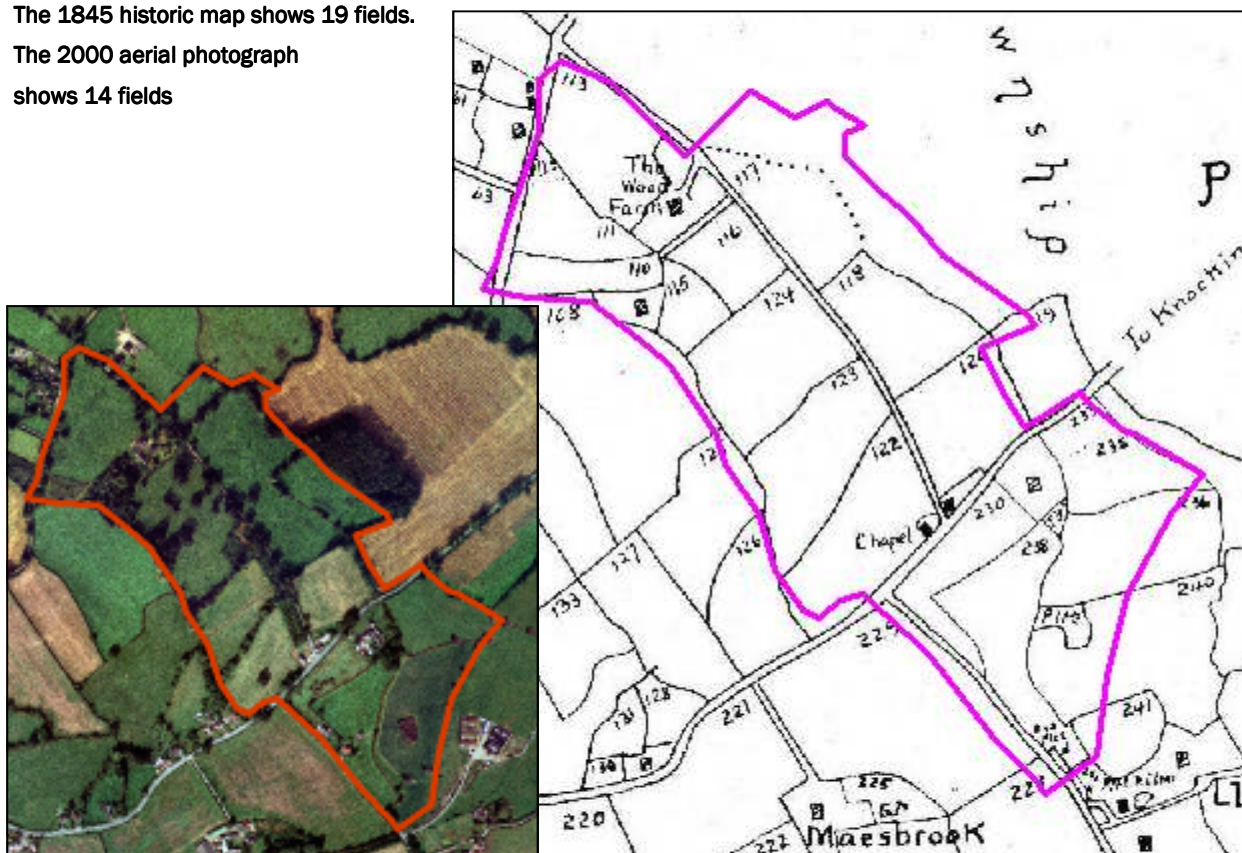
Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 40

(28 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 19 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 14 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 40

(28 ha)

A small scale, distinctive area of parkland and woodland around The Wood, an early 17th century farmhouse. A well wooded area, with parkland trees and small pastures. It is an area of small streams and ditches, enclosing a pastoral landscape.

Key Characteristics

- A flat parcel of land, associated with The Wood
- One large field with many large, specimen parkland trees
- Small fields of semi-improved pasture
- Prominent tree cover, both as hedgerow trees and small woods
- Some of the low-lying pasture is wet, with deep drainage ditches or streams
- Views are limited by tree cover, but there are filtered views to the Breidden Hills

Geology and Landform

This is a distinctly wooded area, whose main feature is parkland, associated with the early 17th century farmhouse. The land is flat, with some low-lying, wet areas. It lies at the lower end of the Maesbrook sandstone plateau, which slopes gently upwards to the north-east. The geology is one of glaciofluvial deposits over Kinnerton Sandstone.

Soils and Land Use

The soils of the East Keswick Soil Association are wet, sandy, silty loams overlying glacial deposits. The presence of a sticky subsoil is confirmed by the widened area of the stream in front of The Wood from which clay for the making of bricks, was extracted. The fields are small, semi-intensive pasture, used for cattle, sheep, and horses.

Ecology

A network of drains, woodland and dense hedgerows link together and provide good wildlife corridors. The small fields are often bounded by ditches or streams and in some fields the grass has become tussocky. The drainage ditches are associated with a variety of trees, often ivy covered. These, together with areas of planted and natural woodland, some of which is unmanaged, provide natural wildlife habitats.

Tree Cover

This a wooded landscape, with a wide variety of woodland, hedgerow and parkland trees. Tree cover is substantial. There is one fairly recent plantation, with strong regeneration of a shrubby undergrowth, the whole providing dense woodland cover.

Alongside the road are narrow, elongated strips of mixed woodland, including wild cherry, with willow in the wetter areas. Stands of small woodland, which surround the farmhouse, give this area an enclosed feel. There is an area of parkland, associated with the wood, which has a number of particularly fine specimen oak trees. The hedgerow trees, which are dense along the lane, are mainly mature oaks; there are also some fine sycamore, as well as beech, with willow and alder in wetter areas.

Enclosure

The small to medium rectilinear fields have irregular boundaries. These may be assarts, perhaps enclosed directly from woodland. Where the underlying pattern is of piecemeal enclosure of drained wetland, the small to medium rectilinear fields have straight boundaries, except where they follow the sides of the streams. Hedgerows are well managed, in places intensively so. In those places where there are dense hedgerow trees, the hedges are fragmented and no longer intact. Species are mainly hawthorn, but blackthorn and hazel are also present.

Communications

The main Knockin to Maesbrook road, a small lane and footpaths.

Built Environment

The main buildings are the Grade II listed farmhouse, its associated buildings and a small Methodist Chapel. A number of other dwellings are sited along the lane and on the main road.

A Neolithic flint axehead found in a ploughed field in Maesbrook in May 2000



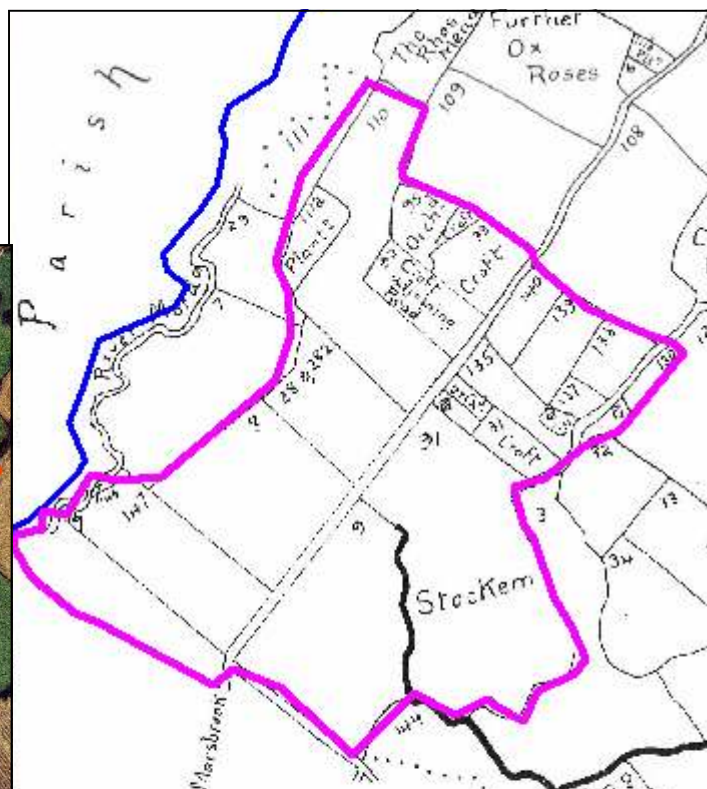
Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau Parcel number 41 (29 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 17 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph shows 15 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 41

(29 ha)

An area of grassland, with small rectilinear field boundaries and dense hedgerow trees, which give a strongly wooded character. A flat plateau, which slopes gently towards the River Morda.

Key Characteristics

- A flat enclosed landscape to the north of Maesbrook Village
- Part of a plateau between the Morda and the Vyrnwy flood plains
- The soils derived from glacial deposits, over Kinnerton Sandstone
- Land use is semi-intensive pastoral
- A small number of dwellings dispersed individually throughout the landscape
- Extensive views of Sweeney Mountain to the north

Geology and Landform

The landform, on the edge of the Maesbrook Plateau, is flat and slopes gently towards the Morda flood plain to the west. The plateau is an area of glaciofluvial deposits, underlain by Kinnerton Sandstone of the Triassic Period.

Soils and Land Use

The land use is predominantly pastoral, with some arable. The soils are brownish, silty loams, of the East Keswick Soil Association, with some sandy materials in the finer grained soils. The area is low-lying and has a tendency to waterlogging after prolonged wet periods.

Ecology

It is an area of small rectilinear fields with intact boundaries, which have dense hedgerow trees. The hedges are well managed, with a wide range of species. The proximity of this area to the River Morda and the wet areas alongside it make a useful ecological habitat. The terrestrial corridors of the hedges are supplemented by a network of managed streams and ditches.

Tree Cover

There is only one small area of natural woodland, growing on peat soil. The hedgerow trees are plentiful, and in localised areas, dense, giving a well wooded feel to this area. The trees, mainly oak, are mature with an absence of any young or semi-mature trees. There is a small lane bordered with elm saplings and overgrown hazel, creating a wooded, overgrown passageway.

Enclosure

The dominant field pattern of small to medium sized rectilinear fields was created through the enclosure of an area of common land in the 18th century. In addition, small rectilinear paddocks with tall, dense hedges represent earlier squatters' enclosures, established in the 16th to 18th centuries. The hedges are hawthorn, but other species are also present, including hazel, blackthorn, maple, sycamore, ash and some elm.

Communications

One small lane and footpaths.

Built Environment

A number of dwellings and small cottages are dispersed throughout the landscape.

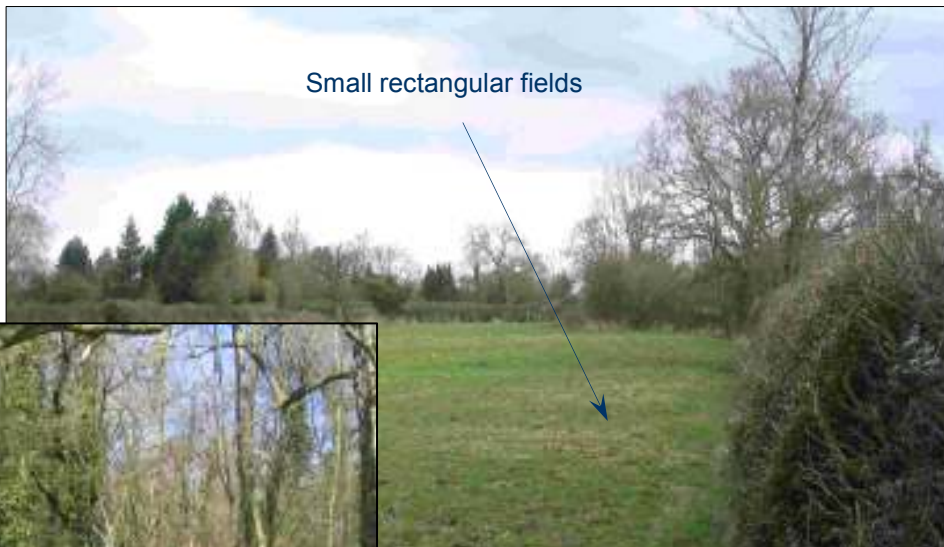


Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 42

(6 ha)



Old brickyard

The 1845 historic map shows 9 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 9 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 42

(6 ha)

An area of small rectangular fields on the edge of the Maesbrook Plateau, adjacent to the River Morda. Part of this landscape has been the site of an old brickyard, which is now overgrown and includes a neglected wood.

Key Characteristics

- Small area of flat, rather damp land, divided into very small rectilinear fields
- An area of neglected woodland, with waterlogged, poorly drained soils
- Overgrown hedges
- Remains of the site of an old brickyard

Geology and Landform

The landform is flat, with one side sloping gently towards the Morda. The landscape has been formed from glaciofluvial deposits, underlain by Kinnerton Sandstone. The views are restricted by woods and tall trees.

Soils and Land Use

The fields are rather wet, semi-intensive or unimproved pasture. The evidence of the old brickyard confirms that these fine sandy loams, of the East Keswick Soil Association, overlie heavy, impervious clay loams. The soils adjacent to the River Morda are alluvial in origin and are silty loams.

Ecology

The hedgerows are intact and enclose small fields of semi-improved and unimproved pasture. A very wet and neglected deciduous woodland, which is an important ecological area, linked to the River Morda. The hollows in the wood, often wet, are the remains of the clay pits for the old brickyard. The wood is a mixture of tall ash and willow, with other trees, including oak and tall hawthorn, in its boundary hedgerow.

Tree Cover

The wood is the major landscape feature. The trees, tall willow and ash, grow in what, for much of the year, is a slow draining, waterlogged area. The hedge surrounding the field has some oak and sycamore, as well as tall, leggy hawthorn. There are dense clusters of trees, including exotic garden trees, associated with the dwellings in the area.

Enclosure

The very small fields, typical of rectilinear, squatters' enclosures give the area an enclosed feel. There has been little change to the field boundaries since the late 17th and 18th century. The hedges are managed, largely hawthorn, but contain a wide mixture of other species, including blackthorn, hazel, briars, elderberry and willow.

Communications

A small lane and a footpath across the Morda.

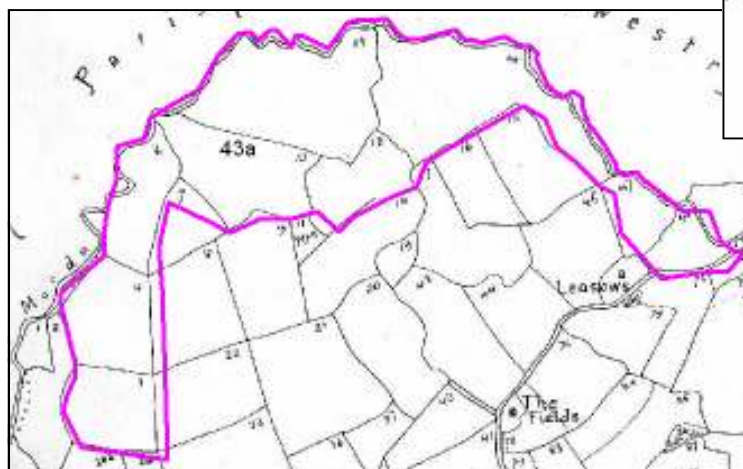
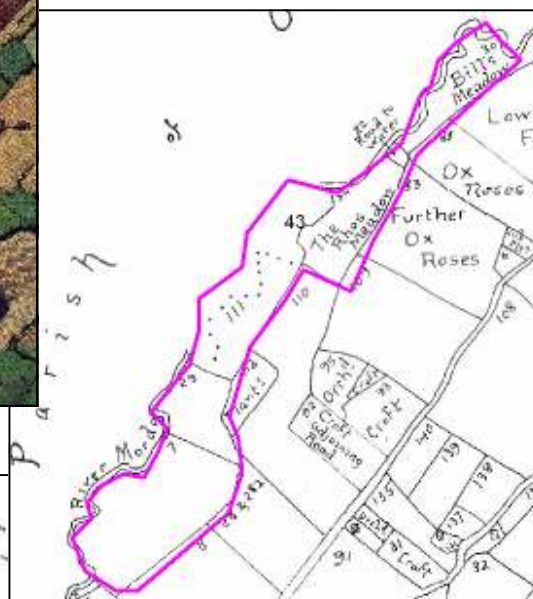
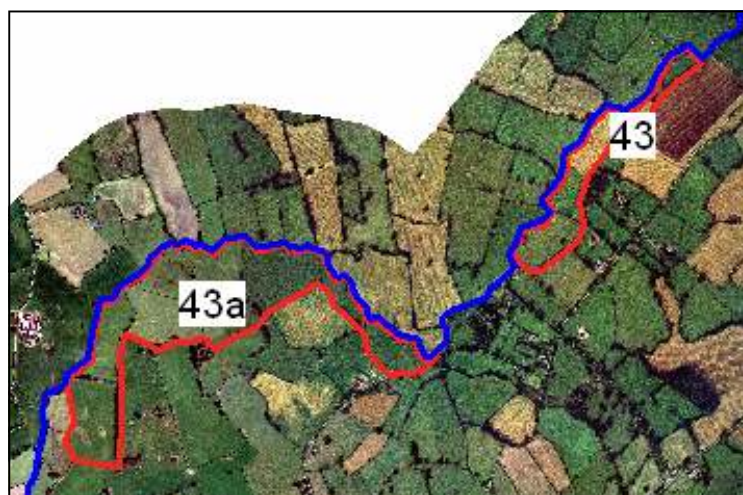
Built Environment

A small number of rural dwellings in their own grounds.



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau Parcel numbers 43 and 43a 44ha



The 1845 historic map shows old field patterns, which can be compared with the 2000 aerial photograph

Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau Parcel numbers 43 and 43a (44ha)

A narrow, elongated landscape, on the southern side of the River Morda. This is part of the alluvial plain of the River Morda, the greater part of which is in the adjoining parish. It is a riverside landscape with damp soils, a few riverside trees and semi-improved or unimproved pasture.

Key Characteristics

- An open, curved, elongated parcel of flat pasture running alongside the Morda
- Extensive views to the Breidden and Llanymynech Hills
- Semi-improved pasture, with areas of tussock grass and rushes
- Medium to large fields with irregular boundaries
- The river and its banks are a significant habitat
- Land liable to waterlogging and some flooding

Geology and Landform

This is a narrow, alluvial plain, running alongside the river. The soils are underlain by river alluvium. The landform is one of flat fields, which are liable to inundation after wet weather. The river banks are steep as the Morda has cut into the alluvium.

Soils and Land Use

The soils, which belong to the Conway Soil Association, are silty loams with gleyed soils in any low depressions or hollows, where water drains slowly. The area does, however, drain well, despite inundations by the River Morda. Land use is semi-improved pasture.

Ecology

The fresh water habitats and tussocky grasses alongside the banks of the River Morda are of ecological interest. Rushes and associated wetland flora are present in those low-lying places, where waterlogging occurs over long periods. While the river and its banks form an important habitat, the river banks are mechanically cleared regularly, reducing the value of this riparian habitat. A large pool, excavated from a rush-covered wet-spot, adjoining the River Morda, is surrounded by water-loving grasses and is linked by good ecological corridors to the wood.

The corridors along the river banks are weak, supplied by rough tussocky grass on the rim of the river banks, adjacent to heavily grazed fields. There is little flora of interest and small, sparse riverside trees. Hedgerows are weak, gappy and reinforced with wire fencing.

Tree Cover

The density of the lines of trees along the river bank varies, being rarely dense and usually scattered; most trees are immature, Willow is common, with a number of alder and the occasional oak. Hedgerow trees are sparse and scattered, usually oak, with some ash and sycamore. There is no woodland.

Enclosure

The enclosure pattern is one of large, irregularly shaped fields, bounded by the River Morda on one side, which were probably established as wet meadows between the 15th and 17th centuries. Field boundaries are usually straight, thorn hedges and have not altered since the late 18th century. The hedges are not species-rich, with hawthorn being a major component; blackthorn, hazel, elderberry, willow and maple are also present.

Communications

None.

Built Environment

No buildings



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

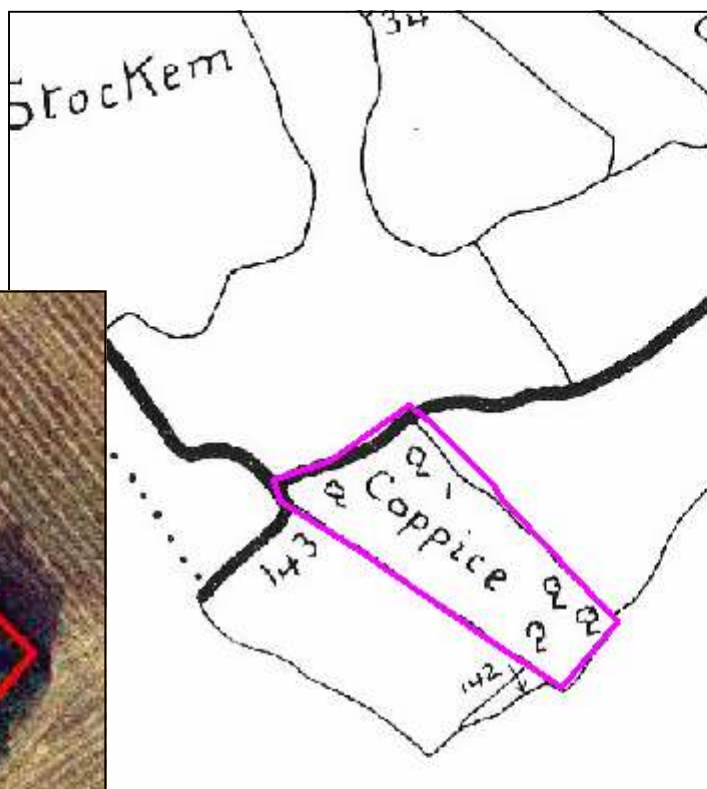
Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 44

(2 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 1 field.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 1 field.



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau Parcel number 44 (2 ha)

A rectangular plantation of poplar trees, in a low-lying area.

Key Characteristics

- A rectangular plantation of mature poplar
- A surrounding hedge of mixed deciduous trees and tall hawthorn
- Not intensively managed
- Soils often waterlogged

Geology and Landform

A slightly raised part of an undulating area of the Maesbrook Plateau, surrounded by a number of streams. The geology is one of silty sandy loams overlying glaciofluvial deposits.

Soils and Land Use

The silty sandy loams are damp throughout the year, due to the low-lying nature of this landscape, into which a number of ditches drain. The ditches do not always follow the lowest course; some are cut deeply through higher ground. There are no natural watercourses running through to the southern edge of the plateau. It is an area where the loamy soils of the East Keswick Association are influenced by silty alluvial soils, deposited by the streams and ditches.

Ecology

The plantation is an undisturbed habitat, with a thick and varied undergrowth, including fallen trees and a carpet of wood anemones. There are hedge corridors on the western and southern sides of the plantation, which connect this landscape to other habitats, including the drains and ditches. The northern and eastern edges of the landscape are surrounded by large, intensively managed arable fields.

Tree Cover

A woodland of poplars surrounded by a tall, unkempt hawthorn hedge, which has been unmanaged for many years. The hedge surrounding this plantation contains a number of fine, scattered hedgerow trees, including sycamore and ash, but no oak. The tall hawthorn hedge is a feature.

Enclosure

The plantation, on the site of an older woodland, described as a coppice in 1845, is surrounded by wire fencing and an overgrown hawthorn hedge.

Communications

None.

Built Environment

There are no buildings.

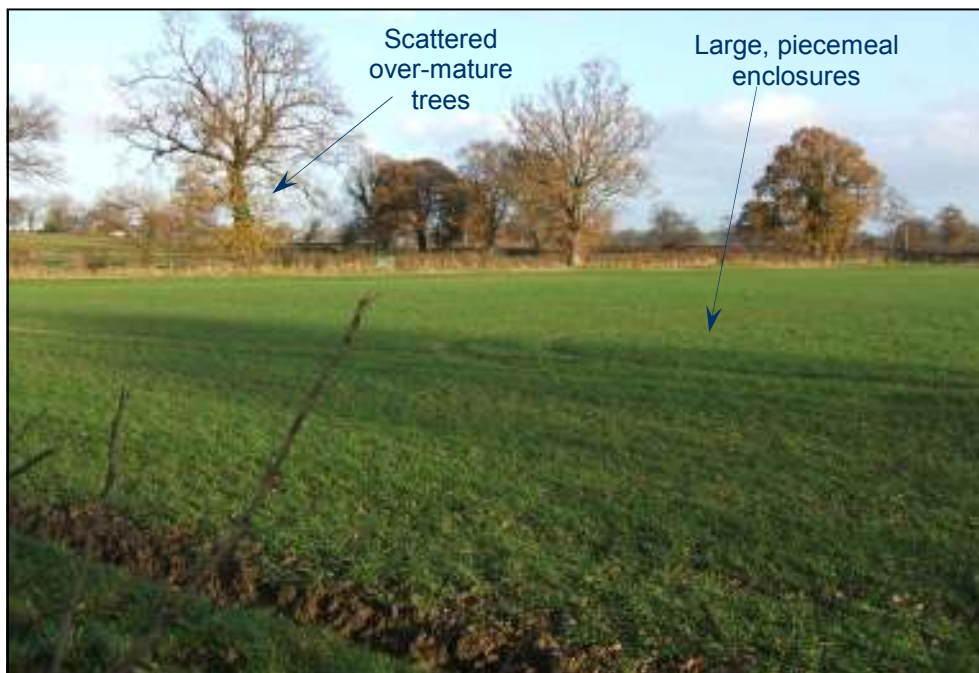


Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

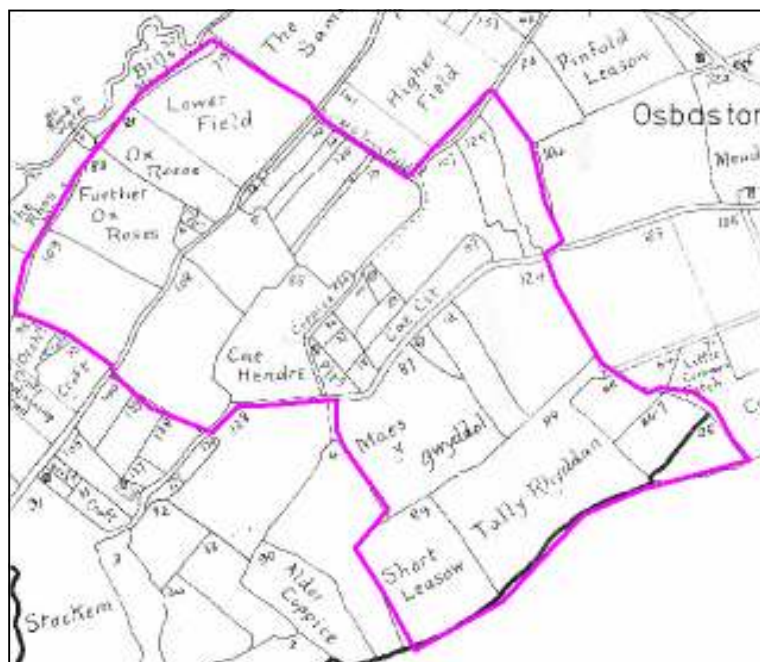
Parcel number 45

(54 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 30 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph shows 15 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 45

(54 ha)

Medium to large arable and pastoral fields within a flat landscape, which slopes gently south, towards the River Vyrnwy flood plain. Fields are enclosed by intensively managed hedges. Extensive views are filtered by scattered hedgerow trees.

Key Characteristics

- Medium to large rectilinear or irregular fields
- Predominantly arable, but some grassland
- Soils are freely draining, reddish brown loams
- Boundaries are of mixed species hedges, and ditches
- Scattered boundary trees

Geology and Landform

This is a flattish landscape on the Maesbrook Plateau, which slopes gently towards the River Vyrnwy flood plain. The underlying geology is of glaciofluvial sheet deposits, underlain by Kinnerton Sandstone of the Triassic Period.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are reddish brown, sandy loams, belonging to the East Keswick Soil Association, and are free draining and fertile. Land use is one of intensive, arable crop production with some grass production.

Ecology

Much of the landscape is under intensively farmed arable crops or intensive grassland. These have limited ecological interest. The terrestrial corridors, particularly those associated with the green lanes, are still in place, although not always intact, and are supplemented by small streams and ditches. In some areas the banks of small streams or ditches are lined with dense strips of trees, mainly oak, with some sycamore and ash, as well as the occasional alder. Hedgerows are rarely intact, in some places being reinforced with fencing and in others gappy and declining.

Tree Cover

The number of trees in the hedgerows decreases as the ground rises and becomes more intensively farmed. These scattered hedgerow trees, of mixed age, but more often mature or over mature, are mainly oak.

Throughout this landscape, the predominant tree species is mature oak, although there are some fine examples of sycamore and ash. There are no young or immature trees. It is an open landscape with wide views.

Enclosure

The field pattern derives from piecemeal enclosure from open fields completed before the late 17th century, followed by further, limited reorganisation in the later 20th century. The fields known as “town fields” and the network of green lanes signify that this area is a remnant of the open field system. The hedges vary from fragmented and declining in the more arable areas to the north of the landscape, to tall, leggy hawthorn hedges, with scattered hedgerow trees, on the lower southern boundary. These tall hedges coincide with a change of land use from arable to grassland.

Communications

A small lane, some footpaths and a green lane.

Built Environment

One small derelict cottage at Maes-gwydd known as Coppy House.



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

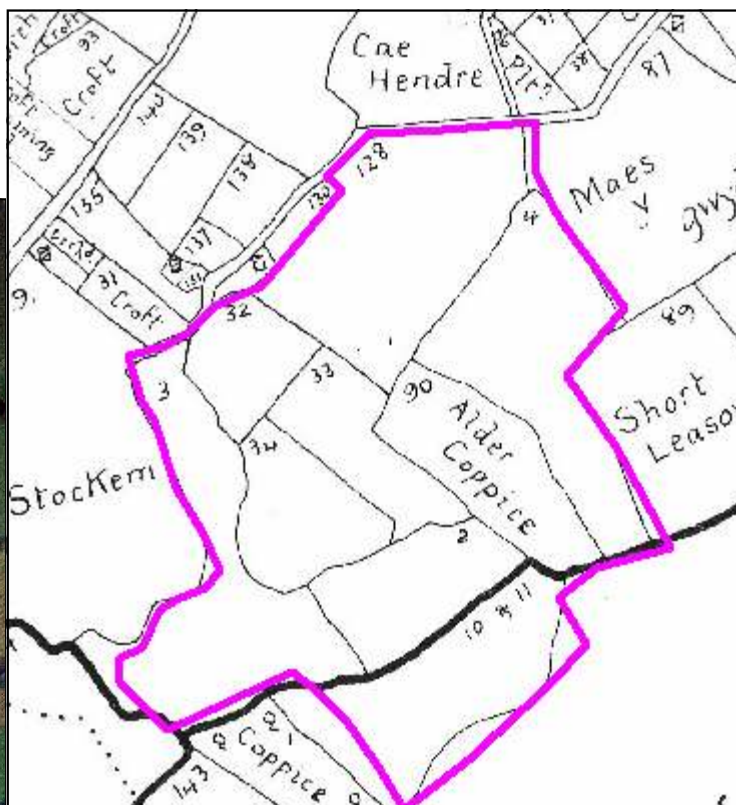
Parcel number 46

(21 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 8 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph shows 6 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau Parcel number 46 (21 ha)

A landscape of both arable and pasture lands with irregular enclosure boundaries and damp soils; it includes areas of unimproved pasture and set-aside as well as intensive arable. Tree cover is scattered, in places dense, particularly when associated with tall, overgrown hedgerows along ditches or streams.

Key Characteristics

- Medium sized fields, with irregular shapes and boundaries
- Landscape gently slopes towards south
- Loamy soils, damp and wet towards base of slope
- Arable, with some set-aside and pasture
- Dense lines of tall hawthorn along hedgerows

Geology and Landform

The land slopes gently and evenly towards the south, where the soils become damp and more silty. The landform of this landscape, on the edge of the Maesbrook Plateau, is flat, while its geology is one of glaciofluvial sheet deposits, underlain by Kinnerton Sandstone of the Triassic Period.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are a grey brown loam to sandy loams, belonging to the East Keswick Associations. These become more silty on the lower slopes. Land use is varied and includes some arable areas, some set-aside and some pasture.

Ecology

The terrestrial corridors to the south are weak, where the large arable fields in the Parish of Knockin abut this landscape. To the north and west, the corridors are still intact. Hedgerows follow the ditches and small streams, alongside which grow tall, often unmanaged, hawthorn and hazel. There is one small area of unmanaged grassland, with a wide variety of grasses and flora, adjacent to an area of set-aside.

Tree Cover

The only tree cover is associated with the hedgerows, apart from a small area, in an unused passageway, where immature elm is present. As well as intermittent oak trees, sycamore and ash also feature. Alder and willow are conspicuous near streams and wet spots. Dense alder is present in the hedge boundary of the field marked "Alder Coppice" on the 1845 historic map.

Enclosure

This is an area in which the fields have unusual and irregular shapes. They still, however, have a clear relationship with the piecemeal enclosures from open fields that took place before the end of the 17th century. The very irregular field shapes are the result of boundaries following the sides of streams. In the 20th century, field sizes were increased by the removal of many of the linear field boundaries, leaving behind this irregular pattern. The hedgerows are often overgrown, with tall hawthorn and hazel. Other species, such as blackthorn and maple are also present.

Communications

None

Built Environment

One derelict brick building.

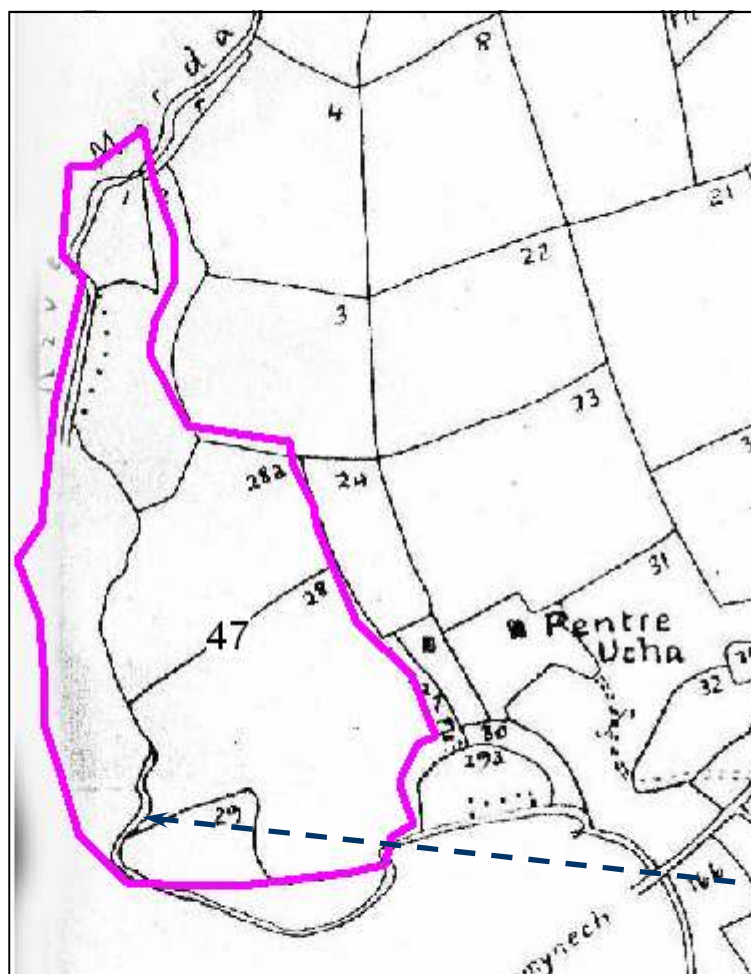


Settled Pastoral Farmlands

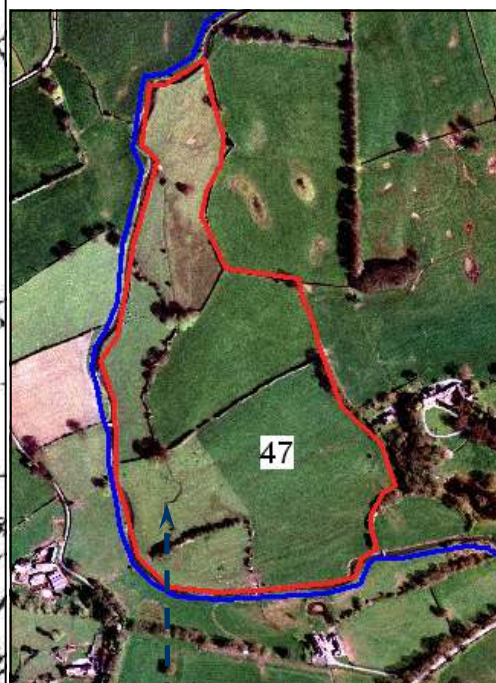
Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 47

(14 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 6 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 6 fields.



Old river bed of the River Morda

Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 47

(14 ha)

This flat alluvial landscape has the River Morda on its western side and the slightly raised Maesbrook terrace on the other. The tree cover is limited and is associated with hedgerows. Land use is pastoral.

Key Characteristics

- Flat land, bordering the River Morda
- Pastoral land use
- Few trees and weak enclosure boundaries
- Alluvial soils

Geology and Landform

This landscape, formed of alluvium, straddles the narrow flood plain of the Morda River, but only the land to the east of the Morda lies within Kinnerley Parish. The land is completely flat and has an open feel with views of the Breidden Hills to the South.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are moderately wet, alluvial, silty loams, belonging to the Conway Soil Association, which drain quite freely. The land use is pastoral.

Ecology

The pasture is intensively grazed and is not species-rich. The hedges are fragmented, but provide the only terrestrial corridors, linking the fields beyond with the Morda River. Hedgerow trees are sparse and tend to follow the few small drains. The banks of the Morda River in this area are mechanically managed, causing reduced riparian flora and tree cover. The alignment of the River Morda has changed over the years. Water is no longer supplied to Llwyntidmon Mill to the South.

The old bed of the river can be seen clearly as it passes through the centre of this landscape, demarcated by a line of trees, shrubs and coarse grasses. The Parish boundary has moved to reflect this change.

Tree Cover

Tree species include ash, sycamore and willow. Occasional willow and alder trees are associated with the riverbank.

Enclosure

The fields are of medium size, with the straight boundaries characteristically typical of drained wetland, in this case of wet, flood plain meadowland. Hedges are of mixed species, mainly hawthorn and blackthorn. The other boundaries are the banks of the River Morda.

Communications

None

Built Environment

There are no buildings.



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

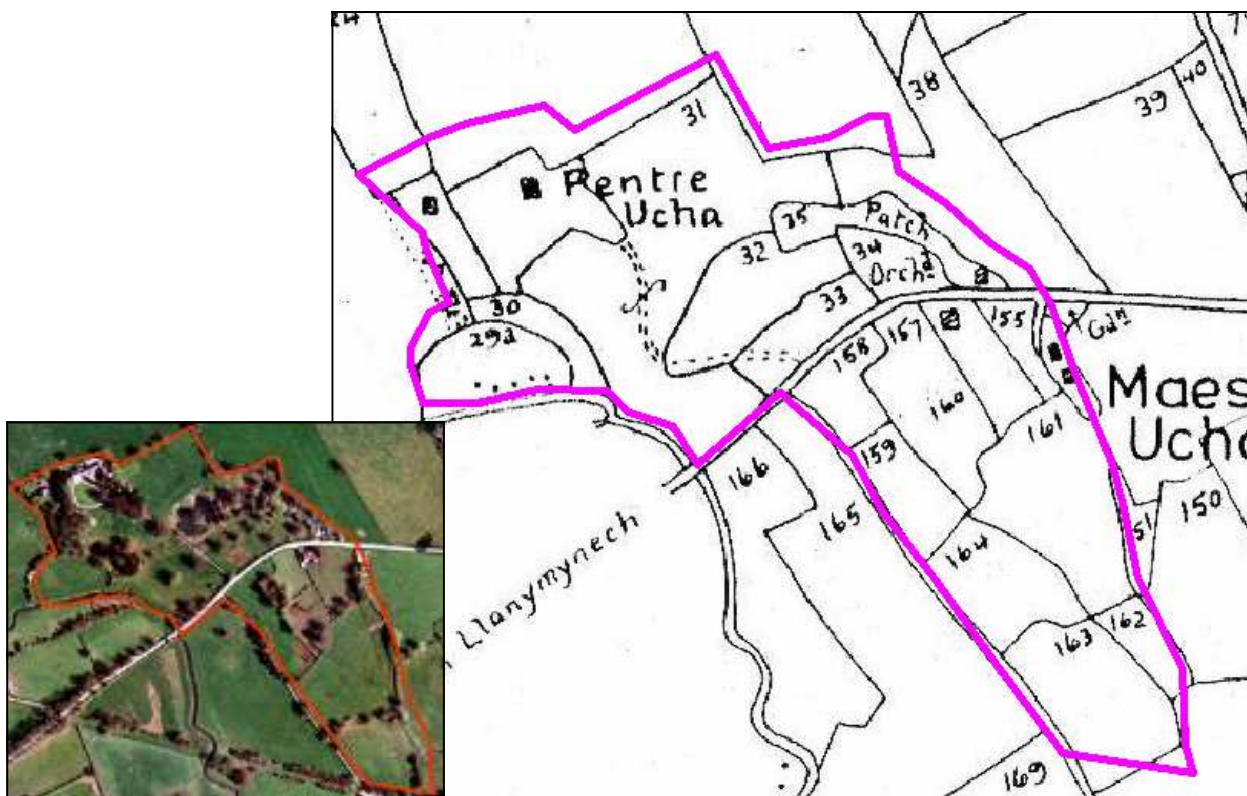
Parcel number 48

(16 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 19 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph shows 10 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 48

(16 ha)

A pastoral landscape, which slopes gently towards the Morda River. Its main feature is the wooded park-like grounds around Pentre Uchaf.

Key Characteristics

- A flattish landscape, sloping gently to the west and south
- Bordered to the west by the River Morda
- Fields are small to medium, with irregular boundaries
- Two large ponds lie in the grounds of Pentre Uchaf Hall, a stone, three storey farmhouse
- The remains of a small motte or castle

Geology and Landform

This landscape is on the edge of the Maesbrook Plateau, which slopes down to the alluvial soils, associated with the Morda River to the west and south-west. It is on the boundary, which marks the transition from the sandstone of the plateau to the alluvial valley of the River Morda. The south-east of this landscape borders onto the large flood plain of the River Vyrnwy. The geology is one of glaciofluvial deposits on Triassic Sandstones.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are fairly wet clay loams, of the East Keswick Soil Association, with some sandy material in the finer grained soils. They become increasingly silty as the flood plain is approached. They are underlain by glacial deposits. The land use is semi-improved or improved pasture, used for grazing or amenity.

Ecology

The improved pasture is intensively grazed. The grassland in the park area and around the borders of the River Morda is not intensively managed and is species-rich. The hedges are continuous, usually intact, but are in some places declining and gappy. They provide reasonable terrestrial corridors, linking the pastoral areas and woodland with the Morda River and the abandoned railway line, which is an important corridor. Other corridors include a few small drains or ditches. There are areas of quite dense hedgerow trees. The park-like grounds associated with Pentre Uchaf Hall contain some mature specimen trees, as well as some small plantings of conifers and deciduous trees. There are a number of ponds and undisturbed wet areas with associated flora and fauna.

Tree Cover

The feature of this area is the collection of fine trees in the park-like grounds around Pentre Uchaf. These are mainly oak, some of which are mature, while others are of more recent plantings. There are clusters of trees around the recently excavated ponds and the river banks; these are usually willow or alder. There are also some small plantations associated with Pentre Uchaf Hall and the grounds surrounding it. The trees are mostly deciduous, but there are small areas of mixed plantings of conifers and deciduous trees. In the hedgerows oak predominates, with a scattering of ash and sycamore. These become more common on the old railway line, where there are few oaks.

Enclosure

The ancient enclosure pattern comprises small to medium sized paddocks, clustered around the cottages and farms. During the 19th and 20th centuries these were enlarged. Some of the boundaries have been altered by the construction of the railway. In those areas not affected by this engineering, there has been considerable modification of the old field patterns as the park and the fields around the hall were reorganised. Hedges are hawthorn, mixed with a wide variety of other shrubs, including hazel, field maple, elm and elderberry. A new secondary fence of post and rail now lines the lane to Pentre Uchaf.

Communications

A small single-track lane, Heatley's Lane, and the main Knockin-Llanymynech road.

Built Environment

There are two Grade II listed buildings, Pentre Uchaf Hall, a 17th century, yellow sandstone, three storey, farmhouse and Old Court, a late 17th century house. These are surrounded by associated outbuildings, and a caravan site. There are a number of smallholdings and dwellings at the Old Paper Mill, as well as a large new house on the roadside. In the parkland at Pentre Uchaf are the remains of a motte, a small low, circular mound in wetland adjoining the Morda.

Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook plateau

Parcel number 49

(34 ha)

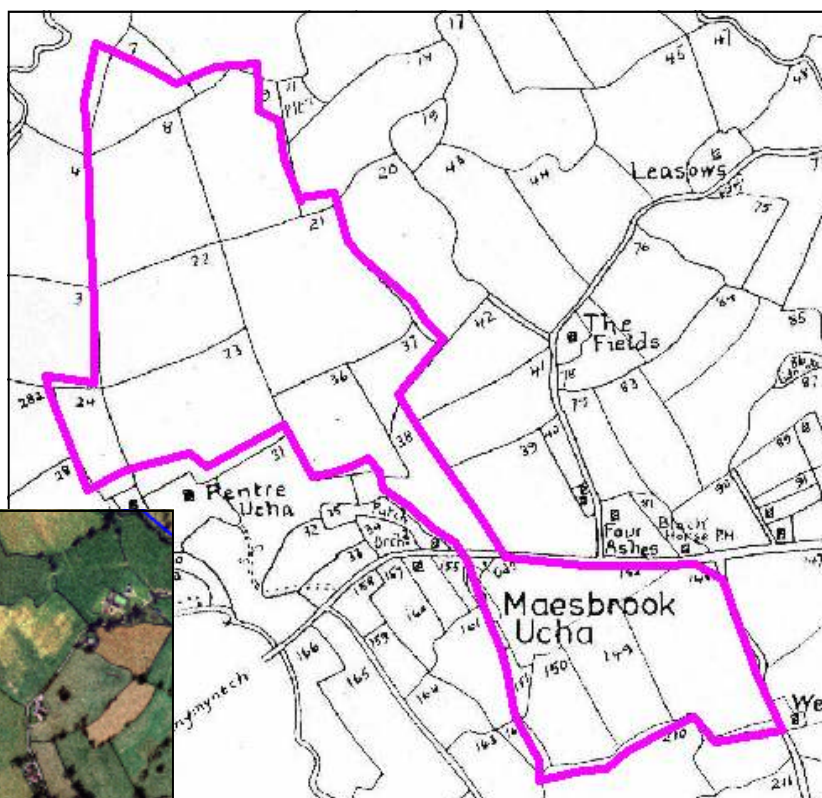


The 1845 historic map

shows 14 fields.

The 2000 aerial photograph

shows 7 fields.



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook plateau

Parcel number 49

(34 ha)

A flat landscape, slightly raised above the River Morda. Medium rectilinear grassland fields, with hawthorn hedges. An open landscape with extensive views.

Key Characteristics

- The western tip of the Maesbrook sandstone plateau
- Flattish landform sloping very gradually towards the flood plain of the River Vyrnwy and the River Morda
- Medium to large enclosures, under grassland
- Extensive views to Llanymynech Hill and the Breidden Hills
- Boundaries are straight, mixed species hedges
- A very open landscape, with insignificant hedgerow trees

Geology and Landform

This landscape makes up the fourth side of the sandstone plateau surrounding Maesbrook Village. The underlying geology is that of Kinnerton Sandstone, overlain by glaciofluvial deposits, making the soils well drained. The landform is flat, sloping gently towards the flood plain.

Soils and Land Use

The land use is improved pasture, which is used for moderately intensive animal rearing. The soils, of the East Keswick Soil Association, are moderately wet loams, but with sandy loam material in areas of the more finely grained soils. There are some gravelly soils on the higher parts of this landscape, towards the western end of the Maesbrook Plateau. Water seeping out of these slopes causes wet spots in adjoining parcels as it becomes a source area for the Maesbrook branch of the Weir Brook. In some places, a hard layer of rust coloured, consolidated gravel comes close to the surface, at the level of the water table. Shelves of this consolidated gravel, which is known locally as “cat brain”, can also be seen along the banks of the River Vyrnwy.

Ecology

The improved pasture is intensively farmed and is not species-rich. The hedges are also intensively managed, providing some terrestrial corridors, in what is otherwise an open landscape. Other corridors include the few small drains or ditches. Hedgerow trees are scarce.

Tree Cover

Boundary trees, usually oak, are scarce, except in those slightly lower lying areas near the River Morda.

Enclosure

The fields are medium to large, with straight boundaries, usually of hawthorn. The current field pattern was created in the mid 19th century through a complete reorganisation of the earlier piecemeal enclosure. This has been changed as the hedges were removed and the fields enlarged. The boundaries are predominantly straight and the field shapes are rectilinear. A few hedges have been removed from this enclosure pattern, leaving one or two oak trees as remnants.

Communications

The main Knockin to Llanymynech road.

Built Environment

The overhead power line, which runs roughly east to west across the northern part, impacts noticeably on the visual quality of the landscape.

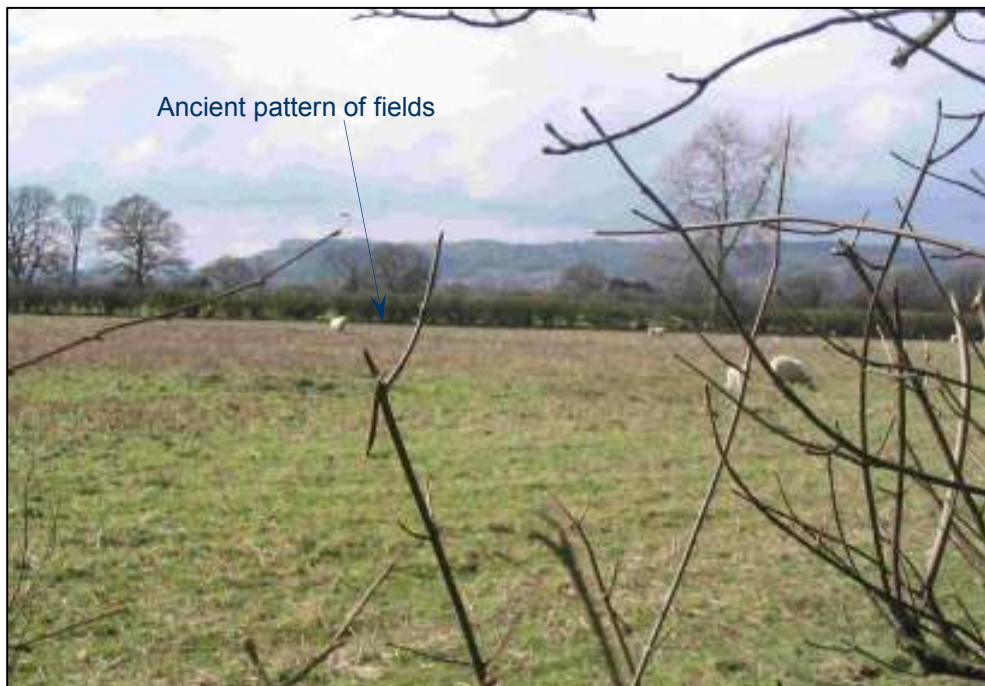


Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

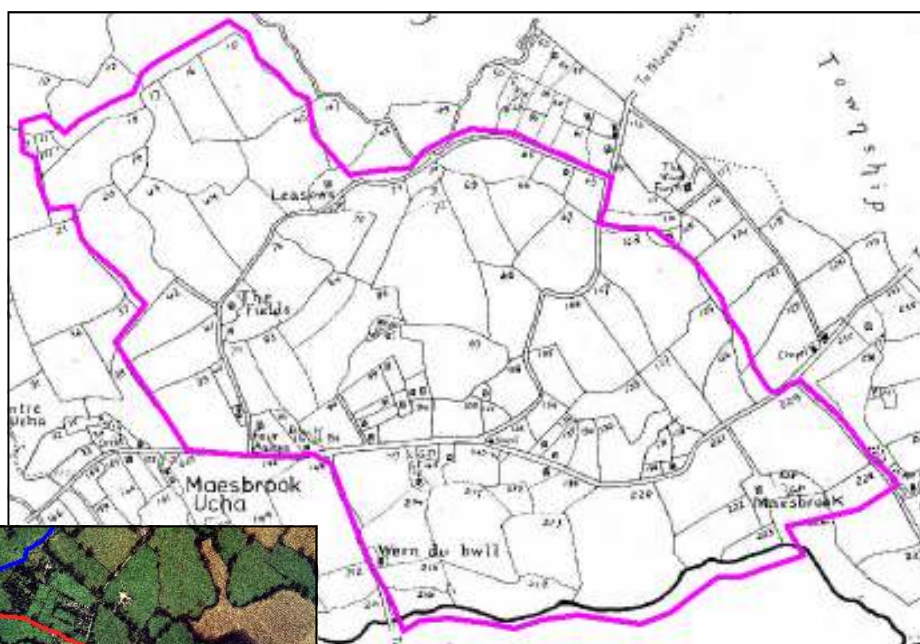
Parcel number 50

(132 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 84 fields.

The 2000 aerial photo shows 48 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 50

(132 ha)

A largely flat plateau of predominately open farmland, over glaciofluvial deposits. Tree cover is defined by scattered hedgerow trees, often in tall hawthorn hedges. The village of Maesbrook, which runs through the centre of the parcel, is linked to the adjoining countryside by a network of lanes.

Key Characteristics

- Large tract of flat land surrounding Maesbrook village
- Part of a slightly raised plateau between the Vyrnwy and Morda flood plains
- Extensive views of the Breidden Hills to the south and Llanymynech Hill to the west
- The soils are derived from glacial deposits, over Kinnerton Sandstone
- Land use is predominately mixed agriculture
- Fields are of moderate size, with irregular boundaries
- Buildings within the landscape, in addition to the Village of Maesbrook, are limited to farms, smallholdings and scattered dwellings

Geology and Landform

The plateau is bounded by the flood plains of the Morda to the north and west, and the Vyrnwy to the south. It is an area of glaciofluvial sheet deposits, underlain by Kinnerton Sandstone of the Triassic Period. The plateau is largely flat, but slopes down quite noticeably towards the River Vyrnwy flood plain.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are fairly wet, loamy soils, belonging to the East Keswick Soil Association, but with some sandy material in the finer grained soils, as well as some gravelly soils on the western edge of the Maesbrook Plateau. The land use is one of mixed farming; arable with some improved and semi-improved pasture. Much of the area is used for medium to low intensity animal husbandry.

Ecology

Wherever the pasture is intensively managed it is not species-rich. In this landscape, the intensity of the land use varies, and is greater south of the main road. Where the grazing pressures are less, the ecological value increases, particularly in those areas where there are rushes and wet spots.

The hedges are continuous and intact along the roadside. Elsewhere they are often fragmented, gappy, reinforced with fencing and overgrown. These tall hedges provide reasonable terrestrial corridors and good winter feed. Their ecological interest is increased by hedgerow trees, which, in a few places, are dense and ivy covered. There are a few, well managed, open ditches. Other ecological habitats include two small coppices of mixed woodland, growing on wet peat soils and some pools and private gardens. The field on the east of this landscape is known as Turfmoor. From this damp area originates the source of a stream, which joins others flowing from Osbaston and those originating from the high water table area to the north of the Maesbrook to Knockin road.

Tree Cover

There are areas where the dense lines of oak hedgerow trees are a feature. In many other places, the hedgerow trees are sparse or absent. While oak is usually present, sycamore and ash are well represented. Other species include elm (rare), and willow in wet areas. The two small coppices of mixed woodland and the trees around some of the farms, smallholdings and gardens add to the treescape. There are few juvenile trees.

Enclosure

Away from the village an ancient pattern of medium to large fields prevails, which have remained largely unchanged since the late 18th century. The small paddocks, associated with the crofts within the village, have disappeared. Hedgerow species are varied, with hawthorn being the most common, but hazel, blackthorn, maple and some elm are also well represented. In the wetter areas willow is present.

Built Environment

Several farms, smallholdings and a variety of different types of dwellings, both within the landscape and in the village itself.

Communications

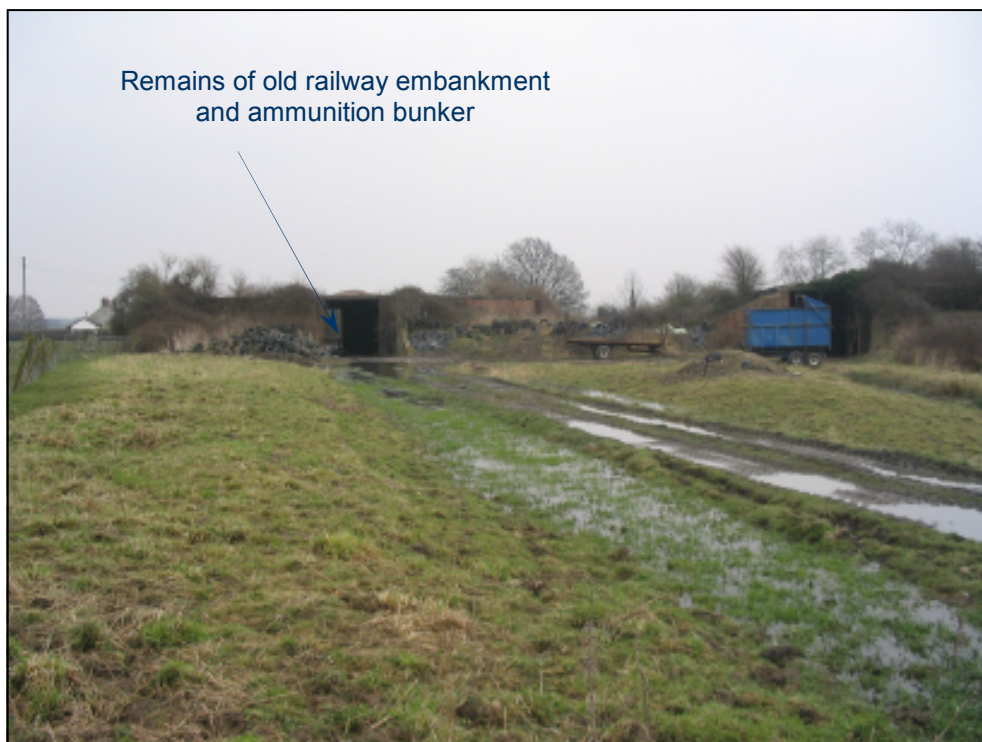
The busy B4398 runs through the centre of this landscape; small lanes and footpaths branch out.

Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau

Parcel number 51

(12 ha)



The 1845 historic map shows 6 fields.
The 2000 aerial photograph shows 4 fields



Settled Pastoral Farmlands

Maesbrook Plateau Parcel number 51 (12 ha)

A small landscape of pastoral land, with clusters of Second World War ammunition bunkers throughout. It forms part of a larger landscape which runs into Knockin Parish. It is a flat, rather wet area, of sandy clay loams in the low-lying areas, with loamy, rather brown soils in the raised areas towards Knockin Parish.

Key Characteristics

- Part of a larger landscape, which continues into Knockin Parish
- Flat land, in places poorly drained and damp
- Large number of ammunition bunkers and remains of old railway embankments
- Field boundaries much altered by military engineers
- Used as unimproved pasture

Geology and Landform

This landscape is on the southern edge of the slightly raised ground, which demarcates the Vyrnwy flood plain from the raised Maesbrook plateau. On this boundary, the sandstone geology becomes more dominant and the soils more freely draining. The landform is flat, gradually sloping upwards from the flood plain.

Soils and Land Use

The soils are glacially derived sandy clay loams and silty loams, of the East Keswick Soil Association, which can be wet and marshy, particularly as the boundary of the flood plain is approached. Land use is unimproved or semi-improved pasture.

Ecology

Where the drainage is poor and the soils wet, there are areas of unimproved pasture surrounding the Second World War ammunition bunkers. These areas are ecologically valuable, often marshy, with patches of rushes and overgrown hedges. The hedgerows are fragmented but species-rich, while the various tracks into the area provide useful terrestrial corridors. Throughout the area, the scrub and self-set trees around the bunkers provide ecologically valuable sites.

Tree Cover

The tree cover is sparse and insignificant, restricted to rather poor hedgerow trees. These are mainly oak, but there are also examples of ash and an occasional sycamore. Field maple, blackthorn and briars are present in the hedgerows. Some hawthorn have grown unchecked and developed into small trees. Where this has happened it has become a feature.

Enclosure

The construction of the bunkers, the connecting railway lines and communication roads have changed the field boundaries radically. There are few old field boundaries, except for those alongside the lanes and around the paddocks next to the cottages.

Communications

A small lane leading to a few cottages, a number of tracks and old railway lines, abandoned military roads and one footpath.

Built Environment

Old ammunition dumps are widespread; some are derelict, some provide farm storage, while others, outside the Parish, are used for chicken farming. There are some cottages and a fine black and white manor house.



Glossary and definitions

Argae — an artificial embankment which runs parallel to the banks of a river to protect against flooding

Built environment — dwellings, agricultural or commercial buildings which feature in a landscape

Borrow pit — an excavation to supply material for a single project

Communications — roadways, lanes or footpaths within a landscape

Coppice — a dense growth of small trees

Croft — house plot where the dwellings line the roads and lanes

Dentilated — a row of bricks, evenly spaced to form an ornamental, indented row, usually under the eaves of the house

Holt — the lair of an otter

Leat — an open watercourse conducting water to a mill

Riparian habitat — river bank habitat

Scrape — a depression formed to create a small pond or wet spot

Slang — a local name often given to a long and narrow field or strip of land

Stool — a base of a plant from which shoots or stems are produced

Definitions

Boundaries or hedge descriptions:

- **Intact** — well managed and few gaps
- **Fragmented** — hedges present, but reinforced with fences or wire to make them functional
- **Declining** — some gaps have occurred
- **Intensively managed** — sides and top cut annually
- **Sinuous** — hedgerow or lane which is winding or full of curves
- **Species-rich** — more than five species present in the hedgerow

Enclosure descriptions:

- **Assarts** — fields cleared and enclosed directly from woodland.
- **Drained wetlands** — most of the boundaries defined by the courses of drainage ditches. May be for flood drainage only
- **Field pattern or enclosure pattern** — a particular layout of fields and hedges which appear consistently
- **Irregular squatters' enclosure** — small irregular fields, with sinuous boundaries, an unordered appearance, enclosed directly from common land between 16th and early 19th centuries
- **Large post war fields** — large fields caused by the amalgamation of fields due to post war requirements to intensify agriculture. In other parts of the country field sizes can be much larger
- **Open field system** — an area of arable land with common rights; often a three field system divided into strips.
- **Paddocks/Closes** — small irregular fields around the location of settlements
- **Piecemeal enclosure** — fields created out of the mediaeval open field system by verbal agreement between two or more landowners. Enclosure pattern is one of small irregular or rectilinear fields with two boundaries dog leg or 's' curved
- **Planned enclosure** — enclosures with very straight boundaries, often associated with the enclosure of commons
- **Rectilinear** — field systems with a regular form and predominantly straight boundaries
- **Regular** — fields with predominantly straight boundaries
- **Ridge and Furrow** — a distinctive form of up and down ploughing of long strips. The soil was thrown towards the centre of the strip, producing a high ridge surrounded by a deep furrow.
- **Squatters' enclosures** — small rectilinear fields with straight boundaries, enclosed directly from common land in the 18th / early 19th centuries
- **Sub regular** — fields with predominantly curving or irregular boundaries

Geology and soils definitions:

- **Alluvial soils or alluvium** — fine grained soils consisting of silts, clays and sands deposited by flooding of river plain
- **Erratic** — a large rock fragment which has been transported by moving ice away from its place of origin and deposited in an area of dissimilar rock type
- **Glacial till** — unsorted deposits of mixed sized fragments left by melting glaciers

Glossary and definitions

- **Glaciofluvial** — the processes and landforms relating to the deposition of clays and silts by glacial streams
- **Glaciolacustrine** — the processes and landforms relating to the deposition of clays and silts from glacial lakes
- **Gley soils** — soils stained by periodic or permanent saturation by water in the absence of effective drainage
- **Marls** — fine grained clay material
- **Mesozoic** — era of geological time that began 225 million years ago and lasted about 155 million years
- **Outlier** — an area of rock occurring away from the main body of similar rocks, in a detached location
- **Physiography** — dealing with the development of topographical features
- **Paleochannel** — watercourse in use during geological time frame
- **River terrace** — remains of a previous higher level of a river plain
- **Triassic** — the first geological period of the Mesozoic era, extending from about 240 million years to about 200 million years ago. In Britain it included the development of red desert sandstones

Hedgerow trees:

- **Dense** — rows of trees which are common and are a feature in the landscape
- **Scattered** — medium density scattering of trees
- **Intermittent** — low density scattering of trees
- **Insignificant** — very sparse scattering of trees, few trees in the landscape

Landscape definitions:

- **Feature** — a prominent, eye catching element, i.e. a row of trees
- **Landform** — combination of slope and height that produce the shape and form of the surface area
- **Landscape** — is not purely visual, but is made of a combination of dimensions, including geology, topography, history, land use, ecology and cultural associations
- **Landscape Character** — a distinct pattern or combination of elements that occur consistently in a particular landscape
- **Landscape Character Assessment** — an analysis based upon a predetermined analysis of the different elements which, together, determine landscape character
- **Landscape Character Type** — a landscape with broadly consistent and similar characters of geology, topography, soils land use, field pattern and vegetation
- **Historic Landscape Character Assessment** — a description of the landscape based on historical analysis of field patterns
- **Tree cover** — the pattern of woodlands and hedgerow trees within a landscape

Management of pasture:

- **Intensive or improved pasture** — pasture heavily fertilised and with rye grass clover mix. Usually associated with dairying or silage
- **Medium or semi improved pasture** — fertilised pasture, but used for grazing of stock or making hay
- **Leys** — arable land under grass
- **Low intensive or unimproved pasture** — very limited fertiliser and grazed primarily by steers

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And lastly we would like to thank Awards for All for the grant it gave towards the cost of producing this document.



NOTES

NOTES



Front Cover Image: Coly Anchor and surrounds taken from an air balloon

Back Cover Image: A view of the Breidden Hills taken from Edgerley