

WHITEPARISH

LANDSCAPE, SETTLEMENT, ETC.

Boundaries and parish origins

Whiteparish was one of two parishes, with the parish of Landford, to be part of the ancient Wiltshire hundred of Frustfield. It is situated in the south-east corner of Wiltshire, eight miles from Salisbury and eight from Romsey. Historically it was a large parish, of 6,427 a. at the time of the inclosure award in 1805, or 6,300 a. at the time of the tithe award in 1842.¹

Following the historic parish boundary clockwise, the eastern boundary was shared with the neighbouring county of Hampshire. The boundary then adjoined the historic extra-parochial area of Melchet Park.² Part of the southern boundary was shared with Landford parish, and to the south-west and west with the historic parish of Downton.³ Alderbury, West Grimstead and West Dean parishes lay on Whiteparish's northern boundary.

Geographically, and starting from the same point, much of the historic boundary followed field boundaries, and a small section of the river Blackwater. At its northern edge the parish boundary followed the lower edge of the Dean Hill escarpment. Undated burials have been found at Aston's Gate, on the parish boundary near Pepperbox Hill and the Dean Hill escarpment, and may be deviant burials, intentionally placed at the parish edge.⁴ A detached section of the historic parish has been attributed to medieval inhabitants of Cowesfield seeking land beyond Sherfield English (Hants).⁵

Portions of the historic and civil parish have been removed and added to since the late 19th century. The extra-parochial area of Langley Wood was historically considered part of Whiteparish, and is therefore discussed with Whiteparish, although it amalgamated with Downton civil parish in 1894.⁶ When Redlynch civil parish was formed in 1896, Langley

¹ R. E. Sandell (ed.), *Abstracts of Wiltshire Inclosures Awards and Agreements* (WRS 25, 1971), 138 (no. 191); R. E. Sandell (ed.), *Abstracts of Wiltshire Tithe Apportionments* (WRS 30, 1975), 103 (no. 267).

² Melchet Park transferred to Hampshire in 1895, see *VCH Wilts.* IV, 427. For the history of Melchet Park, see *VCH Hants.* IV, 540–2.

³ For Downton and later divisions of the historic parish into separate ecclesiastical and civil parishes, see *VCH Wilts.* 11, 21–7, 49.

⁴ Wiltshire HER, Ashton's Gate, two undated human burials, SU22SW530.

⁵ C. C. Taylor, 'Whiteparish: a study of the development of a forest-edge parish', *WAM* 62 (1967), 86–7.

⁶ Fitzmaurice and Bown, *Boundaries of the Administrative County of Wilts.* 21; *VCH Wilts.* XI, 19.

Wood became part of Redlynch, and it remained with Redlynch civil parish following boundary changes in 2017.⁷

By an order dated 1884 a detached part of Whiteparish was transferred to Plaitford (part of Wiltshire until 1895, when it transferred to Hampshire).⁸ By an order of 1895 (confirmed in 1896) a further detached part of Whiteparish was added to the parish of Landford.⁹ The extra parochial district of Earldoms was at one time regarded as part of Whiteparish, but became a separate civil parish in 1858, and from 1896 onwards part of the civil parish of Landford.¹⁰

The modern civil parish of Whiteparish shares a boundary with, moving clockwise, the Hampshire civil parishes of East Dean, Lockerley, Sherfield English, and Melchet Park and Plaitford. Its Wiltshire boundaries are shared with Landford, Redlynch, Downton, Alderbury, West Grimstead and West Dean.

There is no reference to Whiteparish as a place name in Domesday. Frustfield, the name of the hundred, may have been the name given to the western half of the later parish of Whiteparish, and possibly of the village itself. The place name 'Whiteparish' may refer to a church built of white or whitewashed stone.¹¹ The name is recorded as la Wytechyrche in 1278,¹² and as Wytechirche in 1294.¹³ Whiteparish was also known as Album Monasterium, a name recorded by 1297 and used at least to 1452.¹⁴ This may refer to a minster church. It was Whyte Parysse in 1566–7,¹⁵ and Whiteparish by 1655,¹⁶ although sometimes spelled as two words, White Parish, until well into the 19th century.¹⁷

The present village is an example of the transformation of a group of medieval settlement sites into a single village, chief among these being Abbotstone, Alderstone, Cowesfield and Whelpley, with other smaller settlements.¹⁸

⁷ *VCH Wilts.*, IX, 21, 25, 26. Wiltshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2016 <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/resources/database-of-local-government-orders/south-west/wiltshire> (accessed 8 Sept. 2022).

⁸ Fitzmaurice and Bown, *Boundaries of the Administrative County of Wilts*, 9, 13. For the history of Plaitford see *VCH Hants*, IV, 542–3.

⁹ Fitzmaurice and Bown, *Boundaries of the Administrative County of Wilts*, 21. This was the area of the parish around Whitterns Hill, North Common and Wicketsgreen, see WSA, 1980/2, 287.

¹⁰ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts*. Frustfield, 66–9; Fitzmaurice and Bown, *Boundaries of the Administrative County of Wilts*, 22, 26; Youngs, *Admin Units*, 537. The order was made in 1895, and confirmed in 1896. See Landford.

¹¹ Draper, *Landscape, Settlement and Society*, 78; C. C. Taylor, 'The Saxon boundaries of Frustfield', *WAM* 59 (1964), 110–15; RCHM, *Churches of South-East Wiltshire*, 205; Pevsner, *Wilts.* (2nd edn), 571–2.

¹² *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 387.

¹³ Pugh (ed.), *Feet of Fines 1227–1327*, 39.

¹⁴ Phillipps, *Institutions*, vol. I, 1, 143.

¹⁵ E. A. Fry, 'A Calendar of Feet of Fines for Wiltshire', *Wilts. N&Q* V (1905–7), 356.

¹⁶ J. Waylen, 'Wiltshire's Contribution to the Piedmontese Fund in 1655', *WAM* 25 (1890–1), 118.

¹⁷ *Kelly's Dir. Dors., Hants., Wilts.* (1848), 2845.

¹⁸ J. Musty, 'Deserted Medieval Villages in Wiltshire', *WAM* 58 (Sept. 1961–Sept. 1963), 49.

Land at Abbotstone was granted by King Edgar to Wilton Abbey in 968, and the name is reputed to mean ‘the Abbess’ farm’.¹⁹ It was recorded as Abbedeston in 1249,²⁰ Abbodeston in 1316,²¹ Abbeston’ in 1377,²² and Abboteston in 1439.²³

The name Alderstone is reputed to come from its Anglo-Saxon owner Aldred or Ealdred.²⁴ The settlement would become the nucleus of the later village of Whiteparish, and the site of the parish church, as evidenced in 1320 when the church of Whiteparish was described as being in the township of Alderstone.²⁵ It was Aldreston by 1316,²⁶ Aldeston’ by 1377,²⁷ and Aldereston by 1439.²⁸

The origins of the name ‘Brickworth’ are obscure, though both elements of the name may derive from its situation on a hill-side. The first element of the name may alternatively derive from the Old English *beorc*, or birch tree.²⁹ It is mentioned, as Brycore, by 1255.³⁰

‘Cowesfield’ may derive from a personal name, ‘*Cufel*’s open land’.³¹ Cowesfield is mentioned in Domesday, as ‘Colesfeld’ and ‘Cwlestone’.³² It was Coulesfeld in 1316,³³ Coulesfelde in 1377,³⁴ and Culisfeld in 1569.³⁵ It divided into three distinct settlements; Cowesfield Esturmy, Cowesfield Louveras (sometimes Loveras) and Cowesfield Spilman, all named after one-time occupants.³⁶

Whelpley was Welpeley in 1316,³⁷ and Whelpelgh’ in 1377.³⁸ The origins of the name are uncertain, but may refer to a ‘clearing or wood of the cubs or whelps’; alternatively the first element may be a personal name.³⁹

Landscape

¹⁹ Taylor, ‘Saxon boundaries of Frustfield’, *WAM* 59 (1964), 110–15.

²⁰ *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 388.

²¹ W. H. Jones, ‘The Nomina Villarum for Wiltshire’, *WAM* 12 (1870), 9.

²² C. C. Fenwick (ed.), *The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381: Part 3: Wiltshire-Yorkshire* (Oxford, 2005), 40.

²³ J. E. Jackson, ‘The Sheriff’s Turn, Co. Wilts. A.D. 1439’, *WAM* 13 (1872), 117.

²⁴ Domesday, 193; *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 388. .

²⁵ Phillipps, *Institutions*, vol. I, 17. The entry reads, ‘E. Albi Monasterii in Villa de Aldredeston.’

²⁶ Jones, ‘Nomina Villarum’, *WAM* 12 (1870), 9.

²⁷ Fenwick (ed.), *Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381*, 40.

²⁸ Jackson, ‘Sheriff’s Turn’, *WAM* 13 (1872), 117.

²⁹ *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 389.

³⁰ Fry (ed.), *Feet of Fines, 1195–1272*, 47.

³¹ *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 389.

³² *Domesday*, 191, 192, 1334.

³³ Jones, ‘Nomina Villarum’, *WAM* 12 (1870), 9.

³⁴ Fenwick (ed.), *The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381*, 40.

³⁵ WSA, 9/1/122.

³⁶ See Landownership.

³⁷ Jones, ‘Nomina Villarum’, *WAM* 12 (1870), 9.

³⁸ Fenwick (ed.), *Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381*, 40.

³⁹ *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 390.

The underlying geology of Whiteparish, and of Frustfield hundred, is largely chalk, clay, sand and silt.⁴⁰ Chalk predominates in the northern half of the parish, below Dean Hill and towards the village. A central belt of sand spreads from the west of the parish through the village itself. The southern half of the parish is characterised by clay, silt and sand deposits.⁴¹ These Tertiary sands and clays of the Hampshire Basin produce the characteristic wooded heathland of the New Forest edge.⁴²

Common land was recorded in the manor court records of Whelpley and Whiteparish in the early 17th century, and at Cowesfield in 1661.⁴³ Parts of Whelpley were enclosed, c.1805, and parts of Whiteparish with the West Grimstead inclosure award made in 1805, but common ground was still recorded in the parish in 1853.⁴⁴

Communications

By 1675 the road from Southampton through Romsey to Salisbury passed through Cowesfield Green and Whiteparish,⁴⁵ the only major route passing through the parish until the arrival of the turnpike roads in the next century.

In 1753 an act of parliament was passed authorising the setting up of a turnpike trust known as the Sarum and Eling, or Salisbury and Eling, trust. Unlike the Southampton to Salisbury route delineated in 1675, this turnpike road bypassed the village of Whiteparish, though it did run through an area of more isolated settlement in the parish.⁴⁶ By 1820 this turnpike road ran from Lopcombe Corner at Winterslow, through Salisbury, to Landford and thence via Ower and Testwood to Eling. A branch at Landford ran through the New Forest via Brook and Cadnam to reach Eling. At Cadnam a short branch ran to Lyndhurst.⁴⁷ The modern A36 from Salisbury to Ower follows much of the route of the turnpike road. The Sarum and Eling turnpike road was disturnpiked c.1870.⁴⁸

⁴⁰ Geol. Surv. map, 1:50,000, bedrock and superficial deposits, sheet 298 (2005 edn); Geol. Surv. map, 1:50,000, solid and drift, sheet 299 (2002 edn); Geol. Surv. map, 1:50,000, solid and drift, sheet 314 (2004 edn); Geol. Surv. map, 1:50,000, solid and drift, sheet 315 (1987 edn).

⁴¹ Geol. Surv. map, 1:50,000, bedrock and superficial deposits, sheet 298 (2005 edn); Geol. Surv. map, 1:50,000, solid and drift, sheet 299 (2002 edn); Geol. Surv. map, 1:50,000, solid and drift, sheet 314 (2004 edn); Geol. Surv. map, 1:50,000, solid and drift, sheet 315 (1987 edn).

⁴² J. Chandler, *A Sense of Belonging: History, Community and the New Wiltshire* (Bradford on Avon, 1998), 17.

⁴³ WSA, 1369/4/23/2; Hants. RO, 2M37/66.

⁴⁴ Sandell (ed.), *Wiltshire Inclosures Awards and Agreements* (WRS 25, 1971), 78 (no. 98), 138 (no. 191); Hants. RO, 4M92/D50/4. The West Grimstead award was made in 1805, but not enrolled until 1817.

⁴⁵ J. Ogilby, *Britannia* (1675), 102, map 'The road from London to Southampton',

⁴⁶ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 257, 259; WSA, A1/275/1. For the routes of turnpikes through Whiteparish, see tithe map. The Sarum and Eling turnpike ran to Eling, not Southampton as implied in *VCH Wilts*, IV.

⁴⁷ WSA, A1/275/1.

⁴⁸ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 269; WSA, A1/205/13.

If the establishment of the Sarum and Eling turnpike trust in 1753 had disadvantaged Whiteparish it was soon remedied, as by 1756 the Whiteparish, Romsey and Southampton turnpike road was established. It began at the junction with the Salisbury to Eling turnpike at Brickworth, and ran from Brickworth Pond in Whiteparish, through the village of Whiteparish itself, to Sherfield English and East Wellow to Romsey, and then to Southampton.⁴⁹ Two toll gates were established; a main toll gate which became known as Whiteparish gate, and a side gate at Cowesfield. The Cowesfield gate had been removed by September 1757, when it was ordered that two new side gates be erected at Whiteparish, one on the lane leading from Whiteparish Street towards Grimstead, and the other opposite it, on the lane leading towards Whiteparish Common. It is not clear if this 1757 order was enacted, as in 1765 the trustees ordered that a gate with a toll house be erected across the lane beside the churchyard leading from the turnpike road towards Whiteparish Common, and a collector of tolls appointed.⁵⁰ If there had been a gate at the Grimstead lane, it had gone by the time of the tithe map of 1842, which showed only the Whiteparish and the Whiteparish Side (or Whiteparish Common) toll houses and gates.⁵¹ The Whiteparish, Romsey and Southampton turnpike road was formally disturnpiked in 1878, and the two Whiteparish toll cottages sold by auction.⁵² The modern A27, so designated in 1922, begins at Whiteparish at the Brickworth junction with the A36, and largely follows the route of the former turnpike as it passes through Whiteparish.⁵³

Bus services

A daily bus service to Romsey was recorded in 1924, and by 1929 there were daily bus services to Romsey, Salisbury and Southampton.⁵⁴ By 1952 the village was on the route of a service between Salisbury and Southampton, though the Romsey service now ran via Lockerley, rather than Whiteparish. A Salisbury to Southampton service still served the parish in 1972 and probably continued to do so.⁵⁵ In 1980 there was a service from Whiteparish to Winchester via Romsey, and by 2011 an express service from Salisbury to Southampton ran through the village, though there no longer appeared to be a Winchester

⁴⁹ Hants. RO, 4M92/R/2/1; 4M92/V5; *VCH Wilts.*, IV, 257, 259.

⁵⁰ Hants. RO, 4M92/V4/3/2.

⁵¹ Tithe map and award, 1842.

⁵² Hants. RO, 4M92/V4/2/5 (counterpart lease, 25 Apr. 1874); 4M92/V4/3/7.

⁵³ '1922 Road Lists', https://www.sabre-roads.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=1922_Road_Lists (accessed 19 Jan. 2022); OS Map 6', Wilts. LXXII (1885 edn).

⁵⁴ WSA, 1980/20, 2; *Roadways Motor Coach & Motor Bus Time Tables England and Wales* (September 1929).

⁵⁵ Morris and Waller, *Wilts & Dorset Motor Services Ltd*, 130, 131.

service.⁵⁶ In 2022 Whiteparish remained on the route of the Salisbury to Southampton service, which ran either via Romsey or West Wellow.⁵⁷

Railways

There was no railway station at Whiteparish. The nearest station was at West Dean (opened 1847), 2½ miles to the north, with alternative stations at Downton and Salisbury,⁵⁸ as well as Romsey. The Downton station closed in 1964, but the stations of Salisbury, Romsey and Dean (formerly West Dean) remained in 2022.⁵⁹

Carriers and post offices

By 1848 there were three carriers operating from Whiteparish to Salisbury, one of whom also ran a service to Southampton.⁶⁰ A carrying business, offered for sale in 1868, was noted as having run for 32 years between Whiteparish, Salisbury and Southampton.⁶¹ Carrier services had not altered significantly by 1889, when there were carriers travelling to Salisbury three times a week, and twice a week to Southampton.⁶²

There was a post office in the village by 1848.⁶³ In 1924, with the village shop, it was one of the buildings advertised for sale by the Trafalgar estate.⁶⁴ Whiteparish continued to be served by a post office in 2022.⁶⁵

Population

By 1086 there were two estates at Frustfield, later Whiteparish, that recorded a population. On the land of Humphrey de L'Isle there were three slaves, four villans, two bordars (unfree peasants) and two coliberts (freed slaves or freemen).⁶⁶ On the land of Wulfric, one of the

⁵⁶ WSHC, bus timetable box 1980–81 (Explorer 17 leaflet); bus timetable box 2011–12 (X7 timetable).

⁵⁷ X7 and X7R timetables, at bluestarbus.co.uk/services (accessed 6 Sept. 2022).

⁵⁸ *Salisbury and Winchester Jnl.*, 6 Mar. 1847, 2; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1898), 252.

⁵⁹ *VCH Wilts*, XI, 22.

⁶⁰ *Kelly's Dir. Dors., Hants., Wilts.* (1848), 2845.

⁶¹ *Salisbury and Winchester Jnl.*, 22 Aug. 1868, 4.

⁶² *Kelly's Dir. Hants., Wilts., Dors.* (1889), 1049.

⁶³ *Kelly's Dir. Dors., Hants., Wilts.* (1848), 2845.

⁶⁴ WSA, 1980/20.

⁶⁵ <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder> (accessed 24 Jan. 2022).

⁶⁶ *Domesday*, 182.

king's thanes, there were six bordars.⁶⁷ If there were five persons in each household, this suggests a total population of *c.*70 persons, or *c.*85 persons if the slaves had families.⁶⁸

Alderstone and Cowesfield were listed separately in Domesday. Alderstone had one villan and three cotsets (unfree cottagers), a population of *c.*20 persons.⁶⁹ There were two estates at Cowesfield; two villans and eight cotsets on Richard Sturmy's estate, and three cotsets on the estate held by Beorhtric and his brother Alwig.⁷⁰ This suggests a total population at Cowesfield of *c.*65 persons.

The number of tax payers recorded in the parish varied during the following centuries according to the nature of the tax being imposed. In 1332 nine persons were taxed at Abbotstone, seven at Alderstone, 13 at Whelpley and 31 persons at Cowesfield.⁷¹ The impact of the Black Death (1348–9) was felt in Cowesfield Louveras, where all but three of the tenants had died by April 1349, and no doubt in the other Whiteparish manors.⁷² In 1377, 28 persons were taxed at Abbotstone, 56 at Alderstone, 55 persons at Cowesfield, and 63 at Whelpley. Two years later, in 1379, 42 persons were taxed at Whelpley.⁷³

Fifty-seven persons were assessed for the lay subsidy returns, *c.*1524.⁷⁴ A total of 15 persons were taxed in 1545, three at Abbotstone, three at Cowesfield Louveras, two at Cowesfield Esturmy, and seven at Whelpley. In 1576 a total of 39 persons were taxed, four at Abbotstone, 11 at Alderstone, 12 at Cowesfield and 12 at Whelpley.⁷⁵

The parish recorded a high death rate in 1614, since ascribed to disease.⁷⁶ In 1647 the minister noted that baptisms were low owing to the troubles of the Civil Wars, presumably a reference to a low birth rate rather than a reluctance of parishioners to bring their children for baptism.⁷⁷ By 1676 the adult population of the parish was 600.⁷⁸ It had risen to 847 by 1784, when there were 197 houses in the parish.⁷⁹ An illegitimacy rate of nearly 8% in 1790–9 has been tentatively linked to navvies working on the construction of the Salisbury to

⁶⁷ *Domesday*, 195.

⁶⁸ E. Miller and J. Hatcher, *Medieval England: rural society and economic change 1086–1348* (London, 1978), 29.

⁶⁹ *Domesday*, 193.

⁷⁰ *Domesday*, 191, 192.

⁷¹ D. A. Crowley (ed.), *The Wiltshire Tax List of 1332* (WRS 45, 1989), 33.

⁷² *Wils. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, 206–7.

⁷³ Fenwick (ed.), *Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381*, 14, 24, 72.

⁷⁴ J. Sheails and R. W. Hoyle (eds), *The Regional Distribution of Wealth in England as Indicated in the 1524/5 Lay Subsidy Returns*, vol. 2 (List and Index Society, 1998), 378.

⁷⁵ G. D. Ramsay (ed.), *Two Sixteenth Century Taxation Lists 1545 and 1576* (WRS 10, 1954), 6, 114–15.

⁷⁶ Taylor, 'Population studies', *WAM* 60 (1965), 105.

⁷⁷ C. C. Taylor, 'Population studies in 17th-century and 18th-century Wiltshire', *WAM* 60 (1965), 100.

⁷⁸ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 124.

⁷⁹ S. Hobbs, *Gleanings from Wiltshire Parish Registers* (WRS, 63, 2010), 270.

Southampton Canal towards the end of the decade; the canal did not go through the parish but did pass through West Dean, about three miles from Whiteparish church.⁸⁰

The population of Whiteparish in 1801 was 877. It rose to 1,169 in 1821 and 1,344 in 1851, but thereafter the population followed a downward trajectory for several decades, falling to 1,100 in 1881 and to 823 by 1901.⁸¹ In 1871 the decline was attributed to young people leaving the parish in search of higher wages.⁸² Civil boundary changes in 1896 may partly explain the decrease in 1901, but there was a further fall to 787 in 1931.⁸³ The population had increased to 859 by 1961, to 994 by 1971, to 1,099 by 1981, to 1,313 by 1991, and to 1,504 persons by 2011.⁸⁴

Settlement

Prehistoric to Roman settlement

Flint found at Whiteparish may date settlement to the Neolithic, particularly around the area now occupied by Brickworth Park.⁸⁵ There is evidence for Bronze Age settlement, where finds at Brickworth include possible Bronze Age flints and a pottery sherd.⁸⁶ A Bronze Age round barrow is located nearby, close to Pepperbox Hill and Dean Hill.⁸⁷ A bowl barrow known as the Mount, or 'Mill Mound' is located in the Cowesfield area of the parish and may be Bronze Age, and there is another possible barrow in Cowesfield Wood.⁸⁸ In 1959 the parish council recorded these as the three known ancient monuments in the parish.⁸⁹

There is no clear evidence for Roman settlement in Whiteparish, but a Romano-British pin has been found in the parish, and a brooch near Upper Cowesfield farm.⁹⁰ Just outside the north-west corner of the historic parish boundary, a Romano-British settlement

⁸⁰ Taylor, 'Population studies', *WAM* 60 (1965), 108; E. Welch, *The Bankrupt Canal: Southampton and Salisbury 1795–1808* (Southampton Papers 5), (Southampton, 1966), [32].

⁸¹ Census, 1801–1901.

⁸² *VCH Wilts.* IV, 325.

⁸³ *VCH Wilts.* IV, 360.

⁸⁴ Census, 1911–61, 2011.

⁸⁵ Wiltshire HER, Brickworth Park, large assemblage of worked flint tools, SU22SW100; Brickworth Park, worked flint tools, SU22SW101; Brickworth Park, Neolithic flint tools, SU22SW103.

⁸⁶ 'Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire 1997', *WAM* 92 (1999), 142.

⁸⁷ Wiltshire HER, Bronze Age barrow, west of Woodford's Piece, MWI76573.

⁸⁸ Goddard, 'List of prehistoric, Roman, and pagan Saxon antiquities', *WAM* 38 (1913–14), 341; Wiltshire HER, Barrow, North West of Home Farm – the Mount, SU22SE600; Cowesfield Wood, mound, SU22SE601.

⁸⁹ *WSA*, 1980/5, mins. 27 Jan. 1959.

⁹⁰ Wiltshire HER, Whiteparish, Romano-British copper alloy pin, SU22NE301; Whiteparish, Romano-British brooch, SU22SE301.

has been identified at Standlynch Down, and there is evidence for other Roman occupation in the area, if not in the parish itself.⁹¹

Early medieval settlement

Tenth century settlement is suggested by a charter of 943, in which King Eadmund gave three hides of land to this thegn Wulfgar. This same land was granted by King Edgar to Wilton Abbey in 968, and largely remained with Wilton Abbey to the Dissolution.⁹² The three hides can be identified as the land at Abbotstone; Titchborne farm may lie on the site of the original Abbotstone.⁹³

Domesday evidence is that there were several settlements in Whiteparish prior to the Norman Conquest. The land described as being at Frustfield, held by Bernard Pauncevolt in 1086, had been held before 1066 by the Saxon landowner Godwine.⁹⁴ The land held by Humphrey de L'Isle, also described as being at Frustfield, had formerly been held by the Saxon Eadric and has been identified as the settlement later known as Whelpley.⁹⁵ A Cowesfield estate was in the hands of Richard Sturmy by 1086, having been previously owned by the Saxon Ælfric.⁹⁶ At Alderstone the Saxon Ealdræd continued to hold his pre-Conquest estate,⁹⁷ and an estate at Cowesfield was in the hands of two brothers, Beorhtric and Alwig, who may have held it prior to 1066.⁹⁸

There is little artefactual evidence for early medieval settlement in Whiteparish, though a coin of king Cnut, struck in London between 1030 and 1036, was found near Upper Cowesfield farm.⁹⁹

Settlement post-1066

There are seven entries in Domesday which can be assumed to relate to the present parish of Whiteparish. These are the five Saxon settlements mentioned above, of which Whelpley was, by 1086, probably the largest, and two further holdings with no indication of a pre-Conquest

⁹¹ Wiltshire HER, Standlynch Down, Romano-British settlement, SU22SW301; Taylor, 'Whiteparish', *WAM* 62 (1967), 81

⁹² The Electronic Sawyer: Online Catalogue of Anglo-Saxon Charters, S 492, <https://esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk/charter/492.html>; S 766, <https://esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk/charter/766.html> (accessed 5 September 2022). See also Landownership.

⁹³ Taylor, 'Saxon Boundaries of Frustfield', *WAM* 59 (1964), 110–15.

⁹⁴ Domesday, 188.

⁹⁵ Domesday, 182; Taylor, 'Whiteparish', *WAM* 62 (1967), 83.

⁹⁶ Domesday, 191.

⁹⁷ Domesday, 193.

⁹⁸ Domesday, 192. See Landownership.

⁹⁹ Wiltshire HER, Whiteparish, a Saxon coin, SU22NE401.

existence. These were the holdings of Wulfric, who held one hide of land in Frustfield with six bordars, and Esbern, who held one virgate of land there with no population recorded.¹⁰⁰ These new holdings may indicate a small expansion in settlement, possibly due to assarting (forest clearance).

Woodland predominated in the medieval parish, coinciding with land within the medieval royal forest of Melchet.¹⁰¹ It was once thought that clearance, and the establishment of farmsteads, did not begin until the 12th century. However, at least one farmstead existed in the 10th century, evidence that forest clearing must have begun by that date. The wooded area around Blaxwell farm was being cleared by 1242.¹⁰²

Whiteparish expanded in the period from the 11th to mid-14th centuries as open fields were extended, areas of forest cleared, and new settlements established.¹⁰³ By 1249 Abbotstone, Alderstone, Cowesfield Louveras, Cowesfield Spilman and Cowesfield Esturmy and Whelpley were all described as townships.¹⁰⁴ The parish would have been characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern, each township being a separate entity. Settlement remained dispersed in the 16th century, when Abbotstone, Alderstone, Cowesfield and Whelpley were all listed separately in the muster list of 1539.¹⁰⁵ Alderstone, as noted above, became the main area of settlement in the parish.

Settlements at Whelpley, Moor and Cowesfield Esturmy (Cowesfield Green) had shrunk by the 17th century, but new farmsteads appeared in early 17th-century Whiteparish associated with both woodland clearances and downland inclosures. Broxmore Farm and Ash Hill House, both in woodland areas, date to this period. Dry Farm, on the downlands and in the centre of 60 hectares of new inclosures, was also built at this time.¹⁰⁶

The pattern of shrunken settlement, and a focus on a defined village centre, can be seen both on Andrews' and Dury's 1773 map of Wiltshire, and on the 1842 parish tithe map. On both maps houses clustered along the turnpike road in the vicinity of the church. This was the densest area of settlement, and appears to have formed the nucleus of the parish. More scattered housing was situated to the east along the turnpike road towards Sherfield English, and to the south along Common Road and Clay Street. There were hamlets at Harestock and

¹⁰⁰ Domesday, 195; Taylor, 'Whiteparish', *WAM* 62 (1967), 83.

¹⁰¹ Draper, *Landscape, Settlement and Society*, 6. On Melchet Forest, see *VCH Wilts*, IV, 427–31.

¹⁰² Taylor, *Village and Farmstead*, 192, 200.

¹⁰³ Taylor, 'Whiteparish', *WAM* 62 (1967), 86.

¹⁰⁴ C. A. F. Meekings (ed.), *Crown Pleas of the Wiltshire Eyre, 1249* (WRS 16, 1961), 245 (nos. 490, 492).

¹⁰⁵ *L&P Hen. VIII*, XIV (1), 300.

¹⁰⁶ C. C. Taylor, 'Three deserted medieval settlements in Whiteparish', *WAM* 63 (1968), 39–45; Taylor, *Village and Farmstead*, 207.

Newton, and small settlements at Cowesfield, but the major farms, and the mansion houses at Brickworth, Cowesfield, and, by 1842, at Broxmore, were situated largely in isolation from neighbouring dwellings.¹⁰⁷

In 1919 the parish council considered that 12 new local authority houses would be appropriate for the village, although the state of existing housing was also raised.¹⁰⁸ In 1921 there were 228 houses in Whiteparish, and the parish council considered that only eight new local authority houses were required.¹⁰⁹ Land by the Romsey Road was acquired for building, but Salisbury rural district council had abandoned the project by February 1922.¹¹⁰

In 1924 over 406 a. of the Nelson estate in Whiteparish was offered for sale. The lots included a number of small cottages, some with common rights. The proximity of the parish to Salisbury, Romsey and Southampton was noted in the sale catalogue, and several lots were marketed as suitable for conversion, or as sites for new residential dwellings.¹¹¹

The parish council recognised a need for more homes in the 1930s, but were unsuccessful in their attempts to get local authority housing built.¹¹² By 1943 the parish council considered that 24 houses would be needed in the parish after the war.¹¹³ By March 1949 ten new local authority houses had been completed, the development to be called Newton Close.¹¹⁴ This was evidently not enough to alleviate the housing shortage, as by 1952 the parish council was recording its concern at certain cottages in private hands lying empty.¹¹⁵ By 1954 the rural district council was erecting bungalows in Whiteparish.¹¹⁶ Further local authority housing was constructed c.1959 opposite the New Inn, the new road to be called Green Close, and a development of bungalows was built in the parish, c.1962.¹¹⁷ By the closing years of the 20th century Whiteparish, in common with the local villages of Alderbury, Laverstock and Winterslow, had been considerably augmented by modern suburban-style housing. It looked to Salisbury for many of its services, but also to the Hampshire towns of Fordingbridge, Ringwood and Romsey. Bournemouth and Southampton were within commuting distance by car for those working outside the village.¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁷ *Andrews' and Dury's Map 1773*, 2; Tithe map, 1842.

¹⁰⁸ WSA, 1980/3, 106–7.

¹⁰⁹ WSA, 1980/3, 149.

¹¹⁰ WSA, 1980/3, 160.

¹¹¹ WSA, 1980/20.

¹¹² WSA, 1980/4, 75, 77–8, 194, 197, 204.

¹¹³ WSA, 1980/4, 274.

¹¹⁴ WSA, 1980/5, mins. 25 Mar. 1949, 26 May 1949.

¹¹⁵ WSA, 1980/5, mins. 9 Dec. 1952.

¹¹⁶ WSA, 1980/5, mins. 17 Mar. 1954.

¹¹⁷ WSA, 1980/5, mins. 24 Nov. 1959, mins. 14 Mar. 1962.

¹¹⁸ Chandler, *Sense of Belonging* 102–3.

Abbotstone New monastic foundations of the late 9th and 10th centuries received substantial estates from successive kings. Land at Abbotstone was granted by King Edgar to Wilton Abbey in 968, and largely remained with the abbey until the dissolution.¹¹⁹

The tithing of Abbotstone included the settlement of Moor, or More. The settlement of Moor has been identified as that mentioned in Domesday as the one-hide manor of Wulfric at Frustfield.¹²⁰ Earthworks of the former hamlet have been identified to the east of the farm.¹²¹ Moor was a hamlet in 1338 and 1428, but was largely deserted by the 17th century, being only a single farm by 1675.¹²²

Cowesfield Although sometimes referred to as one settlement, Cowesfield comprised three separate settlements, Cowesfield Louveras, Cowesfield Esturmy and Cowesfield Spilman. Cowesfield Esturmy and Cowesfield Spilman were known by 1086; Cowesfield Louveras was a later settlement of between 1086 and 1166.¹²³

Cowesfield was described in 1349 as of no value, for want of buyers after the plague.¹²⁴ But by 1361 the settlement had repopulated, with tenants paying rents,¹²⁵ and it may be described as shrunken, rather than truly deserted.¹²⁶

The name Cowesfield Louveras is said to come from the Loverace family who held land there in the 13th century by service of keeping the king's wolfhounds, or *loverez*.¹²⁷ Cowesfield Spilman takes its name from the Spilman or Spileman family, who held the manor from at least 1198.¹²⁸ Cowesfield Esturmy, or Cowesfield Green, was a two-hide manor at the time of Domesday, held by Richard Sturmy who gave his name to the settlement.¹²⁹

¹¹⁹ The Electronic Sawyer: Online Catalogue of Anglo-Saxon Charters, S 492, <https://esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk/charter/492.html>; S 766, <https://esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk/charter/766.html> (accessed 5 September 2022). See also Landownership.

¹²⁰ Taylor, 'Three deserted medieval settlements', *WAM* 63 (1968), 42–3; *Domesday*, 195.

¹²¹ Taylor, 'Saxon boundaries of Frustfield', *WAM* 59 (1964), 110.

¹²² Taylor, 'Three deserted medieval settlements', *WAM* 63 (1968), 42–3.

¹²³ *Domesday*, 191, 192; Taylor, 'Whiteparish', *WAM* 62 (1967), 86.

¹²⁴ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, 206.

¹²⁵ Taylor, *Village and Farmstead* (London, 1983), 171.

¹²⁶ Taylor, 'Three deserted medieval settlements', *WAM* 63 (1968), 43.

¹²⁷ B. Farr and C. Elrington (eds), rev. H. Summerson, *Crown Pleas of the Wiltshire Eyre 1268* (WRS 65, 2012), 17–18 (no. 64), footnote 4.

¹²⁸ *Liber Feodorum. The Book of Fees commonly called Testa de Nevill. Part I: A.D. 1198–1242* (London, 1920), 12.

¹²⁹ Taylor, 'Three deserted medieval settlements', *WAM* LXIII (1968), 43; *Domesday*, 191.

Whelpley Whelpley has been identified in Domesday as the three-hide manor of Humphrey de L'Isle at Frustfield, formerly held by the Saxon Eadric.¹³⁰ A chapel is known by the 13th century.¹³¹ By 1350 the tithing of Whelpley included the original settlement and the hamlets of Newton and Chadwell, with the farms of Blaxwell (or Blackswell) and Goldens. The original settlement at Whelpley was largely deserted sometime between the 12th and 17th centuries, possibly not until the latter half of the 16th century, as chaplains were appointed to the chapel until 1538.¹³² By the early 17th century, in addition to the original settlement site at Whelpley, by then a farmstead, there were three other farms and a country house in the tithing. By the later 17th century it appears that only the farmhouse and two cottages remained on the original settlement site at Whelpley.¹³³ The remains of the deserted medieval village are to the west of the modern Whelpely farm.¹³⁴

Utilities

Water was supplied from wells or springs, but many households had to share facilities. In 1901 one parishioner reported that he had to walk 400 yards to get drinking water, and that almost the whole of his neighbourhood was supplied by a single spring, though there were other wells in the parish.¹³⁵ By 1925 the parish was described as being 'badly supplied' for water, a situation attributed to its geological position on Tertiary beds. Water was still supplied from wells and springs, although private piped supplies had been constructed. These included a well at Gatemoor Copse for the Cowesfield House estate, and another for Cowesfield House itself.¹³⁶ By 1933 the parish council considered that Whiteparish was in need of a mains water supply, but was still trying to get a supply to the parish five years later.¹³⁷

At the auction of Cowesfield House in 1949 the property had mains electricity and mains water, though drainage was to a cess pit, but the extent to which other properties in the

¹³⁰ Domesday, 182; Taylor, 'Saxon boundaries of Frustfield', *WAM* 59 (1964), 110–15; Taylor, 'Three deserted medieval settlements', *WAM* 63 (1968), 39–42; *Domesday*, 182.

¹³¹ *Cal. Close* 1272–9, 90; *Cal. Pat.* 1292–1301, 263. See Religious history.

¹³² Taylor, 'Three deserted medieval settlements', *WAM* 63 (1968), 39–42; Phillipps, *Institutions*, vol. I, 207.

¹³³ Taylor, 'Three deserted medieval settlements', *WAM* 63 (1968), 39–42, citing WSA, 464/55.

¹³⁴ 'Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire 1992', *WAM* 87 (1994), 157.

¹³⁵ WSA, 1980/1, 226–7.

¹³⁶ W. Whitaker and F. H. Edmunds, *The Water Supply of Wiltshire: from underground sources*. (London, 1925), 32, 92, 125.

¹³⁷ WSA, 1980/4, 83, 198, 205.

parish were connected to mains supplies is unclear.¹³⁸ Water mains were laid in the parish by 1951.¹³⁹ This did not mean that all properties also had mains drainage; homes in Newton Lane were still using cess pits in 1961, although the rural district council was promising mains drainage to the houses in another two or three years.¹⁴⁰

The possibility of an electricity supply to the parish was considered from 1935.¹⁴¹ Mains electricity had come to Whiteparish by 1951, but was not supplied to the entire parish. In that year the inhabitants of Clay Street asked the parish council for support in getting an electricity supply to their homes, but the council was unsuccessful.¹⁴² The parish council agreed in 1959 to adopt a system of street lighting in the village.¹⁴³

Built character

In 1844 George Matcham described Whiteparish as consisting of ‘one unbroken narrow street of indifferent cottages, diversified by neither trees or gardens, and traversed by the turnpike from Salisbury to Southampton’.¹⁴⁴ Over a century later the description had barely changed; in 1967 Whiteparish was described as ‘hardly a picturesque’ village, with a single street of ‘rather depressing brick cottages’ and an ‘unimpressive church’.¹⁴⁵ This belies the number of historic buildings in the parish, many of which are listed.¹⁴⁶ The best-known building in Whiteparish is the Pepperbox, otherwise known as Eyre’s Folly, situated on the north-west edge of the parish on the brow of Brickworth Down. It was built for the Eyres of Brickworth House, probably in the early 18th century. The building is a three-storey hexagonal brick tower with a pyramid roof. The windows are mostly blocked up.¹⁴⁷ It is an idiosyncratic structure, but its choice of brick as the main building material is typical for the parish, especially for older properties.

Abbotstone House dates to 1627, and is of brick, probably encasing an earlier timber framing. Youngs Farm is of early 17th century English-bond brick. The King’s Head, close to

¹³⁸ WSA, 3382/108.

¹³⁹ WSA, 1980/5, 10 Dec. 1951.

¹⁴⁰ WSA, 1980/5, mins. 8 Mar. 1961, 25 May 1961.

¹⁴¹ WSA, 1980/4, 112.

¹⁴² WSA, 1980/5, 30 Mar. 1951, 10 Sept. 1951.

¹⁴³ WSA, 1980/5, mins. 21 Mar. 1959.

¹⁴⁴ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Frustfield, 25.

¹⁴⁵ Taylor, ‘Whiteparish’, *WAM* 62 (1967), 79.

¹⁴⁶ NHLE, no 1355632, King’s Head.

¹⁴⁷ Pevsner, *Wilts.* (3rd edn), 784; NHLE, no. 1355631, The Pepperbox (accessed 13 Jan. 2022).

the church, is an 18th century building of Flemish bond brick. Along Dean Lane, the Lynches is a late 17th century brick building.¹⁴⁸

Two late 19th century gate lodges to the now-demolished Cowesfield House survive; one built at a new secondary drive to the house, and the other at the entrance to the main drive replacing an earlier lodge. The lodge at the main entrance is noted for two plaster friezes in the gable.¹⁴⁹ A thatched gate lodge survives at Brickworth House.¹⁵⁰

A small proportion of the Newhouse estate lay in Whiteparish, which, according to the tithe map of 1842, included the mansion house.¹⁵¹ As the greater part of Newhouse estate was, as of 1975, situated in Downton parish, its history is discussed with Downton parish.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁸ Pevsner, *Wilts.* (3rd edn), 784; NHLE, nos. 1184644, Abbotstone House; 1024016, Youngs Farm; 1355632, The King's Head; 1355666, The Lynches (accessed 13 Jan. 2022).

¹⁴⁹ J. Holden, *Wiltshire Gate Lodges* (Gloucester, 2018), 54, 100; Pevsner, *Wilts.* (3rd edn), 784.

¹⁵⁰ Holden, *Wiltshire Gate Lodges*, 100.

¹⁵¹ *VCH Wilts*, XI, 30–1; tithe map and award, 1842.

¹⁵² *VCH Wilts*, XI, 28, 30–1, 33–4, 37–9, 74. The Newhouse estate was advertised for sale in 2021, having remained with the Eyre family and its descendants since 1633. K. Griffin, 'Newhouse Estate in Redlynch up for sale for £18m', 31 May 2021. <https://www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/19335889.newhouse-estate-redlynch-sale/> (accessed 9 Feb. 2022).