

WHITEPARISH

ECONOMIC HISTORY

Agriculture

Common land

Common land in Whiteparish may have its origins in the woodland clearances of the late 12th and 13th centuries, or even in earlier unrecorded assarting of woodland.¹ There is a reference to common of pasture in the settlements of Alderstone and Whiteparish in 1256.²

While neighbouring Landford had an extensive tract of common land, the acreage of commons in Whiteparish was much less; in 1842 only 190 a. in a parish of 6,300 a.³ Common rights were restricted to owners and tenants of specific properties. The rights and responsibilities of commoners are recorded in the early 17th century court rolls for the manors of Whelpley and Whiteparish. Fines were issued for keeping sheep and cattle on the common without right to do so, among other offences relating to the management of the common.⁴

In 1773 the common included a rabbit warren.⁵ Arable land in the common fields was sold in 1793.⁶ In the same year Earldom Coppice was described as a ‘common’, and Whiteparish common was otherwise known as Whiteparish Wood at the same date. Certain freeholders had the right to turn cattle out on the common, as did the tenants of Francis Thomas Egerton, and of John and Henry Eyre.⁷

By 1818 there were limits on the animals that could be pastured on the common. No asses, sheep or geese could be turned out, and there were restrictions on horses and pigs. Only those with a right to do so could pasture cattle, and no subletting of this right was allowed.⁸ According to a document of 1872, those with rights of common could turn out between one and five cows and heifers, the exact number depending on the property.⁹

¹ C. Taylor, *Village and Farmstead* (London, 1983), 192.

² Fry (ed.), *Feet of Fines, 1195–1272*, 48.

³ R. E. Sandell (ed.), *Abstracts of Wiltshire Tithe Apportionments* (WRS 30, 1975), 103 (no. 267).

⁴ WSA, 1369/4/23/2.

⁵ WSA, 2467/3 (survey, Broxmore farm).

⁶ Hants. RO, 44M69/E22/5/6.

⁷ Hants. RO, 44M69/E22/5/6.

⁸ WSA 1369/4/23/3.

⁹ WSA, 464/82, rights on Whiteparish Common, May 1872.

From its establishment in 1894, the parish council dealt with matters concerning the commons. Much of the common land was owned by earl Nelson, and in 1905 it was reported that his tenants were encroaching on Whiteparish common.¹⁰ Problems were caused by the lack of a pound for straying animals in 1912.¹¹ The neglect of Whiteparish and Holmere commons was debated at length by the parish council in 1913.¹² In 1915 the 4th earl Nelson stated that there was nothing to compel him to improve the pasturage, though he did agree to cut back a wooded portion of the common land.¹³

Parts of the Trafalgar Estate belonging to the earls Nelson and lying in Whiteparish were offered for sale in 1924, including farms and other properties with common rights; some of these lots also included portions of the common land.¹⁴ In 1929 it was reported that parts of Whiteparish Common had been enclosed by persons who had bought parts of the common, possibly as a result of this sale.¹⁵ Common rights also existed at Cowesfield, where the sale particulars of the Cowesfield estate sale in 1940 advertised some properties as having grazing rights on Cowesfield Green.¹⁶ Unauthorised enclosures of common land in Whiteparish occurred throughout the 20th century, and were addressed by the parish council.¹⁷

Common rights in Langley Wood

Langley Wood, once part of the estates of the bishop of Salisbury, had common of pasture for cattle and pannage for hogs.¹⁸ Common rights were limited to certain farms; in 1613 the rights of the owners of Titchborne farm were in dispute.¹⁹ An agreement of 1678 set out the conditions by which cattle and hogs could be turned out into the woods, and wood taken. Copses within the wood could be enclosed in turn by the bishop for felling, and subsequent to this agreement, some of the woodland was permanently enclosed. Common rights still appear to have been exercised in the unenclosed portion in 1844.²⁰

Langley Wood was sold to George Morrison of Hamptworth in 1873, who by 1881 was in dispute with his neighbour, Mr William Eyre Matcham of Newhouse, over shooting rights in the outwood. Morrison claimed the shooting rights, but it was clarified that

¹⁰ WSA, 1980/1, 114–5; 1980/2, 40.

¹¹ WSA, 1980/2, 240.

¹² WSA, 1980/2, 282–3.

¹³ WSA, 1980/3, 51–2.

¹⁴ WSA, 1980/20.

¹⁵ WSA, 1980/3, 285.

¹⁶ WSA, 776/347A.

¹⁷ For example, WSA, 1980/5, mins. 20 Mar. 1953, 30 May 1960, 23 Nov. 1960, 1 June 1962.

¹⁸ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Frustfield, 64–5.

¹⁹ TNA, E 134/ 11 Jas I/ Mich 13.

²⁰ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Frustfield, 64–5.

commoners' rights in the outwood were held by Matcham and earl Nelson in respect of grazing for cattle and pannage for pigs.²¹ There was a dispute over commoners' rights in 1943–4, as a result of which it was reiterated that the commoners had the rights of grazing and pannage only, and had no rights to gather firewood or cut fern. It is unclear if the right to pannage was exercised by this date, though Mr J. Eyre Matcham of Newhouse had aimed to retain his grazing rights by driving cattle through the outwood, as had his father before him, most recently in 1939.²²

Pre-Conquest

The chalk lands in the north of the parish may have been fields in the Roman period, traces of which can still be seen in the landscape. Cultivation in this period may have extended into the southern part of the parish, but the evidence is lacking.²³ Assarting (clearance) of the forest for farming and settlement may have taken place in the Anglo-Saxon period, with an area of common pasture established at this time.²⁴

Medieval

There were five estates at Whiteparish in 1086, including that at Alderstone, all of which appear to have been largely arable, with some meadow and woodland, though this is likely to reflect the area of productive agriculture; much of the land remained as royal forest, not under cultivation. Some land was held in demesne, other land farmed by tenants.²⁵

There were two further estates at Cowesfield. Richard Sturmy held an estate which in 1066 had paid geld for two hides. One hide was held in demesne, the other farmed by tenants. In 1066 it had been worth 15s, it was worth 30s. by 1086, which suggests some assarting of the woodland and conversion to more valuable arable land.²⁶ Two brothers held a second estate in Cowesfield of 1½ hides, part of which was scrubland, rather than arable, which may explain its lower valuation of 10s in 1086.²⁷

²¹ WSA, 1369/4/13/36; 1369/4/13/41. On ownership of Langley Wood, see Landownership.

²² Letter, 11 Feb. 1944, from H. Cumberbatch to Col. Pigott; copy letter, 31 Mar. 1944, both from papers relating to dispute over commoners' rights, 1943–4, deposited at Wiltshire and Swindon Archives by Peter Roberts, 8 Sept. 2021. The fern, or bracken, would have been cut for animal bedding.

²³ C.C. Taylor, 'Whiteparish: A study of the development of a forest-edge parish', *WAM* 62 (1967), 81, 82.

²⁴ S. Draper, *Landscape, Settlement and Society in Roman and Early Medieval Wiltshire* (BAR British Series 419, 2006), 6, 87.

²⁵ *Domesday*, 182, 188, 193, 195. See also Taylor, 'Whiteparish', *WAM* 62 (1967), 82–6; Taylor, *Village and Farmstead*, 192.

²⁶ *Domesday*, 191.

²⁷ *Domesday*, 192.

Open fields are believed to have existed in the late 11th century around the settlement at Moor, to the south and east of Whelpley, and to the north of Cowesfield.²⁸ In 1338 John de Grymstede held 2 a. of meadow in the settlement of Moor and 60 a. of arable land at Abbotstone, both of which lay in common, or open, fields.²⁹

There is evidence of attempts at enclosure in the 13th century. Three acres of land at ‘la Mar’, possibly Moor, were illegally enclosed, c.1256; this attempt at enclosure did not succeed and the enclosing hedge was felled.³⁰ Thomas de Chartres had enclosed 2½ a. of land at Whelpley by 1269.³¹

Records of woodland clearances date from documents of the late 12th and 13th centuries, although unrecorded assarting of woodland and the establishment of farmsteads would have taken place prior to that.³² Half an acre of land was illegally assarted at Whelpley, c.1256.³³ Blaxwell (or Blackswell) farm was first recorded in 1242, on a site cleared from surrounding woodland. Its extent increased from 80 a. in 1328 to 108 a. in 1358.³⁴

Goldens farm is known in the medieval period, and there were settlements at Newton and Chadwell; farming at Newton is recorded in 1503.³⁵ Farming at Moor is known by 1338 when there was 40 a. of arable land.³⁶ A messuage and land is recorded at Abbotstone in 1228, a hide of land in 1280, and there was a farm there in 1428.³⁷ Records of the 13th and 14th centuries suggest Whiteparish had an agricultural economy of mixed arable, meadow and woodland, with arable predominating.³⁸

In 1305 Henry Sturmy’s estate at Cowesfield Esturmy had a messuage with a close of land, and held in demesne 40 a. arable land, and 10 a. of meadow. There were six free and nine unfree tenants holding between them nine messuages with land; there were also two landless cottagers. The unfree tenants were required to give pannage to the lord’s pigs.³⁹ In 1306, the manor of Blaxwell held one capital messuage with a close, and in demesne 80 a. of

²⁸ Taylor, ‘Whiteparish’, *WAM* 62 (1967), 85.

²⁹ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, 128–30.

³⁰ TNA, E32/215; notes by A. Richardson.

³¹ TNA, E32/200.

³² Taylor, *Village and Farmstead*, 192.

³³ TNA, E32/215; notes by A. Richardson.

³⁴ Taylor, *Village and Farmstead*, 200.

³⁵ Taylor, ‘Whiteparish’, *WAM* 62 (1967), 89; A. Conyers (ed.), *Wiltshire Extents for Debts: Edward I – Elizabeth I* (WRS 28, 1973), 44–5. (no. 56).

³⁶ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, 128–30.

³⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VIII, p. 110 (no. 106); Pugh (ed.), *Feet of Fines 1272–1327*, 12; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XXIII, no. 106.

³⁸ Pugh (ed.), *Feet of Fines 1272–1327*, 12, 35, 39, 77, 89, 95, 108.

³⁹ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, 312–14.

arable land, 6 a. of meadow and an unspecified acreage of pasture. There were six free tenants.⁴⁰ The Cowesfield Esturmy estate held less land in demesne, but was by far the larger of the two estates; its free and unfree tenants held two virgates of land and a further 147 a. of arable, while the Blaxwell tenants held between them only 14¼ a.⁴¹

Two hundred acres of pasture existed at Cowesfield Louveras in the mid 14th century, probably cleared from the forest, and a three-field arable system was in operation. The settlement was well-situated for both arable and pastoral agriculture, but it lacked meadow land, as the inhabitants of Sherfield English (Hants.) had acquired the rights to suitable meadows to the south of Cowesfield Louveras.⁴²

By 1349 it appears that a form of crop rotation was practised on the manor of Cowesfield Louveras, where two-thirds of the arable land of 120 a. could be sown every year. However, the impact of the Black Death (1348–9) had resulted in the death of all but three of the tenants, and woodland was worth nothing for want of buyers.⁴³ By 1359 2,000 oaks of the manor woodland had been felled, possibly to clear land for arable farming as well as to realise the value of the timber.⁴⁴ By 1361 there were 100 a. of arable land with 8 a. of meadow and 200 a. of pasture. There was an unspecified number of free tenants, with no unfree tenants.⁴⁵

A messuage, arable land, meadow and wood are known at Whelpley in 1378, at which date there were also messuages and arable land at Cowesfield and Alderstone,⁴⁶ and the same holdings were recorded in 1425.⁴⁷ Open fields in Cowesfield were largely enclosed by 1400, and in Whiteparish itself there was partial enclosure of open fields in the 14th to 16th centuries.⁴⁸

16th and 17th centuries

Langley Wood was part of the bishop of Salisbury's estate. In the reign of Henry VIII the lessees and woodwards were the Light family, possessors of Titchborne manor. In 1552, when an award apportioned the various timber rights in the wood between the bishop and Richard Light and his son, also Richard, the Lights were granted the right of herbage and

⁴⁰ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, 327–8.

⁴¹ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, 312–14, 327–8.

⁴² Taylor, 'Whiteparish', *WAM* 62 (1967), 86–7.

⁴³ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, 206–7.

⁴⁴ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, 257–8.

⁴⁵ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, 313.

⁴⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XIX, pp. 245–6 (no. 681).

⁴⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XXII, no. 517.

⁴⁸ Taylor, 'Whiteparish', *WAM* 62 (1967), 93.

pannage in the wood.⁴⁹ The grant of woodwardship in Langley Wood after the death of the younger Richard is uncertain, but it was mentioned in the 1633 conveyance of Newhouse as part of the rights of that property, and in articles of agreement between the bishop and others in 1678.⁵⁰

In the late 16th century tithes were payable on wool, lambs, calves, pigs, geese, corn, hay, wood, hemp and fruit, excepting the fruit of gardens. This implies that hemp was grown in the parish, and that commercial fruit production was part of the agricultural economy.⁵¹ Woad, a crop used in the cloth industry, was being cultivated in 1585, which also suggests a commercial crop sold outside the parish.⁵² Trading links could extend well beyond the locality, as in 1609 when a Whiteparish man was accused of trading illegally in cattle and sheep at Westminster.⁵³

New farms were established in the early 17th century. Broxmore farm was established in old woodland soon after 1610. Dry farm, on the downlands, was built in the early 17th century, situated in the centre of 60 ha. (148.263 a.) of new enclosures.⁵⁴ Land on either side of the road to Salisbury through Cowesfield Green and Whiteparish was described as 'Pasture' in Ogilby's map of 1675,⁵⁵ but in a large parish such as Whiteparish, with an underlying geology varying from the chalk in the north of the parish to the claylands in the south, late 16th and 17th century farming was mixed. Sheep and corn husbandry was practised by some farmers; in 1674 Bartholomew Case kept over 250 sheep, and had corn (wheat, barley, oats and rye) worth £120 in his barns, with two ploughs,⁵⁶ and in 1682 Richard Tuck of Moor had 70 a. of corn and a yoke of steers, together with 220 sheep.⁵⁷ Tuck's yoke of steers suggests he ploughed with oxen, but the horses owned by other yeomen suggest ploughing with a horse team was more usual.⁵⁸ Pigs were commonly kept, but pig husbandry appears to have been small-scale, and much of the meat probably intended for the household.⁵⁹ Corn crops in the parish were largely wheat, barley and oats, with some rye. Peas and vetches were also grown, possibly for animal feed.⁶⁰ Stocks of hay appear in many

⁴⁹ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Frustfield, 63–4.

⁵⁰ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Frustfield, 64–5, 125.

⁵¹ Hobbs (ed.), *Glebe Terriers*, 460.

⁵² J. Bettey, *Wiltshire Farming in the Seventeenth Century* (WRS 57, 2005), 279, 282.

⁵³ N. J. Williams (ed.), *Tradesmen in Early-Stuart Wiltshire* (WRS 15, 1960), 58 (no. 705).

⁵⁴ Taylor, *Village and Farmstead*, 207.

⁵⁵ J. Ogilby, *Britannia* (1675), 102.

⁵⁶ WSA, P2/C/646.

⁵⁷ WSA, P2/T/272.

⁵⁸ WSA, P2/R/462; P2/B/102; P2/S/741.

⁵⁹ WSA, P2/S/180; P2/R/165; P2/D/225; P2/H/566; P2/B/102.

⁶⁰ WSA, P1/S/219; P2/D/225.

inventories.⁶¹ There was no large-scale beef or dairy farming, but cows were kept by most farmers, and there is evidence of dairy production in probate inventories.⁶² A few inventories also record bee-keeping and poultry.⁶³

18th century

By 1705 tithes were payable on wool, lambs, calves, ‘cow white’ (milk), gardens, eggs and, quite specifically, carrots. Tithes no longer appear to have been payable on hemp or fruit, suggesting that those crops were no longer significant, although the vicarage did have an orchard.⁶⁴ The land between Salisbury and Romsey was, by 1769, described as well-cultivated, with four or five year crop rotations.⁶⁵ It was within the prosperous wheat and sheep belt stretching from Salisbury into Hampshire.⁶⁶

Several farms are known in the 18th century. Broxmore, Foxes and Pinhorn farms are known in 1748 and 1760, when they were leased for 11 years.⁶⁷ Alderstone farm is known in 1760, when it was leased for 12 years, with timber rights reserved to the owner.⁶⁸ Leggs and Leaches farms are known in 1793, when they were largely arable farms, with some meadow and pasture.⁶⁹ Brickworth, Moor, New House and Titchborne farms all known in the 1790s.⁷⁰

Various tenancy agreements were known by the late 18th century. In 1773 Broxmore farm was let on a nine-year lease,⁷¹ and Alderstone farm let for six years,⁷² but at the same date other estates were still leased on two or three lives.⁷³

19th century

In 1801, 725 persons from a total population of 877 were employed in agriculture.⁷⁴ The early 19th century saw enclosure taking place in Whiteparish; 149 a. belonging to Whelpley

⁶¹ WSA, P2/B/102; P2/T/272.

⁶² WSA, P2/B/102; P1/S/219.

⁶³ WSA, P2/M/120; P2/R/165; P1/S/219; P2/S/180.

⁶⁴ Hobbs (ed.), *Glebe Terriers*, 460.

⁶⁵ A. Young, *A Six Week Tour through the Southern Counties of England and Wales* 2nd edn. (London, 1769), 203.

⁶⁶ D. Moody, ‘From Hampshire Merchant to Lord of the Manor: The Rise of Aaron Moody’, *Hampshire Studies* vol. 70 (2015), 169.

⁶⁷ Hants. RO, 2M37/76; 2M37/77.

⁶⁸ Hants. RO, 2M37/78.

⁶⁹ Hants. RO, 44M69/E22/5/6.

⁷⁰ WSA, 2467/3 (book of rent and estate accounts, 1790s).

⁷¹ WSA, 2467/3 (survey, Broxmore farm).

⁷² WSA, 2467/3 (survey, Alderstone farm).

⁷³ WSA, 2467/3 (survey, Broxmore farm).

⁷⁴ T. Davis, *General View of the Agriculture of Wiltshire*: (1811), 230.

Manor was enclosed in 1805.⁷⁵ Part of Whiteparish was also included in the West Grimstead enclosure award of 1805, though this was not enrolled until 1817.⁷⁶ Various small parcels of land in Whiteparish were exchanged later in the century under the terms of parliamentary acts for the inclosure, exchange and improvement of land.⁷⁷

A survey of c.1805 found that there were c.4,146 a. of arable in the parish, c.1,055 a. of pasture and c.1,011 a. of woodland.⁷⁸ By 1821, of the 226 families in Whiteparish, 147 were entirely or largely dependent on employment in the agricultural sector, while only 38 families were engaged in trade or manufacturing.⁷⁹

In 1840, as well as 190 a. of common land, the tithe award listed 4,225 a. of arable land in the parish, with 870 a. of meadow, 1,015 a. of wood.⁸⁰ Though arable land predominated in 1840, by 1876 there were signs of a turn towards pastoral farming. In that year 748 a. of wheat were grown, making it the largest crop in the parish. There were 432 a. of barley, and 393 a. of oats. 420 a. of turnips and swedes were grown, probably for animal feed. Over a thousand acres of land was intended for hay, and a further 584 a. of permanent and sown grass not intended for hay that year. Much of this hay and pasture would have been for sheep; there were 1,478 sheep, with a further 808 lambs under a year old. There was some dairy farming, with 271 cattle, including 183 cows; and some commercial pig breeding, with 262 pigs recorded.⁸¹

Notices of sale for oak and other timber, and for underwood, from an estate in Cowesfield appeared in local newspapers from the mid to late 19th century.⁸²

In 1889 agriculture clearly dominated the local economy, with 15 farmers, and five bailiffs listed.⁸³ A sale catalogue of stock at Rowden's farm in 1893 included over 200 sheep and two shepherd's huts. This illustrates the importance of sheep husbandry in the parish, but the ploughs included in the sale indicate that the farm was partly arable.⁸⁴ Woodland still remained an important part of the local economy as late as 1894, when three of the candidates in the poll for the parish council election that year were woodmen.⁸⁵

⁷⁵ R.E. Sandell (ed.), *Abstracts of Wiltshire Inclosures Awards and Agreements* (WRS 25, 1971), 138 (no. 191).

⁷⁶ Sandell (ed.), *Wiltshire Inclosures* (WRS 25, 1971), 78. (no. 98).

⁷⁷ WSA, 464/59.

⁷⁸ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Frustfield, 4.

⁷⁹ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Frustfield, 121.

⁸⁰ Sandell (ed.), *Wiltshire Tithe Apportionments* (WRS 30, 1975), 103 (no. 267).

⁸¹ TNA, MAF 68/493.

⁸² For example, *Salisbury and Winchester Jnl.*, 1 June 1861, 4; 11 June 1870, 4; *Salisbury Times*, 18 Oct. 1890, 4.

⁸³ *Kelly's Dir Hants., Wilts., Dorset* (1889), 1049.

⁸⁴ Hants. RO 4M92/N204/7.

⁸⁵ WSA, 1980/1, 3–4.

The 19th century included periods of agricultural unrest in the area. In 1800 a letter was received by Whiteparish farmers threatening arson if the price of wheat was not reduced, and a barn was set alight.⁸⁶ The Swing Riots in the autumn of 1830 saw rioting, rick-burning, and the destruction of threshing machines that threatened the traditional winter employment of agricultural labourers taking place throughout Wiltshire and across much of southern England; a crowd assembling at Whiteparish burnt a threshing machine at Melchet.⁸⁷ A branch of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union active was active in the parish c.1875.⁸⁸

20th century

In 1907 the parish council received a report that there were about 35 smallholdings under 50 a. in the parish.⁸⁹ A public meeting was held in 1907 to discuss the provision of allotments and smallholdings under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act of that year.⁹⁰ Allotments were already provided by two landowners in the parish,⁹¹ but several applications were made under the terms of the Act, although the parish council was ultimately unsuccessful in procuring land for allotments.⁹² A Whiteparish and District Agricultural Society was formed in 1911, apparently an agricultural co-operative. It had 12 members by the end of 1913, but sales of only £14 in that year, and a loss of £5.⁹³

In 1918 the tenant of Rowdens and Cowesfield farms was instructed on the order of his crop rotation, in order to produce an adequate harvest for the war effort.⁹⁴ In the same year wartime food shortages led the parish council to ask that the deer at Brickworth Park be killed to provide meat, and the park land used for beef or dairy cattle. It was also noted by the parish council, with some dissatisfaction, that pasture land in the parish was to be ploughed up, while former arable land was lying idle or was being used for pheasant-rearing or game shooting.⁹⁵

⁸⁶ TNA, HO 42/49/80.

⁸⁷ Bettey, *Rural Life in Wessex*, 117–18; E. J. Hobsbawm and G. Rudé, *Captain Swing* (Harmondsworth, 1985), 88–103; Hants. RO, 21M57/2A1/53.

⁸⁸ Billinge, 'Rural Crime and Protest in Wiltshire 1830-1875', 418.

⁸⁹ WSA, 1980/2, 111.

⁹⁰ WSA, 1980/2, 116–17.

⁹¹ WSA, 1980/2, 118.

⁹² WSA, 1980/2, 130, 149, 210.

⁹³ *Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the Year Ending 31 December 1913*. Abstract of returns (London: HMSO, 1915), 6, 261.

⁹⁴ I. Slocombe, 'Agriculture in Wiltshire in the First World War', *WAM* 95 (2002), 77.

⁹⁵ WSA, 1980/3, 89.

A survey of land usage in the 1930s noted arable land and pasture on the chalk in the north of the parish, with noticeably less arable land on the clay lands in the south of the parish. The farmed land in the south was mostly pasture, with some small arable fields, but woodland and heathland, including Langley Wood and Whiteparish Common, predominated. The average size of an agricultural holding in the three parishes of Whiteparish, Landford and Redlynch was 75 a., with dairy cattle an important part of the agricultural economy, though grazing, pig rearing and poultry were also significant in the area.⁹⁶

Several farms were part of the Cowesfield estate auction in 1940, chiefly mixed or grass/dairy farms. The situation of each farm influenced the type of farming practiced; Dairyhouse farm, situated on valley pasture, was, self-evidently, a dairy farm. Upper Cowesfield farm, on the south slope of Dean Hill, was advertised as a mixed and sheep farm, with the sheep probably pastured on the chalk slope of the hill. A large number of pigs had been kept at Lower Cowesfield farm.⁹⁷ In 1953 Lower Cowesfield farm was again advertised for sale, described as a mixed farm of 182 a.⁹⁸

The wartime farm survey of 1941 indicated a farming economy still dominated by farms and smallholdings of under 100 a. The picture regarding landownership was mixed; several farms were owned by those working the land, others by persons living in the locality, if not within Whiteparish itself, while other owners lived some distance from Whiteparish. Many farms continued to have rights to graze cattle on the common. Some criticisms were made of the state of several farms, including of the farmland of Brickworth House, where it was noted that the deer seemed more important than farming stock.⁹⁹

Farming diversified during the 20th century. A poultry farm had been recorded at Whelpley in 1941.¹⁰⁰ Another poultry farm was recorded in 1995.¹⁰¹ A mushroom farm was in Cowesfield by 1977 and was still there in 1986, but had gone by 1992.¹⁰² By 1980 commercial rabbit breeding was taking place at Chalk Pit farm, though this enterprise had ceased by 1995.¹⁰³

Mills

⁹⁶ A. H. Fry, *The Land of Britain: The Report of the Land Utilisation Survey of Britain: Part 87: Wiltshire* (London, 1940), 176, 192, 230–1, 235.

⁹⁷ WSA, 776/347A.

⁹⁸ Sale particulars for Lower Cowesfield farm, 1953, in possession of T. Rossinger, 5 May 2022.

⁹⁹ TNA, MAF 32/50/233.

¹⁰⁰ TNA, MAF 32/50/233.

¹⁰¹ *Yellow Pages: Southampton area* (1995/96), 966.

¹⁰² Hants. RO, 5M78/46; *All Saints' School Whiteparish*, [6–7].

¹⁰³ *Yellow Pages: Southampton area* (1980), 376; (1995/96).

No water-powered mills are known in the parish, and the evidence for windmills is uncertain. Mounds at Cowesfield have been interpreted as windmill mounds, but there are alternative interpretations.¹⁰⁴ Sale particulars of 1793 referred to two plots as Great Windmill and Little Windmill fields, possibly the one-time site of a windmill.¹⁰⁵ The fields were shown on the 1842 tithe map as situated immediately to the west of Bushy Copse, but with no extant mill building.¹⁰⁶

Other industries

Little is known about trade and industry in the medieval parish, but it is likely that some inhabitants made their living from the woodland. A charcoal burner was recorded in 1268.¹⁰⁷ Two tailors, two wheelwrights and three brewers were recorded at Whelpley in 1379, as were three labourers.¹⁰⁸

Further crafts are recorded in the 16th and 17th centuries. A blacksmith was working in the parish in 1558, and a wheelwright in 1603.¹⁰⁹ A baker is known at Whelpley in 1607.¹¹⁰ By 1620 there were at least two butchers in the parish, a tailor was recorded in 1625, and brickmaker in 1673.¹¹¹

There were a number of crafts and tradespeople in the 18th century parish. A ‘hair weaver’, or weaver of horse hair cloth, was recorded in 1702.¹¹² Butchers are known in 1714 and 1752.¹¹³ Wheelwrights, blacksmiths, and carpenters were all well-established in the parish.¹¹⁴ A tailor was recorded in 1730, a cooper in 1751, and a shoemaker in 1793.¹¹⁵ A more specialised trade, that of collar-maker, was recorded in 1728, and on two further occasions in the century.¹¹⁶

¹⁰⁴ Taylor, ‘Whiteparish’, WAM 62 (1967), 87; Wiltshire HER, Cowesfield Wood, mound, SU22SE601.

¹⁰⁵ Hants. RO, 44M69/E22/5/6.

¹⁰⁶ Tithe map and award, 1842.

¹⁰⁷ Farr and Elrington (eds), *Crown Pleas of the Wiltshire Eyre 1268* (WRS 65, 2012), 18 (no. 66).

¹⁰⁸ C.C. Fenwick (ed.), *The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381: Part 3: Wiltshire-Yorkshire* (Oxford, 2005), 72.

¹⁰⁹ WSA, P2/R/1; P2/W/162.

¹¹⁰ Williams (ed.), *Tradesmen in Early-Stuart Wiltshire* (WRS 15, 1960), 7 (no. 14).

¹¹¹ Williams (ed.), *Tradesmen in Early-Stuart Wiltshire* (WRS 15, 1960), 15 (nos. 76, 85); WSA, P2/C/395; P2/R/329.

¹¹² WSA, P2/T/410.

¹¹³ C. Dale (ed.), *Wiltshire Apprentices and their Masters 1710–1760* (WRS 17, 1961), 48 (no. 749), 81 (nos. 1267, 1268),

¹¹⁴ Hants. RO, 2M37/67; 2M37/71; 2M37/74; Dale (ed.), *Wiltshire Apprentices* (WRS 17, 1961), 76 (no. 1194), 81 (nos. 1267, 1268), 90 (no. 1399), 103 (no. 1615), 127 (no. 1982), 134 (n. 2076), 145 (no. 2258), 167 (no. 2584).

¹¹⁵ Dale (ed.), *Wiltshire Apprentices* (WRS 17, 1961), 10 (no. 155), 33 (no. 512); Hants. RO, 44M69/E22/5/6.

¹¹⁶ Dale (ed.), *Wiltshire Apprentices* (WRS 17, 1961), 177 (no. 2747), 169 (no. 2625); Hants. RO, 2M37/80.

In 1801, 120 persons in the parish were employed in trade, manufacturing or handicrafts, of a total population of 877.¹¹⁷ A saddler may have been working in the parish by the 1820s, as a 1925 saddler's invoice states that the business had been established for over a century.¹¹⁸ A baker's shop is recorded in 1856 and 1867.¹¹⁹ A brick kiln was listed in the tithe award of 1842.¹²⁰ The sale of Blaxwell farm in 1856 included a working brick-yard and kiln which included an allegedly unlimited supply of red brick and tile earth.¹²¹

By 1889 the six shops in the village included bakers, grocers and a draper's shop. One shop incorporated the post office. There were two public houses and three beer retailers. Rural trades and services were represented by blacksmiths, a wheelwright, a saddler and a mealman. There was a butcher, a shoemaker, and a brick manufacturer at Cowesfield.¹²²

By 1920 the brickyards in the parish, of which there had been two, had closed. Men in the parish were out of work, and the parish council resolved to ask the owners of the brickyards to consider a resumption of brickmaking in Whiteparish.¹²³ One owner replied that he had received no offers from anyone prepared to take on the brickyard, and the matter appears to have been dropped.¹²⁴ However, by 1924 the sale particulars of the Trafalgar Estate included a brickyard let to a tenant, which suggests brickmaking had resumed in the parish.¹²⁵ By 1946 Earldom's Brickyard, presumably the same premises, was reported to have been closed for several years on account of the war.¹²⁶

The Traveller's Rest tea room was situated at Pepperbox Hill to cater to motorists on the Salisbury to Southampton road; it had the added attraction of being a short walk from the Pepperbox itself. It was there by 1923 and still there in 1939, but was demolished at an unknown date.¹²⁷

In 1992 there was a post office and stores and a butcher's shop in the village. Rural crafts were still to be found, with a wrought iron worker and a saddler working in the parish. Modern trades and services included a garage at Brickworth, a garden centre, an electronics factory, signwriters, a fireworks factory, a timber and builders' merchant, a specialist car

¹¹⁷ Davis, *Agriculture of Wiltshire*, 230.

¹¹⁸ Invoice from Henry Till, saddler, in possession of T. Rossinger, May 2022.

¹¹⁹ WSA, 451/341; 451/342.

¹²⁰ Tithe award, 1842.

¹²¹ WSA, 451/341.

¹²² *Kelly's Dir Hants., Wilts., Dorset* (1889), 1049.

¹²³ WSA, 1980/3, 129–30.

¹²⁴ WSA, 1980/3, 143.

¹²⁵ WSA, 1980/20.

¹²⁶ WSA, 1980/27, 21 Mar. 1946.

¹²⁷ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1923), 285; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1939), 285; photo in possession of T. Rossinger, seen 5 May 2022. On the Pepperbox, or Eyre's Folly, see Built character.

repair workshop, and a bed and breakfast establishment.¹²⁸ There was also a riding school.¹²⁹ By 2003 Lascar Electronics and Pains Fireworks were the main employers in the parish.¹³⁰

¹²⁸ *All Saints' School Whiteparish*, [13, 17].

¹²⁹ *Yellow Pages: Southampton area* (1980), 398; (1995/96), 1044.

¹³⁰ *Salisbury Jnl*, 31 July 2003, 35–8.