

Ellisfield Economic History

Ellisfield is an agricultural parish where most of the population worked the land until the mid-20th century. Ellisfield is on a flat chalk plateau with patches of clay on top, dissected by chalk valleys, with predominantly arable fields and large woodlands.¹ Sheep were the main livestock from the 16th century, later succeeded by cattle and poultry. Wheat, barley, oats, and roots were the main crops. In 2024 Hill Farm was the sole agricultural farm, with a rotation of winter sown wheat, barley, and oats, alongside winter sown oil seed rape and setaside, with occasional sowing of beans.² One dairy herd, combined of the herds at Hill Farm and Grammarsham dairy, was maintained at Hill Farm. Enclosure of the commons in 1848 saw substantial change to the interior boundaries of parish land, and the field boundaries established at that time remain much as they were in 2024. The parish had the usual range of rural crafts and trades but few services, with a post office established in 1907 and closed in 1971, and a public house, The Fox Inn, still in operation in 2024. In the 21st century most residents worked outside the parish, commuting to Basingstoke and beyond. Some worked from home as technology and new employment patterns developed.

Agricultural Landscape

Arable

The proportion of land in Ellisfield which was arable and woodland was not recorded in the 11th century alongside the grazing lands, but given the appearance of these land types in the later medieval period we can presume an undetermined amount was established in Ellisfield. The glebe terrier in 1639 included 1 a. of arable close, however the 1728 terrier only records that 16 a. of glebe land belonged to Ellisfield with no further detail.³ The parish was divided between arable, woodland, and grazing land (meadow and pasture) in the 18th and 19th centuries. The 1840 Tithe Award listed the total of arable land in the parish as 1424 a. 34 p.

Pasture and Meadow

In 1086 Ellisfield was said to have 5 a. of demesne meadow, a not unusual occurrence for the high chalk lands south of Basingstoke.⁴ Meadow and pasture were concentrated around the manor houses. In 1639 the glebe terrier in Ellisfield recorded 1 a. of meadow and 3 a. of pasture.⁵

Further evidence for the types of land can be ascertained in the 18th and 19th centuries: for example the lease of two cottages, an orchard, and three areas of meadow from Edmund Butler, George Prince, Thomas Hippesley, John Turner, John Simons, and Samuel Smith to William Blunden in 1700 demonstrate the spread of

¹ <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/3246.pdf> (accessed 12 Feb. 2024).

² <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/39596/Ellisfield%20-%20December%202002.pdf> (accessed 12 Dec. 2024).

³ HRO, 35M48/16/131; HRO, 35M48/16/132.

⁴ H. C. Darby and E. M. J. Campbell (eds), *Domesday Geography of South-east England* (Cambridge, 1962), iii, 340.

⁵ HRO, 35M48/16/131.

meadow across the parish.⁶ Also in 1700 24 a. of arable land was leased to William Blunden from some of the same sellers in the previous exchange, and Blunden was fined regarding monies owed on two cottages and 12 a. of pasture.⁷ In 1842 there was 256 a. 2 r. and 12 p. of pasture and 5 a. 2 r. of meadow.⁸

In 1851 there were 12 named meadows in Ellisfield, and only one named area of pasture.⁹

Enclosure and Commons

It is not clear when open fields existed or when they started to be enclosed. The 1639 glebe terrier contained 0.5 a. of a close at Ellisfield Common, indicating some presence of common land in the 17th century and the development of the practice of enclosure.¹⁰ The enclosure award is indicative that several of the fields had been named and separated by the 19th century. The 1840 Tithe Award listed 163 a. 1 r. and 29 p. as commons or waste land.¹¹ The 1851 Enclosure Award saw a substantial change to the parish, with the majority of the parish land recorded and boundaries confirmed.¹² 181 a. of land in Ellisfield was enclosed, including Ellisfield Common, though it is more likely that the actual amount was 141.41 a.¹³ The enclosed land was situated on the southern border of the parish, stretching from Berrydown Farm in the west to the road adjoining the old chalk pits in the east, and to the west of the parish beyond Smart's Copse.¹⁴ There is little reference to further enclosure in the parish apart from the enclosure of the meadow of Bell Cottage in 1904.¹⁵ A sale of enclosed land on Ellisfield Common in 1849, comprised of four lots of 3 a. 0 r. and 15 p., 3 a. 2 r. and 0 p., 6 a., and 8 a. 2 r. and 0 p., all freehold lands situated on Green Lane, is indicative of a small amount of enclosed and commons land in the parish: it is unclear how much the land was sold for.¹⁶ The 1851 Enclosure Award had land set aside, partially from the Portsmouth estates, for common usage.¹⁷

Woodland

In the medieval period, woodland was particularly prominent in the northwest and centre north of the parish, as well as in the south-east. Ellisfield is rich in woodland, with coppices encircling the parish, some of the most extensive being in the south

⁶ HRO, 23M70/T4.

⁷ HRO, 23M70/T3; 23M70/T5-6.

⁸ HRO, 21M65/F7/78/1.

⁹ HRO, 12M62/1.

¹⁰ HRO, 35M48/16/131.

¹¹ HRO, 21M65/F7/78/1.

¹² HRO, 12M62/1. Note that the enclosure award goes up to 262 on the accompanying map, mirroring the 1840 tithe award, although the enclosure award does not have entries for all plots.

¹³ John Chapman and Sylvia Seeliger, eds., *A Guide to Enclosure in Hampshire, 1700-1900* (Winchester, 1997), 103.

¹⁴ Chapman and Seeliger, *Enclosure in Hampshire*, map 57, 237.

¹⁵ HRO, 12M49/A24/4.

¹⁶ HRO, 10M57/C99.

¹⁷ HRO, 12M62/1.

where Langridge Copse, Smarts Cope, Park Field Copse, and Old Early Copse abut one another.¹⁸ The glebe terrier in 1639 included 3 a. of wood or coppice.¹⁹

Woodland has several uses in terms of timber but also formed part of the lordly estates. Landowners often, but not always, kept the woodland for their own purposes rather than leasing it to tenants as it was more profitable to sell the timber for fencing than lease. In 1651 John Dickenson leased the coppices of Kingsmills, Allwood (later Allworths), and Oxlease under a mortgage agreement from Lord William Sandys, Richard Atkins, and John Fielding, one of the earliest instances in Ellisfield's early modern history for the growing commercialisation of the woodland.²⁰ Sandys, a Royalist supporter, had his lands including the family seat of The Vyne, Basingstoke, confiscated in 1654. It is unclear what allegiances the other two gentlemen held, or if the leases were upheld after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.

In 1659 the documents which recorded the sale of Berrydown Closes (76 a.), Berrydown Woods (34 a.), Berrydown Mead (8½ a.), Berrydown Coppice and a parcel of wood ground (28 a.) in Ellisfield to John Oades, a representative of Sir William Sandys, gives us an insight into the range of land in the parish, as well as the sale contract outlining the practice of felling in the woodlands.²¹ From the 17th century onwards we can then see a growing number of leases of coppices across Ellisfield, with Norgate coppice also leased from Sandys to Hugh White, an apothecary, in 1657, and a parcel of coppice leased from Sandys to a carpenter in 1659: both these leases may be an indication of increasing trade in the area.²² In 1701, Stones Coppice, situated between Langridge and Smart's Coppice (no. 94 on tithe map) was leased from Stephen Cole to John Cooper, though it is unclear if Cole was the landowner.²³ There are several other instances of the leasing and later sales of coppices, though one transaction of particular note is the evaluation of the coppices in the Ellisfield lands of the Bolton Estate in 1795 and what was taxable, namely Bells Coppice (21 a. 2 r. 6 p., not valued), Hodds Coppice (11 a. 2 r. 19 p., value £71 8s. 2d.), Breads Coppice (2 a. 3 r. 6 p., value £28 8 s. 3½d.), Friendown Coppice (4 a. 3 r. 25 p., value £36 15 s. 10d.), Great Cowlease (15 a., not valued), Upper Westfield (11 a. 1 r. 5 p., not valued), Middle Westfield (9 a. 1 r., not valued), Lower Westfield (2 a. 1 r. 30 p., not valued), and several other small coppices amounting to 6 a. 3 r. and 22 p. of land in total.²⁴ The 1840 Tithe Award listed 552 a. 1 r. and 10 p. as woodland which was held in part by the lord and in part leased.²⁵ The Portsmouth estate only leased c. 12% of their woodland holdings, and the Bolton estate leased approximately the same acreage (32 a. 1 r. 28 p. cf. 32 a. 1 r. 20 p.), which meant they kept 82% of their woodland in hand. Several of the smaller landowners also tended to keep their woodland in land, or lease less than 20% of it. Further discussion of the leasing and sale of woodland under the possession of the

¹⁸ <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/33810/Ellisfield%20Conservation%20Area%20Appraisal.pdf> (accessed 12 Dec. 2024).

¹⁹ HRO, 35M48/16/131.

²⁰ HRO, 23M58/45.

²¹ HRO, 23M58/52.

²² HRO, 23M58/47-48; HRO, 23M58/54.

²³ HRO, 44M66/E/T2-3.

²⁴ HRO, 11M49/145.

²⁵ HRO, 21M65/F7/78/1.

major landowners in Ellisfield: namely the earls of Portsmouth, Lord Bolton, and later the Jervoise and Piggott families, is outlined under institutional estate management below. Today two of the main roads running through Ellisfield are dominated by trees, Furzen Lane heading towards the Old Manor, and the other through College Lane which is an avenue of ash and oak.²⁶

Medieval Agriculture and Estate Management

In 1086 Ellisfield had arable land for six plough teams, and the value to the lord was £10 in 1066, decreasing to £5 in 1086.²⁷ One plough team belonged to the lord, Hugh de Port, and the other five worked from the parish. There were 10 plough lands in total, indicating that the amount of working land had decreased by 1086, from c. 1,200 a. to c. 720 a. which may account for the fall in value from £10 to £5 from 1066 to 1086.²⁸

The evidence for farming activity in medieval Ellisfield indicates that arable farming was present, with sheep flocks tended to by the peasantry.²⁹ It is unclear how the lord was managing the farm or their wider interests when it came to economic development. Inferences regarding the practice of farming in Ellisfield can be garnered from an examination of its neighbours. Mixed farming was present in the adjacent manors of Herriard Wintney and North Waltham and likely extended to Ellisfield.³⁰ In 1329/30 the manor of Herriard Wintney possessed tenancies in Ellisfield as it expanded into the empty lands surrounding it.³¹ The manor's attitude was one of enclosure rather than open fields, and this can be seen in Ellisfield in the manor's properties between Grange Farm and Winslade.³² Payments were made from tenants of Ellisfield to Wintney Priory in 1332, plausibly for rent, however no other detail is given on the type of service or usage of the land.³³

The Inquisitions Post Mortem also indicate that the land belonging to local lords was used for sheep. In 1362, the land held in Ellisfield by William Fyfhide in service to John Sifewrast consisted of two carucates of land containing 300 a. arable in severalty, a pasture for four horses and 12 oxen, a pasture called 'Cockesmede,' a pasture held in common for 200 sheep, a wood containing 200 a. of which 110 a. are in severalty and 80 a. are in common, with 20 free tenants rendering £10 7 s. 5d.³⁴ Alongside the possession of sheep flocks as expected in the area, arable farming, likely of wheat and oats based on later evidence and local geology, dominated from the thirteenth century onwards.³⁵ In 1442 the Inquisitions Post Mortem show that

²⁶ www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/33810/Ellisfield%20Conservation%20Area%20Appraisal.pdf (accessed 12 Dec. 2024).

²⁷ Darby, *Domesday Geography*, 306.

²⁸ *Domesday*, 23, 59.

²⁹ Winchester College, 14408.

³⁰ John Hare, 'Hampshire's agriculture in the Middle Ages: the bishop of Winchester's manor of North Waltham', *Hampshire Studies* 2020. *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society* 75 (2020): 65.

³¹ John Hare, 'The Nuns of Wintney Priory and Their Manor of Herriard: Medieval Agriculture and Settlement in the Chalklands of North-East Hampshire', *Hampshire Studies* 2015. *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society* 70 (2015): 193.

³² Hare, 'Nuns', 194.

³³ HRO, 44M69/E1/2/48.

³⁴ TNA, C 135/158/26.

³⁵ Winchester College, 14408-9.

Sibyl Sandys, widow of William Sandys, held the manor and advowson with, amongst other properties, 300 a. arable, with each a. worth 2*d.* yearly, 200 a. of pasture, each acre worth 1*d.* yearly, 6 a. of meadow, each acre worth 6*d.* yearly, 150 a. of wood, worth 6 s. yearly with its pasture, and 26 s. 8*d.* of service rent from various tenants, indicating tenancy on the land, likely from farm labourers.³⁶

Otherwise, little detail survives for the activity on the land and estate management in Ellisfield prior to the 16th century, with the land ownership and estates as detailed in the land ownership chapter.

Estate Management 1500-1850

The dominant landowners in the early modern period were generally the lords of the two manors, thus being the Sandys, and then Wallop, later the earls of Portsmouth, families, and the Bolton estates.

Sandys/Portsmouth³⁷

As one of the major landowners in the parish, the Wallop family's properties were vast: one of the earliest connections with farming in the parish can be seen in 1655 with the sale of an unnamed farm in Ellisfield from Sir Charles Crofts of Kent and Robert Wallop to Thomas Husey, Richard More, Thomas Fisher, George Longe, James Nutley, Richard Rene, and William Becke, which was sold alongside a farm at Lower Wield.³⁸ This sale may have been temporary due to the Interregnum period, though damage to the record means this cannot be confirmed.

In 1752 Michael Terry and Anne Saltmarsh, the former of whom purchased a quarter of the Old Manor from the latter in 1756, leased a capital messuage and farmhouse in Ellisfield and the attached fields, with references to the arable, meadow, pastures, and commons that formed part of the land, with the closes to be left unsown, to John Dalman.³⁹ As an early sign of good farming practice, Dalman would need to pay a fine of £150 should he break up, plough, or turn to tillage any of the land. Such a clause featured in later, though not all, Portsmouth leases as a sign of interest by the landlord in maintaining and preserving land for specific purposes as a unit. Several other leases of land by the Wallops continued into the 1850s before more details of the land became explicit: prior to 1850 on occasion the type of land, whether orchard, farm, or arable, was sometimes mentioned.⁴⁰ Land leased outside of Ellisfield but to Ellisfield farmers, such as the lease of Swallick Farm, Cliddesden, to John Smith of Ellisfield and Henry Clift of Sherborne St John, shows evidence of good farming practice as only two types of crops were to be planted, with land to be left to lay to ensure there was suitable land for planting for successive tenants.⁴¹ Such practices enabled a higher yield of the relevant crop.

³⁶ TNA, C 139/122/40.

³⁷ Although the territories belonged to the Sandys at the beginning of this period, the evidence for farming activity takes place after their sale of the land: HRO, 23M58/50.

³⁸ HRO, 15M84/2/1/23/2.

³⁹ HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/99.

⁴⁰ HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/65; HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/67; HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/68; HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/69; HRO, 23M70/T17; HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/71; HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/72.

⁴¹ HRO, 14M84/3/1/1/49.

Bolton/Hackwood Estates in Ellisfield

The Wallops were not the only significant landowners in Ellisfield with connections to farming. The Bolton family, largely resident at Hackwood House, Basingstoke prior to 1850, possessed a substantial amount of arable and woodland in Ellisfield, though little evidence survives to suggest involvement in estate management in the parish. In 1701 the release of the rights for 24 a. of land including the barn and stables of William Smith, in possession of former Bolton land and then deceased, were granted by his widow, Hannah Smith, the freeholder, to William Blunden, a substantial landowner in Ellisfield.⁴² The estates and farm of the same William Blunden, who died later that year, were complex and the indenture confirming possession of the estates gives a valuable insight into the difficulties of leasehold properties and their subsequent occupation.⁴³ William Blunden's interests in rural land in places such as Ellisfield is evidence of urban families (the Blundens were initially based in Basingstoke) extending their lands and interests into the countryside.

Winchester College

Winchester College had a vested interest in Ellisfield from the 15th century, having purchased the Longreeds estate, consisting predominantly of arable and pasture land, with an accompanying meadow, in 1480.⁴⁴ The College's records indicate that the property was held in fee from Sir Bernard Brocas in the 14th century by Thomas Langerude of Ellisfield.⁴⁵ The estate constituted arable, meadow, and pasture lands, with a mead plot in Wildmoor in the hundred of Basingstoke, as well as woods and copses, with all bar the woods and copses leased to Roger Warren for 20 years at 40 s., on 7 March 1539.⁴⁶ Other College land in Basingstoke was also tended to by Ellisfield residents, and the leases remained fairly consistent through to 1791.⁴⁷ Clauses are apparent in some which promote good farming practice, instructing the tenant that they could not plough or break up land without express permission, in order to maintain the health and stability of the land.⁴⁸ One of their long serving tenants, John Smith, in 1791 was required to pay in rent 26 s. 8 d. which was comprised in part of 1 quarter, 2 bushels, 2½ pecks of wheat and 1 quarter 2 pecks of malt under lease for Longreeds.⁴⁹ His father, John Smith the Elder, had held Longreeds from the College, and divided it between John the Younger and William Smith, with John Smith the Elder also holding a variety of lands including farmlands under the names of Meerlands, Wheelers, and Rickett's.⁵⁰ The leases for Winchester College's properties are more detailed than those of the Portsmouth estates, noting that Smith would need to pay a fine of £3 per acre of land that was broken up or put to tillage that had not before been laid to pasture, unless the College gave

⁴² HRO, 23M70/T10.

⁴³ HRO, 23M70/E6.

⁴⁴ Winchester College, 8175.

⁴⁵ Winchester College, 8164.

⁴⁶ Winchester College, 26030.

⁴⁷ Winchester College, 26031-26048.

⁴⁸ Winchester College, 26048-26049.

⁴⁹ Winchester College, 26049.

⁵⁰ HRO, 1775A/109.

permission for this.⁵¹ These promote good farming practice and indicate the interest the College had in the longstanding use of its lands. After Smith's death the Longreeds estate was leased by his widow, Elizabeth.⁵² Though specific amounts of livestock are not mentioned in relation to Smith, a substantial amount of land was being utilised for wheat, barley, and malt in Longreeds, whereas the Houndsmill estate tended towards livestock.

Winchester College sold part of their estate in 1840, consisting of arable, meadow, and woodland constituting 367 a. with a house and homestead, the farmland supporting sheep.⁵³ The following year, another farm of 380 a., again comprised of meadow, arable, and woodland, and adjoining the former Herriard estates in the east of Ellisfield, was put up for sale with the majority freehold but one part under lease to Winchester College, though it was still for sale at auction in 1842 and 1843.⁵⁴ The portion under lease to Winchester College was dependent on the payment of £10 rent per year, from corn and money, and was typically renewed every seven years.⁵⁵ We can establish that sheep rearing was still a major part of Ellisfield farming life from the snippets from sales documentation in the 19th century, explored in more detail below. The testamentary evidence provides less detail than previous centuries for farming activities after the 18th century.

Farming 1500-1850

Wills and inventories reveal insight into the produce derived from farming.⁵⁶ The valuations of livestock continued from the beginning of the period and somewhat into the 17th century, although there is an increase in records of cash rather than livestock, and the appearance of horses and carts in inventories also increased.⁵⁷ Wheat was the dominant crop for the 16th century from the wills and inventories analysed, with smaller amounts of barley evident from the late 16th century, and then malt being produced alongside person and oats throughout the 17th century. The largest sum of malt recorded came to the value of £4 and was granted by John Lipscomb in 1612.⁵⁸ As with animals, crops featured less in surviving inventories from the mid-18th century.

The 59 wills and 34 inventories from the 16th to 20th centuries initially highlight the importance of sheep farming to the parishioners of Ellisfield, and animal farming proving more profitable than arable farming. The increasing survival of inventories from the latter part of the sixteenth century ensured that ecclesiastical authorities could not overcharge for probate, but also gave them a regular form of income.⁵⁹ The recording of goods (the inventory) and the valuation of such goods were two different processes, and often carried out by two different people to ensure an accurate and

⁵¹ Winchester College, 26049.

⁵² HRO, 12M49/A24/2.

⁵³ HRO, 10M57/C96.

⁵⁴ HRO, 10M57/C97; HRO, 10M57/SP392; HRO, 10M57/SP393.

⁵⁵ HRO, 10M57/SP392.

⁵⁶ Winchester College, 2118.

⁵⁷ For the valuation of horses and carts see HRO, 1649A/43/1.

⁵⁸ HRO, 1612AD/58.

⁵⁹ Jeff and Nancy Cox, 'Probate 1500-1800: a System in Transition', in T. Arkell, N. Evans, and N. Goose (eds.), *When Death Do Us Part. Understanding and Interpreting the Probate Records of Early Modern England* (2000), 26.

honest appraisal was made.⁶⁰ The grant of 80 sheep by Thomas Dyer in 1540, and 80 sheep by James Owen in 1558, were unusually large, but demonstrate the dominance of sheep over other animals.⁶¹ As records of livestock began to be noted at the end of the 16th century, one notable example was that of Brian Ayleff who was recorded as holding £40 13 s. 4d. of sheep but also £56 10 s. of cattle, a remarkably high number for the period. The testamentary evidence also gives an indication of the types of farming activity undertaken in the parish.

Sheep form much of the predominant listings from inventories, followed by cows, wheat, and malt in the 16th century. Analysis of the 15 surviving inventories from 1500-1599 saw, where value stated, records of a sum of £116 2 s. of cattle, £76 8 d of sheep, £45 6 s. 8d. of wheat, and £128 19 s. 6d. of other crops. Only one record of wool was noted, of 5 tods valued at £3 15 s., and a half tode, valued at 3 6s. 4d.⁶² There were significant variances across the bequests of animals and crops, with the average bequest of crops £8 11s. 11½ d., of cattle £7 14s. 9½d., and of sheep £5 1 s. 4½d. The wheat valuations, which survive in four inventories, are heavily skewed by the inventory of Brian Ayleff's goods, recorded at £40 26s. 8d., with the smallest valuation of 35 s. The average bequests underline a significant range in the inventories, of 30s. to £56 10d. of cattle, 40 s. to £40 13 s. 4d., and the crops from 4s. to £24. The inventories outline the dominance of sheep farming by numbers, though cattle were more highly valued. Crops where noted were varied, including malt, barley, oats, peson, and other fodder for animals. Wheat when noted was the most important and valuable crop and remained so for the 16th century.

1600-1660

Of the 13 surviving wills or inventories for this period, the extent of farming as the major trade in the parish is evident. All wills bar two (that of Paul Ancell, a smith, and John Helleyer, a bricklayer) are likely for farm workers even if not explicitly named, and all these wills show the range of arable farming in the parish, with wheat and barley dominant, and oats and malt produced in smaller quantities. The total value of sheep regularly superseded that of cattle, with most farmers in possession of both animals. James Dyer possessed £46 of cattle and £60 of sheep upon his death in 1626, and Anne Merriott, widow, had possession of £58 of cattle and £90 of sheep, with their possessions valued respectively at £208 2s. and £459 2s. 8d.⁶³ Both Anne Merriott and James More produced fodder crops, valued at £10, and 30s., respectively.⁶⁴

In total, cattle to the value of £202 4s. and 8d. were recorded in this period, compared to £329 12s. and 4d. of sheep, showing the continued dominance of sheep farming in Ellisfield. The inventories do not indicate an average value for the animal being granted, however the inventory of John Helleyer from 1640 noted that 5 a. of wheat in the ground was valued at £5, resulting in a value of £1 per acre of sown wheat. The total amount of wheat listed in the inventories is £208 18s. 5d., with

⁶⁰ H. Swinburne, *A brief treatise of testaments and last wills* (London, 1635), 56-7; Cox and Cox, 'Probate 1500-800', 29.

⁶¹ HRO, 1540U/18; HRO, 1552U/38.

⁶² A tod was usually equivalent to 28 pounds, though this value could vary by shire.

⁶³ HRO, 1626A/030; HRO, 1637A/074.

⁶⁴ HRO, 1649A/43.

a range of £3 4s. to £50, indicating that those who farmed wheat had more than one acre dedicated to the crop. The types of crops harvested were varied as in the previous century and often garnered small value, with a range of 6s. to £34, to a grand sum of £135 13s. 6d. Two of the inventories that list wheat note the inclusion of either vetches or other items which distort the final figures. The total of cattle held by Ellisfield farmers ranged from 13s. 4d. to £58, and of sheep from £4 8s. to £90. The average bequests of cattle and sheep were £15 11s. 1½d. and £25 7 s. 1½d. respectively, whereas wheat and crops were £16 1 s. 5d. and £10 8s. 8 ¾d., showing sheep were the most valuable bequests, although without corresponding figures for the number of animals or crops granted in inventories, the records demonstrate that sheep farming appeared dominant. One grant of wool is recorded of 10 tods to the value of £13 10s., indicating that there was at least one continuing weaver to support the wool trade in the parish.

1660-1850

The prevalence of farming activity can be seen later in the 17th century, with 40 wills and inventories across the period belonging to farmers and rural landowners. Anne Stocker, widow, was in possession of £112 6s. 3d. of sheep and £94 13s. 4d. of cattle in the 1676 inventory of her goods, with a total valuation of possessions being £1058 17s. 5d., making her the wealthiest landowner from surviving documentation in this period until that of the yeoman John Smith in 1809.⁶⁵ The eight wills that reference animals and crops record less sheep than cattle in the early 18th century, though when extant the total value of the sheep bequeathed was higher than cattle. The number of inventories granting wool increased from one to three, with a range of £3 10s. to £16, indicating a growth in the number of weavers in the parish. Both cattle and crops continued to dominate in terms of number of entries in inventories and range of value. The total value of cattle and sheep featuring in inventories was £162 13s. 4d. and £142 6s. 3d. respectively, with an average grant of £20 6s. 8d. and £17 15s. 9½d. each. Only two inventories listed sheep, with a range of £30 to £112 6s. 3d., whereas the grants of cattle ranged from £5 10s. to £94 13s. 4d., a marked increase from previous centuries. The decrease in sheep bequests could indicate that more sheep were under the possession of a single landowner, however the substantial drop in value and number of grants of sheep, wheat, and crops may indicate a shift in usage or productivity of the land. The range of crop bequests was from £1 to £69, with a total value of the inventories £170 1s. 6d. and an average value of £21 5s. 2½d. As with sheep, wheat was only listed on two inventories to a total of £69 11s. 11d., a range of £20 to £49 11s. 11d. and an average of £34 15s. 11½d.

There was a marked change from 1700 onwards, where despite evidence that farming was still a dominant occupation as listed in wills and leases, animals were rarely granted in wills and crops listed in decreasing amounts.⁶⁶ The will and inventory of Oliver Tilbury, the last surviving inventory for Ellisfield, recorded greater amounts of crop than animals, with £30 6s. of corn, yet £16 of wool was also

⁶⁵ HRO, 1676A/097; HRO, 1809AD51/1.

⁶⁶ HRO, 1704B36 onwards.

present, indicative of a diversification of activity.⁶⁷ The Stockers and Robert Russell, blacksmith, also owned wool to the value of £11, £8 7s., and £3 10s. respectively.⁶⁸ However, no spinning wheel was listed in that inventory, so it is likely that the wool was traded or sold on elsewhere as opposed to being crafted at home for sales. There is limited production, or record thereof, of fodder crops being produced with only Nathaniel Cranford, rector, possessing some £1 10s. of vetches.⁶⁹

Farming and Estate Management 1850-present

By 1850 a much clearer picture of the owners and tenants of the parish, particularly the farms, becomes clearer. There was continued crossover of landholding across parishes, with the lease of Farleigh Home Farm, part of the Portsmouth estates, which was in Farleigh Wallop and Ellisfield leased to William Alexander Box in 1861.⁷⁰ Within the Portsmouth estates in the 19th century they maintained possession of Hill Farm, which was leased to William Earwaker and Alfred Young in 1898, for 10 years and with an estimate size of 295 a. 17 p. for the rental of £200. The lease stipulated that the tenants needed to keep 120 ewes with their lambs or 150 dry sheep, and not to have more than 30 a. of sainfoin or less than 25 a. in each year.⁷¹ William Earwaker was one of the major Wallop tenants, being further leased Church Farm, constituting of 131 a. 9 p. in 1905, as well as a separate cottage.⁷² He also purchased Upper Wield Farm, Wield, from the countess of Portsmouth in 1920, amounting to 250 a. 1 r. 20 p.⁷³ The Earwakers also rented College and Widmoor Farms from Henry Hoare in the 1930s.⁷⁴ College Farm had been put up for sale in 1930 and comprised 225.544 a. of woodland, pasture, meadow, chalk pits, and arable land.⁷⁵ In 1985 College Farm was purchased by John Sainsbury, and then Basil de Ferranti, and the de Ferrantis maintain possession of c. 500 a. as of 2024. The farms remain active and are used for a mix of arable and livestock.⁷⁶ Several of the outbuildings have commercial use including as art studios, housing of old and current farm machinery, and as storage space for World War Two farming vehicles.⁷⁷

In 1920, two houses and 0.5 a. of arable land in Lower Wield were also leased to William.⁷⁸ The longstanding tenancy of the Earwakers is evident from a substantial correspondence packet which survives, detailing the issues surrounding the tenancy and upkeep of Northgate Farm which was partially rented by Charles Earwaker from at least 1939-51.⁷⁹ The lease excluded three enclosures comprising 35.095 a. and

⁶⁷ HRO, 1704A101/1.

⁶⁸ HRO, 1670A/117; HRO, 1676A/097; HRO, 1686A/074.

⁶⁹ HRO, 1688AD/25.

⁷⁰ HRO, 15M84/E6/1/24; HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/73.

⁷¹ HRO, 15M84/E6/1/24.

⁷² HRO, 15M84/E6/2/25; HRO, 15M84/E6/2/26.

⁷³ HRO, 63M83/B4/22.

⁷⁴ HRO, 51M76/P/11/16.

⁷⁵ HRO, 68M72/DDZ12; HRO, 23M72/E51.

⁷⁶ Pers. Corr. Christian de Ferranti.

⁷⁷ Pers. Corr. Christian de Ferranti.

⁷⁸ HRO, 63M83/B1/149.

⁷⁹ HRO, 15M84/E6/4/86; HRO, 15M84/E6/4/123; HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/78. Northgate Farm listed as nos. 13, 55, 57 on the lease from 1911 OS map.

was a yearly rent of £95 3s. 6d.⁸⁰ Tenant farming had become much more contractual by this point, with several clauses and covenants applied to the tenant's agreement regarding the upkeep and access of the land, including keeping the land in good condition, and to not remove crops or seeds in the last year of tenancy. These clauses may have been more concerned with keeping the land of good quality from a financial perspective to ensure continual leasing and income rather than for the wellbeing of the crops or any animals. Prior to Earwaker's lease, Northgate had been leased in its entirety to Arthur Stacey in 1911, and to Arthur Hoyles in 1927.⁸¹

Old Manor Farm was also under the possession of the Portsmouth estate, being leased by the Countess of Portsmouth to Colonel William Henry Middleton in 1928, comprising two cottages, outbuildings, stables, garage, gardens, and lands, rights of shooting, timber and woodland, mines, minerals, chalk, sand, clay, gravel, brick, and watercourses, for 3 years, at the rent of £250 a year.⁸² Both leases omitted the acreage, however the accompanying plan with plots totalled 11.921 a. indicate a substantially smaller estate than the other working farms in the area, perhaps an indication that the Old Manor Farm had fallen into disuse. The Portsmouth estates ledger from 1922 gives an indication of expense and maintenance, but none of the three documents provide an idea if the farm was being worked and if so to what livestock or crop.⁸³

However, good farming practice in the Portsmouth estate was evident in one lease from 1959 of Berrydown Farm and lands in Nutley to John Inglis from the Portsmouth estate.⁸⁴ This included not breaking up or converting into tillage any grass land, to undertake all cultivations as if he were a continuing tenant, and 'to keep a good and sufficient head of stock upon and to manage and cultivate the whole farm in a good and husbandlike manner...[and] to keep the farm free from disease.'

Lower Farm was put up for sale as freehold by Mr Hopkins in 1938, comprising 9 a., 8 a. of which was pasture and 1 a. of woodland, for £650.⁸⁵ The surrounding land, less one-seventh of an acre, but not the cottage, was purchased by Lord Lymington in September 1938 for £245 and added to the lease of Hill Farm, which was then rented by Mrs Cole for £5 p. a.⁸⁶ Lymington spent much time in Ellisfield before his accession as Lord Portsmouth. During this time, he funded several initiatives, such as the purchase of new technology including tractors in the 1930s to return the lands to profitability. Lymington published and spoke widely on organic agriculture and warned against the use of chemicals in farming, as seen with his books *Famine in England* (1938) and *Alternative to Death* (1943). Both works and much of Wallop's perspectives on organic farming were part of a wider anti-immigration rhetoric espoused by some, but not all, who promoted a return to an 'organic' ie racially pure

⁸⁰ HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/78.

⁸¹ HRO, 15M84/E6/2/27; HRO, 15M84/E6/2/28.

⁸² HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/77/1.

⁸³ HRO, 15M84/E1/21.

⁸⁴ HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/79/2

⁸⁵ HRO, 15M84/E6/4/34. Nos. 219-22 on the OS map.

⁸⁶ HRO, 15M84/E6/4/34.

English society.⁸⁷ Hill Farm as the remaining active agricultural farm now provides the only dairy herd in the parish, however its current acreage and herd size is unknown.

One of the other largest landowners in the modern period was the Bolton estate, though many of their properties have been split and sold onwards since the 1930s, as evidenced by the changing landowners, though the detail is summative. Surviving sale and lease records give little indication of the approach of the Boltons to land management and farming. Bell Farm, comprising 9.718 a. of meadow, part of the Bolton estates, and under lease to Mr R. Brassington at time of sale, was put up for auction for £34 10 s. p. a. in 1930.⁸⁸ Another piece of farmland known as Merriat's Farm was under lease to Edward Patrick from Lord Bolton in 1830, but no other details of the lease survive to give an indication of acreage or production. The property was owned by the Merriat family in 1738, who sold it to John Wilks in 1770, who in turn mortgaged it in 1779. In 1786 Wilks had passed it on to his son Joseph, who sold it to Thomas Leaf. Thomas Leaf's will divided the property into 3 parts with one part belonging to his sister Mary, and her children then sold the property to Lord Bolton, another addition to the already established Hackwood Estate. The property at the time of sale was 71 a.⁸⁹ It is likely it was added to when a piece of land, Widmore (56 p.) and a plot of arable land in Middle Brow Field (2 r.), formerly a part of the common allotted under the 1851 enclosure award, was sold by Stephen Duck and Thomas Turvill to David Jones, farmer, in 1852. Jones' son, Edwin, and Charles Shirvell, sold it to Lord Bolton in 1872 and it was labelled as Merrit's Hill.⁹⁰ Merriat's remained active into the 1960s, when a partnership agreement was entered between the Hunts of Grange Farm, Herriard, and T J Hunt and Sons of Herriard and Merriat's Farm, Ellisfield, in 1969.⁹¹ In the following decades the farm fell into disuse and the work buildings were turned into residences. Merritt's Farm House serves as a main residence, with a cart shed, stable building, and iron baron all now in disuse.⁹²

⁸⁷ Philip Conford, 'Organic society: agriculture and radical politics in the career of Gerard Wallop, ninth Earl of Portsmouth (1898-1984)', *Agricultural Historical Review* 55.1 (2005): 78-96.

⁸⁸ HRO, 68M72/DDZ12. Part of Bolton estates 80 years prior at time of enclosure award.

⁸⁹ HRO, 44M69/D1/4/1.

⁹⁰ HRO, 11M49/E/T110-113.

⁹¹ HRO, 63M83/B30/56.

⁹² <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/33810/Ellisfield%20Conservation%20Area%20Appraisal.pdf> (accessed 12 Dec. 2024).



Image of Merriat's Farm, 1825 from HRO, 10M57/P13. Copyright: Hampshire Record Office.

Nash's Farm, later known as Widmoor, was one of the major farms and went through several changes under the Pigott families, a gentry family with ties to the surrounding Home Counties. After Pigott's death, his properties passed to his brother, Frederick Pigott, who in 1885 then sold the properties to Augusta Pigott for £1,780, bringing together the arable and pasture land of Nash's Farm with the arable land of Widmoor Place.⁹³ There was a third lot of land, 3 a. and 19 p. were on Ellisfield Common, and 3 a. 2 r. and 2 p. were located south of this.⁹⁴ At the time of this sale, Nash's land was plots 102-3, 109-13, 115, 13-4, and 145, and was largely arable and pasture land totalling 66 a. 3 r. and 3 p. Widmoor Place was plots 105-8 and consisted of buildings and arable totalling 11 a. 3 r. and 6 p. the third plots of arable and pasture land (nos. 229 and 234) totalling 6 a. 2 r. and 21 p., to a total sum of 85 a. 0 r. and 30 p.⁹⁵ The lands known as Widmoor Place under the Pigotts were a smaller part of the wider Widmoor estate, which in 105 totalled 98 a. 0 r. and 29 p., held by Constance Arbuthnot Campbell and consisting of a mixture of houses, enclosures of arable, pasture, and woodland, and valued at £4,250.⁹⁶ In 1901 Nash's Farm was occupied by Isaac Munday and his wife Martha, the former a carter, and his mother-in-law Harriet Smith.⁹⁷ The wider Widmoor estate housed several occupants across the cottages including the larger Botry-Pigott family, the Forwards and Batchelors who

⁹³ HRO, 23M70/T39.

⁹⁴ HRO, 23M70/T39.

⁹⁵ HRO, 23M70/T39.

⁹⁶ HRO, 23M70/E13; HRO, 23M70/E11.

⁹⁷ *Census*, 1901.

worked on the estate as a gardener and stockman, and the female domestic servants aged 15 to 50.⁹⁸ In 1911 the farmland was tended to by the Dawson family who looked after the cowherds.⁹⁹ A decade later, the tenancy had changed hands again to the Bone family who maintained the holdings as a dairy farm. It is not clear if the farm suffered from damage during the war or if the war placed any extra exertion on the production capabilities as its neighbour, College Farm, endured. The Widmoor estate, latterly known as Widmoor Farm, is now held in part by Tim Guinness. It is the Widmoor Place, held formerly by the Pigott's, which came to be known as the Brocas estate by 1918 and is now under the ownership of the Cazenoves.¹⁰⁰

Winchester College's holdings in the 20th century were considerably smaller than the previous. Mrs Thorp leased 120 a. 2 r. and 24 p. to the value of £107 18 s. and 10 d. from the College in 1811.¹⁰¹ It sold Langridge Copse (6 a. 3 r. and 8 p.) to the Portsmouth estates in 1915 for £100.¹⁰²

The occupations of the residents of Ellisfield largely reflected the farming landscape. In 1851, out of 272 returns, there were 74 agricultural labourers and one former agricultural labourer, as well as four farmers, eight associated farmer family members, and a former farmer.¹⁰³ The 1851 census also noted that William Hampton was a farmer of 310 a., and employed 12 labourers, and that William Snow was a farmer of 300 a. who employed eight men. Lastly, David Jones held 114 a. and employed six labourers and William Ellson held 260 a. and employed eight men. None of the farms are named in the census or surviving wills. David Jones leased Widmore with the associated buildings and land in 1836 prior to its possession by the Botry-Pigotts, so if the land had returned to his hands by 1851 this may be the farm that was tended to by his labourers.¹⁰⁴

In the 1860s, sheep farming was the most prevalent in Ellisfield, with a small passel of pigs also noted.¹⁰⁵ The farming of pigs was less expensive than cattle or sheep, and allowed owners a supply of fresh meat, from which cuts could be kept for the family and others sold at market. However, by the 1890s the number of sheep being kept had decreased significantly, with more land given to pasture.¹⁰⁶ Between 1896 and 1906, the number of cattle more than doubled from 57 to 121 and had increased to 196 in 1916.¹⁰⁷ Numbers fluctuated over the decades quite severely but generally stayed around 200 cattle. Alongside the increase in cattle, poultry farming also grew, with 1942 poultry recorded in 1956.¹⁰⁸ In 1981, 1540 cattle were recorded, as were 754 sheep, and 2114 poultry, indicating that cattle and poultry farming had continued to be a dominant form of farming over the 20th century, although sheep farming had

⁹⁸ *Census*, 1901.

⁹⁹ *Census*, 1911.

¹⁰⁰ HRO, 23M70/E18.

¹⁰¹ HRO, 42M70/E3.

¹⁰² HRO, 15M84/2/1/7/8, no. 133 on OS.

¹⁰³ *Census*, 1851.

¹⁰⁴ HRO, 23M70/T21.

¹⁰⁵ TNA, MAF 68/27; TNA, MAF 68/28.

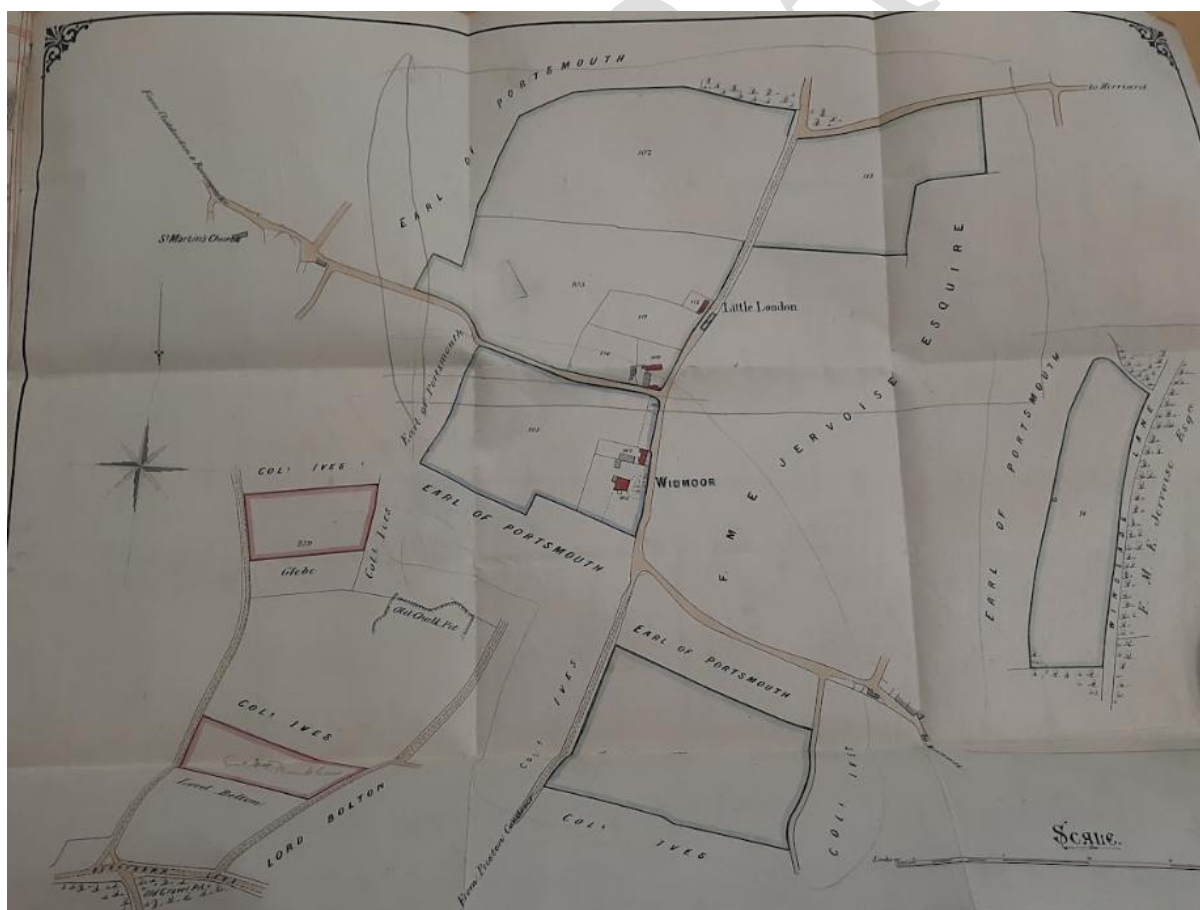
¹⁰⁶ TNA, MAF 68/1610.

¹⁰⁷ TNA, MAF 68/1610; TNA, MAF 68/2180; TNA, MAF 68/2750.

¹⁰⁸ TNA, MAF 68/4534.

not completely faded.¹⁰⁹ By 1988, no Ellisfield farms were included in the returns, and based on earlier entries it had been subsumed into the Hartley Wintney or Herriard returns.¹¹⁰ Across the 19th and 20th centuries, the type of farming carried out in Ellisfield changed with the decline of sheep indicating a change to arable-based mixed farming systems, and the rise of cattle and poultry farming confirming this. Pigs were a substantial farmed animal in Ellisfield, with a decline in numbers between the 1930s and 1970s, and a sharp increase from 1980 onwards which has been sustained.¹¹¹

Land use also changed across the course of the 19th and 20th centuries. Wheat was the major crop sown, followed by oats and turnips and swedes. Other prominent crops included oats, mangold, and vetches. The land that was kept in permanent pasture reached a height of 283 a. in 1926, but after that decreased with fluctuations.¹¹² Of the 2252 a. 3 r. and 18 p. of land in Ellisfield in 1840, 1424 a. 34 p. was arable land, and this figure had decreased to 1241.75 a. in 1916, and thereafter stayed relatively stable.¹¹³



¹⁰⁹ TNA, MAF 68/5750.

¹¹⁰ TNA, MAF 68/6108.

¹¹¹ TNA, MAF 68/27; MAF 68/28; MAF 68/242; MAF 68/413; MAF 68/755; MAF 68/1040; MAF 68/1325; MAF 68/1610; MAF 68/1895; MAF 68/2180; MAF 68/2465; MAF 68/2750; MAF 68/3026; MAF 68/3296; MAF 68/3556; MAF 68/3796; MAF 68/3979; MAF 68/4164; MAF 68/4349; MAF 68/4534; MAF 68/4682; MAF 68/4724; MAF 68/5224; MAF 68/5479; MAF 68/2750; MAF 68/6108.

¹¹² TNA, MAF 68/3296.

¹¹³ HRO, 21M65/F7/78/1; TNA, MAF 68/2750.

Caption: Image of the Pigott properties sold to Augusta Pigott in 1885, HRO, 23M70/T39. Copyright Hampshire Record Office.

Primary Production: Wool Industry

Ellisfield had little trade outside of wool, livestock, and animal products in the early modern period. Wool was occasionally recorded in inventories in the 16th and 17th centuries, and spinning wheels were also owned by Joan Dyer in 1569, Agnes Tilborow in 1582, Nicholas Merriott in 1583, and Anne Merriott in 1637. There were spinners present from 1569, as inventories detailed that Joan Dyer bequeathed a spinning wheel, as did Agnes Tilborow in 1582 and Nicholas Merriott in 1583.¹¹⁴ Spinning continued to be a profession for some in Ellisfield in the 17th century, with the wills of Anne Merriott and John Craft recording spinning wheels.¹¹⁵ John Craft's inventory of 1676 listed a spinning wheel, however later inventories from the 17th and 18th centuries record wool so it may have been crafted or spun elsewhere. This shows a small but consistent and active wool industry in the parish across the early modern period.

Mills

Ellisfield appears to have had no mill: the residents may have travelled to Farleigh Wallop to mill their wheat, which has limited evidence for milling but more so than its neighbouring parishes of Cliddesden and Ellisfield.¹¹⁶

Trades

Smiths were resident in the 17th century, as well as a bricklayer.¹¹⁷ In the 1851 census, there was one baker, one beer housekeeper, two blacksmith masters, and ten men who worked in wood trades, comprising carpenters, hurdlemakers (for sheep folding), wheelwrights, woodman, and assistant masters.¹¹⁸

There was a baker resident in Ellisfield between 1851 and 1871, and then again from 1901. George Murrell was the resident miller in 1851, however there is no further evidence for a miller residing in Ellisfield after this.

The 1851 to 1891 census record James Viney, a blacksmith, employing one man, in the parish as well as his two sons. In 1891 a smith outside the Viney family, Charles Bone, was recorded.¹¹⁹ Between 1907 and 1927 there appears to have been no blacksmith in the parish between the death of William Viney, who had succeeded his father as village smith, and the establishment of a smiths by D Parker.¹²⁰ In 1851 there was a range of trading occupations in the parish, with two wheelwrights, two shoemakers with two employees, and in 1871 one hurdle maker, William Franklin, was in residence alongside two wheelwrights and seven men listed as working in the

¹¹⁴ HRO, 1579A/20; HRO, 1582B/86/1; HRO, 1583AD/44.

¹¹⁵ HRO, 1637A/074; HRO, 1676A/026.

¹¹⁶ Alison Deveson and Sue Lane, *The Victoria History of Hampshire. Cliddesden, Hatch and Farleigh Wallop* (London, 2013), 113.

¹¹⁷ HRO, 1640B/02; HRO, 15640B/33; HRO, 1686A/086.

¹¹⁸ *Census*, 1851.

¹¹⁹ *Census*, 1891.

¹²⁰ *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1907, 1927).

wood trade (one unemployed), alongside a wood dealer, Ann Jones.¹²¹ In 1851 there were two shoemakers present with two labourers. A shoemaker named William Randell was recorded in 1859 in the trade directory and 1861 census as a cordwainer, indicating a higher level of skill than the previously listed shoemakers.¹²²

There was at least one hurdlemaker in Ellisfield except for 1881 and 1901. Between 1891 and 1901 the number of people employed in different types of trades had expanded, including Horace Taylor who worked on the railways, an increase in hawkers, as well as carters outside of farming, indicating a wider range of goods available to trade. The number of carters may have been linked to the increase in coopers or hoop makers, as well as hurdle makers. Agriculturally related jobs continued to dominate, with some carters employed on farms, as well as hay binders.

Crafts

A knitter, John Murrell, purchased 2 a. of land called Kents Tenement in 1747, indicating some wool trade in the 18th century.¹²³ There was a tailor master, William Button, resident in Ellisfield in 1851 showing a continuing craft of cloth in the parish. In 1891 there was an artist in the parish, Sarah Warren, and art continues to be a dominant craft in Ellisfield with College Farm now owned by artist in residence Christian de Ferranti who regularly hosts art workshops and uses some of the outbuildings for storage of artworks.¹²⁴

Commerce

With regards to commercial services, a post office was established in 1907 and provided telegram services and closed in 1971.¹²⁵ No retail outside of the Post Office existed. In 2024 there was one current public house, the Fox Inn, which was established under that name in 1896 and has gone through periods of growth and recession since its opening.¹²⁶ The census indicates that there was a beer house keeper, Sarah Lovett, and an innkeeper, Thomas Dicker, in 1851, but it is unclear where they worked.¹²⁷ As of 2024 The Fox Inn is run by Miriam and Christian Taylor and offers traditional country dining.¹²⁸ There was an inn, called the Bell and Crown, run by Frederick Francis in 1859, last recorded as Bell House in 1903 under Frederick Watts, which closed shortly thereafter, possibly due to the foundation of the Fox Inn the decade previous.¹²⁹

Of the 272 residents recorded in 2011, only seven were still employed in farming, a reflection of the decline in farmland and the contracting of farming services to external organisations. 19 residents were employed in manufacturing, 11 in

¹²¹ *Census*, 1851; *Census*, 71.

¹²² *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1859).

¹²³ HRO, 15M84/3/1/1/26.

¹²⁴ *Census*, 1891; Pers. Corr. Christian de Ferranti.

¹²⁵ Ken Smith, 'Hampshire Post Offices', <https://sites.google.com/site/ukpostofficesbycounty/> (accessed 12. Dec. 2024).

¹²⁶ HRO, 10M57/SP235.

¹²⁷ *Census*, 1851.

¹²⁸ <https://www.thefoxpubellisfield.co.uk/> (accessed 12 Dec. 2024).

¹²⁹ *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1859-1903).

construction, and 14 in wholesale and retail trade or motor repair.¹³⁰ Only 16.9 per cent, or 35 residents, were retired, with 153 economically active. 19 residents worked in professional, scientific, and technical activities. The decline of farming across the 20th and 21st centuries has led to many seeking employment outside the parish, though many are dependent on their own transport to take up these employment opportunities with little public transport available.

¹³⁰ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E04004451> (accessed 12 Dec. 2024).