

ECONOMIC HISTORY

The parish's economic history is richly documented, particularly for the medieval period. The lands of each half-manor were dispersed and intermixed throughout the whole of the parish, and each had a separate farmhouse, both on the manorial site adjacent to the present Compton House. Land use in the village neatly reflected the geology. The north of the parish, on the banks of the river Nadder, was cultivated as water meadows and withy beds. The strip of Gault clay south of these was given over to woodland and part of a deer park in existence from at least the early 14th century. The bulk of the parish stands on greensand, used for mixed arable and pasture. The two large common fields lay to the east and south of the village, above which rises a small strip of chalk downland at the very south of the parish.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture has been the main occupation in Compton Chamberlayne until recently, supplemented by work at Compton Park, both in the house and on the estate.

At the time of Domesday Book, Compton Chamberlayne had a large amount of arable land, 10 ploughlands worked by the same number of ploughteams. Besides this, there were 20 a. of meadow and 8 a. of pasture.¹⁵⁷

In 1274, the Haversham half-manor comprised of 250 a. of *arable*, divided into two carucates;¹⁵⁸ in 1306, James de la Plaunche held 100 a. of arable,¹⁵⁹ whilst in 1335 William de la Plaunche held 120 a. of arable in common.¹⁶⁰ The Chamberlain half-manor appears to have been slightly larger at this time. In 1328, it contained 200 a. of arable in common, also divided into two carucates.¹⁶¹ Following Thomas Grimstead's death, his sister Katherine of Avenel held 90 a. of arable,¹⁶² whilst his widow Joan held 60 a. in dower.¹⁶³ In 1412, there were 100 a. of arable land on the Baynton estate.¹⁶⁴

The Haversham half-manor had demesne *pasture* for 24 beasts and 100 sheep in 1274, but only a small number of pigs.¹⁶⁵ James de la Plaunche had pasture for 16 oxen and six cows in 1306,¹⁶⁶ and William de la Plaunche held 10 a. of pasture in 1335.¹⁶⁷ Thomas Grimstead's widow Joan held in dower 20 a. of pasture, and

¹⁵⁷ *Domesday*, 163.

¹⁵⁸ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 92–96.

¹⁵⁹ TNA: PRO, C 133/122/4; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 322–23.

¹⁶⁰ TNA: PRO, C 135/45/20; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 116.

¹⁶¹ TNA: PRO, C 135/11/6; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 23–24.

¹⁶² TNA: PRO, C 135/35/15; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 93–94.

¹⁶³ TNA: PRO, C 135/164/22; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, pp. 296–97.

¹⁶⁴ TNA: PRO, C 137/85/13.

¹⁶⁵ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 92–96.

¹⁶⁶ TNA: PRO, C 133/122/4; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 322–23.

¹⁶⁷ TNA: PRO, C 135/45/20; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 116.

common of pasture for 100 sheep, presumably representing one-third of the Grimstead half-manor.¹⁶⁸ There were water meadows to the north of the village: James de la Plaunche held 7 a. in 1306,¹⁶⁹ and William de la Plaunche 10 a. in 1335,¹⁷⁰ as had Thomas Grimstead in 1328.¹⁷¹ His sister Katherine held 5 a. of meadow,¹⁷² and his widow held 6 a. in dower.¹⁷³ Nicholas Baynton held 10 a. of pasture in 1412.¹⁷⁴

In the early 13th century the labour required of tenants on both estates was light, and had been largely replaced by money rents. Nicholas of Haversham's tenants were paying 1*d.* or 2*d.* each to avoid the services due from them.¹⁷⁵ On the Plaunche estate in 1306, tenants paid sums ranging from 28*s.* 10*d.* to 65*s.* instead of the services they owed, which included reaping three half-days, mowing hay three half-days, weeding an acre of the lord's corn, and working 35 days during the harvest period.¹⁷⁶ In 1328, 13 of Thomas Grimstead's customary tenants paid 16*s.* 3*d.* to avoid their autumn works, whilst the cottars paid 9*d.*¹⁷⁷ At the same time, customary tenants on the other half of the manor could pay 5*s.* each to avoid autumn work.¹⁷⁸ Although the customary tenants were recorded as still owing work to Penruddock in 1597, it is probable that these dues were no longer served.¹⁷⁹

A field book was produced in 1597,¹⁸⁰ shortly after the Penruddocks acquired the whole manor, when the two half-manors were still being treated as separate entities. From it emerges an exceptionally detailed outline of the parish, detailing each household and individual parcel of land, and revealing the organisation of the two half-manors.

The survey demonstrates that the process of inclosure had begun by 1597. Although most of the parish's land was still farmed in common, 305 a. of pasture and 97 a. of arable had recently been inclosed from the commons, and was shared amongst the freeholders and principal tenants. The tofts and crofts of the main settlement, together with the meadows alongside the Nadder, comprised a further 516 a. of 'old inclosures'. There remained 846 a. of arable in the two common fields. Several medieval names of fields and furlongs survived in 1597: Little Croft, Green Pit, Long Hedge, Bramblehill furlong, Brambley furlong, Down furlong, Gard furlong, and Whiteland furlong. Besides the rectory estate, there were four small

¹⁶⁸ TNA: PRO, C 135/164/22; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, pp. 296–97.

¹⁶⁹ TNA: PRO, C 133/122/4; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 322–23.

¹⁷⁰ TNA: PRO, C 135/45/20; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 116.

¹⁷¹ TNA: PRO, C 135/11/6; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 23–24.

¹⁷² TNA: PRO, C 135/35/15; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 93–94.

¹⁷³ TNA: PRO, C 135/164/22; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, pp. 296–97.

¹⁷⁴ TNA: PRO, C 137/85/13.

¹⁷⁵ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 92–96.

¹⁷⁶ TNA: PRO, C 133/122/4; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 322–23.

¹⁷⁷ TNA: PRO, C 135/11/6; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 23–24.

¹⁷⁸ TNA: PRO, C 135/15/28; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, pp. 41–42.

¹⁷⁹ WSA, 332/252, f. 27v.

¹⁸⁰ WSA, 332/252, f. 1.

freehold estates in 1597, of which the only substantial estate was the *c.* 170 a. holding of Robert Reade.¹⁸¹

As the only significant landowners in the parish, the Penruddocks were able to inclose their manor privately through a process of piecemeal incorporation over the following two centuries. They appear to have acquired the smaller freeholds during the 17th century, and they consolidated their estate by gradually taking in hand the customary tenancies during the 18th century.¹⁸² The common fields had not been inclosed in 1745,¹⁸³ when the two former open fields were laid out in seven fields of strips; but inclosure was complete by *c.* 1795.¹⁸⁴ Hand in hand with this process, the Penruddocks adopted measures to make the manor more profitable. The tenants' rights were removed where they rested only on customary use: in 1597, the right to pasture their cattle in the quarry was dismissed, as was the right to take chalk from the chalk pits.¹⁸⁵ The Penruddocks also invested in the estate, spending £700 in *c.* 1703 to improve the water meadows,¹⁸⁶ and *c.* £2,880 in 1869 to drain the land and build new cottages for the labourers.

By the time of the tithe award, in 1850, the parish's agricultural land was divided between three farms, all of which were still owned by the Penruddocks and worked by tenant farmers. The parish was calculated to be 1,872 a. in total, of which *c.* 273 a. remained in hand, almost entirely woodland and plantations. In 1926, *c.* 600 a. and Manor Farm was sold to Col. J. G. Jeans of Broadchalke.¹⁸⁷ In 1930, the estate totalled 1,330 a., of which *c.* 43 a. lay in other parishes,¹⁸⁸ whilst in 1974 it was calculated at 1,435 a.¹⁸⁹

In 1597, the demesne farm at Compton was leased to Nicholas Lawes;¹⁹⁰ by the later 17th century it comprised 220 a. of arable, 28 a. of meadow and *c.* 47 a. of pasture.¹⁹¹ By 1705 Stephen Naish held the old farm with 298 a. of arable, 31 a. of meadow, 37 a. of pasture and sheepright for 516 sheep.¹⁹² In the 18th century large areas of pasture were laid to arable crops: in 1795, Compton farm consisted of *c.* 542 a., of which *c.* 470 a. were arable, *c.* 32 a. pasture and *c.* 39 a. water meadow;¹⁹³ and in 1850, out of a total of *c.* 760 a. there were *c.* 491 a. of arable, *c.* 36 a. of pasture, *c.* 40 a.

¹⁸¹ WSA, 332/252, *passim*.

¹⁸² WSA, 549/18, ff. 12–13v, where former copyhold estates were in the occupation of Charles Penruddock.

¹⁸³ WSA, 549/18, ff. 7, 12–13v.

¹⁸⁴ WSA, 332/59.

¹⁸⁵ WSA, 332/252, f. 26v.

¹⁸⁶ WSA, 332/250.

¹⁸⁷ Information from Mr J. Newman, Compton House.

¹⁸⁸ Sale particular, 1930: WSA, 2676/5.

¹⁸⁹ Sale particular, 1974: WSA, 1844/45.

¹⁹⁰ WSA, 332/114; 332/252, f. 7.

¹⁹¹ WSA, 332/76.

¹⁹² WSA, 332/279.

¹⁹³ WSA, 332/59.

of water meadow, c. 16 a. of woodland and plantations, and the c. 144 a. of downs.¹⁹⁴ By 1911, it was known as Manor farm, and comprised of 642 a. in total.¹⁹⁵

Naishes farm originated in a lease held in 1698 by Richard Naish, and later by Walter Bignall, of 101 a. of arable, 41 a. of pasture and leaze for 200 sheep and 24 beasts.¹⁹⁶ In 1759, William Massey held 340 a. of arable, c. 82 a. of pasture and meadow,¹⁹⁷ and a farmhouse known in 1770 as Nash's Farm.¹⁹⁸ In 1850, Naishes farm comprised of c. 508 a., including c. 341 a. of arable, c. 35 a. of water meadow, c. 16 a. of pasture and c. 90 a. of downs.¹⁹⁹ By 1911, the farm comprised of c. 482 a.;²⁰⁰ in 1930, it was a c. 480 a. dairy, sheep and corn farm leased to G. T. Aylward, with c. 178 a. of arable, c. 24 a. of water meadow and c. 144 a. of pasture;²⁰¹ in 1974, it was a dairy and corn farm of c. 510 a. in total;²⁰² and in 2010 it was an arable and sheep farm;²⁰³ these changes in land use reflecting broader agricultural trends.

Home farm was leased in 1795 to Thomas King, who held Compton Farm at the same time, and consisted of c. 115 a. of arable, c. 32 a. of pasture and c. 6 a. of meadow.²⁰⁴ In 1850, it comprised 229 a., of which c. 106 a. was arable, c. 4 a. was water meadow and c. 93 a. was pasture.²⁰⁵ By 1911, it was c. 214 a.;²⁰⁶ leased to V. J. Lovell in 1930, it comprised c. 25 a. of water meadows, c. 73 a. of pasture and c. 53 a. of arable.²⁰⁷ In 1974 it was a stock and corn farm of c. 272 a.;²⁰⁸ in 2010 it was an arable and sheep farm.²⁰⁹

Following the purchase of Compton Chamberlayne estate by the Newmans, the three tenanted farms were taken back in hand and farmed directly by them. In 1974, there were c. 166 a. of water meadows in hand.

Woodland: There were modest amounts of woodland in the parish, some 15 a. in 1086;²¹⁰ it was being used as pasture in the 13th and early 14th centuries,²¹¹ but turned to waste in the 14th century.²¹² In 1328, there was woodland in the park and

¹⁹⁴ WSA, TA/Compton Chamberlayne.

¹⁹⁵ WSA, L 8/1/154.

¹⁹⁶ WSA, 332/138, 568/22.

¹⁹⁷ WSA, 332/113.

¹⁹⁸ WSA, 332/281, where he is called William Mathey.

¹⁹⁹ WSA, TA/Compton Chamberlayne.

²⁰⁰ WSA, L 8/1/154.

²⁰¹ Sale particular, 1930: WSA, 2676/5.

²⁰² Sale particular, 1974: WSA, 1844/45.

²⁰³ Information from Mr J. Newman, Compton House.

²⁰⁴ WSA, 332/59.

²⁰⁵ WSA, TA/Compton Chamberlayne.

²⁰⁶ WSA, L 8/1/154.

²⁰⁷ Sale particular, 1930: WSA, 2676/5.

²⁰⁸ Sale particular, 1974: WSA, 1844/45.

²⁰⁹ Information from Mr J. Newman, Compton House.

²¹⁰ *Domesday*, p. 163.

²¹¹ TNA: PRO, C 134/96/14; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 92–96, 445–46.

²¹² TNA: PRO, C 135/15/28, C 135/35/15; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, pp. 41–42, 93–94.

three other plantations;²¹³ by 1333, the 10 a. of woodland on Katherine of Avenel's portion had become waste or common.²¹⁴ In 1361, the underwood and pasture was said to be worth nothing because of the shade of the big trees.²¹⁵ In 1597, the plantation at Compton Ivers was measured at 299 a.²¹⁶ In 1748, the Penruddock estate included c. 161 a. of woodland, which were worth £150 a year.²¹⁷ In 1930, 295 a. of woodland were held in hand.²¹⁸ In 1974, there were c. 292 a. of woodland.²¹⁹

Park: John Olney was granted free warren on his demesne lands in 1300,²²⁰ and this probably confirmed a right enjoyed by previous lords of the manor. There has been a park in Compton Chamberlayne, possibly since 1274,²²¹ and certainly since 1328.²²² In the field book of 1597 the abundant fish ponds adjacent to the newly-built Compton House were noted.²²³ Compton Park was greatly extended and laid out in an Arcadian style in the late 18th century, necessitating the destruction of part of the village, perhaps under Charles Penruddock who rebuilt the house c. 1780.²²⁴ In 1839, it comprised c. 66 a. of parkland and lakes,²²⁵ and in 1867, the deer park had been expanded to 90 a. with a herd of 170 fallow deer.²²⁶ By 1930 Compton Park measured 150 a., and the fishing rights in the river were worth £134 pa.²²⁷ Recent buildings in the park include a boathouse built of ashlar with rusticated quoins and a roman tile roof c. 1888,²²⁸ and a hexagonal slate-roofed summerhouse built in stone by Mr Cross.²²⁹ The owners of the park continue to employ it for commercial fishing and shooting.²³⁰

MILL

²¹³ TNA: PRO, C 135/11/6; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 23–24.

²¹⁴ TNA: PRO, C 135/35/15; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, p. 93–94.

²¹⁵ TNA: PRO, C 135/164/22; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, pp. 296–97.

²¹⁶ WSA, 332/252, f. 23.

²¹⁷ WSA, 549/18, ff. 5, 6v–7. These figures may include woodland in Baverstock.

²¹⁸ Sale particular, 1930: WSA, 2676/5.

²¹⁹ Sale particular, 1974: WSA, 1844/45.

²²⁰ *Cal. Chart.*, 1300–1326, p. 391.

²²¹ Kenneth Watts, 'Wiltshire Deer Parks: An Introductory Survey', *WAM*, 89 (1996), pp. 94, 98.

²²² TNA: PRO, C 135/13/2; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77, pp. 26–30.

²²³ WSA, 332/252, f. 8v.

²²⁴ WSA, 332/284. *Andrews' and Dury's Map 1773*. Margary et al, *The Old Series OS Maps of England and Wales*, III, Sheet XV, plate 38. Above, introduction; settlement.

²²⁵ WSA, TA/Compton Chamberlayne.

²²⁶ E. P. Shirley, *Some Account of English Deer Parks* (London, 1867), p. 103.

²²⁷ Sale particular, 1930: WSA, 2676/5.

²²⁸ Datestone on building.

²²⁹ Information from Mrs J. Newman.

²³⁰ Information from Mr J. Newman.

The manor had one mill in 1086, valued at 12s. 6*d.* in Domesday Book.²³¹ Following the partition of the manor, this appears to have belonged to the Haversham portion; in 1236, Nicholas of Haversham successfully asserted his rights over the mill.²³² It was valued at 26s. 8*d.* at the time of his death in 1249,²³³ but only at 6s. 8*d.* in 1274.²³⁴ It was described as a water mill worth 13s. 4*d.* in 1306²³⁵ and 1325.²³⁶ Andrew Baynton held two watermills in 1547,²³⁷ and these were held by Edward Penruddock in 1586.²³⁸ A mill was built c. 1635 north of the Compton House, at the southern end of the northern lake in Compton Park.²³⁹ There was only one water mill in the manor in 1669,²⁴⁰ and again in 1792.²⁴¹

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Industrial activity in the village consisted of what was necessary to support rural life: there were tailors in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries,²⁴² and a shoemaker in 1749.²⁴³ In 1867, there were two shopkeepers, a carpenter, a shoemaker, and a blacksmith,²⁴⁴ and in 1895 a shopkeeper, a hurdle maker and a blacksmith.²⁴⁵ In 1886, the post office was situated on the Salisbury–Shaftesbury road, to the east of Compton Farm.²⁴⁶ By 1915, it had moved to the general store near the burial ground, now Post Office Cottage;²⁴⁷ the neighbouring cottage, Orchard Cottage, was a branch of Southons of Salisbury between the wars.²⁴⁸ There was also a market gardener resident in the village in 1915.²⁴⁹ The forge, located at the southern end of the village street, was the site of a small farm in the years after World War Two.²⁵⁰ A printing

²³¹ *Domesday*, p. 163.

²³² TNA: PRO, CP 25/1/250/10/61; Fry (ed.), *Feet of Fines, 1195–1272*, p. 26.

²³³ TNA: PRO, C 132/12/2; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 5–6.

²³⁴ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 92–96.

²³⁵ TNA: PR, C 133/122/4; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 322–23.

²³⁶ TNA: PRO, C 134/96/14; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, pp. 445–46.

²³⁷ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/65/531/1EDWVITRIN. It is possible that one of these mills was outside the parish.

²³⁸ TNA: PRO, CP/25/2/241/28ELIZIHIL.

²³⁹ WSA, 332/137.

²⁴⁰ TNA: PRO, CP 43/345, ro. 9.

²⁴¹ TNA: PRO, CP 43/838, ro. 55.

²⁴² WSA, D 1/42/18, ff. 5bv–6bv. List of suspected persons, 1655: BL, Add. MSS, 34012, f. 37; microfilm copy, WSA, X 3/9.

²⁴³ Dale (ed.), *Wilts. Apprentices 1710–60*, p. 92.

²⁴⁴ *Post Office Directory of Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire* (1867).

²⁴⁵ *Kelly's Directory* (1895).

²⁴⁶ OS 6", LXV (1886).

²⁴⁷ *Kelly's Directory* (1915); OS, 6", Wilts LXV SW (1926).

²⁴⁸ Information from Mrs M. Lovell.

²⁴⁹ *Kelly's Directory* (1915); Sawyer, *Nadder*, p. 189.

²⁵⁰ Information from Mrs M. Lovell.



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press, Compton Press, was run from the stables of Compton House for a time during the 1960s.²⁵¹

²⁵¹ Information from Mr J. Newman.