

## TIMBERSCOMBE

Edmund Rack described Timberscombe in the 1780s as encompassed by lofty hills well-furnished with hanging woods and with picturesque glens winding between them. The hilltops were covered with whortleberry, heath and fern.<sup>1</sup> As the village is tucked away from the main valley the parish still looks much as Rack saw it. He omitted to mention the snowdrops for which the upper reaches of the Avill are now renowned. The name Timberscombe, originally without an 's', is presumably derived from the wooded valley. In the early modern period it was spelt and presumably pronounced without the 'T'.<sup>2</sup>

The parish comprises Timberscombe village on the north-eastern edge of the main area, the hamlet of Cowbridge, anciently in several parishes, the former hamlet of Clicket and many scattered farmsteads. It may originally have been part of Carhampton whose detached areas bordered it. Timberscombe's detached areas at Allercott, West Harwood, East Lynch and Stetfold Rocks are difficult to explain. West Harwood and most of East Lynch were attached to Old Knowle manor and logically ought to have been in Carhampton parish. Allercott was the only Mohun estate in the parish and Stetfold Rocks has no known link with Timberscombe manor.<sup>3</sup> East Lynch is three miles north-west of Timberscombe village, eight miles by road, on the main road between Minehead and Porlock. Stetfold Rocks is six miles south-west of the village bounded by the Winsford and Wheddon Cross to Exford roads and the Larcombe brook. Allercott was only divided from the rest of the parish by a

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<sup>1</sup> M. McDermott and S. Berry (eds), *Edmund Rack's Survey of Somerset* (Taunton, 2011), 90. This article was completed in 2013.

<sup>2</sup> SHC, DD/FR 13.

<sup>3</sup> Below, Landownership.

detached area of Carhampton parish around Beasley and Croydon and West Harwood by a strip of East Harwood, a detached part of Luccombe.<sup>4</sup>

In 1883 East Lynch was transferred to Selworthy and Stetfold Rocks to Cutcombe and East Harwood and detached areas of Carhampton and Dunster including Beasley, Croydon and Cuffs were united with Timberscombe for civil purposes.<sup>5</sup> The parish covered 1,898 a. in 1844<sup>6</sup> but after the exchange of detached areas with neighbouring parishes increased to 2,858 a. (1,155 ha.).<sup>7</sup>

## TOPOGRAPHY

Most of the parish lies on the moderately steep northern slopes of the Brendon Hills and Exmoor composed of Devonian slates, siltstones and sandstones as they fall away to the Avill valley. The high moorland of the common to the east is formed of Hangman Grits, quarried in the 19th century. Timberscombe common occupies the north-west spur of Croydon Hill falling from 230 m. (755 ft) on the boundary to 60 m. (197 ft) at Cowbridge, the lower part known as Blackball Hill. It was registered as common land in 1968.<sup>8</sup> There are pockets of marl, formerly dug and spread on the fields, and sandstone with pebble beds west of the village where the farms lie on the lower slopes of Dunkery Hill rising to 310 m. (1,017 ft) west of West Harwood. Cutting through these are the alluvial valleys of the Avill and its tributaries. To the far

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<sup>4</sup> SHC, tithe award.

<sup>5</sup> Kelly's Dir. Som. (1906).

<sup>6</sup> SHC, tithe award.

<sup>7</sup> Kelly's Dir. Som. (1906); Census (1991).

<sup>8</sup> SHC, D/PC/timb 2/2/8i.

south of Allercott there is a narrow band of limestone, which was formerly quarried, below the parish boundary, which is at 320 m. (1,050 ft).<sup>9</sup>

Detached East Lynch rises from 84 m. (275 ft) on the road up to 270 m. (886 ft) on the south side of North Hill over blue lias to the south and Hangman sandstones to the north. It has no natural boundaries but a small extension on the east allows access to a spring. Stetfold Rocks lies on Avill and Cutcombe slates between 310 and 340 m. (1,017—1,115 ft).<sup>10</sup>

The river Avill flows north-east across the main part of the parish and the surrounding hills are bisected by tributaries notably the Timberscombe stream, sometimes called Chernet,<sup>11</sup> which flows through the eastern side of the parish and the village. Neither the main part of the parish nor the detached areas had natural boundaries but stones and a ditch were used to mark the boundary around the common.<sup>12</sup>

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Roads

Before the 19th century Timberscombe village lay at the junction of the north—south road from Minehead and the road south-west to Exford, which the parish was ordered to repair and stone below West Harwood in 1628—9 and forced to repair again in 1789. The two roads were linked between Allercott and Pitt Bridge by Slade Lane,

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<sup>9</sup> Geol. Surv. Map, 1:50000 sheet 294 solid and drift (1974 edn); SHC, tithe award; OS Map 1:10560, XXXIV. SE (1889 edn); XXXV. SW (1890 edn); OS Map 1:25000, sheet OL9 (2006 edn).

<sup>10</sup> Geol. Surv. Map, 1:50000 sheet 278 solid and drift (1997 edn); OS Map 1:25000, sheet OL9 (2006 edn).

<sup>11</sup> B. & G. Henderson, *The Village of Timberscombe and its Church* (post 1952), 14.

<sup>12</sup> Geol. Surv. Map, 1:50000 sheet 278 solid and drift (1997 edn); OS Map 1:25000, sheet OL9 (2006 edn); SHC, DD/HC 43/13.

which continued north-west as Elscombe Lane to Luccombe and Porlock in the 1820s when the parish successfully resisted liability for its repair. Lanes branched off the main routes to Burrow, Luccombe, Harwood, Wootton Courtney and Dunster via Knowle.<sup>13</sup>

The north—south road, used in 1675 and adopted south of Cowbridge as the first Minehead to Bampton turnpike road in 1765, came through Timberscombe village by the church up the valley through Timberscombe wood and over the hills southwards to Helebridge, Dulverton and was probably an ancient route avoiding the valleys in wet weather. Near the village regular flooding was aggravated by roadside drains for watering fields and overhanging trees. Rack declared that apart from the turnpike the roads in the 1780s were impassable for carriages and bad for horses. There was also a shortage of signage and toll boards. Under an Act of 1822 the turnpike road was moved to a new route west of the church and up the Avill valley along the line of the present main road. In 1827 the old road was disturnpiked.<sup>14</sup> The new route was originally planned to cut off the awkward bends in the village and at Ford Bridge<sup>15</sup> but Timberscombe had to wait until 1989 for a village bypass by and the bad bend at Ford remains.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> SHC, Q/SR 61/119, 358/1/30; Q/SO 15, f. 292; *ibid.* DD/HC 2/20.

<sup>14</sup> SHC, D/T/m 4/1; Dermott and Berry, *Rack's Survey*, 90; J. B. Bentley and B. J. Murless, *Somerset Roads*, I, 49, 51; J. B. Harley and R. W. Dunning, *Somerset Maps* (Som. Rec. Soc. 76), maps 1782, 1822.

<sup>15</sup> SHC, Q/RUp 64.

<sup>16</sup> SHC, D/P/sel 2/8/2.

The road from Great House to Croydon farm, one of many routes across Timberscombe common,<sup>17</sup> was blocked by scrap metal dumps by the mid 20th century. The parish council failed to get the road opened<sup>18</sup> and it is now a bridleway.

### Bridges

None of Timberscombe's bridges was classed as a county bridge but Ford and Pero or Pitt bridges across the Avill, repaired by the parish in the 1790s, were taken over and rebuilt for the new turnpike road in the 1820s.<sup>19</sup> In 1878 the county agreed to take responsibility for them. The village bridge over the Timberscombe stream remained parish responsibility although the county paid half the cost of rebuilding it in 1883 extending the arch the full width of the road.<sup>20</sup> The mill footbridge was said to have been built c. 1903.<sup>21</sup>

### SETTLEMENT

There is little evidence of early settlement although a hillslope enclosure lies in Timberscombe wood, south of the village.<sup>22</sup> However, Timberscombe was probably well settled before the 11th century including farmsteads like Bickham and Bougham,<sup>23</sup> which like Burrow and Well are in well-watered valleys. Allercott may be a late Anglo-Saxon farmstead on marginal land on the hills and West Harwood may represent woodland clearance. The village itself stands at the junction of the

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<sup>17</sup> OS Map 1:63360, sheet (1809 edn); OS Map 1:10560, XLVII. NW (1888 edn).

<sup>18</sup> SHC, D/PC/timb 1/2/3.

<sup>19</sup> SHC, DD/HC 2/20; *ibid.* tithe award.

<sup>20</sup> SHC, Q/AB 11, 13, 17.

<sup>21</sup> SHC, D/PC/timb 1/2/6.

<sup>22</sup> SCC, HER, 35404.

<sup>23</sup> Possibly pronounced 'Bome' as it was also spelt Bowham: SHC, DD/L 1/17/63 and rendered as Rome on OS Map 1:63360, sheet (1809 edn).

Avill and Timberscombe stream valleys with the church on the high ground looking north over the settlement. Of the remote detached areas East Lynch, one of several clusters of early farmsteads on the south slopes of North Hill, lies at the crossing of east—west routes to Selworthy and Deans Lane, a north—south route.<sup>24</sup> Stetfold Rocks, a possible 13th-century moorland assart, was first recorded in 1316.<sup>25</sup>

The village probably originated at the point where the north—south route over the hills crossed the Timberscombe stream and converged with paths accessing the commons to the east and Bickham and other farmsteads to the west. The church stands above this crossing, which was probably originally a large open space around a ford. The subsequent building of a bridge, now a long culvert, and encroaching buildings such as the Red Lion created severe bends in the road, now Brook Street and Church Street, described by Rack as a straggling street.<sup>26</sup> In 1844 houses lined the road from the Rose and Crown to the mill and Bible Christian chapel. The central area was occupied by the island smithy and cottage. From there a side road to the west had a row of houses on the north as far as the vicarage and on the south lay the rectory farm and the school. East of the centre a street of cottages curved up past Great House to a group of cottages called Hole's Square opposite Timberscombe Quarry.<sup>27</sup> In the 19th century many village houses were rebuilt, notably those in the centre demolished for road widening c.1883 and replaced by Jubilee Terrace, presumably completed in 1887.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> OS Map 1:10560, XXXIV. NE (1890 edn).

<sup>25</sup> Ekwall, *Oxford Dict. Eng. Placenames*, 39, 73, 83, 209, 480; *VCH Som.* I, 495, 502—3; *SDNQ*, XXXI, 468; below, landownership and econ. hist.

<sup>26</sup> McDermott and Berry, *Rack's Survey*, 90.

<sup>27</sup> SHC, tithe award.

<sup>28</sup> SHC, Q/AB 17.

Two 'new' houses were recorded in 1710.<sup>29</sup> In the 1780s most houses were of cob, stone and thatch but few survive. They include 18th-century Great House<sup>30</sup> and Marigold House on Great House Street. Great House Farm was virtually rebuilt in the late 19th century when the south range of building was demolished but preserves part of the 18th-century house in the north range now divided off as Yew Tree Cottage.<sup>31</sup> A listed cottage was demolished in 1961 and 17th-century Brook House in the 1970s.<sup>32</sup>

Most development in the 19th and 20th centuries took place behind existing houses, as infill, or alongside the road to Dunster between the village and Cowbridge including large detached houses. Local authority terraced and semi-detached housing was built in the 1930s and 1940s at Bembury Bank west of the school and Willowbank, a new street south of Holes Square. More were built on the site of the rectory farm in 1956 and either side of the road to Dunster at Meadow View and Orchardway in the late 1970s including ten bungalows for the elderly.<sup>33</sup> Streets were named with signs in 1974.<sup>34</sup> In the 1970s a local farmer established the West Somerset Rural Housing Association, which turned the old vicarage into flats and built terraced houses for rent in its grounds, which were added to in 1993. In 1988 there were 150 houses in the parish of which only 17 were holiday homes.<sup>35</sup> In the 1990s concerns were expressed about development in the village, which was beyond the means of local people including homes built for rent. Land for a village green was

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<sup>29</sup> SHC, DD/L 1/42/16.

<sup>30</sup> Below, landownership.

<sup>31</sup> SHC, A/CZH 1.

<sup>32</sup> SHC, D/PC/timb 2/2/3,11.

<sup>33</sup> SHC, D/PC/timb 2/2/3, 17; D/R/wil 24/1/137; *ibid.* A/AGH 1/385.

<sup>34</sup> SHC, D/PC/timb 2/2/11.

<sup>35</sup> SHC, D/PC/timb 2/2/3, 2/2/7; D/P/sel 2/8/2.

created by the bypass in 1989 and named Brewers Green after the previous owner who sold it to the parish.<sup>36</sup>

The 19th-century ‘lost’ settlement of Clicket has attracted a lot of media interest in the early 21st century. It lies in the valley on the boundary with Luxborough east of Allercott and was abandoned c.1890 leaving several ruins. There is one reference to Clicket as a personal name in 1327 but no other record until 1809.<sup>37</sup> There were a farm and a mill on the Luxborough side and in both parishes there were large quarries for whose workers the cottages may have originally been built. In the later 19th century the cottages were inhabited by labouring families who but five cottages had been reduced to three by 1881 and in 1891 all were unoccupied and not even noted in 1911.<sup>38</sup>

## POPULATION

There were 31 poll tax payers in 1377<sup>39</sup> and 75 males signed the 1641 protestation.<sup>40</sup> Popularity of the church with non-parishioners makes register statistics unreliable, however, baptisms doubled between 1710s and 1810s, possibly reflecting an increase in population.<sup>41</sup> There were said to be c.80 houses in the parish in the 1780s and 74 in 1821.<sup>42</sup> The population rose steadily from 356 in 1801 to 476 in 1841 before declining

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<sup>36</sup> SHC, D/PC/timb 1/2/6.

<sup>37</sup> OS Map 1:63360, sheet (1809 edn); OS Map 1:10560, XLVII. NW (1888 edn).

<sup>38</sup> TNA, HO 107/1920; RG 11/2354; RG 12/1864; RG 78/844; R. Sandowver, ‘Clicket, a co-location of habitation’, *PSANHS* 151, 159—64.

<sup>39</sup> C. Fenwick, *Poll taxes 1377, 1379, 1381* (2001), 421.

<sup>40</sup> A. J. Howard and T. L. Stoate (ed.), *Somerset Protestation Returns* (1975), 33.

<sup>41</sup> SHC, D/P/tim 2/1/1—5.

<sup>42</sup> McDermott and Berry, *Rack’s Survey*, 90; C. and J. Greenwood, *Som. Delineated*, 191.

in every decade to 265 by 1901, only 230 within ancient parish, before increasing slowly to 380 in 1981. Housing development saw the total return to 476 in 2001.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Census (1801—2001).

## LANDOWNERSHIP

Timberscombe parish comprised many estates, some attached to manors elsewhere. The disparate landownership may account for the parish being in several detached sections. Bickham may have split from Timberscombe manor before 1066 and later Well manor became separated. All three were brought into common ownership by the early 17th century but in the 1770s William Withycombe sold off many farms including Well and outlying lands, many with their burden of charity rent charges,<sup>44</sup> creating new small freeholds.<sup>45</sup> The remaining estates were absorbed into the Knowle estate, which by 1850 accounted for a third of the parish. The Croydon, Allercott and Acland estates accounted for most of the rest.<sup>46</sup> After the break-up of the Knowle estate in the early 20th century most farms were acquired by local farmers.<sup>47</sup>

## TIMBERSCOMBE MANOR

Before the Conquest Timberscombe was held by Alward, probably the man who held manors throughout Somerset, which were given to Roger Arundel. By 1086 Roger had added to his manor a small estate formerly held by Algar, probably the man who had also held Minehead and Alcombe. Overlordship passed with the barony of Poorstock (Dors.) to the Fitzpayns and after 1354 to the Poynings although John de Mohun claimed 20 a. in 1276.<sup>48</sup> Timberscombe was recorded as a half fee from 1303, a quarter in 1428 and in 1431 two quarters of which one was claimed by three

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<sup>44</sup> Below, soc. hist., char.

<sup>45</sup> SHC, Q/RDd 32.

<sup>46</sup> SHC, tithe award.

<sup>47</sup> SHC, DD/X/LRY 3; DD/IR T/27/2; DD/RI.WL 13.

<sup>48</sup> *VCH Som.*, I, 495; Sanders, *Eng. Baronies*, 72; *Feud. Aids*, IV, 296, 302; L. Landon, *Somersetshire Pleas, 1272—9* (Som. Rec. Soc. 41), 64.

people.<sup>49</sup> By then there was confusion over overlordship. It should have passed to Eleanor Poynings, countess of Northumberland (d. 1482) but in 1375 John Chidioc was overlord of one share and from 1473 the honor of Dunster claimed the overlordship but only in terms of a 2s rent.<sup>50</sup>

Timberscombe manor was probably held by the eponymous family and in the 1170s Adam of Timberscombe paid a fine, presumably on inheriting it.<sup>51</sup> He appears to have been succeeded before 1198 by four sisters and coheirs, Cecily, Christine, Alice and Sarah of Timberscombe,<sup>52</sup> who divided the fee into four parts. One was held by Geoffrey Kitnor (fl. 1227). He or a namesake died in 1276 and was succeeded by his son William of Kitnor (fl. 1284).<sup>53</sup> A second share had passed to Adam of Washford by 1236 and c.1276 Christine of Washford, probably his daughter, conveyed her lands presumably including her share of Timberscombe to Adam of Bawdrip. A third share passed to Robert de Vigore before 1236 and a fourth to Robert of Ludham, possibly Richard of Cloutsham who held it in 1276 when only three shares were recorded.<sup>54</sup> In 1284 the four holders were named as Richard of Cloutsham, William of Kitnor, Eudes of Domelton and Geoffrey le Tort, but in 1303 and 1346 only two owners were recorded.<sup>55</sup>

Geoffrey le Tort's share descended to his son Ralph (fl. 1303), and although Ralph's heir Lawrence le Tort settled his estates after his death on Andrew Ralegh,

<sup>49</sup> Feud. Aids, IV, 302, 341; VI, 431

<sup>50</sup> Cal Inq p.m. xiv, p. 249; H. C. Maxwell-Lyte, Historical Notes on some Somerset manors formerly connected with the Honor of Dunster (Som. Rec. Soc. extra ser.), 74—7; SHC, DD/L 1/10/35B—C.

<sup>51</sup> Pipe R 1175—6, (PRS 25), 157; Pipe R 1176—7, (PRS 26), 19

<sup>52</sup> Below, rel. hist.

<sup>53</sup> E. Green, Feet of Fines 1196—1307 (Som. Rec. Soc. 6), 134; Landon, Som. Pleas, 1272—9, 64, 128; VCH Somerset, Pole MS 1080; Feud. Aids, IV, 296.

<sup>54</sup> Bk of Fees, ii, 581; VCH Som, V, 21; Landon, Som. Pleas, 1272—9, 64.

<sup>55</sup> Feud. Aids, IV, 296, 302, 341.

John le Tort was given as holder of the quarter fee in 1346. However, by 1428 it was held with Knowle in Carhampton by the Raleigh family.<sup>56</sup>

Richard of Cloutsham's share was held by William of Cloutsham in 1428 and 1431 and appears to have then formed the separate manor of Well. Eudes of Domelton's heir was unnamed in 1346 but Michael de Waddon termed himself lord of Timberscombe in 1323. It is possible that this was the share held by Robert Biccombe in 1428 and absorbed into the Bickham estate.<sup>57</sup>

William of Kitnor's share passed to Maurice of Kitnor and his wife Alice who in 1326 settled their estate on John of Bratton<sup>58</sup> presumably in trust although Thomas Bratton was returned as a fee holder in 1428<sup>59</sup> John Whyton (d. 1375), heir to the Kitnors, held rents from John Chidiok by knight service. His heir was his daughter Joan Whyton an infant and his wife also Joan (d. 1412) later married Sir Thomas Hungerford. In 1404 John Bochell and his wife Isabel released their rights in Timberscombe to Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Pauncefoot and Margaret wife of Henry Sydenham,<sup>60</sup> described as daughters of John Whyton in 1412 but presumably his granddaughters.<sup>61</sup> Walter Pauncefoot son of Elizabeth was returned as holder of part of the fee in 1428 but by 1431 his cousin John Sydenham, son of Margaret, had replaced him, probably having purchased Walter's estate.<sup>62</sup>

Thereafter the Sydenham share was described as the manor of Timberscombe. John (d. 1468) was followed under settlements by his widow Joan (d. 1472) and his

<sup>56</sup> *Feud. Aids*, IV, 296, 302, 341, 390; above, Carhampton, landownership

<sup>57</sup> *Feud. Aids*, IV, 302, 341, 390, VI, 431; SHC, DD/CC/B 110025/35; below, this section.

<sup>58</sup> E. Green, *Feet of Fines 1307—46* (Som. Rec. Soc. 12), 156.

<sup>59</sup> Above, Minehead, landownership; *Feud. Aids*, IV, 390.

<sup>60</sup> Maxwell-Lyte, *Somerset manors*, 72—3; E. Green, *Feet of Fines 1399—1485* (Som. Rec. Soc. 22), 16—17.

<sup>61</sup> *Cal. Inq. P.M.* XIX, p. 345.

<sup>62</sup> *Feud. Aids*, IV, 390. J. Collinson, *Hist. Som.* (1791), ii. 38.

son Walter's widow Margaret (d. 1477)<sup>63</sup> who was followed by her son John Sydenham (d. 1542). His son Sir John (d. 1557) was succeeded by Sir John who in 1567 to Robert Hill of Heligan, Cornw.<sup>64</sup> Robert (d. 1574) was succeeded by his grandson Maurice who in 1597 conveyed Timberscombe to John Trevelyan in trust for himself, his wife Margaret and his cousin and heir Richard Hill. Trevelyan held the courts and the trust was renewed in 1603 and 1605 and in 1625 John's son George was appointed trustee. Sir Richard (d. 1627) had no children and settled his estate on his nephew Anthony Hill who held Timberscombe for one fee and Bickham for ¼ fee.<sup>65</sup> In the 1640s Anthony sold small properties in the manor, mainly in Cutcombe parish.<sup>66</sup> Sir Richard Hill's sister Margaret had married Thomas Elsworthy<sup>67</sup> and Anthony Hill, who was also childless, left Timberscombe manor in 1646 to Margaret's grandson Richard Elsworthy.<sup>68</sup>

Richard Elsworthy died in 1701—2 leaving a son Richard under age in the care of his mother Penelope who married the Revd Ralph Coombes.<sup>69</sup> The younger Richard died in 1714 leaving two sisters Elizabeth, who married and predeceased George Fursdon (d. 1740), and Penelope, who married first Revd Charles Snape and secondly Edward Tushingam but had no children. Charles Snape settled Penelope's share on his brother the Revd Andrew if they had no children but he released his claim in 1738. Edward Tushingam mortgaged his wife's share and after his death Elizabeth's son, George Sydenham Fursdon, repaid the debt in 1742. Penelope

<sup>63</sup> Maxwell-Lyte, *Somerset manors*, 75; *Cat. Anc. D.* iv, p. 397 A 9150.

<sup>64</sup> Maxwell-Lyte, *Somerset manors*, 75; TNA, C 142/114/23; *ibid.* CP 25/2/204/14 Eliz. Hil.; SHC, DD/FR 3.

<sup>65</sup> TNA, CP 25/2/207/39&40 Eliz.; SHC, DD/FR 2, 4—5; Maxwell-Lyte, *Honor of Dunster*, 332.

<sup>66</sup> SHC, DD/FR 13.

<sup>67</sup> SHC, DD/FR 4.

<sup>68</sup> The family used the forms Elsworthy, Elsworth and Ellsworth.

<sup>69</sup> SHC, DD/FR 4, 14; TNA, C 11/259/35.

Tushingam (d. 1746) left her estates her nephew who thereafter held the whole estate.<sup>70</sup> The manor estate was united with Bickham<sup>71</sup> and George Sydenham Fursdon sold the combined estate in 1757 to William Withycombe.<sup>72</sup> In 1775 William, who had mortgaged his manors to Isaac Elton in 1765, sold some farms and outlying lands<sup>73</sup> including to Sir Thomas Dyke Acland who was erroneously said to be lord of the manor in the 1780s.<sup>74</sup>

William Withycombe died in 1796 leaving his estate to his friend John Needham (d. 1809). John's wife Lelia died in 1833 and their son John having mortgaged Bickham in 1830 and borrowed further sums in 1832 and 1833<sup>75</sup> sold it c.1834 to Peter John Locke King. It was sold c.1846 to James Hole and thereafter descended with the owners of the Knowle estate until the early 20th century when the farms were sold off but the lordships were held by Margaret, Constance and Audrey, daughters of Henry Ryder, 4th earl of Harrowby and tenants of Knowle House.<sup>76</sup>

No manor house was identified but the Old Hall was recorded in 1581 as in the manor and adjoining Bickham Farm,<sup>77</sup> which stands south-west of the village and was later regarded as the manor house of Timberscombe.<sup>78</sup> The Home Living, recorded by 1686 may have been the demesne farm and its fields were interspersed with many of those given to the church. The farmstead, immediately east of the church, is now known as Great House Farm. In 1775 the reversion was sold with

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<sup>70</sup> SHC, DD/FR 5—6, 13, 17; TNA, C 11/259/35.

<sup>71</sup> Below, this section.

<sup>72</sup> SHC, DD/FR 4; TNA, CP 25/2/1399/17 Geo. III, East.

<sup>73</sup> SHC, Q/RDd 32.

<sup>74</sup> M. McDermott and S. Berry, *Edmund Rack's Survey of Somerset* (Taunton, 2011), 90.

<sup>75</sup> SHC, DD/FR 7—8, 17—18; A/CVL 32.

<sup>76</sup> SHC, tithe award; *ibid.* DD/X/LRY 3; DD/RI.WL 13; Maxwell-Lyte, *Honor of Dunster*, 77; above, Carhampton, landownership.

<sup>77</sup> SHC, DD/FR 16.

<sup>78</sup> Below, this section.

other property by William Withycombe to James Merchant (d. 1814) whose son Nathaniel (d.1838)<sup>79</sup> was succeeded by his daughter Sarah Ann who married Henry Clarke of London. The estate was divided and let and later passed through several hands. It may have been Nathaniel who gave the name Great House to his house on the north-eastern edge of the village.<sup>80</sup> It was probably built by William Withycombe or his tenant William Baker in the mid 18th century although it was always let or sublet<sup>81</sup> and was described by Rack as a ‘pretty white house’.<sup>82</sup> Great House has a symmetrical three-storey, five-bay front. The roughcast is grooved to imitate ashlar with flat string courses and cornice and there are prominent quoins on one corner. The house has later additions to the side and rear with 20th-century windows but a staircase and panelling survive inside. It is now holiday accommodation.

## BICKHAM

In 1066 two thegns held Bickham and in 1086 it was held by Richard under William de Mohun augmented by the addition of the small estate of an unknown thegn. Despite its small size it had nine tenants in 1086 and was a knight’s fee held of the honor of Dunster in the late 13th century.<sup>83</sup>

In the 13th century there appear to have been at least two estates at Bickham, one was probably held by Alfred of Biccombe fl. 1201—2<sup>84</sup> and the other was in Timberscombe manor and at least partly given to Dunster priory whose prior granted

<sup>79</sup> SHC, D/P/timb 2/1/1; *ibid.* Q/RDd 32; Q/REI 8/10; *ibid.* A/CVL 46; *ibid.* tithes award.

<sup>80</sup> SHC, Q/REI 8/10; *ibid.* A/CVL 1/5; A/AKK 11; *ibid.* tithes award; TNA, HO 107/936.

<sup>81</sup> J. B. Harley and R. W. Dunning, *Somerset Maps* (Som. Rec. Soc. 76), maps 1782; Devon RO, 4770M/E 1.

<sup>82</sup> McDermott and Berry, *Rack’s Survey*, 90.

<sup>83</sup> *VCH Som.*, I, 502; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* II, 178.

<sup>84</sup> Maxwell-Lyte, *Honor of Dunster*, 12, 16.

it to Richard son of William le Tort in the 1240s for an annuity.<sup>85</sup> Robert of Biccombe was holding a fee at Bickham by 1279,<sup>86</sup> although c.1286 he was said to hold one third with another third share held by Geoffrey le Tort.<sup>87</sup> In 1607 it was said that the Biccombe share was three quarters of the estate.<sup>88</sup>

By 1329 Robert was succeeded by a namesake who held a third of a fee in 1330.<sup>89</sup> His heir was John Biccombe who in 1346 acquired a life interest in land at Bickham belonging to John Leddred. In 1367 Ledred conveyed it to William Biccombe and his wife Christine who may have released it to Robert Biccombe.<sup>90</sup> John Biccombe married Iseult of Crowcombe and in 1354 gave a £10 annuity out of their estates to bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury.<sup>91</sup> John was followed by Robert (d. c.1401), Richard<sup>92</sup> a minor (d. c.1457), although Thomas Worth who married Robert's widow had a life interest, and Richard's son Hugh (d. 1459).<sup>93</sup> Hugh Biccombe was succeeded in the direct male line by Robert and Richard (both d.1523) and Richard's son Hugh (d. 1568) who left two daughters Elizabeth wife of Thomas Carew and Maud wife of Hugh Smyth.<sup>94</sup> Maud took Timberscombe as her share and sold them in 1570 to John Worth, the tenant, supposedly for Robert Hill who provided the money.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>85</sup> W. Hunt, *Cartularies of Bath Priory* (Som. Rec. Soc. 7), ii. 55.

<sup>86</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* II, 178.

<sup>87</sup> F. H. Dickinson, *Kirby's Quest etc.* (Som. Rec. Soc. 3), 37.

<sup>88</sup> SHC, DD/FR 16.

<sup>89</sup> Maxwell-Lyte, *Somerset manors*, 67; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VII, 220.

<sup>90</sup> SHC, DD/SAS PD 99/1, 3.

<sup>91</sup> T. S. Holmes (ed.), *Register of Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury* (Som. Rec. Soc. 10), p. 745.

<sup>92</sup> Named Robert in presentment in 1407: SHC, DD/L P31/3.

<sup>93</sup> *VCH Som.*, V, 57; SHC, DD/L P4/43, P5/4; DD/FR 1; Maxwell-Lyte, *Honor of Dunster*, 110—11, 119, 121, 129, 228.

<sup>94</sup> *VCH Som.*, V, 57; SHC, DD/FR 1.

<sup>95</sup> SHC, DD/FR 1, 16.

Geoffrey le Tort was succeeded by Ralph le Tort (fl 1294—1313) whose widow married John Durborough before 1330<sup>96</sup> and apparently settled the estate on him. In 1352 John was succeeded by his son Hugh.<sup>97</sup> Sir Hugh Durborough's son Ralph sold Bickham to Roger Helier in 1391. Before 1439 Roger had sold it to John Sydenham, lord of Timberscombe who let it to the Bickham family.<sup>98</sup> In 1567 a successor, also John Sydenham, granted his Timberscombe estate to Robert Hill in exchange for lands in South Somerset although the transaction was only completed in 1578 for the benefit of Robert's grandson Maurice Hill because John Worth was occupying the estate, which was only recovered after much litigation.<sup>99</sup> Thereafter Bickham descended as a single estate with Timberscombe manor<sup>100</sup> although in 1646 Anthony Hill, left Bickham, held as a quarter fee, to a kinsman Anthony (fl. 1668) son of John Hill from whom it passed to another kinsman Richard Elsworthy of Timberscombe manor and in 1681 Susan Burrough daughter and heir of John Hill and sister of Anthony released her claim.<sup>101</sup>

Although Bickham belonged to the Sydenhams and their successors the Hills it was occupied on long leases by members of the Worth family despite attempts to oust them. John Worth (d. 1647) left Bickham to his daughter Elizabeth who married Francis Moore. In 1668 Moore assigned Bickham to Richard Elsworthy and in 1679

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<sup>96</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VII, 220.

<sup>97</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* X, 17.

<sup>98</sup> SHC, DD/SAS PD 99/4—5, 8—9.

<sup>99</sup> SHC, DD/FR 1—2.

<sup>100</sup> Above, this section.

<sup>101</sup> Maxwell-Lyte, *Honor of Dunster*, 332; SHC, DD/FR 4.

Elizabeth's daughters Rachel Cheeke and Bridget Moore released their claims.<sup>102</sup>

Thereafter Bickham remained with Timberscombe manor.<sup>103</sup>

Bickham House or Manor, known as Bickhams in the 1780s when it had 'pretty' gardens,<sup>104</sup> probably dates from the 16th century or earlier but was remodelled in the 17th century from which survives an L-shaped roughcast rubble and slate cross-passage house of two storeys with attics. A reference to the chamber within the gallery in 1626 may indicate a former long gallery.<sup>105</sup> A large south-west wing, demolished after 1916, had a Jacobean oak staircase, three heated bedchambers and its own entrance over a cellar said to have been the Needham's chapel and furnished with panelled doors. In the 18th century a north-west wing was added and a roughly symmetrical seven-bay north-west front with 12-paned sash windows was created presumably by William Withycombe. He was probably also responsible for installing a new north entrance, round gable windows and the Chinese Chippendale style staircase with dog-gate and balustrade between colonnettes. A carved frieze and 16th-century panelling were introduced into one room. After the 1916 sale, probably c. 1924,<sup>106</sup> the long south-west wing was replaced by a large square extension to the main range with a north-west loggia.<sup>107</sup>

## WELL

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<sup>102</sup> SHC, DD/FR 1—4, 13, 16; DD/HCK 9/1/13; DD/SAS PD 99/18.

<sup>103</sup> Above, this section.

<sup>104</sup> McDermott and Berry (eds) *Rack's Survey*, 90. Large garden walls survive west of the house.

<sup>105</sup> SHC, DD/HCK 9/1/13.

<sup>106</sup> SHC, A/AOA 1; *ibid.* D/R/wil 24/1/51.

<sup>107</sup> SHC, DD/SAS H/528/24; DD/CND 2/3/30; *ibid.* tithe award; OS Map 1:10560, XLVI. NE (1890 edn).

Although later described as manor Well was apparently divided between an estate in Timberscombe manor and one held of Luxborough Everard manor. The latter part of Well was granted in the 13th century by Henry Everard who had received it from his brother William, to William's son Robert Everard in return for a rent of white gloves. In 1520 John Foster as kinsman and heir of Simon Foster did homage for Well held as 1/20th fee as of Thomas Everard's manor of Luxborough Everard but may also have held the rest of Well.<sup>108</sup>

Well in Timberscombe manor was probably the part fee held in 1285 by Richard Cloutsham, son of Richard, who was followed by John Cloutsham.<sup>109</sup> William Cloutsham held it in 1428 but was executed for treason before 1451.<sup>110</sup> In 1453 when his successor and namesake settled Well on himself, his wife Margaret and their issue with remainder to John Sydenham and his wife Joan who c.1457 conveyed it to John Sydenham who was leased back to them and their daughter Margaret.<sup>111</sup> In 1473 the lands were settled on Walter Sydenham's widow Margaret for life and then on the heirs of John Sydenham of Brympton (d. 1468).<sup>112</sup> Subsequent descent is unclear but included Simon Foster and his son John (fl. 1520).<sup>113</sup>

Well came into the hands of William Whiting before he died in 1568.<sup>114</sup> His successor was probably Thomas (d. by 1595) who was in possession by 1587<sup>115</sup> and left Well to his son William. In 1595 William with his mother Joan and brother

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<sup>108</sup> SHC, DD/WY 7/V1.

<sup>109</sup> *Feud. Aids*, IV, 296; Dickinson, *Kirby's Quest*, 247; C.E.H. Chadwyck Healey, *The History of Part of West Somerset* (1901), 43.

<sup>110</sup> *Cal Fine R.* 1422—30, 218; *Cal. Pat.* 1452—61, 93; SHC, DD/BR/by 1.

<sup>111</sup> SHC, DD/SAS PD 99/11, 13.

<sup>112</sup> *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, A 9150.

<sup>113</sup> SHC, DD/WY 7/V1.

<sup>114</sup> TNA, C 142/148/34.

<sup>115</sup> SHC, DD/FR 3.

George conveyed the manor of Well and Timberscombe to Richard Keene of Burton and a house and 60 a. to Conand Prowse and in 1597 Joan and George released their claims to Keene. Both Keene and Prowse mortgaged their purchases.<sup>116</sup> The web of mortgages, some concealed, is difficult to unravel and Prowse is said to have acquired the manor from Keene but a sale of detached fields in 1598 required William Whiting and his brothers and Rich Keene as parties.<sup>117</sup>

In 1602 Conand Prowse sold Well manor to Richard Hill who held a mortgage of 1600<sup>118</sup> and Richard Keene released his interests in 1608.<sup>119</sup> The manor of Well was thereafter held with Timberscombe, often called Timberscombe and Well manor, although 17th-century leases specified the manor in which holdings lay and liability for the wall north of the churchyard still attached to Well.<sup>120</sup> Although in 1646 Anthony Hill left Well manor to his kinsman Anthony Elsworthy it was again held with Timberscombe by 1671.<sup>121</sup> Well house and farm were sold in 1775 to Montagu Bere Baker Bere (d. c.1804) whose representatives sold it to James Hole of Knowle c.1821<sup>122</sup> and it became part of that estate.

In 1587 Thomas Whyting let Well manor house to a kinsman and demanded suit of court there.<sup>123</sup> It was described as a manor house in 1765<sup>124</sup> but a new house was built in the late 19th century. The old house was rendered under a thatched roof and faced south-east. It was a two-storey, four-bay, cross-passage house with two

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<sup>116</sup> SHC, DD/FR 1—3, 14; TNA, CP 25/2/207/37 Eliz I. Trin.

<sup>117</sup> SHC, DD/FR 2—3, 14; DD/HCK 9/1/13.

<sup>118</sup> SHC, DD/FR 3; TNA, C3/275/17, C 3/260/15.

<sup>119</sup> SHC, DD/FR 2.

<sup>120</sup> SHC, DD/FR 4, 13; DD/HCK 9/1/13; D/D/Ppb 91; TNA C3/171/32; above this section.

<sup>121</sup> SHC, D/P/timb 4/1/1; DD/FR 4, 7—8; above, this section.

<sup>122</sup> SHC, Q/RE1 8/10; *ibid.* tithe award; Devon RO, 4770/E1—2; above, Carhampton, landownership.

<sup>123</sup> SHC, DD/FR 3.

<sup>124</sup> SHC, DD/FR 7.

later front wings, probably non-domestic, enclosing three sides of a garden court. In 1916 the east wing, a former granary with a gable door, was approached by an outside stair. The whole complex was later demolished.<sup>125</sup>

## ALLERCOTT

In 1066 Allercott was held by Leofwin who lost both it and Myne in Minehead to William de Mohun. In 1086 it was held by Durand under William.<sup>126</sup> Its medieval ownership is unclear but was probably held by the Everards with Luxborough and they certainly held it by 1430.<sup>127</sup> After the death of Thomas Everard (d. 1520) Allercott manor was held by trustees who c.1540 leased it to John Trevelyan who was challenged in 1544 by Thomas's grandson William Everard in the Star Chamber but in 1554 William released his claim.<sup>128</sup> Further litigation ended with John Trevelyan absorbing Allercott into his manor of Old Knowle in Carhampton.<sup>129</sup>

In 1543 Margaret Byfyn of North Petherton held a messuage and lands at Allercott which she and her son William let to John Trevelyan. Presumably the owners of Knowle later acquired the freehold.<sup>130</sup>

Disputes within the family over Old Knowle possibly led to the loss of Allercott which was once more claimed as part of Luxborough Everard manor by the 1610s. Allercott farm (250 a.) was held by Thomas Pearse of Minehead (d. 1610) and his son Walter who came of age c.1615. Walter was dead by 1639 when Allercott was

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<sup>125</sup> TNA, IR 58/62859; SHC, DD/X/LRY 3.

<sup>126</sup> VCH Som. I, 503.

<sup>127</sup> SHC, DD/WY 7/Z1c/18; above, Carhampton, landownership.

<sup>128</sup> SHC, DD/WO 32/5/1; DD/WY 8/Z1n; TNA, STAC 2/14/182—7.

<sup>129</sup> TNA, C3/177/26; SHC, DD/WO 4/1/8; above, Carhampton, landownership.

<sup>130</sup> S. W. Bates Harbin (ed.), Somerset Enrolled Deeds (Som. Rec. Soc. 51), p. 13; SHC, DD/WY 8/Z1n.

held by his daughter Isott, wife of Robert Quirke of Minehead.<sup>131</sup> The Quirke family retained it until 1744 or later<sup>132</sup> but had been succeeded by James Taylor by 1804.<sup>133</sup> In 1844 the whole of Allercott belonged to the Revd Henry Taylor of Dulverton.<sup>134</sup> By 1910 220-a. farm belonged to F. Notley Hosegood who remained the owner in the 1940s although it was requisitioned in both world wars.<sup>135</sup>

## BOUGHAM

In 1384 Hugh Durburgh held Boughamscombe, presumably with Escott in Carhampton,<sup>136</sup> and by 1450 it belonged to John Hamelyn.<sup>137</sup> In the 16th century the capital message of Bougham and its lands were disputed between John Downe and his wife Katharine and John Keper and Thomas Greene.<sup>138</sup> In 1609 it was part of Timberscombe manor,<sup>139</sup> and by 1786 was held with Well.<sup>140</sup> However, by 1833 it had passed to Robert Hole of Croydon in Carhampton and descended as part of that estate.<sup>141</sup> The farmstead has been demolished.

## BURROW

Burrow or Borough, with Pitt and Combe, in the far west of the parish was possibly originally part of Timberscombe manor but from 1606 or earlier to 1693 it was

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<sup>131</sup> SHC, DD/WY 8/Z1n; TNA, C 142/512/617.

<sup>132</sup> SHC, D/P/timb 2/1/1; TNA, C 11/2269/13.

<sup>133</sup> SHC, DD/L 1/5/18.

<sup>134</sup> SHC, tithe award; *ibid.* D/D/Ppb 93.

<sup>135</sup> SHC, DD/IR 27/2; DD/RI.WL 13; TNA, MAF 142/39.

<sup>136</sup> BL, Harl. Ch. 49G6 cited in SHC, DD/HCK 9/1/13; above, Carhampton, landownership.

<sup>137</sup> SHC, DD/L P40/3/9.

<sup>138</sup> TNA, C2/Eliz/D10/42.

<sup>139</sup> SHC, DD/FR 21; D/P/tim 2/1/1.

<sup>140</sup> SHC, Q/REI 8/10.

<sup>141</sup> SHC, tithe award; *ibid.* Q/REI 8/10; *ibid.* DD/IR T/27/2; above, Carhampton, landownership.

occupied by the Bryant family as a copyhold of Well manor,<sup>142</sup> usually with Leaseholt, now Venn's Cottage, with 50 a. and 55 a. of overland called Caddice or Cadys.<sup>143</sup>

By 1699 the freehold of Burrow, Caddice and Leaseholt, had been acquired by John Gardner of Brompton Regis (d. 1738)<sup>144</sup> and was settled on his marriage to Mary Cording. In 1752 their daughter Jane Webber conveyed it to her son William who took the name Gardiner under the terms of his grandfather's will.<sup>145</sup> William remained in possession in 1786 when Burrow was the second most highly taxed estate in the parish but before 1802 it had been sold to the Holes of Knowle.<sup>146</sup>

The house was replaced before 1910 by an 'Old English country house' with beamed dining room, 'artistic' drawing room and modern stone and slate farmbuildings apart from an 'ancient Early-English building' with oak tracery windows used as a stable. Venn's Cottage opposite had been improved as an 'artistically decorated', white stucco cottage.<sup>147</sup>

## COWBRIDGE

With East Lynch and West Harwood, Cowbridge was part of Old Knowle manor by the 1320s.<sup>148</sup> Only a single copyhold tenement was recorded in 1526,<sup>149</sup> for which labour service was still demanded in 1627,<sup>150</sup> but a leasehold tenement was attached

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<sup>142</sup> SHC, DD/FR 13, 21; DD/HCK 9/1/13.

<sup>143</sup> SHC, D/P/timb 2/1/1; TNA, C 1/530/31; C5/396/46.

<sup>144</sup> SHC, D/D/Ppb 91.

<sup>145</sup> SHC, DD/MAL 2/1; 5.

<sup>146</sup> SHC, Q/RE1 8/10; *ibid.* tithe award.

<sup>147</sup> TNA, IR 58/82659; SHC, DD/X/LRY 3.

<sup>148</sup> E. Green (ed.), *Feet of Fines 1307—46* (Som. Rec. Soc. 12), p. 124; SHC, DD/WO 6/1.

<sup>149</sup> SHC, DD/WO 49/2.

<sup>150</sup> SHC, DD/FR 15.

to Cowbridge mill by 1561.<sup>151</sup> The mill tenement remained part of Knowle but the copyhold was acquired by the Aclands probably before 1747 and descended with Avill in Dunster.<sup>152</sup> In 1686 Margery Morley left a freehold called Sages at Cowbridge to her nephew Alexander Morley (d. c.1731) who was followed by his eldest son John.<sup>153</sup> Later in the 18th century Sages passed to the Portman family, tenants of the Aclands, but was acquired by the owners of Knowle before 1819 and let with the mill tenement to the Avis family.<sup>154</sup> Neighbouring Stentwell was part of Old Knowle manor in 1517 and 1526<sup>155</sup> but by 1747 it had been sold to the Aclands and its identity lost.<sup>156</sup>

#### EAST LYNCH

East Lynch,<sup>157</sup> was recorded as a freehold of Old Knowle manor by c.1320<sup>158</sup> and lordship was acknowledged by capon rents.<sup>159</sup> However, some land there was held of the manors of Bossington and Bratton and the lords of East Lucombe claimed rights in the 1550s.<sup>160</sup>

Waryn son of Thomas Grym, inherited East Lynch from Thomas's brother Roger Grym and c.1320 he released it to John son of John of Huish.<sup>161</sup> Descent is

<sup>151</sup> SHC, DD/WO 4/1/9.

<sup>152</sup> SHC, Q/REI 8/10; *ibid.* tithe award.

<sup>153</sup> SHC, D/P/timb 2/1/1; M. Siraut, *Somerset Wills* (Som. Rec. Soc. 89), 163.

<sup>154</sup> SHC, Q/REI 8/10; *ibid.* DD/WO 35/20/9; *ibid.* tithe award.

<sup>155</sup> SHC, DD/WO 1/125, 49/2.

<sup>156</sup> Ravenhill and Rowe, *Maps and Surveys*, 52.

<sup>157</sup> Detached from rest of Timberscombe between West Lynch in Selworthy and Tortislynch, now Venniford, in Minehead: above, Minehead, landownership.

<sup>158</sup> SHC, DD/WY 7/Z1c/4.

<sup>159</sup> SHC, DD/WO 1/125, 6/1, 32/9/13; above, Carhampton, landownership.

<sup>160</sup> C.E.H. Chadwyck Healey, *The History of Part of West Somerset* (1901), 15, 77n, 226; SHC, A/BNI 8/42.

<sup>161</sup> SHC, DD/WY 7/Z1c/4.

unclear but an estate was held by the Everards by 1348.<sup>162</sup> In 1653 it was claimed that Godfrey Frank had acquired East Lynch from Roger of Woodcombe and his son John before 1361 and settled it on his wife Edith. Godfrey was reputedly followed in the direct male line by Roger, William, John, Walter and John who had Walter, John, Robert and Alexander.<sup>163</sup> John Frank (d. by c.1528) also had a daughter Elizabeth who married John Sydenham (d. 1562), owner of half of East Lynch.<sup>164</sup> Their son Sir John sold all his Timberscombe land to Robert Hill c.1567.<sup>165</sup>

Walter Frank owner of the other half had been succeeded by John in 1556 when both holdings owed knight service and token rents.<sup>166</sup> John Frank (d. 1584) was succeeded by his son Walter<sup>167</sup> who died before 1620 leaving children Walter and Bridget. Walter's widow Ursula held outlived her son Walter who died childless c.1624.<sup>168</sup> Walter's heir Robert Franck (d. c.1653) was to have married Wilmot daughter of Robert Siderfin of Venniford who obtained the estate and retained it despite litigation by Robert's brother Alexander and Philip Spurrier, heir to Bridget, who had held the capital messuage in 1654 in return for an annuity.<sup>169</sup>

Robert Siderfin may also have acquired the Sydenham holding from the Hills as his son Robert (d. 1689) held the whole of East Lynch. He left land to his son William but his son Robert (d. c.1739) occupied East Lynch.<sup>170</sup> Alice Siderfin, like her predecessors, leased Higher Lynch from Lord Arundel of Trerice in 1748 and the

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<sup>162</sup> SHC, DD/X/JF 15; DD/HCK 9/1/15.

<sup>163</sup> SHC, DD/HCK 9/1/13, 16; DD/L P36/7/3.

<sup>164</sup> SHC, DD/WO 1/125; DD/HCK 9/1/13, 16; VCH Som, V, 173.

<sup>165</sup> TNA C3/171/32; above, this section,

<sup>166</sup> SHC, DD/WO 49/3.

<sup>167</sup> TNA, C 142/204/102; SHC, D/D/Rg 362/2.

<sup>168</sup> SHC, DD/HCK 9/1/13

<sup>169</sup> SHC, DD/HCK 9/1/13; TNA, C5/395/215; Devon RO, 49/9/1/687.

<sup>170</sup> SHC, DD/MAL 14/1; D/P/timb 2/1/1; *ibid.* A/BNI 8/42.

Bossington manor land from Sir Thomas Dyke Acland in 1749. Her freehold had passed to the Aclands by 1775 when Sir Thomas added to the farm Blakeley, the last field at East Lynch in Timberscombe manor and in 1811 the reversion of Deans, a block of land beside the Minehead boundary that John Giles bought from Timberscombe manor in 1598.<sup>171</sup> East Lynch thereafter descended with the Holnicote estate.<sup>172</sup>

East Lynch farmhouse was built in the late 19th century but a barn known as Chapel is evidently a 16th-century house. East Lynch cottage, Higher House in 1844, was built c.1315 of cob and thatch with a cruck roof and was converted into a three room, cross-passage house in the late 16th or early 17th century.<sup>173</sup>

#### WEST HARWOOD

West Harwood was part of Old Knowle manor, Carhampton by 1327 although as late as c.1720 the owner paid a separate Candlemas rent to Dunster for it,<sup>174</sup> and comprised four copyhold tenements and a freehold.<sup>175</sup> The freehold was probably the house and half a carucate of land held in 1329 by Henry of Harwood,<sup>176</sup> who may have been succeeded before 1346 by Nicholas of Harwood.<sup>177</sup> William grandson and heir of John Harwood had interests there in the 1540s.<sup>178</sup> In 1556 it was held by John

<sup>171</sup> SHC, DD/FR 2; *ibid.* Q/REI 8/10; *ibid.* tithe award; Devon RO, 1148M/add 2/74, 8/2.

<sup>172</sup> Devon RO, 1148M/add 2/74; SHC, A/BNI 8/42; *ibid.* Q/REI 8/10; *ibid.* tithe award.

<sup>173</sup> SHC, DD/V/WIr 21.2; *ibid.* A/BNI 8/42.

<sup>174</sup> SHC, DD/WO 6/1; DD/L 1/40/23/3.

<sup>175</sup> SHC, DD/WO 4/1/1—3, 6; 49/2—3; TNA, C 1/1164/30; *ibid.* STAC 3/4/38.

<sup>176</sup> SHC, DD/WO 6/1.

<sup>177</sup> SHC, DD/WY 7/Z1c/14. Apparently he also held East Harwood of Luccombe manor: Chadwyck Healey, *Hist. Part W. Som.* 53.

<sup>178</sup> TNA, C 1/1132/5.

Pers but in 1588 Henry Harwood was in possession.<sup>179</sup> By 1747 the freehold had been sold to the owners of Knowle and West Harwood was a single leasehold farm.<sup>180</sup> The three-room, cross-passage house, probably of the early 17th century, was enlarged to eight bedrooms and refronted in the early 19th century and altered again in the 20th century.<sup>181</sup>

## SMALLACOMBE

Nicholas of Harwood released unspecified lands to Cleeve Abbey in 1346,<sup>182</sup> possibly including Smallacombe, which the abbey held with its adjoining Oaktrow estate in Cutcombe until the Dissolution.<sup>183</sup> In 1540 Henry VIII granted it to John Wyndham (d. 1574) and his wife Elizabeth Sydenham. They appear to have settled it in 1564 on a younger son Humphrey, who held it in 1598 as a freehold of Timberscombe, Well and Luxborough manors.<sup>184</sup>

Humphrey had no male heirs but it was held by Thomas Pearse (d. 1616) and his son Walter from the Wyndhams of Kentsford,<sup>185</sup> descendants of Humphrey's brother Edmund, until the latter's great great grandson, also Edmund Wyndham, died childless in 1698. By the 1740s it was part of the Acland's Oaktrow estate, with which it had often been farmed, and the farmstead was abandoned.<sup>186</sup>

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<sup>179</sup> SHC, DD/WO 49/3; DD/FR 20; TNA, C 1/1164/30; *ibid.* STAC 3/4/38.

<sup>180</sup> SHC, DD/L 1/60/18/1.

<sup>181</sup> TNA, IR 58/82659.

<sup>182</sup> SHC, DD/WY 7/Z1c/14.

<sup>183</sup> TNA, C 1/321/2; *Valor Eccl.* I, 217.

<sup>184</sup> *VCH Som.*, V, 155; *Cal. Pat.* 1563—6, p. 142; SHC, DD/WO 6/1; DD/SAS PD 99/18

<sup>185</sup> TNA, C 142/512/617.

<sup>186</sup> TNA, C6/377/57; SHC, DD/WO 5/1/44—5, 5/2/1—2, 6/2—3; DD/WY 47/1/3; *VCH Som.*, V, 155; Ravenhill and Rowe, *Maps and Surveys*, 53; SHC, Q/RE1 8/10; *ibid.* tithe award.

## STETFOLD

This estate near Exford, possibly a moorland assart, was part of Timberscombe manor by the 1580s.<sup>187</sup> In 1606 it was held by the Blake family<sup>188</sup> but in 1689 was settled on the marriage of Thomas Dyke and Sidwell Blackford and descended in the Dyke family. Thomas (d. 1689) was followed by his kinsman Edward Dyke (d. 1728) and his son Edward (d.1746), whose heir was his niece Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Dyke of Tetton and wife of Sir Thomas Acland. Her son John Acland (d. 1778) was eventually succeeded by his daughter Kitty (d. 1813) who married Henry George Herbert, later 2<sup>nd</sup> earl of Carnarvon, and left a son Henry (d. 1849).<sup>189</sup>

Adjoining land described as 60 a. or 80 a. called Edbrooke, Capers or Cabsland belonged to Well manor but was sold by William Withycombe in 1775 to Thomas Frederick Musgrave of Stone, Exford.<sup>190</sup> It passed to his daughter, Julia, Lady Langham.<sup>191</sup> In 1859, after her death, the land was sold and was eventually absorbed into Stetfold Rocks farm. In 1871 the 4th earl of Carnarvon exchanged Stetfold with Thomas Ponsford of Minehead for lands in Dulverton. Thomas probably rebuilt the house and farmyard. On his death in 1898 the whole farm was sold to the tenant John Tucker (d. 1923) in whose family it remained for the rest of the 20th century.<sup>192</sup>

## PREBENDAL ESTATE

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<sup>187</sup> SHC, DD/FR 19.

<sup>188</sup> Bates Harbin, *Som. Deeds*, p. 174.

<sup>189</sup> *VCH Som.* VI, 9; Burke, *Peerage* (1949), 14, 359; SHC, tithe award.

<sup>190</sup> SHC, DD/FR 3, 7.

<sup>191</sup> *VCH Som.* V, 181; SHC, tithe award.

<sup>192</sup> SHC, A/BJT 5; *ibid.* DD/BR/fc 24.

The prebend of Timberscombe, established in the 13th century, was endowed with the church.<sup>193</sup> The estate included land at Venniford on the Minehead boundary as well as the parsonage house, 43 a. and the corn tithes.<sup>194</sup> In 1650 it was sold to William Haverfield of Lyons Inn.<sup>195</sup> By the late 18th century it was mortgaged and let out, sometimes to other clergymen who compounded for tithes, commuted for £174 in 1844.<sup>196</sup> In 1860 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners who held the reversion sold the 58-a. estate for over £3,000 to the tenant James Hole of Knowle and it was absorbed into his estate.<sup>197</sup>

The Parsonage House was recorded in 1617 with a barn and attached cottage between it and the church house and had a smithy by 1650.<sup>198</sup> In the late 18th century the house was described as a cottage with barn, second cottage and smithy.<sup>199</sup> The buildings, north-west of the church, were all demolished between 1844 and 1882 when the site was added to the vicarage glebe.<sup>200</sup>

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<sup>193</sup> Below, rel. hist.

<sup>194</sup> SHC, D/D/Rg 362/2; D/D/Pg 8.

<sup>195</sup> TNA, C54/3573/34.

<sup>196</sup> McDermott and Berry, *Rack's Survey*, 90; SHC, DD/FR 7—8, 17; DD/CC P/5319—20; D/D/Ppb 94; *ibid.* tithe award.

<sup>197</sup> SHC, DD/CC P/33444.

<sup>198</sup> SHC, D/D/Rg 362/2; TNA, C54/3573/34.

<sup>199</sup> SHC, D/D/Pg 8.

<sup>200</sup> SHC, tithe award; *ibid.* D/P/timb 23/2.