

LANDOWNERSHIP

Withycombe manor was divided from c.1212 resulting in two manors called Withycombe Hadley and Withycombe Weeke. Withycombe Hadley was administered for a time with Williton Hadley and its estates in Watchet. Withycombe Weeke was dismembered in the early 18th century. Their freeholds, often in neighbouring parishes, were held under unusual rents whose manner of payment was strictly laid down. The owners of Sandhill had to give 15 horsenails before their rent would be accepted, others had to fasten a red rose to an ash at Gilcott before sunrise or provide a breakfast and several rents had to be rendered at precise hours.¹ Gilcott, in several parishes, is included here because it was held with Combe in Withycombe. In the later 18th century John Fownes Luttrell reunited the manor and bought up freeholds. By 1839 only c. 400 a. lay outside Luttrell ownership, most of it Acland property. In 1869 the Acland land was acquired by exchange placing most of the parish in the Dunster Castle estate.²

WITHYCOMBE MANOR

In 1066 Alnoth held Withycombe but by 1086 it belonged to Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances and was held of him by Edmer.³ Geoffrey's heir Robert Mowbray lost his estates for rebelling against William II and they were sold by the Crown to the Mohuns who thereafter retained the overlordship.⁴ The lord of Withycombe owed a wagon with two men and eight oxen for one day carrying hay for the Mohuns until 1421 or later.⁵

¹ SHC, DD/L P32/22/5, P32/55.

² SHC, tithe award; below this section.

³ VCH Som, I, 477.

⁴ Cal. Inq. p.m. II, p. 177; H. C. Maxwell Lyte, Historical Notes on some Somerset Manors (Som. Rec. Soc. extra ser.), 29.

⁵ SHC, DD/L P11/4, P17/4/1.

The tenancy may have been one of the fees held by William son of Durand de Mohun in 1166.⁶ William's son Ralph FitzWilliam of Withycombe married Yolande sister of William de Mohun IV and died c.1212 leaving daughters and coheirs Lucy, wife of William Malet who appears to have held the fee, Hilary wife of Richard of Combe and Isabel wife of Hugh Peverel. Hilary and Isabel held their shares under Lucy⁷ whose share became Withycombe Wyke or Weeke while the other two were later united as Withycombe Hadley. The suffixes were used from the 16th century but Weeke was probably a copying error.

Withycombe Weeke

Lucy daughter of Ralph FitzWilliam was succeeded c.1259 by her daughter Lucy Malet, wife successively of Simon of Merriott (d. c.1276) and Thomas of Timworth (d. c.1296). Thomas granted to Reginald de Mohun the services of the holders of the other two shares.⁸ Lucy (d. by 1316) was followed at Withycombe by her second son Walter of Merriott (d. 1345),⁹ and his nephew Simon of Merriott (d. by 1372) who outlived his only child Alice.¹⁰

Simon settled Withycombe on a kinsman Sir John of Merriott¹¹ who sold the reversion in 1374 to Thomas Willington (d. 1382) who had married Simon's widow Margery (d. c.1390). Margery was followed in turn by Thomas's nephews Ralph and John Willington who died under age, the latter also an idiot. In 1396 John's estate was divided between his sister Isabel, wife of William Beaumont, and John Wroth, son of

⁶ Red Bk of Exch. (RS), II, 226.

⁷ VCH Som., V, 20.

⁸ Cal. Inq. p.m. II, p. 177; Feudal Aids, IV, 302; VCH Som V, 20, 70; VCH Office, Taunton, Pole MS 116.

⁹ Feudal Aids, IV, 334; F. H. Dickinson, Kirby's Quest etc. (Som. Rec. Soc. 3), 77, 247; Cal. Inq. p.m. VIII, p. 429.

¹⁰ Feudal Aids, IV, 341; Maxwell Lyte, Som. Manors, 36; Som Fines 1347—99 (Som. Rec. Soc. 17), 3, 183.

¹¹ Som Fines 1347—99, 84.

his deceased sister Margaret. Withycombe passed to John Worth a minor who died in 1412¹² when his widow Joyce leased the manor to his sister Elizabeth and her husband William Palton.¹³ In 1431 the manor was held by William for a half fee the other half being held by Alexander Aune.¹⁴

In 1428 William Palton (d. 1450, childless) had settled his late wife's estate in trust for her cousin Sir Thomas Beaumont (d. 1451), son of Isabel Willington.¹⁵ Thomas's son William (d. 1453) was succeeded by his brother Philip (d. 1473) and his half sister Joan (d. 1496), wife of Peter Courtenay. Peter held the manor between 1480 and 1500 but they had no children and Joan's heir was her brother Hugh Beaumont.¹⁶

In 1505 Hugh's daughter Margaret Beaumont with her husband John Chichester and John Crokker and his wife Anne, possibly her sister, conveyed Withycombe to Giles, Lord Daubeney (d. 1508). In 1547 his son Henry Daubeney (cr. earl of Bridgwater 1538, d. 1548) sold it to Edward Seymour, duke of Somerset.¹⁷ Somerset was attainted in 1552 and in 1555 Withycombe Weeke was granted to Eleanor (fl. 1560), widow of Sir William Kempe, to hold of the Crown for 1/40th of a knight's fee.¹⁸ Her son Sir Thomas Kempe sold it in 1561 to John Southcott, a judge, and his wife Elizabeth.¹⁹ John (d. 1585) settled the manor on his son John for his marriage to Magdalene Waldegrave.²⁰ The younger John, a recusant, died in 1638

¹² VCH Office, Taunton, Pole MS 4106; VCH Som V, 20; Cal. Inq.p.m. XVII, p.344—5; Cal. Pat. 1396—9, 434; Cal. Fine R. 1399—1405, 31.

¹³ VCH Som V, 20; TNA, C 137/86/25; Cal. Close, 1409—13, 382, 430.

¹⁴ Feudal Aids, IV, 390—1, 430; VCH Som V, 20; below, this section.

¹⁵ TNA, C 139/140/ 28.

¹⁶ VCH Som V, 20; TNA CP 40/951, no. 344; Maxwell Lyte, Som. Manors, 41.

¹⁷ VCH Som V, 20; SHC, DD/L P7/43; TNA, C 142/25/22; *ibid.* CP 25/1/294/81/20HenVII; *ibid.* E 326/11703.

¹⁸ Cal. Pat. 1554—5, 74.

¹⁹ TNA, CP 25/2/204/ 3&4Eliz I Mich

²⁰ TNA, C 142/128/68, 206/25; SHC, DD/SAS C120/10.

having settled the manor on his son Edward's son John.²¹ Edward (d. by 1654) lost the family estate through debt and sequestration for recusancy and with Thomas Bayles, probably the mortgagee, sold Withycombe Weeke in 1650 to Thomas Cridland. John Southcott failed to recover it.²²

In 1655 the manor was settled on Francis Cridland, heir of Thomas, for his marriage to Jane Fry.²³ Francis was succeeded after 1678²⁴ by his daughter Jane and her daughter Jane Gifford, wife successively of Fortescue Tynte, whose father Halswell administered the manor in 1689,²⁵ Hopton Wyndham, and John Codrington.²⁶ Jane died childless before 1709 when John Codrington married Elizabeth Gorges and sold off most of the estate to finance the marriage settlement. By 1710 the manor had been dismembered and in 1714 Dorothy Luttrell bought the remaining farm with a share in the mill.²⁷ John Codrington was charged feodary rent to Dunster honor every third year until 1746 or later²⁸ but before 1777 lordship was acquired by John Fownes Luttrell and descended with Withycombe Hadley.²⁹

The demesne, called Withycombe farm, was bought by Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, and Bowden and Combe farms were purchased by Robert Siderfin, possibly in trust for their tenants as by 1718 Andrew Newton owned Combe, of which he had been tenant, and was succeeded before 1766 by Robert Newton. Bowden passed to the tenant Samuel Kent whose namesake held it in 1766. Both farms were bought by Sir Thomas Dyke Acland shortly after 1766 and were held with Avill in Dunster³⁰

²¹ TNA, C 142/577/181.

²² Cal. Cttee for Compounding, III, p. 1935—6; TNA, CP 25/2/592/1650 Trin.

²³ S. W. Bates Harbin (ed.), Somerset Enrolled Deeds (Som. Rec. Soc. 51), 281—2; SHC DD/L P3/12.

²⁴ SHC, DD/L 2/23/129.

²⁵ TNA, C106/192; SHC, DD/SAS C795/PR/484.

²⁶ TNA, CP 25/2/870/10 & 11 Wm III Hil.; SHC, DD/SAS C120/10; Dd/L 2/23/132..

²⁷ SHC, DD/D P17/9, 2/20/115, 2/23/129; DD/SAS PR 484.

²⁸ SHC, DD/L 1/10/35B—C.

²⁹ TNA, CP 43/782, rot 357.

³⁰ SHC, DD/L 2/20/115, 124; *ibid.* Q/REL 8/12; *ibid.* tithe award; Dunster, landownership.

until 1869 when Sir Thomas Dyke Acland gave George Fownes Luttrell Withycombe and other farms totalling 238 a.³¹ Middle Hill, south of the village belonged to the Baston family until sold to John Fownes Luttrell in 1829.³² Lower Dumbledeer descended in the Price family until John Fownes Luttrell bought it from the heirs of William Price in 1822.³³ Higher Dumbledeer was bought by Hugh Blackwell and was held by his widow Mary's trustees until 1839 or later. Knowles farm in Carhampton village bought by John Moore alias Knowle in 1709 passed in the 1720s³⁴ to John Hiles who lost it under a mortgage to James Newton before 1766. It was the property of the Revd William Newton in 1839 when the house was labourers' cottages. The farmstead was later demolished.³⁵ Hedfords later Maunders farm was acquired by Mrs Maunders who was succeeded by John Maunders before 1781. Andrew Gill was the owner in 1788 and Robert Gill in 1839. The farmstead, between the village street and Withycombe farm, was demolished later in the 19th century.³⁶

The mansion house, 'new built' with newly planted gardens in the mid 16th century,³⁷ stood behind the church and became known as Withycombe Farm. Largely rebuilt in the 17th or 18th centuries it has been greatly altered and the roof has been raised.

Withycombe Hadley

Hilary daughter of Ralph FitzWilliam was succeeded by her son Ralph FitzUrse (d. by 1269) whose widow Isabel (fl. 1285)³⁸ married William de Raleigh and outlived her

³¹ SHC, DD/L 291/4.

³² SHC, Q/REI 8/12; *ibid.* DD/L 2/20/116, 2/21/117.

³³ SHC, Q/REI 8/12; *ibid.* DD/L 2/20/116.

³⁴ TNA, C 106/192.

³⁵ SHC, Q/REI 8/12; *ibid.* DD/L 2/21/117; *ibid.* tithe award.

³⁶ SHC, DD/L 2/20/124; *ibid.* Q/REI 8/12; *ibid.* tithe award.

³⁷ SHC, DD/L P32/55.

³⁸ VCH Som V, 20; Feudal Aids, IV, 296.

son John FitzUrse (d. c.1280). John's son Ralph (d. c.1321) was succeeded by his son (Sir) Ralph (d.1350)³⁹ whose widow Maud (d.1388) was succeeded at Withycombe by her daughter Hawise's son James Durborough.⁴⁰

Isabel Peverel was dead by 1280 when her son John Peverel released her share of Withycombe to her stepson Robert Martin and his wife Amy, said to be her granddaughter.⁴¹ In 1304 Robert settled it on his son Edmund for an annuity and in 1329 Edmund granted the reversion to Ralph FitzUrse and his wife Maud.⁴² In 1344 They gave it to their daughter Hawise, wife of Hugh Durborough, who settled it on her son Ralph⁴³ who predeceased her. Edmund Martin was dead by 1362 and in 1379 Withycombe was settled on James, son of Hugh and Hawise, and his wife Alice Bath.⁴⁴

James Durborough (d. 1416), holder of two thirds of Withycombe, was succeeded by his only son John who died childless before 1422. John's heir was his brother Ralph (d. c.1435)⁴⁵ but his widow Alice, who married Alexander Aune or Anne, successfully claimed Withycombe for her life and that of Alexander (fl.1437).⁴⁶ Ralph left two daughters Joan, wife of John Courtenay, and Alice, wife of Alexander Hadley who in 1428 agreed to take one share each.⁴⁷ In 1432 John and Joan settled the reversion of their share on their daughter Isabel for her marriage to Edward Grevyle.⁴⁸ Isabel apparently predeceased her mother without issue and in 1448 and

³⁹ SHC, DD/L P5/13, P32/1/6; Feudal Aids, IV, 334; F. H. Dickinson, Kirby's Quest etc. (Som. Rec. Soc. 3), 247.

⁴⁰ VCH Som V, 20, 151.

⁴¹ Feudal Aids, IV, 296; SHC, DD/L P32/1/1, 3; H. C. Maxwell-Lyte (ed.), Notes on some Somerset manors (Som. Rec. Soc., extra series), 62. .

⁴² SHC, DD/L P32/1/3, 4, 10—12, 17, 20, 31; Feudal Aids, IV, 334; F. H. Dickinson, Kirby's Quest etc. (Som. Rec. Soc. 3), 247.

⁴³ SHC, DD/L P1/3, P32/1/15, 21.

⁴⁴ SHC, DD/L P1/10/1—5, P32/1/24—5.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.* 151; SHC, DD/L P32/8/3.

⁴⁶ SHC, DD/L P32/10/2, P32/12/1—6; E. Green, Feet of Fines 1399—1485 (Som. Rec. Soc. 22), 93.

⁴⁷ Green, Feet of Fines 1399—1485, 69, 93; SHC, DD/L P1/18.

⁴⁸ SHC, DD/L P32/12/4.

1452 Joan, then a widow, held a share of Withycombe jointly with trustees.⁴⁹ She probably occupied the manor house as in 1449 she was licensed to hear mass in her oratory in Withycombe manor.⁵⁰ Joan (fl. 1463) was succeeded by her sister Alice and the two third shares were again united.⁵¹ Alice predeceased her husband who died in 1480 leaving a son John Hadley.⁵²

In 1501 John Hadley (d. c.1503) gave his estates to Richard Bere, abbot of Glastonbury and others to raise money for services for his soul but most lands were returned to members of his family in 1504 in accordance with his will. His heir was his elder son Richard but he left land to his daughter Elizabeth and son John.⁵³ Richard sued his mother Joan for the estate⁵⁴ and in 1516 obtained a release of his sister Elizabeth's rights in Withycombe.⁵⁵ Richard (d. 1524) settled the manor on his son James to whom Richard's brother John released his rights in 1526. James Hadley (d. 1537) gave a large amount of money to pay his father's debts and for religious and charitable purposes and was succeeded by his son Christopher (d.1540) and the latter's infant son Arthur (d. 1558). Arthur's heir was his sister Margaret wife firstly of Thomas Luttrell, secondly of John Strode, and thirdly of Robert Hill (fl. 1593).⁵⁶ Withycombe Hadley descended in the Luttrell family with Dunster castle but Elizabeth (fl. 1562), widow of James Hadley retained a life interest.⁵⁷

The manor hall roof was repaired in 1332 and in 1420 there was a walled courtyard with chapel, gate, kitchen, farmyard or oxshed court, dovecot and old and

⁴⁹ SHC, DD/L P1/21, P32/12/25—6.

⁵⁰ H. C. Maxwell-Lyte (ed.), Register of Bishop Bekynton, 1443—65 (Som. Rec. Soc. 50), p. 117.

⁵¹ SHC, DD/L P32/16/3, 9.

⁵² SHC, DD/L P5/54/25.

⁵³ SHC, DD/L P32/19/7, 9—12, 15, 17—18.

⁵⁴ TNA, C1/318/46.

⁵⁵ SHC, P32/12/27, P32/19/21.

⁵⁶ TNA, C142/67/117; C142/115/41; SHC, P5/19/1, P32/28, P32/39/1—2; P32/40; P32/53/1—5; P32/101/1; 2/19/1; F. W. Weaver, Som. Wills, 1531—58, (Som. Rec. Soc. 21), pp. 13—14.

⁵⁷ SHC, DD/LP2/15, P3/9, P5/31, 33.

new gardens.⁵⁸ The capital messuage was let with the demesnes as Withycombe farm, Court Place by 1651, to members of the Luttrell family.⁵⁹ Court Place is probably late medieval but remodelled in the 17th century as a four-roomed cross-passage house with a back wing. It has a rendered four-bay front and two storey porch at the north end but the north wing was non-domestic. The windows are modern.⁶⁰

GILCOTT and COMBE

The Gilcott or Gildencote estate paid tax for ½ a hide and was held by Edwin in 1066 and in 1086 by Roger de Courcelles. It straddled the boundary of Withycombe and Carhampton and had hill land in Luxborough. Roger's tenant was Alric who had three tenants. Roger also held the adjoining Combe estate, which had belonged to Alric in 1066.⁶¹ Although not held of Dunster, by the 14th century the lords of Dunster claimed from the tenant of Gilcott the service of a wagon with two men and eight oxen for one day carrying hay.⁶²

Combe and Gilcott may have been held together until the 13th century. Elias the Butler [Pincerna] of Gilcott held both estates, probably in succession to his father Julian. In the late 13th century demesne at Combe, which had been sold by Julian and Elias was given by Robert de Kunston or Kiniston to Roger Smith for a pair of spurs and two pairs of gloves.⁶³ It was said to be in Gilcott manor when Roger's son Stephen the chaplain of Combe conveyed it to Adam Smith of Withycombe and his wife Maud, daughter of Herbert the fisherman.⁶⁴ Their daughter Joan married Robert Acchman or Augheman who in 1326 gave Combe to William Barbecan, rector of

⁵⁸ SHC, DD/L P32/3/1, P32/13/1, 3, 6.

⁵⁹ SHC, DD/L P32/71, P32/95/1, P32/101/3; TNA, E367/1859.

⁶⁰ SHC, DD/V/Wir 29.1.

⁶¹ VCH Som, I, 490.

⁶² SHC, DD/L P11/4, P17/4/1.

⁶³ SHC, DD/L P32/1/43—4.

⁶⁴ SHC, DD/L P32/1/43.

Withycombe. In 1330 William granted it to Sir Ralph FitzUrse who held it with his share of Withycombe manor but his successor James Durborough secured a release of Combe from Isabel, daughter and heir of Joan and Robert and possibly widow of Henry Potter, in 1400 and from her daughter Christine, wife of John Cheddisey, in 1409.⁶⁵ Most land was absorbed into the Withycombe Hadley demesne⁶⁶ but a farmstead at Combe formed part of Withycombe Weeke until sold to Robert Siderfin in the early 18th century. It later passed to Sir Thomas Acland and in 1869 to the Luttrells.⁶⁷

The former Combe farmhouse, dated 1629 on a plaster overmantel and possibly built for the Blundell family,⁶⁸ was remodelled in the 19th century when the kitchen end was totally rebuilt. It is a colourwashed, roughcast, and rubble three-room cross passage house with a stair turret on the south front with ovolo-moulded window. Several traditional farmbuildings create a yard north of the house.

Elias the Butler's wife Julian and their son Elias of Gilcott sold land and the latter gave hill land, probably the later Monkslade in Luxborough, to Cleeve Abbey before 1280. Elias released the main estate to Walter Lucy and his wife Lucy c.1283⁶⁹ and tenements to John of Sparkford and his wife Lucy before 1298 when John sold them to Robert of Sandhill.⁷⁰ In 1302 Robert Lucy, son and heir of William released his father's estate to Elias of Gilcott and to Robert of Sandhill. Robert sold the former Sparkford land in 1306 to Ralph FitzUrse who already had land in Gilcott⁷¹ but the descent of Elias's land is unclear.

⁶⁵ SHC, DD/L P32/3/2, P32/4/6, P32/8/1, 5.

⁶⁶ SHC, DD/L P32/55.

⁶⁷ Above this section.

⁶⁸ G, A, J and D B on overmantel. Giles and John Blundell were tenants of property in Withycombe.

⁶⁹ SHC, DD/L P17/1/42, P32/1/35, 43—8.

⁷⁰ SHC, DD/L P32/1/39—40.

⁷¹ SHC, DD/L P32/1/34, 40.

Alice of Gilcott was recorded in 1327 but by then Gilcott had been split up with one estate held by the Mohuns,⁷² the Withycombe and part of the Carhampton land held with Withycombe Hadley manor⁷³ and the rest by John Durborough in demesne,⁷⁴ In the 1340s John Durborough (d. by 1352) and his wife Joan acquired additional Carhampton land from John de Mohun and Thomas son of William le Bret. In 1352 Hugh son and heir of John Durborough did fealty for his lands held of the king for 1/16th or 1/50th of a knight's fee.⁷⁵ He owed burghright for Gilcott and also carriage of hay for the Mohuns.⁷⁶ Sir Hugh died c.1386, many lands were sold off but his son James held Gilcott in 1402⁷⁷ and was succeeded by his brother Ralph who being childless sold his estate in 1404 to the tenants Henry Roberd and his wife Alice. Ralph's widow had an interest and it took over two weeks to finalise the sale.⁷⁸ In 1407—8 the land was sold to John Luttrell of West Quantoxhead⁷⁹ and descended with Carhampton manor as a houseless tenement covering 37 a. and Rodhuish Hill (150 a.). The land was absorbed into Oak farm and last named in 1771.⁸⁰

The Gilcott land in Withycombe was mostly in the Hadley demesne and was let in the early 16th century to the abbot of Cleeve who already had the Gilcott land in Luxborough, known as Monkslade.⁸¹ The demesne, called Higher Gilcott, was later farmed out to several tenants at least until the late 17th century, but the rest, known as Lower Gilcott tenement (37 a.), was part of Withycombe farm in 1655⁸² when no

⁷² SHC, DD/L P17/1/1, P32/4/1—2.

⁷³ SHC, DD/L P32/4/7—8.

⁷⁴ Dickinson, *Kirby's Quest* (Som. Rec. Soc.), 248; SHC, DD/L P32/3/2—3.

⁷⁵ SHC, DD/L P17/1/19, 25, 27, 38 [1/16]; *Cal. inq.p.m.* X, p. 17 [1/50].

⁷⁶ SHC, DD/L P17/1/37, P17/4/1.

⁷⁷ SHC, DD/L P17/1/50, 54, 58—9, 67, 72.

⁷⁸ SHC, DD/L P17/1/76—81.

⁷⁹ SHC, DD/L P17/1/82—4.

⁸⁰ SHC, DD/L 1/36/8/1, 1/40/26/6; DD/X/WLR 8.

⁸¹ SHC, DD/L P 32/1/42, P32/19/11, P32/21/9, P32/55; above this section.

⁸² SHC, DD/L P3/12, P32/32/1, P32/50, P32/55; 2/21/119.

houses were recorded. By 1839 Gilcott as an estate had been lost but field names survived on Gupworthy farm.⁸³

SANDHILL

In the 11th century Sandhill was probably part of Withycombe manor and William of Sandhill (fl. 1196) may have been the grantee of the estate.⁸⁴ In 1285 Roger of Sandhill (fl. 1303) held Sandhill for a knight's fee under Thomas of Tymworth, second husband of Lucy Malet. During the 14th century it was a half fee and continued to be held of the successors of Lucy as mesne lords until the 15th century.⁸⁵ William Newton was said to hold a quarter fee directly of the Luttrells in 1431 but it was usually held of Withycombe Hadley manor for a red rose brought to the ash at Gilcott before sunrise on the feast of St John Baptist (24 June) as well as a cash rent. From 1596 or earlier 15 horsenails had to be delivered with the rent.⁸⁶

Gilbert of Sandhill was recorded in the 13th century⁸⁷ and Robert Erchebold or Archebold of Sandhill with his wife Elizabeth settled land on their daughter Christine's marriage to Walter son of Walter de Wetedene in the mid 13th century.⁸⁸ Roger of Sandhill (fl. 1285—1303) was dead by 1327 when Alice of Sandhill was the taxpayer with William, possibly her son.⁸⁹ John Dygon who held the fee in 1330 may have been the John of Sandhill who was followed by William of Sandhill c.1346. William died after 1350 leaving a son John under age who was succeeded between 1410 and 1417 by Peter of Sandhill.⁹⁰

⁸³ SHC, tithes award.

⁸⁴ Maxwell-Lyte, *Somerset manors*, 56.

⁸⁵ *Feudal Aids*, IV, 296, 303.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.* 430; SHC DD/L P32/10/1, P32/53/9.

⁸⁷ BL, Add. Ch. 12,936.

⁸⁸ SHC, DD/L P32/1/29, 47.

⁸⁹ *Feudal Aids*, IV, 296, 303; Dickinson, *Kirby's Quest* (Som. Rec. Soc. 3), 247.

⁹⁰ *Feudal Aids*, IV, 241; Maxwell-Lyte, *Somerset manors*, 56—7; SHC, DD/X/JF 15; DD/L P1/3, P32/1/32

William Newton succeeded in 1417 but before 1431 seems to have given half the estate to Cleeve abbey retaining a quarter fee.⁹¹ William (d. 1453) was followed in succession by his son Alexander, John Newton, possibly his uncle, and John's son Alexander Newton of Swell (d. 1523). Alexander left Sandhill to John, his infant son by his second wife.⁹² In 1584 John died childless leaving Sandhill, after his wife Joan's death, to the Attorney General, John Popham.⁹³ Joan married Charles Wyndham (d. 1585) who bought the inheritance from Popham and left it after Joan's death to Francis Wyndham, his godson. After 1596 Joan (d. 1612) married thirdly Thomas Carne of Ewenny. As she outlived three husbands it was later supposed that she had murdered them and was a witch but she had a fine monument in the church so the legend may be much later.⁹⁴

Francis Wyndham (d. by 1633) was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth wife of Thomas Morgan of Tredegar, Glamorgan. Under a settlement of 1653 Thomas (d. 1664) was succeeded by a younger son John (d. 1716), who was followed by his nephew John Morgan (d. 1719) of Llanfihangel, Glam., who left it to his second son Thomas. In 1736 Thomas sold Sandhill to Edward Dyke of Tetton on behalf of James Smyth of St Audries (d. 1748) whose daughter Lavinia sold it in 1761 to the tenant Thomas Escott. Thomas (d. 1765) was followed by his nephew Thomas Escott (d. 1789), the younger Thomas's wife Joan Withycombe (d. 1796) and their sons Thomas (d. 1808) and John (d. 1809). John Escott left Sandhill to his brother Hugh who sold it in 1813 to John Fownes Luttrell.⁹⁵

Sandhill house was probably built in the late 15th century by Alexander Newton and a hall and kitchen with screens passage survive. The east parlour wing

⁹¹ Maxwell-Lyte, *Somerset manors*, 58; *Feudal Aids*, IV, 391, 430.

⁹² Maxwell-Lyte, *Somerset manors*, 58—9; SHC DD/L P5/5, P32/55.

⁹³ F. A. Crisp (ed.), *Abstracts of Somersetshire Wills*, I, 21.

⁹⁴ Maxwell-Lyte, *Somerset manors*, 60; SHC, A/AQP 8; *ibid.* DD/L P32/53/9; TNA, CR/388/66.

⁹⁵ SHC, DD/L 1/23/3, 2/20/113, 2/30/7; Maxwell-Lyte, *Somerset manors*, 61.

was added in the late 16th or early 17th century, possibly by John Newton or his widow Joan, and the rest of the house was remodelled and given a new front wall and porch, incorporating the original doorway. Today Sandhill is a large two storey house of rubble under a slate roof with a main range facing south, a large east wing, used as a separate dwelling, and smaller west and north wings.

Abbey land at Sandhill

Cleeve abbey held a tenement in Sandhill c.1520 and Neath Abbey also held land there but that was not recorded again.⁹⁶ Cleeve abbey's land was granted in 1544 to John Vere, 16th earl of Oxford and his wife Dorothy Neville.⁹⁷ By 1558 it belonged to Sir John Thynne who sold it to Lewis Stewkeley. In 1563 Lewis sold it to Edmund Wyndham whose family had acquired the abbey's Carhampton land in 1540.⁹⁸ It presumably merged with the main Sandhill estate but in 1839 some of the former Cleeve land (28 ½ a.) paid tithe to the vicar of Cleeve.⁹⁹ Bakers Ground at Sandhill was unsuccessfully claimed to be tithe free as former Cleeve abbey.¹⁰⁰

Other estates at Sandhill

In 1375 Walter Hartrow, a freeholder in 1347,¹⁰¹ released his Sandhill estate to his son Robert (d. 1402).¹⁰² Alice Hartrow, widow, owed fealty in 1384 and Robert was in default of suit to Withercombe in 1386.¹⁰³ By 1480 John Pepyn the elder held a tenement at Sandhill called Sweetworthy¹⁰⁴ and a half-virgate tenement was held by

⁹⁶ SHC, D/L P32/55.

⁹⁷ L&P Hen. VII, XIX (1), p. 286.

⁹⁸ SHC, DD/WO 6/1; Cal. Pat. 1558—60, p. 132; 1560—3, p. 615.

⁹⁹ SHC, D/D/Rg 369; *ibid.* tithe award

¹⁰⁰ TNA, E 134/33Chas2/East13; SHC tithe award.

¹⁰¹ SHC, DD/L P32/4/3.

¹⁰² SHC, DD/L P1/12/1—2, P17/1/46, P8/2/111, P32/1/22, P32/6/1; VCH Som. V, 182.

¹⁰³ SHC, DD/L P32/4/6, 12.

¹⁰⁴ SHC, DD/L P32/16/2.

John Howe, Henry Baudwyn and John Pepyn as heirs of Hartrow c.1520.¹⁰⁵ It owed 8s. quit rent to Withycombe Hadley. In 1539 John Trevelyan was described as heir to Hartrow, probably for two tenements later called Chilkey and held for the same rent.¹⁰⁶ In 1655 Higher Chilkey was held with the main Sandhill estate and the Lower tenement belonged to Joan Chaplin as daughter and heir of Joan Poole, presumably daughter of Christopher Poole who had a farm at Sandhill in 1632.¹⁰⁷ In 1710 Edward Poole of Old Cleeve sold Lower Chilkey to Hugh Escott.¹⁰⁸ Both Chilkeys had lost their houses and the lands were absorbed into Sandhill but several Chilkey field names survived in 1840.¹⁰⁹

ELSWORTHY

Elsworthy or Eylesworthy was probably the Withycombe estate given by William Bratton to Ralph le Tort in the 13th century.¹¹⁰ It was divided into East and West and was held by Simon Brodwade in 1327 when Lawrence le Tort and his wife granted it with Old Knowle in Carhampton to Andrew de Raleigh.¹¹¹ It descended with Old Knowle until 1453 when it was used to endow the Raleigh chantry in Nettlecombe church¹¹² but later the tenements were held of Withycombe Weeke manor.¹¹³ Tenancy of the two tenements with 120 a. was in dispute in 1528 and one of the disputants was

¹⁰⁵ SHC, DD/L P32/55.

¹⁰⁶ SHC, DD/L P3/16; P32/22/16.

¹⁰⁷ SHC, DD/L P3/12; F. A. Crisp (ed.), Abstracts of Somersetshire Wills etc. II, 98—9.

¹⁰⁸ SHC, DD/L 2/21/117.

¹⁰⁹ SHC, DD/L 1/7/23; 2/20/113; *ibid.* tithe award.

¹¹⁰ SHC, DD/WO 48/19.

¹¹¹ SHC, DD/WY 7/W1; DD/WO 1/19.

¹¹² SHC, DD/WO 1/28—9, 65, 76; 61/2/1, 62/9/5; Cal. Pat. 1441—6, 161; above, Carhampton, landownership.

¹¹³ E. Green (ed.), Somerset Chantries, 1548 (Som. Rec. Soc. 2), 222.

later murdered.¹¹⁴ They were sold to agents for Sir James Granado in 1549.¹¹⁵

Elsworthy is not recorded again but may well be Gupworthy.¹¹⁶

GUPWORTHY

This estate (120 a.), a freehold of Withycombe Weeke first recorded in the 16th century, was the property of Sir Nicholas Halswell of Goathurst who sold it to George Hooper of Dunster in 1621.¹¹⁷ George (d. c.1670) was succeeded by his kinsman and executor John Question. John was dead by 1723 when Gupworthy was settled on his son John's marriage to Joan Jeane. They had no children and by his will of 1755 John gave the estate to his nephew John Short (d. c.1777). A dispute between Short's heirs and his widow Elizabeth, who remained in possession with her second husband Silvanus Jones, forced a sale in 1791.¹¹⁸ It was bought by John Fownes Luttrell, Elizabeth assigned her interest in 1792 and the farm descended with the Luttrell estates.¹¹⁹

WILLALLER

Willaller in the north-east of the parish had been given to Dunster priory and formed part of Alcombe manor at the Dissolution.¹²⁰ It presumably descended with that manor until it was dismembered in the early 18th century.¹²¹ In 1724 John Whitlock of Old Cleeve settled it on his daughter Sarah (d. 1739) wife of Philip Sydenham (d. 1742). She had 14 children and her sisters claimed shares but the land was eventually

¹¹⁴ TNA, C 1/519/38; G. Bradford (ed.), Star Chamber Proceeding, Henry VII and Henry VIII (Som. Rec. Soc. 27), 91—3.

¹¹⁵ Cal. Pat. 1548—9, 209; G. H. Woodward (ed.), Calendar of Somerset Chantry Grants, 1548—1603 (Som. Rec. Soc. 77), pp. 23—4.

¹¹⁶ SHC, DD/L P32/55; below, this section.

¹¹⁷ SHC, DD/L P32/55; 1/40/26/6; 2/20/112.

¹¹⁸ SHC, DD/SP 1670/94; DD/L 1/34/3/44; 1/40/26/6; DD/DP 120; *ibid.* Q/REI 8/12.

¹¹⁹ SHC, DD/L 2/20/116, 2/23/128.

¹²⁰ TNA, SC 6/HenVIII/3144.

¹²¹ Above, Dunster, landownership.

settled on her 3rd son Philip Sydenham (d. 1790).¹²² In 1866 the 12 a. was sold by the Revd J. P. Sydenham to George Fownes Luttrell.¹²³

¹²² SHC, DD/DP 17/9; DD/L 2/20/115—16.

¹²³ SHC, DD/L 2/20/116.