

Landscape History Walk 2017

Wheatlands

Early farming:- Neolithic/Bronze age.

The two barrows on the skyline to the SE were excavated in 1909, and the finds stored at BRLSI. Cattle, sheep, pig bones have been identified by Dawn Hodgson for BACAS.

Sheep upland pastures. Summer

Cattle upland pastures and woods.

Pigs woodland. Acorns, beech mast.

Arable in valleys. Inverse to present day.

Geology: Layers of Cotswold limestone oolite on clay and mudstone provides springs at different levels on hillsides, allowing access from plateau or valleys.

Corridors between hedges provide animal access from the top. Upland pastures reduce flyborne diseases in summer.

Saints' wells. St. Anne's Well at Hamswell House. Mediaeval, brought back in Crusades. Fertility.

St. Eanswith's Springs. SE boundary. Mentioned in Athelstan Charter of 931. Saxon princess from Kent, cousin of St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby.

Springs at Battlefields.

Livestock Mediaeval.

Cattle: to plough; cheese milk and buttermilk, finally culled for meat.

Sheep: Wethers kept for wool then culled at 4 for table. Horns for bow tips. String from gut for harps. Tallow. Rushlights. Bandages/Lanolin. Cheese

Washpool at confluence of streams to E: Fullers Earth deposits nearby. Wool.

Stew ponds/ Fish ponds in Withybridge and in front of Lilliput Farm. Hamswell House moat.

Breeding ponds. Not mentioned in Domesday so may have been common.

Extensive fish pond systems locally. Dried and smoked.

Field names from use: Wheatlands, Rushmead, Wadham – woad, Puntfield (cattle pound).

Mediaeval eating: Feudal system.

Fish and meat. Lent. Preservation of stock in Spring; animals culled at Michaelmas.

Villagers' inventory. 4 households combined owned 1 steer, 1 ox, 16 cows, 44 sheep, 3 pigs, 3 horses.

Pigs low maintenance food from common woodland.

Workman's diet. Bread. Maslin. 5 lb bread. Peas and beans. Up to 6000 kcal.

Harvest boons. Classes of ale. Cheese, milk, buttermilk, whey.

Wheatlands. Only flat field. Clay. Extensive drainage system visible on geophysics.

Berrymead Field Entrance

Valley surrounded by :-

Hill forts; Freezing Hill, NE edge Lansdown plateau, Solsbury Hill to S.

Barrows; Freezing Hill summit, Lansdown plateau, Charmy Down, Barland's Hill.

Early Roads: Freezing Hill. Roman road and ancient 'Red Way' (Grundy).

Iron age dyke at entrance to valley.

Site and course of Battle of Lansdown 4 July 1643.

Jeremiah Peirce introduction. William Hoare Portrait. Friend and colleague of Dr. William Oliver.

Friend of Ralph Allen and Alexander Pope.

Luccombe Oaks planted in pattern in field to N of Hall Lane.

Walking up Roggers Field

Boundary to Mediaeval Park at E edge.

Mystery building.

North mound: stone top, hole underneath. South mound: similar.

Rabbits. Pillow mounds.

Deer and rabbits as food

Roggers name, John Wood and Druids.

Mystery Building with view over valley to E

Garden design in landscape. Naturalistic. Grass, Trees, Water. Haha.

Queen Anne, Wise; Bridgeman, William Kent at Rousham.

Calling in surrounding countryside. Extensive vistas, punctuated by buildings/tents. Not just visual statements.

Lilliput Castle and John Wood. Doric style. T Totum

Garden buildings. Eyecatchers. Aesthetic. Hermitage value for privacy.

Rides out to Monument from Bath. Entertainment and chimneys.

Dessert in garden: syllabub and ice cream reminder of rural life.

Yew Walk: Promenade built with features and viewpoints. Tables and chairs.

Leads from front door, through Rustic Arch to Hermitage.

Yew and holly boundary plants as at Prior Park. Snowdrops

Mystery Building: roof, foundations on geophysics, stone construction and shape.

Dominates valley.

Shape: horns, cattle or moon? Possibly Hermes/Mercury.

Orientation: axis 10deg to S of due East. Back faces Lilliput Castle directly. Front directed to barrows.

Function? Cow Castle in 19C. Rousham Cow House. Showing livestock as part of landscape?

Entertainment, health, exercise. Parties. Fishing.

Health. diet, exercise, bathing- possible Plunge Pool in woods above lake

Exercise. Women walking. Change in clothes. Haymaking. Fish netting.

Ferme Ornee. Land both useful and picturesque - cultivated. Virgil Georgics.

Bolingbroke and Dawley. Wooburn and Leasowes. Jefferson and Adams 1786 garden tour.

American trees in England. Yeoman farmers in USA.

Land vs. Money. Corruption and Walpole. Yeoman farmers and landed gentry. Land taxes.

Agricultura proxima sapientiae (Cicero quoted by Pope).

Lilliput; Ideal British Landscape on small scale and Satire.

Stone seat and Holly platform in passing

Stone seat placed to look down on Mystery building from due South.

Yew Walk

Shape of Mystery Building. Makes landscape into Theatrum Mundi.

Theatres of the world and memory.

Placement of Mystery Building. Theme of Balance. Pope's Essay on Man.

Zodiac. Robert Fludd. Chain of being. Balance in society.

Position of Mystery Building places zodiac on top of landscape.

Shape and placement visible from road and ridge. Implies landscape can be read as zodiac.

Leo; Battle. Waller's position on ridge. Valour.

Virgo; Springs in wood. Lucina. Astraea, Virgil Eclogue 4. Birth of George III. Justice.

Libra; Peirce's Villa. Balance and Chain of Being. Essay on Man. Balance and Judgement.

Scorpio; Asclepius, Ophiuchus and serpents. Medicine.

Sagittarius; King's Camp on Freezing Hill. Chiron and Luccombe Oaks pattern. Surgery.

Cancer. Hermitage. Milton's Il Penseroso. Contemplation, reflection and scholarship.

Gemini. Twin Barrows. Ancient British History.

Agricultural virtues.

Taurus. Puntfield - cattle.

Aries. Washpool and hill pastures - sheep

Pisces. Fish ponds.

Aquarius. Springs - water

Capricorn ?

Visible from road, Lilliput Castle and Greville Monument. Political emblems. Temple of Virtues analogy. Substitute for garden buildings.

Hermitage

Paths on geophysics.

Orientation, Placement and Design of Hermitage. George II Irish halfpenny placed in retaining wall. Porcelain and glass. Metallic slag ?from bell.

Not unusual to have hermitage. Stukeley in Stamford.

Fern Seat. Sophia Newdigate 1748

Purpose of Hermitage. Full Moon, Fern Seat and Il Penseroso.

Cancer. Letter to Dr. Meade on dissection of tumour. FRS.

Balance between Il Penseroso vs. L'Allegro

Barlands Hill West end.

Little Dyke. Saxon Boundary. Gloucester/Somerset boundary. Wessex/Mercia boundary at one point?

Boundary to barrows. Earlier boundary?

Geophysics.

Barrows

Twin barrows. 1909 excavation. Burial differences.

Geophysics. Ditch of W barrow cut into tail of E barrow. Construction.

Resistance tomography isovolumes and cavities.

Long barrows and round barrows. Burials, agriculture and springs. Boundaries.

Position over valley. Ownership.

Solstices. Barrows on Line between Solsbury Hill and shoulder of Freezing Hill. Stars rising over Charmy Down ridge to E and calendar.

Graham Robb and Druidical solstice lines: Stonehenge- Solsbury Hill- Barrows - Freezing Hill.

Georgians and barrows. Stukeley and druids.

John Wood and Stanton Drew.

Barlands Hill East end

Bank and ditch.

Stock pathways and drove roads.

Punt Field. Cattle shoe.

Lower Barlands Hill geophysics. ? Stock pounds.

St. Eanswyth's Wells.

Platform and stone revetment. Faces East.

Solstices. Midwinter rising sun, Midsummer rising sun, Midsummer setting sun all shine into springs.

Boundary runs through middle.

Petrifying. Springs for healing and truth saying.

Sounds.

Fossils.

St. Eanswyth and forged monastic charters.