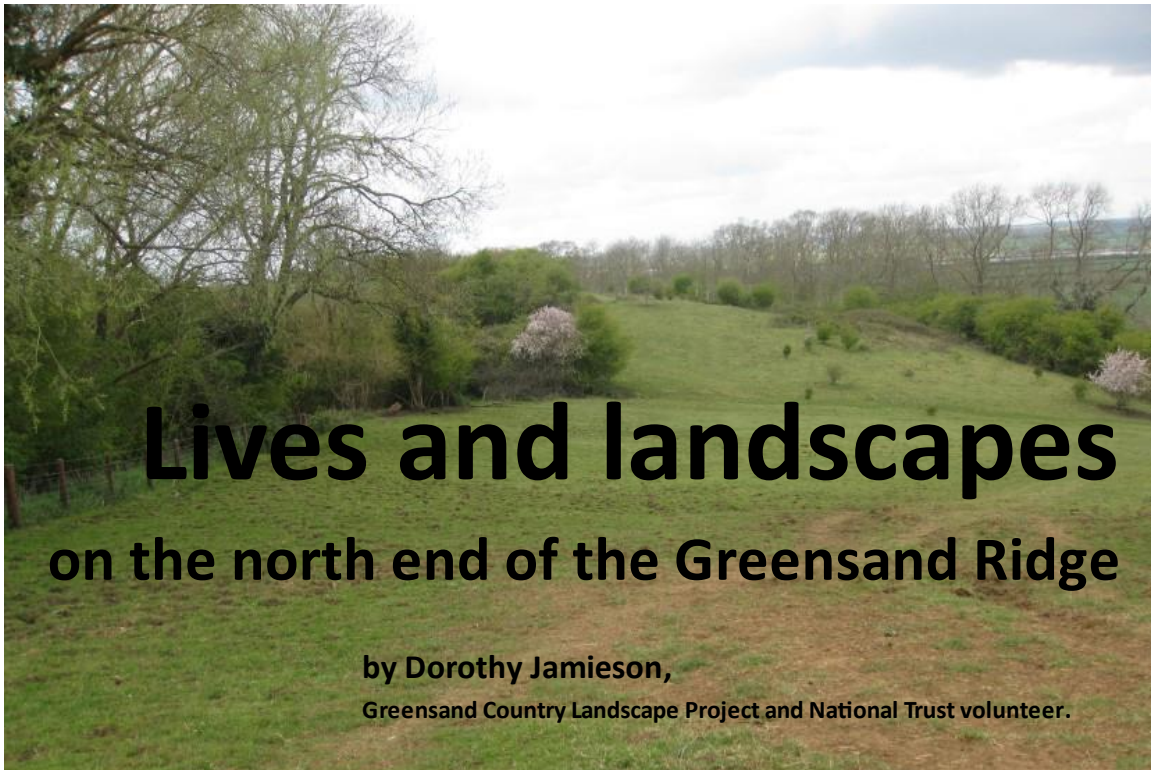


I was asked whether I would do some research about the north end of the Greensand Ridge in about 2020 and I said 'yes.'

This lovely piece of countryside is remarkable because of the diversity of its soils, its trees, the variety of its brick buildings, the church and the palimpsest which is the Woodbury Estate. In the 19th century it was remarkable for its flora and fauna, and I hope that these are still remarkable today.

The Ridge crosses Bedfordshire from the south west to the north east and is made from sandstone said to have been laid down millions of years ago. During 2020 and 2021 I got to know the north end of the Greensand Ridge better by reading, looking, asking, listening, walking, photographing and thinking about what it all means.

I found the different soil types, the buildings and the responses of people to the world around them, very interesting and hope that you will too.

Contents

1. **Overview and Introduction to the landscape**,
   The Greensand Ridge Walk no.5
   The Pinnacle and Sand Lane
   Archaeological details and footpaths, with a map from Stephen Coleman
   The availability of water

2. **The Everton estate and the Pym family**,
   The land and house
   The Hazells, Humphry Repton and later
   The permissive footpath and coprolites
   Warden Hill Gap
   the Pym's nineteenth and twentieth century buildings in the village
   The importance of Woodlands

3. **Everton church, village and parish,**
   Everton's church of St. Mary the Virgin,
   Everton Village
   The Enclosure of Everton Parish
   Everton House site, now Park Farm
   Changes during and after the Second World War

4. **The Woodbury estate with its spring line between the sandy soil and the clay layer,**
   Large changes in ownership
   Ancient boundaries and old buildings
   Footpath from Church End, and the former site of Tempsford Airfield
   Cromwell's rest
   Tempsford Airfield site
   The 'Colony' and other brick buildings
   The former Iron Church and the Methodist Chapel

5. **The former Gamlingay Park site, Tetworth Hall, and Gamlingay Cinques,**
   Gamlingay Park House and garden
   The Full Moon Gateway
   The Full Moon Gateway
   Gamlingay Cinques Common
   And finally…

1. Overview and Introduction to the landscape

The landscapes of the north end of the Greensand Ridge reflect a very variable soil pattern with woodland, heath, arable agriculture, and rough grazing all in close proximity;[i] giving the landscape its special charm.

In 1794 Thomas Stone wrote of Bedfordshire that 'every soil and mixture of soil, commonly seen upon high land in the united kingdoms, may be found in this county, from the strongest clay to the lightest land.' More than 170 years later, in 1968, D.W King is quoted as writing that 'the glacially derived soils mask the underlying influence of the sandstone geology and give the ridge a richness of landscape with a mixture of arable fields, grazing land, woods and heath present, where the glacial till is absent or has been eroded away.'

The layers of sandy soils are of varying depths and the types of sand are said to differ south and north of the village of Everton. On the crest of the Ridge, to the south towards Sandy, the soil contains Dark Sand and 'a good deal of heath and woodland is to be observed.'[ii] To the north of this boundary, towards Potton and Gamlingay, the soil contains Brown Sand, and much of the land is said to have been devoted to market gardening, although it lacks inherent fertility and requires large amounts of additional manure or fertiliser and water in order to be productive.

To the east of the crest of the Ridge, on the gently sloping dip-slope, there are the remains of extensive heathlands, Sandy, Potton and Gamlingay Great Heath, where acid-loving plants such as gorse and broom and acid-loving flowering plants can be found. Much of this land needs copious amounts of water and fertilizer, or controlled environments under glass, to produce good crops.

Elsewhere, to the west, the scarp slope is difficult to cultivate because of the gradient, and much of the land varies between sandy heathland and patches of clay, often with ponds where sand has been extracted.

The geology and soil types, combined with patterns of settlement, buildings, roads, bridleways, footpaths and archaeological evidence of the quarrying of natural resources, show that people have lived here for many centuries, see later.

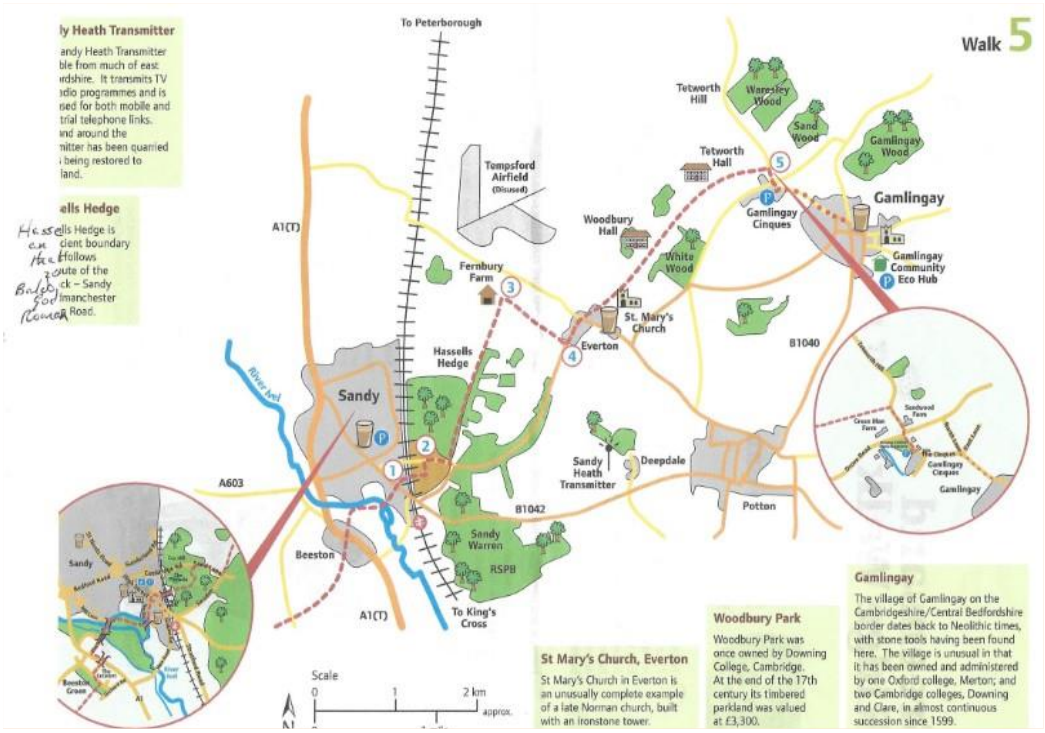
Greensand Ridge Walk no.5

The map below is produced by Central Bedfordshire Council, which and includes information from Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record and the Central Bedfordshire Definitive map of footpaths and rights of way. North is at the top of the image.

The path crosses Sandy High Street to become Path 5.

- Turn north-east into St. Swithins Way (1) and follow the signs up the scarp slope up to the viewing platform at the Pinnacle (2).
- The path then drops down to Sand Lane where it turns right, and passes the drive to the house known as Caesars Camp
- Then turn left across the fields to join the line of the Roman Road between Sandy and Godmanchester, which here is called Hasells Hedge;
- On reaching Fernbury Farm the path turns right (3); up the scarp slope of the known as Warden Hill Gap, see the front cover

- It then turns left (4) to go along Sandy Road towards the centre of Everton; passing the left turn towards Tempsford (14% slope)



- Then goes straight on past the Thornton Arms, along Church Road, straight on passing the church and going straight on, through Woodbury Park
- Past Storey Farm house on the left, then carrying on past Woodbury Hall, Old Woodbury and Tetworth Hall
- There is a car park Gamlingay Cinques (called Sinks in the 19th century) and there are interpretation boards provided by the Greensand Trust and the Wild-life Trust (5 on the map).

The Pinnacle and Sand Lane,

Sandy Roman town was in the south, established in a strategic position to patrol and control movement through the most significant gap in the Greensand Ridge in the vicinity. The gap, and the cottage which marks the spot, is now called Swaden, but the hill itself is marked Swading Hill on Ordnance Survey maps. After leaving Sandy, the Roman Road follows the bottom of the scarp slope, following the foot of the Greensand Ridge and crossing the level fields in the direction of Godmanchester. Early settlements close to the top of the scarp slope of the Ridge at this point would have had great views over the road here, to the north and west. [iii]

North of Sandy railway station, on Sand Lane, is Cox Hill, which was largely removed for sand extraction during the Second World War. Both sand and clay were situated close here. Barry Groom says 'This land still remains in the ownership of the Pym family. From the 18th to early 20th century the Hazells estate brickyards were situated on the clay part of this hill. The bricks from this brickyard were used in the construction of the walled gardens at The Hazells in the mid-18th century. The large pond came about due to clay extraction.'

The Pinnacle is a historically important landscape feature near where the Roman road from Sandy to Godmanchester begins. There is thought to have been an Iron Age fort on top of the outcrop and the views from the top over Sandy and the Ivel and Ouse rivers are delightful. Much of the top of the Pinnacle is now covered with young trees; most of the oak woodlands either side of Sand Lane are post 1850, but there are some more ancient trees.

This flight of steps seems to lead to the ramparts. Barry Groom, former Tourist Information Officer for Sandy, says that 'If you descend from the Pinnacle along the boundary fence of Caesar's Camp (a Victorian mansion), you can see what I am sure are the ramparts of the original Iron Age Camp. Certain papers say that the ramparts can be seen surrounding the top of the spur.'

At the top of the spur, near the Pinnacle, there is evidence that the woodland has been managed for several years. The oak illustrated below is an example of how oaks regrow as coppice stools after being clear felled, and must have been coppiced for hundreds of years. It can be found near where the paths lead out on to Sand Lane and the Greensand Ridge Walk. A fox's face seems to have been carved into it. Elsewhere there are oak trees of different sizes, indicated that plantings have taken place at different times.

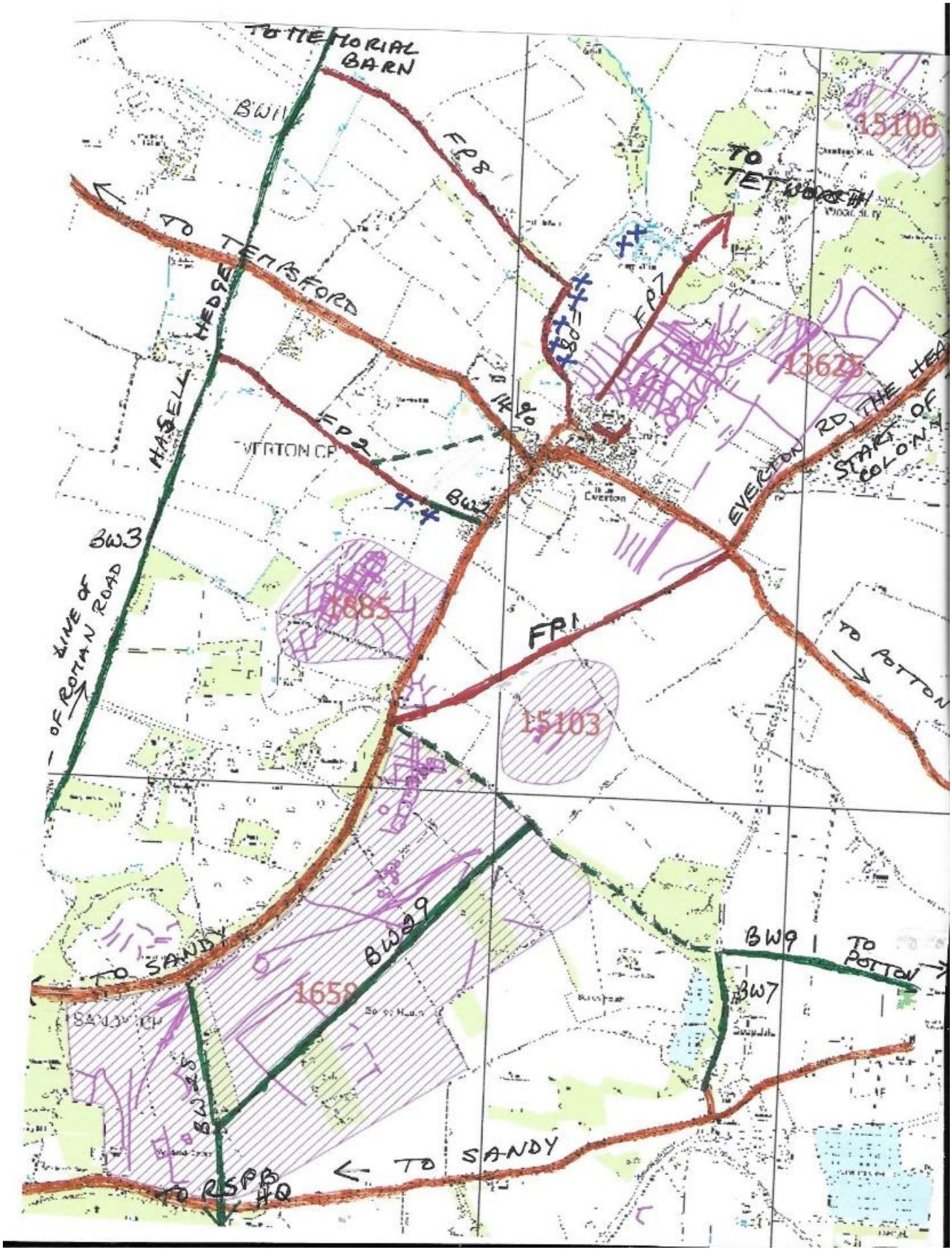
David Alderman, Director of the Bedfordshire Tree Register, says that 'The woodland by the Pinnacle has a few nice veteran oak trees ….. along the boundary edge with Sand Lane. The oak in the meadow north of Sand Lane is one of the biggest actually on the Greensand Ridge Walk. In nearby Sandy Lodge there are more veteran oaks and Scots pine, riddled with woodpecker holes. In the garden there is the 3rd largest Strawberry Tree in England.'

Caesar's Camp, near to the Pinnacle, is the most southerly of the large houses or mansions and farms strung along the Greensand Ridge north of Sandy. The others include Hazells Hall, Everton Park, Everton Farm House, the site of the former Everton House, Storey Farm, Woodbury Hall, Old Woodbury, the site of former Gamlingay Park, and finally Tetworth Hall.

A little further along, on the north side of the B1042, there is now a large sand and gravel quarry belonging to Tarmac. Their web-site says that 'Tarmac Sandy Heath Quarry supplies a range of high-quality aggregate products to builders, contractors and landscapers working on small, medium and large sized projects in Sandy.' On the south side of the same road, in the grounds of Sandy Lodge, there is said to be still a large ironstone quarry, which was used to build local churches and bridges.

In the second half of the 19th century local workers, from Sandy, Potton, Sutton, Wrestlingworth and Everton, used to mine coprolites for processing into chemical fertilizer. It is believed that some workers used walk from Everton by using the permissive path to Deepdale. The pits were up to 5 metres deep and the fossils needed to be sorted and washed. It was heavy physical work but the wages paid better than agricultural labour. No records of permission being given to dig coprolites in Everton parish have come to light.[iv]

The map below, from Stephen Coleman, shows archaeological details and the official Bedfordshire footpaths.



The landscape is criss-crossed by footpaths FP 1, 2, 7, 8, and bridleways 2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 28, 28; there are two important permissive footpaths on the Everton estate; one south-east to Deepdale and the B1042, and the other from the road to Tempsford, south-west behind Warden Hill and Winifred's Cottage, 40 Sandy Road.

At one time an isolated piece of Huntingdonshire was situated between Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, but now Woodbury, Tetworth and Gamlingay are mostly in Cambridgeshire to the north, Sandy and Everton-cum-Tetworth are today situated in Central Bedfordshire.

Over the centuries men and women produced food, used building materials, fertilizers and water, to produce the delightful, varied landscape that we can enjoy today. Stephen Coleman says 'There is good evidence for Iron Age occupation of the ridge top, not so much for lookouts but rather for actual settlement and agriculture. This evidence largely comes from archaeological cropmarks which mainly show enclosures (that is fields and paddocks) and trackways.' The pink shaded areas (in the map above) show the location of probable Iron Age sites and cropmarks, with the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record reference numbers, on the crest of the Ridge on the dip slope. Only a tiny part of 1658 at its north eastern end has seen any archaeological work but the linear features and a trackway, revealed there, produced no dating evidence.' He also says that 'The large grouping of cropmarks immediately north-east of Everton village represent the remains of a once larger medieval settlement of Everton though there are geological marks mixed up with a trackway and medieval croft/field boundaries. Everton would seem to have been larger and more significant in medieval times, perhaps because of the several pottery kilns there.'

The availability of water

There is evidence of irregular clay deposits, and some availability of water, along the length of the Greensand Ridge from Gamlingay Cinques towards Sandy:

- The gardens of Tetworth Hall, laid out in the 1950s by Vernon Daniells, where there are pools and a bog garden under a shady canopy formed by groups of oaks and sweet chestnut trees
- The Storey Moats with reservoir and the remains of medieval water management system
- The deep mud at the bend in the footpath 8 near Storey Moats, marked on the map from Stephen Coleman by blue crosses
- The pond below the level of footpath 8 at its southern end which was near the brickworks which operated until the 20th century
- Springs and ponds behind Winifred's Cottage, on Warden Hill
- The mud alongside footpath 2 where it joins Sandy Road at Warden Hill Gap
- A well in the walled garden at Hazells Hall
- A deep pond fed by a spring in a valley south of Hazells Hall.

A spring line, or hanging ponds, can be seen where the irregular layer of sandy soil meets the irregular layer of clay.

Bernard O'Connor commented on different types of clay either side of the south end of footpath 8. He noted that there is 'said to be a gault pit on the right and blue-green Oxford clay on the left.' The piece of ground enclosed by the curving field boundary followed by this footpath is said to have not

only included Storey Moats but also a rabbit warren, the Coney Garth, implying the presence of sand above. Today badgers or otters may live there. This curved boundary may be very ancient.

A former local resident, Mrs. Brooker, whose father was manager of the brickworks at one time, has said that the 17th century thatched cottages down Church End were built for brickyard workers. She said that the kiln was in the field on the left-hand side of the lane at the bottom of the hill and was still there in the 1930s.

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[i] Kerr, Brian, in an unpublished paper 'Bedfordshire Soil Mapping' written April 13th 2022.
[ii] C.E. Fitchett, in *The Land of Britain, part 55, Bedfordshire*, pp.114-5.
[iii] Information from an email from Stephen Coleman, 6th August 2020.
[iv] Bernard O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 4; his website has more details.

2- The Everton Estate and the Pym family'

The land and house

The lands round the Hazells originally belonged to Chicksands Priory, and it is possible that a medieval house stood where the present house now stands.[i] It was first built in about 1698 by Baron Britain of Sandy.

These lovely managed woodlands are on the Greensand Ridge south of the formal terrace at the Hazells with wonderful views across the river valley to Moggerhanger. The gardens and the park here are not open to the public except by special arrangement.

The first William Pym came to The Hazells estate in 1748 when he married Elizabeth Kingsley, whose father had bought it in about 1721. An avenue of Sweet Chestnut Trees which runs east to west in the park, and is thought to date from 1750, may have been planted to celebrate this marriage. It has become one of the biggest Sweet Chestnut avenues in Bedfordshire and compares with similar avenues at Woodbury Hall, Flitwick Manor (1843), and the remnants of one planted c.1760 near Houghton House. It is believed to mark the boundary between Sandy and Everton parishes and therefore divides the Diocese of Ely from the Diocese of St. Albans. Until about 1900 it also marked the divide between the Woodbury and The Hazells' estates.

In the 1760s and 70s, when the building was still called Hazells Hall, the walled gardens were further developed by William Pym. He added 2 bays to the original house and by this time there were 3 walled gardens and a remarkable tree-lined terrace along the edge of the ridge and views across the Bedford plain. Payments were made to Nathaniel Richmond for plantings and improvements in the park.[ii] In *Sentimental Journey* Francis Pym says that in 1766 Nathaniel Richmond was paid for 11 days work there. Pavilions were added at the north and south ends of the formal terrace.

In 1788-93 the Hazells was enlarged and rebuilt for Francis Pym, son of William, when he married Anne Palmer. The work was directed by London surveyor, Martin Cole, who may have been the architect. The centre of the building is thought to have incorporated the earlier house. The south wing was later extended and larger reception rooms created, but drawings of the Hazells in the early 19th century show a smaller affair than is seen today.

The Hazells, Humphry Repton and later

In 1790-91 advice on the layout of the Hazells, the park and the gardens was given by Humphry Repton, who prepared one of his red books for the family and advised that the Sandy to Everton Road should be moved further east. He suggested that a 'mere cottage, rudely built of sandstone and thatched, might be made a very picturesque lodge.' It was built as he suggested and is known as the Stone Lodge, see above.

Repton may also have advised that the house should be stuccoed to harmonise the old house with its new extensions. It is known that he disapproved of red brick and had a recipe for the making of stucco to cover such buildings.[iii] After 1814 the present porch of Doric columns was added.

About that time some land from the Woodbury estate, which included much of Everton village, was sold to the Pym's Everton estate.

A modern country house was built in Hazell's Park, for Francis Pym M.P. in 1968-9, designed by Rodney Tatchell of Sidney Tatchell, son and partner, in neo-Georgian style and named Everton Park. Shortly afterwards, in 1974, the gardens of Everton Park were re-designed by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, the leading landscape architect of his day. Although on a modest scale, the gardens came to rank highly in Jellicoe's estimation of his work in the 1970s. They included a Long Walk, a reminder of the historic terrace at The Hazells.

After an application to demolish the Hazells was refused, the hall and fourteen acres of surrounding gardens were sold for a nominal sum to the architect Kit Martin, and converted into 8 houses and 4 apartments between 1981 and 1985. The gardens have since been restored, including the pre-Repton Terrace with its pavilions[iv] and carpets of spring bulbs; snowdrops, then daffodils, followed by bluebells.

The permissive footpath and coprolites

There is a permissive path on the Everton Estate, towards Sandy Heath Transmitter and Deepdale. On the Everton Enclosure map, 1802, this track is marked as Public Road 2. It crosses Everton Heath, going towards the Sandy to Potton Road, B1042, and then straight on to towards Biggleswade or to the ford at Sutton and eventually to Ashwell. The management of the Everton Estate gives permission for this track to be used by the general public. They advise people to park in Deepdale, but there are several parking spots near the parish boundary on Everton Road.

For about forty years at the end of the 19th century coprolites were dug between the layers of sand and clay in nearby Sandy and Potton and other villages, but it is unclear how many workers from Everton walked to work near Deepdale and no records of permission being given to dig coprolites in Everton parish have come to light.[v]

As the track continues onwards towards Deepdale, it passes the T-junction with the Long Riding where it turns right towards the entrance to Sandy Lodge, the Headquarters of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, on the B1042. The junction is marked by a mature oak. The track continues

on down the hill, until it reaches the boundary of the Everton estate, then past the Sandy Heath Transmitter, until it joins the Weneslawe Walk to east and west and leading to Deepdale straight on. There are relatively young pine trees to the right and older trees to the left here.

Warden Hill Gap

After following the Greensand Ridge Walk 5 from Sandy up the Pinnacle, to Bridleway 2 (Hazels Hedge), following part of the old Roman road along the foot of the Ridge, the path turns right at Fernbury Farm (3), and goes up the scarp slope known as Warden Hill Gap, where it turns left (4) to follow Sandy Road. The track is regularly used by walkers but is sometimes very uneven because animals have been grazed there and have been herded through the mud at the gateway, churning up the top-soil.

Water surfaces part-way down the scarp slope of the Ridge, between the layers of sand and clay, where the slope faces north-west across the wide river valleys of the Ouse and the Ivel. At intervals from this point northwards water emerges as hanging ponds, springs, the historic Storey moats and attractive features in the Tetworth Hall gardens. In some places the sandy soil above the clay is more than 30 feet deep, but in other places the clay layers are very near the surface and there have been small local brickworks.

The Pym's nineteenth and twentieth century buildings in the village

The Elms – Jonathan Pym thinks that this house, see right, was built for the Estate Manager, who for many years was a man called Mr. Preedie who managed their estate as well as the Astell's estate, Woodbury, and an estate near Hatfield, to which presumably he travelled by train. The Estate Office for the Hazells and the Astells was in this house until the early 1980's, when the management of the two estates was separated. The Elms was sold about 2005 and later extended by the new owners. The house seems to have been built in three stages. The designs and measurements of all three parts are similar, but the building materials are slightly different in each section. The older Winifred's Cottage, 40 Sandy Road, opposite, still belongs to the Pym family.

63 - 69 Sandy Road, see right, a block of 4 double-fronted cottages, was built in 1914 and was one of a group of important investments in the village made by Francis Pym in the early 20th century. The photograph shows that number 69 has links with two village families some of whom still live in the village. Jeremy Endersby's grandfather, Mr. Frank Gurney, is standing here at the gate. He said that he was knocked off his bicycle by a low-flying aeroplane during the war. The cottage also has links with author and local historian Bernard O'Connor, who lived here later, for some years.

The other terrace of 6 cottages, 1 to 11 Church Road, which the Pym family built in 1919. Although not listed, they are a distinctive feature in the centre of the village. In 1905 the Pym family arranged a 999-year lease of a piece of their land so that a village hall could be built on Church Road. The Astell family, who own the Woodbury estate, paid the building costs for the hall.

In 1928 the parish Council leased the Recreation Ground on Potton Road for 100 years from the Pym family for a peppercorn rent and the family made other important contributions to the life of the village in the 20th century.

The importance of Woodlands

Woodlands are important to the economy and value of estates and landscapes:

- To improve the appearance of the landscape and provide interest to residents and visitors
- To mark boundaries and junctions of footpaths or roads
- To provide building materials
- To provide fuel for residents and for local industries such as making pottery, tiles and bricks
- To provide income for the owner in the long-term
- To provide cover for keeping and protecting game
- As a status symbol, because the owner has sufficient resources to develop woodlands and postpone the sale of the products for many years
- To shelter buildings and gardens from the wind and sun, and to give privacy.
- In the 21st century, trees help to develop renewable sources of energy, provide habitats for wild-life, reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and enhance the green spaces that people enjoy. Land owners may plant them to offset their carbon footprint.

Mr. Jonathan Pym of the Everton Estate has said:
'I think there is another reason for the woodland planting and maintenance – the sheer pleasure of the exercise! This is true as regards the planting of individual specimens in the parkland, where in our case for instance we continue to enjoy tress planted 350 years and more ago and have planted about 100 new trees for future generations. Then the growing of woodlands is a deeply satisfying activity, because of their beauty, size and character.'

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[i] Barry Groom.
[ii] O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 76, and from Barry Groom.
[iii] Barry Groom.
[iv] Barry Groom.
[v] O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 4.

3 - Everton, church, village and parish.

Early settlements may have developed along the Greensand Ridge which provided lookouts over the river valleys as Romans set up their camp in Sandy, and as Vikings and Saxons came up the river from the east coast. Ancient routes provided access to river crossings at Tempsford and Sandy; clay sub-soil and the spring line enabled early water-management systems to be set up; natural woodlands and clay soils provided fuel and materials to build wooden dwellings with thatched roofs.

Everton's church of St. Mary the Virgin, is thought to have been built before 1175, and has been described as late Norman and unusually complete.[i] The stone for the building, and some other local churches, is thought to have come from a quarry at Sandy Lodge, south of the B1042, from Sandy to Potton.

The south doorway arch has early-English features, dating it to about 1175, but the arcades inside the nave of the church are thought to be earlier; the capitals at the top of the columns are all slightly different. There are 15th century, perpendicular, features in the church, including the south porch, windows in the chancel, the chancel arch to the nave, and corbels supporting the nave roof.

Who was wealthy enough and influential enough to build such a substantial church, so soon after the Norman Conquest? Who may have owned quarries nearby from which local stone could be conveniently obtained? Who would have the motivation to carry this out? It seems likely that it was Countess Judith de Lens, William the Conqueror's niece.

Countess Judith of Elstow was born in about 1055 and married Earl Waltheof of Huntingdon and Northumbria in 1070. During a rebellion against William in 1075 she betrayed her husband and he was beheaded in May 1076. His lands in Potton and Everton then passed to her. She may have felt guilty about her husband's death, because she refused to marry a second husband and instead founded Elstow Abbey and churches in Kempston and Hitchin in about 1078. There seem to be no records of her life after 1078 so links between Everton church and countess Judith cannot be proved.

The church and rectory were sold to Clare College Cambridge by Henry Vlll on 23rd June 1544, following the changes at that time brought about by the Dissolution of the Monasteries between 1535 and 1541. He granted 'all our Rectory and Church of Everton, known as Everesden and Tetworth' to the Hall or College commonly known as Clare Hall in the University of Cambridge.' A copy of the document is on display on the wall of the north aisle.

Memorials in the church include one to Humphry Winch, 1555-1624, an MP for Bedford Borough knighted by James 1, who appointed him as Justice at his Court in 1613. He was responsible for nine women and girls from the village of Husborne Bosworth, being hanged for witchcraft at Leicester goal in July 1616. The King is said not to have been pleased. Bernard O'Connor suggests that Humphry Winch lived in the medieval manor house at Storey Moats, and that his descendants lived there until 1716. Philip Storey purchased the moats and other property at a later date.

William Astell of Woodbury Hall bought the lease of the rectory, church and advowson in about 1713 and there is a memorial to him on north wall of the chancel. There are many other Astell memorials in the church.

There is also a memorial dated 1755 to the vicar, the Rev. John Berridge, a contemporary of John Wesley. He was a complex character, and played a significant role in the spread non-conformity in Bedfordshire, when he threw away his old sermons and his new way of preaching became very popular. People came from miles around to hear him preach and the church was crowded on Sundays. He gained a reputation for natural wit, cheerfulness, kindness and generosity and led members of the congregation to call out, stamp their feet, and have convulsions.[ii]

By the 1830s the vicarage in Church Road was about 200 years old and was demolished. It was replaced by another on the same site which is now a family home.[iii]

- In 1865-6 St. Mary's church was restored by David Brandon
- In 1974 the church tower was lowered after a lightning strike. The parishioners were faced with a bill of £30,000 for repairs. The stained glass in the east window (see right) was salvaged after the lightning strike.
- In 1999 pinnacles were added to the corners of the church tower.
- On 10th December 2020 – the old clock was removed from the church tower and taken for repair by The Cumbria Clock Company, Church and Public Clock Specialists, Dacre, near Penrith, Cumbria. John Boocock in *The Clocks of Gamlingay and Everton Churches* says that the clock was originally housed in the stables of Everton House which used to stand to the east of the church, and is dated 1742, see below. Jane Gurney, the church-warden, reports that it had previously been repaired by John Bull whose name is on it.

The 1802 enclosures map for Everton shows a stable and yard and a barn and yard south of Church Lane opposite the church, with a wide space between them. Parishioners may have stabled their horses and/or turned their carriages there when they came to church.

Everton Village,

Everton would seem to have been larger and more significant in medieval times, perhaps because of the several pottery kilns there' [iv] but the evidence shows that in the 17th and 18th century buildings included:

- The 17th century thatched cottages in Church End (see right) were said by Mrs. Brooker to have been built for brickyard workers. She said that the kiln was in the field on the left-hand side of the lane at the bottom of the hill and it was still there in the 1930s. Some of the bricks which were made there can still be seen in the floors of local stables and sheds.
- Manor Farmhouse, 1 Sandy Road, was built in the 17th century and extended in the 19th century. The original house was timber-framed and is faced with pebbledash render. Both roofs are composed of clay tiles. The original plan was an L-shape with a cross-wing of two storeys and attics and a wing on the road of two storeys. The 19th century block is an extension to the north and is also of two storey.It is taller and built of red brick. At that time the farmhouse comprised two reception rooms, a kitchen, a scullery, a dairy, and a cellar. Upstairs were four bedrooms, one store room and four attics. Outside stood a brick and tile washhouse with "water from pump," and many other farm buildings. Victoria County History for Huntingdonshire notes that there was a 'moat is formed by a stream and some ponds.' Traces of this moat have been found by the present occupants. In a map of the Everton Enclosure Award 1802 (see later) the extensive farm-yard here is clearly shown and labelled as Home Farm and Home Farm Close. (Manor Farmhouse and the Thornton Arms are shown in the photograph.)

- Until the middle of the 19th century the village pub was known as the Black Horse. It is thought to have been rebuilt and renamed the Thornton Arms in 1852 and listed under that name in the county-wide directories from 1853 (see the image on the previous page). **T**he earliest known owner is said to have been Captain Thornton of Margate [Kent] but the countywide licensing register of 1876 shows that earlier that public house had been licensed for over a century and was originally named after the

family who were at that time lords of the manor of Everton Mosbury. At one time the owners were the trustees of the Everton Estate, then local Brewers Wells and Winch of Biggleswade, Suffolk brewer Greene King in 1961. Charles Wells bought the pub in 1966 but it is now a free house.

- A 17th century farmhouse probably forms the core of 18 Sandy Road although alterations were made in the following two centuries. It was once the farmhouse of Warden Hill Farm. The older part of this cottage comprises one storey and attics; it is timber-framed with colour-washed roughcast render and has a thatched roof.
- 9 and 11 Sandy Road was built in the 17th or 18th century, of brick, having a tiled roof and looking like an old farmhouse. It comprises two storeys.
- The Twitchell – means a green space with buildings all round it, or a leafy lane, or living in a narrow passage. There seem to have been two Twitchells in Everton in the past, one included the Barnett's farm house and the bakery which have recently been redeveloped.
- Some of the taller 17th century cottages close to the Twitchell used to be grain stores for a malthouse, the less tall ones may have been stables for donkeys.[v]

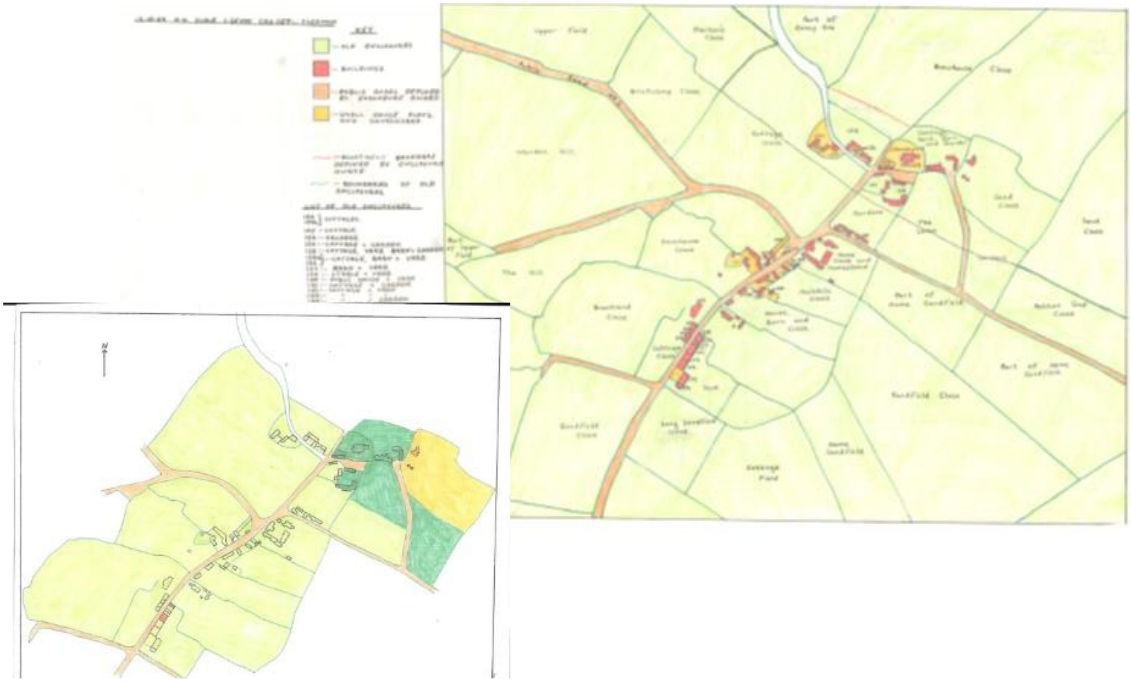
The Enclosure of Everton Parish,

The local Enclosure Acts allowed major landowners to re-organise their often-widely separated holdings, and farm them more efficiently; as a result, it must be assumed that many agricultural labourers were laid off or employed elsewhere. Bernard O'Connor has dealt with this in some detail in the History of Everton on his website. Later, I have been much more interested in the later, and less-well-known, story of the public-spirited provision for workers in mid-19th century Everton.

The image of the Enclosure Map of Everton 1802, and the inset map, below, is unclear but it includes the following details:

- It shows that in the 18th and early 19th centuries, the open fields were called One Hundred Acres, Further Field, Middle Field and Upper Field. The only common shown is Cow Common, in the west. Large parts of the map, coloured greeny/yellow, were described as enclosed before 1802. The only areas dealt with by parliamentary enclosure were to the west (Everton Down Field and Cow Common) and to the south east (Everton Heath).
- All divisions seem to be marked as old enclosures, but some seem to date from when Everton House was first built, as the lawns and gardens had been divided up, presumably since the house was built in the early 18th century.
- Most of the land in the village in 1802 was owned by Geoffrey Thornton, according to this map.
- Church End and what became FP8 were not separated and were not adapted as a public road; but Church Lane and Green Lane had. Another public road ran from the turn in the road to Tempsford as it went down the scarp slope. This road went to a large open space, but there are no details about what it was used for.
- Manor Farm House was marked as Home Close and Homestead

- There was an orchard and what had been a rabbit warren, Coney Garth, north of Church End and the first part of FP8. Today badgers or otters may live there.
- There was a Dove House Close with a house and barn, and perhaps a dovehouse marked nearer the edge of the Ridge, in the enclosure across Sandy Road.
- The Public House and yard were in the centre of the village.
- The Blacksmith's shop was on the corner of the road to Tempsford.
- There was a malting yard, a Poor House and Poor House Barn,
- There was a long row of cottages and gardens, probably situated near where the Pym family built new cottages in 1914.



There may have been a 17th century manor house east of Everton church when William Astell bought the Everton estate in 1712 or 1713 and leased the house. It was possibly extended or rebuilt in 1730.

It is shown on the above enclosure map, dated 1802, as being to the east of the church, close to the church-yard wall, with the drive to it being along Green Lane.

Everton House site, now Park Farm

In 1811 Everton House was altered by John Soane and then in 1850 or 1860 it was abandoned by the lessees, the Astell family, when they moved to Woodbury Hall.[vi] Most of

Everton House was later demolished and the former laundry and service buildings were converted into a private house, today known as Park Farm, which appears not to have been part of the main house. The 1802 map shows that there was a cottage, yard, barn and gardens in the land north of the house. The nearby holly hedge is said to be one of the finest in England.

The little track from Green Lane to the east end of the church is sometimes referred to as Coffin Lane. Opposite the church, on the south side of Church Lane, there seem to have been a barn, stabling and yard, but no access to Everton House from there.

The Masters of Clare College Cambridge are shown as being the 'Improprietors' of the land surrounding the church, and Everton House. The vicar held land further along the east side of the drive, further from the road to Potton, which in 1802 was named Sand Close.

Changes during and after the Second World War

A 'WAAFERY' was established on the former Lawns of Everton House during the Second World War. The footpath from the west end of Church End then became a short-cut for the service women who lived there, from Everton village to the airfield down Victoria Hill. After the War these temporary buildings on the former 'Lawns' were used for people who needed them. In about 2000 this new housing development was built there.

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Jeremy Endersby has made a list of recent changes which have taken place in the village:

- The village shop has closed, as has the petrol station
- 42 houses have been built in the last 40 years, the most recent development being on Barnett's Farm, now called Bakehouse Close, on Sandy Road
- Fewer allotments, on the long strips known as the 'roods,' are being cultivated
- The church no longer has a vicar living in the village
- Both the 'Iron Church' and the former Methodist Chapel are now family homes
- There is no longer a Women's Institute in the village
- There is no longer an Everton village Football Club
- There has only been 1 village fete since 2000
- There used to be a Gamlingay and Everton Scout troop, but there have been no church parades in Everton for many years
- More people are working from home.

Doreen Gurney has expressed concern that a threatened large housing development might obstruct green corridors for wildlife. Recently I think that I saw evidence of badgers or otters living on the scarp slope of the Greensand Ridge at the upper end of FP8.

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[i] Charles O'Brien and Nikolaus Pevsner, *THE BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough,* pub, 2014.

[ii] O'Connor, Folder of work, no.51.

[iii] O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 68.

[iv] Emails from Stephen Coleman, BA (Hons), MCIfA; Heritage Environment Information Officer, Historic Environment Record, Central Bedfordshire in October 2020.

[v] O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 71.

[vi] O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 76.

4 - The Woodbury estate with its spring line between the sandy soil and the clay layer and the historical features.

The Woodbury estate has been referred to as a palimpsest. My dictionary says that this is either a document on which the writing has been rubbed out and the old document then re-used, or it's a brass plate which has been turned over and re-engraved on the back. But landscape historians use the word to describe an historic landscape on which the boundaries have been redrawn at least once over the centuries, and this is the case here.

The estate has a number of county champions trees, including a huge small-leaved lime in the park which is a hollow ancient tree. In 1994 there was still the biggest European larch in Bedfordshire on the estate, which may no longer be there. It may have been planted in the eighteenth century.

In about 2010 – an avenue of small-leaved lime trees was planted both sides of the drive from west of Everton church as far as Storey Farm.

Large changes in ownership

The Astells leased much of the Woodbury estate from Clare College in about 1713.

The Rev, Wilkieson seems to have bought the estate about 1803. When he sold it in the mid-19th century it was purchased by the Astell family.

The Horse Chestnut Avenue which divided the north of the Hazells Estate marked the divide between that the Woodbury until 1900, when the Astells sold a large part of their holding, including much of Everton village, to the Pym family.

Most of the land developed as the Tempsford Airfield was compulsorily purchased by the Government from the Everton Estate at the beginning of the Second World War.

After the War, because of death duties, the Pym family could not afford to buy it back, so some of the land was purchased by the Woodbury Estate after 1945.

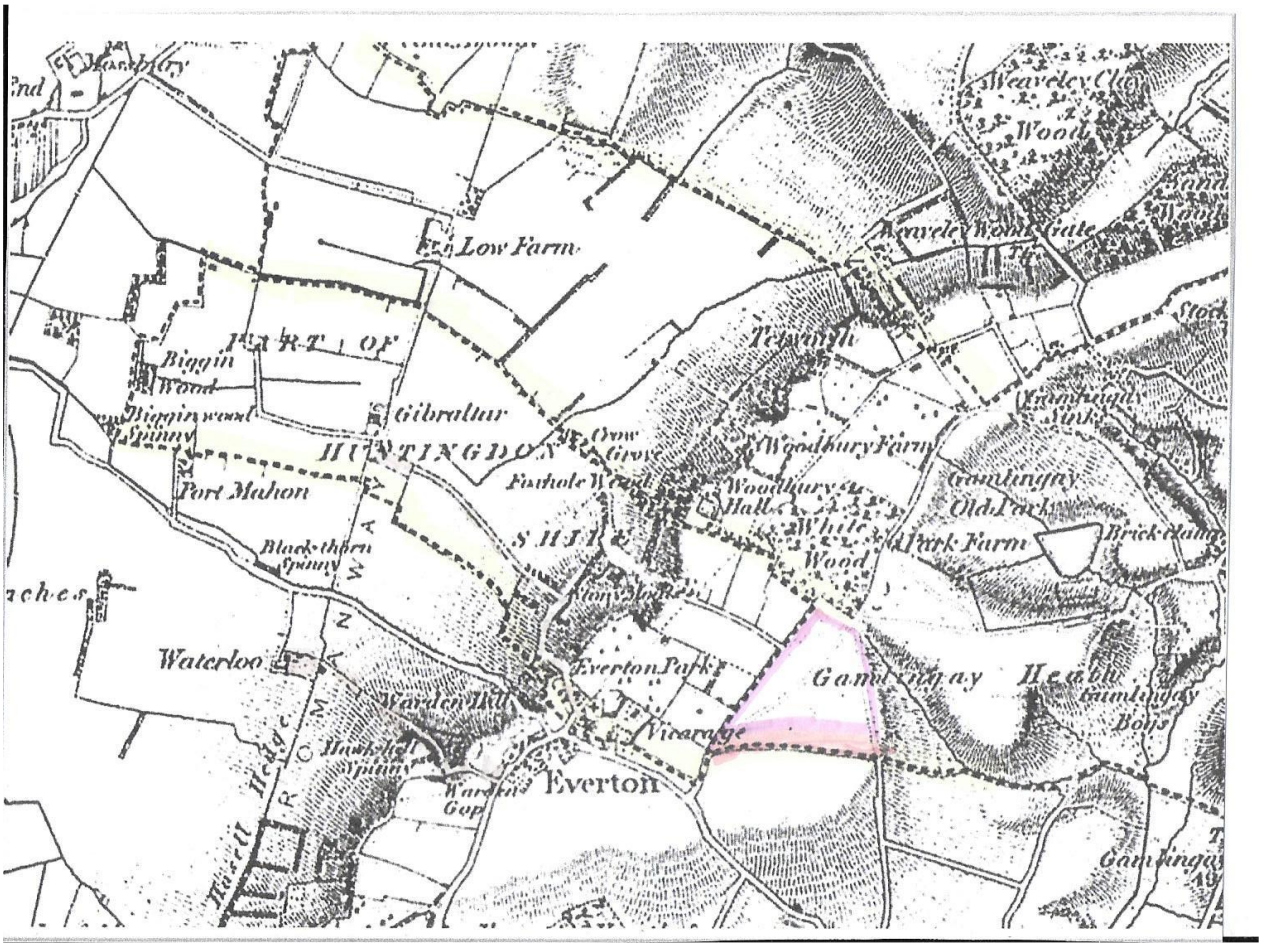
In *The Landed Families of England website*, it says that: '*The Errolls have two sons and two daughters, and the intention would appear to be that their younger son will inherit Woodbury, as in 2015 he became the fourth member of the family to take the name Astell.'*

Ancient boundaries and old buildings

Stephen Coleman has written that curving boundaries such as the south-eastern part of FP8, are usually ancient and may have originated as woodland boundaries in the 12th or early 13th century. The feature which became known as Storey Moats, developed as a sophisticated medieval water-management feature and may have had a medieval manor house on the island. He goes on to say: The piece of ground enclosed by the curving field boundary followed by FP8 not only included Storey Moats but a rabbit warren, or Coney Garth.

There is evidence, from house platforms and trackways, of a small medieval settlement dating from about 1140, when the Norman church was built, known as Woodbury or Westhorpe, somewhere near today's Storey Farm.

Below is part of the first edition Ordnance Survey map of Potton and Woodbury, dated 1836.



Although it is not very clear, it is possible to see that in the centre of the map it says that the land is part of Huntingdonshire and that 3 more-or-less parallel lines divide the landscape into strips from the crest of the Greensand Ridge down to the river flats below. The strips running east to west are made up of the county boundaries, with Cambridgeshire to the north and Bedfordshire to the south.

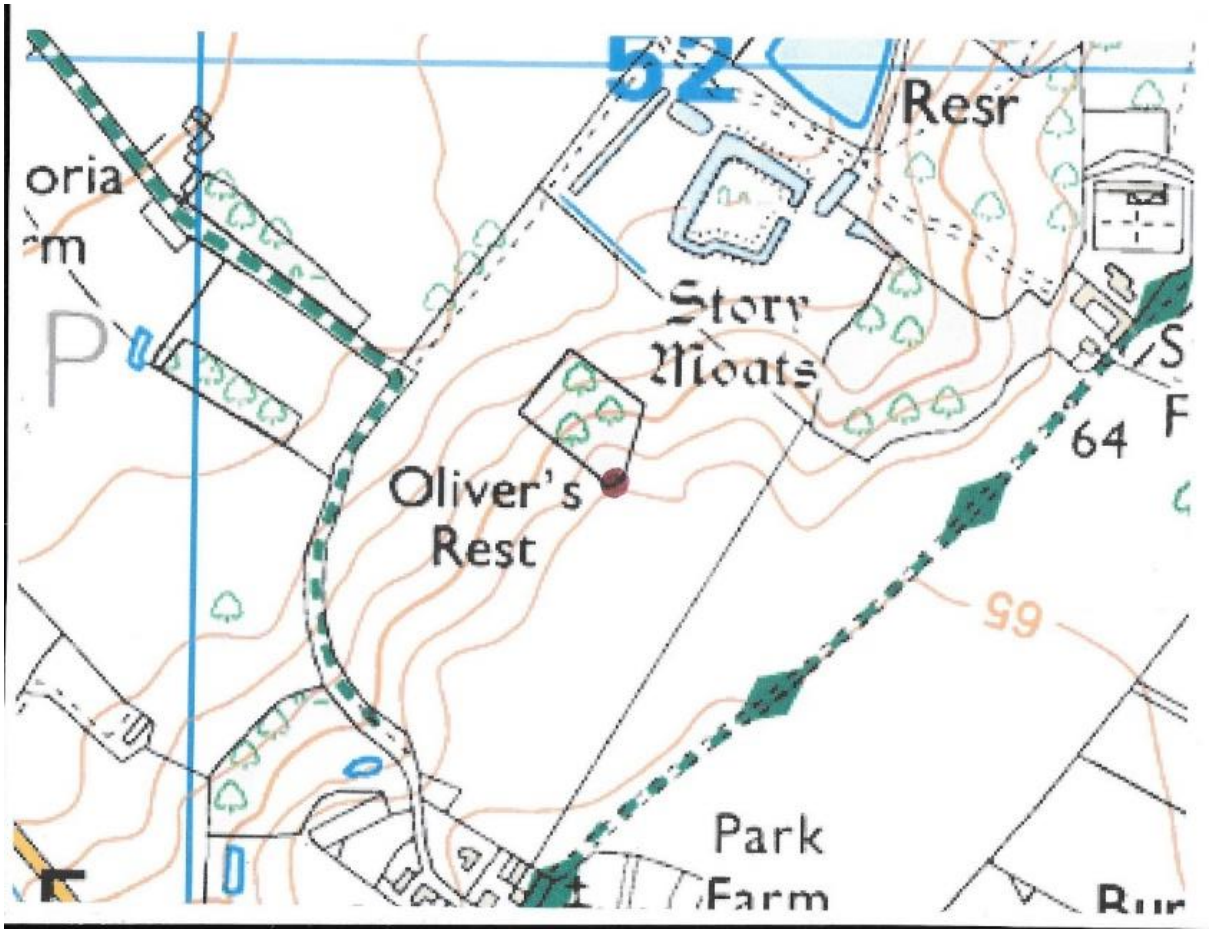
Clearer examples of landscapes being divided into strips from the Ridge to rivers to the north or west are to be found in the landscape between the Greensand Ridge and the river Ouse at Willington, Cople and Cardington. These may be the remains of very old land divisions, dating back to before the Roman occupation, the Saxons and the Norman Conquest.

I am very grateful to Stephen Coleman for the maps and other information about this part of the landscape. He thinks that the Hunts. (Tetworth) and Cambs. (Woodbury) portions of the modern parish of Everton might have been transferred to Bedfordshire in 1965.

Footpath from Church End to the former site of Tempsford Airfield, Footpath FP8

The footpath, which today begins between 36 and 40 Church End, reveals evidence of an early landscape layout. At first the path descends down a hollow way between hedges and a variety of native trees and curves down the slope, to the north-west and then to the north-east. There are several ash trees which seem to have been last coppiced at least a century ago and an ancient oak, with a tall trunk about a metre in diameter, no doubt marking an ancient boundary of some sort. Bernard O'Connor comments on different types of clay either side of this track. **He noted that there is 'said to be a gault pit on the right and blue-green Oxford clay on the left.'** Some village residents have memories of members of their families working in a brickworks near there.[i]

The footpath descends down the slope, passing a large pond below the level of the path, on the left. In 2021, when I friend and I walked down the path, we saw two cubs playing on a grassy bank behind the hedge to the right-hand side. Their tails were too short, and they were too large, to be rabbits or hares. They could have been badgers, but the length and width of their tails suggest that they were otters.



When it reaches the flat arable fields, the map above shows that the track originally carried on towards Story Moats, but today it turns to the left and follows an ancient baulk, (which is a linear feature) that is a straight track between 2 substantial ditches, towards the former site of Gibraltar Farm. This baulk ends just east-south-east of the Roman Road today, but

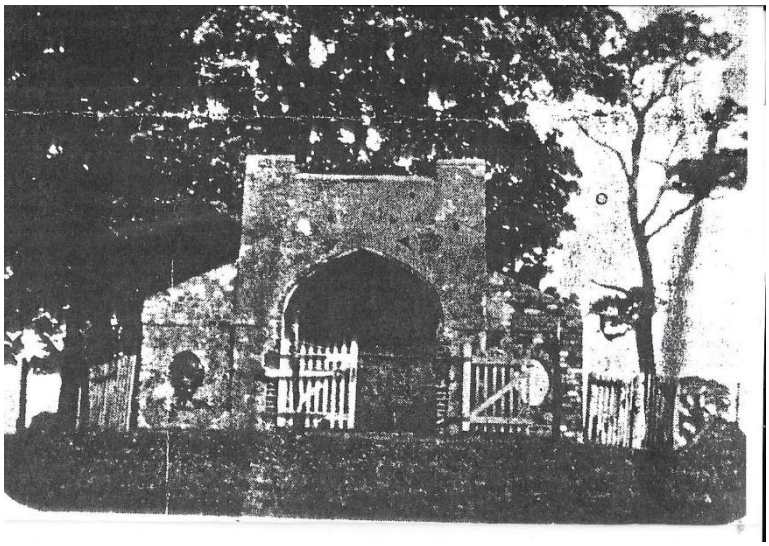
may originally have been aligned on Biggin Wood, which Bernard O'Connor describes as being at OS 1852527.[ii] A series of other linear layouts are shown on old maps of the Woodbury estate.

In 1615 the original Everton manor house, which may have been situated within Story moats, was sold to Humphrey Winch whose memorial can be seen in the church. He was a lawyer implicated in sentencing nine women and girls from Husbands Gosworth Hall to death for witchcraft.[iii]

It is thought that in 17th century or early 18th century Old Woodbury House was extended for Hon. George Parker.

Cromwell's Rest - In 1760–67 Woodbury Park was landscaped by Nathaniel Richmond[iv] but it is not known whether he designed the feature known as Oliver's Rest. It is said to have marked the spot where Oliver Cromwell's tent was pitched as he marched on London.[v] In 1802 Cromwell's Rest was marked by a dot next to a Spinney, just higher up the scarp slope than Coney Garth, formerly a rabbit warren.

Cromwell was a native of Huntingdon and immensely important as a leader during the Civil War, 1642-46 and again in the second Civil War in 1648, which ended by King Charles being executed in January 1649. He was Lord Protector and Head of State from 1653 to 1658, and would have been able to see his troops camped on the baulk or passing by on the Roman Road, but I have not found any firm evidence that he did so.



It may have been built as an 18th century eye-catcher or folly, built about the same time as the Full Moon Gateway in Gamlingay, see later.

The Biggleswade Chronicle, on Friday November 18th 1988 showed an image of Oliver's Rest in the 19th century when some parts still remained. It seems to have had a tall archway with gates, flanked by two low walls, each pierced with a circular opening. Behind the main archway there was a semi-circular structure, originally roofed, and probably with seats. Some of the bricks were hand-made, but others are modern factory-made products of fairly recent date.

Until boundary reorganisation in the 1960's it was, like Woodbury Hall itself, in the detached part of Huntingdonshire, and the parish of Tetworth. Before a small piece of woodland was planted in the late 1980s or 90s this landmark overlooked Tempsford Aerodrome; now the

site is said to be marked by a small pond, a few silver birch trees and some standing brickwork.

A water-colour painting of the gardens at Woodbury Hall in 1866 was advertised for sale recently. The name of the artist was not given, but there were some initials. It seems to show the scarp slope of the Ridge, with a building which may represent Oliver's Rest.

In the late 18th or early 19th centuries White Wood Lodge was built outside the village, on Drove Road, where it joins Everton Road the Heath, Potton Road the Heath, and the road to Gamlingay. It has been described as a picturesque thatched cottage of 1½ storeys.

In 1803 Woodbury Hall was built by Rev. William Wilkieson, and later Victorian additions were made, some being partly removed in 1931. The former manor house became Old Woodbury.

In 1832 Woodbury Hall was leased for 5 years to Rev. Thomas Shore and his family. His daughter Emily was a gifted naturalist and author; her journals about her life at Woodbury have been published. She died of tuberculosis in Madeira in December 1839, aged only 19 but Potton History Society has a transcript of her journal.[vi]

1836-8 – Old Woodbury House was transformed for Rev. William Wilkieson in the Gothic style. It may have been 5 bays, but then was reduced to 4. He is said to have built 'The Colony' about the same time.

1868 and 1884 – Storeys Farm - These buildings are very picturesque with crow-stepped gables, a bell cote and a moulded brick panel saying '1884.'over the porch. A smaller building just west of it has a date-stone of 1868 on the front.

Tempsford Airfield site

From 1936 there were hints of plans to build an aerodrome in the area, and in 1941 Hazells Hall was requisitioned. The airfield was named after Tempsford because nearby Tempsford village had the nearest railway station; it was to play a dramatic role during the war.

The RAF took over Hazells Hall from the army to use as the head-quarters of the squadron that had been assigned to work with the resistance movements throughout Europe. One person to be billeted at the Hasells was Violette Szabo (who was awarded the George Cross) whose story is told in the book and film 'Carve Her Name With Pride.' Several other houses in the area were requisitioned

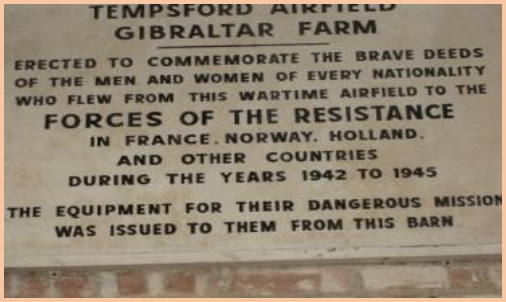
There are records showing that the King George Vl and Queen Elizabeth visited in November 1943 and that Glenn Miller flew from here on his last flight, December 15th 1944. The war-time history of the airfield is a story of great heroism and determination, but also of great loss and sacrifice.

A 'WAAFery' was established on the former Lawns of Everton House, now the site of the Lawns housing development. The footpath from the west of Church End was used as a short-cut from Everton village to the airfield down Victoria Hill.

An avenue of elm trees, which ran along the top of the Greensand Ridge to the east of the airfield is said to have been up-rooted to allow the planes an easier take-off. Airmen and agents had offices, and were billeted, in nearby farms and other buildings. Supplies for agents in Europe were loaded into the aeroplanes from the barn at Gibraltar Farm.

In 1944 or 45 Woodbury Hall suffered a severe fire. When it was restored by Sir Basil Spence in 1952-3, he lowered the building to two storeys and shortened it to 7 bays front and back, under a hipped roof, with a courtyard. Some architectural features and fittings were saved from the previous house and also from Everton House.

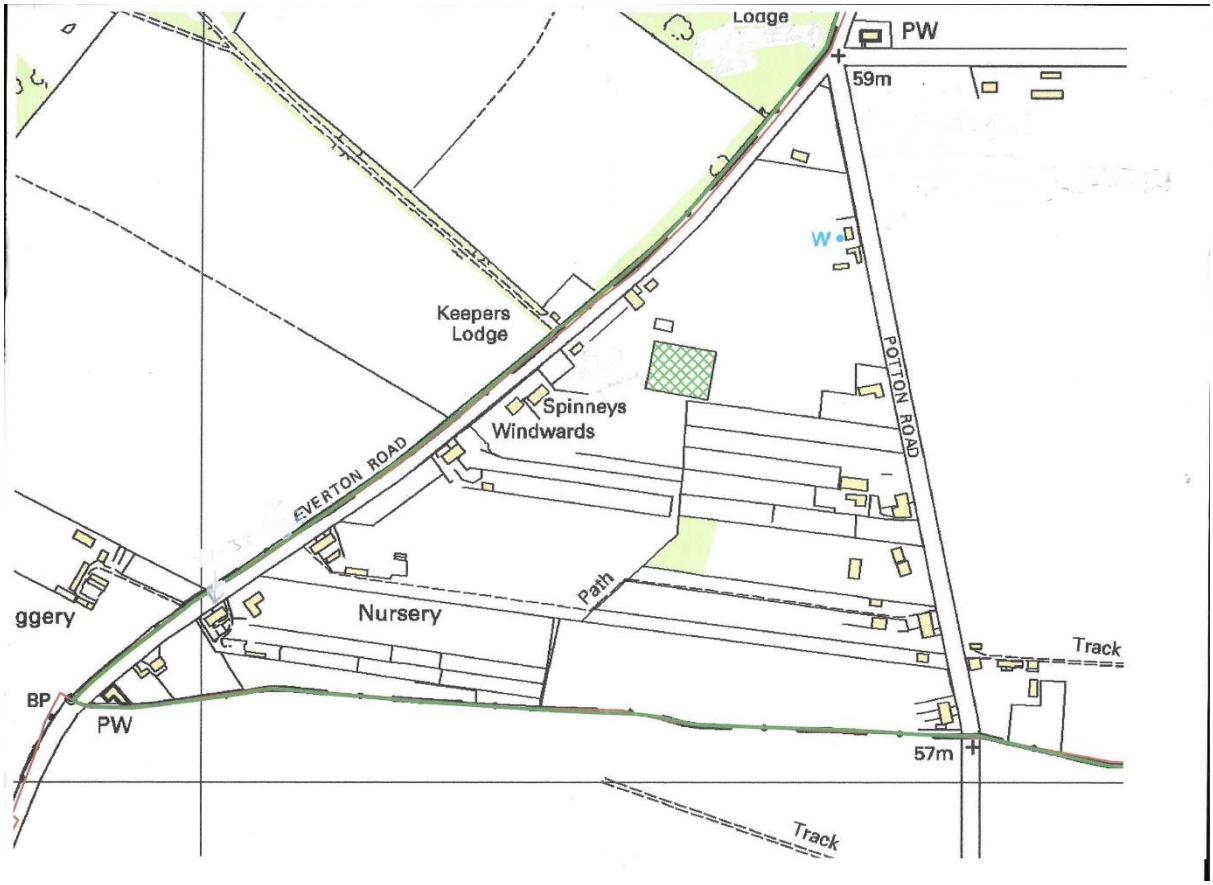
In about 2009 – Countess Erroll restored the Gibraltar Barn as a memorial to the men and women who flew from Tempsford Airfield during the Second World War. It stands alongside the Roman Road, on private land, but there continues to be open access to walkers. Countess Erroll died in January 2020 and is much missed.



The 'Colony' and other brick buildings - One of the big puzzles of my research has been what happened to the Colony? I was looking for some sort of model village, a smaller version of Bournville, Cromford, Port Sunlight, Saltaire or Stewartby perhaps; but where had it gone?

Following the passing of the parish Enclosure Act in 1844 Rev. Wilkieson arranged the construction of sixty houses in fourteen blocks which became known as the Colony (TL 215513). They were completed by about 1850 on two parcels of land about 61 acres in extent (Gardner's Directory 1844, p.328; CCRO. Q/RDc 67) The bricks were most likely from the local brickworks to the east and slates brought in from Wales.

Although housing for industrial workers is thought to have begun in the late eighteenth century, when Richard Arkwright built terraced houses for his cotton workers in Cromford, the Colony seems to be an early example of a large number of houses being built for agricultural workers which are still being lived in. When James Brown of Gamlingay History Society sent me a copy of the 1883-86 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of this part of the Woodbury estate, the pieces of the jigsaw began to fit together.



Although local historian Bernard O'Connor wrote that 'the original holdings can no longer be identified,' the houses still stand along two sides of a triangle formed by the Cambridge part of Everton Road the Heath and of Potton Road the Heath. The apex of the triangle is where these two roads meet and the base of the triangle is formed by the Bedfordshire/Cambridge boundary.

It seems that the well-meaning Rev. Wilkieson rehoused families on the edge of Gamlingay Heath some years after they lost their homes when the open fields in Woodbury were enclosed, and that he surrounded their houses with allotments. There were at least 6 blocks of 6 cottages, some if not all of them, without back doors. They seem to have had utility blocks outside at the back, which may have contained wash-houses, privies, wood-stores, etc. The images below show a block of 6 cottages during a modern conversion, with the remains of a utility block behind.

Most of the cottages were built with rusticated openings, cast-iron casements and slate roofs, but the semi-detatched cottages at the apex of the triangle were built to a higher specification with thatched roofs, herringbone brick walls and stone frames to the windows which have metal Gothic revival details. They had small brown-coloured stone 'noggings' in the walls; there are coloured bricks forming arches over the windows, and the white building materials, see right, seem to be stone; they may be Silver Carr Stone, which is rare, and similar to that used at St. Mary Magdalane church, Sandringham. Perhaps most important visitors travelled from the Cambridge direction.

Although each cottage may at first had about an acre of land, the allotments may have proved unproductive without investment in manure, fertilizer and water. Crops have been grown in greenhouses, and land is still used for keeping donkeys and other animals, growing vegetables, for gardens, or woodland. As opportunities for employment on the land reduced in the twentieth century, many tenants may have moved into the towns, but the houses can clearly be still seen, most converted into modern homes.

Only the cottages at the apex of the triangle, and the School House, are still thought to be owned by the Woodbury Estate. The Lodge at the entrance to the Woodbury estate was built opposite the School House later in the 19th century.

The exact details about who paid for the 'Colony' are not clear; records in the Somerset Record Office, near Taunton, show that Reverend Wilkieson planned to sell Woodbury estate between 1836 and 1839, and died 22nd May 1839. Did his son, also called William, pay for building the Colony? Whoever made the public-spirited decision to rehouse the workers on the Woodbury estate, he or she would not have expected the cottages to be still making good family homes more than 180 years after they were built.

The former Iron Church and the Methodist Chapel

There was the 'Iron Church' to the north of the Colony, and the Methodist Chapel, further south, by the Cambridgeshire/Bedfordshire County Boundary.

- The former Iron Church, Gamlingay, was first built as an iron Mission church in 1879, and was dedicated to St. Sylvester. It was rebuilt in 1885-6 to designs by J D St. Aubyn and closed about 1980.
- Doreen Gurney says that after services in the Methodist chapel, during the second world war, airmen returned to Manor Farmhouse afterwards for sing-songs round the piano. Her family still treasure visitors' books from these years.

Both the 'Iron Church' and the Methodist Church are now family homes.

Barry Groom, former Tourist Information Officer for Sandy says *'In relation to the Iron Church, I have always understood, and indeed have read somewhere (not sure where) that when the church was rebuilt of brick, the iron building was transported to Sandy and erected on the corner of the High Street and Ivel Road. The building was certainly built of iron and had an ecclesiastical appearance with something like clerestory windows in the roof, etc. In the 1880s/90s it was called Miss Pearson's Iron Room. General Thomas Pearson and his family were tenants of The Hazells from the 1860s to the 1890s. When he and his wife died their unmarried daughter moved to Stanley Lodge, a large house in the High Street, opposite Ivel road. In parish magazines of the period Miss Pearson's Iron Room was often used for church events etc. and for most of the 20th century it was owned by the Sutton family who ran it as a news-agents.'* Lord Erroll remembers that it was occupied by a house clearer and full of useful bits and pieces and was pulled down a few years ago and replaced with houses number 36 and 36A.'

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xix O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 20. In this file he says that a brick kiln was still at the bottom of Victoria Hill in the 1930s.

[ii] O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 19a.

[iii] O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 25.

[iv] O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 76.

[v] Letter from County Archivist, 5th June 1991 (Unpublished document). SBD13175.

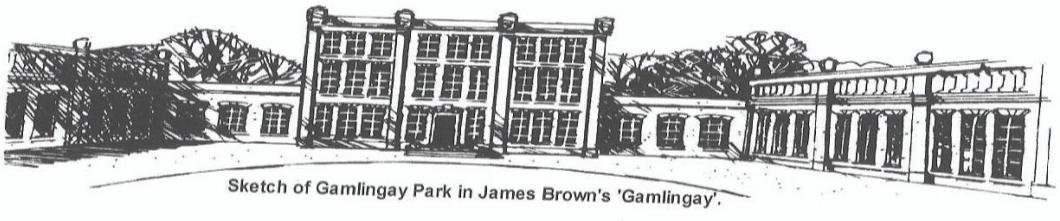
[vi] O'Connor, Folder of work, no. 76.

5 - Gamlingay Park site, Tetworth Hall and Gamlingay Cinques.

The final, north-eastern part, of the Greensand Ridge contains the cluster of three properties, the former Gamlingay Park House with its garden, parkland and the Old Moon Gateway, Tetworth Hall, with its estate and gardens, and Gamlingay Cinques with its interpretation boards and links with long distance footpaths.

Gamlingay Park House and garden was built about 1711 for Sir George Downing, 3rd baronet, and demolished 1776. His death was followed by arguments about inheritance and it was many years before his executors were able to endow a college in Cambridge in his name.

In her book 'Cambridgeshire from the Air', Susan Oosthuizen says, of the arial photograph of the remains, that '*the earthworks of the house are still startlingly clear from the air. The circular depression within a square near the road was once a lawn within a gravel drive; the narrow rectangles surrounding the entrance are the remains of the main block and the wings of the house; to the left and right of the wings of the house were small enclosed gardens (left) and kitchen gardens (right).*'



Sketch of Gamlingay Park in James Brown's 'Gamlingay'.

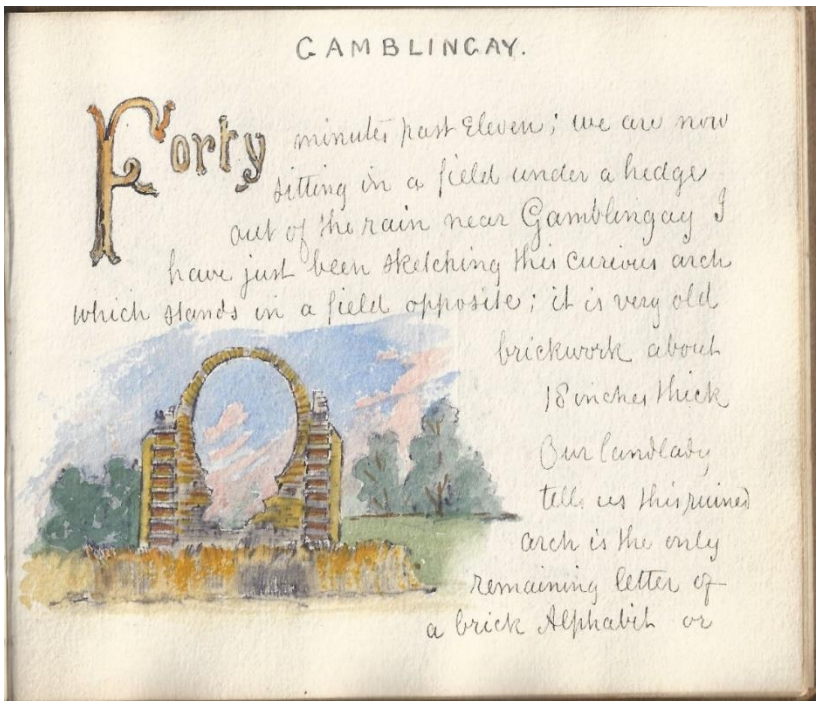
Behind the main block of the house lies a long narrow terrace overlooking the valley to the north, to which the garden descends. Ramps at either end of the terrace lead down into a wide rectangular garden, which in turn leads down into a narrow terrace alongside a huge trapezoidal lake, now often dry, as in the photograph. In the centre of the lake was a small island. The substantial bank which forms the right side of the lake dammed the waters on the

sloping side of the valley and allowed the construction of series of canals which ran up the right side of the bank towards the house.

After Sir George's death in 1776 the land reverted to pasture and this preserved the original layout of the early 18th century garden.

The Full Moon Gateway, stands along the footpath to Gamlingay from south of Drove Road, and was built by Sir George about 1712-3 within his enclosed park. It was surrounded by an ornamental garden[i] and was spared when the house was demolished by one of his heirs.

The remains of the Gateway were listed by Historic England as Grade 2 in November 1985 and described as*: 'Folly. Circa 1712. Red brick, English bond. Two gate piers with rusticated sides. The only surviving upstanding brickwork associated with the Gamlingay Park built by Sir George Downing. National Grid Reference TL 22296 52669.'*



Although there are stories about the gateway being part of a long wall, and perhaps having large letters along the top of the wall, the construction of the sides of the gateway suggests that it was not part of a long wall, but stood alone in the park. The central arcs have been lost and today only two huge piers remain. In the photograph you can see how tall they still are; Penny is about 5 feet tall.

The bricks have been laid to imitate large blocks of crude stone separated by deep joints, an unusual feature.

The drawing, and diary entry above, came from the Gamlingay and District History Society's collection of photographs which can be accessed from www.gamlingayphotos.co.uk

Tetworth Hall had a completely different history

Built in in the late 17th century, well after the dissolution of the monasteries, the Tetworth lands had links with relatives and descendants of Henry Vlll's secretary, Thomas Cromwell, before being sold to Sir Nicholas Pedley in the mid-17th century. Sir Nicholas bought the land at the north-east end of the Greensand Ridge, in 1653[ii]. There may have already been a building on the site, but his son, John, built a new, and delightful, house there in 1710. His initials and the date 1710 are scratched on bricks near the back door and the pediment over the front door has celebrated his marriage to Miss Essex Foley, in 1711, for more than 300 years.[iii] He was later MP for Huntingdonshire.

Tetworth Hall remained in the hands of the Pedleys and their descendants, apart from a few years in the 18th century, until 1827.
Although it was altered and extended in the 18th century, and again in the 20th century, the house remains a charming example of Queen Anne design and contains some fine internal features, including two Corinthian columns in the entrance hall, a splendid oak staircase and two exuberantly carved doorcases featuring cherubs and foliage on the landings. A curved bay was added later in the 18th century, at the west of the building.[iv]

For a few years in the mid-18th century the estate and house were owned by Edward Harley, the 2nd earl of Oxford, a collector and patron of letters; Wimpole Hall was his main residence, but he had to sell both houses to pay his debts in 1740; after which it was owned by Philip Yorke, the 1st earl of Hardwicke and Lord Chancellor.

Stanhope Pedley, once more acquired the estate for the family in 1759 and kept it until he died in 1802; his wife Mary owned it until her death in 1827.

Pedley memorials in St. Mary the Virgin church, Everton, include one to Stanhope's widow, Mary, who is said to have died on 3rd November 1827, aged 83, 'Last surviving issue of John Pedley of Tetworth, by Judy his wife, daughter of John Stanhope Esquire, of Gromstone Hall in the County of York, both of whom are buried in the same vault, and grand-daughter of John Pedley Esquire of Tetworth.' There are also memorials to 'her brother Stanhope Pedley

Esquire, who died without issue 9th July 1803 in the 66th year of his age; and to her sister Catherine Pedley who died on the 2nd October 1796 aged 54.' After Mary's death the house and estate passed to a distant cousin, Richard H. Foley whose son lived at Tetworth in 1828 and mortgaged it in 1829. It was sold to the 1st Lord Feversham, in the 1830s, and then, in 1849 to Octavious Duncombe of the nearby Waresley estate, who bought the house and let it out. His family owned the house and estate until after the Second World War, during which the house was requisitioned, until 1962.

After 1895 Augustus Schobell Orlebar, who was born in Willington but was part of the Orlebar family of Hinwick Hall, and his wife Hester Mary, rented Tetworth Hall. His sister Caroline died there in 1914, before she completed her attempts to become one of the first people to raise a public subscription to buy a building, the Willington Tudor Dovecote, for the National Trust.

In 1937 Tetworth Hall was let furnished to Sir Peter Crossman, who returned again after Second World War the war to rent the Hall, and then bought it and the estate in 1962. Sir Peter said that the estate was noted for riding to hounds, for shooting parties, and for fishing. In the early 1960s the present library was created out of 2 rooms in the east wing of the house and the loggia was replaced by a single storey neo-Georgian addition on the west side of the house[v].

The gardens were laid out in the 1950s by landscape architect Vernon Daniells. Terraces and balustrades were built with glorious views to the west and north, over the valleys of the River Ivel and the Ouse. At the end of the 20th century the gardens were sometimes opened to the public for a day or two in the summer to raise money for charity, as part of the Open Gardens Scheme. At this time a woodland walk, on the scarp slope of the Greensand Ridge, to the south-west of the house, had fine rhododendrons, azaleas and other acid soil loving plants. Spectacular clumps of Himalayan lilies flowered after the rhododendrons.

The spring line along the scarp slope of the Ridge emerged here as large pools and a bog garden under a shady canopy formed by groups of oak and sweet chestnut trees. The west lawn had rose beds and diamond-shaped brick-edged beds planted with cotton lavender, and a wide herbaceous border to the north. A central flight of steps led down from the lawn to a grass terrace; there were plantings of cornus and magnolia species in rough grass beyond, and a vegetable garden.

Tetworth Hall and Estate were sold in the early 21st century and is now a much-loved family home.

The Greensand Ridge Walk crosses the Tetworth Estate, passing south-east of the Hall, and ends near the hamlet of Gamlingay Cinques (see Walk leaflet no. 5), where it connects with the Clopton Way.

Gamlingay Cinques Common **is a nature reserve** and is one of the remaining fragments of Gamlingay Great Heath in Cambridgeshire. [vi]

The Woodland Trust website makes the point that heath-land has been shaped by human land management to provide life's essentials. Open heath-lands have provided grazing and vital materials, supported specialist wildlife and formed mosaics with other open and wooded habitats. Ground cover is characterised by plants such as heather, bilberry, gorse and bracken, which occur on infertile and well-drained soils. Open heaths have been highly modified by humans for centuries and are controlled by grazing or cutting. However, native ancient woodlands with oak, birch and Scots pine share many of the same plants and animals with these more open heathland landscapes.

Here at Gamlingay Cinques Common acid-loving species such as gorse and broom grow, and plant species such as heath bedstraw, slender St. John's Wort and various sedges and rushes are found in the wetter hollows. It is understood that heather no longer grows on heaths in Cambridgeshire. The pit area of the common is said to have been used for sand extraction, and neutral Gault clay has been found beneath the sand; so the flat area has been used for growing potatoes.

The two interpretation boards at Gamlingay Cinques include a map of the Greensand Country Walk and the links with other long-distance walking routes. No interpretation board for the start of the connecting Clopton Way exists and walkers have to look carefully to find

that the start of this long-distance footpath is between cottages 13 and 15. From Gamlingay Cinques it passes south of Gamlingay village centre, to continue east to National Trust's Wimpole Hall (a distance of (11½ miles) where it links up with the Wimpole Trail and carries on to Cambridge (23½ miles).

Brian Kerr says that today's heath-lands are only fragments of what were once significant landscape features; parts have been converted into rabbit warrens, conifer plantations and parklands. *'An early phosphate fertilizer industry, based upon the mining of coprolites from the heathlands at Sandy, was paid for by the construction of Sandy Lodge, which is now the headquarters of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. There is also an important link with the Rothamsted Research facility in Harpenden. This research organisation, which is now the longest running agricultural institution in the world, was founded by John Bennet Lawes who was a pioneer in the processing of the phosphate fertilizers extracted from the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire coprolite nodules. This which became known as 'Lawes Manure' and was significant in the expansion of arable agriculture across England in the late 19th century.'*

Brian Kerr and a group of MSc students from Cranfield University completed a project in 2021 to produce a story map about the Greensand Country which employed a novel technique of using maps as the basis for a presentation which also injects video and audio clips. They have worked to produce something very original.[vii] Further details can be obtained from Cranfield University's Centre for Environmental and Agricultural Informatics.

And finally:

I am immensely grateful for all the help that I have received. People have generously given their time to talk to me, have shared information and sent me maps and images. I must apologise is some have been accidentally excluded from the following list.

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- Bedfordshire Archives – *community pages for Everton*
- Charles O'Brien and Nikolaus Pevsner, *THE BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough,* pub, 2014
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- Richard Price, Estate Manager for Tetworth Farms Limited
- Pym, Francis, '*Sentimental Journey*' privately published 1998; and other information from Jonathan Pym
- Victoria County History for Bedfordshire
- Publications such as Biggleswade Chronicle, The Field and many others
- The Wildlife Trust (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough) information boards at Gamlingay Cinques.

And finally, many thanks are due to my friend Penny Fletcher for the happy hours that we spent exploring the north end of the Greensand Ridge together.

[i] from VCH Cambridgeshire *'Gamlingay.'*
[ii] Bernard O'Connor, website.
[iii] The image has been supplied by Richard Price, Estate Manager for Tetworth Farms Ltd.
[iv] Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd 'Quality and Queen Anne at Tetworth Hall,' The Field, 16 March 1985, pp.47-48.
[v] Montgomery-Massingberd *Quality and Queen Anne at Tetworth Hall*, 'The Field,' 16 March 1985, pp.47-48.
[vi] The Wildlife Trust (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough) information board.
[vii] Information from Brian Kerr in an email dated 3rd May 2021.