

## BOUNDARY OF THE MANOR OF BURTON

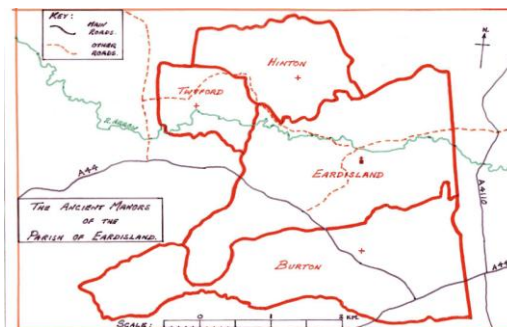
Burton was one of the four manors within the parish of Eardisland, the others being Hinton, Twyford, and Eardisland itself.

Burton Court is situated a little over one mile south of the centre of the village of Eardisland.<sup>1</sup>

The last of several John Brewster(s)<sup>2</sup> died on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1804 and some of his papers were later in the possession of his son-in-law, William Evans, who, by then lord of the Manor of Burton, dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 1813 copied the boundaries of the Manor of Burton from them. John Brewster's wording suggests that the description may well go back, by oral hand-down, to about 1717, only 90 years (say three further generations) after the latest dated description of the manor in the Burton Court "Rolls" themselves. The earliest description in the "Rolls" dates to 1527 and it is likely that this represents the extent of the manor when first established as an administrative unit at an unidentifiable, but very much earlier, date. John Brewster's wording is:

*"The boundary of the Manor of Burton as I have heard my father and old people describe it- beginning at the Bar & going from thence to the end of the Grove House land that joins the parish of Stretford and is bounded by that parish till you come to Longrass or Monkland Northfield, goes with the hedge belonging to Mr Kinnersley to the bottom round by Mrs Bedford's holding and Mr Evans's meadow, and a small part of a piece called the Golden Low and up to the Riddymore Common gate, round the Common to Park-hule, the bottom of Jay's land to the Sally Coppice, up to the Quinton field, 18 acres, across the road and along the road that goes for Hardwicke to little Robins, the stracs hedge belonging to Mr Evans and round his land called Woodmans, down the Green Lane and up the Prile thro' Mr Gould's land to the Barewood takes in a small part of it opposite Richard Davis's, up to the Barrow from thence down to Luntley Brook which continues the Division below Bidney, crosses Mrs Marlow's & Perry ditch takes the upper part of Little Rock-meadow & meets at the Bar."*

Stemming predominantly from this information, the extent of the manor was illustrated in a drawing within a recent publication.<sup>3</sup> This drawing is reproduced (with permission) hereunder:



<sup>1</sup> From outside The White Swan Inn to the gates of Burton Court in Burton Lane.

<sup>2</sup> The last three of whom were Lords of the Manor of Burton.

<sup>3</sup> Selfe, P. [Ed]. "A Case Study of Burton Court in the Parish of Eardisland" Saxon Press. 2006.



With certainty – No.

However, east across the parish boundary from Tithe Map (Eardisland) field No. 141 (Upper Congrum or Upper Longrum) is Tithe Map (Monkland) No.7 (Upper Longe Browne). Taking Monkland No.7 with the two fields to the north of it makes up the far NW corner of Monkland parish, before Kingsland parish is reached.

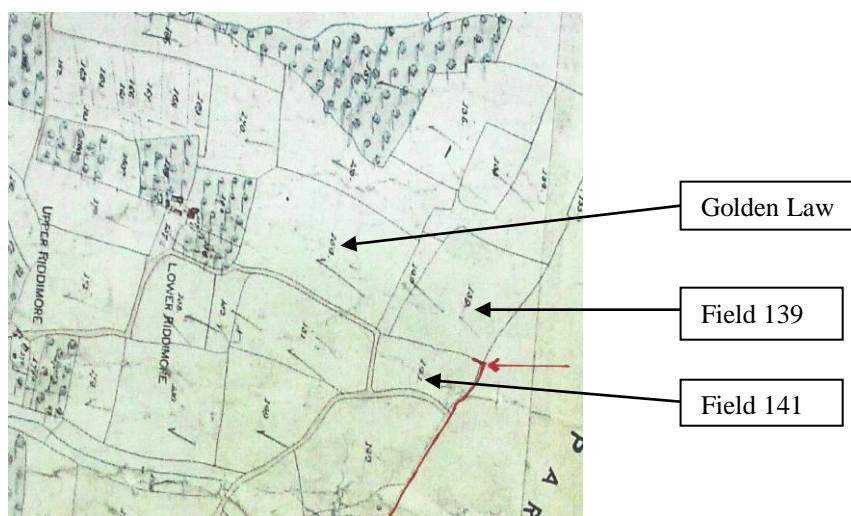
I accept that this is a 'long shot', but was perhaps Monkland No.7 the southernmost portion of an earlier undivided field 'Monkland Northfield'?

Whether or not that was indeed the case, the description soon after *Monkland Northfield* mentions *the Golden Low*. This is Tithe Map (Eardisland) No.154. A turn to the west at *Monkland Northfield* is therefore necessary. In the absence of a reasoned alternative I will make this turn from the junction of Tithe Map (Eardisland) Nos. 141 and 139.

This first part of our perambulation of the boundary of the Manor of Burton can be illustrated first by repeating the extract from Bryant's map on page 2 of this; and then by using the Tithe Map<sup>7</sup>. To both of these I have added the boundary as a red line:



### Bryant's Map



## Tithe Map

<sup>7</sup> The Diocesan Copy, now at HRO reference L287.

After *Monkland Northfield* the description of the boundary continues: *goes with the hedge belonging to Mr Kinnersley to the bottom round Mrs Bedfords holding and Mr Evans meadow, a small part of a piece called the Golden Low and up to Riddymore Common Gate...*

The Mr Kinnersley cited here may have been James Kinnersley who died in 1798, aged 75<sup>8</sup>. The Kinnersley family held the lordship of the Manor of Eardisland c.1799 to 1805. It is valid to suggest that when the description was being recorded this was still quite a new boundary hedgeline, defining the boundary between the manors of Eardisland and Burton there, which had been known from early times, but not previously defined.

If I have chosen the correct place at which to turn west from the parish boundary, then the hedge line I then follow (via the Tithe Map) I believe to be Mr Kinnersley's hedge.

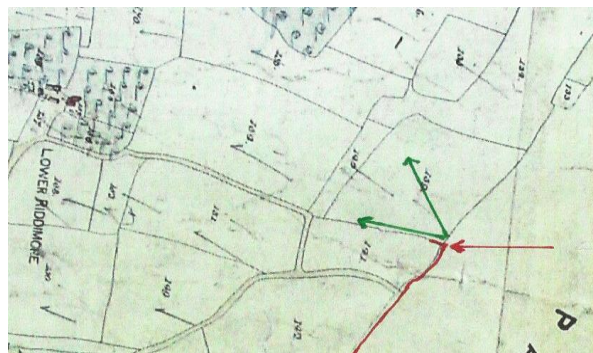
Then: *to the bottom round Mrs Bedfords holding and Mr Evans meadow*. I have no separate information from which to identify Mrs Bedford's holding and will return to the subject of Mr Evans later.

However, at the west end of Kinnersley's hedge, just before it meets the lane to *Lower Riddimore*, the Tithe Map shows a small strip of land, field No. 140, *Slang*; the Tithe Map Schedule records *Owner Unknown*. Turning right down the eastern hedgeline of No.140 is slightly downhill until, by the time it meets the next field to the north of it, the flood plain of the river Arrow has been reached.

This can be seen on the photographs which I took<sup>9</sup> from where I believe the boundary turned west at the junction of fields 141 and 139; the position indicated by the red arrow on the Tithe map illustration at the bottom of the previous page of this.



The directions photographed are shown by the green arrows on this extract from the Tithe Map:



As can be seen, Kinnersley's hedge is no longer there, although LIDAR does show a shadow which may evidence it; thus confirming the Tithe map.

<sup>8</sup> Memorial tablet in the chancel of Eardisland church.

<sup>9</sup> On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015.



And so:  
*to the bottom round Mrs Bedfords holding and Mr Evans's meadow, a small part of a piece called the Golden Low and up to Riddymore Common gate*

*the bottom round Mrs Bedfords holding :*

This puts the boundary around the north edge of what was to be Tithe Map No.140.

*and Mr Evans's meadow :*

I had hoped that other information I have about this family would lead to at least a tentative position being put forward. This has not proved to be the case. To enable the next part of the description to be followed, a small part of the south-east portion of what became Tithe Map No.155 needs to be included in the Manor of Burton.

*a small part of a piece called the Golden Low :*

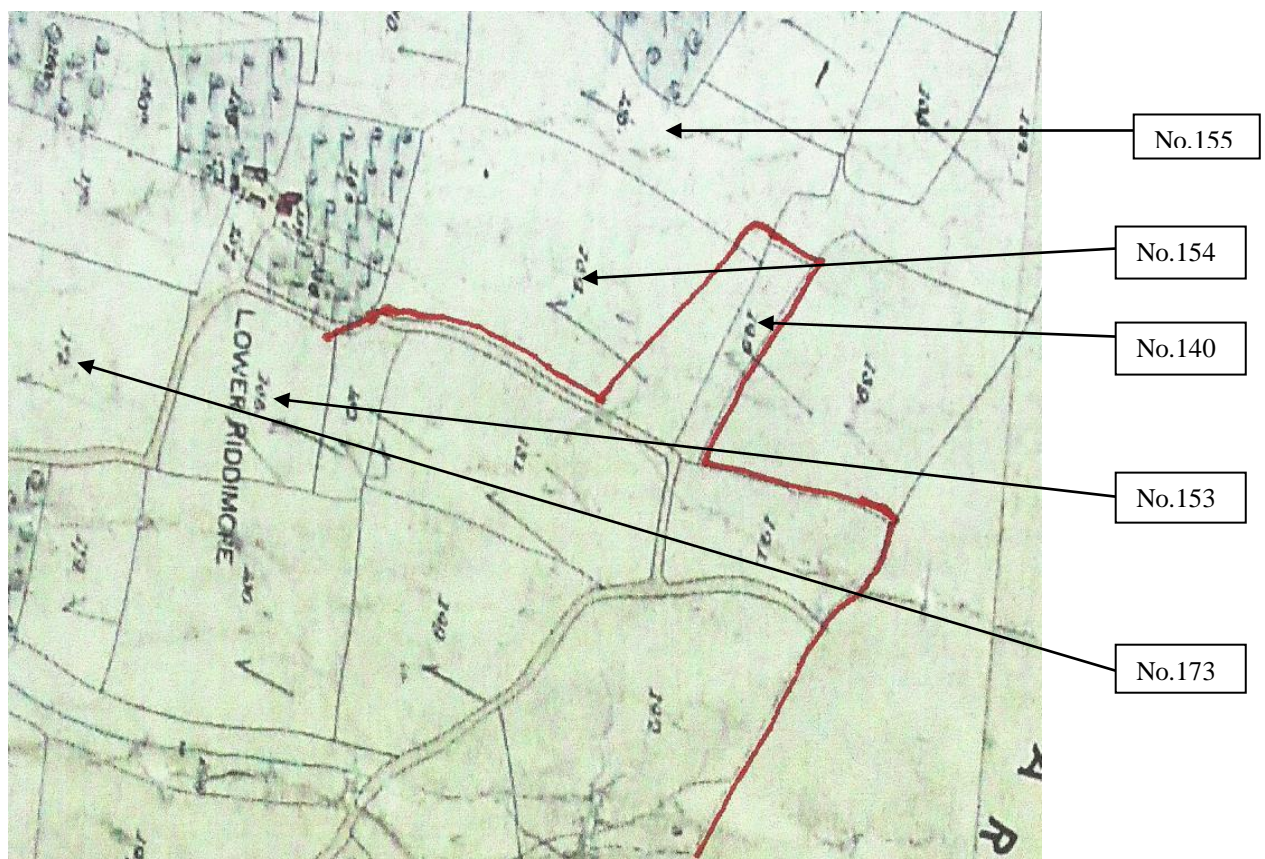
“Golden Low” was Tithe Map No.154, when “Golden Law”.

*and up to Riddymore Common Gate :*

“Riddymore Common” was Tithe Map Nos.153 and 173. Where the gate was I do not know.

To get to the Common after only a “small part of a piece called Golden Low” it is necessary to accept that this means ‘and up the lane to Riddymore Common Gate’.

Illustrating this with a red line on the Tithe Map gives:



Now we need to go:  
*round the Common to Park-hule, the bottom of Jay's land to the Sally Coppice*

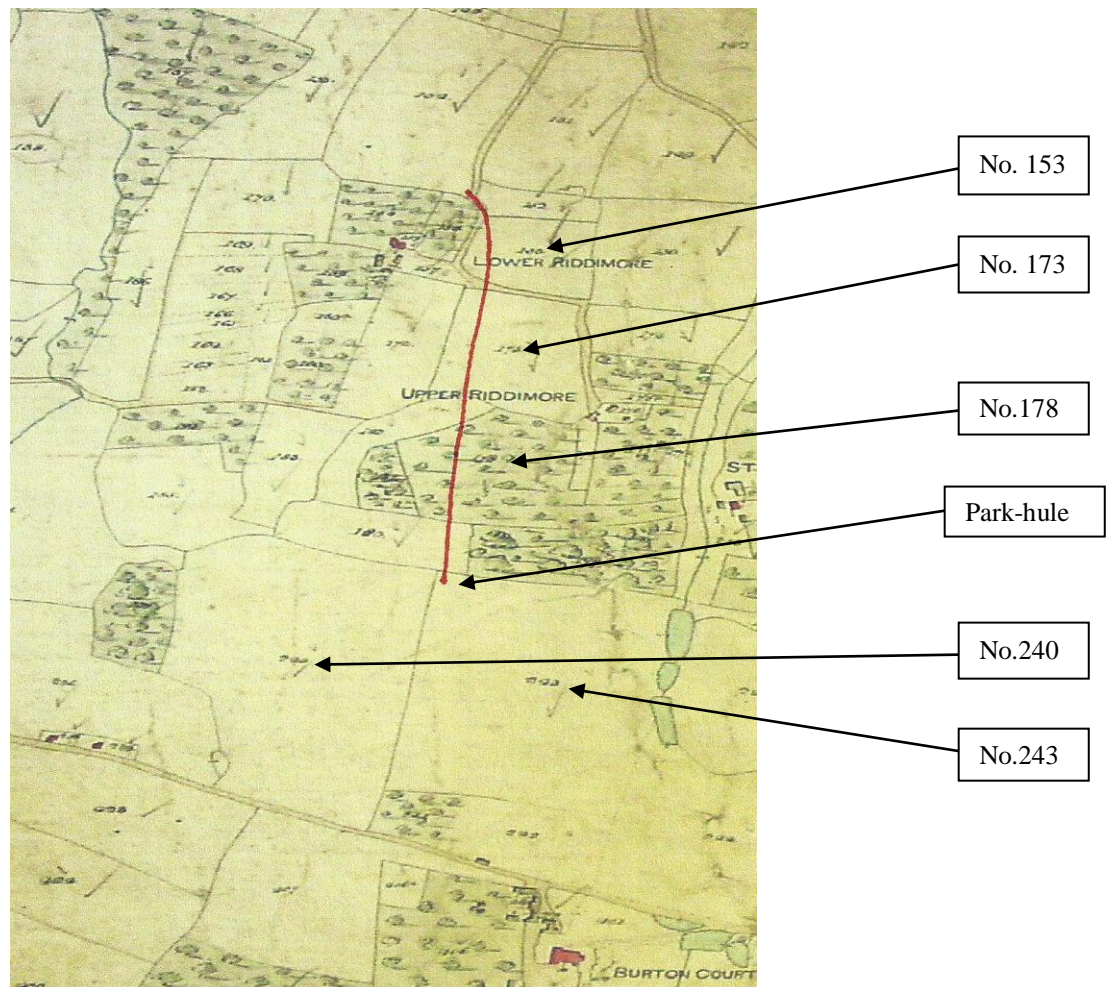
*round the Common to Park-hule :*

At the time of the Tithe Map, Riddymore Common was field numbers 153 and 173. Lands known to be part of the manor of Burton being south of it, we need to go round the Common anti-clockwise until we reach "Park-hule".

"Hule" is simply "Hill" in Middle English.<sup>10</sup>

On the Tithe Map "Parks" is fields numbers 240 and 243. The highest point in that area is about 20 yards south<sup>11</sup> of the north-east end of the hedge-line between the two fields, where today the footpath up from Eardisland turns west along that hedge-line towards Burton Lane. I take that highest point to be "Park-hule".

At this stage our orderly progress via Tithe Map fields breaks down. Between the Common and the Parks there are either two or three Tithe Map fields, depending on how far round the Common one goes before heading for "Park-hule". To complicate matters further one of the intervening fields is "Riddimoor Grove" (Tithe Map 178), today a quite substantial wood. There is no way to decide what field boundaries, if any, there were when our boundary description was first written down. I have therefore decided that the boundary should take a straight line from a small indentation in the west boundary of "Common", direct to "Park-hule":



<sup>10</sup> Oxford English Dictionary. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Clarendon Press. Oxford. 1989.

<sup>11</sup> My directions are indicative rather than accurate.



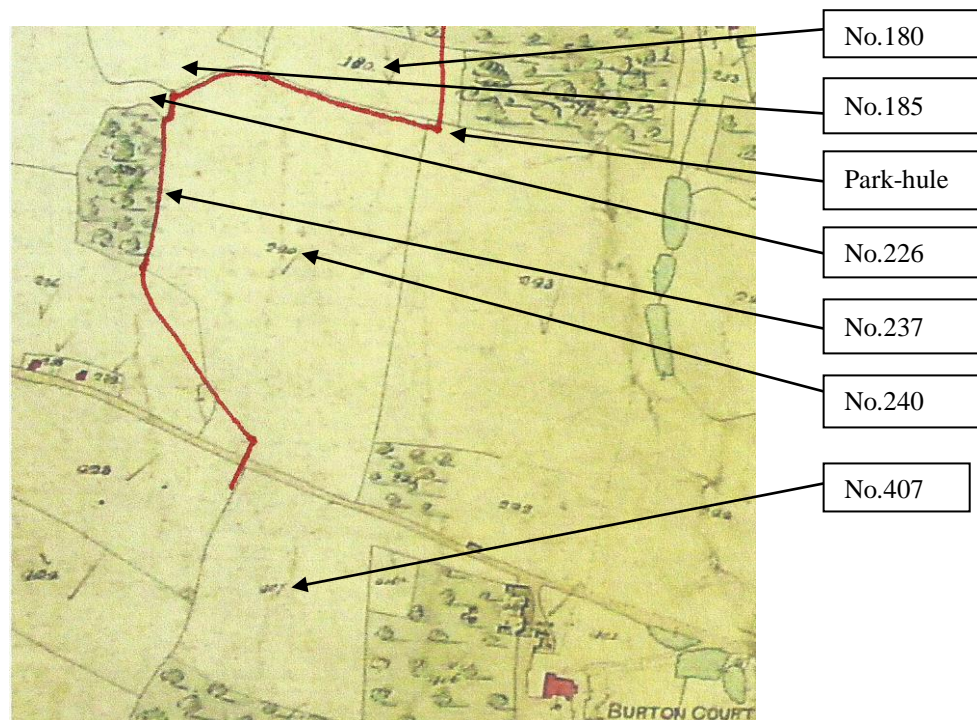
After Park-hule:

.....the bottom of Jay's land to the Sally Coppice, up to the Quinton field,.....

This wording indicates that from Park-hule the boundary goes downhill, then to the Sally Coppice, then uphill to the Quinton field.

Only one route can make this possible. From Park-hule head north, downhill via the present-day footpath towards Eardisland. At this stage Tithe Map 240 *Parks* is to the left; over the hedge to the right is Tithe Map 180 *Banky Meadow* and then 185 *Riddimoor Coppice*. The Tithe Map then shows a small insert of land west of Riddimoor Coppice ( part of 226 *Sothalls*) before another, un-named Coppice, Tithe Map 237. I am taking this to be the *Sally Coppice* of the description.

From the *Sally Coppice*, up to the *Quinton field* is easy to identify. Quinton field, Tithe Map 407, west of Burton Lane, is indeed an uphill walk from the Sally Coppice:



Tithe Map 1842-1844

Bryants's Map (1835), the dotted line denoting a Township boundary, shows a very similar indentation towards the north:



The next part of the description presents less difficulty:

.....to the *Quinton field*, 18 acres, across the road and along the road that goes for *Hardwicke to Little Robins*, the *stracs hedge* belonging to Mr Evans and round his land called *Woodman's*.....

#### *Quinton field*

This is Tithe Map No. 407; 18 acres is No. 422. By the time of that map, another field, No.408, *Six acres* had intervened between 407 and 422.

#### *Across the road and along the road that goes for Hardwicke*

The road which was crossed is nowadays the busy A44. Crossing it and going straight on is no longer possible; but it is clear on the Tithe Map, and indeed on the 1886 OS 6 inch map.

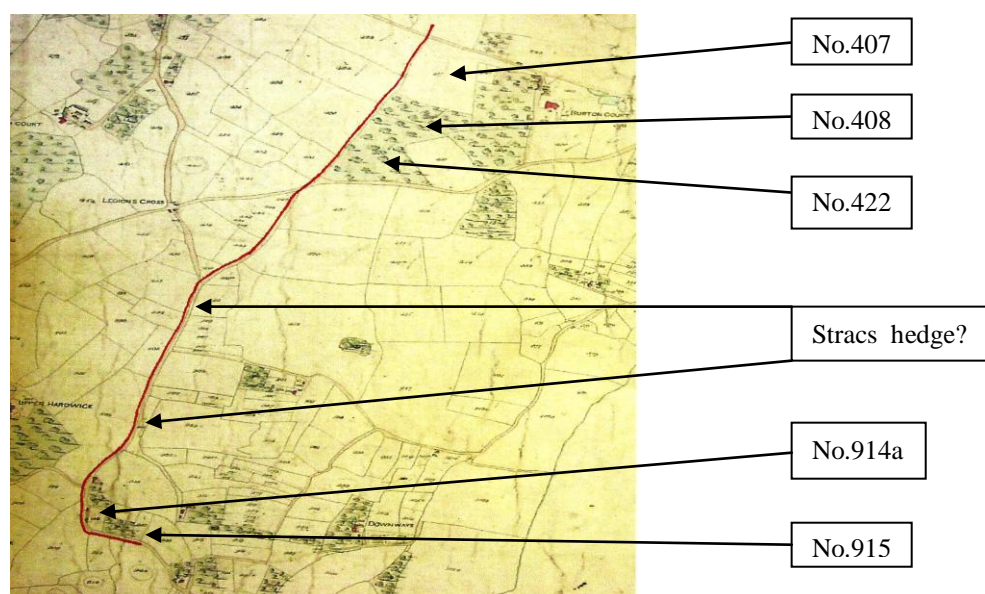
#### *to Little Robins*

Other than a reference to the *Robynys* family somewhere in the parish in 1489,<sup>12</sup> in which there is no positional information, I have nothing to help with *Little Robins*.  
*the stracs hedge belonging to Mr Evans*

The only, and rather remote possibility of a definition of *stracs*, is that it derives from *Stracht*, found under the heading word *Straight* in the Oxford English Dictionary.<sup>13</sup> The road which goes for *Hardwicke* is very nearly straight for about half a mile of its length at that stage.

#### *Mr Evans and round his land called Woodman's*

I have no references to *Woodman's*, but after the straight part of the lane, to get down to Lower Hardwick, as later wording of the description makes necessary, the boundary must follow the road as it was in Tithe Map days, veering left at fields nos. 914a-915:



<sup>12</sup> Faraday, M.A. (Ed) *Calendar of Probate and Administration Acts 1407-1550 in the Consistory Court of the Bishops of Hereford. With an Appendix of Will Abstracts 1552-1581*. The Geoffrey Walter Smith Fund and the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club. 2008.

<sup>13</sup> Oxford English Dictionary. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Clarendon Press, Oxford. 1989. Volume xvi, page 817.



*land called Woodmans, down the Green Lane and up the Prile thro' Mr Gould's land to the Bare-wood takes in a small part of it opposite Richard Davis's, up to the Barrow*

*down the Green Lane*

From Tithe Map field No. 915 the road continued, slightly downhill, to Lower Hardwick. That this was *down the Green Lane* becomes apparent when, having gone through Lower Hardwick, this road looped uphill again to where it met the parish boundary at Tithe Map No. 879 *Green Lane Head*.

*and up the Prile*

If *Prile* is taken as being the same as 'Prill'<sup>14</sup> then this length of the manor boundary can be identified. Whilst indistinct, it can be seen to be also the parish boundary at this stage. The *Prile/Prill* shows on three maps: 1832, One inch OS Map (survey work dated 1812-1817); 1835, Bryant's Map and 1842-1844, the Tithe Map. Tithe Map field nos. 906 *Little Merry Prill* and No. 949 *Merry Prill Bank* abutt it on the Eardisland parish side. On the Dilwyn parish side No. 77 *Merry Prill* abutts Eardisland 906 and 949, only the watercourse itself coming between them.

*through Mr Gould's land*

Of the eleven references I have to the Gould family between 1734 and 1895, only one has any relevance to this Paper:

*Tho<sup>s</sup> Gould at the Barrow House 1763 Benj. Phillips<sup>15</sup>*

This records that Gould was one of those considered by the Parish Vestry to be suitable to take an apprentice. In the context of this Paper the importance is that Gould owned The Barrow, a dwelling house, soon to be mentioned in the description, as well as land in the vicinity. But it is no help in identifying the exact position or extent of his land.

*to the Bare-wood takes in a small part of it opposite Richard Davis's*

I have no information about Richard Davis. He may well have lived and owned land in the adjacent parish, there Pembridge, which is not included in my accumulation of local records.

The first few words of this extract suggest a specific wood rather than a general area 'Barewood' as, probably rather later than this was first recorded, became a usual description of this area.

Whilst I have no knowledge of its reliability, Price's map (1817)<sup>16</sup> shows a small clump of woodland just above wording *Bearwood* between what is probably the *Prile* and, as named by Price, *Barrow*. I use this as a suggestion, no more, of where the description leaves the *Prile* and heads for *Barrow*.

Bryant's 1835 map shows *Barrow Leasow* but at the very bottom of his sheet 6. On my next page therefore, is part of the 1832 OS Map, onto which is superimposed the manor boundary, illustrating this part of the description, viz:

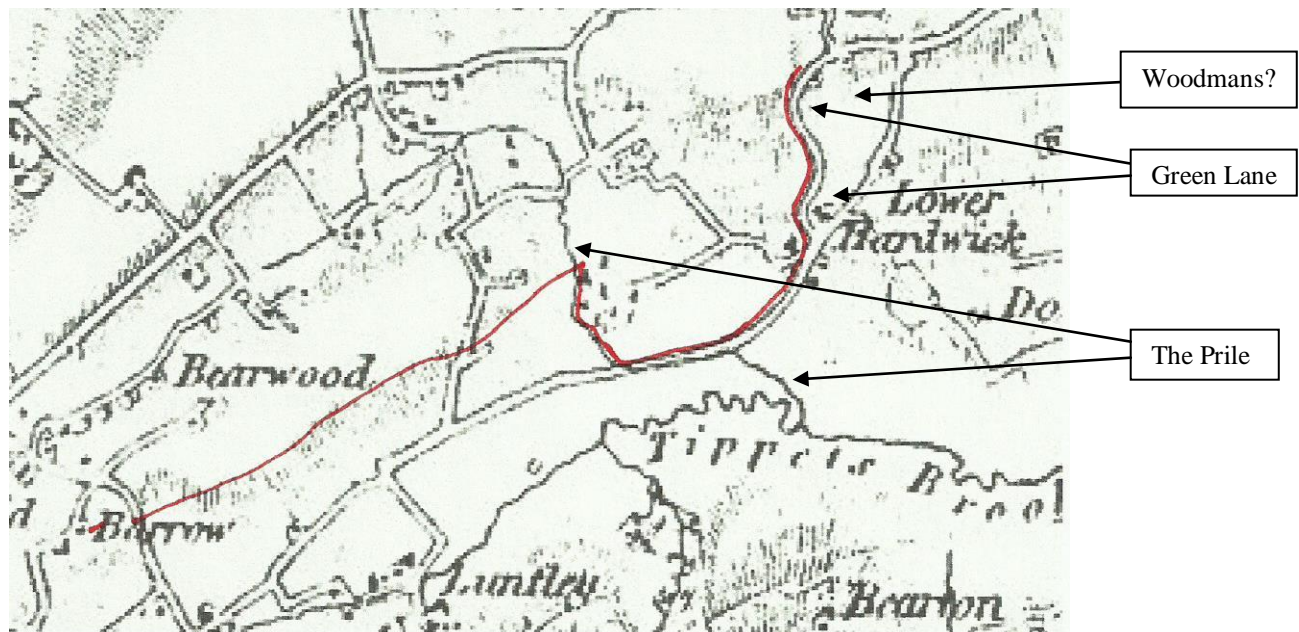
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<sup>14</sup> “*Prill* Now dial. E17 A small stream of running water; a rill.” [New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. OUP 1993].

<sup>15</sup> HRO AJ232/58.

<sup>16</sup> HRO BS11.

*land called Woodmans, down the Green Lane and up the Prile thro' Mr Gould's land to the Bare-wood takes in a small part of it opposite Richard Davis's, up to the Barrow*

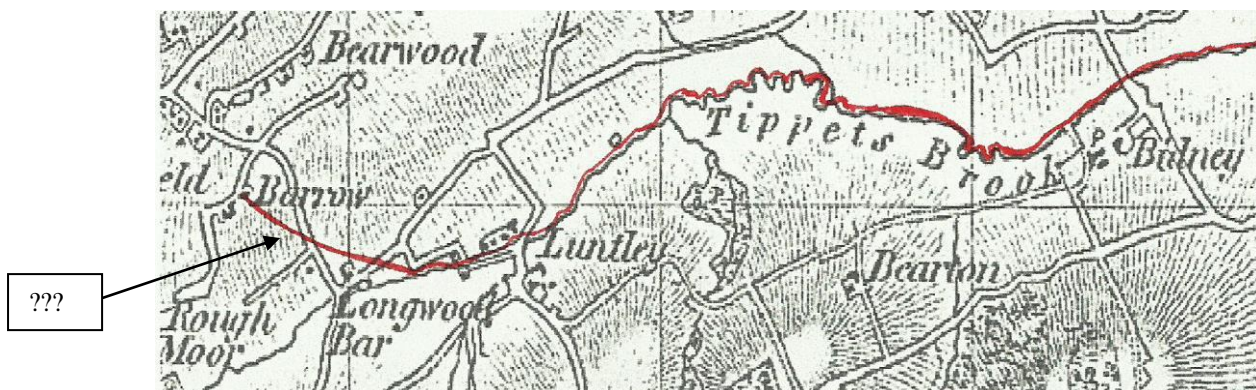


Next the description takes us from:

*the Barrow from thence down to Luntley Brook which continues the division below Bidney*

Both the 1832 OS Map, and indeed the 1995 'Landranger' OS Map, show a confluence of two watercourses, both un-named, at Luntley. Further downstream the resulting flow is joined by another small watercourse from the south. Only then does the 1832 map show it named *Tippets Brook*, which later does indeed continue *below Bidney*.

Taking the pre-confluence watercourse nearest to Barrow to be the 'Luntley Brook' of the description, lessens, but does not remove, the uncertainty as to the exact course of the boundary at this stage:



*below Bidney, crosses Mrs Marlow's & Perry ditch takes the upper part of Little Rock-meadow & meets at the Bar*

Since before *below Bidney* the boundary has been following Tippetts Brook, and impliedly continues to do so until it *crosses Mrs Marlow's & Perry ditch*. Having been flowing roughly west to east since *below Bidney*, about a third of a mile east of Burton Mill Tippetts Brook turns quite sharply to the south. The brook now has Perry Ditch<sup>17</sup> farm three or four hundred yards to its west, the Bar not much further to its east.

Where did the boundary leave the brook to head for the Bar?

I have no information about the Marlow family that can in any way help.

The only safely identifiable references to *Little Rock-meadow* (there are various permutations) are all immediately west of the brook in Dilwyn parish. Various source references in Eardisland parish which I have accumulated bring me tantalisingly close to being able to plot the line of the boundary east from the brook, field by field; but not close enough to describe here.

The one point worth including here is that Perry Ditch had lands both in Dilwyn and Eardisland parishes. The document stating this is a lease dated 25 June 1830<sup>18</sup> of *Messuage called Perryditch in parishes of Dilwyn and Eardisland*. The land description in this lease is helpful, but not helpful enough.

Since before *below Bidney* Tippetts Brook has been both the parish boundary and the boundary of the manor of Burton. In the absence of other definitive information I feel justified in using the line of the parish boundary to cover the last few hundred yards of this identification of the boundary of the manor of Burton:



Viewing all these sections together, using Bryant's 1835 map, gives:



.....*Finis*.....

<sup>17</sup> 1835 spelling: Bryant's Map.

<sup>18</sup> HRO BJ43/31/2.



