

RHYDIMOOR.

Rhydimoor in the parish of Eardisland shows on a modern Ordnance Survey Map¹ as *Rhydimoor Fm.* Its position relative to the village of Eardisland is shown on this extract from Bryant's Map, 1835² where it is *Lowr. Ridimoor* :



It will be seen that *Uppr Ridmoor* and *Ridmoor Copp* are also marked – of which more later.

The earliest reference to Rhydimoor of which I am aware is in the Court Rolls of the Manor of Burton:³

[6th December 1331] *Ralph de St Audoen surrenders to Matilda Cungayn and to Ralph her son 3 acres near Rudmere by le Tith furlong for 20 years etc.*

Surprisingly this is the only time in the extant Court Rolls that “Rudmere” or anything similar is mentioned.

The next source to include relevant detail is the Bailiffs' Accounts for the manor of Eardisland for the period 1469-1471⁴ where under the heading *Sale of herbage of meadow and pasture* is found *...due to be sold to diverse parties namely the meadow of Renmore for 12d.....* A similar reference in 1508-1510 makes it clear that the sale of this land did not go ahead, and, importantly, that *Renmore* in 1469-1471 was almost certainly the same as the *Ridmor* mentioned in 1508-1510:

*..... certain meadows and pastures that were due to be sold at divers prices namely the meadow of Ridmor for 12d. an acre.....*⁵

And so at this stage we have one early reference to *Rudmere* in the Manor of Burton (1331) and rather later, one/two, *Renmore/Ridmor* in the Manor of Eardisland (1469-1471 and 1508-1510).

¹ Landranger Series, Sheet 148 (1995).

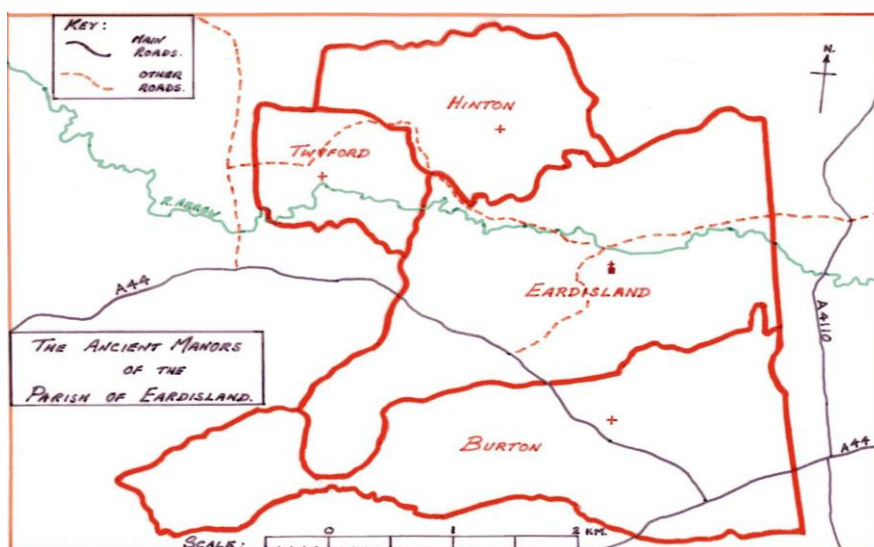
² HRO 6/24/1.

³ In Transcript at HRO CF58/1, page 3.

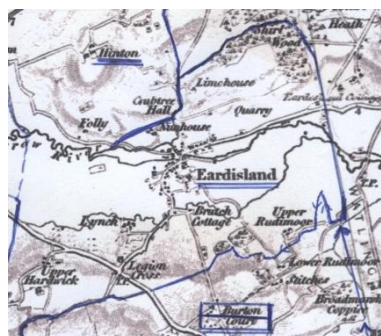
⁴ PRO/TNA SC6/861/19.

⁵ PRO/TNA SC6/HENVIII/1273.

The manorial boundary of Burton can be quite closely defined, although not without the possibility of error (by me). A plan of the parish showing it and the boundaries of the other manors in the parish was included in a publication in 2006.⁶



Good as it is this plan does not define the boundary down to fieldname level, that was never the intention. The boundary which it shows between the manors of Burton and Eardisland is based on a description which is with the Court Rolls of the Manor of Burton, previously at Hereford Library, but now at Herefordshire Record Office.⁷ My interpretation of this description drawn onto a copy of the 1832 Ordnance Survey Map, after also taking into consideration the field names and field boundaries on the Tithe Map, shows an interesting northward 'kink' in what would otherwise be an approximately East to West boundary. On this reproduction the boundary shows coloured blue:



Almost 100 years after *Ridmor* was mentioned in 1508-1510 (see page 1) comes the next source I have scheduled.

1607 is the date of a Glebe Terrier in which this wording is found:

.....*Item the tenths of six acres called Taylurs Land being in Riddimore Field now in the possession of John Delayers gent...*⁸

⁶ Selfe, Paul (Ed.). *A Case Study of Burton Court*. Saxon Press, 2006, at page 92. My thanks to Graham Simpson for permission to reproduce it here.

⁷ HRO CF58/--.

⁸ HRO HD2/3/14.

The expression “.....*Field*” can often be shown to refer to strips of traditional “ridge and furrow” cultivation. If, as is likely, that is the case with this 1607 wording, *Riddimore Field* can be identified, if only a remnant of a more extensive area at an earlier date, on the Tithe Map, 1842/1844. I show this later in this Paper when discussing an extract from a document dated November 1725.

I have examined all the sources available to me which might have led to further detail and the position of land held by the Taylor and Delayers (probably Deyos) families in the parish of Eardisland, but have found nothing to assist.

My next source reference dates to 1614:

.....*One parcel of wood and woody ground called Ryddymore (16 acres)...⁹*

The context, and indeed the text itself, makes it clear that this is in *Earesland*, indeed part or previously part of the demesne lands of that manor, but there is no information as to the exact location of it.

In the same run of documents, HRO B16/-, is mention of land described as *Greate Riddimore: Reserved out of the present indentures all that one parcel of land called Greate Riddimore formerly sold by Thomas Wall father of William Wall the elder,¹⁰*

An attempt to establish the exact location and extent of ‘Greate Riddimore’ has failed. There is no geographical description of this land by reference to the ownership of the lands surrounding it, nor is further investigation possible by research into the name of the purchaser of the land. Whilst later in the same summary paragraph of the HRO Accessions Catalogue there is record of to whom the same vendor sold ‘Sowtheys’, this is not the case with ‘Greate Riddimore’. This could be taken to suggest that even then¹¹, not all that long after the date of the transaction, the name of the purchaser was no longer known.

Similarly the exact date of the sale of ‘Greate Riddimore’ is not evident, although it can be established it was between 1627¹² and the death of Thomas Wall which occurred some time between 7th January 1647¹³ and 2nd January 1653.¹⁴

From the year 1637 is a document *Earslande. The Estate of our parishe is as foloweth¹⁵*

This lists the owners of: *the Manor of Burton*
of Twiford & Broome¹⁶
of Earslands demeanes
of Heantons demeanes

It goes on to list a further twenty two names of owners and also the name of the properties they owned, or more frequently, for example: *John Parker a livinge in Hardwicke*. There is no mention of Rhydimoor, or any alternative spellings thereof. This is far from saying that there was no building or activity at Rhydimoor, simply that the present day Rhydimoors were still then being administered as part of the manor of Eardisland or of the manor of Burton.

⁹ HRO B16/1.

¹⁰ HRO B16/19.

¹¹ 1679, the date of the Indenture at HRO B16/19.

¹² HRO B16/10-12; the first involvement of Thomas Wall in these deeds.

¹³ HRO B16/13; Thomas Wall party to his son’s Marriage Settlement.

¹⁴ HRO B16/14; *Thomas Wall is since deceased*.

¹⁵ (Ed.) M. Faraday. At HRO SR62.

¹⁶ The word ‘manor’ is not used in relation to Twiford & Broome.

It may well be that in 1637 the whole area with which we are concerned was still un-enclosed by either hedge or fence. A previous historian of the parish stated when discussing this list that :

*Before 1730.....Ridimore.....had been added to these*¹⁷

He goes on to link this to a suggested lack of land available to *the 1811 enclosers*¹⁸

Forward now to an undated document, but which by association with information within it, can be placed between the years 1679 to 1702. This is a Glebe Terrier¹⁹ within which is : ...*three acres of arable land lying at the Guilden Low, one by Riddimore flat...* By the time of the Tithe Map (1842/1844) *the Guilden Low* had become *Golden Law* (Field No. 154) with *Little Golden Law* (170) adjacent to the north west²⁰:



But what of *Riddimore flat* ? Whilst there may be other meanings that can be attached to *flat*, in this instance it may well be simply descriptive of an area of low-lying, level land; “flat” in relation to some of the land round about it. I have no other reference to it.

¹⁷ He does not quote a source document to support this date.

¹⁸ Reeves, Norman C *The Leon Valley. Three Herefordshire Villages, Kingsland, Monkland & Eardisland*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd. 1980., pages 133-134.

¹⁹ HRO HD2/3/13.

²⁰ My directions are indicative rather than accurate.

Unlike the last item discussed, this next is certain as to date, 26th December 1679, and a little more certain as to position. Whilst my last reference was from a Glebe Terrier which, by its very nature covered the whole parish, this one is from *Court House Deeds*²¹ which makes it very probable, although not completely certain, that the land in question was in the manor of Eardisland rather than the manor of Burton:

Reserved out of the present indentures all that one parcel of land called Greate Riddimore formerly sold by Thomas Wall father of William Wall the elder...

Whilst a thorough analysis of all the many field names in the Court House Deeds might produce an answer, I am not at present able to suggest the exact position of *Greate Riddimore*.

My next reference, also from the Court House Deeds, is dated 1st/2nd November 1725. It is part of a description of the position of *Upper Midley and Middle Midley* and includes the wording *a lane leading from Eardisland to Riddymorefeild on the west*²².

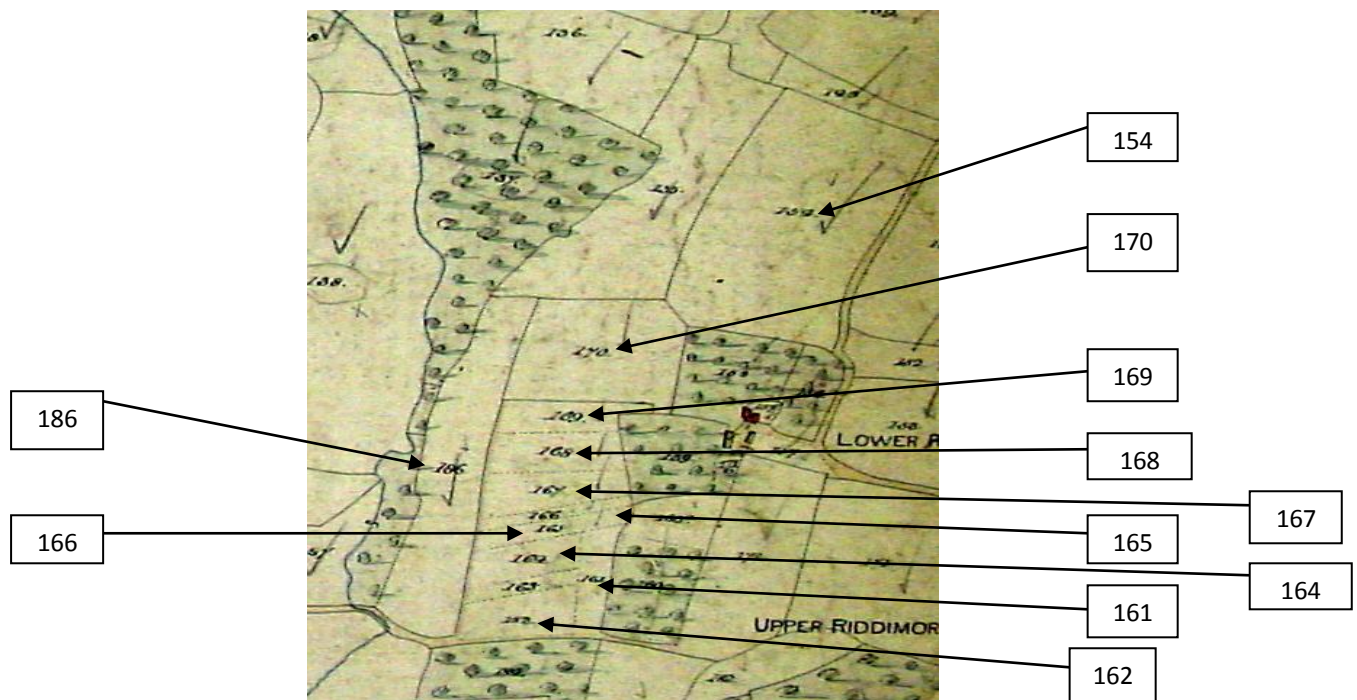
In the context of this Paper about Rhydimoore this confirms the pre-existence of the strip cultivation which shows on the Tithe Map (1844) of which detail exists in the Schedule (1842) to the Tithe Map. This extract from the Tithe Map shows the lane and the, by then perhaps residual, strip cultivation *Riddymorefeild*:



On the next page is another illustration of part of the same area and a brief discussion of the strips.

²¹ HRO B16/- .

²² HRO B16/26/27.



The northern boundary²³ of strips 162 to 169 continues eastwards as the northern boundary of 170, *Little Golden Law*. This may be an indication that 170 was once part of *Riddimoorfeild*. Of the ‘strips’ shown, 165 is the narrowest. If this is representative of the size of the strips at early dates, then there were then many more divisions.²⁴

All the numbered strips 161 to 169 are named in the Schedule as *Riddimoor Field*, but the names of the *Owners*, also listed there, differ.

161, 162, 164 and 168 are detailed as *Unknown Owner*.

John Nelson Carpenter is detailed as the owner of 165 and 167.

William Davies was the owner of 166.

Reverend W.E. Evans is detailed as owner of strip 169. He also had 170 and 154 *Little Golden Law* and *Golden Law* respectively, and 186 *Six Acres*.

This reflects consolidation of ownership since the time when the manorial system was still one of the predominant influences in the life of the parish – here as in most others.

In 1842 the Reverend W.E. Evans was Lord of the Manor of Burton, but this should not be taken to indicate that *Riddimoor Feild* was itself in the manor of Burton. On the contrary, I am confident that it was in the manor of Eardisland.

A description of the boundary of the manor of Burton, written down in 1813²⁵ but likely to be a close representation of the situation in much earlier times, records that the manor of Burton took in *a small part of a piece called the Golden Low and up to the Riddymore Common gate, round the Common to Park-hule*. Reasoning from the known position of *Golden Low* (Tithe Map 154) I consider that the boundary passed south of the present (and then) farm buildings and so across towards an identifiable place where it crossed Burton Lane.

²³ The orientation of the Tithe Map does not show north at the top. The top of this extract is approximately east but I have left it without alteration so that the original printing on it can be read.

²⁴ This is mirrored in residual strip cultivation in other parts of the parish.

²⁵ Within HRO CF58/-.

The *Riddymore Common* of this description can be identified on the Tithe Map where it appears on the Schedule simply as *Common* being fields numbered 153 and 173, both owned by the Reverend W.E.Evans.²⁶ They show between *Lower Riddimore* to the north²⁷ and *Upper Riddimore* to the south:



In 1732:

*Mr Willm Bedford for his house at Ridimore*served as Overseer of the Poor and Churchwarden.²⁸ At which of the two possible sites Mr Bedford lived is yet to be established.

1748:

Another part of this extract from Taylor's Map has been clearly, and at a later time, dated 1748. It should be noted that a recent authority on Herefordshire Maps dates Taylor's Map to 1754.²⁹



No important detail, but yet another spelling variation of present day Rhydimoor.

²⁶ Lord of the Manor of Burton.

²⁷ My directions remain indicative rather than accurate.

²⁸ HRO AJ32/58.

²⁹ Smith, Brian *Herefordshire Maps 1577 to 1800* Logaston Press, 2004.

1749:

*Mr William Bedford for Redimoore*³⁰served as Overseer of the Poor and Churchwarden. That same year, on 4th January: *At a Vestry Meeting held at the house of William Fencott.....tutching persons and places...to receive Children to be put out as parish apprentices it apiars to us it stands in the following order* A list of eighteen names and places follows including: *M^r Bedford for Ridimoore – dick Mayricks Girl*³¹

1757:

Another mention of *Riddimore Lane* comes in an extract from the Court Rolls of the Manor of Eardisland. Dated 26th October 1757 a land transaction caused a detailed description of the land surrendered and re-granted to be included:

*All those two Customary Meadows called Shepherd Bridge meadows bounded on the south side by lands in possession of Mrs Trumper, on the West by Riddimore Lane and lands belonging to Mr Juson on the north and East side situate in the Township of Eardisland within the said Manor*³²

1787:

Within a Grant/Conveyance of 10th December 1787 is a further mention of the lane:
*...2 parcels of meadow called the Upper Midley and Middle Midley (30 acres) having grounds called the New Orchard and the Mill Meadow near the north and a lane leading from Eardisland to Riddymoore Field on the west*³³

1793:

Thos Davies for Riddimore served as Overseer of the Poor and Churchwarden.³⁴

1794:

Recorded at a Parish Vestry meeting on 29th November 1794:
Thomas Davis of Readimore took over the administration and benefits to him of the (parish) apprenticeship of Ann Jones who until then was apprenticed to Thomas Davis of Hardwick. Davis of Readimore paid an immediate sum of £1-16-6^d to the Parish and financial penalties were set out *if ever Ann Jones should become Troublesome to him [Davis of Hardwick] or the said parish of Eardisland*³⁵

1795:

At a Vestry Meeting on 14th November 1795 it was agreed that *Thomas Davis of Readimore* should be appointed to run the Parish Workhouse from 29th November 1795 for one year.³⁶ The source document contains a lot more detail but nothing else that is specific to this Paper about Rhydimoor.

³⁰ HRO AJ32/58.

³¹ Ibid.

³² HRO BB99/3.

³³ HRO B16/50.

³⁴ HRO AJ32/58.

³⁵ HRO AJ32/59.

³⁶ Ibid.

1796:

Further details of the placing of Parish apprentices included:

*Mr Davis had ...Jones for Readimore*³⁷

1797:

As 1796 above, except for the spelling:

*M^r Davis had... Jones for Riddimore*³⁸

1798:

Under a heading: *An Acct. of Stone Halld by different people to the Church yard Wall Eardisland 1798* is: *March 17th Mr Davies Reddimore* [hauled implied] *2 Wagon Load from Herbt Vickerage*³⁹

1801:

At a Vestry Meeting on 6th April 1801 the previous Overseers of the Poor and the majority of those at the meeting agreed the appointment of seven Overseers for the ensuing year. One of these was *Mr W^m Davies for Readymore*⁴⁰

1802:

Similarly at a Vestry Meeting on 19th April 1802 for the ensuing year *W^m Davies Reddymore*⁴¹

1803:

And again, at a Meeting on 11th April 1803 *Being Estor Monday.....Chosen to be Overseers* four persons are listed, including *W^m Davies for Riddymore*⁴²

1804:

No longer William Davies, but now a Thomas Davies. What, if any, relation he was of William I have not investigated. *Tho^s Davies for Reddimore*⁴³

1805:

Another Parish Apprentice accepted at Rhydymoor:

*M^r Tho^s Davies had Thomas Evance for Upper Reddymor(e?)*⁴⁴

Continues on next page.....

³⁷ HRO AJ32/59.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

1816:

Affiliation Order. Mary Bengough, Eardisland v. Thomas Davies. 4th March 1816:

*Parish of Eardisland... Mary Bengough... in the month of October now last past...was delivered of a male bastard child at Eardisland...Thomas Davies now or late of Riddmore...did beget...on the body of the said Mary Bengough...[Thomas Davies appeared but could not prove that he was not the father; they accepted Mary's word on oath].....do hereby adjudge him to be the reputed father of the said child. He was ordered to pay 1/8d weekly towards the child's maintenance, and Mary Bengough was granted an additional 10d per week from the Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish.*⁴⁵

1817:

Price's Map [HRO BS 11].



Apart from the inevitable spelling variation of Rhydimoor and the position of Upper/Lower, nothing is in sufficient detail to call for comment.

1830:

Dated to circa 1830 is *A List of Persons in the Parish of Eardisland liable to serve on the Jury*. This list includes *Martin Samuel Riddymoor Farmer Poor's Rates.* and *Powell John Riddymoor Farmer Poor's Rates.* These entries have two other entries with other names and places intervening. *Poor's Rate* is the reason why they are included, separating them from others listed as Copyholders or Freeholders.⁴⁶

1832:

11th February 1832 saw the publication of 'our' sheet of the first edition of the one-inch Ordnance Survey Map.

The extract which follows (overleaf) is from the re-print (Second Impression 1980), published by David & Charles, Newton Abbot, Devon. The very detailed notes at the foot of this Sheet 50 point out that, whilst published in 1832, the survey work for it was carried out between 1812-1817.

Comparing one map with another of the same area is always a fascinating occupation, but for the purposes of this Paper all the maps I show/have shown will predominantly have to speak for themselves.

⁴⁵ HRO AJ32/85/15.

⁴⁶ HRO AJ32/110.



One-Inch Ordnance Survey. Published in 1832.

1835:

Bryant's Map. An extract from this has already been included at page 1 of this.

1842/1844:

Schedule to the Tithe Map and the Map itself. Extracts have already been included at pages 2,4,5,6 and 7 of this.

1845:

Further mention of the lane: *and a land*⁴⁷ *leading from Rhiod y more Field or*⁴⁸ *the West part*⁴⁹ I will be commenting on the various spellings of Rhydimoor at the very end of this, not least this one.

1856:

*In 1856 it becomes RHYDEMORE , when Edward Webb was the occupant.*⁵⁰

1858:

In Cassey's Directory, under the heading *Farmers* is *Perkins James, Rhydemore.*

1862:

Tuesday 14th October 1862. Sale details (Auction) of *The Manor of Burton with the Mansion or Dwelling House of Burton Court.*⁵¹ includes *Lower Riddimore.* This is overleaf.

⁴⁷ Recte "lane".

⁴⁸ Recte "on".

⁴⁹ LH54B, doc.8, page 8.

⁵⁰ Selfe, P [Ed.] *Portrait of a Village* Publ. by Eardisland Oral History Group. Saxon Press. 2006.

⁵¹ Hereford Library, Local Collection. Sale Catalogue No.90.

LOWER RIDDIMOOR.									
JAMES PERKINS Tenant.									
In Eardisland Parish.									
173	Common	...	...	...	...	Arable	6	0	37
172	Slads	...	...	...	...	Pasture	4	1	3
157	Homestead	...	...	...	...	...	0	3	20
171	Orchard	...	...	...	...	Pasture Orchard	0	0	35
156	Ditto	...	...	...	...	ditto	1	0	25
153	Common	...	...	...	...	Arable	3	3	5
152	Nursery	...	...	...	...	Pasture	1	1	14
158	Orchard	...	...	...	...	Pasture Orchard	2	0	10
169	In Riddimoor Field	..	...	...	...	Arable	0	3	35
168	Ditto	}	now in one	...	...	ditto	1	1	16
170	Little Golden Law			...	...	ditto	3	3	28
160	Slads Hop Yard	...	...	...	...	Arable	3	0	9
159	Young Orchard	...	...	...	...	Pasture Orchard	1	3	8
225	Cliftons	...	...	...	...	Meadow	8	1	24
131	Stridup Plock	...	...	...	...	ditto	1	2	25
135	Old Hopyard	...	...	..	..	Meadow	2	1	10
175	Orchard	...	...	...	...	Hops	1	2	20
183	Little Riddimoor	...	..	...	...	Meadow	3	1	31
150	Clay Croft	...	...	...	...	Arable	7	0	34
149	Nine Acres	...	...	...	...	Ditto	5	1	32
151	Nursery Croft	...	...	...	...	Ditto	6	0	31
154	Golden Law	...	...	...	...	Ditto	9	2	32
155	Rough Meadow	...	...	...	...	Meadow	6	3	29
164	In Riddimore Field	..	...	...	...	Arable	0	3	16
162	In ditto	...	...	...	...	Ditto	0	3	37
161	In ditto	...	...	...	...	Ditto	0	3	11
177	Orchard	...	...	...	...	Pasture Orch	2	3	16
176	Upper Riddimore House and Garden	...	...	...	...	...	0	3	32
136	Grove Meadow	...	...	...	...	Meadow	6	1	32
186	Six Acres	...	...	...	...	Ditto	5	2	10
							102	1	27

(3)

The numbers at the left are the Tithe Map Field numbers. The quantities on the right are acres, rods and perches.

It is interesting to note that it includes *176 Upper Riddimore House and Garden* .

1865:

*In 1865 it is recorded as 'Rhydimoore' when the farmer is James Perkins.*⁵²

1867:

Littlebury's Directory recorded:

Perkins James, farmer, Rhydimoore

Webb Edward, farmer, Upper Rhydimoore

1890:

The 1st Edition of the Ordnance Survey 6 inch to the mile map shows *Lower Rudimoore Farm* to the north of *Upper Rudimoore Farm*.⁵³

⁵² *Portrait of a Village* page 27.

⁵³ HRO. Maps, 18B.

1895:

Kelly's Directory recorded:

Sheen, John Thomas, farmer, Lower Rudimoor

Stedman, Francis, farmer, Up. Rudimoor

These details are also included in 'Portrait of a Village' at page 27.

Also dated 1895 a Clowes family Marriage Settlement Deed includes *Upper Rudimoor Farm, 29 acres 3 rods and 26 perches; Lower Rudimoor Farm, 106 acres, 3 rods, 22 perches*.⁵⁴

1905:

*In 1895, when the resident is John Sheen it becomes 'Rudimoor', although in 1905, under the same occupancy, it is spelt once more as 'Rhydimoor'.*⁵⁵

1920s:

*Prior to the present ownership, occupants included William Ricketts and in the 1920s, William Downing.*⁵⁶

1934:

The Royal Commission on Historic Monuments⁵⁷ recorded only buildings in the date range *from the earliest time to the year 1714* It is no surprise therefore that they included descriptions of both *Upper Rhydimoor Farm* and *Lower Rhydimoor Farm* ; they also show a photograph of *Lower Rhydimoor Farm*⁵⁸ :

b(51). Upper Rhydimoor Farm, house and barn, 250 yards N. of (50). The House has an added early 18th-century wing on the E. The Barn, E. of the house, is of three bays.

b(52). Lower Rhydimoor Farm, house and barn, 370 yards N. of (51). The House (Plate 32) was originally of T-shaped plan with the cross-wing at the S. end. A later wing was added to the N.E. incorporating a building with diagonal framing and perhaps formerly detached. The Barn N.W. of the house is of three bays.



EARDISLAND. (52) Lower Rhydimoor Farm.

⁵⁴ From a copy of the Settlement held in private hands in the parish.

⁵⁵ Portrait of a Village, page 27.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ RCHM (Vol 3). Herefordshire. 1934.

⁵⁸ Ibid. Page 50 and Plate 32.

1950:

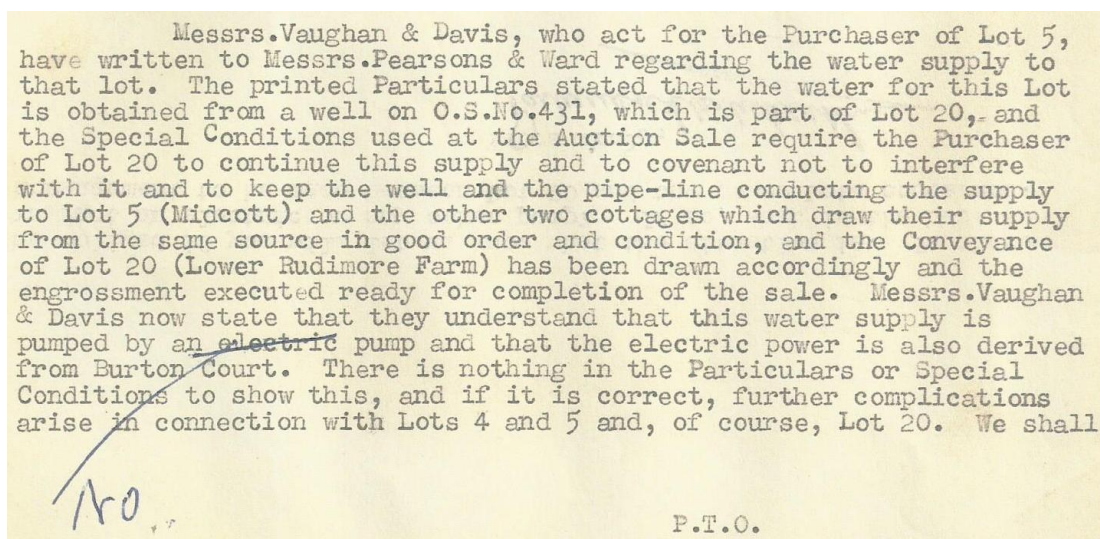
The Sale Particulars for the sale by auction of the *Burton Court Estate*⁵⁹ record that this took place in Leominster on *Friday, May 5th, 1950*. The 'Summary' near the start of these Particulars includes:

20. *Lower Rudimore Farm, Monkland.....119.021 acres, Tenant Mr L.E. Thomas, Rent £155.0.0 And.....*

21. *Upper Rudimore Farm, Monkland.....38.527 acres, Tenant Mr J. Humphreys Rent £61.0.0*

Later in the document full details are provided of both farms. The field numbers scheduled are identified under a heading *O.S. No. Eardisland Parish* and so a comparison with the 1862 Sale Details, (the acreages then were a little different) when Tithe map field numbers were used, would be difficult, but not necessarily impossible.

In connection with this 1950 sale, also extant is a letter dated 11th September 1950, Messrs Parkinson, Slack & Needham, Solicitors, 10, York Street Manchester to the local Land Agent of the Sale. The second paragraph includes references to *Lot 20 (Lower Rudimore Farm)* :



Messrs.Vaughan & Davis, who act for the Purchaser of Lot 5, have written to Messrs.Pearsons & Ward regarding the water supply to that lot. The printed Particulars stated that the water for this Lot is obtained from a well on O.S.No.431, which is part of Lot 20, and the Special Conditions used at the Auction Sale require the Purchaser of Lot 20 to continue this supply and to covenant not to interfere with it and to keep the well and the pipe-line conducting the supply to Lot 5 (Midcott) and the other two cottages which draw their supply from the same source in good order and condition, and the Conveyance of Lot 20 (Lower Rudimore Farm) has been drawn accordingly and the engrossment executed ready for completion of the sale. Messrs.Vaughan & Davis now state that they understand that this water supply is pumped by an electric pump and that the electric power is also derived from Burton Court. There is nothing in the Particulars or Special Conditions to show this, and if it is correct, further complications arise in connection with Lots 4 and 5 and, of course, Lot 20. We shall

No

P.T.O.

That "No" is the comment of the Land Agent at the time, not my addition to the document.

1953:

Referring to various grounds used by Eardisland Cricket Club:

*This agreement came to an end in 1953 when Mr. Lawson Thomas, Lower Rhydimoor, provided a meadow for the Club.*⁶⁰

1986:) Referring to Ordnance Survey Maps:

1989:) *Whilst the 1986 edition has it as 'Rhydimoor', the Pathfinder 1989 reverts to 'Rudimoor'.*⁶¹

The reader of these pages will no doubt have noticed the many differing spellings of Rhydimoor and indeed be a little confused between 'Upper' and 'Lower' at various dates.

Both these topics are dealt with on the next page.

⁵⁹ Copy at HRO N41/2600 and other copies held in the parish.

⁶⁰ W.I. Book, page 53.

⁶¹ Portrait of a Village, page 27.

The Place Name.

Spellings:

Within these pages there are 25 spellings, including present day *Rhydimoor*. It is evident that people were writing down what they heard, or thought they heard, rather than copying what others had written before, although this can occasionally be identified as a possibility.

This number of variations probably also reflects the level of literacy of the writers. Until relatively recent times even 'educated' people had little grasp of grammar or spelling. Punctuation developed and settled into its present conventions more recently still. Two good examples are *Eastor* for 'Easter' (1803 above) and *Evanse* for 'Evans' (1805).

Another possible cause is errors in transcription of an earlier document. I myself am still not sure of the spelling in 1805 – *Reddymor* or *Reddymore* ?

Upper/Lower:

Were it not for the maps, the confusion which arises from the placing of Upper/Lower Riddymoor relative to each other would be less apparent. Close attention to other topics and features in the parish have produced other such confusions.

Of the maps I have included only the 1832 Ordnance Survey Map and Price's Map of 1817 show Lower R..... south of Upper R.....ie. Lower R.....the closer of the two to Sytches⁶² Farm. The other maps, Bryant (1835) and the Tithe map (1844) show 'Lower...' North of 'Upper...' ie. closer to the River Arrow. To this second configuration can be added the descriptions in the 1862 and 1950 Sale Documents and the RCHM photograph in 1934. Taylor's Map of 1748/1754 shows only one 'R.....', as *Ridmeer*.

The Meaning of Rhydimoor:

There are two generally accepted authorities on Herefordshire Place Names, Bannister (1916)⁶³ and Coplestone-Crow (1989)⁶⁴. For this close vicinity can be added Reeves (1980)⁶⁵ and for the Parish of Eardisland itself, the W.I.Book (1956)⁶⁶.

Neither Bannister nor Coplestone-Crow mention Rhydimoor. Reeves, at page 187 within a section headed *Eardisland Places and Names* says:

Riddimore: a descriptive word, 'ruddy', plus 'moor'

The WI Book, page 71, says:

Ruddimoor is probably of Welsh origin (Wales is only nine miles distant).

Before giving definitions of some of these words, I would just remind the reader of the proximity, to the east of Rhydimoor Farm, of the Roman Road *Watling Street*.⁶⁷ It must have crossed the River Arrow either by a (probably wooden) bridge, or by a ford.

⁶² This spelling is from the 1995 Ordnance Survey Landranger Series Map. Sytches Farm is also subject to several spelling variations over the years.

⁶³ Bannister, Rev. A.T., M.A. *The Place-Names of Herefordshire* Printed for the Author.1916.

⁶⁴ Coplestone-Crow B. *Herefordshire Place Names* BAR British Series 214. Published in 1989.

⁶⁵ Reeves N.C. *The Leon Valley. Three Herefordshire Villages. Kingsland, Monkland & Eardisland. Phillimore & Co. Ltd. 1980.*

⁶⁶ Published privately in the village in January 1956.

⁶⁷ See the 1832 OS Map on page 11 of this.

There was (before the days of modern drainage) no shortage of marshy land close to the line of the Roman Road. There is field name evidence for this eg. 'Lower Broadmarsh', Tithe Map No. 142.

Definitions of three words are relevant: *Ruddy Moor* and *Rhyd* :

Ruddy.....A modern dictionary⁶⁸ includes the words *red*, *reddish* amongst other meanings.

Moor.....The full Oxford English Dictionary⁶⁹ includes the wording *A marsh (obs)*;

Rhyd.....is Welsh for *Ford* . This is stated in *The Complete Welsh-English English-Welsh Dictionary*. H. Meurig Evans [and others] Published 1958 and 2002.

Whilst Bannister in his *The Place-Names of Herefordshire* did not include Rhydimoor, he did include three places hyphenated -y-, for example *Rhyd-y-back (Michaelchurch Eskley)*. *W. 'ford for carts.'*

It is also interesting to note, whether specifically relevant to all this or not, that in 1832, within a volume of handwritten notes *Herefordiana Volume 6*⁷⁰ under a rough heading *Welch Glossary* is:

Rhudd.....*Ruddy*

Rhyd.....*a ford*.

Did 'Rhydimoor' then, regardless of the spelling variations, originate from a description of the surrounding area, and only later attach to the specific farms in the vicinity and the buildings erected thereon?

Readers must form their own opinions.

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

⁶⁸ The Concise Oxford Dictionary, Third Edition. Clarendon Press Oxford. Reprinted 1944 with addenda.

⁶⁹ OED 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press 1989.

⁷⁰ HRO CF50/101, page 182.

