

Information on the history of Didham Wood extracted from the deeds

The wood, except for parcels 4 and 7 (OS nos 335 and 336 on the plan below) belonged to Didham farm. Parcels 2 and 3 (OS 367) were described as “wood” whereas parcel 1 (OS 368) was described as “Didham wood” in a conveyance of the farm by the Willcock family in 1911 to Humphrey Harvey Endicott. OS 362, now belonging to Anthony and Wendy Wates, was described as “orchard”

Mr Endicott was a butcher in Plymouth. The tenant of the farm was Mr A.C.Rogers, and subsequently to Mr J. Vallance. In 1938 there was no tenant and Mr Endicott sold that part of the farm that became Green Lane Gardens to Edward Buller Champernowne, then of Ludbrook for £1330 (equivalent to about £60,000 today).

On the 22nd December 1945 Mr Champernowne sold the land, stock and goodwill of the business to George Leslie Wates for £9225 (equivalent to about £285,000 today)

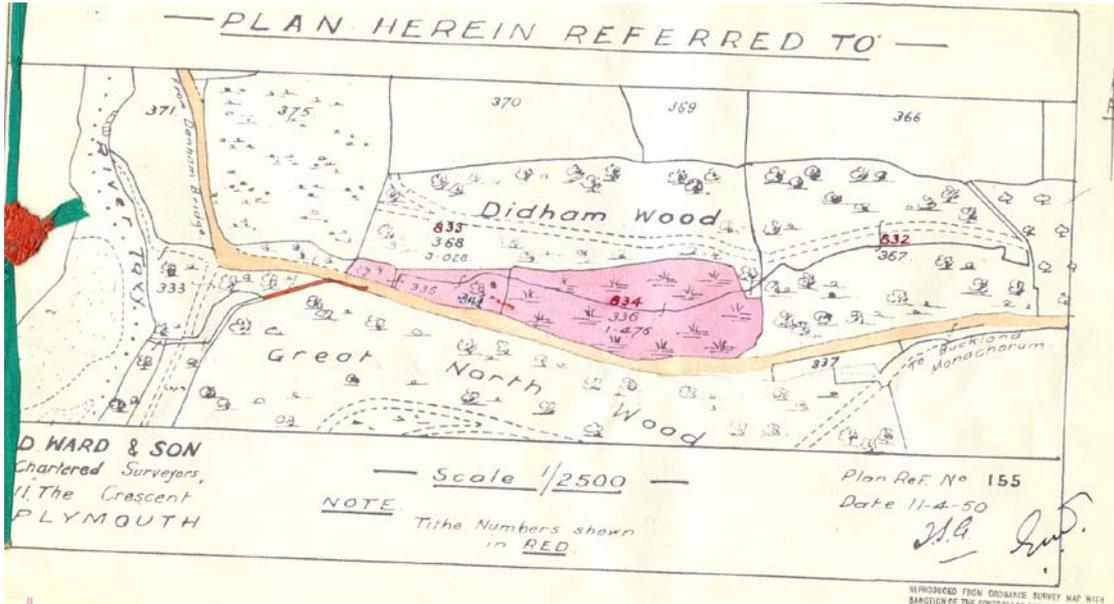
OS nos 335 and 336, coloured pink on the plan, belonged to the Buckland estate. In 1855 they were owned by Sir Thomas Trayton Fuller Elliott Drake of Nutwell Court. The land was described as Willow Garden. Ludbrook Wood was owned by Sir Massey Lopes of Maristow and the stream after leaving Willow Garden ran through “timbered waste land” at the bottom of the wood. Drake owned land on the other side of Winsbeer Lane, part of the Barton of Buckland, and wanted to divert the stream onto that land for irrigation purposes. Lopes granted permission for 21 years at a rent of £1 per year. In practice the permission continued after the 21 years had elapsed at the same rent. The dam was presumably then constructed by Drake to divert to stream through a culvert under the road as shown on the plan.

In 1871 the Willow Garden was included in a Drake family settlement

On the 25th March 1947 the Buckland Abbey Estate (1333 acres) was sold by Capt. Richard Meyrick of Southchard, Somerset (he was presumably the life tenant of the settlement) to Capt Arthur Rodd of Willowby, Yelverton. The estate included OS 335, described as “wood” and OS 336 described as “Withey Bed”. Buckland Abbey was sold to the National Trust on 3rd Feb 1949

Capt Rodd died on 16th April 1950 and the two parcels of land were sold to George Leslie Wates on 5th Dec 1950 for £80 (equivalent to about £2000 today) subject to the annual payment of £1 to the Maristow Estate. The plan below comes from this conveyance.

GLW, presumably to tidy things up and to avoid having to pay the £1 rent each year, arranged in 1956 for the right to divert the stream to be granted in perpetuity. This was done by Philip Debell Tuckett, owner of Ludbrooke Wood (he had bought it from the Maristow estate in 1951) upon payment of £20.



BAW
24.2.08