APPENDIX K

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED FOOTPATH FROM STRETTON TO THE HIGHWAY EAST OF BICKFORD GRANGE FARM

AN APPLICATION FOR THE ADDITION OF A FOOTPATH TO THE DEFINITIVE MAP

GROUNDS OF OBJECTION

Introduction

- Mr Piers Alastair Carlos Monckton and the Somerford Home Farm partnership (together "the Objectors"), as landowner and occupier of the majority of land over which the footpath is proposed, herein object to the addition of a footpath to the Definitive Map.
- 2. These grounds of objection are prepared in response to Staffordshire County Council's ("the Council") letter dated 23 May 2018 and the original application of Mr Reay ("the Applicant") for addition of the footpath ("the Route") dated 23 June 1997 based mainly upon information connected with the Finance Act of 1910, and information emanating from a decision of the Justices of the Quarter Sessions in 1828 ("the Application"), together with the Council's accompanying letter dated 11 July 1997.
- These grounds of objection are intended to be read in conjunction with and are supplemental to the three letters of objection submitted by Mr Monekton and his father, dated 17 July 1997, 22 July 1997, and 6 August 1997.
- These grounds of objection are accompanied by a tabbed bundle of documents, with references below following the format [tab/page number].

Objections in summary

The Objectors contend that the Finance Act information has been misinterpreted by the Applicant, and far from supporting the Application, it supports these Objections, mainly on the basis that the public right of way claimed for is not the Northern section of the Route, but a public right of way which already existed then over a separate part of the hereditament, and still does now.

6. The Objectors have found documents in the local archives which show that the decision of the Justices of the Quarter Sessions relied upon by the Applicant was subject to an appeal resulting in a different decision, conflicting with the Application, and will otherwise object.

Factual Background

- The Route crosses three registered freehold titles owned by Mr Monekton, and a
 fourth title owned by a Mr Giles; the locations of the titles are roughly marked on the
 plan supplied [1/1].
- 8. The Application appears to have originally been supported by only the following documentary evidence:
 - a. Highway Order 1828;
 - b. Ordnance Survey Maps;
 - c. Inclosure Award 1862;
 - d. Tithe Maps 1838 and 1841; and
 - e. Various other maps dated 1840, 1766 and 1801.
- Although not listed in the supporting documents, it appears the Application was also accompanied by a Finance Act 1910 Plan and accompanying Field Book Entry, or that the Applicant has supplied them since.
- The Application in 1997 did not at the time lead the Council to make a modification order.
- 11. The Council reopened the matter in May 2018 and wrote to Mr Monckton on 23 May 2018 asking for his comments on the proposed addition.

- 12. It is emphasised at this stage that the Route as proposed would have a seriously detrimental impact on the occupation of the affected land. As proposed, the Route crosses significant areas of arable land, a working farm, a private garden and a (temporarily) empty moat.
- 13. The addition of the Route to the Definitive Map would require significant reconfiguration of the built structures and other physical features of the land, thereby causing serious disruption and harm to the owners and occupants. It would also present a serious security threat to the occupants of Stretton Lodge and the farm.
- 14. The Objectors have supplied annotated photographs and maps showing the impact of the proposed Footpath on the land as it is today [2/2]. The Council's attention is drawn to the depth of the moat, the difficulty of access from the road to the Footpath and the proximity of the Footpath to Stretton Lodge and its private garden. All these features originate from around 1870.

Legal framework

- 15. The Applicant's evidence appears to be focussed upon section 53(3)(c)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:
 - (c) the discovery by the authority of evidence which (when considered with all other relevant evidence available to them) shows—
 - (i) that a right of way which is not shown in the map and statement subsists or is reasonably alleged to subsist over land in the area to which the map relates, being a right of way such that the land over which the right subsists is a public path a restricted byway or, subject to section 54A, a byway open to all traffic
- 16. To make the Modification Order, the Council needs to be satisfied that a right of way "subsists or is reasonably alleged to subsist". This test has been interpreted by the Courts to mean whether a reasonable person, having considered all the relevant evidence available, could reasonably allege a right of way to exist: R v Secretary of State ex p Bagshaw and Norton.

^{1 (1994) 68} P&CR 402.

17. A wide range of evidence can be considered in reaching a conclusion, including the history of the locality—see s.32 of the Highways Act 1980:

A court or other tribunal, before determining whether a way has or has not been dedicated as a highway, or the date on which such dedication, if any, took place, shall take into consideration any map, plan or history of the locality or other relevant document which is tendered in evidence, and shall give such weight thereto as the court or tribunal considers justified by the circumstances, including the antiquity of the tendered document, the status of the person by whom and the purpose for which it was made or compiled, and the custody in which it has been kept and from which it is produced.

- 18. Although the Application does not set out the Applicant's case, it is assumed that the Applicant is relying upon the common law test for dedication (rather than the statutory test based upon user), namely that there is evidence from which it may be inferred that a landowner has dedicated a right of way and that the public has accepted the dedication.
- Kim Lewison QC (as he then was), considered the requirements of dedication and of acceptance in Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions v Baylis (Gloucester) Ltd (2000),²

He held at p.328:

Before 1835, when the modern law of highways begins, all highways were repairable at the public expense. This expense fell on the parish. The imposition on the inhabitants of the parish of what could, potentially, be an onerous obligation led to the requirement of the common law that the existence of a highway could only be established by proving both dedication by the owner and acceptance by the public. Acceptance by the public demonstrated that there was a public benefit which justified the public assumption of liability to repair. Although the Highways Act 1835 abolished the universal rule that any highway was repairable at the public expense, it did not do away with the twin requirements of dedication and acceptance. It

^{2 80} P&CR 324,

introduced a second stage, namely adoption, before a highway became maintainable at the public expense. That remains the position today.

At p.328-29, he held:

Dedication is primarily a question of intention of the dedicator, although there are some cases where the dedicator lacks the legal capacity to dedicate. The intention may be proved by the express words or conduct of the dedicator, or by inference from his acquiescence in public use of the way...

In relation to acceptance, he held at p.330:

As I have said, however, dedication does not create a highway without acceptance. What amounts to acceptance? The usual evidence relied on to establish acceptance is use by the public. Mr Harbottle and Mr Hill-Smith both contend that actual use by the public is the only way in which acceptance can be proved. In other words, actual use by the public is not merely a sufficient condition for establishing acceptance; it is a necessary condition. Actual use for this purpose, they say, means actual exercise by the public of their right to pass and repass.

In many, if not most, cases there is no express dedication. The dedication has to be inferred from other evidence. The usual form of evidence is use by the public. But it is important to remember that in such cases evidence of public use serves a dual function. On the one hand it is evidence from which the factual inference may be drawn that the landowner has dedicated the land as a highway. If long use by the public as of right has been proved, why has the landowner permitted such use to continue unless he intended the land to be dedicated for use as a highway? On the other hand, the self-same evidence is used to prove acceptance by the public.

- 20. It is said that the dedicator has to have sufficient animus dedicandi in order to actually dedicate the land as a highway, as opposed to recognising what they thought the status was.
- 21. Of animus dedicandi Parke B in Poole v Huskinson (1843) 11 M&W 827 says:

in order to constitute a valid dedication to the public of a highway by the owner of the soil, it is clearly settled that there must be an intention to dedicate—there must be an animus dedicand, of which user by the public is evidence, and no more; and a single act of interruption by the owner is of much more weight on a question of intention, than many acts of enjoyment.

22. In the New Zealand case Echolands Farms Ltd v Powell [1976] 1 NZLR 750, Moller J said at p. 757 that the animus dedicandi:

...may be openly expressed in words or writing, but, as a rule, it is a matter of inferences from evidence as to the acts and behaviour of the person concerned when viewed in the light of all the surrounding circumstances.

Grounds of Objection

- 23. The Applicant does not provide any evidence of <u>dedication</u>, <u>acceptance</u>, or <u>use</u>, of the Route, nor does he identify:
 - any particular act at any particular time by the Objectors' predecessors which amounts to dedication;
 - b. any evidence of acceptance by the public at large of a public right of way; or
 - c. any evidence of actual use of the Route.
- 24. More significantly, the allegedly supporting evidence is severely lacking and does not meet the relevant threshold to justify a modification order, when considered separately or as a whole.
- 25. Each piece of allegedly supporting evidence will be considered in turn.

Finance Act Documents

26. The Objectors have undertaken a detailed analysis of the Finance Act documents available, which has shown that the Applicant has misinterpreted the Finance Act documents, which in fact plainly refer to a different public right of way in a different part of the hereditament.

- 27. The Route crosses hereditaments 1268 to the South, and 610 to the North, it is solely the information which relates to 610 which the Applicant relies upon.
- 28. Hereditaments 586 and 605 adjoin. High quality photographs of the Finance Act Plans showing all hereditaments are supplied at [3/26].
- 29. The Field book for 1268 states under the heading: "Charges, Easement, and Restrictions affecting market value of fee simple", 'public path as on ordinance', but no deduction is ascribed to: "Rights of Way or User" or otherwise [4/37].
- 30. The Field book for 610 (as relied upon by the Applicant) states:
 - a. under the heading: "Fixed Charges, Easements, Common Rights and Restrictions". 'Public right of road over 3 [illegible] fields use for surface water from road with drains [illegible] [illegible] at Bickford';
 - b. under the heading: "Fixed Charges, Easements, and Restrictions affecting market value of fee simple", states: 'public path across fields as on ord. map'; and
 - c. under the headings: "Public Rights of Way or User", and "Restrictions", '£20' is ascribed [5/39].
- 31. The Field book for 586 does not include any reference to rights of way under: "Public Rights of Way or User", or "Fixed Charges, Easements, and Restrictions affecting market value of fee simple"; but under "Restrictions", 'footpaths £50' is ascribed [6/41].
- 32. The Field book for 605 does not include any reference to rights of way under: "Fixed Charges, Easements, and Restrictions affecting market value of fee simple"; but under: "Public Rights of Way or User", '£20'; and "Restrictions", 'footpaths £20' is ascribed [7/43].
- 33. Hereditaments 586, 610, and 605 are all crossed by the already existing public rights of way from Bickford to Mitton Manor and Whiston Hall; 586 is also crossed by the existing public right of way running east-west across Bickford Grange Farm (as well as incidentally various paths which are also not public rights of way) [8/45].

- 34. Accordingly it is submitted that the £20 deduction relied upon by the Applicant is much more likely to relate to the currently existing public rights of way crossing hereditament 610, not any of the other paths marked upon the ordinance plans.
- 35. Further, given the extent of the Route crossing 610, a £20 deduction (for its inclusion) would not be sufficient, not least where the deduction applied to 586 (where the paths are far more extensive, but not as extensive as the Route) is £50. This is also borne out by the fact that a deduction of £20 was applied to 605, for around the same length as that crossing 610.
- 36. It follows that when the Finance Act documents are construed correctly, they are in fact supportive of the Objectors' position, given that no public right of way was claimed for by either of the owners of the two hereditaments crossed by the Route.
- 37. Further, the fact that the Finance Act material covering the Northern part of the Route is not probative removes the only remotely plausible evidence the Applicant relies upon to justify the part of the Route from up to where the word "Oak" appears East of Lapley Gorse ("the Oak Point") to the North; thus accepting for one moment the remainder of the Application as probative, at most the Route terminates at Oak Point.
- 38. The Objectors ask the Council to take into account the Planning Inspectorate Consistency Guidelines at paragraph 11.5:

However, evidence of the existence of a public way across a hereditament may be deduced from, for example, a Field Book entry showing a deduction under 'public rights of way or user', with further clear hand-written details, such as use of the words 'public footpath'. The position of such a way may be shown by annotations on the working plans or written information in the Field Book. But where hereditaments were large and crossed by numerous paths it may not be possible to conclude from written information that a particular route was referred to. Even where field plans are annotated, and paths marked as 'public', it may be unclear when and by whom annotations were made. Evidence from Field Books and plans may provide good evidence of the reputation of a way as public, but care should be exercised when drawing conclusions from material not known to be provided directly by or on the authority of the landowner.

[Emphasis added.]

Highway Order 1827

- 39. The Applicant relies upon an order made by clerks of His Majesty's Justice of the Peace (a transcribed version is provided at [9/46], the original at [9/47]) which had a twofold effect: (1) stopping up a number of highways in the Parish of Stretton and (2) retaining the existence of a "right of footway" from the point marked C to the point marked K on a plan attached to the same order ("the HW Order").
- 40. The HW Order itself appears to have been made on 3 December 1827.
- 41. The accompanying map records:
 - "Those parts coloured Blue are intended to be discontinued and those coloured Brown & Red are intended to remain open."
- 42. That same map shows the route from C to K coloured brown. This equates to the lower part of the Route, as shown on the Section 53 Application Map, reaching from Stretton up to the Oak Point.
- 43. The Objectors have discovered that HW Order was <u>appealed</u>, with the appeal heard by the Quarter Sessions in Epiphany 1828, with a written order supplied by the visiting Justices (a transcribed version at [10/51] and a copy of the original is at [10/52] ("the QS Order").
- 44. The QS Order records that it is made on appeal, and is intended to replace the HW Order, save that the plan used is the same.
- 45. The QS Order upholds the majority of the matters in the HW Order, save that (very significantly) the reference to the "...footway from the point marked C to the point marked K on the said plan..." has been removed from the Order.
- 46. The Objectors' dispute that this information is sufficient for the Application to succeed for the following reasons:
- 47. First, the HW Order was clearly appealed and only upheld in part (otherwise the reference to "... footway from the point marked C to the point marked K on the said

- plan..." would have been retained, thus the effect of this documentation is to demonstrate that the Quarter Sessions overturned the HW Order relied upon by the Applicant.
- 48. Taken at its lowest, the QS Order clearly extinguishes all and any public rights of way between points C, B, and F; which, when combined with the Finance Act material means that the remainder of the Route running from point K on the HW Order plan to Oak Point has no public access to its beginning or end.
- 49. However the QS Order and HW Orders are construed, they do not amount to evidence which would lead a reasonable person to the view that the Route was public.
- 50. <u>Second</u>, and further, the HW Order does not on its face anywhere indicate that any of the roads/bridleways/footways were, or are public, nor does it purport to grant or designate those routes as such.
- 51. The active statute in force at that time would have been the Highways Act 1773, and yet the HW Order does not indicate that the Justices were exercising that jurisdiction (to confirm a route).
- 52. The Court was focussed upon considering an application to stop up rights of way, and not whether or not they were public rights of way; the inclusion in the RW Order may well have been made in order to please one particular party, as a result of an abundance of caution, and without prejudice to a contention that the way or ways were private.
- 53. Speculating, it may have been that the Route was considered private, but those who used it (with permission) were concerned to ensure that it remained accessible to them (hence the appearance of the reference to the Route as an afterthought, and its exclusion upon appeal); alternatively, it may have been the intention of the Court to leave the matter open and undecided (hence the complete lack of any reference to public rights of way in the HW Order).
- 54. In the 1800s the Quarter Sessions operated a very broad jurisdiction, covering all manner of legal matters from landlord and tenant, to church, to Inclosure, to

Arbitration;³ thus it is not a foregone conclusion that because the Quarter Sessions ruled upon a matter, it could <u>only</u> have been exercising a public right of way jurisdiction.

- 55. Further, whether, in reality, the Quarter Sessions could deliberate upon only Highway matters or not, there are plenty of examples of the Quarter Sessions dealing with private rights of way, whether as an appellate body following Inclosure Commissioner's decisions, or otherwise with a less clear mandate.⁴
- 56. Either one of these factors might be the reason for the appeal, but they also demonstrate that the ITW Order and QS Order do not amount to evidence of dedication, acceptance, or use, of the Route.
- 57. Third, in the alternative, the Objectors maintain that if such a public path existed in 1828, as apparently recognised by the HW Order, any such path was extinguished during the significant realignment and restructuring work to the land at Stretton between the years of 1854 and 1865 ("the Remodelling Process").
- 58. There is precedent for this; in *Yarmouth Corpn v Simmons*, 5 the deposited plans for a pier provisional order showed that the extinction of a highway must have been contemplated, and as such its stopping up was not considered to be unlawful.
- 59. The Objectors have provided annotated plans and photos of the relevant points of interest along the Route [2/2].
- 60. The Objectors rely on the following facts in support of this limb of objection:
 - Between the 1830s and the 1870s, the area of land crossed by the Southern part of the Route was significantly remodelled to create Stretton Park;
 - In particular, a moat, lodge, and bridge were constructed on the land [2/5-13];
 - (3) Since its construction, the bridge has been secured by a lockable gate [2/4-5];

5 (1878) 10 ChD 518.

See Quarter Sessions Practice: A Vade Medeum of General Practice in Appellate and Civil Cases at Quarter Sessions, Frederick Smith, 1882, Part II.

⁴ See Hodson, Y, Footpaths and bridleways in inclosure Acts 1801-1845 Rights of Way Law Review, September 2011, 179 197.

- (4) A sewage system was installed, involving installation of the Upper Pool and The Pool, following extensive drainage of the malarial marshes. This system provided the sewage scheme for the entire village of Stretton and would undoubtedly have been introduced with the cooperation and support of the relevant authorities due to the public health aspects of such an operation (extracts from various sources, including family memoirs provided [11/53], timeline provided [11/55]);
- (5) The bridge crossed over the moat and formed the main drive to Stretton Park, the moat was (and is) connected to the Upper Pool [2/10];
- (6) The roads in the Stretton Lodge area were significantly realigned.
- 61. The Objectors aver that it is inconceivable that the Remodelling Process was undertaken without any public footpaths over such land being formally extinguished. The western part of the Upper Pool connecting to the moat would have coincided with the Footpath and therefore an extinguishment would have been necessary. The Council cannot have confidence that the relevant authorities in 1860 would have permitted and cooperated with such a significant Remodelling Process without duly extinguishing and/or diverting any footpath that coincided with a body of water, a sewage system and a private garden.
- 62. Even if the consequence of the Remodelling Process was that any previous public footpath was diverted, rather than extinguished, this is sufficient to warrant not making the proposed Modification Order. The Footpath as proposed crosses the most and private garden of Stretton Lodge. Therefore, a public footpath cannot possibly be in the same position as it was in 1828. Any alternative route caused by a diversion is not known to either the Applicant, the Objectors or the Council and has not been proposed.
- 63. Although no documentary evidence is currently available to support either of these formal processes (extinguishment or diversion), the alternative is so inherently unlikely that it cannot be reasonably alleged that the Footpath existed in this position after 1865.
- 64. This account of the history of the locality is consistent with the absence of any maps after 1865 which demonstrate the existence of a footpath in this area, let alone a

- <u>public</u> footpath, over the proposed route. The evidence is unable to support the proposition that the Footpath, as proposed, survived the Remodelling Process.
- 65. <u>Fourth</u>, in the further alternative, it is disputed that the Objectors' predecessors in title even had the legal capacity to dedicate the Route as a public right of way, either prior to, or as a part of the HW Order.
- 66. The Stretton Estate is understood to have been held by the Congreve family from 1381, and is recorded as being held by Mr Congreve up to 1733, then Mr Connolly, up to when Mr Monekton's family first acquired it in around 1790, with first Registration in 2003.
- 67. The extent of the Estate during the Congreve years is shown on the estate map dated 1766 [12/57] and includes the majority of the land covered by the Route.⁶
- 68. During the Congreve ownership up to at least 1925 the Estate was copyhold in tenure, and held entail. All entails exist as equitable interests behind trusts. This means that the legal estate must be vested in trust for the life tenant and any others.
- 69. In R v Leake 110 ER 863, Parke J held that where, as a matter of law, land could only be used in a certain way, which was incompatible with public use as a highway, it would not be possible for trustees holding that land to dedicate such a right.
- 70. In *Bristol City Council v University of Bristol* the Inspector heard argument that a University was unable to dedicate land, as inconsistent with its status as a charity under the Charities Act and as a result of its Royal Charter; although the argument was unsuccessful on the facts, the principle was accepted by the Inspector.⁷
- 71. By way of example, in *Paterson v St Andrews* 6 App Cas 833, the relevant party was holding land from time immemorial for the purposes of entertainment and recreation.
- 72. Given that the Applicant relies upon the common law test for dedication, the common law on legal capacity to cede rights must apply. In *Oakley v Boston*, a case on the acquisition of private rights by prescription, Goulding J pointed out that:

⁶ Incidentally the Map of 1766 shows a completely different private footpath in the approximate area of the Route.

^{7 [2002]} PAD 38, paras 3.14-3.17.

There are considerable difficulties in applying a doctrine of acquiescence to persons in a fiduciary position who have an active duty to others to fulfil before they can exercise their powers.⁸

73. In *Bradbury v Grinsell* 2 Wms. Saund, 1871 edn, also on the topic of the acquisition of private rights by prescription the rule was stated as:

Though an uninterrupted possession for twenty years or upwards should be sufficient evidence to be left to a jury to presume a grant; yet the rule must ever be taken with this qualification, that the possession was with the acquiescence of him who was seised of an estate of inheritance: for a tenant for life or years has no power to grant such a right for a longer period than during the continuance of his particular estate. If such a tenant permits another to enjoy an easement on his estate for twenty years or upwards without interruption, and then the particular estate determines, such user will not affect him who has the inheritance in reversion or remainder; but when it vests in possession the reversioner may dispute the right to the easement, and the length of possession will be no answer to his claim.

74. The leading textbook on private rights of way, *Gale on Easements* (in considering Prescription Act claims), summarises the position on competent grantors:

It will have been seen that as a general rule the enjoyment of an easement as against an owner of the servient tenement who is unable to dispose of the fee is not sufficient to give rise to a prescriptive title, and that the ordinary cause of such an inability arises from a deficiency of estate, as where a servient owner is tenant for life or tenant for years. The inability to dispose of the fee may, however, arise from other causes, for instance by reason of the doctrine of ultra vires or where the owner of the servient tenement is restrained from alienation.

75. Accordingly, it is submitted that whilst the Justices' decisions to stop up or divert in the HW Order and QS Order will not be affected, to the extent that it is suggested new routes are dedicated or recognised in the HW Order, that would not be possible as a matter of law.

9 20th edn. 4-94

^{8 [1976]} Q.B. at 285; [1975] 3 W.L.R. 478, 285D-E.

76. <u>Fifth</u>, and as outlined further above, it must be emphasised that the QS Order is only supportive of *part* of the Route, and not its entirety. The QS Order provides no support for the Footpath north of Oak Point.

Tithe maps

- 77. The Applicant appears to rely upon Tithe maps dated 1838 and 1841 but the Objectors appear not to have been provided with copies of these documents.
- 78. The Objectors have uncovered a further Tithe map and award dated 1847 [13/62], which does depict the stopped up road marked I,B,K,F on the IIA Order, but does not indicate any continuation to the North from point K.
- 79. The general value of tithe maps in showing the existence of a public right of way is limited. Roads were not tithable and therefore the indication of a road on a tithe map is indicative only of its physical existence, but not of its status as either private or public.
- 80. The exception to this, as explained in <u>Malthridge Island Management Co v Secretary</u>
 of State for the Environment. 10 is when it can be discerned that the maker of the map has distinguished, using colours or markings, between the public and private roads.
- 81. No such approach to markings and colours can be discerned from the Tithe Map the Objectors have seen.
- 82. Therefore, the tithe maps do not support the existence of a public footpath because tithe maps are of general limited value in this regard and these particular maps do not identify a path. The Tithe Maps do not support the existence of the Footpath as a public right of way.
- 83. Further, neither of the Tithe Maps available here post-date the Remodelling Process and therefore neither provide evidence of the physical existence of a footpath or its public status after 1865.

Ordnance Survey / commercial maps

²² [1998] EG 134.

- 84. The Applicant appears to rely upon an "Early 2" OS Map", an "Early 1" OS Map", a WSL 51915 Map (1840)", a "WSL FAC22 (1766)" map, and a "Smiths County Map (1801)".
- 85. The Objectors have seen the Ordinance Survey maps and the 1766 map (referred to further above) [12/57], and have seen the annotations made by the Applicant in respect of the 1840 and 1801 maps but not what they are said to show.
- 86. The Objectors also have an estate map as mentioned further above, dating from 1721 [14/68], and a further estate map dated 1833 [14/71].
- 87. The Ordnance Survey maps relied upon by the Applicant are of very limited value for two reasons. First, neither of them clearly depicts the existence of a footpath per se along the proposed route. No annotations refer to the route of the Route as a footpath nor do they show the route as a dotted line, but rather a solid black line. Therefore, it is not possible to even conclude the physical existence of a path across that route.
- 88. It is appropriate to apply caution when interpreting commercial maps such as those relied on by the Applicant. Such maps do not often distinguish between the public and private status of paths and therefore cannot be safely relied upon for this purpose.
- 89. Second, and more fundamentally, OS and commercial maps are not evidence of the status of a path, but only of its physical existence—such maps do not distinguish between public and private roads. As such, these maps provide no support for the existence of the Route as public right of way.
- 90. Further, none of these maps post-date the Remodelling Process. It follows that none of them provide support to the proposition that the Route survived the Remodelling Process.
- 91. More specifically, neither the 1721 map nor the 1766 map nor the 1833 map support the Modification Order but in fact undermine it by showing either no route or a different route to 'the Route' and not as proposed. In particular, on the 1766 map, a footpath is not denoted crossing plot number 165 in a north easterly direction as the Route does.

Inclosure Award 1862 Q/ROC98

92. The Applicant relies upon an Inclosure Award of 1862 relating to the Whiston Beacon Hill Common area [15/75], the plan supplied does not depict the area covered by the Route, save that the Route is not shown (and would in theory be) joining the highway running SSW from Whiston as claimed, which features at the Western limit of the plan.

93. There do not appear to be any mentions of any public rights of way, or any rights of way at all in the Award itself, and as such there would appear to be no reason to go into the reasons why Inclosure Act documents might not be probative in these sorts of applications.

94. The Applicant has annotated a plan indicating that the path running parallel to the Route, but some way to the South might be relied upon, but given it is in a different location, does not lead anywhere, and features on a plan where no references to public rights of way are made, there appears to be no force at all in the documents.

95. Accordingly, and on the face of it, if anything the Award supports the Objectors position.

Conclusion

96. For the reasons given, it is plain that the documentary evidence does not meet the threshold for inclusion of the Route in the Definitive Map.

97. It follows that a Modification Order should not be made to include the Route in the Definitive Map because it cannot be said that the Footpath is reasonably alleged to subsist.

ADAM CORBIN

BARRISTER

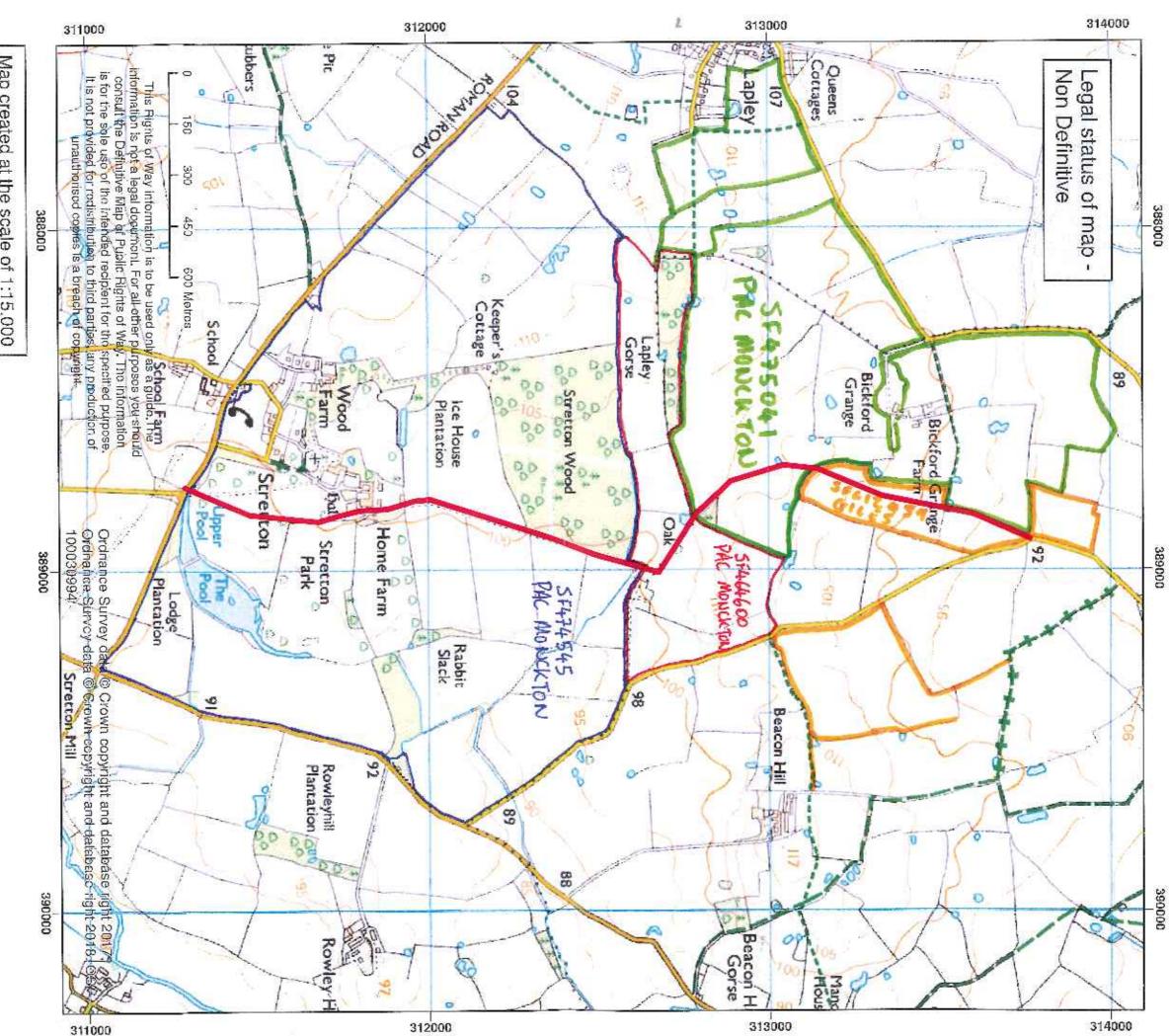
MICHELMORES LLP

19 ЛИLУ 2018

Session map Information interpreted from the Section and the 1910 Finance 53 Application -Act map.

Quarter





Map created at the scale of 1:15,000 (facsimiles may vary)

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Produced by Staffordshire County Council, 22/05/2018.

Interpreted line

Footpath Claim

Stretton to Bickford

Footpath - claimed routing

The following slides show some of the ground features along the track of the wide path based on the centreline of the route contained in the mapping file stretforddxf.dxf provided to Piers Monckton on 21st June 2018 by Amy Wilde claimed footpath. The data used to identify the claimed route is a 1.5m on behalf of the council.

been used to accurately overlay the route of the claimed path onto OS maps This data is compatible with the electronic OS map products which have as well as Google Earth.

The following are sections from the OS map with photographs.

Lapley Road - looking North

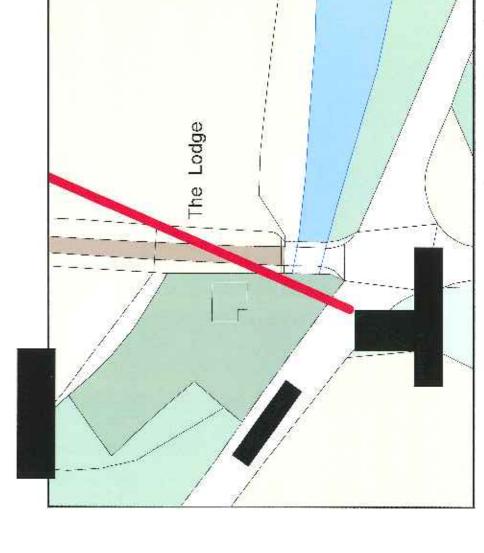
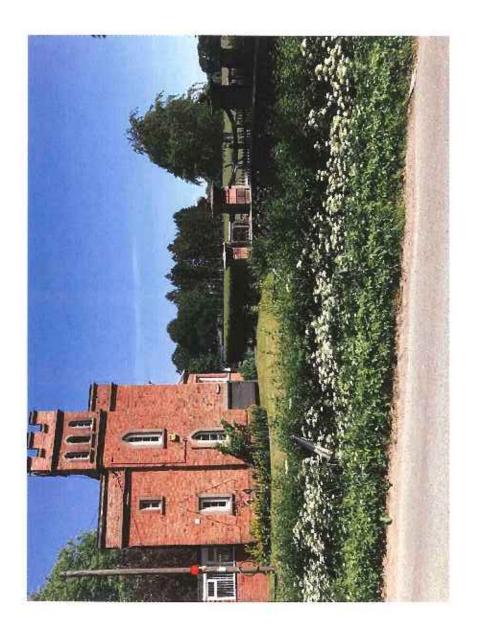
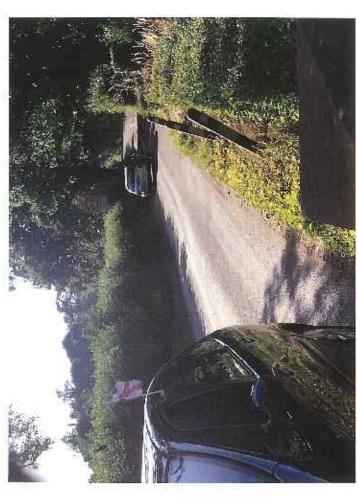


Photo A – view straight down claimed route from Lapley Road

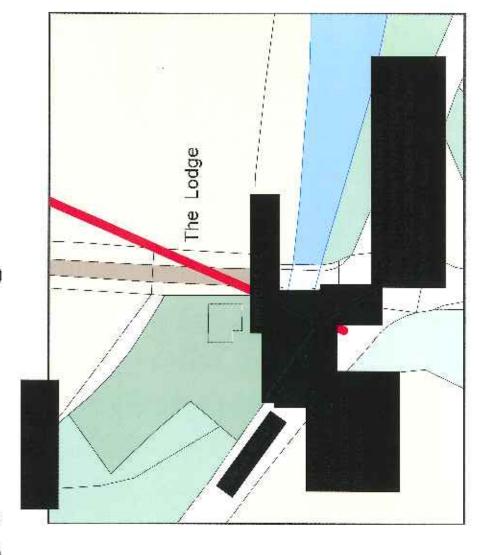


Lapley Lane - traffic passing the Lodge subject to National Speed Limit





The Lodge, Stretton – garden and moat



Photos B and C

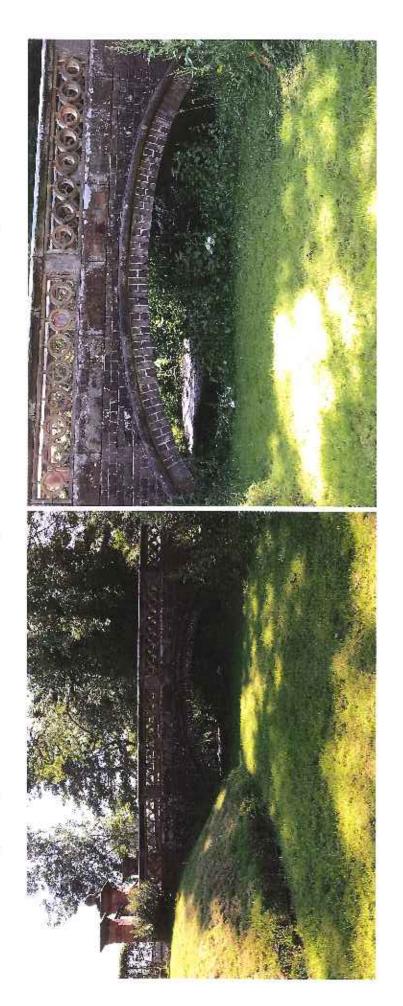




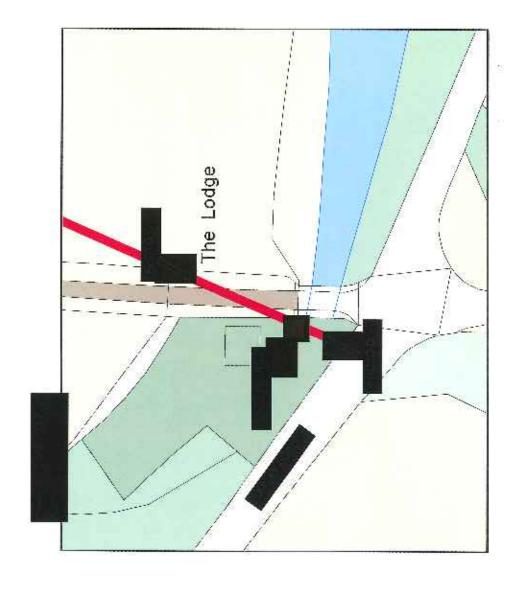
Stormwater drain under Lapley Road



The Lodge – views looking east down the moat which would have been flooded before the upper dam burst. The moat will probably re-flood when ongoing renovations to the pools and dams are complete.



The Lodge, claimed route through garden and gate pillar

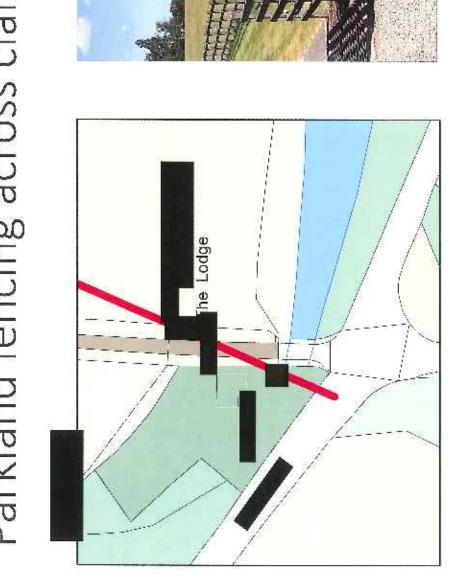


Photos D and E



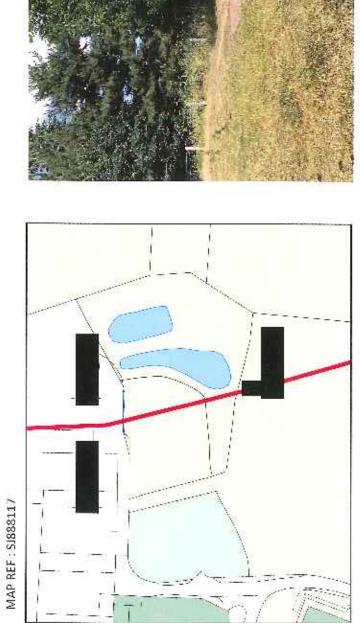


Parkland fencing across claimed route





Fenceline between the Park and the old slurry lagoons. Part of the drainage system created in the mid 1800s can be seen.

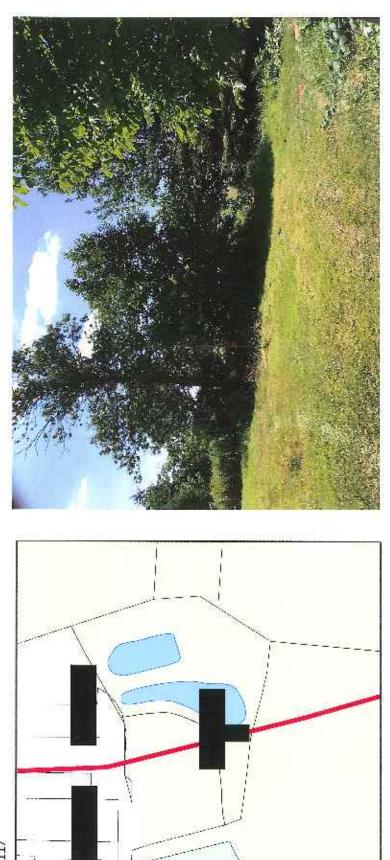


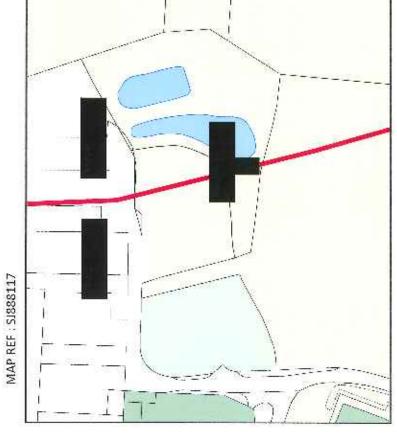


Old drainage system with modern concrete chamber lid in place.

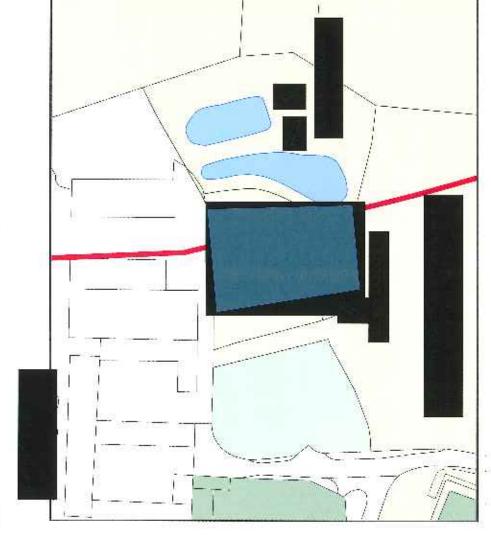


Fenceline between old slurry lagoon and the Park





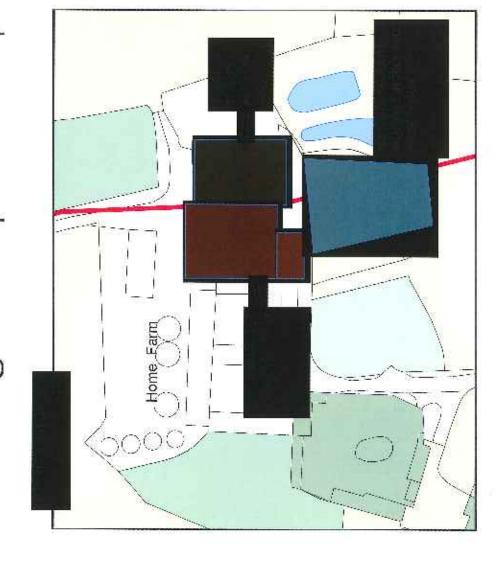
Slurry Lagoons in place prior to 2006-8



Slurry Lagoons in 2003 with claimed footpath route overlaid (source Google Earth).



Cowsheds and silage clamps active pre 2006

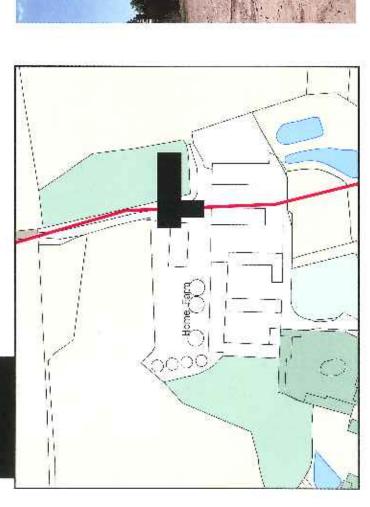


No through route in 2003 and prior due to active cow sheds and silage clamps



PHOTO |

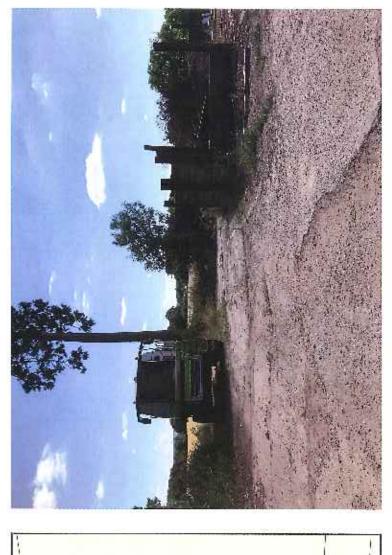
Farm – claimed route through old silage pad past fertiliser store (NB this has to be kept secure as it is explosive).

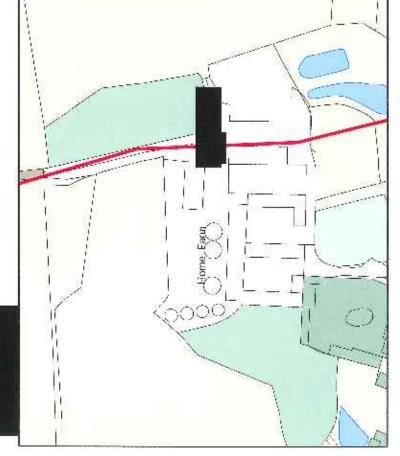




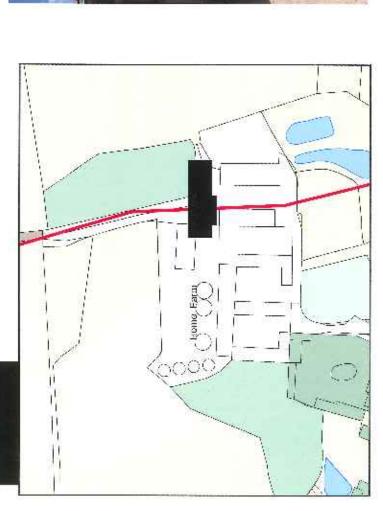
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View east from farmyard





Farm – view west from claimed route showing chemical store and grain storage



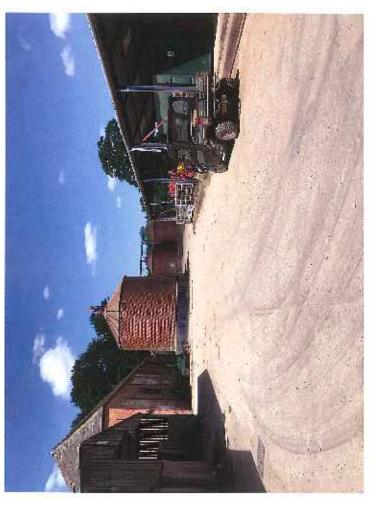
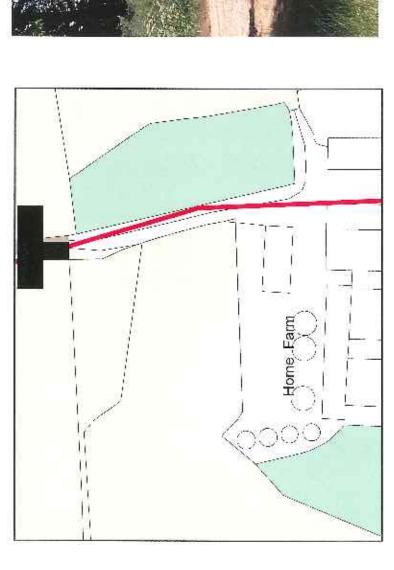


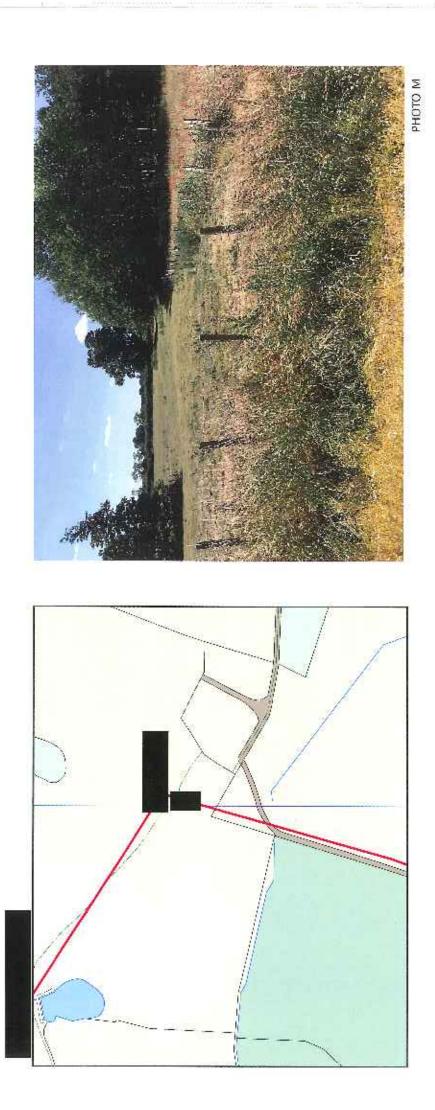
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Southerly view from claimed route from north of the farm





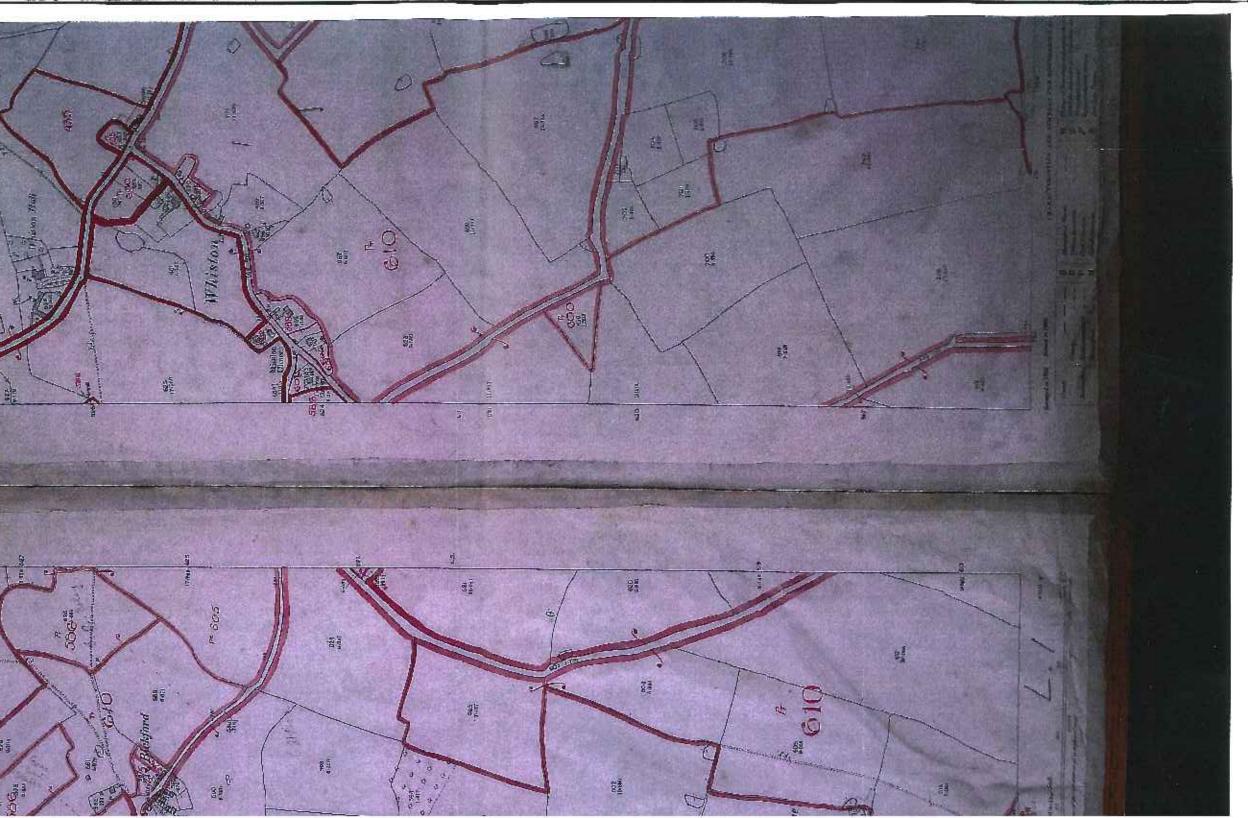
Fenceline to north of Stretton Wood

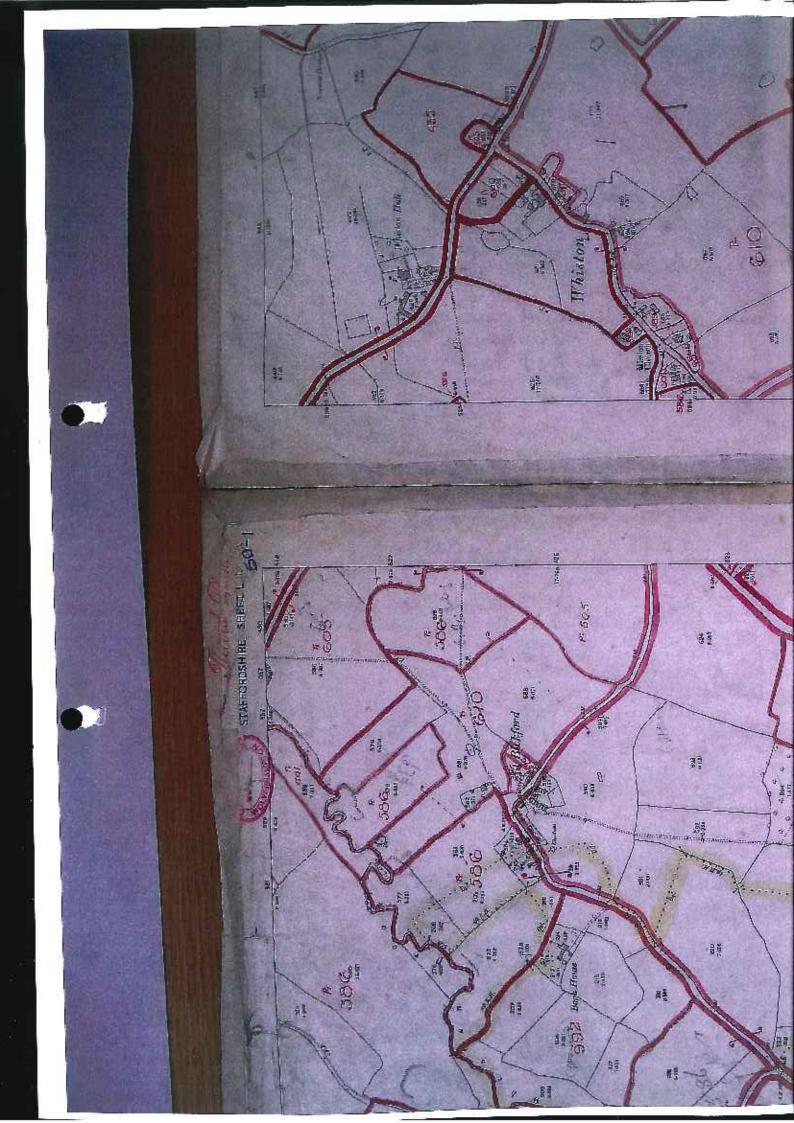




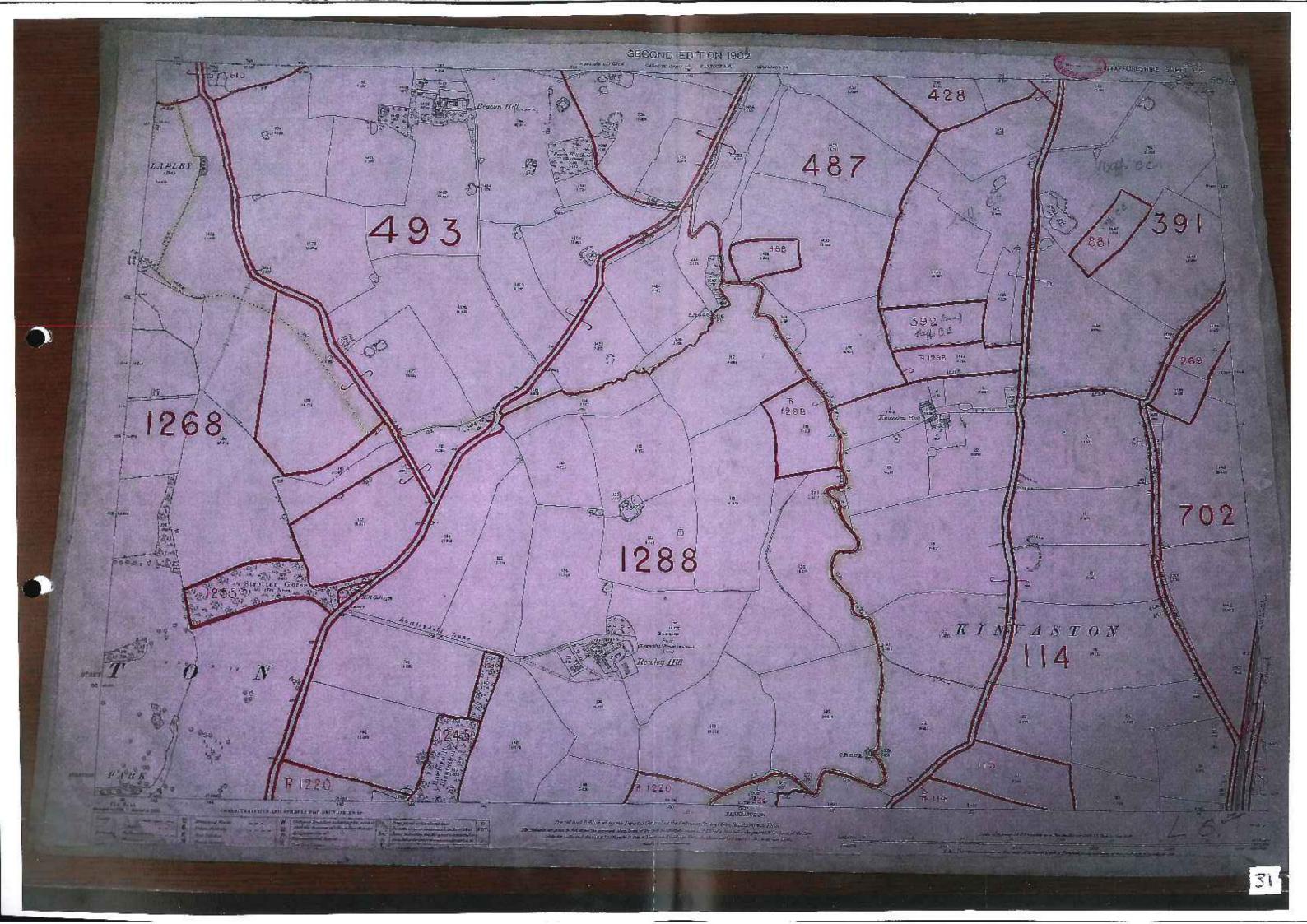




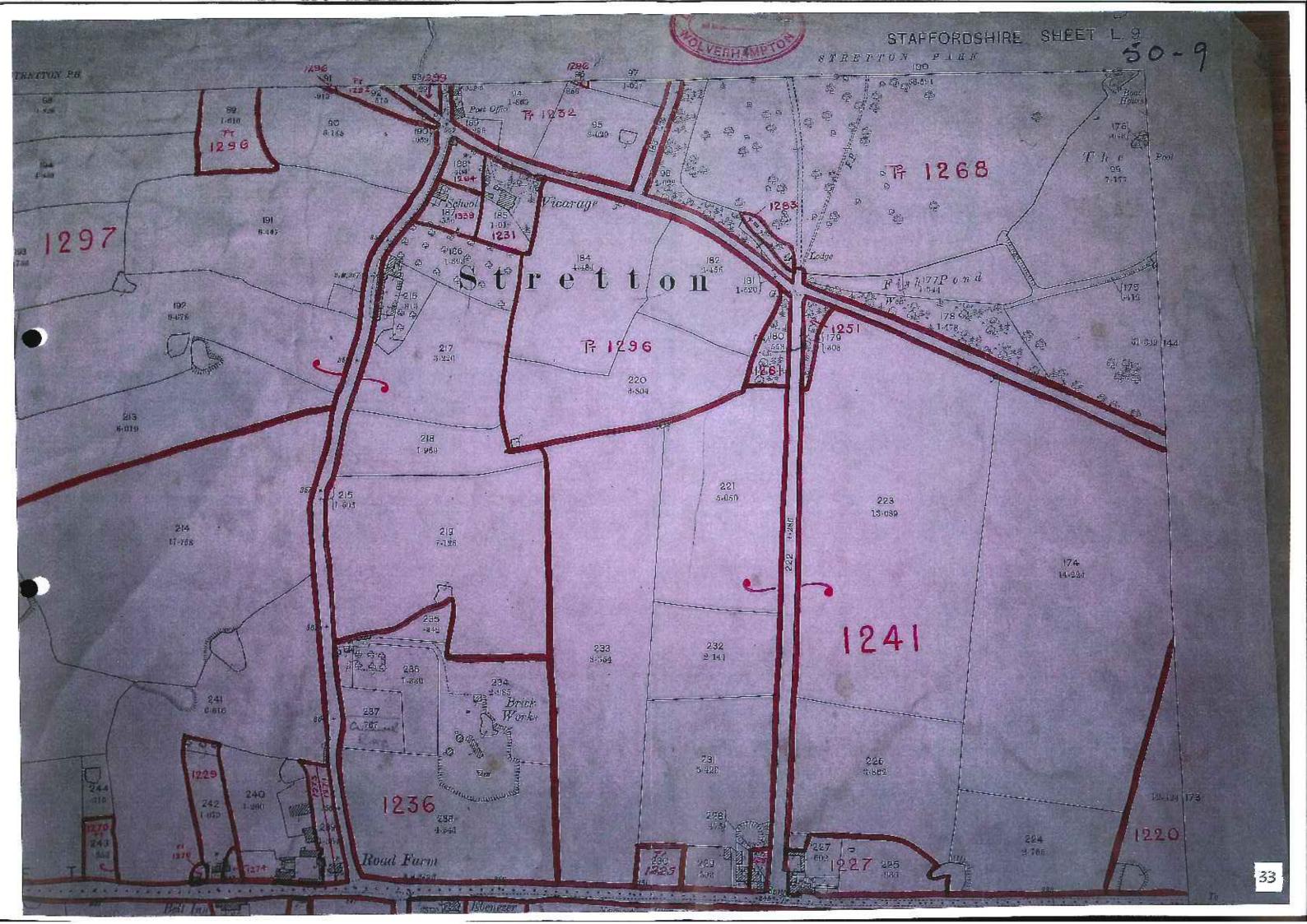






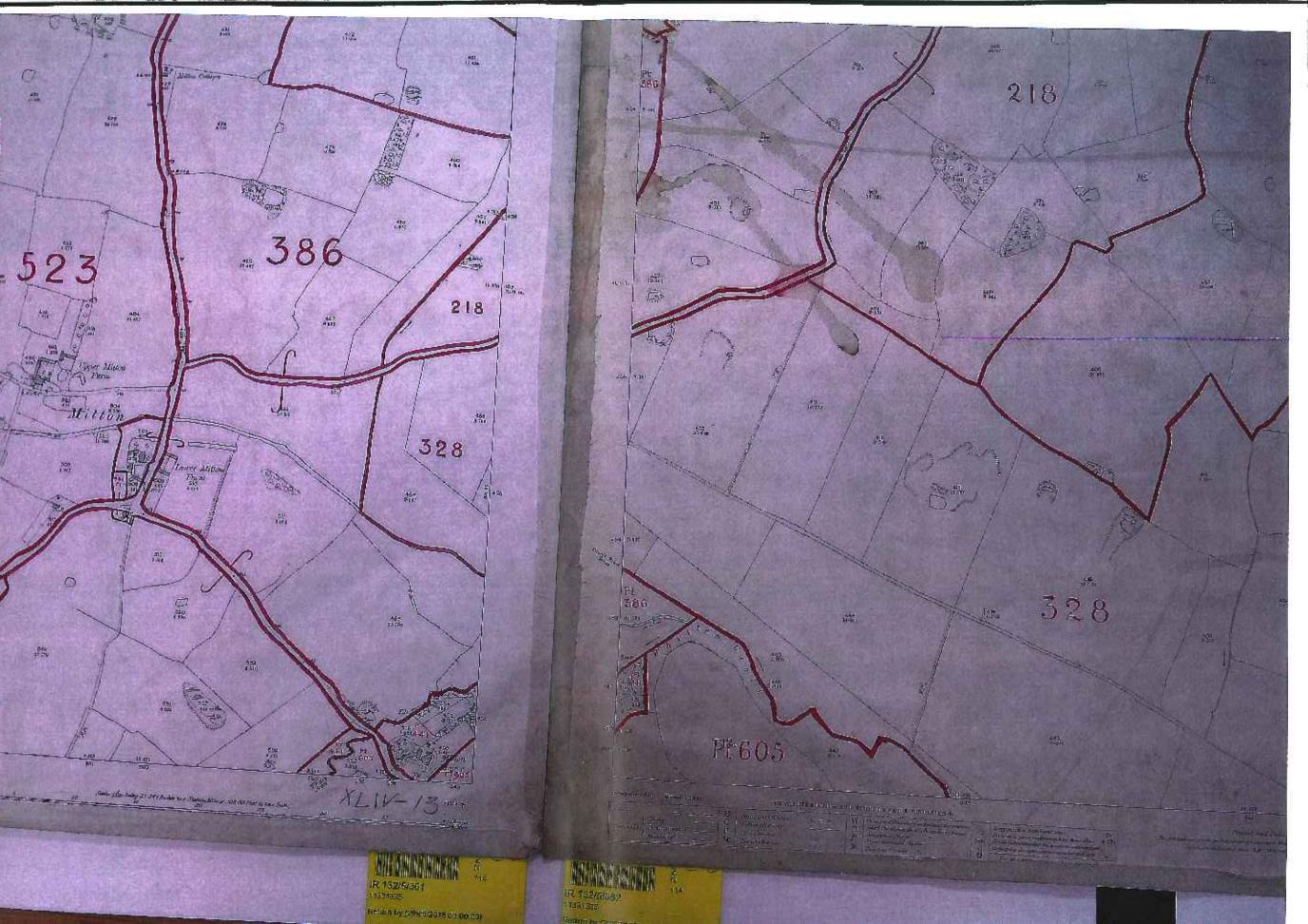


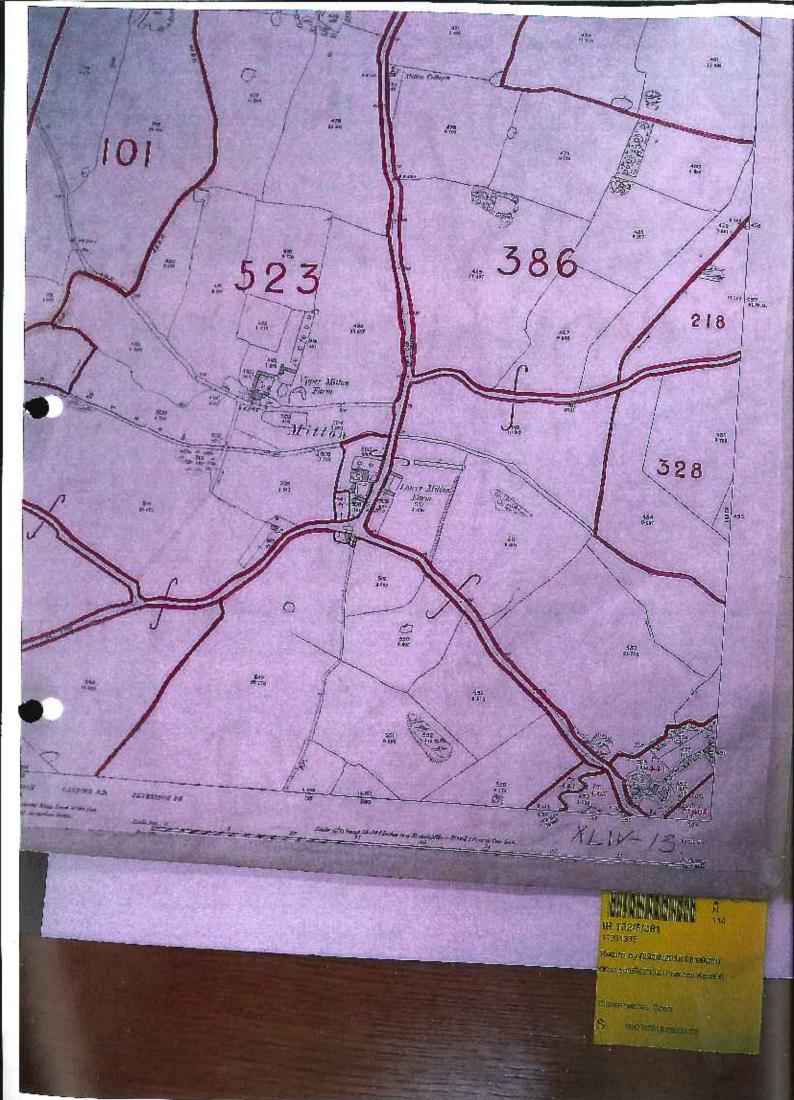












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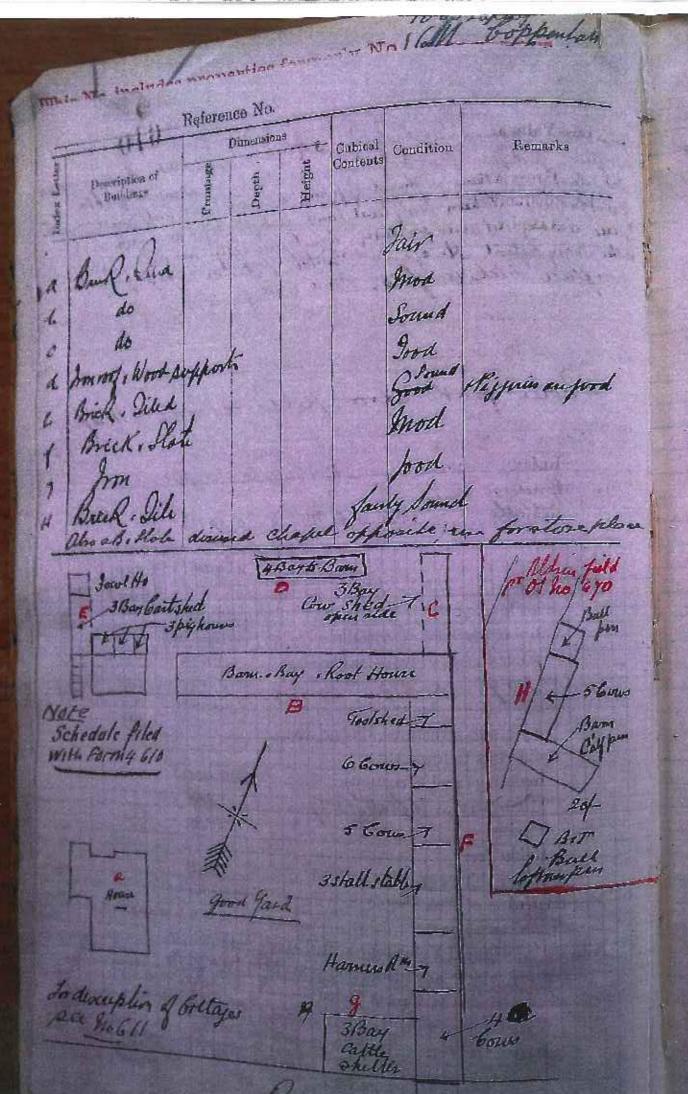
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Any other perpetual rent or Annuity \$	
Tithe or Tithe Rent Charge£37	
Other Burden or Charge arising by opera-	
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ment	
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Redemption of Land Tax£	
Redemption of Other Charges£	1
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franchised	
Release of Restrictions	
Goodwill or personal element	
Expense of Clearing Site £ £3593	
ASSESSABLE SITE VALUE\$6439	
If Agricultural land, the value for Agricultural	
purposes including Sporting Rights £ 9443	
Value of Sporting Rights	

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Reference No. 610
GROSS VALUE£ (253) 6503
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Gross Value (as before)£4263 6503
Less deductions in respect of— Fixed Charges, including—
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rents, rent of Assize£
Any other perpetual rent or Annuity £
Tithe or Tithe Rept Charge£ 170
Other Burden or Charge arising by opera-
tion of law or under any Act of Parliament £
If Copyhold, Estimated Cost of Enfranchise-
ment£
Public Rights of Way or User£ 20
Rights of Common£
Easements£
Restrictions 2 0th
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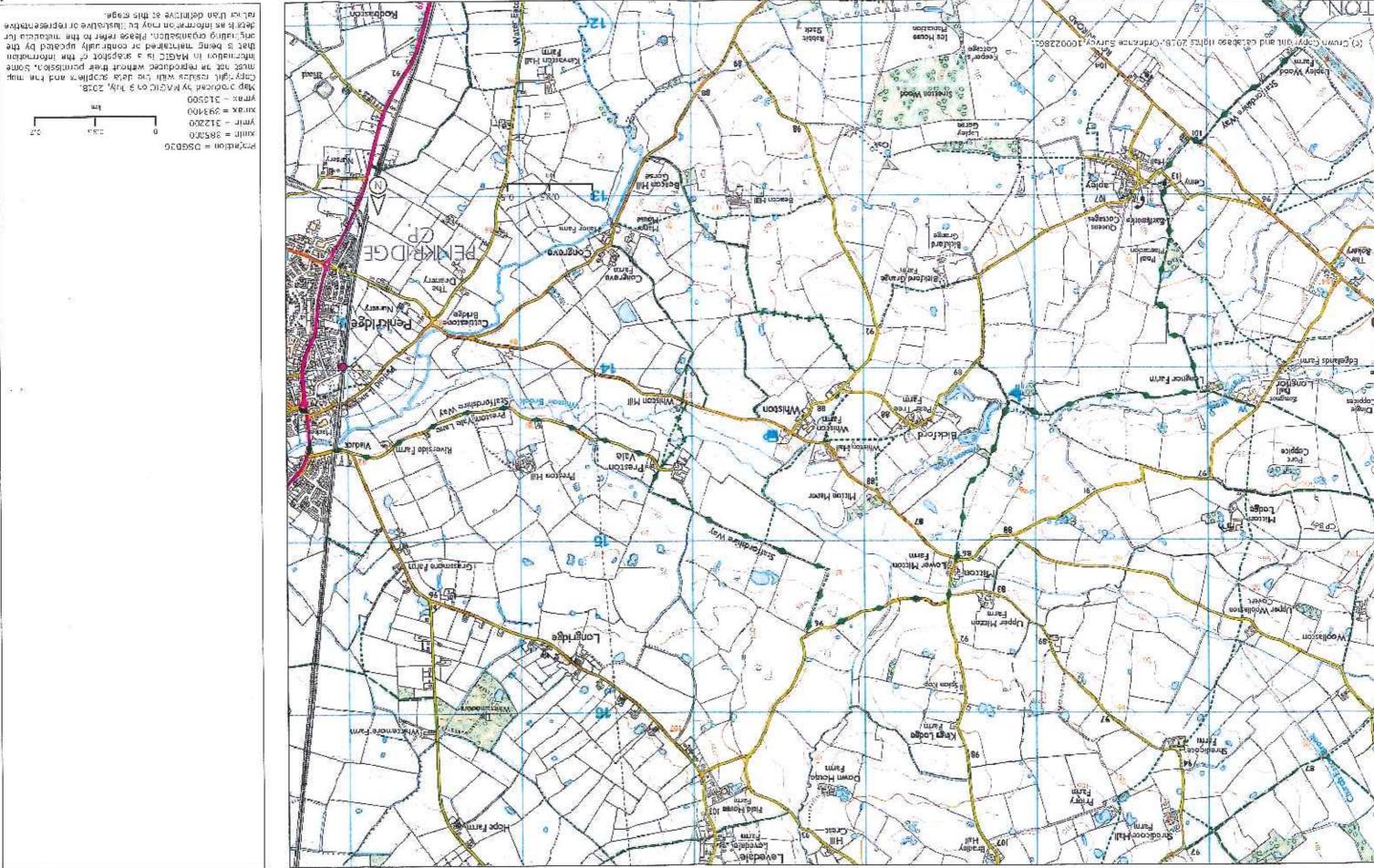
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Existing paths





Transcribed Quarter Sessions Decision

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We Richard Levett and John Clare Clerks two of His Majesties Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Stafford at a special sessions held at the dwelling house of Bartholomew Ebrey situate in Stretton in the said county and called by the name or sign of the Crown Inn on Monday 3rd day of December 1827 having upon view found that a certain Highway in the Parish of Stretton in the said County [illegible] Stretton from the point marked A on the plan hereto annexed by B to the point marked C on the said plan at the west end of Mill Lane for the length of 1,002 yards or thereabouts is useless and unnecessary and having also upon view found that a certain part of another Highway in the said Parish communicating between the [roads] from the Crown Inn and Round Oak [Inn] Stretton from the point marked C on the said plan to the apposite point also marked C on the same plan for the length of 435 yards or thereabouts is also useless and unnecessary and having also upon view found that a certain there part of another Highway in the said Parish leading from Stretton to Congreve from the point marked B on the said plan to the points marked F on the same plan for the length of 1,090 yards or thereabouts is also useless and unnecessary and having also upon [there] found that a certain bridleway leading from Stretton to [Water Eaton] from the point marked B on the same plan to the point marked H on the same plan for the length of 1,738 yards or thereabouts is useless and unnecessary and having also upon view found that two several footways respectively leading from Stretton to Lapley [and] from Stretton to Whiston and Bickford from the point marked I to the point marked I and point marked I to the points marked J and J the [first] footway being in 1467 yards or thereabouts and the [illegible] mentioned footway 4,787 yards or thereabouts are respectively useless and unnecessary. We do therefore order that the said several Highways, bridleways and footways hereinbefore described and which are respectively coloured on the said plan blue be forthwith stopped up. (But subject to a right of footway from the point marked C to the point marked K on the said plan). Given under our hands and seals the day and year aforesaid [signed etc.]

Richard Levelt and John Clare clerks low of His Mejestys Sestices of the Seace in and for the County of Stafford at a Special Sessions held at the Dwelling house of Bartholomew Corey one we setuate in Freton in the said County and called orknown by the name or sign of the Erown Inn on monday the third day of December one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven having upon view found that a certain Highway in the Pranik marked A on the Plan hereto annexed by B to the foint marked C on the vaid plan at the west end of Mill Lane for the length of one thousand and two yards or thereabouts is uselys and unnecessary and having also upon crew found that a certain part of another Highway in the said parish communicating between the roads from the brown Son and Round Cake to Stution from the point murked C on the vaid Plan to the opposite point also marked C on the vane Plan for the length of Four hundres and thirty five yards or thereabouts is also useless and Unecessary and having also upon vecer found that a certain other point of another Highway in the said parish leaving from Frechen to Concreve fronthe point marked B on the said Flan to the points marked I on the vame plan for the longth of One thousand and ninety yards or Therealouts is also useless and unnecessary and having also upon view found that a certain Bulle way bearing from Sichen to Hater Eaton from the Seint marked B on the vanc Stan to the point marked H on the vame plan for the longth of one thousand seven huntred and thirty eight yards or thereabouts is ascless and annecessary and having also when Vicingount that two several Jordways respectively leasing from Frether to Lapley are from Metton to Whiston and Beckford from the print marked I to the Drint marked I _ and from the point marked I to the points marked I and I the first mentioned Hootway being in length one thousand four hundred and sixty seven yards on thereabouts and the last mentioned Tootway Jour thrusand weven huntred and Eighty Joven yarrs or thereabouts are respectively uscless an unnecessary We do therefore order that the vaid several Highways and Bridle ways, and Footways hereinbefore described and which are respectively coloured Blue be forthwith stopped up (But subject to a right of Footway from the point marked " to the point marked to on the soul Starje Geven under our hands and seals the day and year above saids

Reference to Flan.

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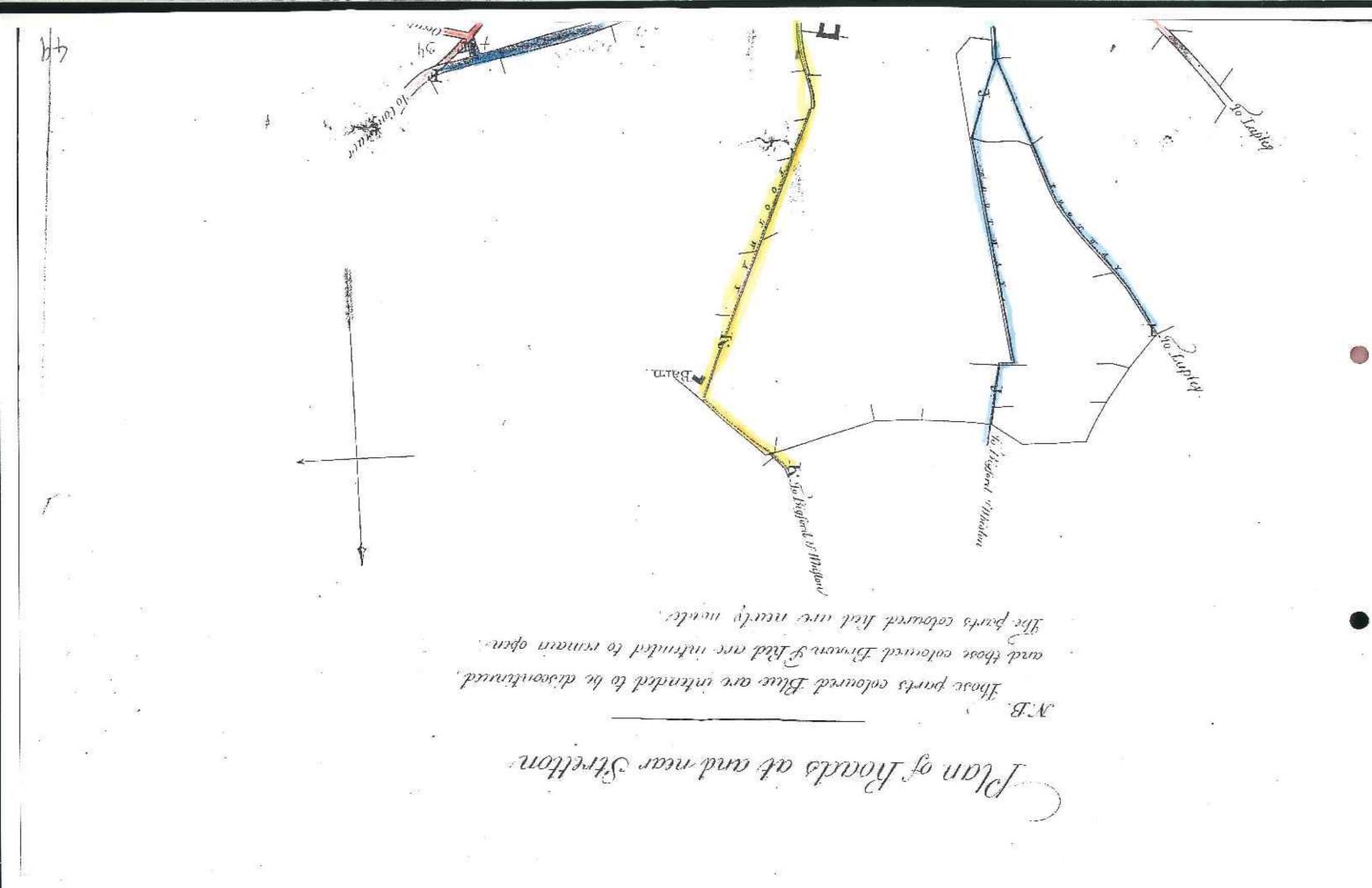
The Bridle-way from B. to G. and from G to H. leading to Water Eaton 1738 yards to be discontinued.

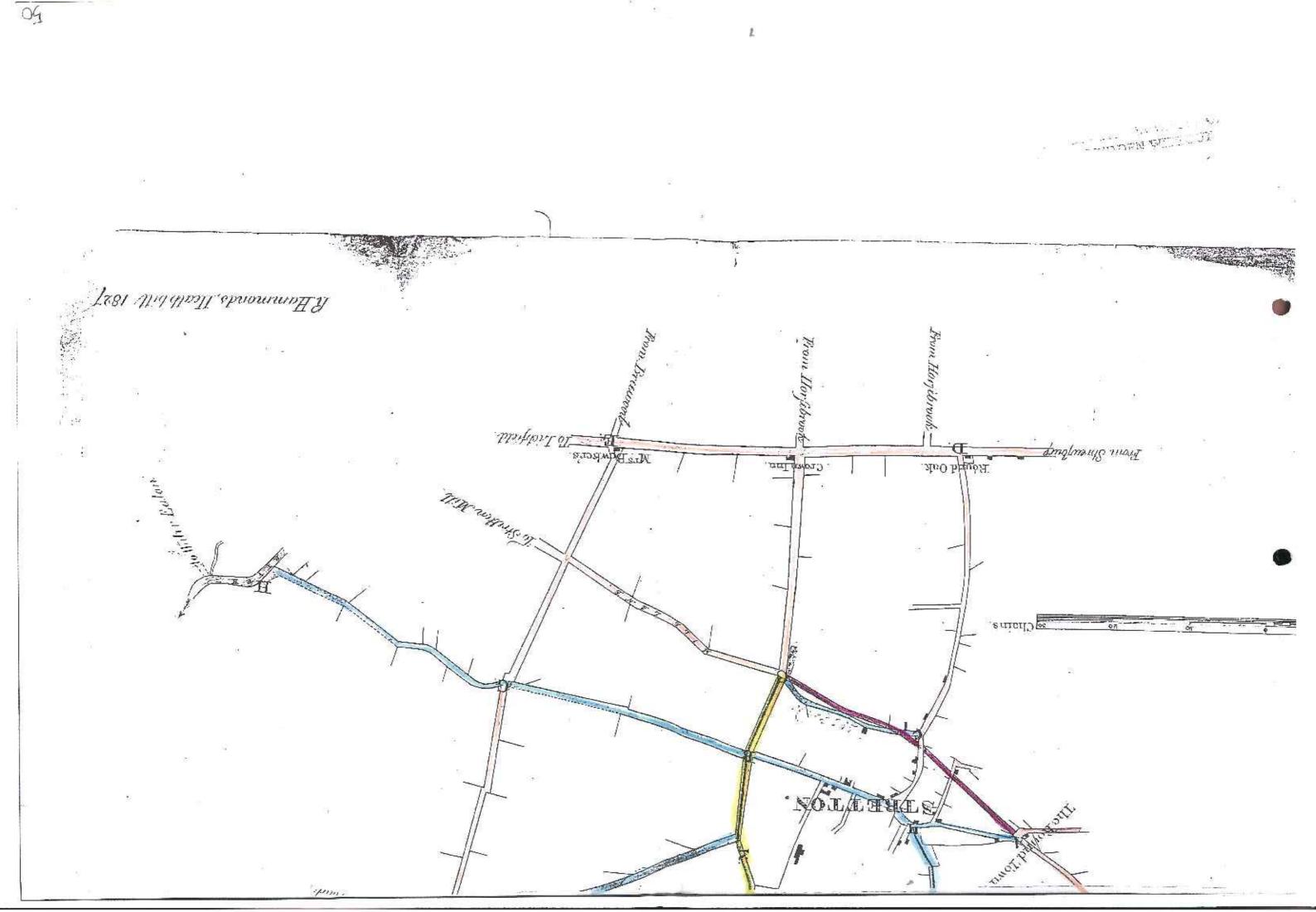
his smotway marked J. Loading to Co

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diffarence__ 710 yards.

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Epiphany Session 1830, quarter sessions appeal decision

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Order for stopping up roads in the [illegible] Stretton in the Parishes of Lapley and Pentridge.

Upon the motion of W Shutt and proof having been [illegible] of the notices directed to be given in and by a certain act of parliament made and passed in the 55th year of the reign of his late majesty King George the Third entitled An Act to amend an act of the [illegible] year of his present Majesty for the amendment and [illegible] of the public highways insofar as the same relates to notice of Appeal against [illegible] or diverting a public Highway and to extend the provisions of the same act to the stopping up of unnecessary Roads having been given and published it is ordered by the Court that a certain order under the hands and seals of Richard Levitt and John Clare Clerk two of his Majesty's justices of the peace for this county being [Bury] date the 3rd day of December last cast and made for stopping up a certain Highway in the Parish of Stretton in the said county leading from the Round Town through Stretton from the point marked A on the plan thereto annexed by B to the point marked C on the said plan and at the end of Mill Lane for the length of 1,002 yards or thereabouts Also a certain part of another Highway in the said Parish communicating between the Roads from the Crown Inn and Round Oak to Stretton from the point marked C. on the said plan to the opposite point also [marked] C on the same plan for the length of 435 yards or thereabouts and also a certain other part of another Highway in the said Parish leading from Stretton to Congreve from the point marked B on the said plan to the points marked F on the same plan for the length of 1,090 yards or thereabouts also a certain Bridle Way leading from Stretton to Water Eaton from the point marked B on the said plan to the point marked H on the same plan for the length of 1,738 yards or thereabouts and also to several Footways respectively leading from Stretton to Lapley and from Stretton to Whiston and Bickford from the point marked I to the point marked I and from the point marked I to the points marked J and J first mentioned Footway being in length 1,467 yards or thereabouts and the last mentioned Footway 4,787 yards or thereabouts be confirmed and enrolled among the records of this Court.

By the Court.

mido and passed in the King Goorge the Third withheled Order under the hands and s date the third day of Clark two of Are Majers to genere and a certain Highway in the against harming or durerting a furblic Highwa huble dighways in do in the said parish landing from whether to Charges more had B on the said another Highway in the said grands or thereabouts and also a contain other hast of thousand and two yards or thereabout Aldo a certain be confirmed and Envolled among the records of this Court 2 Colocolius ky send dayly deen Jugar Head the Thirty night yards or thereabouts and also two several to rean for the length of com hound Sour Brough the same Wel to the sto Privator and brokeford. bust inentioned Scotway being in length One Thousand rom the found marked B on the said plane to the point marked the notices durers on the same plan Tolan at the Mostered of plan there to annexed marked Con the said a centour Buille Hay broking 46037 filan mound · layenty ron the The Course Som and Round Baked lowdeng ; hublished It is ordered for the long the yands or thereabouts and the last mortioned For seven hundred and eighty seven y and on there From Stretten to Safely and December las hoint merked I to the One Thousand and runely yards on I be the lingth of Some Sundered and from the front marked & to the below to the hery up of una to the amendant British Is lan to the opposite Com Thomsand secus. Burrelow Eacest would marked I on rand Strollen to Man house marked & a

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Extracts taken from

Recollections of Anne Smythe, Mrs Henry Monckton

By her daughter Alice Monckton (Williams)

Our mother married General Henry Monckton, the 4th son of the Hon Edward Monckton, of Somerford. Our father's Aunt, Lady Cork (Countess of Cork and Orrery) gave our parents all her savings to enable them to marry.

Our father proposed twice to our mother before she accepted him. He was at that time living with his brother George Monckton, and my Mother's fortune helped them to buy Stretton.

I believe our Uncle George Monckton lived with our father and mother till the death of his eldest Brother and together they drained the estate, which was a splendid place for snipe before but a perfect swamp (as the Memoirs of a Lady who rented it some years previously and lost a daughter there, tell).

What is now known is the Pool, the gauges and Stews were dug out with much labour, and the land was drained. On the ground thrown up white clover grew in abundance. The Men who did this great work were prematurely aged, and were pointed out to me when I was a child as "the drainers", mostly hobbling on 2 sticks.

Extracts taken from

Part II Memoirs of her Mother by Alice Williams

Her Widowhood.

My mother must have been helped by the kindness of our relatives on both sides of the family, by housing us all from time to time, during the first year or so.

In those far off days, there were no pumps to the cottages; the water was all fetched from wells. She put pumps to all the cottages. By degrees she pulled down all the hovels, and built good cottages.

The House at Stretton

The first re-building, my brother Frank says, took place before my Father's death in 1853. He died 1854, and I well remember the Hatchment on the house. Later, she pulled down the Pantry and the sort of entrance walls, slinging the old oak staircase up to the top of the house, by an iron rod, before she took away what she supposed to be supporting walls, and then found that they were late additions and she restored it to Inigo Jones' original house.

She built out a wing in 1853.

Extract taken from an undated note

At that time a number of people were dying of what was known as Marsh Fever (Malaria). There was an area of marshland at the end of the Park. So Mrs Monckton diverted the main drive, drained and then flooded the land and so made the large Pool, thereby doing away with the breeding ground for the Malarian Mosquitoes. All those who worked on this project died of the Marsh Fever.

Extract taken from the Internet (visitoruk.com) — apparently this information was taken from a book called, The Staffordshire Village Book

Long ago the main drive to the Hall led through what is now a spinney at the end of which stands a lovely old castellated building. Made of stone and looking like a miniature castle, this was the old lodge or gateway to the Hall. It was in 1860 that Mrs Ann Monckton recognised the marsh fever which was causing many deaths as malaria; she then abolished the drive and had the area drained thus creating Stretton pool. The pool is now well patronised by anglers wishing to enjoy their pastime amidst these peaceful surroundings.

Stretton Timeline

DATE EXACT /APPROX	EVENT	REFERENCE	FURTHER REFERENCE
1400 approx	Congreves understood to be associated with Stretton and Congreve	National Archives D1057	
1700 approx	Stretton Hall built by John Congreave on the site of an earlier house	West Cuttleston Hundred	
1745 approx	William Connolly resident at Stretton	West Cuttlestone Hundred	
1751 exact	William Connolly named as Lord	West Cuttlestone Hundred	Stretton Parish Register
1758 approx	Thomas Connolly succeeded		The state of the s
1790 exact	Thomas's sisters inc Anne Byng suffered a recovery of three-fifths of the Manor	West Cuttlestone Hundred	
1790 approx	The Hon Edward Monckton 'acquired an interest in the Manor'	West Cuttlestone Hundred	
1800 арргох	Hon Edward buys Stretton from Connollys	West Cuttlestone Hundred	
1827 exact	Footpath map and agreement	PACM Footpath file	
1827 approx	Stretton Half occupied by tenant - Lady Jane Rosse		Pitt, Staffs. 260.
1829 approx	Edward Monckton served as JP		
1830 approx	Edward Monckton thanked for 30 years		
1835 approx	service in yeomanry Edward Monckton appointed as visitor to		
	County Gaol and is Sheriff		
1832 exact	Hon Edward dies		
1834 арргох	George Monckton 'held the Manor'	West Cuttlestone Hundred	
1834 exact	Stretton Hall occupied by tenant - Lady Jane Rosse	West Cuttlestone Hundred	White Dir. Staffs (1834)
1834 exact	There were six farms in Stretton	West Cuttlestone Hundred	White Dir. Staffs (1834)
1838 арргох	Edward Monckton served as JP		
1839 approx	Edward Monckton served as JP		
1841 арргох	George Monckton owned 'most of the 1,500 acres of the parish'	West Cuttlestone Hundred	Tithe Maps and Appt, Penkridge (copy in W.S.L)
1841 арргох	George Monckton was farming 307 acres and tenants held the other farms	West Cuttlestone Hundred	
Early 1840's approx	Henry and Anne Monckton move to Stretton	Memoir of Alice Williams	
	Hall. Older brother George Monckton lived with them until the death of Edward in 1848. George and Henry together "drained	(Monckton) - at Stretton	
	the estate"		
1840's very approx	The start of the very extensive drainage	Memoir of Alice Williams	
probably pre-	works to the park - references to 'Marsh	(Monckton) at Stretton	
1848	fever' (Malaria), 'The Drainers' etc. etc.		
1846 approx	Edward Monckton served as JP		
1847 exact	George Monckton treatise on land drainage he has conducted		
17 March	Edward Monckton dies (he lived at	Family Tree	
1848	Somerford)	STREET CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON	
1854 exact	Lt-Gen. Henry Monckton dies	West Cuttlestone Hundred	
	Widow Anno and heir Francis continue to	West Cuttlestone Hundred	
30 Day 4050	live at the Hall	VI 14 A	_
29 Dec 1858 exact	George Monckton dies	West Cuttlestone Hundred	George was involved with the estate drainage works so they must have been underway before this date

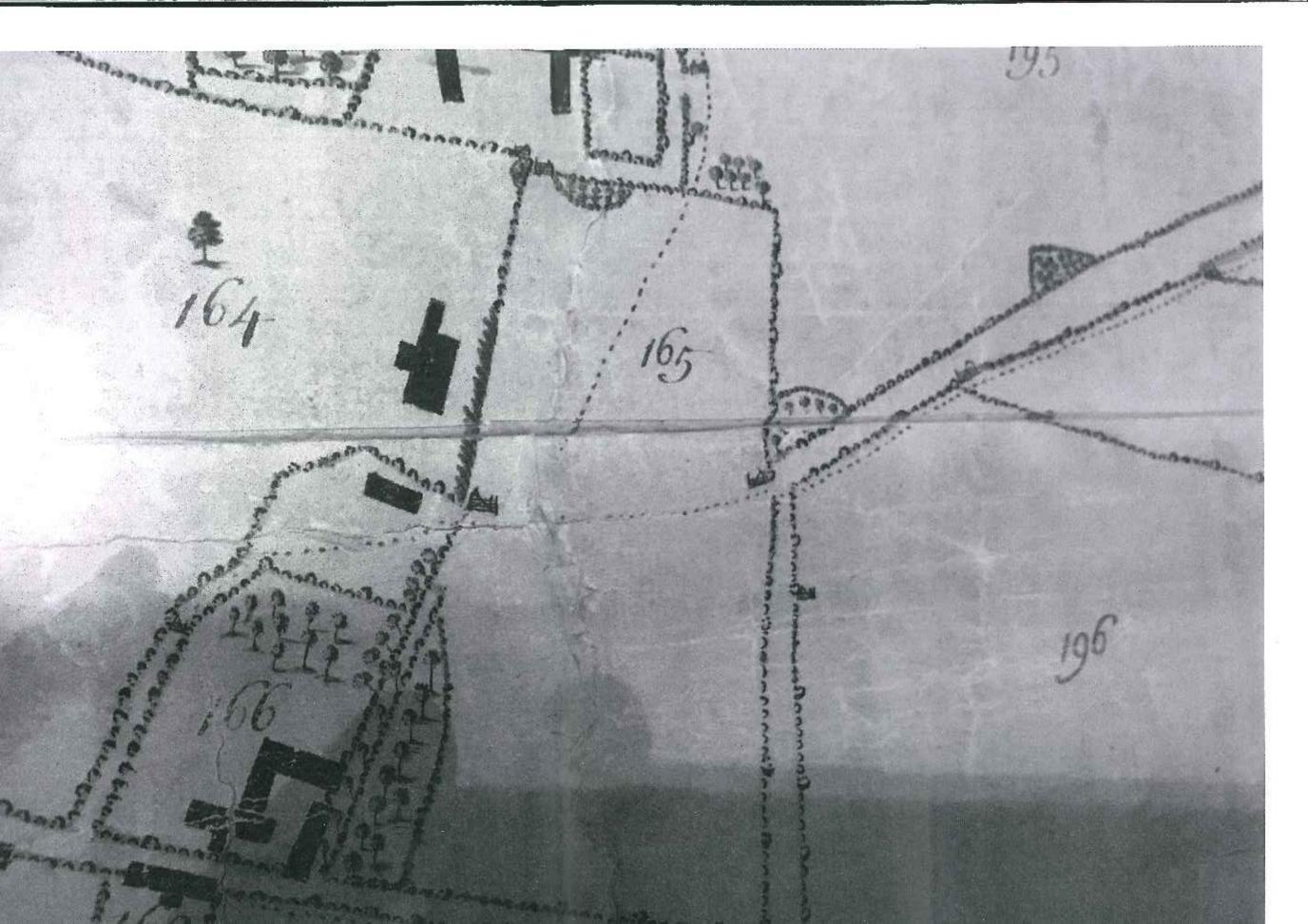
Stretton Timeline

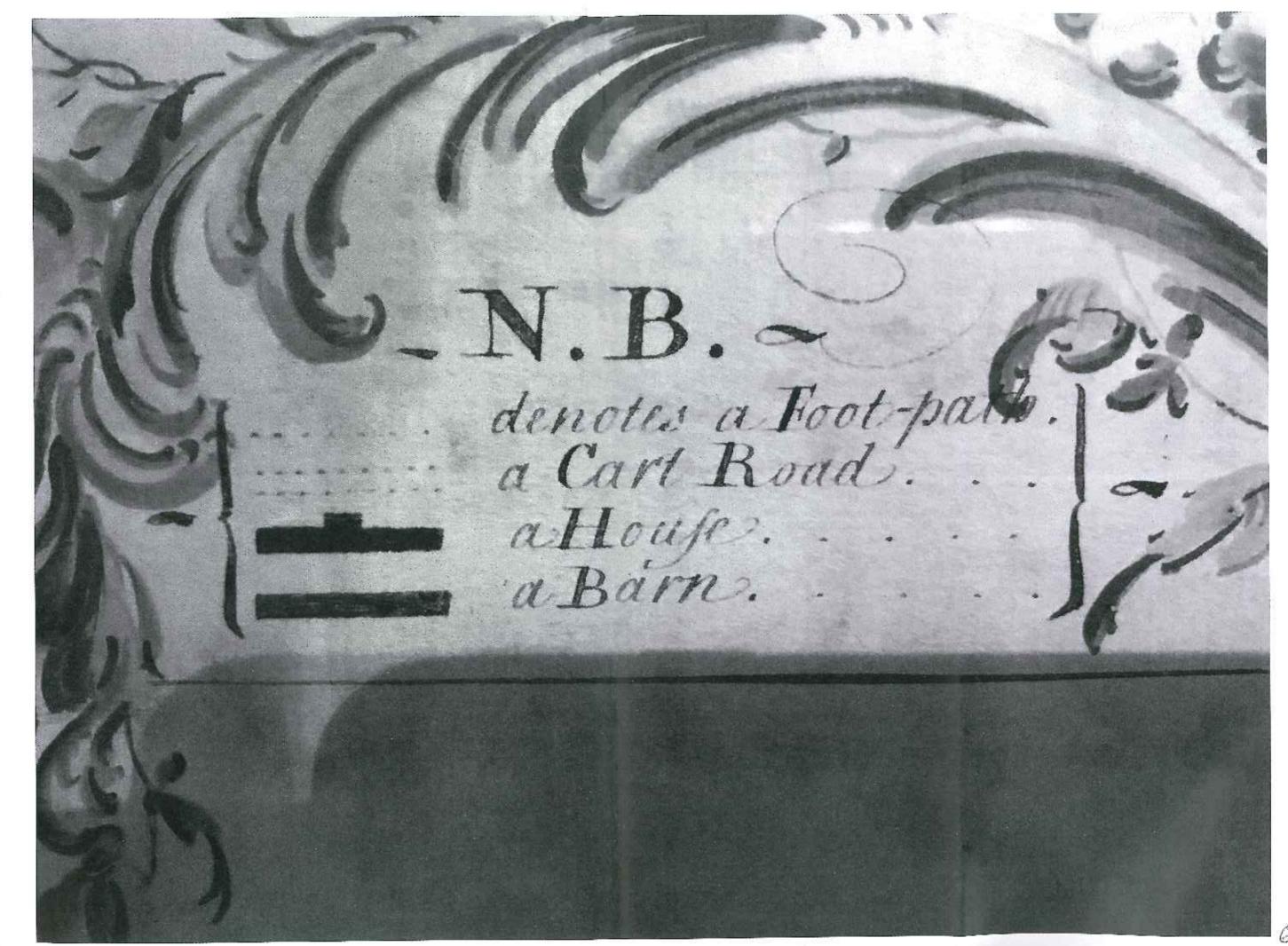
	1860 approx	Anne Monckton carried out extensive rennovations to Stretton Hall including the addition of a third storey. Alterations to the approaches and to the park are of the same date		
1860 onv	vards approx	Creation of the lakes, sewage system, moat and diversion of the drives	Memoir of Alice Williams (Monckton) - at Stretton	
31/10/	1865 Exact	Date of a "Disentailing Deed" referred to in a declaration by Col Cotton and R.H.E.U Pickering dated 16 Nov 1911	101	
10	870's арргох	Stretton Ladge built	We have an estimate dated 21/4/1870 which refers to the 'Proposed Lodge' - at Stretton. Therefore The Lodge must have been built post 1870	
	1876 exact	Anne Monckton described as lady of the manor until this date	West Cuttlestone Hundred	
10 April	1878 exact	Anne Monckton dies	West Cuttlestone Hundred	Exact date taken from a document at Stretton
	1880 арргох	Francis Monckton described as lord of the manor from this date	West Cuttlestone Hundred	
	1926 exact	Francis Monckton dies and the manor passed to his son Major R.F.P Monckton	West Cuttlestone Hundred	

of the Valanor of Stafford, in the County of Stafford, belonging to The Right Hon:









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Uncl whereis I have estimated the clear annual value of the said tithes in the manner directed by the said act of Parliament and have also taken ento account the rates and afressments fraid in respect of such titles during the bever years of average prescribed by the said let __ Und whereus I find that George Monchton of Stretton Stall in the said bounty Esquire is Improprietor of all the immerged Tithes accounty due within the said Jownship Now know He that I the said bharles Frym do hereby award that the unnual sum of Five pounds and Seventeen shellings by way of Rent Charge subject to the provisions of the said that shall be paid to the said George Monchton his hours or assigns or to the persons entitled in remounter or " ieversion after him instead of all the titles to which he is intelled within the suce Townships of Stretton In Testimony whereof I the said Charles Type do hereby affect my hand this nenth day of December one thousand eight hundred and forty seven (Signed) Cheerles Prym The Schedule hereinbefore referred to showing the lands subject to tithes Lundowners Premises Quantities Collins Two bottorges and gardens_ 100 Summons ___ Two bottuges and gardens_ 1 00 John Show Slow se garden and Mendow The Trustees of Farcellery Two Meadows held by C. School_} Worthow and by Hough John Worsey_ House and Farm_ 3 Riveres una Water_

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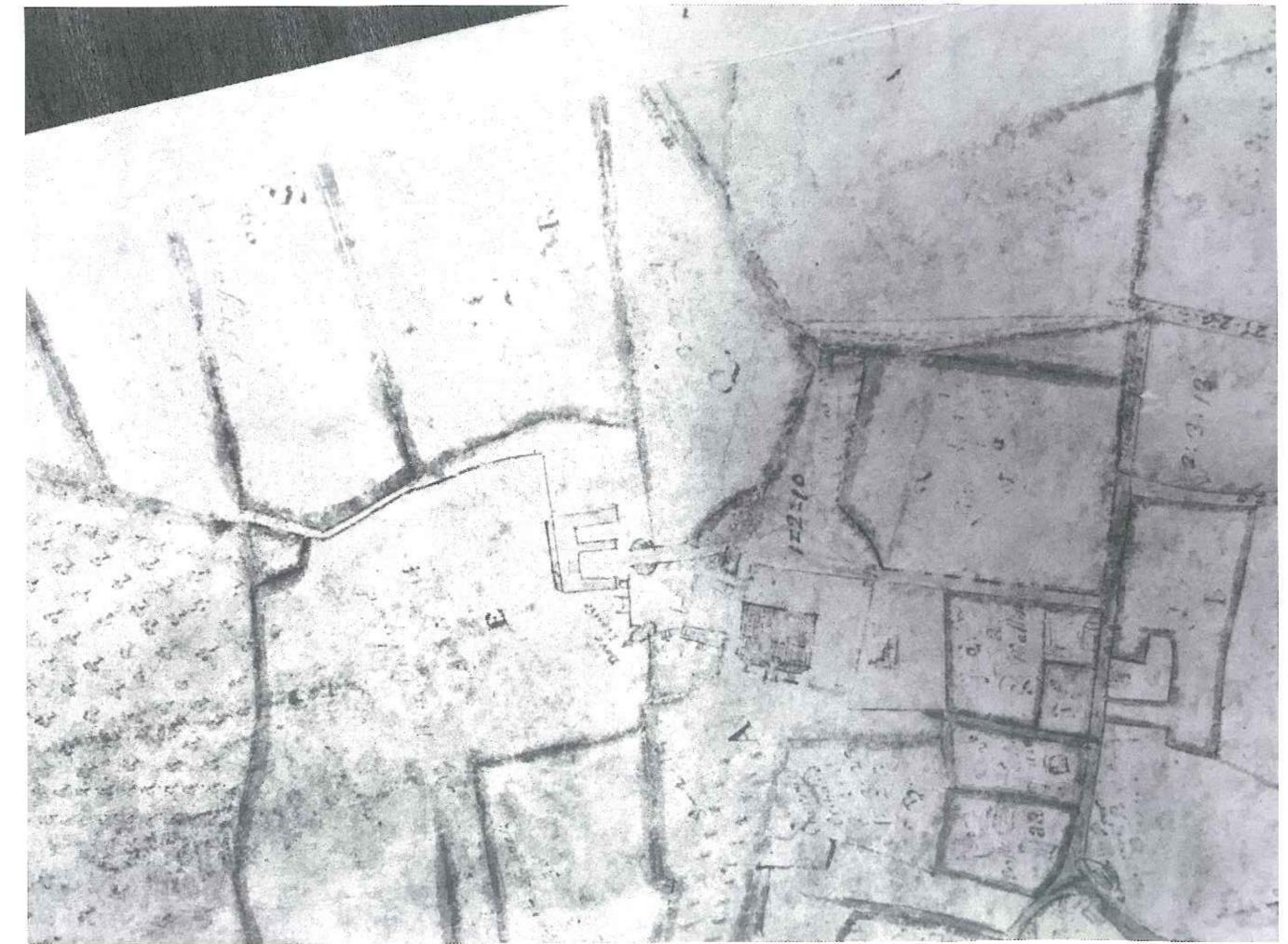
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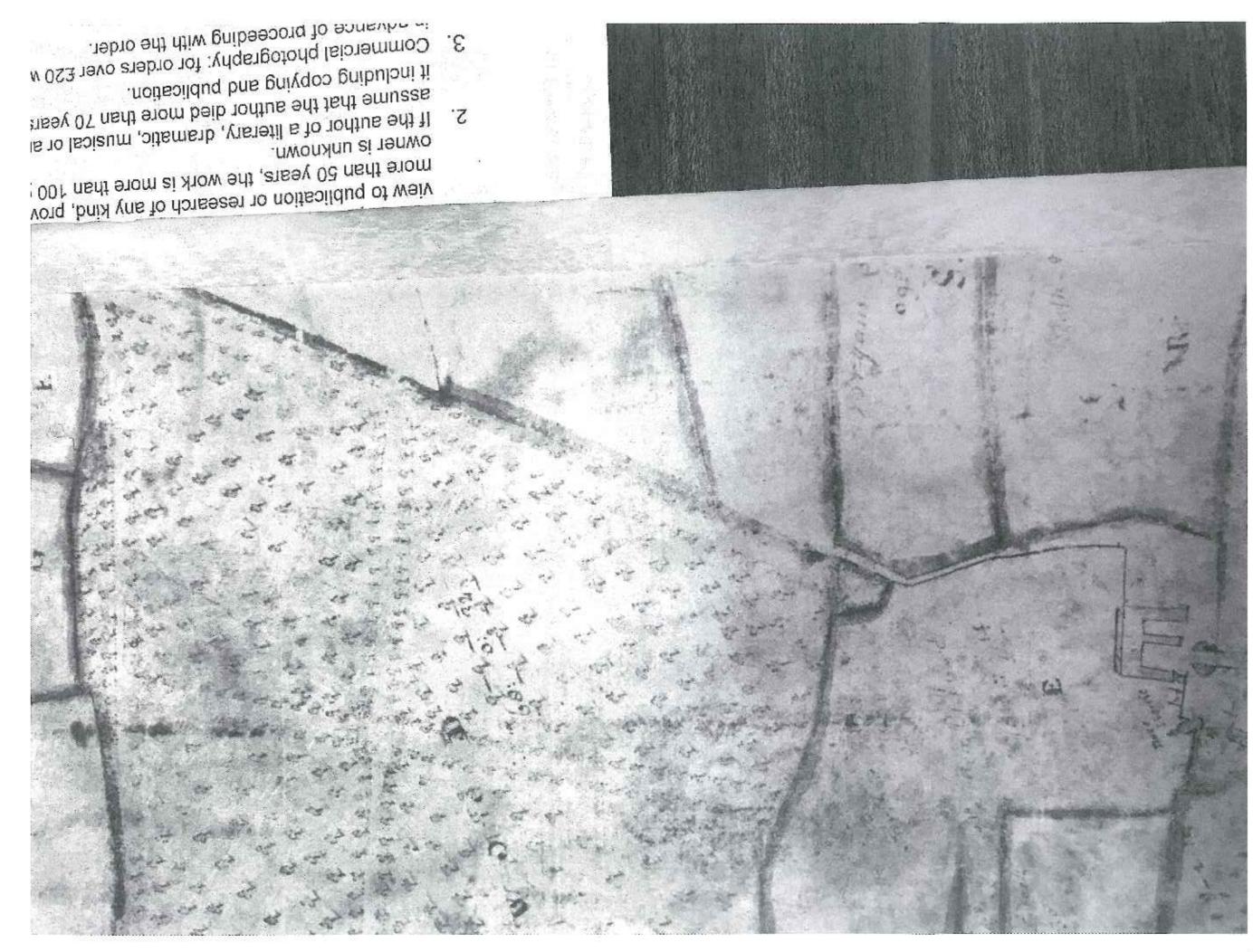
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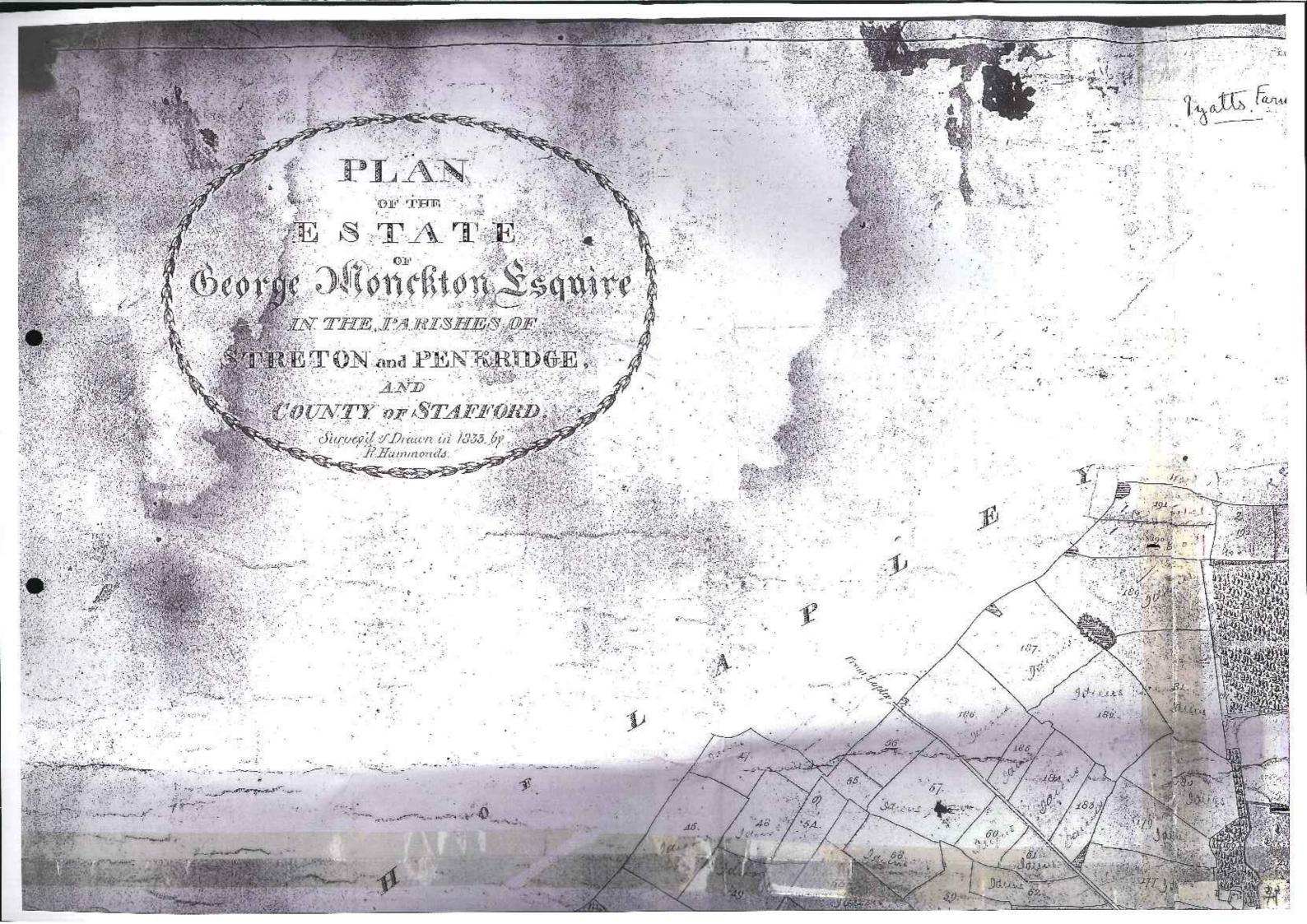
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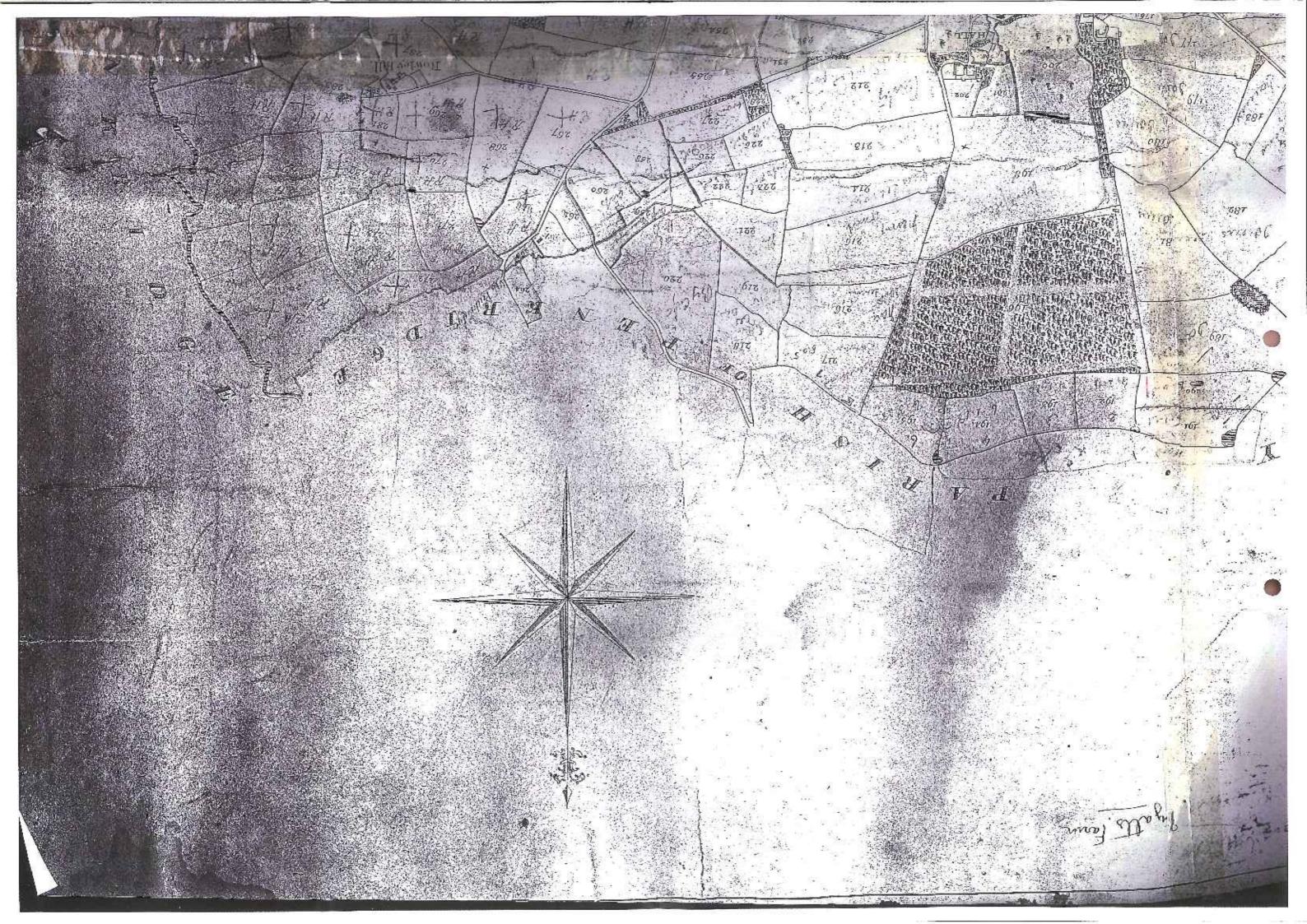
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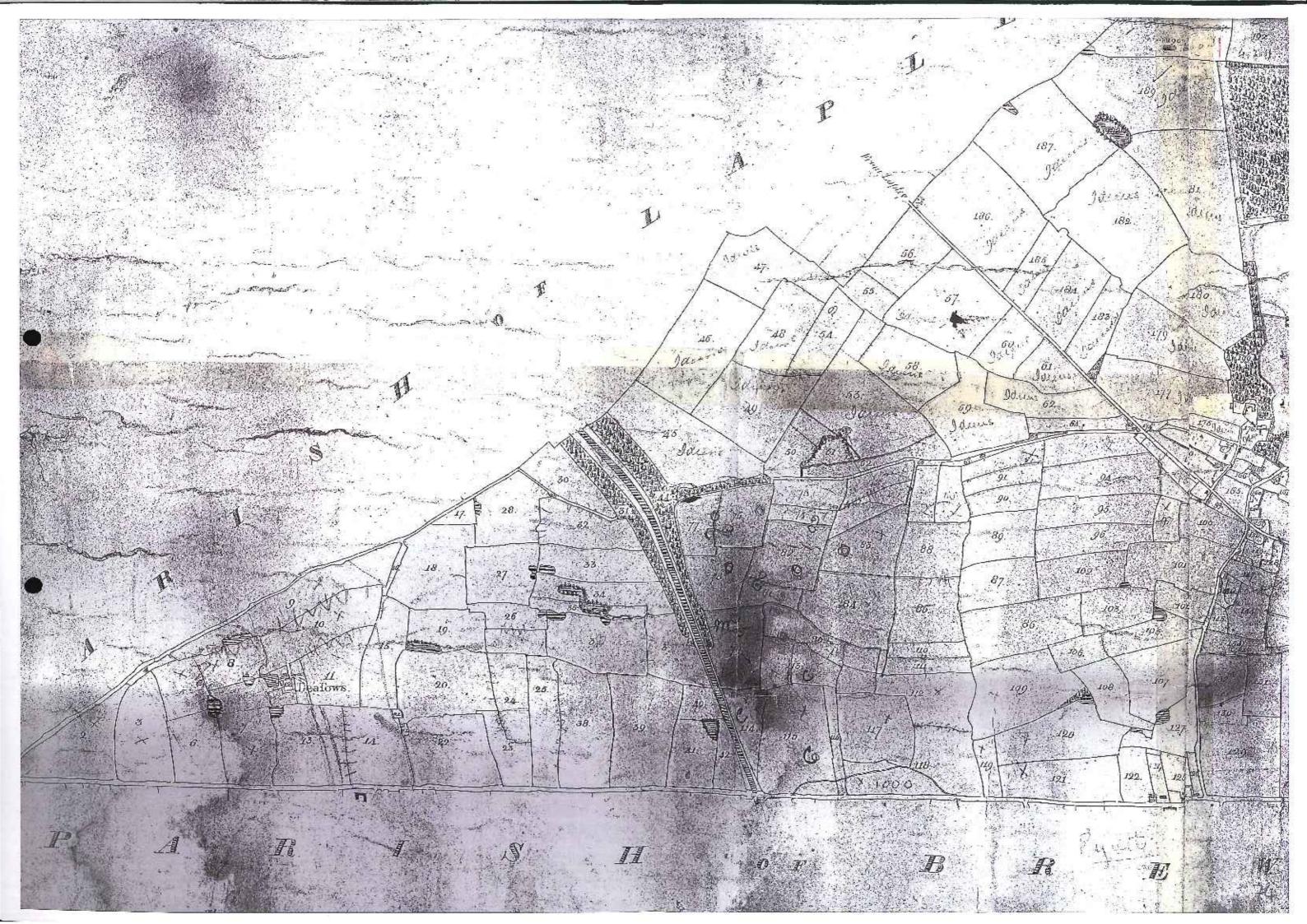












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