

# Introduction: The Farms and Farmers of Axminster Parish

## This document in context

This PDF document, dated March 2016, forms part of 'An Account of the Farms and Farmers of the Parish of Axminster since the Agricultural Revolution; Including Smallridge, Westwater, Weycroft & Wyke'. A full introduction and additional contextual background to the research can be found on the Axminsterheritage.org website. This PDF document is one of seven, each of which deals with the farms in a different part of the parish.

The full and abbreviated titles (as used in cross-references) of all seven PDF documents are as follows:

<b>Full titles</b>	<b>Abbreviated titles (for cross-referencing)</b>
Up the Yarty from Hunthay Lane	Yarty PDF
Between Membury Road and Smallridge, North of Cloakham	Uphay-Smallridge PDF
Millbrook, Weycroft and Lodge Lane	Weycroft PDF
North of Sector Lane to the Hawkchurch boundary, including Cuthays Lane	North of Sector PDF
Between Sector Lane and Cook's / Woodbury Lanes	South of Sector PDF
Wyke, Trinity Hill and Great Trill	Wyke PDF
Down the Axe Valley and along the Membury Road	Axe PDF

The underlying research was carried out by, and the various documents have been written by, David Knapman. They are now being made available for unrestricted personal (non-commercial) use via the Axminsterheritage.org website. Any first-person references (i.e. to 'I' or 'me') in this document are therefore to David.

If you make use of any part of this research, you are asked to credit Axminsterheritage.org as the source, and David Knapman as the author.

The whole 'Account' should be treated as a work in progress. There are bound to be errors and omissions, and responsibility for them rests entirely with the author. Readers who find any mistakes are asked to draw them to his attention via the Axminsterheritage.org website (a contact Email address for all 'history-related' matters is provided on the main website), and they will be corrected in later versions. Likewise, if you have additional information which you would be happy to share, the author will do his best to accommodate it.

Acknowledgement of the help and information which has been received from several current Axminster farmers and other interested parties is given on the main webpage to which this PDF file is linked.

## Key sources and references

The main source document, which are referred to as Ref 1, Ref 2 etc are outlined below. Fuller details on these references and where to find them can be found on the main webpage. Other sources which are used once only are given in footnotes.

### *Books and surveys*

Ref 1 is 'The Book of the Axe' by George P R Pulman, and in particular the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, which was published in 1875.

Ref 2 is 'The History of Newenham Abbey in the County of Devon' by James Davidson, published in 1843. See also Ref 12.

Ref 3 is 'The Book of Axminster: The making of a town within its landscape' by Angela M W Dudley (Barracuda Books, 1988).

Ref 4 is 'The Book of Axminster with Kilmington' by Les Berry and Gerald Gosling (Halsgrove, 2003).

Ref 5 is 'Around Axminster – in old photographs' by Les Berry and Gerald Gosling (Alan Sutton Publishing, 1993).

Ref 6 is a survey of the land holdings of the Petre Estate which was carried out in preparation for their sale, in 1824.

Ref 7 is the collective term used for the tithe apportionment process undertaken in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to modernise the system under which tithes were paid by many property owners to the parish church. Some other properties were exempt from tithes because they were associated with former monasteries. This was of particular relevance to Axminster, where Newenham Abbey had been a major landowner. The tithe apportionment work in Axminster parish was undertaken in 1838.

Ref 8 is the sales catalogue which was produced in 1916 when the Cloakham Estate was offered for sale at auction.

Ref 9 comprises three ledger books which were kept by Robert Snell and then (from about 1900) by Messrs R&C Snell of Axminster. The majority of the entries comprise valuations carried out in connection with the determination of farm rents, likely sales values and the process surrounding the grant of probate.

Ref 10 is the collective term for old newspaper reports, all of which can be accessed via the [britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) website. In all cases the newspaper concerned is identified, together with the date of publication. The newspapers are identified by their initials (DCC = Dorset County Chronicle, EE= Express & Echo, EFP = Exeter Flying Post, EPG = Exeter & Plymouth Gazette, NDJ = North Devon Journal, SM = Sherborne Mercury, TCWA = Taunton Courier & Western Advertiser, WDP = Western Daily Press, WT = Western Times, WG = Western Gazette, WMN = Western Morning News).

Ref 11 is the collective term, for the Axminster parish registers.

Ref 12 is a list entitled 'Occupiers of land that are titheable to the vicar, 1828. Number of cows kept', together with an equivalent list of cows kept on farms which were exempt from tithes. The source is James Davidson's unpublished 'Collections for a History of the Town and Parish of Axminster'.

#### *Census returns, voters lists and directories*

The census returns made every 10 years from 1841 to 1911 provide invaluable information about people, but are not always reliable or detailed as far as place names are concerned. References to census data are generally made simply by citing the year (e.g. '1851C shows Mr ABC at XYZ farm').

The voters list for 1842, included in James Davidson's 'Collections for a History of the Town and Parish of Axminster' (see Ref 12), is referred to as 1842V, because information which it contains complements the information from the 1841 census return.

Axminster library has a collection of extracts from historic directories covering the period from 1850 to 1939 (plus a few earlier ones). Such directories generally list at least the more prominent local farmers. The directories are referred to in the text by citing the year (e.g. '1878D shows that Mr ABC had taken over XYZ farm by then').

#### *Old maps*

Use has also been made of a sequence of old maps. These are simply referred to in the text as 'the 1765 map', 'the 1891 map' etc. There is a detailed section of text on the [Axminsterheritage.org](http://Axminsterheritage.org) website explaining how most of these old maps can be found (and viewed) on-line.

## North of Sector Lane to the Hawkchurch boundary, including Cuthays Lane

### Sector Lane and Sector Hayes Farm

Sector Lane Farm, being on the southern side of Sector Lane, is covered in the South of Sector PDF.

Although Sector (or Secktor) House does not appear to have been a 'proper' farm, in 1838 (Ref 7) James **Davidson** (the author of Ref 2) was recorded as the resident of the house, with 30 acres of land, which I imagine would have been predominantly parkland surrounding the house and drive. The next time that he appears in any census or directory as being directly connected to farming is 1861C when he is shown as a landed proprietor, and apparently farming what looks like 108 acres.

In 1861C there were three other farmers who I have not managed to link below to named farms (either to farms in in this document or to those in the South of Sector PDF), who were listed as living on Sector Lane or Road: Walter **Rowe** (45 acres), Amos **Zeally** (65 acres) and James **Rodgers** (270 acres).

In 1911C Samuel **Hussey**, a farm bailiff born c.1869 at Hawkchurch, was living on Sector Lane. He was still there in 1912 (Ref 11).

I have seen reference<sup>1</sup> to a poultry farm at Sector, run by a Mr **Bewers**, between 1922 and 1928, but have been unable to find any further information on this.

From 1930D to 1939D John **Matthews** is named as farming 'Sector land'. This could simply be a reference to the land surrounding Sector House (see above).

Sector Hayes Farm is probably the most recent farm to 'emerge' in Axminster parish. It has evidently<sup>2</sup> been assembled over recent years by Gordon **Charles** from land adjacent to Sector Lane, including some land formerly associated with Red House Farm. By about 2014 it amounted to some 45 acres.

### Red House Farm

1841C shows John **Fry** living at Red Farm. Although Red Farm is not named in 1838 (Ref 7), John Fry was at that time farming just under 33 acres, which may have been what is now called Red House Farm. Neither Red Farm nor John Fry is mentioned in 1851C or 1861C.

In 1871C William Wareham is listed as the farmer of what looks like Red Barn, though I am confident that it was actually Old Barn (see below). I have found no further references to Red House Farm or anything like it in the census returns or directories.

However, I understand<sup>3</sup> that for a period in the mid-to-latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was farmed by Alan **Griffin**, whose family had previously been at Shiles Farm. The farm itself included some land which had been bought from Lower Beavor in the 1950s. When Alan Griffin left, the farm was parcelled up and sold.

The present house was built in about 1923 (according to more modern sales particulars), and when it was offered for sale in 2013 had 16 acres attached. It is now occupied by private residents and a non-agricultural business.

### Chubbs Farm

Chubbs Farm can be seen on the 1776/78 map, and therefore belonged to the Petre Estate at that time.

In 1824 (Ref 6) Chubbs and Ways, totalling 39 acres, was let to Thomas **Lane**.

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<sup>1</sup> The evidence comes from a passing reference to sales made by another local business to Mr Bewers over the period specified.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Documents on EDDC planning website.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Shirley Hurford, personal communication, 2015; confirmed by Ken Voysey, personal communication, 2015.

Chubbs Farm is not mentioned in 1838 (Ref 7) or 1841C. However, in 1851C it was being farmed by John **Wills**. It is not listed in 1856D, but 1857D names William **Bussell** as the farmer. Neither he nor Chubbs Farm is identified in 1861C.

In 1866D and 1870D John **Spiller** was named as the farmer at Chubbs, but 1871C lists Robert Spiller, with 127 acres. 1873D reverts to listing John Spiller, while 1878D goes for Robert. John Spiller is listed in 1878/79D and 1883D, while 1881C names Robert Spiller as the resident farmer, with 150 acres. Robert Spiller is again listed in both 1889D and 1890D, and in 1891C. 1893D lists the brothers Henry and Richard Spiller as the farmers of Chubbs, as do 1901C and 1902D. However, Henry Spiller died in 1905, and by 1906D Richard Spiller was the sole named farmer.

In 1910D Francis Charles Burton **Dening** is listed as farming Chubbs, and Ref 8 confirms that in 1916 he was the tenant there of 176 acres, at an annual rent of £70, not including Chubbs coppice (17 acres) or a smaller coppice (4 acres), as well as of Millbrook Cottage. The map accompanying Ref 8 shows that in 1916 Chubbs Farm extended half way down Evil Lane, and included Little Bever. His residence at Millbrook is consistent with 1911C, which shows Stephen Miller **Rowe**, a dairyman (born c.1879 at Monkton Wyld, Dorset) as the resident at Chubbs. Although neither he nor Chubbs Farm was listed in 1914D, he was there in 1919D, and in every directory thereafter until (and including) 1939D. In 1937 there was a scare involving some of his cattle at Axminster market which were thought to be exhibiting symptoms of Foot and Mouth Disease (which was affecting other parts of the district at the time) (Ref 10, WT 11 June 1937). On closer inspection by a veterinary surgeon, this was declared to be a false alarm.

It appears that Francis Charles Burton Dening had probably bought Chubbs Farm when it was sold in 1916, because after he died (in 1935: see the Weycroft PDF, under Beulah Farm) his estate included both Chubbs Farm and Beulah. These farms were not, however, sold until 10 years later (Ref 10, EPG 17 Aug 1945) when they were auctioned by Messrs W Palmer & Co and R&C Snell Ltd. Chubbs Farm was at that time described as comprising 124 acres (with Beulah occupying 34 acres).

I believe that the last person to farm Chubbs as a separate entity was Eli Thomas (Tom) **Strawbridge** junior. Most if not all of the land is still farmed by the Strawbridge family, but as part of Payne's Place (see below).

## Cuthays

There is a map in Ref 3 (page 53) which identifies Cuthays as one of the ancient 'grange farms' associated with Newenham Abbey. This is at least partly supported by Ref 2 (page 64), and the farm can be seen on the 1776/78 map forming part of the Petre Estate.

An early apprenticeship record<sup>4</sup> names William **Liddon** as the farmer at Cuthays in 1810. Davidson tells us (Ref 2, pages 170-174) that when the Petre Estate sold significant tracts of land on 16 October 1810, 320 acres were sold to Thomas Barns, gent, of Hawkchurch, and in 1824 (Ref 6) Thomas **Barns** was renting 93 acres from the Petre Estate at Cuthays (plus 20 acres described as 'Lorings and Reeds'). After his death on 4 July 1826 most of that property passed to his son, Thomas Barns of Tillworth in Membury<sup>5</sup>. It was again Thomas Barns who, in 1838 (Ref 7), was farming Cuthays, recorded at that time as 105 acres. As we know, he lived in Hawkchurch parish, and 1841C shows a dairyman (Thomas **Coles**) living at the farm. In 1851C the farm was again occupied by a dairyman / agricultural labourer (John **Cottrell**). It is not mentioned by name in 1861C.

In 1866D, 1870D, 1871C and 1873D the farmer at Cuthays was John **Bradford**, with 98 acres in 1871C. (Prior to this, in 1857D, he had been farming an unnamed property on Lyme Road.)

In 1878D and 1878/79D John **White** was the farmer at Cuthays. By 1881C he had been replaced by William **Bentley**, who was farming 146 acres. This is confirmed by 1883D.

In 1889D and 1890D John **Brown** was living at Cuthays, but he was described as a private resident, not a farmer. However, 1891C lists him as the farmer of Cuthays, and year later he was reported (Ref 10, TCWA 13 Apr 1892) to have killed an adder measuring 21 inches long on the

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<sup>4</sup> DHC ref 406-A-2.

<sup>5</sup> A short history of the Barns family of Tillworth can be found in 'Where Dorset meets Devon: Hawkchurch, the story of the village of roses, from the beginning of time to the dawn of the second millenium' by Jack Banfield and Henry Austin (Hawkchurch Historical Society, 2000). One of the authors clearly has direct links to Tillworth.

farm. Six months later his wife died (Ref 10, EPG 23 Sept 1892), and 1893D reverts to describing him as a private resident.

1901C names Emma **Loveridge** as the farmer of Cuthays. She was the wife of James Loveridge and (I believe) the daughter of James Swain of Lower Abbey Farm. Her husband's occupation was given on the census return as 'sanitary inspector' (which is consistent with other census returns). 1902D does not list Cuthays. However, a valuation report (Ref 9) dated October 1903 for W H B Knight of Hilary House, Axminster confirms that the tenant of 193 acres, comprising part of Beavor as well as Cuthays and Paynes Place, was called Loveridge. The report also states that the tenants of all of the named farms were relatively recently installed, and that all were generally improving what had become run-down properties. It recommended that improvements to buildings be funded by timber sales.

Although Cuthays was offered for sale in 1908 (see below under New Park for the evidence), it may well not have sold, because on 17 June 1909 Cuthays (alongside Payne's Place: see below) was offered for sale at auction by Messrs R&C Snell at the George, Axminster. The plan produced for the auction<sup>6</sup> shows the land surrounding the farmstead in a very compact layout, and extending across to Lodge Lane. It comprised just over 70 acres, and the sales particulars describe the farm as a rearing and sheep farm which had been let to James Loveridge, at an annual rent of £70. It was actually his son, Lisle, who was living at the farm (Ref 11, 1909), before he moved to farm at Stockland (Ref 11, 1911). The two farms taken together realised a price of £1,960 (Ref 10, WT 18 June 1909).

1910D and 1911C show Robert **Doble** as the farmer at Cuthays. 1911C says that his age was unknown and that he was believed to have been born at Bridgwater, Somerset. From the evidence of other family members he must have been at least 60. It is possible to tell from information about insurance that he held that as well as Cuthays he had an interest in Payne's Place (see below), and that he owned and hired out a threshing machine. By 1913 he had moved to Marshwood.

Andrew W **Warren** was the farmer at Cuthays in 1914D and 1919D. A valuation report (Ref 9) produced in early 1920 shows that he was due to leave on Lady Day, to be replaced by Joseph **Stephens**. The same report names Eli Collier (who farmed, among several other places in and around Axminster parish, Great Trill) as the landlord. However, I have seen other passing references to a Mr **Loveridge** at Cuthays in 1922, and in both 1923D and 1926D the farmer was Ivor John Benjamin **Gerry**. In 1930D it was Charles **Bishop**, and in both 1935D and 1939D it was William T **Millman**.

A 2014/15 newsletter which is accessible via the Symonds & Sampson website gives a bit of back-history on Cuthays. It reports that in 1931 the rent for the farmhouse, farm buildings and 66½ acres of land (including a small orchard of 40 apple trees) had been £125 a year, but following some difficulties, the farm had been offered for sale at £1,700 (£25 per acre). However it did not sell, following which Mr Millman (see above) became the tenant, in March 1932. Then in 1944 the farm was sold to Richard and Sam **Quick**. It subsequently passed into the ownership of Miss Joan **Curtis**, on whose retirement (aged around 90), it was next offered for sale, with 28 acres of pasture and coppice, in October 2011.

## Shiles Farm

Shiles Farm does not appear on any census returns or in any pre-1940 directories. However, Davidson (Ref 2, pages 174 to 178) tells us that when Middle Furzeleigh (74 acres) was sold by the Petre Estate in 1809 it was bought by Amos Liddon, an Axminster surgeon. He later sold it to John Bull of Charmouth, whose brother Robert Bull of Kilmington then inherited it. When he died on 3 August 1830 he left it to his sister, whose surname was Shiles. It is not clear whether what is now Shiles Farm is where she lived.

In July 1908 a 46-acre farm described as Shiles Ground was offered for sale at auction (see below under New Park for the evidence). It was re-sold in 1919, at which time a press report (Ref 10, EPG 18 July 1919) shows that it was bought for £1,700 by Mr D **Rowe**, who was almost certainly Daniel Scott Rowe junior, originally from Fawnsmoor Farm (see below), and subsequently a leading solicitor in Axminster. The property was described at the time as 46 acres of pasture and arable land. When Shiles Farm was offered for sale in 2014 the house was described as having been built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and it was probably Daniel Scott Rowe who had the house constructed.

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<sup>6</sup> DHC ref 547B/P/474.

It would appear that the farm was rented out, because a press report a decade later (Ref 10, EPG 12 Apr 1929) recorded the marriage of Samuel James Griffin, only son of the late Mr C **Griffin** of Shiles Farm, to Kathleen Mary Rowe Glanville of Higher Lea Farm, Dalwood. Samuel James Griffin was farming at Shiles in 1943 (Ref 11), but I understand that he subsequently moved to Red House Farm.

The farm currently provides the base for a crop consultancy trading under the name of DM & SM **Vining**, and I believe that the Vining family has been at Shiles since 1961.

## Payne's Place

Payne's Place farm can be seen on the 1776/78 map, showing that it belonged to the Petre Estate at that time.

Payne's Place is named in 1813<sup>7</sup>, when John **Taunton** took on an apprentice there. By 1824 (Ref 6) George **Coombs** was renting it, with the size given as 78 acres.

In 1838 (Ref 7) Joseph **Johnson** was farming Payne's Place, described as having 76 acres. He was also listed as the farmer in 1841C and 1850D, but neither he nor Payne's Place was listed in 1851C. I believe that at this time Payne's Place (together with Cuthays, New Park and Old Barn) formed part of the Tillworth Estate belonging to Thomas Barns of Tillworth, Hawkchurch<sup>8</sup>.

I have then not spotted Payne's Place on the census returns until 1901C, when it was occupied by an agricultural labourer. However, a valuation report dated October 1903 (Ref 9: see also above in the context of Cuthays Farm) confirms that the tenant at that time was called **Loveridge**. Although Payne's Place was offered for sale in 1908 (see below under New Park for the evidence), it may well not have sold, because on 17 June 1909 Payne's Place (alongside Cuthays: see above) was again offered for sale at auction by Messrs R&C Snell at the George, Axminster. The plan produced for the auction<sup>9</sup> shows the land extending up the hill from the farmstead and across to Sector Lane, and amounting to just over 77 acres. The sales particulars also state that the farm had been occupied for many years past by James **Loveridge**, at an annual rent of £50.

In 1911C one dwelling named as Payne's Place was occupied by Elizabeth Vincent, a single lady living on her own means (born c.1840 at Widworthy), and a second by William Enticott (born c.1890 at Axminster), a cattle drover. Neither was apparently farming the land. It appears that the farm was being run at that time (and until 1913) by Robert **Doble** of Cuthays (see above).

A valuation report (Ref 9) produced in early 1920, which also covers Cuthays (see above) shows that Andrew **Warren** had been the tenant of both farms, and that he was due to leave on Lady Day, to be replaced by Joseph **Stephens**. The same report names Eli Collier as the landlord.

The next reference to Payne's Place comes in 1923D, when the farmer there was Eli Thomas **Strawbridge**, who was still there in 1939D, and whose family still farms Payne's Place, now one of the larger farms in the parish, under the name F&EJ Strawbridge & Sons. Before taking over at Payne's Place, Ref 11 suggests that he had been farming from a property on Cook's Lane in 1921 (see the South of Sector PDF, under Symonds Down Farm for a probable link).

## New Park and Old Barn

New Park can be seen on the 1776/78 map, surrounded by fields and woodland. Although there is a field called Old Barn Field, there was no farmstead of that name at that time.

In 1824 (Ref 6) Charles **Peers** was the tenant of New Park, with a total of 236 acres under his control. In 1838 (Ref 7) New Park was being farmed by Richard **Denning**, and amounted to 133 acres (and Appendix 3 shows that he had been there, and keeping cows, since at least 1828). In

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<sup>7</sup> DHC ref 406-A-2.

<sup>8</sup> The evidence is circumstantial, but we know that Cuthays and Old Barn belonged to Thomas Barns during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and we know that he had bought at least 320 acres from the Petre Estate (Ref 2). A 1903 valuation report carried out for W H B Knight Esq was described as covering 645 acres in all, comprising Beavor Grange and the Tillworth Estate, and the parcels of land concerned were Cuthays, Payne's Place, New Park and Old Barn, plus others described as 'parts of Beavor'. I believe that W H B Knight had recently (probably following the death of a younger Thomas Barns in 1902) bought parts of the Tillworth Estate from the Barns family.

<sup>9</sup> DHC ref 547B/P/474.

1841C he was listed as the resident (and farmer) of Old Barn Farm, and no farmer appears to have been listed at New Park itself. However, 1842V again links him to New Park.

Then in 1851C New Park was recorded as 120 acres, and was being farmed by John **Mullins**, while a farm labourer was living at Old Barn. It seems reasonably likely that in both 1841C and 1851C the two farms (New Park and Old Barn) were being farmed as a single unit.

Both 1856D and 1857D list John Mullins as the farmer at New Park, with no farmer named for Old Barn. By 1861C, with his address simply given as Sector Road, John Mullins was farming 250 acres which (as explained above in the context of Payne's Place Farm) I believe probably included most or all of Payne's Place as well as New Park and Old Barn. In 1866D and 1870D John Mullins was again listed at New Park, with no farmer named at Old Barn.

In 1871C John Mullins was still based at New Park, farming 200 acres. By this time I believe that the 60 acres of Old Barn Farm had been separated from New Lodge, and (mis-recorded as Red Barn) was now in the hands of William **Wareham**. (The evidence for William Wareham being at Old Barn rather than Red House Farm is partly based on his subsequent tenure of Old Barn, but also on the sequence of farms in the census book, with Red Barn being recorded between Higher Beavor and New Park.)

From this point, the two farms are dealt with separately, with New Park first.

In 1873D John **Mullins** was farming New Park, but by 1875 the farmer was Francis **Cossins**, who late that year (Ref 10, WG 24 Dec 1875) was advertising for staff for New Park Farm, his presence being confirmed by 1878D and 1878/79D. However, in 1881C Amos Mullins was listed as the farmer, with 150 acres. This is confirmed by 1883D.

In 1889D and 1890D James **Cox** was the farmer of New Park, but by 1891 William **Mitchell** had taken over. He was still there in 1893D.

By 1901C and 1902D William **Johnson** was farming New Park, though he left very early in 1902. We know this because a sale of live and dead stock to be held on his behalf, including 23 in-calf Devon dairy cows, was advertised (Ref 10, EPG 31 Jan 1902) by Messrs R&C Snell. Later that year Mrs **Coles** was advertising for domestic staff for New Park Farm, and in October 1903 a valuation report (Ref 9) carried out for W H B Knight Esq shows that the tenant was indeed called Coles, and that the farm extended to 133 acres. In 1906D the farmer was named as John Henry **Coles**. He was still there a year later (Ref 11, 1907).

In 1908 there was an auction announced by Messrs Whitton & Laing (Ref 10, 12 June 1908) to take place at the George, Axminster on 16 July, at which five farms were to be offered for sale: New Park (135 acres), Old Barn Farm (98 acres), Payne's Place (77 acres), Cuthays (70 acres) and Shiles Ground (46 acres). I believe that the auction was to be held on behalf of W H B Knight Esq (see below in the context of Old Barn Farm for the evidence for this).

John Henry Coles was still at New Park in 1910D, but in 1911C no farmer was shown as living there, and I believe that at this point the land was separated from the house, and re-named as Payne's Place Farm (see above).

In both 1873D and 1878/79D William **Wareham** was farming Old Barn. By 1881C Robert Wareham had taken over, with the farm shown as 70 acres. The farm was not listed in 1883D.

In 1889D and 1890D what looks like Thomas **Rapjohns** was farming Old Barn. By 1891 he had been succeeded by George **Elston**, who was again listed in 1893D. When a valuation was carried out in April 1900 (Ref 9) Thomas Barns Esq (of Hawkchurch) was identified as the owner of Old Barn, and George Elston was shown as the outgoing tenant.

By 1901C Thomas **Vincent** was the farmer at Old Barn, as he was in 1902D. A further valuation report (Ref 9) carried out in 1903 for W H B Knight Esq shows that the farm amounted to 96 acres, and confirms that the tenant was called Vincent. See above (New Park) for information on a 1908 auction involving Old Barn. 1906D to 1919D inclusive list John Vincent, probably Thomas Vincent's son, as the farmer at Old Barn, who 1911C shows to have been born c.1844 at Dalwood.

From 1923D until at least 1939D George M **Dimond** was listed at Old Barn Farm. He died there in 1947<sup>10</sup>. He was followed (though whether there was a gap between them I am not sure) by

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<sup>10</sup> Source: On-line London Gazette, 1947.

Norman **Herrod**. When he retired, his brother-in-law Arthur **Strawbridge** took the farm over<sup>11</sup>. The land is now farmed in combination with another farm, and it looks to me as though it is with one of the nearby farms in Hawkchurch parish.

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<sup>11</sup> Source (for the last two active farmers): Shirley Hurford, personal communication, 2015.