

12. Winterborne Monkton – Discovering the Ridgeway

31.05.18

Key Features

Winterborne Monkton is a small parish of some 15 dwellings between Winterbourne St Martin, Winterborne Herrington, Fordington and Upwey and lies just beneath the south western end of Maiden Castle. The hamlet of Ashton is in the neighbouring parish of Winterbourne St Martin.

Farmland extends along the South Winterborne valley and up to the ramparts of Maiden Castle. This huge and ancient monument is readily accessible from the village and from the ramparts there are panoramic views.

Maiden Castle is situated north west of the village in the neighbouring parish of Winterborne St Martin and part of the hill fort lies on the site of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure and bank barrow covering two distinct knolls with concentric banks and outer ditches.



Extract from 1888 Map prior to this the settlement was concentrated on the south side of the water course.

Origins and Settlement Pattern

The parish of Winterborne Monkton, lies across the valley of the South Winterbourne, entirely on chalk. The village was previously named Winterborne West as it belonged to the Priory of West to whom it once belonged. In mediaeval times the Manor passed into the Stafford family of Hook and then via Edmond, Bishop of Exeter and subsequently to the Dean and Chapter. The year 1439 marked a dispute between the

Manor of Herrigston and The Dean of Exeter with regard to grazing rights and it was agreed that a bank be built to serve as a boundary between the two settlements.



The Parish Church of St Simon and St Jude.

A turnpike road was established from Dorchester to Weymouth in 1761 and the parish of Winterborne Monkton had a turnpike (Toll-gate cottage) demolished in 1964 as part of a road widening scheme. On the 1851 census the enumerator recorded that the area covered the two parishes of Winterborne Monkton and Winterborne Herringstone, including Monkton Turnpike.

The Tithe Map (undated but between 1837-1841) illustrates a collection of farm buildings accessed from the Dorchester to Weymouth road, with a church, parsonage (demolished and relocated), farmhouse and cottages all still in use. The village school, built in 1906 and closed post-WWII has become the Elworthy Church and Village Hall.



The Tithe Apportionment states:

1. Rev'd Joseph Foster owner, William Lock occupier allotment - arable,
2. George White owner, Robert Phelps occupier, dwelling houses, garden & plantation,
3. Rev'd George Wood owner, Robert Phelps occupier, allotment on north field,
4. Rev'd Joseph Foster owner, William Lock, Harris Meadow,
5. Rev'd Joseph Foster owner, Rev'd John Charles Binstead, parsonage House, Garden and premises,

- 6a. Thomas Sabine owner, Robert Phelps occupier, house and garden,
6. Rev'd George Wood owner, Robert Phelps occupier, house and garden,
7. Thomas Barrett Snr owner, Robert Phelps occupier, allotment on north field - arable,

- 7a Thomas Barrett Snr owner, Robert Phelps occupier, house, garden and orchard,
- 7b. Rev'd George Wood owner, Robert Phelps occupier Farm House, Stables, Barn, Barton and Plot,
- 7c. Rev'd George Wood owner, Robert Phelps occupier, barn and garden,
8. Thomas Barrett Snr owner, Robert Phelps occupier, allotment on north field – arable,

- 9a. Thomas Barrett Snr owner, Robert Phelps occupier, plot,
- 9b. Thomas Barrett Snr owner, Robert Phelps occupier, Bartons and orchard,
- 17a Rev'd Joseph Foster, William Lock occupier, Church Yard.

Where there is light chalk soil along the Ridgeway, much of it downland, and in the river valley it is subject to flooding. Enclosure of the chalk areas was accompanied by the building of new farmsteads. Steam power was often included in these designs, however the building of new planned or model farmsteads appears to have been very uncommon in Dorset. The Farm buildings on the Tithe Map appear as a C-shaped plan form which indicates that it was remodelled into a more efficient layout some time post-1841.

The farmstead at Winterborne Monkton is so symmetrical and intact that it would suggest a well tried and adaptable courtyard arrangement. New designs sought to provide more accommodation in larger yards divided by shelter sheds in the E shaped plan which is what survives at Winterborne Monkton Farm today.

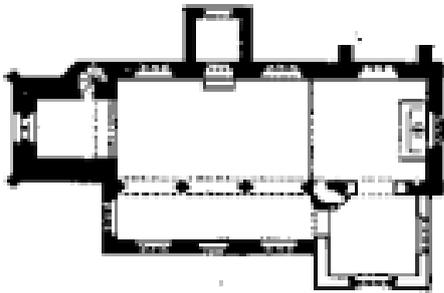
The Manor and surrounding farm land remained in the ownership of the Church until William Elworthy became a tenant in 1901 and then bought the whole estate in 1910. In 1914 the parcel of farm land now known as Dewflock Farm on the east side of the railway was sold to the owner of Herringston Manor.

There is a ribbon development comprising bungalows dating from the 1920's on the north side of the road on the eastern approach and Southmead is the most intact example of this period of building.



Southmead and other bungalows on the north side of Herrington Lane.

Listed Buildings



There is one listed building in the village – the Grade II* Parish Church of St Simon and St Jude's Church, at the south west end of the settlement. The walls are of local rubble and the roof covered with lead and slate. The body of the church is a simple rectangular structure of C13 origins. The chancel is structurally undivided from the nave. The north porch was added in the C15 and subsequently rebuilt. The west tower was added c.1500. A restoration began in 1870 and included the rebuilding of the north wall of the chancel and nave east of the porch. The minstrels' gallery under the tower was removed at this time and new Chapel built in 1875 in memory of Miss Ellerie Bessie Williams of Herrington. Her effigy divides the Chancel from the Chapel.

Summary of Other Quality Buildings

All the buildings date from one period with the exception of the Church and they are of the same construction and appearance probably built in the mid C19 and post-date the earlier farmhouse in the walled garden, including Winterborne Monkton Farm. The cottages have subsequently been renumbered.



The School House and The Arts & Crafts inspired Ellworthy Church Village Hall with bellcote and chimney.



Manor Cottages leading to the Farmhouse right and yard below.



Palette of Materials

The buildings of Winterbourne Monkton are almost all of Purbeck stone with flint and some cob. Upper Purbeck Beds were quarried at Upwey and Flint, found as nodules in the chalk downlands. Boundary walls are of flint. Typically detached and semi-detached cottages have coursed Purbeck stone walls with ashlar or gault brick window and door heads and a variety of sashes, 8 over 8, later casements. Some cottages have been with porches and rear additions with good ironwork gates in the flint and stone walls. All buildings share the same central chimney stack detail and slate roof covering with the exception of the former school which has a tile hung gable end over bricks with an offset chimney.