

SURVEY AND APPRAISAL

OF

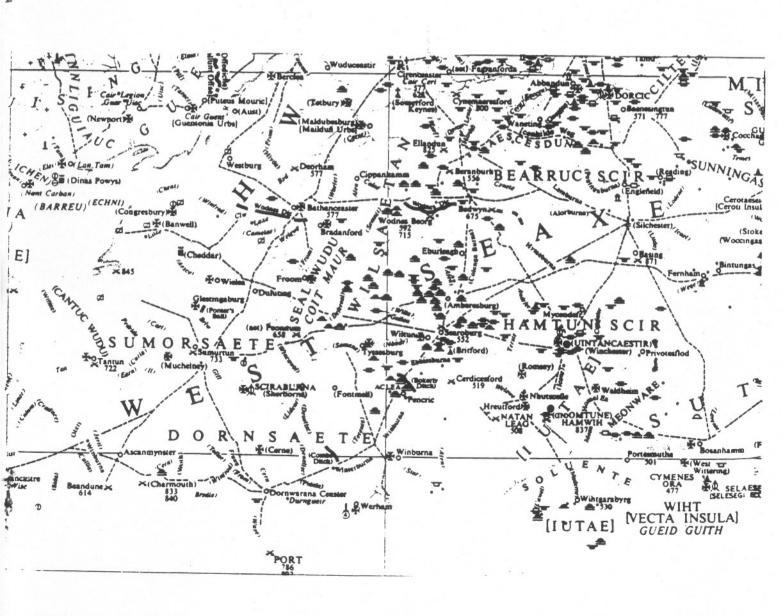
CHUTE

AND

CHUTE FOREST

PARISHES

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A special "thank you" to Mr. and Mrs. Nash and Mrs. Haines, who spent time allowing me to "tape record" their personal reminiscences of the Chutes as it was in their young days. Other people too have been generous with bits and pieces of recent history and suggestions of where I might "dig" for more. I wish it could have all been put in this survey - maybe a book will get written one day! Another special "thank you" to Les Tobutt, who found fossils and pieces of Romano-British tile.

Thanks are also due to Hewlett-Packard Ltd. for the use of their word processing and laser printing equipment.

Jean Husk

Introduction

Village Surveys and Appraisals have been carried out all over England since Parish Councils were recommended to do so after the reorganisation of District and Rural Councils in 1974.

The Surveys were and are seen as a means of providing valuable local information for the more distant District Councils and an opportunity for the residents of parishes and villages to get to know more about each other as well as their localities.

During the last 20 to 30 years village life has changed more dramatically and faster than ever before; the impact on rural life of changing populations and "commuter" lifestyles, as well as modern machinery-dominated agricultural practices, has sometimes been overwhelming.

Chute and Chute Forest Parishes are very typical examples of the changing country scene; still trying desperately to keep hold of at least part of the old values and scenes while appreciating what's good about modern living as it is today.

As Chute and Chute Forest share so many of the amenities, it seemed a good idea to make the survey a joint effort. Both Parish Councils had a representative on the Study Group and Chute P.C. also gave financial assistance to the project.

Because of the scattered and straggling structure of the villages the Study Group decided that it might as well cover the entire Parishes and not just the villages as far as possible with the limited resources available.

Each member of the Study Group took up one or two particular aspects or topics dealing with concerns relevant to the Chutes and then researched them. The Survey Questionnaire was then compiled on the basis of the information so gained.

A decision was made to distribute the questionnaires on a household basis, i.e. one questionnaire per dwelling house, mainly on the grounds of resources and cost; one per person would have been a mammoth task and probably quite beyond our resources in many respects.

An exception was made with respect to young people of 16 and under; we felt that it was very important that they should put their own point of view forward on an individual basis. The response was very gratifying.

A decision was also made to keep the whole thing as anonymous as possible and we hope this has been accomplished.

The topics researched as being relevant to the Chutes and on which the Survey Questionnaires were based are as follows:

Study Group Member

Topic

Elizabeth Penman

Education

Jean Husk

Population, General Features, History

Rosemary Casson

Leisure and Skills

Audrey Cherrington

Industry and Business Enterprises

Pat Hing

Amenities

Brian Edwards

Transport

Jim Gale

Environment

Liz Barker Bennett

Chute Lodge History

The Survey Questionnaires were delivered and collected during June 1984. They will be parcelled up and sealed, kept for two years in case any verifications are needed, and then destroyed.

HISTORY

This can be only a very brief outline of historical events that have had an impact on the Chutes. In no way can it be regarded as complete but as much has been included as possible, even to the inclusion of at least a couple of local legends.

People have lived in this area since prehistoric times and have left their signatures on the landscape. One of these is part of the great ditch (Gryms Dyke) that forms the North Western and part of the Northern boundary of Chute; it is believed to have been built in Bronze or Iron Age time and once also formed the frontier between the Saxon Kingdom of Wessex and the British Kingdom of Dyonait (King Arthur?). It was finally broken at Old Sarum where the fortress was stormed by the Saxons.

Other signs of habitation are the Bronze Age and Iron Age burial mounds (tumuli) near the ditch in Chute; pits that might once have been dwellings or grain stores; pot boilers (stones that were heated and then put into cooking pots); old plough lands and systems that can be seen at Shaw Bottom and opposite Dean Farm (Lynchett strips).

Even older have been several finds of fossilised sponges and the tooth of a large bottom feeding fish which existed about 130 million years ago when this part of the world lay under the great white sea (a thick soupy mixture of tiny sea plants and animals which eventually became laid down in the form which we now see as chalk).

The Roman invasion made the first great mark on the area. One of their trade routes from Portesmutha (Portsmouth) through Wintancaestir (Winchester) runs through Conholt Park then takes its unique curve round Hippenscombe valley and goes on to Bedwyn, Mildenhall and Cirencester. At Scott's Poor (see Andrews and Drury's map of 1773) it became part of a great junction of drovers' roads which were part of the trade and travelling routes before the Romans came, i.e. the tin road from Cornwall, the gold road from Wales and the 'green' or drovers' roads.

Weyhill and its Fair were another great junction of roads in pre-Roman times and some of our oldest lanes may well have been routes to Weyhill, and Chute a convenient night stop or camp before the final drive down to Weyhill. Chute is on the route of an ancient Ox Drove and it is believed that Shepherd's Cottage at Upper Chute was originally a drover's hut.

The settlements continued to be worked and occupied during the Roman occupation and some grew into sizeable (for those days) farms and villages near the Roman roads. Small fragments of Romano British clay tile have been picked up at Green's Farm in Upper Chute which seem to indicate a small settlement in about 300-400 A.D.

In the year 650 A.D. a battle was fought between the Saxons and the British on the slopes somewhere near what is now Dean Farm and Chantry. It was called 'The battle of blood field'. Various weapons have been picked up there at different times.

During King Alfred's reign the land around this district was owned by Wulfris, the King's Horse Thane (equivalent to a Cavalry General). Wulfris was also Warden of the Welsh Marches.

When William the Conqueror ordered an inventory of his new Kingdom (The Domesday Book) villages were grouped into administrative districts called Hundreds, which in turn formed regions in Shires or Counties and these still exist today with a few minor changes.

Chute (or Standen as it was then called) and Chute Forest came within the Kinwardstone Hundred. One or two historians say that the so-called 'Devil's Stone' in the great pit on the Causeway is the 'Kinwardstone'. It is a Sarsen or 'Grey wether' stone. Wether is an old English name for sheep and in Wiltshire (Fyfield Down near Marlborough, for instance) many lie on the surface of the downs and can look like a flock of sheep.

King William rewarded his followers with the lands of the old English nobility. The translated entries in Domesday for Standen (Chute) and Chute (Forest) are as follows

CHUTE FOREST

Entry 1-19. Collingbourne (Ducis) Earl Harold held it.

It paid tax for 20 hides. Land for 45 ploughs. In Lordship 5 hides; 5 ploughs; 12 slaves

49 (Villagers) and 26 Smallholders with 15 ploughs:

Meadow, 20 acres; Pastures 2 leagues long and one league wide;

Woodland 1 league long and as wide as the third part of the woodland known as Chute.

The value was f 40; now f 60.

One half hide belongs to the Church. Gerald the priest of Wilton holds the tithe of this Church. Value 10s.

The Church is derelict and dismantled.

Chute Forest was then presumably a part only of the great arc of hunting forests which included Savernake.

CHUTE.

Entry 25-7. Benzelin holds Standen from Arnulf. Britric held it before 1066; it paid tax for 2 hides. Land for 2 ploughs. In Lordship 1.

A mill which pays 6s. Meadow 4 acres; Pasture 3 furlongs long and 3 wide; Woodland 3 furlongs long and 1 furlong wide. Value 40s.

A 'hide' was a unit of land reckoned at 120 acres.

An old windmill stood opposite the Cross Keys Inn at Upper Chute for many years. In 1882 it was purchased by the then Landlord (a Mr. George Andrews) together with 5 acres, 2 rod and 3 perches of land for £260. The mill was demolished in the 1930's. It is possible that it might have stood on the site of the mill in Domesday and been part of the original settlement near the Roman road or on the drovers' route down to Weyhill. A photograph of the old Windmill can be seen at the Cross Keys.

Chute Forest was declared a Royal Hunting Forest by King William and there appears to be no other record of settlements or habitation at that time, although of course there may well have been charcoal burners and hurdle makers, as well as the King's Huntsmen.

Near to the site of Dean Farm once stood a Chantry - a small chapel with sleeping and living apartments for about 4 monks and passing travellers. The Chantry was probably established during the 12th century by one of the great local families, the Esturmeys of Savernake, the Sotwells or the Columbarus of Chute. The Chantry probably stood a little way up the side of the valley because in Winter and Spring a small stream flowed down it, while from Honey Bottom to Ladies Lawn was a large marsh into which the stream flowed. This was recorded in 1300.

King John, Henry IV, Henry VI and Edward III are all reputed to have visited the Chantry while hunting. John, Henry VI and Edward all made gifts to the Chantry. John gave gifts on several occasions, once as a penance for eating venison on a Friday. Onanother occasion he gave a solid gold cross studded with precious stones.

The Chantry was pulled down in 1527 by order of King Henry VIII during the Dissolution of the Monasteries but the treasure was never found. Legend has it that the treasure was buried under a crab apple tree and a great curse put upon it so that no-one would ever disturb it.

A farmhouse was built out of the materials of the Chantry. This was destroyed by fire in 1725. The present Dean Farm House (in old maps called Dane Court) is almost on the same site and built largely from materials saved from the fire.

Chantry Lane (on older maps called Chancery) is named after the Chantry and is a very ancient right of way. There is a particular section near the top where birds never sing - it is said that this is the place where the Chantry monks were murdered during the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

The straggling nature of the Chute villages seems to suggest that they may have started out as small settlements around farms, or in later years round the great houses, i.e. Chute Manor, Chute Standen, Chute Cadley, Chute Lodge, and the fact that the prefix Chute occurs in the name may simply be because in old English 'Chute' means 'forest'. The settlements or Hamlets were certainly established before the great houses were built, except possibly at Conholt and Chute Lodge where the building of a large mansion encouraged a cluster of houses to be built near it, possibly as homes for estate workers and farm workers.

A list of Wiltshire Apprentices mentions 3 in Chute and gives a little indication of the self contained nature of the area where all trades and crafts were practiced. A 'spinster' incidentally, in those times did not necessarily mean a single lady - she was more likely to be a spinner of wool or thread.

Denham, Deborah, D. of Thomas, of Weyhill (co. Hants.): to Bridget Cock, spinster, of Chute: 6 Oct. 1719: C.I.C.: £3 (22 Dec. 1719: 46/84).

Hall, John, S. of James, of Hurstbourne Tarrant (co.Hants.): to Thomas Lewis, harness-maker, of Chute: 1 Mar. 1723/24: C.I.C.: £12 (10 Sept. 1724: 48/123).

Piper, Mary, D. of Edward, of Collingbourne: to Bridget Cock, tailor, of Chute: 8 Feb 1719/20: C.I.C.: £5.10.0 (14 Jan. 1719/20: 46/84).

The Village School was built on 1857-8 on the site of an old ruined malthouse (hence Malthouse Lane) and the field beside it given by the Misses Scroggs whose grandfather William Scroggs of Chute Lodge died on April 30th 1756 after falling from his horse near Chute Causeway.

The School closed in 1978 and the children now bus into Ludgershall. It is now a very comfortable centrally heated Village Hall.

Reminiscences by some of the older residents of the Chutes have produced a picture of a not always idyllic way of life during the early part of the century. Life it seemed revolved almost entirely around the large houses and farms (where nearly everyone gained their employment) and the churches and chapels. The villages were self- contained and practically self-supporting. All the trades and rural skills were represented in this very isolated community where the annual Sunday School outing in a decorated wagon with beribboned horses and shining brasses went to Longbottom, where swings were slung from the trees and races and 'icy' buns were the high point of a child's year, as well as many of the grown-ups'.

All the cottagers had an allotment to grow extra food to help feed the pig and the chickens for the winter bacon and eggs. A travelling salesman would come every week or two from Ludgershall with boots and clothes, and people would choose what they wanted and pay what could be afforded weekly. Farm workers still wore smocks.

At one time a Mrs. Collins of Lower Chute was the local Postmistress and Midwife. People walked everywhere - to Ludgershall on Saturday afternoons to shop and even from Baulks Hill in their wedding finery to get married at St. Nicholas' Church in Upper Chute. Mr. Harding the baker carried bread on his back to Hippenscombe twice a week on foot. The Milsoms who took over the shop and bakery at Chute also ran a wagonette carrier service and people could give in their shopping orders for Andover and were charged 2d. per order. Sometimes farm wagons would give lifts to Andover or Ludgershall railway stations.

Getting to a doctor or getting the doctor to a patient was only done if the problem was too serious to be coped with by home remedies. The doctor would drive to the villages in his pony and trap.

There were small shops at both Upper and Lower Chute and it was only for the more important items that people felt the need to venture further afield.

Because of all the thatched roofs, house fires were fairly common, especially since everyone cooked on open fires with side ovens, and even after stoves and ranges were installed hot ashes carelessly thrown out could easily start a fire, and often did. The local village policeman lost his cottage that way; it was next door to Providence Cottage, Upper Chute.

The roads were little more than lanes and very rough at that. The women and children often went 'stone picking' and were paid 9d. for two half cart loads. Half a load was calculated by using an upside down bucket and a six foot length of string with a weight at one end and a knot in the middle. The string was placed over the bucket with the knot in the centre and then stretched out to measure a circle; when the heap of flints filled it all up, that was half a load. The carter or farmer would take the flints and dump them in heaps alongside the roads.

In Chute there were two old roadmen 'Musprat' and 'Shaver' whose job it was to break up the flints, lay them over the road surface, cover them with soil and wait for the steamroller to come along and flatten it all down before the rain washed it all away again. Dean Lane is a good example now of what the roads were like here in the early part of this century - certainly up to and during the first world war. When pneumatic tyres came along people spent more time mending punctures made by the sharp flints than riding.

Water came from the wells or storage tanks in the houses. In Upper Chute it was the practice to draw drinking water from the village well, and water for other purposes from the village pond on the green; this had a fence round it and three steps down to the water. This has been filled in within recent years.

The common land or village green was used, and still can be used, for grazing, but the animals must be tended and not tethered. People would also graze their animals on the land at Cross Keys and along Honey Bottom, where there was a settlement of eleven cottages, still remembered by old people. Another settlement was at Baulks Hill where there were four or five cottages.

In September 1927 13 year old Victor Smith, the Son of the Chute village blacksmith, took part in a beating party passing over ploughed land belonging to Lord John Joicey Cecil at Chute Forest. As he was walking along he picked up a round stone and threw it to hit another stone; it broke into pieces and 65 ancient British coins fell and scattered on the ground. Some of the coins can be seen at Salisbury Museum, but the rest were divided up between other interested Societies. Victor received a reward of £50 plus some of the proceeds of the sales. It is believed he now lives in Australia.

CONHOLT HOUSE

Sir Philip Meadows (once Ambassador to Charles II) built his house called "Chute Park", surrounded by a deer park, all West of the Roman road.

His successor had the Roman road closed (1720) and a new road opened.

A translation of the legal writ (which was in Latin) is lodged at Conholt House.

Later "Chute Park" was burnt down, and the then owner, Sir Sydney Meadows, instead of rebuilding on the original site moved East across the road, adding a new piece to the existing old farmhouse Upper Conholt Farm, now called Conholt Park.

The reason for moving the road is conjectural. Perhaps it was too near the house. After its closure it was used as a part of the driveway to the old house - "Chute Park".

There were two entrances, Andover-wards coming out at Hampshire Gate, the other Chute-wards coming out at what is locally known as "Pier Gate": this entrance had a pair of rather handsome flint and brick pillars with stone ball tops still standing in 1943. Unfortunately U.S.A. troops blew them up as an exercise (£35 was paid in compensation). It is hoped one day to replace them.

Miss Gaskell of Conholt Park very kindly sent the above account for which we are indebted.

CHUTE LODGE HISTORY

The history of "The Extra Parochial Places of the East and West Walks of the Forest of Chute in the County of Wilts and Wakeswood in the County of Southampton", as they are described in the 1839 tithe map, is not well documented. Until the second half of this century the community of Chute Forest was essentially the hub of the Chute Lodge estate, some 1222 acres, the majority of them let to tenant farmers, which provided the economic reason for its existence.

The first documented event at Chute Forest as a village is in 1768 when the Lodge was built by Sir Robert Taylor for John Freeman. Sir Robert specialised in building small Palladian country villas for the nouveaux riches of the late Eighteenth Century. In the case of Chute Lodge the Freeman money came from the West Indies and sugar. The Freemans were a family keenly interested in architecture and it is thought that they themselves took an active part in the designs.

There was already a house before the Taylor one, as a map of Andover and area produced in 1695 shows a Chute Lodge, although the earliest map of Wiltshire was produced just after the Taylor house was built. It is also known that John Freeman married in 1751 and came to live in Chute then, but as the early map also shows him owning a house in Upper Chute it may well be that that was where they lived until the Lodge was built.

As Chute Forest was not a parish until 1875 there are no early parish records, but the Kelly Post Office Directory in 1855 describes Chute Forest as having some 1930 acres with 143 inhabitants. Thomas Everett Fowle, who lived at the Lodge, spent \$500 rebuilding the Chancel of St. Nicolas' Church in 1869. Apparently he then had a disagreement with the vicar and so decided in 1870 to build a separate church in Chute Forest - the Church of St. Mary was consecrated in 1875 - and the new vicar, who seems to have lived in Appleshaw, had a living of £153. The population had grown to 188 by 1871. By 1899 the living had sunk to £96, while the population had gone down to 119, but the parish could now boast its own carrier, who went to Andover on Mondays and Fridays - Reginald Hayter. But by 1903 he had gone up in the world and taken over the Cross Keys, and the Vicar was shared with the rest of Chute. By 1911 the population had risen to 152, and by 1920 the parish even had its own shopkeeper, Mrs. Clara Edith Rowe - William Rowe was the coal merchant. While the shop was officially in Chute Forest, it was physically in Lower Chute.

In 1906 the Fowles sold the Lodge and went to live at Chute Forest House, continuing to own Jolly's Farm. The prospectus of the sale speaks glowingly of "This picturesque and Beautiful Estate . . . the wealth of Grand Timber to be found on every hand; Giant Oaks, Ash, Elms, Beech and Chestnut abound" - "The Beautifully-Timbered Pleasure Grounds are of great natural beauty and adorned with perfectly grown Specimen Timber Trees, besides magnificent Conifers. They are, however, by no means expensive to maintain". The house had thirteen bedrooms and dressing rooms and two lavatories. The estate included two walled fruit and vegetable gardens, two greenhouses, a gardener's house, stabling and coachman's house, and the keeper's house. Also on offer were The Home Farm, the farmhouse still thatched, woodlands, Red House, Pollards, and Cadley Farm. The total rental value was £1433.

Two years later it was back on the market again, having been considerably enlarged by the addition of a wing, so that it now had twenty bed and dressing rooms and two bathrooms. "The house is heated with Hot Water Radiators and there is an installation of Acetylene. The water supply is from a well which has lately been developed and headings struck, to ensure a plentiful supply, whence an oil engine pumps it to a large cistern at the top of the house. There is also "A Capital Supply of Soft Water". On a more down to earth note "The Drainage system has been remodelled and brought up to date during the past year." There were now two lodges and two new cottages and the Home Farmhouse had also been modernised. It was bought by Lady John Joicey Cecil who, after the First World War, was a prominent figure in raising funds for the Andover War Memorial Hospital, holding a benefit ball at the Lodge on January 21st 1927 to which people managed to come even though it was snowing hard.

The whole estate had been offered for sale in 1920, and by 1927 the recession had forced the Joicey Cecils to put 746 acres of the Estate on the market, including Cadley, Pollards and Red House farms. Eventually they sold the Lodge to W. A. Addinsell. A member of the family, Richard Addinsell, wrote the Warsaw Concerto, and gave concerts in the Lodge. But the continuity of life, regardless of who owned the Lodge, is shown by the fact that William Birch, who had been the gamekeeper in 1911, was still there in 1935.

In 1942 the Lodge and the remaining Estate was bought by the Home Office as a Borstal and the house enlarged to provide ablution blocks and feeding halls. Late on in the War the separation of the house from the Estate began as the land was let to Mr. J. O. Cherrington, whose farming efforts were not eased by the light-fingered approach to life of the residents of the Lodge. While such easily moved implements as tractors were removed to safety every night as a matter of course, it was assumed reasonable to leave two large caterpillar tractors overnight, wrongly; one got as far as Ludgershall and the other was eventually arrested as it proceeded majestically across Salisbury Plain. Just before the Borstal closed the boys celebrated their departure by burning down the old farm buildings, complete with the livestock inside.

The Home Office sold the house and the estate to a speculator, who put it on the market in 1951, splitting it up into a number of lots, including six small holdings with each Orchard Cottage. Most of Home Farm was bought by Mr. Cherrington, and the Lodge eventually became a Preparatory School called Staddles. Staddles School closed in 1970, and after a variety of owners who disposed of the remaining cottages and land, the house is now divided into four houses, privately owned. All farms and cottages previously belonging to the Estate are now privately owned.

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Origins of the Place-name "Chute"

Early references to the Village of Chute Are: Cett 1235, Chuth (Vill) 1268, Cheut, hamelett de Chett For Vill. de Cheut 1298, Chut 1307, Chuet 1312, Chewte 1553. All other forms refer to the forest from which the village and parish took their names.

Also: Old British Ceto-Wood (from Kaito - Modern Welsh Coed 'wood'. This may date from the time of Wulfris, King Alfred's thane, who was also warden of the Welsh Marches in the 9th century).

And: Cadley Farm is to be associated with Thomas de Cadele (1332 SR 1346 ASS.) It is difficult to be sure whether this and the other Cadley names noted below are all of local origin, and the rest of the manorial type taking their name from a settler of the other Cadleys. The personal name of Cada is an independant record and is well attested in place names, i.e. Cadenham and Cadworth, so that the existence of more than one Cadley in the same County is quite possible.

English Place Name Society Vol. XVI Place Names of Wiltshire.

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The Chute and Chute Forest Women's Institute produced a splendid piece of research about the past and present history of the water supply in the parishes, "Tumblers to Taps". The W.I. also have an album of photographs dating back to the early part of the century; it was given to the W.I. by Mr. Stevens, a local postman.

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ENVIRONMENT

The parishes of Chute and Chute Forest are both included in the North Wessex Downs Area of 'Outstanding Natural Beauty'. They climb up the Southern flank of the North Hampshire Downs where this part of Wiltshire lies upon and is made of the Upper Cretaceous Chalk - a mass of over a thousand feet of pure white limestone constructed almost entirely of the accumulated remains of minute animals and sea plants which lived between seventy and one hundred and thirty million years ago.

In our part of Wiltshire also are thin remnants of soft uncemented sands and plastic clays. Traces of these can be seen in spreads of grey boulders known as 'greywethers' or 'Sarsen stones'. One of these lies on the Causeway in a round dip in the ground and is known locally as the 'devil stone'. Another can be seen outside Lantern Cottage opposite the Well House in Upper Chute; this, in living memory, used to lean against the wall of one of the now demolished cottages in Forest Lane to keep passing cartwheels away from the cottage walls.

The rolling open downland is interspersed with woodlands, hedgerows and coverts. There are no streams or large natural open waters.

The Northerly part of Chute Parish rises fairly steeply to Chute Causeway, the Roman road from Winchester to Mildenhall, which here breaks its straight alignment to avoid the deep valley of Hippenscombe and which survives as a pronounced causeway surmounted by the much narrower modern road.

Part of the Chute Parish boundary follows the line of Gryms Dyke running East-West just to the North of Chute Causeway. The Dyke or ditch is of a type known as a linear boundary dyke. It comprises a low bank with a ditch along one side. It appears to be an Iron Age boundary associated with settlements which lie on either side of its length. These ditches are also called ranch boundaries, long lengths of bank and ditch to protect cattle.

The greater part of the two parishes were once part of the Savernake Forest (a royal hunting forest even before the Norman Conquest of 1066) and remnants of this can still be found mostly to the West of the Chutes as Coldridge Wood and Collingbourne Forest.

The formation of large estates in more recent times (18th Century) has had a noticeable impact on the landscape and attractive parkland still survives around the large country houses (e.g. Conholt House, Chute Lodge and Standen House).

The oldest inhabited settlement sites are the villages/hamlets of Upper Chute, Lower Chute and Chute Cadley, some of the buildings of which date back to 14th and 15th Centuries. Chute Forest and Chute Standen are hamlets of more recent origin, having been developed for the most part in association with or since the building of Chute Lodge and Standen House respectively. The parish tithe map of 1841 and an earlier 1790 Ordnance Survey map show additional settlements at Baulks Hill and Honey Bottom, each having several dwellings.

With the exception of Chute Forest all the hamlets and villages have a significant number of dwellings of flint or flint and brick construction; there are also a number of timbered and thatched houses still to be seen. Although more picturesque villages can be found (Upper Chute, for instance, is quite 'plain') in the Wessex area, the Chutes possess a charm of their own; they lie away from all main roads and through routes in beautiful countryside and still have a predominant air of peace and quiet.

The village centre of Upper Chute has been made a conservation area and is defined in the County Development Plan as a class 'C' village, i.e. a small village which by reason of its character and/or lack of facilities will be limited to infilling of small sites within an existing settlement framework. Special consideration will be given to any proposals for development to ensure that nothing is permitted which would conflict with the essential character of the village. In particular a high standard is required in the design of new buildings so that the colour and texture of new materials harmonise with local traditional materials.

Houses of Historical Architectural Interest.

Several buildings in the Chutes have been designated as Grade II category. These include Chute Lodge, Standen House, the Dower House, Box Cottage, the West Lodge of Standen House, the Forge and Stables, and Lower House Farm.

A supplementary list (soon to be reviewed) of Grade III buildings includes St. Mary's Church in Chute Forest, Red House Farm, Dean Farmhouse and outbuildings, Chute Forest Cottage, Well Cottage, Old Cottage, Folly Cottage, Tolley's Cottage, Baker's Cottage, Forest Cottage, Forest House and Jolly's Farm.

Churches and Chapels in the Chutes.

The redundant Church of St. Mary's, Chute Forest, was built in 1869-75, Architect J.C.Pearson, at the instigation of Thomas Everett Fowle of Chute Lodge and was consecrated on June 10th 1875. At that time 188 persons resided in Chute Forest Parish. In 1975 it was decided to stop regular services at St. Mary's Church and to put it on a care and maintenance basis. During the century that it had served as the Parish Church forty-two weddings were celebrated there, the last on December 6th 1947. The Church is now kept locked (the key can be obtained at Kiln Cottage). A yearly service is held each summer.

St. Nicolas' Church in Upper Chute was re-built 1869-72 by the same Architect (J.L.Pearson) on or very near the site of a much earlier church consecrated by Bishop Roger de Mortival in 1325. Some of the old walls were used at the base of the new chancel, the old Norman font was restored and is a relic of the old church. Whether the site contains evidence of an even earlier church is open to conjecture. The present Church was re-opened on 15th August 1872, the building work being paid for by subscriptions of £1634. The tank and pump in the churchyard were the gift of the vicar, the Revd. S. Cossway, in 1872 (his subscription of £400 being the largest). A faculty to erect an organ was granted 30th November 1904. The organ was rebuilt in 1983 at a cost of £3000. The present set of six bells contain the bells donated by the Fowle family to the now redundant St. Mary's, and transferred in 1976.

There were two Methodist Chapels, one in Upper Chute and one in Chute Cadley. The Upper Chute Chapel, built of corrugated iron in 1879, was closed down in 1927 and sold, with its small adjoining plot of land in 1931; it was converted to a dwelling house and used in that form for some years before finally being demolished and the site sold. The Chute Cadley Chapel was established in 1844 and still holds regular services.

The Chute Charities.

During the early 19th Century four bequests were made for the relief of poor persons resident in the Parish of Chute either in gifts in kind or grants of money.

- 1. The Charity of George Foyle.
- 2. The Charity of George Soley Foyle.
- 3. The Charity of Mary Catherine Scroggs.
- 4. The Charity of Charlotte Poor.

In December 1979 the four Charities were combined to make the Chute Relief in need Charity. There are five trustees who administer the Charity. The Vicar of St. Nicolas is the Chairman. Historic details are lodged at Trowbridge Archives Office.

Notes from Dean Chandler's Register.

10 Sept. 1405. Chuyte. Dean visited preb. John Chitterne (Residentiary of Salisbury and St. Paul's), P. and R. -erased- John Prat, V., promised obedience; has 25 Sept. 1405 in cath. to show title and letters of ord. and submit copies; did not come; contumacious, penalty reserved. Robert Balle, St. Mary's cantarist has 25 Sept. as above to show title, letters of ord., and chantry foundation and submit copies; did not come; contumacious, penalty reserved; showed all letters and submitted copies in Hungerford ch. on 3 Jan. 1406. [f.44] Hugh Clerk paid a proc. of 7s. 6d. Hugh Clerk, Laurence Tak, weaver, Clement Old, John Touker, William Honeydew, parishioners, cited, say that St. Nicholas's ch. has a graveyard, font, all sacraments, nad sacramentals. R. should receive all tithes of sheaves and coppice wood. V. should receive other tithes. Ch. pays no pension and is not a portion. R. gives no stock. Rectory has 1 a. meadow, 3 tenants holding in all 25 a. who pay 16s. a year and mow rectory meadow. It has 2 barns. Chantry is founded in honour of Assumption (licence granted 1320: CPR 1317-21, 450). Its patron is Sir John Wrothe, knight, who presents to P. who institutes and inducts. It is endowed with one and a half carucates, 3 a. meadow, 3 a. wood, and 2 tenants paying 5s. a year. It has a house. If patron does not present within 15 days, P. should appoint and if chantry is vacant for 30 days dean of Salisbury should appoint a suitable chapl, to say Mass daily acording to its ordination. Chancel roof, walls, and windows are defective through R.'s fault. Nave roof, walls, and windows are defectivethrough fault of parish. [f.44v.] Chrismatory is not locked. Hugh Jolyff, rectory farmer, farms P.'s jurisdiction.

Chuyte (and St. Mary's Chantry there). A silver chalice with crucifix at base and Saviour's head on paten; 3 corporals with 3 burses; a set of red vestments powdered with green leaves and roses; a chasuble, 2 tunicles, and a cope of green, an alb with cloth of gold apparels, an apparel, an amice with shields, a stole and maniple; a striped bright blue and red cope; a chasuble and 2 tunicles of white bustian; a chasuble and 2 tunicles with green 'stripys'; a chasuble and 2 tunicles of black 'satyn'; 2 green tunicles with vertical (palatis) blue-grey stripes; in ivory pyx; a tin chrismatory; a latten cross; a handbell; 2 missals; a gradual; a lesson book; an antiphonary with music with a psalter; a manual; 3 surplices; 3 altar-cloths with red frontlets (paruris); 3 towels (torsoria); a blue-grey frontal.

Chuyte. The chantry. A silver-gilt chalice with crucifix at base and agnus dei in middle of paten; a cloth of gold chasuble worked with figure of a horseman; a gradual with music; a missal; 2 sets of vestments, one blue-grey, the other red baudekyn.

23 April 1409. Chuyte. Dean visited John Chytterne, P., called; did not come; dean excused him; V., his farmer, paid a proc. of 7s. 6d. to dean. Robert Balle, V., promised obedience and showed letters of inst. and ind.: has 31 May 1409 in cath. to submit copies. Richard, St. Mary's cantarist, promised obedience etc. Thomas, the parish clerk, promised obedience. John Vunnedewe, Richard Sotewell, John Toukere, William Newman, Laurence Takewell, John Hudde, prishioners, say that chancel roof, windows, walls, and door are defective through P.'s fault. Nave roof is defective through fault of parish; parishioners to repair it before 24 June on pain of 6s. 8d. Porch walls are defective through fault of parish; parishioners to repair them before Mich. on pain of 20s. [f.104v.] Top of south aisle wall is defective through cantarist's fault. John Marion for fornication with Isabel, Laurence Takewell's tenant. William Vunnedewe, former chwdn. owes ch. 7s. 2d. Laurence Takewell owes ch. 6s. 8d.; agreed to pay at once. John Toukere owes ch. fabric 40d. Font is not locked through fault of parish; parishioners to provide lock before Whitsunday on pain of 40d.

21 July 1412. Chuyte. Dean visited ch. John Chitterne, P., did not come; dean excused him. Robert Balle, V., came and was excused etc. Richard, the cantarist, showed letters of ord. and chantry foundation; has visitation court day to submit copies. William Vunnedewe, William Perys, John Towkere, Thomas Jamys, parishioners, disclose that chyard enclosure is defective through fault of parish; parishioners to repair it before 1 Nov. on pain of 6s. 8d. A prebendal portion receives a third of all tithe from tenement called Oxenford in Northtodeworth and from tenement called Crokesplace in Southtodeworth. A southern chancel 'botras' is defective through R.'s fault. A canopy (canape) is lacking through fault of parish; parishioners to provide one before Christmas on pain of 40d.

3 Nov. 1407. Dean inst. Robert Haldwey (Haldway), chapl. to Chuyte vic., pat. John Chitterne, P.; Haldwey sworn to make continual residence; official to induct.

Other Notable Features of the Chutes.

The Well House in Upper Chute is one of the very few thatched wells left in the County.

Dew ponds and village ponds were once necessary and common features of downland areas, and three good examples can be seen at Chute Cadley, Chute Standen and Upper Chute (Butts Pond); all are sadly damaged and overgrown.

Earthworks and tumuli occur on the Northern and Western boundaris of the Parishes.

Trees. Although beech is the predominant tree of the area, most of the native British trees are represented as well as many introduced species. The Tree Preservation Act of 1971 states that all trees with a trunk more than four feet tall and with a diameter greater than four inches within a Conservation Area are protected by this legislation. This must include a great many trees in Upper Chute. Many individual trees throughout the Chutes have preservation orders, including some twenty at Chute Lodge. Many species of wild flowers are still to be seen, although only on uncultivated land.

Wells. Notable wells amongst those listed by the Institute of Geological Sciences are as follows:

No. 283/475 Cross Keys Inn, Chute 238 feet deep No. 283/476 Chute Village Well 183 feet deep

No. 283/9 Conholt Park, Chute 401 feet deep - shaft 197' plus bore 204' No. 283/207 Chute Manor 645 feet deep - shaft 220' plus bore 425'

No. 283/208 Parsonage Farm, Chute 615 feet all by 8" bore

Footpaths, Bridleways and Byeways. Many delightful walks and rides are to be found throughout both parishes. The information gained from the Survey Questionnaire shows that local people use all the available paths continuously and are concerned that these should remain open and available to everyone. Most paths and bridleways in Chute are soon to be marked, but all the paths shown on the definitive maps at the back of this survey are still public rights of way. All the footpaths in Chute Forest are now signposted.

As in all communities where people are concerned about their environment a sharp eye is kept open for eyesores that are not in keeping with this generally tranquil and beautiful countryside; the Survey Questionnaire uncovered some problems in this area which it is hoped will be improved before too long.

AMENITIES.

Shops. We have only one shop/post office, which is situated in Upper Chute. It is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Monday to Friday. It is not open either Saturday or Sunday. The goods stocked cover basic needs in groceries, stationery, etc. No greengrocery is on sale. The Post Office section is a Sub Office but can be used to pay Water Rates, Telephone BIlls and T.V. Licences, apart from the usual purchase of stamps, etc. There is also a grocery store in Andover which is prepared to deliver orders once a week.

Mobile Library. This calls fortnightly and parks at various pre-arranged spots throughout the Chutes.

<u>Play Group.</u> There is no play group in Chute. Pre-school age children are able to attend nursery schools in Ludgershall or Penton Mewsey, but have to be transported privately. A small group of local mothers have organised a self-help baby sitting service. A Mothers and Toddlers group meets every Wednesday morning at the Village Hall.

Doctors and Health Care. The nearest is at Ludgershall, 4 miles distant. No public transport is available.

Churches. We have two C. of E. Churches, one in Upper Chute and the other in Chute Forest. Regular services are held at Upper Chute, but at Chute Forest the Church is used only once a year. There is also a Methodist Chapel in Lower Chute which holds Sunday School classes for children of all denominations.

Mains Services. Water, Electricity, Gas, Sewerage. Chute has mains water and electricity, but there is no gas. Sewerage is to septic tanks or cess pits.

Allotments. There are three Parish Allotments, and two attached to the Methodist Chapel. It was hoped that the spare ground left at Tibbs Meadow after the building of the new houses could be used for allotments, even temporarily. Unfortunately, the local authority did not agree to this request from the Chute Parish Council. There is however, a duty on Parish Councils to make allotments available if more than 6 requests are made.

Postal Services and Telephones. In common with most villages, there is one postal delivery per day and two collections from the post boxes. However we understand there can be a second postal delivery per day for those who have lived here a long time! A large number of households have the telephone installed, but there are public telephone boxes within reasonable distance of most groups of houses.

Meals on Wheels. These are delivered twice weekly where required.

Home Helps. This service can be provided where it is deemed necessary by the local doctor or social worker.

Local Transport. At the time of the Survey and the present time of writing (1984/85) public transport is almost, but not quite, non-existent. Chute is served by two bus routes - Parnham Coaches services 52 and 282. The Hampshire Bus timetable shows that service 52 is a school bus service operating daily during the school term only, but it is also available for adult fare-paying passengers who can make use of it to transfer at Ludgershall to other services. The 282 serves the villages for one day a week (Thursday) when it deviates from its usual route. However the 282 passes Tangley Memorial on all its journeys daily, and so is available to residents of Lower Chute and Chute Cadley, provided they don't mind a brisk twenty minute walk both ways. A regular bus service operates between Salisbury, Ludgershall and Andover. Once at Andover Railway Station the world is your oyster!

EDUCATION.

In 1978 the village school, which had previously catered for children from 5 to 11 was closed. State education is now provided in Ludgershall and the children are taken by bus. The infant and junior age range go to the Castle Primary School and those between 11 and 16 go to Castledown Comprehensive, which is situated halfway between Tidworth and Ludgershall.

Further Education facilities in Wiltshire are - one sixth form for pupils 16-18 at St. John's, Marlborough and another at Salisbury. Nearby Hampshire also has Cricklade College of Further Education. Pupils are normally expected to attend a school within their own County - in this case Wiltshire - but in certain cases it sometimes is possible to negotiate attendance across the County border.

Wiltshire does not provide any Nursery School education in this area but there is a pre-school play group in Ludgershall which is run in the hall in the recreation ground.

Private schools in the area are:

Farley School, Red Rice, Andover - for boys of 7 - 13+ Rookwood School, Weyhill Rd., Andover - for pre-prep. boys and girls 4 - 16 St. Benedict's Convent, Penton Mewsey - for pre-prep. boys and girls 3 - 16 Hawtreys, Savernake Forest, Marlborough - for boys 7yrs.6mo+ -13

INDUSTRY.

In the Chutes the major industry is, as would be expected, agriculture. The farms are mainly owner-occupied with properties varying in size from under 2 acres to those of 1000 and 2000 acres. Arable, sheep, cattle, a chicken farm and one dairy herd is the general picture. Sheep and corn production have increased over the past few years and farming practices have changed with the times and mostly follow very modern methods of land management.

Only agriculture appears to offer a small amount of permanent employment to Chute residents, although there is some seasonal and casual work available. The Survey Questionnaire produced a picture of most of the working population leaving the parishes daily and sometimes weekly to commute to nearby towns, as well as places such as London and Southampton.

There are, a number of 'one-man/woman' enterprises being carried on in the two parishes; a few are full-time occupations; others are part-time services offered on a 'helping-out' basis.

Conference Consultancy Secretarial Agency Driving School Horses (Livery Stables) Game Farming Beekeeping Building Saddler Car mechanics/bodywork Wine Barn Clearing Author Artist Hairdressing Window Cleaning Taxi Public House (2) Post Office/Shop

LEISURE ACTIVITIES.

Activities available in and around the villages are many and varied, ranging from purely social to academic.

Locally can be found - W.I., Ladies Keep Fit, Gardening Club, Football and Cricket Clubs, Drama, Wednesday (Over 60's) Club, Darts Teams and Church Societies.

The village boasts a well-run and highly popular Club. Besides the advantages of club prices for drinks, there are facilities to play pool and darts. Entertainment is organised throughout the year and regular sessions of Bingo take place for members who wish to take part. Ladies' and Men's Dart teams enter in local League Competitions. The Club room is available for private functions with the consent of the club committee.

The Village Hall, which was until recent years the Primary School, is available for hire at competitive prices. Recently renovated, and centrally heated, the hall provides facilities for cooking, bar, stage, dancing, children's parties, etc., with ample parking space and outside play area.

Evening Classes and Sporting activities can be found in local Sixth Form Colleges at Andover and Salisbury, also Comprehensive schools in Andover, Castledown, Durrington, Pewsey and Marlborough. Prospectuses are published each year and can be obtained from College Offices, Libraries and the Castledown Sports Centre. There are also evening classes available at Sparsholt Agricultural College, Winchester.

Besides our own village Dramatic Society's (C.A.D.S.) performances, an excellent programme is featured at Cricklade Theatre in Andover. Salisbury, Winchester, Newbury and Swindon also have thriving theatres. Theatres at Southampton University and Bath are within reasonable distance. There is also the Cinema in Andover. They publicise their forthcoming performances in the local press, or one can apply to be put on a mailing list.

We have two excellent Public Houses in the village - The Hatchett, in Lower Chute, and The Cross Keys, in Upper Chute.

There is, unfortunately, very little in the way of organisations and play facilities for children up to the ages of 16 - 18.

ANSWERS FROM THE
SURVEY AND APPRAISAL
QUESTIONNAIRES, JUNE 1984.

THE CHUTES SURVEY AND APPRAISAL 1984

Questionnaire for young people under 16 years

Twenty-nine young people completed this questionnaire. Six fairly generalised questions were asked and a condensed summary of the responses follows below.

1. Do you like living in the Chutes?

24 gave an unqualified 'Yes'.

3 gave an unqualified 'No'.

1 'Yes' but preferred living in town.

I commented "there are a lot of drawbacks".

2. What do you like about the Chutes?

Peace and quietness.

Freedom, walking, riding, safe roads for cycling.

Small communities; knowing people; some older people are helpful and friendly; enough neighbours but not too many.

Not built up; nice buildings.

Appreciation of the wildlife in general - birds, animals, farms, horses.

The beauty of the countryside - woods, lanes, fields.

The safety of knowing people and being known, if only by sight.

3. What do you dislike about the Chutes?

Not enough going on for young people.

Lack of outside school activities.

No youth club or sports activities.

Transport to Andover for activities generally relies on the willingness of parents - and they're not always willing.

Too many cars usually driven too fast.

No play areas.

Trees chopped down when there is no need.

Newcomers regarded as foreigners.

Lack of communication with people and the town.

No shops; no library.

Bad weather.

Several felt that older people have a negative attitude toward their age group.

One enterprising young person suggested there should be a small house for young people to play games.

4. Do you think there are enough places for recreation in your village?

- 9 'Yes' (1 qualified "but perhaps they are not put to their full potential").
 - 19 'No'
 - 1 No comment.

5. Do you go outside your village for any recreation? If so, where?

- 4 'No'.
- 2 No comment.
- 23 'Yes'.

Places listed are:

Andover Sports Centre Castledown Sports Centre

Ludgershall Great Bedwyn East Cholderton Penton Mewsey

Southampton Weyhill

Tidworth

Walworth Industrial Estate

Charlton

Recreation activities listed are:

Music lessons Girl Guides Swimming Sea Scouts Guitar lessons Visiting friends Tennis Skating (roller and ice)

Rangers Flute lessons

Hockey (outside and indoor)

Fishing

6. Have you any ideas for making your village a nicer place?

Many ideas were expressed. Predominant was a wish for tennis courts, either at the playing field or by the village hall.

A swimming pool was next on the list of priorities. Other ideas and comments, quoted here in their own words where possible, are:

Shops; Clubs;

More building development - 3/4 bedroom houses;

Chute Cadley Green and Pond to have an overhaul (This has now been done);

A village choir and/or band;

Rotas made up to transport children to and from activities outside Chute;

Young people to be a bit more considerate with each other and patient with new arrivals;

Encourage more young families to the villages;

Play areas;

Special indoors games place;

Let kids join in adult sports;

Make kids cricket club - football team.

A note in the questionnaire requested that, for obvious reasons, the answers and ideas should only be those of the young people concerned. The study group would like to say 'thank you' to those who took part, for this very valuable insight into what it is like to be a young person in a fairly isolated set of communities in 1984.

THE CHUTES SURVEY AND APPRAISAL 1984 Household Survey

The total number of occupied and unoccupied houses or dwellings in Chute and Chute Forest parishes in 1984 was 186. The figure was arrived at from information gained from the Ordnance Survey planning maps at the Kennet District Planning Office in Devizes, and updated by local knowledge of new housing development not yet incorporated on those maps.

146 questionnaires were delivered (1 per house or household), the remaining 40 being unoccupied houses; weekend occupiers who were not available or didn't think it relevant to them; and others who didn't wish to take part, or were away at the time.

Of the 146 questionnaires delivered 119 were completed and returned. Of the remaining 27 we heard that some "kept putting it off", a few found it "too difficult", others "forgot", or it was "too personal". Nevertheless, the 119 households who completed it constituted a reasonably accurate and fair picture of present circumstances in the two parishes. It was very gratifying to have such a good response.

26 multiple questions were asked and a condensed survey of the responses follows below. In a few sections it seemed important to relay the answers verbatim and this has been done where it is still possible to preserve anonymity.

HOUSING.

Ownership.

About three-quarters of the houses in the two parishes are owner-ocupied; this includes second home or weekend home owners. The remainder fall into three categories - Agricultural tenancies, Local Authority tenancies and private tenancies, and there seems to be an equal number in each category.

Alternative Water Supplies.

18 wells and 19 water storage tanks were listed, although of course there may be others in the parishes. However, comments in this section indicate that apart from only one well in constant use, plus a borehole and 2 tanks, a handful only are used in seasons of severe drought; the rest are now in disuse and may now be beyond repair.

Age of Housing.

There has been a constant rate of building, re-building and adaptation of houses since the 14th century. The dates of original building as far as the owners and occupiers have been able to give are as follows:-

1300-1400 1400-1500 1500-1600 1600-1700 1700-1800 1800-1900 1900-1984 1 1 4 11 13 15 60

Many people were unable to give any date, but these are mainly in the category 1900-1984.

There are also a number of houses ranging from very old to fairly recent which have been added to or converted from old agricultural buildings into domestic use. The date of origin is often unknown.

RESIDENCE

The survey showed that there is a constantly shifting proportion of the community - about 10-15% - who arrive and depart within a ten year span of residence.

A smaller number tend to remain up to twenty years or longer. A very small number of those completing this section of the questionnaire said they had lived here all their lives, although people whose families had lived in the Chutes for a period of twenty years and over may well be in the life-long category. It would be very difficult to calculate this exactly from this type of survey. However it does show that in common with so many rural communities today the number of second generation or native families is a very small minority indeed.

46 households have relatives in the parishes and within a ten mile radius of the parishes.

Where have the people come from?

People have found their way to homes in the Chutes from a wide (world-wide!) selection of places; some of these are - London, Liverpool, Berkshire, Hampshire Surrey, elsewhere in Wiltshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Devon, Essex, Yorkshire, Kent, Australia, Egypt, Poland, Austria, Kenya, and others who have travelled the world and come to rest here.

Why have people come here?

The reasons for moving to the Chutes generally fall into three main categories - apart from being born here or moving with parents when a child.

- 1. To be near the place of work.
- 2. To be in the country.
- 3. To retire.

A few wanted to be near relatives.

Deep appreciation of the surrounding countryside and pleasure at being in an agricultural area was often expressed.

Only a few had known the area before moving in, and are now delighted to be in such a peaceful place.

Population Ages.

Not everyone (understandably) completed this section, but enough did to enable us to show that there is a good age range, although the older ranges tend to dominate.

Sex	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	М	F
Ages	0 -	4	5 -	16	17 -	25	26 -	- 50	21 -	64		65+
Nos.	8	8	18	26	18	22	53	58	22	21	21	22

EDUCATION.

Children under 5 - Nursery School.

5 attend Penton Mewsey or St. Benedict's and all travel by car. 3 attend play group and travel by car.

Children at School.

Primary. 16 children in this group attend schools in Ludgershall, St. Mary's, Wantage, London, Appleshaw, St. Benedict's.

8 used the school bus, 2 taking a taxi to reach the bus stop.

8 went by private car.

Secondary. 25 children are in this group; 9 use the school bus and presumably attend school at Ludgershall. 16 others attend public, private and boarding schools and use private transport.

<u>Further Education.</u> 10 students attend Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities in various parts of the country and travel accordingly.

All young children, as well as older students, must travel to school and be away at least all day, if not all week. It can be hard on the little ones especially, as well as for the parents who ferry their children back and forth in all weathers.

EMPLOYMENT.

The largest group of men and women in full time employment travel to Andover (largest number), London, Southampton and places within that radius. Most commute daily and these quiet villages have mini morning and evening traffic 'rush hours'. A few live in town and return at weekends. A small group work from their own homes at their own businesses. Agricultural workers and farmers form a smaller and more exclusive group. Only two people said they were unemployed at the time of the Survey (June 1984).

Most of the skilled trades are represented, i.e. in building and engineering, but a much larger number of professional and managerial occupations is evident.

Part-time		Full	-time	Unemp.	loyed	Retired		
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
4	21	88	37	1	1	19	26	

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE.

Nature of Business.

Farm Public House General Builder
Gardener Medical Marketing Insurance Broker
Post Office/shop
Farm Secretary
Sales Agency
Saddlery repair and associated services
Conference and Exhibition Organiser

35 people were employed; of these 16 were self-employed, 9 were part-time or casual, 10 were employed full-time.

8 of those who are employed either wholly or part-time are resident in the parishes; 6 are non-resident and came in from outside the parishes.

Agricultural Businesses.

Acreages are in the ranges of under 50 to 1000 acres, and the land mostly owned or let to other farmers.

Main Enterprises. Arable, cows, sheep, horses.

Changes in Agricultural practice within last 10-20 years. None.

Contributions to environment conservation. Trees, buildings, pond, many hedges, Chestnut by village green, indirectly, coppicing.

AMENITIES.

<u>Telephones.</u> Only 4 households said they are without a telephone; 2 of these did not have a telephone within a reasonable distance.

<u>Village Shop/Post Office</u>. About one-third of the households used the shop/post Office regularly; another one-third used it 'sometimes'.

<u>Delivery Services.</u> Most households had milk delivered regularly; newspapers and coal deliveries are used on a regular basis; the mobile library is less well used; laundry and grocery deliveries and collection have a relatively small number of customers. Most people prefer to take the opportunity of a visit to the town to do their own shopping.

Allotments. Ten households said they would like to have an allotment if more could be made available.

Shopping. Most shopping for food is done in Andover. Ludgershall, Hungerford, Newbury and Marlborough are stated to be next in popularity or convenience. Hardware and household goods are shopped for in much the same order. Shopping for clothes is almost entirely different and people generally prefer to go much further abroad for these and visit Salisbury, London, Southampton, Winchester, Marlborough and Bath; these places are deemed to offer more 'style' than local shops.

PROBLEMS WITH PUBLIC SERVICES.

<u>Dustbins.</u> A few complaints about carelessness and non-collection, but on the whole people seem satisfied with the refuse collection service.

Water. Erratic and low water pressure, total failure in supply - in some cases this has been a regular and constant annoyance for about 20 years. Heavy chlorination is also cause for complaint.

Telephones. Crossed lines, wrong numbers, crackly lines and faint lines were problems most referred to.

Medical Services.

Andover and Ludgershall Medical Centres are by far the most widely used, although a few households attend doctors from outside this area, i.e. Bristol, London.

Dentists in Andover and Ludgershall are used regularly, but many households use dental practices in London, Bristol, Winchester and Guildford.

Getting to and from medical reatment, call out attendance and consultation is often a worry, delays in appointments and prescriptions, and the difficulties in arranging collection of medicines for elderly and young families is mentioned too often for complacency.

Social Services.

Limited use is made of Home Help (4) and Meals on Wheels (5) services. A suggestion was made for a mobile Post Office to help pensioners who have difficulty in getting to the Upper Chute Post Office.

Voluntary Work.

Nearly every household had at least one person involved in some way with voluntary work, either on a regular basis or whenever a need arises. Some examples are - Appeals, Fetes, Church work, Red Cross, Sunday School, Literacy Scheme, Old People's Home, and many others. (The Chutes people always rise to the occasion).

Transport.

Most households own one car, some have two. Other families with grown-up children multiple transport available with cars, mopeds, bicycles, motor bikes and, in two cases, horses. People seemed philosophical about problems encountered when vehicles have to be shared, break down, get punctures, etc. More serious problems arise when a household with only one vehicle available, and mostly used to get the breadwinner out of the villages to work, is needed to get members to and from hospital/medical/dental appointments, etc., or when sudden emergencies arise.

Alternative Transport.

About half the households said they would make use of a Community Minibus or Post Office Bus if one were available.

Car Parking.

Only 5 households have nowhere to park a car off the road.

Only 6 people said they never used a footpath or bridleway; in two cases this was only in recent years because of advancing age.

Leisure Activities.

The Club and Associations in the Chutes are well-supported, as are almost all group activities, and form a vital part of the life in both parishes.

Activities outside the area are mainly concerned with sports such as squash, tennis, swimming, badminton and sailing

Leisure pursuits that people said they take part in are as follows:

Garden Club Conservative Association Women's Institute

Pony Club Shooting Sailing

Arts and Crafts Soc. Motorbike Scrambling Squash Swimming Badminton Fishing

Potterv T.A. Operatic Society Over 60 Club Darts Cricket Club Church Work Keep Fit Amateur Dramatics

Kimpton Quilting Group Golf Freemasonry Tap Dancing Horse Racing Aerobics

Japanese Flower Arranging Chelsea Gardens Guild

Riding Pubs Water Ski-ing

Archery Disco Underwater Technology

Beekeeping R.A. Hunt

Other activities that people would like to see organised are:

Facilities for young people, i.e. tennis and badminton clubs;

Youth Club Lunch Club for 60+ Play Group Cricket Nets Theatre Club Swimming Folk Club Reels Family Rambles

Special Skills and Hobbies.

Many of the skills and hobbies given are the same as the leisure activities listed above, but others are:

Antiques Cooking Painting Music Collecting Old Bottles Bricklaying

Carpentry Wine Making Deer Management Printing Gardening

Dressmaking Guitar Playing Children's Learning Difficulties

Car Restoration Yodelling Car Maintenance Spinning Poultry Home Electrics

Computing Theatre D.I.Y. Classical Literature Greek and Latin Poetry Concreting Languages Accountantcy Master Saddler Cycling Photography Gamekeeping Equestrianism Beekeeping Ballooning Drawing

Asked if people would like there to be a group for their particular interest, the response was as follows:

Electronics

Antiques Music Painting

Needlework

Wine Making Deer Management Guitar Playing

Needlework Children's Learning Difficulties D.I.Y. Languages Drawing

Tennis

Living in the Chutes.

Only a very few people were not satisfied with living in the Chutes; reasons given are

Aircraft noise; the military presence in general; dog noise and dog fouling:

some also felt the community was rather 'split';

fast cars: no shops:

too scattered:

large private estates.

Reservations were also expressed about uncut verges, the increase in housing developments and traffic, the isolation - especially in winter, lack of public transport.

Likes. Beautiful surroundings;

peacefulness; solitude; relaxed pace of life; few people; remoteness;

good mixed community;

the Chute Chronicle;

little traffic;

pubs; Club;

no housing estates;

endless walks; trees and woodlands; clean air.

PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF NATURAL AND MAN-MADE FEATURES.

People are much interested and concerned to maintain the local environment and many suggestions were put forward, i.e. village greens more carefully tended, maintenance of forests, hedgerows, old ponds, footpaths; preservation of old barns and buildings; clearing woodlands of scrub; specific suggestions to preserve the Edwardian Post Box in Chute Forest, the Calf Pens, Chute Forest and individual trees in Chute Lodge, were also made.

Evesores. Critical comments were mostly aimed toward activities that are not in keeping with the above, i.e. rubbish dumps, derelict vehicles left about, untidy open garages, suburban type fencing out of keeping in a rural area, car parking on Lower Chute Green, clutter in gardens, broken farm gates, plastic fertiliser bags blowing about.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Bus Stops and Shelters. Noted by their absence, and lack where needed.

<u>Seats.</u> Suggestions were made to move those in existence to more useful places i.e. Well House Upper Chute moved to Tibbs Meadow; playing field seat needs repair, and a new one wanted near the War Memorial.

<u>Litter Bins.</u> People were generally against these because they can actually create a problem of litter and vermin.

Road Signs. Need a lot of improvement, but should be in keeping with the locality.

Street Lighting. Two schools of thought here. One - more are needed; two - what we have is adequate.

Overhead Wires. Generally condemned, but one comment was "birds like perching on them".

Telephones and Post Boxes. Although so many households have a telephone, the general feeling is that public telephones are too important a facility to lose. A Post Box is needed at the Post Office.

Notice Boards. These need maintaining if they are to serve their proper purpose. A Village notice board for the Village Hall, and a co-ordinated policy were other suggestions.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

There is of course a National debate going on with regard to anxieties about conservation and modern methods. However, it seemed worthwhile to give people an opportunity to make their own comments. There is no room here to put in every comment, but it is worth noting that while people are critical about much that happens they are also very positive about any effort that is made to minimise damage to the natural environment.

Most concern was expressed over chemical sprays and fertilisers which affect food and honey bees; damage to health and garden plants was also noted. Straw burning, with its attendant destruction of insect life, animal habitats and nuisance to people, came a close second. The use of flails to cut hedges caused much critical comment.

Other problems noted were loss of old hedgerows, mud on the roads, cluttering and closing footpaths, empty fertiliser bags, and empty houses.

Appreciative and positive comments were on the lines of "If you live in the country, country ways must be lived with". Local farmers are sensitive and conscientious; "I like to see all the farm animals".

It seems fair to include a comment from one farmer, "The Chutes are very attractive and we feel this is largely because of its wild, uncivilised character. We do not want a proliferation of road signs and notice boards, white lines, etc. While recognising the need for housing, we feel some low cost development like Tibbs' Meadow is ideal, but not too many more large modern luxury houses. Let's keep Chute RURAL type country, not 'Stockbroker type' country".

Would you like the environment in the Chutes to remain as it is now?

Yes

No 4 No Comment

11

There were also three comments:

Yes, but not to see the village get bigger;

Yes, but slow and careful expansion will be necessary;

Yes, but with some provisos (not given).

Suggestions for Changes.

Except where duplication occurs these are given in full:

More people, more and cheaper houses, more Council houses.

Access to Tibbs Meadow changed.

More help for young children and teenagers - Youth Club, table tennis.

Remove the concrete under the playing field swings, add tyres, a climbing frame, etc. Next Fete could pay for this.

A village shop with a notice board to keep people in touch.

Footpaths clearly marked, less obstructed.

Tennis court on the grass field next to the Village Hall.

Pavement on both sides of the road through Chute Forest.

Map of local paths displayed on notice boards.

Decent field gates and stiles.

Dew ponds kept open and wild - not fenced in.

Mains drainage installed.

A sponsored tree scheme for everyone to contribute.

More help in maintaining the Churchyard.

New building to be more in keeping with present building.

Development in road maintenance, i.e. pot holes and verges.

An anti car rally campaign - more hazards in towns!

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Would you be prepared to join a working party to preserve or restore natural features, e.g. ponds?

57 people gave an unqualified "Yes".

6 people said "Yes", but qualified this with comments -

"in moderation", "maybe", "for specific projects", "if fine", "so long as it's not left always to just a few".

Others regretted that they would like to help but were now too old.

Rural Skills available in this area.

Flint knapping, flint work, were the only two rural skills specified; two others did not specify but had 'varied' knowledge, and one 'too many to specify'. Others were 'willing to learn'.

LENGTH OF EXPECTED RESIDENCE IN THE CHUTES.

Years 0 - 4 5 - 9 10 - 19 20+ Always
12 8 8 4 48

Others commented:

"Who knows?", "as long as possible", "ask the Doctor", "depends on local development", "as long as

work permits", "subject to children and lack of amenities for them", "until we're too decrepit to remain", "sorry, no crystal ball".

The last remark seems a very fair summary.

Delivery Services Available.

Shaws, Grocer, High Street, Andover. Anton Laundry, Andover. Bales Coal, Ludgershall.

Little Down 25 8057 33 33 FOOTPATHS Nos. 1,5,8,9,10,13,14,15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 26, 28, 30 BRIDLEWAYS Nos. 2,3,4,6,7,21,25,31,33,36,37 FYEWAYS Nos. Survey of Rights of Way 32,34,35 DEFINITIVE MAP REFERENCE Footpaths Purple line Bridleways Green line Roads used as public paths

Broken green line

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REF

Footpaths Bridleways Purple line Green line

Reads used as public paths

Broken green line

: 0 0-

FOOTPATHS Nos. 1,2,5,6,8,9 BRIDLEWAYS Noa.

3,4

BYEWAYS

Broken lines

2-0 4