

YCCCART 2024/Y14

The 'melcwaeg', Cheddar, charter of 1068

**YATTON, CONGRESBURY, CLAVERHAM AND CLEEVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)**

General Editor: Vince Russett



'Ceoddor Cumbes'

Page	Contents
3	Abstract Acknowledgements Introduction
4	Site location Land use and geology
6	Methodology
7	Historical & archaeological context
21	Recommendations References

Abstract

It should be made clear that Grundy's date of 1068 for this charter is disputed by the official Wells documentation (www.british-history.ac.uk/wells-mss/vol1/pp428-436) which gives the date as 1067. The date of 1068 is retained here for the sake of continuity with Grundy's original work).

The solution to puzzles created by documents around 1000 years old can never be completely certain, but historians working on solutions to Saxon boundary charters have seldom used landscape archaeology more than perusing the OS plans. It seems the subject may help in these elucidations, and the following is an attempt to solve one of the more obscure 'Saxon' charters of Somerset.

Acknowledgements

To the landowners, corporate and individual, who tolerated my presence for several years on their land, and to my old chum, Brian Pitt ('Buggo') who selflessly accompanied these explorations.

To the workers of the CHarterhouse Environs Research Team (2000-2020): thanks for everything, my old friends.

Introduction

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleve Archaeological Research Team (YCCART) is a Community Archaeology team working across northern Somerset.

Our objective is to undertake archaeological fieldwork to enable a better understanding and management of the heritage of the area while recording and publishing the activities and locations of the research carried out.

*When he stands like an ox in the furrow – with his sullen set eyes on your own,
And grumbles, 'This isn't fair dealing,' my son, leave the Saxon alone!*

Norman and Saxon *Rudyard Kipling*

Site location



Fig 1: Location (general) (2020)



Fig 2: Location (specific) (2020)

Milkway (both a road and a land unit bear this name at least as early as the 11th century CE - this text largely refers to the land unit) is an area within the ancient parish of Cheddar (earlier in the extra-parochial Liberty of Charterhouse-on-Mendip), in the County of Somerset (and the former District of Sedgemoor). The historically referenced area lies immediately north of Cheddar Gorge, on relatively flat land (for Mendip!) with a prospect for tens of miles to the south. It is centred on a group of ruined buildings called Milkway Barn (Fig 5), at ST4723255515.

Land use and geology

Milkway lies almost entirely on the rocks of the Oxwich Series, largely calcareous rock of the Burrington Oolite, with a band of Clifton Down Limestone running along its southern edge. These rocks are capped with a thin slightly acidic soil, mostly suited to grazing, but occasionally (usually at times of national shortage) cropped, usually with poor results. These rocks are ideal for calcining to lime, being relatively pure CaCO_3 , and still sought after for hard rock hardcore and gravel, and more specially for lime flux for steelmaking. Remains of postmedieval limekilns in the area (for liming the soils) occur in several places in Milkway. Battscombe Quarry (above Cheddar) has quarried up to the edge of the Milkway landunit, and spoil from it has been spread on lands within (see Fig 2).

There is no public access to the area, although popular Rights of Way run across the northern and eastern edges.



Fig 3: Limekiln (see above) at Milkway: Milkway Barn in background (1988)

Methodology

The study of the area has been carried out by casual visits over decades: information on the area is scattered through many sources, a factor that has probably contributed to the failure to examine this case in detail before: it is also not a major charter, but an 'add-on' to the Banwell charter, which has probably reduced its academic status, along with the impression that 'Grundy sorted it out in the 30s'.

The report was written in Libre Office 5 Writer.

Photographs were taken by members of YCCCART, and remain the copyright of YCCCART.

Historical & archaeological context

The area still known today as Milkway lies in the southern extremity of the old manor and parish of Charterhouse on Mendip, in that part of it now subsumed into the adjoining parish of Cheddar.

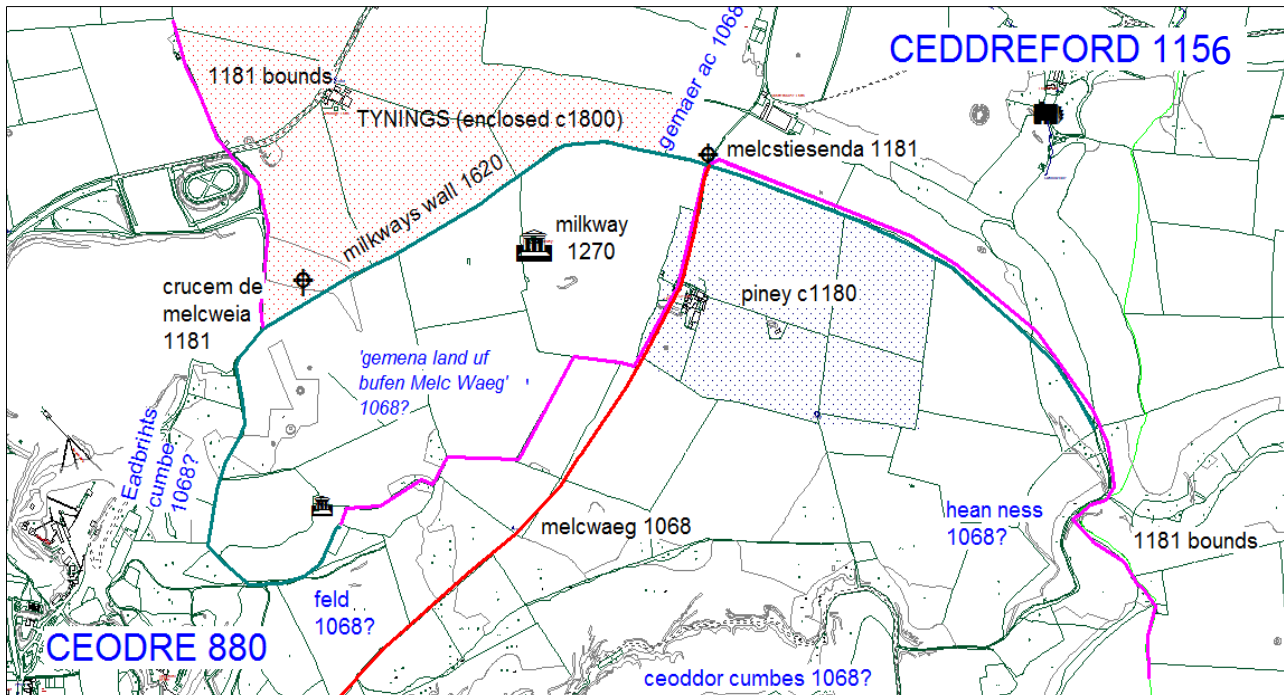


Fig 4: Some early references to the Milkway area (references in text or YCCCART, forthcoming)

Milkway is first mentioned in the Banwell and Compton Bishop charter of 1068 (see below - Grundy 1932).

The actual area of land covered by this charter on Mendip is still not entirely clear; the importance of this passage is that it establishes the existence of an area which is 'above Milkway', in this case probably referring to the track rather than to any established settlement, although it is worth remembering that there must have been at least one, the *wyrth*, or enclosed farm, of the 1068 charter. It is also not clear if the '9 *heordas/heordas*' have anything to do with the second part of the sentence, which could read 'at Cheddar Minster, 9 hearths, and the common land above Milkway...' meaning that the 9 hearths / herds were actually at Cheddar itself.

Grundy suggested in his discussion of the 'Milkway' document that the boundary ran from a ford in Cheddar Gorge, up Cheddar Gorge to Black Rock (or thereabouts), then to the site known as Meer Oaks Cross at the top of Longbottom on the boundary of Cheddar and Shipham parishes, then back to Battscombe ('Eadbrichts Combe') and ending somewhere above the Gorge.

This interpretation is very heavily based on his identification of 'Ceoddor Cumbes' as Cheddar Gorge, and 'Gemaer Ac' as 'Meer Oaks Cross'. The picture is complicated,

however, by the existence of a lane called 'Cheddarcombe Lane' in Shipham, which if projected runs into Rowberrow Bottom and up to the present day Tynings Farm; the very banality of a *'gemaer ac'* which could occur almost anywhere, gives the lack of any really convincing boundary for such a land unit. And Grundy thought that Black Rock was a natural outcrop, which we now know it wasn't, but the result of 20th century quarrying.

The implications of the 'herds' in an area with a route leading to it called Milkway, is too plain to miss; presumably, Milkway is in origin a drift or track for access of animals from the various adjoining manors to reach the grazing grounds on top of Mendip; others (occasionally called by the OE name *'outings'*) are still visible along the southern edge of Mendip at Batcombe, Cheddar; Stone Wood, Cheddar; and Shute Shelve, Axbridge.

In the first instance, the area is connected with the parish of Compton Bishop in the charter, along with a detached farm and wood, probably to be identified with Lower Farm and Long Wood, about 1 km from Milkway.

Other manors also had traditional grazing rights on top of Mendip in nearby areas, in a network that was obviously already old in the 11th century, and these traditional links later became fossilised into enclosures such as those at Piney Sleight, which were associated with the manor of Cheddar Hannam (and previously with the monastery of Kings Pyon in Herefordshire), or the Sleights connected with Cheddar Berkeley and Rowberrow (both first mentioned in 1135x1154: Longleat Record Office).

These may have originated in a *hafod / hendre* type of summer grazing, with its permanently occupied winter quarters at the foot of the hill (the *hendre*), and the temporary summer accommodation on the hills (the *hafod*), as is recorded into the post-medieval period in south Wales (Hooke 2019), or in view of the nearness of some of the manors to the grazing grounds, the cattle may have been driven onto the hill daily. The evidence is not clear for the 11th century; certainly some 12th century sources, such as the Charterhouse perambulation of 1181, mention traditional grazing areas without implying any permanent occupation there; it is not possible to say whether Milkway was occupied at this date. Cheddarford, the area around Lower Farm, almost certainly was, as the finds of pottery from the garden of the present house indicate.

The first known documentary evidence of habitation at Milkway comes in the 1270 Forest Eyre for Somerset (see, for example, Winters 1999), where one Galfridus de Melkeweeye is mentioned as a pledgeman (PRO E32/152). It was a very common occurrence for the upland *hafod* settlements of Wales to become permanently settled themselves, and to establish their own *hafoty* further up the mountains, and this would be quite an understandable development in the case of Milkway, as in common with other Mendip farms and deserted settlements, it seems to be first recorded in the 13th century, and itself to have acquired rights of common on Mendip, the scale of Mendip being that much smaller than (say) the mountains of central Wales, that the secondary *hafoty* were unnecessary.

Presumably the farm inhabited by Galfridus was at the site of the one now represented by the ruins of Milkway Barn; this is on the site of the farm known as 'Milkway House' in the

17th century (see below) and the alternatives (Lower Milkway Farm and the unnamed building among the earthworks at Battscombe) seem to be secondary or unrelated.

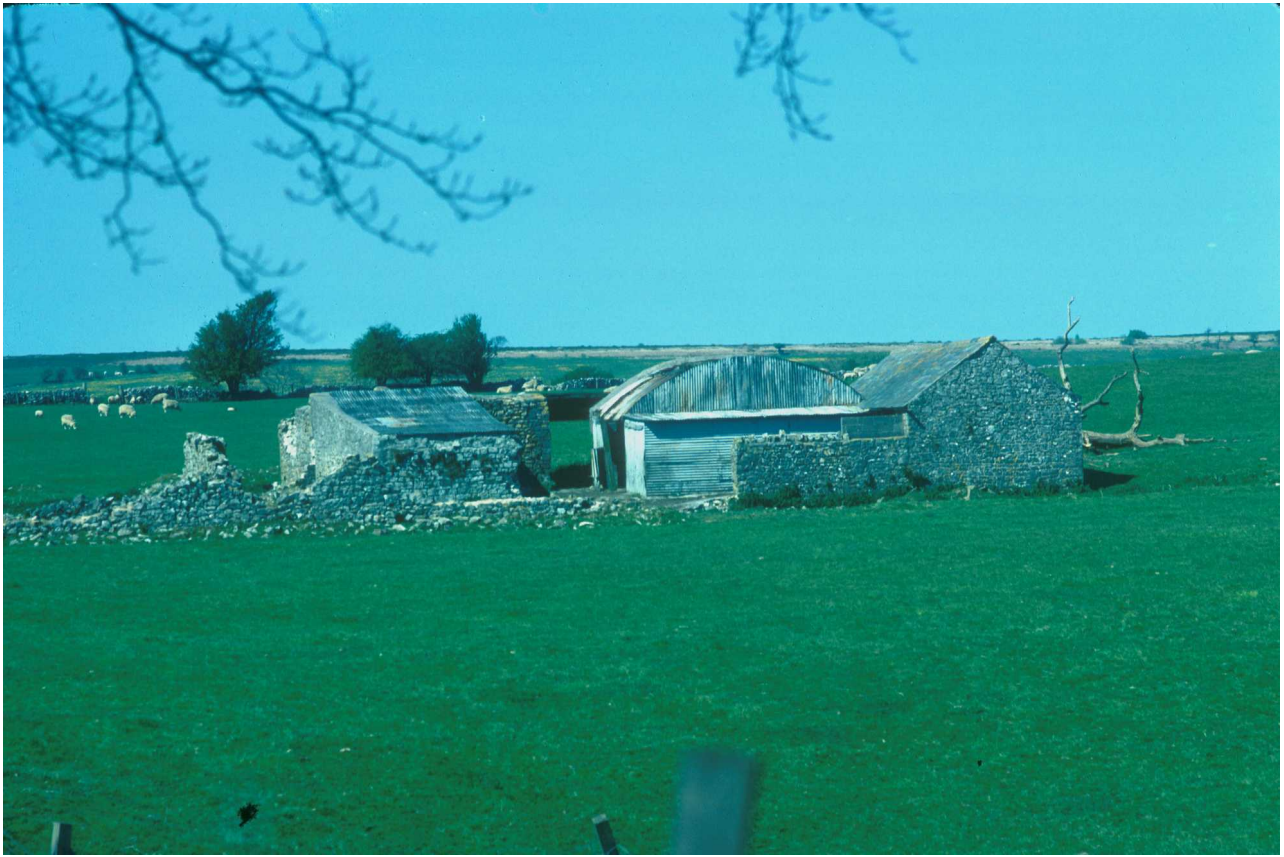


Fig 5: Milkway Barn (former site of Milkway House) (1982), and referenced in Grundy (1932)

The earliest reference after 1270, however, simply refers to '*...1 piece of pasture ground called Milkway and all the meadow therein, 250a..*' being leased to John Travell and Robert Searles by William Gore in 1660 (SHC DD/GB 46). This is actually larger than the area suggested as the original Milkway (see below) on the basis of field names etc, but coincides well with the 258 acres of the two farms, Milkwhey and Lower Milkwhey, as summed in the 1761 map and survey (SHC DD/STL1).

Some of the fields included there were definitely not part of Milkway (such as the field Long Bigbury), and so it is probable that the area had lost its original shape as early as 1660. It had certainly been at least partly walled around by that date, as the Cheddar perambulation of 1620 refers to 'Milkways Wall' and follows it along a stretch of the bounds as far as Piney Sleight. A reference in the survey of 1680 (SHC DD/BR/lch 1) to '*...Greate Milkway 95a with a house and barn upon it is worth 8/- per acre per Ann £38.0.0...*' corresponds exactly to the two fields on either side of Milkway Barn, and further references to these in 1694 and 1700 imply that they have still not been subdivided.

This all shows that the later Milkway was a much-reduced area compared to that in the 1068 charter (Fig 6), really to be expected after the land grant of Ceddreford /

Charterhouse in 1181 (YCCCART, forthcoming)

There is other, more circumstantial evidence for the existence of a unit of land here called Milkway. To the north, an area of land outside Milkway is called 'Tynings' in the first surviving records of Charterhouse (Fig 4) in the early 17th century (SHC DD/GB 87), a name implying late enclosure of an open area, thereby implying that its neighbouring Milkway was not. To the east, Piney Sleight was described in 1519 as an area that was clearly that of the Piney Sleight of the 1788 map of Cheddar, and that pretty clearly had the same boundary with Charterhouse as it has today (Russett 1984).

So what was the origin of this land unit? If I am correct in thinking that the origin of Milkway Farm was in a permanently settled former *hafod*, with occupation by the 1260s (see above), then an obvious time for the change would be in the late 12th and early 13th centuries, when the monks of Witham were maximising the potential of their farm land at Charterhouse / Ceddreford (*Cal Pat Rolls* 24 May 1261), and occasionally coming into conflict with the local populace over just such a venture as the enclosing of Milkway. For example in 1261, the Prior was accused of enclosing lands '...beyond the metes and bounds of (Charterhouse).. and enclosing some common pastures...', and the ensuing disputes became very vicious, with the men of Cheddar eventually accused of throwing down a wall and dike built by the Priors men, and of throwing the hayward there into the ditch and burying him alive (*Cal Pat Rolls* 18 May 1261).

Perhaps the area of Milkway was initially regarded as an infield for the established farm, although it is always subsequently referred to as pasture.

The Battle of Hastings (1066) is, as we all know (after all, it is 'the most famous date in history' – a rather Anglocentric view: I imagine Russian or Maori historians might think differently) William, Duke of Normandy, invaded England in 1066, and on 14th October of that year, defeated and killed the rightful king, Harold II Godwinson, in battle at somewhere called Senlac Hill, in Sussex.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of those events, the social, political and ecclesiastical earthquake that followed rippled out in less than two years to a little patch of land on high Mendip, where some traditional grazing rights were perhaps in question.

This was a more complicated business (as usual) than Victorian history makes out: it is known that from c1050, the childless King Edward ('the Confessor') was increasingly influenced by his Norman courtiers.

Nevertheless, a medieval monarch was capable of swift and decisive action when required, with no tiresome democracy to cause complications; this is reflected in a charter of William granting 30 hides *aet Banawelle* to Giso, Bishop of Wells, in 1068. The area covered by the main charter includes Compton (Bishop). Grundy, in 1932, speculated that these were the same areas of land formerly granted to Taunton Priory, a dependency of Winchester, in 904, and that William, for whatever reason, had taken these lands from Winchester, and given them to Wells. In this discussion, I will use Grundy's original charter date of 1068, but please bear in mind, the material may have originated in 904.

The charter elucidates the (traceable today) boundaries of a land unit containing the two manors.

Grundy then adds

'Appended to the survey is a note specifying certain other lands included in the grant and a brief statement of a boundary'

He does not make it clear whether he means this note is part of the main document, or a note physically attached to it (which of course, might have implications for the dating).

904 CE is, curiously, also the initial supposed date for the grant of Wrington to Duke Æthelrith, from whom it passed to Glastonbury Abbey (Neale 1969). The two bounds do not meet on the ground (if my interpretation is correct), but the Wrington charter does march with the Ceddreford/Charterhouse boundary of 1181 (YCCART forthcoming).

Is it possible that the founding of Wells diocese in 909CE (Corcos 2002) was under consideration in the earliest 10th century, and that an upsurge of prophylactic land claims and charter boundaries occurred as a result? In the absence of copious documentary evidence, it is easy to forget human reactions to political change and news, probably much the same in 10th or 21st century...

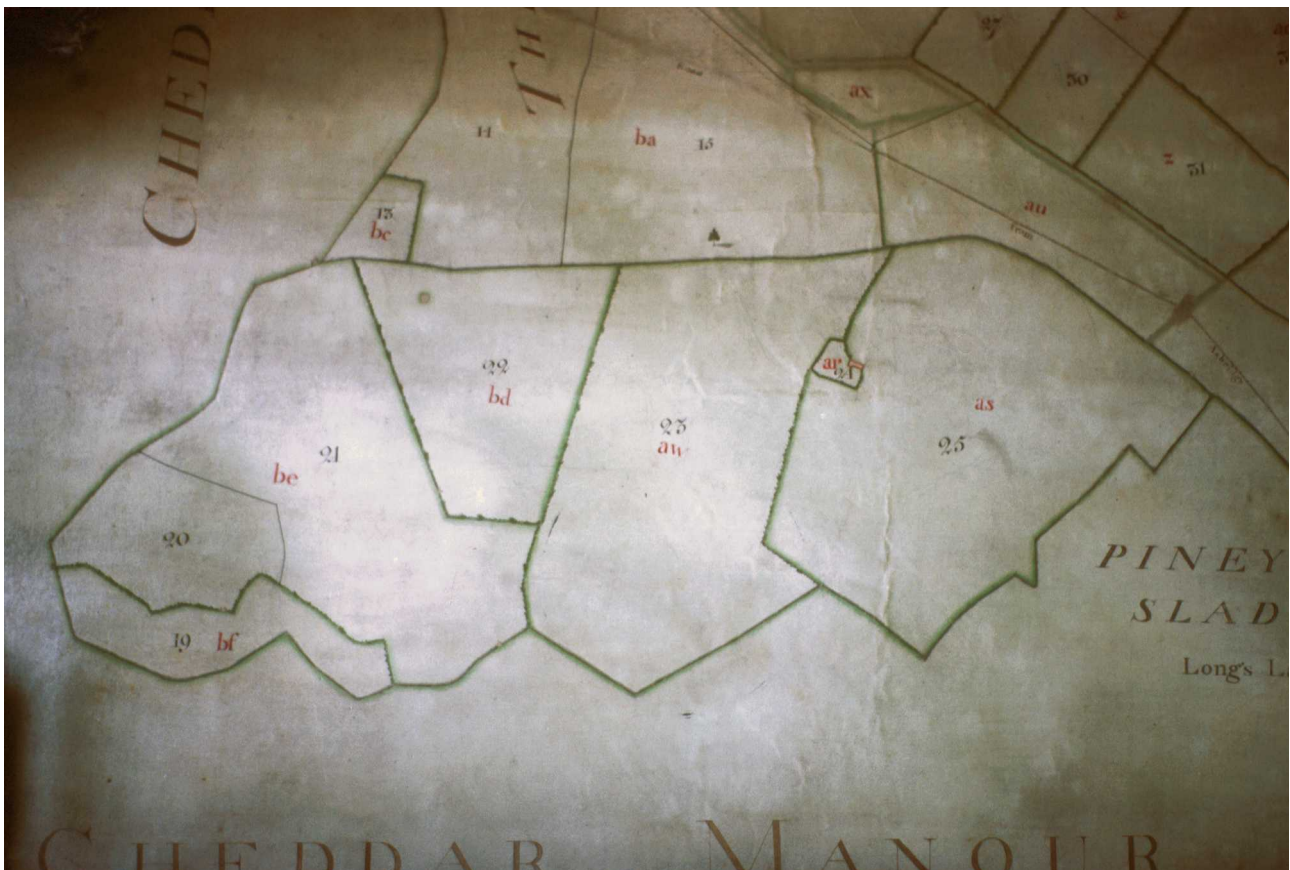


Fig 6: The 'diminished' Milkway as understood in the 18th century (map SHC DD/STL1 1761): note the continuous Milkway's Wall forming its northern edge

The charter

The full text of the part of the charter concerning Milkway runs:

'...and et Ceoddor Mynster VIII heordas [or possibly heordas] and th' gemena land uf bufen Melc Waege and eall seo wyrth on sundran and se wudu [and the bounds run] of tham Forde up andlang Ceoddor Cumbes on Hean Naess: Of tham Naese on that Gemaer Ac on Eadbrihtes Cumbe: Andlang aest th' hit cymth on thone Feld.' (Grundy 1932)

Grundy assigns the original to the 'Wells Cartulary' (*Liber Albus I*). He obviously did not know the area personally, since all his references are to OS map evidence. Had he done so, he would have found that the Milkway was a name still known locally as a Right of Way leading from the bottom of Cheddar Gorge to Milkway and eventually to the top of Mendip.

In Grundy's translation, this text is:

'...and at Cheddar Minster, 9 herds [or possibly, hearths] and the common land above Milkway and all the detached wyrth and the wood [and the bounds run] From the ford up along Cheddar Combe to the 'High Nose' From the Nose to the Boundary Oak to Eadbrihts Combe Along the combe east until it comes to the Feld'

The wording implies that the 9 herds/hearthths were in Cheddar village (?possibly the *heordas* may be a slightly garbled version of something equivalent to 'Old Auster' (Lane 2007), a complicated term that may be usefully defined as 'long established dwelling with attached common rights'.

The 'detached' *wyrth* and *wudu* probably best fit Longwood Grange / Lower Farm (producing Roman and early medieval finds) and Long Wood (ancient woodland by indicator species), and surely, by definition, outside of the main Milkway grant.

The extraordinarily long continuous boundary (green in Fig 12) is clearly a planned element in the landscape, of one phase. As can be seen from the contours, there is nothing topographically remarkable about this line (except at its extreme western end where it encounters (the former) Batt's Combe. It is typical of a line laid out in a landscape with no pre-existing physical barriers. It is my contention that this line is the edge of the 'lands above Milkway' of the 1068 charter, which at the time included both Milkway and Piney Sleight.

Note that when the modern boundaries are added back to the map (Fig 4) every one, with the sole exception of the Milk Way itself, respects and uses the line as a terminal – i.e. apart from the Milkway route (and the geology, obviously!) this is *the oldest thing* in this area of landscape.

Now to Grundy's text and the charter.

..tham Forde..

(that ford). This could, without context, be anywhere, even Lower Farm, but the following line of the charter, which follows by taking the boundary *up* Cheddar Gorge, puts it firmly at the Gorge's foot, presumably next to the Cheddar Rising at ST46595392 (close to the Tourist Centre today). While few reliable drawings of Cheddar Gorge before Inclosure and the formal adoption of the Gorge road exist, the below Fig 7 by S H Grimm in 1789, shows the Cheddar Yeo in its 'wild' state before development had begun.



Fig 7: Cheddar Gorge and the Yeo in 1789

Although the 'Prating Rock' (today 'Lion Rock') is a bit too prominent in this etching, Grimm (who drew many sites in the Somerset in the last two decades of the 18th century) was generally an accurate recorder: the river in spate in the foreground must have required a ford to cross its waters, which were recorded in 1791 by Collinson as driving 13 mills along its length through the village (Collinson 1791).

..up andlang Ceoddor Cumbes..

(up along Cheddar Combe). This can only be Cheddar Gorge, a spectacular natural feature much taken for granted locally, but forming a clear and obvious topographical feature for

the boundary to follow (the 'up' is critical to relating which way along Cheddar Gorge the line runs, so eliminating Lower Farm at Charterhouse (originally *Ceddreford* 1156 - Book of Fees) from the potential fords).

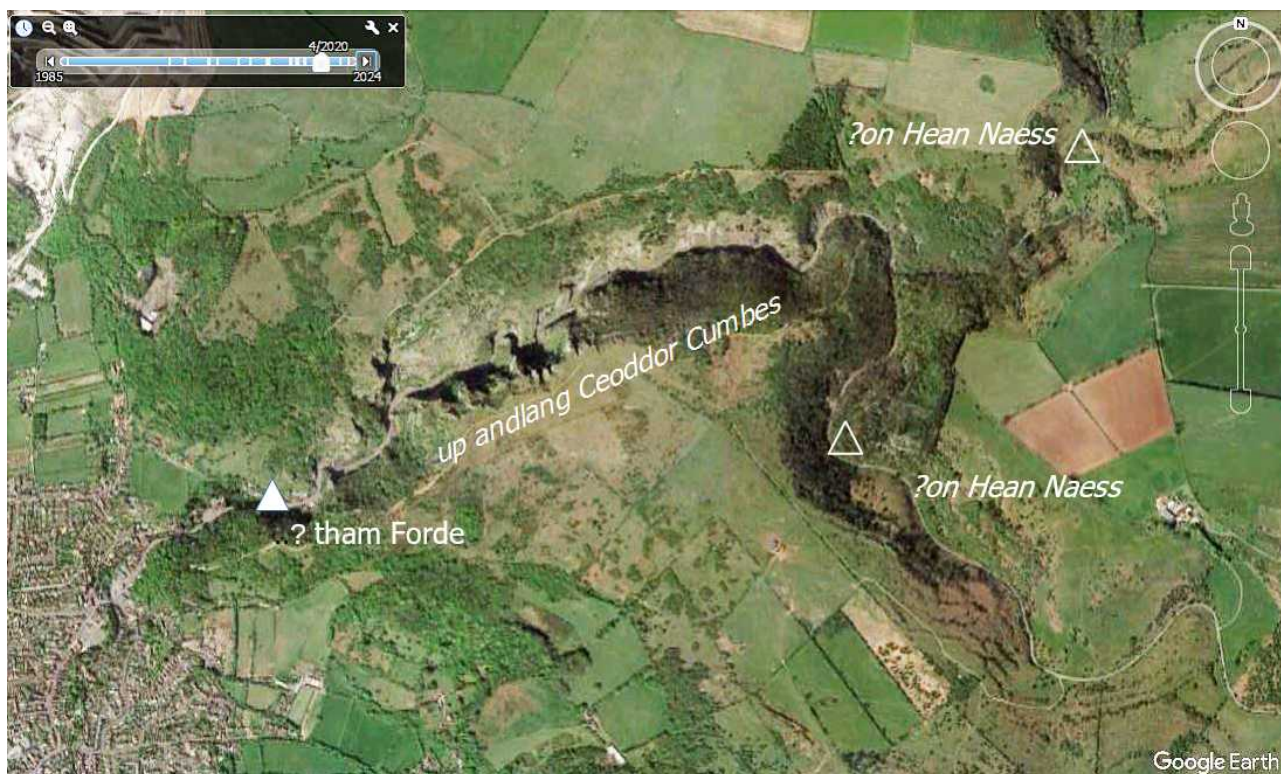


Fig 8: Boundary in the vicinity of Cheddar Gorge

..on Hean Naess..

(to the 'High Ness'). Bosworth and Toller (bosworthtoller.com) give this word the meaning 'promontory, headland'. While it is a fine distinction, most of the rock outcrops in the Gorge itself could hardly be thought of as a 'naess' even a 'Hean' (high) one.

The word seems to mean something more like local sites Brean Down or Worlebury, and names in other parts of the country (Holderness, Orford Ness, Shoeburyness, for example) tend to refer to promontories, rather than high rocky cliffs.

Almost the first feature that fits this in a perambulation up Cheddar Gorge is not on the modern road, but in the northern branch of the Gorge in Black Rock Drove, where the promontory that housed Shackle Wood in the 18th century fits the bill (SHC DD/STL 5 - 1775) (see Fig 9 below). There is a second potential 'hean naess' where the Gorge Road meets Black Rock Drove at ST48255455. Both are at definite changes in direction of the boundary (Cheddar Gorge to Black Rock Drove, or Black Rock Drove to the modern West Mendip Way, the old Cheddar / Charterhouse boundary by Long Wood. While the ground view is obscured by trees today, lidar illustrates both points well (Fig 10): the higher point looks far more like a 'ness' and I imagine this was the original marker.

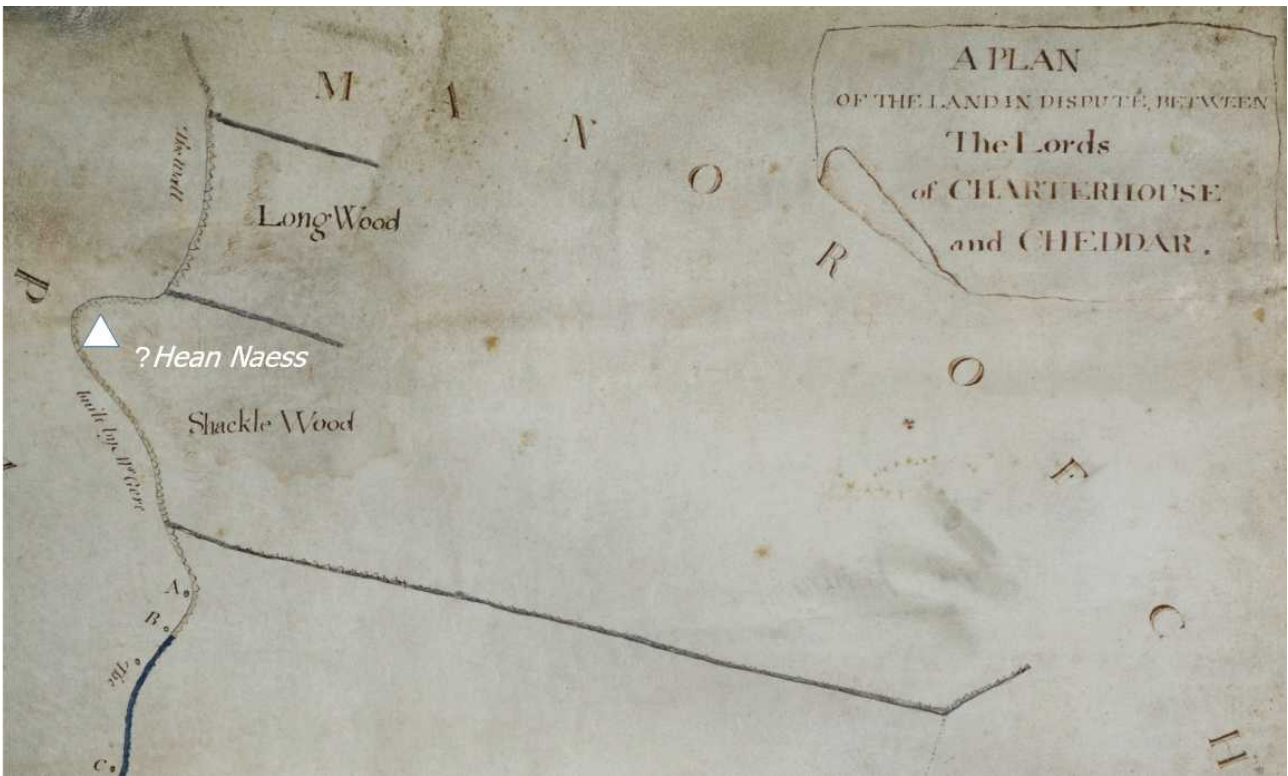


Fig 9: 'Lands in dispute' map 1775 (SHC DD/STL 5) showing probably position of the 'high ness'

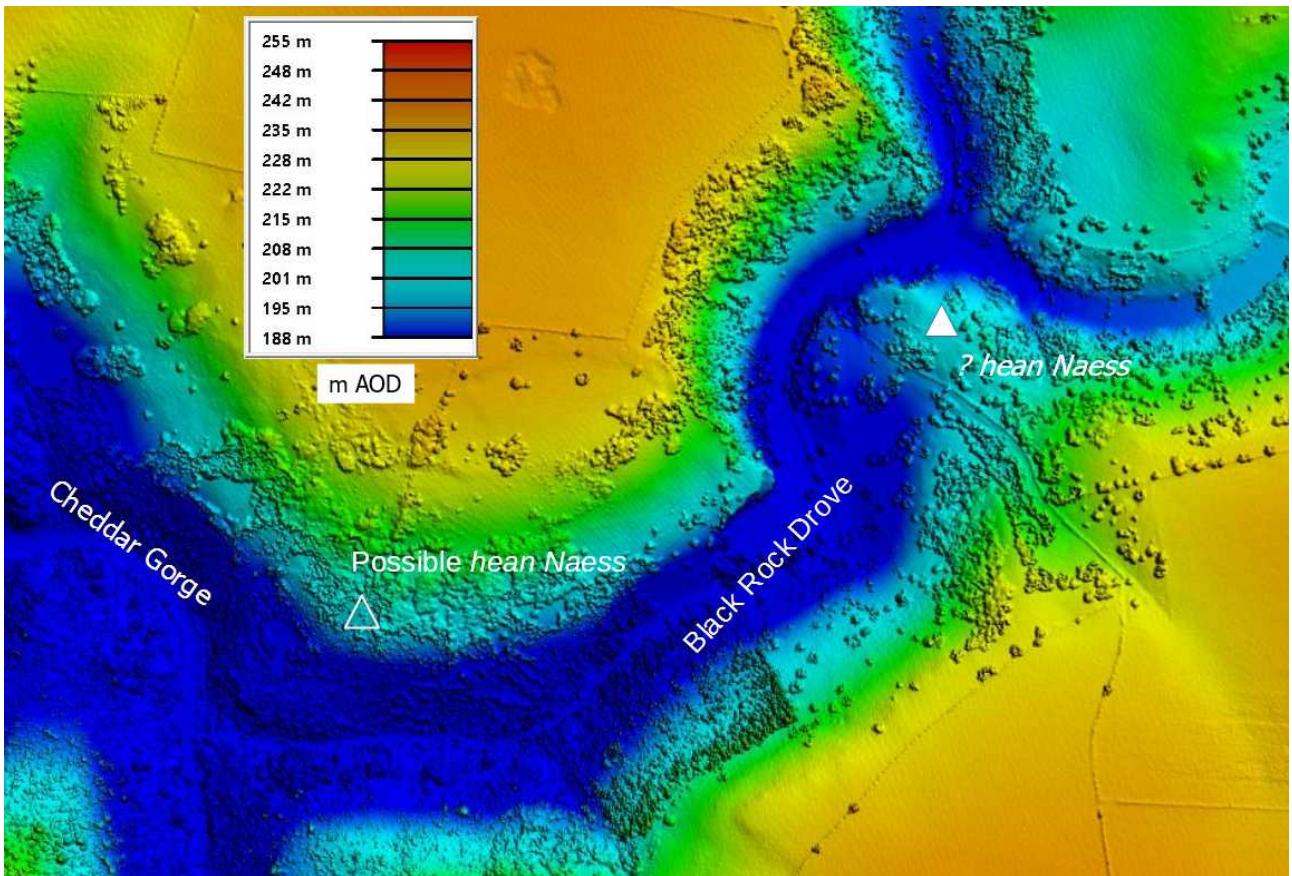


Fig 10: Potential 'hean nesse' from lidar (Cambridge University 2007)

..on that Gemaer Ac..

(then to the boundary oak). There is no clue as to where this was. The name could apply to any oak tree on any boundary. '*gemaer*' often descends into modern English as 'mere' (such as 'Mere Wall' (the 'boundary drainage bank') in Congresbury).

However, there are landscape considerations for this next section of the boundary. Assuming that the boundary now runs up the side of Long Wood (which is 'detached'), the obvious path to take is along the sweep of wall from Black Rock Drove, right across the high ground, and back to meet the lower boundary at Battscombe quarry.

The western part of this wall was in existence by 1620 at the latest (SHC DD/X/RBN/1) as it was referred to in the Cheddar perambulation of that year. The smooth sweep of the wall would be difficult to create in a landscape where previous enclosure had already happened. It is also noticeable that the line of the wall is respected as a terminal by every other boundary it contacts, both facts implying it (or a predecessor on its line - it has a broad foundation under the current wall) is thus the earliest feature in the landscape. A similar but smaller smooth sweep of boundary on the Charterhouse bounds of 1181 immediately south of the Charterhouse Centre, surviving as mortared wall footings, is a very similar feature.

It is also clear that about 1.4km of the total 2.8km of this wall served as parish boundaries, from at least as early as 1181 (YCCCART, forthcoming): the other half marked the side of Milkway away from the boundary in the postmedieval period and almost certainly before 1180 (Cedre Cartulary indication of Piney Sleight (Fig 3) pers comm Neale, F, 1988): the wall boundary marked the other side of the Milkway land unit before 1620 at the latest.



Fig 11: Milkway's Wall (and Brian Pitt) 1982

Logic would dictate the site as somewhere near the very slight kink in the boundary of the long wall at c ST 47305575, or even where the Milk Way crosses the continual wall at ST47725571, would be the spot for a *gemaer ac*. The very faintest of possibilities is that this was chosen as the spot later to mark the boundary between Milkway and Piney on the Ceddreford boundary because it was a previous boundary mark, but this is really clutching at straws.

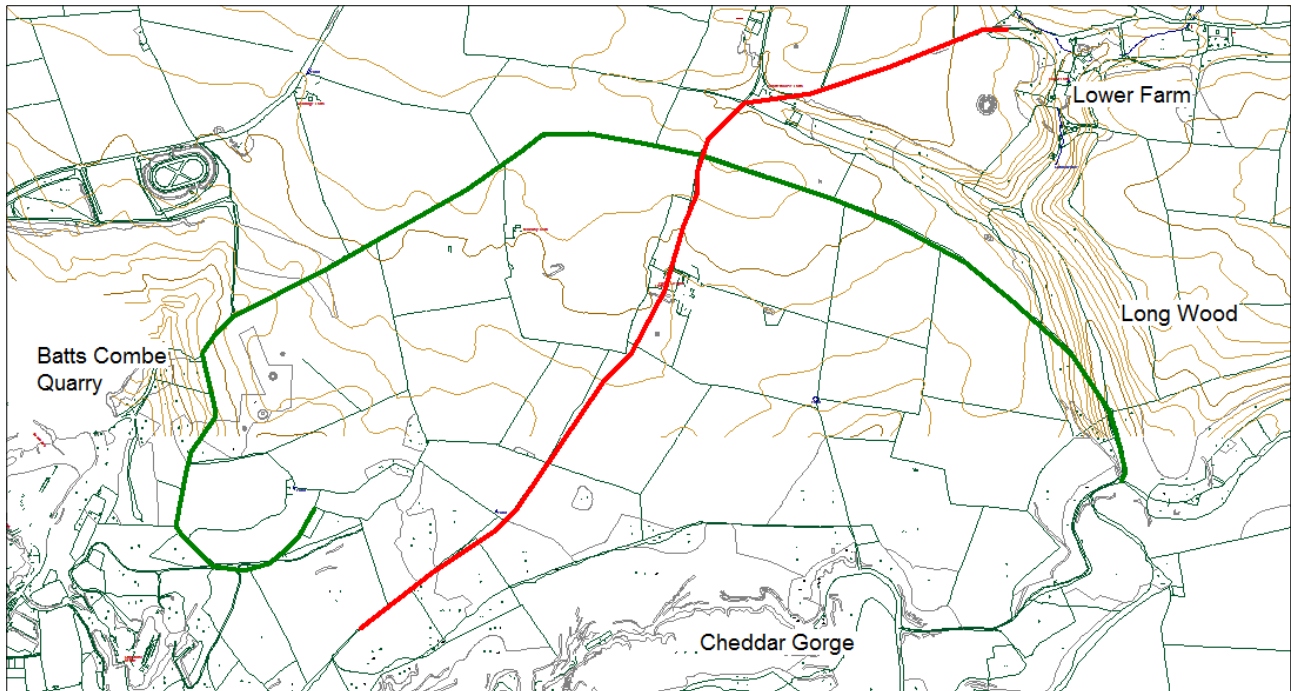


Fig 12: The Milkway (track) (red line) and proposed boundary line of 'Milkways Wall (1620)' (dark green line)

Even in the more equitable climate of the early medieval period, trees would grow very slowly on Mendip top, especially the slow-growing *Q. robur*, so any large oak tree would make a spectacular boundary. The landscape was clearly otherwise pretty bare, since such objects as a 'flat stone' or 'a bush' were significant enough to be landmarks in the 1181 charter of Charterhouse (YCCCART, forthcoming).

..on Eadbrihtes Cumbe..

The boundary needs to next reach a combe from which it might be possible to progress eastwards. To enclose an area of land, this needs to be to the south of the last point, and almost the only 'combe' available is (was) the line of Batt's Combe in Cheddar. This has been completely quarried away in the 20th century, but is recorded on OS plans (Fig 14): clearly the expansion of the quarry postdates 1885.



Fig 13: The (tattered) Cheddar Tithe Map (1839) with Batt's Combe before quarrying had begun

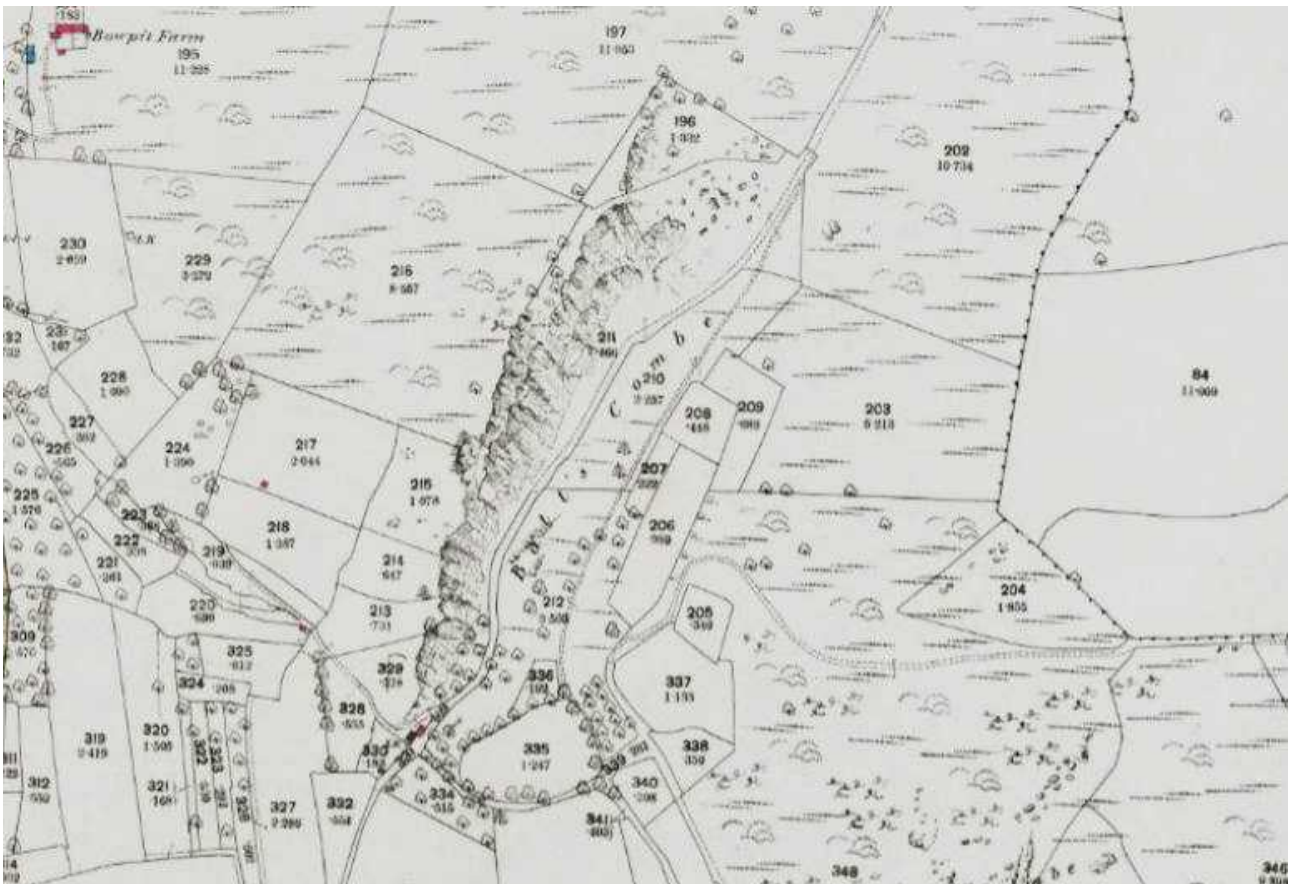


Fig 14: Batt's Combe from 1885 OS plan (Epoch 1)

Batt's Combe looks to have been a significant landscape feature, from its mapping in OS plans, but had been almost entirely eliminated by the time of the 1946 RAF air photographs.

The name applied, 'Eadbriht' is not a common one, and the addition of ME '-es' termination may imply that it is corrupt: 'Ead' or 'Eada' names seem more common (Ekwall 1960, for example), and this may imply that the word is not simplex: in the absence of further information, speculation is pointless.

The name Eadbriht (or any variation) does not seem to survive anywhere in the landscape, but topographically, this one fits, since

Andlang aest th' hit cymth on thone Feld.

(eastward from the combe until you come to the *Feld*). The boundary could now run SE from the brink of Batt's Combe to the '*Feld*'. This last is a complex name, which Bosworth and Toller transcribe as 'field, plain (as opposed to 'mountainous'), open country'.

Several examples of the name apply in this area in the 1181 charter of Charterhouse (YCCCART, forthcoming): a landscape naming would be something like 'flatter, plateau-type landscape in otherwise hilly terrain': this would make most of the area in the vicinity '*feld*'. The bounds must take a turn from Batt's Combe to the east, and meet the slightly lower sheltered land through which the Milkway runs.

Interestingly, a recent field-names book (Cavill 2018) makes quite a meal of the '*feld*' place-name:

'feld, OE, in the earliest instances, 'open country'; later 'land for pasture or cultivation'; then 'the common arable of a parish or township'; commonly now 'an enclosed plot of land bigger than a garden or yard' [obviously ModE 'field']

Clearly the third meaning (more suited to a Midland-type landscape) and the fourth are not applicable here: the choice between meanings 1 and 2 depends on what is meant by 'earliest': I suspect a hybrid 'open land used for pasture' is most likely to apply here.

The slightly lower and more sheltered lands between Batt's Combe and Cheddar Gorge might well prove more suitable for stock (especially over-wintering stock) which could imply pressure to keep this area within the bounds of the lands in the area '*uf bufen melc waeg*'.

The suggestion presented here is not a completely clear and obvious solution (otherwise it would have been worked out years ago), but it does fit with

- 1 What little topographical clues there are in the bounds
- 2 The existence of a primary boundary respected by all others, which runs from one topographically determined bound (Black Rock Drove) to a second (Batt's Combe)

3 The formation, in the 10th – 13th centuries on Mendip of formalised boundaries to formerly traditional grazing areas.

This 'solution' would look like this:

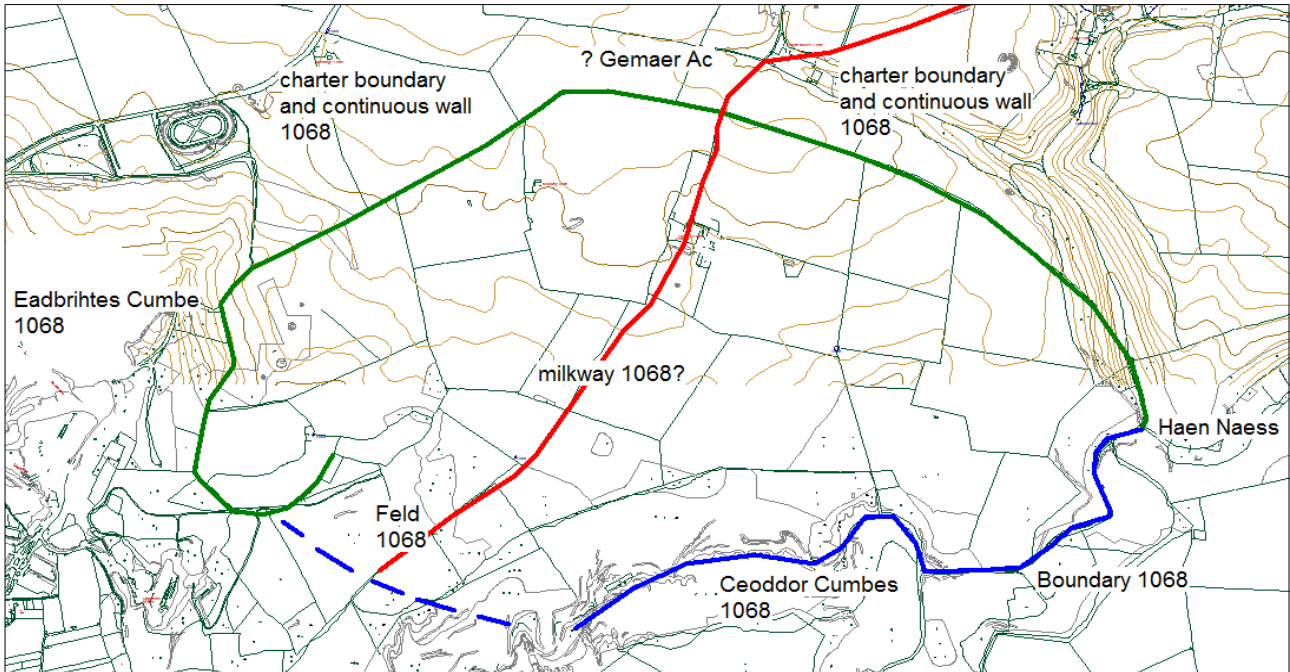


Fig 15: The 'Milkway' charter of 1068: ?solved

It is clear there is an area at the south of this grant where something is missing: Grundy suspected (and I am inclined to agree) that there is text missing at this end of the charter.

While this is not the place to enter into large-scale discussion of the fact, many manors around Mendip had traditional grazing areas around central Mendip, so the village of Draycott was associated with an area with fields later called 'Draycott Sleights' in Cheddar; Cheddar Hanham manor with Piney Sleight; Cheddar Fitzwaters manor with land off Cheddar Gorge called Staggs Dale, Cheddar Berkeley manor with Berekeley Sleight at the top of Cheddar Gorge, and here, almost certainly, Compton Bishop with Milkway. Such slightly longer connections are not unusual: Rowberrow had traditional grazing at Charterhouse Warren, and Bleadon at land near Priddy (probably Temple Down - Thompson, *pers comm*).

Such upland grazing was the basis of a great deal of West Country agriculture before Inclosure - Harold Fox's 'Dartmoor's alluring uplands' (Fox 2012) details arrangements of various manors' grazing rights on Dartmoor: a similar feature on Mendip awaits its author.

Mendip is rich with small enclosures and the records of such, largely related to sheep farming and grazing, functioning as pounds and lambing areas (see, for example, YCCART 2019).

Recommendations for further work

Emergence of any 'new' documentation for the area could well help to elucidate these problems, especially the problem of the missing 'Eadbriht' references, for example.

References

Cavill, P. 2018	<i>A New Dictionary of English field-names</i> Nottingham
Collinson, J. 1791	<i>A history of Somersetshire</i> III: 573 Bath
Comeau, R. & Seaman, A. 2019	<i>Living off the Land: Agriculture in Wales c400-1600AD</i> Windgather, Oxford
Corcos, N. 2002	<i>The affinities and antecedents of medieval settlement: topographical perspectives from three of the Somerset Hundreds</i> British Archaeological Reports, Oxford
Ekwall, E. 1960	<i>The concise Oxford dictionary of English placenames</i> (4th ed.) Oxford
Fox, H. 2012	<i>Dartmoors Alluring Uplands</i> Exeter
Grundy, G. B. 1932	'Compton Bishop' in The Saxon charters of Somerset <i>Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society</i> 78: 161-166 (supplement)
Hooke, D. 2019	<i>Resource management of seasonal pasture: some English/Welsh comparisons</i> in Comeau, R. and Seaman, A. 2019
Lane, B. 2007	<i>Old Auster</i> Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society
Neale, F. 1969	<i>Wrington Village Records: Studies in the history of a Somerset village</i> University of Bristol
Russett, V. 1984	Piney Sleight: some facts and some speculations <i>Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society News-sheet</i> 81
Winters, J. F. 2019	<i>The Forest Eyre, 1154-1368</i> Ph. D thesis, Kings College, London
YCCCART 2019	A cliff-base enclosure at Cheddar Head Available at ycccart.co.uk
YCCCART, forthcoming	An enigma in retreat: the Charterhouse boundary charter of 1181-2 Available at ycccart.co.uk (2025)

Authors

Vince Russett

Date

2024-12-10