

YCCART 2023/Y14

**Survey of the Yatton Jury of Sewers in the Parishes of Kingston Seymour, Kenn,
Yatton, Brockley, Chelvey and Backwell taken in 1848**

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



Kenn River by Nailsea Wall in summer, then 'viewed' by Yatton Jury for the Commissioners of Sewers

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Abstract

The Commissions of Sewers were coming to the end of their centuries-long useful lives by the time this document was made: early 20th century photographs record their last days before the arrival of Internal Drainage Boards in the 1930s.

In this year 1848 of European-wide revolution, the local Commissioners carried out a fundamental survey of the duties and responsibilities in their portion of the Northmarsh of the Yatton Jury, work which is now the responsibility of the Internal Drainage Boards, Environment Agency and to a certain extent, the Local Authorities. Without this work, farming and life in the Northmarsh would be far wetter and far less possible than it is.

The text is a key into which rhynes were important for the maintenance of agricultural land in good heart and able to feed the population. To a modern non-local mind, they are a strange selection, but of course, the choice of which rhyne and how to manage it was by this time based on hundreds of years of field-based experience, even though the Commissions were regarded as something of a joke by the later 19th century (although these opinions were often those of a semi-urban elite, whose practical experience of the field could perhaps be questioned).

Acknowledgements

A huge vote of thanks is due to the staff of the Somerset Heritage Centre, who maintain and make available the documents that make these studies possible: I would also like to thank the memory of Ian Kelting whose life long interest in drainage history in Somerset made the curation of many of these documents possible. Thanks too, to John Harris for arranging the IDB-awareness trip at Kingston on 2023-10-28, which was a clear eye-opener to everyone, and to Jane Bell and Jane Lilly for encouragement and discussion. Marion Barraclough (1991) made the first identifications of the major rhynes covered in this work.

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.

Like other ancient institutions, the Court of Sewers is said (by those who feel no inconvenience from it) to work well, and always ends with a good dinner - T D Acland 1851

Site location

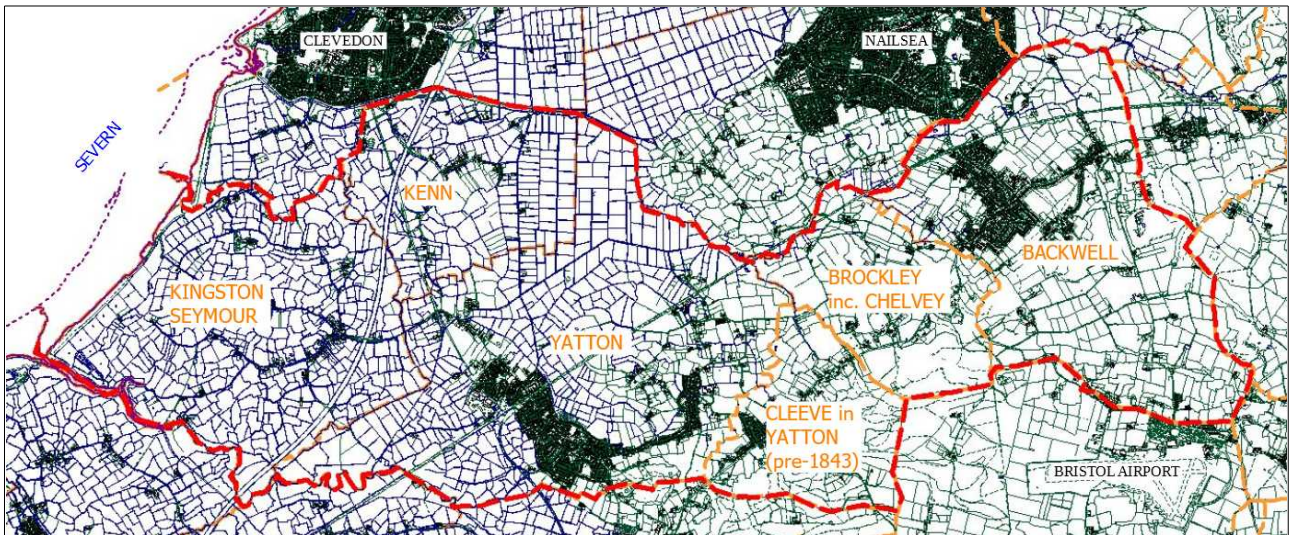


Fig 1: Area covered by the Yatton Jury of Sewers (modern parishes: there were minor changes after 1848)

The Yatton Jury of Sewers area covered the parishes of Kingston Seymour, Kenn, Yatton (including Cleeve), Brockley (including Chelvey) and Backwell, although the land above 8m AOD in the last three largely did not feature in the Jury's deliberations. The boundaries of its remit (in red dashed line in Fig 1 above) lay largely between the Kenn River in the north, the Congresbury Yeo in the south, the Severn coast to the west and the higher ground of Broadfield Down to the east.

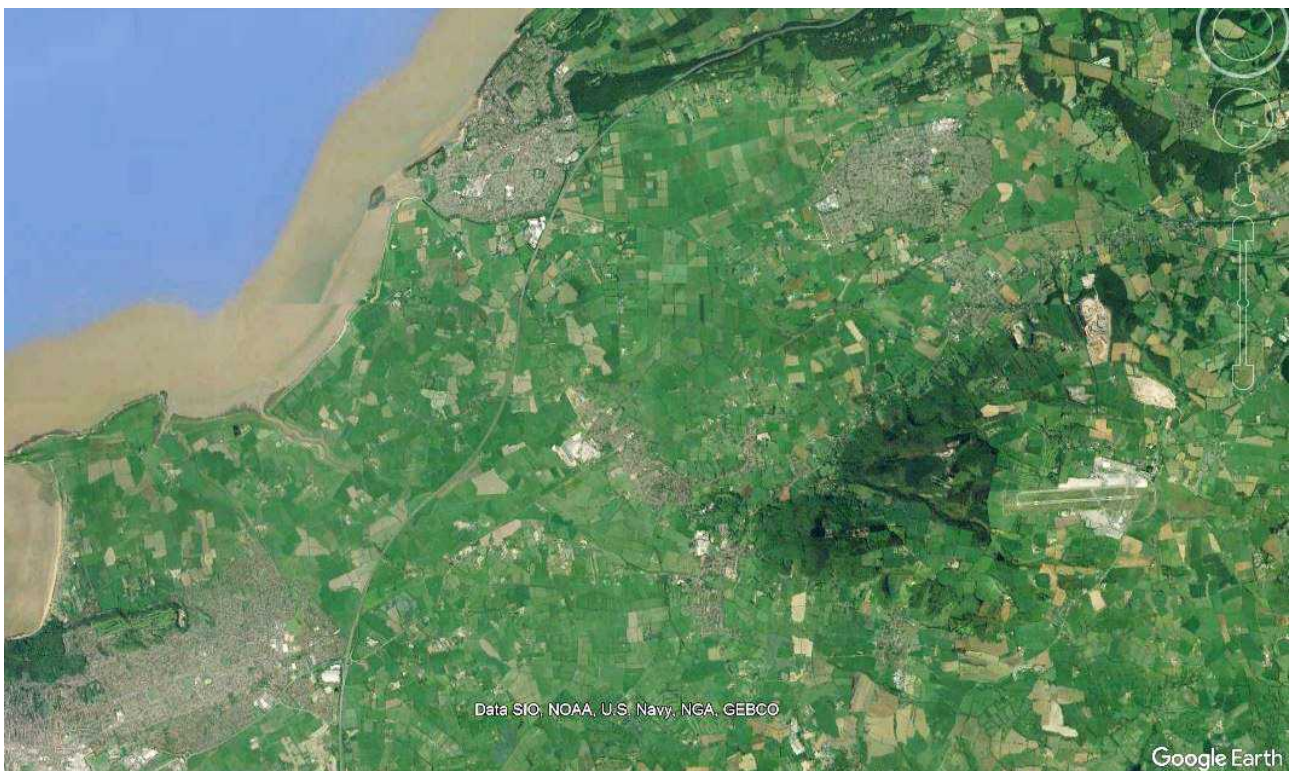


Fig 2: Northern part of the Northmarsh, between the wooded uplands and the Severn

Land use and geology

The whole of the Northmarsh (in which the Yatton Jury area almost completely lies) is by definition the area under the 8m contour.

It is largely composed of Tidal Flood Deposits (clays, peats and silts intermixed and laid down in geologically recent times by the interaction of the sea and runoff from the land).

The landscape covered by these TFDs has an unpredictable three-dimensional structure: the current very level surface is largely an artefact of the post-Roman alluviation, or of the pre-existing Holocene peats inland, and should not be taken without geotechnical evaluation to indicate anything about the topography of pre-existing landscapes.

Land use outside of the urbanised areas of Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon and Nailsea is mainly pastoral, with a substantial local component of orchards.

Historical & archaeological context

The necessity for drainage in lowlands

Despite many peoples beliefs, rivers, especially those in low-lying wetlands, do not 'take care of themselves'. With very low falls and higher sinuosity indices (SI), sometimes large amounts of suspended solids can be laid down wherever the velocity of the water slows, and accumulated riverside vegetation, *throwing* (digging out the accumulated sludge in the bottom of the waterway and slips and animal tramples from its sides) and *keeching* (removal of vegetation in river or bankside) are usually necessary. Indeed, where groundwater is a little warmer (such as Hurstpool Rhyne in Congresbury) so undergrowth grows more quickly, keeching may be necessary twice or even three times a year to keep the flow in the waterway (Richard Ivens, *pers comm.*).

Throwing is also more obviously necessary where an artificial river (a 'cut' in West Country dialect) runs through peat soils, such as the Brue in the Brue Valley or the Kenn River south of Clevedon.

Commissioners of Sewers: National

Drainage for agricultural reasons was nothing new, even in the medieval period. There is pretty conclusive evidence, for example, that much of the Northmarsh was drained and colonised in the later Roman period, although this phase does not seem to have lasted much beyond the mid-4th century (Rippon 2006), and subsequent post-Roman alluviation, climatic downturn, and extreme societal change resulted in Rippon's 'clean slate' in the Northmarsh, although as YCCART studies progress, this assessment seems a little oversimplified.

The improving climate and ground conditions of the 9th - 13th centuries CE resulted in huge areas of new land being taken in for cultivation, something which probably led in the central region of England to settlement nucleation and the beginnings of open-field arable, which technically can be understood as a reaction to this climate change (among other things!).

In low-lying areas such as the Somerset and Gwent Levels, and the Northmarsh, agriculture (especially arable agriculture) was always on something of a knife-edge due to environmental conditions, and thus active attention to drainage was always imperative.

Once drainage engineering became a large enough problem to not be solved between individuals, some resolution was found in Commissions of *oyer and terminer*, but by the 13th century, it became necessary to provide further solution in the form of a proceeding originally known as '*commissions de wallis et fossatis*' (Law Latin: 'commissions of walls and ditches'). These had powers to compel labourers to work on flood defences and extract funding for repairs from landowners.

The whole business was put on a statutory basis in 1427 by an Act of Parliament and was strengthened by later acts such as the 1531 Statute of Sewers and the Commissions of

Sewers Act 1708. The Commissions were abolished by the 1930 Land Drainage Act, with their modern replacement being Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency, generally with input from Local Planning Authorities.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commissions_of_sewers#:~:text=Commissions%20of%20sewers%20%20originally%20known,land%20drainage%20and%20flood%20defence.Commissions of sewers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commissions_of_sewers#:~:text=Commissions%20of%20sewers%20%20originally%20known,land%20drainage%20and%20flood%20defence.Commissions%20of%20sewers))

The skills and technologies for providing drainage engineering developed alongside those of the schemes for conveying the potential and kinetic energy of rivers and streams to mills to provide power for waterwheels, to drive the machinery, presumably developed in parallel: the ability to grade a leat over (sometimes) kilometres to provide a head of water at a mill, is more or less the same as that needed to provide drainage over essentially flat territory, where very local conditions would need to be taken into account. We should not underestimate the skills and abilities of pre-industrial societies to carry out such works.

In emergency, central government can now override authorities that cannot cope with a situation, such as happened in central Somerset in 2014.

Few records of the Commissioners in Somerset survive, and even fewer for northern Somerset. The Commissioners drew up maps in some areas (such as the Gwent Levels) but these are not available in North Somerset (although drainage plans for certain areas like the Axe and Congresbury Yeo do survive from the early 19th century).

The document the subject of this paper seems to have been an attempt to gather earlier records together to accompany this survey of 1848 (SHC D\RA/1/2/124): the earlier materials have also been transcribed and will be published elsewhere.

Local

The Commissioners' areas were divided up into local Divisions: in northern Somerset, in the Somerset Levels and the Northmarsh these were based at Wrington, Axbridge, Wells and Glaston(bury), Bridgwater and Langport. Each division was represented by a number of juries: there were eleven of these in the Wrington Division, and the one attended to here was the Yatton Jury, something alluded to in the texts in the book.

Yatton Jury

These juries, like so many elements of 'local government' in the post-medieval period, tended to be mainly populated by Justices of the Peace, large landowners and other locally concerned persons. In later years the Commissions of Sewers sat in a court, similar to that of the Quarter Sessions. The commissions were similar to Justices of the Peace, and were sometimes referred to as 'Justices of Sewers'.

According to the National Archives, where many post-1600 proceedings were deposited (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C3757>), most of the documents in this series are from the period 1600-1650, when the Fens of eastern England were being drained. Accordingly the counties appearing most often are Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire

and the Isle of Ely, and Norfolk, with Yorkshire, Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire and Suffolk; Essex, Middlesex, Kent and Hertford also occur, but in the west only Cumberland and Gloucester appear. The survival of a few documents relating to the Yatton jury are thus precious indeed.

Notes on the transcription

The 1848 Yatton Jury of Sewers Survey is hand-written in a hard-backed book, almost certainly provided for the purpose. The spine is stamped in gold-leaf with the title 'SURVEY / OF THE / YATTON / JURY OF / SEWERS', along with a modern label bearing in stencilled letters 'D/RA / 1/2/124' (its Somerset Heritage Centre index number)

This document is now bound up with others, although the 1848 survey and documents attached to it are the only ones physically written longhand into the actual book. Although the hand is a pseudo-copperplate and very easy to read, sometimes muddled compass directions are given.

The document constantly refers to 'parish surveys', which do not seem to relate to Tithe or other historic maps. Some references tally with OS parcel numbers from Epochs 1 and 2 (c1885 and c1900) but many do not. It is assumed that the surveys referred to were ones carried out for the Jury, similar to those known in Gwent, but those for the Wrington area do not now seem to survive. Nevertheless, for the vast majority of the document, the instructions can be followed in the modern landscape.

The spelling is mostly modern, although seeing the words 'peice' and 'peir' repeated does cause something of a twitch in the delete fingers...and the random use of upper case initial letters had not quite died out. The text is reproduced as seen, with no modern corrections or expansions.

The naming and planning of different rhynes is subtly different to that of today, so it should be clearly understood that references in this document are to the 1848 survey, not the modern version, which is available from the Internal Drainage Board web site (or 21st century OS mapping data).

In the area, the Parliamentary Inclosure of Kenn Moor was relatively recent, (YCCCART 2021a; YCCCART 2021b; YCCCART 2021c) but the ancient landscapes of the other parishes in the Jury area had not been subject to this activity within the hundred years before.

The accompanying surveys of merestones on the shoreline, Little River and Kenn River, merit more detailed examination elsewhere.

In the front of the book, a number of earlier, conserved documents relating to the Commissioners and to Rights of Common, dating from late 17th century to 19th, have been inserted, and these will also be the subject of further work, and of publication elsewhere.

The indexed text is divided by parish, and then by rhyne: each rhyne has a text description of its route, along with a reference (on a page headed 'Remarks') to the traditional date on which the particular rhyne was 'viewed', examining for defects, places requiring removal of bush growth, water vegetation and for landslips/cattle trampling which would cause problems.

Both the Kenn River (or Great River) and the Little (or Yatton) River were the responsibility of the Commissioners: watercourses below the rank of rhyne (i.e. brooks, ditches and gripes) were the responsibility of the landowners, who were subject to manorial control through manorial courts if they proved inadequate or caused a public nuisance: numerous references forbidding subtle land grabs occur in 18th century Court Leet proceedings at Kingston Seymour, for example (*'We present any that Shall Shear his ditch harder agenst the lane then agen his owne g[round]'* 1712 - SHC DD/PINC/11/9/8).

Rhynes are usually named in the text, along with a separate paragraph stating what exactly the Commissioners' duties were, along with which bank (or as in some cases, whether the whole rhyne was covered). Some are simply referred to, without being named, especially in Chelvey and Backwell, away from the main areas of concern. These are depicted but un-named in the figures.

Numbers in square brackets e.g. [DSC0999] are indexed photographs of the original documents in the VR archive; the beginning of individual pages in the document are also marked in the text, but pagination has not otherwise been respected.

A final note: the word 'sewers' has a rather unsavoury air to modern appreciation: before the 19th century, however, the word was not confined to foul water conveyance, but to all rivers, rhyne and other channels and their waters, so the Jury's mandate was much wider than to look after what would today be regarded as 'sewers', and manage all aspects of drainage over individual field sizes.

Text of the 1848 survey

[SHC D\RA/1/2/124]

Survey of the
Yatton Jury of Sewers
in the Parishes of
Kingston Seymour, Kenn
Yatton, Brockley, Chelvey
and
Backwell
taken in
1848

John Donaldson, Clerk of the Jury

Survey of the Yatton Jury of Sewers

Views in the Parish of Kingston Seymour

From Lampley Bow to Gillings Ear

Viewed May 1st June 24th and September 29 Yearly

[PENCIL] Mill Lane Rhyne

This Rhyne commences at Lampley Bow and proceeds onwards on the South side of the road to the Parish Church, thence crossing the road to the North side, running onwards to Cottles Batch (see Ground No. 356 ^{361 O.D.} on the Parish Survey) crossing the road there to the South west side and running round an enclosure of Ground (No 580 ^{558 OD} Parish Survey to the Outlett called Gillings ^{Tutshill} Ear.

NB The whole of the Commission work in this is Frontage to each peice of Land thro which it runs.

From Cranmoor Lane and its Branches

Viewed May 7th June 24th Sep' 29th Yearly

This Rhyne commences at Cranmoor Lane and proceeds onwards in a Southwestward direction to a peice of Ground (N^o. 1788 as per Survey of the Parish of Yatton of Yatton) adjoining Phipps Bridge.

A Branch of this Rhyne commences at Beakes Green (N^o. 350 as per Parish Survey) to the West corner of that Ground, from thence running onward on the South side of the same Ground, Proceeding onwards in the same direction, and ending in a piece of Ground (N^o. 541 as per Parish Survey) known as the New Cut.

A Branch commencing at the West corner of Beakes Green, as before stated, taking its course in a Westerly direction, and emptying itself into that part of the Rhyne leading to Gillings Ear, being in a peice of Ground No 581 Parish Survey.

The Commission work in this Rhyne & its branches being entirely frontage

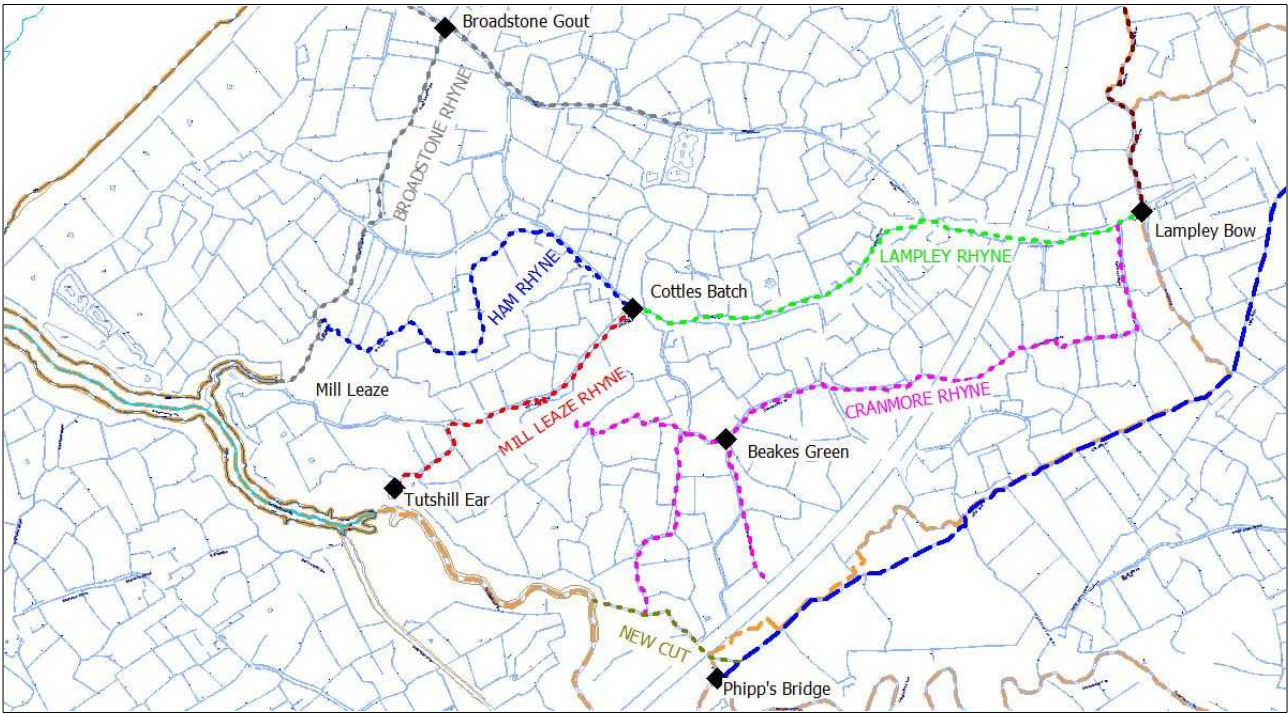


Fig 3: Viewed rhyne in south Kingston Seymour

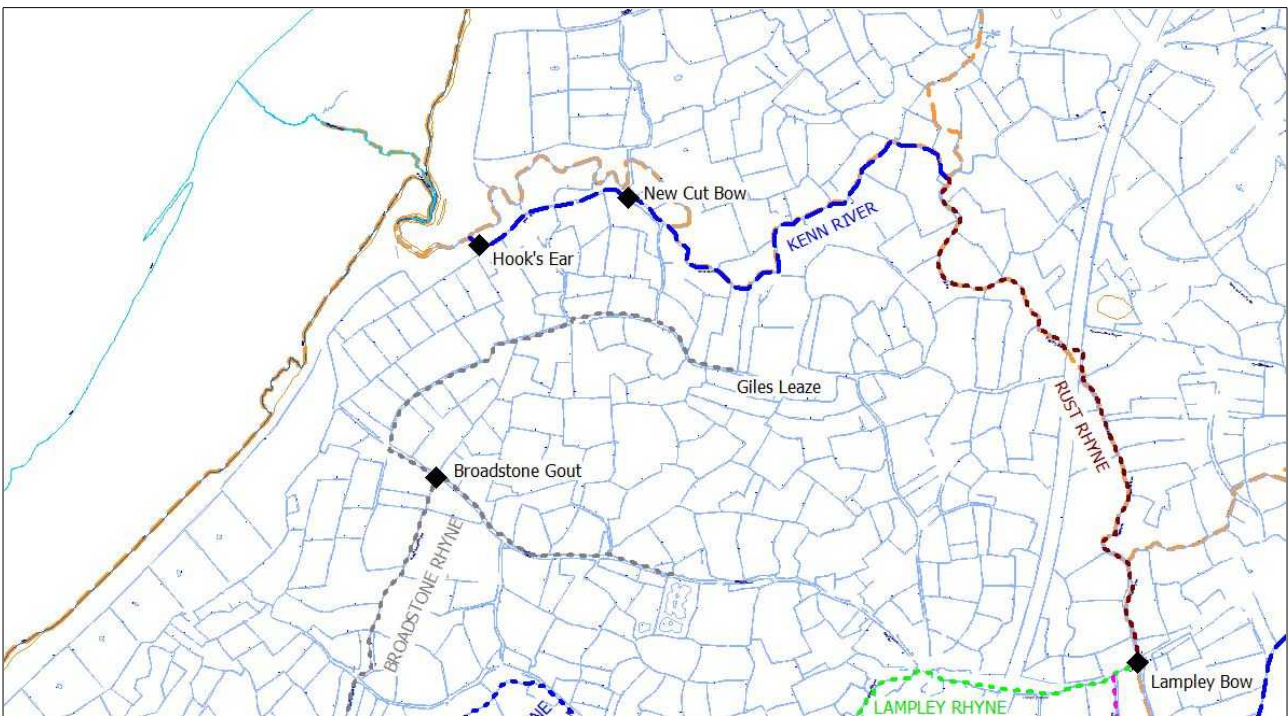


Fig 4: Viewed rhyne in north Kingston Seymour

Views in the Parish of Kingston Seymour (contd)

Viewed May 1st June 24th September 29th Yearly

Ham and other rhyes

Ham Rhyne commences at Cottles in a peice of Ground known as Cottles Batch (N^o 336 as Parish Survey) running in a Westwardly direction, from thence to the Outlett known as Tuthills Ear

A Rhyne commencing in a peice of Ground Known as Giles Leaze (No 90 ^{320D} as per Parish Survey) running in a Westwardly direction to Broadstone Gout

A Rhyne commencing at an Orchard (No 208 ^{111 OD} as per Parish Survey) in a Lane known as Edward Jones's Lane, proceeding in a Westwardly direction to BroadStone Gout and from thence in a Southerly direction to Mill Leaze Hatch

The Commission work in the above Rhyes being entirely frontage

This Wall is especially view^d by a Committee of the Jury on the first Monday succeeding 29 Sep^r Yearly and June 1 and Sept^r 1 Yearly

The Sea Wall from Hooks Ear to Phipps Bridge for particulars of which together with the Mere Stone Work see folio 24



Fig 5: Mill Leaze Rhyne, Kingston Seymour, looking SW, spring 2023

Views in the Parish of Kingston Seymour (contd)

The Kenn or Great River from Stone Bow in the Parish of Kenn to Hooks Ear in the Parish of Kingston Seymour

This view commences at Stone Bow in the Parish of Kenn and proceeds Westward to a peice of Ground (N^o 109 as per Kenn Parish Survey) contiguous to a peice of Ground (N^o 99 as per Kingston Seymour Parish Survey) passing behind a Farm House (N^o 85 as per Kingston Seymour Parish Survey) from thence taking a Northwest course passing under New Cut Bow onwards to Hooks Ear

The Commission Work in this View being entirely frontage from Stone Bow to the Mere Stones

For particulars of the Stone Work in this View See folio 29

Views in the Parish of Kenn

Mawkins's, Sandover, Tinneford Gout and Rust Rhynes and Branches

Viewed May 1st, June 24th, Sept 29th Yearly [page 4]

A Rhyne commencing on a peice of Ground (N^o 218 as per Parish Survey) proceeding from thence South to the corner of a peice of Ground (No 225 as per parish survey) and there emptying itself into Mawkins's Gout or Stank.

The Commission work in this Branch Rhyne being entirely frontage

Viewed May 1st June 24th Sep^r 29th Yearly

Mawkins's Rhyne commencing at the above Junction taking a Southwest direction for 82 yards and there meeting Sandover Rhyne continued onwards in the same direction to a Bow in a peice of Ground (N^o 176 as per Parish Survey).

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being entirely Frontage.

Viewed May 1st June 24 & Sep^r 29th Yearly

Sandover Rhyne branches off from Mawkins's Rhyne in the South corner of a peice of Ground (N^o 177 as per Parish Survey) call known as the Great Eighteen acres taking a Northerly direction onwards passing under a Bridge leading to Yatton Parish proceeding in the same direction to a Ground (No 146, 147 & 94 as per Parish Survey) and there joins the Kenn or Great River in Ground No 146.

[Marginal: 71.2 or 1564] The Commission Work in this Rhyne being entirely frontage.

Views in the Parish of Kenn (contd)

Viewed May 1st June 24th & Sep^r 29 Yearly

Tinneford Gout Rhyne a continuation of Mawkins Rhyne taking on f in Ground N° 176 as per Parish Survey, continuing in a West North West direction to a Bow or Bridge at the North West corner of Ground (N° 130 as per Parish Survey) pursuing a South West course, seperating Grounds (N° 129 & 130 as per Parish Survey) to the Southwest corner of Ground N° 130 as before stated, from thence in a South South West course of the said Ground to the opposite corner, and there joining a Rhyne leading to Lampley Bow in the Parish of Yatton.

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being whole Bounds.

Viewed May 1 June 24 & Sept 29th Yearly

Rust Rhyne branches off in the North corner of Ground N° 130 as per Parish Survey taking a North North West ^{direction} emptying itself into the Kenn or Great River in a Strip of Ground N° 114 as per Parish Survey.

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being whole Bounds, on the Kenn Side.

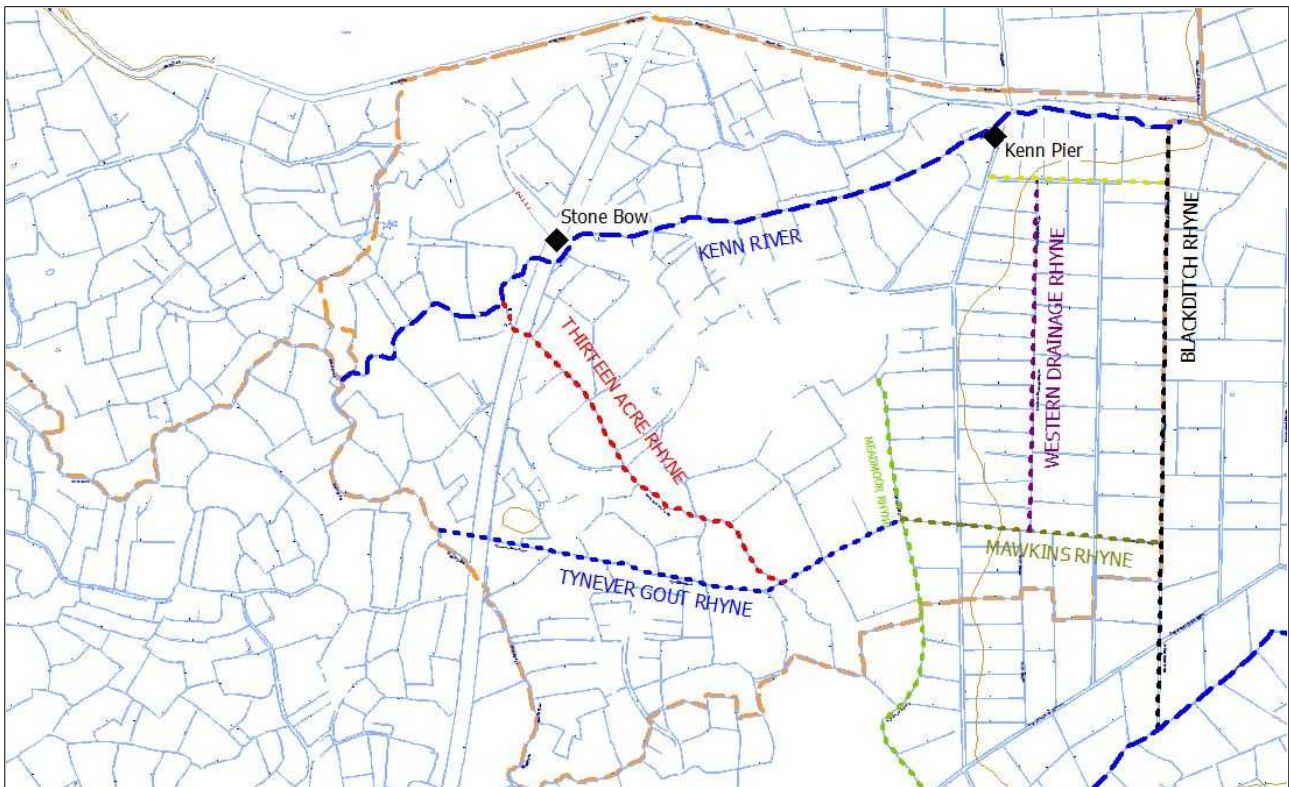


Fig 6: Viewed rhyes in Kenn

Views in the Parish of Kenn (contd)

Black Ditch, Meadmoor & other Branch Rhyes.

View^d May 1st June 24th & Sept 29 Yearly

A Rhyne commencing and dividing 2 peices of Grounds (N^o 226 & 227 as per Parish Survey) taking a West course to the corner of a peice of Ground N^o 225 (as per Parish Survey) from thence proceeding Southerly one one Side of the said Ground N^o 226 to Ham Farm in the Parish of Yatton.

View^d May 1st June 24th & Sep^r 29 Yearly

A Rhyne taking on at the Northwest corner of Ground (N^o 242 as per Parish Survey) adjoining the road leading from Yatton to Kenn Peir and proceeding in a Southeast direction at the extremity of the said Ground continuing onwards passing through Grounds in the Parish of Yatton to Black ditch Rhyne.



Fig 7: 1950s sluice equipment at head of Blackditch Rhyne, Kenn

View^d May 1st June 24th & Sep^r 29 Yearly

Black Ditch Rhyne Joins this Parish at the South Corner of a Plantation (N^o 265 as per

Parish Survey) & proceeds onwards in a Northerly direction to the Kenn or Great River.

View^d May 1st June 24th & Sep^r 29 Yearly

A Branch Rhyne taking on at the East corner of a peice of Ground (N^o 328 as per Parish Survey) and proceeds in an Easterly direction to the Black Ditch in the South corner of a Ground (N^o 251 as per Parish Survey)

From thence taking on in a ground (N^o 239 as per Parish Survey) adjoining the Western Drainage Rhyne, and continuing onwards in a South direction to the Southwest corner of a peice of Ground (N^o 243 as per Parish Survey)

From thence onwards and joins Mawkins Rhyne in Yatton Parish at a distance of 131 Yards [cont^d]

[DSC08493; DSC08494] Page 7

Views in the Parish of Kenn and Yatton (contd)

View^d May 1st June 24th & Sept 29th Yearly

From thence taking on in a peice of Ground (N^o 1310 as per Parish of Yatton Survey) and proceeds South to Claverham Drove at the South corner of Ground (N^o 1308 as per Parish of Yatton Survey).

View^d May 1st June 24th & Sept 29th Yearly

Meadmoor Rhyne commences in Yatton at the South corner of Ground (N^o 1327 as per Parish of Yatton Survey) and takes a Northerly direction to the Hatch in Mawkins Rhyne in the North corner of Ground (N^o 1521 as per Parish of Yatton Survey).

The Commission Work in the above Rhynes and its branches being whole Bounds on the East Side.

[DSC08495; DSC08496] Page 8

View'd May 3rd June 24th & Sept 29 Yearly

Views in the Parish of Kenn and Yatton (contd)

The Kenn or Great River being that part from the West End of the Parish of Kenn to Stone Bow in the sd parish

This Veiw commences on the West side of the Parish of Kenn in Ground N^o 274 as per Parish Survey, adjoining the boundary of the Parish of Yatton, beginning at the Southeast side corner of that Ground, taking its course North to a bend in a Strip of Land (N^o 277 as per Kenn Survey) proceeding onwards in a North West direction to Kenn Peir Bow.

The Commission Work on this part of the River being whole bounds, belonging to J H S Pigott Esq^{re}.

From Kenn Peir Bow the River continues in a Westwardly direction to Stone Bow crossing the Road from Kenn to Clevedon.

The Commission Work in this part of the River being half bounds from Kenn Peir to the extreme West corner of Ground (N^o 19 as per Parish of Kenn Survey) the remaining part of the River being a distance of 24 Yards belongs to the Officers of Kenn Parish.

[DSC08497; DSC08498] Page 9

Views in the Parish of Yatton

Part of the Kenn or Great River, Springwell and other Rhyes

View^d May 1 June 24th & Sept 29 Yearly

This View of that part of Kenn River commences at Sluice Style, separating Lands in Nailsea and Yatton Parishes taking a Northwest direction from thence onwards to a Junction of the River, in the Northwest corner of a peice of Ground N^o 133 as per Parish Survey, and forms part of the boundaries of the Parishes of Kenn, Nailsea and Yatton

The Comm. Work being half bounds

Viewed May 1st June 24th Sep^r 29 Yearly

Springwell Rhyne commences in ^{SW Corner of} a peice of Ground (N^o 978 as per Parish Survey) proceeding in a Northerly direction round the side of the afores^d Ground, and continuing onwards keeping the same course until it joins the Little River in the North corner of Ground (N^o 1131 as per Parish Survey) at a Bridge or Bow there, crossing Claverham Drove at that point.

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being whole Bounds on the East side from the commencement at Springwell in Ground N^o 978 as above to Ground No 1135 as above, from thence whole bounds to the end of the Little River on the West side.

[DSC08357] [DSC08358] Page 10

Views in the Parish of Yatton contd.

This Rhyne is view^d on the 29th Sep^r Yearly

A Rhyne commencing at the entrance Gate to Claverham Court House, facing the road leading from Brockley to Yatton, taking a Northwest course on the West side of the

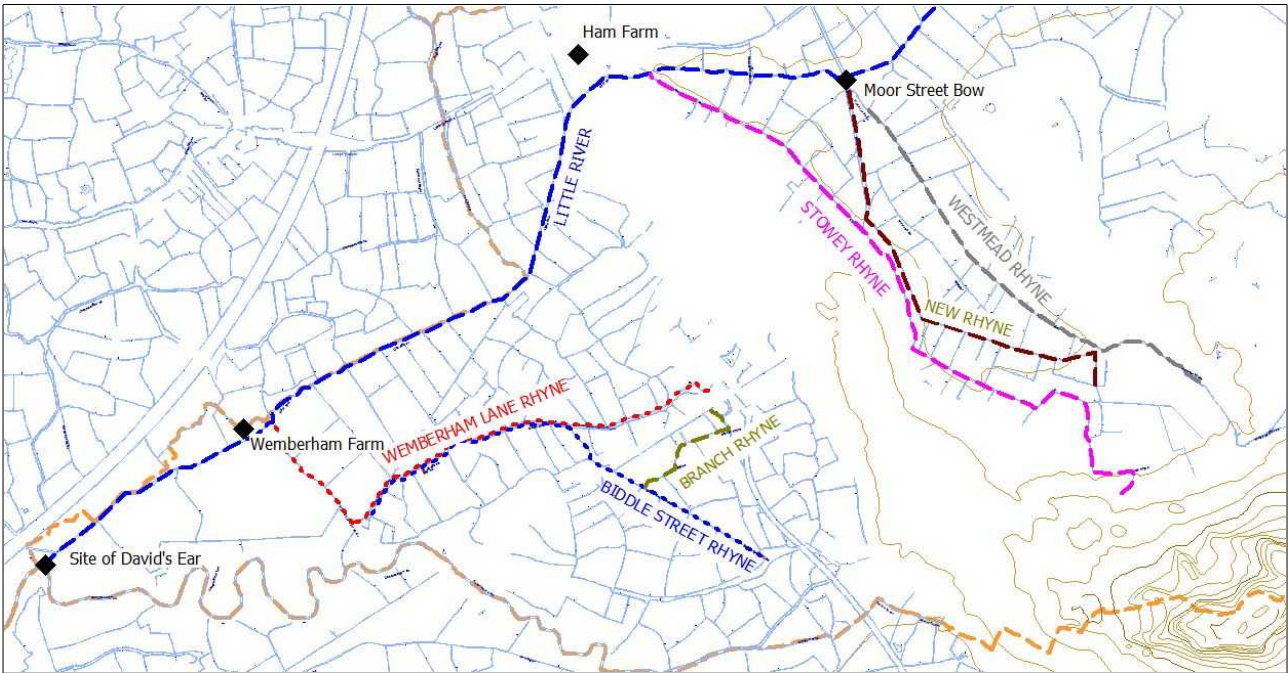


Fig 8: Viewed rhyne in Yatton SW

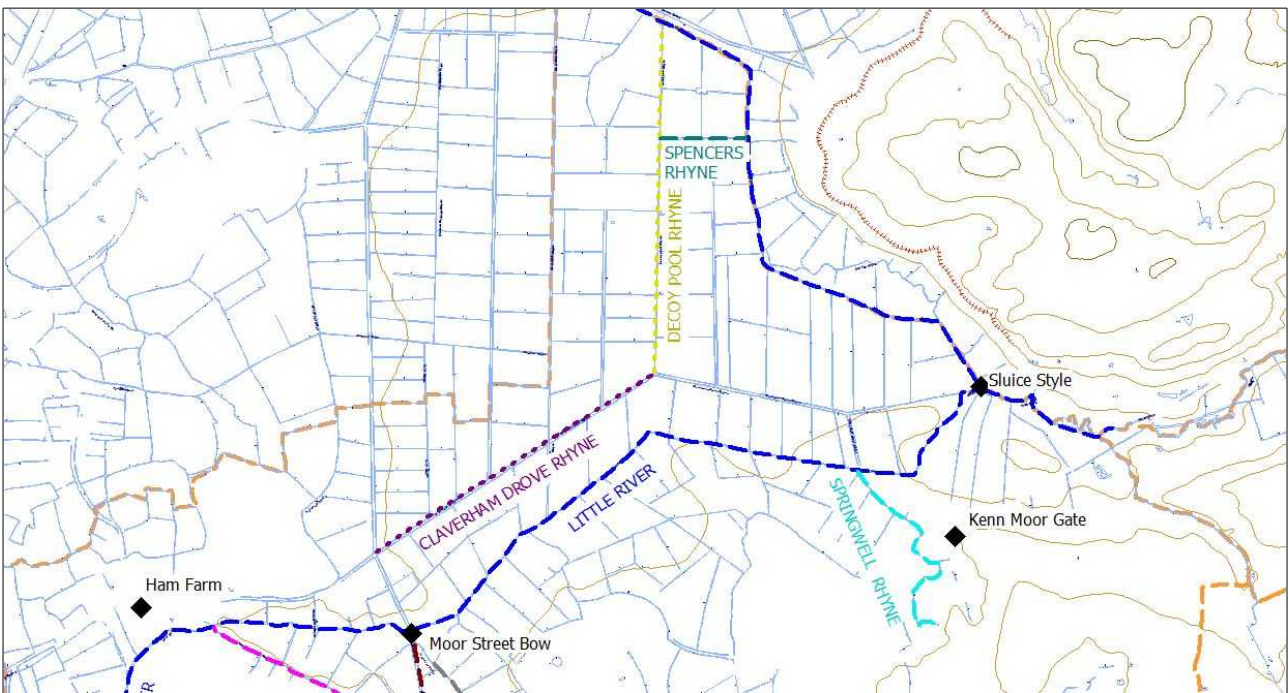


Fig 9: Viewed rhyne in Yatton NE

entrance road to the said Court House, proceeding onwards in the same direction and terminating in the Little River on the South side, being in the North end of a Withy Bed (N^o 1127 as per Parish Survey).

The Comⁿ Work in this Rhyne being whole Bounds on the East side to the end.

Eastern Drainage Rhyne and part of the Little River from Sluice Style to Ham Bow

This Rhyne is reviewed May 3rd June 24 & Sept 29 Yearly

Eastern Drainage Rhyne commences on the South side of Ground (N^o 1117 as per Parish Survey) and continues onwards in a Westwardly direction on the North side of Claverham Drove to the West end of a Plantation on the same side of the Drove, from thence it takes a Southwest course progressing onwards to Ground (N^o 1433 as per Parish Survey) crossing the Drove there, and following on the West side of the opposite Ground (N^o 1343 as per Parish Survey) in a South direction and empties itself into the Little River in that ground.

The Comⁿ Work in this Rhyne being whole Bounds on the North side and whole Bounds on the West side of the Ground N^o 1343 as above.

[DSC08359] [DSC08360] Page 11

Parish of Yatton cont^d

Viewed 25th March. 3rd May 24th June & 29th Sept & 10th Oct yearly

This part of The Little River commences at Sluice Style in the North corner of a Withy Bed (N^o. 1092 Parish Survey) and dividing Grounds N^o 1092 and 1112 (as per Survey) for a distance of 106 Yards due West, from thence taking a Southwest course onwards, crossing over Claverham Drove and proceeding onwards in the same course, passing under Moor Street Bow or Bridge crossing the road from Yatton to Kenn and Clevedon to Ham Bow.

A Branch of this Little River takes off from Moor Street Bow or Bridge for a distance of 165 yards due South passing by on the East side of a Withy Bed (N^o 1364 as per Parish Survey) and ending in the South corner of Ground (N^o. 1217 as per Parish Survey)

The Commission Work in this View or Part of the Little River is apportioned off to various Lands and Tenements originally claiming rights of Common in this Parish previous to the enclosure of Kenn Moor ~~Inclosure~~, and sectioned off by Marks or Mere Stones on the North Bank of the River, for particulars of which see folio [blank] of this Survey Book

[DSC08361] [DSC08362] Page 12

Views in the Parish of Yatton continued

View^d 25 Mar 3^d May 24th June 10th August and on the 29th Sepr Yearly

This part of the Little River commences at Ham Bow and proceeds onwards in a West and Southwest direction passing under Northend Bow or Bridge leading from Yatton to

Clevedon and Kingstone Seymour, continuing onwards taking the same course to the East corner of Ground (1722 as per Parish Survey) being a distance of 1072 yards (at which place the Meer Stone Work in this River terminates), from thence it proceeds onwards in the same course, passing under a Bow or Bridge at Wemberham FarmHouse to an Outlett in the River Yeo, and joins the New Cut-Rhyne there between Grounds N^o 1788 & 1789 as per Parish Survey, from thence taking a due West course along the New Cut in the Parish of Kingston Seymour and terminates at the Outlett on Congresbury or Wick River in a Peice of Ground known as the Salt Warth in the Parish of Kingston Seymour.

Part of the Comⁿ Work is apportioned to various Lands and Tenements originally claiming rights of Common in this Parish previous to the Inclosure of Kenn Moor and sectioned off by Marks or Meer Stones on the East Bank of the River for Particulars of which see folio [blank] of this Survey Book.

From the Mere Stone Work to Wimberham FarmHouse, being all Frontage, from thence to the New Cut the Commission Work is done by the Parish Officers at Yatton, and from thence all Frontage to the end.

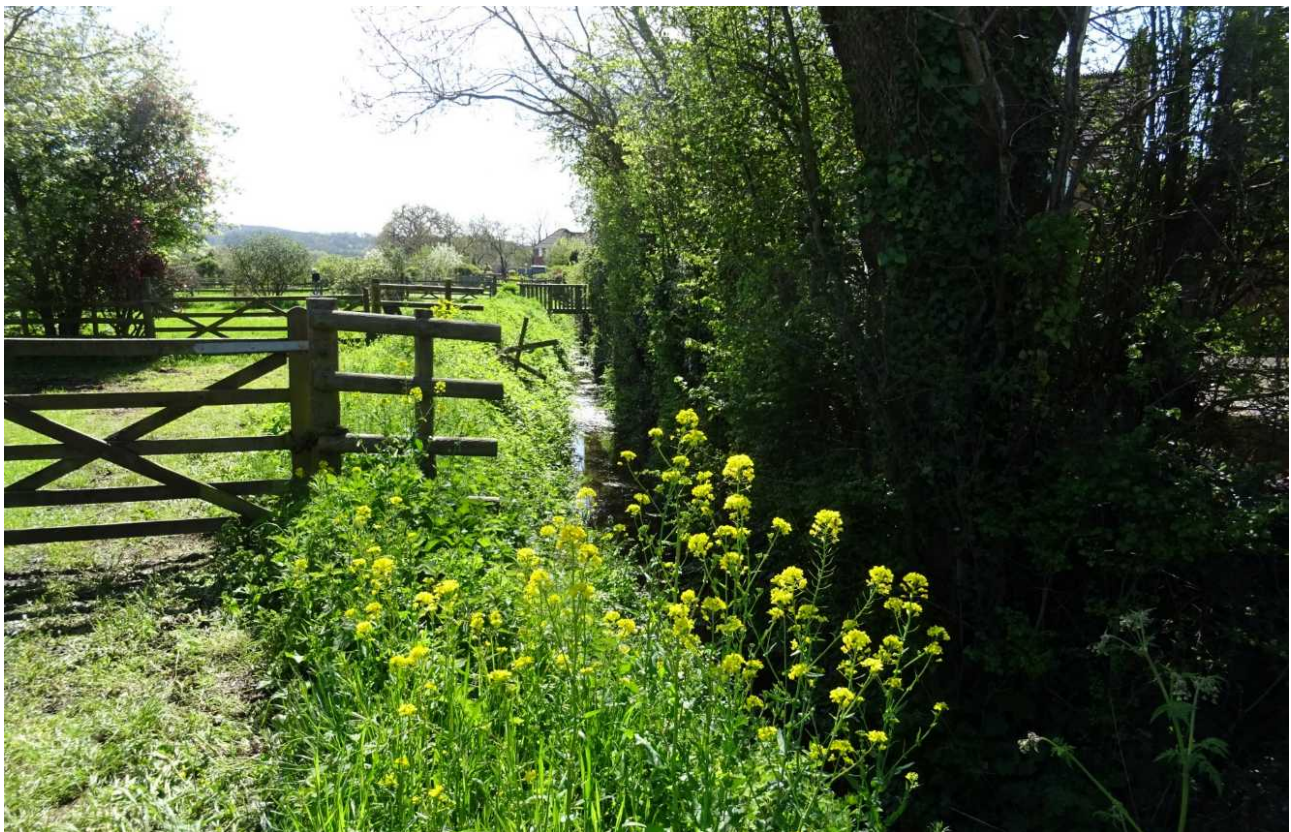


Fig 10: Stowey Rhyne from Kenn Moor Road, marking the edge of early Yatton village

[DSC08363] [DSC08364] Page 13

Views in the Parish of Yatton continued

View May 3rd June 24 & Sept 29 Yearly

Multiple parishes, Documentary study, Rhynes in the Northmarsh, 2023, Y14, v1

A Rhyne commencing at Lampley Bow or Bridge situate on the road and being the boundary of the Parishes of Yatton and Kingstone Seymour at the North side of a peice of Ground (N° 1519 as per Parish of Yatton Survey) and taking a Northward course round the West corner of a Ground (n° 1407 as per Parish Survey) continuing onwards to Ground (N° 1485 as per Yatton Survey) and joins a Rhyne in Kenn Parish there.

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being whole Bounds on the East or Yatton Side.

West Mead, New and Stowey Rhynes

View^d 24th Mar 1st May 24th June & 29th Sept Yearly

West Mead Rhyne commences at a Bridge crossing a Stream seperating Grounds (N° 362 & 836 (as per Parish Survey) taking a North west direction onwards crossing the Bristol and Exeter Rail Road at Grounds N° 312 and 1374 as per Parish Survey) continuing onwards in the same course and joins the Little River at Moor Street Bow or Bridge on the Road leading from Yatton to Clivedon.

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being whole Frontage.

[DSC08365] [DSC08366] Page 14

Views in the Parish of Yatton contd

View^d May 3rd June 24th & Septr 29th Yearly

New Rhyne commences at the North side of a Strip of Land (N° 351 as per Parish Survey) taking a Northwest course crossing the Bristol and Exeter Railway at a Withy Bed (N° 1378 as per Parish Survey) proceeding onwards in the same direction and joins the Little River at Moor Street Bow or Bridge in the road leading from Yatton to Clevedon

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being whole Bounds on the Southwest side from the commencement to a Ground (N° 1366 as per Parish Survey) from thence to the Withy Bed at the Little River, whole bounds on the Northeast side.

View^d May 3rd June 24th & Septr 29 Yearly

Stowey Rhyne commences at the East corner of Ground (N° 343 as per Parish Survey) ands proceeds onwards in a Westward direction to the Bristol and Exeter Rail road, between Grounds there N° 1378 and 1379 (as per Parish Survey) continuing onwards in the same course to and crossing Moor Street Lane at the North corner of Ground N° 1381 (as per Parish Survey) from thence pursuing the same course to and joining the Little River at the West end of a Withy Bed N° 1332 as per Parish Survey.

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being whole Bounds on the Southwest side.

Views in the Parish of Yatton contd

Back, Wemberham and Branch Rhynes

View^d May 3rd, June 24th & Sept 29 Yearly

Back Rhyne commences in a Ground (N^o. 212 as per Parish Survey) at the Northwest corner, running eastward for a distance of 22 Yards, from thence proceeding in a Northerly direction crossing Biddle St Drove and takes a Northwest direction to the Bristol and Exeter Railroad and there passing between 2 pieces of Ground (N^o 269 and 274 as per Parish Survey) crossing the said Rail Road and proceeding onwards in a North direction to Wimberham Lane and following the South side of that Lane in a Westerly direction to the corner of a Ground (N^o. 1754 as per Parish Survey) crossing the said Lane into two pieces of Ground known as Great Wimberham and the Ramble continuing onwards to the North corner of Ground (N^o 1777 Parish Survey) adjoining the Parish of Kingston Seymour.

The Commission Work being the throwing from the River to the corner of the Rambles is attached to Great Wimberham and the Keetching to the Parish Officers of Yatton.

Views of the Parish of Yatton contd

View^d May 3rd June 24th Sept 29th Yearly

Wemberham Rhyne commences in the South corner of a Ground (N^o 1656 Parish Survey) and pursues its course on the North Side of Wimberham Lane in a Westwardly direction to the end of that Lane

The Commission work in this Rhyne being Frontage to the Grounds by which it passed.

View^d May 3rd June 24th & Sept 29th Yearly

A Branch Rhyne commencing at a Tunnel or Culvert under the Bristol and Exeter Railroad in a Ground (N^o. 292 as per Parish Survey, taking a Southwest direction after the Lane there to the bottom of the said Lane, crossing over into a piece of Ground N^o. 284 Parish Survey and proceeds onwards in the same direction, until it joins the Back Rhyne at the Northwest corner of Ground 273 (Parish Survey).

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being whole Bounds to Grounds N^{os} 283, 287 and 288 Parish Survey

The Keetching of the above Grounds, being attach^d to the Parish Officers of Yatton, the throwing to the Occupiers.

[DSC08371] [DSC08372] Page 17

Views in the Parish of Yatton contd

Spencers Sluice & The Eastern Drainage Rhyes

View^d May 3rd June 24th Sept 29th Yearly

Spencers Sluice commences at the east corner of a peice of Ground N^o 1240 (Parish Survey) proceeding onwards in a Westwardly direction to the North corner of Ground N^o. 1246 (Parish Survey) and there joins the Eastern Drainage Rhyne proceeding North for a distance of 60 Yards from thence, it takes a due West course, crossing Lands belong^g to the Parish of Kenn, and enters into the Black Ditch Rhyne facing Ground 1270 Parish Survey

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being whole bounds on the North Side.

View^d May 3rd, June 24th Sept 29th Yearly

The Eastern Drainage Rhyne branches off at the East corner of a Ground (N^o. 1246 Parish Survey) and takes a due South course to Claverham Drove where it terminates in a piece of Ground (N^o. 1252 Parish Survey)

The Commission Works in this Rhyne being whole Bounds on the East side

[DSC08373] [DSC08374] Page 18

Views in the Parish of Yatton contd

View^d by the whole or a Special Jury Yearly usually on the first Monday after the 29th Sept

Veiwing Gang Wall which commences near the Parish Church at Yatton in the SouthWest corner of Ground (N^o. 196 Parish Survey) and proceeds in a South direction to the south corner of Grounds (N^o. 204 and 205 Parish Survey) from thence North to PillHay Bridge taking a Westerly course crossing the Bristol and Exeter Railway onwards to Phipps Bridge in this Parish.

The Commission Work of this Wall is attached to the Rectory of Yatton Parish.

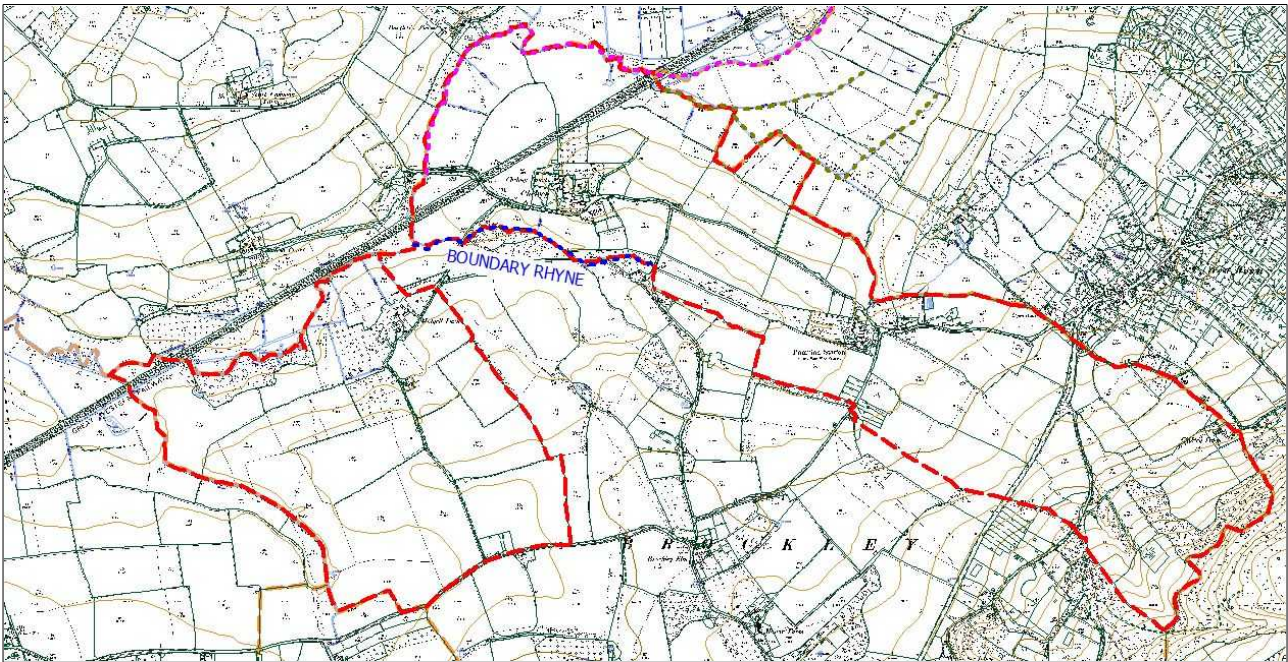


Fig 11: Viewed rhyne in Brockley and Chelvey. Red outline is former Chelvey parish, removed 1843

View in the Parish of Brockley

View^d May 3rd June 24th Sept 29th Yearly

A Rhyne that divides this Parish from Chelvey Parish commences in a Ground N^o. 46 Parish Survey at a Junction of the Great or Kenn River on the Northwest side of this Ground taking an East course to a Strip of Ground or Plantation (N^o. 52 Parish Survey) proceeding in the same direction to the Road leading from Brockley to Chelvey Parish onwards to the end at Chelvey Road at an Orchard and Small Coppice.

The Commission Work in this Rhyne being half Bounds from the commencement to the East corner of Ground N^o. 49 Parish Survey from thence whole Bounds on the Chelvey^{side}.

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View in the Parish of Chelvey

Part of the Kenn or Great River

View^d May 3rd June 24th & Sept 29th Yearly

This View commences at Sluice Style, dividing the Parishes of Yatton and Nailsea taking an East direction to Ground N^o 1079 (Yatton Parish Survey) and enters Chelvey Parish in Ground No. 1 as per Chelvey Parish Survey) adjoining the road there, continuing onwards

in the same direction to Chelvey Ford in this Parish Ground N° 32 Parish Survey.

The Commission Work in this Parish being Frontage

[DSC08375] [DSC08376] Page 20

Views in the Parish of Backwell & pt Chelvey

Part of the Kenn or Great River and 2 Rhynes

View^d May 3rd June 24th & Sept 29th Yearly

This part of the River commences at Chelvey Ford in ^a Ground (N° 32 Parish of Chelvey Survey) on the Northside adjoining the Bristol and Exeter Railroad taking a Northeast direction to the corner of a Ground (N°. 37 Chelvey Parish Survey) from thence taking an East South East direction to Chelvey Culvert crossing the Bristol and Exeter Railroad and there entering Backwell Parish, continuing onward from thence running thro' a Ground N° 366 Backwell Parish Survey, taking a North east course, and crossing the Bristol and Exeter Railroad between Grounds N°. 1 & 355 Backwell Parish Survey running due North for a distance of 242 Yards from thence to the North corner of a Ground (N°. 2 Backwell Parish Survey) onwards from thence to a peice of Waste Land known as the Washing Pound adjoining the Backwell and Nailsea road being No. 20 as per Backwell Parish Survey.

The Comⁿ Work in this part of the River, being whole Bounds on the South side from Chelvey Ford to the first Culvert crossing the Bristol & Exeter Railroad, from thence Frontage, on the North side crossing the Railroad at the second Railroad ^{Culvert} to the corner of a ground adjoining being N° 1 Parish Survey, from thence Frontage on the South side to Nailsea road.

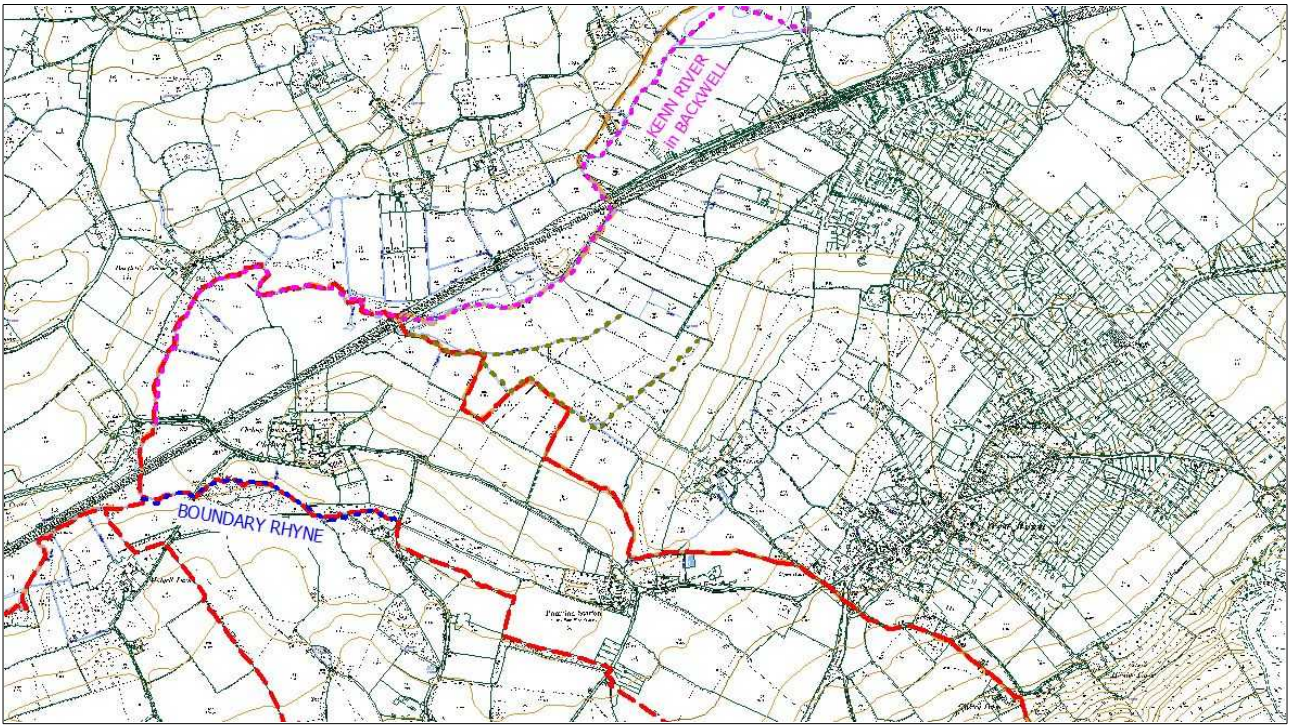


Fig 12: Viewed rhyne in Backwell south

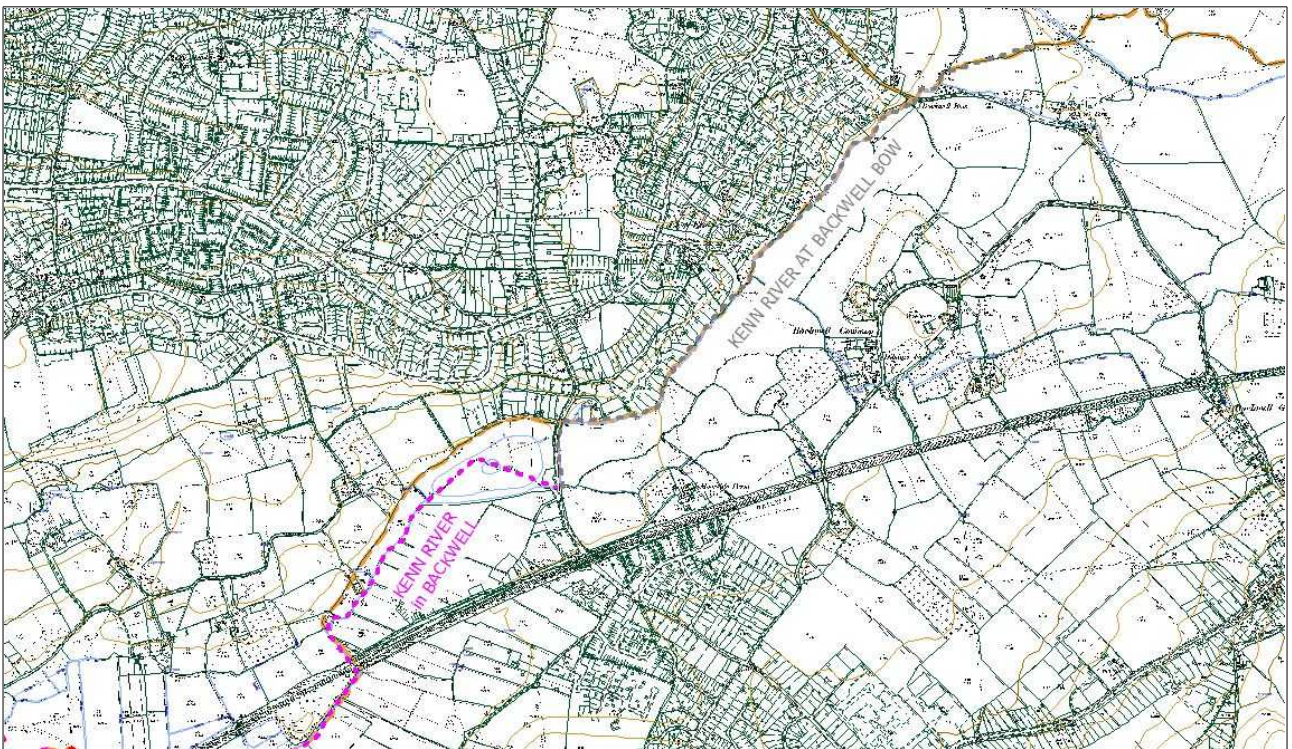


Fig 13: Viewed rhyne in Backwell north

[DSC08377] [DSC08378] Page 21

Views in the Parish of Backwell contd

View^d May 3rd June 24th Sept 29th Yearly

A Rhyne taking on from the River at the West corner of Ground N^o. 366 Backwell Parish Survey running onward in a South direction to the West corner of a Ground N^o. 364 Parish Survey, from thence taking a due East course to the opposite corner of that Ground

The Comⁿ Work in this Rhyne, being Frontage from the river to the South corner of Ground N^o. 364 on the North side, from thence to the opposite corner frontage on the South side

View^d May 3rd June 24th & Sept 29 Yearly

A Rhyne commencing at the South corner of Ground N^o. 366 Parish Survey, taking a South course, to the South corner of a Ground the property of Mr J. Light, turning that corner and proceeding due East to the East corner of a Ground N^o. 376 as per Parish Survey

The Comn Work in this Rhyne being Frontage on the East side

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Views in the Parish of Backwell contd

The remaining part of the Kenn or Great River from Nailsea Road to Borer Hole

View^d May 3rd June 24th & Sept 29th Yearly

This Veiw commences at that piece of Waste Land known as the Washing Pond being N^o. 20 on the Parish Survey taking a Northerly direction on the East side of the Nailsea Road and Backwell road for a distance of 210 Yards, thence turning the West corner of a Ground No. 21 Parish Survey, proceeding onwards in a North East direction forming a boundary between Nailsea and Backwell Parishes so far as Backwell Bow or Bridge , crossing the road from Nailsea to Backwell at the North East corner of a Ground N^o. 92 (as per Parish Survey) continuing onwards in an Easterly direction to a Cottage and Garden N^o 179 (Parish Survey) and passing by a Ground N^o. 192 Parish Survey) and terminating at Borer Hole in the North corner of the same Ground.

The Commission Work in this part of the River being Frontage on the South side

Page 23 in original is blank.



Fig 14: Backwell Bow, on the Backwell Common to Nailsea Road, over the upper Kenn River. Note the curious mismatch between 'tunnel' and parapet, presumably due to cack-handed rebuilding

The text is then indexed, with surveyed lengths for each rhyne (below).

An index and Summary of the foregoing Pages

M = miles, F = Furlongs (8 to the mile), P = Perches (40 to the furlong) 1 mile - 1.609km;
1 furlong = 201m; 1 perch (length) = 5m)

Pg	Names	Parish	Kenn River			Little River			Total		
			M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
1	Rhyne from Lamp ley Bow to Gillings Ear	Kingston							3	"	"
	Cranmore Lane & Branches	Kingston							2	6	
2	Ham Rhyne & do.	Kingston							2	4	1
3	Kenn River pt of	Kingston	1	4							
4	Branch Rhyne	Kenn								2	17
	Mawkins do.	Kenn								2	15
	Sandover do.	Kenn								7	39
5	Tinneford Gout do.	Kenn								2	20
	Rust do.	Kenn								6	10
6	Black Ditch do. pt	Kenn								1	39
	3 Branch do.	Kenn							1	1	1
	1 Branch	Kenn								3	1
	Black Ditch pt of	Kenn								6	
7	Branch Rhyne	Kenn								1	36
	Meadmoor do.	Kenn								5	
8	Pt of Kenn River	Yatton	2	6	16						
9	Pt of Kenn River	Yatton		1	27						
	Springwell Rhyne	Yatton								2	15
10	Branch Rhyne									5	3
	Eastern Drainage								1	4	4
	pt of Little River					2	2	29			
12	pt of Little River					2	3				
13	Branch Rhyne									5	
	Westmead Rhyne								1	1	4
14	New Rhyne								1	1	

	Stowey Rhyne								1	3	
[DSC08405] [DSC08406] Page 33b											
Pg	Names	Parish	Kenn River			Little River			Total		
			M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
15	Back Rhyne	Yatton							1	5	6
16	Wimberham do.	Yatton								5	8
	Branch do.	Yatton							1	-	9
17	Spencers Sluice	Yatton								5	27
	Eastern Drainage	Yatton								4	24
18	Gang Wall	Yatton							2	7	23
	Rhyne	Brockley								4	
19	Kenn River pt of	Chelvey	1	2							
20	Kenn River pt of	Chelvey & Backwell	1	7	6						
21	Rhyne	Chelvey & Backwell								4	
	Rhyne	Chelvey & Backwell								3	31
22	Kenn River pt of	Chelvey & Backwell	1	4	1						
-2	Sea Wall	Kingston							4	6	
		<i>Totals</i>	9	1	10	4	5	29	34	6	13
	Total length of the Great River								9	1	10
	Total length of the Little River								4	5	29
						<i>Total</i>			48	5	12

Recommendations for further work

Detailed analysis of these records remains to be carried out, but hopefully making the original text available here will help with this. It should be possible to correlate earlier records from the same source.

References

Barraclough, M. 1991	<i>A History of Yatton</i> , Yatton Local History Society
Rippon, S. 2006	<i>Landscape, Community and Colonisation</i> Exeter University Press
YCCART 2021a	The Inclosure of Kenn Moor, Somerset, 1810-1815: Part 1: The text of Kenn Moor and Cleeve Hill Inclosure Award [SHC D\RA/9/6] <i>Available at yccart.co.uk</i>
YCCART 2021b	The Inclosure of Kenn Moor, Somerset, 1810-1815: Part 2: The map of Kenn Moor and Cleeve Hill Inclosure Award [SHC D\RA/9/6] <i>Available at yccart.co.uk</i>
YCCART 2021c	The Inclosure of Kenn Moor, Somerset 1810-1815: Part 3: The allotment <i>Available at yccart.co.uk</i>

Authors

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Date

Yuletide 2023