

Gazetteer 7 Stroud area: Woodchester, Gloucestershire

Key to Abbreviations:			
BCA	Birmingham City Archives	NA	National Archives
GJ	Gloucester Journal	NGR	National Grid Reference
GRO	Gloucestershire Record Office	NMR	National Monuments Record
HER	Historic Environment Record	OS	Ordnance Survey
HJ	<i>Hereford Journal</i>	TBGAS	Bristol and Glos Arch Society Transactions
HT	<i>Hereford Times</i>	VCH	Victoria County History

No. of orchards on tithe award & map		10	
Most given simply as orchard with only one field name indicative of type of fruit cultivated (Cherry Orchard). Another field name (Folly Orchard) indicates the presence of a building, possibly a summer house within the orchard.			
No of orchards on OS 1st ed. map (1889)	24	No of orchards on OS 6 inch map (1950)	14
No of orchards on OS 2nd ed. map (1905)	19	No of orchards on T.O. Map (2013)	4
Primary Sources: Deeds, Wills etc.			
GRO D2957/348/32	Deed re. tenement, orchard & garden 'next a lane or pasture whereon a pair of buttes standeth': 1602		
GRO D892/T100	Deeds and wills re. messuage, garden, orchard, fulling mill at Woodchester: 1637-1716		
GRO D2957/348/16	Deed re. three closes called Hamsteede & the orchard hill at Woodchester: 1668		
GRO D2957/348/24	Lease of two messuages with adjoining orchards at Hill Close and Orchard Hill: 1685		
GRO D2957/348/25/2	Lease of messuage garden & orchard in Woodchester: 1692		
GRO D2957/348/2	Lease of messuage, garden, orchard & 3 closes of pasture: 1692		
GRO D2957/348/28	Deed re. two tenements, garden, orchard in Woodchester: 1692		
GRO D2957/348/34	Deed re. messuage, garden & two orchards called Upper & Lower Orchards – 1702		
GRO D846/III/31	Deeds and wills re. messuage, garden and orchard at Woodchester : 1736-1914		
GRO D1405/5/19	Deed re. land at Cherry Orchard South Woodchester: 1921		

Primary Sources: Estate, tithe maps & plans	
GRO D1011/P8	Map of Woodchester Park: 1782 (shows field names, acreage and land use incl. orcharding)
D1011/P9	Map of Woodchester Park estate: c.1790 (shows field names, acreage and land use incl. orcharding)
D1011/P10	Map of part of the Woodchester Park estate c.1800 (shows orchards)
GDR/T1/201	Woodchester tithe map and apportionment - 1838
D1011/P11	General plans of the Woodchester estate - 1859 (shows orchards)
D1011/P12	General plan of the Woodchester estate – 1882 (shows orchards)
D1011/P13	Part of detailed plan of the Woodchester estate – c. 1900 (shows orchards)
D12390/3/1	Land Valuation Survey map for Woodchester parish - 1910

Primary Sources: Sale Catalogues, Inventories & Land Valuation Surveys	
GRO RX348.1GS	Sale particulars of the Atcombe Court estate (with plan): 1839 (several refs to orchards)
GRO RX348.3GS	Sale particulars of the Woodchester Park estate – 1843 (several refs to orchards)
GRO D609/T2	Sale catalogue for Chester Hill House estate – 1847 (refs to orchards)
GRO D677	Sale catalogues of the Atcombe Court estate 1862, 1889 (includes refs to orchards)
NA IR58/21433-21435	Land Valuation Survey Field Books for Woodchester – 1910 (includes frequent refs to orchards and types of fruit grown)

Illustrations (engravings etc) & Photographic Records (incl. aerials)	
Publication	<p>S. Lysons (1797) <i>An account of Roman antiquities discovered at Woodchester in the County of Gloucestershire</i>.</p> <p>In addition to Lysons's account of his excavations of the Roman villa site at Woodchester church and discovery of the tessellated pavements, includes a remarkable series of engravings of the landscape around Woodchester church, showing an orchard site with dovecote adjoining the churchyard.</p>
GRO	<p>Collections of old photographs of Woodchester c.19th-early 20th incl.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CE/G914BRI/CE*CW/G914BRI/CE (photos of Woodchester village and former church taken in 1928)
NMR	<p>Collections of aerial photographs of Woodchester held at the NMR from c.1945 to present incl:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NMR RAF 3G TUD UK 102 5041-2 – 1946 NMR CPE UK 1961 4056 – 1947

Secondary Sources: Antiquarian Accounts, Trade Directories etc.

S. Lysons (1797) *An account of Roman antiquities discovered at Woodchester in the County of Gloucestershire* (Important, well- illustrated account of the excavations undertaken by the late 18th century antiquary Samuel Lysons at Woodchester church and his discovery of the remains of the Roman villa and tessellated pavements, part of which lay within an orchard belonging to one Mr S. Wathen adjoining the churchyard).

S. Griffith (1825) *'New historical description of Cheltenham and its vicinity'* – mentions 'in 1796 the ground plan of an extensive Roman edifice was traced out, of which the remains in the churchyard formed the northern extremity and the other parts were in an orchard and field called The Parks (p. 194).

L. Fleming, (1934) *Memoir and Select Letters of Samuel Lysons* -- contains letters re. Lysons excavations at Woodchester in the late 1790s

RCHME, 1976, *Iron Age and Romano-British Monuments in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds* – summary description of Woodchester villa site, mentions on the W side of the site 'the rather broken ground of a former orchard rises gently to the foot of a steep N-S ridge (p. 132)

G. Clarke, (1982) 'The Roman Villa at Woodchester', *Britannia* Vol. 13, p. 197-228 - valuable account of the 1973 excavations at Woodchester and reappraisal of the investigations undertaken by Samuel Lysons

Secondary Sources: Articles and Newspaper Cuttings

GJ	21 July 1800	ref to sale of various plots of land in Woodchester parish incl. a 'close of rich pasture ground, planted with the choicest fruit trees, now in their prime, called by the name of Hansted Orchard' and another 'close of rich pasture ground called Hackley Orchard, well planted with fruit trees'.
GJ	9 Aug 1802	ref to letting of house at Woodchester owned by James Harrison, with 'about 30 acres of very rich pasture ground and orcharding, planting with the best sort of cyder fruits and two fish ponds in the grounds'.
GJ	23 Feb 1850	ref to sale of Atcombe House, Woodchester with 'desirable farm estate of arable, meadow, pasture, orcharding and woodland grounds'
<i>Morning Post</i>	30 Aug 1852	Account of Tessellated Pavements at Woodchester, mentions that 'in an adjoining orchard next to the churchyard there are fragments of other floors, in one of which there are well drawn and lifelike figures'.
GJ	29 May 1869	ref to sale of rich piece of garden ground and orchard next to The Ram Inn Woodchester
GJ	6 July 1889	ref to sale of Atcombe Court estate incl. Atcombe Farm House with about 65 acres 10 perches of fine old pasture land and orcharding
GJ	26 Oct 1889	ref to sale of The Lawn, Woodchester with orchards and productive kitchen gardens
<i>Gloucester Citizen</i>	29 Sep 1923	Ref to sale of The Cottage Woodchester with pasture orchard and field

Heritage Assets recorded in HER associated with orchards or orchard industry

HER 300 (SAM 107)	Scheduled Monument of Woodchester Roman Villa (NGR SO 84000 03100)
HER 3425	Atcombe Court Grade II Listed late 17 th century house (NGR SO 83733 01720)

Assessment of potential for further research and archaeological investigation

Moderate to High: There is moderate to high potential for further documentary research on the history of orchards and the orchard industry in this area, with a sizeable body of estate records, photographs and sale catalogues chiefly held at the GRO, of particular importance being the extensive records of the Atcombe and Woodchester Park estates, the latter having a particularly useful collection of estate plans dating back to the late 18th century.

A series of topographical engravings of the Woodchester area published by Samuel Lysons in his 1797 volume on the villa excavations at Woodchester church are of particular interest as they show many more orchards in the vicinity of Woodchester (particularly near the church) compared to the relatively meagre numbers indicated on late 19th and 20th century OS maps and aerial photos.

However while there is clearly a rich multi-period archaeological resource within the Woodchester area the potential for further investigation of archaeological sites associated with existing traditional orchards in this area is limited, due to the fact that very few traditional orchard sites have survived in this area.

Two sites appear have been identified as having potential for further investigation, namely

1. The site of the Roman villa adjacent to Woodchester church (although the orchards adjoining the churchyard have been almost completely laid out to grass)
2. Atcombe Court in the S part of Woodchester parish, where several traditional orchard sites have survived to the NW of the Court, possibly forming part of a designed landscape adjoining the house