

Gazetteer 5 Evesham area: Aldington, Worcestershire

Key to Abbreviations:			
BSA	Badsey History Society Archives	RAF	Royal Air Force
EJ	<i>Evesham Journal</i>	VCH	<i>Victoria County History</i>
NA	The National Archives	WJ	Worcester Journal
NGR	National Grid Reference	WRO	Worcestershire Archives, The Hive
NMR	National Monuments Record	WSM	Worcestershire Sites & Monuments
OS	Ordnance Survey		

No. of orchards on tithe award & map		8	
Most names descriptive of size (eg. Little Orchard, Great Orchard etc), location and/or ownership (Orchard Land behind the Old House; Homestead and Orchard late Brooks)			
No of orchards on OS 1st ed. map (1889)	17	No of orchards on OS 6 inch map (1950)	36
No of orchards on OS 2nd ed. map (1905)	30	No of orchards on T.O. Map (2013)	14
Primary Sources: Deeds, Wills etc.			
WRO	Extensive collection of 16 th -20 th c. deeds, plans, sale catalogues and other records relating to various properties in Aldington & Badsey held in the Ashwin of Bretforton MSS (ref. 705: 273) a number of which have been reproduced on the Badsey Society website. References to orchards in Aldington were gleaned from the following documents		
WRO 705:273/4352/1 –	Deeds relating to estates in Aldington and Badsey 1562 – 1761		
WRO 705:273/7775/23/ii	Deeds re. properties in Aldington, Badsey and other places - 1828-45		
WRO 705:273/7775/23/iii	Deeds re. properties in Aldington, Badsey and other places - 1835-50		
WRO 705:273/7775/24/i	Deeds re. properties in Aldington and Badsey 1813-51		
Primary Sources: Estate, tithe maps & plans			
BSA	Agricultural survey maps of farms at Aldington and Badsey – 1944 (originals held at Univ. of Worcester; copy on Badsey Society website)		
WRO f264.2 BA1583	Aldington Inclosure Award and Plan – 1807		
WRO BA7775/36 -	Plan of estate at Aldington and Offenham - 1820		
NA IR129/3/972	Land Valuation map for part of Aldington 1909-10 (copy on Badsey Society website)		
Primary Sources: Sale Catalogues, Inventories & Land Valuation Surveys			

BSA	Sale catalogue of stock at the Manor House Aldington estate – Sep 1866 (refs to sale of fruit in five orchards of choice fruit including Cider Mill Orchard ('mostly Blenheims'), Park Orchard Jacobs Orchard, Taylors Orchard and fruit 'growing in the hedgerows on the farm')
NA IR 58/93290-93291	Land Valuation Survey Field Books – Aldington – 1910 (frequent refs to orchards with details of types of fruit planted, transcripts of valuation records on Badsey Society website)
WRO 705:273/28	Sale Catalogue of various freehold estates in Aldington and Badsey 1912 (refs to orcharding)
BSA	Sale Catalogue of Parks Estate in Aldington and Badsey – 1914 (ref to orchards)
BSA	Sale Catalogue of estate at Upper Dean Aldington – 1915 (refs to a piece of garden land 'having a splendid plantation of fruit trees thereon')

Illustrations (engravings etc) & Photographic Records (incl. aerials)

WRO	Collection of 21 photographs of agricultural buildings, dwellings and rural scenes in Aldington- 1934-1988
BSA	Large collection of old photographs of Aldington and Badsey
NMR	Extensive collections of aerial photographs held at the NMR, WRO and Worcestershire HER including the following: NMR RAF 106G/UK/1345 5430-31 (1 Apr-1946) NMR OS/67223 377-9 (16 Jun 1967) NMR OS/87211 078-081 (31 Jul 1987)

Secondary Sources: Antiquarian Accounts, Trade Directories etc.

- W. Pitt, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Worcester* (1810), 327-9 (ref to Aldington, vetch and clover grown)
- H. Rider Haggard, 1902, *Rural England*, 359 description of farm estate at Aldington Manor which comprised '350 acres, of which thirty were under fruit..thirty under hops'
- W. Page, 1906, *A History of the County of Worcestershire. II. Victoria County History. II.* 355-6
- A.H. Savory, *Grain and Chaff from an English manor* (1921), valuable and very detailed description of the agricultural history of the Aldington Manor estate (owned by Savory) including chapters on orchards and cider (167-181) and plums and cherries (182-187) and a useful discussion of 'Blackbanks', a possible Roman settlement site E of the village
- G.M. Robinson, *Late Victorian Agriculture in the Vale of Evesham* (1976), 20-22 (discussion of orchards in Aldington and Badsey parishes, 8.87 acres of orchards recorded in Aldington in 1895-99)
- T. C.Sparrow, *Brief History of Badsey* (2002) refs to orchards, cider production and cultivation of cherries/plums etc
- R. Phillips (ed) *Aldington & Badsey: Villages in the Vale – A Tapestry of Local History* (2009)
- T.C. Sparrow, *Digging for a Living: Market Gardening in Badsey & Aldington* (2011)
- N. Garland, *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Aldington Lodge, Evesham, Worcestershire* (2013) (contains several refs to orchards at Aldington)

Secondary Sources: Articles and Newspaper Cuttings

EJ – 11 Jun 1870	Ref to sale of fruit at Aldington Manor estate including the ‘abundant and choice crop of cherries, growing in Taylor’s Orchard situated in Aldington and the ‘capital crop of plums growing in Cider Mill Orchard’
EJ – 13 Jun 1874	Sale of cherries and plums in Taylor’s Orchard, Cider Mill Orchard and Park Orchard, forming part of the Aldington Manor estate
WJ - 24 Apr 1875	ref to sale of dwelling house and orcharding in Aldington and Offenham

Heritage Assets recorded in HER associated with orchards or orchard industry

WSM 02415	Aldington Grange –Possible site of grange built by Abbot Roger Zaton of Evesham in late 14 th century (NGR SP 059 440)
WSM 02739	Roman remains (incl. pottery) found in fields W of Badsey (marked on OS 6 inch map of 1950) (NGR SP 065 434)

Assessment of potential for further research and archaeological investigation

Moderate to High: Although Aldington is a small parish, there is high potential for further documentary research on the history of orchards and the orchard industry in this area, with a sizeable collection of estate records, photographs and sale catalogues held at the WRO, a significant proportion of which has been published in the publications and on the website of the Badsey Society, which contains a large quantity of information from primary and secondary sources, including photographs, relating to orchards, cider production and the cultivation of cherries, plums and other fruits within the parish.

The 1910 land valuation survey field books (held at the NA) and Arthur Savory’s detailed account of agricultural life on his estate at Aldington provide a remarkable snapshot of rural life in the parish in the early 20th century. Savory’s account contains specific chapters on orchards and the growing of plums and cherries. Cartographic evidence indicates that there was a significant expansion in orchards and allotments in this parish from the late 19th through to the middle of the 20th century.

In archaeological terms, there is at least Moderate potential for further investigation of specific sites associated with orchards. Of particular interest is the possible site of a medieval grange belonging to Evesham Abbey, which is located within an existing orchard plot to the W of the village