

Gazetteer 5 Evesham: Badsey, 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	14		
Field names include 'Stone Pippin Orchard', 'Cherry Orchard'. Also orchard names associated with specific buildings eg. Bakehouse Orchard, Mill Orchard' etc			
No of orchards on OS 1st ed. map (1889)	37	No of orchards on OS 6 inch map (1950)	47
No of orchards on OS 2nd ed. map (1905)	55	No of orchards on T.O. Map (2013)	16

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 Badney Society website References to orchards and cultivation of fruit were identified in the following docs
WRO 705:273/4352/1	Deeds relating to estates in Aldington and Badsey, 1562 – 1761
WRO 705:273/4352/2/ii	Deeds and wills relating to property in Badsey, 1583-1735
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
WRO 705:273/7775/30/ii-iii	Deeds and estate accounts relating to various estates of the Ashwin family in Badsey, 19 th c.
Primary Sources: Estate, tithe maps & plans	
WRO f264.2 BA1583	Aldington Inclosure Award and Plan – 1807 (covers part of modern parish of Badsey)
WRO S497, BA 10879/561 (i -iii)	Badsey Inclosure Award and Plan 1812 (another copy is held in the

	Library of Christ Church Oxford, reproduced on BSA website)
WRO 705:273/7775/36 –	Plan of the Ashwin estate at Badsey – 1813 ref to Nightingale Orchard
WRO 705:273/7775/36 -	Plan of estate at Aldington and Offenham - 1820
WRO 705:273/7775/28	Plan of Badsey Manor estate – 1866
BSA	Land Valuation Survey map - Badsey village – 1909-10
NA IR 128/4/11	Land Valuation map S of Badsey – 1909-10
NA IR129/3/972	Land Valuation map for part of N part of Badsey - 1909-10 (copy on Badsey Society website)
BSA -	Agricultural survey maps of farms at Aldington and Badsey – 1944 (originals held at Univ. of Worcester; copy on Badsey Society website)

Primary Sources: Sale Catalogues, Inventories & Land Valuation Surveys

BSA	Sale Catalogue of 'Freehold and Tythe Free Estate situate in the parish of Badsey' – 1831 several refs to orchards including 'Brain's Ground bordered on the N by Fotherway Lane and on the S by Pitchness Lane' and 'piece of pasture land or orcharding called Adcocks Close'
BSA	Sale Catalogue of Claybrook Farm estate at Badsey – 25 Jun 1864(ref to 'Mill Orchard' described as well stocked with fruit trees, the hedgerows also contain many well selected fruit trees'
BSA	Sale Catalogue of estate at Badsey, Offenham and Aldington – 2 Jul 1866 ref to Netherfield Close, 'all that excellent piece of orchard land, planted with fruit trees, adjoining the turnpike road from Evesham to Campden'.
WRO 705:273/777528	Sale Catalogue of Badsey Manor estate – 23 Jul 1866 ref to 'two pieces of excellent pasture land planted with trees, called 'Upper and Lower Netherfield' and another orchard 'lying near the toll gate on the Evesham road, described as 'one of the most productive in the county'
BSA	Sale Catalogue of estate in Badsey formerly of William Byrd – 1890 refs to 'Brains Orchard' and to a 'desirable and well fruited pasture orchard' E of the Main Street, Badsey
WRO 705:273/7775/28	Sale Catalogue of the Claybrook estate – 1891 refs to orchard adjoining Claybrook Farm & Netherfield Orchard
BSA	Sale Catalogue Badsey Fields Estate -1892 ref to well fruited garden at 'Little Pool Close'
BSA	Sale Catalogue of Claybrook Estate – 1897, refs to pasture orchard called Netherfield Orchard, well stocked with fruit trees incl. Blenheims, Normantons, Nine Squares, Princes Pippins etc
NA IR 58/93292-93296	Land Valuation Survey field books – 1910 (frequent refs to orchards)
WRO 705:273/28	Sale Catalogue of estate at Badsey, Aldington – 1912 refs to orcharding at the Netherfield Close
BSA	Sale Catalogue Wickhamford Estate – 1930 (refs to orchards)

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

WRO	Collection of 628 photographs of agricultural buildings, dwellings and rural scenes in Badsey and district c.1930 to present including photographic surveys of the village carried out in the 1960s and in 2008 (incl. photos of Wheatley's Orchard, Brewer's Lane showing dovecote c.1960)
BSA	Large collection of old photographs of Aldington and Badsey on the Badsey Society website and archive, including an aerial photographic survey undertaken in 2006 (frequent refs to orchards)
NMR	Extensive collections of aerial photographs held at the NMR and Worcestershire HER dating back to pre-WWII, the following photos are of particular relevance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NMR RAF 106G/UK/1345 5430-31 (1 Apr-1946)• NMR RAF CPE/UK/1926 1146-9 (16 Jan 1947)• NMR OS/64175 001-007 (31 Aug 1964)• 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 orchards at Badsey and 'fruit trees in hedges' including apple and pear trees)
- *Post Office Directory of Worcestershire* (1876), 918 ref to Badsey 'since 1865 much farmland has been converted to garden ground'
- *Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire* (1897), 19 ref to expansion of market gardens
- 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 including parts of Badsey (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
- B.G. Cox, *Romano-British Occupation Sites in the Vale of Evesham*. Vale of Evesham Historical Society Vol.1 (1967).
- R. Sidwell, 'A Short History of Commercial Horticulture in the Vale of Evesham' Vale of Evesham Historical Society Research Papers Vol. 2 (1969), 43 - 51.
- 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)

Secondary Sources: Articles and Newspaper Cuttings

WJ 28 Aug 1828	ref to sale of farmhouse in Badsey with outbuildings and a 'capital orchard' in occupation of Mr Joseph Jones
WJ 11 Aug 1831	ref to sale of farmhouse and tithe free estate at Badsey, contains several refs to orchards including Brain's Ground and Adcock's Close

WJ 27 May 1865	ref to letting or residence in Badsey 'occupied by the late Mrs Collet' with 'a very productive orchard and garden'.
WJ 24 June 1865	ref to sale of dwelling house, garden and orchard 'well planted with fruit trees' at Badsey fronting the Main Street
WJ 21 July 1866	ref to sale of Badsey Manor House including 'Vicar's Leys Orchard', 'Cherry Orchard' adjoining the manor house
WJ 20 June 1891	ref to discovery of Roman coins, mostly 4th century, pottery including Samian, a fibula and spindlewhorl, found in Blackbanks field N of Badsey

Heritage Assets recorded in HER associated with orchards or orchard industry

WSM 02740	Site of Possible Romano-British Occupation, Black Banks	(NGR SP 070 438)
WSM 28768	Earthworks of ridge and furrow in orchard N of Badsey Fields Lane	(NGR SP 073 431)
WSM 34471	Earthworks of ridge and furrow SW of Bowers Farm	(NGR SP 084 418)

Assessment of potential for further research and archaeological investigation

High: There is high potential for further documentary research on the history of orchards and the orchard industry in this area, with a considerable body of estate records, photographs and sale catalogues chiefly 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 and maps (held at the NA) have been reproduced on the Badney Society website

These records, together with Arthur Savory's detailed account of agricultural life on his estate at Aldington Court provide a remarkable snapshot of rural life Aldington and Badsey in the early 20th century. Savory's account contains specific chapters on orchards and the growing of plums and cherries on his estate. Cartographic evidence indicates that there was a significant expansion in orchards and allotments in Badsey and Aldington from the late 19th through to the middle of the 20th century.

There are three orchard sites in Badsey which could have moderate to high potential in archaeological terms, namely:

- 1/Blackbanks', a possible Roman settlement site N of Badsey
- 2/Earthworks of medieval ridge and furrow in an orchard E of Badsey village
- 3/Earthworks of medieval ridge and furrow in close proximity to an orchard SW of Bowers Farm