

Gazetteer 6 Tenbury Wells area: Rochford, Worcestershire

Key to Abbreviations:			
BCA	Birmingham City Archives	NGR	National Grid Reference
CMH	Cider Museum, Hereford	NMR	National Monuments Record
HER	Historic Environment Record	OS	Ordnance Survey
HJ	<i>Hereford Journal</i>	WH	<i>Worcester Herald</i>
HRO	Herefordshire Record Office	WJ	<i>Worcester Journal</i>
HT	<i>Hereford Times</i>	WRO	Worcestershire Archives, The Hive
NA	National Archives		

No. of orchards on tithe award & map		130	
Field names incl. refs to fruit types such as cherry orchard, pear tree orchard; others appear to refer to specific landowners (eg. Pouncey Orchard & Bowen's Orchard) while others are mentioned in association with industrial sites incl. Lime Kiln Bank, Birchkiln Orchard)			
No of orchards on OS 1st ed. map (1889)	85	No of orchards on OS 6 inch map (1950)	80
No of orchards on OS 2nd ed. map (1905)	76	No of orchards on T.O. Map (2013)	37
Primary Sources: Deeds, Wills etc.			
HRO BB2/111	Lease and release of Sturmy Manor & cottages and land in Rochford – 1703 (ref to Skipperley Orchard)		
WRO 705:178/276/1	Deeds, wills & other papers relating to estates in Rochford 1806-40 (includes several refs to orchards)		
WRO 705:550/BA4600/1051	Deeds relating to various estates in Rochford, Eastham & neighbouring parishes 1763-1925		
Primary Sources: Estate, tithe maps & plans			
WRO 705:178/4719/4/i	Plan of the manor of Sutton Sturmy including land at Rochford – 1778		
WRO 705:474/17/iv	Plan of estate at Gough's Place Rochford – 1801		
WRO 705:550/BA4600/874/ii	Plan of farm at Rochford Manor – 1836		
WRO 705:178/1199/5-6	Rochford tithe map & award - 1841		
WRO BA 5403/6,7	Plans of the Hilltop Estate in Rochford – 1861 & 1863		
WRO 705:79/7056/9/i	Plan of the Rochford House estate 1874		
WRO 705:550/BA4600/331/viii/3	Plan of the Rochford Mount estate – 1882		

Primary Sources: Sale Catalogues, Inventories & Land Valuation Surveys		
WRO 705:178/4719/4/i	Survey of the manor of Sutton Sturmy and lands in Rochford - 1778	
NA AR58/61425-61432	Land Valuation Survey field books for Rochford parish – 1910 (contains frequent refs to orchards including condition and types of fruit planted) and to buildings associated with the orchard industry (eg. cider mills)	
WRO BA 7056/11	Sale particulars for Rochford House estate (with plan) – 1920	
Illustrations (engravings etc) & Photographic Records (incl. aerials)		
WRO	Collection of 18 photos of Rochford 1904-2007 including aerial photos dated 1955 and 1972	
Worcs HER & NMR	Collections of vertical and oblique aerial photos	
Secondary Sources: Antiquarian Accounts, Trade Directories etc.		
<p>J.Allies, <i>On the British, Roman & Saxon Antiquities of Worcestershire</i> (1852), refs to Debdat Orchard & Hardion Orchard (268)</p> <p><i>Post Office Directory of Worcestershire</i> (1876), 1041 (ref to hops and apples as chief crops grown and to William Nott fruit dealer)</p> <p><i>Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire</i> (1896), 208 (ref to hops and apples as chief crops grown and to William Cooke hop grower and fruit dealer at The Bank Farm and William Knott fruit dealer at The Haggetts)</p> <p>W. Page (ed.) <i>Victoria County History of the County of Worcester</i> Vol. 4 (1924) 317-19 (historical account of Rochford parish, ref to hops and apples as chief crops grown)</p> <p>P. Remfry, <i>Nine Castles of Burford Barony</i> (1999), 28 (contains description and historical account of Rochford motte)</p>		
Secondary Sources: Articles and Newspaper Cuttings		
WH	6 Nov 1830	Ref to sale of 'all that eligible & compact farm at the parsonage of Rochford' including dwelling and 'commodious new-erected outbuildings, cider mill, hop kilns etc. with 40 acres of pasture, orcharding & hop ground
WJ	28 Apr 1831	Sale of estate called 'Heathy Leasow' in Rochford. Ref to 'greatest part covered with excellent apple trees fast approaching their prime & capable of making fifty hogsheads of cider a year'
WJ	8 Mar 1832	Sale of Heathy Leasow with ref to apple trees (same as above)
WJ	29 Sep 1836	Sale of The Manor of Rochford incl. farm and outbuildings with ref to orcharding and hop ground
WJ	23 Feb 1837	Ref to sale of freehold cottage, garden & small orchard at Freen's Common, Rochford
WJ	14 Jun 1838	Two freehold messuages called The Old House & Barn Farm in Rochford with 125 acres of valuable orcharding, coppice pasture arable & hopland
WJ	17 Mar 1842	Ref to sale of livestock and farm implements at Rochford Court Farm incl. 4000 gallons of prime cider and casks
WJ	25 Aug 1842	Ref to sale of Old Hall Farm & Rochford Court Farm incl extensive orchards, which 'may vie in produce with any in the highly favoured fruit district which surrounds them'

WJ	- 19 Feb 1852	- Ref to sale of livestock & farm implements at Lower House Farm Rochford incl. prime and family cider, casks of various dimensions and cider tubs
WJ	24 June 1876	Ref to sale of freehold estates in Rochford incl the following: a villa residence in Rochford with valuable freehold garden & orchard ground, two pieces of prime orcharding called Dark Orchard & Lower Orchard, and a compact freehold estate called Heathy Leasow 'planted with choice fruit trees'
WJ	3 Sep 1887	Ref to sale of freehold estate called 'Heathy Leasow' with orcharding, Roselands Cottage with rich orchard land (planted principally with damsons), the fruit trees are described as being 'young and healthy'

Heritage Assets recorded in HER associated with orchards or orchard industry

WSM 05571	Motte, Ringwork, Castle on south bank of Teme, NE of Rochford Church – Scheduled Ancient Monument (NGR SO 629 685)
WSM 24179	Site of medieval village of Rochford (NGR SO 629 684)
WSM 50724	Site of outfarm NE of Bank Farm demolished in 19 th century (NGR SO 629 679)
WSM 54463	Lower House Farm Rochford – 19 th century farm and outbuildings (NGR SO 637 680)
WSM 40583	Orchard Cottage Lower Rochford – 19 th century farmhouse, possibly a former mill (NGR SO 637 679)
WSM 43757	The Hop Kilns (Leasow Farm), Rochford – partially listed 18 th century farmhouse with outbuildings

Assessment of potential for further research and archaeological investigation

High: There is moderate to high potential for further documentary research on the history of orchards and the orchard industry in Rochford parish, aided by a reasonably sizeable quantity of historic documents (including deeds, sale catalogues and land surveys) chiefly held at WRO.

A significant number of references to orchards and cider mills dating back to c.1830 was also derived from local newspapers. The Land Valuation Survey field books contain fairly frequent references to orchards and buildings associated with the orchard industry. There is relatively little relevant secondary literature on the history of Rochford parish

In archaeological terms, there is significant potential for further investigation of the probable Norman motte situated within a fairly recent (post 1950) orchard immediately NE of Rochford Church, which appears to have been slightly disturbed by tree planting.

The motte has not been subject to modern archaeological survey and excavation and there is high potential for revealing evidence of the motte construction and remains of internal buildings and a defensive circuit.

There may also be potential for further investigation and recording of 17th-19th century farms within the study area, which may reveal evidence of buildings associated with the orchard industry, although many traditional farm buildings in this area have been lost.