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Queen's Park

in the

Liberty of Westover

Preface:

The only lights apparent on earth were some spots of dull red, glowing here and there upon the distant hills, which... were smouldering fires for the consumption of peat and gorse-roots, where the common was being broken up for agricultural purposes.

Thomas Hardy, *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, 1873

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Abbreviations & contractions

AD	<i>anno Domini</i> (in the year of our Lord)
c.	<i>circa</i> ; thereabouts or approximately
DRO	Dorset Record Office, now the Dorset History Centre
<i>Ibid.</i>	As per the reference immediately above (but in the same paragraph)
NGR	National Grid Reference
No.	number
QPIPS	Queen's Park Improvement and Protection Society
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England

Glossary

Alluvium Deposit of fine fertile soil in the wake of river flooding.

beastgate (stint) Right to pasture a fixed number of animals on the common (Richardson 1986, 18).

bottom (coombe) Place-name elements used to describe a valley or hollow.

bourne / burn A stream

cartography Study of old maps and charts.

common Normally in the context of 'common right', that is to say a traditional or customary right to a particular resource *e.g.* pasture, woodland, fisheries, fuel and so on. Most common rights have their origin in medieval land management practices.

Domesday A tax document commissioned by William the First c. 1084 but largely complete by 1086.

drift / driftway / drove / droveway A drove or droveway is a road of ancient origin not subject to toll and principally used for long distance herding of cattle (Richardson 1986, 170). Drifts / driftways performed the same function at local level.

liberty A group of manors , the lord of which held certain privileges of the Crown Richardson 1986, 33-4)

selion A cultivated strip of land in an open field, usually equivalent to a furlong in length (after Richardson 1986, 17)

turbary A right to dig on common land for peat or turf for fuel (Richardson (1986,18).

virgate A variable measure of land depending on the quality of the soil (Richardson 1986, 11).

Terms of reference

All archaeological and historical reports run the risk of becoming confused by inconsistencies in terminology. The following definitions are offered as a guide through the minefield of this report.

Enclosure / Inclosure refer to boundaries that enclose parcels of land.

During the 19th century enclosure was often the preferred spelling particularly with regard to Acts of Parliament (hence Inclosure Act). In the interests of clarity, the spelling used throughout this report will be *enclosure* on the assumption that the majority of readers will understand it in that form.

Enclosure Act / Enclosure Award The Christchurch Enclosure Act was the legal instrument by which parcelling-up of the Great Heath could be imposed by the principal landowners of Westover. The full title of the legislation was 'An Act for dividing, allotting and enclosing certain Commonable Lands and waste grounds within the Parish of Christchurch and the Parish or Chapelry of Holdenhurst in the County of Southampton' (DRO/102A). However, Commissioners were appointed to undertake this task and to ensure a 'fair' distribution of the newly enclosed land (principally the Great Heath). In the case of Christchurch (including Westover) the Award of the allotments of land came into force in 1805. The decisions of the Commissioners are recorded in documentary form and with an accompanying map as listed Documentary and archival sources (see below).

Queen's Park was first so named in 1902 but please note that in the past it has been variously known as Longman's Bottom, Lot No. 60 and Poors Common.

Westover / West Stour The Enclosure Commissioners preferred West Stour in their wording of the Award, however, the form *Westover* is more familiar to modern readers and it has the advantage of being closure to the origin of the place-name (Appendix 2). *Westover* has been used throughout in this report.

Part 1: Introductory statements

1.0 Location

Queen's Park is situated within the current bounds of the Borough of Bournemouth in the County of Dorset. Until 1974 the town was a borough within the County of Hampshire. Queen's Park comprises a public open space within a suburban environment approximately 3.5km to the north-east of the town centre. The north-north-west bound of the Park is the residential Queen's Park Avenue whilst the south-east limit is defined by the Wessex Way, a busy dual carriageway that carries traffic bound for the M27 and M3 Motorways.

2.0 Current land use

Queen's Park has an undulating landscape principally defined by two shallow valleys. The most northerly of these valleys (Great Dean) is dry, whilst the other (Longman's Bottom) is the course of a diminutive burn. Clumps of Scots Pine are a feature of the Park but there are also stands of mixed deciduous broadleaf woodland. Elsewhere, mown grass turf predominates. A substantial area of Queen's Park has been laid out as a golf course, but tarmac-surfaced tracks are an inducement to dog-walkers too.

3.0 Circumstances

In 2003, Stephen Gadd of the Queen's Park Improvement and Protection Society (QPIPS) contacted Bournemouth University regarding a series of linear earthworks that has been identified within the Park. The Society had already carried out a survey of these earthworks with reference to available aerial photographs (Stead and Gadd 2003). Site inspection revealed that the Queen's Park earthworks formed a number of irregular enclosures consisting of banks each with a single adjacent ditch. The earthworks were in varying states of preservation; those on the golf course fairways and greens were barely visible in places (Figure 16), whilst others ran through coppices where the tree cover has provided protection (Figure 12). The best-preserved banks stand to a height of *c.* 0.75m.

4.0 Rationale

The purpose of the Queen's park earthworks is not readily apparent and features of this type are notoriously difficult to date by excavation. For this reason, it was proposed that a full survey should be carried out in order to map the extent of the earthworks, and to place them in a wider landscape and historical context. The survey comprised two elements:

- A GPS (global positioning system) survey;
- Desk-based assessment of historical archive including documents and cartographic sources (maps).

The project was costed into a Local Heritage Lottery Find grant.

5.0 GPS survey

The GPS survey was carried out by Bournemouth University using a differential global positioning system (GPS) (Leica GPS 500). The GPS survey of the Queen's Park earthworks was completed in June 2004. The data collected were combined with the information gathered from the initial QPIPS survey (Stead and Gadd 2003), and the initial results of the desk based assessment to produce a provisional map of the extant remains in the Park.

Part 2: Desk-based assessment

6.0 Scope of the assessment

6.1 Research focus

Bournemouth is effectively a new town that developed during the mid 1800s. Prior to this, it was a small coastal location in Christchurch parish and the Chapelry of Holdenhurst within the ancient Liberty of Westover (Young, undated, 5). To add to the confusion, the Liberty of Westover was divided into six tythings (or tithings): Tuckton and Wick, Iford and Pokesdown, Holdenhurst, Throop, Muckleshell, and Muscliff.

6.1.1 The story of the development and history of Bournemouth as a coastal town and leisure resort has been the subject of a number of published volumes (*e.g.* Young 1957; Edwards 1981; Popham and Popham 1985). It is generally recognised that the development of the town from a beauty spot on the coast of west Hampshire was facilitated by what has become known as the Christchurch Enclosure Act of 1802 (Young, undated). In brief, the Act effectively 'privatised' much of the land within the Liberty of Westover thus making available for development virtually the whole of the coastline from Hengistbury Head (Christchurch Harbour) to Alum Chine at the County boundary with Dorset (DRO/102A). It is not the aim of this paper to repeat, revise or re-interpret the history of the foundation of the town of Bournemouth except in cases where it has direct relevance to the interpretation of the earthworks in Queen's Park. Instead, it will be necessary to place the development of the Park into a meaningful context in order that the date and purpose of the earthworks can be best understood.

6.2. Geographical scope

This desk-based assessment has encompassed the whole of the Liberty of Westover, a unit of land roughly triangular in shape to the west of the River Stour. More specifically, the River formed the boundary of the Liberty from Muckleshell in the north to Wick near to Christchurch Harbour. The western extent of the Liberty followed the line of the old County boundary with Dorset *i.e.* from the Stour at Redhill to Alum Chine (see Figure 2). In approximate

terms the former area of Westover was very similar to that of the modern Borough of Bournemouth but it would not have included Talbot Village, East Howe, West Howe, Kinson, Ensbury or Bearwood that, historically, were within the County of Dorset. Until 1974, the whole of Westover was in the County of Hampshire (DRO/102A).

6.3 Archaeological and historical scope

The Enclosure Act of 1802 set in hand a train of developments that transformed the landscape of Westover from a series of riverside hamlets and open heathland into an urban and sub-urban sprawl. Amongst its provisions, the Enclosure Act set aside five (5) parcels of land (lots) for the cutting of turfs as fuel for 89 cottagers and their households. These lots of land were known as turbaries after the ancient customary right of *turbary* that allowed members of a community to cut a fixed amount of turf (or peat) for fuel each year. The turf would have been dried in stacks prior to burning (Figure 13). Gorse (furze) was also used as a fuel. The five parcels of land set aside by the act have largely survived as public parks, and Queen's Park is one of these. For these reasons, the Park potentially contains the some of the last visible evidence of ancient land use within the bounds of the Borough of Bournemouth.

6.4 Establishing dates for earthworks

Only on rare occasions is it possible to date banks and ditches, such as those in Queen's Park, by the process of archaeological excavation. Success depends upon the excavation revealing datable artefacts (*e.g.* coins and pottery) being found within the bank material. A good example of the fallibility of excavation in respect of earthworks is that of a heathland enclosure at East Holton, Dorset. At this site, a section was put through a bank and ditch system with similar characteristics to those at Queen's Park (Figure 11) but no datable materials were recovered (Wilkes *et al*, 2000). A more reliable method is to use documentary source and landscape clues in order to reconstruct past patterns of land use and settlement, a strategy that was to prove to be successful at East Holton (*ibid*).

7.0 The environment of Westover

Historical sources can provide a valuable insight into past environments. In the case of Westover, historic maps, the text of the Enclosure Award and the written observations of travellers in the area, have provided a picture of pre-urban Westover (*i.e.* the modern Borough of Bournemouth).

7.1 Heathland

Until 1802 the area of the Park was a part of a wide expanse of heathland that stretched from Dorchester into west Hampshire (where it is known as the New Forest). A continuous tract of heathland within the bounds of Westover, was historically known as Poole Heath, later corrupted to Poor Heath. In the Enclosure Award Poole Heath was known as 'The Great Heath', an accurate description of its extent. More generally, heathland environments are characteristic of the north-west (Atlantic) coastal margins of Europe (Webb 1986, 11). Heathland soils are of low fertility and they are not suitable for the cultivation of arable crops. Typical heathland plants include dwarf shrubs such as gorse (furze), heather, grasses, bracken, gorse and silver birch.

7.1.1 Remnants of the heathland environment of Westover are scarce and its former existence is rarely celebrated in road names, a practice that is more commonly evident in the neighbouring town of Poole. In fact, one of the rare examples, Heather Close (Throop) is in an area that probably was not colonised by this plant. However, there are a number of literary references to the eighteenth and nineteenth century environment of Westover that are of considerable value in setting the scene:

- Daniel Defoe: (Wimborne) 'South of this town over a sandy wild and barren country, we came to Pool, a considerable sea-port...' (cited by Rogers 1992, 73; Popham and Popham 1985, 14).
- John Byng, Viscount Torrington 1782 *Ride into the West*, 'Cross'd much bleak, heathy country, till near Longham, where I passed over a

handsome river, over a long stone bridge' (cited by Popham and Popham 1985, 14).

- Duke of Rutland (1795), 'From Christchurch...we proceeded on horseback towards Poole. After going about two miles on the highroad, we turned off by the advice of a farmer, who told us, we should find a much shorter way by going to the left, which however would not do for a carriage. We accordingly followed his direction till we came to the top of a high cliff, where we could not find the least track of a road. We were however in some degree recompensed, by a most delightful view of the sea... After enjoying this noble scene, we turned our horses' heads in order to discover some road, which we at last effected. We rode as we thought in the direction of Poole, for on the barren and uncultivated heath where we were, there was not a human being to direct us. We were not however mistaken, as after a most dreary ride, we found ourselves on the high road, from whence we looked down upon Poole and its environs' (cited by Popham and Popham, 1985, 14-15; Young 1970, 20).
- Robert Southey: 'On the morning of 11th September (1797), I found myself upon Poole Heath, walking through desolation' (cited by Pophams and Popham 1985, 15).
- Third Earl of Malmesbury: 'In 1826 I shot an old blackcock (a black grouse) on the very same spot where St Peter's Church at Bournemouth now stands... Every variety of British bird, even the rarest, is in the small museum at Heron Court, all having been killed within five miles of my house.' (Popham and Popham 1985, 28).

7.1.2 This seemingly superficial observation carries with it a wealth of detailed information about the Westover environment in the early years of the nineteenth century. Campbell (1999, 196) is worth quoting in full regarding the habitat of this bird:

'Black grouse country has tall heather or young conifers to nest and hide in, together with patches of forest edge and rushy meadows that have not been improved for sheep grazing. These grouse like an abundance of shoots, buds and leaves, especially of heather and bilberry ... The young chicks need spiders and beetles and moth caterpillars and sawfly larvae; these are found among bog myrtle and the rushes and grasses of wet places.'

7.1.3 Importantly, the habitat of the black grouse provides a scientific insight into the ecology of Poole Heath in Westover, a little over 20 years after the Enclosure Act when the development of the town of Bournemouth was still in its formative stages.

7.2 *Meadow and arable land*

The exception to the heath was the floodplain of the River Stour and, to a lesser a degree, the banks of the Bourne stream. Seasonal flooding of rivers distributes Alluvium upon the soils, thus enhancing soil fertility (Moore 1963). In geological time rivers not infrequently change course, distributing silts across a relatively wide floodplain. The width of the floodplain is determined by the height above sea level of the land adjacent to the river. In Westover, this fertile strip of land extended from Muscliff in the north, through Muckleshell, Throop and Holdenhurst to the mouth of the Stour at Christchurch (Figure 5) and for much of this distance the riverside land rarely achieves 4m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) except at Muscliff (10m AOD) where, as the name suggests, the farm was perched upon a 'cliff' (see Appendix 2: Place-names).

7.2.1 The fertility of the land along the banks of the River Stour made it suitable for agriculture and it is clear from the evidence of the 1802 Enclosure Act that this is how it was used (DRO/102A). By 1802, the land between the river and the line of Muscliff Lane, Throop Lane and Holdenhurst Road included a number of enclosures with names such as 'Free Meadow', 'Ashen Hams Meadow', 'Free Meadow' and 'Great Barling Mead' (*ibid*; Young

undated), all of these being indicative of the tradition of land use along this riverside margin.

7.3 *Woodland*

Currently, tree cover is thin within the former bounds of Westover although there are occasional stands of Scots Pine and deciduous trees within Queen's Park, King's Park and Meyrick Park. This picture may be regarded as typical of most modern urban environments. However, before the development of urban and suburban Bournemouth, Westover was rural rather than urban and field and place-name clues indicate the former existence of extensive woodland in the vicinity of Holdenhurst. In fact, *Holdenhurst* is of itself an Old English woodland name (see Appendix 2) that may have originated some 200-400 years before 1086. Field names that were recorded on the map attached to the Enclosure Act of 1802 are more helpful in locating the exact position of the Westover woodland. 'Dean Wood Mead', 'Little Wood', 'Wood Mead', 'Great Wood' and 'Wood Farm' were all clustered within a crook in the River Stour immediately east of the settlement of Holdenhurst and it seems very probable that this was the location of the 'woodland at 6 pigs from pasturage' mentioned in the Domesday Book.

7.4 *Marine*

Holdenhurst and its associated settlements had convenient access to coastal resources by way of the two Westover chines at Boscombe and Bournemouth. The principal route to both chines is shown on the map that accompanies the Enclosure Award (1802) and which largely equates with the Christchurch Road (see Figures 2 and 3). West of Bournemouth the Christchurch Road swings away from the coast towards Poole via Poole Hill, although this section of the thoroughfare may not have become established until Poole developed as a town in the 13th century (RCHME 1970, 189).

8.0 **Settlement and economy c. AD 1000 to 1802**

There are a number of prehistoric sites in Westover though many of these have been destroyed by the foundation and growth of Bournemouth. During the middle years of the 20th century JB Calkin (1966) contributed much to the

record of the prehistoric past in Westover. Nonetheless, understanding of the prehistoric past of the area is as fragmentary as is the evidence. Survival of historical and landscape evidence from the 11th century onwards makes for a much clearer picture. The network of earthworks in Queen's Park comprises an integral part of the landscape evidence and they are central to unravelling the characteristics of human exploitation of the pre-urban environment of Westover. Essentially, the evidence suggests four Phases in the development of Westover from the Late Saxon (c. 1000) to the Early Modern period (beginning c. 1802). These four phases are set out below, together with a model for the pre-Bournemouth economy.

8.1 Phase 1 (c. AD 1000)

There is no useful historical (written) evidence of settlement in the Holdenhurst area before the compilation of the Domesday Book (1086). However, Domesday Book does mention that in 1066, before the Battle of Hastings), King Harold's brother Earl Tosti held the estate, and it is improbable that Holdenhurst was a new settlement at that time. Given the Old English origin of the place-name (Appendix 2) a foundation date of AD 800 or earlier would not be unreasonable.

8.1.1 During Earl Tosti's tenure, Holdenhurst answered for 29 hides and ½ virgate (Appendix 1). In simple terms what that this means is that Holdenhurst was assessed for tax, payable to the King, based upon the value of a little over 29 hides of land. The size of a hide of land could vary slightly between localities but a hide is generally reckoned to be sufficient land for a family to plough in one agricultural year.

8.1.2 Domesday Book was a tax document and its authors did not set out to describe each settlement (estate) in detail. However, it is certain that the Holdenhurst of 1066 would not have existed in isolation. It would have needed to be linked to other places by a network of roads. Both Christchurch (then known as Twyneham) and Canford Magna (near Wimborne) are known to have existed at this time and it is virtually certain that the present Castle

Lane provided a route between both of these places, with Holdenhurst being one of the settlements in between.

8.1.3 Holdenhurst is situated on the west bank of the river Stour (the *west over*). Here, the floodwater from the river provided a rich Alluvial soil that would have been ideal for a successful agricultural economy. A band of land closest to the river would have been subject to seasonal flooding making it ideal as meadow land with lush grasses producing a hay crop in the autumn. The limit of the meadow is likely to have been marked by the line of what is now Muscliff Lane, Throop Lane and the north end of Holdenhurst Road. Between this line and the route of Castle Lane lay the arable fields. South and west of Castle Lane sprawled the vast expanse of Poole Heath (The Great Heath). The heath stretched to meet the coastline but also reached beyond the border with Dorset into the manor of Canford Magna (Figure 2 to 4 inclusive).

8.1.4 Although the soils were poor, heathland is not without its uses, one of which would have been the seasonal grazing of cattle. Before 1802, access to the heath was controlled by common rights, as was the case with most resources (Chapman *et al* 1997, 3). The Enclosure Award of 1802 contains a reference to Dean Drove Gate (DRO/102A; Allotment no. 26) which facilitated access to the heath at a point that can now be identified as the east end of Queen's Park. Gates that gave access onto the heath or common were alternatively referred to as 'beastgates' or 'stints' (Richardson 1986, 18) (Figure 3). The existence of at least one other gate is mentioned in the Award and this ran adjacent to Castle Gate Close, which was described as an 'old enclosure' (plot no. 92). Castle Gate Close has survived on the south side of what is now known as Castle Lane, almost opposite Mill Road leading to Throop Mill. In this location, the Castle Gate would have provided access to the heath and to Strouden Farm. Other beastgates may have existed at various points along Castle Lane (Figure 3) prior to Parliamentary Enclosure (see below). 'Gates' of this type cannot be dated with precision but they are likely to be of medieval or earlier origin.

8.2 Phase 2 (AD 1066-1086)

William the First's commissioners completed the Domesday Book in 1086 but the document also records land holdings in 1066. Although Domesday Book did not set out to describe settlements or their precise location, when combined with information from other sources, some of the details of each entry can be useful in putting together a sketchy landscape picture.

8.2.1 In the case of Holdenhurst, the full Domesday entry is reproduced in Appendix 1, but the essential characteristics of the settlement may be listed as follows:

- 19 ploughs
- a small church
- a mill
- three fisheries
- 187 acres of meadow
- woodland.

8.2.2 Some of these features have been identified in Paragraph 7.0 (the environment of Westover). For example, the 19 ploughs relates directly to the arable land, whilst the meadow and the woodland are self-explanatory. A church is mentioned and it is known that a medieval church did stand in Holdenhurst until 1829 when it was demolished and replaced by a new one (Edwards 1981, 5). By repute, the old church was of 'Saxon' date, which means that it would have been standing at the time of the Domesday survey (*ibid*, 5). The three fisheries that are listed cannot be identified in the landscape but the close proximity of the Stour makes that river an obvious choice for their location.

8.2.3 Of considerable interest is the mill and it is important in two respects. First, its presence in 1086 confirms the production of cereal crops in nearby arable fields (if, indeed, it was a flour mill at that time). Secondly, the mill at Throop continued in operation until 1974 (Edwards 1881, 11) and it is possible that it stands on, or close to the site of its Domesday predecessor. The place-

name *Throop* indicates that it was an outlying settlement, presumably in relation to Holdenhurst. The possible presence of a mill at Throop in 1086 arguably confirms that Throop existed at that time even though it was not mentioned by name. Figure 4 takes account of this possibility but is otherwise similar to Figures 2 and 3.

8.3 *Phase 3 (c. AD 1250-1802)*

Figure 5 illustrates significant developments during the 13th century. These developments are conjectural but probable for it is during this period that the farmsteads at Muscliff (AD 1242), Moordown (late 13th century) and Pokesdown (AD 1300) are recorded for the first time. Strouden is undated but similar place-names are receiving an initial mention in both Dorset and Hampshire between AD 1225 and AD 1340 (Coates 1989; Mills 1998).

8.3.1 All of these farmsteads could be of earlier origin than the date they are first recorded in documentary sources, nevertheless the location of Moordown, Strouden and Pokesdown suggests that they were founded as farms that were assarts (effectively clearings) that were carved out of the heathland (Bristow 1994, 6). Initially, these farms may have been more closely associated with pastoral activities than arable farming and this would explain their location. By the time of the 1805 Enclosure Award, Moordown, Strouden and Pokesdown were situated within land reclaimed from the heath, but which was nevertheless described in the Award as 'old enclosures' (DRO/102A). The term 'old enclosure' as applied by the Enclosure Commissioners suggests that they were of sufficient antiquity as to be well beyond the recall of living memory.

8.4 *The economy of Westover during Phases 1, 2 and 3*

Before considering Phase 4, it is essential to consider how the economy of Westover operated during the period up until Enclosure in 1802-5. First, it is important to stress that the economy was agricultural. There were no towns and there was no settlement along the coastline. The principal area of human occupation was Holdenhurst with a subsidiary settlement at Throop and (possibly later) at Iford, Wick, Muccleshell and Muscliff all of which lay on or

close to the west bank of the River Stour. In this location, these settlements sat on a boundary between the meadows and the arable land (see paragraph 7.2). The meadows provided a hay crop whilst the arable produced the cereals for the community.

8.4.1 Young (undated, 5) argues that 'there were no areas of strip fields', but cartographic evidence (old maps) suggests that the arable land was divided up into at least four large parcels, the boundaries being Throop Road (north), Castle Lane West (south) Muscliff Lane, Broadway Lane, Mill Lane and Yeamans Road. The Ordnance Survey map of 1872 also shows that some, at least, of these fields had been sub-divided into long strips or selions (Figure 6). This is a medieval feature that is normally associated with the cultivation of 'open fields' whereby individual members of a community were allotted a number of selions in each of two or more large fields according to status. Under this system, a pattern of crop rotation was practised to which each member of the community was required to conform. The allotment of selions was the 'common right' of each community member. Individual access to the meadows and to the woodland was also be governed by individual common rights.

8.4.2 To the south-west, beyond the modern line of Castle Lane West, lay the Great Heath (Figures 2 to 6). This was a landscape of rough grasses, heathers and gorse (Paragraph 7.1). In the medieval period, heathland environments of this kind were described as 'wastes', meaning that the land was inferior (Bristow1994, 210) or unsuitable for agriculture, principally cereal crops. This did not mean that the heath was non-productive, in fact, it was an important component of the local economy. There was also a common right to take fuel from the heath in the form of turf and gorse. Turf or peat diggings were known as *turbaries* (Richardson1986, 18). Turf from the Heath would have been stored in stacks in the yards of the cottagers and farmsteads of Westover. A contemporary photograph of a turf stack was taken at Bushey School near Corfe Castle, c. 1890 (Figure13).

8.4.3 In addition to grazing and fuel rights, the Great Heath provided game such as black grouse (Paragraph 7.1) whilst the heathers were a rich source of nectar for bees. Popham and Popham (1985, 27) and Gadd (2002, 2) refer to, 'The bee garden' that 'was by the side of the common from Wick to Wimborne...' However, it is probable that the keeping of bees was a fairly common practice amongst the cottagers of Westover and that hives were a common sight in the gardens of the Stour-side settlements.

8.4.4 During the summer months, the heath provided grazing for cattle. Such grazing was also a common right, with access being controlled via the beastgates (Paragraph 8.1) (Figure 3). Essentially, the rural economy of Westover relied upon a fine balance between the riverside location of its settlements, the woods, meadow, arable fields and the Great Heath. All of these components were dependent upon each of the others, but central to the well being of the whole was the production, rearing and sale of cattle. This pattern fits the model of a *Flat middle Europe Heathland* economy whereby the land was divided into '*infields*' and '*outfields*' (Figure 8). During the spring and summer, the cattle were kept on the heath (or outfields). In the colder months of autumn and winter the cattle would be brought off the heath and set to feed on the stubble and waste of the arable fields, and in the hay crop from the meadow. These were the in-fields. Whilst feeding in the in-fields, cattle deposited manure, a function that was vital to the fertility of the fields, and to healthy cereal and grass the following year (Aston 1985, 127-31). The Enclosure Award makes a number of references to limited cattle grazing in the rich grasslands of the 'common' or 'commonable' meadows along the west bank of the Stour (DRO / 102A). This practice would have produced milk rich cattle.

8.4.5 The cycle of feeding and manuring would have been pivotal to the survival of all of the Westover communities, but it would have been particularly important to the outlying farms of Moordown, Strouden and Pokesdown, for these were situated on land that had been won from the Great Heath where the soils were poor (Figure 5, Phase 3).

8.5 *Drifts and droves*

An agricultural economy in which stock were important, required a network of tracks and roads whereby cattle could move from farm to meadow, to heath and to market. The 1805 Enclosure Award refers to such tracks and roads as either *drifts* or *drove* (DRO / 102A). The Award records the existence of the occasional 'private carriage road and driftway' and these were exclusively on or between named properties, one of these being associated with Allotment 60 (now Queen's Park). The driftway in question (named Road No. 16 in the Award) is the north-east end of Holdenhurst Road. However, Road No. 16 is also described as being near to Dean Drove Gate, a beastgate onto the Great Heath (see paragraph 8.1), and so it is probable that the words *drift* and *drove* had come to mean much the same thing by 1805. The wording of the Award is also quite specific about roads that are not to be used as driftways, as in the case of Road No. 12 'at a place called Bunny' that 'shall...forever remain a Private Road, Bridle Way or Footway but not a Driftway...'

8.5.1 Watts (2004, 9-11) classifies drove or drift roads into three categories:

D1 = Local droves or drifts linking individual farms, estates and settlements with their customary common pastures.

D2 = Regional routes over longer but relatively local distances that link farms to important markets.

D3 = Long distance droves (rather than drifts) such as Wales to London.

8.5.2 The drift roads mentioned in the Westover Award overwhelmingly fit into Watts' D1 category. However, routes such as Castle Lane (the Lane to the Castle at Christchurch) are arguably D2 Droves that connected with markets at Wimborne and Christchurch, both of which had annual fairs that traded in cattle (Owen 1756, 29 and 38 respectively). The Westover drift / drove network is an important factor in understanding the earthworks within Queen's Park.

9.0 An era ends

Phases 1 to 3 (as described in Paragraphs 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3) define Westover as a group of Stour side settlements that were dependent upon a carefully balanced and controlled rural economy. Discernible changes had taken place during the period c. AD 1000 – 1800 but for the most part these had been evolutionary, respecting a centuries old process of land management. The passing of the Christchurch Enclosure Act in 1802, and the subsequent re-parcelling, reallocation and re-designation of by the Award Commissioners in 1805, brought about changes that were revolutionary and immutable.

9.1 Phase 4: Enclosure and its consequences.

The Christchurch Enclosure Act and the consequent Award brought about the dismantling of a centuries old rural economy and the facilitation and development of urbanisation. The notion that land could be 'enclosed' was not new one. The Enclosure Award of 1805 is full of references to 'old enclosures' that were adjacent to 'ancient lanes' (DRO / 102A). However, these were enclosures that had their origins in the medieval past and they had developed piecemeal in step with medieval common law. Common law was complex, and it frequently varied from on manor to the next. Lords of manors, such as Sir George Tapps of Christchurch (of which Westover was a part) owned the soil within their manors. They granted copyhold rights to their tenants but both lord and tenant were bound to observe common law that was administered from the local manor court.

9.1.1 Common Law was the administrative tool that controlled and maintained tenancy rights, and the procedures that governed the use of land, by whom, by how many, and when. However, agricultural production was limited by the constraints of the system. By the 17th century manorial lords and potential speculators were seeking a greater return from their assets and their potential investments. Ancient land rights stood in the way of profits. In particular, vast tracts of heathland such as the Great Heath were regarded as essentially unproductive, especially at a time when advances in agricultural practice could transform them into fertile pasture or arable fields. What stood

in the way was centuries old practice that was underpinned by common law, and these rights were difficult to expunge.

9.1.2 One certain way of sweeping aside common law was by private Act of Parliament, a costly and lengthy process that was made easier by the General Enclosure Act of 1801 that enabled lords of the manors and other landowners to extinguish common law rights, and to enclose open tracts of land (Palmer 1962, 117-18). It is not a coincidence that the Christchurch Enclosure Act followed within one year of this legislation hastened, perhaps, by hot dry summers in 1800 and 1801 that resulted in poor crops (Edwards 1981, 13). It was required that Commissioners should be appointed to ensure set out new land divisions and to allocate or re-allocate (award) them fairly. In Westover, the Christchurch Enclosure Act applied principally to the Great Heath that was divided up into regular parcels and effectively privatised. A glance at the Enclosure Award map (Figure 7) shows the stark contrast of the outline of the old enclosures of medieval origin with the straight angular features of the early nineteenth century Parliamentary Enclosures.

10.0 Defence of common rights

The processes of Enclosure and Award have been well researched and documented by Young (undated) and it will not be repeated here. However, the impact of the legislation in understanding the context of the earthworks in Queen's Park is of direct relevance.

10.1 The Right of Turbary

Essentially the right of turbary was a major issue during the re-allocation of land in 1805. The loss of common rights consequent upon the enclosure Act was going to make life difficult for the cottagers of Westover, and in particular, the forfeiture of turbary rights threatened to deprive them of the only source of fuel. The cottagers' case was taken up by 'Farmer' West of Muscliff who drew up a petition to present to the Commissioners at a meeting in Ringwood (Edwards 1981, 31). The Commissioners accepted the petition and 425 acres (172 hectares) of the Great Heath were set aside for the 'supplying of turfs for fuel...at such times in every year and in such manner as the Lords of the said

manors respectively and the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor...shall from time to time appoint,' (DRO / 102A). Lot 60 (now effectively Queen's Park) was one of the turbaries set aside by the Commissioners (Paragraph 7.3). At just over 147 acres, Lot 60 was the largest of the five turbaries, described as 'situate at Longman's Bottom...(DRO / 102A)'. The other four turbarly lots roughly equated to Seafeld Gardens, King's Park, Redhill Common and Meyrick Park (Young undated, 17).

10.1.1 The establishment of the five turbarly lots effectively meant that the ancient heathland management regime was preserved in at least one respect. The significance for the future was that these parcels of land, and some of the ancient features with them, were protected against the later onslaught of housing development.

11.0 Towards a solution

In any consideration of the earthworks in Queen's Park (Figures 12 and 16), it must first be said that there is no event that has taken place since 1800 that can in any way account for their presence. Plot No. 60, also known as Poors Common, continued to be a source of fuel for commoners until the end of the 19th century although it became less important as a turbarly when coal became more readily available by rail from the 1850s onwards. In 1902 Plot No. 60 was re-named Queen's Park and in 1905 the golf course was first set out (Gadd 2002, 12 and 15). However, the layout of the earthworks (Figure 17) does not conform to the design of the tees, fairways, bunkers or greens of *11.2* earthworks exist in isolation: they have to be considered in relation to a number of other features each of which is discussed in the following paragraphs.

11.1 The 'bottoms'

Within Queen's Park earthworks there are two natural valleys. To the north is dry combe that approximately follows the line of Queens Park Avenue. This combe may be equated with Great Dean Bottom that is mentioned in the Enclosure Award (DRO / 102A). The Enclosure Award also describes Lot No. 60 (Queen's Park) as being 'situate at Longman's Bottom' (Long Valley) and

this is almost certainly a reference to a second combe that lies to the south and east of the Park, roughly parallel to the Wessex Way. Longman's Bottom is followed by the course of a small stream that delivers water to a shallow pond, and provides the principal route through the Park (Figure 15).

11.2 The earthworks

The Queen's Park earthworks are like many others that can be found on the remaining pockets of heathland in east Dorset. Reference has been already made to an excavated example at East Holton (Paragraph 6.4 and Figure 11) and in addition to this, students from Bournemouth University (then the Dorset Institute) sectioned a similar earthwork close to Talbot Manor in 1986 (Figure 9). The record of this second excavation shows the typical structure of such an earthwork: principally turf and soils cut from a ditch and thrown up to form a low boundary. All of the Queen's Park earthwork boundaries conform to this simple construction method: close inspection of each earthen bank reveals that each accompanied by a shallow quarry ditch. In most cases the ditches have become filled, but their position is indicated by a strip of light green vegetation alongside each embankment (Figures 12 and 16).

11.2.1 The most noticeable feature of the Queen's Park earthworks is that they are principally clustered around the sides of Longman's Bottom where they form clusters of small enclosures. The presence of small enclosures along a route is one of Watts' indicators of a droveway. In support of this argument, Watts asserts that 'rent for grazing and the sale of fodder were sources of income for local farmers and (that therefore) roads leading to market towns were lined with paddocks, sometimes of odd shapes, that might not be used in the annual farming regime' (2004, 11). Whilst Longman's Bottom does not lead directly to a market, it does lead eastwards off the Great Heath where it conjoins with the Castle Lane route to either Wimborne or Christchurch. Furthermore, the Queen's Park enclosures are relatively small and certainly irregular. In terms of location and form they conform to at least one of Watts' criteria for drove road features.

11.3 Water supply

According to Watts (2004, 11) ponds are also drove road features. Such a pond (stream fed) does exist in Longman's Bottom (Paragraph 11.2) though today it is regarded as an ornamental feature. Nevertheless, it may be much older than its present appearance suggests and its presence on the Great Heath would be consistent with the model for the *Flat middle Europe Heathland* (sub-Paragraph 8.4.4 and Figure 8).

11.4 Other indicators

In all, Watts (2004) lists seven drove road features (see also Watts 2003, 18-20) and not all of these are applicable to a local drove (or drift) such as Longman's Bottom. Features such as fords are more applicable to the longer droves of Watts' categories D2 and D3 (2004). However, if the route of Longman's Bottom is extended north-eastwards to pass Townsend and Wood Farm, it would arrive at the Blackwater crossing of the Stour, now a road junction (NGR 41350,09600).

11.4.1 The physical evidence for the use of Queen's Park (Longman's Bottom) for the pasturing of cattle is sound. To this, can be added the testimony of the Enclosure Award, when Lot No 60 is one of five that were set aside as turbaries (turf commons) with the stipulation that it 'shall not be fed or depastured by any cattle or sheep whatsoever'. Implicit in this statement is that the newly founded turbaries had been available for pasture in the past before 1805).

12.0 Conclusions

The weight of evidence indicates that the Queen's Park enclosures are a relic of a heathland enclosure system that was an integral part of an ancient land management system.

12.1 Chronology

It is difficult to arrive at a precise date for these features but it would be fairly safe to say that given the relatively slow pace of change up until 1802 that they had been in existence for at least 100 years before that date. In addition,

it is most improbable that all of the enclosures are of identical date. Their relative juxtapositions are random: haphazard. Informal arrangements of this kind can be expected to develop over a number of years. Conceivably, some had been abandoned by 1802 for these enclosures were not specifically mentioned in the Enclosure Award, a document that is otherwise rich in descriptive detail. In a sense, a precise date for the enclosures is unimportant; it is enough to know that together with Longman's Bottom, and probably the pond, they comprise a fragment of a fossilised pre-urban landscape.

12.2 Later archaeology of Queen's Park

There are traces of a trackway that cuts across the spine of Queen's Park with a starting point close to the Queen's Park Avenue gate there afterwards following the line of the ridge between Longman's Bottom and Great Dean Bottom apparently reaching the site of the old rifle range on the west side of the Park. This track is a later feature because it cuts across the line of an enclosure bank at F46 (see Figure 17). In all probability the track is associated with the brick fields and kilns that occupied the rifle range site in the years leading up to 1877 (Ordnance Survey 1872).

12.2.1 The Park also contains a number of small quarry pits. These will have been dug to exploit clay seams, gravel or sand. On balance, these quarries are likely to post-date 1805 when materials were required for the maintenance of roads and the programme of urbanisation.

13.0 Post script

The implementation of the Enclosure Act was an expensive business and it was necessary for the Commissioners to recover the costs of surveying, drafting the Award and road building. With this in mind, a number of Lots were identified as being available for private purchase. Much of this land was situated along the coastline of Bournemouth and Boscombe, which in private hands, became ripe for resort development (Young undated, 21). Arguably, it was this component of the Award that contributed most to the urbanisation of Westover and prompted Richard Dale, native of Tuckton to write in 1871:

I have one remark to make: that if a man has made a great alteration in the appearance of the country, and of my native place, he has robbed it of its greatest beauties...When I look back to the beginning of this century, when the wide extent of many thousand acres was clothed with beautiful heather...I can hardly feel that the world is progressing, but retrograding in these days.'

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Domesday Book entry for Holdenhurst

From Munby (1982):

The King himself holds Holdenhurst. Earl Tosti held it. Then it answered for 29 hides and $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate. When Hugh of Port acquired it, there were over 22 hides and $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate and they never paid tax; the other 7 hides are on the Island (of Wight). Now it answers for 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ hides and $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate; 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hides are in the New Forest. Land for 20 ploughs. In lordship 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ploughs.

37 villagers and 25 smallholders with 19 ploughs. A small church; 14 slaves; a mill at 15s; 3 fisheries serving the hall; meadow, 181 acres; woodland at 6 pigs from pasturage. On 7 hides which are in the Forest dwelt 13 villagers and 3 smallholders with 8 ploughs; with these ploughs there is woodland outside the manor at 129 pigs from pasturage.

Value before 1066 £44; later £34; now £24 at face value; however it pays £25 at 20 (pence) to the *ora*. What is in the Forest is assessed at £12 10s.

Appendix 2: Place-names

The place-name derivations listed here are based wholly, or in part, from Mills (1998) unless otherwise stated. Where appropriate, topographical notes have been added.

Boscombe: *Boscumbe* (1273), *Bascumbe* (1593). Possibly 'valley overgrown with spiky plants' (gorse?) from the Old English *bors* and *cumb*.

Bournemouth: *la Bournemowth* (1407), *Burnemouth* (1575), Bournemouthe (1585). The 'mouth of the stream' from Old English *burna* and *mutha*.

Castle Lane: Lane leading to the Castle (*i.e.* Christchurch).

Christchurch: see Twyneham.

Haddon: Coates offers no explanation for this place-name but Gelling (1984, 141) states that in Old English *dun* means 'a hill' and this fits well enough with Haddon Hill in Westover. The first element '*Had-*' is more obscure but is obscure but it might be derived from an Old English personal name.

Holdenhurst: *Holeest* (1066) 'Copse or wooded hill where holly grows' from the Old English *holegn* and *hurst*.

Iford: *Huver* (12th century), *Uvre* (1272), *Uvere* (13th century), *Iver* (1540). From Old English *yfer* 'a slope'. The alteration to Iford is probably quite recent, perhaps because it is situated at a crossing point on the River Stour).

Moordown: *Mourdon* (late 13th century), *Mourden* (1300), *Moredown* (1579). Probably 'hill in marshy ground' from Old English *mor* and *dun*. The location is above the flood plain of the River Stour).

Muccleshell: Coates makes no reference to this place-name. Gelling (1997, 135) offers Old English *miclan*, meaning 'great' for muckle (which can also

occur as 'mickle-'). If *-shell* is a corruption of 'hill' then the two elements combine as 'great (or big) hill'. A candidate for this would be the nearby Berry Hill that is topped by a prehistoric barrow (NGR 410500,096340).

Muscliff: *Museclive* (1242), *Museclyve* (1314), *Moseclyve* (1317). 'Cliff or slope frequented by mice' (water voles?). From Old English *mus* and *clif*.

Strouden: No interpretation is offered by Coates but he does list three other Dorset places with similar names that derive from the Old English word *strōd* meaning 'marshy land overgrown by brushwood' (gorse?). This would be a very good description of a farm situated in a marshy area of Poole Heath.

Pokesdown: *Pokesdown* (1300), *Pokesdon* (1333), *Pokesdowne* (1540). Probably 'hill or down haunted by a puck or goblin', from Old English *puck* and *dun*. However, if the name is a very old one, the first element could be the Old English personal name *Poc*.

Throop: *la Throup*, *la Trope* (12th century), *la Thrope* (1274), *Throppe* (1540). From Old English *throp* 'an outlying farm or secondary settlement'.

Redhill (Red Hill): According to Coates, self explanatory, so called from the 18th century.

Twynham (Christchurch): *Tweoxneam* (12th century), *Twynham* (934), *Tuinham* (1086), *Ecclesia Christi de Twinham* (12th century), *Christchirche of Twynham* (1318), *Crischurch* (1354). The old name of *Twynham* means land between the streams (the rivers Stour and Avon). The new name of Christchurch is a specific reference to the Priory.

Westover or West Over: No explanation given by Coates. However, he does list Westover Farm (in St Leonards and St Ives) as '(Place on) the west river

bank' from Old English *west* and *ofer*. A slight change in emphasis to '(Land on) the west river bank (of the Stour)' would suit well enough here.

Wick: *la wich* (12th century), *Wyke* (1263), *la wyk* (late 13th century). 'The dairy farm', from old English *wic*.