

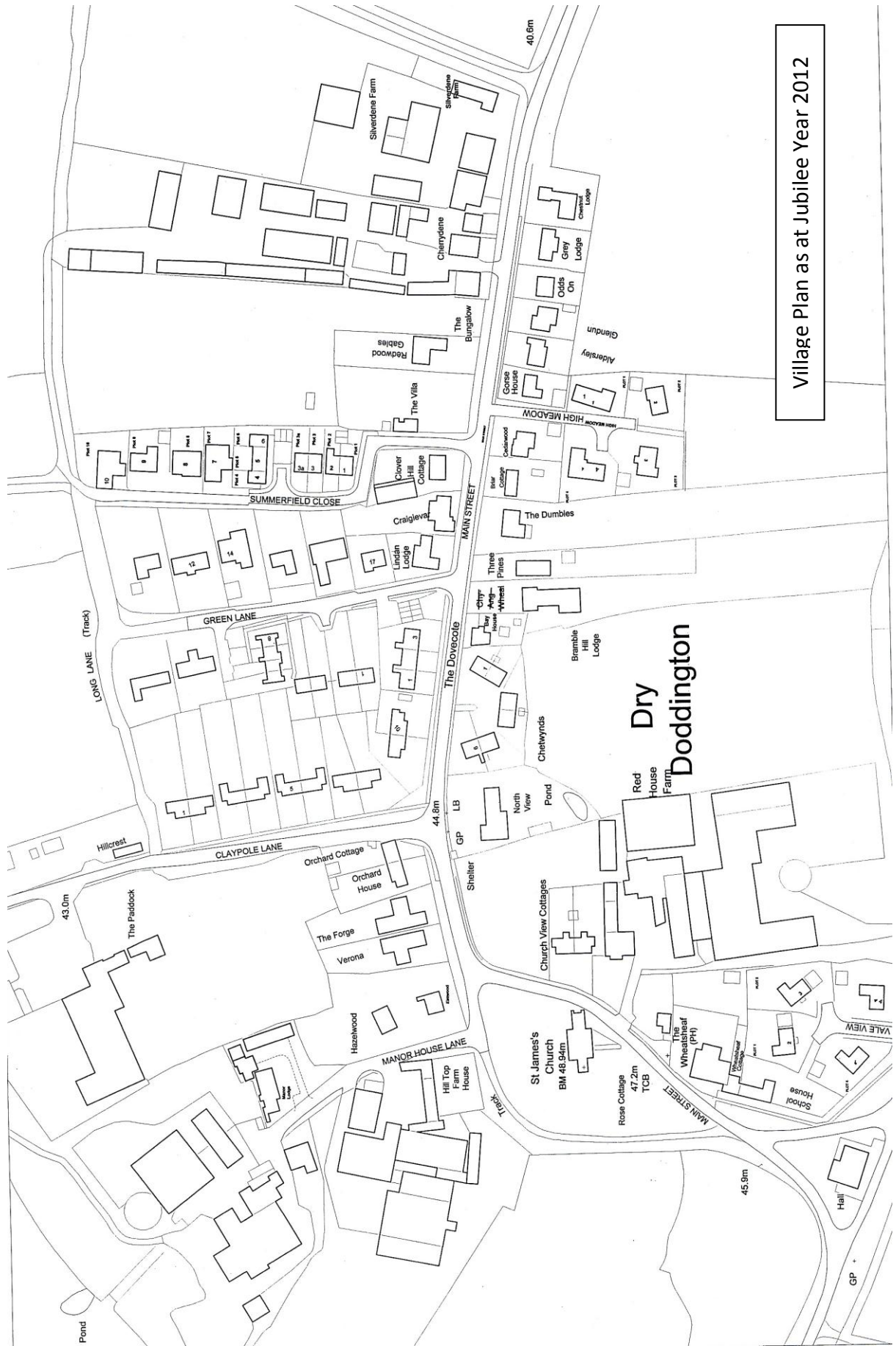


**A SHORT HISTORY
OF
DRY DODDINGTON**

by
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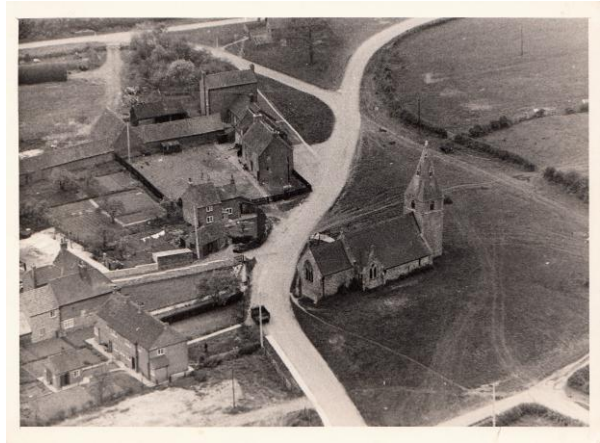
Village Plan as at Jubilee Year 2012

Dry Doddington Historical Photographs 1931-1991 (Courtesy Eva Nullis)



Photo (L) taken in 1931 Free Grazing on the Green. Lincoln Red Cows – with horns!

Photo (R) taken in 1954 – as yet no extension to The Wheatsheaf



Aerial view (above) of eastern part of the village (circa 1974)

“Electricity came in 1946. Before that folk managed with lamps & candles.

No mains water until 1948; before that used wells and carried it from the river. No flush toilets – two or three seaters & the pit was emptied by horse & cart. If you had a bucket, then this was emptied into a hole in the garden (made cabbages grow)”

Aerial photo (R) of western part of the village August 1991



Lincolnshire Domesday Book - DRY DODDINGTON

1. Lands of the Bishop of Bayeux (M)

In Dry Doddington, Gladwin had 6 bovates of land taxable. Land for 6 oxen. Baldric, the Bishop's man, has 2 villagers and 2 smallholders with one plough. $\frac{1}{2}$ mill 3s meadow 10 acres. Value 10s

2. Land of Kolsveinn

(M) In Dry Doddington Auti had 6 bovates of land taxable. Land for as many oxen. Kolsveinn has 2 villagers and 2 small holders with $\frac{1}{2}$ plough and $\frac{1}{2}$ mill 3s. Meadow 10 acres. Value before 1066 and now 10 s

(M) = Manor

3. There are also 6 bovates of land taxable. Land for 6 oxen. A jurisdiction of Marston 2 Freemen and 2 small holders have 2 oxen. The lord has $\frac{1}{2}$ plough and meadow – 10 acre.

Jurisdiction of Westborough.

In Dry Doddington, 9 carucates of land and 6 bovates taxable.

Land for as many ploughs and oxen, 5 Freemen and 12 villagers have 7 ploughs and meadow, 200 acres; underwood 10 acres. Land of Geoffrey Alselin.

THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, DRY DODDINGTON - 1876

This old Chapel of Ease in the parish of Westborough having fallen into a sad state of decay, owing to the neglect of former years, and being no longer suited to the service of God, it was resolved to make an appeal to those most interested in the well-being of the parish, hoping they might be induced to contribute towards its restorations. Contributions being liberally promised, plans were prepared by Mr Wm. Jeffrey Hopkins, diocesan architect, Worcester, and the work carried out under his superintendence by Messrs' Rudd and son, builders, Grantham. The restoration was begun last spring. It is hoped that the Chapel will be re-opened on the 28th of this month, when the Bishop of Lincoln has kindly engaged to preach. The structure is not devoid of architectural features of interest, being generally of early 13th century work. It consists of a tower, nave, north and south aisles and chancel. The south doorway retains semi-Norman features. The tower has a bell as early as the 13th century, dedicated to the patron saint (St. James). The tower is surmounted by a simple broach spire. The nave is divided into four bays, and still retains its original pillars, responds and arches, which are very characteristic of the period, and are of great simplicity and beauty. One of the original lancet windows remains at the east end of the north wall. Two late 15th century windows remain in the south wall of chancel, being good examples of that date' but some of the old work had been destroyed, and other portions mutilated, by injudicious insertions and attempts at restoration. An interesting feature in this little Church was the remains of the north-east gable rising from the north wall. This has been restored, and a window of suitable character inserted. The roofs have also been raised to their original pitch, and form an important feature of the restoration. The restoration include a new chancel arch, east window to chancel, two new lancet light couplets to the south aisle, and a general reparation of all the old stonework; also entirely new fittings to the whole church.

THE SCHOOL

On the present site of the Village Hall, stood three of four cottages called Parish Row. Around 1871, these cottages were demolished and a school erected at the cost of £170 in 1872. The bricks were transported by local farmers using horse and carts from Caffaratas. The previous school was in the brick building adjoining The Wheatsheaf Pub. The door was nearest School Farm. The land in front could have been the playground. The stone part of the pub next to the school was a stable with granary.

Mrs S. Kerr, of Dry Doddington, wrote a letter to The Grantham Journal regarding some research into the village school she had undertaken:

The first school mistress was Miss Emma Pitt. Miss Fanny Stapleton started teaching at the school in 1883 and taught at Dry Doddington for 36 years. A press cutting from 1915 stated "The services of a School Mistress like Miss Stapleton must be invaluable and we know there are many amongst the boys and girls whom she has trained and seen grow to manhood and womanhood in her 32 years work here who still speak of her and her care lovingly and with tender thoughts regarding early days in the old school"

"After Miss Stapleton retired in 1919 the school had a succession of different teachers and standards went downhill rapidly. The November 1925 inspection reports: "The children are beyond control of the mistress and the school is in an insufficient state. It is true that the condition of the school was better when the mistress had some assistance and it is clear that she cannot manage the 25 children in attendance"

THE VILLAGE MANOR & INDIVIDUAL HOUSES

At the back of Rose Cottage was a cowshed and calf box with a narrow passage between the house and buildings. At the side of Rose Cottage (down Red House drive) were the remains of a single storey cottage.

The grass track behind the church was called Chapel Row. On the 1851 Census, a cottage was situated in the pub field almost opposite Parish Row, and a farm and buildings were behind the church. This was called Hill Farm. It was later demolished and a new house and buildings erected on Doddington Lane (towards the A1) but it retained its old name though no longer on the hill.

Down Manor House Lane, known as Cullins Lane, were five or six houses. Two cottages stood in the stock-yard of Hill Top Farm (Grummitts) where a lean-to now joins a grain shed. A grocer named George Cullins lived in one (1851 Census). The Manor Farm, known as the Old Manor House until 1958, was surrounded by a moat with a pond in the back garden. A square stone dovecote stood on the site of the Dutch barn in the stockyard of Hill Top farm. This was demolished in the 1950s. A hedge was on the far side of the dovecote (from The Manor House) with an orchard on the land between the two farms. Where two houses were, a cattle shed (built by Carrs) now stands in the yard of Manor Farm. The well was filled in some time ago.

Foundation slabs two feet square were found when Precelley House (now Manor Lodge) was built; the rubble from the old Chetwynds Cottages was used as a base for the foundations. The well for this house was near the present front gate.

Main Street was earlier called the High Street. When the foundations for the extension to Elmwood were being excavated, a path and foundations of an earlier house were found. Running along the east side of the garden of Elmwood was a grass track. Mr R. Pacey & Mrs E. Nullis knew this as Blacksmith Lane, but in the 1851 Census, it was referred to as Hangman's Lane. It led to three cottages on the right hand side of the lane (in Mr D Carr's paddock) and a workshop on the left. In 1851, one of the cottages was

occupied by Mark Cragg, who was a carpenter. Later the workshop became a blacksmith's and was demolished earlier in the 20th century.

Along the High Street are two cottages, Orchard House and Orchard Cottage. Until early in 1960s, these were three homes, the one nearest the Church was owned for many years by James Bellamy (1851 census), shoemaker and later by his son, also named James Bellamy. The family are known to have lived in the village until 1900.

Until 1905, Claypole Lane was known as Rose Lane. Only three houses were here until 1948. 'The Paddocks' formerly known as Maple Villa was in the occupation of Richard Emmons at the time of the Enclosures (1773) followed by William Beecham whose daughter Elizabeth married William Cullins. Ann Cullins, the last of the family to live there died in 1925.

The house now called Wispy Tufts was built before 1851. The precise date is unknown. The last old house on Rose Lane was demolished sometime in the 20th Century. It stood where 1 & 2 Claypole Lane are and a grocer lived there by the name of Joseph Daws with his wife, Elizabeth. The remainder of the east side of Claypole Lane was orchard.

From the top of Claypole Lane along Main Street to Green Lane were five homes. Firstly a row of three houses, then a dovecote followed by two more houses. Where Clover Hill Cottage stands was a large stone house with thatched roof. This was the earlier home of the Braithwaite family. On the site of The Villa was a small brick built cottage which was much longer at one time and was also thatched. At the right hand side of the garden was a blacksmith's shop.

One butcher resided in Dry Doddington. He lived in a house where Alan & Julie Summerfield's bungalow now stands. His name was George Bennett.

Coming back along the south side of the main street, Grey Lodge was the farmhouse for the land which now belongs to Hill Top Farm. Until 1950, the remains of the old buildings could be seen at the back of the house.

A charity or parish cottage was next to Grey Lodge. It was a single storey building which became very dilapidated and was eventually demolished. Mrs Hindsom was the last occupant. Between the charity cottage and High Meadow was one house. Nothing is known about it. Silverdene Farm was on the site now occupied by High Meadow and was occupied by the Roberts family, Mr W. Roberts and later his daughter who was Registrar of Births and Deaths for Claypole Sub-Division. On the site of Chetwynds (the old people's bungalows) were a pair of semi-detached cottages. Brewsters lived at one end and the Miss Chetwynds at the end nearer the church. Miss May Chetwynd was Schoolmistress at Westborough. It is said they had connections with gentry in Northamptonshire. Opposite Claypole Lane end stood a pair of old semi-detached houses with a paddock behind. It belonged to the one nearer the church. Here was a built a new bungalow called North End and the original house demolished. Two fields down Long Lane belonged to the two cottages. A man named Green lived in the one nearer the church. There were also two cottages on the present site of Church View.

During the 19th century (exact date unknown), Robert Heron, Lord of the Manor, allowed the villagers to enclose their garden frontages in exchange for the rent on Stubbs hill field which had, until then, been used for the poor of the village. Stubbs Hill field was never enclosed on the coach roadside to signify the rent was for the use of the village and has remained so to this day.

THE RIVER WITHAM

On the river bank nearest Dry Doddington, ran a cart track, which was rented out for grazing, the money being used for the poor of the village. When the river was re-banked, the remaining land was incorporated into Nash's Farm. It is thought the cart track led to a mill.

The land between the river and meadow lane used to flood. A railway tract ran from 20 yards on Doddington side of the Willows across the fields: presumably to carry osiers for loading on carts. Pieces of track are occasionally ploughed up to this day.

Syke Lane, Doddington Road. At the time of the Enclosures (1773) the road was crossed by a ford.

An old dilapidated horse bridge crossed the river on the downstream side. In the Enclosures Act, pedestrians could cross it until it collapsed and then had to use the new bridge.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR, 1939-1945

Home Guard: - Reg Pacey, George Nash, George Hall, Jack Harrison. ? Aastrum (Swedish) lived in School House. Reg Pacey was ARP Warden. Jack Harrison was Food Officer: Emergency Rations were stored in the old chapel.

Unfortunately, mice damaged packaging and ate some of the food. Rest had to be destroyed. George Hall went round the village at night to check all curtains and blinds were drawn properly. Home Guard had a look-out in School Field.

THE DRY DODDINGTON COTE

This cote is just over the boundary of Nottinghamshire. Leaving Foston, which is on the Great North Road, we ran through Long Bennington, a large village with some nice houses in it, and after a short distance twisted to the right, and in a few minutes we arrived at Dry Doddington. The Church spire leans considerable towards the north-west, quite a perceivable lean, and close by in an orchard stands the dovecote. It is a square building of stone, and measures twenty feet by twenty, and is fifteen feet up to the top of the walls. The string course is nine feet up, and is cut hollow on the lower side, making it impossible for vermin to get over it, and the only one that I have seen so shaped. This runs only on two sides of the cote, viz., on the north and east. Why not all round I know not. There are nine entrance holes, and also eight in the gable on the top, which has a rope inside to close it up when pigeons are to be caught. The roof is tiled, and the inside is rather dark. The walls are three feet thick, and very solid. The door is a large one, six feet high and three wide, a quite exceptional size, as it cannot be seen from the house, but probably it has been renewed and is larger than the original one. The nesting places go in fifteen inches deep. They are eight inches wide and six and a half high, and each has a tongue-shaped stone landing place. The nesting places are the end in one row turn to the right, and the next row to the left. There is fourteen inches space between each entrance and ten inches between each row. There are five hundred and thirty-seven nests. The wood in the roof is oak, axe cut, and is the original. This cote is no doubt of a goodly age, and as the walls are wonderfully stout, will, if the roof is kept in order, stand for many generations. It reminds me much of the one at South Scarle, near Newark. The Dry Doddington cote is on Mr. Grammit's Farm, and I thank him for showing it to me.