

## 7. Upwey – Discovering the Ridgeway

19.04.18



Stottingway Street with 21 & 23 on the LHS before the Manor

### Key Features

Upwey is a linear settlement extending one mile along the floor of a narrow well-wooded valley. Farmland and trees separate the village from the suburban development of Dorchester Road.

There are 3 distinct areas

- The C13 church and the Victorian School now a community hall
- Elwell Street mostly C19 buildings
- The area around Upwey Manor along Stottingway Street

These groups are interspersed with gaps and individual buildings, many of the buildings are listed and the common use of building materials creates a sense of harmony. These provide a semi-rural gateway into the Borough of Weymouth. To the south there is an area of stone cottages around Laurel Lane including the Royal Standard pub.

### Origins and Settlement Pattern

Starting at the eastern end of Stottingway Street, Upwey nestles in the valley of the South Dorset Ridgeway. Although the parish spans the A354 Dorchester Road between Bincombe and Broadwey, the main part of the village is tucked away to the west behind it. The name originates from the source of the underground spring which is the head of the River Wey. The river is very much in evidence at Upwey as both a shallow brook gently meandering through the valley and a ford turning back into a meandering stream through Nottingham and Radipole, then out to sea. The Mill House in front of the Mill stands on the River Wey just a little downstream of Upwey Wishing Well. The stone mill was built in 1802 and is fed by two courses of water. There was an earlier mill on this site listed in the land tax assessments of 1798.

The C13 church of St. Laurence, is at the north end of the village, next to the old village school, which was built in 1840. Outside the church there is a large table-top tomb with a plaque written in Latin to the memory of William Gould. John Gould was the owner of the Manor in the land tax assessments of 1798. The Gould family also held, by marriage, the Manor of Fleet. They were also closely linked, by marriage, to West Stafford. Upwey Manor and Upwey House were both owned by the Gould family. The ancient civil parish of Upwey also had Elwell Manor which was part of the Liberty of Wyke Regis.

Elwell Street is the only reminder left today of its existence, although there is a suggestion that the manor might have occupied the farm land opposite the junction of the main road with Elwell Street. Elwell Street is divided from Manor and buildings along Stottingway by a low-lying field known locally as Hurlingmead, with a central water course. On the west side of the village between the Masons Arms and Westbrook are water meadows.

Terraces of cottages and workers houses along Elwell Street retain evidence of rear outhuts which provided shelter to drovers taking their livestock over the Ridgeway to market in Dorchester. There are also narrow brick stores and workshops opposite the terraces which served local businesses including a butchers shop and abattoir.

### Listed Buildings

There are 102 listed buildings of which 4 are Grade II\* and these comprise Upwey Manor, The Church, The Mill and Westbrook House.



The Grade II\* Church of St Laurence has a chancel of 1906, south aisle and arcade of 1838, the rest is late Perpendicular C15.

Upwey Manor also Grade II\*, originally 1639, late Tudor through to late Victorian date stone 1639 belies an earlier date with one original window of 3 mullioned lights towards the east owned by the Gould family including gate piers, boundary walls summer house and Manor Barn behind.

Grade II\* Upwey Mill with ancillary building. Upwey Mill dated 1802 contains much of its original machinery.

Grade II\* Westbrook House built for Thomas Freke during the reign of James I 1620. The house was remodelled in mid C18, also listed are the stable yard gates, gate piers and stable yard, barn range and kitchen garden, entrance gates and bridge.

Grade II buildings include the following:

Manor Thatch and attached wall, 21 Stottingway Street,

Upwey House built 1830 detached villa in its own grounds on the hillside to the west, April Cottage, a 1930's house and Island Cottage, both by local architect Wamsley Lewis.

Southbrook built in 1810 and Eastbrook constructed in the late C19,

The former village school and school house of 1850's.

Former Methodist chapel of 1809 now a house.

Former Masons Arms Inn.

7 cottages along Church Street, set back from the road with 1597 date stone from the earlier Manor.

Primrose Cottage, Bayard Farm dating from 1550.

Uplands, two restored cottages of 1650 and 1818.

Wabey House, Brook House (granary) and Wishing well, Friarsway.

The Old Rectory 1840 or Batchfoot House



Cottages extending from Honeysuckle & No 82 Elwell Street, No 58 group of cottages all previously thatched, Nos 42 & 44 pair of houses mid C19 rubble with brick.



East Lodge mid C19 pair of 3 storey houses and Dorset Lodge early C19 very steep roof 2 storeys C20 flat oriels.



Stone panel recording road widening paid for by Canon Gildea in 1917.



The Royal Standard Inn.

Yew Tree Cottage mid-late C18 detached house with canted bay, gate piers and boundary walls. The Gothic Congregational Church of 1880 by RC Bennett now redundant, Stottingway End late C18 rendered with slate roof, rendered.



Extract from 1903 Map showing a second Methodist Chapel on Dorchester Road near the junction with Elwell Street.

### Summary of other Quality Buildings

The Ship Inn and No 50 with fine wrought iron railings connected with the Ridgeway quarry.

Immediately below the Ship, there is a blacksmiths shop - a building with C17 label mouldings on ground and first floor.



A local stone terrace on Stottingway Street and Stottingway House.



Buildings set back from Dorchester Road east side and Edwardian cottage on Elwell Street.



A typical Dorset gate and dry stone walling with cock and hen detailing.

### Key Views

From the public footpath looking west across the meadows above Watery Lane, of Gould and Windsbatch Hills, Bayard Hill to the North and Abbotsbury Hill Fort to the west.



The view across Hurlingmead towards Elwell Street.

## Palette of Materials

At Upwey the Lower Purbeck Cypris Freestone, a fine grained white limestone containing fossils forms the brow of the hill above the village. As at Portesham, the chalky limestone is overlaid on a chert rich bed and then two more layers of limestone. Windsbatch quarry near Upwey Church provided stone for the Tower of London in the reign of Edward III. The local stone was used in buildings on Upwey, including the Mill but Hutchins records that the stone was also used flat for flagstones on edge for boundary walls. There is a wide variety of two and three storey cottages of the early C19 in local Purbeck stone with (later) slate roofs which would originally have been thatched.