

## **25. More History and Field Names**

Field names are fascinating and intriguing, but are easily lost as generations pass. Most of Gloucestershire's field names from the 1830's have been recorded by Mr. Geoff Gwatkins . His maps can be bought from 92, Verschoyle Gardens, Ross on Wye, HR9 7HQ. An A1 copy cost less than £10. His 1838 map of the Stanleys and Woodchester produced the names which I have picked out, but there is much more than I have included.

Start at the King's Stanley car park and turn right, past the black & white buildings into Castle Street. Follow Castle Street past the lovely old houses on the right and past Borough Close on the left. (To make a short cut turn left at Rose Cottage into Ash Lane. This was once a waste tip and there is much broken glass and pottery on the ground. Continue along Ash Lane, passing the "badger castle" and stables, to a new, green kissing gate.).

Follow Woodside Lane past the dyehouse fields and Pinnocks. Opposite a new house called "New View" locate a stile at the top of a bank, which takes you into a cattle pasture.

Were you to follow Woodside Lane you would pass a field called "Parson's Leaze", which possibly links to the time when a local benefactor built a Methodist chapel here in order to reform the "rough and godless" residents of Woodside Lane. The chapel has long gone so presumably its mission was accomplished.

Cross the pasture downhill, past Nine Pin Ground and Rolls Lease, to a stile at a junction of four paths. Cross the stile and bear right to a stile into Ash Lane. Pass Scotland Orchard and turn right at a new green kissing gate. Follow the hedge at the edge of an arable field to a stile and footbridge. To the north of you are Little Coneygar and Great Coneygar

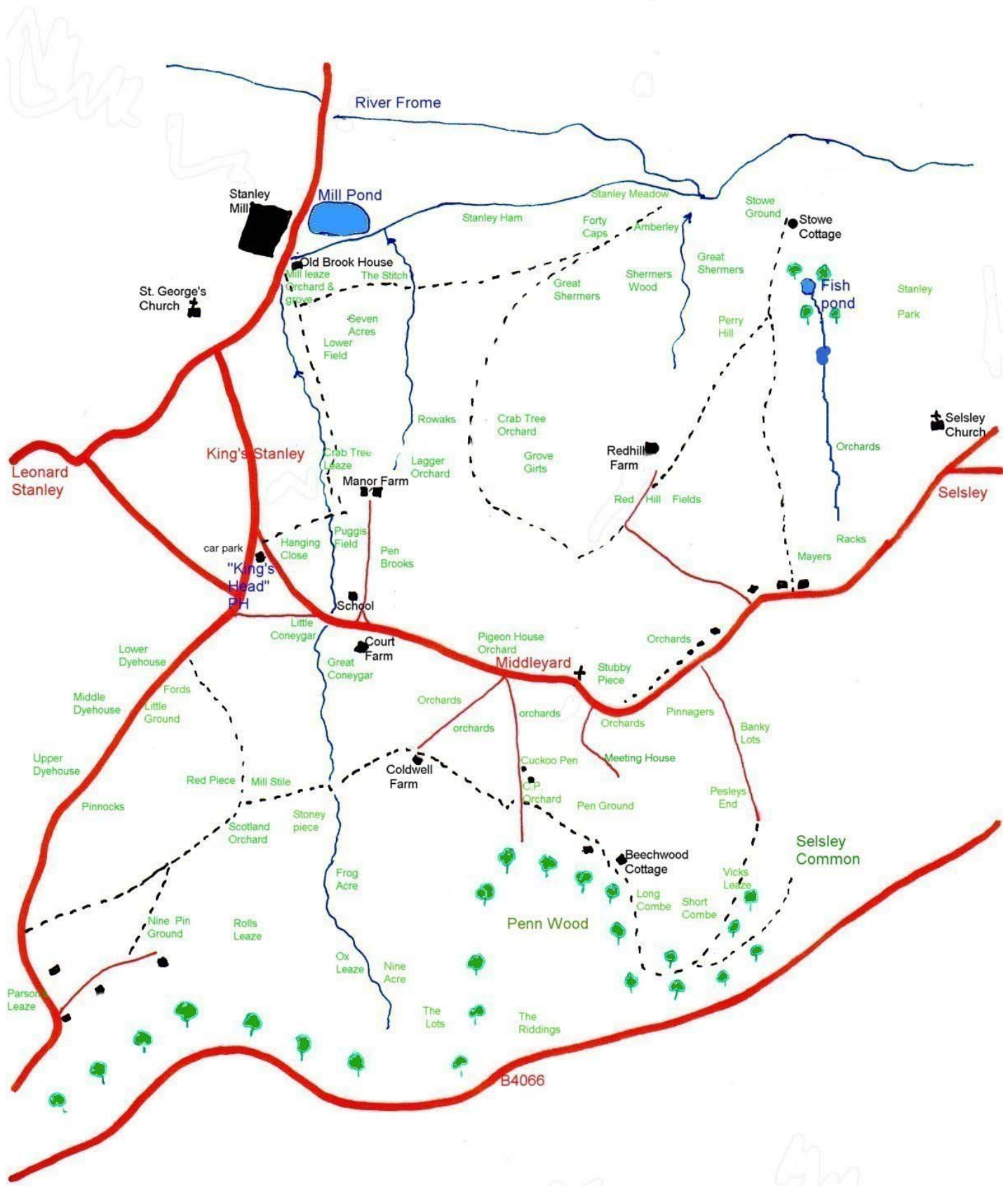
Cross the brook and turn left across a track. After a very short way look for a stile on the right and follow the hedge over another stile into a track leading towards Coldwell Farm.

Pass the cattle shed and look right for a stile into a pony paddock. Walk uphill, crossing another stile to join another track by a restored house. Turn left to join Penn Lane. Turn right and almost immediately left to a Cotswold Way stile at the end of the garden of a plot called Cuckoo Pen Orchard. Go into a pasture and immediately right across Pen Ground. Below you is Meeting House Lane where dissidents met in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Go through three gates and then right after Sandpit Farm to find a stile into the woods.

Follow the Cotswold Way, past Beechwood Cottage (formerly "The Kennels"), around Long Combe and Short Combe, but leave the Cotswold way where it turns right and goes uphill. Remain on the same level and continue to a field gate and stile into Lots Lane. Pass Pesleys End and Pinnagers to rejoin the road to Selsley.

Turn right uphill. You can take a short cut down the lane to Redhill Farm or continue to a footpath between houses downhill across a maize field. Several fields have been combined here, but in 1838 there were individual plots called Racks, Mayers and Perry Hill. Stowe Field is an old name, and we still have Stowe Cottage, but the new by-pass prevents further progress. Retrace your route bearing right towards Redhill Farm, past various "Shermers". Pass the farm and "Badgers" and continue over a stile and along a hedge to a footbridge. Keep bearing right over another stile and another footbridge. You pass fields with mysterious names like Grove Girts, Crab Tree orchard and Forty Caps. Continue towards the by-pass, meeting three footpaths going left.

Any footpath turning left will bring you back to the Cotswold Way. Turn left for Manor Farm and King's Stanley.



River Frome

Stanley Mill

Mill Pond

St. George's Church

King's Stanley

Leonard Stanley

"King's Head" PH

Manor Farm

School

Court Farm

Middleyard

Redhill Farm

Selsley

Selsley Church

Lower Dyehouse

Middle Dyehouse

Upper Dyehouse

Red Piece

Scotland Orchard

Nine Pin Ground

Rolls Leaze

Parson Leaze

Great Coneygar

Mill Stile

Frog Acre

Ox Leaze

Nine Acre

The Lots

Penn Wood

B4066

Pigeon House Orchard

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Stanley Meadow

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