

YCCCART 2019 / Y9

The Mindry House, Charterhouse

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RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)**

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The Mindry House from the 1761 Charterhouse map

Mendip, Earthwork survey, Priddy; The Mindry House, 2019, Y9, v 1

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Abstract

The Mindry House was a building formerly located to the east of the old Charterhouse School. It was referred to in the late 17th to the early 19th century, and archaeological remains were present at the site, and surveyed by CHERT in March 2004. The site was destroyed without further record in November 2017. A published record of this site could well have preserved it from harm, or at least, archaeologically recorded before removal.

Acknowledgements

This survey would also not have been carried out without the willing permission of the landowner, The Charterhouse Centre in 2004.

The authors are grateful for the hard work by the members of CHERT in performing the surveys and Vince Russett for editing.

Introduction

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCCART) is one of a number of Community Archaeology teams across northern Somerset, formerly supported by the North Somerset Council Development Management Team.

Our objective is to undertake archaeological fieldwork to enable a better understanding and management of the heritage of the area while recording and publishing the activities and locations of the research carried out.

Site location



Fig 1: The site is located at the arrowed site above

The site lies in the lowest corner of the field behind the former school at Charterhouse-on-Mendip, in the parish of Priddy in Somerset, at ST50275571, as arrowed above.

Land use and geology

The site lies on the metalliferous Black Rock Limestone of Mendip, and there are mining remains within 50m of the site. It is currently in use as part of an educational facility.

Historical & archaeological context

Academic attention at Charterhouse has usually been focussed on the Roman period, or with the post-medieval mining. This means that other aspects of the archaeology of Charterhouse have been largely ignored in the past.

Recent excavation by Steve Tofts (Tofts 2009) revealed an unexpectedly short-lived building of c1680-1720 across the road in Lower Cowleaze, and it is clear that the fluctuating fortunes of the mining industry, and its supporting local agriculture have led to the growth and disappearance of hamlets of buildings (see, for example, Russett 2019, this site).

The building in question stood at the very limits of the old Blagdon parish before 1974. The parish boundary in the area fluctuated in the 18th and 19th centuries, but the Mindry House seems to have remained in Blagdon.

From the Charterhouse perambulation of 1181/2, a large wall-footing marks the boundary with Blagdon.

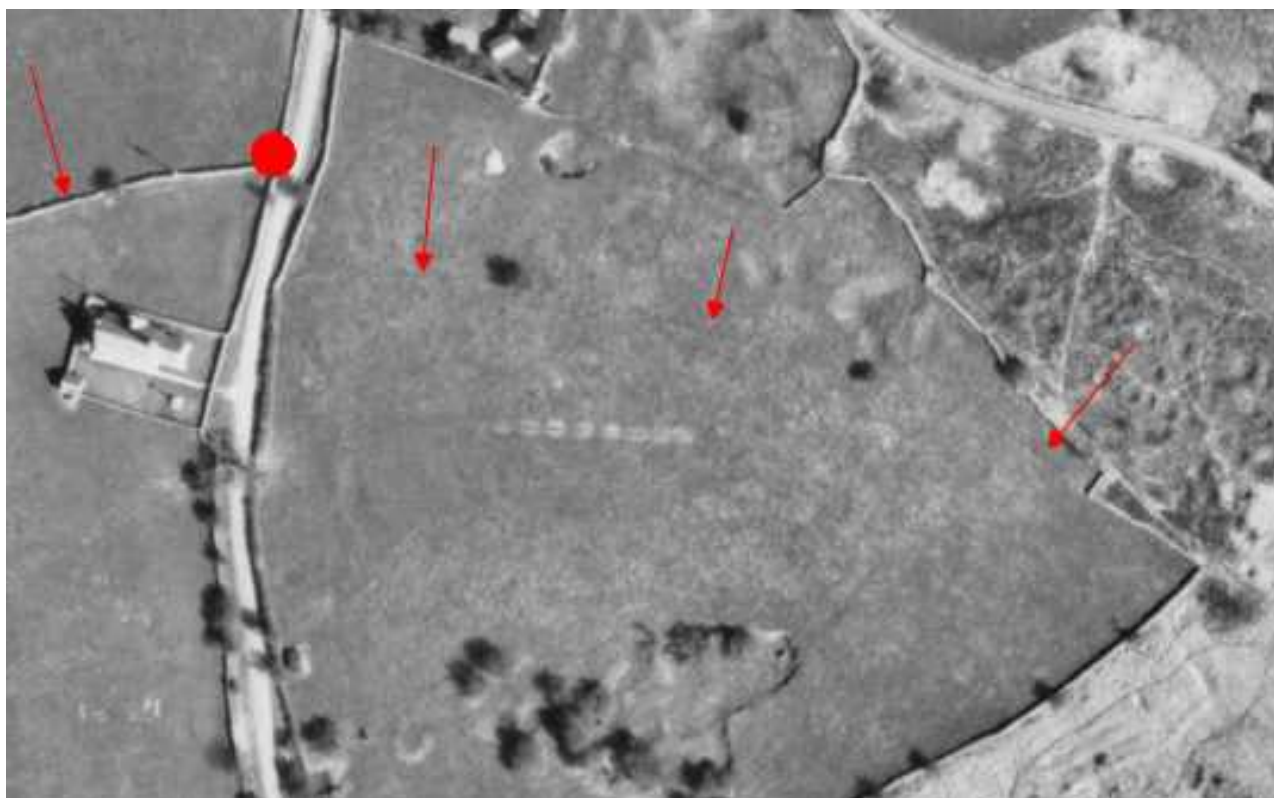


Fig 2: The Carthusian boundary wall footing (arrowed) (OS71-082)

Figure 2 shows the footings of the wall marking the original boundary of the Carthusian estate, and the red circle marks the site of 'Walborga' a mound marking a turning point in the boundary, also marked by a post-medieval Blagdon parish boundary stone (Russett 2003).

When the boundary is next depicted, a small additional area has been taken into

Charterhouse from Blagdon (see Fig 3 below).

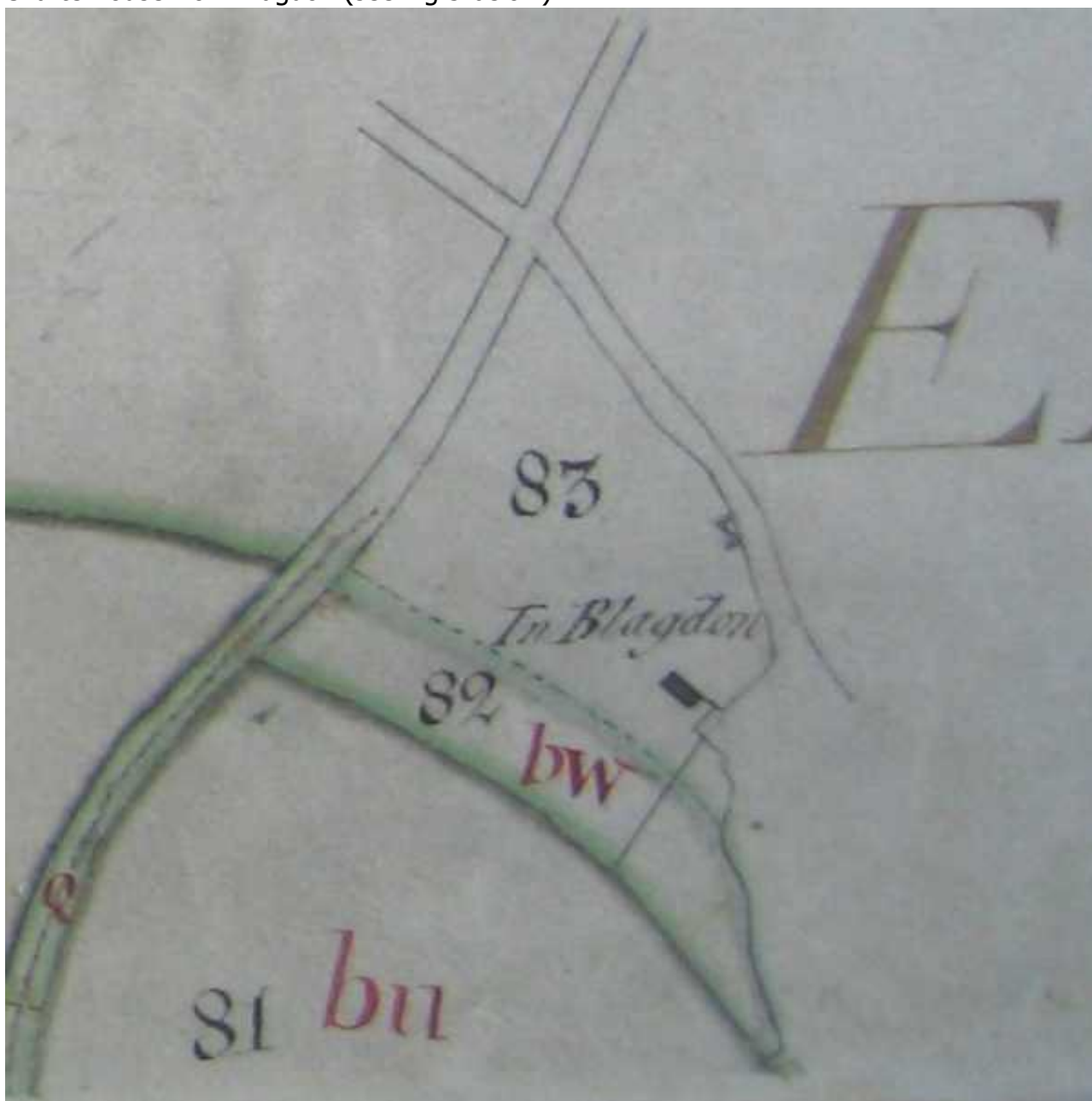


Fig 3: The Mindry House and the manorial boundary of Charterhouse 1761 (SHC DD\STL 1)

The old boundary is still marked, running along the northern edge of a field named there as 'Beercroft' ('**bu**' on the plan), but the field **bw** (referred to on the map as 'Next Beercroft') is also depicted here as within Charterhouse.

The Mindry House is depicted on this map, and its field firmly labelled 'In Blagdon'. The house appears to be attached to the accompanying field boundary by a wall: the 1787 Blagdon enclosure map shows the site as reached by a short track called 'Cott Road', implying that the house was in use at the time (Fig 4 below).

Also in 1761, a deed in the Blagdon Parish Records quotes a thousand year lease by William Gallop, also the proprietor of the fields **bw** and **bu** in Fig 3 above, although **bw** is

curiously described in the map index as a 'Tenement'. Presumably, the truth is that the two half fields, one in Charterhouse and one in Blagdon, belonged to the same property, based on the Mindry house, although it was itself, technically in Blagdon.



Fig 4: The Mindry House from the Blagdon Inclosure map of 1787

This may be the reason for the dotted line marking the boundary as 'permeable' rather than a wall.



Fig 5: The area of Mindry House in 1842 (SHC DD\STL3)

By the time of the OS plan of 1885, the line had moved again. By this time, Charterhouse School had been built at the cross-roads, and the boundary is now depicted on the map as 'Und'(efined) (Fig 6 below).

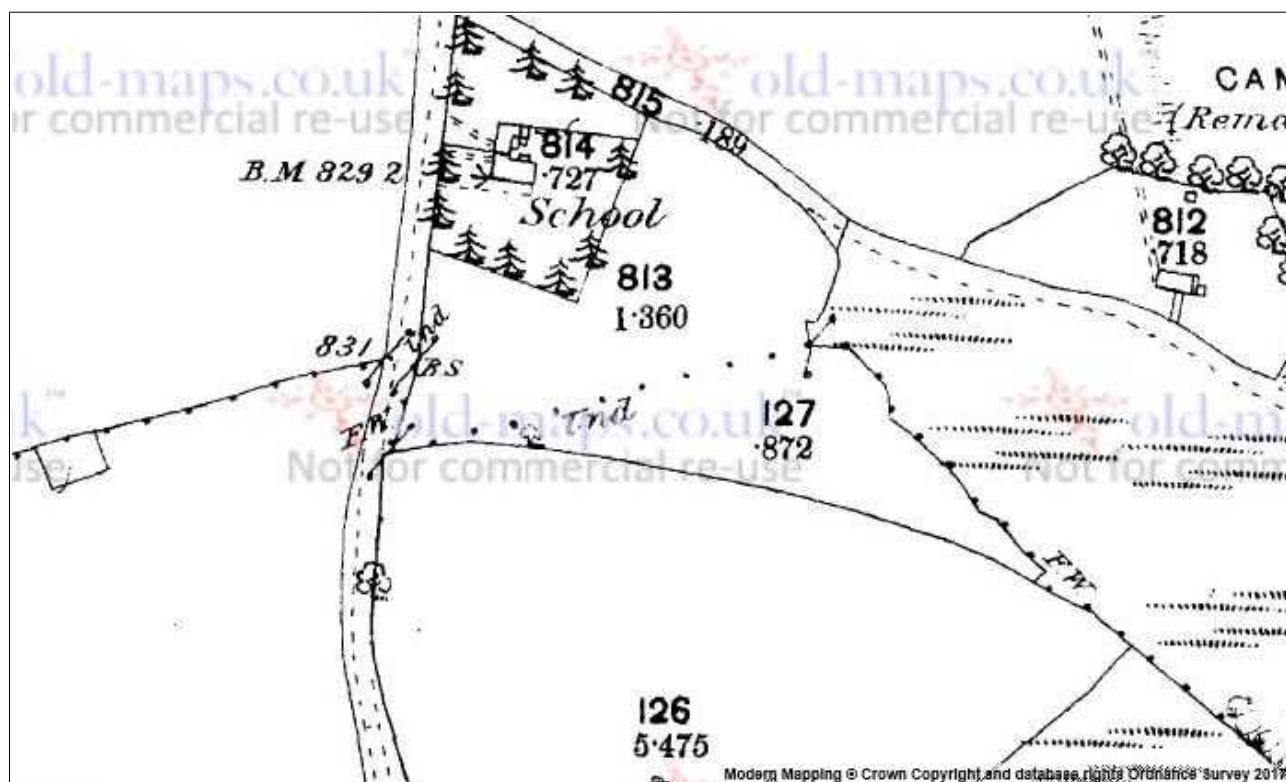


Fig 6: The area in 1885 (old-maps.co.uk)

The whole problem was finally solved in 1974, when large areas of Blagdon and Charterhouse became part of an expanded parish of Priddy, and the boundary had no further relevance.

Since the Mindry House was not depicted on the Blagdon Tithe Map of 1840, nor the Charterhouse map of 1842, it was presumably no longer in use. 'Mindry' is simply a dialect form of the word 'Minery', reflecting the house's proximity to the Charterhouse lead-working areas.

An earlier reference to the Mindry House than 1761, was in 1671x1674, when one Samuel Watts was paying for rent of 'ye Mindry House' to Charterhouse Manor (SHC DD/GB 151). This could well be the same building (as there appears to have been a certain fluidity to the boundary). A reference in 1602 of John May to '*The hearth in ye myndre, John Deryck for the mindr house, my mindre and rents at Charterhouse 20L*' could also refer to this property (SHC DD/GB 145)

Some examination of the track to the site during the survey in 2004 revealed a small group of pottery sherds of 17th to early 19th century date, which may date the building itself.

In November 2017, the site was destroyed during unspecified engineering works at the

Centre, and the remains apparently so dispersed that it was thought pointless to conduct a search for dating materials. There is a slight chance that the site was simply buried during the works, but this is unknown since no watching brief appears to have been kept.

Survey objectives

Since an earthwork and stone walls survived at the site, it was surveyed during March 2004 by CHERT, using tape and offset.

The report was written in Libre Office 5 Writer.

Photographs were taken by members of CHERT, and remain the copyright of CHERT.

Results



Fig 7: The earthworks at the Mindry House, 2004

The house appears to have been constructed in an old shallow quarry (the outer

earthwork) against the south-eastern and south-western walls of the field, and it may even have been for the purpose of providing stone for them, since it does not cross under the wall into the field to the east. This quarry was about 20m across at its greatest depth, and around 0.5m deep in 2004.

Parts of two walls then survived, probably the end wall of the house and either the front or back wall. They stood in an L-shaped hollow, probably the result of the building having collapsed and then been robbed for stone.

Although 'outbuildings' are mentioned in the 1761 deed, there was no trace of these.



Fig 8: The site in 2016 (photograph courtesy of Joan Goddard)

The hollow in the centre ground is the site of the building.

Visiting the site on 21 November 2017, CHERT members found the site destroyed. Presumably there was no archaeological survey carried out in advance of works.



Fig 9: The site on 28 November 2017

Recommendations for further work

None

References

Russett, V. 2002	<i>An enigma in retreat: the Charterhouse boundary of 1181</i> (in CHERT archive)
Russett, V. 2010	<i>The settlement at the Millgreene Gate: medieval and post-medieval settlement change at Charterhouse-on-Mendip</i> (in CHERT archive)
Tofts, S. 2009	Is this a deserted medieval village? Investigation of features in Lower Cowleaze, Charterhouse on Mendip <i>BA dissertation, Bristol U</i>

Authors Vince Russett

Date: 2019-02-18

Appendix 1: The 1761 Blagdon deed in full

Minery House, Charterhouse.

Ex SRO DD/blag 17/1/5

Copy of the only Deed in the Parish Chest belonging to the Cottage called the 'Minery House' at Charterhouse Blagdon

William Gallop to The Parish of Blagdon
Lease for a Thousand Years
Dated the 25th March 1761 [1George III]

William Gallop of Wrington the only Executor & Devisee named and appointed in & by the Will & testament of William Gallop the elder late of Charterhouse in the Parish of Blagdon deceased of the one part and John Ozen & William Ford, churchwardens and Richard Spurlock, overseer of the poor of the Parish of Blagdon aforesaid.

Whereas Robert Gorges of Ey in the County of Hereford, Esq eldest son & heir at Law of Henry Gorges Esq* his late father deceased, the Honorable Robert Price Esq one of the Barons of the Exchequer, Richard Hoper of Luckton in the said Co. of Hereforshire Esq and Robert Meyrick of Serjeants Inn in the C of Middlesex Gentleman, by their Indenture of Release date 1726 did demise & grant the fee simple & inheritance of all and the lands & premises hereinafter etc to the said William Gallop etc [The price was £5-10-0d]

All that cottage called the Minery House heretofore in the occupation of one Thomas Harvey and lately of the said William Gallop deceased, situate and lying & being near Charterhouse Minery in the Parish of Blagdon.....dwelling house, outhouses, garden and ground adjoining

The cottage must have been copyhold, since there was a rent of one penny to be paid to the Lord of the Manor (half at the feast of St Michael the Archangel and half at the Annunciation of the BVM !)

Witnesses Thos. Offer, John Lovell, Jn^o Lovell

This deed was copied into a book called the Blagdon Charities record in May 1835 and was examined for accuracy with the original by Daniel Wheeler Curate of Blagdon and the Churchwardens Samuel Baker and Hellier Baber.

*When Henry Gorges died his son Robert became Lord of the Manor and sold off some of his inheritance.

Kindly transcribed for me by the late Olga Shotton