

Benger Trails

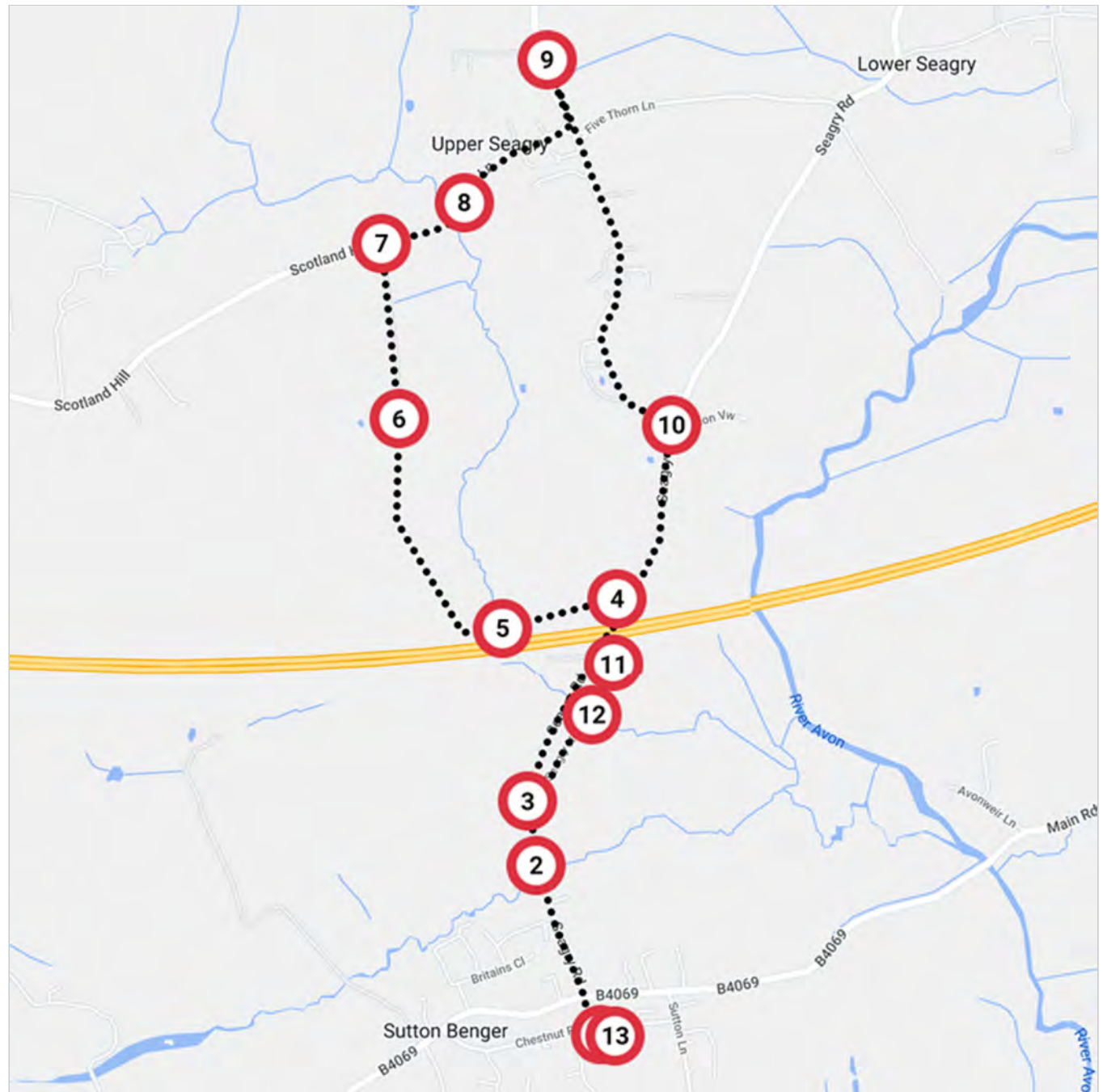
To Upper Seagry and Back



This a long walk, uphill from Sutton Benger along Seagry Road, to cross the M4, left along the footpaths to Harding's Farm, into Upper Seagry along Scotland Road and Henn Lane, to Goss Croft Hall, then back through Upper Seagry along the roads to Seagry Hill, returning to Sutton Benger Village Hall.

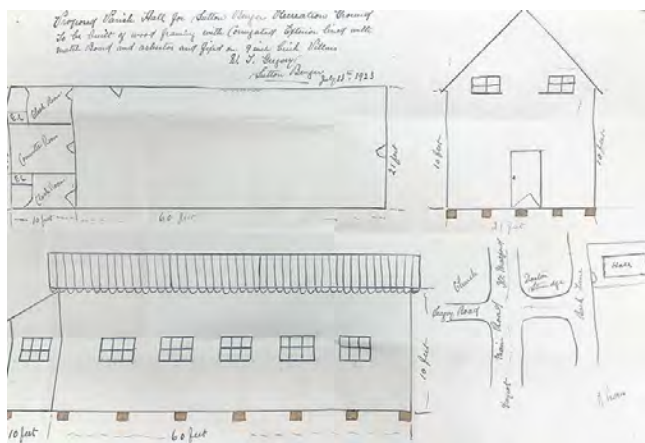
As an alternative, you could start this walk from Goss Croft Hall, to Sutton Benger, returning to Upper Seagry via Harding's Farm.

Trail Length 3.75 miles



Map Courtesy of Google Maps

1. Village Hall (Seagry Trail)



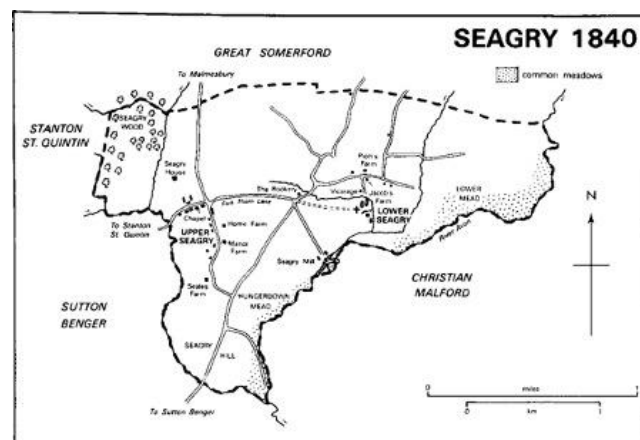
Sutton Benger's Old Village Hall used to be where the car park is today. The New Village Hall was opened in 2000 after a major fund-raising effort.

The image shows the original hand drawn plan used to build the old Village Hall in 1923. Note the reference to 'Doctor Sturridge'. The doctor's surgery used to be in the Bell House, from the 1840s for about 100 years. You can still see where the entrance to the surgery used to be, in the brickwork on Bellside.

Before setting off on the walk, you might want to read the attached notes about the Parish of Seagry, and how the boundaries

between Sutton Benger and Seagry have changed frequently, especially during the last 150 years.

Seagry



From the time of the Norman Conquest until the early 1900s Seagry parish was roughly triangular in shape, with the 'apex' at the bottom and a flat top bordering Somerford parish. The triangle was divided almost equally in two halves by the road from Sutton Benger to Somerford; the western half of the triangle included the village of Upper Seagry (formerly Over Seagry) and the eastern half of the triangle included Lower Seagry (formerly Nether Seagry).

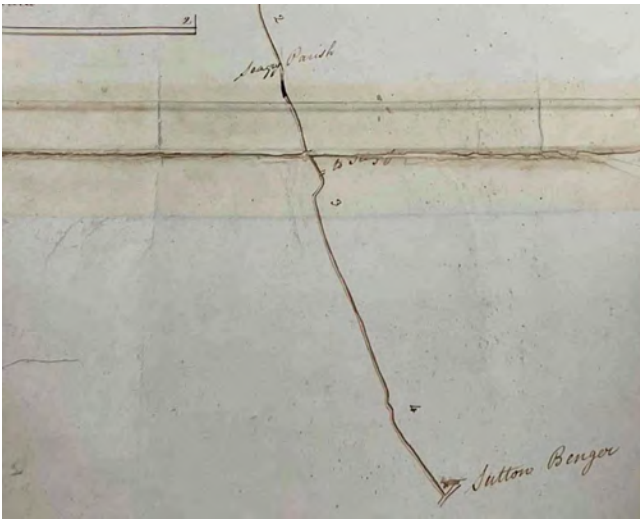
The western boundary was close to the western edge of Upper Seagry, and the road to Stanton St Quintin was in Sutton Benger and Draycot Cerne parishes.

The three parishes of Draycot Cerne, Sutton Benger and Seagry became one parish, called Sutton Benger, in 1934; the parish of Seagry temporarily disappeared. However, Sutton Benger parish was split in two by the building of the M4 motorway, and all the land to the north of the motorway became the new parish of Seagry in 1971.

Next On The Trail

From the Village Hall, turn left towards the school, then right down Bellside. Carefully cross the main road, and then very carefully walk along the road, past La Flambé and over the bridge; pause at the side of the road by the sign to Brook Cottages.

2. The Malmesbury Turnpike - Brook Cottages



From Sutton Benger Village Hall walk along Bell Lane, carefully cross the main road, and continue walking carefully up Seagry Road. Pause for a while on the left after the bridge, at the sign to Brook Cottages. This was a small farmstead in the 1800s. There is often confusion between these 'Brook Cottages' and the 'Brookside Cottage' in Seagry Hill, which you will pass on the return leg after leaving Seagry.



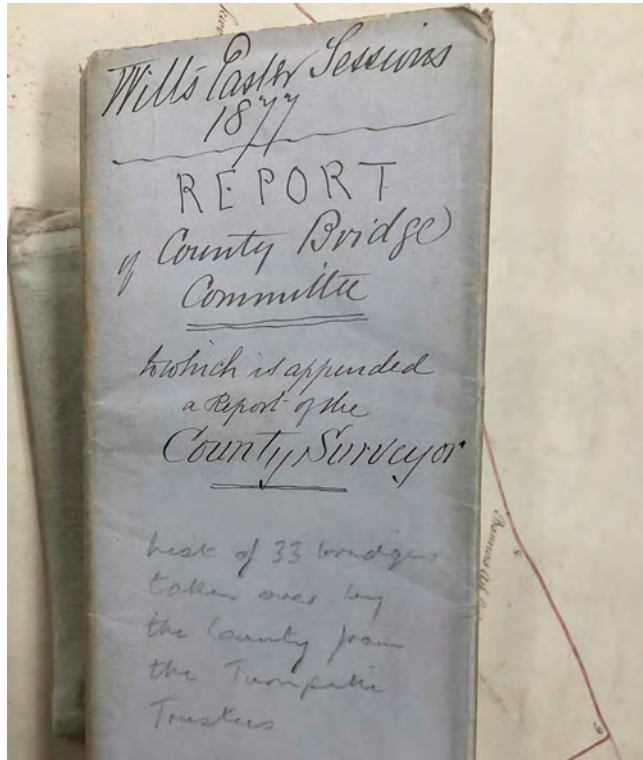
You are walking along a road that used to be a main road - a Turnpike - created in 1810 by an Act of Parliament to improve the roads to and from Malmesbury.



The original (pre-M4) route from Sutton Benger went through Seagry Hill, rejoining today's road about 200 yards north of the M4. From there the Turnpike continued through Seagry Parish, along the road to Somerford between Upper Seagry and Lower Seagry. There was a Toll Gate in Sutton Benger, near the Old School House, and one in Somerford.

After reading about Brook Cottages, the Bridges and the Milestones, carry on walking carefully up Seagry Road, until you reach the entrance to the farm track on the left, and stop beside the gate.

The Bridges over the Brooks



The Turnpike system ended in the late 1800s, and the responsibility for repair of all the roads and bridges transferred to the County. A Survey was carried out in order to identify and record all the bridges, as part of the mammoth task of setting up the Victorian equivalent of the Highways Department. A Report was presented to County by The County Bridges Committee in 1877; by modern standards it seems quite amateurish, but the sudden transfer of responsibility possibly took them by surprise.

The bridge over the brook to the north of Sutton Benger was known at that time as 'Bond's Bridge' because Church Farm was then known as Bond's Farm, after several generations of farmers called Bond.

The old road originally passed through the present-day Seagry Hill, and the bridge over the (different) brook there was known as 'Judy Pearce Bridge'. Judith Pearce was a lady who was murdered in Brookside Cottage, Seagry Hill, in November 1820; a man called Edward Buckland was found guilty of her murder at a trial in Salisbury.

121 ^o	Malmesbury 2 nd District.	Udb.	"	Lichington.
122 ^o		Sherton Hill	"	Sherton Magna.
123 ^o		Stain	"	"
124 ^o		Wotton Grey	"	Chardton
125 ^o		Witchell or Draycott	"	"
126 ^o		Wimbury	"	Wimbury
127 ^o		Leigh	"	Uxton Keynes.
128 ^o		Braydon	"	"
129 ^o		Chadworth	"	Brecklade
130 ^o		Stanton Water	"	Stanton Sigwarren
131 ^o		Stanherton	"	Stanherton
132 ^o			"	
133 ^o	Malmesbury 3 rd District	1 st Longford Road	"	Quintony.
134 ^o		"	"	"
135 ^o		Judy Pearce	"	Sutton Benger.
136 ^o		Bonds	"	"
137 ^o	Lodbury.	Wiltton	"	Wiltton
138 ^o		"	"	"

Brook Cottages



Two hundred years ago the houses at Brook Cottages used to be a farmhouse. The photo shows the Perris family in front of their house at Brook Cottages in 1905, shortly before Albert (second from left) emigrated to New Zealand.

With thanks to Jill Clarke for a copy of the photograph.

Milestones



Just beyond the bridge, hidden in the undergrowth on the left side of the road, is an old Turnpike milestone which shows 7 miles to Malmesbury. This milestone was originally on the right side of the road, but was probably relocated when the road layout changed with the arrival of the M4.

Although we do not go past it on this walk, there is another milestone a mile further along the road, a few hundred yards before you get to the track to Seagry Mill. That milestone is in much better condition and is English Heritage Grade II Listed.

Next On The Trail

Continue carefully walking along the road; look out for the old milestone in the undergrowth on the left, just after setting off from the brook.

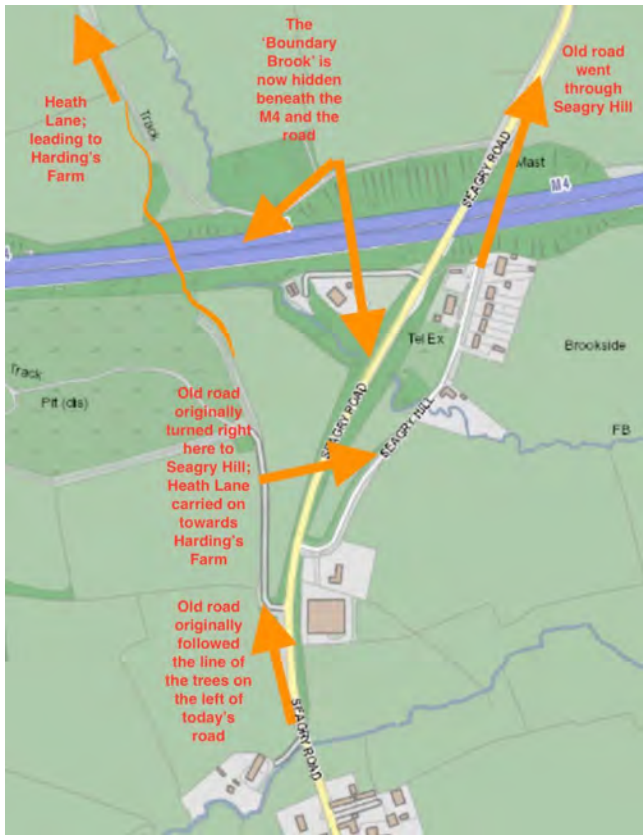
Carry on until you reach the gateway on the left, before the right-hand junction into Seagry Hill.

3. The Old Road to Malmesbury



Stand at the gate with your back to the road. If you look back down towards Sutton Benger you can see where the line of the road used to be from the bridge to here; it then carried on up the hill along the lane on the other side of the gate, to Harding's Farm. This section of the 'old road to Malmesbury', from here to the M4, is no longer a Public Right of Way. There was a junction in the road about 100 yards further on where the road turned to the right into Seagry Hill, from where it continued to Somerford.

The road was diverted when the M4 was built. The parish did not ask for the original lane to Harding's Farm to be kept as a footpath / bridleway, but we will return to it on the far side of the motorway.



Next On The Trail

Continue walking up the hill along the side of the main road; it is best to cross the road and use the 'pretend pavement' on the right. Look out for the old milestone on your left; it is about 100 yards / metres beyond the '30' speed limit sign. When you get to the motorway, cross back to the left, and continue walking a short distance until you come to a footpath / bridleway leading uphill to the left. This will take you back to the original lane to Harding's Farm.

4. Footpath / bridleway to Harding's Farm



Shortly after crossing the M4, heading north towards Seagry and Somerford, there is a bridleway to the left, with a fingerpost pointing up a slight hill. This is often quite wet, as water flows down the path when it has been raining. But turn left here and follow the track parallel to the M4. until you reach a gate into a field.

When the M4 route was being created, the parish had missed the opportunity to ask for the lane to Harding's Farm to be kept intact,

either on an extra footbridge over the motorway, or in a tunnel under it.

It was not until after the M4 construction had started that this short stretch of footpath was created in order to regain the 'old road' to Harding's Farm.

You are now in Seagry. The land to the north of the motorway, and south of the Seagry-Stanton Road, was originally in Draycot Cerne and Sutton Benger, until the arrival of the M4 created a few sensible boundary changes.

Next On The Trail

Walk up this footpath to the top of the hill and then down the other side, until you come to a large gate into a field. You are walking parallel to the M4, which is just to the other side of the trees on your left.

5. Boundary Stream and Heath Lane



As you approach the gate at the end of the bridleway it can get very muddy; one of the reasons is that there is a small brook which runs under the track from the north west to the south east, under the motorway and under the road, re-appearing at Brook Cottage in Seagry Hill before it flows into the Avon. The brook was diverted underground when the motorway and new stretch of the road were built, as it was cheaper than building bridges over such a minor brook.

The brook is part of the original boundary of Sutton Benger, as described in a Medieval Charter (originally in Latin):

First where the boundary which is called roe-deer hedge extends to kettle spring. And from there to boundary brook. And along that brook into the Avon.

The 'roe-deer hedge / kettle spring' is more difficult to identify, although it is somewhere just to the north of us, by the Stanton-Seagry Road. But this was certainly the 'boundary stream'.

Go through the gate, follow the boundary of the field straight ahead and then turn right, and you are now following the line of the original track to Harding's Farm. In 1839 this track was called Heath Lane. The farm that we know now as Harding's Farm is actually one of the newest in the parish, and was originally 'New Farm' and then 'Heath Farm'.

Next On The Trail

After passing through the gate into the field (apologies! - it is often very muddy here), please remember to close the gate behind you.



Follow the field boundary on your left, parallel to the M4, then follow the boundary to the right, away from the M4. After about 100 yards / metres, dog-leg slightly to your left up an incline and then go right again.



Carry on straight ahead (heading north) and you will come across a well-marked track - the old Heath Lane. Follow this until you come to Harding's Farm.

6. Harding's Farm



VERY RICH PASTURE LANDS.					
SCHEDULE.					
NO.	DESCRIPTION.	AREA.	NO.	DESCRIPTION.	AREA.
8	Pasture	14 900		Brought forward	77 838
25	Pasture	15 645	9	Pasture	3 658
27	Pasture	17 000	16	Homestead	842
14	Pasture	8 655	15	Roadway	3 268
13	Pasture	3 350	7	Wood	290
12	Pasture	18 278	11	Wood	300
Carried forward		77 838	Acres		86 166
SUMMARY.					
DESCRIPTION.	AREA.	TENANT.	RENTAL.	PERIOD.	NOTICE.
Buildings and Land	85.576	Maj. E. W. J. Waycott	£ s. d. 115 0 0	Lady-Day	6 months
Woodland	.590	In hand	est. 0 5 0		
	86.166		£115 5 0		
Improprate Tithe, £12 13s. 7d.					
Vicarial Tithe, £9 8s. 9d.					
Timber, £503.					
98					



Harding's Farm / Hardinge

Introduction

Harding's Farm was previously in Sutton Benger parish but is now in Seagry. It was known as 'New Farm' in 1808 when it was let to Robert Harding. By 1839 / 1841 it had been subsumed by John Lanfear's Church Farm. At various times it has also been known as 'Heath Farm' and 'Hardinge' and 'Harden's Farm' - creating some confusion with the Harden's Farm in Chippenham, to the north of Pewsham.

(In fact, to add to the confusion, Harden's Farm in Chippenham was tenanted by farmers with connections to Sutton Benger: the Uncles family, who continued to attend All Saints' Church while living in Chippenham.)

1773 - 1925

The farm was created between 1773 and 1808. Robert Harding is shown in the 1808 Survey as the tenant / occupier of 'New Farm', with over 20 plots of land in Sutton Benger parish, plus several plots in Draycot parish.

In 1840 John Lanfear was the tenant at both Church Farm and New Farm. He had a large number of plots, including both 'New Farm Homestead', and 'Church Farmhouse'; he was using the latter as his own 'homestead'. The 1841 Census shows Isaac Harding, aged 65, possibly a son of Robert, living at 'Heath Farm, Sutton'. The 1851 Census has John Lanfear at 'Lanfear's Farm' and John Hitchcock at Heath Farm.

1872

The 1872 Survey shows Charles Rich at 'The Manor and Harding's Farm' and shows that his landholdings included 'New Farm Homestead' as well as Manor Farmhouse. The detailed records, together with later amendments, show that Rich's farm grew even bigger, as he subsumed land from other farms in both Sutton Benger and Draycot Cerne.

1870s – 1900

After 1872 there is no explicit reference to Harding's Farm in the records, although there is an isolated entry in the 1891 Census for Charles Hendon, an agricultural labourer, living at 'Hardens Farm' in Sutton Benger.

It seems likely that the farm was still being managed as part of Manor Farm.

1902

The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre records have proposals for 'proposed additions to 'Harding's Farm, in Sutton Benger' dating from 1902.

1911 Census

The 1911 census is the first detailed re-appearance of Harding's Farm, when it is shown as the home of Louis Joseph Carnley, an 'Estate agent'. This is not the modern meaning, but the Bailiff or 'Land Agent' for the Draycot Estate. In fact, Mr Carnley appears in a number of records around 1900 – 1920; at one stage he was also living at Southsea Farm, near Draycot Cerne.

1920 Draycot Auction

Harding's Farm was Lot 133 in the 1920 Auction of the Draycot Estate.

The School

Harding's Farm was a preparatory school for boys in the 1930s.

Arthur Angus, 1927 - 1935

In the 1927 Kelly's, under the 'Private Residents' section, there is an entry for 'Arthur R Angus, Harding's Farm'.

In the 1935 Kelly's there are entries in the section for 'Private Residents' for both Arthur R Angus and Robert William Angus, both at 'Hardinge'. In addition, the 'Commercial' section shows Robert William Angus at 'Hardinge Preparatory School for boys'.

The school was obviously not very successful, and lasted for only a few years. It had certainly closed by 1939.

Post - 1945

The WSHC has details for various planning applications, for example the 'Adaptation of existing building for living accommodation for Dairy Cowman and his wife' at Harding's Farm, dating from April / May 1945, submitted by Col D G Williams.

Harding's Farm, along with all of Sutton Benger north of the M4, became part of Seagry Parish after the M4 was opened in 1971.

Listed Buildings

Harding's Farmhouse is a Grade II listed Building. The listing is as follows:

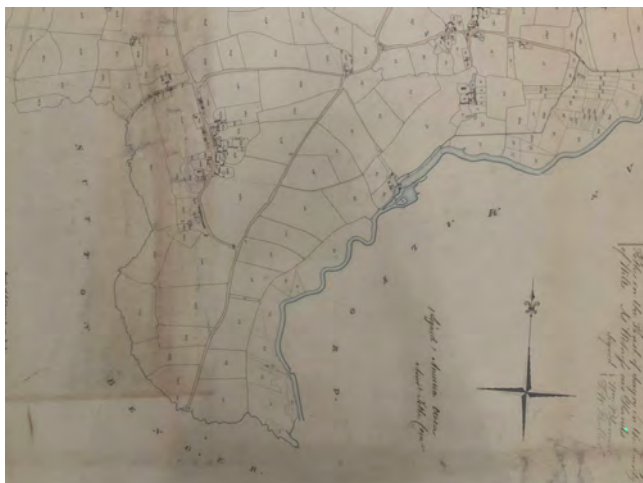
... later C18, rubble stone with stone slate hipped roof. Two storeys and attic, square plan with cyma-moulded flush mullion windows. South front has two hipped dormers, two 3-light windows each floor and off-centre door in ashlar porch with cornice. West side has large ashlar stack on ridge and attached single storey Bridgwater-tiled range, hipped at west end. North front has two dormers and two 3-light windows each floor. Added C19 east wing with ridge stack and south eaves stack. Sashes and mullion windows.

The Barn at Harding's Farm is also a Grade II listed Building. The listing is as follows:

... barn and stable range, C18, rubble stone with half-hipped stone slate roof. East side timber-lintel cart entry. Stable door to left with flanking windows and loft door over. Five-bay interior, north three bays are barn. Double purlin roof with tie-beam-and- collar trusses. South end lower addition with half-hipped south gable.

Next On The Trail

7. Scotland Road / Scotland Hill



The east-west road from Stanton to Upper Seagry is known variously as Scotland Road / Scotland Hill / Henn Lane; the section from here towards Stanton is generally shown on maps as Scotland Hill, while the section from here into Upper Seagry is shown as Henn Lane.

This area was originally in the parish of Sutton Benger, as can be seen from the early map of Upper Seagry. We are standing roughly on the 'S' of Sutton Benger on the left of the map. (Note that this map originally had east at the top.) The map clearly shows the boundary between the two parishes following the line of the brook, down to the right to Seagry Hill, and on to the Avon.

The signs on the roadside confirm that today's name for Harding's Farm is 'Hardinge'.

Next On The Trail

8. Upper Seagry and Methodist Chapel



As you arrive at the signpost for Upper Seagry / Drive Carefully / 30, you have a choice. If you are happy to carry on walking

along the roadside through the village, then continue up the hill.

If the weather is nice, and you want to detour around the next section, through fields, look for the finger post pointing to the left. This will add an extra 1.3km (nearly a mile) to your route. Also, you might need a map, as the detailed instructions for this section are not given here. You will eventually come to the main road at the Goss Croft Hall, where you can rejoin the route on the app.

If staying with the short route, along the road, continue to follow the app into the village.

Just after the footpath, on the right of the road, you will see Dove Cottage. A cottage has stood on this site since before 1790. After about another 100 yards / metres, you will see an old Methodist Chapel on your right; note that this is now a private house / home.

On the opposite side of the road, behind the hedge, is a development of houses and flats called The Courtyard. These were built on the footprint of the original stables for Seagry House.

Continue straight ahead to the crossroads, past the New Inn, and then turn left to the Village Hall, known as Goss Croft Hall.

Seagry Methodist Chapel

Census of Great Britain, 1851
 (11 and 12 Victoria, cap. 71)
S. RETURN
 OF THE APPELLATE PLACES TO BE INQUIRED UPON RESPECT TO THE ENDS AND PURPOSES OF THE ACT
PLACE OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Name of Place	Parish or Township	County	Diocese	Name of Minister	Number of Communicants	Number of Members	Number of Children	Number of Families	Number of Seats		Value of Property	Value of Land	Value of Goods	Value of Stocks	Value of Debts	Value of Other Property	Total Value
									Male	Female							
Seagry Primitive Methodist Chapel	Seagry	Wiltshire	Salisbury	Isaac Teagle	103	120			100	100							

(Note: The figures in the last column are based on the best of the information furnished.)

Minister: Isaac Teagle
Organist: Henry Bear (Organist)
Worshipers: William



The Seagry Primitive Methodist Chapel is believed to have opened in Seagry in 1825, although it is not shown on the 1840 map. The chapel appears in the national 1851 'Census of Places of Public Worship'; Isaac

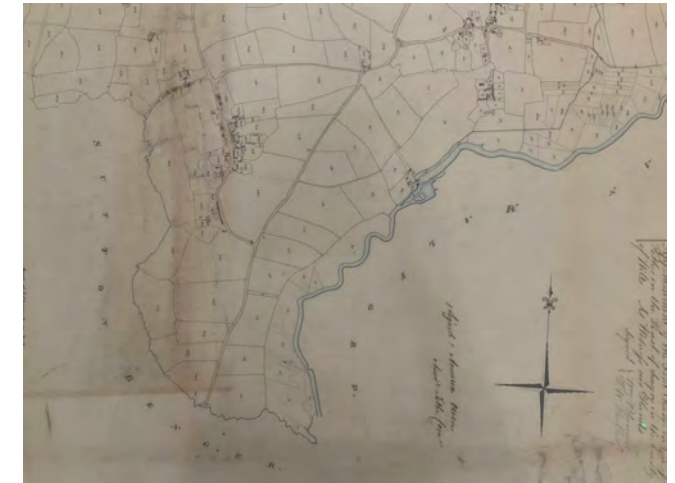
Teagle, the church steward, recorded that 103 people attended the morning service and 120 attended in the evening.

The building originally consisted of a house at right angles to the main chapel; both buildings were quite small, but their ceilings were raised in the late 1800s. This was the nearest Nonconformist chapel to Sutton Benger, as the Wellesley and Long families prevented one from being built in the parish.

Sunday services were still being held in the chapel in the early 2000s, but it closed in about 2008 and was converted into a home in 2010.

Next On The Trail

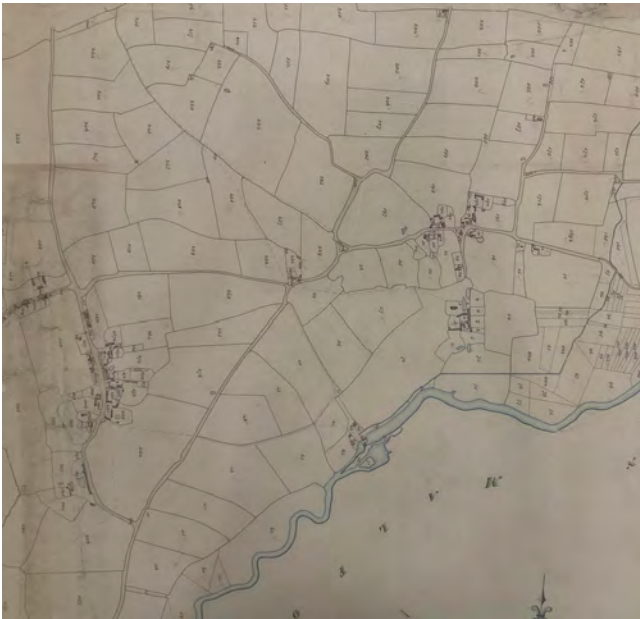
From the Methodist Chapel continue straight ahead to the crossroads, passing the New Inn on your right; the New Inn dates back to before 1885. However, there were no buildings at the crossroads here in 1840, as can be seen from the Seagry 1840 map.



From the crossroads the road to the west (behind you) goes to Stanton; to the north (your left) it goes to Startley and Malmesbury; the road to the east (straight ahead), known as Five Thorn Lane, leads to Lower Seagry, to the Church, and to the Mill on the River Avon; the road to the south (to the right) goes through Upper Seagry and leads to Sutton Benger.

Turn left here and walk 100 yards to the new village hall, known as Goss Croft Hall, which will be on your right after the village allotments.

9. Upper Seagry and Goss Croft Hall / Seagry House



Goss Croft Community Hall is a modern, eco friendly and attractive facility. It is run jointly with the adjoining villages of Startley and Great Somerford. Goss Croft is the ancient name of the field where it is sited. It was completed in 2012 to replace a much older hall which stood 100 yards along the road towards Startley; the new house called 'Old Hall' now stands where the hall used to be.

Across the road behind the wall is the parkland surrounding Seagry House; you have just walked around the southern and eastern sides of the parkland. If you took the optional cross-country route from Scotland Hill, you will have walked along the western and northern sides, and will have arrived via a footpath immediately next to the 'Old Hall' house.

If you are using the App, go to 'Next On The Trail' now, and then select 'Upper Seagry / Seagry Road junction' so that you can read about the houses between here and Hungerdown House. Then walk through the village to Seagry Road.

Take care as you leave Upper Seagry, and approach the junction with Seagry Road with caution; you will be safer if you walk on the left side of the road towards the junction, because cars tend to come round the corner quite fast.

Across the road is Hungerdown House, which was built in 1914, in an 18th-century style of red brick and stone with a tiled roof. Brick stables north of the house were also built in 1914, but were converted into a separate house in 1947.

Seagry House



Seagry House at Upper Seagry was a five-bay mansion built in the 18th century and rebuilt after a 1949 fire; the 18th-century gatepiers at the east and south entrances survive. The gatepiers are Grade II listed, as follows:

Set of four gatepiers, early C18, ashlar, channel-rusticated with projecting pilasters, moulded bases and moulded cornices broken forward over pilasters. Centre piers have gadrooned urns, outer piers have rounded urns. Wrought iron centre gates, spearhead iron rails each side, with dog-bars. Similar outer rails ramped down to large circular ashlar stop, carved with flower motif.



The Seagry House estate was bought in 1785 by Sir James Tylney-Long of Draycot Cerne. Through inheritance and marriage it passed down to William, 5th Earl of Mornington (1813–1863) and then Henry Wellesley, 1st Earl Cowley (1804–1884). Christian Wellesley, 4th Earl Cowley, sold most of the land in 1920, but the house remained in the Cowley family until 1949.

The coloured photo from 1925-1935 is in the collection of the Smithsonian Institute, and is shown here for non-commercial use consistent with the principles of fair use under Section 108 of the U.S. Copyright Act.

Lot 130.
 COLOURED BLUE ON PLAN—No. 1.
 THE VALUABLE
FREEHOLD MANSION
 KNOWN AS
“SEAGRY HOUSE,”

Occupying a charming position in surroundings of great natural beauty. It is situated on the outskirts of the Village of SEAGRY. The House is approached by a Pretty Drive with a Picturesque Lodge at the Entrance.

The structure is a substantial one of local stone with freestone dressings and stone-tiled roof.

It is entered from the Northern front through an Entrance Porch, 7ft. by 9ft. 6in., leading to the

ENTRANCE HALL,
 Measuring about 33ft. 6in. by 13ft. 9in. which leads to

THE LOUNGE,
 Measuring 19ft. 9in. by 26ft. with Tiled Hearths and Freestone Fireplace.

THE LIBRARY,
 Measuring 31ft. by 19ft. with Casements opening to the Front Lawn, with Tiled Hearth and Ornamental Fireplace.

THE DINING ROOM,
 Measuring 24ft. 9in. by 15ft., tastefully decorated in Peacock Blue, with large Tiled Hearth and Wine Cupboard.

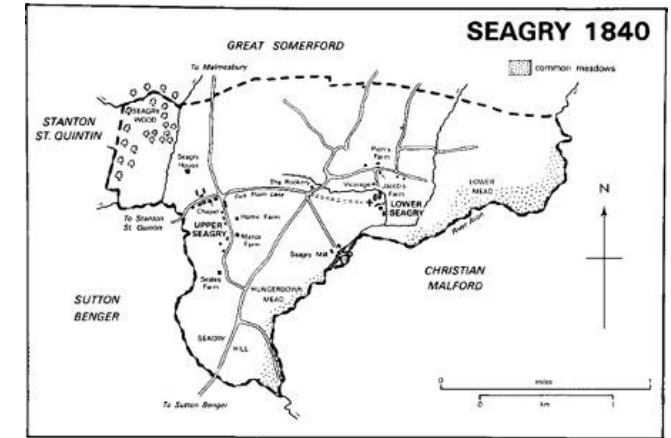
THE DRAWING ROOM,
 Measuring 22ft. by 18ft. 6in., with tastefully-covered Panelled Walls.

THE SMOKING ROOM,
 Measuring 18ft. 6in. by 15ft. 6in., with Tiled Hearth and Carved Ornamental Fireplace.

THE PRINCIPAL STAIRCASE
 Has an Oak Handrail and Balusters, and alights on a Large Landing. On this floor and the next, which is also reached by a Secondary Staircase, are

Thirteen Principal and Secondary Bed and Dressing Rooms

Seagry



From the time of the Norman Conquest until the early 1900s Seagry parish was roughly triangular in shape, with the 'apex' at the bottom and a flat top bordering Somerford parish. The triangle was divided almost equally in two halves by the road from Sutton Benger to Somerford; the western half of the triangle included the village of Upper Seagry (formerly Over Seagry) and the eastern half of the triangle included Lower Seagry (formerly Nether Seagry).

The western boundary was close to the western edge of Upper Seagry, and the road to Stanton St Quintin was in Sutton Benger and Draycot Cerne parishes.

The three parishes of Draycot Cerne, Sutton Benger and Seagry became one parish, called Sutton Benger, in 1934; the parish of Seagry temporarily disappeared. However, Sutton Benger parish was split in two by the building of the M4 motorway, and all the land to the north of the motorway became the new parish of Seagry in 1971.

Next On The Trail

From Goss Croft Hall head back through Upper Seagry, keeping the New Inn on your right; you will also see the village school and the recreation ground on your right. You will pass several grand-looking houses: The Chestnuts, and Manor Farm on your left; followed by The Mount and Seales Court on your right.

Take care as you approach the road junction with Seagry Road.

10. Upper Seagry / Seagry Road junction / Hungerdown House



Take care as you leave Upper Seagry and approach the junction with Seagry Road; you will be safer if you walk on the left side of the road towards the junction, because cars coming up from Sutton Benger tend to come round the corner towards you quite fast.

Across the road is Hungerdown House, which was built in 1914, in an 18th-century style of red brick and stone with a tiled roof. Brick stables north of the house were also built in 1914, but were converted into a separate house in 1947.

The Chestnuts



The Chestnuts dates back to the early 1700s, and was originally part of the Manor Farm; it was previously called Hide House, and then Home Farm. The house was built of red brick with ornamental stone dressings. It is a Grade II listed building:

House, mid C18, red brick with ashlar dressings, stone slate roof and ashlar end stacks. Two storeys and attic, five-window range. Ashlar plinth, string course, cornice and

parapet, ramped up each end. Ashlar angle piers with mouldings carried around and raised moulded surrounds to 12-pane sashes. Centre 6-panel door with overlight in raised moulded surround with scroll pediment on brackets and centre urn. Brickwork between upper windows has some blank brick decoration. Three gabled dormers. Brick south east rear wing, 3-window range of large 12-pane sashes, upper sashes breaking eaves. Range parallel to front in north east angle, with north end stack.

The house was sold in the 1920 Draycot Estate sale.

FAMILY RESIDENCE
KNOWN AS
"THE CHESTNUTS,"
SEAGRY,

Being Brick-built and Stone-tiled, with Ornamental Freestone Facing, with good hard and soft water supplies, containing:—Tiled Entrance Hall, Drawing-room, 15ft. 6 in. by 16ft., with Glazed Cupboard, Window Seat, and Register Grate; Dining-room, 17ft. by 16ft. 6 in.; Breakfast-room, 19ft. by 9ft. 6 in.; Kitchen with Eagle Range, Pantry, Larder, Wash-house, Five Bed and Dressing-rooms, approached by two staircases; Bathroom with Basin with hot and cold hard and soft water; w.c., Two Airing Cupboards, Two Attics, Prettily laid-out Garden with Circular Drive and Tennis Court.

WALLED-IN KITCHEN GARDEN
With Green-house and Coal-house.

STABLING,
Being principally Brick-built and Tiled, comprises—Seven Loose Boxes, Three Stalls, Trap-house with Loft over, Harness-room and Saddle-room, with stoves, Wood-house and Tool Shed.

Three-Bay Galvanized Roof Hay Barn.
Large Galvanized Roofed Open Shed, Enclosed Cow-shed to tie three, Fowls'-house, Two e.c.'s, also the

Estate Office,
17ft. by 14ft. 6 in., with Grate; with the Valuable

Orchard and Pasture Land
COMPRISES AN AREA OF

13a 1r 29p
(MORE OR LESS)

SCHEDULE.

NO.	DESCRIPTION.	AREA.
157	Pasture	1.638
158	House, Garden, Buildings and Paddock	1.698
162	Orchard	738
164	Pasture	2.353
163	Pasture	7,003
	Acres	13.430

In the occupation of L. J. Carnley, Esq., subject to six months' notice to quit at Lady-Day or Michaelmas. Rent free.
Impropriate Tithe, £2 5s. 8d.
Vicarial Tithe, £6 9s. 0d.
Timber, £87.

97

Manor Farm, Seagry

Manor Farm, Seagry, dates back to the 17th century; it was owned by several generations of the Bayliffe family before being sold to Lord Mornington (of Draycot Manor) in 1900. It was subsequently sold again in the 1920 Draycot Estate auction.



The farmhouse is Grade II listed, as follows:

Farmhouse, early C17, rubble stone with stone slate roofs and ashlar stacks on north side wall and south end wall. 2 1/2 storeys, 5-window range, the three bays to left with recessed chamfered mullion windows of early C17 type, the two bays to right with cyma-moulded recessed mullion windows of late C17 type. Left section has two gables with 2-

light windows, two first floor 3-light mullion-and-transom windows with relieving arches, centre 2-light window and ground floor centre door and C18 or early C19 sashes each side, relieving arches over. Paired sashes in architraves to left, single sash to right. Door is C19 in C19 surround. C19 timber gabled porch with date plaque IH 1632. Right section has two-window range of 2-light mullion windows, single hoodmould over lower windows. South east rear wing with hipped east gable. Parallel gabled range to south with east stack and west first floor 2-light mullion window.

A Dovecot at the farm is also Grade II listed:

Dovecote, late C17, rubble stone with stone slate roof and small pyramid-roofed lantern on ridge. Rectangular plan with flush quoins. Outside stairs to upper door on north side. West end lower range with two oval lights in west wall and north side door.

The Mount



The Mount is a large red-brick house which was built in about 1897 and extended northwards in about 1905. It is one of the properties of the Bayliffe family which were sold to Lord Mornington (of Draycot Manor) in 1900. It was subsequently sold again in the 1920 Draycot Estate auction.

Lot 131.

COLOURED PINK ON PLAN—No. 1.

VACANT POSSESSION AT MICHAELMAS.

Commodious & Convenient Residence

KNOWN AS

“THE MOUNT,”

SEAGRY,

Being Part. 173 on the O.S.M.

Being Brick-built and Slated, with a good supply of water, and containing:—Porch, Entrance Hall, 22ft. 6in. by 6ft. 9in., Drawing-room, 31ft. by 15ft., with a Blue Devon Grate and Register Grate, Dining-room, with Ornamental Stone Fireplace and Hatchway to Kitchen, 20ft. 9in. by 18ft., Kitchen, 17ft. 6in. by 13ft., with Eagle Range and Dresser, Back Kitchen, China Pantry, Pantry, Larder, Coal-house, w.c., Cellar, Six Bed and Dressing-rooms, Bathroom, with hot and cold water, w.c., Linen Cupboard.

THE GARDEN,

Is prettily laid out, with a good Tennis Court.

THE STABLING

Is principally Brick-built and Tiled, and comprises:—Five Loose Boxes and Five Stalls, Saddle-room with Stove, Motor Garage with Inspection Pit, Galvanised Roofed Fowl-house, Wood-house, Galvanised Shed over Force Pump and Supply Tank, together with the

VALUABLE PADDOCK

COMPRISING AN AREA OF

1a 2r 35p

(MORE OR LESS)

The right to empty drainage into the Septic Tank situate in Field No. 172 (in the occupation of Mr. R. J. Sharps) with access to same, is reserved to the Purchaser, who shall keep same in repair.

Possession at Michaelmas, 1920.

Seales Court



Seales Court, formerly Seales Farm, is a Grade II Listed Building, as follows:

Farmhouse, C17, heavily remodelled in mid C20, rubble stone with stone slate roofs. Two storeys and attic. Main range has large centre ridge stack, two hipped dormers and front largely C20 in C17 style. Projecting gabled porch bay to left with Tudor-arched entry and 2-light window over, single light each floor to right of porch bay and 3-light each floor beyond. All windows except ground floor right are C20, recessed cyma-moulded, original window is early to mid C17 recessed chamfered. Hoodmoulds except to upper centre and right windows. Attached to left is lower 2-window 1 1/2 storey range with south stack, two gables and recessed cyma-moulded mullion windows, 2-light above, 3-light with hoodmoulds below. Heavily renewed, but corresponding to range shown in old photographs. To north of main range are extensive C20 additions in matching style. Rear of main range has similar early to mid C17 3-light ground floor window. A rear wing, mostly renewed, has dove-holes in angle to main range. Interior: large moulded Tudor-arched hall fireplace, small stone fireplace on side of main stack and large stone fireplace

with depressed arch in north room. Deep chamfered beams. South range has large timber-lintel fireplace at south end.

Seales Farm had been bought by Lord Cowley, of Draycot, in about 1890; it was then sold at the 1920 Draycot Estate auction.

Next On The Trail

From Hungerdown House walk carefully - very carefully - along the road to the M4 bridge; at the far side of the bridge, on the left, take the footpath down into Seagry Hill.

11. M4 Motorway Bridge / Footpath to Seagry Hill



From Hungerdown House walk carefully - very carefully - along the road to the M4 bridge; at the far side of the bridge, on the left, take the footpath down into Seagry Hill, and then walk along the road to pass Brookside Cottage the last house on the left.

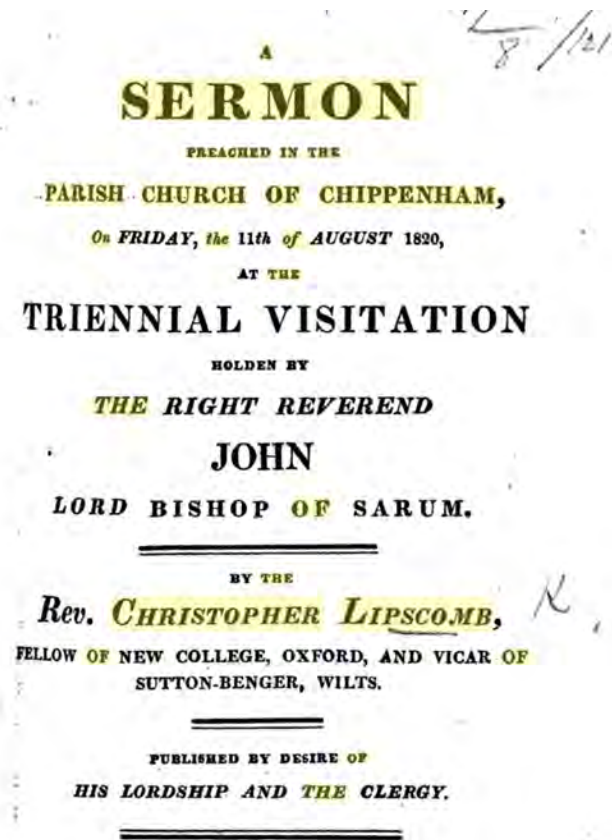
The majority of the houses on Seagry Hill did not exist until the 1950s; the attached maps show the difference in the 100 years from 1920 to today. The modern map clearly shows 'Boundary Brook' being diverted into tunnels under the roads and under the M4.

Carry on walking away from the M4 until you reach the solitary house by the brook.

Next On The Trail

From the road by the M4 bridge, take the footpath down into Seagry Hill; turn right and walk past the main group of houses until you reach a solitary house on your left by the brook.

12. Brookside Cottage



The brook running under the road at the southern end of Seagry Hill is the 'boundary brook' from the medieval charter; so the house by the brook has 'moved' frequently between Sutton Benger and Seagry over the years, with the changes in parish boundaries.

The Murder of Judith Pearce

Judith Pearce was a lady who was murdered in Brookside Cottage, Seagry Hill, in November 1820; a man called Edward Buckland was found guilty of her murder at a trial in Salisbury and was hanged in March 1821. The witnesses at the trial were all from Sutton Benger, including the village policeman and the landlord of the Bell Inn.

Mrs Pearce had been born in Sutton Benger, and was buried in Sutton Benger. There is a substantial memorial stone to her memory in the graveyard; it is under a tree, near the Old Rectory. The story is often re-told in histories of the village. However, her cottage was in Seagry, on the northern side of the brook which formed the parish boundary between Sutton Benger and Seagry. Despite the fact that Brookside Cottage is now in Sutton Benger, and firmly south of the parish boundary (the M4), her story is 'claimed' by Seagry and she has always been referred to as 'Judith Pearce of Seagry'.

Kay Taylor provides a detailed account of the story in *Sutton Benger from Saxon Times to the Dawn of the 21st Century*, pp. 55-65.

The Vicar at the time was the Reverend Christopher Lipscomb (who subsequently became Bishop of Jamaica, in the West

Indies). He gave a sermon in All Saint's Church on Sunday 18 March, 1821, the day after Edward Buckland was hanged; his sermon was then published (price one shilling) and became a contemporary best-seller.

Several of his sermons can be found on-line, including one preached in Chippenham the previous year with a text from Matthew ch. X, v. 16:

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Judy's Bridge

A document from 150 years ago, produced by the Wiltshire County Bridges Committee, relates to the maintenance of road bridges across the county following the end of the Turnpike system. The Committee met on 3 April 1877 to finalise and approve the list of bridges that were to be maintained at the cost of the County Council. One of the two bridges in Sutton Benger was named as 'Bridge 135a, Judy Pearce Bridge'.

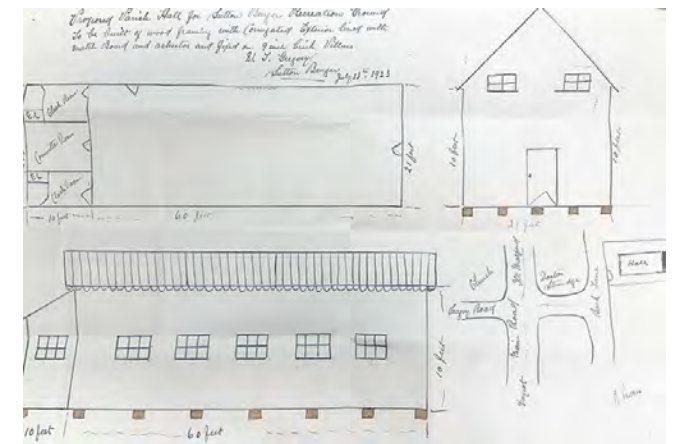
Brookside Cottage

The house by the brook has always been called Brookside Cottage, but the one that you can see today is a different house from the one which stood here 200 years ago. Judy Pearce's cottage was demolished some time after her murder, and the core of the cottage which you can see today was built in 1850.

(With thanks to <https://www.findagrave.com/> and 'Lost Ancestors' for the photograph of the gravestone in All Saints' churchyard.)

Next On The Trail

13. Village Hall / End of Trail



Can you help?

Do you have any stories or photos of the school(s) from the early 1900s to the late 1900s? We would be especially really pleased

to know if you have any photos of the first 'new school' of the 1970s to the 1990s, and would be happy to share them.

Please contact us at:

hello@bengertrails.co.uk

Next On The Trail
