

A Brief History of DUNSBURY HILL FARM

Steve Jones

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Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

DUNSBURY HILL FARM

This farm along with 231 acres was added to the Leigh Park estate in December 1877 when it was acquired by Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, along with the major part of nearby Upper Bedhampton Park Farm, Bell's Coppice of 173 acres, and other land in Catherington and Blendworth. It was acquired from William and John Deverell of Purbrook Park for the sum of £12,800. The farm, along with Upper Park Farm (Westbrook Farm) and its neighbour Middle Park Farm had its origins in the Bedhampton Deer Park and was one of the six farms that had been converted into pasture and arable farmland after Bedhampton Park had been disparked prior to 1632. By 1632, Duncbury, as it was recorded at this time, measured 240 acres.

In June 1809 it came under the ownership of Ebenezer Fuller Maitland as part of the larger Bedhampton Park Farm with its neighbor Upper Park Farm after being sold by its then owner Richard Bingham Newland. The sales advertisement in the Hampshire Telegraph for the 12th September 1808 describes two farmhouses, one 'an old Farm House,' almost certainly Upper Park farmhouse and a 'neat new built farmhouse' certainly what would become Dunsbury Hill farmhouse. The advertisement in the press in September 1808 advertised the estate as:

TO be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, a very valuable FREEHOLD ESTATE, comprising a neat new built Farm House, an old Farm House, two Cottages, one large double Barn, one single Barn, two Stables, Gardens, Yards, and Granary, with 325a. 2r. 21p. of Arable Land, 72 a. 1r. 6p. of Pasture, and 229a. 1r. 22p. of Wood Land full of thriving Timber, free of Tythe, and exonerated from the Land Tax, situate in Bedhampton Park, in the pleasant and healthy Village of Bedhampton; the whole in very good repair and condition, well worth the attention of Yeomen or Sportsmen, and to be taken possession of immediately if desired. For particulars enquire of Mr. Weller, Chichester, or Messrs Butler, Havant; and for a view of the Estate to William Clarke, in Bedhampton Park.

By November 1832 it is recorded quite clearly in newspaper advertisements as Dunsbury Hill Farm, a farm in its own right:

DUNSBURY HILL FARM

*TO be LET with immediate possession, a farm containing about 300 acres of Arable and Pasture Land. Tithe free, Parish Rates low, eligibly situated at Bedhampton, in Hants, and nearly an equal distance from the three capital Market Towns of Chichester, Portsmouth, and Petersfield.
To view apply to John Long, on the farm.*

Hampshire Telegraph, 19 Nov.1832

In October 1836 Ebenezer Fuller Maitland put the farm up for sale. At the time of the sale it was described as a farm of 450 acres, presumably along with Upper Park Farm. The advertisement in the Times states that the 'property strongly recommends itself to the notice of capitalists and agriculturists generally, as presenting a safe and profitable investment, the proprietor having spared no expense for several years past in permanent improvements.' The outcome of this offer for sale was that the farm remained with Ebenezer Fuller Maitland until his death in 1858. The following year of 1859 the farm along

with Upper Park Farm was sold to John and William Deverell of Purbrook Park (see Upper Park Farm).

The Dunsbury Hill Estate, Bedhampton, Hants. – Important Freehold Property. Tithe Free, consisting of 450 Acres of extremely fine Meadow, Pasture, Arable, and Wood Land, eligible alike for occupation or investment.

Mr. Leifchild has the honour to announce that he has received instructions to OFFER for SALE, at Garraway's on Wednesday, November 16, a very valuable and important FREEHOLD ESTATE, most delightfully situate at Bedhampton, in the county of Hants: consisting of a commodious Residence fit for a respectable family, and at a convenient distance a baliff's house with superior agricultural offices, judiciously arranged and in complete repair, together with numerous handsome enclosures of rich meadow, pasture, arable, and woodland lying well together, and interspersed by a fine running stream, containing in the whole upwards of 450 acres. The above property strongly recommends itself to the notice of capitalists and agriculturists generally, as presenting a safe and profitable investment, the proprietor having spared no expense for several years past in permanent improvements. The estate is situate in the most beautiful and fertile part of the county, within one mile of the capital market town of Havant, about eight miles from Portsmouth, and 66 from London. The woods by which this fine property is peculiarly distinguished, are full of fine young thriving oak timber, well stocked with game, and several first rate packs of hounds are kept in the immediate neighbourhood. Mr. Leifchild is fully authorized to receive an offer by private contract for the estate, and will be happy to afford any information on application at his offices, 45, Lothbury, London, and Enfield, Middlesex, where plans of the estate may be seen.

The Times, 25th Oct. 1836

Upper Bedhampton Park, or Dunsbury Hill Farm Important Sale of Live and Dead Farming Stock

Mr. Charles Lewis will SELL by AUCTION, on the premises, on Friday, the 25th of May, 1846, at one o'clock precisely, - All the valuable LIVE and DEAD FARM STOCK, etc. of Mr. John Elliott deceased; comprising seven strong useful horses, 20 cows and heifers, and 34 tons of good meadow and clover hay, three wagons, dung, raved, and light springed market carts, good new Stanhope thill, plough, trace and gig harness, potato, tickle, wheel, and Berkshire ploughs, drags, harrows, four-horse cast iron and other rollers, seed drill and seed machine, chaff cutting machine, winnowing machine, barn, stable, granary, and other effects, five loads of sacks, ladders, quantity of vetchs, oil cake, double gun, donkey, quantity of poultry, and various other articles too numerous to mention.

May be viewed the morning of Sale and catalogues five day's prior.

Hampshire Telegraph, 23rd May 1846

Important Sale of all the Live and Dead Farming Stock.
Growing Crops, etc. of Upper Bedhampton Park, or
Dunsbury Hill Farm in the parish of Bedhampton

Mr. Charles Lewis will SELL by AUCTION, about the middle of the month. - All the LIVE and DEAD STOCK, etc. of the above Farm; comprising a FLOCK of 160 South Down and Welch ewes and lambs, 11 active useful horses, 24 milch cows, heifers, bull and oxen; 40 acres of good thriving wheat, 20 acres of barley, 20 acres of oats, rick of wheat about nine loads, 40 tons of meadow and clover hay, and every agricultural implement requisite for a farm of 300 acres.

Immediately after the above will be SOLD, - About 800 of small and large Oak sticks, 1,000 Frame faggots, and 1,000 Bunts, all of which will be arranged in convenient lots.

Hampshire Telegraph, 1st July 1848

TWO to be SOLD by AUCTION by Mr. C. LEWIS, at the Golden Lion Inn, Bedhampton, on Tuesday, the 21st day of November, 1854, at Three o'Clock precisely,—160 OAK AND ASH TREES (with the Lop, Top, and Bark), now standing in the Above Wood; also 70 Acres of Good UNDERWOOD, calculated for Hoops, Hurdles, and Hop Poles.

Bills containing Catalogues may be obtained, four days prior, at the Waterloo; Red Lion, Fareham, Petersfield; and Portsea; Dolphin Inn, Chichester; or of Mr. C. Lewis, Land Surveyor, Estate Agent, and Agent to the Hants, Sussex, and Dorset Fire Office, Havant.

May be viewed four days prior, by applying to Mr. J. BARRT, Dunsbury Hill Farm, Bedhampton.

Hampshire Telegraph, 11 Nov. 1854

By the mid nineteenth century various tenants had farmed at Dunsbury Hill one of them being Captain William Garwood, a merchant naval officer, who died at his residence at Dunsbury Hill Farm on the 11th February, 1856, aged fifty four. A good description of his farm stock as well as his furniture of the farmhouse can be found in the sales particulars of the farm for the 30th August of that year. Included in the sale are: *Ten very superior and powerful young draught horses, fit for any description of work, including two beautiful roan mares to match for size, strength, condition, and beauty to challenge any gentleman's teams in the county* (see advertisement).

**IMPORTANT SALE OF
LIVE AND DEAD FARMING STOCK, IMPLE-
MENTS OF HUSBANDRY, HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE AND EFFECTS,
Of the late Captain GARWOOD, of Bedhampton Park,
or Donkey Hill Farm, in the Parish of
BEDHAMPTON, HANTS.**

MR. C. LEWIS has received instructions from the Executors of the above to **SELL by AUCTION**, on the Premises, on Thursday, the 11th September, 1866, and following day, at Twelve o'clock, — Ten very superior powerful young **DRAUGHT HORSES**, fit for any description of work, including two beautiful roan mares to match (for size, strength, condition, and beauty, the Auctioneer can challenge any gentlemen's teams in the county); a handsome halfbred bay horse, 16½ hands, calculated for fly, brougham, or omnibus, quiet and good in anything; a chestnut cob, 14 hands 6 off, quiet to ride or drive; six superior milch cows, with three calves, three steers, seven well-bred heifers, two fat calves, sow and pigs, fifty-one South Down ewes, and wethers, 18 stock lambs, poultry, four capital waggons, one quite new (by Batchelor, of Havant), six Scotch, Berkshire, and other carts, light spring van, and cart, six ploughs (by Canning and Ransom), iron drags and harrows, cylinder and other rollers, pressers, horse hoes, scarifiers, horse-rake, weighing chaff machine, dressing ditto, also a capital hand thrashing machine (two horse power) convenient for small occupation — most of the above are by Canning and Crosskill; very superior sets of new four-horse harness, thill, traces, plough and gig harness, saddles, bridles, new sacks, prongs, dray and other rakes, shovels, spades, straw and other prongs, bushels and measures, scoops, willows, seedlips, steel prongs, head-stalls, sheep cages, troughs, hurdles, new pump hose, ladders, corn bins, waggon ropes, barrows, two ricks of faggots, and effects.

FURNITURE—Superior large mahogany telescope dining table, superb sideboard, scroll sofa and chairs to match in hair, and a full toned cottage piano in rosewood, Brussel, Venetian, Kidder and stair carpets, canvas and mats, moresu curtains, rings, and poles, inland office and coffee tables, imitation, rosewood, birch, and other chairs, easy ditto, fenders and fire-irons, capital new wild fowl gun by W. Richards, Spanish mahogany Parisian tented bedsteads, panelled French polished, fourpost bedstead and damask furnitures, superior marble top circular scrolled Spanish wash and dress tables and ware, chest mahogany drawers, wardrobe, rosewood linen chest with drawers, beds, bolsters, pillows, blankets, mattresses, palliases, kitchen, dairy, brewhouse, cellar, pantry, washhouse, and other effects.

May be viewed the day before the Sale, and Catalogues five prior, on the premises; Red Lion Inn, Petersfield, Farnham, and Portsea; Anchor, Chichester; or of Mr. C. Lewis, Auctioneer, Land Surveyor, Estate Agent, and Agent to the Hants, Sussex, and Dorset Fire Office, Havant.

N.B.—A Rick of last year's Clover Hay, of very superior quality, to be sold by private contract.—Apply to the Auctioneer.

**DUNSHURY HILL,
OR UPPER BEDHAMPTON PARK FARM,
BEDHAMPTON, HANTS.**

MESSRS. LEWIS & SON have received instructions from Mr. Henry Ford (who is quitting) to **SELL** by **AUCTION**, on the premises, as above, on Tuesday, the 14th of October, 1873, at One o'clock.—All the

LIVE AND DEAD FARMING STOCK,

comprising—

FOUR PRIME CART HORSES, ACTIVE HALF-BRED HORSE, fit for cab or Brongham,
TWO FAT SHORT HORN AND SEVEN DEVON STEERS,

waggon, two dung and rane carts, two horse tun, land presser, corn drill, harrows, drags, winnowing machine, four ploughs, iron roller, drag rakes, ladders.

LIGHT SPRING MARKET CART,

NEARLY NEW WELL-MADE SPRING VAN,

TWO DOG AND LIGHT CARTS,

plough, thill, trace, and light harness, prongs, bushel measures, and numerous effects.

May be viewed the morning of sale, and catalogues of the Auctioneers, Havant, who will forward the same by post on application.

**ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1896.
DUNSHURY HILL FARM, BEDHAMPTON,
SALE OF LIVE AND DEAD STOCK.**

C. B. SMITH & HALL are instructed by Mr. Wilkins, who is giving up farming, to **SELL** by **AUCTION**, on the above date, at Twelve o'clock, —The whole of the

LIVE AND DEAD STOCK,

Comprising 12 DAIRY COWS, JERSEY BULL, YEARLING STEER, FOUR USEFUL CART HORSES, BLACK GELDING, suitable for van work, GREY PONY, ABOUT 160 HEAD of POULTRY, TWO ACRES of First-rate POTATOES,

Useful dairy utensils, nearly-new convertible spring luggage cart, iron-arm waggon, rane cart, two ladders, 200yds. of wire netting, iron horse rake by "Page," hay tedder, 4-cylinder iron roller, turnip drill, zigzag and chain harrows, two iron ploughs, iron drag, iron horse hoe, cake crusher, root pulper, winnowing machine, chaff cutter, corn crusher, first-rate grass cutter by "Samuelson," four sets of nearly new thill harness, set of wag harness, trace and plough harness, large rick cloth, portable fowlhouse, wheelbarrow, stone roller, corn bin, and a variety of useful tools and other effects.

Catalogues of the Auctioneers, 4767
166, QUEEN STREET, PORTSEA, AND BARMAN

The Census Returns from towards the end of the nineteenth century give us a good description of who was working the farm at this date, for example at the time of the 1871 census Charles Aylwin was occupying the farm of 101 acres and employing two men and 1 boy on the farm. The census of 1891 records John Chase, farmer, at the property and we get a good description of what was going on at the farm during his tenure from an advertisement for the sale of the live and dead farming stock on 25th August 1893:

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

Messrs Wyatt & Son, on Friday, the 25th August 1893, at twelve o'clock precisely on the premises at Dunsbury Hill Farm, by direction of Mr. John Chase, - All his Valuable LIVE & DEAD FARMING STOCK AND CORN & HAY CROPS GROWING AND SEVERED

Consisting of in Live stock, - two valuable horses, a dairy of nine valuable Alderney cows in calf and in full profit, Weanyer heifer calf, three sows in pig and with pig, about 50 head of poultry; in dead stock, - double thill wagon, two dung carts, rave cart, land presser, two ploughs, chaff cutter, mowing machine, hay tedding machine, light spring cart, winnowing machine, two horse iron roller, iron drag and small harrow, rick cloth, wheel barrow, hen coops, drag rake, corn bins, thill, trace and plough harness, set of light cart harness, the usual smaller implements and dairy utensils. The growing and severed crops consist of about four acres of wheat, eight acres of barley, eighteen acres of oats, three quarters acres of potatoes, twenty five acres of clover and mixed grass, and a rick of clover and bent hay.

At the time of this sale the farm was taken over by Henry Gauntlett as tenant of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram. Gauntlett at this stage was also renting Crookhorn Farm which was working at a loss and in February 1897 he was declared bankrupt with Sir Frederick Fitzwygram repossessing the farm and stock (see Dunsbury Hill Farm notes).

In the 1936 sale of the outlying portions of the Leigh Park Estate the farm comprised 237 acres and although at the moment a large quantity of the land still survives further development has been proposed. The farm at this time was described as:

The Very Attractive Residential and Sporting Property Known as Dunsbury Hill Farm, Cowplain Lies high with beautiful southern views over the isle of Wight and over the Petersfield Hills on the north, with the benefit of shooting and sporting over some 237a. Or. 10p.

Comprising about 183 acres of Farmland and about 53 acres of Woodland And having a Gentleman's Residence Standing in an attractive garden, substantially built of brick with cement rendered elevations and slated and tiled roofs, with the following accommodation: Two sitting rooms, dining room, kitchen with range, pantry, scullery with copper, range and sink, five bedrooms and two attics. Cellar, W.C., old dairy, wood house and earth closet.

The Compact Farm Buildings Comprise: dairy, pump room and garage, four stall stable, three stall cow pen, a range of cow stalls with standing for 12 cows, straw

and hay barn, a further range of twelve milking stalls, granary, four cow stalls, loose box, shed and fowl house, open cart shed, three pigsties, rick yard.

Let to Messrs F. and J. Whitbread on a yearly Michaelmas Tenancy, with other land at a total rent of £190 per annum.

The farmhouse was demolished in 1994 and now the A3(M) motorway cuts close to where the farmhouse was once situated. It was farmed for many years from around the time of the Great War, along with nearby Middle Park Farm, by the Whitbread family and from 1940 until his death in 1951 by William Davis.

The Dunsbury Hill Farm site has now been earmarked for potential development for industry in partnership between Havant Borough Council and the site landlord Portsmouth City Council. The vision is to create a green and environmentally friendly high quality Business and Technology Park that will deliver economic and social benefits to Leigh Park and the wider area and taking into consideration the local habitat and the existing importance for nature conservation.

DUNSBURY HILL FARM

Lease for 10 years: Dunsbury Hill Farm, Bedhampton, with liberty to take hares and rabbits by trapping and ferreting, but excluding timber, minerals and game, 13 March 1877

(i) John Deverell of Purbrook Park, esq. and William Henry Deverell of Lincoln's Inn, esq. (ii) James Poor of Crookhorn Farm, Farlington, farmer, and Alfred Poor of Dunsbury Hill Farm, Bedhampton

HRO/8M61/274

Conveyance, (i) to (iii) in trust for (iv), of Dunsbury Hill Farm (231ac.) and the major part of Upper Farm (33ac.) with other land in Bedhampton and Catherington, 15 Dec. 1877

(i) William Henry Deverell, Lincoln's Inn, Middlesex, esq. (ii) John Deverell, Purbrook Park, esq. (iii) Unwin Heathcote, Shephalbury, Herts.; Loftus Wigram, Harlow, Essex, esq.; Robert Wigram, Blackwall, Middlesex, esq. (iv) Sir Frederick Wellington John Fitzwygram, Leigh Park, Bart.

HRO/102M86/74

Important SALE of Luxuriant GROWING CROPS
of CORN on the Bedhampton Park or **Dunsbury**
Hill Farm, near Havant, in the Parish of Bedhampton, Hants.
MR. C. LEWIS will SELL by AUCTION, on the
Premises, on Tuesday, the 5th August, 1856, at
Twelve o'clock, by order of the Executors of the late
Captain GARWOOD,
61 Statute Acres of Capital WHEAT,
27 ditto of Good BARLEY,
27 ditto of Superior OATS,
Arranged in Small Lots for the convenience of Purchasers.
May be Viewed one week prior by applying to the
Bailiff, on the Premises, where Catalogues with Conditions
may be obtained, or of Mr. C. LEWIS, Land Surveyor,
&c., who will forward them on application.

Hampshire Telegraph 26th July 1856,

PORTSMOUTH BANKRUPTCY COURT.

Monday.—Before Mr. REGISTRAR RENNY.

HOPING AGAINST HOPE.—Henry Gauntlett, of Crookhorn Farm, Purbrook, a farmer, came up for public examination. His gross liabilities were set down as £707 13s. 5d., of which £705 17s. 9d. was expected to rank for dividend. There was a deficiency of £695 13s. 5d.—In answer to the Deputy Official Receiver, Mr. W. F. J. Hunt, bankrupt said that before he started farming he worked as a dairyman, superintending his father's business. After his father's death in 1892 he took over land formerly held by his parent at Milton, and in March, 1893, with a capital of £350, left to him under his father's will, he rented seven acres of land at Crookhorn Farm, taking the whole farm over in the following Michaelmas. He found the farm in a very bad condition, entailing large expenses in clearing the land. The result was a loss of from £500 to £600. In March, 1894, he sold his milk rounds for £40, and in September, 1893, he took Dunsbury Hill Farm, on Sir Frederick FitzWygram's estate. This venture also resulted in a loss of about £100 or £150. All the way along he was hoping against hope, and his farming resulted in nothing but failure. His landlord finally took possession of everything.—The examination was closed.

Bankruptcy of Henry Gauntlett of Crookhorn and Dunsbury Hill farms, 20th February 1897.

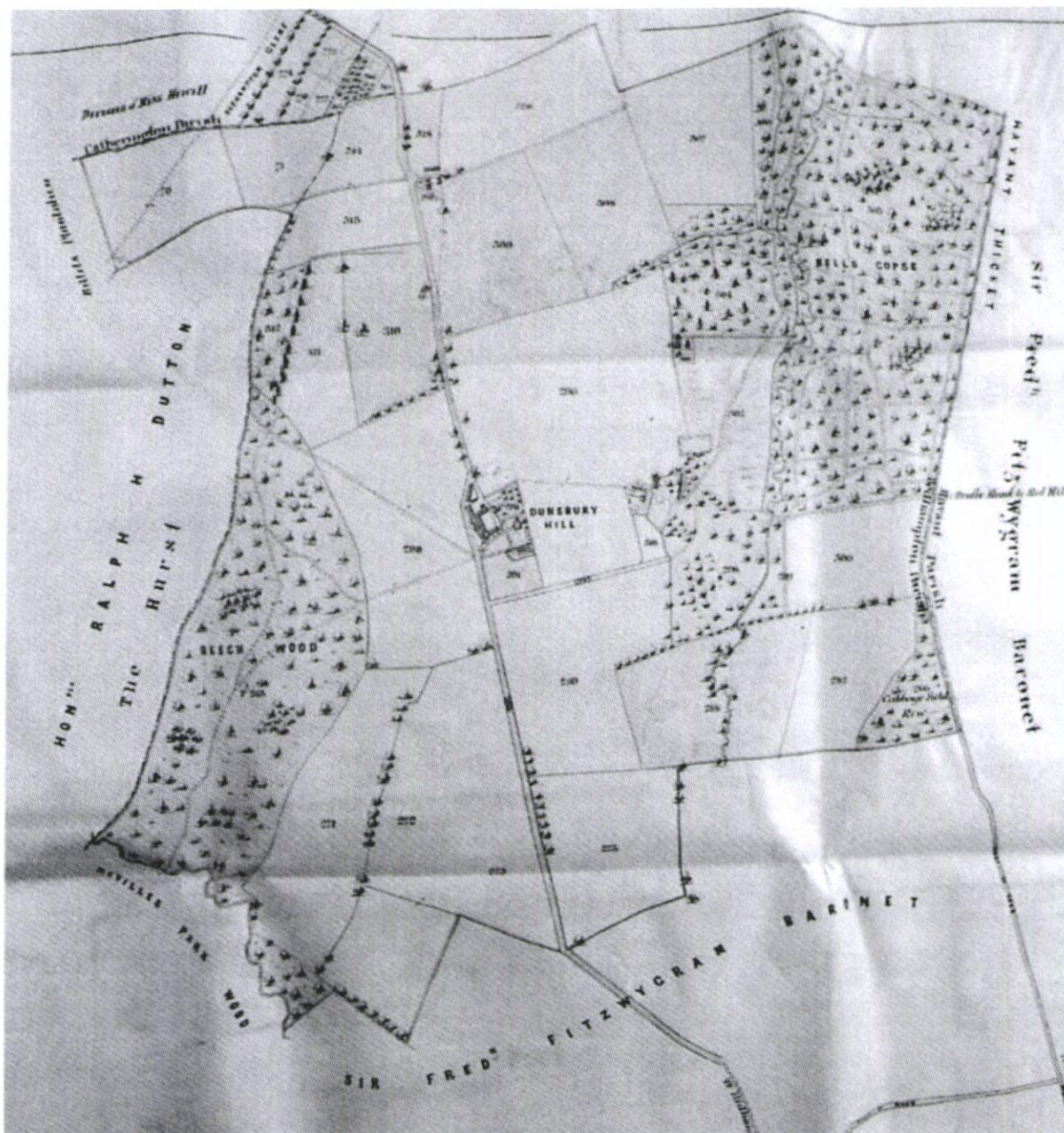
Hampshire Telegraph, 27th February 1897

Dunsbury Hill Farm (approximate dates)

1832 – John Long
 1946 – John Elliott (d.1846)
 1848 – Mr. Keble
 1854 – John Brett
 1856 - Capt. William Garwood (d.1856)
 1857 – Mr. Watts
 1871 – Charles Aylwin
 1873 – Henry Ford
 1873 – James & Alfred Poor (for a lease of 10 years)

Tenants:-

1891 – John Chase
 1893 – Henry Gauntlett
 1898 – Christopher Mears
 1915 – George Whitbread
 1923 – John Whitbread
 1935 – Frederick Whitbread



Dunsbury Hill Farm, 1877.

Plan of land, including Dunsbury Hill Farm and Upper Park Farm acquired by Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, 15th December 1877 (HRO102M86/74)

At the time of the sale Dunsbury Hill Farm was let to Messrs James and Alfred Poor for a term of ten years from 29th September 1873 at a rent of £200 per annum.



Dunsbury Hill farmhouse and farm buildings, c.1990.



One of a series of booklets on local history in the
Borough of Havant.
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