

Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

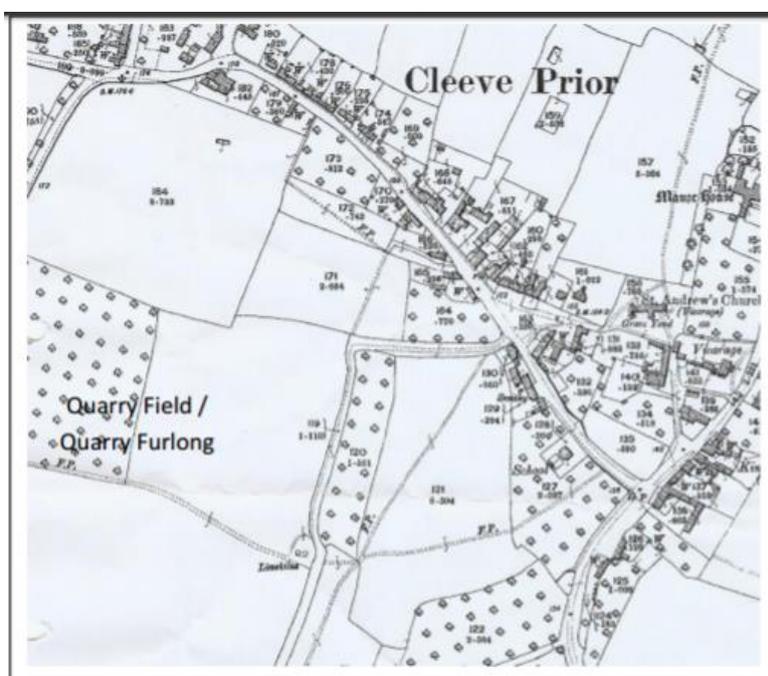
Lime Kilns in Cleeve Prior

From Lime Kilns in Worcestershire by Nils Wilkes

For the full article:

<http://www.geo-village.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Lime-Kilns-in-Worcestershire.pdf>

Limekiln	Site 37	408481 249104	WSM07808	Type 5
Limekiln	Site 38	408487 249104	WSM07808	Type 5



Extract from County Series Second Edition 1904

The village of Cleeve Prior is essentially a limestone village. Many of its cottages are constructed from limestone, as are numerous boundary walls, flagstones, kerbing to footways through the village and Quarry Field / Quarry Furlong 21 gravestones in the churchyard. The main quarry area lay to the south of the parish, part of which now belongs to the Village Millennium Green.

In 1781 Nash makes the following observation about the limestone in Cleeve Prior (1).

“Here are quarries of very good stone, fit for barn floors and other uses; some of it bears a fine polish like Derbyshire marble, and not inferior to it. The beds lie from four to fourteen feet beneath the surface. By means of the Avon large quantities of it are sent to distant parts, and thus a branch of business is open which affords employment for many of the poor inhabitants.”



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On a John Snape map of 1772 (2), a slate quarry is identified but there is no reference to any limekilns, similarly the Tithe Award makes no reference to limekilns and there are none shown on the County Series First Edition. Two limekilns are shown on the Second Edition (see above) but by the time the Third Edition is published they are referred to as “old limekilns” and therefore had ceased production. John Smith Holtom’s executors operated the kilns and are listed in Kelly’s Directories from 1896 to 1908 as being limeburners. The business was operating a little earlier than 1896, however, as there are copies of invoices, dated 1894, to Harry Taylor of Evesham who was a builder and timber merchant and who was purchasing lime from the Holtom Executors (3)



The photograph above shows the limekiln earthworks as it is today, there is a little stonework still visible, possibly the remains of a draw-hole wall. The site is situated on the Village Millennium Green and is therefore accessible to the public.

Lime Burners

John Smith Holtom, Executors of. (Lime Burner 1896 -1908) Listed in Kelly’s County Directory for 1896, 1900, 1904 and 1908. Born in 1836, son of owner of Cleeve Manor, he was a miller in Cleeve Prior according to the 1861, 1871 and 1881 census’. He married Anne in 1872 and they had at least 3 children. He died on 30 August 1890 and the executors of his estate, his brother William and friend



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John Davis, continued with his lime business for several years afterwards. According to John Smith Holtom's will the executors would eventually have to sell the business and share the proceeds out amongst his children.

Note:

- (1) Nash T.R. 1781 Collection for a History of Worcestershire
- (2) WAAS Ref: r971.2 BA1691/7
- (3) WAAS Ref: 705.414 BA8189 Box 3 (i)

The types have been determined as follows;

Type 1 – The Draw-hole and Pot remain intact. (2 No.)

Type 2 – The Draw-hole is completely visible but the Pot has either been filled in or demolished. (10 No.)

Type 3 – Only the Pot is visible. (1 No.)

Type 4 – A small section of the Draw-hole arch is visible plus earthworks. (4 No.)

Type 5 – Earthworks with a minimal amount of stone or brickwork visible. (10 No.)

Type 6 – Earthworks only. (4 No.) Type 7 – Documentary evidence only. (219 No.)