

BLUE PLAQUE CYCLE RIDE PLACES OF INTEREST

1. Spring Cottage

Built around 1821 on Oldfield Common, the cottage was owned by Letitia Moule until her death in 1913 and passed to her stepson, Jonathan Moule. The 1911 census states it was occupied by Albert Passey and wife Elizabeth. Passey paid £6 rent per year and rented the cottage from 1895. They had nine children. In 1913 Mr and Mrs Edwin Colley and their two daughters occupied the cottage.

2. Cross Cottage

In 1911, Edgar Wooldridge, a coachman, lived here with his wife, Beatrice Maud (nee Houghton), and their son Leslie, 4 months, and step-daughter, Dorothy, 5 years. The couple's marriage in 1910 and the birth of their second son, Charles, on 7 January 1914 were both registered in Kidderminster rather than the Droitwich district.

3. Rickstones

Before the end of the war, a Welsh born widow from Shropshire, Marian Hinckesman, moved into the cottage. She brought her son, Arthur Vaughan Davies, to her second marriage with John Hinckesman with whom she had three more sons. Prior to 1911 John, Charles and George Hinckesman emigrated to Penticton, Canada to work as ranchers. They joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1914 and were shipped to France.

4. Lyth Farm

Situated on high ground overlooking the River Severn opposite Shrawley Wood, it was a tenanted farm and part of the Ombersley Court Estate owned by Lord Sandys. The 1911 census states that Joseph Moule, 77 years, lived at Leith Farm with his two daughters, and his grandson, Frederick, aged 19 who worked on the farm. Joseph appears to have farmed The Lyth since 1871. Before 1916, the tenancy was taken over by Samuel Devereux who appeared before the military tribunal in July that year seeking and gaining exemption from war service.

5. Lyth Cottage, Lineholt

Known as The Leith Cottage in 1914, it is situated close to the River Severn opposite Shrawley Wood and part of the Ombersey Court Estate. It was probably built by Joseph Moule, a carpenter and tenant farmer and his father, a bricklayer, in the 1860's and is first mentioned in the 1881 census. In 1914 it is likely Alice Griffiths and her family occupied the cottage. She was listed as a servant to the Lamb family at Acton Farm, Sytchampton. In the 1901 census Alice is listed as living at Lyth Cottage with her three daughters and a boarder, John Morgan, agricultural labourer aged 44.

6. Brook House, Boreley

Brook Farm was a tenant farm of 73 acres producing mainly fruit and vegetables. It was farmed by Frank William Fisher, 35, who lived here with his wife, Edith Selina, aged 24, their daughter, and sister in law, Lilian Barford, aged 16. Fisher appeared before the Tribunal in late June 1916 and was granted conditional exemption from service. In October 1916, Edward John Watson, 34 and William Moule, 30, both carters from Boreley in the employment of Fisher were given conditional exemption from war service by the Tribunal. Brook Farm was sold for £3050 in November 1918.

7. Woodfield Cedars

It was owned by General Arthur Henry Marindin who served in the Black Watch and did not live in Ombersley. Born in Natal, South Africa, Jonsson is listed as the occupant in 1914. He was sent to France in August 1914, captured and interned as a Prisoner of War. The tenancy passed to Mrs Helen Campbell by September 1917. Mrs Campbell qualified for the vote in 1918 and was still living in Woodfield Cedars in 1924.

8. Whitneys Farm

It is named after Thomas and Lucy Whitney who farmed the property for over 30 years. Lucy died in 1905. Richard Amphlett Gardner, a solicitor, acquired Parsonage Farm and possibly Whitneys Farm. He preferred to live and work in London and from 1901 he let the Old Parsonage and Whitneys Farm to James Arthur Jones and his wife, Lucy Mabel. On the 1911 census Jones' occupation is given as 'MFH and MOH' – Master of Fox Hounds and Master of the Hunt. Jones used Whitneys as a lodging for his chauffeurs and from 1907 to at least 1915. Between 1915 and 1918, the Sharps moved out and Ivanhoe Thomas Smith, a 31 year old chauffeur from Bromsgrove moved in with his wife.