Whilton Fields

At our workshop on 21st August 2008, we looked at some of the old field and furlong names and shared memories of some areas of Whilton. As a result we have moved a little further towards plotting more places on our map of Whilton, both before and after the enclosure of 1778.

Some of the field names have lasted through many centuries. Among these are *Anglends*, earlier known as *Hang Lands* and, in 1501, as *Hanging Furlong*, probably meaning "land on a slope." The fields called *Flimbres* were once *Flintborough Furlong* in the open fields. *Windmill Close* is where the windmill stood from at least 1500, but was in ruins by 1827. The name *Mill Leys* goes back to at least 1500, near the water mill. There was a dove cote in *the Dove House Close*, and some people still have a memory of the white house which stood in *White House Fields*.

Other fields recall the names of those who farmed them. *Joe Langs* is the field allotted to Joseph Langton in the 1778 enclosure, *Butlins* to John Butlin, and *Dunkleys* to John Dunkley. *Parson's Close* was allotted as part of the glebeland at the same time. *Barkers Meadow* was probably so named because William Barker, a maltster and farmer, was renting it from the rector in around 1800.

Some names give clues to old uses, such as *Wheatlands* and *Great Sheep Pen*. In the eighteenth century woad was grown in *Wadd Close*. Edward Tarry, who was born in Chapel Brampton, but farmed here in Victorian times, had fruit in *Tarry's Orchard* on the way to Roughmoor Spinney. The*Laundry Field* was by the laundry which served Whilton Lodge into the twentieth century.

Other field names await further enlightenment. What is the origin of *Knavecote*, and was a man's head or skull dug up at *Man's Head Furlong* near the Roman Watling Street?

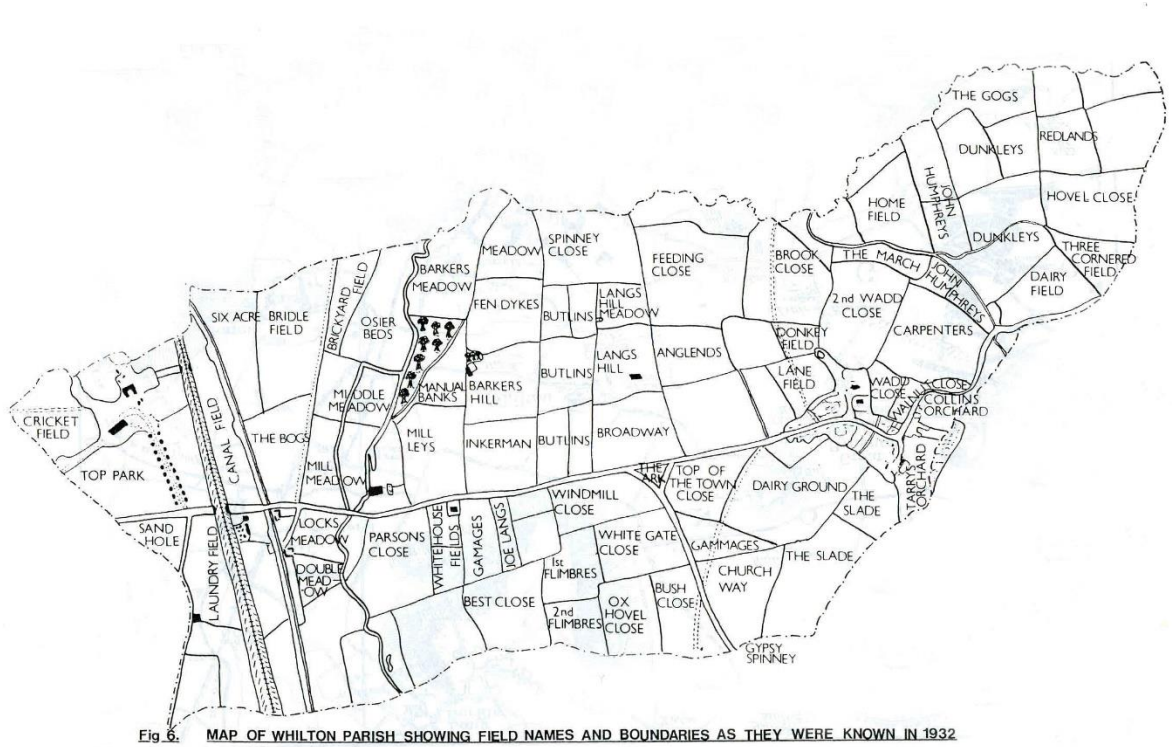

Fig 6. MAP OF WHILTON PARISH SHOWING FIELD NAMES AND BOUNDARIES AS THEY WERE KNOWN IN 1932