

## Chapelwick by Neil B. Maw

The majority of what is known of Chapelwick is documentary and comes from the Cartulary of Magdalen College, Oxford. There is also evidence from cartography where the site has been noted on maps since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. There was also evidence in the form of a large ditch or moat that surrounded the western end, but this sadly was destroyed and levelled over by the farmer. So this listing in the Shrivenham Heritage Catalogue is designed specifically to record the existence of the site and hopefully encourage further study. The parts at the end of this study concerning the demise of the Chapel, are assisted by information contained in Wikipedia. The section concerning the use of moated sites is by the author using for reference the Council for British Archaeology (C.B.A.) Report No 17, dated 1978, and Natasha Coveney's Thesis called 'Moated Sites in Medieval England: A Reassessment,' dated September 2014. The map photos are courtesy of the National Library of Scotland's online dual viewing. All the aerial photos are by the author.

There are many deeds concerning the property and land known as Stainswick and the Chapel is closely associated with it. The location of the Chapel site is approximately half a mile north east of Stainswick Farm. (See attached below).





The name Wik was common in the area at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but this is likely due to adopting the name of the settlement; for instance: Nigel de Coleshelle, Alan de Fernham, Walter de Beccote (Beckett), and so we have John de Wik, Robert de Wik etc. The name Wik or Wick, has many interpretations but the most favoured is, 'outlying dairy farm.' In the area just south of Shrivenham, there exists Stainswick, Chapelwick and Ruffinswick. So it's likely that the whole area south of Shrivenham evolved into the collective name of Wik.

There is further evidence of this by a small transcription of information held in the Shrivenham Heritage Society archive, source unknown, which states that, *'The Manor of Wick, alias Nothswick or Stainswick, formed part of the fee of the Abbot of Glastonbury. At about 1220 AD the Abbey and convent granted to Andrew d' Wick the Manor of Ashbury, which Ailric d' Wick held by rent of 60 shillings per annum. Andrew d' Wick married Maude the daughter of Phillip Hawtree, and in a marriage*

*settlement, had with her hand three hides of land at Shriovenham. He left a daughter, Alice who married Ralphe d' Staine. Ralph succeeded his father and in 1347 settled the Manor in his wife's name, leaving it to her in 1428. He died leaving no issue and the estate passed to Magdalen College, Oxford.'*

The main document concerning the foundation of the Chapel is from a deed numbered 8 in two parts and the information within it is noted as originating from the Episcopate of Bishop Joseceline of Bath and Wells dating between 1230 - 1238 AD. It concerns the foundation of a chapel at the place called Estwyke, which must have been a small settlement or farmstead that would become known as Chapelwick.

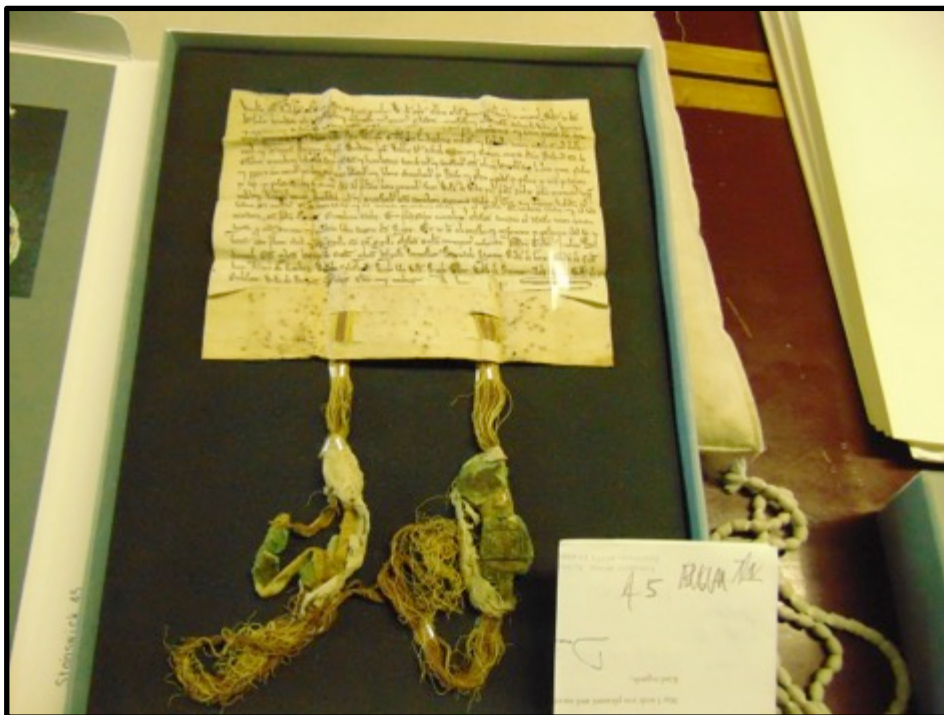
Macray's Index in Magdalen College Cartulary transcribes the text of the deed as follows:

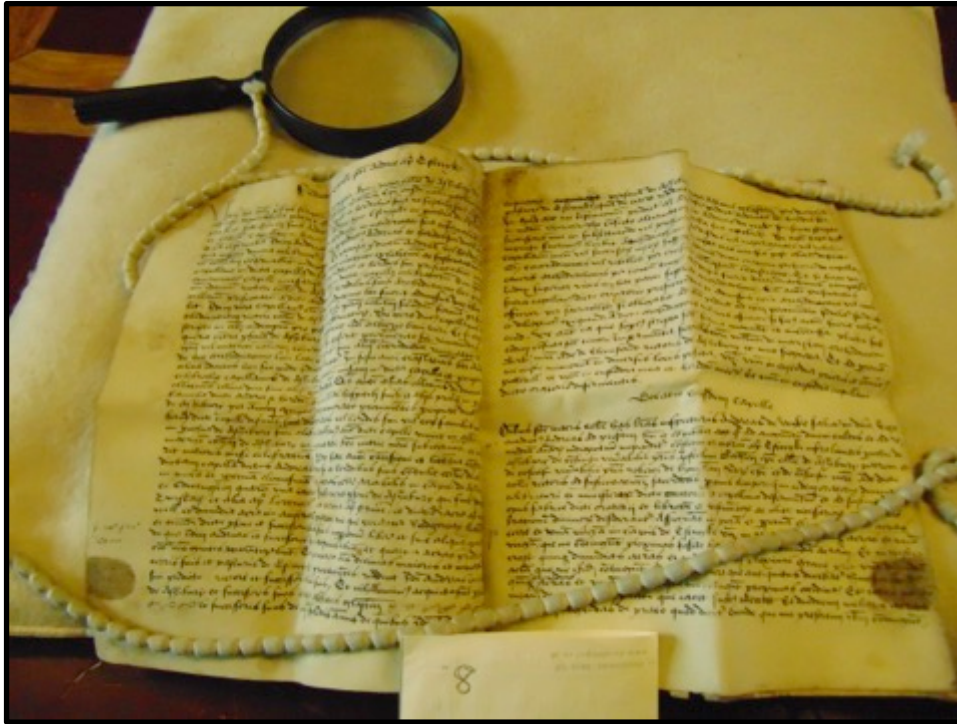
*1. Foundation of the Chapel of St Andrew at Estwyke, being the grant by Adam Rector of Ashebury, with the consent of the Bishop Jescelin, the patron of the living, to Andrew de Wyke to erect the chapel provided he and his heirs maintain it and support a Chaplain and provide the necessary ornaments; the Chaplain to be presented by the said Andrew and his heirs to the Rector who shall present him to the Archdeacon for Admission, taking an oath of obedience to the Rector; on the feast of the Translation of St Andrew the Chaplain of Ashebury shall celebrate high mass in the Chapel and receive all the offerings, but on all other days throughout the year the Chaplain of the Chapel shall receive all the offerings made there. On the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Chaplain shall come in his Alb (full length white garment) to the Mother-church of Ashebury in acknowledgement of subjection, and be present at High Mass. For this licence and said Andrew gives to the Chapel of Ashebury 4 acres of arable land in the fields of Ashebury and Edwenyston, of which one lies below the court-yard of the Parson of Ashebury which was Nigel Turstan's, another at Lortwell, the third at Cruie (Triue), half an acre at Merwell, half an acre on south of the way called Ridgeway; together with all the greater and lesser tithes of his lands and pastures at Estwycke, continuing to acquit the Parson of Ashebury as before of the annual payment of 4 (marks?) to the abbot of Glastonbury for the tithe of the pasture of Estwyke. The Archdeacon to present to the Chapel in case of lapse.*

*The seals of William de Marstone, Archdeacon of Berks of Adam de Clivesond the Rector, and of Andrew de Wyke were attached to the original.*

The second part of this deed gives further information on the land by the newly founded Chapel:

*Copy of the endowment of the Chapel by Andrew de Wyke, erected with the consent of the diocesan, Robert De Byngham, Bishop of Salisbury, as well as of Bishop Joscelin and Adam the Rector of Ashebury. He gives 8 acres of land and one rood in the field of Estwyke; viz, in Norricroft 5 acres and 1 rood which to him next to the north ditch excepting one half-acre; in Westercroft 5 half-acres and one rood next the Grove, except one half-acre; in the cultivated ground anciently called Snyforland 5 half-acres and one rood, next the west, and all his part of one 'hama' of meadow lying below Beccott, and twelve of the best acres to be annually chosen from the meadow called Omude (Ounide, Omude ?) and pasture for 7 beasts of any kind in the pasture of Estwyke, and one messuage in Estwyke next to that of Nigel on the south; together with all the rent which he receives from two men whom he has by the gift of John de Wyke in the village of Marston.*





The deeds would suggest that there were two areas where the chapel stood that were named as La Wike and Estwyke, but a century later the area is known by the name of Chapelwyke. The Stainswyke document No 15, dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 1335 mentions:

*Indenture on the part of Richard de Cleet of Cherng Lambourne with Gilbert de la Stane, senior, that if the said Gilbert shall be at the feast of All Saints next enfeoff his son Ralph and Alice the daughter of the said Richard in ten pounds' worth of land or annual rent in Chapelwyke or elsewhere, and shall have levied a fine by Michaelmas next of all his lands etc in Berkshire to hold to himself for his life with remainder to the said Ralph and his right heirs; and also shall provide the said Ralph and Alice during the next 3 years with food and clothing and all necessaries as for himself, and after the 3 years shall continue to do the same during his life, provided that he have the aforesaid £10 of annual rent for the purpose, and that if they do not wish thus to live with him that he then within one year build them sufficient houses in Chapelwyke; - then the bond for £100 in which he is bound to the said Richard de Cleet before Richard Cary, mayor of Oxford, on the day before, shall be void.*

And Stainswyke Deed No 72, dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 1335 states:

*Grant from Gilbert de la Stane, senior, to Ralph de la Stane, his son, and to Alice his wife, in free marriage portion, of his whole tenement and one carucate of land at Chapelwyk within the precinct of the liberty of Asshebure, and the advowson of his free chapel in Chapelwyke; with his meadows called Duddesmore and Pironeshame within the same liberty.*

Later in the 14<sup>th</sup> century another Deed under Stainswick No 74, dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 1350

*Grant (indented, in French) from Ralph de la Stane to Sir Thomas de Uvedale, Knight, and John de Lambourne, of all his lands etc, in Shryvenham and Asshebury, together with the advowson of the Chapel of Chapelwyke, for the term of the life of the said Ralph; rendering annually one rose; with remainder, 1 to Alice wife of the said Ralph; and 2 failing issue of the said Ralph and Alice, to Alice daughter of John de Clett, in accordance with a fine lately made to the said Ralph and his wife Alice.*

In the early part of the 15<sup>th</sup> century there was a dispute concerning the Advowson of the Chapel. (An Advowson is the right to decide who receives the money due as tithes and offerings given to the Chapel) The Stainswyke Deed No 29, dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 1412 describes:

*Decree of arbitration (indented) in a dispute between Richard Abberbury, Knight, and Alice his wife (appearing by his general attorney Thomas Chaucer) on the one part, and Ralph de la Stane on the other, about the manor of Staneswyke and the advowson of the Chapel of Chapelwyck, made by John Atte Hyde and Nicholas Sambourne, chosen by the said Richard and Alice, and Robert, Andrew and Roger Capes chosen by the said Ralph viz; that the said Ralph shall deliver up to the said Richard and his wife by Thursday in Whitsunweek next all the charters and evidences relating to the said manor, etc; without retaining any copy, and shall release all his right in it to the said Richard and Alice. 2. That the said Richard and Alice shall pay the said Ralph £93.6.8. 3. That both parties shall mutually give bonds in £200.*

By 1441 the Advowson of the Chapel belongs to Joan Daunvers, the wife of William Daunvers. Stainswyke Deed number 76, dated October of that year describes it as a *'free Chapel called Chapelwyke.'*

The Stainswyke Deed No 14, dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 1458 (the same year that Magdalen College, Oxford was founded by William of Wayneflete, Bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor) gives the information about how the Manor of Stainswyke and certain lands surrounding came into the hands of that college:

*Licence from John (Talbot) Earl of Shrewsbury, Weyford and Waterford, Lord de Talbot, de Furnyoall and Le Straunge, to William, Bishop of Winchester (and his co-feoffees) to give the manor of Staneswyke with the advowson of the Chapel of Chaplewick, with 20 messuages, 15 virgates of land 16 acres of meadow, 33 acres of pasture, and 7/9d of rent in Shrevynham, Burghtone, Wachynfeld, Langcote and Farnham, which are held of him by certain services, to Magdalen College serving the accustomed services.*



Then 12 years later there is Stainswyke Deed No 70, dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 1470 where the whole estate is rented out but with the exception of the Advowson of the Chapel:

*Lease from Magdalen College to William Shepehard, son of Thomas Shepehard of Aldbourne of their manor of Stanyswyke, excepting the advowson of the Chapel of Chapylwyke, and a wood called Stanyswykegrove with the pasture of the same, and excepting also all the rents belonging to the college in Shrevenham, Burtone, Wanchesfelde, Langcote, Fernham, Ashburys and Edestone, together with the wardships, reliefs, etc; to hold for the term of 21 years at an annual rent of £14.13.4d; the said lessee undertaking also to entertain and lodge the President and Fellows twice in the year, with their servants for two days and three nights, provided the number do not exceed five men and five horses, and to collect the rents of the college in the above-named places and render the account, and to pay annually to the Lord de Talbot 63/(shillings?) to the Lord de Scalpytt 2/ and to the Abbott of Glastonbury 49/8d and also to do suit and service for the College at the Court of the abbot held at Ashebury.*

At the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century in a bid to end a dispute over the Advowson of the Chapel of Chapelwyke, Magdalen College come to an arrangement with the Bishop of Salisbury, whereby the Chapel was annexed to the Vicarage at Ashbury. It is likely that the Chapel was in a poor state of repair, unused and not enough money was being generated by the Advowson to maintain it. Stainswyke Deed No 71, dated 30<sup>th</sup> May 1493 gives the details:

*In the Chapel of the Manor of Ramsbury*

*Decree by Thomas (Laughton) Bishop of Salisbury for the annexation of the Chapel at Estwyke alias Chapelwyke to the Vicarage of Ashebury, in pursuance of an agreement to that effect between Magdalen College and Richard Nykke, LL.D. Rector of Ashebury, between whom there had been a great dispute respecting the right of patronage of the Chapel; the annexation being agreed to on the ground of the endowment being too small for the maintenance of a Chaplain, and that consequently the Chapel had for long time remained vacant, and that the Vicarage is insufficiently endowed, and that the two places are near each other; on condition that the Vicar of Ashebury and his successors shall yearly celebrate high mass in the Chapel on the F. of the Transl. of St Andrew, and shall, whensoever he celebrates anywhere, specially pray by name for the soul of the founder of the Chapel, Andrew Wyke, his wife and his kindred, and shall pay yearly at Easter to the Bishop of the diocese 12d to the Dean and Chapter of Sarum XIIId and to the Archdeacon of Berks 12d and the procurations and synodals due from the Chapel; and on the first vacancy the College shall present, and on the second the Rector shall*



*present one out of three whom the College shall nominate, and so on alternately W: Brian Eathropp, M.A. Vicar of South Newton, Sir William Parkyns, Chaplain, John Wely, Clerk & Notary. With the seal attached of the Bishop, of Edward Cheyne, LL.D. Dean of Salisbury and the Chapter of Magdalen College, of Richard (Fox) Bishop of Bath and Wells and of R. Nykke.*

The Chapel is still being mentioned at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century when Stainswick Deed number 30a, dated 30 May 1509, details the leasing of the Manor of Stanesweke to Thomas Bekyngham, but it excludes the Advowson of the Chapel called Chapellwike.

But from this point onwards, the Chapel seems to fade into obscurity. Whereas as yet, we have no solid documentary proof, we can speculate using known facts of the period, as to why the Chapel disappeared.

During the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the royal transfer of alien monastic estates over to educational foundations inspired bishops to advocate more of the same. It is likely then that such influence was used to transfer Stainswyke and other lands that included Chapelwyke over to Magdalen College in 1458. It is interesting to note that the subjects of these transfers were usually estates that were small, poor and indebted to Benedictine or Augustinian communities (especially those of women). Could it be that such a small community of that type was scratching out a living at Stainswyke and Chapelwyke? We have no documentary proof as yet, but there is clear evidence from aerial photography that there was much agriculture being carried out there.

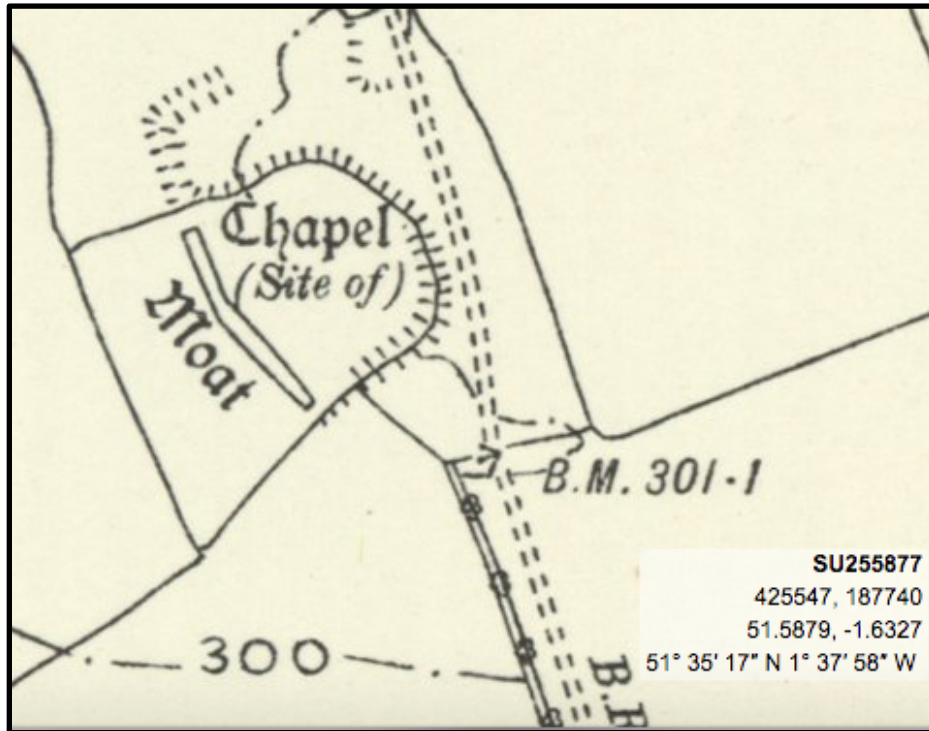
The first quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century was a turbulent time for religion in England and was the beginning of what would become known as the '*Reformation.*' The English Reformation was a series of events by which the Church of England broke away from the authority of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church. The first and second, '*Suppression of Religious Houses Act,*' of 1536 and 1539, allowed King Henry VIII to dissolve all the Monasteries, Priors, Convents and Friaries throughout England, Wales and Ireland, which became known historically as the '*Dissolution.*'

At this time the Chapel at Chapelwyke had been annexed to the Vicarage at Ashbury for 40 years and it was highly likely that it was in a poor state of repair. It may have even been abandoned by this time. But the turbulent events brought about by the dissolution were certain to have had a major impact on its continued existence.

19<sup>th</sup> century maps show the location of the Chapel and modern aerial photography clearly shows the outline of a large ditch, or moat. The Chapel for the most part of its existence was very likely to have been of wooden construction, and as the site is now ploughed agricultural land, there is little visible from the air. Therefore archaeological excavation will be the only means of determining any further information.

(C.B.A. Report 17, Introduction by F.A. Aberg, 1978).

*For the purposes of research, a Moat is a broad flat-bottomed ditch not less than five metres wide, which may completely, or partially, isolate a platform that is devoid of any defensive bank. Any medieval buildings present within the enclosed area are primarily domestic in character, and where crenellations or gun-ports are present on walls or in gates, they impress as the symbols of wealth and power, rather than as the reality of military might and defensive needs. These monuments are therefore more closely related to medieval manorial earthworks than to castles, and only the presence of the distinctive ditch sets them apart.*



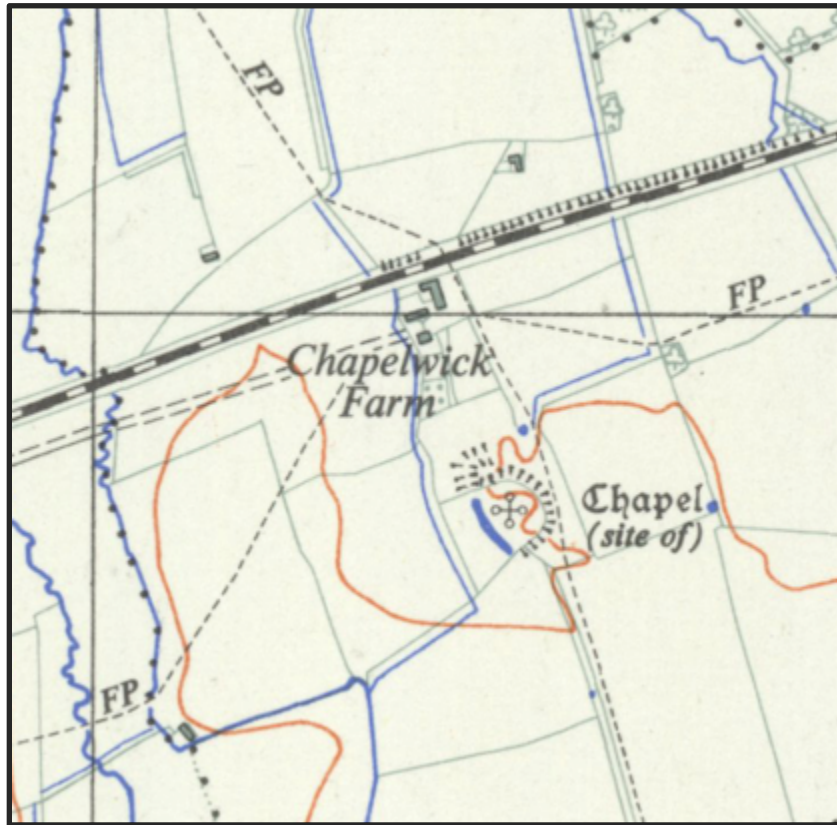
The C.B.A. Report of 1978 included a count of known moated sites that cover Berkshire, Wiltshire and Oxfordshire as 50, 53 and 100 respectively. However, Natasha Coveney's reassessment of 2014 lists 111, 71 and 119, so many more than was first counted.

Chapelwick was very likely a small manorial estate. The idea that a Chapel was built there in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century standing alone is most unlikely. There is evidence that it was a small, agricultural community, and we have aerial photographic evidence to support that claim. Many of the attached photos show ridge and furrows that have different frequencies than the later 19<sup>th</sup> century ploughing, and some are on a different alignment and confirm that they were produced before the laying of the railway line in 1840.





The use of the word 'Moat' on the Ordnance Survey maps may be misleading and suggest that there was a chapel located within the circular area indicated. The water filled ditch on the western end of the platform, may be just that, a water filled ditch, or perhaps more likely, a fishpond. Within the Magdalen College documents there is no obvious reference that would indicate a chapel surrounded by a moat - in fact, sadly, there is no description of what it may have looked like at all. Aerial photography shows that there was some kind of water management. The water courses shown on the 1:25,000 map dated 1937 - 1961, suggest that water was fed into the ditch from the south-west corner and exited from the north-east. There is also another pond like feature that exists today in the north-east corner of the site. Maintaining a flow of water through the system is a necessity of fish pond management.



Therefore it may be as well to make other suggestions as to what was located at the site. We know that Andrew de Wik was granted permission to build his own chapel and it would have been practical if it were located close to his residence. Could it be that the area within the circular platform was the location for Andrew's house? This would suggest that the chapel would either have been close to his residence within the platform area or just outside of it.

Wording within the deeds and documents of Magdalen College suggest that there was a community of people living at Chapelwick. Add to this the agricultural activity shown in the aerial photography, there is a strong possibility that Chapelwick was a village in its own right in its early period called Estwick. The suggestion is then that at this village there was a Manor House with a Fishpond close by, a Chapel, and Villagers living in the close proximity. But by 1560 all that seems to be left there is open farm land. In the Court Baron Papers of Shrivensham Salop there is mention a Mead and Meadow called *Estwicke Mead*.

At the time of writing (2018) what remains at Chapelwick is now a near deserted farm. The farm house itself has not been occupied for at least 30 years and is decaying. The out buildings are being used for storage by the current owner/farmer but he doesn't live on site. The section of the farm where the moated area was located now belongs to the neighbouring farm and has been completely levelled. The location does not lend itself for being attractive to any purchaser in the future. The main railway line from London to Bristol is literally just at the end of the farm garden. There are no services connected whatsoever. The nearest road is over half a kilometre away and access to the site is via a narrow, metalled track. If in the future the site reverts to plain agricultural land, this listing, we hope, will point historians and archaeologists to the exact spot.





Within the papers of William Viscount Barrington (2<sup>nd</sup>) there is a letter from a lady with an unusual name referring to Chapelwick, turning down an offer from his Lordship to purchase the estate. Although it's a very small piece of information, it belongs to this study and forms part of the history of Chapelwick.

**From: British Library ADD MS 73760**

My Lord

My sister was favoured with your Lordship's letter concerning her Estate of Chapplewick (sic) which at present she seems not inclinable to part with, but if she should, my sister can have no objections to give Lord Barrington the preference, as his proposals seem both candid and honourable, from the original purchase near 100 years, the value of the estate ought to realise treble the money then given, which my sister will endeavour more fully to inform herself of.

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant

H. Priaulx

Walcot Place

15 Nov 1786

My Lord

My Sister was favored with  
your Lordships Letter concerning her Estate of Chappewin  
which at present she seems not inclinable to part with,  
but if she should, my Sister can have no Objections  
to give Lord Barrington the Preference, as his Proposals  
seem both candid & honorable, from the original Purchase  
near 100 Years, the Value of the Estate ought to realize  
treble<sup>d</sup> Money then given, which my Sister will endeavour  
more fully to inform herself of, I am

Walcot Place  
15 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1786

My Lord  
Yr Lordships most  
obedient humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. P. A. A. A.