



Case Study 3.1 - Strips, parcels and stones at Lugg Meadow, Herefordshire



The c. 1840 Tithe map shows Lugg Meadow divided into 133 different strips and parcels, each individually owned. The shape (i.e. strip or parcel) tended to be linked to past ownership. Strips were usually held by copyhold lease (i.e. by tenants of the Lord of the Manor), while parcels were part of whole farm leases, the latter being linked to the Church. On the area which is now the Lower Lugg Meadow, there were also two blocks of ‘changeable’ strips where ownership or tenancy changed each year.

Many of the strips or parcels are still individually named. The names the Five Rodds and Three Days Math both relate to the size of the parcel (the latter is what a man could mow in three days). Other names include the Swallow Swath and Shooters Hail. They are also still marked with over 100 stones (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Some of the stones at Lugg Meadow have initials and a date on them. For example “CB 1833” marks each of the set of stones erected by Charles Bulmer of the cider-making family on the six strips he purchased in 1833. These strips had originally been charity land given to “support ten poor maids” (from Brian and Thomson 2002).

