

Habitat Survey

Central Woodford, Area 5 (surveyed, May 2016, August 2016 and September 2017)

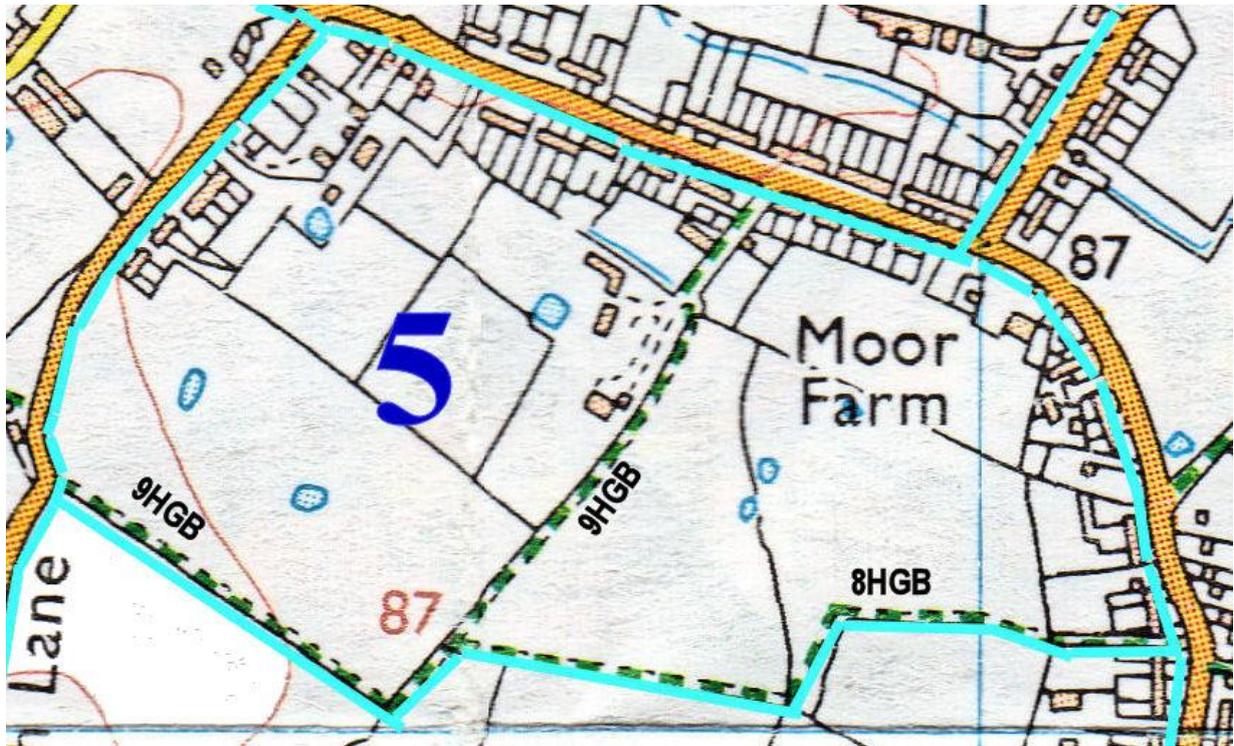
For the purposes of the habitat surveys, the designated Woodford Neighbourhood Area was divided into ten areas, as shown in the satellite image below. This provided manageable sized portions for on the ground surveys.



The survey results for Area 5 are reported here.

Area 5 forms part of the centre of the Neighbourhood Area, lying between Church Lane, Moor Lane, footpath 9HGB, which crosses Bramhall Cricket Club ground from Church Lane, and 8HGB, which runs from Moor Lane, passed Woodford Cricket Club ground and then through fields to join 9HGB. Linear housing development follows Moor Lane and Church Lane around the perimeter of the area with small fields in occasional gaps. Foden Lane is a no through road, which branches off Moor Lane into the area and Woodhall Close is a short cul de sac off Moor Lane. The land in this area is very prone to flooding in wet weather.

Note: the map pre-dates the arrival of Bramhall Cricket Club in this location



Satellite image showing Area 5



From Bramhall Cricket Club ground and footpaths 9HGB and 8HGB there are excellent views of the fields in the centre of Woodford and the distant Pennine Hills.

View from Bramhall Cricket Ground



Views from 9HGB

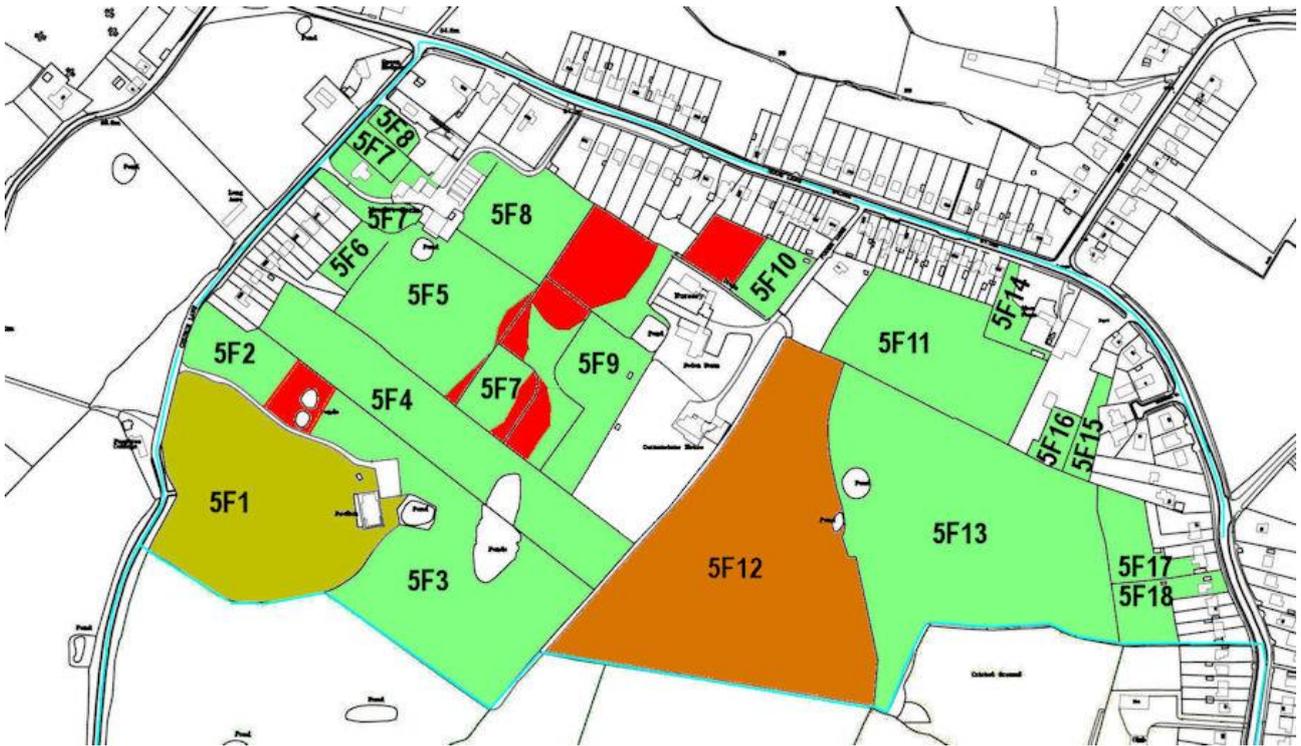


Land use

Area 5 is mixture of domestic curtilage, recreational grassland belonging to Bramhall Cricket Club and agricultural land, belonging to Hill Top Farm and Meadow Farm. In addition, there are business premises with land here, including Huws and Gray (builder's merchants and plumbers) on Moor Lane and Church Lane Garage on Church Lane. On Foden Lane there is land that was once used for a horticultural business and there are houses with very large gardens with woodland at the end of the no through road. The agricultural land is grassland used for grazing for sheep, horses and poultry and hay/haylage/silage. In the past some fields have been used for cereal crops, such as barley and maize. At the time of the autumn survey some fields appear to have been cleared with total herbicide. These were evidently reseeded with grass, which is the crop growing at the time of writing in September 2017.

The area is wet and fields are frequently flooded in wet weather.

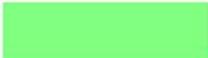
Map showing land use in Area 5



Sheep in 5F3



Key

	Improved grassland
	Amenity grassland
	Bare earth
	Deciduous woodland

5F5 with grazing horses and cattle



5F11 at the back of houses on Moor Lane



5F12 and 9HGB flooded in the autumn



5F12 in winter



5F13



Willow for biomass in 5F18



5F10 on Foden Lane (former horticultural business)



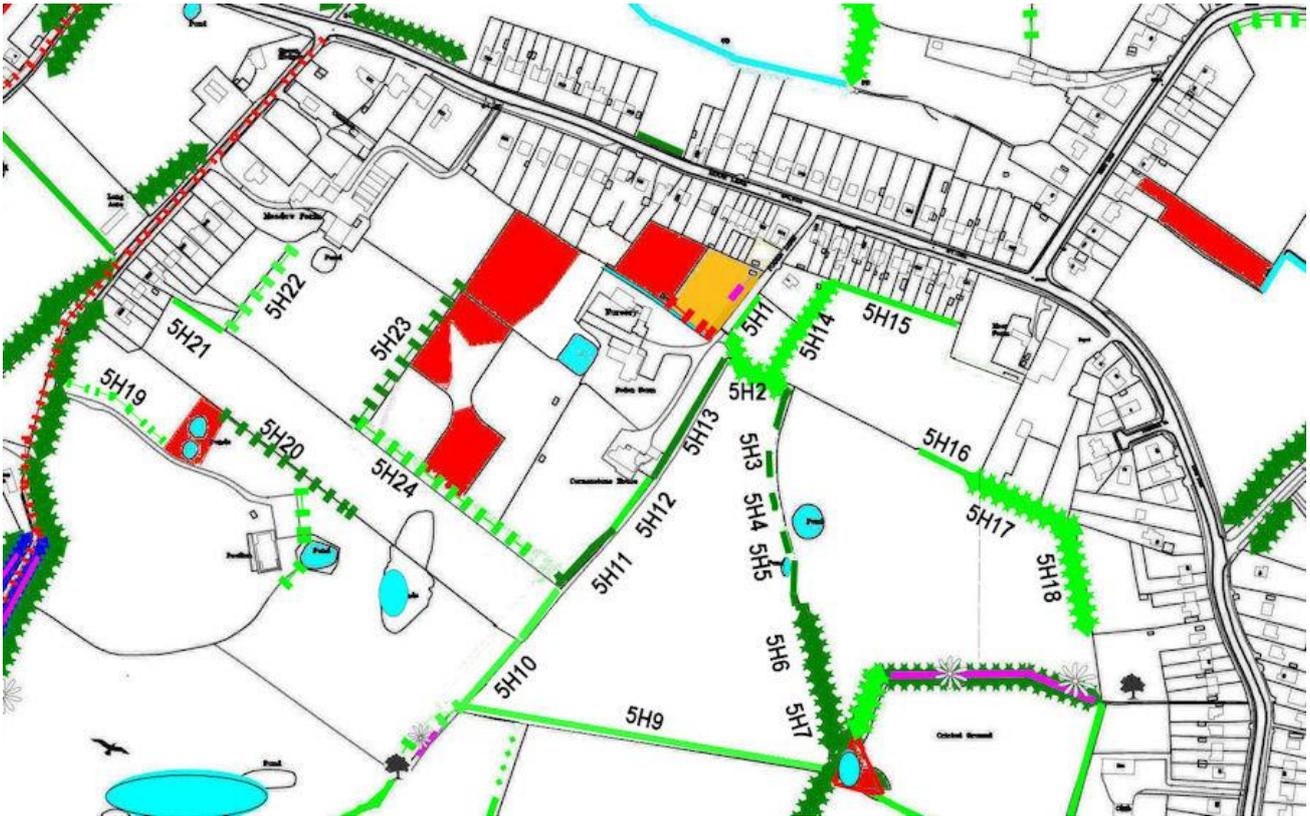
5F7 Meadow Farm (with sheep and geese)



Hedgerows

Some of the field boundaries are fences or fences with mature trees. Where there are hedges, many are species poor. Species-rich hedgerows in this area include 5H6, 5H7 and 5H11 and 5H13. The hedgerow labelled 5H3, 5H4 and 5H5 is species rich but there are regular gaps in it where it is just fence. Species found include beech, birch, blackthorn, damson, elder, hawthorn, hazel, holly, ivy, oak, rowan, sycamore and willow. The hedgerow along the northern side of field 5F12 is a short section of tall hedge with more than four species but only 20 m in length. Fences with trees include 5H19, 5H20, 5H22, 5H23 and 5H24.

Map of hedgerows in Area 5



Key

- Deciduous woodland or copse
- Coniferous woodland or copse
- Rough grassland, not grazed or mown
- Native hedge, species poor (< 4)
- Native hedge with trees, species poor
- Fence with native trees (< 4 species)
- Native hedge, species rich (4 or more)
- Native hedge with trees, species rich
- Fence with native trees (4 species or more)

5H6 with oak tree



Elderberries in 5H13



5H9 in May with 5F12 behind



5H9, 5H10 with 5F3 and 5W2 behind



5F11 and 5H14 in background



5H3 and 5H4, 5F12 in foreground



Foden Lane, 5H2 on left



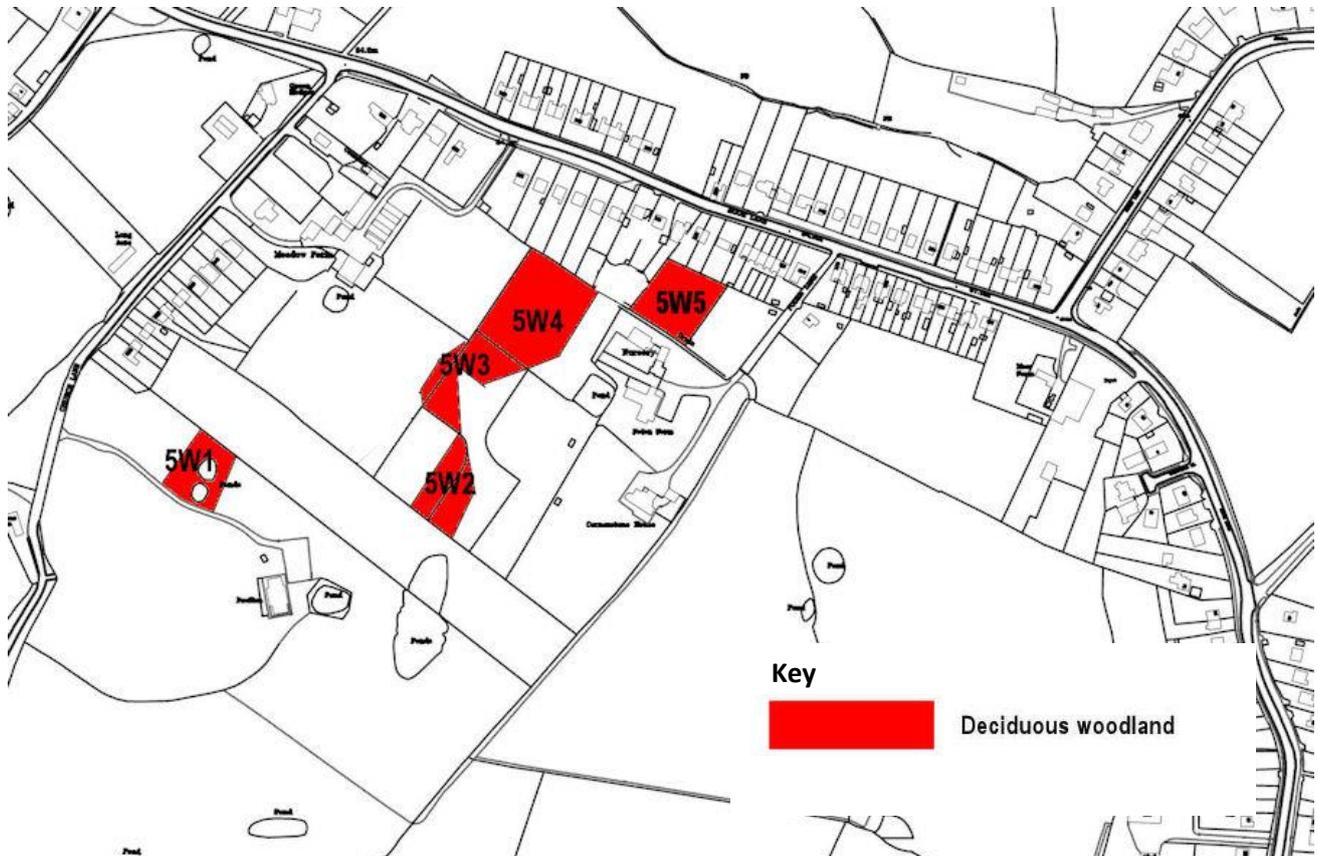
Hawthorn berries in 5H12 in September



Woodland

There are small areas of mixed deciduous woodland in area 5. 5W1 is a small dense wood including alder, willow, elder, blackthorn and oak. 5W2, 5W3, 5W4, and 5W5 were not accessed but viewed using binoculars, camera and satellite images. They are mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland, which may be contiguous and all within domestic curtilage, and which appears to include large clearings, as well as woodland.

Map showing woodland in Area 5



5W1 adjacent to cricket ground



5W2 seen across 5F4



Woodland and trees at the end of Foden Lane



Mature trees

Mature trees are numerous in Area 5 in hedgerows, fences, fields, domestic curtilages and along Moor Lane and Church Lane. Examples are shown in the photographs below. There are three free standing old oaks, 5S1, 5S2 and 5S3 in field 5F5. Two old oaks, 5S4 and 5S5, stand in 5F11.

Oak tree 5S3 in 5F5



Oaks 5S4 and 5S5 in 5F11



Satellite image showing location of stand-alone trees



Trees in gardens along Moor Lane



Oak trees in grass verge on Church Lane



Oak tree in pavement in Moor Lane



Base of oak tree in 5H6



Oak in 5H6



Oak 5S5 in 5F11



Oak by 8HGB (see area 7)



Very tall trees in fence line around woodland 5W2

5H23

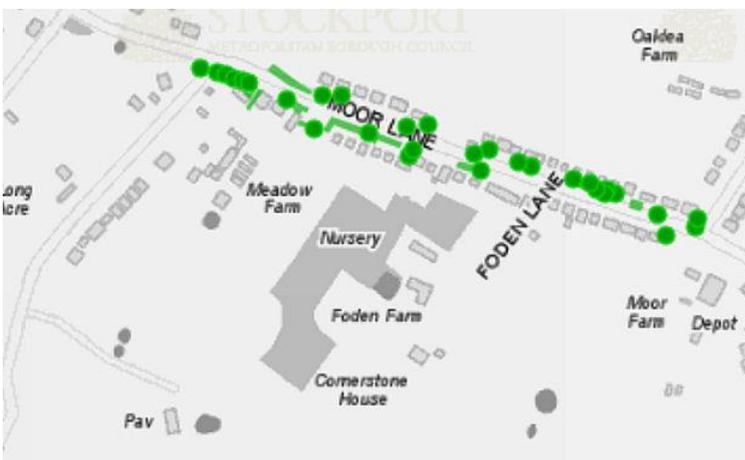


5H24



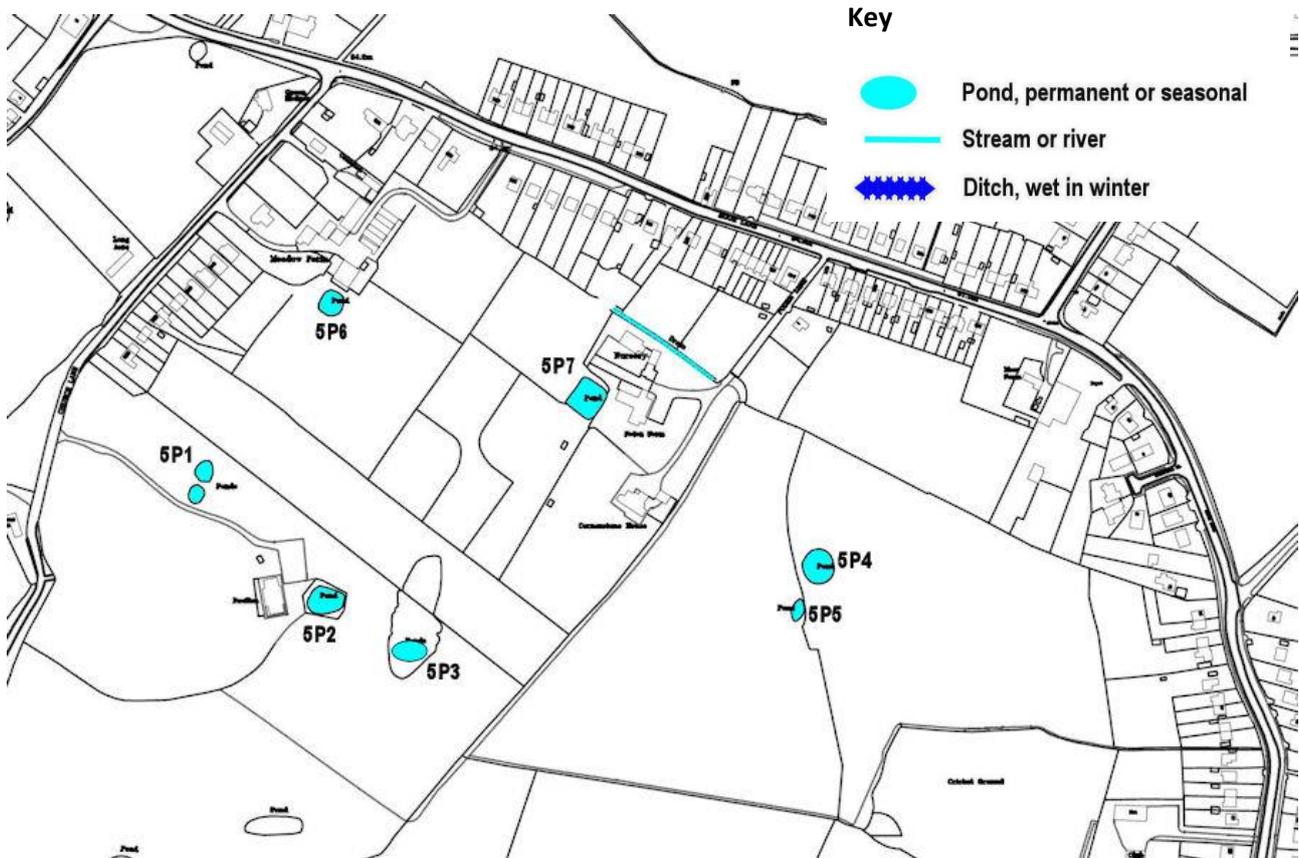
Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

There are many trees with TPOs in Area 5 along Moor Lane.



Ponds, streams and ditches

Map of ponds, streams and ditches in Area 5



There are seven ponds in Area 5. 5P1 is surrounded by a small dense wood, 5W1, adjacent to Bramhall Cricket Club drive. A dragon fly was observed nearby in September. 5P2 is in the field, 5F3, behind the cricket club ground. It is fairly open with some scrub including elder, alder, hawthorn and briar. There are a few bulrushes and a patch of water lilies. A heron, mallard and coots are frequently sighted here. 5P3 is a seasonal flood in an area of marshy ground in 5F3. Gulls are frequent visitors and a swan has been spotted here. 5P4 is in field 5F13. It is fairly open with willow scrub and bulrushes. 5P5 is a very small pond adjacent to hedge 5H5 between 5F12 and 5F13. 5P6 and 5P7 were not surveyed.

5P2 in 5F3 behind cricket ground



Seasonal pond 5P3 with swan



5P4



Grass verges and field boundaries

There are sections of mown grass verge along Moor Lane and a short section around the entrance to the cricket club on Church Lane in this area. Field boundaries support rough grass and some native herbaceous species.

Figwort in fence around 5F10



Wildlife sightings

Birds observed in Area 5 include crow, pigeon, gulls, mallard, coot, magpie, heron and buzzard.

Several species of butterfly were observed in 5H2 in Foden Lane in September 2017, including comma and red admiral.

Red admiral in 5H2



Comma butterfly in 5H2



Heron in 5F3



Mallard on 5P2



Invasive or undesirable species

None observed.

Landscape and character

To be completed later.

Moor Farm, Moor Lane



Whitegates, 195 Moor Lane



Church Lane Garage



Woodhall Close



Bungalows at northern end of Church Lane



Huws and Gray, Moor Lane



Terraced housing, Moor Lane



Foden Lane



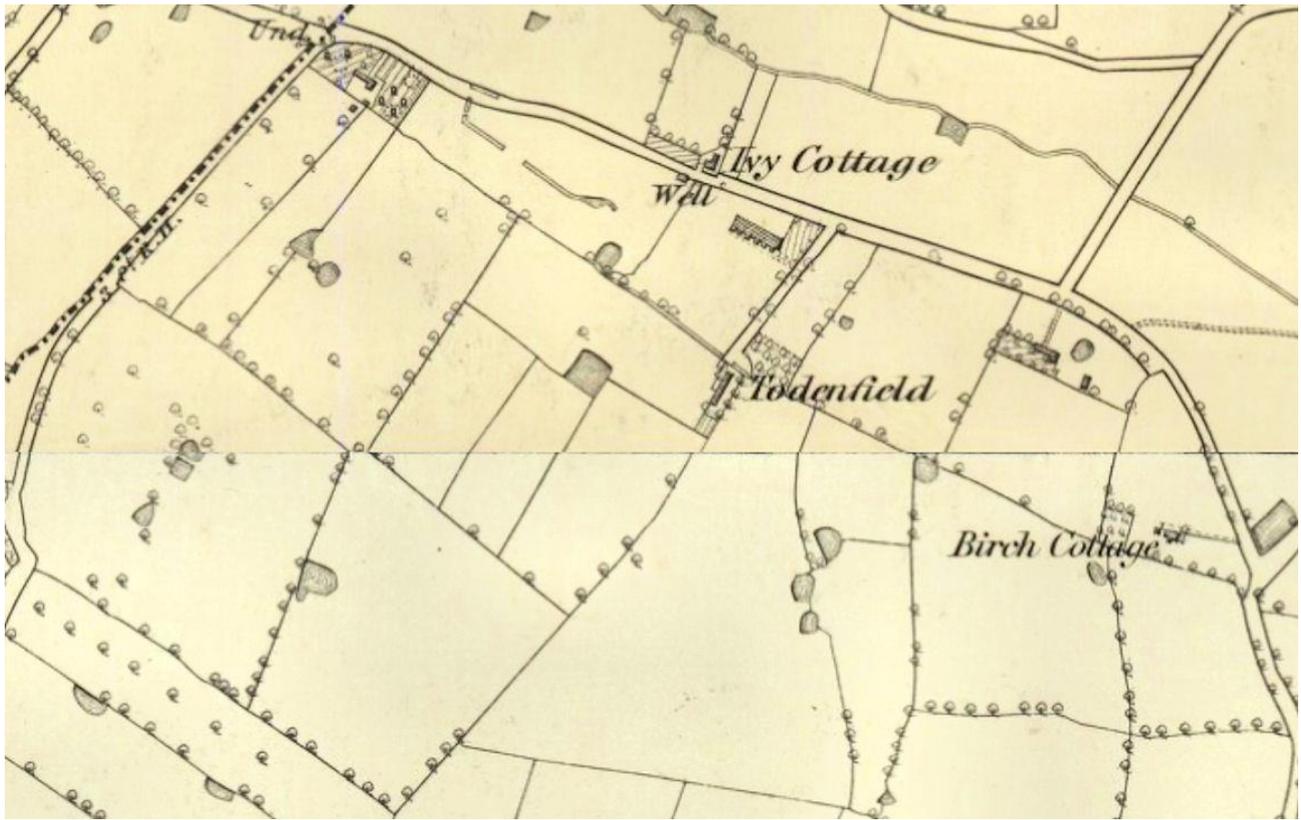
Grass verges on Moor Lane



View from Foden Lane



OS map 1871



OS map 1907

