

## Introduction

The following historical study relates to Stroudend Tithing, one of the four administrative divisions of the manor and parish of Painswick. It lies near the western edge of the Cotswold Hills in the central part of Gloucestershire, between Painswick in the north and Stroud to the south-west. It is bounded by the Painswick or Wick stream to the west and north-west, the Slad brook to the south and south-east, and Greenhouse Lane and Bulls Cross to the north-east. It includes part of the town of Stroud at its south-western tip, and on its eastern side Slad village. The Painswick stream joins the River Frome at Lodgemoor, and the Slad brook joins it about 320 metres upstream at Wallbridge.

The present report comprises an interim draft of the first two parts of the study, covering the periods up to approximately 1800 AD. It includes some revision of the sections on the Saxon and medieval periods, and some more considerable revision of the section on the 16<sup>th</sup> century, which were compiled for the first interim report. Research is continuing both for these periods and for the later periods to be covered by the study; there will necessarily be alterations to this draft as the on-going research programme proceeds.

The study was commissioned by the Stroudend Tithing Educational Trust in September 2001. It follows an assessment of historical sources compiled in September 1999, to assess the numbers and types of surviving printed and documentary sources for the history of the Tithing, in order to determine their contribution to the present programme of research. The emphasis of the research programme is on the history of the landscape, and the development of settlement, agriculture and industry within its boundaries. Other studies of the landscape and buildings of the Tithing have been commissioned from other specialists, or will be undertaken by local volunteers. The conclusions of these studies are likely to interact at various points with the historical evidence presented here. The final objective is to compile an integrated landscape and social history of the Tithing, its buildings and its people, including elements of agricultural and industrial history, drawing on all the types of available evidence and leading to an assessment of its historic significance. This will serve to inform the future management of the study area for conservation and education.

Unlike much of the Cotswolds, the medieval manor of Painswick was held by lay lords, and its archives have not survived as well as those of manors in ecclesiastical hands. The history of Stroudend Tithing is well documented from the late medieval period onwards, but the material dating from before 1400 is very sparse. The largest bodies of material are those held by Mr Roger Smith and Gloucester Record Office. There are relatively few documents held at the London repositories, but they include some manorial records dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. A number of manorial and estate records dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries is held at Staffordshire Record Office, derived from the Jerningham family. Others may have been lost when the Jerninghams passed the manorial muniments over to tenants, as in 1635 (Staffs RO D641/3/E/1/3/2). The records of the manor courts were kept on loose rolls and papers until the 1770s, when the steward John Colborne began the process of having them copied into books (Staffs RO D641/3/E/6/9). A considerable body of manorial records (including these court books) is not yet deposited, but is still held by the Blow family. No research use has yet been made of the material in private hands for this project.

Some use has been made of these papers by previous studies (such as Mann 1971 and the *Victoria County History*).

There are substantial collections of deeds of Stroudend properties dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries onwards. Copyhold tenure persisted very late in the manor of Painswick, because of its beneficial nature, regulated by well-documented manorial customs.

There are no extant maps of the area dating to before the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, although some earlier maps may have been drawn and since lost. In 1700 Sir Francis Jernegan paid Stephen Jefferyes for "measuring the land" in the manor, and local people assisted him in measuring the woods (Staffs RO D641/3/E/5/1/44). In 1757 the steward of the manor paid a certain John Bryen 5<sup>th</sup> for drawing a plan (Staffs RO D641/3/E/5/2/7). An "Old Map of Painswick" was handed over as part of the sale of the manor from the Jerninghams to the Croomes in 1803, along with old court rolls and other manorial papers (Staffs RO D641/3/E/2/1/1/2). There is no enclosure map (most of the area was *ancient enclosure*), but a map and survey of 1820 and the tithe map and apportionment of 1839 are extant.