

B ANDREWS
WR/319/45/89

At the beginning of World War II, Britain needed to increase home food production, and the area of land under cultivation was rapidly increased. County War Agricultural Executive Committees and district committees under them had exceptional powers to determine the direction of farming at a local level. Once the short-term objective of increasing food production had been met, thought was given to implementing a more general National Farm Survey with the purpose of providing data to form the basis of post-war planning. Census forms were sent out on 4th June 1941 for the farmer/market gardener to complete. In addition, every farm and holding of five acres (ranging from large farms to market gardens) received a visit from an inspector who surveyed and classified according to the physical condition of the land. These records may be viewed in the MAF 32 category at The National Archives, Kew; a team of Badsey Society members visited The National Archives in January 2013 and took copies of the records.

B Andrews (?) lived at The Bungalow, Wickhamford, and was a part-time market gardener who was a tenant of the Lord & Parker estate, whose agent was Raymond Webb in Evesham. B Andrews was also a haulage contractor.

B Andrews occupied nearly 6 acres of land at Wickhamford, 2¾ acres of which he had occupied for 2 years and 3 acres for 1½ years. He employed one or two male casual workers. He grew raspberries, redcurrants, potatoes, Brussels sprouts, parsnips, onions, broad beans, runner beans, peas, asparagus, lettuce and tomatoes and had 1¼ acres of orchard and ¾ acre lay fallow. He did not have a tractor.

As the holding was over 5 acres in size, Form B496 needed to be completed by inspectors. The inspector, R W Sidwell, judged the farm to be 100% good, conveniently laid out, on soil which was 100% heavy, when he visited on 6th February 1942. There was a farmhouse. The situation in regard to road and the condition of farmhouse and field drainage was considered good; the condition in regard to railway and the condition of buildings, farm roads, fences, ditches and field drainage was fair. There was infestation with insect pests and no derelict fields. There was piped water to the house and also electricity for household purposes; there was no other water supply or electricity.

Management of the farm was classed as A. The condition of arable land was good with adequate use of fertilisers; there was no pasture.