

VICTOR FRANK DAFFURN

WR/319/45/129

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.

Victor Frank Daffurn (1897-1952) lived at Elm Farm, Wickhamford, and was a full-time farmer. He was a tenant of George Crompton Lees-Milne of Wickhamford Manor.

Victor Daffurn occupied 62 acres of land at Wickhamford which he had occupied for two and a half years. He employed one casual seasonal worker. He grew oats, potatoes, had 4¾ acres of orchards and 25 acres of permanent grazing. He had a herd of 21 cattle, a flock of 42 sheep, three pigs, 88 chickens and had two horses used for agricultural purposes; 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, moderately laid out, on soil which was 100% medium, when he visited on 17th June 1941. The situation in regard to road was considered good; the situation in regard to railway and the condition of farmhouse, buildings, farm roads, fences, ditches and field drainage was considered fair. There were no infestations of any kind and no derelict fields. There was piped water to the farmhouse for household purposes and to farm buildings and a stream providing a water supply to the fields; there was electricity for both household and farm purposes.

Management of the farm was classed as A. The condition of arable land was good with adequate use of fertilisers; the condition of pasture was fair with fertilisers used to some extent.