

*GEORGE CROMPTON LEES-MILNE*  
*WR/319/45/60*

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

George Crompton Lees-Milne (1880-1949) lived at Wickhamford Manor, and was a retired farmer who owned the land. George Lees-Milne had 5 acres of land, all laid out to orchard, which he had occupied for 37 years; he gives no indication of any employees and did not have a tractor. George Lees-Milne had moved to Wickhamford in 1906 when he purchased the Manor House and some land from the trustees of the John Pickup Lord estate. The 1910 Lloyd George Valuation Land Survey reveals that he had owned more land then, but he had obviously sold some of this by the Second World War.

As the farm 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 1943. There was no farmhouse. The situation in regard to road and the condition of fences, ditches and field drainage was considered good. The situation in regard to railway was considered fair. There were no infestations of any kind and no derelict fields. A stream provided water supply to the fields; there was no electricity.

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