

GEORGE WRIGHT
WR/319/45/119

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.

George Wright (?) lived at 12 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford, and was a part-time market gardener who was a tenant of the Lord & Parker estate, whose agent was Raymond Webb in Evesham. George Wright was also a garage mechanic.

George Wright occupied 6 acres of land at Wickhamford which he had had for eight years. He had no assistance on the market garden. He grew strawberries, potatoes, Brussels sprouts, carrots, parsnips and asparagus and had 2½ acres of orchards; he kept one pig. He had one wheel tractor for field work: a 4 horsepower Simar Rototiller.

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 11th May 1943. There was no farmhouse. The situation in regard to road and railway was considered good; the condition of buildings, farm roads, fences, ditches and field drainage was considered fair. There was heavy infestation with weeds (bracken); there were no derelict fields. There was a well supplying water to the fields; there was no electricity.

Management of the farm was classed as B, the reason being personal failings, given as lack of knowledge and initiative. The condition of arable land was fair with use of fertilisers to some extent; there was no pasture.