

MOORDOWN FARM

(also known as 'Hunt's Farm' or 'Charminster Farm')

The history of Moordown Farm extends back well over 200 years. You can find some fascinating details about the story of the farm's history among the pages of Michael Stead's notes on 'Moordown - a history of our village', a copy of which you can find here:

<http://www.jp137.com/lts/mshis.pdf#toolbar=1&zoom=90>

It is not certain how many farmhouses there have actually been -- at least 2, possibly more. It is believed the one preceding the last (current) Victorian farmhouse was destroyed by fire in the mid 19th century, although we currently have no more details on that at present.

Today, the only remaining physical reminder of the farm is the Victorian farmhouse itself, in Homeside Rd (opposite the end of Minterne Rd).

However, as you can see from the two photos below, this is now a modern family home, and bears little resemblance to the original farmhouse, images of which you can see in the following pages.



Moordown Farmhouse today - no. 16 Homeside Rd

Turn around 180 degrees from this point, to look along Minterne Rd, and you get this view.....



Turning the clock back almost 100 years, and the view from that same spot was very different....



The houses you can see on the hilltop in the distance are around the top corner of Forest View Rd. It is thought that this photo was probably taken in the early 1920s, before the start of the development of housing in Moorvale and Minterne Rd.

This next photo was taken by Douglas Adams in the 1930s, from 2a Oakwood Rd - looking north over the roofs of the farm buildings, and towards the new housing being built in West Way. You can recognise the the farmhouse itself by its 'double gabled' roof at the rear..



No 13 c.1920s (see index reference below)

No houses as yet in Moorvale or Minterne Rd -- you can see the same Forest View Rd house on the top of the hill, on the left of the picture. (our thanks to Marion Dolton for this image)

For most of the 20th century the farm was owned by the Hunt family, and was more commonly known as 'Hunt's Farm', rather than Moordown Farm. It was also sometimes referred to as 'Charminster Farm' on occasion, and appears on some maps from around the middle years of the century under that name.

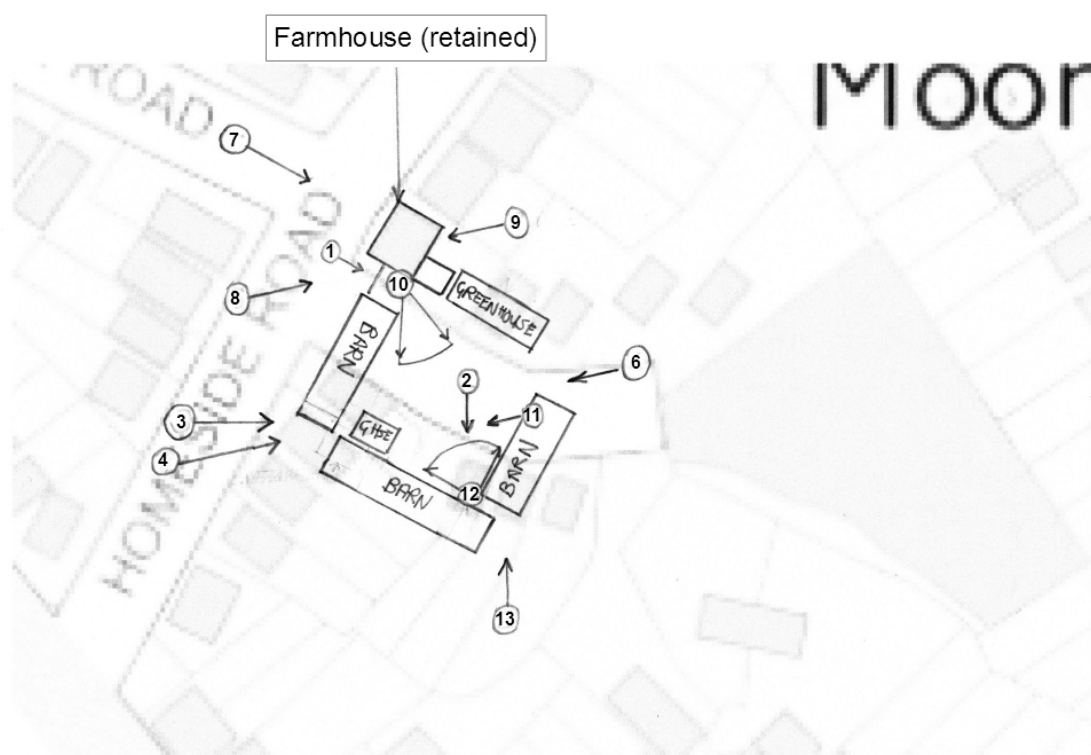
Much of the land had been sold by Mr Hunt for housing development in the 1920s - indeed some the road names around Haverstock Rd contain references to his name (Huntfield Rd, Huntvale Rd). After the housing developments, the farm itself may have continued to operate, on a much smaller scale. We are still looking for more details from around that time, on the continuing function (if any) of the farm?

The farmhouse itself, and many of the adjacent buildings remained until the late 1970s, when they too were auctioned and sold, and the remaining land saw the development of Sylmor Gdns in the 1980s. Only the farmhouse itself survives today

Just before the auction, **Paul Miles** had the foresight to photograph the remaining farm buildings, and the various photos below show them from a variety of angles.

(Please note that the copyright of these photos belongs to Paul Miles, and whilst you are welcome to enjoy then for educational, recreation or research purposes, they are not to be reproduced elsewhere, in any format, without permission...)

Paul has included a reference diagram, to allow us to get some idea of the detailed location of each photograph... (No.13 is shown above)



Map showing location of photographs of Moordown Farm

Photographs 1- 4 June 1978
Photographs 5-12 May 1978



No.1 June 1978



No.2 June 1978



No.3 June 1978



No.4 June 1978



No.5 June 1978



No.6 May 1978



No.7 May 1978



No.8 May 1978



No.9 May 1978



No.10 May 1978



No.11 May 1978



No.12a May 1978



No. 12b May 1978

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