

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE MAPS OF FERDINANDO STRATFORD

by A. Bailey

The practice and profession of land-surveying developed rapidly in the 18th century in both numbers and skill of surveyors. In provincial England away from London and the South-East it is rare to find good large-scale estate maps earlier than about 1700, but by the end of the century the move for estate improvement and inclosure had made map-making commonplace, surveying had become accurate and draughtsmanship transformed from an artistic and sometimes crude representation to severely practical planning. In Gloucestershire Ferdinando Stratford was the most expert surveyor in this first period of significant change. During the years 1748-1759 he was active as a surveyor and map maker in Gloucestershire, producing sixteen known maps.

He was a member of a long-established Cotswold gentry family, being born at Guiting Power in 1719. Of his early training nothing is known (though enquiries have been made in both London and Bristol) but throughout his life he usually described himself as 'engineer'. Indeed his later work indicated his interest in waterway navigation and he is also reputed to have designed Bromsberrow Place, an enlargement in Classical style of an older farmhouse which was completed in 1768, two years after his death at Tidenham in 1766.

His first known map is of the Hawling estate of William Wyndham, whose wife was a Stratford. It is a large map, in ink and watercolour on paper, executed to a high standard with an ornate cartouche, two compass roses and a detailed terrier in a separate volume, suggesting both formal training and some experience from the twenty-nine year old surveyor. In 1749 he issued a prospectus for a one-inch to the mile map of Gloucestershire, to be completed by 1756. The cost was to be half a guinea, with your own coat of arms engraved for an extra guinea. This map was never produced however, and we know of no other maps until 1753, when he surveyed the parish of Quenington at the time of inclosure. This led to two commissions for Humphrey Praed to survey the Williamstrip Park estate and Court Farm at Quenington. His most important commission the next year was the survey of the manor of Cam for the Earl of Berkeley, for which he received £71. 4s. Od. In 1755 he carried out a post-inclosure survey of Hawling. The period in which he appears to have been most active were the years 1757-1759 when he produced nine maps - the most important being two of the Forest of Dean for the Surveyor-General, John Pill.

Most of Stratford's maps are of a very high standard, all in ink and watercolour on paper. The decorative cartouches usually contain scallops and tendrils, and in all but the first he signed himself as 'Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer'. Houses are shown in lock plan coloured pink, trees are given shadows, and many maps mark field gates. Five of the maps have hachuring to indicate contours.

The map of the manor of Matson has not been traced, its existence only known because of a payment of £6. 7s. 7d. by the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester in 1760. As the Berkeley Castle muniments show that Stratford was paid sums in the region of £70 for the large estate maps of Slimbridge and Cam, this must have been a small survey. The manor of Matson was subject to a fourteen-year lease and the survey was probably undertaken for its renewal. A further missing map is that of Court Farm, Quenington in 1754, which is mentioned in a catalogue of the Williamstrip Park estate records compiled about 1960. The Public Record Office has an unsigned sketch map (F17/3) of an inclosure planned at Great Staplidge in the Forest of Dean, but the draughtsmanship would suggest that it is the work of his assistant David Morris rather than of Stratford himself.

From 1759 until his death he became interested in canal and river navigation, and he was also employed by John Strate in the controversy over the rebuilding of Bristol bridge, being paid £280 for surveys and plans. His death in 1766 from the ague was the direct result of a visit to Essex to survey the Chelmer Navigation, when his fees were a guinea a day for the survey and £20 for the fair copy plan. As mentioned earlier, he was also concerned at that time in architectural design.

HAWLING 1748

A map of the common fields with the copyhold and leasehold estates of William Wyndham Esq. situate in the manor of Halling in the County of Gloucester. Survey'd and Plan'd by Ferdinando Stratford 1748.

Shews the open fields with individual tenants' strips. Houses shewn in block plan. Fields outlined in colour with number references, hedges, gates, trees, Village pound and horsepool shewn. Some street names.

Cartouche. Two compass roses. Inset explanation to the plan and terrier of the town and enclosures.

Scale: 1 in. to 3 chains.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

Size:

Reference: G.R.O., D363/P4

Terrier: G.R.O., D363/E1, Terrier of town, inclosure with note of individual tenants' strips in open fields.

QUENINGTON 1753

The map of plan referred to by the annexed award.

Shewn fields, some numbered, some with owners names written over. Houses in block plan. Shews hedges, roads, water courses, footpaths, bridges.

No cartouche. Compass rose.

Schedules on map of allotments and fences, roads and watercourses and schedule of exchanges of lands in connection with inclosure award.

Scale: 1 in. to 5 chains.

Size:

Reference: P.R.O. MPN 20 (KB 122/907)
G.R.O. Q/RI 115 (photocopy)

Terrier: G.R.O., D2440 Box 24.

A compleat terrier of the common field, lands, tytheable, severalty, sheep, common etc.

A table of the proportional summs to be paid by the proprietors in lieu of tythes. Made pursuant to an act of parliament for inclosing the common fields in Quennington Gloucestershire.

By Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer.
26th Map 1753. Gloucester.

COLN ST. ALDWYN 1754

A map of Williamstrip estate with the parish of Coln St. Aldwyns in the County of Gloucester belonging to Humphrey Mackworth Praed Esq.

Surveyed by Ferdinando Stratford Engineer 1754.

Photocopy 64a

Decorative cartouche top left hand corner.
Compass rose centrally at top.

Shews fields roads hedges trees with shadows. Footpaths. Hatching for height. Houses block plan. Fields numbered. Colouring crude.

Scale: 1 in. to 4 chains.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

Size: 42" x 28"

No terrier.

QUENINGTON 1754

Map of Court Farm and other estates in Quennington belonging to Humphrey Mackworth Praed Esq.

Surveyed by Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer, 1754

(Map now missing)

CAM 1754

A plan of the common fields with the copyhold and leasehold estates of the Right Honourable Augustus Earl of Berkeley and also of the several freehold estates situate within the manor and lordship of Cam in the count of Gloucester. By Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer, 1754.

Shews the open fields with individual tenants' strips. Houses shown in block plan. Fields outlined in colour, numbered with hedges trees and shadows shewn. River Cam and roads. Hachuring to indicate contours.

Cartouche. Cartouche surrounding scale.

Scale: 1 in to 3 chains.

Size:

Reference: G.R.O. D650/2

Terrier: Berkeley Castle Muniments, Bound Books General Series 163

Gives names of fields owners and occupiers and acreage of orchard, arable and pasture. A few marginal comments on disputed claims.

(Payment made in January 1755 to Ferdinando Stratford of £71. 4s. Od. Berkeley Castle, Bound Book 122)

HAWLING 1755

A map of the freehold and copyhold estates with the common of pasture belonging to William Wyndham Esq. situate within the manor and lordship of Hawling in the County of Gloucester. By Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer 1755.

Shews roads, footpaths, fields, hedges, gates, houses block plan. Road gates, Westfield gate, Hampton gate and Inkberrow gate. Trees with shadows. Contour shading. On left hand side of map two decorative items enclose Rowell Groves and Haling Shrubbs.

Decorative cartouche with shells, cornucopiae, stems and leaves. Compass rose above.

Scale: 1 in. to 3 chains.

Ink and Watercolour on paper

Size:

Reference: G.R.O. D363/P5.

Terrier: G.R.O., D363/E2 Shews name of ground tenants' names, whether leasehold or copyhold, indicates arable, pasture and meadow acreage. Abstract of manor shewing total acreage. Pencil annotations relating to the year 1808.

GLOUCESTER 1756

A plan of a farm called the Castle Meads near the City of Gloucester belonging to C.H. Talbot Esq.
Surveyed by Ferdinando Stratford, 1756.

Shews fields, hedges, gates and trees with shadows.
Footpaths marked brown. River outlined in blue with fine blue stream lines to show direction of flow.

Cartouche finely drawn with leaf scrolls and grasses.
Compass rose. Reference table giving acreage exclusive and inclusive of hedges.

No scale.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

Reference: G.R.O., D2596.

LONGHOPE 1757

Sketch plan on indenture between John Prolyn of Newlands and Jonathan Wintle the elder of Ravershill.

Plan shews six fields with hedges. Buildings in block plan coloured pink. Field gates. Fields in colour trees with shadows. Shews common and names of owners of neighbouring fields.

Size:

Terrier.

Planned from a scale of 15 chains to 1 in. by Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

Reference: G.R.O., D23/T18

HIGHNAM 1757

A plan of the freehold and leasehold estates of William Jones and John Guise Esq. together with free lands intermixed in the parishes of Lassington - Rudford and in the tythings of Highnam Over and Linton in the parish of Churcham in the County of Gloucester.
Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer.

Shews houses in block plan, including several houses in Lassington. Fields, some with strips, roads, river with old bridge. Fencing shewn round estate. Trees with shadows.

Cartouche (now heavily stained, illegible in parts, legend taken in part from terrier). Compass Rose. Block lettering A-S top and bottom.

Scale: (illegible)

Ink and watercolour on paper.

Reference: D2426

Terrier: G.R.O. D326/E2 - gives total acreage, field names proprietors and tenants and divides into orchard pasture and arable. Annotated with sketch maps D326/p14 P30 P46; map P14 surveyed in 1779. Some additional notes and records inserted at later dates.

MINSTERWORTH 1757

Plan of freehold and leasehold estates of Charles Barrow Esq. together with free lands intermixed in the parish and manor of Minsterworth in the County of Gloucester. Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer. Gloucester 1757.

Shews River Severn, dwellings in block plan, fields some with strips, hedges, roads. Block lettering A - U.

Simple cartouche, small compass rose.

Scale: (concealed under bottom wooden roller of map)

Ink and watercolour on paper (poor condition)

Reference: G.R.O. P218a/MI1.

Terrier: G.C.D. 32996 W72 - shews field names, tenants and proprietors' names. Abstract and index to whole; 1879 acreage recorded in pencil.

DEAN FOREST 1758

A plan of part of the Dean Forest in the County of Gloucester containing the several lotts mentioned in the terrier hereunto annexed directed to be enclosed by the Rt. Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury and surveyed by the order of the Honourable John Pill Esq. Surveyor General of His Majestys forests and woods.

Surveyed and planned by Ferdinando Stratford Engineer, and David Morris assistant.

Shews roads, bridges, lime kilns, fields, buildings including Speech House in block plan, rivers. Wells.

Very ornate cartouche with scallop shells, cornucopiae and vases with leafy tendrils. Compass rose.

Scale: 1 in. to 10 chains.

Size: 57cm. x 65 cm.

Reference: P.R.O. F17/12 (Photocopy in G.R.O.)

Terrier - on plan.

DEAN FOREST 1758

A plan of an inclosure in Dean Forest in the County of Gloucester. Containing the severall lots mentioned in the terrier hereunto annexed. Surveyed by the order of the

Honourable John Pill Esq. Surveyor General of His Majesty's forests and woods.

Surveyed and planned by Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer.
David Morris, assistant, 1758.

Decorative cartouche, bottom right hand corner, stems and cornucopiae. Compass rose.

Shews enclosure, hedges, roads, houses in block plan, trees with shadows; hachvring for contours.

Scale: 1 in. to 4 chains

Ink and watercolour on paper.

Size:

Reference: P.R.O. F17/96

Terrier in top right hand corner of map.

COALEY 1759

Plan of the parish and manor of Cowley belonging to the Rt. Hon. Frederick Augustus Earl of Berkeley in the County of Gloucester.

Ferdinando Stratford.

Shews fields numbered, hedges, individual strips in a few fields, trees with shadows. Block plans coloured pink for houses.

Large simple cartouche. Compass rose. Large cartouche surrounding scale of 10 chains.

Scale: 1 in. to 2 chains.

Ink and watercolour on paper. (General condition poor, remounted on linen paper. Edges tattered with tears.)

Reference: G.R.O., D650/3

Terrier: Berkeley Castle Muniments, Bound Books General Series 170.

(A very poor map, for which Stratford received a fee of £46. 11s. 8d.)

SLIMBRIDGE 1759

A plan of the parish of Slimbridge containing the Manors of Slimbridge, Hurst and Sages belonging to the Rt. Hon. Frederick Augustus, Earl of Berkeley in the County of Gloucester.

Surveyed and planned by Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer. 1759

Shews open fields, delineates pasture and arable, fences. Houses in block plan, church, rectory, mill; shews sea walls, encroachments on highway at Cambridge. Marks Common and greens between Breadstone and Slimbridge, W and NW of Gossington.

Plain shell cartouche.

Scale: 4 chains to 1 in.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

Size: 63.5 cm. x 73 cm.

Reference: Berkeley Castle Muniments - Maps.

Terrier: Berkeley Castle Muniments, Bound Books General Series 168.

(Stratford was paid £71. 17s. 11d. for this survey on 3 August 1759.)

CHELTHENHAM 1759

A plan of Hartyfield Farm in the parishes of Cheltenham and Badgeworth in the County of Gloucester belonging to William Ashmead, Gent.

Surveyed by Ferdinando Stratford, Engineer. 1759.

52 acres, shews road, hedges, field gates, trees with shadows. Houses in block plan.

Single shell cartouche. Compass rose.

Scale: 'By the fourty scale'.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

Reference: Scottish Record Office RHP 5353 (photocopy G.R.0)

Terrier: Top left hand of map giving field names, orchard, pasture, arable.

MATSON 1759

Existence of map only known because of payment of £6. 7s. 7d. in 1760 by Dean and Chapter of Gloucester to Ferdinando Stratford for surveying and mapping the manor of Matson.

The lease for the manor was granted in 1745 and 1743 and the survey of 1759 would probably be for the renewal of a fourteen year lease. The manor at this time was leased by the Selwyn family.

From the size of the payment this was a small map.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE (1756)

A proposal for making by subscription a new survey and (printed) map of the County of Gloucester, constructed from a scale of one inch to a mile and painted on four sheets of fine paper. To describe hundreds, cities, towns, villages, forrest, common chases, woods, mires, medicinal springs, rivers, brooks, bridges, mills, roads, beacons, churches, chapels, castles, depopulated places, Roman ways, camp stations, places of battle.

Subscription $\frac{1}{2}$ guinea, 5s. down, the remainder on delivery of map, coloured and pastel on canvas. Own arms engraved 1 guinea extra.

Work is begun (1749) and will be pursued with great diligence till completed which will be by end of year 1756 by Ferdinando Stratford.

Specimen shews part of Highnam Park, Lassington, Island of Alney, Barnwood, Matson, Robinswood Hill.

Reference: Bodleian Library, Oxford, Gough Misc.J.P.310

(Stratford issued his advertisement well before the Society of Arts offered its annual prize in 1759 for large-scale surveys of English counties, which encouraged Isaac Taylor to produce his map of Gloucestershire in 1777. So far as is known Stratford did not pursue his proposal, presumably because of lack of support.)

Pamphlets by Ferdinando Stratford

A short account of the manner proposed for rebuilding Bristol Bridge Ferdinando Stratford Engineer of Gloucester. Bristol 1760 (BCL C 4987)

Observations on the letter by bystander printed 1760 to which is added an explanation of a certain method of building a single arch bridge. Illustrated note copper plate. Gloucester 1762 (BCL 10523)

Plan for Extending Navigation from Bath to Chippenham 1765. Contains estimates in back. (BCL B4987)

Remarks on a paper entitled Improvements and Savings in Inland navigation. Ferdinando Stratford May 29 1760 Annual Register 176 144-8. GCL Austen Catalogue 2256

Observations on Mr. Thos Yeomas printed proposals for making the River Chelme navigable. July and August 1765. Ferdinando Stratford. Engineer. Essex R.O. (D/DRA 04)

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- W.E. Tate "Gloucestershire Enclosure Acts and Awards" Trans. B.G.A.S., Vol.64 pps. 1 - 70
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