

Digital Photographic Archive

The Society has accomplished an enormous amount of work over the last twenty five years, for example journal articles, collections of photographs, documents and personal memories.

None of this however yet enjoys the advantages possible when photographs and documents are converted into electronic digital form. These advantages include:

- ready, searchable access
- easy and low cost reproduction and dissemination eg using the internet
- safe (reduced space) storage plus the conservation of the original source materials, which no longer have to be consulted directly
- easy incorporation in future research and publications/electronic media

We are now making a start with the digitalization process by scanning and storing the Society's existing archive of photographic images. Each image has to be given a unique identifying number consisting of twelve digits. This is created as follows:

Digit Information

1st Geographic location

a	Ascott
b	Bruern
f	Fifield
i	Idbury
l	Leafield
m	Milton
n	Lyneham
s	Shipton
w	somewhere in the Wychwoods
x	other

2nd First digit of year

3rd Second digit of year

4th Third digit of year

5th Fourth digit of year

6th Date refining letter

a	accurate
v	+/- five years
x	+/- ten years
u	uncertain

7th Main content

a	artefacts
b	buildings
g	agriculture
i	industry
l	landscape
p	people
t	transport

8th First digit of number

9th Second digit of number

10th Third digit of number

11th Fourth digit of number

12th Addition of letter p indicates is a further processed image ie has been taken from a known copy or is the result of further processing from another scanned image

A twelve digit number could look somewhat unwieldy but it does have the advantage of making simple searches possible without using a complicated date base eg merely by looking down the directory of image files. However a more sophisticated data base is also needed and we have decided to use an Excel spreadsheet for this. This will contain the following fields for each image:

- 1st The twelve digit unique number
- 2nd Any previous number
- 3rd Identity of the recorder of the information
- 4th Owner of the original
- 5th Copyright owner
- 6th Format used for digitizing
- 7th Title
- 8th Source of Information
- 9th Disclaimer obtained for further use
- 10th Information on reverse
- 11th Other notes

We are putting up on this site the first scanned images as a trial. They are arranged by location (please click on the links where available in the table above then click on thumbnails for larger photograph). It is hoped that visitors to the site will not only be interested in the images for themselves but will be prompted to inform us of any inaccuracies or additional information they may have. An even greater hope is that it might lead to the Society being loaned other historical images of the Wychwoods to incorporate in the archives.