

3 How did the Commissioner allocate the land of Black Hill and Lower Hill?

The process laid down by Parliament for Inclosure in outline is as follows: -

- i. Claims submitted: All individuals with a claim to the land submitted it to the commissioners.
- ii. Claims reviewed: Claims were made public for inspection and comment, and disputes were resolved through hearings and investigation.
- iii. Enclosure Award: The final decision was recorded in an enclosure award, which described the size and location of each new allotment.
- iv. Physical marking: The new boundaries, roads, and drains were staked out on the ground.
- v. Outcome: The process resulted in the consolidation of land and the creation of new, privately owned plots

Eddowes's Shropshire Journal - Wednesday 09 February 1853

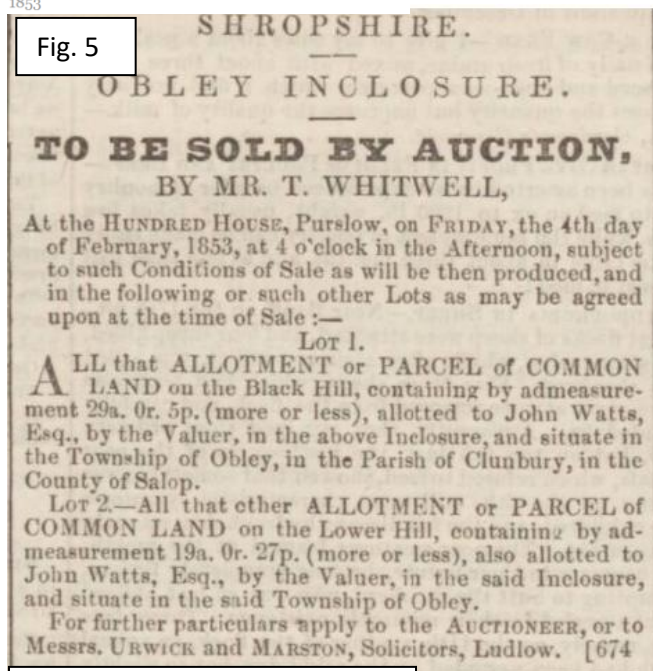


Fig. 5

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It seems that William Eyton followed this process accurately. Public meetings were held in 1847 to receive, make public and review claims – see fig. 1. By signing off and sealing the Award document and maps in 1854, Eyton and the Commissioners had achieved three purposes (listed as i, ii, iii). It seems a reasonable assumption that the surveyor, Charles Mickleburgh, had staked out the ground (iv) accurately because even before the official date of the Award land allocated in the award was being traded (fig. 5) and so the ‘new owners’ (v) had assumed responsibility for the plots.

The outcome of the sale shown in fig. 5 was that WEBV again enlarged his landholding on Black Hill by purchasing both lots¹, though neither are adjacent to the Parish Land the purchase had an impact upon the users of the turbarry and recreation ground, as will be described in section 4.

William Eyton achieved step (v) of the awarding process

by allocating what had been common land to new owners – shown towards the left in the 8 pages of tables. The basis for his decisions was the existing land ownership which is shown towards the right. Figs. 6 and 7 are extracts from these tables.

Map 4 is an annotated map locating some of the details. These details all concern the allocation of land on Lower Hill which was allotted by William Eyton in the same document as with Black Hill. Both areas of allocated land have been indicated on the OS map in pale blue.

Fig. 6 shows that Thomas Salwey Beale of Heath House, Hopton Heath owned (by freehold) two pieces of land in the far east of Obley township called Beasley. On the strength of this claim he was allotted area 25 (an area of 1 acre, 3 roods, 31 perches) and also the herbage² of quarry 26. In addition, Beale was to erect and maintain fences along road E and on the west side against allotment 24. Likewise, the Churchwardens of the Parish who had freehold ownership of a cottage and small field (areas 166, 167) in the south of the township, were allotted area 34, just less than 1 acre in extent. They are responsible for three new fences. Area 34 is adjacent to area 35 which was also allocated in the text pages of the Award to the Churchwardens as arable land for the “labouring poor of the said township of Obley”.

¹ It was probably a protracted legal negotiation since it involved several earlier mortgage arrangements. The contract (Item 4763/1/33 at Shropshire Archive) was not signed until September 1855.

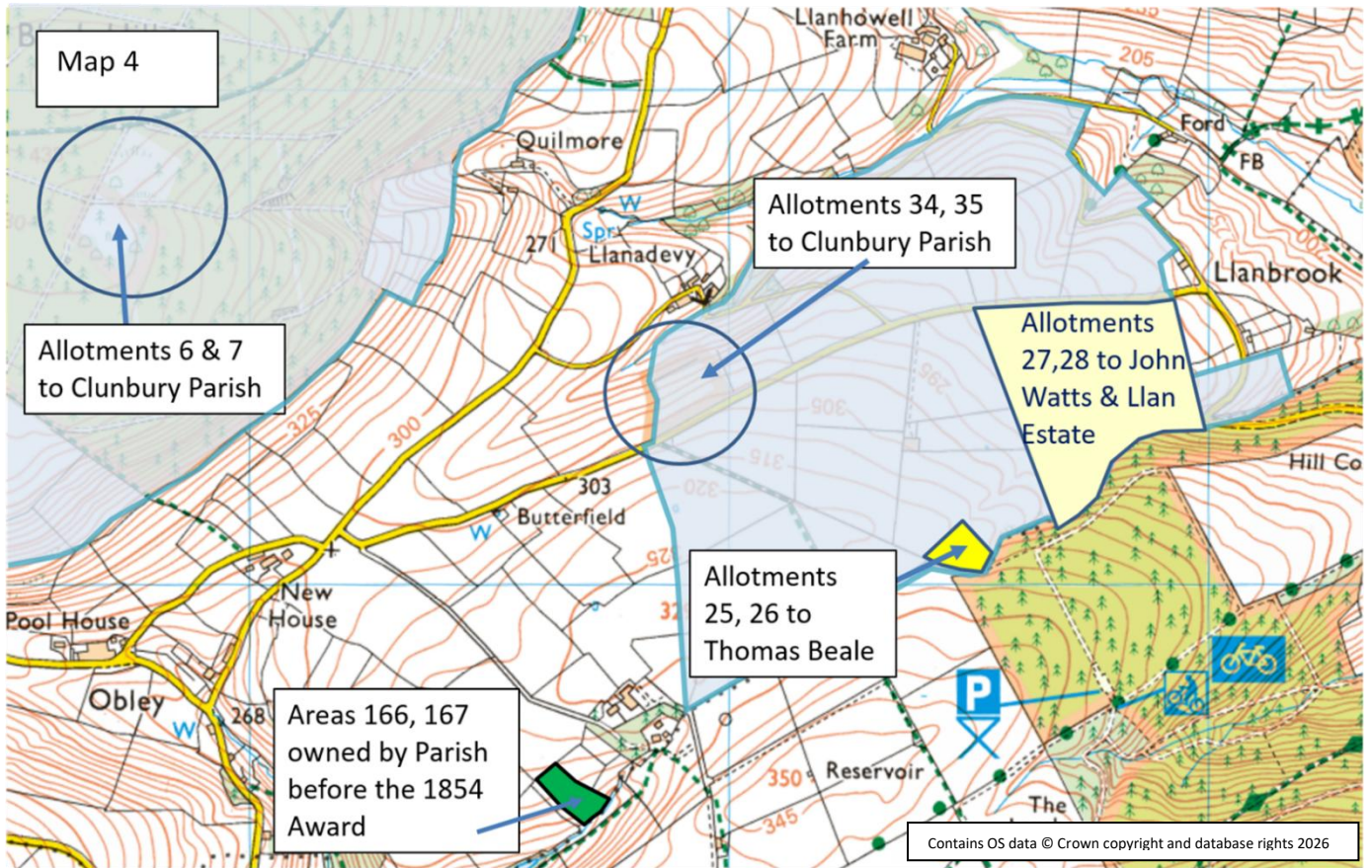
² The rights to use the resources of the quarry (i.e. to take stone as required)

Fig. 6

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Persons interested	Allotments			Fines to be made and maintained by order of Attachment	Sands in respect of which claims allowed and Allotments made		
	N ^o on Map A	Extent a x r			N ^o on Map B	Description	Extent a x r
Beale Salway Thomas Esquire	25	1 3 31	Against Road E and that against Attachment 24	1	Beasley	3 1 28	Freehold
				2	Beasley	1 3 5	
						5 2 33	
Clunbury Parish Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of	34	3 33	Against Road D and Attachment 33 and hereto cast against Attachment 33	166	Patch	1 1 20	Freehold
				167	Cottage and Garden	" " 36	
						1 2 16	

Map 4



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Fig. 7

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Persons interested	Allotments			Fines to be made and maintained by order of Attachment	Sands in respect of which claims allowed and Allotments made		
	N ^o on Map A	Extent a x r			N ^o on Map B	Description	Extent a x r
John Watts and William West Committee of the Estate of Miss Letitia West a Lunatic in respect of one third of the Stan Estate John Watts in respect of two thirds of the Stan Estate	25	8 2 26	Against Road D and Attachment 27	3	Beasley Patch	" 3 29	Freehold
				4	Lower Common	7 1 23	
				5	Middle "	5 3 12	
				6	Lower Venk	8 2 31	
				7	Upper Venk	5 1 16	
				8	Upper Common	7 2 24	
				9	Llan "	17 1 17	
				10	Lower Wood piece	5 2 20	
				11	Upper "	5 3 14	
				12	Sink Field	2 3 19	
				13	Pool piece	5 1 14	
				14	Pikey piece	4 " 7	
				15	Flying Leasow	4 2 30	
				16	Long Keys	4 " 34	
				17	Little "	1 3 25	
18	Yew Tree piece	2 2 3					
19	Old House piece	4 2 5					
20	Draw Well meadow	1 2 33					
						46 1 36	
						27 3 13	

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Fig. 7 shows how a larger local land holding was dealt with by the Inclosure process. It provides details of the allotment to John Watts and others involved in the Estate of Letitia Unett of Broadward Hall, Hopton Heath who had owned much of the area around The Llan. It was this allotment that was purchased by Brettell Vaughan in 1855.

The major allocations to Joseph Edwards (67 acres), WEBV (183 a.), Trustees of Richard Edwards (166 a.), Rev.EC Swainson (145a.), Aaron Wolley (129 a.) and Edward James Earl of Powis (128 a.) are recorded in the Award document in the same way as shown above.

The complete allotment of land and the names of new landowners is shown on map 5 in Section 4. The base map for map 5 is the 1883 Ordnance Survey which was the first to be produced for the area.