



Catsbrain Farm

The farm is situated on the Highworth Road and borders Stanton Fitzwarren & South Marston.

1800-1829

During the 1800's the land was split equally with Moors Farm

1830

Auction Sale - 28th May 1830 at the Red Lion, Highworth - by Mr. James Fidel - Freehold Lands and Houses at Highworth & Stratton St. Margaret - A Particular - Lot 1 - A Meadow called Catsbrain, situate in the parish of Stratton St. Margaret, in the county of Wilts, adjoining the turnpike road from Highworth to Swindon, containing 3 acres, 3 Roods 0 perches. **Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette, 30 May 1830.**

1868

John Loveday of South Marston is recorded as being the owner in the poll book dated this year.

1881

To be Let, in one or two lots, 20 acres of Arable Land, called "Catsbrain", situate one mile from Lower Stratton, on the Highworth Road, and three miles from Old and New Swindon. The land is suitable for market gardening or other purposes. For particulars, apply to Mr. Osmond, The Foundry, Ramsbury, Wilts. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 26 November 1881**

1901

Census shows William Tuck as farmer.

1902

In a land sale Mr. T. Arkell bought the farm site, about 3 acres, for £195.

1910

The farm was run by Landfear family from around this time.

1923

Kellys Directory records the owner as J. Ashfordly-Trenchard, Esq., with Joseph Landfear as Bailiff.

1924

James Loveday paid the rates of £6 3s. 7d.

1927

Mary Jane Landfear died on the 26th February aged 72. Her death is reported in the **North Wilts Herald, 4 March 1927**

1928

Joseph Landfear is resident and recorded in the Swindon Directory of this year

1930

Joseph Landfear is resident and recorded in the Kellys Directory of this year

1938

This was the last working farm in Stratton. Eric Barnes was the last farmer. Eric came to Catsbrain Farm in 1938 aged seven.

1948

The farm was connected to the gas mains.

1949

The Barnes family who had previously farmed in Purton bought the farm for £2,250 in 1949. They farmed a small dairy herd and pigs.

1951

The Barnes family and are recorded here in the 1951 street directory.

1962

The farm was connected to the electricity grid in 1962.

c2005

Part of the site was given over to Methodist Homes to build Fitzwarren Care Homes.

Post 2005

There were plans in place to build a service station and food outlets on the remaining fields.

2022

On the 11th October Persimmon Homes were granted planning permission to build 113 new homes on the land. It was proposed to build a mixture of semi-detached, terraced and detached homes, varying from 1 bedroom apartments to four bedroom dwellings. 6 apartments will be located above a retail store near Kingsdown Road. A new road junction will be built and a number of pedestrian pathways throughout the development will be included. The site will be circled by a footpath and planted with trees and shrubbery. There will be an area of green open space to include a flood attenuation pond. A play area and 75 bird boxes will feature as part of the development. 34 of the dwellings will be allocated to social housing partners. **Persimmon Website**