

A black and white photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a field with a fence line. In the middle ground, there are several trees and a small building. In the background, there are rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

Ansty for Sale!

In 1946, almost the whole of Ansty village which had been intricately bound to the Arundell's Wardour Castle Estate for hundreds of years was broken up into various lots and sold off. In common with many other estates that met a similar fate in England (at this time) a long established 'rural' way of life in Ansty had come to an end. Many country traditions were lost forever. Estate land husbandry (borne of centuries of experience) that actually practised careful management, conservation, provided local employment and drove a low cost local economy just disappeared in favour of so called high cost 'agribusiness'. A host of skilful jobs once familiar throughout the parish vanished forever.

The Sale of the Century!



September 21st 1946

WARDOUR CASTLE ESTATE SALE

A total of £78,000 was reached at the two-day sale of the Wardour Castle Estate, near Tisbury, which concluded at Salisbury yesterday. The sale, which was conducted by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co., was held to pay death duties on the estate of the late Captain Lord Arundell of Wardour, The Wiltshire Regiment, who was captured when wounded at Dunkirk and died soon after repatriation, leaving no heir to the title. The part of the estate offered included 13 large and nine smaller farms, six small-holdings, five houses, 70 cottages, 26 lots of accommodation land, building sites, and woodlands, in all about 3,000 acres, with a rent-roll of £4,341. Many cottagers were able to purchase the cottages in which they lived and the majority of farms were sold to tenants.

145

PRICE 5/-



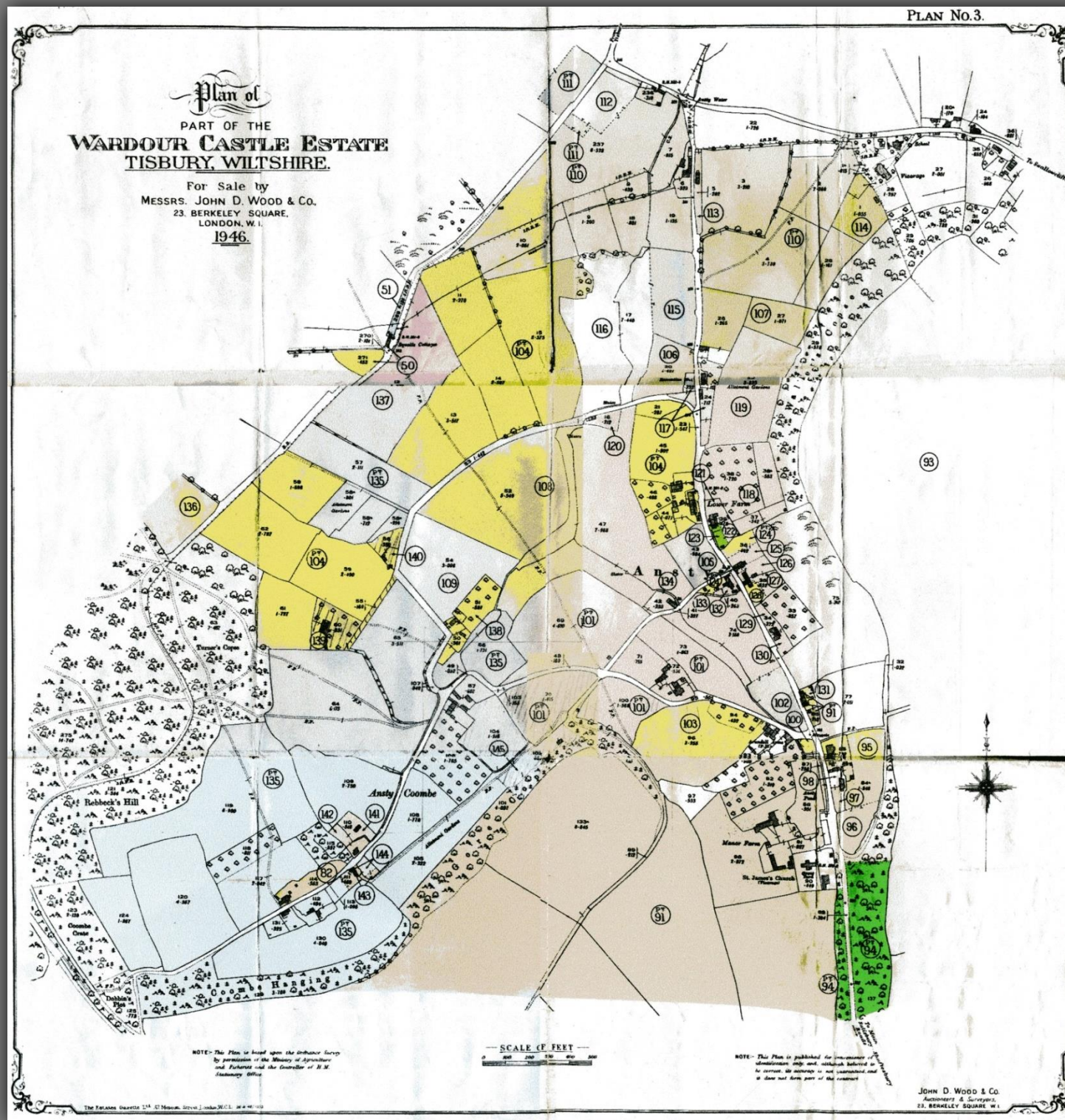
Part of the
**WARDOUR CASTLE
ESTATE**
TISBURY, WILTS

For Sale by Auction, September, 1946

John D Wood & Co

The front cover of the long established London based John D Wood 'Estate Agents' catalogue who were charged with selling off large parts (by auction) of the Wardour Castle Estate – including virtually the whole of Ansty village in 1946.

From a John D Wood Catalogue



A 'working' Wardour Estate map locating all of the lots marked up for sale by auction in Ansty village. 1946.

From a John D Wood Catalogue

The following pages show a small selection of the many properties that were up for sale in Ansty at the auction in September 1946



Up for sale:
Lot 91.
The Manor Farm,
outbuildings, more
buildings at New Barn; a
cottage and 143 acres of
land.
1946

From a John D Wood Catalogue



Up for sale:
Lots 97, 98.
Pond Cottages, just off
the High street. 1946

From a John D Wood Catalogue



Up for sale:
Lot 95.
House and workshop
premises
1946



Up for sale:
Lot 104.
Lower Farm (Dairy & Pig)
plus 26 acres
1946



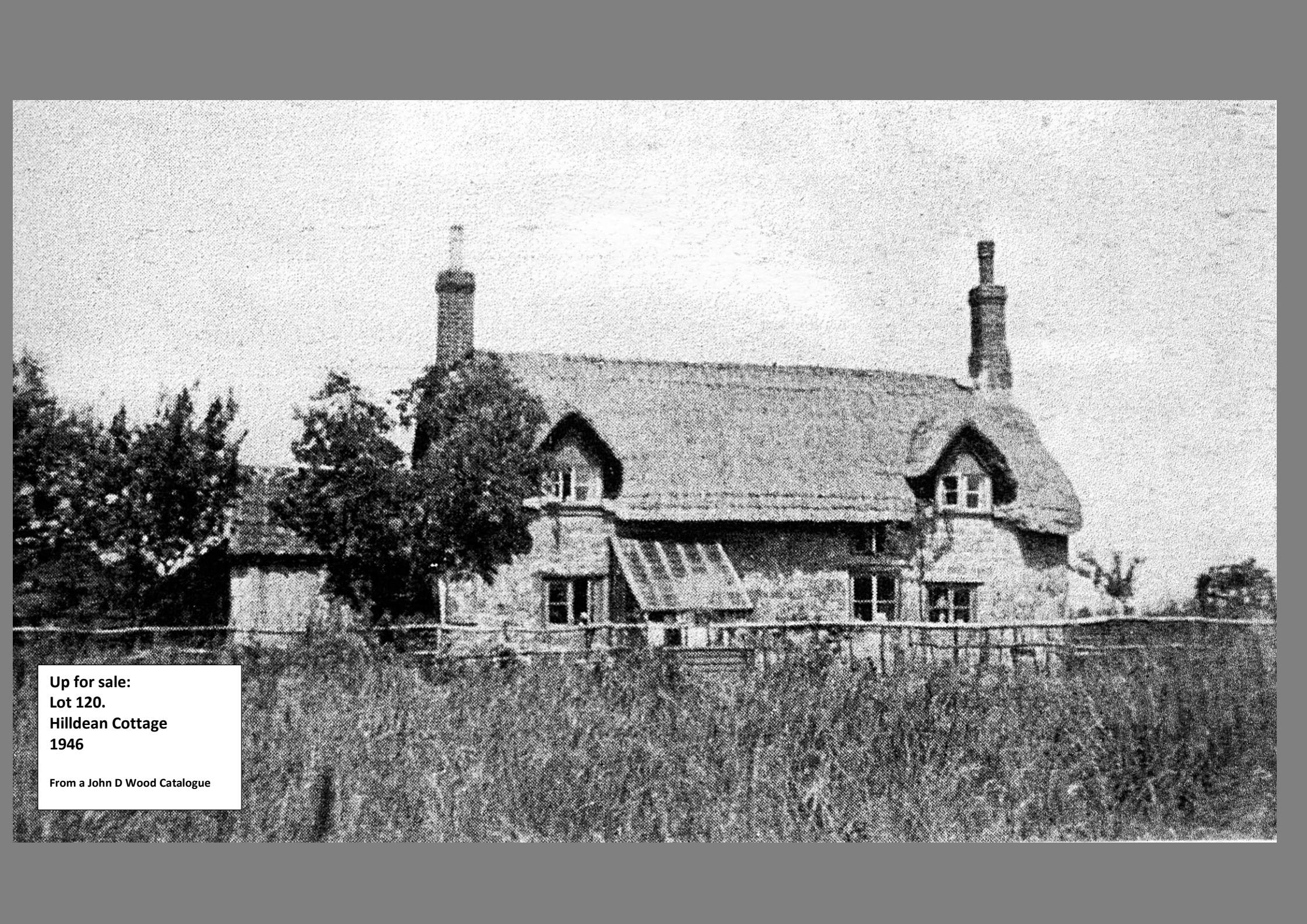
Up for sale:
Lot 101.
Hillside Farm with 13
acres
1946

From a John D Wood Catalogue



Up for sale:
Lots 129 & 130.
Peacock Cottages.
1946

From a John D Wood Catalogue




Up for sale:
Lot 120.
Hilldean Cottage
1946

From a John D Wood Catalogue



Up for sale:
Lots 110, 117, 104, 121-
123
View looking NE across
Ansty Valley
1946



Up for sale:
Lot 92.
South Barn Farm with
176 acres. Productive
dairy and corn growing
farm
1946



Up for sale:
Lot 135.
Frogpond Farm (with 51
acres)
Lot 145 in the distance
1946

From a John D Wood Catalogue

September 1946 did indeed mark an abrupt end to the 'country way of life' for the parish of Ansty. The Catholic Arundell family and their Wardour Castle Estate had been a part of Ansty life for hundreds of years. Even into the late nineteenth century the original medieval feudal system still had a presence in the way things were done on the land and in the way village was organised. Being part of the Wardour Estate, it seems Ansty remained very conservative in its views and resistant to the changes that were taking place elsewhere. Nevertheless the estate provided plenty of employment opportunities which helped shape the local landscape and also provided a stable environment in which the local community thrived even though most of them were quite poor.

It is interesting to note, looking at these photos from the John D Wood catalogue (from over 70 years ago) how the countryside was much more 'open' with tidy hedgerows, fewer trees and longer views over the landscape. There are plenty of sources elsewhere to indicate that wild life was far more abundant too!