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Oxfordshire

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**A History of the County of Oxford**  
**XIX: Wychwood Forest and Environs**



*Newell Plain in Wychwood Forest, by William Bowly. Copyright Charlbury Museum.*



## A preview of VCH Oxfordshire XIX

The dozen or so predominantly rural settlements covered in this volume lie in west Oxfordshire on the edge of the Cotswold Hills, occupying an area of some 19,515 a. between Charlbury and the Gloucestershire border. Most are situated in the Evenlode valley, which cuts through the region from north-west to south-east and is divided by undulating downlands from the Windrush valley to the south. In the midst of the area was the large multi-township parish of Shipton-under-Wychwood, which was broken up in the 19th century, but which earlier formed the nucleus of a large Anglo-Saxon royal estate and minster *parochia*. Cutting across the Shipton complex on the higher ground was the 4,400-a. royal forest of Wychwood, the bulk of which remained Crown property until its disafforestation and clearance in the 1850s, leaving a residue of private woodland (still known as ‘Wychwood forest’) in the north-east near Cornbury park.

The area subject to forest law was at times much greater, stretching far beyond this area to cover much of west Oxfordshire in the late 12th and early 13th centuries, while a fringe of privately-owned woods on the forest’s edge remained part of the ‘forest purlieus’ until 1857. For administrative purposes the whole area belonged to Chadlington hundred, jurisdiction over which was attached to the Shipton estate.

### PARISHES COVERED

- Shipton-under-Wychwood and Langley
- Ascott-under-Wychwood
- Leafeld
- Lyneham
- Milton-under-Wychwood
- Ramsden
- Wychwood Forest and Cornbury Park
- Bruern
- Fifeld
- Idbury (including Bould and Foscot)







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*The Victoria County History is based at the Institute of  
Historical Research, University of London.  
To find out more about the big red books and other  
VCH projects,  
visit [www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk](http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk)*

## The Victoria County History

Dedicated to Queen Victoria, the VCH was founded in 1899 and aims to be an encyclopaedic record of England's places and people from earliest times to the present day. In 2012 the series was rededicated to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in honour of her Diamond Jubilee year. Written county by county from original documents and fieldwork, the famous 'big red books' constitute the greatest publishing project in English local history, providing an invaluable resource for academics and enthusiasts alike.

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