

## The Historical Development of Hartlebury and Waresley

- The manor of Hartlebury is mentioned historically c 850, when it is claimed to have been granted to the Bishop of Worcester by King Burgred of Mercia.
- The name occurs in the pre-Conquest forms Heortlabyrig in 817. The name is seen as derived from the diminutive of the common word heort, hart. The later part of the name burh is a reference to a fortification, but the location of this has not been located satisfactorily and there is at present a choice of two possible locations. The first possible location is under the present castle, the second in and around the present church.
- In 1086 the manor of Hartlebury is confirmed as a holding of the Bishop of Worcester and is noted as containing 6 outliers (of which Waresley is presumed to be one). The manor is listed as having 24 villagers, 3 smallholders, a priest, 12 male slaves, 3 female slaves and 2 mills.
- The castle historically lies on the site of the manor, which was begun on the site of the present castle by Walter Cantilupe in the reign of Henry III and was completed by Bishop Giffard in 1268. A chapel is referred to at the castle in 1285. The moat was 100ft wide on three sides, if there was any earlier fortification this is likely to have been obliterated.
- In 1291 the manor is known to have contained 2 carucates of land. The manor remained with the Bishopric until Bishop Hooper gave it to Edward VI, who gave it to the Duke of Northumberland in 1553 before it passed to Sir Francis Jobson in that year. At the restitution of the Bishopric of Worcester the Bishop tried to reclaim the property. In 1558 Jobson sought confirmation of his holdings, however, he died in 1573, and before 1578 the site was back in the hands of the Bishop.
- The manor of Waresley in 980 was also held by the Bishop of Worcester. Bishop Oswald granted it in that year to the clerk Wulfgar and under Bishop Wulfstan it was granted to Alfwine. The land was seized by the sheriff Urse, but this lost land remained under the Bishop's overlordship. Urse's holdings passed to the lords of Elmley (Beauchamp family), and was later leased to the Bishopsdon family from them.
- The name Waresley is also a pre-Conquest name and was recorded in the form Wæresleage. The etymology suggested for this name is Wær's leah. The meaning of the suffix is given as clearing.
- A priest is recorded as residing at Hartlebury in 1086. In 1097 the priest is known to have held 1 hide of land. The church was consecrated in 1269 and was briefly appropriated by the College of Westbury-on-Trym. Historically it is known that Hartlebury was the mother church of Doverdale as it received 2s from the chapel in 1291 and also Elmley Lovett as it received 20s 6d. The manors of Doverdale and Elmley Lovett are also recorded as having priests in 1086 which is suggestive of a team of three priests operating out of Hartlebury at this time.
- The historic maps of Hartlebury indicate that the area around the church is located in what could be a large oval enclosure which has a sunken road to the west, steep sloped in to a small valley on the north and northeast, and it is only on the southeast where this area is

overlooked. In the curve of Inn Lane at the north end there is a possible bank, for which the origins remain uncertain. The majority of this land was held by the Reverend of Hartlebury on the tithe award and map, which suggests that this was once all church land. This provides an alternative location for the burh at Heortlebery. The church at Hartlebury also appears to have ties to the church at Ombersley, where the parish boundary between the two parishes was fixed at a late date, and also Chaddesley Corbett where both churches (and also Kidderminster) have associations with the chapel at Stone.