

THE STREAMS, PONDS AND WELLS OF LUNDY

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ABSTRACT

A gazetteer of the more permanent, streams, ponds and wells of Lundy giving locations, historic and suggested contemporary names and brief descriptions. Each water body is fully referenced to all known descriptive and survey literature.

Keywords: *Lundy, lentic, lotic, stream, pond, well*

INTRODUCTION

In a wet winter, almost every dip in the ground on Lundy will form a pool of some size. These can range from hoof marks and ruts in a track to any large low-lying hollow. Some of the ponds formed on the central track can be up to 10 m in length and 2 m in width.

At the other extreme, in a dry summer, even the most permanent of ponds, ranging from the Pondsburry basin through deep quarry excavations and water courses can dry up. In the drought of 1976 Pondsburry was reduced to a small pool, in 2006 Quarter Wall Pond was so reduced that fish had to be moved to Rocket Pole Pond and in 2022 all watercourses and ponds with the exception of Rocket Pole Pond, Pondsburry and Quarry Pond were dry.

The Freshwater Habitats Trust defines a pond as being at least one metre square and holds water for at least four months of the year.

This paper will list and identify the more permanent of water courses, pools and ponds. At the same time, names that have been in common use will be given or a descriptive and acceptable name suggested, along with grid references.

Some ponds, wells and reservoirs have been described or surveyed before permanently drying up or otherwise becoming lost. An attempt will be made to identify their original location and to tie together the disparate names, references and locations.

The following list is compiled from various (mainly Lundy Field Society) sources but omits covered reservoirs and wells and those waters that have either proved unidentifiable, ephemeral or otherwise inaccessible. All water bodies have been visited and surveyed by the author.

The list aims to provide a standardised description, confirm locations and attempts to make future surveys easier to compare both lotic (flowing) and lentic (still) waters with a degree of consistency and accuracy. Grid references given for streams are generally located where the standard access pathway crosses the watercourse, and where possible, the source and, for ponds an actual or estimated central point.

References immediately following each feature, briefly identify the source and year together with any name or reference number used that is different from the suggested or adopted name.

There are three typical types of pond on Lundy both natural and man-made. Natural ponds are where water collects in a hollow such as at Pondsburry, but such hollows can be augmented by extraction by human agency or by damming of streams. Others are the cause of excavations such as quarries, archaeological digs or an attempt to provide stock watering holes. Wells are of two types. One meaning of well is “hole or shaft that is excavated, drilled, bored, or cut into the earth so as to tap a supply of water...”, the other is “a natural pool where ground water comes to the surface” (Collins, 2014). Both feature on Lundy.

EARLY MAPS

The earliest map of Lundy is that of 1765 drawn by Benjamin Donne. (Ternstrom, 2006) The only recognisable body of water is in the centre of the island labelled “A well”. The location is that of Pondsburry and should not be confused with a traditional well, a shaft sunk to the water table. Although named as a “well” we can be reasonably sure this is Pondsburry (Collins, 2014). This description can also be applied to other wells viz: St John’s, St Helen’s and Golden wells.

The next usable map is that produced by Trinity House at the time of the construction of the Old Light in 1819. (Ternstrom, 2006). Again, Pondsburry features but this time labelled as “Pond”. In addition, there are indicated two wells and a spring. Locations are a little difficult to determine, but the south-westernmost well would appear to be Golden Well, with St John’s spring to the northeast of it. The well adjacent to the Barn is where Bull’s Paradise well is located.

The Ordnance Survey produced their first one inch to the mile map of Lundy in 1820 (Ternstrom, 2006). The south of the island has many features which may obscure any water bodies, but moving northwards, we come to a depiction of Pondsburry which is shown as a pond with a complicated stream system. The present two streams that converge at Punchbowl Valley can be seen but the other streams are no doubt now submerged by a much larger body of water now known as Pondsburry.

Moving further north, past Tibbets Hill a pond is shown which may be Widow’s Tenement Pond flowing northwest to empty at St Peter’s Stone. It is joined by a tributary no longer in existence which appears to rise north of Widow’s Tenement adjacent to the central track. The stream system at Gannets’ Combe can also be seen although labelled as Gallows Comb.

The next map was produced in 1822 to accompany an attempt to sell the island by De Vere Hunt (Ternstrom, 2006). This is a very detailed map giving many forgotten field names but also locating, if not always naming, other water bodies. The well adjacent to number 21 on this map would appear to be St John’s Well.

Parson’s Well is located in Parson’s Field but may be what is known as Bull’s Paradise Well.

Pondsbury and its streams are similar to the depiction on the Trinity House map with a small pond for Pondsbury and three streams converging into Punchbowl Valley. The system at Widow's Tenement seems to be further south but does appear to flow down by St Peter's Stone. Gannets' Combe stream system is also shown.

A map was also produced in an attempt to sell the island by the Heaven family in 1840 (Ternstrom, 2006). St John's Stream and Millcombe Stream both appear by the Mansion (Millcombe) and converge at the bend in the "New Road". A pond and stream are shown just north of the Old Lighthouse and is probably the spring and stream now known as Lighthouse Stream and Lighthouse Pond.

Again, Pondsbury is shown to be quite small and with two other streams one of which is now submerged by an enlarged Pondsbury. The others are Pondsbury Stream South and Punchbowl Stream. Further north, Widow's Tenement pond and St Peter's Stone Stream can be identified as well as the Gannet's Coombe system.

The 1877 map included in Chanter (1877) adds more streams whilst omitting others none of which are named.

CONTEMPORARY SURVEYS

Various attempts to name and classify streams have been made in the last 50 years commencing with Langham's (1969) reference sketch map of *Water courses and reservoirs on Lundy* which complements his Annual Report paper. (Figure 1 Water bodies of Lundy – after Langham). Langham frequently used the location of the telegraph poles which ran from the North Light to the Old Light as reference points. I have included them in his quoted descriptions although they no longer exist.

Richardson, Compton and Whitely (1997) in their Fertilizer Nitrate study arbitrarily numbered streams from the north-east as Number 1 then moved clockwise around the island to Number 16 on the north-west. The location of the sources on the plateau of these streams is used to loosely locate them which results in the same name being used for more than one stream. The four selected ponds are numbered from the south to the north. Four ponds were identified at Rocket Pole, P1a, P1b, P1c, P1d. The nitrate results indicate P1c as being the pond with highest nitrate levels suggesting that this is Rocket Pole Pond and that P1a and P1b were to the west of this location and that P1d is Kistvaen Pond (Richardson, Compton & Whiteley, 1997).

Long's (1993) sketch map which accompanies his, *A study into the micro-invertebrate fauna and water quality of Lundy's lotic habitats*, numbers six streams (Long, 1993).

STREAMS – LOTIC WATERS

Wherever possible, grid references are given of the source and where any paths cross the stream. West coast streams generally cross the west coast path; east coast streams mainly cross both the Upper and Lower East Coast paths although in the northern half of the island they cross only the Lower East Coast Path.

Battery Stream – SS 1296 4492

Stream with pool (see **Battery Reservoir**) beside the path leading to Battery Point.

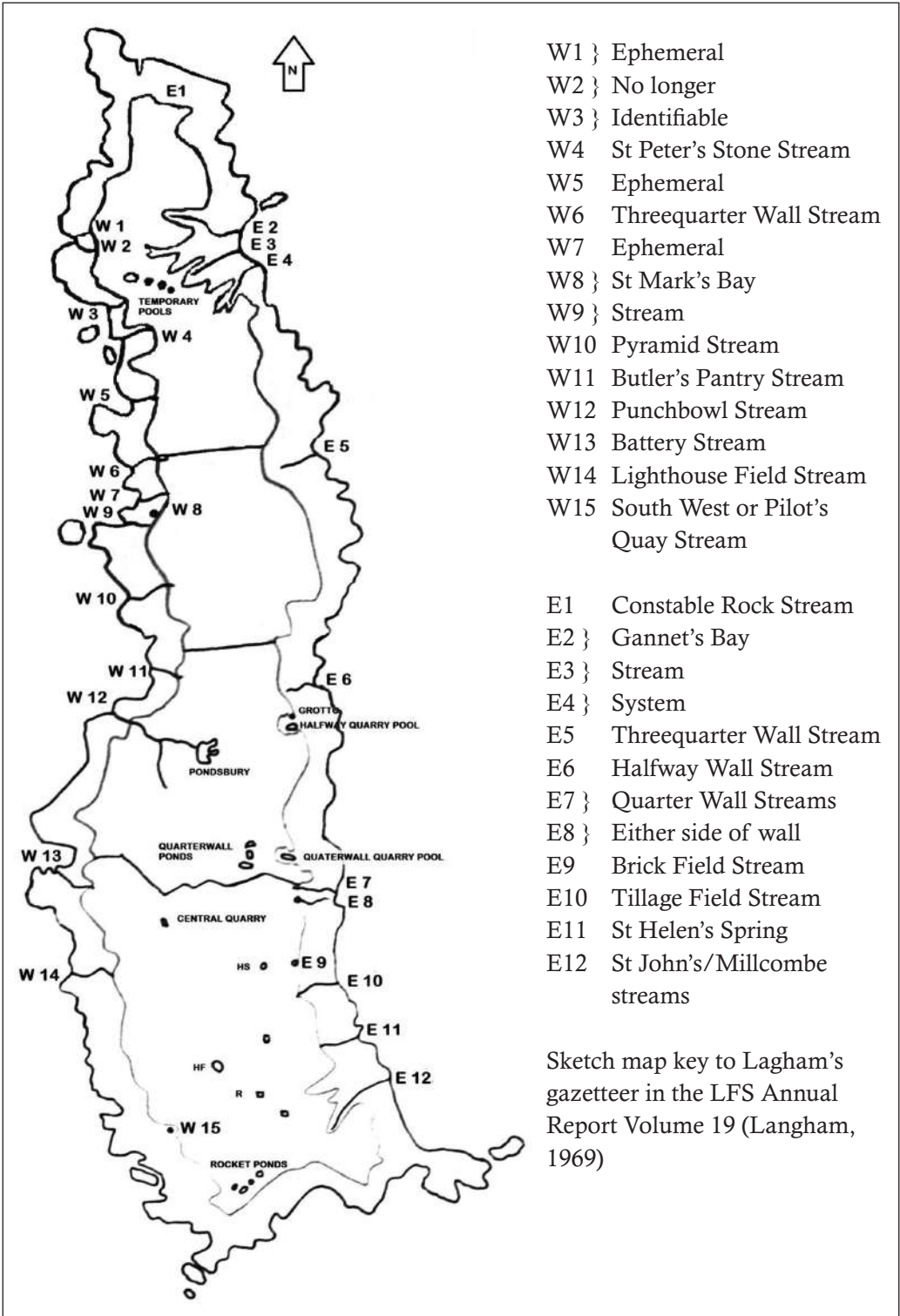


Figure 1. Reference sketch map of *Water courses and reservoirs on Lundy*. After: Langham (1969).

References: Galliford (1953) 15; Langham (1968) W13, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 12 Ackland's Moor Stream.

Brick Field Stream – SS 13674 44561, 13808 44570

Stream originating in Brick Field Well (see entry). It flows on the northern side of the south wall of Brick Field before flowing down the eastern sidelands through Quarter Wall Copse and into the sea.

Reference: Langham (1968) W9.

Butler's Pantry Stream – SS 1338 4576

This is the stream which pools under the "Cheeses" south of Quarter Wall and before quickly disappearing over the cliff.

Reference: Langham (1968) W11.

Constable Rock Stream – Path SS 1326 4799 Source SS 13408 45750

This is the overflow from Constable Rock Pond (see entry) and only flows when this pond is full. Its course is almost vertical from source to sea.

Reference: Langham (1968) E1.

Gannets' Combe Stream system – SS 1332 4749 and SS 1329 4723

There are at least three distinct streams, heavily overgrown with bracken, flowing eastward from around the central footpath into Gannets' Bay where they converge before falling over the cliff edge at SS 1353 4744.

Another separate stream emerges from the plateau at SS 1352 4713 and runs towards Slipper Rock before tumbling over the cliff at SS13560 47227.

Langham's and Richards (*et al.*) source grid references are E1 1326 4799; E3 1343 4730; E4 1353 4750; East 1 1332 4750.

Reference: Langham (1968) E2, E3, E4; Long (1993) East 1, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 1, 2, 3.

Halfway Wall Stream – SS 13802 45676

This is a very short stream hidden by vegetation for most of the year. Early in the year when there is no bracken and little other vegetation, it can be seen to emerge far down the cliff slope and runs for about 10 m before emptying over the cliff.

Reference: Langham (1968) E6, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 5 Halfway Wall.

Millcombe Stream – SS 1386 4405

This stream emerges some 100 m downhill from Government House. It flows past the Casbah before disappearing underground at the side of Millcombe House. Fluorescein tracing confirmed that the stream that emerges from the ground in the Secret Garden is the same stream. It then flows through Millcombe Gardens where it merges with St John's Stream and flows via Millcombe Pond into the sea via Smelly Gully. Originally a natural stream, it was canalised through the gardens sometime between 2006 and 2012.

Reference: Langham (1968) E12, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 9 Millcombe.

Old Light Stream – SS 1325 4446

Stream north of the Old Light which develops from a spring at the western end of the airfield at OS grid reference SS 13259 44464. The spring appears after wet weather and is absent for most of the year. It flows west into the marshy pool north of the Old Light then down the cliffs into the Western Sidings. It consists of alternating areas of rapids, pools and small waterfalls interspersed with larger boulders and smaller rocks. (See also **Old Light Pond**.)

Reference: George & Sheridan (1986), Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 11 Ackland's Moor Stream.

Pilot's Quay Stream (see **South West Stream**)

Pondsbury Stream – SS 1326 4520

The southern of a pair of streams which join together to form Punchbowl Stream before flowing westward over the cliff. Confluence at SS 1317 4548.

Punchbowl Stream – Source SS 1341 4545 (Pondsbury) Confluence SS 1317 4548

A fairly short stream flowing from Pondsbury down Punchbowl valley via the adjacent small David's Pool (see entry). It consists of alternating areas of rapids, pools and small waterfalls interspersed with larger boulders and smaller rocks with rapid flow throughout and eventually flowing over the cliff. A tributary, Pondsbury Stream (see entry) joins it from the south halfway above Punchbowl valley at the confluence.

Reference: Hemsley in Fraser-Bastow (1949), Pondsbury West Side; Galliford (1953) 17; Langham (1968), W12; George & Sheridan (1986), Punchbowl Valley; Long (1993), West 4, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 13 Pondsbury Stream.

Pyramid Stream – Source SS1348 4610 Bridge SS1335 4612

This stream is up to 1m in width and widens into two pools beside the path. There is no vegetation in either and the lower pool is practically silted up (Langham, 1968). It passes between where telegraph poles No 53 and No 54 stood and curving north of pole No 54. The source is in Middle Park but separate from Middle Park Pond (see entry) where it rises amidst *Sphagnum* and *Juncus* ssp. Rushes at SS 13488 46112.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 7; Langham (1968) W10; Long (1993) West 3, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 14 Middle Park Stream.

Quarry Leat – SS 1374 4500

A short artificial stream created to divert surface water from the quarry workings. It drains Quarter Wall Pond North (q.v.) and is most apparent from a position adjacent to the former Quarry Company Smithy. It runs in a narrow granite lined channel, which is occasionally bridged with granite blocks before being lost in a granite spoil heap above Quarter Wall Copse on the east coast at SS 1387 4493.

Reference: Rothwell & Ternstrom (2008) The Quarry Leat.

Quarter Wall Stream – SS 1356 4488

This rises on the north side of the wall bounding Brick Field by Quarter Wall gate. It

then flows east to the Upper East Side Path before flowing down through Quarter Wall Copse and falling into the sea.

Reference: Langham (1968) E7, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 6.

St Helen's Stream – SS 1377 4488

A stream rising near St Helen's Well (see entry) in Barton's (or St Helen's) Field and flowing down to Ladies Beach.

Reference: Langham (1968) E11 Long (1993) East 2, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 7 St Helena's Copse (sic).

St John's Stream – SS 1377 4399

A stream rising in the corner of Stoneycroft and running underground across Lighthouse Field. It is piped near Quarters Pond via the Helipad to re-surface north of the Church where it runs overland to the head of St John's Valley. It receives runoff from the Golden Well area then flows down St John's Valley via Brambles Pond and thence through Millcombe gardens where it is joined by Millcombe Stream. This combined stream then empties into Millcombe Pond before falling to the sea through Smelly Gully. It is stated never to dry up (Gade, 1978; Fursdon pers. comm.). Langham (1968) described it as "Leat running across the field below the Church starting by the Hotel and ultimately ending in St John's Valley. It is however liable to, and does, dry up."

Reference: Langham (1968) E12, P24; Long (1993) East 2, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997).



Plate 1. St Peter's Stone Stream.

St Mark's Bay Stream – SS 1346 4647

A small stream dammed to produce a moderate sized pool with muddy bottom. Between where telegraph poles No 57 and No 58 were located. [Pole 58 originally gave a line eastwards to Tibbetts.]

Reference: Langham (1968) W8/9, Long (1993) West 2, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 15 Middle Park Stream.

St Peter's Stone Stream – SS 1345 4696

This drains the northern edge of Widow's Tenement. Rising in marshy ground, it runs westwards via two dammed pools, one each side of the path and full of Marsh St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum* where it is crossed by stepping stones before quickly running over the cliff into the sea.

This is north of where telegraph pole No 69 stood. Grid reference is given for where the west side path crosses the stream via the stepping stones.

The upper pool has much floating vegetation (*Potamogeton* and *Hypericum*) merging into *Sphagnum* marsh at the eastern end. The lower pool is shallow with less vegetation. The stream progresses along SS 13274 47002 and SS 13247 47004 (pics1669-72) before falling over the cliff edge at SS 13204 47011.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 6; Langham (1968) W4; Long (1993) West 1, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 16 North End Stream.

South West or Pilot's Quay Stream – Source SS 1329 4400 pool SS 1324 4397

A stream which rises in marshy ground in the field south of the Old Light which is dammed by a very substantial dam near the cliff top.

Reference: Langham (1968) W15, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 10 South West Field Stream.

Three Quarter Wall Stream – SS 13752 46528

This insignificant stream drains from the north side of Tibbetts Hill and crosses the Lower East Side Path at the above grid reference from where it flows north-eastwards into the bay south of Brazen Ward. It is less than 100 m in length and consists of pools and marshy areas.

Reference: Langham (1968) E5, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 4.

Tillage Field Stream – SS 1380 4445

A stream rising from the pond in Tillage Field (q.v.) above the Upper East Side Path halfway along the wall of the Tillage Field and flowing east over the Eastern Sidings.

Reference: Langham (1968) E10, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) 8 Broad Coombe.

PONDS – LENTIC WATERS

A grid reference is given at either the actual or estimated central point of the pond. Plate 2 shows Quarry Pond formed in a man-made excavation, Plate 3 Long Roost is a pond in a naturally occurring hollow. Plate 4, South-West Field pond shows an example of a dammed waterway forming a pond. Plate 5, Middle Park Pond is an example of a man-made scrape which forms a pond.



Plate 2. Quarry Pond.



Plate 3. Long Roost Pond.



Plate 4. South-west Field Pond.



Plate 5. Middle Park Pond.

Ackland's Moor Pond – SS 1325 4476

A pool in an old clean sided excavation in the granite about a quarter of a mile north of the Old Light on the old Golf Course close to trig point 466 and just south of a pronounced bend in Quarter Wall. Water very green with algae and muddy bottom. Langham's map names it Central Quarry but refers to it as the High Pond Quarry when originally excavated by the Granite Company.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 4; Langham (1968) P10, Langham (1994) Rowland (2014), George & Rowland (2016).

Airfield Pond – SS 1325 4464

Identified on an early map from where it is shown as the source of either Battery or Old Light Stream. It is an occasional pool which floods in very wet weather to the south of, and distinct from, Ackland's Moor Pond.

Reference: NDRO (1840).

Barton Cottages Pond – SS 1372 4423

Pool excavated by the tenant farmer, Kevin Welsh in 2010 (pers. comm. 2010), a pond in Barton's Field for watering stock.

Barton's Field Pond – SS 13725 44176

Pool excavated by the tenant farmer, Kevin Welsh in 2010 (pers. comm.). Another Pond in Barton's Field, a scrape quickly filled with water to create a stock watering hole. It is fenced to allow geese to use it but not larger stock. It relieves a 'blister' of water trapped between strata flowing from higher on the plateau towards Lighthouse Field (Roger Fursdon, pers. comm.).

Battery Reservoir – SS 12964 44934

A small pool which is very marshy and the source of Battery Stream water course. Even in very wet weather there is no open water merely a marshy area of *Juncus* sp. rushes.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 16; Langham (1968) P8.

Brambles Pond – SS 1397 4397

Although shown on the 1967 OS map, this does not feature in Langham's (1968) otherwise complete listing. Pictures exist from the time of the rebuilding of Brambles as Colonel Gilliat's residence around 1970 showing a landscaped terraced area either side of the St John's stream but with no pond. In 2019, the area was excavated by the Lundy Conservation Team to reform the pond and in November a baseline survey was undertaken by the author.

Brick Field Pond – SS 13706 44900

Located in Brick Field immediately south of Quarter Wall in a rush and boggy area. It was created by Kevin Welsh, the tenant farmer in 2009, by scraping out the area to conserve pumped water thus creating a stock watering hole. (Welsh, pers. comm.). A low bank of excavated earth is located on the west bank of the pond. It receives much surface water from the stream which runs along both sides of Quarter Wall and reveals the high water table in the area. It has quickly been adopted by flying insects and aquatic plants.

Constable Rock Pool – SS 1326 4799

Small deep *Sphagnum* pool on cliffs above Constable Rock. When full it overflows to become Constable Rock Stream (see entry).

Reference: Langham (1968) E1.

David's Pool – SS 13846 44228

A small pool adjacent to and on the western edge of Pondsbury from whence flows Punchbowl Stream (see entry).

Reference: George (2006).

Government House Pond – SS 1380 4406

A sheltered area excavated from the rocks on the north side of the path near Government House and protected by trees. First referred to as “the pond in the Quarry” Heaven Archive 1870, a later unpublished document Langham (1993) suggests it was the quarry from where stone was quarried to build The Old House of Sir John Borlase Warren and later he refers to it as “Garden Quarry” (Langham, 1994). Ternstrom (1999) notes it in her Gazetteer as G343 Pond in the Quarry.

Reference: Heaven Archive (1870); Langham (1993, 1994); Ternstrom (1999); Rowland (2020).

Howard's Quarry Pond – SS 13868 45276

A very weedy, dark and murky pool immediately below the western wall of this quarry. It is overhung by *Salix* sp. (willow) and heavily covered in blanket weed. It dries up completely each summer leaving white shrouds of blanket weed and appears to be up to 2 m in depth.

Johnny's Pool – SS 13287 47237

Two adjacent pools, one on the central track the other to the west of the track, which contains water for the majority of the year and only occasionally dries. See also

Temporary Ponds at the North End.

Reference: George (2006).

Kistvaen Pond (see Rocket Pole Pond)

Lighthouse Field Pond – SS 1345 4415

Originally, this was a large cattle pond in the field south east of the Old Light. It was fenced and had a rich fauna and flora. Illustrated in Galliford, it is now a complete hydrosere revealed only by thicker vegetation of *Eleocharis palustris*, Common Spike Rush and *Juncus effusus* soft rush in an otherwise complete pasture.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 3; Langham (1968) P19.

Long Roost Pond – SS 13176 47565 (Plate 3)

Not reported until it was found in May 2014 – it may prove to be temporary.

Approximately 6 x 2 m and probably 30 cm in depth.

It is a natural hollow formed in granite with a granite gravel bottom showing some signs of vegetation. Lying northeast-southwest almost at the north eastern tip of the island.

A hand grab of gravel revealed three *Lumbriculus variegatus* Black Worm, and observation of three Chironomidae Non-biting midge larvae in vegetative cases on the surface. A small diving beetle Dytiscid was seen disappearing into the bottom gravel.

Water is clear but tinged yellow-brown by peat.

Subsequently a reference was found in Moulton (1974). The route to the climb 'Rock Pool Buttress' (MR13174787) refers to the "rock pool on its summit".

Middle Park Pond – SS 13523 46172 (Plate 2)

It is a scrape to contain groundwater in a natural depression but has neither inlet nor outlet. It is fairly close to, but separate from, the source of Pyramid Stream (see entry) but does not appear to contribute to it.

The eastern edge has been defined by granite boulders and some attempt has been made to form a small separate enclosure. An old copper washing boiler placed adjacent to the scrape provides a small deep and more permanent water collection. To the south and west, there is a bank apparently formed from the original scrape. The body of the pond is flat and shallow on the bedrock but has accumulated organic matter and silt. It was certainly formed before the 1970s (Richard Campey, pers. comm.).

Millcombe Pond – SS 1404 4403

Before the 1980s this was a watercress bed located halfway between the beach and plateau at 125 m above sea level. The pond was excavated in 1984/5 by David Rosser a building contractor with help from the island workforce as a sewage treatment and disposal facility. The bottom was lined with polythene sheeting before being covered with puddling clay.

It is fed by St John's stream which is visible at Lodore below Brambles and reappears in the gardens and is joined by the flow through the Secret Garden from Millcombe Valley.

There are two outflows from the pond. The original is via a 12 cm diameter concrete pipe in the south-east corner of the pond, 18 cm deep with a controlled sluice. This is fed from a submerged pipe 70 cm below the top of the pipe. In the bottom of the concrete pipe there is a gulley running east west. Water can be heard running, but not seen in this gulley. The second outflow is at the centre of the eastern bund. This feeds under the concrete sewage tank into Smelly Gulley. This sewage tank is serviced via five manhole covers. A further pair of manhole covers adjacent to the road gives access to the outflow from the sewage treatment works.

In 2021, a channel was dug across the pond from the stream to the leaky outflow which has, so far, not reverted to a pond.

Reference: Dave Rosser (pers. comm.); Harvey (1950).

North Quarry Pools (Smith's Point Quarry Pools) – SS 1383 4557

Two pools in the North Quarry which are shallow and covered in *Lemna* sp. Duckweed.

Pool 1 – nearest the quarry entrance on the south side varies from 0.73 m (October 2003) to 0.57 m (April 2005) and is approximately 6 x 3.5 m in area.

Pool 2 – adjacent to the steep quarry wall, on the south side is completely surrounded by large rocks. It varies from 0.9 m (October 2003) to 1.25 m (April 2005) and is

approximately 2.9 x 1.7 m in area Langham's map references these as Halfway Quarry Pond.

Reference: Langham (1968), George, McHardy (Stone) & George (2003); George (2006).

Old Light Pond – SS 1306 4456

Pool north of the Old Light. This small shallow pool forms part of the stream system flowing down Western sidings (see also **Old Light Stream**). In August 1979 there was a small through flow of water, and a fairly dense cover of vegetation had been established. In 2010, this is an almost permanently silted up hydrosphere which only has any depth of water in very wet conditions.

Reference: George and Stone (1980).

Pondsbury – SS 1345 4545

The largest body of freshwater on the island, it is surrounded by *Sphagnum* bog, heathland and rough grazing pasture. It is probably of natural origin although the damming on the west side has increased its size and depth. Its margins are marshy and the water at the edge is fairly shallow and threatened by encroaching vegetation and peat formation. It receives surface run-off from the surrounding land and has an outlet stream that flows down Punchbowl Valley (see entry) and into the sea at Jenny's Cove. During dry periods the pond becomes reduced in size and very occasionally can dry up altogether, as it did in 1976.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 9; Langham (1968) P4; Clabburn (1993; George (1997); George (2006) George & Stone (1979), Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) P3.

Quarters Pond (see Reservoir Pond)

Quarry Pond or William Heard's Quarry Pond – SS 1375 4503 (Plate 2).

This is a very sheltered body of water, 22 x 11 m. It is a true deep quarry pool overshadowed by steep rocky walls and some willow trees. It is fed by a small stream falling over granite boulders and has a shallow swampy outlet on its eastern side through a path of weeds and willows. It is used as a watering hole by horses, sheep, cattle and deer. Langham's Map references it as Quarterwall Quarry Pond

Reference: Hemsley in Fraser-Bastow (1949) Old Quarry; Galliford (1953) 8 Old Quarry Pond; Langham (1968) Quarterwall Quarry; George (1997); George, McHardy (Stone) & George (2003); George (2006) Quarry Pool

Quarter Wall Ponds

Originally there were four ponds marked on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map but currently there are three in existence.

Quarter Wall Pond 1 – SS 1361 4493 although classed as a permanent pond, it does dry out in exceptionally dry summers. It is the largest of the ponds formed from an excavation in the rock. It is an open body of water 19 x 12 m with steep rocky banks and only a few weed beds. Situated at a high level on the island's eastern side, it probably receives little surface drainage. It has no outlet.

Quarter Wall Pond 2 – SS 1359 4491 to the south of Pond 1 is a temporary shallow weedy pond with no open water. It is situated in a depression (3 x 6 m) in a marshy area

where there are stands of soft rush. Its edges are marshy with a few large rocks. Its depth varies according to weather conditions with a maximum recorded depth of .0.3m. In dry periods, for example the summer of 1995 and summer/autumn 2003, it dries up altogether. There is a small outlet on the eastern side which drains into a ditch on the north side of Quarter Wall. This drains over the eastern sidelands and is joined by the increasingly pond like boggy area to the south of the wall.

Quarter Wall Pond 3 – SS 1361 4498 to the north of Pond 2 is a weedy depression approximately 30 x 8 m in size. It is mainly overgrown with weed, but there is a small area of open water much used by Mallard in the breeding season. It eventually forms a small stream which drains over the eastern sidelands via a channel near to Belle Vue Cottages.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 5, 5a; Langham (1968) Quarterwall Ponds; George (1978) Quarterwall Ponds 1 and 2; George & Stone (1979); George, McHardy (Stone) & George (2003); George 1997; George 2006, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) P2.

Ray's Pool (see St Helen's Spring)

Reservoir or Quarters Pond – SS 1364 4403

A large artificial pond in the south-eastern corner of Lighthouse Field. St John's Stream (see entry) flows into and out of it. It is part of the island's water supply system.

Reference: Langham (1968) P21.

Rocket Pole Ponds

There were four sites here numbered from west to east. Currently only two are to be seen:

Rocket Pole Pond 1 – SS 1348 4368, is a steep sided deep body of freshwater excavated in the granite near the South-West Point. It is 25 x 11.5 m in size and up to 2.2 m in depth with its western side stepped and much shallower. There is no through drainage. It is fully exposed to the prevailing westerly winds. It is frequently coloured green by an algal bloom.

Rocket Pole Pond 2 – Kistvaen Pond – SS 1355 4369 is the large depression to the east of Rocket Pole Pond. A temporary autumnal pond, it contains some water at some times of the year. At other times there is no water at all.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 1 Rocket Pond and Rocket Pole temporary 11; Langham (1968) Rocket Pole Ponds; George & Stone (1979); George (1997); George, McHardy (Stone) & George (2003); George (2006), Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) P1a, P1b, P1c, P1d; Rowland (2020).

St Helen's Spring – SS 1385 4422

Situated at the bottom of the field below Barton Cottages. It is a spring fed pool with a maximum depth, in January 2006, of 0.75m. It lies adjacent to the eastern wall above the sidelands where it sources St Helen's stream (see entry). Not to be confused with St Helen's Well which is now, lost.

Reference: Langham (1968) E11, George (2006) (Ray's Pool); (St Helen's Well).

Sheep Dip – SS 13705 44193

This stood in the farmyard between Barton Cottages and the Slaughterhouse and should not be confused with the original sheep dip now lying disused in the corner of Brick Field (see **Brick Field Well**). In May 2010, it lay disused with the surface covered in *Lemna* sp. Duckweed. By 2020, following a visit by the island's Health and Safety Officer, it had been filled in.

South-West Field Pond – SS 1324 4397 (Plate 4)

A man-made dam created on the western cliff edge of the South West Field across Southwest Field Stream (see entry) forms a square pool used for watering stock. It consists of several courses of field stone with an overflow pipe in its centre.

Reference: Langham (1968).

Temporary Pools at the North End

A series of shallow ponds marked on the Ordnance Survey map on the area that was burnt in a major heathland fire in 1933. They are shallow depressions in the solid granite with a bottom of loose quartz and, increasingly, more flora. A series of four were seen in February 2010. Up to 25 such temporary pools can be identified in very wet years. (e.g. June 2012).

Temporary North End Pond 1 – SS 13163 47275 – approximately 32 x 10m.

Temporary North End Ponds 2, 3, and 4 – centred on no 3 – SS 13223 47236 10 x 2, 19 x 5 and 10 x 3 respectively north to south. See also **Johnny's Pool**.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 10; Langham (1968) P1, Richardson, Compton & Whitely (1997) P4 North End Pond.

Tillage Field Pond – SS13805 44460

A depression at the extreme eastern edge of Tillage Field much used by domestic stock. There is an outflow under the fence which forms Tillage Stream (see entry).

Widow's Tenement Pond – SS 1346 4682

In a boggy area due east of the location of telegraph pole No 66 is a cattle pond about 12 m in diameter with a muddy bottom. In February 2010 this was measured at 10 m (N-S) x 14 m (E-W) partially encircled by *Juncus articulatus* (jointed rush) and containing *Potamogeton* sp. pond weed and other water plants.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 12; Langham (1968) P2; Rowland (2014); George & Rowland (2016).

WELLS – LENTIC WATERS

Many of these wells are listed by Langham (1968) with the prefix "P" indicating them as ponds. I have separated out the obvious wells. Plate 6 illustrates two examples of wells on Lundy, the Old Hospital and Airfield wells.

Airfield Well – SS 13241 44399 (Plate 6 lower)

An otherwise unidentified and un-investigated well covered in rusting corrugated iron measuring 0.9 m square with a depth of 1.75 m of which 1.07 m was water.



Plate 6. Old Hospital Cottages (upper) and Airfield (lower) Wells.

Battery Cottage Tank – SS 1279 4491

Stone reservoir immediately adjacent to the easternmost cottage and the side of the path.

Reference: Langham (1968) P9.

Belle Vue Cottages Pump house – SS 1375 4495

Well-marked by a granite square filled with rubble. 2.5 x 2m.

Reference: Rothwell & Ternstrom (2006).

Benson's Borehole –SS1351 4388

A small concrete depression about three feet square, being a concrete cover to borehole made in search of reputed treasure to a depth of 500 ft.

Reference: Langham (1968) P28, Langham (1991), Gade (1978).

Brick Field Well – SS 13674 44561

In the south-west corner of Brick Field, a two metre square, shallow well. This is the original Sheep Dip. It is situated at a blocked gateway which led into the Airfield, the north bank being defined by a fallen gatepost. It is the source of Brick Field Stream, the outflow is piped under the gateway to Tillage Field from where it runs the length of Brick Field before flowing down the eastern sidelands.

Since 2020/21, the area was enclosed as a pig run and the site may not now be visible.

Reference: Gade (1978).

Bull's Paradise or Fowl Run Well – SS 13671 44237

10 x 10 x 5 m deep. A covered reservoir and open well 6 x 4 x 2 m deep built by the Granite Company. Although listed separately by Langham, they are probably the same structure.

Reference: Langham (1968) P15 or 16.

Church Pond – SS 1368 4396

Overgrown pond in the field due west of the Church. In February 2010 this was a 1 m concrete well with rusting corrugated iron covering showing an abundance of *Lemna sp.* Duckweed.

Reference: Langham (1968) P25.

Golden Well – SS 1385 4384

Originally a large, fenced pool on the reputed site of Golden Well, a source of St John's Stream between the Church and Castle Hill and named for the colour the silt gives to its water. Golden Well was concreted, cleaned out, and a filter-bed added so that Bramble Villa would have a better supply and quality of water (Gade, 1978). The outflow runs down towards the crenelated wall at the top of St John's Valley where it runs under the road at SS 13895 43875.

Reference: Galliford (1953) 2; Langham (1968) P29.

Greensward Cistern – SS 13743 44080

Collects surface water from farm area, which is carried across the main path by pipe. This is now disused but is located beneath the seats in 'the Nook'.

Reference: Langham (1968) P20.

Millcombe Well – SS 1401 4402

Dipping well beside the main track by the entrance to Millcombe House drive, taking the flow from stream St John's Stream and adjacent to the freshwater pump house. This is also known as Lodore, possibly from the colour of the water (Golden Water) with reference to the poem *The Cataract of Lodore* by Robert Southey 1820.

Reference: Langham (1968) P23.

Old Hospital Cottages Well – SS 13629 45051 (Plate 6 upper)

A well at the eastern side of the central path constructed for the cottages, the foundations of which are still apparent. 0.4 x 0.4 m, 1.25 m in depth of which 0.5 m is water.

Reference: Langham (1968) P5 Quarter Wall cistern.

Old Light Wells – SS 13216 44281

Two adjacent covered wells within compound of the Old Lighthouse.

Reference: Langham (1968) P12 & 13.

Parson's Well – SS 1333 4415

South-West Field – in the area close to the Friar's Garden but not currently visible.

Reference: Galliford (1953) Spring in Friar's Garden Field, 13; Langham (1968) P18.

Quarter Wall Cottages Well – SS 13552 44929

West of the track behind the foundations of Quarter Wall Cottages which it served. 0.55 x 0.75 m and 1.75 m deep of which 1.35 m is water.

St Helen's Well – SS 1338 4418

Although recorded by Langham this can no longer be located but is marked on the Ordnance Survey map by the symbol for a Site of Antiquity in St Helen's or Barton Field.

Reference: Langham (1968) P17.

St John's Well – SS 13913 43898

There are three candidates for this well.

1. St John's Well is located on all Ordnance Survey maps just below the beach road on the south side of St John's Valley. Water wells up from there before joining the stream at SS 13913 43898. Smith (1959) reports it as being "close to the road, but some feet below its level, about 200 yards above the bungalow (Brambles)". He gives further information on the valley "In St John's Valley, mid-way between the top wall and the bungalow, can be seen the remains of a dam which once stood there."

2. At the junction of this road and the road between the Castle and Village there is a square structure which once was roofed and contained water which fed into a drinking trough at the side of the Beach Road. Covered well at junction of roads at top of St. John's valley SS 1390 4386.

3. At the head of the valley is a stone and brick structure located immediately adjacent to the boundary wall. It is heavily overgrown with *Rubus* sp Brambles. Water feeds the well from the road into the square structure forming a heavily vegetated but shallow pool about 5-6 cm in depth.

It takes run-off from the road which collects in the shallow 2 m square well before overflowing down St John's Valley. SS 13878 43909.

Reference: Langham (1968) P27, Smith (1959).

Stoneycroft Well – SS 13283 44271

Located in the south-west corner of the front garden at Stoneycroft. It is a Trinity House construction. Covered well approx. 3' x 3' and 11' deep. "A true well- never known to run dry."

Reference: Langham (1968) p. 14.

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