

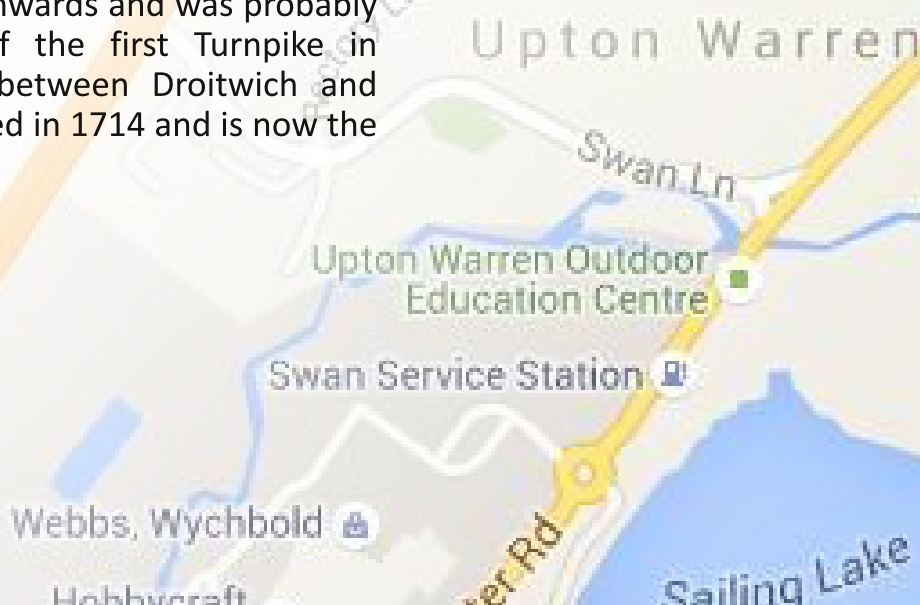


A Pictorial History

The village of Upton Warren lies about 3 miles north of Droitwich on the west bank of the River Salwarpe, a salt water river rising in the Lickey Hills and flowing south westerly to the Severn.

The Parish extends to the west towards the Parish of Elmbridge and north of the village towards the main Bromsgrove-Kidderminster Road (A491). The village is adjacent to the route of a Roman Road that extended from southwest to northeast variously known as Hicknel or Ryknild Street that followed the line of an early Iron Age track that met other similar tracks at what became the Roman Fort of Metchley, now part of Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

The route was important for the transportation of salt from Salinae (Droitwich) northwards and was probably an extension of the first Turnpike in Worcestershire between Droitwich and Worcester created in 1714 and is now the A38.



The village Church, St. Michaels, was originally consecrated around 1300, but was substantially rebuilt during the 1700s, with oak panelling around the walls and a small balcony on the West wall.



The Parish is largely rural with farming and agriculture being the predominant industry, although in more recent years a number of farms have been sold and land given over to horse pasture. One feature of the agricultural past is the 'War Ag'. During the second world war the government requisitioned around 14.5 million acres of land including a small part of Upton Warren beside the Church upon which was erected a building to house agricultural equipment, although the original building is no longer there the land is still known as the War Ag.





The land, before the Norman Conquest, belonged to the Abbots of Evesham having been granted to them by the Anglo Saxon holder Ethelbald of Mercia in 716 and was then known as Houpton. The village is referred to in the Domesday Book as being part of the Clent Hundred and having 26 inhabitants, including four slaves! The assets of the village included a Mill, the house to which still exists although greatly modified since Domesday. In the 16th Century the Talbot family who later became Earls of Shrewsbury acquired Upton Warren.



The Topographical Dictionary of England by Samuel Lewis published in 1831 describes a school in Upton Warren endowed with the rent of certain land in the parish of Bromsgrove, left many years since for that purpose: a house for the master and a schoolroom are given by the Earl of Shrewsbury, at a nominal rent. After its closure in 1969 it was variously used as a museum and latterly a private dwelling. The photograph shows the school and head teachers house in about 1918.





The nearby Christopher Cadbury Wetland Reserve is a haven for wildfowl and other birds and attracts many visitors both human and feathered! The human visitors slaking their thirst in the Swan Public House.

