

## Farm Close Lane summary

In this lane, there was a farmhouse, now No. 6, but having been previously No. 5. The name Farm Close for this property appears in a conveyance of 31 March 1952, based on the 1889 conveyance plan. The orchard shown on this plan became an extension to Beech Road in the 1960s. In a deed of 1806, Stile Cottage is shown as being bounded on the south by Farm Close.

The earliest, but unseen, deeds relating to this farmhouse go back to a conveyance dated 30 April 1697, following which the four-roomed house was sold in 1702 to the Wakelin family who occupied it until 1787. The first extant deed of 1794 refers to a mortgage of 1729 which strongly suggests that today's house was built around the turn of the 1600s and 1700s. This is supported by the listing particulars, and also by current professional opinion. Originally there was a close (field or enclosure) of one and a half acres included but, by 1794, this had become half an acre when the property was sold to John Davis subject to occupation by the Poollin family. The datestone which reads IED 1808 probably marks the addition to the original house by Davis (Js were shown as Is at this time), the Poollin family moving into this extension and remaining there until 1889. John Davis took possession of the original house and half an acre. In 1889, the whole property was sold to John Russell, the postmaster operating from 48 High Street. John Russell died soon after, but his widow continued the postal business. His two sisters, Mary Jane Russell (born 1846), and Elizabeth Farthing, nee Russell (born 1840) with her husband George Farthing, a bootmaker, moved in to Farm Close Lane until 1927.

To the west of what is now number 7 was a hovel, shown in a drawing by Phyllis Floud of Ickford, but now demolished. It is shown in Figure 3.19; in the 1889 conveyance plan on the west left-hand boundary; and with a photograph of the original firemark which had been displayed on 6 Farm Close Lane. This firemark dates to c. 1850 and was issued by the County Fire Office (formed in 1807). The original is held at the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Centre in Kidlington.

The Croft, to the south of the farmhouse in Farm Close Lane and now with Mulberry Drive addresses, was and remains three cottages with deeds dating back to 1734, and then described as being in Farm Close Lane.