

ROUNDAABOUT VERWOOD

PAST and PRESENT

West Farm, Romford.

The farmhouse of West Farm, Romford, previously known as Lower Farm, lies to the south of the Cranborne Road. Its lower fields encompassed the water meadows of the River Crane whilst its upper

fields rose towards the chalk of Cranborne Chase. Like many other Estate farmhouses it was built of brick since the Shaftsbury Estate had its own brickyard in a time when ordinary Verwood cottages were cob 'mudwall' structures. Although the house is in Wimborne St Giles parish, its fields extended into Woodlands, Horton and Edmondsham.

William James Standfield (Son of William of Verwood Farm) was the farmer here



Photo early 1900's.

in the late 19th century and after him came the Lush family before it came into the possession of the Frouds who still remain. Much of the original holding is now Crane Valley Golf Course whilst farm buildings have been converted into attractive Holiday Lodges.

Today the farmhouse looks even more attractive, set into its own manicured grounds, than it did in the old black and white photo. But like many of today's farms they have sensibly diversified into

a holiday destination - so it's hardly surprising that they look so appealing since they have to look their best to attract customers in this new market.

In addition to the holiday lodges West Farm is also a Caravan Club Certified Location for members of the caravanning fraternity and they also have a fascinating collection of unusual animal breeds ideal for visiting children.



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