

Press Archive — Newspaper Transcripts

Version 1.0.0 · 2026-10-23

Editors of the Great House Farm Legal Wiki

Table of Contents

1	Release notes	1
1.1	This release (version 1.0.0).	1
1.2	Older versions	1
2	Record	1
2.1	GHF-E090-N01 — 1891: “Llandough. Alleged Farmyard Theft”	2
2.2	GHF-E090-N02 — May 1897: “Wireless Telegraphy. Marconi Invention Tested at Lavernock”	2
2.3	GHF-E090-N03 — 16 April 1974: “‘Open day’ to save ancient Welsh house” (Daily Telegraph)	2
2.4	GHF-E090-N04 — 19 November 1974 or 1977: “Grievous loss” (Western Mail, letter)	3
2.5	GHF-E090-N05 — 17 April 1980: “Historical Society had notable year” (Neath Guardian, p.13)	3
2.6	GHF-E090-N06 — 18 March 1983: “Burnt relics represented years of digs” (South Wales Echo)	4
2.7	GHF-E090-N07 — c. 30 April 1988: “Chainsaw farmer vows to fight on”	4
2.8	GHF-E090-N08 — 3 December 1988: “History fight to save farm” (South Wales Echo)	5
2.9	GHF-E090-N09 — 3 December 1988: “Billy’s unhappy family” (South Wales Echo, p.2).	5
2.10	GHF-E090-N10 — 6 December 1988: “Farmer fails in final eviction hearing” (Western Mail).	5
2.11	GHF-E090-N11 — c. 7 December 1988: “Tears flow as 800 year-old farm house is razed at last”	6
2.12	GHF-E090-N12 — January 1989: “Charge against evicted farmer dropped”	6
2.13	GHF-E090-N13 — 1989: “From farm to a bus” (South Wales Echo)	7
2.14	GHF-E090-N14 — c. 30 November 1988: “Angry scenes as farmer evicted” (South Wales Echo, front page)	7
2.15	GHF-E090-N15 — South Wales Echo search-result extracts, April 1988 – March 1989	7
2.16	GHF-E090-N16 — 22 May 1980: House of Commons, Ted Rowlands MP on BP and Western Ground Rents (Hansard)	8
2.17	Cross-check: the family’s rundown file (Google Drive)	8
2.18	Page version & change log.	9

Page 1035 of the Great House Farm Legal Wiki, carried over from the version last modified on 2026-10-21. The same page is published at research.bucklerfamily.estate, and this version is also a [PDF](#) in the wayback archive.

1 Release notes

1.1 This release (version 1.0.0)

- **2026-Oct-23** - Carried over to the docs library from Legal Wiki page 1035 (last modified 2026-10-21 19:21:06 UTC). The page text, dates and references are as on the wiki. Links to wiki pages lead to the same page on research.bucklerfamily.estate; images are links to their files on the wiki.

1.2 Older versions

None yet.

2 Record

Page ID: 1035 · **Title:** Press Archive — Newspaper Transcripts · **Evidence status:** Not yet labelled — see the Editing

Protocol · **Version:** 1.0.0 · [Editing Protocol](#)

Corpus: Newspaper cuttings identified by 3 October 2026 in the family Google Drive, outbound correspondence and datro wayback archive. Newspaper text records what was reported, not independent proof of every statement. Bracketed text marks cross-headings, captions or editorial notes; unreadable text is marked [...].

Corrections: (1) The “Open day” cutting is annotated *D. Telegraph 16 April 74*, gives Mary (Nancy) Williams’s age as 60, and matches RCAHMW’s record of a Daily Telegraph article of 16 April 1974 (NMR 6048944). The open day was therefore held on 15 April 1974, not 19 November 1977. The “WM 19/11/7?” annotation belongs to William Rees’s letter beside it, and its last digit is unclear (N03, N04). (2) The chainsaw stand-off was the abandoned eviction attempt of 29 April 1988, not the possession of 29 November 1988 (N07, N12). (3) A High Court interim injunction in early December 1988, previously held only as an unsourced recollection, is reported by the South Wales Echo (N08, N10). (4) William Rees’s letter gives a published, though secondary, account of the manorial chain before Bute (N04; see [Research Leads](#)).

2.1 GHF-E090-N01 — 1891: “Llandough. Alleged Farmyard Theft”

Unidentified Cardiff/Penarth newspaper, 1891 (British Newspaper Archive clipping). Image: datro repository, branch financecheque-monday-agent, static/wayback/static/archives/image/2026-02-07_consortium-formal_notice_bpvsbuckler_en_v0-0-1_008.png. Significance: names Mr John Williams of Great House Farm, Llandough, in November 1891 (Williams / Buckler family).

LLANDOUGH. ALLEGED FARMYARD THEFT.—Robert Williams, a mason’s labourer, was on Tuesday charged (before Mr. John Duncan and Mr. J. S. Corbett) at the offices of the clerk to the Penarth magistrates, High-street, Cardiff, with stealing three geese, the property of Mr. John Williams, Great House Farm, Llandough, on November 11, 1891.—Sergeant Ferris, of the Cardiff Borough Police Force, deposed that he saw the prisoner early on the morning in question in Clive-street, Grangetown, carrying the geese on his back. He at once started after Williams, who dropped the geese and got away.—Police-constable Morgan, of the county constabulary, said he arrested the prisoner when he was leaving Cardiff Gaol on Monday. The prisoner, when charged with stealing the geese, replied, “All right.”—The prisoner was remanded until Monday at Penarth.

2.2 GHF-E090-N02 — May 1897: “Wireless Telegraphy. Marconi Invention Tested at Lavernock”

Unidentified Cardiff newspaper. Image: financecheque-monday-agent .../2026-02-07_consortium-formal_notice_bpvsbuckler_en_v0-0-1_003.jpg. Context only: the “Mr. Williams” named is of the Post Office engineering department, Cardiff. The article does not mention Great House Farm (family Marconi statement). ?

The postal authorities of the country have evidently faith in the possibilities of the Marconi system of telegraphing without wires, and the Italian inventor (M. Marconi) has reason to feel proud of the success of the demonstrations, so far as they have yet been carried out. M. Marconi, as was reported the other day, successfully carried out on Salisbury Plain a series of experiments with a couple of balloons attached by wires to the ground. For several days past he has been engaged in conducting experiments at Lavernock Point, near Cardiff, in testing the effective working of his system of telegraphing without wires between the mainland and the Flat Holm, and the trials have been witnessed by Mr. Preece, engineer-in-chief of the General Post Office; Mr. Gavey (late of Cardiff), now second engineer in London; Mr. Fardo, Cardiff postmaster, and other officials of the department. For the purposes of the experiments, Mr. Williams (of the engineering department, Cardiff) fixed upon Lavernock Point a pole 120 feet high, with a zinc cylinder at the summit, 5ft. 6in. by 4ft., insulated from the Flat Holm and Brean Down. The experiments on Tuesday were not so successful as might have been desired, but on Wednesday and Thursday the results were most satisfactory. On Friday afternoon there was a semi-public demonstration, when the system was explained in miniature, a transmitter facing a receiver at a distance of some twenty yards.

2.3 GHF-E090-N03 — 16 April 1974: “‘Open day’ to save ancient Welsh house” (Daily Telegraph)

By Godfrey Francis. The cutting is annotated “D. Telegraph 16 April 74” and carries a National Monuments Record (RCAHM Wales) stamp; compare NMR 6048944. Images: Drive 1546141_10201438100374529...jpg; repository 2026-02-16_consortium-newspaper_bpvsbuckler_en_v0-0-1.jpg and 2026-02-04_consortium-evidence_bpvsbuckler_en_v0-0-1_002.jpg (also wiki item GHF-E090-A67, file 10861(4).jpg). Placeholders: [GHF-E024-03](#); [Restoration campaign](#).

HUNDREDS of people yesterday flocked to see an 800-year-old house, containing centuries-old furniture and china,

which is in danger of being demolished by developers. The ten-roomed house, with magnificent oak beams and glorious views, at Llandough near Cardiff, was opened to the public by Mrs Mary Williams, 60, "to show what the nation is losing." Mrs Williams, a widow whose family first acquired Ty Mawr (Great House) in about 1667, lives there with her son, daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons. Mrs Williams said: "Planning permission to develop the land and build about 13 houses was given to B P Petroleum Pension Trust by the former Glamorgan County Council. But I will refuse to move because not only is this my home it is part of the nation's heritage."

[Ownership dispute] "The ownership of the house has been in dispute for 25 years but my family has lived here for more than 400 years and my solicitors tell me I have a valid claim to it." Plans to develop the land and demolish the house have angered local historical societies and about 1,000 people have signed a petition of protest. Ty Mawr is believed to have once been the dormitory home of 12 monks from a Celtic monastery nearby. Its history has never been adequately chronicled but a theory that it was originally a coaching house near a castle was supported by the discovery beneath the dining room floor in about 1870 of the remains of a soldier in armour, his horse, a lance and shield. [The cutting ends here; a cross-heading beginning "...3,000 PAID" is cut off.]

2.4 GHF-E090-N04 — 19 November 1974 or 1977: "Grievous loss" (Western Mail, letter)

Letter from William Rees, Penarth. It is annotated "WM 19/11/7?"; the final digit could be a crossed 4 or 7. It is pasted on the same page as N03. Its manorial history is a published secondary account, not a primary record.

SIR,—The proposal for the ultimate demolition of the Great House Farm, Llandough, would unwittingly erase from memory one of the early historical sites of Glamorgan, marking, as it does, the location of the ancient Celtic monastery, a centre of first importance in the rise of Christianity in Morgannwg, comparable, indeed, in early record with the two other great Celtic monasteries of St. Cadoc at Llancarfan and of St. Illtyd at Llantwit Major. It may be difficult for us today to envisage this one-time monastic centre of St. Dochwy, or Docunnus, in its heyday as a great collegiate institution, with its abbots — some of whose names are fully authenticated — presiding over a large community of disciples, the whole serving as an important missionising centre for the early Christianisation of our region.

This missionary movement was to continue until the Norman conquest of Glamorgan, when the monastery with its lands, church dues and other of its property was vested by the Lord of Glamorgan in the Benedictine Abbey of Tewkesbury, the church services thereafter being conducted, within the Romanised order, as the Church of the Parish of Llandough, its revenues being regularly collected for transmission to the abbey. Llandough remained appropriated to Tewkesbury until the abbey itself, with all its property, fell into the hands of the Crown at the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII in the years 1536-39. The site at Llandough, thus secularised, was sold in 1545 to Sir George Herbert, of Swansea, to form the Manor of Llandough, to remain in the possession of the Herbert family until purchased in 1793 by Lord Bute, the farmstead of Great House, or Ty Mawr, which still embodies some of its earlier features, serving as the manorhouse of Llandough. The entire site, therefore, and the church adjoining, with its ancient Celtic cross still in situ, the sole relic of the ancient monastery, enshrines one of the most interesting of the religious sites of early Morgannwg. Its passing would imply the abandonment of another of the early monuments of Wales, signifying a grievous loss to the tradition of our Welsh heritage. WILLIAM REES. Penarth.

2.5 GHF-E090-N05 — 17 April 1980: "Historical Society had notable year" (Neath Guardian, p.13)

Image: attachment 3293.jpg to the family's records request to Heneb of 24 September 2026. The Llandough excavation described is the Roman villa site south of the church, a separate site (Archaeology). Extract only.

[...] Following the business of the meeting, members were given a fascinating talk by Mr. Henry Owen-John, the assistant director of the Glamorgan/Gwent Archaeological Trust. The subject of his lecture, which was illustrated by numerous slides, was the work of the Trust and some of their recent archaeological 'digs' in Glamorgan, notably the excavations at Llandough near Cardiff, where the substantial remains of a Roman Villa and part of a later medieval house were discovered. In his vote of thanks, Mr. Leslie Evans expressed his and the Society's admiration of the tireless efforts and valuable work of the Glamorgan/Gwent Trust in recording threatened sites and their rescue archaeology in the face of modern developments.

2.6 GHF-E090-N06 — 18 March 1983: “Burnt relics represented years of digs” (South Wales Echo)

Echo Reporter. Image: attachment 3290.jpg to the 24 September 2026 Heneb request. It concerns the Llandough Roman villa material, not a Great House Farm record; see the 1983 fire line of enquiry (A-052).

THE Glamorgan/Gwent Archaeological Trust are still counting the cost of the disastrous fire which swept through their Swansea warehouse last Sunday evening destroying thousands of relics of Welsh heritage. The trust's director Mr Gareth Dowdell said today it was still impossible to judge exactly what had been destroyed and what might be recovered. “There were literally thousands of pieces collected over seven years stored at the warehouse,” he said. “In addition to the excavation material there were also casual finds there. We had not had the chance to properly study some of the finds stored there. All the materials from the excavations at Cae Castell, Rumney, Cardiff, have been destroyed and so have those from the Roman building at The Knap, Barry, from the Roman Villa site at Llandough and from Barry Village. Most of the material from the Cowbridge digs, which represented years of work, has also gone.”

[Studio] “And the finds from the late Bronze Age hill slope fort at Coed-y-Cymdda, near Wenvoe, the materials from the 1977 excavations at Cosmeston, near Penarth, and the further trial excavations there last year all went. In all cases about 90 per cent of the material seems to be totally unrecoverable. We also lost two offices, a complete photographic studio and darkroom and an enormous wealth of photographic material. We have taken a giant step backwards and it is going to take us years not just months to get over this. Obviously we have got very comprehensive records of the excavations and, thankfully, a lot have been salvaged now. It is ironic that the weekend we launched our Crisis In Archaeology appeal to the Welsh Office for adequate funding we should receive this major blow. The devastation caused by the fire makes it even more vital now that we get adequate funds. The cost of the fire as far as archaeological loss is concerned cannot be measured in terms of pounds and pence. What we are dealing with here is a large part of the heritage of Wales that has survived for thousands of years being destroyed in a matter of minutes.”

2.7 GHF-E090-N07 — c. 30 April 1988: “Chainsaw farmer vows to fight on”

By Andrew Penman; the newspaper is not identified on the cutting. It reports the abandoned eviction attempt of 29 April 1988. Images: repository 2026-02-09_consortium-newspaper_bpvsbuckler__en_v0-0-1_001.jpg; companion photograph 2026-02-09_consortium-newspaper_bpvsbuckler__en_v0-0-1_005.jpg, captioned “Police wait outside the farmhouse during the four-hour showdown yesterday.” Placeholder: GHF-E027-04.?

A FARMER who beat-off bailiffs with a chainsaw last night vowed to continue his defiant fight for his Cardiff home. “I am here to stay and I will fight this to the death,” said Mr Bill Buckler after the four-hour showdown. Yesterday's events began when five bailiffs and around 15 police officers arrived at Great House Farm, Llandough. Mr Buckler blocked the narrow drive with a tractor, locked the farmhouse doors and barred windows. “They smashed the lock on the gate and walked round the tractor,” Mr Buckler said. “Then they started smashing the doors with poleaxes. My children were right behind the door when the axe came through. That's when I started my chainsaw and pushed it through the door. They backed off then.” His distressed wife, Branwen, later left the farm with the couples' children, aged two, three and four. Mr Buckler and several friends and tenants remained. The scenes were the latest episode in a battle between the Buckler family and BP Properties.

Mr Buckler said the farm has been in the family for nearly 400 years, and remains adamant he is the owner, despite a court ruling in favour of BP Properties. He said BP had no claim over the farm except for what they had obtained through the courts. “They have got no documents for it. If it's theirs, why have I never paid a penny in rent for it in my life?” A farm tenant claimed the latest flare-up was brought about by the Cardiff Bay development. “This land would be worth a fortune,” said Mr Christopher Thompson. “Luxury houses could be built up here to overlook Cardiff Bay. The rich would get richer and the poor poorer.” A spokesman for BP PLC in London said the “unpleasant” events at the farm were regretted. He could not say if or when the bailiffs might return. He claimed the farm was owned by BP Properties, which allowed Mr Buckler's late mother to live in it rent-free because of her ill health. “When Mrs Buckler died in 1983 it became clear her son was not going to leave,” said the spokesman. “We looked at the problem, which was a sticky one, and we asked him to leave, he declined, and in May 1984 we started court proceedings.” Mr Buckler lost the court hearing in Cardiff and did not appeal, the spokesman said. A South Wales Police spokesman emphasised the officers at the scene were present to prevent a breach of the peace, and not to assist bailiffs. [Photo caption: A defiant Mr Bill Buckler ... “I'm here to stay.”] ?

2.8 GHF-E090-N08 — 3 December 1988: “History fight to save farm” (South

Wales Echo)

By Peter Bibby. Annotated "South Wales Echo 3 Dec. 1988". Images: Drive 1524700_10201438107374704...jpg; repository 2026-02-09_consortium-newspaper_bpvsbuckler_en_v0-0-1_003.jpg. Placeholder: GHF-E027-07.

THE threatened farmhouse at the centre of an eviction row will be visited by historic buildings inspectors this weekend to see if it is worth saving from demolition. Officials from the Welsh historic monuments body, Cadw, confirmed today they are considering an appeal to ask the Secretary of State for Wales to protect Great House Farm, Llandough, near Cardiff, as a listed building. The family of farmer Billy Buckler, evicted from the farmhouse by BP bailiffs earlier this week, called in Cadw in a last-ditch bid to save their old home. Mr Buckler's family have been fighting a 33-year legal battle to prove they own the old farmhouse, parts of which could date back to the 12th Century.

[Injunction] But after Law Lords appeal judges ruled in favour of BP Properties this year, the bailiffs moved in. Mr Buckler, a 39-year-old father of three, has been in Llandough Hospital since his eviction on Wednesday. BP said they intend to demolish the farmhouse and outbuildings on the 10-acre site overlooking Cardiff Bay and put in for planning permission to build new homes. The family claim that within hours of forcing their way in to their house, the bailiffs had begun the demolition work and a High Court judge issued an interim injunction ordering that the farmhouse and its contents must not be touched. A spokeswoman for Cadw confirmed they were considering "spot-listing" the farmhouse, an emergency procedure in which any building which may be of architectural or historical importance can be protected. She said: "An inspector has been taken off another case to look at this and we are trying to move as quickly as possible." [Razed] "He will be paying a visit to the farmhouse, look at any records of the history of the area and discuss it with the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments." But Cadw may have act fast. On Monday the High Court are to consider the case for saving Great House Farm, and if the Bucklers fail to have the order extended, the farmhouse could be razed to the ground within days.

2.9 GHF-E090-N09 — 3 December 1988: "Billy's unhappy family" (South Wales Echo, p.2)

By Jim Clarke. Image: Drive 1551682_10201438154295877...jpg.

WHEN the bailiffs refused to let South Wales farmer Billy Buckler back into his family home they found eight other people sharing the rambling old farmhouse. What were they all doing there? It seems that Billy opened his doors to everyone except the bailiff and his men. Billy's friends and then their friends and then friends of friends turned up at Great House Farm in Llandough, Cardiff, for short stays that become permanent residencies. So the eviction of Billy, his wife Branwen and their three children Hywel, Rhys and Amy has made another group of people being made homeless. Some of the tenants are unemployed and had their rent at the farm paid by the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council. One man works in a Cardiff club and two others will have to abandon business projects as a result of the eviction. "Billy and Branwen have had a hard time of it recently, but we've all tried to get behind them and help get the farm back on its feet," said Chris Thompson. Karen Griffiths, aged 21, from Cardiff, told how the pressure of the legal battles with BP had taken their toll on Billy. "Sometimes we've seen him break down and cry," she said. Most of the young people who were evicted had been living a semi-communal life on the farm for around a year.

Karen, who was made redundant from Llandaff Tech earlier this year, and her friend Terry Rayment had been traveling and living on a bus for a time before they found a place to stay on the farm — now they are back on the bus in a nearby lay-by with their two dogs, a cat and all the possessions they could carry out of the farm. "The farm was a happy place to stay," said Terry, who has known the family for years. Karen told how the residents of Great House Farm would go out on "wood runs" together, collecting fuel from the nearby woods to feed the open fires in the huge farmhouse. Thirty-year-old Chris had just started a light haulage business backed by the Enterprise Allowance Scheme. "It was going really well and I had plenty of work coming in, but without a base to work from or a phone I've had it," he said. The bailiffs refused to comment on the allegations laid by the former tenants of the farm. [Photo caption: Karen Griffiths (left) and Terry Rayment with some of the others evicted from the farm: from left, Melanie Thompson and her 20-month-old son Daniel; Rod Chillum; Jane Davies; a woman who wouldn't give her name and Martin Price.]

2.10 GHF-E090-N10 — 6 December 1988: "Farmer fails in final eviction hearing" (Western Mail)

Annotated "Western Mail 6 Dec 1988". Images: Drive 1478915_10201438082894092...jpg; repository 2026-02-07_consortium-formal_notice_bpvsbuckler_en_v0-0-1_001.jpg. Placeholder: GHF-E027-07.

A FAMILY'S long and bitter battle for an historic farmhouse appeared to be over last night after a High Court decision went against them and the Welsh historic monuments organisation decided to take no action. Farmer Billy Buckler and

his wife, Branwen, had been hoping to hang on to the reputedly 800-year-old Great House Farm at Llandough and its prime 10-acre estate overlooking Cardiff Bay so that the question of ownership could be decided by the European Court. [Destroying] But after a hearing in chambers a judge at Cardiff Crown Court dismissed an application by Mr and Mrs Buckler for an injunction to restrain BP Properties Ltd, the owners of the land, from destroying or damaging the fabric of the building. Their solicitor, Mr Colin Jongman, said after the hearing, "There are no more steps that can be taken now that the building can be knocked down." He added that if the building was knocked down, there was little point seeking a declaration from the European Court that they could occupy the building. The couple then had their hopes dashed of help from Cadw. A spokesperson there told the Western Mail the house was not of sufficient architectural merit and the land on which it stands was not of sufficient archaeological interest. Following the court hearing, Mrs Janet Harris, Mr Buckler's sister, said the house had been in the family for four generations. "It is reputed to be 800 years old and yet it seems they can destroy it on what is a whim." She forecast that "they will have it down as fast as they can now" and said their only hope was that Cadw would accept it as a listed building. [?]

Judge Norman Francis giving his judgment in open court said that after the Buckleys's unsuccessfully sought leave to appeal to the House of Lords against an Appeal Committee ruling they had exhausted the remedies available to them under the laws of England and Wales. Their case was that there was a triable issue for the Court of Human Rights to consider and that the status quo as to the building and fittings should be preserved until it had been decided. [Relief] The judge said there seemed doubt whether the plaintiffs had acted in time for the European Commission to consider the case. The fact that somebody chooses at the eleventh hour to apply to the Commission could not set up a right to "injunctive relief". It would be novel for a court in this country to grant an injunction to hold up the effects of a judgment until the Court of Human Rights should rule on it, said the judge. The battle for the farmhouse and estate has been waged for 33 years by the Buckler family.

2.11 GHF-E090-N11 — c. 7 December 1988: "Tears flow as 800 year-old farm house is razed at last"

The newspaper and date are not on the cutting; "early yesterday" and "on Monday" place it on about 7 December 1988. Images: Drive 1185106_10201435169861268...jpg; repository 2026-02-07_consortium-formal_notice_bpvsbuckler__en_v0-0-1_002.jpeg. Placeholder: GHF-E027-08.

[Photo caption: MRS BUCKLER comforts daughter Amy after their home is razed to the ground.] THE FINAL chapter in the 35-year battle over the ownership of Great House Farm in Llandough ended early yesterday when a team moved in to demolish the 800-year-old farm house. The twenty-strong team moved in with bulldozers just after 4am and by breakfast time there was not a building left standing on the ten-acre site which overlooks Cardiff Bay. The demolition was watched by farmers' wife Branwen Buckler and her three children who wept as their family home was flattened by a bulldozer just hours after they had lost the legal battle to keep the farm. Only the day before, possession had been granted to the owners, BP Properties Ltd, after Cardiff's High Court ruled that William and Branwen Buckler had no right to remain in the house. Mr Buckler, who admitted not paying rent for 35 years, had claimed he had the rights to the house. But a High Court judge on Monday rejected an appeal to extend an injunction to prevent the house from being demolished.

And that was the end of the legal road for the Bucklers who had even taken their fight to keep their home, where their family have lived for 400 years, to the House of Lords. Speaking after the demolition of her home Mrs Buckler said that she and her family were "absolutely devastated" by the events of the previous 24 hours. "Great House Farm was more than just a house, it was the family history with all the people who have been born or died there over the last 400 years. It is irreplaceable," she explained. "Now we are left with no home, no plans, no income and no Christmas. My young son has asked me how Father Christmas is going to come down the chimney now it has been knocked down."

2.12 GHF-E090-N12 — January 1989: "Charge against evicted farmer dropped"

The newspaper is not identified; the date follows from the text (hearing "yesterday", next appearance 3 February). Images: repository 2026-02-09_consortium-newspaper_bpvsbuckler__en_v0-0-1.png; Drive Screenshot_20250617-171926. [?]

AN ALLEGATION that South Wales farmer Billy Buckler used threatening words and behaviour at his former home last year was withdrawn by the Crown Prosecution Service at Barry magistrates court yesterday. Buckler, who lived at Great House Farm, Llandough, until it was demolished by the owners, BP Properties, in November last year, was alleged to have committed the offence in Llandough on April 29. Mr Jeff Clarke, prosecuting, told the court that the summons was now legally "out of time" and could not proceed. He was therefore withdrawing it. Buckler is due to appear in court again on February 3 to face charges of assault and wanton and furious driving at Great House Farm in November, last year. He is currently living at an address in Penarth and has been ordered by the court not to go within half a mile of the Great House Farm site. [Photo caption: Billy Buckley — summons was "out of time".]

2.13 GHF-E090-N13 — 1989: “From farm to a bus” (South Wales Echo)

By Peter Collins. The exact date is not identified, and only the opening of the article is visible in the copy held (repository 2026-02-04_consortium-evidence_bpvsbuckler__en_v0-0-1.jpg; Drive Screenshot_20250617-171533).[?]

[Headline: From farm to a bus — ‘Now I’ve got to start from scratch again’] SOUTH Wales farmer Billy Buckler, whose home was demolished last year after a 40-year-old row over ownership, now plans to live in an old bus which he is converting into a mobile home. Until December last year Mr Buckler and his family lived at Great House Farm, Llandough. But following a High Court hearing, BP Properties, the owners of the land, moved in and demolished the property. Since then Mr Buckler, his wife, Branwen, and their three children have been living with his sister in Penarth. [...] “...nitely. I have three children and my wife is expecting a baby. My sister cannot be expected to put up with that. I shall just have to start from scratch. They have taken everything from me and my family. I have lost my livelihood.” Mr Buckler claimed that £30,000 worth of his personal possessions had been taken from the Great House Farm site following the demolition. [...]

2.14 GHF-E090-N14 — c. 30 November 1988: “Angry scenes as farmer evicted” (South Wales Echo, front page)

By Peter Bibby. Image: Drive Screenshot_20250617-170535 (2).jpg. Only the headlines are legible in the low-resolution copy held: “Angry scenes as farmer evicted”, “A bitter feud over rights that lasted 33 years”, “Action on farm”. The body text is to be transcribed from a better copy (British Newspaper Archive). Placeholder: Newspaper capture 1988-11-30.

2.15 GHF-E090-N15 — South Wales Echo search-result extracts, April 1988 – March 1989

Extracts shown by the British Newspaper Archive search, with its publication dates (Drive Screenshot_20250617-1721xx-172337 series; repository 2026-02-07_consortium-formal_notice_bpvsbuckler__en_v0-0-1_002-006.png). These are search snippets, not full articles; the full pages should be ordered.

- **Fri 29 Apr 1988:** “...been waged for two generations of the Buckler family. Mr Buckler’s mother fought and lost three previous High Court cases claiming she was the rightful owner of the estate. In 1974 BP Properties agreed to allow Mrs Buckler to remain in the farmhouse rent free...”
- **Sat 30 Apr 1988:** “...check-up. But Mr Buckler is refusing to leave the Great House Farm at Llandough near Cardiff for medical attention because he fears the bailiffs will return. A dozen police officers were on the farm as the bailiffs tried to evict the Buckler family. BP Properties...”
- **Thu 12 May 1988** (Media Gallery placeholder 1988-05-12): “...Somebody will be [killed,] warns farmer. CARDIFF MP Alun Michael has asked the Lord Chancellor to look at the case of defiant farmer Bill Buckler who fought off bailiffs with chainsaw [to] keep his house. And Mr Buckler himself has warned that someone would...”
- **Wed 30 Nov 1988** (placeholder 1988-11-30): “...who forced their way into the 400-year-old Great House Farm at Llandough near Cardiff have already half the roof off one of the outbuildings. But farmer’s wife Mrs Branwen Buckler, who fears BP Properties Ltd will now flatten the farmhouse, and won the court...”
- **Fri 2 Dec 1988:** “...Monday when a summons against BP will be heard. Mr Justice Anthony Evans has allowed the condition that Mrs Buckler should be able to go into the house and collect belongings as long as BP solicitors agree... The Buckler family have petitioned to have...”
- **Sat 3 Dec 1988:** “...EVICTED farmer Bill Buckler, caught up in a 33-year wrangle over his South Wales home, was taken from his hospital bed to face charges of assault on two bailiffs. The 40-year-old farmer of Great House Farm, Llandough, had been in hospital for three...”
- **Tue 6 Dec 1988:** “...Her husband’s family have been battling for more than 30 years to prove they owned the historic farmhouse at Llandough. That fight came to an end yesterday afternoon in the High Court in Cardiff and within hours owners BP Properties...”
- **Wed 7 Dec 1988** (by Peter Collins): “...a Vale of Glamorgan councillor and BP pensioner said the decision by BP Properties to flatten the buildings was ‘disgusting’. He plans to write to them in protest. Mr Billy Buckler’s family had battled for 33 years to prove they owned...”

- **Fri 9 Dec 1988:** "...a bid to stop BP Properties profiting from the demolition earlier this week [of] an 800-year-old farmhouse on the outskirts of Cardiff. A small group of Llan-dough villagers met local councillors last night to express their anger at the way BP had demolished..."
- **Sat 10 Dec 1988:** "...Buckler, aged 40, who lived with family at Great House Farm, Llan-dough, until [it] was demolished by BP Properties this week, was freed on bail by magistrates yesterday. He faces charges..."
- **Tue 13 Dec 1988:** "...who lived at Great House Farm, Llan-dough, near Cardiff, said: 'All I've got left are the clothes [I] stand up in.' Mr Buckler, evicted from the farmhouse by BP Properties, who demolished the building a week later, said..."
- **Wed 21 Dec 1988** (reader's letter, with photograph): "...Branwen Buckler near the remains of the farmhouse with children Amy, Hywel and Rhys. It was just like a wartime sight. I WAS concerned to read the report headlined Bulldozed Before Breakfast (Echo, December 6). How awful for the unfortunate Buckler family..."
- **Fri 6 Jan 1989:** "...Bail change for evicted farmer. EVICTED South Wales farmer Billy Buckler, whose Llandough house was demolished late last year, has had bail conditions changed on charges of assault, criminal damage and wanton or furious driving. Buckler, aged 40..."
- **Mon 20 Mar 1989** (placeholder 1989-03-20): "...to the ground by BP Properties following a 30 year legal battle over ownership between the company and farmer Mr Billy Buckler. The lorries moved onto the site at 7.30am today and the operation is likely to take several days. Mr Buckler has been unable to..."
- **Thu 23 Mar 1989:** "...Evicted farmer freed after pleading guilty. A FARMER who lost his family home at Great House Farm, Llandough, when the premises were demolished at the end of last year today admitted two..."
- **Fri 24 Mar 1989:** "...farmer freed. 'I will fight on to the death.' FARMER BILLY Buckler vowed to continue his fight over the loss of his historic family home and more than 70 acres of land..."

Not yet found: no cutting matching the Media Gallery placeholder "1988-06-12. Demolition" has been found. A further set of numbered photographs (1694–1706.jpg and others) attached to large outbound emails could not be retrieved through the connector and may include more cuttings. See also: [1988: Possession and Demolition · Media Gallery · Evidence Library](#)

2.16 GHF-E090-N16 — 22 May 1980: House of Commons, Ted Rowlands MP on BP and Western Ground Rents (Hansard)

*Hansard, HC Deb 22 May 1980, vol. 985, debate "Amendments of Leasehold Reform Act 1967 etc." (Housing Bill, report stage). Source: [historic Hansard](#). **DOCUMENTED FACT.** The speech concerns Western Ground Rents and the BP pension fund as ground landlords in South Wales generally. It does not name Great House Farm or Llandough. The family's rundown file describes it as criticism of BP Pension Trust's conduct, which it is; there is no record of it referring to the farm.?*

Mr. Edward Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfil): "We have had some cranky and curious ground landlords in South Wales, but the saddest aspect is that the most rapacious ground landlord, Western Ground Rents, has been bought by the BP pension fund, which is behaving in the same rapacious and, at times, unfeeling and uncaring way in handling the genuine requests of householders. Such ground landlords are prompting the growing demand for further amendments to the 1967 Act. I should like to think that if the many pensioners in the BP fund realised that it was using its power to drive harsh bargains with householders and to act tough and without feeling or care, they would not want such actions to be taken in their name. It is regrettable that a distinguished company, which is half owned by the Government, should behave in that way." Later in the debate he described the leasehold system as "a relic of feudalism ... now becoming a form of corporatism. ... An example is the BP pension fund."

2.17 Cross-check: the family's rundown file (Google Drive)

The family's Drive holds two research summaries, `bpvsbuckler-rundown.rst` (24 July 2026) and `bpvsbucker-rundown.txt` (6 February 2026). The `.rst` file contains a section "Newspaper Articles Transcription" listing 22 items. Every one has been compared with the images held. All 22 are covered on this page:

- Rundown articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (and its duplicate 9) and 10 are the same cuttings as [N11](#), [N03/N04](#), [N08](#), [N10](#), [N13](#), [N12](#), [N07](#) and [N09](#).
- Rundown articles 12–22 (with duplicate 20) are the British Newspaper Archive extracts already listed under [N15](#): 30 Apr, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 21 Dec 1988, and 6 Jan, 20, 23 and 24 Mar 1989.
- Rundown article 2 is the photo caption "Police wait outside the farmhouse during the four-hour showdown"

yesterday”, which accompanies [N07](#).

- Rundown article 11 is not a newspaper. It is the RCAHMW measured floor plan “Great House Farm, Llandough (nr. Penarth), ST 1681 7331” by H.J. Thomas, dated 26 April 1974 and 12 December 1988 and annotated “House demolished Nov. 1988”. Its beam key reads: A, narrow chamfered, ogee stops with torus; B, narrow chamfered with rounded stop. See [Archaeology](#). The first survey date falls ten days after the open day of 15 April 1974.

Where the rundown’s wording differs, this page follows the images. The rundown’s text was evidently machine-read from the clippings and contains misreadings. Checked against the originals:

- **N07 (chainsaw):** the image reads “around 15 police officers”, “blocked the narrow drive with a tractor”, “smashing the doors with poleaxes”, “I started my chainsaw and pushed it through the door. They backed off then”, and “the couples’ children, aged two, three and four”. The rundown has “20 police”, “a car”, “pickaxes”, “They grabbed the chainsaw and pulled it through the door” and “three sons, Thomas, 3”. The unsourced details elsewhere (SOURCE PENDING) (twenty police, a car, pickaxes, the chainsaw grabbed) appear to come from this misreading, not from a separate source ([GHF-E027-12](#)).
- **N11 (demolition):** the image reads “35-year battle”, “ten-acre site” and “not paying rent for 35 years”. The rundown has “five acre site” and “33”.
- **N03 (open day):** the image reads “about 13 houses”, “B P Petroleum Pension Trust”, “first acquired Ty Mawr (Great House) in about 1667”, “in dispute for 25 years” and “I will refuse to move”. The rundown has “400 houses”, “Earlwood Road Development Trust”, “in the 12th century”, “33 years” and “refuse to sell”, and dates the cutting “12/1/74”. The annotation on the image is “D. Telegraph 16 April 74”.
- **N08 and N10:** the rundown calls Janet Harris “Mr Buckler’s mother”. The Western Mail image reads “Mr Buckler’s sister”, and Mary (Nancy) Williams had died in 1983. The solicitor is “Mr Colin Jongman”, not “Ioyman”.

Further press references in the rundown not yet traced to a cutting (UNRESOLVED): ?

- **20 November 1958, Western Mail, p. 7 — “It’s a Crichel Down, says woman farmer” (unconfirmed lead)** — A research note says Mrs Buckler told a county planning committee that Glamorgan County Council, Penarth Urban Council, Cardiff Rural Council and Western Ground Rents had “walked in and taken” the family’s land. The original article has not been recovered, so the headline, date, page, named bodies and quotation require verification before transcription. If authenticated, it would be contemporary evidence of a public allegation, not proof of title or unlawful taking. Preserve “Cardiff Rural Council” verbatim if that is what the article says; reconcile the wording separately against [Source Conflicts Register SC-22](#), which identifies Penarth Urban District Council as the relevant authority. Search the [Western Mail archive](#).
- **16 November 1938, Western Mail, p.12** — the rundown says Great House Farm was advertised as “sold” at auction by Herbert R. Thomas. If found, this would bear on the 1938 Bute-to-WGR reversion ([1938](#)). It needs the British Newspaper Archive page.
- **“A 1978 newspaper article”** in which Mary publicly claims ownership and rejects BP’s claim, and **“a 1980s newspaper article”** in which she says the farm was “acquired” in 1667. The only cutting found with the “acquired ... about 1667” wording is the Daily Telegraph of 16 April 1974 ([N03](#)). The 1978 and 1980s references are probably that article misdated, unless another cutting is found.

2.18 Page version & change log

Current version: 1.0.0

Version	Date (UTC)	Editor (human or agent name)	Change	Source / evidence
1.0.0	2026-10-18T15:21Z	Sion’s Tab agent	Footer standardised; no content change	Editing Protocol, 18 Oct 2026

Agents and editors: follow the [Editing Protocol](#).