

1988: Possession and Demolition

Version 1.0.0 · 2026-10-23

Editors of the Great House Farm Legal Wiki

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Page 27 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 27 (last modified 2026-10-21 19:07:10 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: 27 · **Title:** 1988: Possession and Demolition · **Evidence status:** Not yet labelled — see the Editing Protocol · **Version:** 0.1.1 · [Editing Protocol](#)

After losing BP Properties Ltd v Buckler read more

After losing [BP Properties Ltd v Buckler](#), the family fought off one eviction on 29 April 1988. They lost possession of [Great House Farm](#) at the end of November 1988; the press places the forced entry on Wednesday 30 November. [BP](#) demolished the farmhouse in the early hours of 6 December 1988. All of this concerns the farmhouse on [Parcel A](#). Full newspaper transcripts are on [Press Archive — Newspaper Transcripts](#).

Event nomenclature gateway: the... .. read more

Event nomenclature gateway: the late-November 1988 incident is described variously as an eviction, possession enforcement, forced removal, seizure, occupation or taking control. The Wiki uses the [Event Nomenclature Register](#) as the citation gateway so that readers see the alternative descriptions before following through to the evidence.

Heritage record before 1988 (home... .. read more

Heritage record before 1988 (home: [Archaeology](#)). The family's records request to Heneb refers to a 1974 measured survey of the farmhouse; in October 1982 GGAT recommended archaeological investigation before any development;

GGAT's 1989 planning report describes the farmhouse as having been listed as a "county treasure" [PENDING: EV-0058].

Evidence: [Schedule of records requested from...](#) ... [read more](#)

Evidence: [Schedule of records requested from Heneb, 20 September 2026](#) (GHF-E027-01; Heneb / GGAT records) · GGAT file S387, HER record GGAT02038s, October 1982 (GHF-E027-02; to be obtained from Heneb) · GGAT report on outline application 89/01396/OUT, 1989 (GHF-E027-03; copy to be uploaded; see [Redevelopment](#))

2.1 Evidence, in date order

3 March – 12 May 1988: The first eviction attempt (the chainsaw stand-off)

Court / enforcement records **House of Lords refusal of leave, 3 March 1988; enforcement record for 29 April 1988**

Awaited: primary event document not yet uploaded

Catalogue: GHF-E027-04

Location: House of Lords / court enforcement archive — primary records to be obtained

Evidence description: after the House of Lords refused leave to appeal on 3 March 1988 ([House of Lords](#)), BP tried to evict the family on 29 April 1988 [PENDING: EV-0076].

Press report "**Chainsaw farmer vows to fight on**", by **Andrew Penman**, c. 30 April 1988

Cutting held in the family's web archive; full transcript at [GHF-E090-N07](#)

Catalogue: GHF-E090-N07 (cross-referenced as GHF-E027-05a)

Location: newspaper not identified (probably Western Mail); family web archive (wayback image set)

DOCUMENTED FACT (press). Five bailiffs and about 15 police arrived at Great House Farm. William ("Bill") Buckler blocked the narrow drive with a tractor, locked the doors and barred the windows. The bailiffs smashed the gate lock and began breaking the doors with poleaxes; when an axe came through a door with his children behind it, he started a chainsaw and pushed it through the door, and the bailiffs backed off after a four-hour stand-off. Branwen left with the children, aged two, three and four. BP said the events were regretted and could not say whether the bailiffs would return; South Wales Police said officers were there to prevent a breach of the peace, not to assist the bailiffs. William said: "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?" ?

DOCUMENTED FACT (press). The South Wales Echo, 29 April 1988, reported that Mary had fought and lost three previous High Court cases and that "in 1974 BP Properties agreed to allow Mrs Buckler to remain in the farmhouse rent free" [EV-0088]. On 30 April it reported a dozen police on the farm and that William refused to leave for medical attention for fear the bailiffs would return. On 12 May 1988 it reported that the Cardiff MP Alun Michael had asked the Lord Chancellor to look at the case ([GHF-E090-N15](#)) [EV-0092]. A threatening-behaviour summons for 29 April was withdrawn in January 1989 as out of time ([GHF-E090-N12](#)).

SOURCE PENDING **The first eviction attempt, 1988 (privately held material, not yet on the wiki)**

No named speaker or written statement yet; corroborated by the press reports above (GHF-E090-N07, EV-0088)

Catalogue: GHF-E027-05

Location: Family archive / privately held material

Evidence description: 28 days were given to find other accommodation. On 29 April 1988 the family refused to leave and the bailiffs withdrew. The press reports above corroborate this.

Parcel AEviction from the farmhouse.

29 July 1988: Cadw inspected the farmhouse... .. [read more](#)

29 July 1988: Cadw inspected the farmhouse while considering it for listing; it was not listed ([Cadw 1988](#)) [PENDING: EV-0096]. Cadw's 2026 replies are logged in the [Records access chronology](#).

Evidence: [Cadw listing inspection /...](#) ... [read more](#)

Evidence: [Cadw listing inspection / assessment, 29 July 1988](#) (GHF-E027-06; Cadw / Welsh Government listing archive — surviving photographs released; assessment record not produced)

29 November – 6 December 1988: Possession and demolition

Court / enforcement record **Possession enforcement, 29/30 November 1988; demolition commencement, 6 December 1988**

Awaited: primary event document not yet uploaded

Catalogue: GHF-E027-07

Location: Court / estate / planning enforcement records — primary event records to be obtained

Evidence description: BP obtained possession at the end of November 1988 and demolished the farmhouse on 6 December. **UNRESOLVED:** this page has given 29 November for possession; the South Wales Echo of 3 December 1988 says William had been in hospital “since his eviction on Wednesday”, which was 30 November. The enforcement record should settle the date. ?

Press reports **South Wales Echo and Western Mail, 30 November – 13 December 1988**

Cuttings held in the family’s web archive and Drive; transcripts at [N14](#) · [N08](#) · [N09](#) · [N10](#) · [N11](#) · [N15](#)

Catalogue: GHF-E090-N08 to N11, N14, N15

Location: South Wales Echo; Western Mail; British Newspaper Archive

DOCUMENTED FACT (press).

- **30 November** — South Wales Echo front page, “Angry scenes as farmer evicted” (Peter Bibby). The bailiffs who forced their way in had already taken half the roof off one of the outbuildings, and Branwen feared BP would flatten the farmhouse (N14, N15).
- **2 December** — Mr Justice Anthony Evans allowed Branwen to enter the house to collect belongings, if BP’s solicitors agreed, pending a hearing on Monday (N15) [[EV-0099](#)].
- **3 December** — “History fight to save farm” (Peter Bibby). William, 39, had been in Llandough Hospital since the eviction. The report said demolition began within hours of the bailiffs forcing entry, and a High Court judge had issued an interim injunction that the farmhouse and its contents must not be touched. Cadw said it was considering spot-listing and had sent an inspector (N08). The same day the Echo reported William taken from his hospital bed to face charges of assaulting two bailiffs (N15), and “Billy’s unhappy family” described eight other residents made homeless (N09).
- **5 December** — in Cardiff, Judge Norman Francis dismissed the Bucklers’ application for an injunction to stop BP damaging the building until the European Commission of Human Rights had considered the case. Their solicitor, Colin Jongman, said no further steps could be taken. Cadw said the house was not of sufficient architectural merit (Western Mail, 6 December; N10).
- **6 December** — a twenty-strong team with bulldozers moved in just after 4am, and by breakfast no building was left standing; Branwen and the three children watched (N11; the Echo headline was “Bulldozed Before Breakfast”).
- **7–13 December** — a Vale councillor and BP pensioner called the demolition “disgusting”; Llandough villagers met councillors; William was bailed; “All I’ve got left are the clothes I stand up in” (N15).

Contemporaneous site record **Demolition of outbuildings, 30 November, and farmhouse, 5–6 December 1988**

Awaited: primary event document not yet uploaded

Catalogue: GHF-E027-08

Location: Contemporaneous site / planning / heritage records — primary event record to be obtained

Evidence description: the demolition of the outbuildings on 30 November and of the farmhouse on 5–6 December 1988. The press reports above corroborate both dates. Lorries began clearing the rubble at 7.30am on 20 March 1989 (South Wales Echo; N15).

Parcel A The farmhouse, and most likely the outbuildings in its yard.

April 1988 – 1989: The evictions and their aftermath — bpvsbuckler archive timeline, with press matches

SOURCE PENDING The evictions, demolition and charges, as set out in the [bpvsbuckler archive timeline](#)

Archive timeline (author not named), now largely matched to press reports

Catalogue: GHF-E027-12

Location: [bpvsbuckler archive timeline](#)

WHAT THE PRESS SHOWS, and what is SOURCE PENDING. The archive timeline describes a dawn arrival of five bailiffs and many police, the drive blocked, doors and windows barred, a siege of about four hours, and the doors broken with axes. The press shows that this was the **29 April 1988** stand-off (a tractor, poleaxes, about 15 police; [N07](#)). The rest of the timeline belongs to the **November 1988** eviction, and the press matches it: William was injured and taken to Llandough Hospital; he was charged with assaulting two bailiffs, criminal damage and wanton or furious

driving, and bailed (N15, N12). The press reports an interim injunction (N08) and that Branwen and the children watched the demolition (N11). [SOURCE PENDING] Possessions, including Mary's papers, photographs and journal, were left in the house or thrown into the road. William Buckler ([William Buckler testimony](#)) put the loss at about £30,000 (South Wales Echo, 1989; N13).

The timeline also records the following. The Cardiff MP Alun Michael asked the Lord Chancellor to review the case; the press confirms this on 12 May 1988 (N15). [SOURCE PENDING] The council's planning chief described the cleared site as looking like a battleground. In 1989 a threatening-behaviour charge was withdrawn as out of time (N12), and William pleaded guilty to the remaining charges and was freed on 23–24 March 1989 (N15). Other leads are held on [Research Leads from the bpvsbuckler Archive](#).

Still not shown: the planning chief's "battleground" remark; the court record of the interim injunction and of the 5 December hearing; magistrates' court records for 1988–89; and Alun Michael's correspondence with the Lord Chancellor's Department. ?

Change control, 3 October 2026: this card first dated the siege (blocked drive, barred doors, axes) to 29 November 1988. The press (N07, N15) shows the siege took place on 29 April 1988. The card has been corrected; the November facts are unchanged.

Parcel AThe farmhouse.

2.2 RCAHMW archive detail identified — 6 October 2026

The further RCAHMW response under RC26-0375... .. [read more](#)

The further RCAHMW response under RC26-0375 identifies three archive records directly relevant to the post-demolition history of the farmhouse:

- **NMR 6048945:** Richard Suggett's post-demolition record; one page, front and back. RCAHMW has no record of the date or purpose of the visit beyond the catalogue entry. The earlier 29 September reply confirms that Suggett visited after the demolition. ?
- **NMR 6048943:** H. J. Thomas, 1974 investigator's notes, with a sketch plan.
- **NMR 6048941:** ink plan annotated "Additions made 12/12/1988". This dates RCAHMW work recorded on the plan to after the demolition.
- **Armour note:** RCAHMW holds no provenance information.
- **Demolition notification:** RCAHMW says it has no record of being notified and no record of emergency recording. ?
- **Photography:** RCAHMW holds no further photographic record. An aerial-photography search would be chargeable.

Capture action: order the free scans of NMR... .. [read more](#)

Capture action: order the free scans of NMR 6048945, 6048943 and 6048941. Fewer than five items are free. Until the scans arrive, the catalogue descriptions above are the evidence of what RCAHMW says it holds, not a substitute for reading the records themselves.

2.3 Afterwards

- **December 1988** — R. F. Suggett of RCAHMW examined the rubble and recorded a fireplace jamb, an ogee-stopped beam with torus, and the loss of the carved stone capital kept by the front door ([Great House Farm — earlier history and fabric](#); HER GGAT02038s).
- **1989** — the European Commission of Human Rights accepted that the possession order interfered with William Buckler's home but held it lawful and justified, and declared the application inadmissible ([ECHR 1989](#); also catalogued here as GHF-E027-09) [[EV-0122](#)]. *Research note:* the farmhouse had been William's home since birth ([William](#)).
- **1989** — William, Branwen and their children lived with his sister in Penarth, and he planned to convert an old bus into a home (South Wales Echo, "From farm to a bus", Peter Collins; N13).
- **1989–90** — the planning officer's report on BP's outline application recorded that the buildings the Local Plan said should be retained had been demolished; permission granted 13 March 1990 ([Redevelopment](#); planning file 89

/01396/OUT also catalogued here as GHF-E027-10, held by the family, to be scanned) [PENDING: [EV-0114](#)].

- **17 and 20 September 2026** — the family served a stage-one complaint on Cadw about its 1988 listing consideration, re-served on 20 September ([Restoration campaign](#); letter GHF-E027-11, copy to be uploaded; Cadw / Welsh Government records).

Method and evidence key: [Main Page](#) · [title test](#)

See also: [Mary \(Nancy\) Williams](#) · [Evidence Library](#) · [read more](#)

See also: [Mary \(Nancy\) Williams](#) · [Evidence Library](#) · [Press Archive](#) — [Newspaper Transcripts](#) · [Master timeline](#)

2.4 Page version & change log

Current version: 0.1.1

Version	Date (UTC)	Editor (human or agent name)	Change	Source / evidence
0.1.1	2026-10-18T15:15Z	Sion’s Tab agent	Footer standardised; earlier log rows carried into this table; no content change	Editing Protocol, 18 Oct 2026
0.1.0	2026-10-18T14:27:00+01:00	OpenAI-assisted maintenance agent (GPT-6)	Installed footer log and began semantic-version tracking at 0.1.0; this is not a reconstruction of earlier revisions. CURRENT VERSION: 0.1.0.	Saved through Word-Press content API; original content preserved. Public rendering not individually checked.

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