

# Clearwell

The Estate was purchased by the Crown in two main transactions:-

1. 1907/08 – 712 acres for £12,104 which included £350 for minerals, and
2. 1911/12 – 1,006 acres for £14,500.

Under the Transfer of Woods legislation 338 acres of woodland were transferred to the Forestry Commission in 1924 along with the manorial title of St Briavels. The purchase was partly on account of the Crown's then adjoining interest in the Forest Of Dean.

The purchase included St Briavels Castle built under Henry I between 1100 and 1135 and which subsequently became a royal hunting box (King John). It has seen use as a prison for offenders against Forest Laws (Forest of Dean) and for part of the 19th Century. In 1912, a transfer to the Office of Works was proposed – but declined by the Crown Estate as it had been adapted as a residence at a substantial rent.

In 1934, it came into hand and was offered to Works – who declined because of the amount of work needed to restore it. It was occupied as a school through the war to 1946 when it was passed on lease to the YHA.

Sources:

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