

Frozen Dowles Brook, 1985

ROSEMARY WINNALL

It is not always easy to remember details of past weather conditions, but photographs can document these events. During the 1980s we had a series of very cold winters. I recorded in my Nature Diary for 18th December 1983 - "I was extremely surprised to see a white Stoat running out of the wood in Rock Coppice this morning. It had a distinctive black tip to its tail and this is the first time I have seen a Stoat in ermine. I didn't know they changed their winter coat colour this far south in the UK." Chris Bradley

has subsequently told me that some years back he recorded a Stoat in partial ermine in the Wyre Forest.

These photographs of the Veevers family, Vince, Elizabeth and Donald, standing on the thick ice at the lower end of Dowles Brook remind us how cold it was for a protracted period in the winter of 1985. Their house, Oak Cottage can be seen in the background.

Photographs are printed with kind permission of Charles Purcell of Bewdley Historical Research Group.



Vince, Elizabeth and Donald Veevers near Oak Cottage, Dowles, 28 February 1985



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