
Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

Volume XCIII
for 2004



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**Proceedings of the
Cambridge Antiquarian Society**

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

**Volume XCIII
for 2004**

Editor Alison Taylor

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Editorial

The first thing you will notice about these Proceedings is our leap (as a belated welcome to the 21st century) into colour, for our cover and a number of plates. This is not really an innovation: CAS had beautiful colour plates in 1883 and a few other 19th century volumes. At last this is affordable again, and the water colour drawings and photographs we wanted to show seemed to fully merit some extra expense. In future, we will look carefully at illustrations that would benefit from such reproduction and would be particularly keen to include fine examples of artefacts.

This volume contains some very substantial reports on archaeological work, for we are one of the few outlets available for full publication of excavations. It is refreshing to see that these all relate to recent work, not the backlogs that once were a feature of British archaeology. A quick look at the 'Fieldwork in Cambridgeshire 2003' section however reminds us what a small proportion of current work can be made available in this way. Of course, reports on all sites are produced and can be purchased from the relevant units or consulted in the county archaeological office. In future, these will also be added to a national data base known as OASIS, run by the Archaeology Data Service, so accessing this huge amount of data will eventually be much simpler. We aim to keep you abreast with such advances through our own website, www.camantsoc.org.

It was a great pleasure to be asked by the Cambridgeshire Local History Society to publish a short note on their superb photographic project, a worthy successor to CAS' similar project in the early part of the 20th century, now a much valued part of the Cambridgeshire Collection. This voluntary effort will likewise be used by those involved with the historic environment in years to come. The same Society asked us to include the list of recent additions to the Cambridgeshire Collection, compiled by Chris Jakes. This list used to be included in *Conduit* and has been much missed. It reminds us that our local historians are not far behind local archaeologists in their labours, a tribute to the floods of new data from an ever-active antiquarian community.

'Fieldwork', 'Reviews', 'Spring Conference report' and 'Conduit' are regular items we have managed to maintain – and which add to another substantial volume. This year, 'Conduit' was compiled at short notice by our redoubtable President, Tony Kirby, to whom we owe many thanks. In the nature of things this has to be done at the last moment, and even so many societies do not have a complete programme for the following year at the time we need it. We would therefore like to have a Supplement later in the year, as with original *Conduit*, but currently this is beyond our means. Perhaps we will have better news next year.

It remains to offer further thanks to our retiring President. Tony has taken the Society safely through two quite difficult years, and this October hands over to Nicholas James. Our Secretaries carry an even larger burden of work for the Society, of which organising nine lectures, often by speakers of national repute, is only one part. We are therefore extremely grateful to our retiring Secretary, Liz Allan, and to Janet Morris, who has now taken on the challenge. We must say a sorry farewell too to Don Fage, who has had the tough job of Registrar. It may also be noticed that we still have vacancies for Excursions Officer and for Editor of *Conduit*, so do contact us if you are interested in volunteering.

Alison Taylor
Editor

The Hearth Tax and the Country House in 'Old' Cambridgeshire

Tony Baggs

In 2000 the Cambridgeshire Record Society, in collaboration with the British Records Association, published the Cambridgeshire Hearth Tax lists for 1662/1664. In 2002 Cambridgeshire VCH X appeared and in an appendix included the final part of the tables compiled by CAF Meekings, which summarised the Hearth Tax returns for 1664, 1666 and 1674. Combining the information from these two sources it is possible to compile a table of country houses according to their assessments and compare it with what we know about their size in the later 17th century. It is intended that this will complement the work of Margaret Spufford on the smaller houses.

The Hearth Tax was a major source of government revenue between 1662 and 1689 and like the later Window Tax it was an attempt to tax people according to the size of their houses on the basis of something that had a relationship to wealth and could be counted relatively easily. The annotations in the 1662/1664 lists suggest that the counting was done conscientiously and from this study it would appear that the result is reasonably reliable. Where the assessment did not at first fit with what is known of the house further investigation of a surviving building has usually provided an explanation. Most often what is there now is only part of something once larger, as at Childerley and Haslingfield, but sometimes, the tax being on occupiers not buildings, the figures may refer to more than one property in the parish, as with John Byng at Grantchester.

Many of the houses no longer survive but most of those that do are pre-mid-17th century in origin. Two houses, Horseheath and Hatley, appear for the first time in 1674 which fits with their building history, whilst the figures for Wimpole record the first of many stages in its enlargement. Against that Grantchester and Steeple Morden appear to be in decline – or at least the estates of their owners do.

Great Abington

A thumb-nail drawing of the manor house at Great Abington on an estate map of 1640 shows it as having a central range with cross wings. It is unlikely to be a true representation of the house that was taxed.

Babraham

The Bennetts had bought Babraham in 1632 and Thomas, a Royalist, was granted a Restoration baronetcy in 1660. His descendant demolished the house in 1766–7 and the estate was sold to the ancestors of the Adeanes in 1770. According to William Cole it was a courtyard house with bay windows and a long gallery. There was a datestone for 1576. [VCH *Cambs* VI] (See Christopher Taylor, this volume)

Barham

Barham Hall at Linton (Plate 1) had belonged to the Millicents since the later 16th century when they appear to have adapted or rebuilt part of the buildings of the former convent of the Crutched Friars. It remained with their descendants until the 1830s when it passed to Pembroke College and soon after that most was demolished when it was reduced to a tenant farmhouse. [VCH *Cambs* VI; CAS Relhan, 337, 345]

Bourn

Bourn Hall occupied part of the site of the Norman castle of Picot the sheriff of Cambridge which was in its turn reusing a prehistoric earthwork. The 70' square house of the Haggars was built of brick in the early years of the 17th century and probably ranged round all four sides of the courtyard. One side appears to have been demolished when the courtyard was filled in during extensive alterations for the de la Warrs in 1817–19 (Plate 2). [VCH *Cambs* V; RCHM W *Cambs*, plan and photograph; CAS Relhan, 54]

Burrough Green

The Cages had bought Burrough Green in 1574. In the later 17th century their house, which incorporated older work, had a 140' long entrance front of brick which faced onto a walled north court beyond which there were formal gardens. When Sir Anthony Cage died in 1667 his estates were heavily mortgaged, a situation which had not improved at the death of his heir, his son in law, in 1690 and the building was partly demolished and reduced to the status of a tenant farm for the next two centuries. John Evelyn stayed there in 1670 and he described the house as 'ready to fall down with age'. [VCH *Cambs* X]

Castle Camps

The Castle Camps estate belonged to the London Charterhouse and was normally occupied by lessees. An engraving of the house (Fig. 2), which stood within the earthworks of the medieval castle, in about 1730 by S and N Buck shows it as a large gabled building with a tower at one side. Most of it fell down in 1738 and a small remaining portion was adapted as a farmhouse. [VCH Cambs VI]

Cheveley

Cheveley Park was begun by Sir John Cotton in the 1620s and bought by Henry Jermyn, later Lord Dover,

in 1671. A bird's-eye painting of 1681 by Jan Siberects shows it with a 120' main block facing east and a north wing, which later surveys describe as containing a hall, all within a regular layout of courts and gardens. It was said to have been damaged by a Jacobite mob in 1688 and it was remodelled in the 18th century. Demolition was in two stages, the first in the 1850s when it was reduced to a large farm house, the second in about 1890 prior to the building of a large new house in 18th-century style. That house was demolished after the estate was sold in 1920. [VCH Cambs X; Detailed plans of house and gardens in early and mid 18th century at Wiltshire Record Office; the bird's-eye

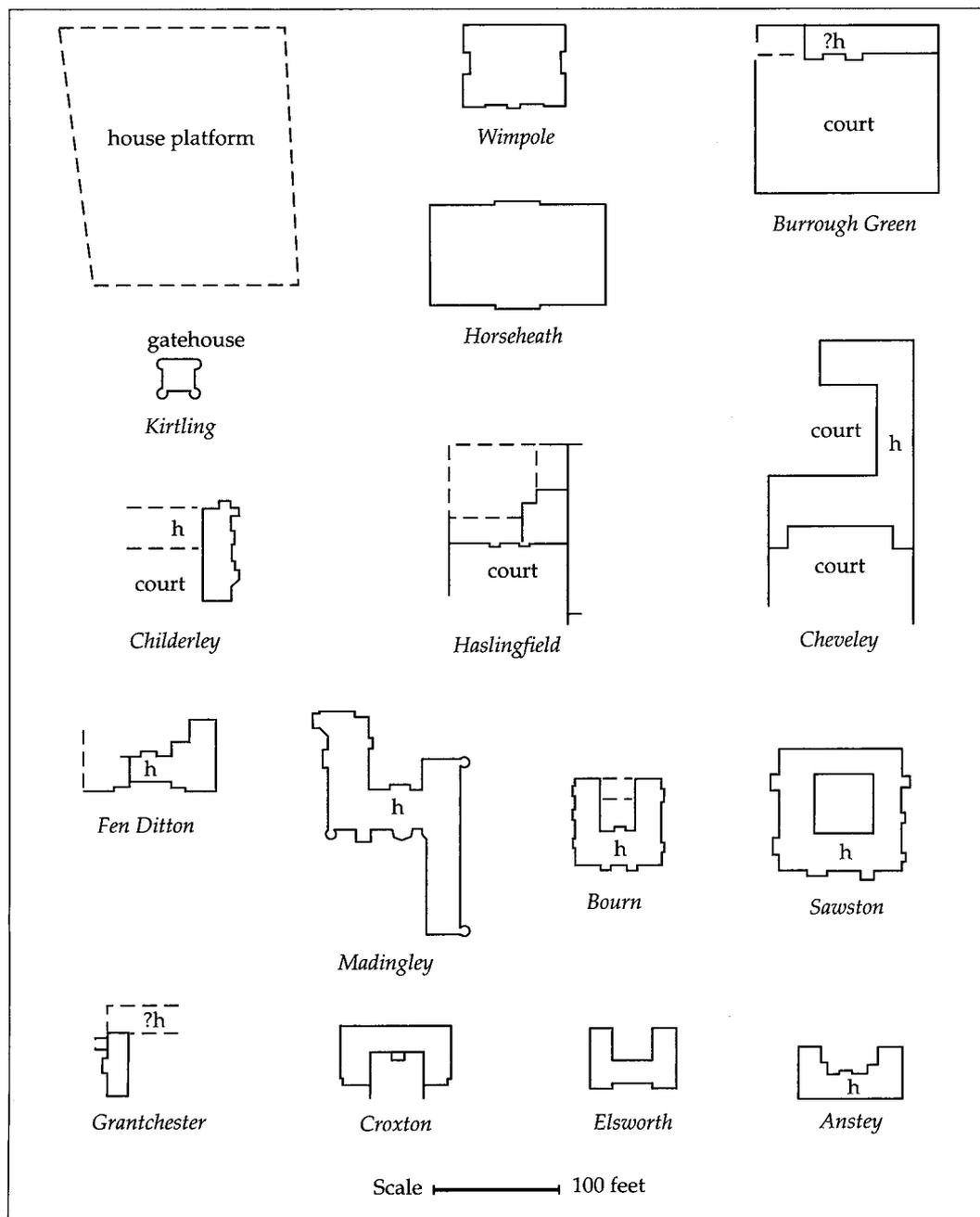


Figure 1. The relative sizes of some Cambridgeshire houses in the late 17th century.

view, now at Belvoir Castle, is reproduced in Harris, *The Artist and the Country House*]

Childerley

The Cutts family had bought Childerley (Plate 3) early in the 16th century. Only the 65' long parlour wing of their 17th century brick house survives and next to it there are the remains of a moated garden with raised terraces and a detached brick chapel. A probate inventory of 1670 lists about fifty rooms most of which would have been in hall and service ranges forming the other sides of a court which was open to the west and was probably bounded by a wall with a central gatehouse. [VCH *Cambs IX*; RCHM *W Cambs* plan]

Chippenham

Chippenham had been built or remodelled for Sir William Russell in the mid 17th century. An estate map of 1712 (Plate 4) shows it with a long entrance front with slightly projecting ends behind an entrance court to the northeast and with other ranges, which

may have incorporated older buildings, surrounding a back court which opened to the northwest. Only part of the service, west, ranges survived the demolition and rebuilding of the main house in the 19th century. [VCH *Cambs X*; description by Celia Fiennes in 1697]

Croxton

Croxton Park was built c. 1580 by Sir Edward Leeds and follows a plan which is common in Norfolk and Suffolk in the later 16th century. It had a 90' brick main range with a central porch and 50' flanking wings which surrounded a 40' by 30' walled courtyard. The house was remodelled and extended c.1760 and again in the 19th century but much of the original structural walling survives behind later decoration. [VCH *Cambs V*; RCHM *W Cambs*, plan and photograph of painting of c. 1700]

Table 1. Hearth tax assessments for south Cambridgeshire houses

Place	Family	1662	1664	1666	1674
Kirtling	North	57	54	60	60
Babraham	Bennett	43	40	40	40
Chippenham	Russell	34	34	34	34
Wimpole	Chicheley	33	40	40	47
Hatley St George	Cotton	-	-	-	27
Horseheath	Allington	-	-	-	26
Burrough Green	Cage	26	28	20	22
Isleham	Sparrowe	26	27	20	27
Childerley	Cutts	25	25	20	25
Little Shelford	Wigmore	25	25	20	25
Great Abington	Bennett	24	24	14	24
Landwade	Cotton	24	29	20	25
Haslingfield	Wendy	22	25	20	25
Whaddon	Pickering	22	22	19	19
Wendy	Lymerick/Wendy	22	22	20	25
Cheveley	Carlton/Jermyn	21	21	21	21
Fen Ditton	Willis	21	22	22	22
Steeple Morden	Duckett	20	19	14	11
Castle Camps	Keat	20	20	20	20
Madingley	Cotton	20	25	20	25
Oakington	Audley/Aiger	19	15	15	14
Linton, Barham	Millicent	19	18	18	19
Bourn	Haggar	18	18	18	18
Dry Drayton	Weld	18	18	18	18
Sawston	Huddleston	17	17	18	18
Impington	Pepys	17	17	17	17
Grantchester	Byng	27	27 ¹	-	15
<i>Some smaller houses</i>					
Croxton	Leeds	9	9	9	8
Elsworth	Disbrowe	9	9		
Trumpington/Anstey	Tompson	12	13 ²		

1. Five houses.

2. Two houses

Dry Drayton

The Cutts of Childerley bought Dry Drayton in 1652 and they leased it for a peppercorn rent to a distant relative Humphry Weld from Dorset who rebuilt the house in brick and sublet it to Joshua Sedgwick (Plate 5). It descended to the Dukes of Bedford, was a tenant farmhouse in the 18th century and had been demolished by the later 19th century. [VCH Cambs IX; PCAS 70; CAS Relhan, 149]

Elsworth

Elsworth was built by the Disbowes soon after they bought the estate in 1655. By the early 19th century it was a farmhouse and in the mid 20th century it had been divided into flats. [VCH Cambs IX; RCHM W Cambs plan]

Fen Ditton

Thomas Willis, who was created Baronet in 1641, had a few years earlier enlarged and encased in brick a

THE NORTH-EAST VIEW OF CAMP'S CASTLE, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE.

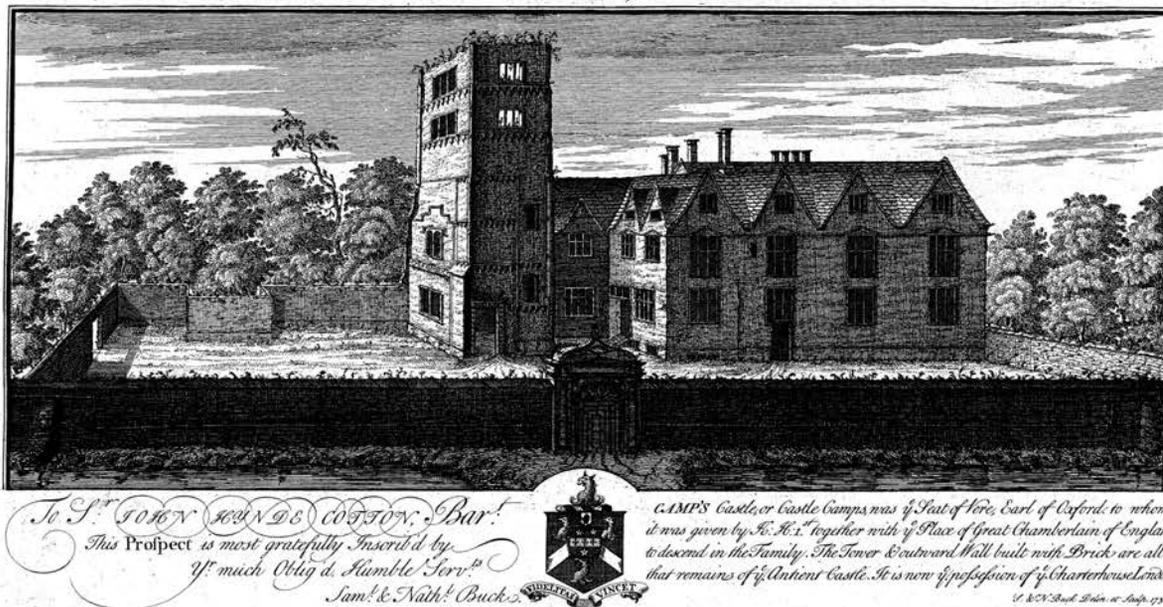


Figure 2. Castle Camps, from an engraving by S and N Buck, c. 1738.

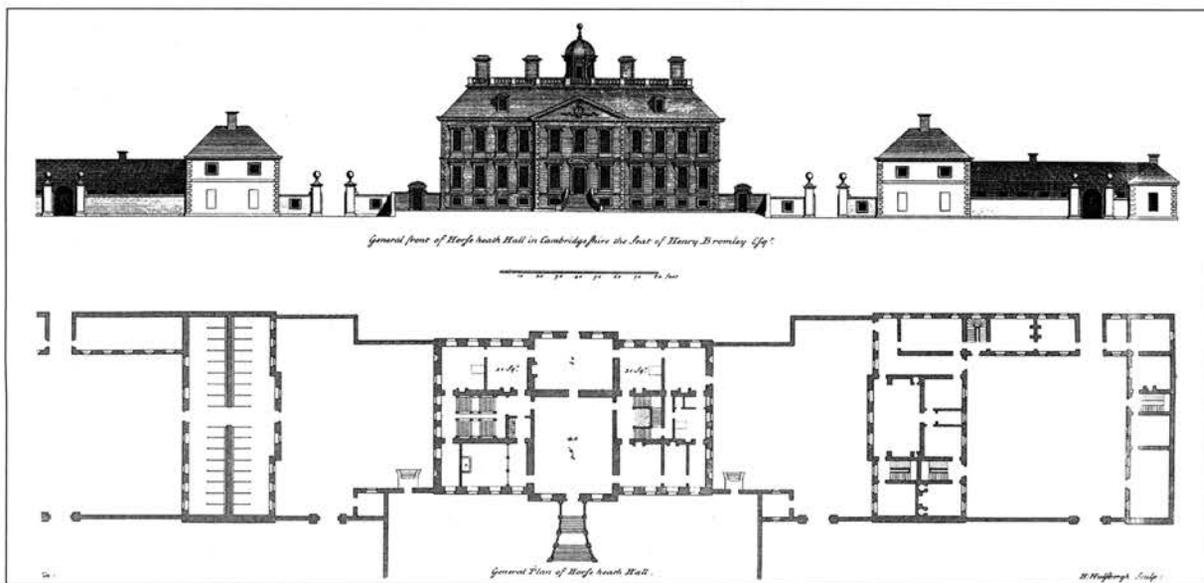


Figure 3. Horseheath Hall (Vitruvius Britannicus, 1725).

medieval manor house at Fen Ditton. His house had a 105' long main front to the southwest and walled enclosures to the north and to the east where the house had a loggia. The western end, which contained the service rooms, was demolished in the early 19th century when it was reduced to the status of a farm house. [VCH *Cambs* X; RCHM *NE Cambs*, plan and photograph; *Gents Mag* Dec 1801, engraving of house before reduction]

Grantchester

King's College bought Grantchester Manor estate in 1452. Records suggest that there was a house then, but whether it was on the site of the later Manor Farm or within the moat some distance to the southeast is uncertain. The oldest part of the present building is the timber-framed parlour wing of a substantial house of c. 1600 whose other ranges can be assumed from the surviving 17th century courtyard walls to the north and west. John Byng had bought leases from Kings

and other owners in the parish, but he went bankrupt in 1664 and late 17th and 18th century additions on the east side of the only surviving wing may replace much of the big house that was demolished soon after that. [VCH *Cambs* V; RCHM *W Cambs*; J Saltmarsh in *Economic History* III]

Haslingfield

Thomas Wendy bought the Haslingfield estate in 1541 and built a timber-framed house, which was probably approached from the west and had its hall on the east side, within a moat (Plate 6). Queen Elizabeth spent a night there in 1564 which suggests that it was then a house of considerable size and her visit may have been the reason for the heightening of the surviving southeast corner, where the first-floor room was traditionally known as Queen Elizabeth's. The third Thomas Wendy, who was a great collector, inherited in 1629 and he remodelled the south front, which was 93' long, in brick, built a new bridge over the moat on



Figure 4. Isleham Hall, from an engraving, 1792.



Figure 5. Kirtling, sketched shortly before it was demolished, published 1809.

that side and laid out the extensive walled gardens. The house was neglected in the 18th century and most of it was demolished early in the 19th century to leave only one corner as a farmhouse. [VCH *Cambs V*; RCHM *W Cambs*; CAS Relhan, 200–204]

Hatley

Layer, who died in 1641, says that at Hatley there was 'a pritty gentlemanlike seate now there built', presumably for Sir Henry St George, Garter King of Arms. The Cottons bought Hatley St George in 1658 and may have enlarged the new house soon after. It is shown in a Kip engraving of c. 1707 where it is double-pile and nine bays by at least five bays in the style of the later 17th century, but that may exaggerate its size for old walls incorporated in the present house suggest a rather smaller building. [VCH *Cambs V*; RCHM *W Cambs plan*]

Horseheath

Horseheath (Fig. 3) was built for Lord Allington in 1663–65 and demolished in 1777. His architect was Roger Pratt and its plan and elevation were published in volume III of Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus* (1725). The main double-pile block was 140' by 80' and there were link walls to symmetrical stable and service courts. [VCH *Cambs VI*]

Isleham

Isleham (Fig. 4) had belonged to the Peytons whose status can be judged by the fine monuments in the south chapel of the church. By 1637 Sir Edward Peyton was heavily in debt and he sold the estate to Sir John Maynard whose granddaughter's husband Francis Buller paid the tax in 1674. Thomas Sparrowe who paid tax in 1662 and 1664 was presumably a lessee. Much of the house was pulled down soon after 1800. What remains appears to be part of a brick hall range which is now the farm house and, detached as a consequence of the demolitions, a barn which was formerly a two-storied service range. [VCH *Cambs X*]

Kirtling

The Norths had acquired Kirtling (Fig. 5), which had belonged to the Earls of Warwick, in 1533. It must then have been a substantial house (it had been a royal estate with a park at Domesday and there is some evidence for a former motte) but they probably rebuilt or reconstructed it as the brick courtyard house within a large rectangular moat which is known from engravings. Queen Elizabeth was sumptuously entertained there over three days in 1578. Except for the detached gatehouse it was demolished early in the 19th century. The house platform is approximately 200' by 150' and the area enclosed by the moat is 400' by 380'. [VCH *Cambs X*]

Landwade

There is now no evidence for the appearance of the house at Landwade, which was ruinous by the 19th century.

Madingley

Madingley had been built by Sir John Hynde in about 1540 as a hunting lodge. The addition of the long north front, which contained many rooms including a long gallery above a loggia, in about 1590 made it into a substantial house which was engraved by Kip c. 1707 (Fig. 6). The hall range, which had the solar on the first floor, faced east and the service rooms were in the south wing. The east end of the north range was demolished in the later 19th century and recreated, although smaller, early in the 20th century. [VCH *Cambs IX*; RCHM *W Cambs*, plan]

Oakington

Oakington belonged to the Royalist Hattons in the first half of the 17th century but after Sir Robert went overseas in 1652 it was sold to the Audleys who paid the tax in 1662. In 1664 it was in the hands of Hattons' son in law and 4 hearths were 'puld downe'. By the 18th century it was a farmhouse. [VCH *Cambs IX*]

Sawston

Sawston Hall was burnt by a Protestant mob in 1553 and rebuilt in brick in 1557–8 by John Huddleston whose descendants continued to live in the house into the later 20th century. Externally 100' by 95' it is arranged round four sides of a courtyard and is one of the least altered houses in the county (Fig. 7). [VCH *Cambs VI*; *Country Life* 1954]

Little Shelford

Little Shelford was a brick house which had been built by Tobias Palavicino in the early 17th century. It faced eastwards onto an enclosed court and had a central feature and two-bay projecting ends. It was demolished in the mid 18th century when a few fragments were incorporated into the present house. [VCH *Cambs VIII* which reproduces a photograph of a watercolour copy of a painting, now missing.]

Steeple Morden

Steeple Morden was demolished in the mid 18th century. [VCH *Cambs VIII*]

Trumpington

Anstey Hall, Trumpington, had a central hall range and 42' wings framing a southern court, all timber-framed and probably built c. 1600. It was soon afterwards encased in brick and late in the 17th century the 83' north front was remodelled with sash windows and a one-bay central pediment on giant pilasters. [VCH *Cambs VIII*; RCHM *Cambridge*]

Whaddon

Early in the 17th century Whaddon, described by Layer as 'an ancient gentleman like howse' belonged to the Tempest family who sold it c. 1650 to Henry Pickering, a colonel in the new model army and MP for Cambridgeshire. In 1716 the estate was sold to Edward Harley of Wimpole and the house was downgraded to a farmhouse and demolished early in the 19th century. [VCH *Cambs VIII*]

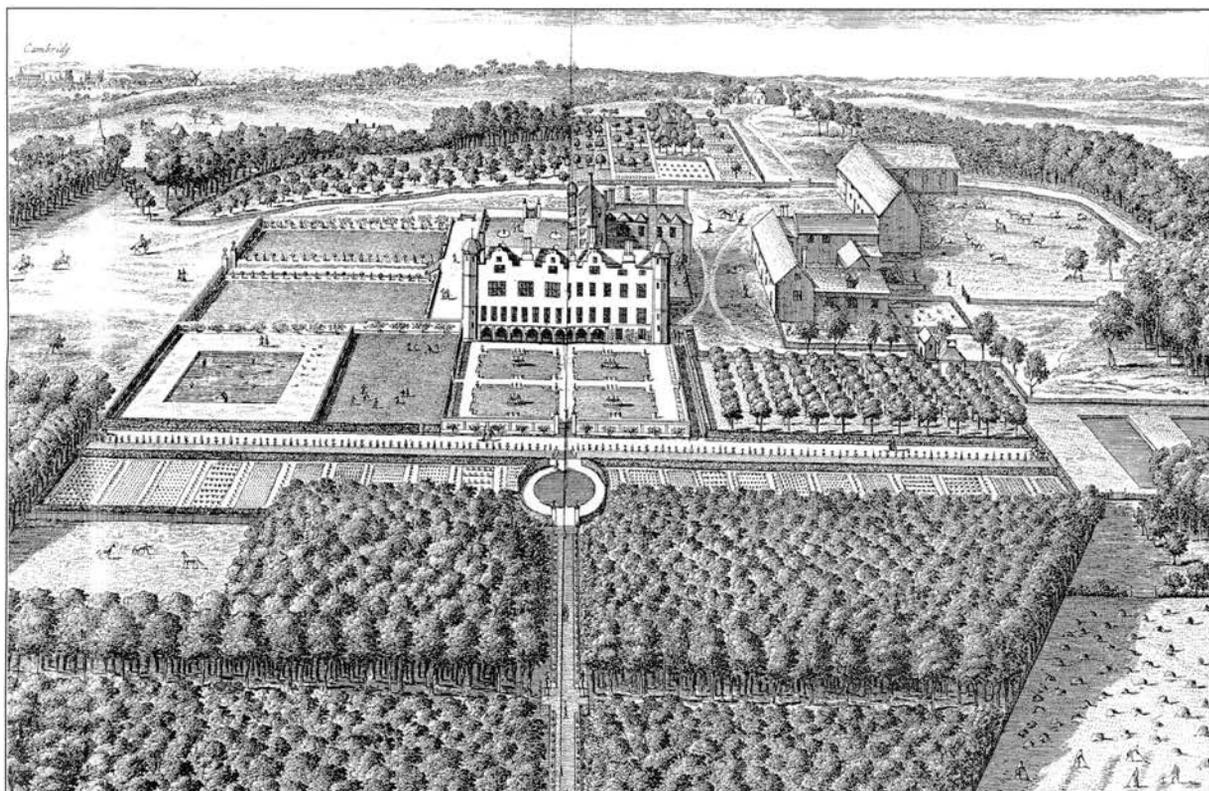


Figure 6. Madingley Hall, Kip view c. 1707.



Figure 7. Sawston Hall, sketched in 1844.

Wendy

Sir Thomas Wendy of Haslingfield had bought Wendy in 1655 from the Chicheleys of Wimpole. Thomas Lymerick who paid tax in 1662 and 1664 was presumably a lessee for his name does not appear as a manorial landowner. Lady Wendy paid on 10 hearths in 1674 and her house was being demolished in the late 18th century although a fragment may survive in the present Vine Farm. [VCH *Cambs* VIII; CAS Relhan, 328]

Wimpole

Sir Thomas Chicheley began building the new Wimpole Hall c. 1640 (Fig. 8). It had a double-pile plan, 84' by 67', which survives in the centre of the much enlarged house. The increase in the number of chimneys between 1662 and 1674 may reflect the addition of an additional floor. The engraved view by Kip (1707) probably represents an intended refacing, which has been attributed to William Talman, that was never carried out. A sketch by Vertue of 1733 (Fig. 9) and a survey by Henry Flitcroft of c. 1744 both show the south front in a 17th-century style with a prominent centrepiece and slightly projecting end bays. [VCH *Cambs* V; RCHM *W Cambs* plan; Walpole Society *Vertue Notebook* V]

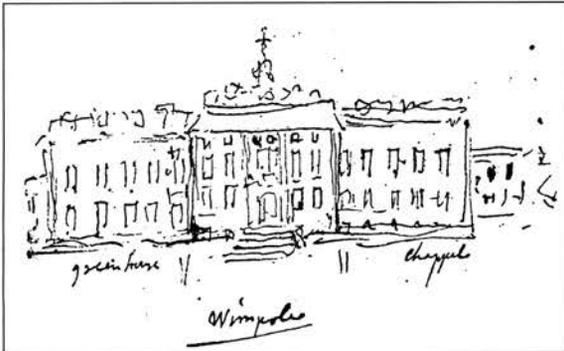


Figure 8. Wimpole Hall, a sketch by George Vertue, 1733.

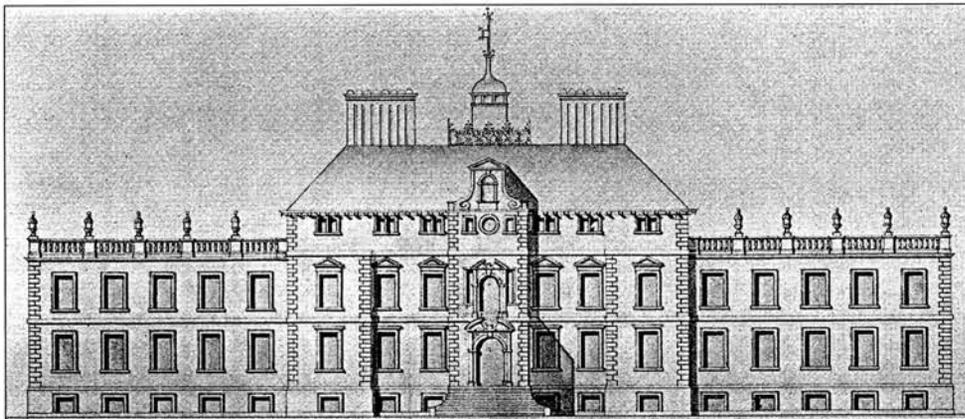


Figure 9. Wimpole Hall, south front including wings added after 1689, drawn by Henry Flitcroft before alterations, c. 1744.

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The descriptions of Burrough Green, Haslingfield, Grantchester and Anstey (Trumpington) are based on unpublished fieldwork.

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