

# ON SOME MINOR PLACE-NAMES IN OCKHAM AND WISLEY

BY

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**I** MAKE no pretence to be a trained philologist, and my only excuse for offering the following notes is that for the past twenty years I have been making intensive research into the history of the parish of Ockham, and to a less extent into that of Wisley, and have in the course of this come across much documentary evidence, most of it unpublished, that points to the derivation of the place-names concerned.<sup>1</sup>

I have made a number of references to the Ockham "Fence Lists," a term which needs some explanation. These are three lists, all in Volume I of the Registers (in GMR), of those responsible for the upkeep of the churchyard fence, in proportion to the acreage of their holdings of land, the lengths varying from 4 to 77 feet. As the lists give the names of both owners and occupiers of the 30 or 31 items and also, in the first two lists, the names or positions of the land concerned, their evidence is most valuable. The first list is undated, but the personal names make it certain that it belongs to the first decade of the seventeenth century; the second and third lists are dated 1759 and 1799 respectively. The second list gives not only the names of the owners of that date but also those of the "heretofore" owners.

Very little has appeared in print about this custom. The late Dr. Wilfrid Hooper, F.S.A., former Secretary of our Society, devoted much research to it, and I had the privilege of seeing a draft of a paper that he read in 1943 before the British Archaeological Association; he had collected examples of the custom from various parts of England; the earliest list he had found was that of Cowden, Sussex, dated 1542, but he had no doubt that the custom was far older. It seems to have been particularly common in the weald of Sussex and in Surrey, but it does not seem to survive anywhere now; at Wield in Hampshire it lasted until 1900<sup>2</sup>. At Ockham the old wooden fence has disappeared long since.

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<sup>1</sup> Most of the abbreviations I have used are explained in the list at the beginning of this volume. Others are GMR = Guildford Muniment Room (in Guildford Museum), *PNS* = *The Place-Names of Surrey* (English Place-Name Society, 1934); *TA* = Tithe Award; the Ockham schedule is dated 1840, the map 1838; copies of both are in GMR. The Award for Send with Ripley is dated 1844; a copy of the schedule is in GMR but not of the map; I have however a reduced copy of the Ripley portion of the latter.

<sup>2</sup> See W. E. Tate, *The Parish Chest*, p. 132.

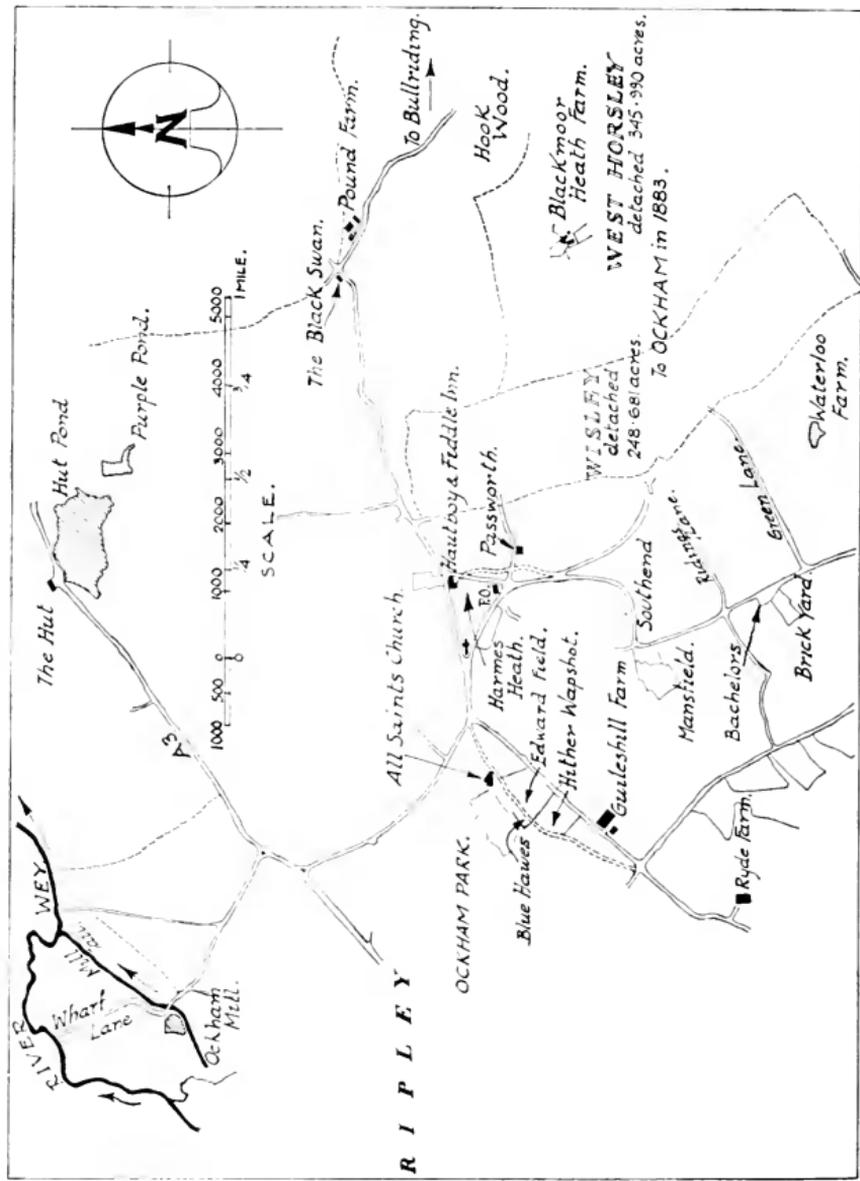


FIG. 1. PARTS OF OCKHAM, WISLEY AND WEST HORSLEY, c. 1872

I make several references to a series of Ockham Estate maps dating from 1706 to 1830; these were formerly all in the Ockham Estate office at Giles Hill, but have been dispersed since the estate itself has been split. I was able, however, by the kind permission of the late Baroness Wentworth to have photostat copies made of most of these maps.

I must express my cordial thanks to Miss E. Dance and Miss G. Beck, both of Guildford Museum and Muniment Room, for reading my first draft and making a number of most helpful criticisms. For the map (Fig. 1) I am indebted to Mr C. Titcombe of Clova Studio, Ripley.

### 1. BLUE RIDE

This is a roughly rectangular tree-planted enclosure of about 60 acres lying to the north-east of the Ockham-East Horsley road; now in Ockham, it formed up to 1883 the southern part of a detached area of Wisley.

*PNS* quotes Blewride Wood from O.S. c. 1825 [*sic*]<sup>3</sup>—the same form is on O.S. 1 inch 1816—and Blue Ride 1759 from Bashall.<sup>3</sup> This is a misunderstanding; the author quoting "Bolriden" from the Ockham Fence List of 1759 equates it (with a query) with Blue Ride. The latter, however, was then in Wisley, not Ockham, and "Bolriden" was in fact an old form of *Bullriding* (see below). The form Blue Ryde occurs for the first time in the Wisley churchwardens' accounts for 1701.<sup>4</sup>

*PNS* does not explain the first element which is certainly corrupt, for it would be a most unsuitable epithet for a "wood" or "clearing." (For "ride," variously spelt and often ending with an "n" see *PNS*, pp. 364, 5). However, in the court rolls of 1604, 1605, 1663, and 1668<sup>5</sup> we find forms whose first syllable is "Brew"—Brewridon, Brewride, Brewroyd. These make it an easy guess that a still earlier form included an "S", since the family of *Brewes* [Braose] held the manor through the thirteenth century.<sup>6</sup>

The guess is finally confirmed by an entry of 1355 in the *Black Prince's Register*:<sup>7</sup> William de St. Omer<sup>8</sup> is said to owe money for the farm of the demesne of the manor of Wisley including waste wood called "Brewesruden." Earlier still, in 1206, seven acres in *La Rede* are mentioned in a grant of land made by John de Brius and his wife Margery;<sup>9</sup> this is of interest, apart from giving an uncompounded form of the wood-name, as an earlier mention of the Brewes family's connection with Wisley than any given by the county histories.

<sup>3</sup> Henry St. John Hick Bashall, *The Oak Hamlet*, privately printed 1900.

<sup>4</sup> *Some Materials towards a History of Wisley and Pyrford Parishes*, ed. R. Ashington Bullen, Rector 1901-5.

<sup>5</sup> GMR 70/3/1.

<sup>6</sup> *V.C.H.*, III, 378, 9.

<sup>7</sup> Vol. IV, 133, f. 82.

<sup>8</sup> *Cf.* p. 60 below.

<sup>9</sup> P.R.O., C.P. 25(1)/225/3, Feet of Fines Surrey, No. 18, 7 John.

## 2. BLUE HAWES, EDWARDS FIELD, WAPSHOT

Blue Hawes—not in *PNS* or on any map—occurs in the first two Ockham Fence Lists as the name of a small holding, but nowhere else in this form; in the second list the words “at Gile’s Hill” are added. “Hawes” means a “projecting piece of land, a headland”; “blue” is once again clearly corrupt. Fortunately one earlier document gives an older form of the name. This is an entry in a survey of the manor made in 1548<sup>10</sup> which reads: “Robert Stynte holds by charter given under the sign and seal of John Bouchier kt. [Lord Berners] 26 Sept. 20 Hen. VIII [1528]  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre called *Blodhawse* lying in Ockham in Surrey between land called *Edwardesfelde* on N. and the King’s way leading from the hill called *Gileshill* on W. and land called *Hoppers* on S. and renders yearly 2d.”

The “way” was the lane leading from the Ripley–West Horsley road to Church End, Ockham; the modern Guiles Hill lane runs between the same points, but until the park was enlarged in the late eighteenth century the lane lay slightly to the north-west of its present course. There are only two other mentions of Edward field known to me: one in the will of John Weston of Ockham (proved 1548/9<sup>11</sup>) and the other on the Estate Map of 1706. Hoppers (Hypars, Hipers) occurs as John Weston’s in four official documents of the sixteenth century<sup>12</sup> and as “Hopers in Ockham” in the Ripley Court Roll of 1544;<sup>13</sup> it occurs again in Hither and Further Wapshot on the map of 1706, where the former bounds Edward field on the south-west.

The Survey of 1548—though the compass points are not quite exact—together with the map proves that *Blodhawse* occupied the south-west corner of Edward field. Its absence from all later documents outside the Fence Lists was due to its absorption by the field, which like Hither Wapshot formed a part of Guiles Hill Farm till the diversion of the lane caused them to be included in the park. In the second Fence List (1759) Blue Hawes belongs to the dowager Lady King, her tenant being Philip Dawes who was “of Giles Hill” at the time of his death in 1780; in the third list (1799) Lord King is his own tenant for Blue Hawes, which shows that it had by then been enclosed in the enlarged park.

If the first syllable of *Blodhawse* really means “blood” we may compare the field-name Wapshot, which *PNS*, dealing with Wapshot House in Worplesdon, says means “weeping corner;” was some minor conflict waged in the neighbourhood of the Ockham holding? Or “blod” might perhaps be a corruption of *Balud*, a pagan deity whose name the late Miss Olive Heath suggested to me might be at

<sup>10</sup> P.R.O., E. 36/168, f. 211.

<sup>11</sup> Prerogative Court of Canterbury, *Populwell*, 32.

<sup>12</sup> (i) Newark Priory Rental [*c.* 1540], G.M.R. 70/2/1; (ii) P.R.O., E.36/169, Survey of Manors in Surrey *temp.* Edw. VI; (iii) P.R.O. L.R. 2/190, 1–3 Edw. VI [1547–9], f. 161; (iv) *ib.* f. 208, parcel of possessions of Newark Priory.

<sup>13</sup> GMR, 97/2/1.

the root of "Bloody Hedges" in Albury. In this case Wapshot may be from "hop" meaning "enclosed land" or from "wapple" meaning "bridle way";<sup>14</sup> this last is perhaps the most attractive as the "way" would be Giles Hill Lane.

For the form of the name "Edward(s) field" compare "Maundefeld [Maud's field]" at South End, Ockham, mentioned in the Survey of 1548: later, as in the sole surviving Ockham Court Roll (1689),<sup>15</sup> the name is corrupted to *Mansfield*.

I have no clue to the identity of Maud or Edward, but it is interesting that a Walter Maynard, baptized at Ockham in January 1602/3, is stated in the Register to have been "borne in Edward house." I identify the site with the "tenement south of the church" of John Weston's will 1547/8 and with the "close" called Little Growcroft in the Act of 1710/11<sup>16</sup> which enabled the last John Weston of Ockham to break the entail and sell his land; the close is described as still containing "an orchard and old barn"; the house had evidently vanished. Since it was quite abnormal for a house to have a name apart from the land it stood on, "Edward House" must be a corruption of "Edward *hawse*"; the close adjoined the north tip of Edward field, much as Blue Hawes formed the south-west corner of that field.

### 3. PURPLE POND

Purple Pond on Ockham Heath—nowadays called Ockham Common—is frequently mentioned in Court Rolls and Rentals of East Horsley manor 1754–1829;<sup>17</sup> a certain holding described as *lying near the pond* can be shown, from the names of successive tenants, to correspond to a roughly rectangular enclosure of about three and a half acres at the junction of Old Lane with another that runs north to the Cobham boundary and was formerly called Ore Lane, i.e. "boundary lane." The pond in question is clearly that lying south-east of the Hut Pond—the latter called "Bolder Mere" on the O.S. 6 inch map—and shaped curiously like a mediæval boot; it is nameless on all maps except that of *T.A.* where it is called "Grass Mere," probably not an ancient name.

Purple Pond is obviously another corrupt colour name, but it would be difficult to guess the original form were it not for a 1663 Court Roll,<sup>18</sup> which states that one Henry Henn had died seised of a tenement on the waste in Ockham south of *Puppole*.<sup>19</sup> This form is undoubtedly itself a corruption of "Puck's pool," the first element

<sup>14</sup> *PNS*, pp. 162, 369.

<sup>15</sup> *GMR*, 97/3/9.

<sup>16</sup> 9 *Anne cap.* 31.

<sup>17</sup> *GMR*, 53/18 *et seq.* There were of course originally two manors in the parish, that belonging from 1036 to the Cathedral Priory of Canterbury and that belonging to the Bishops of Exeter till the mid-sixteenth century; the two were united in 1698.

<sup>18</sup> *GMR*, 53/16.

<sup>19</sup> The holding actually lies south-east of the pond, but such niceties did not trouble the drafters of such documents (*cf.* Blue Hawes above).

of which is noted by *PNS* for Pookhill (compare the well-known Sussex example) and Pockford farm, both in Chiddingfold; Puckney Gill in Charlwood, and Pockmires Wood in Newdigate, the last three all associated with water. There was once an iron forge at *Pophole* about two miles west of Haslemere<sup>20</sup> and marked on Norden's county map of 1595.

Finally, it is to be remarked that in one year, 1806, both Court Roll and Rental give the pond the intriguing *alias* of "Moll Henn's pond"; this must have been a pretty old name, for the family's connection with Ockham ceased about 1750.

#### 4. BULLRIDING

There were two holdings of this name in the Ockham tithing of the Canterbury manor of East Horsley: one is the Bullriding Farm of the O.S. 6 in. map, ten and a half acres of which lay in Ockham, the rest, including the farmhouse, being in Cobham. The other holding—not on the O.S. map—consisted of an eight-acre field crossed diagonally by the East Horsley boundary, and a neighbouring wood of nearly three acres; farm, field, and wood are shown as "Bullridens" in *T.A.*, having appeared regularly under that name in Court Rolls and Rentals from 1625; but in that year and often afterwards the wood is called Burchetts. The farm fields are only about 200 yards from the other field and the wood, and both holdings may originally have been one, but their known histories are quite distinct.

*PNS*, without hesitation, gives (under Cobham) the meaning of the farm-name as "bull clearing"; it does not mention the other Ockham holding. Their only references are to (1) Cobham *T.A.* (1848), (2) *Chertsey Abbey Cartulary* (1492) under "Metes and Bounds of Cobham,"<sup>21</sup> the latter believed to be a copy of a fourteenth-century original. The relevant passage says that the bounds "ducent ad unum rivulum apud *Bolerude*"; but the context shows pretty clearly that this *Bolerude* is not the same as *either* Ockham holding and that its name derives from "bol(e)" meaning tree-trunk or plank and from "rythe" meaning a small stream, a word sometimes corrupted to "ride" or the like. A stream does run from Norwood Farm in Effingham to traverse Little Mornshill Wood (O.S. 6 in. map) at whose north-west corner the parishes of Effingham, Cobham and East Horsley meet. At the *north-east* corner a footpath from Little Bookham comes up to the stream, precisely where a plank-bridge looks likely to have been. It is to be noted that the East Horsley manor view of 1420 refers to the ditch "*towards Boleryth*" being noxious: in 1421 it is described as "*at Boleryche*,"<sup>22</sup> but I think both references are to the *Bolerude* of the "Metes and Bounds."

<sup>20</sup> See E. Straker, *Wealden Iron* (1931).

<sup>21</sup> *Surrey Record Society*, XII (2), part i (1958), No. 949.

<sup>22</sup> P.R.O. Eccl. Commissioners' [now Church Commission's] Series, 1/18(12, 13).

For the two Ockham holdings I think that "clearing among tree-trunks" is a slightly more likely derivation than "bull clearing." I can find no stream in the neighbourhood of either, and it is puzzling that on Ascension Day 1686, when parishioners of Ockham and Cobham met as they were beating the bounds, it was decided after "a great contest" that the boundary should run "from Redhill Bottom to the stream below bulridon."<sup>23</sup> The present boundary ends a quarter of a mile east-south-east of the farm-house, and it seems there must have been a stream there which has since dried up, also very likely a plank-bridge; but it does not seem very probable that this would have given its name to a whole farm. The latter is called "Bullridons" in the first fence-list, "Bulrydon" in the second, while the other Ockham holding is called "Boll Ridan" in the first and "Bolriden" in the second; but this does not prove that the two had separate derivation.

Actually in the first list the farm is called "Bullridons late ye Hemowayes." That the latter is a personal name is shown by a deed of 1586<sup>24</sup> which concerns lands, etc., in Cobham, East Horsley and Ockham and mentions among other persons Thomas Hemingway. Agas's Survey of Cobham Manor (1958) has several references to Thomas and Edward Hemingway.<sup>25</sup>

##### 5. PASSWORTH, BACHELORS FARM, BURLTAYES

The old Saxon name Passworth appears on no maps except the 1706 Ockham estate map and T.A., but survives as the name of a small modern house near the village school. The element "worth," meaning a small enclosure, is less common in Surrey than in many other counties; for the first syllable compare Passenham, Northants, which Ekwall derives from a personal name Passa.

The earliest mention of the name is in the *Inquisition post mortem* of Jordan le Bachelor, held in 1297,<sup>26</sup> in which it is said that his wife Alice had been obliged to leave her husband because "he kept a concubine named Maud daughter of William le Tayllour of Passworth." Jordan had died seised of (1) 67 acres held of the manor of Ockham, rent 6d.; (2) 64 acres held of Thomas de Seende [Send]; and (3) 20 acres held of the manor of West Horsley.

The second item, probably extra-manorial, was, I believe, Passworth itself, which in 1706, 1710 and 1840 consisted of 60 acres, very near the figure of 1297. It is mentioned again in the will of John Weston 1547 (see p. 57 above), but not again before the map of 1706 which shows seven fields all called Parsworth [*sic*], with the farm-house standing on or near the site of the present house. This small farm lay in an area bounded on the east by Stoney Lane (which formed the west boundary of the Wisley "island") and the then rough equivalent of the modern road between Bramble Cottage

<sup>23</sup> Ockham Parish Registers, Vol. 1.

<sup>24</sup> *Ancient Deeds* (P.R.O.), Vol. III, A. 5964.

<sup>25</sup> GMR, 29/3; cf. also GMR, 45/1/9.

<sup>26</sup> Calendars Edward I, Vol. III, 260, No. 391.

and the Hautboy. In 1710/11 "Passer or Passworth" was a part of the land sold by John Weston to Sir Peter King (p. 58 above). In T.A. the land is farmed with Bridge End farm; the fields have various fancy names, typical of the new names that occur at this time and were almost certainly coined by Lord Lovelace; and Passworth appears, on the map only, as the name of a cottage near the well-known Ockham Schools founded by Lady Byron in 1836.

The first item in the 1297 Inquisition is almost certainly Bachelor's Farm itself (O.S. 6 in. map), of which the rent was still 6d. in 1548 (Manor Survey), and the acreage 60 in 1671,<sup>27</sup> which appears to be about the date when the farm was acquired by the Heaths of East Clandon. The farm may have taken its name from Jordan, but there was also a Richard Bachelor who was one of the jury at the *Inquisition post mortem* of Gilbert de Clare 1295/6.<sup>28</sup>

Jordan's third item—20 acres held of the manor of West Horsley—I believe may be the equivalent of the last item but one in the Ockham Fence Lists. This is called *Burlayes* in the first two lists, the second adding "at Blackmore Heath" (O.S. 6 in. map), but it had two *aliases*, *Berkeley*s and *Bullers*; the latter, round uniformly in East Horsley Court Rolls, seems to be a corruption of *Burlayes* (? = burnt leas); this last is frequently found in the Court Rolls of West Horsley,<sup>29</sup> but these also have *Berckley* or the corrupt form *Bartleys*. In 1358 William de St. Omer had licence for a chapel "in his manse of Berkeley,"<sup>30</sup> and in the Act of 1716/17 the farm is called "Blackmore Heath *als* St Omers *als* St Mary's," the third name being clearly a corrupt form of the second, while the first is itself a corruption of the "Blakemeresheath" of c. 1290 (*PNS*); curiously, the form "Blackmere" turns up again in the Ockham Register in 1842.

#### 6. HARMS HEATH, OCKHAM, AND HARMES HATCH, SEND

I treat these together as there has been some confusion between the two. The former, not on O.S. or in *PNS*, is also known locally as "The Triangle," lying as it does between the War Memorial, the Hautboy and the Post Office. It is called Harms Heath on the Estate Map of 1706, but "The Common called Hame's Heath" on that of 1735; those of 1788 and 1830 have "Halms Heath" as does T.A.; this last form or even "Alms Heath" is that used nowadays in official documents. At the time of T.A. the heath was split up into a number of small allotments, and all the buildings on it are later.

The name I believe to be derived from the surname Harme; this was never a common surname in Ockham, but there was a Richard who tenanted Apps Tree Farm (O.S. 6 in. map) very near the

<sup>27</sup> Private Act of 1716/17, 3 Geo. I, c. 18.

<sup>28</sup> P.R.O. C.133/77 (3).

<sup>29</sup> GMR 51/4/46, etc.

<sup>30</sup> M. & B., III, 38, note k.

heath c. 1600 (see East Horsley Court Roll 1627). Ham, on other hand, was an exceedingly common name in the parish and for that reason is not likely to have been corrupted to Harm; it is probable that it was called "Ham's Heath" in 1735 because (as the map shows) a Thomas Ham was then the tenant of land at South End, Ockham. In 1610 the will of Daniel Ham<sup>31</sup> mentions land on the "south of a lane leading from South End street to a common called Mershpole [marsh pool]"; this must be another name for Harmes Heath and the pool may be the same as the pond, called "Fish Pond" on the O.S. 6 in. map and known locally as "Sheepwash," which lies just across the War Memorial-Post Office road.

*V.C.H.* (III, 339) says quite mistakenly that "The Hundred Court was held at Harmeshatch, later called Harmesheath, near the borders of Ockham and Cobham parishes, on the verge of the hundred." But I know of no evidence that the heath was ever called *Harmeshatch*, and it is nowhere near the Cobham boundary. *V.C.H.* refers to an *Inquisition post mortem* of 50 [really 49] Edw. III [1375] where the words occur "ad hundredum domini regis de Hameshatch vocatum Wokkynggehundredum." *PNS* also says (p. 185) that the court was held at Harmeshatch *on the verge of the hundred*. But it gives a clue to the true site on p. 148, where under Harmes Hatch it refers to the Tithe Award for Send and Ripley of 1844; that map shows that the court was held on a site lying within a bend of the River Wey at the extreme west end of Broad Mead (O.S.), between the Send-Old Woking road and the stream and about 150 yards north-east of Woking Mill. Thus, so far from being held "on the verge," the court was held in a central position near the royal manor of Woking.

*PNS*'s first instance of the "hatch" (wicket gate) is from the 1331 Assize Roll—"Hammeshecch"; their first example of "harme" is dated 1550, another is in the 1548 Survey of Ockham Manor. It is "Hamhatch" again in 1649 (*PNS*), but afterwards seems always to be called "Harmeshatch." *PNS* says that all the forms are too late for any certain interpretation of the first element, but in view of the site it would seem probable that "hamm" meaning watermeadow was the true derivation. Clearly "harme" is here a corruption of "ham" (not *vice versa* as in Ockham), due to the commonness of the surname in Send.

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<sup>31</sup> Archdeaconry Court of Surrey, *Berry*, 106.