

Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau

Hollowmarsh - A Medieval, Communal Meadowland in North-East Somerset: Full Report



Photo: Colin Budge 2009

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Edited by Pip Osborne

Abstract

Hollowmarsh provides a fossilised, medieval landscape of former meadowland, which was farmed in common by its seven surrounding manors, with additional detached manors having allocations. The strip-field system of land allocation is preserved in the outline of today's field patterns.

Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP) has conducted a multi-disciplinary study of this historic landscape. This full report constitutes an archive of the group's researches. A short report entitled:

Hollowmarsh: A Medieval, Communal Meadowland in North-east Somerset: Short Report

has been published by CAMP and is available on the group's website <http://www.camplat.btck.co.uk>. as is this Full Report.

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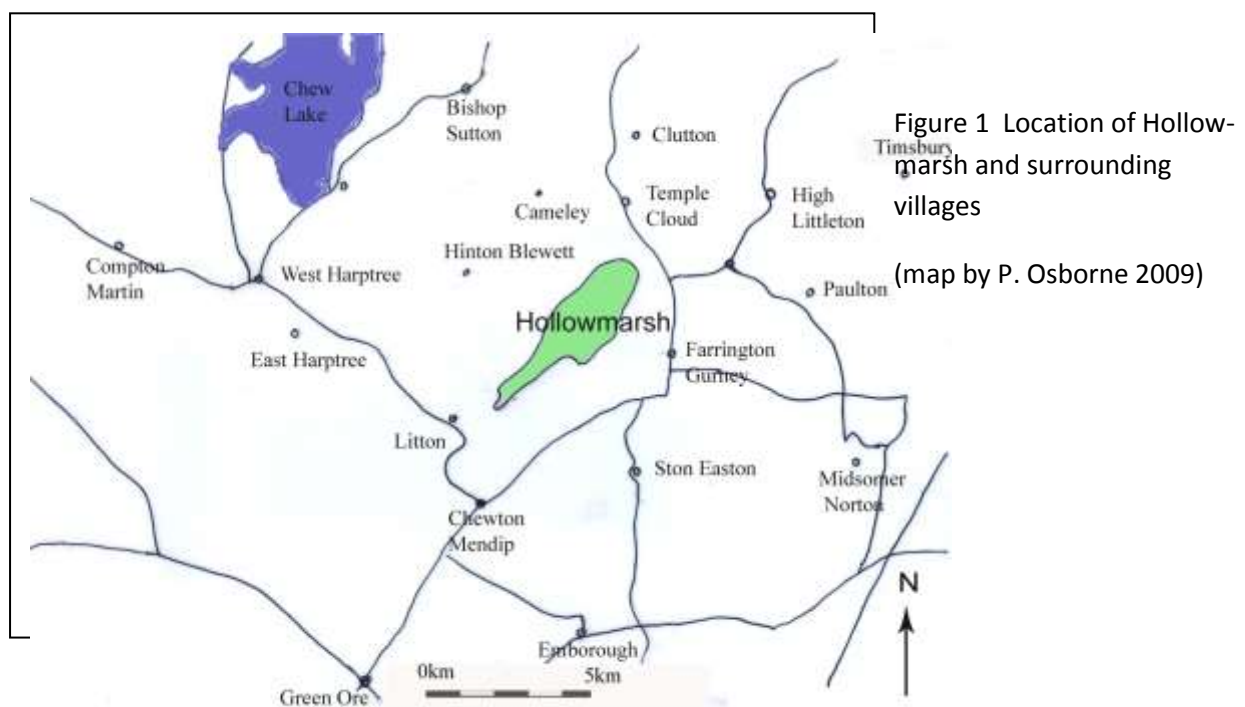
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CHAPTER 1

Geography and Topography

Hollowmarsh, centred at ST 613563, lies 6 km west-north-west of Midsomer Norton and 16 km south of Bristol and straddles the boundary between Somerset and Bath and North-east Somerset (BaNES).

It covers an area of approximately 3 sq km. extending north-east from the village of Litton to Temple Cloud (see Fig.1). It is a generally level area surrounded by higher ground – the hills of Hinton Blewett and Cameley to the north-west, the steep slopes of Litton and Chewton Mendip to the south-east and the more open ground of Farrington Gurney and Hallatrow to the east.



Hollowmarsh forms a shallow depression measuring 3.5 km. in length and between 0.5 and 0.75 km. in width. It lies 90m to 100m above sea level with the surrounding hills to the north and south reaching 160m. It is criss-crossed by numerous man-made drainage ditches flowing into a stream that drains to the north-east into the Cam brook at Temple Bridge ST 62555720.

The villages surrounding the depression include Litton and Hinton Blewett (west), Cameley (north), Hallatrow and High Littleton (north-east), Farrington Gurney and Ston Easton (east) and Chewton Mendip to the south-west.

Geology

The superficial deposits of the area are of a river terrace formation, possibly deposited by the river Chew when it occupied an earlier river course. They are represented by a thick layer of alluvium. The alluvial deposits rest on the Mercia Mudstones which outcrop around the fringes of Hollowmarsh with a covering of the Jurassic Lower Lias on the surrounding hills of Hinton Blewett and Chewton Mendip (Green and Welch 1965).

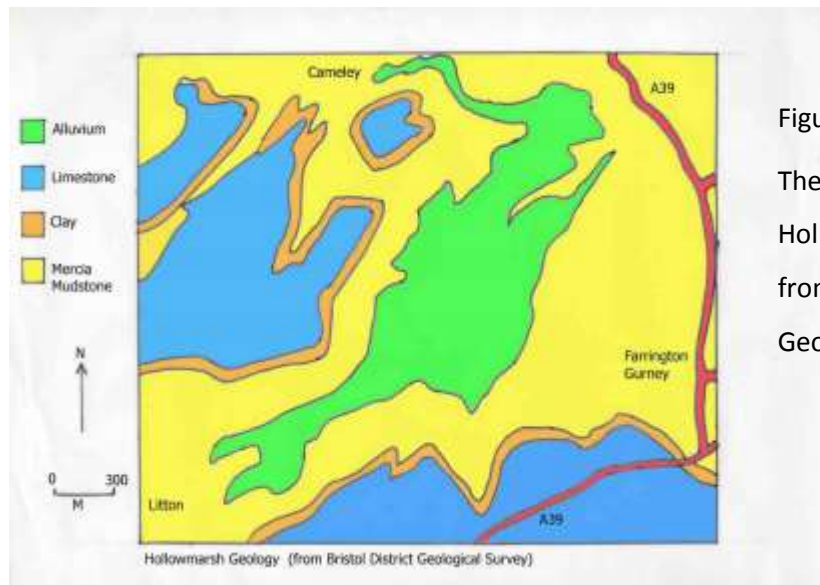


Figure 2

The geology of
Hollowmarsh (adapted
from Bristol District
Geological Survey)

Soils

The soils are of three series - Max, Compton and Spetchley. The Max and Compton series form on the gravels and the clay alluvium of the Hollowmarsh depression. The soils, once drainage water is removed, support pasture and a significant area of arable land. Percolation through these soils is relatively slow, and conditions in places may be damp. The surrounding Mercian Mudstone supports the Spetchley series, requiring drainage, but again supporting pasture and Chewton Wood (Findlay 1965).

Land Use

Today the land is a mix of permanent pasture with some arable and plantation. A portion of Hollowmarsh lying in Hinton Blewett and Litton has been designated a Nature Reserve.

Fields and settlement

Hollowmarsh is characterised by a regular pattern of straight, parallel field boundaries orientated NW/SE, bordered variously with bank, ditch and hedgerow, interspersed with oak trees planted in

the late 18th century. The lowest lying fields can be extremely wet and heavy during the winter months. No metalled roads cross the marsh and all the settlements lie round the perimeter. There are numerous footpaths giving access from all directions.

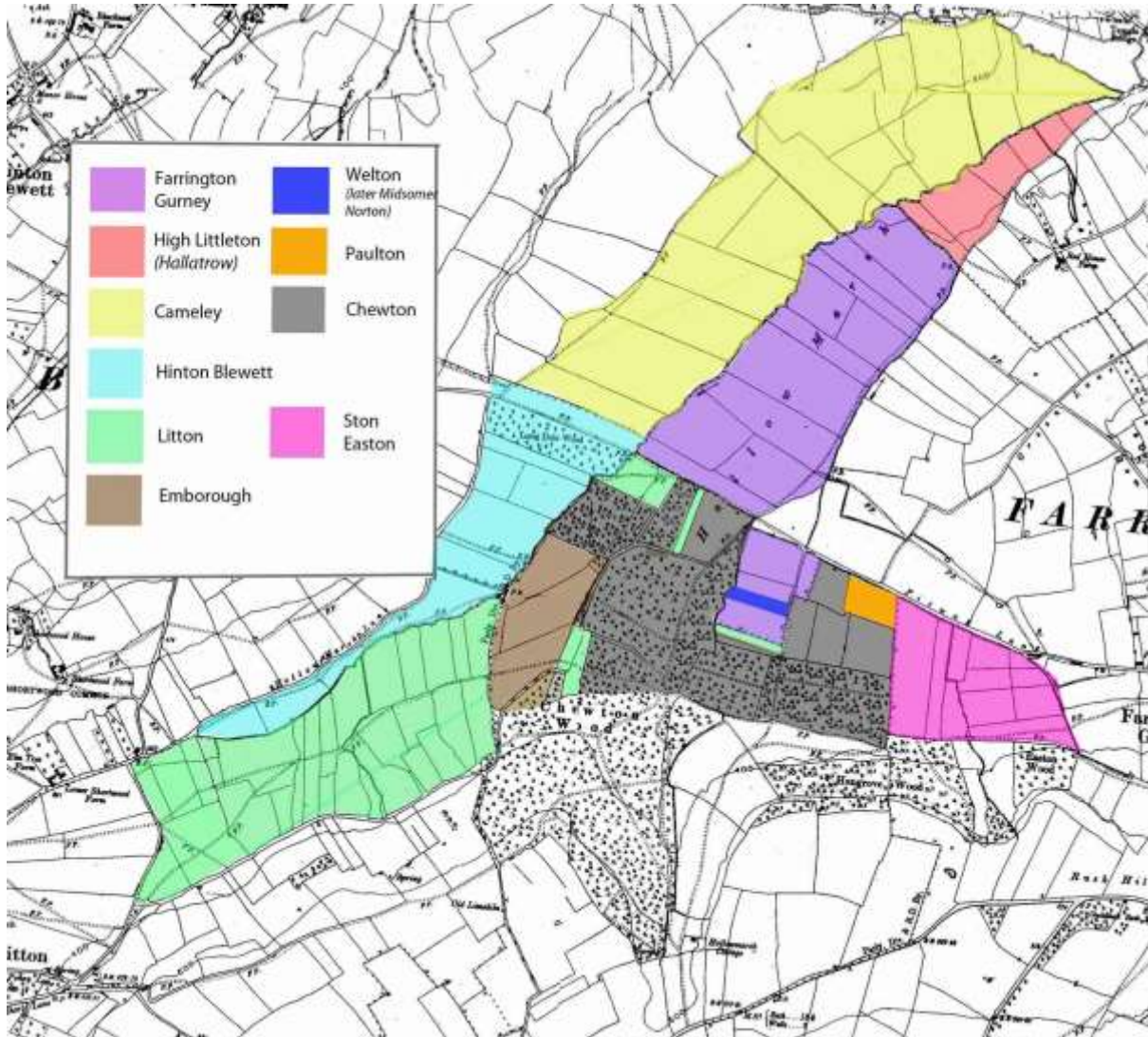


Figure 3 1904 Ordnance Survey Map of Hollowmarsh with the 10 manors that held land in medieval and post-medieval times (Graphics P.Osborne 2012)

Hollowmarsh: A Brief Historical Context

Hollowmarsh sits within an area that is believed to have belonged to the Royal Estate of Chewton in Saxon times (Costen pers com 2009). In the present day parish of Chewton Mendip there is evidence for settlement dating back to Neolithic times. Geophysical survey and excavation undertaken in the 1980s to the immediate south-east of the Marsh on Chewton Plain, found evidence of Iron Age-Romano British occupation (Catherall et al 1985).

Whilst it is conjecture that Hollowmarsh would have been an important resource in prehistoric and Roman times, the low-lying meadowlands would have been a source of hay and pasture for the animals belonging to these settlements and valuable to their pastoral economies.

We know from documentary evidence that communal meadowlands existed in the time of King Ine of the West Saxons from 688-726. The Laws of Ine (Douglas ed. 1953) state:-

‘If ceorls have a common meadow or other land divided in shares to fence, and some have fenced their portion and some have not, and [if cattle] eat up their common crops or grass, those who are responsible for the gap are to go and pay to the others, who have fenced their part, compensation for the damage that has been done there. They are to demand with regard to those cattle such as is proper’.

This document represents an example of early allocation of common land to individuals as well as the ‘policing’ of such. It must be considered therefore that such boundaries could have existed at Hollowmarsh by this time.

What is certain is that in later medieval times seven manorial boundaries were ‘fixed’ to converge on the Marsh in a seemingly fair and proportionate way to the size of the individual manors. There were also parcels of land apparently taken out of Chewton’s allocation at some stage and apportioned to the detached manors of nearby Paulton, Welton and Emborough. These detached manors may have formed part of a once much larger Chewton Estate, being later granted out by the Crown to form manors in their own right. CAMP has found a close association with the families who held these manors and those of the Chewton Lordships. Documentary evidence from the post-Conquest period (Ramsey ed. 1994) shows that the manors of Farrington, Paulton and Emborough, along with Ston Easton and Hallatrow were also dependent chapelries of Chewton church, reinforcing the case for Chewton having been an important ecclesiastical centre in late Saxon times

These detached manorial portions are shown as persisting in land ownership and field names on the Tithe maps of the 19th century and are discussed in detail later.

Communal Meadowlands in Context

Meadowland was important throughout the medieval period for the production of hay as the chief winter fodder crop and was frequently the most valued in a manor. This is reflected throughout history by the increased rental value of such land. Meadows were usually located in low-lying areas, including alluvial plains alongside streams, where conditions were damp and substantial crops of grass could be achieved (Aston 1985). Hollowmarsh is typical in this respect.

The importance of meadow grass as a fodder crop was also recognised and Hollowmarsh was ideally placed to take livestock for grazing once the surrounding higher pasture grounds such as Cameley Sleight and the Mendip Plateau were depleted.

Hay meadows increased gradually through the early medieval period and at the time of the Domesday Book accounted for about 1.2% of the land area (Rackham 1986).

At the time of Domesday *'meadow was widely distributed throughout most of lowland Somerset and also abundant in the valleys of the oolitic scarplands and in those of northern Somerset'* (Darby & Welldon Finn 1967). Table 1 shows how meadowland was allocated in the various manors represented in Hollowmarsh

Parish	Domesday Acreage 1086	Tithe Acreage c1840
Chewton Mendip	100	90
Cameley	160	158
Farrington Gurney	100	110
Hinton Blewett	60	59
Hallatrow	27	26
Litton	60	70*

* Excluding 'Honeyhill' field

Table 1. Comparison of meadowland in the Domesday Book with that of CAMP's perceived Hollowmarsh boundary in the Tithe Apportionment. *NB Ston Easton Apportionment figures are unreliable.*

Lammas Meadows

Hollowmarsh, or parts of it, could have been an example of Lammas Meadows organised on an annual cycle. These types of meadows were grazed from August 1st (Lammas) to February 2nd (Candlemas). From Candlemas to Lammas the meadows were closed to livestock to allow the grass to grow and to be harvested (Brian 1999). The strips in the common meadows could be allocated by the drawing of lots.

This practice is described for Yarnton in Oxfordshire, where named balls were drawn, representing the right to mow the grass of one lot (Gretton 1910 & 1912). The practice is also recorded for the Dolemoors in Congresbury and Puxton, Somerset, where the custom commenced with the ringing of a church bell on the 'Saturday before Old Midsummer Day' (S.D.N.Q. 1911).

Lugg Meadow at Lugwardine, Herefordshire is today a Site of Special Scientific Interest being a remaining example of an organised Lammas Meadow.

Whether Hollowmarsh was organised exclusively as a Lammas Meadow cannot be established. There is evidence in some manors of residual field names such as 'Dole' hinting at this former practice. However, the static allocation of strips in Chewton's portion to individual tenements, still extensively practised at the time of the Rocque Survey of 1740, would suggest that this was not the case. Where other manors' records survive they show a similar allocation system at work.

'Dole' field names in Litton, Cameley and Hinton Blewett could represent 'lottesmeade' described by Dyer et al (2006, 146-7) as meadow redistributed from time to time among the tenants who were not able to receive a share on a permanent basis'. This was found to be commonplace in their researches as part of the Whittlewood Project (Jones & Page 2006,146) in the Midlands.

Whether or not Hollowmarsh was originally a full-scale Lammas Meadow, all the manors would have had to adhere to a strict regime regarding its cultivation. As with other medieval meadows farmed in common, grass would be allowed to grow from early summer, cut and removed to settlement in around July, after which tenants could bring their animals onto the grasslands to graze. Gates at routeway entrances onto the Marsh would have contained the animals. This provided pasturing whilst keeping the animals separate from arable crops in the settlements. In the autumn and when the land became water-logged the animals were removed and pastured on the stubble on the arable to aid manuring. In spring and early summer they would graze the slopes of higher pastureland. The hay gathered in the summer then provided the fodder for the winter months (Brian 1993, Williamson 2003).

It would have required a great deal of co-operation from all the manors concerned. In earlier medieval times Chewton Estate may have had overall control of the marsh in a similar way to that of Curry Rivel in south Somerset. Comparison can be drawn with the work of Michael Costen (2011) who has studied the medieval organisation of Curry Moor on the Somerset Levels. The royal estate of Curry Rivel had overall control of this marshy land, with the boundaries of the neighbouring estates of North Curry and Curry Mallet converging there. A number of detached manors also had rights, either to graze, or to take reeds, osiers or peat from the marsh.

Where manorial records survive for the post medieval period, they show the medieval system of field allocation persisting. Through scrutiny of the Waldegrave Estate Records for the manor of Chewton it has been possible to place the exact position of field allocation in the Marsh to the various tenements which had, and continued to have, entitlement in the Marsh from medieval times.

A general pattern emerges of one-acre apportionments being granted to each farmstead over a certain size. Those with greater allocations reflect a pattern of farmstead amalgamation, a trend which gathered a pace in post-medieval times. An example of this amalgamation can be seen in Chewton's West End. Sperring Farm was absorbed into Wyches Farm at some time prior to 1740, the latter acquiring the former's allocations in Hollowmarsh (DD/WG Box 8/9).

In the post-medieval period the expansion of meadows continued, with the practice of watering through a system of channels occurring notably in Wessex (Betley 1999). From this practice emerged the 'catchwork' meadows, to be found in some parts of Somerset. These systems transferred water by leats to slopes on hillsides and distributed the water in a sheet across the meadow to encourage early grass growth. Document, map and earthwork evidence at Cameley suggests some form of watering system may have been deployed (see Chapter 3)

Agricultural developments in the 19th and 20th centuries, in particular the introduction of imported feedstuffs and new grasses, diminished these practices (Betley 1999).

CHAPTER 2

Hollowmarsh: the name

Whilst it is reasonable to assume that the Marsh element of the name relates to the boggy situation of Hollowmarsh, especially in the winter months, the 'Hollow' part has several possible explanations. Gelling (1993, pp100-111) relates 'hollow' names to the OE 'halh', used in some areas as the land between rivers, a small valley or a depression between hills. However it should be noted that the Old Welsh word for Salt was Halen and that an area of the Marsh was called the Salt Marsh. Its significance will be explained later in this chapter. It begs the question of whether the name had roots in the 6th and 7th Centuries.

The marsh has appeared in documents since the 14th Century with a variety of spellings. The 1369 Court Rolls for the Manor of Ston Easton Major (DD/HI/A/240) refer to *Helewemerssh* and in 1426 it appears as 'Halewmerrssh' (Add.Charter 6537). Examples of Hallowmarsh (1557), Holy Marshe (1649) and in the 18th century Hollymarsh show a gradual trend towards the permanent name Hollowmarsh of the 20th Century. *(A fuller list of names and references appears in Appendix 2).*

Geography of marsh

The most informative and complete set of historic maps for Hollowmarsh is the Tithe Map collection of c1838-40, drawn up when the Tithe Commutation Act was passed. Individual maps for each of the parishes represented on the Marsh were made detailing every field. An accompanying Apportionment document gave names, acreages, uses, tenants and owners and rentals due for all the land.

CAMP has based its researches on these maps, doing a regressive study where older maps and documents are available. With the exception of High Littleton Tithe, it would appear that the parish boundaries were by and large inherited from earlier manorial ones.

The following pages give a map of each of these parishes's fields within the Marsh. It must be noted that it has been very difficult to ascertain the precise perimeter of Hollowmarsh. On maps and in published documents (www.bathnes.gov.uk) it has been variously identified through geology, soil type and topography. CAMP has attempted to use 'Hollowmarsh' field names as its main criteria although none of these categories coincides precisely.

Key to Apportionment land use as follows:

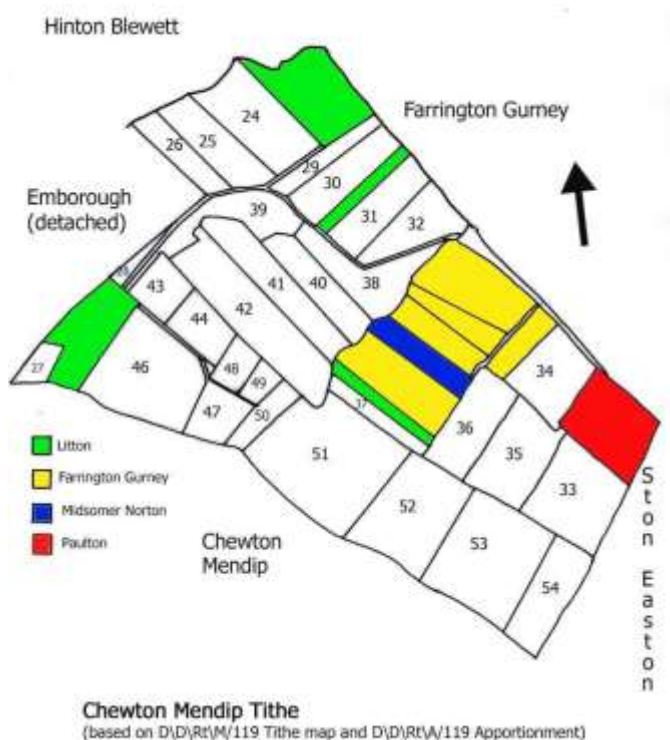
a=arable, c=coppice, g=garden, o=orchard, p=pasture, pl=plantation, sm=salt marsh, wb=withey beds. The distinction of meadow was not made in the Apportionments.

TITHE MAPS

The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 produced a valuable resource for the landscape historian and archaeologist. The two key documents are the map and apportionment. These have been used in this study for each of the parishes/manors with land located in Hollowmarsh. The Great or Rectorial tithes were paid to the impropriator or rector and the Small tithes to the vicar. In the medieval period the tithes were often paid to an ecclesiastical impropriator such as a monastery or bishop. This changed after the dissolution when they passed to the Crown and lay impropriators. The payment could be in kind or a cash payment. The 1836 Act replaced payment in kind with a tithe rent-charge which required a detailed valuation of agricultural land. The surveys that resulted from this process have formed an important source for this study (Kain & Prince 2000).

CHEWTON MENDIP

Chewton Manor, as a Royal Estate in earlier medieval times will be dealt with first. As a large Estate it could well have had influence over the management and apportioning of the Marsh when boundaries were drawn up. It occupied the south-east portion of the marsh.



Unlike the other Tithe maps, Chewton's gives more detail about the various historical uses of the Marsh. There are extensive 'withey beds' and an area called the Salt Marsh, with Litton being given an allocation within it. Its origins are discussed in this chapter.

Figure 4 Chewton Mendip: Fields on Hollowmarsh

tithe no.	field name	land use	area a.r.p. *	land owner	tenant	tithe payment £. s. d *
24	Adjoining Craftmead	pl	4.0.35	Earl Waldegrave	Earl Waldegrave	£0.7.0
25	Craftmead	pl	2.3.35	..	..	£0.5.1
26	Craftmead Close	pl	1.2.14	..	..	£0.2.10
27	Hollymarsh	pl	0.2.32	Kingsmill	Kingsmill	£0.0.1
28	Corner Piece	pl	0.1.13	Earl Waldegrave	Earl Waldegrave	£0.0.5
29	T Paddock	pl	1.1.15	..	..	£0.3.0
30	East of T Piece	pl	2.3.8	..	..	£0.6.7
31	Hollymarsh	a	2.3.13	Kingsmill	John Cox	£0.6.7
32	Hollymarsh	a	2.2.2	Earl Waldegrave	Robert Collins	£0.5.11
36	Close nr Trappells	a	3.0.27	..	John Parfitt	£0.6.5
37	Withey Bed	a	0.3.6	..	..	£0.2.0
38	Dorminster Piece	pl	3.0.20	..	Earl Waldegrave	£0.6.3
39	Rowdens Batch	pl	2.2.4	..	..	£0.5.7
40	Greens	pl	2.2.4	..	..	£0.5.7
41	Crabb Tree Close	Pl	3.2.20	..	..	£0.13.6
42	Sheppards & Dudleys	pl	5.3.35	..	..	£0.13.6
43	East Dudleys	pl	1.2.20	..	..	£0.3.7
44	The Batch	pl	1.3.9	..	..	£0.4.0
45	Pt of The Salt Marsh	pl	0.0.14	..	..	£0.0.2
46	The Salt Marsh	pl	5.3.16	..	..	£0.9.10
47	Hollymarsh	pl	1.2.13	..	..	£0.3.7
48	Dryals Coppice	c	1.0.15	..	..	£0.1.8
49	House Piece	pl	0.2.26	..	..	£0.1.15
50	Brook Piece	pl	1.1.6	..	..	£0.2.10
51	Hippisley Mead	a	8.3.35	..	Robert Speed	£0.17.8
52	Hollymarsh	pl	5.2.7	..	Earl Waldegrave	£0.15.6
53	In Hollymarsh	pl	6.2.29	..	..	£0.17.11
54	In Hollymarsh	pl	3.1.15	..	..	£0.9.0
33,34,						
35	Wrights Ground	p	11.0.22	..	Wm Press	£1.7.4

All tithes payable to the Vicar of Chewton

* see page 57 for explanation of terms

Table 2. Chewton's land in Hollowmarsh

tithe no.	field name	land use	area	land owner	tenant	tithe payment
555	Shatter Mead	a	3.2.30	Elizabeth Plumtree	Henry Kellen	£0.6.7

Tithes payable to the vicar

Table 3. Paulton's Land in Hollowmarsh consisted of a square field taken out of Chewton's land.

Emborough's land in Hollowmarsh divides the Litton allocation and its field boundaries sit at odds with those of the surrounding fields. It begs the question as to whether Litton's land once extended further north and east. The Tithe Apportionment shows it to hold just over 23 acres.

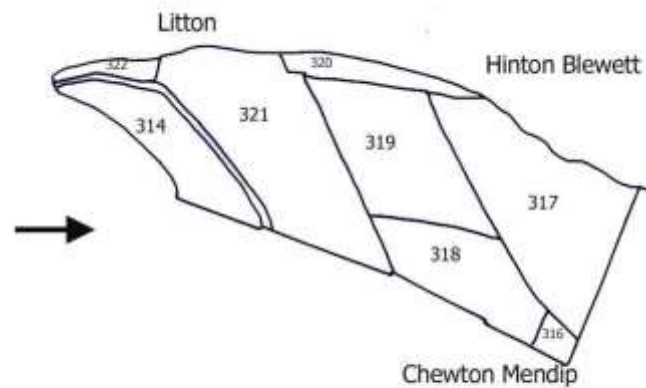


Fig. 5 Emborough's fields in Hollowmarsh

Emborough Tithe c.1840 (detached)

(based on D:\D\RT\M\284 Tithe map and D:\D\RT\A\284 Apportionment)

tithe no	field name	land use	area	land owner	tenant	tithe payment
314	Hollowmarsh Plantation	Pl	2.1.36	Earl Waldegrave	Robert Speed	-
316	Plantation	Pl	0.1.18	Edmund Broderip and Greenhill	Joseph Vowles	-
317	Six Acres	Pa	5.3.26	..	..	£0.8.10
318	Three Acres	pa	2.3.38	..	..	£0.4.6
319	Four Acres	pa	4.0.34	..	..	£0.6.4
320*	Paddock & House		0.3.20	..	..	£0.1.4
321	Six Acres	pa	6.0.27	..	..	£0.9.3
322	Plantation	Pl	0.1.21	..	..	-

All tithes payable to the William Kingsmill, Impropiator of Chewton

* No. 320 is recorded as paddock and house, but is not supported by other documents of the period.

Table 4. Emborough's land in Hollowmarsh

STON EASTON

Ston Easton's Hollowmarsh lies on the east side of Chewton's land and within a possible older curved boundary of Chewton. Its allocations were on the periphery of the central area of the marsh with some of the fields rising in a southerly direction towards Hengrove Wood, Rush Hill and additional common meads.

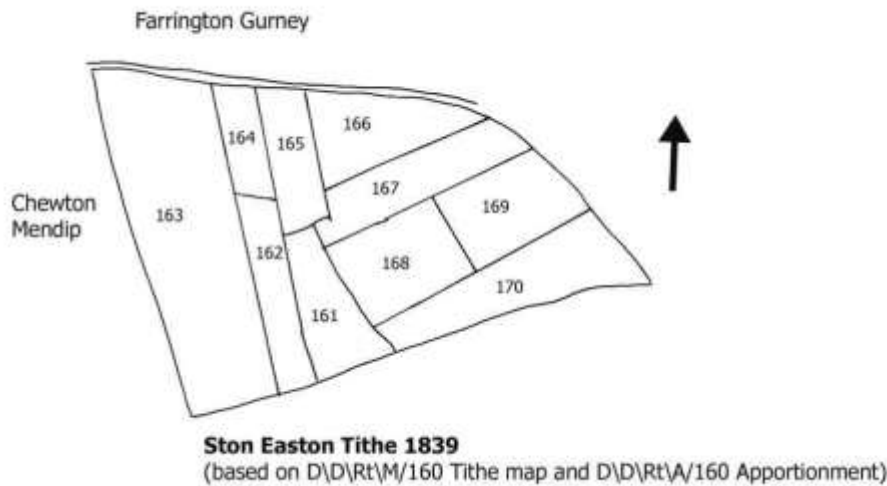


Figure 6 Ston Easton's fields in Hollowmarsh

tithe	field name	land use	area	land owner	leasee	tithe payment
161	Easton Mead	pa	15.2.39	Eliz. Hipsley	Rich. Miles	£1.0.6
162	..	pl	1.2.19	..	..	-
163	..	pa	2.1.20	..	..	£0.2.8
164	..	wb	0.1.39	..	..	£0.1.0
165	..	pl	1.1.13	..	..	-
166	..	pa	6.2.16	..	..	£0.9.10
167	..	pa	0.0.6	..	..	-
168	..	o	0.1.11	..	..	£0.2.6
			0.0.29		..	£0.6.0
169/170	..	-	and 0.3.1	..		

Tithes payable to the vicar

NB The numbering of fields on the tithe map and the acreages recorded in the apportionment do not correspond.

Table 5. Ston Easton's fields in Hollowmarsh

LITTON

Litton manor was the only ecclesiastical manor on the Marsh and occupied land to the south of the marsh with 4 detached portions in close proximity.

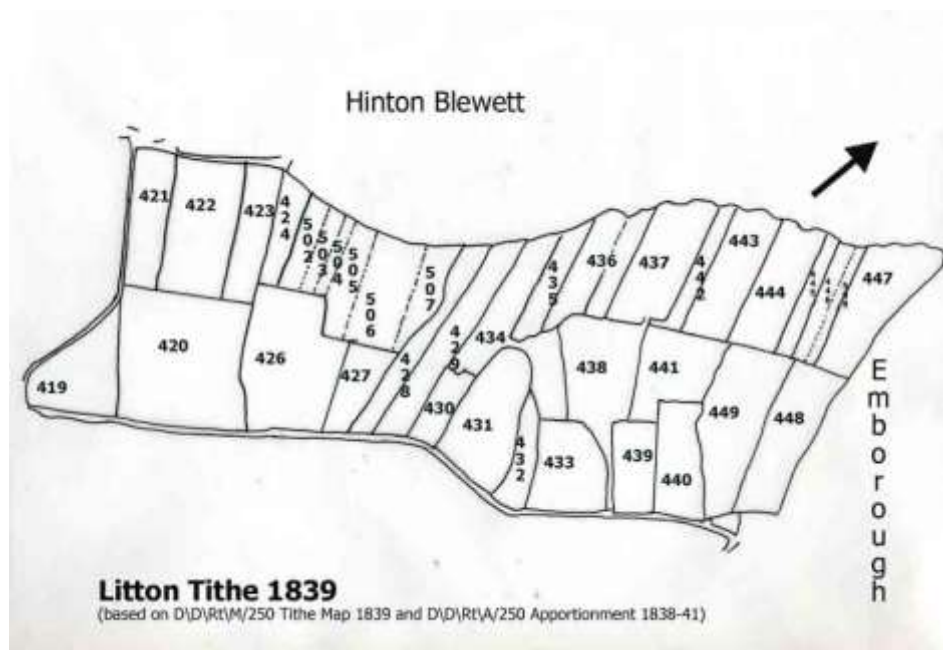


Figure 7 Litton's Fields in Hollowmarsh

tithe no.	field name	land use	area	land owner	tenant	tithe payment
419	Lords Mead	p	3.0.19	Mrs Frances Lowth	William Banwell	£0.8.6
420	Lords Mead	p	7.2.17	..	..	£1.1.0
421	Horsey Ground	a	2.1.3	John Champion	Himself	£0.6.2
422	Lords Mead	p	4.0.28	Mrs Frances Lowth	William Banwell	£0.11.8
423	Holly Marsh	a	2.0.26	John Champion	Himself	£0.6.0
424	Top paddock	p	1.1.0	Vowles, Lyde, Candy	Thomas Vowles	£0.5.8
426	Seven acres	p	5.1.37	William Savage	Himself	£0.9.10
427	Little Holly marsh	p	1.2.14	Jonah Sage	Himself	£0.1.6
428	Long Dole	p	2.0.6	Rev. Henry Wright	Jonah Sage	£0.4.4
429	Long Dole	p	2.3.10	Simon Rendall	Joseph Hazell	£0.5.8
430	Holly Marsh	p	1.0.11	Rev. Henry Wright	Jonah Sage	£0.2.2
*431	Ladys Mead	a	3.2.23	James Hilbert	Himself	£0.8.0
*432	Butter Well	p	1.0.29	Simon Rendall	Thomas Vowles	£0.2.6
*433	Baths mead	p	2.3.12	James Hilbert	Himself	£0.6.2
434	Holly Marsh	p	3.2.13	William Savage	Himself	£0.8.0
435	Long Dole	p	1.1.14	Simon Rendall	Thomas Vowles	£0.3.10
436	Pains paddock	p	2.3.0	..	..	£0.7.8
437	Smiths mead	a	3.1.27	..	..	£0.8.4
*438	Honey Hill	p	3.3.16	..	..	£0.7.4
*439	Honey Hill	p	1.3.4	Thomas Porter	Himself	blank
*440	Upper Honey hill	p	2.1.33	Simon Rendall	Thomas Vowles	£0.4.10

*441	Honey Hill	a	2.2.36	John Champion	Himself	£0.6.0
442	Honey Hill	p	1.0.6	James Bendall	Himself	£0.2.6
443	Lower Honey hill	p	2.3.21	Simon Rendall	Thomas Vowles	£0.5.4
444	Three acres	a	2.3.13	Jane Griffin	Henry Franks	blank
445	Hollymarsh paddock	a	0.3.20	William Blinman	Himself	£0.1.8
446	In Hollymarsh	a	0.3.26	Simon Rendall	Thomas Vowles	£0.2.0
447	Four acres	a	3.2.27	James Hilbert	Himself	£0.7.4
*448	Pine Hill	p	3.1.20	Mrs Frances Lowth	William Banwell	£0.5.8
*449	Lower hill	a	4.1.12	..	..	£0.7.2
	In Little Holly	p	0.3.20	Ann Doolan	Henry Kerslake	£0.1.8
502	Marsh					
503	In Little Holly Marsh	p	0.2.23	Jane Griffin	Elizabeth Tucker	£0.1.4
504	In Little Holly Marsh	p	0.1.29	James Bendall	Himself	£0.0.10
	In Little Holly	p	1.1.13	Jane Griffin	Henry Franks	£0.2.6
505	Marsh					
506	In Little Holly Marsh	p	2.2.27	James Bendall	Himself	£0.5.0
	In Little Holly	p	1.1.5	Ann Doolan	Henry Kerslake	£0.2.6
507	Marsh					
508	In Holly Marsh	a	0.2.8	William Savage	Himself	£0.1.2

*These land parcels appear to predate the formation of the Marsh and may not have been an original part of it.

Table 6. Litton's fields in Hollowmarsh

491	Salt Marsh (abuts <i>Emborough's block to the east</i>)	p	2.3.36	Simon Rendall, James Bendall, Amos Church	Amos Church	£0.4.8
492	Croft Mead (abuts <i>Farrington & Hinton's land</i>)	p	4.0.22	.. ..	Jonah Sage	£0.9.2
493	Padfield Paddock (east of <i>Croft Mead</i>)	p	0.3.10	Mrs Frances Lowth	William Banwell	£0.1.8
494	Waldron Mead (most southerly strip of <i>Farrington's block</i>)	p	0.3.38	..	Constant Curtis	£0.2.2

Table 7. Litton's detached portions within Chewton's Hollowmarsh.

FARRINGTON GURNEY

Farrington Gurney's allocation was to the east of the marsh and included land rising towards the village.

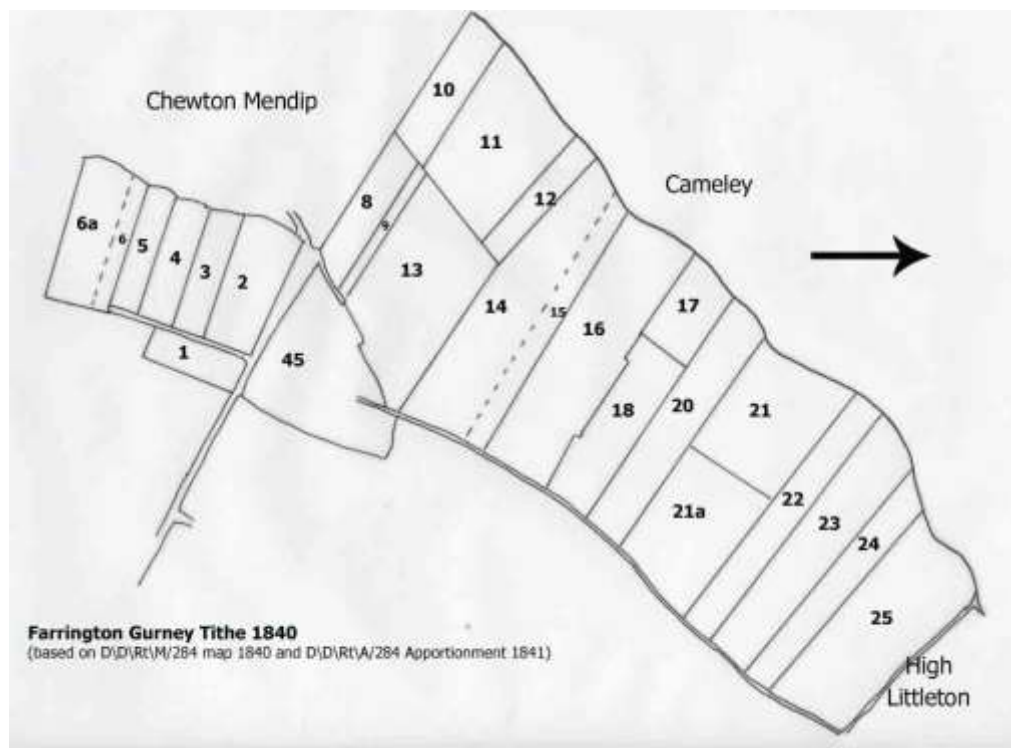


Figure 8 Farrington fields in Hollowmarsh

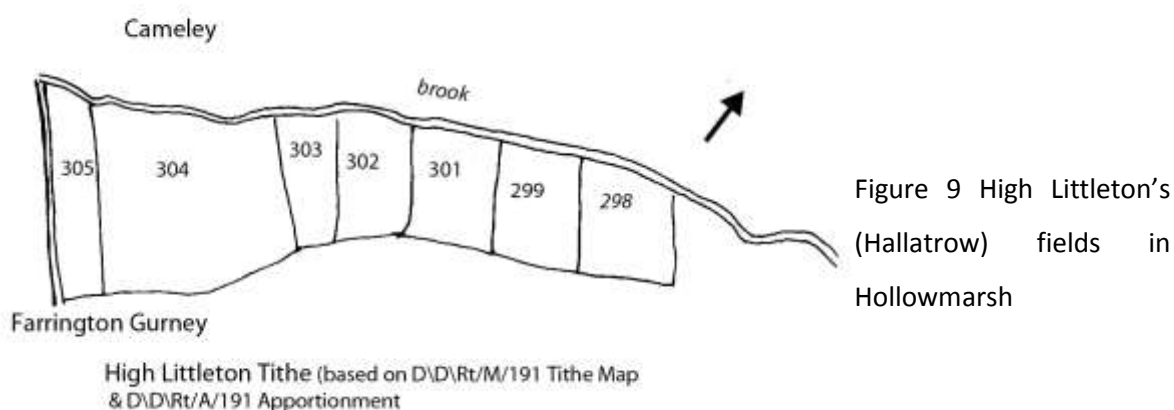
tithe no.	field name	land use	area	land owner	tenant	tithe payment
1	Cantaloon	pa	1.1.17	Rev. Henry Mogg	Robert Collins	£0.1.6
2	Duckpool	pa	3.0.24	Mogg & Kingsmill	..	£0.2.4
3	Cantaloon	pa	1.3.0	Rev. Henry Mogg	..	£0.1.6
4	Cantaloon	a	1.3.21	Thomas Boulting	Henry Kellan	£0.4.2
5	Pows paddock	a	1.2.12	James Pow	..	£0.3.7
6	Welton mead	pa	0.3.13	Rev. Henry Mogg	Robert Collins	£0.0.8
6a	Welton Mead	pa	2.1.36	G. Gibbs, G. Salmon	..	£0.1.8
8	Land Ground	pa	2.0.23	Rev. Henry Mogg	..	£0.2.1
9	The Leg	pa	0.1.27	..	..	£0.0.4
10	Hollymarsh	pa	2.1.23	..	Robert Collins	£0.2.4
11	Hollymarsh	pa	6.1.37	..	..	£0.6.5
12	Little Hollymarsh Grammars	pa	1.3.4	Mogg, Kingsmill	Robert Collins	£0.1.5
13	Hollymarsh	pa	8.2.0	..	..	£0.8.5
14	Great Hollymarsh Gt.Grammars	pa	7.3.26	..	..	£0.6.4
15	Hollymarsh	pa	2.2.7	Thomas Millard	George Stokes	£0.2.0
16	Hollymarsh	pa	8.2.18	James Perren	Wm Press	£0.7.8

17	Half Hollymarsh	pa	2.2.0	..	..	£0.2.2
18	Half Hollymarsh	pa	3.3.20	Ann Kingman	John Speed	£0.3.10
20	Hollymarsh	pa	5.0.0	Wm Kingstone	..	£0.5.11
21	Hollymarsh	pa	5.2.29	..	John Cox	£0.5.7
21a	Hollymarsh	pa	5.1.29	..	..	£0.5.2
22	Long 5 Acres	pa	4.0.16	Rev. Henry Mogg	John Cox	£0.3.8
23	Hollymarsh	pa	6.1.20	Rev. Henry Mogg	Wm Blinman	£0.5.1
24	Hollymarsh	pa	8.2.0	Wm Kingstone	Henry Kellan	£0.3.6
25	Eleven Acres	unknow n	8.0.2	..	Wm Blinman	£0.5.1
45	Reffhams	pa	6.2.14	Robert Collins	Himself	£0.13.3

All tithes payable to the vicar

Table 8. Farrington's fields in Hollowmarsh

HIGH LITTLETON (Formerly Hallatrow). Its land lies at the north-east boundary.



tithe no.	field name	use	area	landowner	tenant	tithe payment
302	Holly Marsh	a	1.3.12	Mary James	Charles Doleman	£1.7.6
304	Holly Marsh	p	7.1.25	Wm. Gore	John Blinman	£1.1.3
303	Holly Marsh	p	1.1.32	Mary Ann Langford	Edward Dowling	£1.4.6
305	Holly Marsh	p	2.2.15	John Purnell	Jonas Weeks	£1.7.6
299 pt	Holly Marsh	p	6.2.20	John Ustick Scobell	Edward Dowling	£1.1.6
301 pt	Holly Marsh	p	3.2.37	..	..	£1.12.6
298 pt	Long Wilderness	a	8.0.10	..	ditto	£2.3.6

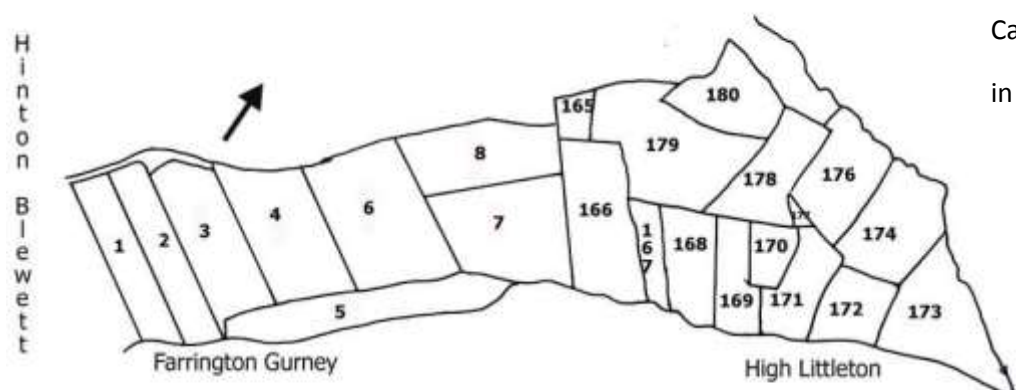
All tithes payable to the Impropiator of Hallatrow

Table 9 Hallatrow's fields in Hollowmarsh

CAMELEY occupies a sizeable area to the north and north-west of the marsh

Figure 10

Cameley's fields
in Hollowmarsh



Cameley Tithe 1839

(based on D:\D\Rt\M\227 Tithe Map and D:\D\RtA\227 Apportionment)

no.	field name	land use	area	land owner	tenant	tithe payment
1	Hollow Marsh	a	7.2.13	Dame E Hippesley	John Wookey	£0.10.8
2	Werretts	p	7.1.10	..	Thomas Gibbs	£0.8.6
3	Maggs Werretts	p	9.1.3	..	..	£0.10.9
4	Weavers & Rodwells Werretts	p	9.2.22	..	Thomas Gibbs	£0.12.3
5	Sages Brook Mead	a	7.3.18	..	..	£0.13.1
6	Little Werretts	p	9.1.36	..	..	£0.12.0
7	Fifteen Acres	p	11.3.14	..	Walter Bennett	£0.13.3
8	Farm Nine Acres	p	8.1.17	..	..	£0.10.3
165	Part of Park Mead	p	1.2.30	..	Not given	£0.3.3
166	Hollow Marsh Mead	a	10.0.12	..	..	£0.14.10
167	Duck Marsh	a	2.2.0	..	..	£0.3.9
168	Dory's red Shurd	a	5.0.23	..	..	£0.7.11
169	Hollow Marsh Meadow	p	4.0.39	..	Angel Dore	£0.7.6
170	Weavers Stean Mead	a	2.1.38	..	..	£0.4.5
171	Moon Acre	p	5.0.33	..	..	£0.9.1
172	Purnells Goose Moor	p	4.1.12	..	..	£0.7.7
173	Inner Brookham	p	9.1.37	..	John Kingston	£1.10.6
174	Land Acres	p	7.3.16	..	Angel Dore	£1.0.8
176	Land Acres	p	7.0.34	..	..	£1.2.8

177	Part of Moon Acre	a	0.1.13	..	..	£0.0.9
178	Purnells Broad Mead	a	6.1.26	..	Walter Bennett	£0.15.8
179	Park Mead	a	12.2.6	..	..	£0.7.0
180	Lower Park	a	6.2.10	..	..	£0.17.4

All tithes payable to the vicar of Cameley

Table 10 Cameley's fields in Hollowmarsh

HINTON BLEWETT occupies a thin strip to the west of the marsh.

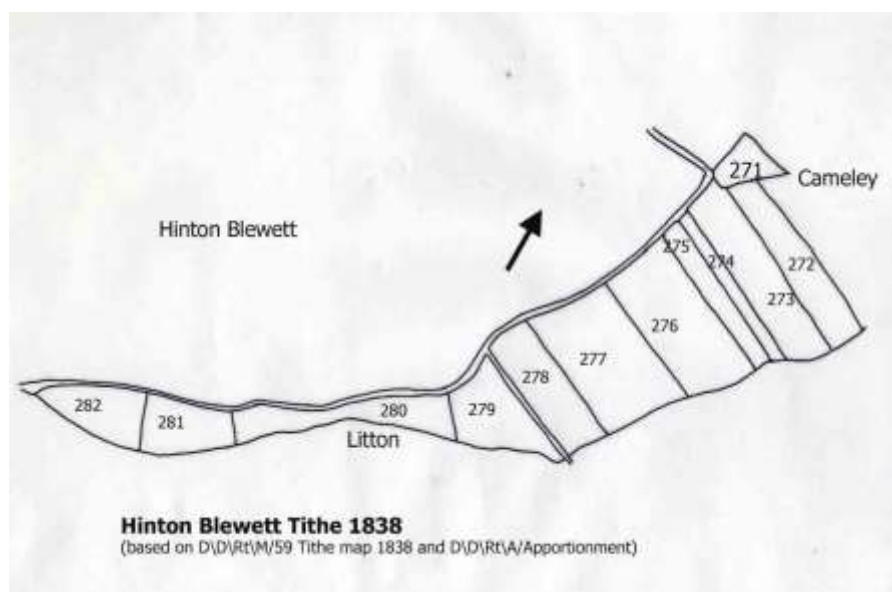


Figure 11 Hinton Blewett's fields in Hollowmarsh

tithe no	field name	land use	area	owner	tenant	tithe payment
271	Long Dole Coppice	c	1.2.20	Lady Hippestley	John Wookey	£0.0.5
272	Long Dole	a	7.0.0	Doolan and Frappell	Rich.Frappell	£0.14.6
273	Long Dole Wood	c	7.1.37	John Hunt	John Hunt	£0.6.4
274	Withey Bed	c	2.0.0	William Frappell	himself	£0.1.2
275	Hollymarsh Five Acres	p	3.0.17	Rev.Thomas Williams	John Frappell	£0.5.8
276	Hollymarsh Ten Acres	p	8.1.26	..	..	£0.14.6
277	Western Mead	p	11.1.0	Edmund Broderip	John Vowles	£1.0.6
278	Hollymarsh Six Acres	p	4.3.31	Rev.Samuel Johnson	John Poole	£0.11.0
279	Old Marsh	p	4.1.8	Doolan and Frappell	Rich. Frappell	£0.7.10
280	Old Marsh	p	2.1.24	..	..	£0.6.0

281	Cinder Mead	p	3.2.32	Edmund Broderip	Thomas Vowles	£0.7.6
282	Cinder Mead	p	3.0.10	A Candy, T Vowles	..	£0.8.4

All tithes payable to the Rector of Hinton Blewett

Table 11. Hinton's fields in Hollowmarsh

Field Names in Hollowmarsh: Some Possible Explanations

The survival of Hollowmarsh (or variants) field names varies from parish to parish, but occurs in all but Ston Easton Tithe Apportionments. Where fields with this name dominate, CAMP has considered the land in close proximity also to be part of the Marsh. In the case of Ston Easton, documents elsewhere refer to this land as Hollowmarsh.

'Dole' names occur in Litton, Hinton Blewett, Cameley and Farrington and may indicate a different allocation system at work from that of the other manors.

Other 'marsh' suffixes occur infrequently and only as Old Marsh in Litton and Hinton Blewett and Salt Marsh in Chewton and Litton.

Hollymarsh is prefixed by 'Little' and 'Great' in Farrington as well as Grammar's and Great Grammar's which could indicate land endowed to a widow (Field 1993,43).

Welton Manor's allocation 'lived on' in the portion called Welton Mead (Farrington 6 and 6a). Waldron Mead (Litton) is a likely corruption of this. Pows Paddock appearing as no. 5 on Farrington's map is also remains of Welton land as will be seen in Chapter 3. Confusingly it appears as Midsomer Norton land on the Chewton Tithe map.

Cinder Mead (Hinton Blewett) may have derived from 'Sunder' meaning land set apart or detached from an estate for a special reason and cultivated outside the common system (Aston, A. & Lewis, C. 1994). This was also the case with land held in severalty on the Marsh. The name Lord's Mead in Litton would have been the area set aside for the Dean and Chapter of Well's demesne meadow.

Paulton's Shatter Mead is almost certainly 'filthy meadow' from OE scite for dung (Costen 2012 pers com).

Craft and Croft Mead (Chewton and Litton) are one and the same, denoting a small, enclosed meadow.

Dorminster Piece in Chewton is a mystery. The name 'minster' could reflect land endowed to a religious establishment. Whilst it has not been possible to trace 'Dorminster' to a specific place, it is widely accepted that Chewton' church was an early minster foundation. This might represent their former allocation on the marsh.

Cameley's fields show a number of personal name prefixes and the name Hollymarsh is all but lost by the mid 19th Century. The name 'Werrett' defies explanation but covers a considerable area of land. Earlier references are as Wearyate DD/HI/267. The 'yate' element often means 'gate' in Somerset.

Chewton's Cantaloon could have derived from the name Cantelou, a family with close associations to the Gurney family of Farrington.

Withey Beds appear in Hinton Blewett and Chewton, the latter having a large area set aside for the purpose of growing willow. Its many uses, from house building to hurdle making, made it a valuable commodity. Chewton's beds were divided into approximately 1 acre portions and distributed amongst farmsteads and tenements, particularly in the west of the manor.

'Park Mead' in Cameley abuts the boundary of a Park. Whether or not this was a Deer Park has not been established, but it occupied the higher ground immediately to the west above the Marsh.

The Salt Marsh conundrum

References to an area called the Salt Marsh can be found as far back as 1696 (DD/WG Box9/4). It formed a continuation to the west of the withey beds in Chewton and was likewise divided into many acre-strips, distributed in a similar manner amongst tenements throughout the parish. The boundary of Litton lies at the western edge of the Salt Marsh, although Litton encroached to hold some land there. A deep-cut hollow-way runs from the direction of Bathway, the road crossing the former common arable fields, and curves round to enter the Salt Marsh. It continues, in a northerly direction, as a footpath crossing the Marsh and emerging at Hallatrow. It was clearly an important routeway.

What was the purpose of this land and what, if any, was the connection with salt?

CAMP consulted various geologists as to the possibilities of this having been a salt marsh. They all agreed that the geology as such makes this implausible.

Kay Boreland (pers com 2012) stated that *'the published British Geological Survey map (Sheet 280, Wells at 1:50,000 scale) indicates the 'Salt Marsh' field area underlain by superficial First Terrace Loam deposits of Quaternary Age. These deposits are typically soft grey or brown clays, silts and*

sands, gravelly in parts, and with pockets of alluvial clays alongside stream channels. They form level terraces of variably poorly drained, low permeability soils, giving rise to marshy surfaces, prone to ponding or flooding during wetter periods. Drainage ditches are common along field boundaries. This contrasts with the higher, sloping ground to the south, which is underlain by the Mercia Mudstone bedrock of Triassic Age, comprising red brown clay or silt, grading to sandy siltstones.

None of the First Terrace Loam or Alluvial soils would be expected to include true salt deposits, but they do form a distinctly more level and in parts marshy area, at the foot of the sloping Mercia Mudstone to the south’.

Therefore another explanation must be sought.

It has already been stated in Chapter 1 that the Old Welsh and indeed the Breton for salt was Halen and this throws into question the extent of Celtic influence in this area before the Saxons arrived. Was there something about the marsh which could be likened to salt, but has since been totally exploited, with only the name persisting?

Another suggestion is that the name may have derived from ‘sahl’ the OE name for salix or willow, but Costen (2009 pers com) considers the addition of a ‘t’ hard to explain.

A further consideration is that the Salt Marsh’s boundary juxtaposed the likely boundary of a medieval Deer Park. Could ‘salt’ derive from ‘saltory’ or ‘saltatorium’ meaning a deer leap? Management of a deer park required one-way entry points at intervals in the outer boundary allowing deer to come into the park but not to exit.

Probably the most likely explanation is through an early land holding of the family with the Latin name Salso Marisco, which translates into English as Saltmarsh. This family held Hanham, the principal dependency of Bitton in Gloucestershire, after the time of Domesday (Ellacombe 1881). Bitton had connections with the Vivonne family, one time Lords of the manor of Chewton. The Mariscos also held the vill of Cameley in the later 13th Century by service of one knight’s fee (Faith 2009). It is plausible, therefore, that the family could have held land in the Marsh and that the family name has persisted through the centuries.

CHAPTER 3

Manor by Manor Account in Relation to Hollowmarsh.

All but one of the manors which converged in Hollowmarsh were in the Hundred of Chewton at the time of Domesday. This also included the detached manor of Emborough, but Paulton and Welton were not mentioned in the survey. Litton appeared under Wells Forum.

The following chapter gives an historical account of each manor's interests in the marsh and suggests how the detached portions came into being.

Chewton

Of all the manors that converged on Hollowmarsh, Chewton appears to have been the most highly organized. This large manor had to accommodate a great number of tenants' rights to the marsh and this is reflected in the way in which land was divided into acre strips and allocated for different uses.

It also appears to have granted land from within its manorial boundary on the marsh to other manors, such as Emborough, Litton, Paulton and Welton. These will be dealt with later.

In late Saxon times Chewton was a Royal Estate (Keynes and Lapidge 1983,175). It became an important ecclesiastical centre, administering to a large area with outlying chapelries (Collinson 1791). Michael Costen believes that it was once a much larger estate to have included Litton, the Harptrees, Compton Martin, Ston Easton, Emborough, Paulton, and other parishes (Costen pers comm. 2008). The Domesday Book of 1086 records the King holding Chewton with 100 acres of meadowland.

By the late 12th century the Estate had been granted to the Vivonia family of Normandy. Its descent is worthy of note as some Lords figure in the Hollowmarsh story. It descended as follows (www.histoirepassion.eu, www.royalblood.co.uk).

1. Hugh de Vivonia (?-1249)
2. Wm de Vivonia *aka* William de Fortibus (b.? d.Chewton 1259)
3. Joan de Vivonia (b.Curry Mallet c1251 d.Chewton 1314) *m* Reginald FitzPeter (c1215-1286)
4. Peter FitzReginald (b.Chewton1274 d.Chewton 1322)
5. Roger FitzPeter *aka* Roger Martell (b.Chewton1295 d. Hinton Martel, Dorset 1322)
6. Henry FitzRoger (b.Curry Rivel 1318 d.Chewton 1352)

7. John FitzRoger (b.Chewton1345, d. Chewton 1372)

8. Elizabeth FitzRoger *m* William Bonville

With the death of Wm Bonville the estate was returned to the Crown until after the Reformation.

In 1525 the Estates of Cecily Baroness Harington and Bonville and Marchioness of Dorset (1460-1529) were surveyed. They included Chewton Mendip, and the rentals of all the lands and properties were detailed in a transcription available at the SHC (A\AMX 12). This document gives a clear indication of how the manor of Chewton Mendip was organised at the close of the medieval period. From this document it has been possible to glean that farmsteads and their lands were highly organised to give tenants equal share of pasture, arable and meadow land. It provides a snapshot of a way of life soon to become fragmented and reorganised.

In Chewton common pasture lay on Chew Down and the Mendip Wastes, common arable in the West Field on Chewton Plain, and common mead mostly at Whitmead to the east of Chew Down and at Hollowmarsh. In 1525 there is no distinction in the use of the common land other than between arable and meadow with the occasional pasture.

Analysis has shown that most farmsteads had integral land, but in addition they were granted the rights of strips of land in the common fields and meadows. However, certain tenements were categorised as Landless and Sacrafield and appear not to have had these common allocations. Although Hollowmarsh is not named as such in the survey, it is possible to distinguish where tenements had their allocations by regressive study of later surveys. From 1740 onwards surveys give the strips unique numbers with acreages and indicate their position on accompanying maps.

In general terms each strip is about an acre. Where tenements have more than one strip it can indicate that they were allotted land in different areas of the marsh. For example, from 1740 onwards areas designated as withey beds and a salt marsh are named. Whether these existed prior to 1740 is not yet ascertained as no supporting documentary evidence has come to light.

The Waldegrave family was granted the Chewton Estate after the Reformation and has retained it to this day. The first known post-medieval survey of Chewton's lands is the Rent Book of 1696 (*ibid*), which shows the manor being organised in Divisions of East and West End, Middlesex, and Town.

Analysis of the 1740 survey shows that land was distributed in the Hollowmarsh to all Divisions of Chewton. This resulted in some tenants having considerable distances to travel in order to access their fields. In comparing allocations of common meadow from 1525 to 1740 it was very apparent that many tenements had lost their allocations, or they had been exchanged for land nearer to their

dwellings. Notes to this effect are detailed in the 1740 survey. This trend continues to grow apace as shown in the 1794 survey (DD/WG Box 11/18).

The maps also indicate that land held in severalty also existed on the marsh and was interspersed with the commoners' land. There was no indication that any land was organised on a dole system and it would seem that allocated strips remained with the specific tenement.

A decline in traditional animal husbandry methods coupled with the gradual enclosing of common fields and finally the Parliamentary Enclosure Act of the late 18th century all contributed to the demise of the meadowland farmed 'in common' on the marsh. At about this time much of Chewton's Hollowmarsh was planted with trees for pit props for the coal mines at Radstock.

Today, Chewton's Hollowmarsh survives as a mix of woodland, forestry, pasture and nature reserve.

Welton

Welton represents one of the three manors that had detached portions in Hollowmarsh, appearing, by its position in the marsh, to have been granted out of the original allocation for Chewton Manor.

Welton was once a small manor to the west of the present day Midsomer Norton. It lay in the valley of the Wellow Brook with its own meadowland recorded in the Beauchamp Registers (Maxwell-Lyte, 1920).

The ownership of Welton manor is not known before the Norman Conquest and it is not mentioned in the Domesday Book. Its first dateable connection with Chewton is in a confirmation of a Charter granted in the reign of Henry II (1172-78) where it appears as Weletona, being one of the five chapelries of Chewton whose Patron was the Abbey of Jumieges in Normandy

(<http://www.archive.org/stream/recueildesactesd02deliuoft#page/94/mode/2up>).

The manor belonged to Cecily, daughter of Hugh de Vivonia, Lord Chewton in the 13th century, as an inheritance of her husband John Beauchamp

(<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=108112>).

In Norden's Survey of Somerset Manors 1611-1619 (T\PH\vch/8) Welton appears under Midsomer Norton. It states '*Thomas Powe holds...Welweton [which includes] Hallowmarshe in Chewton containing by estimate 1 acre*'. This is how it appears on the Tithe map (see Fig.4)

Paulton

The manor of Paulton lay to the SE of Hallatrow. Very little is known about its history and it was not mentioned in the Domesday Book.

In a Charter granted in the reign of Henry II (1172-78) it appears as one of the five chapelries of Chewton as Peltona (*ibid*).

Collinson refers to a Wm de Palton as possessing the manor at the time of Edward III [1327-1377], the succession of this manor becoming extinct in 1449/50. However, land in Palton held by Thomas Lylley by Knight service is listed as part of the Estate of the Hundred of Chuton, belonging to Cecily Bonville in 1525(A\AMX/12).

At the time of the Tithe Map and Apportionment the tenement that laid claim to a portion of Hollowmarsh was approximately half the size of the parish, being some 484 acres of a total of 1006 acres. It was located in an area that subsequently became the Purnell's Printing Works.

As with Welton, it would appear that Paulton was granted a portion of land in Hollowmarsh taken out of Chewton's allocation, suggesting a later acquisition.

Emborough

The manor of Emborough was formed by a gradual integration of two neighbouring manors, Emborough and Whitnell. It was granted to the Hipplesley [*variously spelt*] family in 1544 (DD/HI/A/3). There is no mention of a settlement at Whitnell until post-Conquest when it was established as a "Liberty" settlement belonging to Glastonbury Abbey, part of the Hundred of Whitstone and not attached to Emborough. Emborough, listed as Amleberga, is described as a dependant chapelry of Chewton in the Charter of Henry II (1172-78) (*ibid*).

Emborough held 29 acres of its own meadowland, mostly lying in the well-watered ground called Mill Lease, situated below the present day Emborough Pond and away from Hollowmarsh. However, a tenement in Emborough called Edgell is recorded, in 1580, as holding 'a verge of meadow lying in Hollowmarsh' (DD\HI/A/256 1478-1714). Some tenants also held a few swarths for hay on the Ston Easton meadow adjoining Farrington in Hollowmarsh at that time, however this is not reflected in the later Tithe Map.

A Hipplesley survey of 1602 (DD/HI/A/255/5) shows Emborough having 25 acres of mead in Hollowmarsh and in 1764 a map and survey (DD\HI/277 & DD\HI/278) shows Joseph Green holding

17 acres leasehold and John Davis holding 7 acres for annual tenancy or short lease, equating to the 25 acres in the 1602 survey. This is slightly more than the acreage shown on the Tithe map.

Ston Easton

Ston Easton pre-Domesday and at Domesday comprised four manors, but by 1303 only three manors remained; Ston Easton Major, Minor and Chaffyn's land (Loxton 2002). Ston Easton was also listed as Estona, a chapelry to Chewton, in the Charter of Henry II (ibid).

Ston Easton *major* was granted to Bruton Priory in 1346, (Calendar of Patent Rolls Edw.III, 1345-1348), being surrendered to the crown at the Reformation in 1539, after which it was acquired by John Hipplesley (DD/HI/A/2). Hollowmarsh can be found in the Priory Rental Revenue from the reign of Henry VII in 1490. This documents a John Fyvyen, who held a tenement in Ston Easton, paying 3s for a meadow in Halomershe with a tithe payable to John Hipplesley (DD/HI/A/240). No information is given as to the acreage or its position in the marsh.

A survey of 1544 includes the common meadows called Halowmarshe (DD/HI/A/242 1544-1559).

Tenant in Manor	Meadow	Notes
Thomas Frapwell held a tenement & mill in the manor	3½ acres	2 acres of meadow were enclosed and 1½ lay in the common meadows called Halowmarshe
William Araundell held a Tenement in the manor	6½ acres	2½ lay in several and 4 lay in common meadows called Halowmarshe
Robert Dagge held a tenement in the manor	1½ acres	1½ lay in the common meadows called Halowmarshe

Table 12.

In the open field system disputes over common rights were settled by manorial courts. At the court of Stonyeaston *major* in September 1562 'all tenants were called to gather at Hallowmershe to view the trees growing between the meadow of Robert Dagge, tenant of the lord, and John Dorye tenant of Lord Walgrave' (DD/HI/A/241).

In 1630 a Hipplesley survey lists 6 acres of common mead of west and east Hollowmarsh (DD/HI/A 255). The west and east element is not fully understood.

Today, the Ston Easton's fields in Hollowmarsh have changed very little from the time of the tithes. Some hedgerows have been removed to create larger fields to accommodate modern farming practices, but in the main the ground is still used as pasture land.

Litton

The manor of Litton is first recorded in the 11th century when it is purchased from Alfred by Bishop Giso of Wells (Bp. 1061-88). This purchase is confirmed by Edward the Confessor - '*a sale to him by Aelfred of his land Hlytton*' (Hill, 1960, pp113,115).

By 1086 Domesday records Litton as a manor of the canons of Wells. It provides an income for the prebend of Litton. In the 12th century Litton was one of many endowments supporting the canons of Wells (www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=34388). The manor remained under the ownership of the canons until the 1640s, when the ecclesiastical lands were appropriated (Hill, 1961,113,115). Litton was surveyed in 1649 (DD\CC/P 114092), the Church lands being restored at the Restoration.

Several of the fields shown on the Tithe map of 1839 are the result of the consolidation of former strips, notably those named as *Lord's Mead*. These would have contained smaller parcels in the medieval and post-medieval period as recorded in the 1624 Glebe Terrier - '*five yard's in Lord's Mead*' (DD/Rg/167, 1-4). This consolidation continued through the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1649 there were seven leasehold tenants with closes in the Lord's Mead and in 1839 only one tenant. The area of fields named *Little Hollymarsh* also preserves these strips, some little more than one acre. Longer parallel fields across Litton's Hollowmarsh have the field name *Long Dole* as referred to in Chapter 2.

In 1839 the Tithe map shows Litton to have 4 detached closes in Hollowmarsh. At that point they were all located within the parish of Chewton Mendip. Three closes are recorded in the 1649 survey as in '*Chuton's Hollymarsh*'. It is not clear why Litton should have detached pieces in Chewton's Hollowmarsh and outside the probable boundary of the medieval prebendal manor unless these parcels survive from an earlier period of land allocation. This subject will be discussed further in Chapter 6.

The Parliamentary Survey of 1649 (*ibid*) was the earliest document studied which had an extensive record of field names, tenant names and some farm names. There is no accompanying map to assist in locating the messuages, however it has been possible to identify a few using the 1839 Tithe Survey and connecting clusters of fields and ownership from 1649 to 1839. These are best illustrated as follows:

Tenant/Farm	Field name/location	Acres
Grenton Farm	Rood of meadow in a common meadow called Hollymarsh	0.25
„	Close called Holly marsh	4
„	In Chuton’s Holly marsh	1.25
Litt Courte Mansion	In the common meadow called the Lord’s mead	3
Ferdinando Spiring	Close in a common mead known by the name of Lord’s mead	3
„	Close called ten acres adjoining to Chuton’s Holly marsh	10
Cornelius Sheppard	Holly marsh	2
„	In a common mead called Lord’s mead	2
Robert Earle sen.	In a common mead called Lord’s mead	2
Thomas Lunsdon	In a common mead called Lord’s mead	2
Margaret Curtis	In the Lord’s mead	2
John Butcher	In a common mead called the Lord’s mead	2
Copyholders		
Name	Field name/location	Acres
Margaret Vowles	In little Holly marsh	2.5
„	In Chutton’s holly marsh	1.25
John Bath jun.	2 closes in Holly marsh	7
Thomas Spiring	Seven acres adjacent to Little Holly marsh	6
„	Long dole- one land in great Holly marsh	1.5
„	Willow acre- one land in the said Holly marsh	2
„	In Holly marsh below ten acres	1
John Atthay	In a meadow called holly marsh	2
Richard Lunsdon	In Little Holly marsh	0.75
John Phelps	Holymarsh	1.5
John Spiring	Close in Holy marsh called Honyhill	3
Susan Cotten	Close in Holy marsh	1
„	One other close in Holy marsh	3
Elizabeth Hurton	In a mead called Holly marsh	5
John Boucher	Close in Holly marsh	3
„	In a meadow called Holly marsh	5
Dorothy Rodford	Meadow in Chuton’s Holly marsh	1
Joane & John Phelps	Close in Holy marsh	4
„	In the same meadow	1.5
Charles & John Bath	In Little Holly marsh	1

Table 13. Extract from ‘A Survey of the Prebend and Manor of Litton August 1649’

There are 20 named tenants holding land in Hollowmarsh and Lord’s mead. Two of these are named farms – *Grenton Farm* (Greendown) and *Litt Courte Mansion* (manor house adjoining the Church). The total acreage of these named closes in 1649 is about 84 acres compared with about 95 acres for Hollowmarsh in 1839. It is likely that in 1649 some parcels in Hollowmarsh are unnamed. The majority of the closes in 1649 are between one and two acres. Field names include Long Dole and some locations are given as ‘common mead’. These features are typical of the former medieval common mead of the manor of Litton.

The tenancies with closes in Hollowmarsh are scattered throughout the parish, but most are concentrated in and around the village and along the River Chew between Ford and Sherborne. In 1839 the tenant with the longest distance to a close in Hollowmarsh was Constant Curtis who resided near Bell Inn at Greendown and had a detached field, *Waldron Mead*, adjoining the Farrington block of Hollowmarsh.

Most of Litton's Hollowmarsh is recorded as being pasture in 1839. This remains the dominant land use today.

Farrington

At Domesday the manor was held by Ascelin or Gouel de Percheval, a Norman Lord, who held it from the Bishop of Coutances. It was a chapelry of Chewton listed in the Charter of Henry II (*ibid*).

The suffix Gurney originated from the 13th century. In 1269 an Anselm de Gournay inherited the manor and married Sibila, daughter of Hugh de Vivonne, Lord of the manor of Chewton Mendip. This marriage brought extensive land holdings to the Gournay family. Following the death of Anselm the family had a turbulent history with the manor reverting several times to the Crown. During this time one Matthew de Gournay (b.1316) seized all the estates, including Farrington, of his elder brother Thomas. He married Alice, widow of Lord Beauchamp of Hache, and it could be through this marriage that Welton Manor became a part of Farrington.

Matthew de Gournay died in 1406, aged 90, without heirs and all his estates reverted to the crown.

In 1421, the Duchy of Cornwall acquired 19 manors, mostly those of Sir Matthew Gournay's estates in Somerset, including Farrington.

(<http://www.archive.org/stream/recordofhouseofg04gurn#page/n5/mode/2up>).

Norden's Survey of the Somerset manors (T/PH/vch/8 1609 to-1611) gives Farrington's Hollowmarsh meadow as 72.5.5 acres with 14.0.2 of pasture.

Tenant	Field description	Area a.r.p
Matilda Collier	Meadow called <i>Hallamarshe</i>	7 – 0 – 0
John Abraham	Pasture called <i>Withies</i>	1 – 2 – 0
..	Pasture called <i>Langdale</i>	4 – 3 – 0
..	Meadow called <i>Hallamarshe</i>	9 – 0 – 0
William Plumley	Meadow called <i>Hallowmarshe</i>	10 – 0 – 0

Jacob Harte	Meadow called <i>Hallowmarshe</i>	7 – 1 – 0
Joseph Purnell	Meadow called <i>Hallamarshe</i>	10 – 0 – 0
John Purnell	Meadow called <i>Hallamarshe</i>	8 – 1 – 20
..	Pasture called <i>Langdole</i>	5 – 3 – 0
..	Meadow called <i>Hallamarshe</i>	8 – 1 – 0
Thomas Nash	Meadow called <i>Hallamarshe</i>	7 – 0 – 0
Richard Nash	3 closes pasture called <i>Langdoles</i>	3 – 2 – 20
..	Meadow called <i>Hallamarshe</i>	3 – 2 – 20
Thomas Webb	Meadow called <i>Hallamarshe</i>	3 – 0 – 0

Table 14. Norden's Survey of showing land in Hollowmarsh

During the Commonwealth (1649-60) Duchy estates were sold but later recovered at the Restoration. Since then land has been sold piecemeal.

A survey and map of 1795 by William Simpson (T\PH\dcl 18 & 19) gives tenement, tenant, lives, field names, acreages, state of cultivation and freeholders providing evidence of former open field strips, ownership of hedges and position of footpaths.

By 1840 much of the land in the marsh had been sold. The majority landowner was the Rev. Henry Mogg, from a prominent local Farrington family, who let to tenants. Several smaller parcels were owned by Farrington farmers. James Perren, a surgeon of Cameley, held 2 allocations of approximately 12 acres, leased to William Press a Farrington farmer. Other allocations had been purchased by farmers living in the neighbouring parishes of Paulton and Midsomer Norton and were all leased to tenants.

High Littleton (Hallatrow)

The parish of High Littleton consisted of two manors: High Littleton and Hallatrow. No documentary evidence has been found to indicate that the manor of High Littleton ever held land in Hollowmarsh.

At Domesday Hallatrow (Helgetruv) was held by the Bishop of Coutance, in common with Emborough, Farrington, Cameley and one of the Ston Easton manors. It may later have become part of the Honor of Gloucester with the Gournay family holding it in the 13th century (Browning 1999).

It was a sometime chapelry of Chewton, which may account for a reference in 1634 to Hallatrow Farm holding 'one acre of meadow in Chewton Hollowmarsh' (DD/GL 35). Perhaps this one acre was that listed in 1716 as Hallatrow's meadow 'In Welton Mead' (DD/GL 118). Hallatrow ceased to be a chapelry of Chewton at some time in the later medieval period but may have kept its allocation into the post-medieval period.

In respect of Hallatrow, the earliest known documentary reference to the Hollowmarsh name is in the 17th century when it appears as *Hallamarsh*. The prefix of is strikingly similar to that of *Hallatrow* (DD/GL 33-36 and A/ABU 31).

From the sources mentioned and an 1802 map and survey of Hallatrow (BT/6/13), it becomes possible to locate Hallatrow's meadow allocation in the Marsh and the site of Hallatrow Common Mead. The following table shows the proportion of Hallatrow's 52 acres of meadowland that was in Hollowmarsh.

Fields	In Hollowmarsh	Not in Hollowmarsh
Hallamarsh Fields	22 acres	-
Common Mead of Hallatrow	-	27 acres
Moore's Close otherwise known as Hollowmarsh Ground	2-3 acres	-
Total	c 25 acres	27 acres

Table 15 1802 Survey of Hallatrow's meadow

Nothing in the documents studied indicate that Hallatrow's allocation in Hollowmarsh was organised on a dole system. The strips, some of them measured in swathes, appear to be associated with four tenements, both in 1802 and 1839. They were Court Farm, Ivy House Farm, Hallatrow Farm and Red House Farm. Court Farm tenanted what became tithe numbers 299, 301 and 303, Ivy House Farm number 305, Hallatrow Farm number 304 and Red House Farm number 302. (See Figure 9)

The land use today is unchanged from that of 1839, being mainly pasture with some arable.

Cameley

At Domesday Cameley (*Camelei*) was held by the Bishop of Coutances with one hide being held by Humphrey. At the Dissolution the manor was purchased from the Crown by Richard Watkyns and in 1561 sold to John Hippisley (DD/HI Hippisley papers). The Hippisley papers provide much

information on Cameley's portion of Hollowmarsh. Although the village centre migrated to the main Bristol road in post-medieval times, the medieval landscape, centred on the church, offers an insight into the workings of both the marsh and of the routes of transit for animals on and off the marsh. Deep- cut holloways and tracks can still be traced leading from the Great Sheep Sleights of Cameley hill towards the marsh.

The distinctive straight, parallel boundaries of former meadow strips can be seen in the southern portion of Cameley's Hollowmarsh on the tithe map of 1839, field nos.1-6). No.4 is shown on James Rice's map of Cameley of 1766 (DD/HI/A/270) with parallel rows of trees marking former field boundaries and the names of four occupants. The terrier made for John Hippisley in 1569 (DD/HI/A/267) describes these closes with identical acreages showing that consolidation had taken place at an earlier date forming hedged closes. However, in the neighbouring Temple Mead some parcels of mead are recorded as small as 'one rod' in 1569, a small vestige of former meadow strips. One of the Temple customary tenants, Agnes Webb, held one 'shik' (half a rod) in the Temple Mead.

The process of consolidation from numerous strips to a few closes can be seen in nos. 174 and 176 named '*Land acres*' held by one tenant. These fields are the same in 1766 but named '*Sand acres*'. However the same acreage is subdivided into six fields between six tenants in 1569 and named '*Sandacres*', '*Sone acres*' and '*Sandacres*'. This replicates the process observed in Litton. No.5 has also undergone changes in name. In 1766 it was subdivided into two parcels – '*Glebe Brook mead and Farm, Long Dole, Sages, Brook mead*'. Two hundred years earlier the 'long dole' field name occurs three times in locations described as '*at long dole in Hallomash*'. One further entry from the Terrier of 1569 refers to a grant dated February 1557. This describes an area of meadow that is part of the Hippisley's manor but located in Hinton Blewett. In this entry the specific meadow strips are described by their location and area:

'...And in the South side 2 lugg of meadow run North & South and bound east the land of Mr Seward¹ /₂ acre of meadow in common mead runneth North & South and bound East...'

The lug, a local measurement similar to the pole or perch, may refer to the width of the meadow strips.

In the eighteenth century the manor of Cameley was surveyed four times: 1710 (with Ston Easton and Emborough), 1726, 1761 and 1794 (DD/HI/A/281,268,269,273). These surveys contain wide-ranging recommendations to improve the quality of the land and output. Specific references are made in 1726 to the possible improvement of the meads in Hollowmarsh :

'Elm close would be a famous mead if watered' and 'Tis great pitty that these five meadows are not watered by all the land floods which would very much improve them.'

These remarks reflect the practice of cutting channels along the contours to move water and release it across fields to raise ground temperatures and so encourage grass growth. This would bring the grazing season forward. On the 1766 map there is one channel or ditch marked which may have taken water from springs in Home Close to the fields named in the 1726 survey. Slight earthworks survive. Today many of the fields remain under permanent pasture.

Hinton Blewett

At Domesday Hinton Blewett (Hantone) was held by William d'Eu, with Ralph (Blewett) and Hugh Maltravers as underlords.

After the execution of William d'Eu in 1096, the manor reverted to the Crown who later bestowed it on the Honor of Gloucester. The Cheddre family and their kinsmen held it from the 14th to the first part of the 16th century (Somerset Fines Rich.II). It has proved impossible to find evidence of a family connection with Alice Cheddre who had married John FitzRoger, Lord of Chewton sometime prior to 1369, but it remains a possibility.

Before 1581 John Hippisley had acquired Hinton manor (DD/HI/A/72). The family also held Cameley, Ston Easton and Emborough manors.

The analysis of documentary evidence indicates that the land in Hinton's Hollowmarsh was organised on the dole system, with the first mention of the word '*dole*' appearing in a document of c1380 that referred to '*nine acres of meadow in a marsh called Langedole*' (DD/HI/60). The Long Dole field names survive up to the present day.

The first documentary reference to the name '*Halewmersshe*' is in 1426 (ibid). In the next century a tenancy agreement, dated 1557, shows three strips in '*Hallommarsh*', complete with information regarding their direction and size. Additional information gives the names of the owners of adjacent strips and their occupiers (DD/HI/60). These three strips, measuring 3 rods, 1 acre and 2 acres respectively, were linked to Abbots Barn Farm, and their history can be followed to 1766. Prior to the Reformation, Abbots Barn had been held by Keynsham Abbey and the association of the strips with the farm could well have been in existence for some considerable time. The strips were in the field that became Western Mead. In 1726 they were referred to as '*plots in West Common Mead*' and described as '*wet and marshy land*' (DD/HI/268). On the map that accompanied a 1766 survey their position in the marsh can be pinpointed and their relationship to the other eight strips noted

(DD/HI 270/271). Comparing these strips with the description in the 1557 survey it becomes apparent that although the number and size of the strips remains approximately the same, their position within the field is different. Two of the owners of the other strips had associations with the manor and parish land, but it is not known what connections the remaining three owners had with any of the manors under consideration. On a map dated 1826 (DD/RM 11), West Common Mead only has two strips remaining and these had disappeared by the time of the 1838 tithe map.

Date	No. of strips	No. of tenants	Source
1557	Minimum of 9	At least 6	DD/HI/A/267 (Tenancy Agreement)
1766	11	6	DD/HI/A/270,271 (Map and Survey)
1826	3	Not known	DD/RM/A/11 (Map)
1839	none	1	D\D/Rt/A/59 (Apport.) D\D/Rt/M/59 Tithe map)

Date	Names of strip owners	Comments
1557	P.Watkins, Mr Seward, The parson, Mr Philpots, Earl of Shrewsbury	Watkins's land had belonged to Keynsham Abbey. Seward was Lord of the Manor of Hinton. The Earl of Shrewsbury had a family connection with a former Lord of the Manor.
1766	J. Hippisley, Mr Fisher, J.Rosewell, Mr Dory, Mrs Wooten, E. Vowles	Hippisley was Lord of the Manor of Cameley. An E Wooten had been rector of HB (1675-1703). Vowles held HB manor. Rosewells lived at Shortwood prior to 1731. Dorys were a Ston Easton family who owned an estate in HB. No details for Fisher.
1826	No names known	Bulk of field probably owned by Dory.
1839	Edmund Broderip	E Broderip of Cossington had married into the Dory family

Tables 16 & 17 show the distribution of strips in Western Common Mead with their various owners

With regards the 'Old' Marsh name; in 1557 there is a reference to strips belonging to Abbots Barn Farm in the east field '*at Old Marsh Gate*' (DD/HI 60). In a 1606 Glebe terrier (D/P/hin bl 3/1/1) there is a reference to '*a close of meadow adjoyning old marsh lane*'. It is not until 1717 that a reference to a *field* called Old Marsh is found. It is possible that the 'Old Marsh' was in existence prior to any formal organisation of the later Hollowmarsh. The closes to the west of Old Marsh were recorded as early as 1569, as Scyndermeade (DD/HI/152), a name probably derived from OE *sundor* meaning separate. By 1838 they are called Cinder Mead. If these two areas predated the later marsh this could explain why the fields to the east are called Western Mead. They would form the most westerly of Hinton's land on Hollowmarsh.

In 1838 the tenements associated with the Hinton's Hollowmarsh were Blacknest Farm, Coley Hill Farm, West End Farm, West House Farm, Higher and Lower Shortwood Farm, Field Farm and Greenway Farm. Blacknest Farm was, until relatively recently, in the parish of Cameley and also had land in Cameley Hollowmarsh as far back as 1726. Abbots Barn Farm's link with the marsh had ended by 1838.

With the process of enclosure over the centuries, a degree of specialisation in land use developed, resulting in coppices, wood, and a withy bed. Today the land is used for arable and pasture with an area of woodland and meadow being designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

CHAPTER 4

Manorial and Field Boundaries

Manors converging on the marsh used the stream, flowing south-west to north-east into the Cam Brook, as their coterminous boundaries. To the west side Hinton Blewett abutted Cameley, and on the east side, Litton, Chewton, Farrington and Hallatrow abutted respectively giving each manor a fair share of the lowest lying and therefore most lush meadowlands.

PERIPHERAL BOUNDARY

CAMP's assessment of the peripheral boundary of the marsh, based on fieldnames, shows Hinton Blewett's to be Hollowmarsh Lane. Cameley's consists, in places, of a substantial bank with ditch on the east side. This appears to have enclosed a former parkland overlooking the marsh. The fieldnames Park Wood and Upper Park occupied the higher contour, whilst Lower Lawn and Park Mead appear to have encroached on former Hollowmarsh land. Cameley's outer boundary to the north is the River Cam. Hallatrow has a path abutting on the eastern side whilst Farrington's peripheral boundary consists of a deep ditch and path.

The peripheral boundaries of Litton's land are defined by trackways.

Chewton's southern periphery appears to have been the bank and ditch of the manor's medieval deer park. Substantial banks relating to the park are still to be found within Chewton Wood, with Park and Lawn names providing additional evidence. Chewton's withey beds and salt marsh abut at right-angles the boundary of the deer park, suggesting that they came later. No charter has been found for the granting of a deer park although an Inquisition Post Mortem for Peter Fitzreynaud [Lord Chewton] of 1322 includes a park and a close called 'le Nywpark'. CAMP believes this to be near Chewton church, thus implying the existence of an older park. The older park could date to the time of King John, who was responsible for granting away most of the Forest of Mendip but retaining hunting grounds, or to the reign of Henry II when parks grew in popularity. It sits very typically on the very edge of the manor's boundary. Closes in the vicinity are described as 'anciently enclosed' in post-medieval Chewton Surveys.

Chewton's northern periphery runs along Pitway Lane. It shares this boundary with Farrington, Paulton and Ston Easton in such a way as to suggest that it has granted its own land to these manors at some time in the past. Ston Easton forms the easternmost boundary of Hollowmarsh with its southern edge being a continuation of the proposed deerpark boundary. On the eastern side its boundary is curved. This lends weight to CAMP's theory that it once belonged to Chewton manor.

The continuation of this curve can be traced arcing north through Farrington's land before returning south to form the western border of Reffhams field, curiously shaped and sitting at odds with the surrounding landscape. Was this a former manorial boundary? (figs. 12 & 13).

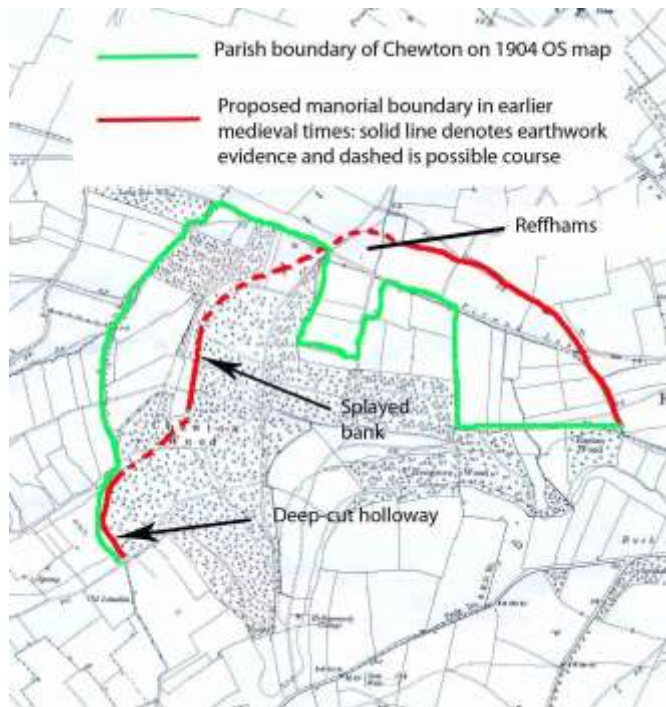


Figure 12 1904 OS map showing proposed former northern manorial boundary of Chewton



Figure 13 The boundary shows as a strong feature on Google Earth mapping

INTERNAL MANORIAL BOUNDARIES

As has been stated, the main internal manorial boundary is the brook. Other boundaries abut with drainage ditches or hedges. However, in the case of Chewton the situation is more complex. The course of the manorial boundary, as it appears on post-medieval maps, suggests that Chewton has granted out blocks of its Hollowmarsh land to several other manors, namely Litton, Emborough, Welton, Paulton and Ston Easton, leaving significantly less for its own use. It may be reflecting the fact that, in part, it had to accommodate these manors because, with the exception of Litton, they were dependent chapelries to the mother church of Chewton. The amounts apportioned on the Tithe may have changed over the centuries. CAMP has found evidence that there was a trend, in post-medieval times, to exchange land between land-owners. Once the practice of cultivating communal hay meadows had died out, the small strips of tenanted land proved totally impractical for individuals to cultivate. Consolidation took place to a greater degree, although there are still examples of small strips of land attached to specific properties in the villages.

Emborough's portion on the Tithe is intriguing. At first glance of Fig. 3 it looks to occupy the western-most part within the Chewton boundary. However, Litton has a small portion east of this, along with other small allocations. It begs the question as to whether Litton's land once extended further east. This subject will be further explored in the Discussion in Chapter 6.

INTERNAL FIELD BOUNDARIES

Whilst modern maps still reflect the medieval strip-field system, many internal field boundaries showing on earlier maps, have been removed. Field boundaries today are variously bank, ditch and hedge, some reflecting how blocks of land were held in severalty within the marsh, either by the Lord or by Freeholders.

The internal boundaries of Emborough's portion are diagonally opposed to the surrounding fields and can only in part be explained by the topography.

Surveys give glimpses of how larger field boundaries were defined. Trees have been mentioned as appearing in both the Rice map of 1766 (*ibid*) p.39 and in the Ston Easton Court Rolls (*ibid*) p.33 as markers. Quite how the individual strips were located within the common land is not clear. Despite extensive searches CAMP has found no evidence of bound stones. There are the ephemeral remains of ridges in Litton's Dole fields and drainage channels in narrow strips in land to the immediate north of Litton's Salt Marsh.

Routeways and the Marsh

Many footpaths criss-crossing the marsh, and surviving today, would have afforded access from the surrounding manors. In general these were well-bounded to prevent animals straying en-route to and from the Marsh.

Green Lane led from Hallatrow, Ham Lane and Pitway Lane from Farrington, whilst Hollowmarsh Lane served Hinton Blewett and Litton. A number of other tracks also led from Litton, whilst Chewton appears to have gained its major access by way of a steep-sided hollow-way leading from Chewton's common arable West Field on Chewton Plain.

The course of Pitway Lane is believed by Tratman (1962) to have been part of a 'Roman Road' crossing the marsh route from Sea Mills to the Fosse Way. CAMP has examined the evidence. The projected course does form the boundary between Hinton Blewett and Cameley, and Farrington Gurney and Chewton Mendip, which may be significant. The approach from Hinton Blewett does indeed resemble a Roman road profile with raised, stony routeway flanked by ditches, as stated by Tratman. However there is no apparent evidence for a continuation in the marsh and the easterly section may survive only as the later course of Pitway Lane. The field boundaries to the north of the lane abut it at 90°. Those to the south have a slightly different alignment and drain into a deep-cut ditch running alongside the lane.

It is notable that footpaths follow the peripheral boundary of the marsh in all but the easterly boundary of Ston Easton's allocation. Slight earthworks in places, along the southern boundary of Hallatrow's Hollowmarsh, indicate that the present footpath was once a much wider, banked track. There are also stone remains of a probable bridge support on both sides of the deep and flowing drainage ditch where the path crosses to Farrington's Hollowmarsh. The line of this footpath could be the route that was referred to in 1634 as a 'Highway called Hollowmarsh Way' (DD/GL 35).

The Marsh's Floral History

A study of the present day flora of Hollowmarsh reveals how it has been influenced by farming practice over the centuries.

Where the marsh has been intensively cultivated in the last few decades only the field margins and hedgerows retain any significant numbers of wild flowers. Reeds (*Phragmites australis*), however, flourish in the vicinity of the stream and along some of the drainage ditches. Because of their importance for thatching, both houses and hay ricks, they were probably managed as a crop in the

marsh. Teasles (*Dispacus fullonum*) survive in uncultivated edges and corners and serve as a reminder of a time when they were gathered for the woollen industry. There is no record of their cultivation in the marsh but Cameley did have a well- established woollen trade. There are records of a dye house there in the 18th century and the tithe apportionment mentions a 'Wool Coombing House and Yard'.

The main areas of interest with regard to the flora, are the two meadows in Hollowmarsh Nature Reserve, a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Through the centuries-old practice of cutting hay annually, which removes nutrients from the soil, certain wild flowers have been able to flourish. The flora of the meadows is comparable with that of Picksey Mead, in Oxfordshire, which has been studied in great depth (MacDonald 2007).

Comparisons of the flora of Picksey Mead, (which used Rodwell's MG4 list of constant and additional species (Rodwell 1992)), with that of the Somerset Wildlife Trust's findings (www.somersetwildlife.org/cgi-bin/showpage.fcgi), show a large majority of identical species at the two sites. Those occurring at Hollowmarsh are listed below:

Great Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), Birdsfoot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Crested Dog'-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Timothy Grass (*Phleum pratense*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Cuckoo Flower (*Cardamine pratense*), Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) and Common Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*).

Some other species that occur

Betony (*Betonica officinalis*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*), Tormantil (*Potentilla erecta*), Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), Dyers Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*), Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), Saw wort (*Serratula tinctoria*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*), Tufted Hair-Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Heath Grass (*Danthonia decumbens*), Carnation Sedge (*Carex panacea*), Purple Moor Grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Bitter Vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius* var. *montanus*), Fen Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Heath Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculate*), Broad Leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*), Hoary Ragwort (*Senecio erucifolius*),

Marsh Ragwort (*Senecio aquaticus*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Quaking grass (*Briza media*), Sneezewort (*Achillia ptarmica*), Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla filicaules*).

Long Dole Wood is also in the Nature Reserve. It is ancient semi-natural woodland, the western part of which was once a withy bed. In 1838 the wood was described as coppice. Coppicing was a way of managing the production of shoots from the stool so that they were harvested when they were the size required for a specific use. Hazel was commonly coppiced and used mainly for hurdle making. There are a number of large, standard trees in the wood, and also in some parts of Chewton Wood. Ash was essential for making hay rakes, forks and handles for a variety of tools and oak was the only wood relied on for making ladders. It was also used in building construction. Any dead wood provided fuel.

Ancient woodland is deemed to date from around 1600, by which time there was very little common meadow surviving in the marsh. It was mainly enclosed and gave scope for individual owners to diversify.

The national trend to plant oaks, which grew apace in the 19th century, is reflected in the number occurring in both hedge boundaries and in woodland.

Chapter 5

The Human Aspect

The Beauchamp Registers and other accounts of life on the Marsh

The management and practices associated with the meadows of Hollowmarsh are not recorded in medieval documents that have come down to us. However an excellent record exists for the nearby lands of Lady Cecily de Beauchamp compiled in 1321. Cecily was the daughter and co-heir of William de Vivonia (see Chewton Manor account) and inherited the manor of Welton with Widcombe. The Beauchamp Registers, two manuscripts books (Maxwell-Lyte, 1920) compiled in the 14th century for the Beauchamp family of Beauchamp Hatch contain extents for Welton with Widcombe. These surveys have descriptions of the tenants' responsibilities for harvesting the meadows and the perquisites that they received for their labours. It is reasonable to assume that these practices would have extended across Hollowmarsh.

Alan of Cattlyve, a tenant of Welton Manor, is described as owing the following labour services:

'..And he must hoe and mow. And the mowing of the meadow for nine days is worth 4½d. And when he shall hoe, he must hoe from morn until the ninth hour, and each work is worth ¼d. And when he shall mow the meadows, he shall have for the whole mowing three little trusses of grass such as he is able to lift with two hands without touching his body.'

Alice of Clandon has to make the hayrick at Welton and Peter the Miller:

'..must spread the grass in the meadow for three days, and hoe for three days. And he must rake the hay when it is being carried.'

These extracts illustrate the relationship between the villeins and the Lady of the Manor, describing the labour required at the time of the hay harvest on the meadows of Welton.

Mowing and haymaking were essential tasks that had to be accomplished swiftly and efficiently when the weather conditions were appropriate. These labour services would have been a group activity. The rewards acknowledged the importance of the hay harvest and recognised the extra effort made by the tenants on the lord's demesne.

A survey of Cameley by Henry Hippisley in 1794 states that 'on the 12th February 1794 he paid £1.1.0 for a journey to Hollymarsh with the trenchers to set out work and a further £0.2.0 was spent at The Farrington Inn for liquor for the men. On the 13th February he paid the trenchers £2.15.6 for trenching 13 score by 17 ropes at 4s per score' (DD/HI/A/273) No indication is given as to where in the marsh this work was carried out, but both the preservation of ditches, banks and water

management would have been essential element in the maintenance of the marsh, particularly at the lower elevations.

An account of an incident, which occurred in the 17th Century, and recorded in the Quarter Sessions Records of 1683 in Wells (*QSR, 1683, 22*), illustrates the contempt of both Chewton church and of Hollowmarsh, shown by one Thomas Hodges. This could well have been connected with the church having complete control of the tithes there. It reads as follows:

Thomas HODGES makes intemperate remarks about Chewton Mendip Church

The information of George PALMER of Chewton Mendip on oath, Saturday 9 June 1683, before the Bishop of Bath & Wells, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace.

At Binegar Fair on Thursday in Whitsun week last past, in one tent, booth or bower there, in which there were several persons drinking, especially one Thomas HODGES of High Littleton; and there being a discourse covering a great damage which had happened on Chewton Church by a late tempest of thunder and lightning, informant did then hear the said HODGES, in a base deriding manner, speak these word or words, to the same effect, vid: That the devil had broken down part of Chewton Tower and had thrown the stones thereof towards Holymarsh (being a common within the parish of Chewton) and he did not know how soon he would throw down the rest of the Tower the same way.

Taken at Wells by Peter, Lord Bishop of Bath & Wells.

Footnote: The Hodge family held the manor of High Littleton prior to 1618. The manor didn't have land in Hollowmarsh so there could have been a hint of 'sour grapes'.

CHAPTER 6

Discussion

One of the key questions emerging from the research of Hollowmarsh is what were its origins? The geology and topography make it a marshy area. We do not know of its use in prehistory and in Roman times, but can surmise that the close proximity of settlement points to it having been an important resource. We cannot say precisely when the marsh was organised with manorial boundaries being set, field systems instated and artificial drainage ditches cut, though this might have mirrored the trend taking place to drain much of the Somerset Levels in earlier medieval times. Documents in later medieval times indicate the continued attempts at water control, but the later decline in communal cooperation in post-medieval period led to a deterioration of the area. Whilst drainage is still maintained today it continues to be a very boggy place in wet weather.

Before the formal establishment of manorial boundaries on the marsh it was probably an area used by the surrounding settlements as an important resource for fodder, but one that was amply sufficient for their needs. At some stage, whether pre or post Domesday, the loose boundaries on the edge of the marsh were reorganised into fixed boundaries using existing features in the landscape or creating new ones (Costen 2010 pers com). Clearly this was a matter of great organisation to see fairness to all those with a claim to the marsh. Whether Chewton, as an important and influential manor led this we cannot be sure.

The fixing of these manorial boundaries from SW to NE used the obvious feature of the brook. The supposed course of a roman road cutting across the marsh appears to have provided an equally obvious solution NW to SE, implying that either it continued to be used in the early medieval period or that earthworks had survived. OE field name derivatives further imply early organisation of the marsh.

However CAMP suspects that the manorial boundaries and allocations on the marsh evolved over time especially with regards Chewton and Litton. Detailed analysis of boundaries suggests that Chewton's most northerly boundary once followed a different course, though this could well predate any organisation of the marsh. CAMP believes that the former northern boundary was once curvilinear and hedge lines survive to support this theory. Perhaps at the formal organisation of the marsh this boundary retracted to the line of the present road. This implies that the lane was a feature in the landscape at this time.

Sitting as it does, at the far north of the manor, Chewton's Hollowmarsh was a considerable distance from even the closest of its tenements. Maybe for this reason, and the fact that it had mead

elsewhere, it was prepared, or able to grant land out to other manors for this looks fairly certain in the case of Ston Easton, Paulton and Welton. However, Emborough is a different matter. What began as a holding of a few swarthes of verge grew to some 25 acres positioned in such a way as to suggest that it is superimposed on either Chewton's, or more contentiously Litton's land. For, if the detached portion of Litton's Salt Marsh, to the east of Emborough's allocation, is considered to have once been within Litton's manorial boundary, it follows that Litton gave up its land. It further follows that Chewton's boundary took an earlier more easterly course. Fig 12 shows a proposed course for the former boundary. The solid red line indicates both a deep-cut holloway, and splayed bank of 2.5m wide running north from the NE corner of Litton's Salt Marsh. Could these be the remains of the boundary?

The question of why the detached manors had rights to the marsh seems to relate to Chewton and its chapelries. In the known medieval documents for Chewton, which relate to these manors, no mention is made of Hollowmarsh.

In the main, internal field boundaries sit at 90° to manorial and peripheral boundaries, the exception being Emborough. CAMP can find no obvious explanation for this anomaly. In Chewton the former acre strips of the Salt Marsh and Withey Beds run N/S and butt up to deer park boundary, suggesting they post date its foundation. Other strips within Chewton lie variously N/S and W/E and maybe accounted for by the contours of the land.

Cameley's Park would appear to be of much later foundation date than Chewton's, as field name evidence shows encroachment onto existing Hollowmarsh land. Again, no charter has been found to confirm or refute this theory.

Dole names survived in Cameley, Litton, Hinton Blewett and possibly Farrington. Was this because these manors kept the tradition over a longer period and that originally all the manors used this method, or was it that some manors never adopted it? No written evidence has come to light of the actual procedure in practice on Hollowmarsh.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

CAMP's study of Hollowmarsh has provided a glimpse of how important the area was in the medieval period and of how it was organised and utilised. It has drawn parallels with other medieval meadowlands where records survive and research exists.

It has also demonstrated how this once important resource fell out of traditional use and came to be regarded with contempt by some and as an area of little agricultural worth in post-medieval times. A dearth of documentary and cartographic record in the medieval period means that it is not possible to establish exactly when and how the marsh was established and organised. Furthermore it is not easy to ascertain when allocations came into and out of the marsh. For the most part this remains conjecture. A more in-depth study of historical events, of population fluctuations and of agrarian trends throughout the medieval and post-medieval period would further add to the story of Hollowmarsh, but is beyond the scope of this report. In addition, the Salt Marsh remains an enigma needing further investigation.

Had more of the medieval ecology survived it might have been considered amongst the most important meadowlands of the country. Historically it must rank as one of the most significant in terms of the number of manors involved. The high degree of co-operation between not only the various Lords of the Manors, but also the tenants who used the resource, was remarkable.

Ironically, it is the low-lying, water-logged nature of the land and lack of metalled road access that has contributed to the retention of its medieval character. It is for this reason that its rarity should be valued and preserved, with the reinstatement of wildflower meadows wherever possible. This would enhance an area which continues to be a haven for wildlife and provides an important amenity for walkers and nature lovers.

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Cameley

DD\HI/A/270 Estate Map of Cameley 1766

DD\HI/A/272 Estate Map of Cameley 1794 & DD\HI/A 273 Book of reference

D\D\Rt\M/227 Tithe Map and D\D\Rt\A/227 Apportionment

DD\HI/A/268,269,273,281 Surveys of Estate and Manor of Cameley

Chewton Mendip

A\AMX12 Estates of Cecily Marchioness of Dorset

DD\WG Box 8 no. 2 Survey book of Chewton dated 1650 but compiled 1710-20

DD\WG Box 9/4 Rent book 1696

DD\WG Box 9/8 Book of Reference of Chewton 1740

DD\WG\1 Estate Map of Chewton by Rocque 1740

DD\WG Box 11/18 Survey of 1794 Chewton Estate

D\D\Rt\M/119 Tithe Map of 1839 and D\D\Rt\A/119 Apportionment

Emborough

DD\HI/A/3 Ston Easton Deeds 1407-1564

DD\HI/A/240 Ston Easton Court Rolls

DD\HI/A/241 Ston Easton Court Rolls

DD\HI/A/242 Survey of 1544

DD\HI/A/256 Survey of Emborough 1580

D\D\Rt\M/208 Tithe Map c1840 and D\D\Rt\A/208 Apportionment

Farrington Gurney

T/PH/vch/8 1609 to-1611 Survey of the Somerset manors by Norden

MAP/T/PH/dcl18 Survey of Farrington Gurney 1795 with Supplementary Remarks 1807

D\D\Rt\M/284 Tithe Map c1840 and D\D\Rt\A/284 Apportionment

High Littleton (Hallatrow)

A/ABU/31 Precis of Deeds Brick House Estate

BT/6/13 1802 Map and survey

DD/GL/33-36 High Littleton Deeds 1616-1757

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D/P/hin.bl 3/1/1 Terrier of glebe land and rectory etc 1606

Litton

D\D\Rt\M/250 Tithe Map 1839 and D\D\Rt\A/250 Apportionment 1838-41

DD/Rg/167 (1-4) Glebe Terriers

Paulton

D\D\Rt\M/325 Tithe Map 1838 and D\D\Rt\A/325 Apportionment

Ston Easton

D\D\Rt\M/160 Tithe Map 1839 and D\D\Rt\A/160 Apportionment

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Definitions

Swath/swarth: a narrow strip covered by the stroke of a scythe or a verge

£ = pound, s = shilling (20th of pound), d = penny (12th of shilling)

A = acre, r = rood or rod (quarter of an acre), p = perch or pole (40th of rood)

Acknowledgement

CAMP wishes to thank Dr Michael Costen for the invaluable assistance given in interpreting the findings of their researches.

To the landowners who granted free access to Hollowmarsh

To Andrew Sandon for translation of 1426 Add.Charter 6637

Appendix 1

Somerset HER details for Chewton Plain

Site number	Site Name and description
25388	Magnetometer Survey 1983 of Worberry Gate, North of Chewton Mendip
16403	Iron Age and Romano-British site, Worberry Gate Chewton Mendip
29857	Excavation 1985, Worberry Gate, Chewton Mendip

Appendix 2

Various spellings of Hollowmarsh in old documents (with references at SHC)

Helewemerssh 1369, DD/HI/A/240 Ston Easton Court Roll

Halewinerssh 1426, Add.Charter 6637 at British Library

Hallommarsh 1557, DD/HI/60

Hollowmarsh 1610, DD/RM/c1206

Holy Marshe 1649, DD\C/P/114092

Hallowe Marsh 1671, DD/RM/Box14

Hollymarsh/Holymarsh 1715, DD/X/BU 4H/55a

Hollow Marsh 1759, DD/RM/Box12

About Community Archaeology on the Mendip Plateau (CAMP)

This Community Archaeology Group based in Chewton Mendip was established in 2009 by Pip Osborne to provide an opportunity for interested locals to investigate their environment through multi-disciplinary study, with the greater emphasis being on landscape archaeology.

It seeks to build on the researches of several local archaeologists investigating settlement on the Mendip Plateau with its own investigations followed by publication of its findings.

The study of Hollowmarsh constitutes its first Project and will be followed by a study of Chewton Mendip's medieval Deer Park and the medieval origins of Chewton through a programme of excavation in the village centre.

This report was compiled by Pip Osborne with Colin Budge, Ann Bihan and Rosemary Walker

Copies distributed to:

Somerset Heritage Centre

Somerset Wildlife Trust

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society

For the purposes of publication and archiving the project has been given the Site Code HM/09