

## THE HEDGEROWS OF TASBURGH

by Silvia Addington

### SUMMARY

*Hedgerow species in Tasburgh are listed and mapped and their significance is assessed in relation to Hooper's hypothesis and to documentary evidence. A local chronology for hedge dating is found to be of importance.*

Following the works of Hoskins and Hooper on the theories of hedgerow dating,<sup>1</sup> the author counted during 1975 and 1976 the species in all the hedges in Tasburgh parish.<sup>2</sup> The results of this survey have been compared with enclosure and tithe maps.<sup>3</sup> (A survey by Tarrant has shown that in Norfolk 45% of the hedges that were extant in the county in 1945 have since been removed.<sup>4</sup> Since the 1906 twenty five inch Ordnance Survey map of Tasburgh was made, roughly one third of the hedges in the parish have gone; and they are still going).<sup>5</sup> The surviving hedgerows were counted mostly after harvest on one side only. Every thirty yard stretch was recorded so that any change in the hedge could be seen. In the following spring each hedge was revisited to record plants such as dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) which are indicators of early woodland.<sup>6</sup>

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### TASBURGH PARISH

Tasburgh is 14km. south of Norwich. It is in the hundred of Depwade and covers 367ha.<sup>7</sup> In the Domesday Survey it was described thus:- 'Tasburc is ten furlongs in length and seven in breadth and renders nine pence geld'.<sup>8</sup>

Fig. 2 shows that the River Tas forms the western boundary and a tributary of the River Tas forms the southern boundary and that these boundaries have been twice interrupted to include Rainthorpe Hall and the site of the former manor of Uphall and Boylands near Tasburgh Hall. (Fig. 1) The Tas flows through a narrow valley cutting through the chalky boulder clays exposing the underlying sands and gravels.

The hill fort to the west of the Roman road (A140) is thought to be Iron Age. Within it stands the church of St. Mary the Virgin, which has a Saxon round tower.<sup>9</sup> Middle and Late Saxon occupation levels have been found during recent excavations in the churchyard.<sup>10</sup> At the Norman Conquest there were two manors in Tasburgh.<sup>11</sup> There was the capital manor of Uphall and Boylands, which is a moated site and beside which was a chapel dedicated to St. Michael, and Hunte's Manor, the site of which is unknown but may have been where Old

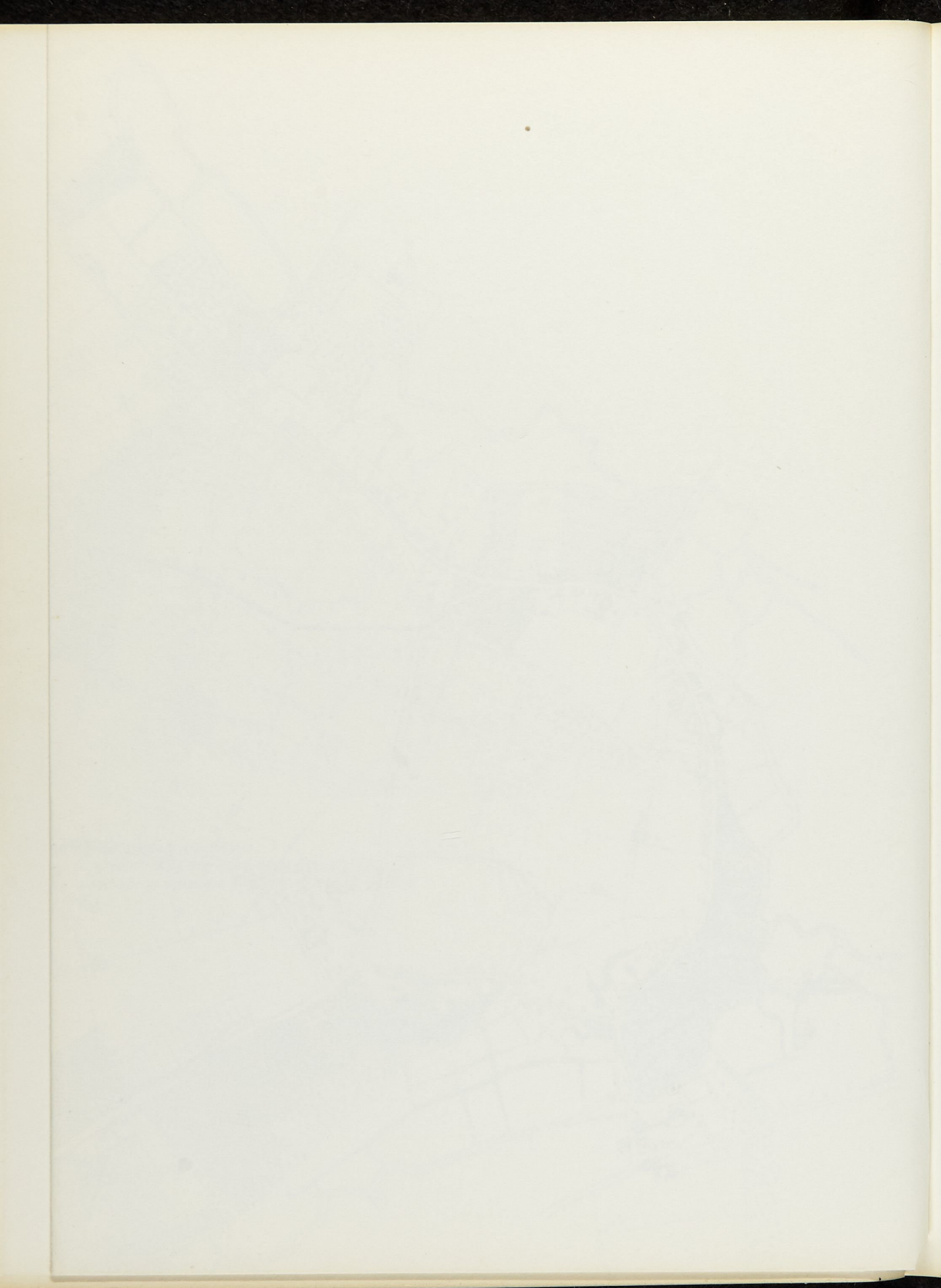




Fig. 1

Map of Tasburgh showing numbers of species in each stretch of hedge, with the field pattern of 1975. Dotted lines show the field pattern of 1818. Shaded areas show former greens and commons. Cross hatching shows new buildings.





Hall Farm is now. Fragments of medieval pottery have been found in the fields beside Old Hall Farm Loke; the scatter is particularly thick in the field next to Old Hall farmhouse and most of the material dates from the thirteen and fourteenth centuries.

### THE HEDGES

Note: Imperial measures are used in this text because thirty yards is the standard unit of measurement for hedgerow recording.

Fig. 1 shows the present day pattern of hedges which from 1906 until recently remained almost unaltered. Few fields were larger than ten acres, and the average was of about seven acres; although there were some very small pastures near the houses. The field shapes varied from long and narrow to more or less square. The hedges along the parish boundaries are mostly overgrown and scarcely managed. Although there is a hedge along the boundary with Saxlingham east of the Roman road, it appears not to be as old as most of the hedges in that area. The eastern parish boundary seems surprisingly amorphous, sometimes following hedges and sometimes crossing open fields. Where it is coincidental with a hedge, the count is high. Figgett's Loke was until recently hedged on both sides; the surviving hedge is a very uniform, overgrown hedge with an average of 6.7 species. It does though, have two places where the original hedge has been interrupted and an elm hedge has been planted. (These two lengths have been excluded from the average.) Norton's Loke is hedged on both sides with high, largely untrimmed hedges. The hedges along Old Hall Farm Loke are trimmed annually. The public roads have a few fragments of old hedging, but for the most part the hedges are relatively new or absent. Some of the hedges are cut more or less every year; some are slashed occasionally and some are coppiced. There are no laid hedges and few are cut by hand. Within living memory most field hedges were coppiced in rotation.

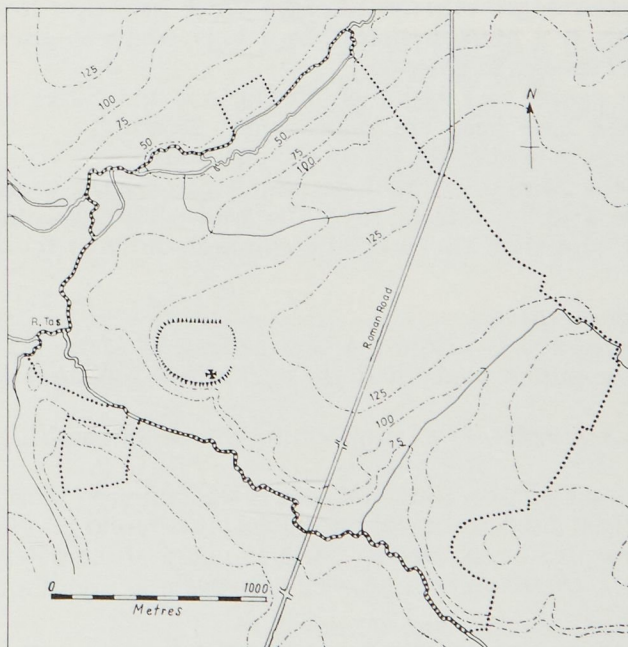


Fig. 2  
Map of Tasburgh showing contour lines.



The following species have been found in Tasburgh:-

Ash, Beech, Blackthorn, Box, Bullace, Cherry plum, Cherry, Crabapple, Dogwood, Elder, Elm, Gooseberry, Guelder rose, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Hornbeam, Horse-chestnut, Lilac, Maple, Oak, Oregon-grape, Pear, Privet, Snowberry, Spindle, Sycamore, Spurge-laurel, Wild-roses, Willow (osier), Willow (common sallow), Willow (goat), Willow (round eared sallow), Willow (crack).

*The most common species:-*

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) is in most of the hedges that are earlier than 1818, but is in only one hedge known to have been planted later.

Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is in many hedges; it seems to be one of the first plants to appear in a newly planted hedge.

Elm (*Ulmus carpiniifolia*) is abundant in almost all of the hedges, although it is less common in some of the oldest boundaries, and is not in most of the post 1818 hedges. It seems as though it may have been fairly extensively planted from Elizabethan times until the 1818 Enclosure Act. *Ulmus glabra* is the native elm, and is found beside the hill fort and in hedges throughout the parish, but is very much less common than *Ulmus carpiniifolia*.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is found in almost every hedge, and was planted in most of the 1818 Enclosure hedges.

*Crataegus oxyacanthoides* is a woodland plant. It grows in the parish, but is uncommon.

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is in many hedges with over four species. (Until combines were used for harvesting, hazels were cut annually for thatching the stacks). Gerard says that hazels were grown extensively at the bottom of orchards and manured.<sup>1 2</sup> There is a length of about thirty yards growing along the road opposite the present rectory which could have been planted.

Maple (*Acer campestre*) grows in most hedges which have over five species. Hooper considers that this is a marker species, as it only seems to grow when there are already four other species in a hedge.<sup>1 3</sup>

Wild roses (*Rosa canina* sp.) Although McClintock and Fitter list fifteen species of wild rose, these have been counted as one species.<sup>1 4</sup>

*Rosa arvensis* grows in several hedges on the clay soils.

Wild plums (*Prunus domestica*) 'include plums, greengages, bullaces and damsons which have gone wild.'<sup>1 5</sup> Gerard says 'the wild plum groweth in most hedges through England' and they are especially common close to the inhabited part of the village.<sup>1 6</sup>

*Other fairly common species:-*

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is in quite a few hedges. It seems to be in some that bordered former common land where the enclosure boundaries were planted with thorn after 1818.

Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) is common in almost all the hedges with seven or more species.

Oak (*Quercus robur*) is fairly abundant, but is less common than ash. With the ash it is beside land that used to be common land. It is found in relatively few of the hedges which have five or six species, but is in many of the older hedges that may be woodland relics. *Quercus cerris* grows in a hedge near Rainthorpe Hall.

*Species that are less abundant but not rare:-*

Crabapple (*Malus sylvestris*) is in thirty hedges and seems to be distributed fairly evenly throughout the parish.

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). In a nationwide survey of the distribution of holly, it



was found to be mostly growing on land that had been enclosed for a long time.<sup>17</sup> It grows in forty-two hedges in Tasburgh, where it is found on all soils. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). In Tasburgh this tree only grows in the oldest hedges and in those which have an undergrowth of woodland plants, except in one instance. It only seems to produce seedlings in unmanaged hedges and the saplings grow closely around the parent tree. It grows on the wettest and heaviest

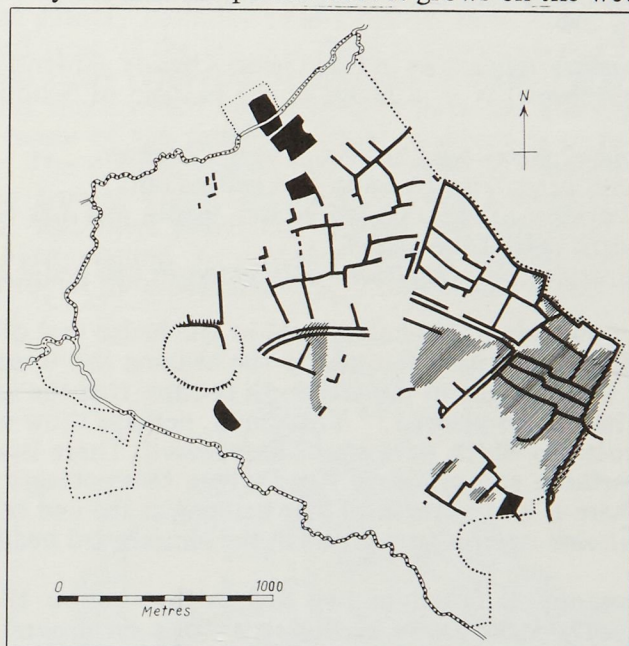


Fig. 3

Black lines and areas show woods or hedges with woodland plants, including dog's mercury, primroses, bluebells and wood anemones.

soils, and is confined to a smaller area within the area of former woodland plants as shown on Fig. 3. Within this area it is frequent and without, it is non-existent. Ellis thinks it is probably a relic of old woodland.<sup>18</sup> Rackham thinks its distribution is patchy and difficult to explain, but can be traced back to the Middle Ages and that it reflects the mosaic of vegetation in the prehistoric forest and he would have expected it to be the dominant tree in much of the native woodland in the parish.<sup>19</sup>

Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) is another of Hooper's marker plants only colonizing hedges which already have six species.<sup>20</sup> Although this is a plant that likes calcareous soils, it grows mostly on the lighter sandy soils in Tasburgh.<sup>21</sup> There are several plants on the chalky embankment of the hill fort. Amongst the old hedges east of Figgett's Loke on the chalky boulder clay there is only one plant. Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*). In West Cambridgeshire Rackham has found it a species of secondary woodland.<sup>22</sup> In Tasburgh it grows where there is an under-cover of dog's mercury. It occurs in Old Hall Farm Loke and is abundant in Norton's Loke; it is in two hedges that are between Norton's Loke and the Saxlingham boundary and in the Saxlingham boundary.

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Wherever there is a sycamore tree there tend to be sycamores in the hedges near to the tree, as they seed so abundantly and grow easily. They are limited because there are only a few trees in the parish, mostly close to houses.



## Willows.

Common sallow (*Salix atrocinerea*) and Pussy willow (*Salix caprea*) are the most common. Others which have been found are Osier (*Salix viminalis*) Round-eared willow (*Salix aurita*) and Crack willow (*Salix fragilis*). There also appear to be hybrids between these species. They are all found beside damp ditches; Pussy willow though, is sometimes found growing in drier hedges.

*Uncommon plants:-*

Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) only grows in three hedges beside gardens.

Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) is in a hedge at the bottom of School Lane beside a garden.

Cherry (*Prunus avium*) grows wild but is not very common.

Cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*) grows in two hedges only.

Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*) grows in wet places and has only been found in hedges in the north east of the parish.

Horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastnum*) only grows in one hedge beside Tasburgh Grange.

Gooseberry (*Ribes uva-crispa*) has been found in one hedge east of Figgett's Loke.

Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) was used frequently for hedging the front gardens of the older cottages. It was thought in the sixteenth century that the seed was infertile so that it always had to be planted.<sup>2 3</sup> This could, perhaps show where there may once have been cottages which have since disappeared. There is a length of lilac hedging at the northern end of Grove Road where two cottages were shown on the 1818 map. There is also a length of lilac hedging at the end of Figgett's Loke. Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) grows in the churchyard hedge and close to a few houses.

Pear (*Pyrus communis*) is found in two hedges that before 1815 were beside packways.<sup>2 4</sup> An early form grows in Figgett's Loke on ground without woodland plants.

Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) is found in one hedge beside Norton's Loke. *Ligustrum ovalifolium* is not native and is used for hedging around houses and is common in Lower Tasburgh.

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rivularis*) is abundant in the hedge beside the Rectory and was probably planted in 1839 when the Rectory was built. It is found in Lower Tasburgh near houses.

*Trailing plants*

These are plants, some of which are found in all hedges, which are not included in the hedge-counts on the advice of Dr. Hooper.<sup>2 5</sup>

Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) is the first plant to colonise almost every hedge, but some elm hedges which are on the 1818 enclosure map are without brambles.

Black bryony (*Tamus communis*) is as common as white bryony but seems to be found more on the heavier land.

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) is uncommon and only occurs in five hedges.

Hop (*Humulus lupulus*). Hooper has noticed that hops mostly seem to be found close to villages and has suggested that many may be relics of former brewing.<sup>2 6</sup> This is probably the case in Tasburgh as they only grow close to the occupied part of the parish. They are especially abundant near Rainthorpe Hall.

Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is an extremely common plant in most of the hedges, although it is not found in most of the hedge along Figgett's Loke.

Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*) grows in three hedges in Lower Tasburgh.

White bryony (*Bryonia dioica*) is common in many hedges particularly on the



lighter land. Sometimes both black and white bryony are found in the same hedge. Woody nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*) is fairly common in many hedges particularly on the lighter land.

#### DISCUSSION

Fig. 3 shows the hedges that have early woodland plants, mostly dog's mercury. These are almost entirely confined to the heavier soils. Along the river valley and to the south and west of the hill fort there is almost no dog's mercury and the soils are light and easily cultivated. Hedges can be divided into those which have been planted and those which appear to have been cut directly from the woodland, although many of the former are now so mixed as to be indistinguishable from the latter. The planted hedges can be further subdivided into those which were planted on ground which, assuming that dog's mercury is an indicator of early woodland, had been previously cleared and cultivated, and those which seem to have been planted on recently felled woodland before the woodland plants were destroyed by ploughing. Fig. 4 shows that within the area of former



Fig. 4

Shows the relationship between the present field pattern and hedges with woodland plants in the undergrowth.

woodland plants, there are hedges without woodland plants; almost all of these are hedges with four to seven species.

If Hooper's hypothesis is correct a hedge planted in 1475 should by now have about six species, so these hedges would seem to cover the period of Tudor agricultural expansion, when areas of former open fields were enclosed by ambitious yeomen. One such family in Tasburgh were the Thorolds who started to buy land in Thewgatefeld in 1550, and were still buying land in Thegatefyld in 1612.<sup>27</sup> Thegate would seem to be identifiable with Figgett's Loke, which in 1797 was Thiggett Lane.<sup>28</sup> There is a large area with few woodland plants to the west of Figgett's Loke, and small fragments of surviving hedges to the east without woodland plants, which have counts of between four and seven species.



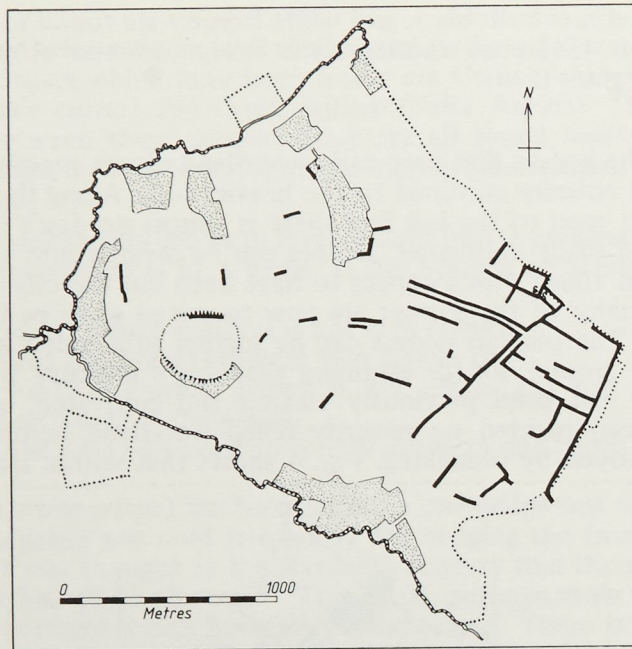


Fig. 5

Hedges with an average of over seven species. The stippled areas are former greens and commons

Fig. 5 shows the hedges with seven and more species, including the Figgett's Loke hedge, excluding those near houses; almost all of these hedges are drawn from a wide variety of species including forest trees. Marshall at the end of the eighteenth century described old Norfolk hedges as 'abounding in oak, ash,

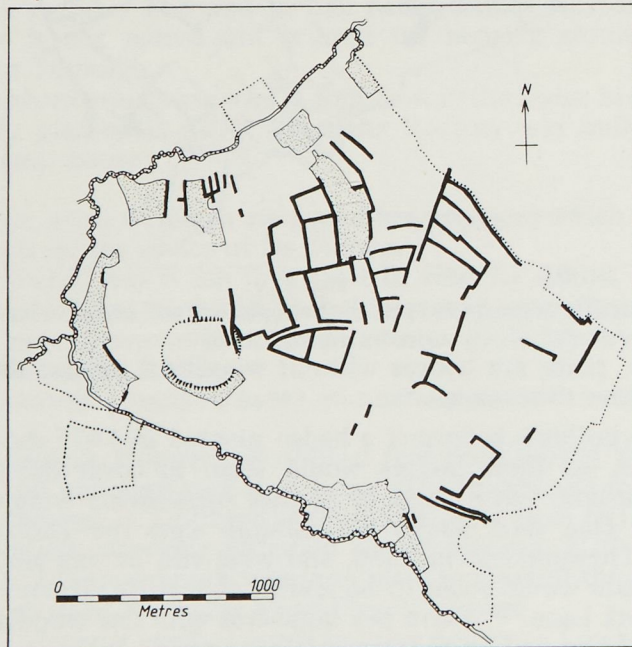


Fig. 6

Hedges averaging between four and seven species. The stippled areas are former greens and commons.



maple stubs and holly'.<sup>29</sup> A 180 yard length of hedge with an average count of seven, may contain as many as fifteen different species. The eastern boundary with Hempnall has eighteen. Fig. 6 shows the hedges with four to seven species. These all appear to be mainly Tudor hedges of *c.* 1475-1625. They are recognizable as they tend to have no dominant plant, although some have a preponderance of elms. The plants tend to be in clumps, and blackthorn and maple are almost always present. These hedges are mainly composed of thorn, elm, maple, wild roses, wild plums, hazel, elder and blackthorn. Fig. 7 shows the hedges known to

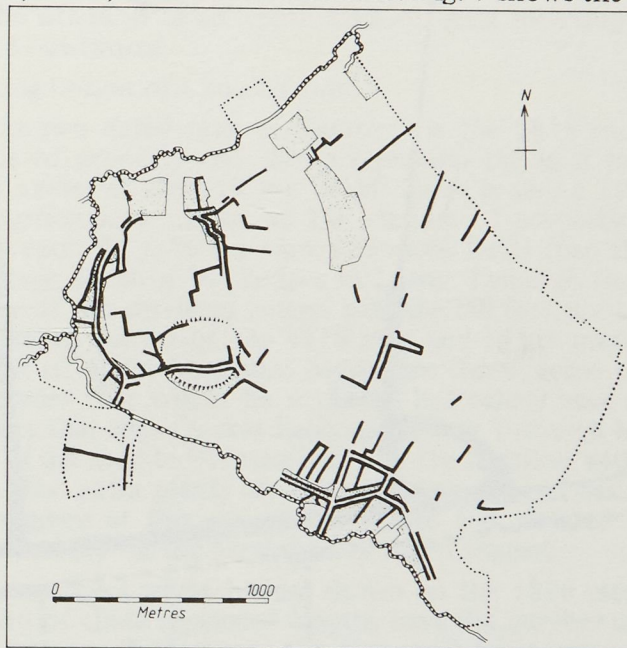


Fig. 7

Hedges with under four species and those which have been planted since the 1818 Enclosure map. The stippled areas are former greens and commons. have been planted after 1818 and those with up to four species, and all except one are on ground without early woodland plants. The hedges planted before the enclosure map are mostly of elm, and it would appear from the remaining hedges that most of the lighter lands remained as open fields until they were enclosed by private treaty in the eighteenth century. A Terrier of 1753 described the glebe as having 'a long pightle adjoining many little pightles in Tasburgh, many pightles in Rainthorpefield in Flordon, and one acre lying in Tasburgh abutting on a packway in the east and the common pasture in the south.'<sup>30</sup> As this last land was not described as a pightle it may mean that it was still unenclosed. There are similar elm hedges near Holkham Hall in north Norfolk and these would seem to have been planted during the last quarter of the eighteenth century.<sup>31</sup> The hedges planted after 1818 are almost all of thorn.

When the number of species vary considerably in a single hedge, it may be where a piece of former woodland hedge is incorporated into a planted hedge. Fig. 8 shows such a length of hedge along Figgett's Loke. An undergrowth of woodland plants is shown by a heavy line.

The woodland plants in the hedgebottoms as shown in Fig. 3 suggest that at some time there was an area of woodland stretching towards the east from the hill fort. The Domesday entries for Norfolk do not always show the woodland



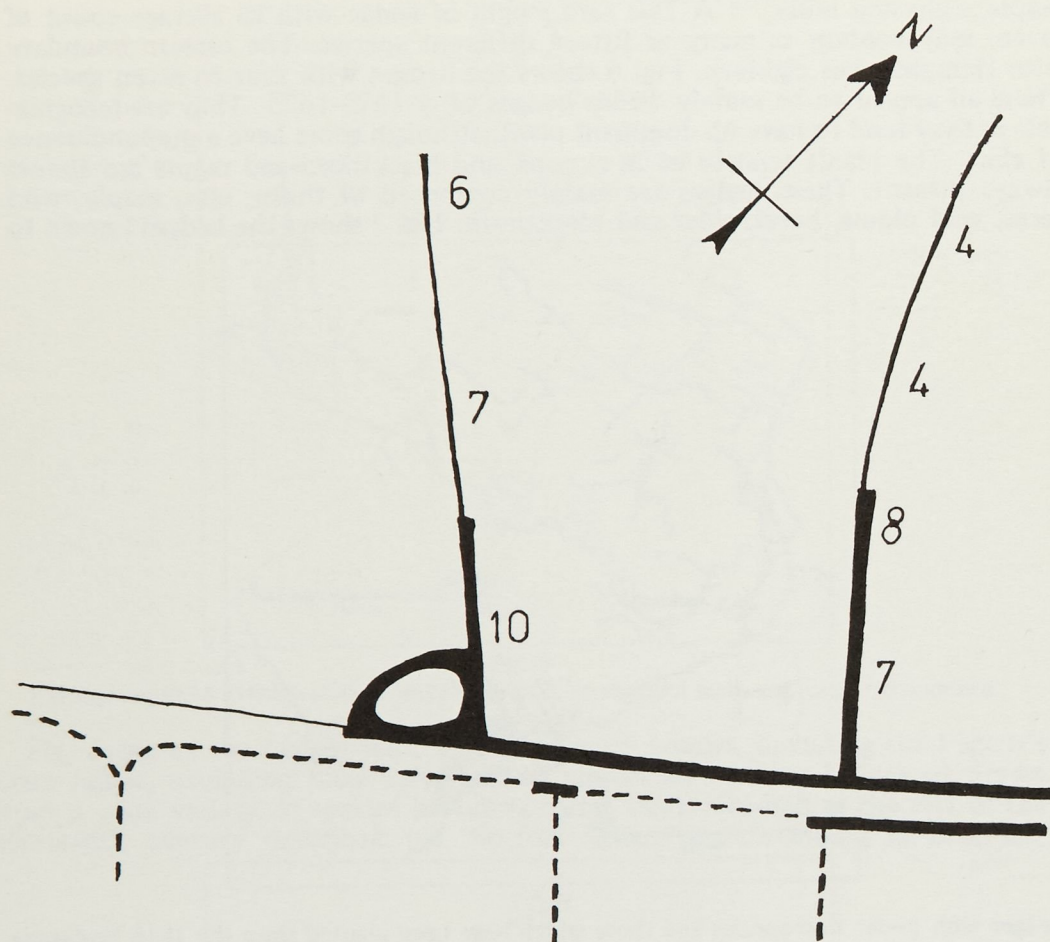


Fig. 8

for separate parishes, but a wood for 200 swine, called Schieteshaga is given for the neighbouring parish of Hempnall.<sup>32</sup> In 1622 there was 100 acres of woodland in the adjoining parish of Saxlingham.<sup>33</sup> Darby suggests that though the countryside south of Norwich was densely settled by the time of the Domesday survey, it was probably originally as thickly wooded and perhaps more so, than central Norfolk.<sup>34</sup> Emery suggests that hamlets with Green or Street names are connected with medieval woodland clearance.<sup>35</sup> In 1780 the small piece of pre-enclosure common land in Lower Tasburgh where Grove Road joins the Low Road was known as Nether Green.<sup>36</sup> Within a four mile radius of Tasburgh, mainly to the south and east of the village, are twenty eight hamlets with Green or Street names.

The area with hornbeams (Fig. 3), mostly in the east of the parish, suggest that perhaps this was originally very old woodland, which tended to survive on the wet clay uplands.<sup>37</sup> If spurge-laurel is a plant of secondary woodland, as has been found in West Cambridgeshire, it would appear that this early woodland at some time expanded southwards and westwards towards the hill fort. The hedges with spurge-laurel are mostly high count hedges, so this expansion would seem to



have occurred a considerable time ago. That this woodland may still have survived into the Middle Ages near the hill fort, is perhaps corroborated by documentary evidence. In 1358, Katerine, the wife of Patric de Burwode bought a messuage in Tasburgh, and in 1444 some people are recorded as having bought land in Burwodefild in Tasburg.<sup>38</sup> The first element of Bur(e)wode may refer to the hill fort.<sup>39</sup> Fig. 6 shows that the land immediately east of the hill fort has hedges of from four to seven species; most of these have an undergrowth of primary woodland plants, which might also suggest that the woodland survived near the hill fort until the fifteenth or sixteenth century. Also surviving in the hedges are several woodland hawthorns.

#### ANALYSIS (Using hedges of a known date)

The earliest known dated map of Tasburgh is the 1818 enclosure map. This gives the owners of property and shows to whom the land had been awarded; it also gives the names of some of the fields. There is also a Tithe map of 1840. The Tithe Apportionment names all the owners of property and assesses the tithes due from each. It gives the names of more fields than the enclosure map and also their usage. Most of the hedges in Lower Tasburgh that lie close to the valley, and many of the surviving hedges near the hill fort, are one species hedges of elm. These are all shown on the 1818 map and so are presumably 150–200 years old. Almost all of the enclosure hedges are thorn, some of which have the two or three species that would be expected but others have up to six species. Most of the hedges that edge Quaker Lane and Lower Tasburgh have three species, but to the east of the road to Flordon and near the junction with Grove Road the count increases. The extra plants are almost always ash and oak. This could mean that the former green at this end of the village was wooded at some time, as patches of dogs mercury on the former green might suggest.

There are three places where hedges shown on the 1818 map have later been straightened. Two of these replanted lengths have the number of species that one would expect, but in a hedge near the Hempnall boundary where a length of about sixty yards has been re-aligned, each thirty yard stretch has a count of six. The plants include thorn, elm, blackthorn, wild plum, ash, wild roses and one maple. The planting of this piece of hedge may have included both thorn and elm, but the selection of plants appears to be entirely random. This is the only post 1818 hedge that contains blackthorn. Although there are woodland plants in the original hedges, they are not found in the newly planted stretches.

#### CONCLUSION

It is difficult to assess with accuracy the hedge counts of Tasburgh without the use of more dating evidence. The information provided by the enclosure map of 1818 has shown that elm hedges that should be expected to have two or three species have only one, and that thorn hedges planted as enclosure boundaries can vary between three and six species. Hewlett when reconstructing the landscape at Otford in Kent, which has been well documented, found that Hooper's dating hypothesis is substantially correct.<sup>40</sup> He also found that in a long hedge, with differing types of management and differing soils the count was remarkably constant; the species changing to suit the varying conditions. He included two species of trailing plants, bramble and old man's beard, which were not included in the Tasburgh survey.<sup>41</sup> In Tasburgh the Figgett's Loke hedge which is over half a mile long is very uniform, the count varying from six to eight species, giving a date of c. 1300.



Master's dating of the hedgerows in the Vale of Wrington in Avon, on the other hand, found that soil types did affect the number of species.<sup>42</sup> He thought it wrong to assume that certain species were characteristic of old hedges and that the determinant factor was the availability of seeds. In documented hedges he found wych elm frequent in Saxon hedges. In Tasburgh most hedges with high counts do seem to contain species which are seldom found in other hedges. These include dogwood, hornbeam, holly, spindle and spurge-laurel. Conversely wild roses and elder are usually the first plants to colonize a hedge. The distribution of sycamore would seem to be an example of the availability of seeds, although alternatively there are places where there is just one guelder-rose or wild pear-tree and no others for half a mile.

Fowler in an article called 'Hedged about with Doubt' wrote about a group of people who counted hedges on a farm in the Vale of Wrington.<sup>43</sup> These hedges had documentary evidence but the results showed little correlation with the dates. He found that regardless of the documentary evidence, hedges along roads had higher counts, and that the majority of hedges had counts of between four and six species. He concluded after counting 150 hedges, that old hedges do have more species than new hedges, but he thought that it was not always the number of species that was the indicator of age, but the combination of species, and that hedges with a high ratio of thorns were not as old as a hedge of mainly elm, hazel, maple, ash and only twenty per cent of thorn, was likely to be. This is confirmed in Tasburgh. Most of the hedges thought to be of Tudor date, having four to seven species and with the plants forming clumps, have a small ratio of thorn. Table I. shows the approximate lengths of each species in a thirty yard stretch, taken from three different hedges.

Table I

Hedge 1	ft.	Hedge 2	ft.	Hedge 3	ft.
Maple	36	Maple	26	Maple	6
Thorn	6	Thorn	10	Thorn	20
Wild plum	26	Blackthorn	10	Blackthorn, plum	21
Elm	15	Elm	38	Elm	21
Wild rose,		Wild rose,		Wild rose,	
Elder, hazel	7	Elder	6	Hazel	22
	90		90		90

The difference between these hedges and the post 1818 hedges with up to six species is that in the latter hedges the ratio of thorn is usually in excess of 75% and wild plum, blackthorns and maples are usually absent.

A thorn hedge that should probably not be trusted is the hedge beside the old rectory in Lower Tasburgh. This hedge divides the old rectory from land which was enclosed in 1818, although the hedge was present in 1818. The old rectory is the same house on the same land as that which is described on a Terrier of 1677.<sup>44</sup> There is a reference to the rector being given a house and ten acres of land in the eleventh century.<sup>45</sup> This hedge has a count of 5, 7 and 8 species, which would seem to imply a hedge of about 1300, but as the hedge is basically thorn it would seem unlikely that it is earlier than the present timber-framed house. The plants in it include ash, elder, wild rose, privet, hazel, snowberry, crabapple, holly, sycamore and wild plum.



The hedge along the border with Saxlingham which has a count average of 6.6 may be older than is apparent. It is in an ideal position as a natural boundary dividing the land which drains into the stream in Figgett's Loke and land that drains into a stream that flows into the River Tas at Saxlingham Thorpe. The whole hedge has an undercover of dog's mercury and many primroses. The count varies from five to nine species and for much of its length there is an abundance of elms, which in some places form a continuous border of trees. There is a total of sixteen different species which include hornbeam, dogwood, holly and spurge-laurel. In the 1818 enclosure map three fields beside this hedge are called Upper, Middle and Lower Elm Close. Where the count is high the elms are few, but where it is low they are dominant.

How the count is interpreted can make a difference to the dating of a hedge; this can be seen in the hedge along Old Hall Farm Loke. Table 2 shows a diagram of species and counts for this hedge.

Table 2

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
Wild plum			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Elm	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Maple	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hawthorn	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Blackthorn	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+				
Wild rose	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hornbeam						+							
Ash	+	+				+				+			+
Holly		+											+
Sycamore		+											+
Hazel									+	+	+	+	+
Crabapple							+			+	+	+	
Dogwood							+			+			
Spindle											+		
Elder		+	+					+		+			+
	6	9	6	5	6	8	8	7	7	10	8	7	9

## Average 7.4

Table 2 shows that nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 have counts which have from five to seven species which are composed of the same plants that form the adjacent 'Tudor' hedges so that it would seem reasonable to assume that these stretches were planted at the same time. The remaining counts average 8.3 which would date them as remnants of boundaries of *c.* 1150. If it is assumed that all the hedge is of one date, the average is 7.4 giving a hedge of *c.* 1235  $\pm$  100.

The Domesday survey accounts for 239 acres in Tasburgh, 211 as arable land and eighteen as meadowland. Apart from the lords of the two manors there were twenty freemen and sokemen who owned 171 acres between them. Each of the lords owned one ploughteam, but each only held thirty acres of arable land in Tasburgh. All the other people owned three and a half ploughteams between them. Assuming that each ploughteam represented 120 acres, about 660 acres would seem to have been in cultivation.<sup>4,6</sup> Only one hedge has a count high enough to date it as Saxon. This is a hedge beside a small field which is marked with an S on either side of Fig. 5. Hewlett had to add bramble and old



man's beard to make his hedge count tally with his documentary dates.<sup>4 7</sup> Fowler found that the counts did not give some of the hedges a date that was old enough.<sup>4 8</sup> This would perhaps suggest that although some of the newer hedges give a date that is too old, some of the high count hedges may not give a date that is old enough, particularly where there is a predominance of elm.

Although the results of the Tasburgh hedge survey could only be substantiated if there was an earlier map, it does seem that not only are the counts relevant, but the composition of the hedges and their undergrowth also need to be considered. The results also suggest that Hewlett's view that the creation of a local chronology for hedgerow dating is of prime importance.<sup>4 9</sup>

June 1977

## APPENDIX I

### SOME FORMER FIELD AND ROAD NAMES IN TASBURGH.

Names found in the Gurney Deeds.<sup>5 0</sup>

#### *Fourteenth Century Names*

Rougetestrete. A road that is called The Kente. Westmerwong (in Hempnall). Land called Suthgate. A piece lying in Keteltoft. Duntynys Pightell. Land called Meyneshalgate. The Stubbes. A piece in cultivation called Steriskell.

#### *Fifteenth Century Names*

Theffgateway. Tregaleway. Patriam Viam. Ecclasticam Viam. Tasburghfeld. A field called Netheranhagh. Rowegatefeld. The field of Rygate. Burwodefeld. Land called Haliston, Derebough, Schortlond, Whiteacre, Styrode. Arable land called Rathagh. Ladyyslond. Goryslond. Le Holibredlond. Land inclosed called Westingwong (in Hempnall). Popysclose (in Hempnall). A furlong called Dodismer. A pightell called Halys. A pightel called Stowepightell. The common pasture of Tasburgh called Brodyngs.

#### *Field name from 1677 Glebe Terrier*

Mustar Hill.

#### *Field names from Rookery Farm Deeds*

Hemplands. Old or Hall Yards.

#### *Field name from 1801 Glebe Terrier*

The Wateringplace.

#### *Field names from 1818 Enclosure map*

Brakey Close. Dykes Pightle. Fairsteadfield. Elm Close. Upper, Middle and Lower Elm Close. Skeuty's Five Acres.

#### *Field Named from 1840 Tithe map*

Marsh Close (Brakey Close 1818). Spooner Close. Figgett Pightle. Scanty Five Acres (Skeuty's Five Acres 1818). Great Hog Snout. Upper, Middle and Lower Nortons. Spauls Piece. Brownes Six Acres. Mill Hill Field and Pightle. Mustard Hill.

<sup>1</sup>W. G. Hoskins, *Fieldwork in Local History* (1967), 117-130.

<sup>2</sup>Grid Reference: Tasburgh church TM 201958.

<sup>3</sup>Enclosure Map of Tasburgh, 1818; copies in County Hall and Tasburgh church. Tithe Map of Tasburgh 1840, Norfolk Record Office 420.

<sup>4</sup>J. R. Tarrant, W. W. Baird, *Hedgerow Destruction in Norfolk, 1946-1970*

<sup>5</sup>Ordnance Survey Map, 25 inch to the mile, 1906. Sheet nos. Norfolk LXXXVII 6, 9, 10, 14.



- <sup>6</sup>E. Pollard, M. D. Hooper, and M. W. Moore, *Hedges* (1974), 101-102.
- <sup>7</sup>Tithe Map, 1840.
- <sup>8</sup>F. Blomefield, *History of Norfolk*, Vol. 5 (1806), 210-217.
- <sup>9</sup>H. M. Cautley, *Norfolk Churches* (1949), 5.
- <sup>10</sup>A. Lawson, forthcoming.
- <sup>11</sup>F. Blomefield, (1806) 210-217.
- <sup>12</sup>J. Gerard, 1597, arranged M. Woodward, *Leaves from Gerard's Herbal* (1927), 26.
- <sup>13</sup>M. D. Hooper, *Hedges and Local History* (1971), 9.
- <sup>14</sup>D. McClintock and R. S. R. Fitter, *Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers* (1955), 74-75.
- <sup>15</sup>D. McClintock and R. S. R. Fitter, 75.
- <sup>16</sup>M. Woodward, (1927), 28.
- <sup>17</sup>E. Pollard etc. (1974) 240-243.
- <sup>18</sup>Correspondence with Dr. Ellis about hornbeams in Norfolk.
- <sup>19</sup>Correspondence with Dr. Rackham about the status of hornbeams in woodland.
- <sup>20</sup>M. D. Hooper, (1971) 9.
- <sup>21</sup>A. R. Clapham, T. G. Tutin and E. F. Warburg, *Flora of the British Isles* (1962), 324.
- <sup>22</sup>O. Rackham, *Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape* (1976) 135.
- <sup>23</sup>M. Woodward, (1937) 26.
- <sup>24</sup>Norfolk Record Office, Road Order Box 5, No. 6, 1815.
- <sup>25</sup>Dr. Hooper kindly wrote suggesting which species to include when answering various questions.
- <sup>26</sup>At a lecture in March 1976 to the Norfolk Federation of Women's Institutes, Dr. Hooper said he had noticed that hops usually grew near settlements.
- <sup>27</sup>Norfolk Record Office, GUR 30-36, 38, 53, 57-61, 74-78, 84, 86-89.
- <sup>28</sup>Faden's Map of Norfolk 1797.
- <sup>29</sup>W. Marshall, *The Rural Economy of Norfolk* (1795), 96.
- <sup>30</sup>N.R.O. Tasburgh terrier 1677.
- <sup>31</sup>W. G. Hoskins, *The Making of the English Landscape* (1955), 191.
- <sup>32</sup>H. C. Darby, *The Domesday Geography of Eastern England* (1971), 126.
- <sup>33</sup>T. H. Bryant, *Norfolk Churches, The Hundred of Depwade* (1906), 192.
- <sup>34</sup>H. C. Darby, (1971), 126.
- <sup>35</sup>Baker, Hamshere and Langton (ed.) 'Moated Settlements in England', *Geographical Interpretation of Historical Sources* (1970), 439-450.
- <sup>36</sup>Deeds of Rookery Farm, Tasburgh. Owned by Ben. Goodfellow.
- <sup>37</sup>O. Rackham, (1976), 113.
- <sup>38</sup>N.R.O., GUR 7.
- <sup>39</sup>E. Ekwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names* (1936), 7.
- <sup>40</sup>G. Hewlett, 'Reconstructing an historical landscape from field and documentary evidence; Otford in Kent', *Agr. Hist. Rev. XXI* (1973), 95.
- <sup>41</sup>G. Hewlett, (1973), 95.
- <sup>42</sup>P. Masters, *Dated Hedgerows in the Vale of Wrington* (1974), H. G. 43795, British Library.
- <sup>43</sup>P. J. Fowler, *Hedged about with Doubt* (1974), H. G. 43794, British Library.
- <sup>44</sup>N.R.O., Tasburgh terrier 1677.
- <sup>45</sup>F. Blomefield, (1806), 213.
- <sup>46</sup>W. Page (ed.), *Victoria County History, Norfolk II* (1906), 76, 113, 124, 149.
- <sup>47</sup>G. Hewlett, (1973), 95.
- <sup>48</sup>P. J. Fowler, (1974), 35-39.
- <sup>49</sup>G. Hewlett, (1973), 110.
- <sup>50</sup>N.R.O., GUR 1-79.