

## SHORTER NOTICES

### THE BARWICKS: ONE LOST VILLAGE OR TWO?

by Gillian Beckett, B.A.

Allison's list of lost villages in Norfolk, following the Ordnance Survey, lists two villages with the name of Barwick (pronounced Barrick), Great and Little Barwick respectively, the second with a query to its existence or identity. Records earlier than the seventeenth century consistently mention only one Barwick, sometimes calling it Barwick-in-the-Brakes. Were there ever two villages or is the division a later error or invention?

The first mention of Barwick is to be found in Domesday Book. The village then comprised just one manor held by William de Warenne, having 2 freemen with 12 bordars, 1½ ploughs, 1 rouncey, 120 sheep and half a church. There was also a freeman with 60 acres, 2 bordars and 1 plough.

It is almost 100 years before the name Barwick occurs again, then in 1177 the advowson of the church (St. Mary's), the manse and 21 acres are presented to Buckenham Priory together with a messuage and a mill. Presumably this was a horse mill as the date is very early for a windmill and there is no running water in the area. The small estate becomes known as Bokenham (*sic*) manor and its few surviving court rolls show that its land lay in both Stanhoe and Barwick, the two parishes which are today amalgamated. It is not until the thirteenth century that documents begin to shed some light upon the problem of the second Barwick. There is a series of charters in the Bradfer Lawrence collection listed as Stanhoe charters and dated from 1294 to 1408. These contain the key.

As is usual in this part of the county, there is no coincidence between manorial and parochial boundaries and the Stanhoe manors extended into Barwick and

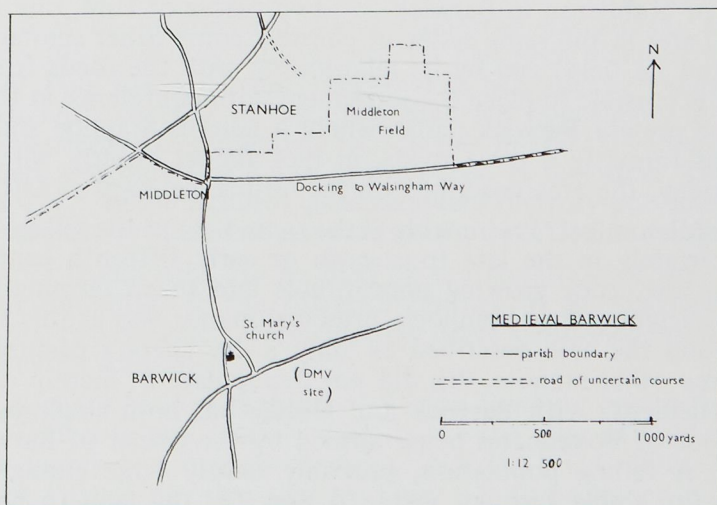


Fig. 1

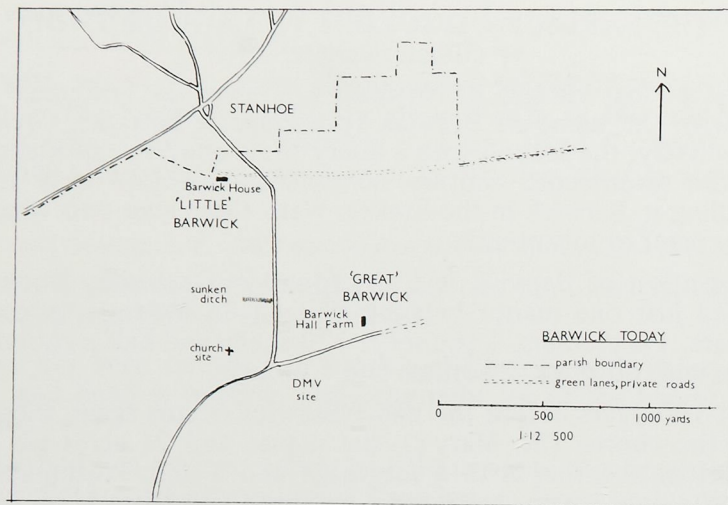


Fig. 2.

vice-versa, so references to Barwick are quite frequent in the Stanhoe records which have been well preserved. In a charter of 1294, Hervey Guise of Barwick is witness to a land transfer in Stanhoe. At this date just 'Barwick' is obviously sufficient without Great or Little appended. More interesting is a reference (charter 8) undated, but within a few years of 1294, to land in Stanhoe next to the Kingsway leading from Middleton to Docking. Docking is a neighbouring parish, but there is neither parish, hamlet nor farm in the area today with the name of Middleton, nor does the name occur on any of the maps or in the court rolls of the parishes. Two charters later, the name is used more explicitly, 'Reginald, son of William of Middleton in Barwick . . . two pieces of land, one in the field of Middleton.' Later in the same series of charters come other similar references to Middleton and its field, and by its relationship with the roads from Stanhoe and Docking, it is possible to place the settlement with confidence at the northern extremity of the present Barwick parish where it adjoins Stanhoe and at a point where there was formerly a cross roads, in fact almost exactly where Barwick House stands today, the area described on the Ordnance maps as Little Barwick.

When was Middleton lost? Presumably at the same time as the village of Barwick itself, almost certainly in the late fourteenth or early fifteenth centuries when population was low, corn growing unprofitable and sheep farming assuming a dominant role. Neighbouring Stanhoe's principal manor was at this time turned down to grass and the area described as 'only a dry shepe's pasture', but as a village with three other manors, this did not depopulate it, merely reducing the size of the settlement. With Barwick and Middleton, both single estate settlements, the manor of Bokenhams being farmed by the owner of Barwick, things were different. A falling population, probably hardly large enough to be an economic unit for arable farming, made it easy for the land to be converted to pasture and the remaining tenants were doubtless either evicted or absorbed into other manors belonging to the estate, which also held much of Stanhoe. There seems little doubt however, that the farm established on the site of Middleton became known as Little Barwick and is now Barwick House, distinguishing it from Great Barwick which is now represented by an enclosure

date farm, Barwick Hall Farm. Curiously enough, the name Little Barwick has this century moved further north and is now used for a house in Stanhoe! In 1681, in a petition sent to Lord Townsend after the enclosure of former grazing lands, the tenant described himself as of 'Little Barwick', the first documentary record we have for the name.

All the evidence for the siting of Middleton has come from documents as in the eighteenth century, the owner of Little Barwick built a large house and fine barns upon the site, closed both the roads which crossed there and established extensive plantations around both house and park, thus effectively obliterating any field evidence which might have remained.

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#### References

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### THE DESERTION OF CALDECOTE: SOME FURTHER EVIDENCE

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A good deal of information about Caldecote has already been published. Absent from the 1334 Lay Subsidy list,<sup>1</sup> it had been included with Oxborough in the 1379 Poll Tax thus suggesting that it had already become insignificant in the fourteenth century. It had less than ten households in 1428. In 1548 the church was decayed.<sup>2</sup> Blomefield records that in 1603 the church was profaned and that there was only one house in the parish at that time. The church was in ruins in his day.<sup>3</sup> In an archaeological summary recently published<sup>4</sup> it was stated that medieval pottery finds indicated a date for desertion in the fifteenth century.

Some rather feeble light can be shed on the condition of the church and, less certainly, of the village in the fifteenth century by an examination of the few surviving wills, two of which, those of clergy, were mentioned briefly by Blomefield but deserve closer scrutiny.

In 1420 Richard Marke, chaplain of Barton Bendish, left to the Guild of Holy Trinity of Caldecote one bushel of barley, to the altar of Caldecote church 6d. and to the church two bushels of barley (N.R.O., N.C.C. Wills 78 Hyrnyng). In 1467 Robert Palmer directed that his body was to be buried in the churchyard of 'Calcot' and left 6s.8d. to the high altar and the sum of 40s. to the repair of the church and the belltower. His bequests included a sum for the repair of roads in Caldecote and he left his tenements in the village to his wife (N.R.O., Norf. Archd. Wills 180 Grey). As late as 1489 Thomas Kyppyng, rector of Caldecote and Narborough and chantry priest of Oxborough, left £20 to the