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10. N.R.O., FC29/25/33
11. N.R.O., FC29/25/21
12. N.R.O., FC29/25/22.
13. N.R.O., FC29/25/26, 27, 28.
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16. N.R.O., N.R.S. 16695 39F and Gilbert Fellowes, 25.4.1974, 20.
17. N.R.O., C SCa 2/38.
18. N.R.O., MC 113/5. Map of Parish of Caistor *etc.* showing landowners.
19. N.R.O., F.C. 29/19.
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21. N.R.O. FC29/26/5.
22. Minutes of the Norwich French Church Charity, Hansell and Stevenson, 13 The Close, Norwich.
23. Moens, 312.
24. Moens, 312.
25. Charity Commission, 1488/2, 27.5.1902.
26. As 22 above.
27. Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record (County Site 19355), Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, Gressenhall.

### GREAT HOCKHAM IN 1599: A REVISION

*by Alan Davison*

In 1991 a map of Great Hockham was published in *Norfolk Archaeology*.<sup>1</sup> It was based on a Survey or Extent of 1599<sup>2</sup> which described the landscape but was unaccompanied by a map. The published map was an attempt at a reconstruction of the landscape of 1599. The earliest map showing Great Hockham available was Faden's Map of Norfolk dated 1797 while the earliest known map of the parish was one dated 1801.<sup>3</sup> The obvious drawback to these was the lapse of time: roads shown then may not have been in existence 200 years earlier or may have followed a different course in 1599. Many of the roads and tracks mentioned in 1599 were referred to in laconic terms and their approximate course had to be inferred. But there was clearly a road linking Great Hockham with Little Hockham to the south and there seemed little doubt that the one shown by Faden followed nearly the same route, particularly as it was described as leading from Warren Lane up to Little Hockham.

In 1790 a Road Order,<sup>4</sup> previously overlooked, gave additional information about the area to the south of Great Hockham. A road left the south-west corner of the Market Place and curved southward to pass the western end of the churchyard to reach the boundary of the parish, joining the present Little Hockham road at a point where there is a marked change of direction. This

road was closed in favour of the present lane which Faden shows as the way to Little Hockham. The change was made at the request of James Dover (resident at Great Hockham Hall, near the place where a barn is shown on the map) and John Lens Esq. of Lincoln's Inn and was alleged to 'make nearer and more commodious to the publick' the way to Little Hockham. The real purpose appears to have been to extend Dover's park.

A number of queries remain. The road as shown in the Road Order plan leaves Great Hockham Market Place without any sign of the road westward towards Thetford shown by Faden. It does indicate the beginning of a road or trackway leading westward from the point where it curves south to the church. Might this be the start of an earlier road to Thetford, or did the Road Order plan simply ignore Faden's road? A further complication is the existence of a road called Ladyes Meare, or the way from Tottington to Shropham, which passed south of the Market Place in 1599 and then went on unmentioned somewhere to the east. It cannot have been the existing road through the Market Place which was called Colles Lane and Cokestole Lane in 1599. The Road Order plan does not show Ladyes Meare.

A second query concerns Warren Lane, developed in 1790 as the new way to Little Hockham. In 1599 a three-acre piece of land was said to have Ladyes Meare to the north, the Warren to the south and the way leading from Warren Lane to Little Hockham to the east. This suggests that some other form of lane or path led, in part at least, along the way set out in 1790. Further to the west, another piece of land called Ladyes Yard was described as having Ladyes Meare to the south, Colles Lane to the north, and the way to Thetford to the west. This seems to suggest

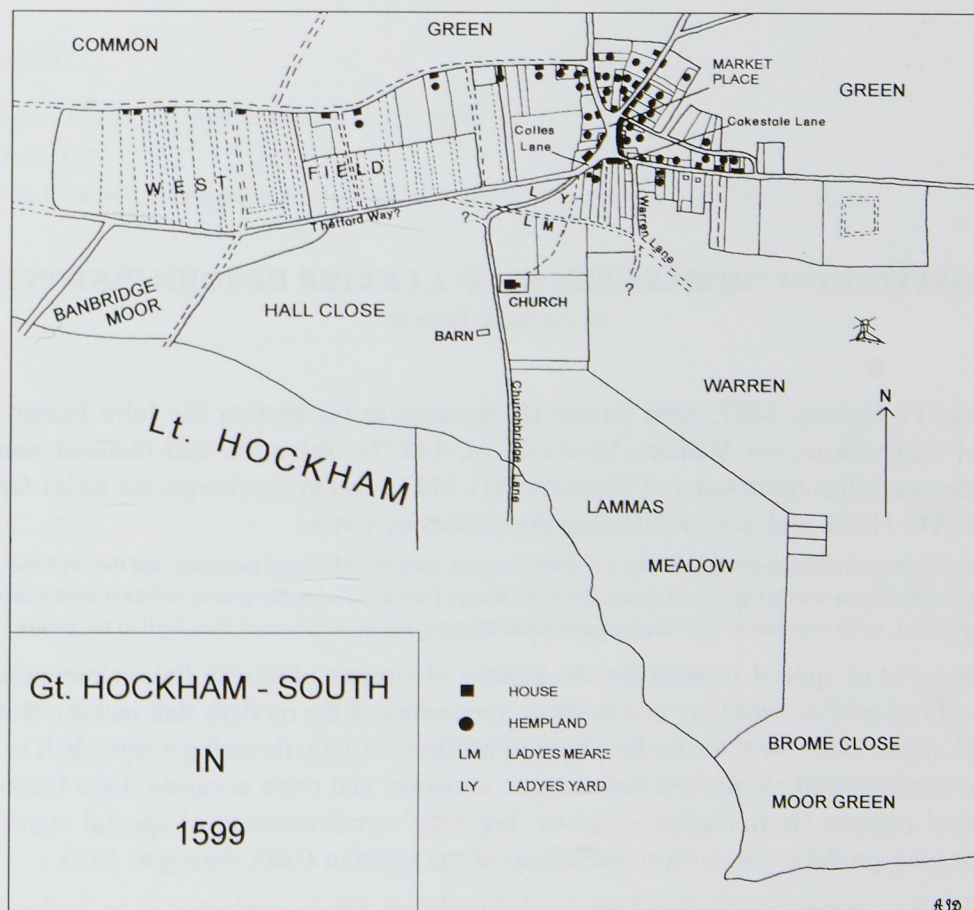


Fig. 1 The southern part of Great Hockham in 1599

that Thetford Way left the road blocked in 1790 as already indicated. Possibly Faden's Thetford Way was the road from Tottington to Shropham but its extent beyond the village in both directions remains unknown.

Finally Hall Close, in 1599, was said to butt east onto 'le bereway' leading from Little Hockham in part and the 'venell' or lane called Churchbridge Lane in part. This appears to suggest a forking of the road from Little Hockham, part going to the church and part to the east, possibly to link with Warren Lane. Other descriptions in 1599 refer simply to Churchbridge Lane.

The extreme south-west of the area remains very problematic as there is no certainty as to the precise courses of roads to Thetford, Wretham and, possibly, Illington, not to mention Tottington. The accompanying map, a redrawing of part of the southern portion of that published previously, includes boundaries adjusted to fit the road of 1790 together with two footpaths leading from the Market Place towards the church. It gives a better idea of the area in 1599 and, by linking the church with the village by means of a through road, does lend additional support for the area around the church as the original site of the village.

July 2000

1. Davison, A.J. 1991, 'Great Hockham — a village which has moved?', *Norfolk Archaeology* 41, 145-161
2. Norfolk Record Office MS 18713 34 x 6
3. NRO NRS 19119 54 x 3
4. NRO C/Cse 1, Road Order Box 2, 19; Road Order Book No 3, 308-310

### CHASEVELEYNS 'MORTAR PIECES' IN A LETTER OF JOHN PASTON III

by Andrew Breeze

Writing on 27 January 1467, John Paston III reported to his brother Sir John Paston on the doings of their enemy Sir William Yelverton (d. 1472?). Yelverton had claimed manors at Brandiston, ten miles north-west of Norwich (TG 1421), and at Saxthorpe, six miles further to the north (TG 1130), and was maintaining possession by force.

John Grey, othyrwyse callyd John de Les Bay, and John Burgeys, they be Yelvertons kapteyns, and they ryd and go dayly, as well in Norwyche as in othyr plasys of yours and othyr menys [households] in the contre, in ther trossyng dowbelettys [padded jackets], wyth bombardys and kanons and chaseveleyns, and do whatsoever they wyll in the contre.<sup>1</sup>

This passage is of special interest for the history of firearms because Paston mentions three kinds of gun as well as 'trossyng dowbelettys' (ancestors of the modern flak jacket). Bombards (first used about 1340) were the earliest kind of artillery, usually throwing a stone ball or a large shot. The cannons also mentioned were longer, narrower and more accurate. John Paston's use of the word *cannon* (from Italian *cannone* 'big tube' via French) is of special significance, because it long predates the earliest attestation of the word in *OED*, dating to 1525.

Yet the most curious expression here is *chaseveleyns*. Davis explained it as 'some kind of ordnance', and this must be right.<sup>2</sup> But its origin and exact meaning have remained obscure. It