Milton Ernest—A Field Survey

J. B. HUTCHINGS

INTRODUCTION

DURING THE period Spring 1965 to Spring 1968 the whole parish of Milton Ernest was surveyed to determine the extent and pattern of the medieval farming and to find ancient sites.

By about the fourteenth century the population of the area had reached a maximum and every available acre of land was cultivated right up to the parish boundary. The river meadow was the flooding land and probably it was the minimum required to overwinter the ploughing animals. The method of ploughing used resulted in ridge and furrow, easily seen where it has laid undisturbed by modern ploughing. However even where the original ridge and furrow has been ploughed out the furlong boundaries are still visible. Modern deep ploughing techniques are destroying evidence of the medieval system but the extent of this fourteenth century organisation can be deduced from a detailed survey of the modern fields. Hall and Nickerson[1] first realised the potential of this technique and have developed it over a number of years in south Northamptonshire.

Most of the present arable land is clay and hence no sites have been found as a result of air photography.

There is a lamentable lack of known pre-Enclosure documents relating to the land of the village; however references have been made in the paper to existing documents where relevant.

I wish to record my thanks to D. N. Hall, who has helped me considerably with the field work; to N. Nickerson, who completed this paper by writing the appendix on the origins of Milton names; and to Miss Bell of the Bedfordshire Record Office for drawing my attention to the documents to which I have referred in the text.

My grateful thanks are also extended to the farmers and landowners of the parish, all of whom permitted me to survey their land.

THE MEDIEVAL FIELD PATTERN AND VILLAGE

The medieval open field pattern is shown in the figure. The positions of the observed boundaries are shown by solid lines and the direction of the strips indicated. Where the boundaries have been obscured by modern developments such as gravel workings or buildings they are shown by dashed lines. Boundaries tend to be obscured also where they run along the bottom of a slade and these are also indicated by dashed lines with arrows showing the direction of slope of the slade. The modern fields are shown by the fainter dotted lines. The greatest area of the medieval vill corresponds to the hatched area, the modern village being stippled. The letter Q denotes the positions of quarries and includes gravel and clay pits.

At Enclosure (1803) most of the parish fields were open, only about 230 acres being anciently enclosed. The size of the village itself has greatly shrunk and is still only about half of its fourteenth century area. This decrease in size originated with the overpopulation of the land and consequent undernourishment of the villagers. The population of the village did not completely recover after the ensuing epidemics, because of the increase in the profitability of sheep farming in the fifteenth century and the consequent need for less labour.[2]

An account of the open field terminology has been written by Fowler.[3] The number of furlongs is approximately 80. An approximate figure can only be given because on occasions a boundary describes an intricate pattern the detail of which has been largely obliterated by modern deep ploughing. These intricate patterns are generally found where the surface gradient changes rapidly and in different directions, the ridge and furrow always lying in the direction of the steepest gradient. This tends to occur in the more complicated slady country of which Milton appears to be a good example. Furlong 38 contradicts the above relation between the direction of ridge and furrow and the gradient; however the Milton ridge and furrow shows the same behaviour as that of Northamptonshire.[1]

An additional reason for giving only an approximate number of furlongs is that where the lands of two adjacent furlongs run side by side, and not abutting each other, there can be no visible furlong boundary. Hence a long furlong, such as number 1, could have been two separate furlongs.
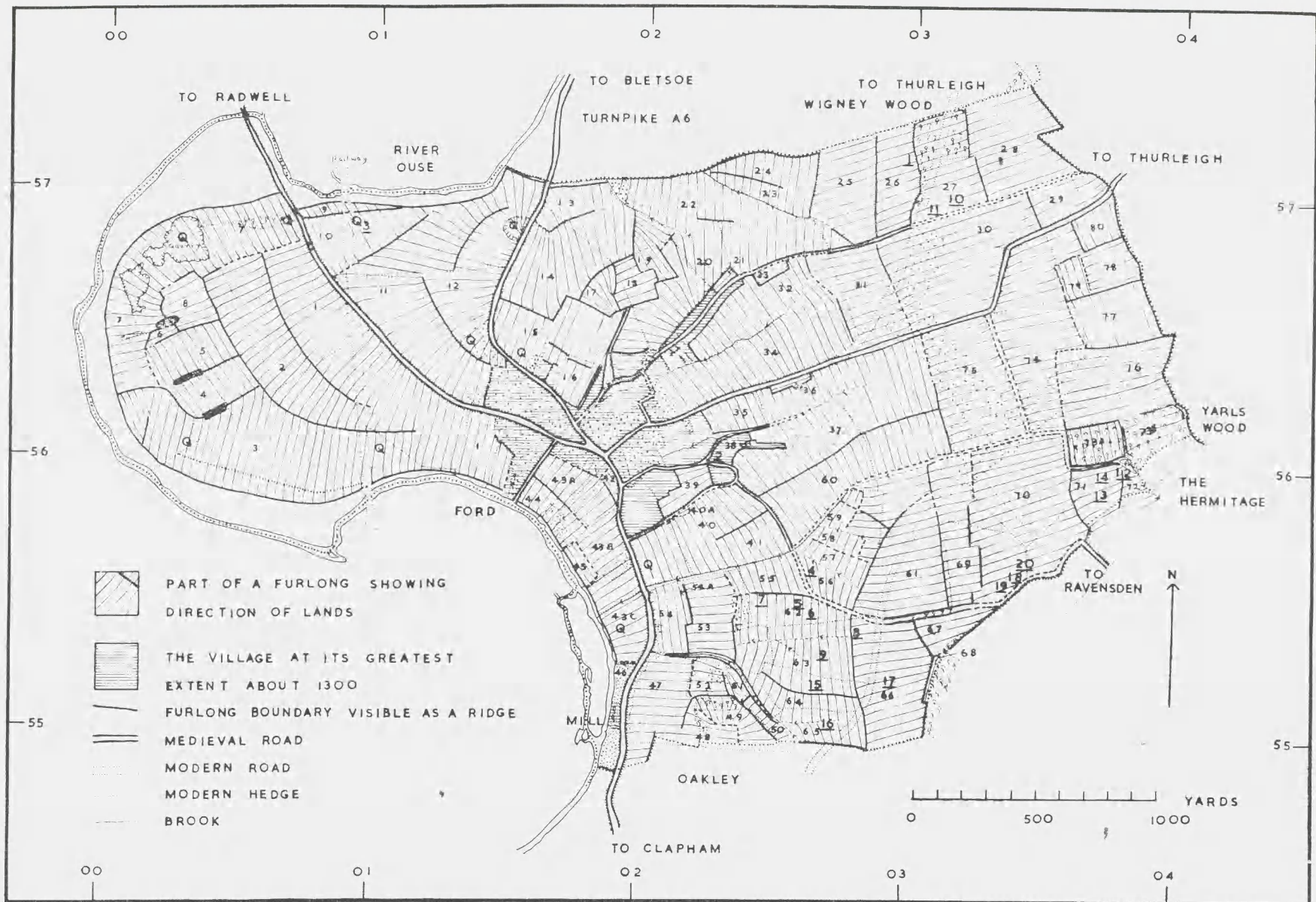
Fig 1. Milton Ernest 1968, showing the medieval field system. The modern built up area is stippled. Q = quarry.

For example, using the furlong number system in the figure, furlongs 54 and 54a would have been described by a single number. On the pre-Enclosure map of 1803, however, it is shown as two separate furlongs.

The areas of the different functional parts of the parish have been estimated and are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Land Distribution in Fourteenth Century Milton

Land Use	Area (acres)
Arable	1,405
Meadow	81
Village	84
Roads	28 (approx)
	1,598

The furlong patterns found have been used to detail the approximate boundaries of the large fields named in the Enclosure Award of 1803. The type of open field system in existence at the time of Enclosure is difficult to determine without supporting documentary evidence. There are nine fields mentioned in the Enclosure allocations and their areas are listed in groups of territorial proximity in Table 2.

Table 2
Open Field Areas

Field	Area (acres)	Possible grouping for four field system
Low	228	253
Sand	25	
Ashtree	280	294
The Green	5	
Wigney	9	
Upper	147	260
Sallow Bush	53	
Skernidge	30	
Church Green	30	
Mill	394	394

As can be seen, there are four main fields and from the groupings it may appear that a four field rotation system was in operation at this time. However, it is almost certain that in 1708 a three field system existed because the land listed in the Glebe Terrier of that date was divided between Ashtree, Over and Mill fields. This apparent contradiction is because no allowance has been, or can be made of the amount of permanent grass which may have existed. A large area of permanent grass or woodland could alter the above open field acreages sufficiently to fit a three field system. One hundred years later[4] there were 820 acres of permanent grass as against the fourteenth century 81 acres. It is likely that the area of grass (820 acres) was approximately the same in 1708, thus making the Table 2 four field system unlikely. Unfortunately we cannot infer, without separate evidence, details of the open field boundaries as they existed in the fourteenth century. It is likely that a three field system was used but it is unlikely that the open field boundaries have remained unchanged.

At the parish boundary the furlong pattern precisely fits the modern ordnance survey boundary except at two points, the Hermitage and along the western end of the southern boundary. The survey boundary is the same as that shown on the Enclosure map hence the changes took place after 1803. At Enclosure, Lawn Wood, Yarlswood and some fields adjacent to the Hermitage were noted as ancient enclosures. Since then the parish boundary has changed and the enclosures have been divided between the parishes Milton, Thurleigh and Clapham. The southern boundary has been straightened so that a small part of furlong 48 is now in Oakley parish.

The above mentioned division of the Hermitage ancient enclosures between the adjacent parishes could indicate that the Hermitage was independent of any parish and beholden only to the monastery of Cauldwell to which it was a grange.[5] Another possible indication of this is given by the shape and size of furlong 69. The very short lands of this furlong are not caused by a sharp gradient because in this eastern part of the parish the ground is fairly level. One interpretation of the presence of 69 as a separate furlong is that the boundary of the Hermitage ground was the western boundary of furlong 69 and that 69 was a filling-in furlong.

In dealing with open field systems the question arises whether the four separate manors of the Domesday and later periods[1] held distinct areas of land as separate lordships within the parish or whether the manorial land was distributed throughout the parish. The only direct documentary evidence existing occurs in the Glebe Terriers of 1608 in which there are three separate references to church land being adjacent to 'Bassete lande'. This was the name of one of the village manors and from this it would appear that the lordships did not hold separate blocks of land. This follows the conclusion of Kosminsky[6] who has found that it is much more usual for the agricultural organisation of a village to be settlement based and not manorially based.

There are earthworks to be seen in the permanent grass within the boundary of the medieval village. Many are property boundaries and most have been omitted from the field plan because of the small scale of the map. Earthworks are present in the meadows in the form of abnormally high

furlong boundaries. On a flat stretch of land furlongs tend to be large with their boundaries running for relatively long distances. An example of this is the southern then western boundary of furlong 2. As can be seen from the figure the ordered plan of furlongs 1, 2, 3 and 7 gives way to the relative disorder of furlongs 4, 5, 6 and 8. The hatched boundaries of these latter furlongs are very high and much more substantial than those normally found. These boundaries predate the setting of the furlongs which were designed to fit these earthworks as well as possible. Their origin is unknown. Other earthworks in Milton dating from the Second World War are present in furlong 43b and in furlongs 67, 71 and southern part of 70.

Two partial furlong maps of the parish are in the possession of the Bedfordshire Record Office. They are, part of the map from which the Enclosure map was made and shows part of the southern area of the parish, and a map showing the land belonging to William Gery in 1783. The latter shows a very small part of the eastern area of Milton. The value of this type of field survey work is shown by the excellence of the agreement between the survey and the two existing partial furlong maps.

Roads

The modern roads in Milton were named in the Enclosure Award as: The Turnpike, the course of the present A.6; the Radwell Road; the Thurleigh Road, leading from the Turnpike to the Church; the continuation to Thurleigh Road, from the Church to the Thurleigh boundary; Ashtree Field Road, leading from the Turnpike and bearing north between furlongs 15 and 20; and Bletsoe Road joining the Turnpike and the Radwell Road. Part of the continuation to Thurleigh Road is now closed, the detour leading to Thurleigh through Wigney Wood. There is also a new road from Clapham into the south of Milton. These latter two roads were built after the Second World War.

All the roads mentioned in the Enclosure Award date from before 1803 with the exception of Bletsoe Road. The lands of furlongs 11 and 12 can be seen as soil marks going across the Bletsoe Road and it can be seen from the map that the boundary ends of furlongs 11 and 12 were probably used as sighting marks for the new road.

Parts of the roads noted on the pre-Enclosure map have been found in the survey. Where roads run along the bottoms of slades they are often impossible to see on the ground, hence the pre-Enclosure map has been used to fill in those parts of the roads not visible. It can be seen from the survey map that the number of roads has dwindled from

the medieval pattern. The main additional roads are a second, northern, road from Milton to Thurleigh through the northern 'wing' of the medieval village, a road to the Hermitage and one from Milton to Ravensden.

It is of interest to compare this survey road pattern with Jeffries road map of 1756. This is the earliest known map showing any detail of the parish. It is of the whole county of Bedfordshire and shows roads, woods, indicates the higher ground and outlines the hundred, but not the parish, boundaries. The comparison of the road pattern found during this survey with the Jeffries map is not straight forward since his scale appears to be rather variable. It is likely that this variability was caused by the very short sighting distances due to the many slades in the parish. The hundred boundary, which coincides with the parish boundary between Milton and Bletsoe, is incorrect at least at the western end by approximately one-third of a mile, in this case by one slade. This tends to cast doubt on the relative siting and destination of the profusion of roads which led off the Turnpike in a north-easterly direction and shows that care must be taken when using this map to infer the positions of pre-Enclosure roads.

Woods

There are two woods now in the parish, Wigney Wood (8 acres) and Yarls Wood (16 acres). It is interesting to speculate on their history as far as this can be done by a surface examination. Both areas are shown as wooded on the Enclosure map of 1803.

Wigney Wood is now bisected north to south by a modern road. It is ramparted on the north, east and west sides. In 1803 there was an ancient enclosure, now arable, called Mockbeggar Close on the south of the wood. There is a bank marking the eastern boundary of the Close so that if the Wood once included the Close and had been fully ramparted this bank could be the continuation of the rampart. The bank marking the western boundary of the Close is very poorly defined and has been marred by the throw-out from the new road. The southern boundary of the Close forms the boundary of the original Thurleigh Road. A careful examination of the ground in the Wood showed only traces of ridge and furrow in one corner; hence if it was ploughed in the fourteenth century it was not ploughed for a sufficient length of time for the ridge and furrow to have survived. However traces can be seen as soil marks in Mockbeggar Close and the area of the Wood and Close have been included in the arable area in Table 1.

In 1803 Yarls Wood was joined on its northern side by another wood, Lawn Wood (29 acres),

which is now arable. Yarls Wood itself is divided into two parts by a ditch running north and south. The northern end of the ditch runs into a moat-like ditch, much of which is double. Much of both halves of the wood is ramparted around the outside but the full continuity of the ramparts cannot be followed. This is because there has been some alteration of the original boundaries on the north-west side and south-east corner. Part of the rampart on the northern and eastern sides forms one boundary of a sunken road. Ridge and furrow is clearly visible in both parts of the wood, the furlongs running at right angles to each other. This shows that although the dividing ditch itself could be modern it does run along an ancient boundary.

Hence it would appear that both woods were ploughed at one time, that Yarls Wood is probably not as old as Wigney but both were probably ramparted for the keeping of animals, since the ramparts are exactly similar to those enclosing Higham Park, Northants and Lavendon Park, Bucks.

The third wood existing at Enclosure was Lawn Wood. Lawn is a medieval word meaning wood, and such a pleonasm would indicate that the word Lawn had been used to describe that wood for such a long time that the original meaning of the word had been forgotten. After this the word wood was added. This suggests that Lawn Wood was wooded in medieval times and that perhaps it should not be included in the area of fourteenth century arable as shown on the survey map. When the site of Lawn Wood has been visited the ground has always been rather rough and strips have not been seen as soil marks. Therefore the age of this wood remains undecided at present.

FIELD NAMES

The main documents in which Milton field names have been found are: the partial pre-Enclosure map (1803), the Enclosure Award (1803), and the none too detailed Glebe Terriers (1608, 1708, 1711 and 1745). Other documents are the incomplete terriers of land owned by Rolt and Orlebar families (1664, 1731 and 1800), the strip map of Gery land (1783) and wills (1528, 1581, 1587 and 1611) which contain a few furlong names but no information as to the situation of the furlongs. All these documents are in the possession of the Bedfordshire Record Office.

An attempt has been made to place as many of the field and furlong names as possible. The names mentioned in the Enclosure Award are shown on the Enclosure maps but the sites of those names taken from the terriers and wills must be deduced where possible. These deduced sites must be treated with caution, but they are probably the most accurate estimates which can be made on the available documentary evidence. Table 3 lists the names and actual, or suggested, locations using the furlong number system in the figure. The ancient enclosure names are taken from the Enclosure Award and only those outside the medieval vill area are included in the Table.

TABLE 3. MILTON ERNEST NAMES

Situation	Name	Source Date	Remarks
Open Field Names			
West & Mid 1 & 3, 2 & 4 to 7	Low		
East 1 & 3	Sand*		
9 to 25 (inc.)	Ashtree		
About 5 acres between Church & A.6	The Green	1803.2	Mainly from Award
26	Wigney		Map, detailed
28-30, N74, N75, 77-80	Upper		boundaries deduced
61, 69, S74, S75	Sallow Bush		from furlong map
55, 62	Skermidge		
70	Church Green		
31-38, 40, 41, 43c, 46-54, 56-60, 63-77	Mill		
Other Roads			
Radwell Road	Radwell Ford Way	1708, 1711	Deduced
Turnpike at Bletsoe boundary	Bletsoe Gap	1803.2	Map
Lane north of 39	Babbs Lane	1803.2	Map
possible that south & west bound of 2 was road called	Midleam Way*	1708, 1731	Deduced

TABLE 3. MILTON ERNEST NAMES—cont.

Situation	Name	Source Date	Remarks
Brooks			
bound Milton & Bletsoe	Bletsoe Brook & Humberdale*	1708	Deduced Modern
north of 53 & 54	May Brook*	1711	Deduced
south of 53 & 54	Stripe Brook*	1711	Deduced
east continuation of May Brook	Schirmage Brook*	1731	Deduced
Hills and Slades			
bound 23 & 24	Harehill	1708	Modern
Slade south bound 23	Hudds Hole*	1708, 1745	Deduced
60	. . . berry Hill Furlong	1803.1	Map
east of 39	Ivory Hill Close	1803.2	Map
south 1/3 of 61	Sallow Bush Hill	1803.1	Map
Mid 1/3 of 61	Middle Sallow Bush Hill	1803.1	Map
north 1/3 of 61	Sallow Bush	1803.1	Map
59	Tyre Devil Hill	1803.1	Map
Other meadow and furlong names			
54	Three Ashtrees Furlong	1708	Deduced
54	Between the Brooks	1745	Deduced
41	Lower Lynch Furlong*	1731	Deduced
41	Backside Furlong	1803.1	Map
Field W39 & N40	Tainter Leys*	1731	Deduced
Field W39 & N40	Greens Close	1803.2	Map
south 53	Straight Corner Piece	1803.1	Map
9	The Linch*	1711	Deduced
10	High Linch*	1711	Deduced
south part 27	Mockbeggar Close	1803.2	Map
west bound 54	Longhedge	1803.2	Map
west end 20 next 25	Coopers Close	1803.2	Map
Between 15 & 16	Williams Close	1803.2	Map
north 9 at road	The Patch	1803.2	Map
east 43b	South Warren	1803.2	Map
west 43b	The Orchard	1803.2	Map
south 43a	The Crofts	1803.2	Map
north 43a	Top Crofts	1803.2	Map
44	North Warren	1803.2	Map
39	Babbs	1803.2	Map
To west of 35	Home Close	1803.2	Map
east end 29	Peacocks Pightle	1783	Map
south-west corner 60	Short Lane	1803.1	Map
46	Triangular	1803.1	Map
47	Mill Piece	1803.1	Map
Along road next 61 & north 56	Long Close Side	1803.1	Map
west end 56	Fourteen Lands	1803.1	Map
south corner 47	Mill Pightle	1803.1	Map
64, 66 & 67	Cow Pastures	1803.1	Map
22, 13 or north-east 11 & 12	Burstead*	1708, 1745	Deduced
43bc	Mill Lynch*	1731	Deduced
43c	Congrave Leys	1803.1	Map
55	Short Lands	1803.1	Map
53	Horse Croft Furlong	1803.1	Map
54a	Five Lands	1803.1	Map
Meadow east of 1	Mead Nocket*	1708, 1745	Deduced
Meadow east of 3, 7 or 43, 44, 45	The Stripe*	1708, 1745	Deduced

TABLE 3. MILTON ERNEST NAMES—cont.

Situation	Name	Source Date	Remarks
Furlongs 3 or 7 or 43 or 44 or 45	Stripe Grass*	1708, 1745	Deduced
Meadow to north of 7 &/or 9	Radwell Ford Meadow	1731	Deduced
35	Churchway Furlong*	1608, 1708, 1745	Deduced
15	Claypitt Furlong	1708	Deduced
14	Longland*	1608, 1708, 1731 1745	Deduced
Part north bound 15	Pipers Headland*	1731, 1745	Deduced
south bound 15	Bulstred Balk*	1731	Deduced
11	Over/Upper Stalling*	1708, 1611	Deduced
Part 74	Broad Hedge* or Wood Close	1581, 1783, 1803.2	Map
south 74 or south 75	Wood Furlong	1803.2	Map

The situation of the following three furlongs depends upon the existence of the road, Midleam Way, along the south and west boundary of furlong 2

1	Neither Stalling*	1587, 1708 1711	Deduced
2	Lower Stalling*	1731	Deduced
3	Great Midleam*	1708, 1731	Deduced

* denotes those names which are listed in the Appendix.

ANCIENT SITES

The number and type site found are typical of those found by Hall and Nickerson[7] in the parishes of Northamptonshire.

Iron Age. Two Iron Age B, or possibly A, sites (11 and 19) were found on the highest ground in the parish, above the 275 ft. contour. There were also many signs in that area typical of these sites, i.e. dark areas with large burned pebbles, but pottery was only found on two. One of these sites (11) was isolated the other being on the edge of a large slag patch.

Romano-British. There are two Romano-British sites, one of which (3) is isolated on and near a small quarry. Sherds from the other site (14) were scattered over a large area of furlongs 71 and 72. The same furlongs also contained a large amount of slag and medieval sherds.

Isolated Medieval Sites. Apart from the medieval village and the mill there are two medieval sites, one of which (6) is small, in a suitable place for a windmill and is near the old road from Milton to Ravensden. There was also a scatter of iron slag on this site. The other isolated medieval site (12) is the Hermitage occupying the partially double ditched moat to the south of Yarlswood. This site is currently being excavated by the North Bedfordshire Archaeological Society.

Iron Slag Patches. These patches of slag were formed as a by-product of an iron smelting process and, as there is no iron ore in the district, their presence indicates that the ore was brought to an area abundant in wood. Hence it is likely that the contours of the patches depict the extent to which the area was wooded at the time of the slag manufacture. The nearest iron ore is found at Higham Ferrers and Irchester, Northamptonshire, a distance of about ten miles. The age of these patches is not known at present but they are likely to be pre- or early medieval.[7] The present survey has not clarified the position, as in Milton slag has been found with sherds of medieval (6), medieval and Romano-British (13) and Iron Age (19) pottery. There are 14 slag patches in Milton and they are all on the higher claylands mainly above the 225 ft. contour. They vary in size and in slag concentration. On the slades they tend to be thinly concentrated and scattered over a wide area. Those on the higher land, particularly (18) and (20), tend to be of high concentration and occur over an area of approximately one hundred square yards.

Catalogue of Ancient Sites

The Ordnance Survey references are those of grid TL (52).

1	Slag Patch, concentrated, edge of Wigney Wood	022572
2	Slag, dug out of permanent ley by rabbits	022560
3	Romano-British	009569
4	Slag Scatter, over wide area	026556
5	Slag Scatter, thin	026554
6	Isolated Medieval	026554
7	Slag Scatter, thin	025555
8	Slag Scatter	028554
9	Slag Scatter	027553
10	Slag Scatter, from two patches	032571
11	Iron Age B or A	031569
12	Isolated Medieval, the Hermitage	038561

13	Slag Scatter, concentrated, over wide area	038560
14	Romano-British, over wide area	038560
15	Slag Patch	027552
16	Slag Patch	027551
17	Slag Scatter, from two patches	029552
18	Slag Patch, concentrated	034556
19	Iron Age B or A	034556
20	Slag Patch, concentrated	035557

REFERENCES

[1] D. N. Hall and N. Nickerson, forthcoming.
[2] *The Agrarian History of Western Europe*, A.D. 500 to 1850. B. H. Slicher van Bath. 1963. Section C.
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[4] *Victoria County History, Bedfordshire*, Stodden Hundred.
[5] R. F. Hunnisett. *Bedfordshire Coroners Rolls. Pub. Beds.Hist.Rec.Soc.* 41 (1960), 15.
[6] E. A. Kosminsky. *Studies in the Agrarian History of England in the Thirteenth Century* (1956), 75.
[7] D. N. Hall and N. Nickerson. *Beds.A.J.* 3 (1968), 1-6.

APPENDIX

MILTON ERNEST PLACE NAMES
compiled by N. Nickerson

Bassete land (1608)
> Probably a person's name 'Basset' which is traceable back to at least Norman times.
> (c.f. PNN 172), (Sutton Bassett).

Broadage Piece* (1581); (Broad hedge close (1783)?), (Broad hedge 1803).
> Probably here the later forms are the correct rendering. The first form probably represents the local pronunciation of *e* sound as ai (c.f. 'Tainter leys') with the customary dropping of the 'h'.
>> ME brad hegge pece.

Bulls pit (1711)
> Too modern a form to say much about. 'Pytts' were usually referring to quarries in Medi. times as now.

Burstead* (1708); (Bulstead balk, 1731?)
> The usual evolution of the first element is to 'berry'.
> ME Burk stede etc.
> Lit. *Castle or fort place*; probably in this case the site of Manor house?
> If the second form is to be associated with the first, it is rather an involved metathesis.

Byway Piece (1664)
> ME bi-weie pece etc.
> A piece of land taking its name from a by-way to somewhere.

Churchway Furlong* (1608), (1708), (1745)
> A furlong taking its name from a lane to the Church.

Clarkes Bush (1587)
> Bush is a common landmark for use in open field nomenclature.

In this case compounded with a surname. (ME busch. etc.).

Crowslin; Crowsling Furlong (1664)
> Possibly named after a local plant species name.
> C.f. with Crowtoe, Crowflower, Crow berry.
> The second element derives from ME lin (flax) or ling (heather), etc.

Doales Brook (1608)
> Most probably a personal name.

Drowis (1528); Drewes Ditch (1587)
> Most likely a personal surname.

Francis Willows (1711)
> A personal name (surname?) compounded with the willow (tree); a common eighteenth century place name/landmark.

Godacre bush (1611)
> Probably Good acre (i.e. land) bush.
> ME god æcer busch etc. The bush again a landmark.

Great Meadow (1711) (Great Holme (1803))
> To distinguish from some lesser meadow.

Great Midleam* (1708); Great Middle Holme (1711); Great Midlam (1731).
>> ME Holme—a meadow.
> The first and third forms are typical oral contractions.
> C.f. in Wollaston place names 'Scarteholme (1426)' which by the eighteenth century appears as 'Scortholm', and also 'Scortum'.

Highbury (1581)
>> *High burrow*
> Burrow probably a barrow, rather than a fort or castle, etc., on account of the adjective.
> ME hei bury etc.

Homebrook (1708)
> Meadow brook. (ME holme brook etc.).

Hop Holme (1711)
>> Probably *Hop Meadow*.
>> ME Hoppe holme.
> They still grow in meadow land (as at Bozeat). (Alternatively ME hop—a valley; c.f. PNN 285).

Hudds Hole* (1708), (1745)
> A personal name compounded with ME Hol; a hollow (small valley, etc.).

Humberydale* (1608); Humberdale (1708)
> A doubtless interesting name, but difficult on account of the paucity of forms, and the absence of old versions. The last element is clearly ME dale (from OE dæl; ON dalr)—a valley. Most likely the first part of the name is an old personal name.

Hurdleford Meadow (1608)
> A meadow taking its name from a nearby ford which at one time would be partly constructed

of hurdles.

Lawn Corner; Lawn Pightle (1783)
Lawn Wood (1803).
Lawn is a standard evolutionary variant from ON *landr*—*a wood*. Thus the 1803 version is pleonastic.
Pightle is ME Pightel etc.—a little enclosure.

*Linch** (1608); (Highlinch (1708), (1711), (1745)); and (1711); (Lower Lynch Furlong (1731)).
A Linch—a balk, land left unploughed as a boundary—OE hlinc. High and lower appear to be locational prefixes, as is normal.

Lincroft close (1803).
                    Flax croft close
ME lin croft.

*Longe lande Furlong** (1608); Longland (1708), (1731), 1745).
A common furlong name referring to the length of strips (landes) comprising the furlong.

Longstile (1731)
            Probably *Long path.*
Without further forms it is difficult to be certain on this. But the adjective would seem not to fit ME. Stigele (stile). Rather the second element is a corruption of ME. Stiy (a path, a way).

Little Meadow (1711) (Little holme 1803)
No comment. (c.f. Great meadow).

*Maybrook** (1708), (1711), (1731)
Possibly *Maiden brook* ME maei broc.
This is only like by analogy to other 'Maiden ford(s), wielle' etc. (C.f. PNN 41, 117). But the form 'Maei'—maeiden is itself dubious (v. Stratmana).

Mead Headens (1708), (1731); Mead heardings (1745)
            Meadow heads (i.e. headland).
ME mede heueden (OE heafdu). The form heueden is a rare weak form of the ME plural heafde (*vide* PNN 273 'Hades').
Also c.f. '*Sand Heardens*' in this set which is like a Wollaston place name (q.v.) '*Lambs Hearden* (1789)'. Perhaps the mere usual evolution of heueden is to haddon—hades etc. (as in Wollaston place names etc.).
The second form ending in -ing, is a usual confusion.

*Mead Nocket** (1708); Mead Nocut (1745)
            Meadow nook
ME Mede (mead, meadow); Nok (nook, corner, angle) (probably a diminutive form of the Sb.).

*Midleam way** (1708), (1731)
            Middle meadow way
ME Midel holme weie etc. *Vide* 'Great Mid-

leam'.

Mill Lynch (1731)
            Mill balk or boundary
ME Milne. OE Llinc (v. 'Linch').

Milme Field (1608), Mill Field (1708, 1711), (1803)
            Mill field (likely one of the 'great fields'). The 'm' in milme is curious, and is presumably a local variation on the actual ME which is *Milne.*

Milme Holme (1608)
            Mill Meadow
ME Milne holm etc. for the substitution of *m* for *n* in milne, c.f. Milme field.

Moor Grass (1708)
            Marshy grass.
            ME mor graes etc.

*Neather Stawlinge** (1587); Upper St(a)wlinge (1611); Neither stalling (1708); Over stalling (1708); Lower stalling (1731)
The first word is well represented by the variants meaning 'upper' and 'lower'.
The second word despite the irregular early form spellings must contain as its first element ME. Stal (OE Steall)—a stall, stable, sty etc. The second element is ME eng (Prov. Eng. ing)—a meadow. Thus *(Upper and/or lower) Stable meadow.*

Oaken (1711)
Presumably the adjective, but what does it describe?
            Vide 'Oakley close'.

Oakley Close, Hockley close (1803)
Presumably refers to the nearby settlement of 'Oakley'.
The second form is a typical local oral rendering spelt out.

*Pipers Headland** (at Longland Claypitt Furlong) (1708); Pipers Headland (1745)
Personal Surname compounded with 'headland'.

Portway Field (1664); Portway (1708) (1711)
Where this name occurs in a parish, it usually refers to a main road passing through it—as opposed to inter-connecting village type roads. Rather like 'Strete' field names.
Mostly always an ancient if not Roman road. The 'port' in reference, is nearly always obscure or non-existent.
            ME Portweye etc.

*Sand Heardens**, Sand Headens (1708)
Sand heads (i.e. headland) referring to the nature of the soil of a headland. (But *vide* 'Sand furlong'). ME Sand heueden (*vide* Mead headens, for details of this second element).

Schirmage brook;* Schirmage piece (1731); Sker-

(n)midge field (1803)

Difficult without older forms. Probably from ME scarmoche; (skarmysh, scarmich, scharmus, etc.)—skirmish. But the application to brook and piece etc. is necessarily vague.

Stripe, *The* (1708) (1745); (Stripe grass (1708) (1745); (Stripe brook (1708) (1711))

From ME stripe (Sb.)—a stripe. The general sense is something that is much longer than it is wide, and this could refer to shape of a plot of land (or brook). A more remote alternative is to 'strip', in this case in the sense of grazing (the grass).

Sward Ground (1745)

ME Swarde (OE Sweard)—sward, skin. Turf or grassy ground.

*Tainterleys** (1731)

A ley is a 'land' that has been laid down to grass (ME lei; OE leah). Tainter most probably is used to describe the appearance of the lands, being like the slats of a 'Tenter machine' —a machine used in the making of cloth. (ME tente—from tenten). Not an uncommon field name.

Tokelys ford (1711)

Probably a personal surname.

Whirlbrooke (1608)

Winding brook. ME hwirl-broc. (OE hwyrfel broc).

A fairly common adjective applied to a brook (PNN 278, 285 eg.).

*Williamsons Close** (1731); Williams close (1803)

Less than a century has abbreviated the first form.

Self explanatory.