

MINOR PLACE-NAMES IN SUFFOLK

by DAVID DYMOND

‘On my naming them [field-names] to a man who was hoeing turnips,
he at once recognized several and pointed to where they were’
(Sydenham Hervey 1904, 306–7)

SINCE THE PUBLICATION of its Northamptonshire volume in 1933, the English Place-Name Society has stimulated interest in minor and highly localised place-names.¹ These are frequently called *field*-names, yet many of them relate to woods, commons, parks, roads and paths, as well as agricultural, industrial and domestic buildings.² It is safer therefore to use the term ‘minor place-names’. Based on the county of Suffolk, this article discusses the recovery of minor names, their classification, the way they yield previously unknown history, and the survival of some of them today.³ As general background, it is worth remembering that in medieval and early modern times, the English farming landscape was intricately named, to an extent which we can hardly imagine today. This was a largely oral vocabulary used regularly by manorial officials, tenant farmers and their labourers as they worked the land, but in writing it survives only sporadically and unevenly. In addition, minor names were often subjected to a layering process in which old names were replaced by new, as fields were amalgamated, divided and their ownership and land use changed. This important trend is illustrated when documents occasionally mention or imply *aliases*, for example Fairstead *or* Ashes Pasture in Cowlinge, Church Field *or* Shooters Close in Horringer, and Foxall *or* Duddery Mead in Wickhambrook. Furthermore, because the effect of so much agricultural change in modern times has been to denude the landscape, many local names have been forgotten and lost from everyday speech. Nevertheless, the layering of names can be recovered when documents of different dates are compared. Thus, a Barn Meadow in Shimpling, recorded in 1839, reappears as Camping Close on a map of Long Melford manor drawn in 1580.⁴

Several kinds of historical document contain minor place-names. For the medieval period, the prime sources are charters, court rolls, rentals, manorial extents and wills. Later, in early modern times, the list expands to include manorial surveys, estate accounts, glebe terriers and manuscript maps. Of all possible sources the most detailed and consistent, albeit late in date, are tithe apportionments of the mid-nineteenth century, which are preserved in county and diocesan record offices for a large number of English parishes.⁵ These important documents come in two parts: printed schedules designed to ensure consistent manuscript entries; and large-scale maps drawn by professional surveyors. The schedules list and number individual plots of land, specifying their names, owners, tenants, acreage and land use, while the maps depict the whole of each parish using the same enumeration as the schedules.⁶

In this article the apportionments of about 184 parishes (just under forty per cent of the total number) have been searched in order to classify hundreds of minor place-names, and to debate, where appropriate, their origins and historical significance. It should be emphasized that the approach used here has been very selective. No attempt has been made to classify all names, only those which stand out in some way; for example as being specially common or specially rare, those which have been corrupted and, above all, those which have clear historical interest.

The conventions used below are as follows. The spellings of tithe schedules are retained, however idiosyncratic and variable, and each element is distinguished by capital letters, for

example Kiln Close (in Gazeley) and Tawney Fen (Capel St Mary). Normally minor names consist of two words; the second distinguishes the general type of 'field' such as Close, Meadow or Piece (known as the *generic*), while the first gives precisely identifying information (the *specific*). However, one-word names also exist, like Coppingers (Lavenham)⁷ or Bullimere (Horham), as do others containing three or more words like Upper Coal Yard Meadow (Fornham All Saints) and New Broke Up Grove (Dennington). To indicate where examples can be found, quotations of minor names are followed by the bracketed names of one or more parishes. Footnotes are used to give more background and discussion, especially concerning the meanings of words and their linguistic roots derived from major printed sources.

Many minor place-names are commonplace, readily understood and easy to classify, like Church Meadow, Turnip Piece or Four Acres. Another large group is based on the surnames of former owners or tenants, especially if they end with an 's' (with or without an apostrophe); thus, Gibbs, Rouses and Mabbs (all in Wattisham).⁸ Conversely, many place-names are ambiguous, and can be interpreted in more than one way. For example, Thunderbolt Field (Athelington) might mean the field where poppies grew, or the field where belemnite fossils had been found.⁹ The researcher can also be misled by wayward transcriptions, strong local dialect and colloquialisms. Thus, Duffus Meadow (Glemsford) and Lambpits (Campsey Ash) stand respectively for Dovehouse Meadow and Lumpit indicating 'a deep pool'.¹⁰ Even more difficult are words which develop local meanings or subtle emphases differing from definitions in standard dictionaries. For instance, Stephen Podd points out that the Old English (OE) *haga*, which is common on the claylands of central Suffolk, means a fence or enclosure but unhelpfully evolves into Hall.¹¹ While dictionaries with national coverage remain valuable, such complexities and traps emphasize the crucial importance of local knowledge and localised research.¹²

The great majority of minor place-names cannot be dated, either precisely or approximately. We may guess that many of them originated in the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries during the so-called Agricultural Revolution, when vast acreages of open fields and commons were enclosed, new machinery was introduced, and soils were improved by better drainage and fertilization. In this period new fields were carved out of old, and pasture frequently gave way to arable. In such contexts the survival of early place-names can never be guaranteed. In fact, dating of any sort can only be achieved when the following circumstances obtain. First, the name needs to reappear in recognisable form in an earlier source. Thus, the name Maidens mentioned in Bramfield's apportionment of 1840 is also illustrated and labelled on a manuscript map of 1745.¹³ Second, fields can sometimes be dated by reference to recorded historical events, such as Bunkers Hill (Iken and Tunstall) which alludes to a battle fought in 1775 during the American War of Independence, and Waterloo Field (Bramfield and Euston) which celebrates Wellington's victory over Napoleon in 1815. It follows that the last two names cannot be earlier than 1775 and 1815 respectively; in other words they give *termini post quem*, and are the earliest possible dates for the use of particular names. Third, a name may suggest a broad chronological context, such as late medieval or post-Reformation. A good example is the Middle English element *Camping* which in eastern England denotes a ball-game and the recreational area where it was played. The latter was often attached to fields immediately adjacent to (or very close to) medieval churchyards and churches. It appears that a change of popular sensibility in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries discouraged parishioners from using the consecrated building and its graveyard for rowdy activities such as ball-games, drinkings, feasts and dramatic performances. Therefore, alternative spaces were found on unconsecrated land adjacent to the churchyard: hence The *Camping Close* at Pakenham, *Stanningfield* and *Wingfield* and The *Camping Ground* at Little

Thurlow and Saxtead.¹⁴

Some names recorded in nineteenth-century tithe schedules can be rediscovered in early modern or medieval documents, thus proving that the slate was not wiped totally clean after the mid-eighteenth century. For example, the tithe apportionment of Walsham le Willows in 1842 lists Hatchmeer Field,¹⁵ which is immediately recognisable in a manorial survey of 1577 by references to *Great Hatchmere*, *Lyttell Hatchmere*, *Hawes Hatchmere* and *Hatchmere Lane*.¹⁶ Also in Walsham, a field called Spittleouts in 1842 clearly translates as *Spyttletowtes Close* in 1577. This was ‘hospital’ land belonging to the small Augustinian priory of Great Bricett near Needham Market.¹⁷ Future research, by systematically comparing tithe data with earlier documentary sources and the landscape itself, will yield many more dates and *termini post quem*. It will also reveal how names have been replaced or corrupted as the centuries rolled by.¹⁸

Place-names often reflect variations of soil, topography, climate and styles of farming which physically subdivide counties. Suffolk contains four principal regions: a small corner of the Fenland, a substantial slice of the sandy Breckland, central claylands traditionally called High Suffolk, and the Sandlings along the coastline of the North Sea. Although these areas have place-names in common, they each have distinctive names not found elsewhere. For example, the parish of Elveden on the Breckland contains, among its minor place-names, The Old Warren (312 acres for breeding rabbits), Sand Galt further described as ‘brank’,¹⁹ as well as many Brecks,²⁰ Slips, Gaps, and Plantations. At the opposite coastal end of Suffolk, Iken contains an amalgam of Walks, Marshes, Fens, Saltings and Embankments. To catch wildfowl its decoy is depicted on the tithe map with netted tunnels (or ‘pipes’) and surrounding woodland. Between these two extremes lies the ‘typical’ countryside of Suffolk with its small parishes, numerous churches largely built of flint, scattered settlements, moated farmsteads, timber-framed houses and barns, greens and commons, and a strong dairying tradition.²¹ Place-name elements characteristic of this landscape include Close, Green, Gull,²² Island,²³ Ley, Moat, Pightle and Tye.²⁴

THE CLASSIFICATION OF MINOR PLACE-NAMES

A good way of making sense of thousands of local place-names is to classify them thematically. In this article names are therefore grouped under twenty-six headings such as ‘Shapes of fields’, ‘Industrial activity’ and ‘Recreations’.²⁵ For obvious reasons, some names occur under more than one heading. Thus, Hogstye Piece (Stonham Aspal) appears under both ‘Farm buildings’ and ‘Animals and poultry’. Within each section place-names are listed alphabetically rather than by parish, and names with uncertain meanings are added as ‘Other possible examples’. A final section draws attention to a large number of problematical names whose meanings range from elusive to impenetrable.

1. *Landscape features*

Some minor place-names refer to features of the natural environment, rather than to man-made adaptations of it: Belvidere Field (Stoke by Nayland), Chissels (Layham),²⁶ Dingle Bottom (Wickhambrook), Grindle (Cowlinge and Great Livermere), Grundle (Monks Eleigh, Stanton and Wattisfield),²⁷ The Hang (Wingfield), Hill and Deal (Creetingham), Kingsbury Hill (Fornham St Martin and Fornham St Genevieve), The Mere (lake dividing Great and Little Cornard), Mickle Meer (Pakenham), Mount Plesauce (Stoke by Nayland), Rymer Pond (Troston),²⁸ Silver Plash (Syleham), The Slade (Cavendish and Great Livermere), Swale,²⁹ Weeping Hill (Nayland)³⁰ and Whitton Hoo (Bramford).

2. *Quality of land*

Unsurprisingly, some fields were regarded by their owners and tenants as good and productive, and others as poor and unprofitable. Expressions of approval in Suffolk include the elements Eden, Golden, Honey, Paradise and Sweetmeat: hence Golden Pightle (Brundish), Golden Rod (Hinderclay), Honey Field (Wattisham), Honey Pot of Meadow (Kersey), as well as Best Land (Stansfield), Featherbed (Bramfield), Great Friendly Ley (Great Wrattling), Hardling Meadow (Cretingham),³¹ Money Comes (Lindsey), Money Field (Withersfield),³² No Pain (Woolpit), Pound of Butter (Poslingford), Sweat Bread Ley (Stoke by Clare) and Worlds Wonder (Hoxne). Of course any of these descriptions could have been used ironically, and actually meant the exact opposite.³³ Conversely, other names imply difficult land with poor yields: Bedlam Field (Stoke by Nayland), Dear Bought (Hintlesham),³⁴ Devils Hill (Hitcham), Folly (Thurston), Good-For-Nothing (Market Weston), Heavy Land Field (Little Whelnetnam), Hungerdown (Hawstead), Hunger Snout (Ufford), Hungry Hill (Badingham), Ill Will (Haverhill), Impudence (Great Thurlow), Labour in Vain (Bramfield), Mouldy Bottoms (Shimpling), Musty Plot (Kersey), Pinch Gut and Starve Gut (both Darsham), Starve Goose Meadow (Stradishall and Wingfield), Starve Lark and Threadbare (both Stradbroke), Stoney Land (Walsham) and Troublesome (Great Wrattling). In the same context, the word Pudding is quite often employed, probably meaning sticky, heavy land: Plum Pudding Piece (Brandon).

The colouration of soils is implied in names such as Black Fen and Amber Lands (Woolpit), Blackland (Preston and Brent Eleigh), Ploughed Brown Reedings (Wickhambrook) and Silverstone Meadow (Monks Eleigh).

Low-lying and wet land is usually referred to as Carr,³⁵ Fen, Marsh, Plash, Quag, Quave, Sink, Slough or Sump. Related names refer to crops frequently grown in wet conditions: Alder Carr (Rattlesden) and Ozier Ground (Wickham Market). Squeach Field (Thorpe Morieux) may refer to couch grass or speargrass which infests arable land.³⁶

Other possible examples: Beauties (Polstead), Foul Slough (Stoke by Clare), Penny Plot (Stoke by Clare), Pickovers (Kedington), Savage Pasture (Stansfield) and Vengeance (Elmsett).

3. *Types of field*

In the nineteenth century the majority of hedged and ditched fields in Suffolk were described as Closes, Crofts, Fields, Leys, Meadows, Pieces and Pightles.³⁷ In size they ranged considerably but by modern standards most were small. In addition, Common Fields containing arable strips appear on tithe maps and in field-names and were preserved into the nineteenth century, either on a large scale or in fragments. For example, Moulton had four open fields which were enclosed in 1839: their names were Chippenham Field, Bury Field, Market Field and Lidgate Field. At the south-western extremity of Suffolk, Withersfield contains a large number of common fields including Banton Common Field, Church Common Field, Hales Common Field, Little Hopley Common Field, Nine Acre Common Field, Saunders Common Field, Wallstreet Common Field; it also had Hopley Common Meadow. Field-names often contained the element Town, usually meaning that the land belonged to the parish: thus, Old Town Meadow and Sadsby's (both 'town land', Wickham Market), Town Close (owned by Town Land Trustees, Great Wrattling), Town Field (Thurston) and Town House Piece (Wingfield). However, some institutional landowners were 'foreign'. For example, Bildeston Town Land lay in Nedging, and the feoffees of Hadleigh owned 130 acres in Whatfield. Shimpling contained Lawshall Town Meadow, and another 177 acres were owned by the trustees of Melford Hospital. In each case 'town land' was given or bequeathed as an act of Christian charity, to ensure that it brought useful rent to the receiving parish.

Woolpit had at least fifteen Heath Fields, which resulted from the recent enclosure of

Woolpit Heath; they were drained by artificial channels called Vents.

Another important name is Park. Some were medieval in origin, made for the hunting of deer which was an important source of food. Those of later date were sited around major houses and were primarily for recreation, ornament and display. Thus, Melford had an Old Park of unspecified acreage and The Park of 132 acres.

4. *Shapes of fields*

Fields were commonly named after their physical shapes seen, as it were, on a map or from the air. Thus, Dripping Pan Piece (Timworth), Eleven Corners (Tunstall), Half Moon Field (Stradbroke), Hatchet and Helve (Wingfield),³⁸ Hour Glass Wood (Barnardiston), The Lute (Bramford), Moon Meadow (Depden), Octagon Field (Winston), Perriwigs and Brokenback Perriwigs (Great Wratting),³⁹ Rainbow Field (curving, Hawkedon), Roundabout (Glemsford), Round Plots (Great Wratting), Skewer Field (Great Waldingfield), Smock-fashioned Field (Saxtead), T Field (Stansfield), Tea Kettle (Pakenham), Trundle Field (Cockfield),⁴⁰ Trundley Meadow and Wood (Great Thurlow), Winding Field (Brettenham), Wine Cup Meadow (Wickham Market) and Zigzags (Wingfield).

A proportion of such names imply that fields were triangular or near-triangular. Hence we find frequent references to three-sided objects such as box irons, agricultural harrows, hoppers, tunnels,⁴¹ sugar loaves and musical harps. Good examples are Box Iron Pasture (Chelsworth), Harrow (triangular, Little Cornard), The Harp (Wickhambrook), Heater Close (Wingfield), Heater Field (Bramfield), Hog's Ear (Great Waldingfield), Shoulder of Mutton Piece (Little Saxham), Shuttlecock Meadow (Wattisfield), Sugar Loaf (Hargrave) and Three-Cornered Harp (Little Waldingfield).

Other possible examples: Cat Tail Field (Great Saxham), Melon Field (Whepstead), Pot Hooks (Drinkstone), Robins Horn Field (Bardwell), Great and Little Snuff Box (Great Whelnetham), Snuff Box Field (Stanningfield), Spectacles (Hundon) and Trumpet Meadow (Barrow).

5. *Changes in the landscape*

No farming landscape is static for long and minor place-names quite often indicate change, including deliberate attempts at improvement.

Two important elements in Suffolk's field-names result from the clearance of woodland, and both have OE origins. The first is Readings, Reddings or Reedings (Hundon, Stradbroke and Wickhambrook) based on OE *rydding*, which denotes where trees had been felled and the stumps grubbed up. Reedings New Broke Up (Wickhambrook) points to two major phases; woodland clearance followed by the conversion of pasture to arable. The second significant element is Stubbins or Stubbings (Bildeston, Elmswell, Naughton and Whatfield) based on OE *stbbing*, also meaning 'a place where trees have been stubbed, a clearing'.⁴²

Another significant process was the ploughing up of old grassland or leys. Words like Long, New and Old add a further dimension: Long Broke Up (Chevington), New Broke-Up Piece (Wingfield), Old Lay 'now arable' (Wickhambrook)⁴³ and Old Pasture (Stradishall). Other names carry the same implication, such as Ploughed Ley (Bradfield St Clare), Ploughed Park (Stradbroke) and Ploughed Sheepcote (Poslingford). A few names seem to have captured change as it was happening (though without dates): Flower Land and Plowed Flower Land (Elmsett), Old Waste Lays [now arable] and Plow'd Waste Lay (Rede) and Ploughed Fentons and Feeding Fentons (Framsden). Another word which implies the clearance of tree stumps is Stocking (OE *stoccing*): hence By Stocking Lane (Little Wratting).

Other place-names speak of changes in the soil itself. The making and use of potash or potassium is often attested in field-names. It became an essential nutrient for crops: Potash

Field (Badingham, Bramfield and Brundish).⁴⁴ Another additive to make soil more fertile was lime: Lime Kiln Piece (Barking) and Lime Marble Pit (Polstead).

6. *Animals and poultry*

This and the next category account for a large number of minor names, and normally they are easily understood. Domesticated farm animals and other creatures mentioned in field-names include: Anthill Field (Tostock), Blind Mares (Bradfield St Clare), Bullock Meadow (Thorndon), Bulls Meadow (Hitcham),⁴⁵ Calves Pightle (Rattlesden), Cock Meadow and Fat Cattle (both in Hundon), Coney Burrow Hill (Polstead), Coney Clapper (Wattisham), Coneyfer (Great Cornard and Eye),⁴⁶ Cow Lizard Meadow (Wilby),⁴⁷ Cow Pasture (Boxted), Dog Kennel Piece (Elveden), Fowl's Watering Meadow (Wickham Market), Fox Burrows (Thurston), Goose Croft (Poslingford), Hogs Pound (Tunstall), Hogstye Piece, Horse Field and Cart Horse Field (all three in Stonham Aspal), Lambcote Ley (Stansfield), Mare Fat Piece (Stradbroke), Ox Close (Preston St Mary), Pheasants Field (Chedburgh), Riding Horse Pightle (Barsham), Sheeps Pen (Eriswell), Sheep Wash (Winston), Sheepwash Meadow (Fornham All Saints), Shepland (arable, Somerton), Stone Horse's Pightle (Wingfield)⁴⁸ and Turkey Hole (Great Whelnetham).

Activities and land use associated with farm animals account for names such as Baiting Pasture (Melford), Cheese Meadow (Hadleigh), Chesawick (Melford),⁴⁹ Dairy Piece (Woolpit), Fattening Pasture (Stansfield), Great Clipping Ley (Gazeley), Great Shadowings (Great Thurlow), Lammas Meadows (Badwell Ash, Great Bradley and Walsham), Milkhouse Field (Melford), Milking Green (Stradbroke), Milking Yard (Groton), Night Pasture (Depden), Night Yard (Eriswell and Rede), Sucking Close (Wickhambrook), Road Milking Baulk (Kedington) and Suckling Yard (Dennington).⁵⁰

Regulated grazing is recorded in names such as In-The-Warren (Brent Eleigh), Michaelmas Meadow (Honington), Shakers Heath (Brandon), The Tye (Bramford) and Warren (Lakenheath).⁵¹

7. *Crops*

Minor names attest to a considerable variety of crops, including cereals, vegetables, fodder for animals, and plants put to industrial uses: hence, Beanland (Bramford), Bullimong (Nowton),⁵² Carrot Field (Norton), Cinque Foin (Hessett),⁵³ Clover Meadow (Dennington), Cole Seed Marsh (Iken), Flaxen Croft (Little Wratting), Flax Meadow (Hawkedon), Gaudy Land (Chevington),⁵⁴ Hempland (Brundish and Wingfield),⁵⁵ Hop Ground (Bildeston), In Saffron Ground (Great Thurlow), Lettuce Field (Drinkstone), Lucerne Piece and Potatoe Ground (both in Brandon), Lucern Field (Horringer),⁵⁶ Mangold (Mildenhall), Maize Lands (Framsden), Maze Lands (Great and Little Wratting), Misling Field (Chevington),⁵⁷ Mowing Meadow (Gazeley), Mustard Field (Hargrave), Oat Land (Stanningfield), Ozier Ground (Nayland), Pease Ley (Rattlesden), Perry Plot (Somerton), Plumpickers (Mildenhall), Rye Croft (Preston), Rye Grass Meadow and Turnip Piece (both in Glemsford), Saffron Fen (Woolpit), Saffron Pens (Lavenham), Sanfoin (Framsden),⁵⁸ Self Sown (Brockley), Tare Field (Poslingford), Teasill Field (Aldham), Trefoil Field (Great Bradley), Turf Pits (Great Wratting)⁵⁹ and The Vineyard (beside Sutton Hall, Bradfield Combust).

Another possible example: Strawberry Field (Bradfield St Clare).⁶⁰

8. *Farm buildings*

Fields were often named after farm buildings and other features that they either contained or abutted. Many are connected with the management of livestock such as Bullock Shed Piece, Cart Shed Field and Swill House Piece (all three in Horham), Cow-House Field and Cowhouse

Meadow (Stoke by Nayland), The Duffus Meadow⁶¹ and Sheep Cot Field (both in Whatfield), Dunghill Hole (Kedington), Hogsty Piece (Dennington and Stonham Aspal) and Poulthouse (Boxted).

Parishes on the heavier land of central Suffolk referred to their dairy cows as 'neat' and to their cowhouses or byres as 'neat houses' or 'net houses'. The latter were timber-framed buildings used for milking, calving and winter shelter, and they were often described in documentary sources as the 'nettus' or 'nettis'.⁶² Framsdén recorded ten examples in its apportionment, Horham recorded eleven, Dennington sixteen and Wilby seventeen.

Another related name is Sawing Pit Meadow (Dennington), while Backhouse Piece (Horham) refers to the kitchen of a farmhouse, whether detached or attached. Walls End (Naughton) also appears to be part of a farmstead.

9. *Other buildings*

This group of names reminds us of institutions which previously existed in both towns and villages. Names in apportionments may be their only documentary record, and tithe maps may give the only evidence for their actual sites. For example, in 1839 a small field immediately east of Thorndon's church was labelled Guildhall Pightle, thus revealing where a socio-religious guild of the late medieval period once had its headquarters.⁶³ Sometimes these institutions clustered together to make administrative hubs, even though the rest of the settlement was scattered in the form of isolated farmsteads and hamlets. In fact Thorndon had its church, moated parsonage, Guildhall Pightle and workhouse tightly bunched together. At Dennington, close to the church and rectory, are The Queen's Head (a former guildhall, owned by local trustees), Market Close and Old Work House Yard. The only outlier, for obvious reasons, is Great Sickhouse Field which stands aloof to the south-east.

Use of the word Old in minor names can reveal that the address of an institution had been moved. Thus, Old Parsonage (Melford) is evidence that the rectory had been moved, over a mile from a pre-Conquest site on the western parish boundary to a more convenient and central one beside the church.⁶⁴

Parochial workhouses or poorhouses could date from the later sixteenth century, though most were probably founded after the Workhouse Test Act of 1722; hence names like Old Workhouse (Brandon), Poor-house (Groton) and Poor House (Rede).⁶⁵ After the introduction of larger union workhouses in 1834, the older parochial houses were usually sold off and converted into cottages. Fortunately, however, in minor place-names we can still identify buildings or sites relevant to the relief of local poverty before 1834.⁶⁶

Individual parishes also created and maintained primitive 'isolation hospitals' to combat the spread of contagious diseases: hence Pest House Piece (Eye), Pest House Pightle (Nayland), Sick House Field (Ufford), Sick House Meadow (Nedging) and Small-pox House (Clare).⁶⁷

Other important communal features recorded in minor names include churches, nonconformist chapels, Quaker meeting places and burial grounds, almshouses, roadside crosses, schools, Bridewells (houses of correction), medieval hospitals, stockhouses (or storehouses), watchhouses and tollhouses.⁶⁸ Thus, Alms-house Field (Bradfield Combust), Alms Row Cottages (Brandon), Baptist Chapel (Wattisham), Great Bridewell Meadow (Clare), Chapel at Meeting Green (Wickhambrook), Chapel Skirts (Wickham Market), Friends Burying Ground (Elmsett), Meeting House (Rickinghall Inferior), School House Field (Stradishall), School Room (Woolpit), Spittle Field (Winston), Steeple Field (beside church, Somerton), Stockhouse (Assington), Stock House Pightle (Brent Eleigh), Toll House (Capel St Mary) and Watch-house (Framsdén).⁶⁹

In truth, any kind of building may be mentioned in tithe apportionments: Barrack Ley (Bradfield St George),⁷⁰ Beam House Meadow (Wilby),⁷¹ Brickhouse Field (Stradishall),

Cabinet Makers Shops and Corn Exchange (both in Clare), Combing Shop Meadow (Chevington), Fox and Goose Beer House (Saxtead), Hospital Acre (Sudbury St Gregory and Sudbury St Peter), Mausoleum (Felsham), Meeting House (Great Thurlow and Woolpit), School House Field (Stradishall), Shoe Shop (Stonham Aspal), Tithe Barn (owned by charity trustees, Wickham Market), Town Hall, Theatre and Foundry (all three in Eye) and Windmill (Stradishall). Names such as Abbacy (Withersfield) and Priory Bottom (Little Waldingfield) relate to former monastic properties rather than actual religious houses.

10. *Humorous names*

Some minor names were deliberately jokey or ironical in tone, or were built around wild exaggerations. Sometimes they are approving of a piece of land as in Money Comes (Lindsey), No Pain (Woolpit) and Worlds Wonder (Hoxne), but more often than not they are critical, such as Dear Bought (Hintlesham), Further Misery and Misery Farm (Rattlesden), Troublesome (Great Wratting) and Widows Mite (Hundon).

Other names quite deliberately magnify acreages. A Hundred Acres, or even a Thousand Acres, is quite common and ludicrous when compared to the actual size of the field. Thus, a Thousand Acres at Darsham was actually one rood and thirty perches, while another at Brent Eleigh measured one rood and twenty-five perches. Along similar lines, The World (Whepstead) amounted to a mere twelve perches. Wrens Park (Bramford and Wickham Market) is another such name embodying irony.⁷² The most memorable names found in the humorous category are Harem Scarem and Tarem Rendam (both at Bradfield St Clare), Tom and Jerry (Kedington),⁷³ Perriwigs and Brokenback Perriwigs (Great Wratting)⁷⁴ and a rather unexpected Smart Ass (Thelnetnam). World's End (Bildeston and Saxtead) exaggerates location rather than acreage. Comical Corner (Brundish) could relate to a single hilarious incident.

11. *Distant places*

Place-names often refer to localities outside Suffolk. Sometimes they are named after other parts of the British Isles, such as Buckshire (Stansfield), Cumberland (Hintlesham), Dry Docking (Stanton),⁷⁵ Greenwich (Nedging), Isle of Wight (Stoke by Nayland), Little Ireland (Cavendish), London Pightle (Wilby), Manchester (Athelington), Scotland (Bramford), Sky Island (Stonham Aspal), Warwickshire Wells (Stradbroke) and Westminster (Acton).

Another group alludes to parts of North America such as California (Mildenhall, Wickham Market), Jamaica Close (Knettishall) and Pensylvania (Capel St Mary).⁷⁶

A third group refers to other parts of the world. Thus, Botny Bay Road (Elmswell),⁷⁷ Egypt (Raydon), Flanders (Tunstall), Friezeland (Timworth),⁷⁸ Gibraltar Meadow (Polstead), Jerusalem (Stradbroke), Mount Sion (Assington), Great and Little Normandy (Stoke by Clare), Red Sea (Tannington) and Sweden (Polstead). It is possible that Jericho (Pettaugh) refers to a lavatory.

Some of these names may be based on the fact that local fields were shaped like their namesakes 'abroad', and others because they were sited inconveniently in remote or outlying parts of the local farming landscape.⁷⁹ Another possibility is that fields were named after people and personal connections. The parish of Groton, where John Winthrop (1588–1649) lived before leading a major emigration across the Atlantic in 1630, had a field named New England.⁸⁰ This could have been adopted in Winthrop's lifetime, or at any point thereafter.

12. *Boundaries*

Boundaries needed to be well known to local people, and if possible, well marked physically and adequately maintained. Even so, disputes between parishes were sometimes unavoidable: Quarrelling Piece (Great Saxham), Hedge Gaps (Stoke by Clare), Disputable (Bramford) and

Thorn with Procession (Campsey Ash).

Tithe maps occasionally show in detail how boundaries were indicated on the ground. For example, the boundary of Bradfield St Clare was marked by stones and pollarded trees, and that of Kedington by pollards of ash, maple, oak, willow and elm, as well as by wooden 'posts'. Stulp Field (Wilby) refers to stout wooden posts which could be used structurally or to mark boundaries.

Gospel Ash and Gospel Hill (Bardwell and Nowton) remind us of the prayers and biblical readings which accompanied the annual ritual of 'beating the bounds'. Apportionments sometimes refer to fields abutting parish boundaries: Boundary Field (Wingfield) and Boundary Hill (Stradbroke). The boundaries of hundreds were often called Hundred Lane or Hundred Mere and were marked on the ground by deep curving ditches: Hundred Lane Field (Walsham). At Thurston the pre-Conquest open-air meeting place of the hundred is identified as Thedwastre Hill on both the schedule and tithe map. At Whatfield another hundred name is mentioned as Great and Little Cosford Meadow. Mutford Green (Lakenheath) perhaps marks the meeting place of an early assembly or 'moot'.

Another related example: No Mans Land (Stansfield).

13. *Trees and woods*

The names of woods usually persisted for centuries, such as Linnage and Spelthorne in Melford, Willesmere and Papeley in Barrow and Kingshaugh and Hulver in Bramford. Some fields were named after adjacent woods or specific types of tree which might have been in hedgerows or freestanding: Alder Berries (Barrow), Ashery (plantation, Layham), Asp Lay (Depden), Cherry Croft (Chevington), Clappers Oak (Little Wrattling), Cloister of Nuts (Hundon),⁸¹ Cop Thorn (Tunstall), Devils Wood (thirty-nine acres, Wattisham), Elder Wick (Groton), Firing Allotment (Gazeley), The Great and Little Forest and First Forest (Stanningfield), The Gull (wood, Great Whelneham), Hasell Wood (arable, Hadleigh), Hurst Wood (Great Saxham), The Hyde (wood of ninety acres, Risby), Great and Little Impaugh (Stonham Aspal),⁸² Lime Walk Field (Felsham), Oak Stubs (Tunstall), Old Frith Wood (Saxtead),⁸³ Queach (Woolpit), Queach Grove (Great Wrattling), Sallow Close and Willow Pightle (both in Depden), Skirtling in Four Oaks (Hawkedon), Sloe Pit Field (Little Saxham), Wilderness (Stanstead) and Wild Dairy (Chelsworth).⁸⁴ The parish of Woolpit included Woolpit Wood and part of Shelland Wood.

14. *Flora and fauna*

In minor names references to wildlife cover a wide spectrum: Bitterns Pightle and Starlings Field (Cowlinge), Jack-in-the-Hedge (Drinkstone),⁸⁵ Coney Burrow (Hoxne), Coney Clappers (Wattisham),⁸⁶ Coneyfar (Syleham), Coneyfer (Great Cornard), Cowslip Field (Badingham), Crow Stick (Lawshall), Cuckoo Hill (Lackford), Dodman's Close (Capel St Mary),⁸⁷ Flower Land (Elmsett), Foxboroughs (Moulton), Fox Burrows (Drinkstone), Fox Earth (Hargrave), Hedge Hogs (Polstead), Hobby Field (Brundish),⁸⁸ Lapwing Fen (Pakenham), Lark Spurs (Monks Eleigh), Paigle Gardens (Depden and Boxford),⁸⁹ Picknuts (Brettenham),⁹⁰ Piss Beds (Hartest),⁹¹ Pudding Poke (Hinderclay, Syleham and Thorndon),⁹² Rud Pond (Lavenham), Snipe Field (Great Wrattling), Swans Nest (Boxford, Kersey and Layham) and Thunderbolt Field (Athelington).⁹³

Other possible examples: Batt Field (Lavenham), Brass Buttons (Layham) and Rattle Row Hill (Stradbroke).

15. *Roads and tracks*

Although tithe maps depict countless roads and lesser ways, their names in the schedules are

written less frequently. Even so, they range from main roads carrying cart traffic to and from markets and major towns, to broad drovers' roads or drifts which afforded useful grazing, and long distance tracks followed by skeins of pack animals: Bury Way Field (Hessett), Causeway Meadow (Saxtead), Causeway Pightle (Stonham Aspal), Chaseway (Great Wrating), Clareway (Barnardiston), Fallgate Field (Great Whelnetham),⁹⁴ Fore Leet Field (Wickhambrook),⁹⁵ Ixworth Lane Field (Little Whelnetham),⁹⁶ Market Path (Alpheton), Outgang (funnel-shaped, Bramford),⁹⁷ Packway (Barsham and Framsdén), Packway Meadow (Wingfield), Packway Piece (Stradbroke and Syleham), Peddars Field (Thurston), Portway (abuts Sudbury, Great Waldingfield), Quakers Lane (Syleham), Sheepwalk Thetford Road (Great Livermere) and The Thoroughfare (Wingfield). The Undeniable Way (Hoxne) may have been the subject of a legal dispute. Great and Little Clicket (Stradbroke) is a reminder of the importance of gates to regulate traffic.

Other names refer to later developments in transport, dating largely from the eighteenth century: Haling Path (Fornham All Saints), Milestone Field and Turnpike Field (both in Alpheton), Toll Gate Meadow (Stonham Aspal) and Turnpike House (Withersfield).

Another possible example: Witten Alley (Whatfield).

16. *Pits, quarries and ponds*

As tithe maps make clear, pits large and small are regular features of Suffolk's landscape. They were dug for purposes like road repair, brickmaking, chimney-building, and, after enclosure, for obtaining loam to improve the texture of lighter soils. Thus, Brick Earth Pit (Wickham Market), Chalk Pit (Lakenheath), Clay Pits (Chelsworth), Craig Pit Piece (Iken), Diggery Pits (Stanton), Gravel Pit Lane (Hargrave), Gull Pits (Winston), Lime Marble Pit (Polstead), Lumpitts (Hadleigh), Lump Pits (Wingfield), Marble Pit (Polstead), Old Stone Pits (Brandon), Sand Pit (Otley), Two Mouthed Pit Breck (Elveden) and Turf Pits (Great Wrating). In 1839 Thurston had a Gravel Pit, Chalk Pit and Clay Pit. Retting pits from the linen industry must also survive in northern Suffolk.

Another possible example: Flag Yards (Tuddenham).⁹⁸

17. *Earthworks*

In Suffolk the most common man-made earthworks were medieval moated sites with associated leets, sluices, dams, fishponds and formal gardens. The element Castle is common in minor names and was often applied to ordinary moated sites where no evidence exists for a real medieval castle; for example, Castle Field (Elmsett and Thorpe Morieux) and Castle Hill (Thorndon). A particularly interesting field-name is The Berry (Acton), which enshrines the primary meaning of OE *byrig* as 'a fortified place' or 'manor'; the field in question occupies ground between the churchyard and Acton Hall which sat inside a strong circular moat.

Water features associated with moats are also mentioned in minor names: Conduit Meadow (Dennington), Fish Pitts (Little Cornard), Old Fish Ponds (Brandon), Sluice Meadow (Bradfield St Clare) and The Stew(s) (Capel St Mary and Wickhambrook). Swans Nest applies to man-made shallow ponds and embanked enclosures where swans were bred for food and decorative purposes. At Stanton, three fields close to the capital manor house carry the element Waterfalls, and five others are named Dam or Damgates.

The mill mount (or mound), where not ploughed out or deliberately levelled, consisted of a circular mound surrounded by a ditch which was its original quarry. Under the mound a cross-shaped structure of horizontal timbers supported, by means of sloping braces, the central vertical post of a 'post-mill'. To face the wind, the main body or 'buck' with its sails turned on a strong central post: Mill Mount (Athelington and Syleham) and Mill Mound Walk (Tunstall). In 1839 the parish of Thorndon had four mill mounts, including one

tautologically called Mount's Hill. Because timber post-mills easily rotted or caught fire, the earthwork was often the only part of the mill to survive above ground.⁹⁹

Other earthworks: All Ditches (Barking), Great and Little Broad Stetches (Dennington), High and Upper Stetch (Stradbroke), Mill Dam (Wickhambrook), Mott Field (Thorpe Morieux), Seven Ridges (Brettenham), War Bank (Cockfield and Shimpling) and Round Rigs (Wingfield).¹⁰⁰

18. *Archaeology*

Occasionally place-names give glimpses of what may once have been memorable archaeological discoveries, not recorded in any other way: thus, Dead Woman (Stoke by Clare), Golden Pit (Little Waldingfield),¹⁰¹ Money Hole Field (Lavenham) and Vessell Hill (Stanningfield).

Sometimes field-names are tied to significant Roman sites: Red Castle House (Pakenham) and Castle Hill (Whitton). Castle Field (Burgh) is the name of a still impressive Iron Age enclosure.

Suggenham (Ufford) marks the site of a small settlement mentioned as *Suggenhou* in Domesday Book.¹⁰² This community had a medieval chapel which by 1613 was in ruins.

19. *Industrial activity*

Towns and villages have a surprising number of minor names testifying to industrial and commercial activity, from large-scale to small. One obvious example is the localised manufacture of bricks, tiles and pottery. Woolpit had a reputation for its bricks back into the medieval period and by the nineteenth century many other communities made their own bricks from local clays. All stages of manufacture are covered by local place-names, from digging the clay to stacking moulded bricks in clamps and firing them in kilns ('kells'): Breckles (Stonham Aspal), Brick Clamps (Poslingford and Gazeley), Brick Kiln Field (Badingham), Brick Earth Pit (Wickham Market), Brick Yard and Kiln (Winston), Old Brickiln Spot (Thorpe Morieux), Pot Field (Ufford), Pot Kiln Field (Great Cornard and Iken), Potkins (Cavendish and Great Cornard), Potters Field (Thurston) and White Brick Clay Pit (Layham). Usually these sites were accompanied, as apportionments also reveal, by yards and sheds. Furthermore, such work sometimes left burnt patches of soil and mounds of burnt debris: Burnt Earth Piece (Barsham), Cindern Hills (Tostock), Kiln Knolls (Layham) and Old Brickiln Spot (Thorpe Morieux).¹⁰³ Other extractive industries were the digging of loam and the burning of lime in order to improve the fertility and texture of farmland: Lime Kiln Piece (Barking) and Loom Pits (Layham).

The cloth industry left its mark in names such as Bleach (Stonham Aspal), Bleaching Ground (Lackford), Combing Shop (Chevington), Drying Ground (Naughton and Semer), Matting Pasture and Woolpackets (Lavenham), Taynters Field (Woolpit), Tenter Piece (Hadleigh), Wool Warehouse (Lavenham) and Worsted Ley (Withersfield). The making of hempen ropes in specially constructed long sheds is revealed in Rope Walk (Lavenham).

The curing of leather appears in names such as Tan Office (Hartest and Mendlesham) and Tan Yard (Monks Eleigh and Stradishall).

Malting occurs in Malt House (Hartest), Malting Office (Bradfield St George and Rickinghall Inferior).¹⁰⁴ In 1839 Melford registered the element Malthouse eight times.

Sawing Pit Meadow (Dennington) and Sawpit Field (Felsham) attest the sawing, for structural purposes, of large timbers over a deep rectangular pit. Two men used a two-handled saw; one stood on top of the timber and the other worked in the dirtier conditions of the pit itself.

Metalworking is seen in Foundery (Eye) and Foundry (Layham).

In the eighteenth century the development of navigations and canals explains the Haling Path

and New Wharf (Fornham All Saints), The Wharf (at Snape Bridge, Tunstall) and Wharf and Coal Shed (Nayland).

Coal Hearth (Great Ashfield, Great Fakenham, Layham and Stoke by Nayland) appears to be associated with woodland and the production of charcoal.¹⁰⁵

Other possible examples: Allens Oven (Woolpit), Carter Weaver (Shimpling), Grindstone Pasture (Cockfield), Smoke Holes (Shimpling) and Whiting Office Piece (Hinderclay).

20. *Fairs*

Most fairs were established in the medieval period by royal charter and many survived into the nineteenth century. They were annual events lasting a few days or weeks and in their heyday were of considerable commercial, industrial and recreational importance. In this connection the main value of minor names is to identify sites where fairs were held, not necessarily in the same place year after year, but in convenient open spaces such as arable land after harvest, common land or private meadowland.¹⁰⁶ Thus, Duddery Meadow (Wickhambrook),¹⁰⁷ Fair Field (Framsden, Horringer and Stradbroke), Fairstead Farm (Hoxne), Horse Fair Pightle, First Horse Fair, Cow Fair Field, In Cow Fair Field (all four west of village, Woolpit)¹⁰⁸ and Lamb Fair Green, Fair Green, Old Fairstead and Fairstead (all four in Cowlinge).¹⁰⁹ Less common are references to markets which are weekly events drawing people from the surrounding district: Market Close (Dennington, Layham and Thorndon) and Market Field (Great Waldingfield).

21. *Instruments of punishment*

Minor names allude to special structures made and maintained to punish those found guilty of misdemeanours and crimes. They began life under the administration of medieval manors, but later became the responsibility of parishes and county magistrates. Hence, Crooking ('Cucking') Stool (Haverhill),¹¹⁰ Galley Field (Great Thurlow), Galley Hill Field (Great Waldingfield), Gallow Hill Field (Sudbury St Gregory and Sudbury St Peter), Gallows Field (Hadleigh), Gallow's Hill Bottom (Barking), Gibbet Close (Westley), Gibbett Meadow (Badingham) and Hangman's Meadow (Hartest). The Pound (Nayland) is a reminder of economic offences such as wrongful grazing and trespass.

22. *Church and charitable endowments*

In medieval times wealthy individuals frequently endowed churches with lands, devoting the resultant income to specific religious purposes, usually commemorative. Before the powerful doctrine of Purgatory was abolished in the mid-sixteenth century,¹¹¹ the emphasis was often on salaries for chantry priests, and on the maintenance of basic liturgical equipment such as candles, lamps, bells and bell-ropes: Bell Acre (Dennington and Hinderclay), Bell Close (Woolpit), Bell Rope Piece (Lavenham), Bible Meadow (Glemsford), Chancel Close (Market Weston), Chancel Piece (Iken),¹¹² Chantry Field (Polstead and Poslingford), Chantry (Brundish), Chauntrey Ley (Little Wratting), Lady Land (Boxford), Lamp Land (Hawstead and Boxford), Lamp Lands (Tunstall) and Pudding and Candles (Campsey Ash). After the new English church abolished chantries, obits and other memorial services, endowments were sometimes adapted for new Protestant purposes, for example, to pay parish officers and visiting preachers known as 'lecturers': Clerkship Meadow and Field (Cowlinge), Lecture Field (Beyton) and Ringers Piece (Stoke by Clare).

Field-names can also yield traces of pre-Reformation religious houses and other institutions: thus, Abbacy and Abbacy Wood (Withersfield), Priests Meadow, Little College Hill and College (all three in Wingfield), Priory and Grounds (Stoke by Nayland) and Spittle Field (Winston).

Other possible examples: Catchpole Acre (Haverhill),¹¹³ Hassock Acre (Thurston), Hatchments (Little Wrattling), Hearse Meadow (Whepstead) and Mac Dellan (Tunstall).¹¹⁴

23. *Landscapes of leisure and wealth*

In landed estates surrounding manor houses and stately homes, new kinds of field-name accumulated from the sixteenth century onwards; such as Belvidere Field (Stoke by Nayland), Canal, Dukes Gallop, Rubbing House Cover (all in Euston where the park comprised 1354 acres),¹¹⁵ Gamekeepers House (Great Livermere), The Grotto (Whatfield), Ice House Piece and Pidgeon House Plantation (both in Hengrave), Keepers Lodge (Pakenham), Nursery (Capel St Mary and Stradbroke), Ornamental Ground and The Labyrinth (both Barking), Peacocks Valley (Hintlesham) and Pleasure Grounds (Littlehaugh in Norton).

Another possible example: Chaseway (Great Wrattling).

24. *Recreations*

Of considerable interest are place-names connected to local recreation or leisure. Sometimes the land in question may have been used for an unspecified number of social activities as suggested by Merry Mans (Stoke by Clare), Merry Meadow (Bradfield St Clare), Play Ground (Hargrave and Wattisfield) and Recreation Ground (Moulton).¹¹⁶ The same point may apply to recreation around the maypole: Maypole Field (Dennington and Bramford).¹¹⁷

Generally, however, field-names refer to one particular activity: Bonfire Hill Close (Moulton), Bowling Alley (at Sutton Hall, Cockfield), Bowling Green (belonged to White Hart public house, Wickham Market), Bowling Green Field (five examples at Badingham), Butts Field (close to church, Lindsey), Coursing Ley (Hawstead), Old Bowling Green (Eye) and Shooters Hill (Hargrave).¹¹⁸

Another interesting group suggests horse riding and jumping akin to events at modern gymkhanas: Jumping Bar (Tunstall), Jumping Bar Meadow (Little Waldingfield and Wattisfield) and Leaping Bar Field (Norton).

Archery was a sport of military significance and every parish was required by statute to build and maintain butts for regular practice: Bulls Eyes (Depden), Butts Lane (long thin strip of land behind churchyard, Stradishall)¹¹⁹ and Shooting Ley (Cockfield).¹²⁰

In East Anglia, evidence for the ball-game of 'camping' comes mainly from the study of minor names. It points to fields immediately adjacent to, or very close to, churchyards, thus strongly suggesting a medieval origin: Camping Close (near church, Wingfield and Market Weston) and Camping Ground (adjacent to churchyard, Little Thurlow).¹²¹

Finally, local names mentioned places suitable for youthful courting: Courting Field (Hawkedon), Love Lane (Hittham) and Love-Lass (Hinderclay).

Other possible examples: Batchelors Pightle (Campsey Ash),¹²² Boxers Field (Kersey), Cricket Field (Haverhill), Dancer's Field (Hadleigh) and Sparring Field (Badingham).

25. *Personal*

Quite often, minor names appear to quote the names of former owners, tenants and donors; this included land divided between named individuals and lands administered by trustees. Such names often involve the use of an apostrophe (actual or implied). Hence, Dame Alice's Field (Stoke by Clare), Dame Mannings Meadow (now arable, Thorpe Morieux), Dick Delm (Saxtead), Gipsy's Ley (Lawshall), Grimes Hedges (Naughton),¹²³ Haughtons Charity Farm (Little Thurlow), Jack's Bit (Bradfield Combust), Kemp's Meadow (Acton), Kerriches (Dennington), Master John's Close (Walsham),¹²⁴ Mother Gerrards (Elmsett), Nelson's Field (Stanstead), Old Billy Bit and Dicks Bit (both glebe, Bradfield St Clare), Old Nicks (Chedburgh),¹²⁵ Palgraves (Woolpit), Plampins (Boxford), Poor John's Hill (Stanstead),

Sampson's Trap (Elmswell), Shalfords (Great Cornard), Snowlings (Dennington), Tricker's Hill and Morris Hill (both in Raydon),¹²⁶ Tom's Folly (Stanstead) and Weary John's Hill (Boxted and Stanstead). In some cases, educational institutions appear as owners: Trinity Hall Homestead (Moulton). In this and other contexts, it clearly helps to find independent corroborative evidence.

26. *Events*

Occasionally minor names seem to refer to actual events, which may have been embedded in folk memory: Army Downs (Hartest), Blood Hill (Little Saxham), Bonfire Hill Close (Moulton), Burnthouse (Preston), Burnt House Yards (Great Whelnetnam), Deadmans (Brettenham, Cavendish and Wickhambrook), Dedmans Hill Field (Little Cornard), Fiery Mount (Ufford), Great Dead Woman (Stoke by Clare), Pickpocket (Bramford), Pick-Purse Hill (Bramfield),¹²⁷ Quarrelling Piece (Great Saxham), Red Barn and Yard (Polstead)¹²⁸ and Thieves Hedge (Badwell Ash and Walsham).

27. *Uncertain or ambiguous names*

The perusal of 184 title apportionments has inevitably revealed place-names which cannot be explained, or which may have more than one meaning. Below is a list of examples in alphabetical order which, so far, have not lent themselves readily to classification, and have not been found in dictionaries, bibliographies or regional word lists. Some of these fields may have been named after owners or tenants:¹²⁹ The Ark (Whepstead), Aspen Gubbs Glebe (Tostock), Baker's Oven (Raydon), Bear Field (Beyton), Bear's Ditch (Wickham Market), Bears Pits (Framsden), Black Vines (Naughton), Boss (Raydon), Buggens (Little Wrating), Brokenback Perriwigs (Great Wrating), Burzamer (Aldham), Cape Robins (Mildenhall), Carborough (Ufford), The Chase (Great Thurlow), Christmas (Great Waldingfield), Church Duffle (Whepstead), City Way (Whepstead),¹³⁰ Clayton Colston (Badingham), The Clink (Great Livermere), Clint Plough (Athelington), Cockmerock (Hunston), Cocks Bones (Whatfield), Compher (Aldham), Cop Thorn (Tunstall), Cow Pastles (meadow, Whatfield), Cut and Spin (Pakenham), Cutterwick (Wickhambrook), Didlings, Puttocks (Stonham Aspal),¹³¹ Druids Field (Clare), Ducklemere (Bramford), The Dungeon (Bradfield Combust),¹³² East Pier Stairs (Little Thurlow), Farrow (Great Wrating), Farthing's Wackett (Drinkstone), The Feast Hills (Alpheton), Gannocks (Great Wrating),¹³³ Gany Mere (Nowton), Ginex (Rattlesden), Gonyar Horn Piece (Hinderclay), Goraland (Whepstead), Goss Horns (Stonham Aspal), Green Bottles (Bildeston), The Grimestone (Barsham),¹³⁴ Grinstead (Great Waldingfield), Grumbles (Stonham Aspal), Gulliver (Bramford), Hall Mark (Thorpe Morieux), The Hang (Wingfield), Hannibal (Newton), Harlocky (wood, Great Thurlow),¹³⁵ High Noon Field (Withersfield), Hopsickles (Nowton), Horse and Block Field (Lavenham), The Hoss Hit (Cretingham), King Hazard (Eriswell), Knobs Folly (Hinderclay), Inerd (Somerton), Ironsnack (Bardwell), Jockets' Folly (Eriswell), Justice Meadow (Bramfield), Kitts Ark (Clare), Kings Alms Piece (Darsham),¹³⁶ Languages (Wickham Market), The Law (Great Wrating), Leet Pightle (Market Weston),¹³⁷ Little Bundle (Great Thurlow), Luncheoneer (Mildenhall), May Water Field (Whepstead), Mazeland (Melford), Monks Does (Melford),¹³⁸ Morrell Flyers (Hunston), Mud Cast (Barnardiston), New Layer (Stonham Aspal), Nop Goose (Wilby), Old Abram and Stone Field (Tostock), The Packet Pasture (Cretingham), Palace Yard (Stoke by Clare), Parson Stick (Chevington), Patriot Haven and Penement (Little Wrating), Petty Cant Field (Nayland), Pewter Marsh (Barsham), Pokeney (Assington), Pristol Lammas Meadow (Eriswell), Prize Alley (Wilby), Pudding and Candles (Campsey Ash), Puthawk Mere (Wangford),¹³⁹ Quailstones (Little Saxham), Quakers (Stoke by Nayland), Robin Goodfellows (Rattlesden),¹⁴⁰ Rumbledown (Hawkedon), Scotch Ridlands (Preston St Mary), Scull Close

(Thorndon), Scuty Close (Wingfield), Seminary (Newton, Great Cornard and Little Cornard), The Shalms (Great Bradley), Slum Hall (Boxford), Smear Yards (Honington), Smoke Holes (Kentford), Sotshole (Wickham Market),¹⁴¹ Spain Hawk and Stonehenge (both in Newton), War Lands (Kettlebaston), Wass and Wens (both in Assington), Whipping Tom (Acton) and Wisnage (Whepstead).

THE SURVIVAL OF MINOR PLACE-NAMES

Based on the two adjoining Suffolk parishes of Walsham (Table 1) and Stanton (Table 2), the final section of this article tentatively examines the extent to which minor place-names survived across time, or were changed, or were replaced. The work starts with the tithing apportionments of the two parishes and then investigates three published transcriptions or translations of earlier documents with their accompanying indexes. These are:

1. A fieldbook covering two manors in Walsham for the year 1577.¹⁴² The original was written in English. Fully indexed.
2. A translation from Latin into English of Walsham's court rolls for the years 1303–99.¹⁴³ The old spelling of English place-names and personal names is retained. Fully indexed.
3. A translation from Latin into English of Stanton's charters going back to the early thirteenth century.¹⁴⁴ The spelling of the embedded English names of people and places is retained. Fully indexed.

In each case a table has been drawn up to compare the form of place-names at different dates, working backwards in time. Some of the identifications are speculative and could be wrong. Some names in the tables are instantly recognisable on modern Ordnance Survey maps, such as *Harteshall* (Harts Hall, Walsham) and *Feeldeweeye* (Field Lane, Stanton), but others need careful analysis before they can be properly understood. Even then, two or more interpretations are sometimes possible. One complication is that, in their early forms, minor place-names nearly always had variant spellings. Take for example The Grundle in the parish of Stanton, a linear hollow which is mainly natural and partly man-made. In medieval charters it appears as *le Grendyl*, *le Gryndil*, *Deepgryndyll* and *le Hollegryndell*. Not only did such medieval forms often weld words together in Germanic fashion,¹⁴⁵ but as time passed they included in their specific elements a wide number of different landscape features. These included Fields, Furlongs, Headlands, Wents, Lands, Acres, Pieces, Meadows, Pastures, Greens, Closes, Pightles, Crofts, Woods, Tenements, Messuages, Dovecotes, Yards, Pits and Meres. This galaxy of terms presumably reflects change over time in the shapes, sizes, land use, ownership and tenancies. Such changes will become clearer when more primary sources have been transcribed, published and indexed, and when more detailed documentary and topographical research has been amassed.¹⁴⁶

The general impression gained from the above analysis is that some place-names have indeed survived recognisably for centuries, but on present showing in this part of Suffolk they are not numerous. By using a field book covering two local manors, at least thirty-seven minor place-names in Walsham were traced back to 1577 (see Table 1).¹⁴⁷ That figure can be compared with 706 fields and other plots listed in the apportionment of 1842.¹⁴⁸ At Stanton, where the documentary evidence was much earlier, at least forty-two minor names were identifiable over time, as opposed to 806 plots in the apportionment of 1839 (see Table 2). Nevertheless, certain place-names have survived for approximately eight centuries, right up to the present day. Good examples are *le Stanstrete* first recorded c.1279 and known today as Stanton Street or simply The Street, and *de Dale* first recorded in 1249–56 and still surviving

WALSHAM LE WILLOWS

1842	1577	1303–99
Botesdale Close	Botisdall <i>alias</i> Bowdesdall Close	
Bulls Croft	Bulles Crofte	Bolles ten't
Clay Pit Close	Cleypitt Pightell	?Clayhill
Cooks, Upper/Lower	Cookes Close	
Cow Lizards, Upper/Long/Short	Cowe Leyzer	
Dove House Close	Dowshouse Gate	Dufhouswongwong
Fish Pond Meadow	Fyshepond Entry <i>or</i> Slype	Fishponds
Great Meadow	Great Meadow/Myckle Meadowe	Great Meadow
Gudgeons, Little	Gogeons/Godgyons	
Harts Hall	Hartes Hall	
Hatchmeer Field	Hatchmere, Great/Lyttell	Hatchmere/way/lane
Hawes	Hawes, Great Crofte	Hawys ten't/lane
Hewards, Great/ Little/Further	Hewood Pytle	?Highwood
Home Meadow	Home Felde	
High Hall	High Hall	High Hall/Highwood
Hoxne Meadow	Hoxens Close	
Hulkes, Hulks	Hulkes, Grove/Pasture	Hulkes/bridge/wood/croft
Jollys	Jolly Cote Hill	
Kembles	Kebelles	Kembalds, Kebbils/brook/croft/gate/ten't/yerd
Knights	Knyghtes Close	
Master John's Close	Master Johns Close	Master John's
Mill Field	Mellfeld	Millfield
Neat House Field	Neates Pasture	Neatstoft
North Woods, Middle/Great	North Hall Wood	Northawe, gate
Noahs Oak	?Nowers Crofte	
Paynes	Paynes Acre	Payns ten't, Paynesoutgond, Paynastreet
Rands, Great/Little	Randes	
Readings Piece	Reddinge/Readynge	Reddinge
Runnells, Lower/Upper	Ronnelles	
Sand Pit	Sande Pyt Felde	
Sayers Pightle	Sares Pasture <i>alias</i> Sares Wood	Saresgate
Seeks, Long	Seyke, The	Syke, the
Spittletouts	Spyttletowtes Close	
Stoney Land	Stony Londe	Stonylond
Stubbings, Further/First	Stubbynge	Stubbings, the
Thieves Hedge	Thevishedge	Thieveshedge
Town Field	Towne Close	

[37]

TABLE 1 – Walsham le Willows. Using three major documents from the history of this village, it was found that certain place-names recorded in 1842 persisted back through time, re-appearing in 1577 and again in the fourteenth century. Thus, Dove House Close of 1842 was preceded by Dowshouse Gate in 1577 and by Dovehousewong in 1334. Note that *ten't* stands in both Latin and English for 'tenement' (meaning a manorial holding), and that uncertain identifications are preceded by a question mark.

STANTON

1839

Bedwell Went
 Bonds
 Bottom Close
 Brown's
 Brooks, Little
 Chair, The
 Dale, The
 Dam Field
 Damgates
 Dove House Hill, Little
 Duke Street
 Elsdens
 Field Lane
 Galterage Dale
 Glass Way Field
 Great Field
 Green Close
 Grundle, The
 Hassock Meer
 Haugh Grove
 Hockers Field
 Hogs Wood
 Kiln Close/Wood
 Kitchen Croft
 Long Row Field
 Maids Way
 Margate Meer
 Mickfields Hall
 Middle Went
 Mill Hill Field
 New Halls
 Nine Acre Pightle
 Shepherds Grove
 Slights Wood
 Smith's Close
 Stanton Street
 Stocks
 Stones
 Swallows Close
 Upthorpe
 West Close
 Willows
 [42]

Earliest known form and date (from charters)

Bedewelle (1294)
 Bondes (1560)
 Bothme, le (1304)
 ?Brunestoft (*c.*1250)
 ?Brockyslane (1536)
 Charre, le (1294)
 Dale, de (1249-56)
 Dam, le (1312)
 Damgate (1402)
 Dofhousyerd (1413)
 Dokkstrete (1420)
 ?Esselynes (1532)
 Feeldeweve (1388)
 Galtredale (late 13th cent)
 Glaskerysweye (1442)
 ?Myyclefeld (late 13th cent)
 Grenecroft (1368)
 Grendyl, le (1387)
 Assockemere, Hesscotmere (mid 13th cent)
 Haghe, le, Hawe/Hawyswode (1322)
 Hokeres (1304)
 Hogges wode (1481)
 ?Kyllen (15th cent), Lymekyll (1508)
 ?Kychyshous (1451)
 Longerowe (1475)
 Maydenysweve (1436)
 ?Market Gape (1554)
 Myyclefeld (*c.*1250)
 Medylfurlonge (1518), Middelwend (1337)
 Myll Hyll (1595)
 Newhalle, le (1388)
 Nyneacris (1304)
 Shepperdys (1447)
 Sclyt (*c.*1250)
 Smethisclos (1533)
 Stanstrete, le (*c.*1279)
 Stokkys (1474)
 Stonis, le (1338)
 Swalwyscroft (early 14th cent)
 Upthorpe (1332), Upthorppestrete (1511)
 Westfeld (1339)
 ?Wellys (15th cent)

TABLE 2 – Stanton. place-names listed in the tithe apportionment of 1839 are recognisable in charters ranging from *c.* 1215. Names written in the second column below give the earliest known or dominant spelling of the name, and the date when it first appeared in surviving charters. It must be emphasised that these dates are merely the earliest found, and that a few may be considerably older. Some identifications preceded by question marks are speculative and could be wrong.

as Dale Farm in a shallow valley towards the north end of Stanton parish. In the two parishes studied, the names which seem to have survived most strongly relate to natural features such as hills, streams, commons and woods, and to largely man-made features such as hamlets, major farmsteads and roads. By contrast, the majority of fields have lost their medieval names, and indeed may have lost several layers of names in the course of a long history.¹⁴⁹

In spite of a general lack of dating evidence, minor place-names confirm other kinds of historical evidence, and sometimes give detail not found elsewhere. The narrower the focus of research, the more new place-names or variants emerge which are local to the area or even to the parish. This local evidence, which mixes the spoken and the written, uses the dialect and vocabulary of the district to throw valuable light on a wide variety of human involvements. It reveals the amazingly detailed physical environment in which local communities lived and worked, and also exposes their language and thinking at work and at play.

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NOTES

- 1 Gover 1933.
- 2 Helpful sources for studying *minor* place-names and their linguistic roots are Cavill 2018, Gelling 1978 and 1984, Field 1981 and 1993 and Smith 1956. In Suffolk the most recent survey of *major* place-names is Briggs and Kilpatrick 2016.
- 3 This study derives from earlier work published in *Rural History* when I was searching for evidence of recreation and leisure in tithe apportionments, see Dymond 1990.
- 4 Map of Melford manor, 1580, reproduced by Long Melford Archaeological and Historical Society, 1987. For the popular ball-game of Camping, see 614–5 and 625. Hereafter, Long Melford is mentioned as Melford.
- 5 Kain and Prince 2006.
- 6 Historians use tithe apportionments to assess the relative sizes of estates and farms, field acreages and land-use. From 1841 onwards, they are also used with census returns to ‘repopulate’ parishes.
- 7 Copinger’s Charity was established by Dr Henry Copinger, rector of Lavenham 1578–1622; he gave 5½ acres near the church to the parish.
- 8 Levain Lovels (Gedding) enshrines two surnames current in Suffolk from at least the early fourteenth century, Hervey 1906. Lovayne is recorded as a surname in nearby Drinkstone, Loyal was a surname already current in Suffolk in 1327.
- 9 Halliwell 1847 (2), 871.
- 10 Lambpits and Lump Pits are derived from OE *lum(m)*, ‘a deep pool’; see Smith 1956 (2), 13.
- 11 Stephen Podd, pers. comm; see Wager 2017, 167–93.
- 12 Carroll and Kilby 2019, 276–81.
- 13 SA/I, HD42/1, map of Reginald Rabett’s estate in Bramfield and Thorington, 1745.
- 14 Dymond 1990. Swaffham (Norfolk) provides a rare example of absolute dating. In 1464 a wealthy rector gave the parish a triangle of land abutting the churchyard for sports and other public uses, it was subsequently called Church Croft, Shooting Land or Camping Land, Dymond 2005.
- 15 Hereafter, this parish is mentioned as Walsham. SA/B, T115/1, 2.
- 16 Dodd 1974, 94, 98, 100–101, 133–4. The name Hatchmere also appears in court roll of 1336; Lock 1998, 198.
- 17 Dodd 1974, 112; Smith 1956 (2), 138.
- 18 For an early example of comparing the spellings of Suffolk place-names at different dates, see Ryan and Redstone 1931, 143–5.
- 19 Gault, a Cretaceous sequence of stiff blue clays, mudstone and siltstone, found in west Suffolk.

- 20 A 'breck' was land cultivated for a year or two, then left uncropped for a time to regain its fertility.
- 21 Martin and Satchell 2008.
- 22 Gull applies to a channel cut by a stream, Claxton 1968, 42.
- 23 A name applied to sites which were 'islanded' by water-filled moats.
- 24 'Pightle' is a small piece or corner of land; 'tye' is a small area of common land (similar to many 'greens').
- 25 Some of my categories coincide with those of Field 1989, xvi–xx. He postulated twenty-six categories including size of fields, soils, farming practices, professions of owners, monetary value and folklore.
- 26 'Chissels' signifies gravelly land, Field 1989, 43.
- 27 'Grindle' and 'grundle' descend from OE *grendel*, gravelly place or stream, Smith 1956 (1), 209. In Suffolk, these words became associated with small ravines.
- 28 On a high part of the Breckland, at Rymer Point, nine parishes converged like spokes of a wheel on a natural pond or mere. The place-name may mean 'ring mere' or more likely 'ring boundary', see Briggs 2011, 491.
- 29 Stephen Podd (pers. comm.) notes that in Suffolk, a 'swale' is a very gentle valley.
- 30 Weeping Hill poetically describes the natural springline around the base of a hill.
- 31 'Hardland' and 'hardling' refer to higher meadows in Suffolk, rather than to those in valleys.
- 32 Money Field might also apply to an archaeological discovery such as a coin hoard; see No. 18.
- 33 Podd points out that Suffolk names incorporating 'hill' can be little more than slight inclinations.
- 34 Dear Bought was probably corrupted into Deer Bolts (Polstead), Cavill 2018, 107.
- 35 Carr was derived from ON *kjarr*, 'marsh overgrown with brushwood'.
- 36 Field 1989, 216.
- 37 See Martin and Satchell 2008, 25–36.
- 38 This name may imply the shape of an axe with its handle.
- 39 Periwigs were elaborate, tall wigs worn in the eighteenth century.
- 40 'Trundle', based on OE *trendel*, is used for circular or ring-like features.
- 41 'Tunnel' means 'funnel' in Suffolk.
- 42 Smith 1956 (2), 90–1, 164. In Great Thurlow a field called Stebbings was clearly cut out from Trundley Wood. Stubbins occurs five times in Gazeley's apportionment. In 1838 Horham had Great Stubwood as twenty acres of *arable*.
- 43 In 1844 Cockfield had seven fields called 'New Broke Up'; also many 'leys'.
- 44 Potash may also have been used to make soap on a local scale.
- 45 Charles Farrow (pers. comm.) suggests that Bulls Meadow may allude to the Bull family who lived in Hitcham for several generations.
- 46 'Coneyfer' or 'cunnerfer' may be the East Anglian equivalent of ME *Coninger*, meaning rabbit warren, Cavill 2018, 88–9. 'Clapper' signifies a rabbit burrow, Halliwell 1847 (1), 252.
- 47 Cow Lizard is a corruption of Cow Leaze or 'cow pasture', Field 1989, 55.
- 48 Stone Horse referred to a stallion that had not been castrated.
- 49 Chesawick, an arable area of thirty-seven acres, may mean 'cheese-farm'.
- 50 Bull Ringle in Stonham Aspal could refer to the recreational baiting of a tethered bull. Shadowing implies mature, spreading trees (usually oaks) giving shade to animals, Cow Shadow Wood (Stoke by Clare).
- 51 Martin 1989, 62–3, 199–200.
- 52 Bullimong was a mixture of beans and oats, or peas and oats, for cattle feed.
- 53 Cinque Foin is one of several spellings for 'sainfoin', an important fodder crop (*Onobrychis sativa*), Cavill 2018, 364–5.
- 54 Gaudy signifies weld, a yellow dye, Field 1989, 87.
- 55 Hempland often applies to small well-manured closes near farmhouses; hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) was grown for the making of linen, canvas and rope, Evans 1985, 16–18.
- 56 Halliwell asserted that black nonsuch was trefoil-seed, and that white nonsuch was rye-grass seed, Halliwell 1847 (2), 580.
- 57 Misling or meslin was a mixed grain such as wheat and rye, sown together or mixed after threshing, Yaxley 2003, 133.
- 58 Stephen Podd (pers. comm.) notes that in Framsdens, the field-name Sanfoin was corrupted to Silkfine.
- 59 Alder Carr is a common place-name in Suffolk; alder was used in structural piling and to make an anti-inflammatory ointment. Osiers were grown for the essential craft of basket-making.
- 60 Were the strawberries wild or cultivated?
- 61 For 'duffus', see 614.
- 62 Moor 1823, 247.
- 63 The same kind of identification is found in Guildhall Pightle at Fornham All Saints. The opposite happens

- when buildings survive physically, but without any record of their original purposes or later adaptations.
- 64 This move took place in the eighteenth century, Dymond and Paine 2012, 5, 7, 28.
 - 65 Keith Briggs (pers. comm.) suggests that at Laxfield a *Werkhous* of 1359 may have been a lodge or workshop beside the church, used by carpenters or masons. After the reform of poor relief in the 1830s, the new union workhouses soon appeared in local place-names, Union House Field (Stradbroke), Union House (Wickham Market).
 - 66 In 1783 the workhouse at Assington was built (or rebuilt) for £230; after 1834 it was sold and converted into cottages. Its identity and site were discovered by reference to its place-name.
 - 67 A similarly isolated site at Cavendish was called 'Pocky Hall'. Other examples are Doctors Close (Wattisfield), Doctors Hall (Stanton) and Doctor's Pasture (Hartest). Among Suffolk's minor names 'doctor' is not rare; it could derive from the provision of pesthouses, or from the raising of local funds to support medical services in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
 - 68 Parishes built stockhouses or storehouses to hold building materials, or food and fuel for the poor. Watchhouses were part of the policing system at parish level. Tollhouses on major roads were run by turnpike trusts.
 - 69 Parish House (Wattisham and Hinderclay) may have implied the same as Church House elsewhere, that is, a late medieval building for taking recreational pressures off the consecrated church and churchyard. Alternatively, it may have been a later charitable foundation such as a group of almshouses.
 - 70 Barracks can be used for working-class terraces or 'rows'; it can also be a corruption of OE *berewic* meaning barley farm.
 - 71 A beam-house may have been a special building for the storage of timber.
 - 72 For Wrens Park and derivatives, see Cavill 2018, 467.
 - 73 Harem Scarem, wild or reckless behaviour, Grose 1984. The name Tom and Jerry precedes by at least a century the American cat-and-mouse cartoon characters created by Hanna and Barbera.
 - 74 Hogarth lampooned as 'architectonic' the elaborate wigs worn in the eighteenth century, see the 1761 engraving by William Hogarth entitled *The Five Orders of Periwigs*.
 - 75 Dry Docking is a parish in north-west Norfolk. What was the connection with Stanton?
 - 76 Stephen Podd (pers. comm.) reports that farmworkers jokingly claimed to have been to America and back in a single day.
 - 77 Botany Bay near Sydney, Australia, where Capt. Cook of HMS Endeavour landed in April 1770.
 - 78 This might refer to the plant furze.
 - 79 Polstead had three such names (America Hill, Gibraltar Meadow and Sweden). Scotland Meadow probably refers to a local family of landowners.
 - 80 Previously Winthrop was elected the first governor of Massachusetts, Anderson 2012, 686–92. Other parishes using the place-name New England are Wangford (near Lakenheath) and Wickhambrook.
 - 81 Cloister may be a corruption of 'cluster'.
 - 82 Keith Briggs (pers. comm.) notes that impaugh and variants mean 'sapling enclosure'.
 - 83 Frith is probably based on OE *fybrth*, meaning wood, woodland or place of sanctuary.
 - 84 Wild Dairy is claimed to be a corrupted descendant of OE *wealc byrste* meaning 'Serf's Wood', from a charter of 962, Hart and Syme 1987, 165–81.
 - 85 Jack-in-the-Hedge was garlic mustard.
 - 86 Coney Clappers were artificially constructed rabbit burrows, Field 1989, 46; Halliwell 1847 (1), 252.
 - 87 Dodman or 'hodmandod' was an East Anglian word for a snail, Moor 1823, 108, 174.
 - 88 The hobby is a small agile bird of the falcon family, a summer visitor which feeds on insects.
 - 89 Paigles is a dialect term for cowslips, Moor 1823, 268–9.
 - 90 Picknuts is a corruption of 'pignuts', the nutritious tuber of a herb *Conopodium maius*; eaten particularly by pigs.
 - 91 Piss beds refer to dandelions, Cavill 2018, 331.
 - 92 Pudding poke is a name for the long-tailed titmouse, whose nest resembles the tapering bag (poke) in which meat puddings were traditionally cooked, Moor 1823, 294; Cavill 2018, 343.
 - 93 Thunderbolt denotes either the common red poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), or the fossil known as a belemnite, Halliwell 1847 (2), 871.
 - 94 Fallgate, a gate across a public road, Halliwell 1847 (1), 346.
 - 95 Fore Leet refers to the junction of four roads. Similarly, three leets.
 - 96 Now Ixer Lane, on the line of a north-south Roman road known as Peddars Way.
 - 97 An outgang is a route, sometimes funnel-shaped, leading from enclosed land to a common.
 - 98 Could refer either to flagstones or to the plant iris.
 - 99 Post-mills are sometimes illustrated in tithe maps, e.g. Depden and Gedding. Mill Post (Hawstead) suggests

- that only the vertical post survived above ground. In 1286–7 an account roll records a new mound and post-mill at Saxtead, Ridgard 1985, 27–8. A charter from Stanton in 1393 mentions four acres *prope montem molendini* [near the mound of the mill], Dymond 2009, 137–8. On Mellis Green and in Ickworth Park the mounds of former post-mills can still be seen in permanent grassland. At Flixton a recently excavated mill mound, possibly adapted from a Bronze Age tumulus, had stone and clay foundations, Boulter 2013, 68–74. A mound at Humberstone, Leicester, revealed ‘a well-preserved timber cross-tree foundation...within a construction slot cut into the natural clay’; pottery suggested use in the twelfth–thirteenth centuries, Thomas 2008.
- 100 ‘Ridges’ and ‘stetches’ are traces of earlier ploughing surviving in pasture land; in Midland England such features were often called ridge-and-furrow, but in Suffolk arable strips were ‘cast’ and ‘gathered’ to maintain a level profile, Stephen Podd, pers. comm.
- 101 Golden Pit may alternatively describe the colour of soil.
- 102 Morris 1986 (1), 6, 242. See Gelling 1978, esp. ch.6.
- 103 On Kiln Field at Wyken, in Stanton parish, low red mounds of brick debris are visible when ploughed.
- 104 The word ‘office’ relates to small-scale industrial activity, such as tanning or malting (not to ‘paper-pushing’).
- 105 The tithe map of Great Fakenham shows Coal Hearth as a building in the middle of Fakenham Wood. Little Whelneham has a Charcoal Meadow.
- 106 Fair could reflect the quality of the land; corroborative evidence is needed.
- 107 A ‘duddery’ is ‘a place where woollen cloth is sold or manufactured’, *OED*.
- 108 From the sixteenth century until the nineteenth, the September fair at Woolpit was noted for ‘great plenty of horses and colts’, Scarfe 1999, 78–9.
- 109 Two large fairs for sheep and cattle were held in Cowlinge every July and October, White 1844, 728.
- 110 The cucking-stool (or ducking-stool) was a machine by which a miscreant, often a female scold or dishonest tradesman, was dunked into a stream or pond for punishment and public disgrace; it consisted of a long cantilevered arm with a seat at the end. A fine example survives in the church of Leominster (Herefordshire).
- 111 In Catholic belief, Purgatory is a place or condition where sinners go to expiate their pardonable sins, before going to heaven. In the twenty-second of its Thirty-Nine Articles published in 1563, the Church of England officially abandoned the doctrine as ‘repugnant to the word of God’.
- 112 Land adjacent to the eastern arm of a church, or dedicated to its upkeep.
- 113 Catchpole, an old Suffolk surname, may signify a local official connected with tax-collecting or policing.
- 114 A corruption of Magdalen; possibly land associated with almshouses or a leper hospital.
- 115 Rubbing-houses were square structures of brick and tile on eighteenth-century racecourses, for rubbing down horses after exercise or racing. Those on Newmarket Heath were painted several times by George Stubbs.
- 116 A two-acre plot given to the village by the duke of Rutland *c.*1838–9, SA/B, FL608/1/3.
- 117 Playing Field (Framsden) was woodland in 1568 and then cleared, ‘playing’ is therefore a corruption of ‘playne’ meaning ‘cleared’, Stephen Podd, pers. comm.
- 118 Long thin bowling ‘alleys’ attached to major houses are probably earlier than square ‘greens’, which are often associated with public houses.
- 119 A glebe terrier of Stradishall in 1613 mentions a pigtle in which ‘standeth a payer of Butts’, SA/B, E14/4/1.
- 120 Shooting refers either to an angular corner of land, OE *sceat*, or to the practice of archery.
- 121 Dymond 1990, 1, 2, 165–92.
- 122 May have belonged to a pre-Reformation club of young unmarried men, Dymond and Paine 2012, 68 (note 278), 108–9 (notes 446, 455).
- 123 This name could refer to OE *grima*, ‘goblin’, or to ON *grima*, ‘blaze, boundary mark’.
- 124 Edward Martin (pers. comm.) notes that Master John de Walsham was living between 1283 and 1306/7.
- 125 Old Nick could here refer to the Devil, *OED*.
- 126 Charles Farrow (pers. comm.) notes that Tricker and Morris are local surnames.
- 127 Pickpocket and pick-purse could equally well be names for poor land.
- 128 McCormick 1967.
- 129 See Baines 1996, *passim*.
- 130 City Way at Whepstead sounds deliberately ironical.
- 131 A ‘puttuck’ was a large hawk or kite; a ‘pudduck’ was a toad, Moor 1823, 295.
- 132 Dungeon may refer to a parochial lock-up.
- 133 Arguably the verb ‘gannock’ referred to regrating or selling on at a profit, Briggs *et al.* 2016, 531–2. Later

- it connected with the job of gannocker, an ale-seller or keeper of an alehouse, Lock 2002, 208.
- 134 Grimestone may refer to a boundary marker, Cavill 2018, 182.
- 135 Perhaps this refers to the plant charlock (*Sinapis arvensis*).
- 136 Perhaps a jocular reference to an endowment which helped Darsham pay royal taxation.
- 137 Leet could refer to a watercourse or a road junction, Cavill 2018, 250.
- 138 Monks Does may refer to the deer of the abbot of Bury St Edmunds, lord of Melford manor.
- 139 Puthawk Mere may refer to a boundary, OE *meare*, or to a pond, OE *maer(e)*, Smith 1956 (2), 33–4.
- 140 Robin Goodfellow was a mischievous sprite first recorded in the thirteenth century, later used by Shakespeare: Halliwell 1847 (2), 688. His appearance in Rattlesden is not easy to explain.
- 141 Sotshole might signify an out-of-the-way place favoured by drunkards.
- 142 Dodd 1974.
- 143 Lock 1998 and 2002.
- 144 Dymond 2009.
- 145 Further examples from Stanton are *Hachedrolveshoutgond* (1330) and *Hoggyswoodefelde* (1481).
- 146 An example of deeper research is the Deben Valley Place Names Survey in east Suffolk undertaken by the Suffolk Local History Council. For some places such as Woolpit and Cotton, detailed manorial surveys await full analysis.
- 147 The two manors of Walsham may not have covered exactly the same area as the parish.
- 148 Because of the fragmentation of medieval holdings, the figure of 706 plots of land in 1842 must be considerably smaller than the equivalent figure in the Middle Ages.
- 149 At Sherington (Bucks), Baines suggests a 25 per cent survival from medieval times. See also Kilby 2017.

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Abbreviations

ME	Middle English.
OE	Old English.
OED	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> .
ON	Old Norse.
SA/B	Suffolk Archives, Bury St Edmunds.
SA/I	Suffolk Archives, Ipswich.