Post-medieval pottery

17. Upper part of body of narrow necked mug in dark grey stone-
    ware, milky-white internal glaze and mottled brown glazing
    over outer surface. Part of stamped acanthus leaf decoration
    remains on shoulder near handle. The sherd is from the handle
    side of a 16th-century German stoneware drinking mug.
    J. G. Hurst has recently discussed these imports (*Arch. Aeliana*,
    1974) and has suggested that this type with alternate moulded
    acanthus leaves and medallions dates to *c*. 1525-1575. Without
    knowing the form of the central band of decoration or whether
    the vessel had a face mask applied to the front, it is difficult
    to be certain but a date in the second half of the 16th century
    would seem appropriate and, together with the mottled glazing,
    should indicate a product of the Frechen kilns.
18. Rim from very large, unglazed storage jar in fine, sandy, bright
    brick-red fabric with dark surfaces and girth grooves round body.
19. Rim and handle from small bowl, fabric as before, with glaze
    over lower part of inner surface.
20. Sherd from rim of similar vessel, in the same fabric, but with
    more pronounced lid-seating in rim. These last three could be
    late 16th or 17th century.
21 and 22. Two sherds from bases of dark-glazed, sandy red-ware
    tygs. Generally these vessels are thought to be 17th century.
23–25. Many clay pipe fragments were found, mostly representing
    types dated to the 17th century (nos. 23 and 24) but with one
    18th-century (no. 25). There was only one bowl of this last type
    and it may represent a later stray rather than 18th-century
    occupation material.   S. NELSON

'*The Chilton Bulge*'—*The early mapping of Suffolk hundreds.* Most of the
early printed maps of English counties depict the boundaries of
hundreds and wapentakes. These governmental areas dating from
Anglo-Saxon times still had administrative, fiscal and tenurial uses
in the 16th and 17th centuries, though their courts had long since
lost significance beside those of local justices and itinerant judges.[12]
At the time of the Norman Conquest, Suffolk had 25 hundreds,
some of which were reckoned as twice, $1\frac{1}{2}$ or half the normal taxable
capacity. One new half-hundred was subsequently created at
Exning, but by the end of the Middle Ages amalgamations had
reduced the number to 21.[13]

[12] Helen M. Jewell, *English local administration in the Middle Ages* (1972), Ch. 5,
especially pp. 131–3. The wapentake is the equivalent of the hundred in the
north of England.
[13] *Victoria County History of Suffolk*, I, pp. 357–60; *Suffolk in 1524* (Suffolk Green
Books, No. X).

Certainly there was never any standard size or shape for these units of local government. In 1844 the half-hundred of Thredling, containing only five parishes in the Debenham area, was reckoned as 10,000 acres, but the two largest hundreds of Blything and Lackford were more than eight times larger.[14] Some boundaries are fairly straight but others tortuous and irregular. The pattern is particularly complex in the south-east of Suffolk where several hundreds have detached portions miles away from the main block. For example, Kelsale and Carlton are an outlying piece of Hoxne Hundred, while Kenton, Butley and Woodbridge were each outliers of the highly irregular Loes Hundred. In Norman times there was even more fragmentation, for Parham Hundred was divided into two blocks, and Claydon into three.[15]

The first printed map of Suffolk was published by Christopher Saxton in 1575.[16] He depicts the hundred boundaries in a crude way by drawing very approximate sinuous lines around groups of villages. He also begins the convention that, where a hundred has a detached portion as at Kenton or Kelsale-cum-Carlton, it is connected to the main block by a long tongue. In other words he creates a corridor which did not exist on the ground or bear the slightest resemblance to the behaviour of actual boundaries.

John Speed's map of Suffolk was engraved in 1610, and shortly after published in his *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine*.[17] He drew liberally on the work of Saxton, so that their two maps are closely similar in general and in detail. However there are interesting differences. For example Speed correctly puts Butley into Loes

[14] William White, *History, gazetteer and directory of Suffolk* (1844), p. 15.

[15] A map published by Norman Scarfe in his *Suffolk Landscape* (1972) makes it clear that most of these detached portions lie within the former Liberty of St. Etheldreda. This area of 5½ hundreds, known also as the Wicklaw, had been granted by King Edgar to the jurisdiction of Ely Abbey in A.D. 970 (see C. R. Hart, *Early charters of eastern England* (1966), p. 59) and is regarded by some as a miniature shire which may go back to 'an early, if not original, endowment of her monastery by Etheldreda, a daughter of one of the East Anglian kings in the 7th century' (Scarfe, p. 41). Most Suffolk hundreds are thought to have been formed in the 10th century (see R. H. C. Davis, *The Kalendar of Abbot Samson* (1954), pp. xxv-vi) but it is possible that the 5½ hundreds of the Wicklaw go back further, and that this accounts for their unusually fragmentary character.

[16] Christopher Saxton, 'Suffolciae Comitatus continens in se Oppida mercatoria 25, Pagos et Villas 464. Una cum singulis Hundredis et fluminibus In Eodem vera descriptio. Anno Domini 1575.' Scale: *c.* 3 miles to 1 inch. It was first published in atlas form in 1579. A facsimile was produced by the British Museum: *Saxton's Atlas of England and Wales* (1932–5 maps, 1936 text).

[17] John Speed, 'Suffolke described and divided into Hundreds, the situation of the fayre towne Ipswich shewed, with the armes of the most noble families . . . Performed by John Speede . . . Cum Privelegio 1610.' Scale: *c.* 3½ miles to 1 inch. Facsimile: C. W. Traylen, *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine 1611* (1955). Speed copied Saxton's well-known mistake of getting Thorpe and Aldringham the wrong way round.

rather than Plomesgate Hundred, and he drew a division between Samford and Babergh which Saxton had overlooked. Then, having adopted Saxton's convention for detached portions, he introduced an extraordinary new example of his own—which could be called 'the Chilton Bulge'.

In the south-west of Suffolk is the hundred of Risbridge. From its south-eastern corner near Clare, Speed drew a long corridor half-way across the neighbouring hundred of Babergh, to enclose the village of Chilton which lies one mile north-east of Sudbury (Plate XXVIII). For some reason he was convinced that this parish was a detached portion of Risbridge, even though it was over six miles from the nearest part of that hundred. In order to show that he was only concerned with Chilton itself, Speed made his corridor snake around, and avoid, the settlements of Glemsford, Cavendish, Melford, Sudbury and Great Waldingfield—though in reality the bulge would have slashed right across their parishes.

Of course Speed was utterly wrong in his mapping, as Chilton-by-Sudbury has always been part of Babergh Hundred. It appears in Domesday Book as such, and all subsequent tax-lists and surveys are in total agreement.[18] The mistake is however understandable, for having been told or having read that there was a place in Risbridge called Chilton, Speed assumed it to be the village near Sudbury and completely overlooked the hamlet of Chilton-*by-Clare*. Lying 1¼ miles north-west of the market town of Clare, and within its parish, this Chilton has always lain within the hundred of Risbridge and is clearly the place Speed was looking for; it is a hamlet which never acquired parochial status, in spite of the fact that a free chapel was built there as early as the 12th century.[19]

An early proof-impression of Speed's map reveals one last surprise. Originally the copper-plate from which the map was printed had shown the boundary *correctly;* the 'bulge' was in fact a later alteration. We do not know what persuaded Speed to change his mind, but faintly-inked lines and blots on the proof clearly show that a hatched boundary had been later erased, or partially so, by

[18] *V.C.H.*, I, p. 444; *Suffolk in 1524*, p. 16; White's *Directory* (1844), p. 546.

[19] In the 14th century, Chilton (by Clare) seems to have been reckoned as part of the parish of *Stoke*-by-Clare. See Lord Francis Hervey, *Suffolk in the 17th century* (1902), p. 118 for the Nomina Villarum of 1316; *Suffolk in 1327* (Suffolk Green Books, No. IX), p. 214; P.R.O., E 179, 180/29 for Poll Tax returns of 1377. The chapel, which lay near the Wentford Bridge and an early fairstead, was dissolved in 1547/8; its shell was subsequently converted into a private house and still survives. See Gladys Thornton, *A history of Clare, Suffolk* (1928), pp. 99–100. Speed's source for the vills in each hundred may have been the Nomina Villarum of 1316.

PLATE XXVIII
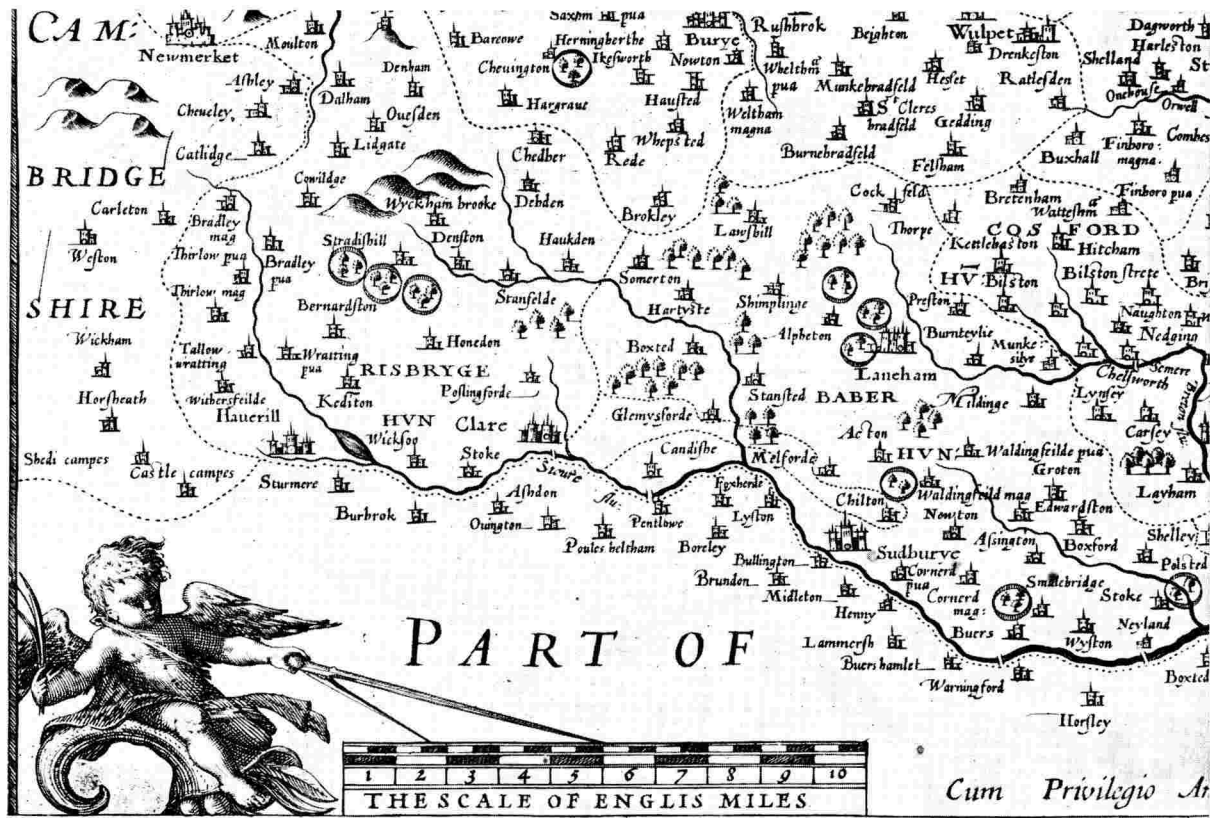
The Chilton bulge as shown in Speed's map, taken from an edition of 1616. Immediately east of Clare, the original boundary, later erased, is here restored by over-drawing. (Camb. Univ. Lib., Atlas 4.61.1)

a band of fine, roughly parallel scratches.[20] By 1616, the wear on
the plate had been sufficient to almost eliminate the fine lines, but
some blots on the original hatched boundary still showed (see
Plate XXVIII).

Once the mistake of the 'Chilton bulge' had been made, it took a
long time to get rid of. It was copied by several other map-makers
throughout the 17th century, for example Joannes Blaeu, Joannes
Jansson and Philip Lea, on the uncritical assumption that what
Speed had published must be right.[21] Only in the 18th century was
the 'bulge' finally dropped from new maps. Even so, Speed's
original plate of Suffolk continued in use; as late as 1743 Henry
Overton was still issuing the map with few alterations—and with
the 'bulge' just as it had been drawn in 1610.

Nearly 300 years after John Speed had overlooked it, the honour
of Chilton-by-Clare was somewhat restored. In 1906 Vincent
Redstone, the well-known Suffolk historian, published a transcript
of the Chantry Certificates of 1546: in his appended notes he mistook
a reference to Chilton-by-Sudbury for Chilton-by-Clare![22]

D. P. DYMOND

[20] *Suffolke* (1610) in collection of 66 proof-impressions of Speed's county maps,
known as the Gardner copy: Cambridge University Library, Map Room. I am
grateful to Mr. R. Fairclough for drawing my attention to this source, and for
commenting on this article.
[21] J. Blaeu, 'Suffolcia vernacule Suffolke' in *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (1645);
Joannes Janssonius, 'Suffolcia vernacula Suffolke' in *Novus Atlas*, Vol 4. (1646);
'Suffolk Described by C. Saxton Corrected and Amended with many Additions
as Roads &c by P. Lea' (*c.* 1690); *England Fully Described . . . by John Speed,
Reprinted 1743*.
[22] *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, XII., p. 77. Perhaps it should be pointed out here that there
is a *third* Chilton in Suffolk! Mercifully for historians, it lies well away from the
other two, and is one mile north-west of Stowmarket. Like its namesake near
Sudbury, it too was a Domesday vill.