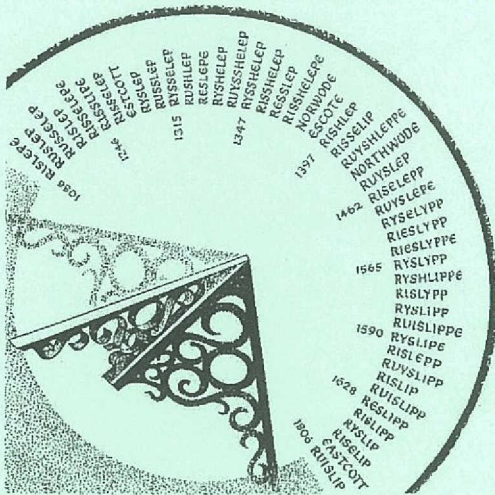


JOURNAL 2004



RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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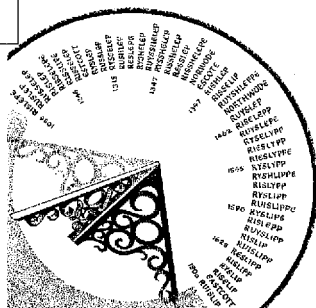
Cover picture: Cannons Bridge (Denise Shackell)

Designed and edited by Brian Grisdale

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Membership of the Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society is open to all who are interested in local history. For further information please enquire at a meeting of the Society or contact the Membership Secretary. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month from September to April and are open to visitors. (Advance booking is required for the Christmas social.)

An active Research Group supports those who are enquiring into or wishing to increase our understanding of the history of the ancient parish of Ruislip (the present Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote). Its members are largely responsible for the papers in this Journal, and for other Society publications that are produced from time to time.



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LECTURE PROGRAMME 2004 -2005

2004

September 20	A History of London Underground	DavidClark
October 18	AGM and The Church in the Meadows: 150 years of Holy Trinity, Northwood	Eileen BowIt & Simon Morgan
November 15	The Brentford Flood of 1841	Valerie Bott
December 20	The History of Pantomime	Barbara Lanning

2005

January 17	A History of London Woodlands	Colin Bowlt
February 21	The Archaeology of St Paul's Cathedral	John Schofield
March 14	Characters and Properties of old Ruislip	Research Group
April 18	The History of Cassiobury	SarahJones

Meetings are on Mondays at 8.15 pm and are held in St. Martin's Church Hall, Ruislip.

PARK HEARNE, CANNONS BRIDGE AND CHEAP SIDE RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX

Three hamlets that became Ruislip Common

By Eileen M. Bowlt

In this paper I explore the development of three Ruislip hamlets, Park Hearne, Cannons Bridge and Cheapside, from the time that they were first recorded until the present. I suggest why they came into being and assess their social significance over the centuries.

Most people in Ruislip are familiar with the name Cannons Bridge (sometimes written as one word) because there is a farm of that name at the top of Bury Street beside an entrance to Park Wood. The other two names are no longer current. Park Hearne was a hamlet situated north of the stream that ran through the shallow valley between Park Wood and Copse Wood and it virtually disappeared under the waters of Ruislip Reservoir (the Lido). Cheapside was an earlier name for Withy Lane.

Map 1 shows the relative dispositions of these areas.

Earliest references to the hamlets

Documentary references to Cannons Bridge have been found from the fourteenth century, to Park Hearne from the sixteenth century and to Cheapside from c1670.

Cannons Bridge was used as a place name in 1443/4 when William Edlin made over a cottage there to his wife, Constantine¹. However, a bridge called Cannons Bridge is mentioned some 50 years earlier, in 1377/8². Canon appears as a family name in a Customal of the Manor of Ruislip written c1245³, when Roger Canon's widow, Lucy, owned two crofts of land, perhaps in that locality. The Canons continued to feature as property owners in court rolls until the seventeenth century.

The first mention of Park Hearne is in the Ruislip Terrier of 1565⁴, but the place had probably existed in medieval times, because

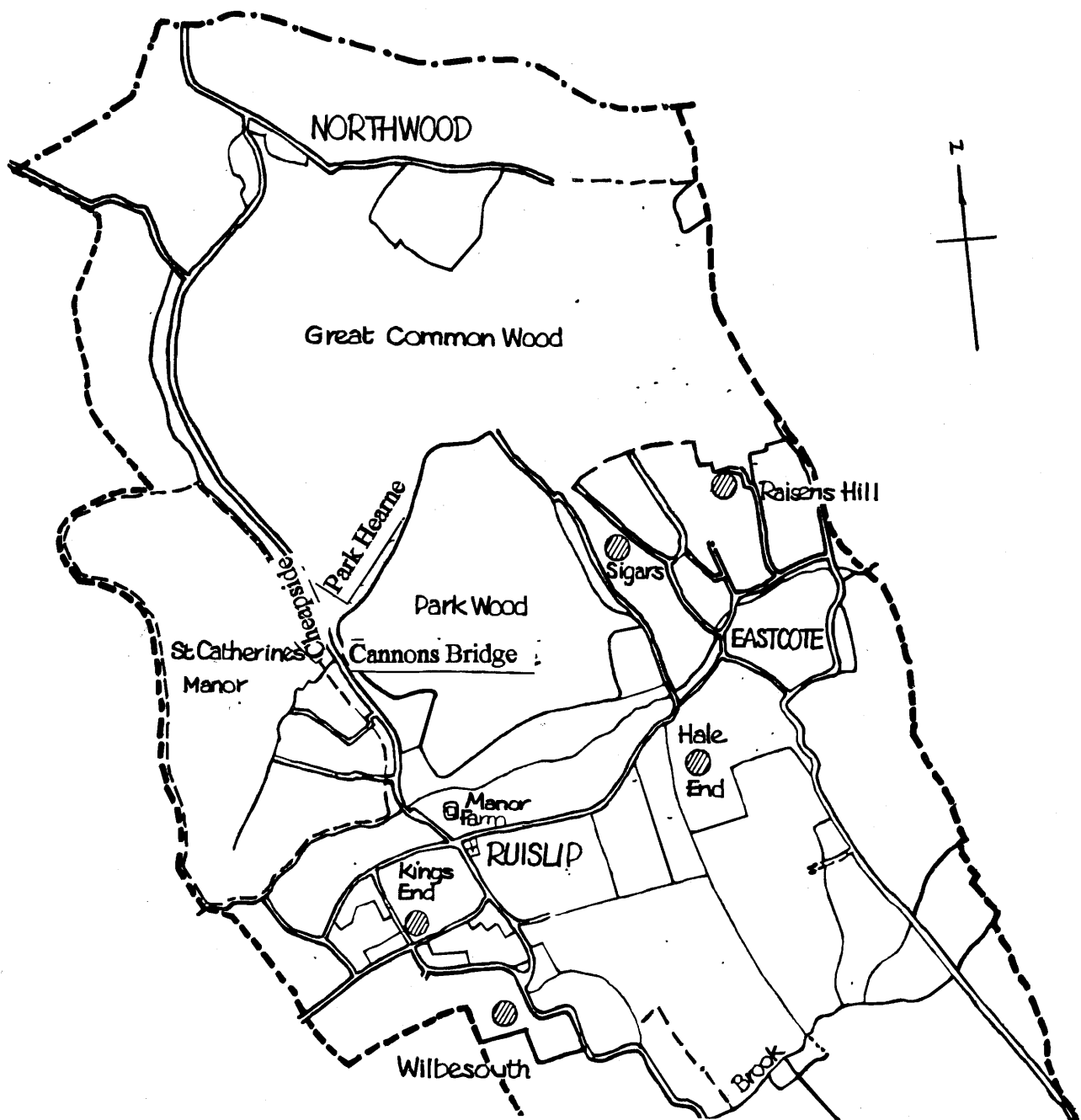
Hertfordshire/Middlesex greyware dating from the turn of the 13th/14th century was found when preparations were being made for the building of Abercorn Grove to the south of Reservoir Road in 1983⁵. The name derives from the position of the hamlet on the corner of the Park. 'Hearne' is from the Old English 'hyrne' signifying a corner or angle. By 1565 when the name is first used, the Park mentioned in the Domesday Book had extended beyond its original embanked enclosure to the stream.

There is evidence from the 1565 Terrier that the land that was later called Cheapside, was considered to be at or near Cannons Bridge and did not have a separate name at that time. Cheapside appears as a name in a Ruislip Court Books in 1678 and was later superseded by 'in the withies', becoming Withy Lane in Victorian times.

The area covered by the three hamlets generally became known as Ruislip Common in the nineteenth century.

The reason for the settlements

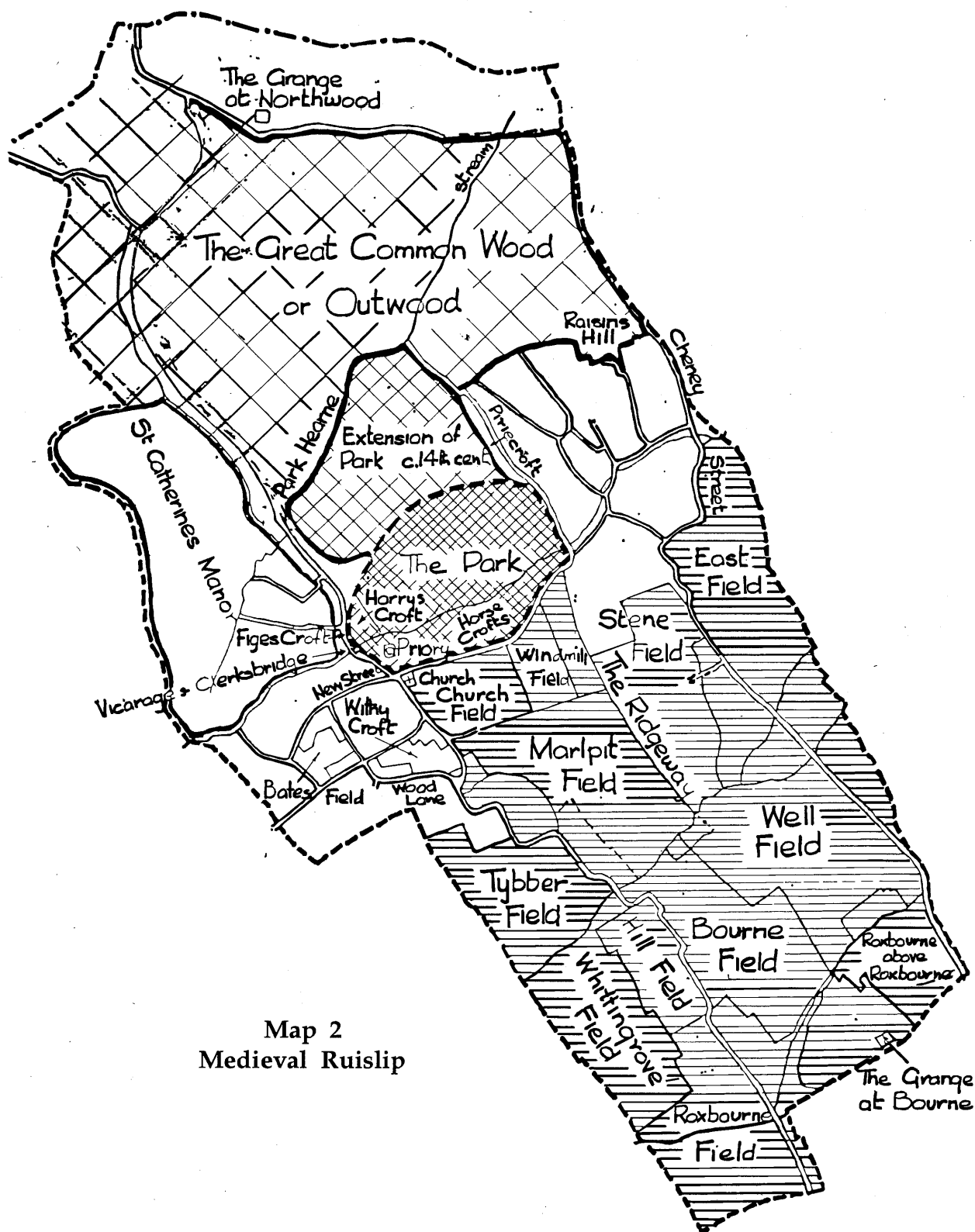
The three hamlets are rather more than a mile distant from the main settlement of Ruislip and its open fields, and one must wonder why they came into existence. A glance at Map 2 shows that the prime settlement at Ruislip, where a manor hall and a church had been established by the mid-eleventh century, was near the River Pinn. Open fields where crops could be grown were to the south of the manor hall and church, where the terrain was flatter. The slopes north of the Pinn were covered by the woodland that extended across most of north-west Middlesex. A park, where deer could be kept, had already been enclosed by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086.



Map 1
Showing the relative positions of Park Hearne, Cannons Bridge and Cheapside

The area outside the Park boundary (see Map 2) was known as the Outwood in medieval times. At an indeterminate date, before the sixteenth century, the Park had been extended northwards to the stream and the remaining woodland stretching to the Pinner boundary became Ruislip Common Wood or the Great Wood of Ruislip. The First Earl of Salisbury, lessee of the manor, cleared 500 acres in 1607 leaving Copse Wood and the rest of the land open waste or common⁷.

On the western side of the parish of Ruislip lay St Catherine's Manor, with a wooded area known as Westwood or Westwood Common, later to become what is now known as Mad Bess Wood. The boundary lay a little way to the west of Ducks Hill Road and Bury Street (see Map 2) so Cheapside/Withy Lane was in the main manor of Ruislip, nestling between the boundary embankment of St Catherine's Manor and Ducks Hill.



Map 2
Medieval Ruislip

The three hamlets under consideration were apparently nibbled out of the Outwood or Common Wood. The woods were the property of the Lord of the Manor, but the people of Ruislip had common rights in the common wood such as grazing and collecting fuel, which did not apply in the Park. Possibly the manorial authorities turned a

blind eye to a certain amount of clearance around the fringes of the common wood and hamlets were gradually established. Further down Bury Street, another settlement, Silver Street Green (near The Plough), must have come into existence before the Park's extension, since it nestles immediately outside the early embankment⁸.

Hertfordshire/Middlesex greyware dated c1300 was found there when the land was being prepared for the building of the Plough Farm houses in 1983⁹.

The three hamlets under consideration in this paper were not only on the edge of the Common Wood, but were also at a crossroads of two fairly important medieval routes and where a stream had to be bridged. Ducks Hill and Bury Street were part of the route from Rickmansworth to Ealing and ultimately London. A way from Uxbridge to Watford ran across Uxbridge Common, along Breakspear Road South, Breakspear Road and along the valley by the stream, to Northwood and from Batchworth Heath to Watford¹⁰.

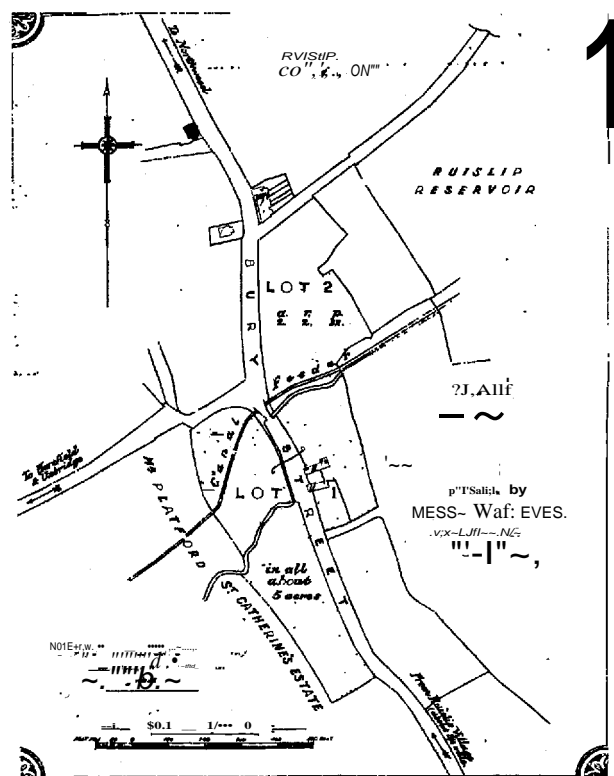
Park Hearne, Cannons Bridge and Cheapside would have all been attractive places to live, having running water for drinking, washing and sewage disposal, and the common woodland to provide grazing for the inhabitants' animals and fuel. There was also the possibility of paid work in the woods at certain times of the year. Accounts from 1289 show that the sale of wood made up 25% of the income of the manor and it is clear from other accounts that the hornbeam underwood was being coppiced in the fifteenth century, a job that must have occupied many labourers.

The Cannon Brook

Nowadays it is not very easy to see that Bury Street bridges a stream that runs from the Lido to the River Pinn. The stream does not seem to have an official name, but is known locally as the Cannon Brook, perhaps taking its name from Cannons Bridge. It runs into the Pinn near Tile Kiln Lane.

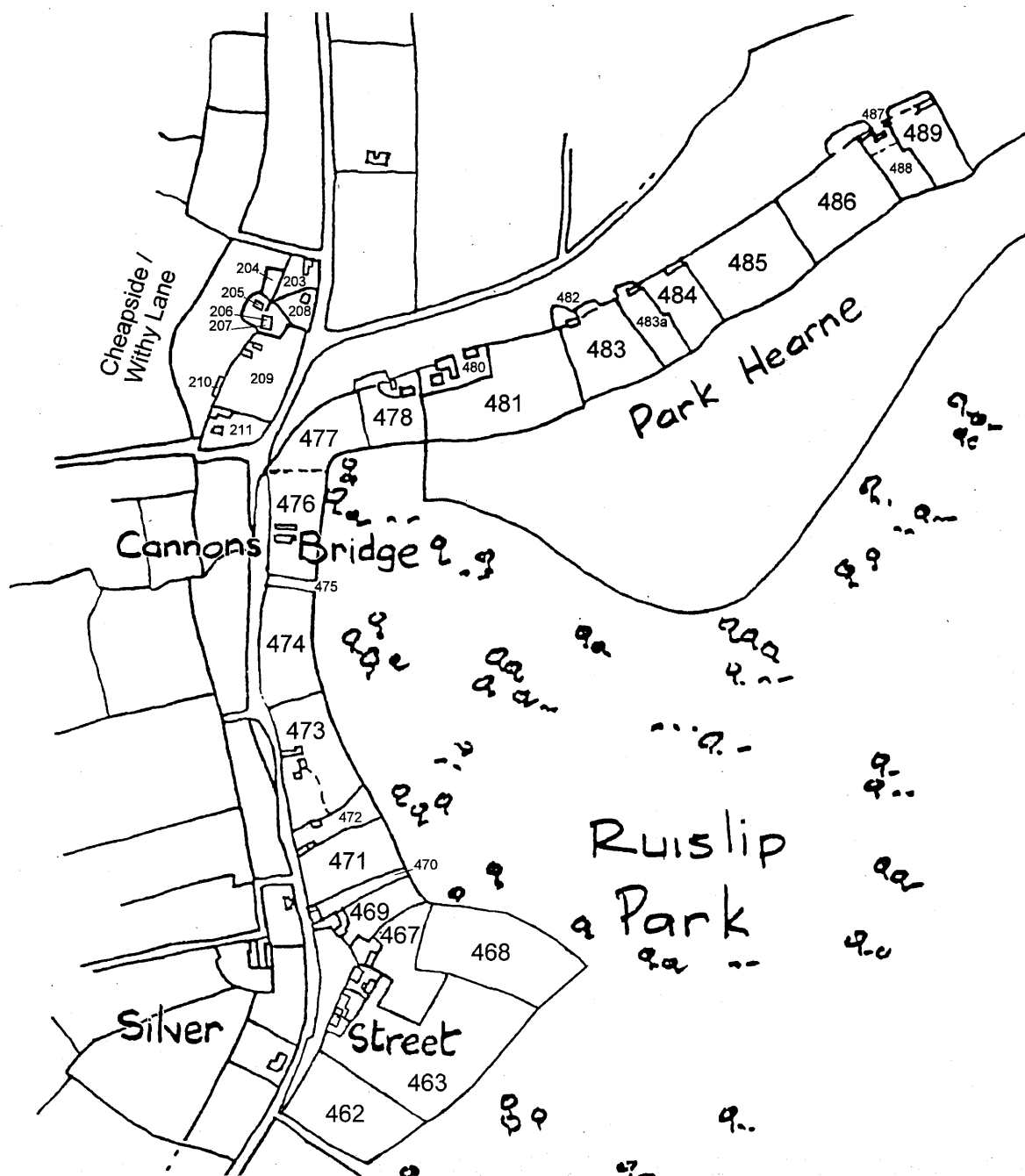
Map 3, is based upon the Enclosure Map of Ruislip surveyed in 1806 and shows the outline of the reservoir because at that time the land was being purchased by the Grand Junction Canal Company. It also shows the hamlet of Park Hearne that was shortly to vanish beneath the waters. The stream runs along the edge of the wood, crossing Bury Street obliquely and then down the western

side of the street to a point opposite Cannons Bridge Farm, where it veers to the west and crosses the fields towards Howletts Lane, as it still does. Oddly enough the map shows the stream crossing the road, rather than the road bridging the stream. Could the bridge have been out of repair at the time? There was certainly a bridge there in the fourteenth century and one is clearly drawn on Doharty's map of 1750. The original map also appears to show a branch of the stream, or perhaps a ditch fed by it, forming a boundary around Park Hearne and rejoining the main brook on the eastern side of Bury Street.



Map 4 A plan accompanying sales details for Cannons Bridge Farm in 1919, showing the disposition of the Canal Feeder in relation to the Cannon Brook

The Canal Feeder, through which water from the reservoir ran for the first time in 1816, lies very close to the Cannon Brook and only diverges from it after crossing under Bury Street. Map 4 shows the position of the two waterways in 1919. The feeder was diverted into the Brook in the mid-1970s when the Council built the Brickett Close estate right on the line of the feeder.



Map 3

Based upon the 1806 Enclosure Map of Ruislip, the original shows the Cannon Brook to the south of Park Hearne and a branch or ditch going around the northern boundary of the hamlet

Park Hearne in 1565

The Terrier (land survey?) of Ruislip made for King's College, the lords of the manor, in 1565, starts at Park Hearne and sets out the position of the houses and pieces of land there in relation to others nearby. The hamlet was described as being *'below the common wood called Ruislip Wood to the north and Ruislip Park to the south'*. There were five cottages at Park Hearne, two of them belonging to Agnes Winchester alias Mower and the others to John Martin, Ralph Barnard and Thomas Gates respectively. Each had an orchard, pasture or meadow alongside, varying in size from a quarter of a rood to two acres. Separate from the cottages were three enclosed pieces of pasture, all called Newlands, two owned by William Nicholas and the other by John Hale. The exact total is impossible to compute because one of Agnes Winchester's pieces was described as 'a small meadow' and the size of William Nicholas of Perivale's meadows is illegible in the document, but was probably about ten acres. Agnes's larger meadow was called Blackes and was two acres in size. The name, Newlands, suggests that land had been cleared of trees at the edge of the Common Wood, but not necessarily recently as the name 'new' could survive for centuries. John Martin's rights in his cottage lasted only during the lifetime of his wife, Ann. After her death it was to descend to Roger Est. Agnes Winchester's cottages and Blackes were to go to her daughter Joanne, as soon as she became 21.

Park Hearne ran into Cannons Bridge without any clear division. The last cottage at Park Hearne belonged to Thomas Gates and was said to be 'west by the close of John Stockden', whose cottage was 'at Cannons Bridge'. Fitting the descriptions together like a jigsaw puzzle, Thomas Gates's property can probably be identified with a timber-framed house, known in the mid-twentieth century as the Mushroom Farm or Dell Cottage, which was dismantled in 1964 and re-erected at Turville. It nestled down in the hollow at the western end of the Lido, where blocks of flats, built from 1965 onwards, now stand.

The aptly-named Dell Farm Road was made as an access road to the new development. Four hundred years ago, Thomas Gates had an orchard and an acre of meadow alongside, not to mention an unbroken view along the valley up to Haste Hill.

Cannons Bridge in 1565

John Stockden and William Nicholas of Perivale owned a cottage each 'at Cannons Bridge'. John's interest in the property was through his wife who had been married before and upon her death everything was to descend to Henry Redinge, the son of her previous marriage. His cottage, with an orchard and meadow alongside, lay between Thomas Gates's house and Cannons Bridge and is shown on the 1865 25 inch Ordnance Survey map, but the site had been cleared by the time of the 1897 OS map.

William Nicholas's house was situated on the north side of 'the Queen's highway at Cannons Bridge', almost certainly at the bottom of what became Cheapside and is now Withy Lane. He had a two acre meadow there as well.

There were other houses in Withy Lane lying to the north of William Nicholas's house, said to be 'at Cannons Bridge' in the Rental attached to the Terrier. They were owned by William Winchester alias Mower, William Barrenger and Robert up ton, whose cottage was described as lying north against Ruislip Common Wood. The Common Wood in 1565 was 800 acres in size and stretched from the Pinner boundary in the east to the boundary of St Catherine's Manor in the west. That boundary now runs through Breakspear Crematorium grounds and is clearly marked by an embankment and ditch running north through Mad Bess Wood parallel with Ducks Hill. In the sixteenth century Ducks Hill was simply a track meandering up through the Common Wood, east of the boundary.

The one house, mentioned in the Terrier that still stands, Cannons Bridge Farm, belonged to Godfrey French and was described as being south of John Stockden's land and

between Ruislip Park on the east and the road to Cannons Bridge on the west. A two acre meadow was attached. This house was called Petres in the Rental. It was Godfrey's during his wife's lifetime, but no heirs were named.

There were two more houses between Ruislip Park and the road to Cannons Bridge. One belonging to Ralph Reding was called Wecharde's Hill and the other was owned by John Flye. The next building to the south was said to be in Silver Street (the portion of Bury Street by The Plough and Woodman Farm).

If these two are included in the count there would have been nine houses in the Cannons Bridge - Withy Lane area in 1565.

Park Hearne, Cannons Bridge and Cheapside in the seventeenth century

A Ruislip Court Book in the British Library's, running from 1589 to 1681, and another document there, a Survey's made in 1685, make it theoretically possible to trace the ownership of the houses mentioned above over a long period, especially as the Survey was clearly used as a working document at the manor courts and has marginal notes added down to 1707. However, there are some problems. Firstly there is the gap in documents between 1565 and 1589, during which time many people may have either inherited or purchased property and secondly there is the possibility that some transactions failed to be registered at the manor court.

The 1685 Survey names seven dwellings at Park Hearne, an increase of two over the 120 years since 1565, but the quantity of land remained at roughly nine acres. None of the owners' surnames correlate with those in the Terrier. They were Sarah Shepherd, James Batt, Richard Tunbridge, Richard Tuly, Widow Hill of Harefield, Matthew Bodimead and Henry Edlin. Matthew Bodimead's cottage was valued at only 10 shillings per annum and all the rest at £1 5s. Based upon the Doharty Map of 1750 (see below, Map 5) I suggest that two of the plots of land had

been subdivided and new cottages built.

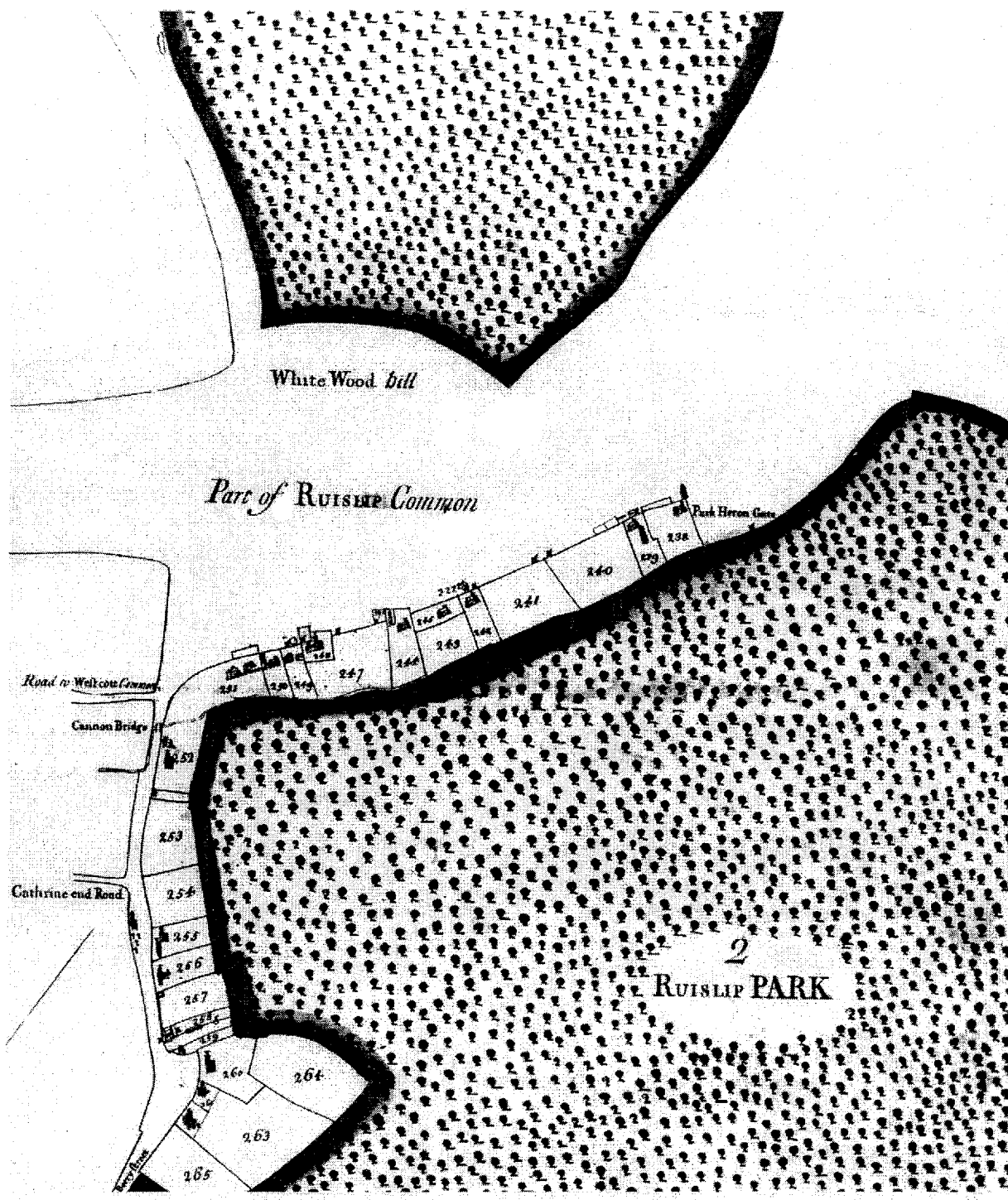
Much more development had taken place in the area that had been designated as Cannons Bridge in 1565. There were six houses 'at' or 'near' Cannons Bridge, one 'near Cheapside and Cannons Bridge' and eight 'in' or 'at' Cheapside, making 15 altogether, where there had only been nine in the previous century. It is quite likely that some new buildings had been erected, but others may have been divided into two or more dwellings. This was common practice in Harefield, where the manor court rolls are more explicit. The Ruislip cottages were valued at 10 shillings, £1, £1 5s, £1 10s or £2 per annum. The least valuable may represent divided cottages.

Such increase in population could reflect growing prosperity.

The eighteenth century: information from Doharty's Map of the Demesne lands 1750 See Map 5

Although not part of King's College demesne, the houses at Park Hearne and down the eastern side of Bury Street were shown on Doharty's map, and their owners are named in the accompanying Terrier.

There are 13 plots at Park Hearne numbered on the map and ten of them have buildings drawn on them, three more than in 1685. I suggest that plots 250 and 251 had been enclosed and had cottages built upon them since 1685, but admit to some difficulty in that the house in plot 249 seems to have been John Stockden's house in 1565, then said to be at Cannons Bridge. The first plot on the Doharty Map, no 238 is close to a gate into Park Wood, labelled 'Park Heron Gate'. Note the interesting metamorphosis of the name. Six plots have two buildings and one has three. The drawings are extremely attractive and detailed and include shadows suggesting that the sun was in the west when they were executed. It could be assumed that the nine buildings with chimneys are houses and those without either barns or outhouses.



Map 5

A copy of the Park Heame and Cannons Bridge portion of Doharty's Map 1750

Various styles and size are depicted. One has a cross wing, others have dormers and the rest are simple rectangular shapes. The largest is in plot 248 and appears to have a wing at right angles to the main house and at least two chimneys. There is evidence of encroachment onto the common in several cases, in plot 246 for example, and the little building, perhaps a lodge standing outside the gate of plot 244, has four carefully drawn trees sheltering it.

It would be easy to be beguiled into believing that we are looking at a realistic picture of Park Heame, but we have to remember that Doharty's map has a number of inaccuracies, not least in its alignment and rather oddly in the position of Sharps Lane on a section of the map not shown here. None the less the differing sizes of the houses and the disposition of the buildings must surely give us an impression of how the hamlet looked.

Two pieces of meadow, plots 241 and 242, seem to correspond with the area called Newlands in 1565 and numbers 243 and 245 could be one of Agnes Winchester's cottages and small meadow. Looking at the map it is easy to see how the settlement arose, near the stream and close to the common wood and later open common, where pasture was readily available for animals and paid work could be found in the woodland.

Between Cannons Bridge and Silver Street Green, three plots, 252, 255 and 256 are shown with buildings. From its position beside the way into Park Wood, 252 is Cannons Bridge Farm. Two buildings, both with chimneys are shown. The small building end on to the road looks suspiciously like the house that still stands, although now extended, in which case the other building has long since disappeared and the stable that now stands to the left of the gate dates from the late eighteenth century or later. Alternatively, Doharty simply got it wrong.

Plots 255 and 256 perhaps correlate with Wechardes Hill and John Flye's message of 1565. Both sites were later occupied by the present Bury House and its grounds. The house drawn in 256 is quite elaborate with a long frontage and wing jutting out centrally behind.. I have suggested previously (this journal 1998) that the wall of post medieval date found when the ground was being prepared for the development of Woodside in 1998, may have been connected with John Flye. Woodside stands in what was plot 257 on Doharty's map which has a very small building in one corner. There can be no certainty on this point.

Owners of property between Park Heron Gate and Silver Street Green 1750 from Doharty's Map and Terrieri?

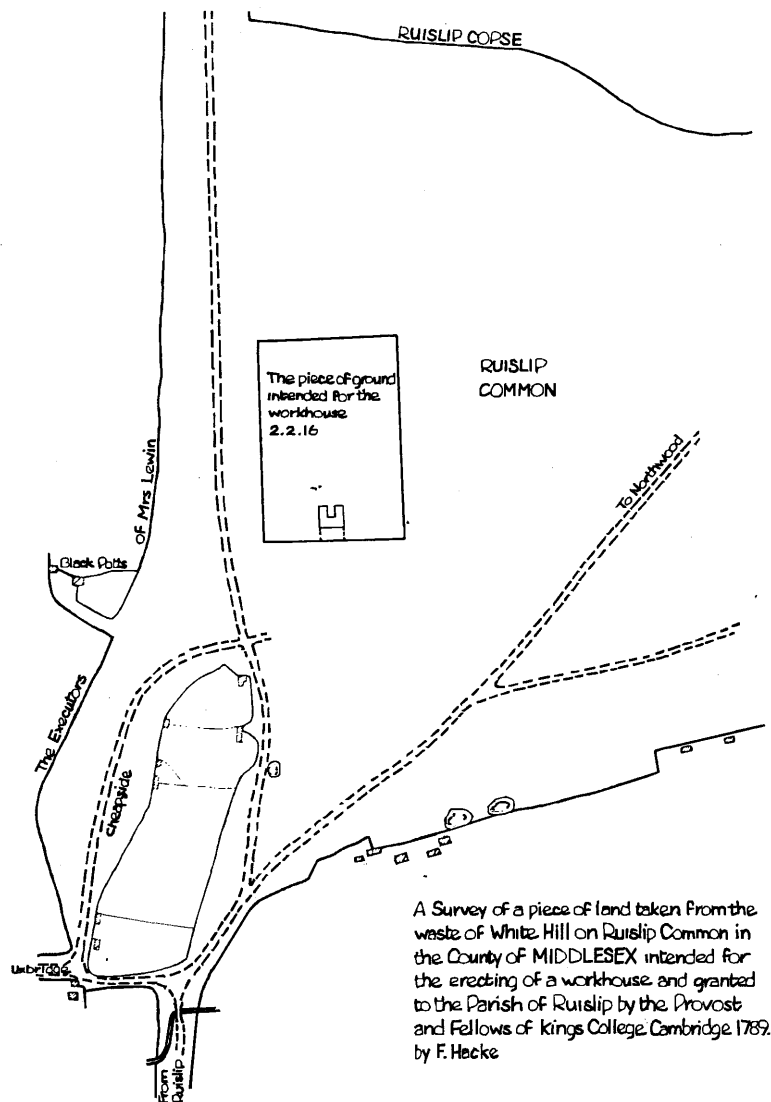
238	John Paine	2 buildings
239	Sarah Anderson	2 buildings
240	Mr Banister	meadow
241	Sarah Anderson	meadow
242	Mathew Sach	2 buildings and pasture
243	Richard Marsh	meadow

244	Richard Marsh	1 building & meadow
245	John Sears	1 building and pasture
246	Matthew Bugbeard	1 build. & pasture
247	Stephen Swain	meadow
248	Austin Nichols	1 building and pasture (became Dell Cottage)
249	Stephen Swain	2 buildings & pasture
250	Charles Turner	2 buildings
251	Charles Turner	2 builds. & meadow (one is Shepherd's cottage and garden)
252	William Cranwell	2 builds. & meadow (Cannons Bridge Farm)
253	Mr Perry	the woodway
254	Mr Perry	meadow
255	Mr Perry	2 buildings and pasture
256	Henry Arnold	1 building and pasture
257	Charles Turner	meadow

Cheapside in the eighteenth century

Cheapside is not shown on the Doharty Map, but it is beautifully depicted on a map drawn in 1789 in preparation for the building of a parish workhouseis. (see Map 6) Seven buildings are shown, probably all cottages, but there maybe a barn or shed among them. The lane marked Cheapside (now Withy Lane) runs to the west of the settlement and joins into the track that is Ducks Hill. This map clearly shows Cheapside as being a rather haphazardly arranged group of dwellings taken out of Ruislip Common. The line on the map that is marked 'The executors of Mrs Lewin' is the boundary of St. Catherine's Manor. One of the buildings at the bottom of the lane corresponds to William Nicholas's house that was said to be 'at Cannons Bridge' in 1565. It may be on the site of The Ferns, now a monumental mason's premises.

The little hamlet seems to have had its own public house, The Black Potts, just across the boundary. The Black Potts is mentioned in Licensed Victuallers' records from 1748¹⁹. William Bugbeard, Henry Burkett, John Clayton and Ann Clayton were licensees up to 1807. The field in which it stood is called 'Black Spots', a slightly corrupted version of the name, to the present day, although only older Ruislip residents remember this.



Map 6 Workhouse Map 1789

The creation of the reservoir and the end of Park Hearne

When the common fields and waste of Ruislip were enclosed between 1804-14, a certain amount of land was sold by auction to cover the costs. Other sales took place privately. The Grand Junction Canal Company purchased the valley at Park Hearne to form a reservoir. Having purchased common land from the Enclosure Commissioners, the General Committee of the Canal Company still had to bargain with King's College for a piece of Park Wood and with the proprietors of the cottages at Park Hearne. Negotiations began in 1805.

Ownership of Old Enclosures 477-489 as shown in the Ruislip Enclosure Award ²⁰ 1814 - See Map 3

- 477 Rev Richard Glover
- 478 Rev Richard Glover
- 479 Rev Richard Glover cottage
- 480 Henry Golder cottage
(became Dell Cottage or Mushroom Farm)
- 481 Henry Golder
- 482 Mrs Treadaway cottage
- 483 Rev William Blencowe
- 483a Robert Lively cottage
- 484 Robert Lively cottage
- 485 William Anderson
- 486 William Anderson
- 487 Daniel Hill cottage
- 488 William Anderson
- 489 John Dean cottage

There was probably some opposition to the creation of the reservoir. Henry Golder at first refused to treat with the Company on any terms, whilst other owners hedged until better prices were offered. Henry Golder and Robert Lively sold out to John Dean in the summer of 1807 and in August the company was able to complete the purchases. The Company paid the Rev William Blencowe £210 for a cottage and one and a half acres, £100 to Daniel Hill for a cottage and 21 perches and £250 to John Dean for three cottages and five and a half acres. The Company Minutes state that those prices 'were collectively more moderate than purchases formerly made for the reservoir in that parish'. The Canal Company, as can be seen from rate books and a Terrier of 1837²², purchased Old Enclosures 481-9, so Henry Golder sold only his meadow and retained his cottage in OE 480 although it is shown on the map as within the land to be purchased by the company.

Hugh Mackintosh constructed the reservoir in 1811, with John Rennie as Consulting Engineer. The embankment was not built right at the edge of the company's property, but through OE 481. The reservoir was reported to be nearly full of water in December 1811²³. The parish rate books show that the tenants remained in the cottages until June 1811²⁴. There is an unsubstantiated story that the military had to be called out from Windsor to evict them. The rate list for December 1811 shows three of them living in other cottages in the vicinity. James Bray was actually living in his own cottage, a mean affair, presumably, since it was rated at only £2 per annum. The fate of the other two tenants is unknown.

Presumably the cottages were dismantled before being submerged, as timber and other materials were usually reused, rather than being wasted. The outline of part of the one in OE 489 emerged as a crop mark in 1990, when the Lido was drained for several months to allow repairs to the swimming area.²⁵

Old Enclosures 478-9 equate with Plot 249 on Doharty's Map and the house in 479 would have been John Stockden's cottage 'at Cannons Bridge' in 1565. The Enclosure Map seems to be well surveyed and reliable and shows no buildings further west on the bend round to Bury Street, leaving us to wonder what happened to Plots 250-1 drawn so painstakingly by Doharty. Were they really built after 1685 and demolished before 1805? It would seem so.

The only buildings remaining; in OE 479 and 480, seem to have been survivors from the sixteenth century, John Stockden's and Thomas Gates's houses respectively.

The effects of the enclosures

The Enclosure Commissioners laid out what is now Reservoir Road, to run along the northern edge of the reservoir. Former waste between Old Enclosures 477-80 and the new road was divided and allotted to Henry Golder (New Enclosure 56) and the Rev Richard Glover (57a and b). 39 acres of land between Copse Wood and Park Wood were granted by the commissioners for the use of poor people for grazing and survives as Ruislip Common. The rest of the land between Reservoir Road and Copse Wood, apart from the Workhouse (now the Old Workhouse in Ducks Hill) and its ground, was also allocated, mostly in small pieces to various proprietors. Sometimes the new landowners used these otherwise unproductive small enclosures to build cottages and this happened in a small way along Reservoir Road.

New Enclosures 49, where a modern house stands beside the 'bus turn around point in Reservoir Road, and 51 had been purchased by William Poulter. By 1818 the rate books²⁶ show him as the owner of four small cottages and by the time of his death in 1829, there were six, all with a low rateable value, showing that they were intended for the labouring classes. Four of them appear to have been built in NE 51, now the site of numbers 7-11 Reservoir Road.

Ralph Deane of Eastcote House was allocated NE 45 on the common and purchased NE 53 from Richard Bugbeard and 54a and 54b from members of the Decharme family, giving himself a frontage up Ducks Hill. He built a cottage there²⁹. The adjoining 16 acre field, NE 50 also became part of the Deane's estate in 1819²⁸. The Council houses, built in 1919 and more recently on Reservoir Road, stand at the bottom end of this field, most of which remains open to the public. Ralph Deane also bought the Workhouse when it became redundant in 1838 as a result of the Uxbridge Union Workhouse having been erected at Hillingdon in accordance with the Poor Law Amendment Act. He converted it into cottages²⁹. Many years later, after his death in 1852, his son, Francis Henry Deane, seems to have sold the cottage in Ducks Hill to Fanny Collins. Pages Cottages were built on the site in 1906 and Ducks Hill cottages a little later. The cottage on the corner became Brocklehurst's Stores. The shop has been boarded up for many years.

Francis Henry Deane built a keeper's cottage on NE 45 between Reservoir Road and Copse Wood before 1865 and Harry Edgell Esq and E. Robinson built cottages in NE 42 and 47 on the same strip of land.

The 1837 Terrier ³⁰ gives the owner of OE 480 and NE 56 as Mr Churchill, 'late Henry Coulter'. The occupier was James Massey. His wife, Charlotte, hailed from the Isle of Wight and had first married the William Poulter mentioned above, who was some twenty years her senior, in 1819. After he left her a widow with three small children alive in 1829, she bore an illegitimate child, Eli, to Mark Clayton, publican at the Six Bells. Mr Clayton paid two shillings and sixpence a week towards Eli's upkeep, from September 1831 until Charlotte married James Massey in 1835, when payments ceased. The Masseys had four children of their own³¹.

However, Charlotte had more than her four children to offer James. She had also William Poulter's cottages, including the one in which she and her family lived.

William Poulter left everything to Matthew Ratcliffe and Thomas Gregory in trust for the maintenance of his wife and her children lawfully begotten until the youngest child became 21 years of age. Then the property was to be sold and the proceeds divided equally among his wife and children, including three natural daughters³².

For a short time after her new marriage Charlotte continued to figure in the rate books as Mrs Poulter and owner of the various cottages. James Massey seems to have moved into her house. In October 1836 James occupied a house owned by 'his wife in trust for her children³³'. At the next rate in January 1837 'Mrs Massey' is the owner and Charles Massey is living in the house, whilst Charlotte and James have moved back into a cottage that James lived in previously owned by Harry Edgell Esq on the other side of Reservoir Road; By April 1838 the Masseys appear as joint owners of the Poulter property and in August 1838, James Massey features as the sole owner. The 1837 Terrier shows them unequivocally living in Harry Coulter's former cottage in OE 480, apparently owned by William Churchill, whose name is pencilled in faintly. They seem to be a couple that moved around a lot, but always within a small area. Although describing himself as an agricultural labourer in the 1851, 61 and 71 census returns, James Massey appears to have laboured for the Regents Canal Company rather than local farmers. Charlotte's death certificate refers to him as labourer to the Canal Company and on his own death certificate in 1871, he was actually described as a manager of the Canal Company. Their son, Thomas, was working for the Company as a Reservoir Keeper at the time of the 1881 census. This reminds us that the Reservoir and the ground around it had to be maintained. The Company let the shooting rights to local gentry and employed a gamekeeper who may have lived in F.H. Deane's keeper's cottage.

By the time the 1865 25 inch OS map was being surveyed a pair of cottages had appeared within the curtilage of the original house in OE 480. Just when the Masseys

moved away from OE 480 is not clear because the rate books are not continuous. William Churchill left the house to Martha Pearce, and Charles James Filkins, a Harefield farmer, bought the cottage and three roods of land from James Pearce and Charles Davis Browne in 1891. When he was admitted to the property at a Manor Court in June 1891, the cottage was described as being 'at Park Hearne near Cannons Bridge and formerly in the possession of Henry Coulder'. This reasonably positively identifies the property as Dell Cottage (the Mushroom Farm) and is a very interesting late reference to Park Hearne. The house was divided into two at that time and occupied by Samuel Hearne and Widow Massey. Mr Filkins also had two cottages built on the site on the side of Reservoir Road on the edge of his land, where Job Lavender and William Ives lived. With Dell Cottage divided into two, this gave him six cottages' on the original OE 480 and NE 56.

The Filkins family retained the cottages until their demolition. Mrs Filkins improved them by building on bathrooms at the side about 1960, when the Longhursts and O'Sheas were living in the two oldest ones²⁵. They all stood empty for several years before being demolished in 1983 to make way for Abercorn Grove.

Dell Cottage, however, was purchased by the Berrys and made into a beautiful single house again. They grew mushrooms there until moving to Turville in Oxfordshire (taking the dismantled house with them) in 1964. The resurrected cottage is called Badgers.

Cheapside/Withy Lane and the Enclosures See Map 7

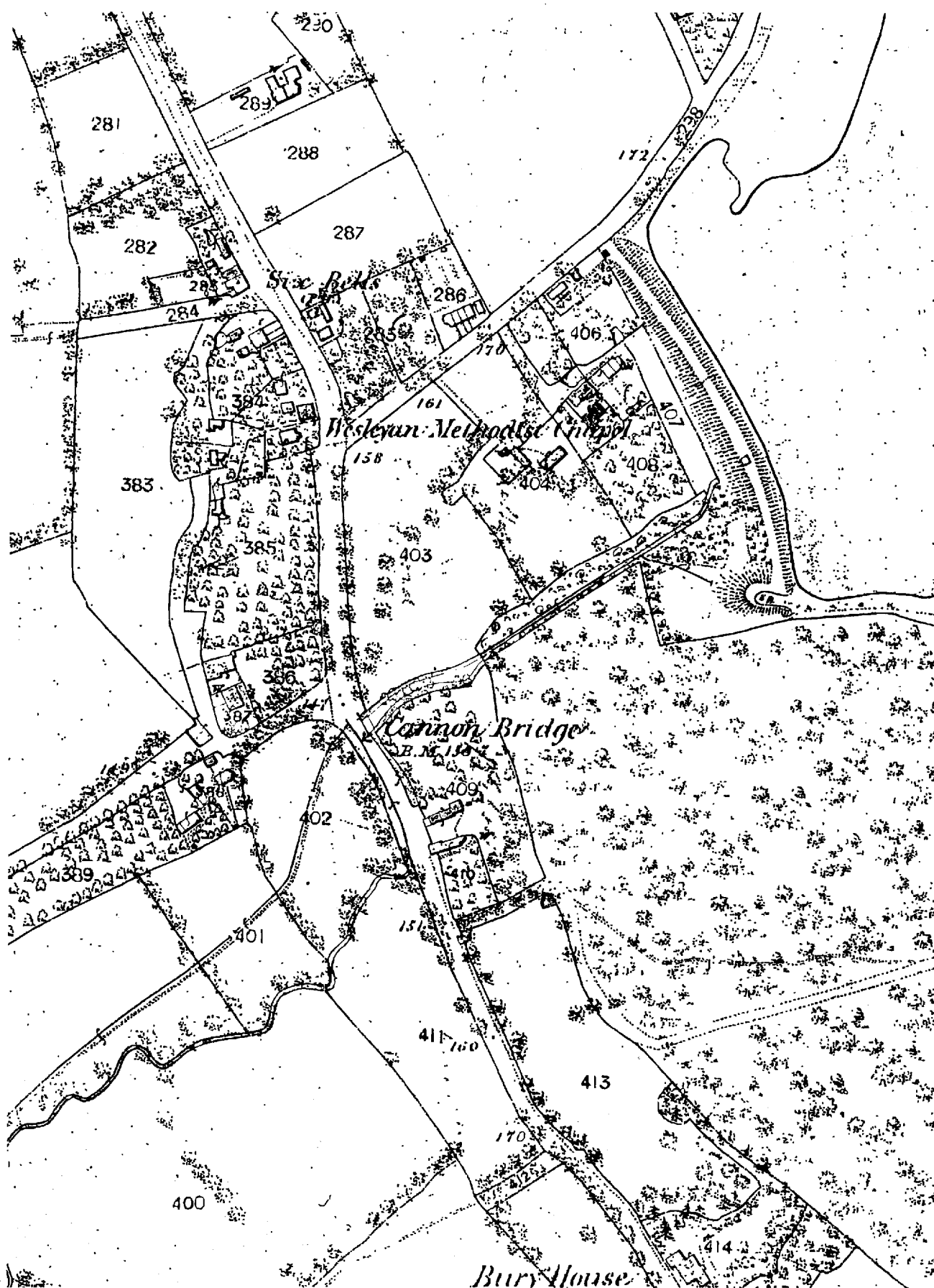
By the time the Enclosure Map was drawn in 1806, there were still seven buildings shown in Cheapside as there had been in 1789. We also have information from rate books to tell us whether they were dwellings or barns etc. All seven were cottages apparently. OE 211 corresponds with The Ferns, the sole

survivor from early times, but not for long as there is a planning application for its demolition and replacement by flats. Most of the houses and cottages in Withy Lane were demolished in the mid-1970s. Working on descriptions of the buildings as they were in the 1940s³⁶, it would seem that two of the four houses mentioned in the 1565 Terrier were still standing and the footings of another were above ground. I suggest that the seven houses shown on the Enclosure Map were the four mentioned in 1565 and three more built in the seventeenth century.

The enclosure failed to inspire the sort of new building that was seen in the Reservoir Road area. The 1865 OS map shows much the same configuration of buildings as the enclosure map, with perhaps one additional house and, important for the spiritual life of the area, a chapel. The chapel had been built in 1852 for the use of 'Protestant Evangelical Dissenters' and had been licensed in 1854. This was the first dissenting place of worship on the Westcote side of the parish. The OS map marks it as a Wesleyan Methodist chapel and in 1882 it came under the direction of Primitive Methodists³⁷.

The land between the lane and the boundary of St Catherine's was allocated by the enclosure commissioners as common land for the use of those occupying cottages of not more than £5 per annum rateable value, in other words, the poor. All the properties in Withy Lane fell into this category³⁸. This portion of the common was sold in October 1961 to the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council with the approval of the Charity Commissioners. It now forms part of Breakspear Crematorium grounds.

The lane into St Catherine's actually led to the public house called The Black Pots, situated between the stile and the Crematorium fence. Ann Clayton was the licensee from about 1775 to 1807 and it was owned by Messrs Shepherd and Lewin, the main proprietors in St Catherine's³⁹.



Map 7
The 1865 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map

There was another licensed house close by called The Six Bells, standing on the corner of Howletts Lane. Samuel Salter, the Rickmansworth brewer, acquired it before 1807, and he was given one and a quarter acres of waste, NE 59, in 1806. The present Six Bells was built upon it sometime after the sale of the old Six Bells in 1809⁴⁰. Members of the Ive family were licensees on and off until the 1950s. The Black Pots probably went out of business as it ceases to appear in rate books, but William Woodley who had bought the old Six Bells from Salter, was still running a beer-house on the old site at the time of the 1837 Terrier.

Ruislip Common in the twentieth century See Map 8

NE 57a and b on the bend of Reservoir Road remained free of development until the twentieth century when a commercial/industrial area developed. The area is shown as Lot 2 on Map 4 as it was in 1919, described as 'ripe for building purposes'. The 1935 OS 25 inch map shows the early stages. Three pairs of cottages had been built on Reservoir road, one of which was a grocery and Post Office. Just round in Bury Street stood a workshop beside a large bungalow called Chelmsine Court. Further down the hill towards the stream was a timber yard occupying the whole area now occupied by New Wave and the garages behind Bellway. Peter Baxter, who moved into Chelmsine Court with his family in 1941 (having being bombed out in Ealing) recalls that the timber yard was owned by 'Ratty' Lavender. Rather confusingly there was another woodyard on the corner of Breakspear Road in the 1960s owned by a Reg Lavender. Ratty also had a herd of dairy cattle at the Homestead on the north side of Reservoir Road (now a paint spray business) and each morning they were taken across Ducks Hill and along the lane by the Six Bells into Black Spots Field⁴¹.

The workshop beside Chelmsine Court became a garage and eventually a petrol station. Two Polish men who had worked at Northolt Aerodrome as engineers, W. Knarr

and M.T. Skiba ran it. Mr Skiba moved across the road in the early 1960s and opened a new petrol station on the corner of Breakspear Road beside the new fire station. The Baxters replaced their bungalow with the Chelmsine Court group of offices that still stands. They ran various enterprises there, building, landscape design and the Punch and Judy Cafe in the 1970s. Other firms had premises near the stream, in an area known as Bury Wharf. Siebert Ltd. (builders), Osborne (radio and TV), ECC Telecommander Ltd and Prowings, were all there in the late 1950s⁴³. A large yard below and behind Chelmsine Court was owned by Archie White, the chimneysweep. He eventually sold out to Prowings and they built Breakspear House. The area has been extensively redeveloped in the 1990s with larger buildings being erected, but is still commercial in character.

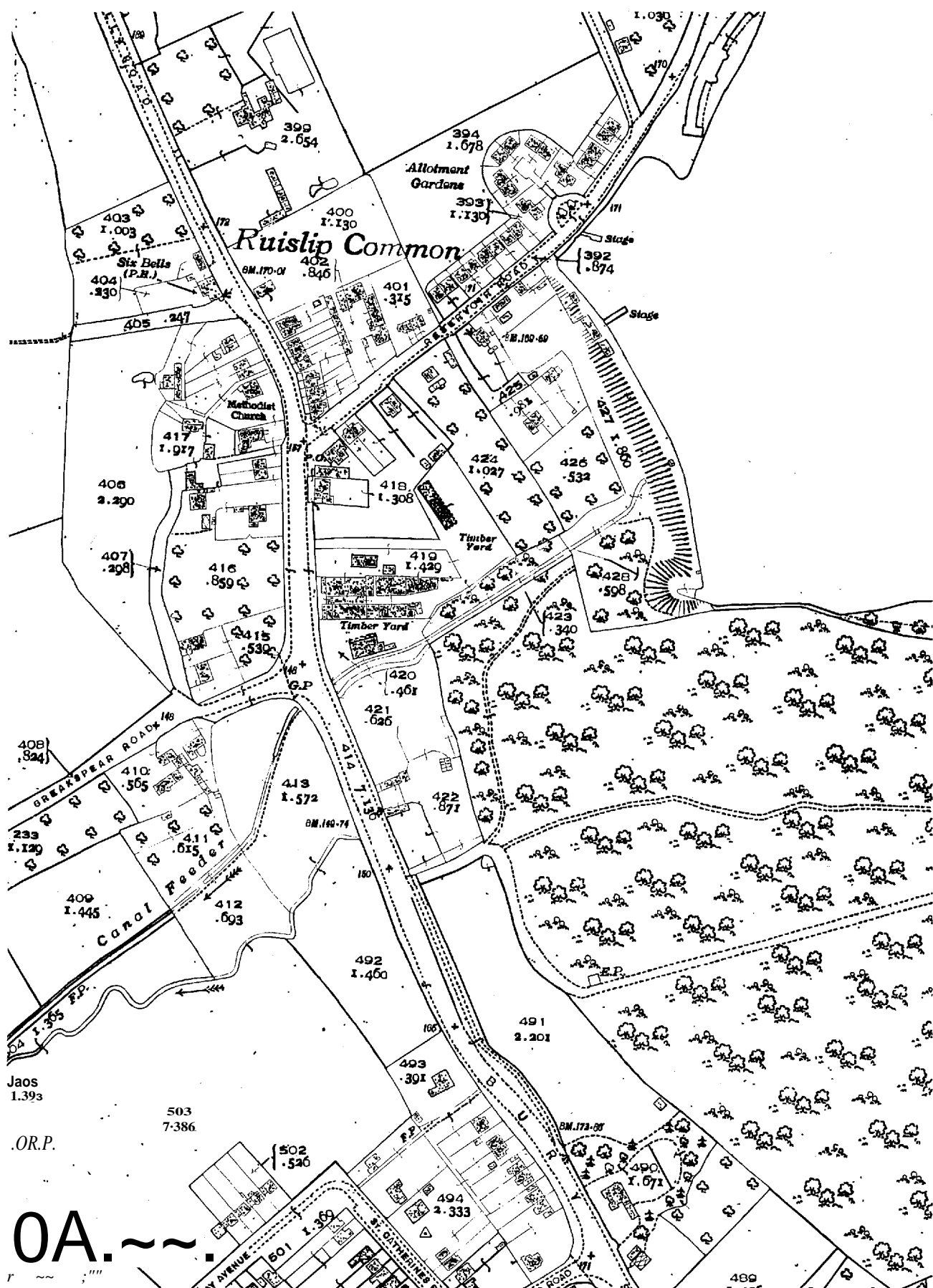
Several houses were erected along Ducks Hill below Bells Lane in the twentieth century, the earliest, Royston, predating the First World War, and there was a certain amount of commercial activity in Withy Lane. Doreen Gladman's father, 'Curly' Woodman ran the Woodland Boarding Kennels at the top of Withy Lane and Monty Ive who lived in Sanasa had a nursery garden near The Ferns. Later L.A. Ive was a plumber in the same place.

The great upheaval of the mid 1970s brought a block of flats and industrial services to the bottom of Withy Lane and new houses along the lane by The Six Bells.

Ruislip Common Chapel became a private house in the 1990s because congregations had dwindled to five in 1992 and it was no longer viable as a place of worship.

The social history of Ruislip Common

The social position of the people who lived in the three hamlets in the sixteenth century is difficult to establish because we only know the names of the owners, not the occupiers, of the houses.



Map 8
The 1935 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map

The only house that survives, Cannons Bridge Farm, was a small two-bayed structure before being restored and extended in 1958, but it may be the remnant of a more substantial building. Dell Cottage, however, which was photographed early in the twentieth century and in 1963 and 1964, (see Figs. 1 and 2) was a building of much higher status, apparently with a hall and cross-wing, as good as others in Bury Street and Well Green in Eastcote. None of the houses, however, had common field land attached to them in the sixteenth century, showing that the occupants had no share in the growing of crops and must have depended for their livelihoods upon the Common Wood, or labouring for other people, or some form of trade.

The expansion of houses and population in the seventeenth century may reflect growing prosperity and better health. On the other hand if the houses were simply being divided, rather than many new ones being erected, they would have become overcrowded, leading to an insanitary and impoverished lifestyle.

It is noticeable from rate books from the end of the eighteenth century onwards that houses in the three hamlets continued to be let and not owner occupied. Henry Golder, for instance, seems to have been the only person at Park Heame who was living in his own house around 1806. Most had a value of less than £5 per annum, in contrast to the £8 pa of Woodman Farm and £15 pa for the Old House in Bury Street. People living in cottages of £5 or less were considered to be poor by the Enclosure Commissioners, provided that they had no other place of residence.

The new cottages built on the New Enclosures, whether for a large landowner like Ralph Deane of Eastcote House, or a small proprietor like William Poulter, were all cheap and intended for agricultural labourers and their ilk.

The people living in the new cottages in the nineteenth century, with names like Allday,

Boddy, Bray, Brill, Collins, Ive, Lavender, Massey, Stent, Tobutt, Weatherley, Woodley and Woodman continued to inhabit the area into the twentieth century and indeed some remain in Ruislip Common to this day. Generally speaking they were not very well off and several, like the much respected Hannah Lavender who devotedly nursed her neighbours during the cholera epidemic of 1848, died in the Union Workhouse at Hillingdon. It is perhaps no surprise that the cholera epidemic struck that part of Ruislip rather than any other and perhaps indicates poor living conditions or at least a contaminated water supply. This may be why Martha Pearce had a well sunk on her property at Dell Cottage.

It was at a house in Withy Lane that William Terry died of starvation in October 1844. The inquest held at the Six Bells was reported in *The Times*+, He had been brought in a dung cart from Pinner, to his sister, Mary Lavender. She was in great distress herself, her husband and son being out of work, and had only bread and butter in the house.

From nineteenth century census returns we can see what the inhabitants did for a living and although there were a lot of labourers, there were several dealers as well. There were 28 households at Ruislip Common in 1851⁴⁵. 11 were agricultural labourers. There was one farmer, William Churchill who lived at The Ferns. Henry Lavender was a sand dealer and John Bray and John Lavender were dealers in wood and sand. Sand came from mines across the common in Northwood. There were two men dealing specifically in wood and three wood cutters and a kindlemaker. This means that eight households were dependent upon the woods in some measure for their livelihood. There was one bricklayer. George Ive was at The Six Bells and Daniel Collins was a shopkeeper. Elizabeth Tobutt described herself as a laundress and Maria Tobutt was a washerwoman. Perhaps the laundress did more specialised work. 73-year-old George Barker was the Reservoir Keeper.

Although fairly poor and sometimes devastatingly so, social life was available to the inhabitants of Ruislip Common at The Six Bells and several small and short-lived beer-houses. A member of the Stent family was running one at Cannons Bridge Farm in 1857⁴⁶. The effect of the beer-houses, was countered by Temperance meetings at the chapel, which also provided a focus for social gatherings like Sunday School teas. There were 83 children on roll in 1882⁴⁷.

It is significant that the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council chose Reservoir Road as the site of some of the first council houses in 1919. With their attractive cottage style and modern conveniences such as bathrooms, they must have seemed like palaces to those living in the old cottages.

It seems that the people of the three hamlets that eventually made up Ruislip Common had always lived on the edge of poverty and derived a fair proportion of their income from the woodlands.



Fig. 1
Dell Farm, north side, c1902



Fig. 2
Dell Farm, south side, 1963

- 1 King's College: Q 51,
- 2 Uxbridge Library: D.F.A.. Kiddle: *The changing landscape of North- West Middlesex.* 1974.
- 3 Brit Lib: Add MS 24316.
- 4 King's College: RUI 182.
- 5 RNELHS Journal 1984: *13th century habitation at the site of Park Hearne in Reservoir road indicated by pottery finds,* C, Bowlt.,
- 6 Brit Lib: Add MS 9367.
- 7 King's College: RUI 182.
- 8 RNELHS Journal 1985: *Woodman's Farm, Silver Street Green, Bury Street,* Eileen M. and Colin Bowlt.,
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Uxbridge Library: D.F.A.. Kiddle: *The changing landscape of North-West Middlesex.* 1974.
- 11 National Archives: SC 6/917/26.
- 12 King's College: RUI 182.
- 13 Brit Lib: Add MS 9637
- 14 Ibid: Add MS 9638
- 15 Karen Spink: *Tylers at the Butts, Ruffins and Nelhams in the Street in 'Here and there in Harefield'* Harefield Extra-Mural Local History Class, 1989.
- 16 Ruislip Library: photocopy of original King's College document.,
- 17 King's College: Doharty's Map and Terrier, 1750.
- 18 Ruislip Library: photocopy of original King's College document.,
- 19 LMA: MR LV 6/84 -9/128.
- 20 LMA: MRIDE RUI E1 and E2.
- 21 Ruislip Library: L.E. Morris Collection - notes from Company Minutes Book.,
- 22 LMA: DRO 19 E3/2.
- 23 Ruislip Library: L.E. Morris Collection - notes from Company Minutes Book.,
- 24 LMA: DRO 19 E2I22.
- 25 RNELHS Journal 1991: *Drained Lido reveals secrets.* Colin Bowlt.,
- 26 LMA: DRO 19 E2I22 and 23.
- 27 LMA: DRO 19 E3/2.
- 28 LMA: MDR 1819 5 314.
- 29 LMA: MDR 1921 29 691 and rate books.
- 30 LMA: DRO 19 E3/2.
- 31 Massey family history: private communication from Ray Massey.
- 32 Copy of will: in possession of Ray Massey.
- 33 LMA: DRO 19 E2I25.
- 34 LMA: MDR 19092940 and Deed of Enfranchisement at King's College.
- 35 Private communication from Gwen and Peter Longhurst.,
- 36 RNELHS Journal 1990: *Withy Lane c1940,* Doreen Gladwin,
- 37 RNELHS Journal 1993: *Methodism,* Alison Akerman.
- 38 LMA: DRO 19 E3/1.,
- 39 LMA: MR LV 9/10 and LMA: DRO 19 E3/1.,
- 40 LMA: MDR 1809 5 576.
- 41 Own possession: Sales Particulars, Thursday 27 March 1919.
- 42 Private communication from Peter Baxter.,
- 43 Ruislip Library: Kemp's Directory of Ruislip-Northwood.
- 44 <http://web6.infotrac.galegroup.com>: The Times, Oct 31, 1844: p 6; Column A,
- 45 Colleen A. Cox: *A Quiet and Secluded Spot,* 1991.,
- 46 LMA: DRO 19 E2I39.
- 47 Colleen A. Cox: *A Quiet and Secluded Spot,* 1991

MY LIFE IN RUISLIP

By ETHEL GANDER (1909-1996)

(Ethel's mother, Rose, was a member of the Bray family who had lived in Ruislip from about 1740)

"I was born in Mad Bess Cottage (Fig. 1) in Ruislip Woods -on the 6th March 1909. My father Fred Martin was a gamekeeper for a Colonel Cox who lived in Harefield Place.

When my birth appeared imminent my father walked to Harefield one mile away to inform the doctor. Dad returned and later the doctor arrived on horseback and delivered me. Later that day, Dad walked through the woods to Pinner to bring the local midwife who stayed with us for some days.

My mother, whose maiden name was Bray, was a member of a family that had lived in the Ruislip - Harefield area for many generations, all being buried in both Harefield and Ruislip Churchyards.

Grandmother Bray had eight children, Elisabeth, Eliza, [ulia, Mary, [ane, Rose (my mother), and Edward and Joseph. Grandmother lived in one of the cottages in Breakspear Road not far from the 'Breakspear Arms'. She was a moss gatherer and had a pony and cart which was stabled at the side of the cottage. She used to take the moss to Ealing and sell it to florists and greengrocers for wreaths and plants. They were all narrow country roads in those days with only a few villages on the way.

As children, we used to play in Poors Field, commonly known as the Post Field, and also on Black Spots at the rear of the 'Six Bells' and on 'Sixteen Acres' up Ducks Hill by the Old Workhouse. Old Jimmy Collins used to cut the hay each year and on Black Spots were orchids, violets, and cowslips and other lovely wild flowers with which we used to make garlands.

Father used to breed the pheasants and feed them with meal and chopped hard-boiled eggs and the locals used to let him use their broody hens for the hatching period.

At shooting time the village lads were paid one shilling a day and the squire would give them their dinner of Irish stew brought over in large containers from Pinner.

I was four or five years old (Fig. 2) when we had to leave the tied cottage when my father's working conditions were altered and the only available accommodation was two rooms, one up one down in the Old Workhouse in Ducks Hill Road. Living in the workhouse were five or six families, the Daddyman Ive, his brother Bindy and family, Mr Joey Lavender, and Darkie Heame who lived alone, and of course my family. Darkie had a horse and cart in the stables and he sold fruit and veg and in Spring, plants for the garden.



Fig. 2

Ethel (Ettie) at school in 1914
with her friends,
(back row) Louie Bell and Edie
Collins, (front row, 1 to r) Annie
Collins, Phyllis West and Ethel

These people and others at Ruislip Common did odd agricultural work, such as hay binding, wood dealing and tree felling. My brother Fred, who was also a gamekeeper in Park Wood, became a tree feller and was paid extra cash for climbing high trees to rope and saw heavy branches. Of course, in those days it was all handwork there being no mechanical saws at all. (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

**Fred Martin (2nd from right) at work
on the Swakeleys estate in 1924**

My grandmother, Rose Bray got her schooling from a 'Dame School' run by a Bet Willis in the largest cottage behind the 'Brakespear Arms'. She also fostered several children from the 'Union' workhouse at Hillingdon. All the children were taught reading and writing, knitting and chrochery (*crochet?*) and helped to cook and clean the cottage. Bet was a kind woman and the children benefited according to what my mother told me because she knew many of them.

My own education began and finished at Ruislip National School (see Fig. 4) from five years of age until I was fourteen. The Headmaster was Mr. Youens and my teachers were Miss Clough and Miss Grist. The school in Eastcote Road had a total of about ninety pupils, some of whom came from as far as West End Road, Northolt, and Eastcote. For children so young that was quite a distance to walk and like us from Ruislip Common we all wore studded boots because of the rough roads.

My brother Fred [born 1902] passed an examination and was allowed to leave school when he was 13 years old. He had been working at Manor Farm before leaving school, his job being to get the horses from the fields and groom them and to do other jobs all before 7a.m. When he finally left school he was employed full time at the farm and later took employment as a garden boy

and odd-jobber at a big house up Ducks Hill called 'The Grange'. It was after that he became a keeper and tree feller.

My brother Ted [born 1913] went to the village school too and passed for a scholarship to the Grammar School at Uxbridge, but he could not go because my father could not afford his uniform. His pal who lived next door to us also passed and managed to take advantage of the chance and did very well.

In my childhood days the locals had a country dialect of their own, for instance, the haws from the hawthorn were called 'arzey garsies', the young leaves which we ate were called 'bread and cheese' and if you took the hawthorn (May) indoors it was very unlucky, and if you took a robin's egg you would break an arm. Lilac in the home was also an ill omen. Dandelions we never picked because they made you wet the bed!

We had many wild birds in those times which we rarely see now. On the reservoir there were many wild ducks and over the Common by Copse Wood the nightingales used to sing. I last heard them in 1944.

Like the birds we have lost many of the flowers that were abundant on the Common, Black Spots and the Poors' Field, such as wild violets, cuckoo flowers, cowslips, bluebells, anemones, lady's slipper and waggawonds - a kind of grass.:

The reservoir was full of fish and I remember a huge pike swimming up a narrow stream about six inches deep and floundering about until a man caught it and took it away. There was always fishing at the Lido as it is now called, but in the old days Harry Wallis was the keeper and his sons later ran a cartage business.

Between the wars the reservoir was drained by a stopcock in the corner (we called it the ackedock) and the water ran into what we called the feeder and into the Grand Union Canal. At times a person would get drowned and the police came from Northwood with a wicker-topped stretcher and the body was wheeled over the Common to be identified.

My mother told me that when she was young the winters were bad and the reservoir used to freeze up and people came there to skate. (Fig.5) They even lit fires on the side so that they could see. I myself remember the reservoir freezing over in the 1914- 18 war and seeing the Australian and New Zealand wounded soldiers coming by solid tired coaches to watch the sport.



Fig. 5
**Fred Martin Jnr. skating on
Ruislip Reservoir c.1921**

When I left school at 14, I went into domestic service with a Mrs Guy whose husband had bought the Old Workhouse and converted it. I was nursemaid to her two babies - Heath Grizelda Love-in-the-Mist, what a name to live with!, was aged one year and five months. Her baby sister was only five months old and her name was Susan, [ane Ann Laughing Water. I had to work from 2 o'clock until 7pm seven days per week for one shilling a day. Old Joey Lavender's wife did a few hours housework until Mrs Guy got a girl from Wednesbury in Staffordshire to do both our jobs and live in.

At the cottage at Ruislip Common we had a lovely Blenheim Orange apple tree and before I slept in the attic we stored the apples there which was cool, these lasted us for many weeks.

I remember now, that before we moved into the cottage it was rented by old [ane Tobutt whom we all called Aunt Jane. She had jars of assorted sweets in the front window and the local children would go in and spend their farthings and halfpennies on liquorice braid and other small toffees and sweets.

During the 1914- 18 War, we used to get our rations at the corner shop run by Mr and Mrs Mallet and Ethel Lavender worked there. Opposite, in Reservoir Road William Lavender [had] a small general shop and it was also a sub-post office and Bertha White used to help him at times. She was the Village Post lady during the 1914 - 18 and 1939- 1945 wars.

Our newspapers came from Mr. Riddle whose shop was in the village next door to Crookalls the butcher. I used to collect the morning newspapers when I left school at 4pm and deliver the five or six copies to houses at the Common. They would get their papers at about six o'clock and on Saturdays I would walk the mile to Mr. Riddle's and then deliver on my way home and would earn nothing from Mr. Riddle but rely on a penny or so from my customers. Another person would collect the weekly bills in the district for Mr. Riddle.

As children we had a happy time playing our different games such as hoops, tops and dab stones and in summer we would take our sandwiches and go picnicking in the woods. Reservoir Road was a narrow lane years ago and we would skip and play marbles in the road without the fear of any traffic coming to disturb us. Although we were very poor we had a lovely life with the woods and fields all round us for us to walk and play in during spring and summer. But during the winters which seemed much colder in those days, we would be very cosy in the old cottage and would amuse ourselves in many ways. In the weeks before Christmas we would make paper chains by cutting strips of coloured paper and pasting them together with paste made from flour and water. We also did this in the village school. Also we could buy the packets of coloured papers which was easier for us to do.

A job which occupied us all at home was the making of rag rugs, if the rags were not good enough for us to earn a copper or two from the ragman we would cut them up into small strips and knot them into a piece of sackings. My father used to cut a small branch of the

ash tree, and then trim the pegs to a point to push through the sacking, the pieces would keep in place until the rugs had been well worn, and the continual shaking made some pieces fall out. Sometimes we were able to make patterns if we had a mixed supply of rags, but later we bought a wool rug hook and made much better rugs with wool which was cut and made specially for rugs.

The reservoir used to freeze every winter and us children used to enjoy these days watching the skaters. I tried to skate on a borrowed pair one winter and slipped and chipped a piece of bone on my elbow which has troubled me all these years. We used to look forward to the longer days of the spring, and on May Day we used to dress in our best white dresses and amuse ourselves by dancing on the street. May Day was not celebrated in our school but on Empire Day we would all go into the hall and sing songs. One that I remember is 'Rule Britannia' and 'Land of Hope and Glory' besides our National Anthem and a few prayers. Ruislip Sports Day was held in the summer at Manor Farm and everybody, men, women and children from the village took part. It was a very jolly day and we all looked forward to it.

In fifty years Ruislip has changed from a quiet rural village to a sophisticated suburb of London. All the fields that used to supply hay for the cart horses of London have gone. Estates such as Ruislip Manor, Southbourne and Old Eastcote have been built on and large blocks of offices and flats have taken the place of many old farm houses. In these times the old neighbourhood has changed such a lot. The friendly gossip at the old shops has gone. We used to know who was ill, when the next baby was expected, what kind of a harvest we were going to have, and when we could buy some new laid eggs. Everyone knew when a boy played truant and how he got a spanking from his father, and how much Mary's new dress cost. Most people in the close-knit area rallied round to help in distressful times, but it seems that those times have gone never to return.

In the local press there have been cases of old people being found alone at home dead or very ill. So these are some of the changes in this so-called modern way of living today in 1990."

Acknowledgements

It is as a result of the endeavours of Celia Cartwright that this article has been made available for publication. After learning of the existence of these memoirs contact was eventually made with Joyce Gander who together with Martin Gander (Ethel's daughter and son), kindly allowed Celia access to them and provided accompanying photographs. The Society thanks the Gander family for allowing the use and reproduction of the material.



Fig. 1

Keepers Cottage, Mad Bess Wood where Ethel was born.
c.1906 it shows Fred Martin and his wife Rose (nee Bray) and their eldest son Fred



Fig. 4

Ruislip National School 1913

Ettie is in the 2nd row 2nd from the left and Fred is on the end of the row behind

RUISLIP RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION RESCUES UNIQUE MAP OF COPSE WOOD

by Calin Bawlt

In the summer of 2003 the Ruislip Residents Association was contacted by Peter Swan, a book dealer in West Norfolk, to say that he had an old map of Ruislip Woods for sale. The Association asked Eileen Bowlt for an opinion to see if it would be a useful addition to the Ruislip archive.

Peter Swan was happy to send the map for inspection on a sale or return basis. It proved to be a large-scale cloth backed map of Copse Wood, apparently assembled from pieces of the 25-inch OS map of 1897. Various lines and numbers had been inked in on the map (Fig. 1 shows a portion of the map). In the bottom right hand corner was the inked-in name of Farebrother Ellis and Co., Surveyors, 29 Fleet Street, London EC. Clearly the map indicated some sort of survey - but what sort, and why?

One inked line went up the middle of Ducks Hill Road (not named) with numbers from 236 at the southern end, to 224 at the northern. The numbers over the map ranged from 172 to 318, and herein lay the clue. 172 is inscribed at the northern end of Ruislip Common (Poor's Field), whereas 318 is at the junction of Jacketts Lane with Ducks Hill Road - the lowest and highest points, in feet above sea level.

To check that the map was a detailed survey of elevations in Copse Wood, measurements were taken using a Global Positioning System detector at positions numbered along Ducks Hill Road. Agreement was good, showing that the supposition was indeed correct. The survey must have been a long and tedious business using the techniques and equipment available at the time. Lines of sight through the wood must have been hampered somewhat by trees.

So why was it done - and when?

There is no date on the map to indicate when the survey was carried out, but it seems likely that such a detailed topographic survey of Copse Wood was initiated by King's College, Cambridge in connection with proposed developments of their lands from 1899 onwards¹. Of interest, and a clue to the earliest possible Fairburn Ellis survey date, is the fact that an area at the southern end of the wood, which was granted to a man called Josef Conn on a 99-year lease in 1905², is marked off by a red line and has no heights. He built a house here, which subsequently was named 'Battle of Britain House' before being burnt down in 1984.

Also marked in red are two parallel lines from the north east corner of Copse wood to join Rickmansworth Road. King's College had made plans for a road here across the worked out gravel pits as early as 1899³. This road was eventually constructed as Copse Wood Way to give access to the development of Links Way, Nicholas Way and the Broadwalk in the 1930's.

A rather curious inked addition is that of the Ordnance Datum levels of the covers and inverts of three manholes with their connecting short stretch of connecting pipe, at the northern end of Poor's Field. This must be part of the drainage system connecting Northwood to the Sewerage Works at Ladygate Lane, which started operating in 1902⁴. Interestingly, a disused, broken manhole is still present here at the eastern end of the Post Pond on Poor's Field. The 1897 base map shows OD benchmarks at the entrance to Ducks Hill Farm and on the east side of the Post Pond. They are no longer present. I wonder whether any of the benchmarks in the Ruislip area dating from the nineteenth century still survive?

The survey must have been made sometime between 1905 when [Josef Conn bought the land on which 'Battle of Britain' stood, and the 1920s when Northgate and other roads in Copse Wood were beginning to be developed". It was most probably carried out before the First World War, and for King's College, when plans were being made for the development of the northern part of the

demesne lands of their manor of Ruislip and a Town Planning Scheme was being contemplated. It is a significant and useful document..

The Ruislip Residents Association have kindly purchased the map and donated it to the local history archive for Ruislip at Manor Farm Library.

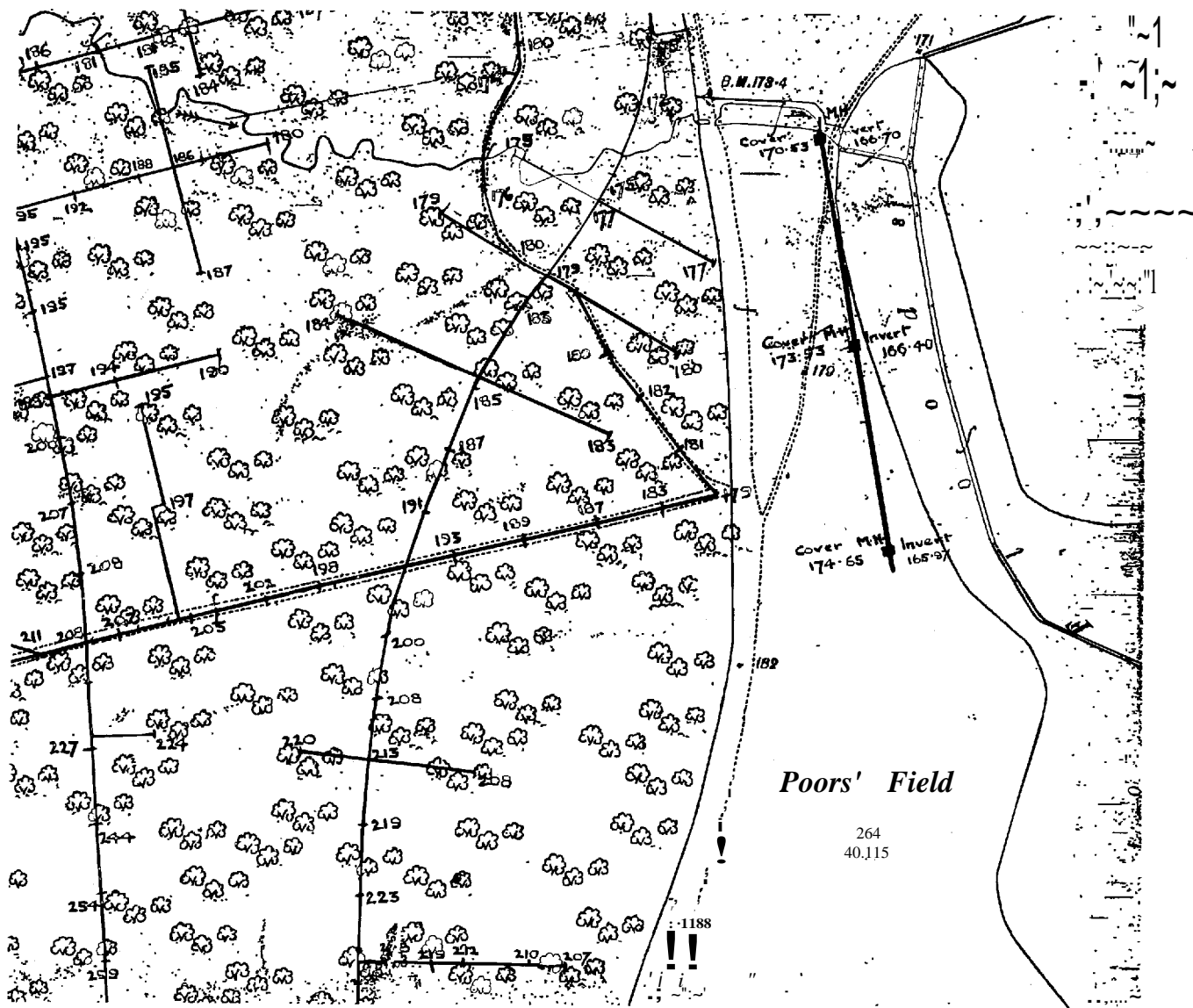


Fig. 1

- 1 Bowlt, EM 1989. *The Goodliest Place in Middlesex*, p254; Hillingdon Borough Libraries.
- 2 Cartwright, C. 1985. *From Harsens to Ruislip College: the Story of Battle of Britain House*.
Journal: Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society.
- 3 Bowlt, EM 1989. as above, p254.
- 4 Bowlt, EM 1989. as above, p249.
- 5 London Metropolitan Archives: MDR 1922 10 707.

EASTCOTE IN 1841

By Colleen A. Cox

Although a census has been taken in this country every ten years since 1800, the 1841 census was the first in which the name of every individual was recorded. Unfortunately the quality of the copies for the Ruislip area is very poor. In some places the entries are barely legible and in others they can only be deduced by reference to other sources such as the rate books and the 1851 census. The entries for Eastcote are in the worst condition.

The information the enumerators were required to record was limited, making comparisons with later censuses difficult. For example, the age of adults was only recorded to the nearest five years, there was no indication of marital status or relationship to the head of the household so family size cannot be estimated, and place of birth was only given as born in the county or not.

Analysis of the information on Ruislip and Northwood has previously been published in this journal (1998 and 1999). The Eastcote area was centred on Eastcote High Road and the ancient lanes to the north including Wiltshire Lane, Fore Street, Joel Street and Cuckoo Hill, and Field End to the south. (Fig 1) With its three large houses and their substantial households Eastcote was long considered the social centre of the area although this may not have been so apparent in 1841 when two of the three houses were occupied by tenants who did not stay long in the area.

The enumerator for Eastcote in 1841 was Daniel Matheson who farmed at Haydon Hall Farm. He was not as systematic as some of the other enumerators and it was very difficult to follow his route. He started with George Green a 30-year-old farmer but did not record where he lived. According to the 1837 Terrier (Survey) Green had previously kept The Ship Public House in Joel Street but had been succeeded by Matheson's son also

Daniel, by 1841. In the 1841 Rate Book Green leased a cottage and land from Ralph Deane but it is not known where this was. He also had land from Mr Tyte of Myrtle Cottage in Joel Street so he may still have been near Joel Street.

The second entry in the census was for Mary Baker who, with fifteen people, had the largest household in Eastcote and so would have needed a good-sized house. It is possible that she was the wife/widow of Charles Baker who according to the 1841 Rate Book occupied Sunnyside (also known as Redbourns), which was part of the Haydon Hall estate and was at the bottom of Joel Street. The household was an interesting one including as it did one man, two women and four children who were probably family members and six male agricultural labourers, one with his wife. These men were almost certainly lodgers.

James Foort the stocking-maker was next in the census with no indication of where he lived. In later years he occupied a cottage in Northolt Lane to the south of the present railway but in the 1841 Rate Book he was recorded as living in a cottage at Field End. From Field End the enumerator's route became even more difficult to follow but he appeared to visit cottages and farms in the ancient lanes before returning to Field End to complete his task.

There were 525 people in Eastcote in 1841 of whom 246 were men and 279 were women. A total of 99 houses were occupied with a mean household size of 5.3. Eight houses were unoccupied.

The largest and most important houses in Eastcote were Eastcote House, Haydon Hall and High Grove. Eastcote House was owned by Ralph Deane but he was not living there at the time of the census when the occupier was 52-year-old John Pearce.

This entry is barely legible but his occupation appeared to be that of a 'warehouseman'. His household comprised two men and two female servants. An entry in the 1837 Terrier indicates that Eastcote House and land were leased by Pierce and Stone and another source refers to John Pearce and Edward Stone as the occupiers of Eastcote House. Both were described as 'Gentleman'.

It is not known what if any part John Pearce played in the social life of Eastcote nor that played by Miss Susan Maitland the tenant of Haydon Hall. This house had been owned by Adam Clarke the well-known Methodist minister until his death in 1832. It had then passed to his widow and his son John who died in 1840. It probably belonged to his son's widow Elizabeth in 1841. Susan Maitland was a 40-year-old woman of independent means. Two other women were in the house at the time of the census and there were three male and three female servants.

The third large house was High Grove, the only one to have survived. Unfortunately the family was not in residence on census night but it is known that the owner was General Sir Joseph Fuller who lived there with his wife Lady Miranda. It is known from other sources that the Fullers did play an active part in the social life of the village.

There were two other houses of note in the High Road, Spring Cottage and Eastcote Lodge. Spring Cottage, also known at some time as Flag Cottage, is a 16th century cottage which still stands on land that in 1837 was owned by the Clarke's of Swakeleys and occupied by Philip Souper a 40-year-old man of independent means. In the census he is recorded with his wife, five daughters and one son between the ages of three and eleven years, together with two female servants. The family's stay in Eastcote must have been tinged with sadness as a gravestone in St. Martin's Churchyard, Ruislip, indicates that three other children were buried there, Frances Lloyd Souper in 1839 aged two years, Mowbray Charles in 1840 aged six months and Frances Rosetta aged ten weeks.

Next to Spring Cottage was Eastcote Lodge owned and occupied by Mrs Hingstone, a 75-year-old lady of independent means. The household comprised two other women of independent means, a 15-year-old girl and four servants, two male and two female.

Two other households worthy of note were those of Robert Tyte a retired naval officer who lived with his two daughters and one female servant in Myrtle Cottage in Joel Street, and that of Charles Jenkins of Eastcote Cottage in Wiltshire Lane. He was a man of independent means and had a male and a female servant.

In such a predominantly agricultural area it was not surprising that farmers were highly regarded people in the community. Seventeen men were farmers, 13% of men for whom an occupation was recorded. It was possible to identify the location of the farms but there was no indication as to their size. (Fig 2) A total of 62 (48%) of men were described as agricultural labourers thus just over 60% of working men were employed directly in agriculture. There were no female agricultural labourers but eight women were described as labourers as were two men.

The next most common occupation was that of servant of which 17 were men and 22 women. Although it is likely that all the women worked in the house, a number of the men were young boys in the houses of farmers who probably did general work both indoors and outside.

With few exceptions the remaining occupations reflected the needs of the village at the time. The four gamekeepers would have been employed to care for the woods and to deter the locals from poaching the game. Four carpenters, three bricklayers and two sawyers indicate the nucleus of a construction industry although no brick makers were recorded in this census. Much use would also have been made of the farrier, Henry Baldwin, whose smithy was near the Black Horse and the wheelwright, Henry Hill, whose cottage was in front of The Shooting Box further along the High Road.

Eastcote was in the parish of Ruislip and the villagers would have been expected to attend St. Martin's Church, and any children of school age to go to the National School near the church. No record was made of whether or not the children went to school but in later years attendance of children from the village was poor. During his lifetime Adam Clarke had allowed a stable and coach house at the bottom of Joel Street to be used as a Methodist Chapel and a Sunday school was also held there, well supported by local people.

For those with different tastes there were two public houses, the Black Horse kept by 35-year-old Hannah Smith and The Ship on Joel Street run by Daniel Matheson. James Lipscomb had a grocer's shop in the cottage that later became The Case is Altered. Another grocer, Elizabeth Gregory, lived near The Shooting Box further along the High Road. William Eastman a policeman lived with his wife and son in Fore Street. We do

not know how busy he was kept but later newspaper reports indicated such problems as family squabbles, drunkenness and poaching.

Nine women and four men were recorded as 'Independent', which meant that they had private means to support themselves. A number of them have already been mentioned and appeared to be in more affluent households but four of the women were elderly relatives living with their family in very modest cottages.

This article has focussed on Eastcote in 1841 and ideally should be read in conjunction with the articles published in earlier Journals (1998 and 1999) on Ruislip and Northwood to get a complete view of the parish in this year. The overall picture that emerges however is that of a quiet country village which had changed little over the years and remained much the same for most of the 19th century.

Sources

1. 1841 Census. Uxbridge Library
2. Cox CA. *Ruislip in 1841*. RNELHS Journal 1998
3. Cox CA. *A Middlesex Village. Northwood in 1841*. RNELHS Journal. 1999
4. Ruislip Terrier and Valuation 1837 LMA DRO 19/E
5. Bowl E.M. *The Goodliest Place in Middlesex* Hillingdon Borough Libraries 1989
6. Cox CA. *A Quiet and Secluded Spot* RNELHS 1991

Fig. 2 - Farms and Occupiers in 1841 and 1851

Farm	Occupier in 1841	Occupier in 1851
Joel Street Farm.	Richard Poulton	Edward Staples
Haydon Hall Farm.	Daniel Matheson	Daniel Matheson
Ivy Farm Wiltshire Lane	Thomas Ewer	Thomas Ewer
Fore Street Farm.	Charles Tillett	Charles Tillett
Southill Farm.	William Whittington	George White
The Grange	John Churchill	<i>Richard Watts</i>
St Catherine's Farm.	Daniel Long	Edward Long
Mistletoe Farm	Daniel Deacon	John Goodman
Cuckoo Hill Farm	William <i>Bugbee?</i>	
Cheney Street Farm.	Edward Long	Daniel Long
Field End Farm	William Durbridge	William Durbridge
Orchard Farm.	Joseph Ambridge	Joseph Ambridge
Field End Lodge	William White	
Field End Road	James Nightingale	James Nightingale
Field End House	Thomas White	William Lawrence
Sigers Farm	Richard Eales	Richard Eales
Park Farm	William Lawson	Henry Powell

Fig. 3 - Heads of Household

Location	Head of household	Age	Occupation
Eastcote	George Green	30	Farmer
	Mary Baker	60	
	James Foort	32	Stocking maker
	William Haynes	60	Agricultural Labourer
	Gilbert Lawrence	50	Sawyer
Joel Street	Daniel Matheson	25	Publican
	William Lawrence	25	Sawyer
Myrtle Cottage	Robert Tyte	66	ex Navy
	John Stent	50	Independent
	William Mead	40	Ag. Lab.
	John Lawrence	25	Ag. Lab.
	Richard Poulton	45	Bricklayer
Haydon Hall Farm	Daniel Matheson	60	Farmer
Reasons Hill	William Nash	25	Ag. Lab.
	George Bugden	20	Ag. Lab.
	James Lawrence	20	Ag. Lab.
	Henry Webb	40	Ag. Lab.
Wiltshire Lane	George Lavender	56	Gamekeeper
	Jesse Aldridge	30	Ag. Lab.
	Noah Botwright	25	Ag. Lab.
	James Hilliard	30	Ag. Lab.
Eastcote Cottage	Charles Jenkins	50	Independent
	William Hilliard	55	Ag. Lab.
	Richard Long	25	Ag. Lab.
	Joseph Herridge	40	Ag. Lab.
	William Weatherly	60	Ag. Lab.
	William Bailly	37	Carpenter
	Daniel Gregory	25	Ag. Lab.
	Mary Stent?	45	Labourer
	Thomas Ewer	50	Farmer
	William White	30	Ag. Lab.
	Thomas Nash	25	Ag. Lab.
	William Holdford	40	Ag. Lab.
	James ?	60	Ag. Lab.
	Samuel Clarke	42	?
Fore Street	William Alexander	25	Gamekeeper
	William Biggs	28	Ag. Lab.
	William Eastman	25	Policeman
	John Page	65	Bricklayer
	William Jennings	40	Ag. Lab.
	Henry King	35	Ag. Lab.
	William Bowden	60	Ag. Lab.
	John Gregory	50	Ag. Lab.
	Catherine Atherly?	28	Labourer

Fig. 3 - Heads of Household (Cont.)

Location	Head of household	Age	Occupation
<i>Fore Street Farm</i>	Charles Tillett	40	Farmer
	John Bishop	70	Ag. Lab.
	Joseph Ambridge	20	Ag. Lab.
	William Bishop	45	Ag. Lab.
	William Hows ?	50	Ag. Lab.
	James Clarke	45	Carpenter
<i>High Grove</i>	[anet Tate	50	Female Servant
	[ames Ambridge	50	Ag. Lab.
<i>Spring Cottage</i>	Phillip Souper	40	Independent
<i>Eastcote Lodge</i>	Mary Hingstone	75	Independent
<i>Black Horse PH</i>	Hannah Smith	35	Publican
	Henry Baldwin	45	Farrier
	Rebecca Temple	29	Labourer
	William Wilton	45	Ag. Lab.
	[ames Long	45	Carpenter
	George Lawrence	55	Ag. Lab.
	John Ashley	35	?
	John Pearce	52	Warehouseman
	Sarah Maitland	40	Independent
	Edward Hilliard	60	Male Servant
<i>Easicoie House</i>	[ames Lavender	30	Ag. Lab.
<i>Haydon Hall</i>	[ames Lipscombe	35	Grocer
	William Whittington	20	Farmer
<i>Case is Altered</i>	John Churchill	60	Farmer
	William Bowles	45	Gardener
<i>Southill Farm</i>	Elizabeth Gregory	30	Grocer
	Henry Hill	40	Wheelwright
	Thomas Gibbs ?	40	Labourer
	Daniel Long	25	Farmer
	Thomas Bugden	30	Ag. Lab.
<i>St Catherines Farm</i>	Daniel Deacon	25	Farmer
	William Bugden ?	50	Farmer
<i>Mistletoe Farm</i>	James Webb	45	Ag. Lab.
<i>Cheney Street</i>	Edward Long	55	Farmer
<i>Cheney Street Farm</i>	William Durbridge	50	Farmer
<i>Field End Farm</i>	Joseph Ambridge	50	Farmer
<i>Orchard Farm</i>	Mary Joel	55	Labourer
<i>Field End</i>	William White	70	Farmer
<i>Field End Lodge</i>	John Rose	75	Carpenter
	Thomas Eales	25	Ag. Lab.
	Sarah Woodly	70	Labourer
	[ames Nightingale	70	Farmer
	[ames Nightingale	20	Ag. Lab.
	John Edmonds	35	Ag. Lab.
	William Peveral	45	Ag. Lab.
	Henry Douglas	35	Ag. Lab.
	John Bignall	25	Ag. Lab.

Fig. 3 - Heads of Household (Cont.)

Location	Head of household	Age	Occupation
<i>Field End House Sigers</i>	Thomas White	40	Farmer
	Richard Eales	45	Farmer
	James Prichet	60	Ag. Lab.
	Elizabeth Hedger	60	Labourer
<i>Park Farm</i>	William Lawson	53	Farmer

N.B.

Italics

?

Information known although not recorded in census.

Entry not legible.

A PREHISTORIC FLINT BLADE FROM THE COLNE VALLEY, HAREFIELD

by Colin Bowlt

I record here my finding of a worked flint blade in the Colne Valley in 1986. It was an unstratified find, but is thought worth putting on record. It was found at the southern end of Broadwater Gravel Pit (in the spoil heap of alluvial soil removed before the extraction of gravel (grid ref TQ 046S92).

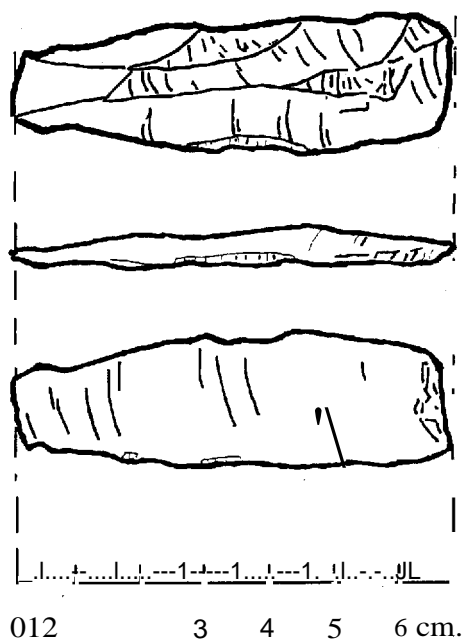


Fig. 1. Prehistoric Flint Blade
from the Colne Valley, Harefield

The blade is some 6.5cm long by 2.0 cm at its greatest width. (Fig. 1) and shows clear signs of manufacture. Long slivers have been removed by a flaking technique on one side. The other side shows the typical ripple lines spreading out from where the piece was struck to part it from a larger lump of flint (the core). The narrower end is snapped to produce a chisel end. It is unclear whether this was originally accidental but the end now seems to show a polished end due to wear.

Blades of this type are usually associated with Mesolithic times (5000-4000 BC). Although one cannot be sure of its date of manufacture since it was simply found lying unstratified on the heap of spoil, its situation was close to that of the well known Mesolithic site at Dewes Farm, South Harefield, that was investigated some years ago,

More recently a nationally important Mesolithic site was found further down the Colne Valley at Uxbridge opposite the Treaty House-? Remarkably, the site contained relics of occupation at two periods separated by some one to two thousand years. The earliest contained bones of reindeer and horse, indicating cold, tundra landscape. Carbon 14 dating indicates a date of circa 5000BC. The bones in the second area were largely of red deer indicating a change to warmer, wooded conditions, with a provisional dating of 6000BC. The site contained much flint work, some of it fitting together, showing that it had been worked on the site.

People sometimes find stones in their gardens with intriguing shapes and wonder whether they were stone-age implements. One has to remember that although flint occurs in the chalk outcrop at Harefield, the Ruislip area has no natural stone or flint. All that is found here has been imported, most of it recently (in archaeological terms) for building purposes. Often this contains bits with interesting shapes, but these are usually due to natural causes. However a few pieces of prehistoric worked flint have been found, mainly in the vicinity of the River Pinn. Some worked flints were found in the excavation by the Society of the large earthwork at Manor Farm 3. These were quite different in shape from the blade found at Harefield and were probably of later date.

This earthwork has not been dated but is certainly no older than the shards of Roman pottery also found in the earth bank. The pieces of flint were probably accidental inclusions. A few similar pieces of worked flint have occasionally been found, unstratified, in gardens, such as those found

by the geologist, the late S. W. Hester, at 63 Manor Way, Ruislip

Even though little prehistoric material has been found in our local area so far, it is still worth keeping an eye open for worked flints. Unexpected archaeological finds continue to be made in the London area.

¹ Lacaille AD. Trans. LAMAS 1961; VCH Middlesex 11970

² Lewis J.S.C. in The Archaeology of Greater London. 2000

³ Bedford R. and Bowlit C, RNELHS Bulletin 1977

GUIDED WALKS

As a contribution to National Local History Month in May 2004, the RNELHS organised four guided walks around the original Parish of Ruislip led by members of the Society. These walks were entitled:

Eastcote - Meadow to Metroland - led by Karen Spink and Susan Toms (2 May)

Northwood - Hamlet to Town - led by Simon Morgan (9 May)

Old Ruislip - led by Eileen Bowlt (16 May)

Beating The Bounds between Ruislip and Harefield

led by Eileen Bowlt and Robert Goodchild (Harefield LHS) (19 May)

The 2 May and 19 May walks are described in the following two articles.

EASTCOTE - MEADOW TO METROLAND

by Karen Spink and Susan Toms

The main aim of our walk was to give an impression of how Eastcote changed from a small rural village to the modern suburb we see today, with the opening of the Metropolitan Railway between Harrow and Uxbridge on 30 June 1904. It was therefore appropriate that we started our walk at Eastcote Station, the catalyst for this development. The first original station opened 26 May 1906 as a halt, which meant passengers wishing to board the train had to wave a green flag to alert the driver while similarly they had to give the guard notice when wanting to leave the train. The station comprised two wooden platforms and a galvanised iron waiting room. However the majority of passengers in the early years were not commuters but children and adults coming out for day trips to Eastcote, 'one of those picturesque rural villages that popularity has failed to spoil'. Many then continued to the Pavilion Entertainment Grounds run by Arthur Bayly, a bandleader in the Salvation Army, further down Field End Road.

As the population grew due to the massive development of the many estates in the 1920s and 30s the station became inadequate and a new building designed in the modern style by Adams, Holden and Pearson was completed 3 September 1939. In recognition

of the many remaining modern-style features the building was listed in 1994.

Most of the land that was developed for Eastcote shops and houses had belonged to Ralph Hawtrey Deane of Eastcote House. The first of Eastcote's shopping parades, Field End Parade, developed by the Telling Brothers in the 1920s, offered everything the twentieth century shopper could need, with many more shops than the old village further north.

The parade, with its decorative style and diaper-pattern brickwork, was designed by Frank Osler who was one of the architects for the Hampstead Garden Suburb. We could see his influence in the adjacent Eastcote End Park Estate, also built by Tellings in the 1920s. The tree-lined street of Morford Way has a variety of cottage-style dwellings, many with decorative plasterwork (notably grapevines), window details and pretty porches. Contemporary advertisements for the estate described it as 'the ideal residential suburb'. Tellings also provided tennis courts, bowling green and a community hall. The hall was converted into the Ideal Cinema in the 1930s but was demolished in the 1950s and replaced by office blocks. Ideal Motors, next to the cinema, had a similar fate. The Manor (formerly Manor House) pub was built in 1934.

The shops on the opposite side of Field End Road were developed, at different stages, by Rotherham Estates, as was Orchard Parade, that we passed on our left, as far as the shop that currently houses the post office. During World War II this was used as a British Restaurant which provided low-cost meals. The rest of the parade was completed in the fifties, ending with Eastcote Library in 1959. The rather plain Deane Parade opposite, between Abbotsbury Gardens and Dean Croft Road, was built by T.F.Nash.

Standing on the site of the present War Memorial we viewed Field End Farm across the road. This timber-framed building was mentioned in the 1565 Terrier when a house on this site belonged to John Feme, a miller. In 1750 it came into the possession of the Hawtrey family, one of the main landowners in the area and it remained as part of their estate until the land was sold off in the 1930s to form the Rotherham Estate. During the early twentieth century it was farmed by J. Westacott as a dairy farm, hence the farm's popular name Westacotts.

The Field End Farm estate included a much smaller farm of four acres called Orchard Farm which we also viewed from the War Memorial. However it was converted into the modern pebble-dashed bay-windowed house we see today in 1931 by E.S.Hartley, the architect for the Rotherham Estates Company.

Before continuing we reminded ourselves that our viewing site had originally been the cattle pond for Field End Farm and was considered a local beauty spot with schoolchildren coming to paint and draw there. It was also a hazard before street lighting with several records of people falling into the pond when it was dark. However in 1929 all that changed when the War Memorial was moved here from outside the Tudor Lodge Hotel and the area became public gardens.

Further along, on the other side of the road, an old barn that had been part of Orchard Farm was demolished when the new road, The Sigers, was developed in the 1960s.

The street takes its name from a farm which actually stood further along Field End Road.

On our right we passed the large development of flats, The Forresters, built in 1987 on land that had belonged to the Hawtrey Deanes. The blocks were built on the same footprints as the 1960s pre-fabricated concrete council flats that they replaced. These had replaced large detached houses, put up by the builder T.F.Nash, and a grand mock-Tudor house called Griffinghurst.

Tudor Lodge Hotel, a genuine sixteenth century building with later additions, had not been owned by the Hawtrey Deanes, but during the nineteenth century by the Watts family who were corn chandlers. It was Mr and Mrs Benjamin Hall who, during World War II, allowed their house to be used as a VAD hospital, and erected a memorial to 'locals killed' during the war on the road outside. It was the replacement of this cross that we saw in the Memorial Gardens.

With the increase in population there was a need for a place of worship in Eastcote other than the Methodist Chapel and in 1913 one acre of land was purchased from the Hawtrey family. Further active fund-raising by Kenneth Goschen of Sigers resulted, on 18 December 1920, in the establishment of a corrugated iron mission church on the site of the present parish hall. In 1921 a further acre of land was donated by Ralph Hawtrey Deane and after more fund-raising the new church and parish' of St Lawrence was consecrated on 21 October 1933. The simple strong red brick building, holding a congregation of 400, is the building we see today.

Before walking up Cheney Street, we stopped on the site of another of the Eastcote ponds and looked up the old bridleway, now Bridle Road, to the parish boundary with Pinner. The earliest houses in this road were built about 1912, as were those that we passed at the beginning of Cheney Street.

As we continued along Cheney Street we paused to admire Cheney Street Farm, a fine

original sixteenth century farmhouse mentioned in the 1565 Terrier. We noted the very sympathetic extension added in the 1930s when tiles and wood from a demolished barn were used to create an authentic-looking new building behind the original farm, which abuts on to the road. Unfortunately this was not typical of the period when the more normal practice was to demolish anything 'old-fashioned'.

Further up Cheney Street we came to the site of Thomas Elkington's brickfield. From 1896 to c.1904 soft red facing bricks and moulded bricks and tiles were made here for use in Eastcote and Pinner.

We then walked through the Eastcote Park Estate which was built in the 1930s by Comben and Wakeling as a result of buying Eastcote House and grounds and some surrounding land. The original plan was to demolish Eastcote House but there was so much opposition that in 1931 the Ruislip Northwood U.D.e. purchased the House and 9.1 acres of its grounds for use by the local residents. Unfortunately the House was demolished in 1964 but the gardens still remain for our enjoyment.

This estate was the premier estate of Eastcote. It was aimed at professional upper-middle class people. The layout of the estate was spacious with sweeping curved roads and generous amounts of greenery to emulate the garden suburbs. There was a variety of houses but all were detached or semi-detached. This was not high-density housing. We viewed some attractive original windows and pargetting and the superior houses with their green tiled roofs, throughout the estate. In particular we admired the original 'Dutch-style' leaded windows which were the trademark of local builder Cyril Vincent Galley who completed the estate when Comben and Wakeling disposed of 88 plots to him. One of the best examples was the house he built for himself at 7 St Lawrence Drive on the edge of the estate.

At the junction of St Lawrence Drive with Field End Road was another pond, now filled

in as a small green with the Eastcote Park Estate sign on it. Close by stood Sigers which was demolished when the estate was completed. Sigers (or Seizers) is an old Eastcote name dating back to the thirteenth century. The house became a gentleman's residence in the 1880s and it was here in the gardens that Kenneth Goschen held summer fetes in the twentieth century to raise money for the new St Lawrence church.

Goschen also leased 57 acres from the Eastcote House Estate including Park Farm. This timber-framed building was mentioned in the 1565 Terrier as being the 'brick place' of Thomas Wetherly who paid rent of 1000 bricks per annum. During the nineteenth century it became part of the Eastcote House Estate of the Hawtrey Deane family and it was the home farm of the house. In 1930 most of the land was sold for the Eastcote Park Estate but a small amount was retained as a dairy farm until the 1950s and now only the farmhouse remains.

The other side of Field End Road had been the Field End House Estate, about one hundred acres extending southwards; including a portion of land that was sold in 1901 to the Harrow and Uxbridge Railway Company for the extension of the Metropolitan line. The old farmstead and the Victorian farmhouse have now both gone. The only surviving farm building, on the corner of Farthings Close, was converted into Retreat Cottage in the 1920s.

The mid-nineteenth century owner of the Field End House Estate, William Lawrence, built the small white cottage, Field End Cottage, and this was tenanted to a variety of interesting occupants including (in the nineteenth century) a beer-seller, police constable, coachman, (and in the twentieth century) an estate agent, paint supplier and a widow who managed an RSPCA Cats Home here. Eight Field End Villas, were also built by Lawrence (1856-1862), so that he could benefit from the rental income of professional people who were moving out from London to rural Eastcote, though the nearest station at that date was Hatch End some three miles away.

Because of the Methodist Chapel, built in 1847 next to the first of the villas, this part of Field End has been known colloquially since then as Chapel Hill. An earlier name was Clay Street, an evocative and accurate description. The chapel was demolished after the new Methodist church in Pamela Gardens was completed.

Our final stop was to view Eastcote Cottage, another ancient building of Eastcote mentioned in the 1565 Terrier under the name Plocketts or Plucketts. This was surrendered to Ralph Hawtrey of Eastcote House in 1606 and remained as part of the family's estate until the late nineteenth century. It was during this time that the house came to be called Eastcote Cottage. As with many other buildings, all the surrounding land was sold for development, in this case Eastcote Place, Azalea Walk and Georgian Lodge. But fortunately this

handsome wide building with three prominent gable ends to the front survived.

In one sense the end of our walk marked the boundary between the old village of Eastcote and the new modern suburbs. The old village and its great houses represented the old order with their large estates but they were no longer financially viable and they had to be sold off. These then formed the basis of the new suburban estates of the 1920s and 30s which were to develop into the new community of Eastcote centred around the station and the shopping parade.

NB. More detailed information on some of the buildings seen on the walk can be found in earlier editions of RNELHS Journals, e.g. Griffinhurst (1996), The Development of the Retail Trade in Eastcote (1998) and Field End Revisited (2000).

BEATING THE BOUNDS BETWEEN HAREFIELD AND RUISLIP

19 MAY 2004

by Eileen M. Bowlt

During Local History Month RNELHS once again held a joint meeting with Harefield History Society to beat a portion of our joint boundary. (see Fig. 1) This year it was decided to brave the hazards of muddy and rutted fields, prickly hawthorn hedges and barbed wire, to follow the boundary north from Warren Farm in Breakspear Road North as far as Battlerswells at the top of Jackets Lane. Following farmers, Robert Horton of Warren Farm, Dick Wylde of Bourne Farm, Mr Parfitt of Youngwood Farm, Mr Cooke of Ducks Hill Farm and Steve Denny of Holland and Holland Shooting Grounds, of which Ashby Farm is part, kind permission to access their land, a group of about 30 people met in Bayhurst Wood car park on Wednesday 19 May at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Rogation

It was the day before the feast of the Ascension and the end of Rogation, the period when parishioners processed around the fields in medieval times asking God (rogare = to ask) for a fruitful harvest. After the Reformation the processions were transformed into perambulations' of the parish boundaries led by the parson and churchwardens who literally beat the bounds with willow wands at intervals usually marked by a significant tree or sometimes crosses or boundary stones. Small boys were traditionally beaten at the same time to ensure that they would remember the place in later years and be able to settle future boundary disputes. Sometimes they were given sweets and cakes as well!

Gospel Oak and Crouch Cross

Clearly there had been boundary markers around Harefield, because one of the questions put to a Court of Survey held for

Richard Newdigate, Lord of the Manor of Harefield, on 26 April 1692, was about Land Marks:

'Whether has any tenant plowed up or cast down Removed or taken away any Meer Stone, Baulk Hedgerow or Land Share' 1

The document goes on to mention a cross called 'Crouch Cross alias French Cross', where Ruislip, Harefield and Rickmansworth parishes met. In fact this was where we finished our walk near Battlerswells. The wood on the north side of Jackets Lane in Ruislip Parish is called French Grove to this day. Incidentally the cross marked the county boundary between Middlesex and Hertfordshire as well as the meeting of three parishes. The nineteenth century Coal Tax marker on the county boundary at the top of Shrubs Road is only a few yards away from Crouch Cross.

Presumably the various markers have long since been removed, but there is a special tree known as the Gospel Oak still in existence in Swakeleys Road, opposite Woodstock Drive, marking the spot where Harefield and Hillingdon parishes met. Probably processions in earlier days had stopped beside it for a reading from the gospels. A stone plaque, set up in 1950, tells us that *'Beneath this Holy Oak or Gospel Tree, came once a year the Curate and people, to invoke Divine Blessing, Upon their forthcoming crops.'* The present tree is a healthy young sapling.

Warren Farm

The Horton family came out to see us off along the stream that marks the boundary near Warren Farm. The farmhouse (rebuilt in 1946 following a doodlebug explosion on 4 October 1944) straddles the parish boundary. A Ruislip Terrier (land survey) of 1837² refers to it as 'part house' for that reason.

At that time it was fairly new. The fields which seem to have been cleared from the North Riding portion of Mad Bess Wood are shown on Rocque's Map of Middlesex 1754 and on the Ruislip Enclosure Map 1806, but there was no house at those dates. The small estate belonged to Peter Styles of Syppenham, Burnham, Bucks, in the late eighteenth century, but Joseph Spicer & Co owned it in 1837 and William Brill was then living there. A few years later it was bought by Joseph Ashby Partridge of Breakspears and was sold to Howard Stransom Button in 1922⁴ following the death of Commander Tarleton of Breakspears.

Mr Button lived at The Cedars at Hillingdon and was head of Howard Roberts, a well-known grocery chain based at Uxbridge. As we continued on our way we discovered that he bought up much of the land between Breakspear Road and Ducks Hill in the early 1920s to create a sporting estate, most of it previously having been part of Breakspears.

Selsaws and Hodgett Hill

We followed the stream up hill, noting parts of the hedgerow that seemed to have been allowed to widen and develop into a spring of woodland and at other places relics of what had probably been a double boundary hedge. We crawled through barbed wire into Selsaws, a group of fields, mentioned in Harefield records from the early sixteenth century. Richard Webbe sold them to William Heyden in 1512⁵. They became part of Ashby Farm, which stands on the Ruislip side of the boundary, and were acquired by Mr Partridge about 1840⁶. Here we were joined by seven or eight horses, all seemingly with a penchant for historical knowledge, as they poked their heads between us every time we stopped to look at maps and discuss the view. The parish boundary runs along the eastern edge of Selsaws. Old maps show it as a lane joining Jackets Lane with the Green Lane that runs through Mad Bess Wood and comes out by the Scout Camp into Breakspear Road North.

The northern edge of Selsaws was another old lane, now barely discernible called Clay Lane that ran down the hill from the site of Hodge at Hill (Hodgett Hill) to Breakspear Road North near Bourne Farm. Hodge at Hill was demolished sometime in the nineteenth century and the hollow where it stood is now in the shooting grounds of Holland and Holland. It belonged to Beatrix Collins in 1518⁷ and became part of the Breakspears estate in 1774 a couple of years after John Joseph Partridge married Elizabeth Ashby. It was part of their marriage settlements.

Youngwood and Ashby Farms

Through gaps and gateways in the hedge we had good views of Youngwood Farm in Ruislip, named after the Youngwood portion of Mad Bess Wood. It is a sixteenth century timber-framed building with later additions and mainly modern outbuildings. It is just within the boundary of St Catherine's Manor in Ruislip and is possibly the house that the Lady Paget permitted her woodward, Thomas Gold, to build c1587. From 1873-83 it was part of Lawrence James Baker's Haydon Hall estate and was then owned by the Cox family of Harefield Place and Hillingdon House until the end of the First World War. Howard Stransom Button bought it from the Cavendish Land Company in 1922 and it went to the Middlesex County Council in 1936. Consequently it passed through the GLC 1964-84 to the Borough of Hillingdon. The Churchill family farmed there for much of the nineteenth century.

Ashby Farm could also be seen and the tops of two cottages called Ashby Cottages. The farmhouse appears to have been rebuilt in the early nineteenth century, perhaps when Peter Bonython owned and occupied the farmhouse according to the Ruislip Rate Books and 1837 Terrier. He sold it to Joseph Ashby Partridge. However, a house has stood on the site since at least the sixteenth century when John Living was given as the owner in a 1565 Terrier.

The cottages have a plaque giving their date as 1911. They were part of Commander Tarleton's improvements to the Breakspears estate. The Ive family was resident at Ashby Farm during most of Queen Victoria's reign and the Golding family during the twentieth century.

Because of some difficulty in getting across some hedges we deviated from the parish boundary and went through two pieces of woodland with teasing names, Scarlet Spring and Deadmans Grove. We could see, on the hill behind us, some of the buildings of Ducks Hill Farm and the Horse House and the Guinness Trust Flats at the top of Jackets Lane. At the top of a long field we joined a public footpath running from Shepherd Hill to the corner of Jackets Lane, where we rejoined the parish boundary.

Battlerswells

We completed the walk by walking up Jackets Lane which is on the boundary, with French Grove on our right, until we reached Battlerswells.

The old Battlerswells was part of Breakspears from the seventeenth century and water from a well or spring was carried in pipes to Breakspears in Commander Tarleton's time. Battlerswells Farm was sold to Charles Hamilton Wickes in 1922¹⁰ and he and his wife employed a fashionable architect, Philip Tilden, to design a new house. It was described in 'The Builder' in January 1926. When advertised for sale in January 1987 the estate included a country house, stud farm, two workers cottages and 26 acres. Seven years later the house was bought by an Islamic community and was renamed Dar Al Tableegh. A much more modern house at the top of the lane is now called Battlerswell Farm. However, the horses have gone and some of the outbuildings appear to be falling down. A firm, 'Rebus' is using other outbuildings.

We returned to Bayhurst Wood in ease and comfort, thanks to a mini-coach thoughtfully provided by Robert Goodchild.

¹ LMA: Acc1085 EM8

² LMA: DRO 19 E3!2

³ !bid

⁴ LMA: MDR 1922 23 727

⁵ LMA: Ace 1085 M54

⁶ LMA: Ace 1085 M46

⁷ LMA: Ace 1085 M54

⁸ LMA: Ace 1085 57

⁹ Bowlit, Eileen M. *The Goodliest Place in Middlesex*, pp79.

¹⁰ LMA: MDR 19222285

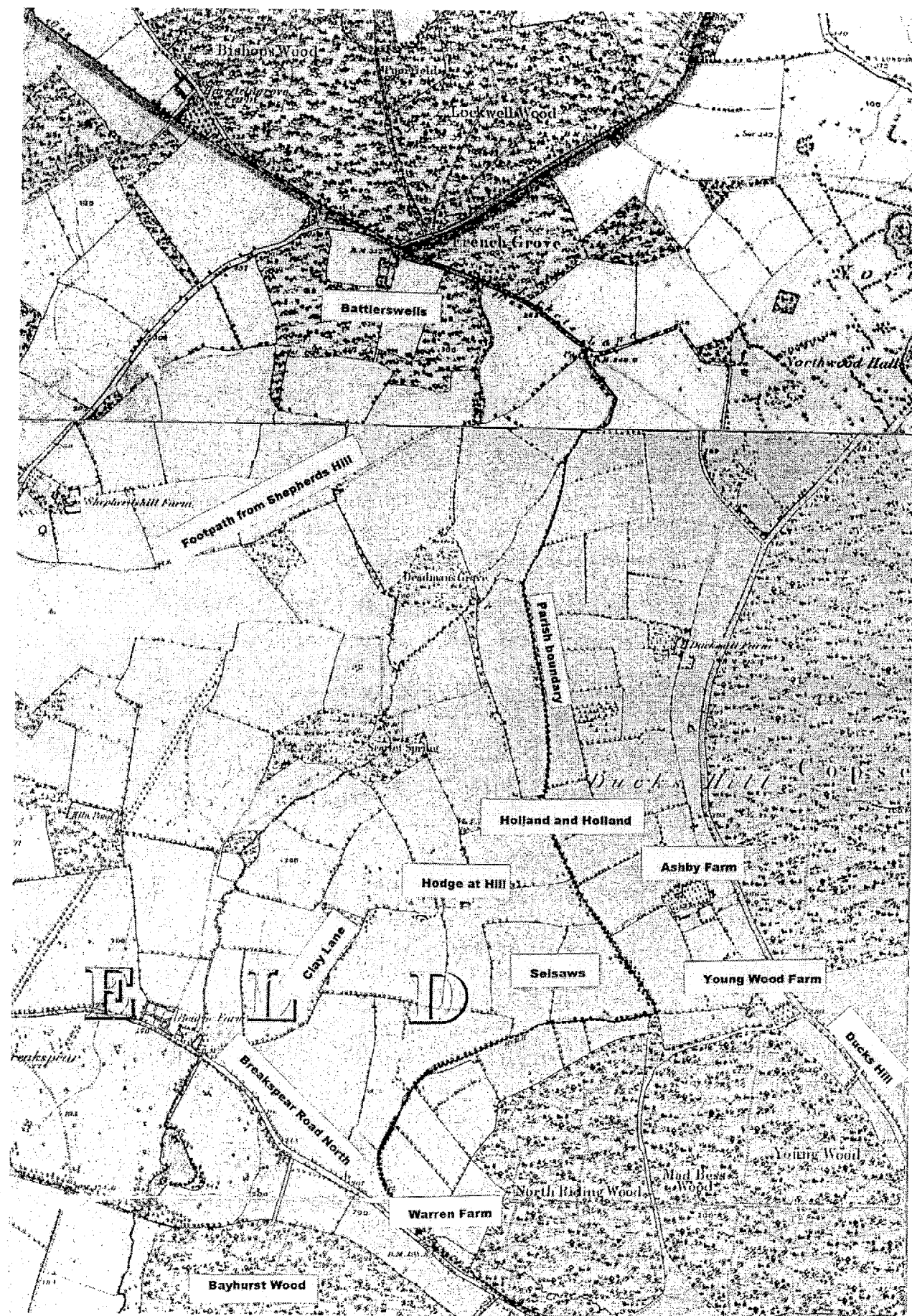


Fig. 1 The portion of the common boundary between Ruislip and Harefield, beaten on the 19 May 2004, based upon the 1866 OS six inch map

BOB BEDFORD 1916 - 2004

The Society suffered the loss of one of its oldest and most active members with the death of Bob Bedford in March this year. Bob had been a prominent figure in many aspects of local life, appropriately so as his roots were in Middlesex. His family at one time ran *The Case is Altered* in Eastcote, and his father walked the beat in Harrow.

Bob was born in the county and lived here all his life except for his time in the army. However there was nothing parochial about his interests, and he took every opportunity to travel. As a youngster he cycled a lot, and in his first job in shipping he used to board a boat to somewhere in the British Isles and then cycle back. During his time in India in the war he used his leaves to get away into the Himalayas.

After the war he went into the new kind of shipping with BEA, and virtually created their cargo facilities, carrying on with British Airways - if he had still been in charge it's doubtful if the Brinksmat robbery would have even been attempted.

His marriage to Jean at Ruislip was the beginning of a happy and loving partnership. Together they made a home in Arlington Drive where they saw Liz and Paul launched into worthwhile careers, and set Sue on the path to independence. Home and garden were of great importance - Bob said that digging the garden was one of his greatest pleasures.

However Bob still found time for a multitude of interests and activities, all with aspects of service to the community. Whatever he joined he took an active role in. He and Jean began the local branch of the National Trust. Bob was the leading figure on the Conservation Panel. He was a strong supporter of the Residents Association, becoming a Life Vice-President. He was a prime mover in the setting-up of

Neighbourhood Watch. At St. Mary's, Harefield Bob took a full and active role in church affairs including being a Sidesman and member of the PCc..

Jean and he were both very active in the Local History Society, Jean as Secretary and Bob as a superb organiser of many splendid visits, all impeccably planned, researched and reconnoitred, and all having a bit of archaeology tucked in somewhere. He took a lead in the archaeological digs at Manor Farm and the old Vicarage. He served on the committee where his down-to-earth practicality was invaluable. For a long time he regularly opened up the hall and brought the equipment to meetings. His considerable services to the Society were recognised with Honorary Life Membership.

Jean's death hit him very hard, but he coped bravely and competently with the support and the joy he had from his children and grandchildren in whom he took great pride. He continued with his active roles in the various bodies, and joined the Widowed In Mid Marriage organisation where he made many good friends.

The stroke that he suffered and its after effects were particularly frustrating for Bob. He, who had always been on hand to do and to help, was himself now dependent on others. The patience he developed did not, I believe, come easily to him but he was deeply appreciative of the support of the family and friends.

His last few weeks were very hard despite the good care he was having. He found it more difficult to speak, and after the latest stroke was hardly able to communicate at all. However, he seemed determined to hold on long enough for all the family and some of his closest friends to make their farewells. We hope that he is now at rest, and we can remember the Bob each of us knew.

Kay Holmes

EILEEN WATLING 1924 - 2003

It was with great sadness that members of the Society heard of the death of Eileen Watling in December 2003. She had played a large part in the life of the Society for many years and served as secretary from 1989-99. During that time Eileen participated in every aspect of the Society's activities.

Two of her major interests were history and archaeology, so it is not surprising that she went on nearly all the outings, but she also had a flare for organisation that was much in evidence when exhibitions at the Cow Byre were being planned. She collected the key each day, locked up in the evenings, took care of the money from the sale of publications and arranged the rota of helpers. Her stint as secretary also covered the years when we organised some of the Local History Conferences at the Winston Churchill Hall. Again her help was invaluable. At Christmas time she purchased festive tablecloths for the tables, helped with the rather ambitious cooking that we went in for in those days and joined in the entertainment. She also typed the carol sheets that we used to sing from. Who will ever forget the intricate seventeenth century dances that were a feature of the Pepys Evening with Eileen's stately figure in the middle of the set? Her quiet manner belied her love of dressing up and acting. In December 1990 the theme of the Christmas meeting was 'Christmas 1940'. Eileen, dressed in a school blazer and panama hat gave a lively account of her experiences as an evacuee, the highlight being the thrill experienced by the girls when they did their Greek lessons in a Gentlemen's Cloakroom!

Eileen Watling was born in Walthamstow and attended Walthamstow Girls' High

School. On account of the heavy bombing in East London, the family moved to Eastcote during the Second World War and she went to Harrow County School for Girls. She was evacuated to Wellington and much of Eileen's preparation for the School Certificate examinations was done in shelters.

She trained as a teacher at Salisbury Church of England Training College and later studied for a BA in history at Birkbeck College in the evenings, whilst working during the day. She enjoyed history and being keen to do some research, embarked upon an MA under Professor R.R. Darlington. She did not complete it, however, because she married Maurice Watling, head of English at the School where she was teaching history, in 1957. They had eight happy years together, indulging their common love of travel and gardening, before he died suddenly in their garden on a Sunday morning in 1965.

This was a traumatic event in Eileen's life. She was then head of History at a school in Chiswick. She later moved to Kingsbury as deputy head of the Lower School, where her tact was needed and appreciated at a time of some difficulty in the educational world in Brent. She stayed there until her retirement.

It was at that point that Eileen began voluntary work as an archaeological volunteer at the Museum of London and shortly afterwards she joined our Society. She continued to travel widely and to tend her garden. She was a member of the Royal Horticultural Society. It was also during those years that she played her role in our Society. She is much missed.

Eileen M. Bowlf.