

Oxfordshire Maps

at Corpus Christi College, Oxford

Notes written by Dr. W.O. Hassall

Publication no. C00522

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Oxfordshire Maps at Corpus Christi College, Oxford

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Twenty-two coloured maps by Thomas Langdon and Henry Wilcocke, 1605-1615, of Oxfordshire properties of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

Photographs by the University Press, Oxford.

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Foreword

There are two volumes of maps of the estates of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The first contains the college's Oxfordshire properties. Most of these maps were made in the early seventeenth century and this film omits those inserted at a later date, confining itself to these properties.

Such surveys were made in the early days of surveying and may not always be perfectly accurate. But they are very beautiful, giving an instructive and detailed bird's-eye view of the tracts of country where their maker's employer happened to have property. Printed maps on a comparably large scale were not produced until the nineteenth century, after the process of enclosing the common fields was complete.

It is interesting to see how the small arable strips which formed a typical peasant holding in an unenclosed "open-field" parish lay scattered in a multitude of places. In other places the college had property already enclosed by green hedges.

The film begins with details of the first map, in order to show legibly on the screen the names of the holders of a number of strips. Unfortunately, the reduction of a large map on to 35mm. colour film, owing to the grain of the film, is too great to allow the minutely-written wording to be legible. For this reason, rather lengthy notes are provided to print the place-names mentioned on each map.

It is a wonderful thing for a student of local history to be able to examine an early unprinted map of his own, or a neighbouring parish. The most usual types of such early maps to survive are those made in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries in connection with enclosures of the common fields made by commissioners under acts of parliament for the enclosures of various parishes. Other maps were often made in the middle of the nineteenth century in connection with awards concerned with the payment of tithes. The most beautiful, interesting and early maps are, however, those made for landlords in connection with the administration of their estates.

Copies of enclosure and tithe maps are preserved by the central or local government authorities and in diocesan offices. The whereabouts or even the existence of private estate maps is a matter of chance, and one of the weaknesses of the system of organised historical and geographical knowledge in Britain is the absence of any central collection of photographs of them.

Some of the most famous series of early estate maps, other than those at Corpus, are fine series at All Souls College, Oxford, the Laxton maps in the Bodleian Library, and the estate maps at Holkham. The latter are especially instructive because they show the same parishes at different periods, so that it is possible to see what changes occurred between various dates.

Frames 1-5 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 1, April 1606

4 details followed by the entire map.

Scale and titles of all these maps are bordered with fruit and flowers. "The description of the Towne of Hayeford ad pontem in the Countye of Oxford and yt parte of the fields wch lye betweene the waye called Church waye on the south and the boundes of Steeple Aston in parte and the boundes of ouer Hayeford in parte on the north, and abbutteth on the river called Charwell towards the weste and upon the waye called Oxeforde Waye towards the easte . . ." Also Rousham on S.W.

Place names mentioned : Greate Enderham, Little Enderham, Bridge Close, The Greene (dem Midsomer grounde), Cate meade ham, Formor's New Close, Broade heade, Caldecotte Meadow, Church Meade, Goose ham (horse pasture), Milneham (do.), Ouer Hayeforde Common, Hayforde Warren, Hayeforde Fielde, Parsonage (Bromeswell Close), Great Thatchame, Mylne weere.


Lower Heyford, between Oxford and Banbury, is called Heiford ad Pontem in 1254. The River Cherwell, and later the Oxford canal, was a source of trade. Ekwall suggests that "Hayford" was originally a ford used in time of hay harvest. The common fields here were enclosed in 1802. In the enclosure award the Erderhams are called *Great and Little Endesham meadow*.

Mention is also made of Bridge Close, Broadhead, Church Meadow, Goose Ham, Mill Holme, Bromswell Close. "Caldecott" mentioned in 1199, means "Cold cottages".

Thatcham is spelt Thecham about 1200, and signifies a river-meadow with reeds for thatch.

Frame 6 Langdon Maps II : Map No. 2, April 1606.

"The description of that part of Caldecott fielde in the parishe of Hayforde ad pontem in the countye of Oxeforde, yt liethe between Bicester waye on the southe and abbutteth upon porteway alias Oxeforde waye towards the weste and upon the boundes of Ouer Hayforde in parte, and upon the boundes of Middleton Stonye in pare towarde ye Easte belonginge unto the presidente"

Places mentioned : Pease land Slade, The  Stone (on Bicester way), Astmore Fursen (common pasture), Astmore well heade, Asmore Slade in Over Hayforde.

Calcutt ("Caldcott") is 12 miles S.E. of the main village of Lower Heyford. The enclosure award of 1802 mentions Astmoor Heath (probably the east marsh). Slade, meaning valley or dell and Fursen, dialect for furze, commonly occur in field names. Much of the land in Lower Heyford belonged to the adjoining Middleton Stony estate, of which the earls of Jersey were famous owners in recent times.

Frame 7 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 3, 1606 "by Tho-Langdon"

As I, 2 to Oxforde, together with the croftes thereof that lieth between portwaye Middleton Stonye on the easte Kirtleton towards the south Bicester waye to north.

Fordrowe waye, The Breache, Breache Slade, the waye leading from Oxeforde towards Brackley.

"The Breache" means land newly taken into cultivation. The name "fordrove" also occurs at Bletchingdon.

Drift or Droweway is a way along which animals are driven.

"Portwaye", sometimes taken to mean a road leading to a town, is on the line of a possible Roman road.

Frame 8 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 4, 1606

Part of Manour of Hayeford, Kirtlington on south, Caldecott on north, Charwell to west, Oxford way to east. Also Rowsham to east.

Cotmeade hamm, The Lynche, South Meadowe, South Fielde (cow pasture) South waye.

(At Rowsham is the only garden anywhere designed by William Kent, which still retains its 18th-century character.)

Frame 9 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 5, 1605

Map of Tackley (3 miles N.E. by N. of Woodstock)

Whitehill (parish of Tackley) Tackley to north, Kirtlington to east, Bletchingdon to S.E. and S. Shipton on Charwell to south, way from Banbury to Oxford on west.

The Fursen (sheepes pasture), part of Weefleye Fielde, Longe bancke, Akemans streete, Weste Fielde, Fursen Close, Whitson moore, Middle Fielde, Harryes peece, Whitehill, Under Whitehill,

Moore Close, Clay furl, Longe furl, Stonyborow, Sandes, Fore-shooters, Woodstock stones, The Cliffe, Southe Fielde, Glyden horne, Milnpath furl, Longe over, Short over, piked acre, Fishers furl, South meade close, Rowsham meade, The Linche, Easte Fielde, short furl., longe furl., the ham, Easte Meade, Leaes Acres, Sandes, Kings weer, mills (milnes) of Mr. Pore, Mr. Arden.

The name Tackley means a wood or clearing.

Whitehill, a detached hamlet at Tackley, spelt Wihthille in 1004, means "hill with a curved hollow".

Weefleye ("Willow wood") is now Weaveley farm. Akeman street is the name of a Roman road running east and west, which crosses the Cherwell at Tackley. Weefleye is also mentioned in the early eleventh century.

Piked or picket is an early and common word for describing an angular piece of land.

The Cliffe refers to the bank of the River Cherwell.

Frame 10 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 6, 1605

Handborough. Parcels of Arable land (5 miles S.W. of Woodstock) Southe fielde, Milne Fielde, Middle Fielde, Porters Close, Ludcrofte (the Glebe), Town Close, the Asserte, Under Ludcrofte, Badmans Hill, Stonyehill, Weresden furlong, Meaninge way or long landes, All-landes, Speare Sharpe, Milne hill, Rosewell gutter, Shorte hale, Longe hale, Woolbitten furl., Fenlake lot meadowe, Stonepitte furl., Quarrey pitte way, woode waye, Long winmore, Comborow meadow, Hen Crofte, Parte of Woodstocke park.

The Asserte (assart) and Fenlake are mentioned in the enclosure award of 1773.

Woodstock Park, once royal property, surrounded Blenheim Palace built by Vanburgh for the Duke of Marlborough. The Duke became chief landowner and lord of the manor of Handborough. Stonepitte furlong, Quarry pitte way and Stoneyhill are names associated with Handborough's former fame as a producer of a kind of gypsum.

Frame 11 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 7, 1605

A tenement called Downhilles in Handborough

The Frythe, Freelandes, Chasewell Close, Musley Close, Heath

fieldes, Heath fielde Close, Parsonage huntse close, Hunt close, The Parsonage, Berry Close, Aberye-Crofte, Churchtown Close, Down-alles, Powes Lane, Dorcers Close, The Breache, Hurdes well furlong, Cockes stile, Middle Fielde, Deane, Blacknell furl., Over Deane, Bruton Hill, Wood end waye, Hache way, Wood close, Kentes paths, woolbitten furl., Longe Landes, Longe Hedge furl., Kentes path furl., Long Handborough street, Shorte Winmore, Longe Winmore.

Downhill farm was originally spelt Dunhall (1267). Dun means chill. The enclosure award of 1773 mentions The Chaswith: Muszeley Closes (Mosele in the thirteenth century).

Frame 12 Langdon Maps I: Map No. 8

Arable Land in Handborough

Ensham (on west), Cotte-man Meade, Bitternoll Meade, Southe Fielde, Brooke furl., Holte meade, Hillandmeade furl., Wool landes, Welheade, Enshame Stone, Creste furl., Over Welbrook, Short Downe, Longe Downe, Ban-landes, Millne Fielde, Cowles peece, Broad Leaes, Bitternell furl., Standehills, Change were, Bye Southe Meadowe, Lotte Meadowe.

The Enclosure award (1773) mentions China Weir (change Were) and Long Down Furlong. In the "Lotte Meadowe" shares were assigned by lot. The neighbouring parish of Eynsham, which gave its name to Enshame Stone, was the site of a Saxon Benedictine Abbey.

Millne Fielde alludes to a mill.

Frame 13 Langdon Maps I: Map No. 9, 1615

Tenements in Eynsham

Cassington (to north) Cowleaes, Swineforde Leaes in Comnor, The Lotte Meadow, Stub furlonge, Long Lighte, Claye weere, Baylies ham, Ferry leaes.

Frame 14 Langdon Maps I: Map No. 10, 1615

Perch Close in Eynsham

N.B.—*Eynsham Under the Monks*, by Sir Edmund Chambers (Oxon. Record Soc., vol. xviii) contains a map of Eynsham Common Fields, 1782.

Frame 15 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 11, April 1615

“ The Description of certaine landes lieinge in the northe field of Einsham ”

(N.E.) Fallowe Close, Hanborowe, Hanborow Brooke, (the furl. beyond) Stonend Bridge, Milnemoore Close, Milne Lane, Woodstocke Waye, Brockes Close, Brockes headlande, Brokes well springe, Gravelle Pittes, Sparre Acre close, Towne close, Townes ende, Torresgrave meere, Redlandes furl., Abling on londens withies, Northe Fielde, Blacke-bushe furl., (Parte of) Conduite Fielde, Shorte walles conduite fielde, Osney leaes (C.C.C. called Parker piece), a furl. above white pittes, Crabtree F., Couleworthe Slade furl., Couleworthe Closes, Torres grave meere Eae ? Hill furl.

Frame 16 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 12, April 1615

“ The description of certeine arable landes some of them havinge hades of meadow and grasse grounde beinge in the Southe Fielde of Einsham ”

(N.W.) Southe Fielde, Belgrave acre, The waye (parte of) Sutton, Deadmanes buriall, The furlonge abbuttinge on Sutton brooke, Shuttocks Ham, Brockes hedlande, Brockes well, Owters Hyemate.

Frame 17 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 13, April 1615

“ The description of certeine arable lands lieinge on the Southe fieelde of Einsham.”

(W). Linthorne (Shooting into) Larke dale, Elder stump f., Stewerde bushe, Twelve acre, Twelve acre Close, Dead landes f., Chelbreade furlonge, Calke croste slade f., Lieche fieelde, Barrowe Hill (shooting on) farm peece, Grantes Close.

Frame 18 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 14, April 1615

“ The description of certeine parcelles of lotte meadowe and lea grounde lieing on the north N. weste parte of the lane yt leadeth from Bowbridge towards Cassington, in the meadow called Milne meadow in the parishe of Einsham ”

(N.W.) Worsey brooke, widowes ham, Milnemoore Close, Rushmil moore, (Parte of) Cattesbrayne farme, Cattesbrayne, Cassington Meadowe, Bitter Dale, Milne Meadowe, Bawbridge (building indicated), The lane leadinge to Cassington.

Frame 19 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 15, Nov. 1605

Marston 15. The description of certeine parcelles and pasture grounde in Brookefielde, Suttonfielde and horseleyes in the parish of Marston

Wasse Way, Washewaye furlonge, Low Runsted, Longeland, Sutton Field, Sutton furl., Southe Moore (lotte meadowe), Meaden hill furl., Stockleaes, Asslande furl., Brooke Fielde, Underhedleye, Hedleye, Horse Leaes, Little Millponde, Greate Millponde, Brookes borow, Pachte, Middle Crofte furl., Highe Crosse furl., Tyle hoste furl.

Frame 20 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 16, Nov. 1605

Tenements in Marston and diverse parcelles of arable meadowe and pasture grounde being in Marshefielde Colternefielde and some parcelles in Suttonfielde.

(Right hand top corner. A note of the contentes of colledge grounds in Marston.)

Water Eaton, Goseleys Comon, Colterne Field, Colterne Pasture, Milne furl., Milne Way, Normoore (lotte meadow), Westlandes, Northmead Meadowe (Oxeforde), The Ham, Forward ham, Hamgrove furl., Longe Deane, Redland furl., (Deade Claye), Turtle furlonge, Succrofte Comon, Coweleaes, Sheepe Comon, Longe Foxwell, Marshe Fielde, Stente furl., Hallyday Hill, Bradlandes, Stone furl., Alesworth furl., Stache, Longeacre furl., Marshedich furl., Chickensleaes, Northcrofte furl., Steel longe furl.

Little drawing of Marston Church *in situ*, and of two houses, one west of church and one to N.E. (now known as Cromwell's House, Old Marston).

Frame 21 Langdon Maps I : Map No. 17, Nov. 1605

Headington ; Stanton St. John

Description of one tenement 7° (?) Cotages and diverse parcelles of arable pasture and meadow grounde lyeing in Headington and Stanton St. John.

In 13 sections of varying size. Top left-hand corner only describes part of Stanton St. John, the rest relate to Headington.

Section 1 (reading from left to right).

Stanton Field, Stafford Close, Stafforde Lane (one house shown in lane).

Section 2. Quarrye Pittes.

Section 3. Quarrey Hedge, Burbushe.

Section 4. Wheatehill.

Section 5. Limekiln Moore, Limekiln furl., Leye hill, Parte of Cowley.

Section 6. Places. (Parte of) Else Field, Headington Meade.

Section 7. Runteforow acre (Comon Meade), Dace Lane, Comon foot (walk ?), Burnetownes end, Highe Street, Oxforde Waye, Courte Close, Pounce Close, Pounce leaes, Towne Field, Bladens Corner, Houndes Moore, Midle furl., Brockalles Fielde.

Section 8. Southe Fielde, Little Crowell, Greate Crowell.

Stanton St. John and Headington.

Section 9. Ducke meade, Underleaes, Colledg corner, Collidge leaes.

Section 10 (inset into section 7). Greate Headeley, Cley Close, W.W. Bues Grove, Pounce leaes.

Section 11. Middle furl., Barthol-mewes (apparently a wood).

Section 12. Colledge leaes, Cleys Close (see sect. 10).

Section 13. Oxforde waye, Brockall Fielde, Hedington Hill.

Headington (since 1928 mainly included in Oxford city boundaries) was a royal manor within the limits of the royal forest of Shotover. Its population worked in quarries yielding stone for Oxford Colleges, eight of which owned quarries. The name is derived from that of a Saxon, Hedena. Headington stands on a hill, east of Oxford, and was important strategically in the Civil War when the headquarters of Charles I were at Oxford.

Stanton St. John (5 miles E.S.E. of Oxford) preserves the name of its Norman owner. It almost all belonged to New College and that college's warden Woodward has recorded in detail his "progress" to this and other estates in the commonwealth and early restoration period.

Note. Houses are shown in *Section 1* (9 v), and in *Section 7* a "common well" is shown, and there are several small drawings *in situ* of buildings of various shapes and sizes, especially in Dace Lane, Highe Streete, and between Courte Close and Pounce Close.

Frame 22 Langdon Maps I: Map No. 18, Nov. 1605

Cowley (1)

Description of tenement of Hockmore Street in the parishe of Cowley with some small enclosures and diverse parcelles of arable lande meadow and pasture grounde lieinge and beinge in the towne and Fieldes of Cowley.

Note. Buildings drawn in and near "Hockmore Streete". Alms-houses mentioned (Dunington property) in Pibley Furl., in south-west corner of map.

" ? (t)oothlesse healnd " seems to be the name of owner of road or section S.W. of Broade Felde.

Longe broken furl., Horsepath furl., Dunnington or Denington, or Duningtons, or Dunington : (name of owner ?), Springals furl., Shorte Seldon, Nether Durford, Over Durford, Upper Ferne hill, Easte Felde, Harehedge, Bullington Slade, Bullington Greene, Bullington Penne, Bullington furl., Longe furlonge, Gasington waye, Pease f., Bleache f., Broade Felde, Gorebread, Pill furlonge, Awgar stone, Burbushe f., Woode Felde, Longe Hockmore, Shorte Hockmore, Hockmore Street, Hockmore Waye, Littlemore Felde, (at Banke) Between townes, Temple Cowley, Berrye Lane, Hollow Waye, Pibley Furl., Madcrofte, Kames Shepehouse Lane, Pyehill, Berrie wall (or owner ?), Butchers Lane, Courte Close, Alesbreach, Brooke f., Littlehaye, Cowley Marsh, Catwell, Lake Field.

Cowley is two miles from the centre of Oxford. The name is Saxon and means Cufa's wood.

A hillman was responsible for field boundaries, and a hayward was responsible for fighting pests.

A late 18th-century military college was bought (1912) by W. Morris (now Lord Nuffield) and formed the nucleus of a great built-up area.

Frame 23 Langdon Maps I: Map No. 19, Nov. 1605

Cowley (2)

"The description of certeine landes leaes and meadowe grounds beinge in Cowley"

St. Barthol-mewes, Bartholmewes Felde, Prestmore, Nether Prestmore, Over Prestmore, Bowlshton Groundes, Whitson Leaes,

Marshe furl., Longe Hill, Wallingforde Waye, Campus Fielde, St. Edmds well f., The Marshe, Weste Fielde, The Long Brache, Lake leas, Lake Fielde, Catte well Fielde, Eiseley fielde.

Note. Drawing of Bowlshipton House and other houses on "London Waye to Oxford". "Almeshouse of Dunington" denoted in five places in area.

Inset. Cowley Fielde, Milneholme, Longe meadowe (lot meade), Sidnam Meadowe, Eiseley fielde, Eiseleye Meadow, Christes Church meadowe.

Note. Magdalen Bridge (?) drawn, adjoining small triangular areas "Magdalen Coll." and "Comon to Cowley".

Frame 24 Langdon Maps I: Map No. 20, Nov. 1605

Littlemore.

The description of a certeine tenement in Littlemore and diverse parcelles of arable meadowe and pasture ground lieinge abroad in the fieldes of Littlemore.

Parte of Sanforde, Lidginge well, Mareshayes, Weste Fielde, Litle Fielde, Lake Fielde, Lake furl., Eyesley Fielde, Grasse furl., Pipley furlonge, Broade Fielde, Nether horse furl., Over horse furl., Nether Landes, Hockmore furl., Cocks hedge furl.

Note. Houses and "coll?" shown at junction of "The waye from Cowley to Littlemore" and "Oxforde Waye".

Inset. Eyeley Lanè, Nighe meade Littlemore.

Corpus farm is much as today.

Matthew Arnold found the old village with its rubble walls and thatched roofs "dreary." J. H. Newman (later the cardinal) planted many trees in 1840.

The common fields were inclosed in 1819.

Frame 25 Langdon Maps I: Map No. 21, Nov. 1605

Horspath; Rewley; Littlemore

"The description of a tenement and certeine parcelles of pasture meadow and wood ground in Horsepath and of certeine meadowe and pasture ground in Oxford called Rewley grounds, and also of certeine arable landes in Littlemore in the fields there called Loddenham fields and Broade fields. . . ."

Section 1. Horspath

Horsepathe Streete, Horsepath greene, Horsepathe fielde, Horsepath Comon, The hill grounde, The meadowe, The Greate Grounde (38 acs. 2 ro. 0 p.) Part of Shotover Woode, Greate Chauley, Little Chauley, Coll. woode, Perriall Closes.

Note. Houses shown on and adjacent to Horsepath Streete. Horspath (4 miles E.S.E. of Oxford) still possesses many of the field names used in 1605. The Corpus estate was all enclosed and in this differs from the rest of the parish where the fields remained open and divided into arable strips until 1858. The Corpus estate has disintegrated since 1939-45, part becoming a playing field and part becoming a council estate.

Section 2. Rewley. (lower left hand)

Otelande Meadowe, Botley Meadowe, The Cawsey Leading to Botley, Rewley Groundes, Rewly Walkes, Midley Groundes, Christes Church Groundes.

Section 3. Littlemore. (right half of page)

Deepe Moore, Winingham, Redmoore, Fursen Greene, Loddendam Fielde, Little Fielde, Part of Gasington, Broade Fielde, Nether Shilden, Fursen Way.

Note. "Almeshouse of Dunington" in Lower furl.

Frame 26 Langdon Maps I: Map No. 22, Oct. 1606

Warborough

"The description of the site of two barnes called parsonage barnes with the curtilage and waye into it lieing in Warborowē in the parish of Dorcester . . . together with the churchyard and the precincte of the fieldes of Warborowe aforesaide . . ."

Parte of Hepcome, Bericke Field, Benson comon meade, Isden Bridge, Benson comon sterfe, Breade Laynes, Shorte buttes, Olde Claye, Home Fielde, Ladybrooke comon, Costall fielde, Warboro Sterte, Berye Field, Haseley Meadowe, Battle Greene, Henne Fielde, Lynches, Oxe Leacs, Comon Aytes, Burge Greene, Satwell Meade, Parte of Wallingford, Holkham Grange, Dramelake, Allhouse Moore, Part of Dorcester, Northmore, Ham Meadowe, Preiste moore, Meade Field, Overye Fielde, London Wayt, Shellinforde ferrye.

Note. Church, Parsonage barn and numerous houses near by drawn *in situ*.

Houses also shown at Shellingforde.

Inset. "The description of two barnes called Parsonage barnes with the curtilage and waye unto it in the church yarde . . . in a larger proportion viz. X perches to an ynche."

Church, Vicarage, Herd house and other houses shown, also, The Greene, Churchyarde, Parsonage barnes, Warborow Stear.

Tithes. N.B.--Part of Comon Aytes is designated "Bishopp ayte not tiethed", Bunge Greene "not tiethed", part of Preiste moore "not tiethed", and Dramelane (part of Allhouse moore) tieth to Draiton.

Warborough contained one of Oxfordshire's few groups of Quakers.