

Part 3. Lives of the Common People, HLF project, January 2012 - July 2013

7. Land Transactions and Land Use

Castleton Land Transactions Kay Harrison

Through Documentary Research it has been possible to identify many different land transactions taking place in Castleton within the medieval period. However, they have given us much more information than simply a land transaction taking place. We have been able to identify, from searching documents, the “common” people who lived and worked in Castleton at this time.

Family Names

Many of the old and familiar “Castleton” family names can be seen running through the documents down the years. These include Hall, Savage, Gardner, Eyre, Tym, Torr, Dakin, Barber, Staley and many others. The land transactions have shown us what status these people were, and their occupations. The Staleys and Savages were mainly gentlemen; a gentleman may be defined as a man of breeding or higher class. The Eyres of Castleton were mainly referred to as “esquire” meaning a male member of the gentry ranking below a knight. The Halls, Gardners, Tyms, Halloms, Rowlands, Loughtons, Dronfields, Needhams and Barbers, however, were our “common” people; yeomen and husbandmen. A husbandman is defined as a farmer, one who raised crops or tended animals. A yeoman was one who farmed his own land; a commoner of good standing, a freeholder. Other occupations include a chaplain who was a member of the clergy officially assigned to an institution, group or private chapel. Also there was a reeve who was a local official such as a bailiff or a steward, and a mercer who was a merchant dealing in textiles and fabrics (Wiktionary 2013).

The transactions have also given us references of genealogy such as the name of a spouse, a son or a widow.

“Robert Hall of Castleton, husbandman, and Grace Hall his wife, to Martin Hallom of Bradwell, yeoman. Certain parcels of land in the town fields of Castleton” (Anon. 1623). In 1336:

“Grant from John, son and heir of Robert Balgy, jun. to William, his son, and Joan, daughter of John del Halle of Castilton, of all the messuages, etc, which were formerly Robert Balgy’s in Le Castilton, with the lands which William Trayhot sometime held, and the land which Cecily, widow of Walter Pygot, holds as dower, and which, on her death, revert to the said John Balguy” (Jeayes 1906, #554, p72).

“Joan, daughter of Gereminius Pygot of Villa Castri (Castleton) of the Peak, in her pure virginity and full dominion, to Hugh Whitlocky of the same, for a certain sum of money. One burgage in Castleton between the burgages of Robert, son of John, son of Roger, reeve of Castleton, on the south” (Anon, late 1200s).

We have learnt the names of some of our common people and identified what they did for their living. What these records do not show is why land transactions occurred, only that the buying and selling of plots of land did occur during the medieval period.

How Land was Exchanged

Our research has shown us how lands and property were exchanged; by Charter, Grant, Lease, Feoffment, Gift, Bargain and Sale, and for the price paid.

A Charter was a document conferring rights and privileges on a person. By Grant meant whereby land was given over, made conveyance of, given possession or title of, usually in answer to petition. A Lease referred to land being let, or rented. Feoffment; this was a gift or conveyance in fee, the grant of a feud or fee, the instrument or deed of conveyance. Fee; this was an inheritable estate in land held of a feudal lord on condition of the performing of certain services. A feud may be defined as an estate granted to a vassal (one who keeps land of a superior to whom he vows fidelity and homage) by a feudal lord for service. By gift, this would have been land or property exchanging hands as a donation or a present. Bargain; defined as an agreement between parties concerning the sale of property (Wiktionary 2013).

Geography of Transactions

As well as showing how lands changed hands, the transactions show us where people may have lived in the village such as “Ellis Barber of Mam”.

“Ellis Barber of Mam in the Parish of Castleton, yeoman, to Richard Torr of Castleton, yeoman. Barn or Buildings called Astons barn in the Knowles in Castleton, and several closes called Ashtons ground. For £80” (Anon. 1637a).

The area of Mam refers to the hill called Mam Tor and the fields and farms that lie below it, located to the north west of Castleton.

“John Hall the elder of Goose Hill, yeoman, Anne his wife, and John, his son, to Roland Morewood of le Okes, gentleman, and Robert Hall of Loosehill, yeoman. All their messuages, cottages, lands etc in Castleton. To the uses expressed in a deed of even date” (Anon 1637b).

The area referred to as Goosehill lies to the west within Castleton village. It is located up the steeply rising road after the little bridge, called Goosehill Bridge.

“Grant from Thomas Savage de le Spytell, in Castleton, to Elizeus Staley of Readseats, of a piece of meadow described as “oon outfall of medoe,” with four acres and three roods of meadow in Castleton. Dat 6 Mar., 2 Edw. VI (1548)” (Jeayes 1906, #567,568, p74).

The remains of the Spytell (Hospital of the Blessed St. Mary) are believed to be located to the east of Castleton. Grassy mounds can be seen in the field on the right once you’ve passed over Spital Bridge, on the Castleton Road travelling towards Hope. Redseats is located to the south east of Castleton; all that can be seen now is a barn down in the fields to the left when you’ve left the village going along the Pindale Road towards Hope.



Figure 8. Redseats Barn. Photograph by Alan Darlington.

The documents have shown us where a piece of land was located in the village, often with boundaries given, who's land was to the north, south, east and west. Sometimes a feature is given such as "Peaks Arse Stream", the "Town Ditch", the "High Road", or curiously, land lying "between two large stones."

"Roger Barber of Ashoppe, yeoman, to Francis Barber of Castleton, clarke. A messuage and burgage with an adjoining croft in Castleton near the stream called Peaksarse (boundaries described). For £20" (Anon. 1635b).

"Roger Bradwall to John Tym, son of Thomas Tym of Castleton the younger. A burgage in Castleton between the Mill and lands of Richard Cademan west and east and the ditch of the town and 2 large stones south and north to hold of the lord of the fee according to the customs and services and paying annually to Roger a rent of 2d" (Anon. 1455).

In 1486:

"Grant from William Orme to Nicholas Eyere of a burgage in Castleton lying between the water-mill and the high road" (Jeayes 1906, #560, p73).

"Thomas Hall of Eydall, yeoman, to James Koc, chaplain, Nicholas Smythe, John Tyme and Robert Bradbery of Mame. A burgage in Castleton lying between the stream of Peeke Herse and Castell Clyff. To the use of Thomas, and then to the uses of his Will." (Anon. 1532).

Many place and field names in the village, such as Goosehill, Redseats and Spyttall, can still be easily identified today. Also "Slippery Stones"; this is the small road leading away to the right from the top of the Market Place down towards Goosehill Bridge. "Foxhill" is an area lying to the north of the river (Peaks Hole Water) and the short lane running between the main car park and Back Street. Also "Robinlands"; these fields lie north east of Castleton along the track called Robinlands Lane that turns off to the right from the

Hollowford Road.

Others place names remain a mystery; the locations of “Salford Yard”, the exact location of Peak’s Arse Yard, or a field named “Kytlowgreves”, for example, remain intriguingly elusive.

In 1547:

“Exemplification of plea brought by Elizeus Staley against William Nedham, son and heir of Otvel Nedham in Castleton and other lands called Rydyings, Foxhill, and Salford Yard, in the same place” (Jeayes 1906).

“Nicholas Laughton of Castleton, yeoman to William Glossop of Offerton. Cottage called Slippery Stones and crofts etc, named in Castleton. For £20” (Anon. 1628).

In 1495:

“Grant from Edmund Wodrofe, son of Oliver Wodrofe, to Nicholas Eyre, of a parcel of land called Le Redsettes, in Castleton, lying between the king’s land called Kytlowgreves and Castleton field” (Jeayes 1906, #561, p 74).

“John Savage of Castleton, gentleman, to John Hall of the same, son of Robert Hall. All right and title in a burgage in Peaksarse Yard in Castleton now in the occupation of John Hall” (Anon. 1582).

The documents can help us to try to identify the location where land and buildings, known to have been present in the village, may have stood, such as the Hospital of the Blessed St Mary. These two examples give us a fascinating glimpse of how the village may have looked to our “common people” in times gone by.

“Grant of the mansion of the late hospital called Le Spytle of Castleton in Castleton Parish, Derbyshire in tenure of Thomas Savage, a little chapel annexed to that house, 2 little crofts of land (1ac) on the south side of the said mansion, 2 crofts (7ac) of land and meadow on the south side of said mansion, 2 crofts of arable land and 6 roods of land containing together 10 ac, in Bierdalfelde in Castleton, a cottage and 3 crofts (12ac) of land and marsh at the west end below Mametorr of Castleton. Except bells and lead of the said “Spittle” of Castleton” (Anon. 1548-49).

“Thomas Dronfield of Castleton, Derbyshire, husbandman, of the first part, and Henry Garnett als. Stoke of Castleton, Derbyshire, yeoman of the second part. One barn in Castleton with a certain parcel of land adjoining, being about the breadth of the said barn, and in length from the east end to the west end of the said barn, with freedom to carry by carriage, hay, corn, or anything else necessary to the door in the north side of the barn, with a ladder steed round about the same for repair. Sixth part of a fold adjoining the barn on the west, which said fold is to continue to be undivided, and to be jointly used by Thomas Dronfield, Henry Garnett als. Stoke and Robert Dakin of Castleton. For £11 13/4, and to be held of the chief lord of the fee” (Anon. 1641).

Many different names for the lands and property are mentioned such as crofts, fields, gardens, meadows, folds, yards, messuages, barns and burgages. A croft may be defined as a fenced piece of land. A field refers to an open or cultivated piece of land. A garden may be described as an outdoor area to the front or back of a house where plants may be grown for food. A meadow is a field or pasture; a piece of land covered or cultivated with

grass usually intended to be mown for hay. A fold refers to an enclosure for livestock; an enclosed space or yard. A yard itself may be described as a small, usually uncultivated area adjoining within the precincts of a house or other buildings. A messuage refers to plot of land as a site for a house, outbuildings and assigned land. A barn is described as a building, often found on a farm, used for storing or keeping animals such as cattle. A burgage refers to a medieval tenure (a right to hold land under the feudal system) in socage (a system whereby a tenant would pay a rent or do some agricultural work for the landlord) under which property in England was held under the king or lord of a town, maintained for a yearly rent or for rendering a service such as watching or warding (Wiktionary 2013).

Measuring Land

We can see how large a piece of land may have been; in acres, roods and perches, also “one day work with the plough” as a reference to size.

“Stephen Staley of Readseats in the parish of Castleton (co. Derby) gentleman, Nicholas Staley and John Staley of Castleton, to Martin Hallom of Bradwell in the parish of Hope, yeoman. One messuage, fold, barn, croft etc and two gardens adjoining, in Castleton, late Robert Foules” (Anon. 1620),

“Elize Gardner the elder of Castleton, yeoman, and Thomas Gardner his son and heir, to Elize Hall of Castleton, yeoman. A parcel of ground containing one day work with the plough called Howsitch Tongue and one rood on a furlong called Robin lands, for 40 years at a rent of one penny. For £10 and other good causes” (Anon. 1638a).

“John Kyng of Holmesfylde, yeoman to Roger Barbur of Asshop, yeoman. A messuage with 13 roods of land and the whole of a burgage in Castylton now or formerly in the occupation of Roger Cocke, Hugh Smyth and Robert B..... to hold of the lord of the fee” (Anon. 1553).

Buildings

Often property and buildings are listed as standing on the land that is being exchanged; these may be non-specific such as a stable; defined as a building or dependency set apart and adapted for lodging or feeding animals with hooves, or a cottage; a small house, cot or hut. Appurtenances refer to minor properties, such as outhouses, that pass with the main property when it is sold (Wiktionary 2013).

“Richard Barber took from the hands of the King a cottage and parcel of land called Knowles under Mam Torr (of which his father Ed. Barber died seized) by copy of court roll, to the use of Richard and his Heirs” (Anon. 1647).

“Thomas Eyre, esquire, compalinant(?), and Stephen Staley and Creature, his wife and John Staley, deforceants. Four messuages, four cottages, forty acres of land etc in Castleton and Hope” (Anon. 1626).

But sometimes buildings are also named specifically such as the “Castleton Mill” and “The Spittle”.

“William Trigg of the parish of Ealing, Middlesex, to John Hall of Castleton yeoman. Moiety of a mill called Castleton Mill with the profits of the same and a messuage with

stables, gardens, etc, the osier hoppes, the meares, mildams, watercourses etc belonging to the mill, tolls, mulets, customs, privileges, profits to the mill belonging fully freely and in such ample form as King Charles gave by his letters patent of the Duchy of Lancaster on 17th May to Edward Ferrars, deceased, and the said William Trigg. Rent of 15s 10d to the crown” (Anon. 1638b).

“Edward Ferrers of London, mercer, and Francis Phelips of London, gentleman, to John Hall of Castleton, yeoman. Moiety of Castleton Mill with all its buildings, appurtenances, rights etc to hold of the king in the manor of Enfellde (in the county of Middlesex) at an annual rent of 15s 10d” (Anon. 1609).

“Thomas Savage of Castleton gentleman, and Robert Hall of the same, yeoman, agree that the said Thomas will obtain from the Duchy of Lancaster a lease of land in the fields of Castleton called Castell Flatts, with the meadow appertaining, and of a water mill called Castleton Mill for a term of 21 years. The said Robert to occupy the lands, and a moiety of the Mill, for a year and then the lands to be divided” (Anon. 1546).

“Grant of the mansion of the late hospital called Le Spytle of Castleton, in Castleton parish” (Anon. 1548-49).

Discussion

In conclusion our Documentary Research has shown us that many land transactions took place during the medieval period. We have identified who the common people were that lived and worked in Castleton at this time. We have seen how the lands and properties were exchanged and how they passed between family members and from one family into the hands of another, but not why. Named locations in the village have shown us where people lived, and where their land was situated; many of these place names are still identifiable to us today. Many different types of land and property were being exchanged; the description of these can show us what the village may have looked like to the common people, the yeomen and the husbandmen, during the medieval period.

Hope Land Transactions

Kingshague, Birchfield and Twitchill *Di Curtis*

These three properties are found in the Northeast of the modern parish. All three sites were farms until about the middle of the 19th century when Kingshague and Birchfield became part of small gentry estates. The earliest references to Kingshague are described in detail below and tie the occupation of this parcel of land from 1284–5 when William Eyre was forester in fee in Hopedale, through the Eyres of Hope and the Eyres of Haddon Hall to the 19th century when the Eyre Family represented by the Earl of Newburgh was the principle land owner of a large part of Hope Parish.

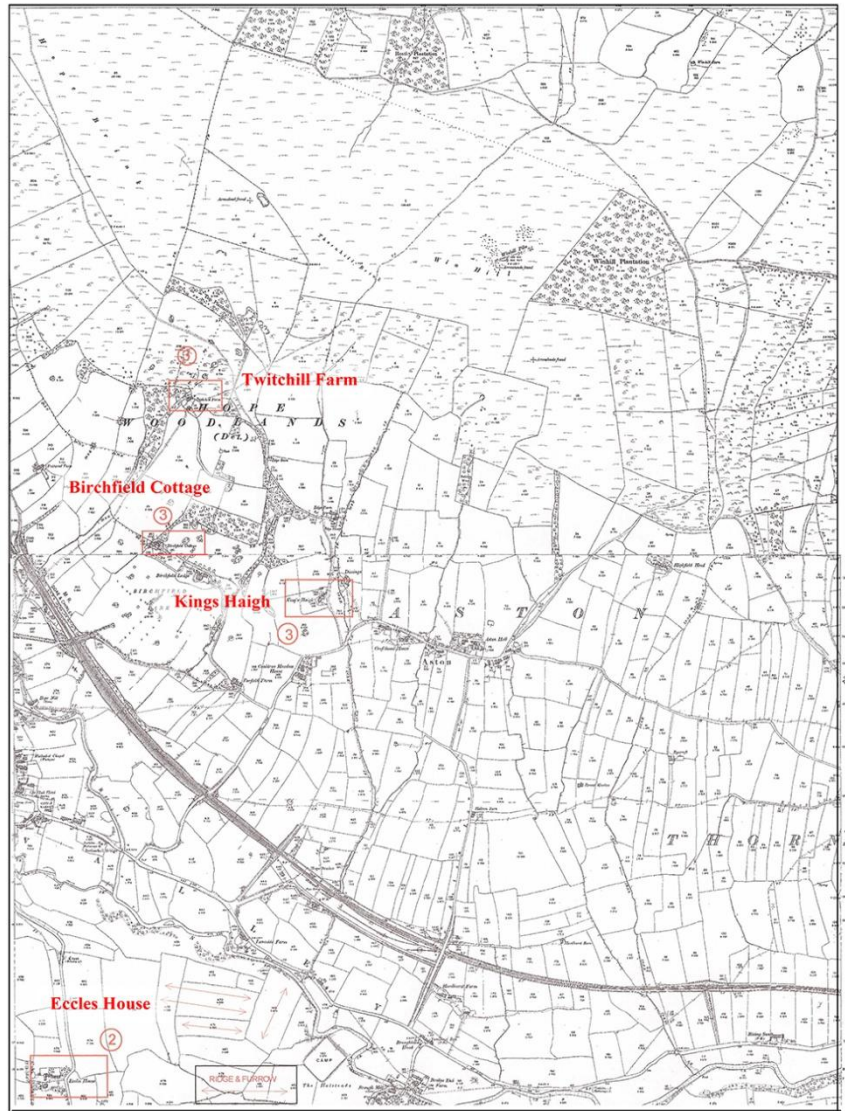


Figure 9. Locations of Birchfield, Eccles House, Kings Haigh and Twitchill Farm.
Map with text: Alan Darlington.

Birchfield is mentioned in 1497:

“Thus in 1497 Elize Ward of Nether Asshop in the Parish of Hope, yeoman, to Thomas Rowland of Lawsellhall (Loosehill Hall?) Alias Wooseates in the parish of Castleton, yeoman. One sixth part, and a half sixth part and a quarter of a sixth part of all his messuages and lands called Abney Hall. Byrchfeilds, and Nychohayes” (Anon. 1497).

Twitchell is recorded in 1566:

“Also in 1566 Roger Barbar, Yeoman of Ashop and Robert Ward, Yeoman of Twychell being joint tenants of land purchased of Godfrey Shaw of Barnebye(?) and in the tenure of named tenants in Hope and Castleton. The two parties agree concerning inheritance of the property” (Anon. 1566).

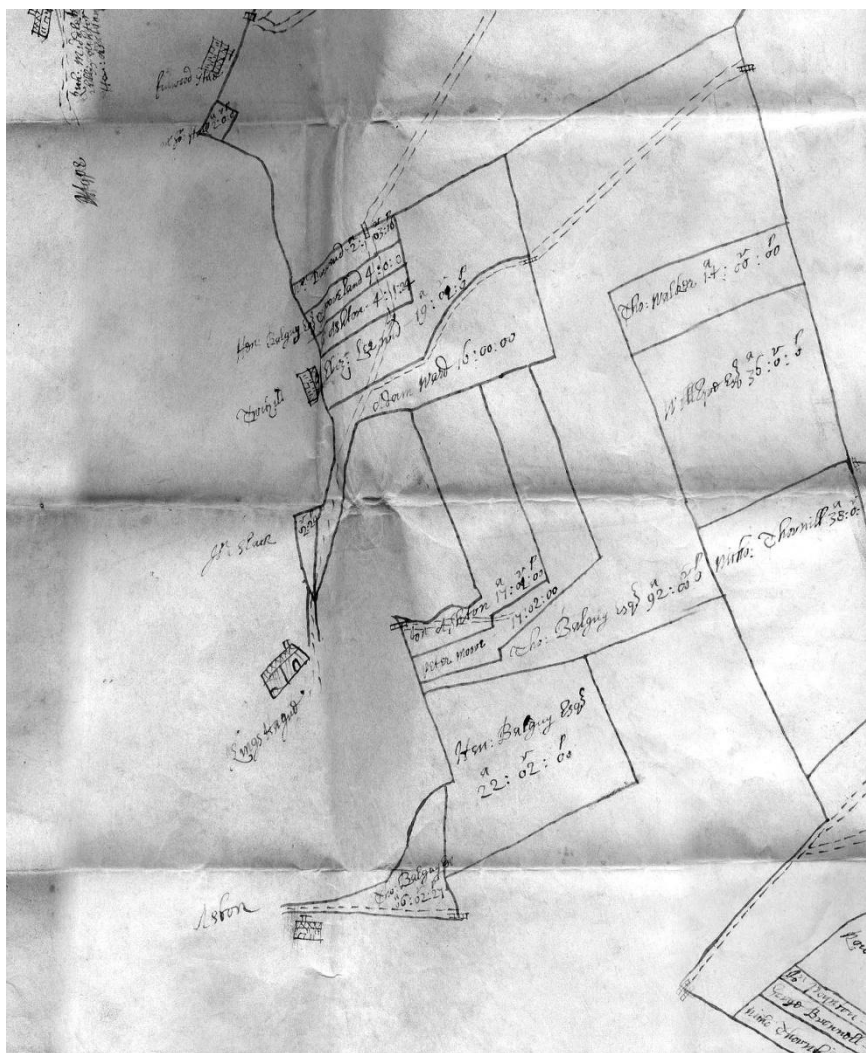


Figure 10. The 1691 Map of the Waste Land in Hope showing Twytchill and Kingshague. Courtesy of Derbyshire Record Office.

Kingshague Jeannette Holmes

Kingshague is situated 60m above Hope, north east of the village and on the edge of the parishes of Hope and Aston. (OS ref 181 841). It is accessed by a track going north from the corner where Aston Lane turns east to Aston and is now a private residence. Hague meant an enclosure and so Kingshague means the Kings enclosure and would have been on the edge of the High Peak Forest.

The earliest trace of the name is in a Quitclaim in 1300 which states Robert Le Hore and Alice his wife were given all right and title to all the land called Kinggeshaig in Hope, by the usual services one rose on St John Baptist's day (Anon. 1300).

Before this, although Kingshague isn't named, there is information about land in Hope and named foresters. An Inquisition was taken in 1288 at Hope of Peter le Hore of the Peak. He was the king's forester of fee in the Peak and held of the King in chief a messuage (this means a dwelling house with outbuildings and land), and one bovat of land (as much as one ox could plough in a year varying from 10 to 18 acres) in the town of Hope by service of keeping the king's forest, and also two assarts containing 2 acres of land. John le Hore his

son aged 30 and more is his next heir (Great Britain 1906b, p405).

In 1299 the lands of the deceased William Le Heyr of Hope, tenant in chief, were taken into the King's hands (Great Britain 1911a, p424). An inquisition in February 1300 of William le Eyr alias le Heyr of Hope showed he held a bovaté of land in Hope of the King, keeping the king's forest of High Peak in Hopedale in person. Robert his son aged 30 is his next heir (Great Britain 1906b, p436). There is in June 1300 an order to deliver to Robert, son and heir of William le Heyr of Hope, tenant in chief, the lands late of his said father, he having done homage (Great Britain 1911a, p428).

Letters patent from Queen Philippa in 1345 notify that she has granted to her clerk Stephen le Eyr, king's clerk, tenant for life of lands and tenements in Hope. He may appoint in his place an attorney as long as the attorney "make oath in full swainmote to be faithful in the office. The like of like letters patent also in favour of her clerk, William le Eyr, king's clerk, forester in the said forest." (Great Britain 1903, p23)

By order of the escheator in 1363 in the County of Derby the lands of the late William le Eyr of Hope are to be delivered to his heir Nicholas le Eyr as the King has taken his homage and fealty (Great Britain 1923, p243).

The parish of Hope Deeds shows a Grant of land on 2nd February 1387 by Nicholas, son of William Eyre to William Clerk, chaplain and names all lands and tenements, lying between the town of Aston on one part and Birchefeld on the other part. Although not named, Kingshague is in this area (Anon. 1387).

On the 10th November 1409 in the Hope Parish Deeds, John Eyr of Hope grants to Robert Hally of Schatton and Nicholas, son of William Eyr of Hope all his lands, goods, chattels etc. in the county of Derby (Anon 1409).

John Eyre of Kingshaghe, on 3rd May 1488, grants to Hugh Eyr of Eyham, Nicholas Eyre of Hope, Ralph Hethcote clerk and William Hethcote of Hope all messuages, lands, and rents etc. in the parishes of Hope and Castleton (Anon. 1488).

There is a Grant to Uses dated 17th April 1495, given at Hope, from Stephen Eyr of Hope to Ralph Hethcote, rector of Bangover, Hugh Eyr of Eyham and Nicholas Eyr of Hope. Stephen grants his messuages, tenements, rents etc. in the parishes of Hope and Castleton to the use of John Eyr of Kyngshagh, father of Stephen (Anon. 1495).

Details of a lease in the Parish of Hope Deeds, dated 27th September 1547, shows Nicholas Eyre of Hope, gentleman, and Edward Eyre his son and heir leasing lands, tenements and meadows in the fields of Hope to William Eyre of Kyngshaughe, yeoman, and George Eyre, his son and heir. The lands were between a place called Duglacse and a place called Fulwood field. (From the field names on the 1847 Tythe map this appears to be from the boundary between Hope and Aston below Kyngshague going in a north-westerly direction towards the Brinks.) (Anon. 1547)

In 1567 George Eyre gentleman and Ellen his mother leased to John Eyre of the Kingshawe, of Hope, yeoman, lands and meadows in Hope called the Ferney Furlong. (Not traceable on the 1847 Tythe Map.) (Anon. 1567)

The Will and Probate of George Eyre of Kyngeshayghe in the parish of Hope, yeoman, dated 19th June 1572 has no signature, only his mark (Anon. 1572).

A land dispute of 1577 details a complaint between Robert Eyre, esquire, and the defendant William Eyre. There are no details given of where Robert or William reside. The dispute is about two messuages (dwelling houses with outbuildings and land), two gardens, two orchards, thirty acres of land, twenty acres of meadow, forty acres of pasture, six acres of wood, two hundred acres of heath land with appurtenances in Hope and Kyngeshagh (Anon. 1577).

The Levy of a Fine (Inheritance) in 1590 paid from Robert Eyre of Edall, esquire, to Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury, Knight of the Garter, concerns a capital messuage called Kynesgshagh in Hope with lands and appurtenances plus all other lands and messuages in Hope and Aston. This is for the use of Robert and Jane his wife for life, then to the Earl and his issue, in default of which to the right heirs of Robert (Anon. 1590).

Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury, Knight of the garter, made a Land Grant in 1592 to Leonard Bamforthe of Graies Inne (co Middlesex), gentleman. The grant names a capital messuage called Kingeshaghe in Hope with its appurtenances in Hope and all his lands in Hope and Aston which were formerly the lands of Robert Eyre, esquire (Anon. 1592).

There were Indentures of a Fine in April 1629 between Thomas Eyre junior, plaintiff, and William Eyre, defendant, concerning a messuage, garden, ten acres of meadow and twenty acres of pasture in Kingshage and Hope (Anon. 1629).

The last mention before 1650 is of a Bargain and Sale on the 23rd March 1633 between William Eyre of Kingshaughe in the parish of Hope, yeoman, to Thomas Eyre of Hassop, esquire, of land. Ferney Furlong is again mentioned (Anon. 1633).

Linking the Quitclaim of 1300 with the Calendar of Inquisition of 1288 and the Calendar of Fines 1299 it would appear that the dwelling and land of Kingshague was possibly in existence in 1288 and before that time. The house and land was held from the King by tenants, in their role as King's Foresters, and the tenancy passed from father to son. There are indications that the later tenants were yeoman farmers.

Going beyond 1650, on the 4th May 1719 a lease for 21 years was given to William Ibbotson of Kings Hague, in the parish of Hope, webster, by Thomas Eyre of Eastwell (co Leicester), gentleman. The lease was for a messuage or farm called Kings Hague consisting of a dwelling house, two barns and a workhouse or shop (Anon. 1719).

The 1847 Tythe Map shows Kingshague and the fields all around, adjoining the house, to belong to the Earl of Newburgh and tenanted by John Marsden. (The Scottish title Earl of Newburgh, came to the Eyres of Hassop through the marriage of Francis Eyre to Lady Mary Radclyffe, the title being inherited by their son Francis through his mother in 1814). The 1851 Census lists John Marsden as the head of the household (a wheelwright and farmer of 22 acres), with his sister Sarah Aston and her two sons John and Henry (both wheelwrights) and a daughter Emma.

Nether Hall *Ann Price*

Traditionally Nether Hall in Hope was the ancestral home of the Eyre family who were descended from William le Eyr who came to the area with William Peveril and was a warden

for the Royal hunting forest. His family remained in the Hope valley and there were many branches (Smith Porter 1923).

At the end of the 16thC Nether Hall is described as a mansion with houses, gardens, closes, commons etc and a water mill called the Nether Hall mill with the sook of all tenants. (The “sook” or “suit” is the right of all tenants to have their corn ground at that mill.) There were eighty acres of land, twenty acres of meadow and twenty acres of pasture. The house probably stood at the entrance to the village on the right of the road on high ground above the bridge over the River Noe which still bears its name. Opposite is a field called Nether Hall Yard.

Thomas Eyare, gentleman, of Turnedych, owned the property in 1570. He let the land to Anthony Gell esquire, of Hopton, George Eyare, yeoman, of Abney, William Nedham of Wormhill and John Hill, yeoman, of Hill, but his mother Elene Eyare had the tenure and may have lived in the house (Anon. 1570).

In an assignment of lease written in 1600 it is recorded that in March 1586/7 Humphrey Savage took over the tenancy of the whole property from Thomas Eyre for twenty one years at a yearly rent of forty shillings (Anon. 1600). The Savage family had land in Castleton.

In 1598 Thomas Eyre of Turndych and his son John sold Nether Hall to Richard Slack of Clements Inn. The tenant at that time was Jane Savage, widow (Anon. 1598). This sale did not include the mill which was sold two years later by John Eyre to Adam Slack of Tydeswell, yeoman, along with other properties in the surrounding villages for £1000 (Anon. 1602).

In 1600 Jane Savage and Edward Barber of Rowlee assigned the lease on the land to Thomas Yeaveley the elder of Chappel in le Frith, for £80 for the remainder of the 21 year term. The property was described as a manor house with houses, gardens, closes, commons etc. (but not crabtrees and ashes) and the water mill. What custom lay behind the withholding of crabtrees and ashes? (Anon. 1600)

Thomas Eyre of Hassop was a big landowner locally who was always on the lookout for more property. Thomas Yeaveley the younger assigned the lease of Netherhall to him in 1604 (Anon. 1604). Jervase Eyre, one of the Hassop Eyres, must have sub-let the property to William Hall because in 1607 William sued John Slacke, Robert Furness and James Hopwood for trespass and ejectment on the whole of the property including the mill. The defendants were found guilty and fined £12.13s.4d (Anon. 1607).

In 1613 Thomas Eyre of Hassop bought the whole of the Netherhall estate in Hope from the Slack family together with other land and property in the valley (Anon. 1613). It remained as part of the Hassop estate under the Earls of Newburgh until 1911, when the estate was broken up and sold.

The following is an extract from a diary of the Rev. William Bagshaw of Bannercross, one of the Ford Hall family: “Friday Jan 18th 1793 – visited the ruins of a house near Hope, formerly the residence of Nicholas Eyre who had 12 sons, many of whom became heads of considerable families” (Smith Porter 1923, p22).

It seems that the hall was a ruin by the end of the 18thC. The land and the mill were the important part of the estate for agricultural purposes. The present owner has found no evidence of the exact whereabouts of the hall on his land. It may be part of the current house. The building has large corner stones rather grander than one would expect from a domestic farm house. The mill however continued to function as a corn mill until 1968, when it was converted into a private dwelling (Eyre 1988, p129).

The documents in the Bagshaw Collection only give us the names of landed people who leased or bought the estate, but if we look behind the written agreements there would have been farm labourers working on the land and a corn miller and men working in the mill. Others would have manned the carts that carried the corn to and fro. There would have been a wheelwright and blacksmith to service these activities. The common man is not lost – with just a little imagination he becomes part of the landscape.

8. Field Names Di Curtis and Angela Darlington

Castleton; Angela Darlington

Evidence for large open fields

In an Archaeological Assessment Report of Castleton (Stroud 2002) the following description was made:

“The medieval town had open fields and meadows lying in the valley to the west, north and east, with commons and waste on the higher ground to the south and above the fields. There were at least two open arable fields, Mamsitch Field to the north-west, referred to in 1378, and Spittlefield to the north-east, documented in c. 1300 (Cameron 1959). Evidence of these survives in the form of earthwork ridge and furrow and in the fossilisation of strips by later field walls.”

Evidence for more of these large open fields can be found in a comparison of field names from medieval land transactions with those in the relatively recent 1819 township map and index of Castleton and 1847 tithe map and index of Hope.

In Castleton, there are several examples of large open fields; as described above by Stroud (2002) Spittlefield was mentioned in a number of early 14th century documents (PHC206; Hall 1946, p1); on the tithe map there are 28 "Spittle" fields variously named Great Spittle, Little Spittle, Spittle Pingle, etc. There is evidence of medieval ridge and furrow in many of these fields.

An early 14th century land-charter (Hall 1946, p1) mentions “le Middil Furlong” in the territory of Castleton. From its described position this is one of 23 "furlong"-named fields on the 1819 map, all together and adjacent to and to south of Peaks Hole Water and Spital Field. The fields are still commonly known to locals as The Furlongs; they have the characteristic S-shape reputedly resulting from medieval ploughing with teams of oxen.

“All the forestry of Trayokes” was granted by William de Trayokes to John son of Robert Balgy in a document of around 1305 (Hall 1946, p1); in 1819 there were 14 fields including the term “Treak” all around the current Treak Cliff, including 5 fields named Treak Meadow.

Le Flodurs was named in a 1455 charter (Hall 1946, p5) in which one rood of land in le Flodurs was granted by Thomas Tyme to his son. According to Cameron (1959) the name may have derived from the local dialect “flothers” meaning marshy place or swamp. There are 12 “flodders” such as Far Flodders and Near Flodders on the 1819 map, all between Dunscair Farm and the south-west side of Dirty Lane.

The same charter described one rood of land in le Mamsecheylde; on the 1819 map there are no fewer than 39 "mamsitch" fields, all adjacent to each other and to the south and east of Dunscair Farm.

From making the same sort of comparison between field names in medieval documents and the township map of 1819, other larger fields in Castleton were Ronrydyngfelde and le Kylnelondes in land transactions from 1455 and 1456-7 (Hall 1946, p5-6). Kylnelondes (Kilnlands) is discussed further below.

Field names providing clues to their use or origins

There are fields named possibly for the agricultural use of the time; for example in Castleton the land named Ryecroft in 1455 (Hall 1946, p5) and 1310 (Cameron 1959), suggesting that rye was grown there, and le Wetefurlonge and Wetecerr Hurst, suggesting wheat cultivation, both from documents of 1456-7 (Hall 1946, p6).

In Hope the field Demryding was recorded in 1404; Cameron (1959) suggests that this meant “dam clearing” and is possibly the field named as Dome Riding in the 1847 Hope Tithe map (Anon. 1848). Apilore Furlong was mentioned in a 1341 document (Bag C/1460); this may have been the Appletree Furlong recorded in 1638 (Cameron 1959), the latter appearing in the index for the 1847 Tithe map of Hope; perhaps this was originally the site of an orchard?

The Spittle field must have been owned by Castleton’s medieval hospital of the Blessed Virgin of the High Peak, and was perhaps where the hospital was located.

The name Kynnelandes in a 1456 document (Hall 1946, p5-6) relating to Castleton suggests an area where kilns were used, probably for processing lime for building but mainly for agricultural use. In 1819 there were 13 fields including the term “kiln lands” or “kiln” and most of these are together in what was probably a large open field on the east of Hollowford Road (on the coffin route) and close to Trickett Gate. However two of the “kiln” fields were north of this field and directly adjacent to two farms.

In Hope there are 18 fields with Eccles in the name, all around the current Eccles Lane which is a road linking Hope with the neighbouring village of Bradwell. One of the fields is named “Under Eccles”, which may be the same area of land referred to as “sub Okelis” in a grant of 1306 (Jeayes 1906, #1430, p176). According to Mills (2003) Eccles means “Romano-British Christian Church”.

In Castleton close to the parish boundary with Hope and just north of the current main road there is a field named Gautry Thorn in the 1819 township index. “Galtrethorne” also appears in a 1455 land transaction (Hall 1946, p5). According to Cameron (1959) the name translates as “Gallow’s Tree thorn bush”, suggesting that this might have been a place of execution. Gallows were often placed on crossroads or on parish boundaries (Gallagher; Herbert *et al.* 2001) and whilst the historic significance of the current road is contentious, the name and location of this field is tantalising.

Another 1455 document (Hall 1946, p5) mentions a piece of land in Castleton named Mylne holme. “Holme” derives from the old Scandinavian word for “island/dry ground in a marsh /water meadow” therefore Mylne holme suggests an area fitting this description by a mill. The 1891 map names 3 fields on either side of the meanders of Peaks Hole Water and close to the corn mill and mill pond all named “Holme”; this land is still marshy and is evidence for the location of the 1455 mill at the same site.

Field names derived from their owners

Presumed examples are Shirley Yard and Emmacroft (Anon. 1625) in Hope, both appearing on the 1847 Tithe map. Also in Hope, Peyddarhagge mentioned in a document of between 1399 and 1413 (Yeatman 1886, p327), Pedderflatt (1520, Jeayes 1906, #564, p74) and later Pedder Rydding (Anon. 1613b); Nicholas le Pedder and Johannes Pedder were both recorded in the 1381 poll tax (Fenwick 1998) and a John Pedeler (possibly the same Johannes Pedder of the poll tax) was named as a witness in a 1400 land transaction (Jeayes 1906, #1437,1438,1439, p177). Pedderflatt probably persisted in 1847 in the field named Pedlar Flatt.

In Castleton, Perkynmedo, probably Perkin's Meadow, was mentioned in a charter of 1455 (Hall 1946, p5) but there is no sign of a similar field name in the 1819 township map index.

Locations of many of the fields mentioned above are given in Figure 11.

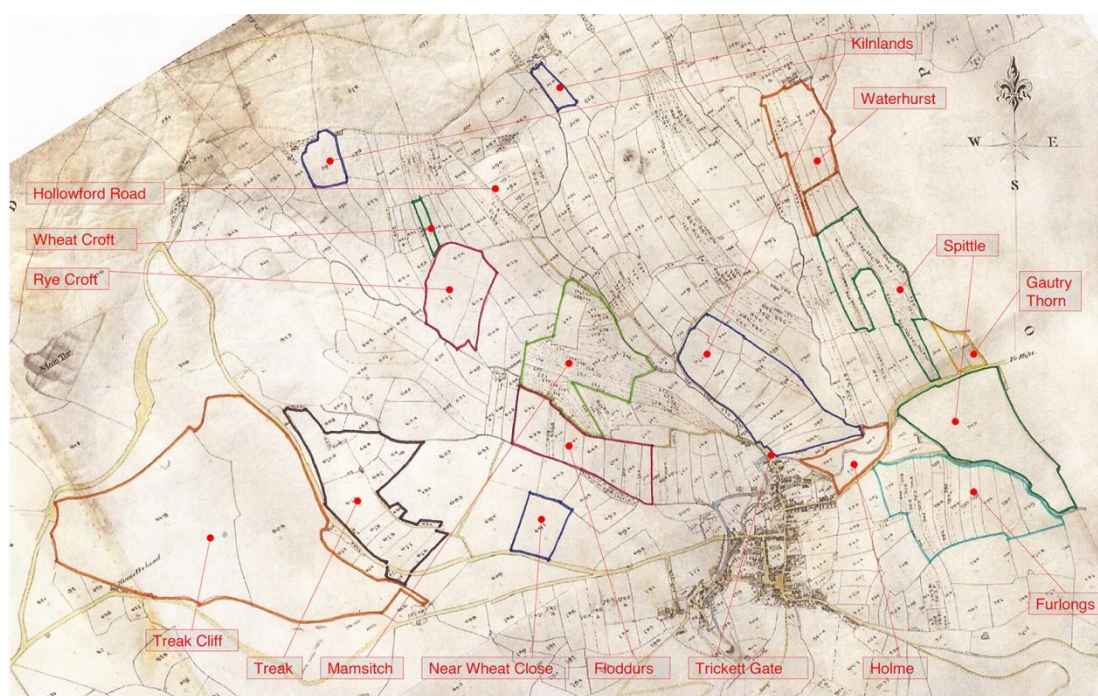


Figure 11. Field names from the 1819 Castleton township map. Map with text: Alan Darlington.

Hope Di Curtis

Evidence from Map and Landscape Survey

One piece of evidence for the presence of a medieval agricultural landscape lies in field shape where narrow selion strips are preserved by later hedged or walled fields and in the remnants of ridge and furrow made by ox-drawn plough lines operating up and down the strips of land.

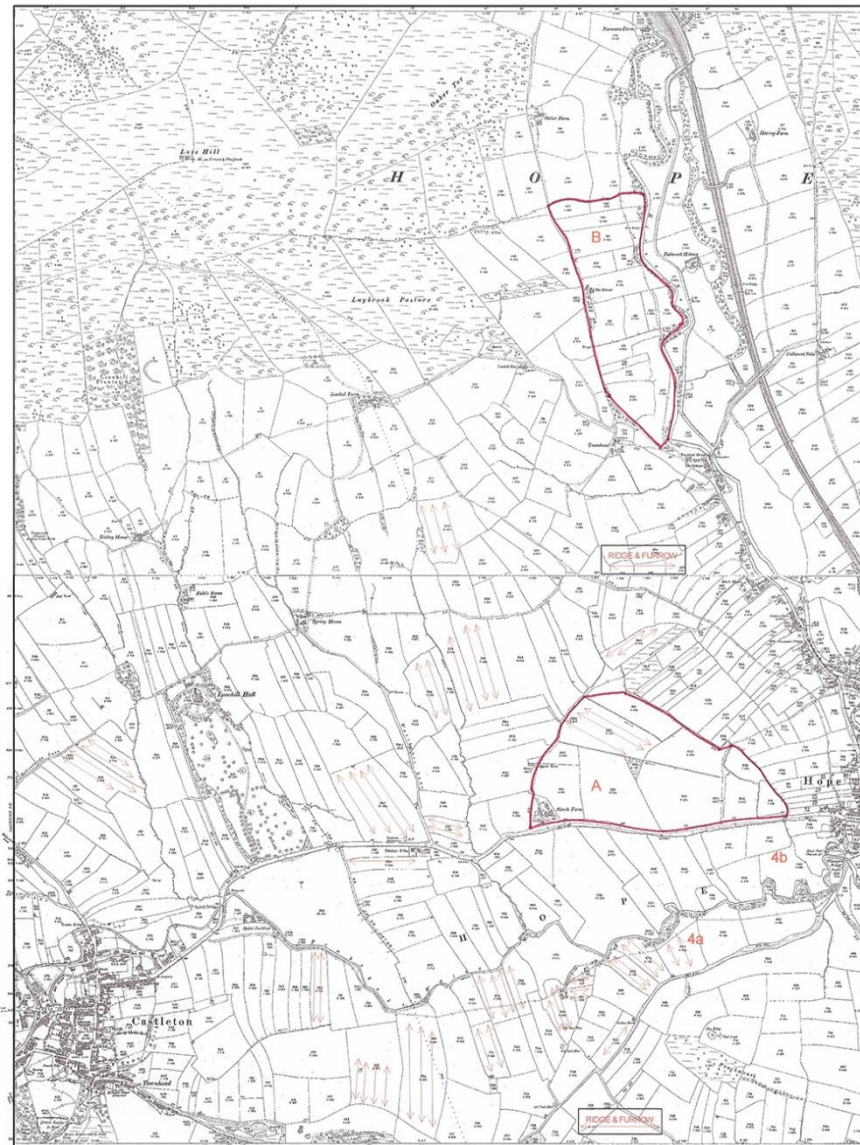


Figure 12. Locations of ridge and furrow in Hope parish marked with directional arrows. Area A the Marshes; Area B strip fields; Area 4a. The Riddings and Area 4b New Hall; areas mentioned in 1691. Map with text Alan Darlington

Members of Hope Historical Society sought to record ridge and furrow within the modern fields before they vanish completely under current land management. There was no parish map marking ridge and furrow comparable with one such for Castleton. We found that what remains is fragmentary and does not give a picture of how large open fields might have been managed. One local farmer recounted how he had personally ploughed out ridge and furrow in the post-war period when modern ploughs could not be effective over well marked ridge and furrow (the late Mr R. Priestley *pers comm*).



Figure 13. Ridge and furrow reveals the arable strips of the medieval common fields behind Hope Valley College. Photo: Ann Price.

We made some serious attempts to measure the width of ridge and furrow when it appeared to be strongly marked (data not shown) which only demonstrated how ephemeral and strongly dependant on advantageous lighting Hope's ridge and furrow had become. The selion fields are well preserved in some areas of the parish and well marked Croft and Toft land ownership still exists along Edale Road.

Figure 12 shows the position of the ridge and furrow we observed; we did not cover the entire parish, which awaits further work.

A series of Maps of the Wastes and Commons were made prior to disafforestation; the latest of this series in 1691 shows the area currently known as the Marshes as part of the Waste & Commons (Area A on Figure 12) and some areas occupied as strips in fields (Area B Figure 12 Anon. 1691).



Figure 14. Strip fields in Castleton. Photo: Di Curtis

Evidence from Documentary research

There are no early maps of Hope since Hopedale, which included the villages of Hope and Castleton, belonged to the King; therefore there are no early manorial or ducal surveys to take stock of land holding. The King ruled largely through Forest Law, which principally used appointed overseers such as the Verderers, Regarders and Foresters, to protect the King's property. However, part of the property, namely that pertaining to the Church (tithes, advowson of the Church and other benefits, which must have included some land) came into the hands of the Dean and Chapter of Litchfield in 1219. The Dean and Chapter of Litchfield sold the "Rights to the Tithes of the Rectory Manor" to Ralph Gell of Hopton in 1549 (Cox 1877).

The papers known as the Bagshaw Collection in Sheffield Record Office, provide a running commentary on land exchange up to the modern day. Similarly, Jeayes Derbyshire Charters (1906), helpfully translated from the Latin by Victorian antiquarians, provide some glimpses of the early exchange of land which can sometimes be identified within the present Parish of Hope.

1. The Fields of Hope

The phrase "in the fields of Hope" together with "bovate of land" implies the operation of an open agricultural field system around the village of Hope.

The Eyre deeds from the Bagshaw collection in Sheffield Record Office include numerous mentions of bovates of land in the town and fields with some in the ownership of the Dean and Chapter; dated 1318-1399 and thus:-

Quitclaim No 1458; to two half bovates of land).

Grant No 1461; of all lands and tenements in the Township of Hope

Grant No 1447; of one messuage and one bovat of land in Hope

Grant No 1448; All lands and tenements which in the town and fields of Hope

Copy Surrender No 1449; Manor of Hope. Court of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield. One messuage and one bovat of land.

This usage continues over the next two centuries with deeds dated as late as 1637 and which still refer to land that appears to be managed in strips, thus:-

Conveyance No 1526; A rood of land in the fields of Hope on the Fulwood Furlong. This may refer to Area B as mentioned earlier

2. The Fields of Eccles

It is probable that 5 acres of meadow lying in the Field of Hope can be identified to the area known as Eccles (see Figure 9). This document also identifies some of the land belonging to one of the named Foresters, Peter of Schatton, although he clearly does not hold it for any length of time. The history of this parcel of land continues for nearly a century as follows.

In 1306 a piece of Meadow in Hope lying "sub Okelis" is granted to William, son of Peter of Schatton, forester, by William le Mareschalman de Burgo. This grant is witnessed by some well known names from Hope including Robert Balgy, Elias de Thornehulle, William Halby, Robert le Eyr, and Robert Wodereue. (Jeayes 1906, #1430, p176).

This parcel of land is mentioned again in 1359 and defined as five acres of land (Jeayes 1906, #1433, p176).

In 1361 a grant of this land is made to John le Vikersson (Jeayes 1906, #1434 p176) and in 1376 from John Vikersson to Richard de Wetton, John his brother, and Helen, wife of the said John de Wetton of five acres of land in Eckeler in the field of Hope (Jeayes 1906, #1435 #1436, p177).

In a marriage settlement In 1347, Roger of Hokelow grants all his land and tenements on the north side of the river (Pekesarse) in the township of Hope, to Cicely his daughter and William Oteson of Hope and their issue (Anon 1347). Thirty years later, in 1376, land described as one acre and a half in the Old Field in Hope lies between the messuage of Nicholas of Hokelowe and William the Hyrdman.

3. The Ryddings and Hall Croft (See Figure 12)

The word Rydding is usually construed as a clearing in the forest (Assart) and as such subject to Forest Laws. Several documents refer to this parcel of land and include some interesting names in the history of Hope.

In a document dated between 1403 – 1499, a Grant for life of a parcel of land called “le Dom Rydyng”, seventeen swathes in “le Ox(m)edo and two roods of land (Anon 1499).

In 1404 Power of attorney from Richard de Rouworth of Hope to John Wele, chaplain, and Richard Bockyng to give seisin to Anabella his sister of a piece of land under Minley called Demrydyng (in Hope). Witness: m Clerk, chaplain, Roger Bockyng, John le Herdeman (Jeayes 1906 #1437,#1438,#1439, p177).

In 1411 a Grant from William Horderon and Annabella his wife to John de Staffelay of a piece of arable land called “Le Damrydyng” lying between “Le Grenesyde” and “Le Nonneley” in Hope (Jeayes 1906, #1442, p177).

Lease dated 10 May 1544, for 40 years, from Henry Wyllyams, Dean, and the Chapter of Lichfield to Rauf Hethcote of Hope and William his son, of a croft called Hallcroft in Hope, with houses etc., enclosed with “hays and dyches on bothe sydes Pekesarse”, and land called “the Ruddyng” abutting upon the “water of Pekesarse”(Jeayes 1906, #1451,#1452, p178).

Followed in 1544 by a Lease by Dean and Chapter of Litchfield to Rauf Hethcote of Hope and his son William of Hall Croft at Hope with 2 houses and a barn on it with hedges and ditches on both sides of Pekesarse, and the land called the Rydding, for 40 years at 31s 8d annual rent and the Rydding at Hope (Anon. 1544a).

A bond dated 1544, in £60 by William Heathcote to Dean and Chapter of Litchfield for lease of Hallcroft with houses and barn and the Rydding at Hope (Anon. 1544b).

The fields named The Ridings are located on the Tythe map of 1847 as are the Hall Croft fields on the north side of the river.

These fields, lying north and south of the politely named Peakswater, are depicted in a series of rough estate plans drawn up in 1709; thus this parcel of land appears to be an early enclosure with specific field names dating back to the medieval period. (Anon 1709).

