

THE BOUNDARIES OF BUCKHOLT, A HAMPSHIRE ROYAL FOREST

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ABSTRACT

The boundaries of the royal hunting forest of Buckholt are traced from the Norman Conquest onwards and are related to features in the landscape. The original extent of the forest is described and the boundary points of the medieval perambulations of the forest have been established as far as possible. Buckholt gradually reduced in area, ceased to be a hunting forest and became part of the estate of Norman Court, West Tytherley. The last remnants of crown land still existed until the 19th century.

INTRODUCTION

Buckholt today is a small civil parish adjacent to that of West Tytherley in Hampshire, an insignificant area of mainly arable land with a farm and several cottages. However, Buckholt in earlier times was one of Hampshire's royal hunting forests. Before the Norman kings designated large parts of central southern England as subject to forest law, thereby creating wide areas of hunting territory for their own exclusive use, the Anglo-Saxon kings hunted the deer and wild boar within their own demesne lands around the royal estates (Bond 1994, 121–2). Buckholt lay just to the south of Broughton (Fig. 1), a royal manor managed in demesne, and was close to Nether Wallop, another royal manor within the hundred of Broughton.

Following the Norman Conquest, Buckholt was recognized as suitable wooded countryside for developing into a hunting forest. The chalk hills in the northern part were cloaked in extensive beech woods which gave rise to its name, *boc* in Old English (OE) meaning beech

tree, and *holt* OE a single-species wood (Gelling 1984, 196, 222). Further south the chalk gives way to Reading Beds and London Clay, which supported a more variable vegetation, probably including oak forest (Shore 1888, 55–56). Although wooded, we should not picture it as exclusively so, since the countryside in medieval times was not all dense high forest. There were not only large cleared areas of farmland, but the woodland itself was not continuous, and it is now considered that much of the medieval landscape was wood-pasture interspersed with denser woods or coppice (Rackham 2003, 135).

Buckholt had other advantages as a royal hunting forest; it was not only adjacent to a royal estate, but was also within easy reach of Winchester. It was crossed by a major highway, the Roman road from Winchester to Old Sarum, and was about half way between Winchester and Clarendon, when Clarendon was becoming a favoured royal residence (the remains of the medieval royal palace can be seen today on the Clarendon estate, about three and a half miles east of Salisbury). A royal forest developed around Clarendon which, together with the Buckholt and Melchet areas, was originally a northern extension of the New Forest and until 1216 was managed as part of it. From the reign of Henry III (1216–1272), Clarendon Forest, two of the other Wiltshire forests, Melchet and Grovely, and the Hampshire forest of Buckholt were removed from the jurisdiction of the New Forest, and managed together as a group under the warden of Clarendon (VCHW iv, 427). A detailed history of Clarendon Forest can be found in Richardson (2005).

Royal forests were not developed by the

Norman kings purely as somewhere to hunt for recreation. The deer were a valuable source of meat, particularly during the winter months, when most domestic livestock had to be killed and their carcasses preserved in salt, since there were inadequate supplies of winter fodder for more than the plough oxen and essential breeding stock. Venison was also high-status food, and used as rewards to favoured noblemen and other subjects. Most of all, the forests were important status symbols at a time when the kings were trying to maintain the balance of power in a newly conquered kingdom (Rackham 1989, 89).

The restrictions imposed by forest law on landowners caused many centuries of unrest among the major holders of land in the country, and whenever the king needed their cooperation, or money, there was pressure to reduce the size of the forests. Just as the king wanted status symbols, sport and a supply of meat, so too did his barons. Parks, or enclosed areas for the rearing and hunting of deer, became very popular among wealthy landowners during the medieval period (Short 2000, 136). Within forest areas parks were not allowed, but the landowners were often granted the right of free warren, or the right to hunt small game, such as hares and pheasants, on their own land. They were then given permission to empark and were allowed local disafforestation of their land, in return for their military or financial support, and payment of a fine (Bond 1994, 133–4).

THE BOUNDS OF THE EARLY NORMAN FOREST

The records in the Domesday Book for Broughton and Nether Wallop indicate that Buckholt existed as a designated hunting forest by 1086; 'The reeve once had in his revenue the honey and pasture of these manors, and woodland for building houses. Now the foresters have this and the reeves nothing. 10s worth of honey and 10s of pasture are in the King's Forest' (Munby 1982, 38c,d).

The boundaries of Buckholt prior to 1300 can only be deduced by using records of per-

mission to enclose and disafforest land within the area, since no perambulations of the forest bounds appear to have been carried out during the 12th and 13th centuries. Wherever possible the original boundaries of the royal forests of Hampshire were simple, easily identified, geographical features, and it appears from the evidence below that this was so for Buckholt. It originally encompassed the land lying between the Hampshire county boundary in the west and the river Test. The forest was bounded to the north by the range of hills running south-east from Ashley's Copse overlooking the present A30 road and continued towards Bossington in the Test valley. The Dean valley with the River Dun provided the southern boundary (Fig. 1) (Shore 1888, 55–56).

Evidence for the original northern boundary of Buckholt Forest comes from the disafforestation granted to the prioress of Amesbury, who held the manor of Nether Wallop. She was allowed disafforestation in all her demesne lands in 1290 (VCHW iii, 247), which included land within Nether Wallop. The northern part of Buckholt, which was part of the manor estate, was thereby removed from the forest (Fig. 2). However, the name of Buckholt lingered on in Wallop, as can be seen in the following two examples, providing additional confirmation of the original extent of the forest.

In 1541, following the dissolution of the monasteries, Edward Seymour acquired Amesbury Priory lands in Buckholt (Wallop) and 'the soil and spring of the woods at Buckholtte 32s 4d' was recorded as part of the value at the exchange of lands with the king (Seymour Papers 4 334). Part of the area became a warren, an increasingly popular use for outlying downland, which is what it had become, and in 1660 a lease of this land referred to it as Buckholt Warren (HRO 11M49/466). It was still called Buckholt Warren in a survey of Nether Wallop manor estate in 1765 (HRO 11M49/84).

Disafforestation was also taking place in the southern part of Buckholt Forest. The Columbars, lords of the manor of East Tytherley, enclosed the park there, the pale of which can still clearly be seen today. In 1245 Matthew de Columbars was allowed to keep the enclosure,

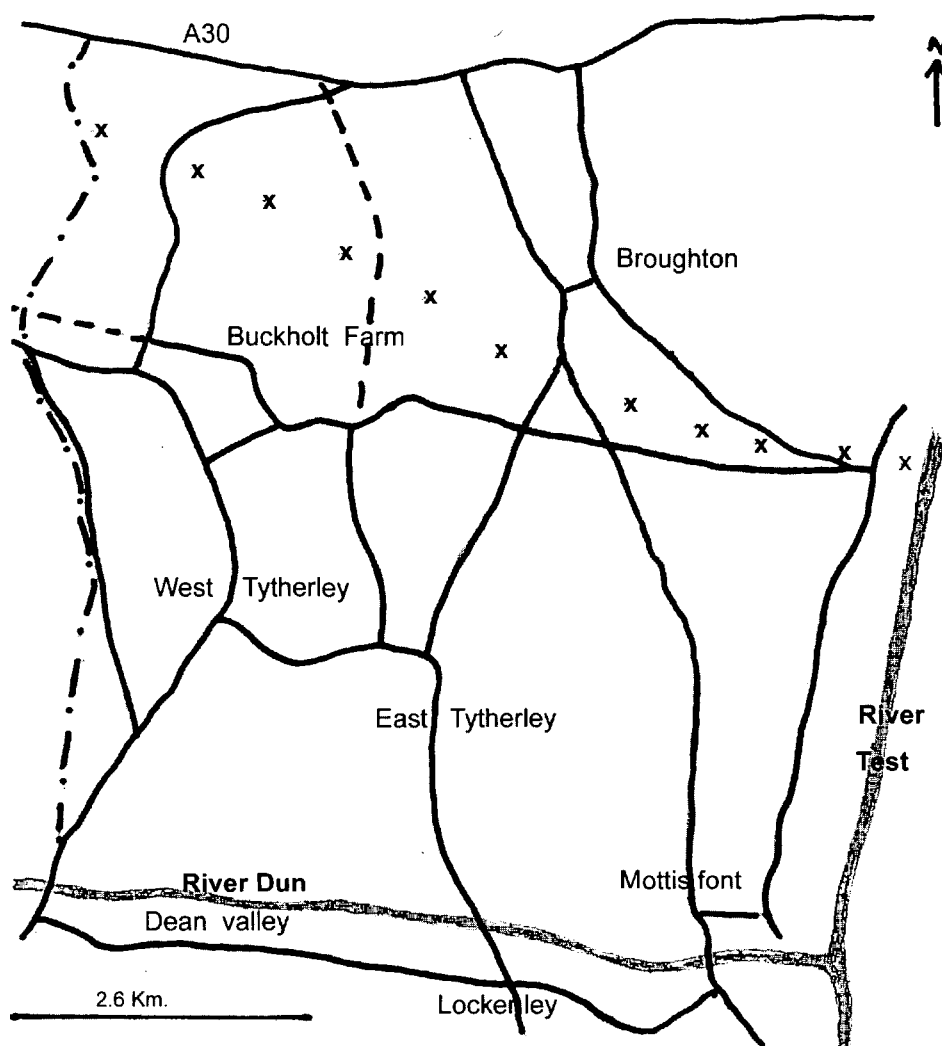


Fig. 1 Buckholt Forest in the 12th century superimposed on modern roads (—) and tracks (- - -). — • — county boundary. x x x northern boundary of the Forest

which his father had made, on payment of a fine of 100 marks (CChR 1226–1257, 282). In addition, in 1270 he was to be quit of the requirement to have his dogs lawed, or three toes cut off one forefoot to prevent the dog from chasing and pulling down deer, within 'the manor of East Tytherley, and its members Lockerlie and Holebiry, which are within the

mete and regard of Buckholt'. These manors had therefore hitherto been within the Forest (CChR 1257–1300, 151).

Another part of the original forest area which was disafforested was Frenchmoor. In 1246 John Mansell, lord of the manor of Broughton, of which Frenchmoor was a detached part, was allowed to enclose the land with a ditch

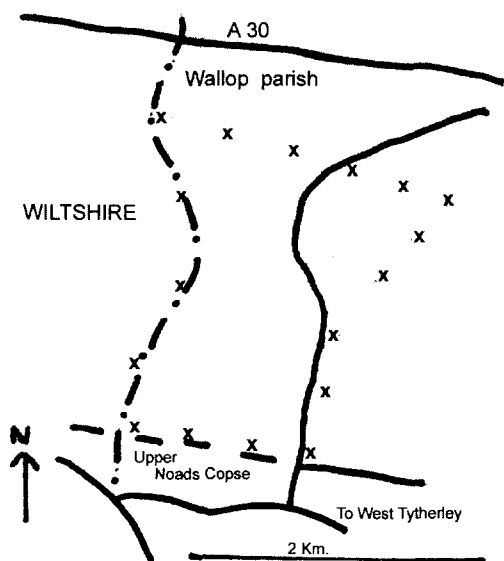


Fig. 2 The area removed from Buckholt by the disafforestation of Nether Wallop superimposed on modern roads (—) and tracks (---). x x x area removed. — • — county boundary

and hedge, till the land, and 'the land shall be wholly without the regard and limits of the forest' (CChR 1226–57, 312). Although other local disafforestations in the forest area are not recorded, there were changes in land ownership which may have had some effect on subsequent boundaries, particularly the founding of Mottisfont Priory. During the 13th century the priory became a major landholder in the south-west part of the forest, with endowments of land which stretched across from the Test valley to Cadbury (VCHH iv, 503–507).

THE MEDIEVAL PERAMBULATIONS OF BUCKHOLT

The area of land included within the royal forests was subject to constant change during the medieval period as successive kings tried to expand the boundaries. The forests probably reached their greatest extent during the reign of Henry II, and subsequent rulers tried to maintain the enlarged bounds. However,

the restrictions imposed by the forest laws and malpractice by the forest officers caused considerable unrest among landowners and consequently the forest boundaries and administration were drawn into Plantagenet politics, and became part of a wider ongoing struggle between the king and his magnates, both lay and ecclesiastical.

During the 13th century Henry III and Edward I needed to raise large sums of money to finance military campaigns in Wales, Scotland and France. By that time money for the crown was raised increasingly from the taxation of movable goods, and from customs duty on the export of wool and hides. This required the consent of 'parliament', a meeting of earls, barons and other representatives, which was held about three times a year. The consent for taxation was usually part of a package of wider issues, such as forest boundaries, and to reach agreement the king had to consent to perambulations to assess where the bounds should be, and to the disafforestation of some of the land which had been included by Henry II and his sons. The struggle was an ongoing one because Henry III, and later Edward I, revoked their pledges concerning the forest boundaries as soon as their immediate financial crises were over (Prestwich 2005, 165–175). The New Forest, for example, was reassessed in 1217–8 following the Forest Charter and subsequently in 1278–9, 1279–80, 1297–8 and 1299–1300. All except one of these perambulations attempted to restore the area of the New Forest back to the area which it was known to have had in 1086 (Stagg 1990, 10–12).

In the 1290s Edward I wanted to embark on a military campaign on the continent as well as continuing his wars against the Scots and the Welsh, and therefore needed to raise large sums of money quickly. After a considerable struggle with the leading noblemen and clergy, a tax of a fifteenth on movable goods was finally agreed to, in return for a reassessment of the royal forest boundaries (Prestwich 2005, 174). In 1300 perambulations were ordered in many counties, including Hampshire and Wiltshire, and a perambulation to establish the boundaries of Buckholt was carried out as

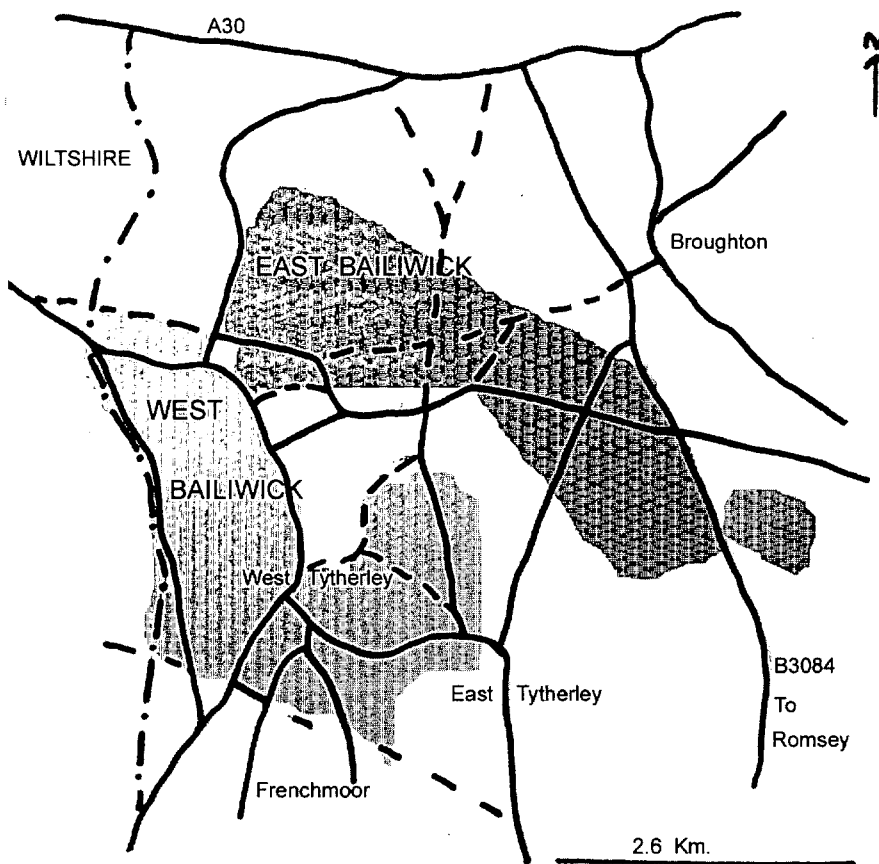


Fig. 3 The two bailiwicks of Buckholt in AD1300 superimposed on modern roads (—) and tracks (---). — • — county boundary

part of the Hampshire perambulations, which were attended by 25 jurors. The east and west bailiwicks of Buckholt (Fig. 3) were treated separately (Hanna 1988, 189).

THE EAST BAILIWICK, OR BUCKHOLT PUTTON

The perambulation took place in the presence of John de Vyene, bailiff of Clarendon, John de Putton, forester in fee, and 2 verderers.

Beginning at Stonyedene; thence as far as Whiteweye; to Thorngatē; following the ditch

by Kyngrode to Merkeweye; thence by Merkeweye as far as the corner of Oliver de la Suche's hedge; to Primedene; to Pippemere; to Ykeneldestrete; thence by the boundary between the king's wood and the aforesaid Oliver's to Portweye; thence to the aforesaid Stonydene. Note: there is another piece of forest called Haywode in this bailiwick: it begins at Merkeweye and proceeds as far as the grove of Basyngestok' thence to la Hulle, and so to Merkeweye along the hedge of Bentley (Benetley) (Hanna 1988, 202–3).

The points on the perambulation are given below and the corresponding numbers are shown in Fig. 4.



Fig. 4 The area included within the east bailiwick by the AD 1300 perambulation superimposed on modern roads (—) and tracks (---)

The perambulation follows the parish boundary for much of the way. It starts along the track which was enlarged by Norman Court manor in the eighteenth century as a drive out to the turnpike road, the present A30. A deep cutting was made in the chalk to make the new drive which gave rise to its name, the Khyber Pass, still in use today. The boundary perambulation then turns up onto the crest of the hill above Broughton Down, and from this point a valley can be seen below.

1. *Stonydene*. (*Denu* OE valley) 'stony' on the chalk hills implies more large flints in the surface soil than usual, or a patch of clay-with-flints. It also suggests that the land was being cultivated, as the stony nature of the ground is much more obvious when the surface is broken up than when it is covered with woodland or permanent pasture. The late thirteenth century was a time of high population pressure in England, when much

unsuitable land, including steep or stony hillsides, was used as arable fields. The perambulation follows the crest of the hill south of Broughton, which was part of the long, steep hillside forming the original forest boundary.

2. *Whitheweeye*. The hill is crossed by an ancient road which cuts deeply into the chalk, an obvious 'whiteway', and which gives the hill its later name of Whiteshoot Hill.

3. *Thorngate*. This was an entrance into the forest, marked by a thorn tree. Hawthorn was one of the commonest tree species used as boundary markers in Anglo-Saxon times. It was distinctive in a countryside where oak, ash, hazel and beech were common, and in May was covered with blossom; it had also acquired mystical properties. Thorn frequently marked the place where meetings of the hundred or wapentake were held (Muir 2005, 50–2), and Broughton Hundred became known as Thorngate Hundred.

4. 'Following the ditch by *Kyngrode*' (The king's *rode* or clearing in the woodland). This part of the perambulation is more difficult to trace as it does not follow the parish boundary. The most likely route from *Thorngate* to *Merkweye* would have been to continue along the top of the line of hills which formed the original Buckholt boundary. However, the Broughton parish boundary does bulge outwards into Buckholt at this point, and Broughton was a royal manor. Today the area is open arable land with no sign of a ditch or bank. Alternatively, the grant to Nicholas de Pershute given below may be relevant. It describes an assart, or clearing, recently made for one of the king's servants, in about the right place.

5. *Merkeweye*. *Maerc* OE is a boundary (Cameron 1977, 222). *Merkeweye* also features in the perambulation of Haywood, which places it as the road from Broughton to Romsey and Southampton (the present B3084 road). This also helps to establish the position of *Kyngrode*.

Additional information on the history of land ownership in this area is of some assistance in this part of the perambulation.

In 1307 Nicholas de Pershute was granted 22 ½ acres of land in Buckholt, on either side of the high road from Broughton to Southampton. The land descended southwards from Oliver la Zouche's land towards Bentley, a detached part of Mottisfont. This confirms that *Merkeweye* was indeed the Broughton to Southampton road, and explains the gap between Dumore, a later detachment of the east bailiwick, and Haywood.

'The like to Nicholas de Pershute of 22 ½ acres in the forest of Bocholte co. Southampt-on, to wit 6 ½ acres in a place called Caulescroft on the west of the high road from Bergh-ton to Hampton, descending southwards from the soil of Oliver la Zuche under the cover of the wood of Bokholte to an assart lately made at the south end of Caulescroft by John de Crokesley, lately appointed by the king to sell wood in the forest; 10 acres descending southwards from that croft under the cover by the same high road to the croft of the said Nicholas and of Thomas de Brikevill, 6 acres on the east of the high road descending southwards from the

men of Bergh-ton, under the cover of the said forest, to a croft of the men of Benetleye, at a rent of 5s 7 ½ d' (CPR 1301–1307, 518).

The east bailiwick was therefore larger than the later extra-parochial area of Buckholt, and Dumore was not detached at that time.

6. *Primedene*. *Denu* OE is a valley (Cameron 1977, 215). The perambulation then proceeds westwards to *Primedene*, and there is indeed a shallow valley running towards the present Queenwood Farm. From this point the route probably follows the parish boundary.

7. *Pippemere*. *Mere* OE is a boundary (Cameron 1977, 222). This point cannot be identified, but is along a short stretch of countryside with no notable natural features. It may have been a landmark tree or boundary stone.

8. *Ikeneldestrele*. This is the Roman road from Winchester to Old Sarum. In the perambulations of both the east and the west bailiwicks the name *Ykeneldestrele* is used, a curious anomaly as the old Ickenieldway lies considerably further north. Grundy (1938, 569) noted that in the time of Edward III the name was used in a perambulation of Clarendon to describe the Winchester to Sarum Roman road, and thought that it was the only occasion on which the word *Ickenield* had been used for this road. Its use in these earlier perambulations suggests that either the name was occasionally used in the fourteenth century for the Winchester to Sarum road, or that it was simply used as a generic name for ancient highways.

The perambulation then continues along Oliver la Zouche's hedge, which appears to follow the parish boundary. The position of the land of Oliver la Zouche features twice in the perambulation and an attempt was therefore made to find records which give the approximate location of his holdings. La Zouche was known to have held an area just north of Nicholas de Pershute (see above). In 1305 he was granted free warren in his demesne lands in la Hyde, co. Southampton (CChR 1300–1326, 56). Hyde Farm in Broughton is in the right position for the land to be adjacent to that of Nicholas de Pershute and while it is not possible to be certain that this was the Hyde of Oliver la Zouche, as there was a vill called Hyde

in Mottisfont at that time, it seems likely. His only other recorded land holding in the vicinity of Buckholt was in Holbury, East Tytherley (Feudal Aids, 35).

9. 'along the hedge between the king's wood and that of the aforesaid Oliver's'. At this boundary there is an area of land separating the east and west bailiwicks, part of which must have been Oliver la Zouche's wood (Fig. 3).

10. *Portweye*. This is a common name for roads leading towards a market. In this perambulation it is likely to have been the lane now known as The Warren, an old drove road leading northwards from West Tytherley across the open fields of Nether and Over Wallop. This road existed in 1363 as Warynstrete (*CIPM* Ed III, 11 207).

This completes the perambulation since the path to *Stonydene* leads off The Warren.

Haywode appears to have already been detached from the rest of the east bailiwick by 1300, and its boundary follows that of the Haywood detached part of Buckholt parish. The grove at *Basyngstok*' (11) is not identifiable, although nineteenth- and twentieth-century maps show woodland at that point. Clay Hill is in the right position to be *la Hulle* (13). The route then follows the boundary of the present Bentley Farm back towards *Merkeweeye* (5), or the Broughton to Romsey road (B3084).

THE WEST BAILIWICK, OR BUCKHOLT LOVERAZ

Stephen Loveraz, the forester in fee, was present at the perambulation in 1300.

Beginning at Denweye, which runs from Richard Beauchief's house to the cross (of) Dubbet; thence, keeping to the boundary between the counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire, to Ykenildstrete; by that street to la Pulle; and so by the same way (via) to la Holeweye; thence to Wyntcroft; to Stomede; thence by the north of Lo ... osthorn (illegible) as far as Thornhurst', and to the meadow (at) Deneweeye (Hanna 1988, 202–3).

The points in the perambulation are given below and the corresponding numbers are shown in Fig. 5.

1. *Denweye*. This is likely to have been the road from West Tytherley to West Dean, originally a track running across Tytherley Common.

Cross of *Dubbet* (*Dubb* OE land beside or containing a pool). This point lay on the county boundary (2) and the parish boundary, which may account for the presence of a cross. Alternatively, the cross may have been erected to mark the Forest boundary. The area is very wet during the winter months, even with modern drainage ditches, and *Dubbet* would have been appropriate.

The perambulation then follows the county boundary northwards until it crosses the Roman road, *Ykenildstrete* (3), as discussed above.

4. *La Pulle*. This point is by the present-day Little Buckholt Farm, where the Roman road crosses The Warren and it is the only place at which the east and west bailiwicks meet (Fig. 3). A pool is still present there today, and before recent drainage there was an additional pool next to the Roman road. At *la Pulle* the perambulation deviates from the Roman road and from the parish boundary towards *Holeweye*.

5. *Holeweye*. The only holloway leading in the right direction is Chalk Pit Lane out of West Tytherley. Before part of the hillside was cut away as a chalk quarry, it would have been an even more marked holloway.

6. *Wyntcroft* (a winter field) can be found further up the lane. By 1807 (HRO 85M71/PZ2, 20.) it had become Great Lammas Croft and Pit Lammas Croft. Farm animals were allowed on Lammas land from August onwards and during the winter months.

7. *Stomede* (a stony meadow). The perambulation is now back on the parish boundary, where the surface soil contains an abundance of large flints, an area now occupied by Stones Down Farm, Stanfield and Stony Batter.

East Tytherley manor and park had been disafforested by 1300, so that the forest boundary made a detour round the northern side of the park, to emerge at *Thornhurst*.

8. Illegible in the original manuscript. (8) in Fig. 5, above, follows the parish boundary, which keeps north of the old East Tytherley manor park.

9. *Thornhurst*. *Hurst* OE is a low wooded hill

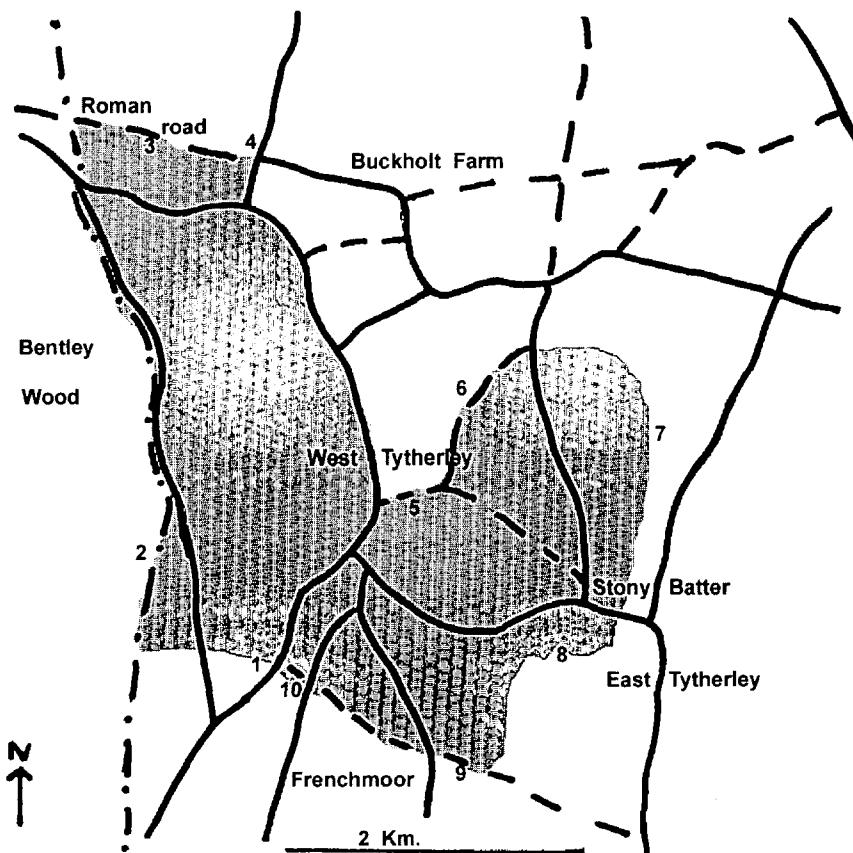


Fig. 5 The area included within the west bailiwick by the AD 1300 perambulation superimposed on modern roads (—) and tracks (- - -). — • — county boundary

(Gelling 1984, 197). On the first edition six inch Ordnance Survey map *Thornhurst* appears as Thorn's Wood. The thorn in this case was likely to have been blackthorn, which is more invasive of woodland than hawthorn. The meadow at *Denweye* (10) later became Tytherley Common.

All the forest boundaries which had been agreed in 1300 were subsequently revoked by Edward I. As soon as his political position improved he obtained a papal bull in 1305, which released him from oaths which he had taken under duress. However, a statute in 1327, at the fall of Edward II, stated that the perambulations of Edward I's reign were to be kept

as the legitimate bounds of the forests. The permanent decline in the importance and area of the royal forests also began at about that time (Young 1979, 140–7).

At the beginning of the reign of Edward III perambulations of the Wiltshire forests were carried out, and the boundaries were found to follow closely the 1300 perambulations. The boundaries were accepted by the forest eyre of 1330 (VCHW iv, 400). Buckholt was included in with the Wiltshire perambulations on this occasion, along with Clarendon, Melchet and Grovely, as it was managed as part of the Clarendon group of forests. The 1330 perambulation of Buckholt (TNA E 32/225) gives

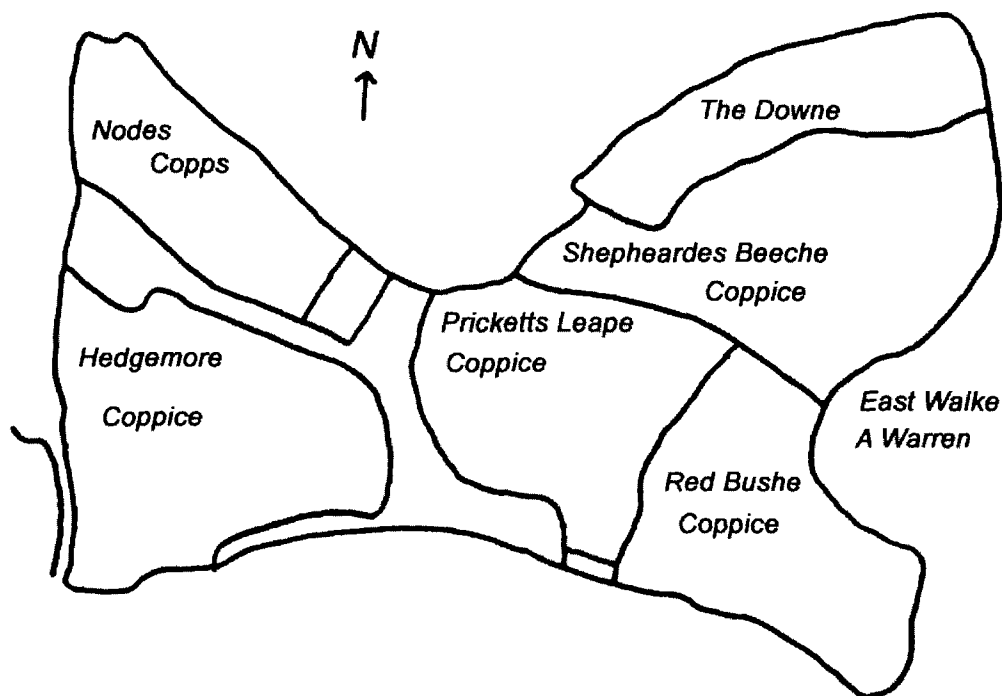


Fig. 6 Taken from Norden's survey of 'The West Part of Buckholt' 1610 (TNA LR 2/203 F15 tab. 12)

what are recognisable as the same boundary points used in 1300. In the east bailiwick minor differences are that Oliver de Zouche's land belonged to the Columbars of East Tytherley by 1330, and the grove of Basyngstok had become the grove of Bos(s)in(g)ton, which, as it lay on the Bossington boundary, seems a more likely name. In the west bailiwick the cross of Dubbet was referred to as the cross of Dubenell, recognisably the same but interesting as the inquisition post mortem of William de Putton, who had been the forester for the east bailiwick, took place *ad crucem Dubenel* in 1297 (CIPM Ed I 3, 339).

LATER BOUNDARIES

The perambulations of 1300 and 1330 show that Buckholt Forest had already become considerably reduced in area when compared with

its extent at the beginning of the 13th century, and this reduction in the crown land continued over the following centuries. This was part of the general decline of the royal forests of England, which by 1334 had shrunk to about two thirds of their 1250 acreage (Short 2000, 139). The forest management system from Clarendon continued for some time, and the two bailiwicks of Buckholt were managed as part of the Clarendon group, but each had a separate forester in fee, responsible for ensuring that forest law was adhered to within his bailiwick. In 1553 the Earl of Pembroke, followed by his son and heir, became wardens of Clarendon, Buckholt and Melchet Forests, and held the post until the Commonwealth. However, by that time official forest posts were mere sinecures. The system had been in decline since the fourteenth century; from the reign of Edward III onwards the forest laws had been increasingly disregarded, and insti-

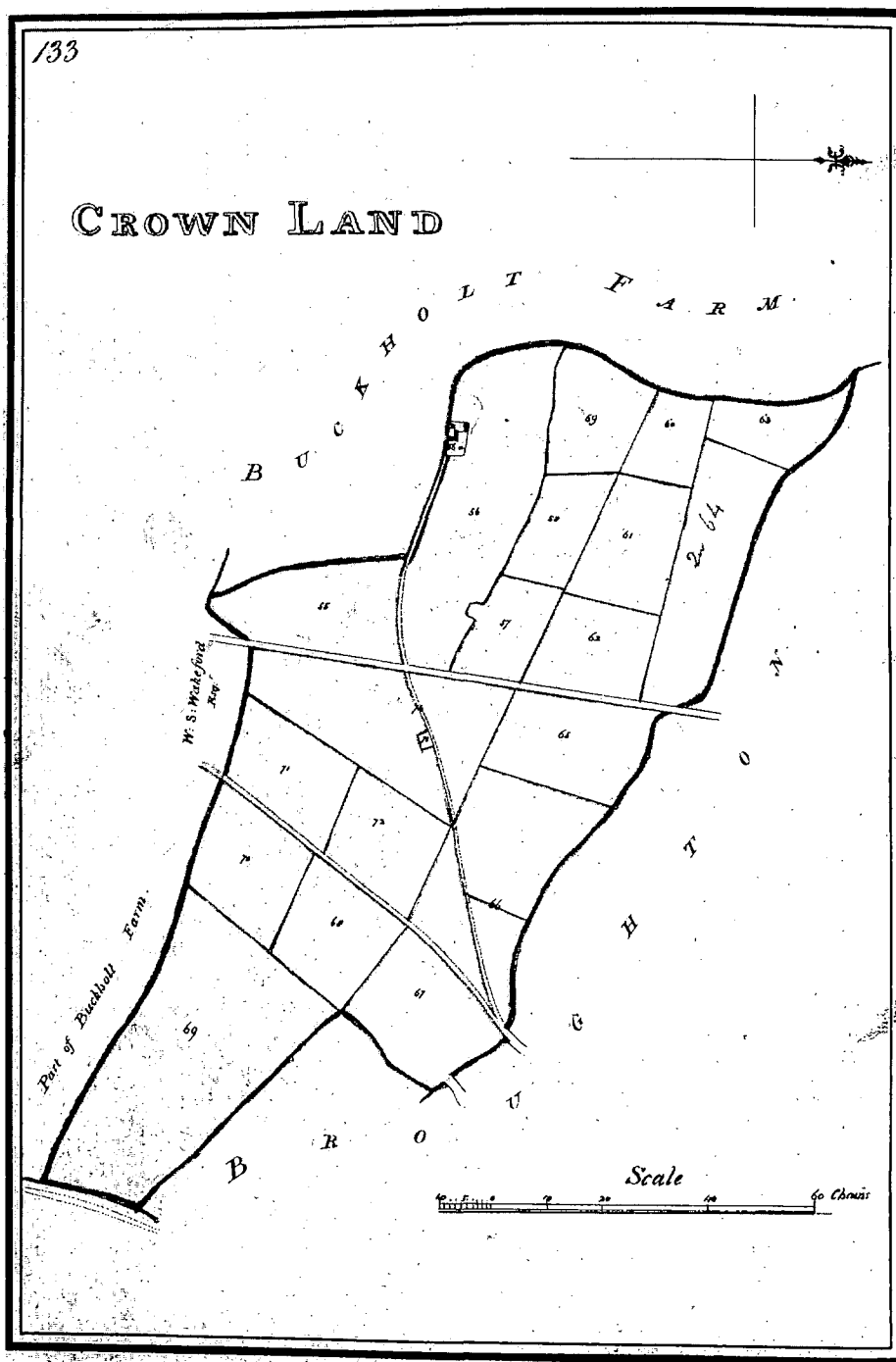


Fig. 7 Survey of Norman Court estate 1807 (HRO 85M71/PZ2, 133)

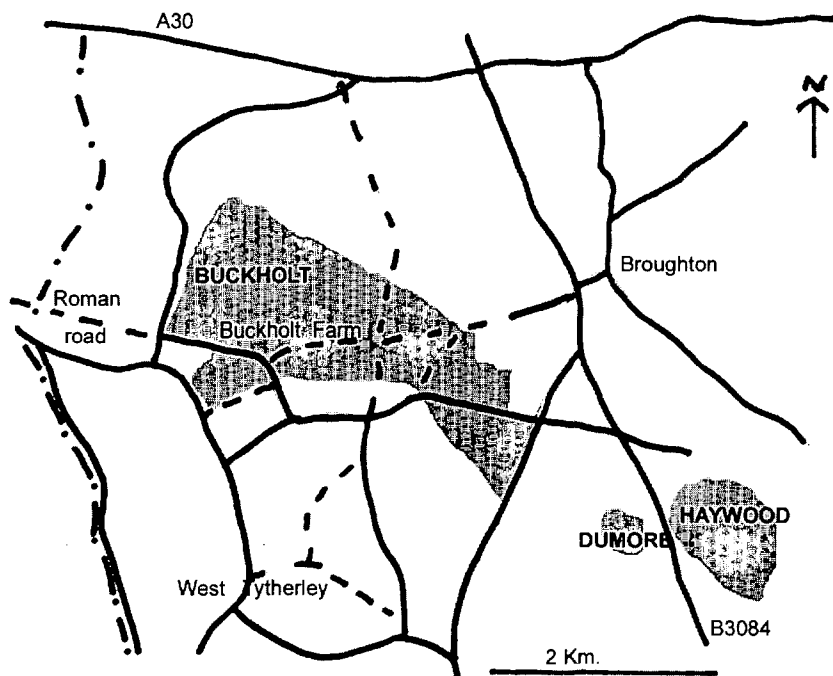


Fig. 8 The extra-parochial area of Buckholt with its two detachments, Haywood and Dumore

tutions such as the forest eyres discontinued (VCHW iv, 400).

The west bailiwick of Buckholt had always been closely associated with Norman Court, a manor in West Tytherley held by the keeper of the bailiwick, and it was gradually absorbed into Norman Court estate. As royal forests became of reduced importance, much of the crown land was leased out or sold. This was true of Buckholt. Timber and underwood were still financial assets, and in 1571 the woodland in both the east walk and the west walk were leased out for 21 years, with provision for two cuttings of the underwood (CPR 1569–1572, 463).

Periodically, successive monarchs showed a renewed interest in the productivity of their forests, and ordered surveys to be carried out. In 1610 a map of 'The West Part of Buckholt' was produced by John Norden (TNA LR 2/203 F15 tab.12) as part of a survey of the woodland in the New Forest ordered by James I. The map shows the extent of the land in the west bailiwick

which still belonged to the crown in 1610 (Fig. 6). At that time the woodland was leased by Sir Henry Whithead of Norman Court. By 1730 the woods shown in the 1610 map had separated into two coppices, Noads and Hedgemoor, and Buckholt Farm, which was no longer woodland (HRO 4M53CB37).

A survey of Norman Court estate in 1807 (HRO 85M71/PZ2) showed that the west bailiwick had been totally absorbed into the estate, and the freehold was no longer held by the crown. Buckholt Farm, originally part of the old east bailiwick, was also a freehold part of Norman Court by 1807. The last remaining area of crown land, still called the east walk of Buckholt, was 488 acres of mainly arable land which was leased to Robert Thistlethwaite of Norman Court, together with Haywood and Dumore. The last lease was in 1779 (HRO 16M57/80) (Fig. 7).

Buckholt, originally extra-parochial, became a separate tithe district under the Tithe Commutation Act 1836, and in 1858 it became a

civil parish. However, the extra-parochial area, as shown on the first edition six inch Ordnance Survey map, is smaller in extent than the original east bailiwick (Fig. 8). Haywood was already a detachment in 1300, but an estate survey in 1778 (TNA F17/398) and subsequent maps and surveys show a second detachment, Dumore, at the eastern end. This separation of Dumore had happened when the Queenwood Farm area of East Tytherley was removed from the bailiwick.

Queenwood was always considered to have been named after Queen Philippa, the wife of Edward III, who held the manor of East Tytherley from 1335–1369.

In 1245 Matthew de Columbars had 'a grove at Purshut' and 'towns in Lockerleg, Holebury and Purshit' (CChR 1226–1257, 282). A century later Peter de Purshute held 130 acres in East Tytherley, including 12 acres of wood, from Queen Philippa. He also held parts of Haywood and Bentley (CIPM Ed III 11 155). The name Purshute, as an area of East Tytherley, disappeared about this time, and it seems likely that Queenwood was the old holding of Purshute. Disafforestation of Purshute/Queenwood at some time following 1300 would account for the reduced bounds of Buckholt, and explain the detached area of Dumore.

Some small areas of the last remaining crown land were sold off during the 19th century and

Norman Court acquired the freehold of what was left of the east walk, so that by 1906, when Norman Court changed hands, no part of the estate was crown land. Thus, the royal forest had finally disappeared after many centuries of gradual decline and shrinking boundaries, and all that remained was the name attached to a small area of countryside. In addition, the meaning and significance of the boundaries had also changed. They no longer delineated an area subject to the harsh forest laws, regardless of who owned the land within the bounds, and had become simple ownership boundaries as we understand the term today, with hedges and fences to contain farm animals where necessary.

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Maps

Ordnance Survey (OS)

- The area studied, SU25- SU33 (E-W) by SU35- SU26 (N-S), is covered by Ordnance Survey Landranger 184 and 185. To avoid a join in the illustrations a combined Landranger 184/185 was provided by Ordnance Survey (issued July 2007). The scale is 1cm to 1km or 1¼ in to 1ml. For Figs 1, 3 and 8 the scale was reduced to 1.4 cm to 1km or 7/8 in to 1 ml.

The orientation in all the Ordnance Survey map illustrations is north at the top of the map.

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