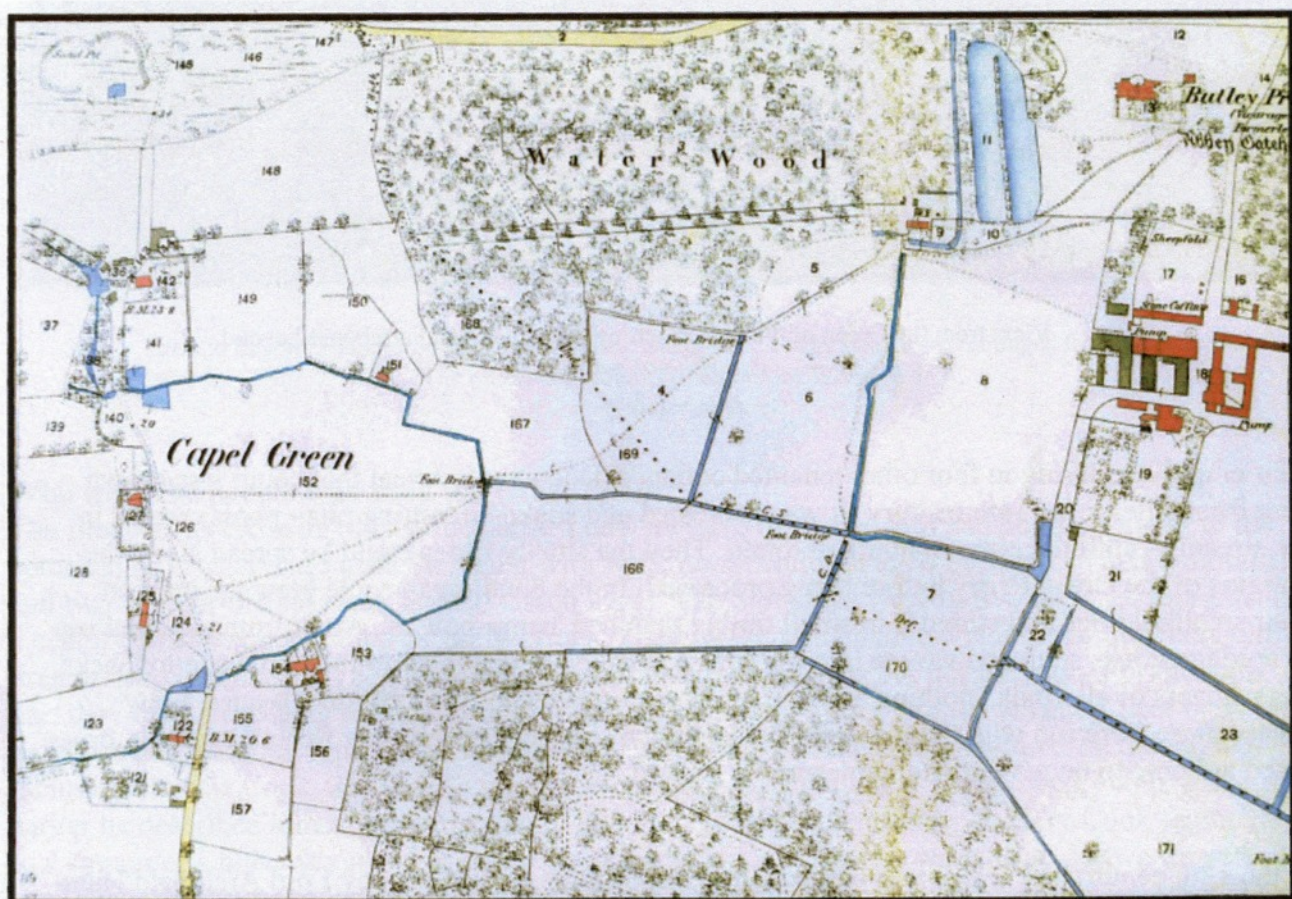


## A LOST HAMLET NEAR BUTLEY PRIORY AND ITS THIMBLES

### Capel Green

David Boast lives in an old farmhouse at Capel St Andrew. A farm can be traced here from Elizabethan times when Charles Allen farmed 39 acres.<sup>1</sup> By the 19<sup>th</sup> century it had acquired the name Green Farm due to its proximity to Capel Green, an 11-acre common shared by all the cottagers and flanked by two streams which rise from springs nearby (Illustration 1). In earlier times it was known as Wantsall Green. Readily available pure water and the large shared green made it a most desirable place to live. The medieval south-north road from Bawdsey to Snape did not cross it but ran on the dry ground just west of the spring line. The streams were diverted at the bottom of the Green; as 'Okeland Brook' they drove the mill-wheels of Butley Priory 250 yards distant, receiving more water from Asholt Wood [alias Watery/Waterhouse/Water Wood]. From Norman times people living round the Green found employment in the Priory Precinct, and later in the Mansion house and on Abbey Farm.<sup>2</sup> They used the footpath considered redundant by Butley Parish Council in 1950.<sup>3</sup>



1. Capel Green in 1881 and its springs. Children could play there and men used it for the rough ball game known as camping. The Butley Priory site is on the right.  
(Map permission Ordnance Survey)

The names of a few medieval residents round the Green were preserved in those of tenements: Badlies, Dames, Sendreds, Hulners, Mellers, and can be traced in manorial court rolls. By the end of the 16th century the occupiers were recorded as branches of the Blanchflower family, plus the Smiths, Capons, Bacons, Wellams, Meares and Amies. These men were farmers and copyholders on the Forth family estate with holdings ranging from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 39 acres. Unrecorded are the names of