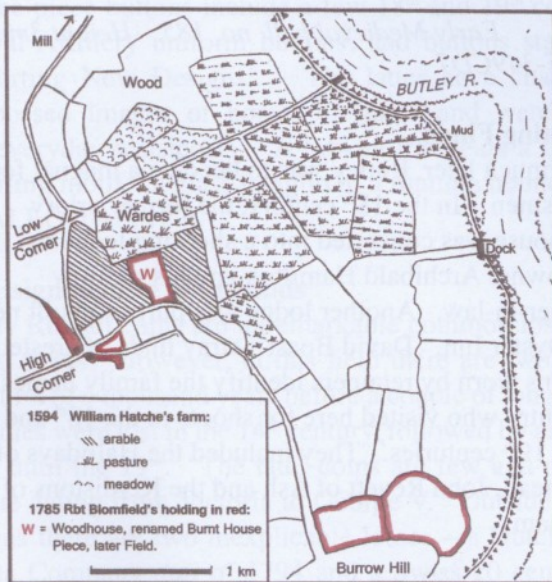


3. *William Hache's farmhouse Wardes described in 1594. Crucially, the entry mentions that Robert Bonde held the field to the south, and incidentally located Woodhouse.*

To complicate local research, isolated fields belonging to other manors were not included in the survey of the manor. Another manor is rarely incidentally mentioned when it forms an abutment, but the occupier is not named. Fortunately for us, Agas had difficulty recording Reillie Green's complex of little holdings. For clarity he named Robert Bonde as holder of the field belonging to Kettleburgh Manor, because it was surrounded by William Hache's arable and pasture. At the time Robert Bonde was the tenant of the mill the last prior built on the boundary between Chillesford and Butley. It is still there. Agas recorded that the miller had no rights to the water feeding the mill, but two pastures were included in his tenancy. Robert's family home will have been Woodhouse.

Identifying another lost house in Burnt House Field

With 111 acres, William Hache was by far the largest farmer in Butley recorded in 1594.



4. *Wardes a large Tudor dairy farm in Butley convenient for the export of butter and cheese.*

Unlike Bonde, Hache had no security of tenure. He merely rented on an annual basis the rest of what is the modern 'Burnt House Field', including his house called Wardes, lying in 9.25 acres of pasture bordering Lowsing Green. In its north-east corner, an old cottage known today as Coulton's Farm very probably occupies its site.

Bothe Wardes and Woodhouse were in Loes Hundred, making them candidates for the two unnamed Butley houses with four chimneys in the 1694 Hearth Tax. The survey details show that William Hache's fields formed coherent mixed farmland around the hamlets and the river wall. They comprised roughly 80 acres of pasture, 23 acres of arable and 8 acres of meadow. He was clearly a prosperous dairy farmer, able to nourish his cows on lush marsh grass, making hay from the meadows for winter feed, and growing corn to provide straw bedding for his animals and flour for his household. A contemporary Suffolk observer wrote that '*most goodly milch cattle... are kept ...especially in parts tending to the East, more naturally given to meadow, pasture and feeding than the rest of the shire.*' Robert Reyce's description fits William's farm.

The building will have been timber-framed with a reed that, brick chimney, yard, outbuildings and dairy where milk was converted into butter and cheese. In this part of Suffolk farmhouses had a ventilated attic room in which cheeses were stored. Conveniently near, their masts in view from William's house, the barges along Butley's own dock could take produce onwards, or directly to markets in Ipswich and London the county's hard

5. *Spritsail barge on the Ore. Detail on a contemporary map.*



cheese, known as 'Suffolk Bang', was in demand by the navy for ocean voyages, 'In one year to London alone 900 loads of butter and cheese were shipped from the county', Reyce noted in 1618.

Unfortunately William did not leave a will, so specific information about his wealth and possessions is lacking. His father John Hache in 1580 had bequeathed William only sheets and a copper pan while his wife was alive. However, the items left to her signify in the 16th century a high standard of living: '*To Alice my best bedstead with the feather bed and flock bed with all the furnishings belonging, as sheets, coverings, blankets, pillows, pillowcases and bolsters...my joined...table with the frame belonging to it with 4 joined stools, a brass pot, 2 silver spoons, 1 pewter platters...half of all my pewter and half my brass, my posnet, my lining cloth...reserving 4 pairs of sheets for my son William...6 good milch kine...among all the neat I have, 6 ewes, my best bay gelding and 1 silver spoons...*'

The livestock confirm that John ran a dairy farm. Its location, identical with his son's, is confirmed by an enterprise which had got him into trouble – and in front of the manorial court – 22 years previously. He had decided to extend his marsh pasture by inning mudflats beyond the river wall. In 1558 he was fined one penny and required to '*reinstate the dug land in the same shape of length and height as the present sea dyke of the lord*'. When he failed to do so, the following year, the