

REEPHAM BURIAL RECORDS 1539 – 1900

PARISH REGISTERS

PARISH REGISTERS RECORDING BAPTISMS MARRIAGES AND BURIALS BEGAN IN 1538 UNDER HENRY VIII THOUGH FEW PARISHES HAVE RECORDS GOING BACK TO THAT TIME. REEPHAM IS FORTUNATE IN HAVING RECORDS DATING TO 1539.

THE PHOTOCOPY BELOW SHOWS BURIALS FOR THE PERIOD 1539 TO 1544, THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF RECORDS.

THE EARLY RECORDS WERE WRITTEN IN LATIN AND USED VERY DIFFERENT HANDWRITING CONVENTIONS FROM TO-DAY. LOOK-OUT FOR 'S' WRITTEN LIKE 'F' (EXCEPT AT THE END OF WORDS), 'C' WRITTEN LIKE A 'HOT-CROSS BUN', AND THE CONVENTION 'AD.' AT THE END OF ENTRIES WRITTEN AS 'AO' FOLLOWED BY AN ELABORATE FORM OF 'D'.

NOTE THE MONARCH'S INITIAL AND YEAR OF REIGN IN THE LEFT-HAND MARGIN

THE FIRST ENTRY READS
 NICHOLAS CHAPMAN FILIUS) = SON) (OF) JOHN CHAPMAN
 SEPULTUS) EST = WAS BURIED) 4TH) APRIL) 1539) A.D.)

REEPHAM HISTORY EXHIBITION 2001

PREHISTORY AND GEOLOGY



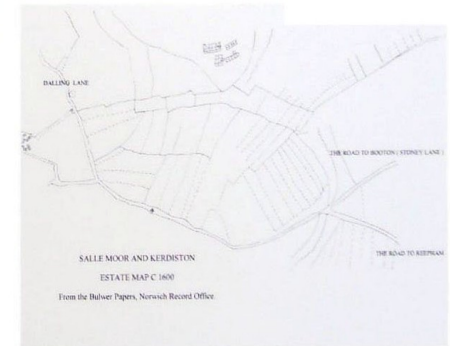
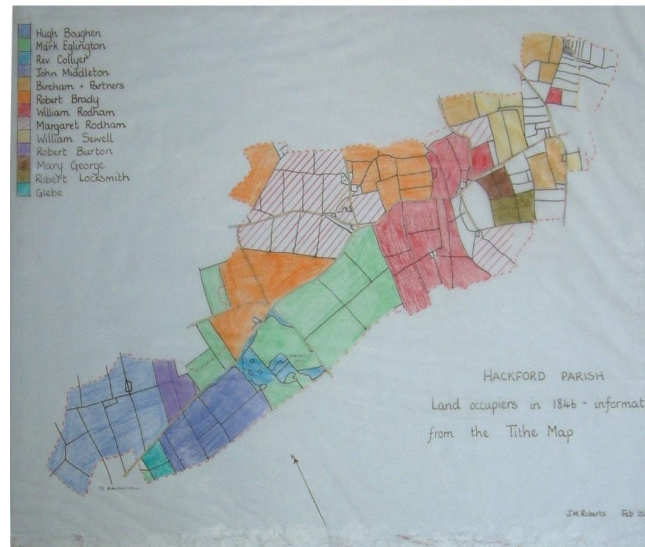
Boston Common

Boston Common is just outside the boundary of Reepham but shares a valley bottom with Reepham Moor. One of the commonest features is the water meadows which have been cropped for years. This map, made at the time of the survey, shows how water meadows revert to scrub, aspen carr and fen when no longer grazed and managed. Much scrub can become wild life refuge and it is now being grazed again to regain the character of a managed common with a mix of woodland and meadow.

Boston Common was designated a SSSI in 1987 thanks to the grasses which grow here (include Marsh Fleabane, Fragrant Orchid, Bog Pimpernel, Alder's Tongue Fern and Meadow Thistle). As it is so wet, moose and hares are well represented among the reeds and willow. Herbs are also attracted to the site.

THE FOLLOWING SHEETS ARE A DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE EXHIBITION.

AGRICULTURE IN VICTORIAN HACKFORD



This view looks across the heather clovelands to Kerdiston. These heavy clay blades were often marked on older maps as 'Cracking Grounds' which stretched across between Reepham, Ball and Wood Colting. Sometimes there were acres of arable land but still have very few houses.



This field is one of the old open fields. Its shape can be clearly seen on every map since 1588. Note the high curving fence along the road which bears witness to the age of this field on the higher land in the parish.



Water meadows running up towards Warden's Field. Cattle are still grazed here in the summer. Note the drainage ditches, needed to keep such wet land usable and the old green and hedges.

