

# The Landscape History of Hadstock Parish

## Part 5 Notable Buildings

1972  
2022



The  
Hadstock  
Society



Hadstock Parish viewed from the South

## Introduction

- This presentation is the fifth in a series describing landscape changes in Hadstock Parish over the last 240 years and focuses on significant buildings in the Parish.
- In other presentations, Part 1 cover Boundaries, roads, woods and paths while Field systems, field names and ownership are dealt with in Part 2. Part 3 deals specifically with details of the Hadstock Inclosure Act of 1801 and is under development. Part 4 presents changes in the Parish built environment.
- Parts 1-2 and Parts 4-5 can be viewed online at [archive.hadstock.org.uk](http://archive.hadstock.org.uk)

Thanks to Lorna Mufty, other Hadstock Society Committee members, the Charles Close Society, Hamish McIlwrick, Rene Patient, and Bill and Sally Richards for helpful information and comments.

Richard Dolby

February 2023

Patricia Croxton Smith

## Sources of Information

2012 Hadstock Conservation Area map  
2020 Google Earth satellite images  
[americanairmuseum.com](http://americanairmuseum.com)  
Kelly's Directories 1855-1914  
The Essex Record Office  
National Heritage Archive  
[disused-stations.org.uk](http://disused-stations.org.uk)  
[Vision of Britain.com](http://VisionofBritain.com)  
Rodwell W J, 1976 Antiquaries J, lvi, pp 56-71  
Reg Wood, Memories of Hadstock, 1938-1992, [archive.hadstock.org.uk](http://archive.hadstock.org.uk)

## Hadstock Parish *St Botolph's Church (1)*

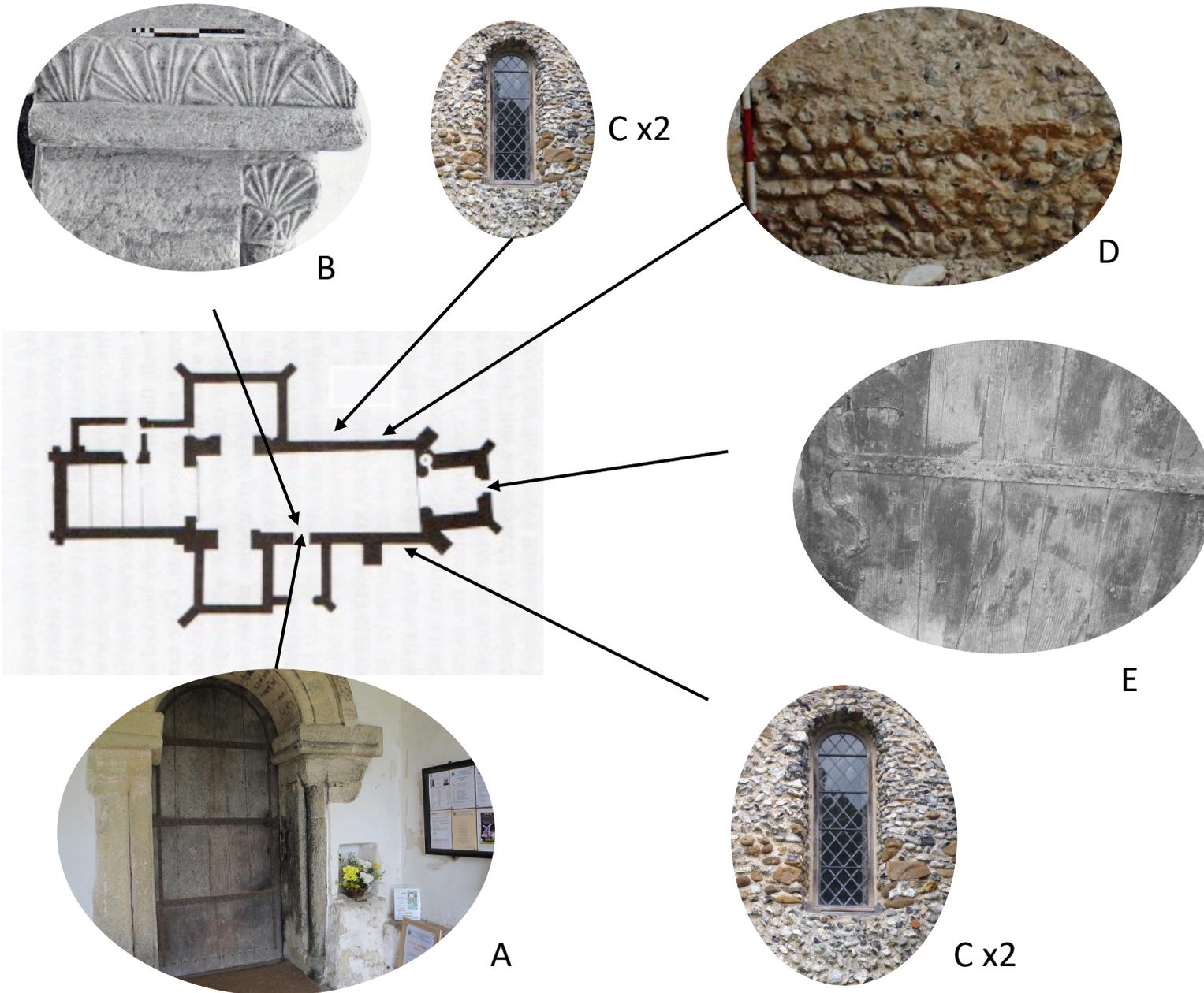
- An unusually large cruciform church built in a poor agricultural area, the nave and transepts are Saxon in design.
- The lowest courses in the walls are believed to have been the stone foundations for an early pre-Danish church with a timber cruciform structure and central tower.
- The nave and transept walls were then raised in stone to their present height during a major rebuild.
- Many experts believe the stone rebuild to have been in 1020AD at the instruction of King Cnut to commemorate the dead on both sides at the Battle of Assandun in 1016AD.
- The west tower and north porch were constructed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- A new chancel and vestry were added in 1884, designed by William Butterfield.



## Hadstock Parish *St Botolph's Church (2)*

This illustration shows the main Saxon features of St Botolph's:

- A. The north door (dated to 1040-70 AD),
- B. The palmette (honeysuckle) decoration associated with the north door and stone pillars of south transept arch,
- C. The four double splayed nave windows, originally 6
- D. Tilted flints in rows creating a herringbone effect in the lower nave and north transept walls,
- E. Y shaped ironwork hinges on the west (outside with scroll) and north (inside) doors.



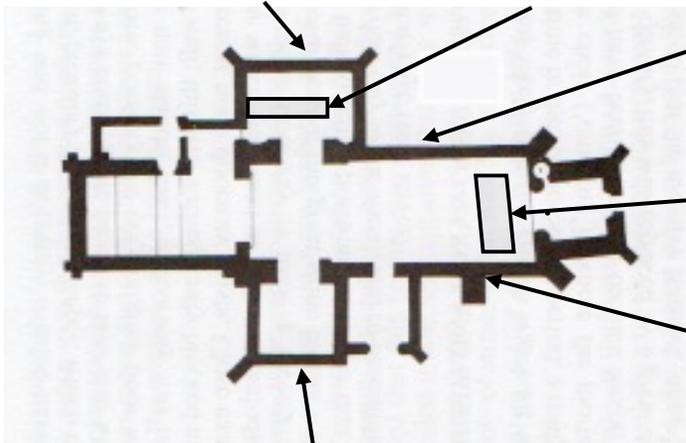


Finial cross

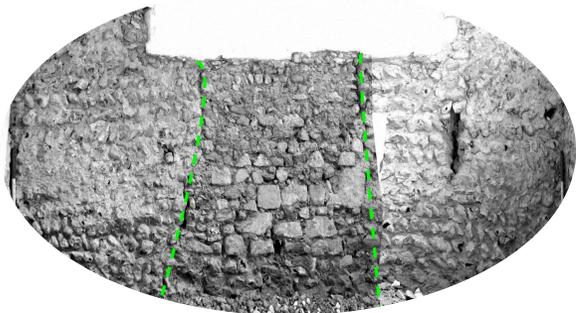
Shallow stone coffin space for person of great distinction



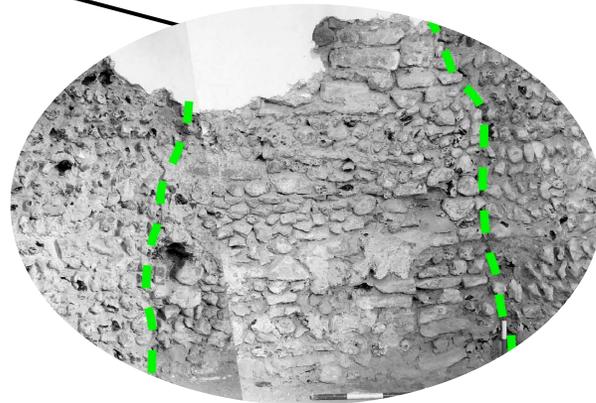
14thC wall painting



Pit for bell foundry



Blocked doors



## Hadstock Parish *St Botolph's Church (3)*

- The church floor was excavated by Dr Rodwell in 1974. The north nave wall contained a blocked door (dashed green) which sits behind the present outer buttress. Based on footpath evidence from resistivity studies, this was clearly a main door at one time, but may not have been the original entrance.
- A second blocked door was found in the north transept, under the 14<sup>th</sup> century window.
- The detailed fabric history of the lower walls was revealed during plaster renewal in 2017 and reported by Adam Garwood.
- Rodwell found a large empty grave in the South transept (St Botolph?), as well as a late-Saxon bell foundry in the nave.
- The plaster renewal in 2017 uncovered a 14<sup>th</sup> century wall painting on the south nave wall.
- The unique South transept finial cross is considered to be 14<sup>th</sup> century or earlier, and was carved from a single block of Barnack stone.

## Hadstock Parish *Listed buildings*

- There are currently 36 listed buildings in the Parish, 34 in the village and 2 in Bowers.
- St Botolph's is the only Grade 1 building. The telephone box on the Green is listed Grade 2. There are 2 listed barns.
- Chantry House, Kings Cottage, Hill Farm and Beam Ends are examples of 15/16<sup>th</sup> century houses.

Mallyons



Beam Ends



Hadstock Hall



Hill Farm



Briar Cottage



Barn  
Cottage



## Hadstock Parish

### *Hadstock Hall*

- Hadstock Hall dates from c.1600 and was the Manor House for at least 250 years. Altered in 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was restored in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to reveal the timber framing on its West side.
- After Hadstock Manor was taken from Ely Abbey by Henry VIII in 1535, the manor lands were granted to Thomas Sutton in 1600 by Elizabeth I. Sutton bequeathed them to Baron Howard de Walden in 1611 and they were then sold to Daniel Malthus for £5500 in 1702. Malthus was Royal Apothecary to King William III and Queen Anne and lived in Pall Mall, London.
- The Manor was then held by the Malthus family for the next 167 years, although none of the family lived here. The Hall was occupied by a succession of tenant farmers.
- Sydenham Malthus, great grandson of Daniel, was Lord of the Manor at the time of the Hadstock Inclosure Act of 1801. He lived in Albury, Surrey.
- The Manor lands and farm were bought in 1869 by Charles Tabor of Bocking who, within a year, allowed tenant farmers in Hadstock to purchase the freehold of individual fields.



## Hadstock Parish *Village School / Hall (1)*

- There are records from 1818 of a Sunday school and a school for industry run by the Rector. Around 40 children, probably met in St Botolph's for classes. This scheme was highly praised by the Government Committee on Education of the Poor and recommended for adoption to clergy of other country parishes.
- A two roomed church school was completed in 1872, with 65 pupils in 1900. The Rector delivered daily lessons and prayers.
- The first head teacher was Clara Poole. She was succeeded in 1875 by Sarah Salmon, who was the village postmistress at Pond House!
- Evening school was opened in 1896 for needlework, history and singing classes.
- The school became a primary school in 1937, with secondary school age children moving, first to Linton Village College and then in 1953, to what is now Saffron Walden County High.
- Hadstock school closed in 1948 with children moving to Ashdon Primary school.

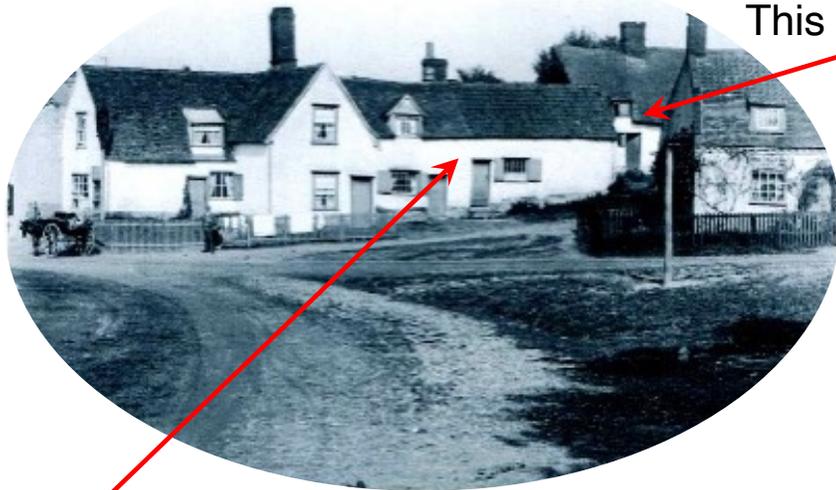


Pupils 1900

## Hadstock Parish *Village School / Hall (2)*

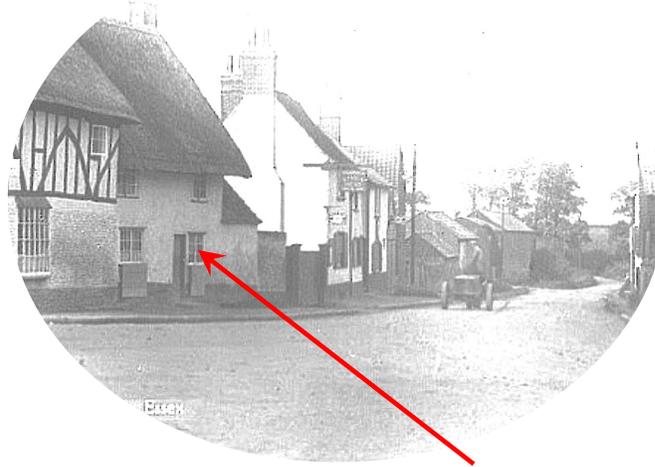
- The Chestnut Playgroup then used the village hall for many years before moving to Linton in 1999.
- The hall was expanded and improved in 1996 to create a new cloakroom wing, a remodelled kitchen, a new entrance, new toilets and a utility room for the Playgroup. Internet access was added in 2021.
- A number of groups now regularly use the hall, including the Hadstock Silver Band.
- The Parish Council and other Groups use it for meetings and the hall is available for parties and other social events.



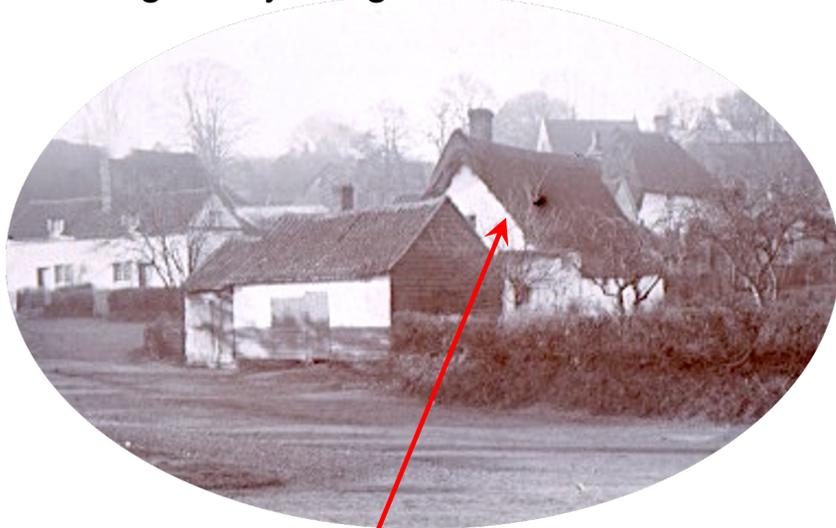


This cottage also demolished

Two cottages adjoining the Queen's Head



King's Head cottages



Cottage linked to blacksmith's shop



Cottages to the right of Church path

## Hadstock Parish *Lost cottages*

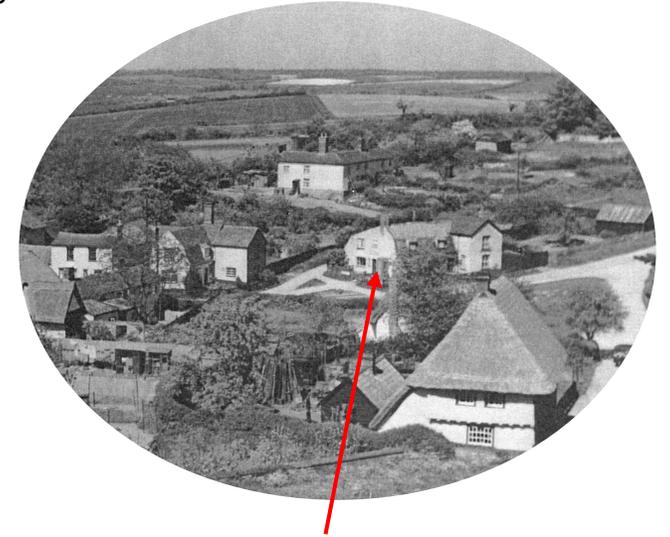
- The two cottages connected to the Queen's Head were demolished sometime between 1921 and 1940. A further cottage can be seen behind what is now Roundhill Cottage and was probably demolished in the same year.
- The King's Head cottages were demolished in the 1950s, and a pub car park then created for the King's Head.
- In 1957, the cottage behind the blacksmith's shop on the Green was destroyed by fire.
- There were also two cottages off Church path next to Beam Ends, but these were demolished between 1877 and 1921.

## Hadstock Parish *Shops (1)*

- In the early 1900s, the village store was in the Corner House (now King's Cottage) managed by 'Grandma' Lucy Fordham.
- When this closed, Ernie Davey opened a small store in the Gate House opposite the Kings Head, and it became famous among young residents as a sweet shop.
- A post office then opened at Pond House on the Green in the 1920s/30s, managed by Sarah Salmon, who also taught at the village school.
- Roundhill Cottage became the stores and post office during WW2. It was also the site of the village telephone box. Connie Free ran a very successful business there until 1974. She sold food essentials, along with large quantities of paraffin. Meat pies were also extremely popular.
- The business was then managed by Mrs Harknett and her family for many years but closed in 1974. The telephone box was then moved to its present position on the south edge of the Green.



Early 1900s -Village stores  
in the Corner House, now  
Kings Cottage



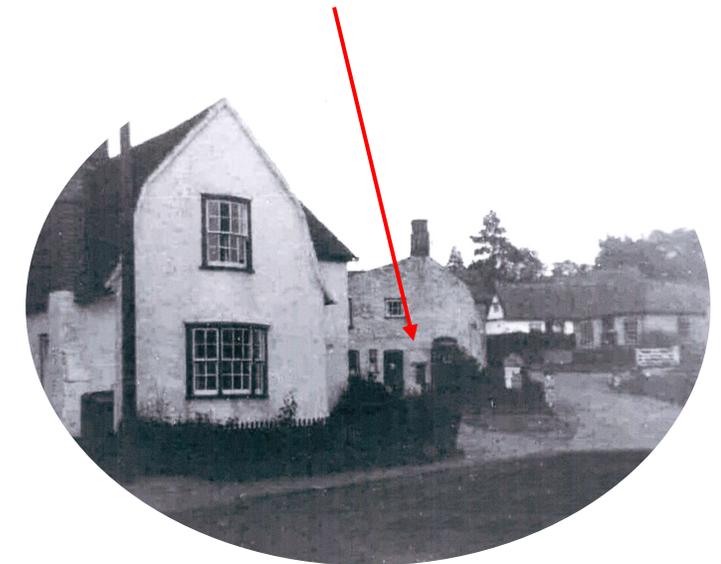
1950s-Village stores/post office/telephone  
box at Roundhill Cottage



The Gate House-  
Village stores,  
early 1900s

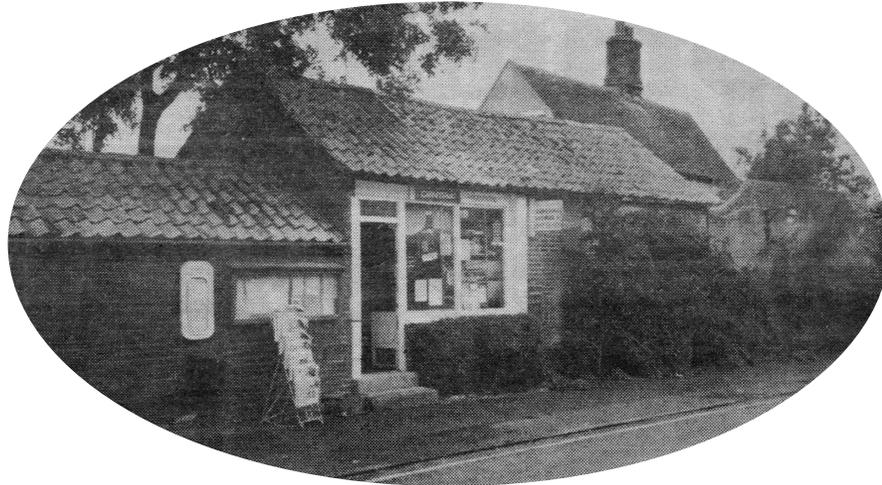


1920s-Post office  
in Pond House



## Hadstock Parish *Shops (2)*

- Several travelling vans visited Hadstock in the 1940s/50s, selling and delivering meat, bread, fish, vegetables and paraffin. These came from various stores in Linton and Saffron Walden
- In 1974 the village store and post office moved to a small outbuilding on the Linton Road attached to Yews Farm and belonging to the Crawley family. The building is believed to have been a butcher's shop years earlier.
- The business was managed by Reg Wood for six years, and from 1980 by Bill Richards with Sally Richards as the sub-post mistress. Bill bought the shop in 1988. Gary Salmon then ran the stores and post office until 1991.
- In the following two years, 'Cobwebs' an antique shop, occupied the building. Then in 1993, it became an upholstery and soft furnishings shop. Designer Drapes was managed by Bill Richards for the next twenty years until 2013, and then by Lesley Williams for nine years.



The Post Office and village stores in 1987 managed by Bill Richards,



Designer Drapes shop managed by Lesley Williams from 2013

Sub-post mistress Sally Richards serving at the stores



## Hadstock Parish *Public Houses*

- There were two public houses in 1900, the King's Head and the Queen's Head - within 50 yards of each other.
- The King's Head was run by Stephen Hymus family from 1855-1900, although wheelwrighting was his day job.
- The landlord of the Queens Head in the 1890s was George Swann. He was a member of the first Hadstock Parish Council, which met for the first time in Dec 1894.
- In 1945, The Queen's Head became a private house, Goldacre, when the landlady, Annie Freeman, moved across the road to take over the King's Head.
- The village always had one or two beer retailers by trade in the period 1850-1920.
- The King's Head closed in 2016 despite a lengthy campaign by the Friends of the King's Head to keep it open. It became a private house in 2020.

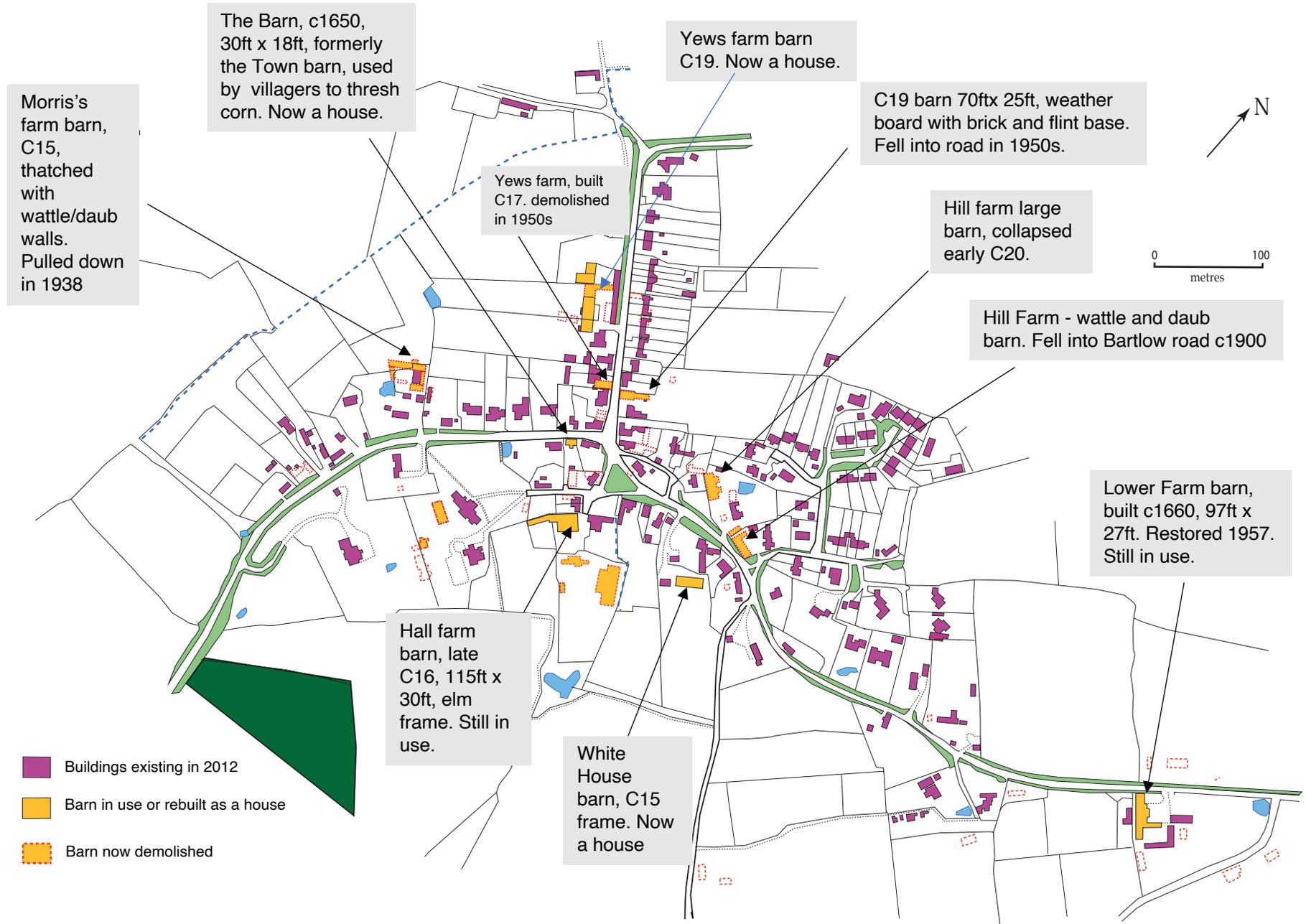


Queen's Head

# Hadstock Parish

## Large barns

- In 1985, a Civic Trust survey was carried out of Hadstock barns, past and present, as part of Environment week. Several barns were open to view.
- This illustration shows the larger barns in the village (in yellow), the majority of which were once part of the six main 19<sup>th</sup> century farms: Hall, Hill, Lower, Yews, Morris's and Glebe.
- Three barns have since been converted into houses, two are still used for storage, while the remainder (red dashed outline) fell down or were dismantled.

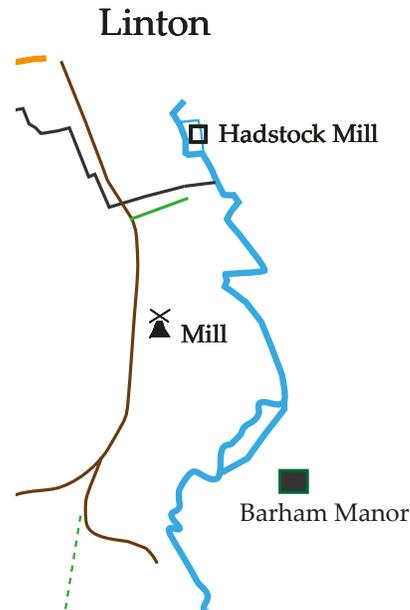


## Hadstock Parish *Mills*

- The windmill was originally a post mill in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and in 1805 was owned by Edward Taylor of Linton.
- It became a tower mill in 1836 worked by the Reeve family who also ran the Hadstock water mill. It remained a windmill with two sails until 1926.
- The water mill on the River Granta at Linton was built around 1150AD. The mill was an 'island' in Linton Parish and part of Hadstock Parish for centuries.
- The present mill dates from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was enlarged in the early 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries but ceased working in 1982.



Hadstock Mill



Windmill



## Hadstock Parish Railway

- The Haverhill to Shelford Great Eastern line opened in 1865 and ran through Hadstock Parish by the River Granta on a long embankment which then fed into a deep cutting, nearer Linton.
- Hadstock residents used Linton and Bartlow stations and reached Saffron Walden from Bartlow on a separate branch line opened in 1866, but not on a Sunday! This was because the Walden line was funded by Quaker banks.
- Both lines were closed by 1967. The Linton/Hadstock Parish boundary had been moved to the embankment between Linton and Bartlow in 1965.
- In 1967, the old track near Bartlow station was used to simulate a train derailment in Malaysia in the film "Virgin Soldiers".



Bartlow  
Station

To Linton



Cutting

Embankment

To Bartlow



Signalman with  
token pouch for  
single track working

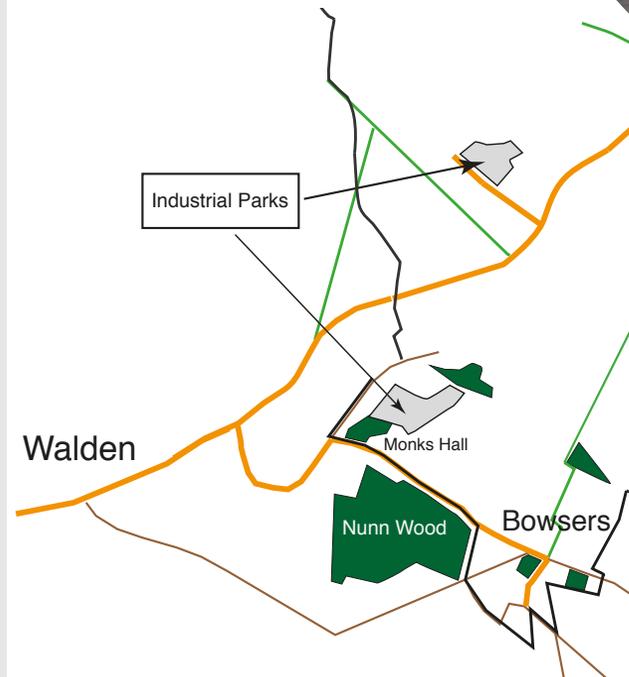
Push-pull carriages  
- Saffron Walden line



## Hadstock Parish

### *Airfield structures*

- There were two large T2 hangars at Little Walden in 1944. Metal framed and clad, over 900 of these transportable hangars were built in the UK during WW2.
- A third hangar, still to be seen from the Walden Road, is a Blister type. These arched portable buildings, required no foundation slab. The blister hangar at Little Walden was used to house a simulator for gunnery training.
- The far-right picture, shows the Little Walden control tower in 1944. An Air Ministry design, 162 were sited around the UK, and 82 still survive. The building held the watch and meteorological offices on the ground floor, and the control room and signals office on the first floor.
- Two industrial parks now occupy the sites of the old T2 hangars, one focused on road haulage, and the other on food products manufacture and supply.



T2 Hangar



Control Tower



Blister hangar

## Summary

- St Botolph's is a unique Saxon building. The church created the village more than 1000 years ago and will remain the most important Parish possession for the next 1000 years.
- The Parish has 36 listed buildings, with the earliest houses dated to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.
- Our Victorian school became the village hall and remains a valued Parish asset.
- The village had a food store and post office from around 1900 until 1991.
- The village pubs served the community for 160 years, the last closing in 2016.
- The wind and water mills operated in the Parish for many centuries.
- The USAAF Station 165 in 1942 has left a legacy of large and small WW2 buildings.
- The railway legacy is a lengthy tree lined embankment near Bartlow, now just outside the Parish boundary.

