

**THE  
WOTTON  
SURVEY**

**SPECIMEN**

# **KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**TRANSCRIPTION OF  
Manuscript Add 42715  
British Library**

## Introduction

The Wotton family probably became established in Kent in the first half of the fifteenth century, when Nicholas Wotton, a former Lord Mayor of London, married the heiress of the Corby family of Bocton or Boughton Malherbe. Subsequent generations accumulated extensive estates by marriage and purchase.<sup>1</sup>

In order to fulfil the provisions of the will of Sir Edward Wotton, who died in 1551, a survey of his estates was carried out between 1557 and 1560, by his heir, Thomas. This survey is now held in the British Library.<sup>2</sup> With associated material, it is over six hundred pages long. Manor by manor, it records the Wotton lands, from the Cray Valley to Romney Marsh, from Thanet to near the Surrey border. The estate was probably over six thousand acres, with the largest concentration of lands being around Boughton Malherbe, the main family seat.<sup>3</sup> The survey details place names, land usage, ownership and occupation and personal names. It is a valuable resource for research into many aspects of Kent history.

A group of volunteers is currently transcribing the survey. When completed, the transcript will be published on the Kent Archaeological Society website, to be freely available as a research resource.<sup>4</sup> It will be accompanied by an extended introduction discussing the background to and content of the survey and indicating possible future lines of research based on it.

It is hoped that the complete transcript will be published in Spring 2010. Meanwhile, we are publishing one manor as a sample. The manor of Holmyll is in Harrietsham.<sup>5</sup> It formerly belonged to Leeds Priory and came into the possession of Edward Wotton following the dissolution of the monasteries.<sup>6</sup>

The survey describes a little over sixty acres of the demesne lands of the manor. In the original document, the information is presented in three columns. The name of the piece of land is given in the left margin. The main body of the text describes the land. The acreage is given in the right margin.

These few pages are rich in information on place names and land ownership, and we hope they will serve to demonstrate, in advance of the publication of the full transcript, the value of the Wotton Survey as a resource.

Jacqueline Bower

### Notes

1. Edward Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 5* (1798), pp. 397-415. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

2. <http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Libr/Wills/Bk52/page%2067.htm>;  
BL Add Ms 42715.

3. Michael Zell, 'Landholding and the Land Market in Early Modern Kent', *Early Modern Kent, 1540-1640* (2000) p.64.

4. We are grateful to the British Library for supplying digital images for the project, and for permitting the publication of the transcript.

5. Holmyll, otherwise Holmill or Holmemill, alias Bentley; Edward Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 5* (1798), pp. 445-460. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

6. *Ibid.*

The boundes or lymetes and contennt or quantitie of/  
all the Demeane landes of the manoure of holmyll, otherwaies called the manoure of hariatisham,/ lyenge in hariatisham in the Countie of kennt: Measured and bounded owte in the fourthe Daie of/ November 1559: then Weddensdaie: And in the firste yere of the Reigne of owre soveraigne ladye/ Elizabeth (by the grace of god) Queene of England, Fraunce and Ireland and Defendoure of the/ faithe etc: withe Roddes of xvj foote and halfe a foote in lengthe, By William Clarke of/ Lenham in the same countie husbondman: And by Robert Kennet of bocton malherbe in the Countie/ aforesaid labourer: in the presence of Thomas Wotton of bocton aforesaid esquier then verie awner/ and possessorer of the manoure and landes aforesaid: And in the presence of Thomas Foulkes/ and Nicholas Eaton of hariatisham aforesaid husbondman: And in the presence of Christofer/ Gates and Christofer Clemente, otherwaies called Christofer Arnolde of bocton afore/ said yemen, and Servanntes of the said Thomas Wotton.

[Left Margin]  
[Crawleese?]

A peece of Lande called Crawleese percell of the/  
Demeane landes of the manoure of holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in hariatisham/  
aforesaid, To certaine landes, percell of the Demeane landes of the manoure of/  
harbleton, nowe of warham Seintleger esquier, toward the East: To the kinges/  
highewaie leadinge from the Churche of hariatisham aforesaid vnto the Churche of/  
hollingborne in the countie of Kennt aforesaid, toward the Sowthe: And to certaine/  
landes nowe of the Deane and Chapter of the College of Christeschurche in/  
Canterburye in the same countie, toward the West and Northe: conteynethe/  
by estimacion.

[Right Margin]  
Nyne acres/nyneteene perches

[Left Margin]  
[Selderbourne?]

A peece of lande called Selderbourne, percell of the Demeane landes of/  
the manoure of holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in hariatisham aforesaid, To certaine/  
landes nowe of Thomas Atchamber, And to certaine landes nowe of warham/  
Seintleger esquier, And to certaine other landes nowe of the said Thomas/  
Atchamber, toward the East: To certaine landes nowe of Robert Bedmanton,/ And to certaine landes nowe of the said Warham Seintleger, toward the Sowthe:/ To certaine lande called Selderbournecrofte, percell of the Demeane landes of/  
the manoure of holmyll aforesaid, And to certaine landes called Selderbourne ponde,/ percell of the landes and waters of and appertayninge vnto the manoure of/  
Grenewaie, nowe of the said Warham Seintleger, toward the West: And/  
to the kinges highewaie leadinge from the churche of hariatisham aforesaid vnto/  
the Churche of hollingborne in the countie of Kennt aforesaid toward the/  
Northe: conteynethe by Estimacion.

[Right Margin]  
Nyne acres/ Twentie perches

[Left Margin]  
[Selderbourne?]crofte

A peece of Lande called Selderbournecrofte; percell of the Demeane landes/  
of the manoure of hollmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in hariatisham aforesaid, To certaine/  
landes called Selderbourne, percell of the Demeane landes of the manoure of holmyll/  
aforesaid, And to certaine landes nowe of Warham Seintleger esquier, toward the East:/

To certaine woodde landes called Selderbourne woodde, percell of the Demeane landes/  
of the manoure of hollmyll aforesaid, And to certaine landes nowe of William Greene,/  
toward the Sowthe: To the kinges highewaie there, toward the West: And to/  
certaine landes called Selderbourne ponde, percell of the Demeane landes and/  
waters of, and appertayninge unto the manoure of Grenewaie, nowe of the said/  
Warham Seintleger, toward the Northe: conteynethe by Estimacion

[Right Margin]  
one acre

[Left Margin]  
[Selderbourne?] woodde

A peece of wooddelande called Selderbourne woodde, percell of the/  
Demeane landes of the manoure of holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in harietisham aforesaid,/  
To certaine landes nowe of warham Seintleger esquier, toward the Northe and/  
East: To certaine landes nowe of William Greene, toward the Sowthe and West:/  
And to certaine landes called Selderbournecrofte, percell of the Demeane/  
landes of the manoure of holmyll aforesaid, toward the Northe: conteynethe by/  
estimacion.

[Right Margin]  
one acre one/ yarde

[Left Margin]  
[Shorteford?]

A peece of lande called Shorteford, percell of the Demeane landes of the/  
manoure of Holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in harietisham aforesaid, To certaine/  
landes called BoltonsCrofte, otherwaies called Boltmans crofte, nowe of John/  
Steede, And to the kinges highe waye there, towarde the East: To certaine/  
landes, percell of the Demeane landes of the manoure of Grenewaye

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[Left Margin]  
Shorteforde

nowe of Warham Seintleger esquier, toward the Sowthe and West: And to the/  
kinges highewaie leadinge from the Churche of harietisham aforesaid vnto the/  
Churche of hollingborne in the countie of Kennt aforesaid, toward the Northe:/  
conteynethe by estimacion

[Right Margin]  
seven [acres?] / yar[des?]

[Left Margin]  
greate otelande

A peece of lande called Greate Oteland, percell of the Demeane landes/  
of the manoure of holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in harietisham aforesaid: To/  
certaine lande nowe of William Greene, toward the Northe and East:/  
To certaine landes nowe of Warham Seintleger esquier, toward the Sowthe:/  
To certaine landes called Beadleshills, nowe of John Steede, toward the west:/  
And to certaine landes nowe of henrie Tailoure, toward the Northe: cont[eyneth]/  
by estimacion.

[Right Margin]  
Tenn[e?] /three y[arddes?]/ per[ches?]

[Left Margin]  
Little otelande

A peece of lande called Little Oteland, percell of the Demeane landes of/  
the manoure of holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in harietisham aforesaid, To certaine/  
Landes nowe of Thomas Crowde, toward the East: To the Kinges highe/  
waie leadinge from a place or streete called the West streete of harietisham/  
aforesaid to Barsted in the Countie of Kennt aforesaid, toward the Sowthe:/  
To certaine landes called Little Oteland, percell of the Demeane landes of [INS] the manoure of [END  
INS]/  
Holmyll aforesaid, And to certaine landes nowe of the said Robert Smothinge, toward/  
the West: And to the said landes nowe of the said Robert Smothinge, And/  
to the kinges highewaie there, toward the Northe: conteynethe by estimacion

[Right Margin]  
fyve ac[res?] / an acre

A peece of lande called Little Otelande, percell of the Demeane landes/  
of the manoure of holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in harietisham aforesaid, To/  
certaine landes called little Oteland, percell of the Demeane landes of the/  
manoure of holmyll aforesaid, toward the East: To the Kinges highewaie/  
leadinge from a place or Streete called Weststreete in harietisham afore/  
said To Barstedde in the countie of Kennt aforesaid toward the Sowthe/  
To certaine landes nowe of James Smothinge, toward the West: And to/  
certaine landes nowe of Robert Smothinge, toward the Northe: conteyneth/  
by Estimacion

[Right Margin]  
five ac [?] / yarde [?] / per[ches?]

A peece of meadowe Lande, percell of the Demeane landes of the/  
manoure of Holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in harietisham aforesaid, To/  
certaine landes called Busshicrofte, nowe of the heires of Nicholas/  
Johnsonne, toward the East: To a ponde called a mylle ponde, nowe of/  
Anthonye Moswell, towarde the Sowthe: To the kinges highewaie there,/  
toward the West: And to certain landes called Impton, nowe of John/  
Stile, toward the Northe: conteynethe by estimacion.

[Right Margin]  
Three [acres?]/ Twe[ntie?] / per[ches]

A peece of meadowe lande, percell of the Demeane landes of the mano[ure]/  
of Holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in harietisham aforesaid, To certaine meadowe/  
landes nowe of Thomas Brockhill, And to certaine landes nowe of John Steede/  
toward the East: To certaine landes nowe of the said John Steede, And to/  
certaine landes nowe of John Peende, toward the Sowthe: To certaine/  
landes nowe of the said John Peende, and to certaine landes nowe of John/  
Roper, toward the West: And to certaine landes nowe of William Steede,/  
toward the Northe: conteynethe by estimacion

[Right Margin]  
one ac [?] / Twoo [?]

[Left Margin]  
a Waye

Owte of, to and from the peece of meadowe lande/  
laste afore rehersed the lorde awner and fermoure of the same peece of/  
lande nowe hath, and of right at all tymes ought to have a reasonable/  
and convenyent waie to goo, come, Ryde, carrye, leade, drive, passe,/  
and repasse to and from the Kinges highewaie in and thoroughe a peece of/  
meadowe lande of Thomas Brockhill aforesaid.

[Left Margin]  
Leewoodde

A peece of Brokie lande, percell of the Demeane landes of the/  
manoure of Holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in a peece of lande called Leewoodd./  
and in harietisham aforesaid, To certaine landes, percell of the Demeane landes/  
of the manoure of harietisham, nowe of William hailes esquier, and of

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Laurence Asheborneham gentleman as in the right of the wife of the said Laurence/  
sister and heire of Stephan Addames gentleman, toward the Northe, East, and/  
Sowthe: And to certaine landes called Impton, nowe of Thomas Atchamber toward/  
the West: conteynethe by estimacion.

[Right Margin]  
Twoo acres

[Left Margin]  
[Brookelane?]

A peece of meadowe lande called Brookelane, percell of the Demeane landes/  
of the manoure of Holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in harietisham aforesaid, To certaine/  
landes nowe of John Warner clerke, Doctor in Phisicke late of Nicholas Seintleger/  
esquier, toward the Northe and East: To certaine landes nowe of William Steede/  
toward the Sowthe and West: And to a homewaie or lande lane there, towarde/  
the Northe: conteynethe by Estimacion

[Right Margin]  
one acre one/ yarde one perche

[Left Margin]  
[Smyth?] feelde/ [wi?]lliam/ [?] for

[This paragraph has been crossed out]

A peece of lande called Kingesmythfeeld, percell of the Demeane landes of/  
the manoure of Holmyll aforesaid, and lyenge in harietisham aforesaid, To certaine/  
lande called Skillettes acre, nowe of John howchin, And to certaine landes called/  
Skillettes acre, appertayninge vnto the personage or Rectorie of harietisham in/  
Harietisham aforesaid, And to certaine landes nowe of William Steede, towarde/  
the East: To certaine landes nowe of the said William Steede, And to certaine/  
landes now of Thomas brockhill, toward the Sowthe: To the kinges highe/  
waie there, toward the West: And to certaine landes called Smythfeeld/  
appertayninge vnto the personage or Rectorie of harietisham aforesaid, toward the/  
Northe: conteynethe by Estimacion.

[Right Margin]  
seuen acres one / yarde

[Left Margin]  
[?] the/ [manoure of ?] holmyll/ [?] holden/ [and by what?] tenure/ [and rennt?]

The manoure of Holmyll aforesaide and the seuerall/  
peecees of lande afore rehersed, percelles of the Demeane landes of the same manoure/  
(under and by the name of the manoure of harietisham lyenge in harietisham/  
aforesaid) ar amonge other manoures, landes, tenementes, and hereditamentes/  
holden of owre soveraigne ladye Elizabeth (by the grace of god) Queene of England/  
Fraunce and Ireland and Defendoure of the faithe. in Capite By the/  
service of the twentithe parte of a knightes fee. and by the yerelye somme of/  
Twelue shillinges to be vnder and by the name of a tenthe at and in the feaste/  
of Saincte Michaell tharchangell paid to owre said soveraigne ladye her heires/  
and successoures for all Renntes services and Demandes whatsoever, of and for/

the manoure of holmyll aforesaid otherwaies called the manoure of harietisham,/ To owre said sovereigne ladye her heires and successoures by anye manner of meanes to be paid or done: As by the letters Patentes of the late Kinge of noble memorie Kinge henrie the Eight, therof made, dated at westmynster/ in the xxj th Daie of Maye in the xxxvj th yere of the reigne of the said late/ kinge, maye more plainlie appere. Upon the yerelie paymente of/ which said somme of twelue shillinges at and in the feaste of Saincte/ Michaell tharchangell the Collectoure or receyvoure for the tyme beinge of the/ said somme of twelue shillinges hathe of the said Thomas Wotton by dewtie/ Demanded, And the said Thomas Wotton at and in the said feaste of Saincte/ Michaell vnto the said Collectoure or receyvoure hathe by custome paid/ the somme of fower pence for everie acquitannce confessinge or witnessinge/ the receipte of the said somme of twelue shillinges: and so the yerelie/ somme issuyng owte of the manoure of holmyll aforesaid, otherwaies called/ the manoure of harietisham and owte of the seuerall peeces of lande afore/ rehersed, percelles of the Demeane landes of the manoure of holmyll afore/ said, commethe vnto

[Right Margin]

Twelue shillinges/ foure pence

[Left Margin]

[earable?] lande

The number of acres of Earable lande in the seuerall peeces of/ lande afore rehersed, percelles of the Demeane landes of the manoure of holmyll/ aforesaid otherwaies called the manoure of harietisham, and lyenge in harietisham/ aforesaid, commethe vnto.

[Right Margin]

Three score / twoo acres three / yardes foure perches

[Left Margin]

[Woodde?] lande

The number of acres of wooddeland in the peece of wooddelande/ aforesaid called Selderbourne woodde, percell of the Demeane landes of the/ manoure of holmyll aforesaid otherwaies called the manoure of harietisham/ and lyenge in harietisham aforesaid, commethe vnto.

[Right Margin]

one acre one/yarde

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[Left Margin]

Of whom by whom/ at what tyme and/ for what somme the/ manoure of holmyll/ aforesaid was/ purchased

The manoure of Holmyll aforesaide otherwaies/ called the manoure of harietisham was for the somme of one hundrethe threskoore and/ thre poundes xvij s vj d ob purchased of Thomas Moile knight, by Edwarde/ Wotton knight, father of the said Thomas Wotton: As by a Deede of gifte of the said/ Thomas Moile, therof made Dated the sixte Daye of Februarie in the thirde/ yere of the reigne of the late kinge of moste famous worthie and blessed memory/ kinge Edward the Sixte maye more plainlie appere

[Left Margin]

Whether the/ manoure of holmyll/ aforesaide be of the/ custome tenure and/ nature of gavell / kynde ye or no.

for as moche as withoute all controuersie it hathe/

ben and yet is taken for a generall Rule and grounde in Lawe that all such Lorde/  
shippes, manoures, landes, tenementes, wooddes, Renttes, services, addvousons and all/  
other whatsoever hereditamentes, as holden either of the kinge in Capite or by/  
knighte service, or anye common person by knighte service and lyenge within the/  
Countie of Kennt were not ne ar not of the custome tenure and nature of gavell/  
kinde, ye were not ne ar not departible by the said custome tenure and nature of/  
gavell kinde betwene heires males: and for as moche as the manoure of/  
Holmyll aforesaid, otherwaies called the manoure of harietisham, and the severall/  
peeses of lande afore rehersed, percelles of the Demeane landes of and appertayning/  
unto the same manoure, ar holden of owre soveraigne ladye Elizabeth (by the grace/  
of god) Queene of England Fraunce and Ireland and defendoure of the faithe/  
in Capite: The manoure of holmyll aforesaid otherwaies/  
called the manoure of harietisham, and the seuerall peeces of lande aforesaid/  
percelles of the demeane landes of, and appertaynyng vnto the same manoure/  
ar not therfore of the custome tenure and nature of gavell kynde: And soo conse/  
quentlie not Departible by the said custome tenure and nature of gavell/  
kynde betwene heires males:

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[End of Holmyll]