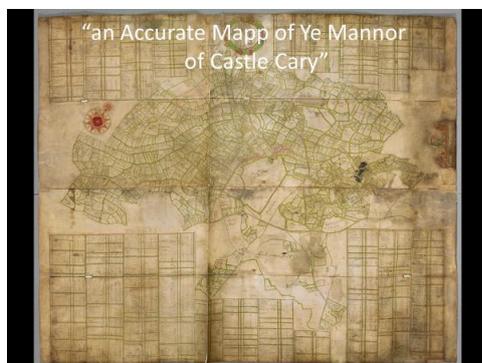


[Castle Cary Map Video. Draft script. –Will Vaughan]



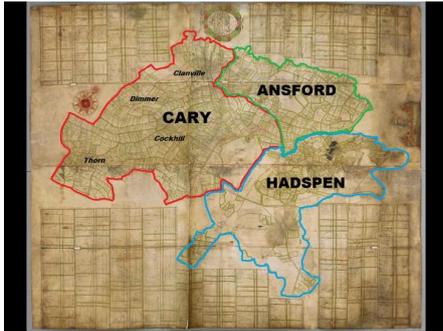
[replace with picture of me standing by map]

[1. Introduction ‘Castle Cary’s Oldest Map’]

Hello, my name is will Vaughan and I am a member of the Cary History Society. I’m standing In Castle Cary Museum, beside a copy of one of the most remarkable documents about the town.

This is the large map of the ‘Manor’ of Castle Cary that was made in the late seventeenth century. The original, now in the British Library in London, is hand drawn on vellum.

People have been living in and around Cary for many thousands of years. But this is the first visual record that we have of the area. It is also one of the most elaborate and detailed.



Before going further, perhaps I should mention that the ‘Manor’ of Cary was different from the town of Cary as it is known today. It was an area that covered both Cary itself and the neighbouring settlements of Ansford and Hadspen. The whole of this territory was managed by a Lord, who demanded services from the inhabitants in return for their protection. It is the full area covered by the manor that is shown in this map.



There’s a grand ornamental cartouche at the top of the map. This proclaims it as an ‘accurate’ record of the manor, and this indeed it seems to be.



Every piece of land is shown in the map, named and accurately measured, every building is there, their plan outlined in red.



There’s also every road and footpath, together with rivers, streams and ponds. You really could find your way about the manor with this map.

[2. John Ward ‘Who made it?’ ‘and how?]

It must have taken months, if not years of work, to prepare such a map. It's creator, John Ward, seems to have been proud of his achievement. He described himself as a 'teacher of ye mathematicks' in the cartouche of the map, thus drawing attention to his ability to handle measurements and numbers. Furthermore he had added to the map a picture of an exotic, turbaned figure holding instruments necessary for the kind of precise survey that the map had involved. In his right hand is a stick with sliding crossbars known as a 'Jacob's Staff' commonly used at the time for measuring distances and elevations.



He is accompanied by two pupils or apprentices who are busy about their calculations.

They are all standing on top of a calibrated ruler that gives the scale of the map in chains.



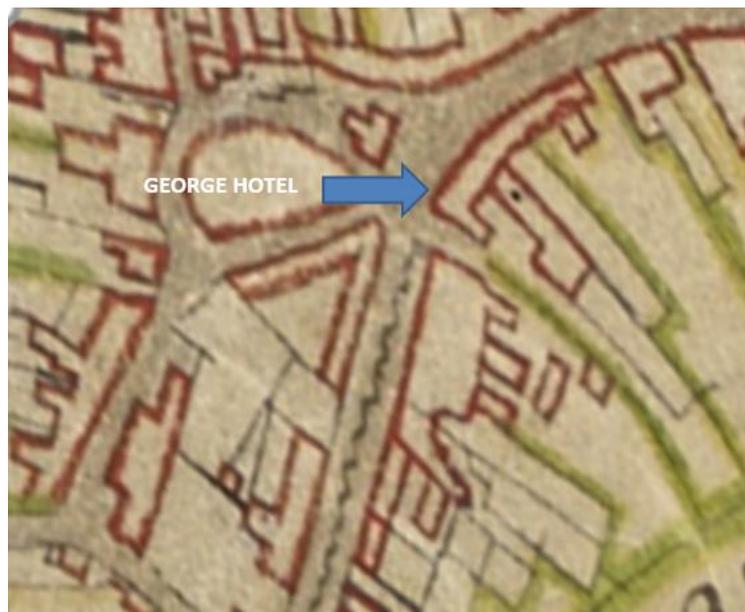
For good measure, he also adds a splendid ornate compass, indicating the map's orientation.

[3. General Layout- topography 'what does it show?']

Much of the town shown in this map is still recognizable today.



Here is the central part. The main road runs from the church in the south up through Fore street, the principal shopping area, to the market square and then curves up northwards through the High Street.



Here is the Market Square, with Cary's principal hostelry the George Hotel. This building dates back to the fifteenth century.



However, the map also shows us much that is lost;

The largest building to have gone is this big cruciform structure that was at the other end of the main street to the George. This is the manor house, that was pulled down in the nineteenth century. At the time of the map it was still the hub of the community. Originally the Lord of the manor would have lived there, but by the seventeenth century it was a steward who occupied it and managed the estate. This is where the daily running of the community would have taken place. The townspeople would have come to confirm agreements and settle their dues. It was also the place where the local court was held.



[4. Agricultural focus 'what does it tell us most about?']

While giving an overall view of Cary at this time, the map does have a particular focus. Most attention is paid to the agricultural land. As well as being given its name, each field is inscribed with some intriguing numbers and letters. These tell you how the land was used, what terms it was held on, and who it was who either owned or rented it.

The one you are looking at is called 'Bean Close'. It lies by the river Cary near the Hamlet of Cockhill. Like many of the fields in Cary, is it very much the same today as it was 300 years ago. Here it is together with recent a shot of it from Google earth. This certainly confirms how accurate John Ward was in his measurements!



And here, for the record, is a photo from the ground;



On the map Bean Cloase is inscribed with the letters PC. The “P” indicates the land was being used for pasture, that is for grazing animals – typically sheep or cattle. If it had had an “A”, it would have meant it was arable, that is for growing crops. The other major use of fields was orchards. Then, as now, Somerset was famous for these.

In addition, the map marks the areas of ‘common land’ , where all members of the community could use to graze their livestock.



Here is one. This is ‘South Common Field’ which, as the name implies, was on the southern boundary of the manor, on the road to Wincanton.



The next letter in Bean Cloase, “C” tells us the terms on which the land was held. “C” stands for “Copyhold”. This was a medieval tenancy form that required the paying of rent and service to the lord, but which had the advantage to the tenant that they had the right to assign their rights to a successor. This meant that a family could keep possession of the property through generations, as frequently happened.

[5. People ‘who does it tell us about’ ‘meet the ancestors’”]

As well as letters, each field bears a number. That on Beane Cloase is 27. This indicated the person who owned or rented the land. Their names are listed against their numbers around the edges of the map, together with the land they possessed, and the measurements of the size of each field. This is one of the most remarkable features of the map. For it gives us the identities of all those in Cary at the time who either owned or ran the farms and small holdings. There were 151 [check] in all. Many of the names are familiar today. ‘Clothier’, for example is one of the most prominent.



From this information it is possible to reconstruct all the farms and small holdings in Cary at the time. The 27 on Beane Cloase indicates that it was held by the person who was responsible for the settlement known today as ‘Lower Cockhill Farm’. You can see on the map the main house and the barn and stable as they are today.

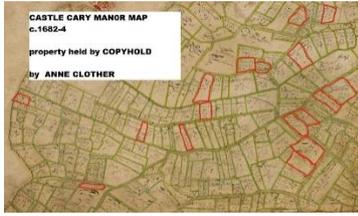


Checking the number on the list, we can find that the occupier of Lower Cockhill Farm was one 'Ann Clothier' who held it copyhold. Ann's family had occupied the farm for at least a century.



|    |                            |                 |   |   |        |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------|---|---|--------|
| 27 | Ann (clothier)<br>Cockhill | Cockhill marsh  | P | C | 4-2-32 |
|    |                            | Dale            | P | C | 7-0-16 |
|    |                            | Whitecroft      | P | C | 4-0-20 |
|    |                            | Orme Close      | P | C | 0-3-10 |
|    |                            | Stony & path    | P | C | 2-0-20 |
|    |                            | Moore           | P | C | 1-3-14 |
|    |                            | Moore           | P | C | 2-0-45 |
|    |                            | Moore           | P | C | 2-0-11 |
|    |                            | Detwold Chase   | P | C | 2-0-36 |
|    |                            | Detwold         | P | C | 7-0-36 |
|    |                            | Orme            | P | C | 8-0-46 |
|    |                            | Detwold Chase   | P | C | 5-0-26 |
|    |                            | Detwold Chase   | P | C | 1-0-10 |
|    |                            | Cockhill marsh  | P | C | 7-0-11 |
|    |                            | Orme Close      | P | C | 2-0-24 |
|    |                            | Beane Close     | P | C | 4-0-45 |
|    |                            | Home Farm       | A | L | 6-0-12 |
|    |                            | Home            | P | L | 1-0-07 |
|    |                            | Brinsford       | P | C | 7-0-45 |
|    |                            | Brinsford Close | P | C | 3-0-05 |

From the number '27' it is also possible to find all the other fields she held, as can be seen marked up in this plan;



Altogether she had just over 80 acres, quite a substantial holding for that time. The fields were quite distributed, probably because individual ones were inherited from different family members at different times. This was quite common in Cary at the time.

[6. Map as an estate map – similarities and differences ‘Why was it made?’ ‘is it an estate map’]



The information about land usage that this map provides is the kind that is usually found in ‘estate maps’ of the period. Here, for example, is a slightly later map of the Butterbuck estate in Yorkshire, which has names and numbers as in the Cary map. Such maps had a practical use from the point of view of the Lord of the Manor and it told him who held what and what their commitments were.

We might conclude from this that the Cary map was a regular Estate Map. But there are a couple of features in it that make it different from these.



The first is that the Lord of the Manor is not mentioned. Usually the owner of an estate was given in the cartouche or title of the map, as is seen in the Yorkshire estate I compared it with, where J. Battie was named as the owner. But in the Cartouche of the Cary map only its maker, John Ward, is named. This is highly unusual. The reason is probably because the ownership of the manor was in transition. From the names mentioned in the map it seems that it was made c.1684. This is the time when the Manor was up for sale. It was bought by two London lawyers.[Anthony Etrick and William Player]



Probably the map was commissioned by them, so they could estimate the value of what they were proposing to buy. The fact that the map maker, John Ward, was also working in London strengthens this supposition.



If the map was commissioned to help the sale, this would explain another highly unusual feature. This is that the names of all the people who held property in Cary is actually recorded on the map

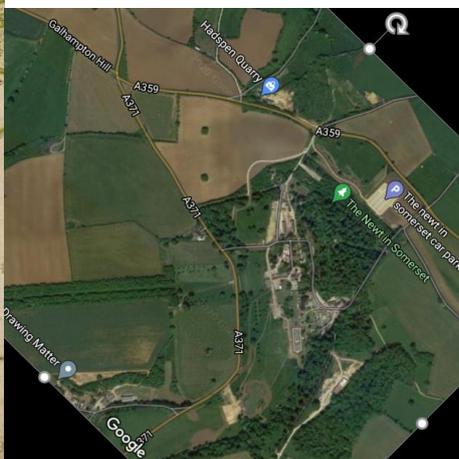
itself. Normally with estate maps the numbers are written on the land, but the names they referred to were listed in a separate account book. This was after all the only practical way of keeping the map up to date. As people 'moved on' the changes could be made to the book. This could not happen if the names were actually written on the map itself. Clearly this map was recording Cary at one point in time, rather than providing a practical long term guide for the management of the Manor. What might be seen as a limitation to the map then is now one of its principle assets. In the case of many estate maps the account book has frequently gone missing so the names involved are no longer known. In the Cary map we have the names secure on the map itself, and thus a snapshot of land ownership in the manor at a particular time.

[7. end of the Manorial system ‘what happened next?']

It was, in fact a highly significant time. For when the manor was sold, a link was broken that had reached right back to the Norman conquest. There was no longer a feudal lord running the estate in the traditional manner. Cary been taken over by speculators. Gradually the Manor was broken up. The new owners were keen to sell off properties where possible, preferring to raise cash rather than become engaged in ancient rituals and rent collecting. One of the lawyers, William Player, did take up residence.



But he did not live in the old manor house in the centre of town. Instead he moved outside, to Hadspen. Here he built a grand new house in the classical style and laid out an extensive estate – Part of this enclosed the ‘South Common Field’ mentioned earlier in this video that had previously been for the use of all of Cary’s inhabitants.





What happened to the Map after the sale of the Manor of Cary is unclear. All that is known is that it was bought from a dealer by the British Museum in 1832 and was subsequently passed on to the British Library. Presumably Player or one of his successors discarded it when it no longer had a practical use for them.

This map is to be treasured now perhaps most of all for giving us an image of Cary when it was still essentially a feudal community, just before this began to be replaced.

YE ENDE

[1900 words – approx.. twelve minutes]

### General questions

When was it made?

Who made it?

What does it show?

What does it not show?

Why was it made?

What does it tell us about Cary's History?