

Burgh Park

by Richard Hillier

In most of the Northants Record Society publications edited by Mr W. T. Mellows there is to be found at least one reference to 'Burgh Park'. Indirect references to the Park occur in archives of 1200-1210 in connection with the 'Chapel of the Blessed Mary of the Park', which stood south of Newark. The 'Park Gate' is referred to c.1214-22 and again in 1461-2. In 1215 the 'Parcwoode' is mentioned, and in 1539 it was estimated to contain 26 acres. It was granted in 1541 to the Dean and Chapter ('and all those our woods and underwoods . . . commonly called Burgh Park, Grimshaw and Dame Agnes Wood . . .') (Mellows (1941), 36)). The Bishop was granted the 'Park Launde' of 8 acres.

Mellows noted the position of the Park as part of the Park Meadow Estate north of Padholme Road, Peterborough. The 1888 Ordnance Survey Map (*Northants VIII, 8;12*) illustrates its shape and position quite clearly, together with an access road, Park Lane (fig. 21). The Inclosure Map of Peterborough (1821) shows a similar picture. Here the park boundary is marked as one of the 'Ancient Inclosures'. On the acreage given in 1888, the Park must have been around 73 acres. In the 1811 Inclosure Claims the Park was said to be two closes containing (on two surveys) either 41 or 50 acres. The latter accords with the area west of Car Dyke.

As we have seen, during the nineteenth century the road to the Park was aligned north-south. However, in 1649, the Swanspool/Lincoln Place Farm included 'twenty-six lands besides the headland lying in Boonfield . . . a Green Baulk on the East, Swan Close West, a common baulk leading to the Park North, a Headland South . . .' (*Parliamentary Survey (1649)*, 368). Between 1649 and 1821, therefore, the road had moved through 90°. This was almost certainly the work of the Inclosure Commissioners; but they did not create an entirely new road; for Park Lane in 1821 is shown as an 'ancient boundary'. They merely utilised the 'Green Baulk on the East'. Assuming that the actual entrance (or gate) to the Park had not been altered, the road implied in the 1649 account must have led roughly west towards Eastfield Road. A close inspection of the line of the 'ancient boundaries' shown in 1821 indicates a possible junction (fig. 21).

Bibliography

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| Mellows (1941) | W. T. Mellows (ed.), <i>The Foundation of Peterborough Cathedral A.D. 1541</i> , Northants Record Society XIII, 1941. |
| Inclosure Claims | <i>Claims on Peterborough Inclosure</i> , 1811, 108. |
| <i>Parliamentary Survey (1649)</i> | <i>Parliamentary Survey, 1649</i> , Northants Record Office ML892. |

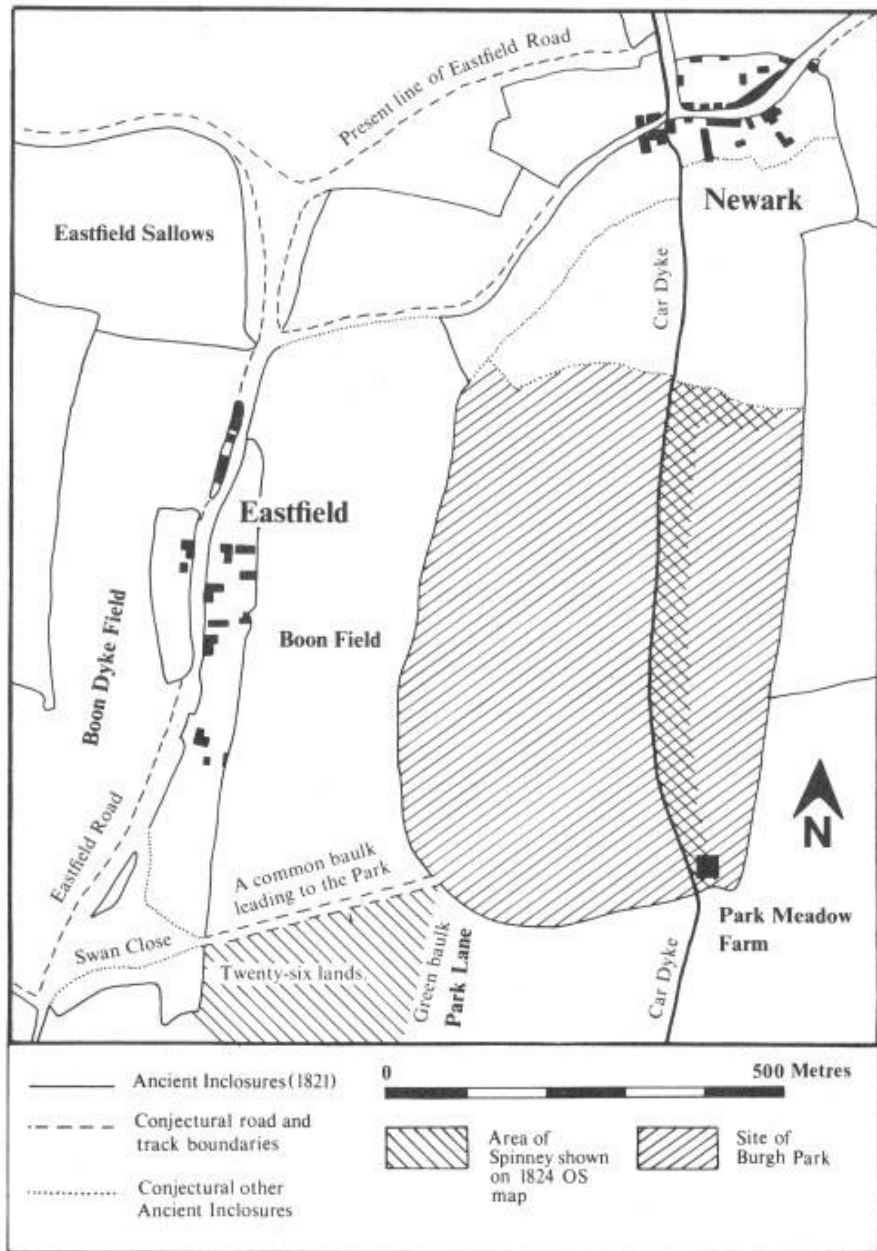


Fig 21 The site of Burgh Park (1888)