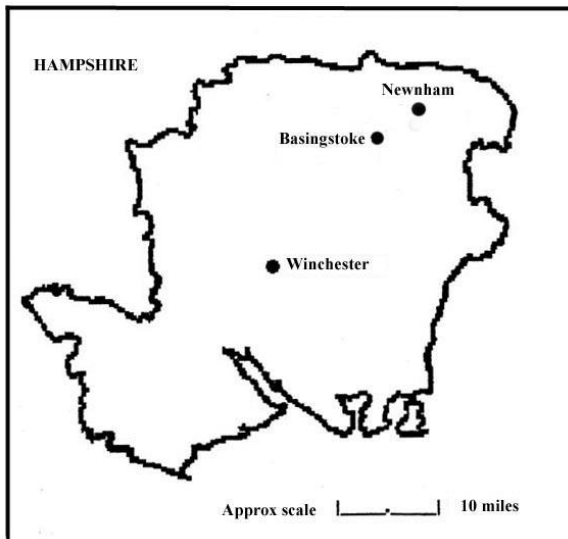


NEWNHAM INTRODUCTION

Description and location



Newnham was already known as Neoham ('new settlement') in the 12th century,¹ and Neweham (12th century); Nywenham (14th century); Newenam (15th century).² Among place-names in the parish mentioned in the 16th century were Hooklands, Hurstlands, Shirland Crofte, Nykkes, Parkers and Ivetott.³

Newnham is now a small and pleasantly rural parish located in the north-east of Hampshire approximately 24 miles (37 km) to the north-east of Winchester and 4 miles (6 km) to the east of Basingstoke. With its easy access by road, including the nearby motorway, and by rail, it has become a dormitory village for many who work in London, Basingstoke and elsewhere. Recent building in Newnham has been tightly controlled and there are

¹ *Monasticon Anglicanum* W.Dugdale. New ed. 1846, Vol.VI. Part II. p.1014.

² VCH Hants, IV, 156.

³ VCH Hants, I, 487a.

comparatively few modern houses. A small amount of industrial development has taken place at Owen's Farm, but nothing elsewhere

Newnham was part of the de Port dynasty's great manor of Mapledurwell which was recorded in Domesday.⁴ Greater Mapledurwell was subsequently sub-divided by grants of land in Andwell, Mapledurwell, Natly Scures, Newnham and Up Natly, all of which had achieved a separate existence by the end of the 12th century.⁵ The histories of these settlements have been closely inter-linked at least since that time and they later became parishes in their own right. The sub-division was irregular and it was quite common for detached parts of one settlement to be embedded in another. The original manor and parish of Newnham was asymmetrical in shape and had two detached portions to the east. At the same time detached parts of Mapledurwell and Andwell lay within its boundaries. The reasons for such detached elements are unclear but they may result from each settlement having parts of each type of land, and the impact of taking away parts of the wood and lowland pastures in order to create Andwell priory.

Furthermore, boundary revisions in 1879, 1932 and 1979 have changed the outline of Newnham parish so that in 2014 it bears little resemblance to that of the pre-1878 parish. Significant sites first developed in the parish became part of other parishes and *vice versa*. For example, the National School established in Newnham in 1843 became part of Hook parish in 1932 and the church and manor house in Natly Scures, for centuries the focal point of the manor of that name, are now part of Newnham Civil Parish. These boundary revisions were a product of the desire to remove detached parts of the different parishes, the rapid

⁴ Phillimore, *Domesday Book*, 24.1, Mapledrewelle.

⁵ *Ibid*

growth of the village of Hook (which did not exist as a separate administrative entity before 1932) and the building of the M3 motorway in the 1970s.

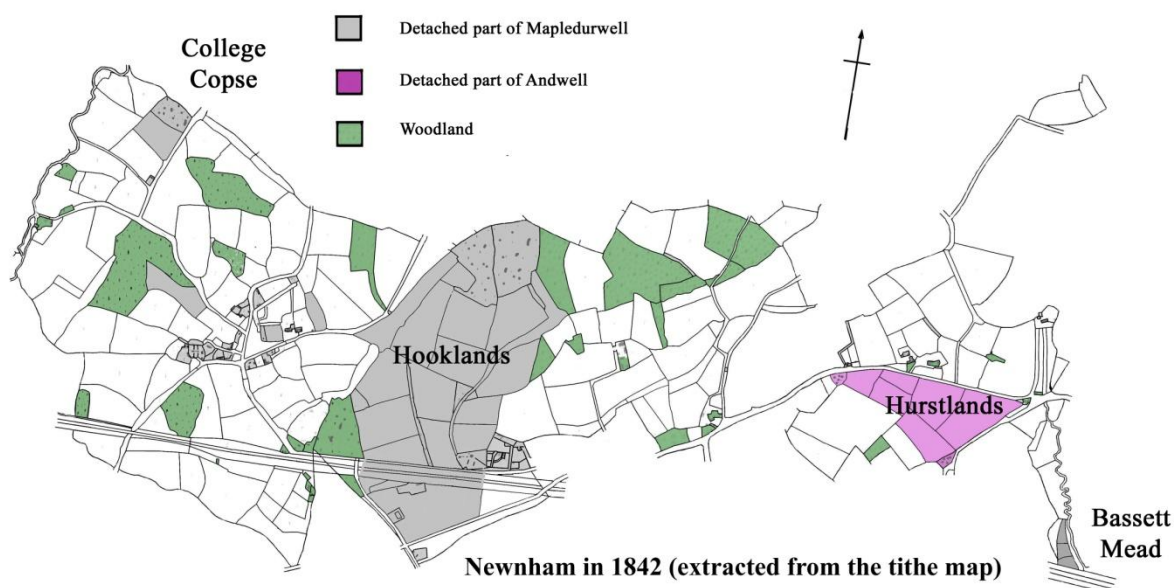
On the whole, the parish is low-lying, the highest point being a little over 91.4 m. near the church. The old coaching road from London to the West ran past Newnham Green and there was once an inn adjoining it. The school, built in 1843 and absorbed by the newly-created parish of Hook in 1932, was situated on the southern borders of the parish close to Hook Common. The character of the parish varies from a few timber-framed buildings, through solid, 17th and 18th century houses and well-spaced modern residences, to a new, large nursing home. At one time the parish has had a foundry, two corn mills, a paper mill and two brickworks.

The western boundary of the parish has always been formed in part by the River Lyde, which flows northwards and powered the Lyde Mill, while part of the original eastern boundary was formed by the River Whitewater, which also flows north and operated Hook Mill. The soil is a fertile loam capable of producing excellent crops of arable produce, but much of the ground now consists of enclosed grassland. The subsoil is a sandy clay and gravel.

The hamlet of Hook was originally partly in the parish of Newnham and partly in Odiham. It expanded rapidly after the opening of its station in 1883 and became an autonomous unit in 1932. The village of Newnham itself is nucleated and centred around a large green a short distance north of the present A30. Its core is largely unchanged since the earliest surviving map was drawn, undated but about 1700. From 1932 onwards Newnham has included the church, manor house and a few houses that formed the nucleus of Nately Scures before the final boundary revision.

Boundaries and Area

Subject to the comments already made about boundary revisions, the origin of the parish lies in the manor. The extent of the manor and parish in 1842 is recorded as 1009 a. (843 ha).⁶ The largest extent, from 1879 to 1932, was 1409 a. and the smallest, in 1951 and 1961, was 786 a.



The parish of Newnham in 1842 according to the Tithe Award and Map

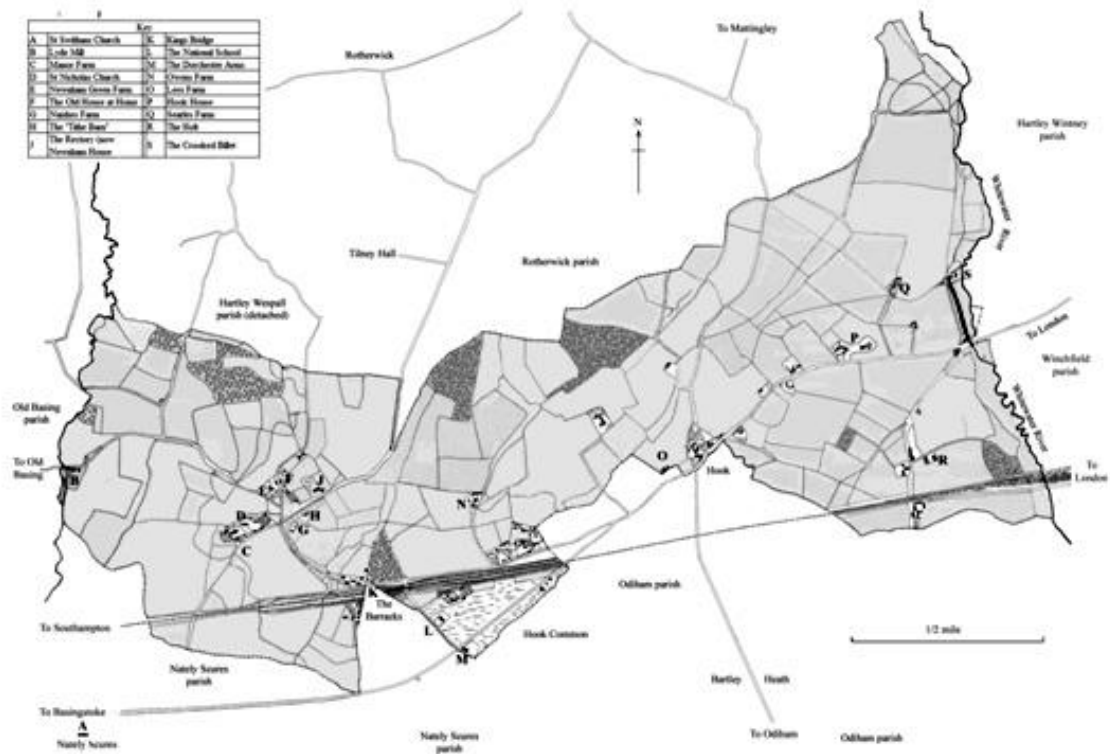
On 8 December 1879⁷ the parish was unified and detached portions of Nately Scures totalling 363 a. (149 hectares) were transferred into it. A 32-a. discrepancy between the acreages given in the Tithe Award of 1842⁸ and the Ordnance Survey map of 1871 was probably due to differing methods of measurement and cannot be reconciled.⁹

⁶ HRO 21M65 F7/168/1-2, Tithe Map and Award for Newnham.

⁷ O.S. 1st Series 1:10560 Hampshire County map, Sheets 11 & 19.

⁸ 21M65 F7/168/2, Tithe map of Newnham HRO (1842); CCC Map II, 13 (1616).

⁹ HRO 21M65 F7/168/1; 1st Series Hampshire 1:10560 county maps, sheets 11 & 19.



The parish of Newnham after the boundary revision of 1879 according to the OS Map 1:10560

There was a further boundary revision in 1932 resulting in an overall reduction in Newnham's extent. Land was transferred out to Odiham civil parish and the newly-created civil parish of Hook. At the same time Nately Scures was divided between Hook and Newnham. The small part of Hook Common that was previously part of Newnham was lost during this revision.¹⁰

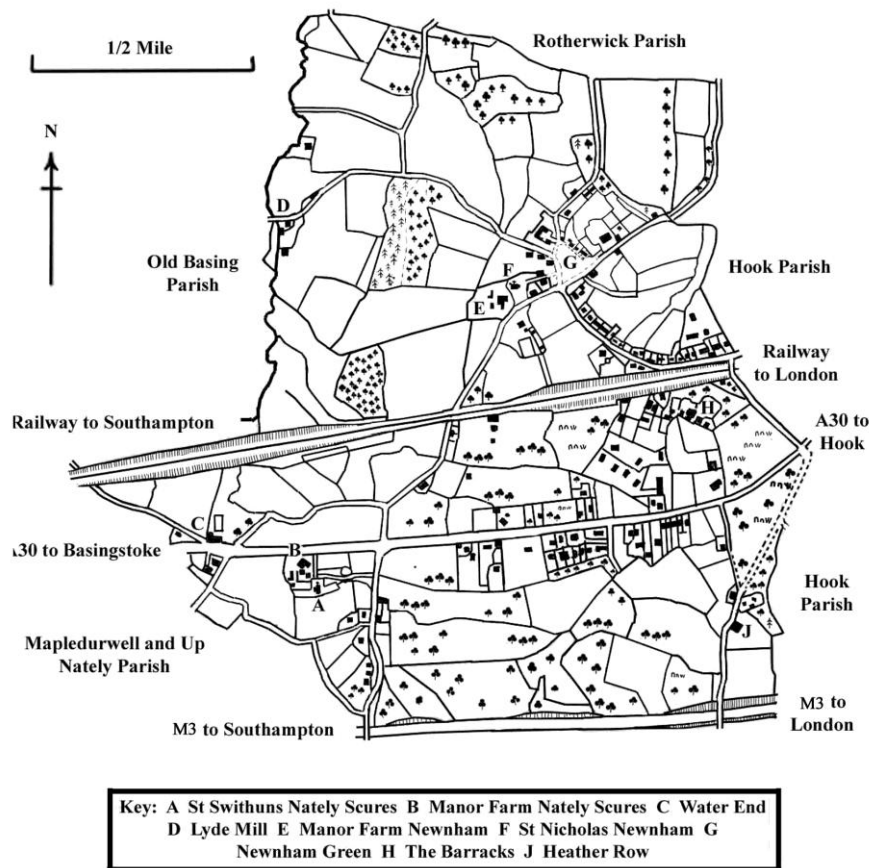
Further changes were mooted in 1979¹¹ but were not finally implemented until 1 April 1985.

A part of Greywell had been cut off from the remainder of its parish by the new M3 motorway, opened in 1971, and was included in Newnham by agreement.¹² The M3 Motorway then became the southern boundary of the parish and the western boundary was extended towards Old Basing.

¹⁰ http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/relationships.jsp?u_id=10195883

¹¹ HRO 42M91/PX3, 32, 11, Newnham Parish Council Minutes, Sep 1979; OS Pathfinder Map 1204.

¹² N. Bell, personal comment, 2013.



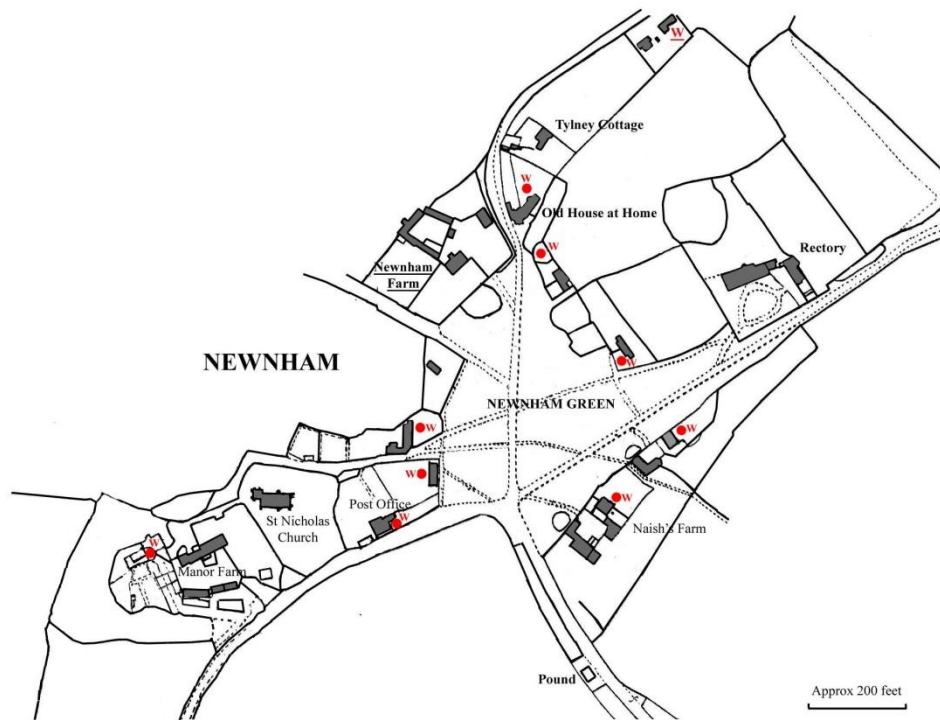
The parish of Newnham in 2012, showing the result of boundary revisions in 1932 and 1979.

Landscape

The village of Newnham lies on a ridge of high ground to the east of the River Lyde and north of the A30, between Old Basing and Hook. At 99 m. above sea level, the 12th century church stands at the highest point in the village. Superficial deposits of gravel of glacial origin overlie London clay, providing a 'soak-away' effect before water is eventually retained by the clay-sub surface. This provides fertile land and, despite its location away from the river, Newnham has always had access to water.¹³ In normal years the water table around Newnham Green is quite high and each of the major houses built before piped water arrived

¹³ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Conservation Area Appraisal for Newnham, 2004, 3.

in 1916 had its own well.¹⁴ In 1896 there were at least ten wells within 200 yards of the Green alone.¹⁵



The village of Newnham in 1896 showing the location of known wells

Newnham is a localised high point within a landscape typified by woodland and mixed farmland in undulating countryside. A ridge runs through Tylney Lane, Newnham Green, the church and Newnham Hill. Land to the east of this ridge drains into the river Whitewater and land to the west drains into the Lyde and thence to the Loddon.¹⁶

The earliest surviving maps of the manor and parish reveal an assemblage of small closes, suggesting early enclosure and occupation by many individuals. The variation in land use

¹⁴ N. Bell, personal comment, 2013.

¹⁵ 1st Series OS Maps 1:10560, Hampshire, Sheet XIX. The map of the wells is based upon the 1896 1:2500 O.S. map and fieldwork by N. Bell.

¹⁶ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Conservation Area Appraisal for Newnham, 2004, 3.

disclosed by the tithe map and award¹⁷ had no doubt been a continuation of the pattern that existed during the medieval period. There is no evidence of the former existence of open fields or commons.

The landscape of the village has been dramatically changed by developments in communications. The railway passing through Newnham from east to west has divided the parish in two since its construction in 1839. Joseph Locke its designer built the line with remarkably gentle gradients which involved the major cuttings and embankments as in this stretch at Newnham, and its dramatic impact on the landscape. The view of the steep cuttings in the view from Kings Bridge is particularly striking. In contrast, the railway exits the parish at its western end on a prominent embankment. More recently the parish was bisected by the M3 motorway, which in this case has led to the loss of that part of the parish to the south of the motorway.

¹⁷ See Economic History below.



The western end of the railway cutting seen from Kings Bridge. Although it now accommodates four tracks there were originally only two.



The embankment at the western end of the parish. The arch over the road became eccentric when the second set of tracks was laid.

Communications

The main roads ran east to west across the parish. Depending upon the boundary changes, three major roads have crossed the manor and parish. The road from Hook to Newnham Green and then south along Crown Lane to Water End in Nately Scures was from early times part of the Great West Road from London to Basingstoke and beyond. It was already shown as such in the Andwell map of the mid 16th century, with its view of the road to London and the road to Basingstoke.¹⁸ This section of the route had become ruinous by 1737 and necessitated an act of Parliament for its repair.¹⁹ The Tylney Hall Estate map of 1774 showed the route of the Great West Road between Hook and Newnham Green and onwards towards Basingstoke as Crown Lane.²⁰ It was displaced in 1786 by the turnpike that ran from Hook

¹⁸ WCM 3233.

¹⁹ 10 Geo 2, Cap 12.

²⁰ OS 1st Series 1:10560 map of Hampshire, Sheet 11; OS Explorer Map 144; N. Bell, personal comment; CCC Langdon Map II, 13.

and through Nately Scures to Water End, which was partly included in Newnham by the boundary changes of 1879 and wholly in 1932. The turnpike subsequently became part of the modern A30. In 1971, the A30 was largely superseded by the M3 motorway, which now forms part of the southern boundary.

In general, the roads running from south to north in the parish have been minor roads serving the locality. Tylney Lane was the main thoroughfare to Rotherwick and to Wildmoor. Newnham, with its green, inns and ponds might have served as a stopping place for drovers, but there is no concrete evidence to show that it was part of a droving or trading route in the past. The path running south to north on the west of College Copse was known as Rutherick Lane in 1616 and was later known as Lone Barn Lane. It also connected Newnham with Rotherwick and is now a public footpath.



Detail of the Tylney Hall Estate map of 1774 showing the route of the Great West Road between Hook and Newnham Green and onwards towards Basingstoke as Crown Lane²¹

²¹ HRO, 12M48/1.

As indicated above, the railway had important consequences for Newnham, although there was never a halt within the parish. Solicitor W. Lewis wrote to the Bursar of Corpus Christi College in 1832, saying that the line of the projected Southampton and London Railway 'passes through the lands of your Society in the Parish of Newnham' requesting that the Society would consent.²² There is no record of the Bursar's reply, but a public act of 1834 authorised the building of the railway, the line of which was to pass through the lower part of the Hooklands estate in Newnham.²³ The exceptionally deep cutting meant that over 11 a. of land were taken for a stretch of less than half a mile of track; it included cottages occupied by William and George Morris. The act substituted for the College's Statute banning the alienation of land, and the College received £251 8s. 0d., for this and a further half an acre of land in Odiham.²⁴ The project was incorporated in 1834 as the London and Southampton Railway. Building went rapidly ahead and the Winchfield to Basingstoke section, passing through Newnham, was opened in 1839, when the name was changed to the London and South Western Railway.²⁵ Despite the loss of land to the railway and the cutting in two of the Hooklands estate, the terms of Lord Dorchester's lease were precisely the same on renewal in 1842 as they had been in 1835.²⁶

The Newnham stretch was part of the main line between London and Basingstoke, and was upgraded to four tracks in 1902. Since this included the major cutting, this widening involved major engineering works, as seen in the 1901 census. The railway became part of the Southern Railway network in 1923.²⁷ Electrification of this part of the system took place in

²² CCCO, Cb 12/24.

²³ Winchester City Library SH.38.5f.

²⁴ CCCO, LB 34/257.

²⁵ Cooper, B.K. & Antell, R., *LSWR - A Tribute to the London and South-Western Railway*, 1988, 42.

²⁶ CCCO, LB 34/232 & 35/311.

²⁷ http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/wiki/London_and_South_Western_Railway

1963/65.²⁸

Settlement and Population

Flint implements have been found near Webbs Copse²⁹ and Naishes Farm³⁰ and there were suggestions of ancient industrial activity in Smokey House Copse.³¹ Evidence of activity in the area during the Roman period was discovered a few yards outside the parish boundary at in 1952.³² This was a building site which included flue tiles, pottery and red brick tesserae and suggests that land within the future Newnham parish was cultivated by the occupiers at that time.

The main settlement in the parish was that of Newnham itself. Prior to the 12th century, Newnham had been part of the greater manor of Mapledurwell.³³ The church of St Nicholas also dates from the 12th century, suggesting that a substantial settlement had already been in existence for some time, although the place name evidence suggests that it was not a primary feature.³⁴ The settlement of Newnham itself is a nucleated village clustered around a village green³⁵ and close to the church and former manor house. It rests on slightly higher ground and deposits on the clays and gravels, and its village green makes it distinct from the other settlements in greater Mapledurwell, which tend to be linear and along streams and dry valleys cut into the chalk.

²⁸ N. Bell, personal comment, 2013.

²⁹ SU 702 543.

³⁰ SU 706 539

³¹ SU 707 532; Hampshire Treasures ii, (Basingstoke and Deane), Newnham, 201.

³² SU 726 542; Hampshire Treasures iii, (Hart and Rushmoor), Hook, 105.

³³ VCH Hants, I, 487a.

³⁴ VCH Hants, IV, 156.

³⁵ SU 705 540

By contrast, other elements of the parish's population have been isolated and scattered in outlying farms and hamlets. Thus in 1871/2 there were also isolated communities at The Barracks, Lyde Mill and The Holt (formerly part of Natley Scures), with scattered ribbon development along the former turnpike.³⁶

One hamlet has a particularly distinctive history. Hook existed in the Middle Ages from at least 1329, when Hugh le Dispenser lord of Mapledurwell bought a messuage and land in 'La Hoke' in Newnham.³⁷ The Andwell records also refer to land called Hurst in Hook, although this seems distinct from the core of Hook.³⁸ Hook may have benefitted from being on the main route from London to Basingstoke and beyond, as well as being on the edge of Hook common. It showed as a distinct settlement with a group of houses, both along the main road and along the lane to the north, in a map of 1774.³⁹ In 1871/2, Hook included an iron and brass foundry, Hook farm, The White Hart, a few houses and an independent chapel. But it was the opening of Hook station in 1883 that transformed its role. The station itself lay outside the parish, but it opened up new suburban growth that crossed the parish boundaries of Odiham, Newnham and Natley Scures, as seen in the sales particulars for the Natley Hill Estate of 1898. The map seems to have changed little in the 1894 revision, but by that of 1909 new streets had been laid out, and houses built. The original version of the VCH (1911) noted, 'There are many modern residences, and the place is a growing one owing to the existence of the railway station.'⁴⁰ Hook catered both for the respectable wealthy of Basingstoke, such as Thomas Burberry and a more artisan class.⁴¹ It was probably for the

³⁶ 1st Series Hampshire 6'' County maps, sheets 11 & 19.

³⁷ VCH Hants IV fn 1a; see also CCCO, Cb 10/3 for its presence in 1513.

³⁸ WCM, 3233 and 2923 for 1545.

³⁹ HRO, 10M48/1.

⁴⁰ VCH 4, p 156.

⁴¹ Census 1901, 1911; Burberry was one of the leading entrepreneurs of Basingstoke and founder of the company that bears his name and had moved to the Elms of Hook by 1898. See R. Clarke *et al*, 'Basingstoke Economic History: trade and industry, 1860-2013' in *New VCH Hants*, Kelly's Directory, 1898, Hook.

latter group that a new temporary iron mission chapel was built by the rector of Newnham in 1886.⁴² The map looked very different in the revision of 1930, and the proliferation of houses aptly supported the creation of a new parish of Hook in 1932.

During its history Newnham has contained parts of the parishes of Nately Scures, Odiham and Hook and the manor of Mapledurwell, all of which have featured or will feature elsewhere in the Victoria County History series. Boundary changes have resulted in considerable fluctuations in the area and population of the parish, but the population has never been very large. In 1327, it was one of the smaller villages in Basingstoke hundred, but subsequently, by 1525/6 grew into one of its larger ones, and it retained this prominence until the beginning of the regular census in the 19th century. In 1327 there were six taxpayers, and in 1524/5 with a different system there were 18, and the village had risen from twelfth to seventh in the hundred.⁴³ In 1603 there were 60 communicants, in 1665 there were 33 households, and in 1725 there were upwards of 200 souls.⁴⁴ In the 19th century the population rose from 260 in 1801 to 393 in 1871. After the boundary changes the population fell briefly but the coming of the railway with its station in 1883 led to subsequent growth from 359 in 1881 to 819 in 1931. In 1901 the standing population of 559 was augmented by 46 railway workers. Some were accompanied by their families and many were accommodated in 'Navy Huts'. They had evidently been drafted in to widen the deep and steep-sided railway cutting to four tracks through the parish in the aftermath of a recent

⁴² Kelly's Directory, 1898, Hook.

⁴³ P. Mitchell-Fox & Page, M, *The Hampshire Tax List of 1327*, HRS, 20, (forthcoming) 28; J. Sheail (ed R. Hoyle), *The regional distribution of wealth in England as indicated in the 1524/5 lay subsidy returns*, List and Index Society, special series, 28 (Richmond, 1998).

⁴⁴ A.Dyer and D.M. Palliser, eds, *The diocesan population returns for 1563 and 1603* (Oxford 2005), E. Hughes and White, P., *The Hampshire hearth tax from assessment of 1665*, Hampshire Record Series, 11 (1991), 240-1; W.R. Ward, *Parson and Parish in eighteenth century Hampshire: replies to Bishop's visitations*; HRS, 13 (1995) 96.

landslide.⁴⁵ The creation of a separate parish of Hook in 1932 removed the area of greatest population growth and the population of Newnham fell to 358 in 1951. It has since risen to 513 in 2001.⁴⁶ Meanwhile the population of Hook has grown to 8334 in 2011.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ TNA RG13/1109, *passim*,

⁴⁶

http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/data_theme_page.jsp?u_id=10195883&c_id=10001043&data_theme=T_POP

⁴⁷ www.hook.gov.uk (accessed 9.04.2014)