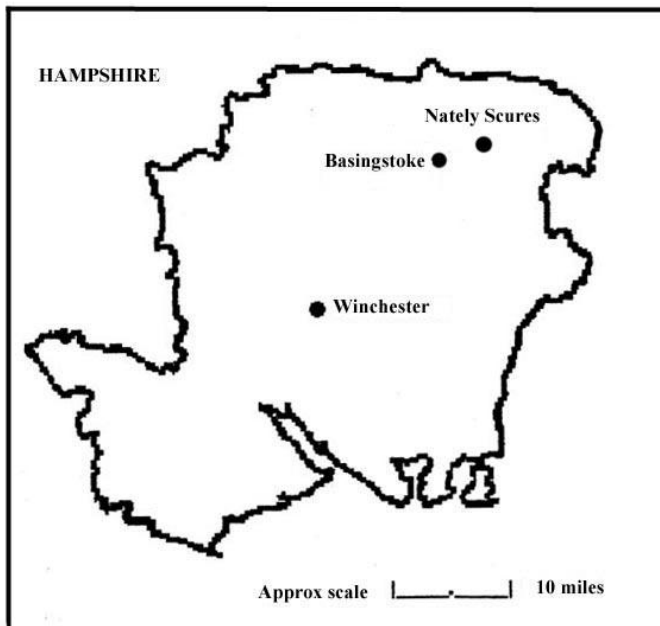


## Nately Scures

### PARISH INTRODUCTION



The rural parish of Nately Scures, also known as Scures, was located in the north-east of Hampshire approximately 23 miles (36 kilometres) to the north-east of Winchester and four miles (six kilometres) to the east of Basingstoke. The second element of the place-name derived from the Scures family, who held the manor in the 13th and 14th centuries, and distinguished it from neighbouring Up Nately.<sup>1</sup>

Nately Scures parish existed until 1932. In the 19th century, it consisted of four separate and detached units. According to the Tithe Award of 1842 the core of the manor/parish comprised 518 a. (208 ha.). But, there were also detached portions within the neighbouring parishes: Newnham (335 a. or 135 ha) and Up Nately (100 a. or 40 ha.), and 51 a. (21 ha.)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/hantsgaz/hantsgaz/S0004650.HTM>. Early variations of the name were: Nataleie, 1086; Nattelega, 1100-1135; Natelege, 1195.

known as Huish lying between Basing and Mapledurwell. The total area of the parish was thus 1004 acres (404 ha.) with almost half lying outside the main core.<sup>2</sup>

Rationalisation and reduction of this scattered parish occurred in 1879, when neighbouring Basing, Newnham and Up Nately civil parishes were enlarged and absorbed some of its detached portions. By the beginning of the 20th century the parish acreage had been reduced to 521, just over half its previous size.<sup>3</sup> The ultimate rationalisation occurred with its disappearance in 1932, consequent upon the creation of Hook Civil Parish. The remaining parts of Nately Scures were transferred to Hook or to Newnham, and it ceased to exist as a civil parish. It finally ceased to be a separate unit of any kind in 1955, when the ecclesiastical parish was absorbed into the newly-created ecclesiastical parish of Hook.<sup>4</sup> It is currently now part of the North Hampshire Downs benefice, also containing Up Nately, Greywell, Mapledurwell and Newnham.

At Domesday, the settlements lying around Scures had been part of the de Port dynasty's great manor of Mapledurwell.<sup>5</sup> That manor was subsequently sub-divided by grants of land in Mapledurwell, Nately Scures, Newnham, Up Nately and Andwell.<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, the histories of these settlements have been closely inter-linked at least since that time and each, except for Andwell, subsequently became a parish in its own right. Several parcels of land belonging to the manor of Nately Scures were detached from its core and added to the neighbouring parishes.

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<sup>2</sup> The Nately Scures Tithe Award, 1842, HRO 21M65 F7/165/1.

<sup>3</sup> VCH Hants, iv, 153.

<sup>4</sup> Youngs, *Local Administrative Units: Southern England* (London: Royal Historical Society, 1979), 215.

<sup>5</sup> VCH Hants, iv, *passim*.

<sup>6</sup> VCH Hants, i, 487a.

The irregular and divided nature of the parish, reflected both the break up of greater Mapledurwell and the evolution of settlement in this parish. Most of the parish consisted of clay soils and subsoils of the Reading beds,<sup>7</sup> with much original woodland. Clay and woodland are probably reflected in the place name '(the) wet wood/clearing',<sup>8</sup> In addition there was an extensive area of rough grazing on the gravel terraces of Hook common. The village core, lay around the church and manor house. But the original greater Mapledurwell had been much more varied in its geology. Some of the detached elements of the parish reflected the need for the different soil types being divided up among the main core settlements. Huish included a portion of meadow land. The portion in Up Nately was probably Nately Scures' portion of the chalk downland eventually divided up for arable among the neighbouring townships that possessed common pasture rights in about the 13th century. Nately Scures, Newnham and Odiham all held parts of Scures common and the woods around.

The irregularities and ultimate disappearance of the parish pose added problems for the treatment of this area. Nately Scures has been treated as a unit until 1932.

### ***Parish boundaries***

The parish of Nately Scures was extremely irregular in shape and included four detached portions, seen in a manorial survey and map in 1788. This seems to have already been the case in the early 16th century and was later confirmed by the tithe map of 1842 and the 1<sup>st</sup> Series of the 6-inch county maps of Hampshire (Maps 1-3).<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> British Geological Survey, Soil and drift edition, *England and Wales sheet 284, Basingstoke* .

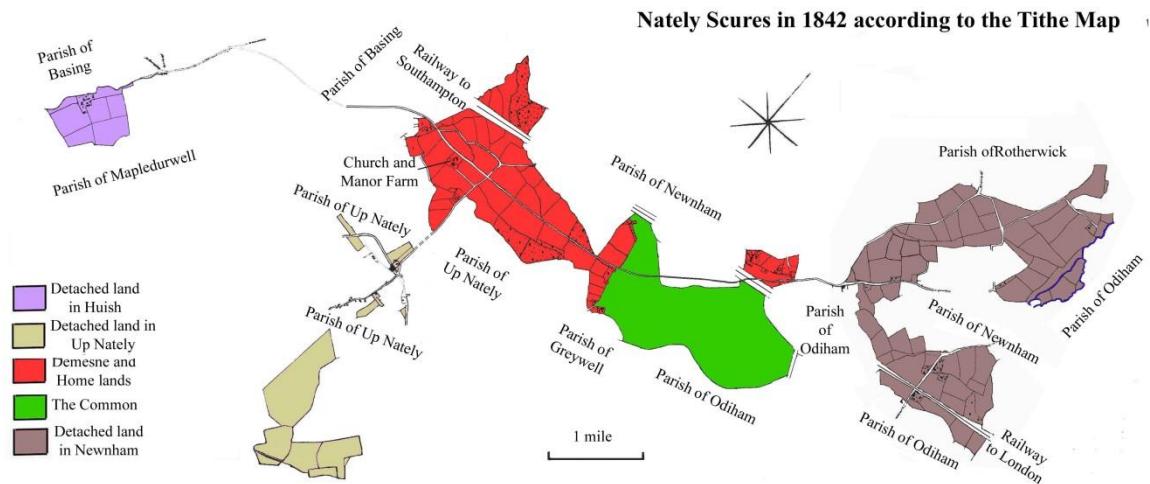
<sup>8</sup> R, Coates, *The placenames of Hampshire* (1989), 121.

<sup>9</sup> HRO 10M57/M4 & P6; HRO 21M65/F7/165/2; 5M50/1876-8; OS 1<sup>st</sup> Series 6" maps of Hampshire, Sheets XI & XIX; HRO 10M57/P6; VCH iv, 78; HRO 21M65/F7/165/1-2.

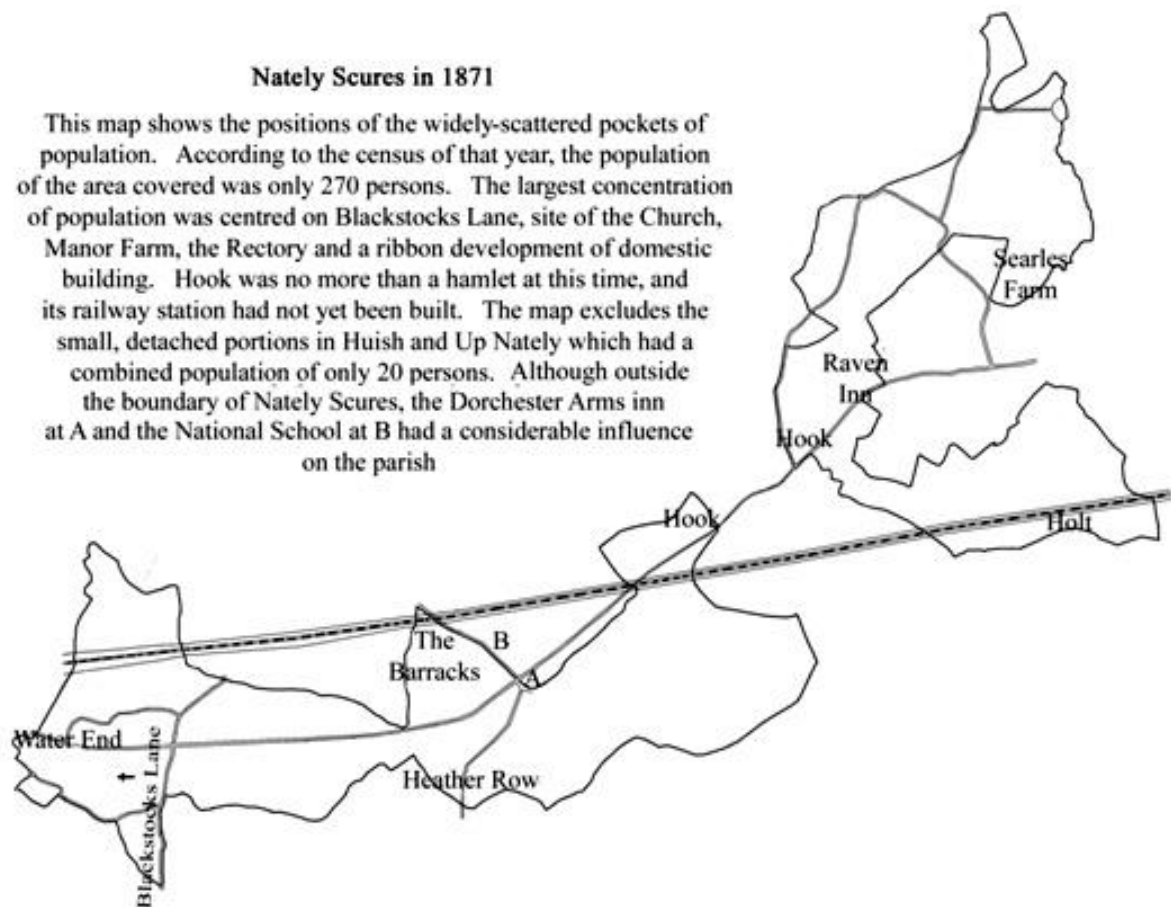


*Map 1: Plan of the manor drawn in 1788. It shows the course of the recently-constructed turnpike, but the Dorchester Arms inn had not yet been built. The plan also includes the*

adjoining manor of Greywell which was held by the same lord (Guy Carleton, first Lord Dorchester).

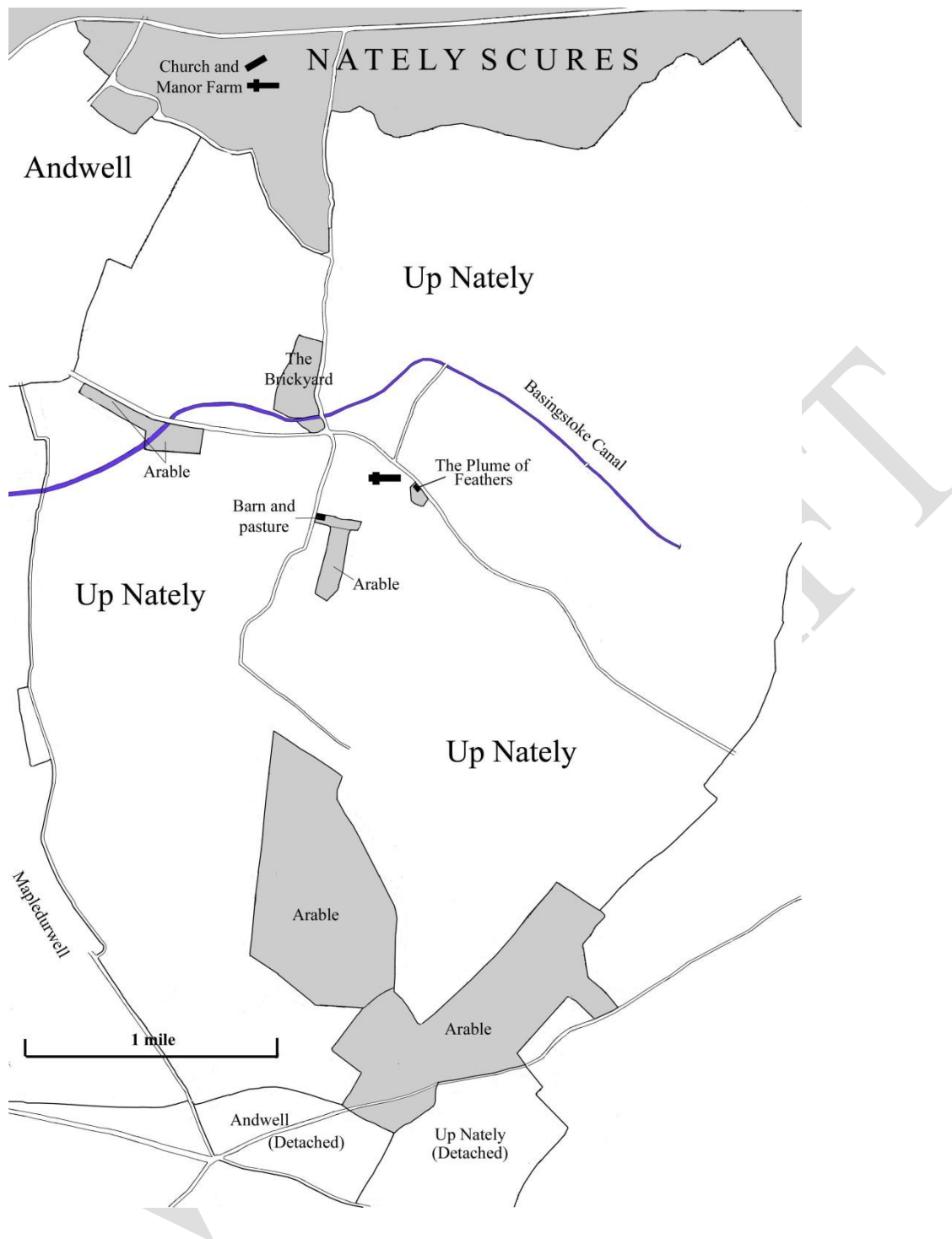


Map 2: The extent of the parish of Nately Scures in 1842. The Tithe Map demonstrates the widely-separated, detached portions of that time.

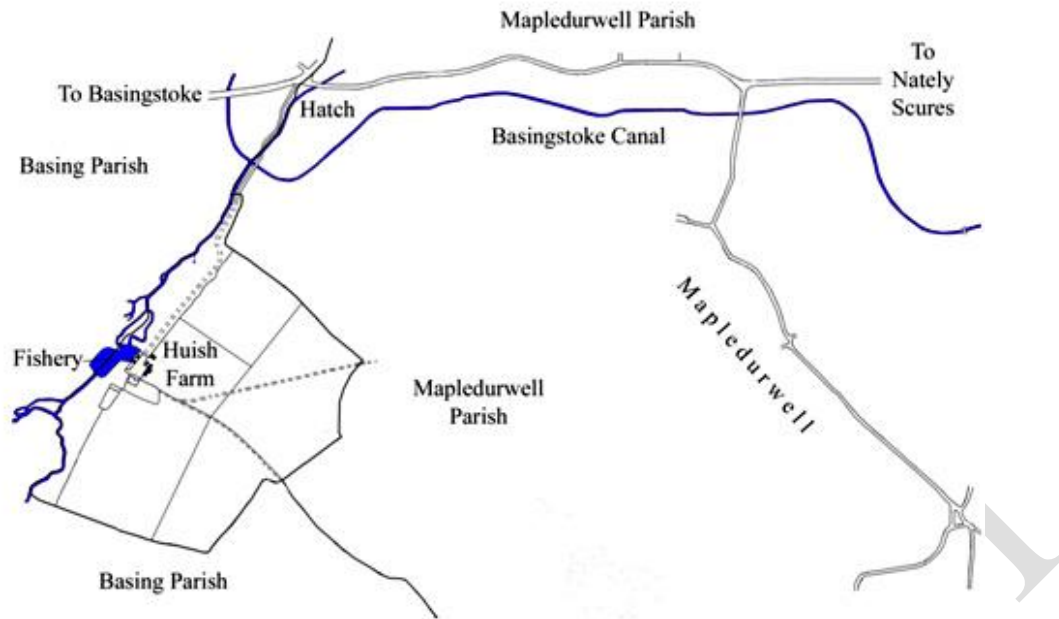


Map 3: Nately Scures in 1871





*Map 4: The detached portions of Nately Scures in Up Nately in 1871 in the context of their surroundings. The only inhabited building within them was The Plume of Feathers public house (known as Plume House in 2015).*



*Map 5: The detached portion of Nately Scures known as Huish in the context of its surroundings in 1871. Huish Farm was a complete unit by this time, and included watercress beds on its western boundary.*

### ***Landscape***

Heights above sea-level vary between 216 ft (66m.) at Water End and 334 ft (101m.) at the top of Scures Hill on Hook Common.

Much of the land is of poor quality and its use in agriculture no longer of great importance. A large part of the remaining area covered by the old parish is now well-wooded, and the ribbon development along the straight section of the A30 known as Scures Hill is largely screened from the road by trees.

### ***Communications***

Communications have provided an important factor in the development of settlement in this area. Running east-west lay the main road from London to Basingstoke and on to the West Country. Before the late 18th century this followed a northern loop from Hook to Newnham, avoiding the steep incline of Scures Hill. It then ran south-eastwards from Newnham, along

an uninhabited part of Nately Scures now known as Crown Lane and crossed the River Lyde at Water End.

With its roads crossing the clay lands they may have been in frequent need of repair. In 1406 a grant of pavage was made to spend on the main road between Hertfordbridge and Basingstoke which would go through Nately Scures. The grant was to be supervised by a leading Salisbury merchant and the parson of Newnham.<sup>10</sup> Much later, in the first quarter of the 20th century a large portion of the overseers' payments to the Basingstoke Rural District Council was to be devoted to the maintenance of highways.<sup>11</sup>

A turnpike was constructed by 1786 and the new, straight, road passed westwards over Hook Common and down Scures Hill to Water End. Toll gates were situated near the future site of the Dorchester Arms inn and near the Red Lion inn (the Y Knot Inn in 2015) at Water End. The new road was built, according to local tradition, to speed the movement of soldiers from London to defend the South Coast. More prosaically it may have been a product of growing economic demand and of the general improvement of roads at this time. Both it and its predecessor were part of the main route from London to Exeter and the south-west. The Dorchester Arms (renamed The Hogget in 2008) was built about 1830 to cater for the users of the more direct route.<sup>12</sup> Little ribbon development took place between here and Waterend by 1932 and very little thereafter.<sup>13</sup> Although the route of the turnpike still existed in 2015 as the A30, it has been made largely redundant as a through route by the M3 Motorway, which has run parallel to it to the south since 1971.

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<sup>10</sup> *CPR*, 1405-8, 267.

<sup>11</sup> HRO, 68M72/DU28.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.newnhamscures-pc.gov.uk/about/history.asp>; <http://www.hook.gov.uk/history.php>, accessed 20 April 2013.

<sup>13</sup> Ordnance Survey 6 inch County Series, 4th Editions : Hampshire Sheets 19 NE, NW.



At Hook, the north-south route from Alton and the south to Reading and the north, crossed this main east-west route and further encouraged the growth of Hook, even before the coming of the railway station. Other tracks and roads in the parish served only for local communications.

The irregular shape of the old manor and parish resulted in the railway link between London and Southampton passing through it in four separate places (Map 3). Incorporated in 1834 as the London and Southampton Railway (subsequently the London and South Western Railway in 1839), and Southern Railway network in 1923.<sup>14</sup>

### ***Settlement***

There is little evidence of early settlement but suggestions of ancient industrial activity were found in Smokey House Copse.. They comprised a small circular pit 2 to 3 ft deep, 7 to 8 ft in diameter, and two or three small banks.<sup>15</sup>

As elsewhere in the neighbouring claylands, settlement seems to have grown out from a core settlement to subsidiary satellites. Prior to 1786 inhabitants other than those living near the manor house and church were clustered in outlying farms and hamlets.<sup>16</sup> One grouping was at the Barracks which was already known as this in 1871, and where two 17th century houses still survive. This pattern was already established by the mid 16th century, with a tenant called Searle who left his mark on Searle's Farm, Hewish was there as a virgate and pasture and a Richard at Hok held freely from the lord.<sup>17</sup> Along the main road to Basingstoke and London, scattered housing included some inns, of which the Raven was in a detached part of Nately Scures and the White Hart in Odiham's part of Hook, and the Dorchester Arms

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<sup>14</sup> [http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/wiki/London\\_and\\_South\\_Western\\_Railway](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/wiki/London_and_South_Western_Railway), accessed 20 April 2013.

<sup>15</sup> at SU 707 532; *Hampshire Treasures*, ii, 201.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> HRO, 5M50/1876, 7, 8.

(Newnham) in the 1830s. A little ribbon development took place along Scures Hill and the London road following the opening of the turnpike in 1786.

### ***Hook***

One settlement outgrew its former parish and deserves special attention. Hook began as an area or settlement within the woodlands, adjacent to the rough pasture of what is now Hook Common, with parts belonging to the surrounding parishes of Newnham and Odiham as well as to Nately Scures. It had become a substantial settlement by the mid 19th century, and expanded considerably after the opening of its London and South Western Railway station in 1883. Much of this growth took place within the most north-easterly detached portion of Nately Scures. Highly extravagant sale particulars of two large and thirty-eight small building sites comprising the 'Nately Hill Estate' appeared in 1898. Their position cannot be identified with certainty, but they were advertised as a mile from the station and many had frontages on the main road that is now the A30.<sup>18</sup> The rapid expansion of Hook led to the reorganization of the parishes and the creation in 1932 of a new parish of Hook, absorbing the remaining parts of Nately Scures and parts of Newnham and Odiham and growth continued thereafter. Nately Scures was then split between Newnham and Hook. This urban development is progressively illustrated by the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Series of the Ordnance Survey 6 inch maps of Hampshire and the Explorer map of 2005. Thus new housing further doubled its size between 1981 and 1985.<sup>19</sup> Although Hook is now large and popular with London commuters, the old centre retains a semi-rural atmosphere and the majority of Hook Common, formerly known as Scures Common, remains undeveloped today.

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<sup>18</sup> *The Standard* (London, England), Friday, January 07, 1898; p. 10; Issue 22941. *19th Century British Library Newspapers: Part II*.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.hook.gov.uk/history.php>, accessed 20 April 2013.

## Population

Nately Scures began as one of the smaller and poorer settlements in the area, as in 1327 when it had eight tax payers contributing a total of 10s. 6d.<sup>20</sup> It had 18 taxpayers in 1524/5 with only three of 12 parishes in Basingstoke hundred having fewer.<sup>21</sup> It remained small in 1603: it then had 51 communicants significantly less than Newnham (60) and especially Mapledurwell (80), and on a par with neighbouring Up Nately (50). In the 17th century, Nately Scures grew in importance, so that by 1665 with 67 communicants it was almost twice the size of Up Nately (35), had overtaken Mapledurwell and it came second only to Newnham, among this group of neighbouring parishes.<sup>22</sup> The comparison with Mapledurwell is interesting. The latter had fallen behind in communicants, but still remained higher in terms of the number of households. The likely explanation for this apparent paradox is probably that in Nately Scures the households were larger with more employed labour. This is suggested by the significant difference in the average number of hearths, two in Mapledurwell and just over three in Nately Scures. In the 19th century, the population initially rose from 176 in 1801 to 214 in 1841, part of general rural growth in the area and beyond. Between 1841 and 1871 the population averaged about 260. The population fell between 1891 and 1901, having dropped to about 180 owing to the boundary changes of 1879 (the census of 1881 appears not to have taken account of these recent boundary changes).<sup>23</sup> Subsequently, it rose again from 250 in 1891 to 330 in 1901 reflecting the growth of Hook within the parish, and especially in the aftermath of the establishment of a railway there.

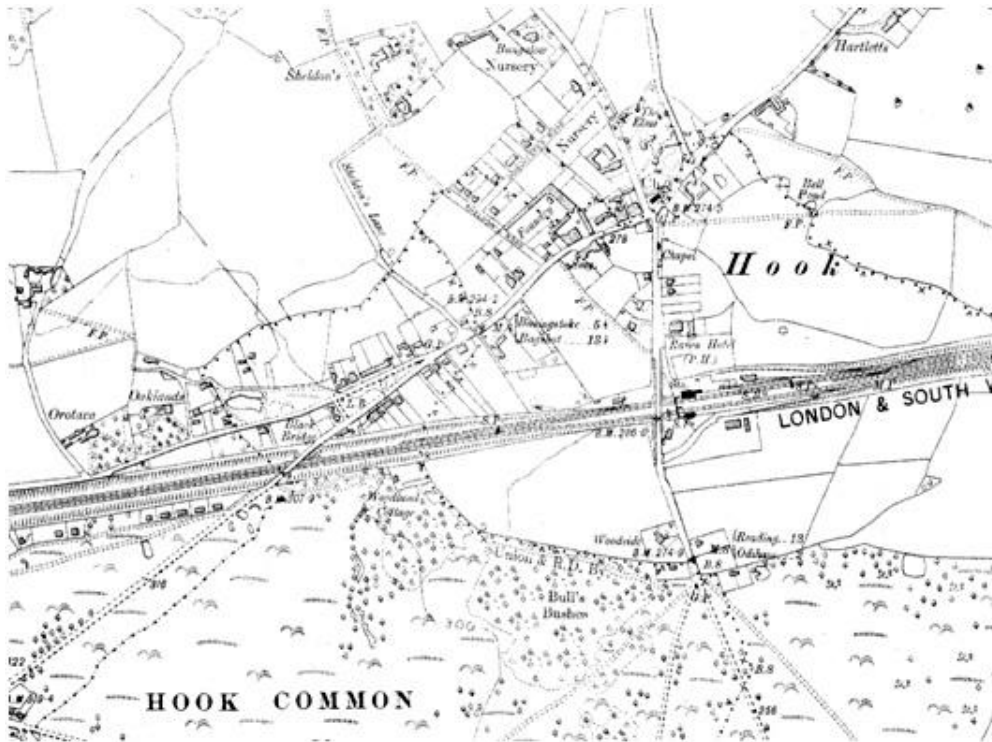
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<sup>20</sup> *Hampshire tax list, 1327*, 20-1.

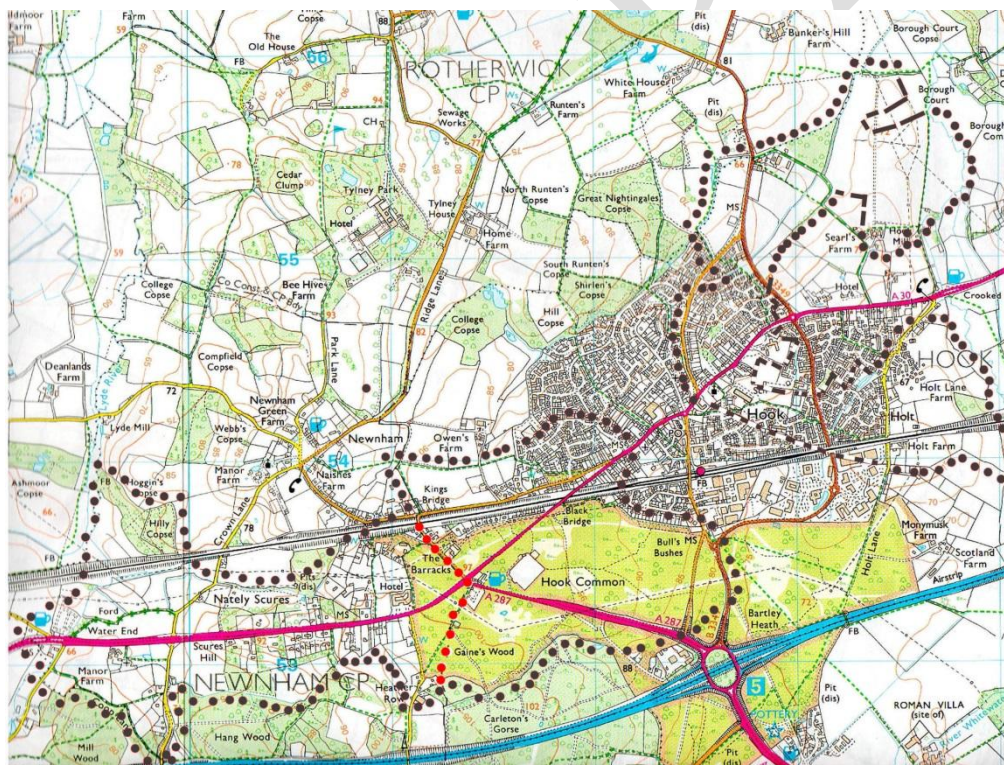
<sup>21</sup> *Regional distribution of wealth, 1524-5*.

<sup>22</sup> *Dioc. Pop. Rtns.*, 490; *Compton Census*, 84-5.

<sup>23</sup> TNA HO 107/386/1; HO 107/1681; RG9/709; RG10/1235; RG11/1255; RG12/958; RG13/1109, Ordnance Survey 6inch Hampshire County 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, Sheet 19 NE; Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 Explorer Map 144, 2005 reprint.



*The village of Hook in 1912 illustrating the expansion that had taken place since 1871*



*The boundaries of the old parish of Nately Scures in their 2005 context. The Common was largely intact and comparatively little agricultural land remained. The dotted red line running south from Kings Bridge is part of the boundary between Hook and Newnham created by the parish revisions of 1932.*