

Castle Acre Neighbourhood Plan. Adopted Version February 2022.

During the pre referendum period a number of parishioners sought clarification on some detail within the Historical Environment section and the village Character Appraisal. The following notes provide further clarification on detail of village, it's history and it's buildings as presented in the "Adopted" plan version February 2022.

Page 9, para 2.9.

"The De Warenne line ended in 1347 and the estate passed to the FitzAlans of Arundel Castle. Though Castle Acre Castle fell out of use, the settlement prospered as it was on the main route to the medieval shrine at Walsingham and was the stopping off point for many pilgrims as well as general travellers along the Peddars Way which continued as a major north-south route through Norfolk."

Clarification; the estate referred to is the Castle Estate and not the whole of the Castle Acre Settlement. In 1347 the FitzAlans of Arundel inherited the Castle from the de Warennes.

Page 10, para 2.11.

"Castle Acre thrived as a market town during the medieval period, and may have had two market-places, one at Pales Green, within the outer bailey, and the other at St James' Green."

Clarification; Castle Acre Conservation Character Statement states that the market which was located at Stocks Green may previously have been located at Pales Green. Stocks Green was previously named Market Street probably after the market moved from Pales Green soon after its inception.

Page 10, para 2.12.

"In 1537, the Prior, Thomas Malling, surrendered the Priory and lands to Henry VIII. It then passed to the Gresham and Cecil families before being acquired by the Cokes of Holkham. Bereft of income from pilgrims and without the status of Castle and Priory and as the nearby town of Swaffham overtook Castle Acre as a major trading centre, the village declined. "

Clarification; Although the Castle Acre Conservation Area Character Statement states, 'With the Dissolution of the Monasteries the village declined somewhat,.....' There is additional evidence in the form of deceased inhabitants Wills that the village retained wealth. Despite the loss of income from pilgrims visiting the Priory the village also retained considerable revenue due to the toll charged for crossing the River Nar on the diverted Peddars Way.

Page 10, para 2.13.

"During the 19th century, Castle Acre became an "open" village, without direct manorial control of property and where the poor and homeless could move in and find piecemeal

employment under the agricultural 'gang masters' schemes. Small terraces to accommodate them were constructed mainly of brick with imported slate roofs and small gardens or yards. These were often financed by tradesmen, craftsmen or small capitalists and, despite their cheapness; many still survive bearing the name or initials of their owner or builder."

Clarification; There were three manors in the Parish of Castle Acre, Arundells, Priors and Foxes. The lords of these manors owned most of the three open fields and exercised manorial rights. However, land was often tenanted under 'Copyhold' this often gave the tenanted owner the right to sell or to pass it on to their descendant's in a similar manner to freehold estates.

Due to these types of tenure the village had been deemed 'open' before the 19th century.

Page 30, para 5.28.

"... Many houses and outbuildings are of red or orange-coloured brick but those built by the Holkham Estate are of instantly recognisable yellow brick."

Clarification; Holkham bricks were made from clay dug close to the estate and in local brick works. They are famed due to their white colour; the yellow appearance is probably due to age and weathering.

Page 31, para 5.29.

"Traditionally, thatch would have been the main roofing material but by the 18th-century the main alternatives to thatch – tile or slate – had become relatively cheap and slate brought by rail from the Welsh quarries."

Clarification; Whilst the Castle Acre Conservation Character Statement states that the slate used in Castle Acre came from Wales it is most probable that the slate used in many buildings especially those constructed for or by the Holkham Estate came from Derbyshire where the Holkham owners Cokes also owned an estate close to the slate quarries at Trusley.

Page 37, para 6.5,

"Also of significance is the area of the floated water meadows. Constructed in 1809, their channels and aqueducts survive as the most intact survival of such historic land management in Norfolk. These grassland communities are exceptionally diverse and make this the most important valley grassland site in west Norfolk."

Clarification; Whilst Holkham Audit books record cutting drains on the meadows in 1738, these were likely used to remove water from the meadows. Floated water meadows are used to irrigate land rather than drain it. Suzanna Wade-Martins, Tom Williamson state the following in their book *Roots of Change: Farming and the Landscape in East Anglia, 1700-1870* (Agricultural History Review, Supplement S.)

Floated Water Meadows.

“A large system at Castle Acre, just downstream from West Lexham, was constructed shortly after 1808 when Thomas Purdey took over the Holkham farm here, and was completed by 1810, when he was awarded a silver tea pot, basin and cream ewer at the Holkham Sheep Shearing for irrigating 30 acres (12 hectares). The system survives in derelict, but archaeologically striking, condition, complete with the ruins of the three aqueducts which carried the principal carriers across the river. Although primarily a ‘bedwork’ system, it featured an area of ‘catchwork’ fed from springs and field ditches.

Page 87, Old School caption.

“The Old School built in 1839 of brick and flint with a pantiled roof.”

Clarification; In 1839 the school roof was probably covered completely in slate to demonstrate that it was a high-status building to impress upon parents the importance of schooling and education. The 1874 extension to the school building has been retiled relatively recently using clay pantiles, whilst a section remains under slate.