

**The Living Past: the origins and development of the historic  
landscape of the Blackdown Hills –**

**Phase 1: archive report (March 2006)**

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## **1. Introduction**

This report represents the archive for *The Living Past: the origins and development of the historic landscape of the Blackdown Hills Project*, which covered the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the borders of Devon and Somerset (Figures 1-4). It is intended to act as a record of the work carried out, rather than being a free-standing report, and as such is designed to complement the Summary Report. It contains a detailed description of the sources and methodologies used, an in-depth commentary on each of the historic landscape character types, and a discussion of the other pieces of analysis carried out.

## 2. Sources and methodology

A wide range of sources were integrated as part of this historic landscape analysis in the Geographical Information System (GIS). Various electronic datasets were used as a background to the historic landscape analysis, and these are described first (the 'framework data' below). The historic landscape analysis methodology is then described, followed by work carried out on the Tithe Maps and Awards of c.1840 and other documentary sources. An assessment of the aerial photographic evidence is then described, along with information contained within the Historic Environment Records for Devon and Somerset. The report ends with a description of analysis carried out on certain specific historic landscape components, notably the road network, place and field-names, and the settlement pattern. The latter will be essential background for a vernacular building survey that might be carried out as part of Phase 2.

### **Framework data**

#### *Parish boundaries*

The parishes boundaries used in this study were those recorded on the Tithe surveys of c.1840 (Figures 2-3). The source of this data was Sheets 164, 176 and 177 of Kain and Oliver's (2001) survey of Historic Parishes in England and Wales, which provided a digitised version of parish boundaries in Adobe Illustrator format. The Kain and Oliver survey mainly used the Index to Tithe Survey Ordnance Survey maps as a source of boundary data (Kain and Oliver 2001, 22). In Devon, 464 out of 530 mapped parishes were obtained from Tithe maps whilst 52 parishes are based on Ordnance Survey sources (predominantly 1<sup>st</sup> edition six inches to one mile of the 1880s). In the project's GIS each parish was a polygon shapefile.

#### *Present-day Ordnance Survey digital base*

To ensure that all historic landscape information entered into the GIS is spatially related to the British National Grid of 1936, georeferenced 1:10,000 Raster mapping was imported into the GIS and used as a base for the transcription of data. This digital data was obtained under licence through the Edina Digimap® service by staff on the Blackdown Hills project as Authorised Users, via the University of Exeter acting as a Sub-Licensor. The 1:10,000 Raster data is derived from the Ordnance Survey Landplan® dataset. Owing to the license conditions of use of this material, this digital resource is not included within the GIS output.

*See:*

<http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/main/copyright.jsp>

[http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/main/help/index.jsp?file=data/os\\_products/raster-10k\\_guidance.txt](http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/main/help/index.jsp?file=data/os_products/raster-10k_guidance.txt)

#### *Contours*

The topographic backdrop for the historic landscape analysis was created by inserting Ordnance Survey Land-Form PROFILE™ georeferenced digital data into the project GIS (eg Figure 4). This data was obtained under licence through the Edina Digimap® service by staff on the Blackdown Hills project as

Authorised Users, via the University of Exeter acting as a Sub-Licensee. Owing to the license conditions of use of this resource, this digital resource is not included within the GIS output. The topography is represented by contours at 5 metre vertical intervals, and the accuracy of this digital source is considered to be better than 2.5 metres (i.e. half the vertical interval).

*See:*

[http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/main/help/index.jsp?file=data/os\\_products/profile\\_guidance.txt](http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/main/help/index.jsp?file=data/os_products/profile_guidance.txt)

### **Historic landscape analysis**

The initial aim was to produce a simplified version of the Devon County Council Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and to revise the earlier Somerset County Council HLC, in order to achieve a consistent result across the AONB. However, careful examination of the Devon HLC showed sufficient anomalies and inconsistencies to raise serious questions regarding its validity as a source for this research (see Figures 5.1 and 5.2). Furthermore, the Devon HLC includes a plethora of historic landscape types and its depiction of the landscape is thus extremely complex. In contrast, this project aimed to produce a historic landscape analysis which is clear and accessible to any interested party and presents an interpretation of the historic aspect of the landscape up to *c.*1900. To amend and edit the existing HLC would have been extremely time consuming and it was decided to create a new historic landscape analysis which would categorise the landscape in a series of types applicable to the aims of this project.

The historic landscape analysis developed for this project was initially compiled on a paper copy base map. The decision to work in this way was taken because, despite the flexibility of computer-based mapping, a hard copy confers the ability to view the whole area in a glance and to rapidly switch attention from one area to another. The mental processes involved in creating an historic landscape analysis necessarily involve constant comparisons between one area and another, as well as periodically standing back to view the study area as a whole, cohesive entity. Therefore the hard copy method was considered more appropriate for this exercise. The First Edition six inches to one mile Ordnance Survey maps are widely acknowledged to be the best for this purpose, partly because of their accuracy and unrivalled depiction of detail, and partly because they pre-date the mechanisation of agriculture and its attendant destructive influence on the historic landscape. These maps were used as the base for the Somerset part of the HLC, but a source of First Edition maps could not be found for Devon and maps of the Second Edition were substituted. In the case of the Blackdowns these date from *c.*1900, roughly two decades later than the First edition, and the only substantial difference is that the later maps do not depict hedgerow trees. The base map was assembled from photocopied originals reduced by about 50% and stuck together to create a map of the whole of the Blackdowns AONB as it was in the late nineteenth century. The methodology behind the historic landscape analysis itself is outlined separately below.

The base map assembled from early Ordnance Survey six inches to one mile maps was examined and a set of ten historic landscape types were identified: unenclosed land; late enclosure; flood plain; sloping valley bottom; woodland; irregular enclosures; semi-irregular enclosures; intermediate enclosures; enclosed strip fields; ornamental landscapes. Definitions and detailed

descriptions are given below under **‘historic landscape character types’**. These types relate to a wide range of historic landscape features including the morphology of the field systems and associated features such as roads and settlement patterns, and in some cases also to topography (for example ‘sloping valley bottom’). While some possessed fairly distinct attributes (for example ‘late enclosure’), others comprised spectra of attributes with a graduation from one type and another (for example ‘irregular’ and ‘semi-irregular’ enclosures).

The base map was coloured appropriately, referring to present-day Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 maps for topographical detail where necessary (for example in assigning the ‘sloping valley bottom’ type). In the case of distinct character types such as geometric enclosures, the choice was a simple matter. Types such as ‘irregular’ and ‘semi-irregular’ enclosures, which represented a spectrum, presented more of a problem. While it was usually clear to which particular spectrum a field or cluster of fields belonged, assigning a particular field to either ‘irregular’ or ‘semi-irregular’ types was inevitably a subjective choice in some cases. It should, however, be emphasised that these spectra possess distinctive characteristics and are generally immediately distinguishable from one another. In practice, rather than processing one sheet at a time, each historic landscape character type was coloured over the whole study area, starting with ‘late enclosure’, the most distinctive type. Initially it was thought that what remained un-tinted would comprise a number of un-assigned categories which would need to be defined and added to the list above. However, the un-tinted areas emerged as a distinct type which has been termed ‘intermediate’.

As work progressed the definitions and distinguishing features of the types were refined and developed as a result of detail emerging from the process, and in some cases the assignment of an area to a particular type was revised. This was particularly true of the ‘enclosed strip fields’ type, which initially had a considerably broader definition. It became increasingly apparent that other types, particularly ‘intermediate enclosures’, included elongated rectangular fields and these were reassigned the ‘enclosed strip fields’ type came to represent only clusters of strips which resembled those derived from former open field in nearby parishes such as Combe St Nicholas and Chard.

Small more or less circular enclosures and larger agglomerations of fields with roughly circular or ovoid collective outlines are widespread. These probably represent small-scale encroachments and larger and older assarts from woodland and waste. In order to maintain clarity and avoid unnecessary detail these have not been distinguished in the historic landscape analysis, with the exception of a small number of clusters of small, roughly circular encroachments where these appeared to be especially significant.

### **Tithe maps and apportionments**

The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 replaced the ancient tithes on produce with taxation based upon the land occupied by a farmer, and to this end detailed large scale maps were made of most English parishes and documents drawn up which recorded ownership, occupancy, field name, land use, acreage and value of every plot depicted on the maps. These are known respectively as tithe maps and tithe apportionments, and copies are usually held by county record offices. The tithe maps and apportionments for a number of parishes in the west of the Blackdowns had already been transcribed

and entered in a GIS (as part of the Community Landscape Project and the on-going thesis of Lucy Franklin), and these were augmented in this project by Monkton and Sheldon in the west and Whitestaunton and Wambrook in the east. For these parishes, the GIS includes field morphology and patterns of ownership and occupancy, while the accompanying database gives more detailed information for each field, including its name and land use.

The paper based copies of the Tithe maps were transcribed into the project GIS using the OS 1:10,000 base map as a guide. The majority of fields were found to remain largely unchanged, which aided this process. Each separate parcel mapped on the Tithe was represented by a single polygon within the shapefile. The relevant Tithe field number was ascribed to the associated polygon in the Attribute Table in order to provide a means of linking the apportionment data to the mapping. The data held within the Tithe apportionments was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet which was in turn converted into a .DBF file in order to link this data via the common 'Field\_No' field to the mapping of the parcels within the GIS. This enabled the apportionment data associated with each parcel, such as land ownership and occupancy, to be queried and displayed. Although the apportionment data could have been entered directly into the GIS, removing the need for the linking of external tables, this would have been too demanding on the limited time framework of the project.

The tithe maps consulted were generally of good to high quality and were all in good condition. This was fortuitous, since experience has shown that the conditions in which these maps were stored prior to their deposit in county archives has sometimes resulted in deterioration to the point where they would be unusable in a project of this nature. It is sometimes the case that, for a number of reasons, certain lands were not subject to tithes and the tithe maps may not depict these areas, consequently some areas of the GIS maps are blank. In most cases these areas are limited, but a fairly large area in the north-east of Luppitt and the great majority of Dunkeswell parish were not mapped (this area probably corresponding to the lands of Dunkeswell Abbey).

At an early stage in the research it was decided to transcribe the tithe data for Churchstanton, but it was discovered that no tithe map or apportionment was made for this parish. This was because in 1799-1801 an Inclosure Act was passed which also commuted the tithes, and a map and apportionment had been drawn up for this purpose in 1802. In theory the Churchstanton Inclosure Award map (SRO: Q/R De 164) might have been substituted for a tithe map for this research, but there were problems with this. The map showed a considerably more complex landscape than the relevant Ordnance Survey 6 inch maps, including an isolated network of closes which was subsequently replaced by a rectilinear grid of typical parliamentary enclosure fields, and it would therefore have been necessary to trace it. However, the great number of fields and the severe distortion of the parchment on which the map is drawn would have made this very time consuming and it was therefore decided to abandon the attempt.

### **Inclosure Awards**

Enclosure authorised by Act of Parliament was invariably recorded in a detailed document known as an Inclosure Award. This could consist of many pages and listed all the recipients of allotments, any exchanges or sales of land involved and numerous other details. The allotments themselves, and in some cases fields which were destroyed in the course of the subsequent enclosure, were depicted on a



map which was normally stitched into the end of the document. The text of these documents contributed little to this project, but the maps were important in demonstrating that in many Blackdowns parishes the rigidly rectangular fields on high ground consist of parliamentary enclosure, and the dates of the maps give the dates from which these landscapes originate. In many cases these maps also indicated small areas of late enclosure which were not immediately apparent on early Ordnance Survey maps. Another significant feature of these maps is that many show enclosures on the commons concerned which were present at the time but which no longer exist. In most, if not all cases these were encroachments on the commons which presumably were not allowed by the enclosure commissioners and were therefore destroyed. Their existence has been noted in this project, but time has not permitted any systematic investigation of their origins, extent, tenurial and legal status or occupancy, all of which might add a significant dimension to understanding of the landscape history of the Blackdown Hills.

It is conceivable that the county record offices do not hold a copy of every Inclosure Award, and therefore a search was made of the House of Lords Record Office via the Access to Archives website ([www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk)). This confirmed that a number of Blackdowns parishes had no Inclosure Award. It is presumed that any late enclosure in these parishes was by agreement between the lords and commoners concerned, and that because of the physical characteristics of the late enclosure such agreements are unlikely to have been earlier than 1700. It is possible that relevant documentation exists for these enclosures by agreement, most probably in the archives of the families who held the lordships. However, such research is time-consuming and the relevant archives may not be held in Devon or Somerset and could be still in private hands. Preliminary searches did not produce any conclusive results. Parishes in the Blackdown Hills for which an Inclosure Award exists are listed in Appendix 1, together with those for which there was no such award and in which any late enclosure is therefore likely to have been by agreement.

### **Documentary sources**

This project included a preliminary assessment of the extent of documentary and cartographic archive material available for the Blackdown Hills, a summary of which is shown in Appendix 2. It is clear that for some parishes at least there are extensive archives, though only a proportion of this material will be useful in writing landscape history. Notwithstanding this, a few especially promising documents were examined and contributed detail to certain aspects of the research. Particularly significant were a list of claimants to common rights in Dunkeswell *c.*1818 (DRO – Z17/3/9), an agreement made in 1765 between landowners regarding encroachments on commons in Stockland (DRO – 50M/ II-4), and late eighteenth-century surveyor's notes on encroachments on commons in Yarcombe (346M/ M255-263).

### **Aerial photographs**

The widest coverage of any aerial photographic survey is that made by the RAF in the 1940s. This research did not inspect every photograph, but the series appears to cover all of the Blackdowns region. These photographs are available for inspection in the Devon HER and in the Somerset Studies Library. The photographs are vertical and most were taken from a relatively high altitude in March and April

1947. They therefore have certain advantages and disadvantages. Their vertical orientation makes comparison with maps a simple matter, and the season in which they were made means that grass was still fairly short and the sun not very high in the sky, resulting in a good chance of discerning earthworks highlighted by their shadows. Furthermore in 1947 many of the more destructive farm management practices had not emerged, for example hedges were not flailed to their stumps and few had been grubbed out. In this example certain deductions are therefore possible from the appearance of hedgerows in the photographs. On the negative side, most fields are under pasture and it was not a time of drought, so no parch or soil marks are visible. More significantly, the altitude means the photographs have to be carefully scrutinised and fine detail is simply not visible. Nevertheless, plentiful orchard ridges are clearly visible, demonstrating that ridge and furrow would also show up were it present and that earthworks of deserted settlements should be similarly distinct.

A complete transect series of these photographs was examined, running from Black Down, near Broadhembury in the west, to an area south of Chardstock in the east. Once research had reached a stage where specific areas of potential interest could be identified, a selection of targeted photographs were scrutinised. In particular this phase of the research was looking for evidence of shrunken settlement and took as its starting point a deserted medieval village marked on Ordnance Survey maps north-west of Yarcombe. Earthworks associated with this site were discernible, but no similar remains were identified elsewhere. In fact the most valuable contribution of these photographs was their visual representation of the physical landscape and their confirmation of the typology which had been developed through map work. The appearance of hedges alluded to above is a good example of this.

### **Historic Environment Records**

The online version of the Somerset HER ([www.somerset.gov.uk/her](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/her)) was searched, as was a digitised copy of limited data for relevant parishes taken from the Devon HER and supplied by the Historic Environment Section (Archaeology) of Devon County Council. Irrelevant entries such as small finds and twentieth-century military installations were ignored, but lists were compiled of potentially significant records, for example mills and marl pits. A disadvantage of HERs for projects of this nature is that they do not record everything, but only what particular workers have been interested in noting. Thus the only buildings in the Blackdowns included in the Somerset HER are those which are listed, while the Devon HER includes scores of buildings regardless of their listing. It was discovered that the same phenomenon can have a more subtle effect when marl pits listed in the Devon HER were plotted on the GIS. The resulting distribution suggested that there were numerous such pits in two areas but few anywhere else. This inevitably raises a suspicion that one or two enthusiasts had recorded every marl pit in their parish but elsewhere nobody was interested in this detail of the historic landscape, and the record was consequently skewed. HER data, therefore, is a valuable source of examples and corroborative evidence, but is not reliable for statistical purposes or for distribution maps in particular.

### **Roads**

The network of historic roads was transcribed from the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition six inches to one mile maps directly into the project GIS. Digital copies of this map data were obtained under licence through the

Edina Digimap® scheme. Electronic versions of these maps have been created by Landmark Information Group who digitally scanned and georeferenced all available map sheets. The six inches to the mile mapping was available for nearly all of the AONB, although a strip from the west of Dunkeswell across to the east of Upottery and as far south as Dumpdon Hill was not obtainable, and instead, the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inches to one mile was used for this area.

The roads were digitised as a polyline shapefile. No attempt was made to create a typology or hierarchy of roads because of the short time available for the creation of this data, and the degree of subjectivity in classifying these routeways across such a wide area. However, Donn's (1765) and Day and Masters (1782) maps were consulted in an attempt to identify principle roads predating the late 19<sup>th</sup> century OS mapping. These maps were both drawn to a scale of 1 inch to 1 mile and were far beyond any previous maps of these counties in terms of accuracy, though not up to the standard of the Ordnance Survey. Both depict towns, villages, 'gentlemen's seats', some farms, some roads as well as other details such as inns on a more selective basis. Of particular relevance to this project is their depiction of unfenced tracks across the extensive areas of commons on the plateaux before they were enclosed.

Although the process of digital scanning and georeferencing has provided an historic basemap aligned with the British National Grid, there is not a perfect spatial correlation between elements on these maps and those on the modern 1:10,000 digital OS mapping. Given the time constraints of Phase 1 of this project, it was impossible to consult the 1<sup>st</sup> edition historic mapping whilst transcribing over the modern 1:10,000 base map, and instead the roads were transcribed directly from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition. As a result, there is an element of spatial error in the line of some digitised roads when compared to the same routes shown on the modern mapping, although this is rarely more than the width of the road itself. This error was considered to be too small to be a problem for the purposes of the historic landscape analysis.

*See:*

[http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/main/historic\\_help/index.jsp?file=getting\\_started/aboutmaps.txt&expand=started&file=](http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/main/historic_help/index.jsp?file=getting_started/aboutmaps.txt&expand=started&file=)

### **Place name mapping**

In order to try and establish the chronology within which this landscape was colonised and enclosed, the earliest reference to all settlement-related place-names was mapped for the nine parishes of the western study area. The time framework of phase 1 of this project precluded the application of this analysis across the entire of the Blackdown Hills AONB although it is considered that in future phases, this exercise would be highly informative. It was decided to apply this examination to the same parishes in the western study area for which Tithe mapping and apportionment data has been digitised within the project GIS in order to provide a coherent core study area. These parishes are: Awliscombe, Buckerell, Clayhidon, Combe Raleigh, Dunkeswell, Hemyock, Luppitt, Monkton and Sheldon. The source of data was the two English Place-Name Society volumes for Devon (Gover *et al.* 1931; 1932) which provides a comprehensive survey of place-names organised by parish and detailing the sources, form and etymology of the earliest record of a name. There has been no such systematic place-name

study of Somerset, although it would be possible to extend the place-names analysis into this county using the work of Hill (1914) and Robinson (1992) amongst others.

For the purpose of this investigation, the recorded place-names were divided into four chronological divisions and mapped as such. Figure 11.1 shows the places recorded in 1086, though it is important to remember that Domesday does not list all settlements, simply manors. Figure 11.2 shows settlements documented for the first time from 1087 until 1348, the latter being start of the Black Death when population declined markedly and settlement may have contracted. The majority of these places were actually recorded from the very late 12<sup>th</sup>, the 13<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century in such documents as the *Assize Rolls*, *Charter Rolls*, *Book of Fees* and *Feet of Fines*, rather than the later 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century (as we lack sources for this period). Figure 11.3 shows settlements documented for the first time from 1349 to 1500, reflecting the period of suggested population decline associated with the Black Death until an approximate date for the end of the medieval period, and is serviced by documents such as the *Court Rolls*, *Minister's Accounts* and *Calendar of Patent Rolls*. Finally, Figure 11.4 shows settlements documented for the first time from 1501 to 1700, with Gover *et al.* calling upon the *Court Rolls*, *Feet of Fines* and the *Lay Subsidy Rolls* for example. Any places first recorded after 1700 have not been mapped.

These dated place-names have been mapped within the GIS as point data in a shapefile, with the name as found on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition six inches to one mile, the date of first recording, and the etymological element recorded in the Attribute Table.

### **Field names**

It is known that field names can be indicative of aspects of the history, use, topographical situation or other attributes of the enclosure to which they apply. For example, 'Brake' and 'Breach' imply and enclosure made from the waste or common while 'Mead' and 'Ham' are indicative of meadow, the latter close to water. The transcriptions of tithe data made for the detailed studies of selected parishes include the names of every field listed in the tithe awards. It is possible to query the GIS and highlight every field in a parish with a particular element to its name. This was done for a number of parishes and name elements but the results were generally inconclusive and the exercise was abandoned. Clayhidon and Luppitt were searched for 'Mead' and 'Ham' (indicative of meadow), 'Eddish', 'Arrish', 'Longlands' and 'Headland' (indicative of arable cultivation) and 'Brake' and 'Breach' (indicative of enclosure from the waste or common). The results were broadly what would be expected. Brake and Breach fields were predominantly within areas of late enclosure, and in Luppitt, a largely pastoral parish with highly irregular field outlines, Mead and Ham were widespread. To test the technique Awliscombe was searched for names indicative of arable and five instances were found, none of which were within the wide area of enclosed strips derived from former open field. At best this technique was useful only to confirm or support conclusions drawn from observations made in other methodological contexts, and at worst it produced inconsistent and confusing results. For example, in the south of Clayhidon parish, around May's Farm and Hole Farm, a number of occurrences of the element 'Breach' were identified, some of which were in nineteenth-century parliamentary enclosure and the remainder amongst intermediate fields. These clearly represent different episodes of enclosure

and the latter may pre-date Domesday (see **Historic landscape character types, Intermediate enclosures**) yet they share a name element. This indiscriminate application might be explained if in the 1830s when the parish was being surveyed for the tithe map, it was the practice locally to refer to any field as 'Breach' regardless of its history.

### **Settlement typology**

The settlement typology is based upon that shown on the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition six inches to one mile mapping (Figures 8-10). The typology was transcribed directly into the GIS from digitised versions of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition made available through the Edina Digimap® scheme. Each settlement type was mapped as point data in a shapefile within the GIS, and each was 'tagged' in the Attribute Table with the number corresponding to its character, as outlined below. Settlement was characterised using a number of criteria. The physical size and service provision, as well as residential aspects of each settlement were integral to its classification. The degree of nucleation and dispersal was also considered, being particularly relevant to the classification of compact versus loose hamlets. Adjacent farmsteads and common name elements between farmsteads may be used to indicate divided land holdings (estates), formerly single larger units. The application of these criteria across the AONB has identified ten principle settlement types:

- 1) Large nucleations
- 2) Smaller nucleations
- 3) Service nucleations
- 4) Compact hamlets
- 5) Loose hamlets
- 6) Directly adjacent farms with/without a common name element
- 7) Multiple spread farms with common name element
- 8) Other farms

#### ***1) Large nucleations***

Five large nucleations can be identified within the Blackdown Hills AONB: Hemyock, Broadhembury, Uptontery, Stockland and Chardstock, with a further on the edge at Awliscombe. These settlements are characterised by the presence of a church, vicarage, chapel/s, school in addition to other service provisions such as inns, post offices and smithies. There are numerous residential properties associated with the core of these places.

#### ***2) Smaller nucleations***

Twelve smaller nucleations can be identified: Dunkeswell, Pitminster, Corfe, Staple Fitzpaine, Churchstanton, Churchingford, Buckland St Mary, Whitestaunton, Yarcombe, Wilmington, Dalwood and Smallridge. Smaller nucleations have many aspects common to larger nucleations such as a church, chapel, inn for example, yet their overall area, level of service function and population, as suggested by building numbers, is lower.

### ***3) Service nucleations***

Luppitt, Monkton and Marsh (to the west of Whitestaunton) have been classified as service nucleations. These places maintain functional services such as a church, a school, a smithy and an inn yet they have little, if any, evidence for additional domestic buildings, and seemingly serve the needs of a more dispersed population.

### ***4) Compact hamlets***

Thirty settlements have been classified as compact hamlets, and are characterised by a small cluster of farms and cottages with perhaps an inn, chapel or smithy. Heathstock and Ham, both in Stockland, are characteristic of compact hamlets across the AONB.

### ***5) Loose hamlets***

This settlement type is characterised by the presence of a number of services, such as an inn, school, chapel and smithy, along with a number of small farms and cottages dispersed across a small area, as typified by Bishop's Wood in the southern tip of Buckland St Mary. There is a degree of subjectivity in the distinction between this class and compact hamlets although in most cases the degree of aggregation is distinctive. Sixteen loose hamlets have been observed within the AONB.

### ***6) Directly adjacent farms with/without common name element***

In addition to the farmsteads that are encompassed within the settlement types already outlined, there are over 600 additional examples within the AONB. A number of these farms have spatial and etymological relationships by which they can be distinguished. The first of these is the location of two farms directly next to each other with both sharing a common name element, of which 24 examples have been noted, such as Higher Northcott and Lower Northcott in Sheldon, and Higher Seavington Farm and Lower Seavington Farm in Stockland. In the mapping of these places, a single point located between the farms has been used to represent each pair.

Although there are 'paired' farms with a common name element, the phenomenon also extends to adjacent farms that bear different names. It is necessary to highlight these examples as it is possible that they can be considered alongside those paired farms of Type 6. It is plausible to suggest that the names of some paired farms may have changed at a later point whilst others continued to use the common name elements. Fifteen pairs of these farms have been noted, with Calways Farm and Mountstephen's Farm in Luppitt, and Benshayne Farm and Dalwood Farm in Culmstock being good examples. Again, a single point is used to represent each pair.

### ***7) Multiple spread farms with common name element***

There are 40 examples of groups of two or three farms that share a common name element but are spaced apart rather than being directly adjacent like those farms of Type 6. These groups are commonly spread over a linear distance of 400-500 metres, for example Little Shelvin, Higher Shelvin and Lower Shelvin in Luppitt, and North Blindmore, Higher Blindmore and Lower Blindmore in Buckland St

Mary. Rather than using the middle farm as the mapping point, the approximate geographical midpoint was used as it is common to find two farms in closer proximity with the third a little further away.

***8) Other farms***

Finally, 500 farms, over and above those encompassed within Types 1-8, have been mapped. The majority have been mapped based on the presence of a farm name (eg Greenway Farm, in Luppitt), although in some cases a farm complex was obvious on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition six inches to one mile but simply had a name without the suffix 'Farm' (eg Cloakham in Kilmington).

### 3. Historic landscape character types

#### **Introduction**

This section examines and discusses the ten historic landscape types which have been distinguished in the historic landscape analysis (Figure 6). Under each type will be found a brief definition, with a summary of key characteristics and an interpretation. These are followed by a more wide ranging descriptive analysis which considers topography, field morphology, roads, settlements, woodland, land holding, mineral extraction and associated features of the types. Extracts from the historic landscape analysis overlaid on early Ordnance Survey 6 inches to 1 mile maps are provided to illustrate each type, and these are selected for their depiction of points made in the text. They should therefore be referred to while reading the account of each type.

A glance at the historic landscape analysis shows that a large proportion of the Blackdown Hills consists of high ground which was enclosed in the nineteenth century ('late enclosure') within which fragments of 'unenclosed land' are embedded. It will be shown that before this land was enclosed it was open commons and it follows that this type of land played a significant role in the social and economic history of the region. In view of this, it is worth establishing at the outset what common land was. A common consisted of land which was owned by the lord of the manor, but over which other people, commoners, had certain rights, including pasturing of animals and cutting turf for fuel. Commons were therefore vital to the medieval rural economy and the commoners and the lords had a more or less equal investment in their productivity. Furthermore, in a region such as the Blackdowns there was a potential to generate a surplus of livestock and wool which could be traded. Technically, the lord was not permitted to enclose the common unless he had the agreement of all the commoners, since this would obstruct their rights, though history is littered with cases where lords autocratically enclosed commons. It was also possible for lords to permit tenants to make enclosures on commons, known as assarts, which they could bring into cultivation and for which the lord could charge a rent. It is hoped that these comments will assist readers as they make their way through what follows. Should they wish to learn more about commons, Hoskins and Dudley Stamp (1963) provide a wide ranging and accessible account of their history, including a county based gazetteer.

#### **Unenclosed land** (eg Figure 7.1)

**Introduction:** Most Blackdowns parishes contain areas of open, rough ground of variable extent. These are frequently inaccessible from public roads, and visitors to the area are only likely to come across them when walking on public footpaths and bridleways. They are however often visible in the distance since they are usually located on high ground, for example the large area of rough pasture visible to the east from the vicinity of Luppitt church.

**Definition:** More or less extensive areas of rough land with few or no internal boundaries and typically located on high ground.



**Key characteristics:** Few or no internal boundaries; frequently semi-wild vegetation comprising rough grass, bracken, bramble, gorse etc, occasionally trees; frequently adjacent to or embedded amongst the ‘Late enclosure’ HLC type (see below); frequently marked on Ordnance Survey maps as commons or turbaries and characterised by rough pasture and furze symbol conventions; where roads are present they tend to follow the external boundaries and are unfenced from the unenclosed land.

**Interpretation:** Most of these areas are relatively small and probably represent land set aside during the creation of late enclosure for the benefit of commoners who had customary rights to cut turf for fuel (known as turbary), for example Dunkeswell Turbary (ST 130 057). Unenclosed land therefore usually represents shrunken relics of what were once much more extensive commons which were enclosed in the nineteenth century (see *Late enclosure*, below). In a sense, then, unenclosed land can be regarded as the most ancient landscape type in the Blackdowns, since the open commons were what remained after earlier episodes of enclosure. In a small number of cases late enclosure of upland common pasture seems not to have occurred, resulting in wider areas of this HLC type. Black Down Common in Culmstock parish is an example, and there are large areas of unenclosed land in Luppitt parish.

#### **Descriptive analysis**

**Topography:** Most unenclosed land is located on high ground or adjacent steep slopes which geological maps show to be underlain by clay with flints or Upper Greensand (Ordnance Survey 1906a; 1906b). The land is therefore infertile or difficult to cultivate and often wet. In many places soil conditions have resulted in the accumulation of deposits of peat, for example on Clayhidon Turbary (ST 154 153). There is a relatively extensive area of unenclosed land known as Hense Moor, which lies in the head of a valley to the north of Luppitt church and is unusual in that it is not located on high ground.

**Field morphology and boundaries:** External boundaries of unenclosed land conform to the surrounding HLC type. Thus north of Luppitt, around ST 173 073, there is a sinuous boundary between the unenclosed land in the valley and adjacent irregular and intermediate fields. Dunkeswell Turbary (ST 130 057), by contrast, is marked by the dead-straight boundaries of the surrounding late enclosures.

**Roads:** In many cases unenclosed land is isolated from public roads, though most areas are accessible by public footpaths. The footpath crossing Black Down Common is noteworthy in that it links two dead ends on lanes at Purchas Farm (ST 108 154) and Crossways Farm (ST 124 167), suggesting that the path represents a route which did not achieve the status of a road in the present-day sense. In many places roads which are adjacent to unenclosed land are not fenced, for example on Hemyock Common (ST 121 118).

**Settlements:** Habitations are rare or absent from unenclosed land. For further observations, see *Associated features* below.

**Woodland:** Woodland is not typically a feature of unenclosed land.

*Land holding:* Most or all of the remaining areas of unenclosed land in the Blackdown Hills AONB are the vestiges of formerly more extensive areas of unenclosed common pasture. Although common land was legally private land, the landowner's use of it was not exclusive and other people, the commoners, could also make restricted use of its resources. Normally such common land would have been owned by the lord of the manor, but he was obliged to abide by customary rules which preserved the rights of the commoners to exploit resources such as pasture, turf, furze and wood. There was thus a balance between the interests of the lord and those of the commoners and this balance is sometimes illuminated by documents such as manorial court records and those drawn up when commons were inclosed. For example, in Dunkeswell a list of people claiming common rights compiled before the 1818 Inclosure Award (DRO – Z17/3/9) records that John Graves Simcoe made a claim under his title Lord of the Manor of Dunkeswell to 'The Land and Soil over all the said Commons and Waste Lands and to all Timber and other Trees on the Waste thereof'. The word soil refers here to the right to extract sand, gravel and minerals, and this right was also claimed by all the commoners. It is interesting to note that Simcoe's claim to land, soil and trees was only allowed in respect of the proportions due to him as one of many individuals whose claims were also accepted.

*Mineral extraction:* A small number of gravel pits on unenclosed land are depicted on early Ordnance Survey maps, for example on Blackborough Common in the vicinity of ST 097 090. The appellation 'Turbarry' attached to several of these areas implies that they were used as a source of peat or turf for fuel. For further comments see *Mineral extraction* under **Late enclosure** below.

*Associated features:* In a small number of cases unenclosed land has enclosures embedded within it. For example, Black Down Common in Culmstock parish contains four semi-irregular enclosures in the vicinity of ST 118 165. North of Luppitt small ovoid enclosures are embedded in the unenclosed land at the valley head and are prominent on aerial photographs taken in the 1940s (RAF: CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 4302, Devon HER ref. 30/26). Both of these examples are consistent with enclosures made from the common waste at indeterminate times in the past, known as encroachments or assarts.

Settlements are very rarely located in unenclosed land. An exception is Hense Moor in the valley-head north of Luppitt where a small number of cottages are situated within some of the ovoid enclosures mentioned above. For example Hense Moor House (ST 171 078) and Trotwood (ST 171 070), which are marked respectively 'Pugshole Cottage' and simply 'Cott' on early Ordnance Survey maps. These represent dwellings erected on the encroachments in which they sit. Occasional documentary references to such encroachments can be found, usually referring to areas which were subsequently subject to parliamentary enclosure or enclosure by agreement. In most cases this resulted in the obliteration of the encroachments concerned by the imposition of late enclosure. For example, a number of undated (but probably late eighteenth-century) surveyor's notes refer to encroachments on Mannings Common in Yarcombe, such as that of John Spillar which included a 'Cottage lately built together with 3 Plotts inclosed', while on North Common Simon Northam held a plot of 12 perches and '2 Cott's & Plots call'd Berry's & Wooleys without a Lease & [paid] no Rent' (DRO – 346M/ M255-

263). Most were probably sanctioned by the lord of the manor, who would have collected rent for them (see *Associated features* under **Late enclosure**, below) but it appears that Simon Northam's encroachments were unofficial.

**Late enclosure** (eg Figure 7.2)

**Introduction:** Visitors driving through areas of late enclosure, if they pause to reflect on their surroundings, are likely to be struck by the uniformity of the landscape. The road on which they are travelling is straight and relatively wide with parallel sides, frequently flanked by beech hedges. Glimpsed through gateways, the hedgerows of surrounding fields are also straight. Relatively few trees stand in the hedgerows, though some areas of coniferous and broadleaf woodland may catch the eye. Wide skies, few habitations and even fewer villages create a sense of solitude, and though many people travel through this countryside, there are few reasons to stop.

**Definition:** Geometric and straight-sided enclosures, predominantly on high ground, more rarely on hill-side or low ground.

**Key characteristics:** Usually located on the plateau or (in the east) hill tops; fields tend to be larger than those of other character types; ruler-straight field boundaries; field shapes are more or less rectilinear, sometimes triangular or rhomboidal; 90 degree corners are common; roads are usually ruler-straight and relatively wide with parallel sides; settlements are absent or occur as sparsely distributed farmsteads and cottages; woodland is typically plantation (often coniferous) with similarly geometric boundaries, though in some areas probably pre-existing broadleaf woodland has been subsumed into this character type (see *Woodland* below). Visually, the late enclosure landscape typically has an open aspect, partly on account of its upland location, and partly from the combination of wide spaces dominated by straight lines with a relative dearth of trees and buildings.

**Interpretation:** Late-enclosed former open common pasture and woodland. A small number of instances of other former land uses may exist, particularly where this character type is located on lower ground, for example south of Upottery at ST 195 067. The dead-straight hedgerows and frequent 90 degree angles demonstrate that these boundaries were laid out using accurate surveying techniques. Much of this character type results from parliamentary enclosure which, in the Blackdown Hills, took place entirely in the nineteenth century. Where enclosure was not achieved by act of parliament it was probably the result of enclosure by agreement amongst landowners and commoners, and the late enclosure fields are unlikely to date from earlier than 1700.

**Descriptive analysis**

**Topography:** In general, late enclosure is located on high ground, and the larger proportion of this type covers substantial areas of the plateau and sometimes adjacent steep slopes. Geological maps (Ordnance Survey 1906a; 1906b) show that the plateaux and high ground are predominantly underlain by clay with flints, while the steep slopes are on Upper Greensand. Soils are therefore acidic and, on

the clay with flints, wet and heavy with a tendency towards the accumulation of peat. An exception to the general rule is in the north-west of the Blackdowns where some plateau areas are covered in fields of intermediate or other types and surrounded by halos of late enclosure on the steep slopes. Examples include Combe Hill (ST 140 150), Burrow Hill (ST 142 123) and Bolham Hill (ST 160 130) in Hemyock and Clayhidon parishes. South of Blackmoor (ST 167 185) and Ruggin (ST 181 185) is an area of the northern scarp which was enclosed under the West Buckland Award in 1815 (Q/R De 59). The hills in the north-east tend to have a more rounded profile and many are wooded, particularly in Staple Fitzpaine and Curland parishes (see **Woodland**, below). Some areas of late enclosure in this part of the AONB occupy high ground but also extend down the slopes, for example on Buckland Hill (Buckland St Mary) and on Curland Common (Curland) but in these examples the land concerned is fairly steep and may well have formerly been open common pasture, as the name Curland Common suggests. Elsewhere a few areas of late enclosure exist on more gentle slopes and low-lying land and it is likely that this type replaced earlier enclosures of other types. These include the valley of the River Tale (ST 105 055) north-east of Broadhembury, which is topographically identical to adjacent valleys in the south-west of the Blackdowns but which are predominantly covered by semi-irregular fields. Another anomalous area of late enclosure is in the Otter valley around Spurtham Farm (ST 193 064) south-west of Uptontery. No enclosure award exists for these areas and any explanation for them is speculative. A hamlet adjacent to the Tale valley fields is called The Common (ST 100 052), suggesting that this area was common pasture. This interpretation is supported by the observation that the parish in which these fields lie (Broadhembury) is relatively large but incorporates only a restricted area of upland. The area south-west of Uptontery is less easily explained since it extends onto gentle slopes and low ground close to the River Otter, and there is an abundance of high ground which would have provided common pasture for the parish (Luppitt).

*Field morphology and boundaries:* The most striking characteristic of these fields is their rectilinear shapes which arise from the application of accurate surveying techniques, partly to ensure fair distribution of land amongst those who were entitled to allotments. The straight boundaries and rectilinear shapes also had a practical aspect in that the absence of awkward corners ensured that each field could be ploughed in its entirety, in the event that the new owner or tenant decided to attempt arable cultivation. Aerial photographs show that the hedgerows of late enclosure fields are often markedly less substantial and have fewer trees than those surrounding fields of the irregular type, reflecting the difference in their ages. Good examples can be found in the area to the west and south-west of Luppitt church (see for example RAF photographs taken in 1947, CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 4299 and 4300, Devon HER refs. 30/23 and 24). In many places the roadside hedgerows are of beech, a popular hedging material in the nineteenth century as can be seen further afield, for example, on Exmoor, where large areas were enclosed at much the same time.

*Roads:* The wide, straight roads make for easy driving and many visitors are probably puzzled when such a road suddenly becomes noticeably narrower and more winding as they cross the boundary between late enclosure and other character types. Examples of such abrupt transitions are widespread,

but particularly clear ones can be found on the lanes coming off the northern ridge road in the vicinity of Buckland Hill towards Clayhidon church and Heazle Farm. Roads within the late enclosure landscapes were created at the same time as the surrounding fields and therefore conform to their rigid grid patterns. Where the landscape was created by an act of parliament the width of roads, farm tracks, bridleways and footpaths will have been specified in the act. In the case of Wambrook these were 30ft, 20ft, 12ft and 3ft respectively (Carter 1977, 9-10). The new roads replaced earlier unfenced tracks and droveways which are shown on eighteenth-century county maps by Donn (1765) and Day and Masters (1782).

*Settlements:* The few farms located within late enclosure landscapes tend to have names descriptive of their location (Hill Farm, Hemyock, ST 152 167), adjacent features (Beechwood Farm, Dunkeswell, ST 146 057), or apparently fanciful names such as North Pole Farm on Northdown, Otterford (ST 224 157). All of these farms were probably established at the same time as, or subsequent to the enclosures. The small hamlet of Newcott (ST 232 088) on the Yarcombe – Upottery parish boundary is on the margin of an area of late enclosure and may be associated with the adjacent intermediate enclosure character type and therefore older, despite its name. The small village or hamlet of Newtown (ST 275 128) south-east of Buckland St Mary is similarly located on the edge of an area of late enclosure. Besides the farms, early Ordnance Survey maps show a few cottages and public houses or inns located within areas of late enclosure. Many of these inns may have served travellers and drovers on the old roads crossing the former open commons, for example the Drake Arms (ST 241 117) between Yarcombe and Otterford which appears to correspond to the Traveller's Rest shown on Donn's (1765) map of Devon and Day and Masters' (1782) map of Somerset.

*Woodland:* Where the boundaries of plantation woodland within areas of late enclosure conform to the rectilinear grid of surrounding fields, the plantation is likely to be of a later date than the enclosure itself. Clear examples can be seen on Brown Down, south-east of Otterford. Elsewhere, Inclosure Award maps show that pre-existing woodland has been subsumed into areas of late enclosure. Examples include woodland on the northern scarp which was included in the West Buckland Inclosure Award of 1815 (SRO - Q/R De 59). Ordnance Survey maps show that in the 1880s this woodland was subdivided by straight boundaries which continued the lines of the surrounding late enclosure fields. Similarly, woodland on the steep slopes on the plateau edge of St Cyre's Hill between Awliscombe and Combe Raleigh is subdivided into rectilinear parcels, though there was no enclosure act covering these parishes. The depiction and labelling as woodland (as opposed to plantation) of such areas on Ordnance Survey maps so soon after enclosure suggests that they were already woodland when the awards were made, and they have therefore been categorised as such on the HLC.

*Land holding:* Before inclosure most or all 'Late enclosure' HLC type was common land and the comments regarding land holding under *Unenclosed land* above will have applied. The outcome of the inclosure awards or agreements was to extinguish the common rights and distribute the land amongst those who could prove rights of common. These individuals then held their allotments in severalty, that

is the land was their exclusive property in the way that phrase is understood today. The procedure was overseen by Inclosure Commissioners who employed surveyors to lay out the allotments and adjudicated on the obligation on the recipients to fence their plots from one another, resulting in the rectangular grids of fields we see today. It should be noted that many authors consider that this procedure did not adequately compensate smaller tenants and cottagers, who often could not prove their entitlement in law and therefore received no compensation at all for their loss of rights (see for example Hoskins 1958, 163-4).

The 1816 Inclosure Award map for Wambrook (SRO – Q/R De 162) includes the name of the recipient written in each allotment and shows that the new holdings were arranged in blocks rather than scattered across the former common. Analysis of tithe map and tithe apportionment data shows that the same situation predominated in the parishes covered by the detailed study element of this research. For example, in Hemyock Figure 14.9 depicts the holdings of a number of landowners distributed in more or less coherent blocks in the areas of late enclosure in the north-west and south-west of the parish. Furthermore, the tithe award shows that the majority of these plots were owner-occupied. The process of inclosure frequently involved exchanges and sales of land and most of the awards examined for this study showed evidence of this. Furthermore, the document recording the claims of Dunkeswell commoners (DRO: Z17/3/9) frequently notes the locations in which claimants wished their allotments to be located, suggesting that the commissioners would be amenable to such requests. It can thus be concluded that the present distribution of allotments in blocks was established in the course of enactment of each inclosure award.

*Mineral extraction:* The clay with flints substrate of much of this type is not generally productive of any useful material. Sand and gravel may have been extracted from greensand at the plateau edge, and early Ordnance Survey maps mark quarries south-west of Buckland St Mary at ST 263 122 which are located on Lias limestone. Chalk underlies the clay with flints in parts of the eastern AONB and may also have been quarried as a source of lime within this character type. It is worth noting in this context that the proximity of sources of lime in the chalk and limestone of the extreme east and north-east and in the Keuper Marls underlying the valleys in the remainder of the area will have been significant in improving the soils of late enclosure fields after enclosure, whether for pasture or arable use. In Whitestaunton parish an area of late enclosure runs onto Cinder Hill (ST 265 115) which may derive its name from slag left from early ironworking, and in 1086 the parish is recorded as subject to dues of four blooms of iron (Carter, 1981, 3-4).

*Associated features:* In some areas of late enclosure relatively small, more or less ovoid enclosures are embedded amongst the rectilinear fields. These represent assarts and encroachments on the former commons, and a good example can be found south-west of Stockland in the vicinity of ST 230 035. Farms in this area have possessive names such as Cawley's and Hussey's, and aerial photographs show that in the mid-twentieth century many of the ovoid fields were surrounded by rough ground (RAF CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 2436 and 2435, Devon HER refs., 31/61 and 62). These fields represent encroachments on the commons sanctioned by the lord of the manor of Stockland, who would have

been able to demand rent for them. In 1765 a number of landowners in the parish drew up an agreement to oppose the lord and tear down any enclosures on the common less than 20 years old, as well as any new ones (DRO – 50M/ I1-4). Assuming that they persisted with this action these fields therefore date from earlier than 1745. Similar fields appear on many of the Inclosure Award maps for the Blackdowns, notably the Taunton Deane Award of 1851 (SRO – Q/R De 165). This shows large numbers on Pickeridge Hill, Corfe (ST 240 190) in thick pen which are overlain by the thin lines of the award. This and their absence from today's landscape implies that these encroachments were disallowed by the enclosure commissioners and destroyed. Similarly, in Dunkeswell a 'List of all Persons who have claimed Rights affecting the Boundaries of the ... Commons' (DRO – Z17/3/9) dated 1801-1818 shows that very few were allowed their encroachments.

### **Flood plains** (eg Figure 7.3)

**Introduction:** In the Culm valley east of Hemyock and similarly in the Otter valley north-east of Honiton are wide areas of lush meadows and pastures occupying relatively large fields surrounded by hedgerows. Visitors driving along the lanes in these areas are probably struck by the large numbers of mature oaks in the hedgerows and the presence of dense thickets of alder and willow occupying hollows and stream-sides. Similar, but less extensive areas can be found in the lower reaches of most of the rivers and streams in the Blackdowns.

**Definition:** Enclosed areas of meadow and pasture, normally located adjacent to water courses on valley floors.

**Key characteristics:** Predominantly flat, normally low lying topography; field boundaries more or less sinuous, often conforming to the orientation of watercourses; roads narrow and sinuous, often forming a boundary of this type; settlements include mills and some farms which tend to be located on the boundary of this type.

**Interpretation:** Land subject to periodic flooding and therefore most suitable to the production of hay and rich grazing. These areas are unsuitable for arable cultivation owing to the risk of loss of crops due to flooding. Most enclosures are probably medieval in origin.

### **Descriptive analysis**

**Topography:** The flood plain HLC type is normally located on more or less flat land close to rivers, but also often extends onto adjacent shallow slopes. Although such slopes are not technically flood plains, their proximity to the valley floor means that the water table is not far below the surface. In a small number of cases areas have been assigned to this type which are located on fairly high ground, for example in Clayhidon in the vicinity of ST 165 152. Close examination of maps or field observation of such anomalous examples shows adjacent streams which in some cases (including the Clayhidon example) may be diverted along leats (see *Associated features* below). This reflects the land-use aspect

of the definition and draws attention to the importance of water to this type, ensuring maximum growth of grass during the spring, summer and autumn.

*Field morphology and boundaries:* In most areas the morphology of flood plain fields conforms to the same pattern as the semi-irregular HLC type (see **Semi-irregular enclosures** below), to which the flood plain type is usually adjacent. This suggests that these types have a common origin, but this report is concerned with past use and function as well as chronology. The classification of flood plain as a distinct type emphasises the significance of meadows in medieval as well as early modern rural economies as a source of hay for winter fodder and early and late grazing for stock brought down for the winter from the high plateau.

*Roads:* Roads associated with this character type are typically narrow lanes which meander along the valleys more or less parallel with the rivers. Examples can be found in the Culm valley east of Hemyock and the Otter valley south-west of Monkton, though the latter is no longer a lane but a stretch of the A30 trunk road. These examples also coincide with the boundary of the flood plain type, suggesting that the roads were originally routed so as to take advantage of the low gradients in the valleys but at the same time be above the level to which these valleys were regularly flooded. There may also be an economic element at work here. Since meadow was the most valuable land in the medieval rural economy landowners and tenants would be reluctant to sacrifice any of it to tracks and roads. It is not therefore surprising that these roads frequently deviate into the adjacent HLC type, but very rarely enter areas of flood plain fields except when the road is crossing the valley. In these cases roads take a more or less direct route and usually cross the watercourse by means of a bridge, for example at ST 138 139 where the Hemyock to Wellington road crosses the Culm at Millhayes Bridge.

*Settlements:* Settlements are extremely rare or absent from the flood plain HLC type, owing to the risk of flooding. However, many former mills are located on the boundaries with adjacent types, clearly because such a situation avoided risk of flooding and minimised the length of leat required to drive the mill. Examples include North Mill, Membury (ST 258 040) and the former mill at Rawridge, Upottery (ST 201 065). A very small number of farms and cottages are similarly located, for example Byes Farm (ST 145 140) and Holcombe Cottage (ST 142 129), both near Hemyock, but the great majority of farms in these valleys are located higher on the slopes.

*Woodland:* There are no substantial areas of woodland within this type, and this can be taken as an indication of the high value of meadow in medieval and early modern agricultural economies. However, fieldwork shows that hollows and stream-sides are frequently occupied by alder and willow scrub. In many, if not all cases these probably represent the outgrown remnants of small coppices, providing either a source of fuel or raw materials for more specialised uses such as basket making and charcoal. Their location in hollows and on river and stream-sides reflects the fact that such situations are less likely to produce good hay and, conversely, they provide ideal conditions for willow and alder.



*Land holding:* Examination of maps depicting land ownership and occupancy data derived from tithe maps and apportionments for selected parishes within the study area shows no discernible pattern within the flood plain HLC type. Rather, these river-side meadows and pastures tend to conform to the land holding distributions of adjacent fields. In the case of Monkton (Figure 14.13), however, it is noticeable that one individual owned most of this type while another owned the remainder. The database shows that the former was Christopher Flood, whose Hedgend Barton was the largest estate in the parish. Monkton Barton, then in the possession of Henry Buckland Lott, included the remaining meadows. Apart from the inference that one estate was more wealthy than the other little can be deduced from this without further research. This might show, for example, that Monkton was originally a single manor some of which was sold off, perhaps with the vendor retaining the lion's share of the flood plain fields.

A single instance of a small area of former common meadow was discovered by this research straddling the border between Stockland and Membury parishes on either side of the River Yarty around ST 254 043. The respective parts of this area were mapped on the Inclosure Awards for both parishes (DRO: D 1428 and DRO: IA 58). Although the resulting dozen or so fields are technically late enclosure they have been included in the present type in order to maintain consistency with regard to their topographical location and their use. No similar fields were found in parishes lacking an Inclosure Award suggesting that their common status was unique for meadows in the Blackdown Hills of the early nineteenth century. Their presence does, however, suggest that there may have been more common meadow in the region during the medieval period which was enclosed at an early date.

*Mineral extraction:* No evidence of significant mineral extraction has been found within this type.

*Associated features:* Mills located in or adjacent to flood plains were fed by leats which took water from higher up the valley but were constructed with a lower gradient than the river so as to achieve a sufficient fall of water to drive the mill-wheel. Many of these survive as parallel watercourses, for example at ST 1690 1425 Ordnance Survey maps show a stream diverging north from the Culm which rejoins the river at Hidon Mill (ST 164 142). A different type of leat is associated with upland fields of this HLC type, for example those in Clayhidon referred to above under *Topography*. These were constructed in such a way that they overflowed onto the land below in a process known as silt marling, the lime in the silt improving the pasture over which the water flowed. It is possible that in many cases meadows on the true flood plains were also watered by leats in a system sometimes known as floated meadows which encouraged early growth of grass in spring, providing early grazing before stock could be turned onto the high pastures. (See Carter 1981, 3 for examples of both systems in Whitestaunton). It is not known how old the practice of silt marling is, but floated meadows were widespread in Wiltshire in the seventeenth century, and were common in Hampshire and Dorset by the early eighteenth century (Williamson 2002, 59). It can therefore be inferred that examples in the Blackdowns such as that in Whitestaunton originate in the eighteenth century or later.

### **Sloping valley bottoms** (eg Figure 7.4)

**Introduction:** Within the Blackdown Hills AONB the higher reaches of rivers and streams feature V-shaped valleys, often with very steep sides. Visitors driving in the region are only likely to experience these areas fleetingly, as the lane they are travelling on dips into a wooded valley before climbing out again on the opposite side.

**Definition:** The banks and adjacent steep slopes of the upper reaches of watercourses, often with small to very small irregular enclosures.

**Key characteristics:** Ribbon shaped HLC type following watercourses with steep gradients; often very steep adjacent slopes; enclosures are typically small or very small with irregular shapes; collective outer boundaries of enclosures often conform to watercourses and usually demarcate the type; roads tend to cross the type by the shortest route; wooded areas are frequent; settlements are rare apart from mills.

**Interpretation:** A considerable proportion of this predominantly steep, wet land is unsuitable for grazing, cultivation or mowing and was therefore most profitably devoted to coppice and woodland. Small areas of flat ground may have been used as meadows, and areas where the sides are not very steep may have been incorporated into adjacent grazing. Where the flow of water throughout the year is constant the steep gradient of the watercourses is favourable to the location of mills provided access can be created for carts. Enclosures are probably medieval, with some early modern encroachments.

### **Descriptive analysis**

**Topography:** By definition the topography of this type is often steep and close to flowing water, and most areas are located high in the Blackdowns.

**Field morphology and boundaries:** In many places, for example in the upper reaches of the Bolham River east from Hartsmoor Bridge (ST 178 119), enclosures are small to very small with more or less irregular or occasionally ovoid outlines, and are frequently distinct from adjacent fields. Elsewhere enclosures are larger and conform in morphology to the surrounding type, for example north of Hornshayes Bridge (ST 234 043). A ribbon of this type also runs through an area of unenclosed land on Hense Moor, north of Luppitt (ST 173 073) and is itself also unenclosed.

**Roads:** Roads usually only cross this type by the shortest suitable route, crossing the associated stream by means of a bridge or a ford. Only occasionally do they run parallel to the watercourse and remain within or along the boundary of the type, as is the case south of Membury (ST 030 275).

**Settlements:** The steep gradients of watercourses associated with this type result in only a relatively short leat being required to develop a sufficient head of water to operate a mill, and these structures are therefore widespread in steep valley bottoms. Examples include a former corn mill near Churchingford

at ST 221 123 (Somerset HER: PRN 43181) and a corn mill marked on early Ordnance Survey maps at Millhayes, Stockland (ST 234 038). References also exist to fulling mills located within this type, for example near Howley at ST 267 101, where a level area and masonry leat represent the remains of such a mill recorded in the Whitestaunton tithe survey, which is presumably the same mill which is documented in 1573 (Carter 1981, 2-3). Farms are sometimes located at or near the boundary of this type, for example in the valley of the Corry Brook north and south of Hornshayes Bridge, Stockland (ST 234 043). Besides its unusual road running up the steep valley, Membury is also exceptional in the linear pattern of settlements within the valley on either side of the road.

*Woodland:* In many places this type incorporates or is associated with areas of woodland, for example along the Madford River north of Dunkeswell and the Umborne valley on the boundary between Cotleigh and Stockland parishes. The suitability of the terrain of this type for woodland as opposed to other productive uses has already been referred to. It seems probable that in earlier periods, when transport was more difficult and rural economies more geared to subsistence than trading (Hoskins and Dudley Stamp, 1963, 44-45), a considerably higher proportion of this land was wooded since wood was an important resource with a plethora of uses. See **Woodland**, below, for further comments.

*Land holding:* Comparison of the HLC with the maps depicting tithe data suggests that there is no correlation between the sloping valley bottom type and patterns of land ownership or tenure.

*Mineral extraction:* No evidence has been found for mineral extraction within this HLC type.

*Associated features:* The presence of mills within this type implies leats to power them, and as noted above these would be relatively short compared to those turning mill-wheels lower down the valleys.

In a few places ovoid enclosures resembling the encroachments sometimes found embedded in other types (see **Late enclosure**, *Associated features* above) also occur in this type. Examples can be seen north-east of Dunkeswell around ST152 085 and on Hense Moor in Luppitt around ST 175 077. It is likely that these fields also originated as encroachments on the commons, an assertion which is supported by the observation that those on Hense Moor are surrounded by unenclosed land.

### **Woodland** (eg Figure 7.5)

*Introduction:* The heavily wooded scarp of the northern Blackdowns is prominent in the view from both the railway and the M5 as they pass Wellington, and travellers might imagine that the range of hills behind it would be similarly dominated by woodland. However, this is not the case and, apart from the extreme north, woodland is surprisingly scarce. Woodland considered here does not include the predominantly coniferous plantations associated with late enclosure.

*Definition:* More or less extensive areas of woodland, normally excluding coniferous plantations, as depicted on late nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey 6 inches to 1 mile maps where they are frequently

named as woods or copses. In rare cases a named plantation has been included where it forms part of a cohesive block of woodland, suggesting that the wood has been partially felled and re-planted.

**Key characteristics:** Predominantly deciduous woodland; extremely variable in extent; typically located on steep slopes or as small enclosures embedded in other historic landscape types.

**Interpretation:** Land devoted to woodland resources including timber, wood, charcoal, tannin and forage for pigs. Enclosures of variable dates, medieval to modern.

### **Descriptive analysis**

**Topography:** The most extensive areas of woodland occur on steep slopes, including the northern scarp, steep hills in the north-east and as sinuous ribbons on the sharp gradients of the plateau edge (Figure 7.5.1). Smaller woods and coppices are scattered in the valleys amongst fields of other HLC types.

**Field morphology and boundaries:** The extensive woodlands in the north typically have rounded or sinuous outlines. In many places these are interrupted by large angular incursions, for example on the west side of Staple Park Wood, Staple Fitzpaine (Figure 7.5.2: ST 242 173). These clearly represent areas of woodland which have at some time been cleared for agricultural use. Woodlands on the slopes surrounding the plateau are typically sinuous, but fragmentary patches of woodland scattered further along the same slopes suggest that these were formerly continuous with the main plateau-edge woods. Many of the extensive woods are subdivided into large, irregular compartments by internal boundaries, while the plateau-edge woods are similarly split into small, irregular sub-divisions. These may represent ownership or tenurial boundaries, or they may relate to former coppicing regimes whereby each sub-division was cropped in turn on a regular cycle. A third class of woodland occurs as small, more or less irregularly shaped woods scattered amongst enclosures of other types, especially irregular and semi-irregular enclosures, for example in the core area of Luppitt parish. These are likely to be woods which have long been held in severalty in association with the estates in which they sit.

**Roads:** There are no characteristics of roads which are particularly associated with woodland.

**Settlements:** Settlements within woodlands are absent or rare. However, in many cases a farm can be found close to woodland, for example Bywood Farm, Dunkeswell (ST 162 088). In this example it is likely that the adjacency of the settlement is coincidental, but in certain circumstances there is evidence to suggest that a farm originated as woodland clearance. Pickeridge Farm, Corfe (ST 236 185) and Woodhayne Farm near the northern boundary of Yarcombe (ST 250 122) are examples. The former is surrounded by fields of the intermediate type which appear to have been cleared from an extensive area of woodland on the northern scarp, while the latter sits amongst a patchwork of irregular fields and small woods and coppices in a small combe to the west of the River Yarty.

*Land holding:* Comparison of the HLC with maps depicting title data shows that in parishes with many small landowners such as Luppitt there is no correlation between patterns of ownership and tenure and the distribution of woodland. However, in Combe Raleigh, Monkton and Whitestaunton most of the land was in the hands of one or two landowners. In each of these all the woodland is recorded as occupied by these landowners and the maps show that they occupied very little other land. In other words, these landowners kept the woodland for themselves but rented out most of their other land. This may be because the woodland was regarded as a valuable investment, or because it provided a suitable environment for rearing and shooting pheasants, or both.

*Mineral extraction:* Mineral extraction is not specifically associated with woodland, though examples can be found of quarries and pits within or beside woodland. For example early Ordnance Survey maps show a quarry and a gravel pit adjacent to woodland immediately south of Woodhayne Farm, Yarcombe around ST 250 120.

*Associated features:* During the medieval and early modern periods woodland was an extremely significant resource. For example, willow and alder growing beside streams provided withies for basketry and charcoal for a number of uses including gunpowder. Intermediate slopes would favour hazel and ash for hurdles, and the steep slopes would be suitable for oak, significant as a source of tannin. These are only examples; all of these tree species provided sources of timber and wood with numerous specialised applications. It should not be surprising, therefore, that woodland is likely to contain archaeological evidence of associated activities such as saw pits and charcoal burning platforms. Furthermore the trees themselves may show evidence of coppicing and pollarding in the past. These were techniques whereby trees were regularly cut, stimulating new growth to produce long, straight poles on a regular basis depending on the length of the cropping cycle. Coppice was cut at ground level, necessitating the exclusion of browsing livestock by a hedge or fence. Pollards were cut at a height of two metres or more so that the new growth was beyond reach of browsing animals, which did not need to be excluded.

During the medieval period most woodland in the Blackdowns will have been located on commons and on land held in severalty by individual farmers, and most or all of this would have been managed by coppicing or pollarding. More woodland will have been on the lords' demesne lands, and trees were also a significant element of medieval parks. These were invariably used for keeping deer and were powerful status symbols and the exclusively private property of their lordly owners. Several parks were located within the area of the AONB including one at Mohun's Ottery (ST 189 056), mentioned by Leland in the early sixteenth century (Toulmin Smith 1907, 240), and a very large park (or possibly two adjoining parks) west of Staple Fitzpaine where place names such as Staple Park Farm (ST 253 182) and Park Gate (ST 238 183) are indicative.

#### **Irregular enclosures** (eg Figure 7.6)

*Introduction:* Visitors approaching Luppitt church by the valley route find themselves in a maze of narrow, winding lanes between high hedge banks from which they may glimpse small fields through

gateways (Figure 7.6.1). Once they reach the higher vantage point of the church and look back they may observe that the fields through which they drove have highly irregular shapes and are interspersed with numerous small woods.

**Definition:** Highly irregular enclosures with rounded or angular outlines.

**Key characteristics:** Typically located on undulating terrain below the plateau; fields typically small; boundaries substantial and entirely sinuous or angular; few or no 90 degree corners or parallel sides; roads narrow and winding.

**Interpretation:** Anciently enclosed land and medieval or later assarts and encroachments on commons. In many cases the highly irregular shapes of these fields would make ploughing impracticable, implying pastoral use.

#### **Descriptive analysis**

**Topography:** These fields are predominantly located on undulating terrain in the valleys which dissect the Blackdowns plateau, and are therefore underlain by the Keuper Marls which dominate the geology of these lowland areas. Extensive areas occur in the valleys of the Otter and Yarty and their tributaries. More restricted clusters can be found on steep slopes, for example south-east of Churchingford at ST 225 115 and at Lemon's Hill Farm, Hemyock parish (ST 160 115), and some are associated with unenclosed high ground, such as North Common in Yarcombe (Figure 7.6.2: ST 252 114).

**Field morphology and boundaries:** The majority of the fields in the valley south of Luppitt church have amoeba-like shapes with highly irregular, sinuous outlines. Field observation and aerial photographs (RAF: CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 4299 and 4300, Devon HER refs. 30/23 and 24) show that these boundaries consist of dense hedgerows growing on substantial banks. Elsewhere, for example south-west of Yarcombe, fields of this type are more angular but their outlines are equally irregular, frequently with obtuse angles creating corners which would be inaccessible to a plough-team. The morphology of certain more restricted clusters of these fields, typically on steep slopes or higher ground, tends to be more rounded and some might be ploughed over the greater part of their surface.

**Roads:** Roads associated with this HLC type are narrow and follow intricately meandering courses which seem to imply that no effort was made when they were first laid out to follow the shortest route between one farm and the next. This is hard to account for, though it can be observed that the fields and the routes conform to one another, suggesting that their characteristics arose in the same way. It is conceivable that the shapes of the fields were established as they were enclosed piecemeal from wilderness and the roads originated as paths connecting the colonists' farmsteads which deviated to avoid thickets, mires and other obstacles which have long since disappeared.

*Settlements:* Settlements within the landscape of irregular enclosures are predominantly highly dispersed farmsteads scattered amongst the fields. It is conceivable that at least some of these are on the habitation sites of the first colonists of these areas. Certainly these landscapes were settled at an early date. Figures 12.1 to 12.3 show that the majority of settlements with a medieval record in Luppitt and Combe Raleigh, including all of those recorded in Domesday, are within this type. Such foci as exist consist of little more than the church, pub and a farm or former manor house, and are typically located at or near the edge of the type and often on an elevated situation, as at Luppitt. Settlements associated with the more restricted areas of this type are also dispersed, typically consisting of one farmstead with its associated cluster of fields, for example Woodhayes Farm, Whitestaunton (ST 267 110). These instances are strongly suggestive of assarting of areas of common, and the observation that many, including Woodhayes Farm, are on relatively high ground supports this conclusion.

*Woodland:* Small patches of woodland conforming in outline to the surrounding field pattern are characteristic of irregular enclosure landscapes and are especially evident in the valley below Luppitt. See **Woodland**, above, for further detail.

*Land holding:* Small areas of irregular fields in Hemyock around ST 132 125 (Lydensign Cottage) and in Clayhidon south of Ridgewood Farm (around ST 157 124) are associated with larger areas showing partially fragmented ownership and occupancy patterns on maps depicting tithe data. These patterns occur elsewhere in both parishes amongst semi-irregular enclosures. Large areas of Luppitt parish consist of irregular enclosures and in the west these are associated with blocks of fields in the same ownership and smaller groups in the same occupancy. These blocks show no strong correlation with the HLC type and frequently cross its boundary regardless. However, around the church and down the east side of the valley below Hartridge and Dumpdon Hill both ownership and occupancy patterns show some fragmentation. It is not easy to account for this, though it can be observed that the southern end of this area is centred on the hamlet of Wick while Luppitt itself is at the centre of the larger northern part.

*Mineral extraction:* In Luppitt and Yarcombe parishes extensive areas of irregular enclosures contain a few sand and clay pits and large numbers of marl pits. The former are clearly sources of raw materials for building and manufacturing purposes. The latter are significant as a source of lime for improving poor and acidic soils, for which purpose marl has been used since at least Roman times. For further comments on marl see *Semi-irregular enclosures* below.

*Associated features:* The transcribed tithe data in the GIS shows that 'Mead' field names are widespread across the irregular enclosures in Luppitt. This element is indicative of meadow and pasture, and its frequency in these fields supports the inference that they could not be ploughed.

### **Semi-irregular enclosures** (eg Figure 7.7)

**Introduction:** Large areas of the Blackdowns valleys and the adjacent lowlands, especially in the west, are covered in a patchwork of fields which are neither highly irregular nor noticeably rectilinear in outline. The landscapes which these enclosures comprise are probably the least distinctive in the region, and visitors travelling through them are, perhaps, more likely to notice the surrounding hills than the fields nearer to hand.

**Definition:** A spectrum of field outlines from approximately rectilinear to irregularly polygonal, but generally lacking straight sides and 90 degree angles.

**Key characteristics:** This is the most variable type; typically located above flood plains and on undulating terrain; fields are often larger than 'irregular' type; boundaries variable, gently sinuous to curving, occasionally almost straight; polygonal outlines with some triangular and more or less rectangular shapes; 90 degree corners and parallel sides are rare; adjacent fields within the type are rarely of similar outline; roads narrow and winding to more gently curving; morphology of adjacent 'flood plain' fields is often identical.

**Interpretation:** Ancient to possibly late medieval enclosure; meadow, pasture or arable usage. This type probably includes a number of sub-types; further research would develop detail and differentiate sub-types.

#### **Descriptive analysis**

**Topography:** Semi-irregular enclosures are typically located on the lower valley sides and above the flood plains and steep valley bottoms, and are thus more likely to be found on gently undulating ground associated with the Keuper Marls which underlie most of the lower land in the Blackdown Hills AONB. In general the topography of this type is similar to that of irregular enclosures and in many areas the two are intermingled and blend into one another.

**Field morphology and boundaries:** As indicated above, the morphology of these enclosures is variable within a spectrum from fields whose outline is quite irregular to others which are little different to some intermediate fields (see **Intermediate enclosures** below). These fields with intermediate characteristics occur as small clusters surrounded by semi-irregular fields, for example south of Windsor Farm, Hemyock at ST 135 116 (Figure 7.7.2). Such fields are assigned to this type because their embeddedness implies that they are contemporaneous, despite their morphological resemblance to the intermediate type. Semi-irregular enclosures therefore form a heterogeneous group which, moreover, is morphologically identical to flood plain fields. It is thus possible that this type comprises sub-types whose characteristics are likely to relate to use rather than origin.

**Roads:** Roads within this type are typically narrow lanes which wind through the surrounding fields between high hedge banks. They tend to be wider than those of irregular enclosure, with more gentle,



sweeping curves and occasional straight sections. These characteristics result in these roads taking considerably more direct routes. For example the routes taken by roads in Combe Raleigh are, to modern eyes, more rational and practical than those of the lanes in Luppitt higher up the same valley.

*Settlements:* The majority of the larger nucleated settlements in the Blackdowns are associated with this type, including Hemyock, Upottery and Stockland, and many hamlets are similarly located, for example Millhayes, Hemyock (ST 140 140) and Heathstock, Stockland (ST 245 029). These aside, the predominant pattern consists of numerous farms dispersed across the countryside, though in some areas these appear to be more widely spaced than those amongst irregular enclosures. Mapping of chronological records of settlements within the western core study area (Figures 12.1 to 12.4) shows only the earliest documentary records of settlements which may already have been in existence for many centuries. It is clear, however that this character type was well settled by the fourteenth century, and probably long before that date.

*Woodland:* The extensive woodlands of the northern scarp and the north-east are associated with this HLC type, and small woods and coppices are scattered amongst it in the river valleys, as they are amongst irregular enclosures. Bearing in mind the observations made regarding the significance of woodland in medieval rural economies (see **Woodland**, *Associated features*, above), the close association between semi-irregular enclosures and woodland tends to support the notion that these are anciently enclosed landscapes.

*Land holding:* The existence on maps depicting tithe data of partially fragmented patterns of land ownership and tenure amongst semi-irregular fields in Hemyock and Clayhidon was mentioned above under *Irregular enclosures*. In Clayhidon these areas are centred on Palmer's Farm (ST 156 138) and Garlandhayes (ST 175 158), while in Hemyock a relatively large proportion of the parish exhibits this fragmentation. Similar areas of fragmented land holdings amongst semi-irregular enclosures can be found in Awliscombe and Luppitt. In other parishes for which tithe data were mapped there is no clear correlation between land ownership and tenure and areas of semi-irregular enclosures. This is clearly illustrated by Wambrook, which includes extensive areas of this type and where the land is owned and occupied in cohesive blocks, and this pattern extends across the parish regardless of the HLC type.

*Mineral extraction:* Old clay pits are widespread amongst semi-irregular enclosures, for example around Upottery, and early Ordnance Survey maps mark a number of disused chalk quarries west of Membury. By far the most widespread and common extractive features, however, are marl pits. This is significant because marl is a source of lime which, when applied to the surface, neutralises soil acidity and has the effect of stimulating bacterial activity, encouraging the breakdown of organic matter and releasing essential plant nutrients. The value of marl has been known in Britain since at least as early as the Roman occupation, since the elder Pliny refers to its use here (Havinden 1974, 109-110). The presence of marl pits demonstrates that the Keuper Marls which underlie much of the lower land in the Blackdowns were exploited for their beneficial agricultural properties, probably from an early date.

This may be significant not only to the past productivity of surrounding semi-irregular fields but also to the productivity of other areas (see **Intermediate enclosures**, below).

*Associated features:* The clusters of more regularly shaped fields embedded amongst semi-irregular enclosures (see *Field morphology* above) require some explanation. While fields of this HLC type often have straighter sides than irregular enclosures, the majority do not appear to be amenable to ploughing owing to the presence of awkward corners and the lack of parallel sides. In early periods overdependence by peasant farmers on trading livestock would have been a risky strategy, and it would have been desirable to cultivate crops both as animal feed and human sustenance. This would require land which could be ploughed, and it is suggested that the clusters of more regular fields represent the arable land of the farms with which they are associated.

### **Intermediate enclosures** (eg Figure 7.8)

*Introduction:* On high ground in the central parts of the Blackdowns are wide, open landscapes which are superficially similar to those of late enclosure. Long, relatively straight hedges with few trees enclose apparently rectangular fields and the roads are less winding and do not feel as enclosed as those in the valleys. However, the observant visitor may notice that these roads are neither so wide nor so straight as those amongst late enclosures, while large scale maps show that the fields are not, in fact, rigidly geometrical in outline.

*Definition:* Sub-rectangular fields located on relatively high ground.

*Key characteristics:* Typically located adjacent to late enclosures; fields frequently large; more or less rectangular shapes, some polygonal and triangular; boundaries curving to straight; few precise 90 degree angles but parallel sides are common; roads often narrow, varying in width and curving to more or less straight.

*Interpretation:* Medieval or possibly early modern enclosure; boundaries usually laid out by eye; former land use likely to be arable or convertible husbandry.

### **Descriptive analysis**

*Topography:* Fields of this type cover those parts of the plateau and uplands not occupied by late enclosure, with particularly extensive areas in Dunkeswell, Churchstanton and Otterford parishes.

*Field morphology and boundaries:* These fields are fairly variable in outline, ranging from almost geometric grids such as those to the south-west of Graddage Farm, Clayhidon (ST 170 165) to more complex networks of polygons like those to the west of Knightshayne Farm, Yarcombe (ST 239 105). However they share a number of characteristics. The fields tend to be relatively large with more or less straight sides, though these are rarely perfectly straight. Parallel sides and near-90 degree angles are common and obtuse angles are rare or absent. An aerial photograph taken in the 1940s (RAF: CPE/UK

1974 11/4/47 4300, Devon HER ref. 30/24), before hedges were routinely flailed, shows that in Luppitt around Windsor Farm (ST 158 066) the hedges of intermediate enclosure are little different from those surrounding late enclosures to the west, but are markedly less substantial than those enclosing adjoining irregular fields to the east. Another photograph from the same series (RAF: CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 4084, Devon HER ref. 22/61) shows an area around Wiltown, Clayhidon (Figure 7.8.12: ST 172 165). Here there is a similar contrast with the hedges surrounding semi-irregular fields to the east and south of a block of intermediate enclosures. In both cases it is reasonable to infer that the boundaries of the intermediate fields are of more recent origin than those of the irregular and semi-irregular enclosures.

*Roads:* Roads associated with intermediate enclosures typically follow direct routes with only gentle curves, but close scrutiny of early Ordnance Survey 6 inches to 1 mile maps shows that they vary considerably in width and rarely have exactly parallel sides. Motorists entering one of these landscapes after driving through late enclosure will notice a very marked change in the character of the road as they cross the boundary. Relatively straight roads following direct routes and roughly straight-sided fields in polygonal networks suggest a degree of planning in the landscape of intermediate enclosures. Planning of the road network seems particularly likely in the case of Churchingford in Churchstanton parish. Here six roads diverge from the centre of this small nucleated settlement at almost exact 60 degree intervals, and while one goes to the local mill, the other five all run out to surrounding areas of late enclosure and thence to the heads of the main river valleys and towards Wellington and Taunton.

*Settlements:* Very few hamlets occur within this type, but rather more are situated on its boundary with semi-irregular enclosures, for example Clayhidon and Sheldon. The only significant nucleated settlements associated with intermediate landscapes are Dunkeswell and Churchingford. The latter sits within fields of this type, while Dunkeswell is at the head of a narrow band of semi-irregular enclosures and sloping valley bottom which extends into a wide area of intermediate enclosures. Dunkeswell is therefore better considered as relating to this landscape. Each of these communities occupies a more or less central location in a large area of upland. The Somerset HER listing for a chapel at Churchingford (PRN 43176) notes that it is close to Fairfield Farm, which takes its name from a fair which was held there until the 1880s. Although it was stated above under **Sloping valley bottoms** that medieval rural economies were geared more to subsistence than trade, this does not mean that trade did not exist. In fact, the extensive upland pasture in the Blackdown Hills could have sustained far more sheep than would be required locally, and trade was probably important to the region. If Churchingford fair was of some antiquity it might explain the seemingly planned form of the community and its remote location as a centre for trading wool and stock raised on the extensive former commons. No evidence has been found of a similar origin for Dunkeswell, which has a parish church rather than a chapel, but a similarly mercantile origin can not be ruled out. Whatever its origin, a settlement existed at Dunkeswell in 1259 since the church was dedicated in that year (Orme 1996, 155).

*Woodland:* Very few small woods and coppices of the sort associated with irregular and semi-irregular HLC types occur amongst intermediate enclosures and woodland generally rarely exists within this type. In Sheldon a belt of woodland on the steep plateau edge is sandwiched between intermediate fields, and Bywood Farm, Dunkeswell (ST 162 088) is near the apex of a truncated triangular wood which extends from semi-irregular enclosures up a steep combe. A triangular field between Bywood farm buildings and the wood is at the head of the combe and was probably originally a part of the wood. Similarly, an area of intermediate fields known as Staple Lawns (around ST 245 185) appears to have been cleared at some time from Staple Park Wood.

*Land holding:* Apart from Dunkeswell, where the tithe map shows only a restricted area, Clayhidon has the largest area of intermediate fields amongst the parishes for which this project has prepared maps depicting tithe data. A detached portion within Hemyock and an extensive area north and east of the church were owned and occupied in blocks. In contrast, adjacent areas north-east of Wiltown and between Wiltown and Garlandhayes exhibit an intermixed pattern. Another large area in the south of the parish around Mays Farm (ST 175 102) has a similarly fragmented pattern which runs into an adjacent area of semi-irregular fields to the north. The fragmented pattern at Wiltown occurs in an area of elongated rectilinear fields, and similar groups of fields are widespread amongst intermediate enclosures (see *Associated features*, below).

*Mineral extraction:* Ordnance Survey maps record very few extractive workings within this type.

*Associated features:* Although they are not located within this type, the numerous marl pits occurring amongst semi-irregular enclosures may have played a significant role in the origin and development of intermediate enclosures. The majority of these fields have more or less straight and frequently parallel boundaries, and in many places extensive blocks have elongated rectilinear shapes. This might happen because this is a rational and simple way to divide up an expanse of land. Alternatively it might be that the fields were laid out with a view to ploughing. Whichever of these suggestions is closest to the truth, the outcome is a system of fields whose shapes facilitate cultivation and minimise unusable corners. Situated as they are on high ground with a clay with flints substrate, the soil in these fields will tend to be wet and acidic and would therefore benefit from periodic applications of lime. This mineral is available in the form of marl in most of the river valleys and a source is never far from any area of intermediate fields. Even if the fields were never ploughed, their productivity as pasture would also have been improved by a dressing of marl. It is therefore suggested that the success of the intermediate enclosures was dependent on marling and that they thus owe their existence to the geology and topography of the Blackdowns.

Evidence for arable cultivation may exist in the widespread occurrence of small clusters of more or less elongated fields embedded amongst intermediate enclosures. For example in Sheldon at ST 112 083 early Ordnance Survey maps show a single small cluster of wide strip-shaped fields. These have the appearance of having been designed to facilitate ploughing. Moreover, strips in the Sheldon cluster were owned by three individuals in a fragmented pattern in the nineteenth century (see Figure

14.15), suggesting that this was a relic of a small open field. Similarly north-east of Wiltown in Clayhidon maps depicting tithe data show several clusters of more or less strip shaped fields in the intermixed ownership of five individuals (Figure 14.3). In this example the Tithe Map shows a line of narrow fields on the north margin and at 90 degrees to the cluster, one of which was still present *c.*1900 and is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 6 inches to 1 mile map. The tithe data show that this field (number 65 in the Tithe Apportionment) was called Headlands. The name, shape and disposition of this field relative to the others are consistent with its having been part of a band, known as the headland, at the head of the strips in an open field in which the plough could be turned. In this case the open field was of very limited extent and evidently only worked by five farmers, a very different situation to true open field which covered a large part of, and was worked by all the tenants of a manor or parish.

### **Enclosed strip fields** (eg Figure 7.9)

**Introduction:** A glance at the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of Combe St Nicholas, most of which lies beyond the eastern margin of the Blackdown Hills AONB, shows a landscape made up of parcels of long, curving strip-shaped fields. These are clearly derived from the enclosure of strips from an open field system at some point in the past, and their presence raises the question: Did open field exist in the Blackdown Hills?

**Definition:** Clusters of long, frequently curving fields associated with further clusters usually having different orientations.

**Key characteristics:** Strip-shaped fields with more or less parallel sides; fields occur in parallel clusters, adjacent clusters usually have a different orientation; strips are usually curved, but may be straight; dog-legs occasionally present in long boundaries; some fields within a cluster may be wider than others.

**Interpretation:** Former open field arable in which rotation of strips has been abandoned and the strips enclosed by agreement amongst their tenants or by act of parliament. Where a tenant has been able to acquire adjacent fields they may have been amalgamated and enclosed as a single, wider strip.

### **Descriptive analysis**

**Topography:** Where they occur these fields are on hill slopes and lower ground, but not on hill tops or flood plains. The topography of the extensive area of these fields in Combe St Nicholas (eg Figure 7.9.1) is undulating and in places relatively steep, and is identical to that of parishes in the east of the Blackdowns, as is the geology. It is therefore, perhaps, not surprising that most of the fields of this type identified within the AONB are in this area. It must be emphasised, however, that within the Blackdowns systems of enclosed strip fields are nowhere as extensive as that in Combe St Nicholas. It is thus curious that the system identified in the adjacent parish of Whitestaunton is so restricted, and that none has been found in topographically identical parishes such as Buckland St Mary. The largest system within the region is located in a straight valley at Membury (eg Figure 7.9.2).

*Field morphology and boundaries:* The type example is the small fragment of the Combe St Nicholas system within the AONB around ST 293 130. Removal of boundaries has simplified this area today, but early Ordnance Survey 6 inch maps show a row of parallel strips to the north-east and two further rows of wider strips adjacent to the south-west, some of which are curved. At Wilmington, Offwell parish a small system includes curved, straight and amalgamated strips, and in Awliscombe three small clusters are part of a much larger system, most of which lies outside the AONB. The largest system within the region is at Membury, where rows of parallel strips run ladder-like up the valley in which the community is situated. This system is thus different to the norm in that the majority of strips have the same orientation. This may be a result of the topographical location in a long, straight valley.

*Roads:* Roads associated with enclosed strips do not possess any particular characteristics, though it can be observed that they conform to the boundaries of the strips.

*Settlements:* All of these systems are associated with more or less nucleated settlements. The clusters of strips in Awliscombe and Combe St Nicholas parishes are fragments of large systems associated with correspondingly large nucleations. The remaining areas are associated with smaller communities at Northay (Whitestaunton), Churchill (Chardstock), Membury and Wilmington (Offwell). These systems of strip fields cover relatively restricted areas in keeping with the small size of the communities with which they are associated.

*Woodland:* Within the Blackdown Hills AONB woodland is not directly associated with strip fields.

*Land holding:* A few small clusters of enclosed strips in that part of Awliscombe which lies within the AONB are associated with more extensive enclosed strips beyond the AONB boundary and are embedded amongst semi-irregular enclosures. Maps depicting tithe data (Figures 14.1 and 14.2) show these strips and the associated semi-irregular fields to be in the ownership and tenure of a small number of individuals whose holdings are strongly intermixed. Close examination of the semi-irregular fields immediately adjacent to these strips suggests that they could have been formed by the amalgamation and enclosure of several strips. It is suggested that these fields represent the relics of an open field system in Awliscombe which was enclosed at some point in the past, preserving the fragmented holdings of the former tenants. Subsequent exchanges and sales of land may have resulted in the relatively small number of individuals holding land in the nineteenth century and the incidence of adjacent strips in the same holding. The only other area of enclosed strips for which this research has collected and mapped tithe data is Whitestaunton (Figures 14.19 and 14.20). Here there was a restricted area of strips in the north-east of the parish which were in consolidated ownership but rather more fragmented tenure. There is no evidence to suggest that other fields in the parish were formed from the amalgamation of strips. This area is adjacent to the hamlet of Northay and it is probable that the strip fields represent a small area of arable worked in common by its inhabitants.

*Mineral extraction:* The only mineral extraction associated with strip fields is at Membury where early Ordnance Survey maps mark a number of chalk quarries strung out along the valley amongst the strips. Aerial photographs of the area (RAF: CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 2431, 2429, 2428, Devon HER ref. 31/66, 31/68, 31/69) show that these quarries interrupt the field boundaries, and therefore post-date the fields. Furthermore, many of the quarry sides have collapsed to form grassed over depressions, implying that the quarries have been abandoned for a considerable time, thus the original strips must have been enclosed at a relatively early date.

Like marl, chalk is a source of lime, and if the chalk from the quarries was sufficiently soft it may have been applied directly to the soil in the same way as marl. If not it would have required burning in kilns and processing to make powdered lime, a technique which is not likely to have been practiced in the area before c.1600 when there is an early reference to lime-burning at Axmouth (Havinden 1974, 114). The quarries may still be older than this date since lime in its pure form, though not used agriculturally, was widely employed as a render on cob and other buildings and in mortar for stone and brick structures.

*Associated features:* Besides the enclosed strips, large areas of semi-irregular fields exist in Awliscombe which can not be derived from the amalgamation of strips. Therefore the classic Midland medieval system of open field arable with common pasture and meadow can not have been the only form of land management in the parish. Some of the semi-irregular areas were in fragmented holdings and others more consolidated in the nineteenth century. It is not inconceivable that the fragmented holdings were managed on a rotation system between a number of commoners, but no evidence exists for such an arrangement and it is probably safer to assume that all of these fields have always been held in severalty. It is worth noting that one of the researchers on this project found a similar system of mixed open field and holdings in severalty at Kenton on the west bank of the Exe estuary (Wainwright, 2006).

In reply to the question at the beginning of this section, open field in its fully developed form only existed on the margins of the region at Combe St Nicholas. A large area of open field existed at Awliscombe together with some land which was not managed in this way. The enclosed strips at Chardstock, Membury, Whitestaunton and Wilmington occupy restricted areas and are closely associated with intermediate and semi-irregular fields in a way which suggests that in these parishes or manors small open field systems co-existed with other ways of tenancing and working the land. It is probable that small areas of strips existed elsewhere and these are discussed under **Intermediate enclosures**, above.

### **Ornamental landscapes** (eg Figure 7.10)

*Introduction:* Ornamental landscapes will be familiar to many people as parklands and extended gardens surrounding large country houses. In most cases these are no older than c.1700, but designed landscapes with an ornamental value are known to have existed since medieval times. None of these has been identified in the Blackdown Hills, and only a small number of restricted areas have been assigned to this type.

**Definition:** Designed landscapes consisting of gardens or parkland usually surrounding a large house. Land characterised on Ordnance Survey maps by a stipple convention.

**Key characteristics:** Stipple convention on Ordnance Survey maps; landscape features such as roads and field boundaries frequently show evidence of alteration or have been removed.

**Interpretation:** Designed landscapes associated with elite residences maintained principally for their amenity or aesthetic value.

**Descriptive analysis**

**Topography:** This type tends to be located on lower ground, though not on flood plains.

**Field morphology and boundaries:** In most cases morphology and boundaries have been altered and reflect meanings inherent in the parkland, not the historic landscape it has replaced.

**Roads:** Not applicable.

**Settlements:** Settlements consist of a large house, sometimes with associated housing for servants.

**Woodland:** Most of these areas incorporate areas of woodland plantation maintained partly for economic and partly for aesthetic reasons.

**Land holding:** It can be expected that these landscapes were owned and occupied by the same individuals, who are also likely to have been major landowners in the locality.

**Mineral extraction:** Not applicable.

**Associated features:** Not applicable.



## 4. Land management, ownership and occupancy

### Introduction

Work elsewhere has shown that patterns of land ownership and occupancy can shed light on past management of the landscape (eg Rippon 2004). The earliest occasion at which we can map land ownership and occupancy over large areas is using the Tithe surveys of c.1840. Within the Blackdown Hills these were studied for two sample areas: a block on nine parishes in the west (Figures 13.1-2, 14.1-16: Awliscombe, Buckerell, Clayhidon, Combe Raleigh, Dunkeswell, Hemyock, Luppitt, Monkton and Sheldon), and two in the east (Figures 14.17-20: Wambroke and Whitestaunton). The mapping of this data provides a vast amount of potential information, although as phase 1 of this project only provided the resources for part of the study area to be mapped, conclusions must be provisional.

In the following discussion the landscape is divided into three areas: the lowland valleys, areas of 'intermediate enclosure', and areas of 'late enclosure'. It was observed above that the 'unenclosed land' and 'late enclosure' historic landscape types occupy land which is or was common land, that is land which was technically owned by the lord of the manor but on which other individuals, known as commoners, had certain rights. In the Blackdowns the most important of these was pasture, but turbary (turf and peat), soil (mineral extraction) and estovers (partial rights to wood) were also probably significant. A glance at the historic landscape analysis map (Figure 6) shows that 'unenclosed land' and 'late enclosure', and therefore former commons, cover a considerable proportion of the region. Another large area is covered by 'flood plain', 'sloping valley bottoms', 'woodland', 'irregular enclosures', 'semi-irregular enclosures' and 'enclosed strip fields', which can be collectively considered as lowland types. Finally, the historic landscape analysis map shows large areas of fields which have been characterised as 'intermediate' and which tend to be situated between the lowland types and the upland commons. The following discussion considers patterns of land ownership and occupancy within and across these types.

### Lowland historic landscape types

Evidence for land management practices similar to the classic Midland medieval system of open field arable with common meadow and pasture is scant. A fragment of former open field exists in the east of the AONB and is part of Combe St Nicholas parish, most of which is beyond the boundary. Elsewhere, small areas of enclosed strips co-exist with fields whose outlines indicate that they are unlikely to be derived from enclosure of larger areas of open field. In these parishes or manors, land appears to have been held partly in common and partly in severalty. The commonly held land represented by the enclosed strips is a very small fraction of the total area of the parish, and it can be inferred that the norm for lowland areas was for land to be held in severalty and either occupied by its owner or rented to tenants.

In many parishes covered by the detailed analysis of tithe records mapping of this data shows that a small number of individuals owned most of the land, and that this was either leased out or managed personally by them. This was the case in Combe Raleigh and Monkton, and in Whitestaunton

a single individual owned most of the parish. Conversely, in parishes such as Hemyock, Clayhidon and Luppitt the maps show numerous landowners holding land in blocks and, in certain areas, in fragmented patterns. The pattern of land occupancy in these parishes is broadly similar to that of ownership – in that areas of fragmented ownership obviously had fragmented occupancy – though in areas of compact ownership there is a more varied picture with some areas farmed directly by the landowner and others leased to one, or more usually many, tenants. Furthermore, the 1841 census data for Luppitt (available online at [www.luppitt.net](http://www.luppitt.net)) shows that in this case at least many of the landowners did not live in the parish.

Numerous examples of farms sharing a common name element have been found by this research (see **Settlement typology**). In some cases, for example Higher, Lower and Little Shelvin, Luppitt (around ST 161 047), tithe data reveal that in the 1840s these were owned by a single landlord and leased or rented separately. Conversely, Great and Little Garlandhayes, Clayhidon (ST 173 159) were in different ownership but worked by a single tenant. The single ownership of the Shelvins suggests that some of these groupings arose by sub-division of larger estates. This would imply that at some point in the past a change in circumstances such as improvements in agricultural practices or an economic boom enabled the same area of land to support more families than it had done previously.

Inspection of the maps depicting land occupancy in the 1840s (derived from tithe apportionment data) shows that where holdings were in blocks, as opposed to fragmented, these tended to be of broadly similar size. This can be clearly seen on the map depicting the whole western detailed study area (Figure 13.2). Holdings in Monkton, Luppitt and parts of Combe Raleigh and Awliscombe are of much the same extent as a rather smaller number of consolidated holdings in Hemyock and Clayhidon in the north. Holdings in the eastern centre of this map appear to be somewhat larger, and it is worth noting that these include a high proportion of intermediate enclosures. It is probable that the size of these holdings reflects the amount of land required to support a family and, perhaps, a servant or two at the time when these tenurial patterns were established. It is unlikely that this reflects conscious planning, rather it is a pattern that evolved through the necessity of the tenants to make a living and the landlords to receive their rent.

Areas of fragmented holdings occur amongst semi-irregular enclosures on land adjacent to the River Wolf in Awliscombe and to the River Culm in Clayhidon. In Luppitt a zone of fragmented ownership and occupancy of irregular and semi-irregular fields runs down the valley. These areas imply that in the past individuals within these parishes acquired meadow lands associated with the watercourses, either by opportunistic buying and selling, mutual arrangement or the enclosure of what had been a common resource. However, the zone in Luppitt also extends up the hillside around the church and onto an area of intermediate enclosures (see below), while an area of irregular and semi-irregular fields with fragmented landholding exists on similarly relatively steep ground around Madford, Hemyock (ST 145 111). The fragmented landholding in these zones is more difficult to explain. They may have arisen through sub-division of estates (eg through inheritance), the sale of some of the land of a farmstead, or through abandonment of a tenement and its division by the lord of the manor.

### **Intermediate enclosures HLC type**

Amongst the maps depicting tithe data for selected parishes prepared during this project, Clayhidon has the largest area of intermediate enclosures. The Tithe map/award shows that in the 1840s large areas of this type in the north and south of the parish were owned and occupied in compact blocks, a pattern which clearly would have favoured efficient working of the land attached to each holding. In contrast, a fairly extensive area around Wiltown (ST 173 165) in the north and a smaller area around May's Farm (ST 175 102) in the south exhibit patterns of fragmented and intermixed holdings. Like the similar zones amongst semi-irregular enclosures discussed above, in some instances these might be the outcome of sub-division through inheritance, abandonment or sale. However, in other cases another origin is more likely. A group of fields to the south of Wiltown are markedly strip shaped, and others in this area have long rectangular outlines which are sometimes divided into shorter rectangles. The shapes of these fields strongly suggest that they were designed for arable use and the mapping of tithe data shows that those to the north-east of Wiltown were divided apparently randomly between five owners. An adjacent block of strip shaped fields associated with Garlandhayes is also divided amongst a different group of owners. The shapes of the fields and their fragmented ownership patterns suggest that they may be derived from small areas of open field divided amongst a few holdings, in this case associated with the hamlets of Wiltown and Garlandhayes. Similar clusters of strip shaped fields embedded amongst intermediate enclosures are widespread, and at Sheldon ownership is intermixed and associated with a somewhat fragmented pattern in a wider area of intermediate fields. The extent of these former common fields needs further research.

Returning to Clayhidon, the intermediate fields around May's Farm are not strip shaped, but they do possess more or less parallel boundaries, some of which are gently curved. Arable use is therefore likely for these fields, even though there is no direct evidence that they originated as a form of open field. This settlement is amongst intermediate fields but very close to the boundary with an area of semi-irregular fields. Assuming that the Domesday manor was on the same site as Hole Farm this implies that the intermediate fields were present by that date. The same argument applies to the intermediate fields around Bywood Farm (ST 162 088), which was also a Domesday manor. Interestingly, the fragmented pattern of land holding at May's Farm continues into the adjacent semi-irregular fields. This settlement and Bywood, then, might repay further research aimed at establishing the origin of the fields, the nature of their association with the manors and former land use and tenurial practices. It should be emphasised that while a date is suggested for the intermediate fields at these locations, it can not be assumed that all fields of this type are of a similar age since field morphology is variable within the type. Some groups of fields in the north of Clayhidon, for example, are considerably more regular and rectilinear than those around Mays Farm.

### **Late enclosure HLC type**

In most instances mapping of tithe data shows that land holdings within the late enclosure type are predominantly in coherent blocks typified by those in Wambrook. Such a distribution would have been more convenient to work, and this research found evidence that enclosure commissioners overseeing the enactment of Inclosure Awards attempted to accommodate the wishes of the recipients of

allotments. In Monkton blocks of late enclosure were held by a small number of individuals, some of whom did not own land elsewhere in the parish. These may represent holdings awarded to tenants who lost rights to the resources of the common when it was enclosed, in this case presumably by agreement since there is no Inclosure Award. Locating where these tenements were based would allow a fascinating insight into the functioning of these former commons. In Sheldon the late enclosure is also in blocks, apart from a line of roughly square plots in mixed ownership. No explanation has been found for these, though it might be that they were intended as building plots for housing which was never constructed. In the north of Clayhidon the pattern is at first sight more fragmented than is the norm, but close inspection shows that this impression is in part due to the existence of a small number of scattered fields evidently allotted to individuals who did not own land elsewhere in the parish.

### **Discussion**

In the 1840s patterns of land holding within the lowland HLC types tended to be in relatively compact blocks although this tendency was more strongly expressed in some parishes than others. Amongst these coherent estates, however, were areas with markedly more fragmented landownership/occupancy patterns, some of which were probably associated with meadow land. Areas of intermediate enclosures exhibited a similarly contradictory pattern, though it appears that some of the fragmented areas of landownership/occupancy were associated not with meadows but with former arable and possibly small open fields. Late enclosure was predominantly held in coherent blocks.

Assuming that the patterns emerging from tithe data reflect those of earlier centuries, the predominance of land held in coherent blocks in the lowland and intermediate landscapes might be thought consistent with a dispersed settlement pattern comprising small farms working land held in severalty. However, the presence of coexisting areas of fragmented ownership and occupancy demonstrates either that this was not necessarily the case, or that not all land was so held. While it would clearly be more convenient for a farmer to work his land if it was all adjacent to his house, convenience may not have been the only deciding factor in where he held his land. For example, he might want some land near the river as a source of hay, some on the best soil for cultivation of crops, some sheltered pasture, and some on higher ground for use in summer to allow the sheltered pasture to recover before autumn. Clearly in order to achieve this he would either need to hold extensive lands, or fields scattered in various places across his immediate surroundings. The blocks observed in the tithe data may, then, represent the ancient estates of larger landowners which covered enough territory to include land of all types, or they may result from land exchanges and acquisitions in later centuries aimed at building up such estates. Scattered holdings in a fragmented pattern may be the fields which belonged to smaller farmers. This is speculative, and a number of alternative explanations could be proposed. This highlights the fact that nothing is known for certain about the origins of these patterns and there is considerable scope for further research.

## 5. Settlement typology commentary

### Introduction

The settlement typology of the Blackdown Hills AONB, created as part of the Living Past project, and reflecting the settlement as shown on the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1 inch to 1 mile, has highlighted a number of trends. Nucleated settlements comprise three key types: large nucleations such as Upottery and Stockland, smaller nucleations such as Churchingford and Whitestaunton as well as service nucleations such as Luppitt and Monkton. In addition to these types of nucleated settlements, the compact and loose hamlets found across the AONB are also of relevance. Within the AONB as a whole there are also many farmsteads spread across the region although there is a clear tendency for these to be located on the sides and floors of valleys rather than on the plateau areas, which prior to the enclosure in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were open commons. The criteria employed in attributing settlements across the Blackdowns to a particular type have been detailed in 'Sources and methodology: settlement typology' above.

### Nucleated and hamlet settlement

The distribution of nucleated settlement is roughly even across the Blackdown Hills, from north to south and east to west, and forms only a small part of the otherwise highly dispersed settlement pattern. The general distribution is constrained by the topography of the region, and as can be seen, there are no nucleated settlements that occur on the high plateau landscapes. As Figure 9.1 shows, there is a keen tendency for nucleated settlement and hamlets to be located on the sides of valleys and in some cases at the heads of valleys and combs, rather than on the valley floors (see below). Within this general pattern there are examples that sit closer to the upper edges of the valley slopes than others, the hamlet at Clayhidon for example, and as will be seen, many of these places were amongst the earliest recorded, often in Domesday. Although some parishes are without a nucleated settlement of Types 1-3, it can be seen that where this is the case, there is, without exception, at least one hamlet within the parish, although there are frequently two or three, in Luppitt, Clayhidon, Sheldon and Otterford for example. With the exception of Churchingford, there is little evidence to suggest that any of the nucleated settlements developed in a non-organic way, that is, the morphology of Churchingford, organised around a radial road pattern, indicates that it is a planned settlement. Churchingford is first recorded in a Charter of 1386 as *Suthchurchamford* (Gover *et al.* 1932, 619), and in its historic form, the village would not appear to be significantly earlier. There is the potential that given the lack of ordinary habitative elements, service nucleations may have had an aspect of planning although it is not surprising that service functions would have accumulated in the same place as they would have been mutually beneficial.

The locations of nucleated and hamlet settlement on the valley slopes and at their heads largely coincides with the semi-irregular landscape character type. In some areas there is a tendency for nucleated, and to a lesser degree hamlet settlement, to occur on the boundary between semi-irregular and intermediate landscape types, in the Culm and Yarty valleys for example. Along the northern edge of the Blackdown Hills AONB semi-irregular fields abut the late and unenclosed landscapes of the high

ridge and here nucleated and hamlet settlement occurs further downslope within the semi-irregular type. Although it was remarked above that these settlements do not tend to lie within the valley bottoms, a number buck this trend and sit in such locations. Hemyock is located at approximately 140m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) whilst downslope the valley floor, containing the River Culm, is 110m AOD. The steep scarp above Hemyock runs between 240/250m and 190/200m AOD. As can be seen, Upottery is also located further down the valley side adjacent to the flood plain landscape type associated with the River Otter. Elsewhere, it is more common for nucleated and hamlet settlement to sit further upslope, Clayhidon, at 230m AOD for example. Although Dunkeswell sits at the same elevation as Clayhidon, it is noticeable that the settlement here sits at the very head of the Madford River, deep within the uplands. In comparison to other nucleated settlements, it would be expected that Dunkeswell would have occupied a position further down-valley. The reasons behind Dunkeswell's anomalous location are not obvious, for it is not even apparent that it served a dispersed settlement pattern all around. The majority of farmsteads within the parish are also located further north on lower ground.

### **Farmstead settlement**

There are in excess of 600 farms mapped on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6 inches to 1 mile mapping. Collectively these farms form Types 6, 7 and 8 of the AONB settlement typology. As has been outlined in 'Sources and methodology: settlement typology' above, Type 6 farms are adjacent, with or without a common name element. Type 7 farms share a similar name element but are spread further apart. The majority of farms do not have these links, and are categorised as 'Other farms', Type 8.

The distribution of farms across the Blackdowns is markedly even, and shows that although there is a nucleated element to the settlement hierarchy of this upland landscape, a dispersed pattern predominated. Where farmstead settlement occurs (see below for regional variation of density), there is a marked regularity in their spacing. Farms are commonly spaced between 400 and 600m apart in areas of lowland landscape type, as exemplified by the string of farms surrounding Bolham Hill in Clayhidon. This spacing is common to each of the valleys that incise the Blackdowns; throughout the valleys of the Culm, Otter and Yarty. The regularity in this dispersal implies that many farms held a similar amount of land in the surrounding landscape, although it is only through a study of ownership and occupancy that this can be further proven. A survey of Tithe occupancy in the detailed study area showed that where blocks of occupancy prevailed, they were indeed of a similar size (see **Land Ownership and Occupancy**).

As can be seen on Figure 9.2, there is a clear tendency for farmstead settlement to be located within Irregular and Semi-irregular landscape types, corresponding with the valley slopes and floors, although it is noticeable that no farmsteads occur within either flood plain or sloping valley bottom types, a result of their physical and landuse restrictions (see **HLC Types**). In addition, the plateau areas, corresponding with late enclosure and unenclosed landscape types, are also bereft of farmstead settlement. Sandwiched between these contrasting landscape types, essentially the valley bottom and slopes versus the higher plateau, with dense and sparse settlement respectively; there are often areas of intermediate landscape type. This type is found upon the lower plateau and rarely bears settlement.

However, it is clear that there are a significant number of farms that sit directly on the junction of the irregular and semi-irregular landscapes with the intermediate type, and more generally between upland and lowland landscape types. A brief count of this phenomenon in within the western core study area demonstrated that a little over half of all marked settlement types were located on the boundary between two landscape character types, a sufficient proportion to suggest that this may be significant. It may be suggested that based on the correlation these farms can be linked with specific phases of landscape enclosure and exploitation, with farms perhaps located on the junction between enclosed and unenclosed landscapes at a particular point in time. Upon closer inspection of some farms that are located on the boundary between landscape character types, notably between irregular/semi-irregular and intermediate types, a distinction between farms that actually sit within the irregular/semi-irregular and those sitting in the intermediate types can be made. For example, Yard Farm (ST 153 053) and Mounstephen's Farm (ST 165 069) in Luppitt parish sit on this boundary but are located on the edge but within the irregular landscape. Conversely, Overday Farm (ST 166 076) and Gullylane Farm (ST 173 087), also in Luppitt and along the same boundary between irregular and intermediate landscapes, sit just within the intermediate type and are probably associated with its creation. When combined with the evidence of place-name origins, it is possible to suggest the possible antiquity of areas of different landscape types. For example, Bywood Farm, Dunkeswell (ST 162 088) and Hole Farm, Clayhidon (ST 169 111) are each on the boundary between landscape types but actually sit within intermediate landscapes. Both of these places have records in Domesday (see **Place-name chronology** below) suggesting that these intermediate areas were in exploited/enclosed by 1086. As it is believed that the intermediate landscapes were a later development to both irregular and semi-irregular areas, it is possible that the latter are at least early medieval in origin.

The location of farms on the boundary between character types, and the observation that these farms relate to either one type or the other can be furthered. Although the pattern and significance of paired and triple farms with common name elements, as well as adjacent farms with different elements, there are paired farms that lay immediately adjacent to each other but do not have a common name element that sit on the boundary between the irregular/semi-irregular and intermediate types. In some of these cases it is clear that one farm is located within the irregular/semi-irregular landscape whilst the second sits within the intermediate. It should be noted that the distance separating these farms may be as little as a roads width, but when it is taken that the road marks the division between types, the distinction is significant. Examples where this can be seen are Calhay's Farm (ST 164 069) and Mountstephen's Farm (ST 165 069), Luppitt, which sit across the road from one another, but in intermediate and irregular landscapes respectively, as well as Burrow's Farm (ST 168 106) and Crosses Hole Farm (ST 168 107) in Clayhidon (intermediate and semi-irregular respectively).

In addition to the plateau environments, there are also noticeable gaps in the north-east of the AONB, around Staple Fitzpaine, as well as on the eastern edge to the north of Chardstock. The former is likely to be explained by the original extent of Neroche Forest in this area whilst the lack of farms in the area north of Chardstock can be explained by the presence of the nucleated village settlements and open-fields of both Chard and Combe St Nicholas.

The phenomenon of farms with common name elements, seemingly divided holdings, is not peculiar to the Blackdown Hills, is observed across much of England. Within the AONB there is no particular spatial patterning to these farm groups, with their distribution reflecting the overall pattern of farms as a whole. This said there is a greater density of paired or triple farms within the Yarty watershed than can be seen in either the catchments of the Rivers Culm or Otter. A further observation is that in the Yarty catchment, a larger proportion of the identified examples are closer to the Rivers Yarty and Corry Brook, as can be seen in Stockland and Yarcombe. In the Culm and Otter catchments there is a tendency for these divided holdings to occur further upslope. Although it is highly likely that these common names denote the division of land holdings, the processes by which this occurs is not fully understood, and it is only possible to say that it is likely that factors such as partible inheritance, land pressures, and the enclosure of common may be influential. In particular, the latter resulted in a greater proportion of land held in severalty. It is worth noting that the string of related farms that run along Corry Brook in Stockland lay in close proximity to late enclosure (former common) along Stockland Hill a little to the west. Other examples can be seen in close proximity to late enclosed and unenclosed land, notably along the northern ridge of the Blackdowns, although the juxtaposition of this landscape type and divided holdings is too infrequent to draw any overall conclusions. What can be observed is that along with many farmsteads as a whole, there is a predisposition for these holdings to be situated on the boundary between semi-irregular irregular landscape types and the intermediate zones. This may suggest that if associated with the establishment of enclosures on former open land, these divided holdings may originate at a similar date to the creation of some intermediate field systems.

## **6. Place-name evidence and the chronology of settlement**

As part of the detailed analysis of the core study area in the western half of the Blackdown Hills AONB the first recorded date associated with places recorded in the Devon place-names volumes (Gover *et al.* 1931; 1932) were mapped (see Figures 11.1-11.4). As can be seen, there are 15 manors recorded in Domesday and all but four of these (Hemyock, Culm Davy, Bolham and Mohun's Ottery) sit in plateau edge locations. As previously discussed, a number of these places are associated with intermediate type landscape, Sheldon (Sheldon), Bywood (Luppitt) and Hole (Clayhidon) for example. It is striking that by 1086 settlement was evenly spread across these western parishes, with the implication that this would have been the case over the whole of the Blackdowns (with the exception of open plateau environments). The impression given by the number of settlements recorded by 1348 is that new settlements were established within the existing framework: a process of internal colonisation. Later developments appear to have extended this process and when the extent of places recorded by 1700 is compared to the mapping of settlement typology based on 1880s OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition, it is clear that the majority of settlement was present by the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The most notable exception to this is a possible increase in farm density to the south of Bolham Hill, and an increased number of farms in Monkton and between Dunkeswell and Sheldon. It is possible that these differences are simply reflected by the limitations of documentary sources and that farms in these areas were in existence by the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



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## **Definitions**

**Assart:** An enclosure from woodland, common or waste made by an individual, normally sanctioned by the lord of the manor.

**Convertible husbandry:** An agricultural practice whereby land was ploughed and cropped for two or three seasons and then returned to pasture for a number of years.

**Enclosure:** The act of surrounding a piece of land with a hedge, wall or fence; a piece of land which has been enclosed.

**Estovers:** The common right to take dead, fallen and small wood for fuel and other purposes.

**Inclosure:** A legal process applied to common lands resulting in the extinction of common rights, the allotment of land to individuals and the enclosure of these allotments.

**Severalty:** The holding of land on a permanent and exclusive basis, as distinct from in common or on a rotational basis in open field.

**Turbary:** The common right to cut turf or peat for fuel.

## **Abbreviations**

AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

DRO: Devon Record Office

HER: Historic Environment Record

HLC: Historic landscape characterisation

SRO: Somerset Record Office

## **Sources and Bibliography**

### ***Documentary archives***

DRO: 50M/ I1-4 – Agreement between Marwood Tucker, Callard and freeholders of Stockland to destroy enclosures on commons and prevent new ones, 1765.

DRO: 346M/ M255-263 – Bundle of documents including surveyor's notes regarding encroachments on commons in Yarcombe, n.d., late 18<sup>th</sup>-century.

DRO: 1669M/ E1 – Map of manor of Chardstock, 1781.

DRO: 2729Z/ E3 – Map of Sheldon, 1831.

DRO: Awliscombe Tithe Map and Apportionment, c.1840.

DRO: Clayhidon Tithe Map and Apportionment, c.1840.

DRO: Combe Raleigh Tithe Map and Apportionment, c.1840.

DRO: D361A/ PZ1 – Dunkeswell Inclosure Award, 1818.

DRO: D 1428 – Stockland Inclosure Award, 1828.

DRO: Dunkeswell Tithe Map and Apportionment, c.1840.

DRO: Hemyock Tithe Map and Apportionment, c.1840.

DRO: IA 5 – Uppottery Inclosure Award, 1874.

DRO: IA 10 – Inclosure Award, Clayhidon, Bolham Hill, 1854

DRO: IA 24 – Inclosure Award, Clayhidon Manor, 1821.

DRO: IA 41 – Hemyock Inclosure Award, 1836.

DRO: IA58 – Membury Inclosure Award, 1815.

DRO: IA 66 – Uppottery Inclosure Award, 1823.

DRO: IA 76 – Uffculme Inclosure Award, 1838.

DRO: IA 82 – Yarcombe Inclosure Award, 1814.

DRO: Luppitt Tithe Map and Apportionment, c.1840.

DRO: Monkton Tithe Map and Apportionment, c.1840.

DRO: Sheldon Tithe Map and Apportionment, c.1840.

DRO: Z17/3/9 – Notebook regarding persons claiming common rights in Dunkeswell, 1801-1818.

SRO: DD/ MER 37 – Estate map, north of parish, c.1739.

SRO: Q/R De 48 – Wellington Inclosure Award, 1820.

SRO: Q/R De 59 – West Buckland Inclosure Award, 1815.

SRO: Q/R De 107 – Neroche Forest Inclosure Award, 1833.

SRO: Q/R De 144 – Buckland St Mary Inclosure Award, 1850.

SRO: Q/R De 162 – Wambrook Inclosure Award, 1816.

SRO: Q/R De 164 – Churchstanton Inclosure Award, 1802.

SRO: Q/R De 164a – Churchstanton, Inclosure Award, 1857.

SRO: Q/R De 165 – Taunton Deane Inclosure Award, 1851.

SRO: Wambrook Tithe Map and Apportionment, c.1840.

SRO: Whitestaunton Tithe Map and Apportionment, c.1840.

### ***Aerial photographs***

RAF: CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 2431, 2429, 2428, Devon HER refs. 31/66, 31/68, 31/69 – Aerial photographs of Membury village.

RAF: CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 2436 and 2435, Devon HER refs. 31/61 and 62 – Aerial photographs of an area south-west of Stockland, RAF 1947.

RAF: CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 4084, Devon HER ref. 22/61 – Aerial photograph of an area in north-east Clayhidon.

RAF: CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 4299 and 4300, Devon HER refs. 30/23 and 24 – Aerial photographs of an area west of Luppitt, RAF 1947.

RAF: CPE/UK 1974 11/4/47 4302, Devon HER ref. 30/26 – Aerial photograph of an area north of Luppitt, RAF 1947.

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## Appendix 1: Inclosure Awards in the Blackdown Hills

Tate and Turner (1978) classify Inclosure Acts and Awards by the following typology:

- Type A = enclosures by private act of land including some open field arable
  - Type B = enclosures by private act of land not including open field arable
  - Type C = enclosures mainly of open field arable under the General Act of 1836
  - Type D = enclosures other than open field arable under the General Acts of 1836 and 1839-40
  - Type E = enclosures of land including open field arable under the General Act of 1845 et seq
  - Type F = enclosures of land not including open field arable under the General Acts of 1845 et seq
- Only types B and F are represented within the AONB. In the following lists the first date is the Act of Parliament, the second date is the award; \* indicates awards which were not transcribed for this research.

### **Type B (enclosures by private act of land not including open field arable)**

- 1799/ 1802 – Churchstanton, c.2,000 acres\*
- 1801/ 1818 – Dunkeswell, c.1,500 acres
- 1807/ 1815 – Membury, c.250 acres
- 1807/ 1811 – Stockland, c.2,021 acres
- 1807/ 1816 – Wambrook, c.680 acres
- 1812/ 1821 – Clayhidon, c.600 acres
- 1812/ 1815 – West Buckland, c.781 acres
- 1814/ 1818 – Combe St Nicholas, c.1,050 acres\*
- 1814/ 1825 – Buckland St Mary (Westcombland), ? acres\*
- 1814/ 1817 – Yarcombe, c.900 acres\*
- 1814/ 1856 – Hemyock, c.1,200 acres
- 1815/ 1858 – Uffculme, c.658 acres (not all in AONB)
- 1816/ 1820 – Wellington, c.355 acres
- 1819/ 1823 – Upottery (Rawridge), c.800 acres
- 1830/ 1833 – Broadway, Curland, Buckland St Mary (Domett) and other parishes = Neroche Forest enclosure
- 1834/ 1837 – Dalwood, c.433 acres (award in Dorset Record Office)\*
- 1842/ ? – Kilminster, c.311 acres (probably all outside AONB)\*

### **Type F (enclosures of land not including open field arable under the General Acts of 1845 et seq)**

- (1845) 1846/ 1851 – Corfe, Pitminster, Otterford, Staple Fitzpaine (Taunton Deane enclosure)  
\* (partially transcribed)
- 1846/ 1855 – Upottery (South Down), c.106 acres
- 1847/ 1850 – Buckland St Mary, c.212 acres
- 1850/ 1856 – Churchstanton (Turbery), c.132 acres\*
- 1850/ 1854 – Clayhidon (Bolham Hill), c.43 acres
- 1851/ 1854 – Axminster (Smallridge Hill and Moor), c.25 acres\*
- 1853/ 1856 – Chardstock, c.906 acres (award in Dorset Record Office)\*
- 1868/ 1874 – Upottery (Beacon Hill or Langstone Down), c.34 acres

### ***Parishes with late enclosure but no known award***

Late enclosure in these parishes is assumed to have been by agreement.

- Awliscombe
- Broadhembury
- Combe Raleigh
- Cotleigh
- Culmstock (Black Down Common – in fact unenclosed)
- Kentisbeare (Black Down)
- Luppitt
- Monkton
- Sampford Arundel
- Sheldon
- Whitestaunton

## Appendix 2: Archive sources

This appendix lists cartographic and selected documentary sources identified in the course of this research. The listings of maps do not include county maps, Ordnance Survey maps or tithe maps, but are otherwise exhaustive and it is unlikely that many remain undiscovered. Time did not permit exhaustive searches for documentary material and only selected references are included here.

DRO = Devon Record Office

SRO = Somerset Record Office

**Bold** = sources consulted during this research

### Awliscombe

- 1756-60
- Map; Manor of Awliscombe
- Shows fields, field names, roads etc
- DRO; Exeter City Archive, Book 58 (map 18)

### Awliscombe

- Road closures
- Maps; 1784; 1806; 1810
- DRO; 113A/ 11/ 1; 113A/ 11/ 2; 113A/ 11/ 3

### Broadhembury

- 1799
- Map; Manor of Broadhembury
- Shows fields, field names, land use
- DRO; Exeter Dean and Chapter Church Commissioners 98/ 8784

### Broadhembury

- 1798
- Map; Road closure
- DRO – 113A/ 35/ 1

### Buckland St Mary

- 1801
- Map in Book B of 2 vols. Of lands belonging to Earl of Egremont
- Over 300 acres in n. of parish, including Castle Farm
- Book of reference (no ref. given)
- SRO – DD/WY 255/2

### Buckland St Mary/ Whitestaunton

- 1808
- Book of maps, lands belonging to Egremont, Ilchester, Wm. Wyndham and others
- Incl. 76 a in B. St M. (Redness, Luggetts, Bilgates) and 42 a in Whitestaunton (Ley Ground)
- SRO – DD/WY box 252

### Buckland St Mary

- c.1700
- Survey; Wyndham estates
- SRO – DD\ WY/ 140/ 1

### Buckland St Mary

- c.1729
- Map
- SRO – MAP\D\P\King. St. M/2/1/1

#### Buckland St Mary

- 1833
- Map; Lands belonging to T. E. Clarke
- 430 acres in w. of parish including commons
- Shows fields, field names, land use
- SRO – DD/CN 51/8

#### Buckland St Mary

- 1850
- Map; Inclosure Award, Westcombeland, Buckland Hill
- Map shows most of parish
- SRO – Q/R De 144

#### Chardstock

- 1781
- Map; Manor of Chardstock
- Shows fields, tenancies etc
- DRO – 1669M/ E1
- See also survey book 1669M/ E2

#### Chardstock

- 1856/7
- Inclosure Award (Act passed 1853)
- No map held locally; information from House of Lords Record Office listing.

#### Churchstanton

- 1802
- Map; Inclosure Award, depicts whole parish
- SRO – Q/R De 164
- Not transcribed for this research

#### Churchstanton

- 1857
- Map; Inclosure Award; small areas scattered across parish (Brimley Hill, Beer Hill, Biscombe, Southey Moor, Churchstanton Hill, South Down)
- SRO – Q/R De 164a

#### Churchstanton documentary sources

- 1625-37 Court Roll, manors of Madford, Churchstanton, some entries for Shapcombe Manor in Luppitt; SRO – DD\ POT/ 113
- 1638-41, Court Roll, Manor of Churchstanton, SRO – DD\ POT/ 114
- 1753 survey of manor; SRO – Trans. File 2 no. 78
- 1718, unspecified document re. Trickey Warren; SRO – DD/Pot 37
- 1757 (1285), Copy of grant of freewarren to John of Tudenham; SRO – D/P/Chu 23/1 s937
- 1727-1920, deeds to Burnworthy and Combe Farm; SRO – DD/X/PIP/G/653
- 1797-1974, deeds to Fairhouse (formerly Churchingford) Farm and Little Common; SRO – DD/CWC.ta 7/1 G/2870

#### Clayhidon

- c.1739
- Map; lands of Francis Popham; north of parish including church
- Shows fields, field names, land use
- SRO – DD/ MER 37

#### Clayhidon/ Churchstanton

- nd, late 18<sup>th</sup>-century
- Map; lands belonging to Thomas Southwood
- SRO -

**Clayhidon**

- 1821
- Map; Inclosure Award, Clayhidon Manor
- DRO – IA 24

**Clayhidon**

- 1854
- Map; Inclosure Award, Bolham Hill
- DRO – IA 10

## Clayhidon

- The manor was held by Arundell of Wardour from 13<sup>th</sup> century to at least 1583
- Papers in Cornwall Record Office

## Combe Raleigh

- 1798
- Map; 'Farms newly arranged and lett by James Bernard'; book of 9 maps
- Shows fields, field names, land use etc
- DRO – 826M/ E43

## Combe Raleigh

- 1780
- Map?; Lands belonging to Courtenay estates
- DRO – 1508M Devon/ Surveys/ V4

## Combe Raleigh

- Road closures
- Plans; 1784; 1803
- DRO – 113A/ 11/ 1; 113A/ 64/ 1

## Combe St Nicholas

- 1809
- Map; Weston Farm (marked as DMV on OS 1:25k map); c.350 acres leased from Egremont
- Shows fields, field names, use etc
- SRO – DD/CN 51/6

## Combe St Nicholas

- nd, ?1813
- Map; land belonging to Deanery of Wells; nearly whole parish
- Fields numbered
- SRO – DD/CC 177 (stored in tube with general maps of Church Commissioners' estates)
- Reference book: DD/CC 8548 22/25

## Combe St Nicholas

- 1818
- Maps; Inclosure Award, 1,050 acres on 8 separate maps; includes Longlie Common
- SRO – Q/R De 14

## Corfe

- c.1850
- Map; allotments on Pickeridge Common
- Possibly prelim. Inclosure Map
- Shows irregular boundaries 'possibly of earlier encroachments'
- SRO – DD/DP n.d.(1850) Taunton Deane (Corfe)

#### Culmstock

- n.d. presumed 18<sup>th</sup>-c
- Map; Culmstock; includes Black Down
- Shows field boundaries, field names, tenancies, land use etc
- DRO – Z2/5

#### Culmstock

- 1804
- Map; Manor of Culmstock, including Black Down, Maiden Down
- Shows field boundaries and names, tenancies, land use etc
- DRO – Exeter Dean and Chapter Church Commissioners 98/8790B
- See also survey book: Exeter Dean and Chapter Ch Comm 21/74/4789

#### Curland

- 1671
- Survey of Ayshford Sanford estates, includes Curland
- SRO – DD\ SF/ 99

#### Curland

- nd; bundle of papers re Manor; SRO – DD\ SF/ 2675
- 1630; Court Roll; SRO – DD\ SF/ 3957
- 1706; rough note, particulars of Curland estate; SRO – DD\ SF/ 2668
- 1705; Presentments, Court Baron; SRO – DD\ SF/ 2664

#### **Dunkeswell**

- 1818
- Map; Inclosure Award
- Shows allotments etc. See also DRO – Inclosure Award 28 = official copy
- DRO – D361A/ PZ1

#### Dunkeswell

- 17<sup>th</sup> century
- 2 manorial court books
- DRO – Z17/1/8 and /9

#### **Dunkeswell**

- 1801-18
- List of people claiming common rights, nature of rights claimed, adjudication and other details
- DRO – Z17/3/9

#### Dunkeswell

- Significant land holdings by Marwood Elton
- See Marwood Elton archive in DRO

#### Hemyock

- 1709
- Map; enclosure (by agreement?), Culm Davy Hill
- DRO – 2547M/ SS19/ 1

#### **Hemyock**

- 1836
- Map; Inclosure Award
- DRO – IA 41

#### Hemyock

- Manor was held by Arundell of Wardour in late medieval
- Papers in Cornwall Record Office



#### Kentisbeare

- 1769
- Map; road map of parish
- Shows at least some hedgerows, roads and turnpike; distinguishes 'Private Lanes, The Close and Publick Roads, The Open Roads'
- DRO – 3223A add 2/PS4

#### Kentisbeare

- 1827
- Map; Blackborough
- Shows fields with references to a survey book (no details given)
- SRO – DD/ WY/ Box 121

#### Luppitt

- Significant land holdings by Marwood Elton
- See Marwood Elton archive in DRO

#### **Membury**

- 1815
- Map; Inclosure Award
- DRO – IA58

#### Membury

- Numerous entries in Petre archive index, DRO

#### Monkton

- before 1780
- Map; Hedgend Farm
- Shows fields, field names etc
- DRO -

#### Monkton

- 1797
- Map; Manor of Monkton
- Shows fields, field names, roads etc
- DRO - ???

#### Neroche Forest

- nd ?before 1830
- Map; Forest lands belonging to 17 parishes and lands of E. B. Portman
- Shows pre-enclosure outlines of commons and detailed plan of old enclosed lands of E. B. portman in Broadway, s. of river Ding; field names in key
- SRO – DD/ SAS C/1193/2

#### Neroche Forest

- 1824
- Map; Outline plan of forest
- No further details
- SRO – DD/WY

#### **Neroche Forest**

- 1833
- Map; Inclosure Award, Neroche Forest
- Includes Curland, B'land St Mary, Broadway
- SRO – Q/R De 107

Pitminster

- 1775
- Map; Roads and bounds of parish
- SRO – DD/ X/ BLE3

Pitminster

- 1810
- Map of parish, showing fields and land use
- SRO – DD/DP 1810 Pitminster (listed as ‘folded in box 99)
- See also reference book DD/ CPHS 19/1

Pitminster

- 1837
- Map of parish
- SRO – DD/ SAS/ H/ 528, 1837b
- See also reference book DD/ CPHS/ 19/1

Pitminster

- 1829-43; notebook titled ‘commons’ containing list of people making encroachments on commons and sums paid; SRO – DD\ CPHS/ 13
- 1833-44; correspondence concerning turf cutting on commons; SRO – DD\ CPHS/ 14

**Sheldon**

- 1831
- Plan of Sheldon Common
- Shows most or all of parish; fields, some owners, roads etc
- DRO – 2729Z/ E3

Sheldon

- nd
- Map; Punchdown and Downlands in Kentisbeare and Sheldon,
- DRO – 1926 B/W/E/2/ 14-17

Sheldon

- Draft conveyances, map, papers re. parliamentary franchise, Northern Breaches, part of Punchdown, Kentisbeare and part of the great field, Sheldon; DRO – 1926 B/W/E/15/16

Staple Fitzpaine/ Curland

- 1829
- Map; Staple Common and Castle Neroche
- Shows fields, woods, glebe etc
- Numeration of fields may correspond to R. A. Sixmith 1958 *Staple Fitzpaine and the Forest of Neroche*, pp 75-90
- SRO – DD/ PR 59
- See also survey – D/P/stapf 13/1/1

Stockland

- 1782
- Survey book of lands belonging to J. B. Marwood; includes parts of Awliscombe, Upottery, Luppitt, Dunkseswell, Hemyock
- DRO – 281M/ E1
- Original maps lost, 19<sup>th</sup>-c. copies at DRO 50/ 3/ 2

Stockland

- 1795
- Map; vicinity of Horner Hill and Lower Farm (ST 260 020)
- Shows fields, field names etc
- DRO – 282M/ Legal and estate/ S1

**Stockland**

- 1828
- Map; Inclosure award
- DRO – D 1428
- See also DRO – I/ S10/ 11-12c

**Stockland**

- 1765
- Agreement between Marwood Tucker, Callard and freeholders to destroy inclosures on commons and prevent new ones
- DRO – 50M/I 1-2
- Marwood Tucker family held property in several Blackdown parishes. See DRO indexes for details.

## Stockland

- Significant land holdings by Marwood Elton
- See Marwood Elton archive in DRO

**Taunton Deane**

- 1851
- Map; Inclosure Award, numerous parishes
- Includes Otterford, Pitminster, Corfe (Inclosure no. 1); Otterford, s-w Staple Fitzpaine (Inclosure no. 2, Map A)
- SRO – Q/R De 165
- Only partly transcribed for this research

**Uffculme**

- 1838
- Map; Inclosure Award, Hackpen Hill and elsewhere
- DRO – IA 76

## Upottery

- 1643
- Survey of manor, includes details of copyhold tenements
- Possibly includes map
- DRO – 4458 Z/Z1

## Upottery

- 1773
- Map; Lands belonging to the town of Taunton
- Includes Swankham Brooks and an area in Ottery st Mary
- Shows fields etc
- DRO – 4712 M/ E1

## Upottery

- c.1830
- Map of a common belonging to Vis. Sidmouth
- Shows fields etc
- DRO – 152M/ Box 49/ Estate 2

## Upottery

- Plans; road diversions
- 1797; 1808; 1816; 1826
- DRO – 113A/ 208/ 1; 113A/ 208/ 2-3; 113A/ 208/ 4; 113A/ 208/ 5
- Also several later road diversions; see Ravenhill and Rowe

### **Upottery**

- 1823
- Map; Inclosure Award, Rawridge Manor
- DRO – IA 66

### **Upottery**

- 1874
- Map; Inclosure Award, Beacon Hill
- DRO – IA 5

### Upottery

- Many entries in Marwood Elton archive index in DRO
- See also Drake archive index, DRO

### **Wambrook**

- 1816
- Map; Inclosure Award, whole parish depicted
- SRO – Q/R De 162

### Wambrook

- Manor was held by Willoughby, Barons Middleton of Wollaton Notts. in 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- Papers including court rolls and a survey held by Nottingham University Library.

### Wambrook

- Wambrook parish is in the diocese of Salisbury

### **Wellington**

- 1820
- Map; Inclosure Award, Wellington Hill
- SRO – Q/R De 48

### West Buckland

- 1805
- Map; Higher and Lower Ruggin
- SRO – DD/ RC 11 (photocopy – DD/ X/ SKG14)

### **West Buckland**

- 1815
- Map; Inclosure Award, south part of parish
- SRO – Q/R De 59

### **Yarcombe**

- Maps; Inclosure Awards
- 1814; 1895; 1923
- DRO – IA 82, 82a, 82b; IA 83; IA 84

### **Yarcombe** – documents in Drake archive (DRO)

- 346M/ M1-2 – Court rolls, 1343, 1527-8
- 346M/ E685 – Letter re Yarcombe Common 1612
- 346M/ M74-201 – Rentals and surveys 1581, 1795-1815, 1816-1829
- 346M/ M3-73 – Presentments 1730-1735, 1776-1778, 1814-1869
- 346M/ E50 – Survey of timber in Yarcombe and Upottery, 1794-1795
- 346M/ E51 – „, 1795-1796
- 346M/ E380-383 – „, + Stockland, 1800
- 346M/ E54 and E55 – Crop books including farms in Yarcombe and Upottery, 1813
- 346M/ M255-263 – Papers re encroachments on commons, 18<sup>th</sup> century

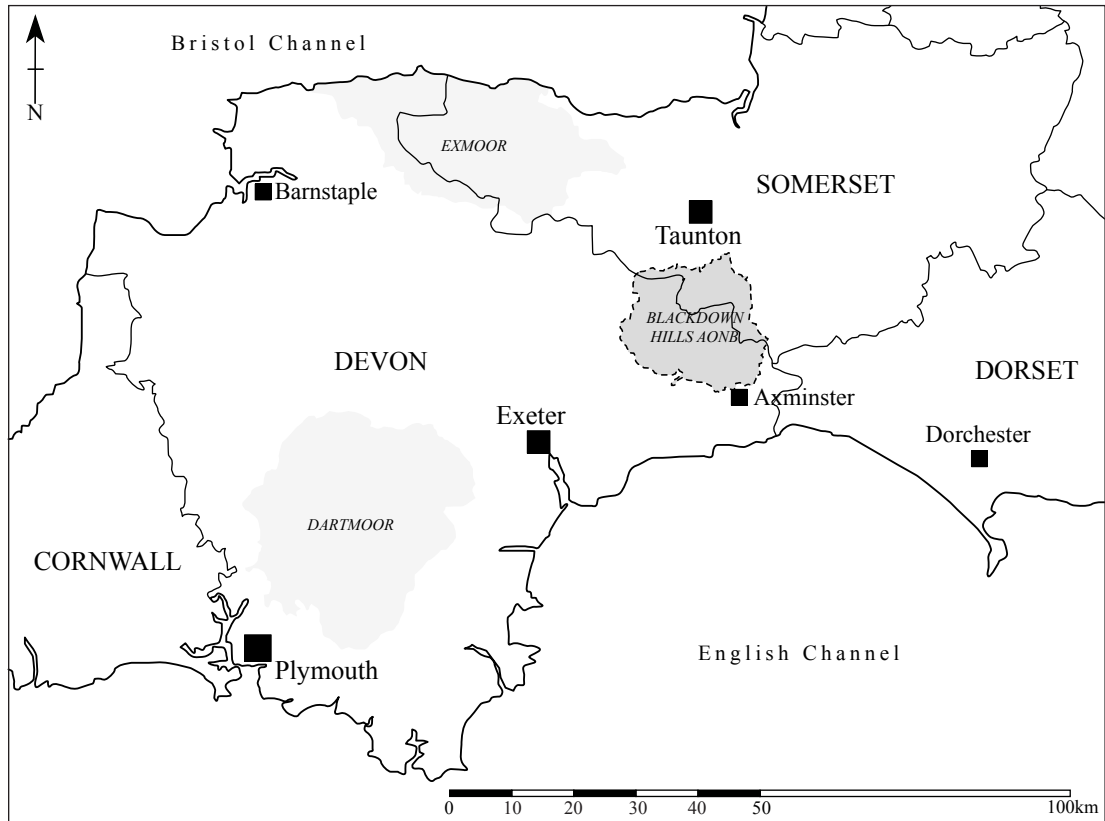


Figure 1: The location of the Blackdown Hills AONB within the South West of England.

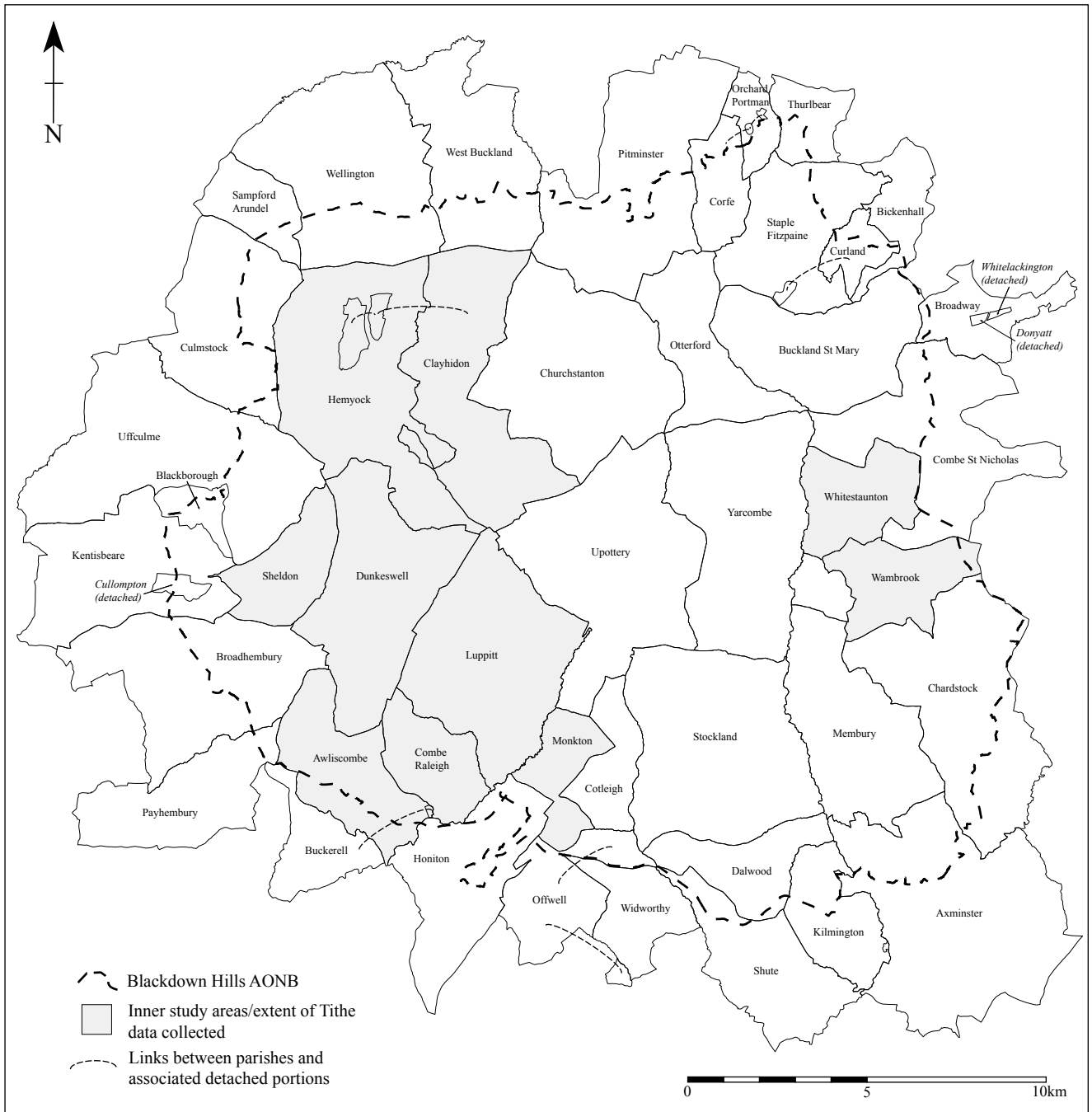


Figure 2: The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty showing parishes c. 1840 based on Tithe mapping. Also shown is the coverage of the western and eastern inner study areas.

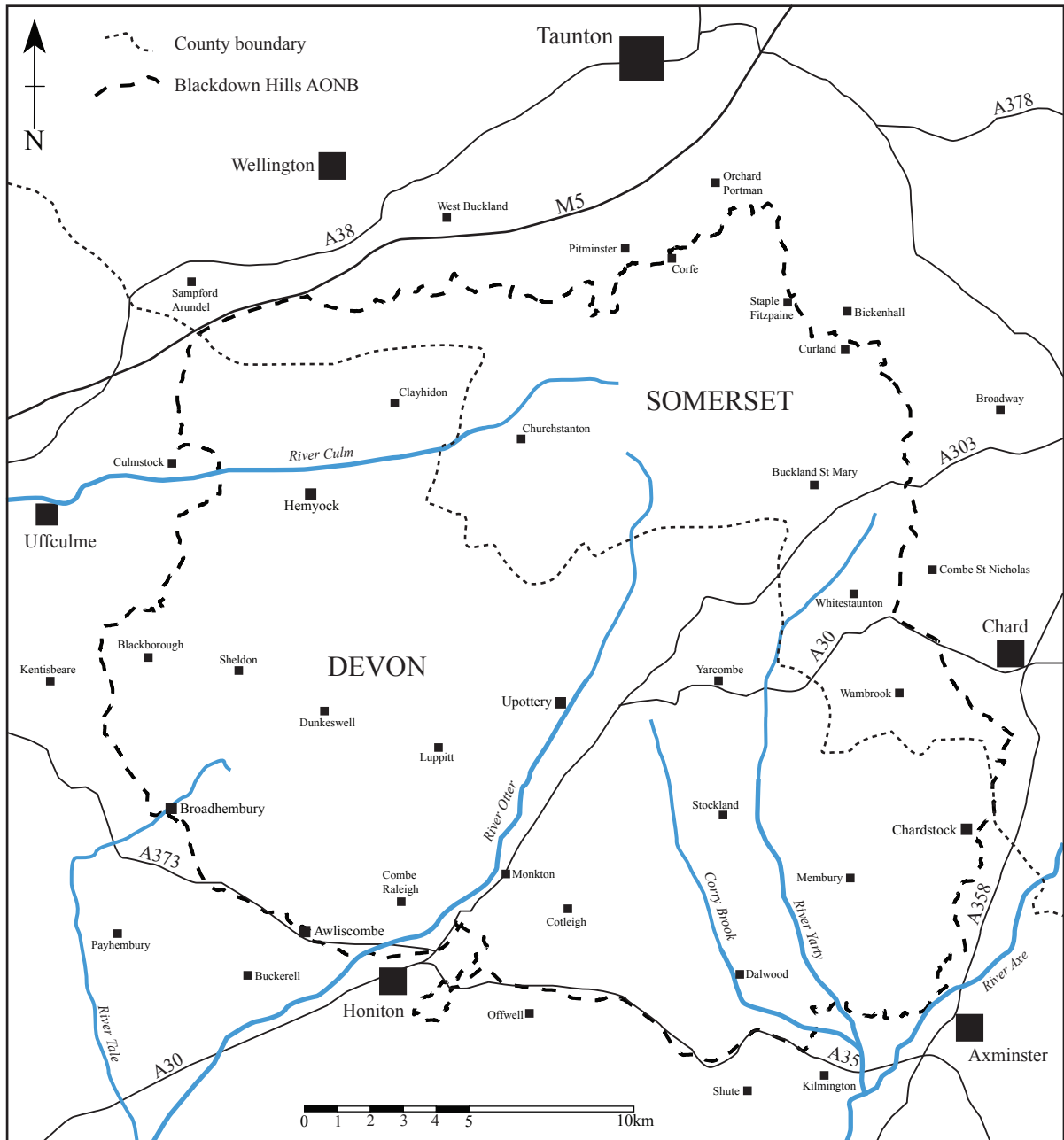


Figure 3: The Blackdown Hills AONB in its regional setting: a map showing modern towns around the Blackdown Hills, key settlements within the Blackdown Hills, principle modern roads and rivers. The county boundary is also shown.

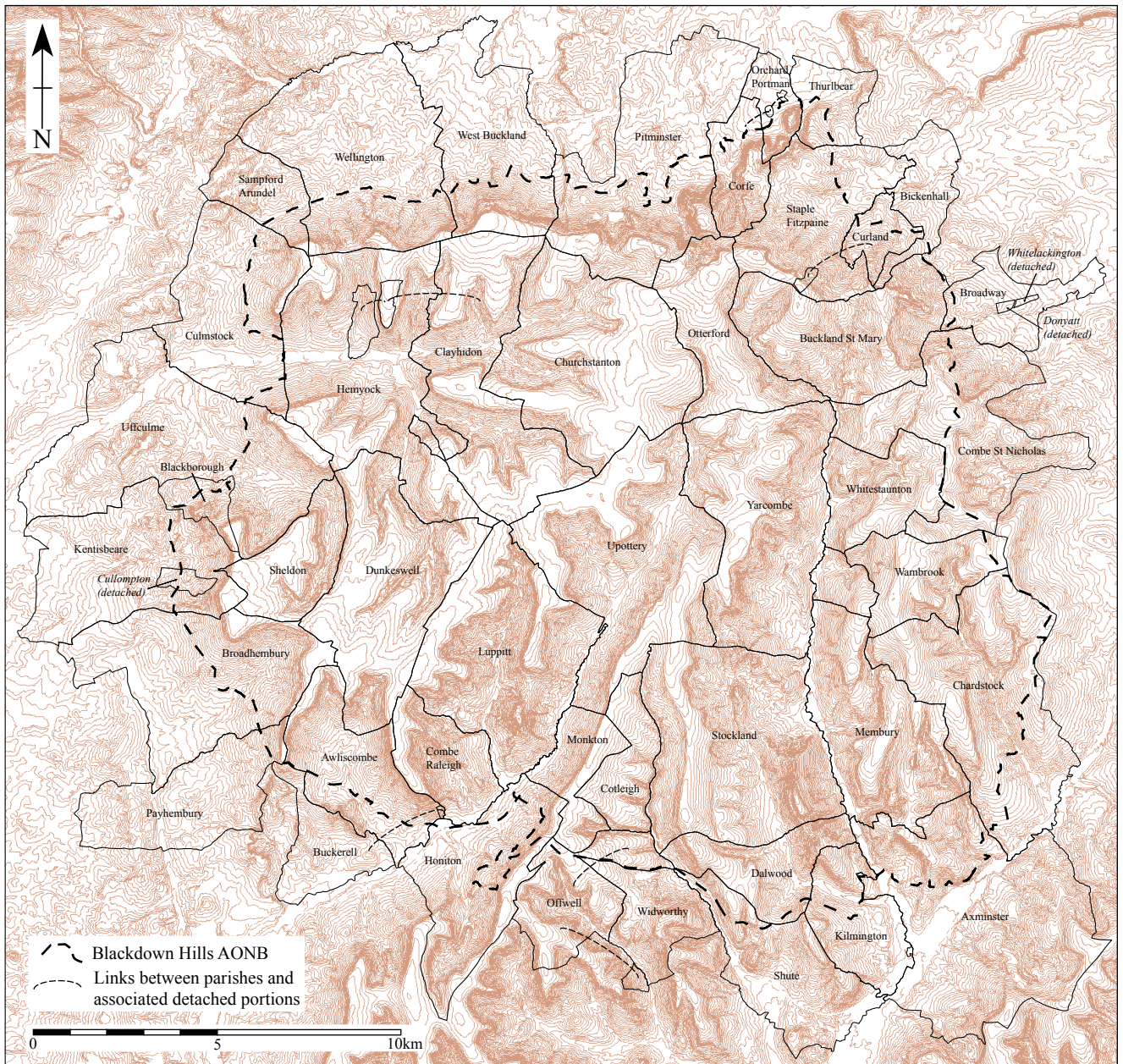


Figure 4: The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty showing parishes c. 1840 based on Tithe mapping in relation to topography.



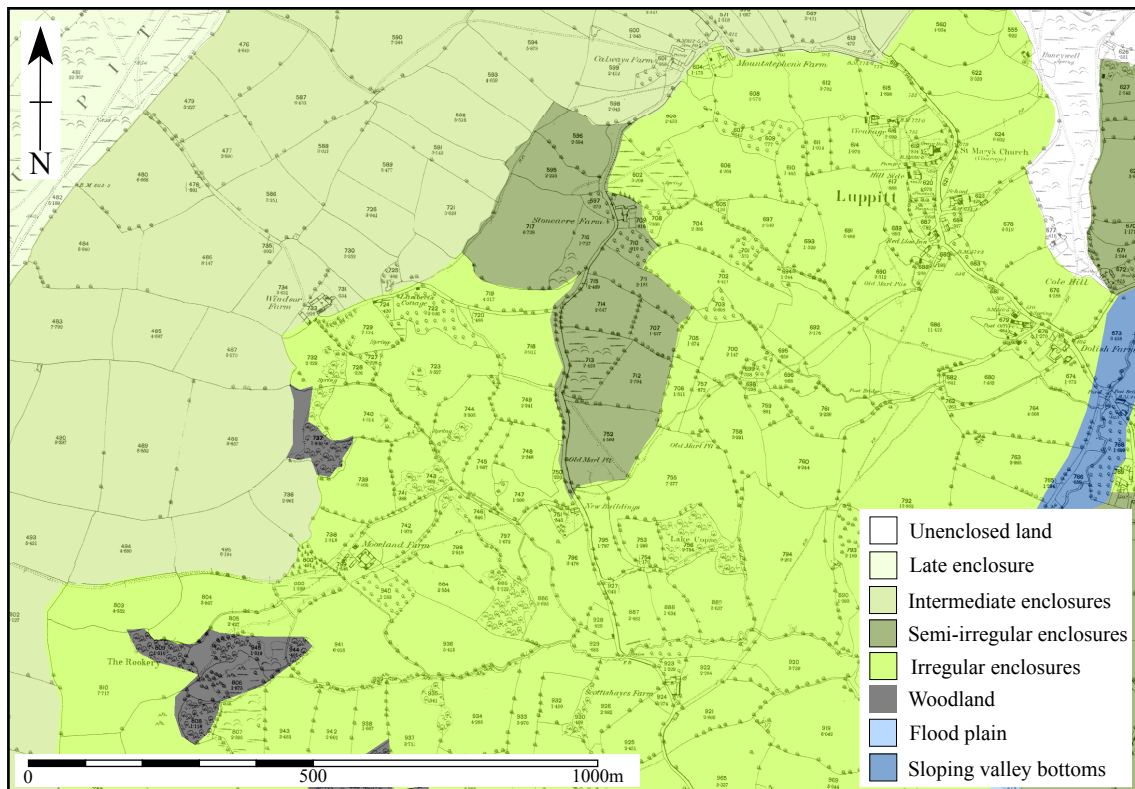
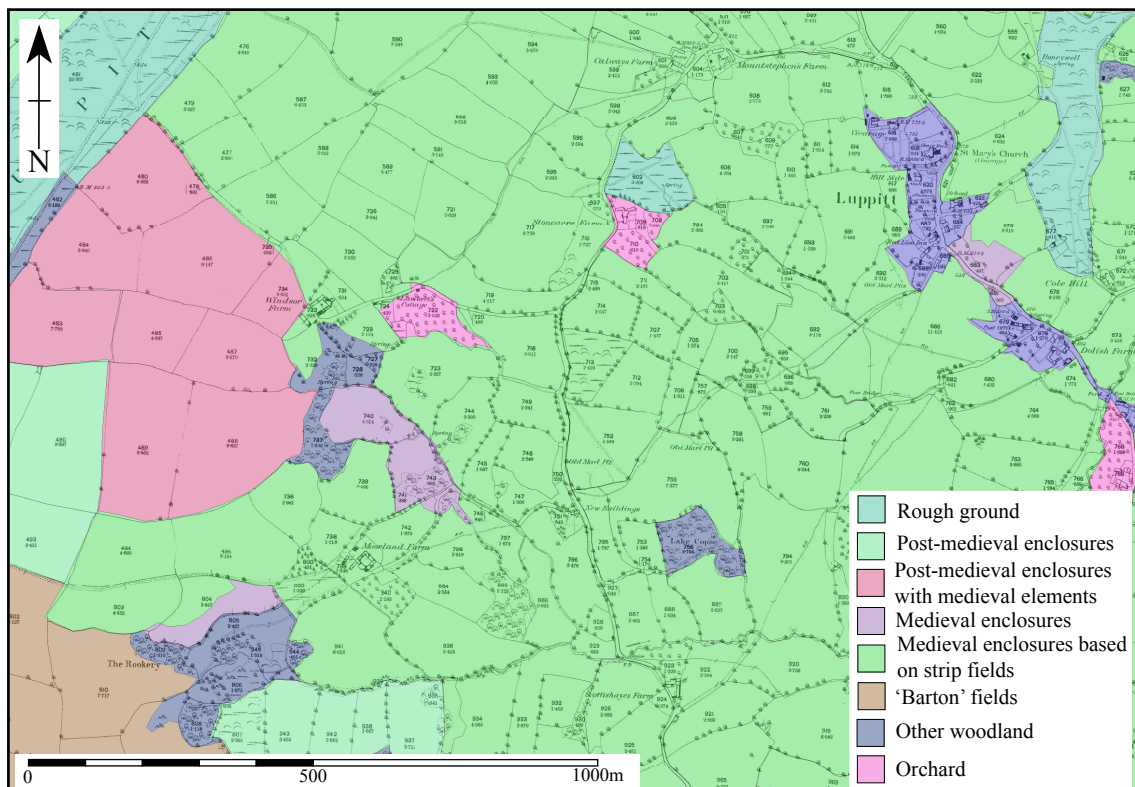


Figure 5.1 (above): Extract from the 'Living Past' historic landscape analysis of a part of Luppitt parish. Figure 5.2 (below): Extract from the Devon County Council HLC of the same area (Copyright Devon County Council). The distinction between 'Intermediate enclosures' on one hand and 'Irregular' and 'Semi-irregular' fields on the other hand has been emphasised by this research, and Figure 5.1 shows an example of the boundary between these types running south-west to north-east across the image. The Devon HLC (Figure 5.2) does not distinguish this boundary for most of its length, and sub-rectangular fields with few trees in their hedges are given the same classification as highly irregular fields with numerous trees. The Devon HLC type is number 26, 'Medieval enclosures based on strip fields', but it is hard to conceive how some of these field shapes could have been divided into strips and ploughed. Both images are underlain by Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inches to the mile mapping c.1880s.



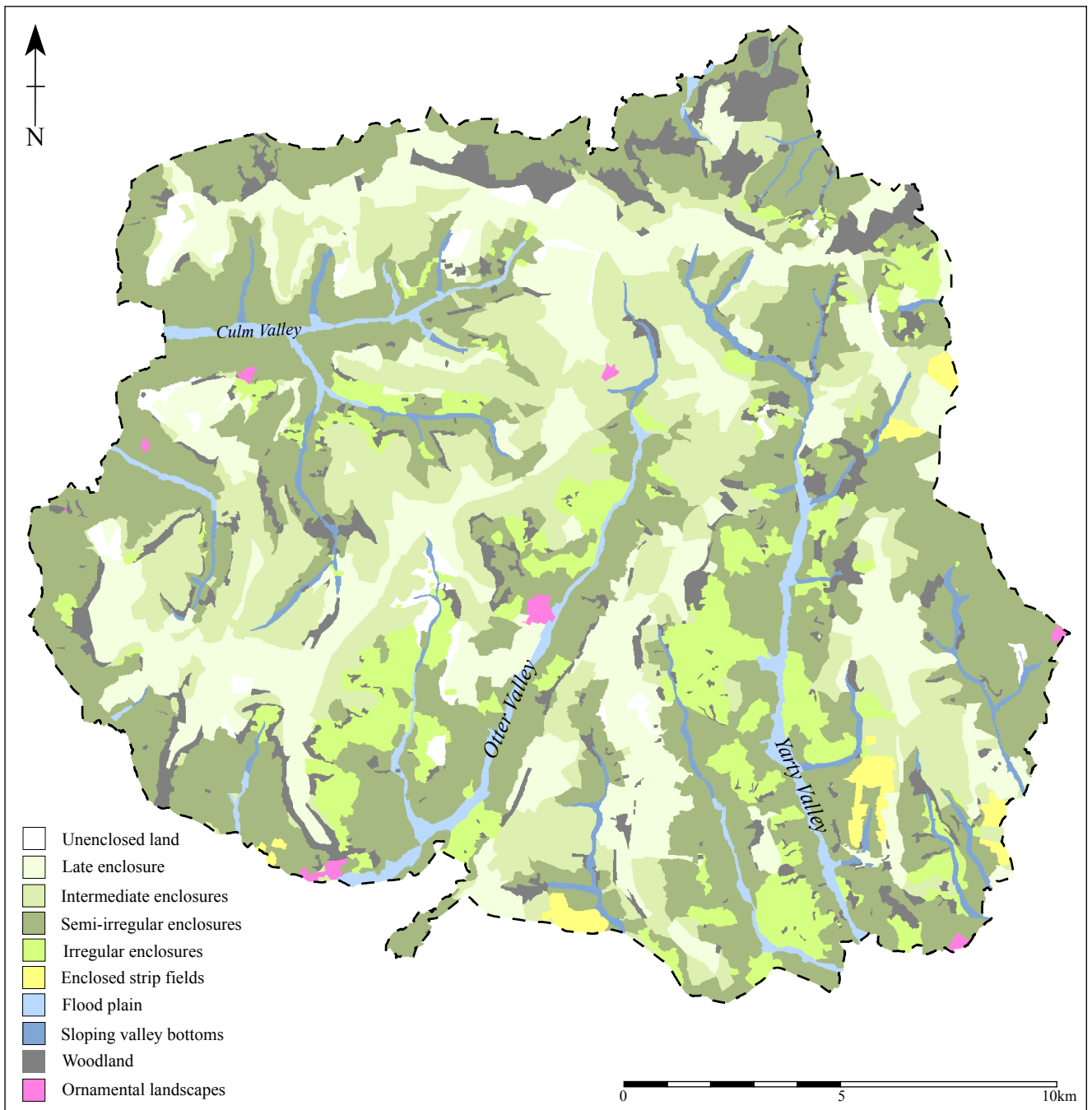


Figure 6: Historic landscape character types within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as identified by the Living Past Project based on Ordnance Survey 6 inches to the mile mapping c.1900.

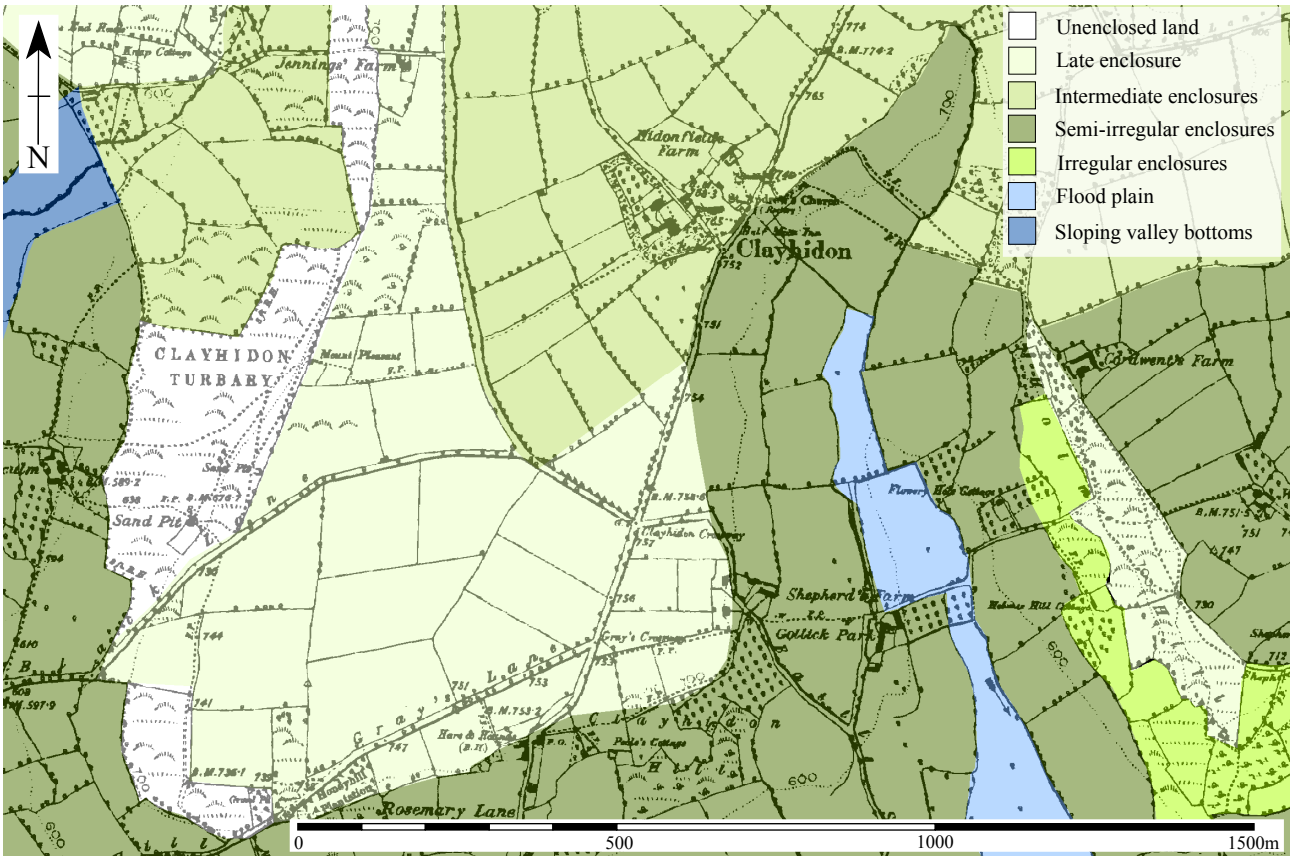


Figure 7.1: Historic landscape character type 'Unenclosed land', Clayhidon Turbary. This small area of peaty soil on a steep west-facing slope was set aside as a source of fuel for commoner by the Inclosure Commissioners. 'Late enclosure' allotments created by them are to the east, while areas of other types are to the east. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6".

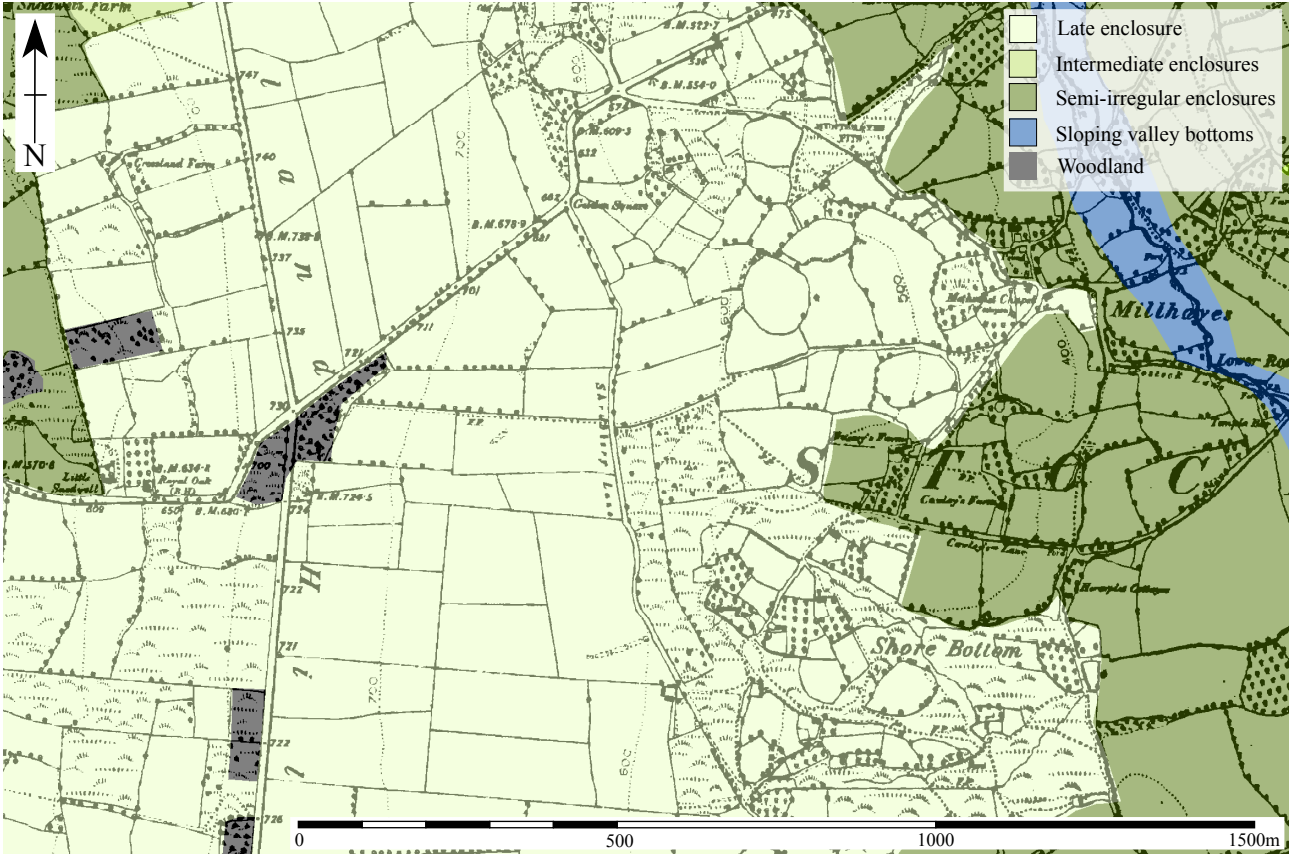


Figure 7.2: Historic landscape character type 'Late enclosure' on Stockland Hill. Dead straight field boundaries, frequent 90 degree angles, sparse settlements and straight roads of uniform width are characteristic. Note the embedded small fields with rounded outlines in the east. These are encroachments on the former common which were, presumably, allowed by the Inclosure Commissioners. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6".

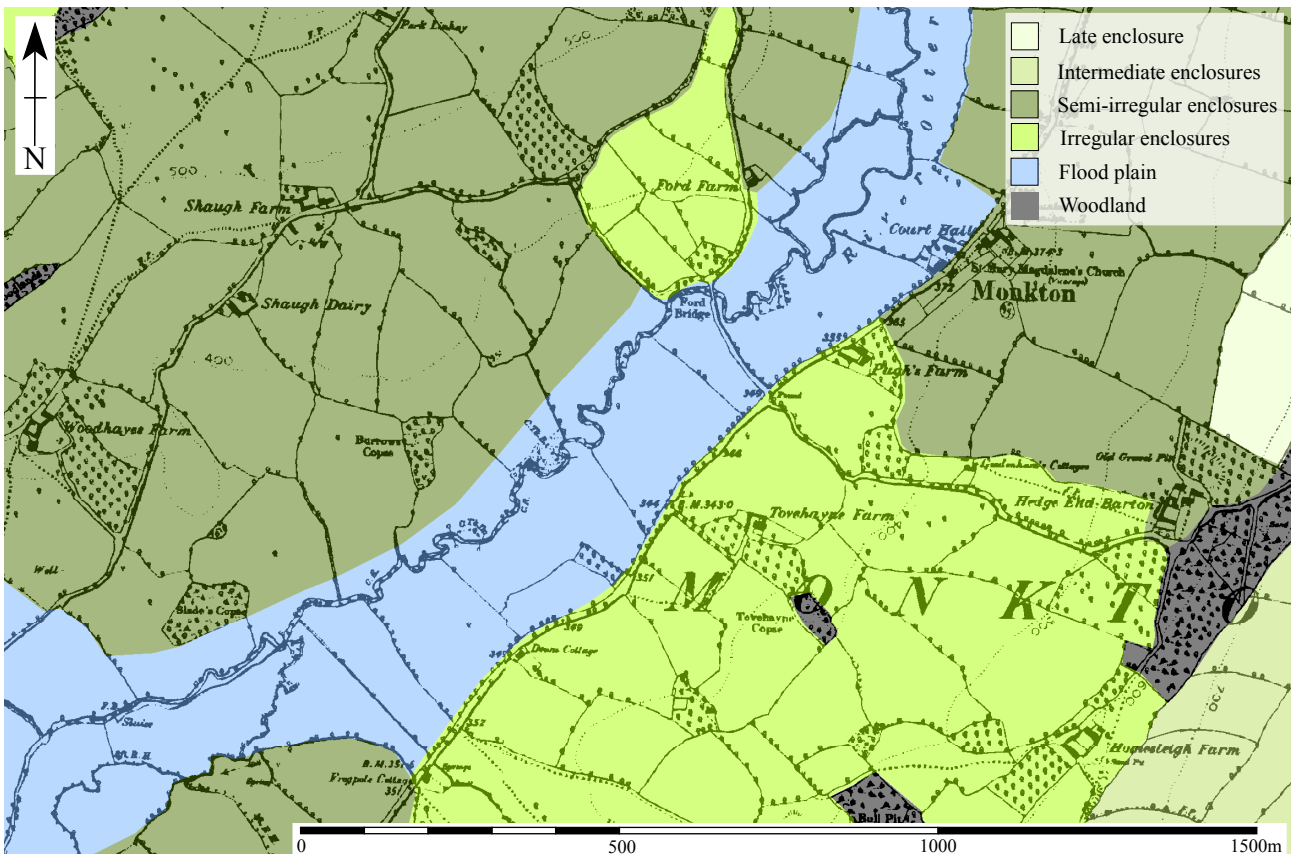


Figure 7.3: Historic landscape character type 'Flood plain' near Monkton. These meadows are located on flat ground by the River Otter. The road south of Monkton runs above flood level and forms a boundary of the types, as does a field boundary running parallel to the the river to the north. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6".

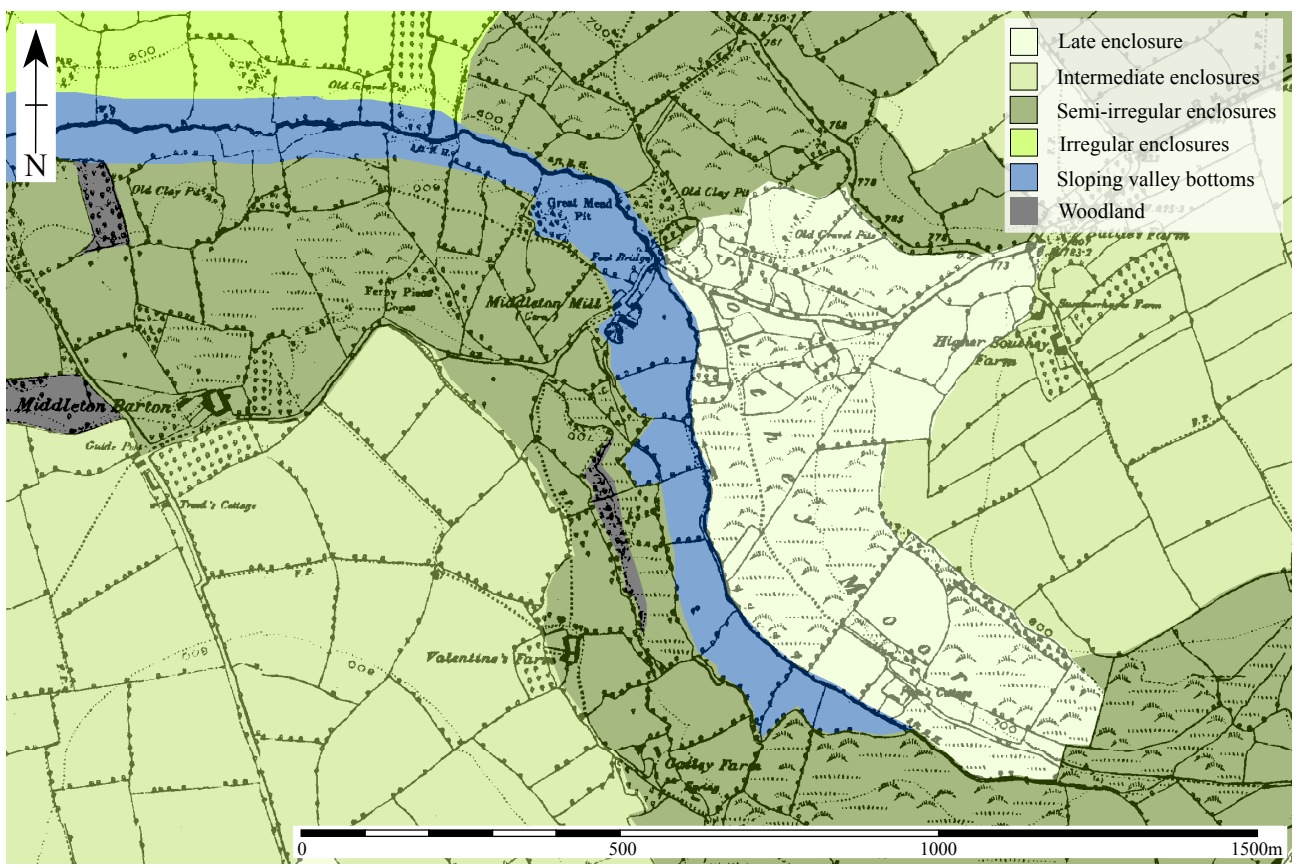


Figure 7.4: Historic landscape character type 'Sloping valley bottoms' by Southey Moor, Churchstanton. Located in a combe at the head of the Bolham River, these fields are characteristically small with a continuous boundary parallel to the watercourse. Note the mill and road crossing the type by the shortest route. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6".

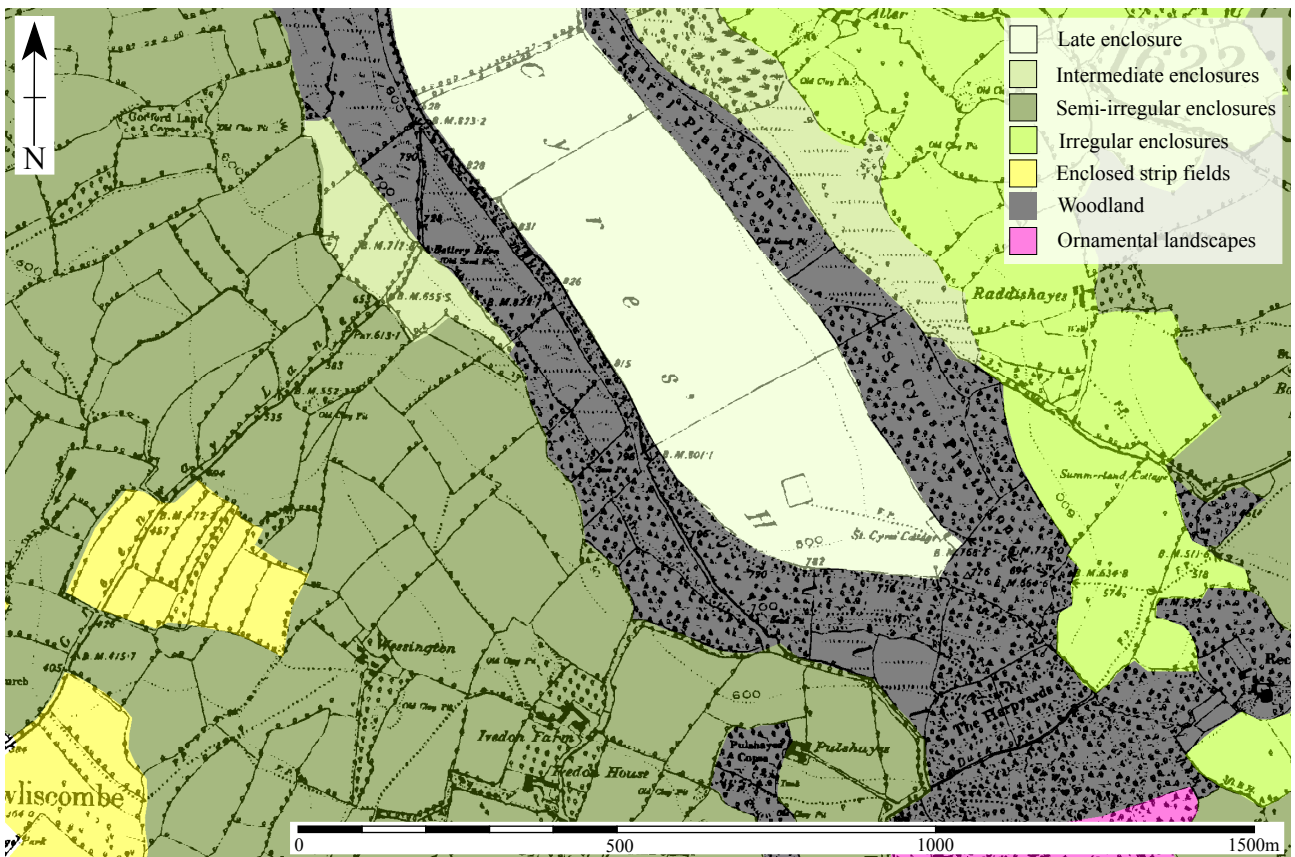


Figure 7.5.1: Historic landscape character type ‘Woodland’ on St Cyres Hill between Awliscombe and Combe Raleigh. The woodland forms an almost continuous belt on the steep slopes surrounding the plateau top. The woodland is sub-divided by boundaries, some of which seem to be associated with late enclosure, while others are more irregular and probably far older. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6”.

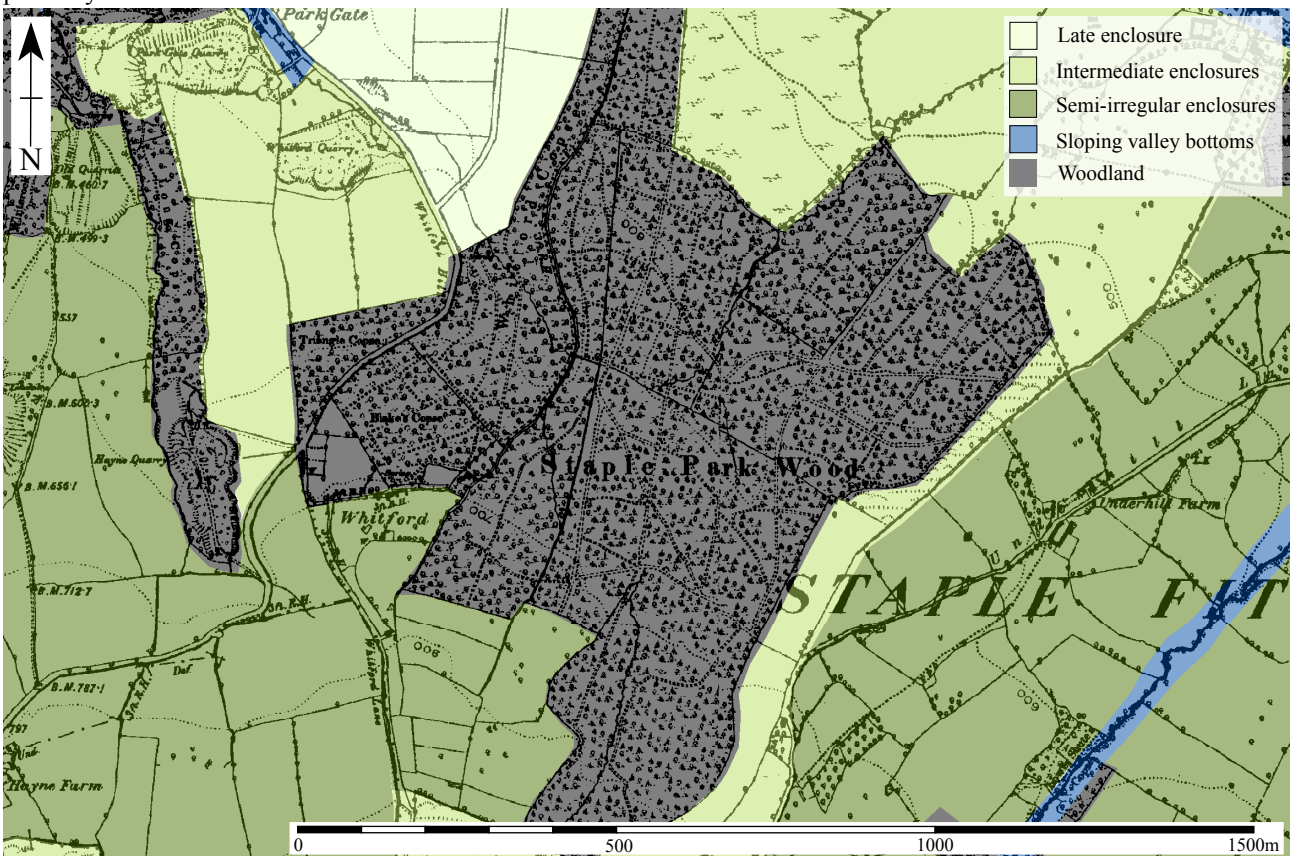


Figure 7.5.2: Historic landscape character type ‘Woodland’. Staple Park Wood. This large area of woodland has few internal boundaries and angular incursions to the north-east and south-west probably represent clearings put to pasture or arable use. The name implies that the wood was part of the medieval deer park at Staple Fitzpaine. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6”.

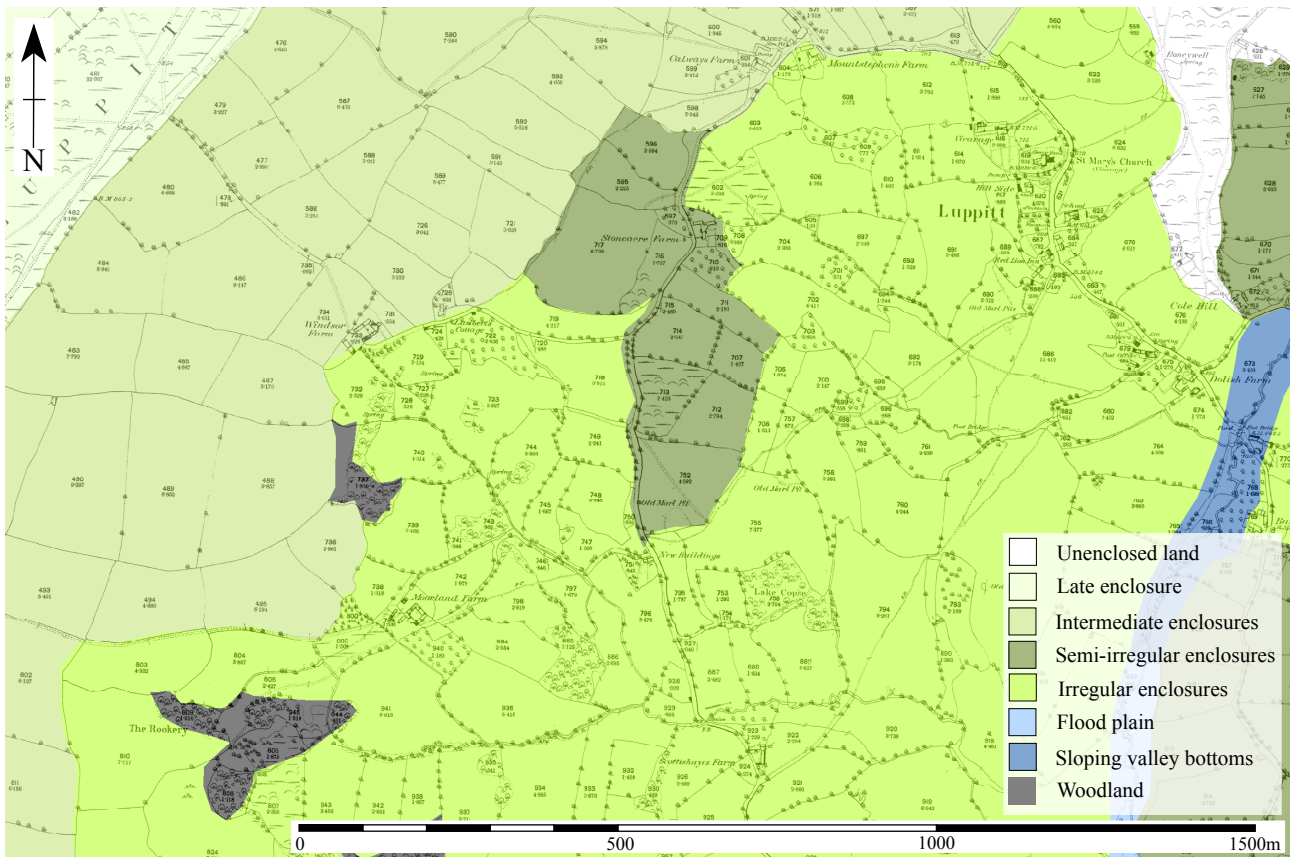


Figure 7.6.1: Historic landscape character type ‘Irregular enclosures’, Luppitt. Many of these fields have highly irregular shapes and have probably never been ploughed. The winding lanes, small woods or coppices and numerous farms scattered across the landscape are characteristic of this type. There is a marked contrast with the intermediate enclosures to the west. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 25”.

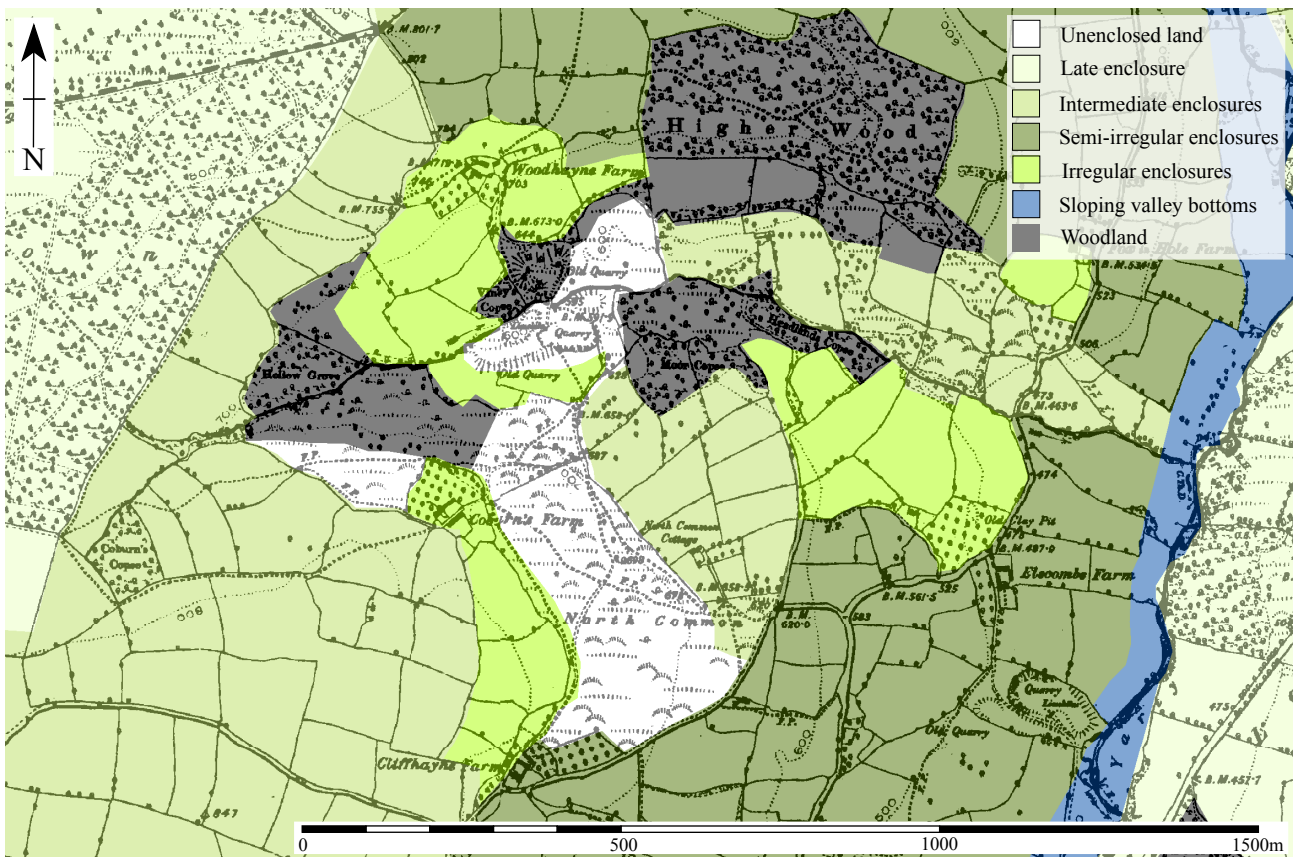


Figure 7.6.2: Historic landscape character type ‘Irregular enclosures’, North Common, Yarcombe. In this example the irregular enclosures are part of a complex landscape incorporating several historic landscape character types. These fields probably originated as assarts or encroachments on the common and woodland with which they are associated. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6”.

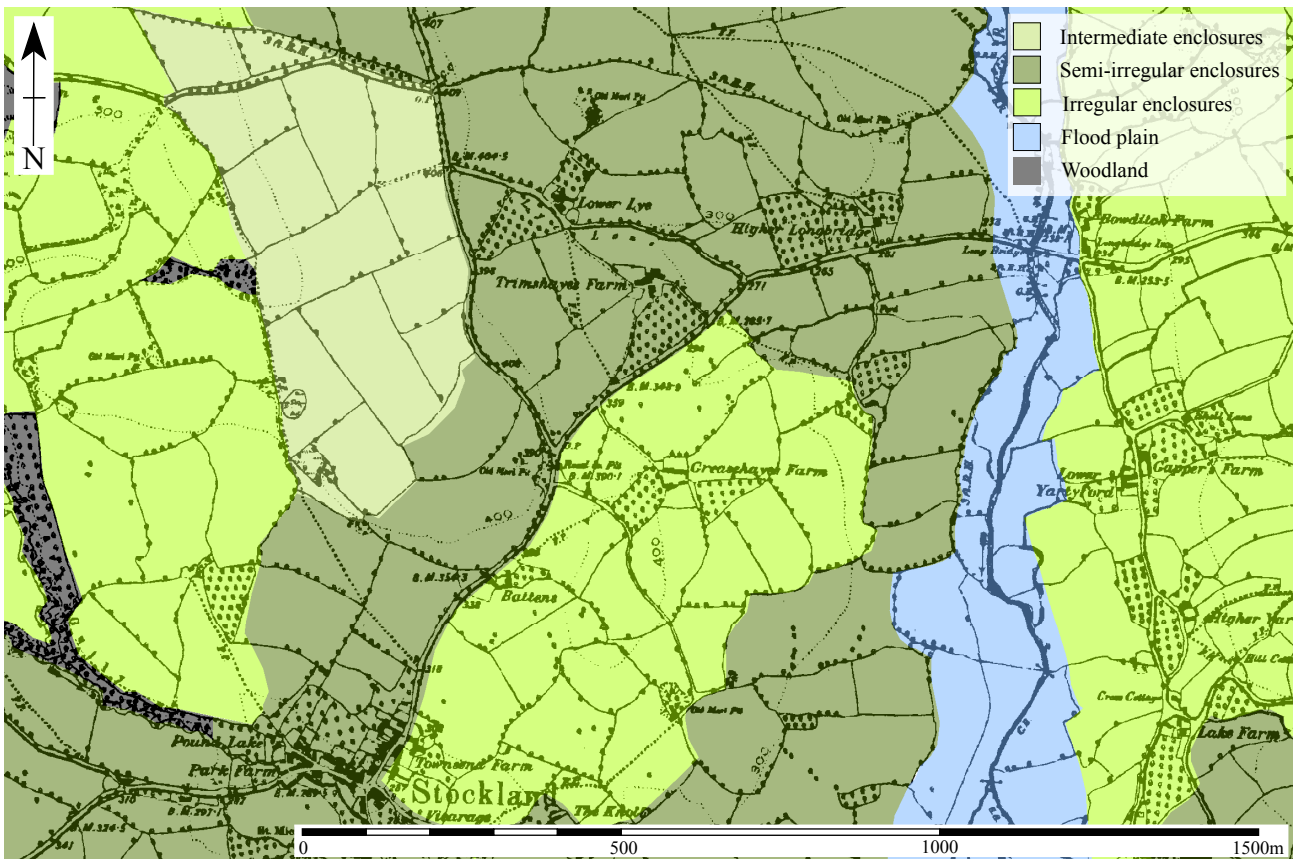


Figure 7.7.1: Historic landscape character type ‘Semi-irregular enclosures’ north of Stockland. These fields have irregular outlines, but tend to be more polygonal than the irregular fields with which they are associated. Morphologically they blend seamlessly into the ‘Flood plain’ type fields to the east. Lanes are variable in width but tend to take more direct routes than those amongst ‘Irregular’ type fields. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6”.

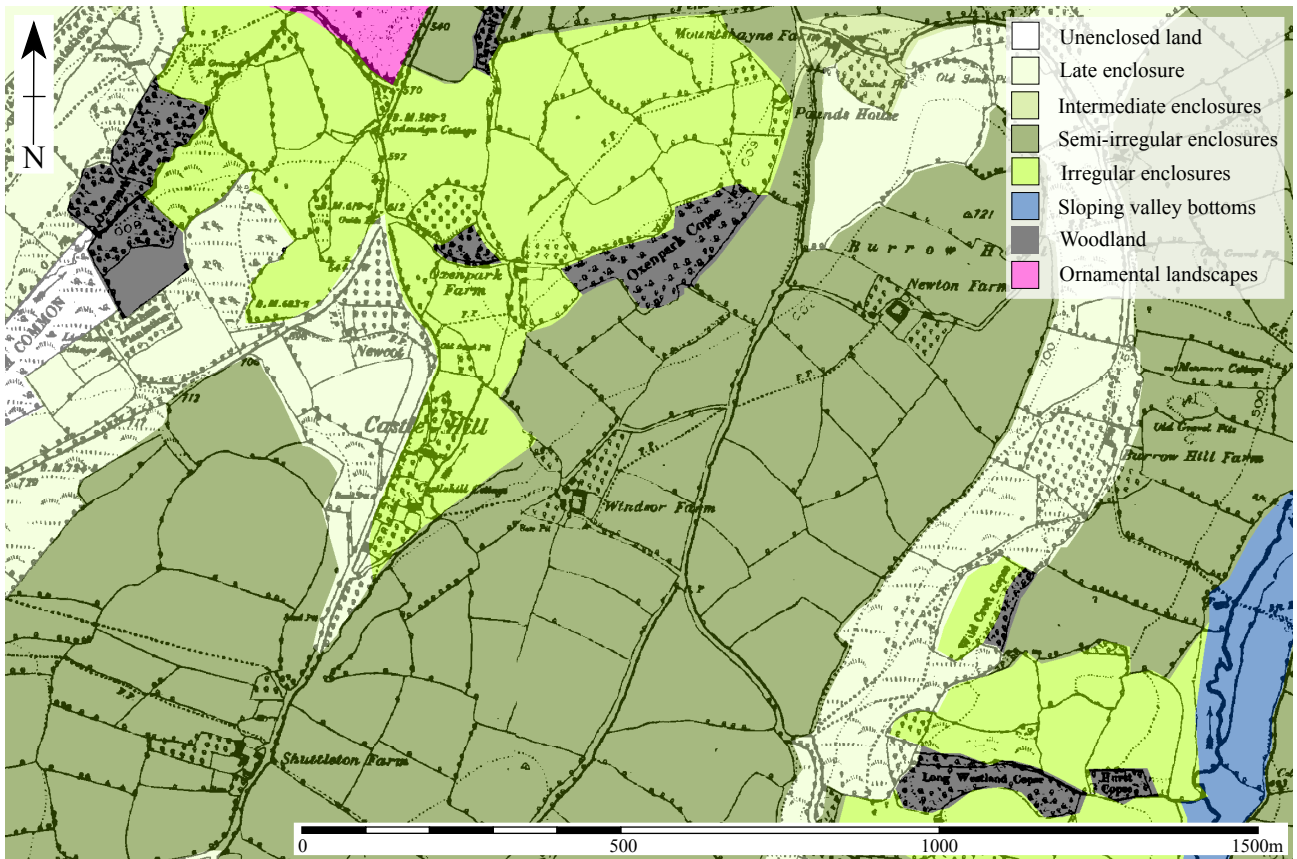


Figure 7.7.2: Historic landscape character type ‘Semi-irregular enclosures’, Windsor Farm, Hemyock. These fields are more polygonal than those in Figure 7.7.1 and more or less straight sides are more common. However, their general pattern is highly variable with many curving or sinuous boundaries and few parallel sides. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6”.

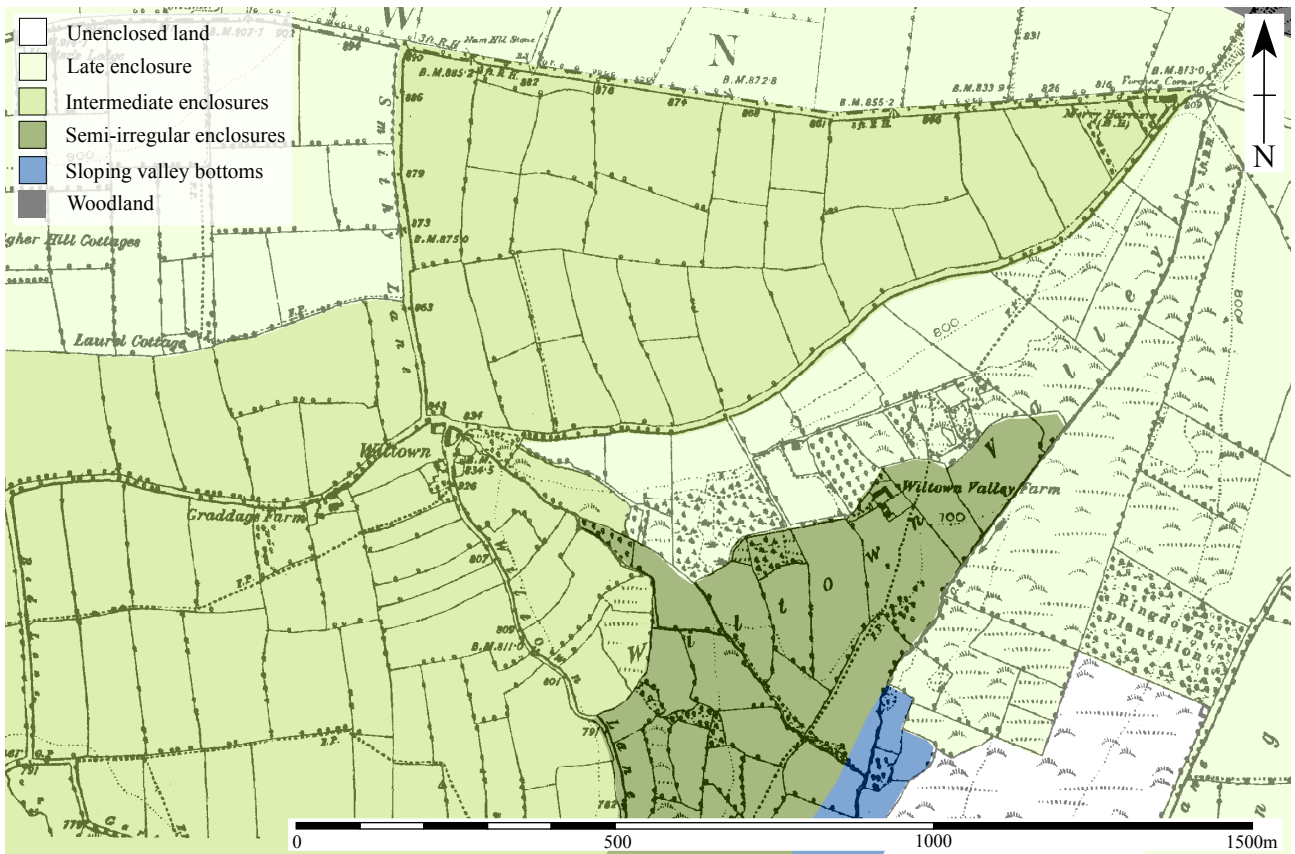


Figure 7.8.1: Historic landscape character type ‘Intermediate enclosures’, Wiltown, Clayhidon. These fields form a collection of sub-rectangular grids but, in contrast with the adjacent ‘Late enclosure’, perfectly straight sides and 90 degree angles are rare. Roads are generally straight but vary in width. Some of these fields are strip-shaped and it is likely that these, and perhaps most of the fields in this example, were laid out with a view to arable cultivation. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6”.

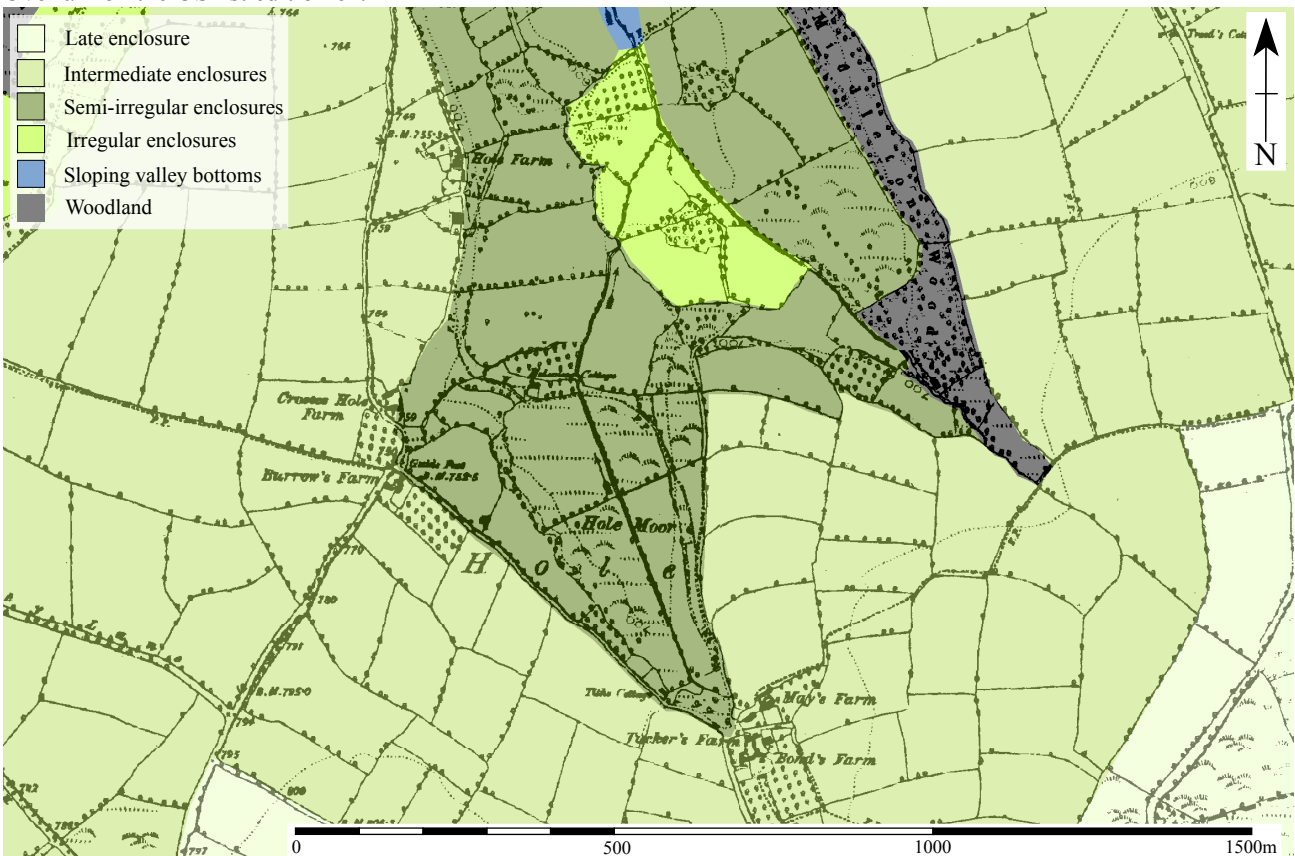


Figure 7.8.2: Historic landscape character type ‘Intermediate enclosures’, Mays Farm, Clayhidon. These fields form a less regular grid than those in Figure 7.8.1 and many possess boundaries which are more strongly curved. In contrast to the ‘Semi-irregular enclosures’ in Figure 7.7.2, the majority have four sides. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6”.



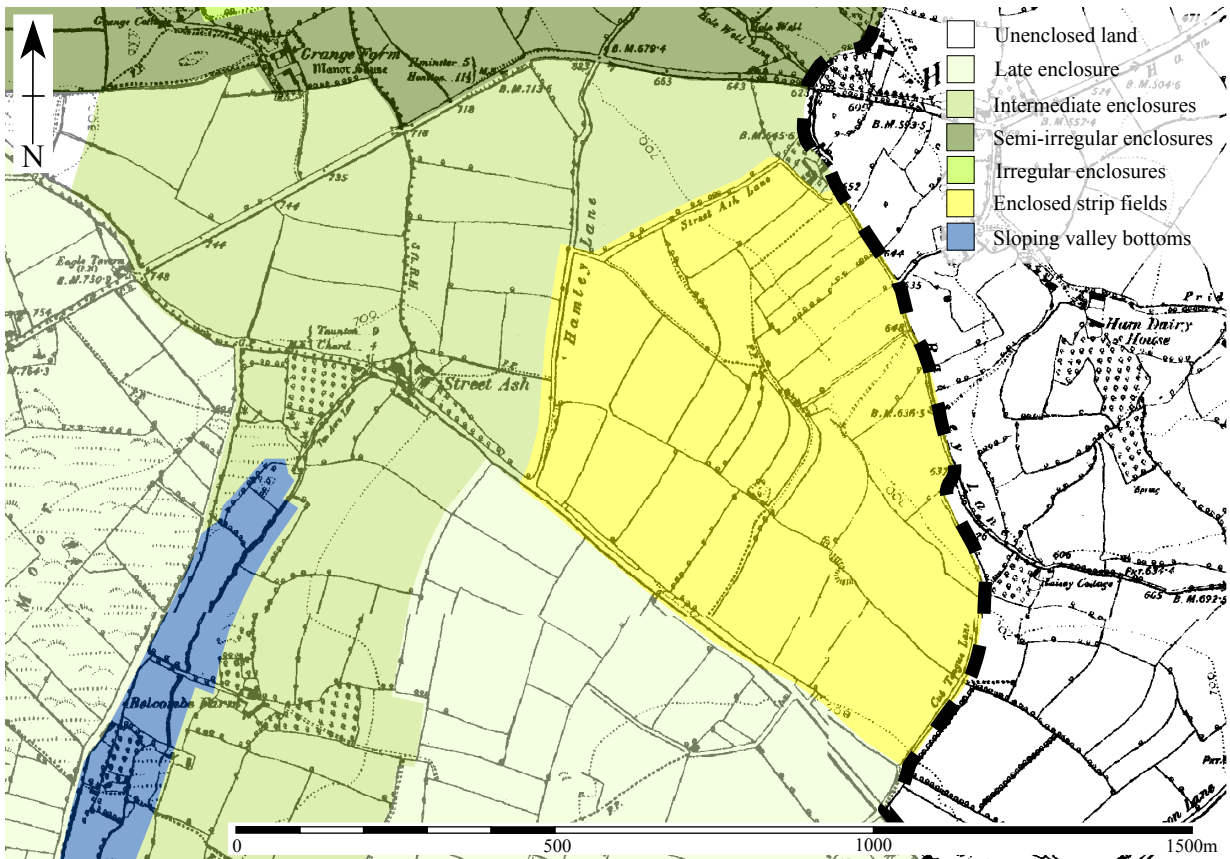


Figure 7.9.1: Historic landscape character type ‘Enclosed strip fields’ in Combe St Nicholas parish, near Street Ash. These fields originated through the enclosure of strips in the extensive open fields of the parish, most of which lies outside of the AONB. These were the arable fields of the parish, which also had common pasture on high ground including the area of ‘Late enclosure’ adjacent to the south of these fields. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6”.

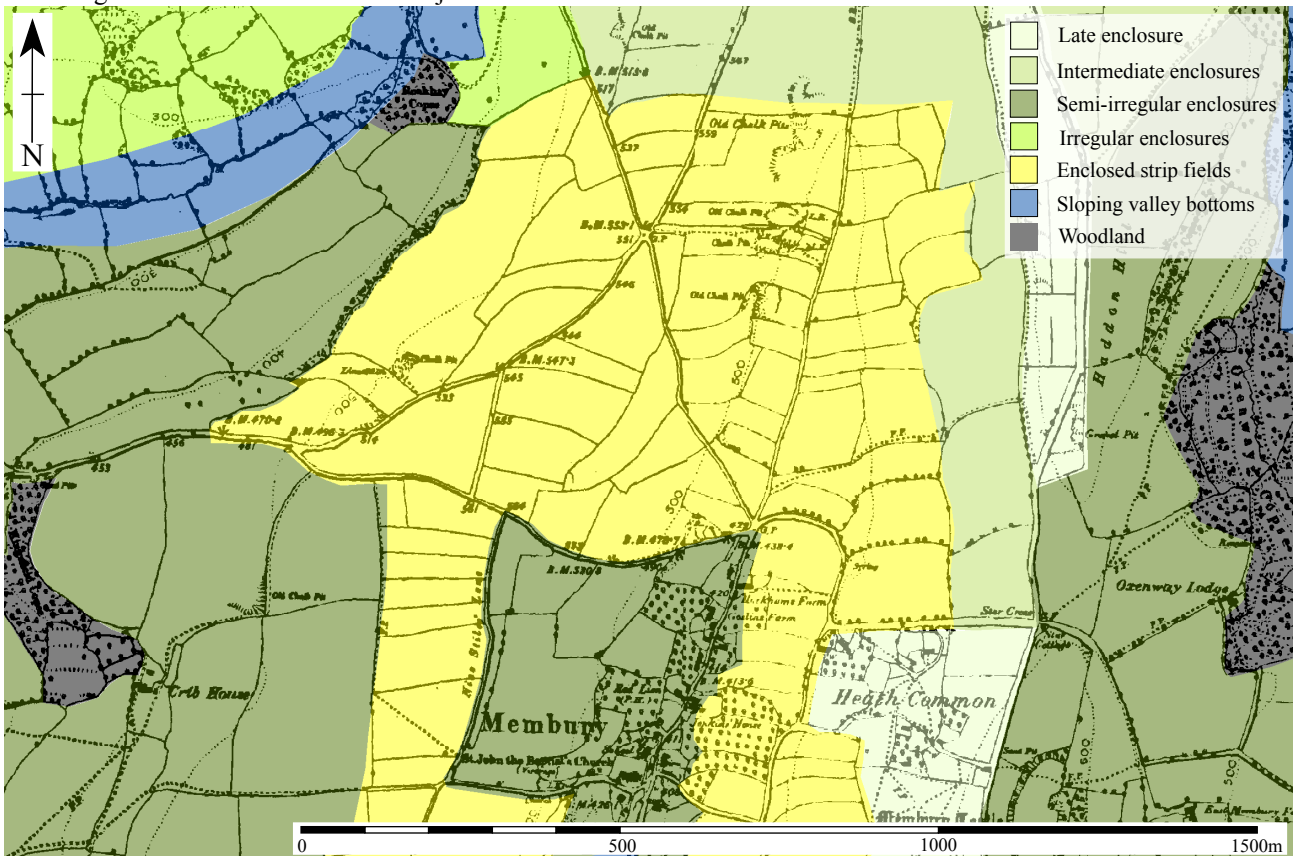


Figure 7.9.2: Historic landscape character type ‘Enclosed strip fields’, Membury. This group of enclosed strips is the largest within the AONB, but they only cover a small proportion of Membury parish and can not have been part of an extensive open field system such as that at Combe St Nicholas (Figure 7.9.1). Note the chalk quarries, some of which cut the boundaries of the stripfields, demonstrating that these boundaries are older than the quarries. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 6”.

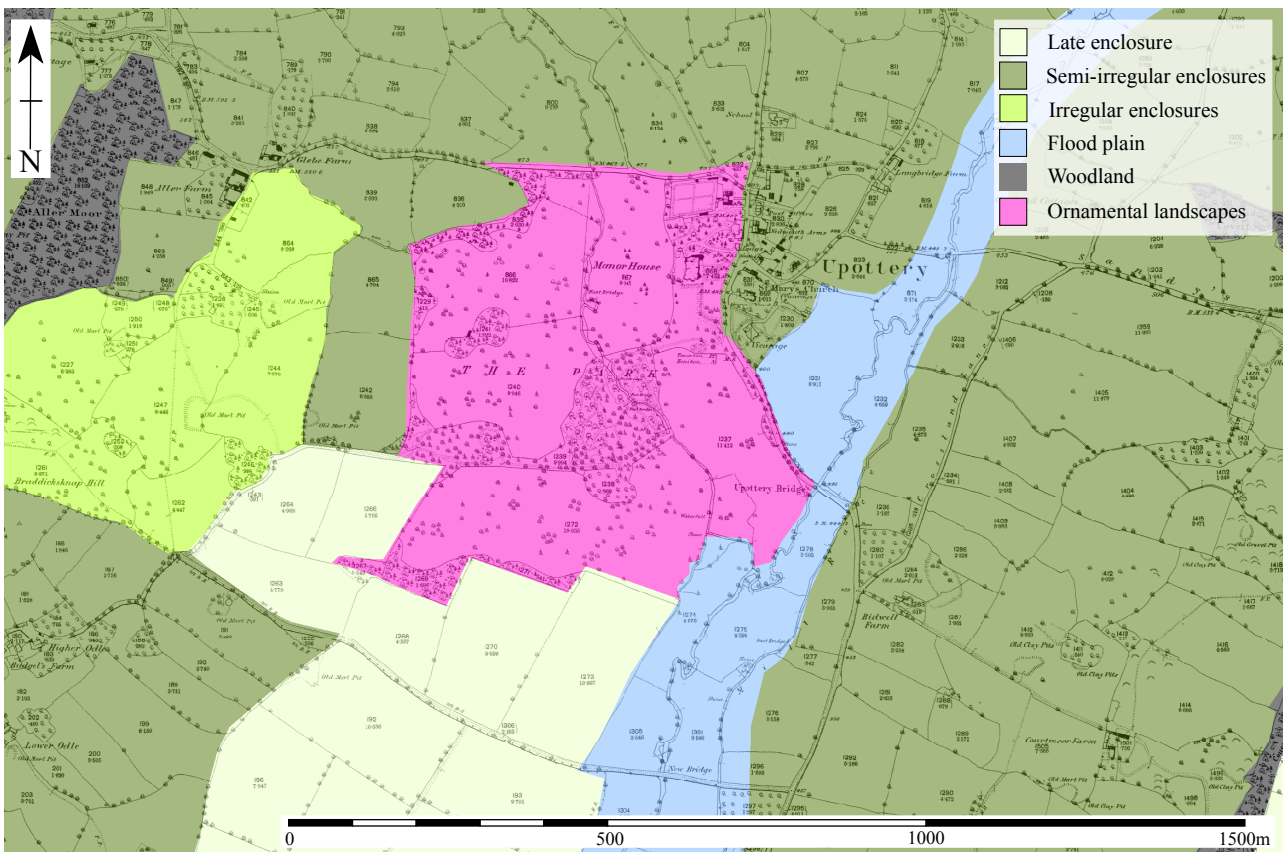


Figure 7.10: Historic landscape character type ‘Ornamental landscapes’, Upottery. These landscapes comprise gardens, parkland and ornamental woodland surrounding large country houses. Few of these are located within the AONB, though many exist just beyond its boundary. Changing fashions in landscape design mean that these are unlikely to be earlier than 18th century in origin, though they may have superseded earlier layouts. Overlain on the OS 1st edition 25”.

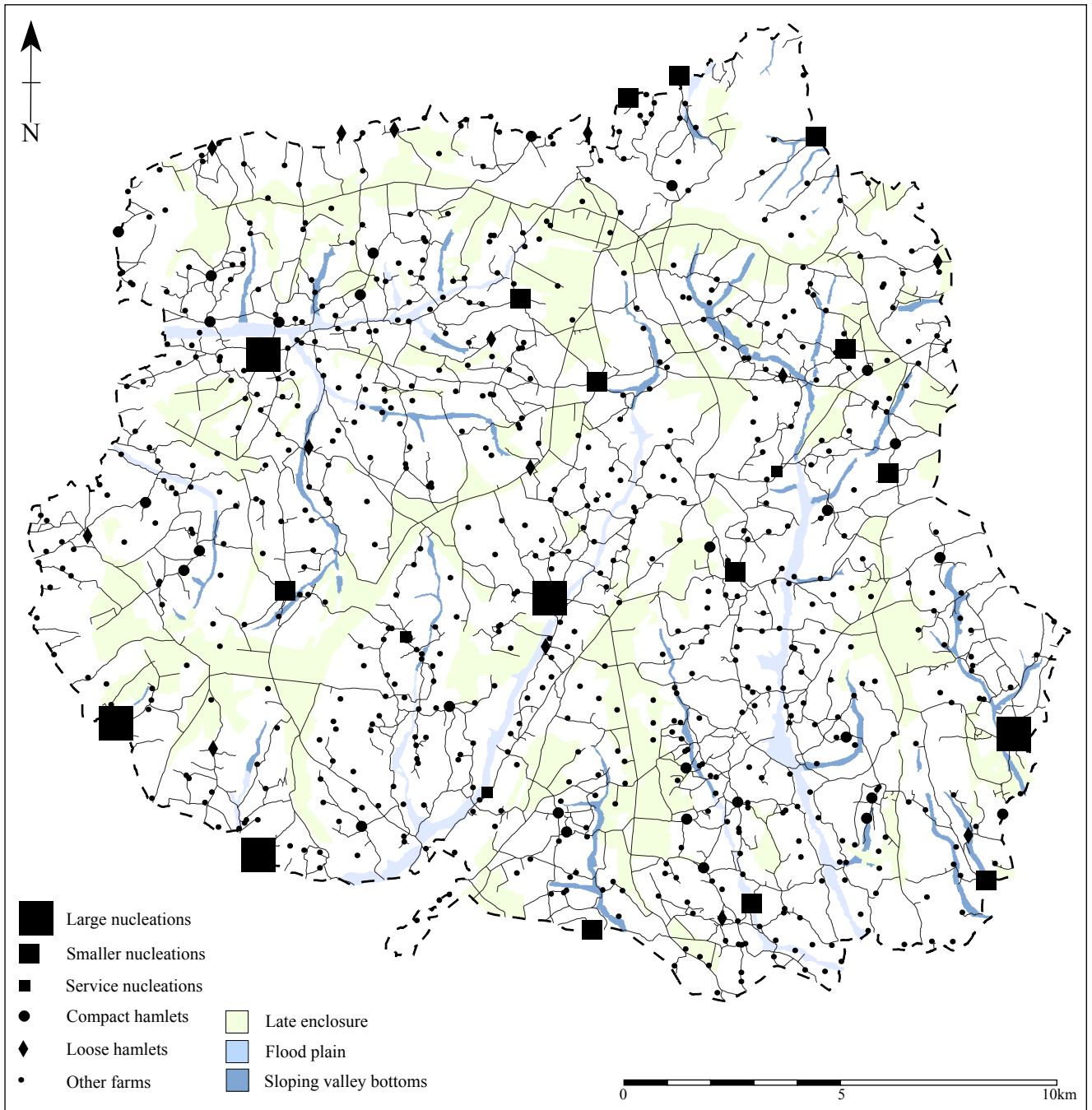
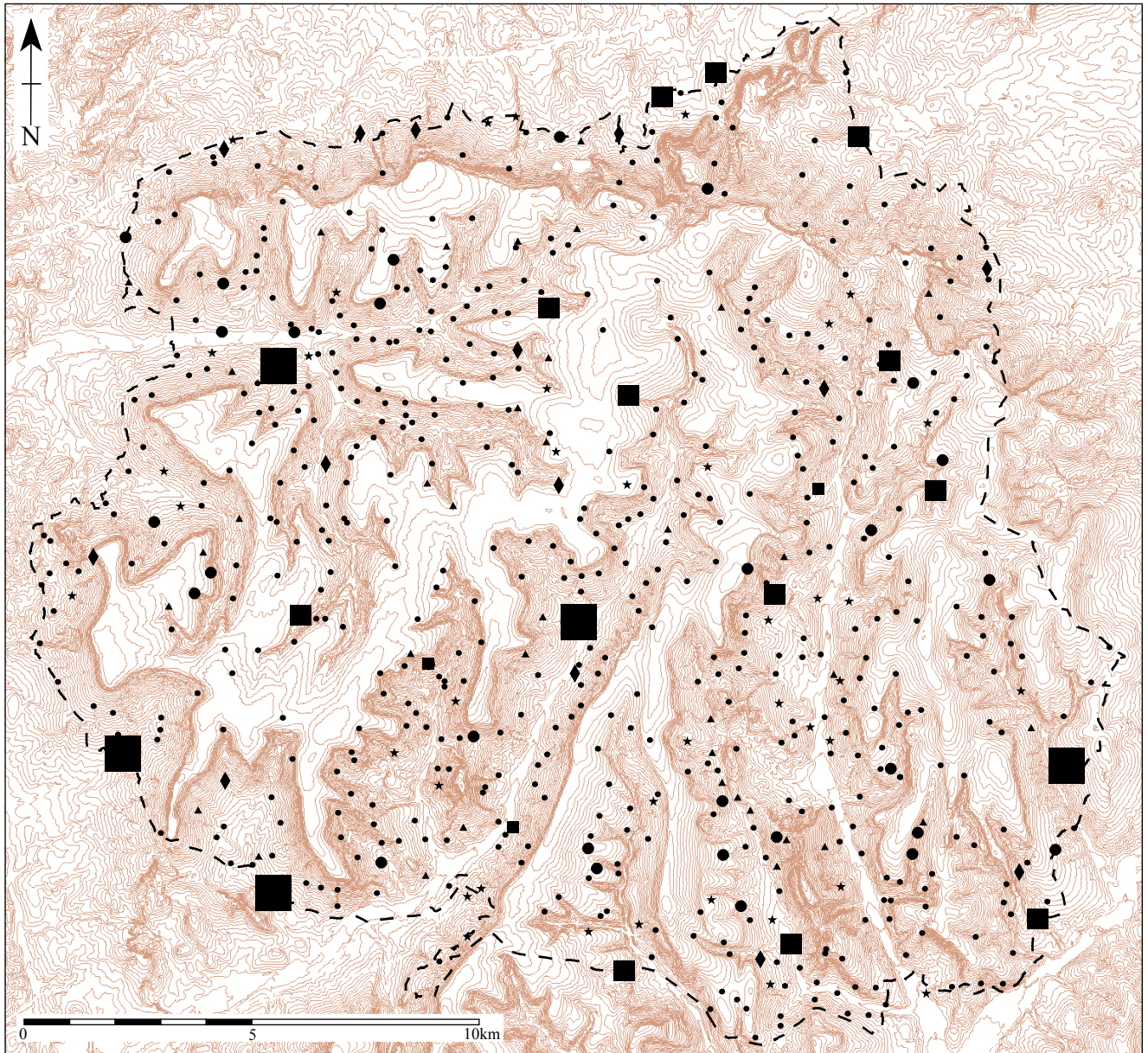


Figure 8: The Blackdown Hills AONB area showing settlement types and roads c.1880, along with historic landscape character types 'Late enclosure', 'Flood plain' and 'Sloping valley bottom' as identified on OS 2nd edition 6 inches to the mile mapping c.1900.



- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| ■ Large nucleations   | ▲ Directly adjacent farms<br>(with and without common<br>name element) |
| ■ Smaller nucleations | ★ Multiple spread farms<br>with common name element                    |
| ■ Service nucleations | • Other farms  |
| ● Compact hamlets     |  |
| ◆ Loose hamlets       |  |

Figure 9.1: Settlement typology of the Blackdown Hills AONB c.1880 in relation to topography.

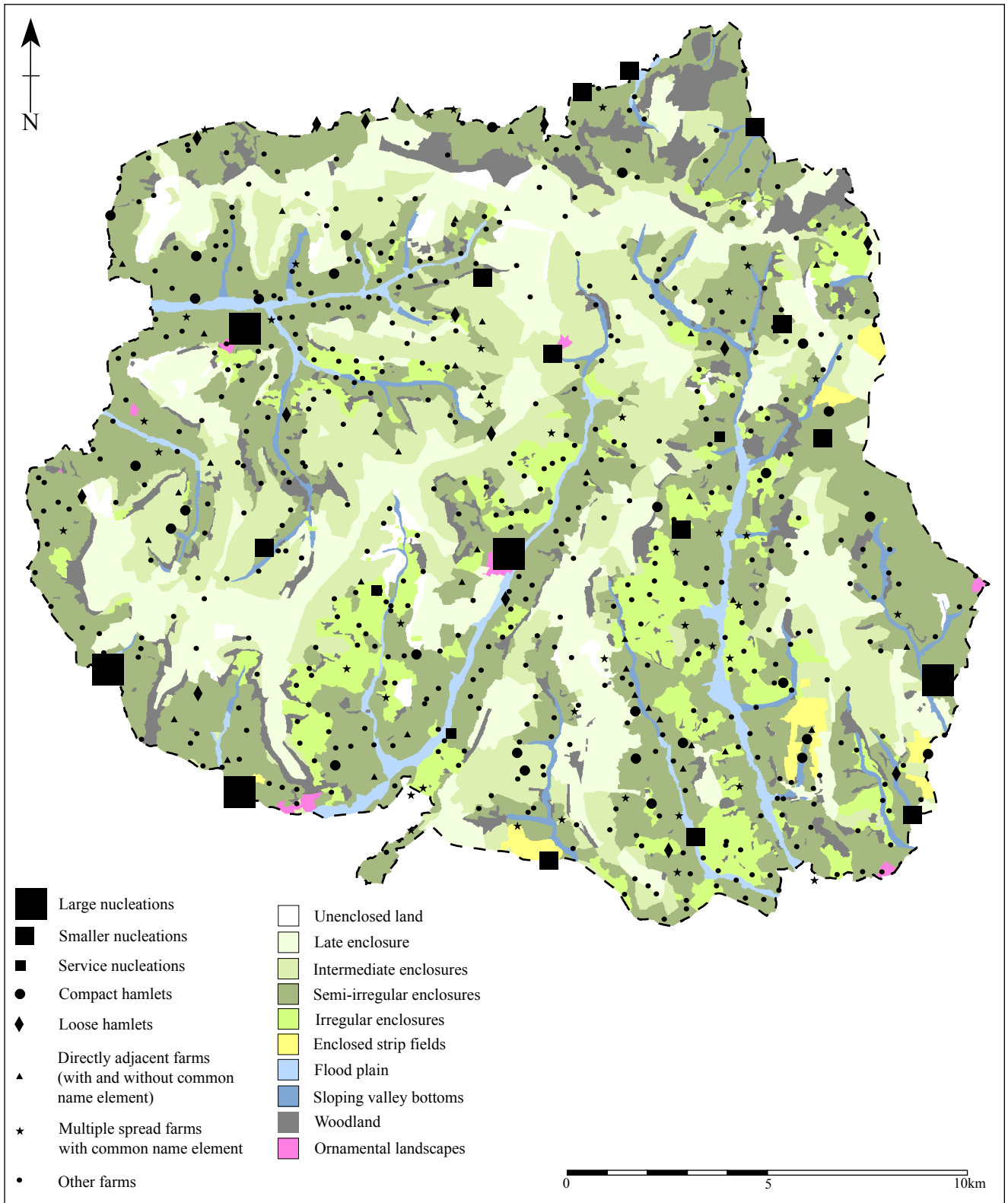


Figure 9.2: Settlement typology of the Blackdown Hills c.1880 in relation to historic landscape character types.

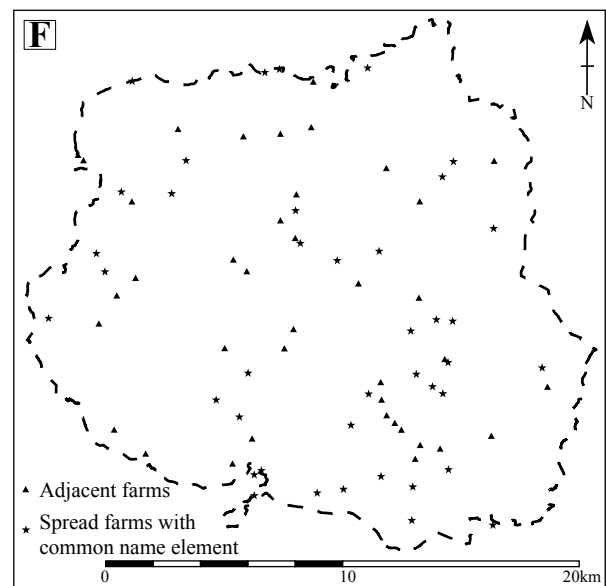
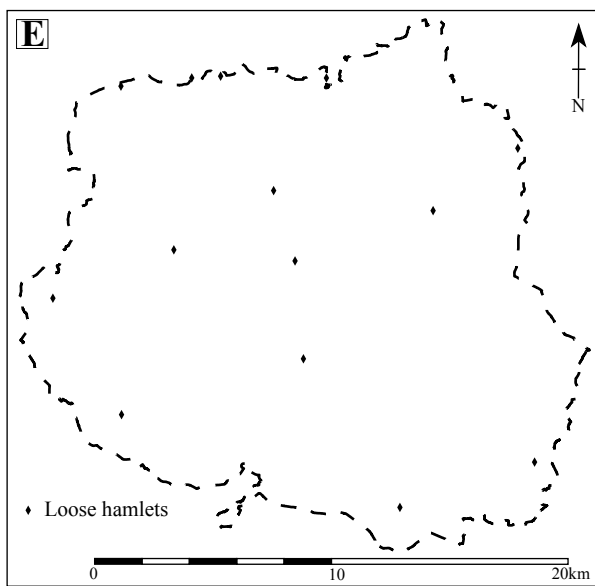
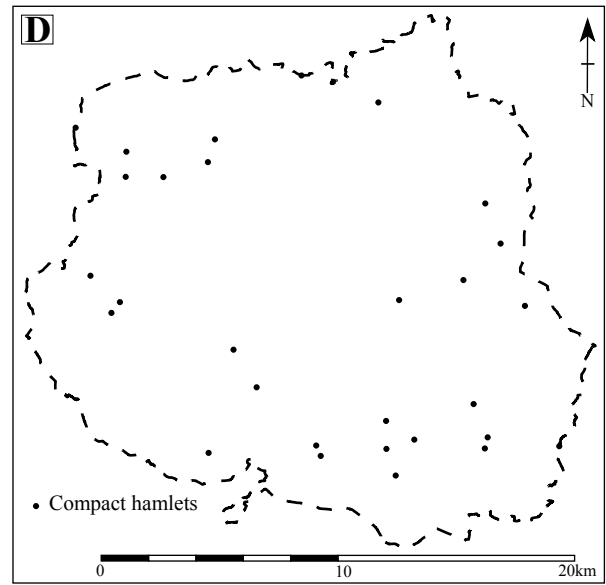
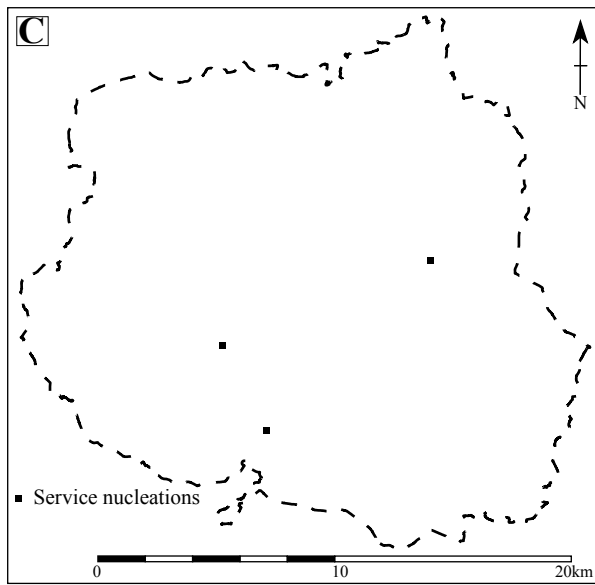
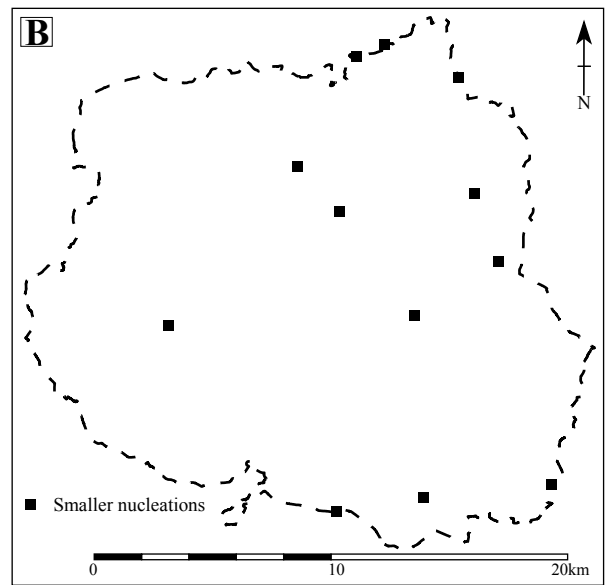
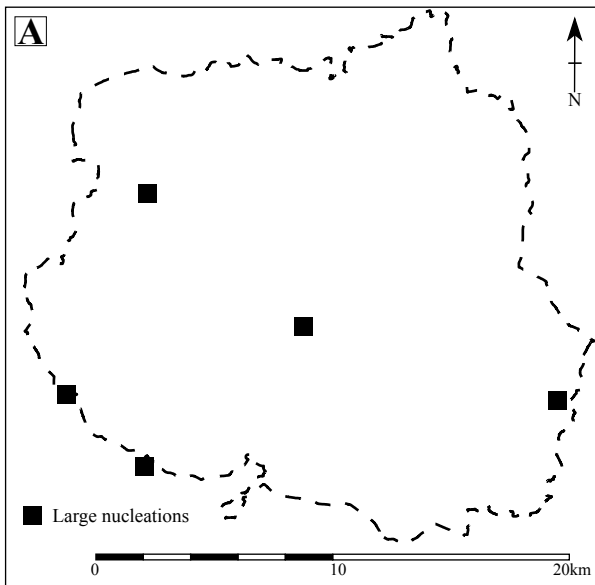


Figure 10: The distribution of individual settlement types of the Blackdown Hills AONB c.1880 based on Ordnance Survey 1st edition six inches to the mile mapping. **A** shows large nucleations, **B** shows smaller nucleations, **C** shows service nucleations, **D** shows compact hamlets, **E** shows loose hamlets and **F** shows adjacent farms and spread farms with common name elements.

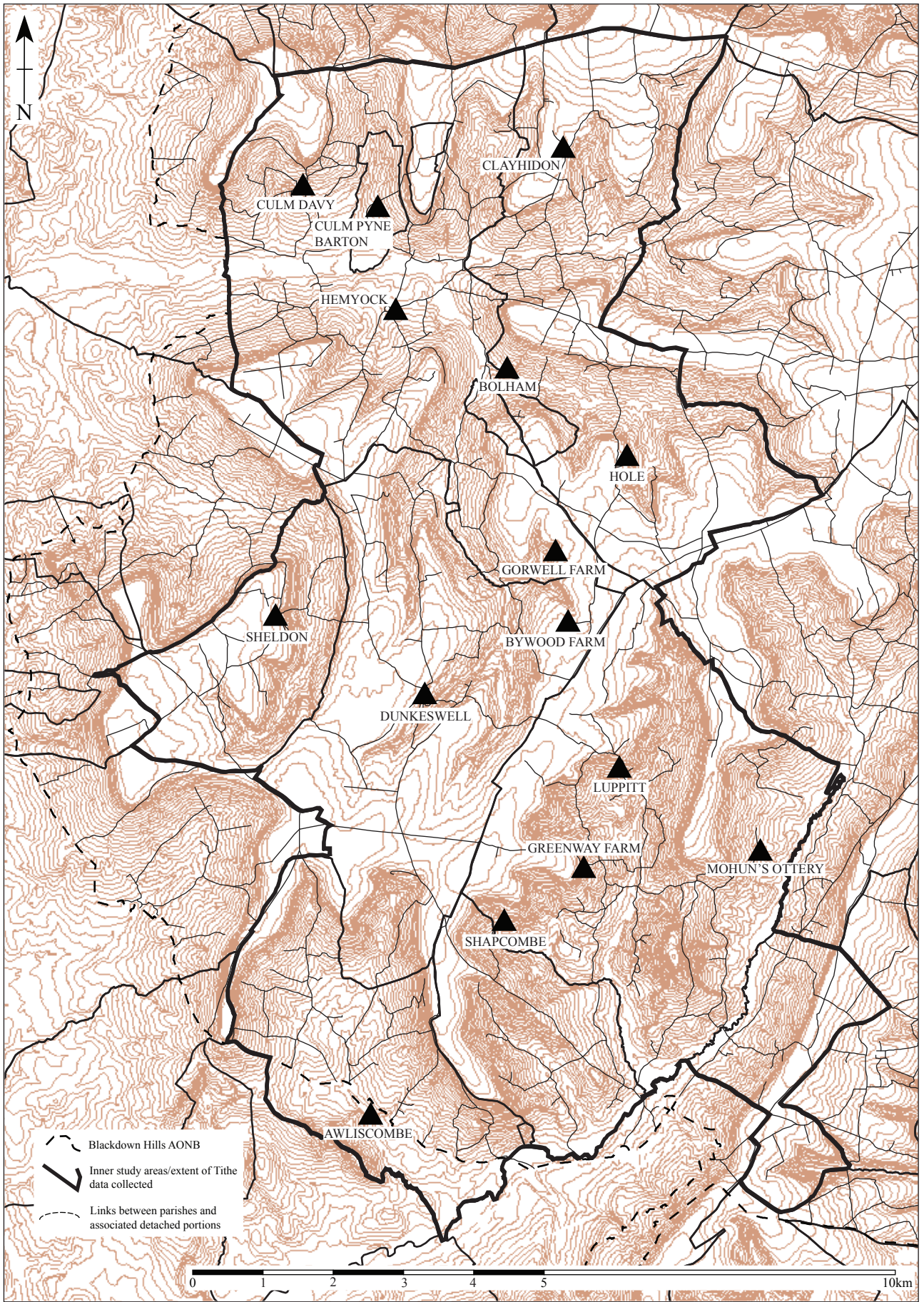


Figure 11.1: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1086 in relation to topography and roads c.1880.

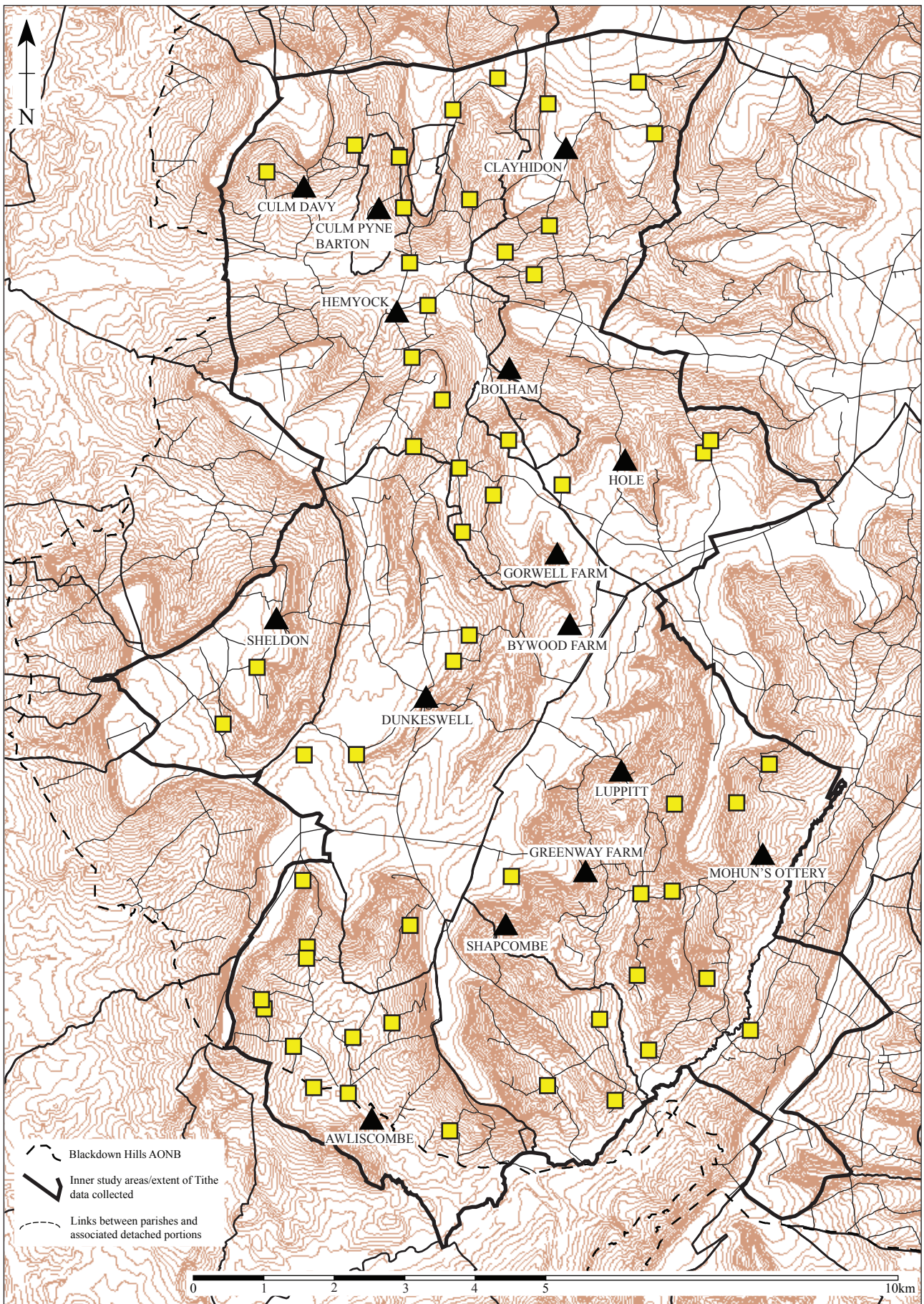


Figure 11.2: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1348 in relation to topography and roads *c.*1880. Black symbols represent settlements first documented by 1086, yellow symbols are those first recorded between 1087 and 1348.



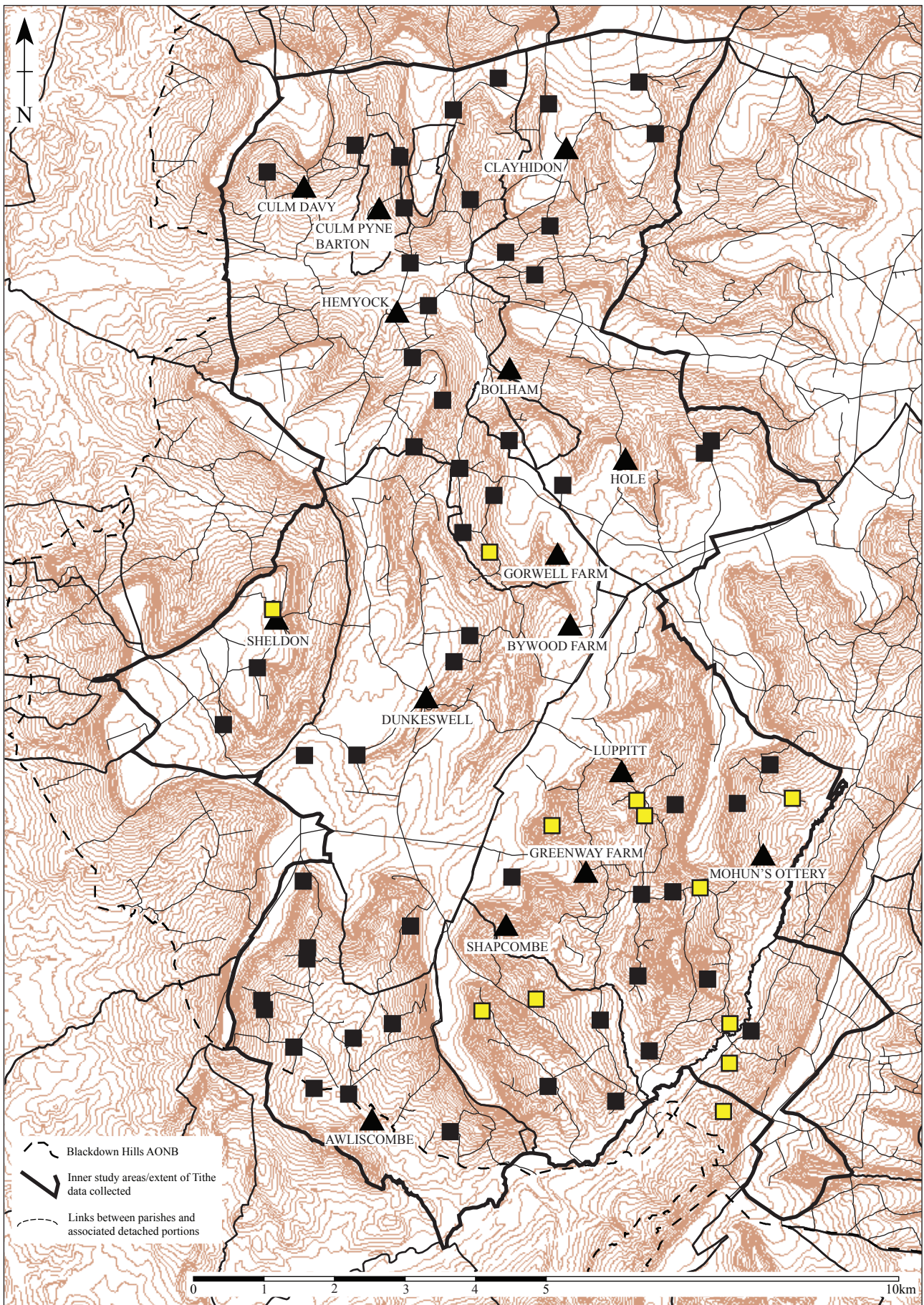


Figure 11.3: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1500 in relation to topography and roads c.1880. Black symbols represent settlements first documented between 1086 and 1348, yellow symbols are those first recorded between 1349 and 1500.

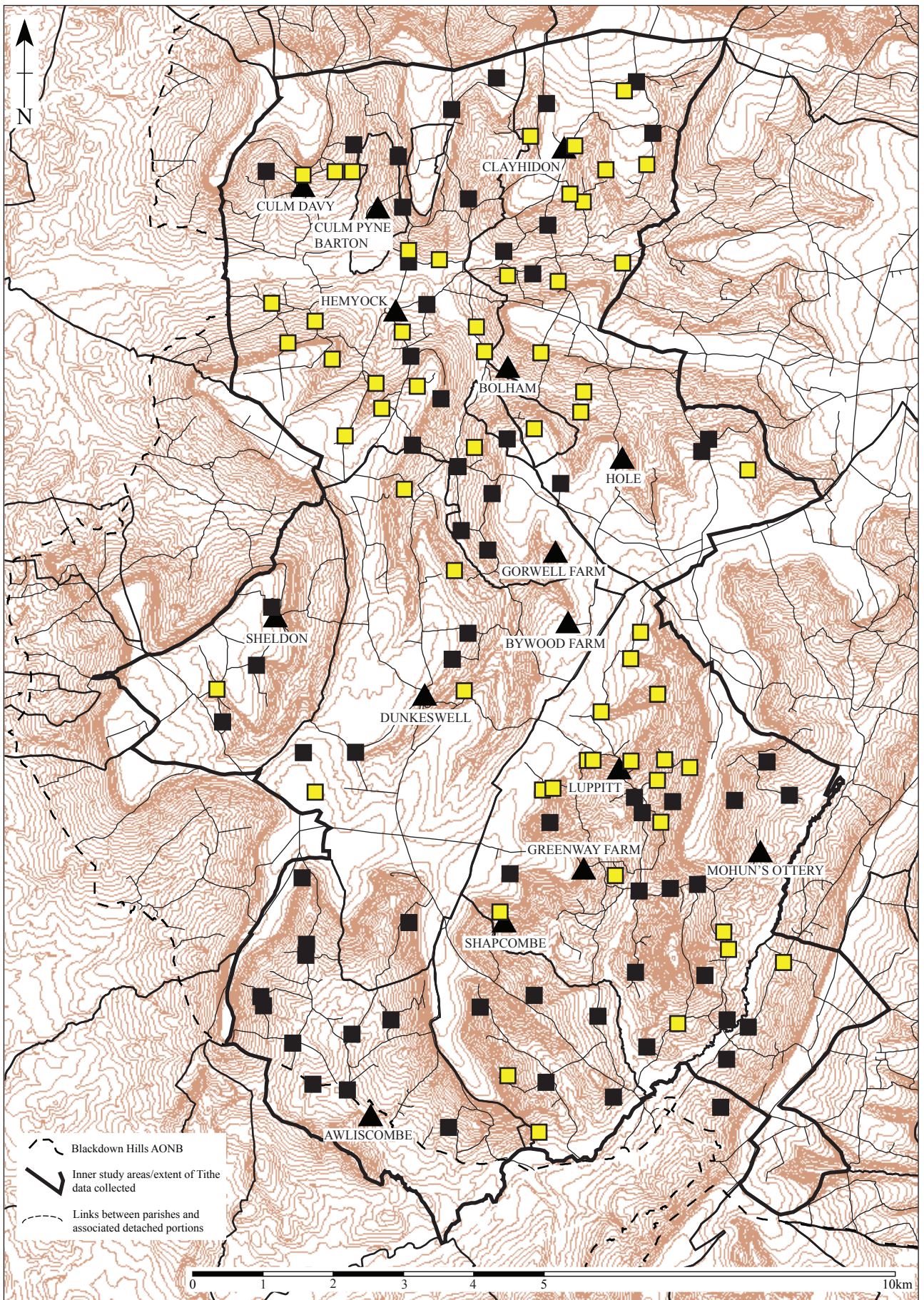


Figure 11.4: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1700 in relation to topography and roads c.1880. Black symbols represent settlements first documented between 1086 and 1500, yellow symbols are those first recorded between 1501 and 1700.

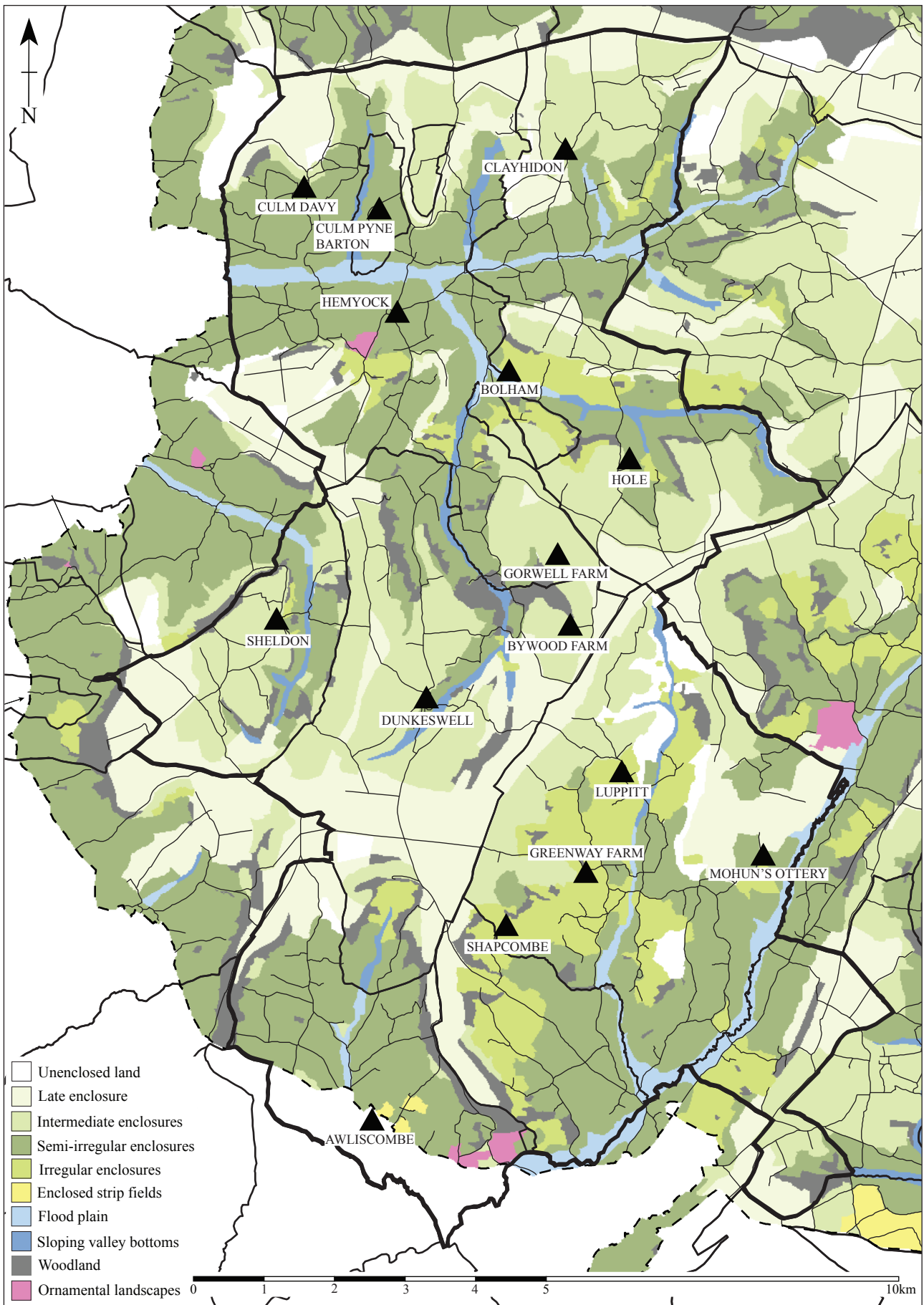


Figure 12.1: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1086 in relation to historic landscape character types and roads c.1880.

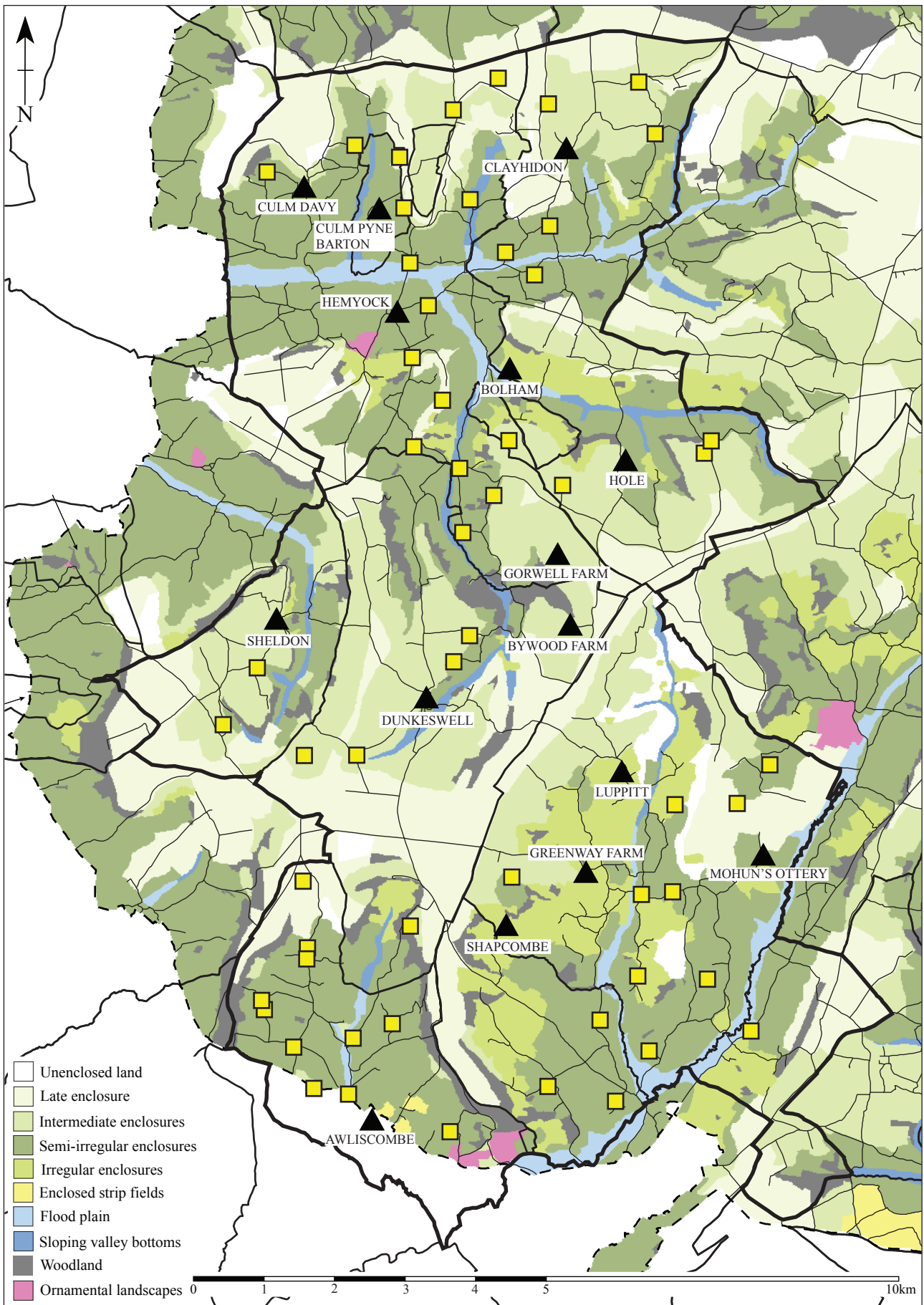


Figure 12.2: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1348 in relation to historic landscape character types and roads c.1880. Black symbols represent settlements first documented by 1086, yellow symbols are those first recorded between 1087 and 1348.

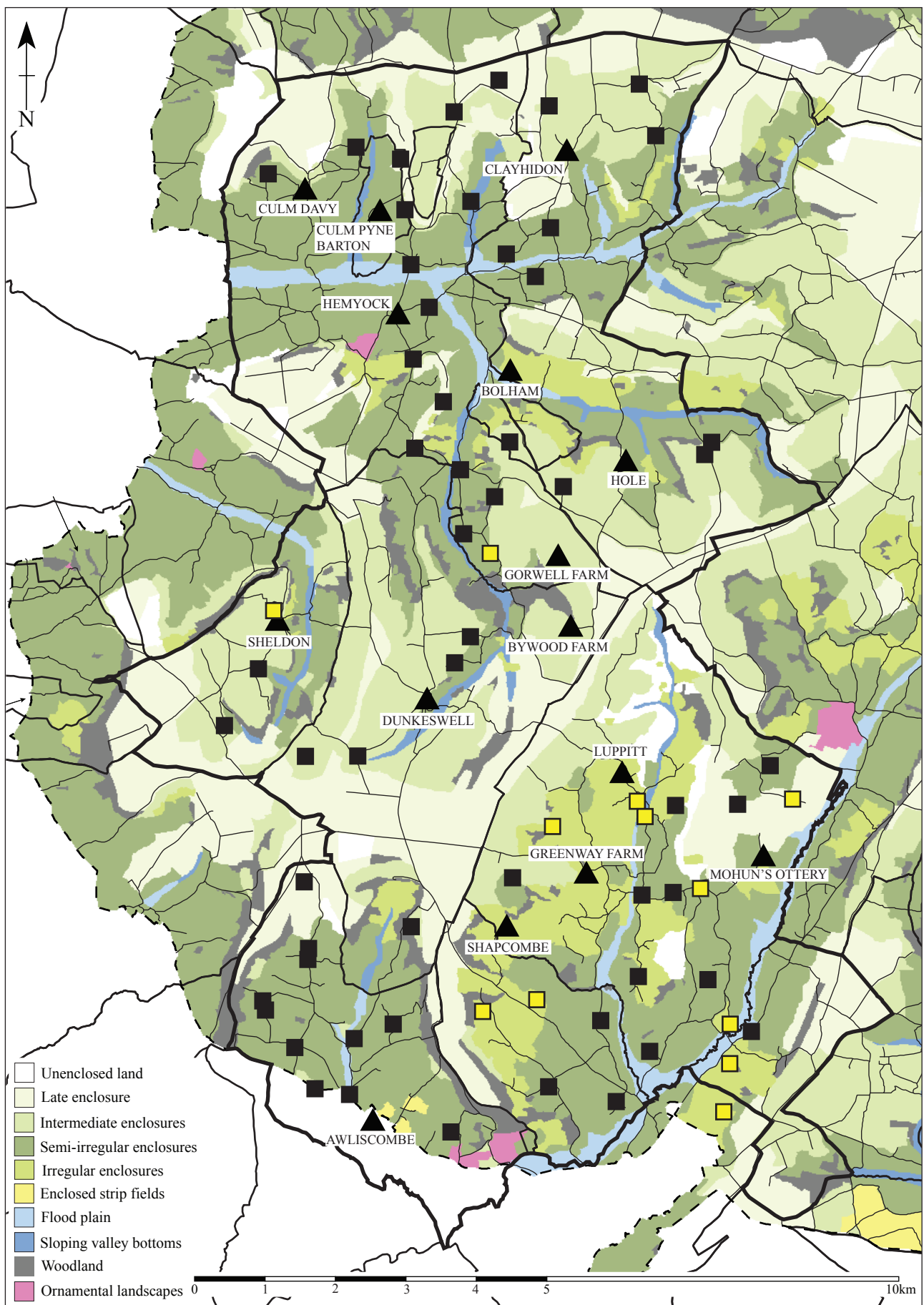


Figure 12.3: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1500 in relation to historic landscape character types and roads c.1880. Black symbols represent settlements first documented between 1086 and 1348, yellow symbols are those first recorded between 1349 and 1500.

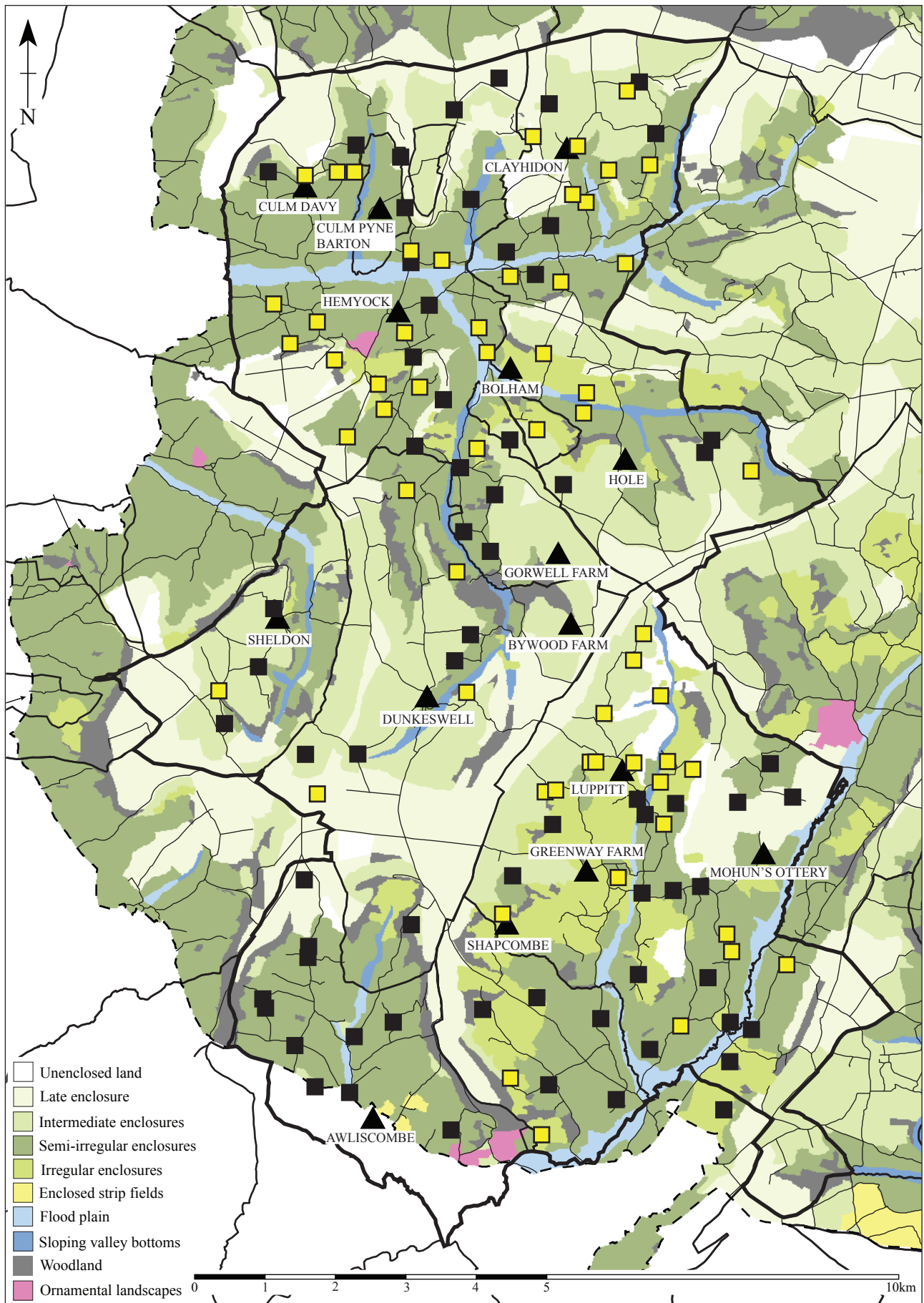


Figure 12.4: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1700 in relation to historic landscape character types and roads c.1880. Black symbols represent settlements first documented between 1086 and 1500, yellow symbols are those first recorded between 1501 and 1700.

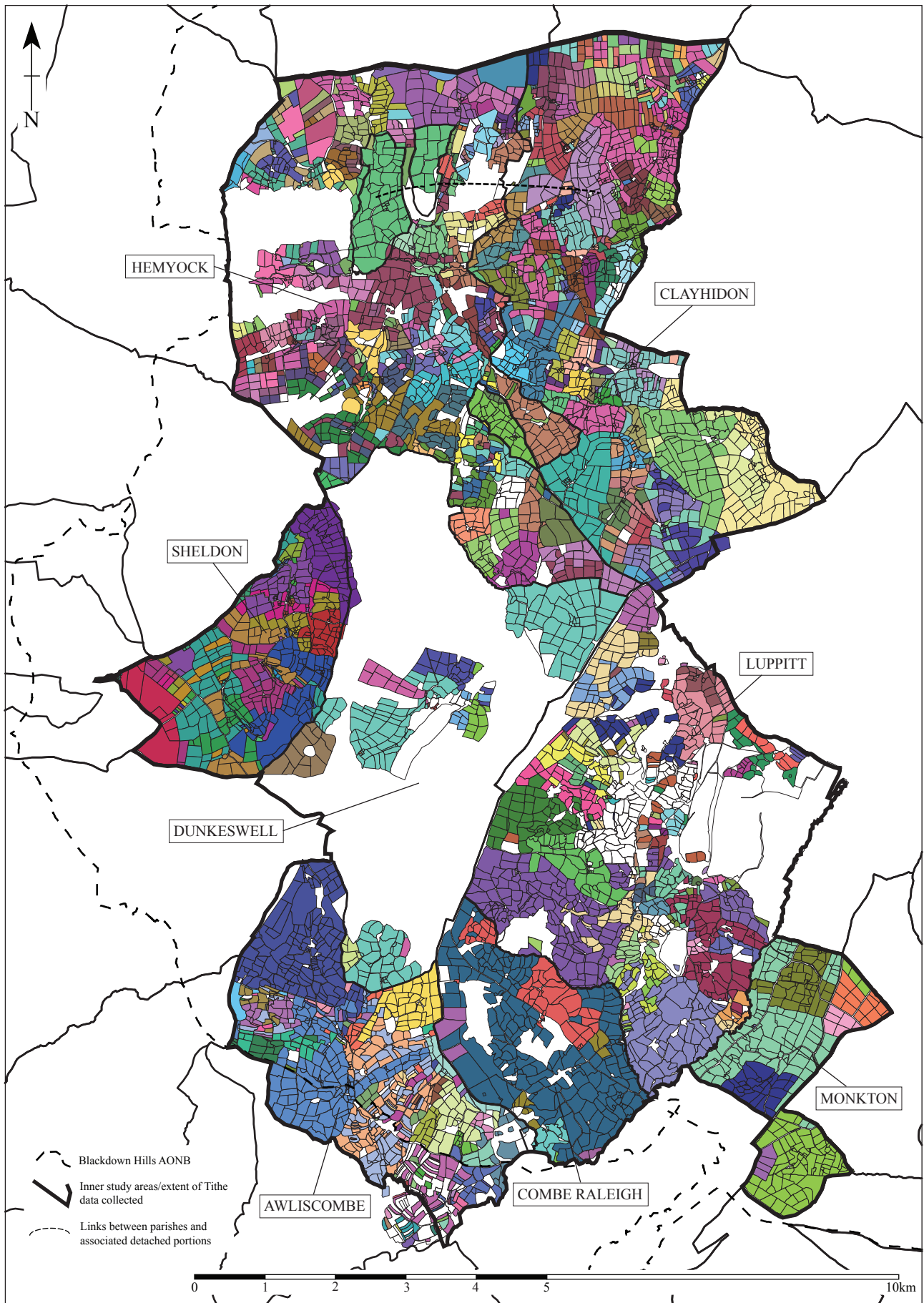


Figure 13.1: The pattern of land ownership in the western core study area c.1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. Parishes with data are labelled and the outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

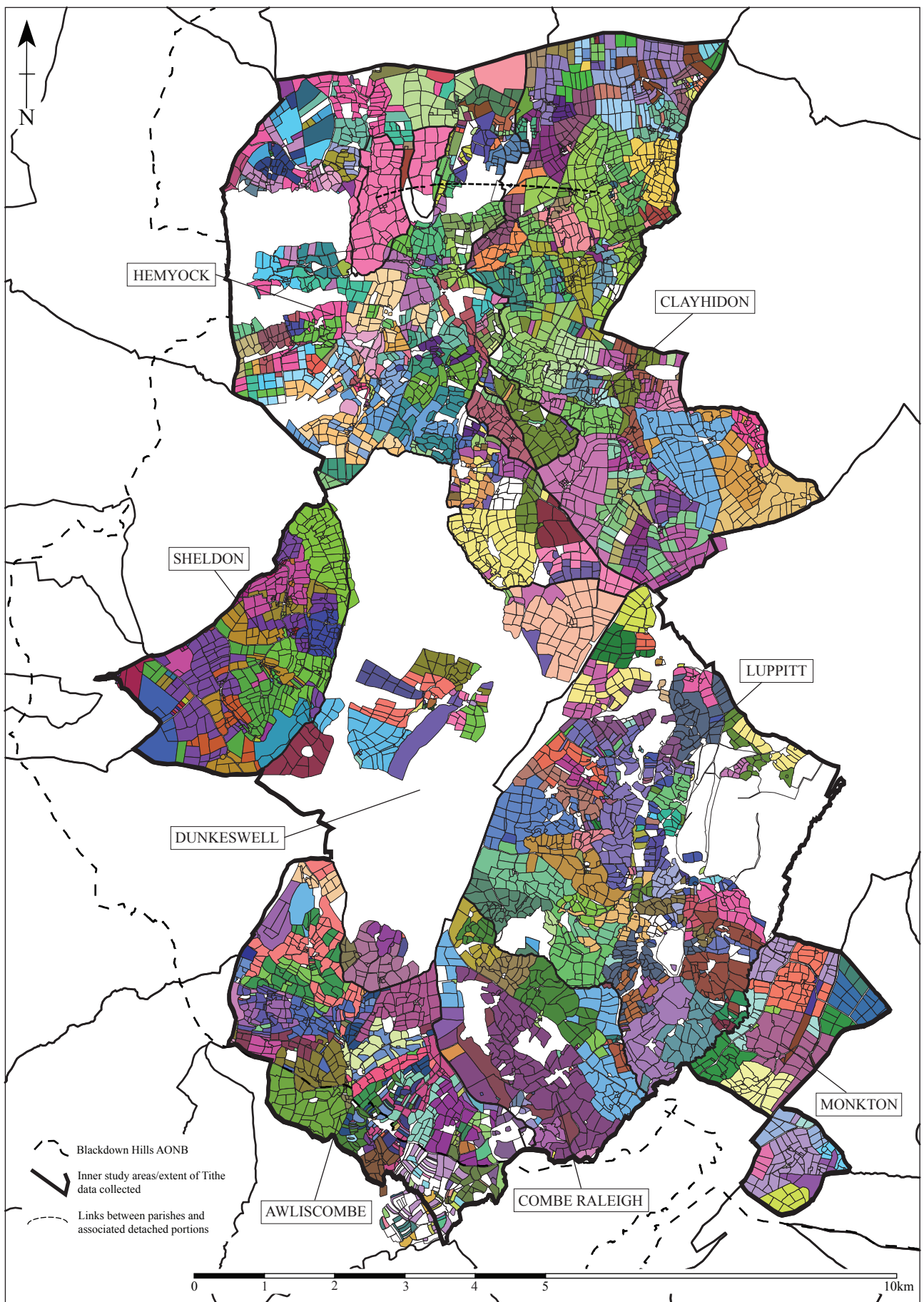


Figure 13.2: The pattern of land occupancy in the western core study area c.1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. Parishes with data are labelled and the outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.



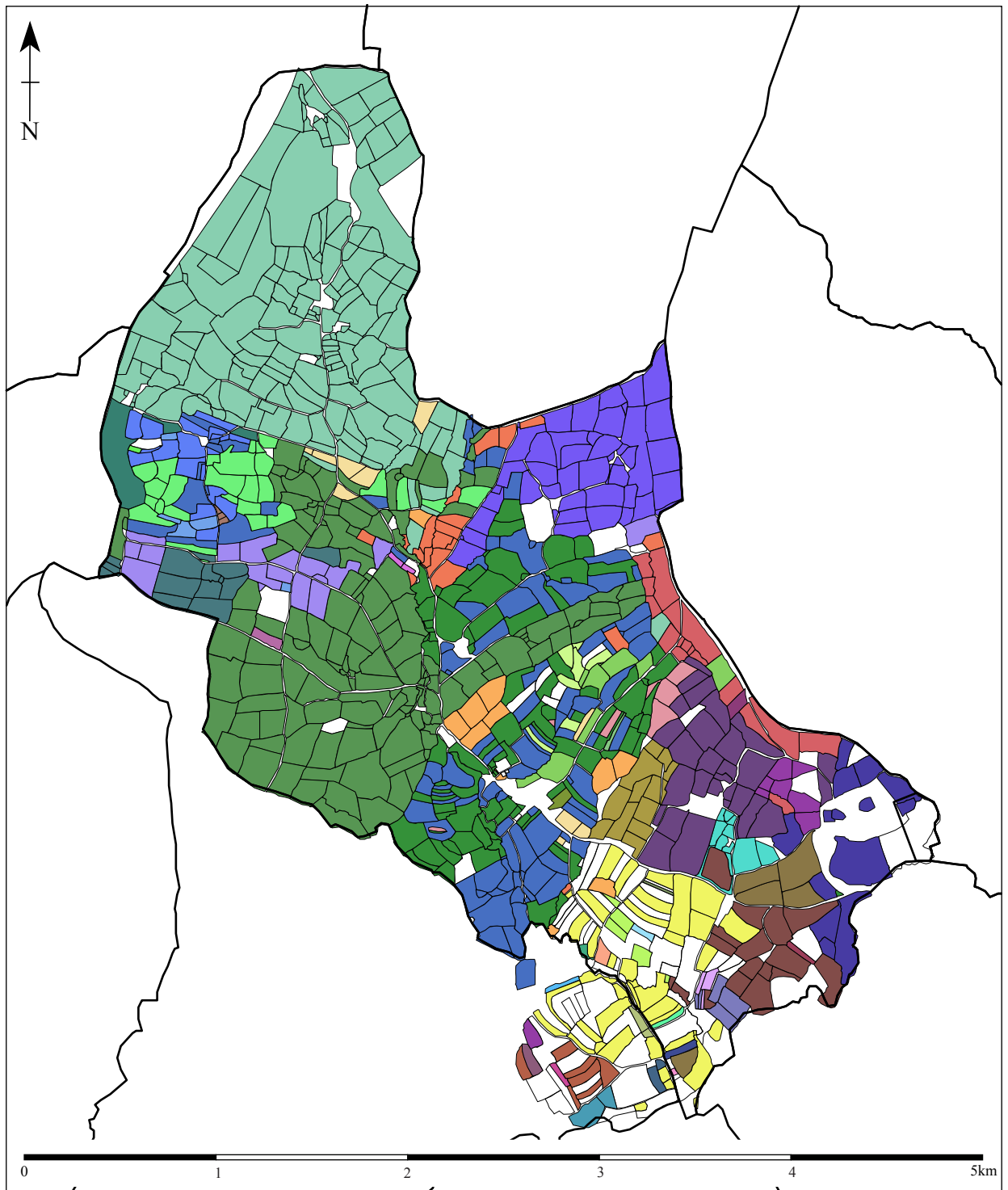


Figure 14.1: The pattern of land ownership in Awliscombe c.1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

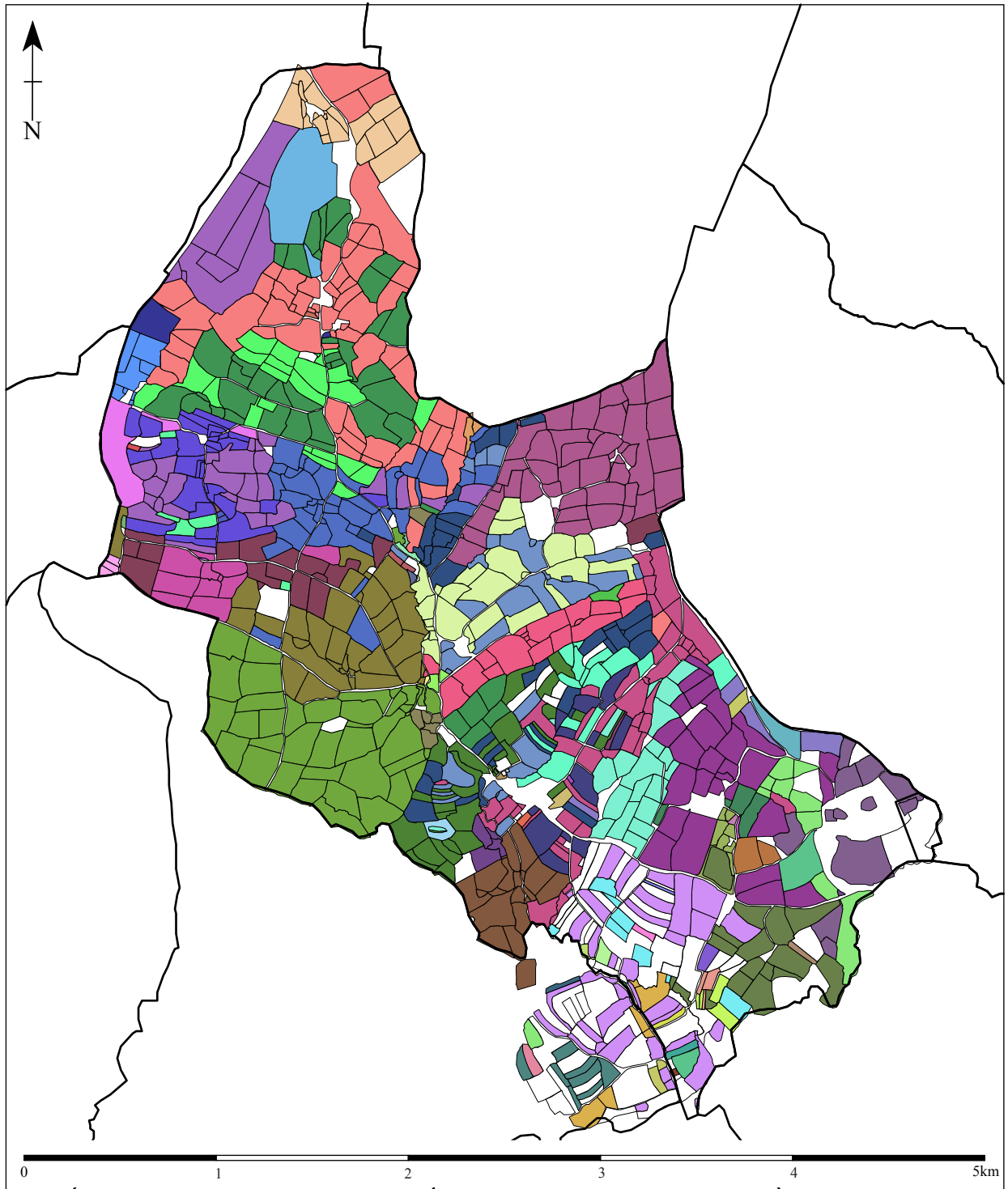


Figure 14.2: The pattern of land occupancy in Awliscombe *c.* 1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

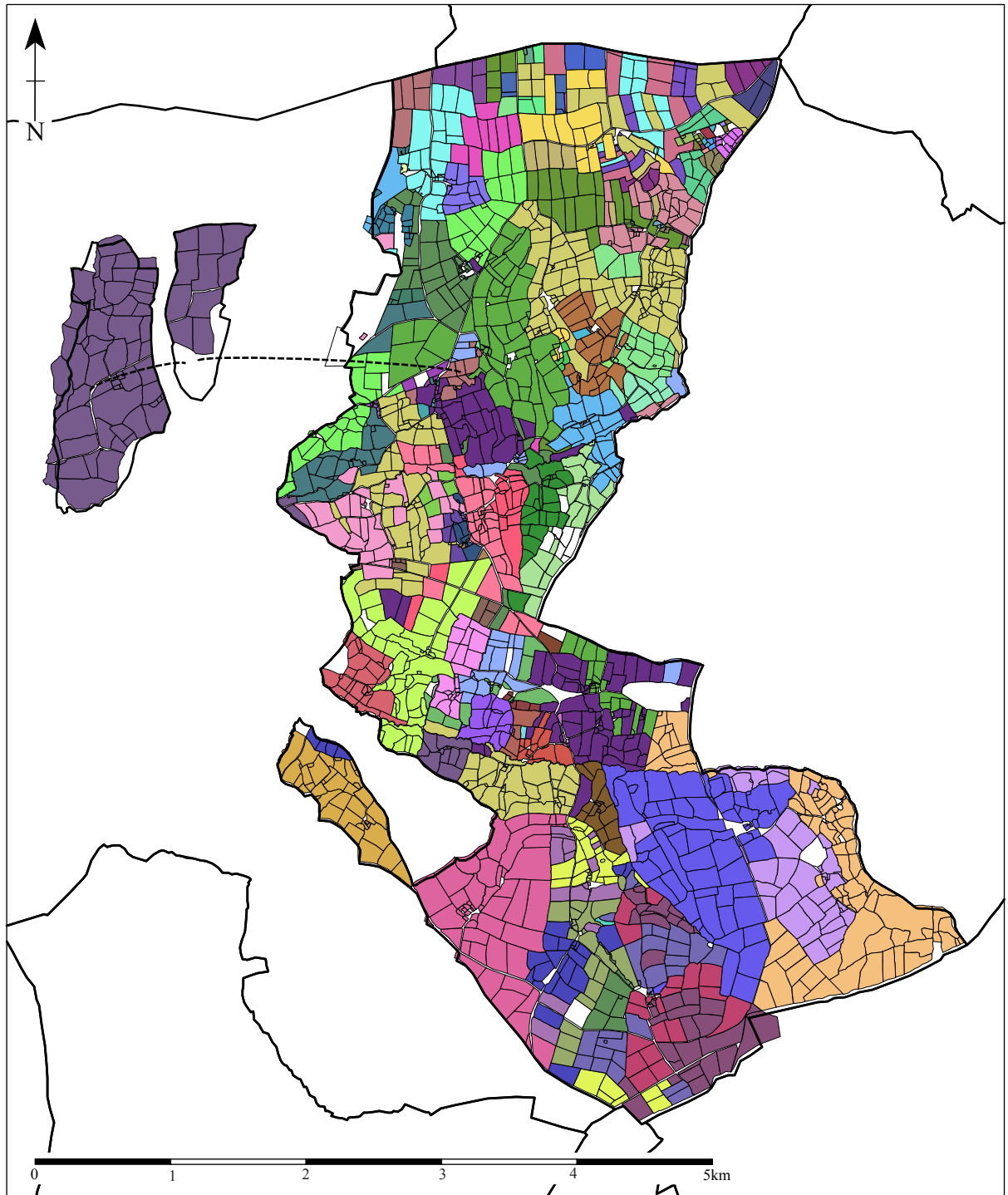


Figure 14.3: The pattern of land ownership in Clayhidon *c.* 1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

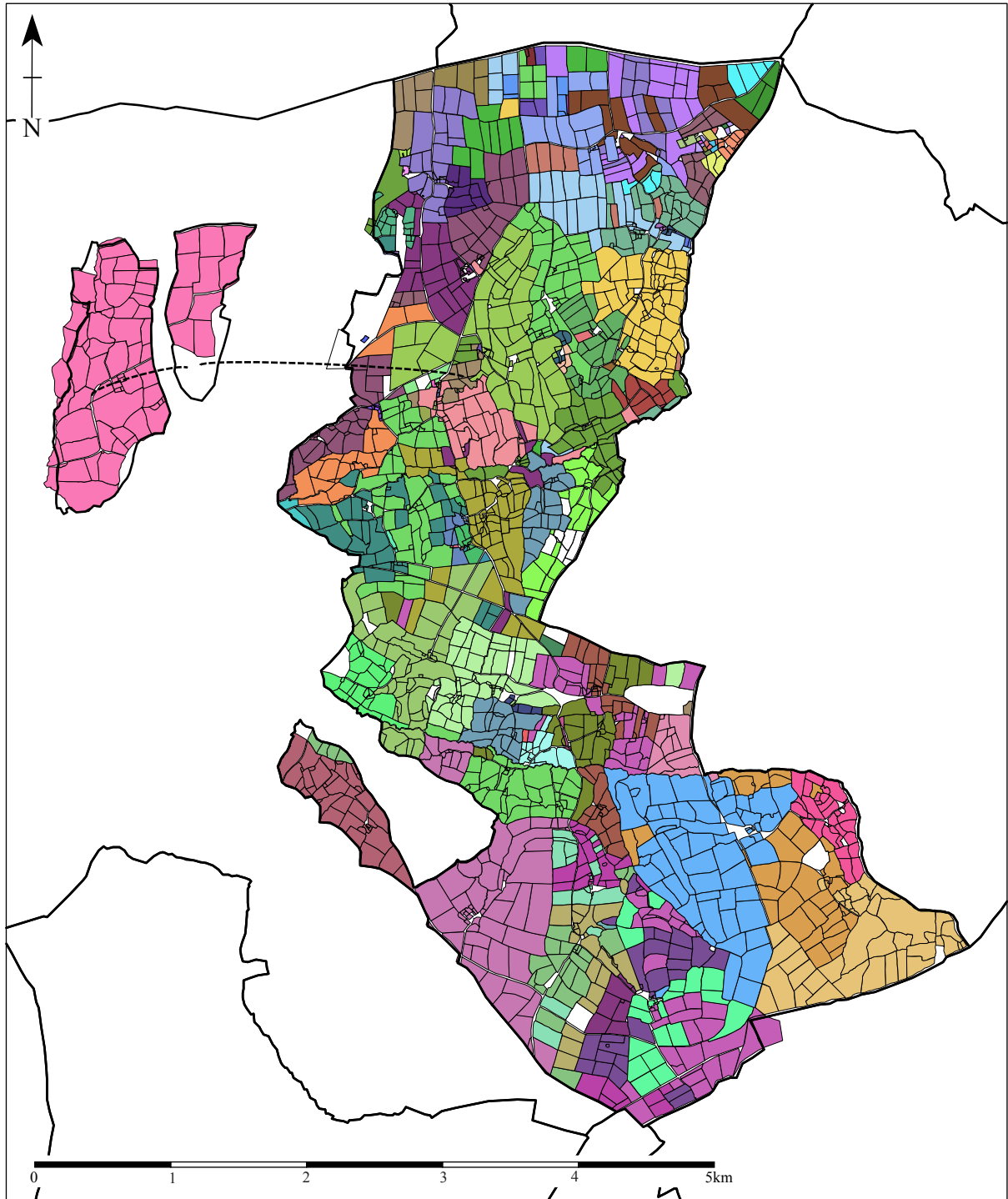


Figure 14.4: The pattern of land occupancy in Clayhidon c.1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

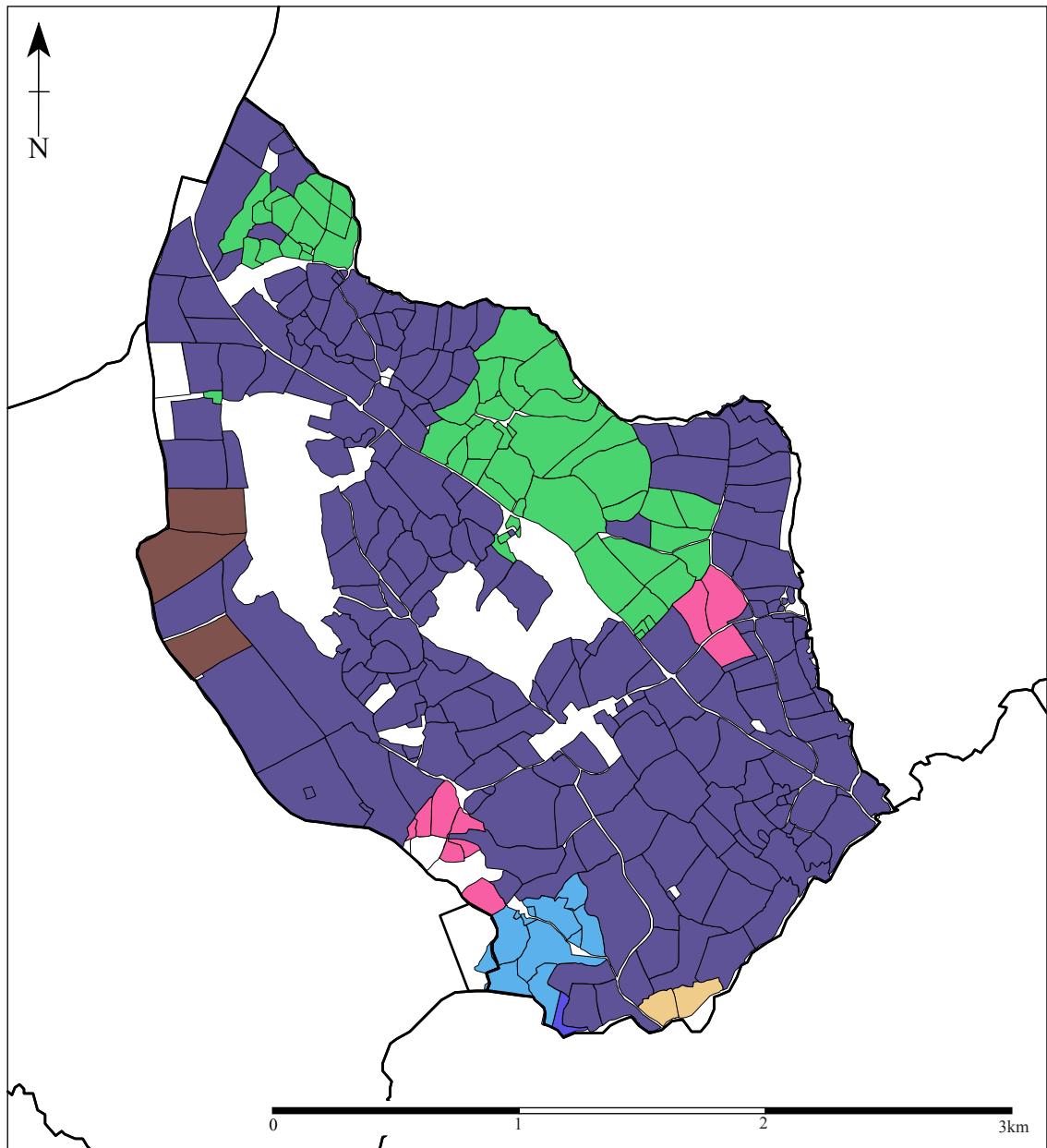


Figure 14.5: The pattern of land ownership in Combe Raleigh c.1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

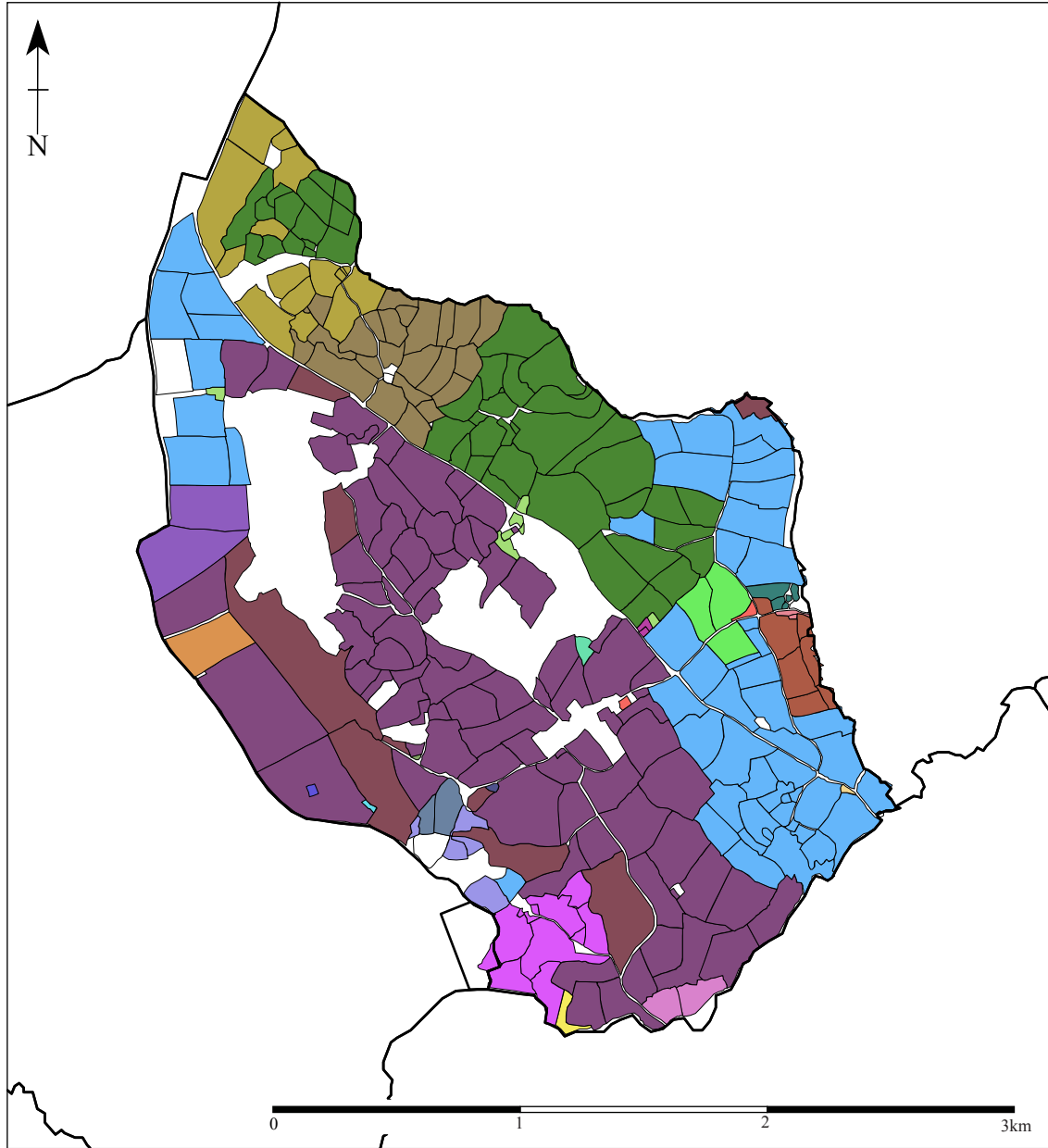


Figure 14.6: The pattern of land occupancy in Combe Raleigh *c.* 1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

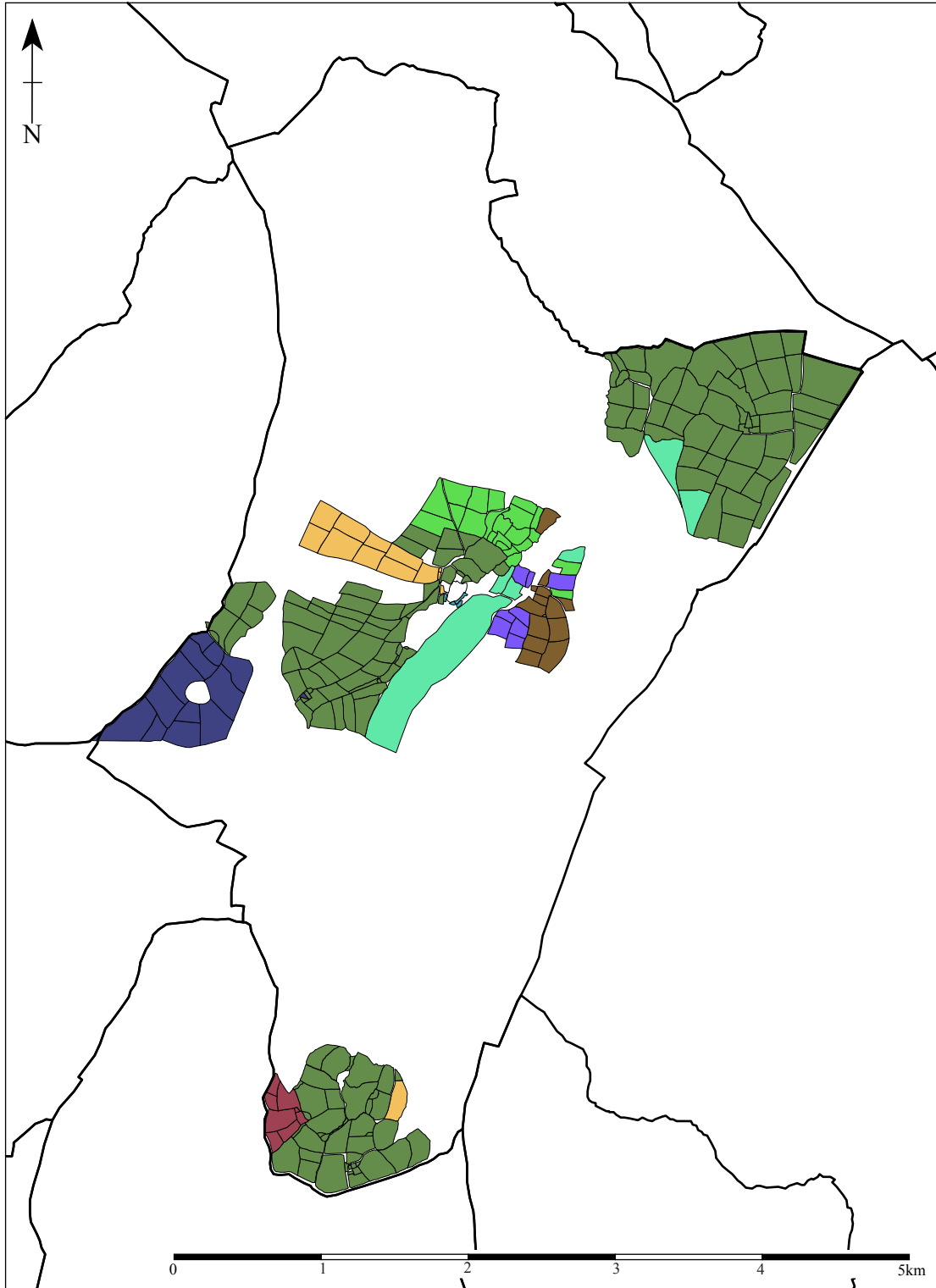


Figure 14.7: The pattern of land ownership in Dunkeswell *c.*1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The extensive blank areas were presumably non-Titheable. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

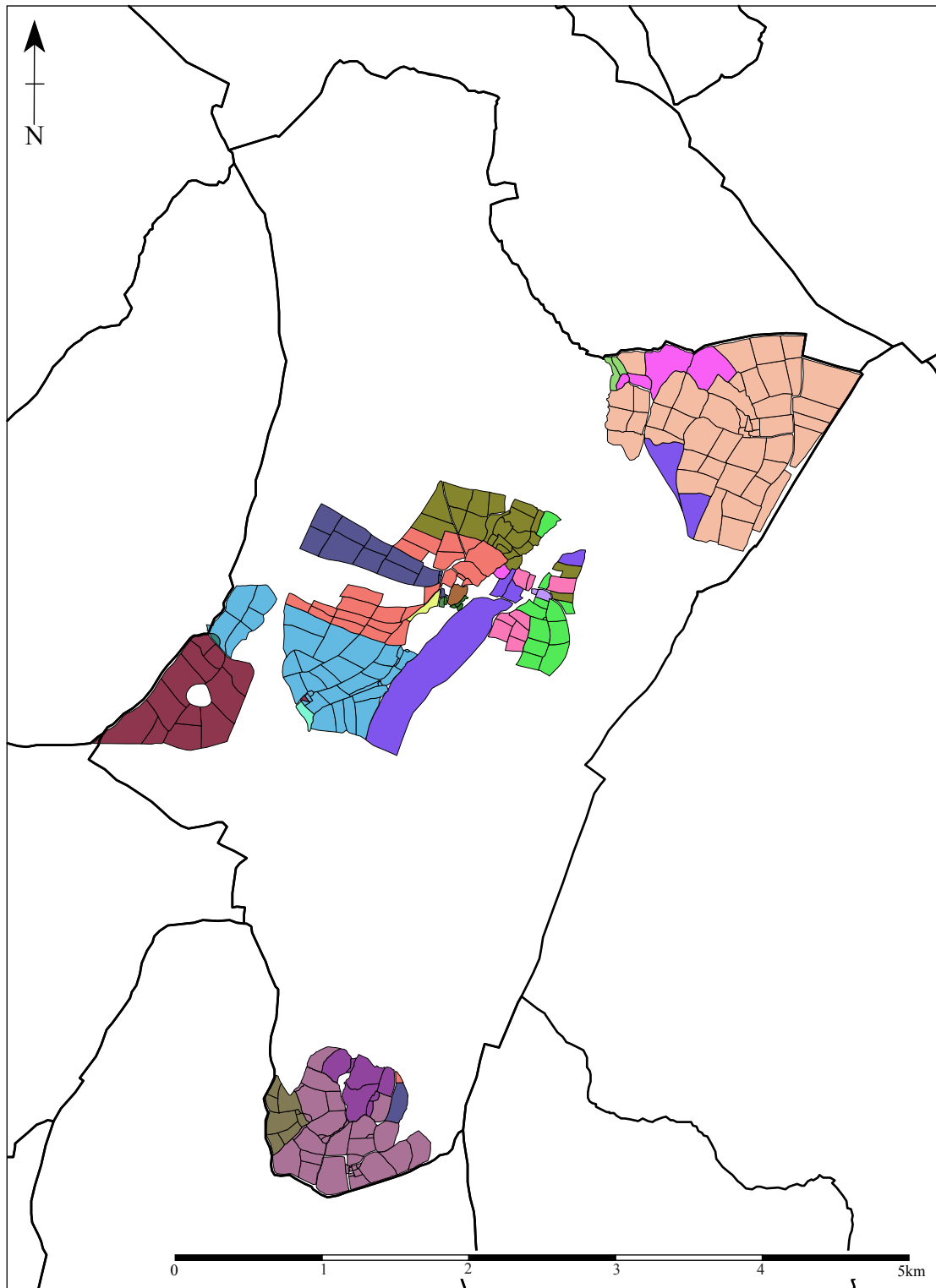


Figure 14.8: The pattern of land occupancy in Dunkeswell *c.*1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The extensive blank areas were presumably non-Titheable. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.



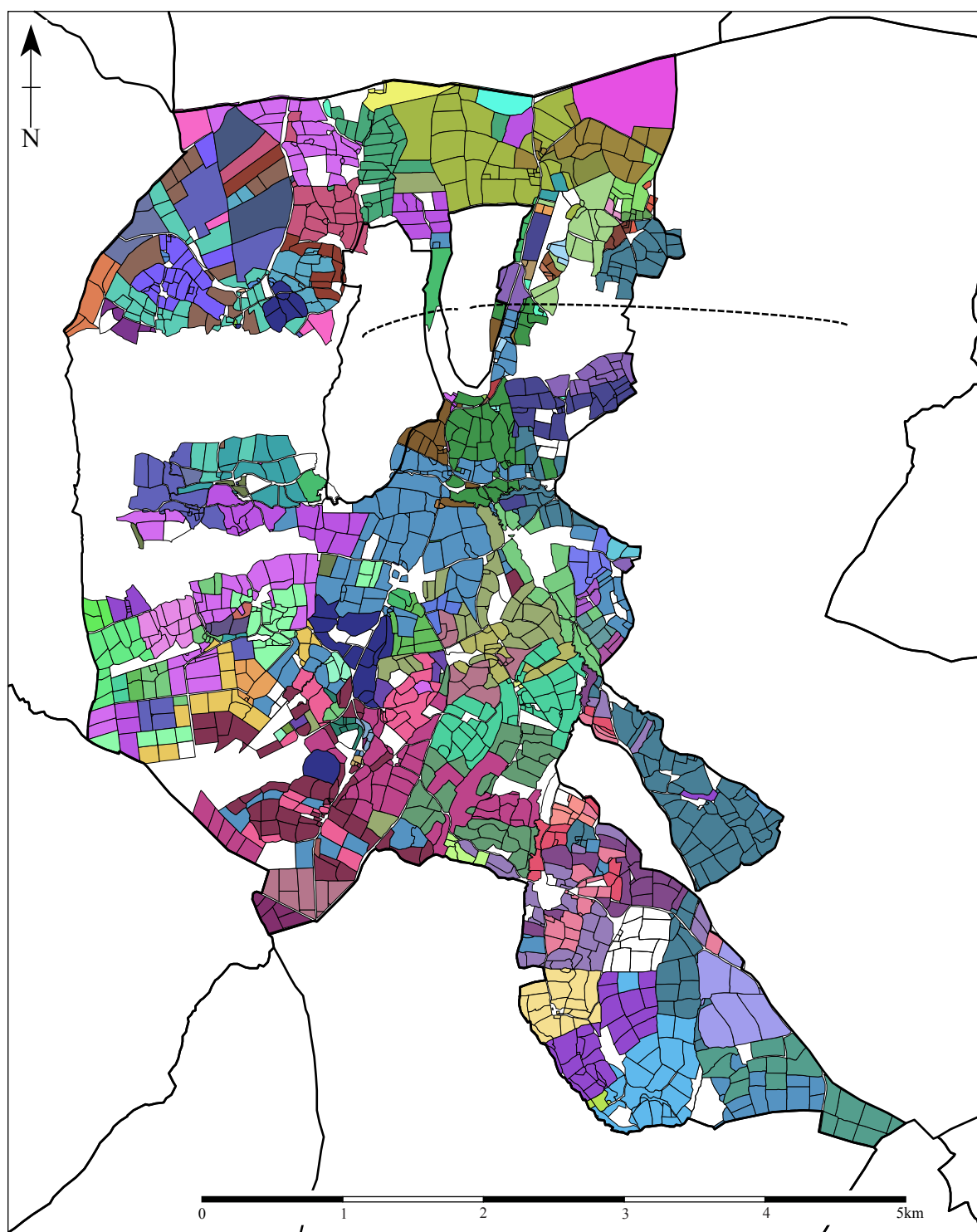


Figure 14.9: The pattern of land ownership in Hemyock c.1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The blank area to the west is accounted for by a tear in the Tithe map. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

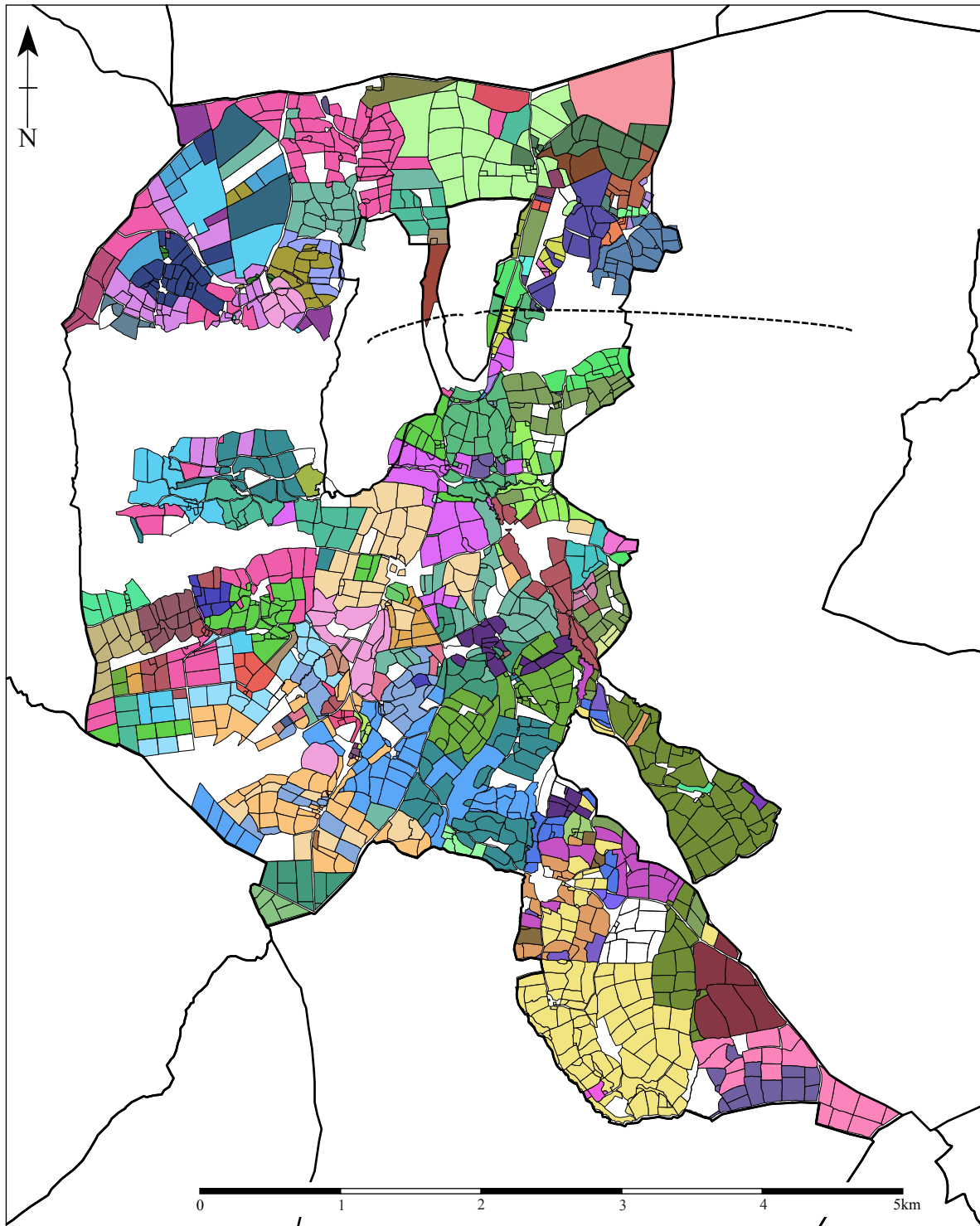


Figure 14.10: The pattern of land occupancy in Hemyock *c.*1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The blank area to the west is accounted for by a tear in the Tithe map. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

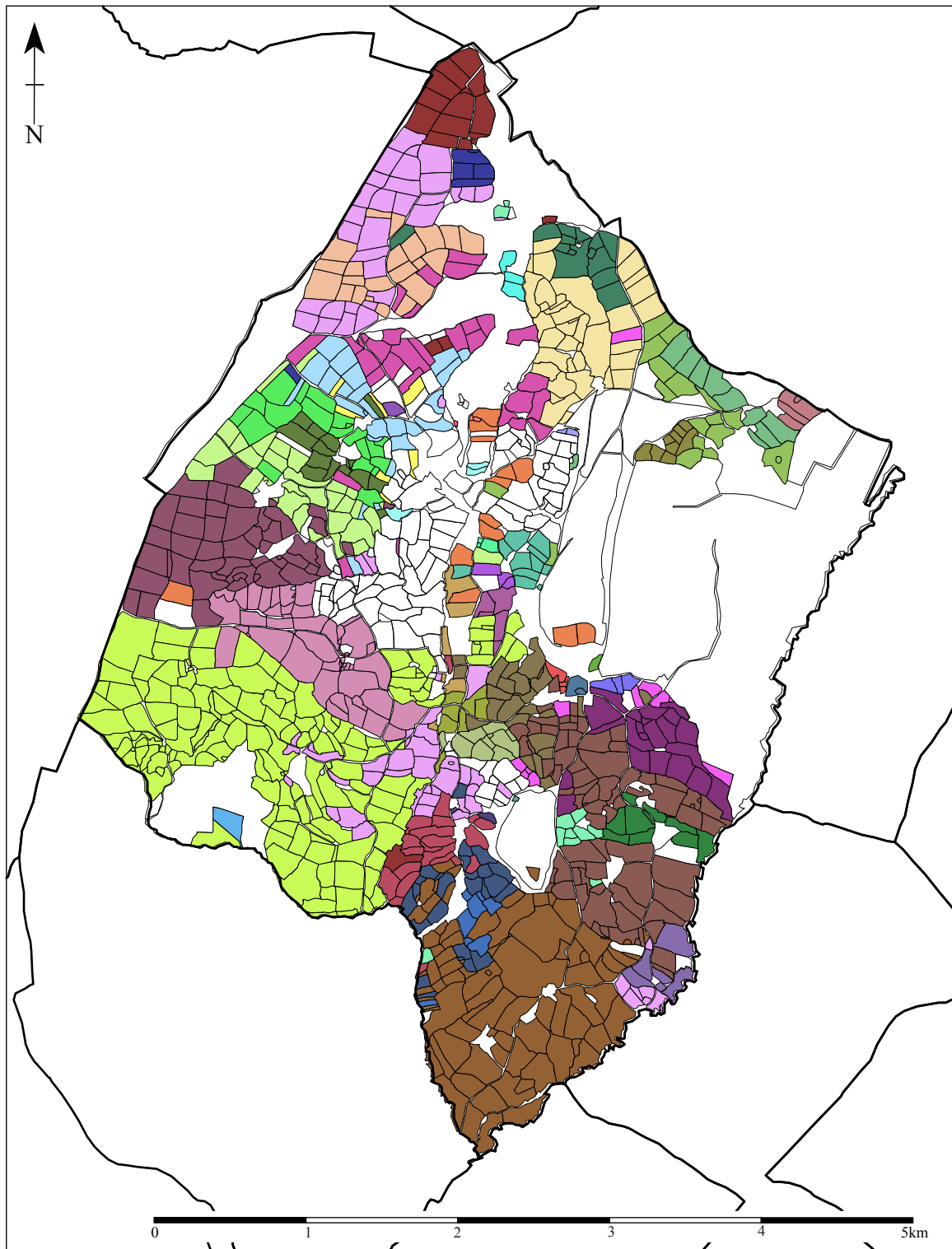


Figure 14.11: The pattern of land ownership in Luppitt *c.* 1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The blank areas are due to missing data and non-Titheable areas. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

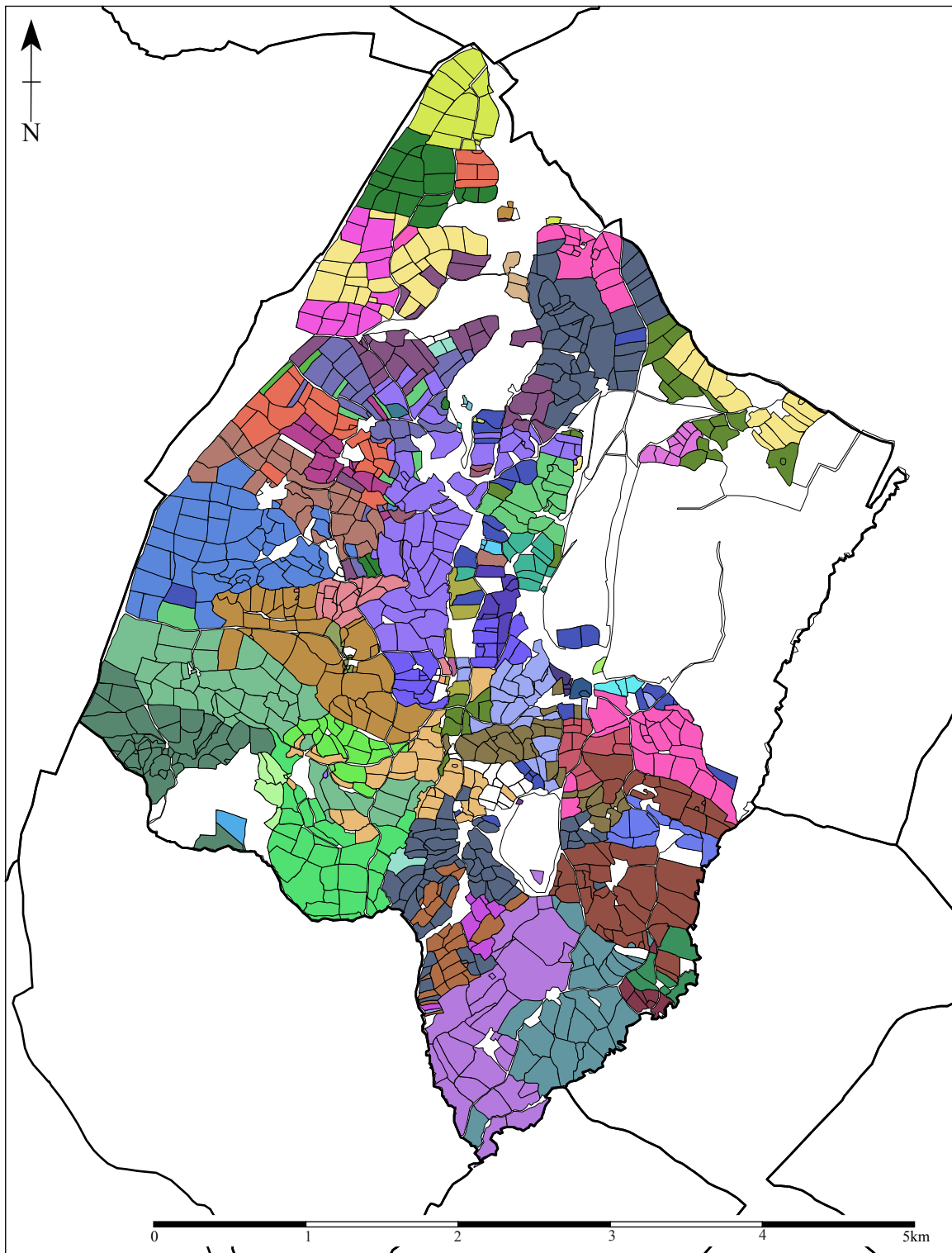


Figure 14.12: The pattern of land occupancy in Luppitt *c.* 1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The blank areas are due to missing data and non-Titheable areas. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

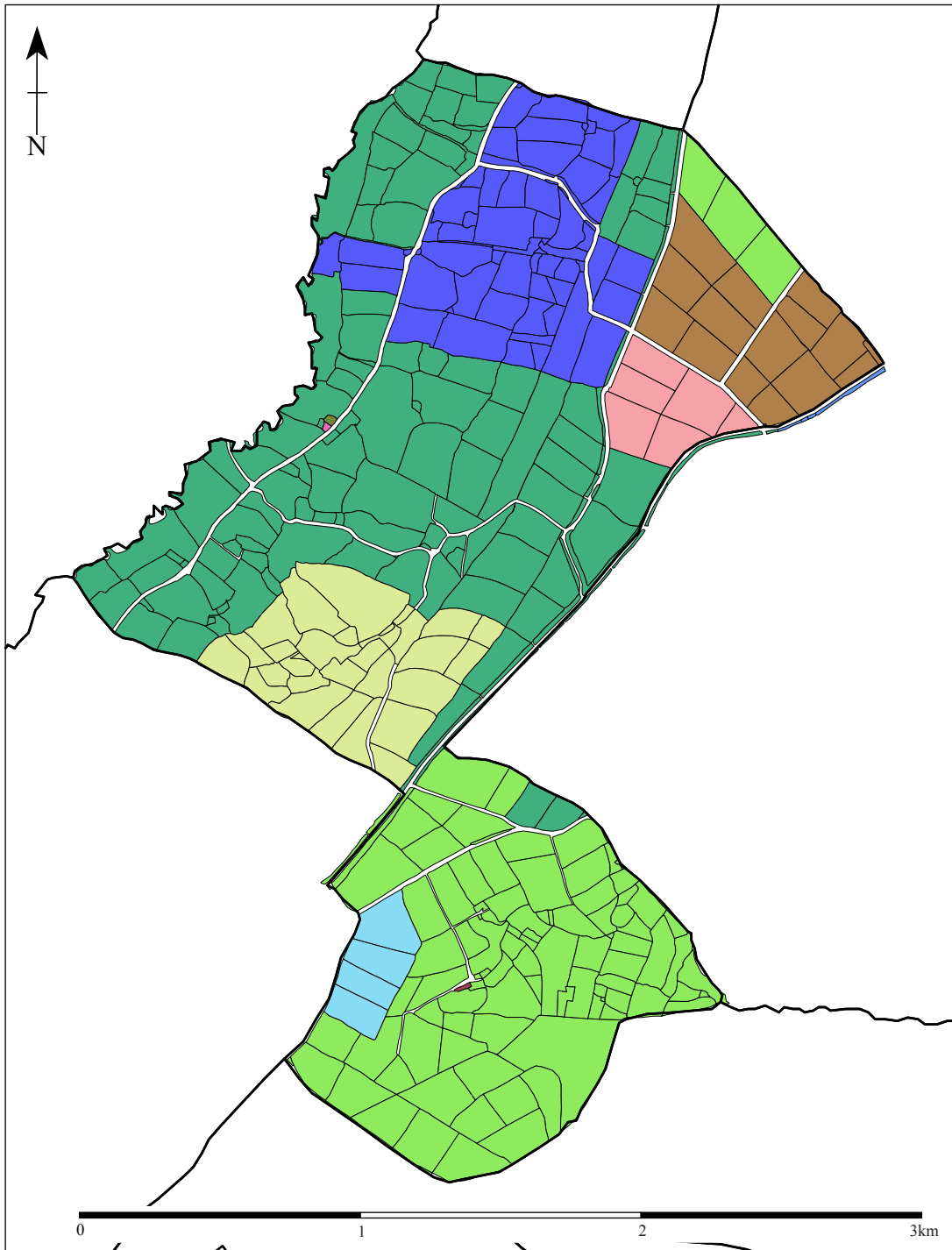


Figure 14.13: The pattern of land ownership in Monkton *c.* 1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

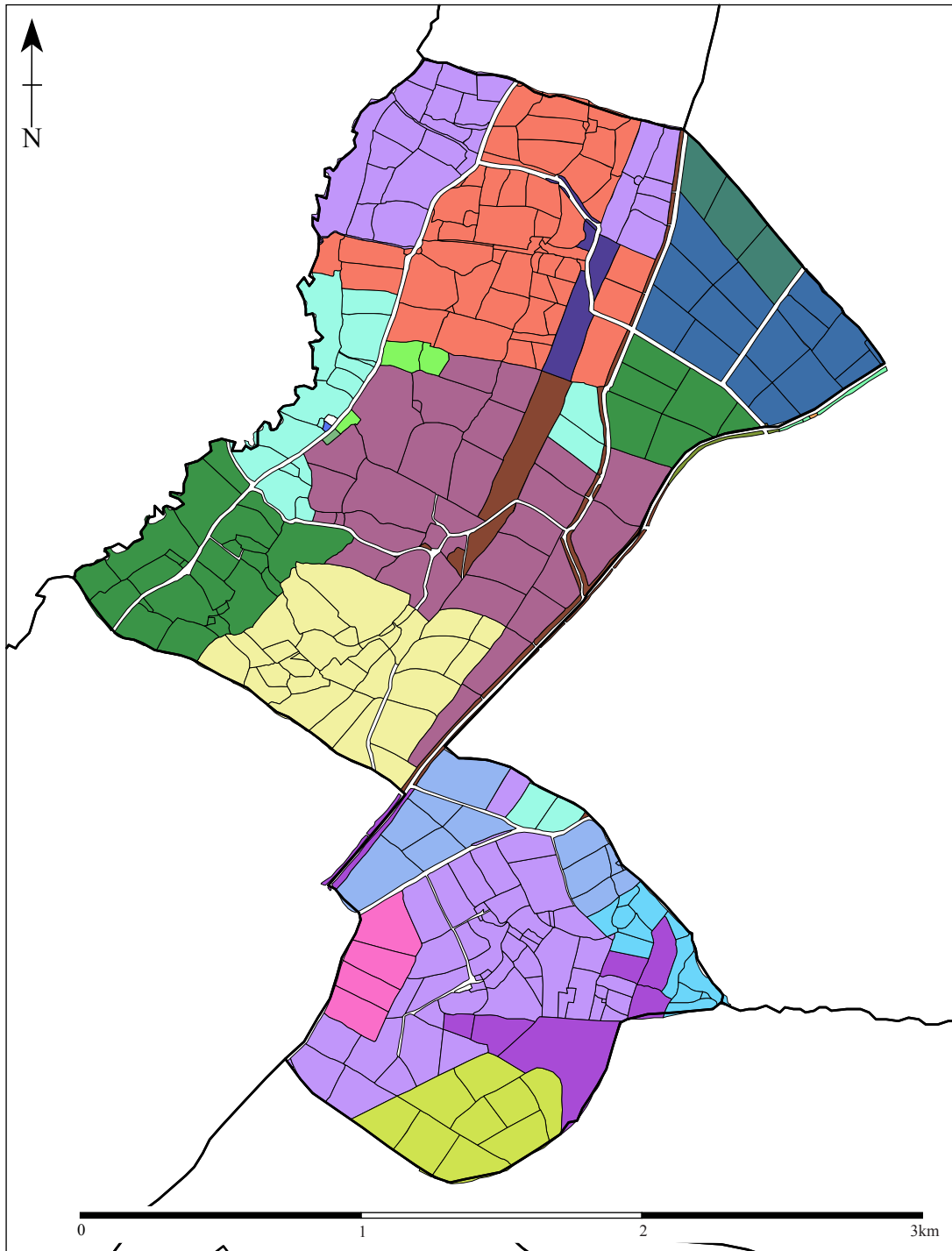


Figure 14.14: The pattern of land occupancy in Monkton *c.* 1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

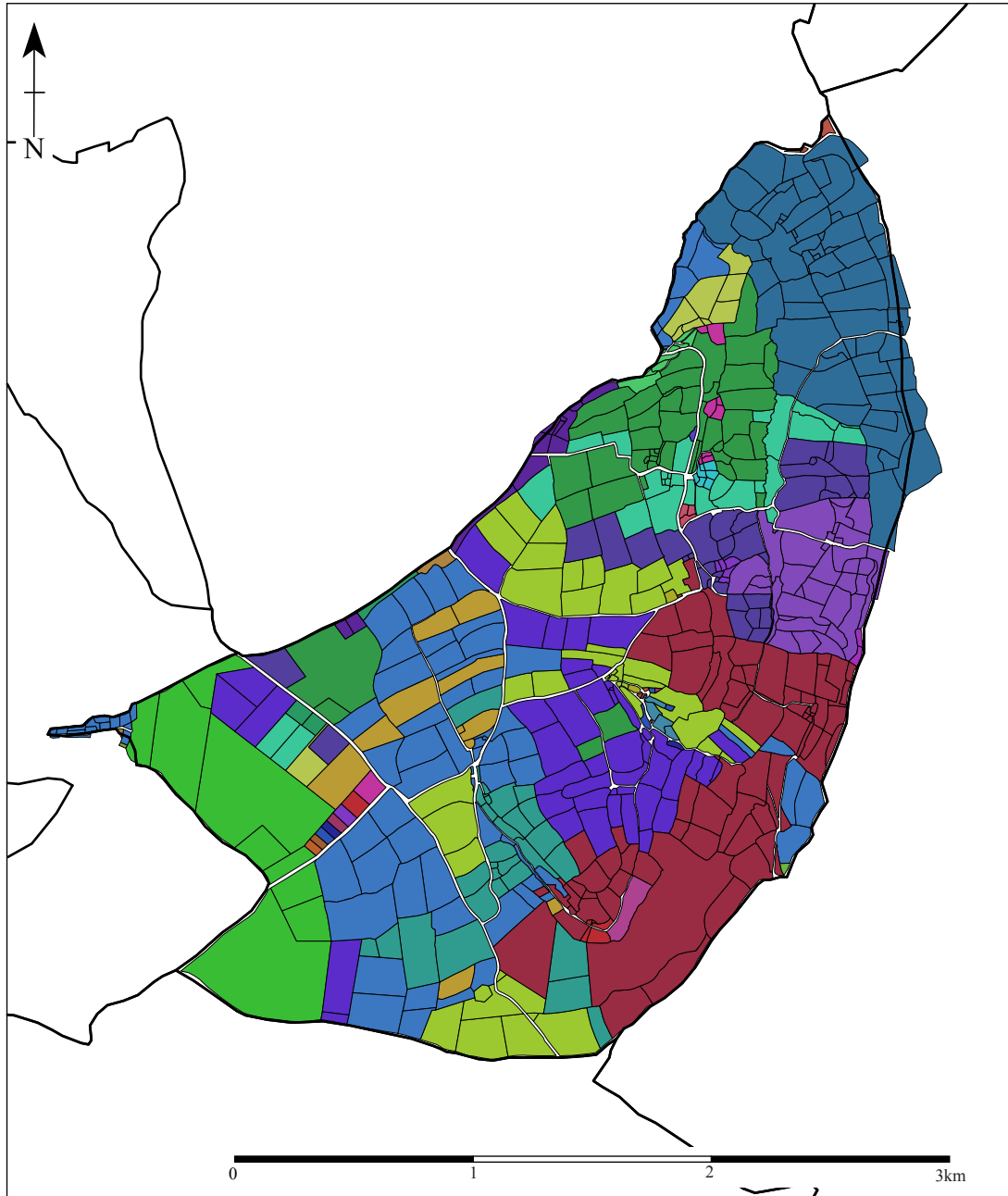


Figure 14.15: The pattern of land ownership in Sheldon *c.* 1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

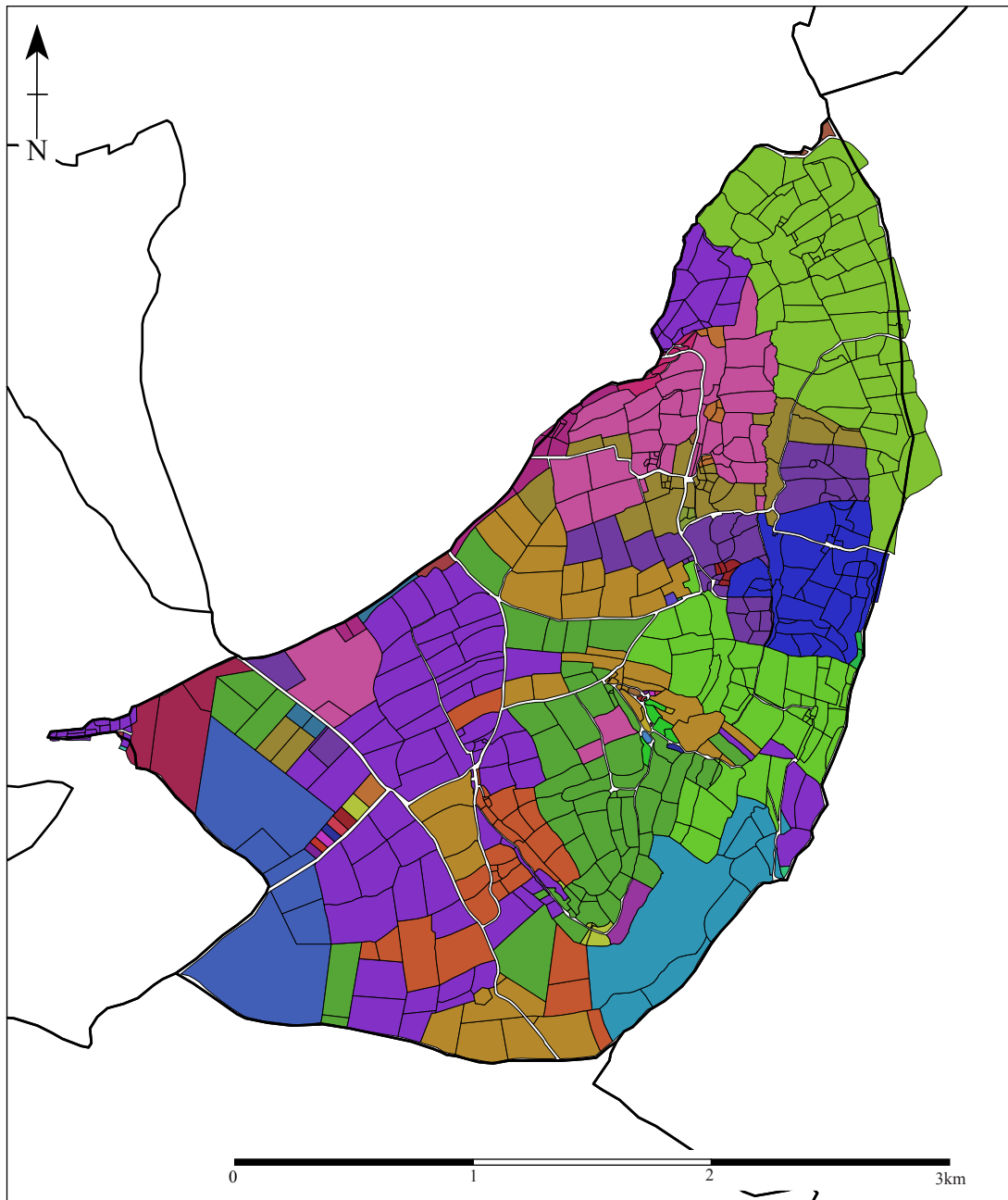


Figure 14.16: The pattern of land occupancy in Sheldon c.1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.



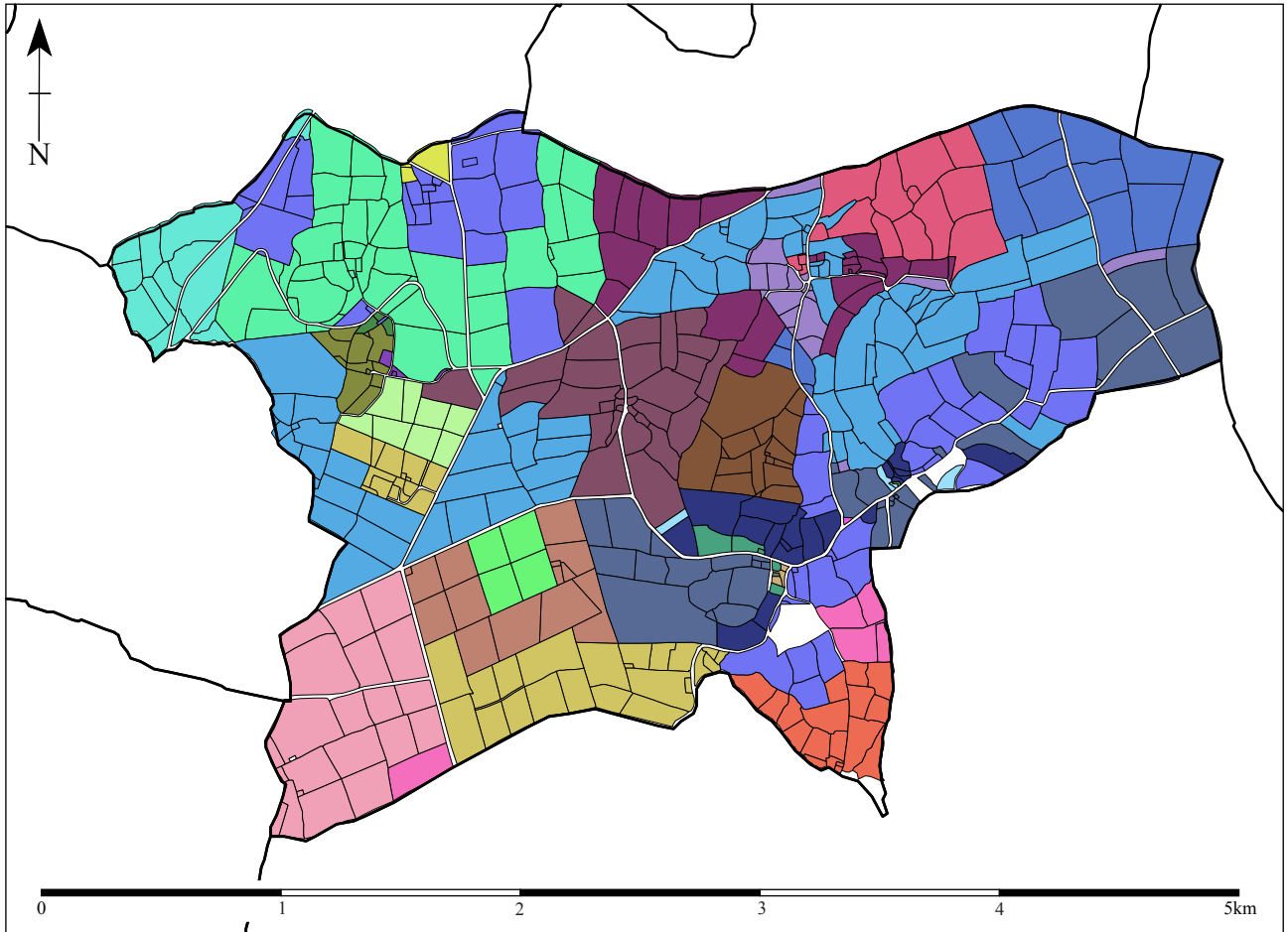


Figure 14.17: The pattern of land ownership in Wambrook *c.*1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

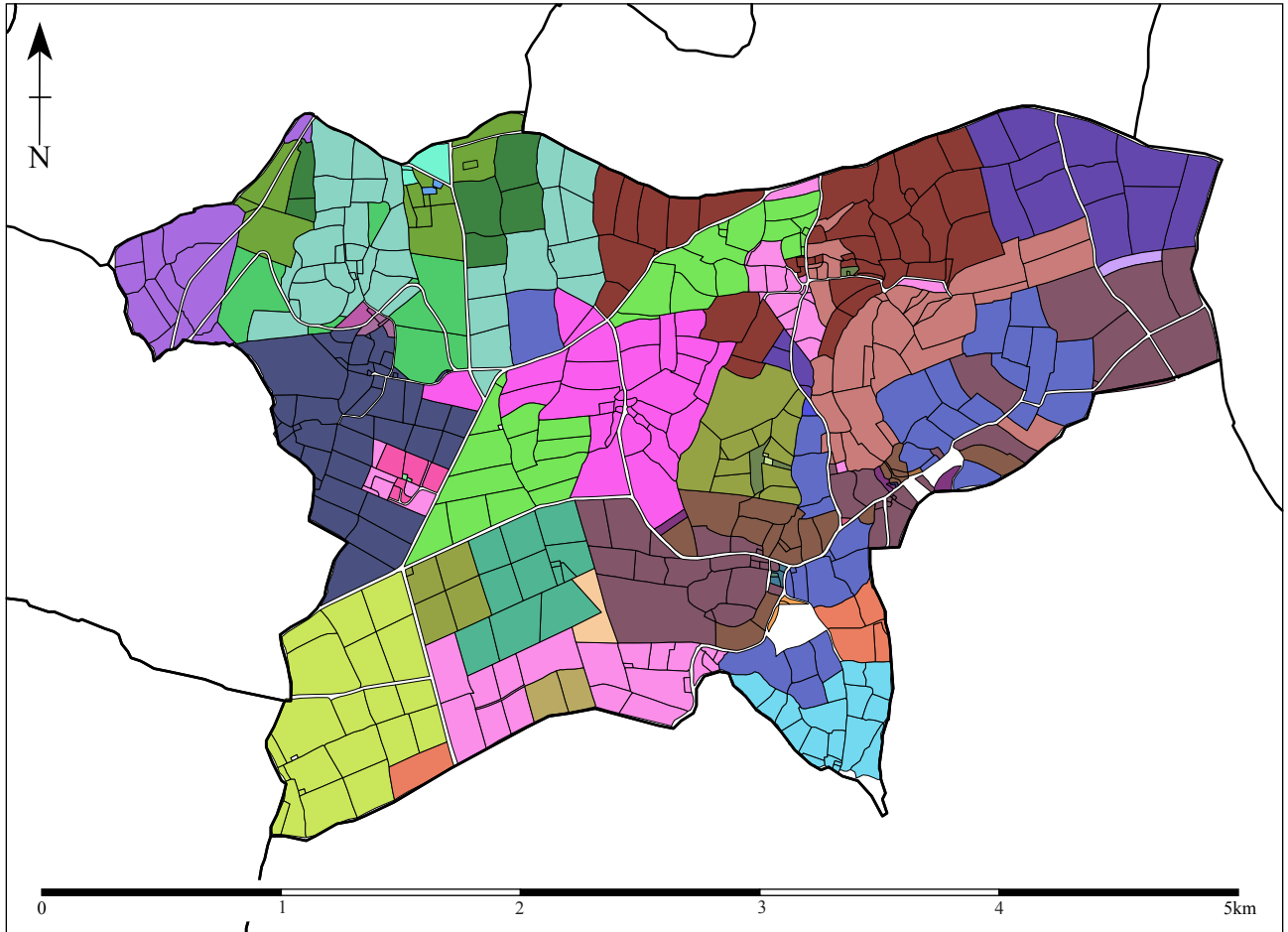


Figure 14.18: The pattern of land occupancy in Wambrook *c.*1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

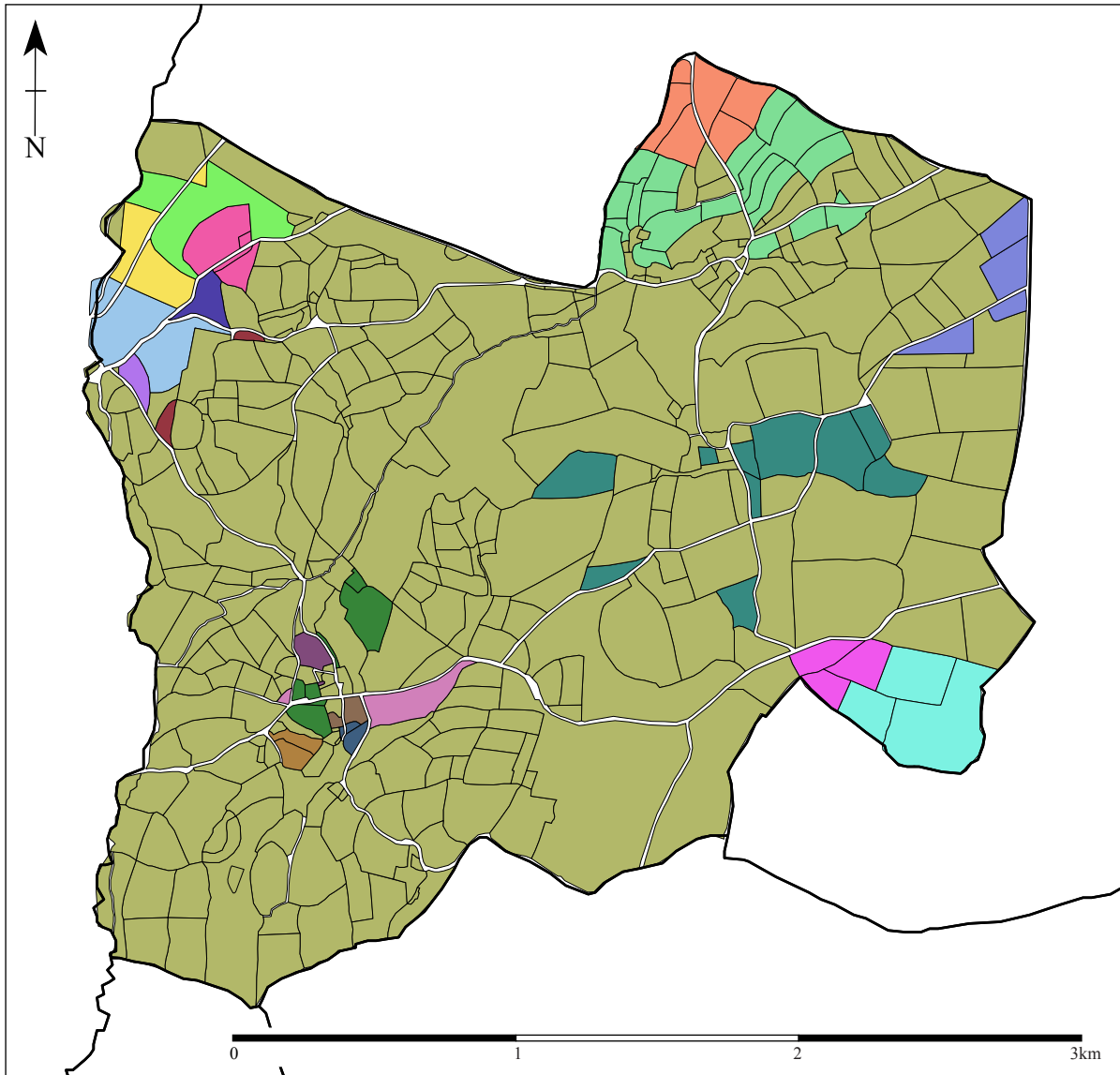


Figure 14.19: The pattern of land ownership in Whitestaunton c.1840, based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

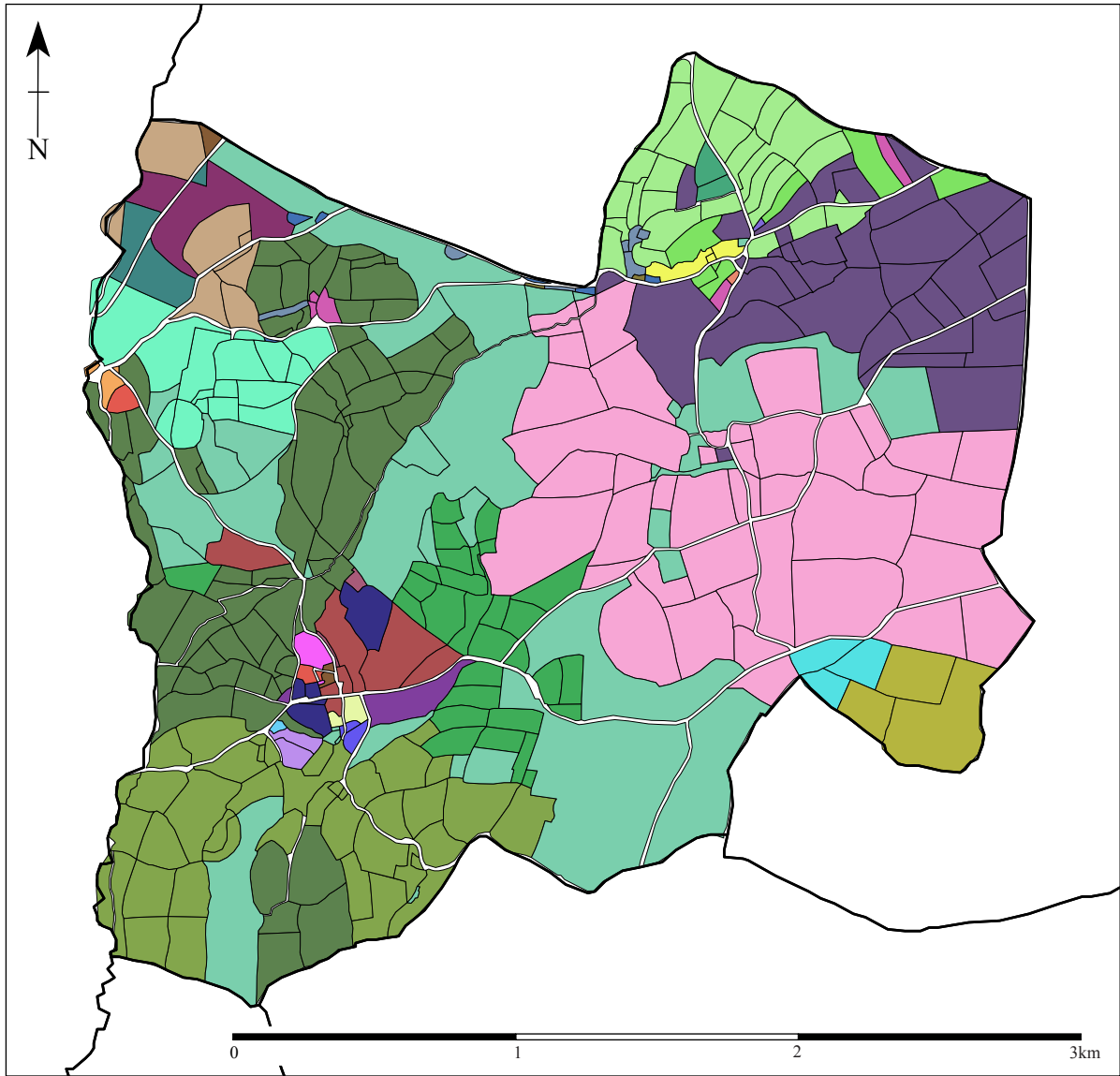


Figure 14.20: The pattern of land occupancy in Whitestaunton *c.*1840, based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. The outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.