

Tintinhull Parish Landscape

Tracing its evolution from Open Fields to 19c structure



William Stukeley's engraving of St Michael's Hill, Hedgecock Hill and Ham Hill, 1723

Acknowledgement

Shortly before his untimely and sudden death Professor Mick Aston visited Tintinhull Local History Group to critique our work and suggest how best to take it forward.

He encouraged us to press on with the good work already done by the group saying there was obviously much more yet to be discovered about the development of the settlement of Tintinhull. In particular because of similarities he suggested that we should take note of and use his published works on Shapwick and Winscombe such as *The Interpreting of the English Village* as models fig 1. He vowed to return again in 12 months to review our progress. Those two studies had taken over a decade of work and so his invitation to use them, to copy the parts we deemed appropriate and add our research of Tintinhull as an “overlay”, was a generous gesture of encouragement.

Sadly there now can be no critical review by him of how we used his work to aid our interpretations. Without his follow up endorsement some may view our attempt as being close to plagiarism but in spite of this we have continued with the project as agreed with him. Hopefully other experts, many his colleagues and friends will offer their critique and suggestions as he would surely have done.

Notwithstanding, any such objections where we “copy” or use his words we do so in the firm belief that the evidence we have acquired about Tintinhull fully justifies the interpretation. Subsequent research and examination may prove our comparisons were incorrect but that will be no more than the normal procedure of research based on the ground work of others.

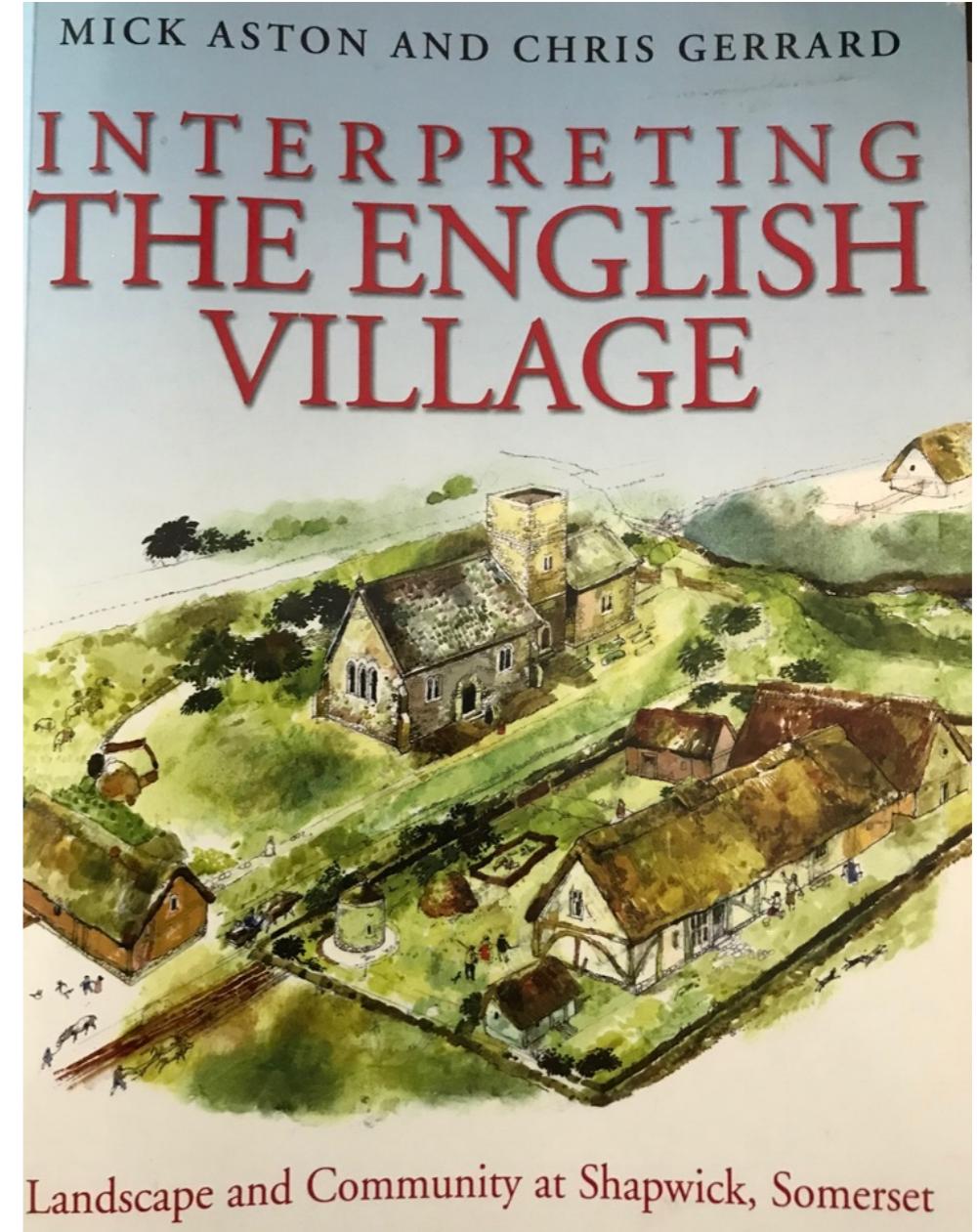


Fig. 1 Cover of book Mick Aston invited us to use and quote in this study of Tintinhull

The Earliest Tintinhull documentation

Like Shapwick Tintinhull was at the time of the Norman conquest part of the Benedictine Abbey of Glastonbury and subject to monastic management. From the beginning of the 12c until the 16c dissolution of the monasteries the fate of Tintinhull remained entwined with the Priory of Montacute.

Unlike Shapwick however, we have so far found little documentary evidence for the early period of the monastic estate management so any comparisons with Shapwick must be based on similarities of archeology, landscape descriptions and surveys.

Fig 2 and table 1 illustrate the nature of the fragmentary evidence which together with that of Domesday is all we have to start this investigation.

GREAT DOMESDAY

Land of the Count of Mortain

The Count holds TINTINHULL himself. Glastonbury Church held it in the time of King Edward. There are 7 hides and 1 virgate of land, but it paid tax for 5 hides. There is land for 10 ploughs. Of this [land] 4 hides are in lordship and [there are] 2 ploughs there and 5 slaves and 19 villagers and 9 smallholders with 8 ploughs. A mill there paying 30d and 60 acres of meadow and 200 acres of pasture and 57 acres of woodland. It is worth £16. Drogo holds 1 virgate of this land from the Count and it is worth 1 silver mark.

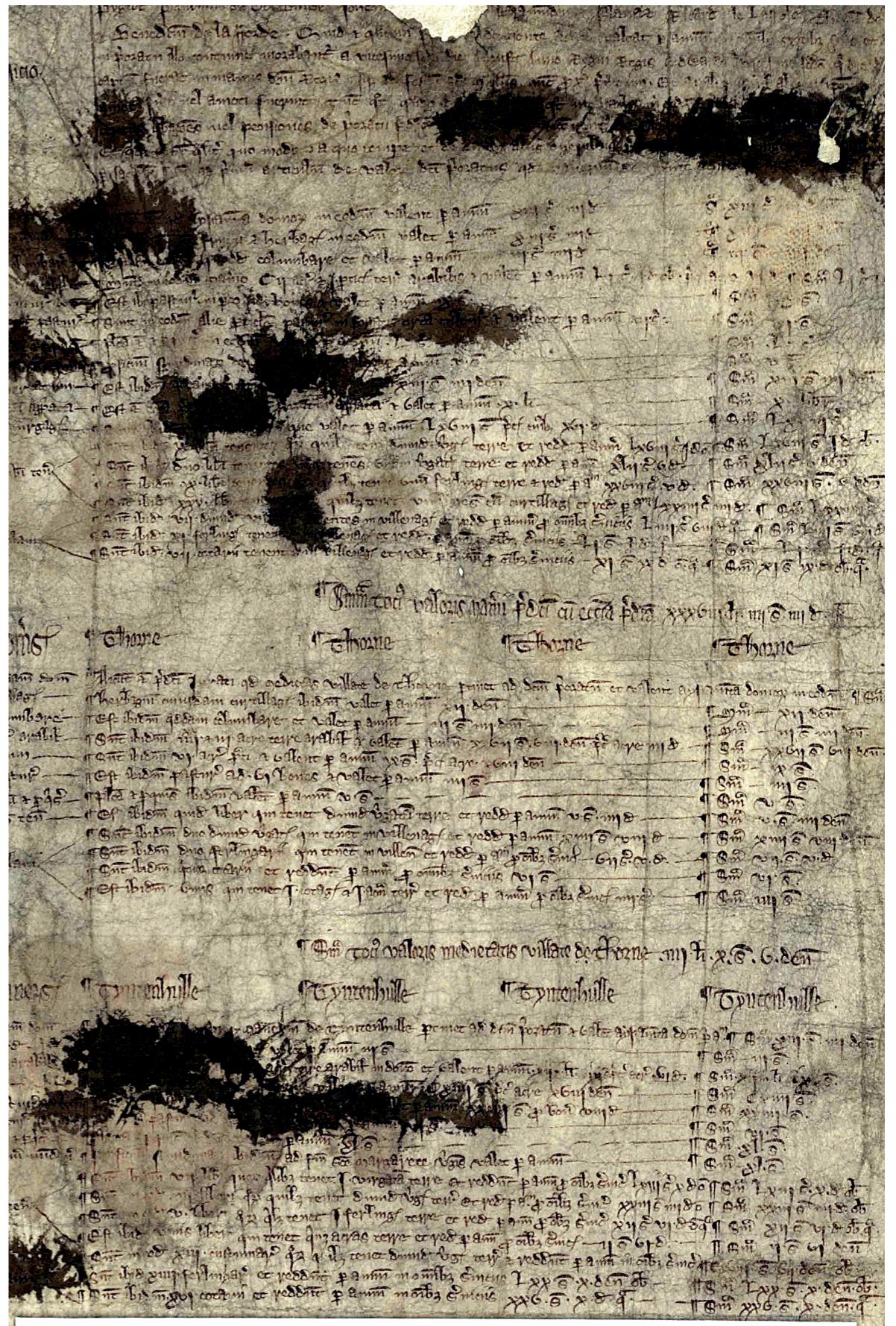


Fig. 2 The 1326 Montacute Priory Valor. The Tintinhull lands are described in the bottom section headed Tyntenhulle. (National Archives Kew).

Table 1. Transcription of Montacute Priory Valor, Thorne, Tintinhull 1302-3

Somerset	Thorne	Thorne	Thorne	Thorne
Easements of the houses	?---- and the aforesaid jurors <i>[say]</i> that a moiety of the vill of Thorne pertains to the said Priory and the easements of the houses in the same are worth			¶ Total 3s.
Herbage	The herbage of a certain curtilage there is worth yearly 12d.			¶ Total – 12d.
Dovecote	There is there a certain dovecote and it is worth yearly – 3s. 4d.			¶ Total – 3s. 4d.
Arable land	There are there 83 acres of arable land and they are worth yearly 27s. 8d., value of an acre 4d.			¶ Total – 12d.
Meadow	6 acres of meadow and they are worth yearly 9s., value of an acre 18d.			¶ Total – 9s.
Pasture	There is there pasture for 6 oxen and it is worth yearly 4s.			¶ Total – 4s.
Profits and Perquisites	The profits and perquisites <i>[of the manor court]</i> there are worth yearly 5s.			¶ Total – 5s.
Free tenant	There is there a certain freeman who holds a half virgate of land and renders yearly 5s. 4d.			¶ Total – 5s. 4d.
	{ There are there two half virgaters who hold in villeinage and render yearly 14s. 8d.			¶ Total – 14s. 8d.
Villeins	{ There are there two ferlongers who hold in villeinage and render yearly for all services – 7s. 5d.			¶ Total – 7s. 5d.
	{ There are there four cottagers who render yearly for all services 6s.			¶ Total – 6s.
	{ There is there one who holds a cottage and an acre of land and he renders yearly for all services 4s.			¶ Total – 4s.
		Total of all the values of the moiety of the vill of Thorne		£4 10s. 5d.

Somerset	Tyntenhulle	Tyntenhulle	Tyntenhulle	Tyntenhulle
Easements of the houses	----- of the manor of Tyntenhulle pertains to the said Priory and the easements of the houses are worth yearly			¶ Total 13s. 4d
?Garden	----- are worth yearly 3s.			¶ Total 3s.
Arable land	----- [?504] acres of arable land ?[in demesne] and they are worth yearly £12 12s., value of an acre 6d.			¶ Total ?[£12 12s.]
Meadow	----- [?76 acres] they are worth yearly 114s., value of an acre 18d.			¶ Total 114s.
Pasture ---	----- [?for 36 oxen] they are worth yearly 24s., for ?[an ox] 8d.			¶ Total 24s.
?Pasture ---	----- pasture for ----- yearly 6s.			¶ Total 6s.
Profits and Perquisites	The profits and perquisites <i>[of the manor court]</i> there are worth yearly 40s.			¶ Total 40s.
Profits -----	The profits ----- ?[sheep] at the feast of St Margaret virgin are worth yearly			¶ Total 40s.
	{ There are there 3 freemen of whom each holds a virgate of land and renders yearly for all services 63s. 10½d.			¶ Total 63s. 10½d
Free tenants	{ There are there ?13 freemen of whom each holds a half virgate of land and renders yearly for all services 23s. 4½d			¶ Total 23s. 4½d
	{ There are there 5 freemen of whom each holds a ferling of land and renders yearly for all services 12s. 6¾d.			¶ Total 12s. 6¾d
	{ There is there one freeman who holds 5 acres of land and renders yearly for all services – 2s. 6d.			¶ Total 2s. 6d.
	(There are there 13 customers of whom each holds a half virgate of land and renders yearly for all services			¶ Total ?118s. 7½d.
Villeins	(There are there 14 ferlongers and they render yearly for all services 70s. 10½d.			¶ Total 70s. 10½d.
	(There are there 16 cottagers and they render yearly for all services 25s. 10¼d.			¶ Total 25s. 10¼d.
		Notes: text in <i>[italics]</i> is an interpolation, and does not appear in the original document .		
		? indicates uncertainty, and ?[text] indicates greater uncertainty.		

The emergence of the nucleated village and open fields.

Aston states that it is generally thought that dispersed settlements coalesced for mutual benefit into nucleated villages sometime prior to the 11c. Norman conquest. Some villages were planned whilst others grew organically but in both cases the surrounding landscape would have co-evolved over the centuries into the common open fields the remains of which are often still to be clearly seen today. Evidence of such dispersed settlements around Tintinhull comes from the traces of Romano British farms and field names, such as Chester, Worthy and Hewish. As the population grew so did the demand for arable land, pasture and meadow. Moor, marsh, waste and woodland were brought into productive use.

Nucleated villages such as Tintinhull were surrounded by their common open fields. Arable land was usually farmed in a closely managed way in the medieval period with each peasant's strips of land intermingled with neighbours. Land was arranged as a series of thin strips called selions, bundled into furlongs which in turn were grouped into fields.

Like Shapwick, Tintinhull before the black death of the middle ages 1348-9 was probably typical of the highly organised and large scale production areas that dominated many nucleated villages in Somerset. After the black death when the population had been reduced by perhaps up to ½ the diet seems to have gradually changed. A lot of former open field areas were enclosed and put down to grass. This certainly seems to have happened in the West field at Tintinhull. It was established pasture by the early 16th century and had been arable before as evidenced by the extensive ridge and furrows recorded by the group before it was ploughed out in 2015.*

*<http://www.tintinhull-localhistory.org.uk/downloads/Corney%20survey%20summary%200306p2.pdf>

Meadows, Pasture, Moor and Marsh.

Typically Tintinhull had pasture meadow and arable areas. Different crops and animals need varying amounts of attention and the land had to be arranged with varying degrees of efficiency around the settlement. In general mediaeval communities aimed at a balance-arable to grow crops, pasture areas for animals and meadow to grow hay for winter fodder for the animals. Where ever possible animals were pastured on the arable fields when the harvest had been taken in or the land was down to fallow in a system of rotation so that their manure could fertilize the ground. Meadow was some of the most valuable land to mediaeval peasants and it was used to grow the overwinter feed for their animals when the grass was not growing. After several hay crops had been cut in the spring and early summer, meadowland could be thrown open to grazing, usually after Lammas (first of August) when animals would eat the remaining stubble.

The management of these common fields was organised through and recorded by the manorial court*. Records of the tenements of land were also recorded in estate surveys and deeds of transactions including early feoffments. Such legal agreements, manorial court rolls and estate surveys add snippets of information enabling one to associate names of places with dates. The actual location of these named places might still be found if they remained in existence little changed into the period for which contemporary maps were made

In Tintinhull as elsewhere the main trend had always been for peasants to remove their strips from common field regulation

*

<http://www.tintinhull-localhistory.org.uk/html/manorial%20court%20rolls.html>

where they were farmed communally, enclose them and put them down to pasture so that they could be farmed individually or in severality (a portion of land assigned for a period). This process had been going on in many communities for hundreds of years before the mid 14th century but it increased after the black death. There is some evidence for such enclosures in Tintinhull by the 14c and still much more of established enclosures by the 16c.

Because of the ever changing use of the land it only possible to trace the evolution of the post conquest landscape in the broadest of detail. Over this time the parish grew in size from approximately 1000 to 1800 acres. The best one can say is that it was a dynamic situation. The landscape round the village was from earliest times being shaped and reshaped through drainage of marsh lands, assarting of woods, conversion from arable to pasture, hedging, ditching, fencing and creation and consolidation of enclosures. The change in tenure from villein to copyholder and the letting of the Lord's demesne lands all affected the organisation , structure and accounting of the landscape making it impossible to detail more than the outline that follows later.

In mediaeval times Tintinhull Moor was probably waste land and much more extensive than the small extreme NE area of that name shown on the tithe map in fig 6. Aston states that in places *moor* meant marshland and no doubt was used as communal grazing by the tenants of the manor but as the moor was ditched and drained and the quality of the grasslands was improved, it became more valuable as meadowland. This together with the conversion of marshland, such as the Tintinhull Marsh Fields (fig 6) to arable, might partially explain the difference in the recorded area of the Manor or parish between the 12c and 18c. With more meadow larger flocks and herds could be sustained over the winter.

The documented local evidence - summary.

In the case of Tintinhull very few medieval documents exist from which one can extract evidence of the local landscape and its use. The earliest evidence we have comes from Domesday itself and two 14c documents. They do however establish credible starting points to compare with much later evidence and allow one to speculate about the intervening evolution of the landscape.

The sources * of our “descriptions” are:

Exon Domesday Book

1302 Montacute Priory Valor

14c Exeter College feoffments

15 -17c Church Wardens Accounts

16 - 17c Petre Estate survey

16 -18c Manor Court Rolls

18c Napper Estate Maps

19c Tithe Map

Evidence from these is compared with that offered by Aston and others in an attempt to reconstruct the late medieval parish and its fields together with suggestions of their possible evolution.

*See Historic documents section of

<http://www.tintinhull-localhistory.org.uk/html/Contents.html>

The evidence

Domesday.

Although a mention in Domesday in no way proves the existence of a village, the Tintinhull entry for 4 hides (2 ploughs) “in lordship” does suggest that Glastonbury Abbey maintained a demesne farm there for its own benefit, the tenants had the rest of the land and 8 ploughs. These figures confirm that the agricultural year in Tintinhull, like Shapwick, at the turn of the millennium revolved around arable cultivation. Doomsday tells us nothing about the organisation or layout of these lands but it is likely that there was already an open field system providing supplies to the abbey.

Judging by the number of tenants listed, 28 in all, with a further five slaves, there may have been a population in excess of 100 people in the manor of Tintinhull.

Domesday also informs us that Tintinhull had 60 acres of meadow and 200 acres of pasture. Tintinhull is quoted as having 7 hides 1 virgate, suggesting no more than ca. 900a even if a hide was as much as 120 modern acres . It should be noted that this rough maximum estimate is less than half the size of the parish recorded in the 19c. and indicates that there was substantial reclamation of land such as marsh land in subsequent centuries.

Valor 1302.

Tintinhull was part of the endowment given when the Clunic Priory of Montacute was established in 1102.

Of great interest to the Priory was the income expected from its manors, including amongst others, those from Tintinhull and nearby Thorn. See table 1. The valor of Priory estates was prepared in 1302. It shows that meadow in Tintinhull was worth 18d/a and with the recorded total income of 114s there must have

been 76a by this time. Rental from arable land was £12 12s . As such land was rated at 4d an acre in the Thorn section of the valor, this indicates that there were 756a (old acres) in Tintinhull perhaps the 10 ploughs of Domesday above?

Pasture is quoted in land for 36 Ox at 8d/ox . Oliver Rackam (History of the English Countryside) quotes 5a/Ox indicating the total is 180 modern acres, which is 216 customary* acres similar to that of Domesday. The valor does not mention the presence of the woodland but they do show that the meadow had increased to 76a up from the 60a in Domesday. Aston states that through the middle ages more and more demesne land was leased out, so that labour services became theoretical obligations and were replaced by cash payments. The Montacute valor shows that at the turn of the 13c this was already the case in Tintinhull as tenants are recorded as paying a yearly sum in lieu of services and working their own land together with rented demesne lands.

Feoffment Deed (Exeter College Oxford)

A deed dated 36y Edward III (1326) describes the property of Thomas of Tintinhull. This mentions three plots of land viz.

Bowetune 2a, 1a of meadow Bercroft and a certain meadow which extends above the highway called Oldmede.

Bowetune (now Bowdens) is near the centre of the village. Bercroft is most likely Barcroft in modern Bereley a name deriving from O.E bere, barley. Aston (SAHNS) states that croft is OE for ‘a small enclosed field’ of arable or pasture land though here it is described as meadow.

*See Appedix 2. 1.2 customary acres per statutory acre in 18c Tintinhull

It is sited (fig 6) in what was likely moor land and indicates some reclamation had started by before 1300. Of more interest, however, is Oldmede as this also points to a change in land usage requiring name changes. Analysis of the later 1566 Petre Estate survey has identified a field in Bereley called Newmeade otherwise okylease . This field is called Oaky Leaze on the tithe map, fig. 6. Could this indicate that the new mead was assarted from an Oak wood and given the alternative name Newmeade to differentiate it from the now named Oldmede? Aston states that land cleared from woodland, in the process of asserting, in some instances does not seem to have been divided into strips but kept as additional demesne land. As such it was worked in blocks and sublet to tenants. As Oky mead was demesne land it could indicate where part of the Domesday woodland of Tintinhull may have been if indeed it existed as a single block or was even within the manor itself.

The Petre survey gives the names of the tenant (mostly the copyholder), the total tenement area, its pasture, arable and meadow in each of the open fields. It lists any closes and whether they are Barton land (Lord's Land) also the area of any house garden and orchard. It quotes the number of lives of the copyhold and often the names of those lives. As such the document is a topological and social record of the village in the second half of the 16c .

Some key points emerging from this are.

The Latin 1566 section is divided between Freeholders, Indentured and Copyholders and separately lists demesne, barton and copyhold. The listed demesne in 1566 adds up to 512a compared with the 4 hides of Domesday. Newmead is estimated as 28a of demesne, an amount which more than accounts for the increase from the 60a of Domesday and shows other areas ceased to be

meadow . Barton land is leased out in closes. Barton land is obviously different from demesne and appears to be all as closes suggesting they have been created separately. These closes indicate how the process of enclosure carved out from the open fields was by the 16c, already long established.

The manor court records 16c to 18c. These list presentments give information about the management of the manor which helps in establishing ownership and the geography of the parish fields and features.

Church Wardens Accounts.15c-17c. These accounts give a little 17c information about land and church rates paid by tenants and some fragmentary geographic descriptions. At the start of the 17c the total area on which the rate was levied was 1064a including only 346a of Demesne indicating that much Lord's land was not subject to the Church rate.

Later Documents.

The most important later documents are tithe apportionment and the four historic maps viz. the 1838 Tithe map, the 1786 and 1777 Napper maps and the 1787 Bearley Farm map. We compared them with the above medieval and 16 - 17c documents in order to identify the geographical position of the features mentioned in the earlier documents.

Appendix 1 is a list of all the names extracted from all the above documents. It shows that the position of the majority of features can be identified and the earliest date of mention. Using the names and field boundaries shown on the various maps (particularly the tithe map) we will construct the likely position and outline of the

major fields listed in appendix 1. The details of this are given in the following sections..

Evolution of landscape and land usage.

In the book “interpreting the English village “ Aston states *that the landscape was not reinvented at each period of the past. There are strong continuities, such as in the alignment of field boundaries and the attraction of specific locations for human occupation.*

The Domesday entry, our 14c documentation and our field surveys show that at the period of the conquest we are already dealing with a long established landscape. Recall by 1302* Tintinhull is recorded as having 76 acres of meadow, up from the 60 acres of 1086. By the 17c this had increased to 83 acres***. This relatively small and slow increase over 400 years shows that a sufficient and significant area of the meadow was already established by 1086. As discussed earlier by 1326** the mention of Oldemead implied the existence of some new meadow. Okymead, otherwise called New Mead was 28 acres by 1566*** and if it developed gradually, it could account for the 16 acre increase of meadow by 1302. If so then this implies Oldemead is at least 13c and quite likely is the meadow mentioned in the Domesday record.

Recall also that Domesday lists Tintinhull having 200 acres pasture and in 1302* there was pasture for 36 ox that is ca. 217 old acres (5 modern acres per beast). The Petre survey of 1566 also still states a total 190 acres of pasture but now includes pasture in le Moor showing that ditching and reclaiming of the Moor had been undertaken before this date. The use of the land varied over the centuries and the survey also shows that perhaps half of the arable in the Westfield (more than 100 acres), had been converted from arable to pasture before 1566. But as the total area of

pasture and meadow remained relatively constant until the 16c older pasture must have reverted to other use probably arable. Although these are sparse statistics for such an extended period it shows that land use was a dynamic process, new meadows were established and old became pasture, other arable was converted to pasture and vice versa and that rough or waste land, moors and marsh were brought into productive use. For example the area called le Mershe (waste marsh land) was recorded as arable in the 16c the Petre survey.

On the other western side of the parish lies the several hundred acre Bearley Farm which shows no evidence of selions consistent with it always having been demesne land as it was in the 16C (the area marked with red boundary in fig.11). As stated the usual interpretation of the name is from O.E bere, “barley” indicating that it has always been connected with arable farming. However, could another be that, as it was a called Bellye in the 16c (fig.11), it referred to a good (belle) clearing (leigh) in the woods? Again according to Aston land cleared from woodland or gained from rough pasture does not seem to have been divided into strips but kept in blocks as additional demesne and later sub let to tenants. If so then any new land reclaimed from the waste Tintinhull Moors and woods would have been absorbed into the Bearley demesne. Also some field names in Bearley such as Okymead, and the 18c recording of many trees in the hedges in this area might indicate that the area originally had many trees or was wooded (Ref. Bearley Map index, appendix2).

Notwithstanding the fragmented evidence discussed later principal post conquest features of the manor would likely be: Three open fields, common meadow, waste undrained moor and marsh

* 1302 Montacute valor **1326 Feoffment Exeter College

*** Petre Survey

land and woodland possible as a block or in the field boundaries. Saxon names Hewish and Worthy and perhaps Thurlocks showing the focus of the earlier Saxon settlement. Bowtune could also indicate *land above the Ton* (saxon) (J Davey private communication). An area north of the Fosse Way contains several 19c enclosures such as North Leaze which suggests the site of a former North Field was around here. If it was there then a large part of it would have been absorbed into the consolidated Bearley unit.

The open fields reflect the changing use, management and ownership through the medieval and up to the early modern period. The West Field was originally arable as evidenced by the now ploughed out extensive and complex ridge and furrow recorded by Tintinhull Local History Group* fig 3. It was, however, established stinted** common pasture by the early 16th century and was later partitioned into enclosures. The Great East Field on the other hand, remained arable with its strips until the end of the 18c but parts of it were also stinted meadow enclosures in the 16C. The pattern of its original strips can be seen in the 1786 J Napper Map (fig 8.) where the furlongs and enclosures clearly follow the direction and shape of what must be the groups of medieval selions, many of which can still be viewed today. It was finally enclosed by act of parliament in 1796.

*

www.tintinhull-localhistory.org.uk/html/surveyreports.html and
www.tintinhull-localhistory.org.uk/TaRLAP

**

Stint. The number of cattle which one was allowed to pasture on a portion of common land.



Fig 3 The complex pattern of medieval ridge and furrow in the former West Field. The ridges predate the enclosure boundaries and drove.

Examining the maps

The following section displays the Tintinhull landscape as shown in the 18c and 19c maps. It was possible to work *backwards in time* from these unpicking the obvious later developments to “reveal” the form of the earlier landscape. The starting point in this investigation was the detailed recording of the tithe map of 1838 (figs. 5&6.) The names, pattern of fields, tracks and boundaries shown in the tithe map and apportionment are the result of centuries of use, the evolution of which can be teased out to some extent albeit with some degrees of speculation. The tithe details were compared with the field names and boundaries on the 18c maps. Together these allowed one to identify and locate names in documents from much earlier times such as the deeds, estate survey and manor court rolls described previously. The names so identified are summarized in appendix 1. In turn the names and maps allowed us to produce a map of Tudor Tintinhull and in the final analysis a *suggestion* of the 14c landscape and that of Domesday itself.



Fig 3 The village centre properties of John Napper 1788

Tithe Map. The tithe map is shown in figs 5&6. In 1839 the parish is recorded having ca. 1800 (modern) acres. Former open fields carry the name “field” which was their descriptive term. Their original shape and area would have been different from those shown on the tithe map due the enclosures and subdivisions of earlier times.

The Bearley map of 1787 fig 7 gives details of field names and conveniently, areas in both customary and statutory acres. Field names are shown. *Chester* is indicative of Roman origin. *Barcrate* meadow is the enclosed area called *Bercroft* in the 1326 feoffment, see page 6. The map shows how by this date most of what had been moor is now meadow. Uniquely this map illustrates where the trees were and the legend (appendix 2) also accounts for the number of trees and the area they occupy in the *fences* (boundaries).

The John Napper estate map of 1788 , fig. 8 shows great detail of his lands and properties in Titinhull. The shape of many of the numbered areas in the eastern part shows that they are consolidated blocks of ridge and furrow selions. Others are now marked as enclosures and furlongs and are the basis of fields today. The enclosures on the North side of the parish are simpler. Together these suggest that the latter was by that time mostly pasture whereas the Eastern part was still mainly arable.

Edward Napper map of 1777, fig 9, is the earliest survey map. Some of the enclosures in the SW section have names, such as *Rushies*, mentioned in Elizabethan times. In the NE, *Worthy Lon* is Anglo-Saxon *weorthig*, which means a protected or “warded” place such as an enclosure*.

The names extracted from these maps are included together with those from the other documents in the list in appendix 1.

*<http://www.wilcuma.org.uk/wanderings-in-anglo-saxon-britain/anglo-saxon-place-names/>

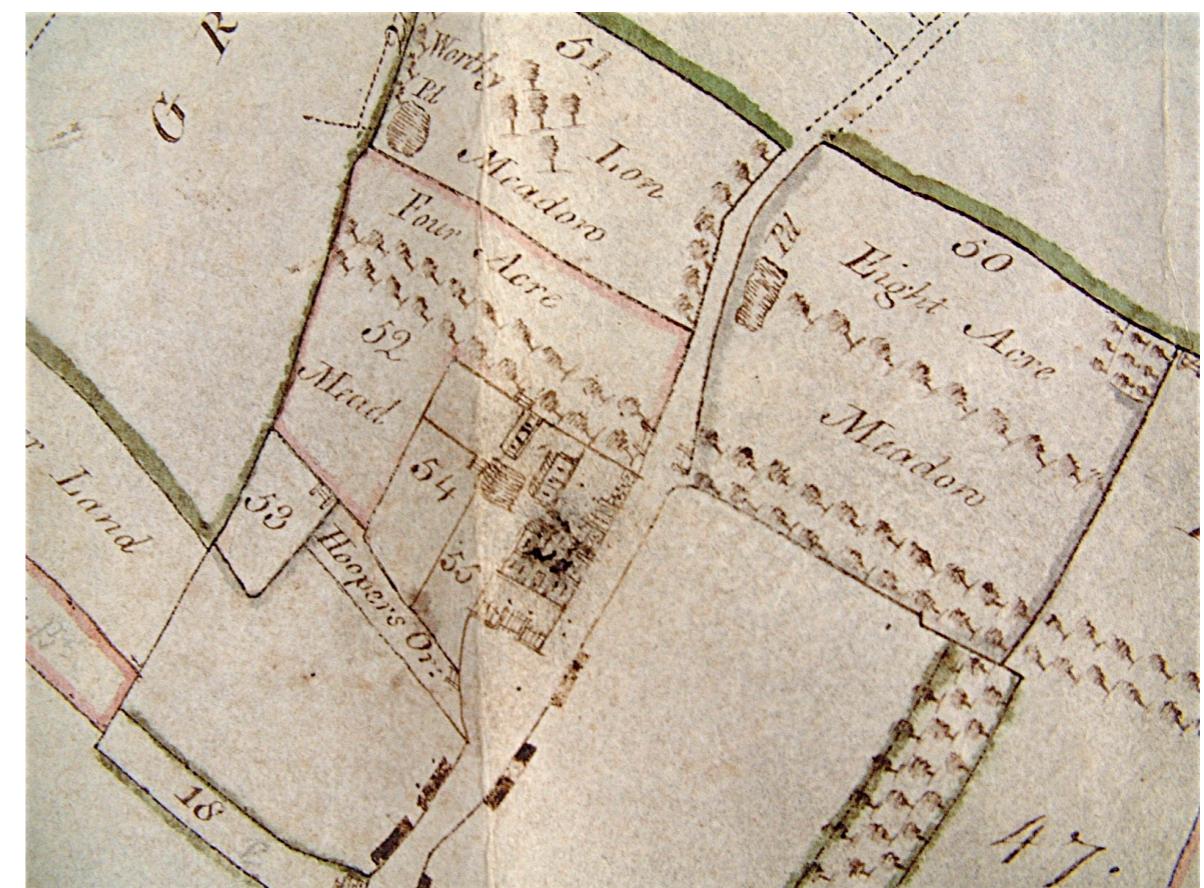


Fig. 4 Example of Features displayed on E Napper Map 1777.
Note section 51 which has the name Worthy Lon suggesting
Saxon origin.

Fig.5 Southern Sections of 1838 Tithe Map with field names.



Fig. 6 Northern Sections of Tithe Map with field names



Fig.7 The Bearley Map 1787
A transcription of the detail
in the index is given in
appendix 2.



The Bearley Estate Map 1787

Fig.8 The John Napper map of 1788 with sectional highlights to show detail.

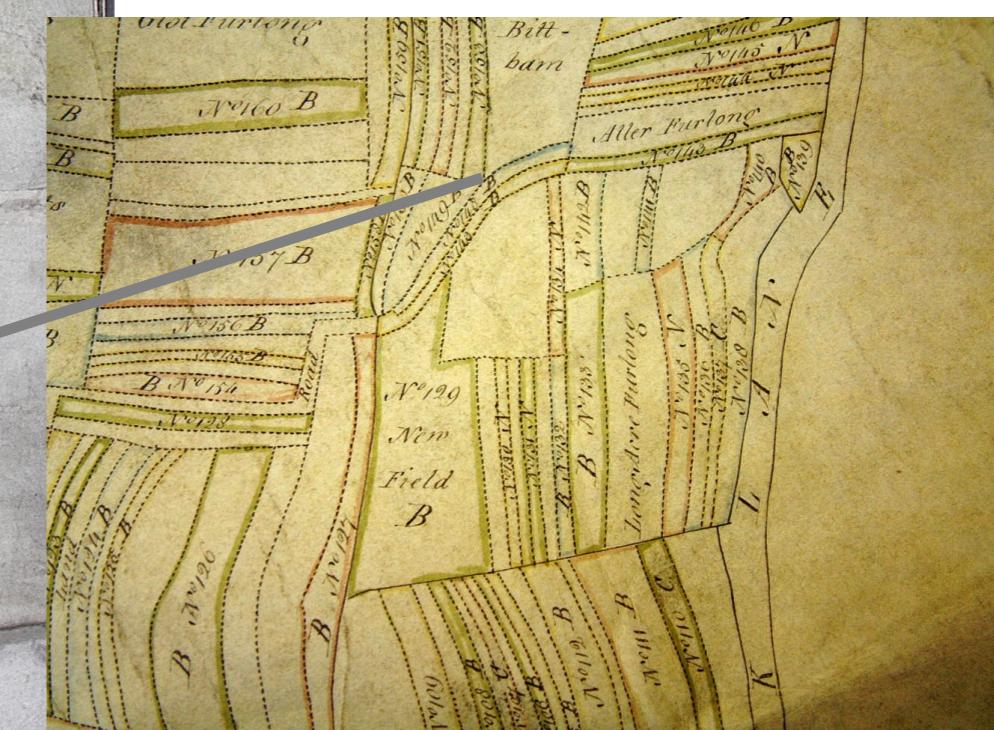




Fig.9 A collage of the central sections of the Edward Napper map 1777 including enlarged detail of area around the church.

Towards the Tudor & 14c landscape

As stated earlier the 14c deeds, 16c Petre estate survey and early 17c court rolls were examined for names of enclosures, landscape and village features. The full list of names is given in appendix 1. and identifiable and locatable 16c or earlier features were positioned on the tithe map. Preserving these, later sub-division and enclosure boundaries of the open fields were then removed to reveal the likely structure of the common fields, existing enclosures, tracks and highways of the 16c landscape. Fig.10 illustrates the process where first the obvious later subdivision boundaries (in grey) are removed followed by the earlier but more subjective boundaries in red. Fig. 11 is the resulting map which shows the names and features which we established as already present by mid 16c at the time of Henry VIII.

Pre Tudor landscape.

The 14C Montacute Priory valor gave details of the land usage viz. arable, pasture and meadow. It indicates a total land usage of about 1000 (old) acres and specifically mentions 500 (old) acres of demesne. The 1326 deed relates to meadow land in *Oldmeade above the Highway* (Fosseway) and to *Berecroft* (now Barcrate). *Bowtune*, now Bowdens is also mentioned. Simplifying the above Tudor map by the removal of the remaining enclosures and interconnecting internal boundaries but leaving the above named 14c features gives the map of fig 12. as the possible open field structure. Interestingly the open fields are of broadly similar area as one might expect to ensure similar harvest yields in spite of any crop rotation.



Fig 10. Many of the boundaries of the fields displayed on the maps can be easily identified as later developments. Their removal reveals earlier underlying features. The figure illustrates the sequential process of boundary removal on a portion of the 18c Gt. East Field. viz. The grey boundaries have to be later than the red boundaries to which they abut.



Fig.11. Mid 16c names and locations

All these names shown on this map are found in the contemporary documents. The use of the French definite article and Saxon names indicates antiquity. The red area is the Bearly demesne let as a consolidated farm by this date

Also by this time:

le Mershe is no longer waste but is tenanted arable.
le Moor is pasture.

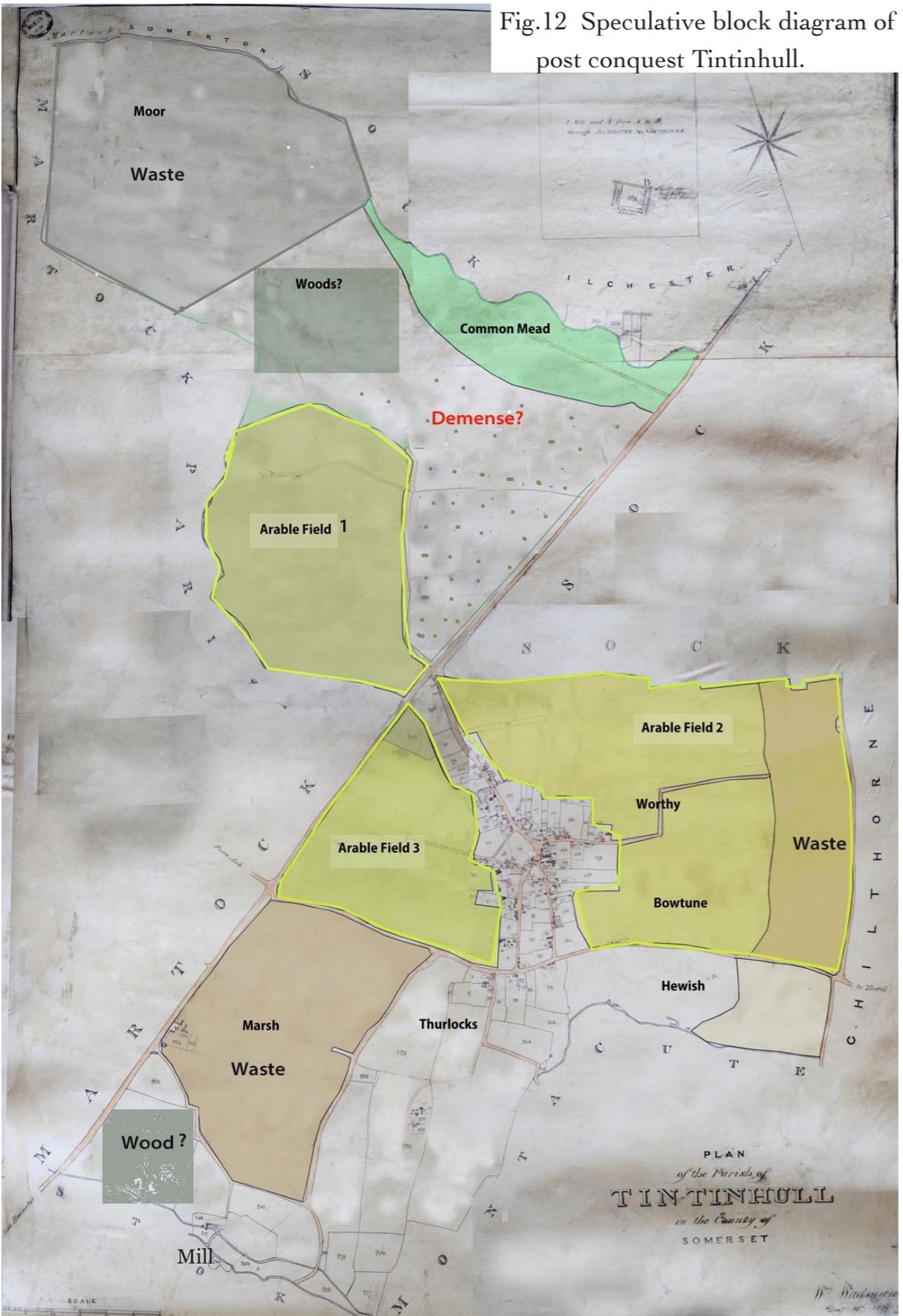
Division of some of the fields into let closes of Barton land* is established practice.

Volumn, Gore, le Codde, Rushie Close amongst others are also described as *The Lord's Demesne*.

Yards and possibly *Okymead* are indicative of assarted land. The transition from arable to pasture is long established and the West Field is now a beast's pasture.

Okymede is also called *Newmeade*.
Oldemead, Bowtune (Bowdens), Berecroft (Barcrate) have been long established since before 1300 .

*Barton and Demesne are both Lord's land and separately let. The former as closes for 3 lives the latter by indenture for 21 years. ref. Petre Survey.



In summary.

Having removed the later boundaries from the 16c map we arrive at the common fields shown in Fig 12. Worthy, Hewish, Bowtune and Thurlocks are pre conquest Saxon names. There are three arable fields of roughly equal size. Their form similar to today as they are fully defined by either ancient tracks, roads, parish boundaries or water ways and the Fosse Way which forms a natural boundary for each part of the parish. The Moor, Marsh and some of the East Field are still unclaimed. Some woods are where Newmead (Okymead) and Yards are later to be found. Other “woods” are trees in the boundaries. The Priory of Montacute is granted the manor in 1102 and by 1302 serfs work all the land and pay rent in lieu of service. Draining of the Moor and creation of enclosures and new pasture begins before 1300. The post conquest common mead is already Oldemead by 1326. The Moor, Marsh and Waste are all brought into productive use before the 16c by when the shape of the landscape has stabilized and the process of consolidation and enclosures is well underway.



Pre-conquest Landscape

In previous chapters we presented an analysis of how the local landscape may have evolved since Norman times. However, we must also acknowledge that in doing so we have, in effect, stripped out much of the unaltered boundary features from earlier times.

This chapter, based on a separate study of the broader area, will show how the surrounding landscape was already quite ancient well before the Norman Conquest and that the medieval open fields must therefore, still include features from that time.

The Tintinhull and Regional Landscape Archeology Project (TaRLAP*)

Between 2014 and 2017, under the direction of Dr John Davey of Dept of Archeology at Exeter University, a team from the Tintinhull Local History Group plotted and recorded as vectors, the field boundaries, shown on the early OS and Tithe maps for 13 parishes south of the River Yeo. The result of this exercise based on the 19c O.S. maps is shown in fig 13. (each plotter using their own colour. Mudford and Yeovil left blank to show size of blocks). The plots include all features on the maps including railways, draining ditches, boundaries and water ways. These plots were merged and analyzed by J Davey and the components split out into prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods

*<http://www.tintinhull-localhistory.org.uk/page20.html>

The Tintinhull and Region Landscape Archaeology Project (TaRLAP)

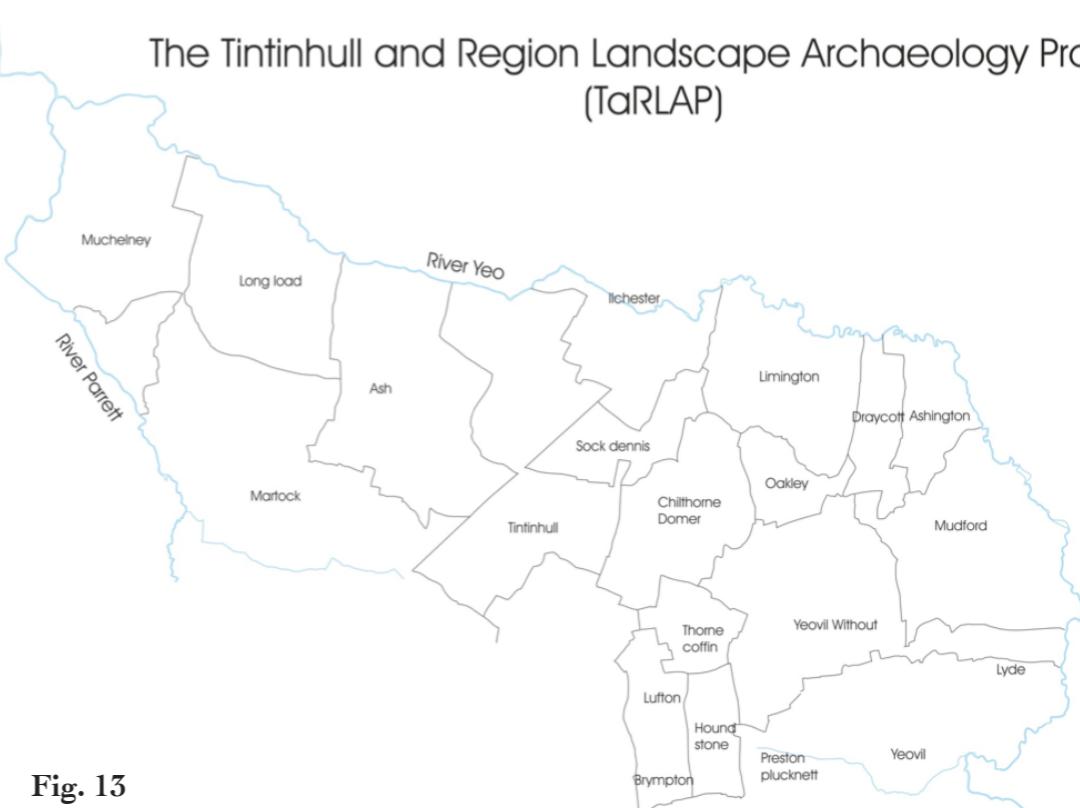
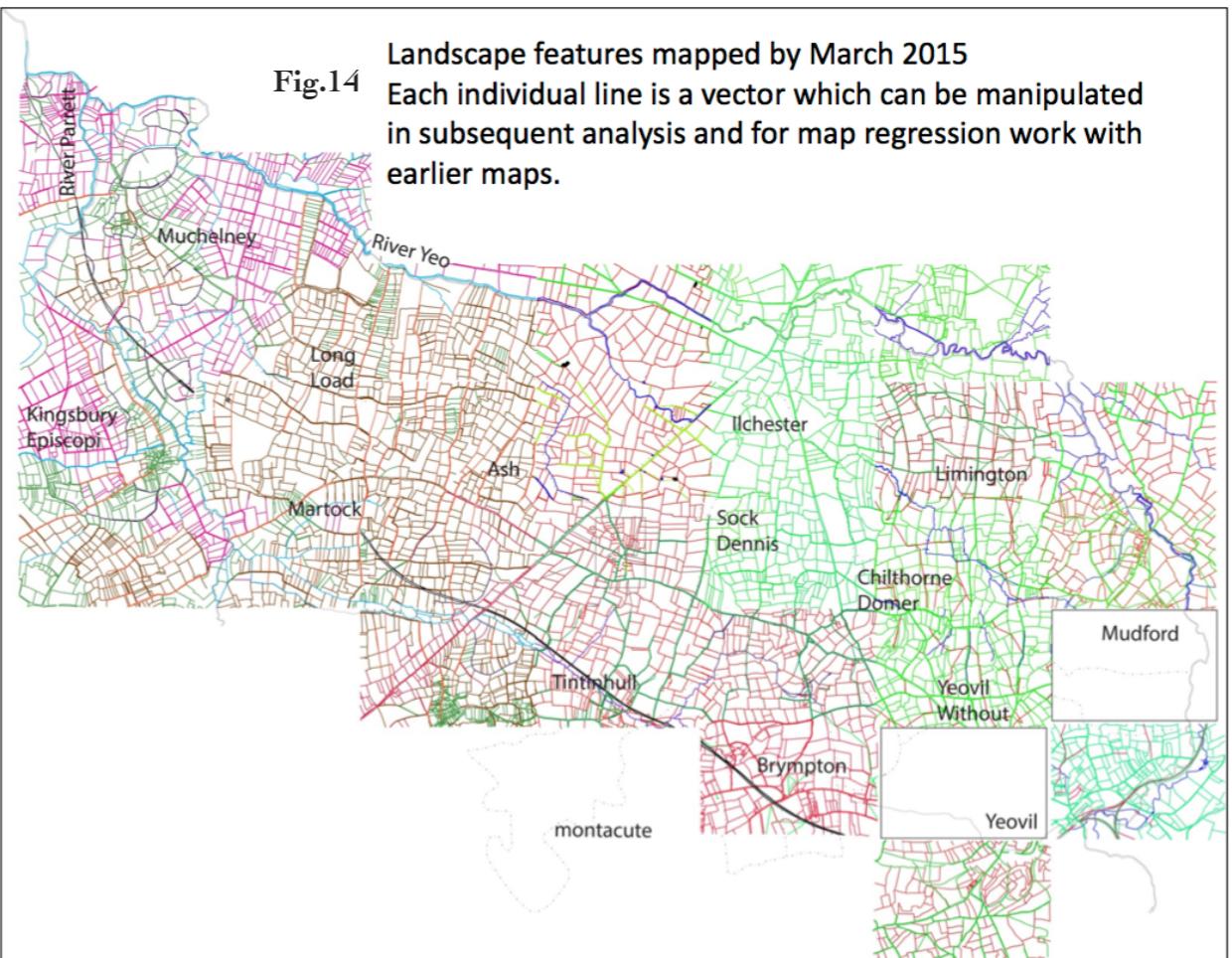


Fig. 13

Field boundaries, tracks, streams and other features being mapped in these parishes

Fig.14

Landscape features mapped by March 2015
Each individual line is a vector which can be manipulated in subsequent analysis and for map regression work with earlier maps.



The prehistoric landscape.

According to J Davey the rural economy has its origins in the late prehistoric period and probably began as long co-axial divisions running N-S and perpendicular to the Yeo valley sub-dividing it from ridge top to river meadow.

Such co-axial boundaries would have allowed control over the movement of herds of cattle. From the plots there is evidence of long continuous and *island shaped* boundaries Fig.15. Communication routes would have developed along these boundaries, one of which (that arrowed and passing through Sock Dennis) actually reaches the centre of the Ilchester 'oppidum' apparently linking it to Ham Hill. Others would run parallel to the river and may have linked farmsteads within the region.

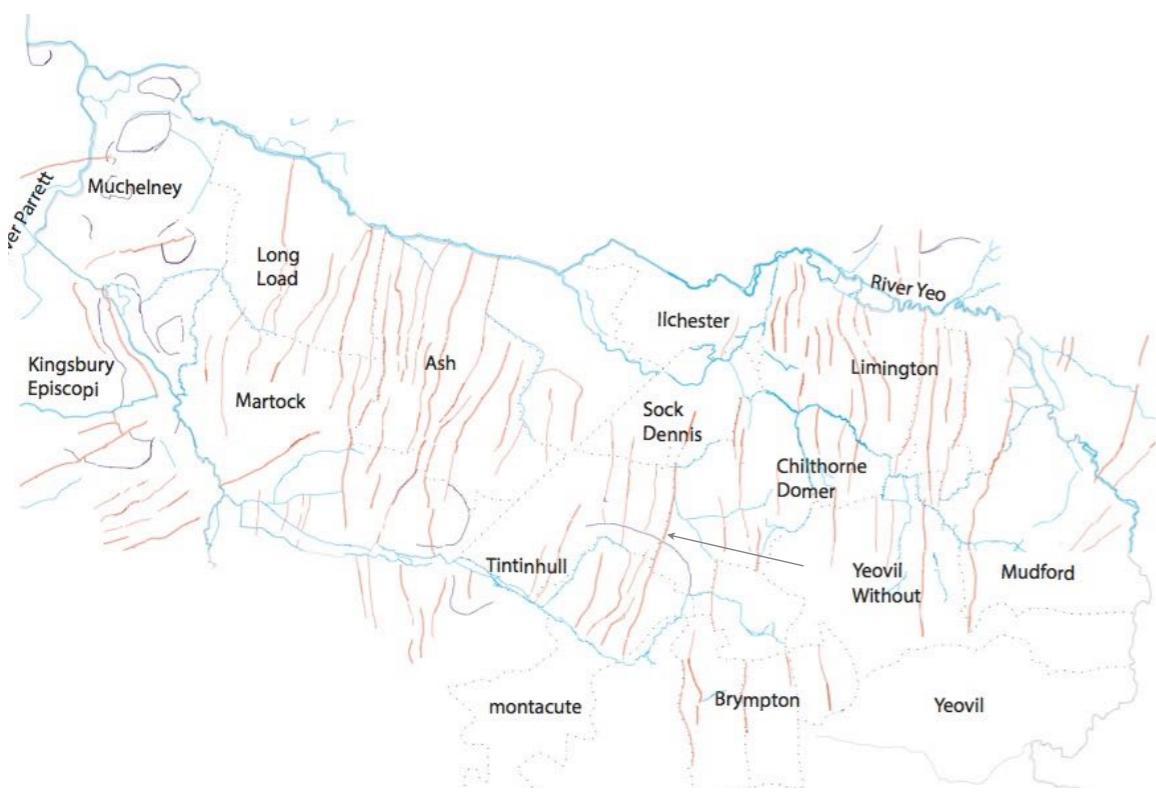


Fig 15. Putative pre-historic co-axial boundaries

Assuming that these coaxial boundaries really did exist in prehistoric times, then simple rectilinear subdivision forming later field boundaries to control, amongst other things, cattle grazing patterns, would have had to align with and be accommodated within this pre-existing structure. Fig.16 shows those boundaries on the OS maps which fit this pattern where the field boundaries are broadly at right angles to the principal earlier co-axial ones and are thus taken to be *prehistoric rectilinear*. Reinforcing this conclusion, notice that in the immediate area around Tintinhull some boundaries, North of the Fosse Way, are angled rather than respecting the Roman highway showing it cut through them and thus that they existed before construction of the Fosse in the 1st c. AD.

In a similar way fig. 17 shows how later Romano British field boundaries can be identified by their alignment to the two principal Roman Roads running from Ilchester.

In Saxon times consolidation of dispersed settlements led to structured settlements such as nucleated villages surrounded by their open fields. Although described as open, they clearly had internal divisions shown by the persistence of the early boundaries illustrated in this study.

Fig.18 completes this analysis by showing the areas of medieval occupation, many such as in Long Load as planned and regular, linear village plots.



Fig. 16. The existing field boundaries identified as Rectilinear and fitting within those of the earlier co-axial form.

Ref. J Davey

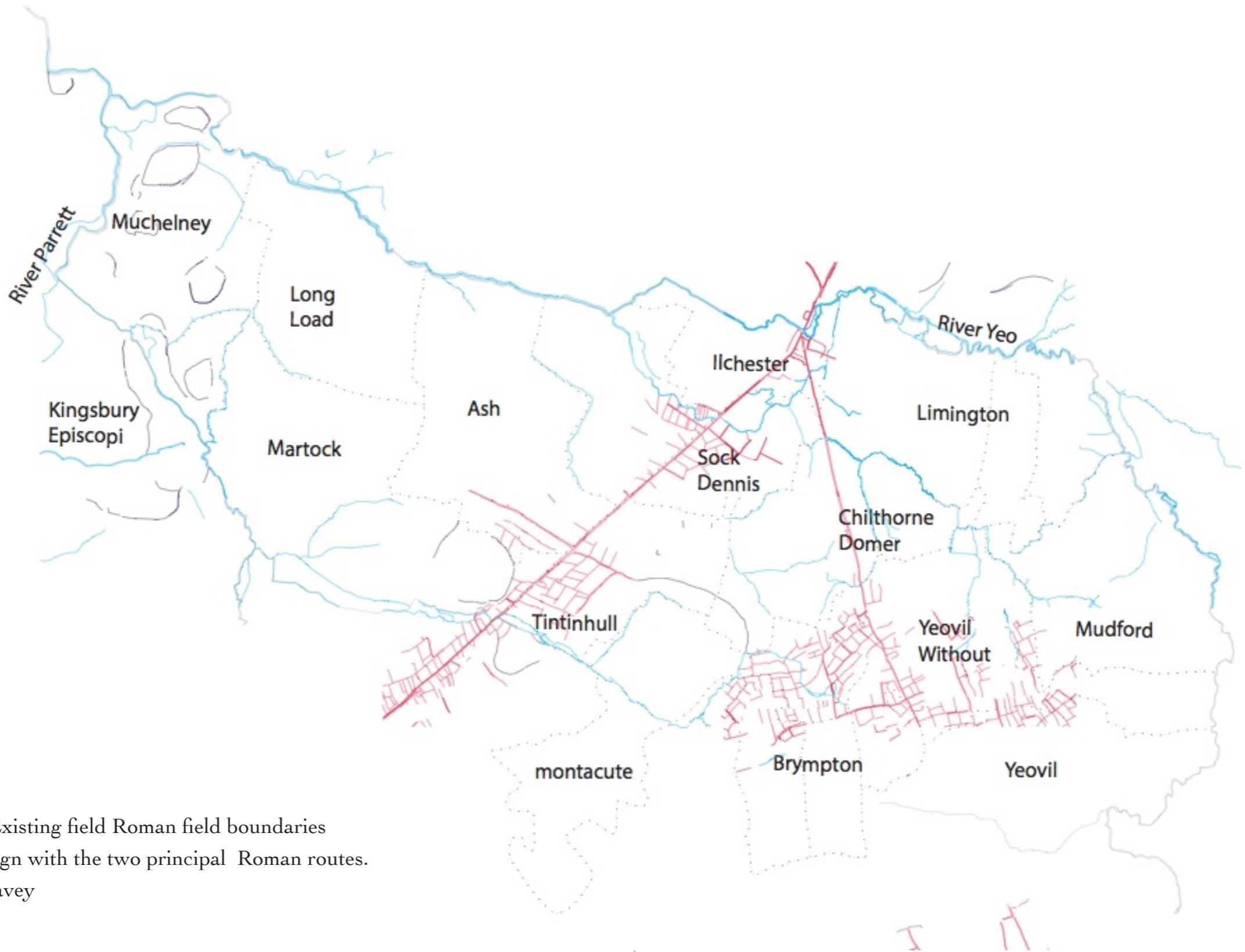


Fig.17. Existing field Roman field boundaries
which align with the two principal Roman routes.
Ref J Davey



Fig.18. The medieval developments (in Green) with surrounding field structure. Ref. J Davey

APPENDIX 1

Names and dates extracted from Tintinhull historic documents

Field or feature's name	known	Source	year	Petre survey
4 score acres	y	4881	1687	
Aller hill corner	y	MTT 196-9	1623 april	
Backside le	y	MTT 196-9	1622 oct	
Barcrate	y		1546	
Barcrate meadow	y	Bearley map	1786	
Barcrestmead (50a) demesne	y	MTT e91 photos 50-59		2 eliz
Barr Crate Mead	y	J Napper Map		
Barcroft	y	Bearley Map	17	
Barn haie in welham		pict 0111		eliz (no year given)
Beainfeilde le ,opposite highway		manor court	1615 april	
Belley Hill (250a) demesne		MTT e91 photos 50-59		
Bertroft (or Bercroft = Barcroft) meadow	y	feoffment	1326	36 Edward III
Bowdens Corner	y	MTT 196-9	1623 april	
Bowntune	y	feoffment	1326	36 Edward III
Brockmarsh (Brookmarsh?)		MTT photo279	1617 oct	
Calfhay Lane	y	406	1666	
Chapmans House	y	MTT photo279	1617 oct	
Chester Mead	y	4881	1687	
Chester Mead	y			eliz.
Chester Meade (called a Sester)	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Church Hatch from Green Close		dscf 46	1710	
Codde le (a parcel of meadow)		MTT e91 photos 50-59	1566	
Cole Cross	y	4881	1687	
Cole Meade		pict00101		jacobi
Croft le	y	MTT 196-9	1622 oct	
Dairy House	y	4881	1687	
Down le (of overland)		MTT 226-8	1614 oct	
enclosures		4876	1683	
enclosures around le Beainfeilde opposite highway		manor court	1615 april	
Est Felde Brode	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Est Felde Grete	y	MTT e91 photos 56		
Est Felde Lytle	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Foordes Crosse Barton 5a		MTT e91 photos 59		
Ford Croft Barton		pict 0111		
Forts to Marle Pitts	y	4876	1683	
Fyddbyes Meade lying in Tyntenhull Long Meade 11a		mtt e91 photo 54		Eliz, no year
Fyne Acer's (acres?)		MTT 226-8	1615 april	
Gawsway	y		1600's	
Gentilles cottage	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Gibbs furlong	y	Photo 222-5	1578	
Gibbs furlong (of overland)	y	MTT 226-8	1614 oct	
Glatt Furlong (Glott On J Napper map)	y	pict0096		jacobi
Gore Meade 20 1/2 a	y	mtt e91 photo 53		2 eliz.
Green Close to Church Hatch	y	dscf 46	1710	
Gytberettes Downe demesne		MTT e91 photo 52		2 eliz
Hallgates to Marsh Field barr		4876	1683	
Haybonds stile		MTT 226-8	1615 april	
Hayboot Barton			1600	
Hayboote stile		MTT 196-9	1623 april	
Heal Furlong	y	J Napper Map	1786	
Hewish barton land		pict00102		jacobi
Horsepool le		MTT 196-9	1623 april	
Kittwell Plot to Dairy House		4881	1687	
Kitwell 2 closes		pict00102		jacobi
Lange meade	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Langmeade (meadow)	y	pict0099		jacobi
Leats Heal		4863	1688	
Little Trumps	y			

Long Brimpton	y			1660s
Longclose barr		4876		1693
Marl Pitts	y	Photo 196-9 MTT		
Marie Pitts	y	4876		1683
Marsh South part of , barton	y	pict0105		
Mershe	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Mersshe Southe part	y	mTT e91 photos 56	1537	28 henry
Mounkton Meade (see le Shere)				
New Mead (= Okye lease mead)	y	MTT e91 photo 50-59	1566	
Newmeade Lytell demesne 4 1/2a		mtt e91 photo 53		
Northgawsway	y	MTT 226-8	1615 april	
Okye (Oakylease) mead (New meade)	y	MTT e91 photo 50-59	1566	
Old mede		feoffment	1326	36 Edward III
Parsonnage Poole le	y	MTT 196-9	1623 april	
Perendyche Hill 'South demesne 17 1/2a				
Perendyche Hill demesne 15a		MTT e91 photo 50-59		2 eliz
Perrins	y			Eliz.
Raysons Ground		MTT photo279	1617 oct	
Rushie close	y			eliz.
Russhye Close (Large Leasue) demesne 31 a	y	mtt e91 photo 54		
Sharplands Barton		pict0096		jacobi
Shere le of Mounkton Meade demesne 3a Montacute?		mtt e91 photo 54		
Sowover	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Soxham Lytle		mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Soxham North	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Soxham North	y	pict0096		jacobi
Soxham South	y	pict0096		jacobi
Stockway		MTT 226-8	1615 april	
Stone lane	y		1688	
T Moor	y		1546	
The old bakehouse (Agnus Smith)		pict00109		eliz
Three Beane Fields		M,Court photo210	1618	
Thurlocks	y			Eliz.
Thurlocks (South) barton 13a	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1532	23 henry
Tibbs leaze	y	4876	1693	
Town Marsh			4803	1664
Trapnols	y	4877	1688	
Trents fields			4803	1664
Trents Lane	y	4830	1669	
Trotts		dscf 46		1710
Trumps	y	pict0104		eliz.
Tyntenhull (Tintinhull) Strete	y	pict0097		jacobi
Tyntenhull long meade (see Fyddbyes Meade) 11a				
Tyntenhull Moore (pasture)	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Underways cottage		mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Volume meade demense 25a	y	mtt e91 photo 53	1561	3 eliz
Waste. Cottage built upon		pict00114		eliz
Weastlease Lord's Land		MTT 196-9	1618 oct	
Wehams Bridge		4814		1664
Wehaye		mtt e91 photos 56	1537	28 henry
West Feelde (pasture)	y	mtt e91 photo 55	1541	32 henry
Womans Land	y	pict0096		jacobi
Wynfurlong	y			james
Yards	y	pict 0047	1589	
		MTT		

Source key. Refs. are to documents and pictures in tlhg Devon Think data base.

Petre survey dates are regnal years.

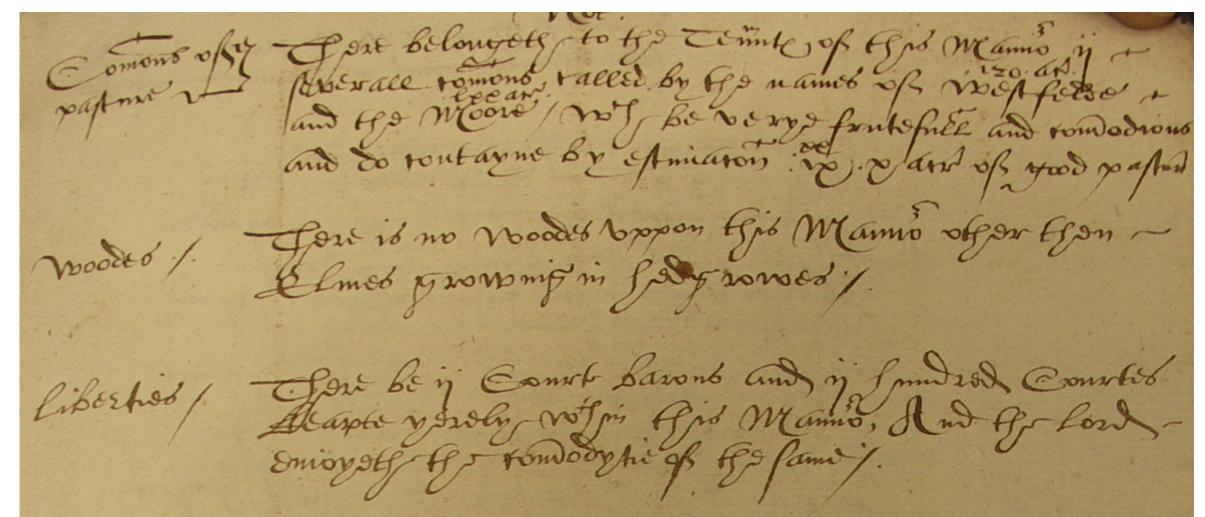
Known: y= location of feature is known

APPENDIX 2

Transcription of The Bearley Map index

This index on the following page, is interesting in that it shows a number of facts concerning the 18c. management and use of land and the importance of timber resources.

1. Customary (manorial) acres were ca. 80% of statutory acres. A fact that should be borne in mind when examining land descriptions in the earlier documents such as manor court rolls.
2. Field names are based on the customary acres eg *12 acre tillage*.
3. As described in the 16c Petre Estate survey there was no woodland and all timber was managed in the field boundaries (the fences)
4. The map shows division between mature and immature trees and in which fences they were.
5. The detail underlines the importance and value of timber to the local community.
6. Trees obviously grew well here which is some supports the possibility that the Domesday woodland may have been in this part of the parish.



Extract from Petre Estate survey of Tintinhull 1590.

Woodes/ *There is no woodes upon this Manor other than 'Elmes growing in hedge rowes*

Devon Records Office Petre Estate 123m/91

Appendix 2. Transcription of the index of the 1787 Bearley Map fig. 7

An accurate map and survey of Bearley Farm situate in the parish of Tintinhull within the county of Somerset property of Edward Philips jun. of Montacute and county aforesaid.		Taken by Samuel Donne ADC 1787		The customary area appears to be ~83% of statutory area		40 perches = 1 rood and 4 roods = 1 acre										
	field name	statutory			customary			fences**			trees					
		acre	rood	per.	acre	rood	per.	acres	rood	per.	maidens	pollards				
1	Lower Follum Meadow	6	1	12		7	2	25			7	10		5	15	
2	Stibble Bearley Pasture	15	3	36		19	1	13			0	28		7	7	
3	House Gardens Barton & Little Plott	5	1	0		6	1	13			0	0		5	5	
4	Four Acre Meadow	3	2	23		4	1	25			1	11		30	20	
5	Barrcrate Meadow exclusive of PoW*															
	40 ft and other rights	55	0	20		66	0?		10		6	31		0	0	
6	The West part of three score acres	17	3	22		21	2	23			1	10		0	0	
7	The North east part of the 60 Acres	7	2	20		9	0	36			0	30		0	0	
8	Lower River Chester Meadow	43	2	20		52	3	6			5	0		130	25	
9	Lackum? Bow Ridge Meadow	13	2	6		16	1	21			2	0		0	0	
10	The 20 ac tillage the last of the 60 acres	17	2	27		21	1	27			3	18		97	62	
11	House Ground Als. Home Cow Leaze	25	2	0		30	3	24			1	0		6	4	
12	The 12 Acre Tillage	10	0	36		12	1	20			0	24		20	3	
13	The Great Orchard	5	2	0		6	2	24			1	10		7	1	
14	The Six Acre Meadow	5	2	30		6	3	21			0	0		31	40	
15	The Four Score Acres	69	3	32		84	2	23			4	35		164	17	
16	Called the Hundred Acres	1	0	33		1	1	33			0	25		17	17	
17	Montacute Bearley Pasture	10	0	20		12	1	0			1	14		27	24	
18	Middle Motacute do.	10	3	37		13	1	6			0	20		14	7	
19	Yonder Do. Pasture	12	3	22		15	2	15			2	10		41	30	
20	Great Chester Meadow	51	1	17		61	1	17			1	30		607	277	
21	Three Acres in Tintinhull Meadow	2	3	16		3	1	32			0	0		0	0	
22	Twelve Acres in Tintinhull Common exclusive of the PoW* 40 feet	10	3	24		13	0	30			fences =	9	0	26		
	total within the fences	409	3	19		495	1	7								
	fences	9	0	26		11	0	14			trees total				884	
	total land of the survey	419	0	5		506	1	21								

*PoW = Prince of Wales

** We assume fences means area of boundaries in which the trees are planted.

Note. When a field has a name mentioning acres this corresponds closely to its Customary area