

# The Landscape History of Hadstock Parish 1777-2020

## Part 2 Field Systems, Fields and Ownership



## Introduction

- The following images and accompanying notes describe landscape changes in Hadstock Parish over the last 240 years.
- This presentation (Part 2) deals with field systems, field names and ownership, including the changes arising from the Hadstock Inclosure Act of 1801. A previous presentation covered Boundaries, roads, woods and paths (Part 1).
- More detail on the effect of the Inclosure Act on Hadstock can be found in Part 3 (to be published in 2023). Parts 4 and 5 deal with the Parish history of the built environment and with notable buildings (to be published Jan 2023).
- Parts 1 and 2 as pdf documents are available for viewing online at: [archive.hadstock.org.uk](http://archive.hadstock.org.uk)
- The main sources of information for the illustrations and notes are shown on the right. The illustrations were created using Adobe Illustrator 2020 and Astute Graphics software.

Richard Dolby  
Rick Albrow



October 2021  
revised October 2022

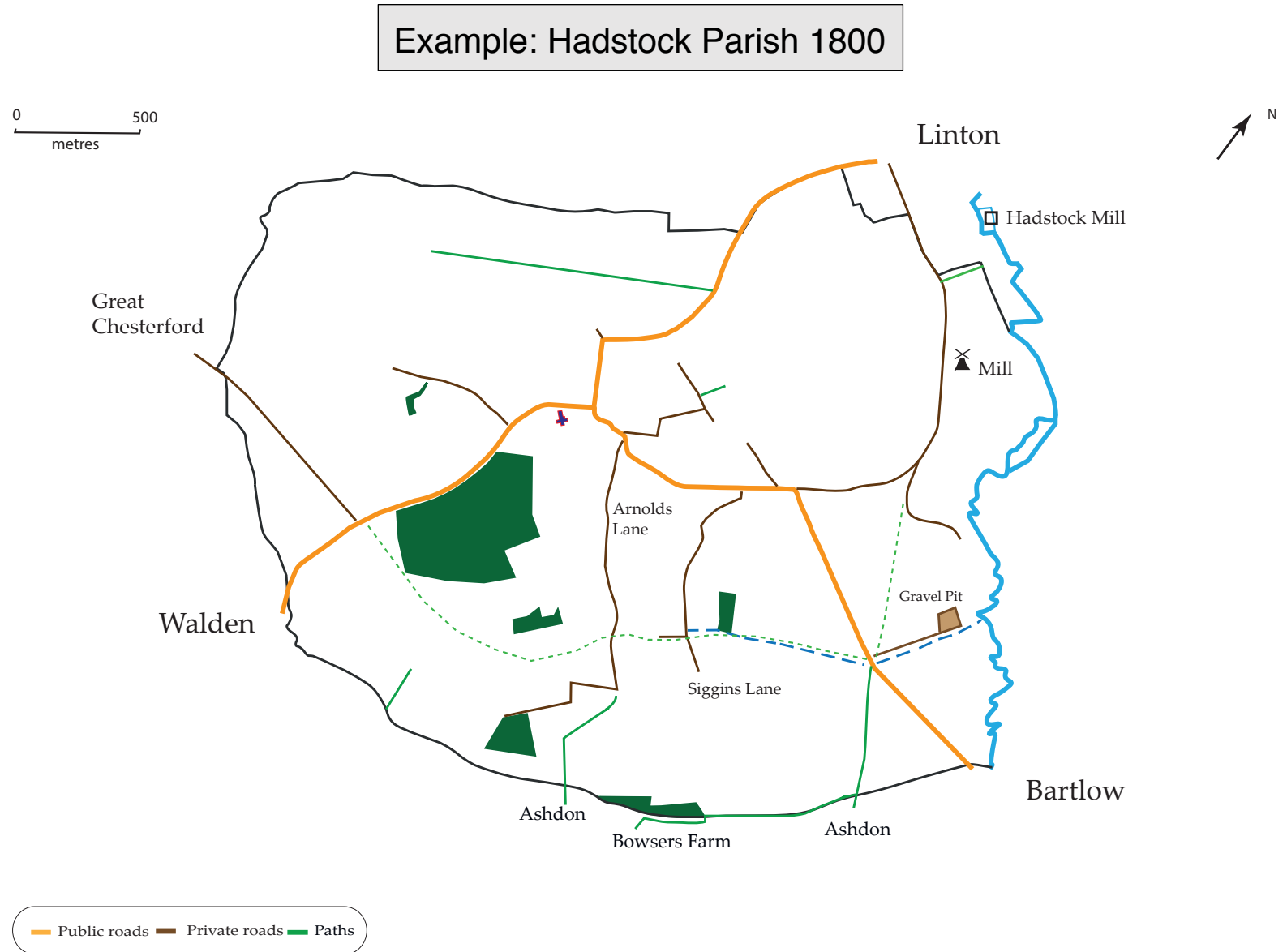
## Sources of Information

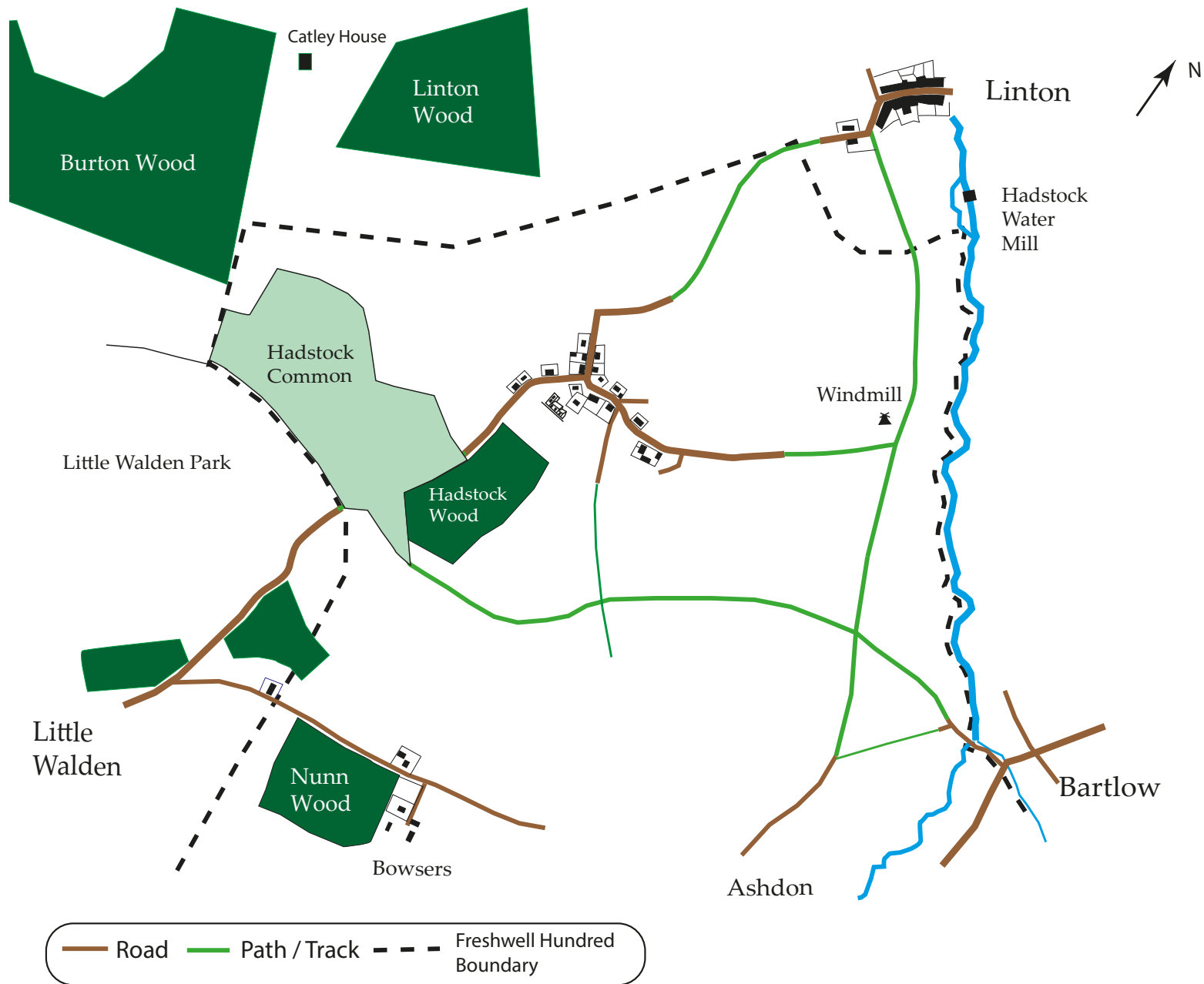
- 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex
  - 1803 Hadstock Pre-inclosure map, D-Dqy 28, (Essex Record Office)
  - 1805 Hadstock Inclosure Award map, Q\_RDc7B (Essex Record Office)
  - 1805 Inclosure Award, Q\_RDc7A
  - 1805 Ordnance Survey Old Series map, Sheet 47
  - 1877 Ordnance Survey maps. Ashdon and Hadstock Parishes
  - 1921 Ordnance Survey map, Hadstock Parish
  - 2020 Google Earth satellite images
- [www.americanairmuseum.com](http://www.americanairmuseum.com)
- The Essex Record Office

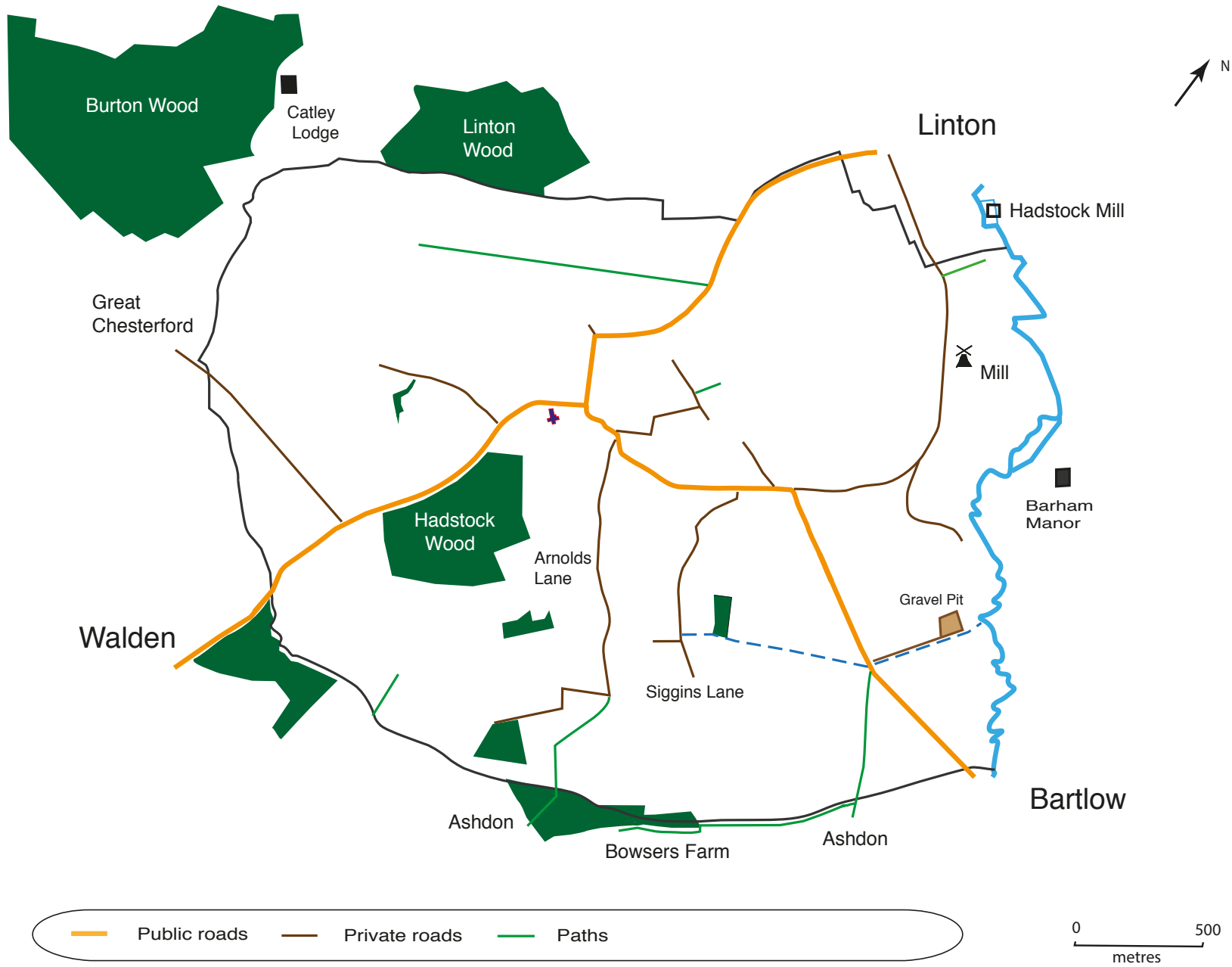
Thanks to Patricia Croxton-Smith for valuable help and to the late John Barker, Bartlow Estate, J C Fenwick and Son, Mark Goddard, and Roger Tinney for information on field names.

## Creation of simplified maps

- The illustrations were traced from published maps. Detailed information from the pre- and post-Inclosure maps and the Award document was entered into a master spreadsheet.
- All maps were orientated to match the pre-inclosure and post-inclosure maps, as shown in the adjacent column, i.e., looking from the East of the Parish with North as shown. Astute Graphics software was used for area measurements.
- These are 2D images and readers are reminded that there is a 70m drop in elevation from the Walden (Hadstock Common) side of the Parish down to Linton, Bartlow and the River Granta.
- The tracings can be enlarged on screen to read detailed features without loss of resolution.

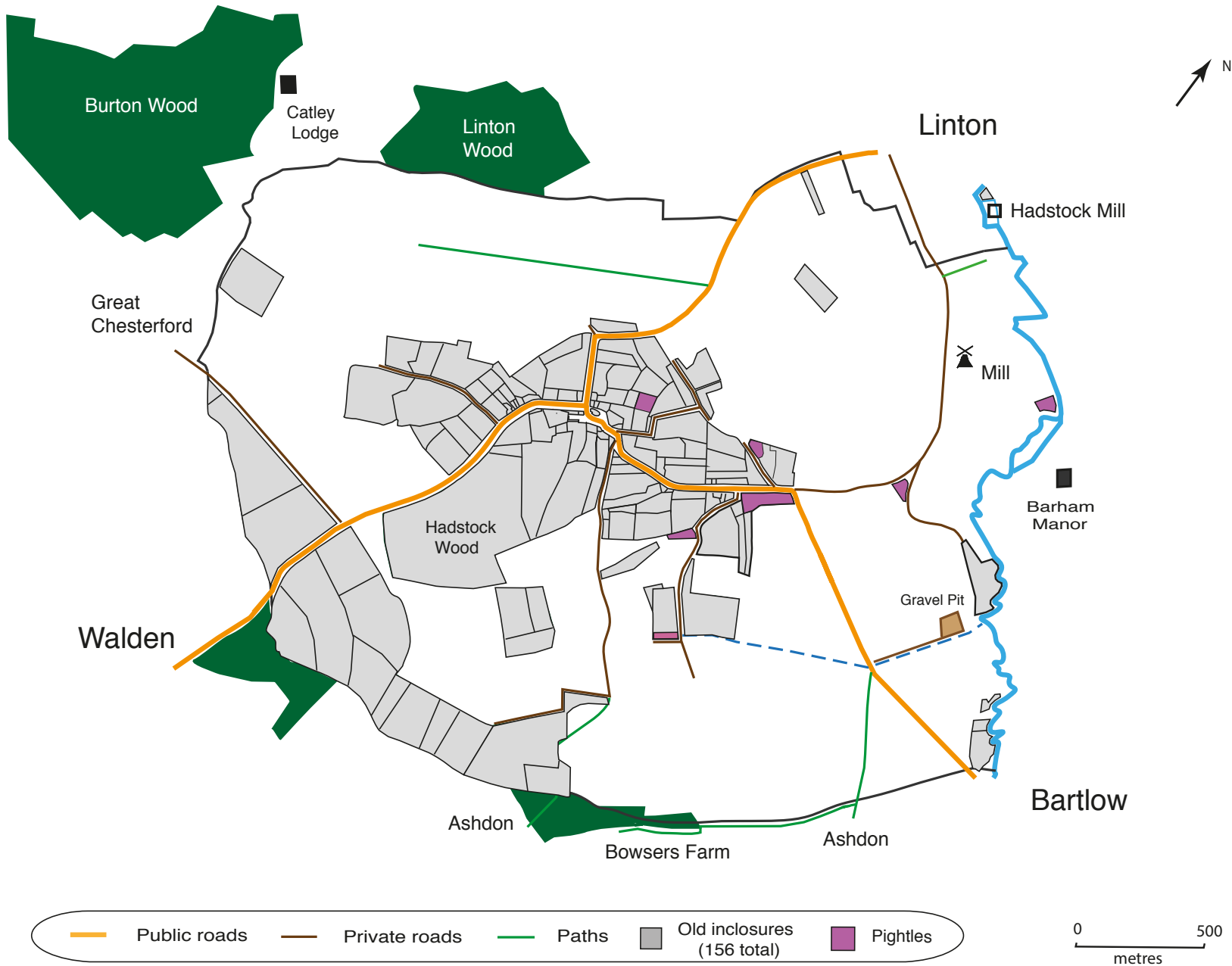






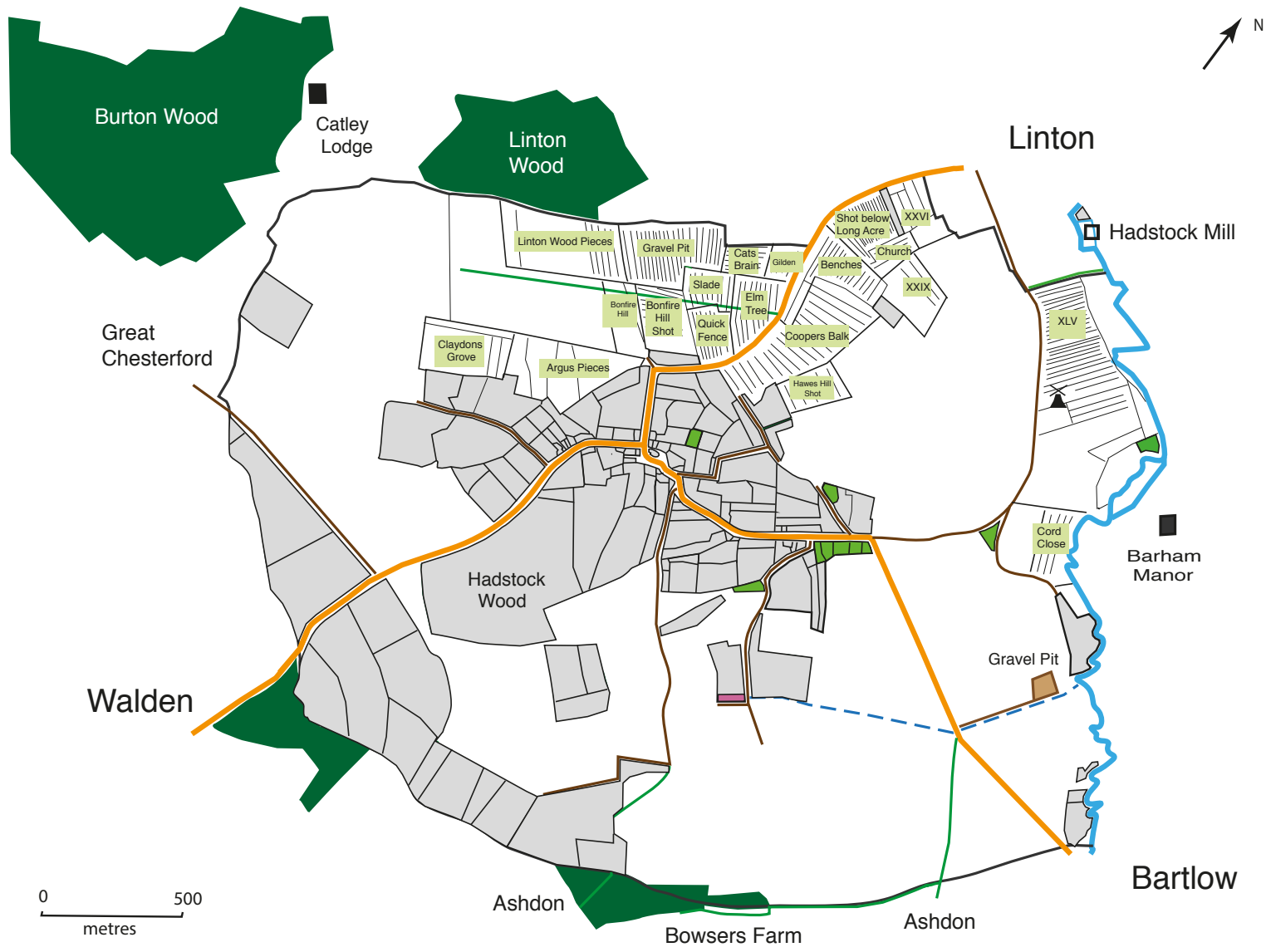
# 1800 (1)

- The main roads (imaged in orange) were usually 40ft wide.
- Private roads, carriage ways or drift ways for animals (imaged in brown), were usually 20-30ft wide, and used by all owners and land occupiers.
- The Parish had two mills, one wind and the other water.
- Paths (imaged in green) show links to Ashdon, Bowers and to the Hadstock water mill on the River Granta.
- Hadstock water mill was built around 1150AD and, although outside the main Parish boundary, belonged to Hadstock for many centuries, only becoming part of Linton parish in the twentieth century.
- The following 9 slides show the Parish field system before the Inclosure Award of 1805



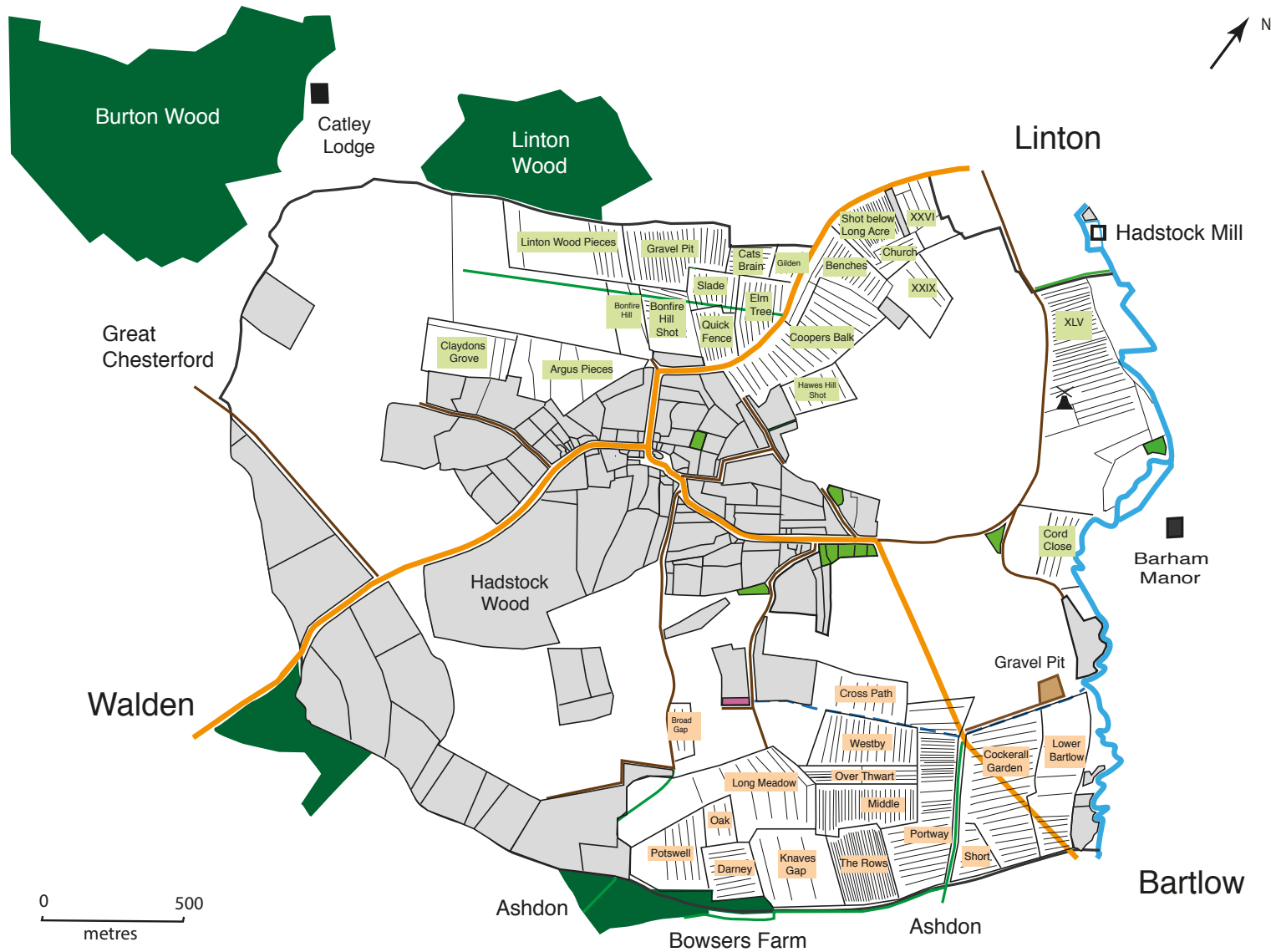
# 1800 (2)

- Old inclosures (imaged in grey), sometimes referred to as Ancient inclosures, were privately owned fields or properties. There were 156 in Hadstock Parish in 1803, and each was numbered. Many had a name and an associated cottage or homestead.
- All the inclosures, with the names of their 32 owners, are listed in the 1805 Inclosure Award document.
- These Old inclosures occupied 28% of Parish land area and were not affected by the 1805 Inclosure Award.
- Some Old inclosures more distant from the village and close to the Parish boundary were owned by outsiders to the Parish.
- Pightles (imaged in purple) were small inclosures or paddocks, located mainly in the north of the Parish.



# 1800 (3)

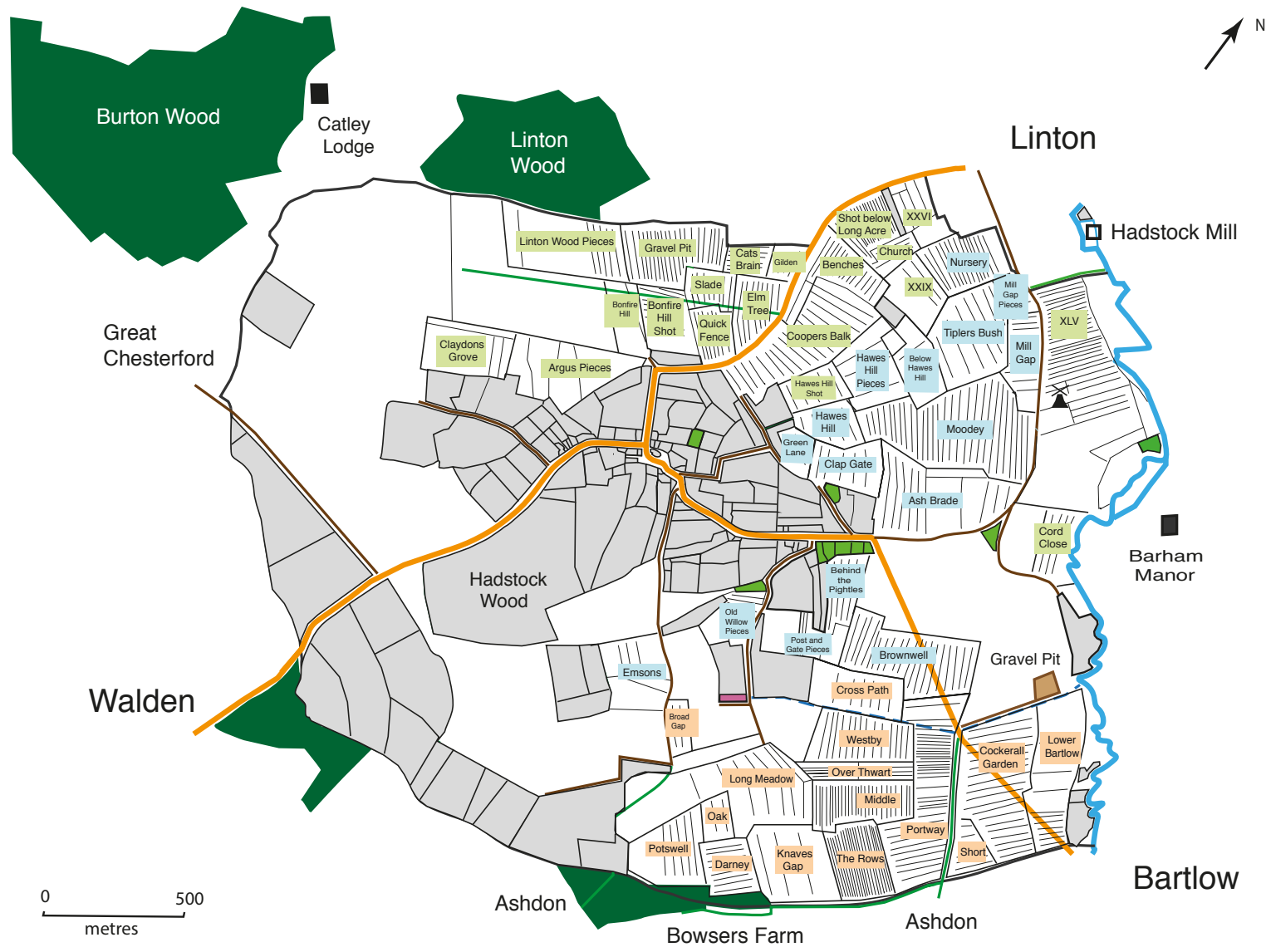
- Separate from the Old inclosures were Communal Open fields. This shows the layout of Townsend Open field, one of three in the Parish.
- Each Open field was divided into smaller units called Shots, most of which had names. All had a surveyor's number (up to 51 in Roman numerals). Townsend Field consisted of 20 Shots (green labels) and included 2 Shots in Red Field near the River Granta for crop rotation reasons (see later).
- A Shot consisted of a series of roughly parallel strips. The number of strips per Shot is accurately reproduced in this presentation but their detailed shape is approximate.
- Each strip was individually owned, and most villagers farmed a series of strips around the Parish in each of the three open fields, typically less than 10 but some more than 40.



1800 (4)

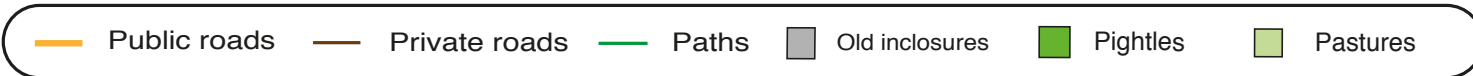
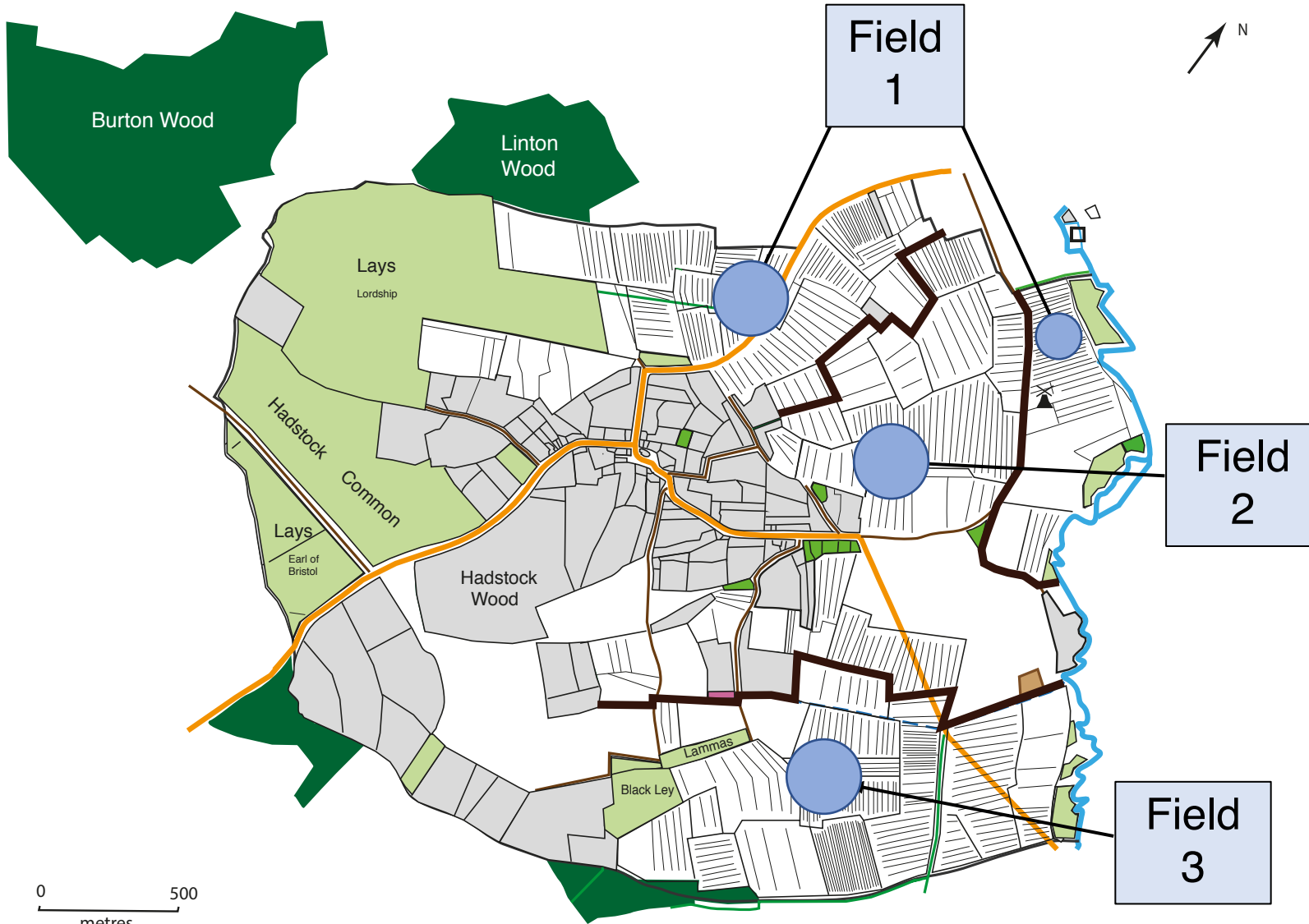
- This shows another Open field, Bartlow field with 15 Shots (orange labels).
- Strips in the Parish were at their narrowest in The Rows Shot in Bartlow Field and estimated at 9 metres (10yds) width. But in all 3 fields, strips were typically 15-25 metres (16-28yds) wide. A few individual strips were significantly larger.
- Area calculations showed that a typical strip varied from 1 to 2 acres, the average being 1.4acres. However, some were over 10 acres.
- Strips in a Shot were usually aligned with the local land slope to aid drainage.





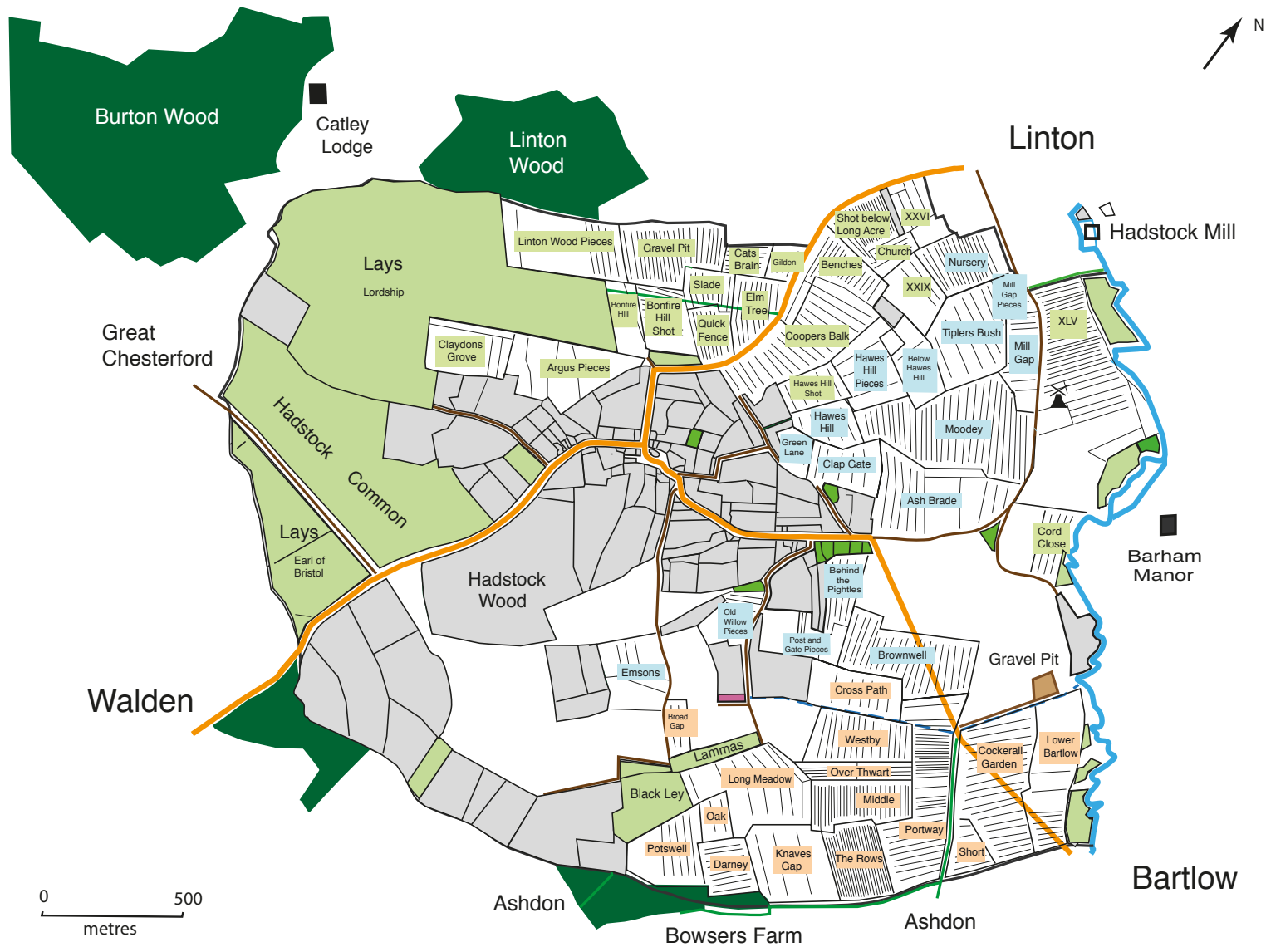
## 1800 (5)

- This shows the third open field, Middle field with 16 Shots (blue labels), sited between the other two.
- The total number of strips in the 3 Open fields was 520, allocated to 20 owners, or their tenant farmers
- The three open fields occupied 46% of Parish land and were sited on the North facing slopes of the Parish because the chalky soils here were more workable. Above the 300ft contour to the South, the heavier clay soils were more difficult to plough.
- Strip allocation across 3 fields ensured owners and tenants had a share of the varying soil types across Parish land, whether good or poor.



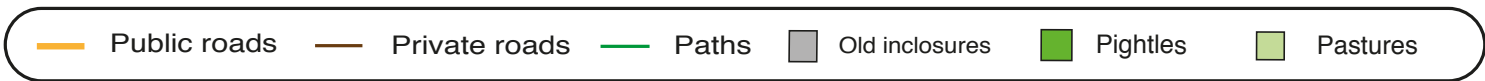
# 1800 (6)

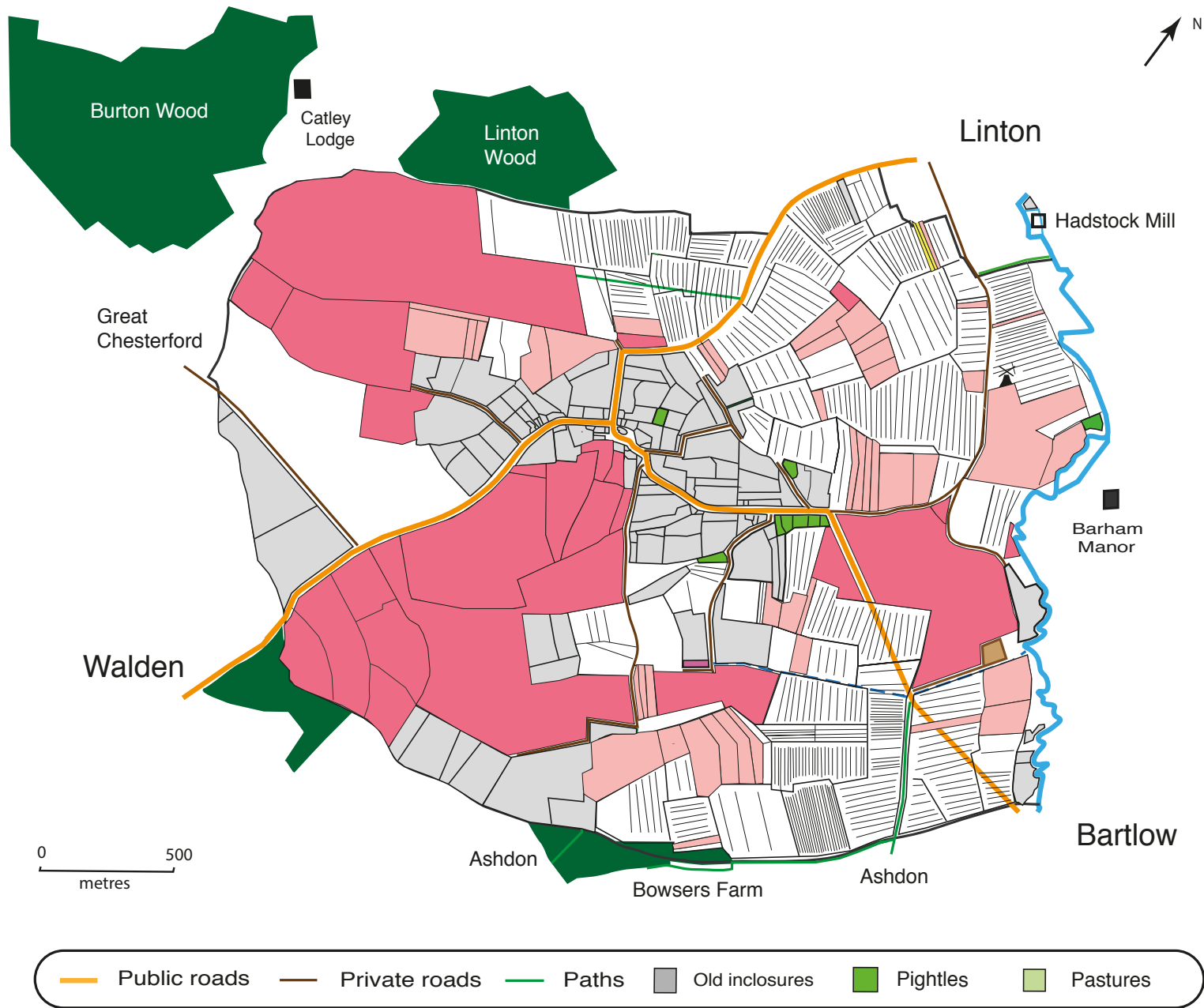
- The Parish adopted a typical 3-field crop rotation system.
- In year 1, Field 1 Shots were sown with winter wheat/barley. Field 2 Shots received a spring sowing of peas, oats/barley and turnips for livestock feed. Field 3 Shots lay fallow.
- The following year, rotation would see Field 1 with peas and oats/barley planted, and then be fallow for year 3, and so on.
- Thus, for a given field, nitrogen was returned to the soil in year 2. The fallow year then allowed livestock to roam across most Shots and fertilise the ground.
- Based on data given to the Bishop of London in 1801, the Parish grew 210 acres of barley, 173 acres of wheat, 147 acres of oats, 52 acres of peas, as well as 26 acres of both rye and turnips.



# 1800 (7)

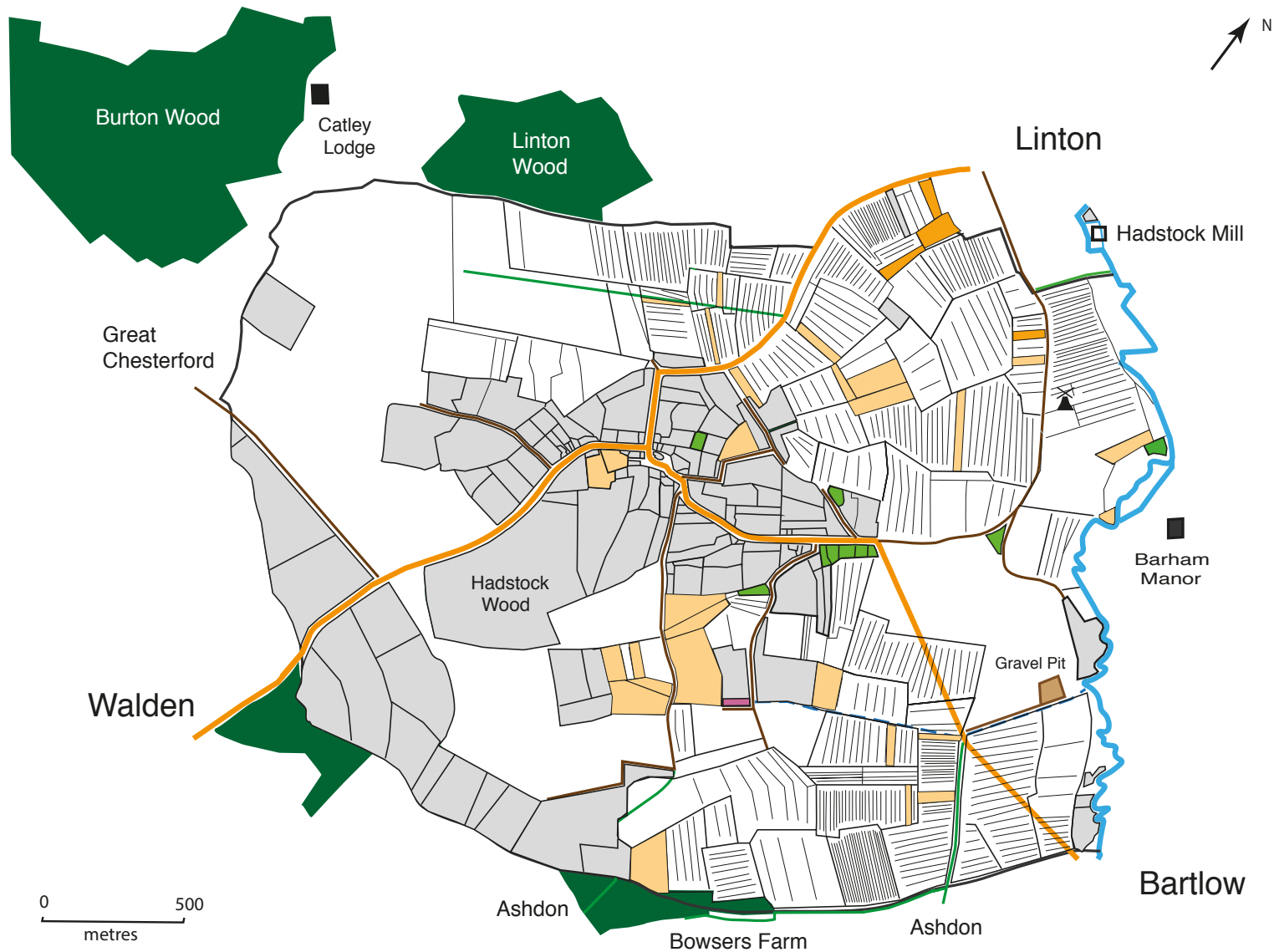
- This illustration shows Hadstock Common and other pasture, meadow, pightles and livestock grazing land, all imaged in green.
- Each Parish household had rights for pasture on Hadstock Common.
- Lays were pastures available for limited periods, the owner using these lands for arable farming some years.
- Lammas land was available for livestock after August each year.
- Full details of the fields, shots, strips and ownership, before (and after) the 1805 Inclosure Award, have been recorded by The Hadstock Society in an unpublished spreadsheet.





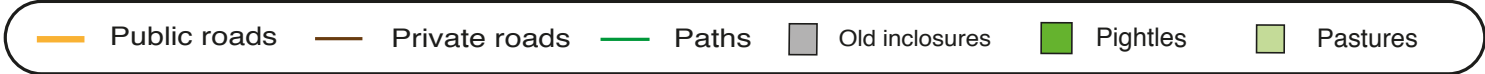
## 1800 (8)

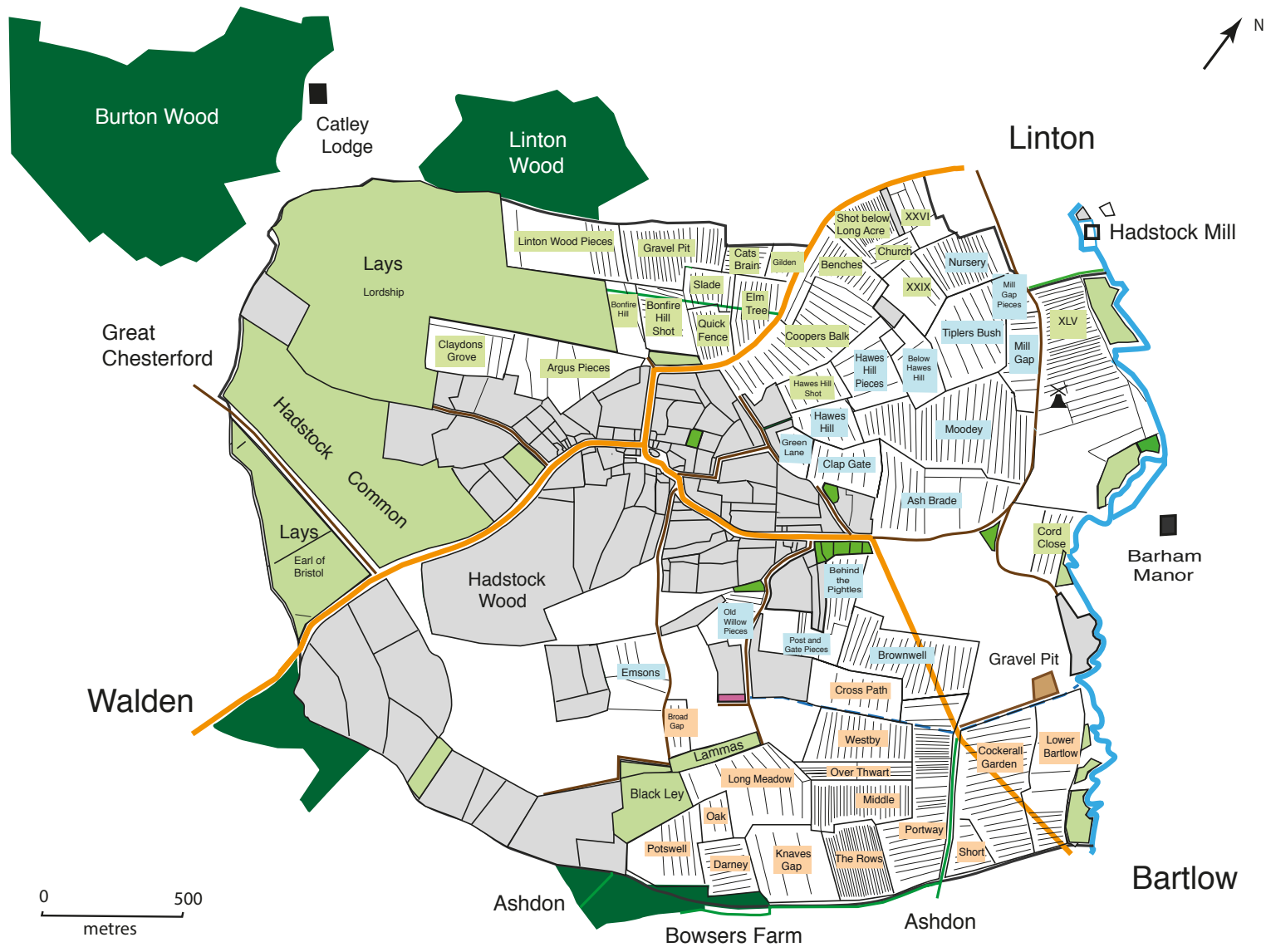
- The land owned by the Lord of the Manor, Sydenham Malthus, prior to the 1805 Inclosure Award, is shown deep red and light red.
- The deep red areas show his 16 Old inclosures and other demesne land in his possession.
- The light red areas show the locations of his 45 strips across the three open fields. Unlike other strip owners, Malthus's strips formed large blocks of land, with only a few isolated strips in certain Shots.
- Including strips, Malthus had 36% of Parish Land before the Inclosure Award and employed Buck Smoothy (Hall Farm) as the tenant farmer for all 645 acres.
- The Malthus family lived in Surrey and employed a steward to manage Hadstock manorial lands.



# 1800 (9)

- The four Old inclosures and other Glebe land belonging to the Hadstock Rector, Rev J A Carr, are shown in pale orange. In addition, he had 21 strips in the Open fields, also in pale orange.
- According to Land Tax assessments made in 1796, Buck Smoothey was the tenant farmer for the land holdings of the Rev Carr, as well as for Lordship lands.
- Pembroke College (Revd Edmund Fisher) owned a few Glebe strips in Hadstock, and these are shown in dark orange, close to Linton.
- Including strips, the Hadstock Rector had only 2.7% of Parish Land before the Inclosure Award. But up to 1805, the Church had been receiving a large tythe income from many other lands and inclosures in the Parish.





# 1800 Summary

Summarising the field systems in the Parish **before** the 1805 Inclosure Award, the Parish comprised:

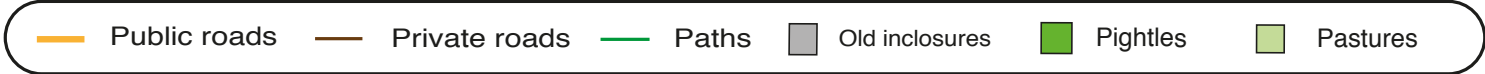
3 Open fields containing 51 Shots and 520 strips, occupying 46% of Parish land.

156 Old inclosures including woodland, being 28% of Parish land.

Common land occupying 5% of the Parish.

Lordship (18%) and Glebe land (1%), occupying 19% of Parish.

Roads/quarries/waste occupying 2% of Parish land.



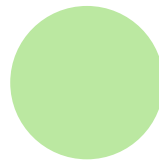
## Inclosure Act of 1801

- The 1801 Hadstock Parliamentary Inclosure Act dramatically changed the Parish landscape, its farming systems and parishioner rights.
- One of over 5000 similar Acts in England and Wales, its aim was to raise productivity in crop production by eliminating all Parish common land (including open fields, meadows and pastures), and creating a series of new inclosures of similar total area.
- Before the Act, many individuals, or their tenants, farmed dispersed, intermixed, narrow strips in the open fields.
- The Act enabled new inclosures to be set up with a single owner or tenant farmer, and the creation of larger land blocks for more efficient ploughing of arable land or for pasture.
- Tenant farmers then had more freedom on crop and agricultural planning without the requirement to collaborate.



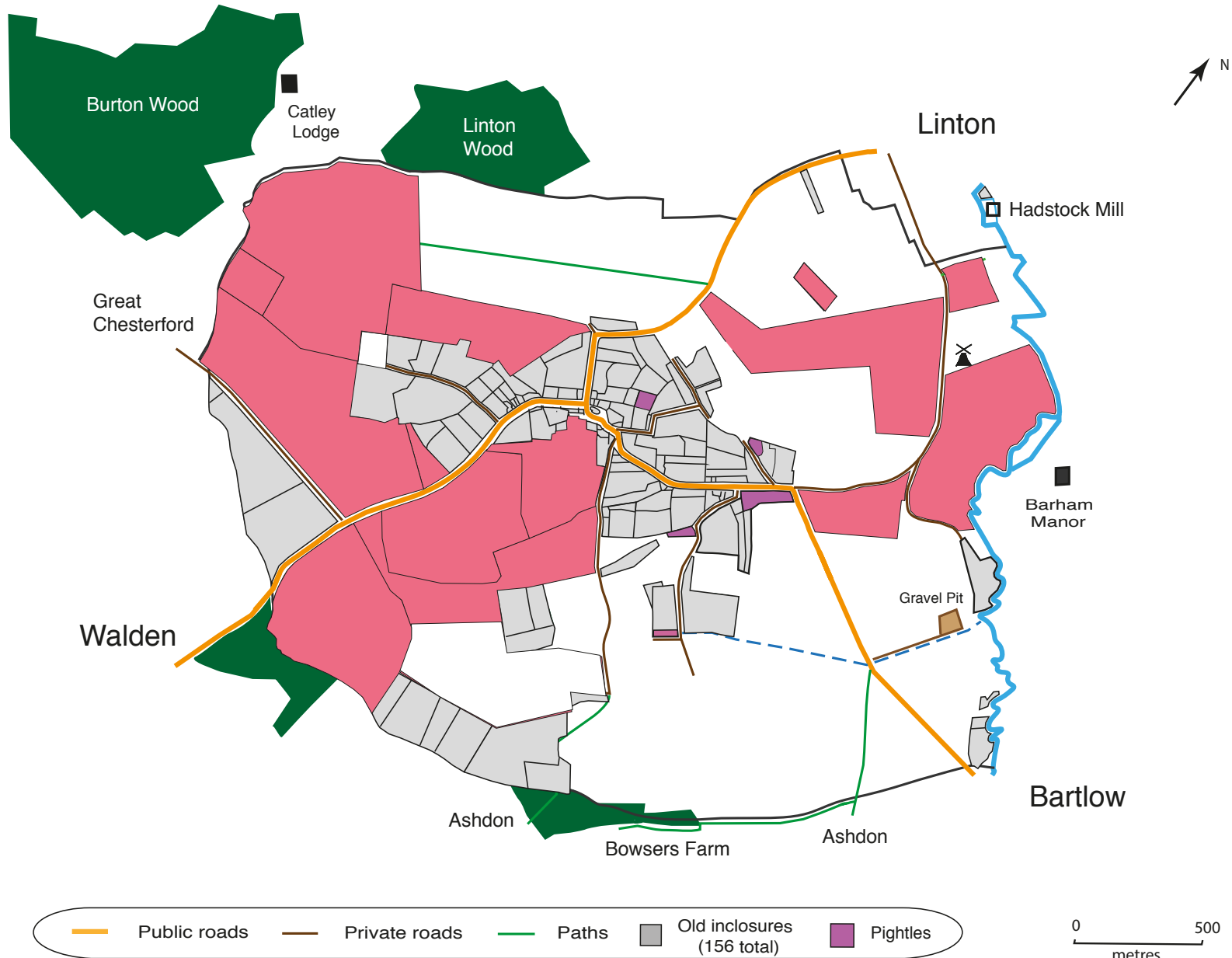
Medieval Field Strips

©Philip Halling  
(CC BY-SA 2.0)



1801 Hadstock  
Inclosure Act  
Document

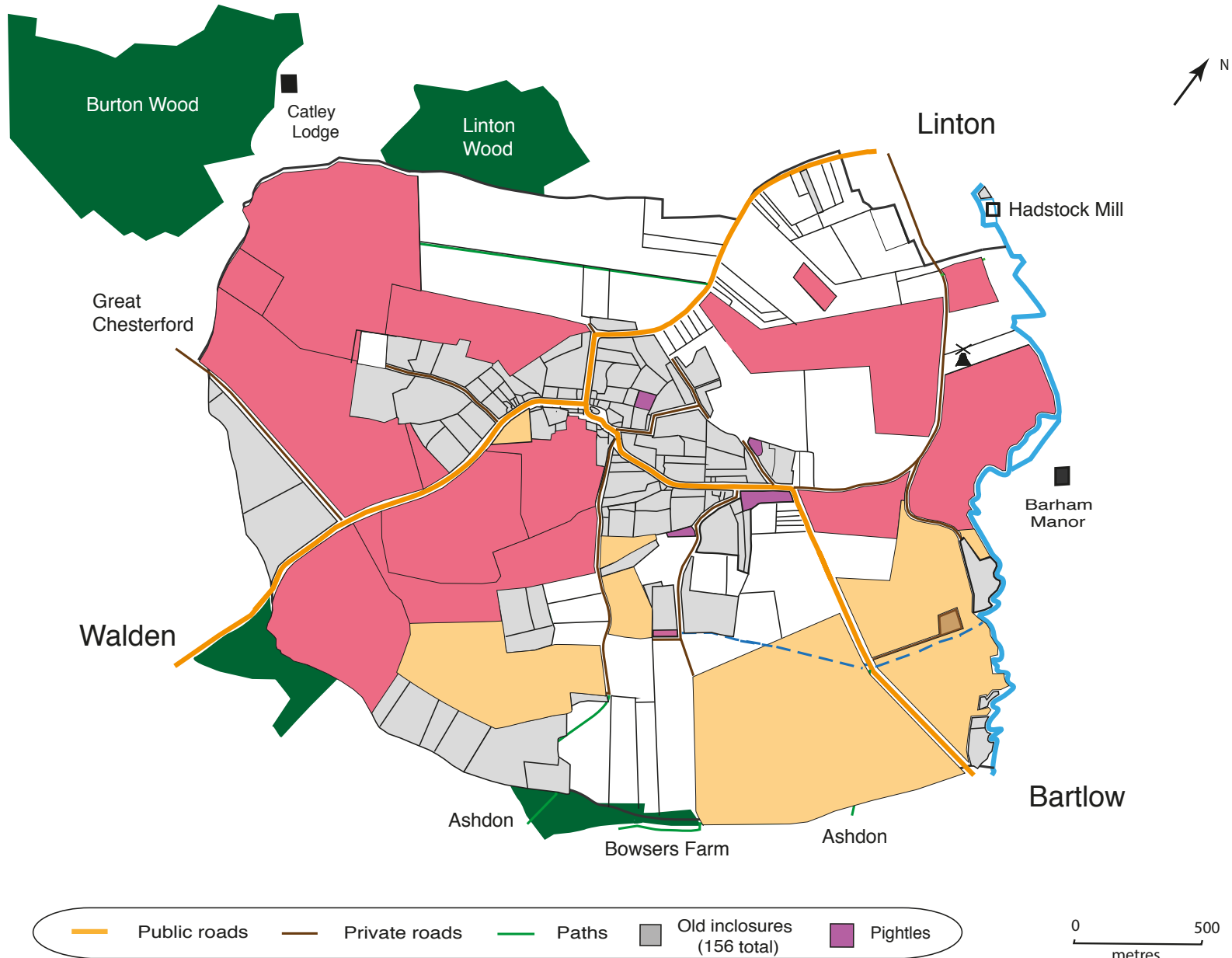




## 1805 after inclosure

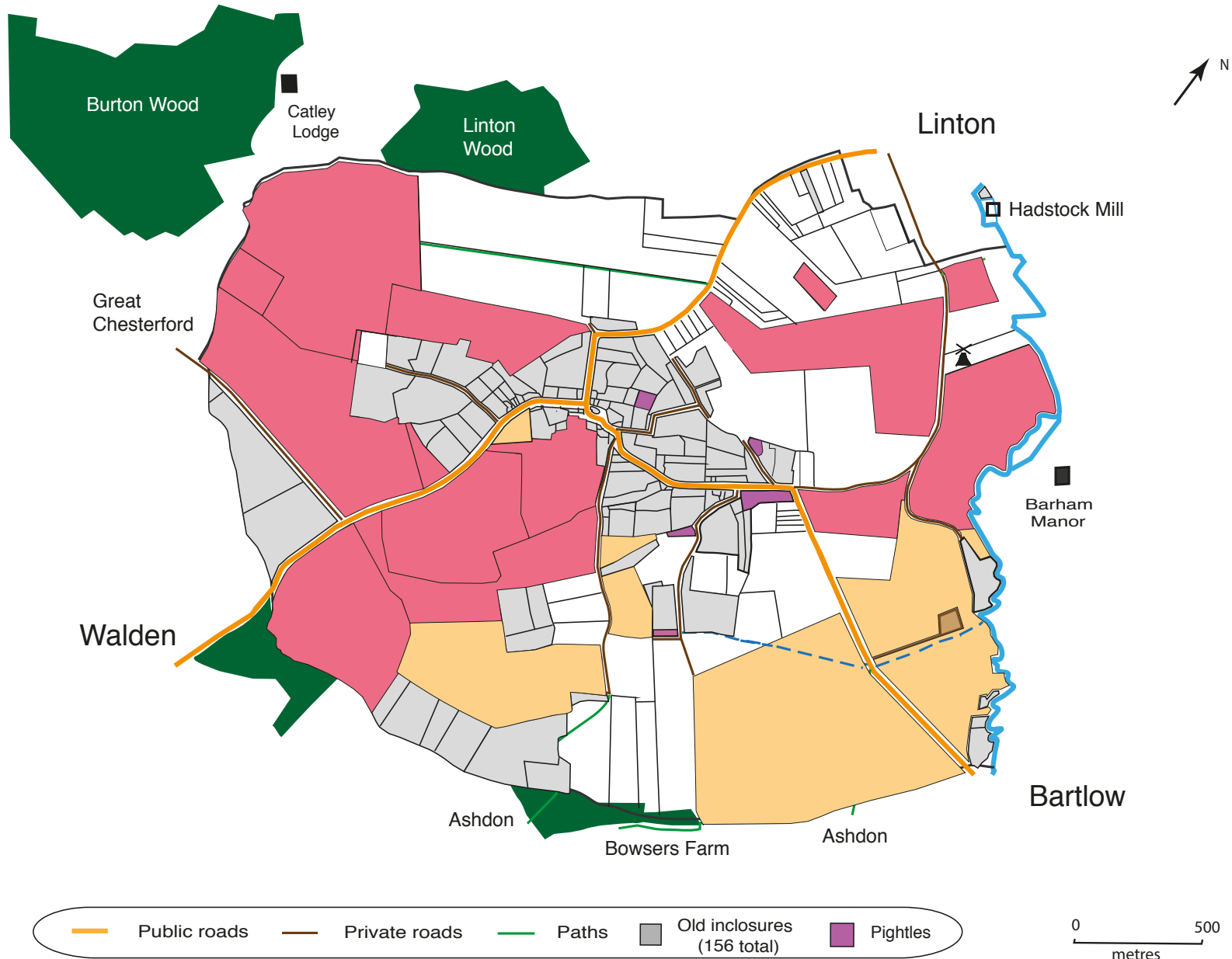
- All Common and Open field land was reallocated and inclosed in 1805 by the Commissioners.
- The total land area inclosed in Hadstock Parish was 1174 acres.
- The share given to the Lordship was 410 acres. This was a 5% allocation of Common land together with full compensation for Lordship land holdings before 1805.
- This illustration shows the total land area (imaged in red) owned by the Lord of the Manor **after** the Award. It includes his 16 Old Inclosures, one of which was Hadstock Wood.
- Measurement shows that Manorial lands amounted to 32% of Parish land, and compares with his 36% holding before Inclosure.





1805

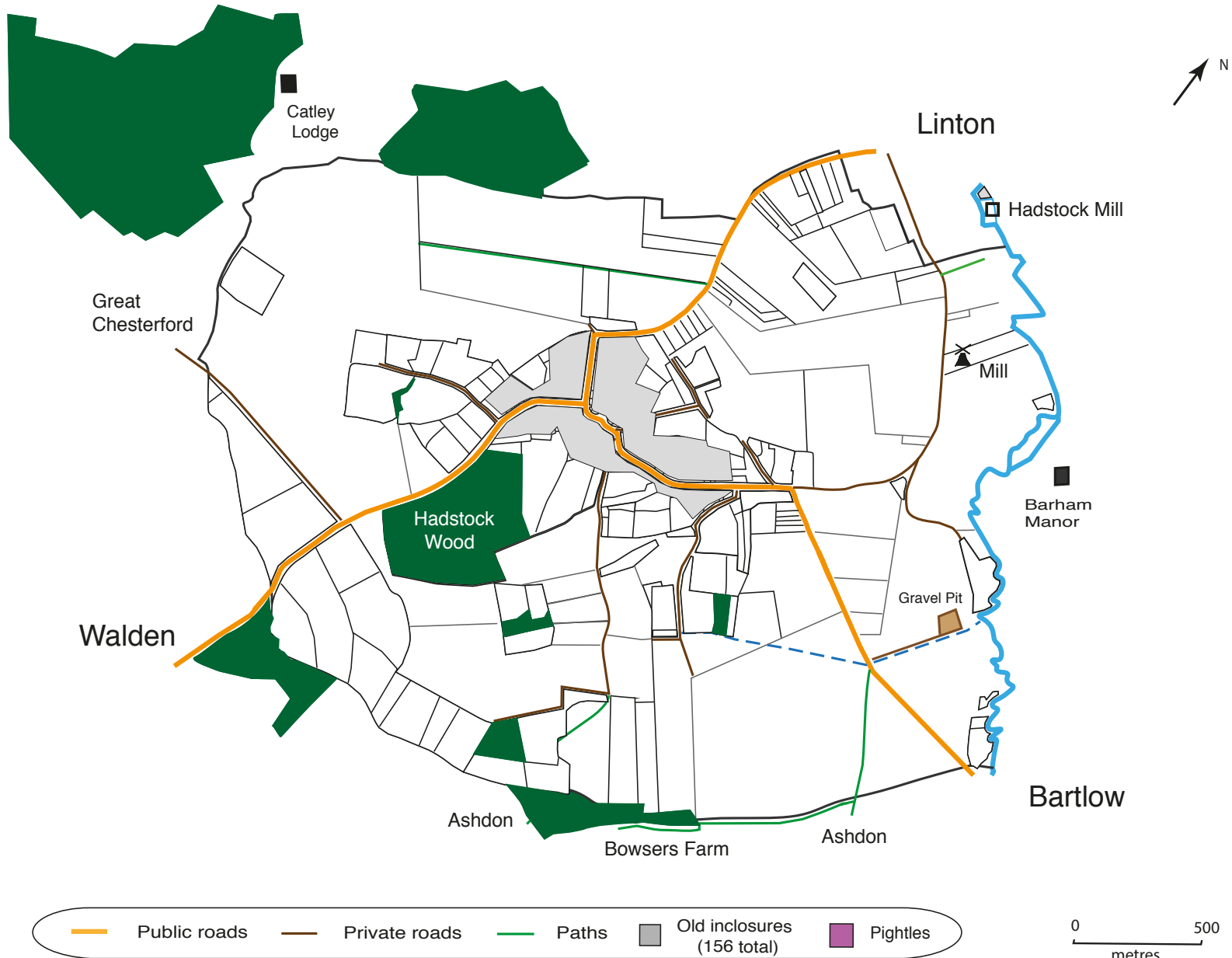
- The Rector was allocated (i) 20% of Open and Common land (ii) 20% of those Old inclosures which had previously yielded tythes for church income and (iii) 12% of other land subject to tythes. This totalled 300 acres.
- The illustration shows the Rector's total land holdings **after** the Award (in orange). Measurement shows that this was 18% of Parish land.
- All tythe and related income for the Church ceased in the Parish.
- After land allotment to the Lord of the Manor and the Rector, the remaining land (in white) was allocated to other individuals.
- 32 other villagers or outsiders shared these remaining fields (28% of Parish), with allocations in proportion to the land areas held before the Award.



1805

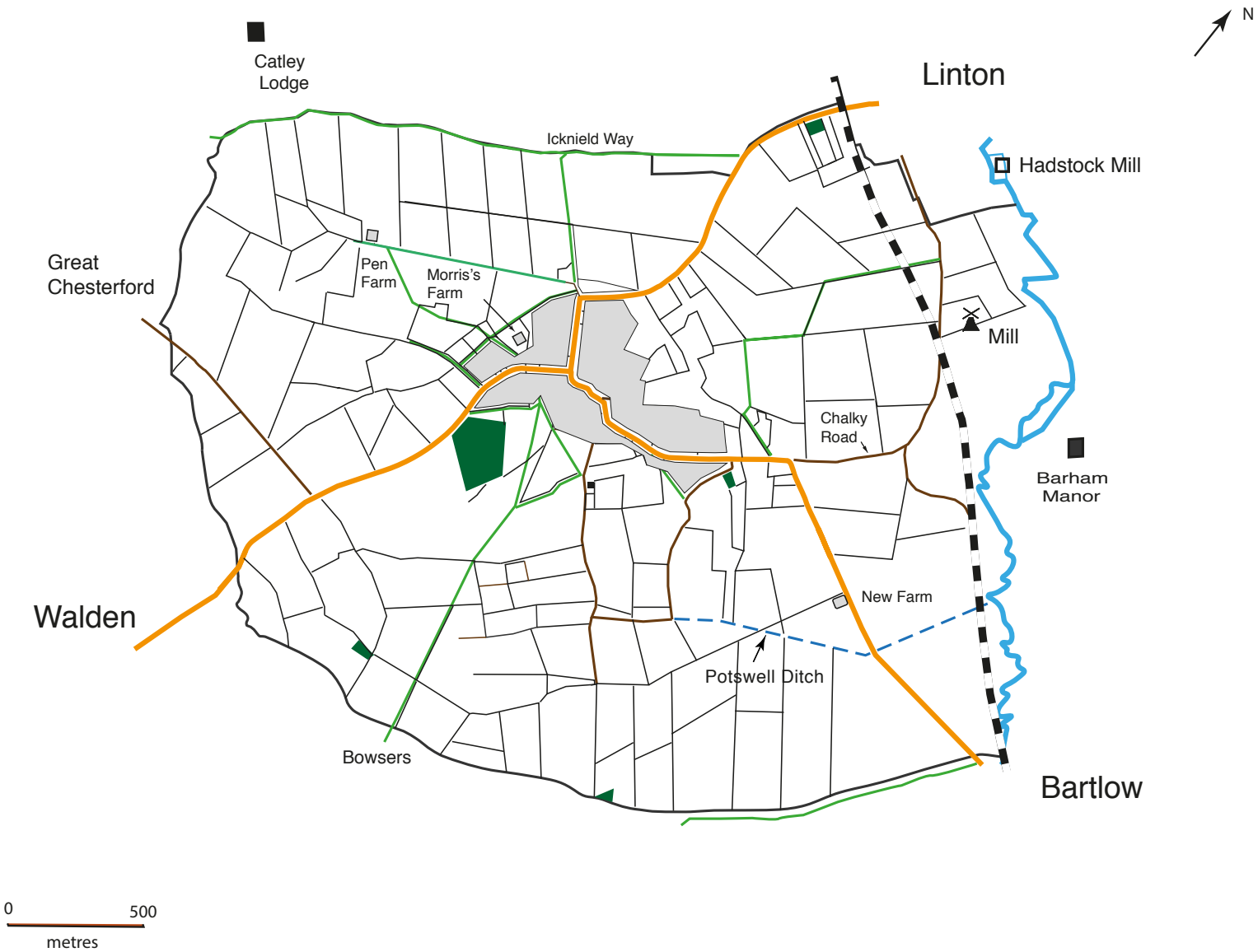
The land area measurements show that the Award decisions resulted in:

- A small reduction in total Manorial holdings to 32% but a significant grouping of large fields in the North and South of the Parish owned by the Lordship.
- An increase from 3% to 18% in the Rector's land holdings, with sizeable field groupings in the East of the Parish. However, all tythe income to the Church had ceased after 1805.
- A reduction in land availability for all other villagers from 50% to 28% of Parish land area, although the relative proportion of land held by each villager was unchanged. No further tythes were required from villagers by payment or in-kind.



1805

- This shows the complete field pattern across the Parish, **after** the Inclosure Award.
- Apart from the Lord of the Manor (410 acres) and the Rector (300 acres), no individual was awarded more than 66 acres from the redistribution of Common land and Open fields.
- The smallest holdings are seen to be grouped, particularly in the North of the Parish.
- The village housing and local area have been masked in this and subsequent illustrations, the details of which are the subject of Part 4 and Part 5.

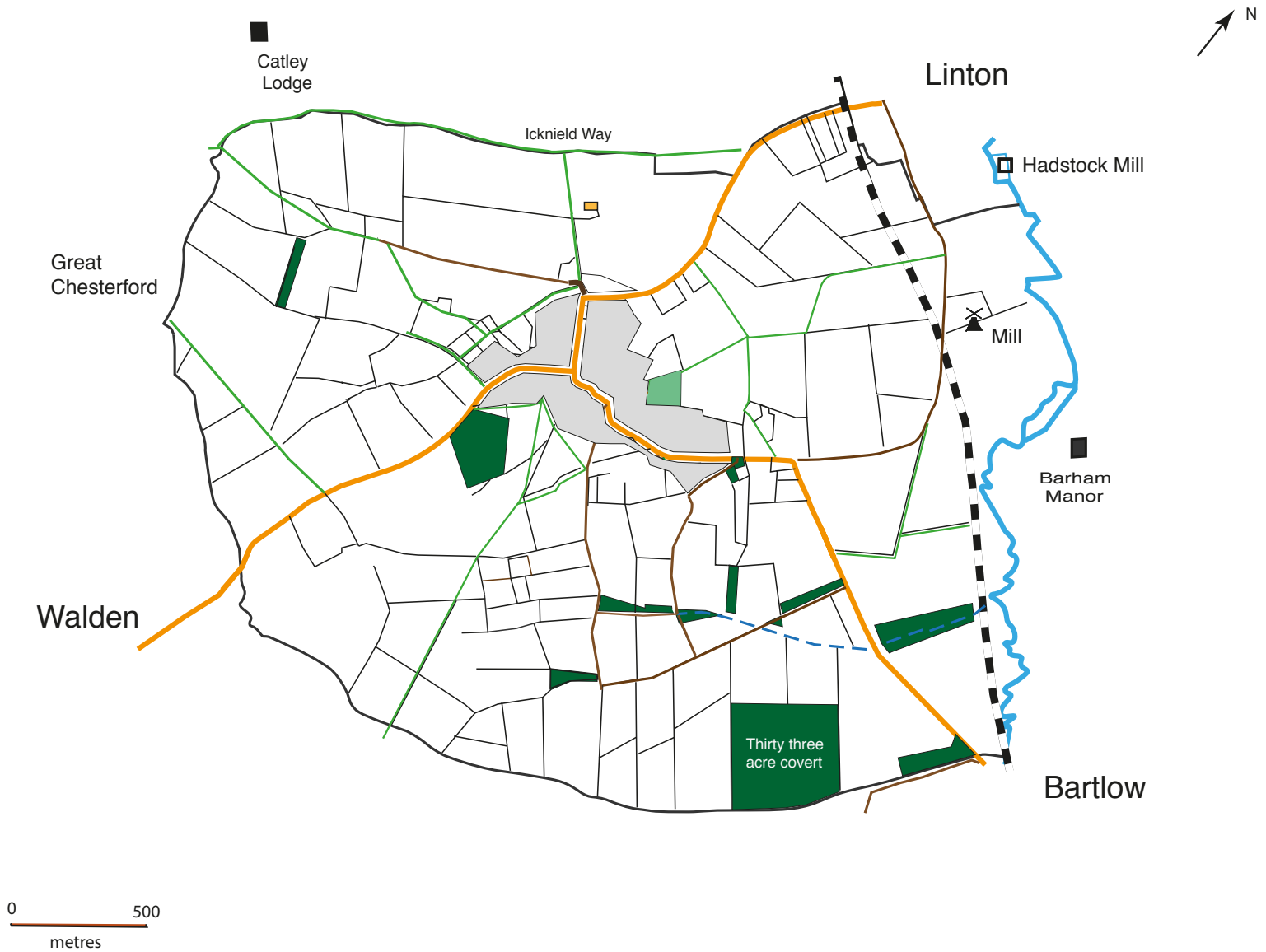


1877

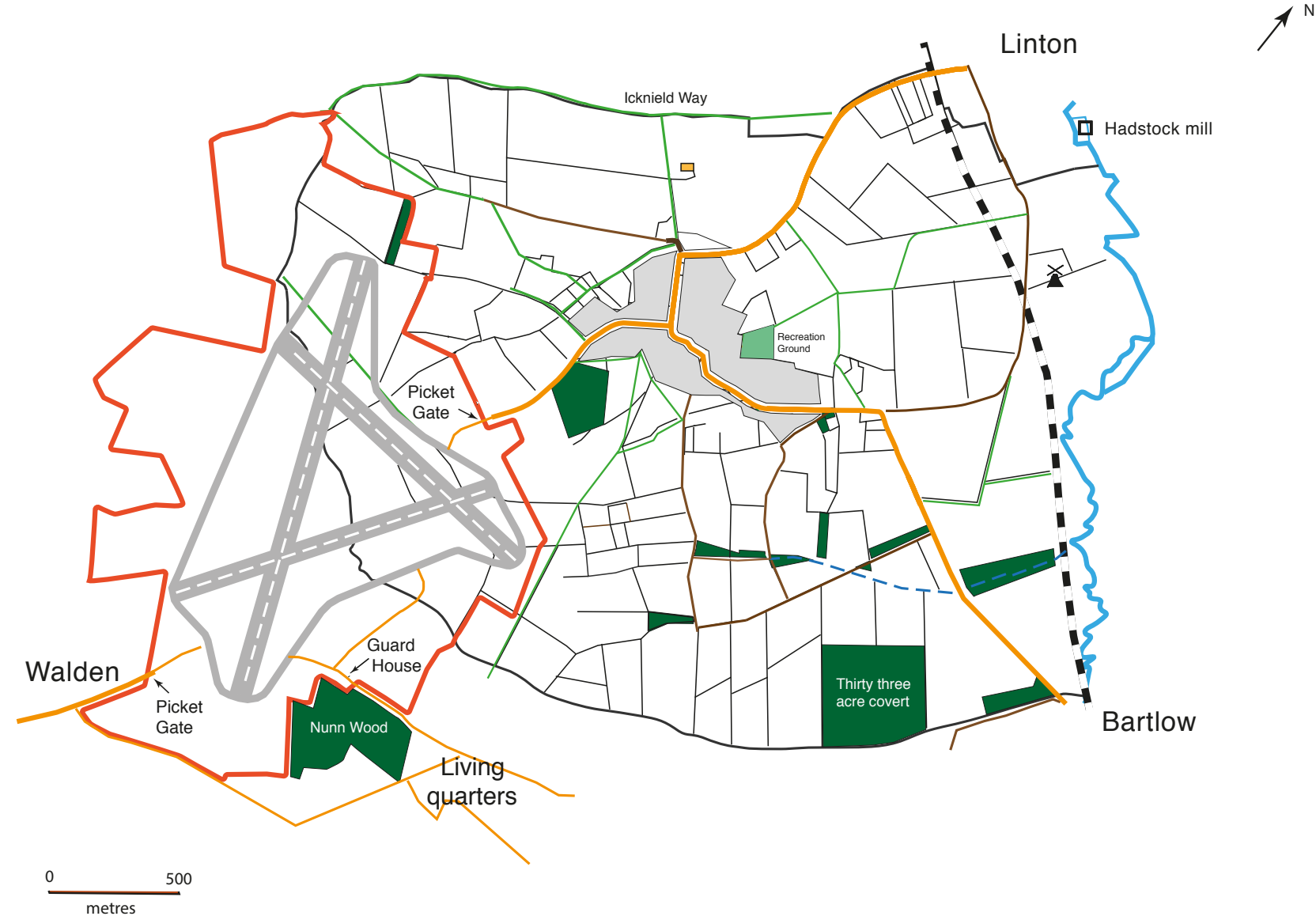
- Hadstock Wood is now less than half of its size compared to 1805. There were few other wooded areas left in this or adjacent Parishes.
- Three new farms have been created between 1805 and 1877: Pen Farm, Morris's Farm and New Farm.
- Many of the smaller land holdings have gone, presumably sold because the cost of inclosing was too high, and inclosures were not profitable.
- The Marks Tey to Shelford Great Eastern railway was opened in 1865, with excavations in Hadstock Parish starting in 1863.

# 1921

- This illustration shows that by 1921, several new woodland areas have grown or were planted.
- The field layout is similar to that in 1877 but some larger fields have been developed by removing hedges, particularly in the South and West of the village.
- Field ownership had changed with land towards Linton and Bartlow being owned by farms outside the Parish, e.g., Grip Farm Linton, Catley Lodge, and by the Rev Brocklebank in Bartlow House.
- In 1905, land close to the village was purchased for £200 from farmer, Sam Crawley, to create a recreation ground (light green).



1942



- Airfield construction for USAAF Station AAF 165 started in 1942. A perimeter fence surrounded the airfield (in red).
- This took possession of around 14% of Parish land area and had a big impact on the village.
- There were up to 3000 personnel on the site between 1944 and 1946. The living quarters and many operations and support buildings were in Saffron Walden, Great Chesterford and Ashdon Parishes.
- All USAAF units had left the airfield by Spring 1946.
- The airfield was used by the RAF to store military equipment from 1946 to the mid 1950s and went back to agricultural use in 1958.



Linton

Hadstock Mill

Icknield Way

<1942

>1942

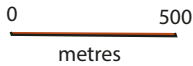
1946-58

Nunn Wood

Bowsers

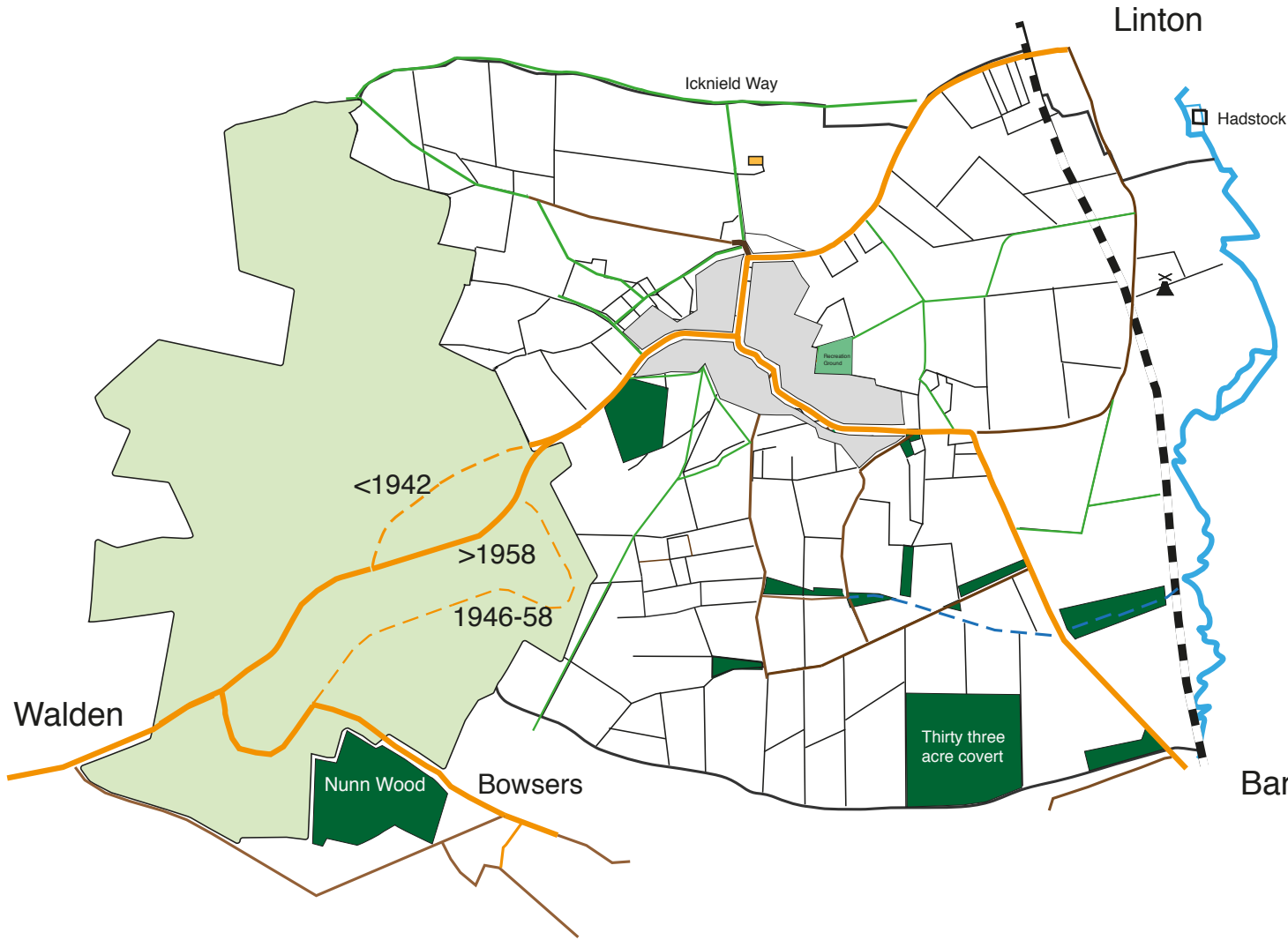
Thirty three  
acre covert

Bartlow



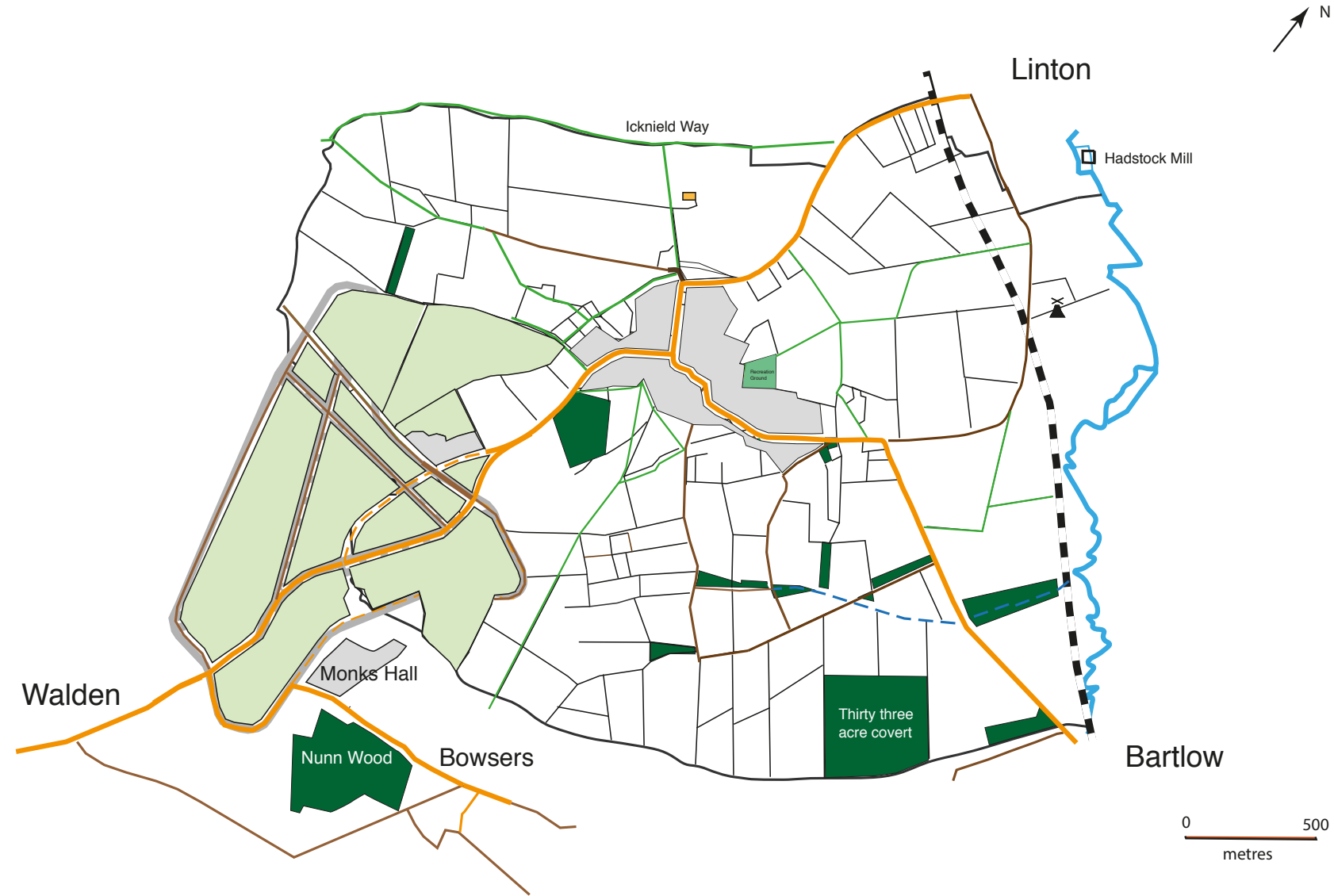
## 1950s

- The area inside the airfield perimeter fence is highlighted to show the road changes before and after the airfield was in operation.
- The original road to Walden (<1942) was blocked off when the airfield was constructed.
- The road to Walden from Hadstock after USAAF operational units had left was around the perimeter runway (dated 1946-58).
- A new straighter section of road was constructed around 1958 and made use of much of the original N-S runway.
- After the war, the Walden road to Bowsers followed the southern loop of the perimeter runway to join the old Bowsers road near Nunn Wood.



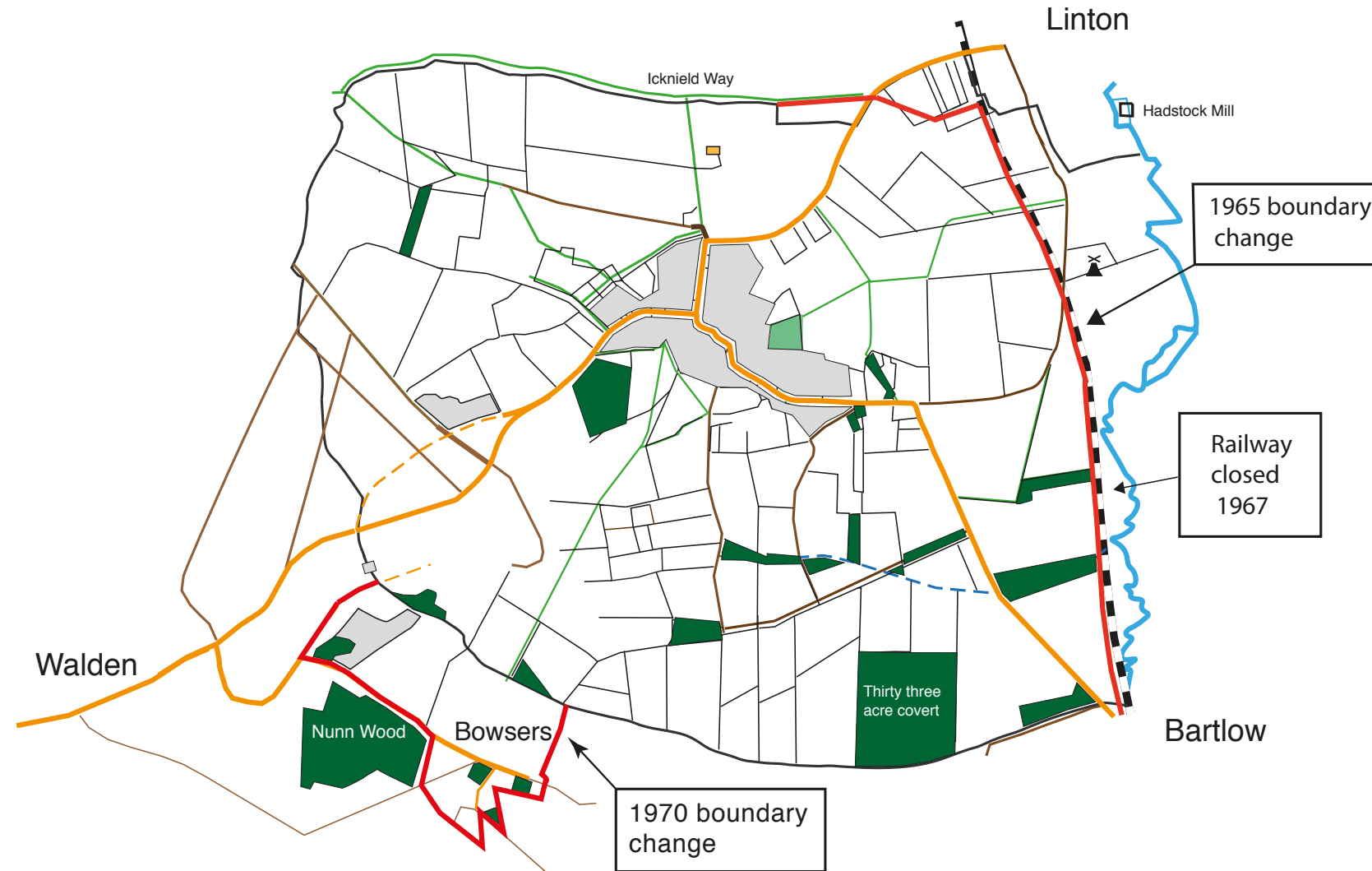
1958

- The green highlighted area shows the pattern of new fields created in the South of the Parish after the airfield was sold in 1958.
- Runways were dug up, but narrow strips were left in many areas to form footpaths or bridle ways.
- Eight of these fields were created in Hadstock Parish, and several others in Great Chesterford, Saffron Walden and Ashford Parishes.
- Other fields in the Parish were relatively unchanged from those seen in the 1921 map.
- Two areas, originally the sites of the two airfield main hangars, became industrial parks.





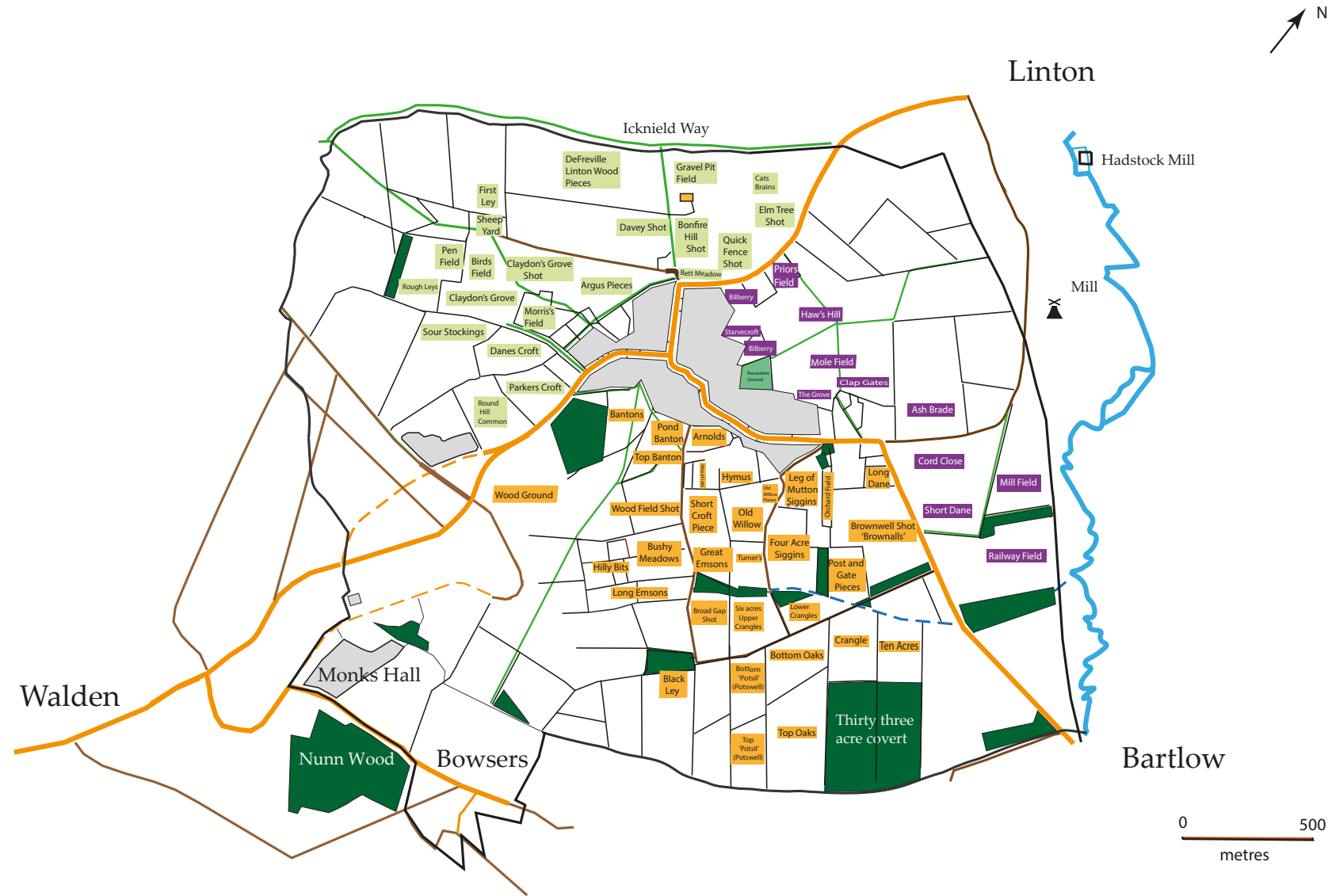
## 1965-75



- The Hadstock and Linton Parishes agreed in 1965 to move their common boundary to the railway line. The latter was closed in 1967 following the Beeching cuts.
- In 1970 there was a review of civil Parish boundaries. The majority vote of Bowers and Monks Hall residents was to join Hadstock Parish and the revised boundary line is shown in red.
- These changes altered the field patterns in some Parish boundary areas and there was a slight decrease in the Parish overall size, which was originally 1677 acres.

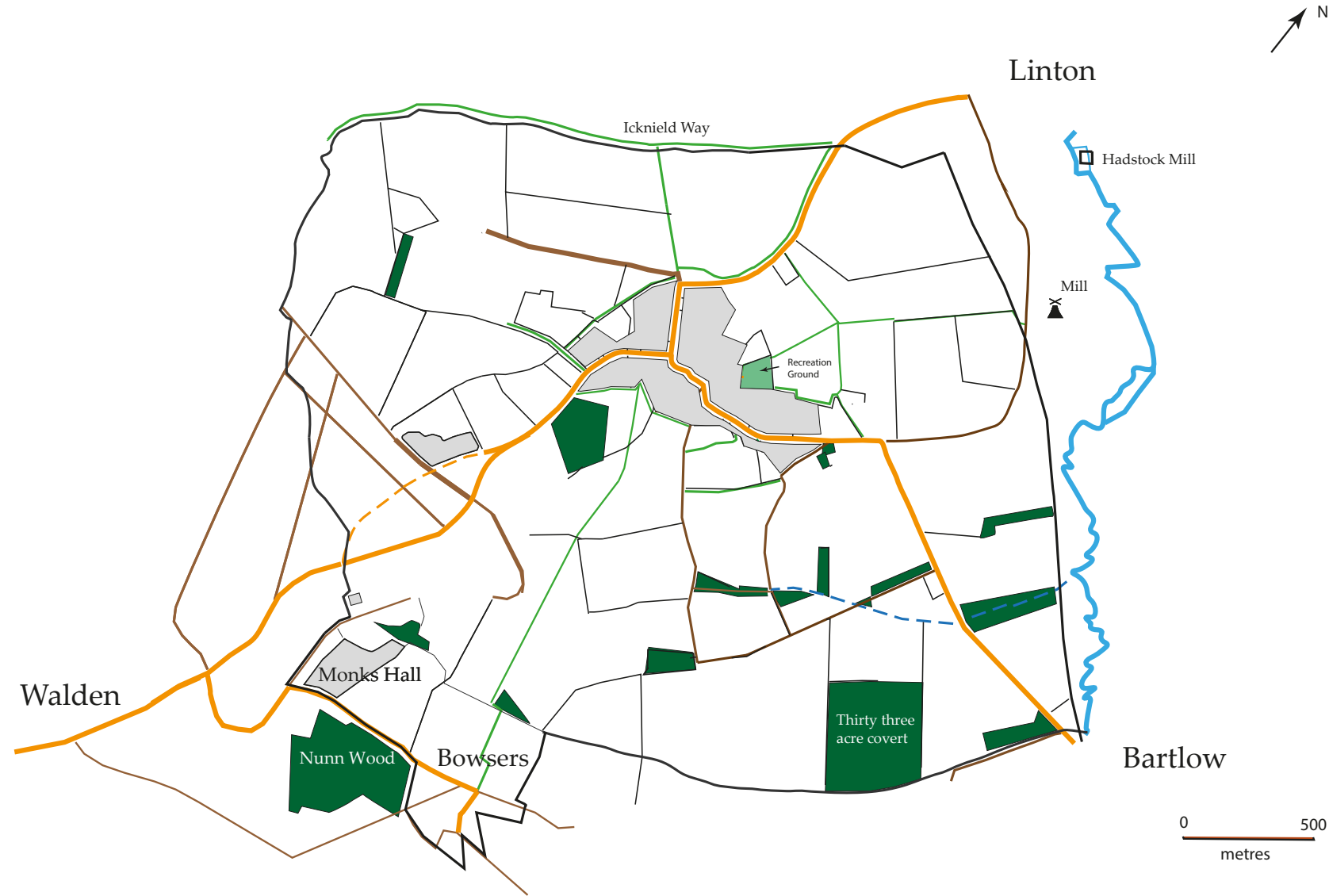
2003

- In 2003, as a contribution to the Essex Place-names project, a group of farmers and village residents put names to Parish fields.
- The field names were recorded on paper copies of the 1921 field map. Not all Parish fields were named.
- Comparison with the 1803 pre-enclosure map. shows that many 1803 names had carried forward 200 years. The 2003 field locations were in reasonable agreement with the 1805 maps.
- Examples of lost 1805 names include Cockerill Garden, Lower Bartlow, Knaves Gap, Middle, and Darney.
- Examples of new names : Birds Field, Davey Shot, Mole Field, Priors and Railway Fields.



2020

- This shows the field pattern as seen from 2020 Google Earth satellite images.
- Compared to earlier field maps of the Parish, hedgerows have decreased in number, and the size of individual fields has increased.
- Many of the field boundaries are now determined by landscape features such as the many drainage ditches, as well as private roads and runway elements left from the WW2 airfield.



2020

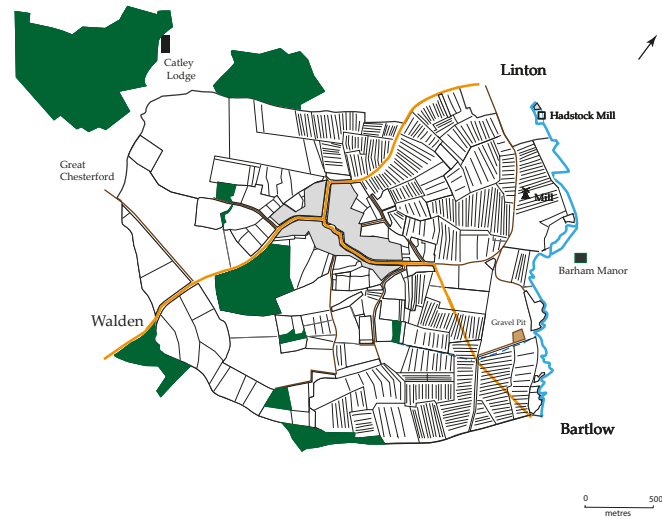
- This illustration shows the field names provided in 2020 by five farming businesses who own land in Hadstock Parish.
- Many names are very descriptive, based on land area or field position, but a few from the 19<sup>th</sup>C are still being used, such as Long Dene (Dane in 1803), Catsbrains, Hawes Hill, Oaks, Ballam (Balland in 1803) and Claydon.
- The names of some fields are not known and are still being researched.



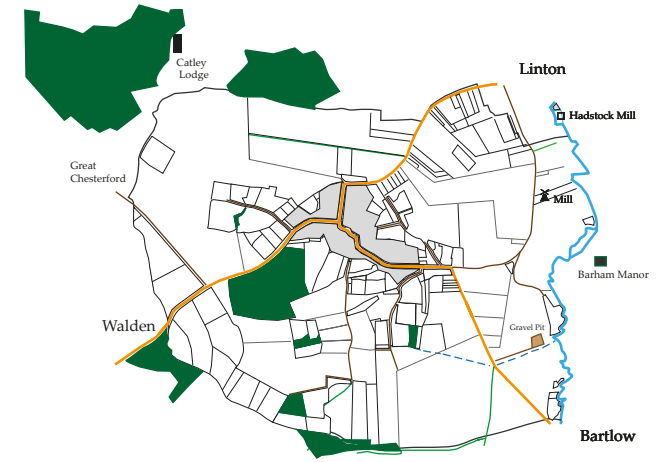
# Summary Field patterns

- The increase in average field size over 200 years is evident.
- In 1810 and after the Inclosure Award, there were around 160 individual fields, whereas in 2020 this had fallen to around 55.

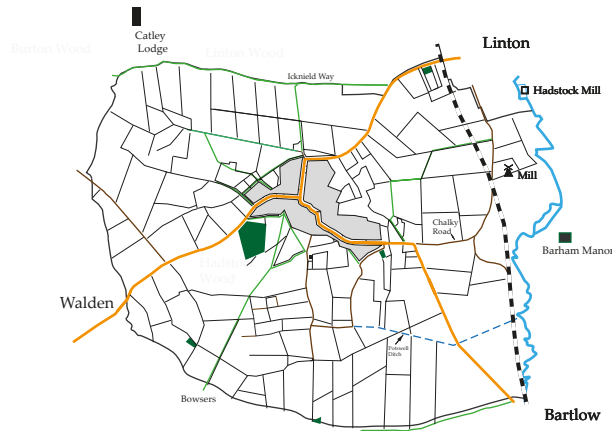
<1805 before Inclosure



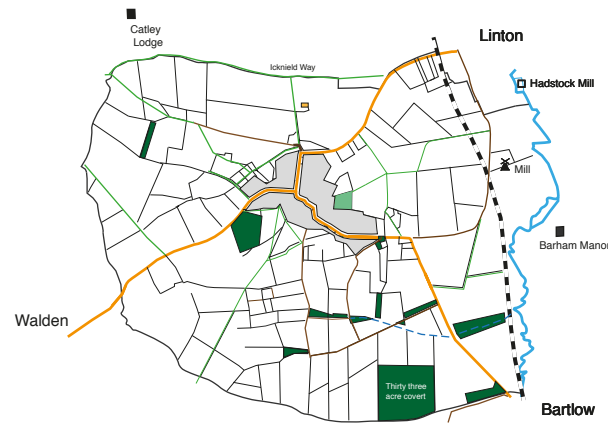
1805 after the Award



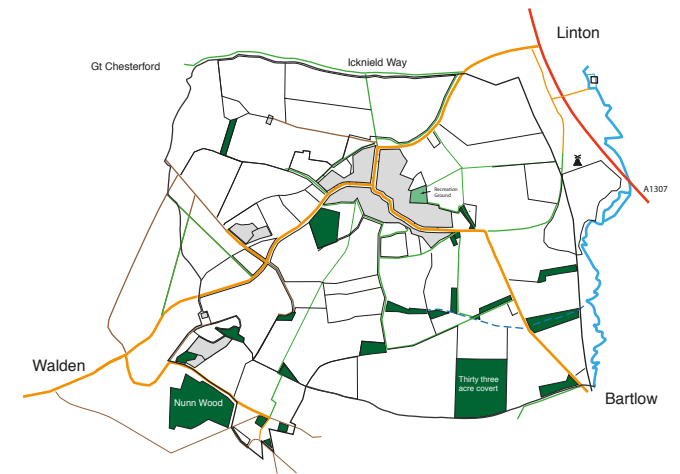
1877



1921



2020



## Summary Field Systems

Before Inclosure



Common Land: 5%

3 Open Fields: 46%

156 Old Inclosures: 28%

Lordship Land: 18%

Glebe Land: 1%

Roads, waste: 2%

## Summary Field Systems

After Inclosure  
1805

Lordship Land: 32%

Rector Land: 18%

Other Old Inclosures: 20%

Land awarded to villagers: 28%

Roads, quarries, waste: 2%



## Concluding Remarks

- The Hadstock Inclosure Act of 1801 brought about a big change in the field system in 1805, and in the types of field and ownership.
- The award resulted in Manorial holdings of 32% of Parish land while the Rector (and successors) were awarded 17%. Tythes to the Rector were eliminated.
- There was a gradual change in the Parish field arrangement and field ownership through the next century, with most smaller holdings disappearing by 1877.
- The WW2 airfield, the railway, and Parish boundary relocation changed the pattern of fields in the south and north but the fields in the rest of the Parish remained relatively unchanged until 1970 or so.
- Today there are around 55 fields in the Parish, owned and farmed by less than 10 farming organisations.

