

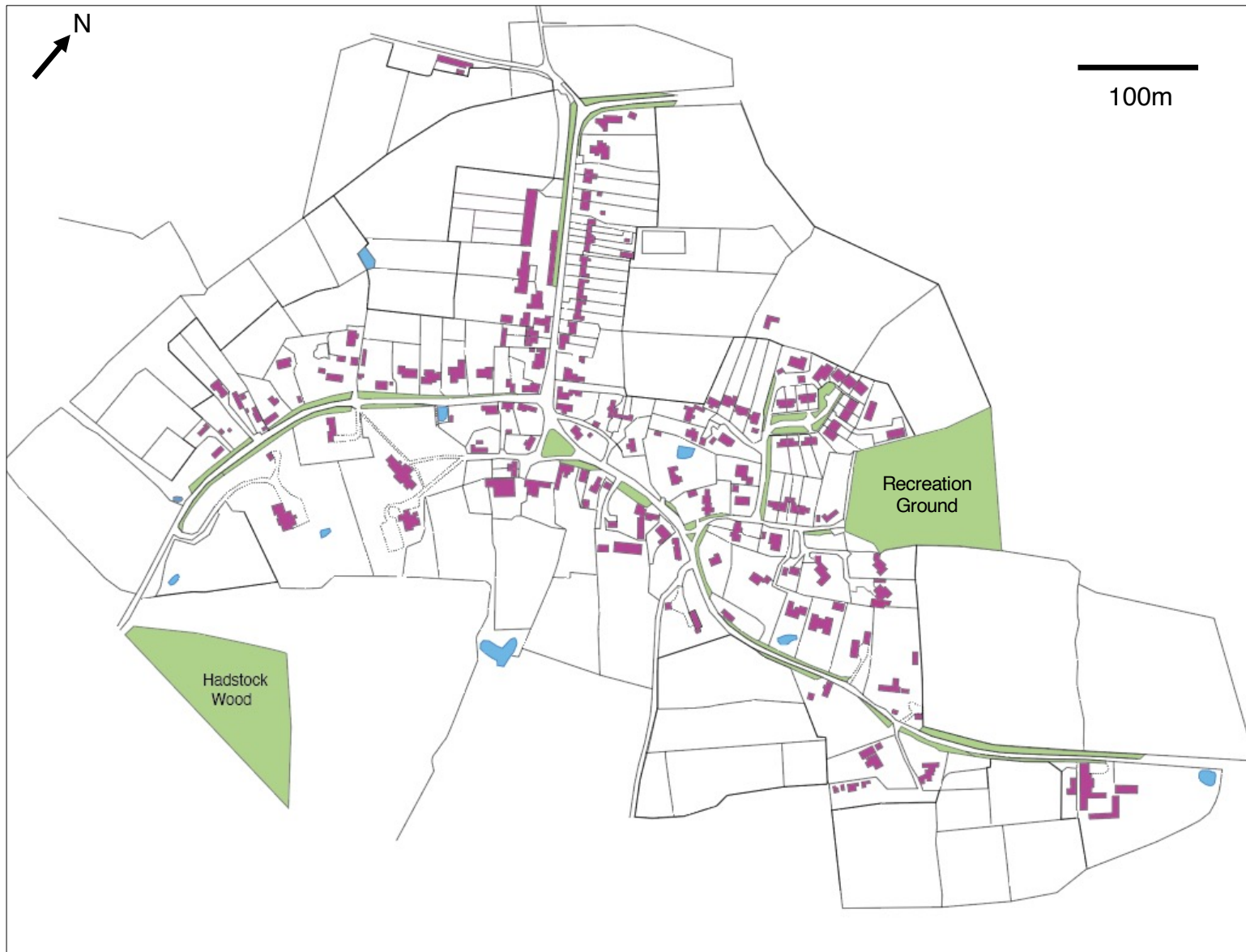
The Landscape History of Hadstock Parish

Changes in housing and population over the last 250 years

Richard Dolby
May 2026



Hadstock Parish viewed from the South



2026

Hadstock today

A Parish community of 200+ buildings, 133 houses and a population of around 330.

How has our built environment evolved over the last 250 years?

Talk

Housing 1775 – 2025
(Bowsers included)

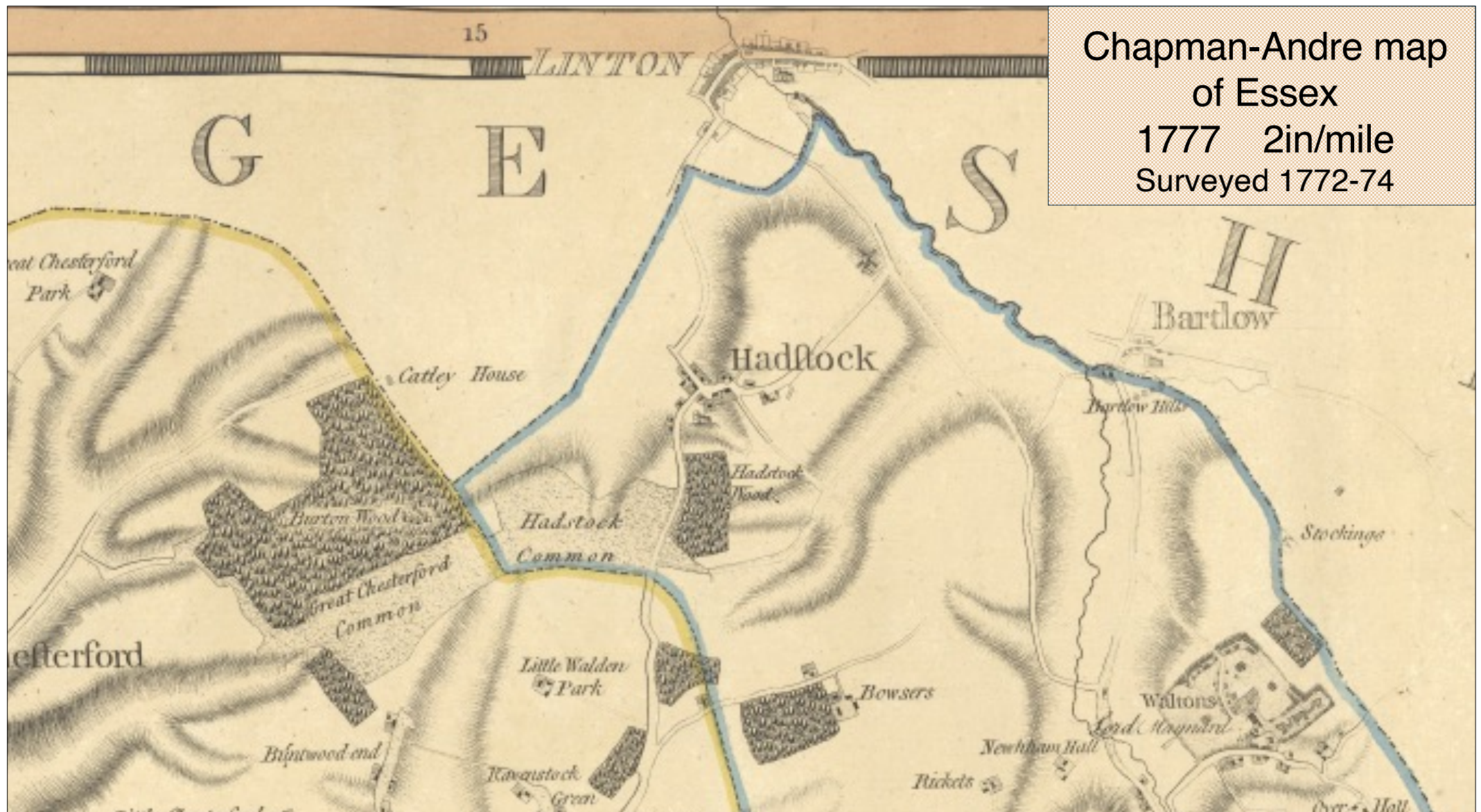
Other buildings and barns

Lost cottages

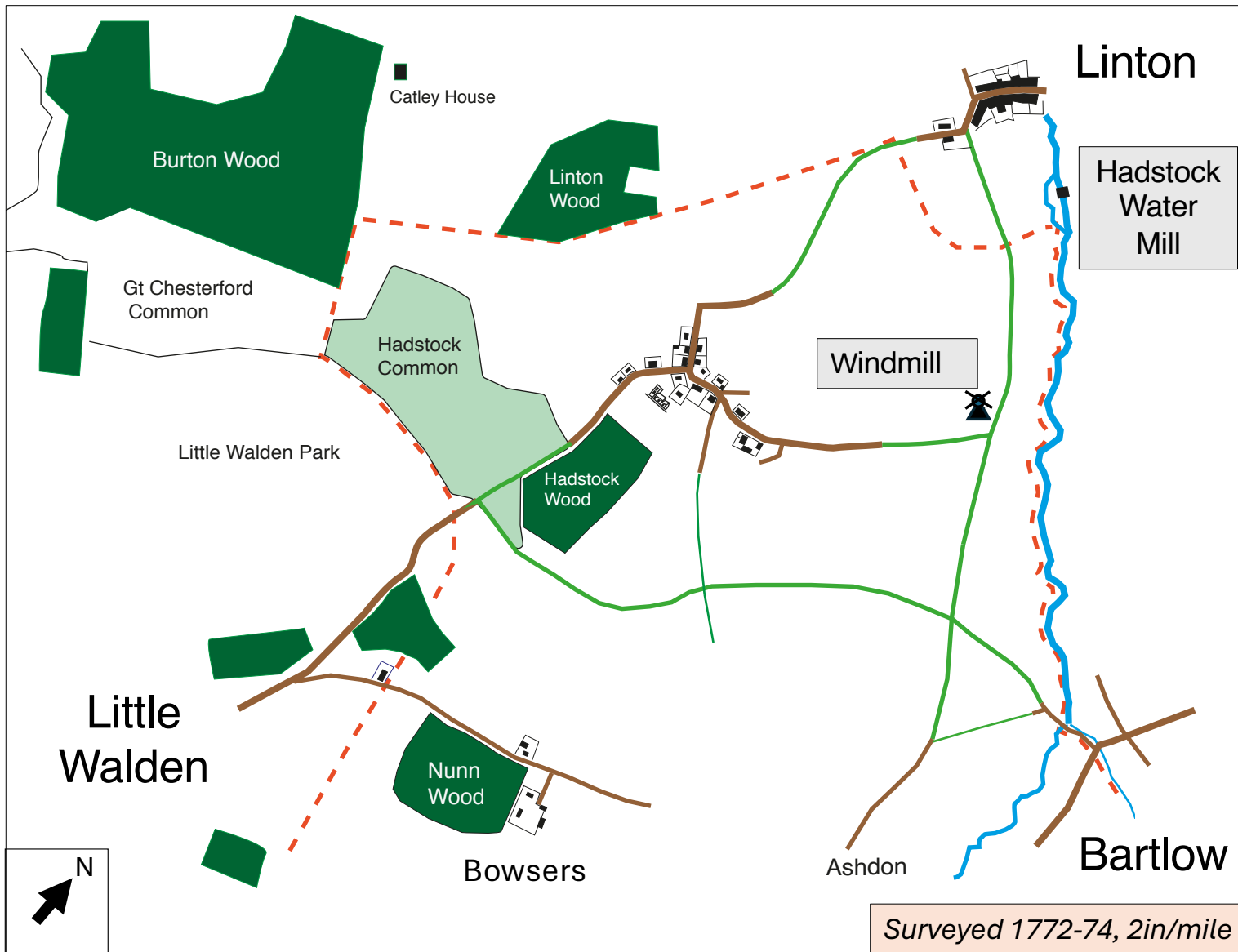
Shops and Pubs

Population/households





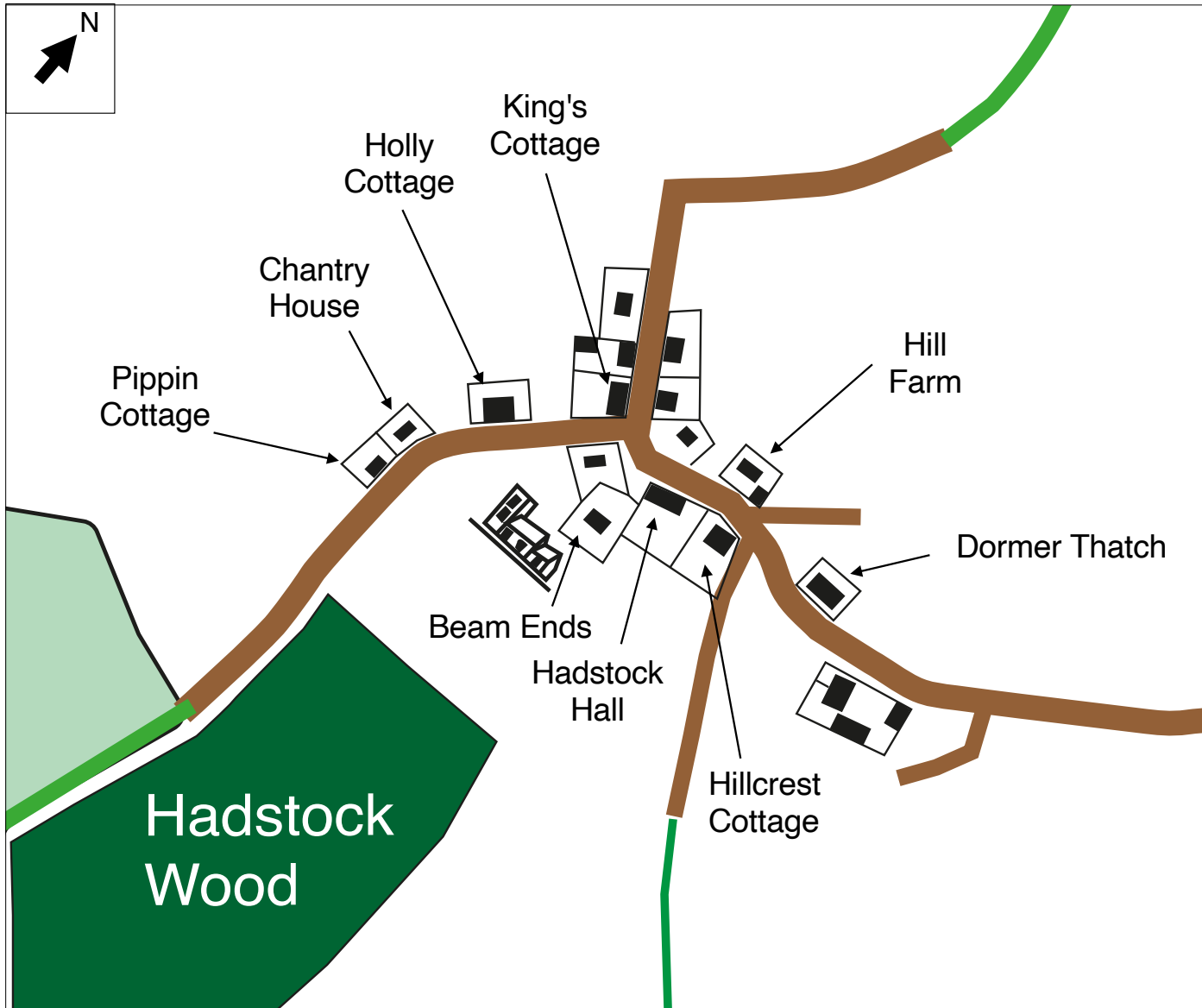
Chapman-Andre map
of Essex
1777 2in/mile
Surveyed 1772-74



1777 Chapman-André map

- 21 separate buildings in Hadstock and seven in Bowers and Monks Wood were recorded by the surveyors (using horses!)
- The windmill appears to be in the wrong location!
- The water mill was built around 1150AD. Outside the Parish boundary, it was part of Hadstock for many centuries, and then Linton parish in the 20th century.

Surveyed 1772-74, 2in/mile

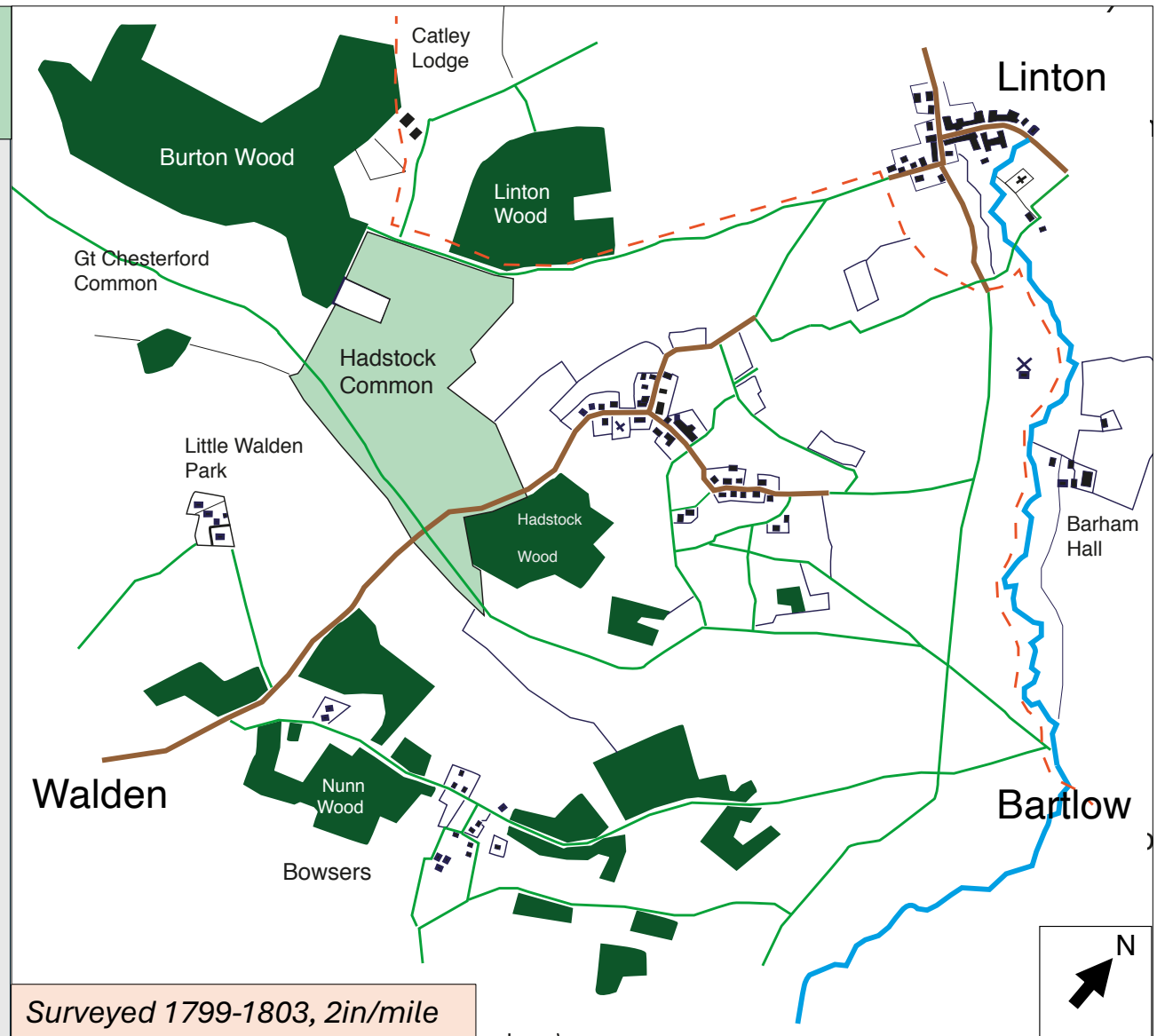


1777 Chapman-André map

- Holly Cottage, Chantry House and Pippin Cottage are evident. But Bardsfield and Manor House are missing.
- Kings Cottage, Hill Farm, Hadstock Hall, Beam Ends, Dormer Thatch and Hillcrest Cottage were among those illustrated by the surveyors.
- The population in the 1770s is not known but in 1792, Rev J Addison Carr recorded a total of 391 parishioners.

1805
1st series Ordnance Survey

- Sheet 47, was second of the county series, and produced to give information for military defence ahead of a possible invasion by Napoleon.
- 25 years later, more buildings compared to Chapman and André map, with 32 in the village and 15 in Bowsers.
- The network of paths is more extensive, and some field boundaries are now evident.
- Woodland shapes carefully surveyed, and the windmill correctly placed.

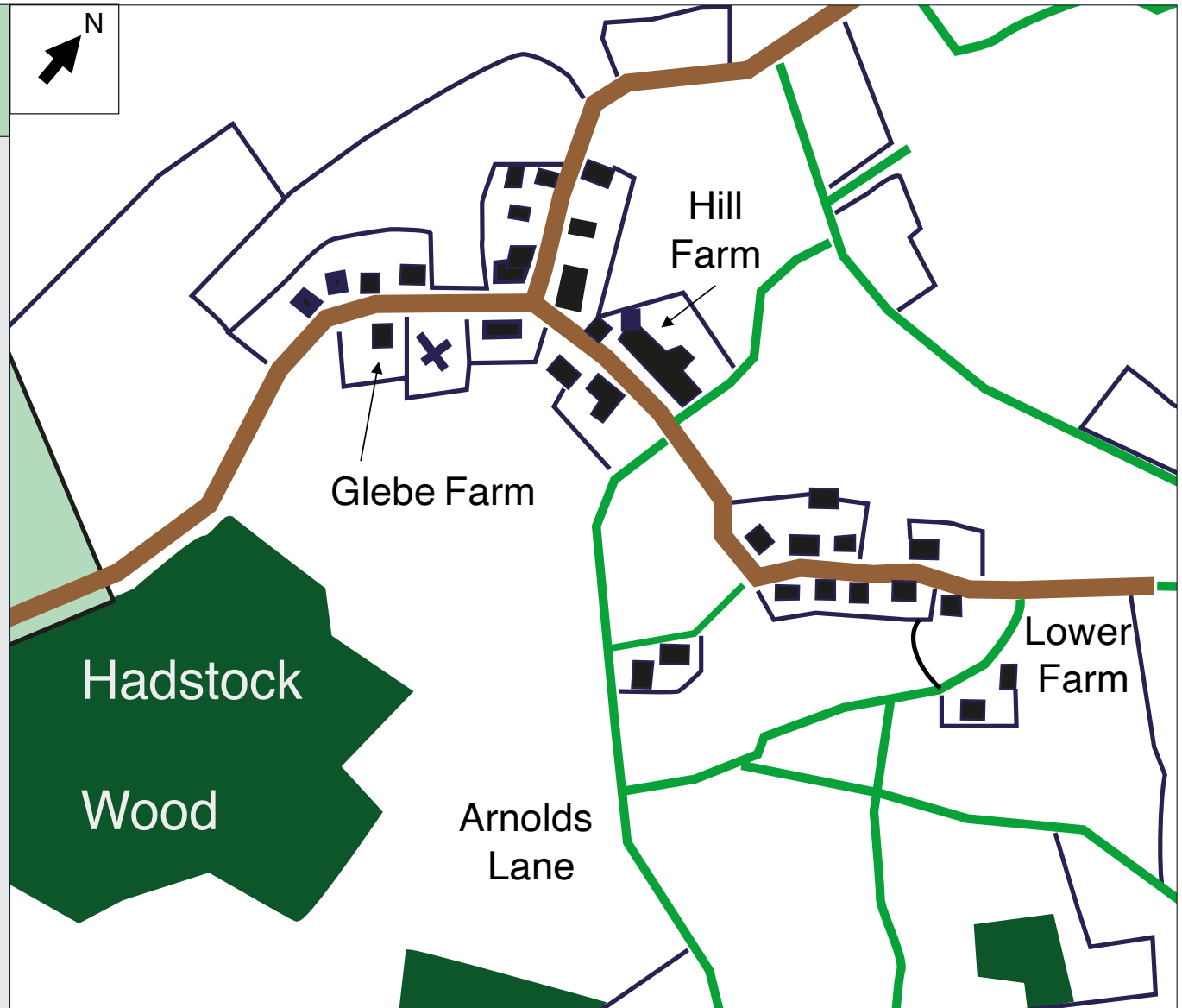


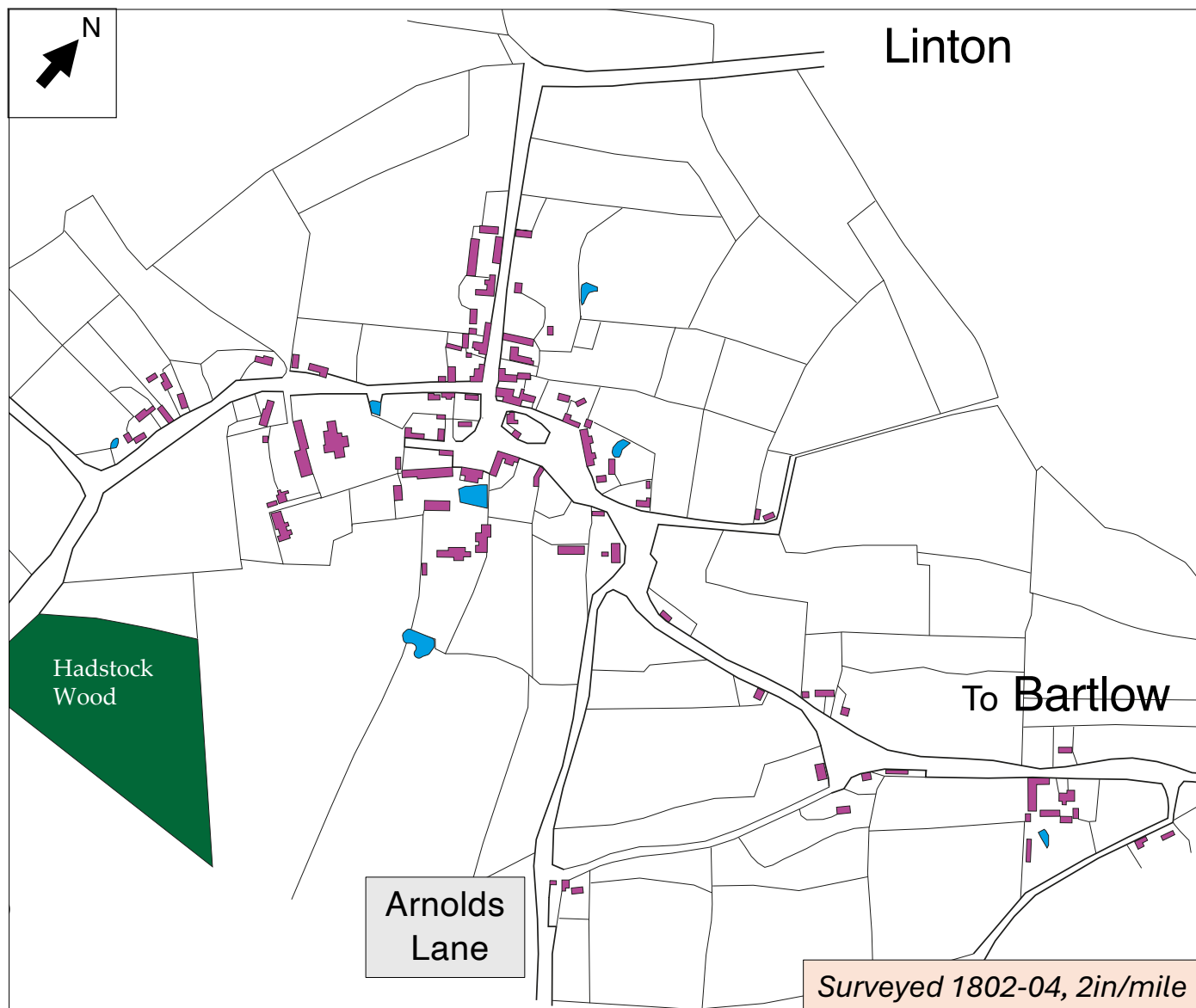
1805

1st series Ordnance Survey



- 4 buildings west side of Walden Road, compared to 3 in the 1777 map.
- Compared to 1777, more buildings along the Bartlow Road. In addition, two new buildings off Arnolds Lane.
- Experts from the Charles Close Society say that for this and the commercially produced Chapman-André map, a single footprint may show more than one building.





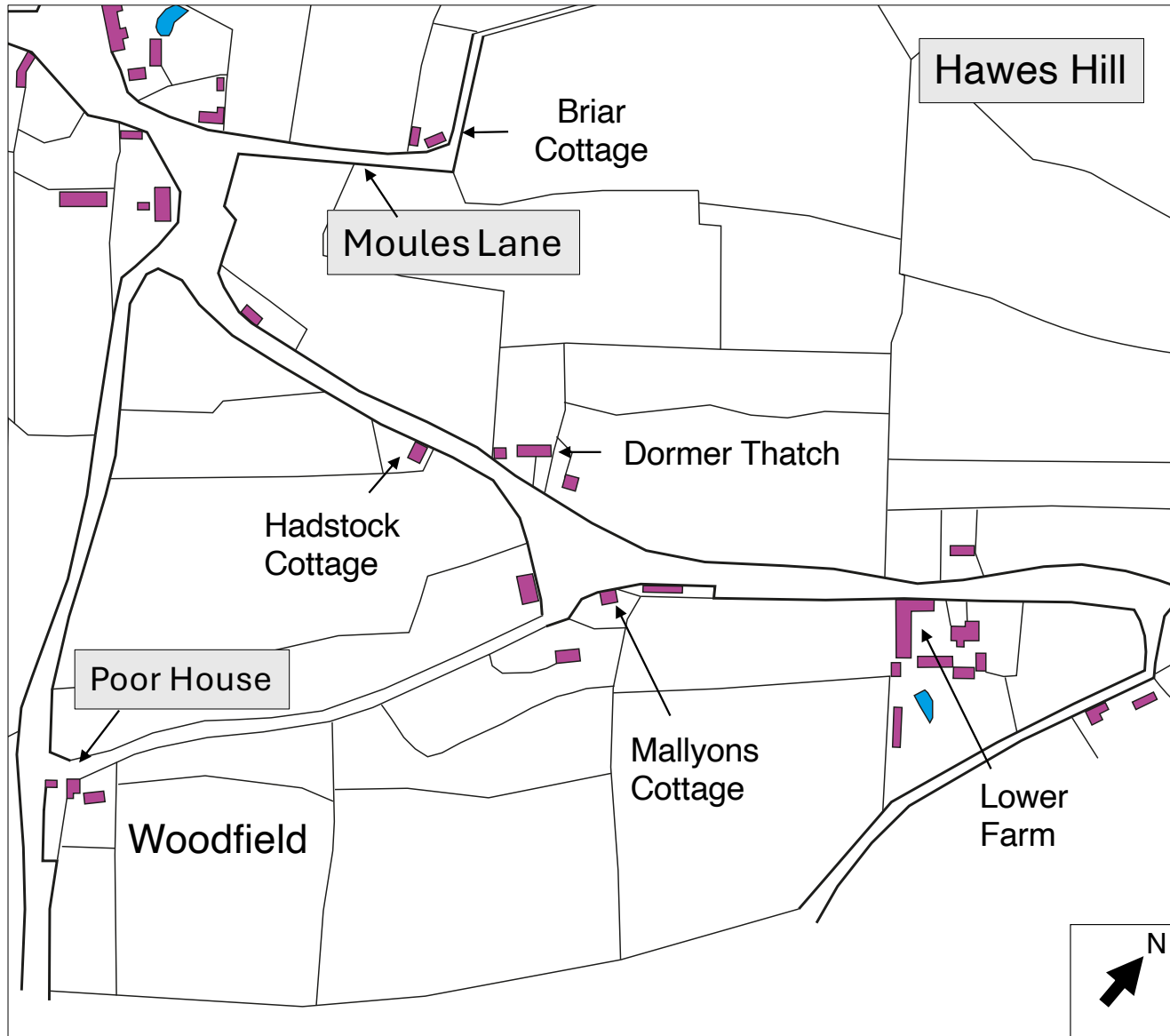
1805 Inclosure maps

- The 1801 Hadstock Inclosure Act led to a Parish survey by Nockolds of Saffron Walden. Detailed maps produced before inclosure and after the Award decisions, were published 1805.
- These maps show around 95 village buildings, many more than the 1805 OS map.
- Rev J Addison Carr in 1807 identified 62 houses, and 66 families. This map probably shows at least 30 barns and outbuildings.
- The population of Hadstock Parish in 1807 was 380.



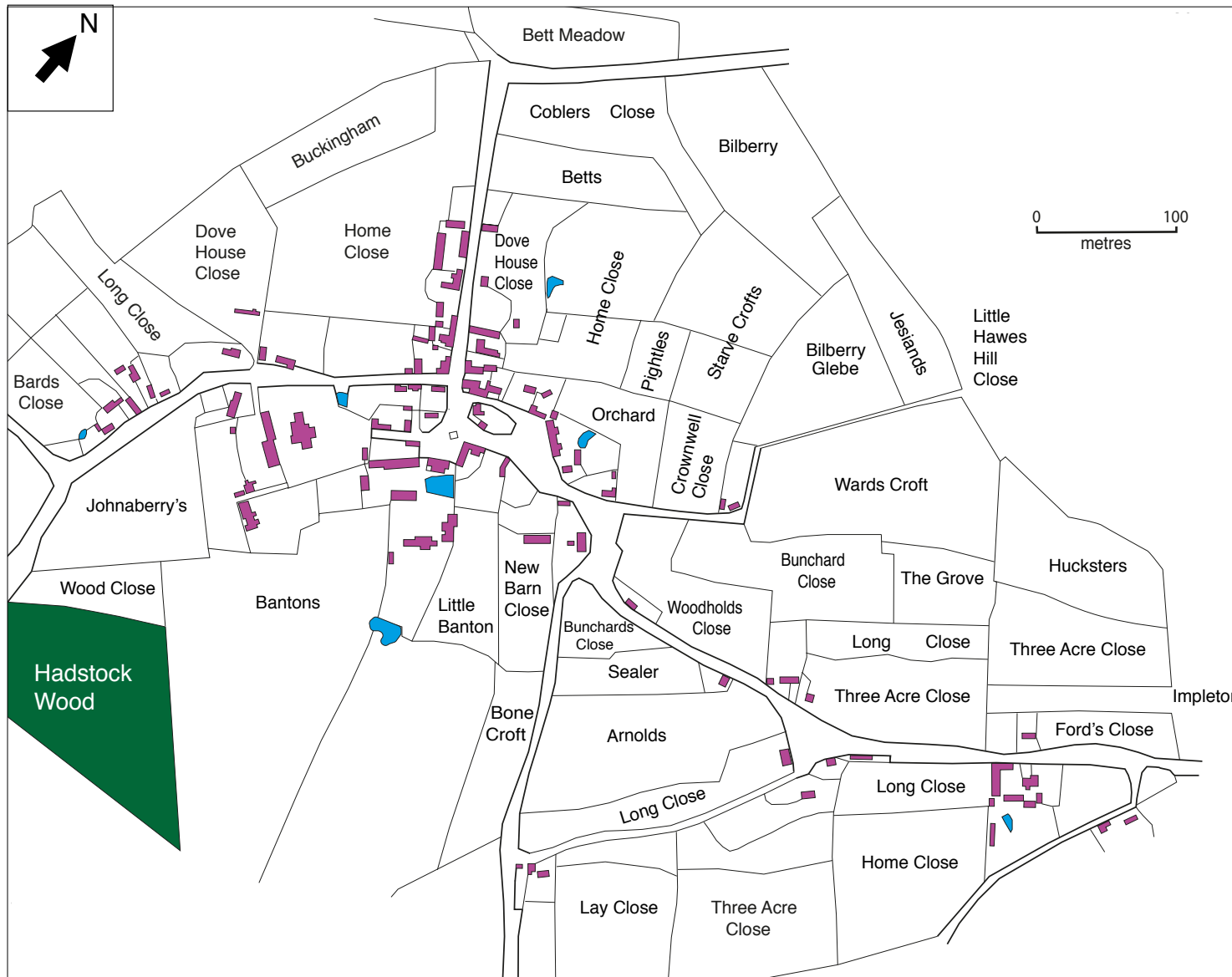
1805 Inclosure maps

- Sydenham Malthus owned the Manor House and Lordship Farm, along with one third of all Parish land. Buck Smoothy was the tenant farmer for the Lordship Farm. Malthus lived in Surrey.
- Davey's farm was owned by Sir John Barrington and Edward Green. John Davey was the tenant farmer for all Barrington/Green land.
- Sir George Baker, Physician to George III, owned Maddings/Chantry House.
- Robert Chalk Junior ran a blacksmiths shop by the Green. Nearby was the village pond which held stray animals.



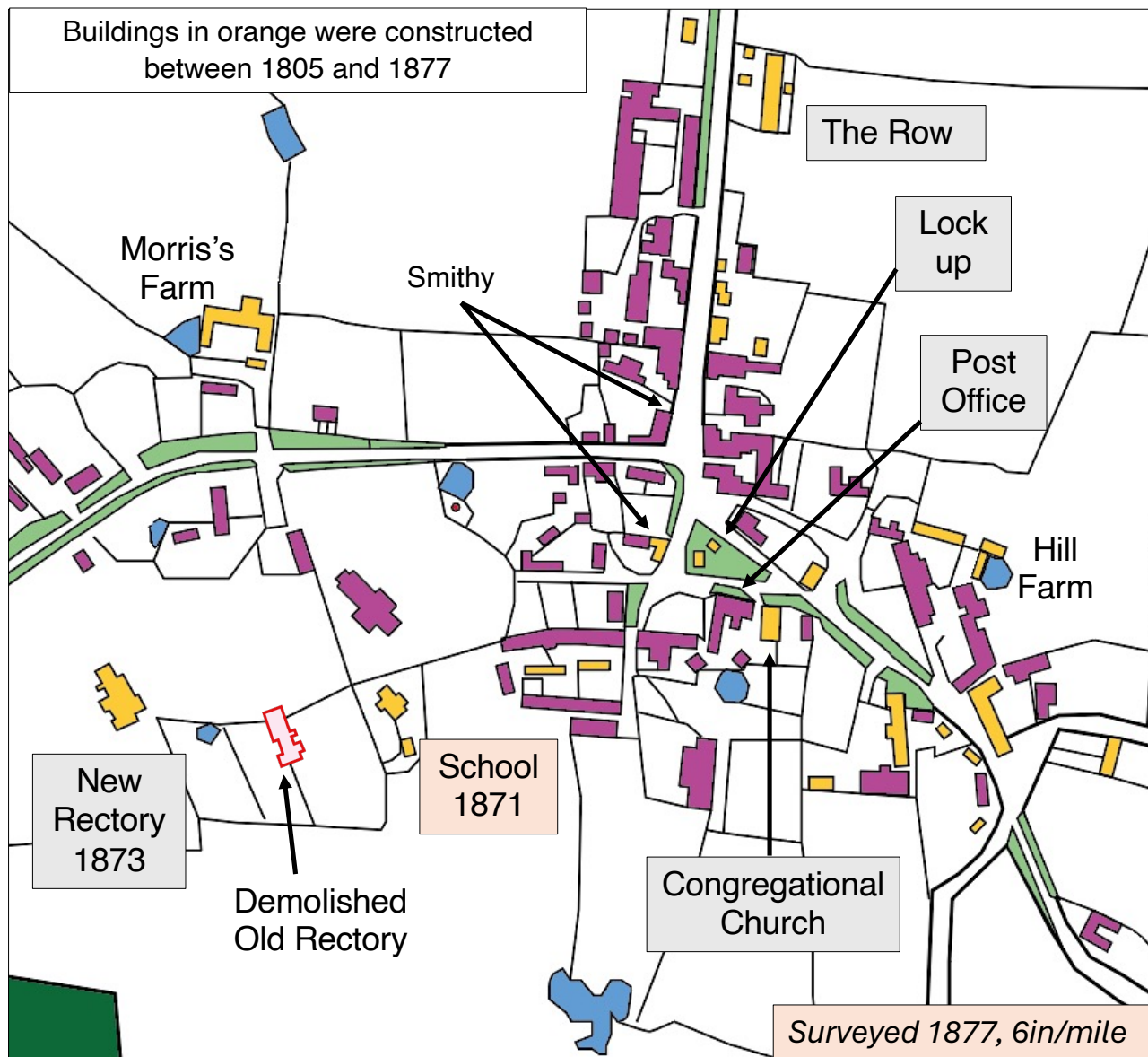
1805 Inclosure maps

- Three buildings at Woodfield on Arnold's Lane, one was a poor house run by Hadstock overseers. All were demolished before 1900.
- Several of today's well-known cottages are evident, such as Briar Cottage, Hadstock Cottage, Dormer Thatch and Mallyons.
- Hawes families in Hadstock since 1700. Our local hill is named after this family.
- Two Mole families lived here 1792, probably in Briar cottage. By 1871 John and Mary Mole had changed their name to Moule. The lane became known as Moules Lane.



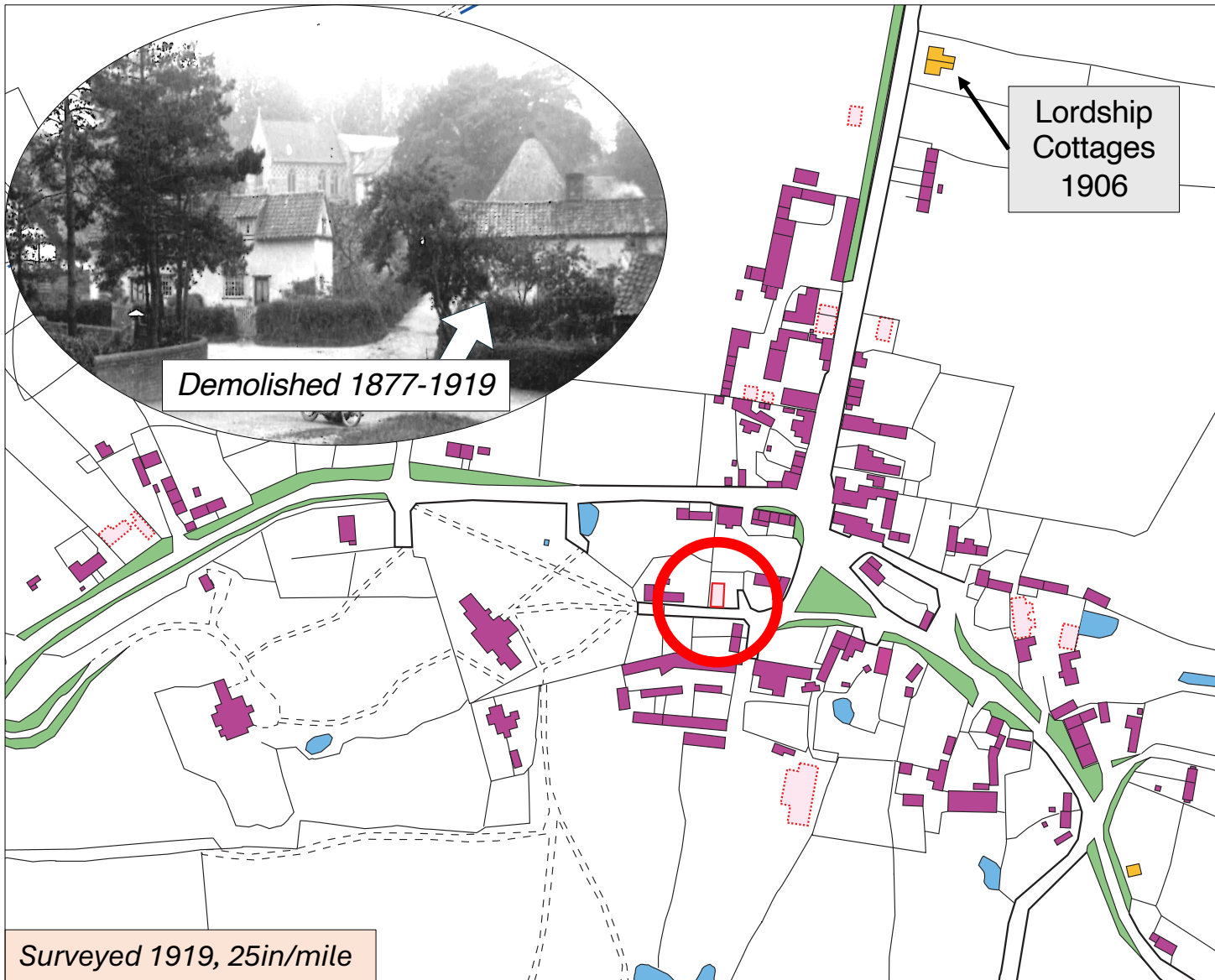
1805 Village Closes

- There were 156 privately owned inclosures or closes, most sited around the village.
- The majority had names, and several of these names are with us today, over 200 years later.
- Examples of Close names still here in 2025 are: Coblers (now Cobblers), Orchard Pightle, Bilberry, New Barn Close, Arnolds and Banton.



1880 Ordnance Survey

- A new Rectory in 1873
- A terrace of houses (now the Row) has appeared on the Linton Road.
- Church school was completed in 1871, as well as the Congregational Church.
- Two smithies were at work near the Green, where there was also a lock-up (now in S. Walden museum).
- The Post Office was in Pond House.
- The population was 455 with 110 households.



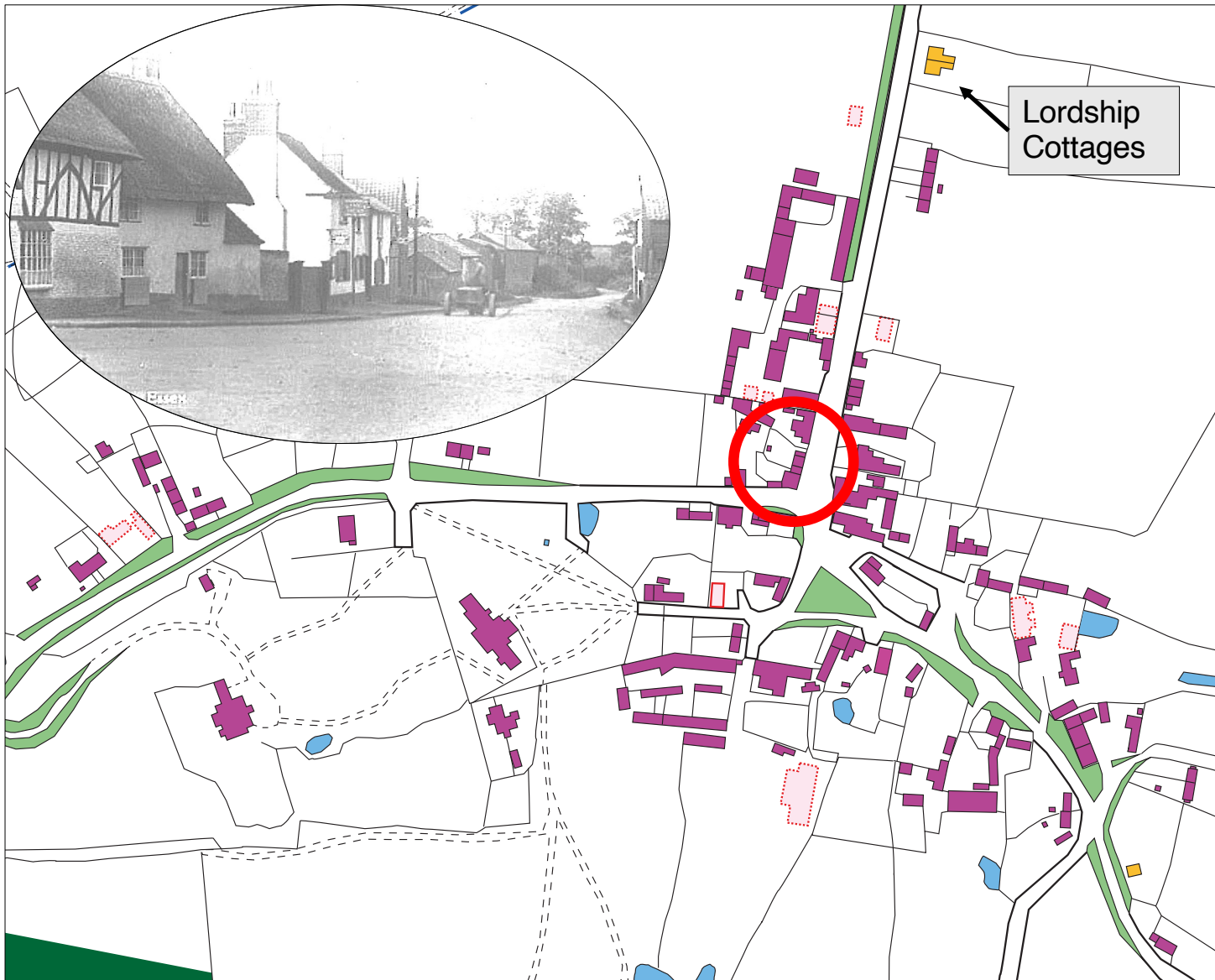
1921 Ordnance Survey

- Little new build between 1877 and 1919. Lordship Cottages on Linton Road was the only new housing in Hadstock village.
- The census showed 300 people living in 85 households.
- Several buildings had been demolished by 1919, (hatched red). Most were farm buildings
- But two cottages on Church Path in line with Hall farm cottages were pulled down.



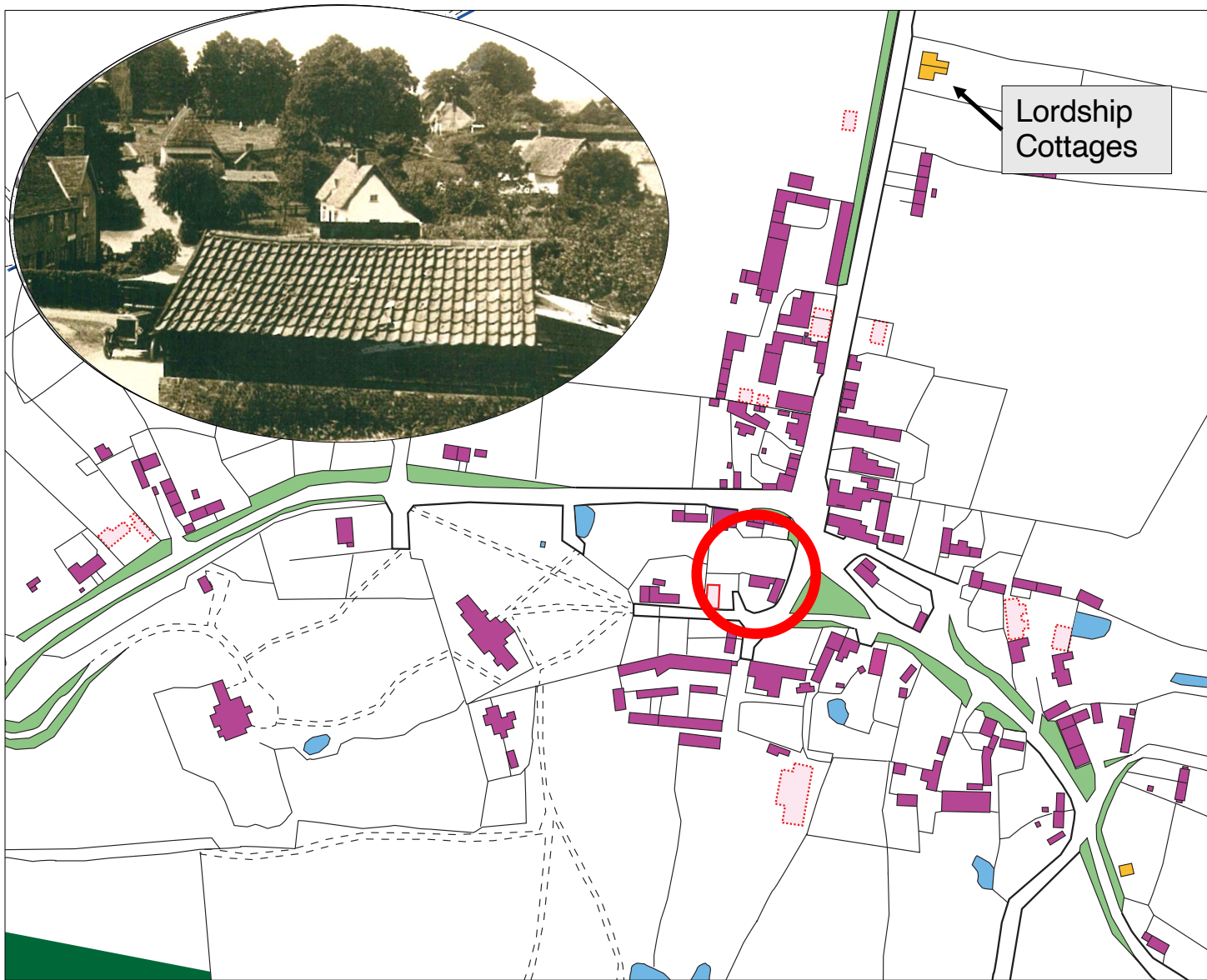
More lost cottages

- Several cottages were demolished behind Goldacre in the period 1919-1940.



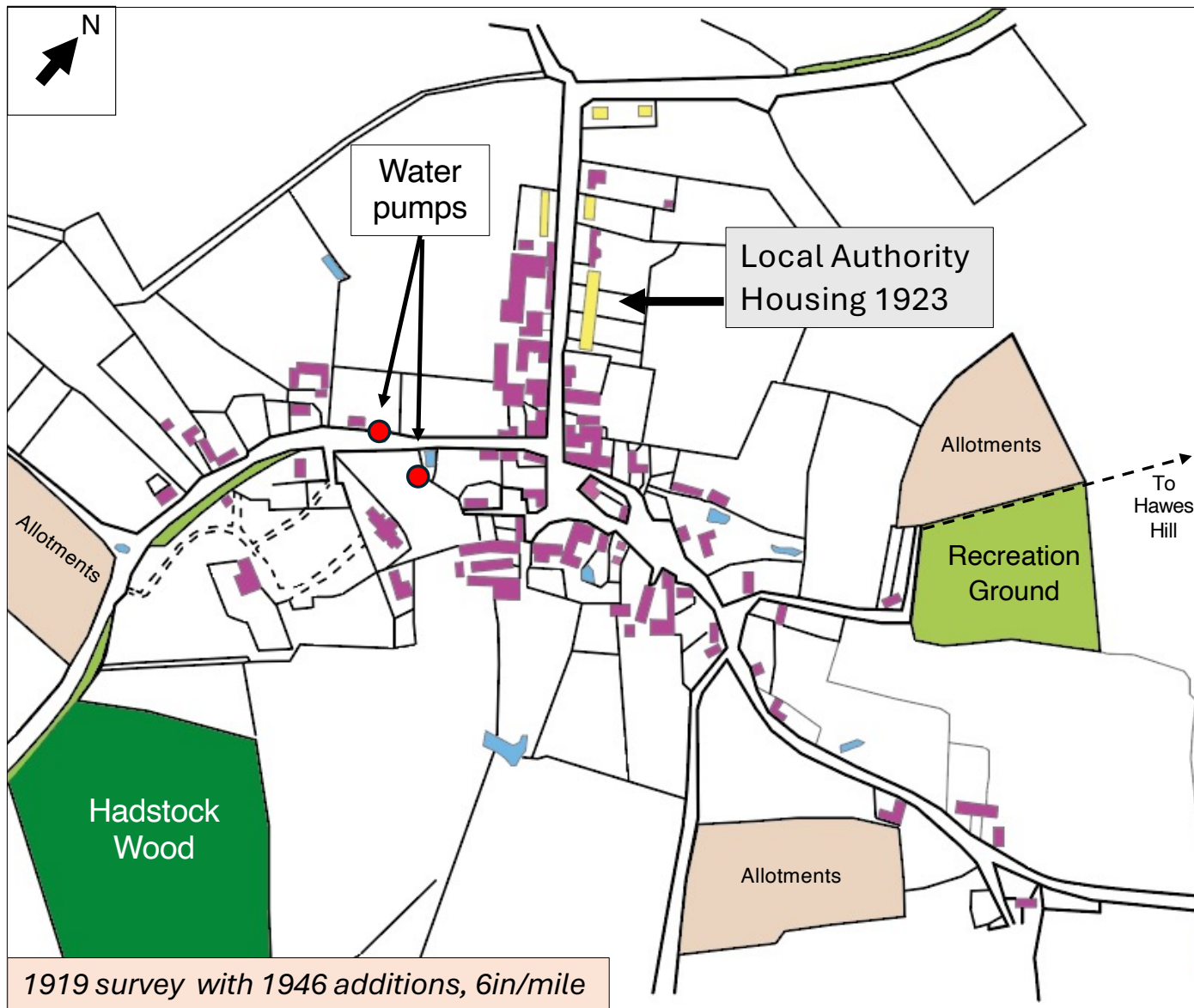
More lost cottages

- The cottages attached to Kings's Cottage were demolished in the 1950s.



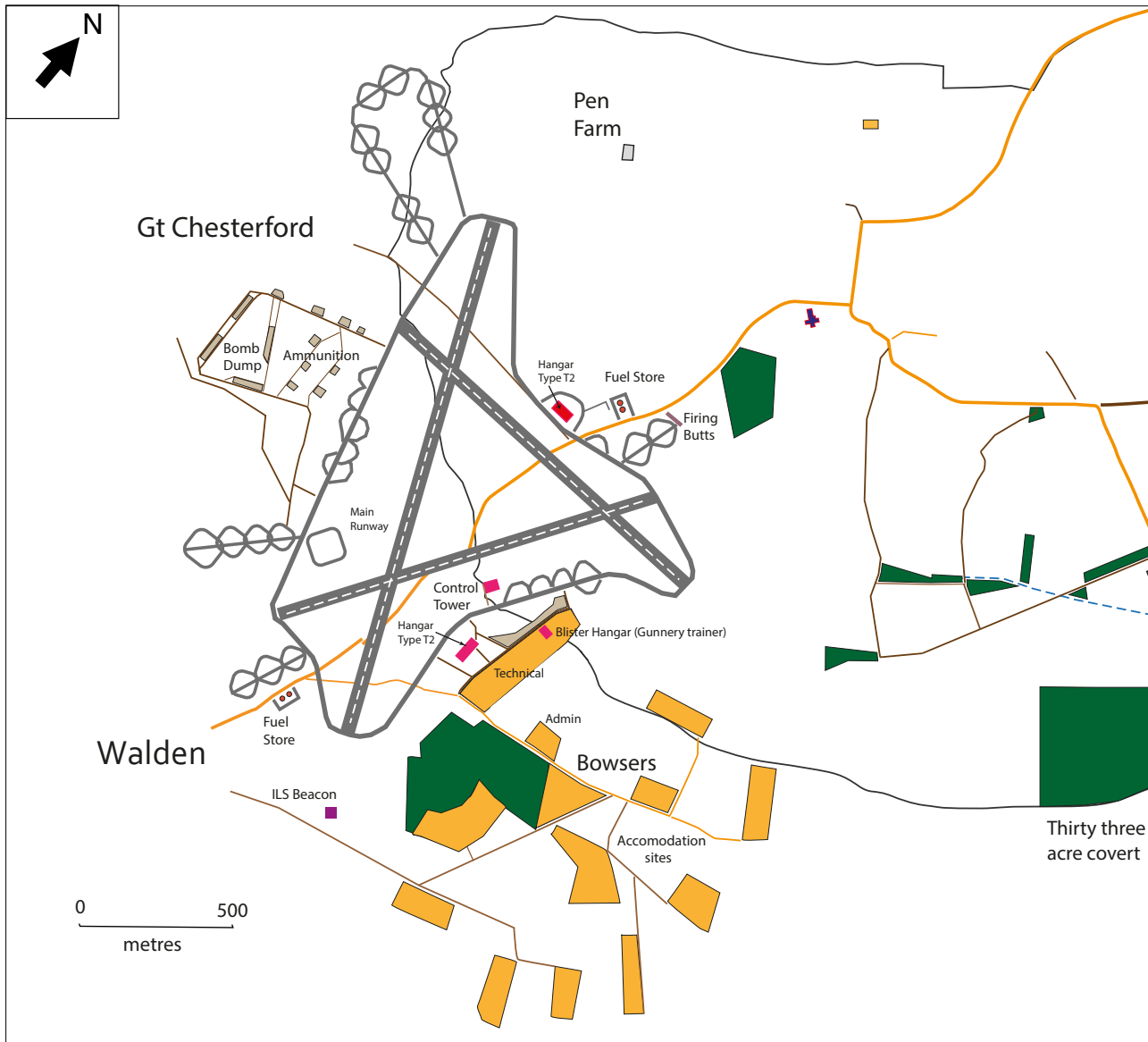
More lost cottages

- The blacksmith's cottage was burned down in 1957



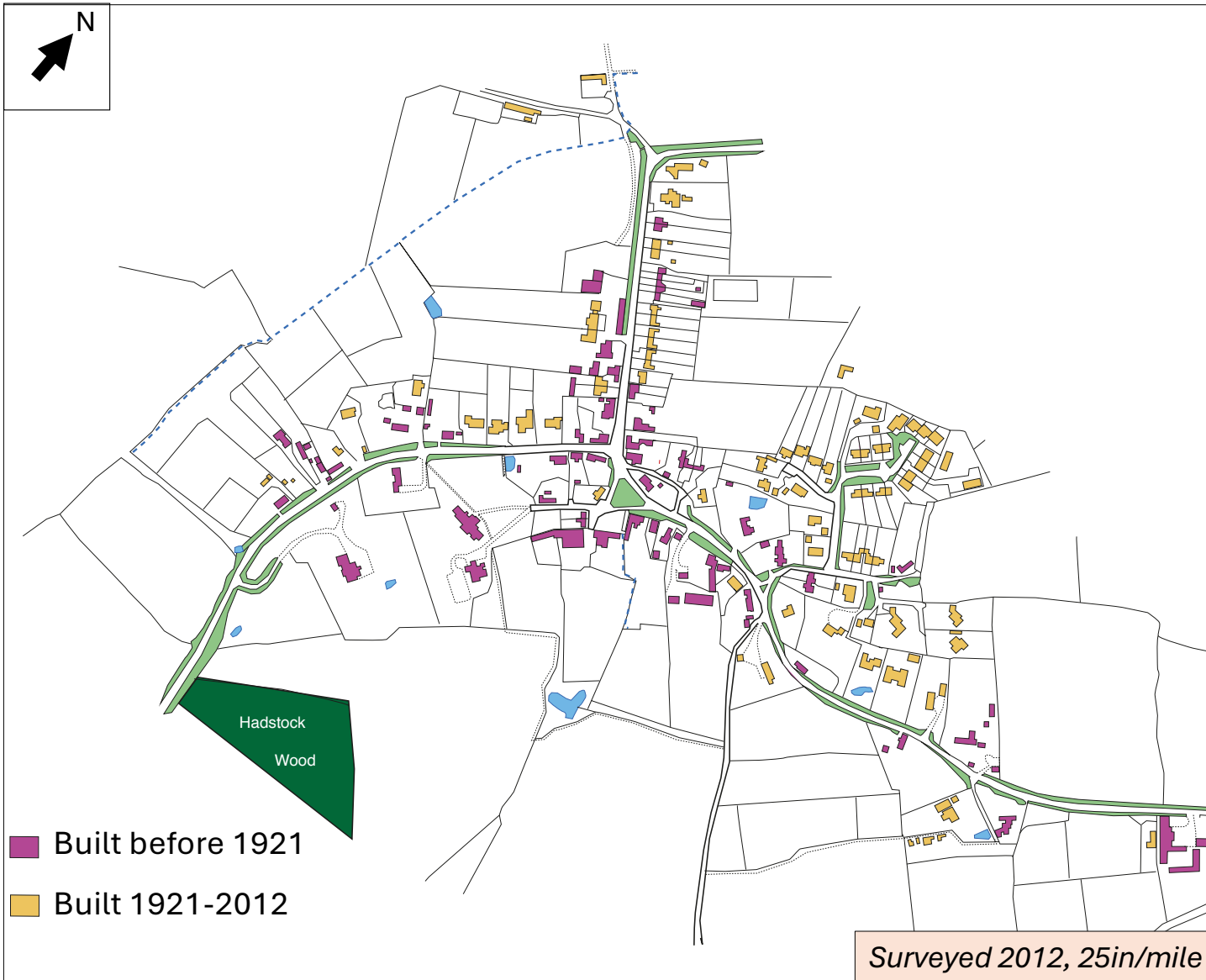
1946 Ordnance Survey

- Several new houses and farm buildings constructed in Linton Road between 1921 and 1945.
- The Rec was bought by the village from Sam Crawley in 1905, but games were banned on Sundays.
- The village allotments were off Arnold's Lane, the Rec, and the Walden Road.
- Until mid 1930s, the village water supply came from hand pumps and wells. 6 standpipes were installed when mains water arrived from Linton.



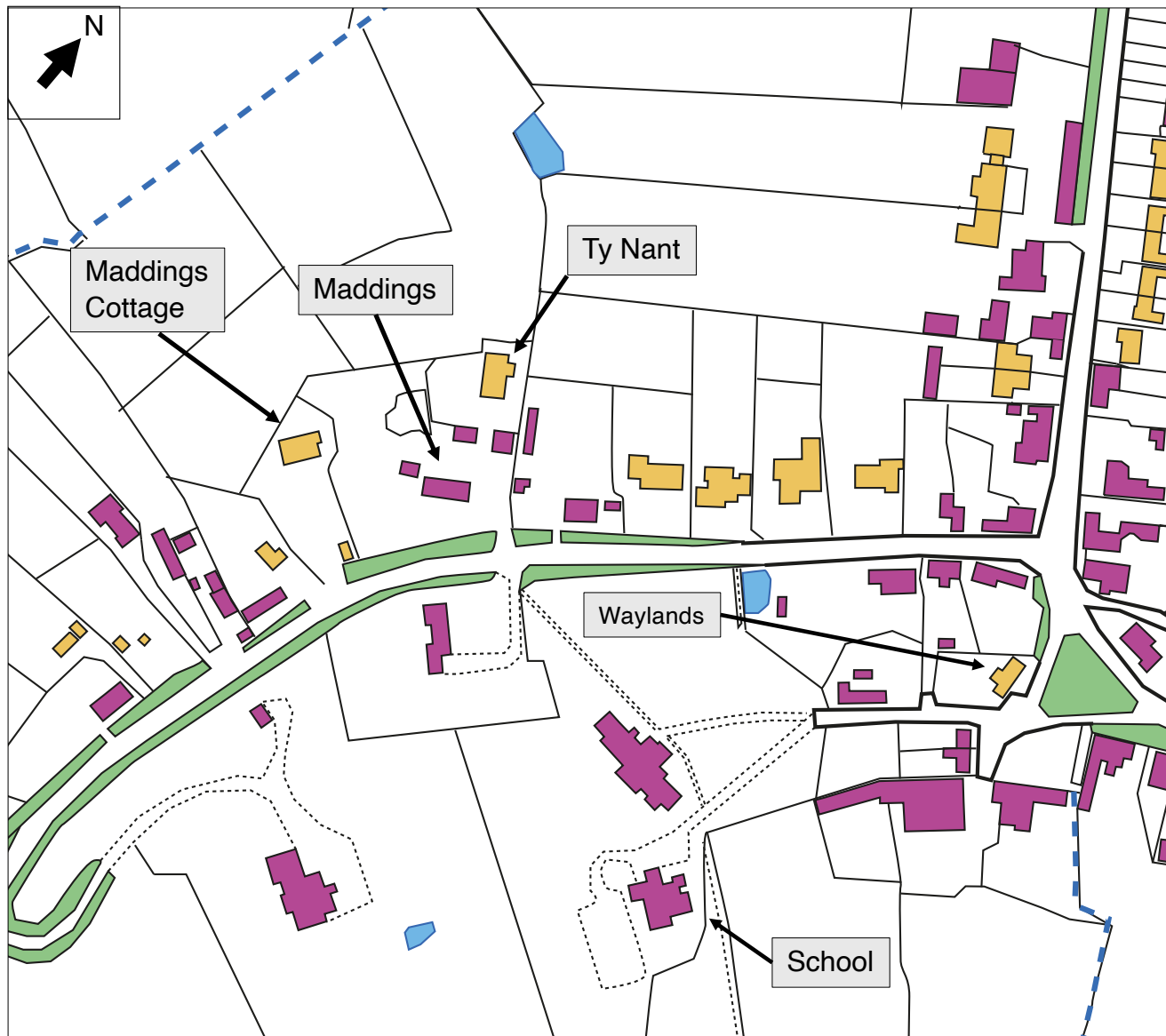
1944 USAAF Station 165

- Beginning in 1942, airfield buildings and infrastructure were sited across three Parishes: Hadstock, Saffron Walden and Ashdon.
- The airfield was built for bomber flights, with three runways at 60deg and a 1900yard main runway, aligned NW – SE.
- Up to 3000 personnel were working at the site during the war. Living quarters are shown in orange
- All units returned to the USA in 1946.



2014 UDC Conservation Area

- There was considerable house building after the war.
- The new build was a mix of local authority / private housing, outbuildings, and stables.
- Houses infilled along the Walden and Linton roads, but the main developments were in the 1970s/1980s on the hill around Moules Lane and Bilberry End.
- The population in the 2011 census was 330.



2014 UDC Conservation Area

- Two houses were built by Sir Patrick Hamilton (Director of Aircraft Propellor Manufacture for Ministry of Aircraft Production, WW2) who lived at Maddings (now Chantry House). Ty Nant was for his chauffeur and Maddings Cottage for his gardener and cook.
- Waylands was built close to the blacksmith's cottage which had burned down in 1957.
- The village school closed 1948 to become the village hall. In 1984, the hall and grounds transferred to Hadstock PC.



2014 UDC Conservation Area

- Jack Crawley built/lived in the bungalow on Cobler's corner, now High Banks, and then moved into newly constructed house next door, now named Cobblers.
- Further local authority housing came to Hadstock 1950 - 1952, first in Moules Lane and then Bilberry End, a mix of bungalows and houses.
- The Orchard Pightle development took place in the 1970s, along with the build of several infill houses in Bilberry End.



2026

- 4 new houses were built in 2021 next to Yew Tree Barn
- A further 3 houses were approved in 2025 on the site of the Chameleon car repair garage on Cobblers Corner.

Shops

- Early 1900s, the village store was in the Corner House (now King's Cottage) managed by 'Grandma' Lucy Fordham.
- When this closed, Ernie Davey opened a small store in the Gate House opposite the Kings Head. It became famous as a sweet shop.
- In the 1920s/30s, a post office opened at Pond House on the Green managed by Sarah Salmon, who also taught at the village school.



Early 1900s - Village store in the Corner House, now Kings Cottage

The Gate House-
Village stores,
early 1900s



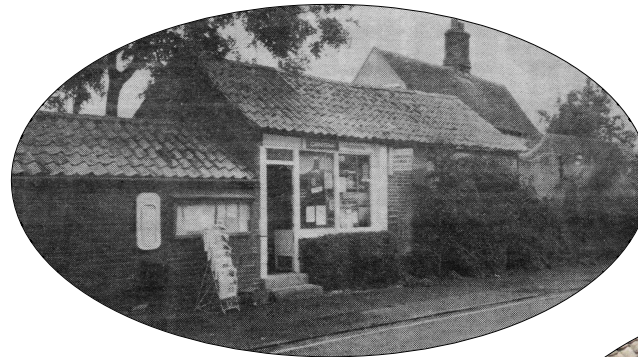
1920s - Post office in Pond House

Shops

- Roundhill Cottage was stores /post office during WW2. Connie Free ran a successful business there until 1974, but no rationed foods sold e.g., butter.
- The village stores/post office then moved to an outbuilding on the Linton Road, part of Yews Farm and belonging to the Crawley family.
- Managed by Reg Wood for six years, Bill Richards bought the shop, and Gary Salmon ran the stores until 1991.
- It then became an upholstery and soft furnishings shop. Designer Drapes was managed by Bill Richards and then Lesley Williams for thirty years.

1940s - Village stores/post office/telephone box at Roundhill Cottage.

Frequent delivery vans from Linton and SW (see *Reg Wood, Memories of Hadstock*)



Village stores/ Post Office, from 1974



Designer Drapes
1991- 2022



Pubs

- The King's Head was run by Stephen Hymus family from 1855-1900. Wheelwrighting was Stephen's day job.
- The landlord of the Queens Head in the 1890s was George Swann. He was a member of the Hadstock Parish Council, which met for the first time in Dec 1894.
- In 1945, The Queen's Head became a private house, Goldacre, when the landlady, Annie Freeman, crossed the road to run the King's Head.
- The King's Head closed in 2016 and a was private house in 2020.



King's Head



Queen's Head



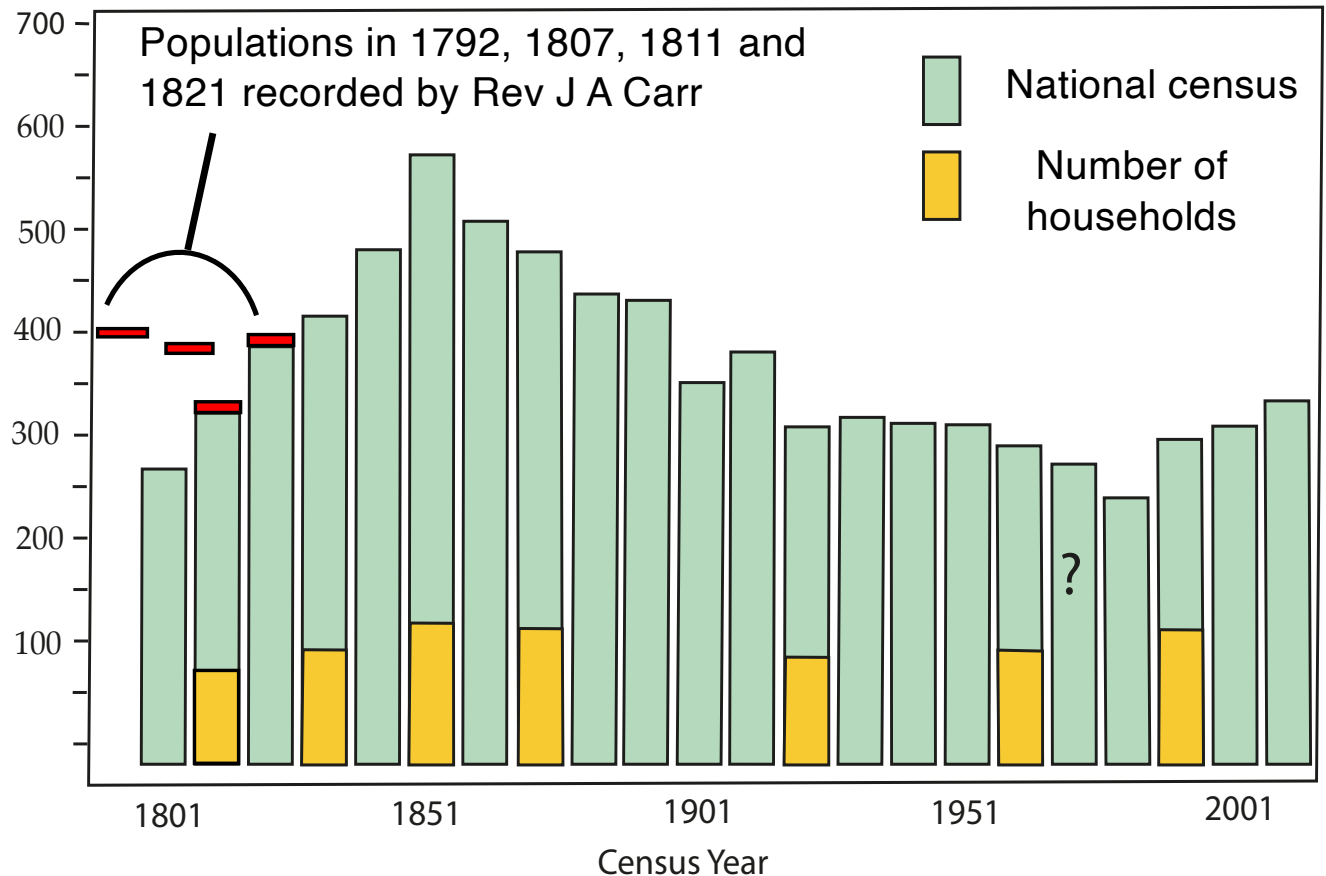
Popped-up
in late 2023



Population changes

- National census data show the Parish population more than doubled from 1801 to 1851.
- The 1801 census population was much lower than Carr's parishioner counts!
- Numbers peaked in 1851 and then fell (cholera epidemic?), but some growth again in the 1990s.
- From Hadstock Millennium book, the number of Parish households in 2020 was 129, 116 in Hadstock village.

Hadstock Population Changes



Closing comments

- Many of our village names come from field (close) names over 200 years ago.
- Local authority houses appeared in the early 1920s, but the largest house expansion took place between 1950-1980.
- There were six farms within the village footprint in the C19.
- The Parish population peaked at around 560 in the mid-1850s with 125 households. Now it is 330 with 129 households.

Much more on Hadstock landscape history will be found in our community archive at: hadstock.org.uk

Thanks to members of the Hadstock Society for contributing their knowledge and to the development of this talk, especially Crocky, Rick, Bill, Timand Hamish.