

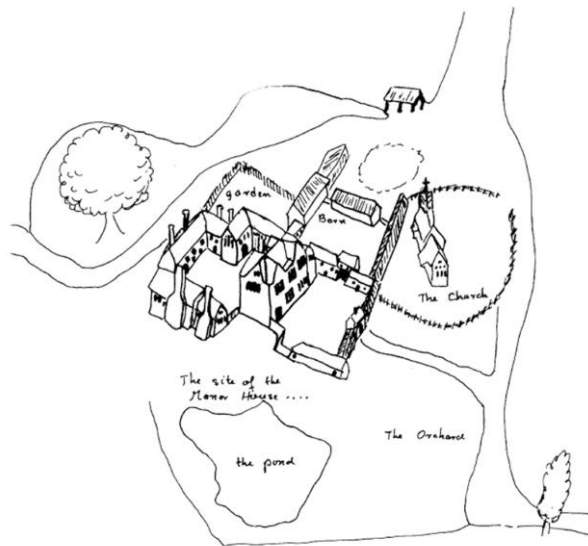
CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN A CHILTERN PARISH

HARPSDEN 1586 - 1879

Dissertation for a Joint Honours Degree
in Archaeology and History
at the University of Reading

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1989



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Without their help it would have been impossible to extract so much information from the wealth of available source material.

I am equally grateful to Ann Cottingham for letting me use her copy and reduction of the Harpsden Tithe Map (scale 6 ins. to 1 mile), on which the enclosed Tithe Map copies are based. The photographs of the 1586 manuscript map and manor court were also taken by her and published here with her permission. The scale drawings of Harpsden buildings were carried out by members of the Henley Archaeological and Historical Group (to which I belong). I am also grateful to Sarah Bromilow for the loan of some photographs of buildings.

Also, many thanks to those Harpsden inhabitants, who have allowed their houses and farm buildings to be recorded and photographed and who have given advice. I am especially grateful to Mr. and Mrs. L. Gerrard of Harpsden Court, who have owned and lovingly restored the old manor house since 1975, and to Mr J. Hiscock of Lucy's Farm, whose family have farmed in Harpsden since the turn of the century. His information on present-day farming and the variation in soil quality has been particularly useful for understanding past land use.

Last, but not least, my thanks to Jane Bowen for her proof reading and improvements with spelling and punctuation as well as to my husband for his help with mathematical problems.

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A selection of photographs taken about 1988 accompanies the text.

INTRODUCTION

The stimulus for this survey of a Chiltern parish comes from a manuscript map of 1586 for Harpsden Manor. It gives a lot of details as to size of holdings and tenants and makes comparison with later maps possible. It also provides a physical link with the people in some of the probate material, court rolls and leases.

However, Harpsden manor comprises only half of the parish, and there is no such early evidence for the other half, Bolney manor. While use is made of the probate material for the whole parish as well as any other evidence that covers both manors, most of the work here presented relates to Harpsden manor. The latter's topography has also changed very little, while considerable areas of especially Lower Bolney have been built over in recent times.

The study of documentary evidence has been combined with that of the physical evidence, fields, roads, farmsteads, and houses.

Here I have taken Professor Hoskins' exhortation of combining the study of houses and documentary evidence as my leitmotif. In 1967 he said in his 'Fieldwork in Local History': "we ought to place all types of houses in their human background and relate them to the social and economic history of their immediate surroundings. Without this framework and background, we only dimly understand what we are looking at." (1)

The main concern of this survey is with the farming population of Harpsden, not the history of the manors or church. Because the available material comes mainly from the later 16th, the 17th and 19th centuries, there is an inevitable dearth of information for the middle period.

MAIN SOURCES

The Maps

The 1586 manuscript map was drawn up by J. Blagrave of Reading for Humphrey Forster of Harpsden Manor (2). It is a true plan of the estate drawn up at a scale of 50 perches to 2 inches. The buildings are drawn in perspective, which allows a view of house gables and wings and is particularly effective in the enlarged view of the manor court drawn on the back of the map. This was done at the scale of 50 perches to 8 inches and shows the manor with its three courtyards, all of which with the exception of the central hall range have now gone. All houses on the map seem to have had tiled roofs, while the outbuildings were either thatched or perhaps had wooden shingles. In some places the map is slightly damaged, which makes it difficult to see some of the minute details.

The fields are numbered from 1 to 84, and on small insets around the map each tenant's holding is listed with fieldnames and acreage. The fields are coloured in four different ways. The yellow/brown striped fields are probably ploughed but fallow, the green striped ones seem to have a growing crop, the dark green ones by the river are hay meadows, and the lighter green ones probably represent pasture or rough grazing. All are enclosed with hedges or separated from their neighbours by thick shaws. The only area on the map that is not enclosed is part of the river meadow, which must have been common meadow. This is confirmed by the 1842 Tithe Returns, when it was shown to be in lots.

The glebe lands are left blank on the map and are coloured a pale green like the area outside Harpsden manor.

The 1793 Davis map is the first available pictorial evidence showing both Harpsden and Bolney manors but is too small in scale to show more than the basic lay-out of the roads and farms. (See enclosed copy of part of map, No. III)

The 1842 Tithe Map (3) covers the whole of the parish and gives for Bolney the first information on the lay-out of its fields and farms. For Harpsden Manor it has been used to make comparisons for land use and size of holdings. It has also provided much needed information on the whereabouts of cottages and houses for those Harpsden people who were not farmers.

The 1851 Harpsden Manor Sales Map (4) shows how much larger the manor had grown since 1586, and the particulars provide evidence on the size of tenants' holdings as well as showing that by now a large number of labourers' cottages belonged to the manor.

The 1879 25" OS map (5) has been useful mainly to show the farm lay-outs, many of which survive. It also shows another aspect of Chiltern farming. There are numerous old chalk pits providing the much needed chalk lime for the acid soils overlying much of the chalk beds.

Probate Material

Forty-seven residents of Harpsden have left wills, inventories and other probate material (6). This is not enough to draw any valid conclusions on social and economic changes, or to make comparisons on crops or livestock keeping between the 16th and 17th centuries. But it is useful if compared with the results of Havinden's work on Chiltern farming in his thesis 'The Rural Economy of Oxfordshire' (7).

When looking at probate material one has to keep in mind that the poorest very rarely made wills, as those whose personal estate was worth less than £5 were not required to do so (8) Nor are many wills of the gentry available either, because they were proven at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and are mostly not yet indexed. Many wills have not survived, and many inventories only give totals. Often the neighbours acting as appraisers were in a hurry and annoyingly for us lumped many items together. Sometimes they seem to have undervalued estates intentionally, as many generous bequests are not reflected in low inventory totals. After 1700 the number of wills declined, owing to the loss of authority of the spiritual courts over the laity (9).

Despite the haphazard nature of the material, it still provides the most valuable primary source about conditions of life for ordinary people. An alphabetical list of all names with Oxford Record Office shelf numbers is in the appendix, and therefore no individual references are given in the text.

Cooper and Caldecott Collection

This is a firm of Henley solicitors, who have looked after many important families in and around Henley. Their papers on the Halls of Harpsden from 1663 to 1851 have provided much useful additional information on the tenants, land-use and leases (10)

Buildings Records of the Henley Archaeological & Historical Group

Measured drawings and photographs of houses and farm buildings have been made of many farms in the Chilterns as well as of houses in Henley by the Vernacular Architecture Section of this group. Some of the material on Harpsden from the Group's archive has been used to illustrate the architectural history of the buildings first shown in 1586 (11).

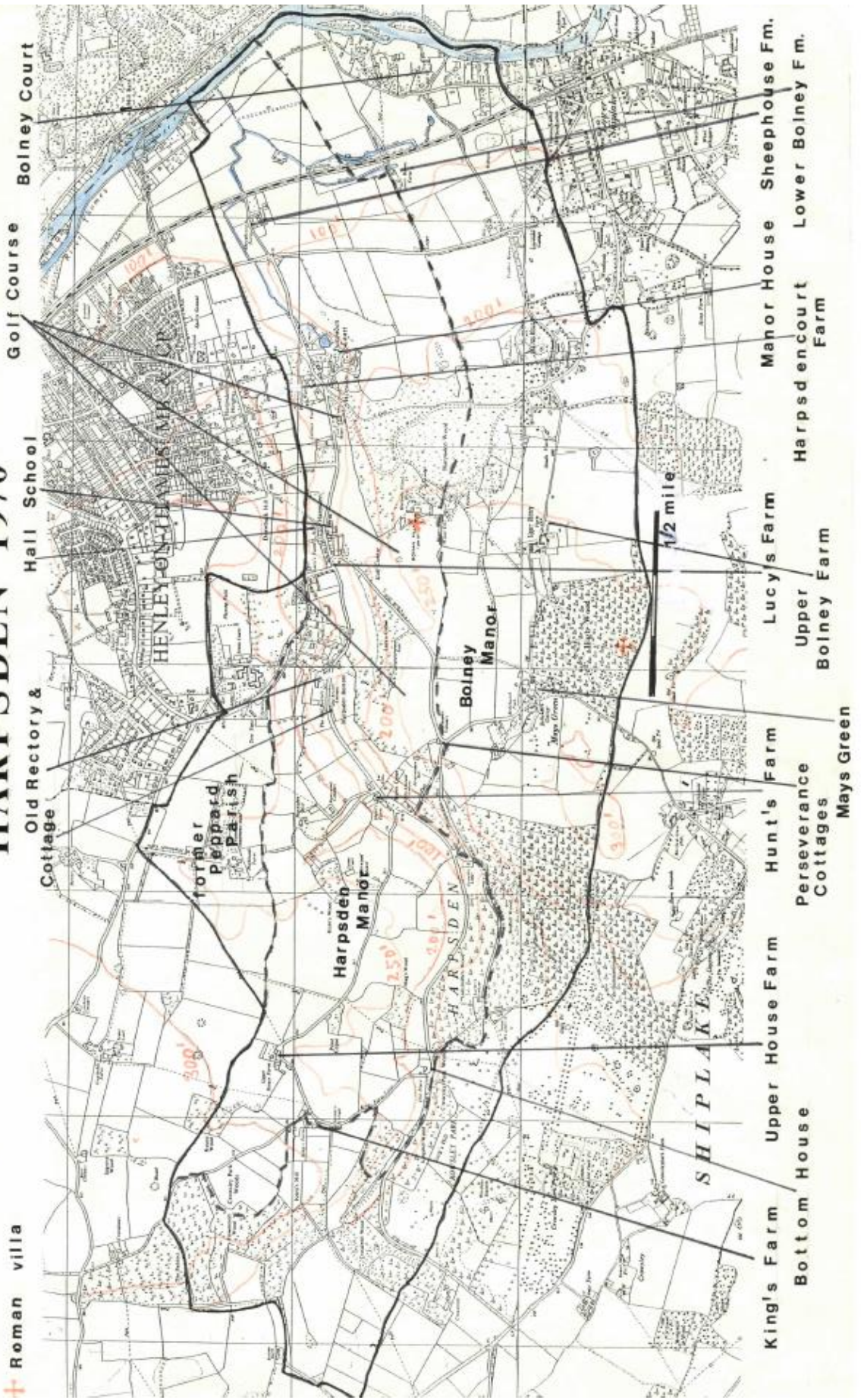
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- (1) W.G. Hoskins, *Fieldwork in Local History* (1967), p.94
- (2) Oxfordshire R.O., Ms DD Cooper & Caldecott, 17:49
- (3) Oxfordshire R.O., Tithe Award Apportionment and Map of Harpsden, 1842 (203)
- (4) Oxfordshire R.O., Misc.O II/4,Sales Particulars of 1851;
Copy of map by courtesy of Mr. L. Gerrard of Harpsden Court
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First edition 1 : 2500 Ordnance Survey Map 1879
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Economic History Review, 2nd series, Vol VII,(1955) p.292
- (10) Oxfordshire R.O., Ms DD Cooper and Caldecott
- (11) Vernacular Buildings Research Section reports from Archive of the
Henley Archaeological and Historical Group, Henley Town Hall.
Copies also at the Buildings and Monuments Record, Oxon. County
Museum, Woodstock; Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments
of England Fortress House, London.

6" OS Map reduced

+ Roman villa

HARPSDEN 1970



TOPOGRAPHY

Harpsden is situated in south Oxfordshire in a dry Chiltern valley near the south-western end of the chalk outcrop. Here the gentle dip slopes rise from the Thames gravels to reach the highest point at Nettlebed at c.700 feet. On the north-eastern side the steep scarp slope descends into the Oxford Vale. The chalk is here very close to the surface and large areas are still covered by woods, on which Leland had already commented on his journey from Ewelme to Caversham in the 1530s(1). On the plateau and dip slope side the chalk outcrop is overlain by glacial drifts of gravel, clayey loams and clay with flint.

There is a great variation in soil ranging from thin acid gravels to the rich loams of the Thames plain (2).

Harpsden's river frontage is circa one mile wide, and the parish is just under four miles long. A road runs through the valley bottom of the parish, and small tracks leading to the scattered farms as well as neighbouring parishes branch off from it. Near its south-eastern end the parish is crossed by the Reading to Henley road, which in the 18th century became part of the Hatfield - Bath turnpike trust.

Adjoining Harpsden to the north are Rotherfield Peppard and Greys parishes, each with a narrow river frontage. This access to the river with its hay meadows was of great importance to them, as their main settlements were situated on the dry chalk plateau (see map I). Both have now been taken over by Henley, a small market town, whose centre is barely three quarters of a mile from Harpsden and whose influence must have been important since its foundation, sometime in the late 12th or early 13th century.

References:

- (1) Leland I, p. 112 quoted by M.A.Havinden,MS B Lit thesis:
The Rural Economy of Oxfordshire, 1580 – 1730 (1961)
Bodleian Library, Oxford, p.25
- (2) Roden Demesne Farming in the Chiltern Hills ,
Agricultural History Review 17,(1969) p.9

HENLEY AND THE RIVER TRADE

When considering the way of life of this small agricultural parish, with its river frontage and its close proximity to the market and wharves of Henley, one must keep in mind the influence both of these had on the economy and social life of the community. The Elizabethan map shows a large round-bottomed barge with square sail and oarsmen, plying the river, as well as a small fishing boat. These illustrate two important aspects connected with the river.

Up to the end of the thirteenth century there was much general evidence of a considerable volume of river traffic. But in the fourteenth century complaints about obstructions caused by millers and fishermen grew and in 1350 a statute was enacted to facilitate the removal of obstructions raised since Edward I's reign. Thorold Rogers found no evidence in the fourteenth century of payments for water transport further than Henley and concluded that Henley was then the head of navigation (1) The prosperity of medieval Henley was probably based on the fact that it occupied such an advantageous position on the main transport artery to and from the capital.

However, the sixteenth century saw much activity in river improvements and by 1562 there is evidence that the river was open as far as Culham, but merchants still carried their own winches to help them along difficult stretches, because these were not established all along the route (2). In 1586 the meadow adjoining the river (No.20 on manuscript map) is described as "The winche meade extending to ye themes". This is just above Marsh Lock, which was part of Rotherfield Peppard parish, and probably the area referred to as "Meedmelle" in an indictment against William Drayton of Peppard in the reign of Richard II. The former had failed to maintain the lock and winch so that boats could no longer be drawn along the shallow (3).

From the "Diary of Thomas Crosfield" we know that the first barge reached Oxford in 1635 and that pound locks had been installed and were leased out. It was, however, not until 1771 that loan financing made overall planned improvements possible and pound-locks were installed at regular intervals up to Oxford (4).

Apart from the additional portage trade that must have been generated by the difficulties the river transport faced above Henley, this town and its catchment area always had access to the London market. By 1750 11 % of the total population lived there and despite general demographic stagnation, London's population had risen from 400.000 in 1650 to 675.000 in 1750 (5). This growing demand determined agricultural specialization as well as trades in Henley. Barley, malt, wheat, timber and wool were shipped downstream. From records kept by London corn markets and livery companies Henley's important role in the corn supply of the metropolis becomes apparent. Between 1568 and 1573 one third of all home produced corn was shipped through Henley, and it amounted to over 8,000 quarters in one year(6).

The inventories and wills from Harpsden and other Chiltern villages reflect the importance of the corn trade with the emphasis on wheat and barley.

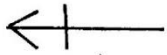
That the latter was of particular importance to Henley also becomes apparent from the 17th century parish registers. Leading occupations of Henley men in the decade between August 1698 and January 1708/9 were that of bargemen amounting to 24 %, followed by maltsters with 12 %(7). For other periods it is only the contents of the surviving probate inventories that reveal the deceased's involvement with the malting trade, which makes it difficult to determine how many of the inhabitants of Henley were supplying this vital ingredient for thirsty Londoners as well as local consumers. Most maltsters are called yeomen, thus indicating status in the eyes of their neighbours and scale of activity rather than occupation.

One such yeoman was Salomon Sewen of Henley who died in February 1631/32. Through him a connection is made with Harpsden since he farmed there as well as owning a substantial house in Henley. The malt and barley stored in his loft in Henley were worth £60 with £10 worth of brewing vessels in the brew house. In the barn in Harpsden seven quarters of barley and five quarters of maslyn remained from the previous harvest. Judging from the contents of his kitchen, hall and three chambers, (which were well supplied with brass, pewter, joined furniture, featherbeds, valences, curtains, cushions, flaxen as well as hemp sheets, napkins and tablecloths) his income was not solely derived from the produce of the one farm. Apart from growing corn, the Harpsden farm also supported 132 sheep, ten milch cows and a dozen pigs. The furnishings of his Harpsden farmhouse were worth £1.10.00, those in Henley £101.10.00. An absentee landlord, who probably used the Harpsden farmhouse for his labourers.

The will of Bastian Kyne of 1577 of Bolney manor provides another link with Henley. He left 40 quarters of malt for the upbringing of his children. It was "lying at his brother's house in Henley".

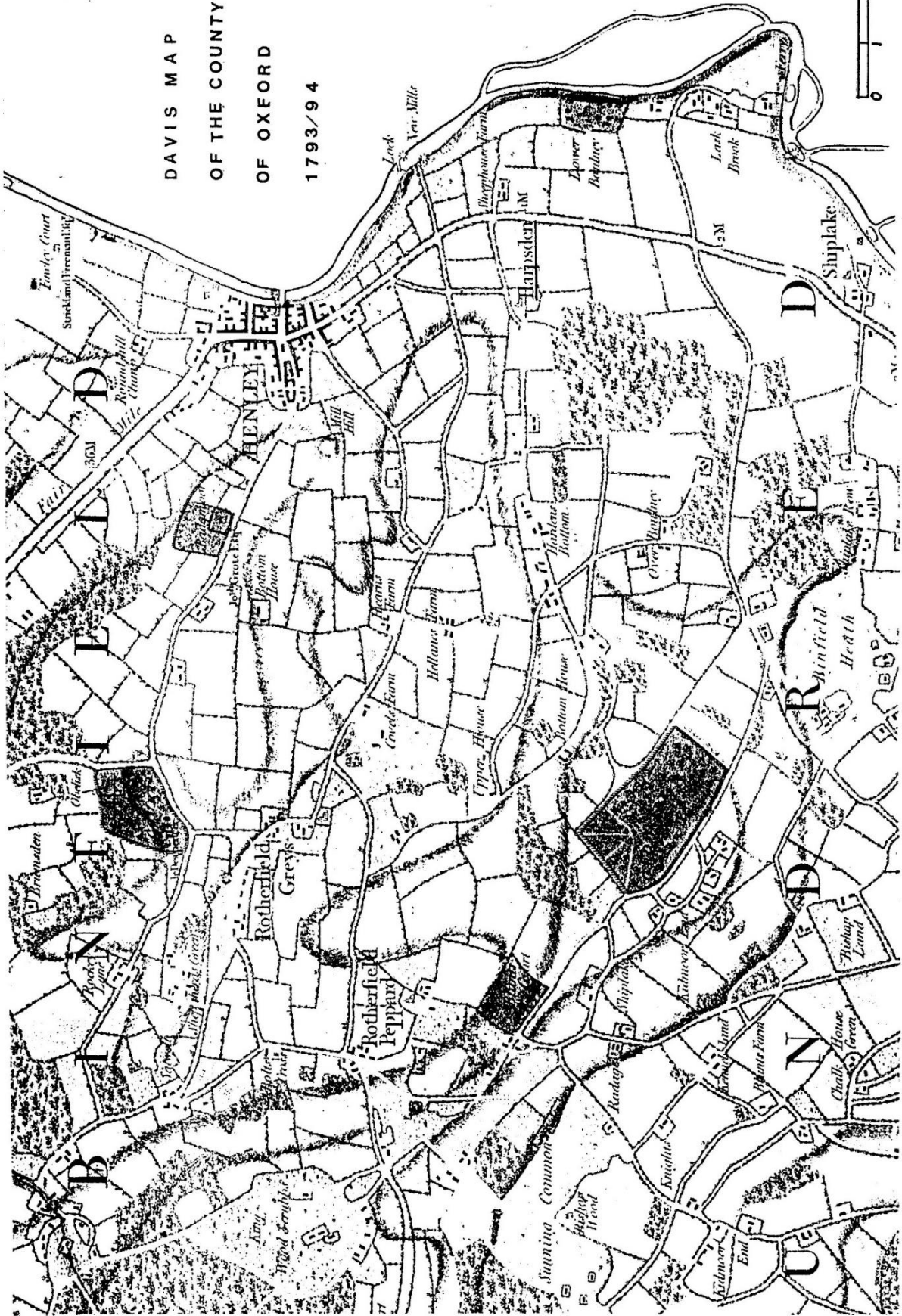
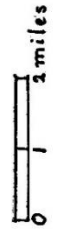
We know from the 15th century 'Stonor Letters and Papers' that the barges which took supplies to London did not come back empty. An account book of Elizabeth Stoner of 1478/79 has entries for the buying and carrying to the barge in London for barrels of herring, bunches of garlic, sugar, and ginger for the Stoner household just outside Henley(8).

The close vicinity of Henley seems also to have had other influences on Harpsden. The virtual absence of labourers' cottages on the 1586 map might indicate, that casual labour could easily be obtained from outside, and that settlement was discouraged, at least on the Harpsden manor



DAVIS MAP
OF THE COUNTY
OF OXFORD
1793/94

III



References:

- (1) M. Prior,
Fisher Row pp. 109-110, (1982)
- (2) Ibid, p.113
- (3) C.T.Flower,
Public Works in Medieval Law , p.125,127, Selden Society, XL,(1923)
- (4) M. Prior, (1982) p.123
- (5) E.A.Wrigley,
Past and Present Vol. 37,
London's Importance 1650 - 1750', p. 44 (1967)
- (6) N.S.B Gras,
The Evolution of the London CornMarket p. 106, (1926)
- (7) J.Dils,
Henley Archaeological and Historical Group Journal No. 5,
Henley and the River Trade in the Pre-industrial Period', p. 23 (1987)
- (8) C.L Kingsford
The Stonor Letters & Papers 1290 - 1483'
Camden 3rd Series, Vol XXIX, p.72 (1919)

FARMSTEADS AND BUILDINGS

The buildings of a farmstead are often the only survivors and witnesses of a way of life that has left few documentary records. Their size and lay-out, their position, the phases of re-building and extensions can provide valuable data for the study of agrarian as well as social history.

Before the canals and railways distributed building material nationwide, (the Henley branch line was built in 1856), the use of local material was reflected in its buildings, especially on the vernacular level. In the Chilterns we see the change from timber-framing to brick & flint or brick alone. This reflects not only the availability of materials, but also an improvement in living standards as well as changes in fashion.

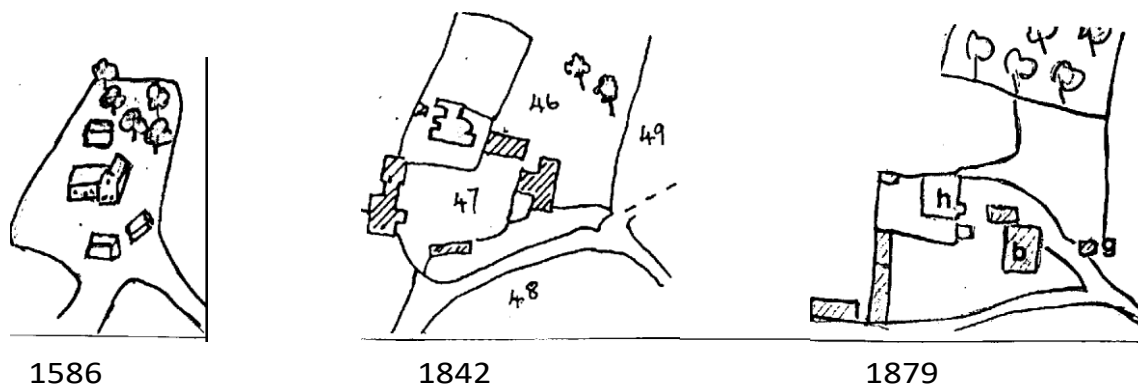
Timber seems to have been the predominant vernacular building material from the 15th to the late 17th century; mainly used for box-framing, although some cruck buildings do survive. When brick became more commonplace in the 17th century, houses were either built in this material only or it was used in combination with flint. Many timber buildings were encased in brick. (1) Brick chimneys were appearing everywhere during Elizabeth I's reign.

However, the outbuildings on the farm continued to be built in timber, and the many large 18th century barns demonstrate that it was not shortage of timbers that dictated the change in house building, but the social pre-eminence of brick. Only when brick became cheap through mass production, better distribution and the abolition of the brick tax in 1850, was it used extensively for farm buildings as well as small houses. The labourer's cottage emerged, often built for the first time in durable material, to house the increased population. The cluster of brick houses around the village hall and school, which now form the hamlet of Harpsden, date from the second half of the nineteenth century.

A survey of the few remaining buildings of the Harpsden farmsteads shown on the 1586 map plus a few others that have been built since then, as well as comparison of the farms' lay-out on different maps, has helped a little in understanding their development. The increase in barn sizes, the addition of aisles and porches as well as the building of separate granaries illustrate the expanding grain production, especially in the 18th century. Change of use to dairying late in the 19th century is shown through the introduction of feeding troughs, manure passages and cow stalls into barns as well as the building of dairies.

In describing the buildings of Harpsden a start is made at the western end of the manor. Using the 1586 map and those of Victorian times, tentative comparisons are made of the farm layouts. Tenants are referred to and where available, wills and inventories which can be connected with the farm are used.

UPPER HOUSE FARM



Upper House Farm is situated on a plateau at a height of 250 feet on the north side above the Harpsden valley. In 1586 its tenant was William Pearman, and he farmed a total of 116 acres. At that time its name was probably "Searles", as a court baron of 1577 states that William Pearman takes over a lease for a messuage, a cottage and two virgates called 'Searles' from Walter Pottinger (2). The name "Upper House" probably developed later when this and its neighbour in the valley were farmed jointly. (See entry for Bottom House below). A John Pearman was still at Upper House in 1744, when Stripes Coppice and several small shaws amounting to 15 acres were to be converted to arable. A court roll of 1773 also refers to "a messuage called Searles, cottage and land called Horelands, all known by name of Upper House Farm" (3).

In 1842 it comprised 95 acres and was farmed jointly with Bottom House by Thomas Frewin. Map VI shows Frewin's holding (coloured green) covering almost the identical area which had been held by Pearman and Wynch in 1586 (green and pink on map V). The exceptions are small woods and copses, which were kept in hand by the owners.

Although in the 19th century there were more and larger outbuildings, the lay-out of the farmyard with its central farmhouse had not changed much. The 1879 map shows the lay-out which basically survives today. The large barn (b) stands to the right of the farmhouse (h) with the granary to the right of the drive. The buildings on the left of the farmyard are brick-built stables and service sheds.

'The 1851 Sales Catalogue describes the homestead as "comprising a respectable roomy house, with garden, well, dairy, 2 barns, stabling, cowhouse, piggeries, granary and cart lodge". By 1881 it no longer had a tenant but a farm bailiff.

When the present owners, the de Pass family bought the now free-hold property in 1938 it was a farm comprising 128 acres, most of them described as pasture or woodland, unlike the tithe returns and 1851 sales particulars, where all fields bar one were described as arable (See maps VIII & IX for earlier land use). Today, grain once more predominates.

Architectural Evidence (4)

The House: From the outside this appears to be a brick building of early 20th century date. Only the east gable with its tumbled brick work chimney, which hides some timber framing, indicates an earlier date. The ground floor rooms have been much altered and it is only the second floor and roof trusses that reveal the existence of an L-shaped timber-framed house.

The drawings of the plan show the lay-out. Bays I and II probably belong to the oldest part of the house. Some very substantial timbers remain and are shown on Section A - A1. The truss is of the queen post and collar type with clasped purlins on a cambered tie beam. The principal rafters are pegged together. Bays III to V run at right angles and this part of the building is slightly taller, as shown on section drawing B - B1. Both these roofs are now hidden under the taller modern one. Both parts of the L-shaped house probably date from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth centuries, and it is possible that bays I and II are the two-storey building shown in 1586 to which a new storied hall range with chimney was added in the seventeenth century. No chimney is visible in 1586 and the left-hand building could have been the old open hall. The small, detached building with the red roof behind the farmhouse might have been a detached medieval kitchen.

The Barn: This is a three-bay timber-framed and weather boarded barn with an aisle and large porch. Its substantial arcade posts rest on a very low stone sill almost at ground level, while the plinth for the walls is built of brick and flint, the ubiquitous building material in the Chilterns for this purpose. A small remnant of the wooden threshing floor remains in situ in the central bay and porch area. The trusses are of the same queen post and collar construction as those of the house, but do not indicate a similar building date, as carpentry traditions were carried on in farm buildings long after they ceased to be used for dwellings. It could be of late 17th or 18th century date and is of very similar construction to that of the Court Farm, which is dated 1689. Both have large porches and show that the use of four-wheeled wagons had come in.

The Granary: This timber-framed and weather boarded building stands on staddle stones opposite the barn. Its substantial size, c. 6 m by 4 m, shows the importance of cereal production on this upland farm. The fact that it does not appear to be on the Tithe Map in its present position does not necessarily mean, that it post-dates it. Granaries could be moved and were originally often placed close to the farmhouse, so that an eye could be kept on the grain, when the traditional loft storage space became too small. The keeping of loose grain in large wooden bins was a further anti-theft device apart from keeping the grain better aired.



Barn, west side with large porch



Granary

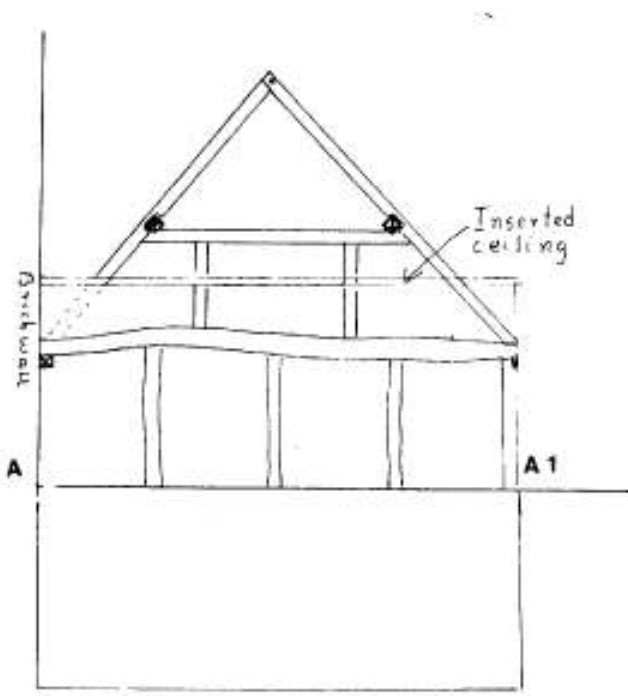
UPPER HOUSE FARM



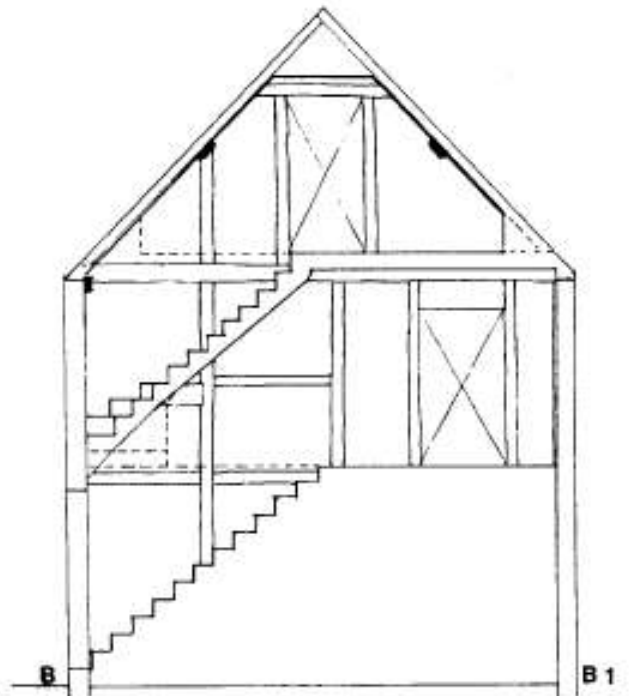
Looking across Hoarylands Field to Upper House



Farmhouse facing south into the foldyard

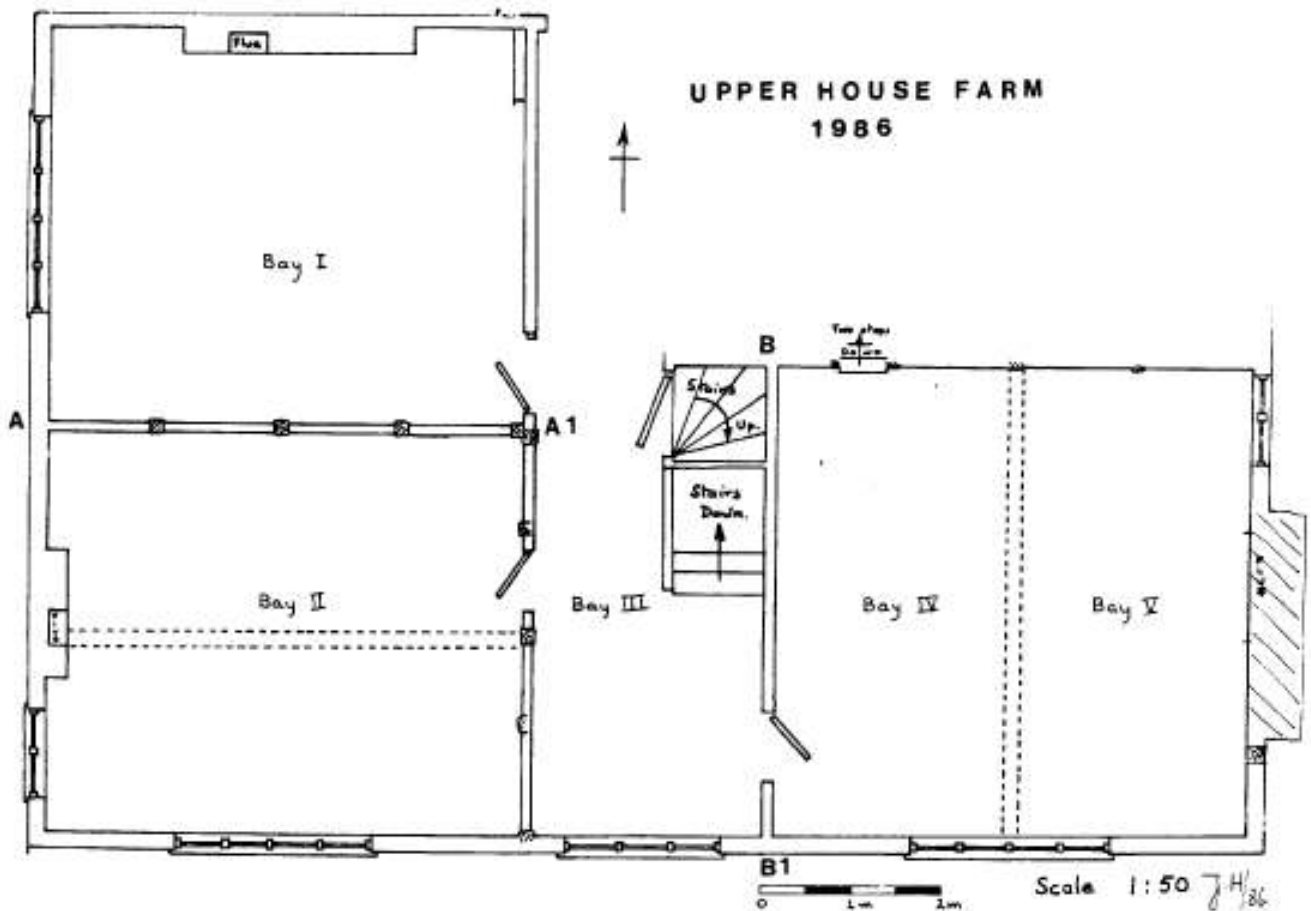


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SECTION THRU STAIRS



UPPER HOUSE FARM
1986

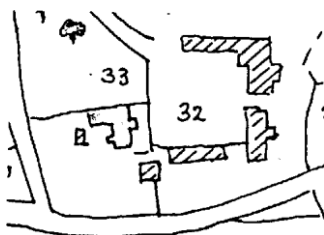
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PLAN of the First Floor

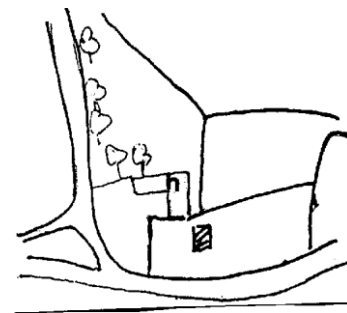
BOTTOM HOUSE FARM



1586



1842



1879

Bottom House farm, now called "The Old Place", is situated near the top end of the Harpsden valley. In 1586 its tenant was William Wynch who farmed a total of 133 acres. It probably got its name when it was farmed jointly with Upper House by the Pearman family in the seventeenth century. The evidence for this is derived from the inventory of William Pearman drawn up in October 1664, where the goods in "the upper house" are valued separately, and also from a manorial document of the same year. In it Grace Pearman, widow of William, was acquitted of the lease of "Bottom House Farm" (5).

The 1586 map shows a collection of out-buildings surrounding the L-shaped farmhouse, which has a small chimney in the centre. There is also a small, detached building in the foreground, which might be the "old citchine" mentioned in the inventory. By the middle of the seventeenth century references to detached kitchens, which are very much a medieval feature, are very rare. In over 1000 inventories analysed in the Oxford region only 2 % refer to them, and most of those date to the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries (6).

The 1842 tithe map shows a substantial farmyard to the right of the farmhouse. The road, which went through the farmyard in 1586 had been diverted to the south of it. The farm now comprised a total of 106 acres and was again farmed jointly with Upper House, this was still the case in 1851. The homestead is described as "comprising a farm-house containing 8 rooms, pantry etc: a granary, cow-house and a new tiled barn, etc.". None of the outbuildings survive.

The 1881 census returns show the house accommodating two farm labourers' families. (7) When it had ceased to be a farmhouse it had been turned into rented accommodation for the Agricultural labour force, the fate of many old farmhouses.

Architectural Evidence (8)

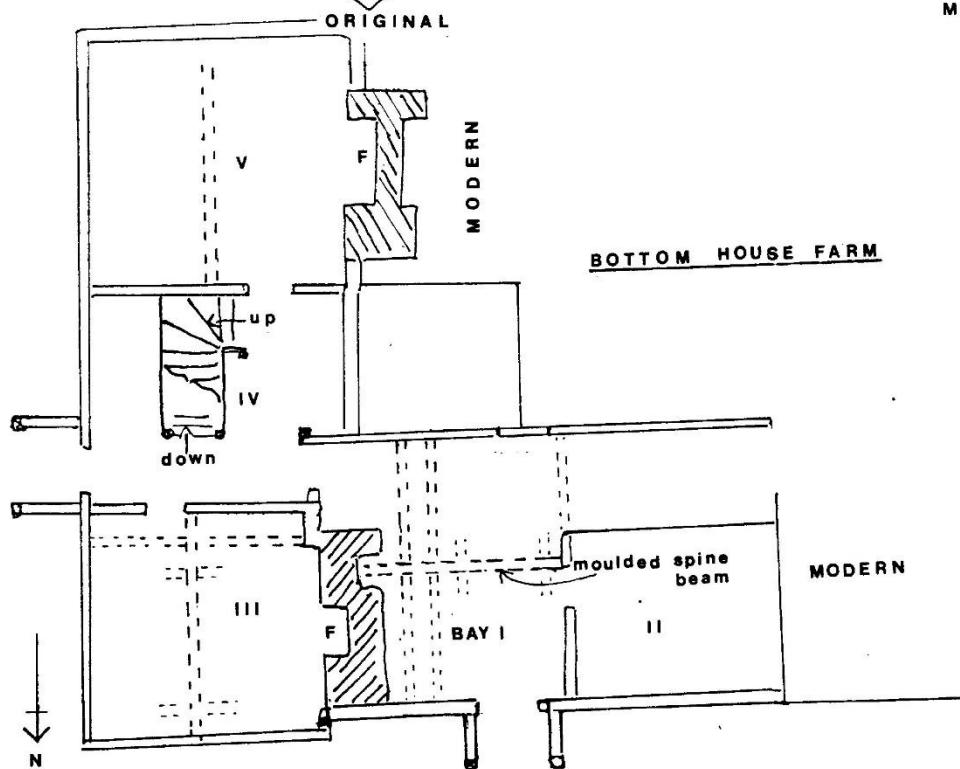
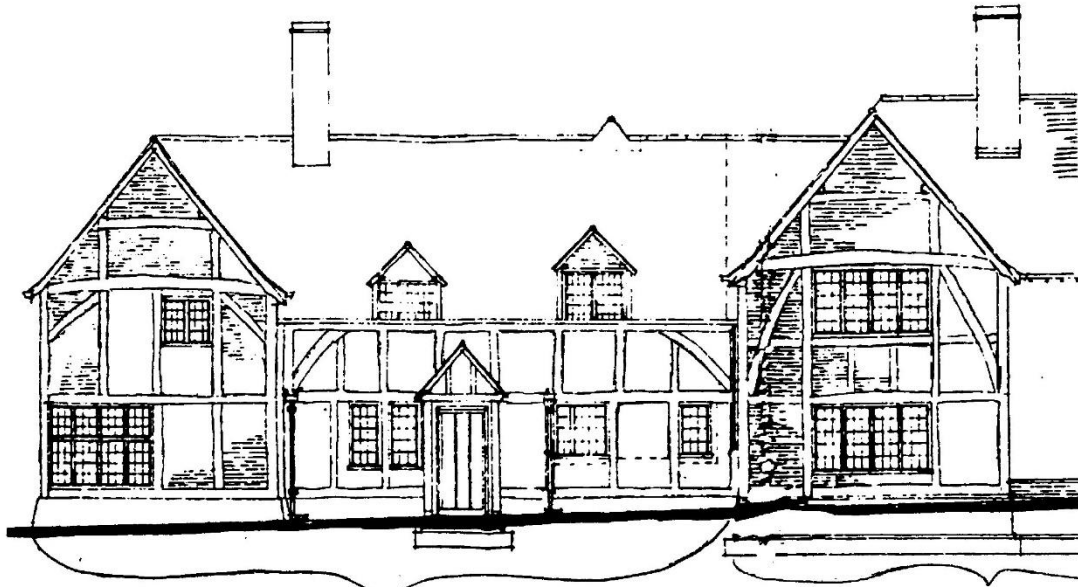
The oldest part of the building is a two-bay, timber-framed house of one and a half storey height. (Bays I and II on plan). The house faces north into the former farmyard. The central door leads into the hall with a blocked exit opposite, a typical arrangement of the medieval hall plan. The attractive feature of the room is an unusually fine roll moulded spine beam (the central beam which supports the joists). This is a very unusual feature for a farmhouse in this area, where buildings are solid but rather plain on the whole, and it very much enhanced the status of its owner. This together with the curved wall braces, cambered tie beams and flat-laid ceiling joists point to a building date probably no later than the mid-16th century. One can feel confident in saying that it was part of the farmhouse that William Wynch knew in 1586.

Whether the parlour wing and newel staircase (bays III and IV) were added by the Pearmans or were already there in 1586 is less certain, but they fit well into the early 17th century, when improvements to old houses were commonplace. (9) Yeoman William Pearman's inventory of 1664 certainly describes a spacious house with four ground floor rooms (hall, drinkhouse, milkhouse, little chamber by the entry), and four upper rooms (2 chambers, a room over the drink house and a cheese loft). The bequest of £200 to his youngest son also shows that he was a substantial tenant farmer, having risen from being a mere husbandman, which had been the rank of his forebear William Pearman in 1592.

Bay V was certainly the last addition (apart from the 20th century mock-Tudor one). It is of two full storeys plus attic where a double queen post-truss is visible. None of the original windows or doors survive to help with the dating. It is however not likely that a substantial timber-framed addition was made to a farmhouse much later than the 1680s(10), especially in the Chilterns where brick making is recorded as early as 1365 at Nettlebed (11), and where a strong brick making tradition has gone on until early this century.

Bottom House, despite its previous division into two cottages and large modern mock-Tudor extensions remains unaltered in its lay-out. The hall is still central to the house, and the later wings show the improvement in living standards and greater privacy, which was enjoyed by the yeoman farmer from the latter part of Elizabeth I's reign onwards. The increase in food prices, while rents remained low, gave farmers the necessary means to add brick fireplaces, upper chambers and parlour wings to their existing houses. (12)

Bottom House Farm



GROUND PLAN 8'-1" 1938

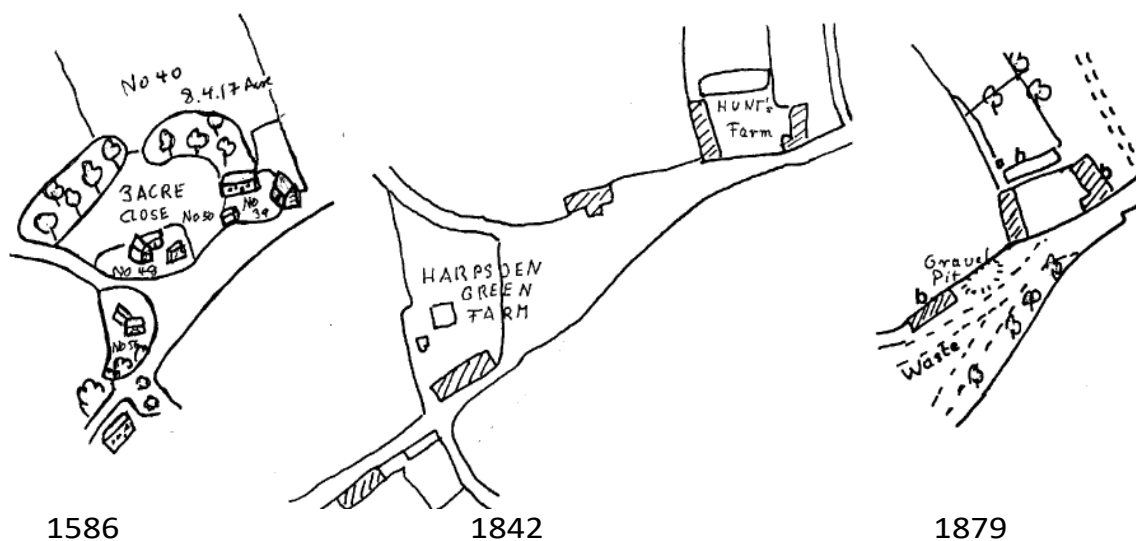


Roll-moulded spine beam in the hall



View of side entrance of Bottom House – from the south-east corner

HUNTS GREEN



Hunts Green is situated on the north side of the Bottom Way just over half-way between the Thames and the upper end of the parish. On the earliest map three farms and possibly a cottage cluster around the small green. This is the only part of Harpsden that might have been called a hamlet. The tenant farmers are from left to right: Richard Nuttkyne (32 acres), John Payse (32 acres) and John Wydmore (78 acres).

Davis Map of Oxfordshire of 1793/4 (map III) shows little change. Only the central farmstead seems to have shrunk to one building. In 1842 this solitary barn belonged to the two farms in the tenancy of W. Andrews. They were called Hunt's Farm and Harpsden Green Farm and comprised a total of 154 acres.

Comparison between 1586 (map V) and 1842 (map VI) shows that Andrews' fields (coloured blue) correspond very closely to those held by the three farms in Tudor times (coloured blue, brown and pale green).

The sales catalogue of the Harpsden Court Estate of 1851 described Hunt's Farm as the "homestead with house, walled yard, barn, stabling and cart lodge. Nearby is a barn, also held with the farm, and another homestead, known as Harpsden Green Farm, consisting of two substantial cottages, barn and shed" (13).

This is the last reference to the farm of Richard Nuttkyne. There is no sign of it on the first 25" OS map of 1879, but the present farmer (Mrs. de Pass) recalls a well there in the corner of the field. None of the other remaining buildings around the green are any longer in farming use.

The name of Hunt's Farm must have been given to it in the seventeenth century, when the family name appears frequently in the parish registers. There is also an inventory for John Hunt, yeoman of 1652, which is unfortunately too damaged to be useful for identification of room numbers. The hearth tax returns of 1665 name two John Hunts, with one and three hearths respectively. (14) The Hunt family continued in the Harpsden records as substantial farmers at least until 1720 when the widow Martha Hunt left her leasehold estate to her daughter Hester Hunt. In 1744 Daniels Piercy, yeoman, held a 14 years lease for Runt's Farm.(15) By 1785 Mary Piercy farmed both Hunt's and Harpsden Green farms according to the Land Tax Assessment (16).

It is very likely, that the John Wydmore of 1586 was the same as the one who died in 1594. At a court baron in 1577 (17) he had been given a new tenure for three lives to be held jointly with his wife Johane and son Richard. He took over a messuage and one virgate from his mother Alicia and father Petri Widmore. In his will he did not refer to the farmhouse, but we know that he had a large family and that his main concern was the growing of barley. He left a total of 13 quarters to his eight children, as well as owing 8 quarters to other people.

It is a pity that of the middle farm of John Payse nothing but a barn remains. In his will of 1592, he talked about his furniture in the hall, in the loft and at the stair head, giving us some idea of what his house looked like. The mention of stairs is of particular interest, as these were probably still rare. M. Havinden in his analysis of 259 Oxfordshire inventories up to 1590 only found stairs mentioned twice. This of course does not mean that ladders were still in universal use. Stairs as an integral part of the house would only be mentioned in connection with other household items (18). John Payse appears to have left all his household goods, livestock and grain to his six children and grand-children, and in so doing showed that his small farm supported a flock of at least 14 sheep and three cattle, and that he grew wheat and barley.

We know even less of Richard Nuttkyne's farm, although it only disappeared after 1851. At this time, it was subdivided into two cottages and no longer a working farm (19). In 1577 a Ricus Nutkyn and Helen his wife together with one Jacobus Smyth had taken a lease for three lives for one messuage and one virgate (20). The inventory total in 1608 of Richard Nuttkyne, senior, was£ 16.18.4 (no details given) and the deceased clearly belonged to the lower income bracket of Harpsden tenants. He is described as a bricklayer and probably used his trade to supplement the income from his holding, which was small by Chiltern standards. He probably was the same as the Ricus of 1577, as one of his daughters is called Ellynor Smythe and it was common to name a son-in-law in the lease if there were no sons to follow on.

Architectural Evidence (21)

Hunt's farmhouse is a long, narrow building facing south into the foldyard in exactly the same position as the farmhouse did four hundred years ago, with a barn to the right and a brick stable to the left. The front of the house shows a two-storey brick and flint facade with a lower extension to the right. However, the back of the house is of a completely different character. Here the timber-framing has survived and the roof slopes down providing only for attic space upstairs. Two bays of a cruck-framed house survive with a large, formerly external stack on its eastern gable (now rising off-centre through the roof). An extension was added providing a passageway and further accommodation. When the house was subdivided for two labourers' families, probably in the late 19th century, the older and newer parts were again separated and remain in different ownership to this day.

There can be no doubt that the cruck-framed building was there in 1586, as this kind of construction had been largely replaced by box-framed houses by the middle of the 16th century (22).

Hunt's farmhouse, however, was not replaced, but extended with a box--framed structure of ground floor and attic only; and this despite the good size of the farm and the acquisition of the two neighbouring farms by the tenant by at least 1785. The building of the brick and flint front elevation which replaced the timber framing and provided for better head height probably dates from the late 19th century.

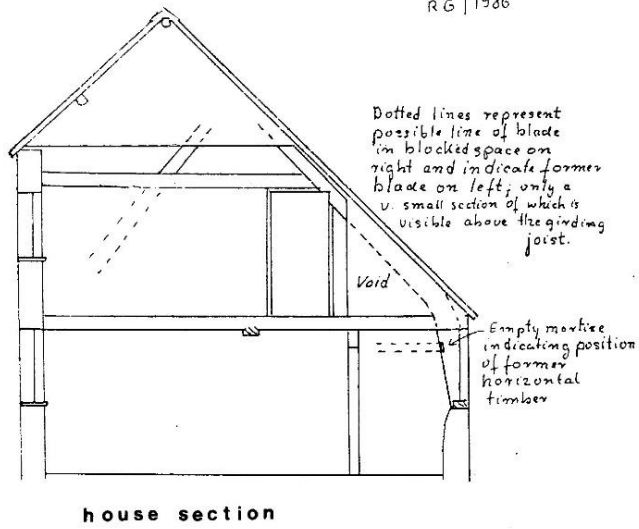
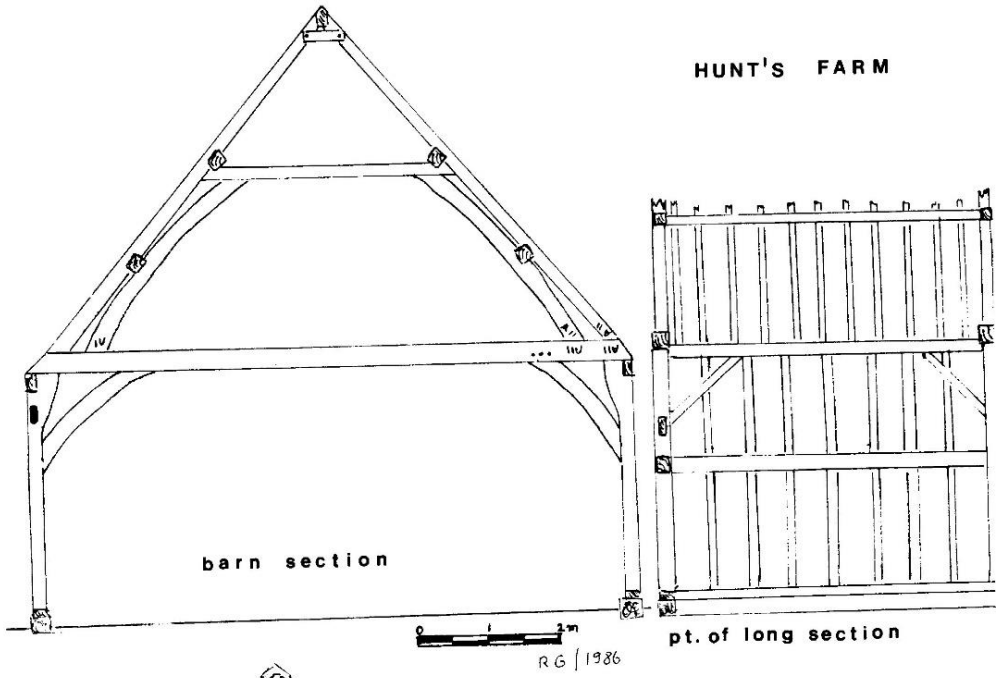
The barn on the right hand side of the foldyard occupies the site of that of 1586, but is of mid to late 18th century date. The construction of the truss is very much like that at Bolney Court Farm, which is dated 1750 with carved date and initials on the tie beam.

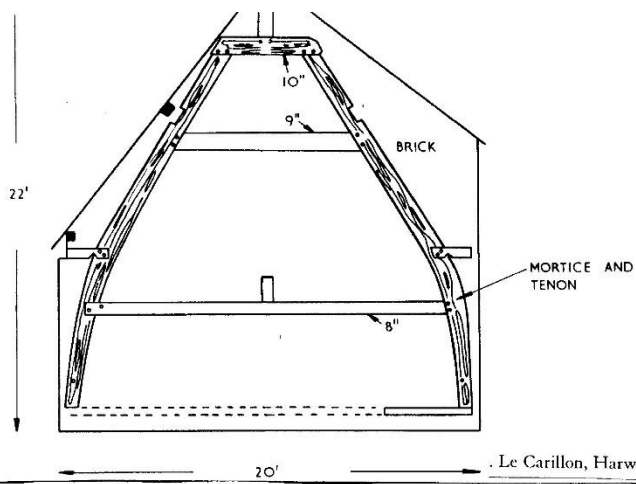
The other surviving building on the green is the solitary barn of the middle farm. It has the traditional queen trusses, and the walls show definite signs that wattle panels preceded the present weatherboarding. It may date back to the late 16th century but is more likely a 17th century replacement. The 1842 map shows that it had a porch. In the 19th century a cart shed was added to its east gable.



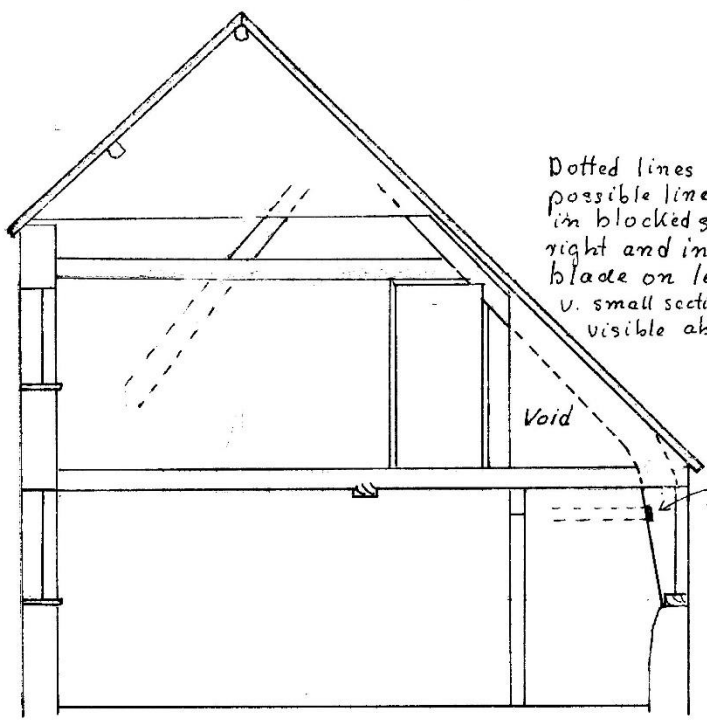
Back view of Hunt's Farmhouse, note the low eaves

HUNT'S FARM





Example of a
Cruck House
radiocarbon
data to ca 1450
(J. M. Fletcher)



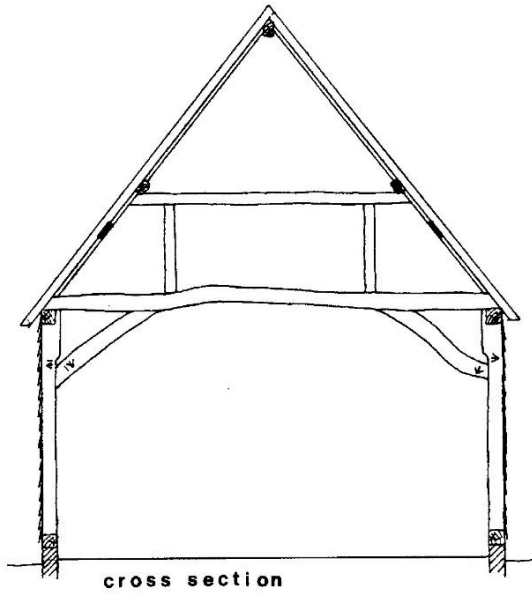
Dotted lines represent possible line of blade in blocked space on right and indicate former blade on left; only a v. small section of which is visible above the girding joist.

Empty mortise indicating pos. of former horizontal timber

HUNTS FARM HARPSDEN

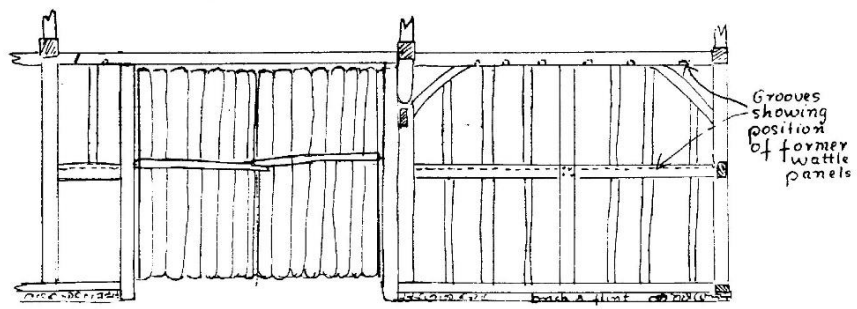
SECTION A-A W.C.C. Dec. '86

SCALE 1/50 0 1 2 m.



WCC/1988

BARN at HUNT'S GREEN



RG/98

pt. of long-section

28

HUNTS GREEN



Front view of
Hunt's
Farmhouse



Hunt's
Farm Barn

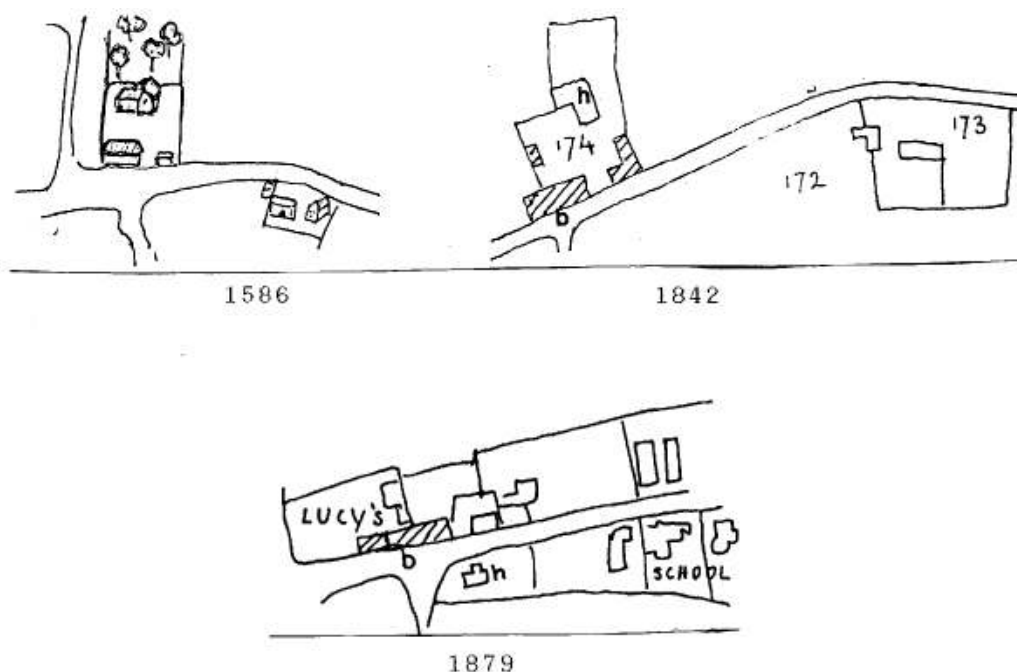


Barn -
solitary
survivor of
the Middle



Hunt's Farmhouse – Eastern Truss
discovered during works in 2020 by new owners

LUCY'S FARM



Lucy's Farm is situated in the valley bottom on the edge of what is now the hamlet of Harpsden. In 1586 it was one of only two farms there, both being tenanted by the Symons. Humphrey Symons' holding on the southern side of the road was the smallest in Harpsden with only 7.6.6.acres. In 1842 it consisted of two cottages, by 1879 it had disappeared. R. Symons' farm on the north side had 98 acres. The buildings were grouped around the foldyard very much as they were in 1842. This is contrary to the observation made by Traw-Smith that the farmyard only developed in the 18th century for the convenience of livestock feeding and manure production. (23) Hunt's Farm too showed a very well laid out yard in 1586.

A Robert Symeon died in 1600 leaving a wife and 11 children. The Symons family continued in the parish registers until the early 18th century. The hearth tax returns of 1664 name a 'widow Symmonds with two hearths' (24), but one cannot say whether this still refers to the same farm or not. The Lucy family, which gave its name to the farm, has left several wills and inventories between 1670 and 1693. They appear to be well-off yeoman farmers, although only the first Richard Lucy is actually called a yeoman. This first Lucy, besides leaving the copy-hold to his son Richard leaves a bequest of £10 to the poor of the parish, a princely sum, which probably ensured that the farm was from then onwards known as Lucy's. However, the only actual connection between the family and the farm comes from the inventory of the above son in 1693. £ 9 is entered for "ploughing Sleeper's Den", a field of 1:3 acres and part of R. Symons' holding in 1586 (No. 32 on the map). Both inventories mention a hall, three chambers and a kitchen. The earlier one had two service rooms; a brewhouse and a loft above the kitchen. The second had three; a drinkhouse, a milkhouse and cheese loft. With seven and eight rooms respectively and values of personal estate at £253 and £169, they are both slightly above the level of the median yeoman according to Portman's survey in the Oxford region (25). The L-shaped building on the 1586 map may have accommodated all these rooms, but it is more likely that the house was extended. It was, however, still of the same shape in 1842 and 1851; by 1879 it had disappeared without

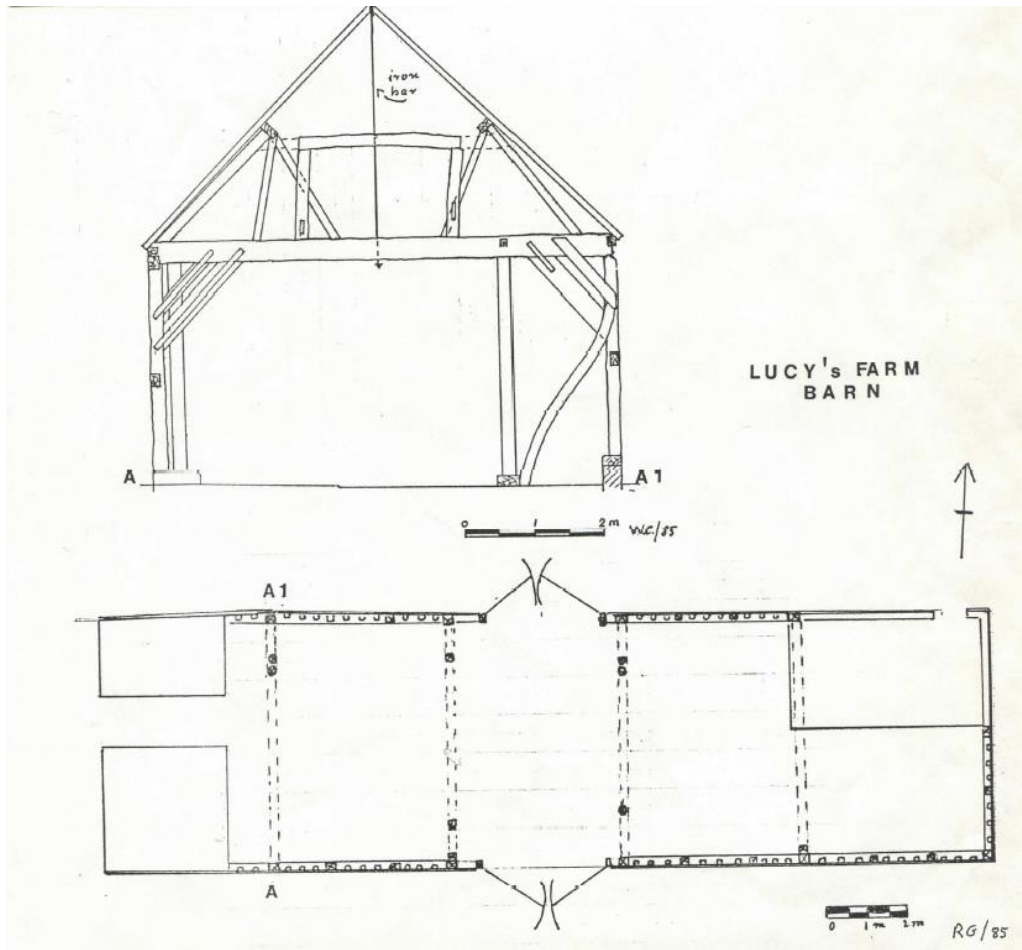
a trace. The Hiscock family, who bought the freehold in 1903, and who still run Lucy's as a dairy farm, first lived in the small house on the opposite side of the road and then built the new farmhouse at the top of the close called Home Piddle in 1586.

In 1842 and 1851 Lucy's was farmed jointly with Harpsden Court Farm by Charles Sarney. The farmhouse was then described as two tenements, one reserved for a gardener or gamekeeper(27).

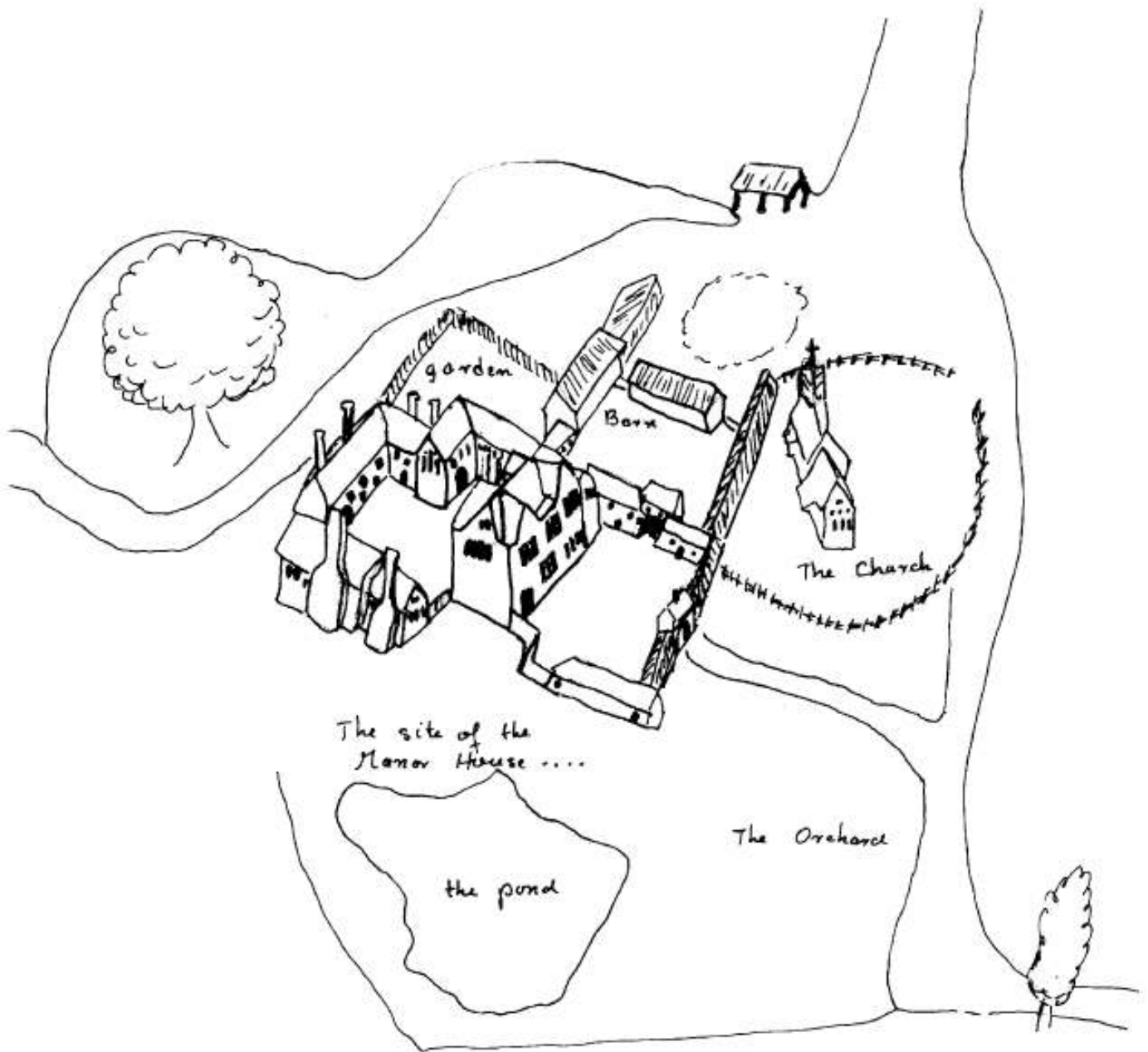
Architectural Evidence (28)

The barn is the only historic building on the farmstead. It is timber-framed and weather-boarded with an old-tile roof. It has 5 bays with a central threshing floor and large double doors. It has been much repaired over the centuries and altered, but there is enough evidence to show that its walls originally had wattle panels, which predates weatherboarding. The roof pitch has sagged due to outward bowing of the walls, but may have been steep enough for the thatch covering which the 1586 barn seemed to have had. It certainly stands in the same place as the Elizabethan one. A cowshed and milking parlour are attached to its western gable, reflecting the dairying business of the Hiscock family.



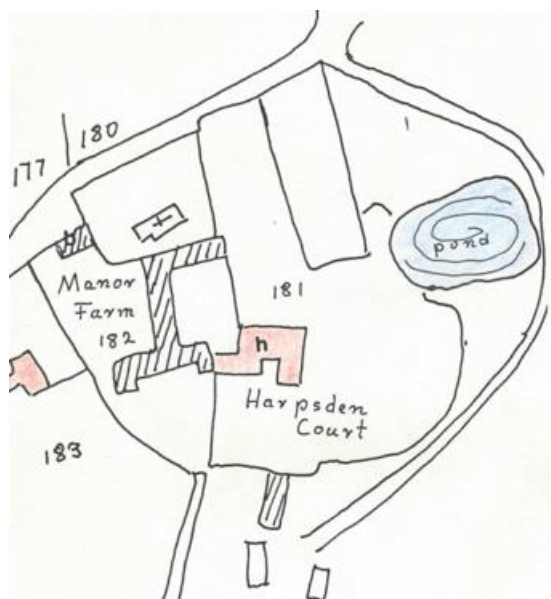


View across field to modern farmhouse

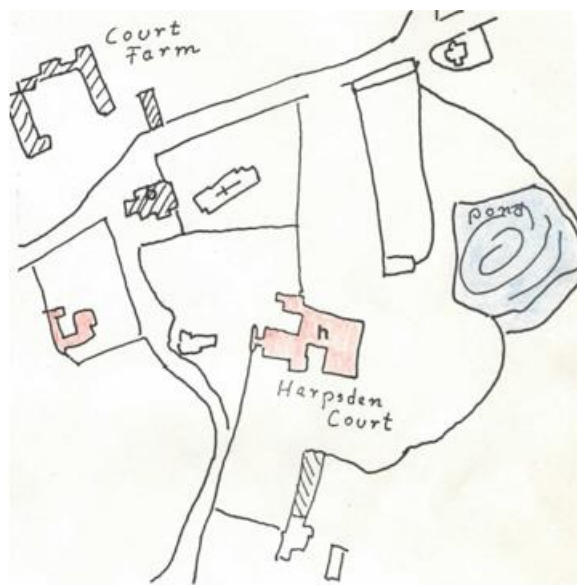


Bird's Eye View of Harpsden Court by John Blagrave of Reading
- Tracing – Original at Oxfordshire Record Office

HARPSDEN COURT FARM



1842



1879

The farm was situated immediately to the west of the manor house. None of the farm buildings surrounding the large yard to the left of the church in 1586 survive (see enclosed photograph of detailed drawing of manorial complex). However, the basic lay-out was still recognisable in 1842. The 1851 Sales Particulars (29) recommend the use of the land on the opposite side of the road for a new farmstead, and this is what we see on the 1879 map and today. Only one barn of the old home farm remains in its original position close to the church. It had been built in 1689 by Henry and Elizabeth Hall of Harpsden Court, who put their initials and date on door frame and tie beam.

Architectural Evidence (30)

The barn consists of three bays with central threshing floor, an aisle and large porch to the south. It has an old, tiled roof and weatherboarding, both probably original, as the owners could surely afford this better and longer lasting material for their new barn. The barn has recently been converted into two dwellings, entering a new phase after three hundred years of agricultural use. Although according to local tradition, it had in the past been put to other uses too, that of baptising the children of the Hall family, who were Presbyterians and did not attend the village church, but appeared regularly in the registers of the Henley Congregational church.

Harpsden Court

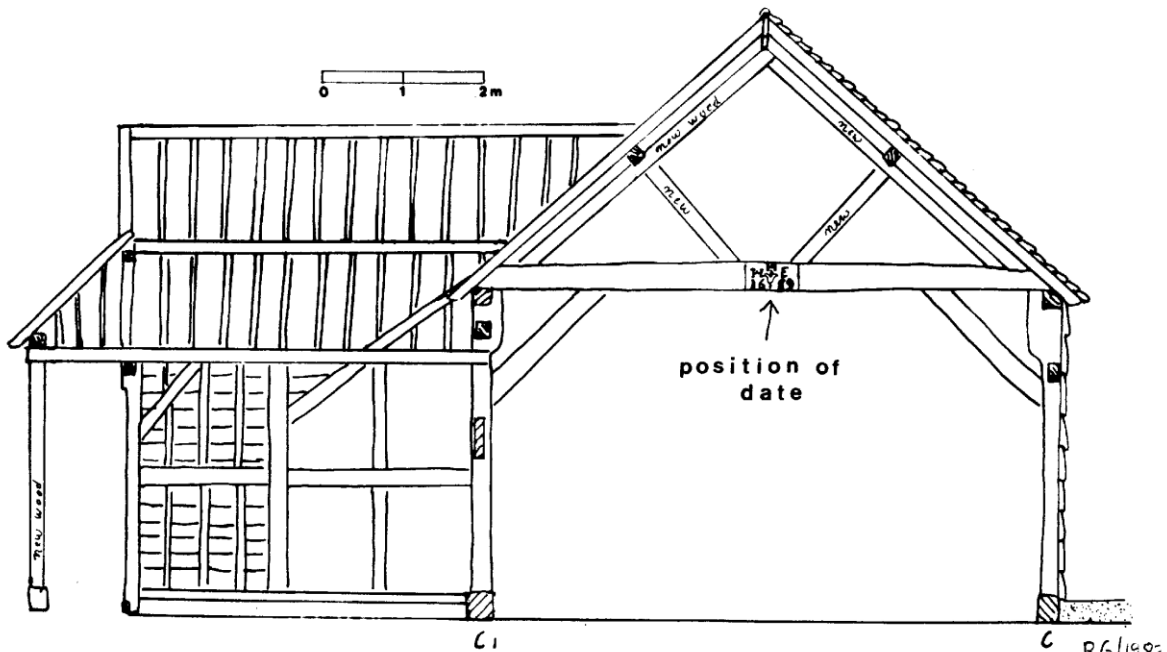


Harpsden Court Farm



M
H W E
J 6 8 9

COURT FARM BARN



RG/1982

36

The manor house too had undergone considerable changes by 1842. The two courtyards in front and behind the main hall range had disappeared and been replaced by two wings. The hall range had been given a new face with neo-gothick windows but remained otherwise intact. Evidence of the probable 13th century origin of the building comes from a first-floor window with a pointed arch. It is now hidden behind panelling in a nearly 0.80 m thick stone wall, but must originally have been an outside wall. This indicates that the first manor house was of quite a different character, possibly a tall, square building, perhaps fortified, or a first-floor hall with storage vaults at ground floor level.



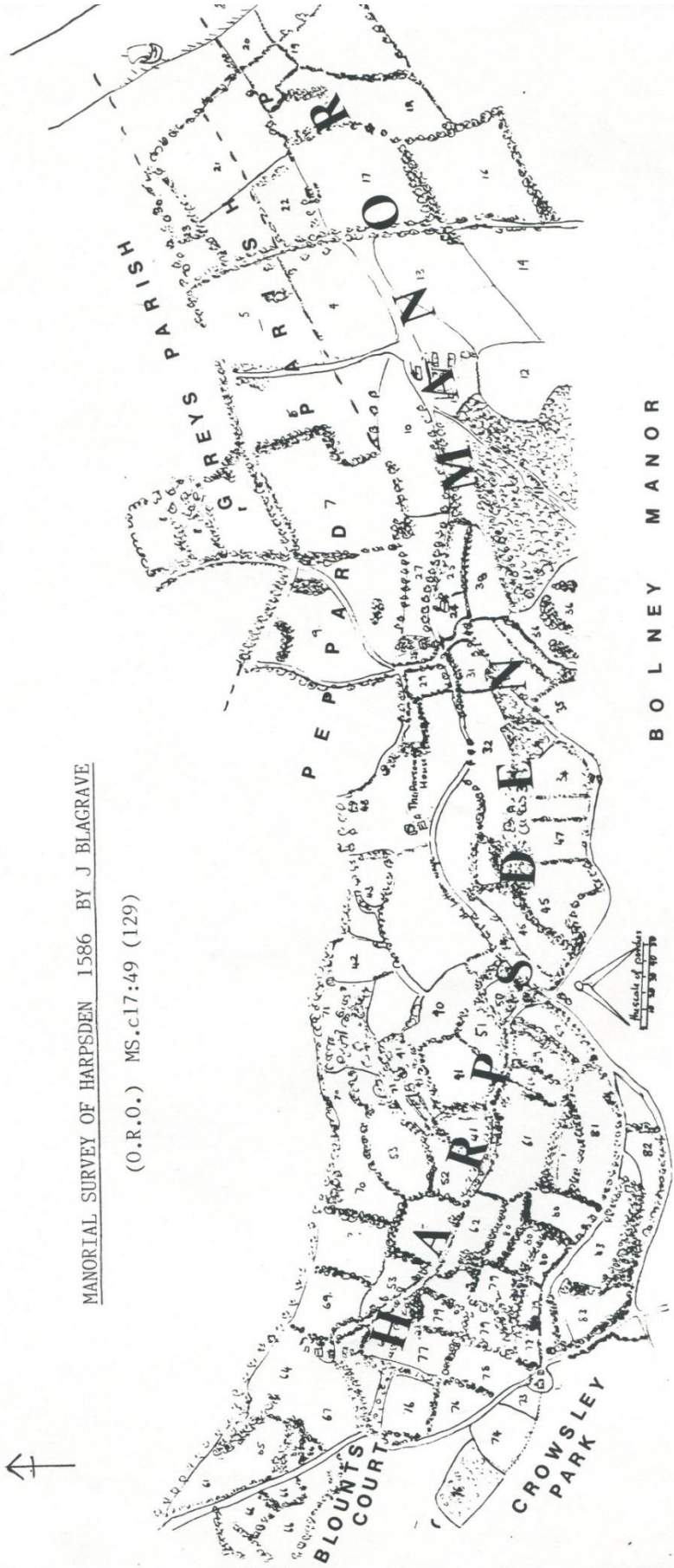
View of window in western part of the hall range, looking east.

The laths and studs on the former outside wall now support the plaster of the adjoining drawing

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- (2) Berkshire Record Office, DER/M3 Harpsden manorial court roll
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- (6) D. Portman, Vernacular Buildings in the Oxford Region in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries', Rural Change and Urban Growth 1500 - 1800 Chalklin and Havinden,(1974) p.160
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- (14) M. B.Weinstock, 'Hearth Tax Returns for Oxfordshire 1665' Oxfordshire Record Society Vol 21 (1940) pp 17,18
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- (24) M.B. Weinstock, Hearth Tax Returns (25)

- (25) D. Portman, (1974) p.149
- (26) Verbal information, P.Hiscock, Lucy's Farm, Harpsden
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- (29) Sales Particulars 1851
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MANORIAL SURVEY OF HARPSDEN 1586 BY J. BLAgrave

(O.R.O.) MS. c17:49 (129)

HOLDINGS IN HARPSDEN AND BOLNEY MANORS

A table comparing the holdings of 18 Oxfordshire manors in the period 1552 - 1609 in M. Havinden's introduction to his "Household and Farm Inventories" (1) shows, that most of the eight holdings in Harpsden were rather larger than was common in Oxfordshire at that time.

Out of a total number of 496 tenants in the 18 manors surveyed 16.5 % had holdings of up to 5 acres, 27 % between 5 - 20 acres, 43.3 % between 20 - 80 acres, and 13.1 % had holdings over 80 acres.

Harpsden had no tenant with less than 5 acres, one had 7 acres, four had between 31 and 78 acres, and another four had between 98 and 520 acres. (For exact details see copy of 1586 terrier in appendix). This seems to show a huge discrepancy with the rest of Oxfordshire, but has to be considered in the local context of Chiltern farming, where holdings tended to be large to compensate for poor soil and hilly terrain.

Stoke Basset and Checkendon, two other Chiltern manors with eight and seven holdings respectively, serve for comparison (2).

Parish	Tenants	Sizes of Holdings...			
		1-5 a.	5-20 a.	20-80 a.	over 80a
Harpsden	8	-	1 (10%)	3 (40%)	4 (50%)
Stoke Basset	8	1 (10%)	-	4 (50%)	3 (40%)
Checkendon	7	1 (14.5%)	2 (28.5%)	2 (28.5%)	2 (28.5%)

The demesne farm of 520.4.10 acres was situated on the most valuable arable and meadow land on the Thames flood plain (see map V). This is in keeping with evidence from other studies of Chiltern manors by Roden (3).

By 1842 Harpsden manor had just five tenants and only the park and woodland were still kept in hand. Each of the tenants held two farms. The large demesne had been split into 3 farms: Greys Farm, almost in Henley at the eastern end of Rotherfield Greys parish, Harpsden Court Farm, and Sheepphouse Farm. In 1586 this had been just a shelter shed on the edge of Sheepphouse field, but had become a farm in its own right by 1663 at an annual rent of £ 113.15.0, plus £ 2 per acre for "newly ploughed and seeded land". This may refer to the 22 acres called The Moors (No.18 in 1586), which was then the only unploughed field of the land that was to become Sheepphouse Farm (4). By 1851 it was farmed together with Upper Bolney (422 acres), the latter had been purchased by the Halls also in 1663 (5).

In 1851 the estate had reached its maximum extent totalling 1.456 acres. Hunt's and Harpsden Green farms (150 a.) were also farmed jointly, so were Upper and Bottom House (201 a.) and Lucy's and Harpsden Court farms (206 a.) (6).

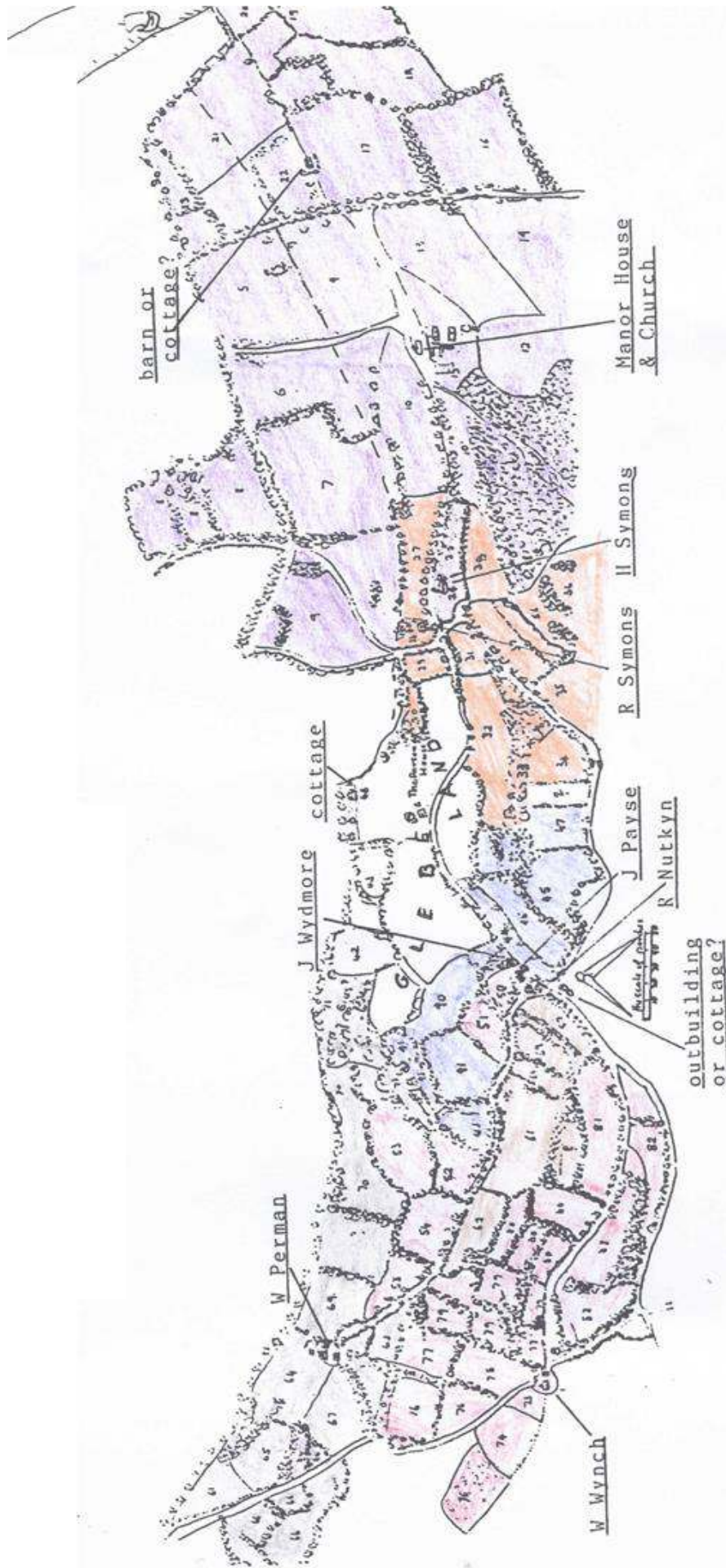
This process of amalgamation can at times be followed through the leases in the Cooper and Caldecott Collection and is illustrated in the chapter Farmsteads and Buildings. By the time of the first available land tax assessment of 1785 (7) the process of letting several farms to one tenant seems to have been well established. This was not due to lack of potential takers but to the general preference of landlords for larger, more prosperous tenants. This type of farmer would be a credit to the estate, pay his rent on time and have the resources to maintain and improve the land. How prosperous such a tenant farmer could be is shown in the Census Returns. In 1851 Charles Sarney of Harpsden Court Farm had 6 house servants, which included a governess for his 4 children (8).

Leases had been replacing copyhold tenancies throughout the seventeenth century. While sixteenth century wills and court rolls refer frequently to copyholds for three lives and to entry fines, by 1670 Richard Lucy's bequest of his copyhold to his son is unusual. But long leases and security of tenure seem to have been the rule, as these are frequently left to relatives (e.g. W.Pearman, will 1664; M.Hunt, will 1720; R.Haward, will 1719).

After the sale of Harpsden Manor had been agreed in 1855 between J.F. Hodges of Bolney Court (which his family had held since the middle of the eighteenth century) and the trustees of Thomas Hall, deceased, the remaining tenant farmers seem to have disappeared. The 1881 Census Returns show that farm bailiffs lived at Upper House and Harpsden Court farms. The latter had moved across the road by then to a new large yard surrounded by brick stables and barns. Magistrate and farmer J.F.Hodges, Esq. farmed 1150 acres directly from the home farm at Bolney Court with the help of 32 men, 9 boys and 2 bailiffs while Harpsden Court stood empty (9). Had the new squire been forced to take the farms in hand due to the agricultural depression, which was then setting in or had he been influenced by the spirit of High Farming, which advocated direct farming rather than letting when he first purchased the neighbouring manor?

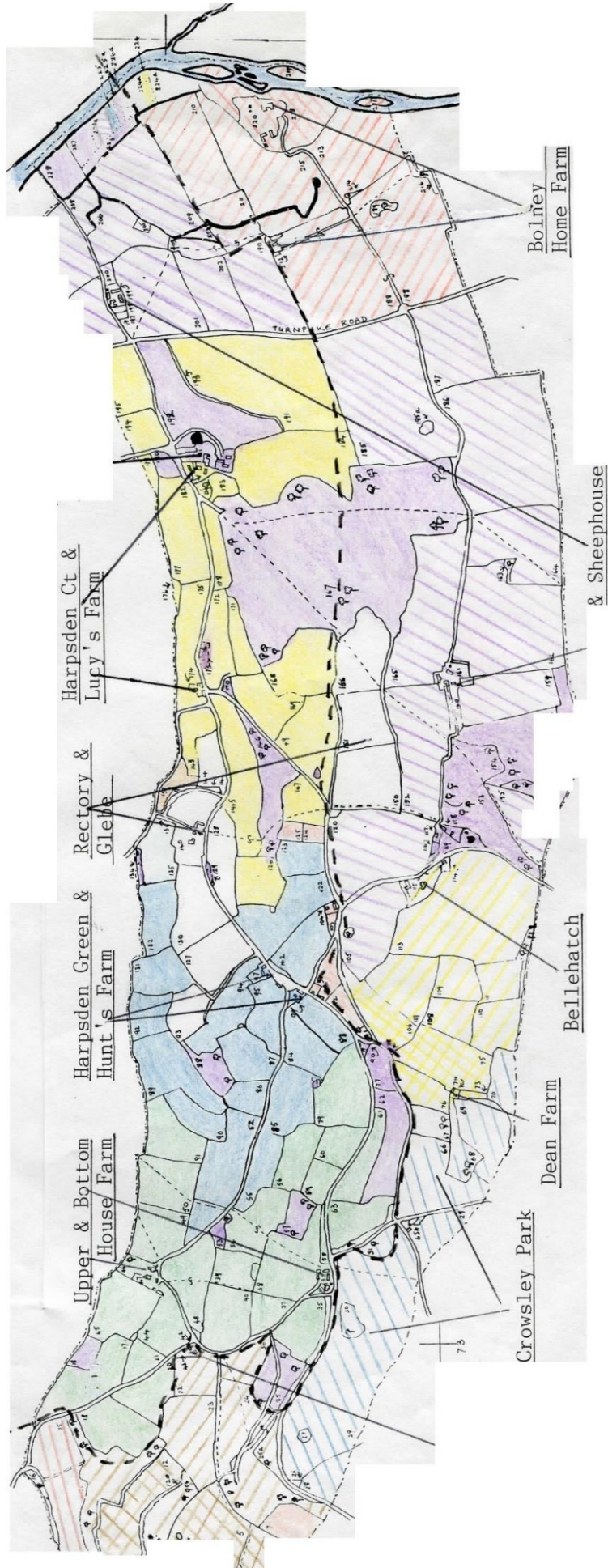
Only Sheeppouse was a working farm in 1881. Farmer Paulin worked the 300 acres with 12 men and several boys; he also employed a children's nurse, a cook and a page. It is not known whether it was a freehold property by then, but it had certainly become one by the end of the century, when it belonged to George Shoreland. It was one of many farms, which this self-made entrepreneur bought up during the Agricultural Depression (10).

Harpsden 1586

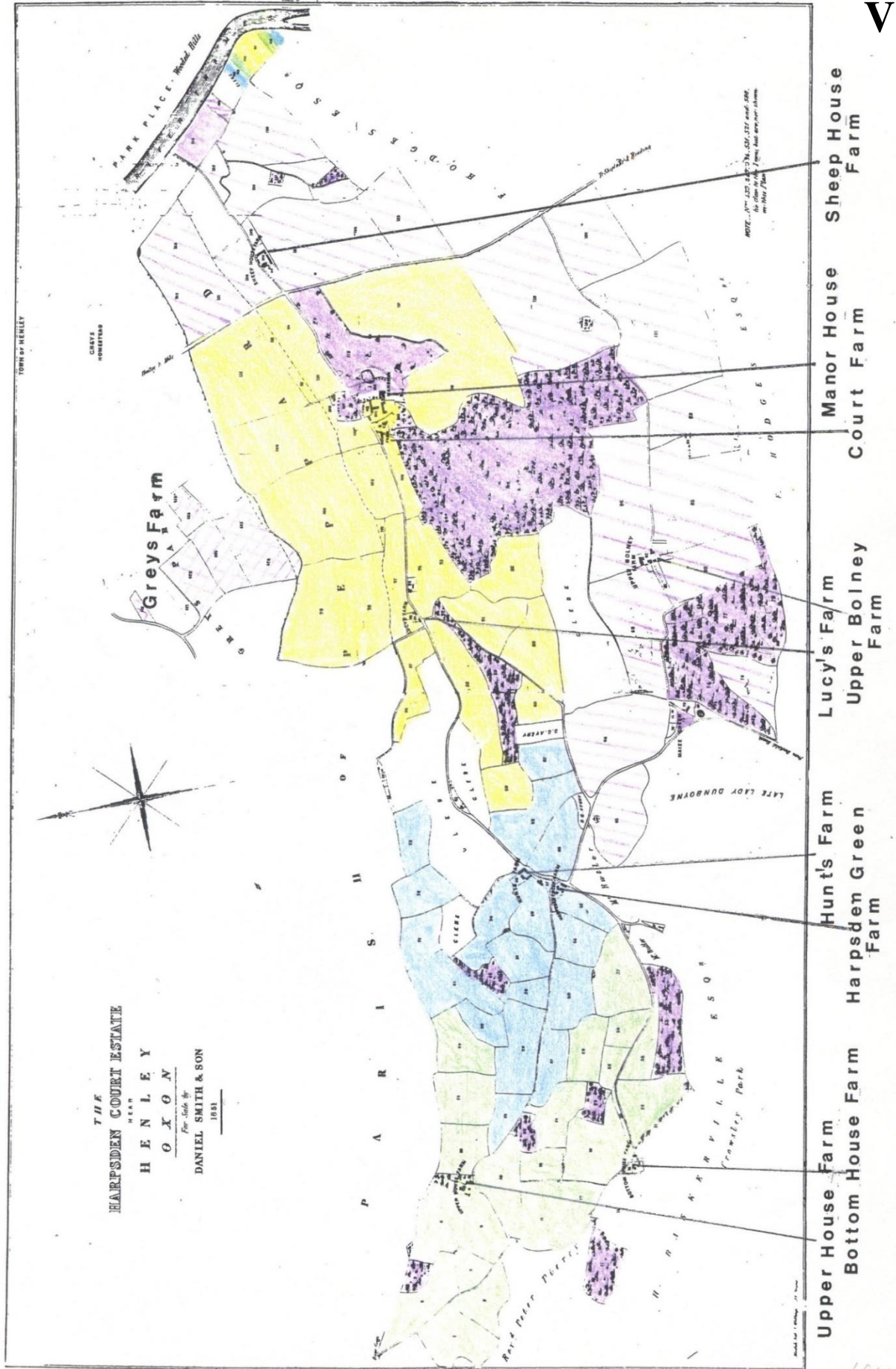


V

Harpsden 1842



Harpsden Sales Map 1851



VII

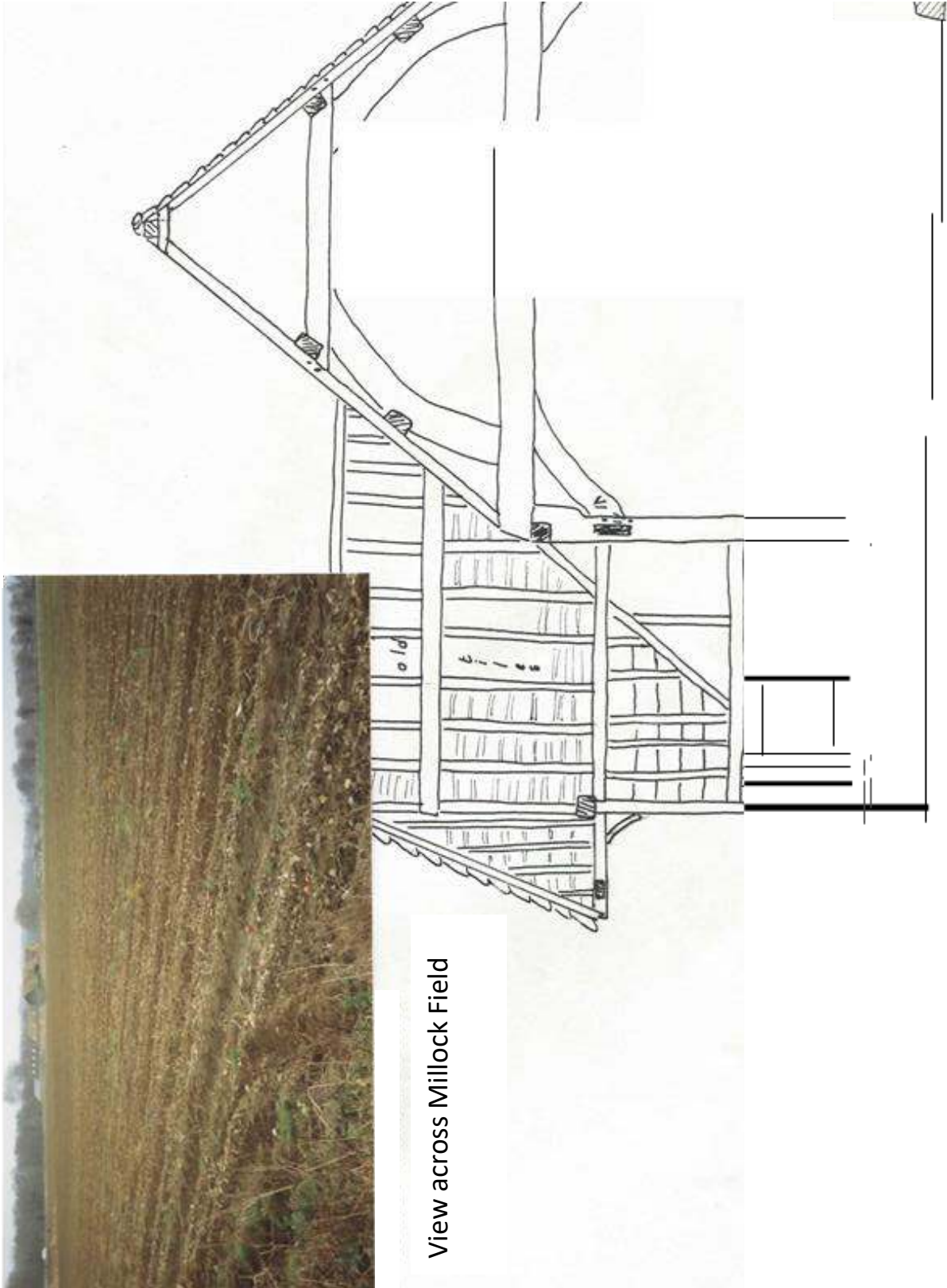
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private collection Oxfordshire R.O.,Misc.OII/4, Sales Particulars of 1851
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- (9) Ibid 1881
- (10) George Shoreland, private collection

Bolney Court Farm



View across Millock Field





The three most important resources of the Chiltern economy

LAND USE

According to Roden the earliest settlements from Roman times had been along the valley bottoms. Ridges and plateaux had been settled only later during the period of medieval expansion by assarting, for which the small and thickly hedged closes testify (1). However, this work on medieval demesne farming did not take him as far south as Harpsden, where two Romano-British farm sites are situated near Upper Bolney (Map II) above the Harpsden valley with a further site at Bix Common, about three miles to the north at a height of 400 feet (OS Map SU 733 853).

This testifies to the great variety of soils in the area, some of the best grain producing ones being situated on the well-drained uplands, while some of the valley land has thin, gravelly soils and is heavily shaded by the wooded slopes. Some field names give away the quality of their soils, e.g., Sleepers Den (No. 32 on map VIII) stretching along the southern side of the valley bottom. Its name implies that it is slow land to produce a crop (2). This was confirmed by local farmer Mr. P.J. Hiscock of Lucy's Farm.

While the small, irregular fields of the western end of Harpsden were probably always enclosed, the large rectangular fields near the river and part of the 520 acre demesne, could have been open fields originally. No.23 is called Gares Gore, which according to J. Field refers to a triangular remnant left over after a rectangular pattern of furlongs had been drawn up (3). The old map certainly seems to show fields 13, 19 and 21 laid out in furlong parcels. The only reference to enclosure in Harpsden comes from "The Domesday of Inclosures, 1517", where the rector is said to have enclosed 60 acres of his glebe in 1515 and allowed buildings to decay (4).

The steep valley sides of Harpsden still bear the beech crop they are best suited for and on which William Ellis commented in great detail in 1741 (5). Beech thrives on well-drained chalk, and it provided timber for firewood, manufacture, and buildings. It and other standard trees, as well as coppice wood, were a very important part of the Chiltern economy. Most of the woodland shown in 1586 is still there today. Some has been replaced with softwood. Many of the thick hedges surrounding small closes have been removed to make the fields larger. Witness to such an event was an agreement of 1744 between B. Hall and his tenant J. Pearman of Upper House Farm. This provided for the grubbing up of 15.3.37 acres of shaws in the area called Stryped Coppice in 1586 (6).

The interest of the landlord in his timber crop is shown in many of the leases. In 1665 Henry Hall leased 36 acres of hazel, ash, willow, and maple underwood of up to two years' growth to a hoopmaker of neighbouring Shiplake for £ 85 p.a. (7). A considerable sum, since this refers only to lops of pollards, not to standards. In another lease of 1720 for Hunt's Farm "all land is included, except the standing timber" (B). Comparison of the 1842 maps on land-use and holdings (maps VI and IX) shows that virtually all woodland was kept in hand, while the

arable and pasture were let. 208 acres of woodland were still in hand when the sales schedule was drawn up in 1855 (see copy in Appendix G).

Several inventories also referred to timber blocks, loads of billets, and boards (William Towers, 1603 and S. Sewen, 1631), while Thomas Towers' will of 1567 specified the use of woods and underwoods to the value of £20 for the use of one of his sons.

We do not know whether the pigs kept by 14 out of the 15 seventeenth century farmers for whom we have inventories, were still fed on the beechmast, which was an important part of medieval woodland husbandry, and which was also much praised by William Ellis. He said that "the mast is plentiful every second or third year and we farmers generally get our hogs almost half fattend before we put them up for bacon" (B).

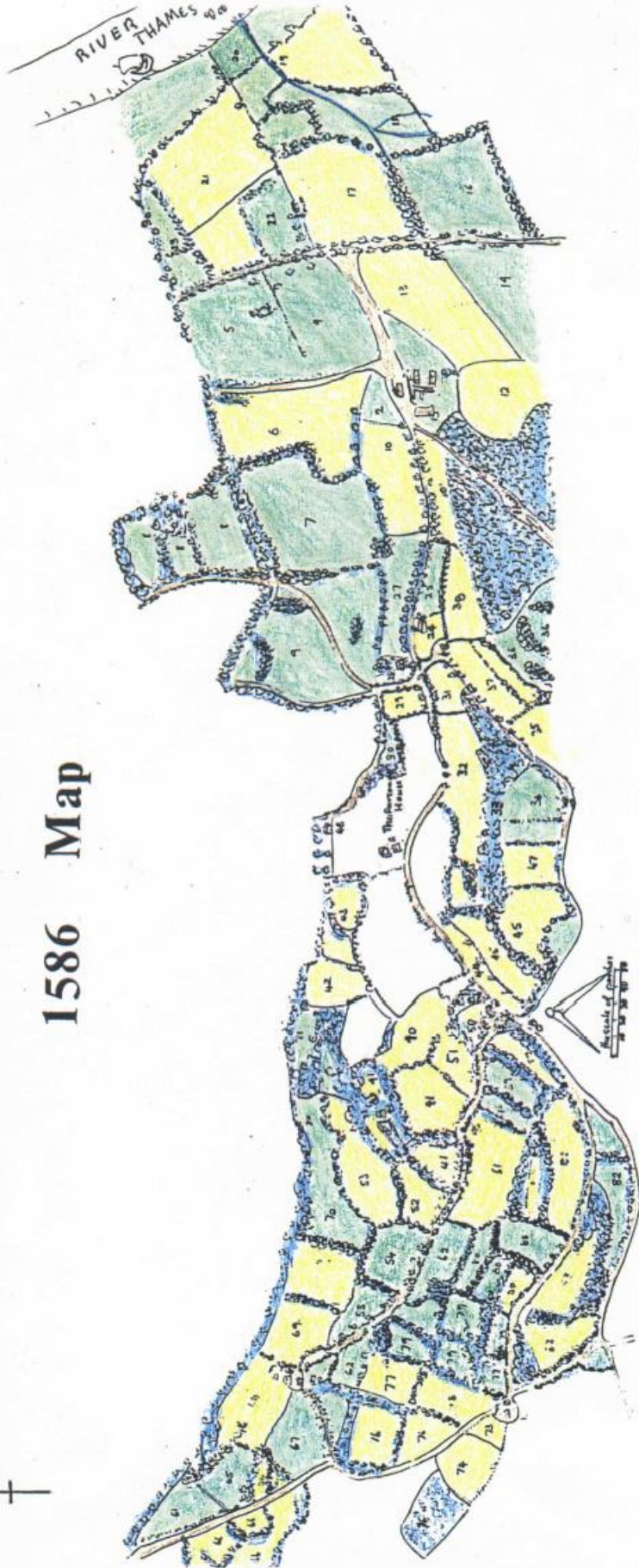
Harpsden farmers were certainly well above the average as far as pig keeping in the Oxfordshire Chilterns is concerned, (see Table II). 70% had more than 6 pigs, while Havinden's larger sample showed that only 20% had as many pigs and only 74% of the farmers were pig keepers compared with Harpsden's 93%.

However, his sample covers the period from 1660 to 1730, while the Harpsden sample starts in 1603 and ends in 1693 (10). Apart from the occasional beech mast, pigs were perhaps fed on peas and vetches, kitchen refuse and whey from the dairy. Seven references are made to dairies, cheese lofts and presses, and most inventories contain the above fodder crops, which may equally have been used to feed the other livestock. Nowhere is there yet a mention of the new crops, such as rye grass, sainfoin, clover or turnips. The latter had been introduced into the Chilterns by the 1670s according to Ellis (11), but probably took a long time to become more generally established.

Cattle were kept by most farmers, but not in large numbers to suggest intensive breeding or dairying, although Richard Lucy's 41 cheeses in the loft were probably not all for home consumption (see inventory copy in appendix E). The general picture corresponds with Havinden's findings (12). Cow cattle and bullocks are mostly mentioned, but no oxen. Most farmers kept enough horses (between three and six on average) to do the ploughing and carting. The light and stony Chiltern soil probably being responsible for the preference for horses rather than oxen. One yeoman only, Henry Champion, who died in 1684, with £624 the wealthiest farmer of the parish, had £60 worth of horses, which suggests that he either bred or bought them for rearing before selling them on. Apart from the increasing importance of the horse on the farm it was the only means of traction for overland transport for goods as well as people.



1586 Map



land-use



arable



pasture, meadow

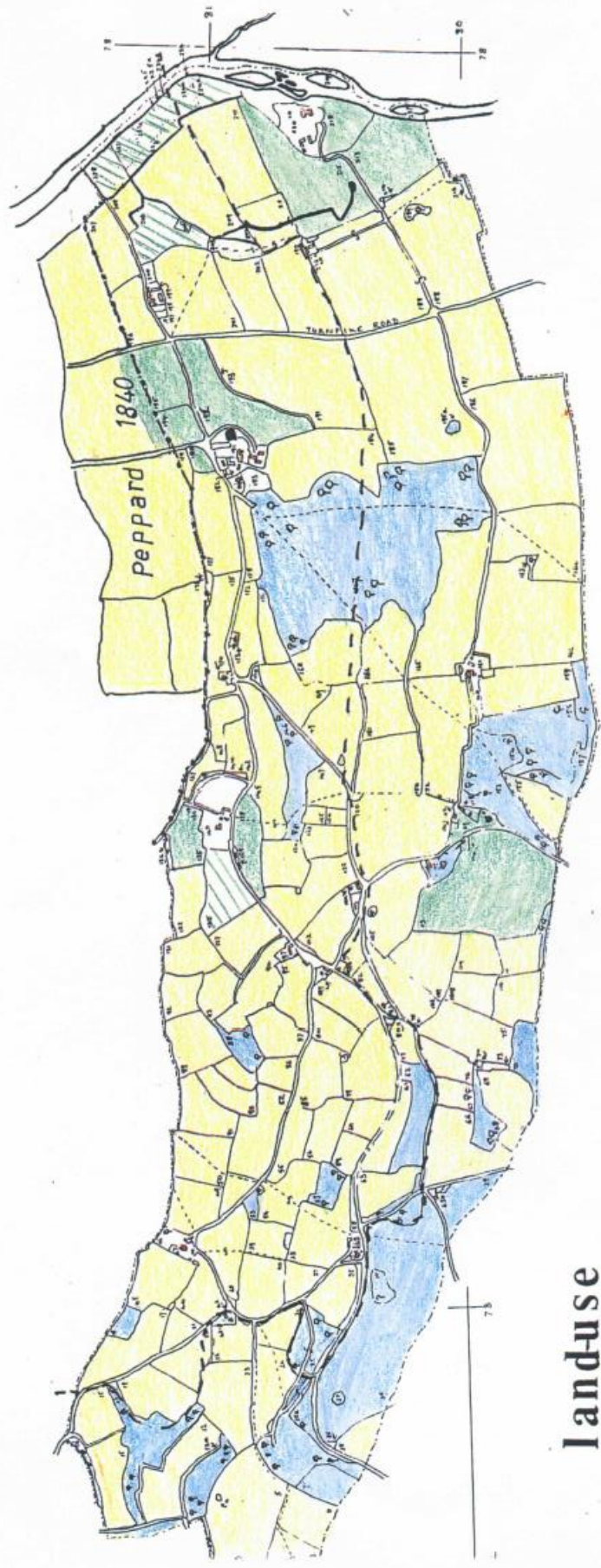


woods, hedges



VIII

Harpsden Tithe Map 1842



land-use



arable



woodland



pasture



meadow

Area north of this line represents
extent of Harpsden Manor in 1586

IX



This had become particularly important during the Civil War, when horse prices had shot up to £6 and £7 for breeding mares (13). We do not know what £60 worth of horses meant in 1684, but two references in the Harpsden Parish Registers made in 1689 concerning the violent removal of horses belonging to the rector quote widely divergent prices: "one bay gelding called Wagg, worth £12 in May, and 2 horses worth £5/10/0 in November" (14). Perhaps Wagg had been the rector's favourite mount and the grievance felt at his loss is reflected in the price.

But what about the sheep that played such an important part in districts of light and well-drained soil? The Chilterns are designated a sheep-corn husbandry region, but with the emphasis on cereal production (15). Sheep and barley had been the two most popular bequests left in the sixteenth century wills in Harpsden, with malt generally being the most valuable item. In 1577 Bastian Reyne provided for his under-age children out of the income derived from 40 quarters of malt, a very substantial amount. Sheep and lambs were left more often than any other livestock (see Table I). In the 17th century inventories 12 out of 15 farmers kept sheep. This 80% is slightly above Havinden's 71% average spanning 1580 to 1730 (16). There is not enough material for Harpsden to say whether sheep keeping was decreasing in the 17th century, as it did in many other parts of the country, but the evidence for increased flock sizes after 1650 is considerable. They range from circa 50 to 220 and produce a median flock of 93 sheep (see Table II). At least up to 1700 sheep were still important in Harpsden for folding on the arable.

The cereal figures in the 17th century inventories are usually not specified and are too vague to see whether general cultivation trends are followed. While in the south-west Chilterns the cultivation of rye, maslin and oats fell sharply, the cultivated acreage of wheat rose from 19 to 34% and that of barley from 32 to 34% (17). The constant food demand from the capital for its increasing population guaranteed reasonable grain prices for Chiltern farmers despite the long agricultural depression between 1650 to 1740.

Comparison between the maps of 1586 and 1842 apparently shows a dramatic change from mixed farming to predominantly arable (see maps VIII and IX) on the Harpsden manor. In 1586 48% of the cultivated area was apparently rough grazing or meadows, 52% was ploughed or had crops growing on it. By 1842 92% was classed as arable. This was of course a time when the English population was still increasing fast, and when imports were restricted by the Corn Laws. It was also the period of High Farming, when greater production could be achieved not only through efficient crop rotation but also imported and artificial fertilizers, so that it was possible to bring much more marginal land under the plough (18). Many more animals were now stall-fed, and the increase in arable as against pasture does not tell us how much of it was devoted to fodder crops rather than cereal production.

However, the large barns dating from the second half of the 18th century at Bolney Court farm, Sheephouse, Upper Bolney, Runt's and King's farms confirm the trend for increased grain production.

Arthur Young in his 'General View' in 1813 often referred to fodder crops such as swedes, turnips and clover when he discussed the rotation courses with Mr. Freeman of Fawley Court, near Henley, or the benefit of sheep folding with his two Northumbrian stewards. He did not mention either of the Harpsden manors but referred to a Mr. Percy near Henley who farmed on gravelly loam and who used an eight-course rotation, growing wheat, barley, clover, oats and turnips. He took care of growing clover only once in 8 years to stop the land from "growing sick of it" (19). This Mr. Percy might well have farmed the former demesne on the best gravelly loams in Harpsden, because there are Piercies at Sheephouse and Harpsden Court farms in the late 18th and early 19th centuries (20).

Arthur Young also made several references to the practice of chalking and liming, with Mr. Sarney of Soundess near Nettlebed making his own lime in his kiln on the edge of the wood. Something his father had seen in Kent (21). However, spreading lime had been an old practice by then and much advocated by agricultural writers in the 17th century. Walter Blith had declared in 1652 "whole countries formerly barren, now grow corn because of lime", and that "land was now worth £ 5 - £ 6 an acre" (22). The many chalk pits in Harpsden on the 1879 25" map certainly show that chalking and liming were widespread. Mr. Hiscock confirms that he still uses lime to neutralize the acidity of the soil thus allowing manure to be used to its best advantage. Although farmers no longer make their own lime, it still comes from a local kiln at nearby Dunsden.



Kings Farm farmhouse



Kings Farm converted barn

SHEEPHOUSE FARM



18th century
farmhouse

'Kings Farm' converted barn



View of central
barn across
former foldyard

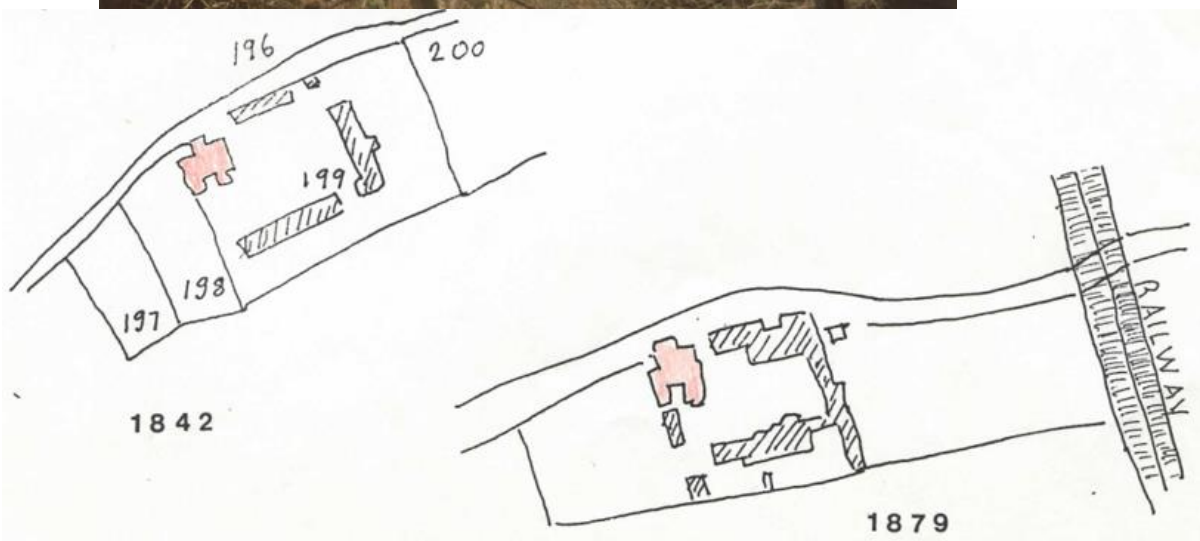


TABLE I
WILLS (Agricultural Bequests)

DATE	NAME AND STATUS	TOTAL VALUE OF INVENTORY	CORN			LIVESTOCK			OTHER
			WHEAT/ RYE	MALT/ BARLEY	OTHER	LAMBS/ SHEEP	CATTLE	HORSES	
1547	J Schanke alias Brightwelton	£13, 6, 4	2 bushels Wheat	2 quarters Barley		6 to Church			
1551	H Kene -	£19, 2, 2,		7 quarters Barley		33	5	6	
1562	R Cooper Husbandman	-				4			
1567	Th Towers -	£50, 10, 2				12	1		£20 of wood and underwood
1572	W Keyne -	£41, 11, 0				11 sheep 11 lambs	1		1 swarm of bees 29 lb wool 12 lb yarn
1577	B Kyne Husbandman	£114, 3, 0		40 quarters Malt					
1592	J Payse -	£22, 16, 0	12 bushels Wheat	3 quarters and 4 bushels Barley		16	3		
1593	A Towers Widow	£40, 16, 6	Sown Corn	2 quarters Malt					
1595	J Wymore -	-	250 lb Rye	21 quarters Barley					
1599	W Pearman -	-		Half quarter Barley		2	2		
1606	W Keene Yeoman	-			4 bushels Peas	Some	1		

TABLE I
INVENTORIES (Agricultural Goods)

DATE	NAME AND STATUS	TOTAL VALUE OF INVENTORY	CORN (given in £ or quantity)			LIVESTOCK (£s or numbers)					OTHER
			Wheat/ Rye	Barley	Fodder Crops	Horses	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Other	
1603 Oct	W Towers -	£52 15 10	Corn £18,0,0		Hay £4,0,0	4	3		14	15/- Bees 7/- Hens	Billets, Blocks, Boards £1,15,0 Hemp 1/6
1630 Oct	Th Towers Yeoman	£151,2,4	Corn £56,13,0		Hay £5,00	6	11	15	15	Poultry Bees Geese Ducks 27/4	Heap 2/6 Hops £3
1633 June	W Jennings Labourer	£19,19,10	£2	£2			1	4	2	3 Bee Hives 6/8	
1641 -	J Jennings Widow	£10,8,8			Pease 10/-			2			
1648 July	I Towers Widow	£128,17,8	£33,6,8	£32,0,0	Vetches Oats Peas £7,12,0	3	9		£5	Fowl 6/-	
1652 Sept	J Hunt Yeoman	£151,11,0	£60	£3	Hay £12	£16	7	£7	£4	Fowl 10/-	
1664 Oct	W Pearman Yeoman	£407,0,0	Corn £48	Wheat & Barley £65	Peas & Barley £52	£24	Cows £20	£21	£10	Bees Poultry 10/-	
1667 April	R Hutton -	£124,16,6	7 Quart Wheat 16 Quart Rye	9 Quart	7 Quart Pease Vetch Dills 5 Quart Oats	6	9	71	11		

TABLE II continued

DATE	NAME AND STATUS	TOTAL VALUE OF INVENTORY	CORN (given in £ or quantity)		Fodder Crops	LIVESTOCK (£s or numbers)					OTHER
			Wheat/Rye	Barley		Horses	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Other	
1667 Dec	Th Roles Husbandman	£22,1,0	£4,0,0					4	2		
1672 April	R Lucie Yeoman	£253,8,6	£93,1,0	Malt £12	Horse- neat £3,4,0	£12,0,0	£18,5,0	Sheep and lambs £27,0,0	£4,10,0		
1681 April	M Pearnay Widow	£128,0,0	£28	£35	Oats Peas £10	3	8	£14	4		
1683 June	H Champion Yeoman	£623,9,10	£177,10,0	£130,5,0	Peas Vetches Hay £32	£60	£30	£55	£10		
1686 Nov	Th Paize Husbandman	£52,19,2	£17,0,0			3	2	3	3		
1693 Sept	R Lucy -	£169,5,10	£23	£35	Oats Dills Peas £6,10,0	4	4		5	40 fowl	£30 stock of wood
1631 Feb	S Seven Yeoman of Henley	£254,0,0 (£91,10,0 in Harpsden)	5 Quarters	7 Quarters (plus 60 quarters of malt and barley in loft in Henley)		1	10	132	11		20 loads of billets £5 Wool £1

References:

- (1) D. Roden & A.R.H. Baker, *Field Systems of the Chiltern Hills & Kent* (1966) p. 85
- (2) John Field, *Dictionary of English Fieldnames* (1972) p.207
- (3) *Ibid.*
- (4) J. Leadam, *The Domesday of Inclosures 1517-1518* (1897) pp. 378, 379
- (5) W. Ellis, *The Timber Tree Improved* (1741) p.25
- (6) Oxfordshire R.O., *Ms DD Cooper & Caldecott* c 33
- (7) *Ibid.* c 35 (5)
- (8) *Ibid.* c 34 (5)
- (9) W. Ellis *Chiltern and Vale Farming Explained* (1733) pp. 32, 33
- (10) M. A. Havinden *The Rural Economy of Oxfordshire 1580 - 1730*
Ms B Litt Thesis (1961) p. 258
- (11) *Ibid.* p. 254
- (12) *Ibid.* table 44
- (13) P. Edwards, *The Horse Trade of Tudor and Stuart England* (1988) p. 14
- (14) Oxfordshire R.O., *Harpsden Parish Registers*, p.113
- (15) J.R. Wordie, *The South and South-West' Agrarian History of England and Wales in*
The Vol. V Pt I ed. J. Thirsk, (1984) p.327
- (16) M.A. Havinden, (1961), table 43
- (17) J.R. Wordie, (1984) p.327
- (18) J.D Chambers & G.E. Mingay, *The Agricultural Revolution 1750 – 1880* (1966) p.170
- (19) A. Young, *General View of the Agriculture of Oxfordshire* (1813) pp.130,120,175
- (20) Oxfordshire R.O., *Land Tax Assessments of 1785 to 1812*
- (21) A. Young, (1813) p.262
- (22) W. Blith, *The English Improver Improved* (1652) pp.132, 133

POPULATION

The first Census Returns of 1801 give a figure of 173 inhabitants for Harpsden (1). The first great population count of 1086 had been less precise. But we know that the two manors combined, which probably roughly correspond with the area of Harpsden parish, had 27 villagers and smallholders as well as 7 slaves. These and their families may have added up to about 120 to 150 people, depending on which multiplier is used.

Just before the Black Death Edward III's Inquisition of the Ninth in 1340/41 gives us the names of twelve taxpayers, but only of those in Harpsden Manor. This number seem to correspond to the twelve villanii of Domesday Harpsden. If an expansion had taken place in the intervening period, it has left only tentative signs, i.e. the tax assessed in 1342 on corn, wool and lambs was only 40 s. compared with the 106/8 s. assessment in 1291 on agricultural goods for the Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV (2). Unfortunately, no Poll Tax figures survive from 1377 - 81 to enable us to see how Harpsden fared during the pestilences of the fourteenth century. However, the chapelry of Bolney was united with that of Harpsden in 1453 indicating a population decline (3). The next available data are those of the 1525 Lay Subsidy, where after a long period of demographic stagnation seventeen taxpayers were assessed for the two manors (4).

The last decades of the 16th and the first quarter of the 17th century saw a steady increase in the population. Professor Hoskins points to the evidence of wills, where flocks of children and grandchildren appear. The evidence of better housing and better food probably had a cumulative effect as did a drop in age at marriage (5). The Harpsden material confirms this, e.g. Henry Keene left ten children in 1551. In 1572, one of them, William Keyne mentioned seven of his brothers and sisters. His elder brother, Bastian, left nine children in 1575. Another brother, Walter, left five grown-up children and numerous grandchildren in 1610. John Payse's will of 1592 mentions six children and two grandchildren. John Widmore had nine children in 1594. The widow Alse Towers had five adult sons and daughters with twelve grandchildren between them; and Johane and Robert Symmons had twelve children in 1602.

There is little evidence of many of them settling in Harpsden. The Protestation Oath taken by all adult males in 1642 produced 32 signatures, but this would have included quite a few single men, and total number of households are not known (6). The 1665 Hearth Tax mentions only 17 households, but this is generally proving an unreliable source (7), and the actual figure lay probably somewhere in between. By 1738, after a century of stagnating population, the Rev. Thomas Leigh said "I believe it contains about thirty families and there are two families of note" (8).

Where did they live and what was their employment? Engrossment of holdings meant that few of them were farmers, but an increasing number of empty farms accommodated labourers' families. And almost every household had one or more lodgers. The 1881 Census Returns show that 95% of the men worked as agricultural labourers, farm servants, game keepers, woodsmen or gardeners. Apart from these there were a blacksmith, a carpenter and a cordwainer. The latter trade had been practiced since at least 1727 by the Doney family and their cottage, to which a 99-year lease at 5 s. per annum refers (9), still exists at Harpsden Bottom. It is now called 'Old Rectory Cottage' and is the last of several built on narrow plots of land along the edge of the Bottom Way in the manner of squatters' cottages.

Two other small cottages are situated on Perseverance Hill and six around May's Green on the edge of some woodlands at Upper Bolney. Here a bricklayer is mentioned in a lease granted by H. Hall in 1727 (10). Other references to trades come from the probate material. Richard Nutkyn had also been a bricklayer, John Round and William Freebody had been fishermen. The evidence from the Census Returns for an overwhelmingly agricultural parish seems to hold good also for the preceding centuries. The proximity of Henley probably prevented any other trades from becoming established here. The only females occupied other than as house servants were a launderess and a staymaker in 1851. This laundry still existed in 1881 (11).

By this time 226 people occupied 51 households and several more brick cottages had been built by the estate as well as a school and hall in what is now Harpsden village next to Lucy's Farm. In the 1851 Particulars, nineteen cottages had been included in the sale (12), showing that quite a change had taken place since 1586, when only one or possibly two cottages could be found on the map. Farm workers still used to live-in, and squatters were probably discouraged since there were no large commons nearby as at Peppard or Binfield Heath. The early cottages built along the Bottom Way and around May's Green probably came into being with the connivance of the lords of the respective manors, although no cottage had the statutory 4 acres of land, by which Elizabethan legislation had tried to discourage indiscriminate settlement.

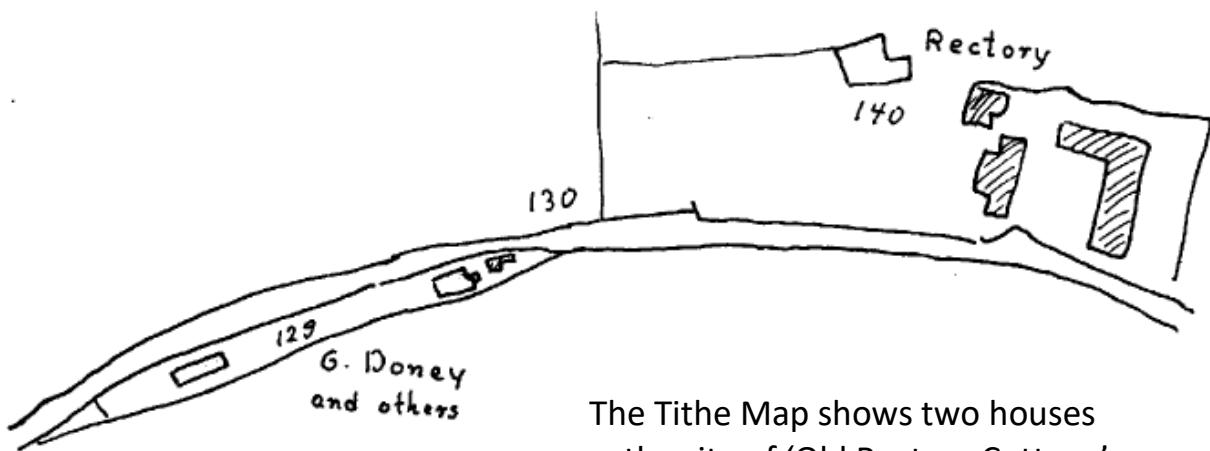
The population increase in the nineteenth century from 173 in 1801 to 226 in 1881 does not, however, reflect the national demographic growth of over 150 % (13) and shows that the surplus population did not settle on the land.



'Old Rectory' and outbuildings, south view



'Old Rectory Cottage', east gable & modern extension



The Tithe Map shows two houses on the site of 'Old Rectory Cottage'

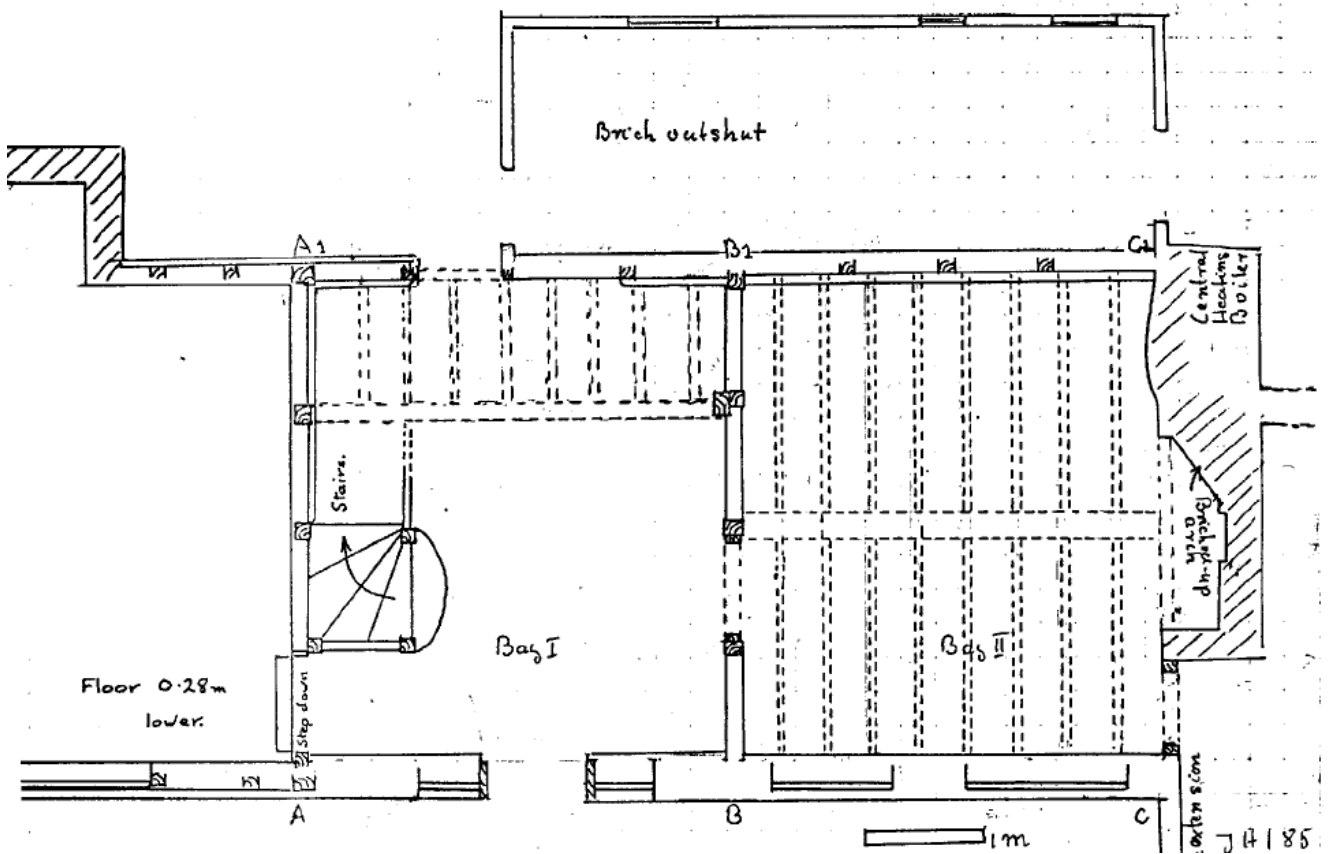
MAYS GREEN



Cottages around the Mays Green



PERSEVERANCE COTTAGES



Ground plan of the two seventeenth century bays in the central portion of the timber-framed cottage

References:

- (1) Oxford Local History Library, 1801 Census Returns
- (2) Record Commission, 'Nonarum Inquisitiones' (1807) ed. G. Vanderzee
- (3) Quoted in Harpsden Church and Parish by G. C. Tyack (1981) p. 2
- (4) J. Sheail, Regional Distribution of Wealth in England as Indicated in the Lay Subsidy Returns of 1524/5 unpublished Ph D thesis, University of London (1968)
- (5) W.G. Hoskins, The Rebuilding of Rural England, 1570 - 1640' Past and Present, Vol.4 (1955) pp. 55,57
- (6) C.A. Dobson, Oxford Protestation Returns 1641 - 42 Oxfordshire Record Society Vol.36 (1955), p. 33
- (7) M.M.B. Weinstock, Hearth Tax Returns Oxon 1665 Oxfordshire Record Society Vol 21 (1940), pp. 17,18
- (8) H.A. Lloyd-Jukes (ed.), The Primary Visitation of Dr. Thomas Secker, 1738 Oxfordshire Record Society Vol.38 (1957) pp.73,74
- (9) Oxfordshire R.O. Ms DD Cooper & Caldecott C 32(10),
- (10) Ibid, C 32(12)
- (11) 1851 to 1881 Census Returns
- (12) Oxfordshire R.O., Misc .O II/4, 1851 Sales Particulars
- (13) E.A Wrigly & R.S.Schofield, The Population History of England 1541 - 1871 (1981) p.529

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHURCH

The practice of taking inventories generally declined in the 18th century as church courts lost their influence. With overdue tithes and soul scot to pay, it had been very much in the interest of the church to assess people's wealth. The practice of leaving money to the church and to the poor also seems to have declined.

Of the twelve bequests made, nine date from the 17th century and make provisions for the repair of the church, for forgotten tithes and prayers (in 1547 John Brightwellton left one sheep for the tithes and five for prayers for his soul) and for bread and money for the poor of Harpsden and Henley. The amounts vary from 12 d given by a husbandman in 1592 to 12/6 given by a gentleman in 1574. Only three bequests were made after 1600 and only one of these after the Restoration. This was the unusually generous £10 Richard Lucy, yeoman, left for the poor of Harpsden in his will of 1670. This sum is still there after 300 years, since only the interest was used every other year. Already in 1738, the rector said that the 10 shillings was not worth spending annually (1).

This lack of generosity towards the parish church in the later seventeenth century may be connected with the rather stormy relationship many parishioners seemed to have had with their rector. Puritanism seems to have taken firm roots at Harpsden, as it had in neighbouring Henley, and the rector Edward Winford suffered various attacks on his livestock and tithes in 1689. "On 8.7.1689 John Hunt, William Pearman, Thomas Lucy took away by open force and violence 34 ewes and one ram lamb worth £ 18 out of the parsonage ground" (2). Three horses had been violently abducted as well, and not even the tithe grass was safe, and was thrown away by John Hunt and William Benwell. The names of those involved in these attacks were of the leading families of the parish, most of the yeomen, who not long before had been church wardens, constables and participants in rogation processions (3).

What was it about that particular rector or the year 1689 that led to so much opposition? The Halls, lords of the manor of Harpsden, were known dissenters and were said to have aided and abetted the ejected minister of Henley, John Gyles, who was preaching illegally in Harpsden woods (4). The "Barn at Henley" mentioned in Folio 8a of the Parish Registers in 1695 and 1698 being the place where the children of the Champions and the Fowlers were "named by the preacher Jeremiah Froisel" seems to have belonged to a tenant of the Halls, a Peter Sarney. It may have been part of the Hall's Greys Farm, in Rotherfield Greys parish, and the present Congregational Church probably today occupies its site. The Halls also built a new barn on their home farm in 1689 and proudly commemorated the fact with their carved initials. Was it because the Toleration Act was passed in 1689 that such open defiance to the established church in Harpsden was shown that year?



St Margarets Church and adjacent barn



Barn adjacent to Church now converted for domestic use

References:

- (1) H.A. Lloyd-Jukes Oxfordshire Record Society
The Primary Visitation of Dr. T. Secker 1738' Vol. 38 (1957) p.74
- (2) Oxfordshire R.O., Harpsden Parish Registers. Open Shelves p 112.
- (3) Ibid, Folio 1b
- (4) G.Peters, This Glorious Henley (1950), p.62

CONCLUSION

Outwardly Harpsden had changed very little over the three centuries under consideration. In 1879 the roads, scattered farmsteads, most field shapes and copses were still very much what they had been in 1586. The last Census Returns of 1881 confirmed this and showed how intensively agricultural the parish remained.

However, the fact that nearly all the male inhabitants were engaged in agricultural work, but the number of actual farmers had decreased dramatically (1,000 acres had been taken in hand), shows that the social composition of the population had changed a great deal. The substantial yeoman farmers of the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries had made way for farm bailiffs and labourers. This large number of agricultural workers had now become very visible. While in 1586 there seemed to have been only two cottages in Harpsden Manor, in 1842 fourteen were mentioned in the parish, of which 71 % belonged to the Manor.

Despite the engrossing of the holdings, there is little written evidence that any dramatic changes took place through agricultural improvements. Early enclosure would have made changes in farming practices from arable to livestock and vice versa easy when economic circumstances required it and avoided any of the upheavals documented by Parliamentary enclosure elsewhere in the county. The close vicinity of a market town and access to London were surely always the overriding factors in the economy of this parish. Despite the long agricultural depression of the later seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, there must always have been a ready market for cereals, and especially barley for the thirsty Londoners. The upland part of the parish especially would have benefited from corn-and-sheep husbandry, and despite the lack of documentary evidence, the large 18th century barns show that Harpsden was no agricultural backwater.

In contrast the evidence of the farmhouses shows the steady decline of the tenant farmers. The only substantial house to be built in the eighteenth century was at Sheepphouse. All others hide their Tudor timbers under nineteenth & twentieth century facades or extensions.

The influence of such known improvers as the Freemans at nearby Fawley Court must have been considerable in an age when gentlemen farmers usually did much pioneering work. Personal contact and successful experiments were much more important for the spread of new techniques than written accounts. The Freemans had taken an interest in their farms since the 1730s, when a number of these had to be taken in hand (1). The Halls, however, seemed to have taken rather a back seat. At least by 1842 they kept only c. 200 acres of copses, woods and the river meadows, but called their tenants "a higher class of agriculturists" when the estate was offered for sale in 1851 (2).

There is a lot of material still in the Cooper and Caldecott collection in the Oxfordshire Record Office, which could shed more light on the agricultural and social changes of the parish. Extending the work to neighbouring parishes would be useful too, as both manors had land in them, and many well-known Harpsden family names frequently occur in their registers. The Hodges of Bolney Court owned much more land in Peppard and Shiplake than in Harpsden. The probate material too could yield more information on people's lifestyles through an assessment of their household goods, room types and numbers, personal possessions and farming tools. However, it was not possible to take the investigation any further in the framework of this dissertation.

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1586 John Blagrove map - Manor of
Harnsden



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APPENDIX

- A) Alphabetical List of Probate Material
- B) Copy of 1586 Terrier, transcribed by J. Dils
- C) Transcribed Will of John Widmore, 1594
- D) Transcribed Inventory of Isobell Towers, 1648
- E) Transcribed Inventory of Richard Lucy, 1693
- F) Transcribed Will and Inventory of W. Pearman, 1664
- G) Copy of Schedule of Sale of Harpsden Manor, 1855
- H) Will of John Payse 1592
- I) Inventory of Thomas Paise 1686

LIST OF HARPSDEN INHABITANTS WHO LEFT PROBATE RECORDS

(From the records of the Oxford Record Office)

Norman, Thomas	1616 W.(I)	£ 13.14.07	labourer	47/2/19
Nuttkyne, Rich.	1608 W.(I)	£ 16.18.04	brickl.	47/1/55
Payse, John	1593 W.(I)	£ 22.16.00		50/1/70
Paise, Thomas	1687 Bd.I.	£ 52.19.02	husbandm.	84/4/31
Perman, Wm.	1599 W.	-	husbandm.	50/2/27
Perman, Wm.	1664 W.I.	£407.00.00	yeoman	52/1/14
Pearmay, Mgt.	1681 W.I.	£128.00.00	widow	144/4/12
Roles, Thomas	1667 W.I	£ 22.10.00	husbandm.	56/2/29
Round, John	1661 W.(I)	£ 25.09.04	fisherm.	56/2/5
Schanke alias Brightwelton, J.	1547 W.(I)	£ 13.06.04		179.252
Symeon, Robt.	1601 W.	-	husbandm.	58/3/33
Symmons, Johane	1602 W.	-	widow	58/3/46
Stapylton, Miles	1731 W.	-	rector	M. Dav. I/1
Towers, Thos.	1567 W.(I)	£ 50.10.02		184.285
Towers, Alse	1593 W.(I)	£ 40.16.06	widow	189.106
Towers, Wm.	1603 W.I	£ 52.15.10		65/2/52
Towers, Thos.	1630 W.I.	£151.02.04	yeoman	153/4/14
Towers, Wm.	1648 I.	£ 13.04.00	yeoman	300/4/53
Towers, Isab.	1648 I	£128.17.08	widow	300/4/54
Wydmore, Jn.	1595 W.	-	yeoman	69/2/3
Wydmore, Joane	1596 B.Ad.	-	widow	176/1/10
Wydmore, Rd.	1632 B.(I)	£ 11.11.00		107.13
Sewen, Solomon	1631 I.	£254.00.00	yeoman (Henley)	66/3/17
Stevens, Edward	1663 I	£ 365.00.00	chirurgon	149/2/2

Abbreviations: W. - Will
I. - Inventory
(I) Inventory total only

C. - Commission
A. - Administration
B. - Bond

SURVEY AND MAP OF THE MANOR OF HARPSDEN OXON 158 B

(O.R.O. Cooper/Caldecott 17:49)

Manifestation of the Contentes of this Booke of Surveye

In this Carde you have the Topographicall true Description of the manner of Hardinge holdes tenementes theareto nowe remaininge in the County of Oxon beinge the inheritaunce of Humffrye fforster esquier wth the Scale of perches aunsuerable to the proportion of the Carde. And severall tables ffor the manner house & every Holde Containinge the names of every grounde appertaininge to ech of them wth their quanty in acres roodes & perches & numbers set to eche name in every table to dyrecte you to ye same grounde in ye carde. NOTE THAT as much as you see in this Carde in the Marble Crane Collor is no parte of the same manner And that all these groundes are measured after sixtene foote & an half to the pole or perche wch is statute measure and a square peice of every side beinge 16 fo & di. is called a perche square eight score of these square perches make an Acres statute & 20 of those square perches make a roode or half qter of an acre. IN THE RESTE of this Booke of Sureveye you have the Severall plattes of every Grounde as theyear taken in the ffeyldes uppon a Scale so large that you may easylye by helpe of the same scale & very certainlye descrye either the lengthe of any hedge or ffro(m) marke to marke or corner to corner and thereby devide the wooddes or anye the groundes at pleasure when any occasion of ffellynge partitio(n) or such lyke shall be. And to every of the same greate platt is set his number that you may the easier compare them wth this Carde.

Perfectum Anno Dmi. 1586. Per Ioannem Blagravum Readingensem Mathesis Benevolum.

The names of all such Groundes as nowe remayne unto ye maner house of Hardyngge and lyeinge about Reading highway to Henlye 1586

	The quantity of ye groundes.		
	acres	roo	perches
1. Imprimis the Syte of the house churcheyendes heyse & courtes	7	5	14
2. The pidle of Elmes	2	0	16
3. The Acres	9	0	5
4. Culuer Lease	16	6	16
5. Nether parte of Lower Watnams	30	3	2
6. Upper parte of Lower Watnams	28	2	12
7. Mydle Watnams	31	1	8
8. Crowe Lease	31	5	7
9. Hygher Watnams	38	5	8
10. The Hyde & Burld? close	21	7	11
11. The great Copsyce	67	1	17

SURVEY and MAP OF THE MANOR OF HARPSDEN OXON 1586. (cont.)

12. The parte of ye highe ffeild next the coppice	20	1	13
13. The parte of ye highe feild next Henlye	27	6	2
14. The thirde parte of the highe ffeilde	23	4	2
15. The two Carte house pydles	2	2	11
Som(m)e	366	7	9

The Groundes lyeinge beneath Readinge heghe waye towards the
ryver of Themmes

16. Millocke ffeilde w th ye slip of Coppice	26	5	9
17. Shiphouse feilde w th ye slip of Coppice	28?	7	1
18. The Moore	22	1	0
19. Rythes & Badcockes	21	1	3
20. The winche meade extending to ye themes	5	2?	10
21. Myll ffeilde	34	5	2
22. Newe Lease	7	4	6
23. Gares Gore	?	?	?

(MSS cut off at this point)

The holde in the tenure of R. Symons.

	The quantity of ye ground		
	acres	rods	perches
26. The syte of the house orchard & yard	1	0	6
27. His greate close	8	4	2
28. The home pidle	1	3	8
29. The op.? Parriche Croftes	3	6	5
30. The upper pidle or earth....halfe wood	4	1	10
31. The lytle bottom	4	4	2
32. The Greate Bottom / or Sleepers den	13	3	9

SURVEY and MAP OF THE MANOR OF HARPSDEN OXON 1586. (cont.)

33. Sleafers den Coppyc?	10	6	17
34. The weste ffeilde	6	4	12
35. Greenes ground	11	4	18
36. The Hilles	17	6	9
37. The Whyte close	9	3	0
38. The Ashe Close	5	0	4
Som(m)e	98	0	16

The Holde in the tenure of J. Wydmore

	The quantity of the grounde		
	0	5	3
39. The site of the house orch etc	8	4	17
40. Bantslades	16	4	10
41. Costardes	6	4	7
42. The ner?e Hetherlandes	9	2	1
43. The ffarder Hetherlandes	6	1	7
44. The Dow - e	17	4	3
45. The Hylles	6	1	0
46. part of ye hills encopiced	6	1	18
47. The pease Close	78	3?	15
Som(m)e			

MS
Defect-
ive in
this
section

48. Also a house & slip of grounde
....ld holding of (gap)....ounde

The holde in the tenure of John Payse

	The quantity of the grounde		
	acres	rods	perches
49. The syte of ye house orchardes & yeard	0	3	10
50. The Home close	3	0	0
51. The upper Close	4	2	1
52. Stockinges	4	2	17
53. The Orchard close	5	6	5
54. Ridginges	8	1	0
55. Picked Close	4	6	16
Som(m)e	31	5	9

SURVEY and MAP OF THE MANOR OF HARPSDEN OXON 1586. (cont.)

The holde in the tenure of Ry. Nutky(n)

56. The site of ye house orchard & yeardes	0	3	14
57. The home Close	6	4	9
58. The home Close shawe?	1	6	4
59. The Lower Pydle	2	5	11
60. The Upper pydle	3	0	10
61. The Broade Close	10	3	5
62. The picked Close	7	0	7
Som(m)e	32	0	10

The holde in the tenure of W. Perma(n)

63. The syte of ye house orchard & yeard	1	2	5
64. The home close	11	1	0
65. The two oter closes.	15	7	2
66. Kenell Landes	19	4	11
67. The Stony Close	8	3	14
68. Hore Land	10	7	0
69. Henlye ffeylde	20	7	0
70. Strypes	11	4	15
71. Strypes Coppice	16	5	15
Som(m)e	116	3	3

The Holde in the tenure of W. Wynche

72. The site of the house orchard etc	0	6	9
73. The Croft?	2	7	4
74. The parke ffeylde	6	6	18
75. Burche Crofte	7	4	7
76. Pery ffeylde	6	3	0
77. The ffurther well - eane	5	6	2
78. The hither well eane	6	5	8
79. Henlye ffeylde	21	3	17
80. The hither Hill ffeildes	16	5	7

69/2/34. 1595.


JOHN WIDMORE. (HUNTS FARM)WILL. FEB. 1594.

IN THE NAME OF GOD Amen The Last day of ffebruary 1594 and in the Seaven and thirtith yeare of the Raigne of our Soveraigne Ladye Elizabeth the Queen Ma(jes)tie etc. I John Wydmore the elder of Harpsden in the Countie of Oxon Yeoman being sicke in Bodye But of good and p(er)fect memory Lawde and prayse be unto Almighty God therefore doe make and ordaine this my Testament and last will in man(ner) and forme followeing: ffirst & principally I bequeath my soule unto the handes of Almightye God my Creator and redeemer hoping assuredlie to be saved by the onelye merites death and passion of our Savior Christ Jesus sufficient for me and all mankynde and my body to be buryed in the Christian Buriall according to the discretion of my executrixes & ow(er)seers hereafter named Itm I give and bequeath unto John Widmore my youngest sonne Three Quarter of Barley to be used to the behoofe of the said John the younger by my executrix hereafter named untill he shall accomplish the full age of xxtie yeares Item I give and bequeath unto Agnes Wydmore my daughter A flockbed with all that belongeth to him And also Two Quarters of Barley, wch two quarters of Barlie I will to be paid unto her by my executrix within two yeares after my deceasse ALSOE I give and bequeath unto the said Agnes Widmore my daughter half a dozen of pewter to be given out of such pewter as to the discretion of my overseers shall seme convenient ITem I give and bequeath unto Jeames Wydmore MY SONNE Two Quarters of Barlie to be paid unto him within Two Yeares after my deceasse. ITM I give and bequeath unto Richard Widmore my sonne Two Quarters of Barlie To be paid unto him within Two yeares after mye deceasse Itm I give and bequeath unto Walter Widmore my sonne Two Quarters of Barlie To be paid unto him within Two yeares after my deceasse Itm I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Widmore my daughter One Quarter of Barlie to be paid unto her within two yeares after my deceasse. Itm I give and bequeath unto Allice Widmore my daughter One Quarter of Barlie to be paid unto her within Two yeares after my deceasse Itm I give and bequeath unto Thomas Widmore my sonne One Quarter of Barlie to be paid unto him within two yeares after

my deceasse Itm I give & bequeath unto Margaret Kent my daughter the wife of Richard Kent One quarter of Barlie to be paid unto her within Two yeares after my deceasse All the resydue of my goodes chattels cattells moveable and unmoveable whatsoev(er) herein before not given nor bequeathed my debts and legasies paid And my funerall expenses borne and disbursed I give and bequeath unto Johane Wydmore my wief Whome I doe make by this Testamente sole executrix of this my last will and testament. And I doe by this Testamente make & ordaine overseeres of this my last will and testament Jeames Lynne of Great Marlowe in the countie of Bucks yoman and William Towers of Harpsden aforesaid yoman desireing them to see the same perforemed according to the intent and meaneing thereof And I doe give to them for their painesstaking this behalf xijd apece In Wytness hereof I the said John Widmore have hereunto set my hande the daie and yeare first above wrytten.

Wytnessis

Edward Bushe
James Lene
John Toletho Scr.

The mark of  the said John Widmore

A note of such debts as I doe owe.

Imprimis to Edward Bushe a 10lbs and half quarters of Rye which I will to be paid to the said Edward out of the corne I have lieing at Harpsden Courte

Itm to John Gammons	£6	12s.	
Itm to Gryffith Luendon	£6	10s.	
Itm to William Widmore	£5		
Itm to Henry Harwoode		20s.	
Itm to Roger Walker of Redding		20s.	
To Tutchter Bolte Three quarters of barlie.			
To Humfrey Rockall		5 quarters of barlie.	
To Aynstine Springall		7s.	
To William Stockwell		10s.	
To Robert Woolley	£3.		

probate date
of will
12. 5. 1595

Some. £43 11s.

84/4/31

THOMAS PAISE. HARPSDEN. INVENTORY.

1686.

A True inventory of Thomas Paise of Harpsden alias Harding
of all ye goods And chatles ye Twenty sixt day of november
in ye County of Oxford in the yeare 1686.

	£	s.	d.
Imprimus his waring cloths _____	1	10	6
Itm: ye litle chamber over ye kichen a bed and bedstead and a litle chest } _____	1	00	00
Itm ye greate chamber over ye butrey one and to bedsteeds and three coffers } _____	4	0	0
Itm The brass and puter with an ironpoot _____	1	5	6
Itm In ye kichen one cubbard & table to joyned stools with the rest of the lumbar } _____	4	5	0
Itm In ye buttrei one hoog of bacon with other Lumber _____	1	15	0
Itm In ye wheelehowse one cheespress three civers with the rest of the Lumbar } _____	1	7	6
Itm The three paire of sheets. _____	0	16	0
Itm The corn in the barne _____	12	10	0
Itm The winefan sakes sives & boshell & prongs _____	1	2	6
Itm The to cows & ye three stoore piegs _____	7	10	0
Itm The to maires and a colt _____	3	0	0
Itm The harniss and ye cart Line _____	1	0	6
Itm The carts plows and harrows _____	4	0	0
Itm The Rowllar _____	0	5	0
Itm The corne in the field _____	5	0	0
Itm The grasseed _____	0	16	0
Itm The yewe two Lambes _____	1	1	0
Itm The plowing of the grownds _____	1	8	0
Itm The cheeses _____	0	6	8
The sum is	52	19	2

JOHN HINES
MICHALL ffARMER

21 April 1687. Exhibit etc.

84/4/31

Inventory of Thomas praisi
 and of his son and heir of all his goods
 And chattels of Twenty first day of November
 in the County of Devon in the year 1626

	£	ʒ	ʒ
Item his wearing clothe	1	10	6
Item of little chamber oven of brick	1	0	0
Item of great chamber oven of brick	4	0	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	1	8	6
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	1	8	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	1	12	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	1	7	6
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	0	16	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	12	10	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	1	2	6
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	7	10	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	3	0	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	1	0	6
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	1	0	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	0	5	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	2	0	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	0	16	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	1	1	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	1	8	0
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	0	6	8
Item his horse and pillion with all furniture	52	19	2

John Gunt

Witness

Exhibita apud Henly 21 die Apr: 1687
 per Johannam Piexcy filiam defuncti et pendentis
 unit. et pro vero et qua habetur et sub
 protestatione de addendis et c.

Ben: Cooper Reg^{is}

300/4/54

ISABELL TOWERS. WIDOW. HARPSDEN.INVENTORY. July 5th, 1648.

An Inventorie of all the goodes and Chattells
of Isabell Towers late of this parish
of Harpsden Bownly in the County
of Oxon Widdowe deceased
taken and appraised by John Ovy
Greenfields in the parish of Wattlington
in the County aforesaid yeoman & Walter Jemmett of Shiplack
in the County aforesaid yeoman the
ffifth daye of July Anno Dni 1648.

In the Hall

	£	s.	d.
Inprimis Tables fformes stooles and Chaires worth	1	0	0
Item in the Chamber over the Buttery Bedds and other things	5	0	0
Item The Apparell of the said Isabell boath Lynnen & Woollen	4	0	0

In the Butterie

Item Barrells Kneadeing Vessells and other things	0	13	0
--	---	----	---

In the Cheese Loft

Item Cheeses & other things there	1	0	0
Item Bacon there & elsewhere	3	0	0

In the Drinckhouse

Item brasse pewter and other Lumber	4	0	0
Item Sheetes and other Lynnen	2	10	0
Item Winter Corne sowed	21	6	8
Item Barley	32	0	0
Item Oates	03	0	0
Item Pease	02	6	0
Item Vetches	02	6	0
Item Corne Threshed	12	0	0

300/3/54

ISABELL TOWERS. WIDOW. HARPSDEN. cont.

	£	s.	d.
Item Three horses _____	09	0	0
Item Cartes & ploughes _____	04	0	0
Item Hogges and pigges _____	05	0	0
Item ffower Kine 2 bullocks & 3 Calves _____	16	10	0
Item Poultrie _____	00	06	0
Suma totalis	<u>£ 128</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>

Taken and appraised

John Ovy
Walter Jemet

Exhibit etc 7th July 1648

Richard Lucy of Harpsden

1693

A true and perfect Inventorie of the goods & chattells
& rights of Richard Lucy late of Harding in the County
of Oxon deceased valued & apprized by us whose names
are herunto subscribed the ffirst day of Septmber
Anno Domini 1693

	£	s	d
Imprimus - his wearing apparall	0	15	0
In the Hall			
One ovall table 4 leather chaires 3 paire of ffire jrons & lookeing glass	1	05	0
In the kitchen			
Seventeen pewter dishes greate & small	2	04	0
Item - Two pewter candle sticks			
two porringers tankard & salt sellar	0	03	0
Item - One doz of Pewter plates	0	09	0
Item - ffive sawcers 3 other porringers, atynn sugar base a tynn pye plate and other salt sellar dripping pan & tynn pinte pott	0	03	0
Item - wooden & Earthen dishes hand saw lether bottle 2 Noggins & a Mugg	0	03	0
Item - One Jack & weight 1 spitt fireshovell 2 paire of hangers a paire of bellows & doggs ...	0	10	0
Item - One brass warmeing pan 2 kettles 3 skellets a kettlepott 2 brass skimmers 9 old bookes	1	10	0
	0	02	6
Item - One table & fforme 5 Rushe Radden bottom chaires and a cradle	0	06	0
Item - Dressers & shelves	0	05	0
In the Milk house			
a milktubb, a buckett a butter cherne, butter baskett boule ffrying pann wooden scales & other small things	0	12	0
Item - One and fforty cheese & cheese shelves in the cheese loft	2	02	0
Item - In the mans chamber one fflock bed bolster pillow couloured rugg & old bed- stead	0	10	0
In the chamber over ye hall			
Item - One featherbed bedstead curtaines, vallians & counterpen of ye same, 6 cane chaires, a chest of drawers, a little table & a pair of Billowes	6	18	0


		£	s	d
Item -	In ye lower chamber , 1 ffetherbed & bolster, 1 ffether pillow green Rugg bedstead and fflokbed & bolster hanging prees & court cupbord	3	15	0
Item -	In the drinke house a Meale hutch & drink tubbs meashvaul 4 kivers a bucking tubb Powtering tubbs a wash kiver 2 Searchers 2 basketts & other lumber a little table in ye closett above	1	02	6
	Ye lynnyn Six paire of sheetes one duz:of Napkins	1	07	0
	In ye haise & cart house a hog trough and cowrack a Role & fframe a dung carte & wheelles ffoure Ploughs & one sett of Tackle plough timber Nyne Ewelme boards & a peece two old Tubbs Cheese press and tackle	0	05	0
Item -	Three Hogges & 2 Store piggs old Iron Three coves & a bullock Threeing hookes	3	10	0
Item	Three Mares & a gelding horse harness Long cart & wheelles & 5 harrowes & sti .. two fforkes 4 Rakes 3 prongs dung dragg & dung forke chaff Leape & baskettt a ffann bushell & strike 3 skives & 2 Ridders Three Henns a cock & 36 chickens a ladder & hopps in ye garden	10	00	0
	Ploughing Sleepers Deane 2 Earths Ploughing grubb Coppice one earth	9	00	0
	Sith & tackle & chovell Bridle sadle & pomell Cart lyne & drag lyne Hay grass in ye meade Barley in ye Barne Pease in the barne Oates in the barne Dills in ye barne Masslyn & wheate in ye Barne Stock of wood upon Ye lease of ye woodground	0	3	0
		0	7	6
		0	1	9
		2	15	0
		0	8	0
		35	0	0
		4	10	0
		1	0	0
		1	0	0
		23	0	0
		30	0	0
	Sume totalis	169	5	10
	valued by us/ John Deard William Benwell } Apprizers William Pearmen }			

Exhibited 2.9.1693

52/1/14

WILLIAM PEARMAN, YEOMAN, HARPSDEN.WILL, 25 Sept. 1664.

In the name of god Amen And I William Perman of Harpsden in the County of Oxford yeoman being sicke & weake in boddie but thankes be given to god perfect & whole in minde & memorie I doe make and ordaine this my last will & testament in manner and forme following. ffirst I bequeath my soule to god that gave it hoping only to be saved by the death merrits resurrection & blood shedding of my only lord & Saviour Christ Jesus And my boddie to be buried in the Church of Harpsden afforesaid. ffirst I give & bequeath unto William Perman my sonne all that leasehould and land lieing & being in the parish of Harpsden come Boulny. And he not to enioy the said house & landes untill he cometh unto the age of eighteen yeares and if my sonne William shall happen to die before he come to the age of eightene yeares that then my will is that John Perman my sonne shall have it at the age of eighteen yeares. Item I give and bequeath unto my my sonne John Perman tow hundred Pounds in mony to be Paid unto him at the age of one and twentie yeares by my Executor here after named. Item all the rest & residue of my goodes and cattels unbequeathed I give and bequeath unto Grace my loveing wife Whome I mak my soule Executor of this my last Will & testament And she to be carefull to performe this my will Item I doe intreat my beloved freinds Walter Jemat and Henry Sadgrofe to be Overseers of this my Will In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seale the five and twentith day of September in the yeare of our lord god one thousand sixe hundred sixtie fower 1664

Sealled and signed in
the presence of us Walter
Jemat & William Atkins
his  marke

William
Perman his
marke

5

Probate 8 December 1664.

52/1/14

WILLIAM PEARMAN, YEOMAN, HARPSDEN.INVENTORY, 1664.

An Inventorie taken of all the goodes Cattels and Chattell of William Perman of Harpsden cum Boulney in the county of Oxford yeoman late deceased & praise by John Kent of Rotherfield peper Walter Jematt of Shiplack & John Hunt of Harpsden all in the county of Oxford afforesaid. The eleventh daie of October Anno Domini 1664.

	£	s.	d.
Inprimis his wearing apparell both woolen & linnion	05	00	00
Item in the Hall the furnituer there	04	00	00
Item in the Chamber ouer the Hale all the furnituer there	09	10	00
Item in the Cheeseloft all the furnituer ther	02	10	00
Item in the Chamber ouer the milk house all the furnituer ther	02	10	00
Item in the rome ouer the drinkhouse	03	10	00
Ite in the drinkehouse All the furnituer...	05	15	00
Ite in the Milkhouse all the furnituer ther	01	00	00
Ite in the litle Chamber by the enterrie ..	01	00	00
Ite in the olde citchine all the furnituer ther	00	05	00
Ite in the litle Barne the winter corne ...	20	00	00
Ite the Wheat in the new barne ^{&} the barlye..	65	00	00
Ite ten reckes of pease & barlye and pease in some other outhowse	52	00	00
Ite the haye & fatches	13	00	00
Ite all the Corne upon the ground	28	00	00
Ite horses & harnesse	24	00	00
Ite for chartes & wheelles & plowes & harrowes	10	00	00
Ite all the cow catell	20	00	00
Ite all the sheep	21	00	00
Ite all the swine	10	00	00

52/1/14

WILLIAM PEARMAN, INVENTORY, 1664. (cont)

2.

	f	s.	d.
Ite the bees & the poulterrie	00	10	00
Ite the goodes in the upper house the long table in the hale & all that belongeth to him & on short table with a frame on hanging shelve on chest in the lower chamber next the haise a safe & a powdering trough & a bedside on cubberd in the hale	02	10	00
Ite uppon bonds & money	98	00	00
Ite ther is adebt from the Executors of Charles Verrye	08	00	00
	£407	00	00

THE marke  of John Kent
Walter Jemott
John Hunt

50/1/70

JOHN PAYSE. 1592.

In the name of god Amen, the seaventith day of October in the yere of our Lord god 1592,
and in the
foure and Thirtith yere of the Raigne of our Sovraigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of god
of England
ffrance and Ireland Queene Defender of the ffayth etc. I John Payse of the parish of
Harpsden
in the countye of Oxford sicke in body but of good & perfect memory thanks be unto god
therefore doe
ordayne and make this my present testament & last will in manner & forme followinge
ffyrst and
principally I bequeath my soule to almyhtie god my only saviour and redeemer trustinge
assuredly
to be saved by the only merites of Christ his death & passion sufficient for me and all
mankynd and
my body to the earth to be buryed in the parishe Church yeard of Harpsden in such
decent sorte and manner as a Christian ought to be buryed. Item I give and bequeath to
Richard
Payse my sonne my table & benche in the hall my bedde that I now lye on with all the
furniture
to the same belonginge my ould wyche standing at the stayres hedd my potinge vase my
ost heare a platter a potenger a skyllet a chaffinge dishe two candlestickes a spytt the
hangers of Iron
and all the tables fformes benches boorde and shelves in and about my house that I now
dwell
in. Item I give & bequeath to Humffrey Payse my sonne fowre sheepe one quarter of barley
twobussshels of wheat my beast brasse Pott a kyttel of three or foure gallons a platter a
potenger a candlesticke a racke in the sockett, a pyed heffer of two yere ould. Item
I give & bequeath
to John Payse my sonne foure sheepe one quarter of barley two bussshels of wheate my
second
brasse pott my bigger kettle, a platter a potenger and a candlesticke. Item I give &
bequeath
to Mary Payse my daughter two sheepe two bussshels of barley a brown bullocke of two yere
ould which is not my brother Thomas Payse. Item I give & bequeath to John Rownd my
daughters sonne a lambe. Item whereas I did owe unto Henry Rownd my sonne in Lawe two
bussshels of wheate my will is that he shall have two bussshels of wheate. Item I give
and bequeath to Alse? Briges my daughter two bussshels of wheate, two bussshels of
barley Item I give & bequeath to Mary Briges her daughter one lambe Item I give &
bequeath Avelyn Payse my daughter fowre sheepe one quarter of barley fowre bussshels
of wheate my third brasse Pott my biggest Calderne my best platter a potenger a candle-
sticke
and my blacke bullocke of a yere and my caffer that standes by my bedd and in the lofte.
Item my will and meaning is that there be bestowed at my buryal two shillinges in bread
and Drinke and sixtene pence to be Devided with them that shall take paynes to cary me
to the Church of Harpsden aforesaid, also to ~~him~~ that Ringeth my knoll and maketh my
grave I will that he shall have for his paynes taking therein sixe pence. All the
residue of my goodes moveable and unmoveable here in this my perfect Testament and last
Will not given not bequeathed my debtes legasies and funerall expenses hereby discharged
I give and bequeath wholly to my sonne Richard Payse whome I make & ordaine sole
Executor of this my present Testament & last Will. And lastly I ordayne and make
overseers of this my present Testament & last Will Thomas Payse my brother and
Walter Keene and my will is that they shall have their paynes taking therein twelve
pence a peece. In Wittnesse whereof I have putt my hand and seale to this my
Testament and last Will in the presence of these whose names are hereunder
written.

Probate Henley

May 1593.

Inventory ... £22 16s.

In the name of god Amen the Parents Day of October in the year of 1592 and the 50
some the first day of the month of our Lady Elizabeth by the grace of god of England
Armed and Governed Queen Dowager of the parts of the West of England
in the County of Oxford sheweth in body but of god's part memory thanks be Comended to prosper die
ordaine and make the my self in testament I last will in man's of forme followinge I have and
primarily I bequeath my sole to almyghty god my only Savior and redeemer by my my of soully
to be saved the only merited of Christ god our Saviour sufficient for me and all mankind in
my body to be only to be buried in the churche of the Holy Sepulchre of London as was in sure
decent sorte and manner as a Christian ought to be buried. the I give and bequeath to Elizabeth
my wife my sole my table and board in the hall in the house by and on the 15th of June
to the same belonging my other my wife standing in the house of my of things that in
of the house a platter a potter's a flatter a chaffin; dish and randle like a spyt the hangings of the
and all the table furnermentes and other in and about my house that I have given
in the 15th of June I bequeath to my sonne George my sonne George she quarter of barley
two bushels of wheat my best brass flatter a flatter of silver or four gallons a platter a
potter's a randle like randle in the house a potter's a flatter a potter's a flatter a
to give in the house my sonne George a platter a potter's a flatter a potter's a flatter
brass potter's my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter
to Mary. Leggett my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter
and so first is of my brother's the spread I do owe into family. I have my sonne in some
daughter I have a table. the I will it that I will have my daughter my daughter my daughter
bushels of wheat to Elizabeth my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter
and bequeath to Elizabeth my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter
barley the I give I bequeath to Mary my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter
to bequeath to Elizabeth my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter
of wheat my hand brass flatter my best potter's a flatter a potter's a flatter
and my hand platter of brass and my daughter my daughter my daughter my daughter
the my will and meaning is that I have and bequeath to my sonne

all my own... of his... and my... that... by my...
 the... meaning... to... with... to... my...
 the... to... all... my... and...
 to... for... in... of... and...
 the... of... my... of... and...
 will... my... of... and...
 &... to... of... and...
 the... of... my... of... and...
 members... and... of... and...
 power &... In... of... and...
 the... of... in... and...
 written

Probat... do: ...
 in...
 in...
 Subscribed

84/4/31

THOMAS PAISE. HARPSDEN. INVENTORY.

1686.

A True inventory of Thomas Paise of Harpsden alias Harding
of all ye goods And chatles ye Twenty sixt day of november
in ye County of Oxford in the yeare 1686.

	£	s.	d.
Imprimus his waring cloths _____	1	10	6
Itm: ye litle chamber over ye kichen a bed and bedstead and a litle chest } _____	1	00	00
Itm ye greate chamber over ye butrey one and to bedsteeds and three coffers } _____	4	0	0
Itm The brass and puter with an ironpoot _____	1	5	6
Itm In ye kichen one cubbard & table to joyned stools with the rest of the lumbar } _____	4	5	0
Itm In ye buttrey ane hoog of bason with other Lumber _____	1	15	0
Itm In ye whelehowse one cheespress three civers with the rest of the Lumbar } _____	1	7	6
Itm The three paire of sheets. _____	0	16	0
Itm Thecorn in the barne _____	12	10	0
Itm The winefan sakes sives & boshell & prongs _____	1	2	6
Itm The to cows & ye three stoore piegs _____	7	10	0
Itm The to maires and a colt _____	3	0	0
Itm The harniss and ye cart Line _____	1	0	6
Itm The carts plows and harrows _____	4	0	0
Itm The Rowllar _____	0	5	0
Itm The corne in the field _____	5	0	0
Itm The grassseed _____	0	16	0
Itm The yewetwo Lambes _____	1	1	0
Itm The plowing of the grownds _____	1	8	0
Itm The cheeses _____	0	6	8
The sum is	52	19	2

JOHN HINES
MICHALL ffARMER

21 April 1687. Exhibit etc.

24/4/31

Of the inventory of Thomas Pease
 of Hampton and bedding of all his goods
 And chattels of Twenty first day of November
 in the County of Bedford in the year 1636

	£	8	d
Imported his wearing clothe	1	10	6
Item of little chamber upon a kitchen			
1 x bed and bedding and 2 little chests	1	0	0
Item of yew tree chamber upon a kitchen			
1 bed to the stairs and 2 chests	4	0	0
Item the brass and pulley with an iron part	1	2	6
Item 10 of kitchen and cutlery & table to joynt	4	2	0
stairs with the rest of the chamber			
Item the of buttery and heavy of brass with other chamber	1	12	0
Item the of woodchop and chest with three chairs			
with the rest of the chamber	1	7	6
Item the three axes of stone	0	16	0
Item the iron in the house	12	10	0
Item the iron fence, fence & basket's prairie	1	2	6
Item the to tower & of three stone ways	7	10	0
Item the to mires and a coll	2	0	0
Item the barrel and of cast iron	1	0	6
Item the carts plows and harness	1	0	0
Item the Rowell	0	5	0
Item the iron in the field	2	0	0
Item the grass	0	16	0
Item the yard two gaubs	1	1	0
Item the plowing of the ground	1	8	0
Item the chesops	0	6	8
The sum is	52	19	2

John Pease

Witness

Exhibet et apud Henly 21 die Apr: 1637
 per Joannam Piexcy filiam defuncti et Episcopi
 univ: et pro vico et quod hactenus et sic
 protestatione de addendo et si et

Ben: Cooper Aeg^{ny}

G

The Schedule above referred to

Description	Contents			Occupation
	A.	R.	P.	
Site of Mansion and Home (Dunrobin) with Manorial rights	29..	1..	5-	in hand
Woodlands	208..	2..	36	ditto
Harpsden Court & Luciss Farms	337-	3..	7	Mr House
Thurst & Harpsden Green Farms	162..	1..	8	Mr Andrews
Upper & Bottom House Farms	204..	2..	35	Mr Collier
Upper Boreney and Sheep House Farms	1453..	3..	29	Mr Warkman
Thomas Meadows	10..	3..	311	"
Site of Cottages Gardens & The Grey Farm	2..	3..	111	Various
	50..	0..	11	Mr Grouch
	1150..			2.. 17

Quit Rents £1. 16. 0-

(Signed) James Edward Knollys

(") John F. Hodges.