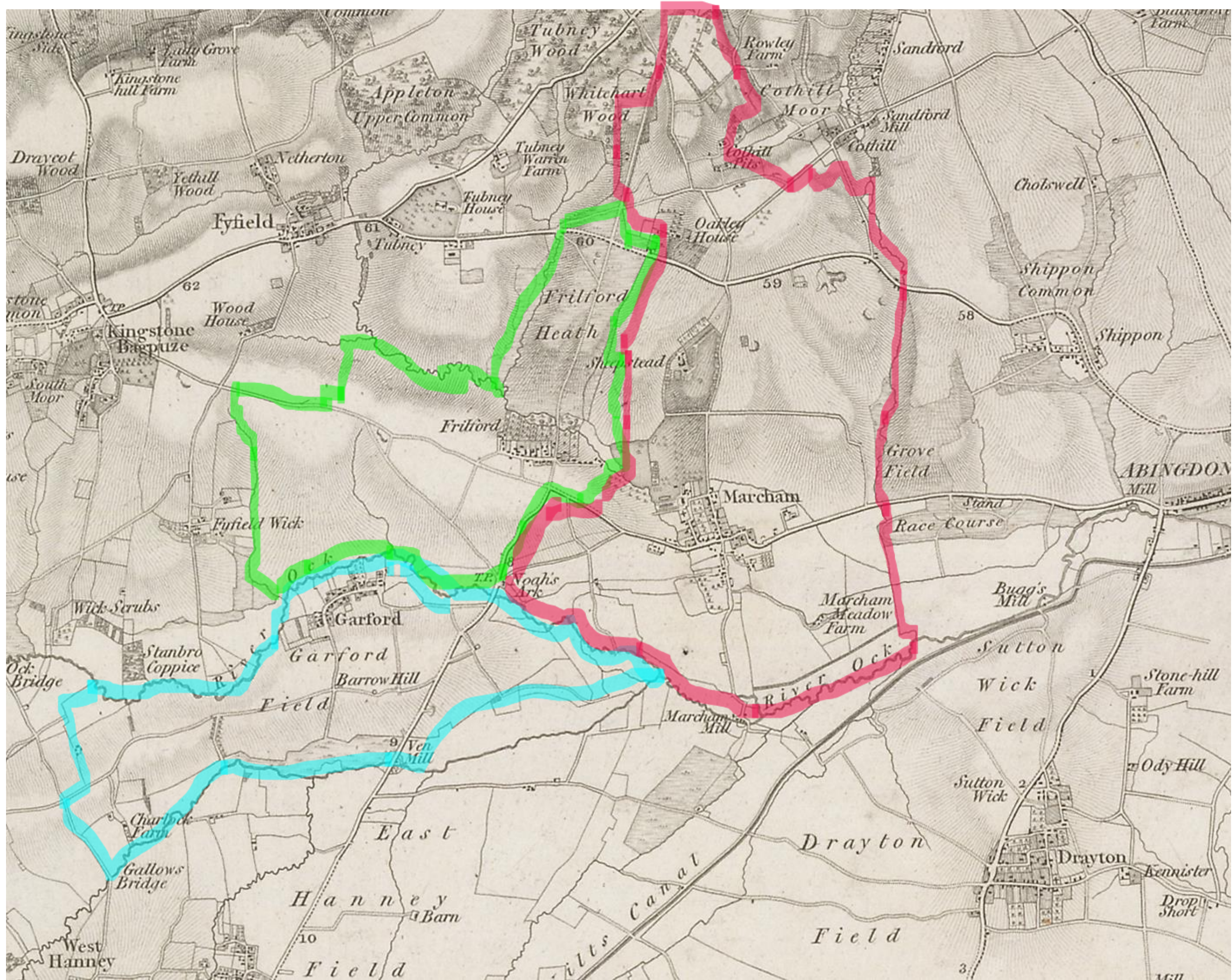




Hedley Tho

Boundaries of Marcham, Garford and Frilford

1830
Ordnance
Survey Map of
The Vale of
White Horse.
These
boundaries
follow Anglo-
Saxon charters



1820 Garford – fields and farms

This wonderful 1820 Map has been coloured to show the different farms and fields at that time. The pattern is much older.

In the middle are the four Open Fields:

Ham Field (closest to the village), Ock Field, Cow Lease Field and Moundsil Field

Each of these contained hundreds of individual ridge and furrow strips that are accurately drawn on the map.

In the east, Garford Farm is the light green area. This was the “demesne” land that belonged to the Lord of the Manor – Abingdon Abbey and its successors .

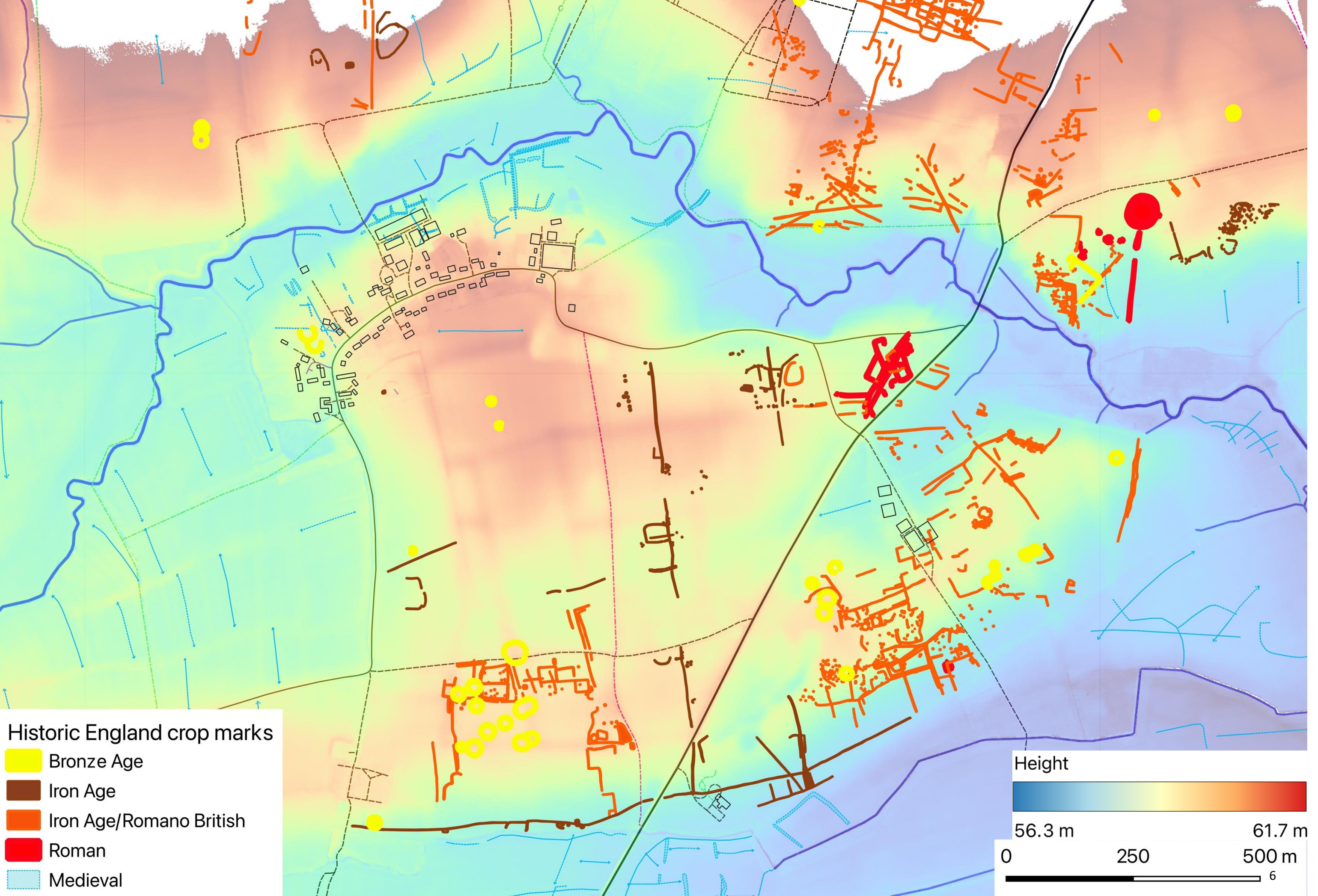
There were 4 smaller farms:

College Farm and Mill Farm in the centre

Charlock North and Charlock South at the western end



Archaeological cropmarks in Garford and Frilford



Ridge and furrow

Open field ridge and furrow field patterns covered Garford for centuries.

This photo shows one place where it can still be clearly seen. Four ridges are visible separated by three furrows each flooded with water in this photo. The pattern was formed when the land was ploughed by an ox team.

Starting to the left of the ridge, single-bladed ploughs turned soil to the right towards the ridge. When the plough reached the far end of the strip it turned and came back on the other half of the strip, once again turning the soil towards the ridge, thereby building up the ridge and lowering the furrow.



1944 Open field system of farming

This wartime aerial photo of Garford shows ridge and furrow strips in almost every field on both sides of Clay Lane which runs along the bottom.

Garford, Marcham and Frilford lie in the central region of England where the open field system was predominant. It involved large, open fields containing “strips” with ridge and furrow patterns.

Each strip was roughly an acre - the area a team of oxen could plough in a day. Each strip was cultivated by the

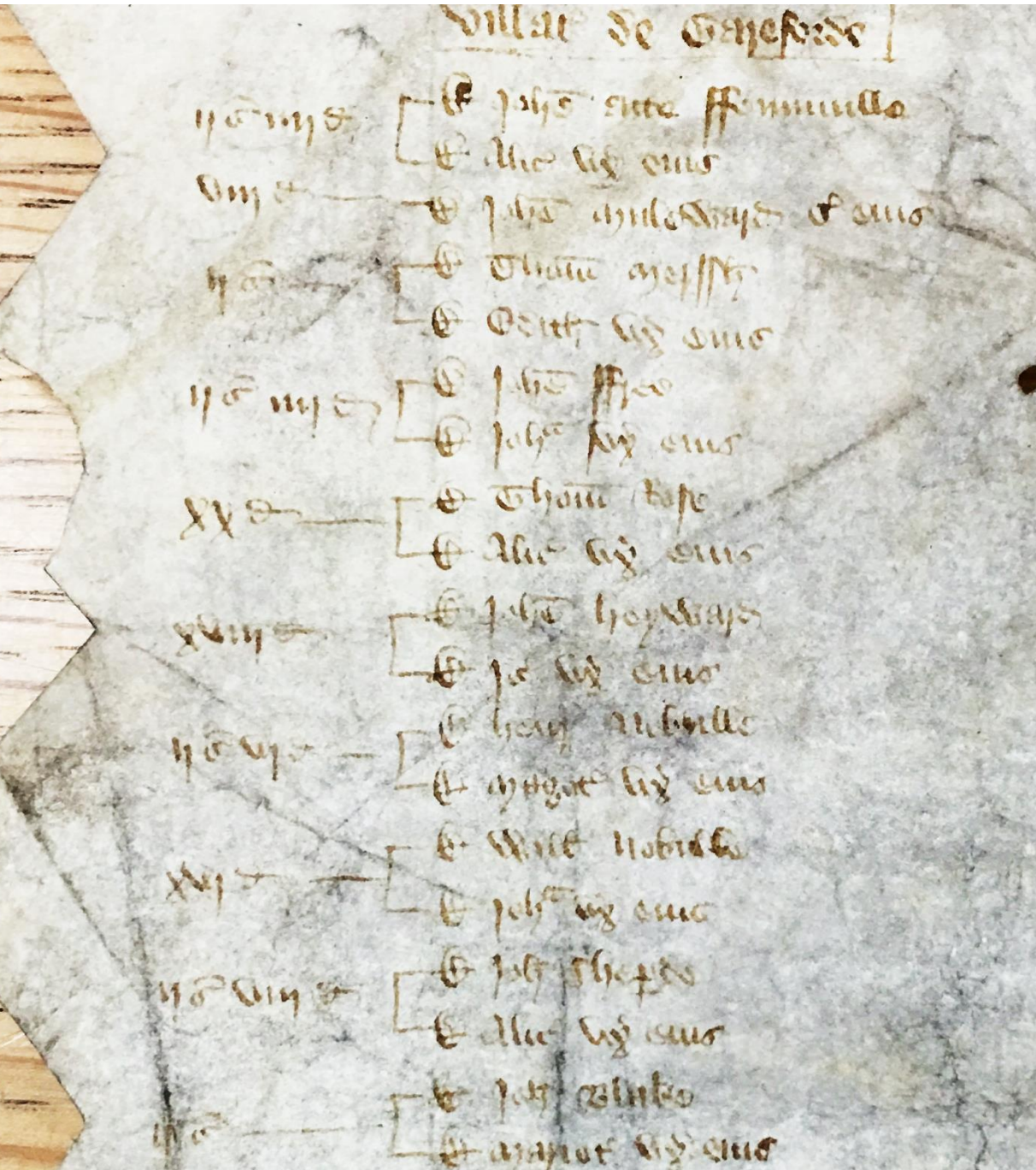
same family every year. The strips in Garford are less than an acre and many are only half an acre.

Garford operated a 3-field rotation: 1) winter crops like wheat or rye 2) spring crops like barley, oats, or legumes, then 3) fallow - giving the soil a break to recover and providing grazing for animals who fertilized the land with their manure.

Multi-bladed ploughing from WW2 onwards largely flattened the actual ridges and furrows.



Names of residents in: 1381 Poll Tax

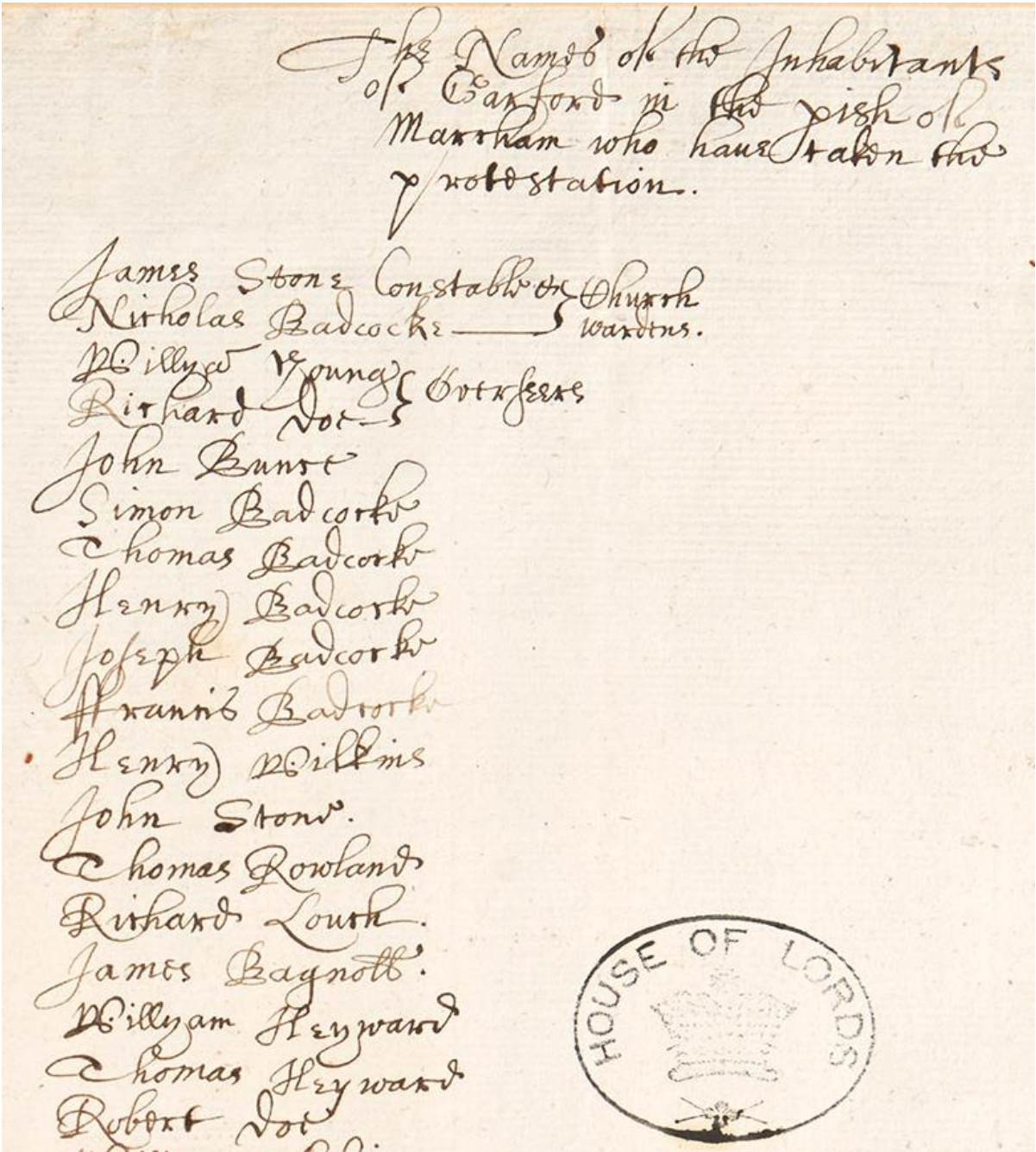


← In Latin
33 taxpayers, 18 male & 15 female, in **Garford**.
The first name is "Joh atte Ffemuelle". Amazingly, 12 males were called John and 2 females Joanna!!
I estimate the total population of Garford was 80, allowing for those poor and under recorded and those 14 and under.

In English →
Garford had 33 names, **Marcham** 115, and **Frilford** 29. Taking account of males under 18 and all females, results in populations of 100, 348 and 88 respectively.

1381 Ock Hundred	Individuals taxed	Population est	£	s.	d.
Garford	33	80	1	13	0
Frilford	48	116	2	8	0
Marcham	92	223	4	12	0
Total Ock Hundred	555	1345	27	15	0

1641 Protestation Return



1641 Protestation Return	Sworn (males)	Population (est)
Garford	33	100
Frilford	29	88
Marcham	115	348

1544 Henry VIII sells Garford

Henry VIII acquired the Manor of **Garford** in 1538 as a result of the dissolution of the Monasteries. He alienated it (today we would say sold it) 6 years later in 1544, for £252 8s 4d to Richard Aldworth –

Henry sold "the whole site and capital messuage of our manor of Garford". A capital messuage usually means a manor house.

The transfer lists all the things that were sold as part of the manor:

"all houses, barns, dovecots, buildings and and gardens"

"all .. our lands, meadows, pastures, pasturages, commons, commodities, wastes ... of the manor of Garford"

"And all kinds of ways, paths, hedges, fences, closes, pools and ditches ..."

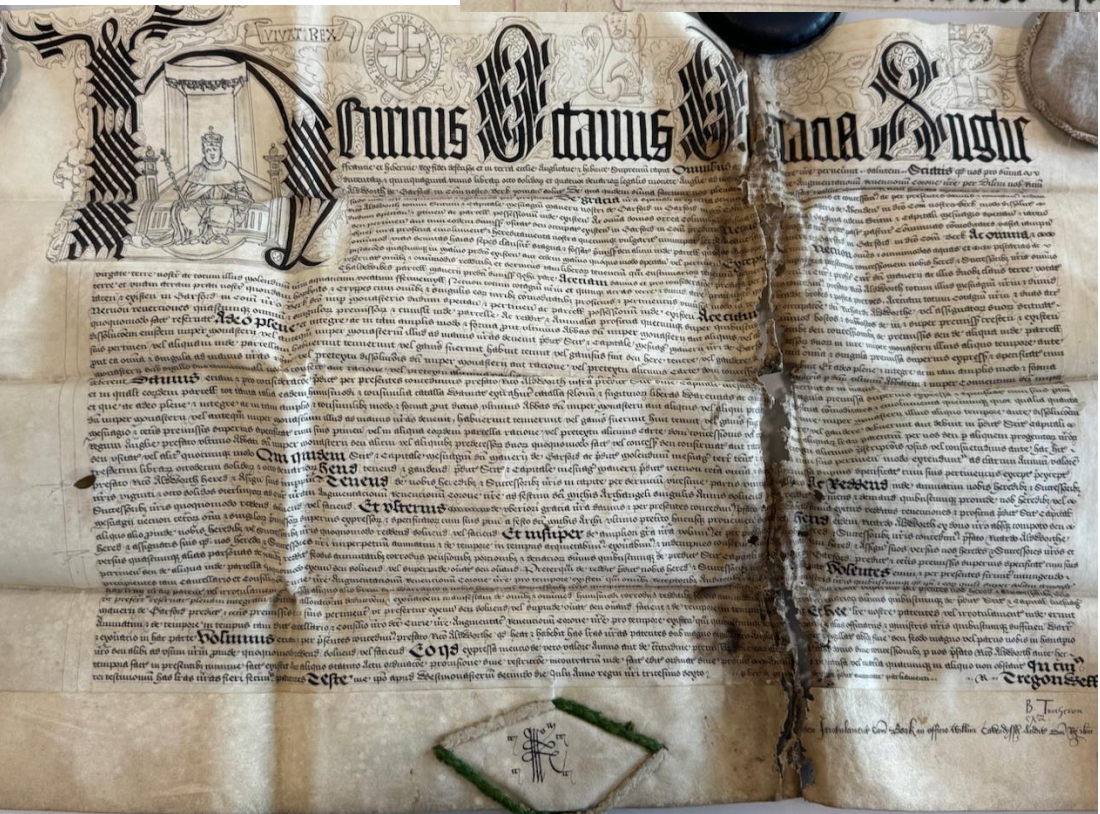
"And all kinds of waters and fisheries and fishings whatsoever.."

In return, Richard Aldworth agreed to provide annually or twentieth of a knight's service and to pay 28s.

This was in addition to the initial payment of £252 8s 4d.

Right. The document that recorded the transaction. It is a "Letter Patent of Henry VIII"
The elaborate title is "*Henricus Octavus Dei Gracie Anglie*"
Henry VIII by the grace of God of England.

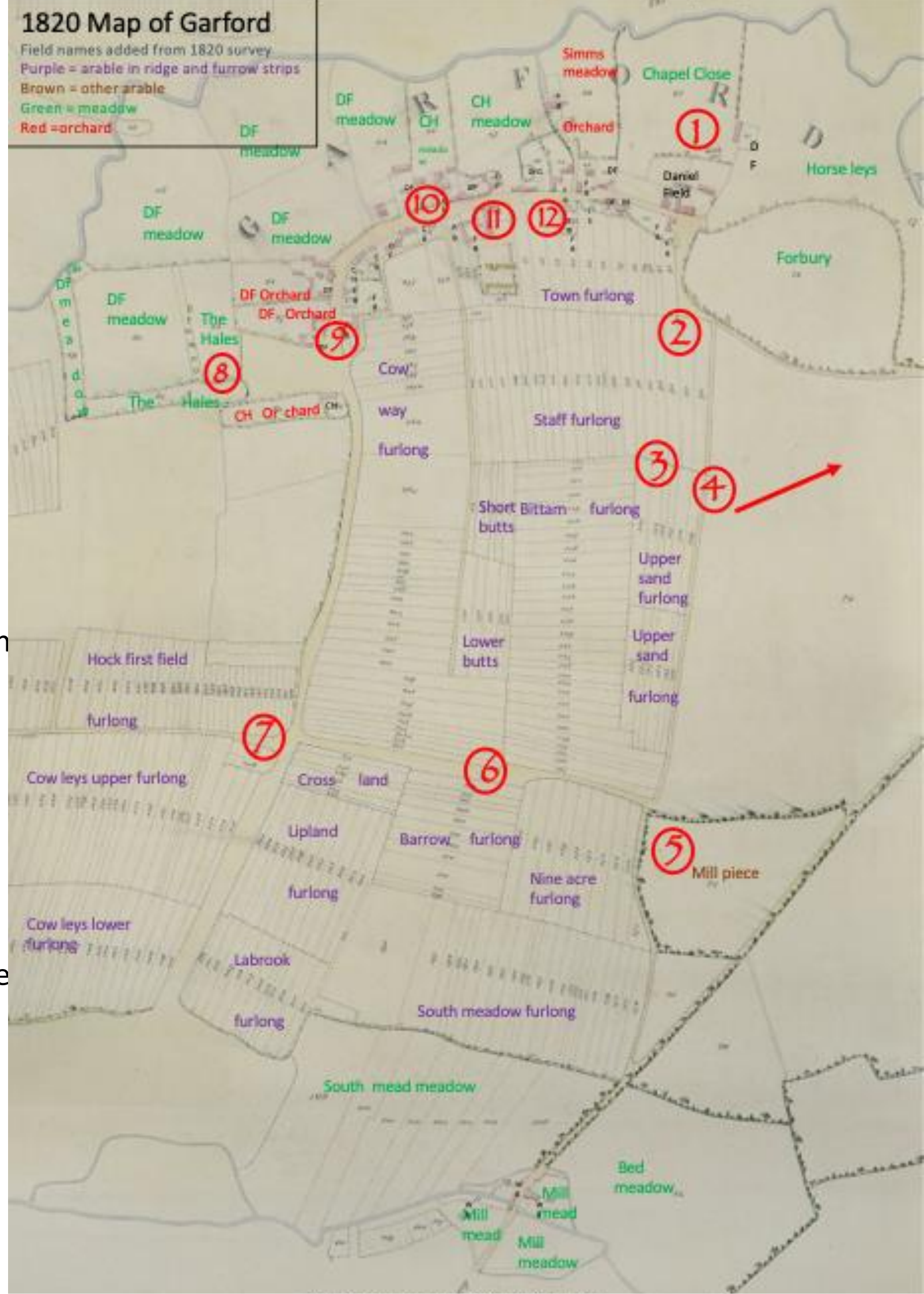
7.6 Right. Close up of cartoon drawing of Henry VIII inside the stylised "H" of Henricus.
"**Garford**" is under Henry in the third line.



- See Coral Rag 13

It is an indication of how little has changed in Garford that a 200 year old map works fine. Unlike Marcham and Frilford, Garford has not grown in that time.

1. **St Luke's Church** dates from c.1220
2. **Quarry**
3. **Headlands** remains of ridge and furrow field pattern which covered most of Garford.
4. **Roman temple** sightline
5. **Mill Piece & Venn Mill** 1725 petition
6. **Bronze Age barrow and field patterns.** The field contains a staggering collection of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British settlement remains including 12 Bronze Age ring ditches
7. **Clay Lane.**
8. **Ridge and Furrow, 1246 Hales Ditch.**
9. **College Farm** owned by St John's College, Oxford for over 400 years purchased by Sir Thomas White in 1554
10. **Millet's Farm** Joseph Millet owned a farm here in 1775. Auctioned at the Noah's Ark in 1778.
11. **War Memorial.**
12. **The Village Hall.** built as a reading room for employees of the Lockinge estate in 1880.



Manor Courts

The defining feature of a manor was the right of the lord of the manor to hold a manor court – and to receive penalties imposed by the court and other payments due when land changed hand from one tenant to another.

Although Garford has no manor house it has a rich record of manor courts held by Lords of the Manor between 1547 and 1840.

The earliest record that has survived is from 1547 when Garford was held by the Crown and King Henry VIII was the lord of the manor.

Together they provide a fascinating insight into life in Garford from 500 to 200 years ago.

By far the largest number of decisions related to the keeping of animals – cows, sheep, pigs and horses – how many each tenant could keep, where and when they were allowed – and weren't allowed.

Garford Manor Courts					
Years	Lord of the Manor	Language	Records	Matters	Homage
1547	King Henry VIII	Latin	1	7	9
1547-50	King Edward VI	Latin	4	3-6	9
1664-72	Lord Craven	Latin and English	4	1-6	7-11
1740-57	Lord Craven	English	17	21-31	12-16
1570-1840	St John's College	English	20+		

Each manor court had a “homage” who were tenants of the manor. In most areas where the court might adjudicate, agreement between neighbours was far preferable to legal enforcement. The consent of the community was partly based upon the knowledge that the officers were all drawn from the homage, so all tenants could at some stage be presented for an offence, be called upon to make a judgement, set a fine or enforce a decision of the court. On smaller manors [like **Garford**] all participants were almost certainly related, neighbours or otherwise well known to each other.”



Manor Court Records

← 1664 1740 →



1961 Land Use Survey

This maps show what every field was used for in **Garford** in 1961. It was recently rediscovered and digitised.

The key is included: brown represents arable crops; green represents grass and animals.

Nowadays there is more arable with significantly less

animals. In 1961 there were lots of cattle (mainly dairy), sheep and even turkeys.

Leys were fields that had recently been sown with grass and a legume crop, such as lucerne.

Fields were smaller on average than today.

