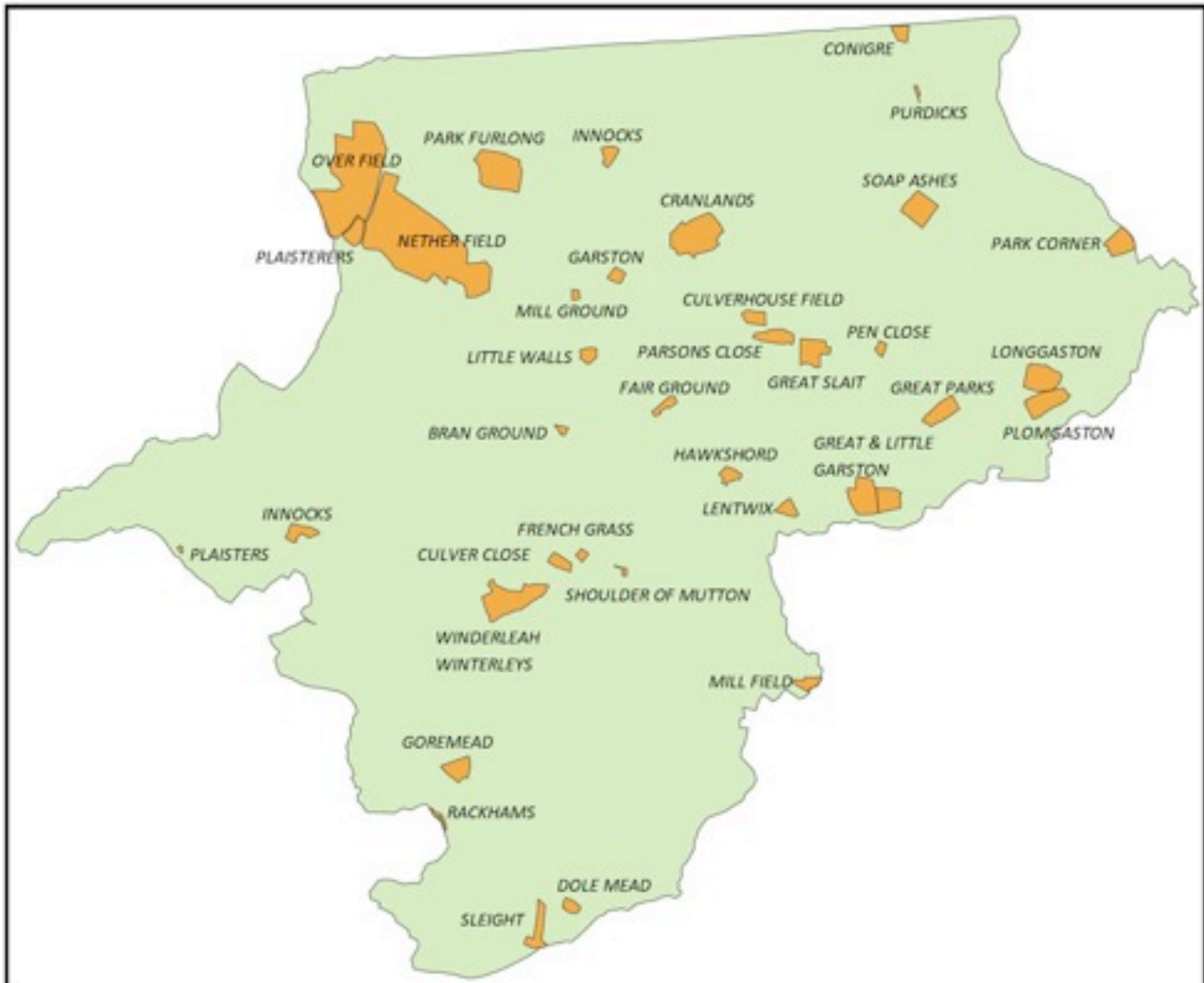


## Field-names of the Bradford Hundred

Field-names are a valuable record of the past because they provide a snap-shot of the surroundings at the time when they were first coined. They provide links to all aspects of life.



Locations of some field-names in the Bradford Hundred

Our oldest field-name dates back to Westwood and Wittenham's Anglo-Saxon charter of AD 987, where *Winderleah* is on Westwood's parish boundary to the south-west of Bradford. The name survives today as *Winterleys*. Anglo-Saxon and medieval farmers named fields after what they could see, so that a field with the remains of Roman walls might well be called Walls - a Roman building was found at *Little Walls* in Cumberwell in 2010. The term gaers-tun, a grass enclosure, was used in the Laws of Wessex in AD 690 and can be found in Holt as *Great* and *Little Gaston*, in South Wraxall as *Garston*, and in Broughton Gifford as *Longgaston* and *Plumgaston*.

In Monkton Farleigh the Court Rolls from 1580s refer to the *Over Field* and the *Nether Field* which were part of the open field system of agriculture where land lay fallow every third year. Peasants held land in return for their labour and *Lentwix* in Holt is a field where labour service was due in the weeks leading up to Easter.

*Dole Mead* in Wingfield indicates meadow land where everyone had an equal share of the hay and grazing. Inhoke was land temporarily enclosed from the fallow field and can be found as *Innocks* in South Wraxall and Winsley.

The shape of a field might suggest a name. Three sided fields were named after three sided or three legged objects, thus there is a *Gore Mead* in Wingfield and a *Bran* (trivet) *Ground* in Frankley. The *Shoulder of Mutton* field in Trowle needs no explanation. Sheep pastures had the Old English name sleget and there is a *Great Slait* in Holt and a *Sleight* in Wingfield. When new crops were introduced this prompted the renaming of fields so that there are four *French Grass* (sanfoin) fields locally. Fields might also become memorable because a new type of fertiliser was used. There are two *Soap Ashes* fields in Little Chalfield.



Bitterns were once seen in Atworth in *Purdicks*

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Sainfoin (french grass) flower

By en:User:Ramin Nakisa -  
en:Image:OnobrychisViciifolia.jpg, CC BY-SA 3.0,

Old English pleg-stow was a place where villagers gathered to play on 'holy days' and these are indicated by *Plaisters* at Limpley Stoke and *Plaisterers* at Monkton Farleigh. *Fair Ground* at Bradford Leigh records the site of Bradford Leigh Fair which had Georgian origins. The more lordly pursuits of hawking and hunting are captured by *Hawkshord* (a clearing in woodland where a hawk could be flown) in Woolley and the numerous '*Park*' fields which indicate the medieval deer parks of Monkton Farleigh, Holt and Broughton Gifford.

Medieval spiritual thought was dominated by purgatory and wealthy people sought to reduce the time their soul might spend there by establishing chantries where prayers could be said for them. Parsons Close in Little Chalfield is part of a chantry endowment from AD 1348 and Chantry Mead in Bradford lies next to Chantry House which belonged to the Horton Chantry dating from 1524.

Water-mills are indicated by *Mill Field* in Bradford, *Mill Ground* in South Wraxall and *Pen Close* in Great Chalfield. Tenter racks where woollen cloth was stretched and dried can be placed at *Rackhams* in Wingfield.

There are almost 5000 field-names in the Tithe Maps of the Bradford Hundred which, together with another 1200 whose locations are not known, provide plenty of scope for more research on this subject.

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