



# The Brecks 1700–1930

A landscape history research guide



## Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
Defining the Brecks	3
The Brecks: Historic Parishes	4
The Brecks in the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries	5
<b>Research Resources</b>	<b>6</b>
Historic Ordnance Survey Maps	6
Parliamentary Enclosure Documents	9
Tithe Maps and Apportionments	11
Estate Archives	13
Estate Maps	15
County Maps	17
Lidar	19
Online Research Resources	22
<b>Further Reading</b>	<b>24</b>

## Introduction

This guide was produced as part of the *Landscape Revolution* project. This looked at the changing landscape of the Brecks in the period from 1700 to 1930 and involved landscape historians from the University of East Anglia working with volunteers to carry out research and fieldwork. The main topics tackled by the project included the growth of landed estates and their influence on the landscape, changing designs of parks and gardens, tree planting and enclosure. What follows is not intended to be an exhaustive guide to all possible sources and approaches. Rather it focuses on a smaller number of key sources, some of which are held in local archives, others which are freely available online. We hope this serves as a useful introduction and guide to researching this very important period in the history of the Brecks landscape.

### Breaking New Ground

Our project was just one part of a much larger Landscape Partnership project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. *Breaking New Ground* ran from 2014 to 2017 and included projects that investigated and celebrated various aspects of the unique landscape of the Brecks. You can find out more about *BNG* by visiting <http://www.breakingnewground.org.uk/>



## Defining the Brecks

Historians and ecologists have approached the Brecks in various ways, not always agreeing on precisely where the region begins and ends. The key elements of the landscape – heathland, farmland, conifers, sand, flint – combine to give it a unique character, but while the centre of the region is clear enough there is no defined edge. For this guide we have used the *National Character Area* boundary as defined by Natural England.<sup>1</sup>

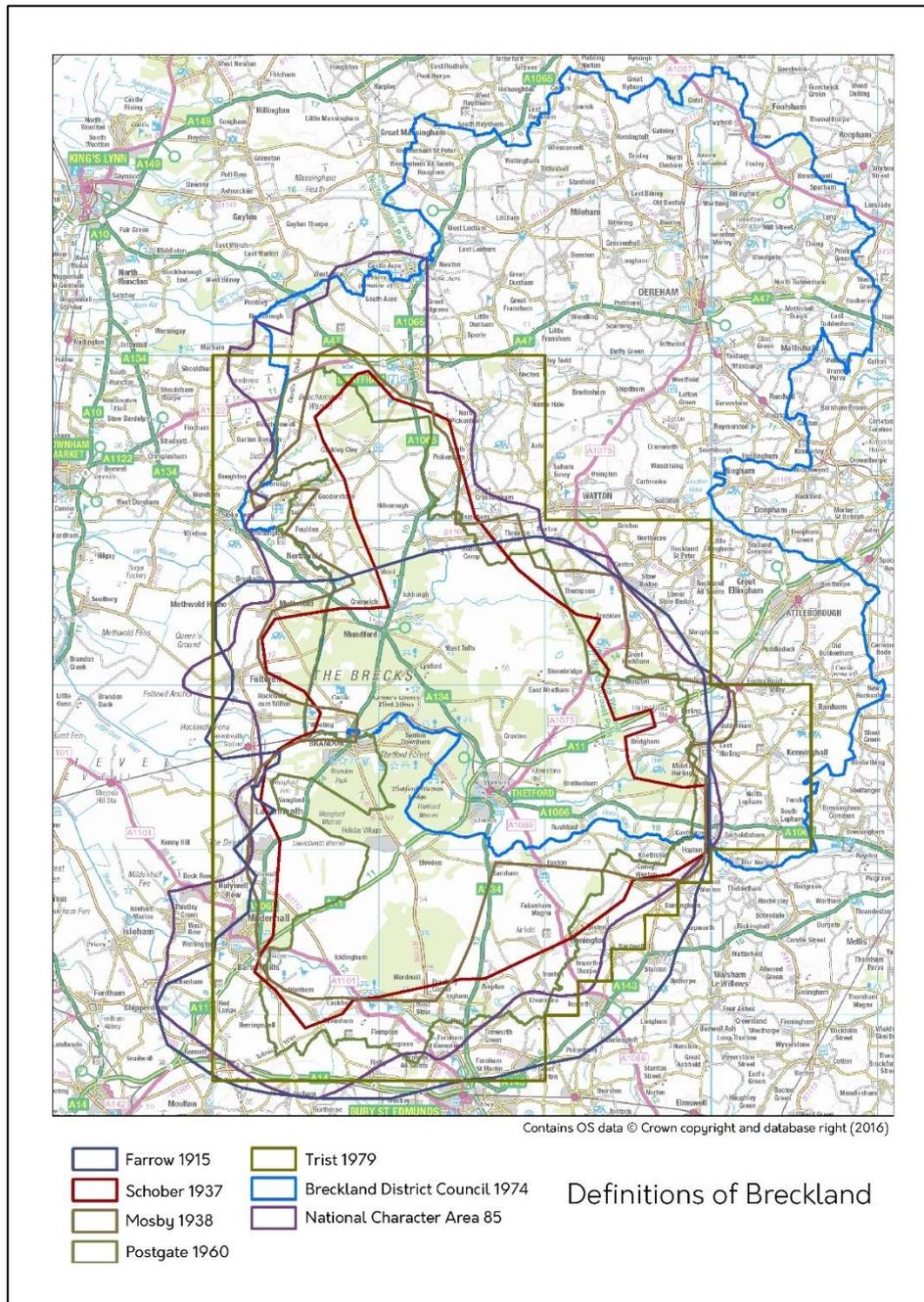


Figure 1 - The Brecks/Breckland as defined by various authors and organisations.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4282581> for further details.

## The Brecks – Historic Parishes

The map below shows parishes in the Brecks as they were in the mid-19th century. The present-day pattern is slightly different due to boundary changes and the amalgamation of neighbouring parishes in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many of the records and documents relating to this period were created on a parish basis (e.g. enclosure and tithe maps).

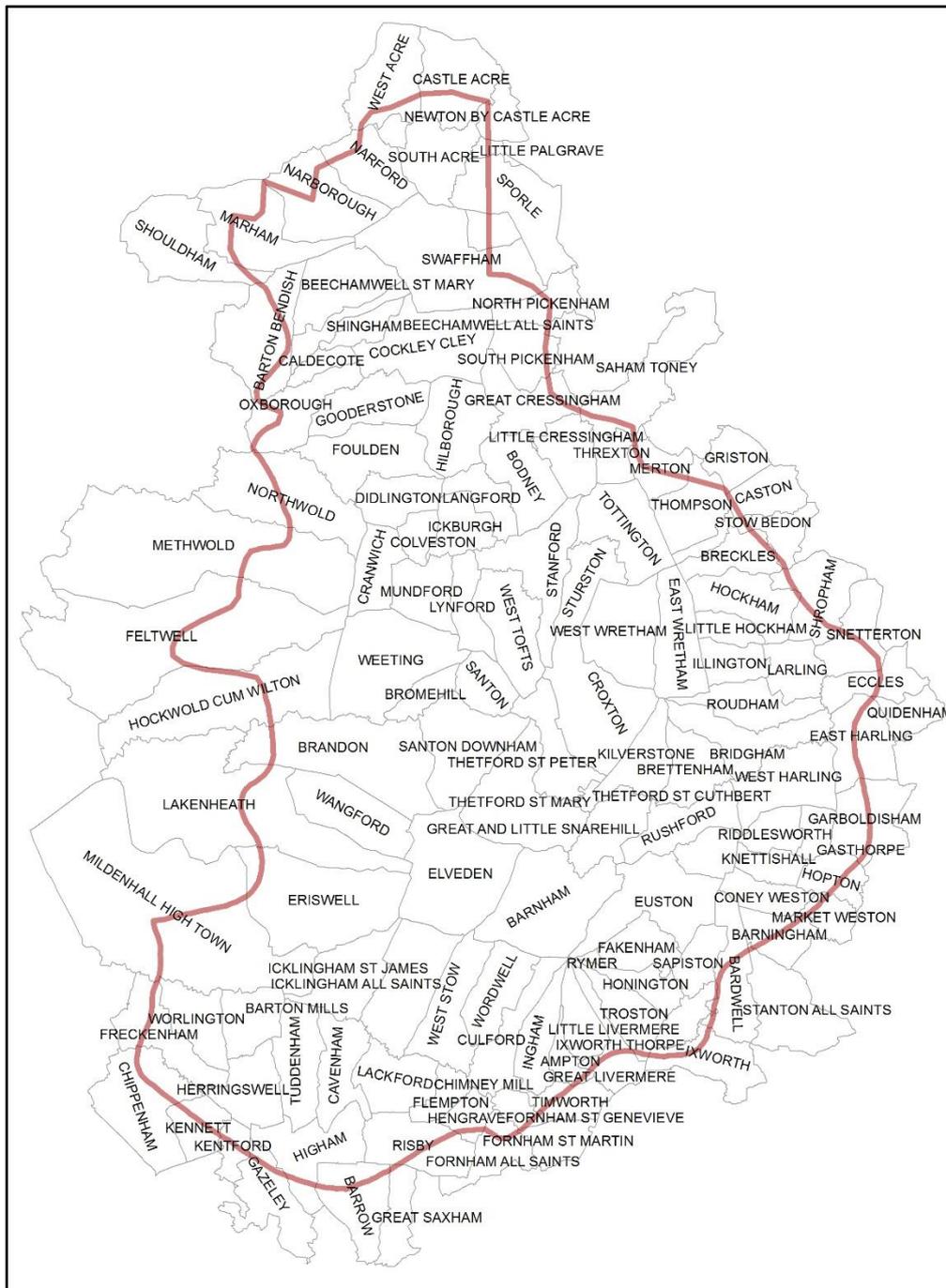


Figure 2 - Parishes in the Brecks c.1850. The red line shows the boundary of the Brecks National Character Area as defined by Natural England.

## The Brecks in the 18th and 19th centuries – key themes

During the period covered by this guide many parts of the Brecks were transformed. Heathland was enclosed, parks and gardens were laid out, landed estates expanded and trees were planted on a huge scale. Alongside this, more traditional landscapes and land uses also survived – heaths, warrens and commons did not completely disappear and some areas proved resistant to the efforts of ‘improvers’. In the 20th century the landscape entered another new phase of dramatic change as estates declined, farming practices changed and land was given over to forestry and military use.

- **Enclosure and Reclamation**

In 1700 large areas of heathland were subject to common rights, providing access to grazing and fuel to local inhabitants. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century this was increasingly seen by landowners and contemporary writers on farming as an outdated system which prevented land from being improved. Enclosure was seen by these people as an essential step towards making better use of the land. Numerous parishes in the Brecks were affected by parliamentary enclosure, particularly in the decades either side of 1800, creating a new landscape of large rectangular fields, straight roads and isolated farms. Where heathland was enclosed great efforts were often made to reclaim the land and to make it more productive. This usually involved the application of vast quantities of marl and manure to pave the way for new crop rotations, alongside tree planting to create shelter and define new boundaries.

- **Landowners and Estates**

Many of the transformations seen in the landscape at this time were instigated by wealthy landowners. Estates were increasing in size during this period as landowners bought out their neighbours to acquire blocks of land that might spread over several parishes. Gaining control of such large areas allowed for ambitious schemes of enclosure and tree planting. Some landowning families could trace their connection with the Brecks back for centuries, but many arrived in the area having made their money elsewhere, attracted by the low land prices, potential for shooting and the opportunity to reshape the landscape in line with their own ideas.

- **Parks and Plantations**

Country houses of various sizes and styles were built and rebuilt during this period. Some sat within relatively modest designed landscapes, while others were surrounded by large landscape parks occupying hundreds of acres. Such parks were increasing in size rapidly in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century under the influence of contemporary designers such as Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown. Within and outside the parks trees were being planted in increasing numbers, with the expansion of plantations becoming particularly rapid in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This period also saw the establishment of the pine lines now so characteristic of the Brecks. Tree planting served various purposes for landowners: shelter, profit, aesthetics, status, patriotism and game could all have an influence.

# Research Resources

## 1. Historic Ordnance Survey Maps

The Ordnance Survey maps of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries allow us to carefully trace the changing landscape of the Brecks. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century highly detailed maps of the Brecks had been produced at scales of 6 inches (1:10,560) and 25 inches (1:2,500) to the mile, in addition to the earlier 1 inch to 1 mile maps. Thetford and Bury St Edmunds were covered by the most detailed mapping available, the ‘Town Plans’ (10 feet to 1 mile, 1:500).

- **Where to find them**

Original paper copies of large scale OS maps of the Brecks can be viewed at the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St Edmunds and at the Norfolk Heritage Centre in the Forum, Norwich.

Many maps can also now be viewed online.

- **National Library for Scotland OS Maps online**

The National Library for Scotland have scanned and made available online a large number of historic OS maps. These can be viewed freely, either as individual sheets or as a seamless layer on top of or alongside modern maps and aerial photographs.

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/>

6-inch to 1 mile maps are available for the whole of the Brecks region though at the time of writing 25-inch maps are available for Suffolk but not Norfolk.

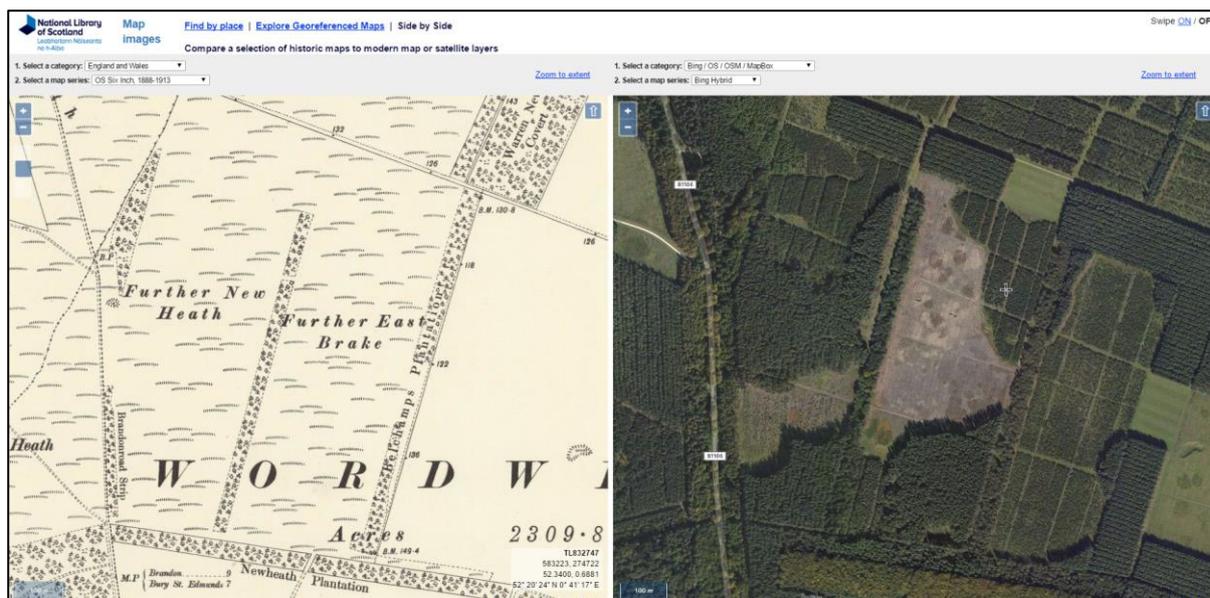


Figure 3 - 6-inch to the mile OS map alongside an aerial photograph of the same area today (National Library of Scotland).

- Map editions

For most of the Brecks the first large scale OS maps were surveyed and printed in the 1880s. Revised maps for most places appeared in 1906, with further revisions in the 1920s, 1930s and 1950s.

- Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawings

Digital images of the drawings can be downloaded from:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Ordnance\\_Survey\\_Drawings](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Ordnance_Survey_Drawings)

The sheets covering the Brecks are:

OSD 291 - East Harling (E.B. Metcalf, 1821)

OSD 238 - Feltwell (T. Yeakell, 1813)

OSD 237 – Bury St Edmunds (c.1817-35)

- What are the maps useful for?

- Charting landscape change through the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Examining details of designed landscapes.
- Looking at the expansion of tree planting and balance between coniferous and deciduous planting.
- Looking at the survival of heathland and changing amounts and locations of 'rough grazing', often an indicator or formerly enclosed and improved land which had been abandoned.
- Identifying features such as parish boundaries, farms, marl pits.
- Later editions of the 25-inch (1:2500) maps record the acreage of each parcel of land.
- 

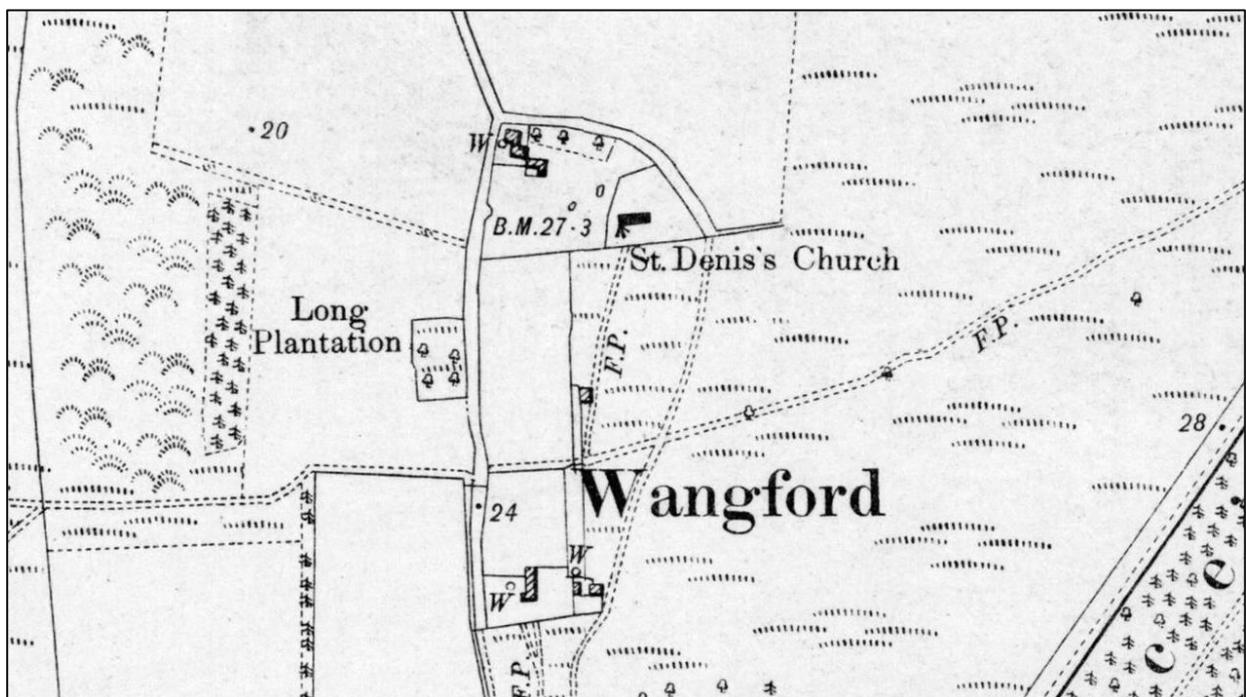


Figure 4 - Extract from the OS 6-inch map of Wangford, showing symbols used to denote 'Furze' (to the left of Long Plantation) and 'Rough Grazing' (the area to the right of the map crossed by a footpath).

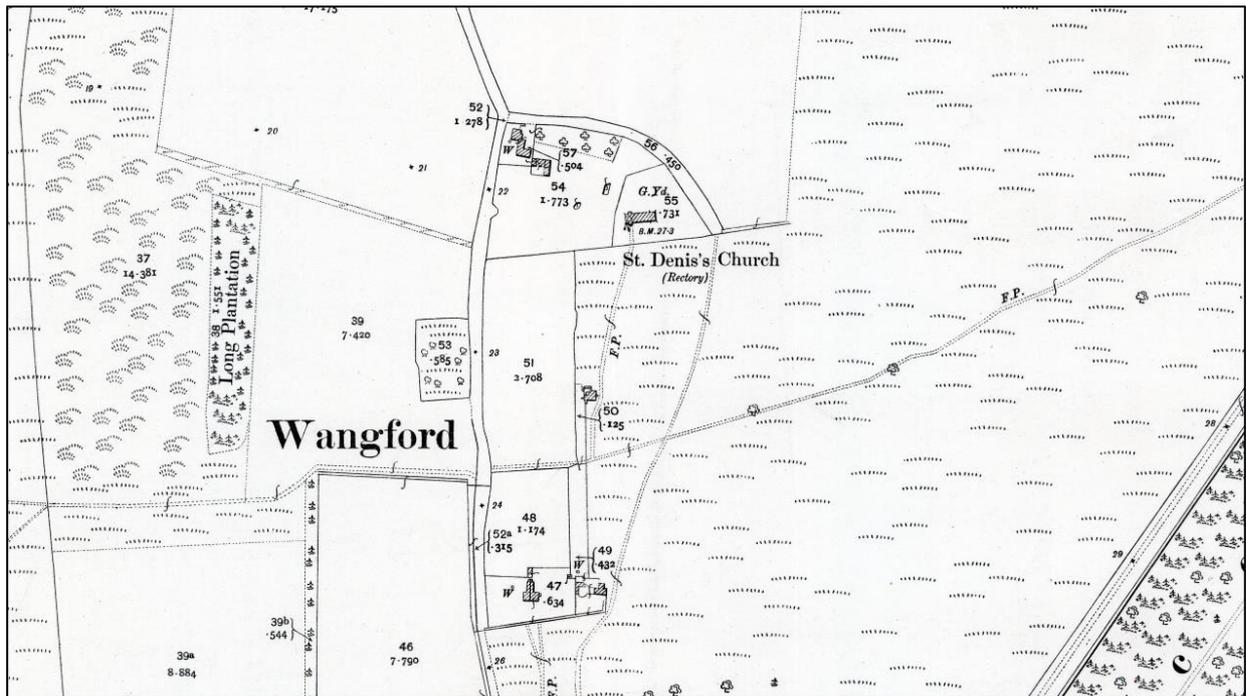


Figure 5 - Extract from the 25-inch map of Wangford showing the greater level of detail. Each parcel of land also has a reference number and an acreage.

- Further information

The National Library for Scotland website includes a range of useful guides which cover the history of each map series and provide information on the symbols and abbreviations used on different editions. The guides can be found here - <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/help.html>

J.B. Harley and C.W. Phillip, *Ordnance Survey Maps for Historians* (1964).

R. Oliver, *Ordnance Survey Maps: A Concise Guide for Historians* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2013).

The Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps - <https://www.charlesclosesociety.org/>

## 2. Parliamentary Enclosure Documents

Many parishes in the Brecks were enclosed by Act of Parliament in the 18th and 19th centuries. This led to the creation of a distinctive landscape of straight-sided fields, straight roads and new isolated farms in place of open heathland commons and arable strip fields. The impact of this varied across the region. Some parishes were enclosed without the need for an Act, while others retained greater areas of open heathland. Even where areas were enclosed and ‘improved’ for more intensive agricultural use this was not necessarily a lasting change. Some of the enclosed land was so poor that any practical or lasting improvement was too difficult and expensive to achieve. Enclosure did have a more lasting impact on those who lived and worked in the region – ending common rights, closing or diverting roads and removing access to large areas of the landscape.

The passing of an Enclosure Act involved the creation of various documents which can give us valuable insights into pre- and post-enclosure landscapes and the people involved in their creation.

- **Where to find them**

The key documents relating to any parliamentary enclosure were the Act, the Award and the map (which usually accompanies the award). For parishes in the Brecks these can be found in the Norfolk and Suffolk Record Offices in Norwich and Bury St Edmunds.

Other documents may include:

- Estate correspondence relating to enclosure
- Additional surveys or maps drawn up before enclosure
- Records of claims made by those holding land or common rights before enclosure
- Records relating to the work of the commissioners and surveyors who organised and managed the process of enclosure.

Lists of parliamentary enclosure maps by county can be found at <http://enclosuremaps.data-archive.ac.uk/>

- **Enclosure Acts**

Parliamentary enclosure acts generally follow a similar format, but provide useful information relating to the parish (or parishes) being enclosed. This can include acreages of common land, names of individual involved and details relating to roads, gravel pits, poor allotments and the construction of new boundaries.

A General Enclosure Act was passed in 1801 in an attempt to standardise and streamline the process of parliamentary enclosure.

- **Enclosure Maps and Awards**

The details of each enclosure were recorded on maps and in the ‘award’ – a long written document setting out a record of how the land was to be divided, how roads and footpaths were to change and associated matters.

Enclosure surveyors produced maps to work out and show how common land was to be divided and allotted. For some parishes a series of maps may survive running from early drafts and sketches to the final ‘official’ plan. The details recorded on the map may not necessarily correspond with what actually happened in the landscape – later exchanges of land and agreements about where new boundaries had to be put in place could alter what was set out on the map.



Figure 6 - Parliamentary enclosure map for the parish of Feltwell, Norfolk

- **What are parliamentary enclosure documents useful for?**
  - Detailed record of proposed changes to the landscape
  - Can reveal details about pre-enclosure landscape
  - Show who was involved in the process and who the main beneficiaries were
  - Help to establish chronology of landscape change

- **Further information**

S. Hollowell, *Enclosure Records for Historians* (Phillimore, Chichester, 2000).

Online catalogue of enclosure maps - <http://enclosuremaps.data-archive.ac.uk/>

### 3. Tithe Maps and Apportionments

Tithes were originally annual payments made for the support of the parish church and its clergy in the form of a proportion of agricultural produce. Over time money payments replaced payments in kind (grain, wool etc) in some places. In 1836 the Tithe Commutation Act was passed, paving the way for tithes to be converted into ‘tithe rentcharges’ – a cash payment calculated on the basis of average grain prices. For parishes affected by the Act a detailed set of documents were produced including a large-scale map and an accompanying list of information for each piece of land.

- **Where to find them**

Original maps and apportionments are held in the Norfolk and Suffolk Record Offices. Copies of all Norfolk maps and apportionments can be viewed on microfilm at the Record Office. A number of Norfolk tithe maps (but not apportionments) have been scanned and are available to view on the Norfolk Historic Map Explorer website - <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>

A number of tithe apportionments for the Brecks have been converted into Excel documents as part of the Breaking New Ground project. Please contact us for details.

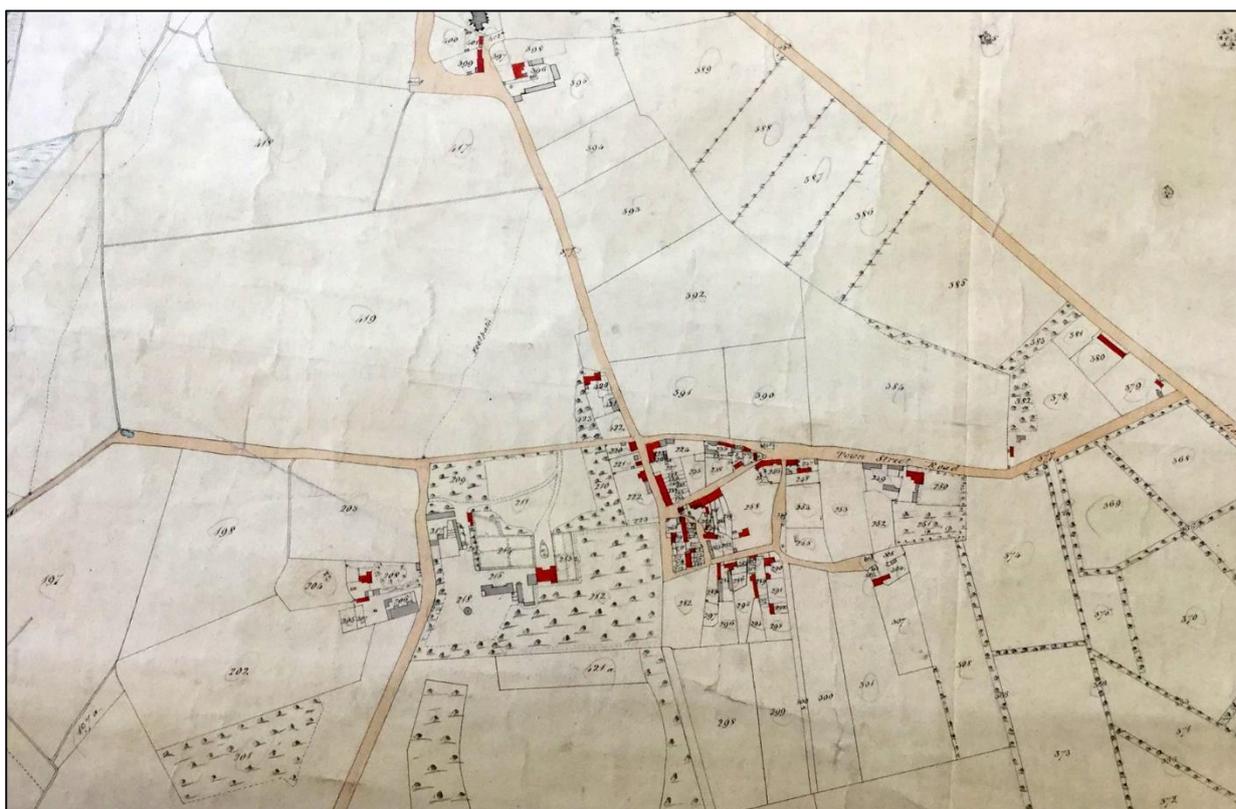


Figure 7 - Part of the tithe award map for Brandon, surveyed in 1838 (Suffolk Record Office).

- **What information is recorded?**

Each field on the tithe map is given a reference number relating to an entry in the written apportionment. This will tell you:

- The name of the landowner
- The name of the occupier
- The name of the field, wood or farm
- The current land use (usually categorised as arable, pasture, meadow, woodland but in some cases recorded in more detail).
- The area of each piece of land in Acres, Roods and Perches
- The new rentcharge.

The opening section of the apportionment also contains general information such as:

- The acreage of the parish.
- Proportions of land use (arable, pasture, woodland) within the parish.

- **What are tithe documents useful for?**

- Large scale maps of the landscape c.1840.
- Record of field names which can provide valuable insight into local landscape features.
- Recording survival of 'Breck' field names.
- Patterns of land use, balance of arable and pasture, location of heathland.
- Reconstructing estates of different landowners.

- **Further Information:**

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/tithes/>

R. Kain and H. Prince, *Tithe Surveys for Historians* (Phillimore, Chichester, 2000).

## 4. Estate Archives

By the nineteenth century the Brecks landscape was dominated by large landed estates, several of which owned land across various parishes. The campaigns of landscape improvement which these landowners were involved in generated a wealth of documentary material, some of which is now held by the county Record Offices. The quantity and quality of the surviving material varies from estate to estate, but where good records do exist they can shed important light on the timing of change and the underlying motives.

- **Accounts** - surviving accounts can provide evidence of when changes were taking place. They might also reveal the priorities of different estate owners. Records of farm rents and profits can show how successful, or not, schemes of improvement were. Accounts can vary considerably in the amount of detail they contain and there may be gaps in the period covered.
- **Written Surveys** - these are sometimes, but not always, accompanied by maps. They can provide a detailed summary of the appearance and management of estates.
- **Letters** - these can be a valuable source for finding out when changes took place and why they were happening. They can give us an insight into the outlook and motives of landowners, and their relationship with those who had to plan and carry out the work. They might also include details about activity on neighbouring estates. It can be very time consuming to read through large bundles of correspondence, but you may find that they have already been sorted and summarised in the Record Office catalogue.
- **Sales particulars** - numerous estates in the Brecks changed hands at least once during this period. Detailed catalogues were usually drawn up when an estate was to be sold, providing information about the extent and condition of what was included. A map of the estate is usually included, while later examples may also include photographs.
- **Game books** – usually dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, these record what was shot each year and may also have details on the management of game and plantations.
- **Farm leases** - record who was renting the farm, how much they were paying and for how long. They can also provide information about how the farm was to be managed and may contain details about reclaiming heathland, marling, tree planting and the landowner's rights to resources such as timber and game.
- **Planting books and timber surveys** – the rate of tree planting on estates in the Brecks increased rapidly in this period, particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On some estates detailed records survive noting the dates of planting, the species used and the successes and failures encountered.

## Where to find them

The Norfolk and Suffolk Record Offices both hold a wealth of material relating to estates in the Brecks. Some estates hold their own archives which may not be accessible to the public.

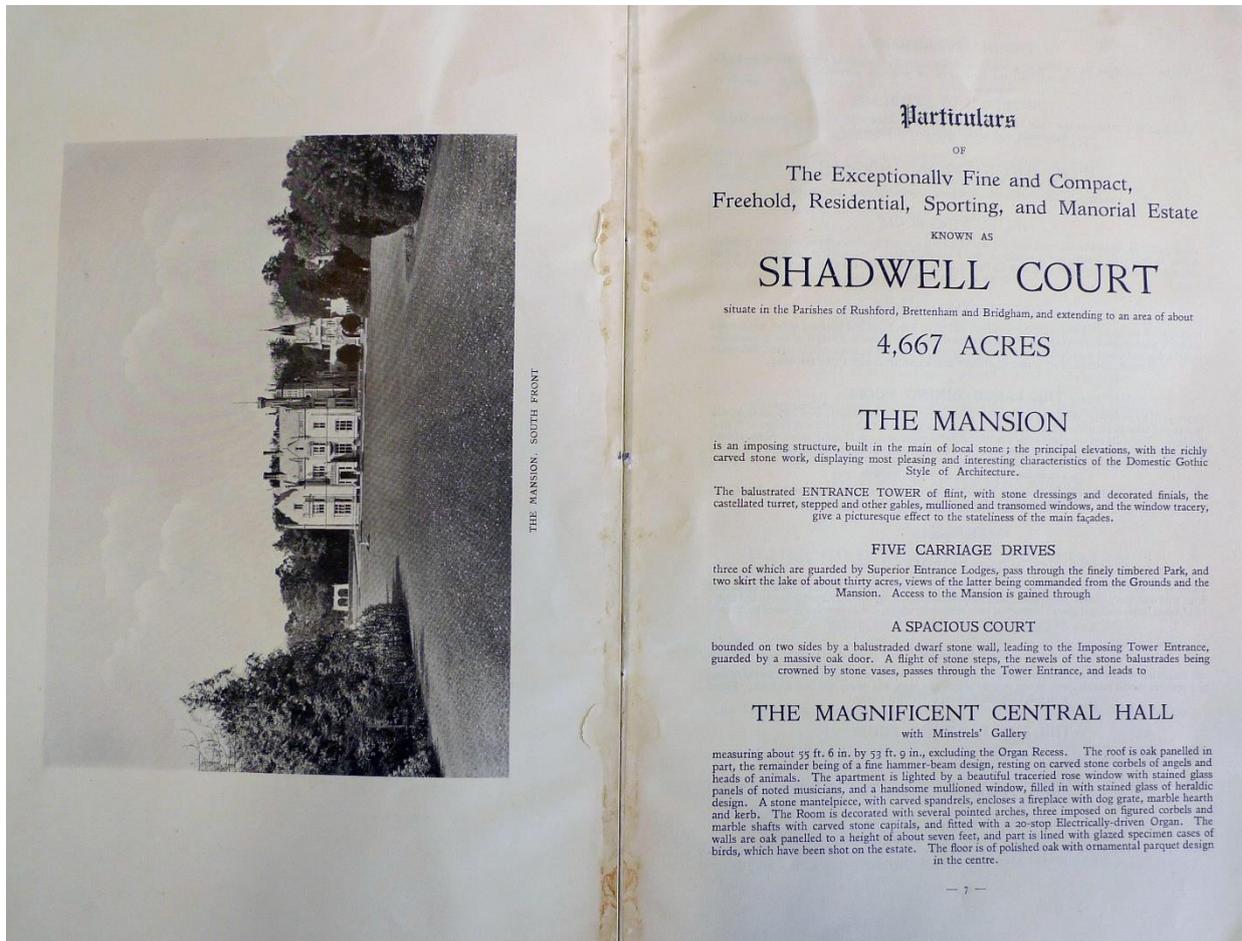


Figure 8 - 1920s Sale Catalogue for the Shadwell Court Estate (Norfolk Record Office)

## 5. Estate Maps

Privately commissioned estate maps can provide a very detailed record of the landscape at a particular point in time. They are especially useful when a series of maps of different dates can be compared. Estate maps vary in size and style, from large, detailed and elaborately decorated maps that were clearly designed for display, to smaller, simpler maps used as working documents. Most surviving estate maps date to the period c.1600–1850. By the end of the 19th century the existence of large scale OS maps meant there was little need for private surveys.



Figure 9 - Brecks and commons from a map of Shropham drawn in 1758 (Norfolk Record Office).

- Where to find them

Most estate maps are now held in Record Office collections although some do remain in private hands. Norfolk and Suffolk Record Offices both have various estate maps covering different parts of the Brecks. These are often very large documents so it is a good idea to order them in advance where possible and go prepared to take plenty of photographs.

- **What are they useful for?**
  - Detailed view of landscape, often drawn using large scale
  - Capturing landscapes in period before comprehensive mapping was available
  - Some record field names, land use, names of tenants.
  - Recording details of parks, gardens and plantations
  - Some clearly functioned as working documents with later changes, proposals and annotations sometimes visible.
- **Key points to think about:**
  - What is the date of the map?
  - Who commissioned the map and who drew it?
  - Why was the map drawn? Did it mark the arrival of a new estate owner? Was a major change in the landscape being planned or recorded? Was it for show or to serve as a working document?
  - What does the map focus on and what is left out? Many estate maps ignore neighbouring land held by others.
  - Does the map relate to any other contemporary documents (e.g field books, surveys)?

## 6. County Maps

Various county maps were produced in the 16th and 17th centuries, but in the second half of the 18th century maps were produced for many counties which far surpassed the quality and detail of earlier mapping. These county maps were typically produced at a scale of 1 inch to the mile and can be an important source of information for the period before the Ordnance Survey 1- inch sheets were produced.

- **County Maps and the Brecks**

Maps for both Suffolk and Norfolk were produced in the last decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Suffolk map was surveyed by Joseph Hodkinson and published in 1783 by William Faden. The Norfolk map was surveyed by Thomas Donald and Thomas Milne in the early 1790s and also published by Faden in 1797. Today the Suffolk map is generally referred to as Hodkinson's while the Norfolk map has come to be known as Faden's. Both maps have been published in book form and more recently digitally redrawn by Andrew Macnair.

The Norfolk map shows the Brecks in rather more detail than the Suffolk equivalent, with an attempt made to record the boundaries of warrens, heaths and commons in addition to a wealth of other detail. Hodkinson's map reflects the open nature of the landscape of north-west Suffolk at this time, recording a largely empty landscape around Elveden and Lakenheath, crossed by various roads and tracks and dotted with lodges and barrows.

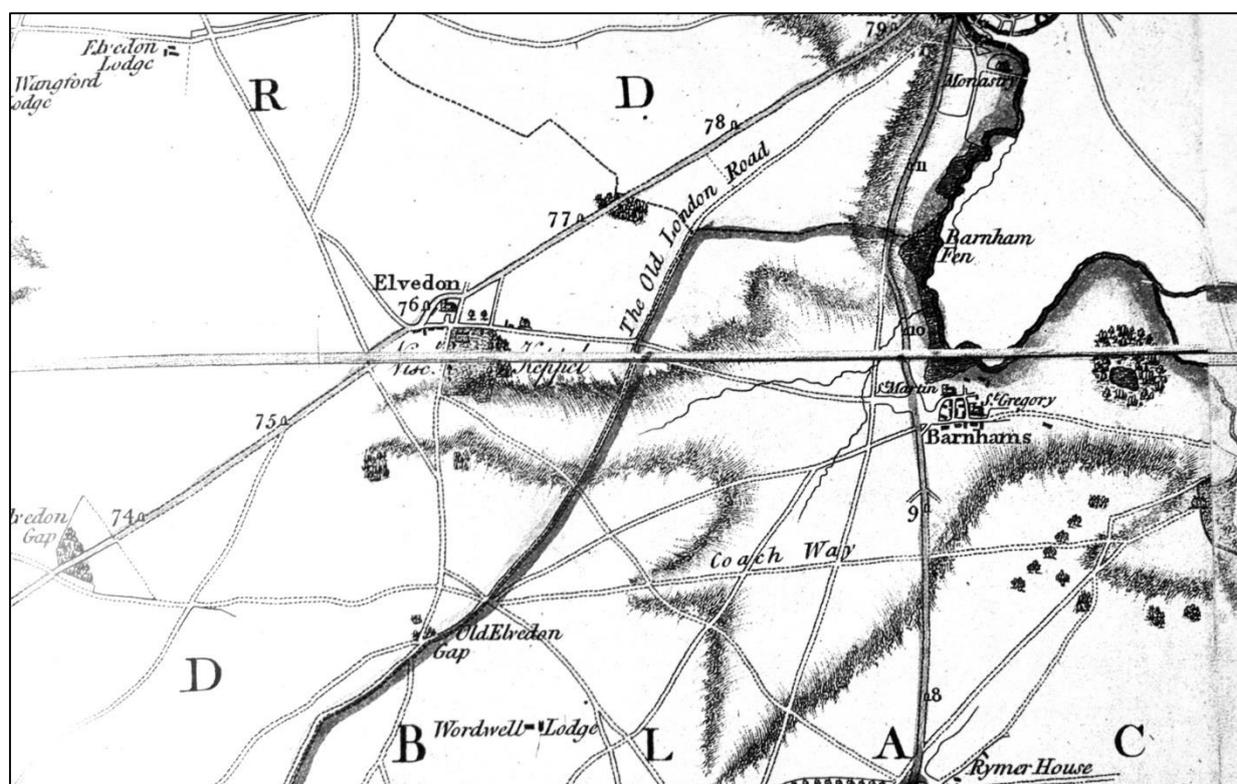


Figure 10 - Extract from Hodkinson's Map of Suffolk, published 1783.

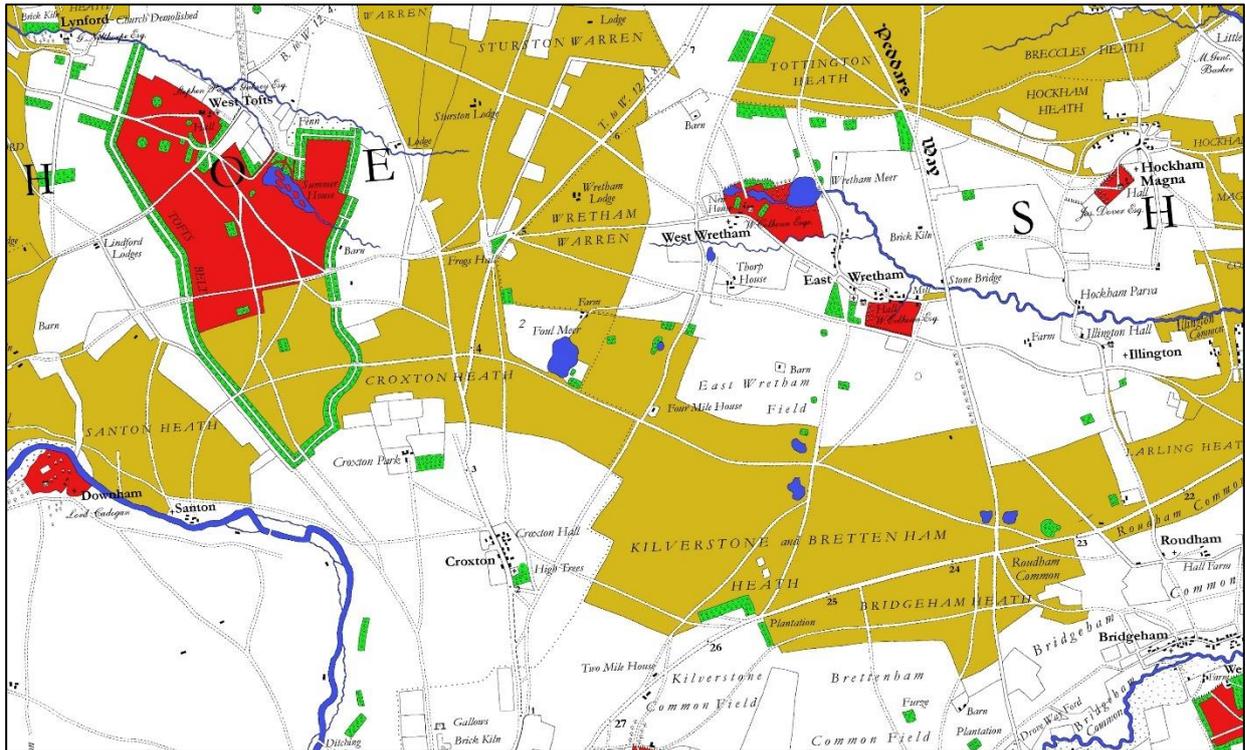


Figure 11 - Extract from Faden's Map of Norfolk (1797), digitally redrawn by Andrew Macnair.

- **What are they useful for?**
  - An overview of the Brecks landscape in the period before consistent OS mapping.
  - A snapshot of the Brecks just before the main period of parliamentary enclosure.
  - Showing the extent of heaths, warrens and commons prior to enclosure.
  - Showing the location and size of landscape parks and some indication of their layout.
  - Recording the names of major landowners (who paid to subscribe to the map).
  - Studying details of late 18<sup>th</sup>-century landscape – roads and tracks, lime kilns and brick kilns, plantations, mills, farms and villages.
  - Comparison with other 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century maps.

- **Further Information:**

*Faden's Map of Norfolk* (Norfolk Record Society, 1973).

*Faden's Map of Norfolk* (Larks Press, 1989).

*Hodkinson's Map of Suffolk in 1783* (Larks Press, 2003).

A.Macnair and T. Williamson, *William Faden and Norfolk's 18<sup>th</sup>-century landscape* (Windgather Press, 2010).

Digitally redrawn versions can be viewed online here:

- <http://www.fadensmapofnorfolk.co.uk/>
- <http://www.hodkinsonsmapofsuffolk.co.uk/>

## 7. Lidar

Lidar refers to a method of surveying which provides highly detailed maps using laser scanning. The term was originally coined as a combination of ‘Light’ and ‘Radar’ but is often now said to refer to ‘Light Detection and Ranging’. In recent years lidar data for England has been made freely available to view and download online although this collection does not yet include comprehensive coverage for the Brecks.

- **Types of lidar data**

Lidar data comes in two main forms:

**DTM – Digital Terrain Model:** This maps the ground surface, ignoring buildings, trees etc.

**DSM – Digital Surface Model:** This includes buildings, trees etc.

Lidar for the Brecks includes 1m and 2m datasets. This figure refers to the resolution of the lidar – for example in a 2m dataset the size of each ‘cell’ is 2m<sup>2</sup>, while a 1m dataset provides more detail as each cell is 1m<sup>2</sup>.

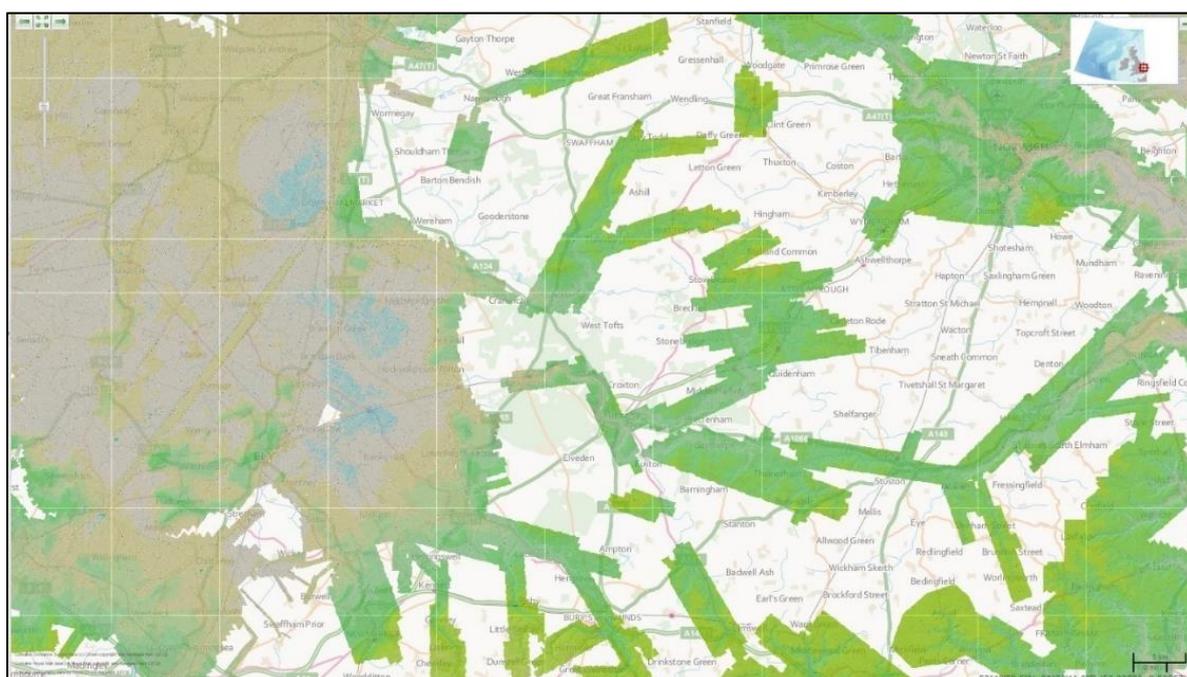


Figure 12 - Coverage of 1m lidar data in and around the Brecks



Figure 13 - Coverage of 2m lidar data in and around the Brecks

- Viewing Free Lidar Data Online

Lidar can be viewed using an interactive map on the **data.gov.uk** website.

- Go to <https://data.gov.uk/data/search> and enter **lidar** in the 'Search for data...' box.
- Set the *Sort By* option to **Popularity**. The main lidar datasets should all appear on the first page of results.

292 results Sort by: Popularity

**LIDAR Composite DSM - 1m** Mapping

Environment Agency  
This metadata record is for Approval for Access product Afa458. Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) is an airborne mapping technique, which uses a laser to measure the distance between...

[Preview on Map](#)  
[Add to Preview List](#)

**LIDAR Composite DTM - 2m** Mapping

Environment Agency  
This metadata record is for Approval for Access product Afa458. Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) is an airborne mapping technique, which uses a laser to measure the distance between...

[Preview on Map](#)  
[Add to Preview List](#)

**LIDAR Composite DTM - 50cm** Mapping

Environment Agency  
Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) is an airborne mapping technique, which uses a laser to measure the distance between the aircraft and the ground. Up to 500,000 measurements per second...

[Preview on Map](#)  
[Add to Preview List](#)

- Choose the data you are interested in and Click the **Preview on Map** option to view the lidar overlaid on a map of England.



- In the **Layers** menu of the Map Preview page you may find it helpful to change **Backdrop Map Projection** to **British National Grid**. If you can not see the lidar on the map make sure the box is ticked next to the name of the dataset.

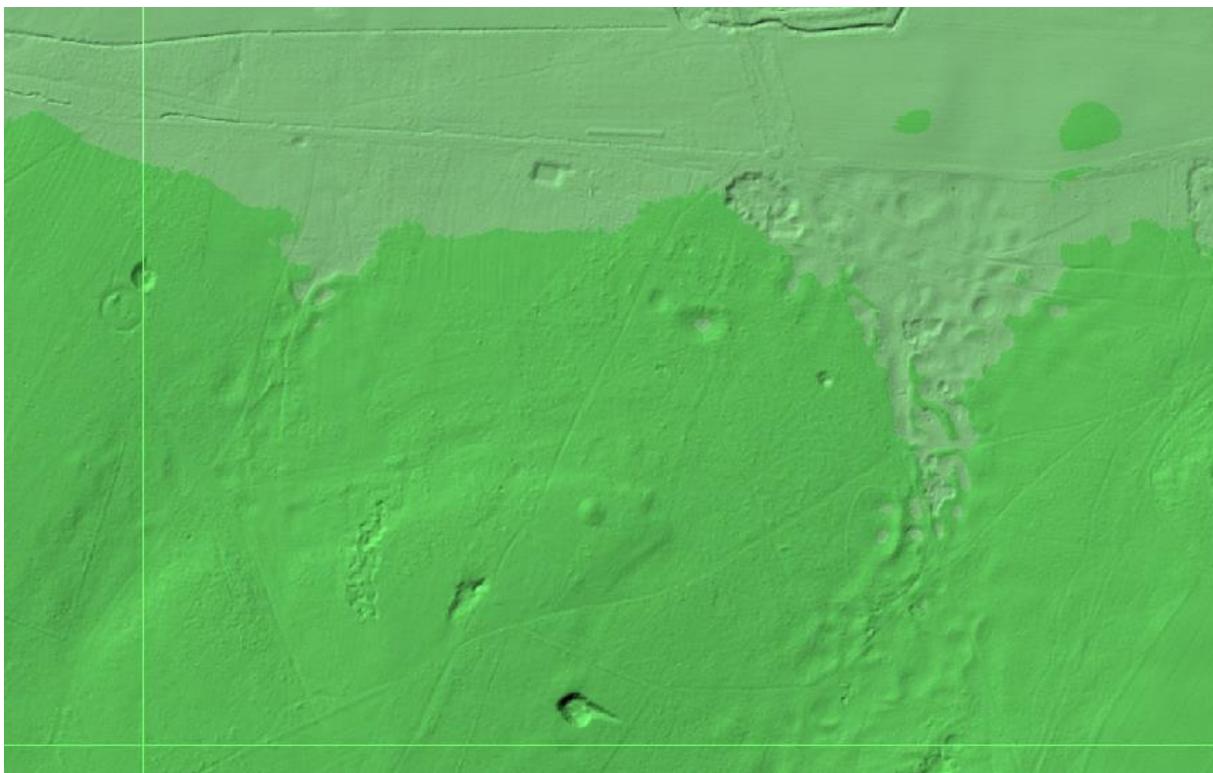


Figure 14 - An extract of the 1m DTM composite lidar for Knettishall Heath.

- **What is lidar useful for?**
  - Viewing landscape features which may not be visible/obvious on aerial photographs.
  - Identifying features such as extraction pits, field boundaries, evidence for ploughing.
  - Comparing features with old maps.
- **Can I download and view the data?**

Yes, although you will need to have access to GIS software such as **QGIS** in order to make full use of it. There are various online tutorials which provide a step-by-step guide to this process.

## 8. Links to useful online research resources

- **Maps**

**Norfolk Historic Map Explorer** - <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>

View and compare various maps and aerial photographs of Norfolk including tithe maps, 6-inch OS maps, 1946 aerial photography and 1988 aerial photography.

**National Library of Scotland Ordnance Survey maps** - <http://maps.nls.uk/os/>

View high quality scans of various historic OS maps including 6-inch and 25-inch to the mile maps. The website also allows you to compare these to modern maps and aerial photographs and contains a range of useful additional guides and maps.

**Old Maps Online** - <http://www.oldmapsonline.org/>

A useful site which allows you to search through various collections of freely available digitised historic maps in one place. Includes maps from British Library, National Library of Scotland and various European University libraries.

- **Parks, Gardens and Country Houses**

**Parks and Gardens UK** - <http://www.parksandgardens.org/>

This site provides summaries of the histories of many parks and gardens alongside maps, images and references to existing research.

**Historic England: Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens** - <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>

Here you can search the National Heritage List for England (NLHE) and find information on listed and registered sites including most of the country houses and major parks and gardens in the Brecks.

**Lost Heritage** - <http://www.lostheritage.org.uk/>

Information and images relating to 'lost' country houses in England, including several in the Brecks such as Didlington and Weeting.

- **Reports**

**Pine Rows** - T. Williamson, *The Breckland Pine Rows: History, Ecology and Landscape Character* (University of East Anglia, 2010) -

<http://www.norfolkbiobiodiversity.org/pdf/reportsandpublications/Brecks%20pine%20rows%20report%20final.pdf>

**Rabbit Warrens** - A. Mason and J. Parry, *The Warrens of Breckland* (The Breckland Society, 2010) - [http://www.brecsoc.org.uk/breckland\\_warrens%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.brecsoc.org.uk/breckland_warrens%20FINAL.pdf)

**The Brecks National Character Area** (Natural England) -

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4282581>

- **Archives**

**Norfolk Record Office** - <http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/>

**Suffolk Record Office** - <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/>

**The National Archives** - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/>

- **Historic Environment Records**

**Norfolk Heritage Explorer** - <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/>

**Suffolk Heritage Explorer** - <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/>

- **18th and 19th-Century Books**

A considerable number of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century books have been digitised and made freely available online, allowing you to search for particular terms or place names. Two useful websites for searching and viewing the books that are available are:

**The Internet Archive** - <https://archive.org/>

**Google Books** - <https://books.google.co.uk/>

- **Historical Sources**

**British History Online** - <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

This site contains a range of historic documents. Most of these are freely available but some documents require a subscription.

**A Vision of Britain Through Time** - <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>

A large and useful collection of maps, statistics, reports and travel writing.

## 9. Further Reading

This is not intended as a comprehensive list of books dealing with the Brecks, merely as an introduction to some key works which may be useful in researching the region in this period.

W.G. Clarke, *In Breckland Wilds* (1925, revised and republished 1937).

O. Cook, *Breckland* (Robert Hale, 1956).

P. Dallas, R. Last and T. Williamson, *Norfolk Gardens and Designed Landscapes* (Windgather Press, 2013).

G. Martelli, *The Elveden Enterprise: A Story of the Second Agricultural Revolution* (Faber, 1952).

J. Parry, *Heathland* (National Trust, 1999).

I. Ringwood, S. Spooner and T. Williamson, *Lost Country Houses of Norfolk* (Boydell, 2015).

K. Skipper and T. Williamson, *Thetford Forest: Making a Landscape 1922-1997* (University of East Anglia, 1997).

K. Sussams, *The Breckland Archaeological Survey* (Suffolk County Council and Norfolk Museums Service, 1996).

S. Wade Martins and T. Williamson, *Roots of Change: Farming and the Landscape in East Anglia 1700-1870* (British Agricultural History Society, 1999).

S. Wade Martins and T. Williamson, *The Countryside of East Anglia: Changing Landscapes 1870-1950* (Boydell, 2008).

T. Williamson, *Suffolk's Gardens and Parks* (Windgather Press, 2000).

T. Williamson, *East Anglia* (Harper Collins, 2006).