



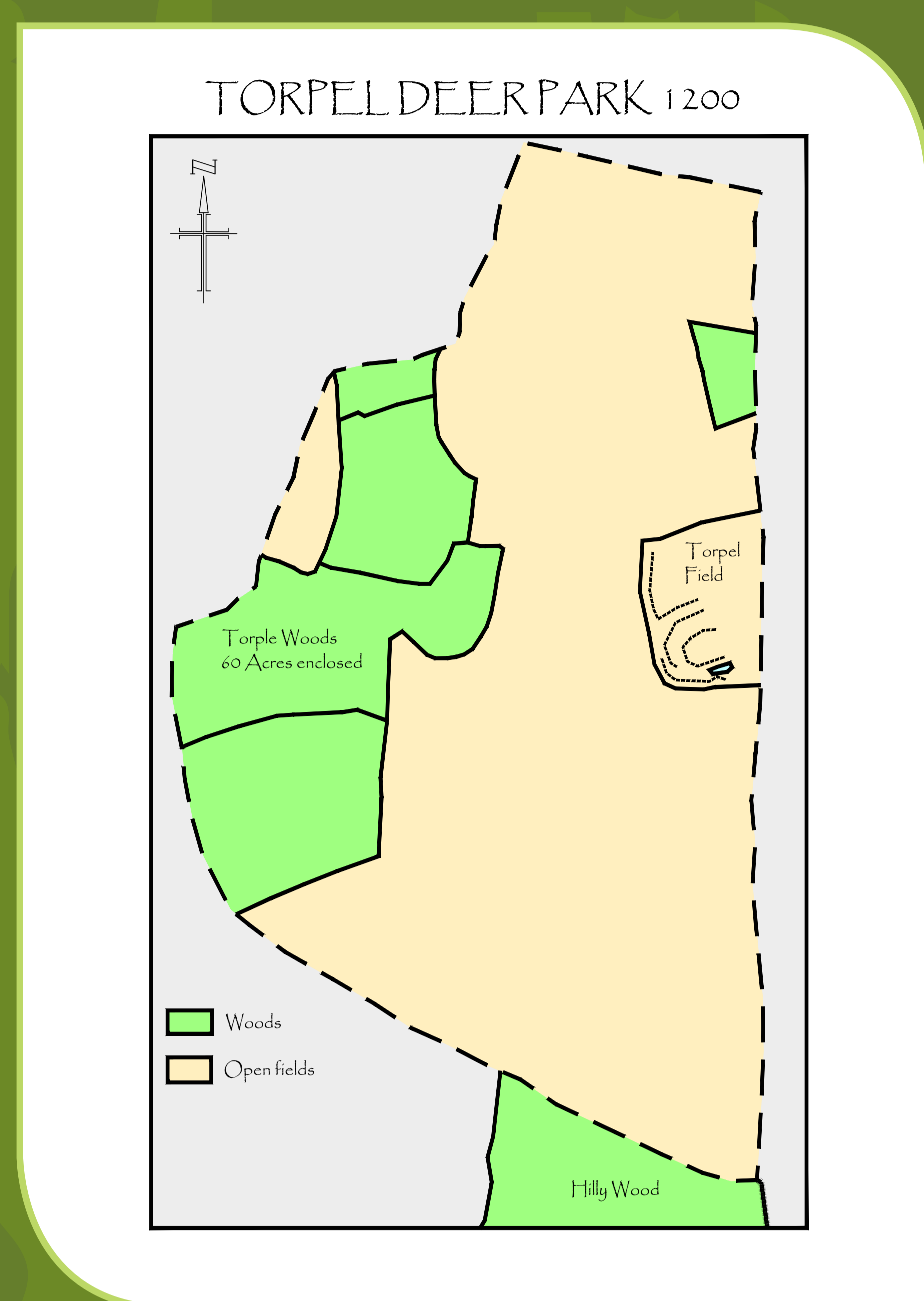
Langdyke Trust



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TORPEL DEER PARK

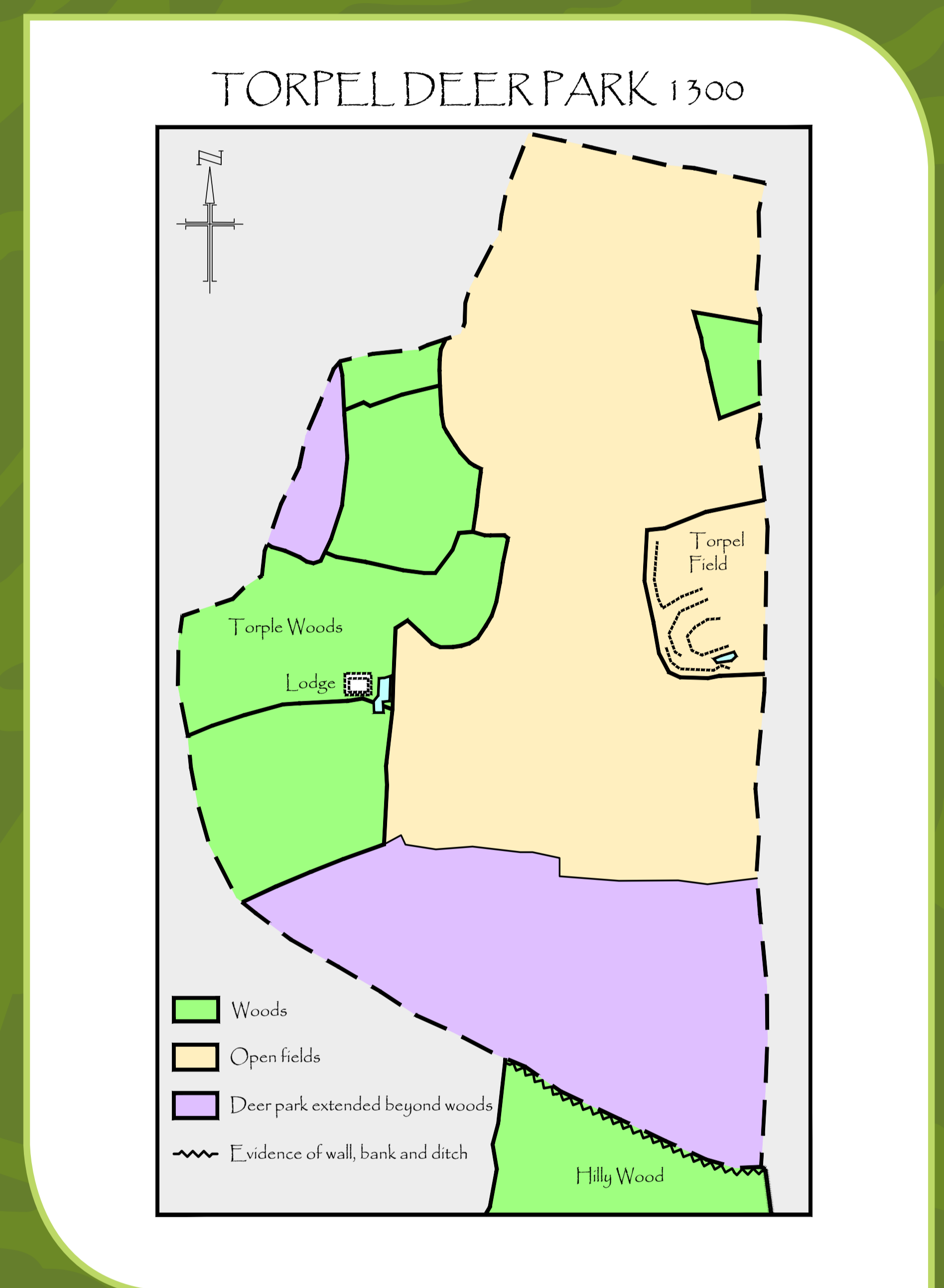
Deer hunting was a popular pastime for Norman lords and ladies and venison was a welcome addition to their diet. After 1066 Torpel Woods were part of a Royal Hunting Forest which included woods and open areas called "lawns". The nearby Hunting Forest to the west was known as Rockingham Forest after 1157.



TORPEL DEER PARK 1200

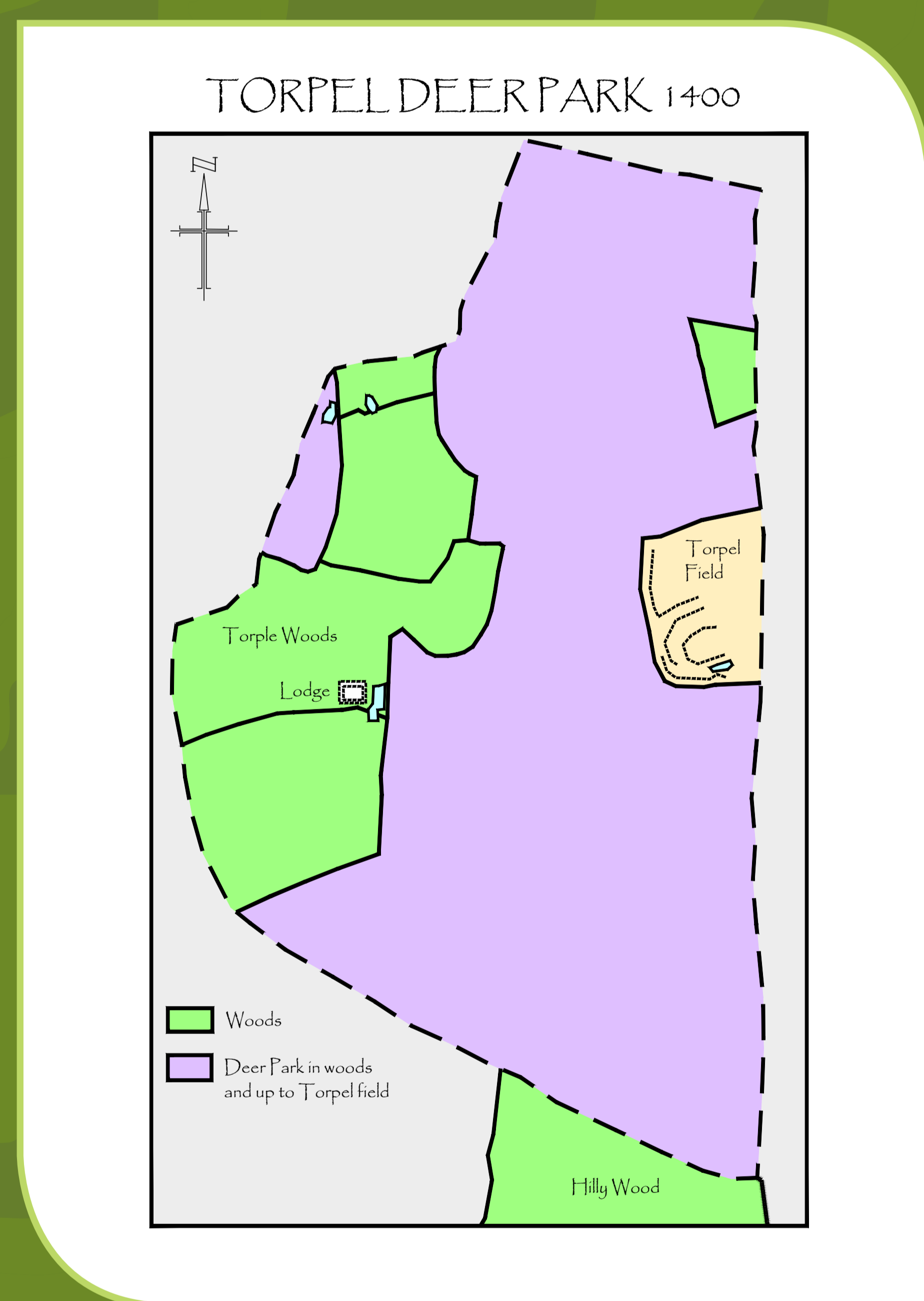
In 1198 Roger de Torpel paid the king 100 shillings to enclose part of Torpel woods to create a deer park.

The park was surrounded by an earth bank with a wooden fence or pale on top.



TORPEL DEER PARK 1300

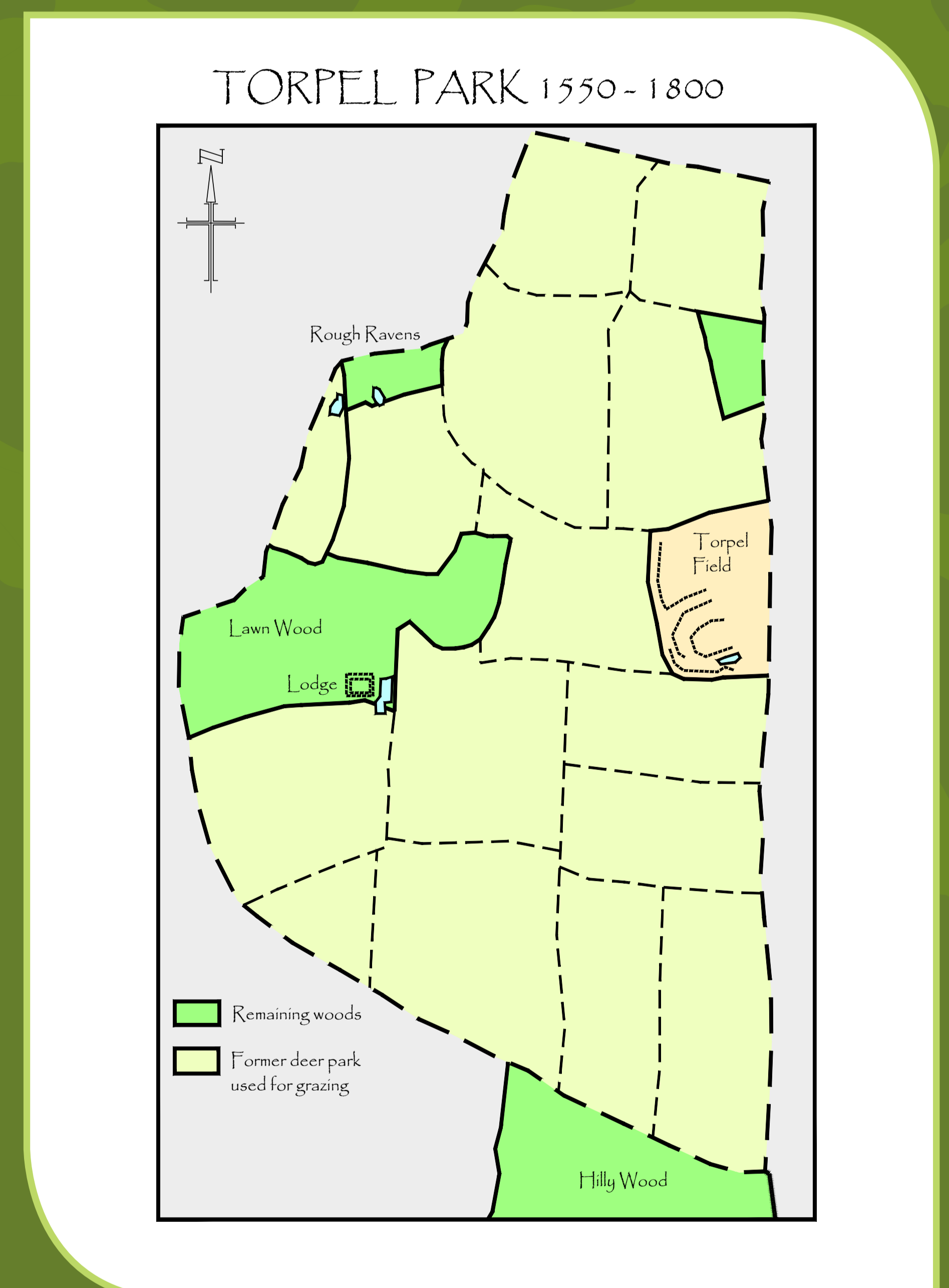
The Knights no longer lived at the manor house but Torpel still paid a stipend to the King's huntsman and it appears that royal and noble visitors continued to enjoy hunting there. They may have stayed at the Lodge, a stone tower at the edge of Lawn Wood.



TORPEL DEER PARK 1400

It appears that the deer park extended as far east as King Street and Torpel Field.

In 1466 the Bailiff's Accounts refer to a man whose responsibility was to take "les chippez" or firewood for the lady's hearth in the Lodge.



TORPEL PARK 1550-1800

By 1554 the former deer park had been disparked and the land was used for grazing.

John Clare's poem "Ashton Lawn" suggests that the Lodge was already a ruin by the early 19th century.

The castles self will soon be nothing heir
Pickt up to mend old roads - old garden
walls repair