

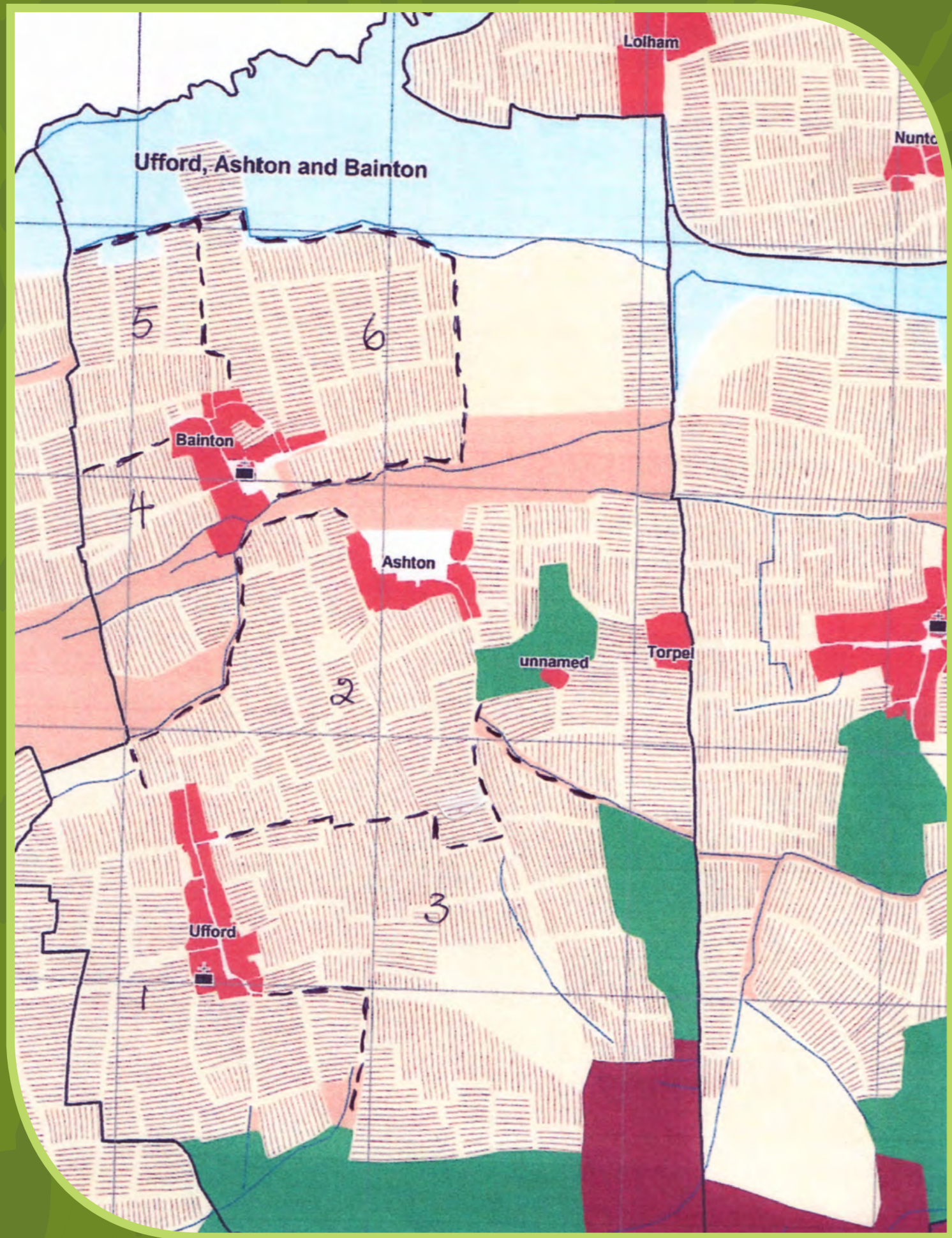


Langdyke Trust



Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund

OPEN FIELDS AND PLOUGHING



-  Ridge and furrow - each stripe on the map represents about 4 ridges on the ground.
-  Water meadows
-  "Greens"
-  Settlements
-  Heath/limestone grassland
-  Woodland

Source: Atlas of Northamptonshire, courtesy of David Hall

MAP OF UFFORD'S OPEN FIELDS AND RIDGE AND FURROW IN 1300

Ufford

- 1 Church Field
- 2 Clay Field
- 3 High Field

Bainton

- 4 Old Field
- 5 Little Field
- 6 Windmill Field

There were 3 large open fields surrounding Ufford, with 3 smaller ones round Bainton. Ashton and Torpel may still have had their own open fields before 1300 but they were then lost as the deer park expanded.

The corrugations in the fields which can still be seen today, in Bainton for example, are known as **ridge and furrow**. They were caused by centuries of ploughing.

Each year the ground was ploughed in a clockwise direction, with the soil being turned over to the right. The plough went from end to end of the furlong, or block of strips, turning in a loop at each end and piling up the soil into a ridge.

The more or less parallel ridges were known as **strips** or **lands**. The lord's strips and those of his tenants were scattered over the open fields.

Groups of strips were known as **furlongs**. These were separated by **baulks** which provided access, or **headlands**, used for turning round the plough teams.

PLOUGHING

Two pairs of oxen were yoked to pull the plough. On heavy soils 3 or 4 pairs were needed. The man in front kept them moving.

The plough turned the soil over to the right. Its depth depended on the man behind the plough.



Artwork by Ivan Cumberpatch