

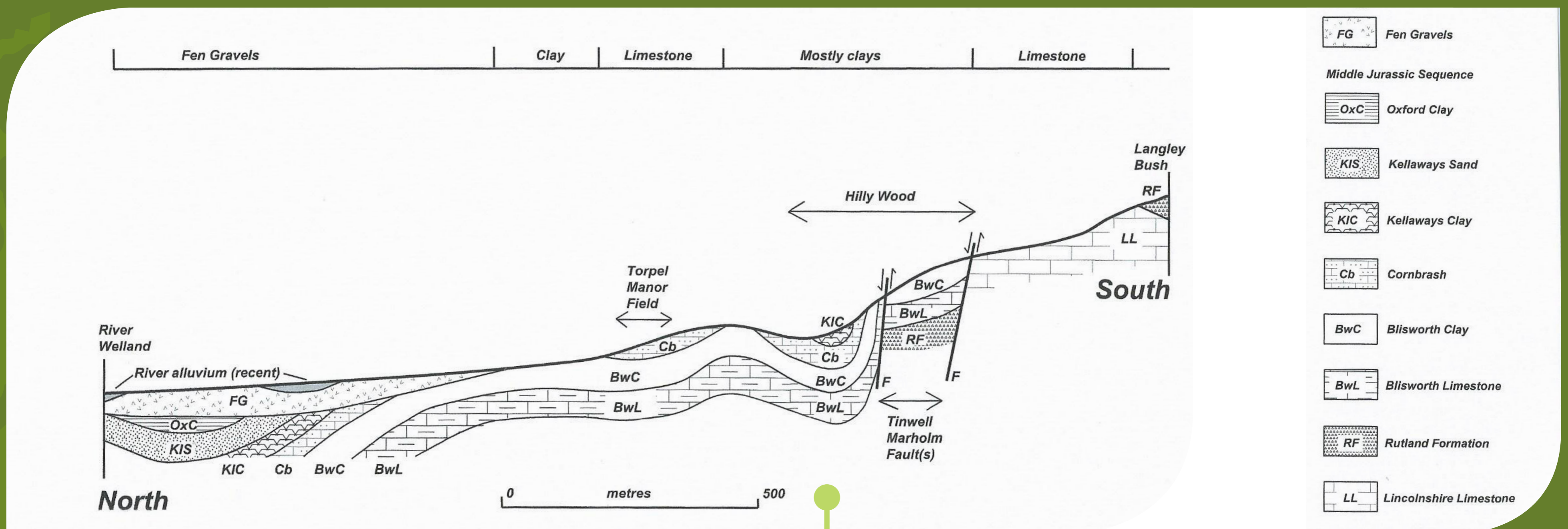


Langdyke Trust



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SAXON LANDSCAPES, FARMING AND VILLAGES



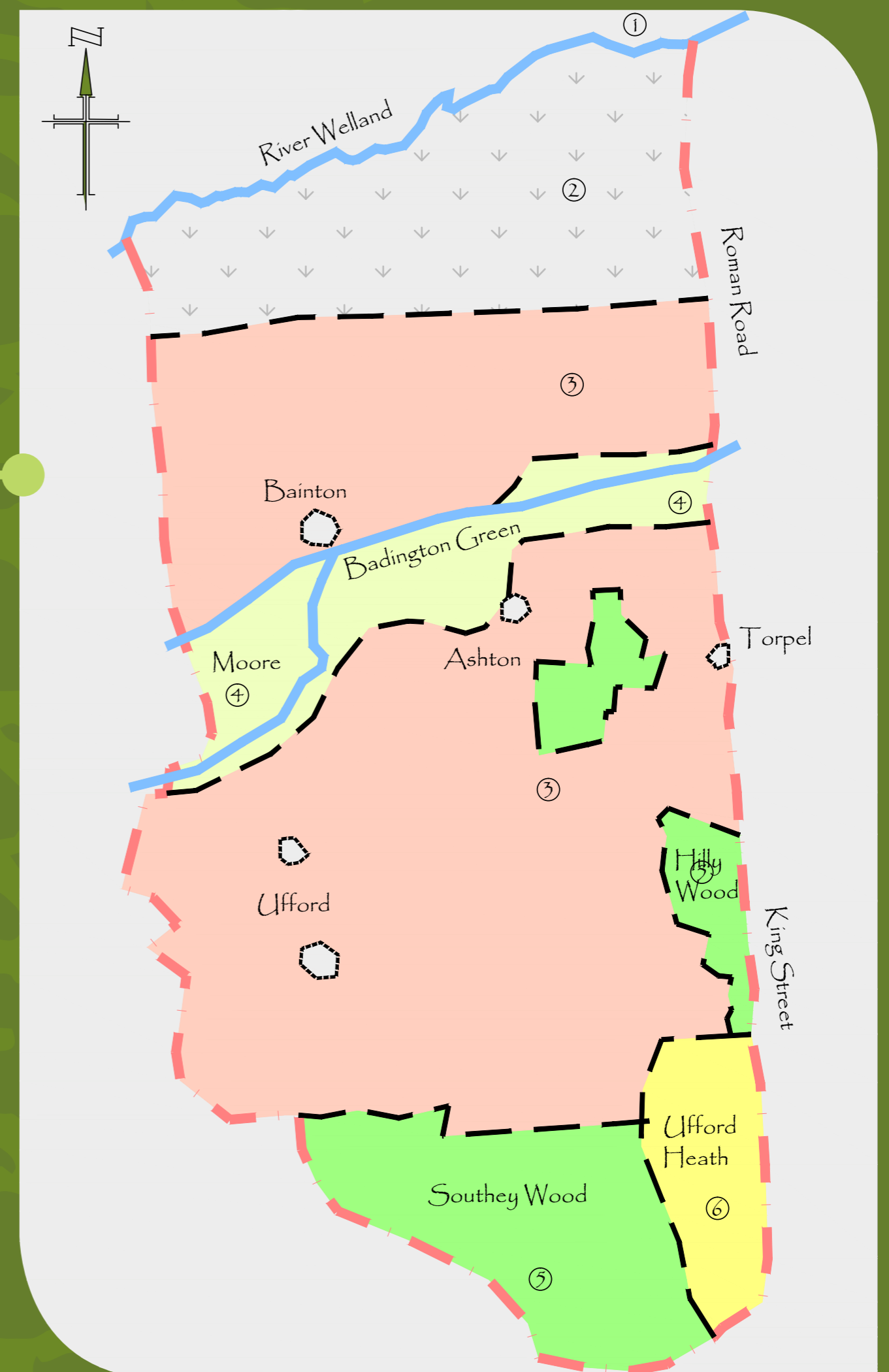
GEOLOGICAL CROSS SECTION ALONG KING STREET

By their choice of land for farming and for building villages, Saxon settlers showed that they had a good “eye for country”. An understanding of the Middle Jurassic rock sequence helps us to explain these patterns.

MAP OF SAXON LAND USE AND SETTLEMENT IN UFFORD

SAXON FARMING

- (1) River Welland, navigable by small boats as far upstream as Stamford (about 6 miles to the west).
- (2) Water meadows, flooded in winter, used for grazing by village livestock in summer.
- (3) The mixed soils on the lower slopes were well drained and used for arable farming. The land was ploughed by oxen and cultivated in long strips in the “open” fields.
- (4) Small patches of heavy clay soils beside streams were used for pasture.
- (5) Other heavy soils were left as woodland.
- (6) Heath, the local name for limestone grassland, was used for grazing.



ALL THE VILLAGES CLOSE TO TORPEL WERE SAXON IN ORIGIN

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Ashton | Aesctun (Ashtree Farm) |
| Bainton | Badingtun (Bada’s Farm) |
| Barnack | Beornican (Warrior’s Oak) |
| Helpston | Hylpestun (Help’s Farm) |
| Southorpe | Sudtorp (South Village) |
| Ufford | Uffewurda (Uffa’s Farm) |

- Drinking water came from wells, springs, and small streams.
- No village was sited less than 10 metres above sea level so there was no flood risk.
- All the villages were within walking distance of their fields.
- There was easy access to building materials especially wood and most houses had a timber frame; reeds were available for thatching.