

**The Living Past: the origins and development of the historic
landscape of the Blackdown Hills –**

Phase 1: summary report (March 2006)

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1. Summary

The Blackdown Hills lie on the borders of Devon and Somerset in South West England. They have a unique landscape character with a series of bowl shaped valleys separated by windswept uplands that form a discontinuous, flat-topped plateau. The valley sides have a complex landscape with narrow winding lanes, scattered farmsteads and small hamlets, surrounded by small, often irregularly shaped fields, and areas of woodland clinging to the steeper slopes. A series of medieval parish churches remind us that this is ancient countryside, in contrast to the long straight roads and large, regularly laid out fields on the higher plateaus that have an equally distinctively recent feel.

The first phase of this project was designed to explore the origins and development of these contrasting countrysides through an analysis of the ‘historic landscape’ – a term that has been developed to emphasise the time depth present in our current patterns of roads, settlements, fields and other aspects of landuse such as woodland, quarries and parkland. The physical fabric of the historic landscape (settlement, roads, field systems, woodland etc) were studied across the whole Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), with documentary research carried out for several smaller, sample, study areas: the latter can be carried out for the whole AONB if funding becomes available.

The project has led to a far better understanding of the history of the Blackdown Hills. An upland fringe landscape such as this will have been colonised from the surrounding lowland areas, with settlement gradually expanding up the valley sides and eventually onto the hilltops. This analysis of the historic landscape shows that on the Blackdown Hills this process began long before the 11th century as a series of places are documented in the Domesday survey, often relatively high up on the valley sides. This location suggests that the communities living there were farming the valley sides and grazing livestock in a series of unenclosed commons on the flat-topped plateaus. During the following centuries the number of settlement increased though this was achieved primarily through intensifying the way in which these already settled areas in the valleys were used, rather than colonising new areas of land. It was only in the 18th and 19th centuries that the final areas of common land – on the flat-topped plateaus – were enclosed.

2. Introduction

The Blackdown Hills, on the borders of Devon and Somerset, form one of the many distinctive landscapes in South West England. The area is known to be rich in archaeological remains of the prehistoric and Romano-British periods, but this report relates to the medieval and post medieval periods and in particular the origins and development of the historic landscape: the pattern of fields, roads and settlements that while still in use today is in many places over a thousand years old.

The Blackdown Hills are a primarily rural landscape, and their striking topography forms a key character defining feature. From the outside, the dark, steeply-wooded scarp slope around the edge of the hills makes them look dark and forbidding: it is easily to see why outsiders regarding them as the ‘Black-down Hills’. This steep scarp slope is punctured by three major river valleys – the Culm, Otter and Yarty – which dominate the landscape within the Hills. These gently sided valleys are covered by deeply sunken lanes that wind their way through complex patterns of small fields across which there is a scatter of small hamlets and isolated farmsteads. These valleys are surrounded by long, narrow, flat-topped ridges that have a more open feel, with long straight roads, large rectangular fields and just the occasional settlement. These landscapes feel very different, and this is because they are of very different dates: the valleys were settled from at least the 11th century, when England was Conquered by the Normans, while the hill-tops were enclosed around the 18th and 19th centuries.

This report is a summary of work undertaken as part of phase 1 of *The Living Past* Project in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Exeter. The Department’s interest in the Blackdown Hills began when it was chosen as one of the study areas in the Heritage Lottery funded Community Landscapes Project (2001 – 4), which included a programme of palaeoenvironmental analysis (Hawkins 2005a, b, c) and an analysis of the historic landscape in Clayhidon, Hemyock, Dunkeswell, Luppitt, Combe Raleigh and Awliscombe. *The Living Past* Project aims to place this work in a wider context by studying the landscape as a whole, and Phase 1 was generously funded by the Sustainability Fund of the Blackdown Hills Rural Partnership.

The main achievement in Phase 1 was the completion of an analysis of the historic landscape and the identification of a series of distinctive types of countryside whose patterns of roads, fields and settlements are different because of the different date and processes of their creation. For two sample areas, more detailed cartographic and documentary research has revealed more about the past management practices that have shaped this landscape (Figure 1). As phase 2 of the project is yet to start, it is impossible to write a complete history of the landscape and what follows should be regarded as an interim statement: but what does seem clear is that this landscape is far older than we previously assumed.

This summary report should be read alongside the archive report which contains far more technical detail on the sources and methods used, and the historic landscape character types. There are also a series of figures that reproduce samples of the data from the GIS that has been deposited with the Blackdown Hills Rural Partnership. In the future it is hoped that further work can be carried out, completing research that so far has been done only for sample areas, and exploring new sources of information such as the standing buildings. Work in the Department is continuing with several student projects carrying out further documentary research, and if phase 2 of this project is undertaken, then for the first time we could write the story of this remarkable landscape.

As this project was primarily concerned with the history of this landscape, and so so used 19th century and earlier sources, the historic pattern of parishes has been used as depicted on the Tithe maps of c.1840 (Figure 2). The full list of cartographic and documentary sources used is given in the Archive Report.

3. Methodology

Recent years have seen a growing interest in the ‘historic landscape’ – the patterns of fields, roads, settlement etc that make up our historic environment. English Heritage has recently funded ‘historic landscape characterisations’ (HLC) in both Somerset and Devon, though different methodologies were used in each county. These HLCs were carried out for a specific purpose – to inform planners and countryside managers of the dominant historic processes that lay behind the appearance of today’s countryside. The results are detailed and complex, with a largely morphological classification of the field boundary patterns leading to individual fields being attributed to one of a series of pre-determined historic landscape types (eg Figure 3.2). These HLCs were designed primarily as management tools, and while they have also provided important data that can be used to study landscape history, they do not in themselves tell the story of how our countryside has evolved over time. In order to write landscape history, HLC data needs to be analysed and presented in an accessible way, and it is hoped that this will be achieved in this project.

The Living Past Project carried out an analysis of the physical fabric of the historic landscape for the whole AONB, with more in-depth historical research carried out in a series of sample study areas. Data was entered into a GIS (based on ArcView version 8). The methodology used is as laid out in Rippon (2004) *Historic Landscape Analysis*, whereby each area of the countryside is attributed to one of a series of ‘historic landscape character types’ that reflect the different processes that have led to their creation. First Edition Ordnance Survey Six Inch maps were used as a base-map, as they depict the landscape at a point on time when the process of enclosure was almost complete, but before areas of the countryside

were destroyed, for example through the construction of Second World War airfields. Ten types were identified (Figure 4):

- Unenclosed land
- Late enclosure
- Flood plains
- Sloping valley bottoms
- Irregular enclosures
- Semi-irregular enclosures
- Intermediate enclosures
- Enclosed strip fields
- Ornamental landscapes

This historic landscape analysis went well beyond a simple morphological classification of field boundary patterns. Across the study area the settlement pattern was studied, with a clear hierarchy being recognised ranging from large nucleated settlements such as Hemyock, through a range of smaller hamlets, to large numbers of isolated farmsteads (Figures 5-6). For a sample area around Dunkeswell, in the west of the AONB, the analysis of when the names of these settlements are first recorded allows us to say something about the chronological development of the landscape (Figures 7.1-7.4). In this same sample area, along with a couple of parishes in the east of the AONB, a detailed analysis of the Tithe maps and awards of c.1840 has shed new light on past patterns of land ownership and occupancy, which in turns reflects different ways in which the landscape was managed (Figure 8). The report concludes with a provisional overview of the history of this landscape, and some suggestions as to how a better understanding the history of this landscape can inform its future management.

4. Historic landscape character types

The historic landscape analysis carried out as part of this project suggests that there are ten main types of countryside within the Blackdown Hills AONB. These are described in turn, starting in the valley bottoms and working up towards the hilltops.

Flood plains: wide, flat areas of lush meadows and pastures in the Culm valley east of Hemyock and the Otter valley north-east of Honiton. Relatively large fields, bounded by hedgerows often containing the large numbers of mature oaks, along with dense thickets of alder and willow occupying hollows and stream-sides. Settlements, including mills (with their associated leats) and some farms, tend to be located on the edges of these floodplains. Roads tend to skirt along the edge of these floodplains. A small part of the Yarty Valley was a common meadow, Inclosed in the 19th century, though there is nothing in the field boundary patterns or pattern of landownership/occupancy to suggest that this was the case elsewhere:

these valley bottoms appear to have been held in severalty by the adjacent farmsteads. Similar, but less extensive areas can be found in the lower reaches of most of the rivers and streams in the Blackdowns.

Sloping valley bottoms: V-shaped valleys, often with very steep sides, in the higher reaches of rivers and streams. Visitors driving in the region are only likely to experience these areas fleetingly, as the lane they are travelling on dips into a wooded valley before climbing out again on the opposite side. On the more moderate slopes, fields are typically small or very small with irregular shapes; wooded areas are frequent on the steeper slopes; settlements are rare apart from a number of mills.

Enclosed strip fields: bundles of long, narrow, curving fields, laid out between long, parallel, but often slightly sinuous boundaries that represent the former strips and furlong boundaries of a common arable field. Present on some of the lower slopes in the eastern and southern fringes of the Blackdown Hills AONB, though far more common on the adjacent lowland plains of south east Somerset. Within the study area this historic landscape type is very limited in extent, are probably represent small common fields associated with a hamlet, in contrast to the vast open fields associated with large nucleated villages further east that covered most of a parish (eg Comb St Nicholas and Chard). Research elsewhere has shown that these landscapes, characterised by nucleated villages and open fields, were probably created around the 10th century AD.

Semi-irregular enclosures: large areas of the valley sides are covered with a patchwork of fields which are neither highly irregular nor noticeably rectilinear in outline, associated with winding lanes and a mixed settlement pattern of isolated farmsteads, small hamlets and what by the 19th century had become small villages (including Hemyock, Upottery and Stockland). The fields are generally larger than those of the 'irregular' type (see below), with gently sinuous to curving boundaries, and further research would probably allow the differentiation of sub-types. For example, the majority of fields were probably not designed to be ploughed as they have awkward corners and a lack of parallel sides, though in many places there are areas of rather more rectilinear fields that probably represent the arable areas for each farmstead and hamlet. The narrow lanes lie between high hedge banks have gentle sweeping curves and occasional straight sections that link major settlements. There are occasional small areas of woodland, and numerous old clay/marl pits. This is significant because marl is a source of lime which, when applied to the soil, neutralises acidity and has the effect of stimulating bacterial activity, encouraging the breakdown of organic matter and releasing essential plant nutrients.

This type of landscape covers large areas of the gently undulating valley sides, above the flood plains and steep-sided valley bottoms, and below the steeper upper slopes that are often cloaked in woodland). Areas of 'irregular' historic landscape type are also found in these areas (though often on the slightly higher slopes) and sometimes there is not a clear distinction between the two. A number of the settlements are documented in Domesday showing that these areas of 'semi-irregular' landscape were being created by the 11th century, while many other hamlets and farmsteads are documented for the first time by the early 14th century.

Irregular enclosure: extensive areas of landscape on the valley sides, characterised by a maze of narrow winding lanes between high hedge banks, linking isolated farmsteads and small hamlets, associated with fields of highly irregular shape interspersed with numerous small woods. The highly irregular shapes of these fields would make ploughing impracticable, implying pastoral use. The lanes are narrower than in areas of 'semi-irregular' landscape, and taken with the field-boundary patterns are suggestive of gradual, piecemeal assarting and encroachments from woodland or former open pasture. Documentary research has shown that the creation of these landscapes had begun by the 13th century, though the process probably continued into the post medieval period. In Luppitt and Yarcombe parishes extensive areas of irregular enclosures contain a few sand and clay pits and large numbers of marl pits. The former are clearly sources of raw materials for building and manufacturing purposes. The latter are significant as a source of lime for improving poor and acidic soils, for which purpose marl has been used since at least Roman times.

Woodland: mixed deciduous woodland that cloaks many of the upper, steeper, valley sides. The heavily wooded scarp of the northern Blackdowns is particularly prominent from the Bristol to Exeter mainline railway and the M5 as they pass Wellington, and travellers might imagine that the range of hills behind it would be similarly dominated by woodland. However, this is not the case and, apart from the extreme north, woodland is surprisingly scarce.

The most extensive areas of woodland occur on steep slopes, including the northern scarp. Although these wooded areas are now discontinuous, fragmentary patches of further woodland scattered along the same slopes suggest that there were once near-continuous plateau-edge woods. These relatively extensive woodlands in the north typically have rounded or sinuous outlines, though in many places these are interrupted by large angular incursions that clearly represent areas of woodland which have at some time been cleared for agricultural use. Many of these woods are subdivided into large, irregular compartments by internal boundaries, while the plateau-edge woods are similarly split into small, irregular sub-

divisions. These may represent ownership or tenurial boundaries, or they may relate to former coppicing regimes whereby each sub-division was cropped in turn on a regular cycle. Smaller woods and coppices are scattered lower down the valley sides (see 'Irregular' and 'Semi-Irregular' historic landscape types). These are likely to be woods that have long been held in severalty in association with the estates in which they sit.

Woodland will have provided a range of resources. Willow and alder growing beside streams provided withies for basketry and charcoal for a number of uses including gunpowder. Intermediate slopes would favour hazel and ash for hurdles, and the steep slopes would be suitable for oak, significant as a source of tannin. All of these tree species provided sources of timber and wood with numerous specialised applications, and the trees themselves may show evidence of coppicing and pollarding in the past. These were techniques whereby trees were regularly cut, stimulating new growth to produce long, straight poles on a regular basis depending on the length of the cropping cycle. Coppice was cut at ground level, necessitating the exclusion of browsing livestock by a hedge or fence. Pollards were cut at a height of two metres or more so that the new growth was beyond reach of browsing animals, which did not need to be excluded. The woods may also contain archaeological evidence of associated activities such as saw pits and charcoal burning platforms. Mineral extraction is not specifically associated with woodland, though examples can be found of quarries and gravel pits within or beside a number of woods.

Some woodland will also have been on the lords' demesne lands, and trees were a significant element of medieval parks. These were invariably used for keeping deer and were powerful status symbols and the exclusively private property of their lordly owners. Several parks were located within the area of the AONB including one at Mohun's Ottery, mentioned by Leland in the early sixteenth century, and a very large park (or possibly two adjoining parks) west of Staple Fitzpaine where place names such as Staple Park Farm (ST 253 182) and Park Gate (ST 238 183) are indicative.

Ornamental landscapes: parklands and extended gardens surrounding large country houses, located on lower ground though avoiding the floodplains. In most cases these are no older than c.1700, and no earlier examples have been identified in the Blackdown Hills. Often include areas of woodland plantation maintained partly for economic and partly for aesthetic reasons.

Intermediate enclosures: areas long, relatively straight roads, and large, broadly rectilinear fields on the higher plateaus. The scarcity of woodland adds to the very open feel of these areas. Roads generally follow direct routes with only gentle curves, though they vary considerably in width and rarely have exactly parallel sides. These landscapes have a

markedly more coherent layout than the irregular and semi-irregular historic landscapes, suggesting that large areas were laid out as a single enterprise. That some areas of fields have slightly curving boundaries suggests that there has been some ploughing, though situated as they are on high ground with a clay with flints substrate, the soil in these fields would tend to be wet and acidic and would therefore benefit from periodic applications of lime (available in the form of marl in most of the nearby valleys). The scarcity of precise right angles and long straight lines, however, suggest that this planning was done by eye, as opposed to the areas of later enclosure within which survey equipment must have been used to achieve a markedly more regular layout.

The settlement pattern contains a few hamlets, such as Otterford, with others on the boundary with areas of semi-irregular enclosure, for example Clayhidon and Sheldon. The only significant nucleated settlements located within intermediate landscapes are Dunkeswell and Churchingford, each of which occupies a more or less central location in a large area of upland. The Somerset HER listing for a chapel at Churchingford notes that it is close to Fairfield Farm, which takes its name from a fair that was held there until the 1880s.

Late enclosure: areas of long straight roads, large rectilinear fields bounded by ruler-straight hedge-banks, wide skies, few habitations and even fewer villages creating a sense of solitude: many people travel through this countryside, there are few reasons to stop. The wide, straight roads make for easy driving and many visitors are probably puzzled when such a road suddenly becomes noticeably narrower and more winding as they cross the boundary between late enclosure and other, earlier, character types (see above). Predominantly on high ground, with wet, heavy soils, and more rarely on hill-side or low ground. Woodland is typically plantation (often coniferous) with geometric boundaries reflecting the surrounding field boundary pattern, though in some areas probably pre-existing broadleaf woodland has been subsumed into this character type. The dead-straight hedgerows and frequent 90 degree angles demonstrate that these boundaries were laid out using accurate surveying techniques. In many places the hedgerows are of beech, a popular hedging material in the nineteenth century as can be seen, for example, on Exmoor, where large areas were enclosed at much the same time. Much of this character type results from parliamentary enclosure that, in the Blackdown Hills, took place entirely in the nineteenth century. Where the enclosures were not achieved by act of parliament they are probably the result of enclosure by agreement amongst landowners and others entitled to common rights, and are unlikely to date from earlier than 1700.

The few farms located within late enclosure landscapes tend to have names descriptive of their location (eg Hill Farm, Hemyock), adjacent features (eg Beechwood Farm, Dunkeswell), or apparently fanciful names that probably reflect their remoteness (eg

North Pole Farm on Northdown, Otterford). All of these farms were probably established at the same time or subsequent to the enclosures. Besides the farms, early Ordnance Survey maps show a few cottages and public houses or inns located within areas of late enclosure that may have served travellers and drovers on the old roads crossing the former open commons (eg Drake Arms between Yarcombe and Otterford which appears to correspond to the Traveller's Rest shown on Donn's (1765) map of Devon and Day and Masters' (1782) map of Somerset). In some areas of late enclosure relatively small, more or less ovoid enclosures are embedded amongst the rectilinear fields. These represent assarts and encroachments on the former commons, and such farms often have possessive names such as Cawley's and Hussey's.

Before inclosure most or all this 'Late Enclosure' historic landscape type was common land. The outcome of the inclosure awards or agreements was to extinguish the common rights and distribute the land amongst those who could prove rights of common. These individuals then held their allotments in severalty, that is the land was their exclusive property in the way that phrase is understood today. The procedure was overseen by Inclosure Commissioners who employed surveyors to lay out the allotments and adjudicated on the obligation on the recipients to fence their plots from one another, resulting in the rectangular grids of fields we see today.

The clay with flints substrate of much of this type is not generally productive of any useful material. Sand and gravel may have been extracted from greensand at the plateau edge, and early Ordnance Survey maps mark quarries south-west of Buckland St Mary which are located on Lias limestone. Chalk underlies the clay with flints in parts of the eastern AONB and may also have been quarried as a source of lime which was important in improving the soils of late enclosure fields. In Whitestaunton parish an area of late enclosure runs onto Cinder Hill which may derive its name from slag left from early ironworking, and in 1086 the parish is recorded as subject to dues of four blooms of iron (Carter, 1981, 3-4).

Unenclosed land: areas of open, rough ground (rough grass, bracken, bramble, gorse etc) on areas of wet, infertile soil on the higher plateaus and steeper slopes. Now of relatively limited extent, though once far more common as they are the last surviving remnants of once extensive upland commons that were enclosed in the 18th and 19th century (see 'Late Enclosure' below). These areas of unenclosed land are frequently inaccessible from public roads, and visitors to the area are only likely to come across them when walking on public footpaths and bridleways. Where roads are present they tend to follow the external boundaries and are unfenced from the unenclosed land. These commons are, however, often visible in the distance since they are usually located on high ground, for example the large area of rough pasture visible to the east from the vicinity of Luppitt church. Frequently marked on

Ordnance Survey maps as commons or turbaries and characterised by rough pasture and furze symbol conventions.

5. The evolution of the landscape

The analysis carried out as part of this project has focussed on characterising four components of the historic landscape: the field boundary patterns, distribution and nature of the woodland, the settlement pattern, and the network of roads. For sample areas further time depth has been added by looking at the patterns of landownership and occupancy in *c.*1840, and the documentary evidence for when settlements are first recorded. The integration of this data allows the broad development of the landscape to be unravelled.

Palaeoenvironmental evidence shows that there was extensive woodland clearance in the prehistoric period (Hatton and Caseldine 1991; Hawkins 2005a, b, c). While a number of prehistoric and Roman-British settlements are known, we have no idea of what any field systems looked like though analogy with other areas in the South West suggest that they would have been small and localised, with large areas of open grazing. An extensive Romano-British iron industry suggests that what woodland remained would have been carefully managed in order to provide fuel (charcoal). There is little evidence in the palaeoenvironmental record for woodland regeneration in the post Roman period, and palaeoenvironmental evidence suggests that around the 8th to 10th centuries there was an increase in agriculture in and around the Blackdown Hills.

The Domesday Book of 1086 provides the first written record of this landscape, though it is far from complete. Domesday records manors, not settlements, and in the South West of England most manors will have included several settlements (hamlets and farmsteads) that are not individually named. The documented manors are spread across the study area and they tend to occur towards the top of the valley sides (Figure 7.1), suggesting that the whole of the Blackdown Hills fell within a series of estates that stretched from fertile meadows in the valley bottoms, across agricultural fields on the valley sides, and up onto the flat-topped hills that would have been open, probably common grazing.

By the 13th/early 14th century we have far more documentary sources, and so a better impression of the distribution of settlement which was spread across all the valley sides (Figure 7.2). These areas correspond to the ‘semi-irregular’ and ‘irregular’ landscape types establishing that they are of medieval origin. As is to be expected, very few new settlements are recorded for the first time in the late medieval period (Figure 7.3) as this was a period of low population following the Black Death. Those settlements that are recorded for the first time probably existed before and only happened to be recorded for the first time in the late medieval period, though some may result from the growth of new settlements as manorial authority went into decline. A number of medieval settlements occur on the very edges of the

high, flat topped plateaus, and in places it is possible that even these areas were being enclosed by the 11th century. Certainly this process had begun by the early 14th century though settlements were restricted to the very edges of the high ground. In fact, even by 1700, when most of the ‘intermediate’ landscape had been created, there was also no settlement on the central plateaus.

Throughout the medieval period, therefore, the Blackdown Hills had a distinctive landscape with valley sides that had been colonised by a dispersed settlement pattern of isolated farmsteads and small hamlets, with areas of woodland on the higher, steeper slopes, and expanses of open, common pasture on the flatter hill-top plateaus. This was very different to the medieval landscape further east in Somerset, where virtually all of the settlement within a parish was nucleated into a single village which was surrounded by two or three vast ‘open fields’ within which parcels of land were marked simply by grassy bulks rather than hedges, ditches or banks. Such village-based landscapes were typical of a vast swathe of central England, though it stretches no further south west than the Blackdown Hills. The historic landscape that was created following the enclosure of the open fields has some very distinctive features, including blocks of long narrow fields and a very fragmented pattern of landownership and occupancy, that correspond to the former strips. Within the AONB boundary we get hints of how this area formed such a major boundary in the landscape character of England, with small areas ‘enclosed strip fields’ in the southern and eastern edges of the study area: far more extensive former open fields are to be found just to the east of the AONB boundary in Chard and Combe St Nicholas.

The final chapter in the creation of the historic landscape of the Blackdown Hills was the enclosure of the last remaining common pastures on the high plateau hills. This was substantially completed through a series of acts of Parliament, creating the ‘late enclosure’ historic landscape character type, though some small areas of common remained unenclosed on the First and Second edition Ordnance Survey Six Inch maps of the late 19th century.

6. The management of this landscape

We cannot manage what we do not understand, and the future integrity of the Blackdown Hills AONB will rely on its distinctive character being maintained. It was not within the brief of this project to prepare a definitive set of proposals for future countryside management, but hopefully this project has demonstrated how the Blackdown Hills actually include a series of locally very distinctive landscapes and it is important that these are maintained. For example, should grants be given to a farmer to restore field-boundaries that have been damaged or destroyed it is important that they are in keeping with the historic character of that area. In areas of late enclosure, boundaries should be dead straight and join roads and other field boundaries at right angles. Fields in these areas have always been large and rectangular, and

the removal of occasional boundaries due to agricultural improvement will not lead to a serious loss of landscape character. Hedges should be predominantly beech, but any woodland planting could be deciduous or conifers. In the valleys, in contrast, where landscape is predominantly of 'irregular' or 'semi-irregular' character, it is important that the fields remain small, awkwardly shaped, and with curvilinear edges. The enlargement of fields in these areas will lead to a serious loss in landscape character. Hedges can be planted with mixed species, but woodland should only be deciduous and restricted to small copses. Further guidance such as this could be an element of phase 2 of this project.

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Figure 1: The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty showing parishes c. 1840 based on Tithe mapping. Also shown is the coverage of the western and eastern inner study areas.

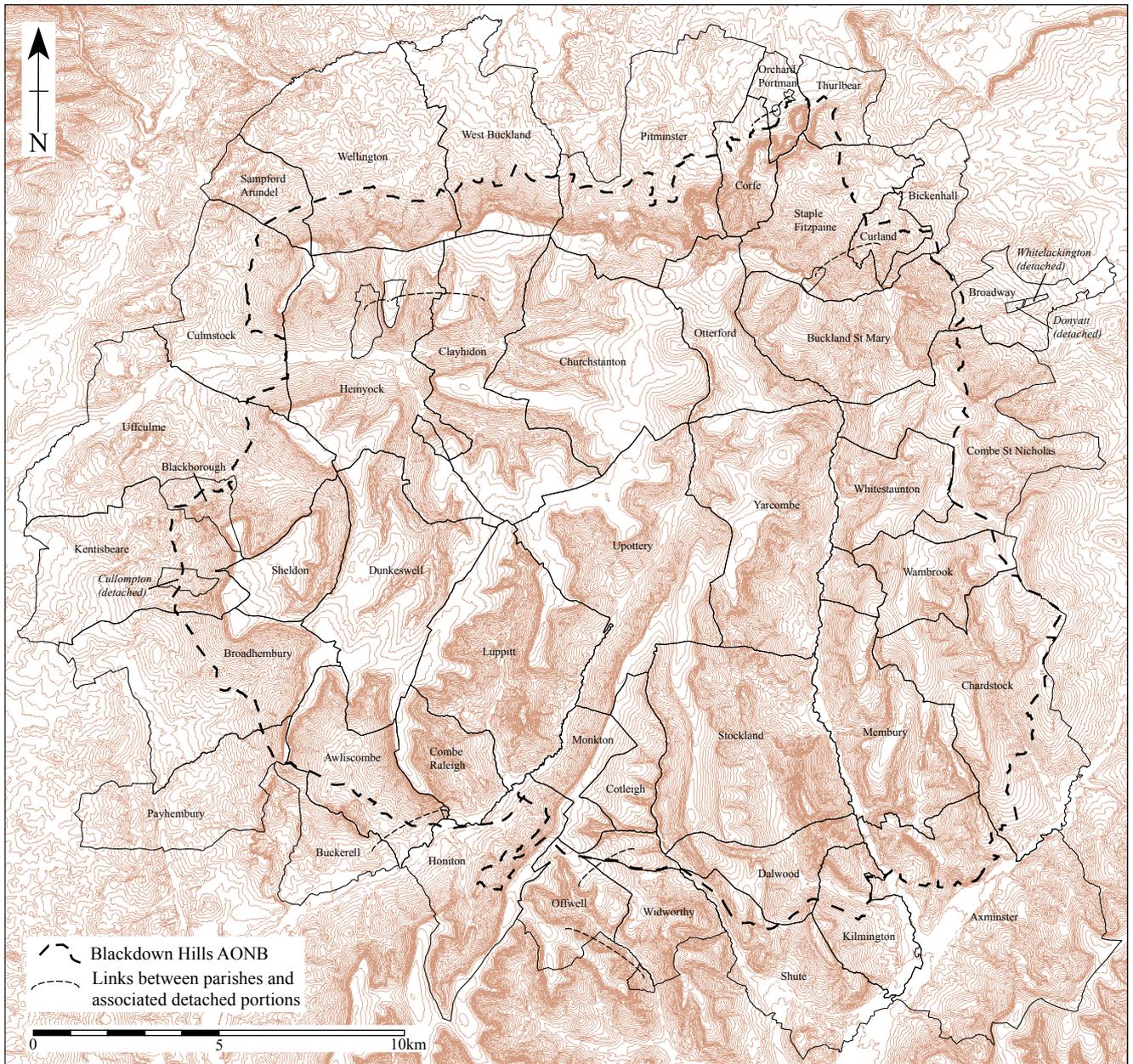


Figure 2: The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty showing parishes c. 1840 based on Tithe mapping in relation to topography.

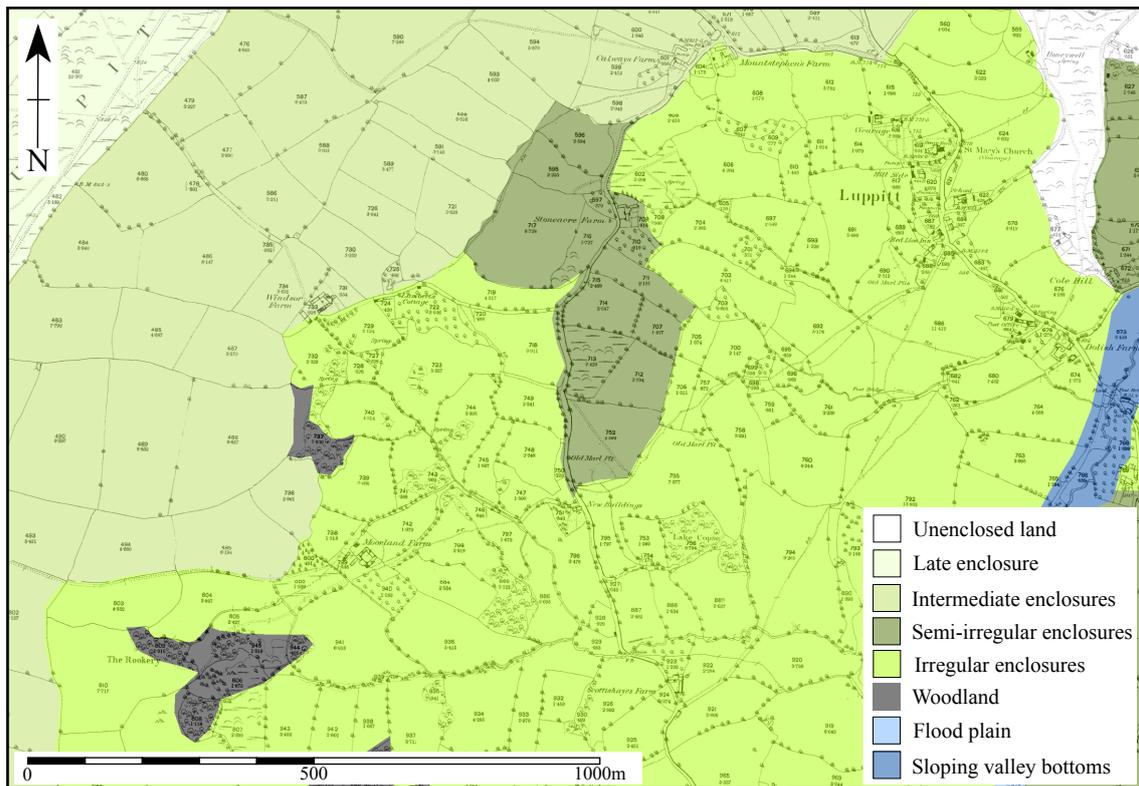
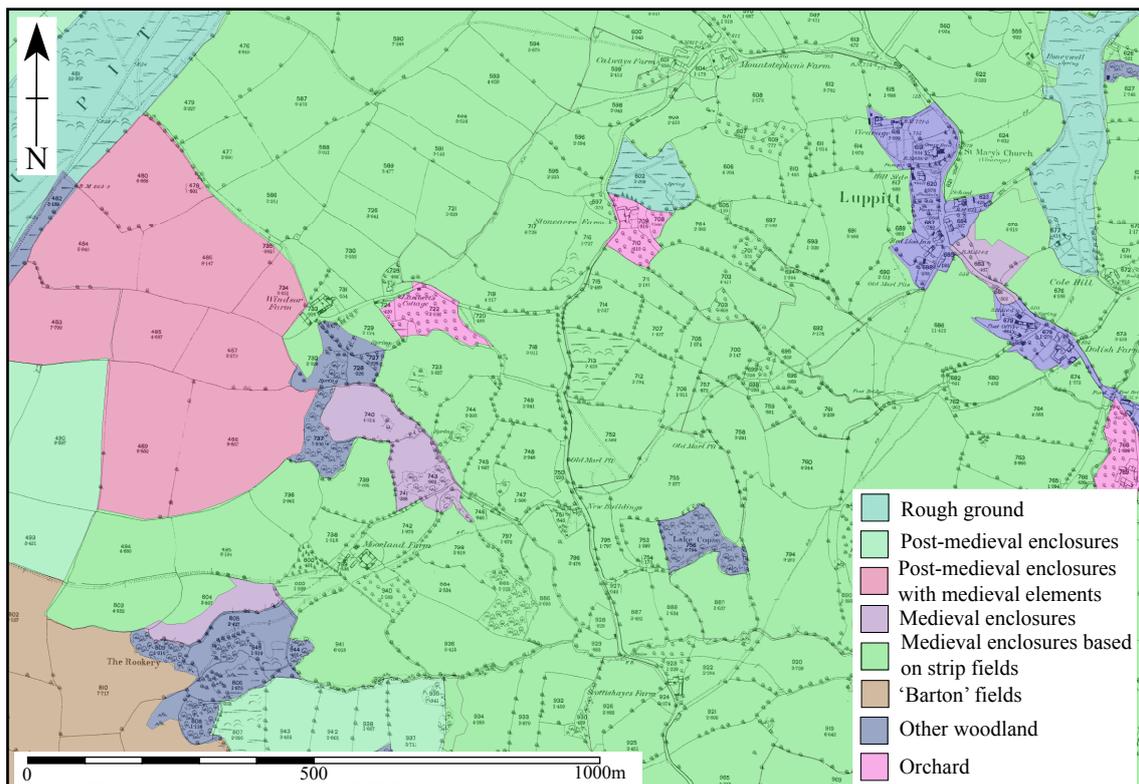


Figure 3.1 (above): Extract from the 'Living Past' historic landscape analysis of a part of Luppitt parish. Figure 3.2 (below): Extract from the Devon County Council HLC of the same area (Copyright Devon County Council). The distinction between 'Intermediate enclosures' on one hand and 'Irregular' and 'Semi-irregular' fields on the other hand has been emphasised by this research, and Figure 3.1 shows an example of the boundary between these types running south-west to north-east across the image. The Devon HLC (Figure 5.2) does not distinguish this boundary for most of its length, and sub-rectangular fields with few trees in their hedges are given the same classification as highly irregular fields with numerous trees. The Devon HLC type is number 26, 'Medieval enclosures based on strip fields', but it is hard to conceive how some of these field shapes could have been divided into strips and ploughed. Both images are underlain by Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inches to the mile mapping c.1880s.



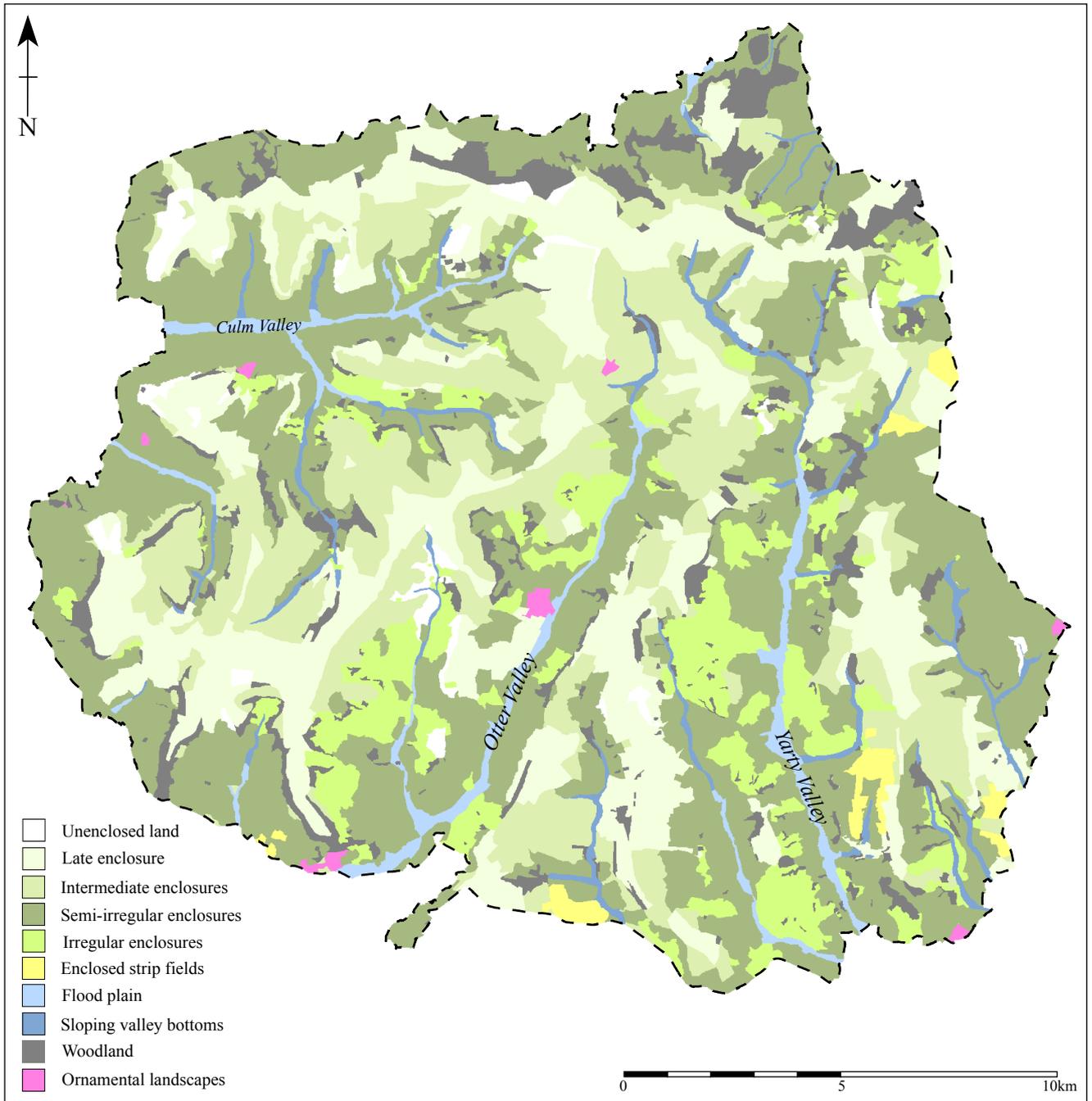


Figure 4: Historic landscape character types within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as identified by the Living Past Project based on Ordnance Survey 6 inches to the mile mapping c.1900.

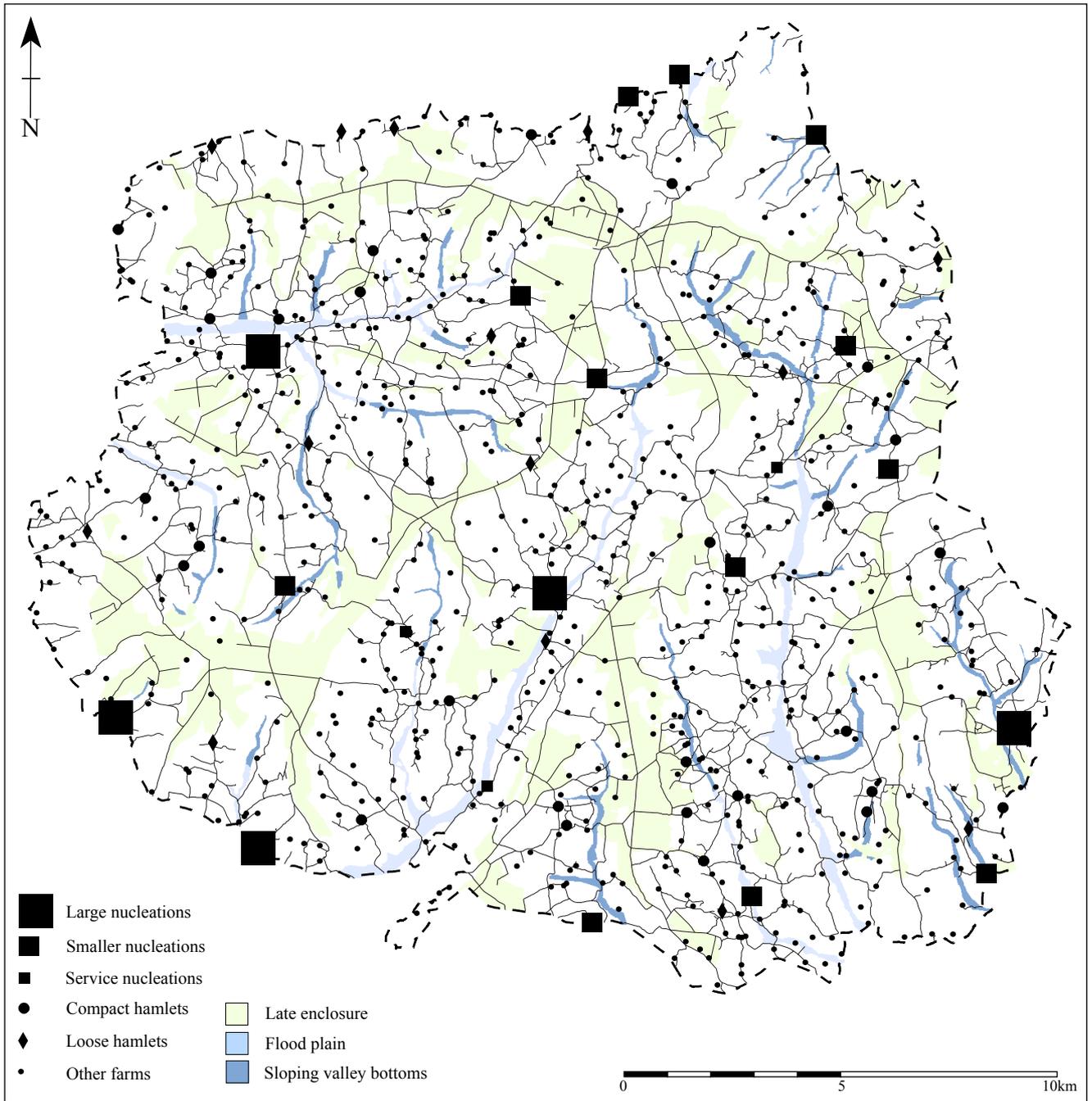


Figure 5: The Blackdown Hills AONB area showing settlement types and roads c.1880, along with historic landscape character types 'Late enclosure', 'Flood plain' and 'Sloping valley bottom' as identified on OS 2nd edition 6 inches to the mile mapping c.1900.

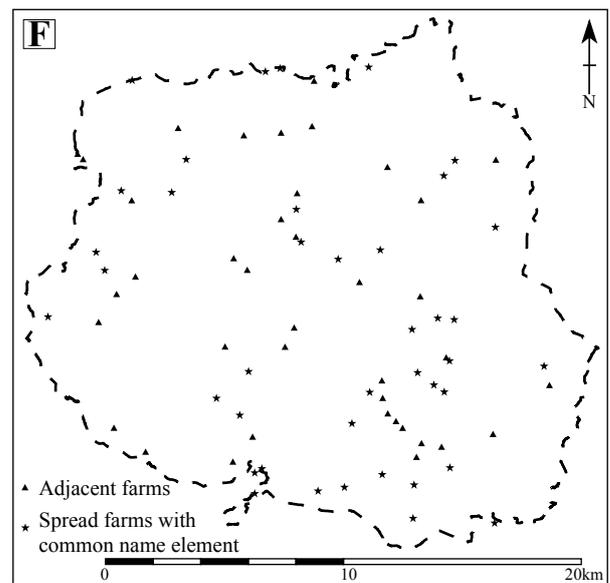
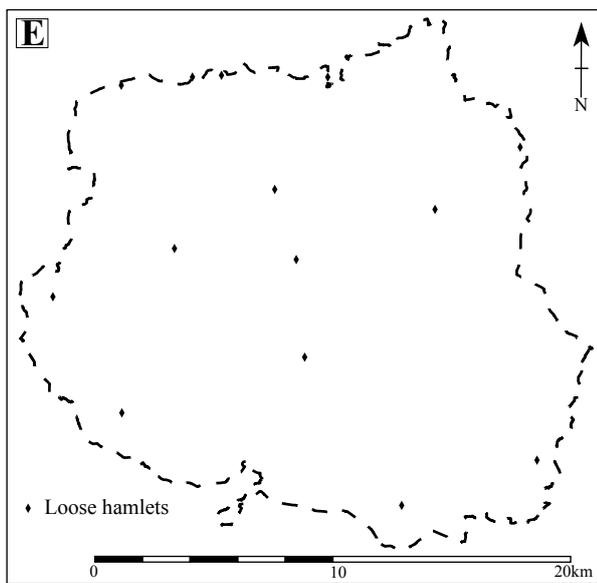
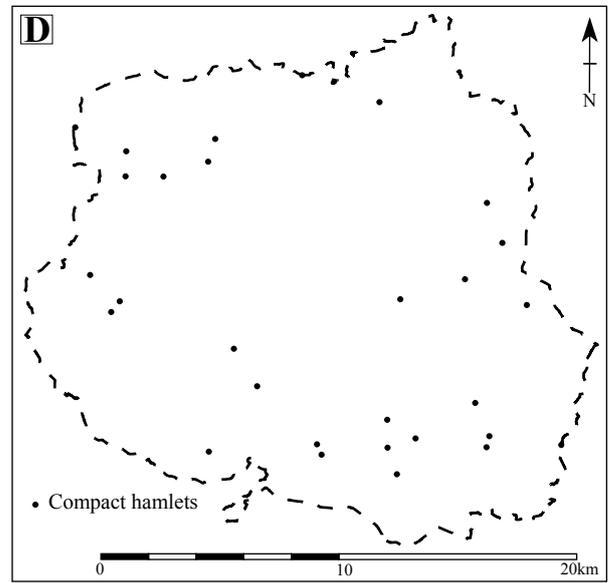
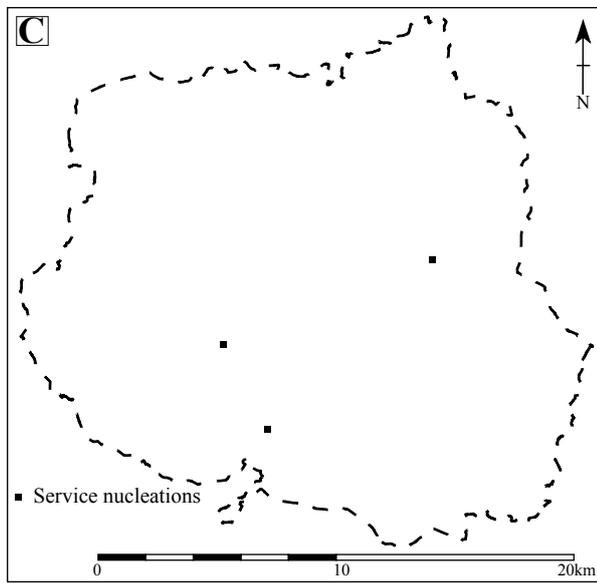
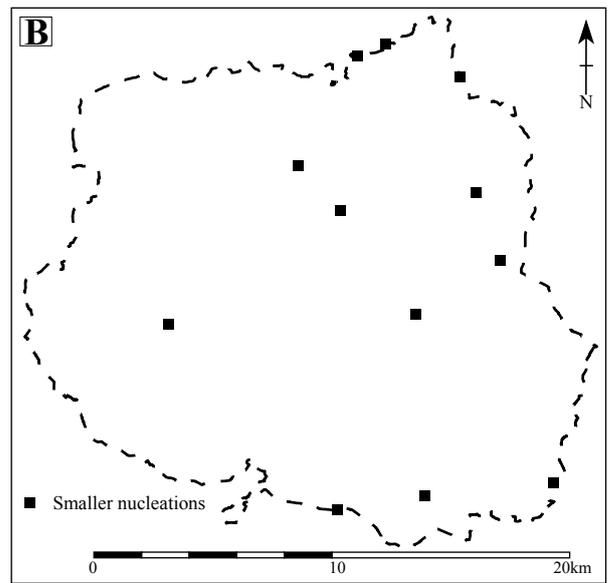
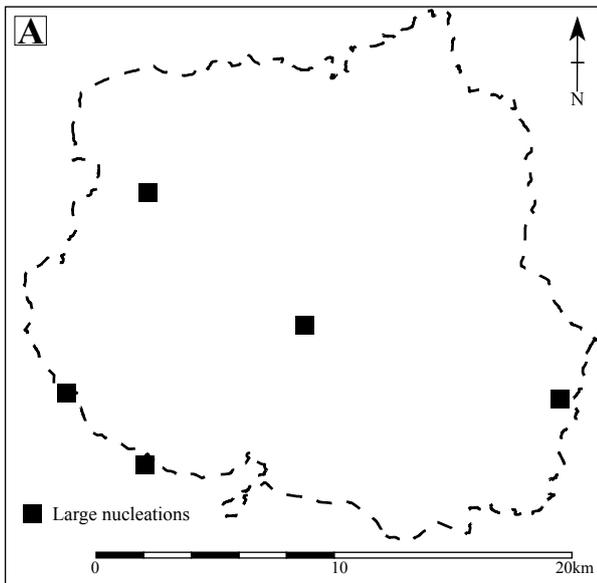


Figure 6: The distribution of individual settlement types of the Blackdown Hills AONB c.1880 based on Ordnance Survey 1st edition six inches to the mile mapping. **A** shows large nucleations, **B** shows smaller nucleations, **C** shows service nucleations, **D** shows compact hamlets, **E** shows loose hamlets and **F** shows adjacent farms and spread farms with common name elements.

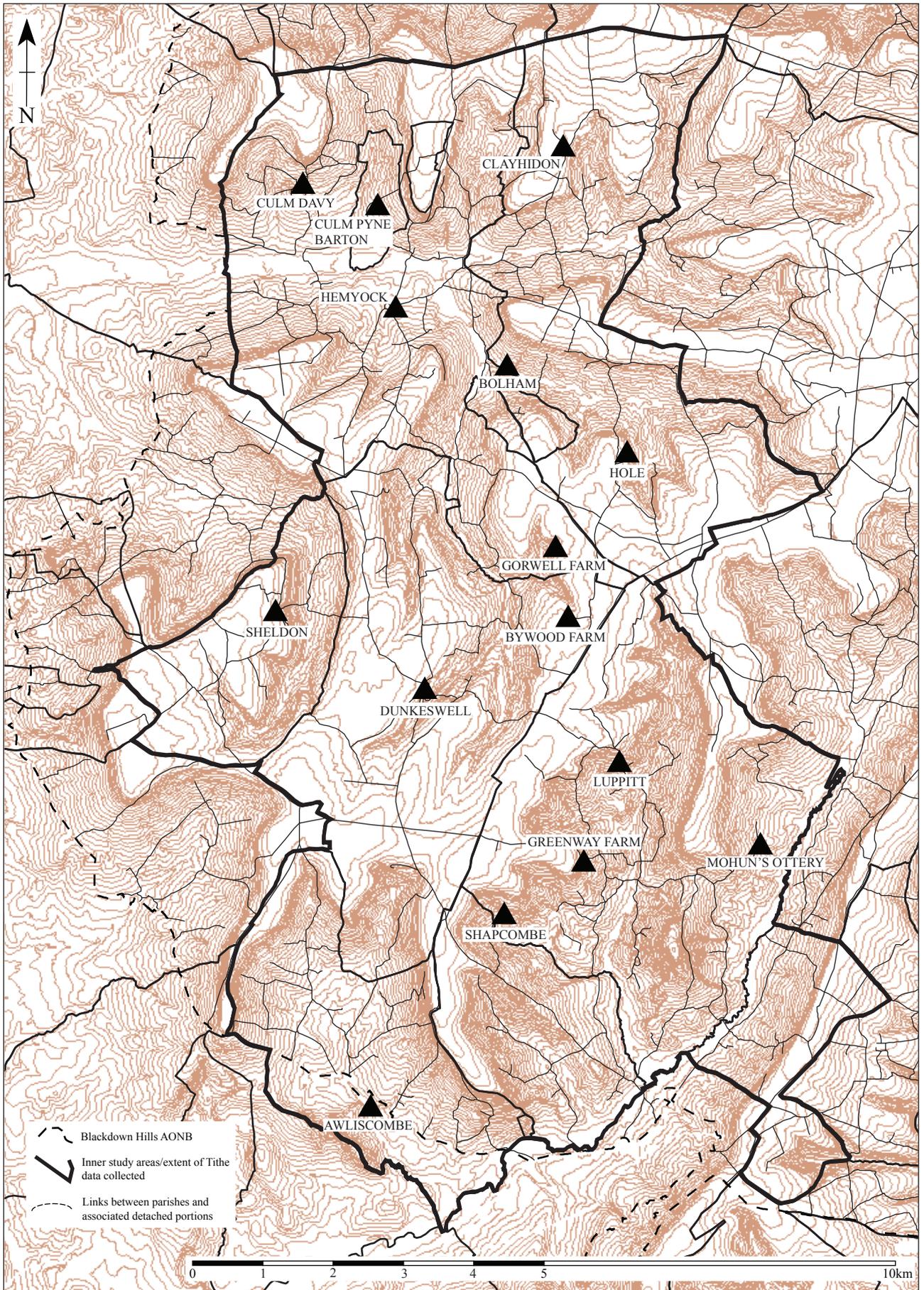


Figure 7.1: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1086 in relation to topography and roads c.1880.

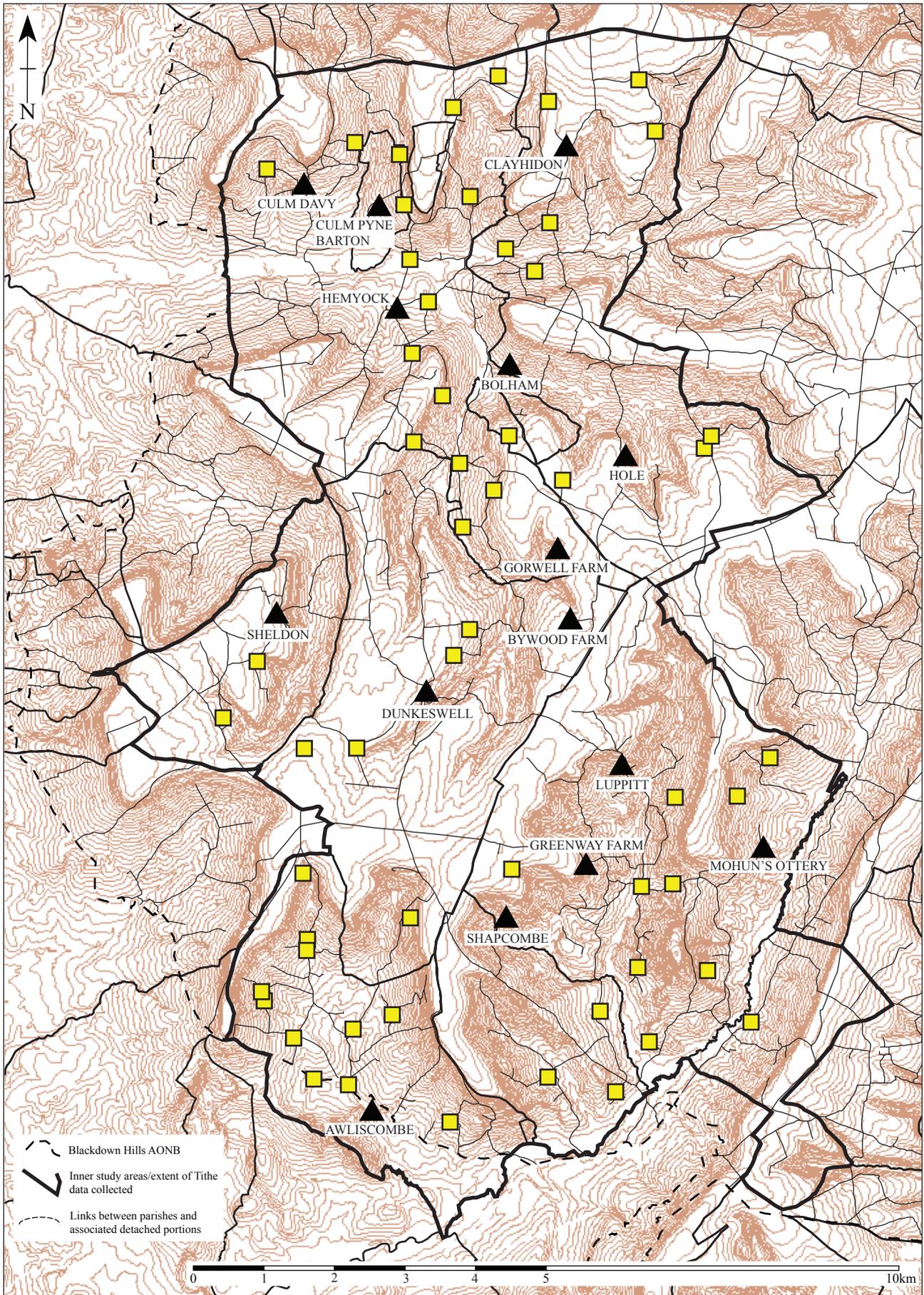


Figure 7.2: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1348 in relation to topography and roads c.1880. Black symbols represent settlements first documented by 1086, yellow symbols are those first recorded between 1087 and 1348.

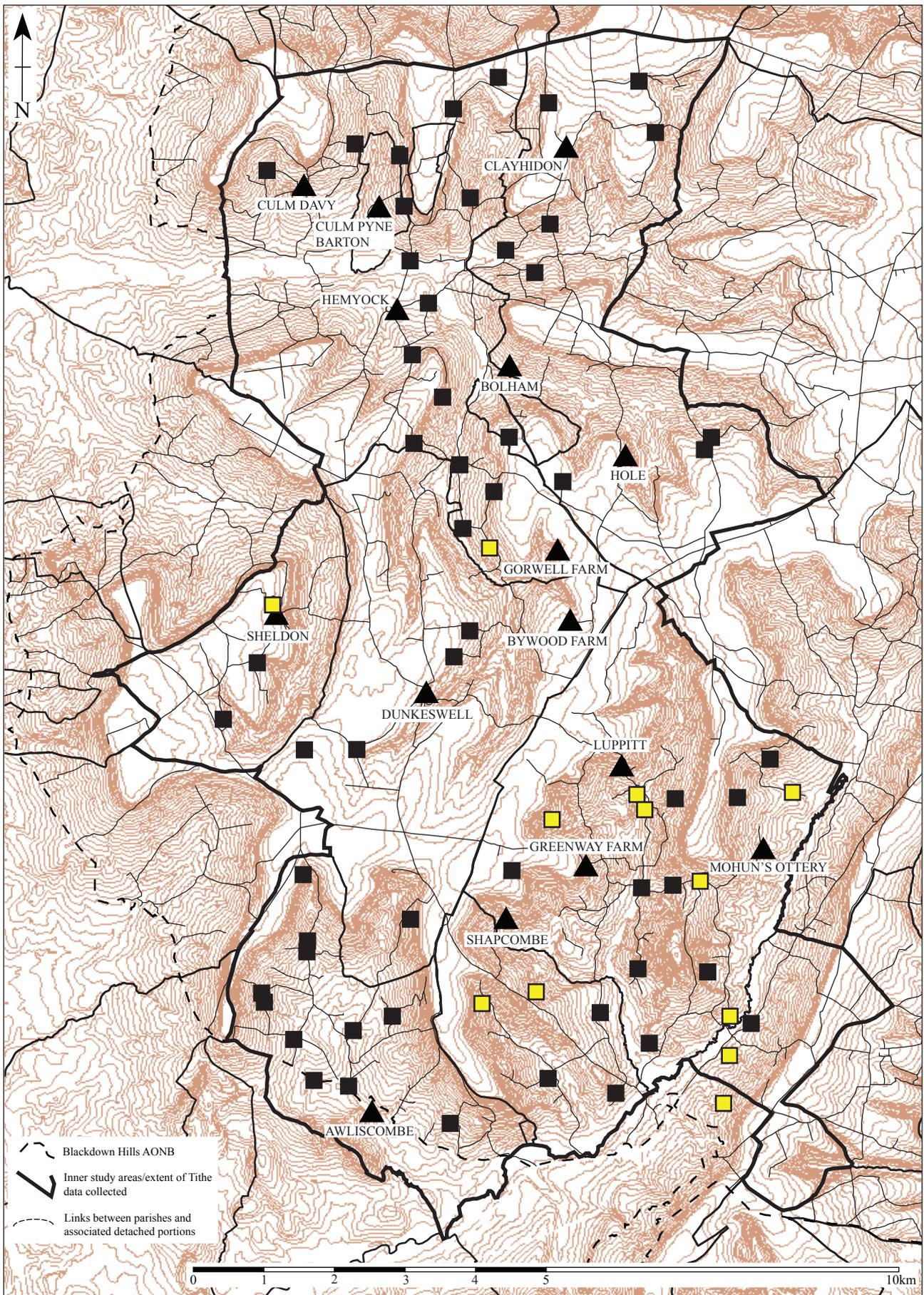


Figure 7.3: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1500 in relation to topography and roads c.1880. Black symbols represent settlements first documented between 1086 and 1348, yellow symbols are those first recorded between 1349 and 1500.

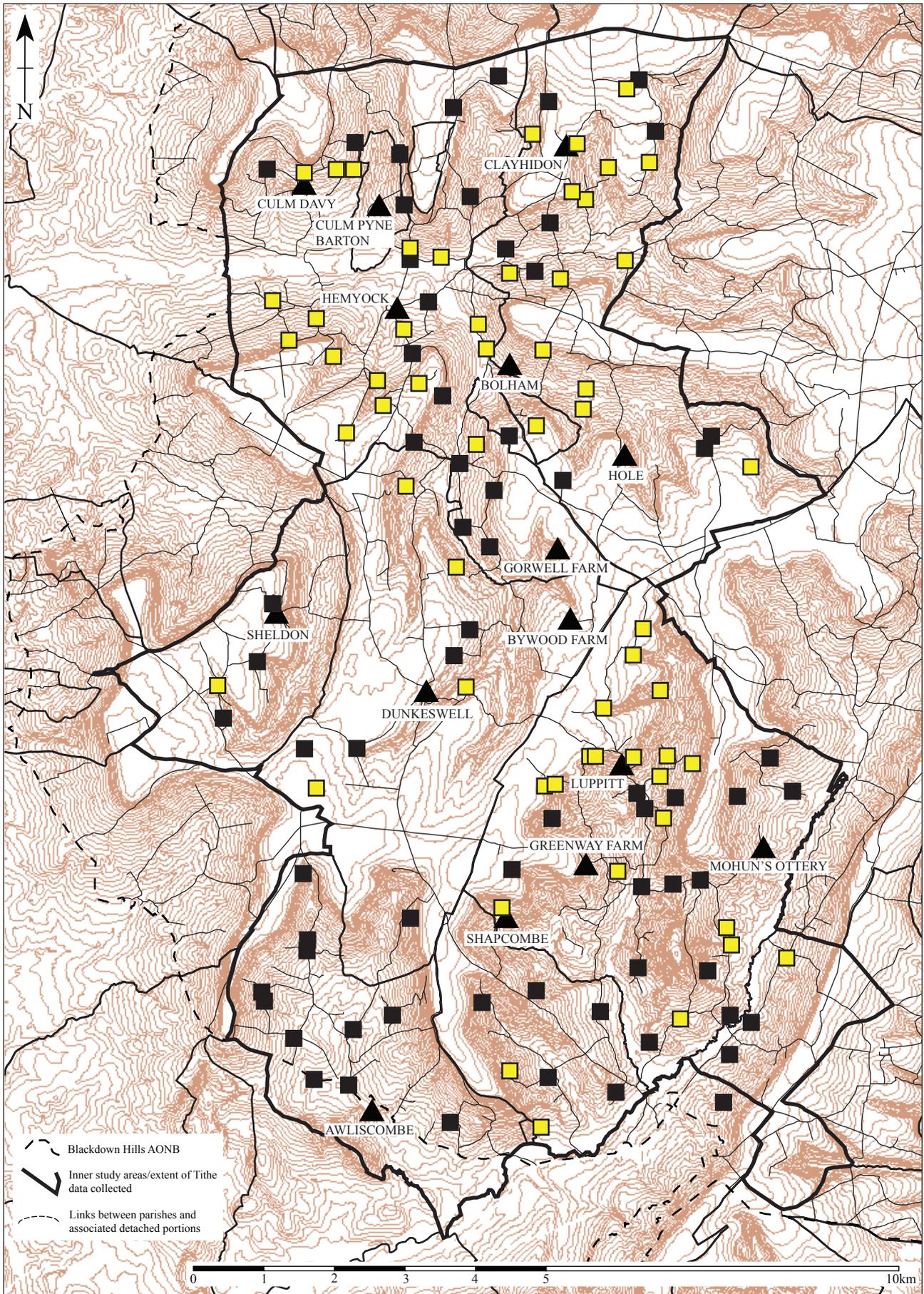


Figure 7.4: Settlement within the western core study area recorded by 1700 in relation to topography and roads c. 1880. Black symbols represent settlements first documented between 1086 and 1500, yellow symbols are those first recorded between 1501 and 1700.

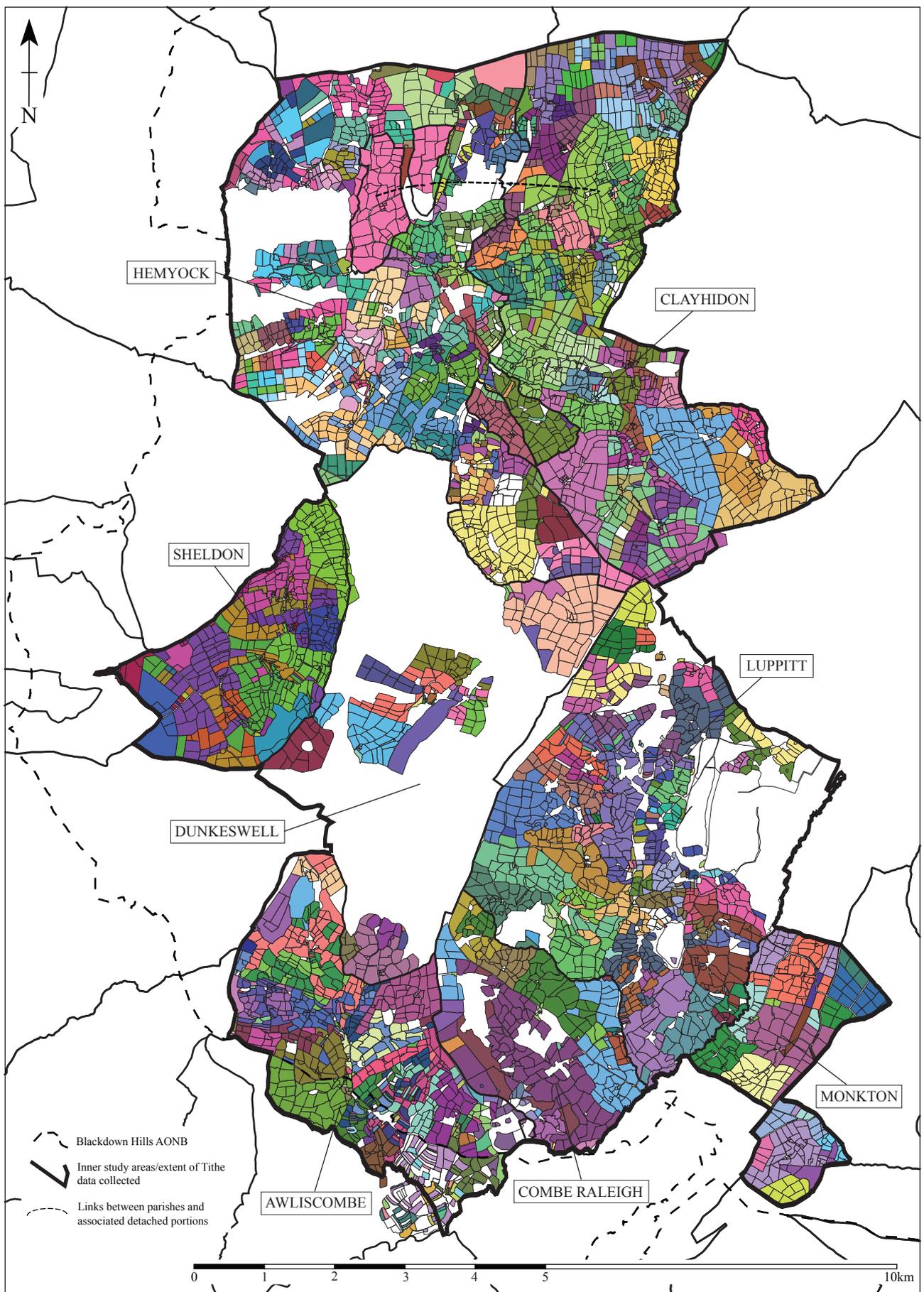


Figure 8: The pattern of land occupancy in the western core study area *c.*1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. Parishes with data are labelled and the outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.

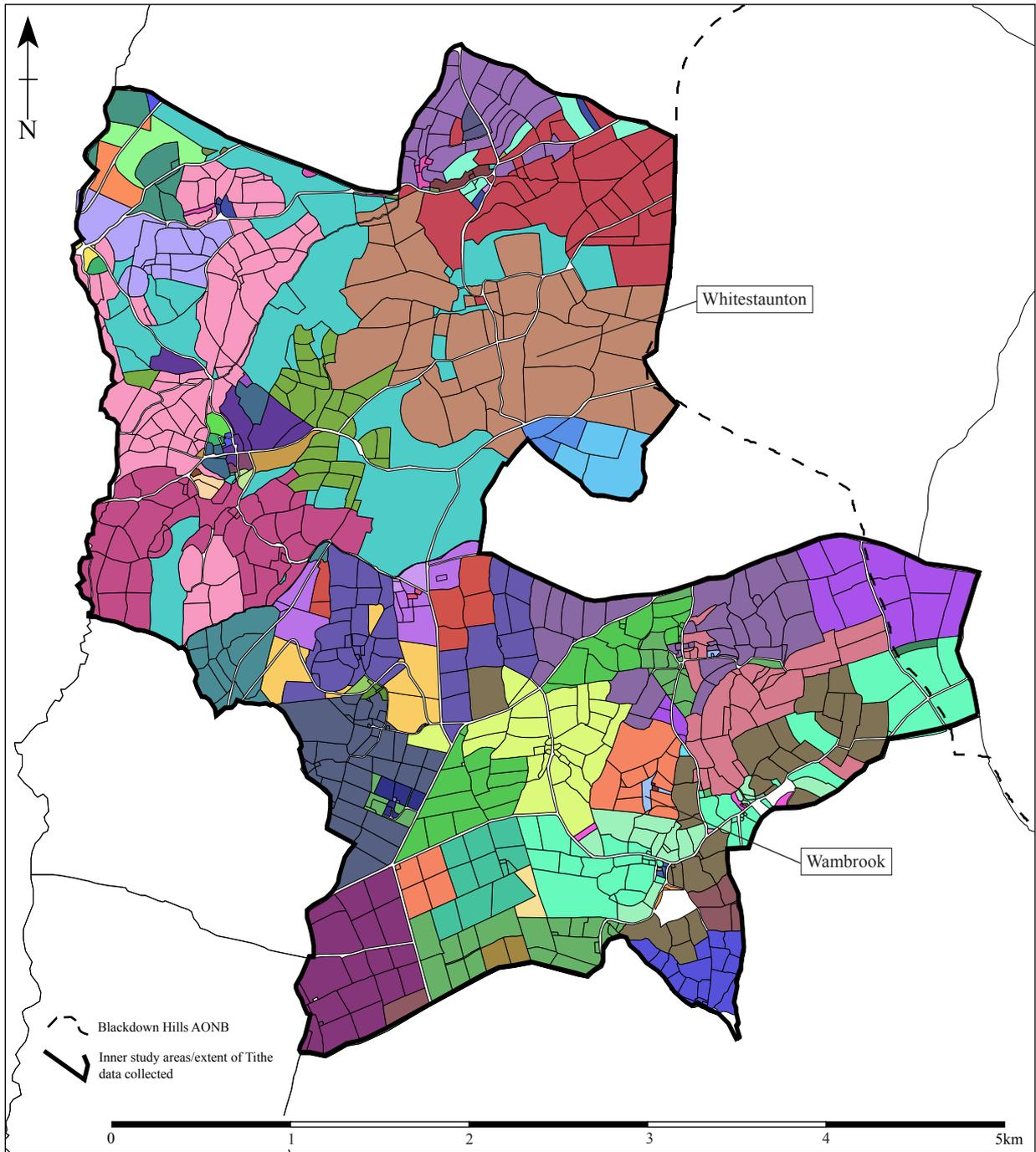


Figure 9: The pattern of land occupancy in the eastern core study area *c.*1840 based on Tithe map and Apportionment data. Parishes with data are labelled and the outline of surrounding parishes is also shown.