



1540-1799 THE FARM IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

In the five years between 1536 and 1540 all 650 Monasteries and Nunneries had been dissolved. Once a monastery had surrendered it was ransacked and all its property, goods, chattels sold off. Some of the land Henry took from them he gave back to the Church of England. Most of it, including Barton Farm, was granted to his supporters or leased.



When Henry VIII pronounced himself Head of the Church and dissolved the monasteries few of them survived beyond that time. The site of Shaftesbury Abbey, one of the largest, can still be seen but like many others it was razed to the ground.



FRANCIS WALSHINGHAM
Attributed to John de Critz
the Elder

The Manor was purely a source of income to its owners and it is unlikely that any of them ever visited it. Sir Francis Walsingham was granted the Lordship of the Manor by Queen Elizabeth, whose spymaster he was, in 1571 and held it till his death in 1590. Barton Farm as it had been in Shaftesbury Abbey's time was part of that estate.

His daughter Frances who inherited the estate, led a colourful life: she married first Sir Philip Sidney, the poet, who was killed in battle, and then the Earl of Essex, who was executed after his failed rebellion against Queen Elizabeth.



FRANCES AND HER SON

Honorata, her daughter by her third husband, the Earl of Clanricarde, did not directly inherit the estate: it was given as her dowry to her husband, John Paulet, Marquess of Winchester.



JOHN PAULET

During the civil war Paulet, a royalist, fought off Cromwell's troops but in 1645 his estates were confiscated and sold to Walter Strickland. However Paulet's descendants held Bradford Manor until 1774 when it was sold to Francis Methuen who in turn sold it to Sir John Cam Hobhouse whose family still own it.

Death of Henry VIII
1547 AD

It seems that in 1539 William Webbe was the first tenant of Barton Farm at a rent of £26-16-8 per annum. He held the lease for 40 years although the manor itself changed hands several times during his tenancy. In 1610 Constance Lucy took on the lease from Francis Walsingham and she, and subsequently her son Francis, were paying £22.3s.0d.

Bradford Manor Barton Farm
In Lease to Francis Lucy Esq

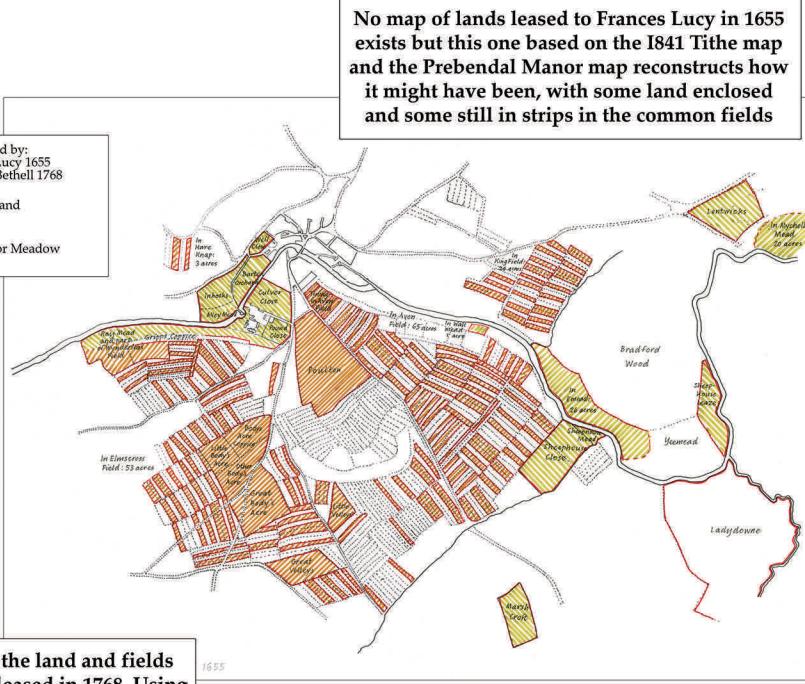
Counties	Acres	Perches	Roods	Arable	Pasture	Meadow	Wood	Water	Other
1. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
2. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
3. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
4. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
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9. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
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15. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
16. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
17. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
18. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
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20. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
21. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
22. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
23. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
24. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
25. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
26. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
27. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
28. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
29. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
30. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
31. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
32. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
33. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
34. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
35. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
36. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
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38. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
39. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
40. In Barton Manor Oxford & S. Kent	120	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12

Land held by:
Francis Lucy 1655
Samuel Bethell 1768

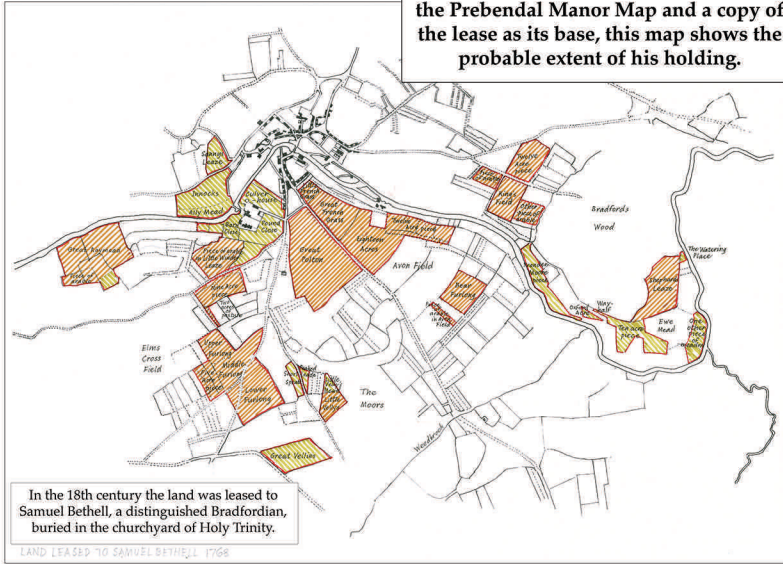
Arable Land

Pasture or Meadow

A copy of the list of fields leased to Francis Lucy, son of Constance, is held at the Record Office in Chippenham and from that it has been possible to determine fairly accurately what land he farmed.



There is no map of the land and fields that Samuel Bethell leased in 1768. Using the Prebendal Manor Map and a copy of the lease as its base, this map shows the probable extent of his holding.



In the 18th century the land was leased to Samuel Bethell, a distinguished Bradfordian, buried in the churchyard of Holy Trinity.

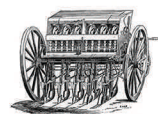
No map of lands leased to Frances Lucy in 1655 exists but this one based on the 1841 Tithe map and the Prebendal Manor map reconstructs how it might have been, with some land enclosed and some still in strips in the common fields



These two rather grainy images demonstrate that strip farming in common fields continued well into this period.

Tenant of Barton Farm	
1539	William Webbe
1610	leased to Constance Lucy for the term of her 3 son's lives for £22.3s.0d. pa
1629	Lady Lucy holds 480 acres for £22.3s.0d. pa and a nearby quarry for 1s.8d. pa
1633	her son Francis Lucy holds 436 acres for £22.3s.0d. pa
1683	leased to William Brewer, clothier, of Trowbridge
1707	lease passed to Thomas Brewer on his father's death
c1726	leased to Farmer Bethell
1756	Samuel Bethell, Thomas' son, at Barton Farm from the date of his marriage
1775	Bethell's lease ended: farm may have been rented to Paul Harding
1778	rented by Samuel Cam to Paul Harding, probably for a rent of £300
1780	rented to Paul Harding, who had difficulty in paying the rent: he managed only a third, £345 pa
1790	Barton Farm rented to John Crook, farmer
1796	Barton Farm leased by Benjamin Hobhouse to John Spencer, yeoman

It is important to distinguish between the Manor and what had been the Abbey's Demesne Farm, now Barton Farm, which was a leasehold property within it. Indeed some of those who held that lease may have sub let it to third parties. These two maps demonstrate that although a substantial property it was comparatively small when compared to the whole manor.



Sanfoin was introduced from France as a forage crop. Known as French Grass it gave its name to a field landlocked near St Margaret's Place and rented by Samuel Bethell, the tenant of Barton Farm.



A NEW HOR AT WORK, GOING BETWEEN THE ROWS OF PLANTS

Farming continued in the traditional medieval methods although many new crops were grown – turnips, cabbages, clover, sanfoin, ryegrass and carrots. Towards the end of this period some primitive agricultural machinery is introduced.



1500 AD 1520 AD 1540 AD 1560 AD 1580 AD 1600 AD 1620 AD 1640 AD 1660 AD 1680 AD 1700 AD 1720 AD 1740 AD 1760 AD 1780 AD 1800 AD 1820 AD 1840 AD 1860 AD 1880 AD 1900 AD

- 1537-40 AD | Dissolution of the major abbeys, including Shaftesbury
- 1546 AD | Manor of Bradford granted to Sir Edward Bellingham
- 1603 AD | James VI and I united the thrones of England and Scotland
- 1643 AD | Civil War: Royalist army overnight (2-3 July) in Bradford. On 5 July they fought the Parliamentary forces at Lansdown
- 1660 AD | Charles II restored
- 1688 AD | Glorious Revolution: William III ousted James II
- 1714 AD | Hanoverian succession
- 1760 AD | George III – called "Farmer George" because of his interest in the major developments taking place in farming technology
- 1789 AD | French Revolution