

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sunnica Energy Farm](#)
Subject: Map of Chippenham
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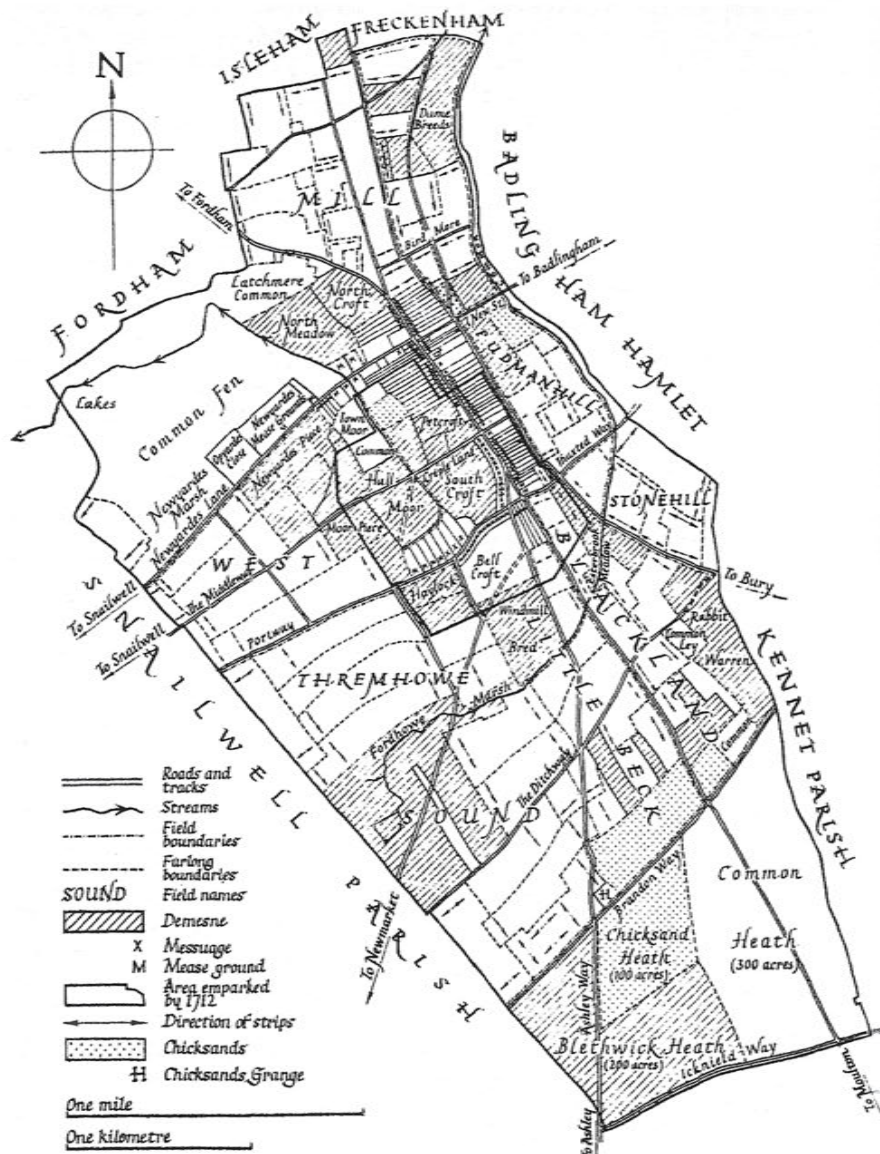
Hello

I understand Mr. Kean asked for an old map of Chippenham. Please see attached, extract from: Margaret Spufford, *Contrasting Communities*, Sutton Publishing, 2000. P.60 (First published in 1974 by CUP).

Hope this helps.

Sandie Geddes

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Map 8 The Lordship of Chippenham in 1544 (based on the map of 1712)

missing, obliterated beyond recall. The demographic evidence on the size and growth of Chippenham is therefore very scanty indeed. The sixty-three houses standing in 1544 argue for a resident population of between 250 and 300.⁸ The record of baptisms from 1559 onwards would indicate a population of between 300 and 360 for the whole parish, including the hamlet of Badlingham, which is consistent with this 1544 evidence.⁹ A nine-year moving average of baptisms suggests a fluctuating birth rate in a population of round about the same size until the 1630s.¹⁰ After an increase in the 1630s, the population again remained more or less static in size until the end of the century. There were probably about sixty-seven houses in Chippenham in 1664, although even the hearth tax is difficult to use for Chippenham.¹¹ If this were so, the resident population of the village now stood at between 270 and 330, and that of the whole parish, including Badlingham, at between 310 and 380. There had been no real change in the size of the village since 1544, despite the heightened level of births since the 1630s.

⁸ Chippenham lies in the deanery of Fordham in the diocese of Norwich, not in Ely, and transcripts which do survive are therefore in the Norfolk and Norwich Record Office in the Central Library, Norwich.

⁹ Reckoning on between four and five people to each house. But there were so many tenants without houses and, alternatively, tenants holding two or more houses, that all arguments from the number of standing houses are inevitably shaky, since some tenants may have been non-resident, and some houses vacant.

¹⁰ There were 111 baptisms in the first decade for which the registers survive.

¹¹ From 1567, the number of births fell, until a renewed rise to a peak in 1581, followed by a further fall to 1595. There was then a slow recovery until just after 1600, and an equally slow overall drop until after the bad years of the early 1620s. A further recovery then began. A return of the number of communicants in 1603 survives for the diocese of Norwich, but the figure it gives for Chippenham was so improbable that it in no way made up for the lack of the episcopal return of the number of households in 1563, which survives for the diocese of Ely, but not for that of Norwich. The Chippenham figure of communicants in 1603 was only sixty-six, which gives a ludicrously low total of well under 200 inhabitants in the parish. (Using the multiplier of 2.8 established by C. T. Smith for the Compton Census in *V.C.H. Leicestershire*, III, 140-3 and tentatively adopted by him when using the communicants' return of 1603 as a basis for population figures.) It fits none of the other available information, and is possibly incorrect, for although the printed edition reads 'cxxvi' this is an error in transcription from the manuscript, in which 'clxxvi' has been implausibly altered to 'lxvi'. I am much indebted to Mr A. R. Allan, formerly of the Bury St Edmunds and West Suffolk Record Office, who gave me this information from his private research.

¹² Because the hearth tax figures for the parish give no separate total for the hamlet of Badlingham. Seventy-six houses in all were taxed in Chippenham, probably including those in Badlingham. When Badlingham was mapped only five years earlier, there had been at least nine houses there. If all seventy-six houses were in Chippenham, the rise in the number of houses, and presumably families, would still have been only just over twenty per cent since 1544. M. Spufford, *Chippenham*, pp. 44-5.