



VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Chadlington

3. Economic History



Chadlington's economy was predominantly agricultural, combining Cotswold sheep-and-corn husbandry with dairying and cattle-rearing. The East and West manors had separate sets of fields by the 17th century, probably replacing a single large medieval field system; the bulk of Chadlington East's sheep downs and a small part of its open fields were enclosed in the 1670s, followed by enclosure of the parish's remaining open fields and commons c.1812. A range of crafts existed from the Middle Ages, including weaving, tailoring, shoemaking, and gloving, linked in part to the wool and leather trades of neighbouring towns such as Charlbury and Chipping Norton, which were also Chadlington's chief markets. Malting and brewing were commonplace, and several pubs existed by the 18th century, while two watermills (reduced from three in the medieval period) continued until c.1850.

The Agricultural Landscape

The parish's early farmland included extensive arable fields, downland sheep pastures in the north, and riverside meadows, cow pastures, and small woods in the south. The medieval east and west fields (documented in the late 12th and early 13th centuries) may have been shared by the whole of Chadlington, and were perhaps separated (as later) by Green Lane.¹ By the 17th century (and probably much earlier), however, Chadlington East and West

¹ *Eynsham Cart*, I, pp. 107, 109, 247–8; BNC, Chadlington 4; above, landscape etc. (boundaries).

manors each regulated their own sets of open fields, created possibly by subdividing east and west fields respectively.² Some small parts of Chadlington East's fields were enclosed in 1674,³ and in the 18th century West's were divided amongst five fields called Grove, Kingman, Lower, Northbury, and Norton.⁴ The open fields as a whole accounted for much of the 2,370 a. of arable surveyed in 1799 (1,770 a. in West and 600 a. in East),⁵ but were enclosed c.1812.⁶ In 1870 arable closes still covered almost two thirds (2,041 a.) of Chadlington's farmland, the rest (1,113 a.) remaining under grass.⁷

Common meadows and pastures survived in both townships until the c.1812 enclosure, the meadows mostly fringing the river Evenlode.⁸ In the 17th century some were allocated by lot,⁹ although by 1799 much of the parish's 336 a. of meadow (most of it in Chadlington West) lay in private closes. Sheep pastures covered the highest ground in the north towards Chipping Norton, where 175 a. of downland in Chadlington West remained common in 1799; a further 198 a. in Chadlington East was enclosed in 1674, leaving only c.12 a. there. Cow commons covered 35 a. in East and 36 a. in West,¹⁰ and in the 1630s were divided amongst Greenhill and Blaythorne (in East), and Greenslade, Home Thorne, Cowpen, and Shippenhull green (in West). Shippenhull green lay at Greenend, where Chadlington West's lord Hercules Osbaldeston (d. 1640) allegedly enclosed a part of it to build a cottage and a pound.¹¹ Small medieval closes or crofts were mentioned from the 1260s,¹² and by 1655 there were blocks of demesne closes around both Upper Court and Lower Court.¹³ Old enclosures at enclosure c.1812 totalled 597 a. in West and 232 a. in East.¹⁴

Detached woodland in Chilson (adjoining Wychwood forest) belonged to Sarsden manor in 1086, and by the 13th and 14th centuries formed part of Chadlington's Wahull manor, whose lords appointed woodwards.¹⁵ Woodland within Chadlington itself was scarce,

² TNA, E 134/13Chas1/Mich24; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 32/2/10; below, local govt.

³ OHC, PAR56/16/D/1; below (1500–1800).

⁴ OHC, Fi. IV/x/1; Fi. IV/xi/a/1; Fi. IV/xi/b/1; Fi. IV/xi/e/1; Fi. IV/xi/h/1; *ibid.* SL45/D11/1.

⁵ SJC, MUN VI.74.

⁶ Below (since 1800).

⁷ TNA, MAF 68/255.

⁸ OHC, encl. award and maps.

⁹ *Ibid.* MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 40, f. 85; *ibid.* PAR56/13/1/E/3.

¹⁰ SJC, MUN VI.74; cf. Jeffreys, *Oxon. Map* (1767); OHC, encl. award and maps. For 1674 enclosure, below (1500–1800).

¹¹ TNA, E 134/13Chas1/Mich24. For the green, cf. Jeffreys, *Oxon. Map* (1767). There were fields called Blaythorne in both East and West.

¹² *Eynsham Cart.* I, pp. 247–8; cf. OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 40, f. 85 (Ashcroft and Longcroft in 1635).

¹³ OHC, Fi. IV/viii/6.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* encl. award and maps.

¹⁵ Schumer, *Oxon. Forests*, 48, 66, 156; Schumer, 'Perambulations', 6, 9, 10, 16; below, Chilson, Sarsden.

however, with just 83 a. (61 a. in West and 22 a. in East) recorded in 1799.¹⁶ Successive timber sales, principally of ash, elm, and oak from woods west of Lower Court,¹⁷ reduced the total to nearer 20 a. by c.1850,¹⁸ although in the late 20th century new woods totalling 72 a. (mainly conifer plantations) were established on Upper Court farm.¹⁹

Fishponds of possibly medieval origin survive close to Lower Court and Manor House.²⁰ Sheepwashes or washpools were mentioned in 1701, and a public sheepwash below Curdle Hill was maintained at the c.1812 enclosure.²¹ It was repaired c.1894, when inhabitants were charged 4d. and outsiders 6d. per score of sheep washed.²²

Medieval Farming

In 1086 most farmland in the parish belonged to larger neighbouring manors, but two small Chadlington estates were separately listed, both rated at 2½ hides. Each supported two demesne ploughteams, Reginald the archer's worked by two bordars and four slaves (*servi*), and Siward the huntsman's by three bordars and a slave. Siward also had 3 a. of demesne meadow, and both estates were valued at 40s. a year in 1066 and 1086. No woodland was mentioned.²³ Three Chadlington estates in 1220 (presumably the three main manors) had enough arable for eight, seven, and six ploughteams,²⁴ whilst the arable's expansion onto downland pasture is implied by the contemporary field names Aldedune ('old down') and Breach (later Canons' Breach), both for lands given to Cold Norton priory.²⁵ The recently established Shippenhull manor took its name from a hill with a cattle shed.²⁶

By 1279 Shippenhull was the most populous of Chadlington's three manors, supporting ten freeholders who occupied more than 14 yardlands between them (held mainly for cash rents), and 16 villein yardlanders who each owed 4s. annual rent, tallage, and labour services including harvesting, ploughing, harrowing, mowing, carting, and sheep-washing and shearing. The manor as a whole yielded £18 19s. a year, including £8 from a two-ploughland demesne. Wahull manor's nine villein yardlanders (one of whom served as

¹⁶ SJC, MUN VI.74.

¹⁷ e.g. OHC, E21/D/1; E21/F/1–2; *Oxf. Jnl*, 1 May 1802; 30 Nov. 1805; *Bristol Times*, 22 Feb. 1812; *Morning Chron.* 20 Apr 1819.

¹⁸ OHC, Lo. VI/11; *ibid.* DV/X/34. 'Chadlington Woods', marked on Bryant, *Oxon. Map* (1824), are absent on later maps.

¹⁹ *Country Life*, 13 Apr. 2000, 106; cf. OS Map, 1:25000, sheet 191 (2015 edn).

²⁰ HER, PRN 12971; OHC, encl. award and maps.

²¹ OHC, Fi. IV/xi/h/1–2; *ibid.* encl. award and maps; HER, PRN 16646.

²² OHC, PAR56/2/A/1. Sold in 1940: below, local govt.

²³ DB, f. 160v.

²⁴ *Book of Fees*, I, 317.

²⁵ BNC, Chadlington 5, 7; Dugdale, *Mon.* VI (1), p. 421; P. Cavill, *A New Dictionary of English Field-Names* (2018), 42.

²⁶ Above, landscape etc. (settlement).

reeve) owed similar services but paid only 2s. annual rent, while its eight freeholders held a total of 10½ yardlands. Wahull, too, had two ploughlands in demesne, producing £5 out of the manor's £10 16s. 2¼d. annual yield. Chadlington East manor was held in two parts, that belonging to Ralph de Whitfield's heirs containing six villein yardlands, a half yardland, and two cottages; the yardlanders each owed 10s. annual rent and labour services including planting beans and cleaning Whitfield's dovecot, while the total income of £7 7s. 9d. included £3 from a 1½-ploughland demesne. John de Honyngton's Eastend tenants comprised two villein half-yardlanders and four freeholders with cottages or a few acres, its annual income of £2 11s. including £1 4s. from a small half-ploughland demesne. Villeins on all three manors also owed traditional renders such as hens or bread at Christmas and eggs at Easter.²⁷

By 1346 Shippenhull and Wahull manors' values had fallen to £10 18s. 4d. and £9 15s. 8d. respectively, of which £6 1s. 8d. and £6 came from tenants' rents. Both retained their two-ploughland demesne farms, however, and Shippenhull manor included a fishery worth 6s. a year, presumably in the river Evenlode.²⁸ Their values fell further by 1361 (following the Black Death), when Shippenhull and Wahull had only seven and five villein yardlanders respectively, and total income was down to £9 13s. 4d. and £5 18s. 8d.²⁹ Tithe receipts give an idea of the arable crops grown, with wheat and dredge dominating over pulses in 1354, although in the 15th century Chadlington's grain tithes were usually let each year for 40 qrs of barley, 20 qrs of wheat, and 6 qrs of oats, which in 1457 were collectively sold for £6 13s. 4d.³⁰ Arable was by then probably waning in favour of sheep farming, however, as was common in the Cotswolds in the late 14th and 15th century.³¹ Richard Whitfield of Eastend kept sheep in 1380, when 14 of his flock were stolen,³² and presumably other leading inhabitants participated in the burgeoning Cotswold wool trade, Chadlington being well positioned between the markets at Charlbury and Chipping Norton.³³ The wealthy Witney woolman Thomas Fermor or Ricards acquired Chadlington East manor before his death in 1485,³⁴ and his son and heir Laurence was one of three Chadlington people accused of evicting tenants and making enclosures, suggesting conversion of arable into sheep pastures.³⁵

²⁷ *Rot. Hund.* II, 736–8, 747.

²⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VIII, pp. 493–4; TNA, C 135/82/1, no. 26. Chadlington West's lord owned 'fishing in the Evenlode as far as the half stream' in 1837: OHC, Fi. IV/viii/10.

²⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XI, p. 70; Salter (ed.), *Boarstall Cart.* p. 163; TNA, C 1/17/42.

³⁰ BL, Harl. Rolls B26 and B42; TNA, SC 6/957/26; *Eynsham Cart.* II, pp. xxxi–ii.

³¹ Above, vol. overview (econ.).

³² *Cal. Pat.* 1377–81, 545.

³³ *Oxon. Atlas*, pp. 38–41.

³⁴ Above, landownership (Chadlington East).

³⁵ I.S. Leadam (ed.), *Domesday of Inclosures 1517–1518* (1897), I, 358–61; cf. TNA, C 43/2/13.

Farms and Farming 1500–1800

Sheep-and-corn husbandry continued alongside dairying into the 16th and 17th centuries, when testators typically left wheat, barley (often malted), oats, peas, beans, and hay, as well as sheep, cattle, horses, pigs, poultry, wool, bacon, butter, and cheeses. A smaller number also grew rye and hemp (for rope), and sainfoin was introduced before 1674.³⁶ Among those keeping bees, the husbandman Thomas Drake (d. 1580) left eight stalls of them worth 10s.³⁷ Shepherds were employed to manage larger flocks,³⁸ some of which numbered more than 100,³⁹ although flocks of c.30 were more typical.⁴⁰ The largest flocks almost certainly belonged to the Osbaldestons of Lower Court: John (d. 1535) had more than 300 sheep, and Arthur (d. 1606) over 440, while John (d. c.1688) settled two private sheepwalks and common pasture for 400 sheep on his son Littleton in 1655.⁴¹ Commons were stinted at 32 sheep and four cattle or horses per yardland in Chadlington East in 1674, and at 30 sheep and four cattle in Chadlington West in 1695.⁴²

Most farms continued to be held of the two manors, and in 1635 12 tenants of Chadlington West impleaded their lord Hercules Osbaldeston for converting their copyholds into leaseholds for lives, while nevertheless demanding ancient customary payments and services. Their efforts failed,⁴³ and as late as 1741 Chadlington West's leaseholders still owed customary hens, heriots, and labour services (including haymaking, harvest work, and cleansing the lord's sheephouse and millpond), and were obliged to grind all their corn at the manorial mill.⁴⁴ Chadlington East manor still had some copyholds in 1814,⁴⁵ although in 1674 its lord William Rollinson enclosed his share of the manor's common pasture, the new enclosures comprising the later Barn Hill (94 a.) and Downs or East Downs (106 a.) farms. In exchange he forfeited all commons attached to his 14½ yardlands in the open fields, the fields themselves remaining largely unaffected, save for a few acres taken into Rollinson's enclosures and necessitating some reallocation of strips. Rollinson could still fold commoners' sheep in his new closes (thus benefiting from the dung), in return for which he allowed commoners' cattle to graze his sainfoin in the open fields from 1 August until 20 March, when it was fenced off and grown for hay.⁴⁶ Sainfoin was still sown on part of

³⁶ OHC and TNA, Chadlington wills and inventories. For sainfoin, below (this section).

³⁷ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 17/1/6; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burial 1580.

³⁸ e.g. OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 10/4/5; 41/1/53; 52/4/5.

³⁹ e.g. *ibid.* 184.171a; 186.35; 49/2/8.

⁴⁰ e.g. *ibid.* 297/4/9; 17/2/5; 30/2/17; 60/3/32.

⁴¹ *Ibid.* 178.104; 49/1/22; *ibid.* Fi. IV/viii/6; above, landownership (West).

⁴² OHC, PAR56/16/D/1; *ibid.* O138/18.

⁴³ TNA, C 2/ChasI/C87/66; *ibid.* E 134/13Chas1/Mich24; below, social hist.

⁴⁴ OHC, O138/18; *ibid.* PAR56/13/1/D/8; *ibid.* SL45/D11/1; below (milling).

⁴⁵ OHC, Fi IV/xiii/1–8.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.* PAR56/16/D/1; PAR56/13/1/D/5–6; cf. *Oxf. Jnl*, 1 Aug. 1767, mentioning the 198 a. enclosed.

Chadlington East's open fields in 1769 as part of a three-course rotation, although most furlongs then followed a six-course rotation (perhaps newly introduced) of turnips, barley, clover, fallow, wheat, and (finally) either oats, barley, or peas.⁴⁷ In 1783 recent thefts from Chadlington's open fields, particularly of peas, turnips, and grain, were discussed at a specially convened manor court.⁴⁸

Little is known about the number, size, and occupancy of farms before 1700, although Upper Court farm was leased to Richard Stokes for 21 years in 1597 at £5 annual rent,⁴⁹ and in 1637 there were six freeholders on Chadlington West manor, one of whom (William Titmarsh) occupied a farmhouse at Greenend with five yardlands attached. The lord Hercules Osbaldeston was accused of having recently enclosed and depopulated 'Abstens' farm, which had included another five yardlands,⁵⁰ and in 1655 Chadlington West manor's demesne included ten yardlands attached to Lower Court and another six attached to Upper Court.⁵¹ Chadlington East's demesne (Manor farm) was occupied by the Distons probably from 1673, and by the Smiths by 1731;⁵² in 1767 it covered 503 a. let for £260 a year,⁵³ and by 1799 (when let to John Smith) it was 687 a., comprising 92 percent of Chadlington East's total farmland. Chadlington West's chief farmers were then Paul Smith (486 a.), William Bagnall of Upper Court (302 a.), Charles Kearsey (284 a.), Richard Stevens (231 a.), William Welch (206 a.), Thomas Newman (196 a.), and William Huckins (140 a.), while the principal crops were wheat (317 a.), barley (270 a.), oats (269 a.), turnips (201 a.), and beans (59 a.), with 554 a. of 'seeds' probably including clover and sainfoin. Clover (188 a.) and sainfoin (17 a.) were also grown in East, where, apart from turnips (82 a.) and beans (27 a.), the main crops were barley (123 a.), wheat (106 a.), and oats (52 a.).⁵⁴

Farms and Farming Since 1800

Parliamentary enclosure of Chadlington's remaining open fields and commons took place under an Act passed in 1811, which also affected Chilson and extinguished all tithes.⁵⁵ The new closes were apparently mapped and allotted c.1812, but disputes and exchanges took longer to resolve, and the final award was not sealed until 1825. In Chadlington West, where 2,004 a. were newly enclosed, the lord Sir. E. Bayntun Sandys received 1,046 a., including

⁴⁷ OHC, Fi. IV/xiii/3.

⁴⁸ Ibid. PAR56/17/N1/1.

⁴⁹ TNA, C 2/JasI/A7/61.

⁵⁰ Ibid. E 134/13Chas1/Mich24.

⁵¹ OHC, Fi. IV/viii/6.

⁵² Ibid. Fi. III/i/2; Fi. IV/i/a/2; below, social hist. (1500–1800).

⁵³ *Oxf. Jnl*, 1 Aug. 1767.

⁵⁴ SJC, MUN VI.74.

⁵⁵ Chadlington and Chilson Enclosure Act, 51 Geo. III, c. 25 (Local and Personal).

19 a. for manorial rights and 486 a. for 44¼ demesne yardlands in the open fields. A further 15 beneficiaries received 958 a. between them, including St John's College, Oxford (404 a. for rectory glebe and tithes), Robert Smith (176 a.), and the vicar of Charlbury (108 a. for tithes). In Chadlington East, the lord A.T. Rawlinson received 357 a. of the 574 a. enclosed, including 3 a. for manorial rights and 242 a. for 23 open-field yardlands. Charlbury's vicar received 180 a. for glebe and tithes, while 33 a. out of the remaining 37 a. were allotted to the trustees of the church estate, in lieu of a 24-a. yardland previously held in 47 separate strips.⁵⁶



(Left) Chadlington Farm. (Right) Chadlington Downs Farm in 1958.
Source: OHC, POX0185742.

In 1831 three fifths of Chadlington's working families were directly employed in agriculture, with 95 inhabitants classed as agricultural labourers.⁵⁷ Most farmland still belonged to the two manor estates, Chadlington West's annual rents totalling £2,678 in 1814,⁵⁸ while its principal farms were Upper Court (398 a. in 1818), Barley Hill (187 a.), Chadlington Downs (135 a.), Lower Court (114 a. excluding the manor house), and 'Late Kearsey's' (101 a.). The estate then also included the 404-a. Rectory farm, which Bayntun Sandys held on a ten-year lease from St John's College, subletting it in three parts.⁵⁹ A.T. Rawlinson farmed his East manor estate through a bailiff until his death in 1845, after which it was sold to James Langston in two parts: Manor farm (508 a.) and Downs (i.e. East

⁵⁶ OHC, encl. award and maps; *ibid.* PAR56/13/1/E/4; below, relig. hist. (church estate). For allotments c.1812, cf. *ibid.* PAR56/13/1/D/18; *Oxf. Univ. & City Herald*, 12 June 1813 ('tithe-free farm of new inclosures').

⁵⁷ *Census*, 1831; OHC, PAR56/4/A1/1.

⁵⁸ OHC, SL116/3/D/1–2.

⁵⁹ *Sale Cat.*, *Chadlington West Manor* (1818): copy in Glos. Archives, D3393/E7.

Downs) farm (106 a.).⁶⁰ Rawlinson's livestock, offered for sale in 1846, comprised 642 sheep, 48 cattle, 38 pigs, and 21 horses (excluding his racehorses).⁶¹

By 1851 there were 11 farms of between 21 a. and 459 a. (Manor farm having been split into two holdings), and little had changed by 1861, when the largest farms were John Ward's part of Manor farm (460 a.), William Searle's Upper Court farm (447 a.), John Gardner's Rectory or College farm (404 a.), Robert Abraham's Lower Court farm (364 a.), George Huckin's Blaythorne farm (327 a.), and John Hambidge's Chadlington Downs farm (315 a.). Each employed between 11 and 21 men and boys.⁶² Abraham sold his flock of 580 Cotswold sheep when he left Lower Court in 1870,⁶³ and in 1881 Charles Davies worked College and Vicarage farms together as a 690-a. holding, employing 24 labourers.⁶⁴ A Chadlington branch of the Agricultural Workers' Union was established in 1872,⁶⁵ and in 1891 local farmers formed the Chadlington Shire Horse Co. Ltd, which loaned out shire horses for traction. It was wound up in 1910.⁶⁶

The final decades of the 19th century saw the usual shift towards pastoralism as the wider agricultural depression took hold. Between 1870 and 1900 the acreage under cereals (chiefly wheat, barley, and oats) fell by a third, whilst the area of permanent grass more than doubled and the head of cattle rose by 30 per cent, from 324 (including 90 in milk) to 421 (including 121 in milk). Atypically, sheep numbers held steady during the same period, but then followed the wider trend, almost halving (from 3,051 to 1,532) between 1900 and 1920.⁶⁷ In 1887 College farm's tenants blamed their bankruptcy on successive crop failures and the depressed value of wool and corn,⁶⁸ and Blaythorne farm saw a marked shift towards cattle in 1888, when the earl of Ducie's new tenant William Woolcock brought his entire herd of Devon cattle up from Cornwall. By 1910 Woolcock worked both Blaythorne (434 a.) and College (404 a.) farms as one of nine Chadlington farmers holding of the Sarsden estate, at whose break-up in 1922 both he and Paul Handy purchased their respective farms (Blaythorne and Manor).⁶⁹ A Chadlington Young Farmers' club was established in 1928, and in the 1930s Col. G.H. Mytton bred pedigree Red Poll cattle and Wessex Saddleback pigs on Chadlington Downs farm.⁷⁰

⁶⁰ G. Rawlinson, *A Memoir of Major-General Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson* (1898), 5–7; OHC, Fi. IV/v/1–17; above, landownership (East).

⁶¹ *Banbury Guardian*, 27 Aug. 1846.

⁶² TNA, HO 107/1732; *ibid.* RG 9/909; cf. OHC, Lo. VI/11, pp. 63–86.

⁶³ *Oxf. Jnl*, 16 Apr. 1870.

⁶⁴ TNA, RG 11/1519.

⁶⁵ P. Horn (ed.), *Agric. Trade Unionism in Oxon. 1872–81* (ORS 48, 1974), 33, 36, 44.

⁶⁶ TNA, BT 31/5038/33812; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 30 Sept. 1891; *London Gaz.* 18 Mar. 1910, p. 1977.

⁶⁷ TNA, MAF 68/255; MAF 68/1851; MAF 68/2985.

⁶⁸ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 23 Mar. 1887.

⁶⁹ *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 21; G. Eaton, *Field Notes* (2022), 49, 73: copy in OHC; OHC, DV/X/34 (with 1922 alterations).

⁷⁰ *Banbury Guardian*, 28 June 1928; 26 Feb 1931; 26 Aug. 1937.

By 1942 Paul Handy (who had added the lease of College farm in 1929) was Chadlington's leading farmer, working 838 a. on Manor and College farms combined. Ten other farms of over 50 a. included Upper Court (575 a.), Lower Court (514 a.), Blaythorne (441 a.), Chadlington Downs (424 a.), Lowlands (234 a.), and Uplands (176 a.), although East Downs farm (with 'only 50–60 acres left') was rapidly shrinking due to the expansion of RAF Chipping Norton, and the tenant of Uplands farm was evicted by the War Agricultural Executive Committee for his 'lack of knowledge' and failure to take advice. Despite wartime pressure to increase arable nine farmers still maintained dairy herds of between 8 and 37 cows, and most also kept beef cattle and sheep, with the largest flocks (704 and 535 sheep respectively) on Upper Court and Manor/College farms. Wheat, barley, and oats remained the staple crops, although turnips, mangolds, sugar beet, kale, and potatoes were widely grown, and clover and sainfoin were valued in hay. Prisoners of war from Chipping Norton and the Women's Land Army supplied additional labour.⁷¹

Arable continued to expand after the Second World War, so that by 1970 more than two thirds of the parish's farmland was under crops, including barley and wheat (90 per cent) and smaller acreages of oilseed rape and beans. Ten of the 15 holdings in Chadlington and Chilson were over 100 a., and the largest over 700 a.; one was mixed, while five concentrated on cereals, two on dairying, one on sheep, and one on cattle.⁷² Farming nevertheless employed only ten inhabitants in 1981.⁷³ By then the Strongs had recently given up their dairying and beef-production on Manor farm, selling their herd of 80 Charolais cattle, and Chadlington's last milk-producers (the Woolcocks of Blaythorne farm) ceased dairying in 1999. Some 300 breeding ewes on the Paulings' mixed Lower Court farm were sold as unprofitable the following year. The Hobbses sold their smaller Lowlands farm in 2006, and the Paulings gave up their long-held tenancy of Lower Court farm in 2019,⁷⁴ the same year that Jeremy Clarkson took on direct management of his c.1,000-a. Curdlehill (or 'Diddly Squat') farm, opening a successful farm shop there in 2020. Curdlehill remained Chadlington's largest agricultural holding in 2024, combining mixed farming and market gardening,⁷⁵ while Blaythorne (c.740 a.) and Manor (c.600 a.) farms were mostly arable, focusing on wheat, barley, and oilseed rape.⁷⁶

⁷¹ SJC, MUN VI.100; TNA, MAF 32/910/79; G. Avery, 'Farming memories: Chadlington in the 1930s and 1940s', *Oxon. Local Hist.* 2.4 (1986), 126–35; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 37–8. For Women's Land Army, below, social hist. (since 1800).

⁷² TNA, MAF 68/5189 (evidently including Chilson).

⁷³ *Census*, 1981.

⁷⁴ Eaton, *Field Notes*, passim; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 40; *Banbury Guardian*, 12 Feb. 1981.

⁷⁵ J. Clarkson, *Diddly Squat: A Year on the Farm* (2021); <https://diddlysquatfarmshop.com/> (accessed Oct. 2024); below, social hist. (since 1800).

⁷⁶ Eaton, *Field Notes*, 49, 76.

Non-Agricultural Activities

Trades, Crafts, and Retail Medieval occupational bynames included chapman, farrier (*marescal*), ironmonger, slater, tailor, and turner, the slater perhaps working local quarries for roof slates.⁷⁷ Butchers were mentioned from 1505,⁷⁸ carpenters from 1602,⁷⁹ and blacksmiths from 1575, of whom Comfort Eates (d. 1671) left his granddaughter his anvil, vice, and bellows.⁸⁰ Brewers, maltsters, and victuallers were all present in the 16th century,⁸¹ and in 1656 Thomas Wheeler was fined 12s. 6d. for taking in lodgers at his Eastend alehouse and for selling ale in short measures.⁸² Sixteenth- and 17th-century leatherworkers included glovers and shoemakers, of whom Decimus Slatter (d. 1668) left shoes and leather worth £23 and was owed more than £36 in shop-debts at his death.⁸³ Some cottage weavers perhaps worked for Witney masters,⁸⁴ whilst 17th-century references to quarries, mortar pits, slate pits, a lime kiln, and at least one mason all attest to continued limestone extraction and stonemasonry.⁸⁵

By the 18th century there were several blacksmiths, butchers, carpenters, maltsters, shoemakers, stonemasons, tailors, and weavers,⁸⁶ one smith selling iron palisades,⁸⁷ and another specializing in locks.⁸⁸ John Ryman (d. 1747) was both a carpenter and a maltster, and in 1786 Thomas Smith sold hops.⁸⁹ Some businesses were passed on, the glover Thomas Kerry (d. 1755) leaving all his leather skins and shop goods to his son William,⁹⁰ while the baker Thomas Evans (d. 1787), from whom an apprentice absconded in 1756, was followed by his son Robert (d. 1813).⁹¹ A pub or alehouse known as the Bear was mentioned in 1747, while the Horseshoe and the Crown (so named by 1766 and 1779) were both licensed by the 1750s.⁹² The Crown was renamed the Sandys Arms before 1810,⁹³ and both

⁷⁷ *Rot. Hund.* II, 736, 738; TNA, E 179/161/8–9.

⁷⁸ OHC, E36/2/2/CR/29; *ibid.* MSS Wills Oxon. 300/3/48; 52/3/25; TNA, E 179/255/3.

⁷⁹ OHC, par. reg. transcript, burial 1602; *ibid.* MSS Wills Oxon. 139/1/29; 138/2/2; 168/3/22.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.* MSS Wills Oxon. 185.364; 20/4/12 (Eates); *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burials 1618/19, 1671.

⁸¹ e.g. *ibid.* E36/2/2/CR/16, 38, 43, 121; cf. TNA, SC 2/197/20–1.

⁸² OHC, E36/2/2/CR/122.

⁸³ *Ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burials 1577, 1615; *ibid.* MSS Wills Oxon. 11/5/18; 299/4/56; 174/1/18 (Slatter).

⁸⁴ *Ibid.* par. reg. transcript, baptism 1571, burial 1616. For Witney master-weavers, *VCH Oxon.* XIV, 80.

⁸⁵ OHC, Fi. IV/iv/a/1–3; *ibid.* PAR56/13/1/E/3.

⁸⁶ e.g. *ibid.* MSS Wills Oxon. 24/1/11; 137/1/27; 127/5/4; 141/4/10; 42/3/47; 137/3/3; 54/1/2; 74/3/16; 152/4/56; 137/4/17.

⁸⁷ *Oxf. Jnl Syn.* 6 June 1772.

⁸⁸ OHC, QSD/L/63 (1795); cf. J. Kibble, *Historical and Other Notes on Charlbury* (1927), 50.

⁸⁹ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 147/5/4 (Ryman); *Oxf. Jnl Syn.* 21 Oct. 1786.

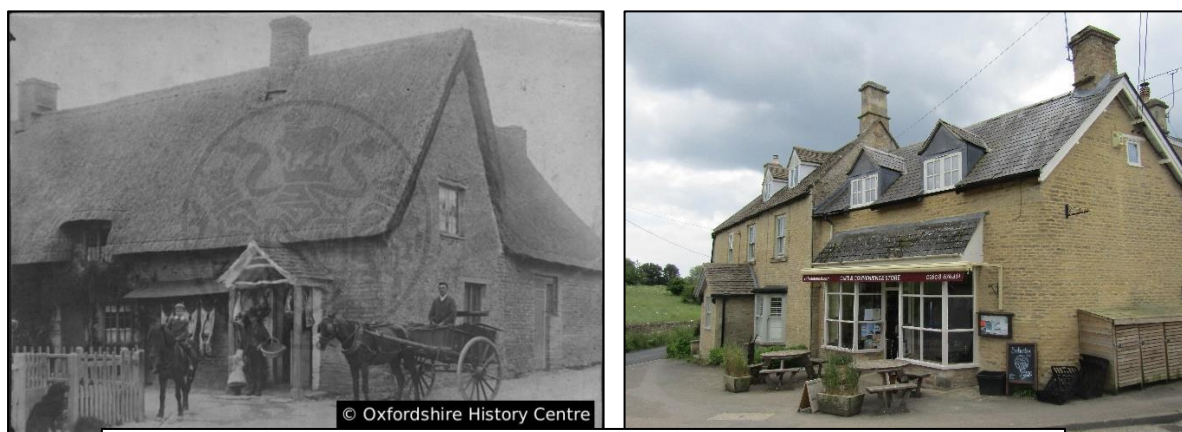
⁹⁰ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 138/4/48.

⁹¹ *Ibid.* 21/2/35; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burials 1787, 1813; TNA, PROB 11/1558/361; *Oxf. Jnl Syn.* 1 May 1756.

⁹² *Secker's Corresp.* 258; OHC, QSD/R/7; QSD/V/1–2.

⁹³ *Oxf. Jnl*, 24 Mar. 1810.

pubs (the Horseshoe on Horseshoe Lane and the Sandys Arms on Chipping Norton Road)⁹⁴ were leased from Sir E. Bayntun Sandys in 1818, when the former was combined with a blacksmith's forge and the latter with a butcher's shop and a slaughterhouse. Other shops and workshops on Chadlington West manor were occupied by a second blacksmith, a second butcher, a baker, a carpenter, and a weaver.⁹⁵ Thomas Bulley (d. 1770) and his son George (d. 1816) both worked as attorneys.⁹⁶



(Left) Chadlington butcher's shop c.1900. Source: OHC, POX0560446.
(Right) The former Westend post office, now Café de la Post.

Between 1811 and 1831 the proportion of Chadlington families employed in crafts and trades rose from 26 to 28 per cent, with 37 such people (29 in West and 8 in East) noted in the latter year.⁹⁷ Four shopkeepers (two grocers, a butcher, and a baker) were convicted of using light weights in 1844,⁹⁸ and domestic gloving (for firms in Charlbury and Chipping Norton) employed 29 women in 1851, when there was also a wheelwright, a saddler cum harness-maker, and various carpenters, plumbers, stonemasons, and thatchers.⁹⁹ The master-mason Henry Burden employed six men in 1871, when the grocer Edmund Clare also made woollen mops,¹⁰⁰ and a lime-burner worked a lime kiln beside the Old London Road c.1851–71.¹⁰¹ Beer was brewed at the Sandys Arms in the 1860–70s,¹⁰² by which time the pub had moved to Bull Hill.¹⁰³ The Horseshoe pub (still in Horseshoe Lane) closed in the

⁹⁴ OHC, enclo. map (West).

⁹⁵ *Sale Cat.*, *Chadlington West Manor* (1818).

⁹⁶ Above, social hist. (1500–1800).

⁹⁷ *Census*, 1801–31; OHC, PAR56/4/A1/1.

⁹⁸ OHC, QS1844/3/L1/94, /106, /108, /115.

⁹⁹ TNA, HO 107/1732. For gloving, cf. N.L. Leyland and J.E. Troughton, *Glovemaking in West Oxfordshire* (Oxf. City and County Museum Publication No. 4, 1974).

¹⁰⁰ TNA, RG 10/1456; *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1869).

¹⁰¹ TNA, HO 107/1732; *ibid.* RG 10/1456. At or near Lime Kiln Ho.

¹⁰² *Oxf. Jnl*, 6 Oct. 1866, 18 Sept. 1875.

¹⁰³ cf. OHC, enclo. map (West); TNA, RG 10/1456; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XX.7 (1881 edn).

1870s,¹⁰⁴ although two new beerhouses in Millend and Eastend (known respectively as the Tite inn and the Brewery Tap) opened before 1871,¹⁰⁵ the latter forming part of the Chadlington brewery established by the maltster Henry Claridge c.1865, east of the churchyard. That closed on Claridge's retirement in 1889,¹⁰⁶ although the beerhouse (renamed the Malt Shovel by 1891) continued.¹⁰⁷

Chadlington retained a mix of retail shops and craft workshops (including smithies at Brookend and Westend) into the early 20th century, when new ventures included a short-lived mineral water manufactory, a motor garage, and a cycle agency.¹⁰⁸ A builder's yard at Greenend lasted several decades,¹⁰⁹ and a sand and gravel merchant operated a gravel pit east of Catsham Lane.¹¹⁰ The Townsend family's haulage firm, established in Eastend in the 1920s, undertook furniture removals and rubbish collection by 1962, when a second haulage firm, run by the Betts family in Horseshoe Lane, was combined with one of two motor garages cum petrol stations. One of those, known as Central garage,¹¹¹ continued until shortly after 2000, when it was replaced with housing (1–5 Harvey's Corner).¹¹² Long-established butcher's and grocer's shops remained open in 2024,¹¹³ when other business premises included a café cum convenience store in the former Westend post office, a campsite beside the Burford–Chipping Norton road, a brewery at Blaythorne Farm (established in 2015), and a furniture-making workshop in Eastend. The Tite inn (owned by the brewery) was then Chadlington's only remaining pub,¹¹⁴ the Sandys Arms having closed in 1982,¹¹⁵ and the Malt Shovel in 1994.¹¹⁶ A hotel opened in Chadlington House by 1962 received guests until 2002,¹¹⁷ while Manor House was a hotel between 1989 and 1997.¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁴ TNA, RG 10/1456; cf. *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1877).

¹⁰⁵ TNA, RG 10/1456; *Oxf. Jnl*, 21 Sept., 9 Nov. 1878, 10 Mar. 1888.

¹⁰⁶ OHC, B5/9/D/5; *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1864–77 edns); *Oxf. Jnl*, 10 Mar. 1888, 26 Oct. 1889.

¹⁰⁷ OHC, B25/4/24/D1/1–2; TNA, RG 12/1178; below.

¹⁰⁸ OHC, DV/X/34; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1903–39 edns); TNA, RG 13/1398; RG 14/8244. For smithies, cf. OS Maps 6", Oxon. XX (1900 and 1923 edns).

¹⁰⁹ Chadlington Hist. Group, *Chadlington: 60 Years in Old Photographs* (1988), 45, 49: copy in OHC; *Sale Cat., Sarsden Est.* (1922), lot 28: copy in OHC, Fi. XIV/ii/2; *Glos. Echo*, 30 July 1949; *Banbury Guardian*, 30 Nov. 1972.

¹¹⁰ OHC, DV/X/34; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1939); *Banbury Guardian*, 17 Aug. 1961; Eaton, *Field Notes*, 89.

¹¹¹ OHC, VO1/3/F1/3; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 11–12.

¹¹² A.E. Stephens (ed.), *Chadlington Millennium Year 1999–2000* (2000), v, 9: copy in OHC; WODC planning docs, 05/0975/P/FP; 07/1418/P/FP.

¹¹³ Cf. *Chadlington and Spelsbury Par. Mag.*: copies (1985–2018) in OHC.

¹¹⁴ *Oxf. Mail*, 6 May 2008; *Chadlington and Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (May–July 2024); <https://chadlington.com/business>; www.chadlingtonbrewery.com; www.waywood.co.uk; www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk (accessed Oct. 2024). For post offices, above, landscape etc. (communications).

¹¹⁵ OHC, PC56/A1/4.

¹¹⁶ *Witney Gaz.* 18 Feb. 1994; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* I, 7.

¹¹⁷ OHC, VO1/3/F1/3; WODC online planning docs, 03/1914/P/FP.

¹¹⁸ *Oxf. Mail*, 13 Feb. 1989; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* I, 7.

Milling Two watermills between Millend and Brookend, situated only c.200 m. apart on the same stream, operated from the Middle Ages to the 1840s, and by 1812 were known as the Lower and Upper mills.¹¹⁹ One, originally on Shippenhull manor, existed by 1261, and was worth 26s. 8d. a year in the 1340s and 20s. in 1361. The second, on Wahull manor, was worth 18s. 4d. a year when first noted in 1346.¹²⁰ After the manors were combined in 1366 the two mills were evidently worked by the same miller, including Richard French in 1547,¹²¹ Thomas Lord in the 1660s (when he was taxed on two hearths),¹²² and John Holloway (d. 1699). At the latter date the millhouse was two-storeyed and contained three bedchambers, one of which extended above the Upper mill's machinery.¹²³ The miller and tailor Samuel Holloway (d. 1802) was followed by his son Thomas (paying £70 annual rent in 1818),¹²⁴ and in the 1830s–40s by members of the Savery family.¹²⁵ No miller was noted in 1851, however,¹²⁶ and by 1881 the mills had gone.¹²⁷

A separate medieval watermill probably existed at Eastend, where a miller was taxed in 1316 and 1327,¹²⁸ and where another (William Damery) was fined in 1533 for taking excessive tolls.¹²⁹ No later record has been found and the mill's location is unknown, unless it stood on the stream north-east of Langston House.



The locations of Chadlington West's Upper and Lower mills, as marked on Jefferys, *Oxon. Map* (1767).

¹¹⁹ Jefferys, *Oxon. Map* (1767); Davis, *Oxon. Map* (1797); OHC, encl. award and map (West); cf. W. Foreman, *Oxfordshire Mills* (1983), 103.

¹²⁰ 'Oxon. Eyre, 1261', II, p. 288; TNA, C 135/82/1, no. 26; Salter (ed.), *Boarstall Cart.* p. 163 (not mentioning the Wahull manor mill in 1361).

¹²¹ Above, landownership; TNA, SC 2/197/20.

¹²² TNA, E 179/255/3; *Hearth Tax Oxon.* 161.

¹²³ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 34/5/26; cf. *ibid.* encl. map (West).

¹²⁴ *Ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 233/1/3; *ibid.* encl. award and map (West); SJC, MUN VI.74, f. 46; *Sale Cat., Chadlington West Manor* (1818), lot 9.

¹²⁵ OHC, par. reg. transcript, baptism 1831; *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1847); cf. TNA, HO 107/878.

¹²⁶ TNA, HO 107/1732; cf. *Gardner's Dir. Oxon.* (1852).

¹²⁷ OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XX.7 (1881 edn).

¹²⁸ TNA, E 179/161/8–9 (Thos *Molendinarius*/Thos le Mouner).

¹²⁹ OHC, E36/2/2/CR/16.