

VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

## Kingham

Economic History

Kingham's agricultural economy was typical of the area, based on traditional sheep-and-corn farming with some cattle rearing and dairying. The parish's numerous small- and middling-sized farms were run by a mix of freeholders, copyholders, and leaseholders from homesteads in the village, until three new outlying farmhouses were built following enclosure in 1850. Larger farms emerged only in the 20th century as consolidation reduced the number of separate holdings. A water-powered corn-grist mill continued in use from the 11th to the early 20th century, while Kingham village developed a wide range of trades, crafts, and shops, acquiring four pubs and three grocers' by the 19th century. Quarries are recorded from the Middle Ages, and a 19th-century agricultural engineering works was a major employer until its closure in 1987. A succeeding light industrial estate continued in 2024, along with two pubs and a shop.

### The Agricultural Landscape

Two open fields lying east and west of the Cornwell road existed in the 14th century,<sup>1</sup> and by the 18th were divided into quarters called Broadmoor, Brookside, Ryeworth, and Withcombe. Within the fields, tenants' holdings lay dispersed amongst scattered strips and furlongs in the usual way.<sup>2</sup> In 1839 the arable covered 1,081 a. (three fifths of the parish), and was subject to a four-course rotation of wheat, beans, barley, and fallow, except for an area called Townhill (immediately adjoining the village) which was cropped every year. Each field was opened to common grazing at set times, and each open-field yardland carried the right to common two horses, four cows, and 40 sheep, reduced by the 1790s (and still in the 1840s) to 1½ cows and 10 sheep. Meadows (445 a. in 1839) fringed the parish's extensive watercourses, those mown every year being opened to common grazing until 14 February.<sup>3</sup> Common pasture included the 5-a. green and 50-a. marsh on the village's northern edge, the 50-a. back closes on its western edge, and 145 a. on the higher ground.<sup>4</sup> Enclosure in 1850 affected fields, commons, and meadows covering 1,798 a. (96 per cent of the parish),

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<sup>1</sup> BL, Add. Ch. 20229.

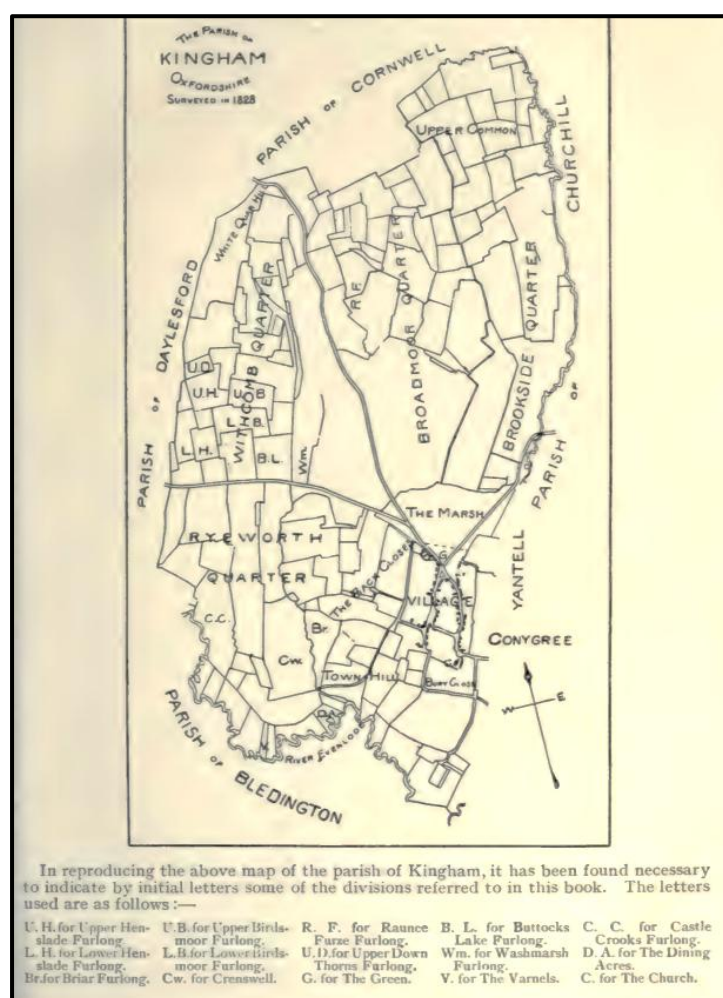
<sup>2</sup> e.g. OHC, Far. XXVI/1; *ibid.* tithe award; Bodl. R. MS C17:49 (177) (copy of 1828 map).

<sup>3</sup> TNA, IR 18/7729; OHC, Lo. VI/10, pp. 38--9; New Coll. Arch. 1433.

<sup>4</sup> OHC, tithe award and map; OS Map 1", sheet 44 (1828 edn).

and three fifths of the enclosed farmland was worked as arable in 1870, dropping to a third by 1900.<sup>5</sup>

Woodland was always sparse, though in the 15th century New College employed a man to drive out rooks and crows from its wood (*silva*), while oaks from a 'park' adjoining its manor house were sold in the 1440s. In the 1760s the college's trees there included oak, ash, and elm (which were mostly pollarded),<sup>6</sup> and though both timber and hedgerow wood were regularly allocated to tenants in the 17th century, resources were very carefully monitored.<sup>7</sup> In the late 19th century several small woods were planted by Kingham Hill school, but by 1988 woodland still covered only c.11 acres.<sup>8</sup>



*William Warde Fowler's reconstruction of Kingham's agricultural landscape, based on a map of 1828. From Kingham Old and New: Studies in a Rural Parish (1913).*

<sup>5</sup> OHC, enclo. award; TNA, MAF 68/255; MAF 68/1851; below (parl. enclo. and later).

<sup>6</sup> New Coll. Arch. 6585--6; 467. The 'park' seems to have been a small enclosure adjoining the manor house rather than a park proper (e.g. *ibid.* 462; 464; 466); though cf. also *ibid.* 3811--12 (a customary close called Old Park); OHC, tithe award, nos. 13--15 (Park Leys, S of the village).

<sup>7</sup> *Woodward's Progress*, 46--70.

<sup>8</sup> OS Maps 6", Oxon. XIII--XIV, XIX--XX (1885 and later edns); 1:25000, sheet 45 (2005 edn); TNA, MAF 68/6123.

## Medieval Farming

In 1086 Kingham manor contained land for 16 ploughteams, 109 a. of meadow, and 33 a. of pasture. Its four-ploughland demesne was run partly by four slaves or *servi*, while 12 tenant ploughlands were shared among 19 *villani* and 10 bordars. The manor's annual value had increased from £12 to £15 since 1066, with income derived from tenants' rents and the proceeds of a watermill.<sup>9</sup> Demesne and tenant lands may originally have been separate, though by the 1270s (following the manor's subdivision) were intermixed in the parish's two open fields, which were probably ploughed and fallowed alternately.<sup>10</sup> By 1279 the Mandevilles' 16-yardland demesne farm, worth £16 a year, may have been run by a salaried bailiff, since all the tenants' labour services had been commuted to cash rents. The manor's villeins occupied 21½ yardlands in all, their rents totalling £17 4s., while the manor as a whole yielded £37 4s. 2d. a year.<sup>11</sup> Crops on Hurley priory's 50-a. estate in 1267 comprised 22 a. of wheat, 20¼ a. of oats, 6½ a. of beans, and 1¼ a. of rye. The estate was successively let to the Kingham rectors Nicholas of Plympton and Richard Ash, Plympton's livestock in 1260 including a carthorse and 16 oxen.<sup>12</sup>

Livestock on the Chastiluns' manor in the 1350s included sheep, horses, oxen, and pigs, and in 1381 the manor included 7 carucates (c.840 a.) of arable, 124 a. of meadow, and 74 a. of pasture, along with common grazing for 20 cows.<sup>13</sup> After the manor passed to New College, Oxford, the demesne was let, the college halving the rent in the 1390s as agricultural land values fell,<sup>14</sup> and during the 15th century the demesne lessee paid £6 13s. 4d. a year, compared with a total of c.£13 from the manor's other tenants. Farming was presumably still mixed, with livestock including cattle and sheep, and the college raised additional sums by selling grazing rights and hay. It also maintained the manor's barns, stable, dovecot, sheepcot, and watermill, cleared ditches, and felled trees for timber.<sup>15</sup>

## The 16th Century to Parliamentary Enclosure

By the 16th century New College's demesne farm was let for an increased rent of £7 6s. 8d., which remained unchanged until the 18th century.<sup>16</sup> In the 1780s it covered 156 a., rising to

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<sup>9</sup> DB, f. 159v.

<sup>10</sup> F.T. Wethered, *St Mary's, Hurley, in the Middle Ages* (1898), pp. 118--19; BL, Add. Ch. 20229; above, landownership.

<sup>11</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 733.

<sup>12</sup> Wethered, *Hurley*, p. 110; TNA, JUST 1/713, m. 5.

<sup>13</sup> *Cal. Inq. Misc.* III, p. 133; *Cal. Pat.* 1381--5, 63.

<sup>14</sup> New Coll. Arch. 6583; cf. M. Bailey, *After the Black Death* (2021), ch. 6.

<sup>15</sup> New Coll. Arch. 6585--6.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 6588; Bodl. MSS Ch. Oxon. 1403--5; 1507--8.

195 a. by the 1830s, and was reckoned to be more compact than the parish's other farms. Like those it was well stocked with cattle and sheep, though arable farming predominated throughout.<sup>17</sup> The college's receipts from freehold and copyhold rents fell to below £13 a year by the 16th century, individual holdings covering  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  yardlands;<sup>18</sup> the yardlands were of variable size, but were generally c.22--28 acres.<sup>19</sup> The college required tenants to keep buildings in repair, regularly providing timber for them to do so, and collected heriots and entry fines on the transfer of holdings.<sup>20</sup> It also permitted the building of cottages, some of them on the waste, for which it levied annual rents of 2*d.* or 4*d.* in the 17th century.<sup>21</sup>

Sixteenth-century tenant farming was generally small-scale, with most inhabitants leaving only modest stocks of corn and hay and a few horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs. Wheat and barley (some of it malted for brewing) were the principal grains.<sup>22</sup> By the 17th century there were some larger farmers, of whom the freeholder John Powis (d. 1608) and his descendants held  $3\frac{1}{2}$  yardlands or c.250 a. in all. John left crops in the fields worth £60, £24-worth of cattle, £16 10*s.*-worth of sheep, and small numbers of pigs and poultry,<sup>23</sup> while New College's lessee Thomas Hacker (d. 1688), occupying seven yardlands in Kingham and another three in Churchill, left 100 sheep, 20 cows, eight horses, and corn worth £40. John Baker (d. 1693) grew wheat, barley, oats, and legumes, and likewise kept sheep, cattle, horses, and pigs,<sup>24</sup> while others, too, shared in Kingham's late 17th-century prosperity, which was reflected in the village's widespread rebuilding.<sup>25</sup> Some smallholders kept bees and poultry or grew hemp, but like the parish's day labourers were at least partly dependent on employment by the larger farmers.<sup>26</sup>

Farming remained largely unchanged in the 18th century, when the fragmented pattern of landholdings offered investment opportunities. In 1748 a smallholding comprising 8 a. of arable, 1 a. of meadow and pasture, and grazing for a horse, two cattle, and ten sheep was bought and let by a Somerton carpenter, who sold it three years later. It was again sold in 1764 and 1799, when the accompanying cottage was subdivided, and in 1820 a further two cottages were built on the plot.<sup>27</sup> On a larger scale, a 210-a. freehold farm (of which more than two thirds was arable) was offered for sale in 1763, having been let to the

<sup>17</sup> New Coll. Arch. 462; 466; 1433; OHC, tithe award and map; below.

<sup>18</sup> New Coll. Arch. 6587--8; 3809--10.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. 1433; OHC, Lo. VI/4; Lo. VI/10; *ibid.* Fi. V/iii/c/9; *ibid.* enclo. award.

<sup>20</sup> New Coll. Arch. 3797--8; 3802--3; *Woodward's Progress*, 46--70.

<sup>21</sup> New Coll. Arch. 3811--12; 4781; *Woodward's Progress*, 55, 58--9, 61, 68--9.

<sup>22</sup> e.g. OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 131/3/24; 295/2/18; 20/1/32.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid. 50/3/16; *ibid.* Fi. V/i/a/1; *ibid.* E189/D/3; TNA, C 142/304/5.

<sup>24</sup> OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 34/3/28; 8/1/26.

<sup>25</sup> e.g. *ibid.* 2/1/5 (John Allen's 'new house' in 1662); above, landscape etc. (built character).

<sup>26</sup> OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 4/2/10; 30/4/34; 5/5/11; 295/1/71; 79/2/26; 172/5/15; *Woodward's Progress*, 58--9, 63.

<sup>27</sup> OHC, Far. XXII/1--14.

same tenant for almost 40 years, while in 1769 a 170-a. leasehold farm on New College's manor had been occupied by the same sub-tenant for c.20 years.<sup>28</sup> By the 1780s c.50 owners and occupiers paid land tax ranging from 2s. to almost £27, with a steady turnover.<sup>29</sup> The parish's tithes (a rough indicator of agricultural prosperity) increased in value during the incumbency of Charles Western (1785--1835), who was said to oppose enclosure, while the warden of New College, noting some tenants' failure to repair buildings, commented that one at least could certainly afford it. Labourers' wages (at c.8s. a week) were low by Oxfordshire standards, however.<sup>30</sup>

Landholdings still varied greatly in the early 19th century, with few owner-occupied. Several tenants leased land from more than one owner, while some New College holdings were occupied by sub-tenants. Thomas Beman (d. 1854), the parish's largest farmer in 1839, rented 279 a. from John Lockwood, while his son George (d. 1853) was lessee of Kingham's 81-a. glebe farm, and a New College sub-tenant under his uncle William Brooks (d. 1841), in all holding more than 200 a. from three separate landowners.<sup>31</sup> In 1843--4 Kingham's constable levied a rate on 16 landholders each occupying between  $\frac{1}{4}$  yardland and  $9\frac{3}{4}$  yardlands, and 13 inhabitants were styled farmer in 1841.<sup>32</sup> The parish's labourers, of whom 73 were employed in agriculture in the 1830s, included several convicted of thefts of crops and firewood, suggesting local hardship.<sup>33</sup> As well as normal farmwork, Kingham's fieldsmen hired labourers for a variety of tasks including clearing ditches, carting stones, and laying drains to improve field drainage, protecting growing crops from straying livestock, and easing the movement of farm produce by mending roads.<sup>34</sup>

## Parliamentary Enclosure and Later

In 1850 Kingham was enclosed by agreement of the parish's landholders under the general Enclosure Act of 1836, making it one of the latest enclosures in the county. The changes affected 1,798 a. of common and open-field land, while New College, its leaseholders and copyholders, and c.20 freeholders agreed to the additional inclusion of 79 a. of old enclosures.<sup>35</sup> Several landholdings were reorganized or sold in the years immediately following, and three new outlying farmhouses were built on higher ground north of the

<sup>28</sup> *Oxf. Jnl*, 4 June 1763, 12 Aug. 1769.

<sup>29</sup> OHC, QSD/L/175 (e.g. comparing 1785 and 1801).

<sup>30</sup> W. Warde Fowler, *Kingham Old and New: Studies in a Rural Parish* (1913), 3; New Coll. Arch. 1433; Young, *Oxon. Agric.* 317--22.

<sup>31</sup> OHC, tithe award.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.* PAR154/6/F1/2, printed in Lainchbury, *Kingham*, 76; TNA, HO 107/878.

<sup>33</sup> *Census*, 1831; OHC, Cal. QS, II, 158b, 451; IX, 177, 349, 361.

<sup>34</sup> OHC, PAR154/8/F1/1, printed in Lainchbury, *Kingham*, 86--90.

<sup>35</sup> OHC, enclo. award and map (QSD/A37); 6 & 7 William IV c. 115; *Oxon. Atlas*, pp. 114--15.

village. Of those, Hill (287 a.) and Slade farms (164 a.) belonged to Harman Grisewood's Daylesford estate, which was bought by Robert Byass in 1873,<sup>36</sup> while Holwell or Field farm (184 a.) belonged to James Langston of Sarsden. Other farms were run from existing homesteads in the village. Sixteen inhabitants were styled farmer in 1851, occupying 1,841 a. in farms of between 22 a. and 300 a., and in all employing 64 men. A similar pattern persisted ten years later, when seven farms exceeded 100 acres.<sup>37</sup> The following decades saw little increase in farm sizes, and by 1920 only two were over 300 a., while a further three each covered 100--300 a., and three more 50--100 a., all of them leasehold.<sup>38</sup>

On the uplands, more than four fifths of Hill and Slade farms' acreage was arable c.1870, when crops accounted for around three fifths of the parish's farmland as a whole. Wheat and barley occupied just over half the cultivable land, while other crops included turnips, oats, vetches, beans, and peas. The principal livestock were sheep, dairy cattle, and pigs.<sup>39</sup> The onset of agricultural depression prompted a decline in cereal production and a greater emphasis on dairying, the parish's farmers benefiting from regular milk trains to London and a monthly livestock market held at Kingham station.<sup>40</sup> By 1930 the area under grass was almost 1,200 a., and livestock numbered 53 horses, 358 cattle, 830 sheep, 113 pigs, and more than 1,300 poultry, ducks, and geese. Four farms of more than 150 a., six of 50--150 a., and seven smaller holdings employed a total of 47 labourers, while wheat remained the dominant crop, followed by oats, barley, and beans. Two fifths of Slade farm's 165 a. were arable in 1936, compared with only a third of the lower-lying Manor farm's 319 acres.<sup>41</sup>

By 1941 Manor farm's new lessee Frank Slatter, responding to increased wartime demand for cereals, had reduced the area under grass to almost half. Hill farm (508 a.), run by a bailiff on behalf of Kingham Hill school, was also half arable and half grass, and benefited from a plentiful supply of casual labour from the boys. Both farms grew mostly wheat alongside smaller quantities of other cereals and fodder crops, and bred sheep and beef and dairy cattle. The parish's other farms remained predominantly under pasture, including Trinders (222 a.), Mount (82½ a.), and the two College farms, which New College let to William Roper (106 a.) and Henry Pearse (60 a.). Pearse's holding was principally a cattle farm, while the other three also kept sheep. Wartime inspectors were generally unimpressed, reporting that the long-standing Roper was 'getting old' and 'not quite up to modern methods', while Trinders' lessee Mark Eaton was likewise 'not sufficiently up to

<sup>36</sup> *Sale Cat., Daylesford Est.* (1873); copy in Bodl. Vet. A7 b.35 (8); *Oxf. Jnl*, 14 June 1873.

<sup>37</sup> TNA, HO 107/1732; *ibid.* RG 9/910.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.* MAF 68/255; MAF 68/2985.

<sup>39</sup> *Sale Cat., Daylesford Est.* (1873); TNA, MAF 68/255.

<sup>40</sup> TNA, MAF 68/1851; above, Churchill, landscape etc. (railway); econ. hist.

<sup>41</sup> TNA, MAF 68/3525; *Tewkesbury Register*, 1 Aug. 1936.

date'. At Mount farm the owners John and Caleb Cook were 'two old-fashioned old brothers who muddle along', and several smallholders were criticized for a lack of interest and knowledge, especially of arable farming.<sup>42</sup>

Extensive cattle rearing and dairying continued after the Second World War, with arable expanding less markedly at Kingham than elsewhere, and still accounting for less than three fifths of the parish's farmland by 1988, when almost all of it was sown with wheat or barley. Farm sizes nevertheless increased as the number of separate holdings fell, and by 1992 mechanization had reduced the proportion of inhabitants employed in agriculture to c.5 per cent.<sup>43</sup> Most of the parish's north-western part belonged by then to Sir Anthony Bamford's Daylesford estate, and was farmed organically to supply its shops and restaurants, while buildings on the outlying Slade farm (which had fallen into disrepair) were converted to other uses.<sup>44</sup> Hill farm (477 a.), sold by the Kingham Hill Trust in 1983, was bought by Clive Smith, who with his son Alan increased it to 700 a., keeping 170 dairy and 430 beef cattle and following a four-course rotation of wheat, oilseed rape, beans, and grass.<sup>45</sup> Mixed farming also continued under the Slatters at Manor farm, where new buildings were provided.<sup>46</sup> In the village, the area under garden allotments (c.15 a. in the 1910s) declined from the 1950s as demand for plots fell.<sup>47</sup>

## Non-Agricultural Activities

In 1279 a blacksmith occupied the village forge with half a yardland in return for making the ironwork for four of the lord's ploughs. Another freeholder served as miller, and 13th- and 14th-century occupational bynames included cutler (Knyf), tailor, and cook.<sup>48</sup> By the 15th century New College, Oxford, owned a quarry in the parish, and some of its building workers (including masons, roofers, sawyers, and carpenters) may have been local men. Ale provided for the workers was probably brewed in the village, and brewing continued in the 16th century.<sup>49</sup> By the 17th century the village supported one or more blacksmiths,

<sup>42</sup> TNA, MAF 32/915/92. Mount fm was formerly part of Churchill's glebe: above, Churchill, relig. hist.

<sup>43</sup> TNA, MAF 68/5189; MAF 68/6123; *Kingham 1992: A Village Appraisal* (1993), p. 9: copy in OHC.

<sup>44</sup> *Independent*, 30 Nov. 2021; OCC Register of Landowner Statements, no. 1049 (accessed online); above, landscape etc. (built character).

<sup>45</sup> *Banbury Guardian*, 7 July 1983; *Farmers Weekly*, 2--8 Apr. 2004; *Farm Contractor & Large Scale Farmer*, Jan. 2020, 31--3.

<sup>46</sup> By 1991: OHC, POX0454845 (aerial photo); Tayler & Fletcher sale cat. (2023), accessed online Sept. 2024.

<sup>47</sup> OS Map, 1:2500, Oxon. XIX.4 (1922 edn); A.W. Ashby, *Allotments and Small Holdings in Oxfordshire* (1917), 83 (giving 9 a. in 1914); OHC, O41/2/C4/19; below, social hist. (welfare).

<sup>48</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 733; TNA, E 179/161/8--10; below (milling).

<sup>49</sup> New Coll. Arch. 6583; 6585--6; TNA, SC 2/197/20--1.



carpenters, masons, and tailors,<sup>50</sup> less frequently recorded trades including those of baker, butcher, cordwainer, locksmith, weaver, and bodice-maker.<sup>51</sup> Most such trades continued into the 18th and 19th centuries, and by 1821 almost a third of families were employed in trade, craft, or manufacture. In 1841 there were seven masons, four sawyers, three tailors, and two each of bakers, carpenters, cordwainers, grocers, and shoemakers, along with a blacksmith, coal dealer, dressmaker, milliner, plasterer, and saddler.<sup>52</sup>



*The Plough Inn, Kingham's oldest surviving pub, on Church Street near the village green.*

Shops and shopkeepers mentioned in the 18th century included the grocer William Harvey (d. 1805),<sup>53</sup> and by the 1850s there were three grocers' shops.<sup>54</sup> Those continued in the early 20th century when one of them doubled as the post office and another as a draper's, whilst other shops included a butcher's, a saddler's, a shoemaker's, and a hardware shop.<sup>55</sup> The village still had five shops in the 1930s (alongside a boot repairer, a dressmaker, a saddler, and a motor car dealer), and four in the 1980s, including the post office, a general store, a hairdresser's, and an electrical shop. A village store (by then incorporating the post office) continued in 2024.<sup>56</sup> One or two pubs operated in the 18th and early 19th centuries, of which the White Hart was succeeded by the Plough.<sup>57</sup> By the 1840s

<sup>50</sup> OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 12/3/33; 39/3/18; 297/4/109; 18/2/7; 172/5/15; 22/2/28; 23/3/15; 30/3/47; 84/5/20; *ibid.* Chap. I/i/1--2; *ibid.* Cal. QS, I, 54b; *Woodward's Progress*, 63.

<sup>51</sup> TNA, PROB 11/334/178; OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 18/1/18; 88/4/3; 39/4/2; 76/1/13; *ibid.* Cal. QS, I, 54b; *Woodward's Progress*, 61, 63; cf. *VCH Oxon.* XXI, 81 (bodice-makers in Chipping Norton).

<sup>52</sup> *Census*, 1821; TNA, HO 107/878; OHC, par. reg. transcript.

<sup>53</sup> OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 121/3/31; *ibid.* J. IX/e/20--1; TNA, PROB 11/1427/95.

<sup>54</sup> TNA, HO 107/878; HO 107/1732; *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1847); *Lascelles' Dir. Oxon.* (1853).

<sup>55</sup> TNA, RG 13/1398; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1899); above, landscape etc. (communics).

<sup>56</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1935); M. Carter, 'Kindly Kingham', *Cotswold Life* (May 1984), 18--20; *Kingham 1992: A Village Appraisal* (1993), p. 10; above, landscape etc. (communics).

<sup>57</sup> OHC, QSD/V/1--4; *ibid.* Chap. I/ii/5; Chap. I/vi/1.



there were four pubs and a cider mill,<sup>58</sup> but only the Plough and Mill inn (located at the watermill) survived into the 20th century, the Mill doubling as a hotel from the 1960s until its closure in 2017.<sup>59</sup> A third pub, opened on Church Street in the 1980s, was renamed the Wild Rabbit in 2013 when it was bought by Sir Anthony Bamford's Daylesford estate, both that and the Plough remaining open in 2024.<sup>60</sup>

The parish's quarries lay on its north-western edge, and by the 19th century were named Red and White quarries from the colour of the limestone.<sup>61</sup> By the 1870s ownership was divided between the parish's highway surveyors and the Daylesford estate, whose later owner Charles Baring Young opened up new quarries during the construction of Kingham Hill school.<sup>62</sup> Brick and tile kilns were established on Whitequarry Hill by the 1850s, but were short-lived,<sup>63</sup> and the last of Kingham's quarries closed in the 1960s or 1970s,<sup>64</sup> although 15 inhabitants still worked in quarrying in 1992.<sup>65</sup> The village forge (opposite the green)<sup>66</sup> was run by the blacksmiths George Lawrence (d. 1859) and his sons George (d. 1885) and David (d. 1888), followed by James Millin (d. 1928).<sup>67</sup> Under James Rathbone (d. 1977) it moved to a new site on West Street, where he and his sons Frederick and Reginald turned increasingly to ornamental ironwork, making wrought-iron gates for the royal enclosure at Ascot racecourse in 1955, and for Bladon churchyard after Sir Winston Churchill's burial there in 1965. The forge closed in 1984.<sup>68</sup>

Kingham's largest manufacturer until its closure in 1987 was Lainchbury's agricultural engineering works, located in the village centre on a site bought by Caleb Lainchbury (d. 1918) in 1882. Caleb continued his father John's threshing business while also manufacturing carts, wagons, and milk floats, and an export trade in hay- and straw elevators was developed under Caleb's son Ernest (d. 1961), the firm becoming a limited

<sup>58</sup> Ibid. tithe award and map, no. 661; HER, PRN 5260 (cider mill); *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1847).

<sup>59</sup> Below (milling); social hist. (since 1800). The Mill was bought by Sir Anthony Bamford's Daylesford estate and was awaiting redevelopment in 2024: *Oxf. Mail*, 14 June 2024.

<sup>60</sup> <https://thewildrabbit.co.uk>; <https://thekinghamplough.co.uk> (accessed Oct. 2024).

<sup>61</sup> OHC, tithe award and map, no. 1831; OS Maps 1:2500, Oxon. XIII.16 and XIV.13 (1881--5 edns); R. Mann, 'A Family of Stonemasons', in *Our Village: Kingham As It Used To Be* (1986), p. 16: copy in OHC; HER, PRN 175.

<sup>62</sup> *Sale Cat., Daylesford Est.* (1873): copy in Bodl. Vet. A7 b.35 (8); OHC, DV/X/68 (and map); OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XIV.13 (1900 edn); below, social hist. (educ.).

<sup>63</sup> OHC, E214/E/1; OS Maps 1:2500, Oxon. XIII.16 and XIV.13 (1881--5 edns).

<sup>64</sup> By 1978: OS Map 1:2500, SP 2624 (1978 edn).

<sup>65</sup> *Kingham 1992: A Village Appraisal* (1993), p. 9: copy in OHC.

<sup>66</sup> OHC, tithe award and map, no. 695; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XIX.4 (1885--1922 edns); above, landscape etc. (built character) (Old Forge).

<sup>67</sup> TNA, HO 107/1732; *ibid.* RG 9/910; RG 10/1456; RG 11/1519; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883--1928 edns); OHC, par. reg. transcript.

<sup>68</sup> *Oxf. Times*, 4 Feb. 1955; OHC, OXO001051 (MT\_33-3), broadcast interview with Jim Rathbone, 26 Sept. 1971 (online at <https://heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk>); OS Map 1:2500, SP 2524 (1979 edn); B. Cripps, 'Some Kingham Blacksmiths', in *Our Village: Kingham As It Used To Be* (1986), pp. 14--15; HER, PRN 242.

company in 1938. During the Second World War it additionally produced munitions, the workforce increasing to 120 including many women. The company continued to export agricultural machinery around the world after the war, but increased competition brought a diminution of trade which led eventually to its closure.<sup>69</sup> The works were redeveloped to provide light industrial units and offices, which employed 70 people in 1992 and remained open in 2024, when the site (called Threshers Yard) belonged to Sir Anthony Bamford's Daylesford estate.<sup>70</sup> Kingham's two schools, however, remained the parish's largest employer, accounting for nearly a quarter of the workforce in 2011.<sup>71</sup>



*Threshers Yard, on the site of Lainchbury's agricultural engineering works, from the entrance on West Street (left) and Church Street (right).*

**Milling** A watermill on a tributary of the Swail, c.300 m. south of the church, existed by 1086, when it belonged to Kingham manor and was worth 44*d.* a year.<sup>72</sup> In 1279 it was occupied by the freeholder John the miller for an annual rent of 20*s.* 11*d.*,<sup>73</sup> and following the manor's division it passed first to the Chastiluns and later to New College, Oxford, which paid annual quitrents of 18*s.* 1*d.* to the Beaufeys and 7½*d.* to the Blakets as the manor's other claimants.<sup>74</sup> In 1419 the college repaired the mill's floodgates, and continued to maintain it regularly, the building's disrepair in the 1550s prompting a reprimand to the miller Humphrey Moulder.<sup>75</sup> The site included a house and stable and adjoining closes of meadow and pasture, and by the 16th century it was let for 20-year terms at an annual rent of 40*s.*,<sup>76</sup> falling to 39*s.* 4*d.* by the 1610s. The miller by the 1680s was Richard Baggs, whose family

<sup>69</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883--1939 edns); B. Cripps, 'Lainchbury's', in *Our Village: Kingham As It Used To Be* (1986), pp. 25--8; OHC, OXO000759 (LT\_725-3 and LT\_725-7), broadcast interviews with Frank Palmer and Dennis Bridge, 2 Apr. 1988 (online at <https://heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk>).

<sup>70</sup> *Kingham 1992: A Village Appraisal* (1993), p. 9; WODC online planning docs, 18/00543/PN56.

<sup>71</sup> *Census*, 2011; below, social hist. (educ.).

<sup>72</sup> DB, f. 159v. For location, Jefferys, *Oxon. Map* (1767); OHC, tithe map.

<sup>73</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 733.

<sup>74</sup> New Coll. Arch. 6583; 11783; 11791; 11802; above, landownership.

<sup>75</sup> New Coll. Arch. 6585--7; 3798.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.* 468; Bodl. MSS Ch. Oxon. 1406--7; 1410; 1412--14; 1420--1; OHC, tithe map.

remained there until the 19th century<sup>77</sup> and opened a pub at the mill before the 1840s. That was continued by later lessees including Arthur Simms, under whom the mill ceased to operate in the early 20th century.<sup>78</sup> The building, dating mostly to the 19th and 20th centuries, remained in use as a pub and later as a hotel until its closure in 2017, the wheel and other mill equipment being gradually removed.<sup>79</sup>

