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# The Landscape of Wimpole

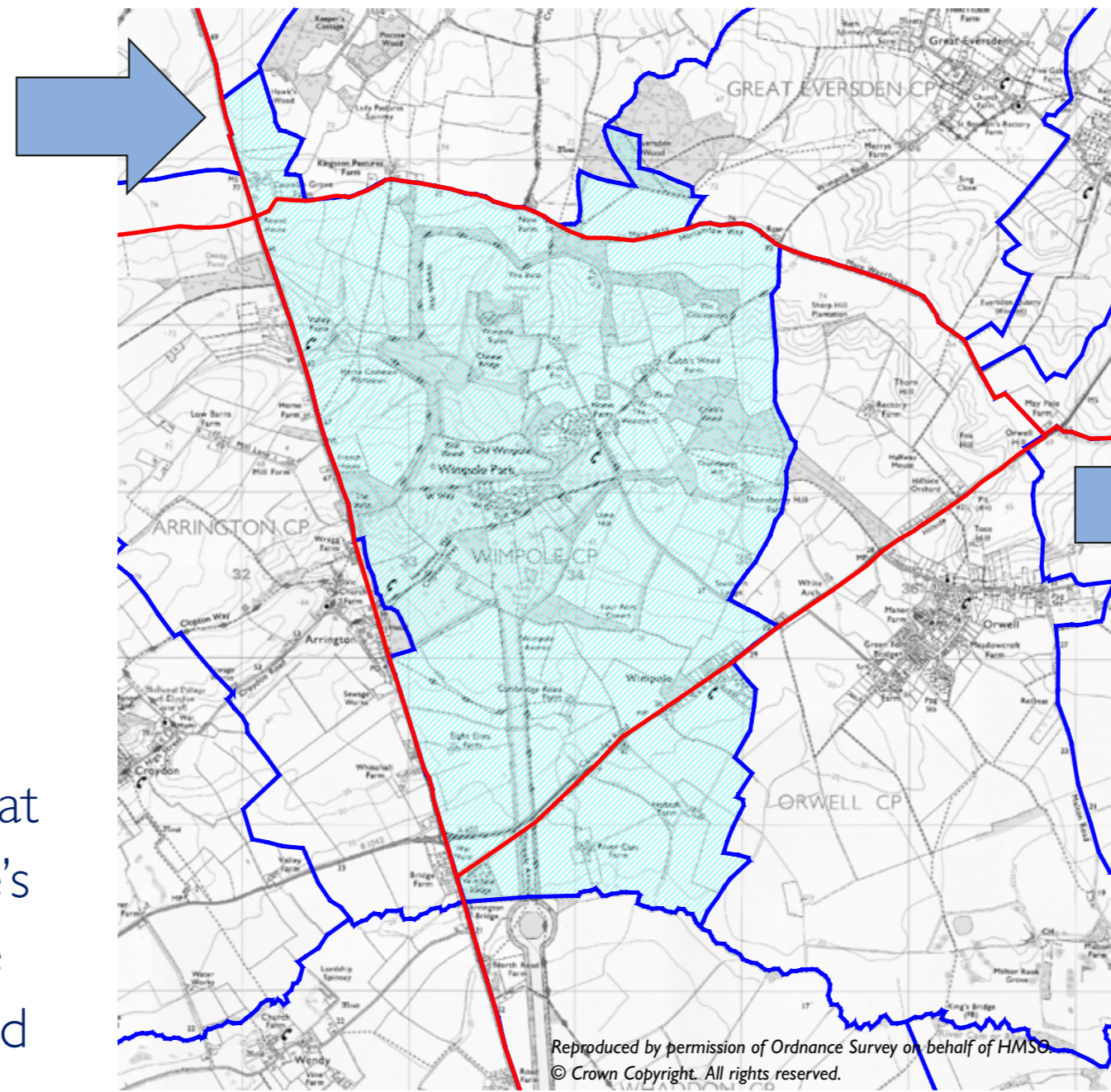
## Why is Wimpole Parish the shape we see today?

### Why were the now deserted houses of parishioners located in what seem like open fields?

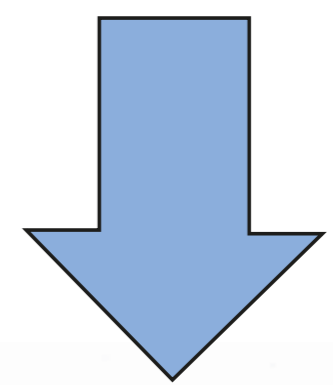


The varied landscape must always have been attractive to people and plentiful springs would add to its appeal. A look at the wider landscape shows that Wimpole was influenced by early roads crossing the countryside: the prehistoric Mare Way to the north and Roman Roads to the west and south. Our project found traces of occupation from these early times.

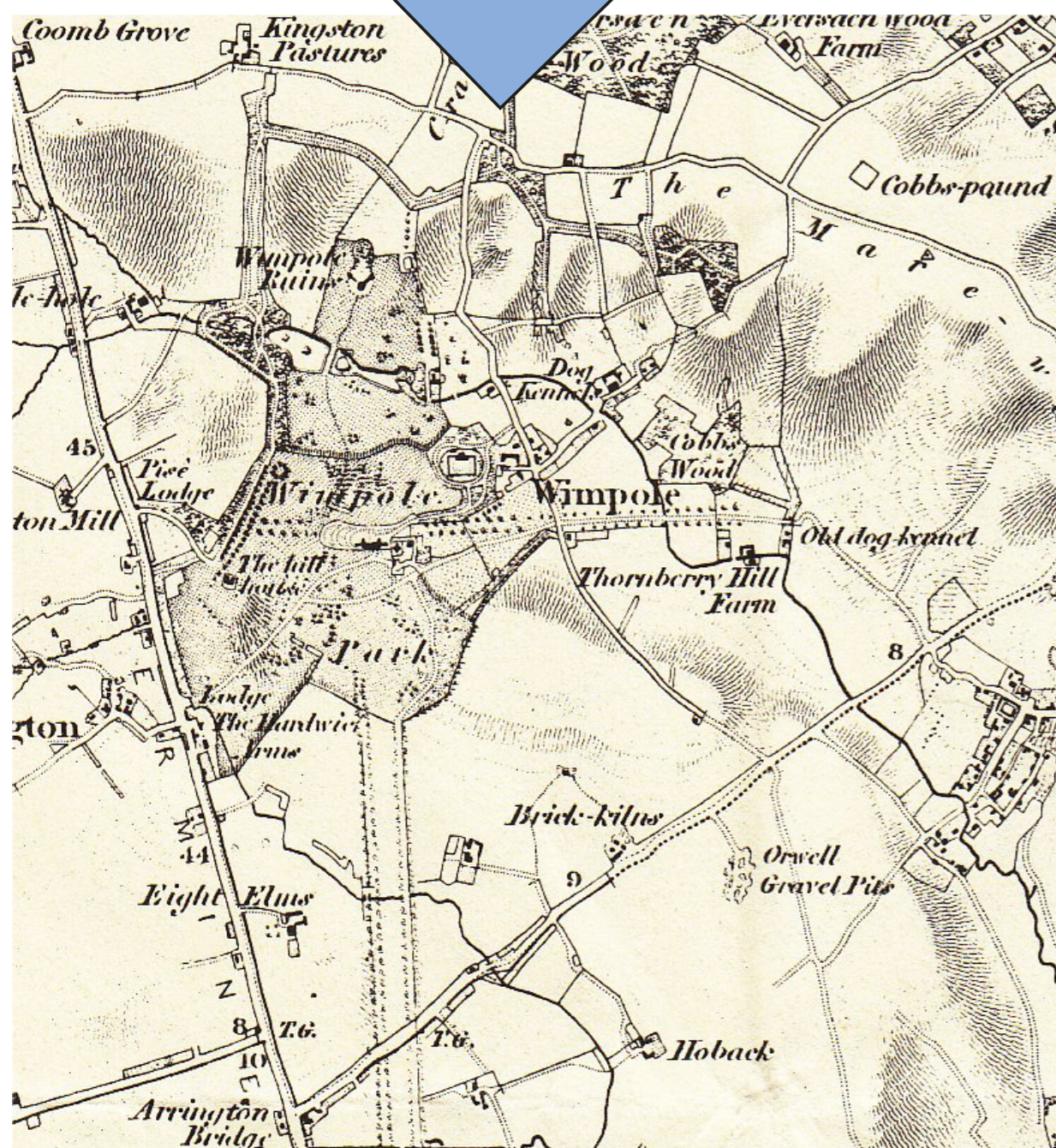
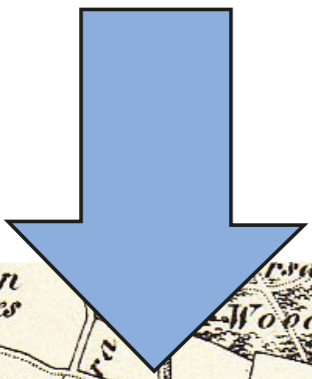
Medieval tracks crossed the parish. The route from Arrington headed toward Great Eversden along the Wimpole Road. Crane's Lane headed north to Kingston and to the south lanes such as the Wimple Way linked with Orwell and beyond.



By 1638 the Hare Map shows the Parish crossed by a network of roads and lanes. Six hamlets can be seen clustered around some of these roads. There had been a park as early as 1302 but by 1638 the High and Low Parks had begun to have an impact on the landscape and routes.



The major expansion of the park began in 1720 and reached its peak by 1772 with the work of Capability Brown. The OS map of 1836 shows a landscape very like that of today, although New Wimpole had yet to be built. Imparkment had removed the hamlets and much of the original network of trackways.



Only a few signs of the original lanes and cottages survive today. All that remains in many places are the hollow ways of old tracks and the raised platforms where houses once stood.



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