

THE DISTRIBUTION OF TWO- AND THREE-FIELD SYSTEMS IN SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE BEFORE ABOUT 1350

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The focus of this short article is the place of Cambridgeshire south of the Ouse in the mapping of medieval two- and three-field systems in England before about 1350. Such systems had a restricted distribution, something already remarked upon by the mid-sixteenth century. In 1557, for example, Thomas Tusser took it for granted that his readers would understand that lack of winter shelter in the wide, open fields of the ‘champion’ might involve housing cattle over winter, in contrast with the thick hedges and copses around the smaller fields of ‘woodland’ countryside which offered ‘warne barthe [sheltered place] under hedge’ (1984 ed: 55, my insertion). It was Gray who undertook the first scholarly analysis of the difference between the two forms of landscape, demonstrating that by 1350 two- and three-field systems were found only in a belt running roughly from Wiltshire to Yorkshire (1959: frontispiece and 403). By the early 1980s the association between such ‘common’ fields and the English Midlands had led to their characterisation as ‘the Midland system’. Rackham developed the distinction further, identifying ‘ancient’ England with the survival and slow evolution of pre-medieval fields and pastures into irregular open-field systems, and the ‘planned’ landscapes of central, southern England with regular two- and three-field landscapes which appeared to have obliterated those that had gone before (1986: 178). The coincidence of regular medieval field systems with the distribution of nucleated settlement across central, southern England – the ‘Central Province’ – has recently been more formally mapped (Figure 1) (Roberts and Wrathmell 2002: 10 and 124).² The Central Province has a particular relevance to Cambridgeshire, since part of the Province’s eastern boundary follows the course of the River Cam between north-west Essex and its confluence with the modern course of the River Ouse. The addition of new data to such distribution maps provides an opportunity for their re-examination.

Two- and three-field systems in Cambridgeshire

Gray identified four villis in south Cambridgeshire where arable was divided into two fields before 1350, and sixteen villis whose arable lay in three fields, making twenty altogether (1959: 457–460). Tate augmented this list to thirty-five in 1944, with as-yet-unpublished material from Salzman suggesting ten villis with two- and twenty-five with three-field systems (Tate 1944:

57–8). Fox published a revised and reduced list in 1981, concluding that there were just fifteen places in Cambridgeshire where a two- or three-field system could be said to have been in operation by about 1350 (Fox 1981: 103).

Since that time, the final volumes of the *Victoria County History (VCH)* for Cambridgeshire have been published. The admirable emphasis in the modern *VCH* on economic history means that in about 88 Cambridgeshire parishes some characterisation of the form of field system before 1350 is more easily available. Of this number, it seems likely that around fifty-eight villis (twenty-eight probably, and another thirty possibly) may have been operating a two- or three-field system by the mid-fourteenth century (Appendix 1, below).

Collating the data

The Gazetteer in Appendix 1 below summarises attempts to identify ‘classic’ regular two- and three-field systems in south Cambridgeshire following the criteria set out by Gray in 1915: while the existence of two or three large open fields was ‘essential’, ‘unquestionably the fundamental trait of the system’ was the equal division of holdings between them (1959: 39, 40); two- or three-course crop rotation was a further indication, provided that it accompanied open fields, included a fallow season, and occurred where holdings were intermingled (*ibid.*: 45); and finally, the right of common pasture on the fallow field was perhaps the ‘determining idea’ (*ibid.*: 48).

Gray’s criteria are, however, more difficult to apply than they might first appear. First, there should be at least some uncertainty about the completeness of such early documentation. Where just two or three fields were documented before 1350, it is impossible to be sure that all the fields in existence at that date were in fact listed. For example, Reaney noted that *Middelfelde* and *Westfelde* at Cheveley in about 1240 might indicate a three-field system, yet the VCH concluded that ‘a regular three-field system never crystallised, and fields proliferated and were of irregular sizes’ (Reaney 1943: 365; VCH 10: 50; cf. Postgate 1973: 298–9). In other places, a small number of fields might be recorded with different field names at different dates, giving the illusion of an irregular field system. At Waterbeach, for example, the names of the three fields recorded in about 1200 were quite different the three listed between 1325 and 1350 – they could have been the same three fields or another three fields (VCH 9: 248, 251). At Horningsea, of the seventeen ‘fields’ listed in 1251 only two (*milneweye*, and *northale(feld)*) can be recognised in the six documented in the fourteenth century (Miller n.d., parish extent; VCH 10: 165). Yet, in other

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² The boundary of the Central Province is not, however, one between the presence and absence of one form of settlement or field system and another. Rather, it distinguishes between zones in which one or the other form is dominant.

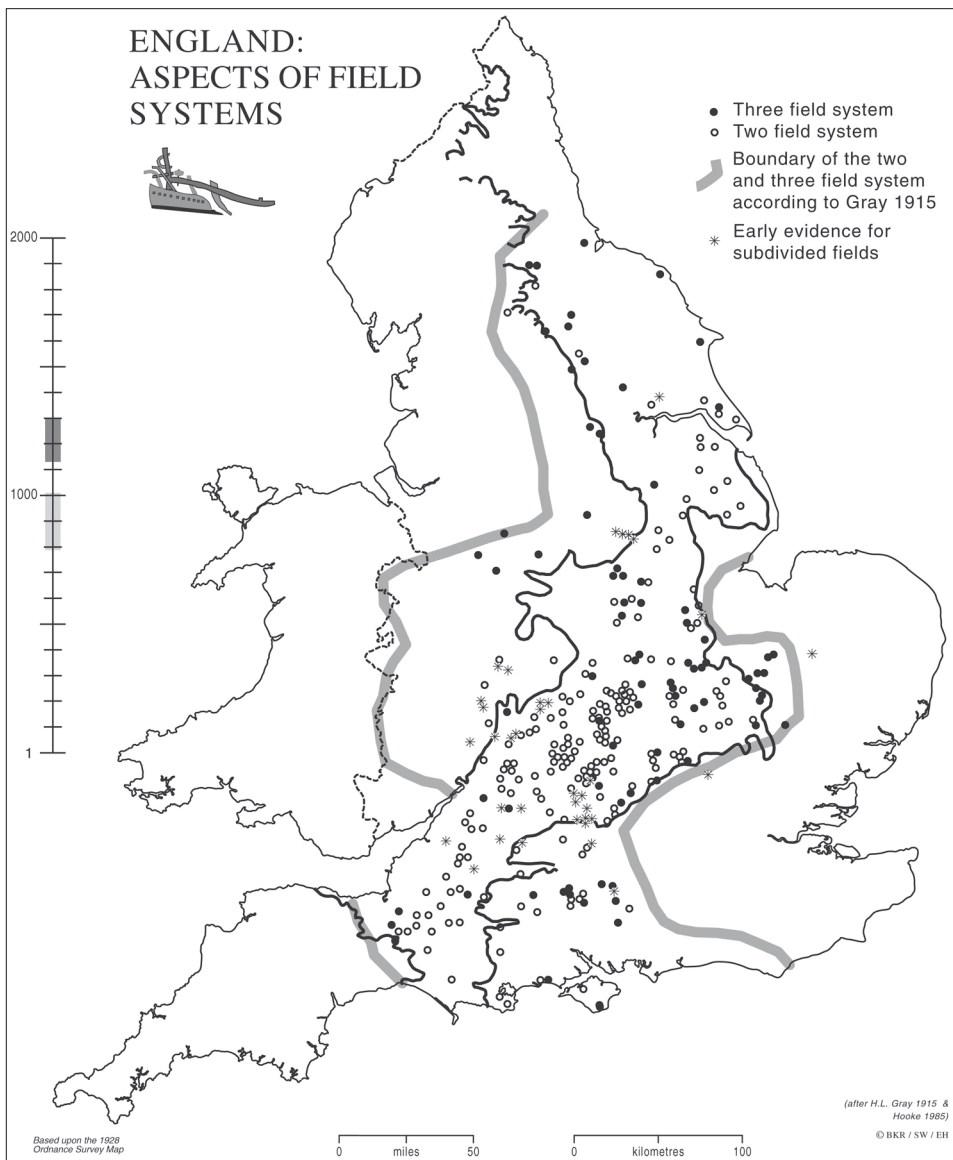


Figure 1 The distribution of regular two- and three-field systems before 1350 reproduced with permission from Roberts and Wrathmell 2002, Fig. 5.4

parishes field-names display remarkable longevity: at Litlington, for example, eighteen of twenty-five furlong names remained in use from the fourteenth to the early nineteenth century (VCH 8: 59).

Second, the precision of *feld* ('field') as a technical term in a twelfth- or thirteenth-century document is unreliable, since it was used interchangeably for both 'field' and 'furlong'. That is, it might be used to refer both to large open fields and to their subdividing furlongs. Hardwick, which had an impeccable three-field system in 1639, boasted at least seven 'fields' in 1251 (CUL EDR/H1 and EDR/G3). One, *puttokroudole*, survived as Puttockesrow Field in 1639, but the other names are not recognisable as field or furlong names in later terriers and other documents. Salzman suggested that 'where the demesne arable lay ... in many parcels ... it is probable that most of these represent enclosures [or assarts], as opposed to strips in the common fields' (cited in Tate 1944: 58, my addition). He gave Hardwick as an example, based on the distinction in the Coucher Book between arable described as 'in various parcels' (which he interpreted as lying in strips in open fields) and that whose acreage was given without qualification (which he interpreted as

consolidated blocks held in severalty), concluding that 'the three-field rotation was no doubt followed' (ibid.). The case is not proven, though, and although it is possible that Hardwick operated a three-field system in 1251, it is just as feasible that the field system there was irregular.

Another criterion frequently adopted is that of a biennial or triennial crop rotation. 'Let it at once be admitted that the existence of a system of two or three fields in any township implies that a two- or three-course method of tillage was there followed', suggested Gray (1959: 44-45). However, even where there was a reasonable conformity between the number of fields and patterns of cropping, the areas used as the basis for cropping arrangements might vary from one year to the next and might not even correspond with the fields. At Harlton, for example, three or four fields were consistently recorded between 1295 and the early fourteenth century, but by the latter date there was no link between rotations and the geography of the fields; and although the arable at Eversden seems consistently to have been divided into two 'fields' from about 1200, there were five 'fields' in practice, and crop rotations appear to have been based on groupings of furlongs

which changed from year to year (VCH 5: 63, 221). Yet in both parishes open fields, intermingled strips, and communal rotations remained in operation until Parliamentary inclosure in 1810 and 1814 respectively. Arrangements in such places bear a greater resemblance to irregular field systems in East Anglia, where 'lack of correlation between field and shift' was not unusual, than to the regularity of the Central Province (Postgate 1973: 299; see also Bailey 2009: 19–21).

Other criteria offer an element of contradiction. Gray also noted that without other evidence a two- or three-course rotation was an insufficient basis from which to infer the existence of a two- or three-field system (although Salzman does sometimes appear to have done this) (Gray 1959: 44–45; Salzman cited in Tate 1944: 57–8). On the other hand, his proposal that 'an arrangement of six fields by twos ... was only an unimportant modification of the three-field system' did rather muddy the water. It allows the inclusion as a regular two- or three-field vill of places like Steeple Morden where, although the arable appears to have been divided into two fields by about 1225, 'the large fields were sometimes divided, perhaps for crop rotation, into smaller ones' and may actually have operated an irregular field system (Gray 1959: 40; VCH 8: 117). So, too, Soham, Fordham, and Horningsea, where open fields were grouped in threes, each with its own three-course rotation (VCH 10: 509, 511, 402–3, 165). The corollary also holds: despite running a three-shift system by the mid-thirteenth century, the multiplicity of fields at Cheveley never developed into a regular two- or three-field system (VCH 10: 50).

Then there are problems in deciding where to draw the line between regular and irregular field systems. Places where arable was lay in *four* large open fields were excluded by Gray who believed that four fields and a four-course rotation was a later adaptation of the 'classic' model and a precursor to inclosure (1959: 130). Yet it is clear that in many such places by 1350 intermingled holdings were equally divided between the fields and a communally-regulated four-course rotation (including a fallow period) was practised, often continuing well into the first third of the nineteenth century. They seem more like regular, 'Midland' parishes than the irregular field systems of East Anglia. Villages where the fourth field was very small and therefore probably included for cultivation in one of the larger fields, and/or where four fields were being cultivated on a three-course rotation before 1350, have been included as 'regular' here, since it is assumed (not necessarily correctly) that the four fields formed 'effective units in a three course rotation' like those making up the west fields of Cambridge (Hall and Ravensdale 1976: 28). Villages with four or more fields where there is no note of rotational practice, or where rotations were repeated after more than four years, have been assigned as 'irregular'.

And finally, although Gray noted that 'only with the definite evidence of the late twelfth and of the thirteenth century do we first come upon townships whose arable fields were clearly two or three', he also suggested that they were introduced during the Anglo-Saxon settlement of the fifth and sixth centuries AD, ascribing the distinction between champion and woodland landscapes on the basis of Germanic migration in the former, and

Romano-British survival in the latter (Gray 1959: 62, 411). In other words, 'classic' two- and three-field systems represent an '*ur*-type' of Anglo-Saxon agricultural organisation, from which later variations in the Midland system were descended. There are a number of reasons why that premise is becoming problematic. Gray was unable to explain satisfactorily why such regularity remained unchanged in some places for five or six hundred years when in others field systems had undergone any number of alteration: for example, in Leicestershire – in the heart of the Central Province – 'however significant the field divisions may once have been, the actual cropping system, by the late thirteenth century, had come to be more flexible than would be possible in a rigid three-field system' (Hilton 1969: 169). The cases of Segenhoe (Beds.) and Dry Drayton, where there are records of the re-modelling of field systems in the later twelfth century, may therefore not be examples of the *introduction* of the Midland system into an earlier irregularly-organised fieldscape, as they have been interpreted, but just one of a number of periodic rationalisations of landholding within an existing regular Midland field-system (Fox 1981: 95–8). Inheritance, sale, manorial sub-infeudation, and the need to sustain a growing population make such re-organisations inherently likely and they were not unusual in the post-medieval period. Furthermore, the possibility that some elements of layout and management of medieval open fields were derived from prehistoric and/or Romano-British practices might offer an even more attenuated time-frame for the origins of two- and three-field systems (Oosthuizen 2011).

These questions mean that it is difficult to be sure quite what we are mapping when it comes to two- and three-field systems before about 1350. On the one hand, such distributions may, as Gray thought, reveal the origins of the Midland system in late survivals of a regular system on the cusp of change; on the other, they may as easily record a 'regular moment' in a longer and more complex process of development of regular and irregular field systems whose beginnings we are unable to discern in any meaningful way for lack of sufficient (and sufficiently detailed) documentary evidence. The quest of historians for pattern and regularity might simply mean that our eyes have been caught by one, more easily identifiable, pattern when a study of the full range of field systems before 1350 – along the lines of the evolved typology suggested by Campbell – might lead to more significant results (1981: 113–7). Explanations for the degree of complexity described by Campbell have taken a new direction with an important study which has demonstrated that 'it was local communities that were the main force behind shaping landscape character', as developing field systems offered physical expression for a complex interaction of regional history and economy, local culture, demography, lordship and topography, not just at their origin but throughout the centuries of their operation (Rippon 2008: 267).

Gazetteer and figures

Figure 2 provides a quantified analysis of the detail in Appendix 1, showing the percentages of regular and irregular field systems between the Central Province west of the River Cam and the irregular landscapes

of East Anglia to the east of the river. Readers who have persisted this far will no doubt join the author in wondering whether such data can be handled at all with any degree of confidence. Although in some cases the judgements demonstrated here can straightforwardly be defended, in others the slippery nature of the evidence dissolves, as explained above, from clarity into fog.

Taking Figure 2 at face value, however, two conclusions are immediately apparent. First, the distribution of regular field systems conforms with their predicted correlation with the Central Province – there appear to have been more two- and three-field systems in west than in east Cambridgeshire before 1350. The second conclusion is, to my mind, more interesting. While west Cambridgeshire can fairly straightforwardly be characterised as a landscape in which regular field systems predominate, it is more difficult to be definitive about the landscape of east Cambridgeshire. There, regular and irregular field systems appear to have occurred in *roughly* the same proportions. This observation takes us straight back to the fundamental questions concerning the origins of medieval field systems which have been debated in the literature for over a century: to what extent do regular field systems represent a change – evolutionary or radical – from the ways in which arable land was managed in the early medieval period? Do west and east Cambridgeshire represent regional types, each evolving gradually since time out of mind on different trajectories from starting points in which some (hardly any? a few? quite a lot?) may have been common? Or, do the two landscapes represent ways in which a common pattern of ‘prehistoric’ (or ‘Roman’) fields developed into different landscapes from (say) the eleventh or twelfth centuries onwards, changing incrementally in the east and more radically in the west?

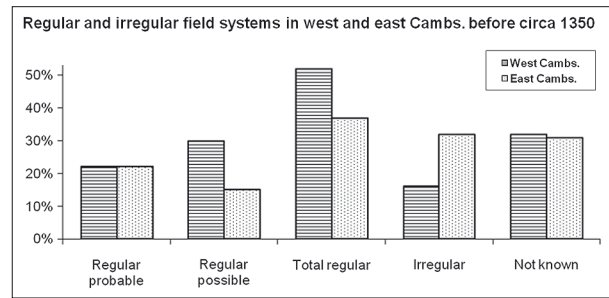


Figure 2 The relative distribution of regular and irregular field systems in west and east Cambridgeshire before c.1350

Figures 3 and 4 show the geographic distribution of field systems west and east of the Cam. Perhaps the most pertinent conclusion to be drawn from Figures 3 and 4, in contrast to Figure 2, is that it would be difficult to predict the position of the boundary of the Central Province from these maps alone, since both regular and irregular field systems *appear* to be distributed more or less equally on both sides of the Cam. It is possible, however, that distribution maps for the counties adjacent to Cambridgeshire with the volume of detail available for this county might contextualise the Cambridgeshire maps and demonstrate the boundary between the two provinces more satisfactorily.

This short note does little more than raise more questions. The most fundamental of these is the difficulty in knowing how significant the distribution of two- and three-field systems is. Have historians been led astray by their apparently straightforward identifiability, itself a mirage? Until we know more about the distributions of

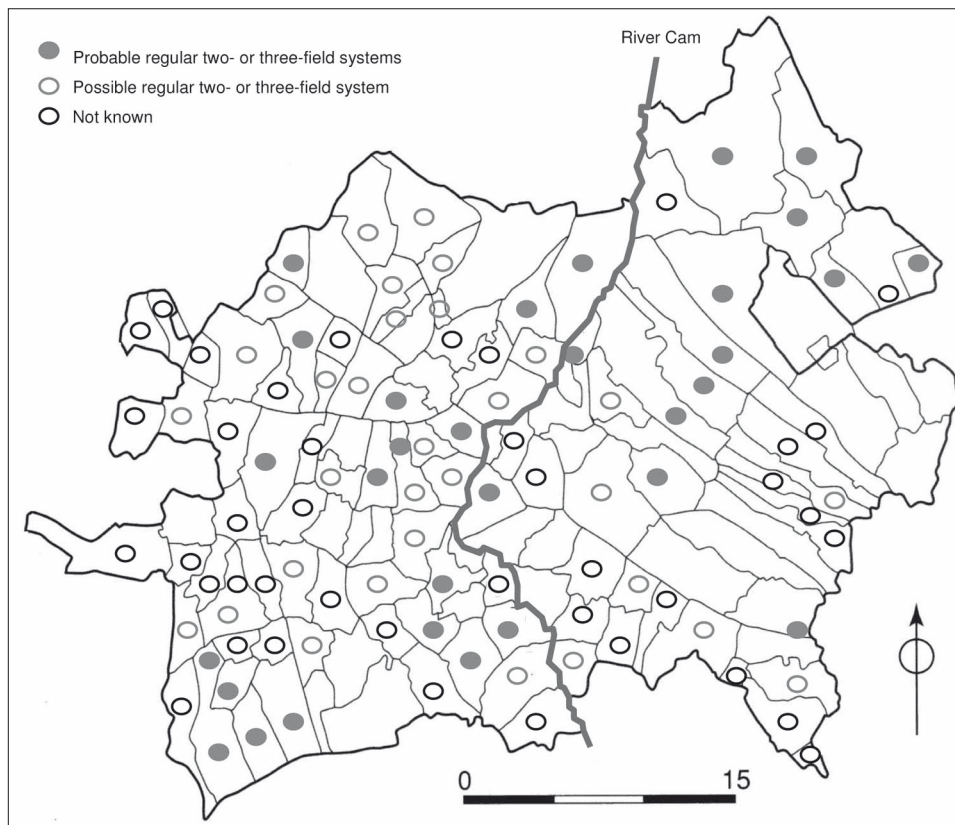


Figure 3 The distribution of regular field systems in south Cambridgeshire before 1350

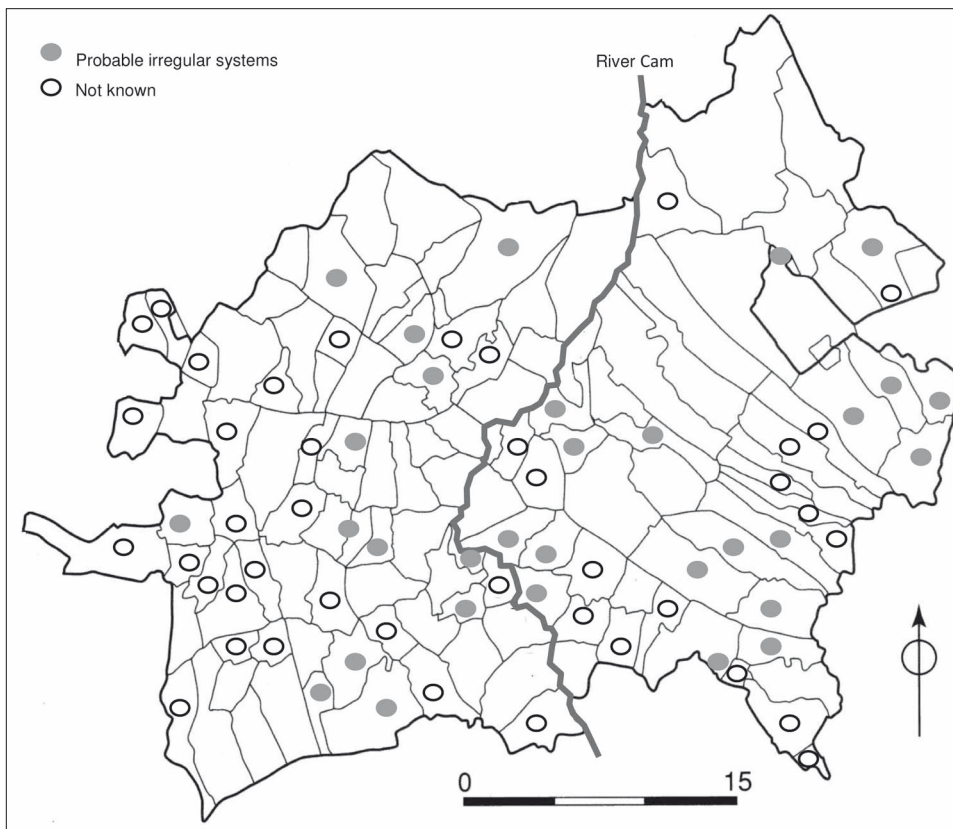


Figure 4 The distribution of irregular field systems in south Cambridgeshire before 1350

the full range of medieval field systems, two- and three-field systems may remain enigmatic.

Acknowledgements

This paper owes a particular debt to Mr Christopher Taylor who has been willing to discuss many of the ideas put here in some depth. Professor Brian Roberts kindly gave permission for the reproduction of Figure 1. It goes without saying, however, that the mistakes and misapprehensions of this short paper are entirely my own.

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Appendix 1: Field systems in south Cambridgeshire before 1350: Gazetteer

Vill ^a	Field systems before about 1350
*Abington Piggots	Early 13thC East and West fields ‘divided into numerous doles and furlongs’, cultivated on a biennial rotation by 1274 (<i>VCH</i> 8: 7, 8; Fox 1981: 103).
**Abington, Great	1263 Demesne lies ‘on one side’ (241 a.) and ‘on the other’ (455 a.), and by 1350 Hildersham, Stocking, and Canonsdown fields listed; they were under triennial rotation in the 14 th C ‘but it is unclear how the various small furlongs and doles ... were grouped together’ (<i>VCH</i> 6: 9–10, my edition; cf. Fox 1981: 103).
Abington, Little	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 11–12).
Arrington	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 143).
***Ashley cum Silverley	13thC There were at least 27 fields and ‘41 or more other named divisions’ including <i>le Brache</i> (<i>c.</i> 1290), <i>Burufelde</i> (13 th C), <i>le Cherchefelde</i> (<i>c.</i> 1250), <i>le Dune</i> (<i>c.</i> 1287), <i>Haukfelde</i> (<i>c.</i> 1280), <i>Siluerhalke</i> (<i>c.</i> 1280), <i>le Heyfelde</i> (<i>c.</i> 1250), <i>le Parkesyate</i> (<i>c.</i> 1290), and ‘41 or more other named divisions’ (<i>VCH</i> 10: 34; cf. Reaney 1943: 364).
Babraham	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 25).
***Balsham	1251 There were 22 fields of varying sizes in an ‘irregular pattern’; they included <i>Ayssele</i> and <i>le Hay</i> , and possibly cultivated on a triennial rotation in the same period (<i>VCH</i> 6: 131; Reaney 1943: 364; Postgate 1973: 295; cf. Tate 1944: 57).
***Barham	Late 13thC There were at least 7 fields by 1275, cultivated on a triennial rotation by 1286 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 91). A subordinate vill of Linton.
**Barrington	13thC evidence for East and West fields (<i>VCH</i> 5: 153).
Bartlow	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 32).
**Barton	c.1250 There were Meadow field, Brache field, Down field, and a small field called Holes field (<i>VCH</i> 5: 167). 1283 fields were called Madwe, Doune, Brade, and Est fields; 4 fields also listed in 1322 and 1404–1784 (Postgate 1964: Appendix I, II). Subordinate hamlet of Whitwell had its own 3 fields ‘in the middle ages’ (<i>VCH</i> 5: 167).
*Bassingbourn	Before c.1250 There was a regular 2- or 3-field system, cultivated on a biennial rotation in 1267 and possibly a triennial rotation in 1340 (<i>VCH</i> 8: 20; Fox 1981: 103; cf. Tate 1944: 58).
*Bottisham	By 1220s there were probably 3 fields: North (1305), White (1317), and Stoney (1317), cultivated on a triennial rotation by <i>c.</i> 1300 (<i>VCH</i> 10: 205, 206; Tate 1944: 57).
*Bourn	By mid-14thC 5 fields documented, of which the 4 largest were each cultivated on a 3-course rotation (Baxter 2008: 19–20, Appendix B; Postgate 1964: 25).
*Boxworth	c.1300 Possible biennial crop rotation, triennial by 1380 (<i>VCH</i> 9: 274; Gray 1959: 457). By 1338 North and South fields were of equal size (Postgate 1973: 296).
Brinkley	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 138).
**Burrough Green	By 1334 Half the demesne arable lay fallow each year, and the remainder was unequally divided between winter- and spring-sown crops (<i>VCH</i> 6: 144). Tate concluded that the arable lay in 2 fields (1944: 58).
*Burwell	By 1230s There were <i>le Northefeld</i> (1232), <i>le Southfeld</i> (1307), East and Ditch fields, cultivated on a triennial rotation by 1300 (Reaney 1843: 368; <i>VCH</i> 10: 349).
Caldecote	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 22).
Cambridge East Fields (Barnwell)	By 1155 Fields included <i>Bradmere</i> , <i>Meledich</i> , <i>Middelfeld</i> , <i>Fordefeld</i> , and <i>Estenhale</i> (Postgate 1973: 298). A 3-field system by 1377–99 (Tate 1944: 57)
*Cambridge West Fields	c.1360 4 fields cultivated as 3, forming ‘effective units in a three course rotation’ (Hall and Ravensdale 1976: 28)

^a Medieval vills before 1350, most coterminous with their parishes, but including some which did not develop into independent parishes (Barham, Streetly, Whitwell, Woodditton), one where 2 later parishes shared a field system (Great and Little Eversden), and 2 which were later amalgamated with other parishes (Badlingham, Clopton).

* Vills where a 2- or 3-field system was probably in operation by about 1350;

** Vills where a 2- or 3-field system was possibly in operation by that date;

*** Vills where irregular field systems were in operation;

Unmarked vills are those where there is insufficient evidence for a judgement to be made.

Vill ^a	Field systems before about 1350
Camps, Castle	1371 A triennial crop rotation in operation (<i>VCH</i> 6: 42; Tate 1944: 57).
**Camps, Shudy	13thC Arable lay in 3 main blocks in west of parish, and a triennial rotation was practised in 1340; however the following fields were mentioned in the same period: Stanefield <i>c.</i> 1200, Stockings <i>c.</i> 1200, Church Field 1219, Holme Mead Field <i>c.</i> 1200, Manhedge Field <i>c.</i> 1200; all land in east in closes (<i>VCH</i> 6: 54–5; Gray 1959: 459; cf. Tate 1944: 57; Fox 1981: 103).
Carlton cum Willingham	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 152).
Caxton	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 31).
Cherry Hinton	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 10: 110).
**Chesterton	By 1250s There were Middle, East, and West fields (<i>VCH</i> 9: 21; Gray 1959: 458; Tate 1944: 57).
***Cheveley	c.1240 ‘3 shifts, and perhaps 3 fields, may be implied by the mid-13 th C names of West and Middle Fields, but otherwise a regular three-field system never crystallised, and fields proliferated and were of irregular sizes’ (<i>VCH</i> 10: 50; Reaney 1943: 365; cf. Fox (1981: 103).
**Childerley	By c.1250 Arable divided into 2 fields: ‘towards Boxworth’ and ‘towards Dry Drayton’ (<i>VCH</i> 9: 45).
***Chippenham	c.1144–6 until early 13thC 7 fields were named, including Sound and Stonehill (both <i>c.</i> 1144–6), and North, West, Pudmanhill, and Little Back (all late 12 th /early 13 th C) (<i>VCH</i> 10: 381). However Gray and Tate suggest a 3-field system existed before 1387 (Gray 1959: 458; Tate 1944: 57).
**Clopton	By 1400 Arable may have been divided into 3 fields (<i>VCH</i> 8: 36). Tate suggests a 2-field system in the 13 th C (1944: 57). Amalgamated with Croydon in the early 16 th C.
*Comberton	13thC <i>West</i> (<i>c.</i> 1250), North and Alde fields (Postgate 1964: App I, IV; Reaney 1943: 74); a 3-course rotation in place by 1347 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 182).
**Conington	1199 Perhaps 2 fields: West Field and field abutting the Down (<i>VCH</i> 9: 284).
**Coton	1271 Tate suggested that, by the late 13 th C, a 2-field system was in operation, although the demesne unequally divided between them (Tate 1944: 57); Grave Field was mentioned in <i>c.</i> 1285 and Doune Field (intercommoned with Grantchester) in <i>c.</i> 1280 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 192).
***Cottenham	By early 13thC Aldeburgh, Lowe, and Foxholes fields cultivated on a crop rotation in which furlongs and fields were flexibly allocated to each shift (<i>VCH</i> 9: 58–9; Fox 1981: 103). By 1322 arable divided into 4 fields (Postgate 1973: 297). Suggested as a 3-field system in 1202–3 (Gray 1959: 458; Tate 1944: 57).
Croxton	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 40).
Croydon	1279 Biennial rotation being followed, but unknown number of fields (<i>VCH</i> 8: 36).
** Drayton, Dry	c.1320 3 fields by this date – Stone (<i>c.</i> 1150), Callow, and Mickle fields – cultivated on a triennial rotation from 1280s (<i>VCH</i> 9: 80).
* Drayton, Fen	By 1342 4 fields were named – Fulwell, Middle, Mill, and Clay (although Hales mentioned (<i>c.</i> 1300)), cultivated on a triennial rotation by 1380 (<i>VCH</i> 9: 295–6).
Dullingham	1309 Triennial crop rotation in operation (<i>VCH</i> 6: 163).
**Duxford	By 1300 3 fields: Stock (1278), Middle (<i>c.</i> 1235), and North (<i>c.</i> 1235) fields (<i>VCH</i> 6: 210).
**Elsworth	By 1350 Tate suggests that Elsworth ‘apparently followed a 2-field system’; however, <i>VCH</i> suggests that this is only true from the late 14 th C (Tate 1944: 58; <i>VCH</i> 9: 311).
**Eltisley	c.1300 2 fields listed: later named as East (1342) and North Fields (1383) (Reaney 1943: 366; <i>VCH</i> 5: 53; Fox 1981: 103).
***Eversden, Great and Little	c.1200 Arable divided between Bournbrook and Heydon fields, but in practice furlongs rather than fields seemed to be the basis of cultivation (<i>VCH</i> 5, 63; Fox 1981: 103). 1316–1505 Fulbroke, Monedych, Chyrche, Wode, Brade, West, Hallewell, and Eveswelle fields (Postgate 1964: App 1, V). [Fields and holdings were inextricably mingled between holders in each parish, and appear to have been cultivated more or less as one system even after the unit was divided into 2 parishes.]

Vill ^a	Field systems before about 1350
***Fen Ditton	1251 Ely Coucher Book listed <i>Teversworthefeld, Reicroft, Middeldrede, Benebrede, Berebrede, Ridunebrede, Dambrede, Milnebrede, Yapesbere, Langebrocbrede, Decherlesbrede, Armecoteweeye, Bradegate</i> , and <i>Segenefendeyebrede</i> , although Gray and Tate suggest this is was a three-field system by the 1350s (Miller n.d.: parish extent; Gray 1959: 460; Tate 1944: 57; Postgate 1973: 295).
*Fordham	By 14thC ‘Two groupings of open fields’ cultivated on a triennial rotation by 1320s, of which the older (to the south and east) were Church (c.1380), Budgate (c.1400), and Barrow (1410) fields (<i>VCH</i> 10: 402–3).
Fowlmere	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 8: 159).
*Foxton	By mid-13thC Arable in 3 large fields ‘perhaps formed by combining earlier smaller units, also called fields, or sometimes crofts’ and cultivated in a triennial rotation by 1300; Hayditch and Down fields (c.1320), Ham Field (1300) (<i>VCH</i> 8: 170; Reaney 1943:361; Gray 1959: 458).
**Fulbourn	By late 12thC Arable was divided into 3 large fields (Woodbridge, Smallway, and Cors fields), together with some assarts cultivated in severalty (<i>VCH</i> 10: 145).
Gamlingay	Although listed as an early 3-field system by Gray, Tate gives 1601 as the date at which such evidence is available (Gray 1959: 458; Tate 1944: 58).
***Girton	13thC Up to 10 fields named including Watercodds and Millhill (1202), and Redland fields (1314) (<i>VCH</i> 9: 121).
***Gransden, Little	1251 Demesne lay in 22 parcels, including Stocking (Postgate 1973: 294; Reaney 1943: 365). ‘In the middle ages’ there were 3 fields: East field, another in the west divided into <i>Fyfsheetes, Longhey</i> and Stocking, and 3 rd field south of village (<i>VCH</i> 5, 91; cf. Gray 1959: 460; Tate 1944: 57).
**Grantchester	By 13thC Arable divided into 5 fields – Burnemead/Stulp, Calfholm/Whiteditch (c.1235), Fulbroke (1286), Ridgeway, and Down fields, cultivated on a triennial rotation (<i>VCH</i> 5: 204–5). Proposed by Tate as an early 3-field system (1944: 57).
Graveley	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 9: 325).
***Hardwick	1251 Demesne divided between at least 7 fields, including in1272 <i>Haydole, Hote, Tenn akre, ut, Longdole, meare dole</i> (<i>VCH</i> 5: 101; Postgate 1964: App I, VI; cf. Tate 1944: 57 for an alternative interpretation).
***Harlton	1295 Sometimes 3, sometimes 4 fields, but by the early 14 th C no link with crop rotations. North/Brook field, West/Mill field, land in east and south sometimes cropped as 2 fields (as in early 14 th C), sometimes as 1 field (e.g. 1295, 1562–1683) (<i>VCH</i> 5: 221; Gray 1959: 458). 13thC North, West, Hye, South fields listed (Postgate 1964: App I, VI).
*Harston	By 1180s Arable divided into North, East and South fields, cultivated on a triennial rotation in the 14 th C (<i>VCH</i> 8: 185, 187).
**Haslingfield	By 13thC 3-course rotation of ‘groups of furlongs within the 4 main fields’ – Down field (c.1240), Rowlowe field (c.1230), Caudle Field (1330), and Dawland (c.1260) – although Gray suggests this was an early 3-field system (<i>VCH</i> 5: 233; Gray 1959: 458).
Hatley, East	13thC Fields ‘open’ but of unknown number (<i>VCH</i> 8: 45).
Hatley, St George	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 109).
***Hauxton and Newton	1319 ‘The arable around both villages was grouped for cultivation into three seasons within a single rotation, land included in each season being scattered throughout both vills’; 5 fields were ‘divided into numerous doles’ including Brokfeld, <i>Wyt(h)efeld, Colland, West, White, Hauxton croft</i> , and <i>Longelond</i> (c.1250) (<i>VCH</i> 8: 198–9; Reaney 1943: 361).
Hildersham	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 64).
**Hinxtton	1332 South, Bridge, Northcroft, Middle, and Burgh fields were mentioned, although Gray and Tate suggest that this was an early 3-field system (<i>VCH</i> 6: 225; Gray 1959: 458; Tate 1944: 57).
Histon	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 9: 98).

Vill ^a	Field systems before about 1350
*Horningssea	1251 Ely Coucher book listed <i>Stenecroft, Wilebred, Tenacres, Distenhil, Redelond, Milneweye, Langelond, field abutting on Greneweeye, Bircroft, Litlebrede, Estcroft, Walenort, Mersbrede, next to Langemedwe, Evermundesholm, Foxheye, and Northale(feld)</i> (Miller n.d.: parish extent). From the 14 th C, there were 6 fields (Middle, Gravel, Mill, Eye Hall, Clayhithe, and Northale (1313)), and it is possible that the northern 3 were cultivated as a separate field system for Clayhithe; both groups followed a triennial rotation in 1356–7 (<i>VCH</i> 10: 165).
***Horseheath	c.1200 <i>Barchestrefield, Thorendune, Maplederdene, Moriland, and Bokedale; also Elmdon</i> (1313), <i>Chalkfield</i> (1313), and <i>Toppesbroc</i> (?14 th C) documented (<i>VCH</i> 6: 75).
Ickleton	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 238).
Impington	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 9: 133).
*Isleham	13thC 3 fields possibly rearranged at that time into 4: East (13 th C), Little South (1270) Great South (1333), and West (13 th C); Dunstal field mentioned in the 14 th C; by the 1340s the arable was probably managed on a triennial rotation (<i>VCH</i> 10: 438; Reaney 1943: 368).
*Kennett	By late 13thC Arable managed on a triennial rotation, and ‘during the middle ages’ divided into South, East, North, and Carrups fields (<i>VCH</i> 10: 464, 463).
Kingston	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 116).
***Kirtling	‘The furlongs were more significant as subdivisions of the arable than the fields, whose number and names changed frequently’ (<i>VCH</i> 10: 69).
Knapwell	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 9: 335).
***Kneesworth	c.1300 Fields fallowed every 4 th year, although in the 14 th C there were more than 15 fields and furlongs including South field (<i>c.</i> 1200) and Northfield (1320) (<i>VCH</i> 8:51).
*Landbeach	Mid 13thC There were 3 fields to west of village – Street, Dunstall, and Scachbow fields–cultivated on a triennial rotation by the 1340s; Bancroft field (by 1316) and Madefield (1340s) added east of the village street and included with shifts in the other fields (<i>VCH</i> 9: 146–7).
***Landwade	Mid 13thC 4 fields: Exning, Fordham, South, and West fields (<i>VCH</i> 10: 472).
*Linton	By 1272 Triennial rotation in place by 1272 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 92). However, Fox suggested that a 2- or 3-field system was in operation by 1350 (1981: 103).
*Litlington	‘ In the middle ages ’ said to have 2 fields, divided into East and West, which ‘co-existed with a north-south division’ by <i>c.</i> 1300; by 14 th C fields divided into ‘a number of furlongs and shots, sometimes called fields’ cultivated on a biennial rotation in 1337 (<i>VCH</i> 8: 59). Gray suggests this was an early 2- or 3-field system (1959: 457–8; cf. Tate 1944: 58).
Lolworth	By 1340s Arable cultivated on a triennial rotation (<i>VCH</i> 9: 160).
**Long Stanton, All Saints	1326 Arable possibly cultivated on a 3-course rotation; Dale and Hallow fields listed by early 14 th C (<i>VCH</i> 9: 228).
**Long Stanton, St Michael	1326 Arable possibly cultivated on a 3-course rotation; Michelow (1251) and Little Moor (1321) fields listed (<i>VCH</i> 9: 228).
Longstowe	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 124).
*Madingley	By 1230s Moor field, West, and Bernulf’s ditch (<i>c.</i> 1205) fields mentioned, cultivated on a triennial rotation in the 1320s (<i>VCH</i> 9: 171–2; Gray 1959: 460; Tate 1944: 57; Postgate 1973: 297).
***Melbourn	Early 14thC Ely demesne divided between 3 <i>culturae</i> including <i>Calewedonefeld</i> (1319), and <i>le Mellefeld</i> (1385), and an assarted field, on a 3-course rotation in 1332 (<i>VCH</i> 8: 73; Reaney 1943: 358). In 1318 demesne lay ‘in numerous crofts and furlongs’ cultivated in 4 shifts (Postgate 1973: 295, 297).
***Meldreth	13th /14thC Arable divided into ‘many crofts and small fields upon which the crop rotation was imposed’ (<i>VCH</i> 8: 89). In 1318 demesne lay ‘in numerous crofts and furlongs’ cultivated in 4 shifts; in the 1320s a triennial rotation was practised (Postgate 1973: 295, 297; <i>VCH</i> 8: 73).
**Milton	‘ Probably ’ by 1300 3 fields: South Field, Middle (1329), and ‘field towards Landbeach’ (1329) (<i>VCH</i> 9: 183). Tate, however, proposed 2 fields in operation by 1349 (1944: 58).
Morden, Guilden	No evidence before <i>c.</i> 1350 (<i>VCH</i> 8: 103).

Vill ^a	Field systems before about 1350
*Morden, Steeple	By c.1225 arable divided into East and West fields; from 13thC to mid-15 th a 3 rd field lay south of Ashwell St; 'the large fields were sometimes divided, perhaps for crop rotation, into smaller ones', although a biennial or triennial crop rotation may have been practised in 1251 (<i>VCH</i> 8: 117; cf. Tate 1944: 57). Names include <i>Fox(h)ole</i> (1274), <i>le Eldefeld</i> (c.1272), <i>Hol(e)welle</i> (13thC), (<i>le</i>) <i>Hundaker</i> (13thC), and <i>le Reuaker</i> (13thC) (Reaney 1943: 258–9). Hamlet of Glitton divided into East and West fields by c.1225 (<i>VCH</i> 8: 116).
*Oakington	By early 14thC 3 fields: Moor field (by 1230s), West field (by 1320s), and Bradfield (c.1200); arable cultivated on a triennial rotation since the early 14 th C, but cropping not necessarily based on field divisions (<i>VCH</i> 9: 200)
Orwell	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 245).
**Over	Perhaps by 1260s 3 fields: Field by Willingham, Middle field, and Great field by Stanton; by 1356 Mill Field added (<i>VCH</i> 9: 346).
Pampisford	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 108).
Papworth Everard	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 9: 362).
Papworth St Agnes	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 9: 371).
**Quy	1317 'There are 200 acres of arable land of which none is in severalty' (Tate 1944: 57).
**Rampton	1247 Name of Middle Field 'suggests' 3 fields (<i>VCH</i> 9: 215; Fox 1981: 103).
***Sawston	13th/14thC Field names include Cambridge, Church, <i>Crokehel</i> , Holme, <i>Howcrouch</i> , West, and White (<i>VCH</i> 6: 253).
***Shelford, Great	1356 Arable managed in a 3-course rotation, but at least 12 arable subdivisions before 1392 including Heathfield, Millfield, Aldework, and Dunholm; in 1392 North, East, South, and West fields (<i>VCH</i> 8: 212). Tate cites Salzman in suggesting 3 fields by 1384 (1944: 58).
Shelford, Little	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 8: 223).
Shepreth	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 5: 257).
Shingay	1300 4-year rotation practised (Postgate 1973: 297).
*Snailwell	' In the middle ages ' 5 fields were named (Newmarket, Bury, Small, North, and West), but in practice cultivated as 2 fields (Newmarket and Bury) (<i>VCH</i> 10: 482)
*Soham	By about 1235 2 sets of 3 open fields: 'about 1250 those fields had perhaps been recently organised out of blocks of arable', cultivated on a triennial rotation by the 1340s. South of the village lay East (mid 13 th C), Down field (13 th C), and Newditch (1230s) fields; Horsecroft lay north of Newditch and was called a field from the 13 th C although it was 'reckoned separately in crop rotations in the 1340s'. North of the village lay Mettleham (c.1250, and including <i>Littleham</i>), <i>Barcham</i> (late 13thC), and <i>Bancroft</i> (c.1250) fields (<i>VCH</i> 10: 509–11).
***Stapleford	13thC Numerous fields and furlongs including <i>Le Cherchefeld</i> , <i>Foxhill</i> , <i>Haukebarwe</i> , <i>Church</i> , <i>Coplowe</i> , <i>Wormlawe</i> , <i>Easthill</i> , and <i>Longland</i> , although arable may have been 're-arranged into three large fields after 1400' (<i>VCH</i> 8: 232; Reaney 1943: 361).
Stetchworth	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 173).
Stow cum Quy	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 10: 238).
*Swaffham Bulbeck	By mid13thC East, West, and Middle fields under a triennial rotation from the mid-14 th C (<i>VCH</i> 10: 259, 260).
*Swaffham Prior	From early 13thC Arable divided into 3 fields – Ditch, Middle, and West fields – cultivated on a triennial rotation from the early 14 th C (<i>VCH</i> 10: 286–7; Gray 1959: 459; Tate 1944: 57); <i>le Cherchehelfelde</i> 1338 (Reaney 1943: 137).
***Swavesey	c.1200 Holdings 'possibly concentrated in individual furlongs' (<i>VCH</i> 9: 386). By later 13thC fields included (<i>campo de</i>) (<i>le</i>) <i>Hale</i> (1287), <i>campo de Longstanton</i> , <i>Brokehaveden</i> , field towards Lolworth, and field towards Fen Drayton (<i>VCH</i> 9: 386–7; Reaney 1943: 173).
**Tadlow	By 1219 2 fields were documented, although 'some land had not yet been brought into the field system c.1240'; Pincote may have had a separate field system (<i>VCH</i> 8: 131; cf. Fox 1981: 103; Gray 1959: 457; Tate 1944: 57).

Vill ^a	Field systems before about 1350
***Teversham	By mid-14thC There were Portway, Townsend (1440), Mill, Millditch, and Holm fields (<i>VCH</i> 10: 178–9).
*Thriplow	By later 13thC Arable divided into 3 fields – West, Church, and Heath fields – cultivated in 1251 and 1356 on a 3-course rotation (<i>VCH</i> 8: 242; Gray 1959: 459; Fox 1981: 103).
**Toft	Early 13thC East and West fields (<i>VCH</i> 5: 132; Fox 1981: 103).
*Trumpington	By mid-13thC Arable probably divided into 3 sections – one incorporating 2 fields, and further area of arable on boundary with Great Shelford – cultivated on a triennial rotation in the 1380s (Tate 1944: 57; <i>VCH</i> 8: 258).
*Waterbeach	By c.1150 3 unidentified fields – called by 1200 <i>Wulpholes</i> , <i>Banholes</i> , <i>Ruditch</i> ; also Mill field (1325), Croft Field (1350), Haw/Hall Field (1332) – possibly also cultivated on a triennial rotation c.1150 (<i>VCH</i> 9: 248, 251; Fox 1981: 103).
Wendy	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 8: 138–9).
***West Wickham	c.1250 <i>Dodwell Field</i> , <i>le Doune</i> (1329), and 7 other named fields, possibly grouped in a triennial rotation (<i>VCH</i> 6: 119). 13thC Hamlet of Streetly had its own fields, by c.1318 named as Stone and West fields (<i>VCH</i> 6: 119).
***West Wrattling	‘In the middle ages’ about 12 fields of unequal size, including <i>Ward(e)lou(h)(e)feld</i> c.1250, and 43 ‘ <i>campi</i> ’ in 1318 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 195; Reaney 1943: 122; Postgate 1973: 295). A 3-course rotation was followed in 1312 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 195).
Westley Waterless	No evidence before c.1350.
***Weston Colville	c.13th–14thC Evidence for <i>Chillowe</i> (c.1236), field towards Willingham (1314), field towards Wrattling (1323), Middle Field (1316), <i>Galisle</i> y (1320), <i>Wydewell</i> (1301), and Broadcroft (1340) fields (<i>VCH</i> 6: 186).
**Westwick	By 1315 3 fields documented (<i>VCH</i> 9: 110).
**Whaddon	1341–2 3-field system identified by Gray and Tate (Gray 1959: 460; Tate 1944: 57).
*Whittlesford	From 13thC There were 3 main fields: Bridge, Stonehill, and Holmes which, together with a smaller field called Ryecroft, were under triennial rotation by 1341 (<i>VCH</i> 6: 269).
Wicken	No evidence before c.1350 (<i>VCH</i> 10: 561).
*Wilbraham, Great	14thC Arable was divided into 4 fields – including Mutlow, Camden, and Middle fields – which were cultivated on a triennial rotation (<i>VCH</i> 10: 312; Fox 1981: 103).
***Wilbraham, Little	By early 13thC There were 4 or 5 fields: West, Combes, Middle, and Deadchurl (<i>Dewcher</i> , by 1350) fields, the latter including Windmill (1220–50) field (<i>VCH</i> 10: 324; Fox 1981: 103).
**Willingham	1251 3-field system based on <i>Westfeld</i> (1221), (<i>campo de Belasis(e)</i>) (1221), and Middle field (<i>VCH</i> 9: 404; Reaney 1943: 1974, 367; Gray 1959: 460; Fox 1981: 103).
**Wimpole	13thC 2 fields documented: Northfield and Southfield (<i>VCH</i> 5: 268).
***Woodditton	From 13thC Each of the 3 manors had its own field system: that of Ditton Camoys was cultivated in 3 shifts in 1234, ‘but conformed to the East Anglian pattern of inconstant names and irregular and perhaps variable sizes’ (<i>VCH</i> 10: 90).