

# ASHDOWN FOREST AND ITS INCLOSURES

BY ERNEST STRAKER

THE records relating to Ashdown Forest are unusually numerous. There are complete surveys, 1564, 1650, and 1658; the two latter are given in full in vols. XXIII and XXIV of the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, and that of 1564 in Mr. Raper's Book of Documents prepared for the lawsuit of 1810, together with many other extracts from the Duchy of Lancaster records.<sup>1</sup> In 1693 there was an award, given in full in a special volume of Sir William Burrell's MSS. in the British Museum, Add. MS. 5709, and two maps relating to this are in the Public Record Office and in the Buckhurst Estate Office respectively.

My thanks are due to Earl De La Warr and to Messrs. Hunt, Nicholson, & Co. of Lewes for enabling me to inspect and epitomize the Duddleswell Court Rolls, which cover the forest. Much information is also to be found in a paper on the forest by the late W. H. Hills, originally published in the *East Grinstead Observer*.

Ashdown Forest is a tract of land, very roughly triangular in shape, some seven miles east to west, and the same distance north to south. The extent is about 14,000 acres. It ranges in height from about 200 ft. to over 700 ft. above sea-level. The geological formation is Hastings sand, and the soil barren, with occasional layers of soft stone, with iron ore in places. To-day nearly the whole uninclosed area is covered with bracken and small pines, which latter have perhaps seeded from the conspicuous clumps which were planted in the early years of the nineteenth century to provide cover for black game. It is obvious that when the grazing sufficed for large numbers of deer, cattle, and swine the bracken

<sup>1</sup> Where other sources are not given, the information in this article is derived from Mr. Raper's book.

could only have been limited in extent, possibly kept down by the large herds of swine. In 1297 there were 2,133 hogs and 557 pigs.<sup>1</sup> In 1539 there were in South Ward 220 deer and in Costley Ward 430.<sup>2</sup> In 1658 the Parliamentary Commissioners admitted the claims for grazing 2,746 head of cattle, allotting 4,462 acres, or  $1\frac{5}{8}$  acres per head. It was stated in 1679, however, that no more than 1,000 or 1,200 were kept and that the King kept 3,000 or 4,000 deer, an obvious exaggeration.

The early history of the forest was fully dealt with by the Rev. Edward Turner in the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*; vol. xiv, and this paper mainly relates to the successive inclosures.

Originally part of the Forest of Anderida, as such it was attached to the Honor of Pevensey, sometimes from its association with the family of L'Aigle (de Aquila) called the *Honor of the Eagle*, and was granted to John of Gaunt, son of Edward III, in 1372; it so became part of the Duchy of Lancaster, and was known as Lancaster Great Park, afterwards falling to the Crown with the other possessions of the Duchy. The royal hunting-box was in Vachery Wood. It was not only a royal hunting-ground, but also a manor, Duddleswell, held direct from the Crown. The few freeholders had their land without the pale. The commoners' holdings were confined to the vicinity of the pale. It is possible, as some hold, that they represent the original inhabitants before afforestation, and therefore were able to preserve a considerable share in the governance. From the Court Rolls it is evident that the area of each holding, with the exception of the land attached to the inn, was very small. This again was divided into little closes, showing that the original cultivation was by the spade and not by the plough. This is borne out by the heriots due to the Lord on the death of a tenant; the entry is often 'No heriot, as there was no beast'. Occasionally there was a cow taken or redeemed. The rents were nominal, a few pence per acre only, so that the possession of a copyhold was valuable, and frequently formed the

<sup>1</sup> Pipe Roll 26 Edw. I.

<sup>2</sup> Raper Docts.

security of a mortgage, showing the poverty of the holders. The yield of these small crofts could hardly have sufficed for a living, unless supplemented by other employment. A noticeable feature is the early death of so many of the copyholders as shown by the minority of the heirs. There were frequent disputes with the royal keepers, but on the whole, the tenants protected the King's interests, more especially as regards the 'Strangers' rights, being those of adjacent manors who had prescriptive grazing rights, though at a higher fee. In 1520 it was presented that 'much of the King's woods were cut down and coled for the iron mills, and the Forest digged for Irne by which man and beast be in jeopardy'.

The areas given in the Court Roll transactions and in the surveys of 1564 and 1658 are by 'estimation', but fortunately in statute acres, and where checkable fairly correct. The areas in the 1693 award and the tithes apportionments are accurately surveyed. This dual role is shown in the Court Rolls from 1610 to 1750.

A survey of 1564 gave the names of copyholders and their holdings. Of these some 158 acres can be identified as within the pale, and 242 acres without, though in the absence of maps these apportionments are somewhat conjectural. The majority of these again appeared in the survey of 1658. On the accession of James I sales began to be made of Crown lands. This practice was extended by Charles I, and so late as 1640 a plan of increasing sales was in contemplation; Charles wrote about this in 1642. The precedent was followed by the Commonwealth. The royal domains under the control of Parliament were vested in Commissioners. On 6 January 1648 the King's name was ordered to be omitted from public documents. In the Court Roll of 24 April 1649 the regnal year was omitted, and in that of 8 July 1657 the word 'Lord' was entered as 'Lords', i.e. the Parliamentary Commissioners.

Suggestions for apportioning the forest more usefully, restricting common rights, and stopping encroachments, were further reported in 1651. Meanwhile an Act for disafforestation of all manors, forests, and lands which

belonged to the Crown in 1635 was passed, and they were vested in trustees authorized to enclose and sell. Ashdown Forest was then exempt, being reserved for soldiers' arrears.<sup>1</sup> This exemption was afterwards annulled. A very minute survey of the Manor of Duddleswell was made in 1650, and another in 1658, which differs very little and is therefore taken as the definite one. Again it is difficult to determine which copyholds were within the pale, but at least 357 acres, and probably more, were within the forest. No action was then taken. Oliver Cromwell had died on 3 September 1658, Richard Cromwell resigned on 25 May 1659, and on 25 April 1660 the Convention invited Charles II to return. The plural 's' of 'Lords', signifying the trustees for the Parliament, had already been omitted.

The deer having been killed, the woods wasted, and the whole forest laid open and made waste, the Crown on 1 April 1662 made a demise of the premises to the Earl of Bristol for 99 years, at a rent of £200 per annum. This was disputed by the Earl of Dorset, and the matter was compromised by an agreement to pay Dorset £100 per annum out of the profits. Power was given to inclose for Bristol's profit and by the same Letters Patent it was disafforested.

Owing to the opposition of the commoners, who threw down his hedges and laid the inclosures open, this lease failed for non-payment of rent, and in November 1673 the forest was granted to the trustees for Col. Washington's children.<sup>2</sup> These rights were bought out by Sir Thomas Williams, who was entered as Lord in May 1664; Alexander Staples was steward and Joseph Fels joint proprietor. Williams was Lord of the Manor for 26 years, up to 1699.

There were repeated proposals for inclosure, which were steadily opposed by the commoners and by the owners of neighbouring estates who claimed right of pasture on the forest. In February 1675 it was agreed to grant a lease of the 500 acres adjacent to Buckhurst Park, of which Symon Smith was then the tenant, to

<sup>1</sup> Madge, *Domesday of Crown Lands*, 117.

<sup>2</sup> Burrell Add. MS. 5705.

Smith. This was followed by a sale outright to him in October 1678. Symon Smith was perhaps only a representative of the Earl of Dorset, who later on owned the 500 acres. Smith was paid by the proprietors later on for surveying and getting out the proprietors' portions of the forest. During the period of Sir Thomas Williams's lordship, up to the final division in 1693, 45 holdings by copy were granted, with the concurrence of the Courts. The rents were practically standardized at 2s. per acre, as contrasted with the few pence per acre paid for the ancient holdings.

On 11 April 1679 the King's grantees made proposals concerning the inclosing of the forest, citing as reasons the power of the King to keep 3,000 or 4,000 red and fallow deer, besides 3,000 head of cattle taken in for agistment. They proposed to set out as compensation land near the pale, being the better value, much of it being worth three times that of the other. The commoners, although claiming to keep 3,000 or 4,000 head of cattle, many without rights, did not usually keep more than 1,000 or 1,200, so that the common left would afford them double as much pasture as they ever enjoyed when the forest was stocked with deer. It was agreed to abide by the arbitration of Sir John Pelham and Sir John Fagg. They gave their award on 15 April 1680, giving the tenants 5,500 acres. However, on 12 June 1680 ninety-nine claimants protested against this award.

During the next ten years the inclosure proposals seem to have been in abeyance, but a greatly increased number of grants of copyholds were made by the Lord, Sir Thomas Williams. A suit was entered by the Earl of Dorset and others against 133 defendants who claimed common rights. On 4 December 1691 it was decreed that Commissioners were to be appointed to divide the forest, so that the proprietors' holdings should not prejudice the commoners, who were to have rights on 5,500 acres. They gave their award on 9 July 1693. Sir William Burrell recorded this in a special volume of his manuscript in the British Museum—Add. MS. No. 5709.

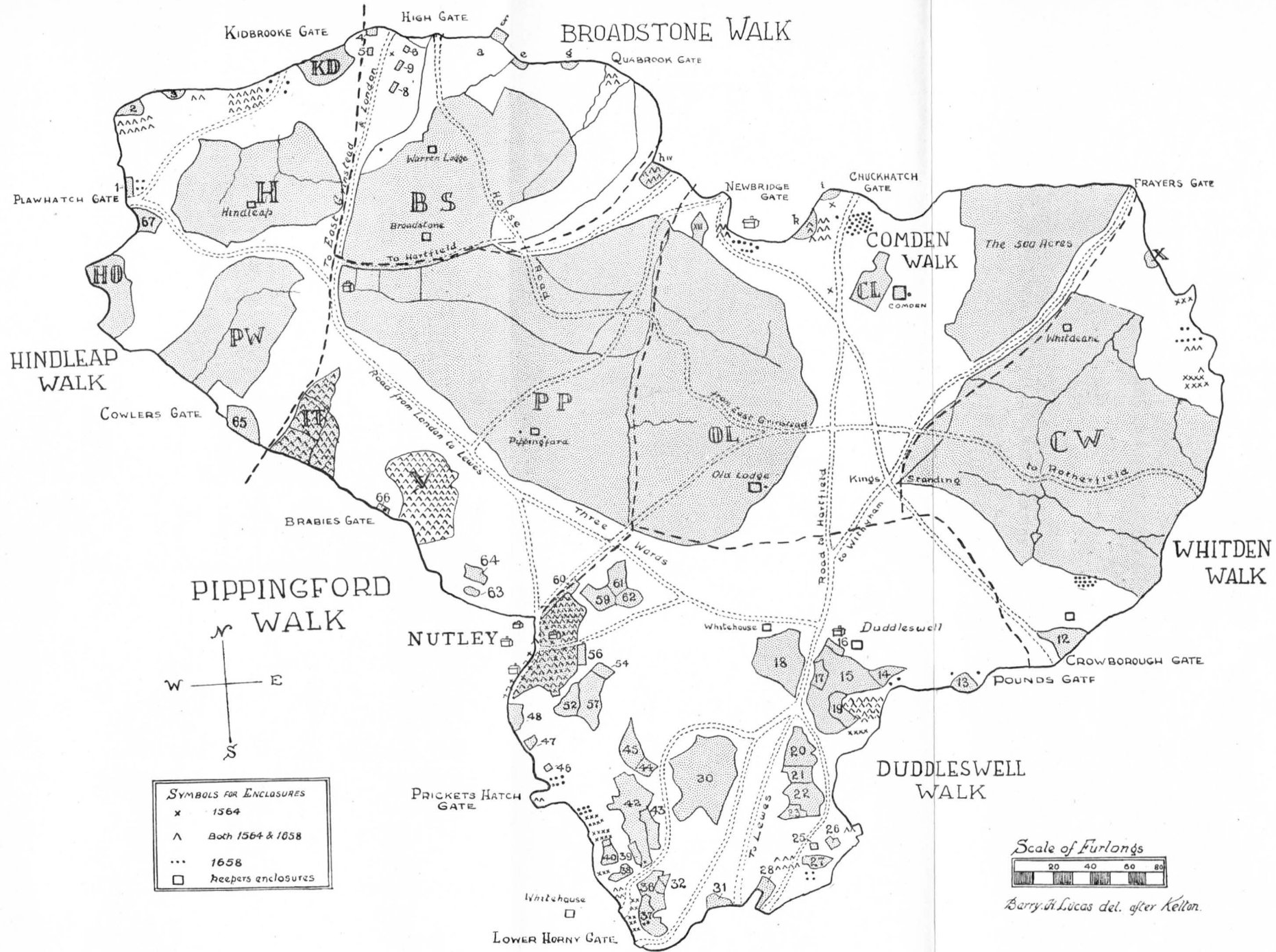
This gives the boundaries of the large allotments, summarized below, and the list of the smaller numbered plots given as compensation. It is noteworthy that very few of the original claimants appear in this list, the rights having apparently been transferred. The map attached to this volume is Kelton's map of 1747, but the large map giving the numbers of the plots is in the Public Record Office, No. M.P. 79. This is on vellum,  $30\frac{1}{4}$  in.  $\times$   $23\frac{1}{2}$  in., and has the title in the top right-hand corner and the allottees' names and acreage in the margin.

The inscription is as follows:

A. MAPP or survey of Ashdown Forest als Lancaster Great Park, taken & surveyed in the yeares 1692 & 1693 by Mr. Robert Whitpain and Mr. Alexander Shoobridge, surveyers elected & chosen pursuant to ye direction of a Commission issuing out of their Majesty's Court of Duchy Chamber at Westminster, dated 21st day of December last past, whereunto these presents are annexed for dividing the said Forest reserving some for ye Commoners claiming Comon in the said Forest wherein are noted and distinguished ye parts allotted and appointed for ye Owners and Proprietors of ye said Forest and their assigns for their enclosure and improvement and also the parts and share for ye tenants comnage and pasturages of their Cattell according to the derrection of ye sayd Commission.

This inscription is partly undecipherable, but in Earl De La Warr's estate office at Fishersgate, Withyham, is a copy of the map on parchment,  $27\frac{1}{2}$  in.  $\times$  26 in. This has no list of names, but has the title, from which the above has been completed. The bounds are coloured, but the whole is so faded as to be almost illegible. However, it has been photographed by Lt.-Col. W. W. Mansfield by his special Luminogram (invisible light) process and confirms the position of the numbered and allotted plots. The Luminograph photograph shows that it was made by drawing 1 in. pencil squares. The annexed map, based on Kelton, shows the various plots and the extent of earlier cultivation.

The award (D.L. 5/41, Duchy of Lancaster Decrees and Orders, Easter 1668 to Trinity 1699) after reciting the parties and the arbitrators, decided that the pro-



# BROADSTONE WALK

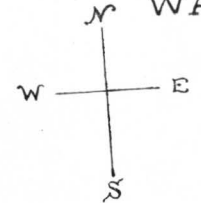
## COMDEN WALK

## WHITDEN WALK

## DUDDLESWELL WALK

## PIPPINGFORD WALK

## HINDLEAP WALK



SYMBOLS FOR ENCLOSURES	
x	1564
^	Both 1564 & 1858
...	1658
□	Reapers enclosures



Barry & Lucas del. after Kelton.

prietors should hold the parcels as described and marked on the map without interference by the tenants, and should be excluded from any right of pasture on the land left for common. The larger allotments, eight in all, were now numbered, but the bounds were given.

The areas quoted are those of the tithe maps, so far as the bounds can be identified, the initials are those shown in the accompanying map, which is based on Kelton's map of 1747.

Crowborough Warren	<i>C.W.</i>	1,425 acres
This had been leased to Thomas Raymond on 18 October 1678		
Pippingford and Old Lodge	<i>P.P. &amp; O.L.</i>	2,175 acres
Hindleap Warren	<i>H.</i>	588 acres
Prestridge Warren	<i>P.W.</i>	306 acres
Isle of Thorns	<i>I.T.</i>	74 acres
Kidbrook (Staples)	<i>K.D.</i>	33 acres
At Paynes Corner	<i>H.O. (Hospital Farm)</i>	30 acres
Comdeane Lodge	<i>C.L.</i>	40 acres

There was also the Vachery, *V*, which does not seem to have been dealt with in the award or in the Court Rolls, presumably as an ancient freehold.

Other parcels marked on the map by numbers, are:

	<i>a.</i>	<i>r.</i>	<i>p.</i>	
1. Hindleap Walk, 2 closes	2	0	7½	William Levis
2.        "          "	5	0	31	William Payne of Legs- heath
3.        "          "	1	1	13	Fermor
4.        "          "	2	0	16	John Gorrenge
5.        "          house and	1	1		Thomas Peirce
6.        "          house and	2	12		Widow Hards
7.        "          house and	1	1	15	Widow Norman
8.        "          house and	2	16		Thomas Edwards
B.        "          house and	1	0		Todman
C.        "          "	3	0		Patience Beadle
D.        "          "	1	0		Turner
9. Broadstone Walk	1	2	11	Widow Thompsett
10.       "          "	1	10		Symonds
A.        "          house and	2	35		Thos. Page
F.        "          "	1	2	0	George Crapwell
E.        "          "	2	0		John Ballard
G.        "          "	2	0		Thomas Hover
H.        "          "	5	0	0	Richard Fermor
11 or XI.       "          "	1	0	0	Gasson
12.       "          house and	8	1	0	John Fermor



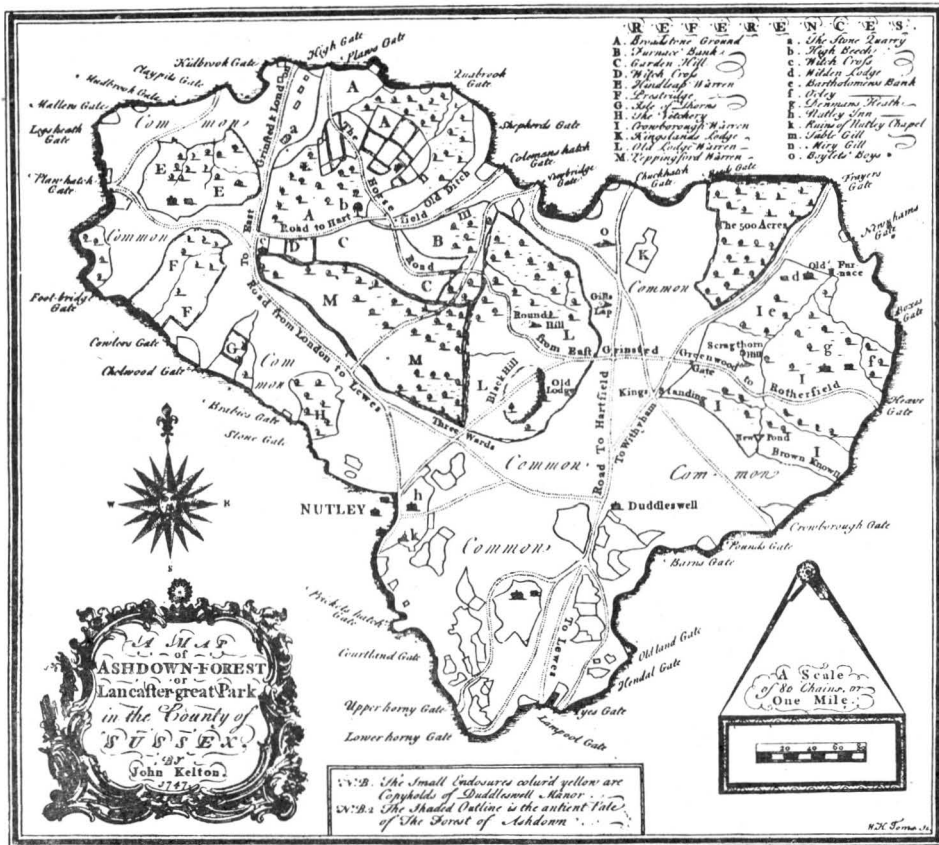
I.	Comden Walk	2	2	0	Blank—west side of Chuckhatch Gate
K.	„	4	0	0	Thomas Gotty
10 or X.	Whitden Walk		2	35	Cooper
12.	„ house and	9	0	38	Robert Pettitt on north side of Crow- borough Gate
13.	Duddleswell Walk	1	2	7	Robert Pettitt
14.	„	11	3	11	Robert Pettitt
15.	„	70	3	34	Clayton
18.	„ house and	44	3	0	Clayton
17.	„	15	2	10	Clayton
16.	„ house and	3	3	13	Frances Buckwell, widow
19.	„ house and	5	2	26	Widow Osborne
20.	„	18	2	14	Richard Miller
21.	„ house and	9	3	10	Edward Miller
22.	„	13	3	3	Henry Deane
23.	„ house and	6	0	28	John Norman
24.	missing				
25.	Duddleswell Walk	1	3	9	Henry Deane, by him grubbed
26.	„	6	3	23	Philip Seale, old in- closed
27.	„	8	0	36	Henry Deane
28.	„	8	0	32	John Stocker
29.	missing				
30.	Isaac Snelling did formerly inclose out of Duddleswell Walk 194 a. 1 r. 19 p. inconvenient to the commoner, therefore 116 a. 3 r. 20 p. were opened again but 77 a. 1 r. 39 p. were allowed with houses and buildings thereon, bounded by a gill on the west side, and on a carrying way leading to Chuck Hatch on the east side, and there to be seen, marked 30 on the map.				
31.		3	0	37	Robt. Norman
32.	missing				
33.	missing				
34.	house and	1	2	33	Dodson
35.		1	1	28	John Awcock
36.	barn and	30	1	24	John Awcock
37.		26	1	22	Earl of Thanet, occupied by John Awcock
38.	house, barn, and	11	2	13	Nicholas Kenward
39.		7	2	33	Thomas Hoath
40.	ancient house and	12	2	22	Mary Smith, late Bassett
41.	house and		2	29	Gardiner
42.		55	0	0	Edward Hoadley

43.		13	1	21	Alex. Staples
44.	house and	2	3	36	Widow Billings
45.		19	3	0	William Gourd
46.			1	30	Richard Hubbard
47.		1	0	22	John Awcock
48.	missing				
49.		2	3	25	Oliver Geares
51.		21	1	1	Henry Cooper, senr.
52.		26	1	0	Widow Homewood
53-4.	house and	7	1	30	Widow Morrice
55.	missing				
56.	Duddleswell Walk	7	1	20	John Awcock
57.	missing				
58.		2	2	36	John Awcock, called Little Shelf
59.		13	2	23	John Alcock, Sweet Minepit Croft and Millbrook Croft
60.		2	1	36	John Awcock
L.	house and		2	0	William Dabson, near Courtlands
61.	house and	14	0	13	John Vincent
62.	house and	9	1	37	Richard Cooper
M.			2	0	John Page
63.	Pippingford Walk	2	3	8	Henry Bryant
64.	„	8	1	11	Henry Bryant
65.	Pippingford and Hindleap	16	1	31	John Cranchester
66.		1	0	8	William Frye, adjoining his copyright holding
67.		3	1	30	John Plott
68.	Hindleap	1	2	0	Edward Kilner (or 2. 1. 37)

There were other parcels improperly inclosed which were allowed to remain for a few years only. These probably account for the missing numbers.

Identifications; the reference numbers are those of the Tithe Apportionments of the various parishes.

1. East Grinstead, 208.
2. E.G. 369, 369a, and part of 370 = 5 a. 1 r. 25 p.
3. E.G. 377, Forest Plot = 1. 0. 22.
- 4 to G. These numbers are now merged in Kidbrook Park, or among the numerous small holdings around Highgate, and are now indistinguishable.
- H. This plot had been granted to Fermor in 1688 and is that part of Forest House, Hartfield 182 to 186, which is within the forest.
12. Part of Yew Tree Farm, H 155 to 162 = 9. 1. 5.
- K. H. 287, 288, and 291 to 294.



- 10 or X. Part of Withyham 163.  
 12, 13, 14. These three lots are apparently Buxted 1688, 1689, and 1605 to 1612 = 22. 0. 9.  
 15, 17, 18, 19. This group was a new departure, away from the older inclosures.  
 16. This had been granted to Buckwell in 1686, and is Buxted 1613 to 1615 = 3. 0. 31.  
 20, 21, 22, 23. This group, totalling 48. 1. 15, although somewhat differently divided, is clearly Putlands, Pains Hill, Forest Gate, and Downs = 49. 1. 22 in all.  
 25 and 27. Henry Deane = 10. 0. 5.  
 27. Maresfield 1210 to 1215, and 1221 = 9. 1. 21.  
 31. M. 76 = 2 r. 10 p.  
 35 and 36. Are Lower Spring Garden = 35. 0. 28.  
 37. M. 77 to 97 and 29 to 30 = 24. 0. 3.  
 38. M. 814 to 819 = 11. 2. 25.  
 39. Hoath had been granted 6 a. in 1685, reserving access to Boring Wheel Pond.  
 40. Hugglets Pit, M. 1680 to 1688.  
 41. M. 870 = 3 r. 4 p.  
 42. Is Hole Farm, T.A. = 58. 3. 2.  
 44 and 45. Not now separable, are Lisburn, M. 998 to 1020 = 24. 1. 0.  
 46. M. 628, 629 = 1 r. 29 p.  
 47. An isolated plot of Shelley Arms, M. 443 = 1. 0. 29.  
 49. M. 607 to 609 and 596 to 597 = 2. 2. 11.  
 51. Swinefall—granted to Cooper in 1685.  
 52. Court Farm, M. 551 to 563 and 572 to 577 = 27. 0. 23.  
 53. Lower Minepits—granted to William Morrice in 1685, M. 564, 565, and 533 to 535.  
 56. North-east of Castle Trow, M. 484 to 485 and 469 to 470 = 9. 0. 29.  
 58. Little Shelf, M. 572.  
 59. Sweet Minepit Croft, M. 478 to 485, 486½, 492 = 13. 1. 8.  
 60. Londonderry, M. 514 (part only), 515 to 518.  
 61. Marlpit—granted to Vincent in 1688 = 14. 0. 8.  
 62. Granted to Cooper in 1687, M. 500 to 509, less part of 500 and 501 = 9. 2. 21.  
 M. Oldlands Lodge, M. 1180 = 2 r. 1 p.  
 63. M. 86 = 2. 3. 36.  
 64. 6 acres were granted to Bryant in 1687; M. 77 to 81, part 82 and 84.  
 66. Adjoining Frye's copyright holding, E.G. 161 to 163a.

Kelton's map of 1747 is here reproduced; although not entirely correct in some of the boundaries, the inaccuracies are negligible in the small scale. The largest, however, that at Kidbrooke in the north-east, has been

corrected in the inclosure map, which is based on Kelton, and shows the parts inclosed at various dates. The inclosures round the keeper's lodges were probably not cultivated to any extent, but were for the service of the deer. These were merged in the larger parcels of 1693.

The most prominent names in these transactions were Alexander Staples senr. and jnr., in whose names the forest was apparently dealt with, and whose names appear on the map. They mortgaged it in 1693 for £4,000. John Awcock, to whom several plots were allotted, had many dealings in the land, and gave several mortgages. He died about 1699, apparently insolvent. Isaac Snelling was also a leading party.

No. 37, White House, is the only case where an existing ancient copyhold was awarded. Perhaps there was some doubt as to title, owing to a sequestration under the Commonwealth.

The total area accounted for is as follows:

		<i>a.</i>	<i>r.</i>	<i>p.</i>
At 1658, within the forest (excluding White House awarded also in 1693)		357	0	0
Grants between 1658 and 1693, excluding 21 holdings granted just previous to 1693 and included in award		77	0	20
Large allotments of 1693, areas as now ascertainable				
Crowborough Warren	<i>C.W.</i>	1,425	1	26
Pippingford and Old Lodge	<i>P.P. &amp; O.L.</i>	2,175	2	21
Hindleap and Prestridge	<i>H. &amp; P.W.</i>	911	1	22
Kidbrook	<i>K.D.</i> award area	33	0	0
Isle of Thorns	<i>I.T.</i> present area	74	3	23
Next Paynes Corner	<i>H.O.</i> award area	30	0	0
Comdeane Lodge	<i>C.L.</i> award area	40	0	0
The 500 acres	<i>500</i> present area	564	0	23
Individual grants	as award	685	3	14
Approximate present area of common		6,676	0	0
		13,047	1	29

The areas given in the various surveys range from 12,000 to 14,000 acres, the difference probably being in the estimated acreage not surveyed, and the doubt as to which of the 1658 plots were within the pale.

It is noteworthy that with the exception of those at the keepers' lodges those recorded in the surveys are

all near the pale and frequently adjacent to the tenants' holdings in other manors.

At Plawhatch Brockets was held by William Lewis in 1658 and 2a. 7½p. were allotted to him in 1693.

Leggs Heath, a 1564 holding, was again recorded in 1658, and in 1693 a further portion was allotted.

Twyfords at Ladywent and Whalesboro dated from 1564.

Two holdings at Claypits, 1658, and several small holdings now indistinguishable were merged in Alexander Staples's large allotment.

In the vicinity of Highgate there were a number of small 1693 allotments which do not appear in the Court Rolls before or after that date—these cannot be definitely identified owing to the number of squatters' inclosures.

At Quabrook the Combridge family held 4½ acres in 1564 and 1658.

The freeholds of Duddleswell Manor were around Colemans Hatch and Newbridge and without the forest, with the doubtful exception of part of Forest House.

Newbridge Mill was complained about by the keepers in 1545, as 'the customers that grind their corn bring curris, a great destruction and no little troble'.

The 8 acres adjoining were noted in 1658.

At Claypits Farm (not in the manor) an allotment was made in 1693 to Thomas Gotty, who held Toodes and Sawters Hole. This latter can be dated back to 1564.

There were several 1658 holdings at Chuckhatch, and to the east the 500 acres adjoining Buckhurst Park. This had been leased to Symon Smith, and was sold outright to him in October 1678, partly in consideration of 'the several endeavours made by him in procuring the forest to be granted to Sir Thomas Williams and Joseph Fels'. The 1693 award confirmed this.

At Crowborough were a great number of small holdings, some dating back to 1564, the majority to 1658, and one allotted 1693.

Bending southward, the pale bounds are those of Crowborough Warren, then come a few inclosures at Poundgate and near Stone Gill.

At Duddleswell there was a considerable area first inclosed by the 1693 award. Three large areas were allotted to 'Clayton' who was probably Sir Robert Clayton, a wealthy London land speculator.

Another group, also first inclosed after the award, is that now called Putlands.

Brown's Brook, several inclosures here, in Buxted parish, were without the pale, but some within.

At Fairwarp there were some 1658 inclosures, and what is now the lodge of Oldlands Park.

To the west we have the first example of the 1693 award opening out earlier inclosures, that of Isaac Snelling, who lost 116 acres—he appears frequently as a copyholder.

Lower Spring Garden was granted to John Awcock, whose name appears in many cases until his death in 1699. He also occupied Lower White House, for the Earl of Thanet, this is the only instance of a holding of 1658 being again allotted in 1693, as there was doubt whether the grant was void. Included in this was Whitehouse Pond, which was the mill-pond of Old Forge, the fish in which were valued at £50 in 1650 and for poaching in which two men were amerced £5 each at an earlier date.

Boring Wheel Pond, an old holding, was probably where the cannon cast at Maresfield Furnace were bored.

There were a number of early inclosures in the Horney Common district. Pricketts Hatch had several inclosures, and Nutley was practically all inclosed by 1658; many of these holdings, however, were without the pale. The largest of these, 40 or 50 acres, was attached to the Inn as far back as 1564, and is marked 'old enclosed' on the award map.

The Sweet Minepits block does not show any inclosures before 1680; in 1693 a considerable area was allotted, in several cases to John Awcock.

Milland Wood, near Nutley watermill, was also a new departure.

The Vachery had been granted to Michelham Priory

by Edward III, and in 1650 the commissioners confirmed its ownership as that of Daniel Rogers.

At Brabies Hatch, west of the Vachery, was a small holding dating from 1650; a further acre was added in 1693. The Isle of Thorns was one of the larger areas; there were a few new grants at Chelwood Gate, but the majority of the manor holdings at Stumblewood Common and Bunce Grove were without the pale.

After 1693 until his death in 1699 Sir T. Williams granted several small inclosures, and the succeeding lords of the manor, Jacob Hooper to 24 October, 1720, John Crawford to 26 May 1730, and the Dukes of Dorset thereafter, granted others. After 1700 the Court Rolls were not very carefully kept, and in several cases the areas of the grants are not given. In 1795 the Duke of Dorset took action to stop the cutting of heath as preventing undergrowth growing as cover for black game. A lawsuit ensued.

By 1816 a number of inclosures were made and planted with fir trees also for cover. This raised great indignation and a meeting of commoners resolved that most of these be thrown open. In 1830 a meeting of commoners resolved on measures for regulating forest rights but these failed to have effect. In 1833 a meeting was held, which resolved to make regulations as to control. These, however, failed. In 1874 a board of Conservators was formed, and after a lawsuit which lasted from 1878 to 1880, the rights of the Commoners and Conservators were confirmed. On 18 July 1885 an Act was passed (48/49 Victoria, cap. 56) to settle all disputes.