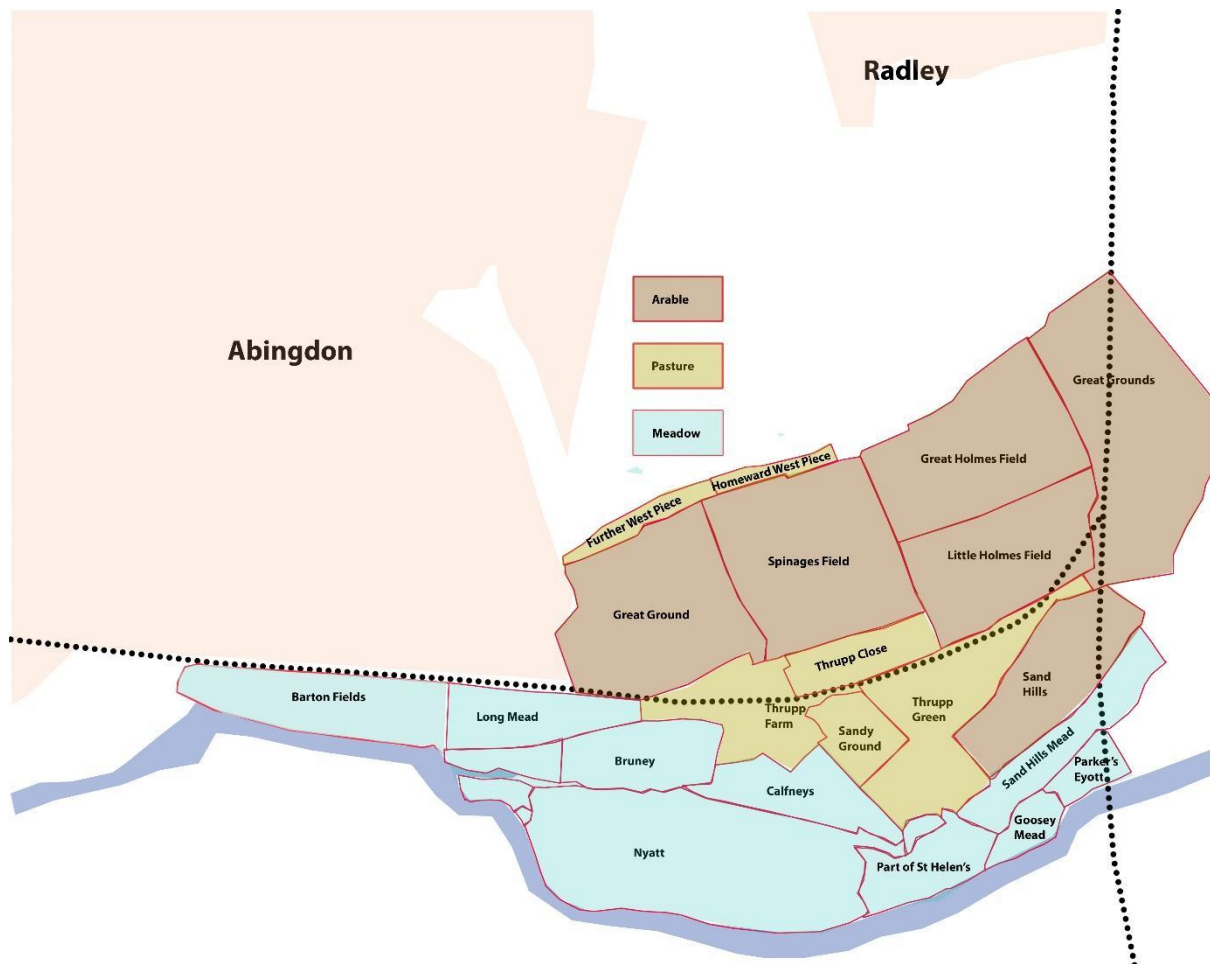


Field and farming patterns in the Radley Lakes area

From the earliest of times the Radley Lakes area has been attractive for human settlement because of its mix of land:

- riverside meadow for hay and grazing out of the flood season, and also for fisheries;
- drier land suitable for settlement and year-round pasture;
- land, furthest from the river, suitable for ploughing.

The map below shows this mix in about 1850, but it would have been much the same centuries earlier. The one change is that by 1850 the land had been enclosed into neat large fields, most of which were part of Thrupp Farm. When gravel extraction came a century later, the boundaries of these fields often became the boundaries of the gravel pits.



Note. To help orientation the settlements of Abingdon and Radley are shown with their modern boundaries