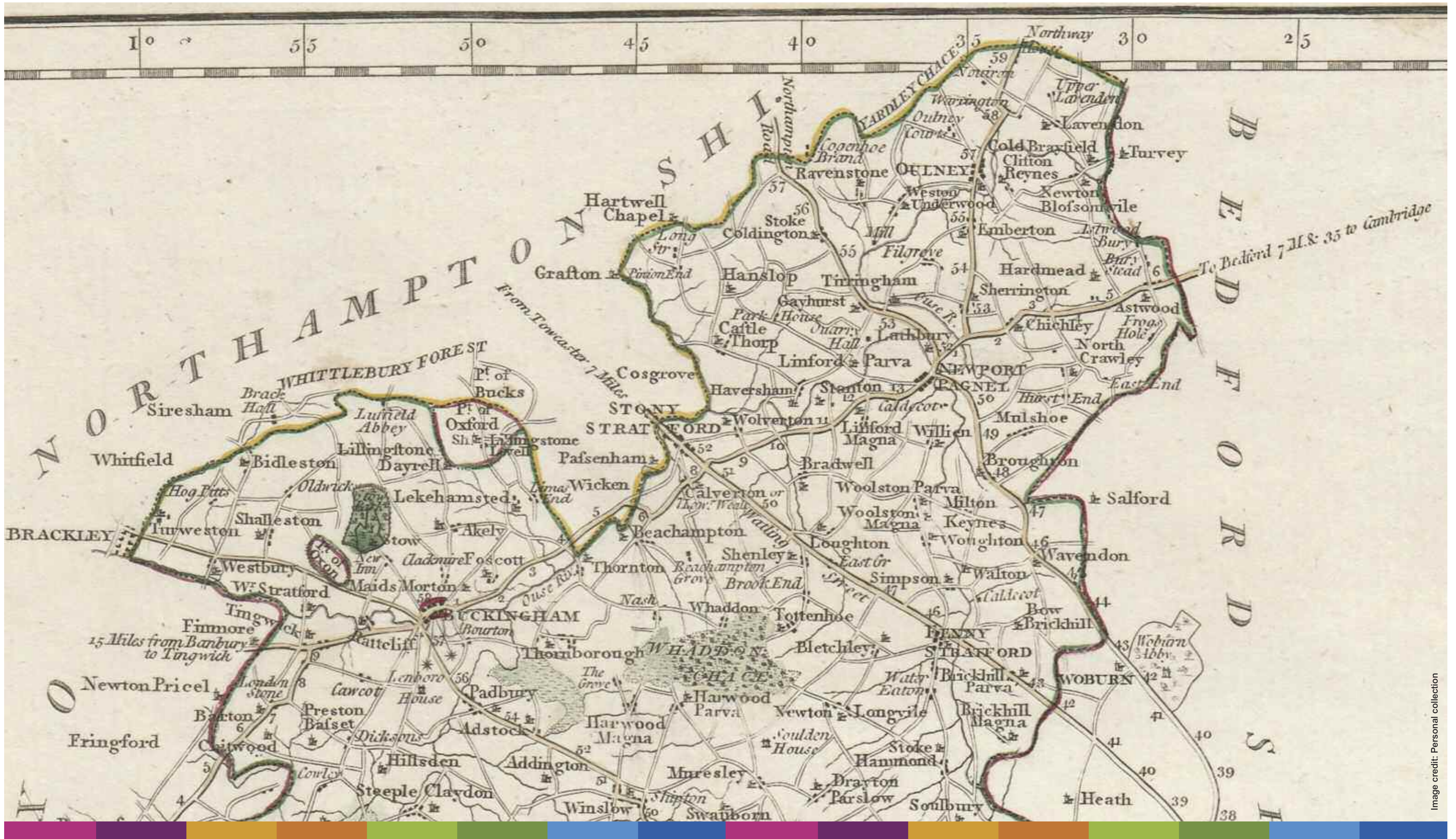


Explore Your Archive

Explore Your Archive is a joint campaign delivered by The National Archives and the Archives and Records Association across the UK and Ireland

Relive Georgian Life – Olney

In the Georgian age (1714–1837) before railways and cars, the largest towns in this area were the market towns of Buckingham, Stony Stratford, Fenny Stratford, Newport Pagnell and Olney. Milton Keynes and Bletchley were small farming villages.



Section from the 1787 map by J Carey

The old open field system of farming where people's land was scattered in strips spread out across a large area was ending. Through the **Enclosure Act** a person's land was brought together into one place. This Act resulted in more hedges and ditches appearing in the landscape.



The Grand Junction Canal in Wolverton

By the end of the 1700s canals made their appearance. The Grand Junction Canal entered Buckinghamshire near Wolverton, passed Linford Magna (Great Linford), the Woolstones, Woughton and Simpson to Fenny Stratford. Other cuts from towns were proposed, some of which were finally built, such as that to Buckingham, but others were never built.

