

GRENDON UNDERWOOD MANOR
IN 1678

Another document from Doddershall is of interest as containing precise rules for the common fields at a late date. The parish was inclosed in 1769; the manor had been conveyed to Serjeant Pigott's trustees just after his death and continued in the possession of the Pigotts until the middle of the 19th century.

The Orders seem self-explanatory; the exact size of a yardland in Grendon is not certain, possibly it was similar to the area in Quainton, which was 37 acres. It will be noticed that the tripartite division of wheat-field, beanfield, and fallow is mentioned. The "mounds" in clause 9 are the fences of an adjoining inclosure.

ATT THE COURT held the 17th of Aprill 1678.

ORDERS

- 1 It is ordered that noe man shall keepe above six cowes to a yardland & upon every default to forfeit 3s. 4d. to the lord.
- 2 It is ordered that noe man shall lett any horse coñon except it is lett for a whole yeare, and that noe horse bee turned upon the Coñon untill May-day, & to be taken off y^e Coñon at St. Thomas day—every default 3. 4. to the Lord of y^e Mannor.
- 3 It is ordered that noe person shall keepe above three horses & thirty sheepe to a yardland in the Mill feild & forty two sheepe att Michaelmas and soe to continue for the other two feilds, and that noe man shall keepe above eighteene lambs to a yardland. 3s. 4d. default.
- 4 It is ordered that noe man shall tye any horse within the compasse of the wheate feild after the first land is reaped untill the wheatfeild be rid of corne upon penalty of 3s. 4d. to the Lord:

- 5 It is ordered that noe mare having a colt be tyed within the compasse of the Wheatfeild or Beane-feild except the colt after it is fourteene dayes old be tyed also upon payne of 3s. 4d. to ye Lord.
- 6 It is ordered that noe horse be turned up loose in the wheatfeild though roped untill wheat harvest be home, nor in the Beane Feild untill Beane harvest is home, nor in the bottome of the Feild untill both harvests are rid & home upon payne of 3s. 4d. to y^e lord—
- 7 It is ordered that att Lañas a Cow or a Weaner may be turned upon a horse Coñon.
- 8 It is ordered that y^e rent of that part of the Comon that Edward Hudson now rents be paid yearly to the Feildsmen, & the feildsmen to be accountable to the Jury for y^e same.
- 9 It is ordered that every person having any mounds belonging to any of the Feilds, & doe not sufficiently make up & repayre the same by the 15th of May next shall forfeit to y^e Lord of the Manor 3s. 4d.
- 10 It is ordered that betwixt all the Lands in the Fallowes after June next there shall either be made or left two foote baulks & soe to continue—And if any difference arise upon this order it is to be left to y^e Jury to decide it. To which determinacion of the Jury whosoever submitts not shall forfeit to the Lord of y^e Mannor for every offence £0 5s. 0d.
- 11 It is ordered that the old orders shall stand^d & continue in force.

Examin^d. per Bern: Turney,

Seneschall' maner' predict'.

¹ In 1694 one of the tenants refused to pay one of the forfeits and an official arbitration was held "at the house of one Willm. Perrey called the Ship at Grendon Underwood." It was found that "time out of mind there hath been a custome within the said manor for the homage of the Court Baron to make by-Laws for the better depastureing their cattle."