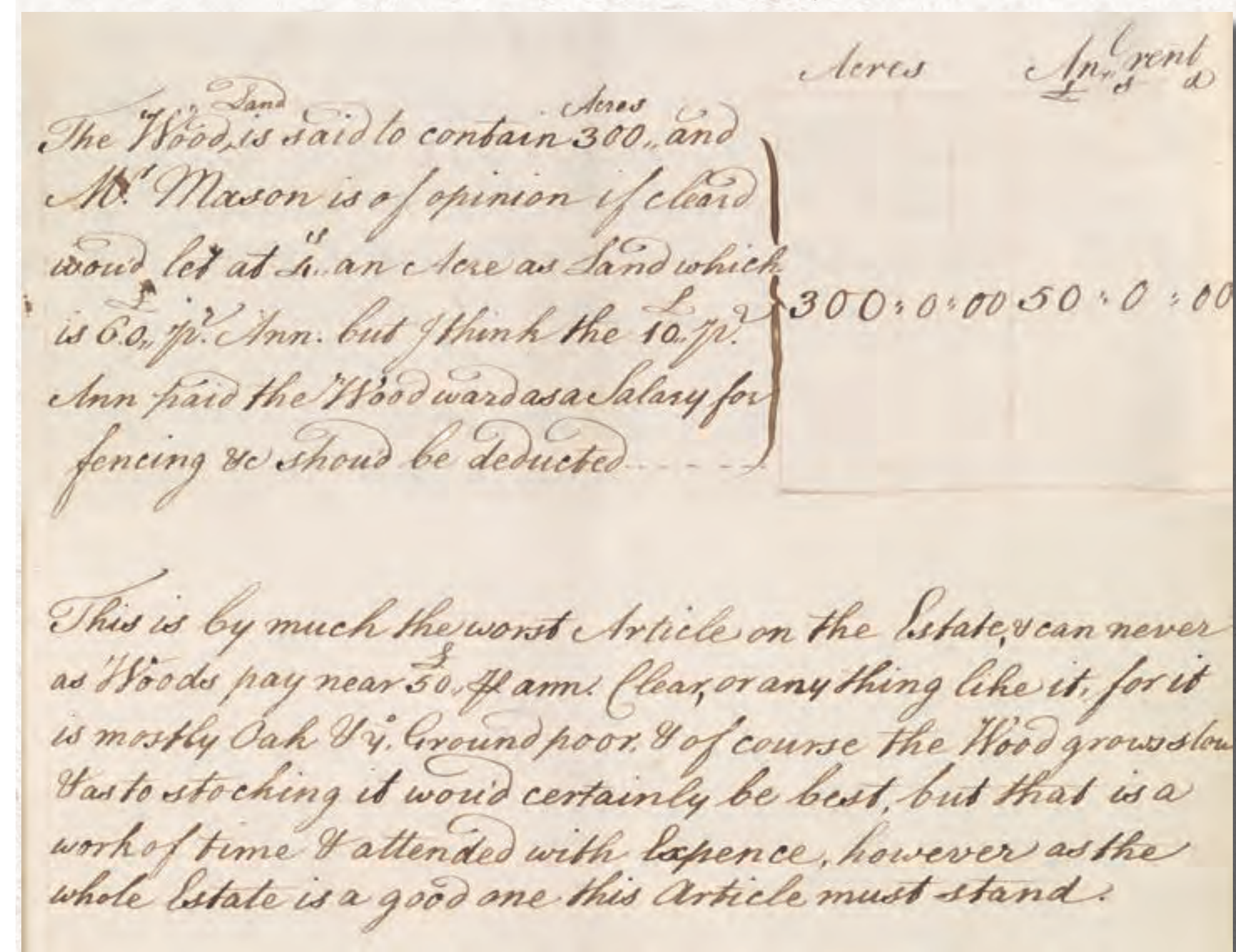


Planting chart showing layout of sections of Apley Head Plantation, c. 1783. Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne C 4343/1-3



Particular and valuation of part of the freehold estates of the 1st Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyne's estate in Nottinghamshire in preparation for inheritance; 1760-1761. Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne S 105



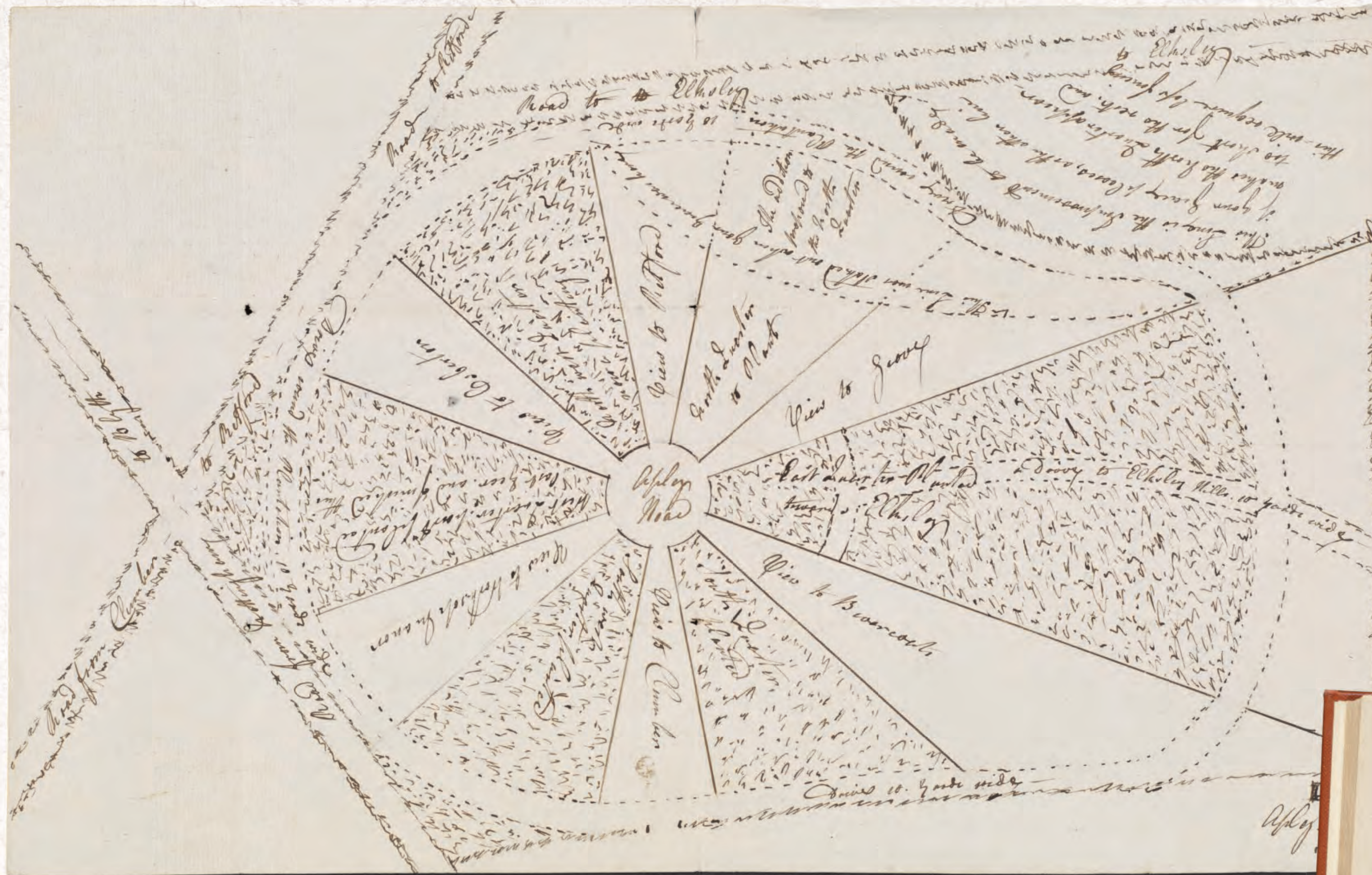
THE SPIRIT OF PLANTING

Plantation forestry became a very fashionable part of British estate management in the 18th century and continued to be popular in the 19th century. It was strongly associated with patriotism and improvement.

This ‘spirit of planting’ was encouraged less by any inherent profitability, although this was always stressed by forestry publicists and professionals, than by a belief in the seemly nature of tree-growing and the clear benefits for landscape, game and hunting.

The domination of aristocratic landownership over large parts of Sherwood Forest in the 18th century was so great that the area became known as the Dukeries. The ducal estates, such as Clumber, Welbeck, Thoresby and Worksop Manor together with other large estates such as Rufford and Newstead, were enthusiastic supporters of the spirit of planting.

Hayman Rooke, writing in 1799, celebrated the efforts being made ‘to adorn this ancient Forest in a manner truly patriotic and worthy of imitation’ and congratulated ‘the many respectable Persons, whose Mansions and Parks border on the Forest’ who had made ‘and continue to make, large Plantations in honour



Sketch of Apley Head plantation nd (c1742-1791). Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne C 4486

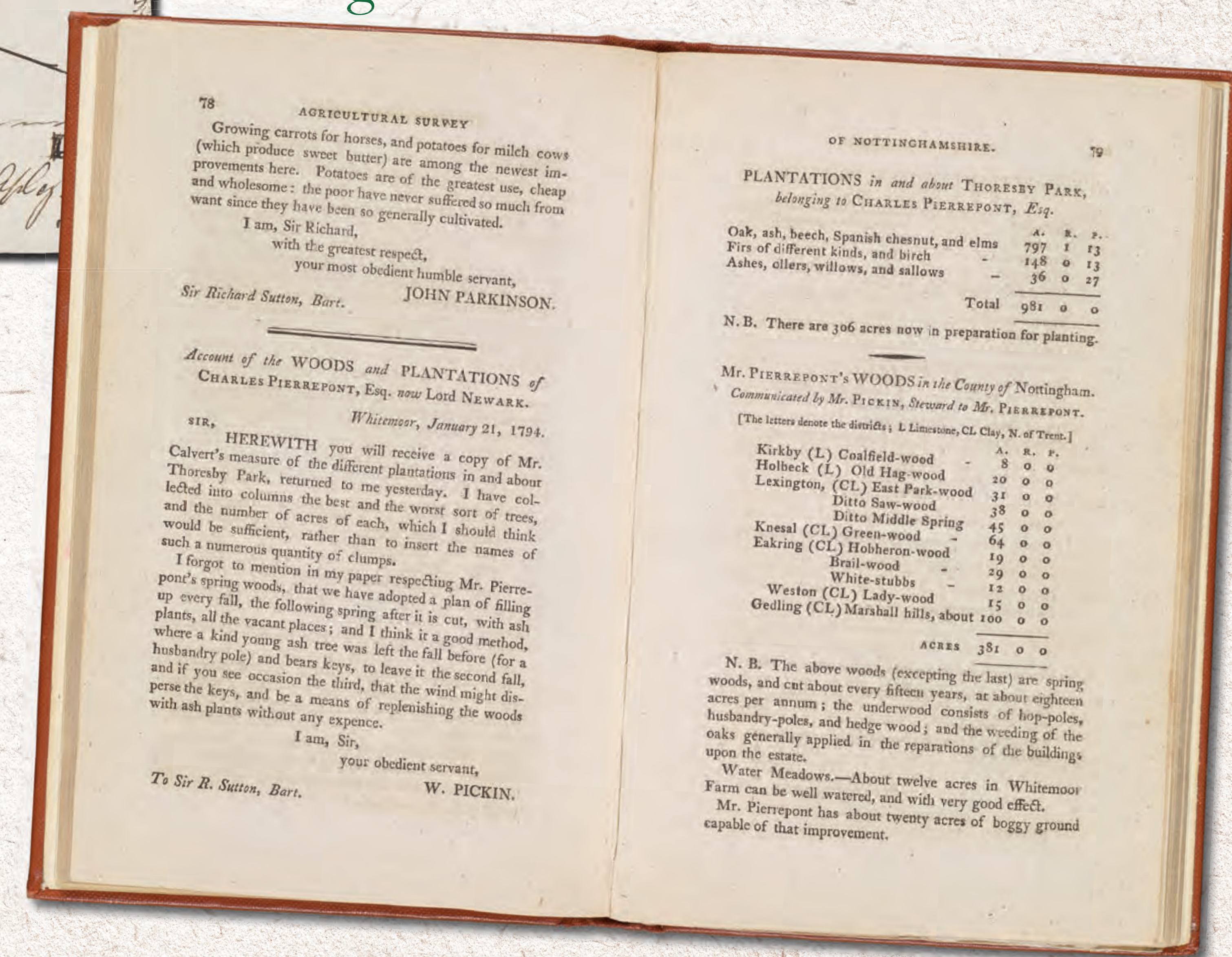
of the splendid Victories gained by our gallant Admirals.’

As well as producing timber for the Royal Navy, such plantations were also made to improve the local agriculture and increase the capital value of property. George Sinclair, writing for the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge in 1832, argued that such plantations allowed ‘exposed and sterile land’ such as the sandy soils of Sherwood to become ‘capable of producing



SYLVA:
‘TO
SLOWLY
TRACE THE
FOREST’S
SHADY SCENE’

valuable arable crops and the best pasture grasses, and of rearing and fattening stock of improved breeds.’ The main hardwood trees planted were oak, sweet chestnut, beech and birch. Conifers such as Scots pine, larch and spruce were used as a nurse crop for the hardwoods. The enthusiasm for planting was closely linked with the greater power of landowners over large areas of land and their ability to fence, enclose and control the way land was used and managed.



General View of the Agriculture of Nottingham by Robert Lowe (London, c.1798). East Midlands Special Collection Not 1.P6 LOW