

# **Medieval Settlement Research Group**



**Annual  
Report  
3  
1988**





# **Medieval Settlement Research Group**

**Annual Report 3 1988**

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# AN EDITORIAL COMMENT

The first two volumes of the Annual Report have been overseen by David Wilson, as editor, and Professor Gwyn I. Meirion-Jones, who masterminded production through the good offices of the Department of Geography at the City of London Polytechnic. David had already acted, for several years, as editor of the annual report of the Moated Sites Research Group and never intended to act for long as editor for the newly formed M.S.R.G. As his very green replacement, it is a great comfort to be replacing a friend and near-neighbour in this role and his kindness has already been remarkable.

Professor Meirion-Jones has retired this year (1989) and carries into his retirement the fulsome gratitude of the editor and committee for all his work in past years on the Annual Report. We remain in his debt. Very largely because his guiding hand would no longer be present, the decision was made by the Committee of M.S.R.G., in April 1989, to submit the Annual Report to outside tender and, as you can see, it is now being produced by Silk and Terry Ltd., Printers and Designers of Birmingham. My thanks to Michael Silk for all his help and advice over the past months. It is my hope that this new relationship will prove a long and happy one.

The Annual Report is the mouthpiece of the Group, by which its members can exchange views and inform each other of research undertaken or completed. Its contents are limited to what the editor receives. I would like to take this opportunity to urge members (and non-members) to contribute to volume 4 short reports of all the relevant fieldwork and excavation they have undertaken in 1989. The Annual Report is also a proper place in which to circulate ideas and theories about a specific issue, theme, region or place. With your help, I would like to increase the number of short articles above the recent and current levels and encourage members to respond to issues raised, so that the Report takes on something of the character of an on-going debate in which difficult issues and problems of interpretation can benefit from the attention of several views. In that form I believe that the Annual Report will perform a more valuable function and be a document in which all will find some interest and to which many can make a positive contribution.

Nick Higham

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday, December 9th, 1989** at the Geography Department of Birkbeck College, London. The theme of the seminar will be the presentation of settlement sites to the public.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference will be held at **Oxford** in conjunction with the **Department of External Studies of the University of Oxford**, on the **9th, 10th and 11th of February, 1990**. The theme will be **Medieval Forests and Woodlands**. Forms containing more information and for use in enrolment will be circulated to all members in due course.

### CORRIGENDA

In the second annual report for 1987, the length of the scale on fig. 13 should be 30m **not** 20m.

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# MSRG: Annual Conference at Manchester 1st-2nd April 1989: LORDSHIP AND SETTLEMENT

A précis of the papers presented, by **Alan Aberg**

**Nick Higham** Lordship, Population and the Environment

This paper was consciously introductory, introducing the major themes of the Conference in the context of the Anglo-Saxon period. It was suggested that we should be prepared to envisage links between regional levels of population in the Early English period and climatic change, suggesting that the problem of summer drought in eastern England might have been lessened by higher rainfall in the 6th century with beneficial results, while similar changes would have made the north and west less hospitable to farmers.

There are signs that a degree of continuity between late Roman and Celtic Britain and Anglo-Saxon England might be identifiable in an analysis of the **iugum**, the basis of 4th and presumably 5th century taxation, which bears a close similarity to the Anglo-Saxon hide or Kentish **iugum** and **sulung** of the seventh century and later. Such elements of continuity might imply a more controlled process of barbarian settlement in Britain than some have envisaged, with the incomers enjoying tax exemption and their leaders taking over the land-based taxes of the Celtic community. This may explain why some areas of late Roman settlement appear to survive intact into the Anglo-Saxon period under the patronage of successive territorial lords. Such areas are characteristically free of early pagan burials.

Another problem in the interpretation of lordship and settlement is the controversy over the meaning of the Domesday "ploughland". In recent years this has been seen as a fiscal assessment. Yet repeated references to this item of information throughout the Exchequer Domesday Book imply that the scribe responsible believed it to be an assessment of land in use. A major problem with such an interpretation has long been discrepancies between the number of ploughs in use and the number of "ploughlands". However, recent research on the process of field systematisation and settlement nucleation has made it clear that different manors and regions of England were in 1086 at very different stages of moving towards more efficient use of ploughs and ploughteams, in very variable conditions of manorial organisation. Excess ploughs in 1086 need mean no more than that the community were unable to make the most efficient use of their capital equipment, probably because of organisational problems derived from dispersed settlement. It was suggested that discrepancies between ploughs and ploughlands might be an indicator of dispersed as opposed to nucleated settlements, with no relevance to fiscal assessments at all.

**Angus Winchester** Dispersed Settlement Patterns in Cumbria

In the period following the "Conquest" Cumbria was an area with relatively few but large estates which were centred for administrative purposes on the lowland castles, with a hinterland extending into the mountain core of the Lake District. In the 13th century much of that hinterland was private forest, with land-use divided

between moor, forest or pasture and held directly from the feudal lord. Only around the castles were there "estate" villages of bond men or private enclosed parkland, and the lower dales, when settled, were occupied by tenant farmers.

By the 14th century it is evident that settlement was creeping into the "heartland", and gifts of land resulted in the establishment of vaccaries, etc., sometimes in the possession of monasteries. Calder Abbey, for example, held large areas of upland at the head of Calderdale which were used for summer grazing and where later granges were established presumably on the same land. Such grants seem to have been given with the intention of encouraging colonisation and land improvement and, in Uldale, for example, in 1295, a survey identifies not only the demesne and bondland, but 10 freehold farms in the upper valley, four with "thwaite" place names. At this period in Loxton again one can identify two village sites, "Hugh" and "How", where the field pattern suggests an area of arable divided between the two villages in the 12th century, which later accreted around it a series of small hamlets set up by grants that begin in the 13th century. The evidence seems to suggest that throughout the area there was land pressure, and the dispersed settlement pattern gradually evolved between then and the 16th century.

When the documentary material survives it is possible sometimes to trace this process in more detail, as in the Newlands valley where in the late medieval period a series of leases of demesne land show that a grange of 254 acres in 1334 had become a series of tenant farms by the 15th century. The same process can be identified at Egremont Deerpark in the identical period.

This evolutionary process is however reversed from the 16th century when we see instead the desertion of holdings and their subdivision between other farms. In the Newland Valley already described the farms decreased from 8 to 4 between the 16th and 19th centuries, and other valleys provide comparable evidence. However it is the proliferation of small holdings from the 13th - 16th centuries that establishes the pattern of dispersed settlements, and subsequent shrinkage and consolidation has not altered this.

**Jonathan Kissock** Power and Plantation: Aspects of the origin of the village in South Wales

The area of study lies in Pembrokeshire in what has become Dyfed since local government reorganisation in 1974. It is mainly a dissected lowland below 300ft O.D., and in the early period was divided politically between a native Welsh area in the north and territory conquered by Normans in 1090 to the south. This boundary is marked by a series of nucleated settlements created c1107-11, with others that were formed to the south circa 1190 as the result of seigneurial attempts to attract settlers.

A morphological approach has been adopted in examining the settlement, the elements being:



Private: Crofts, Manor, etc.  
 Public: Roads  
 Communal: Arable, Meadow, etc.

The church is regarded as combining elements of all three. The analysis is based on the O.S. maps of 1:2500 scale for 1890-1900.

A line of planned villages exists along the frontier zone — South Angle, West Llanarchy, South Cosherton, Roche Castle, Little Newcastle, etc. The border was an area of constant warfare and the villages are all knights' fees with a Flemish element intended to stabilise the frontier. Forty-nine settlements studied show little morphological change on the basis of the comparison of estate maps, tithe maps and other evidence. Settlement seems in general stable, and there is only one DMV, the impression being that the irregular dispersed hamlets of bondsmen has had imposed on it a series of nucleated villages of regular pattern.

### **Jen Lewis** Lordship and the Settlement of South Lancashire

The area is one of flat lowland interspersed with higher ground where there are sandstone outcrops, between which occur some moor and bog. These areas of moorland remained in communal possession until the 16th century, when the township boundaries finally stabilised. Roger of Poitou had held the area before Domesday, but in 1212 the Crown was the largest landowner with blocks of holdings scattered throughout the region.

The development of moated sites in this lowland area can be traced by a combination of documentary research and fieldwork, and they were certainly in existence by the 14th century. At Hale, for instance, a site now destroyed, a survey of 1323 refers to the chains for the drawbridge across the ditch of Lovell's Moat. One of the most interesting townships is Culcheth where the four identifiable moated sites can be linked to the division of the estate into four parts in the 13th century. Others occur on what may be reclaimed marginal land as at Fowley.

### **Richard Morris** Lords, Churches and Settlement Patterns

As an element of the rural landscape the Parish Church has its origins in the 6th-7th centuries, although it was not a formalised institution until the 12th century. The origins are diverse — as royal chapels, local foundations by landowners, etc. It is the local endowment which is the key to the present pattern since it ensured survival, and many which disappeared may have done so for lack of economic security.

The establishment of parish boundaries is part of the formalisation of the pattern, and charters frequently refer to arguments between adjacent communities and the formal creation of a marker bank with a ditch on both sides. In upland areas these arguments are less rigid and are sometimes late in date, but the tithe obligations are linked to erection of the distinctive divisions of parishes that appeared from the 10th century onwards.

Patronage had its effect not only in the security of the

church but in its architectural wealth, and in the positioning of the church for the convenience of the landowners. The juxtaposition of church and other buildings is evidenced by excavation at Sulgrave, Goltho and elsewhere. The church may have stood inside the original manorial enclosure as perhaps at Weaverthorpe, and the tower may have some significance in reflecting the status of the site. Later, when planned villages were created, the relationship of the church to the other components of the settlement changed and became more questionable.

Excavation and architectural studies both demonstrate an increase in church size throughout the medieval period, in which patronage was as important as population increase. It is possible that the small early churches were intended to accommodate only the lord and his immediate family, and changes in size may also reflect new fashions to demonstrate status within the church as well as outside, and to cater for changes in liturgy which demanded more space. Private chapels for burial and worship also affected church size and must be taken into account in studies of both the church and its context.

### **Brian Roberts** Lordship, Status and Settlement: an overview

In England there is greater diversity in the regional contrasts of settlement type than in most countries of Europe. The interaction between lordship and indigenous variety has assumed many different expressions in rural settlement, and to study medieval settlement in large nucleated villages we can only make progress if we carefully define our objectives:

- (1) The need to map accurately the diverse forms of settlement.
- (2) To define the historical component of each settlement; medieval or other.
- (3) To date the plans as far as possible.
- (4) To compare these plans to the status and social structure that can be linked to the patterns of seigneurial control.
- (5) What elements are generated politically by internal factors in each estate.
- (6) Does the planning of new villages go together with new towns.
- (7) What models can be used to understand and compare rural settlement.

Problems will always remain about the identification of the date when particular patterns emerge, and we will always have to examine these closely, e.g. the relationships between houses, roads, back lanes and fields.

A recent study of the estates of the House of Mowbray in Yorkshire examined the divisions of the settlement between knights' fees, demesne, etc. It suggested that, at the centre of the lordship, a core area was carefully controlled, whereas at the periphery other features of stewardship, etc., played their part in the evolution of village plans.

## Field Visit

On Sunday, April 2nd, the Group travelled by coach to visit a series of medieval sites which were described by several guides. The first part of the field excursion, led by Mary Higham, took members of the Group to the Ribble and Hodder valleys, to look at various sites in the former forest of Bowland. It says a great deal for the stamina of the Group that all site visits which were planned actually took place, despite appalling weather.

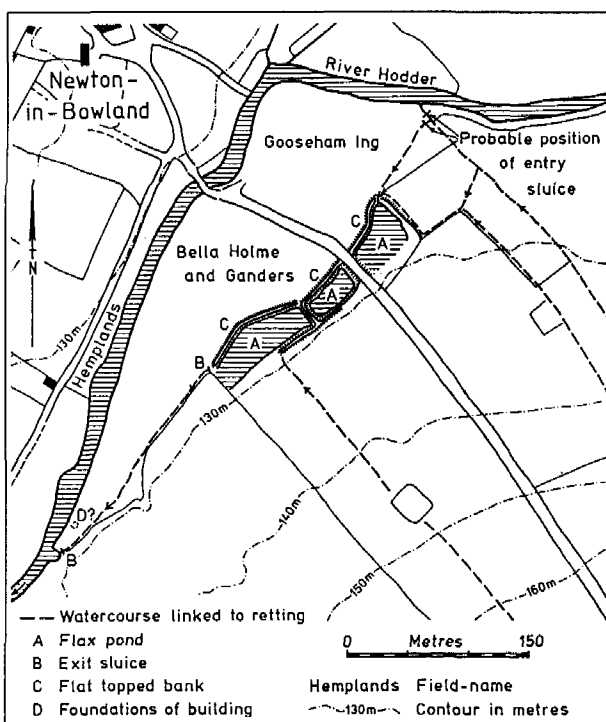


Fig. 1: Flax or hemp retting ponds at Newton-in-Bowland, Lancs.

Although the shrunken village site at Easington was visited, the main theme of the Bowland visit was the survival in the modern landscape of archaeological evidence linked with medieval textile processing. The walk-mill site at Slaidburn had evidence for early potash pits (which produced the ash required for soap and bleach manufacture), and for the tenter banks on which would have stood tenter frames where woollen cloth was stretched after fulling. At Newton, the Group was shown a system of flax retting ponds, which has characteristics in common with others identified elsewhere in North-West England — sited on flat land, usually close to a river, but utilizing small streams which have been channelled to provide a controlled water supply; raised banks for the drying of the retted flax (or hemp, which requires the same treatment to release the internal fibres); and a situation somewhat distant from settlements — probably because of the smell and water pollution resulting from the retting process. Research has shown that sites similar to the one at Newton can be firmly linked with documentary evidence which shows that a widespread linen industry was contemporary with and often linked to the 12th and 13th century demesne woollen industry.

After lunch, Nick Higham (no connection) conducted the Group to the late Saxon centre and Norman Castle, Priory and Borough of Penwortham on the estuary of the Ribble. This site was the focus of lordship in southern Lancashire in the early Norman period and it was suggested that it may have been an unrecorded **burh** constructed in the last years of Edward the Elder's reign, with the intention of depriving the Irish Sea Norse of their control of the Ribble estuary. The Cuerdale hoard was found only a few miles to the East. The site seems to have retained some local significance up to the conquest, being held by King Edward outside the hundredal manor system which otherwise encompasses almost all South Lancashire; the 1086 borough may pre-date 1066. The Group then travelled to North Cheshire to a small moated platform believed to be the site of Hough Hall, in Mere township, Rostherne parish, which was probably the site of a dwelling of gentry status in the decades around 1400 (see report on excavations, p.20).

The day ended with a visit under the guidance of W. John Smith to Baguley Hall, a standing building of gentry status constructed in massive oak framing in Wythenshaw township. The Hall was probably built by Sir William Legh after inheriting the Baguley estate in 1356, following the death of John Baguley. The timber framed core of the house centres on a two bay hall, separated by a cross passage from the service end into which three service doors still lead. The fabric is exceptional for its cusped braces to the panels which create trefoil and quatrefoil shapes. John Smith suggested that these may have been the precursor which heralded the highly ornamented timber-framing which characterised buildings of gentry status in the region throughout the late middle ages and on into the 16th century. This is the earliest, standing timber-framed building in the region and the organisers were grateful to English Heritage for facilitating access.

# **MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP: STATEMENT OF EXCAVATION POLICY**

**by Bob Croft and Tom Williamson**

1. The Medieval Settlement Research Group's policy on excavation cannot be divorced from its policy on preservation; nor can medieval settlement sites be studied in isolation from the wider landscape. Students of medieval settlement share common interests and concerns with those active in nature conservation and environmental preservation. This is partly because substantial fragments of the physical framework of the rural landscape are of medieval origin; and partly because where medieval settlement and landscape features survive only in earthwork form, they frequently do so in areas of biological importance. Environments of both archaeological and natural historical importance are threatened by the same kinds of rural land use change: especially by changes in agriculture, by the expansion of forestry and mineral extraction, and by housing and industrial developments in rural areas.

2. Especially critical is the expansion of housing in rural areas; whether on the fringes of existing settlements, or as 'infilling', such developments are destroying archaeological evidence of medieval settlement at an alarming rate.

In contrast, current changes in agricultural policy, especially the moves towards 'extensification', have the potential to both enhance the preservation, and to accelerate the destruction of medieval settlements and landscapes. The M.S.R.G. will attempt to influence policy regarding, e.g. the formulation of regulations concerning Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Its members will likewise press for the historical importance of particular landscapes to be considered alongside their biological, scenic or amenity importance in the formulation of local and regional planning policy.

3. The M.S.R.G. accepts, with regret, that the destruction of medieval settlement sites and landscape features is likely to continue on a large scale. As resources will be available for the excavation of only a small proportion of threatened sites, careful targeting is a matter of central importance. Precise medium-term policy needs to be formulated, in place of the present short-term, reactive, 'rescue' response.

Such policy needs to be framed within an overall national strategy for understanding the development of medieval settlement, although one which pays due regard to regional variations in the landscape. The medieval countryside displayed marked regional variations in the pattern and morphology of settlement, notably in the proportion of nucleated villages and dispersed hamlets and farms. Modern land use also varies from region to region, so that the extent of threats to medieval sites, and the extent to which undisturbed medieval settlement remains survive, differs considerably from one area to another.

4. In general terms, the M.S.R.G. believes that excavation should be restricted to the best-preserved examples of those threatened sites which are representative of the settlement-types found in England during the medieval period. This includes sites within, or attached to, existing settlements as well as those which have been largely or completely deserted.

Within this broad framework, the M.S.R.G. will press for particular attention to be given to the smaller elements in the medieval settlement pattern — moated sites, hamlets, farmsteads, manorial complexes and upland stock-ranches — the origins and development of which have been relatively neglected. The complete excavation of such sites, moreover, is likely to be more feasible in the future than the extensive excavation of large nucleations of the Wharham Percy type. At the same time, the M.S.R.G. does not suggest that the examination of nucleated villages should cease, for we still have a great deal to learn about them.

5. The Group is, however, acutely aware that we lack the archaeological data necessary for the formulation of a coherent research strategy of this kind. We will therefore press the H.B.M.C. to make funding available for:

(a) — Intensive surveys of selected areas, which would allow the relevant academic questions concerning the development of medieval settlement to be formulated.

(b) — More extensive surveys, especially of surviving areas of old grassland, in order to evaluate the archaeological potential of particular regions and areas.

(c) — Selective appraisal excavation, especially in former rural areas now engulfed by suburbs.

This would allow a more considered response to the threats posed by future land use change. Excavation should, however, only be attempted as a last resort, in cases where the preservation of important sites *in situ* is not feasible.

6. The M.S.R.G. intends to extend its present role of advising the H.B.M.C. on medieval settlement excavations, to include matters of general strategic policy, as well as discussion of individual cases. In the future, however, the Group intends to play an independent role in the formulation of national and regional research strategies through close and direct liaison between its members, and the principal archaeological bodies: local and county societies, the C.B.A., and, above all, the Archaeological Units.

This statement is intended to be a contribution to the formulation of national policy and, in pursuit of that objective, has been forwarded to English Heritage.



# **FIELDWORK AND EXCAVATION IN THE MORBIHAN, EAST BRITTANY: 1982-1988:**

## **A SUMMARY BASED ON THE ANNUAL INTERIM REPORTS by Grenville Astill and Wendy Davies.**

When begun in 1982, it was envisaged that the programme of fieldwork would last five years, concentrating on the communes of Ruffiac, Tréal, S. Nicolas du Tertre and Carentoir, North of Redon. The fieldwork has always been just one element in a multi-disciplinary investigation of the development and inter-relation of landscape, land use and settlement over the last two millennia. In its early stages, the programme concentrated on systematic field walking with the intention of locating physical features but more particularly concentrations of pottery and manmade building material, operating within transects 2km wide, with all ploughed fields walked at 50m intervals. This resulted in the location of a number of "probable" and "possible" sites — the terms being used merely as an indication of an artifact scatter of various densities — defined within broad periods, but it was early recognised that there were significant differences between the deposition rates of building materials and pottery. The distribution of sites was examined in relation to the topography and to the well documented 19th century land use.

The 1983 season continued the policy of field walking in transects at 50m intervals but also examined in greater detail five selected areas by detailed field walking in 5m squares, phosphate analysis and magnetic susceptibility survey. Considerable variations were identified in the density of material and in the pattern of distribution within each of these fields and it was established that there was no simple correlation between the amount of material and the proximity of modern settlement. Correlations between the distribution patterns of pottery, brick, tile, phosphate concentrations and magnetic susceptibility enhancement also varied. In parallel, preliminary environmental fieldwork by J.G. Evans established the presence of soil wash in the valley bottoms, buried soils under lynchets and banks and peat deposits. Prof. G. Meirion-Jones began a programme of examining rural building types and G. Astill *et al.* began a comparative study of the pottery recovered from field walking with that from excavations in the region, lodged at Vannes and Rennes. P. Addison undertook a survey of settlement names, concluding that there was no difference in the topographical distribution of Celtic versus the commoner French settlement names.

In 1984, a further 458 fields covering 854ha. were subjected to field walking by transect, between 15.3 and 17.9% of the fields in each transect producing concentrations of material. Within this breakdown, 3.8% produced some Roman material, but none predominantly Roman material, and 50% had predominantly medieval. Since they were used in buildings still standing, it was decided at this stage to record the presence of both slate and shale, although the natural occurrence of the latter was expected to cause difficulties in the establishment of significance in the distribution. More detailed field walking, aimed at "total" retrieval, was concentrated on four "sites" already identified and combined with the use of equipment similar to that adopted in 1983 but with

the addition of fluxgate gradiometer readings. A soil survey by P.F. and J. Fisher and M. J.-M. Riviere identified four major soil types and devised a simple model for their occurrence. The soils are generally well suited to agriculture because of the widespread occurrence of soft shale bedrock. The higher ground tends to be cored by harder rocks, podzols form over conglomerate and low-lying soils tend to be water-logged. Soil samples taken in 1983 were demonstrated to retain diatom floras clearly zoned, including phases of cereal cultivation, etc. Work continued in the preparation of a working fabric series for the pottery recovered, based on thin-sectioning analysis.

The variability of material scatters was subjected to a series of tests in an attempt to establish the significance of different patterns, to distinguish, for example, between the impact of manuring, of middens and former buildings. Blank areas are concentrated on higher ground, close to the commune boundaries or on recently cleared woodland. Some current habitations have a comparatively low impact on the immediate vicinity — reckoned as a 50m radius — and medieval material often outnumbers modern fabrics even close to modern buildings. Where there is a high density close to buildings this may imply long-term and/or ancient settlement and/or middens close by. The collection of shale, begun in 1983 as a possible indicator of buildings, showed a degree of variability which suggested that it might be relevant although not every site with brick/tile produced shale.

In 1985 the basic programme of field walking in transects was continued, producing a further range of surface scatters which were broken down into broad chronological groups and analysed topographically. Alongside, four selected areas were subjected to field walking in 5m squares for "total" surface collection, associated with phosphate analysis and soil magnetic susceptibility survey of the same areas. In addition, small-scale excavations were undertaken to begin investigation of the soils and archaeology within field boundaries near identified "sites". Trenches were cut across a large lynchet and a bank which were thought to pre-date early modern landscape changes associated with the *petit château* of Coetion (Ruffiac). The lynchet overlay a shallow ditch, the fill of which contained medieval pottery; the loam which constituted the lynchet contained considerable quantities of medieval pottery, small amounts of Roman and early medieval and none of the period 1500-1700. It was concluded that the lynchet was being formed by frequent ploughing in the medieval period causing considerable colluviation. The bank was made of redeposited natural clay but could not be dated except that the bulk of the pottery in the loam which had built up beside and over it was medieval.

Work continued on pollen sampling but the poor state of preservation of diatom floras discouraged further investigation. A sustained programme of soil analysis was set in progress by Dr. Marie-Agnès Courty and M.N. Fedoroff. In December 1984, phosphate samples and

magnetic susceptibility readings were taken from the partially excavated medieval settlement of Kerlano in an attempt to assist in the interpretation of data from other unexcavated, sampled "sites". Both types of data were very low although higher readings were obtained over the site of the building, suggesting that structures and middens might be expected to produce relatively high readings.

The pottery fabric series was compared with that generated by survey around St. Malo, with some significant points of similarity being identified. By the end of 1984, the survey of standing buildings had covered 4000 buildings. Single cell buildings predominate in some settlements while long-houses do in others.

The season's transect fieldwork produced the highest number of "sites" and the largest amount of material to date. The problems of distinguishing manuring scatters from settlements and of determining the extent of scatter from a habitation continued to be addressed. The local *schistes* were also analysed. Deep ploughing and outcrops mean that many fields have a scatter of this material. However, it is the most common building material between the 17th and 20th centuries and scatters can derive from decayed structures. Examination of local quarries has enabled the identification of those types used for building although field identification remains a problem.

Two seasons of fieldwork occurred in 1986, at Easter and in September. At Easter, transect walking was directed to rewalking several transects in order to increase the proportion of the surface area covered by taking advantage of fields not previously under plough. The results brought the total surface area covered in the five seasons to 18.54% of the total. Roman material was slightly more in evidence (17.5% of "sites") and medieval material was less, undated building material predominating. As usual, it was noted that surface material tends to be found in the areas of 19th century arable, especially in the *bandes* — tenanted parcels — implying that either pre-19th century manuring or settlement had occurred there. A topographical analysis was also undertaken. In addition, some transect sampling was undertaken outside the core of the survey area, northwards across the communes of Caro, Reminiac, Augan and Campénéac and eastwards across La Chapelle Gaceline and Sixt-sur-Aff. Despite significant differences in topography and land management, the proportion of sites located and quantities of material collected was entirely comparable with the core area, although the surface collection of pre-Roman pottery was a novelty.

Excavations were designed to sample earthworks in Ruffiac commune which were thought to be of a settlement associated with the earthworks excavated in 1985. Two 6m squares were excavated, one (T3) on the highest part of the field where large amounts of pottery had been noted and high phosphate levels recorded, the second (T4) on an area of high phosphate but low density of pottery. In T3 30cm of topsoil was removed revealing plough-scarred natural *schiste*, suggesting that any archaeological features had been removed by ploughing. In T4, three inter-cutting ditches were identified cut into the natural associated with pottery which might be prehistoric. Above them had formed a medieval lynchet. Because of extensive agricultural damage on shallow soils it was recognised that only open area excavation would offer opportunities to fully test the combinations of phosphate concentrations and pottery which had been identified. If the deeply buried ditches were prehistoric

then the implications are considerable and may help explain the apparent dearth of prehistoric material in the area, which may have been concentrated in valley bottom sites now deeply covered by in-washed soil.

In September 4 fields where surface collection had already occurred were sampled by excavation.

A flat field near a crest which had been identified as a "possible" site" at Quoiqueneuc in Tréal was sampled with three small trenches and a series of machine-cuts. The exercise generally supported the hypothesis that the even and thin spread of pottery had derived from manuring. However, the machine-cuts revealed evidence of an undated stone wall and hard-standing that was probably part of the buildings recorded in the *ancien cadastre* and, elsewhere, a pit which filled in the medieval period, probably during the 12-13th centuries, implying medieval occupation.

A field on the edge of Béculeu in Ruffiac had been subjected to intensive surface collection in 1986, producing medieval pottery and also small amounts of Iron Age pottery. The field was sampled by five machine-cuts which produced evidence of ditches, etc., dated to the prehistoric but no evidence of medieval occupation, although a holloway was located.

A low-lying field near La Hattaie, in Tréal had produced low and even scatters of medieval pottery and some Iron Age pottery. The former had been interpreted as manuring while the latter might indicate occupation. Large numbers of negative features were identified, cut into sub-soil, most of which were securely dated by Iron Age pottery. The results support the hypotheses already offered; small surface scatters of prehistoric pottery should be seen as an indication of settlement while thin and even scatters of medieval material are most likely to derive from manuring.

A fourth excavation at Les Landes de la Ruée in Ruffiac could not be completed until 1988 but was designed to examine a "site" characterised by tiles and sporadic Roman pottery. Excavation demonstrated that it was safe to designate such a "site" as a Roman period settlement, in this case of the first half of the period, pre-AD200.

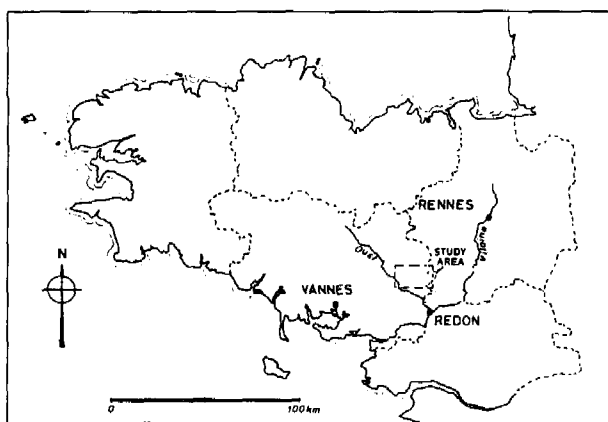
It was noted that all "sites" with evidence of late prehistoric settlement were low lying, in contrast with Roman settlements which are typically positioned on exposed ridges. It was, therefore, suggested that the early Roman period was a time of pronounced settlement relocation in favour of ridge-top sites.

The 1987 Easter season concentrated on transect field walking of communes surrounding the core. The amounts of Roman material recovered were much the same but the proportion of medieval pottery was lower while post-medieval pottery was higher. Similar blank areas were identified in which almost nothing was recovered and the distribution of material in relation to existing settlements was comparable to the core communes.

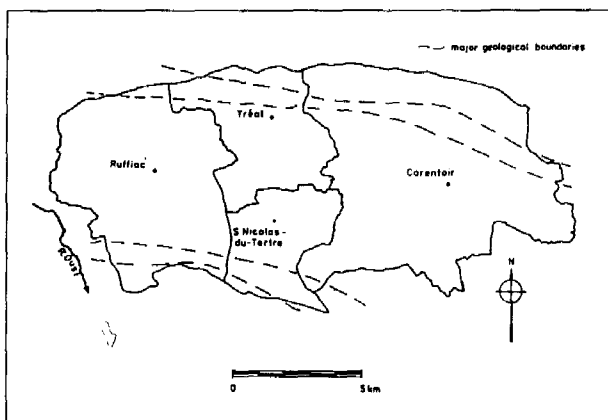
The 1988 season (the eighth and last full season) was devoted to sample excavation of parts of seven fields from which "total" collections had previously been made, in order to establish the relationship between surface scatters and sub-surface archaeology in such a way as to facilitate interpretation of the total survey results.

A field at Le Bois Guillaume, Carentoir had been initially classified as a medieval "site" with some Roman pottery. "Total" recovery of surface material had resulted in the identification of two concentrations of Late Iron Age/Early Roman and medieval pottery. Excavation was limited to a 6m square and a test pit because of a standing crop. The square demonstrated the presence of sub-surface deposits and pits associated with Iron Age pottery and a spindle whorl. It was impossible to explain the high concentration of medieval pottery without access to more of the field but the presence of small amounts of Iron Age/Roman pottery had once again denoted a settlement. The site was seen as of the first importance for long-term settlement studies, with evidence from later prehistory, a nearby major Roman site, heavy medieval pottery deposition and two adjacent seigneurial sites of the 15th and 18th centuries.

## EAST BRITTANY SURVEY



(a) General Location of study area



(b) The study area and the four communes.

Figure 2. The East Brittany Survey.

At Les Landes de la Ruée (Ruffiac), begun in 1986, it was demonstrated that an early Roman building existed in the immediate vicinity which was occupied in the first and second centuries and was destroyed or collapsed in the second century and the site not re-occupied.

An excavation on a "site" which had produced relatively large quantities of Roman pottery and moderate levels of medieval and post-medieval was undertaken 400m North of Petit Madou (Ruffiac), using machine cuts across the field. The results imply that the medieval pottery reached the site from manuring. A number of pits and ditches were located, all of which had been filled by c. AD200 and

the abraded condition of the pottery found even from beneath the modern plough soil probably indicates that the area was cultivated in the Roman period, with a wealthy residence (from which had come glass and amphora) nearby. Finds of brick and tile appear not to indicate buildings but may represent material dumped after the cessation of agriculture. Despite initially seeming a candidate for a degree of continuity from Roman occupation onwards, the excavations suggested that there was an interval between early Roman settlement and agriculture and re-use for arable in the later medieval period.

A "site" East of the Château de la Ruée (Ruffiac) had produced in one half of the field large quantities of medieval pottery, a scatter of exotic stones and a little Roman pottery. Sampling was limited by the crop to the area of dense medieval pottery and the stone scatter, a small trench revealing a series of structural and floor levels associated with large quantities of medieval pottery. The Roman material may be the residue of manuring. The bulk of the occupation occurred in the 12th and 13th centuries, centred on a substantial structure, after which landscaping associated with the château may have begun at an early date.

At La Métairie au Joly in Carentoir a "probable medieval site" had been established by transect walking, with notable but evenly spread quantities of Roman pottery established by "total" collection. The material was tested by a machine cut the length of the field. No medieval or Roman features were found and in both periods pottery was probably introduced by manuring.

Near La Gras, Ruffiac, a concentration of late medieval and post-medieval pottery partially overlapped a scatter of exotic stones on a lynched surface. Because of a standing crop, only a small trial trench could be opened but this demonstrated that the sherd count diminished down through the ploughsoil, suggesting that the pottery source was a surface midden rather than any underlying features. Beneath ploughsoil was yellowy loam with medieval and Iron Age sherds. The latter may imply a settlement in the vicinity. The putative late medieval and post-medieval midden provides a *terminus ante quam* for the lynchet which was probably formed in the middle ages.

Near Bot Colin (Carentoir), surface collection across a field with a lynchet running across it had been provisionally interpreted as derived from manuring. A section was dug across the lynchet to examine land use. This excavation demonstrated a complex history of land use. A possible track was superseded by ditches and arable cultivation in an ill-defined chronology. There were then changes in the spatial organisation of the field in the late medieval period.

The results of this programme of work have been computerised alongside material extracted from a series of medieval and post-medieval documentary archives, including the Redon cartulary and parish register information. Work is now under way to synthesise and interpret the data collected and publication of the results is expected after 1993.

**Summarised by the editor.**



# THE MEDIEVAL HOLDINGS OF BURTON ABBEY IN DERBY AND THE ORIGINS OF DERBY

## by Jane Steer

A sole reference to new houses and other properties on 'Landes late the Lord Pagettes' in the 1581 Derby Borough Rental<sup>1</sup> initiated a search for the site of these houses which in turn led to the identification of Burton Abbey's medieval holdings in Derby including two previously unknown rural settlements or vici, to evidence for the royal estate centre of 8C Northworthy, its trading 'wic' of Waldewike and fields and to a view of Derby's development between the 8-13C<sup>2</sup>.

In 1546 William, Lord Paget of Beaudesert, Henry VIII's Chief Secretary, exchanged his manor and late hospital of Keyper, co. Durham with the King for Burton Abbey and its holdings including 'the king's granges, houses, etc., in ... Darby'<sup>3</sup>

The property in the Rental equated to St. Mary's Church (later the site on which most of the houses were built<sup>4</sup>), two mills and some mansurae granted by William the Conqueror<sup>5</sup> to Burton Abbey which it held until the Dissolution. His land grant of carucates and two vici in Waldewike Strete<sup>6</sup> was only held until c1135.

The carucates in Waldewike Street were found to lie south of the Markeaton Brook on land later known as St. Werburgh's Parish. Three areas of tithe free land shown on the Tithe Award Map suggested the vici were settlements, two rural ones being identified from 13C holdings of Darley Abbey and their 12C grantors as Doggelowe and the Haye<sup>7</sup>. The third area, Waldewike, is commemorated by modern-day Wardwick, a road running just south of Markeaton Brook between St. James's Lane and St. Werburgh's Church. The Bramble Brook defined its southern boundary but the northern boundary was not established until a map dated 1820-30 was found which clearly showed Derby's parish boundaries<sup>8</sup>.

Very surprisingly, not only did St. Werburgh's Parish extend north of the Markeaton Brook as far as the boundary of St. Michael's Parish, a small parish cut out of St. Alkmund's Parish, but St. Michael's Parish itself was in two blocks roughly parallel to each other and must originally have been established on either side of an area of land whose boundaries were determined at an earlier date. A western boundary was defined by extrapolating the western sides of the two parts of the parish through the most northerly part of St. Werburgh's Parish and the edge of the river terraces a few feet west of Full Street were used as a probable eastern boundary. Approximately 4½ acres of almost level land shaped like an Anglo-Saxon burgh is enclosed by these boundaries. In 1066 it was part of the King's demesne<sup>9</sup> and could be the site of the royal estate centre of Northworthy, the precursor of Derby.

Because of the fall of the land towards the Markeaton Brook, the southern boundary of this burgh was probably defined by alleys just to the north and parallel to St. Michael's boundary. The narrow area between the western alley and St. Michael's boundary may represent a path beside the enclosure which led southwest to a flat open area beside a bridge over the Brook. This may have been a market place as it is well defined by parish and

property boundaries and originally had alleys running up each side. The eastern alley, George Yard, still exists today. On the opposite side of the Brook the church dedicated to St. Werburgh (daughter of Wulfhere, the first Christian King of Mercia) was adjacent to the trading settlement or 'wic' of Waldewike. Waldewike was founded on a flat site bounded on three sides by the Markeaton and Bramble Brooks and bisected by the road now called Wardwick.

The fields associated with Northworthy and Waldewike were known variously as 'carucates in Waldewike Strete' in 1116, St. Werburgh's Parish from 1240 and the demesne of the burgh in 1275. No conclusions were reached about which two of the three vici Burton Abbey held but the carucates granted by William passed to Darley Abbey c1135.

The minster of St. Alkmund's founded c800<sup>10</sup> was sited just to the north of the estate centre, probably in its own enclosure. It may have been preceded by an 'old church which the English used to call Whitechurch'<sup>11</sup>. St. Alkmund's and 10C All Saints Church (like St. Mary's sited on part of the old estate centre) together with their land north of the Markeaton Brook were granted c1100 by Henry I to the Cathedral Church of St. Mary's at Lincoln. Later they were assigned to the Dean of Lincoln and there they remained until the Dissolution.

Further possible evidence of Derby's origins was obtained from the Domesday Book which specifically refers to Little Chester and Litchurch, each two carucates in size and outside but adjacent to Derby's boundaries. Both were owned by the King and may have been earlier administrative centres prior to the foundation of Northworthy. Little Chester to the north, the site of Roman *Derventio*, was granted to All Saints pre-1066 but Litchurch to the south remained in the King's hands until c1200 when lands were exchanged prior to the granting of Derby's Borough Charter. Analysis of other Domesday entries showed that many settlements to the south of Derby were originally 1-3 carucates in size before changes in land allocation at some time before 1066.

As 7/8C complexes consisting of a royal estate centre, a 'wic' and fields are found in other towns, the topographical, historical and ecclesiastical evidence which could support Northworthy's existence was examined. The estate centre was founded on a slightly raised neck of land bounded on three sides by the River Derwent and the Markeaton Brook, a locally inaccessible but regionally accessible type of site favoured by the Anglo-Saxons. Northworthy was part of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia, itself divided by the River Derwent into South Mercia and North Mercia<sup>12</sup>. Between 653-796 its territory, stretching from London to the Humber, was ruled by a succession of strong and powerful kings and Northworthy (North enclosure - ? of the North Mercians) is similar in name to Tameworthig (Tamworth), established by Offa as a pre-eminent royal residence. Waldewike also faces southwest towards Tamworth. Churches dedicated to Anglo-Saxon saints indicate the spread of Christianity

during the late 7/8C. In this part of Derbyshire, like St. Werburgh's and St. Alkmund's, they are sited near river crossings.

In the late 9C, the Vikings changed the name of Northworthy to Derby<sup>13</sup> which became a Danelaw frontier town<sup>14</sup>. Expansion of Waldewike at this time may account for the semicircular boundary of St. Werburgh's Parish in the Sadler Gate area. Even today property boundaries follow this curve. Recaptured by the Saxons in 917, Derby had another 23 years of prosperity when its mint was locally pre-eminent, second only to the major Mercian mint at Chester<sup>15</sup>. However, after 942, having been lost and recaptured yet again by the Saxons, Derby never regained the status it must have held, perhaps for 200 years, as an administrative centre for the region it controlled,<sup>16</sup> and by 1086 had become attached to Nottingham for judiciary purposes.

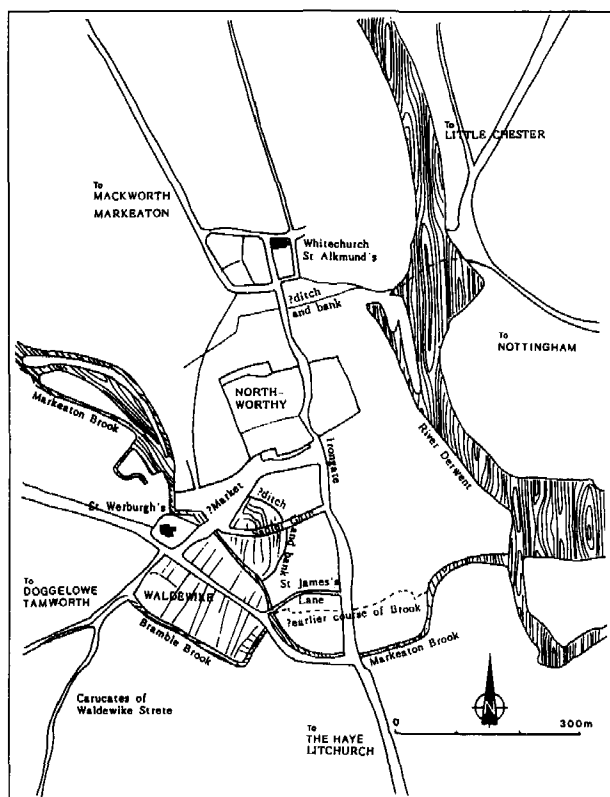


Figure 3: Burton Abbey's Medieval Holdings in Derby.

Although growth can be related to periods of stability and trade and the major land ownership can be traced from the 8-13C, many questions which depend on either archaeological excavation or further documentary research still remain to be resolved.

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# RESEARCH IN 1988

## i. FIELDWORK

### AVON (formerly Somerset)

#### The Shapwick Project

Mick Aston reports that a multi-disciplinary project based on the parish of Shapwick in the centre of Somerset was begun in late 1988. From the work of Nicholas Corcos (1) it seems possible that the regularly planned village shown on a series of four maps of 1764 (2) and the medieval 2-field system may have replaced a pattern of dispersed farmsteads with their own individual field systems; it is assumed that this change took place in the C10.

The initial aims of the project are:

- 1) to field walk every field looking at areas of earthworks and scatters of artifacts (M. Aston);
- 2) to analyse the abundant documentary sources, which include a number of detailed medieval surveys for Glastonbury Abbey (M. Costen);
- 3) to carry out retrogressive map analysis on the dozen or so pre-tithe maps as well as the Ordnance Survey editions.

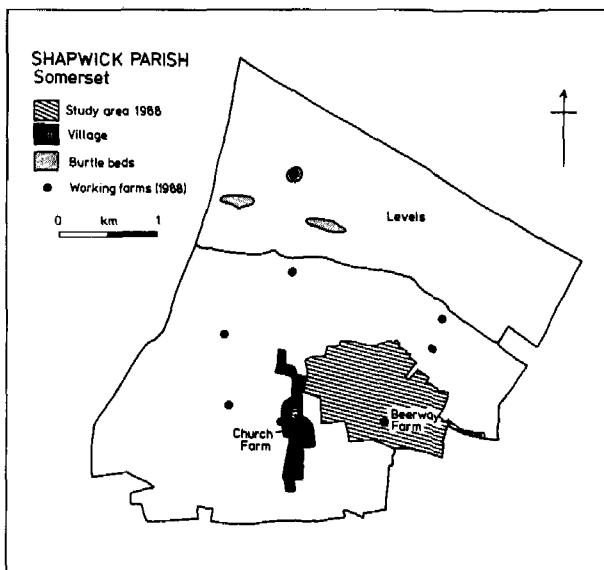


Figure 4: The Shapwick Project.

By the end of 1988 the areas attached to Beerway and Church Farms had been examined to a preliminary level. Future work will include the study of the geology, the buildings, the fields and hedges and some environmental sampling.

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### DORSET

James Bond reports on a survey at **Winterbourne Rew, Martinstown** (SY641893):

Earthworks in Hanging Meadow, east of Rew Manor, were surveyed during the course of a weekend school, directed by James Bond on behalf of Bristol University Department of Extra-Mural Studies (fig 5). The site comprised a long narrow field of 2 hectares facing south-south-west, rising steeply above the South Winterbourne from c.84m-92m OD. A row of nine roughly rectangular crofts enclosed by banks and terraces was recorded, varying in size from 30m x 18m down to 18m x 20m. The earthworks were best preserved towards the east end of the site, where a hollow-way along the top of the slope marked the line of the predecessor of the present road from Martinstown to Winterbourne Steepleton. Possible building platforms were observed in two of the crofts, but could not be identified with complete confidence. A second, more prominent hollow-way descended to the stream along the flank of a tributary valley immediately beyond the west end of the field. A small area of earthworks was observed extending into the next field to the west, but could not be surveyed in the time available. The name Rew, first documented in the 13th century, implies that the settlement consisted of a long row of crofts, as was surveyed; similar linear arrangements have been recorded in other Dorset chalk valleys, eg at Winterbourne Steepleton and at Philipston in Winterbourne Clenston. An estate map of 1768 shows the settlement entirely deserted and the field boundaries very similar to the present pattern.

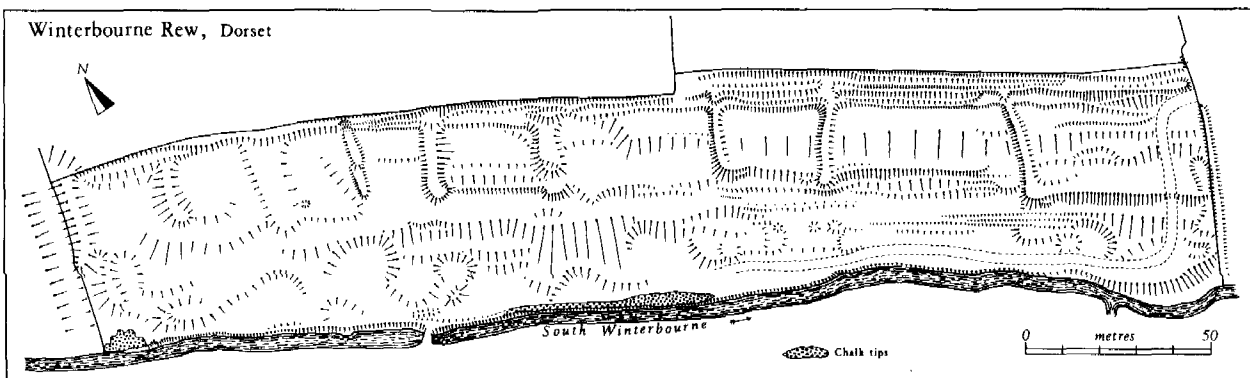


Figure 5: Winterbourne Rew, Dorset Earthworks.



Alan Hunt reports that the **county gazetteer of deserted and shrunken settlements** continues to be updated, and now lists a total of 254 sites. Moated sites that fall into these categories are now included. The county bibliography is also updated. Both documents are held on computer files in the Archaeology Unit at the Dorset Institute (DIAU).

New sites were reported by Maureen Putnam, at **Notton** (SY609958) and **Cruxton** (SV603964; both of these shrunken hamlets are in Maiden Newton parish.

Archaeological evaluation surveys of villages in the Cranborne Chase area were begun by Alan Hunt, with students of DIAU and members of local archaeological societies. This work continues.

Ceramic industries are an important aspect of medieval and post-medieval settlement in the E Dorset heathlands. Fieldwork in this area is co-ordinated by the Verwood Potteries Trust. Their work to date is summarised in Algar, Light and Copland-Griffiths 1987.

The shrunken and largely ruinous hamlet of **Lower Kingcombe** (SY554991), in Toller Porcorum parish, attracted widespread publicity when it was auctioned in 1987. Rebuilding of decayed and ruined buildings began almost immediately after the sale. An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Alan Hunt and DIAU students (Hunt 1988), and a programme of building surveys and salvage recording of subsurface disturbances was begun. Part of a well-preserved, but so far undated, watermill was uncovered in a builder's trench near the S bank of the River Hooke, at Fisherman's Cottage (Subsite II). Earthworks representing settlement expansion and shrinkage were planned, and all pre-1900 houses, whether inhabited or ruinous, were surveyed. Archaeological evaluation of a development site at Pound Cottage (Subsite IV) produced negative results (Thompson 1988). Further surveys and excavations are planned.

Observation and salvage recording also took place at **Radipole** (SY660814), where road works clipped the S edge of this already-battered DMV site (Keen 1986a; Hunt, in prep); and at **Frome Vauchurch** (SY59949723; Hunt 1986a). A site in the centre of **Witchampton** (ST988065), a large shrunken village, was surveyed by DIAU before development, and building works were observed by Teresa Hall (Beavis and Hunt 1987; Hall in prep). At **Ullwell** (SZ022808) a ?late medieval stone structure was uncovered and recorded during construction work (Thompson in prep).

At Penny's Mead on the E edge of **Cranborne** (SU058132) a salvage excavation by Jake Keen in 1984-86 exposed a pit containing Roman, Middle Saxon and later medieval pottery. Other ?Middle Saxon material included a spiral-headed pin, a whetstone and a lava fragment (Brisbane 1986). An adjacent area is threatened by building works, but surveys and trial excavations by the Trust for Wessex Archaeology and DIAU have failed to locate further post-Roman features.

## HAMPSHIRE

### The Meon Valley Landscape Project

Mike Hughes reports that five years of survey work, and the consequent publication of a series of booklets on

aspects of the Hampshire landscape, led in 1984 to the adoption by Hampshire County Council of the Countryside Heritage Policy. The discovery of the Saxon sites at Meonstoke in 1983 subsequently led to a decision by the Archaeology Section of the County Planning Department to undertake excavation there as part of its Countryside Heritage Project programme, and at the same time to make a detailed appraisal of the surrounding landscape in order to understand more about the changes which have taken place in the countryside over the past two to three thousand years.

Recent archaeological research has shifted away from single-site orientation to the examination of a site in the context of its environment. Accordingly, a three year extra-mural course was established in the autumn of 1984, in conjunction with the Department of Adult Education at Southampton University, whereby students would participate in field-work and in survey and other forms of archaeological, documentary and geographical research in order to understand the evolution of the landscape in the four parishes of Corhampton, Meonstoke, Exton, and Warnford. Apart from the authors of this paper, on the staffs respectively of the County Planning Department and the Hampshire Record Office, the two other tutors on the course were Malcolm Wagstaff of the Department of Geography at the University of Southampton, and Phil Colebourn, the Planning Department's ecologist. This paper reports upon the progress of the Meon Valley Project.

### The Excavation Project

During 1983 users of metal detectors unearthed over 200 items from one field on Shavards Farm, Meonstoke, all of which were retained by the farm owner, Mr. Bruce Horn. They included fragments of early Saxon square-headed and disc brooches, late Saxon strap ends, other bronze and iron finds, fragments of pottery, and Roman coins. Some of the early Saxon metalwork showed signs of fusing, but as yet there is no evidence of cremated burials from that area. Whilst planting trees at the side of an adjacent field during Christmas 1983, two inhumations were revealed, recorded, and back-filled. This evidence, combined with the previously recorded Roman building on the farm and the published report of a 6th century male burial unearthed in the early 1970s close by the later discoveries,<sup>1</sup> led to the formulation of a rescue excavation project because of long-term threats to the site from farming activity.

Known examples of a Saxon settlement, Saxon cemetery, and Roman site in juxtaposition are rare in England at the present time, and consequently it was felt that the opportunity should be taken to examine such a grouping, especially since its river valley location distinguished it from the Saxon hilltop sites found, for example, at Chalton, Cowdrey's Down near Basingstoke, and Bishopstone in Sussex. Subsequently, in 1984, it was decided to undertake a four-week evaluation of the archaeological potential and significance of the farm sites. Further excavations also took place on the Saxon settlement and cemetery in 1985 and 1987, under the direction of MFH, whilst the Roman building site excavations were undertaken by the Department of Archaeology at King Alfreds College, Winchester, under the direction of Anthony King and Alan French. The excavation programme on both sites to date has been funded entirely by Hampshire County Council.

A substantial Roman building was discovered whose

origins are unknown, but whose destruction or collapse was taking place in the early decades of the 4th century; the evidence of 'grass-tempered' pottery may suggest subsequent occupation of the site by early Saxon settlers. The cemetery appears from existing evidence to be 6th century in date and may possibly relate to the occupiers of the derelict Roman site. A gap then appears in the occupation sequence, since the pottery evidence from the settlement site suggests provisionally a mid-to-late Saxon date. Thereafter, the shifting settlement pattern obviously moved once more to a site or sites in the river valley, perhaps to Meonstoke, Exton or Corhampton, where there is a late Saxon church.

From a study of Anglo-Saxon charters and from the Domesday Survey it would appear that Meonstoke was a royal late Saxon and Norman estate and was the centre of its own hundred in the late 11th century. The bishop is also recorded as holding a small sub-manor at Meonstoke in 1086. Two 10th century Saxon charters exist for Exton which show that the estate belonged to the bishop of Winchester in pre-Conquest times.<sup>2</sup> Corhampton is not recorded until 1086 when it was in the hands of Hugh de Port, one of William's chief lieutenants and a major landowner in Hampshire. Although Warnford belonged to the Abbot of Winchester at Domesday, it too was held by Hugh de Port.<sup>3</sup> A description of the late Saxon boundaries is included in one of the Exton charters, whilst the published boundaries of adjacent estates enable those at Meonstoke, Corhampton and Warnford to be studied also.

Here at Shavards Farm and in the surrounding settlements there appears to be an intriguing picture of settlement shift between late Roman times and the period which saw the emergence of the pattern of villages we know today. The discovery of a late Roman site, a 6th century Saxon cemetery, and a mid-to-late Saxon settlement on the same farm, and within 400 metres of each other, does present a rare opportunity to understand more about the dynamics of settlement shift between the 4th century and medieval times.

### Parish Landscape Survey and Research

Apart from assisting in the excavation and fieldwork aspects of the project, the course students, under supervision, have also embarked on areas of research. These include a morphological study of four villages and a project concerned with territorial analysis, a technique for the appraisal of site catchment areas. The study of parish, manorial, estate and field boundaries is another student project whilst a detailed study of the deserted settlement of Lomer and its landscape has also been undertaken. Lomer is a settlement which was in existence by the 10th century, as appears from both archaeological and documentary evidence, but which had been deserted by the late medieval period. It may thus offer parallels with the history of the excavated settlement at Shavards Farm.

The documentary research being undertaken includes the study of records held in a variety of places in addition to national repositories and the Hampshire Record Office. A large collection of documents relating to Meonstoke is in the archives of Winchester College, since the manors of Meonstoke Perrers and Meonstoke Ferrand were acquired for the College by William of Wykeham in the fourteenth century; the records of the Dean and Chapter of Winchester, held in the Cathedral Library and at the Hampshire Record Office, include material relating to

their manor of Exton; while Corpus Christi College, Oxford, who were landholders in Warnford, hold archives which have proved valuable.

Maps are perhaps the fundamental record source for landscape research, and their study formed an important part of the project. Ordnance Survey maps at scales of 6" and 25" to the mile serve as a starting-point for research and form an accurate and detailed record of landscape change back from the present day to the 1870s, the date of the first edition of maps at these scales. It is on the first edition map<sup>4</sup> that the boundaries of a detached portion of the parish of Corhampton are marked, an area which was transferred to Exton in 1894, and in which the remains of the deserted settlement of Lomer are situated. This detached portion may represent the manor of Lomer or a former parish of Lomer, whose existence is indicated by surviving sixteenth century wills and visitation returns. The work being done on the boundary clauses of Anglo-Saxon charters will, it is to be hoped, also prove of interest in this respect.

For the period immediately before the first Ordnance Survey 6" maps, the tithe maps and awards of the 1840s are invaluable as indicators of topographical features, boundaries of parishes, estates and fields, field names, land use, and lines of communication. Tithe awards for Exton, Meonstoke, and Warnford are held at the Hampshire Record Office, but Corhampton was not surveyed, as the land was tithe-free. The only known enclosure award for the area is that drawn up for the enclosure of Meonstoke Down in 1863.<sup>5</sup> It is particularly interesting for the boundary changes suggested by the Commissioners, not all of which were adopted. For non-cartographic evidence of enclosure, either of the common fields or of waste, information can be gleaned from surviving private agreements to enclose or inferred from surveys of various kinds. A survey of Exton,<sup>6</sup> for example, drawn up in 1649 when Parliament took over land in ecclesiastical hands, describes the manor as 'Generally inclosed with quicksett'. Other surveys, such as glebe terriers, inquisitions *post mortem* and manorial surveys, may be their references to strips of closes of land suggest an open or enclosed field system.

Cartographic material before the tithe and enclosure maps consists of county and estate maps. County maps, dating from the sixteenth century onwards, are small in scale but are important sources for the early period when more detailed maps do not exist. Saxton's map of Hampshire (1575) shows, for example, that Beacon Hill in Exton was formerly known as Lomer Beacon. Estate maps are on a large scale, recording topographical features in more detail and, as surveying techniques improved, with increasing accuracy. The earliest known estate maps of any of the four parishes are two in the possession of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, both dated 1615, which show Bere Farm, Warnford, and parcels of land in Warnford 'town' and fields.<sup>7</sup> The earliest relevant map in the Hampshire Record Office is a plan of part of Corhampton in 1660 on which are marked the mill, the school, and the houses of John Snugs, Richard Bux, and John Potterne.<sup>8</sup> Of similar date to the map are the Hearth Tax assessments of 1665<sup>9</sup> which record the names of occupiers, both chargeable and exempt, and the number of hearths in their dwellings. Corhampton's return includes an entry for John Snugs whose cottage is recorded as having one hearth. Richard Bux, or Buxey as he appears in the assessments, had a dwelling with three hearths. Something more may also be learned about John Potterne's house from the inventory attached

to his will, which was proved in 1676.<sup>10</sup> In the inventory are mentioned the hall, the chamber, the little room, the milk house, the long room, the upper chamber, and the cellar, together with the contents of each.

For the study of communications there are specialised plans of the Meon Valley Railway (1896) together with the book of reference to the landowners and occupiers affected by its construction.<sup>11</sup> Other records relating specifically to communications in the area include those of Quarter Sessions, which had jurisdiction over roads and bridges, and those of the London-Southampton<sup>12</sup> and the Gosport<sup>13</sup> turnpike trusts, the former including a plan of the turnpike road across Corhampton Down.<sup>14</sup>

The number and variety of documents available for landscape study is considerable, and relatively few have been mentioned here. Sufficient to say that in recreating a detailed picture of the former landscape of the four parishes, documentary research is likely to add much to the evidence provided by archaeology, historical geography, landscape features and vernacular architecture. It is hoped to produce a volume of research work on the project within the next 2-3 years.

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## SOUTH HUMBERSIDE

### Castlethorpe, Broughton

D.H. Evans reports that a short report was produced containing the findings of three days field walking in the Castlethorpe area (SE 987 077), carried out in order to determine the actual location of Castlethorpe DMV. The site which is scheduled as a DMV has been shown by geophysical and earthwork survey to be the remnants of a moated enclosure, prompting further interest in an area half a mile to the north in which crop marks of rectangular buildings or enclosures are visible on AP's. Three sections were laid out with a 10m grid and walked intensively; the resulting medieval pottery and tile scatters are plotted as grid generalisations. They appear to confirm the occupation of the site between the 13th and 15th centuries.

## NORFOLK

Alan Davison has completed documentary study and fieldwork on Great Hockham (TL9535 9255). The village is clustered around a former market place while the church is isolated about 450m to the south-west within a park. The Hall, built in the early eighteenth century, lies some 200m further to the south-west. A survey of 1599 shows that, at that time, a Hall stood on the western side of the market place and that the church was already isolated within a group of enclosures.

Evidence from medieval times suggests that there may have been movement from the vicinity of the church to the market place within the thirteenth century (a charter was obtained in 1272). Opportunities for fieldwalking near the church are limited by woodland and the survival of parkland, but the evidence obtained in this way lends some support to the suggestion.

It is hoped to publish a full account in *Norfolk Archaeology*.

## STAFFORDSHIRE

### Coley Hall

Paul Everson reports that a moated site (SJ 7882 1957) in Moreton township in the parish of Gnosall has been reported on by Wayne Cocroft of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England's office at Keele. It lies on the S side of the A518 at about 248m above OD and is the site of Coley Hall. The site was not included in the recent listing of North Staffordshire moats<sup>1</sup> and has not been known to county or national sites and monuments records. It was drawn to RCHME's attention by Ordnance Survey topographical surveyors on the basis of AP evidence as part of the routine process of map revision and surveyed in June 1988 while under crop by normal graphical methods at 1:2500.

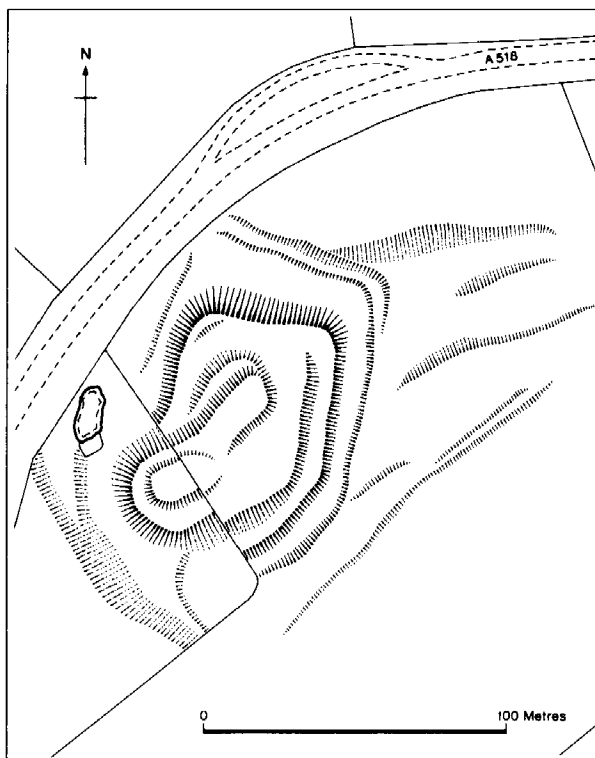


Figure 6: Coley Hall moat, Gnosall, Staffs (Archive plan redrawn for publication by P. Sinton).

The minor place-name Coley, meaning 'the wood where charcoal is burnt', has not been found in medieval sources or hitherto thought to have any habitative connotation.<sup>2</sup> Coley Hall is clearly documented as a substantial residence since at least the 1540s, when it was inhabited by Thomas Turner. By the end of the 18th century it had become incorporated into the Aqualate Estate and descended as a tenanted farm with the estate.<sup>3</sup> Its presence caused the Stafford-to-Newport turnpike road of 1793<sup>4</sup> to bend around it. In 1833 it was named and mapped surrounded by a square enclosure<sup>5</sup>; in 1837 the site was occupied by two substantial buildings with outbuildings.<sup>6</sup> In the latter depiction the form of the moat may be partly mirrored by the field boundaries. Although an estate map of 1865 (in possession of Mrs. Parry, Coley Farm) may seem to imply that the Hall had been demolished by labelling its location 'site of Coley Farm Buildings', trade directories make this less clearcut by referring intermittently to persons at Coley until 1872.<sup>7</sup> By 1903 there were certainly no mappable remains,<sup>8</sup> and it seems likely that the site was abandoned as one aspect of or in consequence of the drainage schemes shown planned on the estate map of 1865. That map names the field 'Moat Croft Meadow' rather than the present name 'Fox's Close'.

The whole site lies in arable cultivation except for the pond and its immediate vicinity: therefore little definition remains to scarps because of their being spread by the plough. The pond is shown in the same location, but slightly larger on the Tithe Award map of 1837. The site occupies a low-lying position in the valley of the Back Brook, which drains northwards into Aqualate Mere, in a poorly drained subsoil of glacial sands and gravels over Boulder Clay and with a sandstone escarpment lying to the S on a SW-NE orientation.

The moat exhibits little convincing shape. It may now be seen as a five-sided feature, whose present form probably reflects a long history with a number of modifications. Its most coherent aspect lies in its N arm and returns at approximate right angles on its E and W sides that are principally given their shape by the central platform. The E arm continues the alignment of the present SW-NE hedgerow for 24m before curving away N. It is defined by a low outer scarp and a broken inner scarp, whose form perhaps results from the levelling of the moat. As the moat turns at right angles to form a N arm it also widens out. Both E and N arms are damp; in winter they show as broad dark soilmarks and some dumping in them is evident. The scarp of the W arm of the moat is also broken, and the area between it and the roadside fence is waterlogged.

The centre of the platform is noticeably raised; to the W and cut through by the field boundary is a sub-rectangular mound 26m x 18m which seems to correspond with the position of a building marked on the Tithe Award map to the E of the pond. The low mound across the E portion of the platform roughly corresponds to the larger building shown on the Tithe Award map, although truncated to the N. Both these features lie skewed to the rectangularity of the moat and seem to have caused an alteration or blurring of its form in the later part of its occupation.

During the survey a marked concentration of pottery was noted across the moat platform in comparison with the surrounding fields. On the platform the densest scatter was in the eastern field close to the hedge as it crossed the sub-rectangular mound. A total of 10 sherds of medieval pottery was found, that included a large

fragment of a strap handle in an orangey/red fabric with an incised decoration and splashes of green glaze: there were also 41 sherds of post-medieval pottery, including 17th-century Cistercian-type wares, late 17th- or 18th-century slip ware, 18th-century trailed slip and manganese ware, a single late 18th-century glass bottle neck, 18th- to 19th-century coarse wares and a small quantity of 19th-century tablewares. In addition to pottery, fragments of lugged roof tiles, bricks and sandstone were found. The size and condition of the sherds would indicate that they were ploughed from the platform. All finds were redeposited on site.

Despite its lack of direct early documentation, this site therefore seems to be a residential moat of medieval origin. The finds closely mirror the period of occupation indicated by documentary sources continuing into the mid-19th century, but equally clearly point to its earlier origin, exploiting (to judge by the place-name) an area of previously specialist woodland resource.

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# RESEARCH IN 1988:

## ii. EXCAVATIONS

### AVON

#### Cleeve (ST451 650)

Mike Powsford reports that a further three weeks' work in 1988 saw the definition of timber building 1 which had been slightly terraced into the hill. It is composed of timber uprights with infilling either by earth-fast or sill-beam wattle-and-daub. The corners are quite slight and the posts only 12-14 cms in depth. The long sides contained more substantial timbers, probably opposed and defining bays, probably three. The building appears to have slightly bowed sides and measures c. 3.8m wide at each end and 4.4m at widest by c. 9.8m in length. Internally the floor was composed of red clay with a probable hearth towards the west end. There were signs of internal partitions and indications that the walling had been renewed. At the east end, there were the remains of an oven in the form of a shallow semi-circular pit filled with broken burnt daub and with stake-holes to support the superstructure. The oven projected beyond the line of the wall.

Externally a drain ran round the south and west sides into the swallet and was cut through a levelling deposit of stone and clay. South of the building a rubbish pit was found while on the east side there were a cess-pit and several other pits. The cess-pit contained large fragments of pottery including Ham Green ware and local coarsewares.

A further building is emerging to the west but its relationship to building 1 is at present ambiguous. Work will continue in 1989.

#### Eckweek Deserted Settlement ST711576. March '89

Andrew Young reports that excavation continued in conjunction with Avon County Council Planning Department at the deserted medieval settlement of Eckweek, Avon. Though long known historically it is only recently that the location was rediscovered via aerial photography by Mr. M. Aston of the University of Bristol.

Recorded in the Domesday survey plus at least one Anglo-Saxon land charter and reasonably well documented during the medieval period the site provides the possibility of assessing both the continuity and change of a rural farmstead settlement from the late Saxon to Medieval period.

Full excavation of several tofts and selective trenching of extensive holloways and platforms (Fig. 7) has yielded a remarkably well preserved, stratified, sequence of rural occupation. Concentrated attention to one toft has provided evidence for two distinct phases of medieval stone building and earlier features, cut into the natural Fullers Earth Rock these include substantial timber post-holes, gulleys and large (c. 2.5m x 1.5m dia.) pits.

Current evidence indicates that the site was abandoned

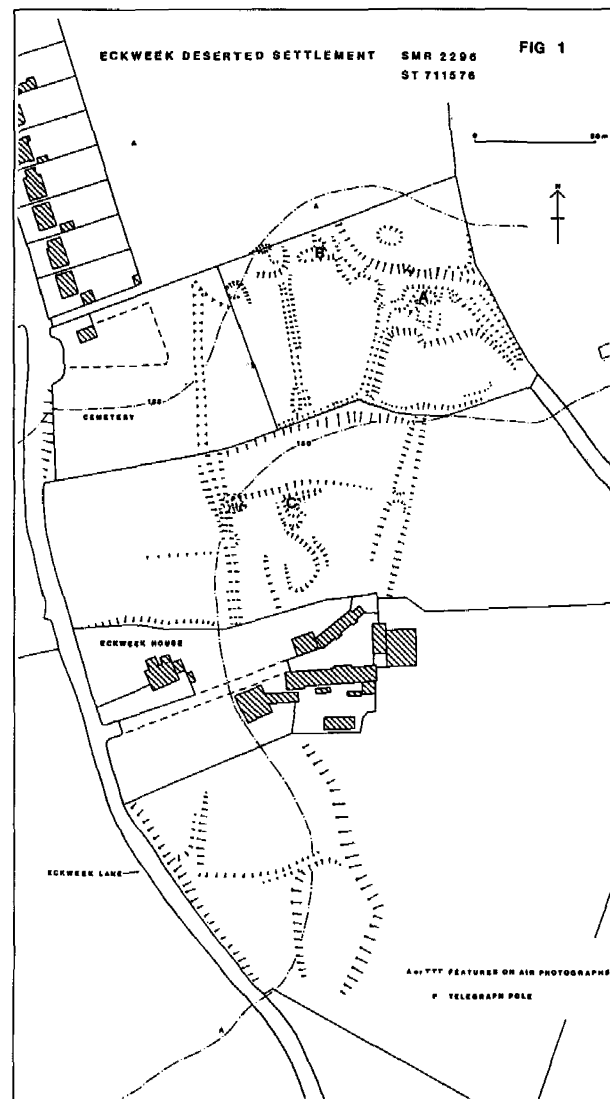


Figure 7: Eckweek Deserted Settlement.

by 1440 A.D. having later comprised at least two, and probably three large stone buildings (Fig. 7 A,B,C), one of which served as a smithy. An associated partially walled yard and several outbuildings display hearths, ovens and extensive drainage systems. The first phase of stone building is, from pottery, probably no earlier than the late twelfth century. Further work is required to clarify the organisation and dating of the earliest timber structures and associated features.

Minimal disturbance of the site since abandonment is reflected in the excellent preservation of features within the later Medieval building. Ovens, hearths and drains compliment a very rich assemblage of domestic and glazed pottery, metal objects (including: blades, horsegear, farmtools and numerous copper objects) and prestige goods (worked bone, beads, coins etc).

The large subcircular pits have yielded small quantities of domestic pottery that may suggest a pre 1100 date, volumes of domestic waste appear far too low at present to suggest rubbish pits and the possibility that they are clay pits is currently preferred. Ongoing work sets out to fully expose the extent of these complex early features so that their relationship with a probable timber building may be fully understood.

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE:

### Milton Keynes, Shenley Brook Eng (Sp 8297 3566)

Trial excavations at Westbury D.M.V. (*cf. Medieval Archaeol. XXIX* (1985), 164 and *XXX* (1986), 121) were carried out by R.J. Ivens for Milton Keynes archaeology Unit. The 1988 excavations were designed to test the extent and quality of any surviving archaeological remains in the vicinity of the surviving village earthworks. Two outlying and recently occupied platforms were trenched and medieval deposits revealed. An area of ploughed-out platforms was examined and a variety of medieval features were found to survive. An area of late Iron Age — Early Roman occupation was also revealed. The main complex of village earthworks will be excavated in 1989 and 1990, in advance of the westwards expansion of the New Town.

### Milton Keynes, Tattenhoe (SP 829 339)

Trial excavations at Tattenhoe D.M.V. were carried out by R.J. Ivens for Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit. The 1988 excavations were designed to test the extent and quality of the surviving archaeological remains within this heavily plough-damaged monument. A moated site, fishpond complex and a small church survive at the N end of the village. Trial trenching revealed substantial post-medieval remains in the vicinity of the church and it seems likely that this part of the medieval village has been heavily landscaped in post-medieval times. To the S of the church was somewhat patchy evidence of a once substantial settlement of the 13th and 14th centuries. Slight evidence of 12th century occupation was also revealed. The excavations may continue in 1989 or 1990, in advance of the westwards expansion of the New Town.

## CHESHIRE:

### Hough Hall, Mere (SJ 722834)

Nick Higham reports that a c. 30m square moated platform and associated earthworks were examined in 1985-6, by Mr. Tony Garbutt who produced contour and resistivity surveys which are deposited with Cheshire County Council and the Department of EMS, University of Manchester. In July, 1988, a trial excavation of c. 7% of the platform was undertaken by the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Manchester with financial support from Cheshire County Council. Three trenches were opened. Some undated activity had preceded cultivation of the site, resulting in pits cut into the clay sub-soil. Both pits and cultivation soil arguably pre-dated the moat. Above the loam soil were clay floors and a 4 phase clay oven. The last phase of the oven had utilised as a base a fragment of gritstone (which had probably come from an accidentally broken roughed-out quernstone). Fourteenth and early fifteenth century pottery was recovered from stratified and unstratified contexts and the decades around 1400 provide the most

likely chronology for the moated phase of the site, which may have been the home of the Venables family of 'Strethul' — "street-hill". The site was subsequently abandoned after what was probably only a short occupation. Pottery and glass reached the site from the 17th to the late 19th centuries, presumably with manure, and the platform and adjacent land to the East were ridged (c. 5m across 0.15m high), implying cultivation on the site within this period. It is expected that a full report will be published in the Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society.

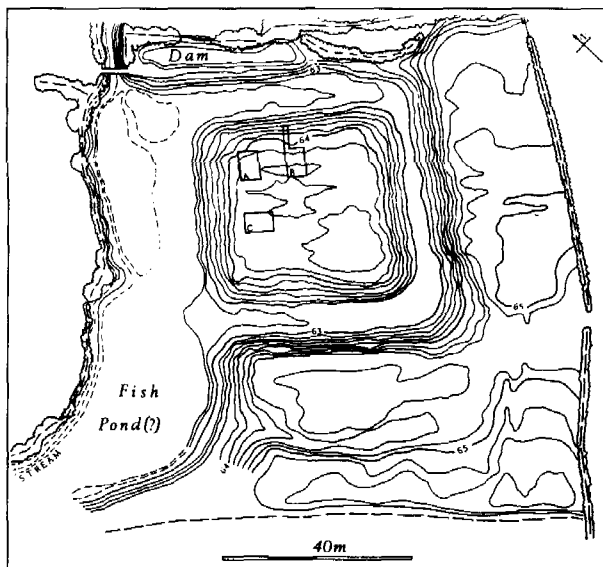


Figure 9: Hough Hall, Mere.

## DORSET

Excavations and surveys in and around the farm and deserted hamlet of **Woolcombe** (SY553953) continued under the direction of Alan Hunt. The structural sequence at the farmhouse subsite seems to begin in the middle or late-13th century, and may be associated with the Bingham family who acquired the manor of Woolcombe in this period. Here 3 major phases of house construction have been traced; the latest, partly of the 16th and partly the 17th century, is still occupied. The hamlet settlement, marked by earthworks to the S of this farmhouse, was occupied by the 12th century but was later drastically replanned, again in the later 13th century, and probably also the work of the Bingham family. After a short period of occupation in its new form it was abandoned in the early 14th century, and became a large farmyard. This was abandoned in the post-medieval period, probably by c1700. These results are summarised in more detail in Hunt 1986 and 1987.

Peter Cox excavated parts of 2 medieval settlement sites in the parish of Studland, in advance of Wytch Farm oilfield construction. The following summaries are derived from his notes. South of **Ower Farm** (SY988854) he uncovered buildings, clay pits and a shell midden, whose dates probably lie within a period spanning the 12th - 15th centuries. At **Newton Bay** (SZ011871), where recent aerial photographs have suggested a likely site for the failed medieval town of Newton, excavations of 'house platforms' and enclosure ditches failed to provide evidence for any occupation beyond the initial preparation of the site in the 13th century. These excavations are likely to be published as part of a larger report on the Wytch Farm Oilfield sites.



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## ESSEX:

### Little Holland Church

David Andrews reports that in 1987, the Essex County Council Archaeology Section exposed the foundations of Little Holland church which stood close to Little Holland Hall, the grounds of which are now developed for sheltered housing. As such, it is a church/hall site typical of Essex. The site was disturbed, and no relevant stratigraphy or finds were discovered, but four building periods were identified. The earliest church, dating presumably from the 11th-12th centuries, was single-celled and apsidal. It subsequently acquired a rectangular chancel and

belfry, but always remained a modest building. The church was pulled down in the 1650's, and the parish annexed to nearby Great Clacton. In terms of settlement history, the decline of the church presumably means the failure of a community, though whether this was ever a nucleated village is another matter. No traces of settlement were noted in the watching brief on the sheltered housing. Although never very prosperous or populous, Little Holland seems only to have fallen on hard times from the late 14th century. In 1428, it was said to have fewer than 10 inhabitants, and in the 17th century, there were only 8-10 households. Whatever the influence of economic factors, in this case decline was to a considerable extent occasioned by coastal erosion. Today the church is only about 200 yards from the sea. As such, it may be compared to the lost site of Milton at what is now Southend-on-Sea.

A report on the work is forthcoming in *Essex Archaeology and History* vol. 20.

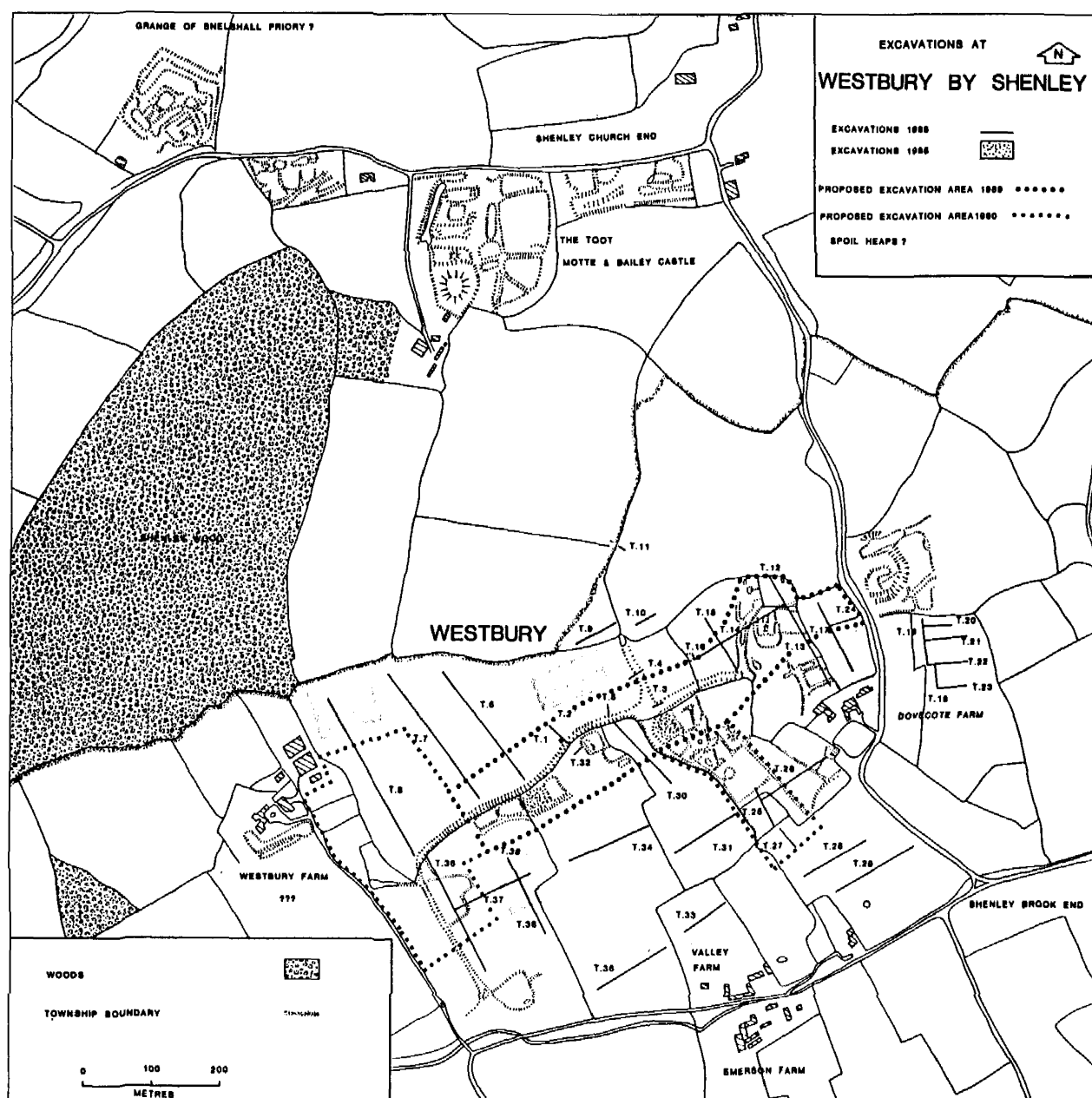


Figure 8: Westbury by Shenley.

## NORTH HUMBERSIDE (formerly East Riding, Yorkshire): Sigglesthorpe, North Humberside (TA 158463)

P. Didsbury reports that limited excavations were carried out on an earthwork site in meadows north of Old Lane by the East Riding Archaeological Society between August and September. Work was directed by P. Didsbury on behalf of the Humberside County Council Archaeology Unit. Investigation centred on a 1m high platform in the east of the site, beneath which was located a cobbled surface with 12th century pottery. Towards the south of the platform, the cobbles overlay a 1.9m deep ditch containing animal bone and R.B. pottery provisionally dated to the 2nd century A.D. Geophysical survey of part of the site by John Gate and Chris Gaffrey traced the Roman ditch running west across the site and revealed areas of high magnetic anomaly east of the westernmost platform. Trenching of one of these areas showed it to be a compost and ash deposit containing early medieval pottery, animal bone and a perforated bun-shaped loom weight of baked clay. A complete magnetometer survey was provided by David Jordan of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory. The east-west "holloway" north of the platform was sectioned and proved to have a cobbled surface. The western half of the site has now been developed for housing. A watching brief during building operations employed local metal detector enthusiasts who located, among several interesting items, a coin of Carausius and a miniature lead jug, probably dating to the 13th century.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:

### Raunds Area Project

Brian Dix reports that this detailed study of the landscape within part of the Nene Valley centred upon Raunds is managed jointly by the Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit and English Heritage (HBMCE), with support from MSC and the Amey Roadstone Corporation. In 1988 several evaluations and minor salvage-excavations were

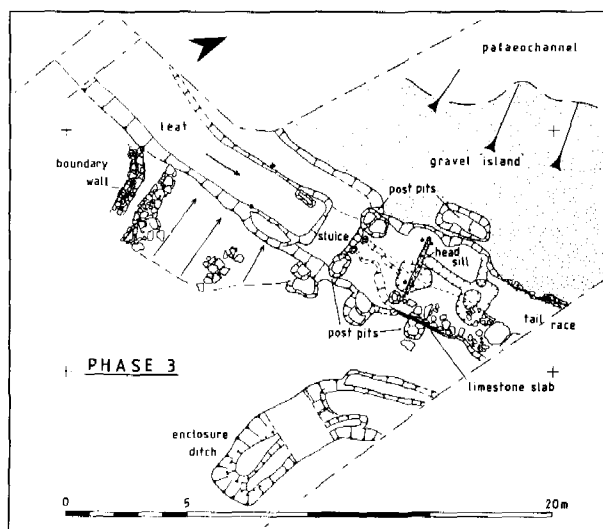


Figure 11: West Cotton, Northants:  
the Saxo-Norman Watermill.

undertaken by the county unit in addition to the continuing programmes of excavation at West Cotton and fieldwalking of the project-area (cf *MSRG Annual Report*, 1 (1986), 29-30).

A series of watching briefs and other excavations undertaken by S Parry on development-sites throughout **Raunds** has strengthened the likelihood that settlement evolved around two centres, in north Raunds and at Thorpe End respectively, before widespread re-planning in the late Saxon period. Despite excavation close to the presumed street-frontages, however, few features and only limited quantities of pottery have been recovered to suggest continuing occupation, indicating that medieval settlement may have contracted and was largely confined around the original twin centres.

At **West Cotton** (SP 976 725) further excavation by D. Windell has revealed late Saxon buildings, a Saxo-Norman watermill, and a twelfth-century manorial range.

A system of Saxo-Norman leats has been traced for over

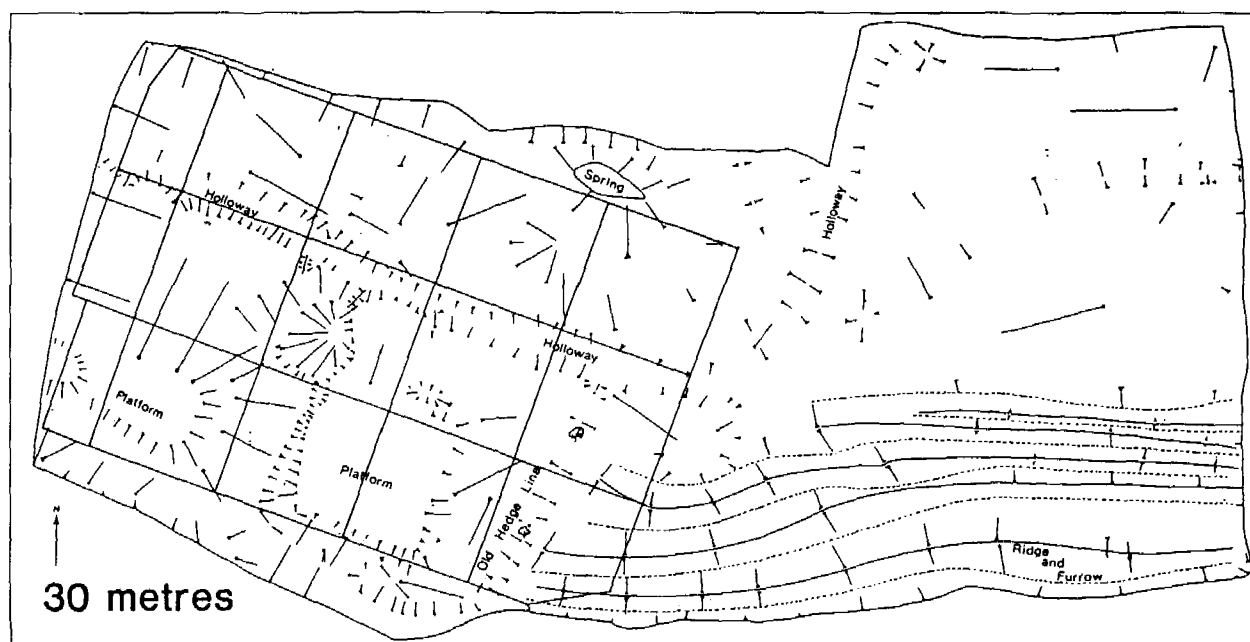


Figure 10: Sigglesthorpe, North Humberside.

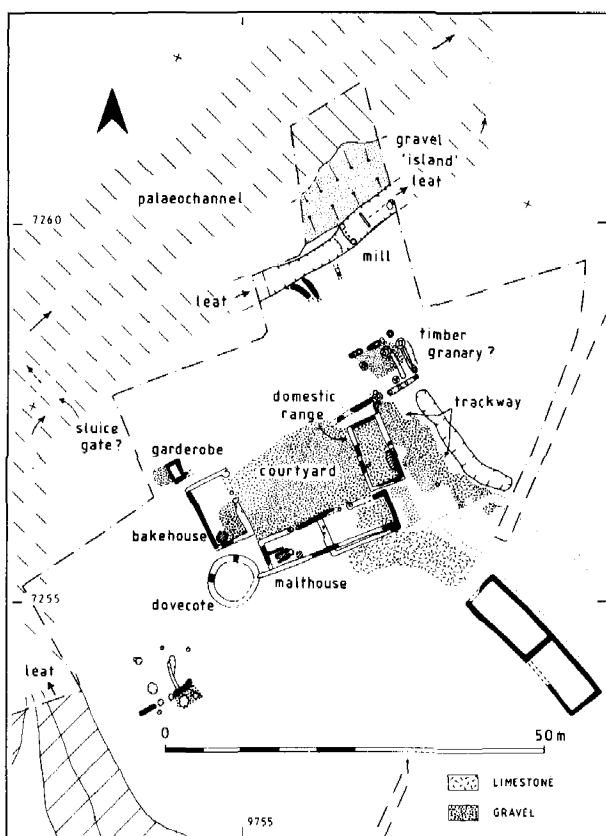


Figure 12: West Cotton, Northants:  
the twelfth century 'manorial' range.

350m around the settlement where they fed a watermill at the north beside the palaeochannel of the River Nene. Three successive channels have been identified near to the mill, each 3.5 - 4m wide and 0.80m deep. The mills powered by the two earliest leats probably lie just beyond the limit of excavation but the latest, dated tentatively to the eleventh and twelfth centuries, has been completely excavated.

A sluice-gate was denoted by two large post-pits at either side of the leat and some 3m upstream from the wheel-house which was indicated by a sill-beam that had been pegged across the leat 1m in front of two further post-pits. The mill-house would thus have been supported directly above the leat and is interpreted as having a horizontal wheel fed by a water-chute, with the whole being similar to the Tamworth mill (Rahtz & Sheridan 1972).

Within the main settlement, several superimposed phases of late Saxon timber buildings associated with a series of regular 'plots' have been partially excavated. Each is characterised by continuous, deep timber-slots c 0.80m wide and 0.60m deep, with the earliest having large post-pits at the corners.

The buildings were replaced in the twelfth century by stone ranges, with a major group around a courtyard. The southern range, initially c 8.5m x 4.5m, was rebuilt to 17m x 3.5m. A separate structure, 8.2m x 3.6m, existed to the north-east on the opposite side of the courtyard to a bakehouse (8.2m x 4.4m) which lay between a garderobe-pit and a possible dovecote c 5m in diameter.

A poorly preserved timber-and-stone structure existed to the south-west and, with the earliest phases of stone

buildings alongside a trackway at the east, is likely to have been contemporary. At the northern end of the trackway a separate timber building, 6m x 6m, had been constructed in exceptionally deep, semi-continuous trenches, suggesting that it was of a considerable height and possibly used as a granary or similarly raised structure.

The plan-form and finds from these buildings suggest a 'manorial' rather than lesser status. Following their demolition in the later twelfth or early thirteenth centuries, a series of 'tenements' was established and maintained with stone buildings until the site was deserted in the fifteenth century (cf *MSRG Annual Report*, 2 (1987), 23-4).

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## WALES: GLAMORGAN

### Cosmeston

Richard Newman and N.R. Coles report that further excavation was undertaken at Cosmeston in the summer of 1988. A limited excavation season concentrated on the remains of a suspected medieval house and its environs which were overlain by post-medieval layers, partially excavated in the previous season. The putative house was constructed of locally derived lias limestone bedded in clay and was similar in size (approximately 11.0m x 5.5m) to other domestic structures previously excavated on the site and dated to the late 13th or early 14th centuries. Inside the structure up to three layers of metalled flooring were noted along with a carefully constructed stone flagged drain. A threshold was exposed in the south-eastern corner with a stone door jamb apparently *in situ*. This was interesting as its placement suggested that the door opened outwards rather than inwards as in the rest of the buildings that have been investigated.

This entrance gave access to a walled yard. The enclosing wall was constructed of unworked lias and trias blocks bedded in clay. The eastern wall of the yard appeared structurally to be a continuation of the eastern wall of the house. The south eastern corner of the yard curved to the west and continued in a westerly direction for about 13.0 m. Its line was followed on the southern and external side by an, as yet, unexcavated post-medieval boundary bank. A cross wall probably joined the southern boundary wall to the previously described building, but only part of its length survived. To the immediate west of this wall was a north-south aligned drainage ditch which now forms the western limit of the yard. The surface of the yard was metalled and contained stone flagged drainage channels which connected with the above ditch. The bases to two stone structures were identified within the yard; the smaller one (1.5m x 1.0m) butted against the eastern boundary wall of the yard and might be a small animal cot; the other larger structure needs further excavation before it can be interpreted.

The southern wall of the yard was almost completely covered by a property boundary bank, constructed in the early 19th century. This bank terminated where it met the course of a road leading in the direction of the manor house. Excavations in 1987 had shown that this route

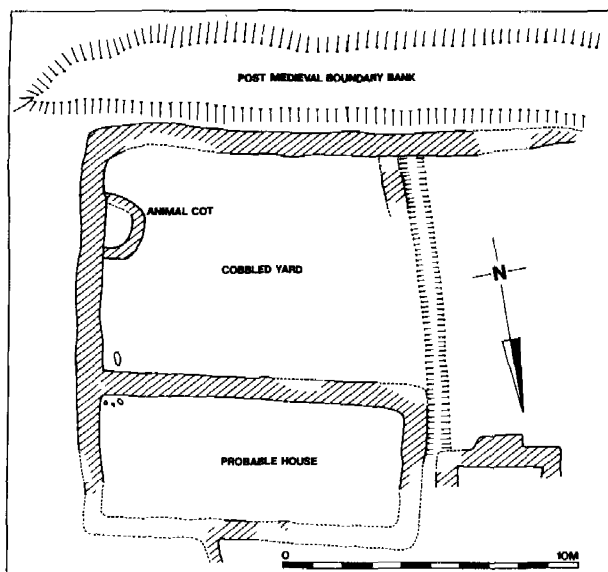


Figure 13: Cosmeston, Glam. a probable house and yard.

went out of use in the early 17th century. It is noteworthy that two centuries later the road was still part of a demarcation line.

During 1988 the most northerly of the two 'semi-detached' domestic buildings (excavated in 1984-5) was reconstructed. The building measures approximately 11m x 5.5m in plan, with stone side walls of 1.5m in height to eaves level and 6.0m in height at the gabled ends. Two windows and two doors are dormered into the roof line. The roof's weight is taken by two raised crucks with collars. The roof itself is made of willow and hazel rods woven between elm and ash rafters, marsh reed is attached to the woven rods to give a thick thatch covering. The ridge has been completed with turf. Two further buildings are to be reconstructed during 1989-90.

## WARWICKSHIRE

### Burton Dasset (SP387 520)

Nicholas Palmer reports that his excavation of the deserted settlement of Burton Dasset, Southend (Chipping Dasset) for the Warwickshire Museum, H.B.M.C. and M.S.C. in advance of motorway construction was concluded. See *MSRG Annual Report 2* (1987), 24-5 for earlier work.

Work was concentrated to the south of the modern road in the field known as Dovehouse Close. In 1987 fieldwalking had located buildings on the motorway line in the vicinity of Areas K and L. However when the topsoil was removed in 1988 the buildings here were found to be much denser than the fieldwalking had suggested. From March-August parts of five properties were excavated (Fig. 13, Areas H, I, J, K & L). It was not possible to excavate this area completely but the buildings on these properties were cleared and planned and then selected trenches were excavated to natural. The trenches were sufficient to show that there were no earlier phases of (timber) buildings on this part of the site.

In general the pattern of settlement here appeared to be less regular and more open than on the north side of the street. Occupation also began earlier, in the early 13th century, and, on the excavated tenements, it also ended

earlier, the properties being abandoned by the mid-15th century. Outside the motorway line the fieldwalking suggested there were properties which continued in occupation after 1497; mid-16th century material came from one building group and late 17th/18th century material from another. This area therefore provides a series of useful contrasts with the north side of the road.

The house on Area H was one of the smallest to be excavated: in its original form it was 10m x 5m but a later extension added two small square rooms 2m long onto its west end. One of these was presumably a staircase leading to an upper room. The western property boundary was marked by a substantial stone wall, which had one or two timber lean-to outbuildings set against it. The eastern boundary with Area I was marked by a ditch. Further back on the property was a midden/muck heap and areas of rubble surfaces.

The house on Area I was semi-detached from that on Area H and measured 14m x 6m. It was subdivided into three rooms with a through passage to the west of a central hall. On its north east side it had a walled yard with a small building up against the corner of the house. There were further timber outbuildings up against the back of the house with the edge of another midden area behind.

To the north of the H and I houses was an east-west lane paved with rubble. On the north side of this lane was a large paved hollow leading down to a stone revetted ditch along the south and east boundaries of the Area J property. This would have functioned as a waterhole presumably for animals, and, in view of its scale and position, should be seen as a communal feature.

The stone revetment of the waterhole appeared to continue all round the boundary ditch surrounding the Area J property. This property (28m x 14m), which fronted onto 'Newland' street, can be identified as a blacksmithy from the quantities of ironworking slag and, more importantly, hammer scale scattered around it. This is one of very few smithies of this date to be excavated and it was intensively sampled. The smithy building (12.2m x 5.5m) was at the north end of the property and appeared to contain the smith's living quarters as well as his forge. The sampling was designed to plot the distribution of hammer scale with a view to establishing the various activity areas within the smithy and the general distribution of slag around it. It appears to suggest that the forge was around the semi-partitions in the middle of the building.

To the west of Area H was Area K. This was the most substantial of the properties excavated both from the point of view of size and quality of its buildings. Its house measured 20m x 7.2m and had the familiar three room plan with a through passage to the east of the hall. The east room contained a stone lined drain but it seems unlikely that this means that it housed animals. At a late date the passage was blocked off possibly so that a stair could be inserted leading to a room over the east room.

To the front of the house was a walled area (garden?) flanking the street that ran south from Area J. The midden area for the Area K property was to the south west of the house. To the south of the house was a small but substantial stone building measuring 9.3m x 5.4m. In two of its corners were footings possibly for a raised floor, which with the solidity of its construction, suggests

use as a granary. The arrangements at the east end suggest a stair to a second storey. Extensive rubble surfaces covered large areas of the back of the property, substantially reducing the areas available for vegetable patches or orchards, and a stone lined drain in the south edge of the excavation hinted at the presence of more buildings.

The Area L buildings were only cleared in the last stages of the excavation, but sufficient was done to identify

them as presumably agricultural buildings along the north and west side of a rubble paved walled yard. The north-south building (5m wide x over 10m long) had been built against another substantial stone boundary wall and the east-west building (10m x 5m) had been built against the first. The yard continued to the south although the building did not. It is unfortunately difficult to say whether or not these buildings belonged to the Area K farm or to another.

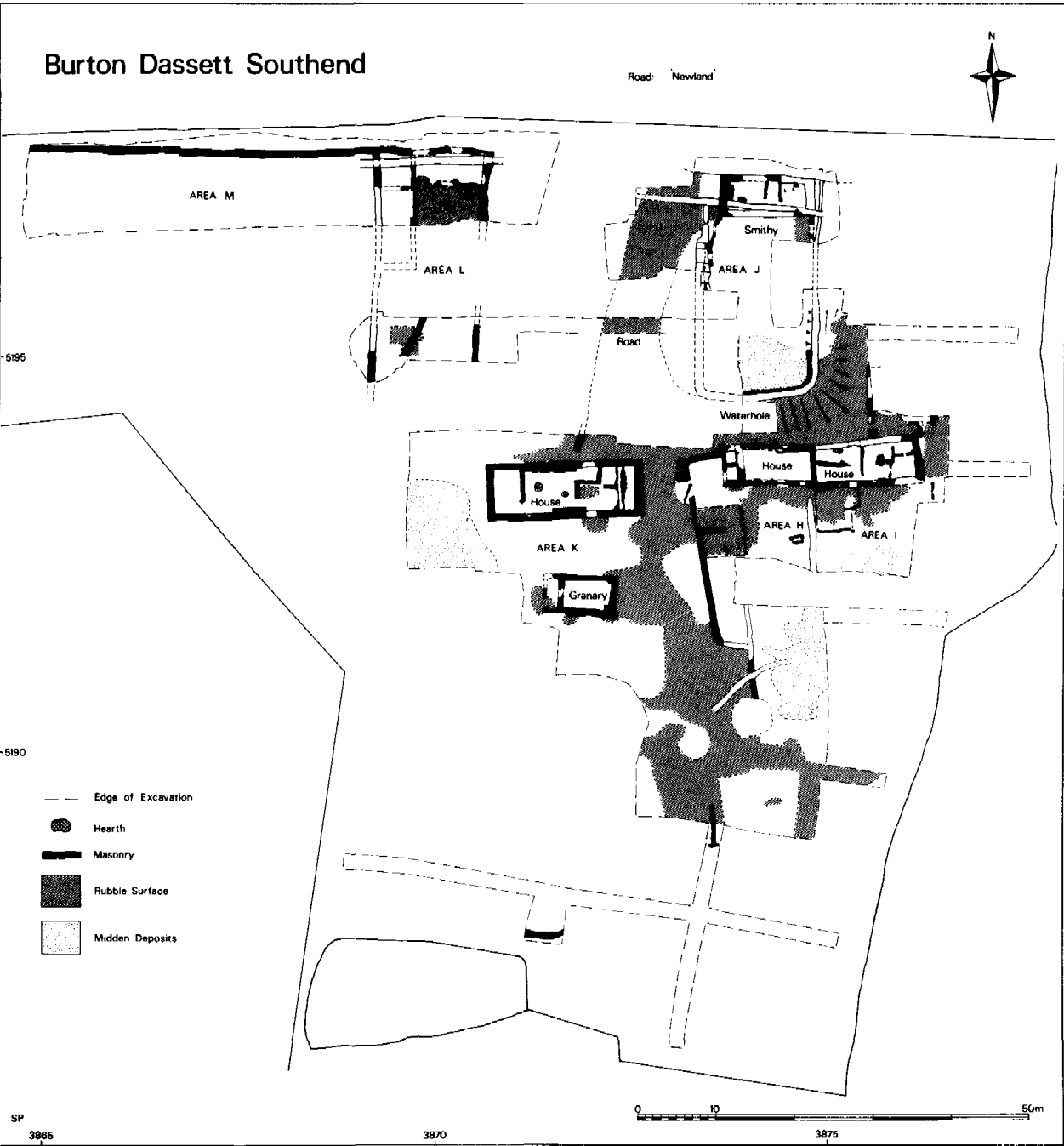


Figure 14: Excavations at Burton Dassett, Warwickshire.

# INTERIM REPORT ON THE THIRTY-NINTH SEASON OF THE WHARRAM RESEARCH PROJECT, NORTH YORKSHIRE

The season, from 1-23 July 1988, was under the direction of J.G. Hurst. As noted last year, the Project's publication programme is moving ahead, and the Church monograph was published by the Society for Medieval Archaeology in 1988. The next monograph will be *Medieval Peasant Farmsteads* by S. Wrathmell.

1. **Parish Survey.** C. Hayfield continued in charge of the Parish Survey. In October 1987 three trenches were excavated across croft boundaries in the planned village of Wharram le Street. All three proved to be of medieval date, and one produced several securely stratified late Saxon or early medieval sherds, including a rim of a Stamford ware cooking pot.

Most of the other Parish Survey projects were concerned with the post-medieval landscape. During 1988 two collections of old photos of the area, compiled by Colin Hayfield, were published: *Thixendale Remembered*, and *Birdsall Remembered*. These are available, at £3.50 and £4 inclusive of postage, from Spring Hill Publications, Spring Hill Medical Centre, Arley, Warwickshire, CV7 8FD (cheques payable to 'Spring Hill Publications').

2. **Sites 82J, 82K, 89 and 92 — North Manor.** Under J. Richards sampling continued of the features shown by geophysical survey — principally prehistoric and Roman ditch systems — beneath the north end of the medieval village. Limited excavations in Toft 17, adjoining the North Manor, suggested that the building represented by some of the best earthworks in the toft was abandoned in the 14th or 15th century. A dump layer over the demolition material contained much pot and bone.

3. **Site 90 — Toft 10.** L. Abrams and R.A. Croft opened a second trench across the so-called 'lynchet', the village's main earthwork, separating tofts and crofts. This

confirmed the findings of the earlier trench (Site 81), c. 10m to the south, that the earthwork dates to the 12th or 13th century, and was reinforced in the 14th century by the construction of a chalk wall on its crest. Saxon features lay beneath the earthwork; from a residual context came a silver sceatta in crisp condition of Rigold's series E, Metcalf's Porcupines variety K (dated c. 700-725).

4. **Site 86 — Croft 4 South.** A second and final season under P. Herbert completed work on this village-edge site. In later prehistoric times a quarry for clay dug into a periglacial feature produced a terrace on the steep hillside. Later, in the Roman and Saxon periods there was activity around and on the site of the quarry. In the post-conquest period a stone wall was built along the contour, bounding both Croft 4 and the village. A road ran along its far side. Towards the end of the Middle Ages the wall fell into disrepair, and was subsequently used as a part of the foundations of a late medieval or early post-medieval sheepshed. That employed padstone, and perhaps cruck, methods of construction.

5. **Site 51 — Low House Courtyard.** Beneath the west range of the improving farm of the 1770s A. Josephs found the remains of two medieval buildings. One appeared to be a peasant house, and had chalk footings. The other, perhaps of higher status, was terraced into the natural Chalk, and a coin of Henry I was found on its floor.

6. **Site 77 — Glebe West.** J. Wood supervised further excavation of the late and post-medieval vicarial complex. Almost certainly among the buildings under excavation are a tithe barn and detached kitchen, both burnt down in a fire in 1553.

Paul Stamper



# REPUBLIC OF IRELAND:

## Research on Medieval Settlement in 1988

Despite the new National Monuments (Amendment) Act of 1987 with penalties up to IR£50,000 the last year has seen the continuing destruction of many archaeological monuments, especially of medieval earthworks. In the past few months three ringforts were destroyed in one week while the much studied motte at Kells, Co., Kilkenny (18S 493433) was almost totally removed from the landscape. It is hoped that the Office of Public Works will be able to bring prosecutions in these cases.

Excavations along the natural gas pipeline from Dublin to Dundalk produced a few possible medieval settlement sites, and reports on them will be produced by Ms Margaret Gowen. The Dublin Historic Settlement Group had speakers from Ireland, Britain and continental Europe throughout the year at University College Dublin. The Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement had a very successful annual conference in Wexford in 1988 locally organised by Mr. William Colfer and Dr. Kevin Whelan. As well as the 1989 Derry conference the Group is planning to hold a one day conference on 30th September 1989 in Trinity College Dublin to celebrate the first twenty years of its existence.

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Empey, C.A., 'The Anglo-Norman community in Tipperary and Kilkenny in the Middle Ages: change and continuity' in G. Mac Niocaill and P.F. Wallace (eds.), *Keimelia*, Galway University Press, 1988, 449-67.

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Simms, Anngret, 'Core and Periphery in Medieval Europe: The Irish Experience in a wider context' in W.J. Smyth and K. Whelan (eds.), *Common Ground*, Cork University Press, 1988, 22-39.

**Terry Barry**

# BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORKS ON BRITISH MEDIEVAL RURAL SETTLEMENT PUBLISHED IN 1988

Compiled by Chris Dyer

As was announced in the first of these bibliographies published in the last report this does not aim to cover such subjects as agrarian history, urban settlements, castles etc., unless they have a direct bearing on rural settlement studies. This list aims to include all non-ephemeral publications on rural settlements in the period 400-1550. Members of the Group can assist by letting the compiler know of works that have been omitted, at the address given here:-

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University of Birmingham  
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BIRMINGHAM B15 2TT

\*including works published in 1987 but omitted from last year's **Report**.

## BOOKS

Astill, G. and Grant, A. (eds.), *The countryside of medieval England* (Oxford, 1988).

Aston, M. (ed.), *Aspects of the medieval landscape of Somerset* (Taunton, 1988).

Aston, M. (ed.), *Medieval fish, fisheries and fishponds in England* (British Archaeological Reports, British series, 182, 1988).

Beresford, G., *Goltho: the development of an early medieval manor c. 850 - 1150* (London, 1987).

Brown, A., *Fieldwork for archaeologists and local historians* (London, 1987).

Davison, A. et al. "Six Deserted Villages in Norfolk": *East Anglian Archaeology Rept. No. 44* (Norfolk Archaeological Unit).

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## ARTICLES

Austin, D., 'Excavations and survey at Bryn Cysegrfan, Llanfair Clydogau, Dyfed, 1979', *Medieval Archaeology*, 32 (1988), pp. 130-65.

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Griffith, F.M., 'Salvage observations at the dark age site at Bantham Ham, Thurlestone, in 1982', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society*, 44 (1986), pp. 39-57.

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Hooke, D., 'Anglo-Saxon estates in the vale of the White Horse', *Oxoniensia* 52 (1987), pp. 129-43.

Jackson, J.R., 'Excavations at Southchurch Hall. An interim report', *Essex Archaeology and History*, 18 (1987), pp. 34-8.

Musson, C.R., and Spurgeon, C.J., 'Cwrt Llechrhyd, Llanelwedd: an unusual moated site in central Powys', *Medieval Archaeology*, 32 (1988), pp. 97-109.

Roberts, E., 'The bishop of Winchester's deer parks in Hampshire, 1200-1400', *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club*, 44 (1988), pp. 67-86.

Sellers, E., Ryan, P.M., and Walker, H., 'Maiden's Tye: a moated site at High Easter', *Essex Archaeology and History*, 19 (1988), pp. 176-95.

Thomas, C., 'Tintagel Castle', *Antiquity*, 62 (1988), pp. 421-34.

Turner, R.C., Sale, L.B., and Axworthy Rutter, J.A., 'A medieval garden at the Belgrave moat, Cheshire', *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society*, 69 (1986), pp. 59-77.

Wilson, P.R., 'Excavations at Burton Agnes Old Manor House', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, 60 (1988), pp. 5-12.

#### **Books received but not listed:**

T.H. Rowland, *Medieval Castles, Towers, Peles and Bastles of Northumberland*, privately published, obtainable from the author at 4 De Merley Road, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1HZ. This is an attractively produced and lavishly illustrated book of 96 pages, which includes descriptions of a wide range of defended sites in the county. Some of the sites were moated, and the bastles sometimes had agricultural functions, so the sites listed have considerable interest for members of the MSRG.

## BOOK REVIEW

*Six Deserted Villages in Norfolk*, Alan Davison (East Anglian Archaeology Report No. 44, Norfolk Archaeological Unit, 1988, viii + 116 pp., £11.25). Available from the Centre of East Anglian Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

This publication follows as a second instalment to a substantial contribution in an earlier volume of the *East Anglian Archaeology* series (B. Cushion *et al.*, 'Some deserted village sites in Norfolk', *EAA* No. 14, 1982, 40-107), which presented evidence for eight deserted villages in Norfolk. Unlike that eight (to which priority was given as the sites with the best physical preservation in the county), this batch has poorer or more variable earthwork survival and the approaches in studying them have a different, less archaeological balance. As in the earlier work, however, contributions are drawn together from a variety of authors: amongst them, as a consistent feature, are illustrated descriptions of the associated churches by George and Alayne Fenner. In addition to individual chapters on the six settlements, there is a tail-piece by the principal author, Alan Davison, on 30 years' progress in rural settlement studies in Norfolk from a starting point marked by Keith Allison's paper on 'The lost villages of Norfolk' of 1955 (*Norfolk Archaeology*, 31, 116-62), and a brief introduction commenting especially on village plans and causes of desertion as exhibited in the whole group of fourteen published case studies. Here there is no confident or clear-cut analysis of morphology. Some settlements might have elements akin to street villages, others are associated in whole or part with greens and commons, others might have developed from polyfocal or dispersed patterns, but generally their complexity and their propensity for evolution and modification (as shown by Peter Wade-Martins' pioneering Launditch research) make simple morphological categorisation difficult. In respect of desertion, too, what emerges is a comparable difficulty in dating and explanation, with a blurring of chronology and (in cases such as Kilverstone and Letton) protracted timescale, and consequent admonition that 'caution must be observed in drawing conclusions'. In this respect, the Norfolk studies follow a trend to particularisation that has been common in medieval settlement studies around the country in the wake of earlier broad-sweep surveys. But, as Davison makes clear in his tail-piece, the sum of the particulars is far from ready yet to lead back to generalisations that substantially supersede Allison's early perceptions.

One suspects in part that these conclusions may necessarily arise from the balance of evidence brought together for these six studies and the manner of its presentation. For the site studies are strongly lead by documentary research. This is presented at length and tends to the exhaustive in its content. It is certainly surprising to see so much basic information, in contrast to conclusions based upon it, committed to print. In less able hands it is an approach that can be a substitute for thought. Here, however, the consequence is to emphasise the individuality of each site and the complexity of individual circumstances, and to avoid or doubt the

simplifying conclusion. What is very helpful are the attempts in several instances — notably at Beachamwell, Kilverstone and Rougham — to recreate in map form a 'past landscape' based on documented topographical detail.

In contrast the archaeological contribution, though it includes fieldwalking, earthwork survey and AP transcription, is more limited. Only in the case of Rougham, where a combination of the three defines an abandoned former village area to the W of the existing hall, church and settlement, do they have a role that is other than supportive. There is an impression that they are handled without the necessary detailed rigour to promote good independent information. Archaeologically interested readers have to look carefully for a small note on the methods of fieldwalking, for example. There is no similar methodological information about the earthwork surveys, but they look like basic scale work reproduced at the same 1:2500 scale, with the limitations that that entails: the AP transcription is simple. Is it the reality of the landscape or a reflection of approach that no ridge-and-furrow appears on the diagrams? It may be symptomatic if surprising that in his tail-piece Davison appears to speak of fieldwalking as a novel and underused source of information in this project.

The most successful of the individual studies for the reader is that by David Yaxley on the development of the house, park and gardens of the Walpoles at Houghton. Benefiting equally from its excellent detail and documentation and specificity of theme it makes fascinating reading. The desertion of Houghton village by emparking has only a peripheral place in that story, and the only field evidence adduced in relation to it is a reported observation in the 1860's [*sic*] of the appearance of village foundations as parch marks in dry seasons. The piece is splendid but surely obscurely misplaced for the attention of those who would be most interested in its story.

Yet for the interested outside observer of work on Norfolk settlements, the book performs an admirably useful function in demonstrating some of the particular practical problems of studying deserted medieval settlements in East Anglia, and how processes are evolving locally to meet those circumstances. One is forcibly reminded what an altered landscape the county presents and how, as Wade-Martins has made clear in his Launditch studies, it is the existence of an early estate map that is often the essential pre-requisite of any progress in understanding. If an additional alternative suggestion is permitted to Davison's thoughts on how the subject might fruitfully progress, it would be (in the spirit of the Group's latter-day emphasis) in area study of medieval and later settlement encompassing those which have survived and are successful as much as their unsuccessful or disappeared neighbours.

**Paul Everson**  
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# Membership Changes

A list of Founder Members, with their addresses, was published in **Report** No. 2 (1987). All changes to membership and addresses recorded in 1988 are given below. Members are asked to send any corrections, further changes etc., to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. R.E. Glasscock (Department of Geography, Downing Place, Cambridge CB2 3EN) who maintains the membership records.

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K.R. Davis (Potters Bar)  
Prof. W.F. Grimes (Swansea)

#### Resignations

Prof. L. Alcock (Glasgow)  
Dr. Eric Gee (York)  
Miss D.H. Gifford (Fleet)  
Miss J.M. Pirie (Northants. Nat. Hist.  
and Field Club)  
Prof. P.A. Rahtz (York)  
S.C. Stanford (Ludlow)  
G.F. Warren (Kidlington, Oxon)  
Rev. D.H. Williams (Caldey Abbey,  
Tenby)

#### Changes of address (to date)

Ms. G.S. Chitty,  
27A Barnsbury Street,  
Islington,  
London W11.

Helen Clarke  
Kynance,  
Clarence Road,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent TN1 1HE.

S. Cox  
18 Chiltern View,  
Little Wilton,  
Oxon OX9 7QP.

D.P. Dymond  
4 Honey Hill,  
Bury St. Edmunds,  
Suffolk IP33 1RT.

Dr. J.A. Galloway  
Centre for Metropolitan History,  
34 Tavistock Square,  
London WC1H 9EZ.

D. Haigh  
34 Argyll Street,  
Cambridge CB1 1RL.

Mrs. K.M. Hall  
Chevin,  
Hillside Road,  
Radcliffe-on-Trent,  
Notts. NG12 2GZ.

N. Harden  
272b Mount Pleasant Road,  
London N17 6EZ.

Prof. M.G. Jarrett  
Pye Corner House,  
Nash,  
Newport,  
Gwent.

A.C. Jones  
44 Aubreys,  
Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3TU.

Mrs. S. Harrison (formerly Miss S.K.  
Legg)  
12 Whitechurch Gardens,  
Letchworth,  
Herts. SG6 2AU.

C.R. Lewis  
RCHM (England),  
Rougement Close,  
Salisbury SP1 1LY

T.C. Maile,  
3 Wulphere Close,  
Dunkeswell,  
near Honiton,  
Devon EX14 0UU.

N.A.D. Molyneux,  
56 Dovey Road,  
Moseley,  
Birmingham B13 9NS.

S. Moorhouse,  
Deighton Hose,  
8 Deighton Lane,  
Healey,  
Batley,  
W. Yorks. WF17 8BJ.

Mrs. V.J.A. Oswald,  
21 Lawn Close,  
Chatham,  
Kent ME4 5DP

Ms. C. Price,  
Hazeldene,  
Brynna Road,  
Pencoed,  
Mid Glamorgan CF36 6PG.

P.N. Smith,  
29 Holcroft Road,  
Harpenden,  
Herts. AL5 5BE.

Mrs. J. Summerson,  
Charlecote Mill House,  
Hampton Lucy,  
Warwicks.

Mrs. P.D. Williams,  
Burley Farm,  
Bringsty,  
Worcester, WR6 5TF.

John Wood,  
Dept. of Archaeology, York  
University,  
Micklegate House,  
York YO1 1JZ.

#### Addresses not known (any information?)

R. Johnstone  
Mrs. E.R. Mussell (formerly in  
London SE3 9UE)

#### Correction

J.K. Saunders, 3 Sandhill Drive,  
Leeds LS17 8DU, should have been  
included in the list of Founder  
Members.



# M.S.R.G. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT, 1.1.1988 — 31.12.88

INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
<b>Subscriptions</b>			<b>Report (to date)</b>	750.00
by cheque/cash	827.42		<b>CBA Affiliation Fee</b>	24.00
by bankers order	1167.00	1994.42	<b>Postage</b>	228.13
<b>Donations</b>			<b>Stationery</b>	14.62
Anon		107.00	<b>Secretarial expenses</b>	11.71
<b>Grants</b>			<b>Refunds (of subs. paid in error)</b>	10.00
British Academy		675.00	<b>To Nat. Savings Investment Ac.</b>	5000.00
<b>Transfers</b>				
from MVRG	300.00			
from Moats Gp.	138.65	438.65		
<b>Sales</b>		178.30		
<b>In bank 31.12.87</b>		4363.24	<b>In bank 14.11.88</b>	1718.15
<b>HBMC grants for excavation</b>				
Wharram Percy 1988	11000.00		<b>Excavations</b>	
Wharram post-excavation 1987-8	10250.00		Wharram Percy 1988	11000.00
1988-9	17363.34		Wharram post-excavation	27613.34
	14500.00			14500.00
	60869.95			60869.95

R.E. GLASSCOCK (Hon. Treasurer)

Audited and found correct when read in conjunction  
with the National Savings Account.  
C.M.P. JOHNSON 9.5.1989

## National Savings Investment Account (as at 31.12.1988)

Transferred from current account	£5000.00
Transferred from MVRG account	1000.00
Interest, 1988	414.92
	£6414.92

## Acknowledgement

The Group is grateful to Dr. C.M.P. Johnson, Senior Bursar, St. John's College, Cambridge, for again auditing its annual accounts.





