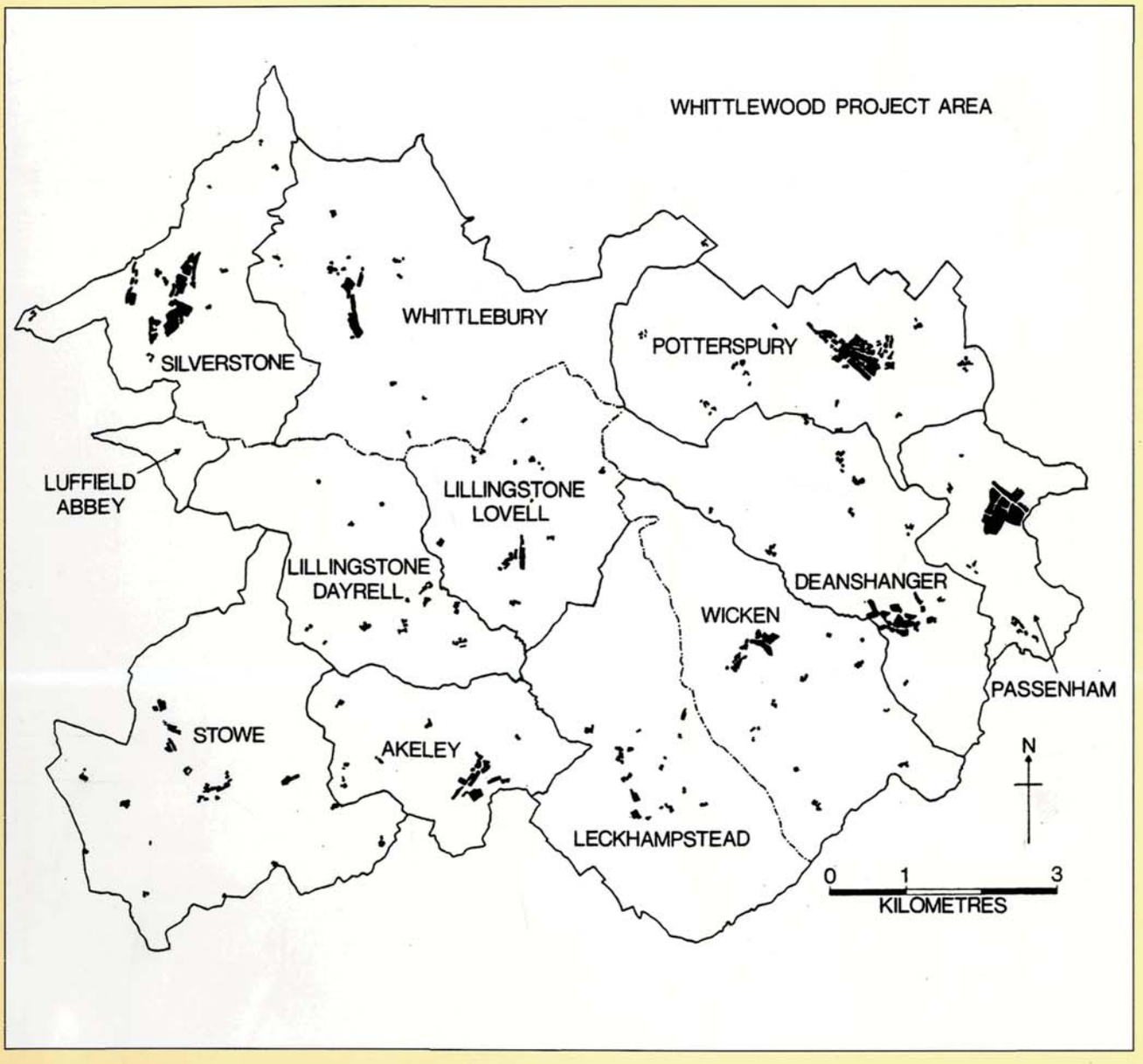
Medieval Settlement Research Group



Annual Report 14, 1999

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The group has been successful in attracting a grant from the Arts & Humanities Research Board in order to carry out a major project examining the relationship between dispersed and nucleated settlement. This is a major opportunity for the group to advance research and Chris Dyer should be congratulated in being instrumental in achieving this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 9th December, 2000 at Birkbeck College, London. This will be followed by a seminar on the Whittlewood Project..

CONFERENCE

The Spring 2000 Conference will be in Edinburgh with lectures on 21st April and a field trip on 22nd. Further details will be circulated in due course or the Secretary may be contacted.

RURALIA IV

This will be held at the castle Bederkasa, North Germany on the 8th - 14th September 2001. The theme will be 'The Peasant House'. Anyone interested in further details should contact Alan Aberg, 29 Pine Walk, Liss, GU33 7AT.

RESEARCH GRANTS

The group can make grants up to a maximum of £500 annually for the support of research by members of the Group within its field of interest. Preference will normally be given to field survey, documentary research and preparation of graphics rather than to excavation and the preparation of reports for publication. A summary report of the work will be required within a year and, subject to editorial consideration, may be published in the *Annual Report.*

Applicants should apply by letter (4 copies) summarising the proposed research and the costs involved. Mention should be made of other applications for funding. The names of two referees should be included. Letters should be addressed to the Treasurer (Dr. R. E. Glasscock, Department of Geography, Downing Place, Cambridge, CB2 3EN) to reach him by 1st December in the year preceding that in which work will be carried out. Applicants will normally be notified of the outcome in March.

Villages, Fields and Farming: Agriculture in the Middle Ages

by Robin Daniels

This was an excellent and wide ranging conference which was very well attended. The conference commenced with an introduction by Chris Dyer followed by a paper entitled, 'Settlements, Fields and Farming – some unanswered questions' given by Harold Fox. These two contributions set the scene for the weekend with Chris Dyer defining four major strands of current inquiry; the systematic collection of data; the use of a wide range of evidence; a concept of the landscape as a whole; and a more positive view of innovation and management in the countryside.

Harold Fox posed a series of questions based on the Midlands experience, commencing with the appearance of the landscape in the 7th/8th centuries. Drawing on fieldwalking and place-name evidence he drew a picture of a pattern of dispersed settlement in which individual settlements were small, mobile and had plenty of land available for occupation and farming. The field systems related to this pattern may have comprised portions of land directly related to each farmstead with provision made for the movement of stock to maximise grazing, manuring and agricultural opportunities. Seasonal settlement would have accompanied this pattern of land use allowing stock to be removed from fields for agriculture to take place.

This landscape became the victim of a major revolution in the 9th/l0th centuries when the dispersed pattern of settlement was abandoned and more substantial settlements, nucleations, came into being. This was accompanied by the development of the medieval field system with strips and open fields, which is attested in 10th century charters. Dr Fox asked a series of questions of this model and postulated some answers:

Why did the transition take place?
Nucleation and developed field systems were a response to the multiplication of dispersed settlements which particularly jeopardised the pastoral economy and it is notable that the essence of the Midland system is the fallowing of fields for stock use. The new approach was therefore a more effective system of land management

Why was a system of scattered strips used?
This was not a sharing of risk throughout the fields, but a method of locking people into a communal system.

How was nucleation achieved?
Nucleation embodied major cultural and social change requiring intensive communal co-operation. The basis of this may have been present in the need to co-operate in the use of scarce resources in a 'full" landscape e.g. the communal control of meadowland.

Why did it happen in the 9th and 10th centuries?
This amy have been the result of new demands on the system from the landowners, stimulating innovation.

Did Nucleation represent the final stage in the development of settlement pattern?
The number of 'Newtons' suggests that the creation of offshoot settlements was happening after the main move to nucleation had taken place. This was achieved by the allocation of land at the periphery of existing settlements.

Saturday commenced with David Hall dealing with *Medieval fields: expansion and contraction in champaign and forest regions* in which he drew attention to a chronological development which saw villages with immensely long strips having them broken up to create furlongs; he also pointed out that two field systems were much more prevalent than three field systems which developed from them. Peter Herring then discussed *Farmers, hamlets and fields in the medieval Cornish landscape,* this area saw neither consolidated field systems nor substantial nucleation. The pre-dominant settlement type being the hamlet of 2-10 farmsteads with a system of strip fields. This system is different from the prehistoric pattern which saw irregular fields. The strip system may have evolved as a means of allotting land and may date to the 6th-7th centuries as a means of supporting a proto-feudal administrative system which offered security, control of routeways and organisation of transhumance in return.

Following a break for coffee Julian Munby dealt with *People and fields in Medieval Portchester: the curious case of the Titchfield Tabulator* this was based on detailed records of Portchester held by Titchfield Abbey including a survey of 1405 which described each furlong in detail. This has allowed a detailed analysis of the changing social fabric of the settlement indicating that 25% of land was held by new families after the Black Death and that the basic two field system was moving to a three field one.

Edward Newman asked the question *Did Medieval farming maintain or degrade the fertility of soil* and used a detailed examination of Cuxham, Oxfordshire to discuss the issue. This was set in the context of a hypothetical fertility decrease in the 14th century. Plants require nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium as basic mineral nutrients and the constant loss of these through cropping and pasture needs to be balanced by the same level of input to maintain fertility.

The Reeve of Cuxham in the early 14th century was Robert Oldman and he maintained detailed records of yield from the three field system in operation. These showed that yields were falling and analysis showed that despite mineral inputs from manuring the level of phosphorous would have been falling while the other nutrients stayed relatively stable. The only way to rectify this would have been to obtain more pasture to increase manuring.

In a continuation of the theme of farming practice and management David Stone spoke about the *Management of agricultural resources on demesne farms in late medieval England* this was based on a detailed study of Cambridgeshire and also drew information from Hinderclay in Sussex. The paper questioned the premise of judging the efficiency of farming on the basis of production. The study showed quite clearly that positive choices were being made to reduce or intensify production and vary the crops/animals produced in response to demand and to the availability of labour for duties such as weeding.

Two upland areas were examined next with Bob Sylvester discussing *Cultivating the uplands the Welsh dimension* while Robert Dodgshon looked at *Farming townships in the Highlands and Islands prior to clearance.* Bob Sylvester began by pointing out that there had been very little systematic survey of the land above 800 feet (200m) which he defined as upland, although CADW have funded a programme of surveys of deserted rural settlements which will shortly be completed. There is some evidence of stripfields and ridging at high levels, but it is relatively rare and there is no clear answer to the question of whether the small settlements seen at these elevations were ever intended to be more than seasonal settlements.

Robert Dodgshon dispelled the idea that the traditional crofting economy was of great antiquity, but rather had originated in the late medieval period to support the system of chiefdoms which had developed. It replaced a system based around the use of small enclosures and in which settlement was very fluid.

The last group of papers looked in detail at the animals and crops farmed, with Chris Dyer providing an overview of the use of medieval fields. Umberto Albarella examined *Medieval Husbandry: the bioarchaeological evidence* and discerned a number of changes over time, principal among them being a big increase in the size of cattle by the 16th century, the beginning of the use of horses for traction such as ploughing as harnesses improved and a tendency for sheep to be killed when older in the later medieval period as they became more important for wool production than meat. He concluded by indicating that the size of all species had increased by the end of the period and that the late medieval period also saw a greater emphasis on meat production as a result of increased wealth and population.

Lisa Moffett in *Medieval cereals - an archaeobotanist's perspective* described the range of cereals available and how they were used. Bread wheat was the most common, being used throughout all parts of England with rye and oats being common, while barley was probably grown for brewing or animal fodder being difficult to process for human food. The common use of mixed crops such as maslin(wheat/rye) and dredge(barley/oats) provided insurance against single species failure.

In looking at the use of medieval fields Chris Dyer pointed out that the two field system cropped by furlong was by far the more flexible and that the physical creation of a third field from an initial two field system must have been a difficult undertaking. Passing on to look at manuring regimes it was emphasised that this was achieved by folding cattle overnight and carting the manure to the fields. Manuring was clearly a very deliberate process and one reflected in field walking results where pottery from many periods could be found in one field, but not in an adjacent one suggesting a very deliberate exploitation of the best fields probably to allow continuous cultivation.

This was a wide ranging and informative conference which reinforced the concept of medieval farming as a well managed, efficient process structured to obtain specific results rather than a ceaseless quest for higher yield and productivity.

Ruralia III, Maynooth, Ireland

by Alan Aberg

The third international colloquium on the archaeology of medieval rural settlement in Europe was held in Maynooth, Republic of Ireland, where delegates heard papers on the theme of dispersed and nucleated settlement. Speakers attended from fourteen countries, and there were two opportunities on excursions to see deserted village and moated sites. One excursion concentrated on an area in the Hook Peninsular where Anglo-Norman settlement was imposed on the native landscape, and the second visited Roscommon where Kieran O'Connor took delegates around moated sites copied and constructed by the indigenous Gaelic-Irish population. The meeting was organised by Dr. Terry Barry and offered a thoughtful assessment of the evolution of settlement patterns in Europe, and some highly interesting evidence from recent excavations in Denmark, Germany and Hungary. A total of thirty-six papers were heard on research in areas from Russia to Spain and Norway to Morocco, and it is hoped to publish the proceedings next year.

Ruralia II has now been published and is available from Andre Matthys, Region Wallonne, Division Patrimoine, Rue des Brigardes d'Irlande, 1, B 5100 Namur, Belgium (Price £25).

Ruralia III: Fieldtrip to North Co. Roscommon

Aim

The aim of the fieldtrip was for delegates to the Ruralia Conference to visit north Co. Roscommon - a part of Ireland which remained under the local control of indigenous Gaelic kings and lords during the whole medieval period down to the 17th century. As a result of this, Anglo-Norman/English settlement did not occur in this northern part of the county.

Figure 1:

Background (Figure 1)

Roscommon is regarded as really the beginning of the West of Ireland. Today it is a predominantly rural region of small farms scattered throughout the landscape. Many lakes and much relatively untouched bogland also occur in the county.

Cloonfree moated site (Figures 2,3)

This wedge-shaped originally bivallate moated site is situated beside the main Dublin/Castlebar road – one of the main arteries into the West of Ireland. The site has been identified as the *longphort* or stronghold of Aedh or Hugh O'Conor, king of Connacht, mentioned in the Annals under the year 1306. Houses (tigib) and a palace (pailiss) are described as being located within the site in the latter year. A praise-poem describing Aedh O'Conor's house and fortress here has survived down to the present day.

Ogulla moated site (Figures 2, 4)

This wedge-shaped originally bivallate moated site was only recognised recently as an archaeological site. It is clear that Ogulla was a locally important church during the Early Christian period. This church and the medieval parish church which replaced it, presumably lie under the graveyard adjacent to the site. Some lands at Ogulla were clearly held by the See of Clonmacnoise during the medieval period. It is possible that the moated site at Ogulla marks the centre of their lands in the area. However, the historical sources and field evidence also indicate that Ogulla and the adjacent townlands of Carrowgarve and Toomona were a focus for secular settlement during the 13th and 14th century. Other moated sites and pre-modern, presumably medieval field systems occur nearby. It is quite possible that the moated site at Ogulla represents another medieval O'Conor centre, similar to Cloonfree. It also seems that there may have been a shift in secular settlement from the Ogulla/ Toomona area to nearby Tulsk early in the 15th century. A Holy-Well also occurs at Ogulla and is still very much

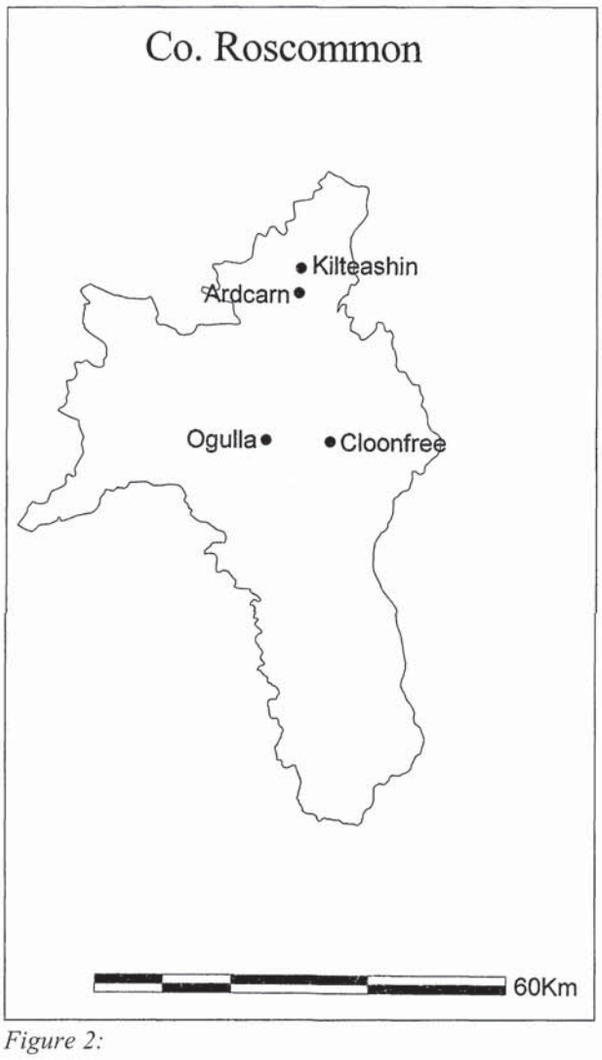

Figure 2:

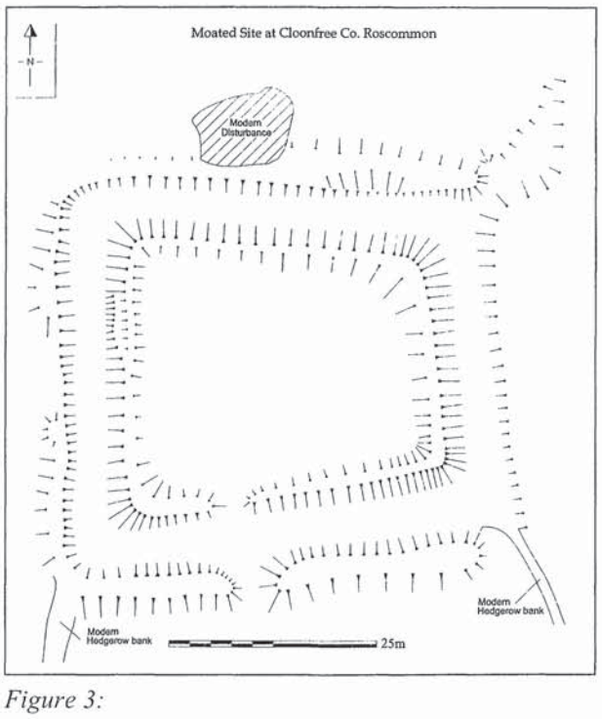

Figure 3:

in use. It is visited by local people hoping for a cure for eye-complaints.

Kilteashin Episcopal Residence and Field System (Figures 2,5)

A rectangular enclosure, the adjacent foundations of what appears to be an Early Christian church, a premodern field system and a possible corn-drying kiln occur at Kilteashin today. A palace/house/residence (*cuirt*) was erected by Tomaltagh O'Conor, Bishop of Elphin, at Kilteashin in 1253. This residence at Kilteashin and another at Elphin (also a *cuirt*), both belonging to the Bishop of Elphin, was destroyed by Hugh O'Conor in 1258. The bishop of Elphin seems to have still owned land here in the 17th century. In all, Kilteashin seems to represent the remains of the centre of a small medieval Gaelic episcopal estate and residence. An enclosure within the field system was used until the 1960's as a burial ground for unbaptised children. Such places are known as 'Killeens' in the Irish countryside today. The adjacent house to the site,

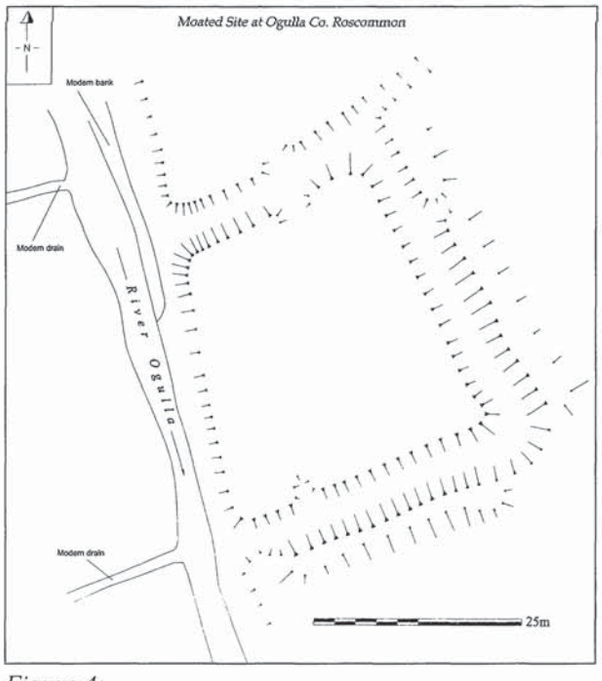

Figure 4:

Riversdale House, was the childhood home of the actress Maureen O'Sullivan, mother of Mia Farrow.

Ardcarn - Deserted Settlement and Field System (Figures 2,6)

A whole series of small, rectangular fields, tofts and house sites occur at Ardcarne today, with the remains of bigger fields beyond the site. Ardcarne was clearly an important Early Christian church site, with a lay settlement around it by at least the 12th century. There is a good reference to a large number of wooden houses being taken down here in 1235, suggesting some sort of nucleated settlement here at that date.

The present generally held view of Gaelic medieval settlement is that it was predominantly dispersed with isolated houses and small hamlets occurring throughout the landscape. It is also possible that small numbers of peasant houses occurred beside lordly centres such as Cloonfree as well.

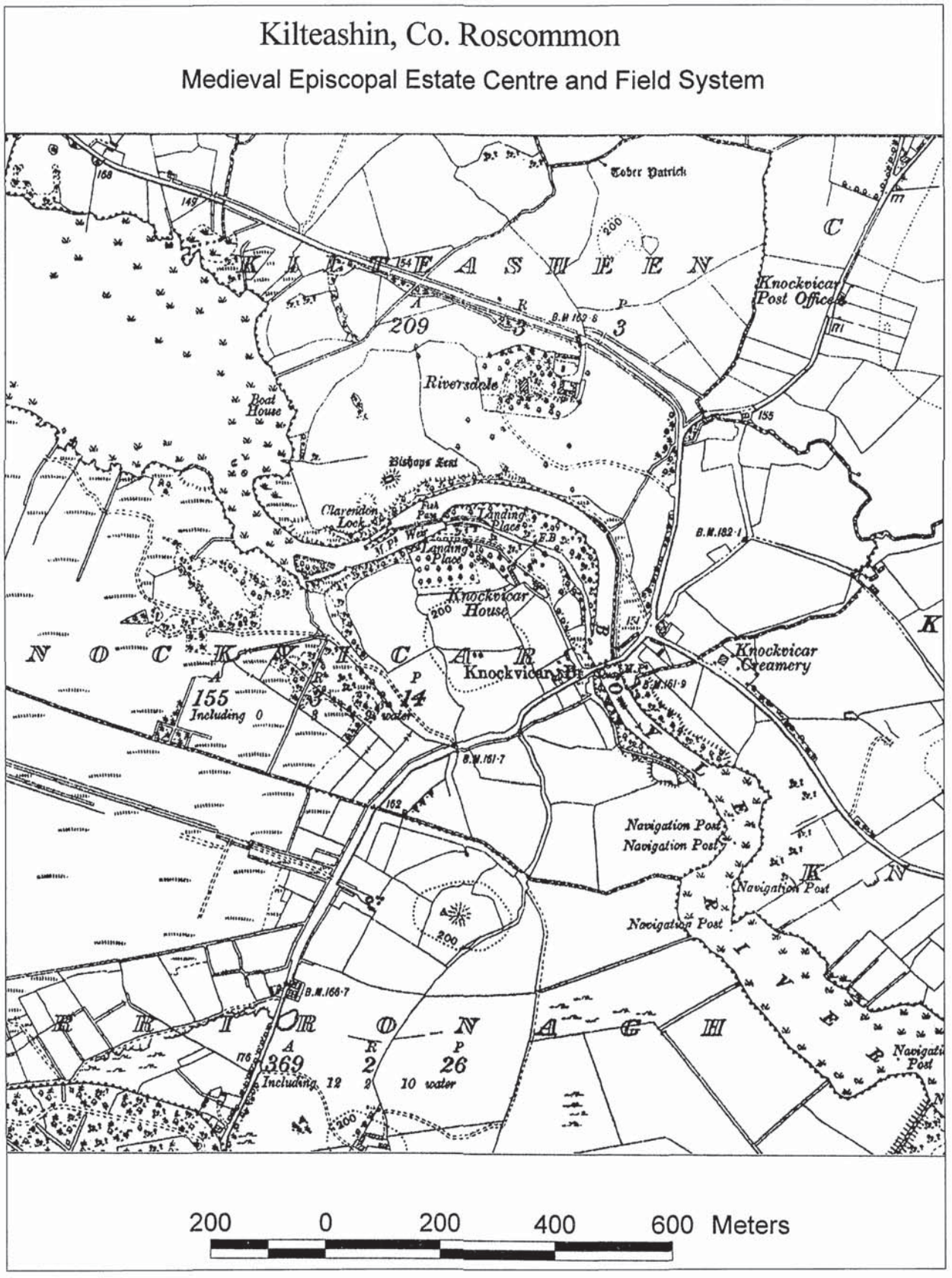

Figure 5:

Ardcarne is clearly bigger than a mere hamlet and suggests that large settlements, possibly of the size of large villages or small towns, could occur in medieval Gaelic Ireland, although on present evidence they seem to be relatively rare. Excavation of a site like Ardcarne would hopefully be able to answer substantial questions about the economy, craft and industry of medieval Gaelic Ireland.


Ardcarn Co. Roscommon
Deserted Settlement & Fieldsystem
Lough Keel
BALLYARDAN
DEER PAR
GLEBE
Ardcarn Rectory
Ellesmere House
Woodlawn
Ardcarn Ch.
Ardcarna
FARRANAFAILLAGH WEST
ARDCARN
ISK
CLOONAGHBAUN
Glencarne House
200 0 200 400 600 Meters

Figure 6:

Medieval and Later Settlement in Wales: A Review of Recent Work

by Jonathan Kissock

The membership of the Welsh group of the Institute of Field Archaeologists met, under the chairmanship of **Stephen Briggs** (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales), at the Owain Glyndwr Institute in Machynlleth on 12 November 1999 in order to share ideas on the rural settlement of the Principality from the early medieval period onwards.

Mike Yates (Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments) began the proceedings with an "Introduction to the Cadw deserted rural settlements programme." He considered the pioneer work carried out by several individuals, but noted that the subject had suffered from a general neglect. Cadw has attempted to redress this and, in consequence, has attempted to increase the amount of deserted rural settlement on the schedule of ancient monuments which enjoy statutory protection. This work encounters the problem in that protection under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act can only be given to sites of "national importance". After a pilot study in north west Wales Cadw invited applications from the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts for funding to examine the deserted rural settlement of their particular areas. Each Trust designed their own project, hence allowing for regional perspectives to be developed alongside different academic objectives. Dr. Yates finished by noting that despite the current situation of developer-funding the support and interest of the wider population was critical, and that better communication (including publication) was the key to achieving this.

Martin Locock (Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust) followed with a paper on "Rural settlement in Monmouthshire." This project has the explicit aim of informing the local planning process. One of the principal methods adopted by the study is the desk-based regressive study of maps in order to review changing settlement morphology and patterning. The results show that a number of small settlements once existed (each perhaps consisting of a small number of large homesteads.) Enclosure of common land followed as population expanded in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Almost no evidence for medieval settlement desertion was found. The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were proposed as a period of major landscape change with the post dissolution clearing of woodland. It was concluded that the "classic" Midlands model of settlement cannot be applied to south east Wales - this is a landscape of large, dispersed farmsteads. The speaker then turned briefly to GGAT's new Deserted Rural Settlement in Glamorgan project and looked at the history of work in the uplands, the proposals for a new survey and speculated that there was a sustained phase of upland exploitation in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

In an address illustrated by beautiful photographs **Paul Sambrook** (Cambria Archaeology) considered "Deserted rural settlement: a post medieval phenomenon." Once again the aim of the project was enhancement of the scheduled site record. Sambrook maintained that there was plentiful evidence for past rural settlement in south west Wales, but that it was difficult to understand. Continuity from the medieval period onwards was proposed and it was argued, on the basis of historico-cartographic evidence, that some of the presumed medieval *hafoddau* were, in fact, nineteenth century cottages. The concept of the *lluest* – another form of temporary summer settlement – was also considered and it was argued that many of these were only abandoned after c. 1750. The speaker ended with what was described, by Dr. Briggs, as a "provocative claim": there is no such thing as deserted medieval settlement studies, just deserted settlement studies.

David Longley (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust) used the admittedly biased evidence from Crown surveys to examine the theme of "Medieval Anglesey: a lost landscape." In a quickly presented paper he discussed the level of population in medieval Anglesey and argued that changes in patterns of tenure had led to changes in the landscape (for example, settlement consolidation.) Medieval dispersed patterns, he maintained, were replaced by a pattern of nucleated settlement. Longley's paper ended with two rhetorical questions: where are the dispersed settlements? What did they look like? **Toby Driver** (RCAHMW) in a paper which was profusely illustrated with stunning air photographs considered "Settlement patterns from the air: a review of recent work." He reviewed the practicalities of such work, noting the conditions in which sites and best photographed and the relative advantages of vertical and oblique photographs. He advocated a dual process of recording: gathering both details of the sites themselves and of the sites as part of the wider landscape. Finally, the importance of photographing the intertidal zones was emphasised as an area that was complexly linked to dry-land settlement.

After an excellent lunch **Sue Jones** (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust) looked at the distribution of deserted rural settlement in Gwynedd in a paper entitled "Deserted rural settlements - Castell township, Conwy Valley." Her research focused on the western side of the Conwy Valley with the township of Castell forming a cross section of a variety of types of land from the river valley to the uplands. Again the project is aimed at enhancing the sites and monuments record and the number of sites known in the area is now three times what it was at the start of the project. It was proposed that increasing population pressure had led to the use of the uplands and that this was eventually checked and set into reverse by climate change. Problems with terminology – notably the question what is a *hafod*? - were considered as part of this paper. **Ken Murphy** (Cambria Archaeology) looked at "Estates, enclosure and squatters:

18th and 19th century settlement in Ceredigion" as part of a more generalised, characterisation survey. He looked at the enclosure of waste areas and noted that this rarely led to new farms; surprisingly farms were often lost as a part of this process as lands were consolidated amongst estates. The concept of the *ty yn ynos* (house built in one night) was addressed as part of a study of squatter encroachments and conflicts over land. It was argued that the main period of desertion was between 1918 and 1939, but that sites were gradually being reoccupied as part of the wider process of counterurbanisation.

Bob Silvester (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust) began his paper on "Aberedw Hall, Radnorshire: settlements and fields" with a review of the themes which tend to feature in the study of rural settlement in Wales: the concept of marginality, the uncertain nature of the evidence (even basic matter such as date and nature are sometimes unknowns) and the value of air photographs for these studies. The variety of evidence – cairns, trackways, dew ponds, agricultural patterns and encroachments - were all discussed with the latter described in some detail. It was argued that the encroachments were difficult to date and that it was impossible to demonstrate whether these were occupied seasonally or throughout the year. It was concluded that it was easy to identify deserted rural settlement, but that it was very difficult to interpret. **Heather James** (Cambria Archaeology) presented the results of her and her husband's work in the upper Tawe valley as "The Bishop's Forest: medieval and later settlement in the Doiethie Valley, Ceredigion." In 1326 there was pasture for 240 cattle and 15 homesteads in the area, but none of them are recorded on the tithe map. This study is aimed at discovering and recording them. Despite the expansion of forestry and the drowning of several river valleys as a consequence of damming a variety of sites have been discovered. These include longhouses and abandoned farms (the criteria used to differentiate between them being characteristically vague) together with patterns of tracks and routeways. An impressive computer simulation, prepared but not presented by **Terry James,** demonstrated the importance of exposure as a feature of these sites. Some sites receive their only winter sun in the mid-afternoon and are in shadow almost all day; this was taken to argue for seasonal occupation of these sites.

The nine papers were reviewed by **Stephen Briggs** who chaired the concluding discussion. He examined the principles, methodologies and terminology that has been applied to the study of deserted rural settlement in Wales and the whole subject of terminology was noted as fraught with problems. Dr. Briggs also stated the need now for some excavation of selected sites to compliment the growing database being gained through survey work. Other contributors to this debate raised a range of issues: the problems of dating deserted rural sites, the difficulty of finding middens to assist in this, the value of air photography in finding traces of upland cultivation strips, cattle raising and the evidence for hayricks in the uplands, manuring regimes, farming practices, population numbers and the institutional and physical barriers to land use. On seasonality the range of spatial and chronological variation was stated to amount to a "consensus of ignorance."

The speakers at this excellent meeting were drawn entirely from the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts and the two central government bodies: Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. A quite different programme could have been put together utilising the work being done by university-based researchers: David Austin, Anthony Ward, John Howells, Ray Howell and the author are all engaged in different aspects of Welsh settlement studies. (Indeed this Group tried and regrettably failed to bring together both sets of scholars in its abortive 1999 Spring conference.) This range of work - survey and excavation, both formulating and trying to answer fundamental questions – clearly demonstrates the vitality of Welsh settlement studies.

Centre for the Study of Culture, Archaeology, Religion and Biogeography, University of Wales College, Newport, Caerleon Campus, PO Box 179, Newport, NP18 3YG.

Axel Steensberg 1 June 1906 - 3 March 1999

by John Hurst

Axel Steensberg was born on the 1st June 1906 in the small village of Sinding in Jutland. His father, Jens Christensen Steensberg (born 1858, married Maren Jespersen Skree (born 1862) in 1883. As Jens was a younger brother, he did not have the family farm of Stensbjerg, which had been owned by the Steensberg family since 1799. He bought some heath and moor from his father, started to cultivate it, and built a small house. Axel went to the local school at Sinding from 1912 to 1920; there were only two classes and each went three days a week. In between 1920 and 1926 Axel helped his father on the farm and also went to the farm of his elder brother, Niels, at Alme in North Zealand, as a farmhand and herdsman. He did not earn a wage from his father, but he worked for other farmers to get some money. In these six teenage years he learnt all the traditional operations, on different types of farm, which formed the basis for all his future research.

In the winters of 1926-7 and 1927-8 Steensberg was a pupil at Askov Folk High School, training to become a teacher; these studies opened a new world to him; he could not believe that they called it work to sit and read. In the summers he worked on farms to earn money to support himself. In 1928 Steensberg decided to go to Copenhagen to study. In 1930, as a mature student, he took a one year private course in history and geography. He had no money, so he went to night-school, working in an office all day and studying in the early morning. In 1911 he obtained his student degree certificate, which qualified him to go to university. In 1932 Steensberg; became a teacher at "Stevns Folk High School but in 1933 he went to Copenhagen University to read history and geography, with geology. The university was free but he had to pay for a room and a little food. He was never a great eater as he had a weak stomach. In 1934, to finance his studies, Steensberg worked as a student helper in the Prehistoric Department of the National Museum, Copenhagen, preparing new exhibitions after the extension of the museum. Between 1934 and 1938 he was paid to assist Gundmund Hatt, who had become Professor of Human Geography 1930. This was a turning point in Steensberg's life. He helped on Hatt's Iron Age excavations in Jutland and mapped field systems during the summer, making excavation fair drawings in the winter months. This left little time for studying but Steensberg graduated in 1937.

In 1922 Hatt had assisted Hans Kjaer at his excavations on the iron age settlement of Ginderup, in Jutland. This was excavated by the traditional method of metre squares, with baulks. In 1927 Hatt pioneered open area excavation at Tolstrup, another Jutland Iron Age site, by uncovering the whole site at once, peeling off the layers to their fullest extent as they had been deposited one on top of the other. He disentangled as many as five or six superimposed floor levels. With the metre-square system only odd paving slabs and hearths had been found, as the indistinct floors were worn thin and were full of hollows and other irregularities. Hatt levelled in every sherd of pottery; he was fortunate in that the scattered sherds of a single pot delimited one archaeological layer, thus providing a finely subdivided stratification. Over the next few years Hatt developed and expanded this method.

From 1938 Steensberg was employed by the Folk Museum, the Third Department of the National Museum, Copenhagen. He became head of the Third Department in 1946. His job was to study traditional farm houses, regional-variations in their plans and details of their construction. He excavated beneath farm buildings moved to the Museum, looking for earlier structures; the Pebringe farm in 1939 was the most important of these (publication no. 369). In 1939 Steensberg excavated mills and buildings at Bolle, Jutland, five superimposed houses at Aså nearby and five buildings, comprising two farms, at Nodskov Heath. These were published, together with Pebringe, emphasising his use of open area excavation, in *Farms and Watermills* in 1952 (no. 97) and Steensberg 1955 (no. 125). This was, crucially, just as Deserted Medieval Village studies were getting off the ground in Britain. In 1941-2 Steensberg excavated two farmsteads at Hejninge in Zealand (published 1986, no. 369) and farms on Bornholm in 1944. Steensberg initiated in 1936, at the suggestion of his mentor Hatt, experiments with harvesting implements, concentrating on their function and working processes, not just typology. In the summer of 1938 he travelled to Czechoslovakia, Austria, Southern Germany and Galicia, to study harvesting and, in 1939, carried out a harvesting experiment in Jutland. In 1942 Steensberg was awarded his doctorate for a thesis *Ancient Harvesting Implements, (published* 1943 no. 34. In 1945 to 1953 Steensberg carried out his major village excavation of five medieval farmsteads at Store Valby, Zealand (published 1974, no. 297).

Steensberg was always an anglophile; because of his interests in fields and implements, he had already been in contact before World War II with the English experts, E. C. Curwen, J. G. D. Clark and C. W. Phillips. Links were resumed in 1947 when Professor M. M. Postan went to lecture in Copenhagen. The British Council arranged a return visit in 1948, which culminated in the famous day trip, on the 19th June, to the Deserted Medieval Villages of Ingarsby and Hamilton, Leicestershire, at which Postan gathered together all those interested in medieval settlement: M. W. Beresford, T. A. M. Bishop, J. G. D. Clark, K. D. M. Dauncey, W. G. Hoskins, E. Miller and J. Saltmarsh (Steensberg 1982). It had been intended that Dauncey would take up the archaeological challenge of DMVs, but he soon left archaeology for industry.

In August 1951 Grahame Clark introduced Jack Golson and John Hurst to Axel Steensberg at the Edinburgh meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. It was from this point that the archaeological investigation of DMVs in Britain took off. From May 1952 Golson spent six months in Denmark excavating with Steensberg on farm 17 at Store Valby, to gain

experience in open area excavation. Meanwhile Hurst was becoming more interested in DMVs, met Beresford and then visited his excavations at Wharram Percy, Yorkshire. The Deserted Medieval Village Research Group was founded in October 1952, with Steensberg as a founder member, and an Overseas Corresponding Member, representing Scandinavia. In 1957 Steensberg was also a founder member, and attended the inaugural meeting of the Society for Medieval Archaeology on the 16th of April at Burlington House, London. During the 1950s and 1960s Steensberg was in close contact with the DMVRG, exchanging information on medieval settlement studies in Scandinavia and Britain. He was a constant visitor to Britain, being in great demand to speak at conferences. In 1992 Steensberg was made an honorary member of the Medieval Village Research Group.

Golson and Hurst began the first professional excavations at Wharram Percy in 1953 on Area 10, basing their techniques on Steensberg's excavations at Store Valby (Hurst 1956). At that time, as earlier in Denmark, the Wheeler grid and baulk method, developed for deep Romano-British structures, reigned supreme in Britain. They left two baulks on Area 10 until 1956, to take account of the strong opposition from their peers to open area excavation. Now, after nearly 50 years, it is routine on both rural and urban sites. But in retrospect Golson and Hurst were unjustified in transferring the methods used for tracing thin floors in Zealand soils to the chalk rubble deposits of the Yorkshire Wolds: they were not to know that the medieval Wharram peasant did not build up floor levels, but constantly swept them clean to the bare chalk, while the outside middens were disturbed by the carting away of rubbish to manure the open fields. So the exact plotting of every find on plan and composite section did not produce the expected results and had to be modified on Area 6 in the 1960s, as few of the finds were in stratified deposits. The fact remains, however, that this significant information would not have been ascertained but for the meticulous Steensbergian surveying, and construction of the composite cross-sections, on Area 10. Steensberg's greatest contribution to medieval archaeology was in exporting the principles of open area excavation to Britain.

Between 1953 and 1955 Steenberg experimented with fire-clearance husbandry in a deciduous wood at Draved in Jutland (published 1979, no. 329). In 1954 the International Secretariat for research on the History of Agricultural Implements was founded though Steensberg, attached to the Folk Museum. Its periodical *Tools and Tillage,* edited by Grith Lerche, Steensberg and Alexander Fenton, has been published since 1968. The Secretariat still continues on a wider basis as the International Secretariat for Research on the History of Agrarian and Food technology, since 1995 at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Frederiksberg. From 1952 to 1967 Steensberg carried out a comprehensive survey of the fields of Borup, Zealand (published 1968, no. 243), with the excavation of the medieval village starting in 1959. In May 1960 Hurst managed to get paid leave from the Ministry of works to spend a month helping Steensberg at Borup, gaining direct experience of Steensberg's methods of open area excavation. Towards the end of his stay Hurst was working on a clay area of farm 3, which turned out to be oven 7 (published 1983, no. 351).

Steensberg did not travel outside Europe until 1965. His daughter, Inger, was then in south-east Iran, where her husband was an engineer building new roads. She invited her father to go out to Sirjan to study the traditional agriculture in this interesting area, far from Tehran, which would be changed by a new road. Grith Lerche had been to Bahrain as a student with P. V. Glob and, because of her knowledge of the Arab world and the ability to understand and speak a little Arabic, Steensberg easily persuaded her to join him, the first of several trips together. In 1968 Steensberg and Lerche attended the International Congress or Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan, where Steensberg made contact with workers on traditional agriculture. After the Congress Steensberg and Lerche visited Australia for a week with Jack Golson, who was at the Australian National University at Canberra and working in Papua New Guinea. They spent two weeks in Papua New Guinea making detailed records of gardening and house construction in the highlands.

Tools and Tillage had just started to appear before the Congress in Japan. It aimed at a Global coverage, so Steensberg was already open to the world beyond Europe, and people outside Europe were beginning to know about him through the journal. Again Steensberg was following Hatt's interest in the farming of non-European peoples. He returned to Papua New Guinea three times in the next 15 years. In 1971 he was in Australia and New Zealand as a consultant for a Unesco project on Oceanic Cultures, spending another two weeks in Papua New Guinea. In 1975 Steensberg spent four weeks in Australia and six in Papua New Guinea, two of them in a remote highland settlement, observing and recording the everyday life of the people, centred on gardens and the household. He then spent two weeks experimenting in the clearance of swamp grasses, the digging of drainage ditches and the cultivation of gardens with replicas of the clearing and digging tools that Golson had excavated in the swamp. These three visits led to Steensberg's *New Guinea Gardens* (1980, no. 337). He returned for a final visit in 1983 continuing his interests in the tools and techniques of gardening. Steensberg catalogued, described and drew agricultural implements found in Papua New Guinea swamp sites, resulting in an article with Golson in 1985 no. 364). Steensberg visited Syria in 1965 and 1968, India in 1971, and Java in 1975.

After five years as Associate Professor at Copenhagen, Steensberg was, in 1959, appointed Professor of Material Folk Culture, a new university discipline. He kept the post until 1970, when he retired so as to devote himself full time to research. In 1966 Steensberg was presented with a *Festschrift* on the occasion of his 60th birthday, *Dansk Folkemuseum & Frilandsmuseet,* published by the National Museum, Copenhagen. This 264 page survey of the history and activities of the Danish Folk Museum and the Open Air Museum, in English, included a record of Steensberg's excavations. For most scholars this would mark the summit of their achievements after 30 years of research, but Steensberg was in fact only half way through his work and there were three more celebrations to come.

On his 70th birthday in 1976, *The Common Fields of Culture* (no. 307) was published, listing 305 publications by Steensberg over a period of 40 years, together with a *Tabula Gratulatoria*. For his 80th birthday in 1986 a Bibliographical Supplement was published listing 100 further publications. At the same time Steensberg's *Man the Manipulator: an Ethno-archaeological Basis for reconstructing the past* (no. 367) brought together his thoughts after 50 years of research, giving a world picture as a result of his work in Europe, Asia and the Pacific. In 1989 Steensberg was again breaking new ground when he published *Hard Grains, Irrigation, Numerals and Script in the Rise of Civilizations* (no. 419), which led to an honorary doctorate at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. The final celebration was in 1996, on his 90th birthday, when another Bibliographic Supplement was published listing a further 29 publications, making a total of 435, a remarkable achievement for any scholar. Axel Steensberg died on the 3rd of March 1999, in his 92nd year.

Axel Steensberg was a true polymath with very wide practical and academic interests. His whole approach to research was coloured by his first twenty years growing up, and working on traditional farms. He quickly learned archaeological techniques, developing Hatt's methods of open area excavation for medieval sites. Steensberg was interested in the whole range of human settlement, fields, peasant houses and farms and the function, rather than the typology, of tools. His collaboration with Golson in Papua New Guinea extended his interests world-wide from temperate Europe. In a working life of over 60 years of research Steensberg covered vast areas of human endeavour. With the increasing specialisms of modern scholarship, such an extensive research-field is hard to emulate. His generation was the last to have that personal experience of traditional farming which made all his research so practical, and not just academic. Steensberg's expertise in folk culture, combined with his farming background, and his knowledge of historical sources, produced a highly versatile, and original scholar.

It was a privilege to know Steensberg over a period of nearly 50 years, and to learn from his vast experience. I have two vivid memories of Axel: his dictionary English and his mischievous sense of humour. His English was almost perfect, like that of so many Scandinavians, except that he perversely used the most unlikely synonyms on many occasions. He was also confused by English idiom. I was once pointing out a field of ridge and furrow and said that he could see that it was running from north to south, when Steensberg burst out 'how can it be running when it is standing still'. During my visit to Denmark in 1960 Steensberg very kindly showed me many settlement sites, and was also proud to show off his new green Peugeot 403. This was provided by Nyt Nordisk Forlag, the publisher of *Dagligliv i Danmark* (no. 321), the impressive series of eight volumes which Steensberg edited. As we shot past a fine Renaissance castle Steensberg accelerated and said 'of course you are not interested in the upper classes'. Axel Steensberg, with his full life of over 90 years, is remembered as an inspiring professor, as a tough world traveller eager to observe and learn, and to put his observations into a wider context, and as a dedicated research scientist, with a magnificent record of publication He brought a fresh outlook and trod new ways in vastly developing and expanding his mentor Hatt's wide interests in settlement, excavation techniques and world-wide farming practices.

Acknowledgements

This obituary is compiled from a combination of Axel Steensberg's own autobiographical writings, several biographical summaries by Grith Lerche, and my own personal memories. I am greatly indebted to the Steensberg family, Lars (son) whom I have known, and corresponded with, for 40 years; Jens (son) and Inger Banke (daughter); Dr Grith Lerche of the International and Secretariat for Research on the History of Agrarian and Food Technology, whom I was glad to meet in 1970 and on later visits; and Professor Jack Golson of the Australian National University, Canberra, who also knew Axel for nearly 50 years and who 'had a most profitable co-operation' with him, for reading a draft of this obituary, correcting errors and making important additions and suggestions to improve the text. I must, though, accept responsibility for all the views expressed.

Bibliography

Two English publications give more details of Steensberg's work on DMVs and his methods of open area excavation:

No. 125, A. Steensberg, 'Medieval and later village excavation in Denmark', *Archaeological News Letter,* V, no. 9 (1955), 182-4.

No. 352 A. Steensberg, The development of open area excavation and its introduction into medieval archaeology: an historical survey', Medieval Village Research Group Annual Report, 30 1982), 27-30.

For an early discussion of the open area method used at Wharram Percy see J. G. Hurst,' Deserted medieval villages and the excavations at Wharram Percy, Yorkshire', in R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford ed., *Recent Archaeological excavations in Britain,* London, 1956, 272-3.

The numbered references in the text will be found in Steensberg's bibliographies, which are published in three parts, each, edited by G. Lerche: No. 307, Axel Steensberg 1st June 1976: A bibliography 1936-1976, in G. Lerche ed., *The Common fields of culture,* National Museum of Denmark, 1976, 52-98. *Axel Steensberg 1st June 1986: A birthday bibliographical supplement, 1976-1986: Axel Steensberg eighty years 1 June 1986,* ed. G. Lerche, National Museum of Denmark, 1986. *Axel Steensberg 1st June 1996: A birthday bibliographical supplement, 1986-1996: Axel Steensberg ninety years 1 June 1996.,* ed., G. Lerche, Royal Vetinerary and Agricultural University, Frederiksberg, 1996.

The Medieval Settlement Research Group has copies of these bibliographies, together with some of Steensberg's publications and other foreign publications on medieval settlement. These are on loan to the Department of English Local History at Leicester. Scholars wishing to consult these publications should write, in the first instance, to the Secretary, Department of English Local History, University of Leicester, Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester LE1 7QR.

Some of Steensberg's publications are still in print and may be obtained by contacting Dr G. Lerche at the International Secretariat, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University Bülowsvej 17, DK-1870, Frederiksberg C, Denmark. E-mail: gle@kvl.dk or Fax: +45 35 28 37 46.

The Medieval Settlement Research Group Whittlewood Project

by Christopher Dyer

The Deserted Medieval Village Research Group (later the Medieval Village Research Group), one of the organisations from which MSRG was formed, had as one of its main activities the excavation and related research work at Wharram Percy. With the end of the main programme of work at Wharram it seemed right to think of a new research project which would act as a focus for developing new ideas about medieval rural settlements. The preparation for the new programme of research has extended over many years, which makes a contrast with the origins of Wharram, which began informally and almost by accident. At Wharram the excavation was the starting point, and the examination of the surrounding countryside developed later. Wharram's research aims developed as the work proceeded. It was initially designed to show that remains of a village lay under the earthworks, and to find evidence for the date of desertion. Later it became an investigation of the material culture of the medieval peasants, and then an enquiry into the origins and formation of the village. The aims of the new project will no doubt evolve in a similar way, but initially it is concerned with the formation of villages, taking into account earlier patterns of settlement and farming. It will look at the environmental and social context for medieval settlements of all kinds, especially in their formative stage. It is also concerned with the functioning of settlements at their peak of growth around 1300, and with their contraction. The new project was intended to be a study of settlements within a landscape, with a great deal of field work, survey and documentary research before any major excavation was begun. Wharram was a large nucleated village, and other major projects such as those at Raunds and Shapwick have also focussed on villages. The new project was designed to look at a landscape with dispersed settlements as well as nucleated villages. Like Wharram, the new project would be interdisciplinary.

The first stage of the work began in 1990, when I proposed to the MSRG committee a study of four east midland counties, partly as a useful piece of research in its own right, which would demonstrate the distribution of different settlement forms, and offer some preliminary hypotheses about their development. Its other purpose would be to identify suitable areas for detailed investigation. The east midland counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire were chosen because they contained contrasting landscapes and types of settlement, and modern agriculture had not (unlike, for example, Norfolk) removed most traces of earthworks. Also, unlike the west midlands, the region had sequences of pre-Conquest pottery which would enable more precise archaeological dating. I applied to the Leverhulme Trust for funds to employ two research fellows. The results of the work of those two researchers, Carenza Lewis and Patrick Mitchell-Fox, were published in detail in earlier numbers of this *Annual Report,* and in the book, jointly written by all three of us, which appeared in 1997, *Village, hamlet and field: changing medieval settlements in central England* (Manchester University Press). The book offered an overview of the whole subject. Lewis and Mitchell-Fox's article in the *Annual Report* for 1993 identified 14 areas (groups of parishes) suitable for research, and gave them scores on the basis of such factors as surviving earthworks and the quality of the documentary evidence. The highest marks were awarded to Chalgrave (Beds.), Horwood (Bucks.) and Whittlewood (Northants.).

After the publication of the book in 1997 there was a short pause. I had many other tasks, and my main contribution to the MSRG, as its newly elected president, had been to prepare with Steven Coleman a new policy statement. The turning point came in a conversation in the central square of Bruges on about 2 October 1997, during the 'Medieval Europe' conference, when Mark Gardiner urged me to go forward with the next stage of setting up a research project on one of the areas identified by Carenza Lewis and Patrick Mitchell-Fox. A fortnight later I presented a short paper to the MSRG committee, asking for their approval for the appointment of a Working Party to push the matter forward. They agreed, and the Research Project Working Party met in December 1997 at Northampton, in a room kindly provided by Glenn Foard. The working party consisted of Steven Coleman, Glenn Foard, Mark Gardiner, Robin Glasscock, Carenza Lewis, Stephen Rippon, Paul Stamper and Stuart Wrathmell. It was later joined by Andrew Reynolds, Robin Daniels, Harold Fox, the county archaeologists for Buckinghamshire, Julia Wise and Sandy Kidd, and Oliver Jessup of the National Trust.

At the first meeting I was nervous about how the idea would be received, but was delighted by the enthusiasm of the working party. This continued through the subsequent six meetings of the working party, which were full of spirited and sometimes heated debate, but always in a spirit of goodwill and optimism. Meetings were followed by some convivial pub lunches, when progress' was made on points which could not be agreed in the actual meetings. Our first task was to decide which area to choose, and Paul Stamper proposed that we apply to the Society for Medieval Archaeology for a grant to enable a more detailed evaluation to be made of the three areas. The grant was generously given, and Andrew Reynolds did an excellent job of visiting landowners and taking a detailed look at the archaeology and land use in Chalgrave, Horwood and Whittlewood. As a result of his report we decided (in a meeting held in the music room of the Bodington Hall of Leeds University) that Whittlewood provided the best opportunities. Whittlewood is a convenient label for a group of eleven adjacent parishes straddling the Northamptonshire/ Buckinghamshire border, including such places as

Silverstone, Potterspury and Stow (see front cover). At this time the Arts and Humanities Research Board announced that it would provide funds for large research projects, and we decided to apply. After yet more debate an application was made in November 1998 for a five year project. This was unsuccessful, but the staff of the AHRB intimated that an application for a pilot project might have more chance of success. The second application in May 1999 for a two year project costing £197,000 was successful. This was due in large measure to the support of MSRG, and the hard work and lively commitment of the Working Party. Maurice Beresford and John Hurst encouraged our activities throughout. Paul Harvey lent his support by acting (with John Hurst) as a referee. Valuable advice on GIS was given by Vince Gaffney. We are of course very grateful to the AHRB, their panels of academics, and anonymous referees for giving us this support.

After another meeting of the Working Party in February 2000 two staff were appointed (from an excellent field of applicants) to begin work in the summer of 2000. The archaeologist on the project is Dr Richard Jones, formerly employed by the Sussex Archaeological Society, and the historian is Dr Mark Page, formerly working at Winchester on the archives of the bishopric. The project is based at the University of Birmingham, and the Project Board consists of the three applicants for the grant, myself, Mark Gardiner of Queen's University, Belfast and Stephen Rippon of Exeter University. The work will be reviewed by the committee of MSRG and members of the Working Party, with a first meeting scheduled for March 2001. The two researchers will be gathering data by field-walking and earthwork survey, and the study of existing archaeological finds from the SMRs, aerial photographs, standing buildings, environmental evidence, and documentary sources. They are receiving help and advice from many local organisations, including the county archaeology services of Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, the Victoria County History of Northamptonshire, and the local staff of the National Trust and English Heritage. The field work programme will be aided by students from various university departments and local societies. If any members of MSRG who have not already been drawn into the work wish to help, please contact myself, Richard Jones or Mark Page at the Depts of History, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

Progress will be reported in future issues of the *Annual Report.*

The South-West Cambridgeshire Project: Interim Report 1998-9

by Susan Oosthuizen and N. James

The parishes of Guilden Morden (TL279442),[1] Steeple Morden (TL285425), Litlington (TL310428) and Abington Piggots (TL 304447) (all in south-west Cambridgeshire) form the research area for long-term project on the development of their medieval landscapes. Based at the Board of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge and the Centre for Regional Studies, Anglia Polytechnic University, the project began in September 1998 and is expected to run until 2008.

The project is intended to promote the principal aims of the research described in the main part of the present report, and also to serve as a forum for exchange of ideas and results among any researchers, amateur or professional, working on related topics in or near the study area. One of the liveliest features of our first year was a landscape history course, under the auspices of the Board of Continuing Education, which focused on the study area as a case study.

Context

It is now widely accepted that the 'regular' open fields and nucleated villages which dominated the 'Central Province' landscape of Midland England during the Middle Ages were formed between about 800 and 1150 AD. Most recent research has taken the form of 'desk-based' analyses, especially of settlement forms. It has examined large areas of the Midlands (Lewis, Dyer & Mitchell-Fox 1997) or considered the Midlands in the context of wider studies (Roberts & Wrathmell 1998). Almost all the detailed fieldwork on which the accepted model is based has been carried out in Northamptonshire (Hall 1996). Most recent assessment of these issues assumes that:

(1) the 'Central Province' is quite distinct from 'woodland' countrysides where 'irregular' open fields, or enclosed landscapes, were associated with dispersed settlement well into the Middle Ages (Roberts & Wrathmell 1998);

(2) the layout of 'regular' open fields and the imposition of settlement nucleation may have varied chronologically from place to place but occurred for similar reasons, and in a similar way - generally by obliterating earlier landscapes - throughout the Province.

Both assumptions are hard to sustain without more fieldwork. Professor Aston's study of Shapwick (Somerset) is important, but restricted to a single settlement (Aston 1989). There is a need to investigate another area within the Central Province. South-west Cambridgeshire lies near the southern edge of the Province. It is an area of clay dissected by valleys, like

[1] Ordnance Survey grid references to settlements are based on the site of the parish church.

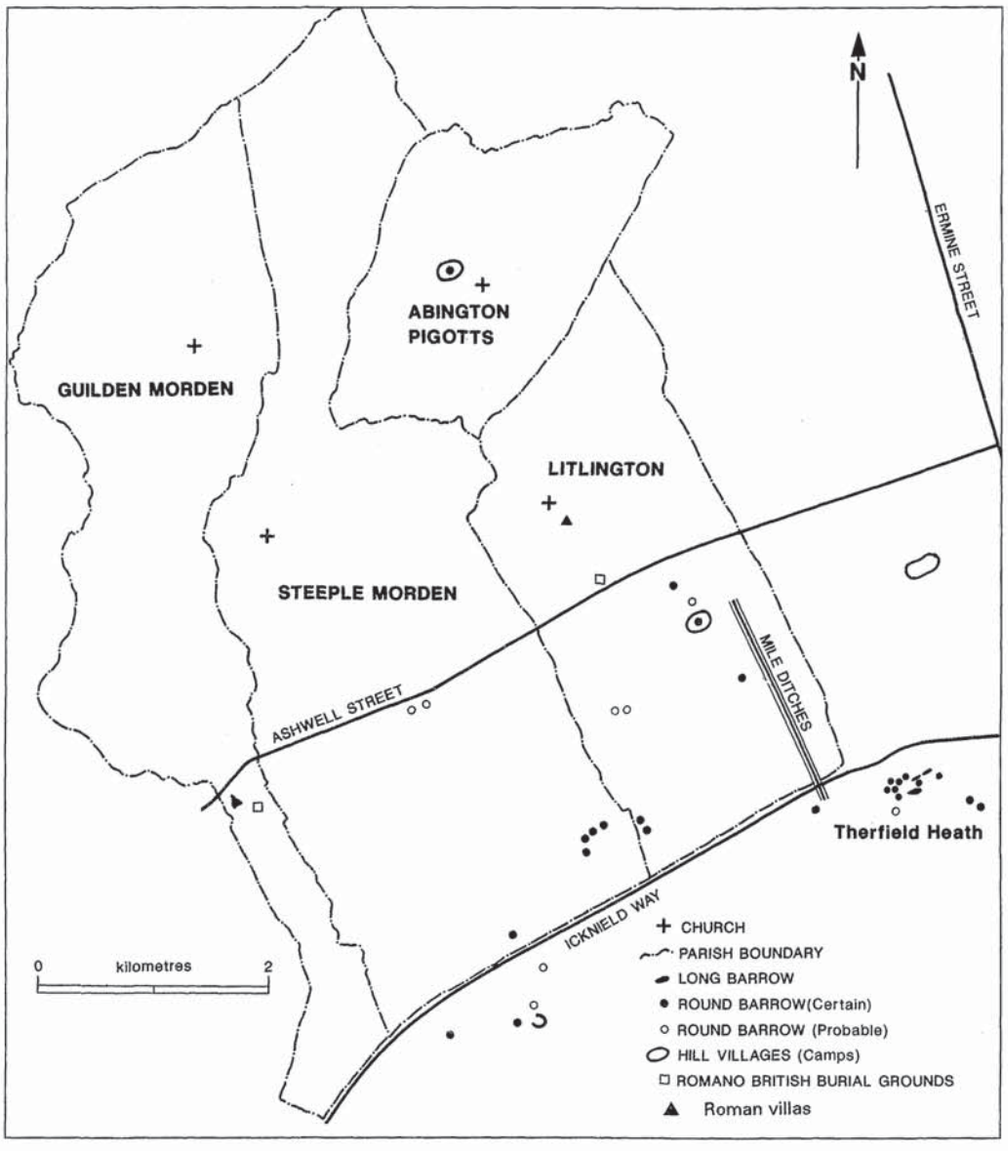

Figure 7: Antiquities

much of the southern Midlands. It has already been the subject of some research (Oosthuizen 1998a and b, 1997, 1996a and b, 1994).

The assumptions referred to above – that a clear distinction can be made between 'open field' and 'woodland' landscapes, and that the former has late Saxon origins – have been challenged by recent work on continuity of landuse in west Cambridgeshire. This work has concluded with a number of hypotheses for which more detailed research is needed: in particular, that prehistoric landscapes survive here more generally than has previously been recognised; and that they were often incorporated into landscape (re)organisation and administration in the Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods (Oosthuizen 1997, 1998a and b). This question is still a matter of keen debate (Hinton 1997, Williamson 1998).

Although the choice of these four parishes in south-west Cambridgeshire as an area for intensive research was also supported by research and methodological considerations (see below), they initially suggested themselves for study on the basis of O.G.S. Crawford's observations concerning the 'ladderlike' structure of the long, narrow furlongs of the medieval field pattern of Litlington, and their similarity to 'Celtic' field systems in Wessex (1937, 2). This 'ladderlike' pattern at Litlington appears to continue west into Steeple Morden, east into Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (TL331441), and north-west into Tadlow, Cambridgeshire (TL280476; RCHN11E 1968, 203 and 207). The question therefore is whether it is simply coincidence that the same, apparently coaxial, pattern exists across all three parishes (and perhaps further afield), or whether these are relict elements of a prehistoric landscape retained in a medieval field system.

The apparent similarity in layout between the medieval furlongs at Litlington and prehistoric landscapes discovered elsewhere raised interesting questions. The origins and development of prehistoric coaxial field patterns has been explored since in local studies on Dartmoor, at Flag Fen (Peterborough) and in medieval landscapes in East Anglia as well as elsewhere, but never

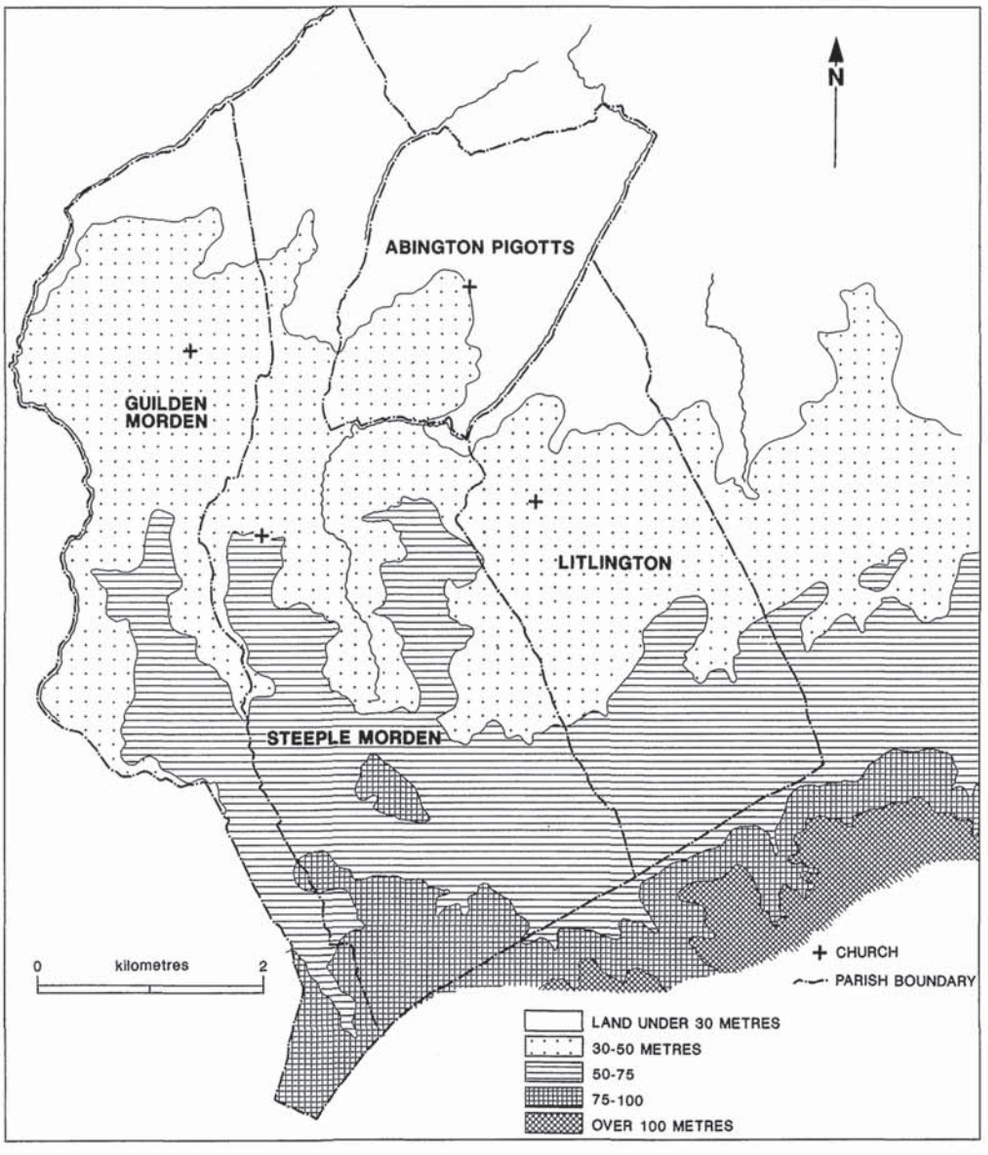

Figure 8: Relief

(as here) in the context of Midland parishes (Fleming 1988, Pryor 1982, Williamson 1986, 1987,1998). Hall has noted similar layouts in Northamptonshire, but his work has suggested that the similarity is coincidental rather than the result of continuity in the use of field boundaries from one period to another (1982; 1995). On the other hand, the stratigraphic relationship between Ermine Street and apparently 'medieval' furlongs at Caxton, Cambridgeshire, just a few miles north of the study area, has raised the possibility of the continued use of some elements of prehistoric field systems in medieval furlongs in west Cambridgeshire (Oosthuizen 1998a).

Methodology

The choice of these parishes was confirmed by the method developed by Lewis et al. (1993). A minimum range of varied landscape characteristics and archaeological, documentary and architectural sources formed essential criteria in the choice of a research area. South-west Cambridgeshire meets these criteria as follows:

(1) Litlington and Abington Piggots are characterised by largely nucleated settlement. Steeple Morden, however, is polyfocal: there is a core settlement around the church; the decayed hamlet of North Brook End (formerly called Glitton, c. TL290446) lies to the north, while Brook End lies to the east (c. TL292429); Morden Green (c. TL293425) is south-east of the settlement, while Gatwell End (c. TL295415) lies about 2 km south-south-east of the village; and a modern settlement has grown up south-west of the church along the 19th century road to Ashwell, Hertfordshire (TL267398). Guilden Morden too was once more polyfocal than it is today, with out-settlements at Little Green (c. TL284450) and Great Green (c. TL284445) to the north-west, and ribbon development southwards along the road to Ashwell. Many of these sub-foci are deserted or shrunken today. There are also some isolated moats. The development of each settlement shows a varied history. Abington Piggots is a shifted and a shrunken village; Guilden Morden is a street village which has expanded along greens and common ways (and then, in places, collapsed); Steeple Morden is a polyfocal village which has collapsed to create an apparently

nucleated settlement; Litlington appears to have been planned around a large rectangular green, now almost completely encroached upon. There are significant survivals of field patterns and of commons and wastes in all four parishes.

(2) The area is rich in archaeology (Figure 7). At Therfield Heath (Hertfordshire; TL331401-352405), immediately south of the Icknield Way (itself a prehistoric route), a Neolithic barrow (TL342402) lies surrounded by Bronze Age barrows. Aerial photographs and other evidence suggests that these remains were widespread across the four parishes; this is confirmed by fieldnames indicative of now ploughed-out barrows in Abington Piggots and in Litlington (Hesse, in preparation). There was a substantial Iron Age/Romano-British settlement at Abington Piggots, while the three parallel banks and ditches of the Mile Ditches (c. TL332403) - apparently of Iron Age date - meander from the high ground of Therfield Heath to a spring in Litlington (Hesse, in preparation). The chronological relationship between the Mile Ditches and the furlong boundaries in Litlington which it intersects, or which intersect it, will be a crucial focus for the project. There were Roman villas and cemeteries at Guilden Morden and Litlington, and a high status burial and other graves of the same period within a square enclosure at Limlow Hill, Litlington (TL323418) (Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire [hereafter VCHC] VII, 46 and 86-7). An early Anglo Saxon helmet attachment in the shape of a boar was found at Guilden Morden in 1908 (Foster 1977). The parishes are rich in medieval evidence.

(3) Documentary sources are good, despite the lack of early maps which characterises most Cambridgeshire parishes. Court rolls, terriers and other documents together with tithe, pre-inclosure and inclosure maps provide an encouraging list of available evidence.

(4) All four parish churches offer good architectural evidence for past activity. There are some medieval buildings, and some excellent early post-medieval buildings, together with a good range of communal and industrial structures.

The Project to Date

South or upland Cambridgeshire formed the old county of Cambridgeshire, which was based on the system of rivers and streams flowing together to form the River Cam or Granta, itself a tributary of the River Ouse. To the west, the county boundary runs along the watershed between the Ouse and the Cam; to the east, along the watershed between the Stour and the Cam; and to the south, below the chalk scarp of the Chilterns from which streams run north towards the Cam; the northern boundary is the River Ouse itself.

The significance of this catchment area as a sub-region for landscape study lies in its use since prehistory as a frontier: a frontier between fenland north of the Ouse and upland landscapes to the south; a political frontier, on the borders of the Icem, Coritani, Catuvellauni and Trinovantes in the pre-Roman period, and between the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and East Anglia in the post-Roman period; a geographic frontier through which Anglo-Saxon migrants entered England from the mid-4th century onwards; and, in the Middle Ages, a frontier between the intensive arable exploitation of the Midland system of 'champion' England and the more ancient landscapes of 'woodland' regions of eastern England. It is a region in which landscape discontinuity and change might be expected.

The research area is bounded on the north by the Ashwell River Cam or Rhee, the continuous northern parish boundary of Guilden and Steeple Morden - and on the south by the Icknield Way, also followed by parish boundaries along its length. It is well known that the oldest boundaries in the landscape continue over long distances and follow natural features, as both these do. The eastern and western parish boundaries generally follow watercourses or medieval field boundaries.

In the north, the Cam valley broadens out from west to east, forming a uniformly flat valley bottom at between 25 and 30m above OD (Figure 8). This area formed the winter flood plain for the Ashwell Cam, and its character is suggested by place names referring to marsh and fen (e.g. Morden = m*or* [marsh] + dun [hill] (Reaney 1943, 61); Wendy Moor, Marditch and Spotmere on the northern boundary of Abington Piggots (Dr M. Hesse, pers. comm.)). The topography supports this suggestion. For example the modern drainage ditches of Bassingbourn Fen (c. TL320450) north-east of the study area are surprisingly reminiscent of fen skirtland (e.g. RCHM(E) 1972, 43-5). Initial work on the history of the water courses in the northern part of the study area has been undertaken, through the Board of Continuing Education. This work will be extended and developed to provide a more coherent history of water management in the area, using in particular work on the medieval fieldnames of Litlington and Abington Piggots, based on fieldwork and field-name research (Hesse, in preparation).

The ground rises by gradually steeper gradients towards the southern chalk ridge, which reaches heights of 100m just south of the Icknield Way. The most notable high ground in the study area is the land rising to more than 55m about 1 km south of Steeple Morden, the broad hill in Steeple Morden rising to above 80m on the heath north of the Icknield Way (c. TL295403), and Limlow Hill in Litlington which rises to 62m.

Gentle promontories reach northwards from about 50m towards the valley bottom, and are separated by brooks and streams flowing north-eastwards towards the Cam. These watercourses rise from springs at between 35 and 55m and define the territories into which the area is separated: the western boundary of Guilden Morden is defined by a tributary of the Cam which rises at Ruddery Spring (TL281403) at about 49m; the parish boundary between Guilden and Steeple Morden runs along the West Brook rising between 50 and 55m; the Cheyney Water, which forms a short stretch of boundary between Steeple Morden and Abington Piggots rises at 50m at Gatley End, and its continuation in the partially straightened Mill River rises is the northern boundary of Abington Piggots with Litlington; Running Ditch rises at just below 35m and forms the NW boundary of Abington with Steeple Morden.

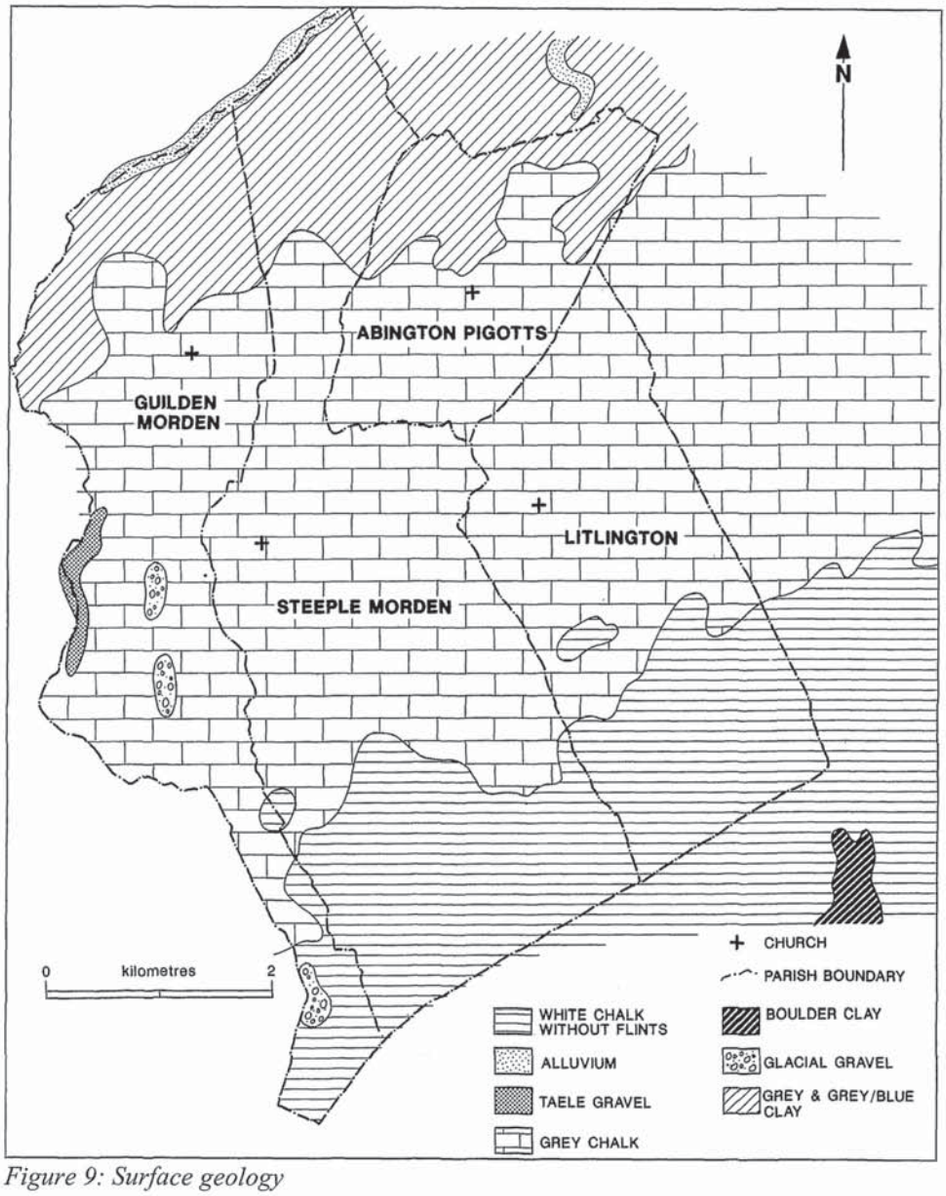

Figure 9: Surface geology

The centres of each of the four settlements lie on the promontories at between 30 and 50m above OD - from Abington Piggots at 30m to Steeple Morden at 50m (measured at the site of the church in each settlement). Most of the western and the entire eastern boundaries of Litlington follow medieval field boundaries. There are further springs at Sheen Head in Litlington and at Bassingbourn Springs (TL328430), about 500m east of the Litlington boundary.

The parishes generally demonstrate the truism that the boundaries of agrarian territories attempt to include a range of soils in order to maximise economic exploitation of potentially different ecologies (Figure 9).

Outcrops of gravel are found in Guilden Morden, but these are isolated, and the four parishes generally share a uniform drift geology. The clays along the Cam / Rhee to the north more or less coincide with the flat river plain referred to above, and help to explain the tendency of this area to marsh. These meadows provide good early spring grazing: the late 11th century *Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis* (hereafter ICC)[2] records meadow for 4 ploughs in Steeple Morden, and 'pasture for the cattle of the vill', while Guilden Morden had meadow for 9 ploughs; and there was meadow for 6 ploughs in Abington Piggots, providing grazing for at least 13 oxen/cattle and 132 sheep. There were also higher numbers of pigs in those parishes with good access to the clays compared with those which lay predominantly on the chalk: 99 in Abington Piggots, 64 in Steeple Morden, 54 in Litlington but, curiously, only 35 in Guilden Morden. These commons survived into the Middle Ages (e.g. VCHC VI, 103). The parishes were generally cleared of woodland by 1086, and only Wendy, Cambridgeshire (TL323477, just outside the study area) retained any managed 'wood for fences' (VCHC I, 416). More research is need to confirm whether such woodland as there had been in the past stood more densely on the heavy clays in the north of

[2] Published in translation in *Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire. Vol. I. 400-427.*

the study area than on the lighter, drier land to the south, and that it was cleared from south to north.

The grey chalks in the centre of the parishes provide relatively light arable and were also exploited throughout the medieval period for clunch, the soft limestone used locally for building (there were clunch pits in Litlington, Bassingbourn and Steeple Morden). To the south the dry dense white chalks without flint, along which runs the Icknield Way, explain the uniform use of this part of the research area for heathland grazing in the Middle Ages. In 1086, 319 sheep in Litlington, 250 in Steeple Morden and another 53 in Guilden Morden grazed on these heaths (VCHC 1, 415-6), while Odsey, in the far south of Guilden Morden parish, became an extraparochial Cistercian sheep grange during the medieval period (VCHC VI, 103). The higher white chalks still provided considerable pasture in 1941 (MAFF 1941), when Therfield Heath appears as an area of rough pasture just outside the southern boundary of Litlington, as it is today.

Odsey's extra-parochial status, its settlement place-name (it is not a fieldname), its heathland topography and its site as the moot for Odsey Hundred in Hertfordshire suggests that it may have lain on the boundary between *regiones* north and south of the Icknield Way which shared its heathland grazing. This may explain Odsey's anomalous status: in Cambridgeshire, yet also a significant place for Hertfordshire (Meaney 1993, 82-3; VCHC VI, 102; VCH Herts III, 193).

Apart from the southern and northern extremities and occasional islands of Grade 3, the land is Grade 2 (Figure 10). This explains the predominantly arable economy, and underscores the use of the southern part for rough grazing. More research attention should be focused on the northern portions of the parishes bordering onto the Cam / Rhee, where marshy clays may have provided grazing and marshland products. The distributions of land-use in 1941 do not contradict these preliminary conclusions (Figure 11). Most was arable in 1941, as today. Meadows were located near the settlements (often the 'ancient enclosures' of the enclosure movement),

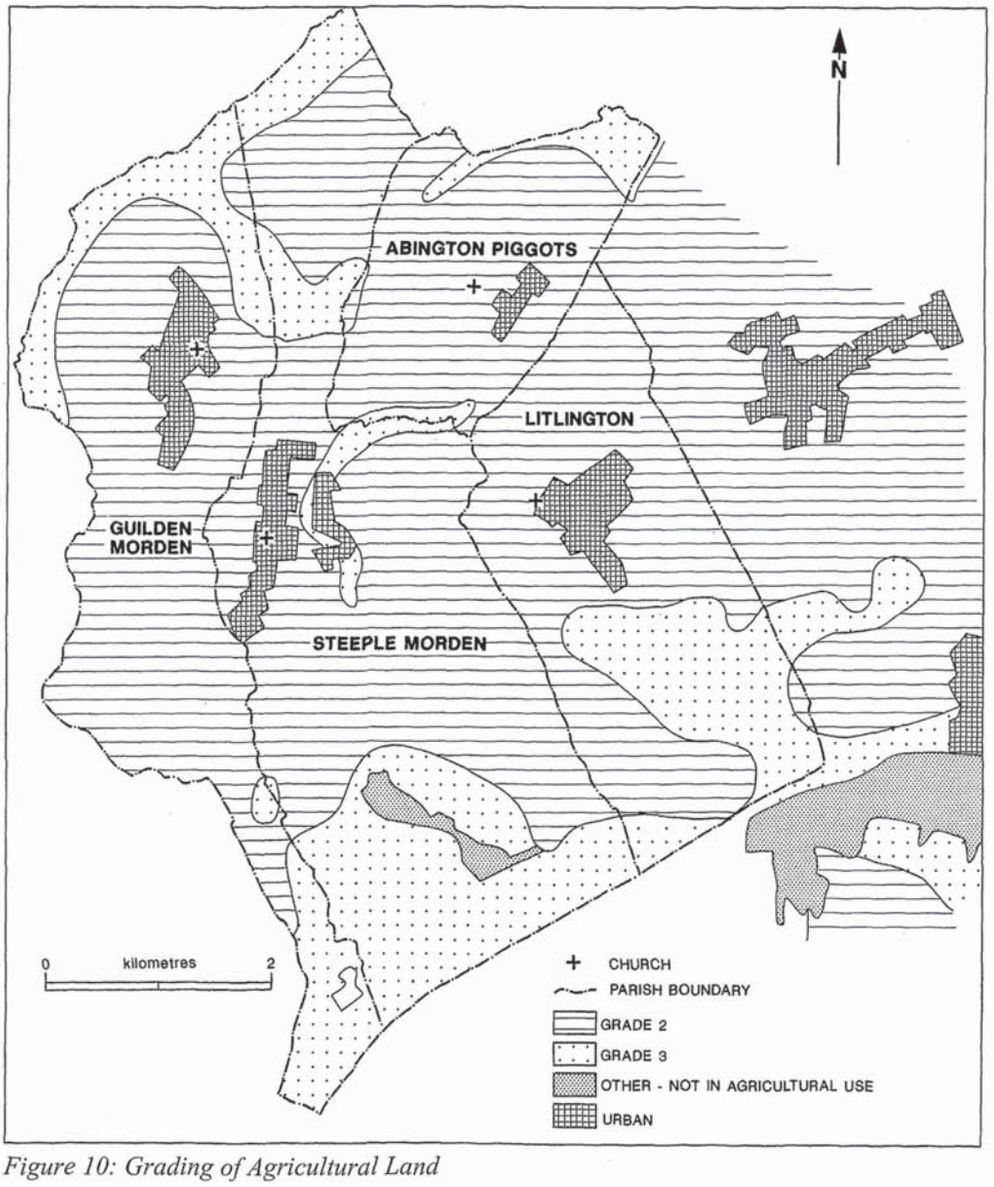

Figure 10: Grading of Agricultural Land

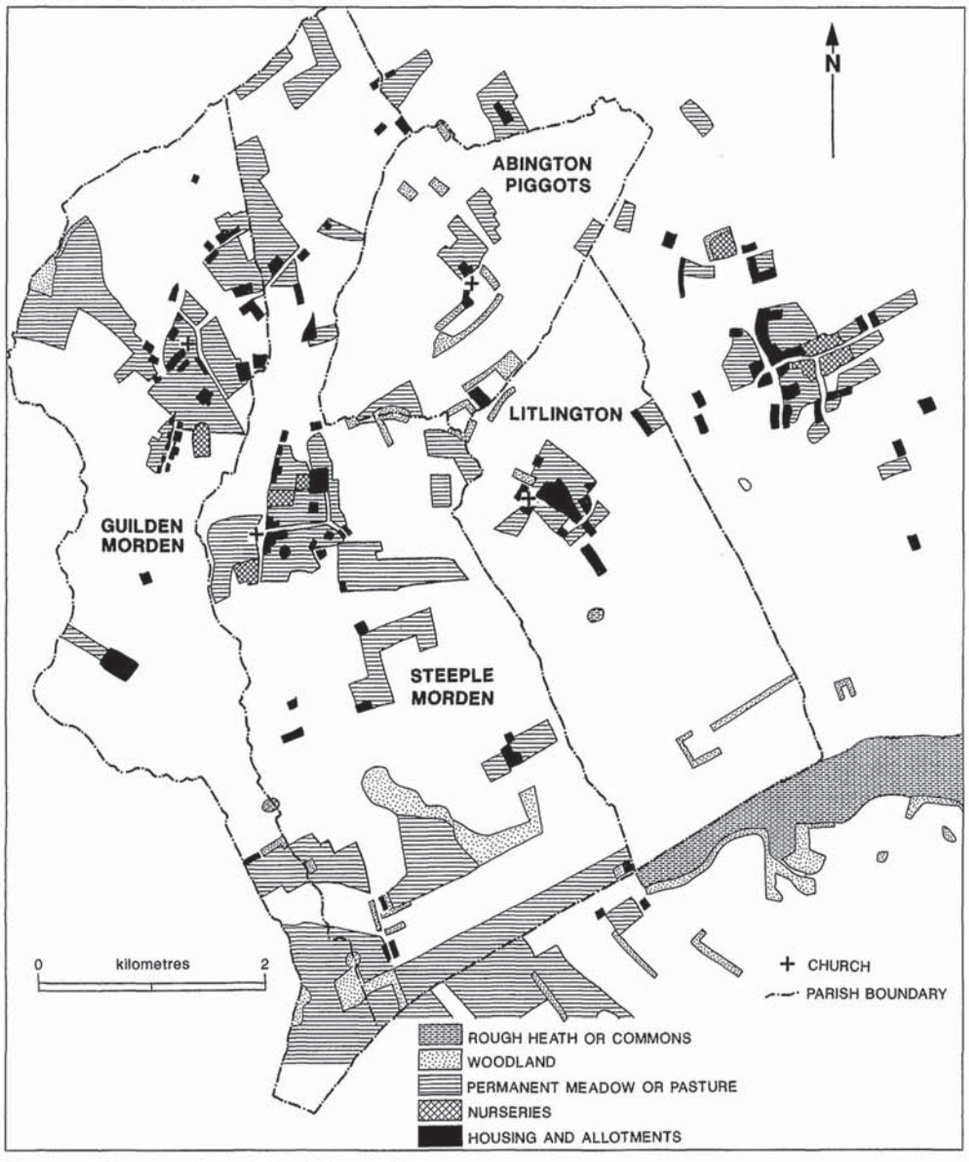

Figure 11: Agricultural Land Use 1941

providing grazing for stock around the farmsteads; or in the northern parts of the parishes, often adjacent to watercourses.

In September 1999, the principal soil types were assessed with a view to field walking. The varieties of chalk and clay notwithstanding, archaeological visibility is excellent throughout. However, the best conditions are limited by drainage and the farming regime.

Modern communications across the four parishes can be divided into three types (Figure 12). First, the major south-west/north-east route of the Icknield Way along the line of the chalk ridge is a known prehistoric route, a bundle of tracks up to a mile across (Taylor 1979, 3; Crawford 1936, 98). The present A505 is a fossil of one of these routes: a hill-side track along the northern slope of the chalk ridge, straightened during the Romano-British period. Its only surviving parallel route is Ashwell Street; the others, which probably lay between the A505 and Ashwell Street, have disappeared, perhaps artificially enhancing the importance of the latter. Ashwell Street has also been straightened, but it seems that this occurred piecemeal in each parish during 19th century enclosure (Crawford 1937, 1). Second, in the southern half of the study area roads and footpaths tend to run at right angles to the Icknield Way along a south-easterly/north-westerly alignment, connecting the heathland pasture of the chalk with arable fields in the centre and then marshland grazing in the north-west of the area. Roads, footpaths and parish boundaries all follow this course. It is difficult to know at this stage whether this regularity is simply dictated by the topography (connecting the parallel courses of the chalk ridge and the Cam / Rhee) or whether it includes a deliberate man-made element (Hinton 1997, Williamson 1998, Crawford 1937). The northern half of the area demonstrates little pattern. The relatively flat terrain, together with easy crossing of small watercourses, has led to the development of an irregular pattern running from settlement to settlement. It will be interesting to examine this modern outcome in relation to the pattern of land-use during the medieval period - and perhaps earlier.

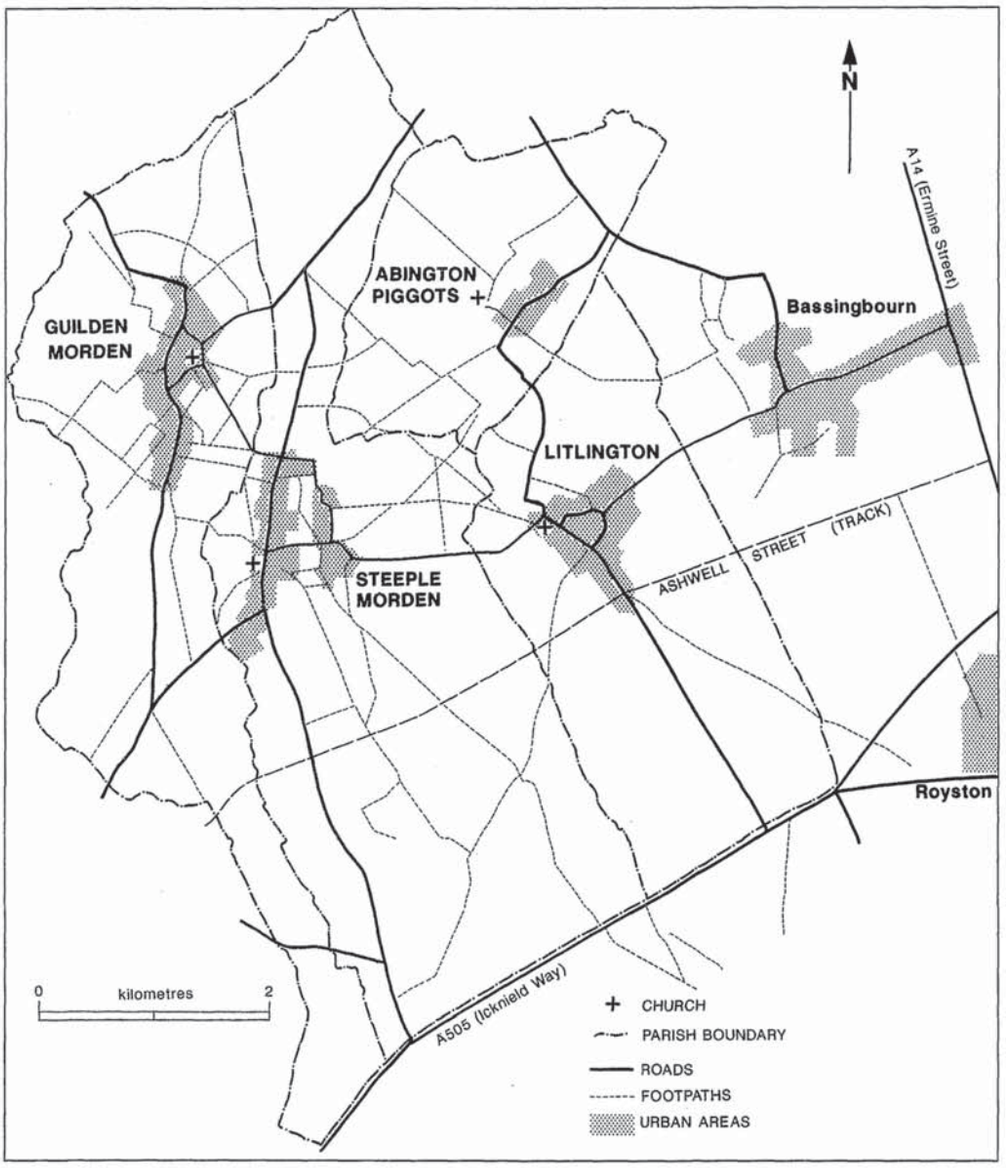

Figure 12: Communications

Morden is a topographical place-name. Gelling suggests that these may sometimes be among the earliest place-names, simply translating the Romano-British names of ancient estate centres into English (Gelling 1978, 123 and 1984. 126). The villa at Guilden Morden may provide circumstantial support for this suggestion, since the house was likely to have been the centre of an estate in the Roman period. It is possible that the Mordens formed an estate centre, part of a much larger unit, which survived into the Anglo-Saxon period. This is not contradicted by the place-names of Abington and Litlington, which are rather later, possibly linked with the breakup of an estate into smaller units (Oosthuizen 1998b, 104). The Mordens had divided by 1086, when Guilden was referred to as the 'other' Morden -which suggests that Steeple Morden was the mother settlement (Rumble 1981, 13:2). The earliest minster in the area probably lay at Meldreth, and served the whole of Armingford Hundred, before the estate minster at Steeple Morden was founded in the 10th or 11th century (Oosthuizen, forthcoming). Prof Hesse's preliminary work on the field-names of Litlington and Abington Piggots will allow the project to explore both this hypothesis and the development of the medieval landscape in more detail.[3]

Acknowledgements

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[3] Work by Susan Oosthuizen on *The Minster at ,Steeple Morden,* by Dr Hesse on *The Mile Ditches* and on *The Reconstruction of the Medieval Field,fystems ofAbington and Piggots Litlington,* and by Maurice Hempsetl *(Hook's Mill, Gruilden Morden)* is available as a fuller, informal, version of this report from: Susan Oosthuizen, Staff Tutor in Landscape History, Board of Continuing Education. University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Madingley CB3 8AQ. E-mail: smo230cam.ac.uk.

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Space and Community on Medieval Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor: Interim Report

by Karin Altenberg, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading

The archaeological study of medieval rural settlement layout and vernacular architecture has traditionally used a quantitative approach to space (cf. Samson 1990, Riddersporre 1995). Archaeologists and historians are still divided in their opinions as to whether space, time and social structure are objectively definable or not. It will be argued here that social space must not, or indeed cannot, be formally quantified. Rather than regarding space as a factor which can be quantified, archaeologists should consider the ways in which space can be perceived and experienced by the communities inhabiting a region. With this perspective, we can attempt to interpret the social meanings of specific archaeological contexts. Social space is an arena for the construction and negotiation of material culture, ideology and human relations. We experience our surroundings and enrich them with meaning. These meanings are derived from individual or collective perceptions about the world, be they functional, economic or cosmological. This process may be termed "mental mapping".

These ideas have long been recognised within other disciplines concerned with the cultural landscape. As early as 1984 Denis Cosgrove spoke of the landscape as a social and cultural construct (cf. 1984:13-14) and the perspective and terminology have since been developed further within the discipline of human geography. The ideas of the experience and phenomenology of landscape have been taken up by several prehistoric archaeologists in Britain (cf. Thomas 1996, Tilley 1994, Bradley 1993, Gosden 1994). Against this background, it is natural to ask why there has been no real discussion of how to approach the experience of the late medieval cultural landscape from a post-modern perspective.

It is obvious that the views of social space and spatial structures in the Humanities have moved away from the scientific geographical view of a fixed spatial concept that determines society towards a flexible, subjective concept of space that produces social structures and is reproduced in interaction with human agency. However, medieval archaeologists, who are used to supporting and illustrating their arguments with historic sources, a type of evidence that cannot be consulted by prehistoric archaeologists, have lagged behind in the theoretical discussion of space. A slightly different research climate has been created where subjectivity is viewed with suspicion. This is no doubt a sound standpoint, as pursuit of a subjective "science" is associated with obvious risks. Duncan and Ley express their anxiety thus:

> 'The solid ground of interpretation itself becomes highly unstable. The door is flung open for a potentially lawless relativism to immobilise interpretative work, as deconstruction upon deconstruction creates an endless deffual of signification', (Duncan & Ley 1993:330).

It is true that an "egocentrography" where the a past landscape is studied from the perspective of a modern-day researcher must be avoided, as we do not want to get stuck in a post-modern one-way-lane where nothing can be said about anything for sure. On the other hand, we just have to look to prehistoric archaeology to see how far the ideas of social space have carried landscape studies within that discipline and recognise that, with the evidence that is available to medieval archaeologists, in the field or in the archive, we have a better chance to study the social structure of past societies.

It is therefore important to change the approach to medieval settlement studies and introduce a methodology that attempts to reconstruct the factors that shaped the quality and experience of peasant life in marginal areas of late medieval Europe. We need to distance ourselves from the ecological and macroeconomic determinism of earlier theories concerning marginal cultural landscapes and explore questions of individual choice, agency and identity. I will argue here that the study of the social use of space, or "mental mapping", is a fruitful way to approach the social structure of past communities in order to "return to the world we have lost" (Gosden 1994:61).

In my investigation of medieval Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor, a wide range of evidence is assessed, including published ethnographic and historical sources, published excavation reports, distribution of chapels, churches and deserted medieval settlements and visual fieldwork evidence. This survey will subsequently be compared with a corresponding study of the commons on the Romeleasen Ridge area in Southern Sweden. The aim of the survey is not so much to create and supply new evidence concerning the deserted medieval settlements of the South West, as to develop a methodology for the theoretical study of the experience of medieval landscapes. Thus it is an attempt to meet a request made by the MSRG in the annual report from 1996:

> 'The inhabitants depended on a particular territory and its resources for their living, *and their use and experience of the land should be a dimension of any study,* as should their relationship with higher authority' (1996:5, my italics).

The first stage of the project studies the remains of medieval settlements on Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor and tries to assess how the inhabitants of this area expressed their attitudes towards and responded to the natural landscape. The longhouse settlements are usually situated on the slopes of prominent hills or tors with good water supply and access to arable and/or pastoral fields. Although many of these settlements were situated in very secluded areas, historical documents show that contacts were frequent across the moor and several routes on the moors like the Lich Way between the ancient tenements in the Dartmoor Forest and Lydford church are of

medieval origin. Field-work has shown that some of these paths used natural and prehistoric features as location markers.

The worn tracks of the moors, laid out in an intricate network, avoiding bogs and wet ground, with impressive tors, prehistoric monuments and stone crosses as land marks, which are still visible today, thus communicate a way of life and interaction that was deeply rooted in and recognised by the locals. Those who knew the landmarks in an area and could call them by name would feel at home and belong in the landscape. To the viewer, the moor appears as a seemingly endless repetition of itself. In John Jakle's (1987:91) terms, these "infinite extensions of monotonous plans" delimited by the horizon constitute a "cosmic landscape". In *Genius Loci,* Norberg-Schultz describes a similar cosmic landscape (a desert in North Africa) thus: "As a whole, the environment seems to make an absolute and eternal order manifest, a world which is distinguished by performance" (Norberg-Schultz 1980:42). In such a landscape, characterised by repetition of the same elements, the landmark, i.e. the break in the monotony, becomes vital for orientation and the recognition of home.

People on the moors were relatively mobile. The conventionary tenants within the Duchy of Cornwall could move and take up another holding or occupation every seven years, and Fox's work has shown that this was often the case (Fox 1991, 1994). The tinners were also mobile, as some of them seem to have moved into the area to pursue their occupation and if they were relatively independent they could move between different mines or stream works (Newman 1994, 1998). As most settlements on the moor were single farms or small hamlets, young people, especially women, must have married some distance away.

The well-developed trade in tin, stock and grain around Dartmoor generated a road system that encircled the moor and facilitated access to the more central parts of the commons. Dartmoor was thus to some extent incorporated in the economic society of the South West. The pottery distribution confirms this (Allan 1994). The socio-spatial landscape changed as roads and trackways altered the landscape and tamed the wilderness. This shows that the links of communication in a landscape can tell us a great deal about the social structure of a society. A sense of community could be maintained among the dispersed settlements.

Another area of interest is to study how people on and around the moor exploited the natural resources and thus influenced the forming of the landscape. Documents concerning land transactions and ownership regulation show that farming on the moors was relatively free and that the local population was involved in the organisation of the grazing which gave them a certain responsibility (c.f. Henderson 1935, Fogwill 1954). Rather than seeing the local farmers as being merely used and governed by the king or lords, one ought to regard the development of the area as a great investment from which both the settlers and the outsiders could profit.

It is clear from the survey that the medieval church exerted great influence on the physical landscape. The church seems to have been involved in ownership around the moors from early on, and a relatively large number of monasteries and priories developed on the fringes of the moors from the 11th century. The moors provided suitable seclusion, large tracts of good pasture for monastic sheep and land for intensive experimental arable farming as at Tavistock Abbey. The religious institutions soon developed into wealthy magnates whose political power was to a large extent dependant on their economic success. An example like the Abbot of Buckland who owned shares in tinworks shows that ecclesiastical patrons could act as individuals to secure their own wealth (Newman 1998). Monastic ownership shaped the layout of the landscape, as large areas of land were run by a monastic community and thus were not subject to enclosure like the smaller holdings. Even though the parish system may, have been formed according to an earlier pattern of territorial ownership, the introduction of thithes fixed the borders of the parishes, as no parish wished to lose any land or tax payers. The parish boundaries were important and can be seen as a basic pattern of influence on the landscape.

The grazers and tinners contributed to this pattern (transhumance had probably been practised on the moors long before the organisation of the parish system) and created boundaries that would fit the system. It is hard to say if the impact of the church, the tinners or the farmers was the greatest, and indeed these influences should not be treated apart. The tinners left scars in the landscape and diverted rivers, the farmers enclosed parcels of land and turned rough moor into arable land. Roads and tracks were constructed to serve these groups and to link the religious houses around the moors. Intakes, roads and chapels changed the experience of the landscape over time.

The first medieval colonisation of the moors may have been the result of "experimental farming" from manors off the moor who wished to enlarge their territory (cf. Herring 1986). In a second phase a new wave of farmers settled the moors on their own initiative and created the settlement structure that remains in the deserted medieval settlements. These are characterised by farmsteads laid out individually within a hamlet (or as single farms) in an unregulated way where the action of the individual was only limited by the community and the landscape itself (the settlements at Okehampton Park, Dartmoor, were laid out in a more regulated way).

The boundaries of the common land could be marked by well-known points in the landscape, such as prehistoric monuments or natural stones, rather than by actual fences or ditches. This is true of the boundary of the Forest of Dartmoor which was defined in a perambulation charter in 1240 in relation to significant tors, chapels, standing stones and barrows. A copy of this charter has been found at the back of aap of Dartmoor of unknown date (Bate 1872). The map is drawn without precision or knowledge of exact distances but significant marking points on the boundary are carefully described. These significant points in the landscape, whether natural features or ancient monuments, were kept within collective memory and marked territory for centuries. The prehistoric monuments could thus serve as a reminder of a distant

past which was incorporated in the present by marking, and thus legitimising, a distinct territory.

Ethnographic sources and fieldwork provide a picture of how the inhabitants of the moor perceived their surroundings and how they interacted with the natural landscape and the prehistoric remains within it. From a Christian perspective the moors were marginal and the efforts of the church in these areas were missionary, as it tried to tame the wilderness, a mythical inferno from which the community needed protection. Stone crosses and chapels in prominent positions were erected in a mental crusade against the unknown. The landscape itself was very suitable for impressive expressions of piety, the most successful examples being the St Michael's chapels on Roughtor? Bodmin Moor, and Brentor, Dartmoor.

The religious elements in the landscape were dependant on and appealed to the visual sense. A direct visual impact was needed in the landscape if Christianity was to be perceived as superior to nature and therefore convincing and comforting.

We know that fear and superstition were part of everyday life on the moors (cf. Crossing 1997). Orme (1991:63, 77) argues that earlier cult elements remained in Cornish religiosity after the reformation and that the church allowed alternative ways of showing piety, e.g. at holy wells or other places of topographical significance. This shows that nature was never fully conquered and that a form of pantheism lingered in areas where natural forces were apparent.

Following the development of the boundaries and especially the ritual impact of the church, a set of invisible, perceptual boundaries emerged, organising individuals and groups, telling them were to go and were not to go, and more importantly - where they belonged.

However, the moors were not only experienced from the outside but also from within. Future work will deal with the experience of the people who lived and worked on the moors. It will be based on the physical remains of their existence. Their buildings, their refuse and other aspects of their material culture that were left behind will throw additional light on the history of the moors.

The moors do not seem marginal but rather emerge as areas with prospects, a "wild west" where people with initiative could seek their fortune and where hardworking farmers could make their living under relatively free circumstances. It was an area where some failed and others prospered.

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Early Castles and Rural Settlement Patterns: Insights from Yorkshire and the East Midlands

by Oliver H Creighton

Introduction

Traditional castellology, with its emphasis on architectural and military analysis, has often led to the study of castles in isolation from their landscape contexts. In particular, many synthetic studies of medieval castles have consistently failed to acknowledge the status of fortified sites as working manorial centres which contributed to the development of contemporary landscapes. Recent studies of the usage and manipulation of social space within castle planning, while welcome, have likewise failed to provide a broader context for the interpretation of castles. Conversely, landscape archaeologists and settlement historians have often tended to overlook the rôles of castles as forms of settlement. This is demonstrated amply by the merger in 1986 of the Medieval Village Research Group and Moated Sites Research Group to form the MSRG, while castles, as high-status forms of settlement, have lain beyond the remit of the merged body and remain the focus of the Castle Studies Group.

This paper emphasises that castles can and must be viewed as integral components within medieval settlement patterns; either as elements within the fabric of villages and hamlets or as dispersed forms of settlement in their own right. Case study material drawn from the author's research in Yorkshire and the East Midlands (Creighton 1997; 1998; 1999) is used to draw attention to some important interrelationships between castles and rural settlement patterns, and to explore some potential avenues for future research.

Figure 13 illustrates one important aspect of the interrelationship between early castle sites (i.e. those with likely occupation in the period c. 1066-1216) and rural settlement forms. What is immediately obvious is that castles, in terms of their settings, appear to mirror wider regional trends in medieval rural settlement development, reflected in the marked clustering of isolated castles, and those associated with hamlets and both regular and irregular villages. For instance, castles of the Holderness peninsula are predominantly associated with irregular villages; the Vale of York is characterised by castles in close association with regular villages; and the Lincolnshire fen-edge castles are primarily isolated sites. While it remains essential not to overlook the diversity of settlement forms within a given area, this observation does emphasise the status of castles as core elements within the distinctive medieval manorial economies of different regions and sub-regions.

Castles as Settlement

We may define two essential ways in which castles functioned as dispersed forms of medieval settlement. First, a proportion of fortified sites were constructed to act as specialised centres for the administration of medieval hunting resources. Second, other castles can be understood as isolated high-status settlements within landscapes that were also characterised, wholly or partially, by other forms of dispersed settlement. Castles which fall into the second category were thus manorial centres and perhaps working farms as well as fortified sites.

The ringwork or motte and bailey provided medieval lords with a flexible physical template readily adapted to a variety of social and physical geographical circumstances and landscapes; the control of royal forests was one specialised rôle which early castles sometimes fulfilled. We must recognise, however, the essential social and legal differences between castle sites associated with the management of royal forests as opposed to private seigneurial chases and parks. Castles associated with forests acted as centres for the administration of an area under the jurisdiction of forest law through the strategic settlement of an appointed official. These sites also

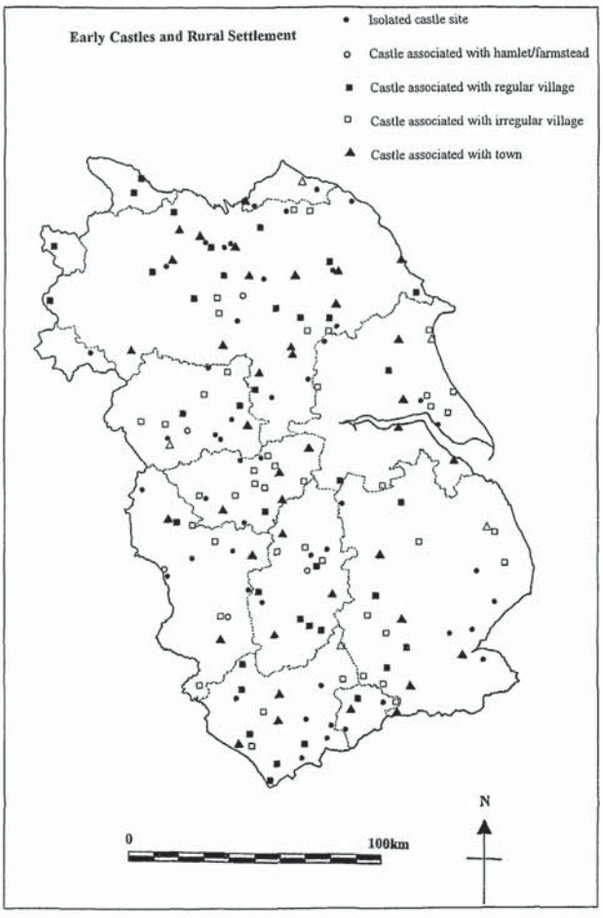

Figure 13: Key relationships between early castles and rural settlement in Yorkshire and the East Midlands.

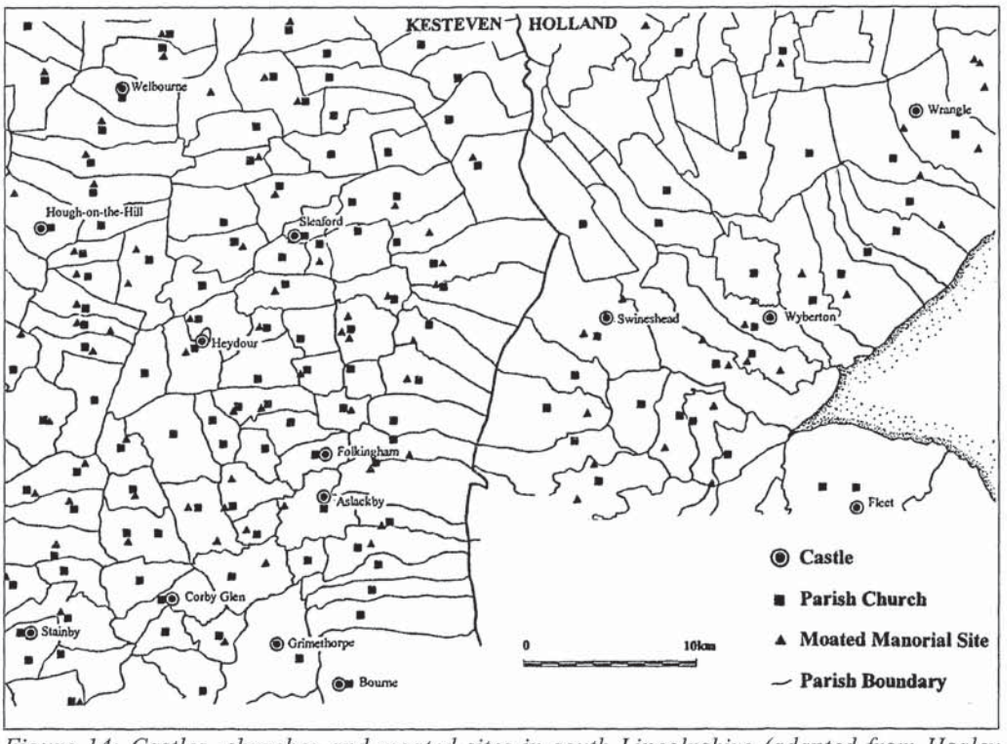

Figure 14: Castles, churches and moated sites in south Lincolnshire (adapted from Healey 1977, Figure 15).

provided occasional accommodation for hunting parties and are invariably found in isolated positions, while those associated with private deer parks were more often closely associated with villages or hamlets.

Typical of these isolated 'forest' castles are Sauvey Castle, Leics. (SK 787053) and Beaumont Chase, Rutland (SK 849004); both the seats of appointed royal foresters associated respectively with the forests of Leafield and Rutland (Creighton 1997, 3233; 1999, 22-23). Three isolated castles on the fringes of Sherwood Forest can be interpreted in a similar light: Annesley (SK 509518) and Kingshaugh, Notts. (SK 765736), and South Normanton, Derbys. (SK 459568) (Crook 1990, 94-95; Speight 1994).

The status of other early castles as isolated forms of settlement in non-nucleated landscapes is exemplified by a series of sites in south-east Lincolnshire. In particular, we may note the landscape context of four early castles in South Holland and Boston (Figure 14): Fleet (TF 385231); Swineshead (TF 243410); Wrangle (TF 413531); and Wyberton (TF 335410). With the exception of Wyberton, all these sites are low wetland mottes which represent, in morphological terms, an intermediate form between the motte and bailey and moated manor. Significantly, the manner in which all four sites are isolated from loosely agglomerated settlements or are isolated forms of settlement in their own right, mirrors exactly the landscape context of moated manorial sites in the surrounding district. The early castles of South Holland were thus integral components of a regional economy dominated by split manors and a relatively free social structure (Healey 1977, 28); here castles clearly follow an extant settlement pattern and economy where church, settlement and manor were not necessarily conjoined. This pattern contrasts sharply with the greater integration of sites of lordship (both castles and moats) in Kesteven to the west. For instance, the castle sites at Aslackby (TF 085305), Corby Glen (SK 000251), Heydour (TF 007397), Hough-on-the Hill (SK 924464), Stainby (SK 909226) and Welbourne (SK 968542) are all fully integrated within village plans, and indicate the position of castles within a fundamentally different manorial and social structure.

Other regional studies confirm that in certain landscapes the distribution of castle sites can be viewed as part and parcel of a characteristically dispersed medieval settlement pattern, as in Devon (Higham 1982, 106). Yet it is equally possible that dispersed settlement could originate through schemes of seigneurially-led planning. That castles could form fortified elements within these schemes has been demonstrated in the Vale of Montgomery (King and Spurgeon 1965), and it is possible that the castle at Kilton, Cleveland (NZ 703175) may well have been planned in conjunction with a series of farmsteads in its immediate hinterland (Daniels 1990, 46-47). The fact that these patterns lack the conventional hallmark of settlement planning - regularity -should not detract from the fact that they were deliberate creations by powerful secular lords. It is certain that parallel schemes remain to be identified elsewhere and may well be characteristic of border regions in the highland zone.

Castles and Deserted Settlement

The study of interrelationships between castles and deserted settlements can make two important contributions to our understanding of the rôles of castles in the development of rural landscapes. First, morphological plan analysis may amplify our understanding of the physical *pattern of* castle-settlement relationships, in the absence of the post-medieval alterations to village plans that blur the picture elsewhere. Second, it remains to be identified whether deserted

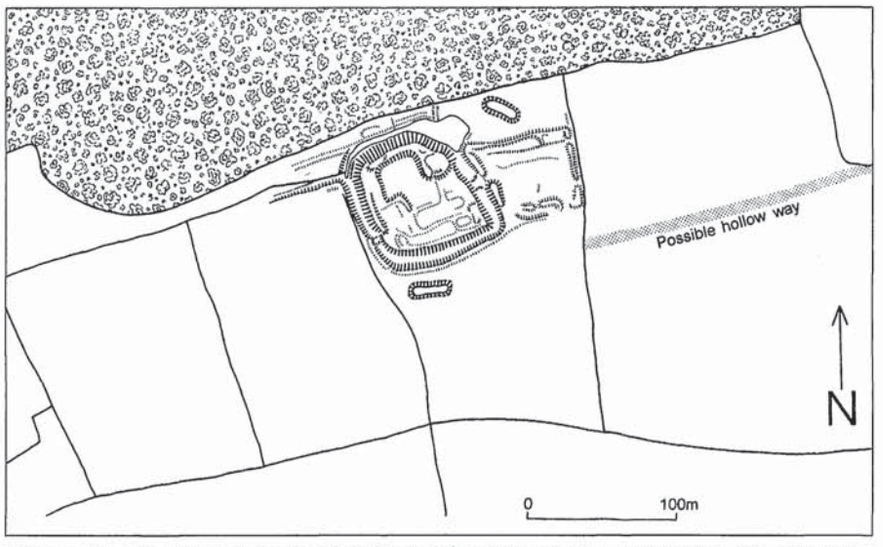

Figure 15: Woodhead, Rutland (adapted from Northants. CRO Map No. 4134/2).

settlements associated with castles were atypical in any way and, in particular, whether the abandonment of the castle was a causal, contributory or independent factor in the *process* of settlement decline.

The medieval fortified site of Woodhead, Rutland (SK 997116) occupies a prominent ridge-top position, c. 1.7km north-east of the York-Stamford Roman road (Figure 3). Despite its present isolation as a landscape feature, the castle appears to have spawned a dependent hamlet or settlement, although its population is subsumed within that of Great Casterton in medieval taxation returns, thus rendering estimation of its size problematic. The manor of Woodhead is absent from Domesday; however, in 1286-87 a toft and croft at Woodhead are specified in the endowment of a chapel here (Irons 1917, 50-51; VCH Rutland 11 1935, 235), and in 1684 the antiquarian Wright mentions " ....Woodhead, formerly a village and chapelry, now only one house, and that in ruins" (1684, 36). The precise location and plan of this settlement remains obscure, yet a 1798 estate plan of Bridge Casterton by J. Baxter depicts four squarish enclosures in line to the south of the castle earthworks which are associated with the field-name *Woodhead Closes* (Figure 15). These features may well indicate a series of amalgamated peasant crofts, subsequently overlain by ridge and furrow cultivation, whilst a superficial depression leading east from the castle may indicate a former hollow way. Although the desertion of the settlement can be dated no earlier than Wright's late-seventeenth-century reference, the castle was certainly ruinous by 1543, when it is positively documented for the first time (VCH Rutland 11 1935, 232).

The castle earthworks presently abut a zone of woodland to the north, and given that the place-name *Wod(e)heved* ('headland or eminence with a wood') is recorded as early as 1263 (Cox 1994, 131), this topographical relationship is clearly of some antiquity. The present field monument comprises a sub-rectangular ringwork with vestiges of an appending enclosure to the east, and surface collection in the immediate area has yielded a substantial volume of tile and a fragment of Collyweston slate, in addition to medieval pottery (Rutland County Museum Acquisition Nos 1975.22 and 1977.55). The entire complex was formerly encompassed by a spring-fed moat, and evidence of fishponds to the north and south may indicate a secondary phase of manorial expansion.

The example of Woodhead serves to indicate that small foci of settlement associated with apparently isolated castles remain to be identified. A complex range of other relationships exist between castles and deserted/shifted/ shrunken settlements. For instance, the close association of early castles with parish churches and small zones of settlement earthworks at Gilmorton (SP 570879) and Shawell, Leics. (SP 541796) may indicate early settlement foci which have been deserted in favour of other village sites (Creighton 1997, 25-27, 30-31). Elsewhere, the scrutiny of relationships between castles and deserted village earthworks has much to tell us; for instance at Burley, Rutland (SK 894120) and Kingerby, Lincs. (TF 056928), Norman castle building clearly infringed upon and displaced portion of existing settlements (Creighton 1999, 26-28; Everson *et al.* 1991, 147-49).

Castles and Village Planning

Where a castle is associated with a settlement containing clearly planned elements, it is tempting to single out the castle seigneury as the likely agent of settlement change. The foundation of a castle could be a critical moment in a settlement's development, when powerful secular lords were apt to indulge themselves in settlement planning, driven by social, economic and even aesthetic motives. These questions must, however, be related to the wider debate within medieval settlement studies concerning the coercive powers of lords in settlement planning relative to the collective power of peasant communities (Dyer 1985; Harvey 1989; Lewis *et al.* 1997, 204-10). In addition, archaeological research is demonstrating increasingly that many rural castle sites perpetuated extant seats of secular authority (Higham and Barker 1992, 38-61), making it difficult to correlate episodes of settlement planning with Norman as opposed to pre-Conquest lordship.

It becomes possible to draw a firmer link between castle building and settlement planning where documentary

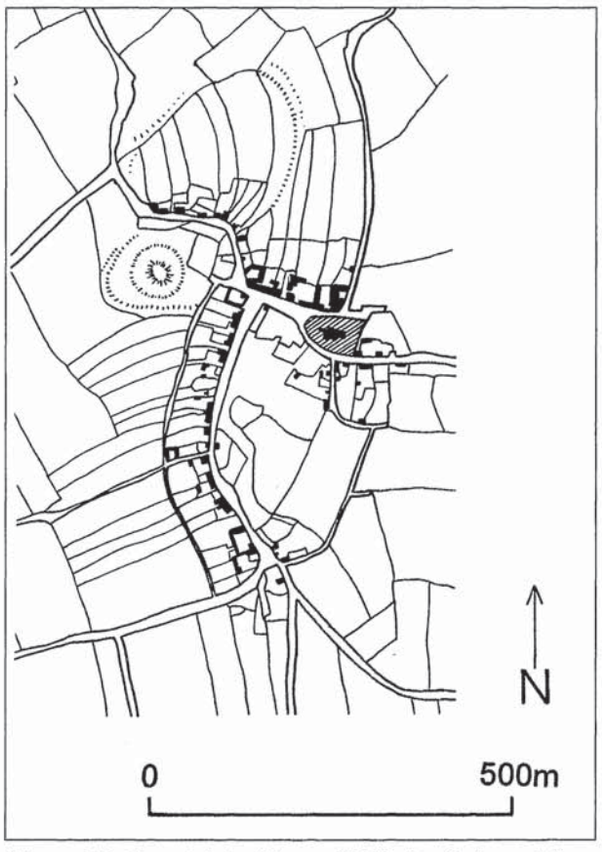

Figure 16: Barwick-in-Elmet, W. Yorks. (adapted from OS First Edition).

evidence makes it clear that the construction of a fortified site resulted in a demonstrable increase in a settlement's status and economic fortunes. This appears to be true of Barwick-in-Elmet, Yorks. (SE 194275). The village plan exhibits three distinct plan-units (Figure 16): an irregular nucleus of tenements clustering around All Saints' church (which contains fragments of Anglo-Saxon work: Collingwood 1914-18, 135-39); a univallate iron age hillfort remodelled as a motte and bailey; and a regular row of tenements characterised by long toft plots, which appends to the south of the hillfort. This regular unit of village topography is seemingly a planned expansion over open field agriculture, as indicated by the curvilinear profile of the plots. The junction between the three plan units is indicated by a marked widening of Main Street where stands the vestiges of a market cross. What is significant is that documentary analysis reveals Barwick to have (re)emerged as a centre of regional administration in the mid twelfth century; before, the township was a berwick of Kippax and of little apparent significance.

The motte and bailey at Barwick was not a castle of the immediate post-Conquest period. Instead, it was raised during the uncertain political geography of the Anarchy, at a time of intense political threat to the de Lacy position (Wightman 1966, 244). The hillfort was doubtless re-occupied due to its geographical position at the junction of the east-west route through the Pennines and the Aire Gap, and the north-south axis of communication on the western fringe of the Ouse-Trent basin. Hamlets in the immediate hinterland of Barwick at Hillum, Barnbow and Seacroft was incorporated within the township by the de Lacy lords from c. 1144 in order to create a complementary demesne estate around the hub of Barwick, which by the thirteenth century had replaced Kippax as the gravitational centre of the north part of the Honour of Pontefract (Fault and Moorhouse 1981, 257, 735). These circumstances make it likely that the planned extension may well correlate with Barwick's rapid rise to prominence within the Honour of Pontefract. Similar sequences - of settlements rising to administrative prominence, commensurate with castle building and settlement planning - have been recognised elsewhere; for instance at Kirkby Malzeard, N. Yorks. and Laxton, Notts. (Cameron 1980, 220-25; Challis 1995; Roberts 1990, 120-21).

Conclusions

This paper has served to draw attention, through a series of contrasting case-studies, to certain aspects of the interrelationship between medieval castles and rural settlement. From one perspective it is important that future archaeological reports relating to the excavation or survey of castle sites give full recognition to the context of a fortified site within its settlement landscape, in addition the more standard analysis of its physical setting and ownership history. Yet equally, however, medieval settlement studies must recognise that castles are as much a part of the settlement pattern as moated manors or isolated homesteads.

These remarks are particularly pertinent with regard to the period between 1066 and 1250, when many earth and timber fortifications were raised under the orders of minor lords, tenants and sub-tenants to function as manorial centres as much as military strongpoints. The interrelationships between these rural mottes and ringworks and their associated manorial economies are yet to be examined adequately, although interesting patterns of regional variation can be anticipated. The full range of relationships, both chronological and morphological, between castle and settlement is clearly complex, yet key themes can be identified: in many cases castles and churches form a magnate core within a settlement (Morris 1989, 248-255); elsewhere castle siting meant the disruption and displacement of antecedent settlement; in other landscapes castles functioned as forms of dispersed settlement. The underlying conclusion is that castles can and must be understood as part and parcel of wider settlement landscapes; to deny this is undoubtedly to the detriment of rural settlement studies and castellology.

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Early Medieval Assembly Places

by Aliki Pantos

As part of ongoing doctoral research, fieldwork was carried out to visit the locations of thirty possible early medieval assembly-places in the counties of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and the former county of Rutland. Sites included both hundred/ wapentake meeting-places and a number of previously uninvestigated sites identified from field-names. The purpose of this fieldwork was to identify on the ground any features not previously noted from maps and other sources, and to collect information which cannot be ascertained from cartographic evidence alone. Specific attention was paid to how sheltered/exposed a site was and the extent of its viewshed. Both written and photographic records of each site were made. Sites included in this fieldwork are given below listed by parish and National Grid Reference. In some cases the location of a meeting-place can only be identified in general terms. The NGR given for such sites is marked 'approximate'.

Leicestershire:

1. Syston parish (SK648108)
2. Cosby parish (SP526962 approximate)
3. Shangton parish (SP716972)
4. Melton Mowbray parish (SK750222 approximate)
5. Cossington parish (SK626136)
6. Peckleton parish (SK468028)
7. Diseworth parish (SK465256)
8. Whitwick parish (SK445173)
9. Gumley parish (SP679897)

Leicestershire formerly Rutland:

1. Burley parish (SK894120)
2. Martinsthorpe parish (SK866046)
3. Barleythorpe parish (SK838100 approximate)
4. Edith Weston parish (SK957053)

Lincolnshire:

1. Fleet parish (TF393260-410266 very approximate)
2. Broughton parish (SE940086 approximate)
3. Honington parish (SK923440)
4. Edlington parish (TF214707)
5. Langton by Partney parish (TF401722)
6. Gayton le Wold parish (TF258869 very approximate)

Nottinghamshire:

1. Bilborough parish (SK533428 approximate)
2. West Burton/South Wheatley parishes (SK764845-SK779856 approximate)
3. Oxton parish (SK635532)
4. Cropwell Butler parish (SK683390)
5. Gotham parish (SK533288)
6. Perlethorpe cum Budby parish (SK599683)
7. Aslockton parish (SK753413)
8. Radcliffe on Trent (SK665400)
9. West Leake parish (SK520269)
10. Staythorpe parish (SK758543)
11. East Markham parish (SK726734)

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Archaeological and documentary research on Badbury, Wiltshire

by Miriam Muller and Christopher Dyer

Miriam Muller is writing a PhD thesis comparing the society of two villages, in western and eastern England. The western example is Badbury in Wiltshire, in the parish of Chisledon, on the south-eastern fringes of modern Swindon. The thesis is being supervised by Christopher Dyer. Earthworks to the west of Badbury village, centered on SU 195805, were planned by M Muller and C Dyer, in February, 2000. This report takes the form of 1) a description of the archaeological evidence, followed by 2) an interpretation based entirely on the material remains, by C. Dyer. Then follows 3) M. Muller's account of the documentary evidence that is relevant to the interpretation of the site, and finally 4) a summing up of the interpretation using both material and written sources.

Description (from south to north), (Figure 17).
a. At the SE corner of the area planned (SW corner of the main village street, S of the manor) is a small group of depressions and platforms which may be a house site,

b. W of the manor and E of the steep bank running down to the stream is a complex pattern of banks, ditches, holloways and depressions in a rectangular space approximately 100m by 80m. The banks and ditches define roughly rectangular areas which could have been paddocks and yards. The alignment of the features often echoes that of the existing walls, hedges and roads of the modern village. Some of these enclosures may have contained buildings, though the only building platforms visible lie towards the N, with the well-defined foundations of a small building associated with a depression in the NW corner, and two small platforms to the E, on one of which stood a small stone-walled building until recently.

c. The very large platform in the small field to the N of the manor, with an oval depression on it southern side, appears to have once been the site of substantial buildings. The N edge of this complex is marked by a sharp scarp or terrace.

d. To the N of the terrace is another rectangular space, c. 50m. by 60m., containing a the earthworks of the foundations of a well defined building c. 1 Om by 5m, with a less well-defined mound to the S, and holloway and low mound to the W. The scarp which defines the N edge of this space is continuing the line of an existing boundary on the other side of Bericot Lane.

e. After a space with no identifiable earthworks to the N there is a slight holloway and two depressions, marking a possible house site (f). Terraces in the field to the N, between the two houses in Bericot Lane and the M4 motorway, suggest agricultural use (g).

h. On the E side of Bericot Lane there is a long narrow paddock, defined by lynchets, with earthworks of a possible house site adjacent to Bericot Lane.

3 sherds of late medieval pottery were found in mole hills and disturbed ground in the main complex to the W of the manor. Post-medieval pottery came from the small field to the N of the manor.

Interpretation
The main block of earthworks to the W and N of the manor (b and c), judging from their scale and location, represent the buildings of the manorial curia. The complex appears to have consisted of yards, paddocks, gardens, etc., most of them stock pens and outbuildings which normally formed part of a manorial establishment.

The smaller enclosure to the N could be the tort of a peasant holding (d). The house seems to be of peasant type. The counterpart to the E is an enclosure with two modern houses which could be on the site of medieval houses. The appearance of the whole rectangle, around which Bericot Lane is diverted , suggests a large seigneurial enclosure, dating back to the formation of the village, parts of which, to N and S, were rented out to peasant tenants. Perhaps the original N-S road ran through the middle of the seigneurial enclosure, and was only later diverted along what had been a back lane. Further N, Bericot Lane represents an original village street, with traces of house and tofts. One suspects that originally there were rows of tofts on either side, especially to the E, and that these were abandoned in the later middle ages, and in the field between the surviving paddock and the modern village there were at least 3 houses, and as many to the N of the surviving paddock (h).

The rectilinear patterns of the existing village and its boundaries, which are also observed in the earthworks, suggest an orderly planned layout for the original village.

Documentary evidence.
Manorial court rolls, accounts and surveys contain a information about the social, economic and demographic history of Badbury, which was held by Glastonbury Abbey. There is also evidence for its physical environment, of which the accounts are especially valuable by giving details of repairs to manorial buildings.

The five accounts of the period 1302-35 make references to a hall, chamber, cart-house, granary, byre, stable (a house for affers), sheephouse, and barn. A yard, pinfold and garden are also mentioned. In 1331-2 there are details of the location of buildings, as we are informed that a new byre had ben built which abutted the yard and was separated from it by a stone wall. The 1334-5 account records that a mason had worked for 3 days on a stone wall between the byre and the pinfold. Masons were often employed because substantial stone buildings were being built or repaired, such as two buttresses on the new barn, and nine steps to the granary, which was clearly raised above ground to protect grain from rodents and damp. Stone walls were used to enclose parts of the complex, as we have seen, and the garden in 1314-15 was surrounded

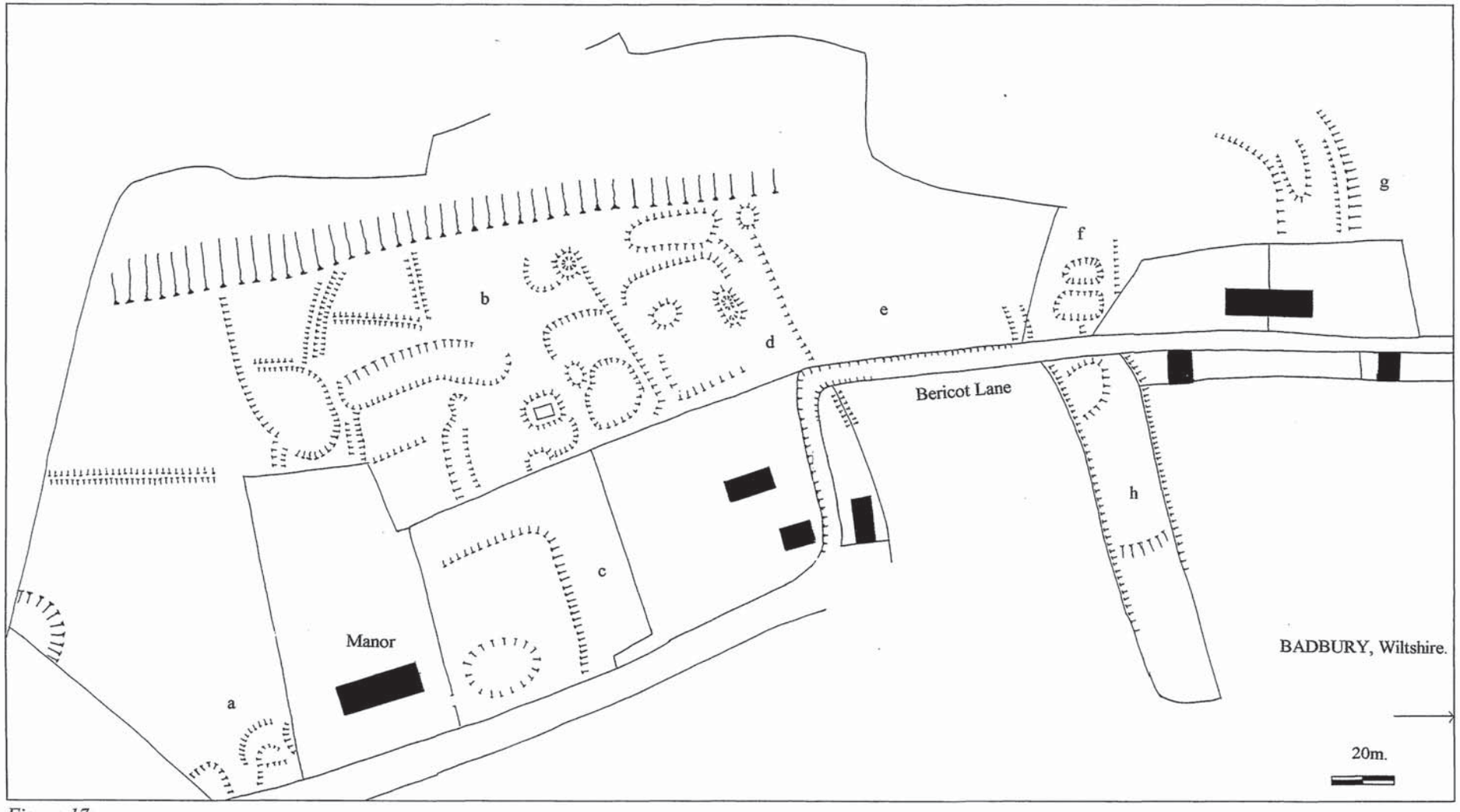

Figure 17:

with a new wall. Access was gained through gates and doors, including a gate into the main yard which was fitted with new ironwork. These buildings and enclosed spaces seem to have been grouped together. The mill, called an overshot mill in the fourteenth century, lay in a stream valley a little to the west.

The most common building work was on repairs to thatched roofs, including the cart-house, barn, byre and chamber roofs in 1302-4, and in 1314-15 strong winds had damaged the roofs of the barn and hall.

Sheep and cattle were important in the economy of Glastonbury's demesne at Badbury, and in 1189 the manor had the capacity to keep 250 sheep and 16 cows as well as 16 oxen. In the early fourteenth century the sheep flock was larger, at 320, and there were 17 cows and 17 oxen. Efforts were made to keep these animals healthy and secure.

In 1302-4 the byre was paved, and in 1334-5 extensive work was done on the roof of the sheephouse.

Buildings had to be maintained because of the ravages of the climate, but the Abbot of Glastonbury also had to contend with disgruntled peasants, who broke into the pinfold to rescue impounded beasts. In 1347 more drastic action was taken, when William in la Combe of Badbury was imprisoned at Salisbury for burning the Abbot's buildings at Badbury, though the extent of the damage is not known.

The manor was quite small, with a demesne of about 260 acres (in 1334-5) and a greater amount of land in the hands of tenants. There were 25 in 1086, growing to 38 in 1189. At the latter date some of the demesne had ben rented to tenants. In the mid thirteenth century there were 39 tenants, so the numbers were steady at a time when they often grew elsewhere. The population dropped sharply in the fourteenth century. This is indicated by the falling numbers of *garciones* (landless wage earners) who numbered 63 in 1313, but had declined to 48 just before the Black Death, and after that event declined to 13 initially, and then to 8 or 9 after 1366. The population of peasant tenants declined also in the fourteenth century, and by 1518-20 only 20 remained. Especially striking among the losses of tenants was the disappearance of the cottagers, of whom there were 12 in 1189, 14 in the thirteenth century, and only 1 in the early sixteenth century. The more subtantial tenants, who were mainly half yardlanders, accumulated larger holdings. The lord attempted to order tenants to repair their houses, barns and bakehouses after the plagues, but obviously the majority of the houses in the village fell down. Faced with an acute labour shortage, both the lord's demesne and the more substantial peasants used more of their land for pasture.

Interpretation of the material remains in the light of the documentary evidence.

The group of rectilinear earthworks, under which lie collapsed stone buildings, and which also contain apparent enclosures, seem to correspond to the documentary evidence for manorial agricultural buildings grouped around a yard, garden etc. The planning of the manorial complex, involving the diversion of the road and no doubt the laying out of the village houses, probably belongs to period before the survey of 1189. By then parts of the demesne land were being rented out to peasant tenants, and this may explain the apparent carving out of tenements from the manorial enclosure on the northern side. When shrinkage came in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries most of the houses along Bericot Lane to the north of the manor seem to have disappeared. The two or three houses now standing there look like re-occupations in modern times. It would be tempting to think that the medieval cottages stood along the lane, as these virtually disappeared in the period after the Black Death.

(We are grateful to Mr Whatley of Badbury for giving permission for the survey).

Dept. of Medieval History, University of Birmingham.

Fieldwork and Excavation in 1999

ENGLAND

BEDFORDSHIRE

Tempsford Hall, Tempsford (TL163254)

An area of 0.9ha, taking in approximately half of a medieval moated enclosure and adjacent land to the north and south, was excavated by Anthony Maull of Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of the Highways Agency, in advance of a new link road adjacent to the present A1 road. The site lies immediately to the east of the confluence of the rivers Great Ouse and Ivel, and had been identified following evaluation in 1993.

Middle Saxon activity comprised shallow, linear and curvilinear ditches associated with Maxey and Ipswich ware pottery, but the main focus of occupation must have lain further to the west. The earliest late Saxon ditches followed a similar pattern, and this may denote continuity of occupation. However, within the late Saxon period there was a major reorganisation of the settlement, in which the more irregular ditch systems were replaced by a series of rectangular plots bounded by linear ditches. Recutting and realignment of these boundaries continued into the early 13th century, but any associated buildings again lay beyond the excavated area.

In the early 13th century a moated enclosure was constructed over, but with respect to, the existing plot system. The moat itself was broad and U-profiled, and up to 23m deep, but any medieval deposits had been removed by later recutting. The wall slot, post-pads, clay floor and mortar and tile hearths of a timber-framed manor house comprising a hall, parlour, cross-passage and service wing lay fully within the excavated area (Figure 18), and the other ancillary buildings are presumed to lie within the unexcavated eastern half of the enclosure. It is likely to be the documented Manor of Brayes. The manor house had been abandoned and by the later 15th century, and Sir Gillies Payne later enclosed it within the grounds of Tempsford Hall.

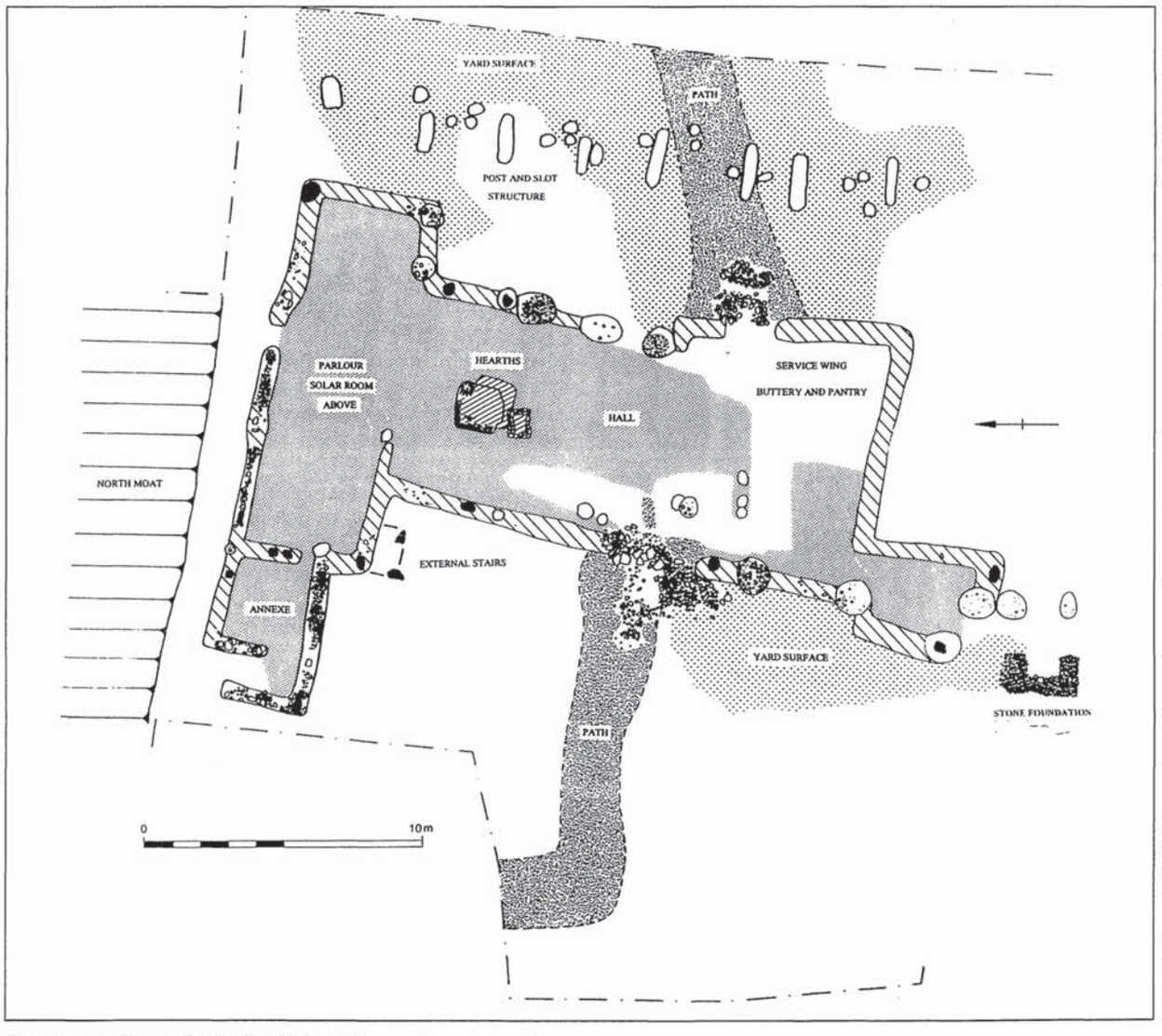

Figure 18: Tempsford, the 13th -15th century manor house.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Wing, Victorian School (SP881225)

An open area excavation was undertaken by Mark Holmes of Northamptonshire Archaeology prior to the construction of new housing at the site of the former Victorian School, which lies to the south of the parish church of All Saints, a former Saxon Minster.

The earliest evidence comprised a small quantity of early/ middle and middle Saxon pottery, although this appears to be residual in later contexts. The excavation recovered a total of 77 inhumation burials, indicating that the churchyard previously occupied land to the south of its current boundary. The burials were in rows and probably represent an expansion of the cemetery in the early 11th century AD. A wide boundary ditch to the south had been infilled in the 12th century, and this part of the cemetery probably went out of use at the same time.

Subsequent secular use can be dated to the 13th-14th centuries. It comprised a small containing a pitched-tile hearth or oven. There were associated ditches, pits and a well, but the focus of activity probably lay further east, towards the street frontage.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Bittesby (SP50058587)

This deserted village site is crossed by an abandoned railway line; to the east of this are earthworks and to the west the site is under the plough. Because of this it is not possible to say what the plan of the village was (Figure 19); sketch plan only based on air photographs and an earthwork plan by Leicestershire Museums Service, with acknowledgement).

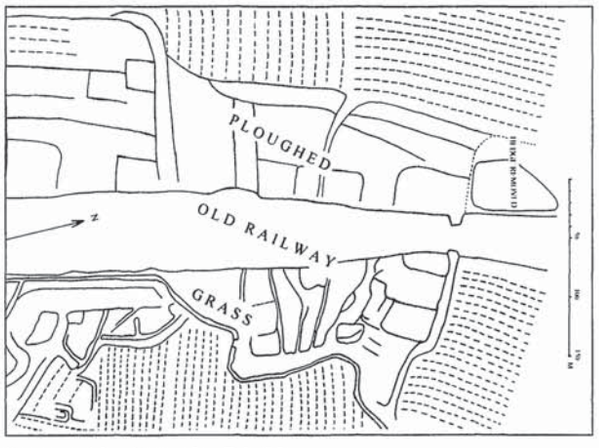

Figure 19: Bittesby DMU

The ploughed area was fieldwalked by students of the Department of Adult Education of the University of Leicester (Figure 20). There was one possible shelly Iron Age sherd, but more definitely a scatter of Roman sherds (grey wares, Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, black burnished ware and some tegulae in a hard reddish buff fabric), with a slight concentration towards the northern end of the area walked, where there was a zone of lighter gravelly soil. This lends support to the 19th century newspaper account of the discovery of a substantial Roman building at Bittesby when the railway was built c. 1838-40.

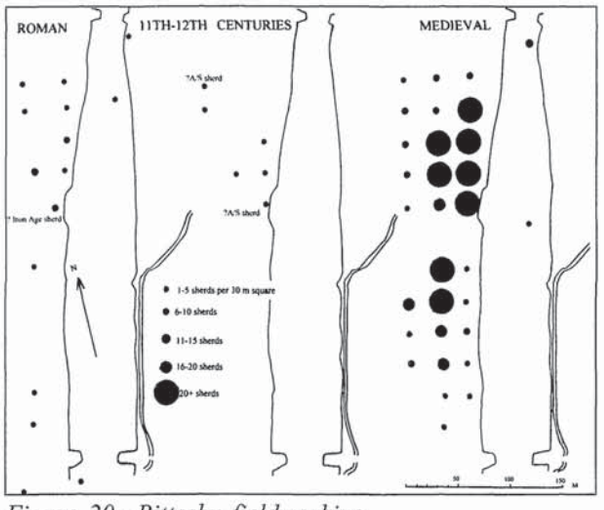

Figure 20: Bittesby fieldworking

Two possible early / middle Anglo-Saxon sherds in a black quartz-gritted fabric were found, and a thin scatter of 11th-12th century pottery (Stamford ware, St Neots type ware and a reduced sandy ware). There was plenty of medieval pottery from Coventry, Chilvers Coton, Potters Marston and the Lyveden area but not all that much Midland Purple and other late medieval wares in the area walked.

Bittesby was finally depopulated and enclosed by the Earl of Shrewsbury in 1494.

A. E. Brown

Freeby, Stapleford Park Golf Course (SK814181)
Melton Borough, Leicestershire

Investigations, were undertaken by staff of Archaeological Project Services in the grounds of Stapleford Park Hotel. The hotel was formerly Stapleford Hall, built in the 1630s, probably on the site of a medieval manor. Romano-British remains, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery and a deserted medieval village are also located nearby. Fieldwalking identified a small, localised scatter of Anglo-Saxon pottery over lkm from the known cemetery site Medieval pottery was also recovered during the fieldwalking but was thinly and evenly distributed and therefore probably represents manuring scatter. Geophysical survey adjacent to the deserted medieval village revealed several buried ditches, perhaps associated with the abandoned medieval settlement.

Subsequently, earthmoving associated with construction of a golf course was monitored. Several pits and drainage gullies yielding late and post-medieval pottery were recorded adjacent to the scheduled former village site. No traces of a Roman road postulated to cross the site were revealed but a linear band of gravel east of the hall is likely to mark a ploughed out medieval route. There were no traces of Anglo-Saxon features in the vicinity of the previously identified pottery scatter of that date, though an Iron Age site, sealed beneath alluvium in the valley of the River Eye, was identified.

Tom Lane

Royal Infirmary Victoria Building, Infirmary Road (SK587037)

A proposal to redevelop land at the Royal Infirmary in Leicester was examined in a programme of research carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services. This assessment indicted that a Roman aqueduct possibly crossed the site. Additionally, the study indicated that the proposed development area was probably situated in the grounds of St. Sepulchre, a church founded in the 12th century but ruinous by the 1570s. In consequence, an archaeological watching brief condition was imposed on the development. This investigation revealed that, despite disturbance caused by 19th century hospital constructions, parts of the cemetery of St. Sepulchre's church survived in the area. Over 20 full or partially surviving burials were recorded and remains of at least 30 individuals recovered.

Two phases of burial were suggested by variations in grave orientation with one group of inhumations being extended west-east and the second aligned southwest-northeast, though there no evidence to suggest the primary group of interments. The distribution of the burials also indicated the possible northern and eastern limits of the cemetery, though no remains of formal boundaries were revealed. Only one coffin burial, evident from coffin nails, was clearly identified, though a possible shroud pin was recovered from a separate inhumation. A few fragments of 12th century pottery from one burial was the only dating evidence retrieved from any of the graves.

Burials of very young infants (3 months) right through to adults aged 35-45 years were revealed. Close groupings of some of the burials may be family plots. Several of the older individuals exhibited evidence of osteoarthritis. An adult male had claw hand deformity, a condition associated with leprosy, and a child of 8-9 years had rickets. An adult female had a chronic pulmonary infection, such as pneumonia or tuberculosis, and one of the older males had suffered a fractured rib and ulna, both injuries having healed. Walls and foundation trenches of the 19th-20th century infirmary buildings had cut through several of the medieval burials.

Gary Taylor

LINCOLNSHIRE

Spalding, Ayscoughfee Hall (TF249224)
South Holland District

On behalf of South Holland District Council, G. Taylor of Archaeological Project Services arid C. Glenn carried out a programme of historical research and building recording. Research raised the possibility that the hall, apparently first constructed in the early-15th century, was on the site of a Domesday manor. Examination of a sequence of 17th century inventories permitted a suggested correlation of rooms in the building at that period with the present layout. These documents also indicted that moveable items in the building remained there, even though the property changed hands at various times. Examination of the H-plan prick-built hall indicated that the structure probably rapidly developed in the 15th century. A tentative sequence of development suggests construction commenced with the north wing and tower, followed by addition of a cross hall and completion by erection of the south wing. Structural features associated with major alterations of the building in the late-18th and mid-19th centuries were also identified.

Gary Taylor

Tallington, Casewick Lane (TF091081)
South Kesteven District

On behalf of Bryant Homes, staff of Archaeological iii an area of prehistoric remains. In addition to probably prehistoric remains, a notable quantity of Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from the site and suggests some otherwise unrecognised activity of the period in the vicinity.

Gary Taylor

Torskey, Main Street (SK836778 – SK837790)
West Lindsey District

Excavations for a cable trench through Torksey village, a Danelaw burh and significant pottery production area in the Saxo-Norman period, were monitored by Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Yorkshire Electricity. Ditches, a limestone wall and dumped deposits, all of the medieval period were identified and an undated cobbled surface revealed. Concentrations of Saxo-Norman Torksey ware pottery were recovered south of the village, near to previously discovered kilns. However, none of the pieces in these groups were obvious wasters and a small number were sooted, indicated use in cooking, and therefore suggest the proximity of occupation of the period.

Mark Dymond

NORFOLK

Norfolk Earthworks Survey Sites Surveyed in 1999 by Brian Cushion

Attleborough: Site 2008, (TM023947)

Two separate moats with evidence for outer features is the site of Little Rectory Manor; the larger southern moat being the more likely house site.

Bixley, (Arminghall): **Site 9763,** (TG247048)

The part moated grounds of the manor house has some subdivision, partly postmedieval, with a possible separate fishpond to the west.

Bracon Ash, (Hethel Hall): **Site 9508,** (TG163012)

An E-shaped moat, with parchmarks of a substantial post medieval house to the south-east.

Castle Rising, Castle: **Site 3307,** (TF666245)

A more complete representation of this well-known site has included the masonry on the central enclosure bank.

Coltishall, Hautbois Castle: **Site 7679,** (TG261203)

An updated survey of this small site has noted the outer features.

Denton, Castle: **Site 11047,** (TM264894)

An earlier NAU survey has been extended to include slight remains of the trapezoidal enclosure to the

north-east shown on 19th century maps, as well as part of a wood bank on the eastern field boundary.

Diss, Heywood Hall: **Site 10941,** (TM125861)

Moated remains to the north-east of the hall have been partially infilled or re-cut since an OS survey of the 1970s. The earthworks are assumed to be an earlier hall site.

Docking, Park: **Sites 15003 & 30502,** (TF767367)

An extensive network of roadways, mostly now noted as hollow ways, in part delineates an earlier park. Various enclosures represent some shown on an 18th century map, but significant medieval and earlier pottery fragments indicate that a shrinkage or shift of settlement has occurred, with some enclosures of likely medieval date.

Elsing, Hall: Site 3009, (TG040160)

Slight linear features to the north and north-east of the moated site include an earlier drive and possible park boundary, whilst to the south, a hollow way indicates a road which may also have had the latter function.

Fransham: Sites 33587, 33588, 33589 & 34247, (TF920141)

These sites are to the west and north-west of High Green Farm and include faint ridge and furrow and incomplete enclosure boundaries, probably of tofts.

Garveston, (Reymerston): **Site 14572,** (TG021066)

Slight remains exist of a common-edge ditch and a fragment of enclosure boundary.

Hilborough, Bodney Hall: **Site 5044,** (TL829986)

Three well preserved fishponds have been added to a 1989 survey of the medieval and later hall sites.

Hilgay, Site 4454, (TL625986)

This manorial site includes a moat and three contiguous ditched enclosures to its east with fishponds and a likely ditched building platform.

Horsford, Castle: **Site 8001,** (TG205156)

This small motte and bailey has signs of a structure on the motte, but the bailey has been ploughed.

Ingworth: Site 7403, (TG199290)

Known as Hall Meadow, the earthworks are a rather confusing mix of a moated enclosure assumed to be the hall site, a series of ditched enclosures to the north, and a less convincing ditched platform to the east of the moat. The whole area has extensive amorphous undulations, in part probably natural., some possibly the result of piecemeal extraction.

Loddon, Hales Hall: **Site 1052,** (TM369960)

The I992 survey of the site has been re-examined and re-drawn with some minor amendments.

Mileham, Castle: **Site 7230,** (TF916193)

A re-examination of this site has noted some subdivision within the rectangular ditched enclosure to the north of the road. Minor additions within the ringwork include a spread bank internal to the outer ditch.

Old Buckenham, Castle and Priory: **Site 9202,** (TM072925)

The rather unusual rectangular moated and banked enclosure of the castle has no structural remains. A large L-shaped outer enclosure to the south may be contemporary, but it also holds the later priory. The east end of the church is visible as parchmarks, with one masonry fragment being part of a crossing tower pillar. A probable fishpond is noted in the north-west of the site.

Old Buckenham, New Buckenham Castle: **Site 9200,** (TM084904)

A new survey of this impressive earthwork has determined the extent of the smaller and later western bailey, much assisted by air photographs. The larger eastern bailey has a well-spread internal bank, and adjoins the town ditch. To the west of the castle, a substantial ditch and bank is a likely medieval park boundary, with some rather degraded internal features which may be associated with fishponds and/or alder cultivation.

Oxborough, Hall gardens: **Site 30479,** (TF742011)

To the south of the hall, an incomplete banked enclosure with part of a central subdividing bank appears to have been a raised garden walkway. Other linear features include a prominent 19th century pipeline ridge, and various slight scarps and depressions, some of which probably represent watercourse channels.

Quidenham, Eccles: **Site 10794,** (TM024889)

This former manor of the Bishop of Norwich has a partially moated enclosure with an internal pond, and an attached less regular western enclosure.

Shotesham, (Shotesham St Mary) Old Hall: **Site 5391,** (TM237988)

Earthworks surrounding the oval moated hall have been partially re-interpreted as mostly subdivisions of a deer park shown on a map of 1650. An outer court existed to the east of the moat, and some slight features may well relate to buildings on that map. The only convincing earthwork associated with an earlier settlement is a well-defined hollow way to the south, with one possible toft. Enclosures to the north may in part he tofu adjacent to a possible road, but some of these features were also deer park subdivisions in 1650.

Stody, Hunworth Castle: **Site 1059,** (TG072352)

This small ringwork, with a northern entrance has a commanding position on the north slopes of the River Glaven.

Thetford, Castle: **Site 5747,** (TL874828)

A re-examination of this impressive earthwork has provided a more complete depiction than previous maps.

Thetford, Red Castle: **Site 5746,** (TL860830)

A more extensive internal bank was noted during a re-examination of this small ringwork.

Weeting, Castle: **Site 5626,** (TL778891)

The remains of a 1213th century fortified manor house are surrounded by a moat with evidence for linking

ditches. An icehouse is located within the north-west corner of the moat, originally serving the now demolished 18th century hall..

Wood Norton: Site 33886, (TG019279)

A series of incomplete enclosures represents in part a layout of cottages and closes still seen on early 19th century maps, whilst the eastern portion has a small ditched enclosure. The whole is considered part of the former medieval settlement of the parish.

Wymondham, Moot Hill: **Site 9438,** (TG125018)

This small oval ringwork has a north-western entrance and internal banking. Some internal ponds may be natural.

Wymondham, Abbey: **Site 9437,** (TG017014)

A survey has provided more information on the remains of the church and conventual buildings to the east of the present church, within the churchyard. In the area to the south, re-examination of a NAU survey of 1993 has re-depicted some features, including the rather confusing irregularities of the claustral range and a structure to the south-west, where ground level masonry is noted.

Brian Cushion

Shotesham St. Mary (TM238988)

In collaboration with Brian Cushion's revision of an earlier survey, examination of early maps showed that a village was still in existence in 1650, being distributed in common-edge sites by the River Tas and around Bates Green. The village had apparently migrated from its original nucleus near the churches of St. Mary and St. Martin and thus survived much longer than previously thought. An 18th-century date for final desertion seems likely.

West Acre (TF780153)

Fieldwalking of all available arable land and examination of grassland and woodland has been completed. Interim analysis of the total results is still in progress but it appears that the village was established on its present site probably in Middle Saxon times and certainly well before the Conquest. Only limited medieval expansion occurred, possibly because of the presence of the Augustinian priory. The northernmost portion of the parish, Though occupied in Romano-British times, showed virtually no sign of medieval activity apart from one small site, possibly a lodge. It is hoped that a report will be eventually published.

Alan Davison

NORTH SOMERSET

Puxton

In September 1999, further survey and excavation were carried out in and around the shrunken medieval hamlet of Puxton, in North Somerset (ST 407 633: see *Medieval Settlement Research Group Annual Report* 12. 1997, 18-20). Further work was carried out in Church Field, the oval shape of which suggests it {nay have been a very early feature in the development of the historic landscape. One trench sectioned a bank that runs around the edge of the field, and the provisional results suggests that it was built directly on the surface of the saltmarsh that covered the North Somerset Levels during the post-Roman period. A second trench, near to the church, investigated an area with high levels of phosphates and heavy metals (lead copper etc) in the soil. A deep sequence of occupation was uncovered stretching back to at least the 10th century. The site appears to have been abandoned during the 13th century (very little ham Green Ware was recovered).

Further survey work was carried out on the church, with an inspection of the roof. The present structure dates to the 16th century, though traces of an Earlier roof line on the side of the tower shorn that the present structure is not the first. The stole of the roof is very simplistic almost domestic in character, suggesting a number of possibilities: that it was never intended to be visible, that it was re-used from another structure, or that insufficient funds were available for a more sophisticated structure. Re-use from an earlier building appears very unlikely (though one window on the northern side of the nave has been re-used from a domestic building). The suggestion that the roof was never intended to be seen is also unlikely as several of the timbers have been white-washed. It would appear, therefore, that we have an extremely simplistic 16th century construction. Three of the four windows on the southern side of the church are also 16th century, while a -date stone above the porch gives 1557. The latter has been added rather crudely to a second stone containing the coat of arms of the St hoe family who held Puxton from the 15th century to 1563. It is tempting, therefore, to suggest that Puxton church saw a major renovation during the mid 16th century.

Work also began on a systematic survey of some of the older domestic buildings in the parish. Eight houses were surveyed, several of which may be late medieval (15th century'?) in origin. In two casks, however, pottery collected from flower beds was far earlier tat gist 13th century). This work is starting to confirm the model that while the oval-shaped 'infield' enclosures were the earliest areas of the North Somerset Levels to be embanked and drained, and subsequently formed the focus for small settlement nucleations, the area soon developed a dispersed settlement pattern.

S. Rippon

SOMERSET

Shapwick

The fieldwork component of the ten-year landscape project at Shapwick was completed in July 1999. Campaigns of geophysics (by GSB of Bradford and King Alfred's College, Winchester) and soil survey (by Andrew Jackson at the University of Bristol) preceded this year's excavations, as did the announcement of the finding of a hoard of nearly 10,000 Roman coins in the parish, on one of the many sites previously identified during fieldwalking.

Three major sites were excavated, mainly by volunteers and students of King Alfred's College under the direction of Chris Gerrard. In the Church Field, to the east of the village, a 600 square metre open area excavation over geophysical anomalies produced evidence for a multi-phase complex of shallowly-buried features including a substantial rectangular timber-framed building orientated east-west, possibly a church,

superseded in more or less the same location by a stone building. Once the latter had been demolished the site was then re-used as a builders' yard with lime kilns, water troughs and a circular lime mixing pit. No clear dating evidence emerged for this sequence but there are possibly at least two phases of Saxo-Norman buildings to be unravelled here.

To the east of Manor Farm, geophysical survey over the site of 'Chessells' produced evidence for a large ditched enclosure which proved to be late Roman in date. More significant, given the aims of the Project, were a series of evaluation-style trenches across field boundaries. One of these produced three parallel ditches, one Bronze Age, one Roman and one post-medieval, along the line of an existing field boundary, suggesting contiguity if not continuity of its east-west alignment. Curiously, the boundary, if its origins are indeed prehistoric, is orientated on the Tor!

Since the summer of 1999 the post-excavation programme for Shapwick has stalled. Applications to English Heritage for grant aid for the post-excavation have not so far been successful, in spite of past support. We continue to be hopeful that sponsors will emerge and other applications have been made, but the final phase of post-excavation for the project has now been held up for nearly a year and, with it, the eventual publication of the project. We are determined that this is not to be yet another medieval settlement project to run into the sand. While the directors' institutions continue to provide some support, money (about £35,000) is mainly needed for specialist contributions and to carry the project through to completion. And, just in case you were wondering, the irony of a major 10-year academic project (in which most of the work has been undertaken at no charge) scraping around for these kinds of sums of money while a metal-detectorist profits to the tune of £300,000 for his finds at a Shapwick site had not escaped us!

Readers can assess for themselves the promise of this Project in a summary of results published in *The Antiquaries Journal* 1999, volume 79, 1-58. The extensive website for the Shapwick Project carries all the details of the events (archaeological, culinary social and otherwise) of the 1999 excavations but innocent internet surfers should be aware that parts of this website carry a health and sanity warning!

Chris Gerrard and Mick Aston

WARWICKSHIRE

Chesterton and Kingston, Rose Cottage (SP 351 584)

Observation of foundation trenches for an extension on the edge of the part of the medieval village of Chesterton Magna known as Netherend by Nicholas Palmer of the Warwickshire Museum in July 1999 revealed a medieval or early post-medieval, limestone wall foundation, a pit and possible rubble surface. A 12th century sherd came from the topsoil.

Dunchurch, Cawston Deserted Medieval Village (SP474732)

Excavations on behalf of Severn Trent Water in advance of the Rugby Western Ring Main were carried out by Stuart C. Palmer of the Warwickshire Museum in September 1999 on part of the medieval village of Cawston revealed by topsoil stripping through an area of cropmarks south of the modern village.

At the south end of the excavated area the pipeline cut through a corner of a large sub-rectangular enclosure. Two stone buildings were identified within the enclosure on the very edge of the ditch. Both buildings had been revetted down the inner edge of the ditch side, which in the northern building was a separate phase of masonry. Between these two buildings, a further building, albeit a comparatively flimsy wooden structure built on post-pads, was positioned further away from the ditch edge. This building contained a large quantity of charcoal and burnt soil which produced a significant quantity of iron nails. A quantity of medieval window glass was recovered from the area. The enclosure could represent a manorial complex or perhaps the site of the grange of Pipewell Abbey.

On the north side of the enclosure a further building was indicated by the presence of a rubble floor and a very large quantity of iron working slag. This building was evidently a smithy although no evidence of its walls survived, perhaps indicative of a wooden structure perched on 'the stone surface. At the northern end of the excavated area a further post-built structure can be inferred from a small cluster of postholes and may well be associated with the smithy building.

Pottery from the site suggests occupation during the 12th and 13th centuries and comparatively early desertion or shrinkage in the 14th/15th century, which accords with documentary references of enclosure by the monks of Pipewell Abbey before 1486.

Pillerton Priors, Westbourne (SP29284765)

Observation of groundworks for a house extension within the medieval village in September 1999, by Bryn Gethin and Catherine Coutts of the Warwickshire Museum on behalf of Mrs B Plummer, revealed cobbled yard surfaces and a stone wall foundation, along with 12th/13th-century pottery. These most likely represent the remains of a 12th/13th century-building occupying part or all of the existing house plot.

WEST MIDLANDS

Sutton Coldfield, Minworth Greaves Farm, Minworth (SP16659257)

An evaluation involving three trial trenches within the medieval settlement of Greaves in January 1999, by Catherine Coutts and G. C. Jones of the Warwickshire Museum on behalf of Rochda Ltd, recorded 13th-15th century boundary ditches and other features north of the existing farmhouse.

WALES

Carmarthenshire

Earthwork survey on the Plas Estate, Llanstephan, Carmarthenshire. (PRN: 38252)

A survey of earthworks to the west of the eighteenth century Plas Mansion, Llanstephan, Carmarthenshire was undertaken in June 1999 by students of the Department of

Archaeology, Trinity College, Carmarthen. Although the earthworks have been disturbed by agricultural activity it was possible to identify the remains of a number of discrete features (figure 21).Principal amongst these was a heavily eroded hollow way (a) that ran east-west through the centre of the field. Perpendicular to the hollow way were two earthen banks (b) that formed a series of smaller enclosures. To the south of the hollow way the remains of a rectangular platform with an attached sub-rectangular enclosure (c) can be identified. It is likely that these constitute the remains of a late/post-Medieval agricultural settlement.

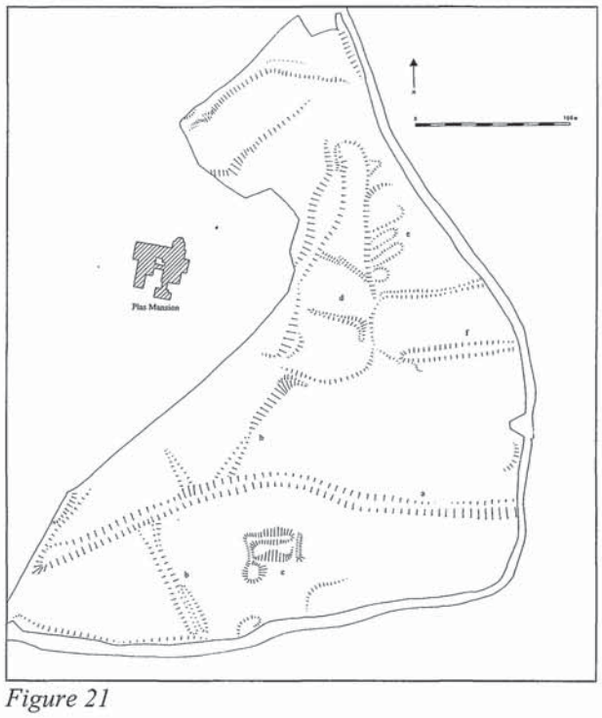

Figure 21

The northern part of the field contained the remains of a series of terraces (d) below the site of the Georgian mansion; these were sub-divided by banks running down the face of the slope thus creating smaller sub-rectangular enclosures. The terraces also overlay and truncated four parallel embankments (e) of indeterminate function which were aligned east-west at the base of the slope. Further embankments are found in the central eastern part of the field (f).

It is likely that a number of distinct phases of activity are represented by the earthworks. Relative chronology is difficult to establish due to the degraded form of the earthworks. Relationships can be suggested between the hollow way, the perpendicular banks abutting the hollow way and the long banks in the central eastern part of the field; it is likely that these features relate to the agricultural exploitation of the area. The use of these enclosures for pastoral purposes seems likely given its historical importance in the parish. The building and associated sub-rectangular enclosure are also likely to relate to this phase of activity.

The terraces on the slope below the Plas Mansion constitute a second period of activity. These terraces probably relate to the establishment of gardens for the mansion after its construction in the late eighteenth century. These terraces overlay the enigmatic embankments at the base of the terraced slope, which should probably, therefore, be seen as part of the earlier agricultural exploitation of the field. The process of adapting the fimction of the field from agriculture to a more formal landscape is also seen in the erection of the garden wall of the country house; this runs across the line of the hollow way and clearly resulted in an interruption of the route.

A preliminary interpretation of the earthwork remains thus suggests that the agricultural landscape was transformed in the late eighteenth century, through a process of emparkment, into a designed landscape appropriate for a Georgian country house.

O. H. Creighton, T. Kirk and G. Longden.

City and County of Swansea (SN6104)

The Cefn Drum Research Project: medieval settlement and subsistence in the uplands.

The cairnfield which lies close to the platform houses excavated in 1996 and 1998 was studied. An analysis of the size, situation and structure revealed a pattern which it is thought reflects an infield and outfield pattern. Forty two of the 51 cairns mapped in the 1970s were rediscovered, scattered over an area of 11 ha. Most of the calms lie on a area of fertile boulder clay amidst the pennant sandstone-derived material of the rest of the hill. Smaller cairns (those with a diameter of less than 4m.) are generally found distant from the house platforms, medium sized ones (between 4 and 8 m. in diameter) are usually close to them whilst the large cairns (8+ m.) seem to scattered around the landscape indifferently. The smaller cairns lie at a mean distance of 2 kms. from the platform houses, this is reduced to 1.3 kms. for medium sized cairns. The absence of any structural elements was taken to indicate that the cairnfield originated as the result of clearance and therefore did not have a sepulchral or ritual function. The cairnfield is thought to be contemporary with the platform houses and therefore dates to *c.* 1100 and *c.* 1300, with a possibility that a date after *c.* 1240 being most likely.

A geophysical exploration was undertaken by UWCN undergraduates Dee Groves and Peter Sweeting (supervised by Dr. M. A. Hamilton) between the areas excavated in 1996 and 1998 areas to try to ascertain whether or not there were any features between the two which might relate to the farmstead. An RM15 resistivity meter was used. Readings were taken using a twin probe array, with a transverse interval of 1 m and a sampling interval of 1 m making 400 readings for every 20 x 20 m grid. A total of eight grids were completed over two days, covering a total area of 0.3 ha. The data were processed using a Toshiba 310 CDS laptop, running the Geoscan Geoplot 2.02 and 3.0 programmes.

Several features were noted. The most prominent feature of the surveyed area was visible on the ground; it is 3.5 m wide and 0.42 m deep at the cut, and whilst no hood is discernible it is approximately 10 m^2 in area. Whilst clearly another platform, it is too small to have supported a dwelling. An interpretation of this feature as a hayrick stand is considered most likely. A second feature is linear, which is approximately 25 m long and 5 m wide, running in a north-east to south-west direction. It could possibly

possibly be interpreted as a wall, however a geological origin is also possible. Another linear feature leads to the small platform and could be a footpath. The most interesting feature measures approximately 5 m^2 and lies adjacent to the 1998 excavations. Here there appears to be a rectangular feature surrounding an anomaly. This could be a pit could surrounded by a fence. It is intended to excavate some of these features in 2000.

A longhouse was excavated in the summer; the site stands at SN613045 and is included in the Royal Commission's *Glamorgan Inventory* as LH 1. This lies 2 kms. further north east of the previous excavations and sits at around 180 m. OD, close to the summit of Cefn Drum. Two nearby stretches of stone rubble were excavated and shown to be the remnants of major fieldwall. A mound of, initially, unknown nature was also examined. This is thought to have been a coneygare: a man-made rabbit warren.

As a result of the excavations the longhouse is now thought to be a sheepcote (or *bercaria). The* site comprises a building 20.8 m. long (externally) from east to west, the upper end measures 9.6 m., the lower end is somewhat narrower: 6 m. The whole building stands on a shallow platform, at most 1.6 m. deep. Prior to excavation the site was visible as a series of low banks, these were rarely more than 50 cms. high, in places large stones were visible (especially in the south east comer.) From the south west comer a bank runs northward, offering protection from the prevailing wind. Some of the walls were crudely constructed and included small glacial erratics, elsewhere the walls were more sophisticated and possibly show traces of rebuilding. Three doorways led into the structure, where internal partitions once divided it up into stalls. The structure was bonded to the bank and several larger stones had been placed so as to form part of both. Hence the building and the bank would seem to be of a contemporary date. A small area of flat stones lay between the lower part of the west wall and the bank and may have formed part of a yard surface. Traces of flooring were also noted within the structure - crude stone surfaces were found in places at the centre of the building. Two post supports were also noted in the interior of the building - neither is a conventional posthole, both comprise a flat stone on which a post is thought to have stood, held in place by a number of large stones. Both are close the extreme ends of the building and are positioned off centre. The nature of the structure and the absence of finds all combine to suggest that this structure was reserved for animals.

Preliminary study of soil phosphate ($P04^3$) goes someway to support this. The readings are relatively uniform throughout the building (mean 3.45 mg/1), and higher than those taken from outside the building (mean 3.25 mg/l.) This work was undertaken by Dr. R. A. S. Johnston (also of SCARAB, UWCN) and forms part of a programme of environmental and pedological work which is integrated into the excavations.

In the absence of further evidence it is perhaps best to regard the sites as having a date range which covers both the late medieval and the early post medieval periods, perhaps from *c.* AD 1400 to *c.* 1600. Two structures adjacent to the *bercaria* will be excavated in 2000 and will conclude the fieldwork on Cefn Drum.

Jonathan Kissock Centre for the Study of Culture, Archaeology, Religions and Biogeography, University of Wales College, Newport.

Trelech, Crosshands Farm Field (SO501051) Monmouthshire (Gwent)

Historical evidence suggests that Trelech was one of the largest towns in Wales during the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries. Today the mound and portions of the eroded ditch of a motte and bailey castle survive approximately a hundred metres to the south of the large St. Nicholas's Church which is near the centre of the modern village. The church and castle mound are the two most prominent surviving medieval features and presumably they provided the central physical focus of the town. Archaeological evidence obtained from continuing research excavations indicates that Trelech decayed rapidly as an urban centre in the early/middle fourteenth century.

Recent excavations in Trelech have concentrated on Trelech Farm near the church and castle and, in the summer of 1999, on the small Crosshands Farm field to the south of the village. Trelech Farm was a development site and excavations here revealed a deeply rutted road surface running north/south, parallel to the present village high street. Associated features included a cobbled surface, a well-cut rectangular pit and a heavily robbed building. The floor of the building was highly disturbed but one complete section (4.Sm x 1.5m) remained intact. Two robbed walls were also clearly defined. Also associated were tap slags and furnace bases providing further evidence of smelting activities in the medieval town. Ceramic finds point to single phase occupation of the site in the late thirteenth/early fourteenth century.

A programme of geophysical surveying is continuing in Trelech and in June 1999 anomalies shown in a resistivity survey of the Crosshands Farm field were investigated. Excavations here demonstrated seventeenth century re-occupation of a medieval ironworking site. Three in situ furnaces were found and evidence including smoking pipes, ceramic vessels and coins including a James II tin farthing indicated that this phase, which probably represents bloom smithing, was seventeenth century in date. Post holes and apparent residues of mortar/daub formed a right angle suggesting a structure which may have contained two of the furnaces. At a depth of approximately 1.5m a surface with a well-defined beam slot which had been cut by a seventeenth century slag pit produced medieval pottery, tap slags and furnace linings.

This evidence suggests that a medieval iron production site was re-occupied for bloom smithing during the seventeenth century. Iron rich slags may have provided a particular attraction for the post medieval iron workers.

The results of these excavations tend to confirm earlier work which indicates that iron production was a dominant element in the economy of medieval Trelech, a site which is one of the best examples of urban decay in Wales.

Dr. Raymond Howell, SCARAB Research Centre, University of Wales College Newport.

ITALY

The 1998 and 1999 seasons of excavation in the deserted village of Pian dei Costi (Borzonasca – GE). Preliminary Report.

This brief report is presented as an example of some of the new research into the archaeology of medieval and post medieval abandoned settlements in Liguria (Milanese - Biagini 1998 pp. 9-56; Benente - Parodi 1998, pp.222-224) after a hiatus of about twenty years (figure 22). Our research is closely linked to the studies carried out at the beginning of the 1970's (Gruppo Ligure di Ricerca sulle Sedi Abbandonate 1971), but is also related to the new themes of Italian postmedieval archaeology presented at the 1994 conference (Archeologia Postmedievale 1994; Archeologia Postmedievale 1997; Gardini - Benente 1997, pp. 305-328).

In April 1998, the Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri and the Soprintendenza Archeologica della Liguria with a grant from the Comune of Borzonasca (GE), started the first season of excavation at the deserted settlement of Pian dei Costi. About twenty students from the Universities of Genoa and Sassari took part in the1998 excavations. The second season of research (April - May 1999) was conducted for four weeks and with students from the Universities of Genoa, Turin and Rome. They were coordinated by a group of researchers that has been active in the Tigullio area since 1995. The archaeological excavation, directed by Dr. Alessandra Frondoni of the Soprintendenza Archeologica della Liguria, was coordinated in the field by Dr. Benent. The archaeological analysis of the abandoned village of Pian dei Costi, along with the more extensive research carried out in Sturla valley addresses the historical problems of the "Evolution and organization of the rural population and settlements in the Tigullio area" from late antiquity to modern times. The settlement of Pian dei Costi (fig. 22) is located along the west site of the Sturla valley at about five hundred meters above sea level between Case Dorbora and Monte Pezze. At present the site is a large wooded area with low terracing in keeping with local agricultural tradition. There are surface traces of collapsed walls of small houses covering a surface area of about three hundred square meters.

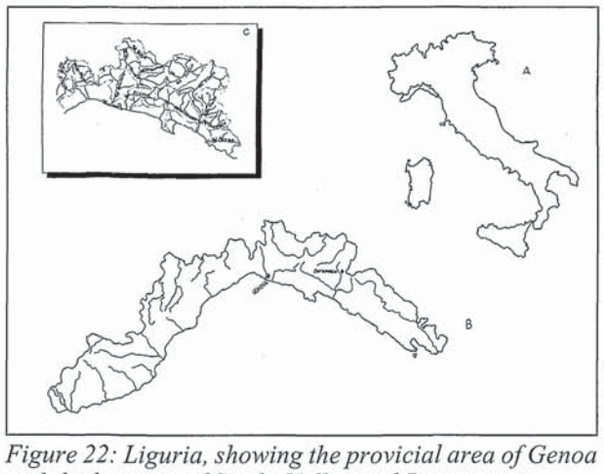

Figure 22: Liguria, showing the provicial area of Genoa and the location of Sturla Valley and Borzonasca.

With the discovery of the abandoned settlement in 1987, Renato Lagomarsino and Bruno Valli, two local historians suggested that the deserted village of Pian dei Costi was the settlement of Durbola described in eleventh century sources of the Monastery of Bobbio. These sources refer to a small monastic estate held by Andrea Silvano and three manentes. Other reasons for this first hypothesis were the numerous oral accounts ("there were monks or friars there in the past").[1] The abandoned settlement is also near to the Dorbora river.

Our historical and archaeological research was not conditioned by the hypothesis of Lagomarsino and Valli; instead, we have tried to understand the general characteristics of the settlement and of the land use. We also had to intervene to protect and preserve the archaeological site and to resolve the problem of occasional excavations on the part of the present landowner.[2]

Study of the late medieval and post medieval written and cartographic sources has offered some interesting indications for understanding the life and abandonment of the site of Plan dei Costi. Documents of the fifteenth century regarding the Sturla valley show the importance of the "Camino de Valdesturla" (Sturla valley path) that connected the costal area of Lavagna - Chiavari with Parma and Piacenza (Redoano Copped& 1980-82; Chiappe 1999, pp. 105-107). This path was used to transport merchandise, oil, wine, salt, grain, including ceramic tableware, both into and out of the Ligurian hinterland (Raggio 1990, pp. 140-147; Gardini - Benente 1994) .

The medieval written sources and cartographic sources of the eighteenth century permit us to draw a different picture of the late medieval and postmedieval paths from the costal area to Parma and Piacenza. A track through Borgonovo led to the Alta Val di Vara and the territory of Parma crossing the Bocco Pass. Another route was used from Borzonasca to Brizzolara to go to the Val d'Aveto and Piacenza which crosses the Bozzale Pass. An alternative way was to pass through Vignolo and Levaggi transiting the area of Pian dei Costi and through another abandoned village, Pometto,[3] near Borzonasca (Benente - Parodi 1998). The existence of these secondary routes gives us an insight into the use of alternative routes which were probably invented to avoid tolls and taxes. The problems associated with the multiple routes of communication, the difficulty in the management of the toll stations and the diffusion of contraband (Raggio 1990, pp. 136-140) between the coastal area and the Po valley plain were emphasized in a report by the cartographer Matteo Vinzoni dated 1751 (Pellegrini 1999, pp. 51-53).

The research seasons at Pian del Costi, based on field survey and excavations have revealed; the extension of the settlement; the construction phases and development of a small group of houses between the fifteenth and eighteenth century; a period of abandonment; a successive cultivation of the site for chestnut trees and the recent use of the land as a wood lot by the present owner. The presence of fragments of roman amphorae, coarse ware and roof tiles was noted during the field survey beyond the limits of the late and post medieval

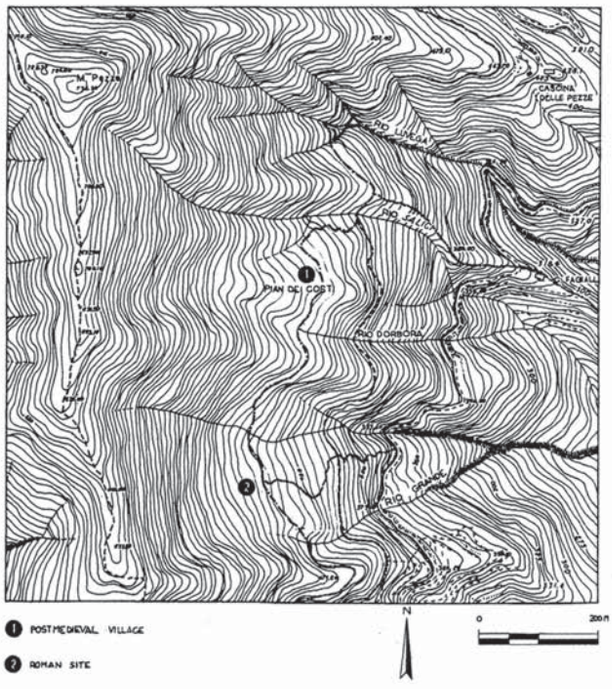

Figure 23: Plan of the west side of the Sturla between Case Dorbora and Monte Pezze.

village and led to the discovery of a small roman site. Some fragments of roman pottery were also found during the excavation of the post medieval layers of the village of Pian dei Costi. These findings gives us the first data on roman settlement of the west side of the Sturla valley (Benente 1997, pp.66-69; Benente 1998, pp.9-10 (figure 23).

The archeological excavation investigated several areas and the stages of collapse and abandonment of four

Figure 25: Pian dei Costi - Area 1100.

buildings. The houses, built with simple walls of stone and earth, were composed of two or three small rooms, each with specific domestic functions (figure 24). One of the buildings (area 1100) has two hearths in one room, probably used to cook and make bread and cheese (figure 25). Personal religious objects (votive medallions, one of which is dated 1750, and a rosary) were found on the pavement of another room. One of the buildings (area 1500), situated on the north side of the village, might have been used as a stable. The abandonment of the houses doesn't seem to have been sudden but rather progressive and planned. Only a few objects were found 'in situ' on the house floors. After the abandonment of the village, the structures of the site were partially transformed and partially interred to create agricultural terraces. These terraces were used in the nineteenth century for a chestnut plantation. A charcoal pit was also found near area 1500, which is dated to the 1960's and was the last use of the site as a wood lot according to the

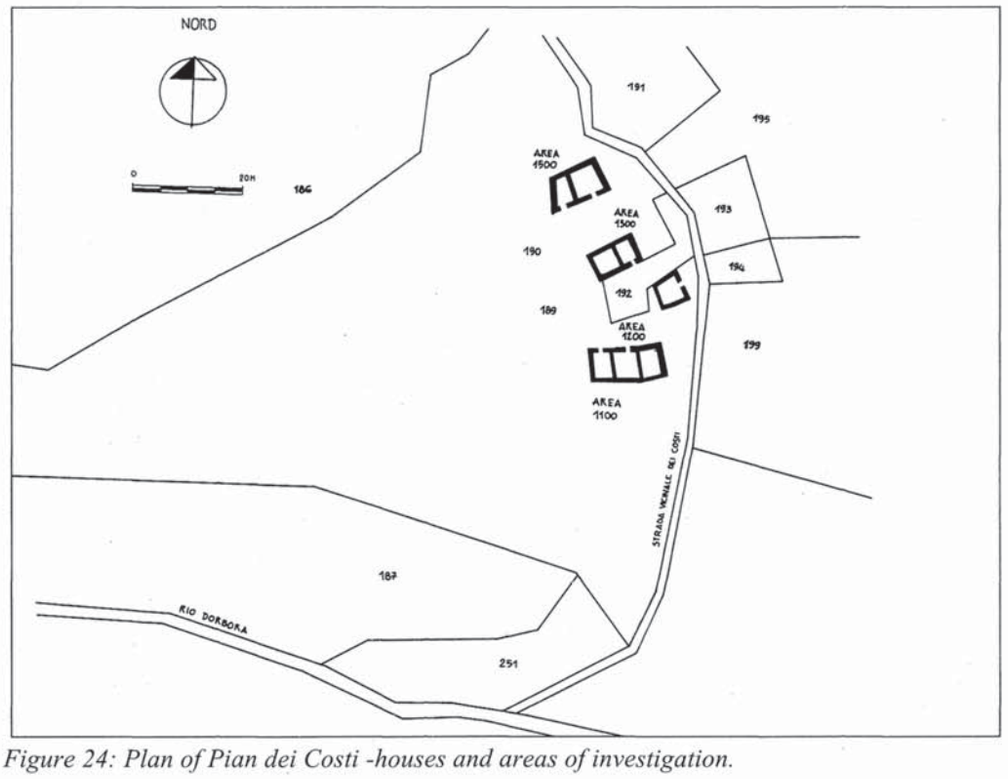

Figure 24: Plan of Pian dei Costi -houses and areas of investigation.

current owner. The recovered. pottery fragments show a continual presence from the fifteenth century and offer some indications of commercial activity. Ceramic evidence allows us to study trade, economy, cultural differentiation and settlement patterning. The pottery finds include maiolica from Savona and Albisola, maiolica from Montelupo Fiorentino, late "graffita a punta" from Pisa, slip ware and cooking pottery. In the last phase of settlement we find mostly pottery decorated with " taches noires" from Albisola. The complete lack of pottery dated after the eighteenth century confirms the abandonment of the settlement at the end of the seventeen hundreds. The observed variability of types of pottery is unusual in a ligurian rural settlement, but can be related to a secondary commercial route which passed near or through the village (Benente -Gardini 1994; Milanese - Biagini 1998).

In conclusion, the field survey and the excavations show that the west side of the Sturla between Case Dorbora and Monte Pezze was inhabited from roman to modern times with only small settlement movements. The life of the village of Pian dei Costi is only one episode in the history of this area. The main purpose of the next seasons of excavation and survey will be to read the remaining pages of this lost history.

Fabrizio Benente (Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri).

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Notes

The following individuals were responsible for single excavation areas, documentation and survey: Valentina Parodi, Roberto Corriga, Claudia Vanali, Marina Piombo, Gianluca Pesce, Gian Battista Garbarino and Sara Lassa (University of Genoa), Luca Sanna (University of Sassari), Silvia Musso (University of Turin). Massimo Dapelo and Dario Brizzolara made, in 1997, the preliminary site map. El This project is directed by Dr. F. Benente for the Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri. El Breve de terra que in Maritima esse videtur" in C.D.S.C.B., in "Fond per la Storia d'Italia", Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medioevo, 52, Roma 1918, doc. 107, pp. 368-378; A Vasina, Inventari altomedievali di terre, coloni a redditi, in "Fond per la Storia d'Italia", Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medioevo, 104, Roma 1979, pp. 176-192.

1. These oral accounts were recorded in Sturla valley (Case Battiluino and Chiapparino) in also in Cichero Valley (Case del Monte).
2. For example, before we arrived to excavate the landowner had completely excavated the interior of one room of a building in order to make a shed for agricultural tools.
3. The abandoned village of Pometto was documented in the sixteenth century by Agostino Giustiniani and in Matteo Vinzoni's eighteenth century map. The village was probably abandoned between the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries. At the site of the village, that in the sixteenth century counted more than 30 houses, few traces of walls are presently visible and fragments of pottery are distributed over a wide area. This side of the valley has been subject to geological instability and collapse which is also documented in historic sources of the late eighteenth century.

SPAIN

ARAGON

Somontano de Moncayo, Borja

During 1999 work has continued on this Mediterranean landscape project by King Alfred's College, Winchester under the supervision of Chris Gerrard, Alejandra Gutierrez and Keith Wilkinson. This year's research has focused on the study of regional and national medieval and post-medieval documentary archives, particularly those of the Military Orders who owned so much land in the area after the Christian reconquest in the first quarter of the twelfth century. This work, together with standing building surveys (eg. water mills, field shrines, see 1998 report) and analysis of village morphologies, will be published in full shortly. A summary of the impact of the Military Orders on Muslim and Christian ethnic groupings and, in particular, upon settlement form, appeared in *Medieval Archaeology XLIII* (1999).

One of the main objectives of this project is to determine the chronology of landscape change and to reconstruct the mechanisms that have caused it. These are being addressed using a geoarchaeological methodology, beginning with a desktop survey and analysis of remote sensing data (SPOT) and followed by targeted fieldwork. In September 2000 features of interest will be mapped and exposed sections sampled for either radiocarbon or luminescence dating. Samples for magnetic characterisation (magnetic susceptibility) and geochemical study will also be taken in order to explore further whether landscape features resulted from human induced processes or climate. Diagnostic artefacts are also being collected. The data from all stages is being combined in a GIS and this will be one of the first projects in Spain to combine archaeological and geomorphological methods with the use of GIS modelling and satellite imagery.

Book Reviews

New publication of interest to members

The first number of a new journal, *Landscapes,* (ISSN 1466-2035) appeared in April 2000. Published by Windgather Press it contains five articles and two book reviews. The articles are Richard Muir, 'Conceptualising Landscape': Noel James Menuge, 'The Foundation Myth: Yorkshire Monasteries and Landscape Agenda': Christopher Taylor, 'Medieval Ornamental Landscapes': Tom Williamson, 'Understanding Enclosure': Stephen Mills, 'Landscape Simulation and the open-air Museum'. The individual subscription rate (for two numbers a year) is £25.00 (UK and Europe) and further information may be obtained fro Windgather Press, 31 Shrigley Road, Bollington, Macclesfield., Cheshire SK10 5RD.

The Herefordshire School of Romanesque Sculpture

Malcolm Thurlby. xiv + 176 pp, 242 figs + 2 (incl. plates). Logaston Press, Logaston, Herefordshire, 1999. £12.95. ISBN 1 873827 60 1.

This book is most welcome. The so called 'Herefordshire School' has not only dominated discussions of twelfth-century English sculpture in the West-country, but it also has a high profile in such debate nationally and internationally. Yet, until now, description and discussion of the sculptures themselves has been scattered through journal articles; there has been no single, readily available, work which considers all the sculptures as a group. This book fulfils that need precisely and, consequently, we are in the author's and publisher's debt.

For readers of *MSRGAR,* this sculpture could provide a useful group of artifacts with which to date the embellishment (if not the foundation) of key churches in the Herefordshire landscape. But the book could only be a starting-point for such a project because, although Thurlby says time and-again that most of these churches stand in the vicinity of seigneurial sites, their settlement settings are simply not discussed further. The relative status of these churches within the developing ecclesiastical and settlement hierarchy, then, still awaits an elective, interdisciplinary, study. The peculiar isolation of many Herefordshire churches, alongside the seigneurial residence in the landscape, remains unexplored and unexplained. No, this is a conventional art-historical study, using a traditional 'style-critical' technique. This analytical method posits that sculpture was produced by individualised 'masters', whose work was 'inspired' by journeys they or their patrons made and, seeing works of art in distant lands (in this case in southern and western France and Spain), copies or near-copies of designs and details were carried back to Herefordshire. These wonderful, complex, artworks are viewed then, more as post-cards or souvenirs of continental journeys, than as images with inherent meanings within the buildings and communities where they were erected. But, although diffusionism of this type has been unpopular in archaeological theory for some time, it does provide a dating framework for the Herefordshire sculpture and it serves, at least, to demonstrate that the remotest corners of twelfth-century Europe contained communities which were closely interlinked, and that Herefordshire lordlings were an integral part of a truly international aristocratic, Christian, culture.

Thurlby wishes to place the sculpture in its 'context', then, even though by 'context' he means he wishes to view it alongside its English and continental analogues. He wants to study the patronage of each group of sculptures, and therefore the book is organised by patron, and in the cases of the de Mortimer and de Merlimond families this structure pays dividends. If, in others it results in little more than recitations of manorial descents, it is still useful information, although there is no breakthrough here in our understanding of lordly motives in commissioning sculpture. Indeed the motivation behind these sculptures is often attributed to nothing more complex than a desire to maintain status and to keep abreast of (pan-continental, aristocratic) fashion. Thurlby provides a brief description of each building, alongside each entry on its sculpture (another useful aspect of the book), but little attempt is made to analyse these churches in functional terms, or to suggest what role the sculpture might have played in their ritual beyond some generalisations about demonstrating a triumph of good over evil. The book contains not one plan, so plans of the key churches would be a helpful enhancement of any second edition.

The accounts of the sculptures themselves are not radically new either; indeed Thurlby generously acknowledges his debt to new information provided by Eileen Hamer's PhD. But, in fact, these accounts adhere quite closely to seminal studies in George Zarnecki's own PhD and elsewhere.

Zarnecki's thesis is now nearly half a century old now and Thurlby's debt shows just how influential he has been in the development of this subject in England. Thurlby helpfully brings together more recent material – on the so called 'Dymock School' of sculpture and on architectural sculpture at St Peter's Abbey Gloucester, Old Sarum Cathedral and Reading Abbey. When placed alongside our Herefordshire material valuable insights are to be had – although once again, Thurlby highlights institutional or personal contacts between these more important English places and Herefordshire. He is also very interested in the relationship between the Herefordshire sculpture and bestiaries. This relationship is not new either, but it is dealt with interestingly here. Bestiaries form a link, Thurlby demonstrates, between the continental aristocracy and western England, whereby the iconographical description and meaning of certain types of grotesque were understood in Peterchurch as they were in Poitiers. Confusingly, perhaps, connections are also made between the Herefordshire School and the art of the local Anglo-Saxon *Ancien Regime, but* they are less fully explored, and this remains a topic where further work might be instructive. It would be helpful, however, if future studies could use more standard terminology when describing interlace - here almost all interlace is called two-or three-strand plait, regardless of its type.

But this book's real achievement is its photographs. It is amazing value; 242 decent photographs of all of the relevant Herefordshire School works, and a good selection of parallels, and it is for these, most of all, that everyone interested in the Twelfth Century, or in Medieval art, should buy this book. One could complain at the eccentric way in which the plates are numbered (not consecutively, but with the plate number held back and allocated opposite the appropriate descriptive text), and this eccentricity means that the lack of a fist of plates is greatly missed. But this eccentricity also has a positive value; primary images and comparanda are usually placed side-by-side, regardless of their plate numbers, and this allows readers to make up their own mind when the author says, for example, that there is a 'marked similarity' between Kilpeck corbel 3 8 and a corbel from Old Sarum (in fact these did not look very similar to me).

The end of the book comes unexpectedly, abruptly, almost as though the author had suddenly run out of words, or time. There is no conclusion section, but there is a very wobbly bibliography, full of inconsistencies and errors (Gem 1995 loses his initial Borg 1985 is misspelt, the typography is all over the place, with misplaced tab-codes and sudden, dramatic, appearances of bold script!). This evidence of a serious proof-reading problem is compounded by errors throughout the text. Most annoying are the footnotes in the text which do not exist in the footnotes (eg. n.11 p. 140), and the bibliographical items cited in the footnotes which do not appear in the bibliography (eg. n.8 p.115). This is not the first very useful, cheap, book Logaston have produced (I find Shoesmith's *Castles and Moated Sites of Herefordshire* particularly useful), but getting these sort of details right does not cost anything, and the extra effort would turn a very useful book into an essential one.

David Stocker

Ruralia II.

Památky Archeologické Supplementum 11. Institute of Archaeology, Prague 1998. 236 pp. Price not stated. ISBN 80-86124-11-8.

When reviewing *Ruralia 1* (Report no. 12, p. 43). I was unaware that the meeting which was to lead to *Ruralia II* had already taken place in Spa, Belgium, 1 - 7 September 1997. For those like me who didn't attend, the collected papers of that meeting are now available, again Produced at commendable speed by the Institute of Archaeology at Prague. This is a slimmer volume than the first one but follows the same format except that there are no photographs. It is, however, generously illustrated with maps and plans but those readers sensitive to typographical errors should approach this volume in a calm frame of mind.

It should be stressed that this is a no-frills collection of the papers delivered at the conference (or at least those which were subsequently submitted for publication). Six are in German, seven in French and eleven in English. Unfortunately there is neither an editorial comment nor an overview; moreover, it lacks a list of illustrations, a list of the titles and addresses of the contributors and an index. Without some of these essentials there is an increased possibility that many of these papers will sink without trace. If *Ruralia* continues biennially there would surely be a case for publishing, say in every fifth volume, cumulative list of papers published over the previous ten years. (I make this suggestion well in advance!)

The theme of the Spa meeting was social and economic aspects of medieval rural settlement, seemingly a 'catch-all' for anything and everything within the field. Consequently, in addition to several valuable overviews of the current state of knowledge about rural settlement in many parts of Europe there are papers on handicrafts, watermills, irrigation systems and granaries. It would be surprising if M.S.R.G. readers did not find something here germane to their own special interests. The geographical coverage is, however, very uneven. Germany and Hungary are well represented, Britain, Spain, France, Ireland and the Czech Republic modestly so. Disappointingly there is nothing on Scandinavia, the Baltic States, Poland and Italy; this is presumably an indication that somehow the Ruralia 'network' has yet to make effective connections in these countries.

Another challenge.

In his opening address Alan Aberg stressed that ... "a colloqui such as this ... serves as a sounding board for the exchange of hypotheses and research within the wider scene". On the evidence of this publication much is being achieved. At international conferences such as this, new approaches and ideas *do* rub off; it is clear that European workers are addressing many of the same issues locally and regionally even within the limitations imposed by their historical data and archaeological evidence. This came through clearly at Ruralia III which was held in Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland, 3-9 September 1999, and from which a further volume in this series is to be expected in due course.

Robin Glasscock

The environment of Britain in the first millennium AD

Petra Dark. Published by Duckworth, £14.95, 212 pages.

This volume is intended to begin to correct the bias towards Prehistory in previous syntheses of environmental material. It is based on detailed examination of well dated pollen sequences for the first millennium. The full range of environmental material has been used and the chapter headings of 'Reconstructing environments of the first millennium AD', 'Climate and sea level in the first millennium AD', 'The Iron Age context', 'The Roman Period', 'The end of Roman Britain and the Anglo-Saxon period to AD 500', 'Late Anglo-Saxon England and the Viking Age' give a glimpse of the range of topics covered. The treatment of the material is very full and Dark is happy to show the contradictions over climate change which the different techniques have delivered.

Each of the period sections is presented using the same formula of an 'Introduction' which provides an overview, a section on 'vegetation change' and then an examination of regional patterns with South-east England, East Anglia, South-west England, the Midlands, North-west England, North-east England, Northern England, Scotland and Wales. These are followed by a couple of sections picking up specific themes for each period, so for the Roman it is

'Pollen evidence for land-use change of the time of the conquest' and 'Roman Industry and the environment'. These are followed by sections on the management of the environment and conclusions. My only quibble with the approach and indeed the book is that the northern regions look a little strange, North-east England is really Yorkshire, while Northern England is effectively the Hadrians Wall belt where the author has done much of her work. Consequently the area which many would consider as North-east England between the rivers Tweed and Tees is not really considered as an entity and given the importance of 'Northumbria' in the latter half of the millennium, this may be a mistake. Nevertheless the material for the area is presented and this does not detract from the volume.

Particular points of interest noted were reports of work on lake sediments near Hadrians Wall which has shown that this was landscape which had already been cleared of woodland at the time of the wall's construction (p. 105), that the Roman period saw a decrease in woodland in England but an increase in Wales (p. 115-118). That there is a close correlation between the locations of large-scale Roman pottery production and the medieval 'Forests' perhaps because these areas were 'blighted' for settlement by the industry (p. 120-121). That Roman storage methods for grain resulted in huge losses from pests and that more intensive farming may have been required to offset these losses and might have resulted in increased damage to crops from fungal disease (p. 129), a very vicious circle. In the Anglo-Saxon period there are hints of a shift in the emphasis of economy from arable to pastoral and a reduction in activity above the 150 m contour (p. 152). In drawing out general conclusions and suggestions for future work the author draws attention to the evidence of atmosphere pollution in the 1st millennium AD, being principally caused by lead pollution although attention is also drawn to possible pollution by ash/charcoal from clearance activity (p. 178-179).

This is an informative and well written volume with a merciful absence of too many pollen diagrams. I would recommend this as an essential reference source to anybody studying the first millennium AD and indeed the second. Finally it is striking how much more work needs to be done and how many geographic and chronological holes there are in the record. While I would suspect the information is not yet available, there is a striking need for similar treatment of the second millennium AD.

R. Daniels.

Select Bibliography of Works on Medieval Rural Settlement 1999

Compiled by Christopher Gerrard and Alejandra Gutiérrez

This list includes both books and articles published between March 1999 and May 2000, together with anything which seems to have been omitted from previous bibliographies. I have also included a selection of useful websites. This is the fifth and last of my annual bibliographies and any omissions found here should be passed on to the Editor. Thank you to all of you who have contributed over the years.

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Medieval Rural Settlements – A Policy on their Research, Survey, Conservation and Excavation

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Introduction

1. This document prepared by the MSRG sets out a research and management framework for medieval rural settlement.[1] It includes a brief **assessment** of the current state of academic knowledge and practical issues covering research, survey, conservation, and excavation and seeks to identify an **agenda** of future work which would fill gaps in our knowledge. The final section presents a **strategy** setting out priorities.[2] In doing so MSRG have had regard to recent policy statements on behalf of the Group[3] as well as to UK and national frameworks.[4]

   We intend that this statement will be made widely available and will be used in counties and regions to develop a consistent and integrated approach to medieval settlement studies. We hope that they will be used in making decisions on the management and preservation of sites and will be helpful to those making research applications. The statement will be periodically revised in the light of new information and thinking on the subject. We recognise that the present document is based mainly on experience on English settlement sites, though we hope that some of the more general ideas can be applied throughout Britain. We are aware that new initiatives are being made in settlement studies in Scotland and Wales, and hope that a future document can take these fully into account.[5]

2. Medieval rural settlements include all habitations from the 5th to the 16th century, from the temporary shielings occupied by those herding animals, to the residences of great lords. The great majority consist of farms, hamlets and villages, together with associated features such as roads, enclosures, field systems, boundary banks and ditches, ponds, parks and woods, mills, manor houses, moats and churches. A high proportion of settlements occupied by *c.* 1200 are still inhabited, but a proportion have been abandoned and their sites are visible as earthworks. A growing proportion of late medieval settlements, and almost all of those dating from the period before *c.* 1000 have no visible earthworks above the ground, but their sites can be discovered from crop marks and soil marks most clearly recognised from the air, and surface indications such as scatters of pottery and other occupation debris.

3. Medieval rural settlements have been the subject of systematic research in this country since the late 1940s, and have been located and investigated in every part of Europe. They must be regarded as sites of the greatest importance. Most medieval people lived in the countryside, and here we can investigate the material culture of the whole range of society, including those who have left the scantiest written evidence. Survey work and excavation can reveal much about the housing, possessions, and environment of the peasants, together with evidence for production, consumption and technology, both in agriculture and in food preparation and in rural crafts and trade. The distribution and layout of the settlements gives insights into social structure and social organisation, and into medieval ideas about order and planning, and the division between public and private space.

   The constant and often sudden changes affecting rural settlements – shifts of site, coalescence of small settlements into large villages, the replanning, expansion, and shrinkage which affected many villages and hamlets, changes in house form, the addition of elements such as market places, greens and churches, and sometimes their total desertion – demonstrate the dynamic forces at work during the period, not just the general expansion and contraction of population and agriculture, but many developments in lordship, politics, community organisation, commerce and household life.

Research and Survey

1. Research into medieval settlements can cover whole counties or regions, or be concentrated on a single site, but normally a study should take into account the territory attached to farms, hamlets, or villages, and the estate to which the settlements belonged, which could be large and contain many settlements. The inhabitants depended on a particular territory and its resources for their living, and their use and experience of the land should be a dimension of any study, as should their relationship with higher authority. But research should also embrace a wider region, as transhumance, trade, and contacts with centres of government and religion took people out of their immediate neighbourhood, and villages and farms will be better understood if they can be compared with the types of settlement that developed around them. Settlement forms, building techniques and farming methods all help to define the special character and culture of a region, so the study of the wider context of settlements extends understanding of regional frameworks. Recent projects which have shown the value of this broad multidisciplinary 'landscape' approach to the study of rural settlements include those at Wharram Percy (N. Yorks.), Raunds (Northants.) and Shapwick (Somerset). These have all used a nucleated village and its large territory as the main focus of research.

2. Although it is convenient to use a period like the middle ages to define a field of enquiry, and this allows research to achieve a depth of understanding, no period should be studied in isolation. We must be aware that the landscape of the medieval period had usually been settled and cultivated for millennia, and

that prehistoric and Roman patterns of land holding and exploitation influenced their medieval successors. There should be a similar awareness of the subsequent development of sites and their surroundings in the post medieval period. Studies of periods of transition are also important.

3. Research should embrace every type of rural settlement. The great variety of settlement forms deserves to be reflected in research, from the farm and hamlet to the large village and incipient market town. (The conventional dividing line between a village and a hamlet is based on a minimum village size of 6 households). In the same way farms, hamlets and villages which are wholly or partly inhabited should not be neglected in favour of abandoned sites. Subsequent occupation will not have always destroyed the earlier below-ground evidence, and the plan of streets and boundaries will preserve the form of much earlier settlements. Local vernacular architecture should also be studied: buildings from the medieval period should be recorded and analysed in their landscape context, as their form and layout is an important part of the medieval landscape; early post-medieval buildings can provide valuable indications of a continuing local building tradition[6]. Churches, guild halls and houses provide invaluable evidence of wealth, social structure and mentality at the community, family and household level.

4. Lists of deserted medieval villages and moated sites have been prepared by the Groups which preceded the MSRG, and much good work has been done in listing settlement sites in general in the Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) maintained by local authorities. However, some types of site (particularly farmsteads and hamlets) are less well recorded than others, and a clear distinction is not always made between different types of site, so a long-term aim must be to enhance the data in the SMRs.

5. Survey programmes provide an important means of discovering new sites, and for increasing our understanding of known sites. Survey techniques include aerial photography, the planning of earthworks, geophysical investigation, fieldwalking, soil sampling and documentary research. Each of these methods is valuable in itself, but they produce the best results if carried out in combination, and if they are applied to the surrounding territory as well as to the settlement sites themselves. Survey is essential for the preparation of site management plans. It is also a necessary part of any excavation programme. And in the event that a threatened landscape cannot be saved by statutory protection a full survey should be made for the benefit of future research.

6. Interdisciplinary research is likely to yield the most satisfying results. The material evidence should be investigated through field survey, excavation and analysis of environmental samples. Documentary evidence should be studied alongside the material culture. Significant advances in knowledge are likely, on the basis of past experience, to proceed from dialogues between archaeologists, historians, geographers, place-name scholars, students of vernacular architecture and those who work on bone and plant remains. New thinking will be informed by theoretical perspectives in archaeology, such as recent work on space, and on the role of exchange and social organisation in buildings and settlements.

Conservation

1. The purpose of conservation is partly to maintain the storehouse of information about the past that is contained within undisturbed settlement sites for the benefit of future generations who will wield much more sophisticated methods of research than are available to us.

2. After a long period in which many sites have been damaged or destroyed by agriculture, road building and housing development, there has been a welcome move towards the preservation of medieval settlements, in part due to changes in agricultural policy and reduced pressure for development. Also a representative sample of the most important sites has been selected under English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme for consideration for scheduling. These have been chosen on the basis that the countryside is varied in its terrain and land use, and that settlement sites take on sufficient importance to merit preservation if they are characteristic of a defined region. The MPP programme has devised a scoring system which selects important sites by virtue of the condition of their remains, their potential and diversity, associated features, documentation and amenity value. This is to be applauded, and we will press for the speedy implementation of the MPP with the scheduling of the selected sites.

3. The selection of sites under MPP should not be regarded as a single act, but as the beginning of a series of reviews. After MPP new sites will be found and new information about known sites will enhance their importance. Advances in interpretation will lead to revisions of the assessment criteria. We expect to see scheduling as a continuous process, in which there will be a constant dialogue between those implementing it and specialist groups such as MSRG. To take one pressing example, this Group has long argued that preserving a site should not mean drawing a line round the edge of a village, and allowing the destruction of the field system on which the villagers depended for their living, and which we need to appreciate their way of life. English Heritage is now considering the problem of ridge and furrow and this should result in a programme for the preservation of areas that still survive. Medieval settlements are not 'monuments' confined within a fenced enclosure of a few acres, but were the focal points of large living landscapes, and we must grasp methods by which at least representative examples of whole townships and parishes can be saved for posterity.

4. Another extension of MPP must involve scheduling more dispersed settlements. One type of isolated settlement, moated sites, have been systematically researched and a number scheduled, but not enough other farms and hamlets have been identified and planned for them to be assessed for preservation. If we confine our attention to abandoned sites, there

must be 30,000 deserted farms and hamlets compared with the 3,000 or so deserted villages. If our conservation policy is to reflect the balance of numbers, many more must firstly be identified, and then recommended for preservation, together with such associated features as roads, field boundaries, and ponds.

5. Perhaps the most difficult problem for those seeking to preserve medieval settlements concerns policy towards existing settlements. We all know that the great majority of the settlements of c. 1300 are partly or wholly inhabited at the present time. Many of the boundaries and house sites of 20th century villages had their origins in the early middle ages. There is still a quantity of features and artefacts buried beneath modern houses and gardens, and even more in the occasional deserted house sites still visible as gaps in an inhabited settlement. Every effort should be made to retain the framework of boundaries, routeways, frontages and related features which reflect the medieval structure of a settlement.

6. Apart from scheduling much good work in conservation has been done by organisations other than the statutory heritage agencies, including local authorities, National Parks, the National Trust and the Countryside Commission. Progress has also been made by bodies such as the Forestry Authority. These initiatives deserve encouragement.

7. One important use of sites is for educational purposes, though at present these visits tend to be confined to specialist groups who can best appreciate the sites if they, are guided by an expert. It is a long term aim of the Group to make these sites more readily understood and appreciated by a wider public.

Excavation

1. The programme of excavation of *c.* 1952-1970 vastly extended our understanding of every aspect of the period. Before settlements were excavated we were almost entirely ignorant of such basic issues as the size and shape of peasant houses, and the chronology of village development. The few, major excavations in the last few years cannot be said to show that returns from this type of work is diminishing – such sites as West Cotton, Burton Dassett, and Wood Hall have all produced new types of evidence, such as major deposits of environmental material, and indeed new types of settlement, like the failed market village of Dassett Southend. There are still major categories of settlement sites, such as villages or hamlets of the 10th and 11th centuries, deserted dispersed settlements of the later middle ages; or sites in under researched counties such as Lancashire or Kent, which have not been excavated in adequate numbers.

2. At present only a small number of large scale field evaluations or excavations are taking place on medieval settlement sites. To some extent this is to be welcomed as it marks a move away from the destruction of sites by new developments and a greater emphasis on preservation. Large numbers of limited evaluations and small excavations are taking place under PPG 16.[7] The results from this work can make a significant contribution to archaeological research. They can characterise boundary types and dates, the types of structural materials and techniques used and the distribution of activities within tofts. In the case of the latter, opportunities should be taken to examine their yards and gardens about which too little is known. Small scale work can also provide an opportunity for obtaining environmental material.

3. Quite apart from these gaps in our knowledge, there is a case for research excavation, because it both adds to our knowledge, serves as a training ground for another generation of settlement archaeologists, and provides a focus for further advances in interpretation. But the research excavations must be conceived as part of a wider research programme of field work and documentary research, and treated as problem solving sorties, often focused as much on boundaries, or the peripheral areas of settlements, as on the houses.

Strategy

1. The information on settlements in Sites and Monuments Records must be improved. The work that has gone into the SMRs is of the greatest value, but there is much unevenness between counties. All of them recognise a category of "deserted medieval villages", but many make no clear distinction between different types of site, and have not attempted a systematic listing of deserted farmsteads and hamlets, nor of shrunken villages. Each county should assemble details of all such sites, defined by agreed criteria. This programme of enhancement would require extensive survey work in many counties. But the problem of the still inhabited villages, hamlets and farms must also be addressed: those settlements with evidence (often documentary) for medieval occupation must be included in SMRs. They represent a high proportion of medieval settlements, and must be regarded as archaeological sites, as worthy of recording, survey, management, preservation or excavation as any deserted or shrunken site.

2. The still-inhabited settlements are subject to constant and repeated threats as there is often pressure for infilling, the addition of modern estates, and absorption into suburbs. We need to devise urgently, as well as the programme for identification and listing of sites (see above), a method for judging how much archaeological evidence these places contain, and a strategy for influencing planning decisions concerning new development. Input to District-wide Local Plans, which often deal with specific settlements, may be one means; another may be the use of Conservation Areas for protection. Full advantage should also be taken of PPG 16 work, including the systematic dissemination of information resulting from it, and ensuring that Sites and Monuments Records receive reports.

3. While recognising the need to extend the range of settlement sites in need of conservation and research, preserving the deserted and shrunken sites, which contain archaeological material least likely to have been disturbed by subsequent occupation, remains a priority. English Heritage must press ahead with the scheduling of the sites identified under the existing Monuments Protection Programme, and be persuaded

to maintain the MPP as a continuing process, embracing a wider range of settlement types, and including landscapes as well as settlements. Conservation measures must continue in other ways: we should look for opportunities through developments in planning and agricultural policy such as the set-aside scheme and Countryside Stewardship to make sure that medieval settlement sites can benefit. Conservation by agreement with landowners and farmers through management plans based on field survey must also be pursued: for example, farm plans prepared by Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group officers should always contain archaeological and historical information and advice. The aims of the MSRG can often be combined with those of other groups with interests in conservation or amenity value,

4. Public awareness of medieval sites and their meaning must be extended, by improving the facilities at sites now open to the public, notably at Wharram Percy, by putting more sites on display, and by encouraging the use of imaginative methods of exposition, such as the reconstruction of houses and settlements. We are confident that the enthusiasm felt by visitors to deserted villages when the sites are explained and their past existence evoked by a skilful guide can be provided by future display techniques such as audio-visual systems and virtual reality experiences.

5. The academic research agenda combines the need to address recent preoccupations, and to take into account new questions. We need to extend our understanding of regional difference, and to assess the influence of the natural environment, and define the extent to which people moulded the landscape and settlement pattern to their own needs.[8] The role of government, or lordship, or market relations in forming regional cultures must be considered. For the study of settlement a central question remains explaining the nucleation of settlement in the period between the ninth and the twelfth century, and the associated contrast in landscapes which has left its mark on all subsequent developments in the countryside. After that formative period, the subsequent changes in settlements, including their shrinkage and desertion, are debated but imperfectly understood. The household is a subject until recently neglected by archaeologists and there is an opportunity to examine the experiences of builders and users of medieval houses by the study of building and settlement plans, and artefacts and their distribution. This field of research has the potential to throw light on such fundamental issues as consumption and the family, including gender relationships.

6. These questions can be addressed partly by applying new approaches and theories to evidence already published, and by constructing new syntheses. There is also a need for new research, and in particular for the type of interdisciplinary, problem oriented, enquiry into a manageable but extensive sample of the countryside – a large parish or manor for example – which has yielded such fruitful results in the past. But now the example should be chosen from a region of dispersed settlement, or one with both nucleated and scattered settlements, as previous work has tended to be based on nucleated villages and their territories. The techniques used in such research, and any site chosen for excavation, must include extensive survey, geophysical investigation, analysis of environmental remains, documentary study, work on standing buildings and the use of every possible source of relevant information.

References

1 Prepared in November 1996.

2 *Frameworks for our Past,* English Heritage. 1996.

3 Preservation and Excavation of Moated Sites. 1983; The Excavation of Medieval Settlement Sites, 1984; The Preservation of Deserted Medieval Village Sites, 1984; Statement of Excavation Policy, 1988

4 *e.g. Archaeology and the Middle Ages,* Society for Medieval Archaeology, 1987; *Exploring Our Past: Strategies for the Archaeology of England,* English Heritage, 1991.

5 For example, the Medieval or Later Rural Settlement in Scotland (MOLRS) project in Scotland (Hingley, R., and Foster, S., 1994 'Medieval or Later Rural Settlement in Scotland - Defining, Understanding and Conserving an Archaeological Resource', *Medieval Settlement Research Group Annual Report.* 9. 7-11).

6 In respect of recording buildings advantage should be taken of the opportunities provided by *Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning And The Historic Environment* (September 1994).

7 *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (November 1990).

8 "The whole of the landscape to varying degrees and in different ways is an archaeological and historic artefact, the product of complex historic processes and past land-use. It is also a crucial and defining aspect of biodiversity" (*PPG 15. Planning and the Historic Environment,* (September 1994)).

Membership Changes 1999

A list of members as at June 1999 was issued to members along with report No. 13. Listed below are changes since then. Members are asked to send any corrections, new addresses etc. to the Hon. Treasurer. Dr R. E. Glasscock (Department of Geography, Downing Place, Cambridge CB2 3EN) who maintains the membership records.

New members 1999

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48 Heol Maendy, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4DR

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R. HUMPHREYS,
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R. PURSLOW,
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Deceased

Professor Axel Steensburg (Copenhagen) (Hon. Menber)

Resignations

J. E. Brooks (Cheltenham)
D. A. Crossley (Sheffield)
J. Hole (Australia)
Professor C. Platt (Southampton)
K. Troup (Hamilton, New Zealand)

Lapsed (and therefore reluctantly struck off)

J. Brough (Lynham, Wilts.)
L. Voules (Stockton-on-Tees)

Information wanted

M.W Atkin (was in Huntley, Glos.)
D. J. Griffiths (was in Grimsby)
R. F. Hartley (was in Loughborough)
D. C. Law (was in Great Yeldham, Essex)
R. Longden (was in Stourbridge)
A. C. McLaren (was in Cwmbran, Gwent)
T. Pearce (was in Whetstone, Leics.)
D. J. Smith (was in Norwich: Still abroad?)

Changes of Address

G. CHITTY,
Hawkshead Home Farm, Highfield Lane, Bolton Le Sands,
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Forsyth House, High Street, Cromarty, Ross-shire IV11 8UZ

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Registered Charity No 801634

Objectives
The objective of the group is the advancement of public education through the promotion of interdisciplinary involvement in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data relating to the history, geography and archaeology of medieval rural settlements.

Review of activity during the year
The group's activities (policy making, conferences and publication) have continued as before. The range of interests and issues is reflected in the content of the accompanying Report (No 14) covering the year 1999-2000.

Result for the year
The surplus of receipts over payments amounted to £771.46 (1998 £656.84) and is carried forward.

Trustees
The Trustees who served during the year are:

Dr. H. S. A. Fox (President)
Mr S. Coleman (Secretary)
Dr R. I. Glasscock (Treasurer)
Mr R. Daniels (Editor)

Address
c/o Dr R. E. Glasscock
Department of Geography
University of Cambridge
Downing Place
Cambridge CB2 3EN

R. E. Glasscock
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 January 2000 which are set out on the following page.

Respective responsiblities of trustees and examiner
As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

S. Gerrish
Chartered Accountant
10 Ramsey Chase
Wickford, Essex SS12 9GA.

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Registered Charity No 801634

GENERAL FUNDS – RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Financial Year ended 31 January 2000

RECEIPTS	1999-0 £	1998-9 £	PAYMENTS	1999-0 £	1998-9 £
Voluntary Sources			**Direct Charitable expenditure**		
Subscriptions	4,142.50	4,028.50	Research grants	—	900.00
Donations	2.00	10.00	Grant to Ruralia III	1,500.00	—
Grant	—	1,750.00	Whittlewood project		
			research worker	—	2,012.73
			working party visit	—	101.16
Trading Activities					
Publication sales	378.00	265.07	**Other Expenditure**		
Conference refund	491.19	—	Annual Report printing costs	3,120.00	2,810.00
Conference receipts	—	1,105.05	New membership leafllets	118.00	—
Charge to advertiser	50.00	—	New membership list	284.10	—
			CBA affiliation fee	64.00	64.00
			Conference expenses – 1999	—	946.06
Income from Assets			Prepaid conference expenses 2000	414.45	100.00
Current account interest	8.56	64.16	Room booking	55.00	55.00
Deposit account interest	1,980.14	1,216.97	Seminar expenses	85.00	45.00
			Secretarial & committee expenses	96.80	314.59
			Postage and stationery	543.58	434.37
	7,052.39	8,439.75		6,280.93	7,782.91
Balance of receipts over payments	771.46	656.84	**Statement of Assets and Liabilities** Bank Current Account	641.36	2,230.04
Balance brought forward	31,467.89	30,811.05	National Savings Deposit Account	31,597.99	29,237.85
Balance carried forward	32,239.35	31,467.89	**Net Assets**	32,239.35	31,467.89

Accounting Policies

Historical Cost Convention

The Receipts and Payments account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities are prepared under the Historical Cost Convention.

Stocks of Publications

Stocks of Publications are not valued or included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.