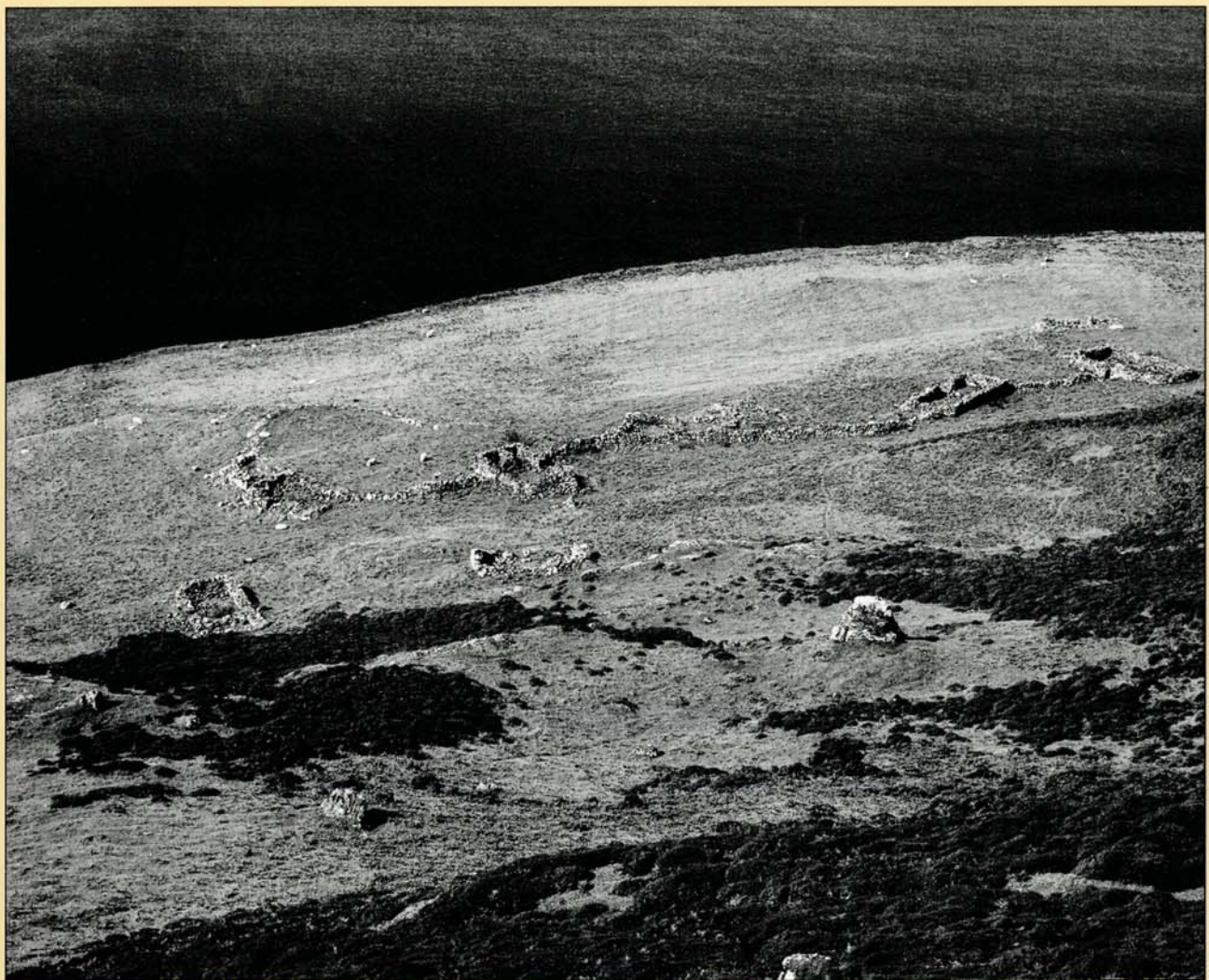# Medieval Settlement Research Group

M.S.R.G.

Annual Report 16, 2001

Medieval Settlement Research Group

Annual Report 16, 2001

OFFICERS FOR 2002

2

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL COMMENT

This is my first report as Editor, and I would like to start by expressing my, and the MSRG Committee's, heartfelt appreciation to Robin Daniels, my predecessor as Editor, for the years of hard work he put into producing a series of excellent Annual Reports for MSRG.

2001 was not an auspicious year in which to take over the editorial role that Robin filled so well, as the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak severely affected archaeological activity of almost every kind. In many parts of the country rural areas were completely inaccessible for months, and the need for forward planning in the face of continuing uncertainty as to the duration of the outbreak led to many projects scheduled for later in 2001 being cancelled in the first half of the year. This particularly affected research and amateur activity, and rural settlement studies were, inevitably given the location of most sites, especially badly hit. As a result, in this issue the proportion of reports from sites such as small towns and rural settlements where no medieval archaeological evidence was recovered is noticeably higher than usual. What might have been a rather 'thin' year for the Fieldwork and Excavation section of the report has however been redeemed by a number of reports from earlier years, mainly 2000, as some units have taken the opportunity to submit 'catch-up' reports.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The AGM will be held on Saturday 7th December 2002 at Birkbeck College, London, followed by the seminar.

WEBSITE
The research group website can be found at www.britarch.ac.uk/msrg..

CONFERENCES
The MSRG Spring Conference 2003 will be held in April in the south-west of England, organised by Oliver Creighton and Peter Herring. A day of lectures at Exeter University will be followed by a one day field trip to Bodmin Moor. A separate booking form with full details is included with this report.

RURALIA 2001
The fourth Ruralia Colloquium on the archaeology of Medieval Rural Settlement in Europe was held in 2001 at Bad Bederkesa, Germany on the theme of 'The Rural House' and was attended by sixty delegates from fourteen countries. The proceedings will form volume 4 of the monograph series and will be published in May 2003. Volumes 1 and 2 (£7.75 each plus postage £2.50) and volume 3 (£12.50 plus postage £2.50) are available from Alan Aberg.

RURALIA 2003
In 2003 the fifth colloquium will be held at Le Villard-Savoy, France from the 27th September - 2nd October, with an optional excursion 3rd/4th October. The subject will be 'Water Management in the Rural Economy', which will include water mills, moated manors, fish management, land reclamation, irrigation/water meadows and water related crafts and land use. The conference fee is expected to be 360 Euros, and the cost of the optional excursion 80 Euros. The international nature of the meeting means that only 5 papers are allowed from the UK, but there is also space for a number of poster sessions, and further details can be obtained from Stuart Wrathmell, West Yorkshire Archaeological Services, or 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 reply 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, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP). 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.

MSRG AGM Seminar 2001
Coastal Settlement

by Harold Fox
(Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester)

Five themes which we commonly apply to the study of inland settlements may be extended – *mutatis mutandis* – to those on the coast. First, just as we think of a hierarchy of inland settlements – farm, hamlet, village, town and all the gradations in between – so too with the coastline. Major ports (the 'head ports' of the customs accounts), minor ports, fishing villages, fishing sites with no inhabited buildings: these are some of the types in the hierarchy, although it must be remembered that each shades into the other; that places in the higher levels have many of the functions of those in the lower levels; and that sites may slide up or down the scale over time – as Peter Warner's study of Walberswick makes clear. This is a very simple classification and a close familiarity with any coastline will suggest its elaboration and modification, as in the case of Mark Gardiner's work on Sussex.

The strength or otherwise of lordship is a theme which occupies students of inland settlements. On the coast, lords might establish fishing villages and ports: in the 1290s the monks of Tynemouth Priory claimed that, about 70 years earlier, their predecessors had built cottages for fishermen at a site later to become the town of North Shields, and the great East Coast port of Bishop's Lynn (later known as King's Lynn) owed much to institutional privileges granted to it by bishops of Norwich as well as to more organic growth. In the papers abstracted below Paula Martin refers to Scottish coastal settlements which were planted by landlords in policies of forced relocation of people during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries while Hassel Smith shows how, in the late sixteenth century, the presence of the household of a great lord (Sir Nathaniel Bacon) in the parish of Stiffkey greatly stimulated the customary practices of hunting and gathering of foodstuffs and other products in the sea and at the sea's edge. In some cases good and vigorous lordship stimulated the development of ports, but there are also examples of ports (of a minor kind) which probably flourished because they were remote from lords and from customs authorities.

Senses of community – a third theme – were well developed in coastal settlements because these places were often on restricted sites and therefore tight-knit and also because the manning of ships, boats and nets (with contributions from women too in most cases), and investment in them, necessitated much cooperation. Pride in community was expressed most vividly when the people of port towns fought with one another at sea over trade rivalries and access to fishing grounds – men of the ships of the Cinque Ports on occasion attacked the ships of other places while Lyme Regis bickered with Dartmouth on the high seas in the 1260s; the mayor of Newcastle together with an armed band descended upon North Shields in 1267 and some of the citizens of Exeter vandalized the rival port of Topsham in the same decade. The communities of ports and fishing villages were also engaged in more peaceful activities, constructing facilities for their common use as in the case of Peter Warner's Walberswick where there was an investment in a new church and a new quay (the latter reminding us that the origin and diffusion of maritime and estuarine quays of various kinds is a topic almost totally un-researched in England except in the case of London's waterfront). As Mark Gardiner reminds us below, 'the coast and the open sea beyond were a resource – like meadow, woodland and common – which were actively used to contribute to a diverse economy'; and management of common resources needs co-operation as in the case of by-laws agreed in coastal communities intent on regulating and conserving stocks of fish and shellfish. One measure of the cohesion of a community is its ability to co-operate with neighbouring places: the people of coastal settlements might fight and bicker on the seas but they could also come together in a common cause, as when the fishing communities of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1536 presented a petition to Parliament about the oppressive nature of tolls at Hull; or when they organized regattas among themselves like that which took place (periodically?) in the estuary of the Fal in the sixteenth century and which John Leland described in verse.

Desertion of settlement is a theme which, on the coasts of Britain, is large enough to warrant a whole book. The forces at work here were in many ways unlike those which resulted in the decline and desertion of inland rural settlements – Acts of God could be slow and relentless like coastal erosion and silting or the disappearance of shoals of fish probably caused by minor changes in water temperature; or could be sudden and violent like the destruction of 200 houses between 1334 and 1347 at the now deserted borough of Ravensrodd. The student of coastal settlement must always be on the lookout for signs of a shoreline which has changed in position or character; and for any minor disused structures like the boathouses, bathing houses, kilns, tide mills and fish traps mentioned by Paula Martin below.

A fifth and final theme concerns links between settlements. There were links along the coast: for example names of the inhabitants of new ports in the thirteenth century show how they were colonized by men from older trading establishments. There were inland links too as the papers of Gardiner, Smith and Warner demonstrate. Not only deserted settlements and sites on the coast, but the whole subject of coastal settlement is ripe for extended research and it is hoped that the papers collected below are a step in that direction.[1]

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[1] A. Aberg and C. Lewis, eds., *The Rising Tide*, Oxford, 2000 is a very welcome contribution. See also Harold Fox, *The Evolution of the Fishing Village*, Oxford, 2001.

Medieval Fishing and Settlement on the Sussex Coast

Mark Gardiner
(School of Archaeology and Palaeocology, Queen's University of Belfast)

The present Sussex coastline between Selsey Bill on the west and Hastings on the east, a distance of about 100 kms, is now almost entirely built up with a succession of holiday resorts and retirement towns. By contrast, the medieval coastline was almost entirely undeveloped, and few settlements were located immediately beside the sea. This did not mean that medieval communities turned their backs upon the sea, but maritime resources were only one element in their economy which was otherwise largely dependent upon agriculture. The coast and the open sea beyond were a resource – like meadow, woodland or common – which were actively used to contribute to a diverse economy.

Some indication of the nature of the use of the coast is given in a surviving file of admiralty inquests, mainly of the fifteenth century, covering the eastern end of Sussex and Kent. The court, whose jurisdiction was limited to the area below high-water mark, met on the seashore to inquire into findalls - goods and sea-mammals washed up or found at sea - and also into fishing 'engines' or fixed nets set up on the coast or within estuaries.[1] Amongst the items presented in the court were an empty barrel found floating at sea worth $^{3}/_{4}$d and an anchor found on the foreshore worth 3d. The discovery upon the shore of porpoises and fish described as *remae* suggest that littoral communities kept an attentive watch, since these would have been of little value if allowed to putrefy.[2] Shellfish were also collected from both rocky and sandy coasts. For example, large numbers of limpet shells were found on an isolated late medieval farm at Bullock Down, high on the Downland above Eastbourne coast, possibly, as suggested by the excavator, gathered to feed to pigs kept in a sty. Limpets (*Patella vulgata*) require rocky conditions, but the cockles (*Cardium edule*) found in a midden in the medieval churchyard at Broomhill near Camber imply the presence of a sandy foreshore. Oysters are commonly found, not only on excavations at coastal sites, but also further inland. A case in 1386 records the use of a drag at an estuary near Cooden in east Sussex to collect oysters and mussels on a large scale.[3]

Fishing was widely practised from the Sussex coast and estuaries in the medieval period using both fixed nets and boats. Not all areas were suitable for fixed nets or kiddles, though the estuaries and also the sharply shelving coast on the south side of Dungeness in the adjoining county of Kent undoubtedly were. Later practice suggests that kiddles may have taken the form of nets hung from poles set between high- and low-water mark. A rental of c. 1300 covering Dungeness records that there were nine plots used for kiddles, each paying 2s.[4] Fishing from boats was more widespread, numerous settlements along the coast providing bases for fishing vessels, many of which are listed in a record of 1385 when a toll was imposed on fish landed to provide for the construction of the town wall for Rye.[5] The list suggests that there were relatively few areas which were unsuitable for drawing up boats. The band of coastal cliffs from Brighton to Eastbourne, and the cliffs east of Hastings as far as Pett were largely devoid of landing places. For the remainder, boats could be drawn up over the gently shelving beaches and up on to the shingle. The numerous rivers also provided landing places for ships and boats. Yet if there were few geographical limitations on the location of fishing bases, there were definite preferences. The area between Worthing and Brighton appears to have been particularly favoured. There were ports of some size at Pende, Shoreham and Aldrington, and concentrations of boats at Hove and Brighton.[6] Equally, the area from Bulverhythe eastwards into Kent seems to have had numerous fishing bases and a string of harbours.

We can postulate a number of different relationships between the fishing bases, which were often isolated buildings for storing fishing tackle, known locally as 'shops', and the nearby settlements where the fishermen lived.[7] The first four types represent examples of inhabited settlements at the fishing base; the final two have more distant settlements.

1. A small number of settlements developed around the sites of fishing bases, the hamlet of Saltcote Street near Rye being a particularly good example. This lay on a road, now called New England Lane, to the ferry across the Rye estuary. Documentary sources identify it as a centre for fishing in the fifteenth century and unpublished archaeological excavations have revealed a considerable quantity of lead net-weights.[8] A further example may have been the nearby hamlet on Iham Hill which preceded the foundation of the town of New Winchelsea in the late thirteenth century and included a payment of herring for the rents resolute.[9]

2. Some fishing bases developed into ports with permanent settlements as a consequence of the economic opportunities offered by both fishing and trading. Bulverhythe near Hastings was both a fishing centre and a port, though was evidently in decline in the fifteenth century.[10] On a grander scale, the town of Brighton seems to have begun as a fishing settlement and later a planned settlement was laid out beside the coast. As a consequence, the church dedicated to St Nicholas, the patron saint of sailors, lay higher up on the downland outside the medieval town. Brighton was evidently a centre for fishing from the late eleventh century when Domesday Book records that it paid a render of herring.[11]

3. Some villages lay on the edge of an estuary, including those in the chalk valleys where the springs emerge at a low altitude. Fishing bases were therefore close to the settlement in any case. Southease in the Ouse valley is a possible example.[12]

4. Minor settlements may have developed at fishing bases which were peripheral to main centre of occupation, Eastbourne being a possible instance. The main settlement was located around the parish church in Bourne valley, but there may have been a minor settlement on the coast at South Cliff, where the chapel of St Gregory was located.[13]

5. Fox has shown that in south Devon it was common for fishing huts to be locate quite separately from the main settlement. This was also the case at Dungeness which was used by fishermen from the town of Lydd, a few miles distant.[14]

6. The final possibility is that there was no single fishing base, but that vessels were drawn up at various places along an inlet, presumably at sites which were most suitable for the fishermen nearby. This may have been the situation at Broomhill near Camber where the creek marked by the Wainway Channel offered numerous sites for mooring fishing boats. Excavation has shown that fishing was practised from a number of settlements in the vicinity.[15]

The outline given here is sufficient to indicate that the relationship between fishing and settlement remains to be explored in detail. However, there is a fundamental problem in pursuing archaeological evidence in areas such as Sussex with 'soft' coastlines which have been much eroded since the Middle Ages. The opportunities for locating coastal settlements and fishing bases in the field are likely to be more restricted than in areas with more resistant rocks, such as those studied by Fox in Devon.

[1] P(ublic) R(ecord) O(ffice) E101/67/23. E(ast) S(ussex) R(ecord) O(ffice) AMS 2287 is a stray from the PRO file. For the background to the file, see *Select Pleas in the Court of Admiralty* 2, ed. R.G. Marsden (Selden Society 11, 1898), xxii.

[2] PRO E101/67/23, mm. 18, 31; M.F. Gardiner, The exploitation of sea-mammals in medieval England: bones and their social context, *Archaeological Journal* 154 (1997), 173-86.

[3] P.L. Drewett, The excavation of the later medieval farm in Kiln Combe, in P.L. Drewett (ed.), *The Archaeology of Bullock Down, Eastbourne, East Sussex: The Development of a Landscape* (Sussex Archaeological Society monograph 1, 1982), 164, 181-2; unpublished excavations at Broomhill church; *Select Cases of Trespass from the King's Courts 1307-1399* 2, ed. M.S. Arnold (Selden Society 103, 1987), 277-9.

[4] PRO E101/67/23, mm. 15, 45, 53; *Custumals of Battle Abbey, in the Reigns of Edward I and Edward II, 1282-1312*, ed. S.R. Scargill-Bird (Camden Society new series 41, 1887), 50; PRO E315/57, f. 35v.

[5] *Calendar of Patent Rolls 1381-85*, 588.

[6] *Victoria County History of Sussex* 6, i, 33-4, 47; *Calendar of Close Rolls 1227-31*, 199; *Calendar of Patent Rolls 1292-1301*, 584; *Thirteen Custumals of the Sussex Manors of the Bishop of Chichester*, ed. W.D. Peckham (Sussex Record Society 31, 1925), 84; for Brighton see note 11 below.

[7] The local term for buildings for storing fishing gear is preserved in Fishshep Farm in Selsey and in the nineteenth-century place-name Shops Dam in South Lancing.

[8] ESRO RYE 60/3.

[9] W.M. Homan, The founding of New Winchelsea, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 88 (1949), 26.

[10] ESRO SAS/CO/B/72; BL Add Roll 31579; PRO E122/47/2.

[11] For fishing at Brighton in the early fifteenth century, see Arundel Castle Muniments A 363; Domesday Book i, 26b.

[12] Domesday Book i, 17b. For later fishing activity at Southease, see C.E. Brent, Rural employment and population in Sussex between 1550 and 1640, Sussex Archaeological Collections 114 (1976), 32.

[13] PRO JUST1/941A, m. 11.

[14] H.S.A. Fox, *The Evolution of the Fishing Village: Landscape and Society along the South Devon Coast, 1086-1550* (2001); M.F. Gardiner, A seasonal fishermen's settlement at Dungeness, Kent, *Medieval Settlement Research Group Annual Report* 11 (1996), 18-20.

[15] ESRO RYE 99/5; L. Barber, Medieval rural settlement and economy at Lydd: preliminary results from the excavations at Lydd Quarry, in J. Eddison, M. Gardiner and A. Long (eds), *Romney Marsh: Environmental Change and Human Occupation in a Coastal Lowland* (1998), 103-4.

Medieval and Later Coastal Settlement and Infrastructure in Scotland

by Paula Martin
(Department of History, University of Dundee)

Scotland has plenty of castles, but few domestic medieval remains, a hilly interior, few navigable rivers, and a long coastline. Before the nineteenth century roads were poor, and most goods were moved by sea. Scottish royal burghs were self-governing, with a monopoly on foreign trade until 1672. Almost half were established in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, including the main east coast ports of Inverness, Aberdeen, Perth, Dundee, Edinburgh and Berwick. Another twenty per cent represent a second wave of foundations in the sixteenth century. Of these, almost all were coastal, many of them around the Firth of Forth. Like earlier burghs, these were built on the raised beach, but soon expanded down at sea level, or developed

a separate seatown. They represent the heyday of Scottish North Sea trade, before the Act of Union in 1707. After this the focus of trade moved west, to America and the West Indies. Glasgow, created a royal burgh in 1611, soon grew rich on the tobacco trade.

Most burghs were small, with a population of under 1000. Those on the coast contained enough fishermen to supply the rest of the town. If numbers dropped, fisher families were imported. Commercial sales of fish involved either proximity to a large market, or dealing with the Dutch busses which processed fish at sea. For most coastal burghs the first harbour works, simple breakwaters, date from the sixteenth century. It was often the nineteenth

Figure 1: Baile Mor, Isle of Iona, Strathclyde

century before piers were wide enough and paved for unloading goods into carts. Nineteenth-century industrialisation of the coal and fishing industries led in some towns to the obliteration of their mediaeval past. Others, however, stagnated, but unlike many English ports, did not suffer silting or erosion. Their harbours remained in local use, the towns unaltered in some cases until the building of council housing in the early twentieth century. Despite later additions, the dominant feature of these harbours is still the early breakwater, made sinuous by centuries of repairs and additions. Other remains of Scotland's trading heyday include ship-masters' houses, early lighthouses, warehouses, tolbooths, churches, gravestones, datestones, and paintings in churches.

A second group of coastal remains relates to estate improvements, including some planned fishing villages, and small-scale industrial activity. The accessible coal had mostly been worked out by about 1700. Fifty years later steam pumps allowed the exploitation of deeper seams, and the re-establishment of salt works, which used the least saleable coal, and shared capital investment such as waggonways. The salt industry boomed when war with France made the better Bay Salt unavailable, but collapsed after protection was removed in the 1820s, and English rock salt began to be imported. Similarly when lime first came into fashion as a fertiliser, almost any estate with limestone produced lime. But soon industrial enterprises produced it better and cheaper, and little

harbours built to export lime were within 20 years being used to import it. The early nineteenth century also saw landowners reviving medieval features such as tide mills, using new technology, well-designed tide mills being able to work up to 18 hours out of 24. Riverine fish ponds were successful, but salt-water ones less so. Other coastal features from this period include follies and bathing houses, the remains of quarries and lighthouse-building yards; and ice houses for the salmon industry.

The west coast, by contrast, has fewer royal burghs, most of them being in the south west where the best land is. Most towns to the north of the Clyde are post-mediaeval. However, the long sea lochs and sheltered sounds were once key transport routes, and the West Highlands and Islands have a truly maritime culture. The only surviving medieval evidence is castles and religious sites, with their distinctive carved stones, some showing galleys, the descendants of Viking ships and for centuries the main form of transport. There are some remnants of medieval churches. While many were rebuilt from the eighteenth century on new sites, the graveyards, even their modern extensions, remain on the medieval site, however inaccessible.

The medieval period in the West Highlands could in many aspects be said to have continued into the nineteenth century. The local coarse prehistoric pottery continued to be made, the only dating evidence being changes in shape, culminating in the teapot. The population boomed during the eighteenth century, and

the economy was boosted by the gathering of kelp, burned in simple kilns to produce an alkali for industrial use. Prices were high during wars with France, and collapsed after 1815, leaving a higher population than could be sustained on the land.

The late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries brought agricultural change, moving people to make way for sheep, and resettling them on the coast where subsistence farming could be enhanced by exploiting fish, shellfish, and seaweed (for manure). The resulting brief period of intense coastal settlement has left many traces, particularly on sheltered shores, including cleared areas for landing boats, simple quays, and trackways. Many surviving fish traps date from this period. Those studied in Morvern are low stone semicircles (in one case with surviving wooden uprights) with no gap for a basket or net although it is not clear how they worked. They are roughly built, and belong to remote settlements. Related features include stubby curved walls near the high tide mark, and low walls across beaches parallel with the shore. Other features are better constructed, and probably relate to estate management. These include straight, battered walls joining offshore rocks to the shore, found at any point between low and high water mark, lime kilns, quarries, and boathouses, the maritime equivalent of coach-houses. Clearly both landowners and tenants were trying fully to exploit their coastal environment. Documentary evidence, however, to date and explain these features is proving elusive. The first 6" Ordnance Survey maps of the 1870s show a changed and depopulated landscape.

North Norfolk Coastal Settlements, 1550-1650: A Case Study of Stiffkey

by Hassell Smith
(Centre of East Anglian Studies, University of East Anglia)

Stiffkey is a parish of 2,200 acres situated on the north Norfolk coast between Wells and Cley. The settlement nestles on the banks of the Stiffkey river, about a mile from the point where the latter's broad and meandering estuary discharges into the North Sea. Undoubtedly it developed at the first convenient crossing point, becoming a flourishing haven until silting probably provided an excuse for landowners to build a sea bank and reclaim the estuary. This must have occurred well before 1500 since by 1550 the rectory of St John's Church had long occupied the site of the quay and its associated buildings. By 1600 Stiffkey Hall and its grounds (built adjacent to the churchyard between 1576 and 1596) had seriously dislocated the settlement pattern, moving its centre of gravity westwards and producing two somewhat untidy village 'ends' to the south and west of a second estuary crossing.

Geologically the parish comprises three regions: a gently shelving beach which low Spring tides display as more than a mile of golden sand; landward of this lies a broad band of approximately 600 acres of salt marsh, flooded at high Springs (and thereby refreshed with oceanic silt), cut by meandering creeks and dotted with shallow mud-pools; landward again are 1600 acres of mainly arable land which form part of the north Norfolk chalk escarpment and comprise shallow soils over chalk rubble. At high points gravel deposits obtrude giving rise to patches of heathland.

By the late sixteenth century the parish had a substantial manorial lord (Sir Nathaniel Bacon), eight yeomen (20-70 acres), ten husbandmen (3-20 acres) and 37 landless or near-landless men. Since Bacon had all his demesne in hand, and worked it by resident farm-servants, there was relatively little employment for these would-be labourers. Nevertheless they appear to have put together a flourishing economy of odds and ends which depended almost entirely upon exploitation of the foreshore and salt-marsh . For the strong at heart there was employment in the Iceland fisheries (a substantial fleet sailed each summer from Wells) and in the flourishing coastal and overseas trade from Wells and the Glaven ports. Most appear to have fished coastally, either with nets from small boats kept in the creeks, or directly from the shore (especially for butts and flounders). There are hints, too, that some, as was the case at Hunstanton and Holme, suspended nets from parallel rows of stakes reaching out from shore to sea to catch fish as they came in on the tide. Besides fishing with a variety of nets and other devices which we barely begin to appreciate, the shallow sea shore, salt marshes and nearby sand dunes at Blakeney Point and Wells provided feeding and breeding grounds for huge flocks of resident and migrant sea-birds and wild fowl; these in turn were plundered by Stiffkey men using a variety of throwing nets, flight nets and trapping nets which varied in mesh and type of thread according to the breed of bird being sought. One document listed 15 different types of net. We are looking here at highly skilled men whose assiduity helped to fill their bellies; more importantly it helped to fill their coffers. The Bacon accounts show the villagers regularly selling large quantities of fish and fowl to the acater at the Hall:

To Taylor for 6 dussen stintes [small wading birds] 2/-

To Gilbert Greves sonne on Tuesday a skamble, a seapie, a graie plover and two redshankes 8d.

To yeomans for buttes [flatfish caught in the sands] 6d.

To Tompson for a skate then 10d.

To Battie for 2 dussen stintes 8d.

To Apleton's wife for mussels on Saturday 3d.

Figure 2: The parishes of Wells, Warham and Stiffkey, showing the salt marsh and sands at low water.
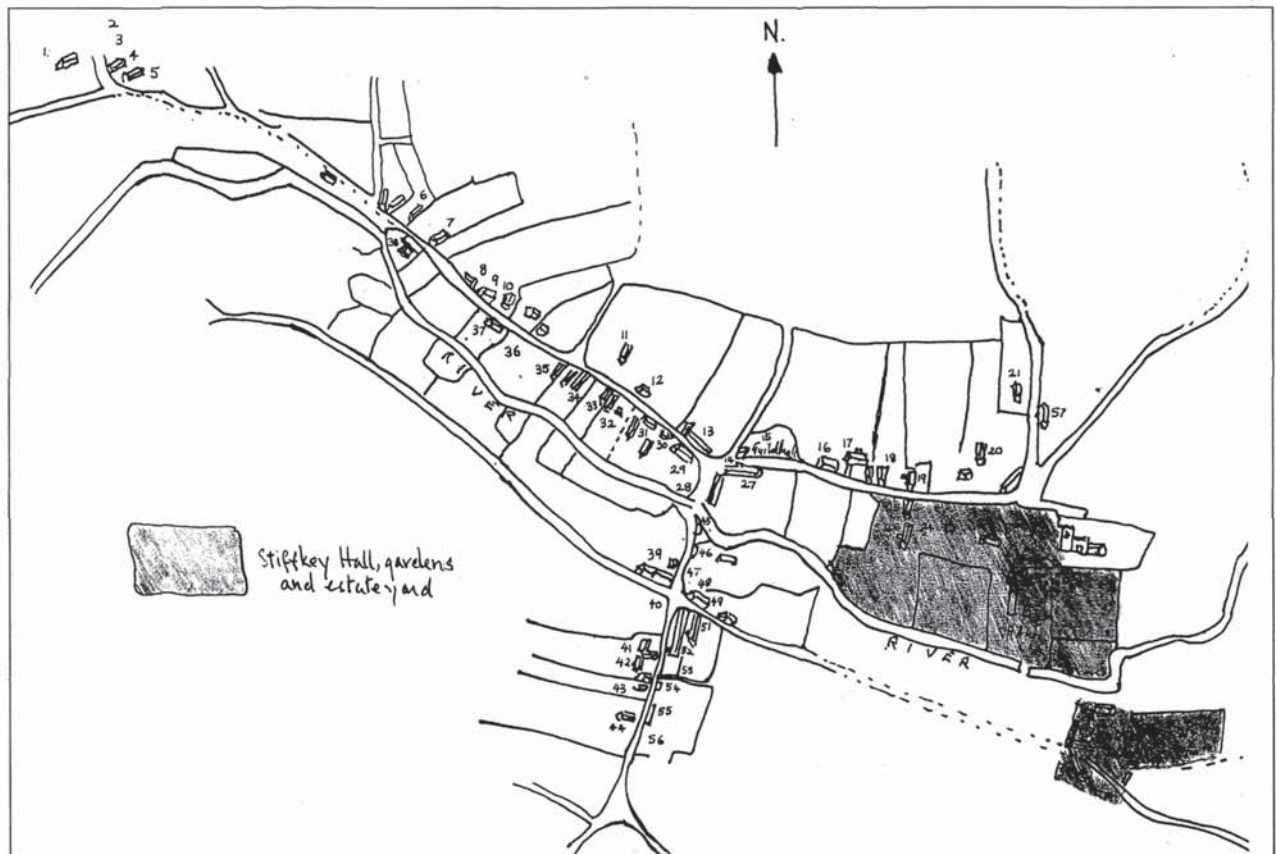*O.S. map 1950. 2.5 inches to 1 mile.*

Figure 3: Stiffkey village c.1630, showing the drift of this settlement from the area around the church, and the 'ends'
to the south and west. Tracing from an undated estate map of c.1630. NRO Ms. HMN 7/227/1,2

Figure 4: The saltings at Wells (r.h.s. of photograph) Photograph by Derek Edwards. Courtesy the Archaeology and Environment Division, Norfolk Museums Service.

To Apleton for 2 mallardes 6d.

To Hall for 2 dussen stintes 8d.

To Bride [Bird] for 2 redshanks 2d.

To Greve for a skamble and a graie plover 5d.

To Percivals wife for cockles 2d.

and so the litany continues week by week and year by year. The men did the fishing and bird catching, their wives and daughters the cockling and musseling.

The shore and salt-marsh also provided many other pickings: sea-sand (used universally to scour pots and pans); dried sea holly roots or eringo (an aphrodisiac and used in brewing); samphire (poor man's asparagus which, although not sold to the Hall, undoubtedly then, as now, commanded a ready market); honey from the ubiquitous sea-lavender; marham grass (used for medicinal purposes and for floor covering). Such abundance and range of produce provided employment for hawkers (men and women) who supplied these fruits of the sea and shore to inland villages. Indeed there was even a 'cockle-man' who did a regular run to Norwich.

The salt marsh also had profound implications for the agrarian economy of Stiffkey and its neighbouring coastal settlements. The light soils of north and north-west Norfolk were, and still are, famous for the production of malting barley, their fertility being maintained by manorial lords who grazed large flocks of sheep over the stubbles and fallow land. By contrast, in Stiffkey (and other north Norfolk coastal parishes) the extensive area of salt marsh provided manorial flockmasters with rich alternative grazing, thereby eliminating the need for frequent extensive fallowing since they could fold the sheep by night on their own, and, for a fee, their tenants', arable land. In this way they maintained the fertility of their soils by intensive dunging and trampling rather than by extensive and random grazing.

The importance of the salt marsh and sea-shore is writ large in local topography where a regular series of drove-roads and green-ways enabled rapid movement of people and flocks between hinterland and shore line. The current O.S. map records 'Garden Drove' and 'Cocklestrand Drove' in Warham; '[muckledyke] Greenway', 'Hollow Way' and 'Bangay Greenway' in Stiffkey; and the vestiges of a track (largely destroyed by a war-time airfield) in Cockthorpe which ran from 'Halfway House' via 'Lower Farm' and Cockthorpe Common to cross the estuary on a ditched causeway.

If Stiffkey in many ways seems to have been blessed by nature, its economy was by no means a self-sufficient one since both terrain and North Sea weather rendered it deficient in woodland - an essential prerequisite for any early-modern rural economy. Timber for every stage and type of building, for paling, fencing, coopering, and fuel (toppings and loppings), for boat-building, and tanning (oak bark), for implement making (mainly ash), for damp-proofing (the bark of birch), for poles (usually alder): every bit had to be brought to the coast from the area of heavy clays 6 to 8 miles inland. So too did the products made by woodland craftsmen: hurdle-makers, wood turners, charcoal burners, ploughwrights, chair-makers, trug-makers - not to mention the burgeoning woodland nurserymen who essayed to meet the demands of enclosing landlords and yeomen. This interdependence of coastal and inland settlements was accentuated by the smallness of North Norfolk parishes, few of them containing more than 2,000 acres and 300 people. None could therefore carry the full range of specialists necessary to maintain its economic and social fabric. Instead, each drew upon the specialist resources of the other. Hence the development of a tightly integrated multi-parish society. There is abundant evidence to suggest that this society was more or less coincident with the catchment area of the Stiffkey and Glaven river systems. That it was also coincident with the Hundreds of Holt and North Greenhoe suggests that it may also have been an ancient one.

Walberswick: the Decline and Fall of a Coastal Settlement [1]

by Peter Warner
(Homerton College, Cambridge)

Walberswick is now a small coastal village in Suffolk at the mouth of the river Blyth, its only claim to fame being the community of artists who visited it from the late nineteenth century; members of the New English Art Club, such as Rennie Mackintosh and Philip Wilson Steer, were attracted to Walberswick for its peaceful seaside setting[2]. Not mentioned by name in Domesday Book, it may nevertheless be one of three dependent chapels of Blythburgh, a major royal vill situated two miles further up river. In the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries Walberswick grew to the size of a small town with more than 120 houses and a magnificent church; it became a flourishing seaport and trading settlement with a diversity of occupations, including ship-building, coastal trading and all the crafts associated with a flourishing fishing industry. Yet by the mid-eighteenth century it had only '20 dwelling houses' and '106 souls' remaining. What were the natural forces and human agencies that brought about its rapid decline? The primary sources are good, including detailed churchwardens' accounts, a manorial archive and local resident antiquarian, Thomas Gardner[3].

The rise of Walberswick can be traced to the early fourteenth century when a succession of coastal changes brought the mouth of the river Blyth within its parish bounds and gifted it a natural harbour. This is a soft coastline of sandy cliffs and open salt marshes, subject to long-term coastal erosion. The southern boundary of Walberswick is shared with Dunwich – one-time Domesday borough and famous as the 'lost city' of East Anglia's coast. Dunwich suffered catastrophic loss in the 1320's when the river Blyth broke out a mile further north and its harbour and many of its houses and churches were lost to erosion. This was a period when widespread flooding is recorded along the East Coast. Dunwich fought to retain its ancient rights over shipping, but as it no longer owned the riverbank it met with little success. With the silting up of the river, the inland seaport of Blythburgh was declining in the early fifteenth century, which left Walberswick 'piggy-in-the-middle' taking trade away from both ports. In the fourteenth century the old low-lying chapel site was abandoned, perhaps in response to rising sea levels and a shift of settlement towards the new harbour. A new tower was contracted in 1426 and may have served as a lookout[4]. The building acquired a permanent chaplain in a charter of 1279, yet even when the tithes fell into secular hands after the Dissolution in 1537, its magnificent church was always referred to as the 'Chapel' of St Andrew.

Fishing was the core industry of the middle ages, tithes of the sea, principally in herring and sprats, being set out in a charter of 1411[5]. 'Sperling fare' for sprats and herring combined with long-distance fishing for cod in northern seas. There were 22 'fishing boats' drawn up on the beach and 14 'barks' trading to Iceland. September was the busiest month when it was difficult to find men to attend the manorial courts because so many were out catching herring. Coastal trading gained in importance with the rise of London; the 'best' butter and the 'worst' cheese became an important Suffolk export[6]. Timber felled on claylands further up river served a growing shipbuilding industry and there were steady demands from inland markets and country houses consuming luxury goods, stone, lead and iron. There were carpenters, masons, mercers, salt and tar traders in the sixteenth century, all that goes with a burgeoning seaport economy.

Trouble came in the late sixteenth century when there is evidence of serious economic decline. 120 houses were recorded in a survey of 1582, but a number were 'waste'. In 1583 the 'Great Bell' was sold to pay for repairs to the church. There were problems with the harbour mouth silting up; a New Cut was dug in 1590, which instigated an eight-year lawsuit with Dunwich. In 1597 an improving landlord, Robert Brooke, a grocer and wealthy Alderman from London, purchased the Westwood Lodge estate. The park, most of which lay in Walberswick, was split up into sheep-walk enclosures and the deer slaughtered. The salt marshes were embanked and drained and some of the heathland commons enclosed for leasehold farmers. Much of the upland remained unenclosed dry sandy heath and subject to raging fires which periodically swept through the village taking its toll of thatch and timber houses.

By 1609 local magistrates were trying to regulate the butter and cheese trade, insisting that younger men served first in the traditional but fast-decaying fishing industry and the Fishmonger's Hall of London gave money for 'repairing and making a haven'. But by 1628 dire poverty gripped the community and eighty persons were said to be starving. Between 1633 and 1636 the number of 'families' at Walberswick declined from 71 to 54, some almost certainly migrating to the New World, for this was a strongly puritan community. From 1637 a long and bitter legal battle was fought between the commoners and the Brookes over enclosure, which reached the Court of the Star Chamber in 1639, only to have the judgement reversed in the following year. Corruption, intrigue, and an oppressive and litigious landlord burdened the commoners with legal bills. The dispute reached a head in 1644 when an affray in the village resulted in the death of one of Sir Robert Brooke's henchmen: three Walberswick men were hanged for murder. In 1652 an epidemic of some kind, probably influenza, swept through the community killing churchwardens and lord of the manor alike. By 1674, the Hearth Tax Returns record 15 empty houses and only 18 taxpayers. What community could survive such a succession of blows? Fire, famine, pestilence, enclosure and a corrupt legal system simultaneously reduced Walberswick to a small fishing hamlet once again. By the end of the seventeenth century the ruinous church was reduced to a chapel in one aisle, the lead and timber being sold off to pay for its reduction. There was some attempt to revive the fishing industry in the 1750's, with the Free British Fishery, but without any long-term success.

Figure 5: The ruins of St Andrew's Chapel at Walberswick. Completed in the late fifteenth century, this magnificent church was so ruinous that it was reduced to the size of half an aisle in the late seventeenth century, the lead and timber being sold off to pay for the reduction. The church epitomises the dramatic rise and fall in Walberswick's fortunes. (Photograph by Nick Catling)

[1] Peter Warner, *Bloody Marsh: a seventeenth century village in crisis* (Windgather, Macclesfield, 2000)
[2] Richard Scott, *Artists at Walberswick   East Anglian Interludes 1880-2000* (Art Dictionaries, 2002)
[3] Thomas Gardner, *An Historical Account of Dunwich...etc.* (London, 1754)
[4] R. W. M. Lewis, *Walberswick Churchwardens' Accounts AD 1450-1499* (London 1947)
[5] C. Harper-Bill (ed.) *The Blythburgh Priory Cartulary*, Suffolk Record Society, Suffolk Charters 1 & 2 (Boydell & Brewer, Woodbridge, 1980)
[6] D. Defoe, *Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain 1724-27* (Yale University Press, 1991)

Figure 6: Ruined windpump near Westwood Marshes Walberswick. These marshes were first enclosed and drained in the seventeenth century. This is the area of 'East Marsh' adjoining the 'Old Town Marshes' in Walberswick. In 1644 John Barwick, churchwarden, claimed 'this our common fen they have since called Est Marsh: this also by violence hath been kept.' The antiquarian Thomas Gardner mentions a 'mill'(windpump) and sluice being erected on this site in 1743. (Photograph by Nick Catling)

Figure 7: The harbour and ferry across the River Blyth at Walberswick, with the cliff-top town of Southwold in the distance. Fishing was always the primary industry here, but in the fifteenth and sixteenth century, shipbuilding and a thriving coastal trade with London developed as the main source of wealth. (Photograph by Peter Warner)

14

Medieval Settlements and Landscapes in the Whittlewood Area: Interim Report 2001-2

by Richard Jones and Mark Page
(University of Leicester)

The Whittlewood Project is a multi-disciplinary investigation of medieval settlement and landscape in a group of 12 parishes straddling the Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire border. The chief aim of the project is to explain the divergence of nucleated and dispersed settlement in an area where both villages and hamlets developed within relatively short distances of each other. The project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board, sponsored by the MSRG, and directed by Christopher Dyer at the University of Leicester. The origins of the project and some of the initial findings of the research have been outlined in previous reports (Dyer 1999; Dyer 2001; Page and Jones 2000).

In this paper Richard Jones reports on the test-pits dug in and around the villages of Akeley and Whittlebury during July and August 2001 and comments on their significance for an understanding of settlement formation. This is followed by an examination of the documentary evidence of the two settlements by Mark Page and of their development over the course of the medieval period.

Test-Pits: Akeley

A total of 24 test-pits were excavated in and around Akeley. The methodology followed that adopted by the Shapwick Project (Gerrard and Aston 1997, 11-13). Each test-pit was one metre by one metre in dimension and was excavated by spit (generally 100mm) unless archaeological stratification or features were identified, in which case the test-pit was excavated sequentially. Wherever possible the test-pit was excavated to natural. All spoil was sieved (through 13mm mesh), all artefacts were recorded by spit or feature and all features were recorded in plan. After excavation all four faces of the test-pit were recorded in section.

The location of each test-pit was governed largely by access to private property within the villages in question. Within open spaces, more systematic positioning was possible. However, the current location and distribution of test-pits around the two villages may be considered haphazard. Nevertheless, within this random patterning some attempt was made to locate test-pits in areas which
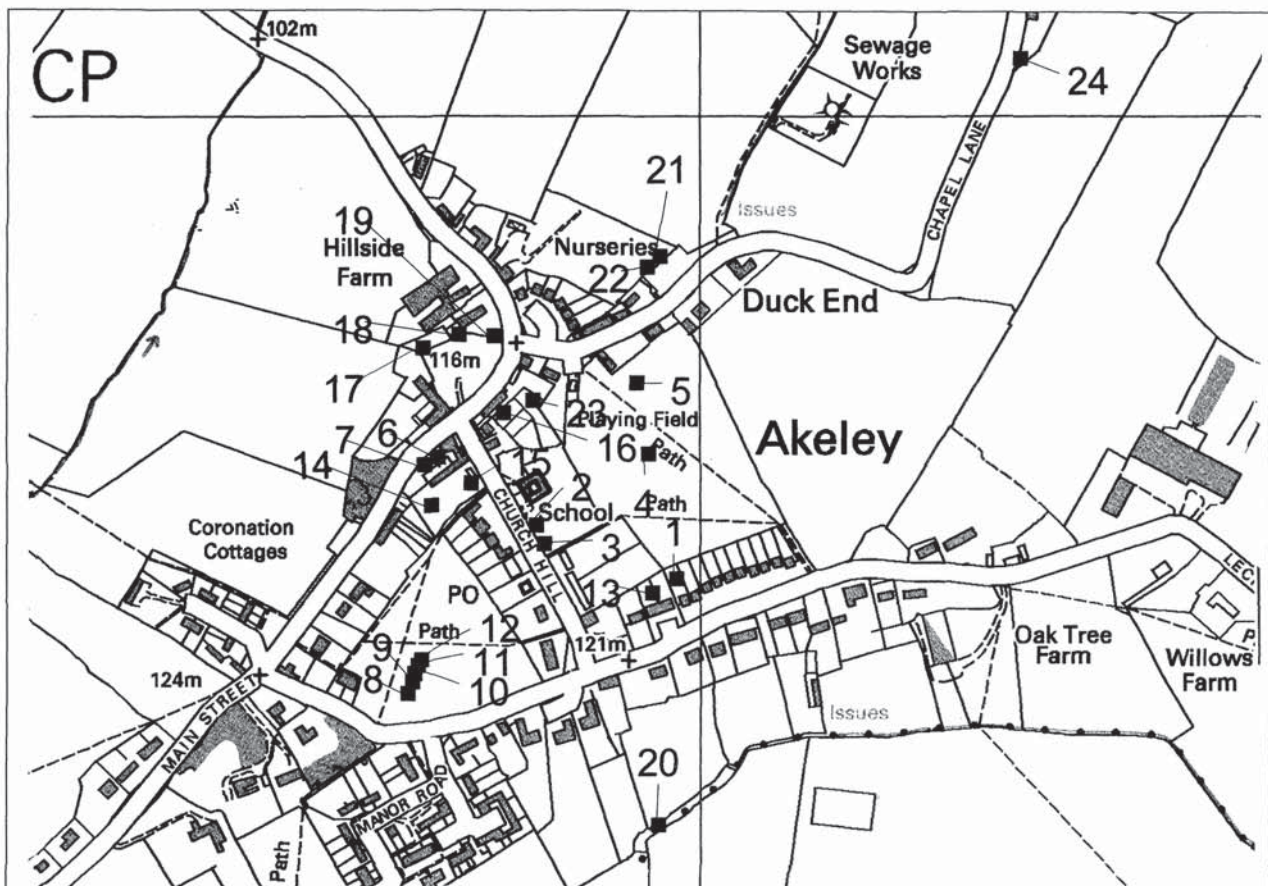

Figure 8: (Map 1) The location of test-pits in Akeley, Summer 2001. Crown copyright, Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved.

would provide a general sample for the village as a whole, and some of the test-pits were purposefully located to investigate various working hypotheses.

In Akeley, test-pits 1 and 13 (Figure 8) were located to the north of the Leckhampstead Road in the south-east corner of the present village. Test-pit 1 produced 12 sherds of medieval pottery (sandy coarseware, 1100-1400) and a single sherd of Romano-British ware. Test-pit 13 produced a single sherd of medieval shelly ware (1100-1400). In neither case were features or stratigraphy identifiable. In interpreting these deposits, three additional pieces of information can be brought to bear. First, aerial photographs prior to the construction of the modern houses clearly show two building platforms immediately to the east of test-pit 1. Proximity to former occupation probably explains the size of the medieval sherd count from this site. Secondly, further work in the back garden, undertaken by the owner now versed in medieval pottery identification, produced a significant assemblage of large unabraded sherds of medieval pottery, further evidence that this plot was formerly occupied. By contrast, the lack of medieval pottery in test-pit 13 reflects its location away from occupation, and is perhaps best explained by the third piece of information, the presence at the back of the garden of residual ridge and furrow. Certainly the deep humic stratigraphy (500mm) suggests that this area had been heavily cultivated. Together the evidence of both test-pits and aerial photographs points towards an isolated medieval toft and croft bounded on one side at least by unoccupied but cultivated ground. There is no evidence to suggest that this site was occupied before 1100.

A systematic sequence of five test-pits (nos. 8 to 12) located in the centre of the village, again to the north of the Leckhampstead Road, was laid out at 5m intervals. Test-pit 8 lay closest to the road, test-pit 12 was nearest the centre of the field. The sherd count for each test-pit is revealing. Test-pit 8 produced 34 sherds of medieval pottery (shelly wares, sandy wares and Potterspury wares). Test-pit 9 produced four sherds, test-pit 10 produced 11 sherds, while in test-pit 11 there were 18 sherds (all Potterspury wares), and in test-pit 12 were found four sherds of medieval pottery and a single sherd of Romano-British ware. Again, the sherd count is relatively rich, with a general observable fall in numbers with distance from the road. Thus, the pottery evidence suggests occupation fronting on the Leckhampstead Road. In addition, ridge and furrow identifiable on aerial photographs, but now entirely ploughed out, points to the area away from the roadside corridor being cultivated in the medieval period.

Test-pits 2, 3, 4 and 5 were all located in the central part of the village, within the school grounds, playing fields and meadow. These were all unproductive. Test-pits 3 and 5 produced no pottery, and test-pit 4 a single sherd of Potterspury ware. This negative evidence suggests that this area was not intensively exploited during the medieval period. Test-pit 2, located close to Church Hill, the road which connects Main Street with the Leckhampstead Road, produced a single sherd of St Neots ware (type 2, 1000-1200). Little can be asserted from this chance find, particularly since the stratigraphy was much disturbed, probably as a result of landscaping associated with the construction of the school.

Two test-pits (21 and 22) were excavated at the back of Duck End. These lay on a headland, associated with ridge and furrow to the north-east, surviving within an old nursery. The archaeological deposits in both test-pits were very similar, made up of a hard clay loam. Both contained significant quantities of medieval and Romano-British pottery with no modern inclusions. Test-pit 21 produced 11 sherds of medieval pottery (sandy coarsewares and Potterspury wares) and 12 sherds of Romano-British wares. Test-pit 22 produced 16 sherds of Potterspury wares and 16 sherds of Romano-British wares. These were stratigraphically mixed throughout, suggesting disturbance of Romano-British deposits during medieval ploughing. Nevertheless, the amount of Romano-British material might point towards either intensive agricultural activity at this date, or more likely, proximity to an occupation site. Likewise, the medieval sherd count would appear to be high for purely agricultural activity and may reflect proximity to medieval settlement beyond the headland within Duck End. Alternatively, medieval material may have accumulated on the headland as a result of manuring practices. Was manure dumped initially on the headland, from whence it was spread on the furlong? Due to the compact nature of the deposits, it was impossible to excavate to natural, despite excavating to a depth of 0.7m.

Test-pits 6, 7, 14 and 15 were located close to the modern centre of the village. Test-pit 6 produced three sherds of medieval pottery, test-pit 7 none at all. Test-pit 14 produced four sherds of medieval pottery and test-pit 15 a single sherd. Taken together, the results from these four test-pits suggest that this area of the village was not occupied during the medieval period. Thus, the modern focus of the village, the Square, does not appear to have been the focus for the medieval village. These findings, however, contrast with the results from test-pits 16 and 23, sunk at the back of houses fronting Main Street opposite the church.

Test-pit 16 produced seven sherds of medieval pottery, although the deposits had been heavily disturbed with the laying of a sewage pipe. Test-pit 23 produced a remarkable 72 sherds of medieval pottery, no Romano-British wares, and a single sherd of Stamford ware (900-1200). Again the deposits were disturbed by pipe laying, but their organic content and depth (820mm+) suggests that this was a midden deposit associated with adjacent occupation. A slight earthwork to the east appears to be the original back boundary of a medieval croft fronting Main Street, beyond which ridge and furrow was visible. The pottery evidence suggests that this site was occupied throughout the post-Conquest period. The associated sherd of Stamford ware may even point to a pre-Conquest foundation date, although it would be incautious to make such an assertion based on a single unstratified sherd.

Test-pits 17, 18 and 19 were specifically located on or close to the curving northern boundary of the churchyard. Test-pit 17 produced nine sherds of medieval pottery and no modern inclusions. Test-pit 18 produced six sherds of medieval pottery lying over and below a feature identified as an earlier garden path, suggesting significant disturbance of deposits. A single sherd of Romano-British ware came from the lower strata. In addition, a single sherd of St Neots ware (type 2, 1000-1200) and a single sherd of Cotswold Type Oolitic ware (975-1150)

were recovered from below the level of the path. Test-pit 19 was located on the boundary itself. A stone rubble deposit was identified as forming the boundary. This contained a large amount of medieval material, 14 sherds of pottery, as well as four sherds of Romano-British wares. Overlying these deposits, and disturbed by tree roots, more medieval pottery was recovered and a single sherd of Cotswold Type Oolitic ware. When the stone bank was removed, a feature interpreted as a post-hole was revealed containing a single sherd of Romano-British ware.

Test-pit 20, positioned on the line of a small back lane running along the parish boundary to the south of the village, and test-pit 24, located south of Pottery Farm to the north of the village, were excavated as controls for the test-pits located within the main area of settlement. Both failed to produce material earlier than post-medieval in date.

In interpreting these results, we must be aware of the small sample size. Nevertheless, the following points may be raised, which will be tested by future work. First, while modern Akeley appears as a tight nucleated settlement, the archaeological evidence suggests a much looser arrangement of buildings in the medieval period. Evidence for occupation comes from the area opposite the churchyard, the church being an obvious settlement focus, and from various locations both north and south of the Leckhampstead Road. In addition to the house platforms close to test-pit 1, others can be identified at the T-junction of Church Hill and Leckhampstead Road. Together with the pottery evidence from test-pit 8, we might propose that the road formed an important axis for the development of the village in the post-Conquest period. Occupation appears, however, to have been sporadic rather than continuous along this line, akin to those settlement patterns classified as an 'interrupted row' (Lewis, Mitchell-Fox and Dyer 2001, 50- 1).

Secondly, evidence from fieldwalking south of the Leckhampstead Road (especially the lack of medieval pottery) and examination of the 1794 enclosure map (the back lane of test-pit 20 is called 'Assart Lane'), suggests the presence of medieval woodland by the parish boundary. The regular closes, with their isolated building platforms, to the south of Leckhampstead Road may well have their origins in the clearance of small plots of woodland during the expansion of the village. In the north of the village too, the pottery evidence points to expansion in Duck End. The evidence for occupation here may be set against the negative evidence from the test-pits further south. The lack of material from around the Square and within the playing fields suggests that the two main foci of the settlement may not have been contiguous, but were rather separated by an open space, perhaps in origin a large green. Certainly, there are indications that originally the Leckhampstead Road may have forked at Willows Farm, continuing westwards along the current line of the road, but also heading north-west to meet Chapel Lane south of the sewage works. This would form a large eye-shaped loop, the green, only later brought into the open field system. It may be noted too that the main road to Buckingham has also moved, the original line identified by that of the current footpath (Figure 9).
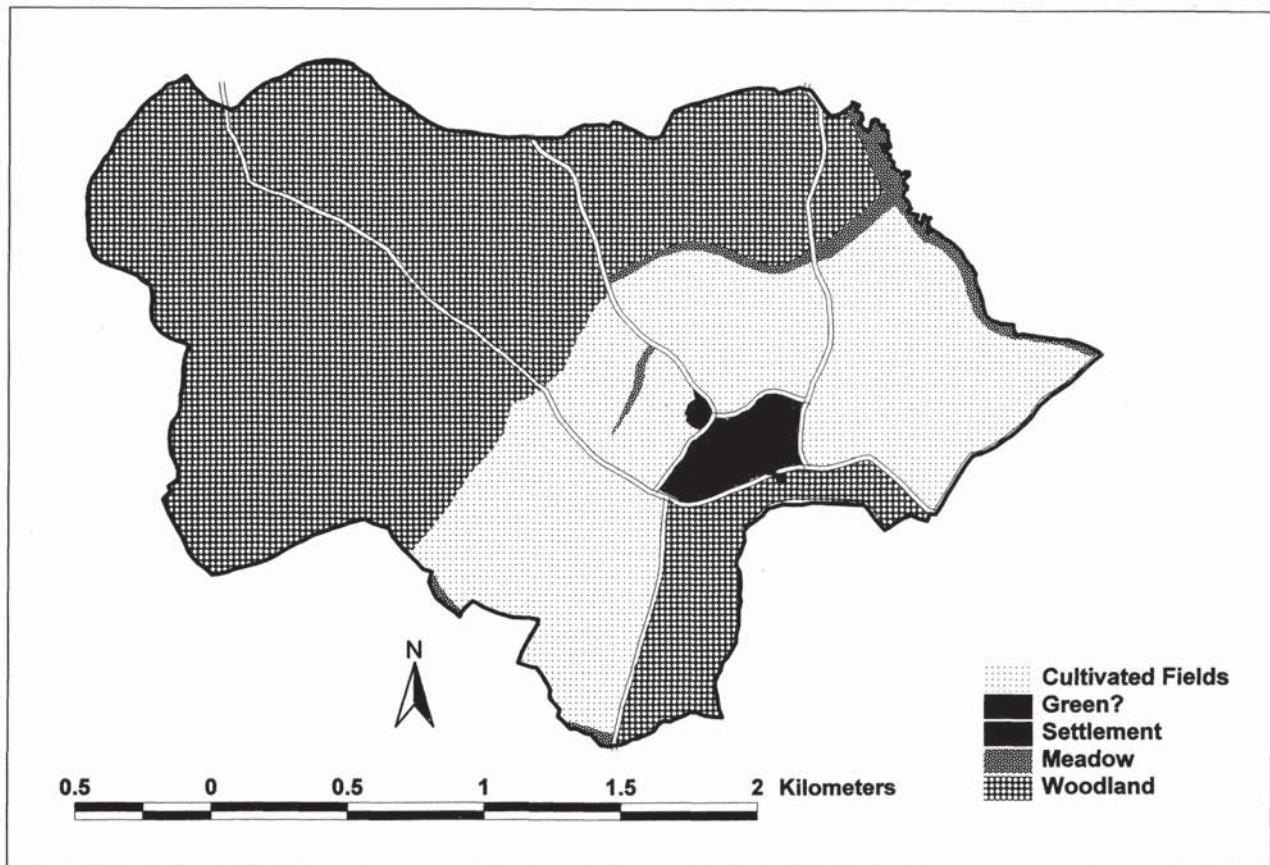

Figure 9: (Map 2) Landscape and Settlement in Akeley, c. 1100.

Medieval Akeley, therefore, appears small and dispersed. The limited chronological evidence we have suggests the establishment of a small community in the vicinity of the churchyard in the century or so before the Norman Conquest, with piecemeal expansion to the south and east in the centuries following. The focus of this nascent medieval settlement may well have been an existing small enclosure, later to be used as the churchyard, which may have been established by the end of the Romano-British period. The dispersed settlement morphology and the Old English -*leah* place-name element point towards a community carving its living from a wooded landscape at this date. The coincidence of three other indicators suggests that Akeley was in fact a secondary rather than a primary settlement. It will be argued below that a reference to the subordination of Akeley church to Leckhampstead suggests that these two parishes should be considered as a single early estate, Leckhampstead being the principal settlement. The absence of pre-tenth century pottery also suggests a late foundation, while it has been argued elsewhere that green-side settlement morphology is often to be associated with secondary rather than primary settlement (Warner 1987, 13). Indeed, within the project area there is another example of this relationship and settlement morphology, in the case of Passenham and Deanshanger (Page and Jones 2000, 13).

Documentary Evidence: Akeley

Akeley is relatively well provided for in terms of its documentary inheritance. The manor belonged to the priory of St Faith at Longueville in Normandy from about 1150 until 1414, at which time it passed into the possession of Sir Ralph Rochefort as a result of a general confiscation by Henry V of the English properties of alien religious houses. After Ralph's death in 1441 Henry VI granted Akeley together with the other Longueville lands 'to the Warden and Fellows of New College [in Oxford], whose possessions are diminished and insufficient to maintain their burdens, in order that they may in future pray more heartily for the said king' (Salter 1921, ix-x). Many of the documents upon which the following study is based are still preserved among the muniments of New College, Oxford (Steer 1974).

The earliest description of Akeley is that recorded in Domesday Book in 1086 (*VCH Bucks*, i, 250). This suggests a small place, of three hides, with a recorded population of two villeins, four bordars and two slaves. Half a plough team of four oxen was present on the demesne and the commissioners recorded that a further two ploughs were possible. The tenants also held 2½ ploughs. Assuming a hide of approximately 120 acres of arable, it is possible to locate tentatively the Domesday fields of Akeley in the area of the three common fields which we know existed from later medieval documentary evidence, eighteenth-century cartographic evidence, and archaeological fieldwork (see map 2). Domesday Book also records that the manor possessed sufficient meadow to support one plough team and a large amount of woodland, enough to feed 806 swine. We know very little about Akeley before the Norman Conquest, beyond the fact that it was held by Alric son of Goding, a very considerable landowner in Buckinghamshire before 1066, and was valued at £3.

Some evidence may be advanced to support the idea that a settlement at Akeley was formed at a relatively late date, perhaps in the ninth or tenth century. Before 1173 it was decided that the church of Akeley was a daughter church of Leckhampstead, and that it ought to pay 2s. a year as a sign of this dependence. The church at Akeley was described in this agreement as a chapel (*capella*), that at Leckhampstead as the mother church (*mater ecclesia*) (Salter 1921, no. 16). This suggests that Akeley was formerly part of a much larger estate centred on Leckhampstead, from which it was later divided, and from where it may have been colonised. The fission of large estates into smaller manors, vills and parishes is often assumed to have occurred in the late Anglo-Saxon period. However, this does not necessarily preclude the possibility that a settlement at Akeley existed long before that time (Lewis, Mitchell-Fox and Dyer 2001, 92-4). Thus, although the documentary evidence tells us little about the origins and development of Akeley before the eleventh century, the relationship between the two churches of Akeley and Leckhampstead is at least suggestive of the movement of people from east to west and of the expansion of settlement in both parishes before the Norman Conquest.

It seems likely that the Domesday settlement of Akeley and its fields lay between two areas of woodland, and that extensive clearance of woodland had taken place in the early middle ages (see map 2). This would make sense of the place-name 'Akeley', meaning 'oak clearing'. Further clearance of woodland took place in the post-Conquest period, for which some documentary evidence survives. For example, assarts of eight acres and 13/4 acres belonged to the prior of Longueville in the early decades of the thirteenth century. Both were sown with oats, the latter being in the prior's demesne (PRO E32/249, m. 1 8d; Raftis 1974, 140). In mid-century, Roger de Wautone held assarts of 20 acres sown with wheat and 38½ acres sown with oats. Adam son of the reeve held ¾ acre sown with oats (PRO E32/2, m. 10; Raftis 1974, 140). The location of these assarts is not specified, but the general areas in which assarting took place in the centuries following the Norman Conquest can be suggested by a combination of field work, documentary evidence, and the study of place-names (Figure 10).

The most spectacular example of assarting in the parish is undoubtedly the creation of the manor of Stockholt, about half a mile north-west of Akeley. In 1228 the prior of Longueville confirmed his grant to Ralph Briton of the wood of Akeley called Kingstowe, 'and a place in Akeley lying between the high road and the said wood', for an annual rent of £2. Ralph was permitted to assart and cultivate the wood, but not to pledge or sell it to the Jews or any religious house other than the priory of Longueville, 'provided that the grantors will give as much as any other therefor'. The land was to be quit of regard, and Ralph was able to enclose it with a ditch and hedge (*Cal.Chart.R. 1226-57,* 79). On the same day, 30 July 1228, the king confirmed the prior's grant to Ralph in slightly different terms: all the wood of Akeley called Kyngesscrabbe and four acres of the wood of Stockholt 'by the king's perch' (PRO C47/12/7, 58). The following year, 1229, the king granted Ralph a further 12 acres *in augmentum terre sue de Stocholt* (*Close R. 1227-31,*
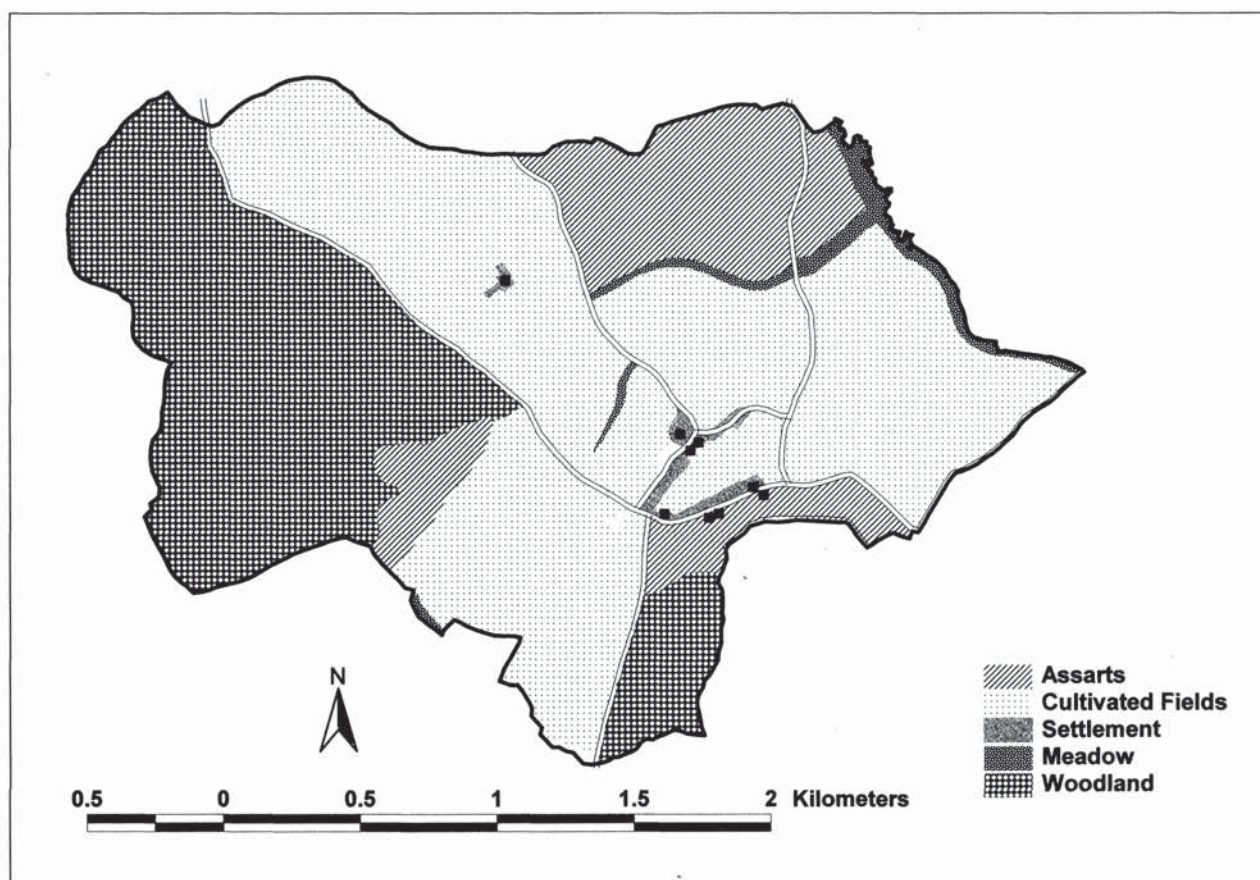
Figure 10: (Map 3) Landscape and Settlement in Akeley, c. 1300.

268). Further assarting is likely to have taken place at much the same time, Stockholt rapidly assuming the status of a small manor: it was listed as such among the possessions of the overlord, Gilbert Marshal, in 1235 (*Cal.Pat.R. 1232-47*, 125).

The exploitation of the woodland at Stockholt continued throughout the thirteenth century. In 1255 Gilbert Marshal was said to have sold and destroyed part of the wood of Akeley called Stockholt, and in 1279 the prior of Longueville brought an action for trespass against William de Brewes for taking housebote and haybote 'in the prior's wood called Stockholt within the forest of Whittlewood' (*Hund.R., i, 32; Abbrev.Plac.,* 197). According to the forest eyre of 1255, four poachers entered the wood of Stockholt with bows and arrows, whose base was said to be the house of Roger de Wautone, the holder of some substantial assarts in Akeley, who had made a ditched purpresture (perhaps the location of his house) in Stockholt wood (PRO E32/ 2, m. I; *Hund.R.,* i, 32). The clearance of woodland at Stockholt allowed arable fields belonging to Stockholt manor to be laid out, and at some point a park was created. This was extended by 300 acres in 1412 by enclosing an adjoining field called 'Homfeld' of 200 acres and a wood called 'Kyngesshrobfeld' of 100 acres (*Cal.Pat.R. 1408-13*, 425). The boundaries of the park can still be detected in the curving shapes of the hedgerow boundaries to the fields, marked by deeper than usual ditches (Reed 1993, 95).

In 1279 the recorded population of Akeley was 22, nearly three times what it had been in 1086 (*Hund.R.,* ii, 339). The three hides of Domesday Book were now divided as follows: the prior of Longueville held one in demesne; seven virgates were held in villeinage, although the Hundred Rolls in fact list 15 tenants, each of whom held half a virgate for an annual rent of Is. 10d.; and the remaining virgate was held by the rector of the church. In addition, four tenants held cottages, who may perhaps have been the descendants of the four bordars of Domesday Book. Throughout the late middle ages, the basic unit of land tenure among the peasantry of Akeley remained the half-virgate, held in conjunction with the buildings of the messuage. The size of the half-virgate at Akeley is uncertain but probably consisted of between 16 and 20 acres divided into strips, which were scattered across the manor's three open fields. The location of the messuages is rarely specified, although in 1405 one was said to lie beside the cemetery of Akeley church. Moreover, a house (*domus*) lay between the chamber (presumably free-standing) and the barn (*horrium*) of the messuage (NCO 4085, m.9).

The earliest series of court rolls which survives for the manor covers the period 1382 to 1422 (NCO 4084-5), a time when population is generally considered to have been lower than in the late thirteenth century, as a result of the outbreak of successive waves of plague beginning with the Black Death of 1348-9. Certainly there is some evidence to suggest that the peasantry of Akeley took advantage of the greater availability of land which followed a decline in population. For example, very few

tenants inherited land and most holdings were surrendered or escheated into the hands of the lord, to whom tenants who were unrelated to the previous holder paid a cash fine to take possession. This pattern of extra-familial land transfers, with inheritance playing only a minor role in the descent of holdings, is characteristic of communities in which land was readily available, particularly among the younger generation, who as a result felt no need to await the inheritance of their parents' holding. Other signs of the easy availability of land includes evidence for the mobility of tenants, some of whom were willing to pay the lord to live in neighbouring parishes (others chose to abscond without payment), presumably for economic reasons, and of the disrepair into which some tenants allowed their properties to fall, presumably because they were no longer required as dwelling-places.

Nevertheless, evidence which suggests a contracting population, a slack demand for land, and disused buildings gradually falling into ruin, needs to be balanced by the fact that the basic tenurial structure of the manor remained relatively unchanged, that very little land at Akeley seems to have remained for long in the lord's hands, and that a considerable number of cottage tenements continued to be occupied. Thus, the court rolls reveal that the half-virgate holdings which characterised the manor in 1279 were still present in the years 1382-1422, and that the amount of engrossment taking place was very small. No tenements larger than a virgate have been found, and relatively few holders of half a virgate seem to have accumulated tofts, cottages and cotlands. The lord appears to have had few difficulties in securing new tenants for those half-virgate holdings which were surrendered, although the entry fines levied might vary considerably. The number of cottage tenements remaining unoccupied appears to have been larger, but even for these holdings entry fines could often be extracted from incoming tenants. Thus, although the court rolls suggest some shrinkage of population and settlement from a pre-Black Death height (the extension of the park at Stockholt may serve as further evidence of this), Akeley does not appear to have undergone an acute late medieval crisis.

The relative stability of the landscape and settlement pattern at Akeley continued into the seventeenth century. The three common fields of the medieval centuries were still in existence in 1639 when the glebe terrier reveals land divided between 'the field' (or Ley Field), Churchill Field, and Stockwell Field (Reed 1997, 9-10). A rental of 1631 shows that a number of tenants continued to hold a single messuage and half-virgate (or half-yardland as they are now described) just as their medieval predecessors had done. Others, such as Agnes Hodges, a single woman, continued to occupy cottage tenements. There is, however, more evidence for engrossment than can be found in earlier documents, suggesting that some successful tenants were able to accumulate land more easily than in previous centuries and that a degree of social polarisation had occurred as a result. Several tofts are also listed, revealing either that the late medieval shrinkage of Akeley had not been reversed or that further buildings had fallen into ruin and been swept away. An

increase in enclosure is also apparent (NCO 4468). These developments can also be traced in a series of court rolls dated 1522-60 (NCO 4086). Nevertheless, the pattern of settlement at this time does not appear radically different from that suggested by the court rolls of 1382-1422.

The relative abundance of the documentary sources for Akeley, combined with the findings of the archaeological field work, allows us to reconstruct with some confidence a number of important features of the late medieval landscape and settlement pattern of the parish. First, there is evidence of some shrinkage of population and settlement in the late middle ages, although this was not on a scale to radically affect the basic layout of the village plan. Second, the population was made up of both villeins holding half-virgates who farmed the common fields, as well as cottagers who may have made a living from wage labour and from exploiting the resources of the nearby woodland. The court rolls reveal tenants brewing ale, trespassing in the woods, owning herds of pigs (which thrived in areas of wood pasture), and quarrelling with their neighbours over broken contracts and cases of debt. Third, the assarting movement, which appears to have been led by local men with some capital (Ralph Briton, holder of Stockholt, was parson of neighbouring Leckhampstead), significantly extended the area of cultivation, particularly into the wooded north of the parish. Fourth, the largely absentee lords of Akeley may have exercised a conservative influence over the manor, the court rolls of 1382-1422 suggesting a concern to fill tenancies and repair properties, to ensure that watercourses and roads were not obstructed, and to maintain the cultivation of the land. Though it was small, late medieval Akeley appears to have remained a place in which a significant number of peasant families found the opportunity to make a living.

Test-Pits: Whittlebury

A total of 18 test-pits were dug in and around Whittlebury (Figure 11). Three test-pits (nos. 7, 8 and 9) were excavated west of the main street, the modern A413 Towcester to Buckingham road. Test-pit 7 produced three sherds of medieval pottery, test-pit 8 none, and test-pit 9 a single sherd. All four sherds were Brill/Boarstall ware (1200-1600). The sum of this information, therefore, suggests very limited activity during the medieval period in this part of the village.

To the east of the main street, another three test-pits were excavated (nos. 1, 2 and 15). Test-pit 1 was much disturbed, and probably located on a Victorian dump (over 300 sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery were found). Only two sherds of Potterspury ware were recovered from disturbed spits. Five sherds of medieval pottery came from test-pit 2. Again, the location of the test-pit, above a post-medieval garden wall, reduced the opportunity to recover earlier material. Again, therefore, the evidence points to this area being outside the main focus of the settlement. In contrast, only 100m further north, test-pit 15 was highly productive. Fifty sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, together with in-situ medieval features, including a probable floor, with possible associated stakeholes. The test pit was dug towards the front of the modern plot, and it appears likely
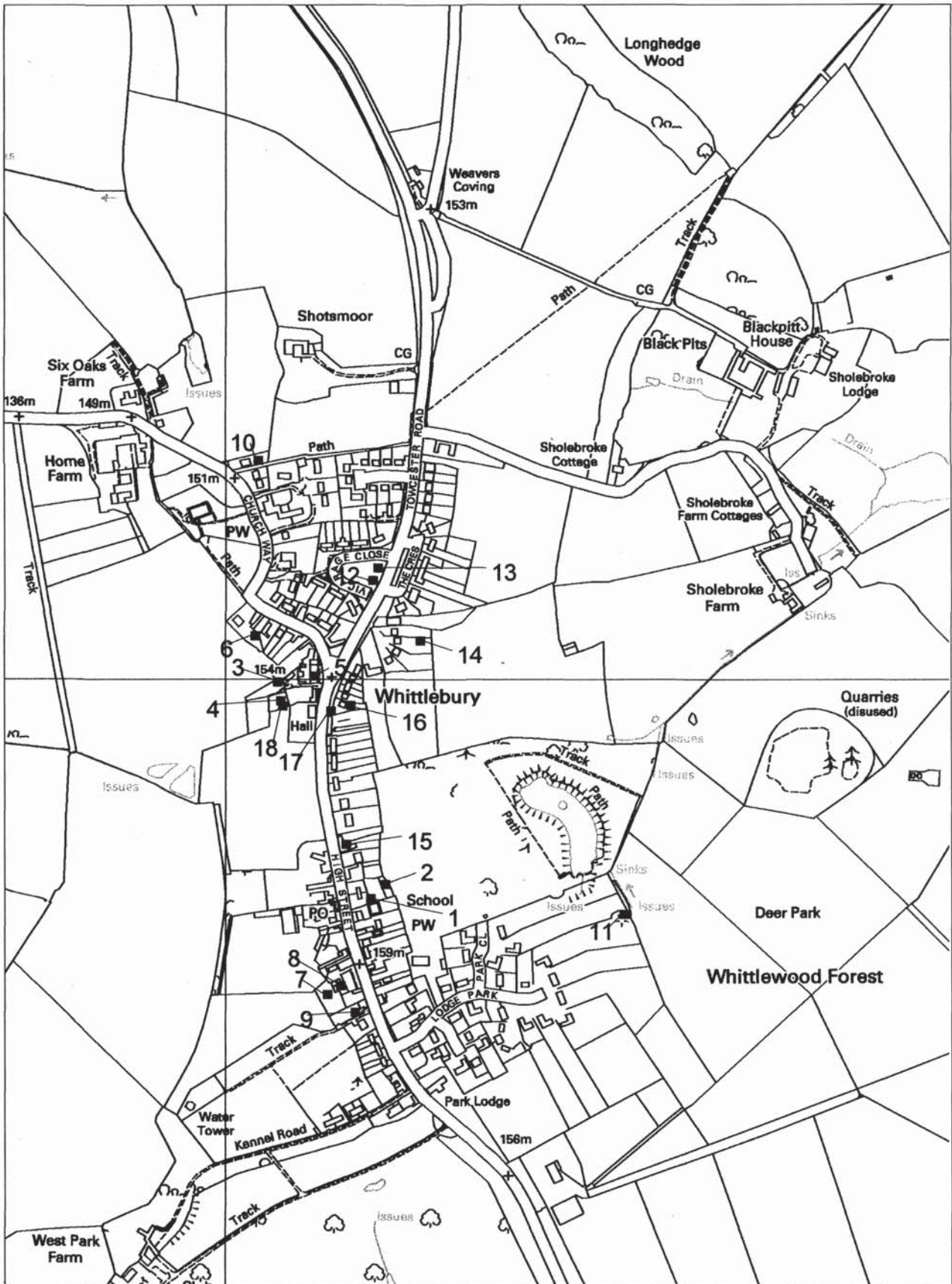
Figure 11: (Map 4) The location of test-pits in Whittlebury, Summer 2001. Crown Copyright. Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved.

that it was located on the site of a medieval structure. Of interest was the absence, despite the size of the assemblage, of material pre-dating 1200, the majority being Potterpury wares of post-1250 date.

In the northern part of the village four widely separated test-pits were dug (nos. 10, 12, 13 and 14). Test-pit 10 lay at the northernmost periphery of the modern village. Natural was encountered 1m below the present surface. Four sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, with no modern inclusions. The dark humic quality of the soil, and the close proximity of ridge and furrow in the pasture field adjacent to the garden, suggests that this was formerly part of the open fields of Whittlebury and not the focus of early settlement. Likewise to the north-east, in test-pit 14, six sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. Again, this assemblage should probably be associated with field manuring rather than settlement. Indeed, a post-medieval plough rut proves that this area lay under arable fields before the expansion of the village. Test-pits 12 and 13 were dug on a small open area within the village. While no features were encountered indicative of occupation, test-pit 12 produced no less than 27 sherds of medieval pottery and test-pit 13 produced 19 sherds. Such counts place these test-pits close to medieval occupation or within heavily manured infields. Their location close to the line of the main road, and close to the natural centre of the village, around the junction of the road from Silverstone with the main Towcester to Buckingham road, probably suggest the former.

Most of our activity focused on this area around the T-junction. Perhaps surprisingly, test-pit 5 only produced six sherds of medieval pottery, but excavation here was hampered by the discovery of a live electricity cable and so natural was never reached. Test-pit 6 was also unproductive, with only three sherds of medieval date being identified. However, here a cobbled floor of post-medieval date was revealed at 0.5m depth, suggesting that the ground may have been levelled at a late date and any earlier material removed. In the paddocks behind the cottages facing the junction, however, three test-pits (nos. 3, 4 and 18) proved very productive. Test-pit 3 produced 34 sherds of medieval pottery (and a single sherd of Romano-British ware). This included shelly coarseware which was absent from the test-pits in the south of the village. Test-pit 4 revealed no features, but again produced quantities of medieval material (39 sherds, five fabric types), while test-pit 18 contained 24 sherds of medieval pottery and two sherds of Romano-British pottery (disturbed, being found with medieval material at the same level). All three assemblages point to an intensity of medieval activity indicative of settlement.

To the east of the road, a further two test-pits were excavated, test-pit 16 producing 16 sherds of medieval and a single sherd of Romano-British ware, while test-pit 17, excavated on the verge of the road and close to a pre-Christian burial site, produced 18 sherds of medieval wares, three sherds of Romano-British wares, and a single sherd of Cotswold Type Oolitic ware.

There can be little doubt, therefore, that the main focus of medieval settlement was around the major road junction, on both the east and west sides of the Towcester to Buckingham road. The area of settlement appears small, with a significant and rapid decline of sherd counts with distance from this node. Two important differences can be discerned in the assemblages from the northern test-pits with those from the south. First, the range of fabrics is greater in the north than in the south. Secondly, and importantly, the chronological range for the fabrics is longer in the north than the south, indicating that this area was occupied before the southern end. The current village morphology, and the evidence from the pottery recovered, both point to a planned extension of the village southwards along the main artery at some time after 1200 from a tightly clustered settlement around the T-junction. We might also note in passing the presence of Romano-British wares in the north and their absence in the south, although it is known that a major Roman building formerly stood below the new development of Park Lodge in the southernmost part of the village.

In order to understand fully the significance of these results, other evidence needs to be integrated. First, the c.1608 Whittlewood map depicts the village of Whittlebury very much as it appears today, with the exception of infilling to the north and its modern extension to the south. The current village morphology was thus established by the early modern period. This map also identifies a series of closes north-west of the village called Lady Nether End (see map 5). On the ground it is possible to identify an important holloway running through these closes and the suggestion of house platforms to the south-west. To the north-east, limestone scatters currently being ploughed out mark the site of further buildings. Lady Nether End is almost certainly a deserted medieval hamlet, although no dating evidence is available for either its foundation or abandonment. A further dispersed settlement element of probable medieval date is the moated site at Lordsfields Farm, north of the village, while other closes to the north-east might mark the site of an as yet unidentified fourth settlement within the parish. Thus, viewed as a whole, it would appear that settlement in Whittlebury is dispersed in nature and not broadly nucleated as it now appears (and indeed how it appears on nineteenth-century maps).

Secondly, there is compelling field evidence to suggest the existence of a major oval enclosure around the church to the north-west of the village. One half of this enclosure is followed by the road to Silverstone, turning abruptly north as it approaches the church and following a curving line towards Six Oaks Farm. This shape is mirrored by an earthwork visible in the pasture field to the south of the church which may represent the southern extent of the enclosure. This site occupies the highest point of the parish with extensive views to the south and west. It is possible that it is this enclosure which gives Whittlebury its name. Whether this feature is an early medieval *burh* or an earlier enclosure must await further archaeological survey. Nevertheless, its existence explains the remote location of the church away from the focus of medieval settlement, placing this immediately outside its perimeter.

A chronological development can therefore be suggested, to be tested by further work. One, the establishment of the *burh*. Two, the creation of the medieval settlement immediately outside the earlier village focus. And three,

the late planned expansion of the village south along the main street after 1200. The relationship between the growth of Whittlebury and the failure of other dispersed settlement elements is currently not understood. Was Lady Nether End abandoned and the population relocated to the southern part of Whittlebury for example? Or are their settlement histories entirely independent?

Documentary Evidence: Whittlebury

Compared with Akeley, the documentary sources for Whittlebury are poor. Throughout the middle ages, Whittlebury, like neighbouring Silverstone, was a chapelry dependent upon the royal manor of Greens Norton, about four miles to the north. The parish lies in a detached part of Greens Norton (or Foxley) Hundred, separated from the remainder by the hundred of Towcester, which was probably carved out of an enlarged Greens Norton in the early tenth century following Edward the Elder's defeat of the Danes (Franklin 1982, 302, 314-15, 329). The 'burh' element of Whittlebury, compounded with the personal name *Witela*, suggests the presence of a hillfort held by a Saxon nobleman (Foard 1985, 207; Gelling and Cole 2000, 260). The area was strategically situated on the border between the kingdom of the West Saxons and the Danelaw. In 921, Edward the Elder, son of Alfred the Great, stationed his West Saxon army at nearby Passenham, on the River Great Ouse, while the stronghold at Towcester was being fortified (Swanton 1996, 102). According to one of his law-codes,

Edward's son, Athelstan, held a council at Whittlebury in about 930 (Whitelock 1979, 427).

The origins of Whittlebury may thus lie in a hillfort, situated perhaps on the high ground in the enclosure now occupied by the parish church. Although there is no direct evidence to suggest that the place ever suffered from the depredations of marauding Danes, the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* makes clear that this was an area at risk of attack in the early tenth century (Swanton 1996, 101). The site must, therefore, have been reasonably well defended, enough at least to serve as the venue for a royal council in 930. A defensive hillfort may also have acted as a focus for settlement, much as Norman castles were to do in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Tenements may thus have been established in the shadow of the enclosure. Whittlebury is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. It is possible that this was because the manor was subsumed within the account of one of the estates in Silverstone. In the twelfth century it was reported that Richard held six small virgates in Whittlebury of the fee of Silverstone (*VCH Northants,* i, 373). Alternatively, the dependency upon Greens Norton may explain the manor's absence from Domesday Book. In 1316 John son of William Marshal was lord of Greens Norton and its vills of Duncote, Burcote, Caswell, and Whittlebury (*Feudal Aids*, iv, 21). The earliest mention of Whittlebury's chapel is in 1322 (Baker 1822-41, ii, 72).
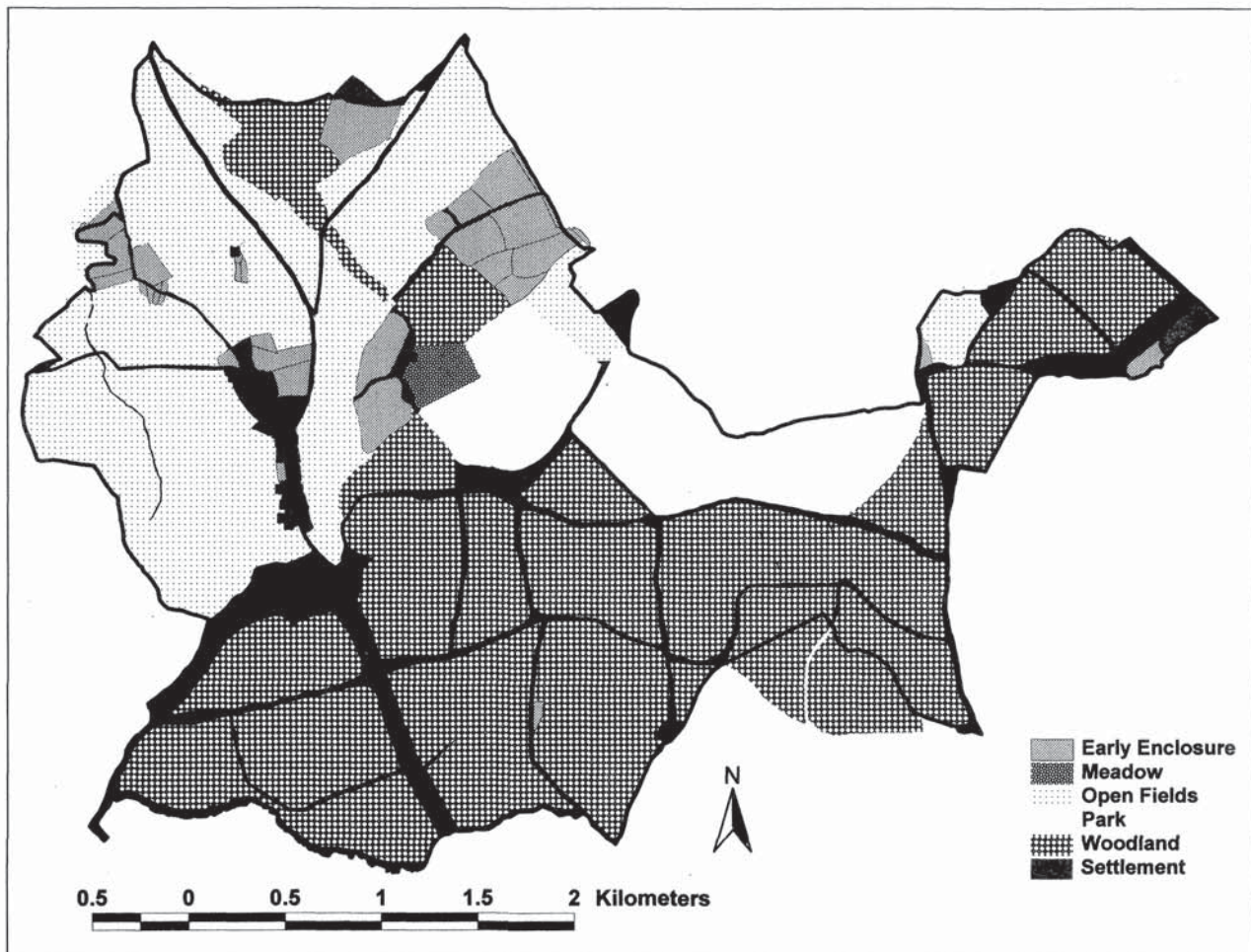

Figure 12: (Map 5) Landscape and Settlement in Whittlebury, c. 1608.

The entire parish of Whittlebury is depicted on the Whittlewood Forest map of c. 1608 (NRO Map 4210; Figure 12). This illustrates clearly the four constituent elements of the parish at that time: the village and fields of Whittlebury; the farms and enclosures to the north and east of the village; the park of Paulerspury; and the woods of Whittlewood Forest. The map depicts more than 20 houses on either side of the road leading south from the church towards the forest. Some of these houses lay in close proximity to one another in the thirteenth century. Thus, in c. 1225-31 the half-messuage which Roger son of Nicholas of Whittlebury granted to Philip, then chaplain of Silverstone, lay between the houses of young Aubrey and Hugh Shepherd. At much the same time, a messuage granted to Luffield Priory was said to lie between the houses of Henry Doket and Robert son of Reginald (Elvey 1968-75, i, 262, 272).

Two substantial farms in Whittlebury remained separate from the village and its fields. Lordsfields Farm lay in the north-west tip of the parish and was centred on a medieval moated site which still exists today (SP 687 450). The map of c. 1608 depicts Lords Leze Field in the far north-west of the parish measuring 117 acres. This accords well with a map of c. 1767 which shows this part of Lordsfields Farm divided into three fields, of about 122 acres, with a 'brick pannell house, two boarded barns, a stable, and Calves Close' (NRO Map 442; G3885). The map of c. 1608 depicts Monks Field lying to the north-east of the village abutting the border with Paulerspury. It is said to consist of just over 148 acres. This is very close to the 150 acres which a witness to a tithe dispute in 1706 estimated Monks Field to contain (PRO E1343Anne/Trin2). Monks Field was in the possession of Luffield Priory before the dissolution. In 1551 it came into the possession of Nicholas Throckmorton, along with other lands in the area which had belonged to the priory (*Cal. Pat.R. 1550-3*, 104).

A large part of Whittlebury parish, particularly in the east and south, was occupied by the woods of Whittlewood Forest. Not surprisingly, assarting began early on the manor. For instance, a document of the early thirteenth century lists seven separate assarts in Whittlebury amounting to $19^1/_4$ acres. The largest of these belonged to Thomas de Waleshale, who held 12 acres, six of wheat and six of oats, of the fee of the earl of Albemarle, lord of Greens Norton in the early thirteenth century (PRO E32/249, m.6). There can be little doubt that assarting on a considerable scale continued in Whittlebury throughout the middle ages. The map of c. 1608 suggests that much of this occurred in the north and west of the parish, as indicated by the place-name 'Stockings', and by the enclosures near Monks Wood and Porters Wood. Specific references to assarting in Whittlebury, however, are rare because it appears that the parish formed part of a much larger area known as Norton Wood, which extended into the parish of Paulerspury, and out of which Luffield Priory created the manor of Monksbarn (Elvey 1968-75, i, xvii-xviii). Thus, although the numerous references to assarts held of the Marshal fee in Norton Wood, recorded in documents such as the forest regard roll of 1252-3, must include some which lay in Whittlebury, their precise location is difficult to determine (PRO E32/66, m.3). According to

a charter of *c.* 1231, one assart belonging to John Marshal lay next to arable land in one of Whittlebury's fields (Elvey 1968-75, i, 272).

It is likely that, as a detached part of the royal manor of Greens Norton, Whittlebury and Silverstone originally formed a single estate which was only later divided into two separate parishes. Evidence suggests that the links between the two communities and Greens Norton persisted into the sixteenth century. For example, an account roll of 1536 records that both paid an annual due called *aberyes rent* to the lord there (PRO SC6/HenVIII/6033). The links between Whittlebury and Silverstone were also strong. Indeed, the fact that both late medieval manors of Silverstone also encompassed parts of Whittlebury suggests that the parish boundary between them may only have been established at a relatively late date, perhaps in the twelfth century. Certainly the views of frankpledge held by the abbess of Burnham and the prior of Luffield extended across the parish boundary, and many tenants in Whittlebury were obliged to attend the Silverstone courts. Thus, in 1430 Thomas atte Churche was fined for the reversion of a messuage and virgate called Churches in Whittlebury which his father John held (NRO XYZ1390, m. 8d). Later the reeve reported the death of Sarah Plot who held a toft and cotland of the abbess of Burnham in Whittlebury (NRO XYZ1390, m.20). Separate ale-tasters were also appointed at Whittlebury by both Burnham Abbey and Luffield Priory, who reported breaches of the assize to the Silverstone courts. In 1425 William Tillesworth was fined 1*s.* 4*d.* for 12 offences by the abbess (NRO XYZ1390, m.5). Similar fines were imposed on Whittlebury tenants, such as William Bird, by the prior (WAM 27771).

Although the courts held by Burnham Abbey and Luffield Priory were dominated by business concerned with Silverstone, sufficient references to Whittlebury survive for something to be said about the tenants there. First, numerous tofts existed in Whittlebury in the fifteenth century, suggesting a significant contraction of settlement there. Thus, in 1420 Thomas Walsh died holding a toft and two acres (WAM 27775). In 1468 five tofts were listed in a rental of Luffield Priory's lands, one of which was stated to be 'formerly a cottage', and William Hall held two tofts beside his messuage (Elvey 1968-75, ii, 766). Evidently there had been some consolidation of holdings in the wake of the Black Death. Second, while some tenants at Whittlebury in the thirteenth century held standard villein holdings of a messuage and virgate or half-virgate, others held smaller amounts of land such as a messuage and croft or a few acres (Elvey 1968-75, ii, 764; WAM 27783). There was, therefore, a significant number of smallholders in Whittlebury who may be expected to have made a living in much the same way as their counterparts in Akeley. Third, as at Akeley, there were attempts by the absentee lords of Whittlebury to ensure that the tenants fulfilled their obligations to keep the roads clear, mend the weir, enclose the well, and prevent other nuisances. Thus, in 1444, one man who enclosed land which the tenants of both Whittlebury and Silverstone were entitled to graze in common, was fined 6*d.* by the abbess of Burnham's court (NRO XYZ 1390, mm.8d, 19, 24). To conclude,

our picture of the settlement at Whittlebury derived from the documentary evidence is not as vivid as that of Akeley, but that there are parallels between the two communities, in terms of settlement development, tenurial structure, assarting, and lordship, is clear.

The results of further work at Akeley and Whittlebury and in the other parishes of the study area may be found on the Whittlewood Project website at www.le.ac.uk/elh/whittlewood/index.htm

Abbreviations

NCO: New College Oxford
NRO: Northamptonshire Record Office
PRO: Public Record Office
WAM: Westminster Abbey Muniments

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Excavations at Botolph Bridge
1999 and 2000:

by Steve Kemp and Paul Spoerry
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Introduction

Since the late 1980s the former medieval village of Botolph Bridge, now within urban Peterborough, has been gradually destroyed by housing development. The present report summarises recent excavations of the site undertaken by the Archaeological Field Unit, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC AFU), funded by English Heritage, plus earlier excavations by the Nene Valley Research Committee (NVRC). The larger part of the NVRC and CCC AFU excavations lie immediately adjacent to one another, offering complimentary data regarding structures and properties of medieval date.

Archaeological investigations within the village began in 1982 with an earthwork survey by the NVRC and reached their conclusion with three phases of archaeological excavation undertaken in 1999 and 2000 by the CCC AFU and funded by English Heritage. Planning permission for housing within the deserted medieval village had been granted pre-PPG16 and Westbury Homes allowed access for the excavation and recording of the few surviving parts of the medieval village remaining within the development zone. Excavations were instigated on the site adjacent to the manorial site and church of Botolph Bridge, Orton Longueville following an application to English Heritage by Ben Robinson, Peterborough City's Archaeologist, and endorsed by Philip Walker the Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The site is part of a well-known medieval vill, referenced in Domesday Book, but historical research suggests was probably already in decline by 1316 (Page 1974). The church, which was located immediately to the north of the excavation area, was finally pulled down in 1695 (*ibid.*).

Botolph was a popular medieval saint and abbot who in 654 AD established a monastery that is thought to have been at Boston in Lincolnshire. The dedication of the church to St Botolph may imply an early foundation to the church and village and was often given to Saxon foundations at gateways and bridges. The settlement certainly appears to have owed its existence in this particular location to the presence of a crossing of the River Nene. Botolph Bridge also forms one of a string of settlements along the south terrace of the River Nene close to Peterborough which are linked by what is now the Oundle Road.

During the 1970s and 1980s the site was noted for well preserved medieval earthworks which included the church and manorial sites immediately west of the development area and house plots adjacent to the former course of the Oundle Road. Much of the early recording

of the village remains was undertaken by the NRVC, although the earthworks had been previously documented by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1926 and 1969).

Archaeological recording of the site began in 1982 with an earthwork survey by members of the NRVC. The 1987 and 1988 excavations were undertaken by NRVC and Peterborough Museum under the direction of Ian Meadows (Meadows unpub.), there being two main areas of investigation. A single house plot on the Oundle Road was excavated during the course of these excavations, that lies at some distance from the focus of the 1999-2000 work. Occupation of this part of the village (along the Oundle Road) seems to have occurred during the 10th to 13th centuries (*ibid.*). During these excavations resources were also targeted closer to the river and adjacent to the manorial complex, in an area which is contained within the development zone excavated by the CCC AFU. No dates are given by Meadows for this site, however CCC AFU evaluations recovered St Neots type and Stamford Wares (1000-1200 AD) from this area. No reports have been published, however, many of the plans and records are still held by Peterborough Museum.

Archaeological evaluations were undertaken in 1999 by the CCC AFU (Kemp 1999). The area available for the subsequent excavations undertaken in 1999 and 2000 lay immediately to the south of the manor and church identified during the original 1982 earthwork survey. By 1999 the earthworks had been virtually levelled within the development zone. The only form which remained distinct were the ponds lying on the northern side of the site and traces of spoil heaps and the outline of machine cut trenches which are presumed to be the remains of earlier archaeological excavations. The strategy for these excavations was outlined in Spoerry 1999 and 2000.

During 2000 the development of the site continued with limited regard for the archaeological remains. The pre-PPG16 status of the work and the absence of an archaeological condition of any real value meant that access to the remains by archaeologists was, at best, tolerated. The boundaries of the final areas of excavation were in part dictated by those parts of the former earthwork zones that were still accessible, although other areas had already been ruled out for further work through the evaluation methodology.

Summary of Excavation Results and Phasing

English Heritage funded archaeological excavations at the site of Botolph Bridge, Orton Longueville were undertaken during the course of 1999 and 2000. The final phase of excavation was completed on the 18th August 2000.
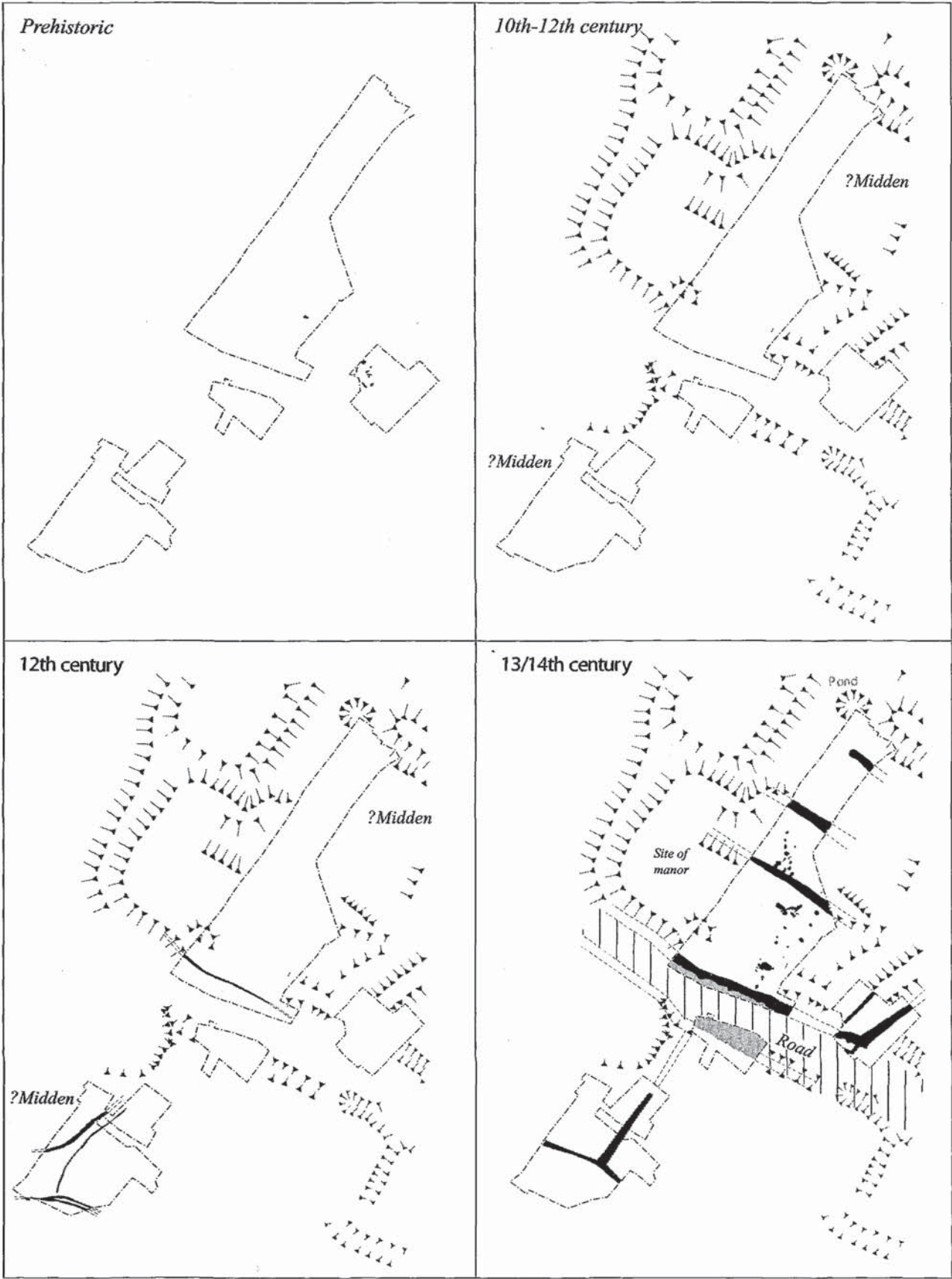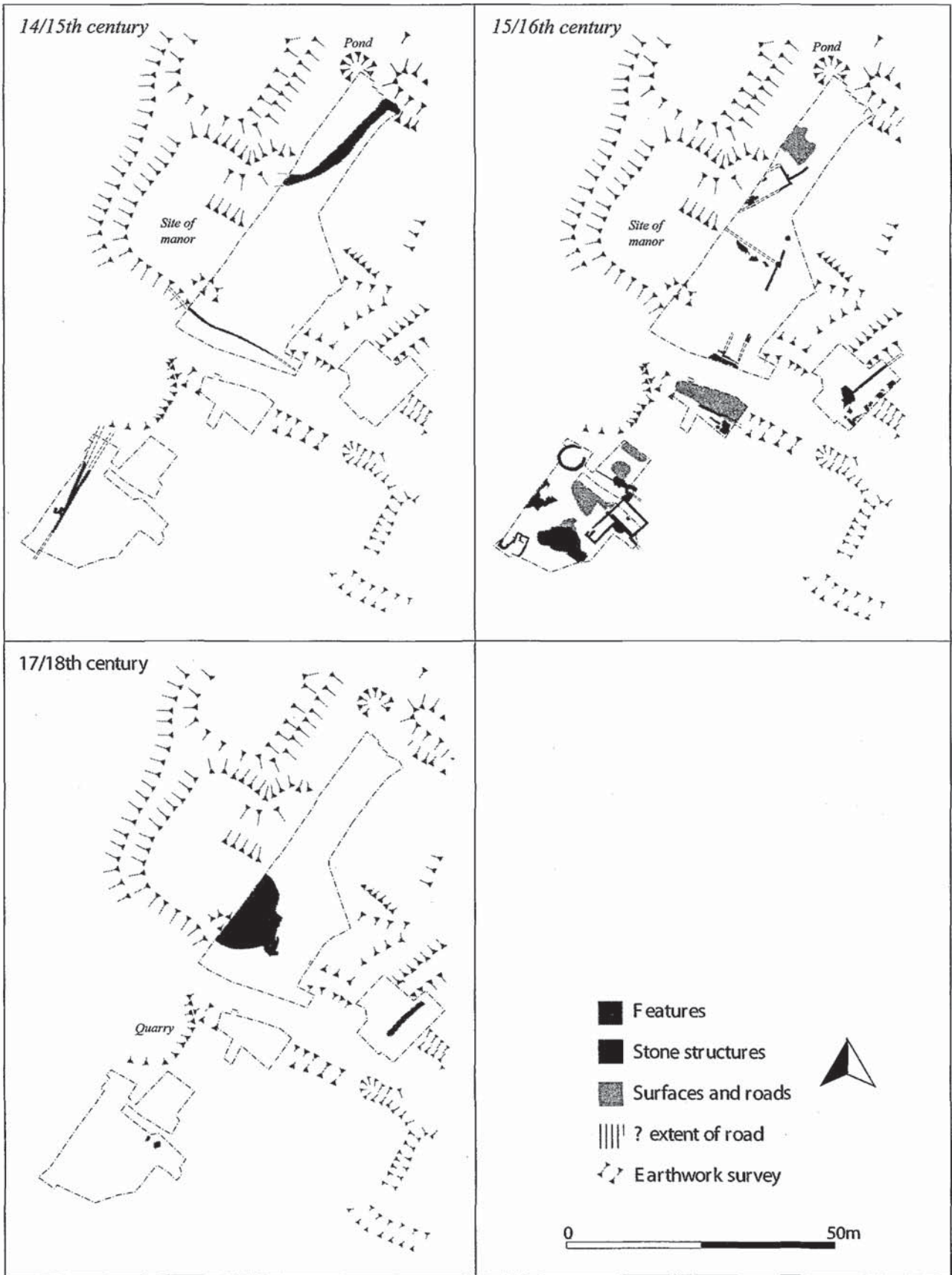
Figure 13: Phasing

27

Figure 14: Phasing

An outline of the provisional results and phasing of these excavations are described below

The Excavations

Excavations were undertaken by field staff of the CCC AFU supplemented by English Heritage sponsored traineeships. For part of the 2000 summer's excavation the above team was assisted by students from Bradford University and Peterborough Regional College.

Excavation areas were restricted by the building programme of Westbury Homes which meant that significant areas were not accessible due to the presence of their compounds and storage areas or because they were already built on. Where possible areas were metal detected prior to topsoil stripping. Excavation areas were machine stripped by a 360' excavator under the supervision of a member of the archaeological team. The topsoil was moved into adjacent areas where it was again scanned by metal detectors.

Pre-excavation plans were prepared, finds collected and hand excavation proceeded using the CCC AFU's single context recording system.

Although the excavation occurred in four phases for simplicity the site has for the time being been divided into a northern and southern area separated by the footpath and former hollow way which cuts East West through the site.

South of the Hollow Way

Area excavation on the southern side of the hollow way found a late medieval farm complex. This consisted of part of a conjoined group of buildings with (mostly robbed) stone foundations, the largest 'cell' of which was around 12 metres by seven metres in size, with possibly a central stone hearth. To this were attached at least two further large stone structures, whilst the main part of the complex had at least one major rebuild. This group is taken to be the 'hall' and associated buildings of a major farm complex and they lie on the southeast side of a rectangular yard around which were also placed a circular, stone built structure, probably a dovecote, and two further structures of partial stone and timber build. One of these included the remains of an oven or forge. The central area contained a pond that had been provided with a stone dam, a cobbled 'hard' allowing safe access for beasts, and a revetted stonework side offering deeper water. In addition a large part of the central yard had been cobbled.

This group of remains appears to be a classic example of a late medieval courtyard farm, its enclosed, inwards-looking and 'private' layout perhaps offering a stark contrast with the street front locations and/or open properties that preceded it in the areas excavated to the north (see below). It remains to be seen whether this simple counterpoint is indeed a true representation of all the data recovered here. For example, it has yet to be ascertained whether such a temporal and physical contrast was a manifestation of a change in agricultural regime, from open field arable and land 'in common', to tenanted mixed arable or stock rearing based on the creation of greater levels of enclosure. Such simple models have some relevance at the national level in terms of social and economic development. The evidence from this one site offers an excellent example with which to test and/or fuel such a debate.

The majority of pottery from this phase was Bourne D, dating between 1450 and 1650, whilst truly post-medieval types (mostly dating to 1550 or 1600 onwards) were comparatively rare, implying an end to occupation in the 16th century.

Excavation next to the existing footpath (hollow way) revealed parts of a limestone and flint pebble surfaced medieval road which was bounded on its southern side by a wall but which could not be closely dated.

Prior to the construction of the late medieval farm complex the southern excavated area appears to have been used for the processing of riverine and agricultural resources. The debris may have been stored on the site or adjacent to the site as middens. These deposits were subsequently used to in fill adjacent pits and boundary ditches prior to the founding of the fifteenth to sixteenth century farm complex. The presence of this group of boundaries and pits, plus the existence of the middens themselves, points to the existence of activity areas associated with settlement, even if the actual structures from the 13th to 14th centuries were to be found elsewhere. Environmental analysis has shown such deposits to be rich in mollusc shells and charred grain.

North of the Hollow Way

The archaeology to the north of the hollow way consisted of stone walls, cobbled surfaces, hearths, ditches pits and post-holes. Again most of the stone building remains had been robbed and were left as discontinuous single courses of limestone marking the foundation lines. Commonly the very shallow remains of foundation cuts survived which cut into the remnants of earlier medieval soils. In two cases more substantial remains survived, suggesting the presence of buildings that may have been houses or workshops. A third structure, of which only two walls survived, lay central to the site.

One of the buildings lay adjacent to the hollow way and cut through a major boundary ditch that extended around the southern and eastern sides of the northern area. Evidence for burning and a number of post-holes and pits, one of which was stonelined, lay within what may have been the north eastern corner of the building. If so, these remains may be indicative of the activities that were undertaken within this building. Alternatively, and more likely as they are cut by the wall foundations, they are earlier than the stone-built building, but presumably point to a continuity of activity space that indicates the presence of an earlier structure at this location.

The second major building lies further north and close to the western boundary of the site. The building would appear to extend beneath the hawthorn hedged boundary and into the conservation zone which lies to the west of the site and where the manor house and church are believed to lie. This building consisted of a stone wall a metre in width which cut through earlier ditch systems from which much dating evidence has been recovered. Breaks in the walling could be suggestive of entranceways or could define the limits of the structure,

however, once again much of the structure had been significantly dismantled. Surfaces inside the building were largely missing, however, a number of features, pits and post-holes may on further inspection be related. To the north of the building lay an extensive limestone rubble and cobble surface bounded by a fence line on its eastern side. This may be an associated yard and link the building to the pond which lay at the northern end of the excavation area.

The second building cut through a series of ditches which would appear to have been rapidly infilled with midden deposits rich in molluscs and charred grain not dissimilar to those deposits seen on the southern side of the hollow way. Much 10th to 12th century pottery was recovered from these deposits.

The third stone foundation structure lay central to Area E. All that remained of this structure were two walls set at right angles to each other, a multi-phase hearth, and several areas of fine cobble surfacing. Below these deposits lay ditches filled with deposits similar in date and make up to those beneath the second building described above.

Post-holes marking the site of the barn in Area E and partially excavated in 1988 were also found and excavated. No surfaces or additional features could be positively associated with this barn at the time of the excavation. The excavations undertaken in 1988 appear to have dealt with the larger portion of this barn and will obviously be important in understanding the date and spatial associations of this structure.

The boundary ditch seen in Area C ran along the course of the hollow way and appears to act as the southern boundary to this enclosure. A similarly aligned ditch ran east-west through the centre of Area E and may mark the northern extent of an enclosure lying next to the medieval road prior to the construction of the medieval stone-built buildings. Otherwise the rest of the site is marked by pitting (gravel extraction), ditches for boundaries and drainage, the latter largely leading into the pond which lay at the north end of the site. Small patches of finely graded flint cobbles indicate the presence of former surfaces around the site which may allow us to extend our knowledge of the former extent of some of these buildings and structures and indicate how adjacent spaces were utilised.

The northern site as a whole is quite dissimilar to that south of the hollow way in that the later Bourne pottery (1450-1650), common to the southern area is almost entirely absent. The northern area is at its most active in terms of the pottery from 1150 to 1350.

Site Phasing and a Provisional Outline of the Evolution of the Medieval Properties

Prehistoric
A small cluster of shallow neolithic to Bronze Age pits in the northern area, containing lithic debitage.

10th to 12th century
Later medieval phase ditches contain large organic-rich dumps of 10th to 12th century pottery, faunal remains etc, above basal fills with *later* artefacts. The NVRC excavator reports a large late Saxon midden immediately

beyond the north eastern edge of our excavated area (Meadows pers. comm.). It is suggested that 10th to 12th century middens located to the northeast and southwest of the 1999-2000 excavation were the source this re-deposited material.

12th century
In the southern area a system of narrow curvilinear ditches is cut and later back-filled with the contents of the 10th to 12th century middens. In the northern area an undated ditch that follows the topography used later by the hollow way and pre-dates all medieval remains in the area has similar characteristics of form.

13th to 14th century
A series of large parallel rectangular enclosures, divided by ditches running off at right angles from the hollow way and evident on both sides of the track, are created indicating settlement planning. The pond to the north may have been active and it is possible that the barn first recognised in 1988 may have been one of a few timber built structures on this site; other groups of postholes and hearths indicate truncated structures. The barn was probably associated with the manorial complex that it is believed lay just to the west.

14th to 15th century
A second phase of ditches are created on a perpendicular alignment to those from the previous phase, which are part-infilled by this stage. The new ditches probably relate to increased use of the northern pond and a stone arched bridge is built to allow access from the settlement to the latter.

15th to 16th century
The next phase sees the infilling and levelling of ditches on both sites of the hollow way. Walls appear to have been constructed within the course of the enclosure ditch in the northern area, but only on the eastern side. This may serve to indicate the linkage of this property to the manorial complex which lay to the west. It is likely that stone-built buildings first appear in this area at this time and these may have consisted of a large farmhouse or barn at the northern end and a series of workshops or barns closer to the hollow way.

During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the focus of occupation appears to have shifted to south of the hollow way. A wall was constructed along the course of the hollow way and the repairs to the track surface may have occurred at this time. Occupation was located around a central pond with the main farm building on its eastern side and a kitchen or smithy to the west. To the northwest lay a horseshoe-shaped building which may be a dovecote or possibly a barn for machine threshing, although machine threshing did not start until the eighteenth century. The buildings were linked by yards of cobble flint and limestone fragments. The buildings themselves were built of local limestone. Roofs were supported by wooden posts, probably set into low limestone walls, and roofed with limestone tiles.

17th to 18th century
Quarrying for sands and gravels and the re-cutting of a boundary wall as a ditch are the only activities identified on site at this time.

Following abandonment of the site the damage to the remains suggests that an attempt was made to plough the land although it is unclear whether this was before or after the gravel pitting. Subsequent to this the land would appear to have been retained as pasture.

The picture we are left with is complex and appears to show a highly dynamic part of the Botolph Bridge village. We are left with an impression of an almost migratory activity pattern with the importance of one area for housing and farm buildings being superseded by another at a later time. To this can be added the surviving post-medieval farm building that now constitutes the St Botolph Arms, a few hundred metres to the south of the site. This is reputedly of 17th century date, although it may include earlier elements, and is the natural successor to the courtyard farm excavated in Area A and which appears to have ceased to function by perhaps 1600. In addition the other half of the bifocal settlement of Botolph Bridge is represented by the NVRC trench on the Oundle Road frontage. The date and function of settlement in this area is material to the development of a model for the evolution of the 'village' as a whole.

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Langford in Breckland

by Alan Davison

Langford (TL 837 965) was a parish in the Norfolk Breckland bordering on the River Wissey, separating it from Bodney on its eastern side, and extending north to Hilborough. Its western boundary lay with Ickburgh and Didlington, while to the south it bounded on the tiny parish of Buckenham Tofts. Today only Hilborough and Ickburgh remain as recognisable villages. Langford parish was amalgamated with Ickburgh in 1923 and was absorbed within the Stanford Military Training Area in 1942 when the last signs of life were extinguished.

Langford's documentary history began with Domesday Book in 1086 when it was shown to be a one-manor holding in the hands of Hugh de Montfort. Its recorded population of 28 suggests a typical Breckland settlement. There were four plough-teams, 25 acres of meadow, woodland for 100 pigs, two mills and a fishery. Its valuation of 105s. was down from the £6 recorded for 1066.

By 1334, when one of the most accurate Subsidy Returns was made, Langford made a low contribution and this underwent a reduction of 21.1% in 1449 when allowance for the economic disasters of previous years was made. Bodney came close to this figure with 17.7% but its contribution in 1334 had been 108s, well above the 38s. of Langford while Buckenham Tofts contributed 28s, in 1334, reduced by 23.8% in 1449. Ickburgh, Buckenham Tofts and Langford were exempt from the Parish Tax of 1428 as they had less than 10 households. This seems to have marked the virtual end of Buckenham Tofts, whereas Ickburgh survives (Hudson 1895, 286-7; Feudal Aids III).

Langford on the other hand, seems to have continued to exist for some time. In 1603 it still had 41 communicants compared with 55 in Ickburgh, but by 1676 the two parishes, by then taken together, could only total 60. Presumably much of this loss was borne by Langford (Whiteman 1986, 209).

Giving substance to these bare details is only partially successful. Late medieval court rolls from c. 1360 to 1407 (Norfolk Record Office PTR 2, 11-14) give some information. One of 1361 listed 23 names of tenants: some may have lived elsewhere, for example the parson of Ickburgh and John de Glosebrigge, who probably came from Glosebridge manor in Great Cressingham. A similar list of 1377 gave 29 names but, again, included four people probably from other parishes. Four men left Langford to settle elsewhere in 1376-8.

Among the minor infringements which brought people before the court were quite numerous trespasses on the Langford commons from almost all the neighbouring parishes including Great Cressingham and Stanford. The warren too was a target of trespassers from Bodney. Many field names appear in the court rolls. Several of these reflect the nature of the land - Stonylond and the later Hungerhill while others refer to vegetational cover of a poorer kind - Bromeswong, Bromhill, Lynghyld, les Whynnes and Salteresffrych. Le Breche suggests land

taken into cultivation at some time while there were a number of references to a fishpool. There were also a number of names referring to canons including Canonsyerd, Chapelyard and Canoneschapell. Langford was a rectory so a canon was unlikely as a priest there. Blomefield (Blomefield 1807, VI, 22) recorded Wormegay Priory as having interests in Langford and the existence of a chapel staffed by Canons from that Augustinian house cannot be excluded.

A manorial account of 1402-3 (Bailey 1989, 239) shows that the major crops were rye (26%), barley (50%) and oats (21%). Very small quantities of wheat and legumes (2%) also figured. Sheep were clearly important; apart from the cases of trespass from neighbouring manors there were presentments for keeping sheep from the lord's fold at night (1391) and occupying a fold without licence (1393). Horses had replaced oxen on many Breckland manors (Bailey 1989, 94n) and it was as fodder for them that oats were grown.

In addition to the fishery there was a fulling mill (Bailey 1989, 177) and in 1378 eleven men were presented for taking reeds from the lord's marsh. In 1376 a man was in court for taking two cartloads of 'flakkes' (perhaps flags) without licence.

In 1411 the lord of the manor, John Methwold, gave instructions for his burial in the nave of the church and left legacies of money and 'hoggestries' (sheep in their second year) to a number of tenants (NRO PTR 1, 122/3) while in 1486 a messuage in Langford was described as having 16 acres with liberty of fold for 200 sheep and one ram ('unius hurtadi') (NRO PTR 1, 122/16).

In 1476 a lease of the warren recorded the dimensions of the conynger at 'the downe and claperhyl and so from thence unto Musdon Lyng and to Shaker's Weye' (NRO PTR 1, 122/12); 'shaker' here refers to the practice of shackage, grazing on stubble after harvest.

Over all, Langford at this period seems a typical small Breckland settlement with an economy differing in no way from its neighbours, perhaps slightly more open to intrusive infringements of its commons by larger nearby manors.

After a gap of about a century an arbitration was drawn up in 1580 between Thomas Methwold, lord of the manor, and four of his tenants listing their common rights for their beasts as well as his own. He had all the furze growing on the Holmes, and an enclosure called Short Heath and was barred from grazing his sheep on the Holmes between Crowchmass (14th September) and Lammas (1st August) nor likewise before St Andrew's Day (30th November) except in time of drought. Each inhabitant was allowed two loads of 'brake'. There was also a reference to a limekiln. The list did not include all the inhabitants by any means; the number of communicants in 1603 (41) suggests a total population of about 66 but there appears to have been a decline in population over the century.
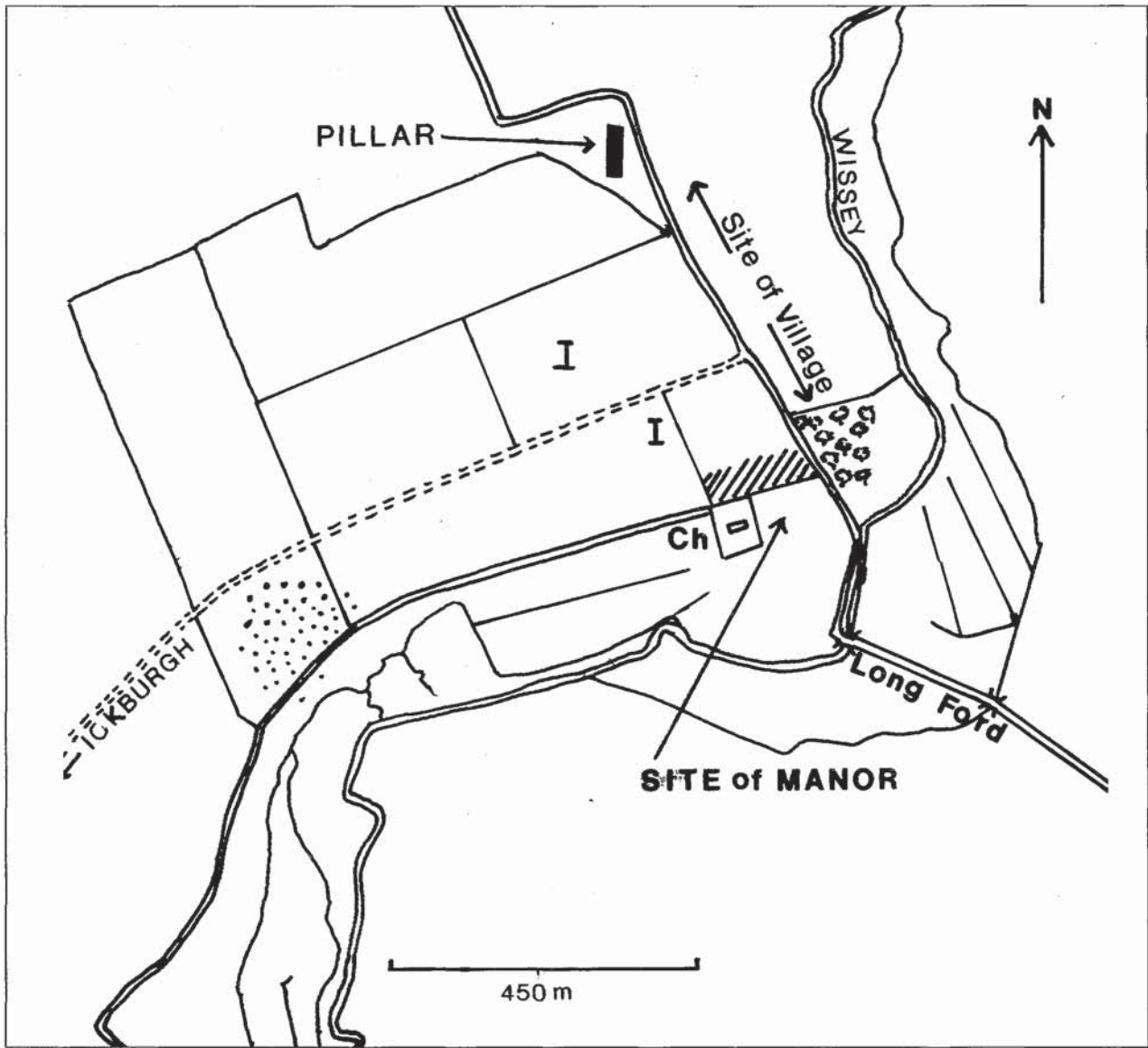
Figure 15: Langford

A lease of the manor in 1596, while recording the manor house, referred to the dilapidation of the chancel and the parsonage house (NRO PTR 1, 122/41). According to Blomefield (Blomefield 1807, VI, 22) the church stood near to the manor house and to the west of it: 'there is now only the manor house standing, a large good building of brick and now turned into a farmhouse, to which was a park adjoining'. This was written about the mid eighteenth century and suggests that something fairly drastic had happened in the years between 1603 and 1750.

A particular of Mr. Methwold's lands in Langford and Stanford (NRO PTR 1, 122/15) undated, but made at some time before 1632, mentioned the site of the manor with house and homestall beside the churchyard and seven tenements, one of them decayed, with a barn. Among other things mentioned were Chapel Meadow,

Dovehouse Close with a dovehouse, a watermill 'newly built' and the fishpool. The only recording of woodland was an alder carr of just over $4^1/_2$ acres but there were very large acreages of heathland.

Correspondence of 1636, soon after the death of the last Methwold lord, gives some idea of events. The church needed attention; it was proposed to add two feet to the tower ('steeple') with battlements which would 'adorne the church' and save double the expense of lead and timber by making the roof lower and more durable (NRO PTR 19 123/11). Another letter begged £20 towards the 'repairinge of the decayed housen or else they will fall downe on our heads, it will cost £40 before the winter to repayre that must be done of necessitie and the worke but half done' (NRO PTR 19 123/12). Another document of this time (NRO PTR 1, 123/13) described the way in which the land was being worked. The arable 'on that

side the lodge is' had usually been divided into five breaks or shifts, and the arable on the Stanford side (east) had been divided into another five. One of these was for 'somerlay and winter corne', a third was for barley, and a fourth part or third part of a fourth shift 'after the said two crops' was sown with peas and vetches 'for horsemeat'. There was also a Barley Close and a New Close near the lodge and 'the other lands neare about it containing about 50 acres or thereabouts lately broken up never in tilth before'. It also observed that work on the church was in hand but the trees in the churchyard being elms would be of no use for palings there.

This suggests that after a period of decay some effort was being made to bring life back into a failing community with new land being taken into cultivation. The lodge was probably in the north-west of the parish near the Didlington boundary; a ruined lodge was shown in this area on some recent large-scale OS maps and as a standing building by Faden in 1797.

A list of lands belonging to the farm occupied by Wenn Brown in 1748 recorded Lodge Heath (over 89 acres) and Hollow Heath (over 85), West Meadow (1072 acres) and Fish Pool Meadow (15$^1/_2$ acres) together with an arable park of 104 acres. There was a carr of just over 4 acres. The sole buildings mentioned were the farmhouse with its buildings and the church. There were descriptions of closes called The Breaks which were large, mainly arable, and distinct from 174 acres of 'field land'. There were small areas of intercommon with Ickburgh and Bodney (NRO PTR 1, 125/16). The intercommon with Bodney can be referred back to a dispute between the Prior of Thetford and Richard Methwold, lord of Langford, in 1500, over rights of intercommoning sheep and cattle, with the Prior reserving his rights to profits of the warren in Bodney and common rights 'with grete bests, fyrrs, lyng and brake' (NRO Phillips 574 578 x 3).

A document of 1747 (NRJ PTR 19 125/11) describes 'the entire parish of Langford with the manner and advowson being only one large capital mansion house with coachhouse and stables with all necessary barns and other outhouses for the farmer in very good repair', with the sheepwalks, as having a rentable value of £190. A later document (NRO PTR 1 125/14) deals with a proposed rent rise: 'it is observed that the whole is general or hot sand, neither can it answer any attempt of enclosing with quick hedges, therefore can only be let in the same manner as now is'. 'The barns and other buildings are in want of some repairs also the stone walls and fences in the whole perhaps to the amount of about £50'.

In 1764 the church tower collapsed (Pevsner & Wilson 1999, 509). The living had been united with Ickburgh in 1676 and the lowering of numbers recorded then fits the picture of progressive decline from c. 1630 onwards. Faden (1797), Bryant (1826) and the OS One-Inch 1st Edition all show the church and a tiny cluster of buildings to the east. In 1845 there were only 57 inhabitants, the manor house being occupied by the landowner's steward (White 1845, 378). The church, which has two Norman windows, now blocked, and a south doorway and chancel arch of that period, was restored in 1888 and is now the

only building left. In 1921 the population was only 37 when there were three farms, one of them Hall Farm, in the parish.

The land to the east of the church where the manor house once stood is grass-covered and uneven. There are a few vestiges of boundary walls, and in thick scrub to the east again the footings of a few small buildings. A concrete pillar to the north marks the position of Langford Farm.

Documents permit the tracing of the fate of the settlement from 1086 onwards. At that time the village was in existence but, for the previous centuries and for the medieval extent of the settlement, archaeology must supply answers.

Langford (Longford in Gelling 1984, 68) as a topographical name might be deemed 'early'. It is certainly apt as the floor of the valley is wide and badly drained. In January 2002 a spell of heavy rain saw the existing road across the valley appear as a causeway across a broad expanse of water.

The limited areas of arable land close to the church have been fieldwalked. The small field to the north of the church has a concentration of pottery at its southern end. The soil is discoloured and there is some building debris; the 6 pottery finds include a substantial quantity of Thetford-type Ware, together with smaller quantities of St. Neots Ware and a sherd of Stamford Ware. As well as this Late Saxon/Early Medieval pottery there was a considerable amount of unglazed and glazed medieval sherds and a few later pieces.

Beyond this there were some finds of the same general kind in the next field to the west, including a piece of Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware. These quickly lessened in number to the west. The next field to the north had a normal field scatter, again lessening westwards, and including another Ipswich Ware sherd. The last field to the north near the site of Langford Farm contained much less pottery, most of it medieval and post-medieval.

To the east of the road and to the west of the Wissey is an area of grassland. Slight indentations too vague to merit survey are just visible. It seems that ploughing at some time has removed more promising features. Molehills over an of pottery area of C. 300-350m from south to north yielded a surprising quantity of pottery in a couple of hours' search. This ranged from Early Medieval to post-medieval.

It appears from this that the main body of the medieval village had a linear shape alongside the forerunner of the present way with a small additional extension south-westwards to include the church and manor house and a small number of tofts to the north of them. The presence of some Ipswich Ware points to earlier activity predating the ninth century; more evidence of this period may be concealed under grassland. The diminution of field scatters westwards accords well with the suggested village form.

The existence of forest plantations and grassland prevents a survey of the whole parish but it seems that the settlement faced onto the marshy valley floor where mills, fishery and peat diggings were present. Better arable land lay to the west of it and may have extended

north towards Hilborough, although the existence of intercommon and a warren may have prevented this. The western parts of the parish are very sandy and arid and were probably heathland or occasional 'breaks'. It should be remembered, however, that the practice of manuring land by folding sheep would mean that little pottery would be distributed by those means, and more arable land may have existed than pottery distributions suggest.

It is interesting to note that further downstream is a small Romano-British concentration with a similar aura of finds backed by stray sherds on more distant lands. It seems that environmental response was similar in the earlier period.

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Medieval Moated Sites in the Pre-1974 counties of Monmouthshire, Breconshire and Radnorshire.

by Clifford Travers
(Research Centre, University of Wales College Newport)

This survey is the basis of a three year postgraduate study which commenced in October 1999, with the aim of producing a gazetteer and evaluation of this class of monument found in the south-east Welsh Marches. Though identified as an area of concentration for such sites (Steane, 1984), detailed study of moats in south-east Wales has not been undertaken, save for the Royal Commission gazetteer for Glamorganshire (Royal Commission, 1982).

Desktop study initially suggested there were 38 certain or probable sites and another 31 possible sites within the bounds of the study area (of these only 32 were scheduled). This was out of a total of 153 moats recorded by Welsh SMRs. Subsequent fieldwork encompassing 73 sites has identified at least seven sites lost to agricultural or urban development. Another 18 sites appear to have been loosely or wrongly identified, and can be excluded from this survey. The physical remains of other sites examined suggest a range of uses, including manorial centres, fishponds, stock enclosures, ornamental gardens, hunting lodges and grange sites.

Disposition of the study sites suggests grouping within particular lordships, such as around Bronllys and Raglan, and east of Newport. This hints at strong local influences to their development. Dating evidence and clarification of use is required to determine if such influences existed over their temporal and spatial distribution. This should reveal if these moats were related to each other in the medieval landscape.

A significant proportion displays a main island shape that is circular, semi-circular or ovoid. This differs from the more usual rectilinear shapes evident in other areas such as Glamorganshire. This could indicate a variation in construction date and method, and modifications in use.

Though some sites at higher altitudes are little more than field boundaries, a few remain whose construction suggests they were moated sites, in locations which under today's weather conditions would prove unsustainable. Clarification as to occupation and use of these sites is required to determine their impact on the landscape.

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Distribution of Survey Sites: Pre - 1974 Counties.

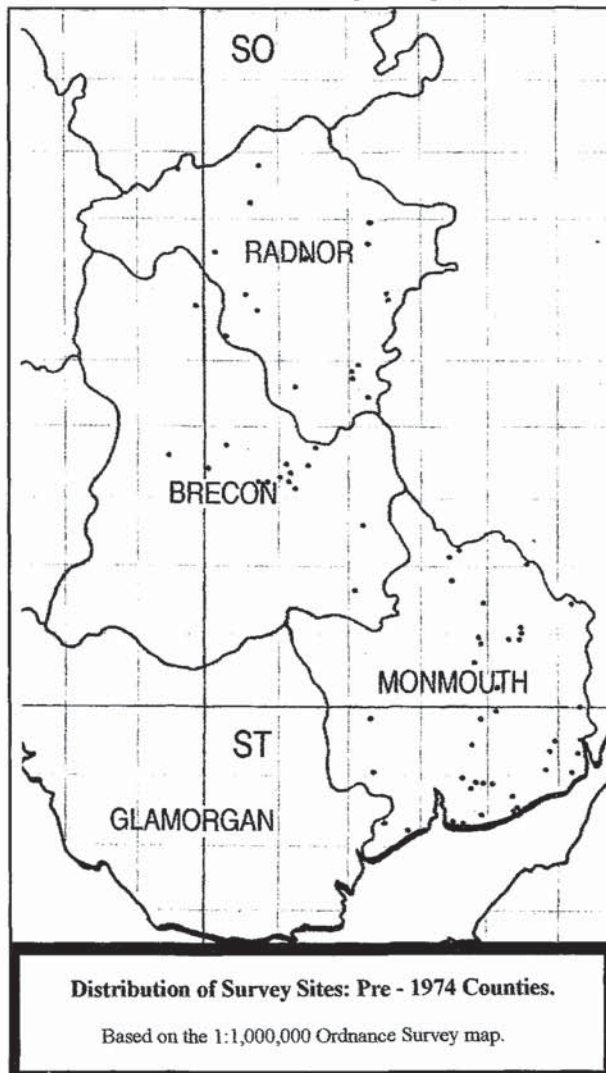Based on the 1:1,000,000 Ordnance Survey map.

Figure 16:

The Bradbourne Landscape Project Results of documentary research funded by a grant of MSRG.

by John Moreland
(Sheffield University)

The Medieval Settlement Research Group made a generous award of £500 to Dr John Moreland of Sheffield University towards the study of documents relating to the *Bradbourne Landscape Research Project*. The funds were used to procure the services of Dr Tim Cooper, a consultant historical researcher for the purpose of transcribing key documentary material.

The project is focused on the formerly extensive parish of Bradbourne, Derbyshire [NGR SK208526] with the aim of analysing changing landscape and settlement patterns from the late-Roman to the early-modem period. In particular, the project focuses on the relationship between secular and ecclesiastical landholders, changes in settlement and agricultural practice across the late medieval to early modem periods, and an attempted reconstruction of the medieval village community. With the sum awarded by the MSRG, Dr Cooper was able to examine the following sources:

Derbyshire Records Office MS. D939 Z/M1 Bradbourne Court Rolls, 1479, 1482-6, 1533. Though sporadic in their survival, these have revealed a wealth of information regarding local agricultural practice, society and topography.

British Museum Harleian MS. 1885, Cartulary of Dunstable Priory, fo.130d. This comprises a terrier of the property of the rectory of Bradbourne for the year 1416/17 and as such is an invaluable insight into the basis of the local agricultural and lead-mining economy. In addition to this, and a wealth of local topographical information, this has allowed a comparison of the priory's holdings with lands leased in 153 1 (see PRO E118/1/82 below) and those claimed free from tithe in 1840. Together, these will add enormously to our understanding of changes in the settlement over time.

In addition to **E118/1/82**, George Buxton's lease of the lands of Dunstable Priory in Bradbourne of 153 1, Dr Cooper also transcribed several other documents from the PRO. **E 210/8959** is a grant to Dunstable by Sir Roger de Bradeburn in 1319 of a ditch from the gate of their court-yard to their sheep rim, dated 12 Edw. 11. The document is of particular importance in that it apparently allows the canons to enclose an area near the centre of the village.

C 1/11/255 and **STAC 2/13** concern disputes over grazing and common rights between Dunstable Priory and members of the Bradbourne family in the 15th and 16th Centuries. The earlier dispute, between Henry de Bradbourne and the priory, highlights tensions between the secular lords and the canons with regard to the latter's exclusive rights in their landed property. The latter, a Star Chamber case, allows us to put a date to a major act of enclosure (over 500 acres of the township) by the lord of the manor.

Note that this work is in accordance with the initial funding proposal except in respect of the substitution of material from the Public Record Office for that from Raynham Hall, Norfolk. Whilst the Norfolk material remains of great importance, it was felt that prioritisation of the PRO material made better use of the resources available.

Recent fieldwork at Shipley Moat in County Durham

by Christopher J. Huff

Shipley Moat (DR 411200533960) is a rather neglected moated enclosure situated in the parish of South Bedburn near Hamsterley in County Durham. The moat is located on the 190m contour, overlooked by higher ground to the southwest and apparently possesses no incorporated natural water supply.

There is a limited history of either antiquarian or modern investigations at the site, those that mention it include, Egglestone (1914), Boyle (1892), Neville Hadcock (1939) and The Victoria County History for the County Palatinate of Durham (1905). The description in the County Durham SMR (PRN 1748), while noting that this moated site is not well located for defensive purposes, records that the original construction consisted of earth and stone banks to the northwest and southwest angles, and ditches to the northeast and southeast. These earthworks, apart from the southwest corner, have become much reduced. The moat had been last surveyed at the turn of the 20th century.

Aerial photographs demonstrated that the platform of the moat there has two distinct areas, the highest being to the north. The most obvious feature on the southerly platform is a square outline, which it was thought may have been the site of the structure within the moat. A faint, circular feature is located to the centre of the north platform. Across the whole site there are the clear marks made by steam ploughing, running southwest-northeast. This mode of agriculture has probably accounted for the present gentle sloping of the banks and degrading of the platform.

A surface scan for pottery and other material culture produced only one piece of Victorian pottery.

Topographic surveying produced a new hachure plan of the site and a 3D topographic model.

Using a Geoscan FM 36 Fluxgate gradiometer, a survey of the site was conducted with traverses spaced at one metre and readings taken at half metre intervals. Of the building which perhaps once graced the moated site there was little of substance to be observed, and may only be identified as one of two areas of disturbance, the first located immediately to the west of a strong magnetic anomaly, and the second where the aerial photograph revealed the square shape. Both of these are too insubstantial to positively identify as representing the site of a manorial structure. Two smaller round features were observed, the first identified as a faint circular bank apparently surrounding an internal circular platform of 10 m in diameter, and the second located to the east of the platform, which bears a remarkable similarity in size to the circular feature above and may therefore be of similar age. Potentially these are hut circles, something not altogether unexpected considering the entry in the S.M.R. report of pottery of Iron Age date being "reportedly found" in the area.

The occupation period of this structure, not itself mentioned in The Boldon Book of 1183, may be tentatively dated somewhere around the date of 1265 by a reference to one "Sir John De Hamylton a Shipley;" noted to be amongst the list of knights who fought on the side of the King at the battle of Lewes in 1265 (Hunter Blair (1946, 210). Of this knight little else is recorded apart from his signature on some charters dated to the middle of the thirteen century. The construction of the moat, if Hamylton was in residence there, is likely to have occurred sometime after 1180 but had been clearly abandoned before the construction of the medieval farms at East Shipley and West Shipley, mentioned in Bishop Hatfield's survey, dated to about 1382. This date tallies with Watts' assertion (1979, 129) that there was a deliberate policy of expansion into the wastes and woodlands in the twelfth century witnessed by the Du Leah (Ley) names.

There has to date been limited excavation of moated platforms from County Durham which could serve as a predictor of structures to be found beneath the topsoil. At East Red Hall the moated platform was demonstrated to have possessed timber-framed buildings, constructed in the late thirteenth century which survived to the fifteenth century. One of these was identified as an aisled hall, built upon stone pads for posts and rubble wall footings. Internal features demonstrated the existence of a clay floor and a central circular stone hearth. Considering the paucity of water in the area, the moat was probably, like that at Shipley, dry.
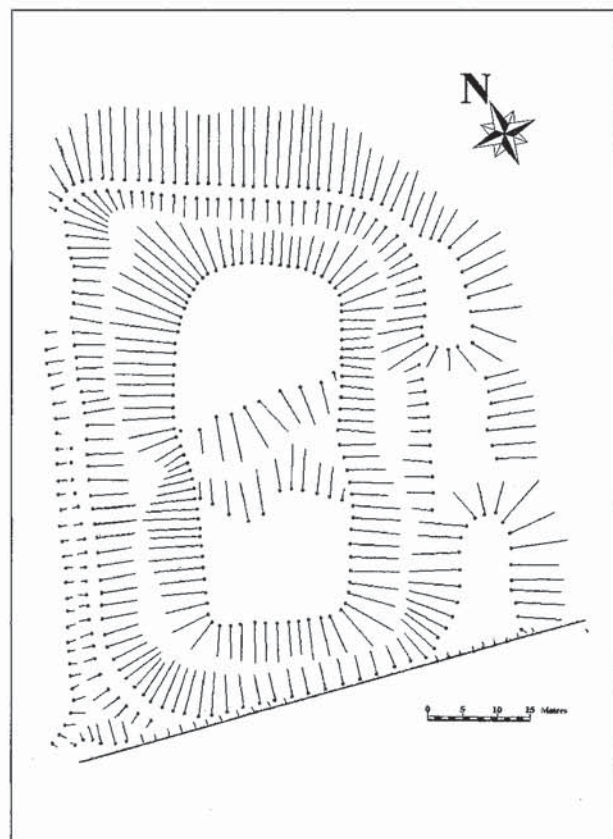

Figure 17: Shipley Moat. Hachured Survey Plan

At Shipley the remaining structure may be summarised as being roughly rectangular with a raised bifurcated platform surrounded by a wide ditch and bank. Access to the structure was probably via an identified entrance on the south side. The probability of finding any surviving building remains on the platform, based on the geophysical survey results, is believed to be remote. Whilst a rectangular area of disturbance is to be located to the south end of the platform, corresponding with the square outline identified on the aerial photographs, little of the sub-surface remains can be positively identified. Considering the general location and lack of water, it is extremely unlikely that Shipley Moat was constructed to fulfil a defensive function or act as drainage for a boggy site. King (198 3.132) specifically discusses County Durham's scarcity of moated sites, and notes that the fortifications in this area are concentrated on the verge of the Pennine moors; the more western areas of Teesdale and Weardale had only a minimal fortified presence. Therefore we must assume that the moat was constructed to conform to the dictates of fashion and social status.

With the non-intrusive surveys failing to clearly identify the surviving remains of any building associated with the moat, it is concluded that excavation may be the only method to further understanding this site.

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Fieldwork and Excavation in 2001

ENGLAND

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Fulbourn, Hall Orchard Moat

During July and August 2001 the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council in partnership with the Fulbourn Village History Society, the Council for British Archaeology Mid Anglia Region, South Cambridgeshire District Council, English Nature and the Wildlife Trust, undertook an archaeological excavation of Hall Orchard Moat in Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire. The excavation was run as a summer school attended by nearly fifty students over a period of four weeks. Local volunteers helped with clearing vegetation and processing finds.

The earthwork is situated on the north edge of Fulbourn Nature Reserve and is surrounded by an intermittently water-filled moat. The earthwork is generally well preserved although it is covered in trees, shrubs, piles of cut logs, and rank vegetation. A footpath crosses the site with wooden bridges built in the moat just above normal water level. Two ditches join the moat, one at the south-west corner and one at the north-east corner, they were probably inlet and outlet channels supplying the moat with continuous running water. The interior of the moat enclosure is approximately 50 m east-west by 40 m north-south and the moat is approximately 15m wide.

A house was situated on the platform until the early eighteenth century, but nothing is now visible above ground other than fragments of roof tile.

A new interpretation board was recently erected at the site but archaeological investigation is needed in order to gather evidence about the origins, status and use of the site.

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Peter Cott prior to excavation. The survey was successful despite the presence of several large trees and indicated the presence of a building on the east side of the platform. Other anomalies were less clear. Four 5 m x 5 m areas and three test pits were chosen for excavation to test the anomalies.

The results from the excavations showed that the moat had been occupied from at least the early thirteenth century until the late seventeenth century.

The earthwork is likely to have been constructed in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century. Survey had shown that the platform was considerably higher than the surrounding land and excavation confirmed that chalk dug out from the ditch had been used to create a raised platform. A thin layer of dark grey silt was sealed beneath the ditch upcast and probably represents the ground surface just prior to the construction of the moat.

The ditch originally had very steep sides which had collapsed to form a much gentler profile. The base of the ditch was sampled but only about half a metre of deposits infill the ditch and these were largely composed of humus derived from the surrounding vegetation. A stone-lined drain led into the west arm of the ditch through a spout made from a thirteenth century Ely Ware Jug.

Post holes and beam slots associated with late twelfth or early thirteenth century pottery demonstrated that the earliest structures were timber framed.

The latest building phases comprised a stone (clunch) and possibly timber house approximately 10 metres east-west by 20 metres north-south on the east side of the platform. Outbuildings were located to the north and west. Stone, clay peg tiles and glazed and decorated finials and ridge tiles were all found on the site. Late medieval painted and plain window glass and lead cames along with delicate internal stone mouldings suggest that the house had been of fairly high status.

Evidence for a possible bridge and path were found on the south side of the platform and may be the entrance to the house.

Hall Orchard moat will be subject to a second season of survey and excavation in Summer 2002, when the site will become the venue for another summer school. Conservation, analysis and reporting will be carried out with the help of the Fulbourn Village History Society and Local Heritage Initiative.

Aileen Connor

DERBYSHIRE

Tibshelf, Stonebroom Opencast Mine (SK420 595)

T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief on behalf of Wardell Armstrong and HJ Banks, during the stripping of overburden at an opencast coalmine on the outskirts of Stonebroom. Prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains have previously been identified in the general proximity. However, although a quantity of 18th century and later artefacts were recovered, only natural remains were identified.

Tobin Rayner

HUMBERSIDE

Grimsby, Frederick Ward Way (TA 271 095)

An evaluation, supervised M. Dymond of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of John Mowlem & Co plc, was undertaken immediately east of the Riverhead in Grimsby. Medieval and later occupation and industrial remains had previously been identified in close proximity to the site. A single fragment of medieval pottery was recovered and dumped deposits of apparently eighteenth century and later date were revealed. Structural remains of nineteenth century date were also identified.

Tobin Rayner

Stallingborough, Station Road (TA 1980 1135)

Although at the edge of the shrunken settlement of Stallingborough in an area of previous finds of medieval artefacts, a watching brief, by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services, revealed only modern remains.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

LEICESTERSHIRE

Bottesford, Pinfold Lane (SK 0816 3919)

Development near the historic core of Bottesford was monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services who recorded a ditch and pit of thirteenth century date. Several other pits and gullies were identified and, although undated, are probably also medieval. A moderately large quantity of thirteenth century pottery was recovered and this, together with the features, suggests medieval occupation on the site or in immediate proximity. Prehistoric and Roman artefacts were also recovered.

James Albone

Castle Donington, King's Mills (SK 4175 2748)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services examined a proposed development site on the outskirts of Castle Donington on behalf of KKA Ltd for Macdonald Hotels plc. Preliminary desk-based research indicated that the development area was the probable location of a Late Saxon watermill documented in Domesday, and definitely the site of medieval and later mills. Other industrial activities had been located in the area during the post-medieval period. However, a subsequent programme of trial trenching revealed only eighteenth-nineteenth century deposits.

Steve Malone

Hose, Bolton Lane (SK 7367 2914)

S. Malone of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation at the edge of the historic core of the village for Wynbrook Ltd. Map evidence indicated buildings on the site in 1790 but by 1884 most of these had been removed. However, no remains of the structures shown on the eighteenth century map were revealed, though a sequence of drainage ditches and gullies of this period were recorded. No earlier remains were identified but a few redeposited fragments of medieval pottery were recovered.

Steve Malone

Saltby, Stonesby Road (SK 8499 2619)

A watching brief, by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services, during development in the medieval village core, revealed an undated pit and recovered medieval pottery.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Shawell, adj. Middle Field, Gibbet Lane (SP 545 804)

Observation of building work by Catherine Coutts of the Warwickshire Museum in February and March 2001 on behalf of Crosby Homes (East Midlands) Ltd revealed no features associated with a probable Roman Road adjacent to the site. An earthwork ditch to the rear of the property is the remains of a boundary on 19th century maps which may represent the northern edge of the medieval village, with properties fronting the Green to the south, and the ridge and furrow of the open fields to the north. Foundation trenches on plots within the medieval settlement revealed only an undated pit and eighteenth/nineteenth century pottery.

Wymondham, Main Street (SK 8526 1870)

The implications of proposed development in the centre of Wymondham was examined by G. Taylor of Archaeological Project Services. Initial desk-based research established that Wymondham Manor House had been located on the site and was recorded on a map of 1652 that depicted the hall and several smaller buildings and structures, including a gateway, in the area. By 1816 the house had been much reduced in size and a factory was built on the site in the twentieth century. Stone buildings, including a range of barns and another structure encapsulated in the present factory, are located on the site and appear to be some of those mapped in 1652. A subsequent assessment of these stone buildings indicated that the barns survived largely as shells, with much later alterations and recent roofs, though one of the barns had an old, but probably not original granary, in the roof space. The stone building incorporated in the main factory structure was of two-storeys and retained some original window splays and timbering, though this too was much altered.

Gary Taylor

LINCOLNSHIRE

Allington, Poplar Cottage, Side Street (SK 859 403)

A watching brief was undertaken by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services during development near the medieval village core. A large pit and a spread of building debris and refuse of late eighteenth-early nineteenth century date was revealed, but no earlier remains were encountered.

Gary Taylor

Ancaster, Ermine Street (SK 9835 4390)

Trial trenching, supervised by S. Malone of Archaeological Project Services, was carried out near the medieval core of Ancaster. Medieval occupation deposits were identified close to the street frontage and beneath the substantial remains of a stone building of perhaps 17th-18th century date. To the rear of the site Roman layers were sealed by a thick peat deposit which was undated, though had presumably developed through Saxon and medieval times.

Steve Malone

Ancaster, Wilsford Lane (SK 9841 4383)

A post-medieval building foundation was recorded on a watching brief by J. Snee of Archaeological Project Services, during development in the historic village core. However, no earlier remains were revealed.

James Snee

Asgarby, Foxhall Castle (TF 1147 4504)

A watching brief by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services, in an area of medieval earthworks and adjacent to the nineteenth century crenellated building, revealed only nineteenth-twentieth century remains.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Bardney, Abbey Farm, Abbey Road (TF 114 704)

Construction of a garage immediately south of Bardney Abbey was monitored by C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services. A possible fishpond was identified, filled in with dumped materials of late medieval or early post-medieval date. Roof tiles of late medieval-early post-medieval date perhaps imply the proximity of buildings of this period.

Steve Thomson

Barrowby, Casthorpe Road (SK 878 363)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services monitored developments on three separate plots close to an area of medieval earthworks. A fragment of medieval pottery was recovered and undated pits were revealed. Prehistoric and post-medieval artefacts were also retrieved.

James Snee

Baston, Brook Farm (TF 116142)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services monitored development alongside the Car Dyke Roman waterway and near to Saxon and medieval remains. Probable gravel and sand pits of post-medieval date were revealed. A single piece of glazed medieval ridge tile was recovered, together with artefacts of sixteenth century and later date.

Steve Thomson

Beesby, The Old Rectory, Pinfold Lane (TF 4636 8020)

A proposed development site in the hamlet of Beesby was the subject of a desk-based assessment by P. Cope-Faulkner of Archaeological Project Services for Beesby Estates Ltd. The site is immediately adjacent to the medieval parish church and earthworks of the shrunken medieval settlement are located in close proximity. Further earthworks, possibly former garden features, were also identified at the site. The evidence suggested the probability of medieval and later occupation of the area. However, a subsequent watching brief revealed no archaeological deposits earlier than the eighteenth century, though a single, residual fragment of medieval pottery was recovered and post-medieval remains were identified.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Bilsby, Thurlby Road (TF 4709 7648)

A watching brief by B. Martin of Archaeological Project Services, adjacent to a medieval moat recorded a brick wall that was undated but possibly associated with an adjacent building of c. 1700.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Blankney, Blankney Barff, Mill Cottage (TF 116 619)

Development alongside the Car Dyke Roman watercourse was the subject of a watching brief by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services. A spread of limestone, perhaps indicating a former wall or surface, was recorded but was undated. Pottery of eighteenth-nineteenth century date was recovered and suggests dairy

farming at the site during that period. The northern bank of the Car Dyke was also identified.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Boston, Skirbeck Road (TF 332 434)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services monitored development at a site where medieval remains had previously been encountered. A ditch or possibly natural channel was exposed but was undated. No other medieval remains, as identified in the earlier investigations, were encountered and the only artefacts recovered were of eighteenth-twentieth century date.

James Snee

Boston, South End/Skirbeck Road (TF 3305 4363)

On behalf of Boston Borough Council, T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation at the southern edge of the medieval town core. The Bar Ditch, the medieval boundary of the town, crosses the investigation area and Hussey Tower, a fifteenth century scheduled brick-built tower, the last part of a manor house to survive above ground, is immediately adjacent. Additionally, the site of a Franciscan Friary is located at the northern edge of the investigation area. The evaluation indicated that domestic debris began to be dumped at the site during the late twelfth-early thirteenth century, probably to reclaim the marshy area. Timber structures to channel the natural creeks crossing the area and the Bar Ditch were also built at this time. Later re-cuttings of the Bar Ditch were also identified. Medieval structural remains, surfaces, ditches and cess pits were revealed, though flooding episodes were also apparent. A substantial limestone wall in the northwestern part of the site may be part of the Franciscan Friary. In the late fourteenth-fifteenth centuries brick structures were built adjacent to, and were probably associated with, Hussey Tower. However, several of the brick structures appear to pre-date the tower and perhaps indicate high status buildings at the site prior to the construction of the manorial complex represented by the tower. A large quantity of imported pottery, mostly German, was recovered, as were substantial parts of two glass vessels, a goblet with pulled up knob decoration and an enamelled beaker. A forteenth-fifteenth century copper alloy seal matrix bearing the name Heinrich Knevel, probably a German Hanseatic merchant, was also found. Wooden bale pins, preserved due to waterlogging, suggested that wool trading had occurred at the site. However, the site declined dramatically in the post-medieval period, probably the sixteenth century, and was largely abandoned at that time.

Tobin Rayner

Bourne, land adjacent to the Anchor Inn, Eastgate (TF 104 199)

T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation alongside the Car Dyke Roman waterway in the area of medieval and post-medieval pottery production at Bourne. Two medieval beam slots, probably the remains of a timber-framed building, were revealed. These were sealed by a sequence of flood silts and dumped deposits of post-medieval date. These

dumped deposits contained abundant, locally-made pottery, some of it wasters but mostly used material. A limestone surface was laid across the area in the 18th-19th century, perhaps as some form of quay alongside the Car Dyke.

Tobin Rayner

Bourne, Manor Lane (TF 0929 1999)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation adjacent to Bourne Castle on behalf of MBArchitecture. Although long developed, including by the Union Workhouse of 1837, boundaries evident in the street pattern suggested the possibility that the investigation site lay within an outer bailey of the castle. Saxo-Norman pits were revealed and perhaps relate to the castle, or even pre-date it. Other pits were identified and although undated were earlier than the nineteenth century development.

Rachael Hall

Brant Broughton, Church Walk (SK 9157 5402)

Development near the medieval core of Brant Broughton was monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services. An undated boundary ditch was revealed, together with three pits, two undated and one modern. Artefacts of 18th-19th century date were recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Brinkhill, Old Post Office (TF 372 736)

F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development in the medieval core of Brinkhill. An undated pit and a subsoil of medieval date were recorded and medieval and later pottery was recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Bucknall, Nightingale House, Main Street (TF 173 687)

A watching brief was carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services during development in an area of shrunken medieval settlement and field systems at Bucknall. A probable pond of post-medieval date was revealed but no earlier archaeological remains were identified.

Steve Thomson

Caistor, North Street (TA 1183 0152)

A proposed development site at the northern edge of the town was assessed in a desk-based study by P. Cope-Faulkner of Archaeological Project Services for CAD Associates. This research indicated that the site lay outside the Saxon and medieval settlement areas, probably in agricultural land. Emphasizing this, ridge and furrow was identified immediately to the north.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Corby Glen, former Adcocks Sawmill (SK 997 250)

Geophysical survey was undertaken at the northeastern fringe of the village of Corby Glen by Engineering Archaeological Services for Archaeological Project Services. Traces of ridge and furrow were most prominent, though several linear features on a different alignment to the agricultural trends were recorded, together with a possible ring ditch.

Gary Taylor

Cowbit, Backgate (TF 264 178)

An area where Romano-British remains had previously been identified immediately southeast of the medieval village core, was the subject of investigations by staff of Archaeological Project Services. A concentration of medieval and later pottery was identified in the western half of the investigation area during fieldwalking. These artefacts are probably spread from the village. Geophysical survey (by Engineering Archaeological Services) revealed a pattern of broadly parallel northwest-southeast aligned ditches, alongside a probable ancient creek/levee system, although these coincided with a concentration of Romano-British artefacts and are likely to be of that date.

Tom Lane

Crowland, Abbey Walk (TF 2414 1018)

J. Snee of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation in an area of prehistoric, Roman and later remains. A ditch and a rubble surface, both of medieval date, were revealed, and the ditch contained dumped domestic waste. Medieval roof tiles, included glazed ridge examples, were recovered and suggest buildings in the proximity. The ditch was recut at an indeterminate date in the post-medieval period

Gary Taylor

Crowland, St. Guthlac School, Postland Road (TF 2415 1065)

An evaluation, supervised by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services, was undertaken on the northern fringe of the medieval settlement and revealed only prehistoric remains.

Rachael Hall

Deeping St. James, Broadgate Lane (TF 1575 0984)

C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief near the medieval village core but no archaeological remains were revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Digby, Beck Street (TF 0842 5473)

A watching brief by M. Dymond of Archaeological Project Services during development near the medieval village centre revealed two ditches, probably boundaries and aligned parallel to existing land divisions. Both were undated but the earlier was sealed by subsoil and is likely to be medieval.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Digby, Church Street (TF 0801 5483)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development in the medieval core of the village. A pit of sixteenth-seventeenth century date was revealed and a small quantity of post-medieval artefacts was recovered.

Gary Taylor

Donington, Ash Court (TF 2078 3560)

On behalf of Status Design, R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation in the centre of Donington. Medieval pottery has previously been found in the immediate proximity and the birthplace of the renowned explorer, Matthew Flinders (b. 1774), is directly adjacent. An infilled pond of medieval date was revealed, together with two pits, probably also of the medieval period. These medieval remains were confined to the western edge of the site. Post-medieval ditches and pits occurred extensively throughout the area, the ditches probably serving as land boundaries and one of the features contained butchery waste.

Rachael Hall

Donington, High Street (TF 2111 3564)

Only recent remains were revealed during a watching brief by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services in the village centre.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Donington, Park Lane (TF 206 359)

A watching brief, by staff of Archaeological Project Services, during development in the centre of Donington did not reveal any archaeological remains.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Donington, Station Street (TF 2026 3552)

During a watching brief, by staff of Archaeological Project Services, on development at the western edge of Donington, a probable field boundary ditch of eighteenth-nineteenth century date was revealed.

James Albone

Donington, 49 Station Street (TF 2056 3566)

A watching brief was carried out by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of JP Builders during development near the medieval village core. Two medieval pits and a post-medieval ditch were observed. A collection of eighteenth century material suggested the proximity of habitation of that period.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Dunston, Lincoln Road (TF 0627 6289)

A watching brief by D. Buckley of Archaeological Project Services, during development in the medieval core of the village, revealed ditches and a pit but these were undated.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

East Keal, Manor Farm (TF 3824 6426)

A watching brief by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services in the shrunken medieval settlement recorded an undated pit.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Fishtoft, Pilleys Lane (TF 3390 4655)

An undated posthole and pit were revealed during a watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services, immediately adjacent to previous discoveries of medieval remains.

Steve Thomson

Fishtoft, Wainfleet Road (TF 346 447)

Desk-based research by J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services assessed the implications of proposed development at Fishtoft. The study area is immediately adjacent to medieval Rochford Tower and one of a group of former earthworks associated with the tower lay within the proposed development site. It is alleged that Civil War arms and armour were found when the mound, which still survives as a low earthwork, was ploughed. Immediately to the northeast of the proposed development area is the site of the medieval chapel of St. Michael and the hamlet of Fenne, recorded from the late thirteenth century. A scatter of medieval and later pottery across the southern part of the site was observed during a walk-over of the study area.

James Albone

Fishtoft, Willoughby House (TF 348 453)

A watching brief close to the deserted medieval hamlet of Fenne was undertaken on behalf of Molson and Partners by staff of Archaeological Project Services. Medieval pottery was recovered but no archaeological remains were revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Fleet, Crooked Billet, Hall Gate (TF 3891 2362)

Development close to the twelfth century church at Fleet was examined by C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services who recorded a probable natural channel. This watercourse had been infilled during the medieval period and it is possible that the rather sinuous highway of Hall Gate ran alongside this channel.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Fleet, Hall Gate (TF 3881 2348)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services monitored development near to previous discoveries of Saxon and medieval remains in the hamlet of Fleet. The watching brief recorded an undated ditch truncated by a post-medieval gully, both features functioning as boundaries. Artefacts of eighteenth century and later date were recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Folkingham, Washdyke Farm, Billingborough Road (TF 0814 3392)

A watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services in an area of Romano-British remains outside the present village revealed only modern deposits, though medieval and post-medieval artefacts, probably manuring scatter, were recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Gedney Dyke, Main Street (TF 4131 2617)

S. Thomson of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief adjacent to saltern mounds and a

seabank, both of medieval date and recorded a posthole and ditch. Both were undated though the ditch was backfilled in the late nineteenth-early twentieth century and may be medieval in origin.

Steve Thomson

Gosberton, High Street (TF 2419 3157)

An undated pit and walls of a building of probable nineteenth century date were revealed during a watching brief, by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services, near the medieval core of the village.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Grantham, Belton Lane (SK 9231 3740)

Development near to previous discoveries of Saxon and earlier remains was monitored by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services. An undated pit was revealed and post-medieval smithing slag was collected. A prehistoric flint was also found.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Grantham, Manthorpe Road (SK 9162 3560)

On behalf of R. G. Carter Ltd, development near to previous discoveries of Saxon remains was monitored by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services who identified a medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval ploughsoil.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Grasby, Vicarage Lane (TA 0868 0491)

An investigation, comprising a walk-over survey (by staff of Archaeological Project Services) and geophysical examination (by Engineering Archaeological Services) was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development of land in the centre of Grasby village. A level platform fronting the street was identified during the walk-over survey. This rear of this platform was revetted by a partially surviving stone wall but the lower part of the site, beyond the revetment, was very overgrown and no archaeological remains were evident. Geophysical survey was also compromised by the overgrown conditions and other disturbance and, as a result, no distinct remains were identified.

Steve Malone

Great Hale, Hall Road (TF 1490 4275)

An evaluation, supervised by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Chanceoption Homes, was undertaken on the south side of Great Hale village, an area near to previous discoveries of prehistoric and Saxon remains. Previous geophysical survey of the site (by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford) had identified possible ditches and pits across the area. Prehistoric remains, including a single cremation and a scatter of flint waste flakes, were identified and a few fragments of Roman pottery and tile were recovered though no remains of this period were revealed. Medieval and possible Saxon remains were identified in the northern part of the site, close to the present village. These remains included ditches, pits and postholes and

may signify the locations of tofts and crofts of the period. Occupation of the site appears to have declined after the fourteenth century and the land was used for agricultural purposes during the post-medieval period. Modern features were also recorded.

Tobin Rayner

Grimsthorpe, Vaudey Abbey (TF 0365 2150)

P. Cope-Faulkner of Archaeological Project Services supervised an earthwork survey of an area within the grounds of Grimsthorpe Castle on behalf of Grimsthorpe Estate. The area (Figure 18) is thought to be the site of Vaudey Abbey, founded in 1147 and dissolved in 1536. The survey identified the probable location of the conventual church with part of a cloister range to the south. Additionally, a medieval column capital was observed in a scatter of stonework. A slightly separate group of earthworks, lying alongside a watercourse a little north of the abbey, may mark the location of a watermill.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Hanthorpe, Edenham Road (TF 0843 2383)

Development near to Roman and later remains in the centre of Hanthorpe was examined by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services. A large channel, undated but probably associated with medieval and later drainage, was revealed. Pottery from the upper part of this channel indicated that it was finally filled in during the sixteenth-seventeenth centuries. Additionally, the floor layer from a post-medieval cottage that previously occupied the site was also recorded.

James Snee

Harrington, Harrington Hall (TF 3673 7168)

J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services monitored development close to the sixteenth century hall. Three post-medieval pits, two for the burial of dead farm animals and one perhaps for refuse disposal, were revealed. A later post-medieval boundary ditch was also identified. A small quantity of medieval pottery and tile was recovered as redeposited material.

James Albone

Heckington, Banks Lane (TF 1423 4372)

Development on the south side of Heckington village in an area of Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains was monitored by S. Thomson of Archaeological Project Services. Two ditches, one Romano-British the other undated, were revealed. A third, recent, ditch was also recorded.

Steve Thomson

Holbeach, Hallgate Lane (TF 3540 2420)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development adjacent to a medieval cemetery on the periphery of the town. A pit was revealed beneath a flood layer and although undated is likely to be ancient. A foundation trench of probable recent date was recorded. However, no funerary evidence was encountered.
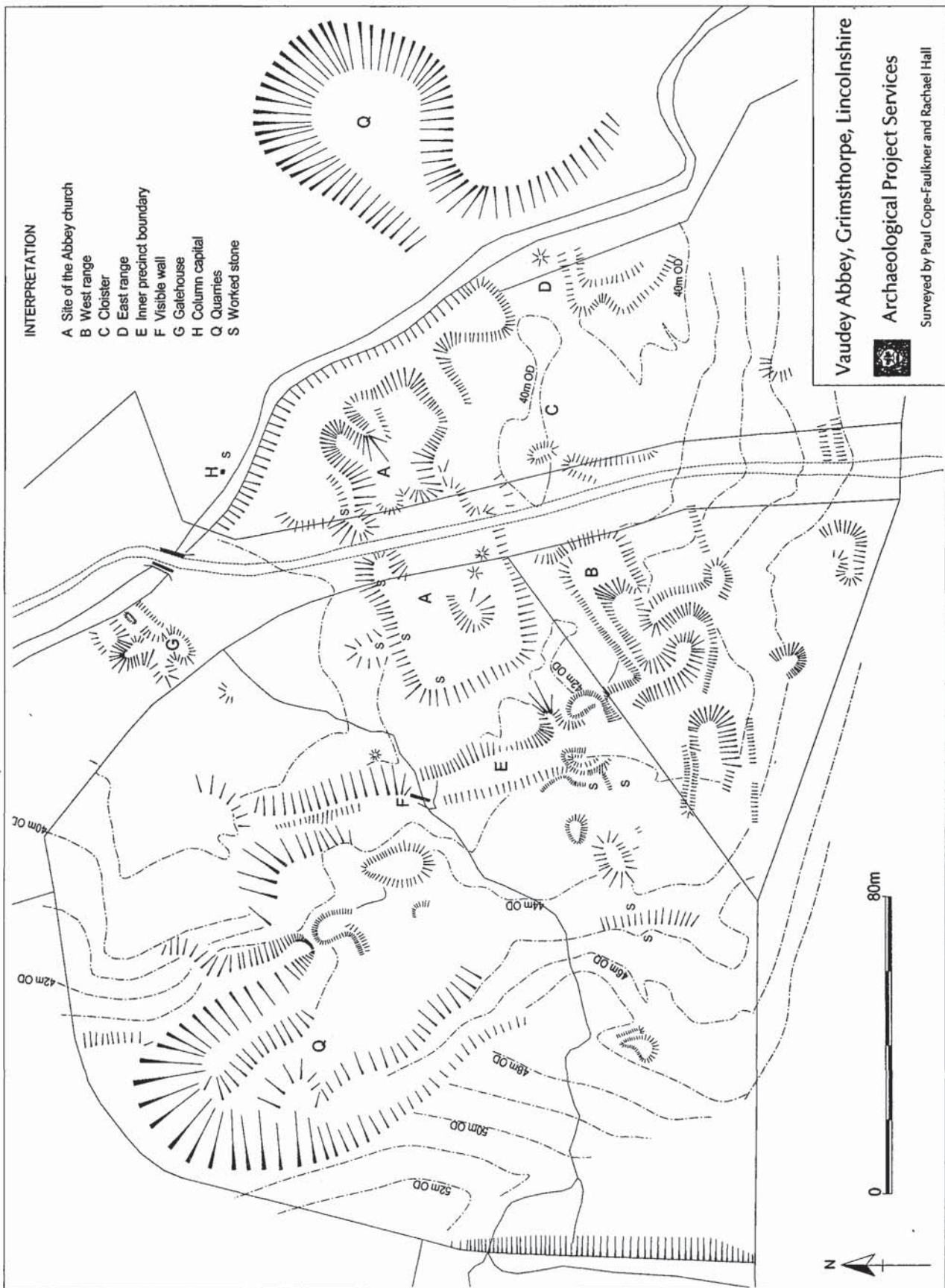
Steve Thomson

Figure 18: Vaudey Abbey

Holbeach, Saracen's Head, Roman Bank (TF 342 271)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services monitored development alongside a medieval sea bank and in an area of saltmaking of the period and although no archaeological remains were encountered medieval and later pottery was recovered.

Steve Thomson

Holbeach, William Stukeley School, West End (TF 3565 2477)

Construction of an extension in the centre of Holbeach was monitored, on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council, by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services. However, only eighteenth-ninteenth century remains, probably wall foundations, were revealed.

James Snee

Holdingham, Stoneybeck Cottage (TF 0609 4710)

A watching brief by J. Snee of Archaeological Project Services during the construction of an extension in an area of Roman and medieval remains did not reveal any archaeological remains and only 18th century artefacts were recovered.

James Snee

Kirton, King Street/Station Road (TF 308 384)

Archaeological Project Services carried out evaluations on three sites in close proximity on the southeast side of the village of Kirton. Ditches, pits and postholes dated to the Late Saxon-early medieval period were revealed at two of the sites. Dumped waste deposits of the same date were also identified alongside a natural creek. A fragment of a rotary quern stone was found and small quantities of hammerscale suggested the presence of an iron smithy nearby. At both sites the artefacts indicated that the occupation was single phase, probably 10th-12th century, and abandoned thereafter. The third site, located just south of these Saxo-Norman remains, did not identify any archaeological deposits which therefore suggests the limit of Late Saxon-early medieval settlement. All three sites yielded only very small quantities of medieval pottery which is likely to be manuring scatter, indicating that the area had an agricultural function in the Middle Ages, and a late medieval boundary/drainage ditch was also revealed.

James Snee and Steve Thomson

Leadenham, High Street (SK 9498 5214)

Although in the medieval village core, no archaeological remains were revealed during a watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Little Hale, Chapel Lane (TF 3475 4173)

A watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services near to Saxon and medieval remains recorded two undated ditches.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Little Humby, Red House Farm (TF 0025 3302)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services observed development near to prehistoric and medieval remains and although only recent features were observed, Romano-British and medieval pottery was recovered, together with a prehistoric flint flake.

James Snee

Little Steeping, Cable Laying, Main Road and Ings Lane (TF 433 635 – TF 443 626)

Groundwork for cable laying was the subject of a watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services. The cable route ran from the detached fourteenth century parish church, south through the centre of the village and beyond to the east. Concentrations of late medieval and early post-medieval pottery were identified towards the southern and eastern parts of the route, outside the present village. These artefact clusters suggest the possibility of occupation of the periods at these locations. An undated ditch was also identified.

Steve Thomson

Louth, Northgate (TF 3288 8755)

Development in the medieval core of Louth was examined by J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services. A possibly boundary ditch of late medieval or post-medieval date was recorded along the western side of the site, perpendicular to the road. Late medieval make-up layers were identified and post-medieval or later chalk wall foundations were revealed. A nineteenth century brick chimney base of industrial function was also recorded.

James Albone

Louth, West Ravendale Electricity Cable (TF 322 892 - TF 216 995)

On behalf of Yorkshire Electricity, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during the installation of an underground cable through an area of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval remains between Louth, Lincolnshire, and West Ravendale, North East Lincolnshire. A recent crushed stone track, located near Ludborough, was the only archaeological feature identified and a fragment of post-medieval tile was recovered near Fotherby.

Steve Thomson

Lutton, Lowgate (TF 4345 2558)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services monitored development in the medieval core of the hamlet. Several pits and ditches of medieval to early post-medieval date were revealed and a small amount of pottery of twelfth-seventeenth century date was recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Market Deeping, Towngate East (TF 142 113)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief, on behalf of Sol Construction Ltd, during development in an area of prehistoric and Roman remains at the northeastern edge of Market Deeping. Pottery of

medieval and post-medieval date was recovered and perhaps indicates occupation of these periods in the vicinity. Enclosures and other remains, undated but probably Roman, were also identified.

James Snee

Marston, High Street (SK 8909 4353)

Development near the medieval core of Marston was monitored by S. Thomson of Archaeological Project Services. A ditch of perhaps tenth-twelfth century date was revealed with an adjacent, though undated, posthole. Recent pits and a ditch were also recorded.

Steve Thomson

Metheringham, Ivy House, Church Walk (TF 0698 6126)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services observed development near the medieval centre of Metheringham. A large pit and a posthole were revealed and although undated were sealed beneath a post-medieval subsoil.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Millthorpe, Millthorpe Drove (TF 1180 3096)

A watching brief, by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services, was carried out near to medieval and prehistoric remains at Millthorpe. A late post-medieval pit and ditch were recorded and a possible prehistoric gully was identified.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Nocton, Manor Farm (TF 0580 6450)

On behalf of Stonewell Homes Ltd, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development in the historic core of the village. A post-medieval boundary ditch was identified and a further ditch and pits, all undated, were also recorded. A single fragment of medieval pottery was recovered.

James Albone

Old Bolingbroke, Back Lane (TF 3509 6484)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services monitored development close to Bolingbroke Castle. The investigation revealed dumped deposits of the fifteenth-seventeenth century truncated by an undated gully. A brick-lined well of perhaps nineteenth century date was also recorded.

Steve Thomson

Pinchbeck, Knight Street (TF 2391 2596)

Development near the medieval core of the village was the subject of a watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services. Several undated and post-medieval pits were recorded, together with a number of brick-lined wells. A single fragment of medieval pottery was recovered, although the numerous artefacts were mostly seventeenth century and later in date.

Steve Thomson

Rowston, The Nurseries (TF 0850 5635)

A watching brief was carried out in the medieval core of Rowston by staff of Archaeological Project Services. Ditches and pits were recorded and although all were undated they were sealed beneath the subsoil. A single fragment of Early Saxon pottery was recovered.

James Snee

Ruskington, Rectory Road (TF 0810 5090)

Development in the historic settlement core was monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services. An undated pit was revealed, together with several recent features. A single, abraded, fragment of medieval pottery was recovered, along with modern artefacts.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Scopwick, Vicarage Lane (TF 0689 5811)

During a watching brief in the medieval village core, F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services recorded a pond and boundary ditch but these were undated.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Scredington, Church Lane (TF 0949 4046)

Development adjacent to the fourteenth century church in the medieval core of the village was the subject of a watching brief, carried out by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Stoneway Developments. Ditches and a pit were revealed but were undated, although medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from later deposits.

Steve Thomson

Skillington, Middle Street (SK 897 257)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services maintained a watching brief, on behalf of Rochford Homes Ltd, during development near the medieval core of Skillington but no archaeological remains were revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Sleaford, Mareham Lane (TF 0695 4535)

Land in the proximity of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Sleaford was the subject of an evaluation, supervised by J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of John Dalkin Associates Ltd. However, there was no evidence for the cemetery and medieval and later remains were largely confined to ridge and furrow. Evidence of an eighteenth-nineteenth century farmyard and associated structures, including barns, was also revealed. A small quantity of medieval and early post-medieval pottery and tile was recovered.

James Albone

Sleaford, Carre Arms, Mareham Lane (TF 0705 4537)

A watching brief was undertaken, by J. Snee of Archaeological Project Services, due to the proximity of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Sleaford. Several pits and stakeholes were recorded, together with a north-south ditch. All were undated, though the position of the ditch corresponds with a boundary depicted on a map of 1814,

but no longer extant by 1906. Modern features associated with the present building were also recorded.

James Snee

Sleaford, The Hoplands (TF 0787 4624)

An evaluation, supervised by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services, was undertaken close to the site of the medieval church of St. Giles and in an area of Roman settlement on the eastern fringe of Sleaford. Several ditches dated to the Saxo-Norman and medieval periods were revealed, one re-cutting a Roman ditch. Large, unworn fragments of pottery of tenth-fourteenth century date were retrieved, though this material was not abundant. Traces of ridge and furrow earthworks survived in part of the site. Roman remains were extensive.

Tobin Rayner

Sleaford, 83-85 Mareham Lane (TF 0735 4505)

A watching brief, by staff of Archaeological Project Services, near to previous discoveries of Roman and earlier remains revealed an undated pit beneath a subsoil of probable medieval origin.

James Snee

South Lincolnshire Woodland

On behalf of Forest Enterprise, P. Cope-Faulkner of Archaeological Project Services surveyed several areas of woodland in the southwestern part of Lincolnshire. At Temple Wood, Aslackby (TF 060 280) a horseshoe-shaped bank approximately 10m by 8m in extent but of uncertain function was identified. The site of a stone building, undated but recorded on a map of 1814, was also recognized. In Bourne Wood (TF 0770 2075) a rectilinear earthwork enclosure about 70m long, with banks surviving on three sides was revealed but was of unknown function and date. A rectangular ditched enclosure about 30m by 20m in extent was recorded in Ingoldsby Wood (SK 9922 2970) but again lacked evidence of date and function. Ridge and furrow was identified within both Braceborough Little Wood (TF 068 133) and Spring Wood, Edenham (TF 065 238). A moated enclosure was recorded in Twyford Wood, Colsterworth (SK 947 320). This earthwork, which is shown on the 1808 Enclosure map, is located at the edge of the woodland and would have originally extended into the adjacent field, where it has been ploughed out.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Stapleford, Stapleford Moor (SK 9231 3740)

On behalf of C & G Concrete Ltd, an area of Roman and later remains was the subject of an evaluation, supervised by J. Snee of Archaeological Project Services. Post-medieval and undated quarry pits and boundary ditches were identified and ridge and furrow of probable medieval date was recorded. A limited quantity of medieval and later artefacts was recovered and is suggestive of manuring scatter, implying the area was agricultural land during these periods.

James Snee

Sudbrook, Sudbrook Hall (SK 970 443)

Development at the early seventeenth century Sudbrook Hall, a Grade II* listed building, was monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services. Several substantial wall foundations, some of them beneath presently standing walls but others not matched by existing structures, were revealed. A hearth stone, perhaps displaced, was found beneath the extant early seventeenth century fireplace at the eastern end of the building. There was evidence that the seventeenth century hall was constructed over, and was an expansion of, an earlier building on the site as an external wall, with a former topsoil deposit alongside, was found within the present hall. Artefacts indicated activity of about the thirteenth century in the area.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Swineshead, Church Lane (TF 237 402)

F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services recorded an undated pond during a watching brief in the medieval village centre.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Swineshead, High Bridge (TF 2260 4174)

S. Thomson of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief in an area of Late Saxon and medieval remains to the northwest of Swineshead village. Although only nineteenth century remains were revealed a fragment of human skull was recovered.

James Albone

Swineshead, South Street (TF 238 400)

During a watching brief, by J. Snee of Archaeological Project Services, near the village core, the remains of a recently demolished cottage and two associated cess pits were revealed. Medieval and later pottery was also recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Swineshead, Plot 3, The Causeway (TF 2334 4099)

Development just south of the medieval core of Swineshead was monitored by S. Thomson of Archaeological Project Services. A clay platform was revealed and, although undated, was truncated by an Early Saxon pit. Several ditches, pits and a posthole of medieval date were also recorded. Further ditches, pits and postholes were also identified and although undated were probably medieval or post-medieval. A few fragments of briquetage of probable Iron Age or Roman date were retrieved and perhaps signify the presence of a salt-making site of that date in the vicinity.

Steve Thomson

Sutterton, Boston Road (TF 287 358)

On behalf of Persimmon Homes, investigations, supervised by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services, were undertaken at on the north side of the village and close to known medieval and post-medieval remains, including a sea-dyke recorded in 1295. Geophysical survey (by Engineering Archaeological Services)

recorded magnetic anomalies of uncertain origin. However, trial trenching did not reveal any archaeological remains, suggesting the geophysical anomalies were due to geological conditions.

Rachael Hall

Tattershall, Fortescue Close (TF 2125 5813)

J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services prepared a desk-based assessment to determine the implications of proposed development on the northern edge of the town. This research indicated that medieval settlement had been closely focussed around the market place, just to the south. Cropmarks of probably post-medieval field systems were identified just to the north and cartographic evidence indicated that the site had been open ground since the late eighteenth century. It was suggested, therefore, that there was limited potential for medieval remains to occur in the area. A geophysical survey by Engineering Archaeological Services only identified a probable trackway, corresponding to a footpath marked on nineteenth century maps.

James Albone

Tydd St. Mary and Tydd Gote, Conservation Areas (TF 444 186 and TF 451 179)

On behalf of South Holland District Council, J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services carried out a desk-based appraisal of the Conservation Areas of Tydd St. Mary and Tydd Gote. This research indicated that Tydd St. Mary was probably of Late Saxon origin and that the present settlement preserved the layout of the medieval village. Earthwork remains of probably medieval and earlier salterns were identified at Tydd St. Mary and the church is apparently situated on a saltern mound of Saxon date. At Tydd Gote there is a fourteenth century arch that is probably part of one of three unlocated medieval chapels at Tydd. This chapel may have formed the focus for settlement at Tydd Gote. The proposed extension to the St. Mary Conservation Area would accommodate much of the medieval settlement area.

James Albone

Wainfleet All Saints, High Street (TF 4981 5886)

Development at Wainfleet, where medieval and extensive post-medieval remains have previously been revealed was monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of CWS Property and Development. Alluvial deposits containing fired clay and charcoal were revealed and this observation corresponds with the results of the earlier investigations and suggests the presence of an undated but possibly pre-medieval saltern in the vicinity. A single posthole and ditch of medieval date were identified, this dearth of remains of the period again confirming the previous evaluation results. Several post-medieval ditches, probably property boundaries, and postholes were also recorded.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Walcott, Digby Road Farm (TF 114 559)

No archaeological remains were encountered during a watching brief, by staff of Archaeological Project Services, near to medieval Catley Abbey and a prehistoric barrow cemetery.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Walcott, West End (TF 1285 5638)

Although near the medieval core of the village core, a watching brief by B. Martin of Archaeological Project Services did not identify any archaeological remains.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Willoughby, Station Road (TF 470 719)

The archaeological implications of development near the centre of Willoughby village was assessed in a desk-based study by J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Barnhey Design Services. Remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date were identified throughout the general area, though nothing was noted at the site itself. Close to the site is the Dam Close, a medieval earthwork of uncertain function, perhaps a fortified enclosure, a fishpond or millpond. Subsequent geophysical survey by Engineering Archaeological Services did not identify any archaeological remains at the site but was compromised by dumped metallic objects.

James Albone

Witham on the Hill, Sheridan House (TF 054 164)

No archaeological remains were revealed during a watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services near the medieval village core.

James Snee

Withern, Grange Farm (TF 4447 8324)

A watching brief was carried out on behalf of Yorkshire Electricity by staff of Archaeological Project Services during cable laying in an area of medieval settlement and field systems. A post-medieval ditch and bank which still survive as earthworks was transected by the cable trench. Post-medieval dumped deposits were also recorded.

Gary Taylor

Wrangle, Plots 4 and 5, Church End (TF 423 508)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out watching briefs on the west side of Wrangle village and near to previous discoveries of medieval remains. No buried archaeological remains were encountered though straight ridge and furrow agricultural earthworks of probable post-medieval date were observed at the site and medieval pottery was recovered.

James Snee

Wrangle, Church End (TF 423 508)

Development in an area of medieval remains on the west side of Wrangle was monitored by S. Thomson of Archaeological Project Services. A drainage or boundary ditch, undated but re-cut in the post-medieval period was revealed. A large post-medieval drainage channel or rectilinear pond was also recorded. In addition to late medieval-post-medieval ceramics a probably Bronze Age utilized flint flake was recovered.

James Snee

Wrangle, Church Lane (TF 428 506)

F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development south of Wrangle village in an area of known medieval remains. Tile fragments were recovered from deposits of natural alluvium and suggest that flooding had disturbed nearby archaeological remains. Cutting into the natural silts were ditches and pits of the medieval period, together with several undated features. Burnt clay and silt was recovered from several of these medieval and undated features and perhaps imply salt making in the vicinity.

Tobin Rayner

Wrangle, Longview, Church Lane (TF 4255 5066)

Development in an area of medieval remains south of Wrangle village was monitored by C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services who recorded a pit of possible Saxo-Norman date and an undated posthole. Burnt silt and clay was observed in the pit, suggesting that salt making occurred in the vicinity. Above the pit and posthole were flood silts and subsoil that contained medieval pottery.

Steve Thomson

Wrangle, Sea Lane (TF 4470 5057)

Post-medieval pottery was recovered but no archaeological deposits were identified during a watching brief, by staff of Archaeological Project Services, in an area of medieval salt-making remains.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Wrangle, Wrangle Bank (TF 4236 5350)

No archaeological deposits were revealed although a fragment of medieval pottery was recovered during a watching brief, by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services, near to medieval remains north of the village.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Wyberton, Tytton Court (TF 3288 4175)

Groundwork adjacent to Tytton Hall, a moated nineteenth century building containing earlier, perhaps fifteenth century, features, was monitored by J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services. Several pits and make-up deposits containing abundant occupation debris of the sixteenth-seventeenth century were recorded. Additionally, a medieval stone corbel in the form of a human head was observed re-used in a later building at the site

James Snee

NORFOLK

Blickling, Bishop's Manor: Site 6714, (TG171303)

Earthwork survey was carried out by Brian Cushion for the National Trust.

An L-shaped platform with three rectangular sunken structures, abutting the flood plain of the River Bure to the north, was thought to be the likely position for the manor. A causeway approaching from the south-west, a well-defined bounding bank to the west, as well as incomplete boundary features on the flood plain were also surveyed.

Later trial trenches by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit found the rectangular structures to be fishponds, although no leats were evident.

Caister-on-Sea, Norwich Road (TG 5202 1215)

An evaluation on land immediately south of the medieval parish church and close to previous discoveries of medieval remains and a Middle-Late Saxon cemetery was supervised by J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services. However, only a small quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery, probably manuring scatter, was recovered.

James Albone

Hindringham, Fishponds: Site 2090, (TF977367)

Earthwork survey was carried out by Brian Cushion for the Stody Estate.

A well-preserved group of five linked fishponds located immediately to the west of the moat surrounding the hall was mapped to assist in discussions regarding the future management of the site.

Stanford Training Area (STANTA)

Arable Survey by Alan Davison to the end of December 2001 examined a further 20 fields. Most of the former villages with the exceptions of Langford (an article on Langford is included in the report, pages 32-35) and a portion of West Tofts, are in the central area which is grass-covered; the arable land is in patches which are peripheral, many of them distant from the former village centres. As these patches were formerly common, heathland, warrens or, at best, sheepwalks until the 18th century at least, finds have been negligible, the sole exceptions being two fields west and north-west of West Tofts church, where there were multi-period scatters.

Stanford Training Area (Stanta).

Woodland Earthwork Rapid Identification Survey by Norfolk Archaeological unit was severely interrupted by the foot and mouth outbreak, with access not possible between February and November. A small area was left to be completed in 2002, in the northern part of the central Impact Area.

The work in 2001 was primarily in the southern and central parts of the Impact Area, with some small surrounding areas not previously inspected due to excessive vegetation cover.

The major earthwork features recorded in the Impact Area were several well defined examples of parish boundary banks and ditches, particularly parts of those between Stanford and Lynford, Sturston and Wretham and Sturston and Stanford. These features often have trackways and/or a series of near parallel banks on one or both sides, in part still mapped by the OS, usually corresponding to warren boundaries, best seen at Sturston and Stanford. The former also has various phases of warren boundary of post-medieval date as straighter .double and single banks, often shown on early maps and on OS County Series maps.

Many fragments of woodland and former field boundaries were noted, often extending into grassland, but several areas of more complete enclosures were also recorded. In Sturston, in grassland adjacent to the parish boundary with Wretham, a series of banked rectangular enclosures are recorded, in part of post-medieval date, and probably for both arable and sheep. Early maps show some enclosures here, but one featurea crosses the parish boundary and may well be earlier.

Two existing medieval village sites have further information.

Stanford: Site 14447, (TL858948)

Adjacent to the church, ditched and banked enclosures partly in grassland abutting woodland, indicate further features of the medieval settlement, including a possible manorial site and a roadway to the east.

Sturston: Site 2730, (TL870948)

Lying mostly in grassland, mainly rectilinear ditched enclosures and a roadway indicate some settlement features, but may in part be associated with the former hall, Site 2729. Within woodland abutting the flood plain of a small stream, two small platforms and a pond near to a banked depression are also more likely to be related to the hall.

Brian Cushion February 2002

Wymondham, Bridewell Street (TG 1120 0147)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services examined a proposed development site near the centre of Wymondham for Johnson and Associates and Orbit Housing Association. Preliminary desk-based study suggested that the site was in an area of medieval occupation. Previous investigations had identified a fourteenth century stone-built undercroft just to the east and there is documentary evidence that a major fire destroyed much of Bridewell Street in 1615. Many of the buildings immediately west of the site are seventeenth century in date and represent reconstruction after the fire. However, a subsequent trial trench evaluation did not encounter any medieval remains and only a small quantity of artefacts of the period was recovered. The first use of the site was apparently in the seventeenth century when metalled yards or tracks were laid out across the area. A possible quarry pit was also excavated near the road frontage and backfilled in the sixteenth-seventeenth centuries. Iron smithing slag, probably derived from a nearby smithy, was dumped in the area during the sixteenth-seventeenth centuries but there was no evidence for the industrial activity occurring at the site. There was no evidence of habitation at the site during the post-medieval period and it probably served as a yard or garden associated with adjacent properties.

Gary Taylor

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Irthlingborough, Lime Street (SP 949 708)

Part of an Iron Age/Roman settlement and Saxon and medieval occupation, previously identified by trial trenching, was investigated in an open area 0.2 ha in extent. The work was carried out by Northamptonshire
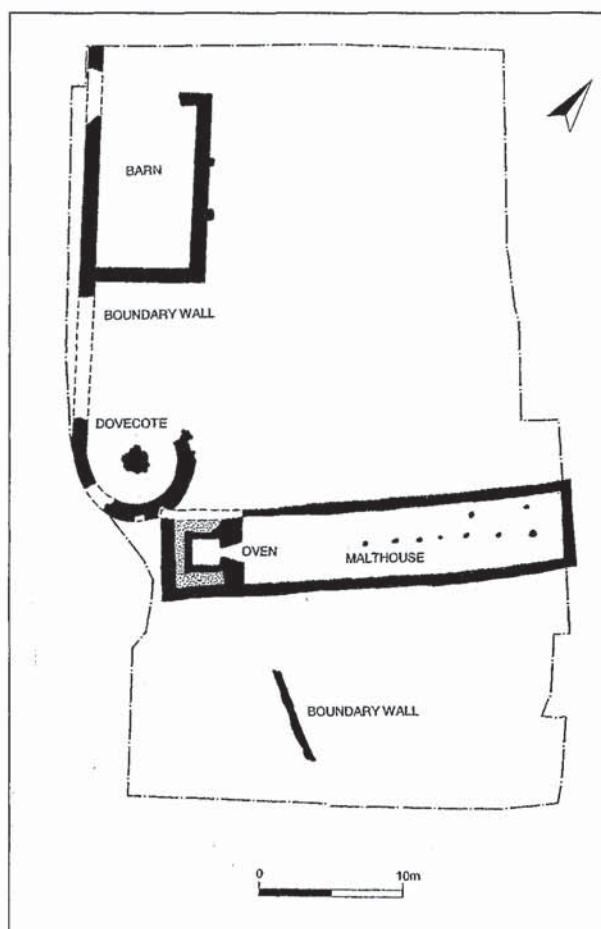

Figure 19: Lime Street, Irthlingborough: the medieval buildings

Archaeology in advance of residential development. The Iron Age settlement comprised a roundhouse ring ditch within a small enclosure, with adjacent pits, and early Roman occupation was represented by a rectangular enclosure and a linear ditch.

There were a few late Saxon features and associated finds, and in the early medieval period there were several pits and probable plot boundary ditches. By the mid thirteenth century there was a stone-built dovecote, a malt house with an unusually large oven chamber constructed at the western end of the building, and a barn with buttressed door surrounds in the east wall (Figure 19). These buildings stood on the southern and western sides of a courtyard, with access onto Lime Street to the east. The buildings were abandoned by the early fourteenth century and the site remained undeveloped until the present day. The 1405 survey of Irthlingborough by the Abbot of Peterborough shows that the site lay within land owned by the Bataille Manor, and the scale and functions of the buildings would be appropriate with this manorial status; they are likely to have formed part of the manorial farm.

Rob Atkins and Rowena Lloyd

Oundle, The Co-Op, St. Osyth's Lane (TL 0429 8805)

On behalf of Midland Co-operative Society, T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services supervised an excavation prior to the construction of a rear extension to

the existing store. Previous investigations toward the road frontage of the site had identified medieval pits, ditches and gullies representing property or field boundaries. The excavation indicated the initial use of the site occurred c. 975-1100 when ditches, gullies, pits and postholes were established across the area. One of these ditches was parallel to the highway and probably demarcated the rear of a street front property. Domestic debris was recovered but suggested that the site was peripheral to occupation of the period. Iron slag was found in the northern part of the investigation area and indicated smelting in the vicinity, though not at the site itself. A timber structure appears to have been erected in the area during the earlier medieval period, though probably was not used for occupation. A large boundary ditch, parallel to the street but closer to it than the Saxo-Norman example, was created in the medieval period. This ditch probably defined the rear boundary of a further street front property and most of the investigation site lay outside these limits, with environmental evidence suggesting the area was grassland or meadow. The site appears to have been largely abandoned in the late medieval period and not re-utilized until the eighteenth century.

Tobin Rayner

Weldon, Deene End (SP 930 897)

Area excavation by Northamptonshire Archaeology in advance of housing development identified the remains of three phases of medieval stone building, an earlier post-built structure and extensive medieval quarrying and associated features. Occupation was centred on the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries, although later post-medieval and recent features were also encountered. The later building phases were associated with quantifies of

iron working tap slag, indicating that iron smelting was carried out nearby. An internal oven may have been used for primary roasting of iron ore and the adjacent rooms contained areas of burnt paving (Figure 20). A limestone quarry was later excavated immediately adjacent to, but respecting, the building. Tenement plot boundaries appeared to match those of the 1587 Hatton Estate Map, although they evidently originate earlier in the medieval period.

Alex Thorne

Wollaston, London Road (SP 9060 6250)

A watching brief was undertaken by staff of Archaeological Project Services during development in an area where Early Saxon to Saxo-Norman deposits had previously been identified. Several ditches, gullies and pits were revealed but all were undated. A moderate quantity of twelfth-sixteenth century pottery was recovered as redeposited artefacts.

James Snee

RUTLAND

Edith Weston, Church Lane (SK 9270 0535)

A watching brief during development adjacent to the twelfth century parish church in the centre of the village was undertaken by C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services. A probable medieval agricultural soil, cut through by two quarry pits for stone extraction, was identified. Substantial fragments of thirteenth century Stanion-Lyveden ware cooking pots were recovered from the backfill of one of these quarries. Remains of two post-medieval buildings and associated structures, including a stone-lined well and boundary wall, were also revealed. These probably formed part of, or were related to,
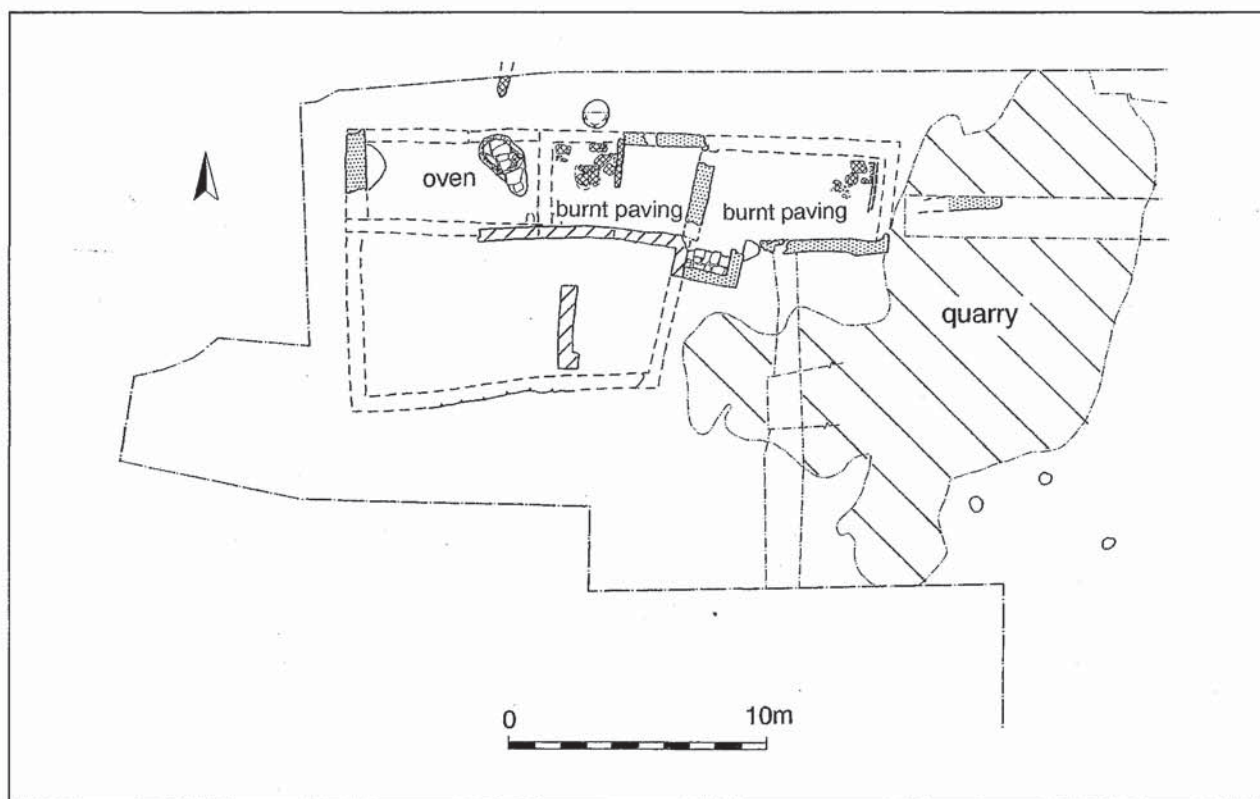

Figure 20: Deene End, Weldon, building phase associated with iron smelting

Edith Weston Hall, previously located on the site and demolished in 1957. A later boundary wall of probable eighteenth-nineteenth century date was also recorded.

Tobin Rayner

Empingham, Main Street (SK 951 087)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief, on behalf of Landbilt Ltd, during development in an area of the village where medieval boundary gullies had previously been identified. Postholes were revealed and perhaps define a fence or possibly a timber structure. Boundary or drainage ditches, aligned either parallel or perpendicular to the road, were also exposed. These remains were all undated but sealed by a probable agricultural soil of eighteenth-nineteenth century date. The formation of this agricultural deposit had probably truncated the upper parts of the undated remains. Medieval pottery of eleventh-fourteenth century date was recovered as redeposited material, together with a small quantity of iron smelting slag that was probably dumped at the site from nearby iron production activities.

Tobin Rayner

Oakham, Ashwell Road (SK 864 096)

Development on the north side of the town, close to previous discoveries of medieval and post-medieval remains, was the subject of a watching brief, undertaken by staff of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Barratt East Midlands Ltd. A single ditch, undated but broadly parallel with the modern road, was revealed. A single fragment of medieval pottery was recovered, together with part of a probable medieval pin beater of bone. Late post-medieval artefacts were moderately abundant, suggesting the site was probably first occupied in the eighteenth century.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Oakham, Kilburn Road (SK 859 097)

An evaluation, supervised by M. Dymond of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Barratt East Midlands Ltd, was carried out north of the medieval town in an area of prehistoric, medieval and later remains. Extensive modern clearance features and dumped deposits were revealed but no earlier remains were identified. A few medieval and post-medieval artefacts were recovered and are likely to be manuring scatter, suggesting that the area was agricultural land during these periods.

Mark Dymond

SURREY

(Compiled by Tony Howe and Gary Jackson)

Abbreviations

AOC AOC(Archaeology) Group
ASE Archaeology South-East
BHRG Banstead History Research Group
BSAG Bourne Society Archaeological Group
CA Compass Archaeology
CgMs CgMs Consultants
CN14SS Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society
FA Foundations Archaeology
GAG Guildford Archaeology Group

GMVEU Guildford Museum Volunteer Excavation Unit
HA Hampshire Archaeology
JSAC John Samuels Archaeological Consultants
KUTAS Kingston Upon Thames Archaeological Society
MoLAS Museum of London Archaeology Service
OAU Oxford Archaeological Unit
NA Network Archaeology Ltd
Plateau North Downs Plateau Archaeology Research Group
PCA Pre-Construct Archaeology
RCHME Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England
SutAS Sutton Archaeological Services
SyAS Surrey Archaeological Society
SCAU Surrey County Archaeological Unit
SCC Surrey County Council
SHAHT Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust
SING Surrey Industrial History Group
TVAS Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Wessex The Trust for Wessex Archaeology

Artington Manor Farm (SU 993 477)

Evaluation by N Rosenberg of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants revealed no features of archaeological interest. A small amount of medieval pottery recovered was thought to have been deposited during manuring in the medieval period.

Ashford, Ashford Prison, Woodthorpe Road (TQ 055 715)

Evaluation and subsequent excavation by T. Carew of Pre-Construct Archaeology in advance of the construction of a new prison revealed extensive prehistoric activity including a number of ditches which formed an extensive field system with at least four prehistoric phases probably starting in the Bronze Age and added to in the Roman period. A rectangular post built structure was also found, divided into two areas, which could date to the Neolithic, late Bronze Age, or Saxon periods. The continuity of the orientation of the ditches throughout the history of the site may relate to the topography of the site which consisted of areas of slightly higher ground, where all the domestic and ritual structures were found, and lower areas towards and around which the ditches drained.

Bagshot, 44 High Street, (SU 910 632)

Dendrochronological dating was carried out by M. Bridge of English Heritage to inform the ongoing work on the building and contribute to a reconsideration of its listed grading. The building contains a room with post-Dissolution paintings and a single timber in that room gave a likely felling period of AD 1485-1517, slightly earlier than had been previously assumed for the wall on stylistic grounds.

Banstead, Nork Park (TQ 238 586)

Excavation by Plateau to investigate the site of a building shown on the 1819 estate plan, which may have been the Medieval church of Burgh. A small trench revealed a chalk floor resting above a pebble floor, of either Medieval or Post-Medieval date.

Busbridge, Ladywell Farm (SU 969 423)

A contour survey was carried out by D. Graham of Surrey Archaeological Society, on a field adjacent to the scheduled site of St. Mary's Church. A number of possible quarry pits were noted, together with an area which may have been levelled. However, no conclusive evidence of settlement was seen.

Chertsey, Chertsey Revitalisation Scheme (TQ 034 669)

Evaluation, excavation and watching brief conducted by D. Palmer of AOC (Archaeology) Group, as part of the ongoing revitalisation project. Two large sites were investigated, to the west and east of Guildford Road, just to the north of Chertsey Station (phase 7 and 8 respectively).

The Phase 7 work revealed sparse prehistoric and Roman material, together with three features of early to middle Saxon date. A roadside ditch of probable early Medieval date was found adjacent to the west of Guildford Street, with possibly associated gullies. It is possible that these features represent an early attempt at the expansion of the suburb of Styvington into this area. The attempt appears to have been unsuccessful however, as no evidence for occupation of these proto-plots was seen, with random pitting continuing on the site through the Medieval and into the Post-Medieval periods.

The Phase 8 area showed no evidence for the roadside ditch on the east edge of Guildford Street, although it is to be assumed that the early road was narrower than it is now and that any corresponding ditch would now be in the middle of the road. The features examined were broadly similar to those described above, with one notable exception. A large waterlogged feature, possibly a pond or soakaway was revealed, which contained large amounts of brick rubble, probably from the demolition of a high status Medieval building nearby. Two almost complete wooden bowls of late Medieval to early Post-Medieval date were recovered from the waterlogged levels, together with numerous other wooden planks and stakes. A watching brief carried out on drainage works in the centre of Guildford Street itself revealed the area to have been extensively disturbed by service works in the modern period, and nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

Egham, Great Fosters Hotel (TQ 130 967)

An excavation and watching brief was conducted by J. Leary of Pre Construct Archaeology during large-scale redevelopment. Demolition of the kitchens revealed the remains of former 18th century outbuildings, with possible Tudor antecedants, above a Medieval ploughsoil. Possible prehistoric features were also observed in drainage works nearby. Works to create a haulage road revealed a pit of possible Saxon date, whilst the excavation of a large area to create an ornamental lake exposed the remains of a large palaeochannel, a prehistoric (probably late Bronze Age) field system, and a series of curvilinear features - possibly animal enclosures - of Medieval date. Works are ongoing.

Egham, 7-7a Vicarage Road (TQ 015 714)

Evaluation by S. Ford of Thames Valley Archaeological Services prior to residential redevelopment revealed no features of archaeological interest, although a few sherds of residual Roman and Medieval pottery were recovered.

Elmbridge

Walton-on-Thames, The Rodds Site, 10-11 Bridge Street (TQ 101 665)

Evaluation by N Roycroft of MoLAS in advance of redevelopment revealed a ploughed soil containing occasional sherds of medieval pottery; and two linear features that may have formed a property boundary, which seem to be associated with three cesspits dating to the 17th and 18th centuries. The structures relating to the post medieval features were not located during the evaluation, probably because they are associated with the street frontages of Church Street and possibly Bridge Street.

Epsom, Central Boiler House site, Horton Lane (TQ 193 620)

Evaluation by E. Hindmarch of Thames Valley Archaeological Services revealed that the site had been substantially disturbed. Two gullies/ditches and a post hole were recovered from trenches in the north-east of the site. Nothing was recovered to date the post hole, but the linear features produced eleventh to twelfth century pottery, as well as some poorly preserved animal bone. The concentration of finds and features may indicate that there is some sort of habitation close by.

Epsom, Waterloo House, High Street (TQ 206 607)

Watching brief by K Sabel of Pre-Construct Archaeology on geotechnical trial pits. Evidence for the 17th-18th century origins of the building were revealed, including earlier foundations, drainage and timber flooring. Remains pre-dating Waterloo House were also revealed, in the form of surviving post-medieval layers and residual medieval building material. Considerable evidence of Saxon/Early Medieval occupation was recovered also.

Ewell, Nonsuch Park (TQ 234 636)

Excavation by the Friends of Nonsuch Society in the stable block led to the discovery of stone foundations, thought to contain re-used stone from the demolished Nonsuch Palace. Stucco from the palace's exterior decorative scheme was also recovered.

Farnham, The Bush Motel (SU 841 468)

A watching brief carried out by D. Graham of Surrey Archaeological Society on foundation and service trench excavations proved inconclusive due to site conditions, although a small quantity of pottery of probable Saxo-Norman date was recovered from the removed spoil.

Farnham Park (SU 838 474)

Test trenching by D Graham of Surrey Archaeological Society confirmed that the low platform visible just outside and slightly to the north of the postern gate of Farnham Castle is in fact a laid gravel surface. The feature was first noted during a landscape survey in 1998 and appears to lie at the western end of a slight flattened bank that runs through the park more or less parallel to the existing venue. Previous work has shown that this bank appears to be a gravelled road with side ditches and to date to the mid 17th century. The current work confirmed the likely date of the feature, with the recovery of a lead pistol ball, a number of coiled lead strips and a quantity

of clay pipe stems of probable 17th century date, seeming to point to the platform being the site of a Civil War cannon park. This formed part of the Parliamentary army base in Farnham Park and is known from documentary sources to have been sited close to the walls of the castle. The fact that the road and platform respected the northern edge of the medieval strip field system probably means that it follows the line of an earlier medieval trackway leading to the postern gate. Part of a pit containing medieval carved stonework was also located and this may represent building rubble from the restoration works carried out by Bishop Morley at the end of the Civil War.

Gomshall, 1 Tannery Cottages (TQ 084 479)

Report by A. Harris of CgMs Consultants documenting analysis of the timber framed building during alteration determined that it was formerly an open hall house of probable fifteenth century date.

The building recording followed on from evaluation of the tannery site by CgMs Consultants in 1998, and was the final stage of the archaeological work in relation its redevelopment.

Guildford, 1 Castle Hill (SU 997 492)

Watching brief by R Poulton and M Dover of Surrey County Archaeological Unit during remedial works to a post medieval wall. Earlier walls were revealed, possibly relating to the Great Hall of the 12th and 13th century royal palace.

Haslemere, Half Moon House, High St (SU 904 328)

Historic building recording by C. Currie and E. Roberts for CKC Archaeology was carried out in order to assess the impact of proposed alterations. The earliest surviving fabric shows that the building evolved from a late medieval hall house, and the construction details suggest a building of pre-1500 date, which could possibly be as early as the late 14th century. The unusual position of the building, set back from the main borough plan on a prime burgage plot opposite the town hall, suggests that it was built on the site of a structure of a very early origin, possibly pre-dating the laying out of Haslemere borough in the 12th or early 13th century.

Oxted, Old Bell Public House, High Street (TQ 384 522)

Watching brief by J. Stevenson of Surrey County Archaeological Unit during groundworks on extensions and alterations to the building. The groundworks illustrated parts of the Post-Medieval evolution of the building, such as a chalk floor, from its origin in the 15th century; and building on the work of P Gray and A Hughes, a photographic record of the interior was produced.

Reigate, Clifton's Lane (TQ 239 514)

A sketch survey, fieldwalking and a programme of metal detecting was carried out and overseen by D. Williams of a Medieval site excavated, but not written up, in 1972. Two Bronze Age sherds apart, the material recovered appears to date largely from the Medieval period onwards. The site appears to consist of one building of at least partly stone construction under a tiled roof, and it is possible that it may be connected in some way with an

apparent stone quarry that lies approximately 400 metres to the north.

Reigate, Emmott House, Chart Way (TQ 258 504)

Evaluation by J. Robertson of Surrey County Archaeological Unit prior to the construction of a new wing. No features of significance were revealed, although Roman and Medieval material was recovered from the topsoil.

Chertsey, Land rear of 15 London Street (TQ 043 700)

Evaluation by R Poulton of Surrey County Archaeological Unit in advance of office development indicated that any evidence of settlement prior to modern times is likely to have already been removed by recent disturbance. The thick layer of flooded deposits revealed suggests that the area may have been outside the gravel island which enabled the development of both the town and abbey.

Shepperton, Former Anchor Garage and land to rear, Chertsey Road (TQ 076 666)

An initial evaluation by G. Potter of Compass Archaeology revealed archaeology of Medieval and Post-Medieval date. A subsequent watching brief identified similar finds and features from these periods, including the ground plan of a small cottage of Post-Medieval date. Although at present only provisional dates are available, several features of probable Roman date, including a significant length of ditch and a single inhumation, were also present. Also recovered were notable quantities of struck flint, including a leaf-shaped arrowhead, and both early and later Medieval pottery.

Staines, Hengrove Farm, (TQ 052 720)

Continuing monitoring work by J Stevenson of Surrey County Archaeological Unit, in an area located immediately to the south of previous work undertaken in 1999 and 2000. The more securely dated features are mostly prehistoric in date but include some middle Saxon pits.

Staines, Moor Lane (TQ 033 720)

Evaluation by J. Pine of Thames Valley Archaeological Services carried out in advance of redevelopment revealed a concentration of features in one part of the site. The features comprised pits, postholes and two possible ditches, and may represent several phases of activity. The features that could be dated appear to be from the early Medieval period, but the discovery of pottery of Roman and early to middle Saxon date suggests activity of those dates in the near vicinity. Excavation of this area is proposed for the future. Elsewhere on the site, the evaluation revealed peat (which when fully analysed should provide palaeoenvironmental information about the area) but no further archaeology.

Staines, Moor Lane (TQ 033 720)

Excavation by C Challis and S Coles of Thames Valley Archaeological Society followed on from evaluation of the site last year. The excavations took place on the west bank of the River Wraysbury, in an area thought to have been an island in times of flood, and exposed features comprising pits, post holes, ditches and a possible

enclosed area. Features can be provisionally dated to the early Medieval period (eleventh to twelfth century), but pottery of Roman and early to middle Saxon date was also recovered. The excavation complements other Medieval occupation evidence further to the west and in the area to the east across the River Wraysbury. Pollen analysis has been carried out on a column taken through peat and alluvium in the northern part of the site and which shows a sequence of environmental history throughout the post-glacial period. A watching brief on other parts of the development site did not reveal any further archaeological deposits.

Staines, Staines and Laleham Hockey Club, Worple Road (TQ 048 698)

A watching brief was conducted by J. Robertson of Surrey County Archaeological Unit during work on drainage trenches and soakaway pits for a new all-weather sports surface. The narrow width of the trenches made it difficult to check for the presence of features, and only a sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil of one of the soakaway pits. A number of finds, which included several pieces of struck flint, fragments of burnt flint, a lava quernstone fragment, and Medieval or Post-Medieval tile, were retrieved from the spoil heaps.

Staines, Tilly's Lane West (TQ 034 716)

Excavation was carried out by J. MacKinley of The Trust for Wessex Archaeology of a site on the High Street frontage, and of the former British Gas site, both part of the Central Trading Estate redevelopment.

Limited evidence of Bronze Age activity was observed at both sites, including flood defence measures and probable agricultural activity. The major phase of occupation was in the early Romano-British period, when most of the evidence is suggestive of agricultural activity. None of the excavated features or deposits were indicative of immediate post Romano-British activity; although there appears to be limited medieval activity, with evidence generally confined to the disposal of domestic refuse.

Tattenham Way Allotments, Banstead (TQ 240 586)

Excavation and fieldwalking by the Plateau group has continued to recover worked flint of Lower Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date, while pottery dating to the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods has also been recovered. A large Neolithic or Bronze Age leaf arrowhead and a probable Bronze Age pendant were among the finds. Features on the site included a probable late Roman farmstead enclosure, and a Mesolithic tree throw pit shelter with rubbish pit.

Thorpe, Coldharbour Lane (TQ 025 690)

A watching brief and subsequent excavation was carried out by J. Robertson of Surrey County Archaeological Unit of an early Bronze Age ring ditch, probably originally surrounding a barrow. Two inhumations were found on the base of the ditch, and Neolithic flintwork, Roman ditches, and Saxon pits were also discovered.

Titsey, Cheverells Farm (TQ 395 564)

Historic building recording by C. Currie of CKC Archaeology prior to alteration revealed evidence of evolution of a building that appears to have begun its life as a late Medieval hall house.

Wotton House, Wotton (TQ 215 699)

Evaluation by G Hayman of Surrey County Archaeological Unit revealed the foundations of a wall, the bricks of which did not match with any currently visible in the upstanding parts of Wotton House. The position and course of the wall suggests that it corresponds with a wall shown on a plan made by John Evelyn in 1651. A possibly contemporaneous drain, and a layer through which the wall foundation had been cut, were also of potential interest, especially since a late 16th or early 17th century pot sherd was recovered from the later. A watching brief further investigated this part of the site before it was lost to a basement, but the most interesting feature revealed by the monitoring work was a buried watercourse. The watercourse may be an earlier, perhaps original, course of the Tillingbourne floodplain, or else part of an earlier moat that may once have existed at Wotton House. Unfortunately only a small part of the feature was uncovered and it is impossible to be sure which of these is correct.

SUSSEX, EAST

Broomhill, Camber (TQ9920)

Detailed survey work was undertaken of the multi-period saltmarsh landscape by M. Gardiner and S. Gormley of Queen's University Belfast using a Total Station EDM. The survey formed part of a continuing research project on the area around the Wainway Channel in the south of Romney Marsh. The surveyed land included a number of fields which have not been ploughed since the land was reclaimed in the sixteenth or early seventeenth century. A number of embankments were also recorded which probably date to an earlier phase of reclamation of c. 1200. Two successive medieval embankments were recorded. One appears to have been breached and was replaced by a second built on a new line and enclosing a slightly different area. A network of creeks, formed in the saltmarsh when both embankments were finally overwhelmed by the sea in the late thirteenth century, was identified. The creek pattern was unnaturally regular and reflects in part the earlier, thirteenth-century field system. The ground-based survey and transcription of aerial photographs has allowed a landscape with episodes of saltmarsh, reclamation and flooding to be identified.

Mark Gardiner

WARWICKSHIRE

Ettington, land to west of Hockley Lane (SP 272 489)

Excavation and observation was undertaken by Peter Thompson of the Warwickshire Museum between June and November 2001 on behalf of Wilcon Homes (Midlands) on a site evaluated in 1995 by Oxford Archaeological Unit. Three separate areas were defined for excavation at the front of the site. The first two areas adjacent to Dairy Farm revealed medieval pits and ditches

containing twelfth to fourteenth century pottery. Several recorded slots may represent structural evidence for a medieval building, but this was not particularly clear. Wall foundations recorded in 1995 were further revealed but these now appear to be post-medieval; they do not form a discreet building and may represent part of a boundary wall. Further wall fragments may form part of a post-medieval building close to the street frontage.

Evidence for several ponds was revealed on the site, in the excavation area pond fills contained eighteenth century pottery elsewhere two possible ponds were suggested by silt deposits which included twelfth to fourteenth century pottery. An eighteenth century wall bounding the courtyard of Dairy Farm was also recorded.

Runningham, medieval village earthworks (SP 373 680) and Hall Farm (SP 374 681)

An earthwork survey of the local nature reserve combined with study of early maps and air photographic evidence by Nicholas Palmer of the Warwickshire museum suggested that the medieval settlement occupied a rectangular area, with its main street following the southern arm of School Lane north to St Margaret's Church and along a hollow way beyond, with strip properties running to the east and west, and the moated site excavated between 1978 and 1983 behind to the west. A second block of roughly north-south aligned properties lay to the north of the northern arm of School Lane, with one or two properties to the south at the eastern end. Ridge and furrow over the west part of the area presumably reflects cultivation of plots and part plots abandoned during late medieval shrinkage of the settlement.

Observation of groundworks for a barn conversion at Hall Farm within the medieval village by Christopher Jones of the Warwickshire Museum in August 2001 revealed a possible surface sealed by a layer containing thirteenth/fourteenth century pottery. The existing nineteenth century brick building sat on stone foundations which may have belonged to an earlier building. Further thirteenth/fourteenth century pottery came from the spoil heap.

Wolfamcote, Holly Tree House, Flecknoe (SP5149 6356)

An evaluation involving three trial trenches was carried out on a site on the north side of the medieval village by Christopher Jones and Peter Thompson of the Warwickshire Museum in October-November 2001 on behalf of Mr and Mrs C. Alderson-Smith. The work revealed occupation beginning probably in the twelfth century and lasting to the fourteenth century, including stone footings for a building close to and aligned on the road and ditches and gullies set at right angles. Activity recommenced in the seventeenth/eighteenth century when a yard was laid out, a boundary ditch cut and a small structure or fence line erected. In the nineteenth century the area by the road was given over to horticulture and post holes of a fence line and a ditch of this period were excavated. Two worked prehistoric flints and a single Romano-British sherd came from topsoil.

WEST MIDLANDS

Solihull, Kingshurst Towerblocks, Stonebridge Crescent (SP 1665 8800)

Observation of fence replacement, partly within the Scheduled Area, carried out by Catherine Coutts and Christopher Jones of the Warwickshire Museum on behalf of Solihull MBC in October-November 2001, revealed no evidence for the medieval motte and bailey (Monument no 30077). A layer of possible redeposited natural may have represented the construction of the platform of the later medieval moated site. To the west of the moated area a layer of bricks and mortar possibly derived from the late seventeenth/eighteenth century house, while to the east a cobbled surface may have belonged to the farm that occupied the site before the existing flats.

YORKSHIRE, EAST

Morton Lane, Beverley, East Yorkshire (TA 033 398)

Excavations at the junction of Morton Lane and New Walkergate, Beverley, revealed a complex series of features and waterlogged deposits of medieval date. Although the earliest occupation of the site can be dated to the mid twelfth century the area was subsequently subsumed by flood waters from the nearby Walkerbeck. After a period of abandonment the site became a yard containing a succession of rubbish pits in the late twelfth to early thirteenth centuries. It is during this period that the first division of the site into tenements occurred: the erection of a fence-line created long plots facing onto Walkergate, in line with the preserved tenements still visible on the south-western side of the street.

Later phases saw the consolidation of the ground surface and the replacement of the fenced tenement boundary first by a track and then by a stone wall but the site was then abandoned again. The ceramic assemblage indicates that this hiatus in occupation encompassed the whole of the 14th century.

Environmental evidence revealed that during the 15th century the site was primarily used for hemp retting (the first stage in the production of coarse cloth), although some evidence for wool cleaning and dyeing was also found. The retting pits remained open for a considerable period of time, with the latest pottery being dated to the 16th century, by which time the partially backfilled features had become receptacles for general household refuse. The excavations, for CgMs Consulting, were supervised and reported by R. McNaught of Archaeological Services WYAS.

YORKSHIRE, SOUTH

Barnburgh Hall, Barnburgh, Doncaster (SE 487 034)

Excavations in 2001 within the walled garden of the former hall identified phases dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The medieval activity was represented by a series of ditched land boundaries, a rectangular post-hole structure and the stone remains of two small rectangular structures that were seemingly associated with two large pits. The pits were not fully excavated and are believed to have been in-filled wells. Pottery dates the activity to the twelfth-

fifteenth centuries. The fieldwork was supervised by R. O'Neill and L. Martin, of Archaeological Services WYAS, for Barnburgh Hall Ltd. in advance of housing development.

Venn Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire (SE 146 167)

Investigations within the town centre in 2000 saw the excavation of a large rectangular pit with a flagged base and side gullies. The feature, measuring 19 m by 5 m in plan and 1 m deep, appears to have been part of a more extensive industrial complex. Finds from the pit included a wooden drain and parts of a barrel and leather shoe. Pottery suggests an in-filling of the pit in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. This fits with a radiocarbon date of AD 1292-1432 for the in situ wooden drain suggesting that the feature was in use in the 14th century. The work was supervised by R. O'Neill of Archaeological Services WYAS, for W.D. Huddersfield Ltd.

Jubilee Place, Pontefract, West Yorkshire (SE 457 222)

Previous archaeological investigations in Pontefract have tended to focus upon the castle and ecclesiastic sites of the town rather than the medieval commercial and residential areas, but the recent detailed excavation of a 0.2 ha area at Jubilee Place revealed important evidence of medieval industry in the town. For whilst leather and textile working was prominently represented in the poll tax returns of 1379, little archaeological evidence for the industries had previously been identified.

Early medieval levels were identified at Jubilee Place through the presence of gritty and shell-tempered ceramics but no contemporary features were present. The majority of the features identified at the site related to a fourteenth to fifteenth century industrial complex which, included a limekiln and a tawyers' and hornworkers' yard. The skin and horn processing site comprised small circular pits and larger rectangular pits, many of which were clay lined. The kiln had a circular chamber and a single stone-lined flue. An archaeomagnetic date of AD 1380-1415 was obtained for the last firing of the kiln indicating that it probably co-existed with the initial use of the site by the tawyers and hornworkers. The disused kiln chamber was, however, later reused and incorporated into the skin and horn processing site as a clay lined pit.

Substantial quantities of animal bone and pottery were recovered, plus a near complete stone mortar; much of this material had been deposited in the disused pits. The industrial site probably ceased production in the late fifteenth century and by the sixteenth century the abandoned tawyers' yard had become the site of one of many liquorice cultivation plots in Pontefract. Excavations for Chantry Housing Association Ltd. were supervised by A. Smith and reported by A. Burgess of Archaeological Services WYAS.

WALES

Monmouthshire (Gwent)

Trelech, Church Field West (SO 499054)

Although the foot and mouth disease outbreak forced cessation of a continuing programme of geophysical surveys in Trelech, a decayed medieval town which was once among the largest urban centres in Wales, co-ordination with relevant agencies and landowners enabled University of Wales College Newport's Trelech excavation programme to proceed in 2001.

Work resumed in the field west of St. Nicholas's church to investigate apparently large rectangular structures indicated by a UWCN resistivity survey conducted in 1999. The work confirmed substantial stone-built medieval structures aligned along a well-defined cobbled medieval road. The partially-excavated central building in this range was particularly large with metre thick stone walls in places surviving to eight and nine courses. The west face of the building extended for approximately 15 m.

Two of three trenches opened (15 m by 4 m and a 15 m by 3 m extension of a re-opened 5 m by 3 m trench first dug in 2000) concentrated on the structures lining the road. These excavations confirmed the buildings as well as demonstrating a system of side streets/alleys running between buildings at right angles from the main road. A third trench (6 m by 6 m) provided evidence of smithing in a medieval context. This was an important result since evidence of smelting on a large scale has been found in medieval contexts in several locations in and near the decayed town. Confirmation of medieval smithing suggests a more balanced industry than could previously be demonstrated.

Finds include an extensive ceramic assemblage, a large (150 cm in length) key and lock plate, an engraved gilt-bronze medieval mount and other metal fittings and an intricately decorated lead ampulla. On stylistic grounds, the ampulla, a "pilgrim's flask", is 13th century in date. This is consistent with other dating evidence which suggests that occupation of the site began in the thirteenth century with subsequent activity in some areas, particularly in the sixteenth / seventeenth centuries. The artefact assemblage associated with the largest structure on the site may suggest ecclesiastical associations; a pilgrim's hospice is one possibility.

These results combined with a growing body of geophysical evidence gained from surveys conducted in 1999 and 2000 have contributed substantially to our understanding of the plan of what was, in the late 13th century, possibly the largest town in Wales. The geophysical surveying programme in Trelech resumes in the spring of 2002 and additional excavation will be undertaken in June and July.

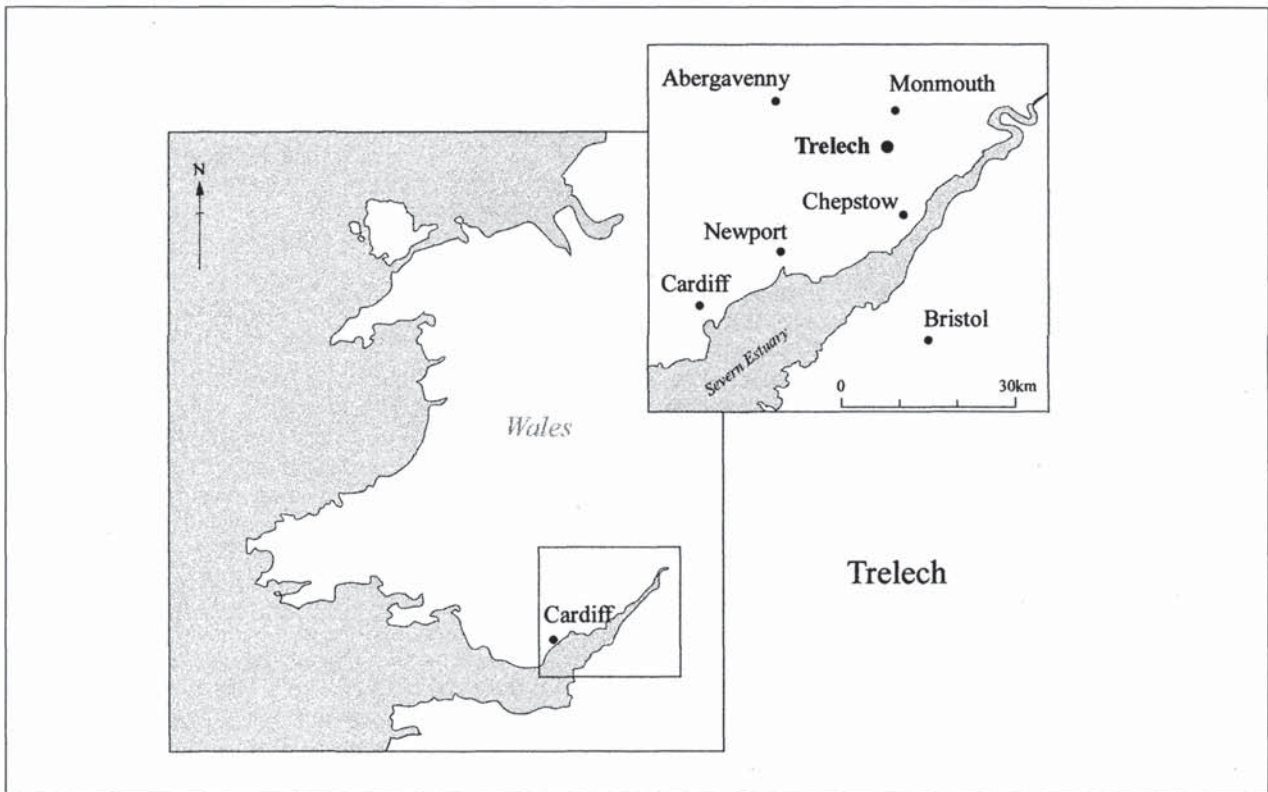Dr. Raymond Howell, SCARAB Research Centre, University of Wales College Newport.

Figure 21: Trelech

*Figure 22: Stone built medieval structures at
Trelech Church Field West*

SCOTLAND
INVERNESS-SHIRE

Isle of Eigg (NM 46 86)

During 2001, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland conducted a survey of the Isle of Eigg, which lies to the south of Skye. The island measures about 8 km by 6 km; much of it is covered in heather moorland, with the present population concentrated in the crofting township of Cleadale on the north-west coast and around Galmisdale and Kildonnan on the south-east coast. These areas have produced abundant evidence for settlement from earlier prehistoric times onwards, the bulk of it relating to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Substantial remains of several eighteenth century townships survive, particularly around the edges of the modern settlements. These townships comprise informal groups of buildings, with associated corn-drying kilns and small enclosures, set within extensive systems of small irregular fields, a pattern commonly encountered in the West Highlands. The buildings themselves are generally round-cornered structures whose walls have a turf core faced inside and out with large edge-set stones and boulders.

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries the island was gradually reorganized into a number of sheep farms, and the population were moved into crofting townships, the best preserved of which is Cleadale, where a rigid pattern of narrow rectilinear fields, established in 1809, overlies the earlier system. The buildings of these crofts differ from their predecessors in having rubble wall cores, and it was striking that many of them measure just over 9 m, in internal length (roughly thirty feet), suggesting a certain amount of regulation in their construction.

On the moorland in the western and north-eastern parts of the island large numbers of shieling-huts have been recorded. Many of these huts are small rectangular structures familiar across much of highland Scotland, but a substantial number are of a type whose known distribution is at present concentrated on other Inner Hebridean islands such as Skye and Rum. These comprise two (occasionally three) oval or subrectangular cells linked by a narrow lintelled passage. The outer face of the smaller cell is invariably embanked with turf presumably to provide insulation, and suggesting that they served as cold stores for butter and cheese.

One final medieval site was discovered on the beach at Laig (NM 466 879). Here there are a group of at least fifteen square cairns, each about 4 m, square, arranged in rows on a series of raised storm beaches. The form of these cairns, some of which have upright stones set at their corners, suggests a Pictish date.

Piers Dixon

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Medieval burgh of Botel (Charter 1323/24) sited within the Bailey of the ruined castle of Buittle (destroyed 1313) NX 819616

In spite of stringent foot and mouth disease restrictions during 2001 it was just possible to further excavate the southern bailey of Buittle Castle. Distinct features relating to settlement occupation during the 12th - 14th centuries had become apparent.

The remnants of the stone foundations of a small mid 13th century apsidal, north-south directional building, have been revealed in the area immediately to the north of the castle moat. Comprising two rooms with clay flooring, this palimpsest building has been constructed over the founds of an earlier timber building and has been putatively dated to c. 1250 AD by a silver short-cross penny of the English King Henry III embedded in the clay floor. Several sherds of very fine imported glass from Venice, pottery from Gaul and a Papal bulla of Pope Honorious IV (1285-87) have been excavated in the immediate vicinity.

Evidence for an earlier building can be discerned in a deep clay and charcoal back filled construction trench where a mass of smelted and part-smelted bronze scrap and identifiable artefacts are contained in the substance of the trench fill. A clay sample taken from here has confirmed evidence of temperature controlled environmental activities on site from domestic ovens, cauldron bases and metal working.

Wall foundations set into clay and cobble platforms have been excavated opposite the ruins of the castle and these are now assumed to be the remains of the high status medieval mansion house from which King Edward Baliol ruled Scotland from 1332 1356. This building is of sill-beam construction and its clay floors have been laid on a platform of large angular rocks to aid stability. This building comprised two storeys of timber walls covered with daub or clay which was most probably painted to look like stone. It had timber doors with iron locks and studs and small glazed windows. A passage leads to a narrow doorway behind which is a clay-lined water tank and a stone paved passage leads to the base of a tiny guardroom/robe. High status artefacts recovered from the various clay floors include two seal matrices, coins of King Edward III and a large number of sherds of native green galena glazed pottery. Further examination has uncovered parts of clay flooring in an extension to the main construction. Three separate floors were laid as the building was altered and enlarged. Under the northern wall founds of this building a series of four ovens have been examined. Running in an east/west direction, one is a smaller palimpsest, and they have yielded numerous sherds of local pottery (in the case of one oven there were 499 sherds) and various items of decorated metalwork including an ornately decorated bronze chape from a wooden sword scabbard dating to the mid 14th century. Further examination of this building has uncovered parts of its clay flooring, in an extension to the main construction where three separate floors were laid in place as the building was altered and enlarged on two further occasions, presumably to cope with the increased activity on site during King Edward's sojourn. It has now been determined from excavation of the clay floors that this building was L-shaped. The western wall has been added to and consolidated over a much earlier proposed fish tank or cistern, and a set-back corner stone and large square post hole point to a problem of collapse having been encountered in the post construction phase of the wall. An array of artefacts postulate the dating of this feature and include a bronze key, a beehive thimble and a

silver penny of King Edward I. In the south-west quadrant of the main excavation area evidence of industrial working has been uncovered comprising considerable evidence of smithying, a shallow quenching pit which can be dated by pottery found in it to c. 1250-1350 AD, and the curvilinear burnt remnants of a timber wall or fence, the remnants of the charred construction posts still being in situ just above the natural level.

The excavation was sponsored by Dumfries & Galloway Council Stewartry Area Committee Galloway Groundbase Balliol College, Oxford.

Elizabeth & Alastair Penman

Book Reviews

Ruralia III

Pamatky Archaeologicke Supplementum 14. Institute of Archaeology, Prague 2000. 302 pages. Price 20 Euro. (Available from Dr Jan Klapste, Academie ved CR, Archaeologicky Ustav, Letenska 4, Mala Strana, Prague)

This is the third publication of papers from the biennial Ruralia Conference. These conferences have now been renamed 'the Jean Pesez conference on medieval rural archaeology' in memory of the noted French scholar who was the first president of the organising committee, a role now taken on by Alan Aberg.

The papers here presented derive from a conference held in Maynooth in the Republic of Ireland in September 1999, the theme of which was 'Nucleated and Dispersed Settlement'. There are 24 papers, principally from northern and eastern Europe, the majority of which take a case study approach to this question rather than delving too far into the reasons for different settlement types. Notable exceptions to this are papers by Mikkelsen (Denmark), O'Keefe (Ireland), Makarov (Russia) and Everson (England). Both Everson and Mikkelsen touch upon the need to define settlement through a holistic approach to the way in which territorial units are exploited, rather than being preoccupied with the specific form of what could be termed units of exploitation. O'Keefe also discusses this in terms of the perception of nucleation and dispersal as opposites.

The papers in this volume provide a valuable survey of work taking place and as such will always provide a useful reference tool for those interested in medieval settlement. In reviewing this book I looked at Robin Glasscock's previous review of Ruralia II in the MSRG Annual Report 14, 1999. Comments there about absence of list of illustrations, index or contact information about authors still holds true but the most telling dissatisfaction is the lack of a strong editorial control. There is no marshaling of the papers by either theme or geographical area and this ultimately frustrating and prevents the volume from being more than the sum of its parts. In the hope that Ruralia will continue for many years to come I would suggest that much stronger editorial lines are pursued to bring out themes and patterns.

Robin Daniels

The Evolution of the Fishing Village: Landscape and Society along the South Devon Coast, 1086-1550.

Harold Fox, xviii + 208 pp, 15 ill, 11 figs and 6 tables, £13.50. Leicester Explorations in Local History 1. Leopards Head Press, Oxford 2001, ISBN 0 904920 43 7.

This volume marks the excellent start to a new series from Leicester and is coincidentally written by the series editor Harold Fox. In the foreword Dr. Fox indicates his hopes for the series; that it will cover novel themes, open up new areas of research and be attractive and accessible. This is a challenging set of criteria but one ably met by the first offering in the series.

This publication develops a theme which Fox has touched on before most notably in a volume on Seasonal Settlement which developed out of papers to the AGM of this group (*Seasonal Settlement: Papers presented to the December meeting of the Medieval Settlement Research Group, 1993*) and it quite rightly refers to the huge gap in our knowledge of the medieval fishing industry. Fox sets out to address this gap in the context of South Devon and the development of fishing settlements. Chapters are headed 'the coast', 'fisheries and foreshore', 'consumption and distribution', 'fishing farmers and cellar settlements' and 'transition from cellar settlements to fishing village'.

The volume commences with a definition of four different types of coastal settlements; port towns, cellar settlements, fishing villages and quays. This is followed by a sketch of the topography of the area, a particularly essential background for coastal settlements. The work is particularly concerned with the cellar settlements and fishing villages and the relationship between fishing and farming in the countryside. There is therefore little discussion of the port towns or of the relationship between the 'urban fisherman' and the 'rural fisherman'.

Cellar settlements derive from buildings constructed on the seashore, primarily for storage purposes, but which over time and particularly in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century in Devon developed into permanently inhabited fishing settlements. The model Fox proposes for this is one of population 'overflow', brought about by the development of alternative non-landed occupations such as the cloth industry and tin mining which led to the creation of alternative sources of income to maintain and develop family groups. These new family groups would in turn seek places to settle and the strand was the only rural area available. Allied to this quest for homes, the growth in population increased demand for fish and provided a source of employment, the whole creating a

Figure 23: Cover of "The Evolution of the Fishing Village" by Harold Fox, showing fishing cottage at Coombe Cellars, River Teign, Devon. From a watercolour by John Swete, 1795. Note raised entrance and stones for protection. Reproduced by permission of the Devon Gardens Trust.

cycle of growth which flourished in the early sixteenth century in Devon.

The summary above does not do the detail of Fox's model justice but as a model it is convincing and certainly rings true as the basis for the creation of such fishing settlements as Staithes in North Yorkshire which are more familiar to this reviewer.

This is a well written and very readable book and there is much of general interest, not least the early demise of the salt making industry in the area (as a result of an absence of ready fuel and competition from the Bay of Biscay)

and the prominent role played by those employed in the digging and transporting of sand for spreading onto fields. The identification of the composition of the annual catch as a large number of small contributions is particularly interesting and emphasises the low economic returns to the catchers of fish. I would have been interested to see more exploration of the source of the capital required to commence fishing, for both boat and nets require some access to funds, but this is a significant contribution to the history of medieval fishing and a worthy start to the new series from Leicester.

Robin Daniels

Select Bibliography of Works on Medieval Rural Settlement 2001

Compiled by Mark Page

This list includes books and articles on British rural settlement and landscape between the fifth century and the fifteenth, published between May 2001 and May 2002, together with anything which seems to have been omitted from previous bibliographies. Any omissions may be sent to Dr M Page, Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester, Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester LEI 7QR, or to mrpl5@le.ac.uk, for inclusion in next year's list.

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Fowler, P., *Landscape Plotted and Pieced, Landscape History and Local Archaeology* (Society of Antiquaries, London, 2000).

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http://www.ex.ac.uk/projects/devonclp

RESCUE - THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST
http://www.rescue-archaeology.freeserve.co.uk

WHITTLEWOOD
http://www.le.ac.uk/elh/whittlewood/index.htm

Membership Changes 2001

A list of members set out below are changes recorded in 2001. Members are asked to send any corrections, new addresses etc. to the Treasurer. Dr R.E.Glasscock, St John's College, Cambridge CB2 3EN.

New members 2001

O. ALDRED,
Archaeology, Env. and Property Dept.
County Hall, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4DY

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Witham, Essex CM8 1RS

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Wilts. BA14 9LB

D. GRADY,
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Lothlorien, Somerford Keynes,
Cirencester, Glos. GL7 6EN

C. R. WELLS
Talgarth, Nyetimber Copse, West Chiltington,
Pulborough, W. Sussex RH20 2NE

Deceased

C. Hylton (Seaton Delaval)
C. G. Henderson (Exeter)

Prof. Dr W. Janssen (Corresponding Member)

Resignations

H. Clarke (Tunbridge Wells)
C. Downham (Cambridge)
C. Harding (Braintree)

I. E. Langham (Dorchester, Dorset)
B. Sheldrake (Swindon)
D. C. Clayton (Portbury, Avon)

Information wanted

We need addresses for the following members whose mail has been returned to us 'Gone Away'

D. G. Griffiths (was in Grimsby)
R. Keep (was in Aston Cantlow, Solihull)
D. C. Law (was in Great Yeldham)
A. Pantos (was in Oxford)

A. Shotliff (was in Leighton Buzzard)
P. N. Smith (was in Harpenden)
J. Symonds (was in East Gomeldon, Wilts)

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 16) covering the year 2001-2002.

Result for the year

The surplus of receipts over payments amounted to £2,826.21 (2000 £2610.02) and is carried forward.

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

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 January 2002 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
5 Potton Drive
Wickford, Essex SS12 9 GD.

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Registered Charity No 801634

GENERAL FUNDS – RECIEPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Financial Year ended 31 January 2002

RECEIPTS	2001-2 £	2000-1 £	PAYMENTS	2001-2 £	2000-1 £
Voluntary Sources			**Direct charitable expenditure**		
Subscriptions	4,134.00	4,380.26	**Grants and Donations**		
Donations	1,012.00	—	Grants	725.00	—
			Donation to CBA appeal	100.00	—
Trading Activities			**Publications and conference expenditure**		
Publication Sales	82.90	138.30	Annual report printing and postage	2,906.32	3,120.00
Conference Receipts	—	2,015.80			
Charges to Advertisers	—	50.00	Conference expenses	—	1,692.51
			Seminar expenses	226.10	—
Income from assets			**Administration expenses**		
Current acount interest	9.66	11.19	Secretarial and committee expense	252.14	132.82
Deposit account interest	1,848.06	1,549.49	AGM room expenses	98.30	—
Income tax recovered through gift aid	704.56	—	CBA affiliation fees	75.00	75.00
			Postage and stationery	582.11	514.69
	7,791.18	8,145.04		4,964.97	5,535.02

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2001-2	2000-1		2001-2	2000-1
Balance of receipts over payments	2,826.21	2,610.02	Bank current account	2,197.04	1,821.89
Balance brought forward	34,849.37	32,239.35	National Savings deposit account	35,478.54	33,027.48
Balance	37,675.58	34,849.37	Net Assets	37,675.58	34,849.37

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.