

Medieval Settlement Research Group



Annual Report 17, 2002

Medieval Settlement Research Group

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The production of this report has been overshadowed by two deaths. Rodney Hilton, Professor of Medieval Social History at Birmingham University, was an influential figure – the history of the English peasantry whose excavations at Upton (Gloucestershire) informed his interpretation of historical and Archaeological evidence of the peasantry. John Hurst was familiar to all members of MSRSG as one of the founders of medieval settlement studies and the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group (DMVRG). He remained for the rest of his life a stalwart of this group, now the MSRSG, rarely missing a committee meeting, and spoke formally to the society most recently in December 2002 at the Society's 50th Anniversary seminar. He will be very sadly missed. An obituary of John, by Christopher Dyer, professor of English Local History at Leicester and former president of the MSRSG, is included in this volume on page 5.

This report contains a summary of John's talk to the 50th Anniversary seminar, one of several papers in preparation on his desk at the time of his death and finished for publication by Stuart Wrathmell. Among the other articles in this volume are several reports on long term research projects. It is heartening to see so many of these in active progress, continuing the work that John did so much to set in motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Saturday 6th December 2003 followed by the seminar.

WEBSITE

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

CONFERENCES

The MSRSG Spring Conference 2004 will be held from 6-8th February 2004 on 'Villages and Landscapes in the Middle Ages – Recent Surveys and Explorations' at Rewley House in Oxford. This will present a range of surveys which are helping us to gain a better understanding of the English countryside. Later in the year there will be a trip to Ireland from the 7th - 9th May. This joint conference with the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement (GSIHS) will be based in Carlow, with papers and field trips around County Carlow.

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.

ANNUAL REPORT 18, 2003

The next Annual Report of the Medieval Settlement Research Group will include research, fieldwork and excavation undertaken during 2003, to be submitted to the editor, Carenza Lewis, by April 2004. Please note:

1. Space is limited so your report should be as concise as possible.
 - Please keep fieldwork reports down to 250 words and excavation reports to 500 words unless the work is of a scale to necessitate a longer format - for example reports on major projects or regional surveys.
 - Short articles should be focused on topics relevant to the interests of the Group and may summarise work in a region not hitherto properly represented in the Annual Reports, contribute to current debate, or bring to the attention of members new information or research. Please note that the Group's core interests exclude urban, ecclesiastical or fortified sites unless related to rural settlement.
2. It is the responsibility of contributors to ensure that they have copyright of all material submitted.
3. Contributions should be typewritten and double-spaced. References to sites in Britain should be accompanied by their National Grid References (2 letter, 6 figures), the local government area and both the current county name and the pre-1974 county name (in brackets), if different. Copy in electronic format can be submitted on floppy discs or emailed to the address on page 2. Images should be supplied as hard copy.
4. Measurements should be in metric units.
5. Bibliographical details should be quoted in full. For articles in journals the title, date, volume number and inclusive pages are required. In the case of books, date and place of publication should be cited in addition to the author and title.
6. Illustrations should be in black ink on either white paper or drafting medium. Originals are preferred but high quality photographic copies are also acceptable. If it is necessary to send zeroxes please make sure that these are of the highest possible standard. Dye-line copies reproduce poorly and should be avoided if possible. All illustrations should be capable of reproduction to either column or page width. Contributors are asked to check that small details (hachuring, stipple and lettering) are capable of such small reproduction. Where relevant, clear photographs are welcome.

Obituary – John Hurst

by Christopher Dyer

John Hurst died at the age of 75 after a violent incident in the street at Great Casterton. He played a key role in founding and developing the discipline of medieval archaeology. As a child in the 1930s and as a schoolboy at Harrow he was inspired by ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, and he visited middle eastern archaeological sites when he served in the Intelligence Corps during national service in the 1940s. Archaeology as taught at Cambridge in his student days in 1948-51 was exclusively concerned with prehistory. He taught himself about the medieval period, which was regarded by some colleagues as absurdly recent: 'it's like digging up Woolworths', one remarked. He was appointed to the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments in 1952, and went on to become Principal Inspector in 1973, and Assistant Chief Inspector in 1980. The Inspectorate, once part of the Ministry of Works, eventually was attached to English Heritage. In his time as an Inspector hundreds of medieval sites – villages, moated manors, castles, monasteries, parts of towns – were threatened with destruction from modern housing developments or road schemes. It was his job to decide how the meagre budget should be used to rescue the evidence from the advancing bulldozers. He had to choose whether to spread the money thinly by excavating many sites, or to concentrate on a few. These excavations needed directors, when few archaeologists specialized in the medieval period, and he skilfully chose those who would make the most of the research potential of the threatened sites.

Much more than a very efficient and conscientious civil servant, John Hurst made a total commitment to his subject, and he seemed to attend every relevant lecture, meeting and conference. Constant travel, visits to excavations and sites, and meetings with scholars, in this country and on the continent, enabled him to research his main interests, pottery and rural settlements. Early in his career he identified the main pottery types in East Anglia from the period 650-1100. This had wide applications, because if pottery could be dated, settlements, including early towns, could be recognised and understood. He became the leading authority on medieval imported pottery from the continent, and co-authored a book on European medieval pottery in 1986. His greatest achievement was to realise the potential of deserted medieval villages, in collaboration with Maurice Beresford. He excavated medieval peasant houses thoroughly and scientifically for the first time in England at Wharram Percy in Yorkshire, beginning in 1952, and coordinated a nationwide listing of abandoned village sites, culminating in the book *Deserted Medieval Villages*, co-edited with Beresford, in 1971. His strength as a scholar was to develop new subjects, float hypotheses, gather data, and then be prepared to

change his interpretation in the face of the evidence.

Hurst's approach to archaeology was scientific, based on the methodical collection of data on pottery or deserted villages on record cards. Perhaps we can see in this the influence of his parents: his father was a geneticist and his mother a botanist. While not socially gregarious, he collaborated with other scholars – with Beresford on villages, and with Gerald Dunning and others on pottery. He formed with Beresford the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group which coordinated the work of dozens of enthusiasts throughout the country. He was active in the groups focussed on pottery and moated sites, in the Society of Antiquaries, and in the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology. He played a leading role in the Society for Medieval Archaeology, founded in 1957, in which he filled almost every office including President. He had a very large circle of contacts on the continent. An early influence was Axel Steensberg from Denmark, from whom he learned the open area method of excavation, which was used at Wharram Percy and then adopted throughout Britain. His distinction and originality as a scholar was recognized by his election as a Fellow of the British Academy in 1987, and the award of an honorary doctorate by the University of York. The Society of Antiquaries awarded him its Society Medal on 29 May, 2003: the decision had been made earlier in the year, but sadly it had to be presented posthumously.

Archaeology tends to produce flamboyant and extrovert figures, but John Hurst was emphatically not one of those. He spoke gently, with a stammer. While others were talking at a meeting or conference, John sat quietly in the background, occasionally



Figure 1: John Hurst (right) with Maurice Beresford at Wharram Percy in 1996 at the launch of their festschrift volume, *"The Medieval Rural Settlements of England"*.



Figure 2: John Hurst (9th from right) outside Whittlebury Church, visiting the Whittlewood Project in February 2003 with other members of the MSRSG.

contributing a wise or learned comment. He communicated above all by letter, of which there were many thousands, typed on an ancient machine, and sent in recycled envelopes. He spent hours each week maintaining the old fashioned courtesy of acknowledging every communication. The letters were usually brief, business like, but with an ironic and friendly tone. In conversation he often seemed withdrawn, but he was always encouraging, especially to younger researchers. He was fond of using the word 'incredible' to describe any unusual idea or discovery.

His wife, Gillian, worked as one of the team of Ministry of Works excavators tackling medieval sites in the 1950s; she supervised part of the Wharram Percy excavations, and helped to run the fledgling Society for Medieval Archaeology. She died in 1971. Their two daughters are Francesca, a teacher, and Tamara, a scientist. John was devoted to his three grandchildren.

Hundreds of young people met John Hurst through the excavations at Wharram, which occupied three weeks each July for almost 40 years of his life. He was most happy at Wharram, presiding over the digging which was supervised by an able team. Those who worked there will always remember his cry at the end of the morning meeting of diggers, distinctive in accent and intonation, 'Everybody on the site, please!' He greeted every set back, whether trivial or really disastrous, with the cry of 'Oh my God!'

John Hurst was the co-founder of the succession of Groups which have culminated in the MSRSG. His energy, and his commitment to the study of deserted villages and medieval settlements in general, sustained the activities of the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group and the Medieval Village Research Group. He organised annual meetings in the 1970s and 1980s at which important issues in settlement research were discussed. His lectures, both on village studies in general and on Wharram Percy, were given to many societies, conferences and courses, and marked the various stages in the development of the subject. He had an original mind, and appreciated the importance of the subject long before other scholars, and he kept abreast of changes and new discoveries. He was generous with his time, and a dependable supporter of events and people who could contribute to the academic progress of settlement studies.

All who knew him are shocked that the life of such a quiet and gentle man, who was actively engaged in scholarly work, should have ended prematurely.

It will be a strange experience to attend a committee meeting of the Group, an AGM, or one of its conferences, and not to see that familiar, quiet bearded figure. We will miss him.

John Gilbert Hurst, archaeologist, born August 15 1927; died April 29 2003.

Medieval or Later Rural Settlement in Scotland: 10 years on MSRG Spring Conference April 2002

Reported by Paul Everson

Until about 250 years ago, at least 85% of Scotland's population lived and worked in the countryside. The remains of their settlements and agriculture are all around us, but we actually know very little about their everyday lives. To find out more, medieval or later rural settlement in Scotland has been the subject of study over the last 10 years, and in April 2002 Historic Scotland and the Medieval Settlement Research Group held a conference in Edinburgh to highlight what we have learned.

The phrase 'Medieval or Later Rural Settlement' has contributed another example – MoLRS – to the already well-populated world of archaeological acronyms. But its promulgation some ten years ago marked an important step in the widespread recognition of a rich archaeological resource of pre-Improvement settlement remains throughout the upland areas of Scotland, and in the determination to understand and value them. This is a resource, moreover, of especial social and cultural interest to the people of Scotland. Picking up this initiative, the MSRG's Annual Report in 1994 contained a brief, pioneering statement about MoLRS in Scotland by Richard Hingley and Sally Foster, entitled 'MoLRS – defining, understanding and conserving an archaeological resource'. And at about the same time, several members of the group attended and contributed to a conference in Glasgow on broadly this theme, the proceedings of which were duly published.

The 2002 conference provided a timely update and re-visiting of this important theme. It was an important opportunity to glimpse the new work that is taking the study forward in Scotland and some of the ways in which public interest and involvement is being engaged in this material. There are clear resonances in the the current work promoted by CADW on deserted rural settlement in Wales, much of which is upland settlement and essentially undated at this stage of study, and with the parts of the Discovery programme in the Republic of Ireland. There are more resonances than Scottish colleagues may think, too, with evidence for upland settlement and cultivation in England. Like other aspects of largely dispersed settlement, this has perhaps been

comparatively neglected in favour of lowland and nucleated remains but now – in the Atlas of Rural Settlement (Roberts and Wrathmell, 2000) and various associated pieces of work – there is a national framework within which it can be more effectively characterised.

England already has an impressive record of excavations of medieval settlements going back 50 years and more, which others may envy for the secure chronological depth they provide. Without them, the natural tendency may be to peer backwards from the secure ground of the well-documented late 18th and 19th centuries, which in Scotland's case afford a key to much of the wonderful fossilised upland landscapes. The potential here both for set-piece interdisciplinary study and for public communication is enormous. But it is encouraging also to see several approaches to the severely modified lowland landscapes of Scotland, and to their inter-relationship with their adjacent uplands, included within these papers.

This reference to the excavation tradition in England is a reminder that the MSRG was established in November 1986 from an amalgamation of the Medieval Village Research Group (founded as long ago as 1952) and the Moated Sites Research Group (founded 1971). On the basis of that pedigree, it therefore celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2002.

The Edinburgh conference and publication furthered at least two of the Group's primary interests

- to increase public awareness of the subject by spreading information about medieval settlement as widely as possible
- to encourage the preservation of settlement sites wherever possible

We hope that they do both, and will take the Group (and those, like Historic Scotland, with whom it is glad to cooperate) into a second 50 years with renewed eagerness to understand past settlements and the societies they represent.

Medieval Settlement Studies

50 years on – Past, Present and Future

MSRG Annual Seminar, December 2002

by Carenza Lewis

The Annual Seminar of the MSRG was held in London on December 7th to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the DMVRG, now the MSRG. Speakers from three generations were invited to speak – John Hurst on past achievements, Mick Aston on current research and Stephen Rippon on the future direction of medieval settlement research. The papers were very much enjoyed by the audience and gave much food for thought. But within less than three months, two of the three speakers were unexpectedly and seriously ill. John Hurst's death was a huge shock (see report p. 5 and 6) and the editor's thanks go to Stuart Wrathmell for bringing his paper, found, nearly completed, on his desk after his death, to publication. It is hoped to include Mick Aston's paper in next year's report, following his recovery.

The Wharram Research Project

by John Hurst

The earthworks of the deserted medieval village of Wharram Percy on the Yorkshire Wolds were first planned by the Ordnance Survey in 1850, but it was a hundred years before renewed interest in medieval rural settlement (Hurst 1971, 76-7) led to Maurice Beresford's first excavation at Wharram Percy in 1950, after the major events of 1948 (Gerrard 2002, 103-4). John Hurst joined him in 1952 and demonstrated the viability of a large excavation at this site. The interdisciplinary Deserted Medieval Village Research Group was founded in October 1952, with Wharram Percy as its major research excavation starting in 1953.

In the first years the aim was to investigate a single medieval peasant house (Area 10), employing the open area method of excavation pioneered on medieval sites by Steensberg (Hurst 1999; Gerrard 2002, 116-7). The complex rebuilding of chalk walls on different alignments was quickly recognised, but at the time it was not realised that the rough walls were not of short-lived houses, but frequently-replaced, non load-bearing infilling between crucks. At Wharram flimsy buildings were expected, and they were therefore found; it was not until the 1980s that it was realised that medieval peasant houses were much more substantial (Wrathmell 2002).

Nevertheless many aspects of medieval peasant life were revealed. In 1955 the undercroft of a medieval manor house was, unexpectedly, found under the Area 10 group of peasant houses, extending research from the peasant to the lord. A complex sequence of peasant houses had been anticipated, but this was the first major indication on a medieval village site that there could be more fundamental changes: it had been assumed that the locations of buildings in the medieval village were static, at least in respect of the manor and church.

Research during the first twenty years of the project was directed voluntarily by Beresford and Hurst in their own time with the help of unpaid volunteers, as was then usual with research digs. This restricted excavation to seasons

of three weeks each year with about 30 volunteers at a time, so it was possible to dig only one major site each year. In 1960, with increasing numbers of volunteers, a second ten-year programme was initiated with two major sites running at the same time: a further house site (Area 6) and the church. The church was selected partly because of the partial collapse of the tower in 1959, partly because a second site on the main, grazed area of the village would not have been possible, as the farmer would allow only one at a time. A proposed large scale excavation of the North Manor did not happen, as the project never had the resources to undertake this once work began on the prehistoric and Romano-British aspects of the settlement.

It is ironic that, six years after the excavation of the South Manor undercroft, and in the year that the excavation of the church was planned, the President of the Society of Antiquaries should have accused 'the younger students of today' of being content with working on cow-sheds, instead of devoting themselves to the study of greater architecture, painting and iconography (Evans 1961).

The church excavation gave the opportunity not only to investigate the below-ground remains, but also to examine the different periods of the walls above ground as the plaster was peeling off. So the first full scale investigation of an English rural parish church was carried out, producing a very complex sequence from the 10th century onwards. Some 600 burials were excavated to the north and west of the church, very important results being obtained from this material; for example, comparing the Wharram rural population with urban populations in York. The sex ratio at Wharram favoured males, while that at York favoured females, suggesting female migration to towns. Medieval villages were by no means the static closed communities previously assumed (Mays 1998, 71-2).

The situation was radically changed in the early 1970s by the owner, Lord Middleton, generously giving the site into the care of the Department of the Environment (now

English Heritage). This enabled funds to be made available for the first time to pay for professional supervisors, interdisciplinary specialists and to provide free food for volunteers. Everyone's other commitments still meant that each season was limited to three weeks, but this proved very satisfactory as it enabled each season's results to be assessed and new plans to be developed for the following year.

A twenty-year programme (1970-1990) was agreed. An interdisciplinary research project was to study as many aspects as possible of the medieval village of Wharram Percy, using not only excavation but also the results of aerial, topographical and geophysical surveys, and the comprehensive documentary research undertaken by Beresford. It was to explore the evolution of the village plan, the peasant houses, tofts and crofts, arable fields, manor houses, church, churchyard, vicarages, trackways, and water exploitation. It was also to investigate the development of local settlement during prehistoric, Roman, and Saxon times up to the planning of the medieval village; and equally, to examine the post-medieval farmsteads which succeeded the village after the settlement was largely deserted around 1500. The results of the research were to be published in a series of monographs, and were also to be presented to the visitor on site. With the support of English Heritage, this programme has been almost wholly achieved.

Each year in the 1970s, and in the 1980s when Rahtz joined the project with his York students, it was possible to work on as many as six sites at a time with up to 100 volunteers, widening and deepening the project. The early millpond and later fishpond south of the churchyard were excavated, providing valuable environmental evidence which was linked with the surviving ecology (Gulliver 1989; 1990). Survey expanded into the open fields with the discovery of 1000m long strips, and evidence for manuring near the village but not over the outer parts of the fields. From 1974 the research extended to the whole parish of Wharram Percy with its four other townships. In the 1970s a series of trenches was dug to date the various boundary earthworks, while in the 1980s test pitting (as now used at the Whittlewood project: Jones and Page 2001, 20) was included in the North Manor programme.

Already in 1962 a trench in the North Manor area had demonstrated prehistoric and Romano-British occupation, but the 1970s trial trenches showed that the village was basically laid out in a series of Romano-British fields. A follow-up geophysical survey showed the details of an Iron Age and Romano-British east-west 'ladder settlement' along a sunken track. The ladder settlement was sampled by Rahtz with a large section across the track, the first major section across a routeway whose use spanned a period of 2000 years.

Extensive evidence was found for Middle Saxon settlement, especially towards the western part of Area 10. Only a handful of Saxon sherds were found in the 1950s excavation of House 10 and the South Manor, but thousands were found just a few feet to the west (Wharram VIII, 60). There was no spread of the Saxon material as the area was never ploughed. The Middle Saxon finds at Wharram were of a high status. There has

been much debate about the significance of these finds, which put Wharram in the class of 'productive sites' (Richards 1999, 74-9). It was suggested that Wharram had been a monastic site but there are now so many 'productive sites' over the country that it may be that the Middle Saxon period was much more prosperous than has been supposed.

The Middle Saxon settlement was overlain by the planned medieval village, giving a *terminus post quem* of 800 to 850 for the new layout. The nucleated village was certainly in place in the 12th century but could have been laid out at any point during the previous three centuries. The most likely time is in the Scandinavian period when most of the Anglian estates were being taken over. This would have been the best opportunity for a complete replanning of the landscape, together with many place-name changes to Scandinavian forms.

After the village's final desertion, about 1500, there was a single farmstead for a shepherd to look after the sheep, rather than the 16 or so households previously engaged in the mixed farming of the medieval village. In the late 18th century an Improving farm was built on the site of its predecessor; but in the mid-19th century it was abandoned in favour of a new location on the High Wold, where there was more room. The excavation of this short-lived farmstead provides important evidence for the first period of Improvement, evidence that has been lost in later changes on farmsteads that have continued in use. The excavation came full circle with the excavation of the diggers' 1950s rubbish pits, yielding contemporary objects, including Hurst's discarded sandals (Rahtz 2001, pl. 86).

The Wharram Percy excavation came to an end in 1990, the planned programme having been completed. The priority since then has been publication. Eight monographs have been published since 1979, while another four are in preparation. No further excavation has taken place on the village site, since English Heritage have quite reasonably ruled that there should be no more digging until the results of 1950 to 1990 are fully published. There have, however, been new geophysical and topographical surveys, and the results of these will be incorporated in the forthcoming publications. Post-excavation work has itself produced as many surprises as in the excavation years. So although delays in publication are to be regretted, the extra time will allow many new interpretations of the evidence in keeping with recent research, which will be brought together in a final synthesis volume.

Meanwhile, research in the field has continued on a limited scale in the shape of the Wharram Landscape Project, with the aim of putting Wharram in the wider context of the Yorkshire Wolds. There has been some recording of local churches and churchyards; Improving farms (Hayfield 1991a, 1994-5 and 1998); building materials (Hayfield and Wagner 1998); blacksmiths' shops (Hayfield 1991b); dewponds (Hayfield and Brough 1986-7), and the railway (Burton 1997). The most significant research has been on the prehistoric period (Hayfield and Manby 1996), the most important discovery being that some ponds on the High Wold were water-filled glacial hollows which could have allowed

intensive prehistoric cattle ranching, thus making sense of the many long-distance boundaries (Hayfield et al. 1995; Hayfield and Wagner 1995). In 2002 much more substantive ranching earthworks of the late Iron Age were investigated in the Great Wold Valley. It is hoped to concentrate research over the next few years, in conjunction again with the University of York, on the remarkable palimpsest of features at Wharram le Street, starting with Mesolithic flints around the head of the Gypsy Race, through later prehistoric occupation, down to the Roman villa and the medieval settlement (Wharram IV). So after 50 years the research that began at Wharram continues with the study of the development of the Wolds landscape over a period of 10,000 years.

Over the 41 seasons of excavation on the Wharram Percy DMV only 6% of the 39 acre site was excavated. So the present interpretation can only be provisional. This emphasises the dangers of interpreting other rural sites where far less work has been carried out. Medieval rural sites are not suitable for sampling. The main strength of the long-running Wharram excavation has been the ability to revise constantly our interpretations of the evidence in the light of advancing knowledge, a process which is continuing through the postexcavation process.

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In a summary of this length it is possible to state only the general outlines of the project. For a more detailed account see M. Beresford and J. Hurst *Wharram Percy Deserted Medieval Village* (Batsford/English Heritage, 1990).

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Note: this article has been edited by S. Wrathmell from a draft prepared by the late John Hurst. It incorporates comments and corrections made by Professor M. W. Beresford and R. T. Porter

Medieval Settlement: Some suggestions for the future

by Stephen Rippon

It is impossible to predict where any academic discipline will go in the future, and frameworks to guide future research must be the work of learned committees not single individuals. The MSRSG has already published its Research Policy (MSRSG Annual Report 11, 1996), and what follows, therefore, is not an attempt at a definitive research framework but rather some reflections on current practice and suggestions for future directions.

An interdisciplinary subject

During the past fifty years the study of medieval settlements, and increasingly their associated landscapes, has been notably multidisciplinary. This is reflected most obviously in the pioneering collaboration of Maurice Beresford and John Hurst, in the diverse membership of

the MSRSG, and has contributed to the success of past and current projects such as those at Wharram Percy, Shapwick and Whittlewood. There has already been a blurring of the distinction between medieval settlement studies and the wider world of landscape archaeology, and while this is to be welcomed there remains too much research where there is insufficient dialogue between archaeologists and historians: we must continue to push for greater interdisciplinarity with archaeologists and historians actually working alongside each other for the duration of their research, and discussing the problems, potential and interpretations of their data, as is so successfully occurring in the Whittlewood Project (the archaeologist and historian even sharing an office, fieldwalking and digging test pits together! (Jones and

Page 2001)). In addition to the integration of the different sources, concepts and analytical approaches of archaeology, history and historical geography, the study of medieval settlement and landscape could also do more to encompass other, currently rather specialised, areas of study, notably artefacts, standing buildings, place- and field-names, and palaeo-environmental evidence.

The modern study of vernacular architecture, for example, began shortly after the second World War, and despite the growing interest of medieval archaeologists in rural settlement at the same time (the Vernacular Architecture Group was established in 1952), dialogue between the two sets of scholars was limited (Pearson 1998, 166), despite the early collaboration of Fox and Raglan (1951-4) in Monmouthshire. Some archaeologists/landscape historians have recognised the potential of studying standing buildings, such as in the much debated 'great rebuilding' of c. 1570-1640 (eg Hoskins 1953, cf Machin 1977; Johnson 1993), but progress has been slow (eg Currie 1984; Machin 1994; Mercer 1994). This is becoming an ever more important issue as increasing numbers of dendrochronological dates are showing that the earliest surviving domestic houses are 13th century, exactly contemporary with many of our excavated examples (eg Pearson 1994). These buildings are a remarkable un-tapped resource for archaeologists as the evidence can be so much better preserved: in Devon, for example, a late medieval cruck-built dwelling at Northwood Farm, Christow, originally of one storey but later enlarged and improved, produced virtually no evidence below ground before the 18th century (Brown and Laithwaite 1993). To date, much of the research into vernacular architecture has been typological and thematic in character (Pearson 1998, 174): what is needed are more regional surveys of the whole building stock, integrated with archaeological and historical research that enable these buildings to be placed in their landscape and tenurial context (eg Shapwick, Somerset: Aston and Gerrard 1999).

Palaeo-environmental evidence

There is a particular need to collect more palaeo-environmental material: such is the nature and survival of documentary evidence that it is archaeology and in particular palaeo-environmental material which has the greatest potential for shedding new light on a wide range of topics including pre-Conquest landscapes (and see below), and the lower strata of society in all periods. Whilst excavations on urban and high-status sites have produced an abundance of paleoeconomic evidence such as faunal assemblages, there is, at present, a dearth of material from lower-status rural sites (Dark 2000). The absence of deep stratigraphy and past refuse disposal practices mean that this will always be a difficult issue to resolve without large-scale open area excavation, though it is essential to obtain such material, and synthesise the data we have (e.g. Albarella 1996), if we are to address the presence imbalance towards the monastic, seigniorial and urban economy evident in both palaeo-economic (e.g. Albarella and Davis 1996) and historical research (e.g. Campbell 2000; Campbell et al. 1993).

There is also a need to make greater progress in obtaining long palaeo-environmental sequences that reflect

landscape use, and change, over time (though there will always be problems correlating radiocarbon dated palaeo-environmental events with the more refined historical record). The lack of such data for the medieval period is well known (Dark 2000) and one sometimes senses an air of resignation that suitable deposits either simply do not exist, as lowland peat bogs have lost their medieval and later deposits through desiccation and peat cutting, or tell us relatively little about the medieval landscape, as the higher upland blanket bogs lay beyond the areas of medieval settlement and so at best only give a very broad regional picture (e.g. Exmoor: Frances and Slater 1990; Moor et al. 1984). There is a danger, however, of making sweeping generalisations about the date and extent of upper peats and in the Somerset Levels, for example, there are now four sequences and several palaeochannel complexes that extend into the medieval period (e.g. Aalbersberg 1999; Aalbersberg et al. forthcoming; Beckett and Hibbert 1979; Somerset County Council 1992; Brown et al. 2003). These show considerable continuity in landscape exploitation cross the Roman-medieval transition and even an increase in arable cultivation on the adjacent drylands between the 5th and 8th centuries, perhaps to compensate for the inundation of formerly reclaimed land on the Levels; a further increase in the intensity of landscape exploitation, including increased alluviation, around the 10th century could be related to the reorganisation of dryland landscapes which saw the creation of nucleated villages and open fields in places such as Shapwick (Aston and Gerrard 1999; Rippon 1997).

Other suitable deposits do, however, exist from within the medieval settled landscape if one knows where to look for them. The landscape history that they tell can be significantly at variance to the 'traditional' picture derived from upland sequences. The Greater Exmoor region, for example, has revealed a series of small valley and spring mires containing well-preserved sequences covering the last two to three millennia (Fyfe et al. in press). In contrast to the high upland sequences, which showed woodland regeneration in the early postRoman period, these lowland/upland fringe sequences produced a remarkably consistent picture of complete continuity in landscape exploitation between the Roman period and the 8th-10th centuries when there was a pronounced increase in arable cultivation probably associated with the introduction of a regionally distinctive pattern of agricultural management known as convertible husbandry. Such small mires are, however, not easy to locate and the key to the success of this project was, once again, interdisciplinarity: in this case an archaeologist working with geographers who knew how to locate these inconspicuous mires.

Studying a multi-faceted landscape: historic landscape analysis

The somewhat diverse concept of landscape archaeology has existed for some 30 years, and medieval settlement studies have made use of the 'historic landscape' – the present pattern of fields, woodland, roads and settlements etc – throughout that period (e.g. Aston 1985; Muir 1981). The physical fabric of the present countryside has long been recognised as 'the richest historical record that we possess': 'the surface of England is a palimpsest, a

document that has been written on and erased over and over again; it is the business of the field archaeologist to decipher it' (Crawford 1953, 51). We now have detailed studies of particular facets of the landscape, such as fields (e.g. Taylor 1975), roads (e.g. Hindle 2001; Taylor 1979), settlements (e.g. Aston et al. 1989; Hooke 1985; 1988a), monasteries (e.g. Aston 2000), churches (e.g. Morris 1989), castles (e.g. Creighton 2002) and industry (e.g. Blair and Ramsey 1991), and these have all made important contributions to our understanding of the medieval period. It has only been relatively recently, however, that a more holistic approach has been adopted, through which the whole landscape, within which all of these individual components existed alongside each other, has been analysed as a whole. One means by which this holistic approach is being developed is through the technique of 'historic landscape characterisation' (HLC) that was developed from the early 1990s as a means of informing planners and countryside managers of the time-depth present in the modern countryside.

HLC is an approach through which every parcel of landscape is attributed to a particular 'type', each with a set of defined attributes and historical processes that led to their creation (eg Herring 1998; Rippon 1996; www.hants.gov.uk/landscape/index; www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/archaeology). Cadw, English Heritage, and Historic Scotland are all currently supporting a series of historic landscape characterisations (or 'historic landuse assessment' in Scotland), which are designed to be part of the planning system and countryside management: as such they are forward-looking and predominantly concerned with the character of today's landscape (Fairclough and Rippon 2002). There has been, however, relatively little dialogue between these HLC practitioners and the wider academic community, which is unfortunate as the technique has enormous research potential for examining on a large scale, firstly, how present landscape character came about, and secondly what past landscapes looked like. In Scotland, for example, HLC is demonstrating the somewhat unexpected extent to which landscapes were reshaped in the later 18th and 19th centuries (Dixon and Hingley 2002). In other areas, and given good documentary material, even medieval landscapes can be reconstructed- In a number of wetland areas, for example, the integration of historic landscape analysis with a comparison of 19th century and medieval field-names has shown that discrete areas with a distinctive morphology can be related to different periods, processes of landscape creation (i.e. types of reclamation), and types of landuse: high medieval fields created for arable or common meadow have a very different appearance to late medieval fields created for sheep pasture (eg Rippon 2002a, b).

The characterisation of a historic landscape should, therefore, encourage a strongly holistic and multi-faceted approach and must be taken beyond simply classifying field boundary patterns: landscape character is the product of the interplay between a series of themes or components such as human occupation (settlements, religious sites etc), landuse (agricultural field systems, common pastures, woodland etc), other resource

exploitation (eg mineral extraction, fuel production), communication (eg roads, rivers, the coast), and less tangibly, though of considerable importance, patterns of landownership and tenure (estates etc). The study of roads, for example, cannot be divorced from the study of landuse as one of their primary functions was to allow the movement of livestock between settlements, different sources of pasture and ultimately the market (Fox 1996b). The study of industry can similarly not be separated from the production of fuel and the communication system used to transport raw material and finished products to the consumer (eg Foard 2001).

Analysis of the historic landscape (and note that we have moved significantly beyond what many see as 'historic landscape characterisation'), is not just a means for looking at the whole landscape on a large scale. It is also an excellent means through which a wide range of sources and techniques for studying past settlements and landscapes can be integrated. One example must suffice: there has been an enormous amount written about social and agrarian history based upon the extensive archives of the estates of places such as Glastonbury Abbey and Winchester Cathedral but what did these estates actually look like, and how did they change over time? The fabric of the historic landscape, along with relict features now only preserved as earthworks and cropmarks, provide the ideal framework through which the wealth of topographical detail contained within these archives, such as place-, road-, field- and furlong-names, can be located through a comparison with later sources such as the Tithe Surveys (eg Aston and Gerrard 1999). In this way medieval landscapes can be reconstructed and brought to life at different points in time, and the reasons why the landscape changed explored. This highly interdisciplinary study of the historic landscape is far broader than the 'historic landscape characterisation' currently being undertaken to inform the planning process and countryside managers, and it may be that a broader term such as 'historic landscape analysis' is more appropriate (Rippon in press 2).

The emergence of specialised settlements is another area that requires greater research. The MSRSG has already highlighted the significance of seasonal settlement (Fox 1996a), and Fox (2001), for example, has shown the relatively recent origin for the fishing villages that form such a distinctive part of the landscape in South West England (and see Gardiner 1996; MSRSG Annual Report 2001, 5-14). Dyer (1995) has demonstrated the distinctive archaeological evidence for sheepcotes, occasionally occupied by shepherds in the Cotswolds, while Winchester (2000) has shown the importance of specialised demesne cattle farms ('vaccaries') in the uplands of northern England. There are in fact a wide range of other specialised settlements located in what have traditionally been regarded as 'marginal' areas that were actually rich in non-arable based resources, ranging from upland transhumance huts, shielings, and hafod (eg Hooke 1997, 85-90; Johnson and Roe 1994, 80-3; RCARMS 1997, 72-3; Ward 1997; Winchester 2000, 79-81) to marshland dairy 'wicks' (eg Rippon 2000, 2037). Care must be taken, however, to distinguish different phases of activity within these landscapes which

even in upland areas could include separate phases of seasonal grazing and cultivation (eg Silvester 2000). It is also important that these specialised settlements, and the communities that they supported, should not be divorced from the wider agrarian landscape. Woodland, for example, which in the past would have been intensively coppiced for fuel, could have also been managed in part as wood-pasture making a link with the wider agrarian economy. Woodland management is a much neglected subject, and it is not clear whether it gave rise to specialist settlements: documentary evidence from the post-medieval period suggests that charcoal burning was a seasonal occupation (Armstrong 1978; Kelley 1996), but did those engaged in such activities live 'on-site' or in nearby agricultural settlements?

Overall, therefore, the future study of medieval settlements and their associated landscapes needs to build upon its existing success brought about through interdisciplinary research and dialogue. There is a need to go beyond the traditional collaboration between archaeologists, historians and historical geographers to embrace more successfully the study of palaeoenvironmental material, place-names, vernacular architecture and the emerging practice of historic landscape characterisation. This breadth of source material is on the one hand a great strength, but on the other presents a problem: as the volume of literature, and number of conferences increases it will become ever more difficult for scholars to keep abreast of developments in these other fields of study. Greater interdisciplinary dialogue (though seminars, workshops etc), and scholars actively engaging in each other's work is essential.

The diversity of settlement patterns

The need to study specialised settlements has been discussed above, but at a more regional scale there remains a need to widen the scope of settlement studies beyond the 'village zone'. The extent of regional variation in settlement patterns, and their associated field systems, has been recognised since at least the 16th century when topographical writers drew the distinction between 'Champion' landscapes of nucleated villages and open fields in the Midlands, and the 'Woodland' landscapes of dispersed settlement and enclosed fields to the south east and west (Rackham 1986; Roberts and Wrathmell 2003). Although the village-zone actually covered less than half the country, there remains a marked bias within current medieval settlement studies towards this central 'village zone'. The most extensive investigations of medieval settlement, at Wharram, Pery, Thrislington, Raunds, Milton Keynes, and Shapwick, all relate to landscapes dominated by villages and there remains a desperate need for equivalent projects in areas characterised by more dispersed settlement (and see Klapste 1999).

The Whittlewood Project, alongside Foard's (2001) work in the nearby Rockingham Forest, is making a start; in examining areas with some relatively dispersed settlement within the Midland zone (and see Taylor 1995), but there remains a lack of comparable projects in the south east, west and north of Britain. The neglect of more dispersed settlement patterns can be seen most

clearly in Gerrard's (2003, 100-1) analysis of the investigations of medieval sites recorded in Medieval Archaeology that shows that farmsteads have been consistently under-represented. Understanding these landscapes characterised by more dispersed settlement patterns is, however, a complex matter. The work of Fox (1989), for example, has shown that what are now highly dispersed settlement patterns in western Devon are in fact the product of a late/post-medieval contraction of what had been more substantial hamlets. The origins of landscape characterised by these 12th and 13th century hamlets is, however, unclear: it certainly represents a clear break from the prehistoric and Romano-British tradition of isolated enclosed settlements (rounds, hillslope enclosures etc), but it is not clear whether these were replaced by a medieval pattern of isolated farmsteads, that later grew into more substantial hamlets through population increase, or whether the medieval pattern that replaced the landscape of enclosures was always one of hamlets and that its change to farmsteads is a relatively recent aberration. Even within the landscapes characterised by more dispersed settlements there is considerable, yet ill-understood, regional variation something that historic landscape characterisation and Roberts and Wrathmell's (2000; and see Roberts and Wrathmell 2003) Atlas of Rural Settlement in England, will help in mapping. In East Anglia, for example, a series of fieldwalking surveys have shown how medieval settlement initially had a 'Middle Saxon' focus around the parish church and then shifted to nearby commons and greens; these communities were associated with a system of open field agriculture that was distinct from that in the Midlands. In the South West, a far more dispersed settlement pattern was associated with a regionally distinct pattern of field systems used for the 'convertible husbandry' system of rotation-based cultivation. While considerable attention has been focused on the extensive landscape reorganisation that led to the creation of nucleated villages and open fields in the Midlands (e.g. Lewis et al. 1996; Williamson 2003) there is now a need to examine the origins and development of these other regionally distinctive landscapes that were also emerging at the end of the 1st millennium AD.

The scale of landscape and settlement research: settlements, estates, tenants and their landholdings

The traditional units of landscape and settlement research have been the county and the parish. Such units are convenient in that they have clear boundaries and correspond to the organisation of both archaeological (e.g. Site and Monument records) and historical sources and data-sets (e.g. Records Offices, Victoria County Histories, English Place-Name Society volumes, County Records Society series etc). But are these really the most meaningful units within which to study past landscapes and settlement patterns?

The smallest unit of medieval settlement was the tenement. Documentary sources make it clear that there were richer and poorer tenants within any rural community and the study of settlements and their adjacent landscapes needs to include the spatial disposition of peasant landholdings, and indeed the lord's demesne (e.g. Hall 1988, fig. 5.7; 1995, figs 2, 8, 9).

Without good documentary sources this will be difficult, but some impression of at least the late medieval/early post-medieval pattern (after the reorganisation and engrossment of landholdings following the 10th century population decline, eg Gardiner 1998) might be gained from studying the patterns of landownership in the Tithe Surveys. Several studies in the South West, for example, reveal discrete parts of parishes with a highly scattered pattern of landholding which along with the historic landscape character – blocks of long narrow fields – suggest the former existence of open fields; this is in sharp contrast to other parts of the same parishes where discrete blocks of more rectilinear fields were all held in severalty (Aston 1988, fig. 5.6; Gillard 2002, 135-75; Pattison 1999, fig. 26; Rippon in press 2). The disposition of specific parcels of land may have changed, but the basic distinction between zones of scattered landholdings and zones held in severalty is likely to have been stable.

Where earlier evidence exists these tenements can be sometimes be tracked back to at least the 15th century (Rippon, in press 1), while in Cornwall, recent work to refine the original historic landscape characterisation (Herring 1998) is revealing that these small irregular open fields existed on a far larger scale than was previously assumed.

There is certainly a logic to using townships/tithings, parishes and manors to study medieval settlement as they were the next tier in the hierarchy of territorial units within which the landscape was actually exploited. For detailed research, particularly of well-documented areas or where the opportunities for fieldwork are considerable, parish-scale areas may be as much as the resources available to many projects can cope with! Whilst some parishes can be regarded as characteristic of those in a locality, no parish however can really be regarded as typical, and as such a larger study area may contain a more representative sample of settlement types within a region. This certainly appears to be the case in Whittlewood, where eleven ancient parishes were selected based upon the quality of the archaeological/documentary material, and the sample they provided of settlement types in this region. It is interesting to note that the county boundary was ignored as it appears to have had no impact upon landscape character, which is, in fact not an uncommon phenomenon: although counties often been used as the unit for landscape study at the scale of synthesis and overview (eg Costen 1992; Williamson 1993), most shires were created simply as units of local government which both ignored existing landscape character and had little impact upon subsequent landscape change.

An alternative approach to identifying the study areas for medieval settlement research is to focus on the distinctive regions, sometimes called *pays*, that we know actually existed in the past. Some were defined predominantly by their physical characteristics (e.g. downland, fenland etc Thirsk 2000), while others were more culturally constructed (e.g. the Black Country). There certainly are parts of Britain where communities did wholly occupy just a single physical zone, such as the extensive series of parishes in the costal siltlands of Fenland, and these areas certainly provide very coherent units for the study of

medieval settlement (e.g. Hall 1996; Silvester 1988). There are many cases, however, of human communities occupying territories that straddled several different physical topographies, such as the strip parishes of the Lincolnshire Wolds and Wessex Downland and their adjacent lowlands (Everson et al 1991; Hooke 1988b). In such circumstances it is not the chalk downs or clay vales that should be the basis of research, but the territories within which human communities exploited such a range of environments – which are often marked by watersheds.

A final scale at which medieval settlement and landscape can be profitably researched is that of the estate. Following the work of Jones (1979), ‘multiple estates’ in Wales have seen much study (eg Hooke 1997), and while it may not be appropriate to apply this model of territory organisation outside that area, similar large early medieval estates do appear to have existed elsewhere and these can provide the ideal study area for medieval settlement/landscape research (eg the eight later parishes within the early medieval territory of the Rodings, in Essex: Bassett 1997). For the post-Conquest period, the newly-created lordships and honors would similarly provide interesting units for detailed study (e.g. Honor of Dudley in the west Midlands: Hunn 1997).

Finally on the question of the scale of research, it is essential that British scholars continue to engage with colleagues throughout the British Isles (a great strength of the MSRG and other organisations such as the Society for Landscape Studies) but also in mainland Europe. Conferences such as Rurality are an essential means for scholars discussing what were often pan-European processes such as settlement nucleation and the all too often neglected dispersed settlement patterns (e.g. Klapste 1999).

Portable antiquities, PG16 and the ‘grey literature’

Recent decades have seen the implementation of several pieces of government policy that will have a profound impact upon all archaeology, but particularly ubiquitous and artefact-rich medieval settlements. The increasing popularity of metal detecting over the past twenty years has led to many archaeological sites being damaged, but the responsible reporting of finds by many practitioners has also led to an upsurge in information particularly for the earlier medieval period. In some counties, such as Norfolk and Suffolk, good relations have been established between museums and detectorists for several decades, and this has led to a dramatic increase in the number of known early medieval sites (e.g. Newman 1992), and socio-economic issues such as the extent of coinage circulating in rural areas (Dyer 1997). The Portable Antiquities Scheme is now extending this good practice across the country. In Lincolnshire, for example, a previously unknown class of settlement, the so-called Middle Saxon ‘productive sites’, have been revealed largely through detector finds (Ulmschneider 2000). The increasing collaboration between archaeologists and detectorists has the potential to shed important new light on medieval settlement as a whole, and in particular in periods/regions with a poor ceramic sequence (e.g. Cheshire: Philpott 1999).

Another government initiative, Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) is also leading to a dramatic increase in

archaeological information and has the potential to achieve even more: it is essential that the study of historic period settlement becomes firmly embedded into English Heritage's regional research frameworks. While PPG 16 may be criticised for preventing proper excavation due to the assumption of 'preservation *in situ*', there is now the potential for a huge amount of small-scale work to be carried out in and around medieval settlements that previously would not have happened. Organisations such as the MSRG need to be pro-active in educating those involved in the development-control process that fieldwork within existing settlements does have enormous research potential: the individual pieces of work may not amount to much, but cumulatively they have a considerable potential for advancing our understanding of the origins and development of individual medieval settlement, and settlement patterns as a whole. There is a need to ensure that larger projects see proper publication, while for smaller-scale work it is essential that summary notes are published in county journals, and that the recent initiative to place Sites and Monuments Records online continues (e.g. Essex and Somerset).

Defining the period of study: the problem of the early medieval period

All archaeologists have to define the chronological and spatial limits of their research, but is the 'medieval period' really an appropriate one for the study of settlement? There is in fact a marked division between scholars of early medieval ('Anglo-Saxon' or 'Viking Age') settlement archaeology, and the post-Conquest period, yet in order to understand the latter we have to understand the former. Indeed, there has been much debate over the degree of continuity between Roman Britain and medieval England, but how many medievalists have the time to keep abreast of scholarship on the later Roman Britain? At the other end of the chronological scale how significant is the medieval/post-medieval divide? The desertion/shrinkage of settlements, and enclosure by agreement of open fields, was a long process which took different forms in different regions, lasting from the later 14th through to the 17/18th centuries: might one argue that it was the agricultural and industrial revolutions that mark a more meaningful break in landscape history in many areas than c. 1500?

The major period for which we still lack any clear understanding of settlement is the early medieval period and the patterns that preceded the creation of the historic landscape of today. A number of major large-scale excavations have revealed 'early' and 'middle' Saxon settlements, though we have little understanding of the wider settlement patterns that they formed part of or the field systems that they were associated with. In parts of East Anglia and the East Midlands the continuous ceramic sequence has allowed fieldwalking to reveal a remarkably dense pattern of settlement, but the lack of excavation and palaeo-environmental analysis means these settlements, and their associated field systems and economy, are ill-understood. Similarly, where excavations are carried out on a sufficiently large scale on Romano-British settlements, evidence for post-Roman or 'Anglo-Saxon' occupation is sometimes revealed, yet fieldwalking elsewhere often shows a discontinuity

between settlements of these periods: is there any regional patterning evident, and when exactly were the Romano-British settlements abandoned? The lack of a good ceramic sequence means that scientific dating must increasingly be used to date the stratigraphically latest deposits on 'Romano-British' sites, and the earliest phases of medieval settlements.

A crisis of confidence?: the need for large-scale excavation

The discussion so far has focussed upon research at a landscape scale, which has become increasingly popular since the 1970s. There is, however, a growing crisis not just in medieval settlement studies or indeed medieval archaeology, but in archaeology as a whole: we are apparently losing the confidence to embark upon large-scale, open area research excavations. There are many reasons for this, including the inevitable long delays in publication, the absence of suitable funding sources for long-term research, and the current short-termism created by the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) which for younger scholars in particular makes planning a ten-year programme of excavation simply impossible (as increasingly do the rising costs of excavation in Britain due to accommodation, catering, machining, health and safety, and employment regulations). This issue must be addressed at a high level as some research issues can only be addressed through large-scale, long-term, open area excavation, preceded by appropriate large-scale survey work including not just the traditional techniques of aerial photography, fieldwalking and geophysics, but the emerging techniques of soil chemistry and GPS/GIS (e.g. Aston and Gerrard 1999; Chapman and Fenwick 2002).

There are many issues that we have made little progress on addressing at a site level, notably with regard to the social structure of settlements. As described above, documentary sources suggest that within a village community there were richer and poorer peasants but how does this manifest itself in their buildings and artefacts? What was the function of different rooms within peasant houses, and areas within the toft and the croft: where were crops processed and stored? Where were the landless labourers and servants accommodated? In order to answer these questions we need to add greater social depth to our settlements through linking documentary evidence to the physical remains from excavations, the detailed recording of artefacts, and the application of the techniques of spatial analysis that are increasingly being developed in the study of standing buildings (e.g. Austin and Thomas 1990; Gardiner 2000.- and see Gilchrist 1995; Grenville 1997; Johnson 1996). To achieve this excavations must be on a large-scale: whole tofts not just peasant houses, and ideally whole settlements, need to be excavated – as colleagues in the prehistoric and Roman period have been achieving for decades.

Such research must also be carried out over the long term so that ideas can be discussed and allowed to mature. The history of both the Wharram Percy and the Shapwick projects shows how ideas, and therefore strategy, must be allowed to evolve over time. Whilst the 'Project Design' culture we now have should improve the management of excavations and particular

post-excavation and publication programmes, they are in danger of confining scholars in an intellectual straightjacket. There is one final reason why there needs to be a return to long-term research projects: excavation, and the way that it brings scholars together, should be seen as part of the research (and training) process rather than simply as a technique of collecting data. The roll call of those who served at Wharram Percy, and the careers across many disciplines that it helped promote, is testimony in itself to the value of long-term research projects.

Conclusions

This has been a generally positive view of the future of medieval settlement studies while identifying areas of concern and potential development. It has stressed that we must continue to build upon the interdisciplinary strengths of past and existing work, notably the collaboration of archaeologists, historians and historical geographers. There is a need to increase this interdisciplinarity, through constructing links with those who study place-names and vernacular architecture, and a more positive attitude needs to be taken towards the potential for gaining palaeoenvironmental sequences. Other boundaries that need to be broken down exist in both time and topic – is it not ‘historic period settlements and their landscapes that we should be (or already are?) actually studying? Such research can be carried out at a wide variety of scales that will obviously depend upon the nature of the questions being asked, the source material that survives, and the resources available to study it. The parish and the county will remain convenient units although thought should be given to whether future research projects should be structured around regions that had a greater significance in the past, in terms of the human communities who exploited the landscape. In terms of space we must also remember the need to look beyond the narrow confines of a parish, region or our sometimes rather inward-looking island. Many of these are challenges faced by other areas of medieval archaeology, notably the study of towns and monasteries, and we must strive to adopt an increasingly integrated approach. The full potential of analysing the historic landscape is yet to be realised, and ‘historic landscape analysis’ has the potential for integrating a wide range of different data, as well as encouraging us to look at the whole landscape. There is still a bias towards the study of nucleated villages and regular open fields, and there is a need for much more work on landscapes characterised by more dispersed settlement patterns and more varied systems of managing landuse. We must consider the whole range of resources that were being exploited, including woodland and minerals, and the specialised sites that this resulted in.

Finally, the current planning environment within which archaeology is working has enormous potential for providing new information from deserted, shrunken and existing settlements, though there is a desperate need for a return to long-term, interdisciplinary research projects within which open area excavation plays a significant part. The current Research Assessment Exercise culture within which universities have to work, and attitudes of the funding bodies, is in danger of discouraging scholars from embarking upon long-term research, including

excavation, despite the obvious benefits that they have had for our disciplines. We must all hope that this crisis of confidence is resolved.

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Society for Medieval Archaeology Conference, York 2002 Town and Country, 1100 - 1500

Reported by Christopher Dyer

This conference was held at the King's Manor, University of York, on 12-14 April, 2002, organized by Kate Giles of the University of York and Christopher Dyer of the University of Leicester (a conference of the Society for Medieval Archaeology, supported by the Dept of Archaeology, University of York). The aim of the conference was to reunite urban and rural medieval archaeology. Contributors were encouraged to define the differences between town and country, and to identify any similarities or parallels. They were also asked to identify lines of contact, and to see how rural and urban communities interacted and influenced one another. The conference was intended to cross the disciplinary boundaries, so the speakers included geographers and historians as well as archaeologists. The papers were divided into three themes, and summaries of their contents are here grouped under the appropriate headings.

Inhabiting the medieval town and countryside.

1. The distribution and density of occupation in Byzantine Constantinople 1100-1453, by KEN DARK

The city of Constantinople consisted of a complex combination of spaces, in which the densely settled inner city was associated with a large area between the Constantinian and Theodosian Walls. This suburban sprawl consisted of high status residences, religious buildings, and gardens. The town faded into the country through this semi-urban zone.

2. Plan characteristics of small boroughs and market settlements: evidence from the midlands, by TERRY SLATER

The study of town plans in Staffordshire shows that those settlements which had borough status had distinctly different plan forms. Villages with markets but without the legal status of boroughs lacked the pattern of plots fronting on to a market place which was a feature of even the smallest and most underdeveloped borough.

3. Urban hinterlands in late medieval England, by JIM GALLOWAY

This applied central place theory to late medieval England, and showed that local hinterlands of towns could be defined. Luxury goods moved over larger distances than everyday necessities, though London's food supplies came from a large section of south-east England. The influence of each town could be defined through migration as well as records of debts.

4. Defining urbanism on the periphery: examples from Marcher Wales, by PAUL COURTNEY

The feudal power of the great Marcher lords had a strong influence on the urban pattern of south-east Wales. Economic forces also played a role, reflected in the growth of trading places which were not planted

boroughs. South-east Wales under the influence of both lords and market forces made the transition during the middle ages from a tribal society without money.

5. Fenland towns: the importance of location, by PAUL SPOERRY

Recent research into Fenland settlements shows the wealth of the district and the importance of waterways for carrying goods (fish and pottery, for example). Wealthy large villages with wharfs are difficult to separate from towns. New light on the fortunes of towns and their complex hinterlands has come from excavations at such places as Ely, Ramsey and Swavesey.

6. Rural and urban houses 1100-1500: 'urban adaptation' reconsidered, by SARAH PEARSON

This revisionist contribution challenged Pantin's thesis that urban houses were adaptations of rural types. Urban and rural houses developed separately - town houses had to accommodate workshops, space for retail selling, and storage space. Urban buildings were imitated by country dwellers as they designed their houses with two storeys and jetties.

7. Medieval parish churches in town and country, c. 1200-c. 1530, by PAM GRAVES

Rural churches were not cut off from new developments in liturgy and devotion, as is shown by buildings and furnishings. The diocesan authorities influenced these matters, but so did the local laity. Distinct regional cultures are apparent from the contrasts between churches, based on case studies of Devon and East Anglia, where the screens between nave and chancel performed different functions.

Producing and consuming in town and country

8. Finds consumption in town and country, by GEOFF EGAN

Urban and rural deposits differ greatly in the quality and quantity of artefacts, and in the degree of preservation. An exception among rural sites was at Meols in Cheshire, where a rich assemblage of metalwork had been collected from the shore line over two centuries. In spite of the small quantity of metal artefacts from rural sites, they are fundamentally similar in form to those from towns.

9. Meat production and consumption in town and country, by UMBERTO ALBARELLA

Animal bones from urban and rural sites differ, reflecting different patterns of consumption. For example, a higher proportion of beef was eaten in towns. Towns were producing a small quantity of their own meat requirements, but they mainly depended on rural hinterlands. The different breeds from different regions can be recognized, for example in Norfolk.

10. Making and using pottery in town and country, by MAUREEN MELLOR

Pottery was made in the country for use in both town and country. We can see rural potters serving the consumers of their locality, though some, like those of Surrey, were geared to provide for the urban market. The pottery of households in town and country can be compared.

11. Monumental brasses and other minor monuments: evidence for the funerary monument industry in town and country, 1000-1500, by SALLY BADHAM

The production of brasses and incised slabs was mainly an urban industry serving both town and country. The urban workshops depended, however, on the supply of stones from the country (e.g. Purbeck marble). A great number of the incised slabs were carved in the country near the quarries, for example in the alabaster production centres of the east midlands.

12. Round table discussion of urban hinterlands, led by MARK WHYMAN and DOMINIC PERRING.

There was a wide ranging discussion on the role of towns as central places, and such matters as market and non-market exchange, formation of regional identities, and the ability of urban influence to promote change in the countryside.

Power, belief and mentalities

13. Burgh mentalities: a town-in-the-country case study of Perth, Scotland, by MARK HALL

Artefacts from Perth demonstrate the ability of material culture to reflect belief systems and values. The use of flint implements as talismans, the celebration of May, Arthurian romances and saints' cults show the town as a cultural centre, but also in close contact with the countryside.

14. The design of medieval urban landscapes, by KEITH LILLEY

This explored the decision-making that lay behind the planning of new towns. Emphasis was placed on the symbolism and geometric learning that was involved in

devising the town plans of the 12th and 13th centuries. Planning was not merely utilitarian.

15. The spiritual and earthly topography of suburban hospitals, by CAROLE RAWCLIFFE

Hospitals and leprosaria were founded on the edge of towns, partly for pragmatic reasons – there was more space in the suburbs, and better access to water and pasture. The socially deprived or sick inhabitants of the poorhouses could be kept separate from the respectable and productive town centres. Travellers would be impressed by the public buildings marking their route into the town, and might be persuaded to give alms.

16. Urban and rural castles, by OLIVER CREIGHTON

Castles can be seen as part of the settlement pattern. In rural areas of dispersed settlement they were more likely to stand on their own, while in landscapes dominated by nucleation they stood on the edge of the villages. The first generation of urban castles were embedded in existing towns, but later they served as nuclei around which new towns grew.

17. Constructing public space in the English medieval town and village, by KATE GILES

The division between public and private space requires some careful definition in the context of both town and country. The particular example chosen was the guildhall, which in towns and villages looks fundamentally similar. Contemporaries, however, used them in subtly different ways to reflect their social and political outlook.

18. Conclusion: making sense of town and country, by CHRISTOPHER DYER

Common themes were identified and explored, and unresolved problems identified for future research.

The conference was well attended and lively discussions were a feature of both the conference sessions and the breaks between formal papers. The papers are being edited for publication as a Society for Medieval Archaeology monograph.

The 'Lost Market' Settlements of Pembrokeshire

by Robert Weeks

Introduction

The study of trade by way of markets and fairs in south Wales during the Middle Ages has long been a neglected subject. The reasons for this neglect are many and varied, but are, for the most part, a consequence of the paucity of surviving documents and the poor condition of those sources which do survive. Such problems should not, however, prevent such a study from ever being undertaken and to this end the author has been engaged in a study of trading patterns and the transport system that operated within south Wales between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries (Weeks 2003). During the research it soon became apparent that there were many instances where it appeared that markets had once been held, but where there was no surviving evidence in the form of a formal borough charter which attested to the fact. Other sources, notably ministers' accounts and inquisitions *post mortem*, sometimes alluded to the existence of a market where charter evidence was lacking. Occasionally a market was mentioned in passing as part of a list of possessions, in other instances specific details were provided. However, there still remained instances where there was little or no documentary evidence of a market from conventional medieval sources, but where there was strong circumstantial evidence that a market may have existed in the Middle Ages. The circumstantial evidence usually comes in the form of post-medieval references, often by antiquarian writers, which allude to the former status of a settlement. Information such as this can then be considered alongside other forms of evidence, both historical and archaeological, in order to try and place when the market existed. It is the comments of writers in sixteenth century Pembrokeshire that prompted this study in order to find out if medieval markets were being held in places that the analysis of charters, inquisitions *post mortem* and ministers' accounts did not always reveal. This approach was deemed particularly pertinent in Pembrokeshire because the documentary evidence for south west Wales in the Middle Ages is even more sparse than that available for south east Wales.

A starting point was provided by comments made by the antiquarian George Owen, whose *Description of Pembrokeshire* was compiled in the sixteenth century and first published in 1603 (Miles 1994). Owen identifies six locations where, 'by report of ancient men, markets have been kept of old time,' but where due to the 'poverty of the towns' markets were no longer being held (Miles 1994, 143). Owen was not alone in pointing out settlements where markets had reportedly once been held. John Leland, travelling through Pembrokeshire in the 1530s, corroborates Owen's comments describing some of the villages where weekly markets had been 'lost' (Toulmin Smith 1972, 63). In all, George Owen identified six places as formerly holding markets, these are: Cilgerran, Fishguard, St. Dogmaels, Rosemarket, Wiston and Llawhaden (Figure 3). Of the six, there is only firm evidence in the form of a borough charter which places a weekly market at Llawhaden in 1281 (*Calendar of*

Charter Rolls 11, 257-8). For the other locations, there was less firm evidence, but enough to make a study of the available evidence for them worthwhile. The findings could then be placed within the context of the wider research project.

Prior to conducting the study of the six locations several possibilities were considered. Firstly, the author's wider research has revealed that in the late fifteenth century an abundance of new markets appeared across other parts of south Wales, notably in Gwent and Glamorgan. It was argued that this situation came about in an attempt to create more places to trade, almost as an act of desperation to encourage economic growth (Weeks 2003, 275). Consequently, many of these new markets were unsuccessful. Therefore, it could well be that some of these 'lost markets' as described by Owen and John Leland are further examples of this phenomena in Pembrokeshire. Secondly, in the 1290s several new grants for markets and fairs were made to villages in the hinterlands of trading boroughs. This process is better documented in the Breconshire area, but also occurred in Glamorgan and Gwent, where the evidence suggests that the grants were taken up and functioning weekly markets held until at least 1308 when efforts were made to bring commercial activity back within the walls of the boroughs (Weeks 2003, 73, 266). A third possibility was that some of the markets may date to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries having been granted at the same time as many settlements were being founded.

Some of the locations in Owen's list have been subject to consideration by other researchers. Two of the places, Llawhaden and Wiston, were included in Maurice Beresford's gazetteer of medieval 'new towns' (Beresford 1967). The present study has the explicit aim of studying the evidence for medieval markets, whereas the earlier research was undertaken with different research objectives. Aside from Beresford's work, Jonathan Kissock examined Wiston, Cilgerran, and Llawhaden for his study of village origins (Kissock 1991; 1997). Keith Lilley was concerned with plan analysis when he investigated Cilgerran and Wiston (Lilley 1995). Kenneth Murphy, meanwhile, sought to place archaeological evidence in the context of topographical development, and did so for Llawhaden and Wiston (Murphy 1997). Whilst Ian Soulsby included some Pembrokeshire settlements in his gazetteer of Welsh medieval towns, among them was Fishguard (Soulsby 1983, 134). In fact, of the six locations in Owen's list only Rosemarket and St. Dogmaels appear to have been over-looked in earlier research. Consequently, greater emphasis was placed on attempting to find information for these two settlements, whilst reconsidering the evidence for the other four places. As it turned out there was more information available for Rosemarket than for St. Dogmaels. Using the methodology outlined below, this article will examine the evidence for the existence of medieval markets in each of the six locations.

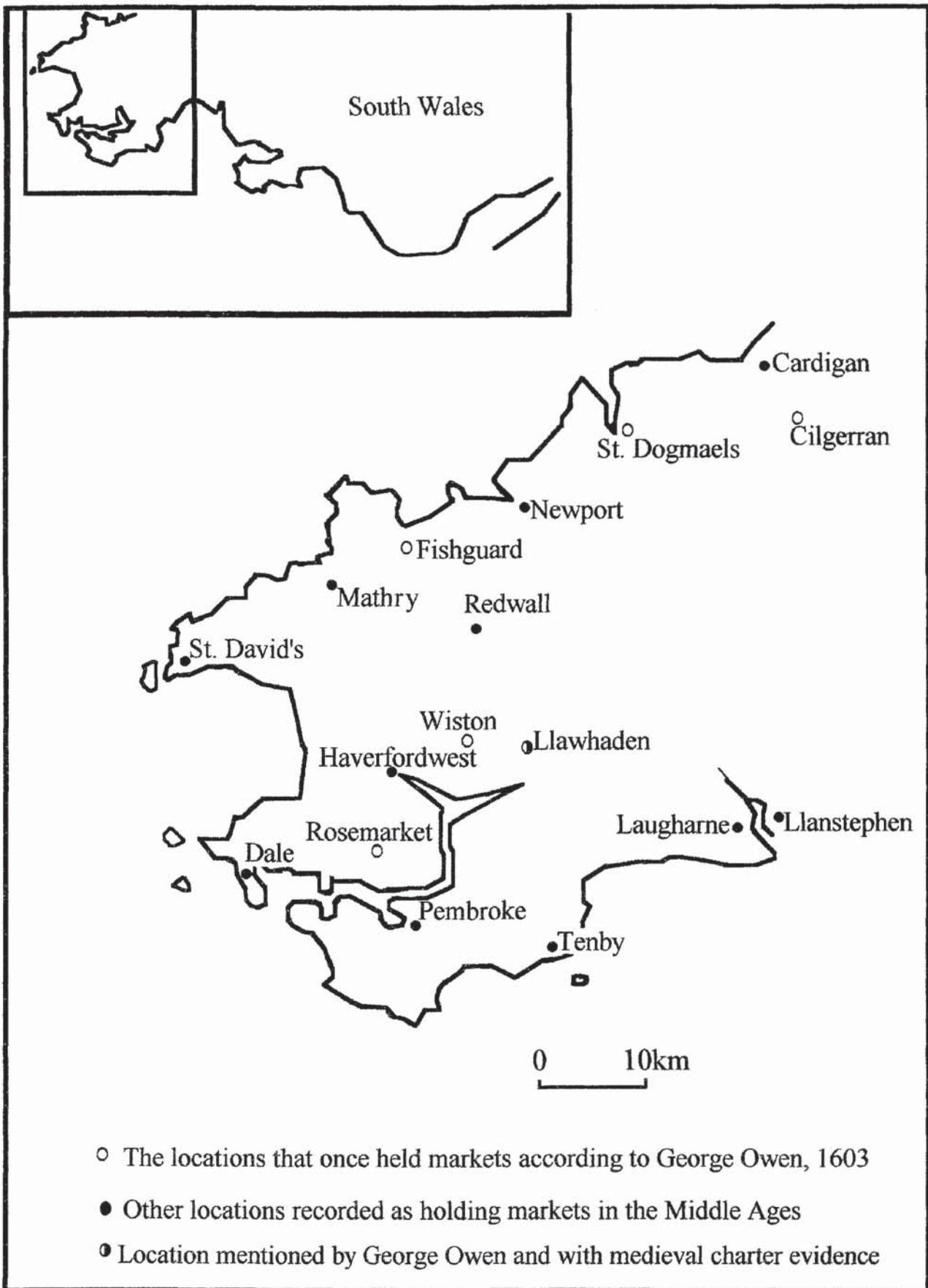


Figure 3: Market settlements in and around Pembrokeshire

In producing plans of the settlements, with the exception of Wiston, the approach of taking the outline of the earliest cartographic source, usually the tithe map, as showing the basic outline of the medieval settlement has been adopted. This approach has been widely employed, particularly in Pembrokeshire, and, although it is not without its critics, its relative merits or otherwise have been extensively debated elsewhere (Kissock 1997). The present study is concerned with placing topographical evidence for a medieval market place within evidence for medieval settlement and it is not directly concerned with detailed reconstruction of early plans. Undoubtedly caution should be exercised, however, as obviously the nineteenth century map records development that could have taken place at any time in the intervening years. This makes a good understanding of the post-medieval history of a location a useful requirement. Primarily, the concern here was to see whether a market place formed part of the settlement topography and so support the idea that a market was once held in the location concerned. In other settlements in south Wales the market place is one topographical element that has tended to remain fairly static. If no evidence for a post-medieval market were found, yet a market area could be identified, it would greatly increase the possibility that the market place dates from the Middle Ages.

Cilgerran

The first of the locations that George Owen claims once held a market is Cilgerran. This settlement has historically been considered a borough, but this is by tradition only, as contemporary documentation attesting to its status in the Middle Ages no longer survives. Early Pembrokeshire historians have suggested that settlement may have existed here at the time of incursions into west Wales led by Roger, earl of Shrewsbury, in the early 1090s. There is no charter evidence for a medieval market at Cilgerran and the market place shown on the tithe map may have been created for the Wednesday market that came into existence in the seventeenth century but which had ceased to be held by the early twentieth century. In 1164 Cilgerran castle was captured by Rhys ap Gruffudd who resisted subsequent attempts by both Norman and Flemish armies to retrieve it. Cilgerran eventually returned to Norman control following a successful campaign that was swiftly executed by William Marshall in 1204. Within ten years it had been recaptured by the Welsh and remained under their control until 1223 when William Marshall the younger landed a force at St. David's from Ireland and later marched on Cilgerran (Hilling 1992). The development of Cilgerran in the medieval and later periods may well have been impeded by the growth of Cardigan just over two miles to the south east. Cardigan became a prosperous trading centre in the late thirteenth century, being fostered as a royal town for west Wales under Henry III from 1268. It continued as a favoured royal town well into the reign of Edward III. One interesting reference to a complaint from the 1270s concerns Cilgerran's extensive fisheries on the River Teifi which were impeding river transport to the town of Cardigan (NLW: Bettisfield MS. 1306). At least six of these were located below Cardigan castle. Specifically, boats carrying timber and stone to Cardigan castle were being obstructed and it was ordered that the

fish-traps be removed, or else destroyed. They were rebuilt in 1314 by John de Hastings who ensured that they did not interfere with shipping. Aside from its status as a fishing community, little else is known of the economy of medieval Cilgerran and no contemporary accounts survive which mention a medieval market. In spite of this, topographically there is a market area beyond the castle and the tithe map shows regular-row plots flanking a main street (Figure 4). If a market was held here in the Middle Ages it may well have been a fish market.

Post-medieval development appears to have been limited. Cilgerran's presumed borough status was questioned by Richard Fenton who, writing in the eighteenth century, was scathing about the village, viewing its inhabitants as 'a set of marauding vagabonds, levellers, enemies of privileged property and the laws which protect it ... who live by scrambling ... and would rejoice to see the whole country once more in a state of anarchy,' (Fenton 1903, 276). It seems that the privileged society of landed gentry that Fenton was born into was a world away from the less economically fortunate inhabitants of Cilgerran. The seventeenth century market was established a considerable time after George Owen recorded his thoughts on the village. So whilst the topographical market place may mark the location of the later market it could also have been the venue for the medieval market that George Owen had alluded to.

Fishguard

Like many other settlements in west Wales, Fishguard is poorly served in terms of surviving documentation. The settlement here was reputedly a medieval borough with a charter granted by King John thereby placing it from 1200-1216. However, the original charter is believed to have been destroyed during the Civil War (Lewis 1865). There are several medieval features within the settlement, notably the church, St. Mary's. Also of interest is the placename itself, Fissigarth, which first appears in the twelfth century, although it is considered to be of a much earlier, possibly Scandinavian, origin (Charles 1992, 50). Beyond this, detailed evidence is lacking. Nonetheless, the tithe map of Fishguard is extremely tantalising as it features regular plots running along either side of the High Street (Figure 5). These were described as burgages in the sixteenth century when Fishguard was referred to as a borough. At the time of the tithe survey there were as many as 90 plots in the immediate settlement. Surrounding the settlement were large areas of strip fields, little trace of which survives today. Within the centre of the Fishguard, clearly apparent on the tithe map, is a triangular market place. Thus, whilst detailed documentary evidence is lacking, there is a very strong possibility that Fishguard was a medieval market centre, possibly from the twelfth century onwards. Like other Pembrokeshire settlements, Fishguard was probably laid out as a planned settlement at this time. A 1290 confirmation of a grant of land by Jordan de Cannington in Fishguard to the Tironian monks of nearby St. Dogmaels, and which incidentally lists one 'Tancard de Hospitaller, sheriff' as witness may represent a monastic order establishing an economic interest in a nearby commercial centre (Calendar of Charter Rolls II 1257-

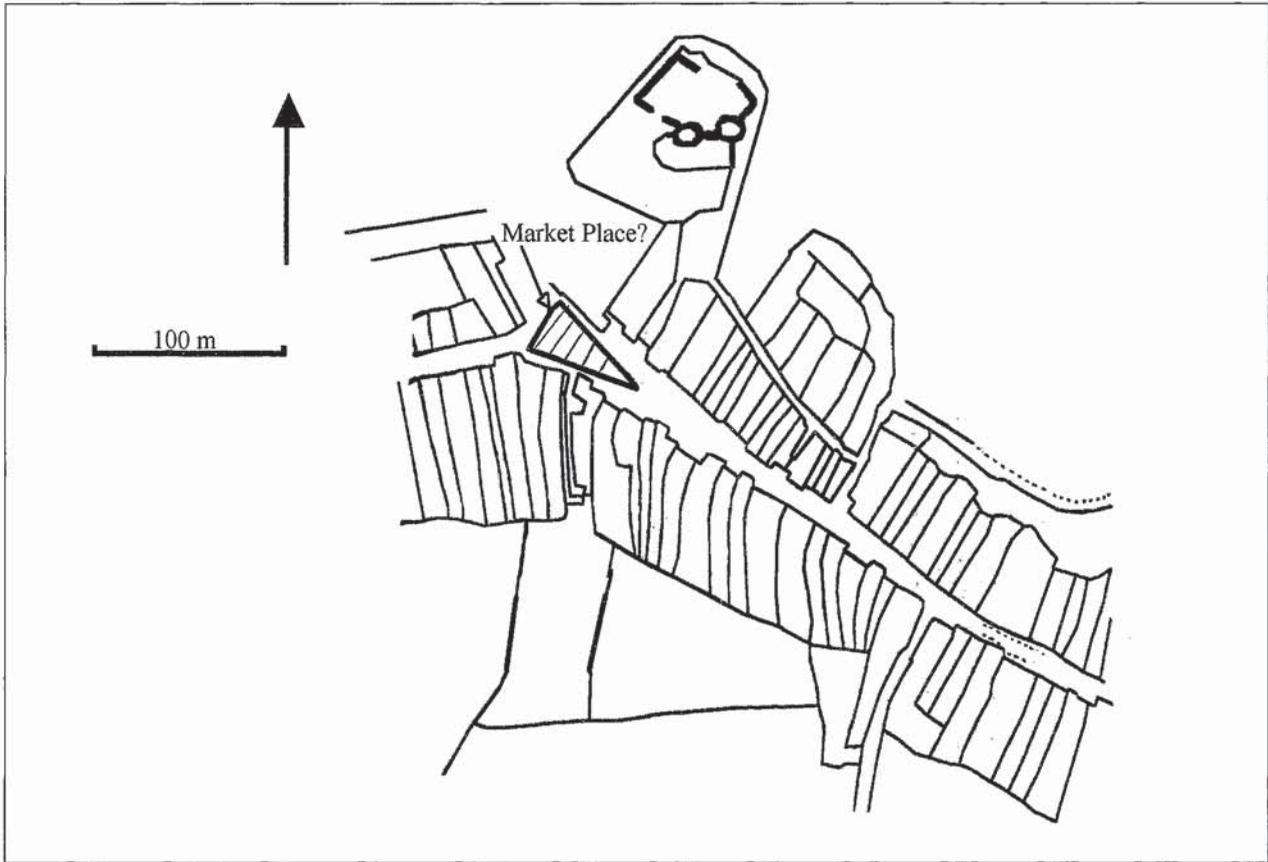


Figure 4: Cilgerran in the nineteenth century

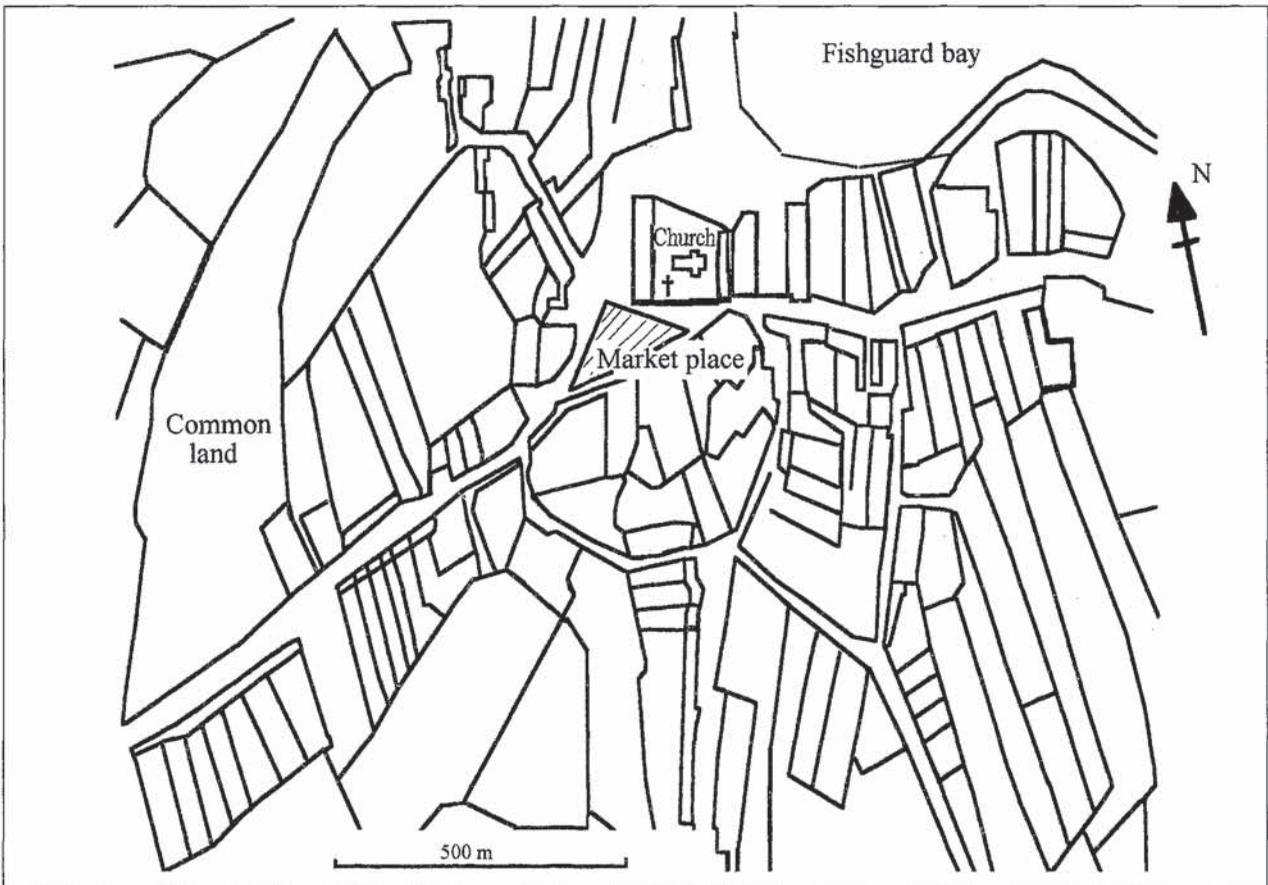


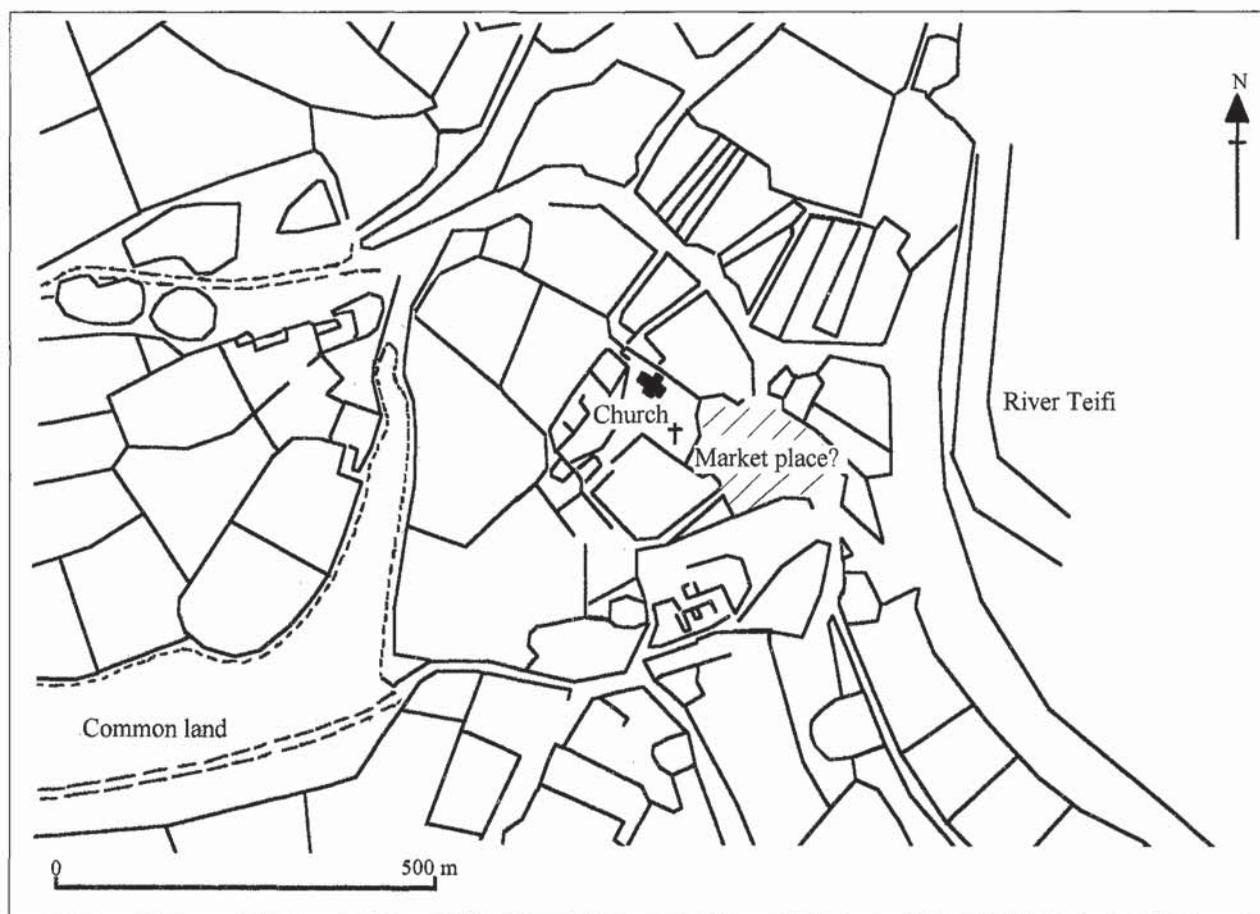
Figure 5: Plan of Fishguard from the tithe map

1300, 573). Given that Tancarville disappears from records relating to Pembrokeshire c. 1130 the original grant must pre-date this, yet the precise date of the grant remains unknown. Fishguard experienced some growth in the post-medieval period, largely at the expense of Newport, whose Thursday market was transferred to Fishguard, along with three annual fairs (Lewis 1865).

Archaeological investigation in Fishguard has been limited. An evaluation by Cambria Archaeology conducted in 1999 is thought to have been the first investigation undertaken within the presumed medieval core (Page 1999). These excavations, which consisted of six trenches, revealed several medieval features and a range of medieval pottery, although also present was an 'extensive spread of features dating from the medieval period to the twentieth century' (Page 1999, 125). Historical evidence supports the view that later periods witnessed a rise in the level of prosperity in Fishguard to an extent that was not experienced in the other five locations considered here. Hence, caution should be exercised as the representation of Fishguard on the nineteenth century tithe map may be more indicative of the seventeenth century situation, when the settlement experienced growth, rather than the extent of medieval settlement. These events, however, were not known to George Owen as they occurred after he described the village. Therefore it seems highly probable that a market was being held here in the Middle Ages.

St. Dogmaels

Like Fishguard, St. Dogmaels is also poorly documented and this may, in part, reflect the position of both Fishguard and St. Dogmaels in the turbulent north of the county of Pembrokeshire. St. Dogmaels was subject to one of the last recorded Viking raids in west Wales which was carried out in 1138. It had been regularly visited by Scandinavian marauders since at least 987 (Davies 1987, 10). A Tironian abbey was formally established here on the site of a pre-Conquest *clas* church on 10 September 1120 by Fulchard, its first abbot. The grant of land for the abbey had been made by the fitzMartin family who brought thirteen monks over from Tiron to populate the new establishment that year. Determining conclusively when the market at St. Dogmaels existed, however, has proven to be an elusive task. The *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of 1291 provides information on the holdings of the abbey at that time but there is no mention of a market among its possessions (Ayscough & Caley 1802, 276-7). Unfortunately little is known of the Tironian presence in south Wales as a whole, and it must be assumed that the decline in monastic influence on commercial society in the fourteenth century put paid to their economic interests in both Fishguard and St. Dogmaels. Early plans of St. Dogmaels do, intriguingly, show an open area just outside the churchyard where a market may have once been held (Figure 6). There is no mention of a market being held here in later periods and it is likely that if a medieval market was held here it was founded by the Tironians and did not survive beyond the twelfth century.



Rosemarket

The modern village of Rosemarket is located just under six miles from Pembroke and five and a half miles from Haverfordwest, although the physical divide of the Milford Haven estuary separates Rosemarket from Pembroke. The location of the village in relation to two prominent medieval boroughs, on one of the principal old routeways between the two, argues strongly for a medieval origin for the modern village. Early historical evidence for Rosemarket, like many other Pembrokeshire villages, tends to be sparse, there is no borough charter or tradition of borough privileges being upheld in later periods. The clearest indication that a market existed here is undoubtedly in the place name. However, little else was previously known as to when this market existed, its level of success or its eventual demise.

The place name appears to be a derivation of the location name – the district of ‘Rhos’, meaning ‘moor’ – added to the Norman-French word for market, *marche*. In 1538 the village of Rosemarket attracted the attention of the antiquarian John Leland who described it thus:

‘Rhos market. The market is lost, and (it) is now a poore village. It is as in the middle way bitwixt Arford West and Penbrok’ (Toulmin Smith 1972, 63)

The village of Rosemarket was granted to the Knights Hospitaller in the mid-twelfth century by William fitz Haion, Robert fitz Godebert and Richard fitz Tancard. Richard was the son of Tancard Flandrensis, a Flemish settlement founder or locator who is believed to have worked extensively in Pembrokeshire and who may have been responsible for establishing Rosemarket. The date of the grant is not known but it is presumed to be from the period 1140-60 (Rees 1947, 26). The ‘market of Rhos’ is mentioned in an account of Hospitaller possessions from 1308 which transcribes details of properties held by the order in the mid-twelfth century (Charles 1947/48, 180).

Rosmarche is mentioned in a petition from the period 1296 - 1307 issued by Joan de Valence, adopting the title ‘Lady of Haverford’ to the king. Joan held custody of the neighbouring lordship of Pembroke and in this petition claimed jurisdiction over Haverford lordship, which included Rosemarket. This claim had arisen due to the fact that the lordship of Haverford had been administered by Pembroke during the period of transition following the death of Humphrey de Bohun in 1265. This claim was unsuccessful, as in 1273 the lordship officially became administered by the Crown. In 1290 de Valence claims on the lordship were revived, perhaps as an opportunist measure following the death of Queen Eleanor that year, but yet again proved unsuccessful (Rees 1975, 252, no. 151). The de Valence family eventually gained the lordship of Haverford in 1308. Whilst the village itself is named in the petition, a market is not alluded to and may well have ceased to exist by this time. It had certainly done so by 1338 when Hospitaller records reveal that profits from Rosemarket were derived from a watermill, a fulling mill and the glebe, with there being no mention of income derived from a market (Larking 1857, 34-35). Thus, it must be assumed that the market had been discontinued by this time.

Turning to the village, the basic outline on the title map can be assumed to represent the medieval plan of the village (see Figure 7). The plan consists of two main streets flanking a centrally located market square. Plots are evident running the full length of the village on its eastern side, and also on two contained pieces of land to the north and south of the market square. Two plots in the village are described by the term ‘burgage’ on the title schedule, though only one of these occurs in the pattern that has just been described. The other is situated as a solitary plot to the east of Rosemarket Rath – a prehistoric enclosure located in a field known locally as meadow ring – on the ‘hird main road in the village which runs on a different axis to the two main streets, in an easterly direction. Medieval features within the village include the manor house, a water mill, a fulling mill, and a holy well. The market place survives as a distinct topographical feature despite there being no record of a subsequent market ever being held there.

There is no reference to a market being held in later periods. Surpluses produced within the community were traded elsewhere, notably in Haverfordwest. Arable farming appears to have been an established tradition in the parish of Rosemarket. A considerable stir was created in the 1580s when efforts were made to convert large areas to pastoralism by creating new enclosures (PRO: E112/62/2). It was feared that such actions would lead to depopulation, although the extent to which the conversion from arable to pastoral took place is not recorded. However, the fears of depopulation appear, for the most part, to have been largely unfounded and the scale of the new enclosures made hereabouts may not have been as extensive as was once feared. By far the greatest reorganisation of the landscape in Rosemarket parish has taken place in the later nineteenth and

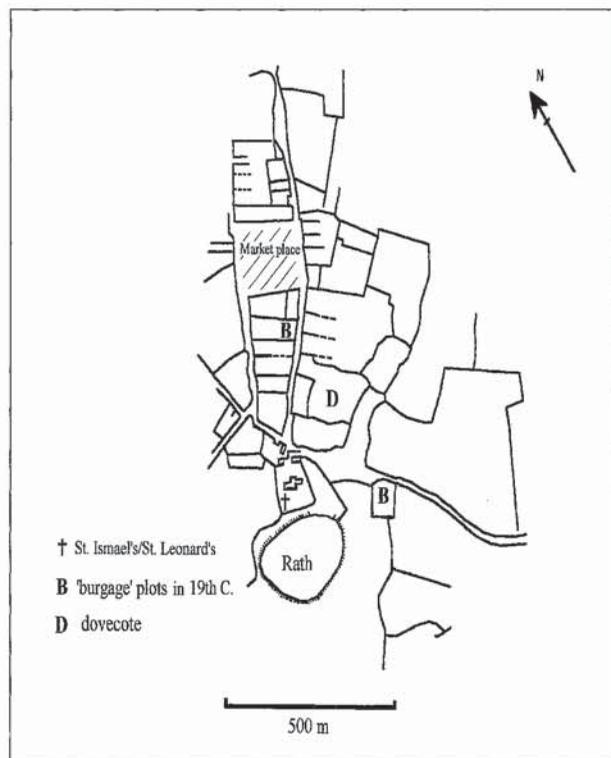


Figure 7: The village of Rosemarket

twentieth centuries with the demand by modern farming technology for fewer, larger fields.

Given the evidence outlined above, the possibility should be entertained that Rosemarket is a village that was first laid out as a planned settlement early in the twelfth century, possibly by the Flemish *locator* Tancard whose family retained an interest in the village until its grant to the Knights Hospitallers. It has been speculated by Keith Lilley that Tancard may have been responsible for founding Haverfordwest, later taking on the role of castellan (Lilley 1995, 35). The Hospitallers, by 1150, had gained substantial interests elsewhere in Pembrokeshire, notably in Haverfordwest where they acquired an unspecified amount of land along with an additional six burgages in c.1131 (Rees 1947, 26, 120-21) It could well have been this grant to the order that sounded the death knell for the market that was being held at Rosemarket. Tancard disappears from the historical record in Pembrokeshire in 1130 when his son succeeded him as castellan of Haverfordwest. Perhaps it is purely coincidental but it happens to be at the same time that Wizo, the founder of Wiston, also disappears from Pembrokeshire. Different commentators – considering each separately – have suggested that both men died at around this time, however, men by the name of ‘Wizo’ and ‘Tancard’ were founding villages in Scotland in the 1150s (Toorians 1996). These personal names were very rare during the period, consequently there is a very strong possibility that neither had died, but had instead moved on to exploit opportunities elsewhere (Kissock 1997, 131).

Many of the smaller markets of south Wales had ceased in the early fourteenth century, it is not known if the market at Rosemarket was one of them. Given Hospitaller interests in nearby Haverfordwest it may have been extinguished much earlier. The first charter to Haverfordwest was granted by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke c. 1200. The extent of any settlement existing before this time is not known, what is known is that Haverfordwest became a chartered borough at least fifty years after Rosemarket had been established. Haverfordwest became the *caput* of its lordship and was well placed at the lowest bridging point of the Western Cleddau to exploit commercial opportunities both by land and sea. It was this strategic advantage in terms of commercial opportunities and also, significantly, in terms of defence, which saw the town expand rapidly. As noted, the exact date of the ending of the weekly market in Rosemarket is not known, however the growth of Haverfordwest, and in particular Hospitaller interests there, may have proved significant in its demise. Haverfordwest may have developed to the extent where it ‘achieved’ borough status, where Rosemarket failed to do so. Things may have been very different had Rosemarket occupied a location better suited to water transport. As it was, Haverfordwest was not only well served by land routes but more importantly by its position at the furthest navigable point inland on the Western Cleddau, covering some 21 miles, of the Milford Haven estuary (*Calendar of Close Rolls* 1296-1302, 500).

The medieval history of Pembroke can be pushed back a hundred years further than Haverfordwest. It received its first charter c. 1100 which was granted by Henry I to

Arnulf de Montgomery, the son of Earl Roger of Shrewsbury (Owen 1918, III, 208-10). The town was, therefore, developing at the same time as Rosemarket, however the substantial barrier of Milford Haven Estuary separated the two and allowed both to exist serving separate hinterlands. The regional commercial dominance of Pembroke and the rapid growth of Haverfordwest undoubtedly played a role in influencing its demise. Nonetheless the village of Rosemarket remained in Hospitaller hands from the twelfth century until the Reformation, with the existence of its former market preserved in the place-name to this day.

Wiston

Wiston is one of the more well known, and more widely studied of the Pembrokeshire villages. Despite this, there is much that remains a mystery about its early development. Located four miles north east of Haverfordwest, Wiston was founded sometime prior to 1130. Today the settlement consists of a group of farms spread out from what was the medieval core of the castle, manor house and church. The most detailed research at Wiston has been carried out by Kenneth Murphy (Murphy 1995, 1997). The plan of Wiston in Figure 8 is Murphy’s interpretation of the plan of thirteenth century Wiston, based on topographical and archaeological evidence from survey, excavation and watching-briefs carried out between 1979 and 1995. The plan allows for a market place opposite the church (Murphy 1995, 97-98).

The settlement takes its name from the Flemish settler Wizo, who, Kissock has argued, was a village founder, or *locator*. Kissock has challenged the widely accepted, and much quoted, view that is usually, albeit incorrectly, attributed to Sir J.E. Lloyd in his monumental *History of Wales*, that Wizo died c. 1130. It was, in fact J. Rogers Rees, writing in 1897, who first stated that Wizo had died because he does not appear in records from Pembrokeshire after this date (Rogers Rees 1897, 96-97). Kissock proposes that this is because Wizo had not in fact died but instead moved on to seek opportunities elsewhere, precisely what would be expected of a *locator* (Kissock 1997, 132). A similar situation has occurred with other Flemings, notably with Tancard, who the historian William Rees assumed had died because he also disappeared from Pembrokeshire in 1130. In fact, there appears to be only one firm instance where surviving documents record the death of a *locator*. It occurs in 1137 when Letard, the founder of Letterston, was killed by the Welsh chieftain Anarawd ap Gruffudd. Letterston, like Rosemarket, was later granted to the Knights Hospitaller (Rees 1947, 105).

The Welsh chronicle the *Brut y Tywysogion* records that in 1220 Wiston castle was taken by the Welsh under the leadership of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth (Jones 1952, 97). Its garrison was put to the sword and the settlement around it was subsequently burned (Edwards 1935, 4; Jones 1971, 223). Despite this devastating attack archaeological evidence has revealed that the castle continued to be used, and was in use in the fourteenth century (Murphy 1997, 145). The status of the accompanying settlement, however, is not known. No documentary evidence could be traced which could ascertain the existence of a functioning market at Wiston in the Middle Ages. Its existence as a medieval borough is implied from post-

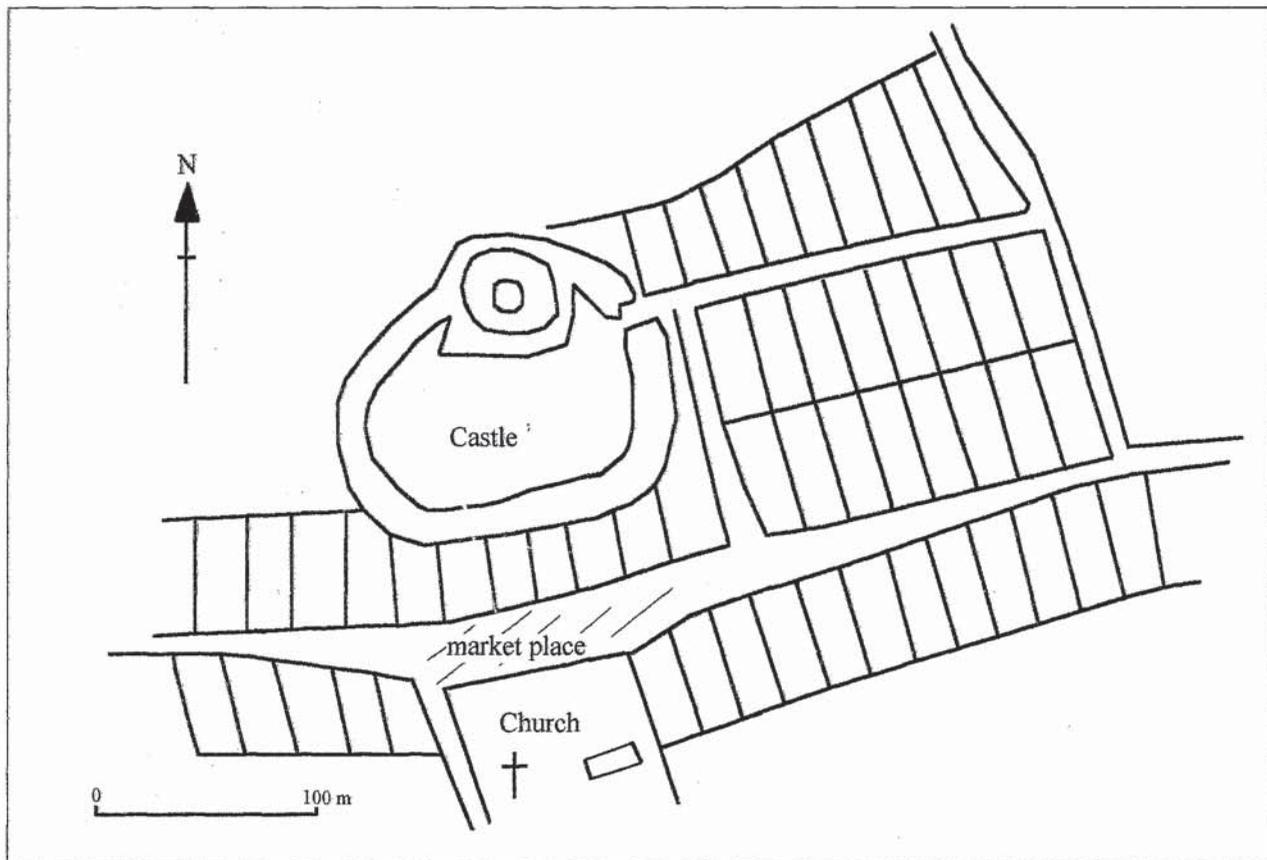


Figure 8: Hypothetical plan of Wiston in the thirteenth century (after Murphy 1995)

medieval references to borough status and the rights of its burgesses. Therefore, it seems likely that a medieval market was held here, but it was unlikely to have survived beyond 1220. The effect of ap Iorwerth's attack certainly led to a downgrading in the status of Wiston castle, with its administrative responsibilities transferred to nearby Picton. In the post-medieval period there was no weekly market held at Wiston, although in the eighteenth century an annual fair was being held around 20 October (Lewis 1865).

Llawhaden

Llawhaden is located two and a half miles to the east of Wiston and although it at first appears to have been more successful in terms of growth than its nearby neighbour, it was actually founded much later. There is little evidence of settlement alongside Llawhaden castle prior to 1281 when Bishop Bek of St. David's founded a fortified mansion as his principal country residence (Willis Bund 1902, xix). Accompanying the foundation was a market grant for a market to be held there on a Monday (*Calendar of Charter Rolls* 11, 257-8). A survey of the bishopric's holdings in 1326, known as the *Black Book of St. David's* (Willis Bund 1902), makes no mention of either a market or fair being held here. However, given that this source is comparatively late, the market held at Llawhaden may have shared the fate of many of the smaller markets held across south Wales by that time and ceased to exist. Indeed, the *Black Book* lists a single weekly market as being held at St. David's on a Thursday, yet in 1281 there were twice-weekly markets held there with the second taking place on a Saturday (PRO: E352/73/1).

There has been some suggestion that the market at Llawhaden may have existed in name only, with no actual weekly market ever being held (Kissock 1997, 132). This belief is based on the fact that no market was recorded as being held there at the time of the survey for the *Black Book* in 1326. There is scant documentary evidence for the intervening years from the grant in 1281 to the survey of 1326. However, given that there were 174/2burgages there in 1326, it seems that in Pembrokeshire terms at least, Llawhaden was not a small settlement, even following the problems of the early fourteenth century. Ralph Griffiths has shown that settlements in west Wales did not have to be especially large or distanced from other trading settlements in order to maintain functioning markets during the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries. Using the examples of Llandeilo Fawr and Dinefwr in Carmarthenshire located within two miles of each other, Professor Griffiths has revealed that from 1280 to the 1320s each location managed to maintain a functioning market and fair (Griffiths 1994, 266-7). Neither place was especially large at this time: Llandeilo Fawr received rent from just fourteen burgesses in 1326, whilst Dinefwr may have held as many as seventy burgage plots in 1302 (Soulsby 1983, 127). If nearby Dryslwyn, four miles west of Llandeilo, and also a late thirteenth century foundation, is added to the equation this makes three market settlements within a four mile radius of each other, two of which were holding markets on the same day: Saturday. Each seemingly had the ability to maintain a weekly market and support annual fairs. Dryslwyn held forty three burgages at the close of the thirteenth century; although its market and fairs are

not recorded until a charter of 1324 (*Calendar of Charter Rolls* III, 461), it is likely that they existed much earlier but were not formally recognised until this time. Each of these settlements was smaller than Llawhaden, yet each location possessed functioning weekly markets in the late thirteenth century that continued into the early fourteenth century but did not continue much beyond that. Therefore it seems that a weekly market had operated in Llawhaden from 1281 but had been discontinued by 1326.

Conclusions

This study was undertaken in order to determine whether the settlements listed by George Owen held weekly markets during the Middle Ages. If they were, they could then be included in a wider study of medieval markets held in south Wales (Weeks 2003). It appears that all of the settlements listed by George Owen were holding markets in the Middle Ages. Therefore two of the three possible dates for when the markets were functioning can be rejected. There is no evidence to suggest that any of the six locations saw their weekly market established in the fifteenth century. Equally there is no evidence that they came in existence at the same time as many smaller markets were founded across south Wales in the 1290s. Therefore, it can be concluded that the markets in the six locations came into existence either when the settlement was founded or soon after. Some of the weekly markets do not appear to have survived beyond the twelfth century, but the memory of them remained. Certain locations acquired new weekly markets in the post-medieval period, but these would not have been known to George Owen. For example, nearly fifty years after Owen's work was published a market was re-established at Llawhaden in 1652. Other locations that were not holding markets during the time of George Owen did so in the seventeenth century, notably Fishguard.

Distinguishing between urban and rural settlements in Pembrokeshire during the Middle Ages is far from being a straightforward task. Many settlements appear to have had urban constitutions but the tenants who lived in them often owed agricultural labour services. This is evident at Llawhaden, one of the larger Pembrokeshire settlements, where the burgesses were required to do harvesting, harrowing and ploughing (Willis-Bund 1902, 150-2). Some centres developed into commercial towns of note, whereas others either experienced little growth or, in some cases, declined so as to become rural villages. Many settlements in Pembrokeshire were established early in the twelfth century as a deliberate act of royal policy which saw Flemish colonisation in the area, notably in the districts of Rhos and Daugleddau. New settlements were created and consequently Pembrokeshire became, as Murphy puts it, a 'landscape crammed to capacity with small towns' (Murphy 1997, 148). The reasons for this are varied. One of the most commonly cited reasons is the high numbers of lordships within a relatively small area as individual lords created several new centres within their bounds to attract settlers and raise revenue (Kissock 1997, Murphy 1997). Following this line of thought it might be expected that each lordship would possess one principal administrative and trading settlement at the centre of several satellite settlements, after all far more new settlements were founded that did not have the right to hold a market than those that did.

However, this was not the case as the research has revealed that there were sometimes several market centres within individual lordships; at least three within the lordship of Cemais, three in Haverford and two in the lordship of Pembroke. A second possibility that follows on from this but which is less frequently considered is the transport system. Water-borne transport was cheaper than travelling by road and it is likely that an inefficient, expensive and sometimes dangerous inland transport system contributed to the proliferation of trading centres along the coast. Settlements like Rosemarket which were only served by inland routes were at a disadvantage, although this does not explain the reasons for the failure of markets at settlements like Fishguard and St. Dogmaels (Figure 3). It seems that for them and others there was ultimately not enough demand to sustain a weekly market in each location. For George Owen the reasons for the loss of the weekly markets in the six settlements was far more simple, 'it was', he said, 'the unaptness of the places' which influenced their demise (Miles 1994, 143). Pembrokeshire witnessed both some of the earliest markets established in south Wales and also saw the demise of some of those markets. There is no surviving evidence of other markets in south Wales ceasing to exist as early as the twelfth century.

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Six Medieval Moated Sites near Arlington, East Sussex

by Tom Hollobone

Introduction

These notes consider some of the historical information available for six medieval sites near Arlington in the Rape of Pevensey, in East Sussex. Four of the sites were definitely moated and there is good evidence for the other two being moated also. One particularly interesting feature is that four of the moats can be considered as two pairs. In both cases, the moats in each pair are about 0.5 km apart and the exit water from one acts as part of the water supply to the other. The similarity between the two pairs is compounded by the possibility that in both cases, the second moat was of figure of eight form. The sites are: Michelham Priory; an unnamed site called Moleswood by the farmer; Wilbees Farm; Sessingham; Lower Claverham Farm; and Claverham Manor.

As the research progressed, the probable site of the deserted medieval hamlet of Sessingham, about which nothing appears to have been written, was found; and the possible relevance of the boundary of Michelham deer park to the Sessingham moated site noted.

GR Burleigh (1973) listed, and where appropriate described, a number of deserted medieval villages (DMVs), and included in that list Arlington, which he described as "a good example of a shrunken settlement and is not a full DMV". In Vol 112 he gave a much fuller description of the humps, bumps, platforms and hollows which are to be seen in the field to the west and south west of the church, between it and the river Cuckmere. These are the remains of a medieval settlement which was deserted, probably gradually, prior to the mid 17th century. He described the church as having "pre Conquest features".

Arlington was in the medieval Rape of Pevensey, which was granted by William I to Robert of Mortain. He was succeeded by his son William, who however had his lands confiscated in 1102, when he sided with Robert Curthose, in rebellion against Henry I. Much, but not all, of the Rape of Pevensey, was granted to Gilbert of Laigle, whose descendents held it, off and on until 1231, the Laigle lands in Sussex being called the Honour of Aquila. Gilbert of Laigle, the last male of the line, gave land at Michelham in 1229 to form an Augustinian Priory. From 1231, most of the Rape of Pevensey was held by royal favourites including: Peter of Rivallis, Gilbert Marshall, Peter of Savoy and then Queen Eleanor the mother of Edward I (Thompson 1997).

Historical research on the six sites from the late 11th to the late 14th centuries, when most moats were built, has been marked by a paucity of information and the apparent almost non-existence of historical information for Moleswood, Wilbees Farm & Sessingham. The 1873 25 inch OS map (the first edition of the large scale OS maps) shows details of the extent and shape of the sites 130 years ago, which is generally fuller than can be found on the ground now. Further research would almost certainly

throw up more information. The only archaeological work known to the author done on any of the six sites is on Michelham Priory.

1086 - Domesday Book

ARLINGTON was physically in the Rape of Pevensey but it was not listed in Domesday Book. However it had land in Hawksborough Hundred in the Rape of Hastings, held by the Count of Eu as Tenant-in-Chief (DB 9.39).

SESSINGHAM was physically in Alciston Hundred, in the Rape of Pevensey for which the Tenant-in-Chief was the Count of Mortain but half of the holding was an outlier of the Rape of Hastings (DB 10.56). A separate entry (DB 9.47) recorded an outlier, possibly in Hawksborough Hundred, in the Rape of Hastings, held by the Count of Eu, as Tenant-in-Chief. There are humps, bumps and hollows in the field on the west bank of the Cuckmere just north of Sessingham bridge and these may be the remains of medieval Sessingham which in 1086 accounted for 16 villagers, a water mill and a fishery which yielded a rent of 500 eels each year.

CLAVERHAM. There were four entries for Claverham. In Shiplake Hundred in the Rape of Pevensey, the Count of Mortain held Claverham and there is an inference that there were two or possibly three places, all under the same name. Precisely where the different 1086 Claverham lands were remains a matter for speculation, but they may have lain in the vicinity of the present Claverham Manor and Lower Claverham Farm. There was an outlier in the Rape of Hastings (DB 10.87 & 10.88). The Count of Eu held an outlier of Claverham, which included Hastings itself, in Baldslow Hundred (DB 9.114) and he also had Claverham land in the Rape of Pevensey (DB 9.94).

The Claverham entries are particularly confusing and it seems as though there was more than one manor of Claverham. This may account for the separate later ownership of Claverham Manor and Lower Claverham Farm.

The Domesday Book record is complicated by some entries which are for outliers or dens further into the Weald, mainly to the north east and geographically within the Rape of Hastings.

The Sites

MICHELHAM TQ 558093.

It is noted above that much of the Rape of Pevensey was granted to Gilbert of Laigle at the beginning of the 12th century, and that his descendents held it, off and on, until 1231 when the last male in the Laigle line died. There was a park of Pevensey, encompassing about 290 acres in Arlington, which this last Gilbert granted to form a Priory of Augustinian Canons in 1229 – this became known as Michelham Priory. It was dissolved in 1536 and granted to Thomas Cromwell and by him in 1542 to William Earl of Arundel.

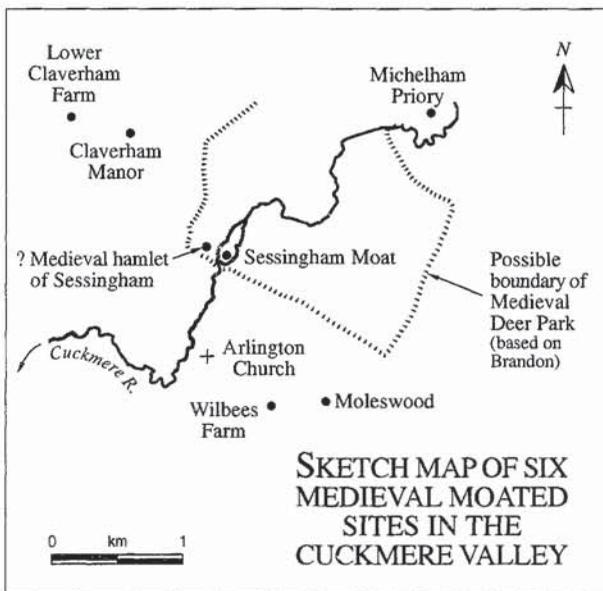


Figure 9

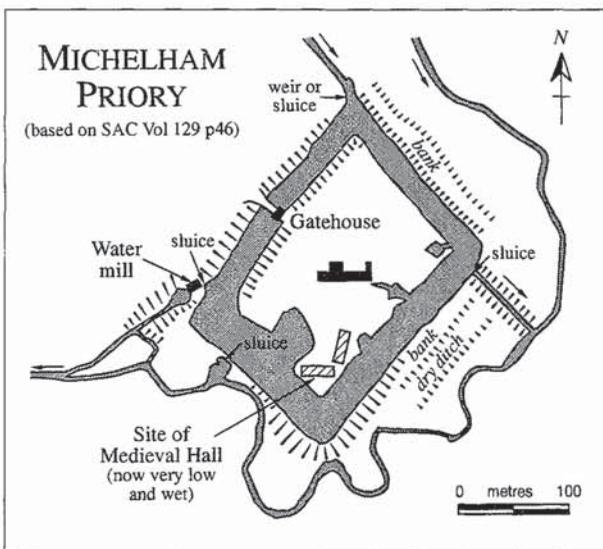


Figure 10: Michelham Priory

Numerous excavations have been made within the moated area over at least 75 years, perhaps the most significant being between 1971-76 under the direction of L&P Stevens (Stevens & Stevens, 1991). These excavations revealed an impressive stone built medieval hall (about 30m long x 10m wide) dating from 1280-1350, probably dating to the latter part of the 13th century. This was situated in what is now the extreme southern corner of the moated platform, but predates the moat. The hall was used for domestic purposes and was about 75ms from the priory.

This hall was converted in the mid to late 14th century for some industrial use, indicated by the presence of kilns and ovens. The floor level of the converted hall was then deliberately raised, probably to counteract a rise in the water table resulting from the construction of the moat. This part of the central platform of the moat is still very wet, particularly when the level of water in the moat is high. The excavators concluded that the moat was probably built in the late 14th century, or early 15th

century, when Prior John Leeme was in charge of the priory. He was appointed Prior in 1376, and died in 1415, and has been credited with the building of the massive gatehouse and a general expansion of the priory and its activities.

The moat itself lies on 'Head', overlaying Weald clay and lies about 2.5 kms to the north-north-east of the hamlet of Arlington in the shallow valley of the river Cuckmere, at a point where the river flows in a wide loop close to the rising ground on the west side of the valley. About 0.5 kms north of the site, the river divides into two branches (whether this division was natural or artificial is not known) and the main branch flows into the moat at its northern corner and then out near the western corner to supply the water mill, whilst the other branch skirts the moat on its north-east, south-east and south-west sides where it joins up with the main branch below a leat on the exit side of the water mill. It is believed that there had been a water mill at Michelham before the construction of the moat, and one can speculate that if it had been on the same site as the present one, then there may have been a mill pond upstream of it, which was later remodelled to form the north west side of the moat.

There is another water exit from the moat, in the east corner, which connects by a leat with the subsidiary arm of the Cuckmere. The level of the moat at this point is much higher than the subsidiary stream, the leat running in a deep ditch.

The land slopes from the north and west towards the south and east, so the ditch of the moat on the west side is deep, whilst the land surrounding the moat, particularly on the eastern and southern corners, needed to be heavily built up, so heavily in fact, that in the southern corner, the water level of the moat is some 3 metres higher than the level of the Cuckmere some 20 metres or so beyond it. It was this difference in water level in the southern corner, which allowed the Stevens' to conclude that the moat must have been dug after the hall was built, as the floor of the original domestic hall was significantly lower than the level of the surface of the moat (Stevens & Stevens, 1991 & MSRG 7).

Apart from the above, dating evidence for the moat at Michelham seems to be non-existent, but an excavation was carried out in 1999, in an area adjoining the impressive late fourteenth century gatehouse (Poole, 1999). This showed that the bridge over the moat leading to the gatehouse was built after the Dissolution in 1536, because some of the bridge foundations were of stone which could only have come from the ruined Priory. The excavation further concluded that the previous bridge construction (Prior Leeme's) was probably of wood.

The moat itself is roughly rectangular in plan, with internal dimensions of the platform being about 180 metres on the south west/north east axis and 130 metres on the north west/south east axis and containing an area of about 2.3 hectares. There are now at least three indentations from the moat into the inner platform. When these were dug or what they were for is not known. The moat varies in width from about 20 metres on the north east side, to 30 metres on the south west.

Why such a large moat should have been built in about 1400 is not known, and must be a matter for speculation. Bodiam castle, which is surrounded by a large moat, was built in about 1385, and this may have acted as the catalyst for Michelham's moat; however it is worth noting that the impressive moat at Laughton Place, about 8 kms west north west of Michelham, was probably dug in the period 1283-93 i.e. at least a hundred years earlier than the estimated date for Michelham's moat (Farrant *et al.*, 1991). In 1291/3 a drawbridge and inner and outer gatehouses were rebuilt at Laughton and there was a wooden palisade around the inner sides of the moat, which may indicate that major repairs were carried out, thus postulating that the original moat at Laughton was of an even earlier date than 1283.

Extant earthwork remains raise a number of questions. An obvious wide depression (now a dry ditch) which runs parallel to the moat and between it and the subsidiary arm of the Cuckmere outside the large bank of the moat on the south east side seems to have been man made, but there is no record as to when it was dug or for what purpose. During times of very heavy rainfall the valley on this side of the moat still floods, right up towards Hailsham and the A22. Secondly, the outside bank of the moat on the north west side opposite the gatehouse, is very deep, and if dug purely for the moat on that side, must have involved an enormous effort – it begs the question as to whether it was entirely man-made, or whether the original line of the Cuckmere lay on that side of the valley and had cut into the rising land, to be exploited later for the moat. Thirdly, on the north east outer side of the moat there is a raised bank, the purpose of which is not entirely obvious. It effectively separates the moat from the subsidiary arm of the Cuckmere, but it is unclear why this should be necessary.

MOLESWOOD TQ 551071.

This site lies on Weald clay about 0.75 kms east south east of the hamlet of Arlington. The 1:50,000 OS map incorrectly places the word 'Moat' in Gothic script between Wilbees Farm (see below) and this site, which is unnamed on the map. Two hatchmarks on the map indicate the eastern boundary of the moat.

The OS surveyor's notes dated 1969 clearly show the southern arm of the moat as water-filled, with water in the southern end of the western arm and a peculiar short, water-filled extension of the southern arm. When the site was visited by the author in mid January 2000, only the eastern half of the southern arm, in a wide hedge, was water filled, the western half of this arm and the southern end of the west arm having been ploughed out – but their line could clearly be seen in the grass field as a slight depression with lush, greener grass. Likewise the northern end of the west arm could clearly be seen as lush growth within a slight depression. The northern boundary of the moat is now marked by a hedge and narrow field ditch, as is the east side, but there the ditch is much wider and did contain some water.

Looked at from the south west, the central area of the site presents as a clear flat platform. The field was ploughed some five years ago and the farmer said that this revealed stones or building blocks in the central area of the moat.

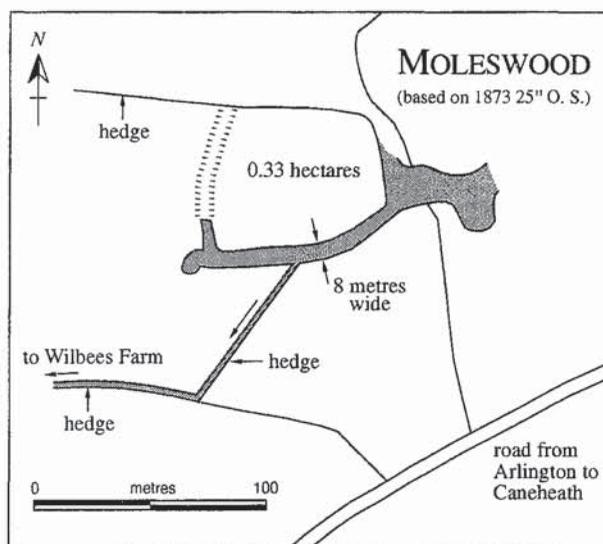


Figure 11: Moleswood

There is a spring in a hollow 20-30 metres to the east of the south east corner of the moat, which appears to have been the main water supply. However the land rises slightly to the north and east of the site and the moat probably attracted ground water from those directions also.

Water flows from the centre of the southern arm of the moat via a ditch beside a hedge, which connects with another field ditch going to the west. This passes just to the north of Endlewick House (previously 'The Vicarage') and then on by a culvert under the road to the south east corner of the Wilbees Farm moat. The two moats are only about 0.4 kms apart and their close proximity seems to be more than a coincidence, particularly as the outlet from Moleswood connects via the inlet to the Wilbees Farm moat.

The short extension, on the west side of the southern arm of the moat, may have been the original exit from the moat, rather than the present ditch some 40 metres to its east.

From the 1873 25 inch OS map, the central platform measured between about 55 metres and 75 metres on the east west axis and between about 40 metres and 60 metres on the north south axis, giving an area of about 0.33 hectares. This is large for what the OS describes as a 'Homestead Moat' and indicates that when built it probably had some significance locally. In 1873 the southern arm of the moat still measured about 8 metres in width.

WILBEES FARM TQ 547071.

Despite extensive enquiries little has been learnt about the history of this interesting site. The present Wilbees Farm house was built in 1907-8 and the previous house, shown on the 1873 25-inch OS map on the north west side of the platform within the moat, was taken down, probably in phases as just part of it appears on a 1972 revision of the map.

The present owners moved there in 1976-7 and believe that the site had been named after a 16th century owner called Willoughby.

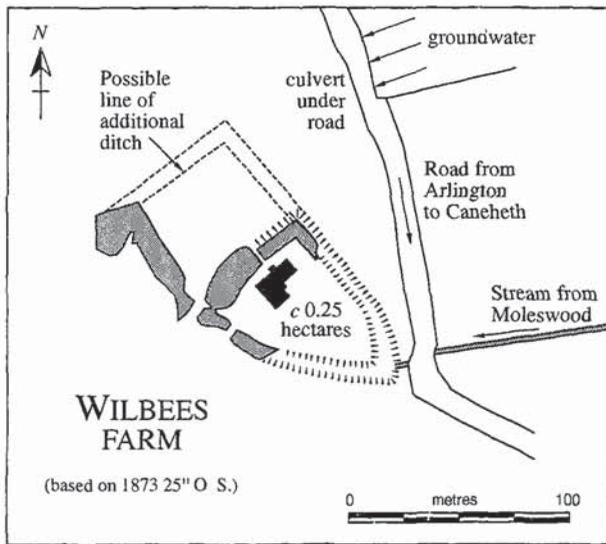


Figure 12: Wilbees Farm

Wilbees Farm is about 0.5 kms south east of the hamlet of Arlington and lies on 'Head', overlaying Weald clay. The layout of the area of the farm and its buildings has been much altered since the 1873 25-inch OS map was published, and particularly during the last 50 years, however some of the 19th century buildings are still there. Despite these changes, the present owners were able to identify where much of the moat was in the present gardens. There are now two large ponds in the garden, which were dug from part of the north east arm of the moat, but the south west side of the moat is difficult to interpret.

Water was probably originally fed to the moat from three sources: (a) from a small stream or ditch, which enters the moat in the south east corner and which flows from Moleswood, the moated site about 0.4 kms to the east. The close proximity of these two moated sites has to be more than a coincidence, particularly as water flows from one to the other; (b) the 1873 OS map indicates that the north east corner of the site must have had deep steep banks on its north and east sides, where it was cut out of the slightly higher ground, indicating that groundwater would have seeped into the moat from that quarter; (c) from groundwater from the rising ground on the north side of the road. This ground water feeds into a ditch alongside the road and then under the road via a culvert, to the north east corner of the site.

The 1873 OS Map shows a large pond on the north west corner of the site. Although somewhat irregularly shaped, the inner edge of the pond was nearly straight and followed the line of the inner edge of the remains of the moat on the south west quarter. It is possible that this was the remains of a second moat, which abutted the one shown on the 1873 map, thus forming a figure of eight. Although rare, figure-of-eight moats are not unknown, Claverham Manor (about 2.25 kms to the north north east) being another possibility. The 1873 map showed a causeway across the centre of the north west arm of the then extant moat, which could have served to connect the two platforms.

The 1873 map clearly showed that the moat around the extant house was triangular in shape, with the apex of the

triangle in the south east corner. The north west side of the platform or triangle was about 45 metres long, with the two other sides (both being slightly convex in shape) being about 70 metres in length, and giving an area for the central platform of about 0.25 hectares. If there was a second platform to the north west, it might have had internal measurements of about 45 metres on the south west/north east axis and 35 metres on the north west/south east axis, giving an area of about 0.15 hectares, making about 0.4 hectares for the two platforms combined. The 1873 Map also showed that the arms of the moat varied between 6 metres and 12 metres wide, most commonly around 9 metres.

SESSINGHAM TQ 544082.

As already seen, there were two Domesday Book entries for Sessingham showing that it had two outliers in the Rape of Hastings. 16 villagers were recorded in total, some of whom may have been living at one of the outliers. There was a mill, which paid 10s per annum and an additional tax of 500 eels.

In a long paper on Michelham (Cooper, 1852), there was a list of grants, including 'land in Michelham, by William and Robert de Sessingham, holden of them and Loreta, by Godwin Cnoke and Sigar'. This is a positive reference to two people carrying the name of the place, but where the land actually was is not recorded. The grant was made presumably prior to 1229, for it was to either Ottenham Abbey (about 5 kms to the south east) or Bayham Abbey near Lamberhurst in Kent, it being hardly conceivable that land 'in Michelham' (or near to it) would have been granted to another Abbey after Michelham Priory was established in 1229. Horsfield (1835), states that the place was owned by a family named Lorett (presumably the same name as Loreta in the reference given above), and subsequently by the Polhills', but gives no date.

A piece of lilac slate was found in a rabbit hole on the site which may have been brought into the county between the 12th and mid 15th centuries, and from c1450 was only used on more up-market buildings (Holden, 1965). Slate may have come from a building within the moat – but at present this is all the evidence there is for a building here.

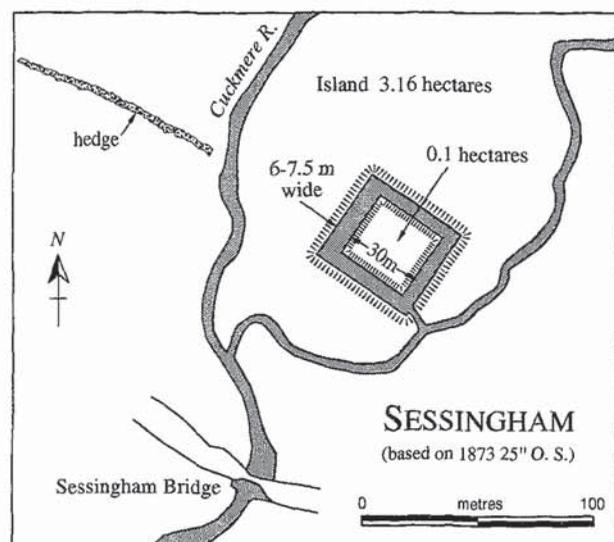


Figure 13: Sessingham

The present Sessingham Farm lies about 0.35 kms west of the river and may be the site of the eleventh-century Sessingham recorded in the Domesday Book. In the field between it and the river and opposite the island which contains Sessingham moat, there are numerous lumps, bumps, hollows and platforms which appear to be the remains of a deserted settlement.

The moated site lies at the southern end of an island, just over 3 hectares in area, formed by two arms of the river Cuckmere. The configuration shown on the 1873 25-inch OS map is similar to that which can be seen today, except that the arm of the river on the east side is shown much wider than it now is, almost as wide as the river. The river and island lie in a shallow valley, with rising land to the east and west. Just to the south of the island is Sessingham bridge, connecting Sessingham Farm by a trackway with Arlington church about 0.75 kms to the south.

The moated site is now completely overgrown and it is fortunate that the 1873 map shows it so clearly. The central platform is square, with sides measuring about 30 metres and comprising an area of about 0.1 hectares. The arms of the moat measure between 6 and 7.5 metres wide. The map showed a small leat connecting the south east corner of the moat to the arm of the river on the east side of the island. The moat was probably filled by seepage of groundwater from the surrounding island, unless there was another leat on the upstream side, the location of which is now lost.

The site may or may not have been a good one for a moat. Clearly there was a water supply, but the valley is prone to flooding today. If the same conditions prevailed when the moat was built and in use, then it would have been a wet and unpleasant place to live, particularly in the winter.

Dr Peter Brandon depicts a sketch of Michelham's deer park (Brandon 1974), showing the pale of the park, just to the south of the Sessingham moated site. The pale runs on the line of the road from Caneheath west north west to the present Sessingham Farm and then north east. The park, which included the later site of Michelham, existed before 1229. Assuming that the present park bank was the same as the pre 1229 park bank, it is unclear which of the moat or the park is the earlier. The moat could have predated the park pale, in which case when the deer park was developed it encompassed the moated site (which by then may, or may not, have been abandoned). Alternatively the park may have been created first and the moat dug inside the pale, perhaps to surround a hunting lodge.

CLAVERHAM MANOR & LOWER CLAVERHAM FARM TQ 537091 & 533092.

Claverham Manor and Lower Claverham Farm are considered together because their early history is difficult to unravel. Geologically, both sites lie on a narrow strip of Lower Greensand. There clearly is a moat at Claverham Manor as the remains are readily visible. It is not certain whether Lower Claverham Farm was moated, but careful assessment of the site suggests that it probably was.

Domesday Book records four entries for Claverham, two in Claverham itself, one of which was in Shiplake

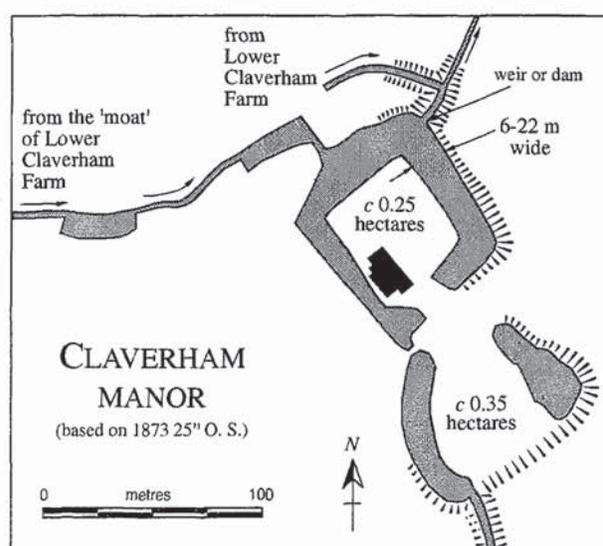


Figure 14: Claverham Farm

Hundred in the Rape of Pevensey, and two outliers in the Rape of Hastings.

Domesday Book reference 10.87 refers to one Alfred holding 1 hide in Claverham from the Count of Mortain. LF Salzman identified him as Alfred in Claverham, and said that he was the butler of the Count of Mortain (Salzman, 1915). Alfred had been granted extensive lands in England, and in Sussex beside the hide which he held in Claverham, had land in Eastbourne, Pevensey, and possibly Alciston and Hooe. The Rev. W. Budgen (Round and Budgen, 1921) referred to land in Claverham held by Marin and Hugh (DB ref 10.88).

Otherwise, the earliest reference which was found to Claverham, was in a paper by J. H. Round on Some Early Grants to Lewes Priory (Round, 1896) where there was a reference to one Radulfus de Clavreham apparently in 1121. In a paper on Langney Grange in Westham, near Pevensey, S. Toy (Toy, 1953) referred to Ralph de Claverham (probably the same man as Radulfus) in 1130, but his original name may have been Maule. It is difficult to know what to make of this, but he may have married a Claverham heiress and taken the name of the place as his surname.

The next dated reference is in 1319 when Claverham was held by Nicholas de la Beche (Lower, 1826). A Nicholas de la Beche (whether the same one, or his son, is not known) died in 1345 holding Arlington, Claverham and other manors in Sussex. CJ Phillips in his History of the Sackville Family (Phillips, 1932) said that Nicholas de la Beche's estates passed to his niece Joan. She was married to Andrew de Sackville, and their part of Claverham remained with the Sackville family until 1847. Andrew de Sackville was granted free warren for Claverham in 1347. For want of clearer information, I assume that this part of Claverham, included the present Lower Claverham Farm. In a Subsidy Roll of 1411/12 Thomas Sakevile is recorded as holding various lands including 'Chalvyngton with Claverham'. Chalvyngton is about 1.25 kms due east of Lower Claverham Farm, so this reference probably referred to it, rather than the slightly more distant Claverham Manor.

In an article on Claverham in the *Sussex County Magazine*, Viscountess Wolsely said that Claverham Manor was held by the Fynes or Fiennes, and she speculated that they had it from the end of the 13th century – but her first positive reference was to Sir William Fynes described as ‘of Claverham’ in a list of Sheriffs for 1397 and 1399. He died in 1402 and had two sons, Roger and James. Significantly, the Fynes also held the manor of Herstmonceux (about 11 kms to the east north east), Roger having been born there but described like his father as ‘of Claverham’ in a list of sheriffs for 1422 & 1435. He was the builder of Herstmonceux Castle, which was completed in about 1440. Viscountess Wolsely said that Roger Fynes rented Claverham to John Hereward, who from about 1450 took the surname Claverham-Hereward, later changed to Claverham-Harward. She said that he gave his name to the manor ‘to distinguish it from the other Claverham manor belonging to the Sackvilles’ – presumably the one which contained Lower Claverham Farm. This confirms that there were at least two manors in Claverham, probably originating from the Domesday Book holdings of Morin and Hugh (DB Ref. 10.88) and either the Count of Mortain or Alvred (DB Ref. 10.87), but it remains unclear which originated from which. From about 1489 Sir Thomas Fynes lived at Claverham (Manor). He died in 1525/6 and his will made reference to his manor of Harwards, which passed to Giles, one of his sons.

We have a reference to a “John Fenys of the manor of Claverham which had long been in his family”, in 1587. In 1616 a John Threele held the manor (Vidler, 1954, p 134) but Viscountess Wolsely says that it passed to the Threeles’ soon after 1638. This seems to be confirmed by an Inquisition Post Mortem (Atree 1909) following the death of Anthony Fynes of Claverham in Arlington who died on 1 January 1637, leaving as his heir his brother Francis aged eight.

None of this wealth of historical detail includes a single reference to the moat(s). The OS Surveyor’s notes date the present Claverham Manor house to the 17th century or earlier, in which case it would have been built by one of the Fynes, but states also that the house was originally

larger, and noted that foundations had been found in the present gardens, within the moated enclosure.

The 1873 25-inch OS map clearly shows Claverham Manor house in the south west corner of the island, which has an area of 0.25 hectares. It is surrounded on all four sides by the moat, which varies in width from about 6 metres to 22 metres but with a made-up entrance in the south east corner. The platform is orientated north west/south east and is nearly square with internal sides of between 46 and 52 metres.

Immediately to the south east of the moat, the 1873 map showed two large curvilinear ponds, one about 74 metres long by 12 metres wide and the other about 52 metres long by 12 to 22 metres wide. They are still there, but on the 1873 map the central area between them is shown as containing “Houses, yards etc” – presumably farm buildings. This area contained about 0.35 hectares. There is a steep bank on the south west, south and south east sides of these ponds, which were described in the OS Surveyor’s notes as possibly the remains of a second moat, but more likely later duck ponds.

Although rare, there are good precedents for ‘figure-of-eight-moats’ and Claverham may have been one of them. Alternatively the original moat may have comprised the area bounded by the two curvilinear ponds, which was then converted into farm use. A more formalised moat may then have been dug to its immediate north west, and a new and grander house built within it, the present house being its remains. It seems likely that there was some connection between the fact that both Claverham Manor and Herstmonceux Castle were both owned by the Fynes and were both moated – Herstmonceux was completed in about 1440 and is surrounded by an enormous moat. There are a number of possible scenarios. Firstly, the original moat was at Claverham, the remains being the present curvilinear ponds. A second more formal moat was built adjacent to it to contain a grander house. The Fynes then ‘went the whole hog’ and built Herstmonceux. (2) The moat at Claverham was built as a figure of eight, prior to the construction by Feynes of Herstmonceux, which was completed in about 1440. Subsequently John Hereward formalised the more northerly of the two moats at Claverham by squaring up its sides and building a grand house within it, the remains of which remain today.

Both scenarios postulate an original moat at Claverham dating from the classic moat building period of 1250 + or - 100 years, with the second more northerly moat being built, or formalised, at some date between 1250 and 1450.

An interesting feature of the Claverham Manor moat, shown on the 1873 map, are two rectangular ponds measuring about 35 metres long by 9 to 12 metres wide, in the leat which feeds water from the ‘moat’ of Lower Claverham Farm into the Claverham Manor moat. They may have been dug as small reservoirs.

Water is fed to the moats from two principal sources: Firstly groundwater seeps into the two curvilinear ponds from the slightly higher land to the south west, south and south east and then from these ponds, either by seepage or culverts into the moat around the house. When the site was visited in February 2000, during a very wet spell of weather, the garden surrounding the moat seemed to be

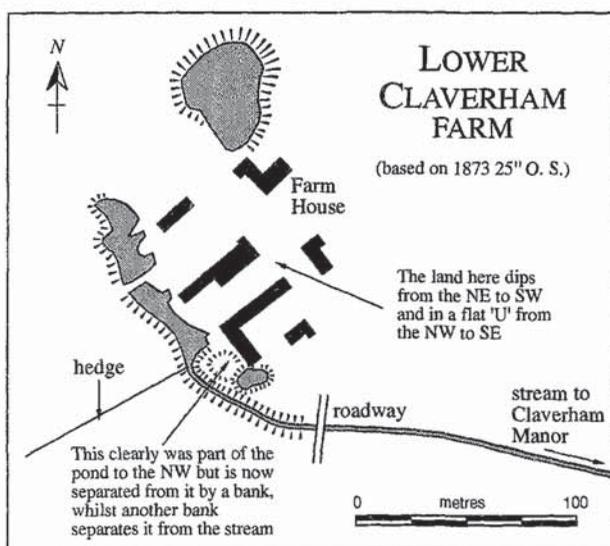


Figure 15: Lower Claverham Farm

saturated with water, indicating that there was no shortage of water seeping into the moat. The main moat also attracts groundwater from slightly higher land on its south east corner; the second source of water is a stream which flows from the Lower Claverham Farm moat into the two rectangular ponds mentioned above, and from it into the Claverham Manor moat. This is particularly interesting as the outlet water from the Moleswood moat feeds into the Wilbees Farm moat, supplemented by groundwater from the slightly higher land to the north east of the site. Thus within about 2.5 kms, we have two pairs of moats, the second of which in both cases is fed by water from the first.

The feeder stream from Lower Claverham Farm 'moat' to Claverham Manor moat, is paralleled by another stream, which carries water from the farm and which joins the outlet stream from Claverham Manor moat. The outlet from the moat is in the north east corner, where it flows over a weir then into a stream, where it is joined by the second stream from Lower Claverham Farm. The combined streams then flow east and then south to join the river Cuckmere upstream of the Sessingham site.

The possible moat at Lower Claverham Farm is not known as a moated site, however the 1873 25-inch OS map contains hints that it may have been moated. The map showed four ponds – a large one immediately to the north of the farm house; two 'vaguely rectangular' ones to the south west of the farm house and about 50metres from it (these two ponds are now separated by a farm causeway, but are connected by a culvert under it); and the fourth, in line with them but about 15 metres beyond them. All four ponds are still in place, however the largest has recently been enlarged. It is connected to the first of the two 'vaguely rectangular' ponds by a drain and ditch and one can visualise that if the site was moated, the moat extended from the large pond in a south west direction, to connect with the most northerly of the 'vaguely rectangular' ones.

Water now flows from the southern corner of the second rectangular pond into a ditch. This corner is interesting, for the outflow clearly breaches the corner of the pond, the end of which is an artificial bank, which separates it from a very wet area of ground, at the end of which was the fourth pond. On the south west side, the outflow ditch is separated from this wet area by another artificial bank. One can only speculate that at some time prior to 1873, the two connected right-angled banks were built to foreshorten the southern end of the second 'vaguely rectangular' pond, and separate it from the fourth one.

The farm buildings are now somewhat different from those shown on the 1873 map, but at a point just over 30 metres from the southern corner of the farmhouse, the land clearly dips in two directions, where there is now a farm roadway - from the north west to the south east and from the north east to the south west. If the site was moated, one side of it may have been in this dip, extending from the eastern side of the second 'vaguely rectangular' pond in a north easterly direction.

That leaves the fourth side, on the north east of the site. The land here is definitely higher, with no trace of a moat but there is a deep field drainage ditch beyond it, about

45 metres from the edge of the farmhouse. If the moat ran across this higher land, then at some time in the past it may have been filled in for reasons which are now unknown.

The large pond is filled by groundwater, from the slightly higher land to its north and east. As previously mentioned, it flows into the first of the two 'vaguely rectangular' ponds, the first of which is also fed by a ditch from the fields to its north and north west. There is also an exit from the large pond into the deep field drainage ditch on its eastern side. If the site was moated, there was plenty of groundwater available to fill it.

It is appreciated that there is a good deal of speculation in the above description, but if it is basically correct, and if the eastern arm of the moat ran close to that side of the house, the platform might have measured about 75metres from the south west to the north east and about 45metres from the north west to the south east giving an area for the central platform of about 0.36 hectares. Water from the site, flows in the ditch from the two 'vaguely rectangular' ponds, about 0.4 kms, to act as one of the water sources for the Claverham Manor moat.

Conclusions

Historical research on the six sites, near Arlington, in the Rape of Pevensey in East Sussex, particularly from the late 11th to the late 14th centuries, when most moats were built, has been marked by a paucity of information for all them and the apparent almost non existence of historical information for Moleswood, Wilbees Farm & Sessingham. Further research will almost certainly throw up more information but this will take time and it was felt that it would be better to publish what has been found, so far. These notes therefore lay no claim to be an exhaustive study of medieval Arlington or of any of the sites.

The only invasive archaeological work done on the six sites has been, so far as I can tell, on Michelham Priory and more is required there to answer outstanding questions.

The research has shown that four of the moats can be considered as two pairs. In both cases, the moats in each pair are about 0.5 km apart and the exit water from one, acts as part of the water supply to the other. This indicates that the moats in each pair were connected tenurially and further historical research should be done to show whether or not this was the case. The similarity between the two pairs is compounded by the possibility that in both cases, the second moat was of figure of eight form. Again, further historical research may show that there was a tenurial connection between all four moats, but the probability of this seems unlikely. Detailed ground surveys, with the permission of the owners, would be extremely useful to confirm the shape and extent of the four sites.

During the research, the probable site of the deserted medieval hamlet of Sessingham, about which nothing appears to have been written, was found; and it was noted that both the deserted hamlet and the Sessingham moated site (the smallest of the six) lay within the boundary of Michelham deer park. More research on the deer park and its boundary would be useful in its own right, coupled

with further historical research on the deserted medieval hamlet of Sessingham; as would a detailed survey of the area of the deserted hamlet and its relationship to the boundary of the deer park and the moat.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are given to the owners of the six sites who gave help during the research; to volunteer staff at the Barbican House library in Lewes; Martin Brown, the Assistant County Archaeologist for East Sussex County Council; and John Bleach and Margaret Thorburn who gave helpful comments on an earlier draft of these notes.

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The South-West Cambridgeshire Project 2000-2002

by Susan Oosthuizen

Background to the project

The parishes of Guilden, Morden, Steeple Morden, Litlington, Bassingbourn and Abington Piggots in south-west Cambridgeshire form the research area for a long-term project on the origins and development of the medieval landscape. Based at the Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge and the Centre for Regional Studies, Anglia Polytechnic University, the project began in September 1998 and is expected to run at least until 2008.

The neighbouring parishes of Shingay and Wendy have since been added to the study area, which is expected to continue to expand. The discovery of a forgotten Roman road along the flat valley in the north of the study area has led to the extension of the project into neighbouring parishes in Hertfordshire, as far west as the A1, and has provided yet another reason for including Shingay and Wendy in the east of the project area.

The project has two aims. The first, research, aim is to examine

- the distinction between the 'Central Province' and 'woodland' countrysides where 'irregular' open fields, or enclosed landscapes, were associated with dispersed settlement well into the Middle Ages; and
- the hypothesis that the layout of 'regular' open fields and the imposition of settlement nucleation may have varied chronologically from place to place but occurred for similar reasons, and in a similar way – generally by obliterating earlier landscapes – throughout the Province.

Both need more fieldwork. Professor Aston's study of Shapwick (Somerset) is important, but restricted to a single settlement (Aston 1989a; b). There is a need to investigate areas within the Central Province. South-West Cambridgeshire lies near the southern edge of the Province. It is mostly an area of clay and some chalk dissected by valleys, like much of the southern Midlands.

Work on these questions has additionally been stimulated by other recent research on continuity of land-use in west Cambridgeshire (Oosthuizen forthcoming, a; b; c). This has concluded with a number of hypotheses for which more detailed investigation is needed: in particular, that prehistoric landscapes survive here more generally than has previously been recognised; and that they were often incorporated into landscape (re)organisation and administration in the Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods.

Although the choice of these five parishes in south-west Cambridgeshire as an area for intensive research was supported by research and methodological considerations (see below), they initially suggested themselves for study on the basis of O.G.S. Crawford's observations concerning the 'ladderlike' structure of the long, narrow furlongs of the medieval field pattern of Litlington, and

their similarity to 'Celtic' field systems in Wessex (1936;1937). This 'ladderlike' pattern at Litlington appears to continue west into Guilden and Steeple Morden, east into Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire, and north-west into Tadlow, Cambridgeshire (RCHME 1968, 203 and 207). The question therefore is whether it is simply coincidence that the same, apparently coaxial, pattern exists across all these parishes (and perhaps further afield), or whether these are relict elements of a cohesive prehistoric landscape retained in a medieval field system.

The apparent similarity in layout between the medieval furlongs at Litlington and prehistoric landscapes discovered elsewhere raised interesting questions. The origins and development of prehistoric co-axial field patterns has been explored since in local studies on Dartmoor, at Flag Fen (Peterborough) and in medieval landscapes in East Anglia as well as elsewhere, but never (as here) in the context of Midland parishes (Fleming 1988, Pryor 1982, Williamson 1987). Hall has noted similar layouts in Northamptonshire, but his work has suggested that the similarity is coincidental rather than the result of continuity in the use of field boundaries from one period to another (1982; 1995). On the other hand, the stratigraphic relationship between Ermine Street and apparently 'medieval' furlongs at Caxton, Cambridgeshire, just a few miles north of the study area, has raised the possibility of the continued use of some elements of prehistoric field systems in medieval furlongs in west Cambridgeshire (Oosthuizen forthcoming, b).

The second aim of the project is to serve as a forum for exchange of ideas and results among all researchers, 'amateur' or 'professional', working on related topics in or near the study area. This approach is embodied in Informal Interim Reports which include contributions from independent researchers, students and academics. One of the liveliest features of our work has been the development under the auspices of the Institute of Continuing Education of open entry, accredited undergraduate level introductory and advanced research methods courses in landscape history, focussing on the research area as a case study.

The two years since the last Interim Report have seen much work. This is reported below under: methodology and findings, and is followed by indications of the directions in which work is expected to progress over the next year.

Methodology

The first two Interim Reports noted work on the reconstruction of medieval field systems in all the parishes except Guilden and Steeple Morden (Guilden Morden is reported within this year's Report). The virtual completion of this phase of the work led to a refocusing of research on those areas within the study area which were not consistently used as arable during the medieval period. To what extent, we asked, could the mapping of woods, commons, greens, heath and meadow add to our

understanding of the development of the medieval landscape? This has proved a rich source of work and understanding and is reported by J. Knight, V. Hurst and K. Williams on Guilden Morden, J. Hunt and J. Masters on Steeple Morden, and by M. Hesse, S. Birch, S. Lees and J. Sutcliffe on Bassingbourn, Litlington and Abington Pigotts.

The adoption of this theme has been an important part of the methodology of the project, allowing work to progress in a directed manner in which a common research goal has created good opportunities for discussion and co-operation between individuals and groups.

The fertile results of exploring the relationships between geology, topography and land-use have informed further work also reported in individual papers. So, too, have the benefits of using place- and field-names as sources for understanding the development of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval landscape. The skills of the Group in undertaking map analysis have also been central to the findings reported here. The identification of commons has been heavily dependent on it, and the realisation that otherwise-unexplained angles in field boundaries created during Parliamentary enclosure may fossilise a pre-enclosure boundary between arable and pasture, was a high point of the year.

Findings

The reconstruction of the medieval field systems which formed a substantial part of the first three years of the Project's work is now complete, with the exception of Steeple Morden, which will be completed in the next academic year. The aggregation of the results has been surprising, showing that below the dominant spring line the field systems are very regular, and much less regular to the north (Figure 16 shows the results for Litlington and Bassingbourn).

This work has been extended by settlement analysis which is also now virtually complete. Guilden Morden and Bassingbourn were reported in the first Interim Report and Litlington in the second. Steeple Morden is well under way and will be concluded shortly. This work has shown that the eastern settlements give an impression of nucleation which hides a rather more polyfocal settlement structure. Guilden Morden, too, appears to be polyfocal in origin and there are strong hints in work in progress that the settlement shifted north from a site at Alkirdon Hill, near Cold Harbour Farm. Settlement at Steeple Morden seems quite dispersed, and there is little evidence for planned nucleation there.

The analysis of settlement morphology has been underpinned by the work on commons which was carried out alongside it, and the dominant effect of large areas of pasture on the distribution of settlement along the spring line has been a major result of this work.

Large parts of the study area appear to have been under pasture in the middle to late Anglo-Saxon period and sometimes much later. An extensive intercommonable heath along the northern slope of the Chiltern hills forms the southern boundary of Bassingbourn, Litlington and the Mordens. A large area of pasture lay on the floor of the valley of the River Cam in the north, where heavy

gault clay and very slight contours combined to produce the marshy and fenny conditions recorded in the field- and place-names of our parishes. Further meadows lay along the many streams which drained the study area, and particularly large commons lay along the dominant spring line where 'hummocky ground' had been created by the freeze-thaw conditions of the ice ages, resulting in large, flat, uneven areas which trapped water from the springs and which were difficult to drain and hence to plough.

The demonstration that dispersed and polyfocal settlement existed in South-West Cambridgeshire alongside very large greens and commons, yet in an area in which medieval common field systems could be regarded as 'classic', have been one of the most important of the Project so far. Further work will set these conclusions in the wider theoretical context suggested by Roberts and Wrathmell (2000, 2002), particularly in relation to their suggestion that 'regional' landscapes have a very long history.

Next steps

In the short-term, members of the project will address the following:

- The Roman road, work on which is now nearing completion;
- The field-names and field-pattern of Steeple Morden, alongside the analysis of settlement morphology in that parish;

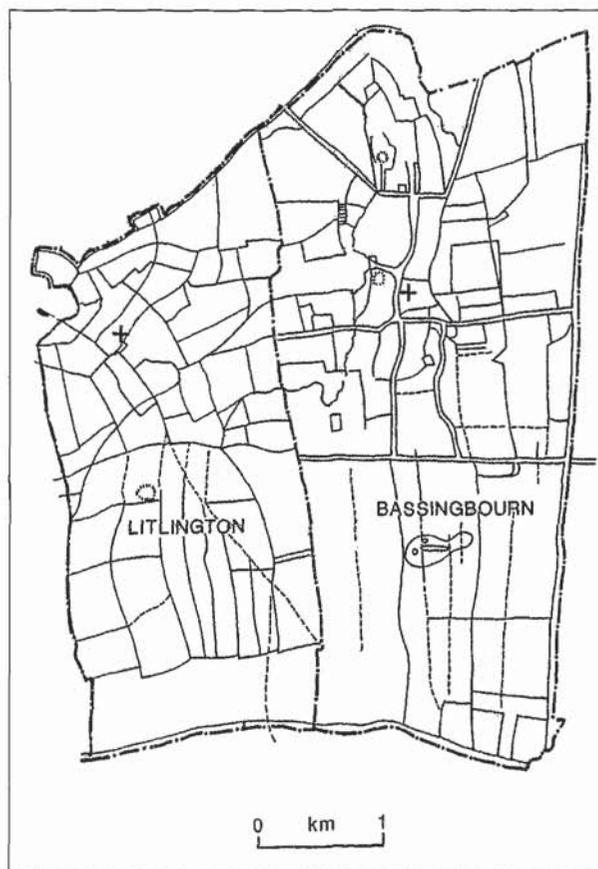


Figure 16: The medieval field layout of Litlington and Bassingbourn

(Source: Hesse 2000 & 2001)

- The chronological relationship in Guilden Morden between a possible early medieval settlement at or near Alkirdon Hill and the present agglomeration around the parish church;
- A programme of fieldwalking and, perhaps, excavation will be undertaken in 2003-4 to assist these aims.

In the longer term, the results briefly outlined above and more fully in the pages that follow, stimulate the extension of the study area in order to set them within a wider context. It would be useful to know the extent to which the medieval landscape of these seven parishes is typical or unique in their region. For this reason, some members of the Group will undertake work on the area south of the Chilterns in Therfield and its neighbouring parishes. Others will employ the same methodologies, developed in the earlier years of the project, in the east of Armingford Hundred, in Melbourn, Meldreth, Whaddon and Kneesworth.

The work of Roberts and Wrathmell (2000 and 2002) has been very influential on the project and the work outlined in individual reports below will be synthesised in a fuller and more academic report exploring the origins of the medieval landscape in relation to this major new hypothesis.

Acknowledgements

This report and the project as a whole have greatly benefited from the advice and guidance of Professor Mary Hesse. The work reported above was undertaken by Sheila Birch, John Hunt, Valory Hurst, Dr N. James, Dr John Knight, Sue Lees, June Masters, Jack Smith, Jack Sutcliffe and Kate Williams with Mary Hesse and Susan Oosthuizen. The Figure was drawn by Phillip Judge.

Note

A full copy of the recently published third *Interim Report 2000-2002*, including the papers referred to above, is available from Susan Oosthuizen, Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Madingley CB3 8AQ at £4.50 per copy (including post and packing). Copies of the previous two reports are available at the same price from the same address.

Details can also be found on <http://www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk/Subjects/landscape/swcamps.html>

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The Whittlewood Project

by Christopher Dyer, Richard Jones and Mark Page

This research project is an enquiry into settlements and landscapes of all periods, but focussing on the middle ages. Its main purpose is to answer questions about the origins, growth and decline of nucleated villages and dispersed settlements. The Whittlewood area, twelve parishes straddling the boundary between Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire, was carefully selected because its settlements include villages, hamlets and farmsteads, and the high quality of the evidence (archaeological and historical) gives us the chance of investigating why adjacent places evolved along divergent paths. The period of nucleation, between c.900 and 1200, saw the simultaneous emergence of towns, the kingdom, manors and parishes: Research on villages and hamlets helps us to understand the basic building blocks of medieval society, and indeed of our own world.

The programme of summer field work in 2002 was directed towards excavating test pits in available spaces, mainly gardens, in existing villages, to obtain dating evidence. A total of 95 test pits in the three villages of Akeley, Leckhampstead and Whittlebury revealed complex and varied patterns of village development. At Whittlebury occupation of the 7th-11th centuries was concentrated near the church, on a fortified site with Iron Age and Romano-British occupation, and the long village street was laid out after c. 1250. Akeley was a less coherent settlement, with an early nucleus around the church (but with little evidence of occupation before the 11th century), and an area that was settled in the 13th century and abandoned in the 14th. Leckhampstead appears today as a complex settlement with a number of foci called 'ends'. Both field walking and the test pits show that Leckhampstead had more 'ends' than is now the case, and some of the ends were once larger. Pottery of the 7th-9th century was found in test pits near Church End, but other parts of Leckhampstead, according to field walking finds, seem to have been in existence at this time. In addition to the test pitting, earthwork and geophysical surveys were conducted on two abandoned settlement sites in eastern Leckhampstead.

Documentary research and analysis on the three villages, conducted in parallel with the archaeological field work, sometimes helps us to interpret the archaeological data. The hill-top earthwork around Whittlebury church from within which pre-medieval and early medieval pottery was recovered is presumably the *burh* of *Witela*, and the likely site of a meeting of Athelstan with his council in 930. It does not appear to have been a very important administrative centre in the long term, however, as the manor and chapel were attached to Greens Norton, four miles to the north. Later documents record rows of adjacent houses, which may refer to the new settlement of the 13th century along the road towards Buckingham. Akeley was also a chapelry, dependent on Leckhampstead, and the manor and parish was carved out of Leckhampstead's territory probably in the 10th or 11th centuries. This may explain the shortage of archaeological material from Akeley dating before 900.

The dispersed 'ends' at Leckhampstead may in part be related to its divided lordship, though some of them may be the result of groupings of free tenants. The documents and archaeology do not always tell the same story - according to the test pits, parts of Akeley were abandoned by c. 1400, but this is not apparent in the court rolls of that period. The archaeology provides almost all of the direct evidence before 1066, as there are no pre-Conquest charters. The documents can tell us about the agrarian economy, such as Leckhampstead's inhabitants' more frequent use of horses than oxen for pulling vehicles, and their favouring of oats as a crop, which in future may help us to understand the economic basis of the settlements.

The summer field work programme has been supported by generous grants from the Medieval Settlement Research Group (the sponsors of the project), the Aurelius Trust, the Royal Archaeological Institute, the Society of Antiquaries, and the Society for Medieval Archaeology. The research as a whole is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board, and is based at the University of Leicester. Much help was received from students and staff of the Department of Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Sheffield.

Accounts for summer fieldwork, June-August 2002

INCOME

Royal Archaeological Institute	£1000.00
Society for Medieval Archaeology	£900.00
Aurelius Trust	£1170.00
Medieval Settlement Research Group	£1,200.00
Society of Antiquaries	£1,000.00
TOTAL	£5,270.00

EXPENDITURE

Travel	£860.10
Accommodation	£400.00
Camp site (toilets, showers, portakabins etc)	£2,914.00
Pottery analysis	£700.00
Bone analysis	£100.00
Finds bags etc	£135.50
Equipment/stationery etc	£132.62
TOTAL	£5,242.22

(surplus of £27.78 to be used in fieldwork, summer 2003)

The Wallingford Burgh to Borough Research Project

by Oliver Creighton, Neil Christie, Deirdre O'Sullivan and Helena Hamerow

Wallingford, Oxfordshire

In August 2002 the first full field season of a new archaeological research project was undertaken in and around the town of Wallingford, located alongside the River Thames in south Oxfordshire. Titled The Wallingford Burgh to Borough Research Project, the proposed five-year programme aims to bridge the traditional gap between the late Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods through a detailed archaeological study of a highly important historic townscape and its hinterland. The town is justly renowned for its surviving Saxon burh ramparts and the complex and extensive earthworks of a Norman castle and later castle imposed into the north-east of the urban space. Its riverside position, including a ford across the Thames, gave Wallingford a strategic role at the Wessex-Mercia border; the river and communications routes also allowed Wallingford to flourish as a royal centre after the late eleventh century. This was only consequent to the growth of Reading and London to the south and of Oxford to the north also to changes in the role and navigability of the

preservation of town rampart and castle earthworks in conjunction with a substantially medieval street pattern in Wallingford of central importance in examining the evolution of late Saxon town planning and Norman urban building, and yet there are minimal archaeological opportunities available with which to investigate this. Excavations have been undertaken previously in the 1960s on the west gate ramparts, across the former north gate (pierced by extensions to the castle earthworks), and the castle inner bailey. These excavations revealed excellent preservation of archaeological remains, revealing tenth-century and later buildings and foundations and cob-built structures. Unfortunately, of these remains, only those at the west gate have been recorded. Further, no detailed archaeological assessment of the defences and castle site has previously been conducted. To these previous excavations can be added a series of watching briefs and other evaluations which provide tantalising glimpses of the town's development and material culture. However, no attempt has yet been made to synthesise and contextualise this information. Similarly, there are many questions relating to Wallingford's origins and context yet to be clarified or examined: the presence of early Anglo-Saxon cremation burials immediately outside the north-west defences of the town (discovered in the excavations raises the question of site status prior to the burh); the significance of the scattered Roman finds in and around the town; the remains to be addressed; and the environs of Wallingford before and after the burh foundation remains obscure.

Wallingford offers an unique opportunity to understand the changing townscape and its rural setting in a crucial period of European historical transition. Late and post-

medieval shrinkage of the urban area has resulted in the outstanding preservation of the burh/borough defences and castle earthworks; in addition, substantial areas of open intramural urban space (c. 0.8 sq.km) survive (Bullcroft/Kinecroft), including the area of the lost Norman priory of Holy Trinity. These spaces particularly offer scope for tackling questions of later Saxon and earlier Norman town planning, whilst the castle earthworks enable fresh questions to be raised concerning the impact of Norman castle-building on the urban space, economy and population. The unsurveyed town ramparts further offer a near unique opportunity to observe the format, role and evolution of urban defence. Finally, the surrounding landscape offers much potential for analysis through detailed field walking and geophysical survey combined with air photo study and re-examination of finds (notably Anglo-Saxon and Roman materials).

The Wallingford Burh to Borough Research Project will comprise an integrated research programme, combining academic and professional expertise with community archaeology, and accessing a wide variety of archaeological, topographical and documentary sources. The project has been designed in conjunction with several local partners. These include: The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society and Wallingford Museum; The Northmoor Trust (the environmental agency responsible for the management of the castle site); Wallingford Town Council; South Oxfordshire District Council; and the County Archaeology Service. The project management team is headed by academics from three universities with specialisms in early medieval urbanism (N. Christie, Leicester); Anglo-Saxon settlements (H. Hamerow, Oxford); castles (O. Creighton, Exeter); and medieval material culture (D. O'Sullivan, Leicester). It is also fully supported by previous excavators at Wallingford, Prof. N. Brooks, R. Carr and T. Rowley, including access to their archives. Collation of archival data (NMR, SMR, watching brief data, etc.) and liaison with local groups and preliminary analysis of the castle zone were undertaken in 2001.

A pilot field season of geophysical and topographic survey of the Anglo-Saxon *burgh* fortifications and Norman castle at Wallingford was undertaken in August 2002. As noted, systematic study of these well-preserved and well-known monuments has hitherto been lacking. In the public park known as the Bullcroft, which occupies most of the north-western sector of the Anglo-Saxon burh, resistivity and gradiometer survey were carried out to locate primarily the 'lost' site of the Norman priory of Holy Trinity – this significantly twinned with the castle in the northern half of Wallingford and these two units suggesting the relative availability of open or less built-up urban space there. Systematically demolished in 1522, no above-ground features exist of the priory, and twentieth-century recreational landscaping has further modified the zone. Nonetheless, resistivity coverage has

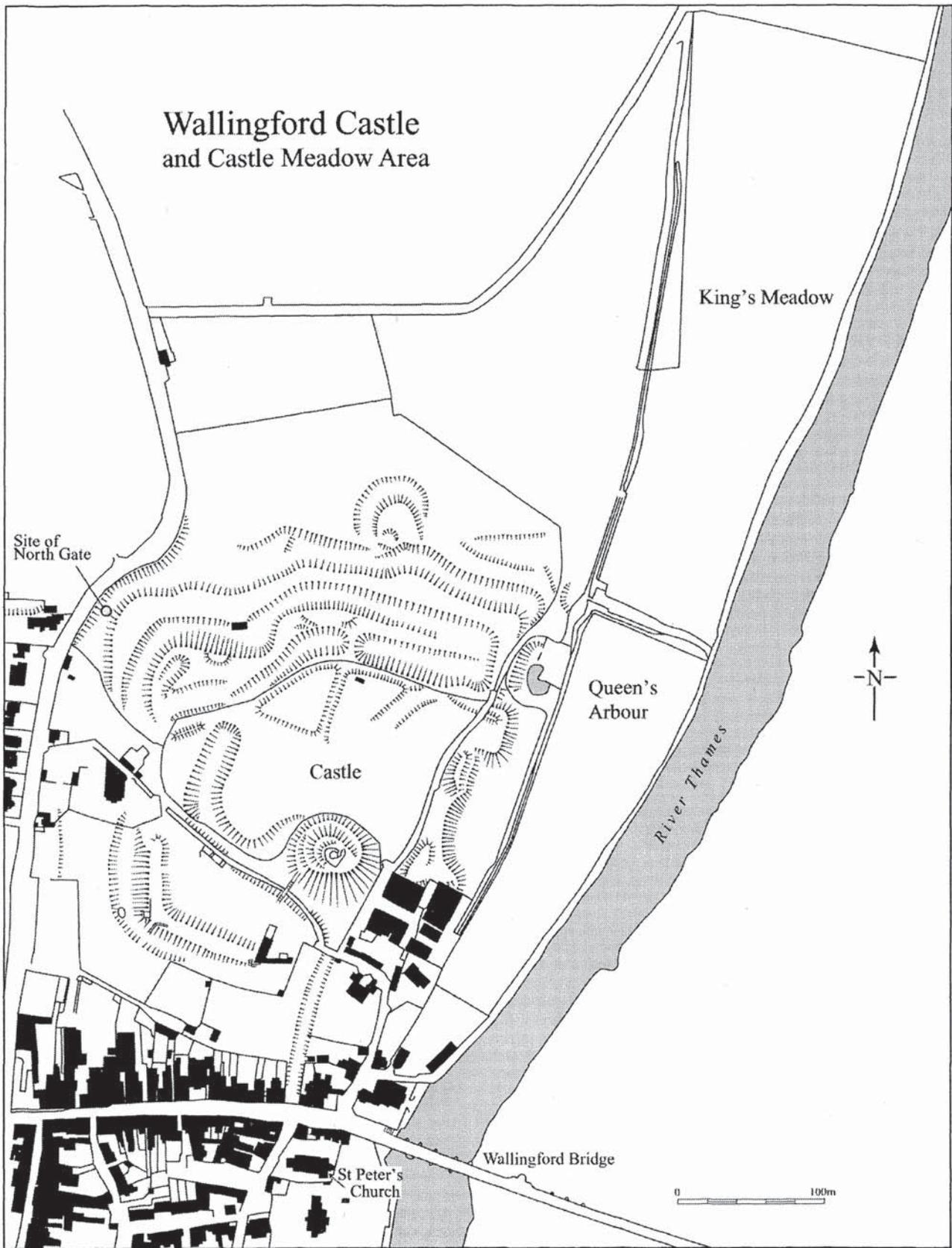


Figure 17: Wallingford Castle Meadows area, showing the Norman and later castle superimposed into the north-east quarter of the Saxon burh.

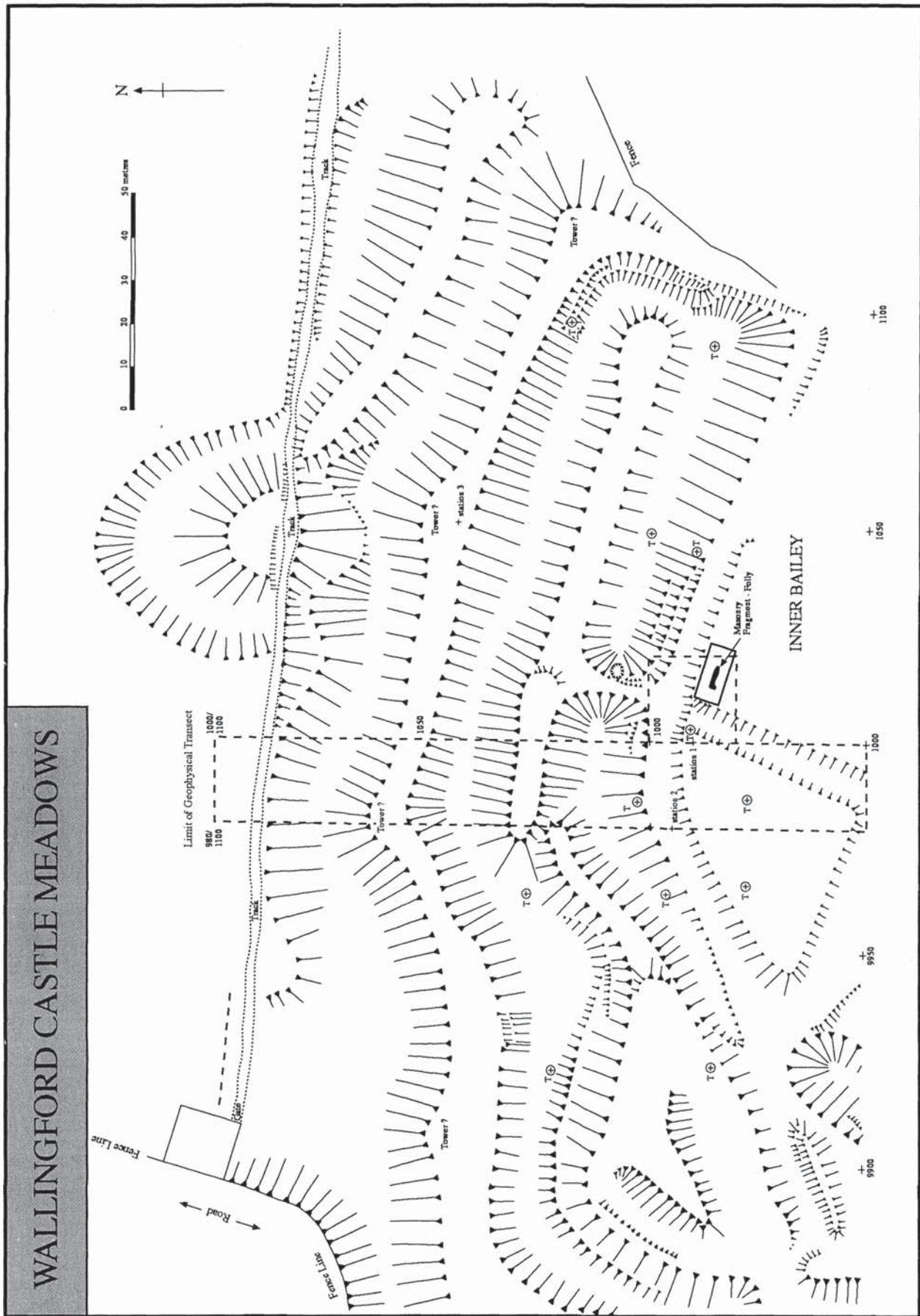


Figure 18: Preliminary topographical survey of part of the Castle Meadows area, showing the north bailey defences and associated landscaping.

produced valuable indications of the likely priory site, suggesting a putative building complex re-using the former burh as part of an associated precinct. Intensive survey will be required in 2003 to determine both form and extent more precisely. Interestingly, topographic survey also suggested residual traces of ridge and furrow across part of the Bullcroft zone, suggesting agricultural exploitation in association with, or more likely post-dating the monastic site.

The open area of the Bullcroft extends fully to the ramparts of the *burh* and medieval town (these in part terraced and modified internally and on the summit, but with ditch and bank exceptionally well preserved otherwise, particularly on the town's north flank); sections were surveyed using a Total Station demonstrating a maximum extant depth of 7m from bank top to visible ditch bottom. Resistivity survey was directed also at seeking traces of possible later Saxon town planning previous to the imposition of the priory. Here too valuable results were achieved, with potential traces of N-S and W-E lanes and possible intramural tracks; house plots can also be suggested, although these zones likewise require more detailed scrutiny in 2003. Interpretations are of course tentative, since the extent and nature of works and buildings associated with the priory are unknown. Most importantly, however, the surveys indicate the Bullcroft to be a zone of much fruitful archaeological potential.

The second principal area of study in 2002 comprised the Castle Meadows – the complex and extensive earthworks preserved north of the damaged and truncated motte (the areas south-west are heavily damaged through

landscaping and to the south-east by the intrusion of buildings). Detailed Total Station topographic survey of the earthworks in Castle Meadows was designed to clarify the structure and configuration of the Norman and later castle, and to re-assess the traditional view of a triple rampart/wall defensive organisation with Civil War reinforcement. In brief, the complexity of landscaping can be seen to reflect an extended history of site usage extending from late Saxon (*burh* rampart) to castle imposition and castle growth to Victorian ornamental landscaping. Reuse, manipulation and redesigning have in places confused the medieval earthworks, although a major finding was the identification of earthwork evidence for medieval landscaping including the extensive use of water features and managed access lines. The topographical analysis was complemented by resistivity and magnetometry survey of a 200 x 20m N-S oriented transect through the inner bailey and castle defences, to test the visibility and clarity of sub-surface features and to check on the disposition of the possible triple defensive works.

Work planned for the 2003 season will include further geophysical and topographical survey of the castle complex within its urban setting, the open space and ditch-and-rampart defences of the Kinecroft in the town's south-west zone, and the site of a suggested Anarchy-period siege-work on the east bank of the Thames. More detailed geophysical investigation will be made of key zones of the Bullcroft to clarify the presumed priory zone and Saxon units. In addition, a first phase of landscape study will commence, linked to the re-analysis of Anglo-Saxon findspots (e.g. cemeteries at Long Wittenham and Abingdon).

Northumberland National Park Authority, 'Historic Village Atlas Project'

by Rob Young

The Northumberland National Park Authority has recently secured funding from the HLF and the Sustainable Development Fund to produce a survey of the seventeen 'historic' village settlements located within the Park area. This is an exciting development that will contribute a great deal to our knowledge of settlement and landscape evolution within the National Park.

The Atlas will draw on a combination of sources, including archaeological data, air photographs, historic building records and documentary evidence, to provide a detailed history of the development of each village within its local landscape. While the emphasis will be on the villages themselves, each village will also be studied in its historic township and estate context. This will include a brief examination of field systems, pasture and woodland. Results will be presented using a combination of illustrated text, and maps showing the development of each village through time. The results will also include an assessment of the archaeological significance of different elements of each village and township.

The project has four major aims:

- Stimulation of individual & community interest in archaeological projects and research, such that it will serve as a springboard for future community-led initiatives.
- Production of an illustrated historical summary of each village, including maps showing the

development of the villages and their townships (e.g. field systems etc.) over time.

- Production of an 'archaeological sensitivity map' for each village, showing areas of high, medium and low archaeological sensitivity in and around each village
- Production of an overall summary report on the development of the Park's historic villages, and a general account of settlement patterns throughout the Park.

The project will promote collaboration between the National Park Authority and local communities and it is hoped that local community groups will be involved at all stages of the work. They will then be able to use the results of the initial survey to develop a variety of projects, funded from sources such as the Heritage Lottery Fund's Local Heritage Initiative and the Countryside Agency's Vital Villages scheme. The results of the project will enhance the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for the Park and for the County, and they will also inform development control decisions.

Anyone wanting further information about the project should contact the Northumberland National Park Archaeologist, Dr. Rob Young on 01434 611531 or e-mail robert.young@nnpa.org.uk. Postal address: NNPA, Eastburn, South Park, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1BS

Fieldwork and Excavation in 2002

ENGLAND

BEDFORDSHIRE

Ivel Farm, Becks Land South (TI, 182 467)

Archaeological fieldwork on this site commenced in 1998 when a field evaluation was undertaken as part of an application for gravel extraction. The evaluation established the need for further archaeological work prior to quarrying. On behalf of RMC Aggregates (Eastern Counties) Ltd, Reuben Thorpe and Ian Beswick of Albion Archaeology undertook the excavation of the most northerly of the evaluated areas in autumn 2002.

Excavation yielded finds and structures dating from the Iron Age to the post-medieval period and included two isolated groups of Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings (SFB). At least four and possibly five SFBs were identified and excavated.

The two SFBs of the more easterly group were characterised by pairs of axial posts, implying an east-west aligned roof apex. The more northerly building was 3m long and 2.21m wide. Its pit was 0.3m deep and contained trample deposits characteristic of construction. The second SFB was slightly smaller but also contained deposits characteristic of construction trample.

The second group of buildings lay to the west, on the edge of the excavation area, and consisted of a single structure to the north and one, or possibly two, 40m to the south. The northernmost SFB lay on a north-south axis; it was 2.62m long and 2.09m wide. Its superstructure was evidenced by only one posthole, on the western side of the construction pit. To the south the largest of all the SFBs (3.69m long and 2.61m wide) lay on an east-west alignment, with structural postholes at its axial ends. Immediately to the west lay another possible east-west aligned SFB (3.2m long and 2.68m wide). However, as no structural postholes were present, the status of this feature is uncertain.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Olney, Bridge House, Lime Street (SP 886 510)

On behalf of Archaeology and Heritage Management Consultancy, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development just west of the medieval parish church and close to a postulated Saxon bridging point over the River Ouse. A small quantity of medieval pottery, including pieces of 11th-12th century date, was recovered as redeposited material but no remains of certain medieval date were identified. It therefore seems likely that the site lay on the edge, or beyond, the main focus of medieval occupation of the town. A length of limestone wall, probably representing the corner of a structure, was revealed. This was undated but lay beneath, and on a different axis to, the extant 18th century buildings at the site. However, it had been refurbished with post-medieval brick, implying that the structure represented by the wall survived into this period. Artefacts of predominantly 18th century date were recovered and probably relate to the early use of the surviving buildings on site. Additionally, animal bones

characteristic of tanning waste were retrieved and probably derive from a tannery known to have been located adjacent to the site in the 19th century.

James Albone

Pitstone, Former Castle Cement Works (Phase 2), (SP 9375 1515).

Open area excavation of approximately 1.5ha was undertaken by Mark Phillips and James Pixley of Albion Archaeology in advance of residential development by Wilcon Homes within the former cement works. Evidence from the Roman period comprised a series of ditched boundaries containing few artefacts. These appear to represent field boundaries rather than enclosures directly associated with settlement.

The majority of the data recovered from the excavation related to occupation in the early-middle Saxon period. It comprised the remains of four sunken-featured buildings (SFB) together with a widely spaced scatter of pits and postholes. The buildings were all aligned NE-SW. The disused buildings were infilled with typical deposits of occupation debris, producing a characteristic assemblage of animal bone, charcoal, fired clay, Roman tile, and pottery (mostly Saxon with lesser amounts of late Iron Age and Roman). The largest of the SFBs also produced a number of loom weights and bone pin beaters.

During the medieval period the site appears to have been incorporated into Pitstone's open fields. Two sets of furrows on different orientations were recorded on either side of a track, which survived as a slight hollow way.

DERBYSHIRE

Haven House, Bradbourne, (SK211526)

Summer 2002 saw the second season of excavations on the remains of a multiphase medieval domestic building at Haven House, Bradbourne. This excavation was carried out as part of the University of Sheffield Department of Archaeology's Bradbourne Landscape Project, under the direction of Dr Mark Edmonds, Dr John Moreland and Tim Allen. The ceramic consultant Dr Chris Cumberpatch is also closely involved with the project. The project has benefited in the past from an MSRG grant to assist with documentary research carried out by Dr Tim Cooper.

Taking in a study area of around 50 square kilometres defined by the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Bradbourne, the project aims to explore landscape and social change in this southern fringe of the Peak from the end of Roman rule to the twentieth century. Our thanks to Neil and Sharon Sims for allowing us to excavate in the their garden, and Edward and Jean Castledean and the villagers and farmers of Bradbourne for their hospitality and assistance. The work of the students of the Department of Archaeology on this first and second year undergraduate training excavation is gratefully acknowledged as is the contribution of everyone else involved.

In 2001 we had exposed the northern part of a building with rubble sill walls and clay make up deposits

internally, post holes and rubble filled drainage slots suggested an earlier phase to the structure, In 2002 we excavated the area to the south and were able to define the rest of the plan. The site itself sits on the edge of the medieval core of the village, on a strip of land between road and ridge and furrow. Close dating of the ceramic sequence from the building, remains to be resolved but a phased sequence spanning a period from perhaps the mid twelfth to the mid fourteenth century can be outlined. The earliest structural phase on site is post built with associated rubble filled drain slots, but as yet insufficiently understood to support a plan. The first phase of stone footings form a small north-south oriented two bay building with a roughly central doorway on the western side. This structure measured around 5.5 metres north to south by 2.75 metres east west. Subsequently the northern part of this building was demolished and a much larger extension constructed overlapping the earlier plan. This created an apparent hall - chamber arrangement. The retained southern part of the earlier building now projected around 3 metres from the southern end of the new 2 bay hall, which itself measured approximately 11 metres north to south by 5.5 metres east to west. The early door is blocked at this stage and replaced by an opening towards the southern end of the western side of the new build. Finds suggest a terminal date for the building in the fourteenth century with a gap in domestic use of the site till the seventeenth. A full excavation report is in production.

Tim Allen: Bradbourne Landscape Project

LEICESTERSHIRE

Braunstone, Rancliffe Crescent, Leicester (SK 563 033)

A watching brief was carried out, by staff of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Barrett East Midlands Ltd, during development at Braunstone, on the west side of Leicester. Prehistoric and Roman activity had previously been found in the general vicinity of the site. A limited quantity of medieval and post-medieval artefacts was recovered and a small late medieval pit was identified. These suggest an agricultural usage of the land in these periods. A curvilinear gully yielded small fragments of post-medieval tile but these may be intrusive and this feature is more likely to be associated with Iron Age-Roman remains revealed in the area.

James Albone

Melton Mowbray, Welby Lane (SK 737 200)

On behalf of Taylor Woodrow Building Division, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development on the western edge of Melton Mowbray, an area where prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains have been found previously. A scatter of abraded medieval and post-medieval pottery fragments was recovered and is likely to represent manuring scatter, which concurs with evidence of ridge and furrow indicating an agricultural function to the area in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Roman remains occurred extensively.

James Albone

Queniborough, Wetherby Close (SK 6402 1264)

Subsequent to investigations that had revealed prehistoric remains at the site, R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services supervised an excavation at Queniborough for Barrett Homes. Numerous tree-throw hollows were recorded across the area, indicating that the landscape was previously wooded. The date of this tree cover is unknown but had apparently ended by the medieval period when the area was given over to agriculture, evident from the bases of furrows of ridge and furrow. Further prehistoric remains were also found.

Rachael Hall

Thorpe Langton, Bowden Road (SK 8526 1870)

On behalf of Francis Jackson Homes, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development near the medieval church and historic core of Thorpe Langton. A cluster of pits and postholes were revealed but no clear pattern to the structural elements was recognized. Late Saxon-early medieval ceramics were recovered from some of the pits and postholes and although others did not yield artefacts they are considered to probably date to the same Saxo-Norman period. Two Saxo-Norman ditches were also revealed. One of these was east-west, perpendicular to Bowden Road, and its position and alignment had been maintained as a boundary into recent years. The second ditch was aligned northeast-southwest, an orientation that does not correspond with any of the extant property boundaries in the area. The site appears to have been abandoned by the 15th century and not reoccupied until the 18th century when refuse pits and a well were dug in the area. In addition, a small quantity of prehistoric flint debitage and Roman pottery was recovered as redeposited artefacts.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Wymeswold, Rempstone Road (SK 598 236)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief, on behalf of Christopher Charles Ltd, during development on the northwestern edge of Wymeswold village. Medieval remains have previously been identified in the proximity. Pits and a gully were recorded during the monitoring but were undated. One of the pits was over 7m across and may have originated as a quarry for the natural sands and gravels of the area

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Wymondham, Spring Lane (SK 8494 1859)

Development on the southwest side of Wymondham was monitored by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services for Anglia and Midlands Sports Ltd. The site is close to the historic core of the village and near previous discoveries of Roman remains. A probable fishpond was partially revealed and although undated is thought to be medieval. Roman tile was also recovered.

Steve Thomson

LINCOLNSHIRE

Aslackby, Aveland Way (TF 0845 3030)

An evaluation was carried out immediately adjacent to

the medieval preceptory of the Knights Templars in the centre of Aslackby on behalf of Building Design Services. Geophysical survey (by Engineering Archaeological Services) revealed a possible sub-rectangular magnetic anomaly. Subsequent trial trenching, supervised by M. Dymond of Archaeological Project Services, indicated that the geophysical anomaly was probably caused by upcast from past quarrying in the area. Close to the road frontage an area of Saxo-Norman remains was revealed. These perhaps represent settlement activity and environmental evidence suggested that cereal processing had occurred in the vicinity. An undated metal trackway was also revealed.

Mark Dymond

Aubourn, Royal Oak Lane (SK 924627)

A watching brief, by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Claude Bingley Developments Ltd, was carried out during development in the core of the medieval village and adjacent to Late Saxon remains. Pits, a ditch and a pond were revealed. Although these were all undated they were sealed by the subsoil and are likely to be post-medieval or earlier.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Bassingham, Manor Farm, Newark Road (SK 9085 5949)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation on the south side of Bassingham village, an area where Roman, Saxon, medieval and later remains had previously been identified. A medieval ditch was revealed and several other ditches and pits may also be of this period. Remains of 16th-18th century date were more extensive and included ditches, a large quarry pit and the rubble foundations of a building of the period.

Rachael Hall

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

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief, for Beesby Estates Ltd, during development in the centre of the shrunken medieval village of Beesby. Post-medieval occupation of the site was identified in the form of a ditch, well, yard surface and pond. However, these all appear to be 18th century or later and no earlier remains were identified, though medieval pottery was recovered as redeposited material.

Steve Thomson

Bicker, Donington Road / Red Lion Street (TF 2255 3735)

On behalf of Broadgate Developments, a watching brief was carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services during construction works near the centre of Bicker. Previous investigations at the site included geophysical survey that had recorded pits and ditches and evaluation trenching that identified medieval and later ditches and a pit associated with salt extraction. Medieval occupation was identified in the form of a probable domestic post-built structure and refuse pits and a large artefact assemblage of the period. Agricultural or horticultural bedding trenches were revealed, together with ditches, gullies and posthole alignments that defined

boundaries. Probable salt-water inlet ditches were also exposed and fired clay saltern waste recovered. Cumulatively, the evidence suggests a pattern of tofts, and crofts were located in the area, with domestic occupation to the north of the site near the Red Lion Street frontage, and agriculture and salt production to the rear. Occupation and industrial use of the site appears to have terminated by the post-medieval period and the land was given over to agriculture. However, many of the post-medieval field boundaries closely matched those of the medieval period, indicating that much of the earlier land parcelling pattern was maintained. In addition to the medieval and later remains, a few fragments of Roman pottery were recovered.

Steve Thomson

Billinghay, Walcott Road (TF 150 552)

A proposed development site in an area of prehistoric to post-medieval remains was the subject of an evaluation, supervised by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services for Warrington Builders and Developers Ltd. Geophysical survey (by Engineering Archaeological Services) identified magnetic anomalies related to a recent trackway but no other evident archaeological remains. Fieldwalking identified a thin, even scatter of artefacts of medieval to recent date. This assemblage is thought to be manuring scatter, indicating an agricultural use of the land since at least the medieval period.

Tobin Rayner

Blyton, C. of E. Primary School, High Street (SK 854 949)

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

Steve Thomson

Boston, Petticoat Lane (TF 3285 4418)

Implications of development in the medieval core of Boston were examined by window augering and test pit excavation, both supervised by G. Taylor of Archaeological Project Services. Previous evaluation of the site, which is crossed by the Barditch, the medieval boundary of the town, had revealed medieval and post-medieval remains and evidence of dumping and flooding (*Medieval Settlement Res Gp*, 15 (2000), 27). The investigation established that medieval and later deposits extend to about 3.7m deep within the line of the Barditch and although shallower at 2.8m just outside the circuit, deepen further away. Deposits below about 2m depth were wet or waterlogged and contained organic remains, including leather. Within the archaeological sequence flood silts were observed, mostly outside the line of the Barditch.

Gary Taylor

Boston, Skirbeck Road (TF 3305 4363)

A watching brief was undertaken by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Quadrant Project Managers and Surveyors during the excavation of test pits and boreholes near the historic core of the town. Previous investigations at the site had revealed

extensive medieval remains, including the Barditch town boundary and brick structures probably associated with adjacent 15th century Hussey Tower (*Medieval Settlement Res Gp*, 16(2001), 42). Medieval pits and ditches were revealed and, as with the previous site investigation, a substantial portion of the pottery assemblage of the period was imported from Germany. Part of a late medieval brick structure was revealed and demolition deposits of the same period imply other buildings of that date in the area. No post-medieval remains were revealed, emphasising the earlier evaluation results that indicated the site was abandoned soon after the medieval period.

Tobin Rayner

Boston, South End (TF 3297 4360)

A proposed development site near to Roman and medieval remains at the southern edge of the town centre was the subject of an evaluation, supervised by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Mr L. Donald. A structure of wood and stone appears to have been established in an area of marshland in the 13th century. Refuse pits were associated with the structure and industrial debris indicated an iron smithy in the proximity. Flooding appeared to have curtailed use of the building, though further pits were identified. Later in the medieval period a limestone-built structure with an associated cobbled surface was constructed. Medieval pits and ditches were also revealed. In common with other investigations elsewhere in the proximity (see Boston, Skirbeck Road, above), a portion of the medieval pottery collection was imported material, though in contrast to the adjacent site, the imports here were mostly from France. Occupation seems to have ceased in the 15th century and there was little evidence of post-medieval activity, concurring with the results of previous investigations nearby.

Tobin Rayner

Boston, Wyberton West Road (TF 318 430)

A watching brief was carried out, by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Allison Homes Ltd, during development in an area of Roman and medieval remains on the outskirts of Boston. Ditches, a pit and posthole were revealed and although these were undated they were sealed by a subsoil of apparent medieval date that yielded tile of the period.

Steve Thomson

Bourne, Bedehouse Bank (TF 1036 1978)

S. Thomson of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during construction near to medieval and post-medieval remains and the Roman Car Dyke. A pit and possible pond, both 19th century, were revealed and the earliest artefacts recovered dated to the 17th century. It is thought that the site had an agricultural function until the late post-medieval period.

Steve Thomson

Bourne, Bourne Castle (TF 0945 1997)

B. Martin of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief, for Bourne United Charities, during the

excavation of a pipetrench across Bourne Castle. A Scheduled Ancient Monument, the castle is thought to have been constructed in the mid 11th century although the first documentary reference to it is in 1190. During the investigation the west arm of the moat was revealed, together with four stone walls, all aligned east-west and probably representing two separate buildings. A possible pond or second, inner, moat was also exposed. These remains were all medieval. Roof tile was moderately abundant and reflected the presence of buildings in the castle during the medieval period. Most of the tile was made locally in Bourne and included crested ridge tiles. Widespread demolition deposits of post-medieval date indicate the slighting of the castle in the 16th-17th centuries.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Bourne, Eastgate (TF 1039 1990)

On behalf of Stephen Knipe and Co, S. Thomson of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation in an area of known medieval and later pottery production. Medieval domestic occupation, represented by a floor surface and associated hearth of 12th-14th century date, was identified. Dumped deposits, a ditch and pit of the period were also recorded. In the late medieval or early post-medieval period the area appears to have been associated with pottery production and wasters of this period were abundant. A stone wall, perhaps the rear of a building fronting Eastgate and dated to this same period, was also identified. Domestic occupation appears to have resumed in the area in the 18th century and brick walls of 19th-20th century buildings were also recorded.

Steve Thomson

Braceby and Sapperton, Sapperton Main Street (TF 0 199 3393)

B. Martin of Archaeological Project Services monitored development in the historic core of Sapperton village. A sequence of limestone wall foundations, probably a boundary, was revealed. The entire series of foundations was undated although the earliest in the sequence is thought to be post-medieval.

Steve Thomson

Burgh Le Marsh, Wainfleet Road (TF 4976 6487)

Development in an area of prehistoric to post-medieval activity was monitored by J. Snee of Archaeological Project Services. However, only an early modern brick cistern or well was revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Crowland, South Street (TF 2414 1003)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief, for Nestwood Homes Developments Ltd, in an area of prehistoric and medieval remains. Dumped deposits were exposed and probably infilled a former river channel that ran along South Street. These contained late medieval-early post-medieval artefacts.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Crowland, Trinity Bridge (TF 2394 1029)

On behalf of Lincolnshire County Council, C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services monitored the excavation of trial pits at the late 14th century Trinity Bridge. An earlier triangular bridge is recorded in a charter of AD943. Dumped deposits, to level the ground surface, and channel fills were recorded. Most of these were undated but one of the dumps yielded artefacts of 18th century date. Post-medieval material was also recovered from one of the channels and it is known that infilling of the former river courses was completed by the mid 19th century.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Fenton, Torksey-Laughterton Electricity Line
(SK 758 838)

On behalf of Yorkshire Electricity, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during groundwork to replace an overhead electricity line. The route passed through an area of Roman and medieval remains, close to the Fosse Dyke Roman waterway. Isolated fragments of Saxo-Norman Torksey ware and medieval pottery were recovered near Laughterton.

Steve Thomson

Fleet, The Cottage, Hall Gate (TF 3895 2366)

A watching brief, by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services, near previous discoveries of Saxon and medieval remains in the hamlet of Fleet revealed a sequence of medieval and post-medieval ditches. A beamslot of medieval date was also identified and several pits, mostly undated but one post-medieval, were recorded. A moderate quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered, none of it later than the 17th century.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Friskney, Primary School (TF 4615 5533)

Development in the medieval village core was the subject of a watching brief, by staff of Archaeological Project Services for BUJ & Palmer Architects. Terracing or levelling appears to have occurred at the site and may have disturbed archaeological remains. However, a probable pond of medieval date was revealed. This yielded medieval pottery and brick and further fragments of medieval ceramic were recovered elsewhere on site. The absence of post-medieval material suggests the site was abandoned in or after the 15th century.

Steve Thomson

Grantham, Bridge End Road (SK 9188 3492)

Although in proximity to an Anglo-Saxon cemetery and medieval hospital, a watching brief by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services recorded only recent remains.

James Albone

Haconby, The Chase (TF 106 253)

A watching brief was carried out, by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Rochford Homes

Ltd, during development in the historic core of Haconby. A medieval pit was recorded and contained a substantial portion of a Stamford ware spouted pitcher. Another pit and dumped deposits were recorded and although undated may also be medieval.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Kirton, The Old Bakehouse, London Road (TF 3048 3846)

Development in the centre of Kirton was monitored by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of KMB Ltd. Two post-medieval brick walls, probably belonging to outbuildings previously associated with the old bakehouse, were exposed and artefacts of 17th century and later date were recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Kirton, Station Road (TF 3092 3851)

On behalf of Chestnut Homes, T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation just east of the village core. Previous investigations immediately to the west had revealed evidence of Saxo-Norman activity (*Medieval Settlement Res Gp*, 16 (2001), 47). Initial geophysical survey (by Engineering Archaeological Services) revealed a ditch-like linear magnetic anomaly although disturbance from drains and other modern activity was extensive. Trial trenching identified a group of Late Saxon/early medieval ditches, gullies and postholes. A pit containing charred cereal and burnt clay was also revealed. These remains are probably an extension to those previously identified immediately to the west and probably represent a small agricultural settlement on the village fringe. As with that earlier investigation, the artefacts indicated that the occupation was single phase, the area probably reverting to fields after the 12th century.

Tobin Rayner

Kirton, Willington Road (TF 3035 3845)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services monitored development in the centre of Kirton for Langwith Builders Ltd and identified a pit, though this was undated.

Steve Thomson

Marston, Bridge Street (SK 8921 4381)

Development near the medieval village core was monitored by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services. An undated pit was exposed and animal bone was recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Morton, Edenham Road, Hanthorpe (TF 0843 2383)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services undertook a watching brief, for Baxter & King Builders, in the centre of the hamlet of Hanthorpe. A large channel, probably for drainage was revealed. This was undated but lay beneath the remains of a post-medieval cottage that formerly occupied the site. Post-medieval and later artifacts were recovered.

James Snee

Morton, Hanthorpe Road (TF 0925 2393)

Development near to Roman and medieval remains at the western edge of Morton village was monitored on behalf of Wynbrook Ltd by staff of Archaeological Project Services. Several ditches, pits, postholes, a cobbled surface and a stone-lined well were revealed. All of these were undated, though the well had been capped by a recent brick structure.

James Snee

Nocton, Shooter's Lodge (TF 0694 1817)

No archaeological remains were revealed during a watching brief, by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services, near to past discoveries of medieval and later activity.

Rachael Hall

Old Leake Commonsides, Caleb Hill Lane (TF 3998 5244)

Although in an area of medieval salt-making evidence, no archaeological remains were revealed during a watching brief by J. Snee of Archaeological Project Services.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Potterhanworth, Barff Road (TF 0568 6616)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development in an area of medieval pottery making evidence. A probable clay extraction pit of medieval date was revealed and a ditch, undated but sealed beneath a post-medieval layer, was also recorded. Medieval pottery occurred abundantly, most of it locally-made Potterhanworth ware and some of it as wasters.

James Snee

Potterhanworth, Church Farm (TF 0583 6610)

On behalf of Stonewell Homes Ltd, staff of Archaeological Project Services monitored construction works in the known zone of medieval pottery production at Potterhanworth. A medieval clay extraction pit associated with the pottery manufacture was revealed, together with several refuse pits of the period. Several other pits and ditches were also recorded and although undated, these were sealed by post-medieval make-up deposits. Large quantities of locally-made medieval pottery was recovered, some of it as wasters. Of particular note amongst the wasters were fragments of glazed jugs, the first confirmation that this vessel type was produced here.

James Snee

Quadring, Church End / Wykes Road (TF 219 342 - TF 245 352)

Although in an area of Saxon and medieval activity, a watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services on a pipeline at Quadring did not reveal any archaeological remains.

Rachael Hall

Rippinghale, East Street (TF 0994 2781)

A watching brief was carried out, by S. Thomson of Archaeological Project Services, during development in the historic core of Rippinghale village. Beam slots of early medieval date were revealed and indicate structural activity of the period in the area. A medieval ditch was also exposed. Post-medieval wall foundations defining a multi-cell structure with associated floor surfaces and demolition layers were also recognized. The wall foundations contained re-used dressed masonry suggesting that a high status building, probably manorial or religious, had previously been located in the vicinity. Some of the masonry had seen an earlier re-use, apparently in a flight of stairs, evident from prominent wear concavities in several pieces. Postholes and a metal surface were also recorded and although undated are thought to be postmedieval. Dating of the artefacts indicate the site was probably unoccupied in the 14th-17th centuries.

Steve Thomson

Ruskington, Holme Lane (TF 0851 5094)

Development close to prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains was examined by staff of Archaeological Project Services but only recent remains were found.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Scredington, Church Lane (TF 0944 4031)

A watching brief, by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services, during development on the site of a levelled medieval moated enclosure revealed a large pond or ditch-like feature. This was possibly one of the arms of the medieval moat, though no dating evidence was recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Scunthorpe, Bottesford (SE 8996 0695)

Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation on land off Baldwin Avenue, Bottesford, Scunthorpe, where previous observations had suggested that Anglo-Saxon and earlier deposits could exist. Two palaeochannels of unknown date were located along with three ditches of possible mid/late Saxon date. An extensive alluvial deposit covered the site in the post-medieval period. A subsequent recording action was carried out in advance of development on selected house plots, which lay to the east of the evaluation area.

A remnant of a possible posthole building was undated. The major feature encountered was a linear boundary ditch that was seen both in evaluation and the recording action. From the ditch, two York ware jar rims of the late 9th-mid 11th century date were recovered as residual items within a large dump of medieval domestic pottery. The range of fabrics and forms is typical of domestic assemblages of the 14th-mid 15th century. Vessels such as pancheons, dripping dishes and skillets all tend to be later medieval introductions, as are the Coal Measures fabric, but the absence of Cistercian ware indicates that the pottery was deposited before the later 15th century. The assemblage is purely domestic in nature, with the relative large number of jars a little surprising, as jugs tend to dominate assemblages of the 14th century.

However, most of the jars and bowls are heavily sooted, indicating that the whole group is likely to be a kitchen midden deposit.

Steve Morris and Michael Webster

Spalding, Church Street (TF 2481 2249)

An evaluation, supervised by M. Dymond of Archaeological Project Services for Elderkin and Sons, was carried out immediately north of the medieval parish church in the historic core of Spalding. Dumped deposits of medieval date were revealed and contained domestic waste and iron smithing debris. Flood deposits, also dated to the medieval period, overlay the dumped layers and provided a base for post-medieval structural remains, represented by walls and foundation trenches. A single fragment of Early-Middle Saxon pottery, probably the first such piece found in the town, was recovered as a redeposited artefact from the medieval layers.

Mark Dymond

Spalding, Pinchbeck Road (TF 2485 2334)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services undertook a watching brief, for Nestwood Homes Developments Ltd, during development near the site of the medieval castle and close to previous discoveries of Roman remains. A medieval pit was revealed, together with early modern ditches and foundations. Roman remains were also encountered.

Steve Thomson

Spalding, West Marsh Road (TF 2536 2416)

On behalf of Sworder Belcher Holt, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development on the outskirts of Spalding town centre, an area where Roman remains had previously been identified. Beneath flood silts a series of northwest-southeast aligned ditches was recorded. Two of these ditches yielded medieval pottery and although no artefacts were recovered from the other features it is likely that all are of the medieval period. Recent ditches on a similar alignment to the medieval examples were also recorded.

James Albone

Spalding, Wygate Park (TF 2370 2375)

Land to the northwest of Spalding, in proximity to known Roman remains, was the subject of archaeological investigations carried out for Broadgate Homes Ltd by staff of Archaeological Project Services. Fieldwalking recovered a spread of medieval and later pottery and other artefacts, with slightly greater densities of material for both periods in the southeastern part of the site, toward the urban centre. However, it is thought probable that the entire range of this material entered the area as components of manuring scatter. Geophysical survey (by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford) identified magnetic anomalies that probably represent former drainage or boundary ditches of a pre-modern field system. A small quantity of Iron Age and Roman pottery was also recovered.

Tobin Rayner

Spanby, Mareham Lane (TF 0955 3815)

Although in an area of medieval earthworks and alongside a Roman road, no archaeological features were revealed during a watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services.

James Albone

Sutterton, Park View Garage, Station Road (TF 2850 3539)

Although close to the medieval village core, no archaeological remains were revealed during a watching brief by M. Dymond of Archaeological Project Services.

Steve Thomson

Sutterton, The Vicarage, Station Road (TF 2858 3557)

Development in the medieval core of Sutterton, close to the 12th century church, was examined by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services. A probable post-medieval pond was revealed and this had apparently been deliberately backfilled with refuse, including large quantities of pottery of 16th century and later date, together with clay pipe and glass.

Steve Thomson

Swineshead, Abbey Road (TF 23814016)

On behalf of Mowbray and Son Ltd, J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation in the centre of Swineshead, immediately southeast of the parish church. Remains of a 17th century building with brick and stone walls and an associated yard surface were identified on the west side of the site. This structure had undergone several phases of rebuilding, apparently within a short space of time, before being replaced by a new structure closer to the road. The artefact assemblage suggested the investigation area encompassed two separate properties, the division commencing in the medieval period and continuing until recent times. Although no medieval remains were identified, all of the pottery of that period was found on the west side of the site, as was the early modern material. Additionally, the 16th-18th century material displayed spatial variation, with the group from the west side of the site dominated by local wares and that on the east side almost entirely comprising regional and foreign imports. This disparity probably reflects differences in status and/or function of the two parts of the site in the post-medieval period.

James Albone

Swineshead, Hall Drive (TF 2400 4040)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief for Jelson Ltd during development in an area of medieval and post-medieval remains north of the centre of Swineshead village. Medieval ditches and pits were revealed and a localized concentration of iron slag and vitrified earth lining suggests the presence of a smithy in the western part of the site. A few post-medieval pits were revealed but it seems probable that the site had an agricultural function at that time. The site appears to have been abandoned in the 17th century.

Steve Thomson

Swineshead, Primary School (TF 2400 4020)

A watching brief, by staff of Archaeological Project Services, near the historic core of the village did not reveal any archaeological remains.

Steve Thomson

Swineshead, Station Road (TF 2334 4099)

Development in an area of Saxon and medieval remains north of the centre of Swineshead village was subject to a watching brief, carried out by J. Snee of Archaeological Project Services who recovered post-medieval artefacts, though no archaeological remains were revealed.

Steve Thomson

Swineshead, Steyning Lane (TF 2357 4006)

A watching brief was carried out by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services during development just west of the medieval village core. A group of three parallel east-west ditches of medieval date crossed the site. Few artefacts were recovered and these features are thought to have served an agricultural function. A small pit of post-medieval date was also recorded.

Tobin Rayner

Tallington, Home Farm (TF 0912 0802)

Development immediately adjacent to the 13th century parish church was monitored by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services for Dale-Esk Ltd. A probable pond of post-medieval date was revealed but no artefacts earlier than the 18th century were retrieved.

Steve Thomson

Tallington, Main Road (TF 0907 0794)

Although in an area of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains, no archaeological features were exposed during a watching brief by staff of Archaeological Project Services.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Tallington, Manor Farm (TF 0940 0845)

On behalf of Hereward Homes Ltd, J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation in an area of Saxon funerary remains and medieval settlement. Several boundary ditches of 12th-15th century date were identified, two of these apparently on the line of a droveway cropmark previously thought to be prehistoric. A scatter of Late Saxon and medieval pottery was recovered as redeposited material and it is thought possible that the site lies close to, but probably not on, one of the two manors recorded at Tallington in the Domesday Book.

James Albone

Tallington, Walnut House Farm (TF 0963 0835)

J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development near to previous discoveries of medieval structural remains and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. A limestone wall was revealed and although undated is almost certainly associated with the medieval building previously recorded. However, no

evidence associated with the Anglo-Saxon cemetery was exposed.

James Albone

Tattershall, Granary Lane (TF 2117 5775)

An evaluation, supervised by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services, examined land in the historic core of Tattershall. A pair of adjacent ditches, both broadly parallel with the highway, were revealed and probably defined the rear boundary of a parcel of land fronting the road. The ditches were undated but were sealed beneath a post-medieval buried soil and consequently are probably medieval. Spoil was dumped in the area, raising the ground, during construction of an adjacent canal in the post-medieval period. Recent pits and dumped deposits were noted and these contained large, unworn fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery, suggesting the proximity of habitation of both periods.

Tobin Rayner

Thurlby, The Old Vicarage (TF 1045 1680)

Construction work adjacent to Late Saxon St Firmin's church and the Car Dyke Roman waterway was monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services. Post-medieval dumped deposits were revealed, together with remains associated with the Car Dyke.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Timberland, Bayfield Farm (TF 1200 5100)

F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services monitored development in the historic core of Timberland village for S. Fenwick Building Contractors Ltd. Gullies and a ditch were revealed but did not contain artefacts and thus were undated.

Steve Thomson

Toft with Lound and Manthorpe, Lound, Hillside Farm (TF 0694 1817)

On behalf of Private Collection Homes, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development in the core of the shrunken medieval settlement of Lound. A single pit was revealed but this was undated as no artefacts were recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

West Keal, Hall Lane (TF 366 633)

Two probable ditches, aligned parallel and square to adjacent Hall Lane, were recorded during a watching brief, by staff of Archaeological Project Services, near the medieval core of the village. These were undated but were revealed at depth and likely to be no later than medieval.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Wrangle, Marsh Farm, Sea Lane (TF 4471 5055)

On behalf of Staple Brothers Ltd, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during development in an area of medieval saltern mounds. An undated ditch was revealed and dumped deposits of apparent medieval and post-medieval date were recorded.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Wrangle, Toft Farm Cottages (TF 441 404)

Development in an area of medieval saltern mounds was monitored by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services who recorded recent drainage ditches and soakaways but no earlier remains.

Steve Thomson

MERSEYSIDE

St Helens, Big Lea Green Farm (pre-1974 in Lancashire in the parish of Prescot, and within the township of Sutton) (SJ 511923)

In 2002 the construction of a regional distribution centre by Somerfield Supermarkets provided an opportunity for archaeologists from Liverpool Museum Field Archaeology Unit to excavate and survey a late medieval - post-medieval farm at Lea Green, near St Helens. Documentary research had already established the occupation of the farm during the late 17th century by Bryan Lea, 'yeoman of Sutton', and it probably corresponded to lands held by Thurstan de Standish in the 14th century. The archaeological evaluation identified material dating from the 13th century onwards. The continuous habitation of the site was briefly interrupted in September 1940, when the farmhouse was badly damaged by German bombing.

The medieval occupation of the site was attested to by a small assemblage of pottery from the 13th century onwards, which was present as a residual component throughout the sequence. Structures from this period were largely truncated by later redevelopment of the site. The earliest post-medieval deposits were a series of 16th century pits containing waterlogged material including horn, leather, animal hair, antler, well preserved seeds and wood fragments.

A large stone-built cellared farmhouse, barns and coach house were built in the 17th century associated with several ditches reflecting a re-organisation of the farm. An associated enclosure ditch was later backfilled prior to 1720 with a large assemblage of domestic pottery including residual Cistercian wares and local coarse wares.

The 18th and early 19th centuries saw only relatively minor changes to the complex, with re-modelling of one of the barns in brick and the construction of a number of drains. Domestic pottery continued to be deposited into a garden soil behind the farmhouse. Between 1826 and 1849 a wide shallow ditch was excavated defining the southwest corner of the farm. This ditch had the appearance of a Medieval moat, but proved to be a 19th century ditch/landscape feature.

The farm was transformed during the late 19th century (1847 - 1891) with the reconstruction of the farmhouse in brick, the addition of a stable block to a barn, a new open-sided 'Dutch' barn, the laying/relaying of cobbled yards and the re-organisation of an adjacent enclosure into a kitchen garden.

The farm underwent only superficial modification during the early 20th century, with alterations to the facade of the front of the farmhouse. The farm house was badly

damaged by a bomb dropped in September 1940, and was subsequently demolished and replaced by a brick-built farmhouse which shifted the principal access to the complex until its demise in 2002.

During the course of the excavation an exceptional collection of ceramics was recovered: dating from the 13th to the late 19th century: the post-medieval pottery was an especially rich assemblage which will provide a benchmark for future work in the area. An interim report has been produced and additional specialist reports have been commissioned to examine the pottery, clay tobacco pipe, horn, bone, and environmental material, to be incorporated into a full excavation report. The project demonstrated the potential for excavation of smaller yeoman farmsteads, which were key components of the late and post-medieval rural landscape in the region.

Report: Excavations at Big Lea Green Farm, Sutton, St Helens, Merseyside 2002 (Interim Report). A. Towle (2003) National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside.

Finds curated by Liverpool Museum, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside

Queries on the project should be addressed to: Andy Towle, Project Officer, Liverpool Museum Field Archaeology Unit, GWR Building, Mann Island, Liverpool, L3 1DG, UK. Tel.: 0044 (0)1514784041. E-mail: andy.towle@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

NORFOLK

Correction – In the MSRG Annual Report last year, fieldwork carried out on the Stanford Training Area (Stanta) by Brian Cushion undertaken under contract from the MOD via Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (p 51) was incorrectly attributed to Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

Caister-on-Sea, The Old Hall Hotel (TG 5209 1214)

An evaluation, supervised by J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services, was undertaken for Mr M. Gilbert adjacent to prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval remains. A pit of possible post-medieval date was revealed and a few artefacts of 17th-18th century date were recovered. Clench bolts, similar to examples previously found in a Middle-Late Saxon cemetery nearby, were recovered. These are, however, likely to be medieval and, given the close proximity of the coastline, probably associated with building or breaking of boats. Roman and prehistoric remains were also identified.

James Albone

Fakenham, Baron's Close (TG 9249 2958)

A programme of evaluation trenching, supervised by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services, was undertaken for Davis, Langdon and Everest in the immediate proximity of Baron's Hall, dating from 1593. Only recent services and foundations were revealed although a medieval subsoil, perhaps of agricultural origin and containing a small amount of abraded pottery of the 11th-14th century, was identified. Several prehistoric flints were also recovered from the subsoil.

Rachael Hall

King's Lynn, Nar-Ouse Regeneration Area (TF 618 191)

On behalf of WSP Remediation, C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief during excavations of test pits in the area of the Nar-Ouse confluence. The investigation area encompasses the site of part of the Civil War defences of the town.

Substantial variations in the level of natural alluvium were identified across the site and although some of these differences may be due to the Civil War defences such remains were not clearly recognized. Rather, the variations in the natural levels were probably mainly caused by 19th century clay pits. These clay pits had been backfilled with extensive dumps of refuse. Other recent remains identified included a former railway embankment.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

King's Lynn, Former Queen Mary's Nursing Home (TF 6243 1961)

Evaluation alongside the medieval town defences was supervised by P. Cope-Faulkner of Archaeological Project Services for Broadland Housing Association Ltd. Evidence of salt making was encountered in the form of dumped silts and clay-lined pits. These remains were mostly undated, though one pit truncated a dump that contained 13th century pottery. The dumped silts from the salt making appear to have been incorporated in the rampart of the medieval town defences. A large hollow, possibly a quarry for rampart material, was also noted. There was also evidence of rampart slumping in the post-medieval period.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

King's Lynn, Red Mount Chapel (TF 6247 1983)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation for King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council at the 15th century chapel. Excavation into the mound around the chapel revealed sections of the original brick walled passage entrance into the basement chapel. Additionally, the retaining wall for the mound was exposed. Remains of a floor surface were identified in the Basement Chapel while a trench in the Priest's Room Annex indicated that parts of this appeared to have been backfilled in the 17th century.

Rachael Hall

Walpole St. Peter, West Drove North (TF 49811652)

Although in one of the medieval hamlets of Walpole St. Peter, an evaluation, supervised by M. Bamforth of Archaeological Project Services, did not encounter any archaeological remains.

Michael Bamforth

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Duddington, Collyweston Quarry (SK 995 004)

On behalf of Bullimores Sand and Gravel Ltd, T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services supervised an excavation prior to the extension of a quarry.

Previous investigations at the site had demonstrated the survival of a prehistoric ring ditch. In addition to the prehistoric remains, the excavation recovered limited quantities of medieval and later artefacts that are considered to constitute manuring scatter of the periods.

Tobin Rayner

Kettering, Barton Seagrave Moats (SP 8859 7693)

Two watching briefs were carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology at Barton Seagrave Moats (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 13630), which comprises two medieval moated enclosures, fishponds and associated earthworks. The work took place ahead of excavations by PDM Associates acting on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd.

The first watching brief took place during remedial works on a cast iron water pipe. One test pit truncated the north-east corner of the southernmost moat revealing a metallised layer comprising part of the external bank to the moat. A second test pit cut the eastern causeway of the same enclosure revealing a 'backfill' deposit of limestone masonry fragments overlying the fill of the moat; a sterile sandy silt overlying a black organic silt with animal bone, wood fragments and a single sherd of 14th century pottery.

The second watching brief took place during the relocation of a water main. A trench was machine excavated on the eastern edge of the moat of the southernmost enclosure. The outer edge of the medieval moat was revealed where it cut through the natural limestone bedrock. The silt of the moat produced a residual sherd of 13th/14th century pottery.

Simon Carlyle and Anthony Maul

Raunds, 14 Rotton Row (SP 9984 7315)

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Mr J. Kearsley to undertake an archaeological excavation in his back garden before the construction of a new dwelling. The site lay closely adjacent to areas extensively excavated from the late 1970s onward as part of the Raunds Area Project, particularly the work at Furnells manor, which lies to the north of the present excavation. The results have therefore added further details to the known pattern of settlement development in the area from the early-middle Saxon period onward.

A large sub-rectangular pit may have been part of an early-middle Saxon sunken-floored building. East-west aligned ditches formed a series of plot boundaries from the late Saxon to the post-medieval period. During the late Saxon period the plots showed little or no domestic activity, perhaps suggesting horticultural or agricultural use. From the early to late medieval period the plots included posthole clusters and slot features, presumably relating to the occupation of a series of tenement plots fronting onto Rotten Row.

Steve Morris

Raunds, 78 High Street (SP 9994 7315)

Archaeological evaluation by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Pytchley Estates Ltd ahead of residential development at the former abattoir site at 78

High Street, Raunds, identified a single late medieval pit close to the rear of houses fronting onto the High Street and immediately east of the Raunds Brook. A substantial ditch of unknown date was also examined in the same trench at the north of the site. In a second trench, no archaeological features had survived due to grading of the yard area and the presence of a culverted drain. The absence of Saxon remains is consistent with previous archaeological investigations as part of the Raunds Area Project, which have suggested that occupation along the Raunds Brook in the valley floor did not occur until the medieval period.

Alex Thorne

Stanion, Corby Road (SP 9145 8701)

Excavation by Northamptonshire Archaeology was carried out ahead of the construction of a single residential development in an area of nationally important archaeological remains relating to the major medieval pottery production centres in the villages of Lyveden and Stanion. The excavation uncovered several pits containing 'waster' pots. Some pits included primary dumps of near complete vessels while others were filled with more fragmented debris, presumably as secondary deposition from surface waster heaps. The total assemblage weighs just over 600 kg. It is dominated by the production of glazed jugs, some evidently the work of single potters, but also includes plain coarseware jars, glazed roof ridge tiles as well as kiln furniture.

Simon Carlyle

Upper Boddington, land off Townsend Lane (SP 482 536)

Archaeological evaluation by Mike Luke, Mark Phillips and Julian Watters of Albion Archaeology was undertaken in an area of surviving earthworks within the shrunken medieval village. The work comprised desk-based assessment, earthwork survey, geophysical survey and trial excavation

The excavation identified the following archaeological sequence. A series of enclosures were established in the Saxo-Norman period. The limited quantity of domestic debris and the absence of pits and postholes suggest these may have been situated on the periphery of the settlement. A more extensive enclosure system, part of which respected a hollow-way, probably dates to the early medieval period. Although only a small number of settlement-type features were identified, the quantity of domestic debris was relatively large. It is, therefore, of interest that the study area is situated within the northern part of the present village, which may be a later, planned addition to the linear development in the southern part of the present settlement. The absence of late medieval material and features suggests that the village could have contracted leaving the study area once again on the periphery of the settlement.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Kelham, Home Farm (SK 7730 5556)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief for University of Leicester Archaeological Services during development in the centre of Kelham.

The site is within the grounds of Kelham Hall, initially constructed c. 1730, and adjacent to a late 18th century model farm. A probable medieval agricultural layer was identified and numerous ditches and pits were recorded, the larger pits perhaps being gravel quarries. Some of these pits and ditches were post-medieval and while the others were undated they are probably also of this period. It seems likely that the first occupation of the site was associated with the construction of the model farm.

Steve Thomson

RUTLAND

Empingham, Loves Lane / Main Street (SK 9514 0877)

Investigations, supervised by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services for Landbilt Ltd, were carried out prior to and during development near the northeastern edge of Empingham village. Previous investigations at the site had encountered medieval remains toward the road frontage of Main Street. Close to the Main Street frontage an extensive rubble spread, of medieval date and probably representing demolition debris of buildings of the period, was identified. Two stone walls, undated but perhaps also medieval, were recorded nearer to Loves Lane. Several refuse pits of 18th-early 19th century date were identified, together with an adjacent posthole.

Steve Thomson

Market Overton, Market Overton Industrial Estate (SK 889 176)

A watching brief, by C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services, was carried out near to Roman and Saxon remains to the north of Market Overton. However, only recent deposits associated with a former ironstone railway, or the present industrial estate, were revealed but no archaeological remains were encountered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Oakham, Ashwell Road (SK 864 096)

A watching brief was carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Barratt East Midlands Ltd during development on the north side of the medieval town. Previous investigations on an adjacent part of the site had revealed an undated ditch and prehistoric, Roman and medieval artefacts. A ditch and a linear hollow, both aligned north-south, parallel with the road, were revealed. Both of these were close to the western limit of the site and probably served a boundary function, but were undated.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Ryhall, Crown Street (TF 0366 1122)

Although on the edge of the historic core of Ryhall village, no archaeological remains were revealed during a watching brief by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services.

Tobin Rayner

Ryhall, Turnpike Road (TF 0350 1125)

Development close to medieval remains on the northern edge of Ryhall was monitored by J. Albone of

Archaeological Project Services. An elongated pit backfilled with limestone fragments was exposed. This was of late post-medieval date and perhaps related to known stone quarrying in the area.

Steve Thomson

OXFORDSHIRE

Drayton/Sutton Courtenay (SU 491933) (pre 1974 in Berkshire)

A project funded by English Heritage and run jointly by Oxford Archaeology and the Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford, undertook a magnetometer survey of 10 ha in an area of crop-marks to the south of the Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings excavated by E.T. Leeds in the 1920s and 1930s. The survey area also lies adjacent to a group of 'Great Halls' identified by aerial photography in the 1970s (Leeds 1947; Benson and Miles 1974; Hawkes 1986). A number of pieces of Anglo-Saxon metalwork as well as thirteen sceattas were also recovered from this field by metal-detector users (Hamerow 1999). The magnetometry survey was followed up by field-walking and four 10m x 20m evaluation trenches. Excavation revealed clusters of large pits adjacent to ditches of early/mid Saxon date as well as an apparent Anglo-Saxon re-cut of a major Roman trackway. Preliminary results indicate the presence of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery, a high-status centre (probably a royal vill), probably of seventh-century date, and an eighth-century market.

Helena Hamerow

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SUFFOLK

Abbreviation: S.C.C.A.S.

Barking, Gallows Hill (TM/1053; BRK 104)

An area of c. 18ha was evaluated by trial-trenches by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (S.C.C.A.S.) for Lafarge Aggregates Ltd. In the lower-lying areas of the site the old ground surface was protected by an overlying alluvial layer which provides the potential for archaeology to survive as surface-intact deposits. A limited palaeoenvironmental assessment (by Peter Murphy, English Heritage) also suggested that palaeochannels relating to the nearby River Gipping were present.

The Roman period was represented by a road or trackway defined by its flanking ditches. Previously identified as a cropmark (BRK 004) this feature is thought to continue across the river into the major settlement of Combretuvium. Almost all the Roman finds recovered during the evaluation were in the fill of these ditches. While this suggests that there were no accompanying

occupation areas of this period within the confines of the site, it is likely that some of the undated ditches relate to a contemporary field system.

Two Early Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings were identified, c. 175m apart. The concentration of features did not, however, appear to be high, which may suggest a scattered settlement over an extensive area. Significantly, Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the fills of the flanking ditches of the Roman road. This does not prove that the road continued in use through to this time, but does indicate some continuity, with the ditches at least remaining partially open as surface features.

Medieval evidence was limited to a single sherd of pottery in the fill of a ditch that is shown as a boundary on early-20th-century maps. The boundary may date back to the medieval period, but it is equally likely that the pottery sherd was residual, possibly derived from manuring.

Stuart Boulter

Carlton Colville, Carlton Colville Bypass (Phase 2) (M5 190; CAC 00 1, 026, 027, 028).

Four areas, identified in an evaluation in 2001, were excavated by S.C.C.A.S. for Persimmon Homes (Anglia) Ltd in advance of road and balancing-pond construction (Figure 19). Three of the sites (CAC 001 and 026, Sites 1 and 2) were located on a slight, sandy, south-facing hill. A general spread of prehistoric features, including an intriguing early Bronze Age circular structure, were superseded by enclosure ditches and structures of probable Iron Age and Roman date. A Middle Saxon building was also recognised. At site CAC 027, at the valley base, enclosures associated with the edge of a medieval green were excavated.

At CAC 026-Site 2, part of a Roman post-built rectangular structure was revealed, possibly superimposed over a circular setting of posts. At Site 1, set within the corner of one of the Iron Age/Roman enclosures was a post-hole building 13m long by 6m wide and orientated E.-W. Opposed doorways were recognised along the north and south sides; the offset thresholds and the weak corners suggest a Middle Saxon date. Another similar building was revealed during the monitoring of the area between Sites 1 and 2.

At CAC 027, to the south-east, on the medieval green edge, at least three phases of ditched enclosure could be recognised with a break in the north-east corner that held a well. This area also contained a variety of small pits, slots, post-holes and concentrations of flint cobbles, possibly post-pads, suggesting a small structure. Subsequent earth moving in the vicinity revealed a spread of medieval pottery to the west and one panel of an enamelled, gilded bronze triptych. Monitoring of the green edge a further 200m to the east revealed a further scatter of medieval pottery (CAC 028).

Jezz Meredith

Carlton Colville, land off Chapel Road (TW5090; CAC 025).

Excavation by S.C.C.A.S. for Persimmon Homes (Anglia) Ltd of two small areas, each approximately 30m

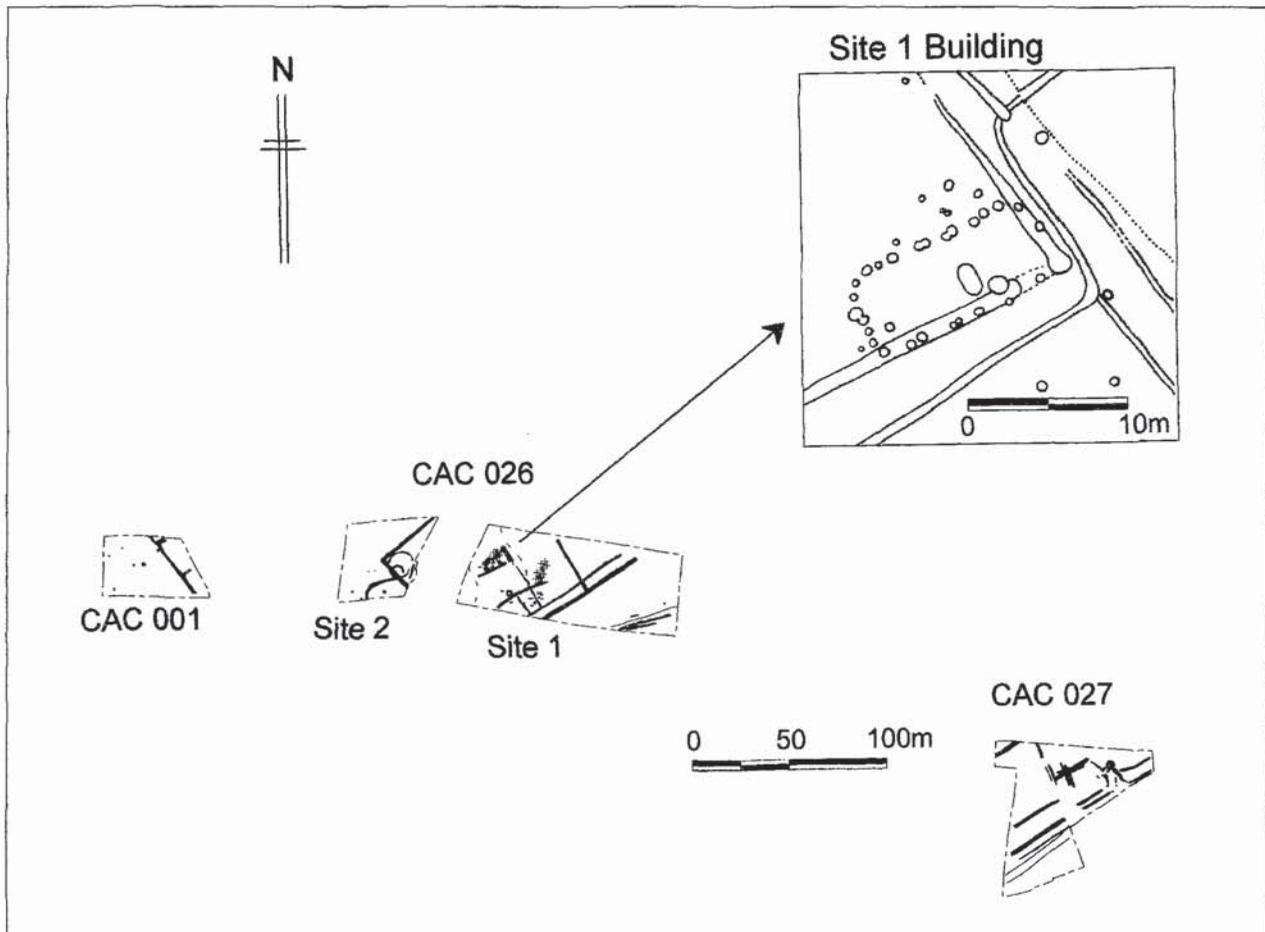


Figure 19: Carlton Colville: Plans showing the relative positions of sites CAC 001, CAC 026 and CAC 027, with details of the Saxon building at CAC 026 Site 1 above.

x 30m was designed to better characterise and date ditches and field systems identified in the evaluation of c 5 ha.

The first of these areas in the S. of the development area revealed eight ditches as well as a series of narrow slots filled with charcoal and burnt clay rich material. These slots appeared to be structural but did not form an obvious building. Apart from a pit and a ditch of probable Iron Age date, all the evidence from this area pointed towards a high medieval date.

The second area contained ditches and thin spreads of material rich in finds. One large pit, cut by a later ditch, was almost fully excavated to recover a good assemblage of finds. The pottery from this area was largely of 11th-14th century date and the quantity suggested occupation nearby. In both cases, only a 300mm thick layer of ploughsoil sealed the archaeological deposits and ploughing may have destroyed deposits at a higher level. The field systems revealed align with Chapel Road (a likely medieval lane) and also with ditches observed during excavations just to the north in 1999 (Gill, S.C.C.A.S. report no.2001/24). The site of the medieval Carlton Manor is within 300m.

Linzi Everett

Flixton, Flixton Park Quarry (TW3086; FLN 061)

Further work by S.C.C.A.S. for RMC Atlas Aggregates (UK) Ltd took place on the northern edge of the quarry

where the removal of a narrow strip of topsoil in 2001 had revealed a double ring-ditch of prehistoric date and traces of Anglo-Saxon settlement along a gravel ridge (orientated N.E.-S.W). A larger area was stripped in 2002 revealing more of what is a significant Early Anglo-Saxon settlement and a further ring-ditch (Figure 20).

The second ring-ditch was located c.70m to the east of the first, close to the most concentrated area of Early Anglo-Saxon settlement. The ditch was penannular, with opposed butt-ends to the north-east, with an external diameter of c. 10m, a maximum width of c. 1m and a maximum depth of only 0.2m, with a gently rounded bottom. No finds were recovered from the ditch fill, or from a rectangular feature enclosed by the ditch. While there was no evidence for a body, the internal feature was clearly regular in shape and it seems likely that it did represent a grave. However, dating the ditch and possible burial is problematic, as it exhibited elements that could place it in the Early Bronze Age (forming part of the dispersed group of burial mounds known to exist at Flixton) or the Early Anglo-Saxon period. However its closeness to the Anglo-Saxon settlement make the latter less likely.

In addition to a number of ditches and pits, the Early Anglo-Saxon phase of the site was represented by a series of buildings, of both sunken-featured and posthole construction, together with an enigmatic small square enclosure. While the main concentration of buildings was

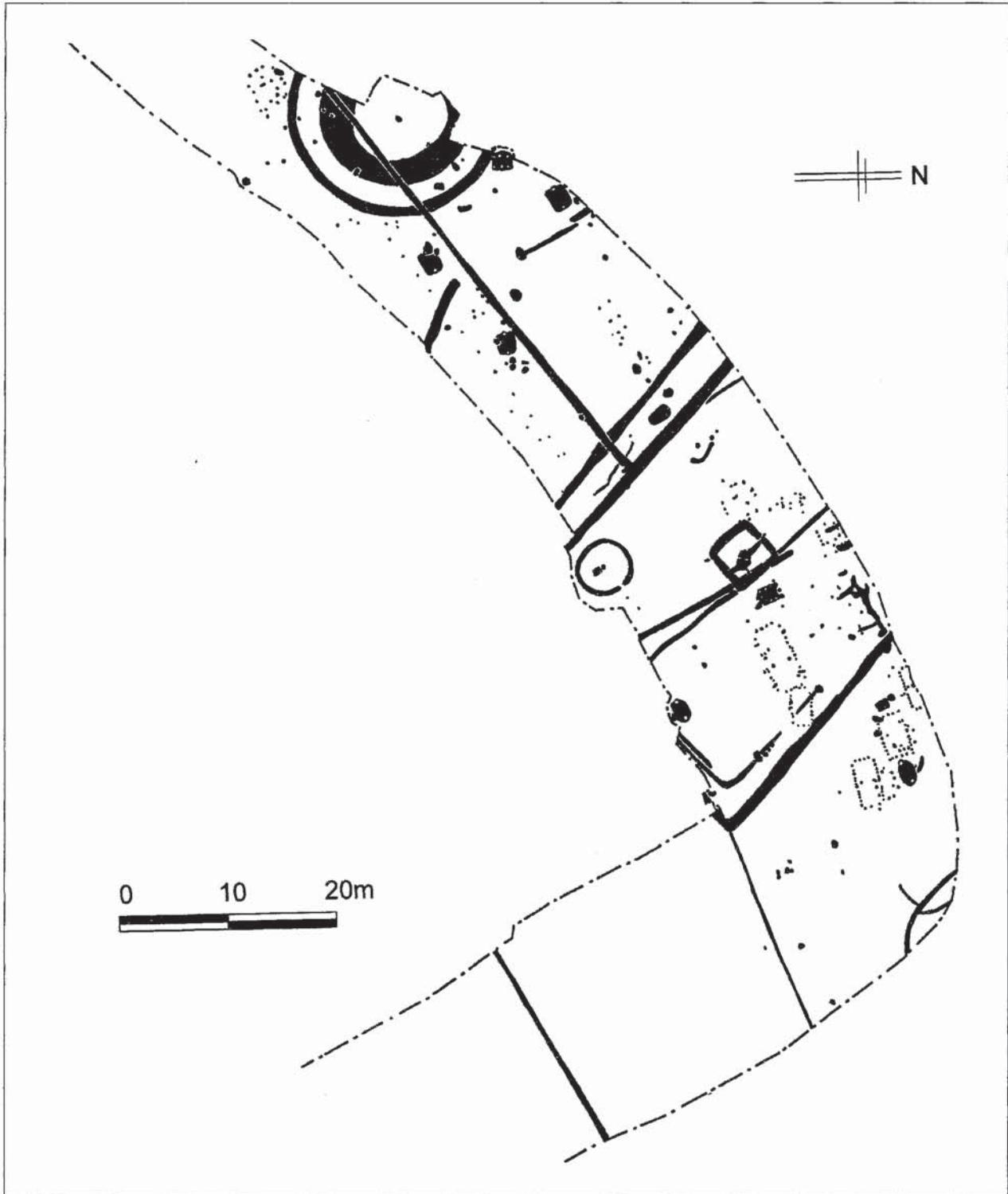


Figure 20: Flixton Quarry, Flixton: Plan showing area FLN 06 1.

located towards the eastern end of the stripped area, the overall area of occupation was far larger, spanning approximately 320m from one end to the other (S.W. to N.E.) and in excess of 50m across (NW to S.E.).

A total of twenty buildings was recorded which, with a certain amount of variation, could be assigned to one of three main types, all of which are represented at the other two excavated major Early Anglo-Saxon settlement sites in Suffolk - West Stow and Carlton Colville (Bloodmoor Hill). Possibly the most significant were the rectangular

post-holed structures that were described as 'halls' at West Stow (West 1985). Six of these were recorded and were characterised by a rectangular shape, closely spaced post-holes, weak corners and (usually) internal post-holes that may have supported a second storey or raised platform. Four of these 'halls' exhibited uniform dimensions, measuring c. 9m x 4m, one was smaller, measuring c. 7m x 3.5m, while one was larger, measuring c. 13m x 5m. However, the most numerous buildings were of the sunken-featured type (SFBs). There were

eight in all: six with two postholes, one at each end; one with six post-holes, arranged down the longer sides; and one with no post-holes. All were approximately 4m in length, with widths varying between 2 and 3m. Depths varied between c.0.1m and c.0.6m. The third type of building, of which there were five, were also constructed from earth-fast posts, but were significantly different in character to the more formal 'halls'. Generally, these structures were smaller and squarer, commonly measuring c. 5m x 5m. The post-holes were not as closely spaced and the overall ground-plan was often less well defined than that of the 'halls'. One similarity, however, was the weak corners that were present in most examples. One other building was recorded that has not been assigned to any of the main categories, as it exhibited structural elements of all three. The building measured c.4m x 3m, with two large post-holes at each end (similar to the SFBs) and two lines of relatively widely spaced post-holes arranged down each side in two shallow slots. In addition, the majority of the area enclosed by the post-holes formed a shallow irregular depression.

The small square enclosure measured approximately 9m x 9m and overlay, but respected, an existing ditched boundary. The ditch itself, was continuous, c.1m wide, with a maximum depth of c.0.6m and a gently rounded bottom. The area confined by the ditch was heavily disturbed by tree-holes. However, when the natural disturbances were removed, a large circular pit, 2m in diameter, was revealed with a c. 1m square cut in its base and an overall depth of c. 1m. Lying on a ledge above the square cut was a single line of flint cobbles. It seems likely that the square cut would have been associated with some form of lining, although no evidence for this survived. The upper fill contained a number of iron nails and a few sherds of pottery. The function of the enclosure and the internal feature remains unclear although its close proximity with the largest of the 'hall-type' buildings and four of the smaller post-holed structures may be significant.

As yet little work has been done on the limited artefactual evidence recovered from the site and, as a consequence, putting a date range on the Early Anglo-Saxon activity is difficult. However no Middle-Saxon Ipswich Ware was present and the indications from the 2001 work were that the ceramic assemblage, although limited, was dominated by 6th-century material, with only a hint of 7th-century activity.

Apart from numerous tree-holes of ancient and modern date and periglacial disturbances, the only other features recorded on the site related to the medieval and post-medieval landscape, particularly ditches relating to Flixton Hall Park which appear on the early Ordnance Survey and estate maps.

Stuart Boulter

Gedding, Gedding Hall brick kiln (TL/9458; GDD 012).

A brick kiln, located approximately half a kilometre from both Gedding Hall and Gedding church, was partially excavated by S.C.C.A.S. for Bill Wyman. It consisted of two tunnels or firing chambers with brick walls and a central brick spine, and measured 4m wide by over

4.5m long. The stoke pit was sectioned at the entrance to the N. tunnel, and contained charcoal and fragments of brick and tile. The two tunnels had been backfilled with loose rubble, largely brick fragments but occasional pieces of peg tile, and the floors were covered with a thick layer of white ash and charcoal. A small pit at the entrance to the N. tunnel suggested the presence of a baffle. The bricks used in the construction of the kiln and from its fill were slightly smaller than those used in the Early Tudor gatehouse of Gedding Hall. The kiln was comparable with a post-medieval example from Danbury, Essex (Drury 1975), but the type is known to have been used from the medieval period onwards.

Sue Anderson

Ipswich, Philip Road, Stoke (TW1643; IPS 414/IAS 9315)

During house renovation work an east-west orientated, unaccompanied, human burial was revealed and excavated by the homeowner. Subsequent examination of the skeletal remains identified a second individual and it also appears that a neighbour found a similar burial some years ago. These burials therefore represent a previously unknown cemetery which has now been radiocarbon dated to 820±50 AD (GU-10586). Philip Road is on the southern edge of the Victorian development of Stoke and the burial site is some 220m south-west of St Mary's church and well away from any previously recorded findspots of Middle or Late Saxon material.

John Newman

Lakenheath, Recycling Centre, RAF Lakenheath (TL/7381, LKH 207)

Excavation by S.C.C.A.S. for M.O.D. Defence Estates (USF) in advance of the redevelopment of the recycling centre uncovered settlement evidence from the Roman and Early Saxon periods. A series of east-west aligned ditches probably mark the northern boundary of the Roman settlement and other Roman ditches and pits were found to the south of these. Three Early Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings were also found, as well as several contemporary ditches and pits. These were dispersed across the whole site with no apparent respect for the line of the Roman settlement boundary. A well cut by the Roman ditches may have been Iron Age in date. The most enigmatic feature on the site was a small pit, found in the north-east corner of the site, which contained three horses heads arranged in a triangle. Unfortunately there were no other finds from it to enable it to be dated. It is likely to have had a ritual function but whether this was Roman and situated outside the settlement or Early Saxon and within the settlement area remains to be determined.

Jo Caruth

Lakenheath, Wells Road, RAF Lakenheath (TU7381; LKH 223)

An excavation by S.C.C.A.S. for M.O.D. Defence Estates (USF) carried out in advance of the rebuilding of Wells Road revealed further evidence of the Roman and Early Saxon settlements. The excavation uncovered a network of ditches forming enclosures, boundaries and possible

trackways dating from the 1st-4th centuries AD, as well as pits, wells and the first Roman building to have been identified on the base. The presence of the building was indicated by the remains of a rammed chalk floor, and, although no features relating to the superstructure of the building were identified, this enabled approximate minimum dimensions (4m x 7m) of the building to be established. Two possible hearths were found within it and dense, finds-rich soil lying just beyond the south edge of the building may relate to the period of its use. The building overlay a number of the ditches, which suggests that it is probably later rather than earlier in the Roman sequence. The northern edge of the settlement, represented by a series of re-cut parallel ditches, which had been identified in previous excavations to the west of Wells Road (see LKH 207), was identified again and its interpretation is supported by the absence of any Roman occupation evidence to the north of it. A single, probably new-born, infant burial was found lying at the junction of several of the ditches.

A single Early Saxon sunken-featured building was identified. This had an associated semicircular ditch around the north side of it. There were also some pits and post-holes dating to this period. The Early Saxon occupation was separated from the Roman by a soil layer up to 25cm thick in places, which suggests the complete dereliction of the Roman settlement by the time of the Early Saxon occupation of the area. There were occasional substantial Early Saxon post-holes, these may relate to a larger hall building, but at the moment insufficient structural features have been identified to confirm this.

Finds recovered have included a lot of pottery dating from the 1st to 6th centuries AD, animal bone representing food waste, and Roman iron nails, coin, brooch fragment and part of a cosmetic set.

Jo Caruth

Lawshall, Lawshall Hall (TL9962; LWL 028). Evaluation by S.C.C.A.S. for Mr Al Rashidi in advance of redevelopment has revealed the footings of late 15th century and mid-16th century building ranges. Lawshall Hall is part of a great house completed in 1558 by William Drury, wealthy landowners and a member of Queen Mary's privy council. Drury's house was a development of an existing timber framed building and had been the site of the manorial hall since the 11th century.

At the front of the house was evidence of a flint and mortar footing, part of a dwarf wall for a timber framed range c. 6m wide. This dated to the late 15th century and it appears that this was retained and incorporated into Drury's house. Evidence of a second range was found at the rear. Here, well-constructed brick walls, 70cm thick and standing up to ten courses high, were found. The walls had been partly robbed but a range 7.75m wide by 26m could be surmised which was parallel to the front timber framed range. The bricks were dated to the mid 16th century and similar to those in the existing fragment of the 1558 house suggesting that it was all the same phase of build.

Pits and a shallow ditch produced animal bone and medieval pottery which indicated an unbroken

occupation of the site since at least the 12th century and a large deposit of burnt grain was evidence of crop processing (either the drying or malting of grain) occurring within the hall complex.

David Gill

Spexhall, Spexhall Manor (TM/3879; SPX 012)

An evaluation was undertaken by S.C.C.A.S. for Mr and Mrs J. Maynard within the area of a proposed extension to Spexhall Manor, an Edwardian house built around a 16th-century timber-framed core situated within a partially moated enclosure. Four linear trenches were excavated to the depth of the natural subsoil and within one, a small number of features, thought to be pits, were revealed. Artefacts from these features suggested a possible medieval date.

Mark Sommers

SUSSEX, WEST

Durrington, Near Worthing (TQ 106 057)

In a field east of a house called "The Hermitage" are earthworks centred at TQ 106 057 (Figure 21) which could be the site of a medieval settlement, village or farm. The area is to the west of Durrington near Worthing, West Sussex. The field is to the south of the A27 main road. The Hermitage may be the only remaining building of the settlement.

The site could be part of the lost village of La Holt which is further to the north at TQ 104 064 which will mean that it was larger, running in a north-west to south-east direction for about one kilometre (Figure 22). This area south of the A27 will be built on in the near future and hopefully archaeologists will examine the site beforehand. The earthworks comprise of humps, bumps and irregularities.

Alex Vincent.

WARWICKSHIRE

Ettington, west of Hockley Lane (SP 2720 4890)

Further observation was undertaken between February and August 2002 by Peter Thompson of the Warwickshire Museum on behalf of Wilcon Homes (Midlands) Ltd on the site within the medieval village excavated in 2001. Several medieval pits and ditches were revealed in the north-eastern part of the site, along with the remains of a number of wall foundations in an area close to Hockley Lane.

Further work took place in November 2002 to record the wall foundations and the remains of four possible buildings were identified. These included the complete plan of a medieval barn or other agricultural building. This was approximately 12.5m long and 5m wide with an entrance porch. The building had rough stone foundations, but was probably largely timber-built, possibly of cruck construction.

The remains of further segments of wall foundation close to the site boundary suggested three further buildings fronting onto Hockley Lane. These may have belonged to a single farm complex or several separate houses, some of which were occupied in the 12th and 13th centuries.



Figure 21: The Hermitage, Durrington, West Sussex

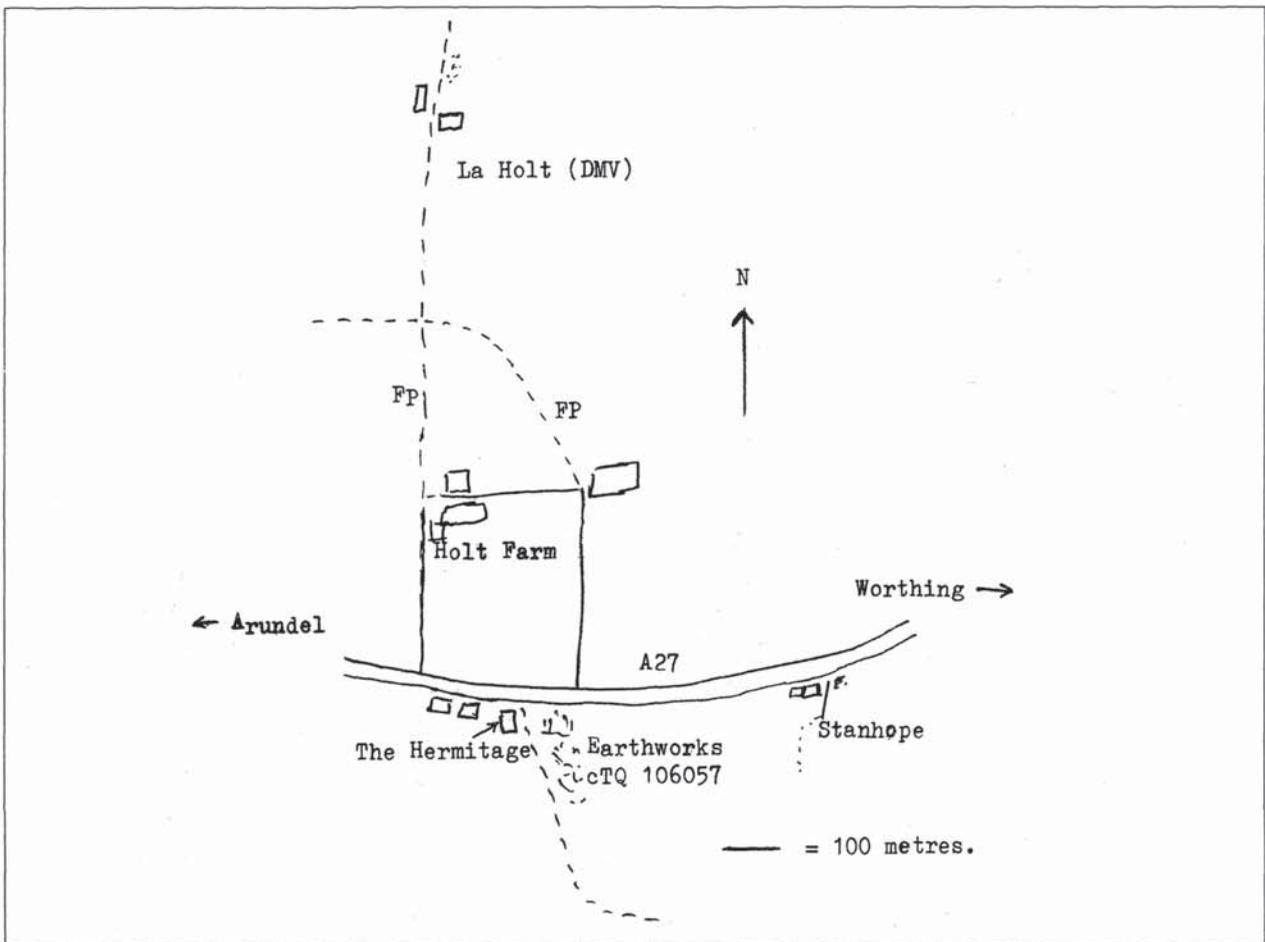


Figure 22: Sketch plan of location of possible medieval settlement at Durrington, West Sussex

Ettington, Ettington Manor, Rogers Lane (SP 2712 4870)

An evaluation involving three trial trenches in October 2002 by Peter Thompson of the Warwickshire Museum on behalf of Johnson and Johnson Builders Ltd recorded some limited evidence of medieval activity confirming that the site lay within the medieval village. A posthole containing 12th/13th-century pottery and a possible medieval ditch were recorded suggesting a low level of activity some distance from the street frontage. Post-medieval activity around Ettington Manor included a foundation for a possible greenhouse or outbuilding, a pit and a posthole.

Pillerton Priors, Oberon, Banbury Road (SP 293 476)

Observation of foundation trenches for a new conservatory to the rear of a house within the medieval village in May 2002 by Bryn Gethin of the Warwickshire Museum on behalf of Mr and Mrs O'Dell, revealed a hard packed stone and pebble surface probably belonging to a medieval/post-medieval street. This would have run through the southern side of the village and was replaced during the 18th century. A ditch containing 19th-century pottery belonged to the former rear property boundary, which would have also marked the north edge of the street.

Pillerton Priors, Chapel Lane (SP 2939 4776)

Observation of foundation trenches for a new house on a site within the medieval villa in February 2002 by Richard Newman of the Warwickshire Museum on behalf of Mr Lowell, revealed a medieval ditch containing 12th/13th-century pottery, and two other ditches, undated but probably contemporary.

Rugby, 44-46 High Street, Hillmorton (SP 5313 7355)

Recording of groundworks for three new houses on a site within the medieval village in June 2002 by Catherine Coutts of the Warwickshire Museum on behalf of Catesby Homes revealed two curving ditches containing 13th-15th century pottery cut by a series of late medieval/early post-medieval furrows. A number of post-medieval and undated features including pits and a pond were also located.

WEST MIDLANDS

Solihull, 5-19 High Street (SP 152 796)

Evaluation involving four trial trenches to the rear of properties within the medieval settlement in September 2002 by Stuart Palmer and Christopher Jones of the Warwickshire Museum on behalf of AXA REIM recorded medieval activity including a pit and a gully with 13th/14th-century pottery. These features, along with an undated pit and surface, were sealed by a later medieval/post-medieval cultivation layer. Later features of 19th/20th-century date associated with former cottages and the present shops were also recorded.

YORKSHIRE

Long Riston, East Riding, Land off Main Street (TA 125 425)

Humber Field Archaeology undertook excavations in October-December 2001 and March-April 2002 in

advance of residential development by Harron Homes Ltd. The site lay on the eastern side of the village, and following earlier evaluation involving geophysics and trial excavation, more extensive excavation preceded development.

Three trenches were opened: Trench 1, northernmost, covering the new access road and three adjacent house-plots; Trench 2, in a paddock to the rear, encompassing a presumed medieval house platform; and Trench 3, further south on the Main Street frontage, the site of new housing blocks. A sequence of occupation from the late 12th century through to the present day was recorded, although Romano-British activity in the vicinity is suggested by the discovery of pottery and ceramic building material-residual sherds of 11th/early 12th century pottery were also recovered.

The earliest features dated to the late 12th/early 13th centuries. In Trench 1, substantial ditches marked two individual property plots fronting Main Street, the principal medieval thoroughfare, and towards the front of the plots lay post-holes, foundation trenches and gullies suggesting scant remains of timber and clay buildings, while a pond lay to the rear. In Trench 3 a few structural features dated to this phase.

There was little or no activity of later 13th- or early 14th-century date on the site. By the 14th century, a more substantial building, with walls based partially on cobble foundations, lay parallel to the street (in Trench 1), the earlier plot division no longer in effect. Opposing entrances with cobbled thresholds had separate rooms to either side, in the 'long house' tradition. The foundations, thresholds and a hearth all re-used Romano-British ceramic building material. The rear plot boundary ditch enclosed the earlier pond, which remained open for rubbish disposal. Further south, in Trench 3, a less substantial building represented by a slot and postholes was constructed perpendicular to the frontage, while further structural features – slots, gullies, a cobble foundation – suggesting buildings to the rear.

In the 15th/16th centuries the building in Trench 1 was no longer in use, a few pits were dug and the pond infilled, suggesting the land had reverted to pasture. To the south (Trenches 2 and 3), several adjoining enclosures were established some way back from the frontage, one perhaps containing a timber building. A pond was also dug close to Main Street, the organic lower fills of which contained useful palaeo-environmental evidence; a largely complete diamond-shaped wooden roof-shingle was also recovered.

Post-medieval (Phase 5) occupation of the site was primarily recorded in Trench 3, where a larger pond was dug within a ditched enclosure, south of which, close to the frontage, were hedge or fence slots and intercutting rubbish pits. The excavated material from the pond was mounded to the east forming a raised area with the appearance of a medieval house platform, though excavation disproved this. By the 19th century, the land had been given over to pasture, with a large pond excavated to the north of the now silted post-medieval pond.

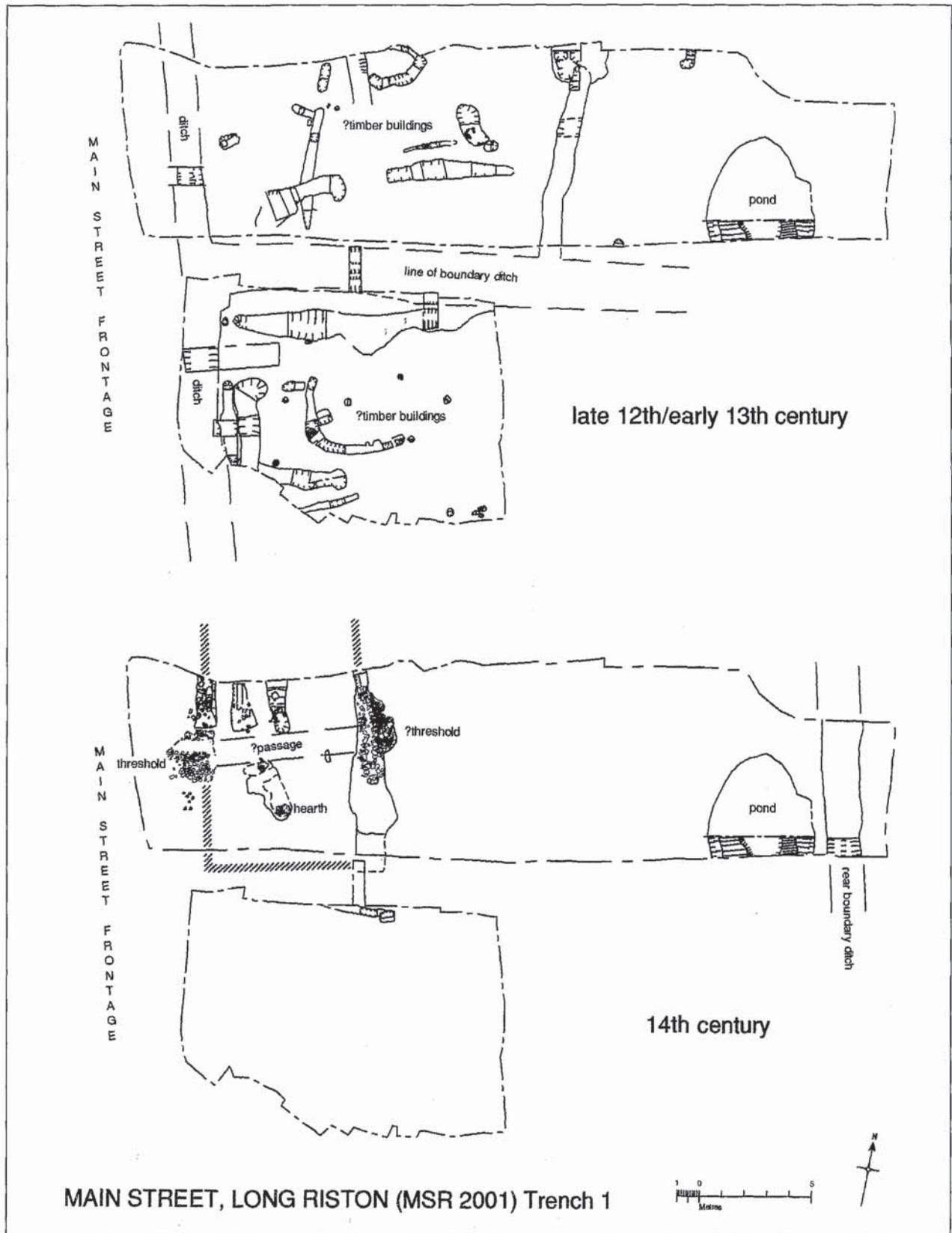


Figure 23: Main street, Long Riston

WALES

GOWER, Cefn Drum

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

Excavation on Cefn Drum resumed in 2002, with excavation taking place in early June. In 1996 and 1998 two house platforms, thought to be of late thirteenth/early fourteenth century date, were excavated and in 1999 and 2000 a sheepcote of probable late sixteenth century date was examined. The 2002 excavations concentrated on an area between the two platforms. Limited previous excavation showed that archaeological deposits were not confined to the platforms themselves and resistivity survey pointed to the likely presence of a pit (Kissock, 2000); the possibility that this had been used as a rubbish dump or midden made its excavation most desirable.

The pit was found to be elliptically shaped - over 2 m. long and 1.5 m. wide. It had been cut into the natural orange soil of the hillside and through this into a darker, grittier layer not before noticed on the hillside. The edge of the pit and the upper layers of it were marked by large amounts of stone. A series of compacted layers of differing nature lay along the north western side of the pit and separated it from the nearby structure. These trample layers were coloured black, brown and orange and varied in thickness and extent. A posthole had been cut into the top of the pit. It is similar in nature to one previously excavated and they may be two corners of an enclosure with one side measuring about 12 m which once stood to the south west of the dwelling.

Sixteen test pits were also dug in order to collect samples for heavy metal analysis. One set of samples was taken at intervals along the 132 m. contour line which runs through all four house platforms and two sets were taken along lines perpendicular to the contour line. Even at this early stage differences are apparent; the depth at which the natural orange soil (from which samples were taken) varies. All those along the contour line came, as one might expect, from a similar depth. On the two perpendicular lines the pattern was different. On the western set the depth at which the relevant layer was found increased as one moved downhill - again this is to be expected as soil would have been washed downhill over time. On the eastern set this pattern was not replicated - the layer was at a uniform depth along the whole transect. The significance of this is as yet uncertain. It may however bring a closer understanding the relationship between the three platforms which form the "centre" of the site and the easternmost platform, with its atypical shape and structure. Samples were also taken from the pit fill for phosphate testing.

In addition to the archaeological excavation research has been taking place into the manuscript material relating to north Gower in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries. Unlike the early medieval charters there is no specific mention of Cefn Drum itself - rather a series of records relating to the Supraboscus division of the lordship of Gower in which it stood. A 1319 list of the lands sold or granted away by William de Breos, lord of Gower, shows that the exploitation the Supraboscus

seems to have begun in the reign of Henry III (that is pre-1272) the granting of lands in the Supraboscus continued through the reign of Edward I (1272 - 1307) and into the first decade of the reign of Edward II. As time advanced so the frequency of grants increased - from an average of one a year in the reign of Edward I to 2.6 a year in the early years of the reign of Edward II. Amongst those acquiring upland was William de Breos' steward: John Yweyn. Upon his death, in 1322, Yweyn held lands at Penvedu in montes (now two farms known as Penfeddi Isaf and Penfeddi Uchaf). Here and at Kiltyneleach, Yweyn had built mills, where the men of Treynmeybon Meurig and Thaighharth in Trayn Mawr owed suit. The men may not necessarily have come from one village or settlement - instead they are likely to have been part of one kinship group, possibly a *gwely*. Indeed Treynmeybon Meurig means the lands of the sons of Meurig and the records of the bishop of St. David's show that the *gwely* was a known form of social organisation in the Supraboscus in 1326.

The first perspective on the economy of the Supraboscus can be found in the account rolls for 1337 - 38 when the region was worth £94 1 s. 11½d. to its lord. Little of this revenue came from pasture land or animal resources: pasture was worth only £2 1 s. and a payment of 1 s. 8d. was made by a certain Walter in lieu of the ancient cattle render of *commorth*. The second set of accounts, those of 1366 - 67, show dramatic changes. The income from the Supraboscus had fallen to just £4 1 ls. 2½d. and the two main elements were pannage for pigs worth £2 ls. ½d. and pasture at Toleholudewu (variously Toniehereindwyn) worth £1 5s. 4d. By 1399 -1400 the income from the Supraboscus had fallen again to £2 3s. 8d. Pannage was worth £1 2d., three measures of honey and wax brought in 3s. 6d. and the rents from Toleholudewu amounted to £1. The dramatic and apparently sustained reduction in revenue from the Supraboscus may have been associated with the abandonment of settlements, such as those on Cefn Drum, and the consequent cessation of arable farming.

If this model is correct then the settlement on Cefn Drum might have been short lived. Weaknesses in the power of the lordship may have been one factor which contributed to the settlement of the hills. Following de Breos's death, early in 1327, his daughter Alina held the lordship and it seems that her authority was not particularly effective. The following year the lordship passed to her son, John de Mowbray, whose control was negligible.

The suggestion that an early medieval and possible Roman cattle ranch lay on the hillside hereabouts has been explored and the results published elsewhere (Kissock, 2001).

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MONMOUTHSHIRE

The decayed medieval town of Trelech, (SO 501 051 – 499 054)

In 2002, research excavations by University of Wales Newport, now in their 15th season, investigated a number of questions relating to Trelech, one of the two largest towns in 13th century Wales. A total of 14 test pits/trenches were dug, opening over 150 sq. metres. Specific research objectives relating both to previous excavation and findings of the expanding programme of geophysical surveys currently being conducted were addressed.

Resistivity surveys on Court Farm east of the Methodist Chapel and village car park indicated regular rectilinear features apparently fronting onto the modern metalled farm track. This farm road is a 20th century construction but the survey, as well as the 1886 OS map, suggest that it was laid on the line of an earlier track/road. The most obvious interpretation of the survey is burgage plots fronting onto a road so it was decided to investigate with three trenches near the road. Two trenches targeted high resistance readings while the third investigated a low reading. The high readings proved to be structural. A 10m x 5m trench on a prominent platform revealed a complex series of phases with early industrial activity giving way to a sequence of at least two rectilinear structures with rounded corners. These structures were defined by stone footings which, given their width and general appearance, seem more likely to have been foundations for timber frame buildings than a base for substantial stone walls. Artefactual evidence suggests that all three phases date to the 13th / early 14th century. A 3m x 3m trench on a second high reading revealed a compacted pink clay surface best interpreted as a floor. One post hole was cut into the surface and three rectilinear concentrations of compacted stones placed on a gravel base seem to have served as post pads in the interior of the structure. The preponderance of sherds recovered were medieval and all securely stratified material was 13th/early 14th century in date.

Located between these trenches a 5m x 3m excavation, subsequently extended, explored a low resistance reading. A well defined stone-filled ditch ran at right angles to the road, presumably representing a boundary ditch. A later, probably post-medieval, fence or hurdle defined by parallel rows of stake holes was slightly offset from the ditch but respected the earlier boundary. Significant amounts of pottery, including sherds recovered from the ditch fill, were 13th/14th century in date.

While this work proceeded, a 10m x 2m trench was opened on a platform in the Crosshands Farm Field south of the modern village near the Olwy brook. A geophysical survey undertaken here in 1999 identified a platform some 30m in length and subsequent excavation confirmed 17th century iron working on the site. A highly disturbed medieval horizon underlay this activity. In order to clarify our understanding of the site, new excavation explored a different part of the platform. A small building with working surfaces on either side was indicated by beam slots. Three semi-circular features with charcoal and burnt clay which had been cut into the

surfaces may have served as roasting pits, presumably associated with the bloom smithing furnaces identified in 1999. Ceramic and other evidence indicates that this was a 17th century horizon. These features were removed and the trench was sectioned; in one part being excavated to a depth of 0.7m. A compacted surface of slag, charcoal and burnt clay contained several sherds of late 13th/early 14th century pottery. Below this horizon, an *in situ* furnace base and associated tapped slag run was revealed, recorded and retained for further study.

Three additional trenches, 3m x 2m in size, were dug; two of these trenches were located in the Crosshands Farm Field between the platform and the Olwy. The third trench was dug on the north side of the Olwy, south of the features on Court Farm described above. A post hole and a beam slot suggested structure in two of the trenches and each produced medieval ceramics. Most significantly, each of the trenches contained significant concentrations of hammer scale indicating smithing in contrast to the smelting activity seen in numerous previous excavations in Trelech.

Test pitting was undertaken in other parts of Trelech while this work continued. A geophysical survey in the Middleton House paddock north of the Court Farm road had suggested structure and contours indicated at least three platforms in this paddock. The survey also indicated a linear feature which might suggest that the road running through Trelech Farm, which was excavated in 1998, was aligned slightly differently from the modern track leading to Middleton House. A test pit on one of the platforms revealed a stone base; structures on these platforms now seem likely. A second test pit revealed a stone alignment suggesting metalling consistent with the linear feature shown by geophysics. It now seems probable that this road joined the present road through the village at the point where it was met by the east/west road now assumed on Court Farm.

In 2001, the main focus of excavation had been on large and regular structures in Church Field West. Among the buildings revealed was a particularly large and well-built structure, with metre thick stone walls, roughly west of St. Nicholas's Church. A wide range of finds was recovered from in and near the building; among the most significant objects was a 13th century ampulla, an intricately decorated pilgrim's flask. Since the footings of this building had been revealed in excavation on its north, south and west range, Scheduled Site Consent was obtained to determine the state of preservation of the structure on its east side. Two test pits were dug along the wall line suggested by geophysics with a third test pit investigating the road to the east of the building. Both the test pits on the wall line confirmed that the metre thick footings were intact; the third pit confirmed the metalling of the road.

Scheduled site consent was also gained for work on Trelech Motte (Tump Terrett), the motte and bailey castle. Geophysics and a contour survey suggested a north facing orientation for the castle rather than the south facing plan generally assumed. Clearly this was important both in terms of the continuing Trelech research programme as well as the specific doctoral study of earth and timber castles in Gwent and Eryngy being

undertaken by Neil Phillips who conducted the surveys and acted as site supervisor for work on the castle. A 10m x 3m trench was dug on the bank and ditch on the north side of the castle. The ditch was rock cut as were two large beam slots across the bank indicating trestles for a bridge linking motte and bailey. A small offset post appears to have provided a brace for the bridge. One beam slot contained material including a large, probably Tudor, pot, an iron ladle and the pelvis and two femurs of a horse. Early assessment suggests that the ceramic assemblage from the castle excavation ranges from the 12th century. One medieval coin, an Edward I farthing dating from between the mid 1280s to 1307, was recovered.

Work is now underway to assess the substantial amount of evidence resulting from these excavations. The north-facing orientation of the castle is clearly significant and the implication that the main bailey of the castle extended toward the village green will shape our views on the development of the town. Similarly, the evidence of structure and implied road system on Court Farm and in the Middleton House paddock is important. Work in September demonstrated that the bank and ditch partially surrounding Middleton House was an 18th century construction but the other major features noted are medieval in date. It may be highly significant that this

area around Middleton House is described on the 1848 Tithe Map Apportionment as Middle Town Meadow. Our understanding of industrial activity in Trelech has also been enhanced. A coherent medieval smelting horizon on the platform in Crosshands Farm Field provides compelling confirmation that the 17th century bloom smithing previously demonstrated represents re-use of a medieval iron-working site. Smithing at three locations near the Olwy also balances our picture of the economy of the town. Early work in Trelech demonstrated smelting on a large scale but evidence of smithing was conspicuous by its absence. Recent work, however, has confirmed smithing at several locations as well as smelting. Also increasingly obvious is the intensity of iron working along the Olwy with furnaces and associated structures extending for some distance to the south. There is now a growing body of evidence for substantial activity both to the south and east of the castle. There was also substantial activity in Church Field West. The large building now known to be at least partially intact on all four sides is clearly of great potential interest. It is too early to identify the structure as a hospice but that is an interpretation consistent with the evidence presently available. It is hoped to make this structure a major focus for excavation in the summer of 2003.

Ray Howell, University of Wales Newport

Book Reviews

Christopher Gerrard, *Medieval Archaeology. Understanding traditions and contemporary approaches*, xvii + 302 pp, 64 illus, 16 boxed texts, Routledge 2003; paperback

Chris Gerrard's new book is about the development of the subject of medieval archaeology: about the circumstances and contexts of that development, about the tools and techniques that have come to be used, and (not least importantly) about the attitudes and intentions that have shaped the pursuit of an archaeological approach to the middle ages. It is common currency among contemporary practitioners that the nature of understanding derived from archaeological activity is conditioned by the framework of thought within which it is undertaken. By the mind set or – in more positive, modern terminology the theory. If this is not so obviously and explicitly a feature of medieval archaeology as it is with our colleague prehistorians, or our peers who study the contemporary literature, then this book elegantly and informatively demonstrates for us that this is, and always has been, so.

He does so by taking the long view, and by developing what amounts to a historiography of the discipline of medieval archaeology. The book is organised chronologically through the early modern, modern and recent phases of archaeological study of (largely) the later medieval centuries. Like Caesar's Gaul, the book is divided into three parts. 'The discovery of ignorance' covers the period from the beginnings of antiquarian interest in the middle ages down to the end of the second World War, in three chapters occupying approximately a third of the book. 'Into the light' covers the post-war years down to 1989 and the issuing of PPG 16 in 1990, and occupies a further third of the book in two very substantial chapters. 'Winds of change' comprises a single, similarly weighty chapter, which with a large (and very useful) 59-page bibliography makes up the final third of the book. This is not, then, a summary of the results of investigations of medieval culture. Rather, it is about the origins and development, current concerns and (perhaps) future approaches of the subject of medieval archaeology.

As Gerrard handles this story-line, it proves to be both interesting and rewarding. Challenging, too, for anyone who has been part of it as an active participant in the field. But the fact that the reader may be provoked – as this reader was – to query why in a given instance this example rather than that is cited, or to query timing, indicates the lively relevance of the issues raised rather than any deficiency in the account. There is a sense, too, that events and processes have here and there been constrained and tidied up to fit the phases and the flow of the narrative. But that rationalisation, as Gerrard disarmingly acknowledges, is both inevitable – because he cannot be all-knowing about when ideas, published later, were actively developed – and desirable, in order to construct a whole that is engaging and informative.

Medieval settlement studies come rather well out of this account. This is in part because of the great individuals who have elected to give time to the topic – Maurice Beresford, John Hurst, Chris Taylor, Mick Aston to name but a few – but also because of the activities of the Research Group itself. The topic has an enviable and long-standing record of drawing in and valuing part-time and voluntary effort, of developing and testing models – about, for example, planned and polyfocal settlement, about lordship and community, about dispersed and mobile settlements – and of aspiring to cooperative and integrated research.

Gerrard's approach is also timely. As we have been reminded through John Hurst's recent death, there has been a full generation and more of scholars specialising in medieval archaeology, some of them having been able to choose to do so from undergraduate or post-graduate level onwards. MSRGA has just celebrated the 50th anniversary of its existence: the Society for Medieval Archaeology itself looks forward to the same landmark in a couple of years. We have an abundance and diversity of data. What is arguably needed is more emphasis on, more recognition of, interpretation and what Richard Morris has called 'imaginative' archaeology. And one way, perhaps, of encouraging that is the sort of informed, critical awareness of past practice and its products – especially among students and young archaeologists – that this book brings forward. For, despite some encouraging signs to the contrary, medieval archaeology remains, to a larger extent than might have been anticipated, fixed in the empirical mode that has given them strength in their development to date.

This is an excellent book, then. Well conceived, well written and well suited to the educational uses – in undergraduate teaching and life-long learning particularly – at which it is targeted. It is packed with information, and will no doubt have a role as a source book, even though that is not its primary intent. Much more importantly, it is to be hoped that it will cause what ought to be its large readership to reflect not only on how we have come to where we are now, but also on what it is we might reasonably want and expect of medieval archaeology, and how that is achieved.

Paul Everson

An Introduction to Medieval History

Paolo Delogu, Translated by Matthew Moran, 251 pp, Gerald Duckworth & co. Ltd., London 2002, ISBN 0 71563079 2; paperback

This book by an academic medieval historian, Paolo Delogu, which has been elegantly translated from the original Italian by Matthew Moran, is a largely successful attempt to produce a readable volume that helps to introduce to students all the major sources of medieval history. It is of particular interest to the readers of this *Annual Report* because its final two chapters deal with important subjects that are important to medieval archaeology: coin evidence and, more generally, material remains.

Although this is a fairly slim volume with just over 200 pages of text it is a pity that there are no illustrations to leaven the words somewhat although the book has an attractive cover made up of an excellent reproduction of part of a colourful Carolingian manuscript. The narrative generally reads well although in parts it appears somewhat long-winded, probably due in part to the original Italian grammatical construction. Delogu deliberately eschews examining historical method in his text because, as he comments in his Introduction (p.8): 'The methods of historical research and reasoning are learned in practice, under the tutelage of teachers. No manual can pretend to substitute that experience.' He begins with a useful two-page discussion about the medieval world and contemporary culture. Then he launches into his logical and thoughtful over-view of studying the Middle Ages commencing with an analysis of what is generally understood by the concept itself. He then examines whether the Middle Ages as such form a coherent or a disparate period of time.

One of his most fascinating chapters reviews the writing of history in the Middle Ages although readers from Britain and Ireland might be taken aback somewhat by Delogu's inclusion of such a figure as the Venerable Bede in his section on 'Barbarian historians'. However, this is probably how all early historians operating outside of what became known as the Holy Roman Empire have been viewed by many later continental scholars.

His chapter on the importance of coin evidence to fully understand the Middle Ages is further evidence of the fascination that these particular artifacts have for many historians, with well over half the chapter taken up with an account of the 'monetary history' of the period. Of course as archaeologists, we accept the great importance of coin evidence, especially for the establishment of a chronology for a particular site. But for many low-status sites this type of evidence is often not available, so that the study of medieval pottery would often assume a much more important role in our research than that suggested by Delogu.

In his final chapter on material remains Delogu chronologically and logically traces the main developments within the subject called medieval archaeology from its early origins in the study of ruined abbeys and castles in the eighteenth century up to the present day. On pp. 210-3 he describes the significant contribution made by English researchers in the 1960s and 1970s on village desertion, but does not either mention this Group or, perhaps more seriously, the contribution made by the late lamented John Hurst to this research area, whether as co-director of Wharram Percy or as one of the 'fathers' of the systematic study of medieval ceramics.

Unsurprisingly, given the author's background, this book is strongest on the subject of Continental Europe in the period, and when he does write about these islands most of his attention is focused upon the Kingdom of England. The book would also have benefited from the inclusion of some kind of concluding chapter to round off his discussion of the many disparate elements touched on in his wide-ranging study, and it is a pity that there is only a name index included in this English edition.

Nevertheless, Delogu must be congratulated in his production of such a useful introductory volume to the phenomenon called the Middle Ages.

Terry Barry

But the Walls Remained

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Edinburgh: Historic Scotland 2002. ISBN 1-902419-27-8. 80pp., 81 figs.

This slim volume presents the results of the First Edition Survey Project (FESP) carried out by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) between 1995 and 2001. This project's stated aim was 'redressing the under-representation in the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) of data on post-medieval rural settlement' (p 5), and as such might be expected to contain little of interest to a group dedicated to the study of medieval rural settlement. However, as many readers of this report will be aware, dating rural settlement in Scotland is fraught with difficulty and no chronological cut-off was actually used. Elsewhere on p 5 it is made clear that in fact the FESP was conceived with the dearth of MOLRS (Medieval or Later Rural Settlement) on the NMRS in mind.

The short introductory section describes the background to the project, in particular the problems of identifying and dating deserted rural settlements. This usefully highlights a process of settlement shift rendered invisible (to all but detailed investigation) by the continued use of the same name for a settlement that moved within a single farm. Thus the buildings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries cannot be assumed to be on the sites of their documented medieval antecedents. Also outlined is the evidence for the main posited trends in settlement evolution post-1350 – settlement contraction characterised by desertion and dispersal in the wake of the Black Death, followed by expansion from the 16th to the late 18th century, then extensive abandonment in the highland areas 1750-1850 associated with widespread agricultural improvement.

The next section considers the first edition of the 6" OS mapping itself, which was carried out between 1843 and 1878, and so just post-dated the maximum expansion of rural settlement in post-medieval Scotland. The differences between the earlier and later maps are presented, and show graphically (in both senses of the word) how much information is lost to posterity by the exclusion of detail. It is worrying that the OS continues to make such decisions today. However, notwithstanding the variable standards, the first edition of the OS 6" mapping is an invaluable historical resource.

The RCAHMS volume goes on to detail the methodology used for the FESP, which was to input to the NMRS structures depicted as unroofed on these Victorian maps. Here (p 13) it is stated that the project was a study of abandoned rural settlement (somewhat different to the aims stated earlier), and the types of sites excluded such as urban areas, industrial complexes, fishing villages (to name but a few) are listed. The bulk of the rest of the volume is taken up with presentation of the distributions of the 13 types of settlement recorded. A brief analysis is

followed by five case studies, where the pattern of settlement recorded by the FESP is interwoven with an outline history of the area.

This volume is beautifully presented, and forms an eloquent elegy to a lost landscape. Its summaries of the state of knowledge and problems of Scottish rural settlement studies are cogent and the description of the research clear and confident. There are however two areas in which it frustrates. First is in the nature of the analysis given to the material so painstakingly recorded. This is almost exclusively descriptive. Nowhere is the question 'why' really addressed with reference to the differential distributions of dispersed and nucleated settlements, farmsteads and townships. This may well have been deemed beyond the remit of the project

(although none of the various definitions of these limits make this explicit), and effective exploration of such issues would certainly have lengthened the project (which has been admirably rapid in the production of this report), but nonetheless it is a pity. Secondly, particularly for members of MRSRG, is the sad fact that such an exhaustively and meticulously conducted survey as this fails to throw light on the medieval settlement pattern. But it is not the fault of the FESP that Scottish medieval rural settlement is invisible to desk-top survey, and the one glimmer of hope to come out of this is that it is clear that the next step – of detailed fieldwork including excavation – must now be much more obviously a high and clear priority.

Carenza Lewis

Select Bibliography of Works on Medieval Rural Settlement 2002

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 2002 and May 2003, 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 LE1 7QR, or to mrpl5@le.ac.uk, for inclusion in next year's list.

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Membership Changes 2002

A list of members set out below are changes recorded in 2002. Members are asked to send any changes of address, corrections, information etc to Dr. R.E. Glasscock (Treasurer, M.S.R.G.) at St. John's College, Cambridge C132 1TP.

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Newbury, Berks. RG20 8NG

Deceased

PROF. R H HILTON (Birmingham)
DR. J.G. HURST (Hon. Vice-President)

MRS. J. SUMMERSON (Malton)
PROF. A. VERHULST (Antwerp)

Resignations

R. ALLEN (Romsey)
P. DEVILLE (Findon, Worthing)
A.M. DORNIER (Leicester)
P. HARDING (Chadlington, Oxon)

I.T. REYNOLDS (Leighton Buzzard)
C.P. RICHARDS (Longnor, Shrops)
L.J. ROBERTS (Wigston, Leics.)
A.R. WILSON (New Brunswick, USA)

Lapsed (and therefore reluctantly struck off)

I.R. CARLISLE (Selby)
A. DAY (Shoscombe, near Bath)
A.P. DEAVES (Thetford)
L. DYER (Dover)
R. FEATHERBY (East Ham)
R.J.P. FISHER (Bridgend)

K.M. LEE (Chepstow)
C. J. LYNN (Belfast)
A. MUSTAFA (Barnet)
N. PEARCE (King's Lynn)
J. L. QUIROGA (Spain)
G. VIRAGOS (Hungary)

Information wanted (addresses not now known)

D.J. GRIFFITHS (was in Grimsby)
D.C. LAW (was in Great Yeldham)
I. PICKERING (was in Glasgow)

D.J. SMITH (was in Norwich)
S. TURNER (was in York)

**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 settlement.

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 17 covering the year 2002-2003.

Result for the year

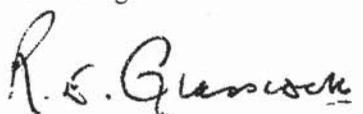
The surplus of receipts over payments amounted to £525 (2001 £2826) and is carried forward.

Trustees

Mr P.L. Everson (President)
Mr S. Coleman (Secretary)
Dr R.E. Glasscock (Treasurer)
Ms C. Lewis (Editor)

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R. E. Glasscock
Treasurer

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

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 January 2003 which are set out on the following page.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the account. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act;
- State 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 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 the 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 accounting requirements of the Acthave 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 BA FCA
Chartered Accountant
5 Potton Drive
Wickford, Essex SS12 9GD

31 March 2003

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Registered Charity No 801634

GENERAL FUNDS - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Financial Year ended 31 January 2002

	2002-3	2001-2		2002-3	2001-2
	£	£		£	£
RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
<u>Donations, legacies and other similar sources</u>			<u>Charitable Payments</u>		
Donations	17.00	1,012.00	Grants paid		
Income tax recovered through gift aid	503.00	704.00	Grants	950.00	725.00
			Donation to CBA appeal	—	100.00
<u>Operating activities to further the charity's objects</u>			Charitable Activity		
Subscriptions	4,349.00	4,134.00	Annual report printing and postage	3,269.00	2,906.00
Publication Sales	225.00	83.00	Conference expenses	769.00	—
Conference Receipts	792.00	—	Seminar expenses	—	226.00
			Whittlewood project	1,200.00	—
<u>Investment Income Receipts</u>			Management and administration		
Current account interest	1.00	10.00	Secretarial and Committee expenses	235.00	252.00
Deposit account interest	1,730.00	1,848.00	AGM room expenses	70.00	98.00
			CBA Affiliation fees	79	75
			Postage and stationery	520.00	582.00
	<u>7,617.00</u>	<u>7,791.00</u>		<u>7,092.00</u>	<u>4,965.00</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Balance of receipts over payments	525.00	2,826.00	Bank current account	762.00	2,197.00
Balance brought forward	37,676.00	34,850.00	National Savings deposit account	37,439.00	35,479.00
Balance carried forward	<u>38,201.00</u>	<u>37,676.00</u>	Balance carried forward	<u>38,201.00</u>	<u>37,676.00</u>

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.

