

WOLMERSTY MANOR IN LINCOLNSHIRE: FROM DOMESDAY TO DEMISE

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Introduction

Most maps of the lowlands of East Lincolnshire show very few instances of lost places. At the southern end of Lincoln Marsh, the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) details two sets of tofts and fields, at Ashington End and Slackholme End, and the National Mapping Survey lists a number of apparent field systems in the same region. In and around the major fens of South Lindsey and North Holland, however, no records exist. For this reason, T.W. Lane's singling-out of traces of organised activity on the inland edge of the tofts, about 1.8km from the present margin of the East Fen, reported in the Fenland Project volume and in a regional periodical, is of considerable interest (Lane 1988; 1993). The site indicated by this activity lies to the south-west of Greenfield Farm (TF 445 532), straddling the boundary between the modern parishes of Wrangle and Friskney, which is also the historic division between the wapentakes of Candleshoe and Skirbeck, and between the South Riding of Lindsey and Holland (Bennett and Bennett 2001). Practically nothing is now visible on the surface, though some raised features were noted on the earliest one-inch Ordnance Survey maps, well before today's intensive agriculture. Apart from the field-walking of the Fenland Project, no modern archaeological investigations have taken place. The present contribution is an attempt to build upon Lane's discoveries and to squeeze a little more information out of available sources. The modern and partial historic contexts are depicted in Fig. 1.

The name 'Wolmersty' does not now exist but it was the title of a wapentake in Domesday Book and features in many medieval documents; those in the cartulary of Waltham Holy Cross (Ransford 1989) make it clear that there was a township; other inferences are made from separate types of evidence. The Fenland Survey's work allowed Lane to find the evidence for a late Saxon foundation 'overwhelming' and no subsequent finds recorded in the LHER or the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) (Daubney 2016) contradict that dating. That it was sufficiently important to have given its name to the wapentake on whose northern edge it lay, and for which it might have been the main meeting-place, is not explained either by documents or field evidence. In Domesday Book Wolmersty (*Vlmerstig*, 12,63), has dependent hundreds to the south. In the LHER we have the suggestion that the name derives from *Vlmer* + *stig*, i.e., 'Wulfmaer's path'. Pre-Conquest land in neighbouring Friskney belonged to the thegn Svartbrandr, son of Ulf Fensic and the personal name Wulf usually begins with *Vl* in both OE and ODan; likewise *stig* (a narrow road or

a path, cf. 'stile') is found in both OE and ODan; the *-maer* element is uncommon so 'mere' might be preferred since Wrangle had more than one lake. So 'Wulf's pool-path' is the somewhat elaborate result. Anderson's (1934) list of instances includes a Wolmaresty and locally rivers called 'ea' may also use 'aa'. So if 'mer' is the sea then we have 'Wulf's sea-path' which coincides with documentary references in Wrangle and Wainfleet St Mary from the fourteenth century onwards to the *sedikstith* (in a number of spellings) or 'sea-bank path', identifiable as 'High Street' on the OS maps (and nowhere else). Another possibility derives from the knowledge (supplied by T.W. Lane, *pers. comm.*) that locally the term 'meere' means 'boundary', confirmed by Wright's English Dialect Dictionary and the Anglo-Saxon 'mære'. 'Wulf's boundary path' does not conflict with the other pieces of evidence about the liminal nature of the manor.

About 3km north of the Wolmersty site is an area called the Dickon Hills (perhaps the 'dik-en' hills), which has produced further Anglo-Saxon finds, and so the notion of a continuity between Wolmersty and the East Fen is raised. This is plausible if the topography of the early medieval coast included a number of deep inlets or havens, among which a case can be made for a Friskney example, with its outermost westerly bank running near the Wolmersty remains. So a tidal inlet with sandy shores could (a) have had Wolmersty as its lowest crossing-point; and (b) have been reclaimed when the wastes from salt-making encroached upon its shores. To connect the archaeology directly with the place-name elements would, however, be beyond current thinking.

Site, situation and structures

The primary document is Lane's 1988 map, derived from cartography, aerial imagery and field walking. Additional evidence is now available from other aerial photographs and from satellite imagery, there is a Soil Survey 1:25,000 cover, and both the nineteenth-century OS six-inch maps and 1:50,000 Geological Survey maps are available on-line; there is also a surveyor's draft of the first edition one-inch map online and in print (Wheeler 2008). The Geological Survey adds nothing, since it merely differentiates the tofts from the rest of the area and calls them Storm Beach deposits, which would not be agreed by all workers in the field.

The original survey showed a possible outline of a moat (and a possible second one across the lane) together with 'a low mound of glacial clay surrounded by marine silts'. Some areas of ploughing were taken to indicate cultivation strips. The best visual data are seen on RAF aerial photographs from 1946 and 1953 (RAF 1946;

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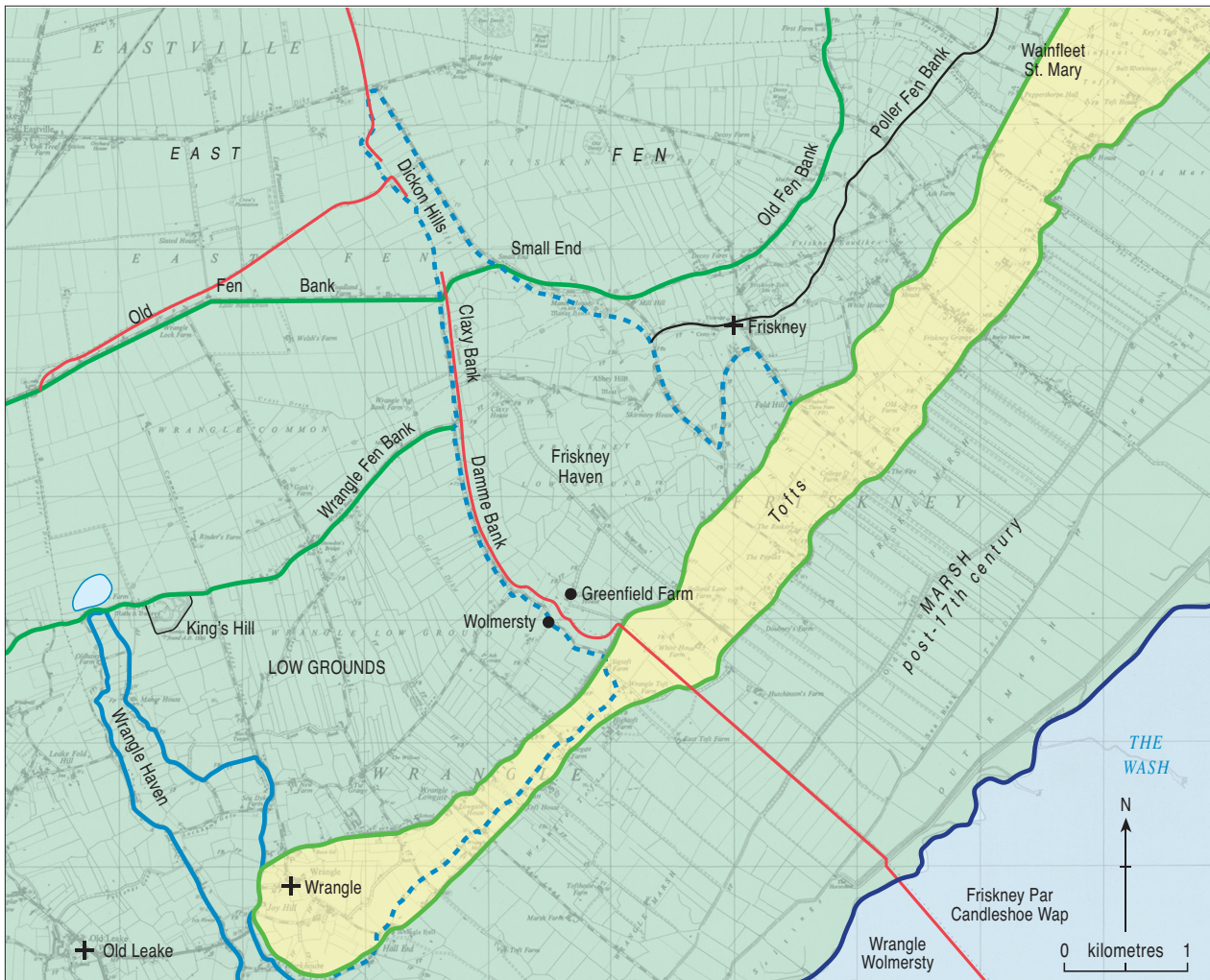


Figure 1 Wolmersty's site in its setting between the East Fen (drained in the nineteenth century) and the Marsh (whose drainage hereabouts started in the seventeenth century). The tofts are a raised strip of silts, mostly salt-making wastes. Two inlets are postulated and their outermost limits given lines. At Domesday, the Fen probably came down to the line of Wrangle Fen Bank and Poller Bank and the tofts did not close off Friskney Haven. Much of the Low Grounds were colonised by the twelfth century, according to H.E. Hallam (1965). Figure prepared by Chris Orton.

1953); there are some indifferent oblique photographs from the 1980s. Most colour imagery from the late 1990s (including 25cm resolution material) adds virtually nothing because of the crop cover at the time, but the 2005 image from Google Earth can be manipulated to confirm a sub-rectangular enclosure (possibly two) and other rectangular features. From other maps, there is little sign of a zone of small fields around the 'core' of a village of the kind which is generally found in areas of wetland colonization. Very little is added by the imagery derived from LiDAR (OpengovUK). South-west of the farm there is a rectangular enclosure with a surrounding lower area like a moat and there are about three or four of these of a less distinct character except that a bounding feature to the north-east is quite clear-cut. North-west from the farm, the course of the stream along which the parish boundary runs is also marked, and the whole zone towards the Low Grounds and the East Fen is distinctly lower in altitude. Higher ground extends eastwards to link up with toftland. The rectangular features with

marginal ditches are reminiscent of the c.1350–1650 salt works at Morris Farm in Essex (Barker 2003). That site's mounds, though, are connected by banks rather than surrounded by ditches. Nevertheless, the idea of a salt works that took its saline supply from a tidal creek, which is the forerunner of the stream that appears as the parish boundary between Wrangle and Friskney, is plausible (Fig. 2).

An unexpected piece of evidence comes from the 1:25,000 map produced by the Soil Survey (1985). It places the Wolmersty site towards the landward side of a delta-shaped area of soils of the Romney/Stockwith series, differentiated from the Wallasea/Tanvats series which largely underlie the Low Grounds to the north-west. These are sandy silt loams, silt loams or clay loams and sometimes have a humose layer (< 2cm thick) which is derived, they speculate, from eroded reed-peat to landward, so possibly washed up in a back-fen or other area of restricted drainage. To seaward the tofts are denoted by the silts of the Romney series of fine sandy

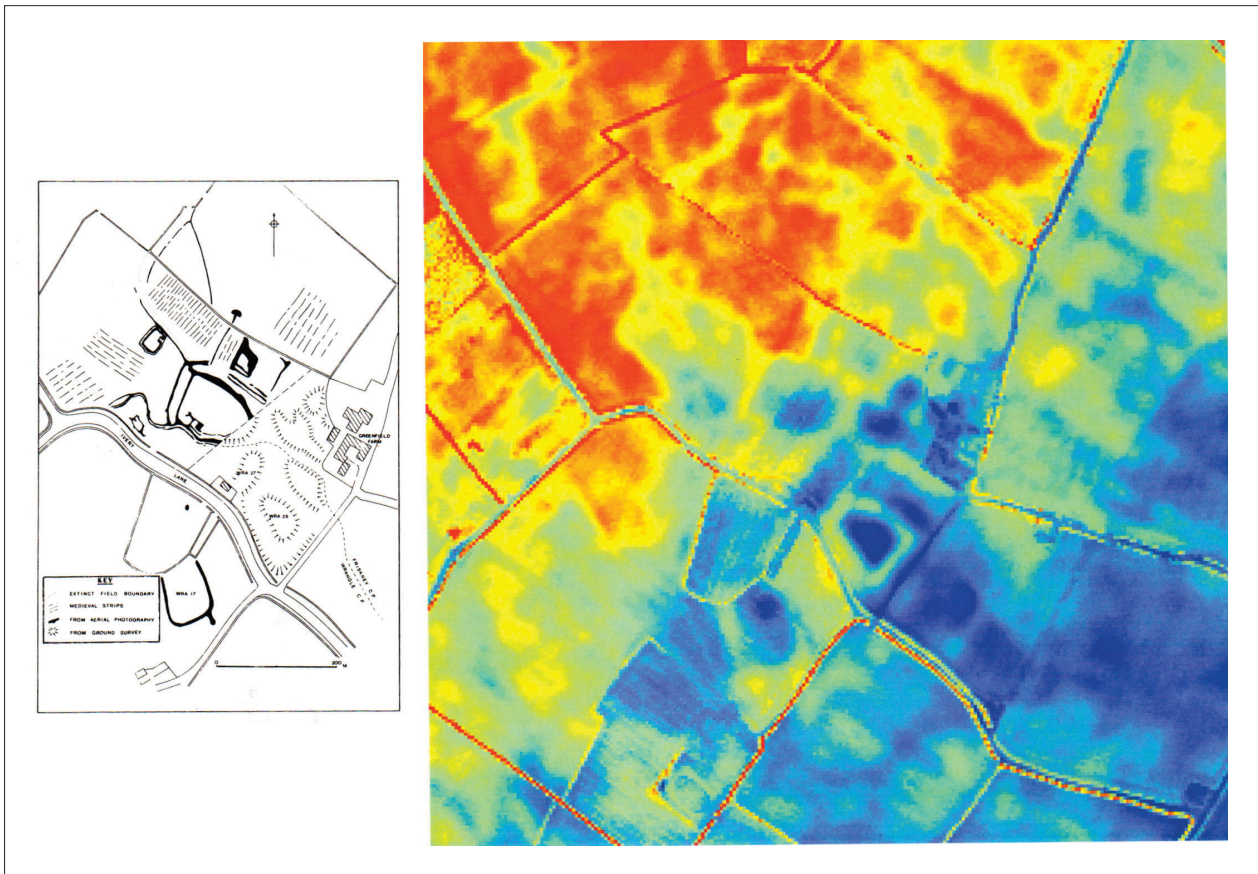


Figure 2 Lane's 1988 map alongside recent LiDAR imagery (the road junction on Lane's western edge is a convenient reference-point). On the latter, the blue colour denotes the higher ground, shading towards lower, red, areas of the low grounds. The two sources are not quite coincident but both show a few mounds with marginal trenches; there are two good candidates for the manor house, with moat. Note that the collection of features stretches across the lane to the south-west. The diversion of the stream through the settlement is clearly shown. Figure prepared by Chris Orton.

silt loams which are also found on certain roddons in the low grounds and fen resulting, says the Survey, from a late marine incursion up the creeks. A hypothesis based on these features is given below.

Documents

Some interpretation of the structures observable on the imagery can be garnered from relevant documents. An example from AD 1290 records the transfer of a messuage, 47½ acres of arable, arable in demesne, 80 acres of meadow and pasture and other income, held of the Earl of Lincoln and of Philip de Kyme (*Cal Inq Post Mortem 19 Edw I*, 492). The 'core area' of a township may be reflected in those lands in Wolmersty, which totalled about 130 acres (12ha), which at about 350 metres square would have held the area identifiable on the aerial imagery, though only a messuage, arable, pasture and meadow were specified. Yet these lands need not have been in the core area if the township extended beyond a manor house. A document of AD 1317 (TNA DL25/1811) conveys the manor of Wolmersty 'in the township of Friskney'; this manor had land in Wrangle vill *sensu stricto* as well. There was a manorial chapel at Wolmersty in 1301, which was subject to

strict limitations on structure and function: in this case, no belfry and no processions. Its mother church was Friskney but the household was expected to go to Wrangle on major festivals; the full text of the Bishop's conditions is in Appendix 1.

A good insight into one period of the historical role of Wolmersty is given by the series of documents edited by R. Ransford (1989), which relate to the holdings of the abbey of Waltham Holy Cross in roughly the period AD 1150–1250, of which 18 mention the vill (citations of her transcriptions are in the form #NNN). Findings are potentially of two kinds: (1) a conspectus of the types of land use in Wolmersty during a hundred-year period; and (2) a mapping of specific places mentioned in the documents. The setting of these land transfers includes:

1. The possibility that in late Saxon times the fen was expanding seawards, so that the area of Wallasea soils was being overtaken by peats, hence salt-marsh was being squeezed between it and the higher ground already built up along the toftline. Thus creeks running inland might transfer salt water into contact with freshwater peats and carry detritus seawards. It is conceivable that a succession of fenbanks were constructed from 'inland' towards

the Wash to contain the fen rather than to reclaim a static entity piecemeal.

2. Nevertheless, medieval reclamation, as chronicled by Hallam (1965), worked landwards from the tofts into the mixture of salt-marsh and fen which occupied the area of Wrangle Low Grounds. This required division into a number of compartments to be manageable, so that there are banks 'against the fen' in two directions and more or less at right angles. The *divisia* between Wolmersty and its containing parishes were *fossata*, i.e., banks (#452); and on the Wrangle side of Wolmersty there was a great dyke (*magno fossato*) called Fendich and an unlabelled *fossato* to its south (#457).

Where land use is concerned, perhaps the most obvious finding is that arable and meadow are assigned to individuals but pasture is granted in the common lands of Wrangle. Oxen were used in salt-making, to scrape up the sand on the foreshore or *greva*. Presumably during salt-making the oxen were fed in the meadows or on hay stored from the previous summer; or perhaps pastured on the salt-marsh, as were sheep. Later documents depict a lake called Swetemere about 300m upstream from the core area of the manor. The complexity of administrative topography is suggested in an early thirteenth century quitclaim of *una bovata terre et ... una salina cum pertinenciis in Wlmeresti in parochia de Wrengle* (#537). Additional information in Ransford #452 (probably 1187 × 1189) grants land and salterns in a width of 24 perches (by the 20ft perch, i.e. 480ft/146m) and a length of the entire span of Wolmersty from one parish *fossata* to the other. Salt-making at or near Wolmersty is clearly documented, including portions of coastline to be made into salterns (*unam perticam de greva maris in Wrangle ... ad salinas faciendas*) and with pasture for the oxen in *Wranglecornfen propinquos de Wlmeresti* (#460). There is mention of the reclamation that results from salt waste (*ad incrementum liberi tenementi mei*) though this need not necessarily be at the shoreline (#452). A grant in 1187 × 1209 included *duas bovatas terre in Wlmeresti et duas salinas in idem villa* as well as a (fish) trap in the Wrangle seashore (#455).

An agreement between the Abbot of Kirkstead and Hawise Countess of Lincoln in 1239 fills out the picture to some extent:

Also the abbot and his successors shall have by the delivery of the bailiffs of the said Countess and her heirs, the raising of turf in a convenient place at the two salt pits of the said abbot and his successors, of Wlmeresty, and free ingress and egress to dig and carry by land and water. And if there shall be any residue of turf from the two spades or from the raising of the turf at the said two pits, which the said abbot or his successors shall have dug and not carried away within a month after the Purification of the B. Mary, that residue, shall remain to the said Countess and her heirs (Massingberd and Boyd 1896; Latin original).

Wolmersty vill is confirmed as a salt-making site and has a turbarry as well. This abbot may have been in rivalry with his opposite number at Waltham who in AD 1274 claimed land from Leake Bank to Wolmersty. An area of

parallel mounds on the LiDAR east of Greenfield Farm might be the remnants of peat extraction.

Other land uses seem stable in the sense that there is no evidence of active reclamation. The one candidate is 'Newecroft' but that is ditched (#451) and is called *terre*, which often means arable land. To the north there is the tongue of land called the Dickon Hills, for which 'Dike-en' may indicate a likely twelfth-century enclosure of 'hard marsh' (Stenton 1920). So the land surface inland seems to be stable at any rate as far as Wolmersty extends towards the East Fen and possibly a little beyond. However, it seems to have been punctuated by patches of relict salt-marsh, and at least one turbarry and a mere. The latter might well have been an abandoned peat digging which had flooded, like the Deeps of the East Fen. Ransford records turbarry only in the common fen (#486). Generally slow drainage is suggested by the frequency of meadow in Wranglecornfen, as transcribed by Ransford (#460) and seen still today in the preserved *dailia* of 2.5 ha at the head of Gateroom Lane (TF 438 525), transected by seven ditches.

Layout

The documents are replete with tantalizing clues which never quite fit together to make a map. It is clear that the main reference points for medieval grants are the boundaries between Wrangle and Wolmersty on the south-west and Wolmersty-Friskney on the north-east. In #452 the *divisia* between Friskney and Wolmersty is a *fossa*, as is the Wolmersty-Wrangle boundary; in this context, clearly a bank. The present Wrangle-Friskney boundary below the Gold Fen Bank follows the now extinct course of a stream and it might merge seamlessly into the line of Ivery Lane, which looks like a *fossa* (OE *ȳfer*, 'bank', perhaps). A western boundary to Wolmersty might then run parallel to that, up the irregular line of Gold Fen Dyke towards Mill House and seawards down Gateroom Lane to the tofts at Judegate Farm (TF 446 520). This accords with the common practice in lowland Lindsey of parish boundaries following 'natural' watercourses. The mentions of Wranglecornfen which is in Wrangle but near Wolmersty yet abuts on the boundary with Friskney seems as if there is an immediate northern limit to Wolmersty, 'capped' perhaps along Wrangle Bank at its eastern end near TF 537 548. Sandisfordgate is probably the *viam versus Wolmersty* (#545) and is a good candidate for a bank with a road on top of it. The other property boundaries are most likely to derive from the bank meaning of *fossa*: *ad fossatum que dicitur Newecroftdic* (#451), *de magno fossato quod dicitur Fendic* (#448) are near Wolmersty if not within it. By way of a large property claim there is the assertion of the abbot of Waltham of his right to land from the *mare de Wlmersty usque ad fossatum de Lek* in the time of Edward I which appears to be a fen-edge location rather than near the sea (*Rot Hund*, 348, 385).

Apart from the rather indeterminate Wolmersty Croftes (#527) there is one passing mention of a Dunchcroft (#519: land between Swetemere and Dunchcroft). There is today a Duncroft (OE *dun*, hill) Farm at the seaward end of Gateroom Lane (TF 445 522). An elaboration of *unum clausum in Wolmersty quod vocatur D. cum pertinenciis et edificis* (#544) suggests that it

is at the edge of the raised ground of toftland or on a small 'island' immediately to landward; by the twelfth century any improved drainage would have emphasised the raised ground if the surrounding land shrank as do peat, peaty soils and salt-marsh. Later evidence places Swetemere north of Greenfield Farm, around TF 442 531 (Fig. 3).

About 3.3km due west of Greenfield Farm is the head of Wrangle Haven at King's Hill (TF 4137 5307); the haven's outlines can be traced on maps and aerial photos for at least 3.5km from a probable medieval coast. Suppose there were a similar feature at Friskney, with Wolmersty occupying a haven-side site and its haven running up to the fen at the Dickon Hills (TF

433 565)? By analogy with Wrangle Haven, an outline can be envisaged in which a broad inlet narrows down northwards. The limits can, as with Wrangle Haven, be realised from roads and banks, with the remnant Badger Bank–Primrose Bank (visible on the nineteenth-century OS maps; TF 452 535–448 539), parallel to Patman's Lane, adding to the evidence. This bank seems traceable on remnants and footpaths all the way to Small End at TF 44447 55688. Such a reconstruction supports the possibility that the late Saxon finds reported by Lane in the Fenland Survey now become part of a coastal settlement system rather than being isolated on the edge of fen. The LiDAR evidence shows us that Small End was a raised area and so marginal to any tidal inlet;

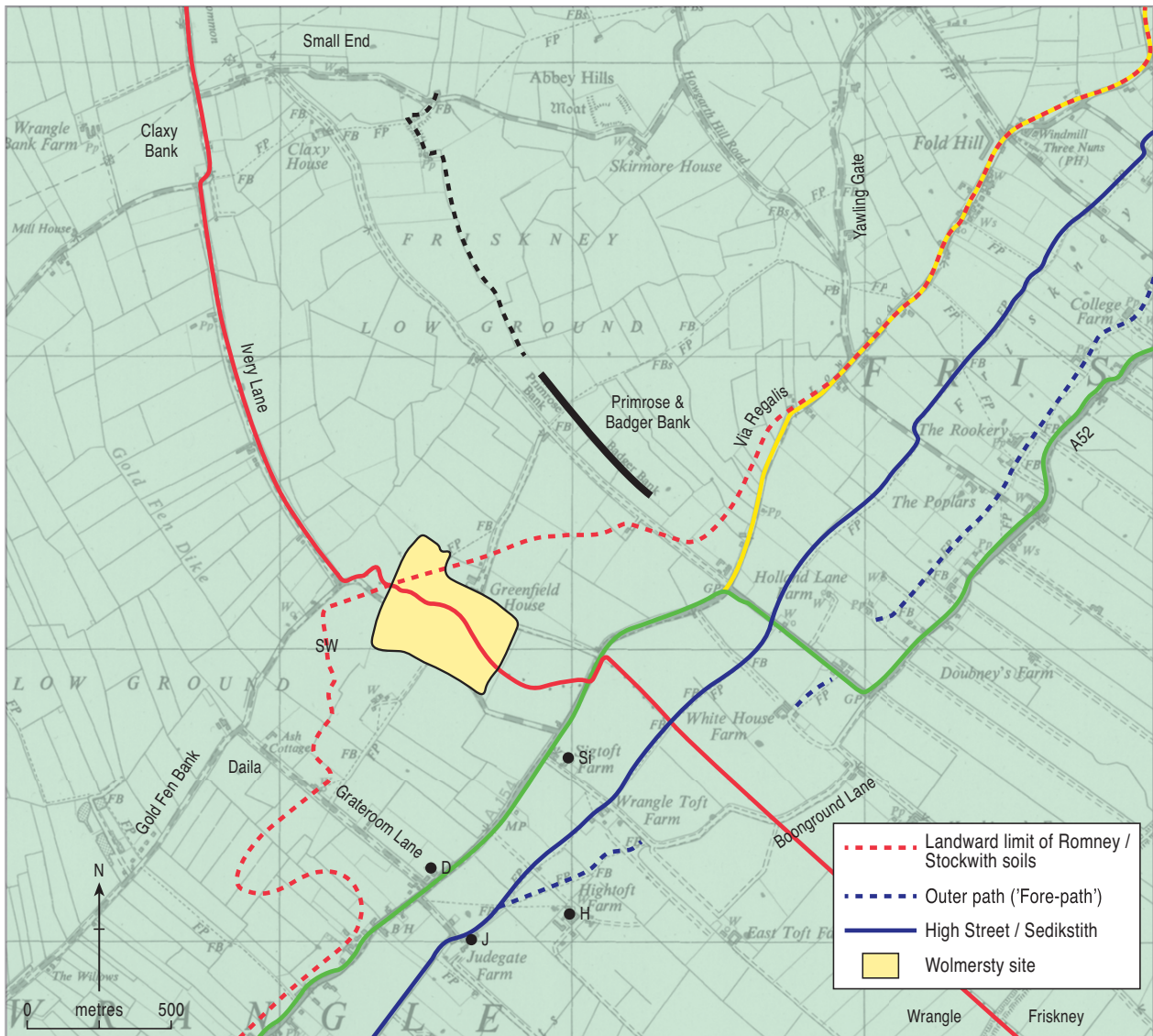


Figure 3 The local context of the Wolmersty site. The line of the Via Regalis and A52 mark the inland limit of the tofts, with the modern A52 on the seaward side until the abrupt turn onto Holland Lane. The lines of Primrose-Badger Bank and Ivery Lane are suggested as one-time (undated) limits of part of Friskney Haven. The pecked orange line delimits the 'delta' of Romney/Stock with soils, which abut the tofts to the south-east. The line of the High Street/Sedikstith path is continuous along the crest of the tofts but the parallel seaward path appears to have a gap in the area of Boonground Lane. Yawling Gate is included since the name implies offshore fishing for herring and later evidence suggests it was a bank (Sw = Swetemere; D = Dunchcroft; J = Judegate; H = Highcroft; S = Sigtoft). Ivery Lane may derive from OE *yfer* ('a bank'), sometimes found as *ME over, ofre* ('shore'). Figure prepared by Chris Orton.

the stream that forms much of the parish boundary of Wrangle and Friskney might well have been the remnant of a tidal creek, gradually narrowed down by reclamation of the shores. In that process, it seems very likely that salt-making was involved, with documents relating to Wolmersty and the use of the term 'Hills', which locally seems confined to the heaps of salt-making waste.

There is one major problem with this suggestion, namely that the lower end of any haven is truncated by the uninterrupted run of the toftland, visible on most aerially-based sources of imagery as well as in the field. The building of tofts from salt waste started before Domesday and finished in the 1570s, so that the idea of Wolmersty always being a coastal settlement at the lowest crossing-point of an estuary seems unsustainable. But there is a possibility that the storms of the fourteenth century (Bailey 1991; Cracknell 2005) produced far-reaching change: consider an Inquest by named royal justices at Boston on the Thursday after Michaelmas 1318. Translated, these men were responsible 'for the surveying of dikes, ditches, channels, sewers, bridges, causeways and gurgites [weirs; sluices] along the sea-coast between Friskney and Thorp by Wainfleet in order to find out which of the above structures have been breached and broken up by attack of the sea and ebb-tides and floodings of fresh water going down to the sea through various places in that district', and goes on to focus on complaints by the men of Wainfleet that their 'gutter' is now the only opening to the sea from the East Fen because

...the harbour of Wrangle and also the haven of Friskney, by which harbours the flow of fresh water from the aforesaid marsh and the flow along the said gutter of Wainfleet used to go down to the sea; and the havens of Wrangle and Friskney by the height of the land and of the sands thrown up there by the attacks of the sea have been totally obstructed [*per altitudinem terre et sabulorum per maris impetus ibidem proiectorum totaliter sunt obstructi*]. So that at no time of year does any ductus [from the verb to lead] of fresh water get through those havens as far as the sea (TNA: DL31/417, Latin original).

The end result, Wainfleet men argue, will be to turn the East Fen into a perpetual lake (*stagnum perseverans*) and all the resources of the fen and its marginal drains (for salvation, profit and defence) will be lost.

Given the apparent scale of the effects of heightened Relative Sea-Level and of storms, it is possible to envisage the shallow estuary of the Wolmersty Beck (let us call it that – the OS never managed a name) being blocked by cast-up sand after easterly storms and high tides. 'Totally obstructed' may be an exaggeration but something major is happening. So if a broad stretch of tidal water is now mostly covered in sand, quite probably highly mobile, then it will eventually become reclaimable by the salt-makers and so meld seamlessly into the tofts that flanked it to north-east and south-west. The drainage upstream might however be affected by ponding and produce the 'delta' of Stockwith series soils noted above. In AD 1274, the abbot of Waltham claimed wreck of sea from Lade Bank to Wolmersty, which would have been along an estuarine shore some

3km inland towards the fen. Note also that at present, the A52 road suddenly switches over the tofts from seaward to landward along Holland Lane, about 650 m north of the parish boundary between Friskney and Wrangle, the one-time course of the Wolmersty Beck. The Low Road along the landward side of the tofts was the *Via Regalis* (from Wainfleet and Friskney), which suggests that if it was interrupted by the new land-forms it might have diverted seawards and indeed there are remnant tracks past a farm at Whitehouse Marsh, Hightoft and Sigtoft (OE *sigan*, 'to descend, sink') Farms with one part of the track being called Boonground Lane allowing the possibility of communal effort to build or maintain it. North of East Toft Farm (TF 455 520) there is an area of salt waste mounds of the type found at Wainfleet St Mary (and nowhere else) and there dated to c. 1500. This suggests that the changes in coastline had stabilised by then. The overall effect would have been to change radically the situation of Wolmersty manor house with regard to communications and resource use. A programme of closely-spaced boreholes would allow the testing of this hypothesis.

Conclusion

There are still some puzzles about Wolmersty: why was it there; why was it important enough to be the head name of the Wapentake; and why did it disappear? A late Saxon foundation on a suitable site and the nearby presence of salt-making is not a surprise. But why did it not grow like Wrangle or Friskney? Is there a clue in the dual state implied by the Bishop's licence of 1301: that perhaps its status was disputed by the manorial lords of both Wrangle and Friskney and so never allowed to grow to add to the lustre (and income) of the other one, just in case he became the sole tenant-in-chief? It was important enough in the thirteenth century to be a limit marker of the jurisdiction of the lord of the port of Wainfleet (from the Lymn to Wolmersty Cross), though we do not know whether Wolmersty Cross was on the northern or southern limits of the township. Nor do we know what shifts in boundaries may have been produced by coastal changes, to result in altered or divided loyalties. To be designated as the wapentake's name when the actual area stretches away to the south as far as the Witham not only acknowledges the relatively late growth of Boston but the one-time residence of a seat of authority in the extreme north. Wolmersty's eventual disappearance, like the total removal of Wainfleet down-haven (probably in the late eleventh or early twelfth centuries) invites the thought that these lowlands may be hiding many other lost places that will fill gaps in the maps being produced by the 'Lost Villages' project at Hull (Fenwick 2014).

The manor was demised in 1316–1317 and the death of Peter de Giphthorpe in 1334 specifies the manor's fate along with attendance at Wrangle court, with no mention of affiliation to Friskney (*Cal Inq Post Mortem Edw III*, 406). So the manor was present not long before the Pestilence. Thereafter, in 1369 Robert son of Peter de Giphthorpe acknowledged the right of Peter de Cockerington over a great deal of land in Mumby, Burgh, Orby, Friskney, Winthorpe and Wrangle though not specifically the manor of Wolmersty (TNA CP25/1/141/132 no.30). The involvement of a son

of Peter de Giphthorpe perhaps suggests that the Great Pestilence of 1349 and its later recurrences was not all-pervasive and brings to the fore (as an hypothesis to be tested) that environmental uncertainty was a major factor in the decline of the township. If neither manorial lord felt moved to ensure its survival in the face of changes brought about by the sea-level rises of the late thirteenth to mid-fourteenth centuries (especially being cut off from the sea and/or flooded by back-pond formation) then the path to disappearance seems set. Also, it would no longer be so close to the Royal Road.

Along with a number of other titles the manor (not including Wrangle and Friskney; no salt, no fisheries) was the subject of a sale in 1404, so it was still an entity of some kind at that date (TNA CP25/1/144/152 no.4). A Sir William Giphthorpe was a party to the transfer. Concern about the coast had emplaced a Commission *de Walliis et Fossatis* between Wolmersty Cross and the Bridge at Tydd (18km east of Spalding) in 1339 (*Cal Pat Rolls Edw III*, 354) and so any complications over ownership of the manor happened in the context of environmental instability. Overall, Foster and Longley (1924) document the survival of a manor until the reign of Henry IV (1399–1413), but this does not guarantee physical presence for at no stage is there any physical evidence for a village of either dispersed or of nucleated type. Eventual disappearance might have happened with neither fuss nor fanfare and certainly with no bells.

Acknowledgements

The stimulus provided by Tom Lane's interest in the manor and in making it known was essential to this piece of work. The context is that of my wider interest in the margins of the East Fen in pre-industrial times, in which the medieval evolution of Wrangle is a very interesting part – see www.dur.ac.uk/east-lincs-history. Some finance was provided by the late Arthur Owen FSA and I have been very grateful for that help. Latin documents have been transcribed and translated by Patrick Mussett and the illustrations drawn by Chris Orton of the University of Durham Department of Geography.

Abbreviations

LHER Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record
 PAS Portable Antiquities Scheme
 TNA The National Archives

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APPENDIX 1

Bishop Dalderby to Sir Peter de Giphthorpe, 26 April 1301:

John [Dalderby] Bp. of Linc. to Sir Peter de Giphthorp' knight, greeting. It is clear from an inquest that your manor of Wolmersty is so far from the parish church of Wrangle that in winter you cannot without great difficulty go there and be present at appropriate services. So you have asked to have in the chapel [*oratorium*] that you have built next to your manor in the parish of Friskney (this chapel being reported to be suitable and decent) divine services celebrated for your free household by a priest paid by you. I grant your request, provided that the arrangement does not prejudice the rights of the mother church of Friskney and of other neighbouring churches, and provided that you don't build a bell-tower or have processions or other sacraments at your chapel. The prior of St Catherine outside Lincoln and the prior of Bullington and their

convents, appropriators of the church of Friskney, and the vicar of Friskney have no objection to this grant. On major festivals, if there is no great impediment, you and your free household are to go to your church of Wrangle to show the respect that you owe thereto. All chaplains who shall serve in your chapel shall, on appointment, swear in the presence of the two priors or their representatives, and in the presence of the vicar, that all offerings received shall go to the mother church.

Source: Lincolnshire Archives, Bishops' Registers, 3 Dalderby, 1299–1320.

Latin original translated by P. Mussett.

Note: using where possible the route of the *Via Regalis*, the distance to Friskney church is 3.8km (2.2m), and to Wrangle church 4.2km (2.6m). In 1303, St Catherine's held a quarter of a knight's fee in Friskney.