

Medieval Settlement Research



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The Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group

**MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP
OFFICERS FOR 2021**

PRESIDENT	Prof. Carena Lewis School of History and Heritage University of Lincoln Brayford Pool Lincoln, LN6 7TS clewis@lincoln.ac.uk
HON. VICE-PRESIDENTS	F. A. Aberg C. C. Dyer P. Everson R. Glasscock
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TREASURER	Dr Andy Seaman Archaeology Programme, School of Humanities Canterbury Christ Church University North Holmes Road Canterbury CT1 1QU andy.seaman@canterbury.ac.uk
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Dr Helen Fenwick Department of History University of Hull Hull HU6 7RX h.fenwick@hull.ac.uk
EDITOR	Dr Mark McKerracher Institute of Archaeology University of Oxford 36 Beaumont Street Oxford OX1 2PG medieval.settlement.research@gmail.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR	Marco Panato (University of Tübingen, Germany)
COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICER	David Oates (Histon & Impington Archaeology Group)
BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR	Neil Christie (University of Leicester) njc10@leicester.ac.uk
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EDITORIAL

Despite the heavy restrictions on our lives and work over the past two years, medieval settlement scholarship has clearly maintained its vitality. When I had the privilege of taking up the editorship of *Medieval Settlement Research* late last year, I was concerned that this volume might be sadly slim, but in fact it contains a healthy and varied crop of new research. Unfortunately, however, the disruptions consequent on repeated lockdowns mean that, once again, we lack a bibliography for this volume. Hopefully we may look forward to an extended bibliography next year, by way of compensation!

This year's papers span the MSRG's entire period of interest, from the fifth to sixteenth centuries, and much of its geographical remit too, including Scotland, Wales, England, the Netherlands, Poland and the Czech Republic. We have timely, critical reviews of development-led archaeology in Wales, site loss in Scotland, and the state of medieval settlement research in the Netherlands. We have reports on excavations and test pitting across several countries, and the radiocarbon dating of two very different corn-drying kilns. Meanwhile, toponymic and cartographic evidence is thoroughly exploited by Wrathmell's keenly-awaited second instalment on Scandinavian settlement in Yorkshire and Silvester's incisive interpretation of an outstanding but overlooked map of Alberbury in west Shropshire.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to my predecessor Letty ten Harkel for her sterling work as Editor, and for managing such a smooth handover of the editorship; and also to Susan Kilby, Andy Seaman and Marco Panato for patiently helping me to get to grips with the role.

Finally, with sadness we mark the deaths of two hugely influential figures in our field this year: Christopher Taylor and David Hall. This volume's opening tribute by Paul Everson is a fitting reminder of just how much Chris contributed to the study of medieval archaeology in his long career. News of David Hall's passing reached us just as this volume neared completion; an obituary will therefore appear in next year's *Medieval Settlement Research*. Meanwhile, I would like to dedicate this volume to the memory of those two pioneering and prolific scholars.

The Editor

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The MSRGM AGM 2021 and Events

The Winter Seminar will take place on 11 December 2021. Papers will be presented on the theme of ‘Migration and Communication’. Although we plan to hold the event at the University of Nottingham this year, as the situation regarding the pandemic remains uncertain, the latest information regarding the hosting of the Winter Seminar, including details of how to register, will be found on our website: <http://medieval-settlement.com/events>. Additional information will also be issued with the journal, so please do read all of the additional paperwork carefully. Due to the ongoing uncertainty at the time of writing, the 2021 AGM will once again be held virtually. Members can participate either by completing the online form that will be circulated by email in November, or by completing the enclosed form and returning it to the Secretary by the deadline indicated.

The 2022 Spring Conference will be on the theme of ‘Coastal Settlement and Landscape: Exploring Relationships Between Land and Sea’. It is anticipated that this will take place at the University of Hull in April 2022. Further information, including the programme and registration information, will be posted on the MSRGM website shortly. If further Covid-related restrictions prevent us from meeting in person, this conference will be held online.

Research Grants

The MSRGM can make grants for the support of research by members of the Group within its field of interest. A maximum of £5,000 is available annually until 2023, and applications for sums *up to* this amount or smaller requests are invited. Grants can cover fieldwork and associated analysis, documentary research, and other appropriate forms of assistance towards eventual publication. A summary report of the work will be required upon completion of the work and, subject to editorial consideration, may be published in *Medieval Settlement Research*. Prospective applicants can find more information and download an application form from <https://medieval-settlement.com/grants-awards/research-grants>.

MEMORIAL PRIZES AND BURSARIES

John Hurst Memorial Prize

The Medieval Settlement Research Group is dedicated to enhancing our understanding of the rural landscape and its settlement in the period *c.* AD 400-1600. The late John Hurst was a major figure in the development of the Group and in his honour, and to encourage new and young scholars, an annual prize of £200 is offered for the best student paper on any theme in the field of medieval settlement and landscape exploitation in Britain and Ireland. The winning applicant may also be invited to submit their paper for publication in *Medieval Settlement Research*. Full details, including an application form, can be found on our website at <https://medieval-settlement.com/grants-awards/dissertation-award>.

Maurice Beresford Memorial Bursaries

In accordance with its aims and in memory of Maurice Beresford, pioneer in medieval settlement studies and a founder member, the Group awards as many as four bursaries annually up to the value of £100 to help to defray the expenses of attending a conference within the field of the Group’s interests. Applicants must be registered as full-time or part-time students. Applications, including full details of the venue, topic and costs of the conference and its relevance to the applicant’s interests, together with the name of a referee, should be submitted in writing to the MSRGM Secretary by 1 June or 1 December. A panel appointed by the Committee of the Group will decide on the awards. Successful applicants should note that cheques will be sent only after attendance at the conference and after verification of the costs involved.

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Next year’s journal will once again include refereed research articles and reports on fieldwork, excavation and other recent work. Submissions should be focused on topics relevant to the core interests of the MSRGM, which are medieval settlement and landscape in Britain and Ireland from the fifth to sixteenth centuries AD. Articles and reports focusing on landscapes and settlements from other parts of Europe are also welcomed, especially where they can be demonstrated to be of relevance to British and Irish research in terms of methodology and/or subject matter.

Please submit all copy to the MSRGM Editor by **1 April 2022**. Please note:

- **Research Articles** should be 4,000–10,000 words in length, with as many illustrations as are deemed necessary to support the argument. As the journal is printed in full colour, there is no limit on the number of colour illustrations. All submissions to this section are fully peer-reviewed by *at least* two reviewers.
- Short items for **Reports** summarising fieldwork or projects should be kept concise, in the range of 1,500–4,000 words plus one or two illustrations (unless the work is of a scale that necessitates a longer article – for example,

reports on major projects). Shorter items, such as project announcements or reports under 1,500 words, can be included in the MSRGR newsletter.

- Submissions should adhere to the **journal's guidelines**, which can be downloaded from <https://medieval-settlement.com/publications/journal/>. Alternatively, a hard copy can be obtained from the journal's Editor.
- Please do not hesitate to contact the Editor on medieval.settlement.research@gmail.com at an early stage for advice on your submission.