

Medieval Settlement Research Group



Annual Report 21, 2006

Medieval Settlement Research Group

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CONTENTS

Officers for 2006	2
Contents	3
Announcements	4
MSRG Spring Meeting, April 8 th – 9 th , 2006: Medieval Settlement Studies in Northumberland: Past, Present and Future <i>by Dr Rob Young, Northumberland National Park</i>	5
Beyond Region & Place Papers from the MSRG Winter Seminar, 2006	
Region and Place revisited <i>by Brian Roberts, University of Durham</i>	7
Reason misplaced <i>by Christopher Taylor</i>	7
Worthys and enclosures <i>by Ros Faith, Kellogg College, Oxford</i>	9
Creating waves: practical effects of ‘Roberts and Wrathmell’ <i>by Paul Everson</i>	15
Region and Place: some queries <i>by Tom Williamson</i>	18
Rural Devon: Mapping and Analysing Local Historic Landscapes <i>by Sam Turner</i>	19
Review of Medieval Settlement Research, 1996-2006 <i>by Mark Gardiner</i>	22
John Hurst Dissertation Prize 2006	29
Llanfor and the Upper Dee Valley: An early medieval landscape study <i>by Tudur Davies</i>	29
The Archaeology of Historic/Medieval Village Cores: Evidence from Leicestershire and Rutland <i>by John Thomas</i>	34
Test pit excavation within currently occupied rural settlement in East Anglia – Results of the HEFA CORS project in 2006 <i>by Carezza Lewis</i>	37
Aspects of Early Medieval Industry in Burwell, Cambridgeshire <i>by Mo Muldowney</i>	44
Excavation in Trelech 2005-6 <i>by Ray Howell</i>	49
The Dùn Èistean Archaeology Project and the Ness Archaeological Landscape Survey <i>by Chris Barrowman and Rachel Barrowman</i>	53
The Archaeology of the Medieval Village in Southern Apulia, Italy <i>by Paul Arthur</i>	57
Roots and Origins: Archaeology and Wharram An Interview with John G. Hurst <i>by Pamela Jane Smith</i>	59
Discovery and Excavations in 2006	65
Alan Davison (1930-2006)	81
Harold Fox (1945-2007)	81
Book Reviews	82
Select Bibliography of Works on Medieval Rural Settlement 2006 <i>Compiled by Mark Page</i>	87
Membership Changes 2006	90
Trustees’ Report & Independent Examiner’s Report	91
Accounts of the MSRG	92

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The MSRG 2007 AGM and winter seminar

This will take place at 12.35pm on Saturday 1st December 2007, in the Centre for English Local History, Salisbury Road, Leicester. The AGM will be followed by the final, plenary POMLAS seminar.

JOHN HURST MEMORIAL PRIZE

The annual award in memory of John Hurst

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 Masters dissertation on any theme in the field of medieval settlement and landscape exploitation in Britain and Ireland. MA directors in Archaeology, English Local History, Landscape Studies or related fields are encouraged to submit high quality complete dissertations by students in the academic year 2005-6 to the Secretary of the MSRG by 31st December 2006. A panel will judge the entries and an award made at the end of March 2007. A summary of the winning entry may also be published in the Group's Annual Report.

CONFERENCES

The MSRG Spring 2008 Conference

The MSRG Spring Weekend Conference 2008 will take place in the McDonald Institute, Downing St, Cambridge on Saturday 29th March. A flier with further details and an application form is included with this report.

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 be received by 1st December in the year preceding that in which work will be carried out. Applicants will normally be notified of the outcome in the following March.

ANNUAL REPORT 22, 2007

The next Annual Report of the Medieval Settlement Research Group will include research, fieldwork and excavation undertaken during 2007, to be submitted to the editor by the end of May 2008. 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 disc or emailed to crl29@cam.ac.uk.
4. Images should be supplied as hard copy. 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. Clear photographs are welcome.
5. Measurements should be in metric units.
6. 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.

MSRG Spring Meeting, April 8th – 9th, 2006: Medieval Settlement Studies in Northumberland: Past, Present and Future

by Dr Rob Young
Northumberland National Park

The Spring Meeting was organised by Dr. Rob Young, Archaeologist for the Northumberland National Park Authority at the Authority's headquarters in Hexham and the theme was '*Medieval Settlement Studies in Northumberland: Past, Present and Future.*' Eleven speakers provided some good food for thought in a range of papers dealing with both specific sites and broader landscape issues.

Rob Young introduced the group to the results of the National Park Authority's highly successful 'Historic Village Atlas Project'. This can be viewed on the National Park website at: <http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/understanding/historyarchaeology/historicvillageatlas.htm>. Rob outlined the project's main aims, its potential uses by both local communities and the Authority and also the importance of its community based support.

This was followed by Alan Rushworth's more detailed contribution on two specific 'Village Atlas' sites at Elsdon and Harbottle within the National Park. Alan outlined the rich array of sources available for the study of historic villages in both the Park and the county as a whole and he showed, with a range of examples, how the individual village studies had been completed.

After some initial discussion and questions, the spotlight focussed on a variety of current projects relating to

medieval settlement in Northumberland generally. Thus Roger Miket delivered an overview of the work of the Gefrin Trust, the body that has recently purchased the site of the early medieval 'palace' site of Ad Gefrin. He highlighted the group's plans to open the site to more public access and also discussed their hopes to work more closely with the Scottish Royal Commission, who hold the Hope-Taylor archive in Edinburgh.

Johnny Shipley, of Newcastle University, was next with an account of his progress so far on an AHRC Collaborative Research Award funded PhD that he had just commenced. This work is jointly supervised by Jim Crow at Newcastle and Rob Young in the National Park. Johnny is examining the 'Concealed Communities' of the National Park: looking at the nature of marginality and marginal community groups. His main emphasis is on mobile groups – e.g. transhumant grazers and drovers – or groups on the social and geographical margins – e.g. seasonal miners etc. He has already commenced a detailed programme of fieldwork and excavation in the College Valley area of the National Park.

David Graham from Archaeological Services, Durham University, described the amazing results from a project that started life as a small evaluation in the village of Embleton. The initial work showed that a range of early/late medieval features survived on the site and

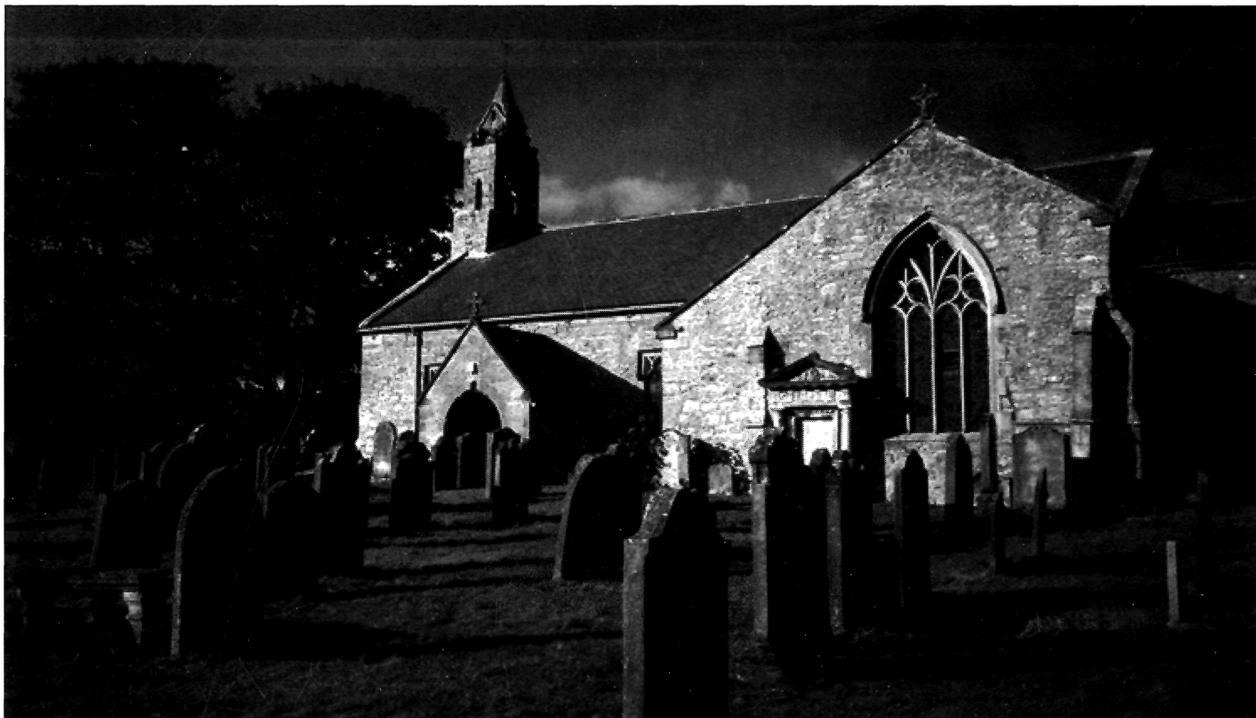


Figure 1: Elsdon Church

made everyone aware of what can happen when PPG 16-led archaeology comes up with the goods.

After lunch Piers Dixon, who, along with Stuart Wrathmell, had pioneered the modern study of deserted medieval settlements in Northumberland, reprised some of his work and reflected upon what had happened in deserted medieval settlement studies in the region in the intervening years since his PhD research. This

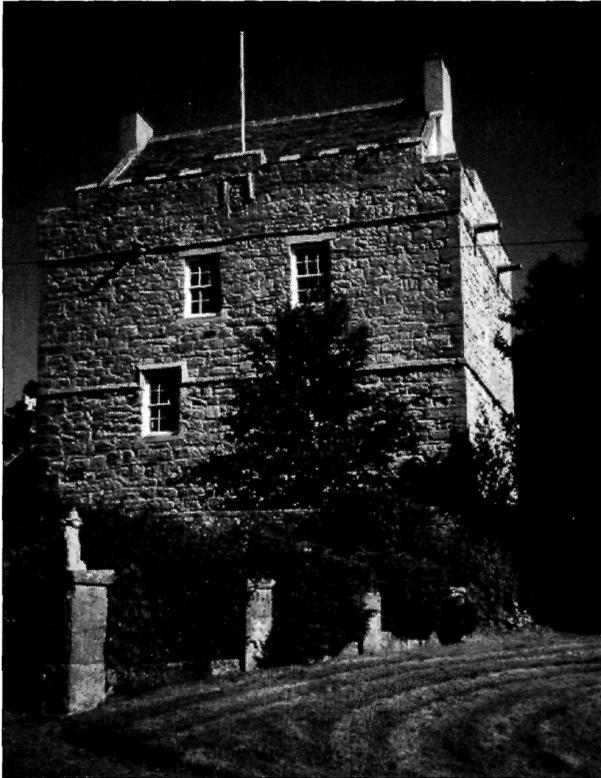


Figure 2: Elsdon Tower

contribution was followed by Brian Roberts (on sparkling form!), discussing the recent air photographs, taken by Tim Gates for the National Park Authority, of the deserted settlement at Hartside. He was of the opinion that elements of this upland settlement could be very early in date, and he paid particular attention to the relationship of the buildings to a clear 'back lane' and related field system.

Still on the theme of deserted settlement survey, Penny Middleton of Northern Archaeological Associates, gave a fascinating account of her survey of the deserted settlement at Linbriggs in the Coquet Valley and the bastle at Branshaw on the Otterburn Training Area. The research was of the highest quality and the graphic representation of the result was immaculate.

David Petts finished the programme with a discussion, based on his work for the North East Regional Research Framework, on the future of medieval settlement research in Northumberland.

Overall the papers generated some great discussion and though the numbers attending were not large the day proved to be a stimulating one for all concerned.

On Sunday 9th April, members visited the villages of Elsdon and Harbottle within the National Park. These are both important case studies within the Historic Village Atlas and there were some excellent and detailed discussions of village morphology and potential chronology, with the chance, at Elsdon, to see one of the best preserved motte/ring work and bailey castles in northern England. Harbottle Castle and village were also impressive.

On a personal note I would like to thank those MSRSG members who made the trip north and also the various MSRSG committee members who helped out with the final programme. The NNPA must also be thanked for the use of the National Park headquarters at Hexham.



Figure 3: Harbottle Castle

Beyond Region & Place

Papers from the MSRG Winter Seminar, 2006

The 2006 Winter Seminar of the MSRG brought together a number of speakers to consider the long-term impact of Roberts' and Wrathmill's 2002 publication of 'Region and Place'

Region and Place revisited

by Brian Roberts
University of Durham

A key aim of *Region and Place* was to establish a national overview and break away from wholly local or county-based viewpoints. This was to be as transparent as possible because our underlying, and, let it be said, subversive intention, was to sketch a necessary synoptic framework to which local studies, past, present and future, could be referenced. We argue that the multitude of site studies and local studies now appearing – and the numbers are *vast* – necessitates the perception of a hierarchy of contexts, for in practice all investigations necessitate the syntheses of one or more scales of study, national, macro-regional, regional, local and site specific. We were, and remain, very grateful to English Heritage for supporting us, and we continue to use and publish the results. This paper is essentially a review of Roberts' work in progress deriving from the ideas formulated in *Region and Place*.

The national scale can be exemplified by three distributions: of pre-Conquest woodlands, a synoptic map of enclosures and a study of one local regional boundary. These all point towards the sustaining, the destruction and the recombination of embedded local regional patterns through space and time. Understanding these provides one important unifying concept for understanding settlement evolution, and their recognition helps define nationally based contexts, both physical and cultural, within which historic, and perhaps even prehistoric, rural communities negotiated and struggled with the land.

Second, a macro-regional investigation in northern

England uses the national maps of woodland and settlement to define 'cultural cores', long cultivated and fertile territories. These allow the definition of early polities, within which place-names and archaeological evidence can be re-assessed to create new perspectives and even new chronologies. For instance, the persistent liminality of Anglo-Saxon sculptures and monasteries is found to extend to inland locations, between the western seas of waste and the cultural cores, as well as the coastal locations between the cultural cores and the North Sea.

Finally, regional study in County Durham (supported by the AHRB) has led to the construction of a single map incorporating parish and township boundaries, the common wastes in about 1600, the farms reclaimed from the waste between 1150 and 1350, and the morphology of surviving settlement plans. The computer-based layers of this GIS project allow of the whole county in 1350 and 1150 to be dissected out. Local studies, of Heighington-shire and the Jarrow-Monkwearmouth estates, whose underlying base maps have been severed from the county scale master, lead directly to purely local scales of enquiry.

In a final model, two dimensional in character, but expressing four-dimensional change in regional settlement systems (shortly to appear in the journal *Landscapes*), the significance of wholly local settlement transitions within national and regional contexts can be conceived and visualized. As local studies proliferate, these are issues that cannot be avoided.

Reason misplaced

by Christopher Taylor

Ever since *Region and Place* appeared there has been a barrage of criticism from dissatisfied readers. Some of these criticisms have been justified, many not. Some I agree with, others I think unfair. Many seem to result from a misunderstanding of the methodology behind the book and its aims. Here I want to look at some aspects of *Region and Place* where Reason has been forgotten or misplaced by the critics.

Now in my 71st year, I can claim to have been studying mediaeval rural settlement for longer than most people, certainly for more than 55 years. And, although during that time we have advanced the understanding of many aspects, we have failed to answer some of the most fundamental questions about the origins of rural settlement in England. Questions such as how, why,

when and by whom was the pattern of medieval rural settlement established?

If anything, we have gone backwards. Certainly 50 years ago we knew the answers. Villages appeared all over England, set on geographically "good" sites in the 5th and 6th centuries by incoming, democratic Saxons. Dispersed settlement was a subsequent, or secondary, development, part of the later clearances of forests and wastes. It was as simple as that! But since that time we have edged from certainty through doubt to confusion. Of course during these fifty-odd years there have been great advances in our understanding but little of this research has stood up to the test of answering those basic questions of how, why, when and by whom.

Perhaps I am indulging in wishful thinking in believing that there should be some recoverable pattern from the past. For, as G. R. Elton wrote, "History is the mess we call life, reduced to some order, pattern and possible purpose". But I have always been optimistic that there is a pattern to be recovered at least on the origins of rural settlement, even though I have been faced with a distinct lack of progress. And then, along came Brian and Stuart with *Region and Place*. Here, perhaps for the first time, and certainly for the first time so well supported by information from a great variety of sources, there appears a detailed description, careful analysis and closely argued conclusions on English medieval rural settlement as a whole. Not just from individual sites, parishes or counties, but at a national level. Here, whatever its faults, we have a countrywide background of information and ideas that we can examine and which we can test against our own local and regional work and which we can accept, reject or modify. And, of course, this is exactly as it should be. It is a process called "advancing scholarship." We need to use, see the faults in and take advantage of the ideas in *Region and Place*.

Brian and Stuart's "Top Down" approach, in contrast to the "Bottom Up" one that most of us employ in our research, inevitably has its problems and dangers. But it is a fine way of advancing our overall ideas on the problems of rural settlement origins. For, as Paul Everson said to me over another, and very different subject, mediaeval designed landscapes, "we must stop stamp collecting and get down to understanding what lies behind the existence of the stamps". For far too long we have been stamp collecting in rural settlement studies. *Region and Place* gives us the opportunity to get behind the individual places and areas that have been our stamps and to think about the wider issues.

Now, this is a personal view. Not everyone wants to work on, or believes in, the broad view. It was the French historian Ladorie who said that all historians fall into two types: truffle hunters and parachutists. I certainly began my career as a truffle hunter. No one who has worked for the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments could be anything else. But later I became a parachutist, gliding gently into the truffle hunter's domain, making fatuous generalisations and then disappearing, leaving the truffle hunters furious and disbelieving. But it is my parachutist instinct that makes me supportive of *Region and Place*.

That, and my belief, not unconnected with parachuting, that ideas are the most important things in life. Ideas must be supported by some facts but ideas are the things that count. An early published lecture of mine on field archaeology was entitled "Staring at Cows". This was a quotation taken from a detective novel by Dorothy L. Sayers where Lord Peter Wimsey says: "Facts are like cows, if you stare at them long enough they will go away". Quite so. But ideas do not go away. Good, bad or indifferent they can be twisted and turned, used and reused. And *Region and Place* is full of ideas of great value. Of course some of the ideas there are a bit wacky, but all are worth reading. As Galen Strawson wrote in a review of A. N. Wilson's book on Iris Murdoch "good ideas are not less good for resembling bulls'-eyes scored inadvertently with a Gatling gun". With *Region and*

Place Brian and Stuart have emptied a whole magazine into the problem of rural settlement origins and most shots did indeed hit the bull's-eye! We ignore these ideas at our peril.

I now turn to aspects of *Region and Place* that have been criticised. The commonest complaints relate to the definition of the Sub Provinces. These have usually been that Sub Province x would have been better in Province y or that the exact boundary of Sub Province z would have been better five miles further west. Or that the number of nucleated villages in Hertfordshire suggests that the county would have been better placed in the Central Province. Another recurring criticism has been that some of the interpretative diagrams have been too complicated and cannot easily be understood. But, apart from the fact that Brian's diagrams always have been complicated and have required effort from the reader, surely what they show us is what we ought to know. That the world, and especially our world of rural settlement origins, is, and was, complicated. Such criticisms are hardly important in the greater scheme of things.

Others are also minor, and often about of the use of out-of-date information. For example, the use of the 1968 sources for the distribution map of Deserted Villages causes problems, but only because of the advances in the understanding of deserted villages since then. This is especially so in Norfolk where Brian and Stuart's map is badly distorted. I suspect that most of the deserted villages shown as in Norfolk would now be rejected as being neither villages nor deserted, but merely parts of a typical East Anglian settlement shift. Without dots on the map in Norfolk, its value would have been enhanced.

Another, perhaps more serious, criticism is of chapter 4, on specific case-studies. I am not sure that they help the broad brush approach, not least because they encourage the nit-pickers to claim that all the examples used can be interpreted in different ways. Indeed almost every criticism that can be levelled at *Region and Place* has already been recognised by its authors. They were aware of the problems and of the dangers of writing a book like this but they went ahead and risked everything for the benefit of us all.

The most serious attack has been of the use of 19th - century Ordnance Survey Maps as the base for the map of settlement form, on which the map of the provinces rests and thus to which all the other maps are related. The objections to the 19th-century OS maps are obvious and Brian and Stuart acknowledged them. They are far too late in time to use as a basis for medieval settlements and their only real value is as an indicator of post-medieval settlement form in England. In particular the post-Industrial Revolution settlement changes are regarded as obscuring any clear earlier picture in certain areas. Thus the map of settlement form, based as it was on 19th-century data, could not take into account late-medieval and early-post-medieval changes and thus the assumption that the map has a direct relationship to the pattern and form of settlement in early mediaeval times was quite wrong. We do need to be reminded that the 11th-century landscape of settlement may well have been very different in scale, as well as in form, from later times and that at present, and in the foreseeable future,

there is no way of telling what the 11th-century landscape was like.

And there's the rub. If the 19th-century OS maps are rejected there is nothing that can be used for the "Top Down" approach. The only possible alternative was to use earlier estate and parish maps. But this would not have afforded national coverage for many parishes and estates have no maps Nor would it have produced a much earlier picture of settlement. Most early maps are only 18th-century and there is almost nothing before the 16th century. That is these maps still would have given only a picture of settlement as it was in early post-mediaeval times.

So, what do I think of *Region and Place*? I have two comments. The first is that in both approach and tone the book comes across as rather "old fashioned" geography or landscape history. It rests, ultimately, on the belief that "common sense" and "the obvious" are the basis for interpretation of the landscape in terms of decisions and actions. That is, it is a deterministic view of rural settlements, still within the "Age of Innocence" that Matthew Johnson in *Ideas of Landscape* claims that landscape history has lost. Indeed Matthew confirms my belief that "common sense" and "the obvious" are a poor basis on which to try to understand the past. The world we live in is not like that, nor ever was.

My second point comes back to the problem of using the 19th-century OS maps. While there was no alternative to using them, there is a danger that we lose sight of the one aspect of settlement that we are surely all agreed upon. That is settlements are dynamic, not static. Of course, Brian and Stuart know this, and the dangers lies with the

reader. Unless we are very careful, using the 19th-century OS maps as source material can make us forget the dynamic world that we are studying. We must never forget that the base map on which everything hinges in *Region and Place* is 19th-century and not one of the 10th or 11th centuries.

And, after my worries, one disappointment, although not an unexpected one. In the end, the problems with which I began this paper seem to be unsolved. The why, how, and by whom, particularly of nucleated villages, still eludes Brian and Stuart as they do the rest of us. There are plenty of ideas and new insights but no clear answers. But then if we knew the answers how dull it would be. The study of the origins of medieval rural settlement is rather like sex. The fun is in getting there – not arriving. But, rereading *Region and Place*, I felt, as I did when I first read it, in awe of its overall achievements. I kept saying to myself "why didn't I think of that?" The material that Brian and Stuart have presented is a huge compendium of visual ideas that can be reworked for years to come.

The most unreasonable criticism that I have heard about *Region and Place* is that it is ahead of its time and that, as we do not yet have all of the information we need to explain medieval rural settlements, the authors should have waited a little longer. My answer to this is something that the Devon historian R. H. Worth said long ago, which Herbert Finberg drilled into me on a number of occasions over dinners at Whittlesford, and which he later published: "One always writes too soon. But if one puts it off one may not write at all." Thank goodness Brian and Stuart didn't wait.

Worthys and enclosures

by Ros Faith
Kellogg College, Oxford

One of the great advantages of Roberts and Wrathmell's *Atlas* and *Region and Place* is that they have provided a larger context for small local studies. As part of a larger study of Anglo-Saxon farms I have been looking at a small group of what appear to be ring-fenced farms. Roberts and Wrathmell have provided us with a wealth of information about the location and nature of many kinds of enclosures. Here I give a few examples of a particular type and suggest that these might be an early and distinctive type of farm.

On the perimeter of Dartmoor a string of places, some of which are farms and some small hamlets, have names with an Old English personal name as their first element and 'worthy' as their second. Cadworthy, Bella's worthy, Leofa's worthy, Eadswith's worthy and Beorhtwine's worthy are all examples from quite a small area: the perimeter of Wigford Down on the western side of the moor. Fig 1 illustrates two of these Dartmoor-edge farms, Cadworthy and Yadworthy, both distinguishable by their long curving boundary bank, an element typical of all these places. The element 'worthy' is a derivative of *wurth*, 'soil': which in Middle Low German, as *wurt*,

took on the secondary meaning of 'homestead'. The place-name element -worth derives from this, as does *wordign* which evolved into -wardine, sometimes -ery, and these seem to have been used in the same sense. Some places ending in -ford once ended in worthy. In what follows worthy will be used as a generic term for all of these forms (Smith 1956, *sv worth*).

Worthys occur in one of the very few references in the Anglo-Saxon lawcodes to the practicalities of farming, which shows than one essential thing about a worthy: it was enclosed. 'A ceorl's worthy must be fenced winter and summer. If it is not fenced and his neighbour's beast strays in through his own opening he shall have no claim to that beast: he shall drive it out and suffer the damage.' (Ine 40) The worthys seem to be a sub-set of a much larger group of what Roberts and Wrathmell call 'oval enclosures'. They have discovered many other examples whose distribution from the Pennine slopes and Lancashire to Devon and Somerset doesn't seem to depend on topography, although their survival and visibility may. Stephen Rippon has identified very similar forms on the Somerset Levels. The *wereads*, areas



Figure 1: Cadworthy and Yadworthy, Devon. NMR WAP 16191/02 and Western Air Photography. Reproduced with the permission of NMR. (West Air Photography now untraceable); NMR 2600/146 reproduced with permission of NMR

of raised ground in the Essex Marshes, which have become places with names ending in -wood, look like similar places in a similar environment (Roberts and Wrathmell 2000, 2002; Rippon 2000; Smith 1987 ii.255). Worths were elements which had a strong hold on life. Particularly in regions where large scale common field systems never developed they show through the later field systems which overlie them. We should probably be careful of assuming that their rather similar shape meant that they had a similar function. Enclosures were made for a range of reasons: to mark ownership, to keep animals in or out, to reserve and preserve a particular space for a particular function. They could also have been elements in very different political contexts. Some of these are highly organised. Jonathan Kissock sets the large enclosures he has identified in the Gower, each containing several farms in the context of 'multiple estate' structures. He thinks that some may have originated – as areas organised for the support of Roman centres and early British kingships (Kissock 2001). Enclosures often occur in pairs. Paired enclosures in Leyland Hundred, Lancashire described by Mary Atkin were, like Kissock's Welsh examples, one arable and one pastoral. In Atkins' examples the arable oval contained several farms while the pasture ovals seem to have been areas of demesne attached to a single farm of higher status. She demonstrates that the pasture ovals were used as vaccaries in the middle ages as part of a highly organised demesne farming system, one that may have had its origins in cattle-leasing by lords in the early middle ages. But the enclosures themselves may have been originally the result of peasant enterprise enclosing from the waste (Atkin 1985, 175, 179). We should probably be careful not to elide the very different circumstances in which enclosures were used: they could have had different functions at different times. The 'multiple estate' is surely essentially a political not an agrarian construct, just as the manor and its demesne vaccaries would be. It was a way of organising (and labelling) the farmers of a specific area. Unless we consider that the very grain of the countryside, its settlements and farming systems, was itself *created* 'from above', rather than having been *organised* into

these structures for the support of elites, useful and important as it is, the concept of the 'multiple estate' cannot alone explain rural society.

Worths occur in a variety of physical settings. Roberts and Wrathmell have mapped the distribution of place-names with the elements -worth, -worthy for the whole of England and although their map underestimates, perhaps by a long way, the total number of such names as it omits minor place-names, it shows their broad distribution (Roberts and Wrathmell 2002, fig 7.2). There are significant gaps: Yorkshire and Lincolnshire have scarcely a worthy between them, Norfolk and Essex not many more. They are much less common in the Central Province, although they do occur there, than in their area of greatest concentration, Devon. Michael Costen's collection of worth names in Somerset remains the most detailed examination, incorporating vanished worths in field names and charter references, and including minor as well as parish and manorial names (Costen 1992). Judie English has looked at *worths* in Berkshire, Hampshire, Sussex, and Surrey (English 2002). These studies analyse their examples according to broad topographical categories: were the worths on high ground or low? On a river or not? On what type of soil? Did they tend to be at the edge of estates? This might sometimes be true as some occur as landmarks in charter boundaries: to perambulate the bounds of Pyrford, Surrey, would take you 'along the worthy hedge and to the worthy apple tree' and Utworth was at the edge of an important estate (English 2002, 45). Costen did not find many of that his (much more numerous) Somerset examples were near estate borders, though some were. Christopher Taylor's village studies include a detailed analysis of the Cambridgeshire village of Pampisford, originally 'Pamp's worth' (Taylor 2002, 57-60). None of these studies appears to isolate any physical setting common to worths, so it is may be useful to explore another possibility : were they a kind of place which was a response to their environment but a response not entirely determined by topography – although their survival may have been? Roberts and Wrathmell see an association with areas known, from their place-names and the woodland recorded in

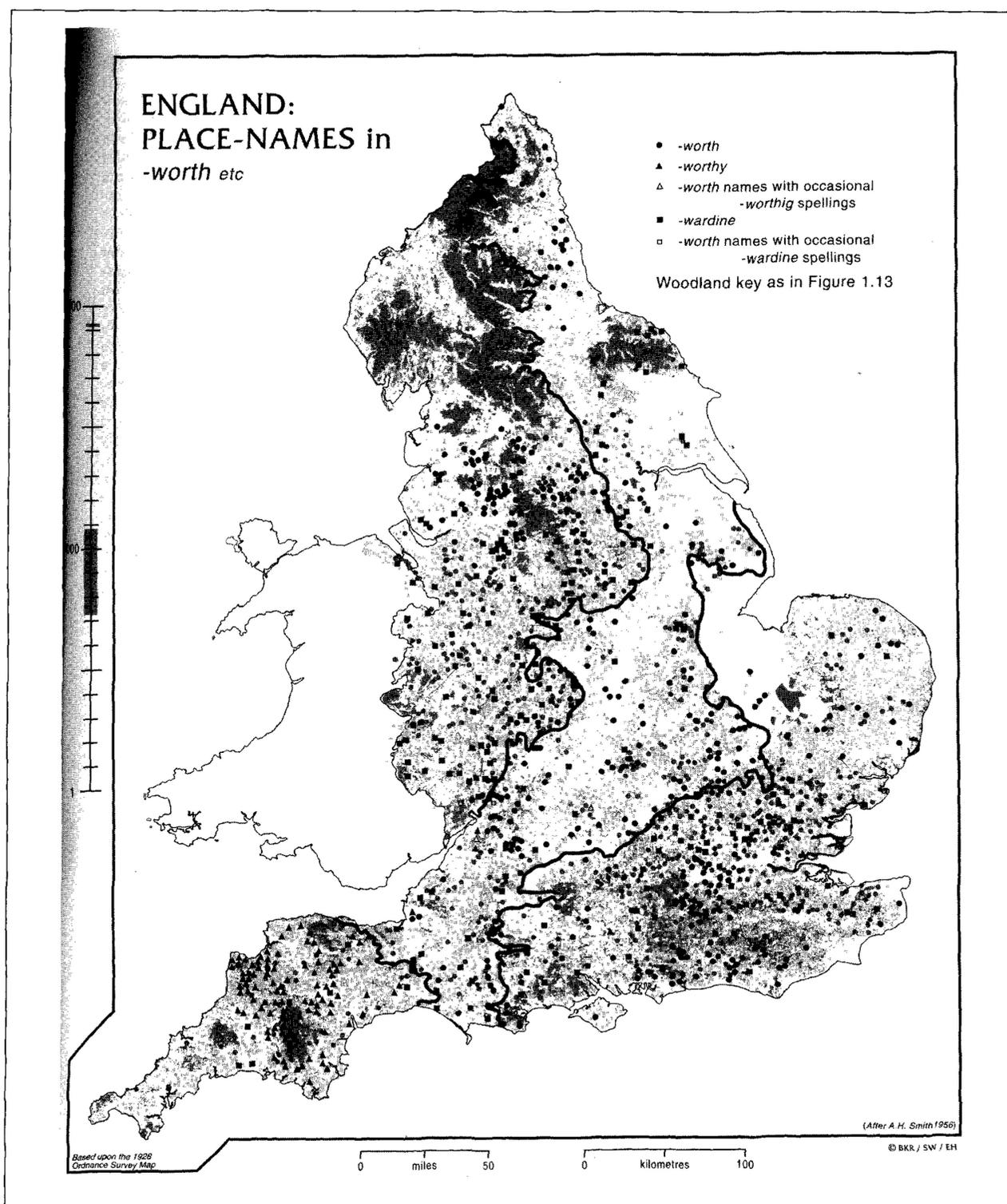


Figure 2: Place-names in -worth etc. Roberts and Wrathmell 2002 fig.7.2 Reproduced with permission of Brian Roberts and Stuart Wrathmell and English Heritage

Domesday Book, to have been wooded in 1086. They conclude that 'these names...represent a category of individual farmsteads within or on the edge of woodland tracts (Roberts and Wrathmell 2002, 180). Judie English shows that in Berkshire, Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey worthys were sited either on flat land, often at a ford, between rivers and streams, or at the heads of dry valleys in areas of sand or chalk (English 2002, 46-7). The worthys on the edge of Dartmoor are not the only Devon

examples: others were on the rich Culm Measures in the north west of the county. Michael Costen has very usefully divided the Somerset worthys into those which are now only names in the fields, those which became parishes and those which survive as individual farms of hamlets. All categories can be found in both the highland and the lowland zones of Somerset but those on the lower ground were more likely to survive only as field names and it was the highland worthys which had the

best chance of surviving as farms or hamlets: in fact the higher their location the better their chance (Costen 1992, 81). So we might be looking at the survivors of something which was once more widespread. We need to be careful not to assume that their rather similar shape means that they had a similar function. We ought to bear in mind the range of reasons why enclosures, that most basic of building forms, were made at all: to mark the ownership or the particular nature of the space within them, as did monastic enclosures, to keep animals in or out, to reserve a space for a particular function? But they may have this in common: many enclosures which are detectable today seem to have been established in a relatively uncontested and open landscape. Consequently Roberts and Wrathmell interpret them as 'land taking by individual colonists' (Roberts and Wrathmell 2002, 180). Certainly the edge of Dartmoor must have seemed such a place – although it is quite possible that the worthys there with Old English personal names had in fact been established not by Saxon incomers but by British farmers.

Another interpretation would put them in an entirely different, almost the opposite, context: the expansion of cultivation, 'the journey to the margin' as a result of the increased pressure of population in the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Certainly some new farms were established, and failed, on Dartmoor as part of this

movement (Austin 1980). The Dartmoor worthys could possibly be seen like this, as part of the shifting margin of cultivation on the edge of the moor. An enclosure at Lawrence Field, Hathersage, Derbyshire in the Peak District is in a rather similar setting: on a moorland promontory 950 feet above the Derwent valley and its villages. Here an oval enclosure about 200 metres by 300 metres was made by constructing a ditch and stone bank and two boat-shaped stone buildings built into the eastern part of this substantial boundary: one of these had opposed doorways, one leading out into a square croft and has been interpreted as a longhouse, the other as an outbuilding. Within the large enclosure were ploughed strips divided by balks (ridges) and mere-stones (Hart 1981 132 and fig 10.5 and fig 38; Barnatt and Smith 1997, 84 and fig 38). It looks like an organised, and highly labour-intensive, new settlement protected from the animals of the surrounding moorland by its own stone 'head-dyke', a ring-fenced farm on the edge of unlimited grazing land. The only dating evidence is pottery of the eleventh or twelfth century found in one of the buildings and it seems to be largely this dating which has led to the farm being interpreted as part of the 'journey to the margin'. The long plough-strips, the substantial enclosure have very close parallels with Fleming and Ralph's interpretation of the enclosures on Holne Moor, Dartmoor.



Figure 3: Lawrence Field, Hathersage, Derbyshire. Reproduced from John Barnett and Ken Smith, *The Peak District: landscapes through time* (2004), reproduced with permission of Windgather Press and the authors

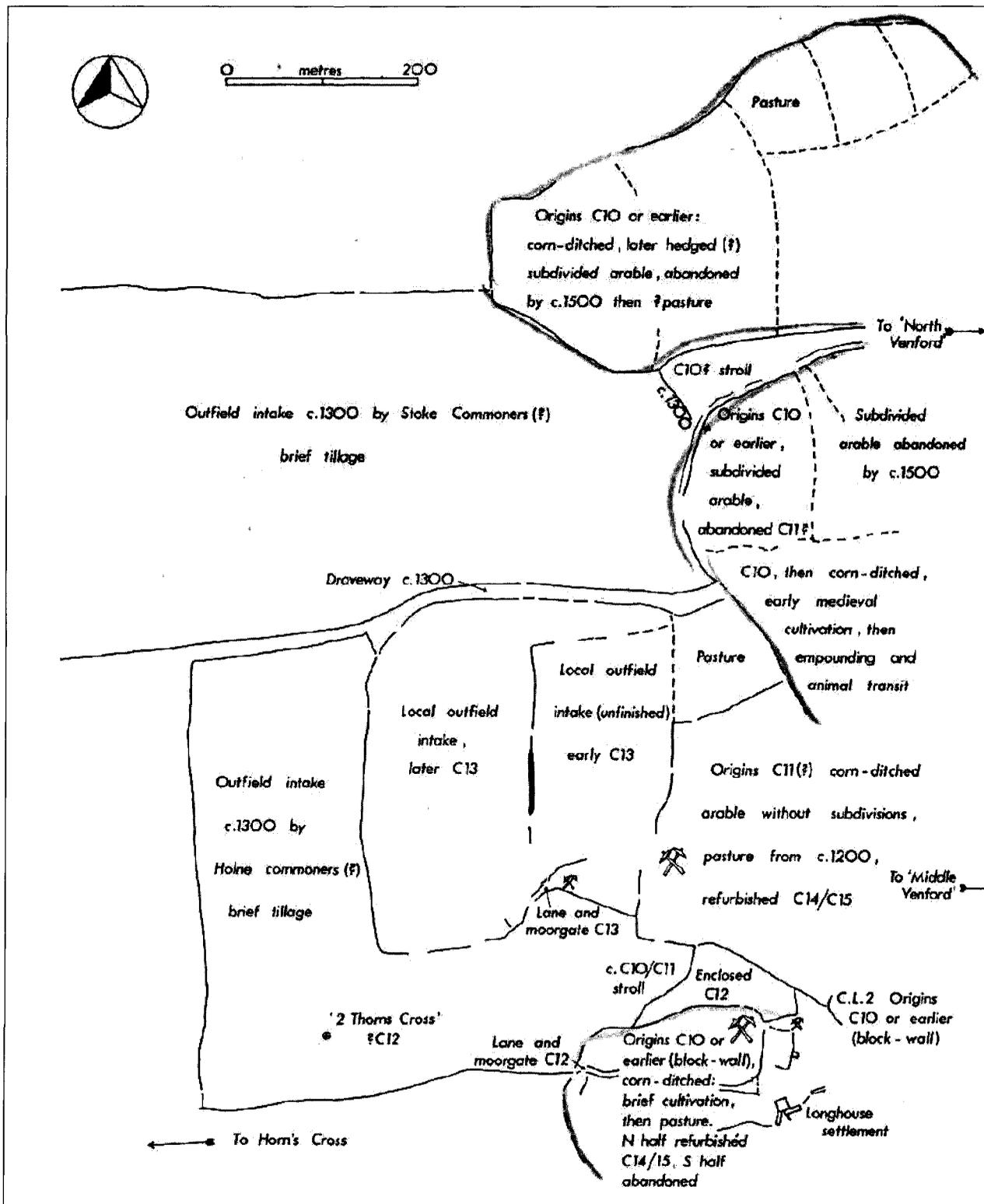


Figure 4: Holne Moor enclosures. Fleming and Ralph 1982, Fig 9. Reproduced with the permission of the authors and of the editor, *Medieval Archaeology*

Do we need necessarily to see such places as a desperate response to pressure? Their meagre arable land was certainly of poor quality and was hard-won: at Lawrence Field created by clearing the stones, which can be massive in this area, into cairns, at Holne Moor it was thin and acid. But arable need only have played a minor role in their economy. If they were primarily pastoral

farms they were well-placed, rather than pioneering ventures into an inhospitable margin (many Derbyshire farms today are at this height). Lawrence Field is a broad shelf well below the high and windswept craggy tops of the moor. It is well-watered and even today, when it is mostly overgrown with heather and bracken, supports a few sheep. Although remote in the sense of being far

from the valley villages, the farm there is not by any means 'off the beaten track'. In fact the 'beaten track', a dramatically deep hollow-way – admittedly undateable – runs across the moor a few hundred yards away. If the moor was a well-known pasture area, as this and the element *feld* in Lawrence Field suggests, the farm was certainly isolated but no more 'marginal' than were many hill-farms in the heyday of hill farming.

There is only one farmstead at Lawrence Field. The Dartmoor-edge worthys have a personal name in the singular as their first element (as do almost all worths/worthys based on personal names). Perhaps they had begun life as the land appropriated and enclosed by a single family continued to be named from the current, even possibly the original, head of the family. But they evidently could be worked more intensively to support more than a single family. The long enclosure at Brown Willy on Bodmin Moor enclosed a strip field system that fed a small hamlet by the thirteenth century (Herring 2006). Some of the worthys on the edge of Dartmoor appear in Domesday Book as manors. Hnott's, on the east of Hamel Down, supported five families in 1086 as well as the household of the manorial lord (DB Devon 30.2). Fleming and Ralph suggest that the 'lobed enclosures' on Holne Moor were the land of at least three farms, possibly with a small hamlet, established by the tenth century (Fleming and Ralph 1982). The worthys of North-West Devon are now large and prosperous parishes. Others have disappeared entirely and survive only as place-names.

Some enclosures, like Atkin's examples, may have begun life primarily as stock enclosures. Some continued to serve this function, becoming commons or greens with settlement on their edges. Pampisford in Cambridgeshire, originally Pamp's worth, was named from an individual and possibly his stock enclosure, but it eventually supported a string of settlements around its rim (Taylor, 2002, 57-60). Others, perhaps as population pressure increased, supported more people and were farmed more intensively. The enclosures at Holne Moor and Lawrence Field both have cultivation strips. Judie English points out that Ine's law which fixes the responsibility of a ceorl to keep his worthy fenced in case neighbours' stock break in and do damage may indicate that some of it at least was being cultivated. She asks: 'Could it be that a worth represents the spread of arable agriculture into less favoured areas which had previously only been used for grazing stock?' (English 2006, 49). Recently published work by Ralph Fyfe on sites in mid-Devon, on an area of the Culm Measures, would support this idea. He took pollen samples from sites which lie just beyond the margins of a ring of farms on the edge of high moorland at Rackenford Moor and Hares Down. Several of these farms have Anglo-Saxon names: Canna's worthy, Bicca's ham, ?Bula's worthy, Esworthy. Where the boundaries of their earliest fields can be traced, although not dated, they have much the same curved and lobe-like character of the other Devon worthys we have considered. The pollen cores were taken on the higher ground, beyond these field boundaries. They show that there was a very pronounced increase in cereal cultivation from about 800 AD – part and parcel of an increase that could be found on another

site in the area, one much further from the upland and more embedded in the 'historic landscape'. But pollen typical of heathland vegetation was also found in the same cores, leading Fyfe to conclude that the farmers here were practising convertible husbandry, intaking land beyond the farm and then leaving it fallow for a few years to recover its fertility. This increase in cereal cultivation was a big change from a farming system which had retained from the late Iron Age and through the Roman period and beyond its primarily pastoral character. Fyfe suggests that these changes after 800 'chart the emergence of the historic landscape', in other words that the farms and their outlying intakes were newly established together after 800 (Fyfe, Brown and Rippon 2004; Fyfe 2006). This, although it is not a conclusion the authors draw, would suggest a very strong association with the colonisation of western Britain under the kings of Wessex, which is the context Hoskins proposed for similar farms. Whether the worthy farms were established then, and practised convertible husbandry from the start, or whether they are much older and were only then beginning to bring an outfield into occasional cultivation, remains an open question. I have suggested that we might look at the Dartmoor-edge worthys as ring-fenced farms established in Saxon Wessex. They could well have been laid out in upland pastoral areas not necessarily as part of the 'journey to the margin' as a response to medieval population pressure but as enterprises by independent settlers

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Creating waves: practical effects of 'Roberts and Wrathmell'

by Paul Everson

Formal publication through the *Atlas* (2000) and *Region and Place* (2002) was a key stage of the 'Roberts and Wrathmell' project; but it is worth remembering that in fact it was a process of extended duration and it developed and spread its ideas in diverse ways, including seminars, briefings, conference presentations and informal discussion (Roberts, Stocker & Wrathmell 1993; 1996; Roberts & Wrathmell 1995; 1998; 2000b). In effect, it is a continuing process. For an investigative field archaeologist and researcher essentially conducting local studies of places and localities, such as myself, its effects and impacts have been various.

- It provided immediately recognisable and convincing frameworks for distinctive settlement patterns that had been perceived in passing or analysed only through limited investigation of field evidence. Examples might be the dispersed patterns of the Lindsey coastal marshland (EWAS(W); cf Everson 1983, 22) or the hamlet-based dispersion of the Liberty of Much Wenlock and its surrounding region (WSHSP; Everson and Wilson-North 1993). In such cases, 'Roberts and Wrathmell' offers a perhaps simple but nevertheless effective characterisation of the nature of the area's settlement, an indication of its limits and contrast to neighbouring areas, and a vocabulary to discuss it.
- It has provided stimulation to thought and a requirement to explain. In a study of the castle and small town of Ludgershall (Everson *et al* 1999), the background settlement pattern drawn out in the *Atlas* made it clear what an oddly located and intrusive settlement this town and castle is, and therefore how much its foundation requires explanation – in terms of a hunting landscape and the *mentalité* of woodland and waste.
- Because it has a national scope, it provides a framework for understanding and a springboard for interpretation in localities that are more or less unfamiliar. A colleague's enquiry concerning Bretherton in Lancashire (WLALO) exemplified this for me [Figure 1].

So, too, did our experience at Shenley Brook End in Buckinghamshire during the development of the Milton Keynes conurbation. Here, 'Roberts and Wrathmell' thinking had a hand in bringing about a revolution in perception. The recent but conventional assessment of the settlement remains in terms of deserted nucleation and open townfield cultivation (Croft and Mynard 1993, 131-43) was replaced by a revised view as a form of dispersal characterised not only by the configuration of settlement elements in loose straggles and grouping around road junctions, but also by a complexity of road system, cultivation within enclosed fields, presence of woodland resources and so forth (Everson 1995). The

pattern extended, too, to the whole of the township and not solely the area of detailed survey.

- The arguments at both Bretherton and Shenley exhibit an important trend, to which 'Roberts and Wrathmell' has contributed substantial impetus. That is the tendency to look at a bundle of characteristics that together and in their distinctive balance make up the character of a pattern of settlement. Not solely the settlement element(s), but also (to name several obvious variables) road patterns, cultivation or field arrangements, the nature and incidence of public space (greens, commons, waste), and the exploitation of other resources. We have seen this sort of thinking influencing the progress of the Whittlewood project and, presumably, shaping the presentation of its results (Jones and Page 2006). There is much useful work to be done here, it might be argued, in refining the actual, and most significant, characteristics of 'Roberts and Wrathmell' local regions through bottom-up study.
- Arguably, also, 'Roberts and Wrathmell' has raised the profile of argument by patterning, having that as a common approach with other programmes designed to set frameworks, such as Historic Landscape Characterisation (Turner this volume p19-21). And this tool can be applied at a number of levels. For example, in looking at the hunting landscape associated with the lordship of Tattershall in Lincolnshire, David Stocker and I find Tattershall Chase revealed in the landscape by a combination of factors – topography and soils, woodland and woodland industries, but principally (in 'Roberts and Wrathmell' fashion) by a settlement patterning of moats within the Chase and a ring of nucleated settlements outside it (Everson and Stocker forthcoming 2007a and b).
- Finally, perhaps, in an aspect of the project that is both challenging and potentially most far-reaching, 'Roberts and Wrathmell' is vigorously inquisitive about time-depth and about the origins of the patterns they map. One stimulating aspect of this lies in the proposition that boundary zones of provinces and local regions may contain evidence, in residual non-conformity of settlement patterns, of marginal shifts of boundary, of time depth and change. A possible example of this – and anyway a pattern evidently worth study, since apparently at odds with the *Atlas*'s mapping – emerged at Quarrendon in the Vale of Aylesbury (Everson 2001). In that parish and several neighbours [Figure 2], settlement elements appear to be a combination of hamlets or 'ends' and farmsteads rather than the nucleations typical of the 'Roberts and Wrathmell' region (CEMID). One might think of several causes for this anomaly; what



Figure 1: Bretherton, Lancashire: extract from OS 6" sheet LANCASHIRE LXXVI.3, surveyed 1893 published 1894. The field pattern between North Road and South Road contrasts with that of enclosed arable strips to their N and S, suggesting a former green or common with part of the medieval settlement pattern comprising plots lining it on the N and S. Many on the N stand on the ends of former plough strips. Naming and configuration of routeways reflect the patterning: straight 'roads' on the common', complex of 'lanes' (some abandoned) away from it, especially to S. Over Hall, Bank Hall and perhaps Ashcrofts are other likely elements of this form of medieval dispersal: Bank Hall looking like a substantial consolidated demesne.

'Roberts and Wrathmell' does, very helpfully, is to allow the potential interest to stand out and to invite its exploration.

A second aspect looks to a greater time depth, by mapping sets of chronologically older data against provincial boundaries. Stocker's recent map of the pattern of forest zones in the East Midlands (2006, 12) is inspired by this thinking, and, importantly, carries a challenge to consider these zones not – negatively – as dead land for settlement, but rather as zones of special, valuable resources, whose control and exploitation were of supreme cultural and economic significance, and profoundly shaped settlement patterns.

Summary

If, informally, one of English Heritage's objectives with the 'Roberts and Wrathmell' project was to stimulate medieval settlement studies – to 'create a few waves' – then it has clearly done so for me as an individual, and in ways that might be relevant to others. It has created a framework, set some challenges, stimulated thought, offered (and demanded) general context for specific pieces of work. It is a useful, helpful, stimulating tool.

But I am long-in-the-tooth among students of medieval settlement. The greatest significance of 'Roberts and Wrathmell' may be if it convinces a next generation of young people that medieval settlement studies is a lively and dynamic topic, with genuine archaeological perspectives, rather than one set in historically limited ways. If it proves to have contributed to that, then the esteem in which we hold the project and its authors should be re-doubled.

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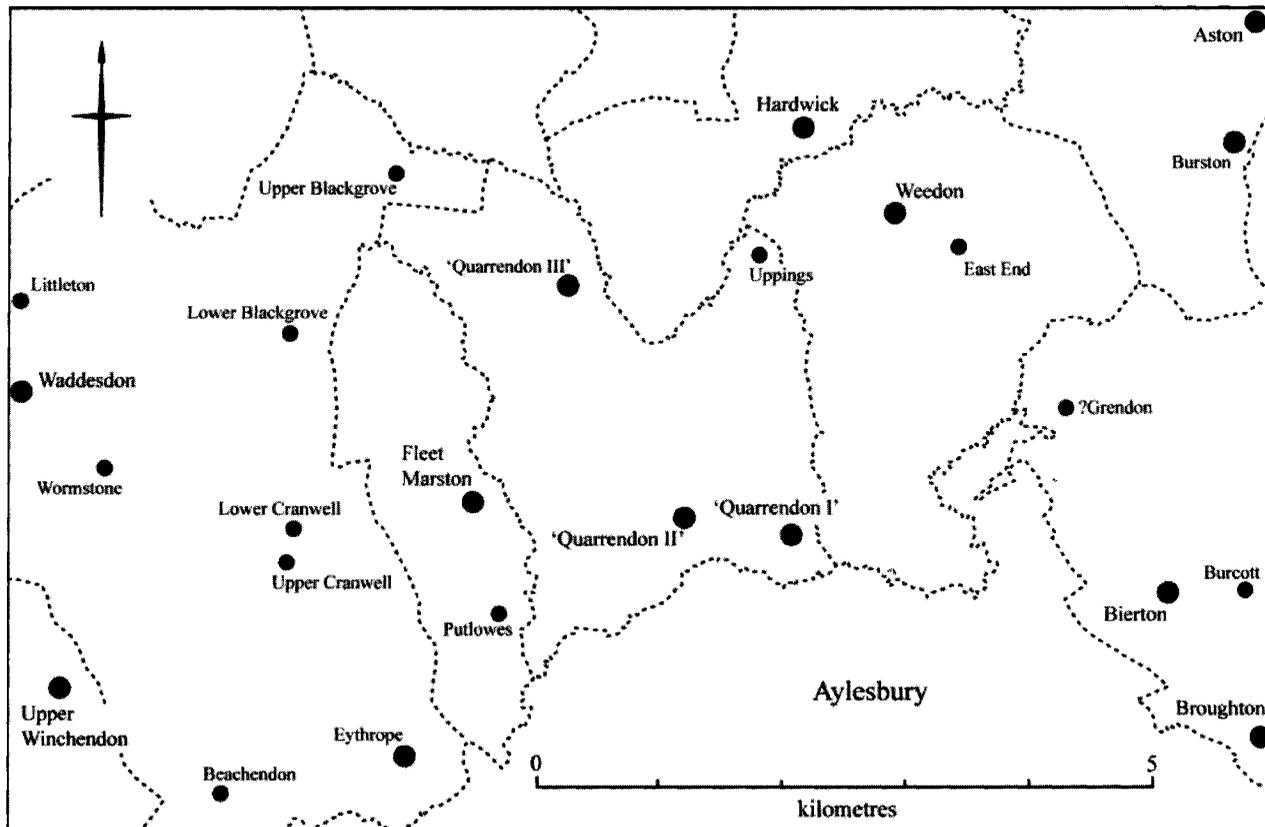


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Region and Place: some queries

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Region and Place and the *Atlas of Rural Settlement* are immensely impressive pieces of work, which fuse meticulous scholarship with insightful comment. In common with most people working in landscape history, I have found them invaluable, as a source both of evidence, and of inspiration. But (and there is always a but) both works also have a number of drawbacks, and these pose particular dangers given that, sponsored as they are by English Heritage, they possess a kind of semi-official status within British archaeology.

I have discussed some of these problems in detail elsewhere (Williamson 2003). One is that the various 'provinces' and 'sub-provinces' are treated as real entities, with hard physical edges, rather than as theoretical abstractions; and yet at the same time they hang in a kind of environmental and topographic limbo. The broad geological structure of England as a whole is represented in both volumes in a single, rather schematic map. There are no similar maps showing soils or drainage characteristics, nor is there any attempt to show local or regional topographic patterns, which could be compared with the detailed maps of settlements presented. The reader thus has little opportunity to assess how far factors like soil quality or water supply might have influenced the development of settlement. More worrying is the fact that a single over-arching explanation is offered for the essential regional differences in settlement patterns – that is, for the division of England into a 'Central Province' (or 'champion' region) characterised by nucleated settlement patterns, and 'South Eastern' and 'Western' Provinces (or 'woodland' regions), displaying varying degree of settlement dispersion. The 'Central Province' is thus said to derive its settlement characteristics mainly from the fact that it was the most suitable area of England for cereal production, and was thus densely settled and extensively cleared even in prehistoric and Roman times, and subject to intense demographic pressure by the late Saxon period. But a number of maps which could easily have been included among the many reproduced in the two volumes, and which would have raised some doubts about such an interpretation, are conspicuous by their absence. We might, for example, have expected to see a version of Darby's famous map showing the density of the recorded Domesday population (Darby 1977). But this would have indicated, beyond much doubt, that the most densely settled areas of late Saxon England were not in fact in the Midlands at all, but in the east of England – and especially in areas outside the 'Central Province', such as East Anglia, Essex, and parts of Hertfordshire and Kent. These were, and are, the districts best suited by climate, and to some extent by virtue of their soils, for the cultivation of cereals. This in turn would have been made clear if a map had been included showing the patterns of regional landuse which developed in England as a fully integrated agrarian economy emerged in the course of

the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (e.g. Caird 1852, i). On this, the Central Province would have stood out as an area dominated, not by arable fields, but by grass: and for good reason. Far from being ideal for cereal cultivation, the heavy pelo-stagnogley soils of the region were, in the eyes of most post-medieval farmers, best laid to pasture. This, of course, is why we have (or had until comparatively recently) so much evidence for the medieval agrarian landscape preserved here in archaeological form, as ridge and furrow and the rest. In short, the suggestion that the 'Central Province' represents some kind of 'core' settlement area, to which the other 'provinces' are peripheral and marginal, is thus sustained in part by careful selection of evidence.

But another general problem with *Region and Place* and the *Atlas* needs to be briefly highlighted. The maps presented, and discussed, in the two volumes do not of course show *medieval* settlement at all, and their authors make no claim that they do. They are based on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 1" maps, created in the 1830s, many centuries after the end of the middle ages. Yet at times this simple fact does become slightly obscured, and not only the major settlement 'provinces', but the 'sub-provinces' and even some of the 'local areas', are discussed as if they represent very ancient entities. But while the division between the Central Province and its neighbours does indeed have medieval origins, we should not assume that the same is true of these more detailed and localised subdivisions of the landscape.

For settlement did not stop developing in 1450. Not only did some nucleated villages shrink drastically or disappear completely: so too did a myriad of minor settlements. In East Anglia, for example – an area lying outside the 'Central Province' – numerous isolated farms and small green-side settlements continued to disappear right through the late medieval *and* the post-medieval period. Such contraction was, to judge from the available evidence, a particularly noticeable feature of areas in which large estates were increasing their hold on the landscape. Large landowners amalgamated farms and in some cases deliberately attempted to limit the population in the principal estate parish for reasons of aesthetics and social control, and from a desire to control the poor rates. The familiar if over-worked distinction between 'close' and 'open' parishes (Holderness 1977; Banks 1988), in other words, affected not simply the character of nucleated settlements, but also the extent of settlement dispersal. But contraction not only affected the *number* of isolated settlements – the intensity of dispersion. It could also influence the character and morphology of settlements. In northern East Anglia, for example, where most medieval farms and cottages lay on the margins of greens, droves and commons, demographic decline might in some cases serve to convert what was in effect a nucleated settlement, focussed on a large green, into a scatter of farms thinly dispersed around a common edge (Davison 1990).

What was true of contraction was also true of expansion, and in particular of the emergence of nucleated settlements within areas largely characterised by dispersion. In parts of East Anglia it is possible to argue that many large nucleated villages, especially in the south of the region, only developed during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, as large-scale textile manufacture engendered a significant degree of industrialisation. In the north and east of the region, in contrast – in Norfolk and northern and eastern Suffolk – some village nucleations emerged much later, only a few decades before the making of the Ordnance Survey 1” maps. Where, as was often the case, settlement clustered around a green or common, enclosure by parliamentary act and division between small proprietors was often followed by a phase of building. Infilling of the common led to the emergence of a nucleated village where none had been before. Many of the ‘villages’ in Norfolk shown on Roberts and Wrathmell’s maps developed in this way in the decades around 1800, from what had formerly been a loose scatter of farms ‘dispersed’ around a common edge.

All this ensures that the relationship between the form of an individual settlement in c.1830, and its form in the middle ages, often remains very uncertain. But industrialisation, changes in agriculture and ownership, enclosure and the rest could also reconfigure the boundaries of entire settlement regions, and change their essential character. The ‘Sandlings’ of east Suffolk is an area of dry, heathy soils which Roberts and Wrathmell present as a zone of low dispersion, with a high density (for East Anglia) of nucleated villages. And so indeed it was by the middle decades of the nineteenth century. But the southern part of this area is well endowed with seventeenth-century maps, and these show that at this time village nucleations were much less in evidence, and

settlement much more widely dispersed: systematic field walking carried out by John Newman has shown that in the middle ages it was even more scattered. The reasons for this change in settlement are complex, but of particular importance was the growth of large landed estates, and the amalgamation of holdings into larger units, although here again the enclosure of greens and commons, and their subsequent infilling, played a part (Williamson 2005, 79-84).

The particular kinds of changes in settlement forms and patterns briefly noted here may be peculiar to East Anglia, but the overall message has a wider relevance. In all regions of England settlement changed in the four and a half centuries after 1400 at least as much as in the four and a half before. *Region and Place* does not map medieval settlement, and the real challenge ahead is to understand the complex range of social, economic and agrarian processes – medieval, but perhaps especially post-medieval – which created the constellation of nineteenth-century settlement forms so beautifully mapped in this seminal volume.

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Rural Devon: Mapping and Analysing Local Historic Landscapes

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Devon has an exceptionally diverse natural and historic landscape, ranging from maritime and estuarine country to rolling hills, from the coastal lowlands to the high moors. These support a great variety of land uses, including pasture, arable, woodland, wetland, heath and moorland. Different regions have strong local identities derived in large part from their landscape character. Roberts’ & Wrathmell’s (2000, 2002) work on regional settlement patterns has touched on similar issues. Recent research into Devon’s landscape has begun to explore how their nationally-scaled analysis of settlement patterns can be related to local and regional landscape character and history as part of the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation (Devon HLC), a project sponsored by English Heritage and Devon County Council (Turner 2007).

The development of sub-regional areas with distinctive

social and economic practices in the has been studied in the South West by Harold Fox, and by others elsewhere (e.g. Fox 1989, Williamson 2002; 2003; Thirsk 2000). Fox has established how aspects of landscape character can be reflections of the division of the landscape into farming sub-regions, sometimes called *pays*, in the period AD c.1400-1750 (Fox 1972; 1995). However, relatively little work has subsequently been dedicated to understanding the origins and nature of the historic landscape in Devon.

The principal aim of the Devon HLC project was to create a map that – in a broad sense – brings the historic dimension of the modern landscape to the fore. HLC attempts to highlight the contribution of past human action to every part of the landscape, not just as it is represented in individual archaeological sites and monuments (Turner 2006a). However, HLC can also be

helpful for understanding aspects of past landscapes, such as the distribution of different resources like arable land, meadow, woodland and so on (Turner 2006b). For example, the Devon project has underscored just how much today's landscape owes to its medieval antecedents (e.g. Turner 2007, fig. 137).

The Devon HLC examined the whole of Devon, except the part within Exmoor National Park (for this, see Aldred 2001). The resulting spatial database comprises around 50,000 records. It forms part of the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER), which is maintained and curated by Devon County Council's Historic Environment Service, and is easily available in a publicly-accessible form via their website (DCC

2007). Interested people are therefore able to explore and evaluate the HLC data for themselves.

As part of the project, 'local historic character areas' (abbreviated to 'LHCAs') were identified using GIS (a Geographical Information System). Different versions of these character areas were constructed for today's landscape and for that of the late 19th century (for details, see Turner 2007, chapter 5). Within their boundaries, these areas define regions whose historic landscape characters result from distinctive shared environmental conditions, social practices and economic systems. They help provide a basis for understanding the varying origins (and differing subsequent histories) of different parts of Devon's landscape (fig. 1).

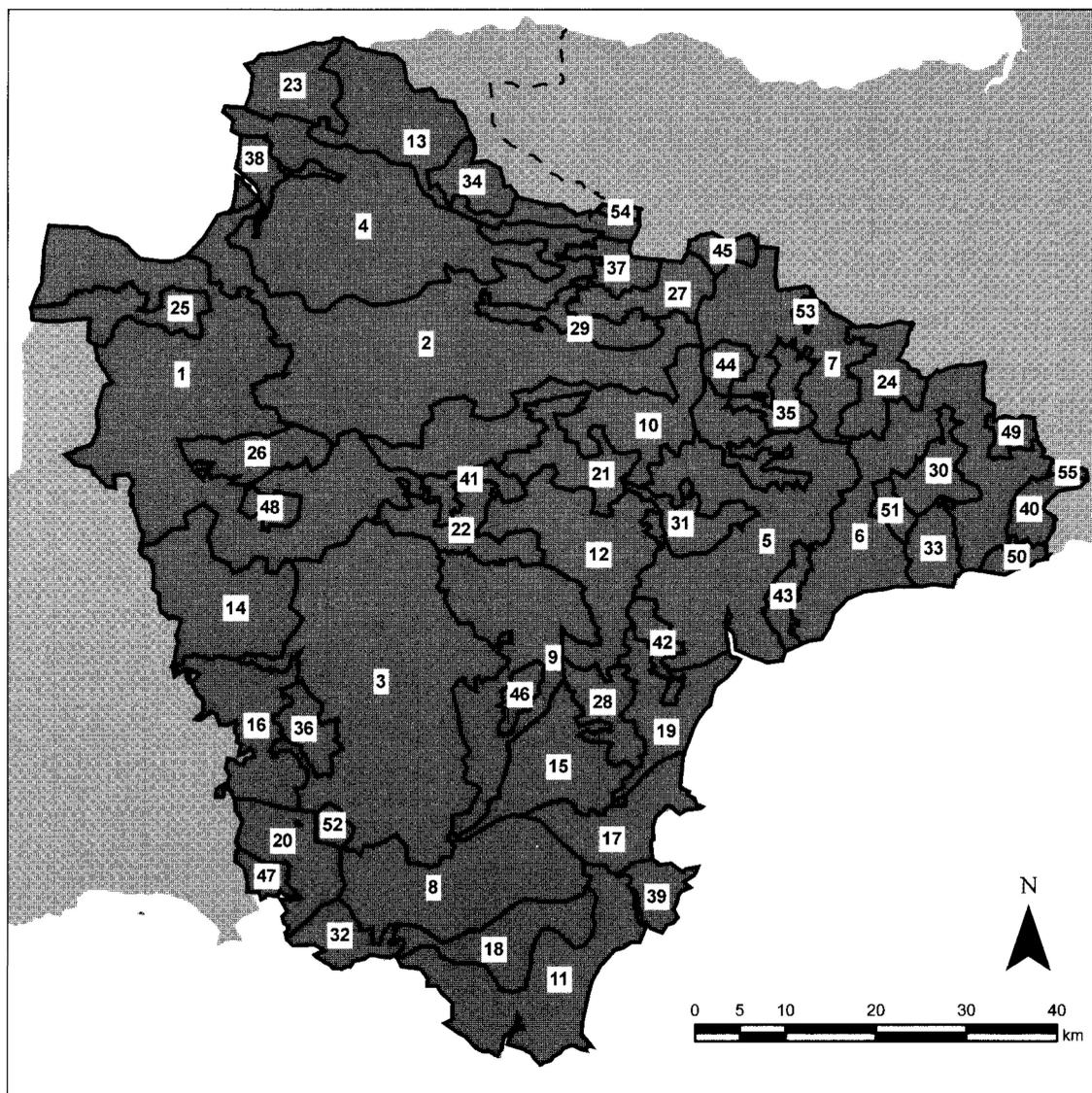


Figure 1: Devon 'Local Historic Character Areas', c. 1890. The LHCAs are as follows: 1 West Culm, 2 Central Culm, 3 Dartmoor, 4 Taw and Torridge, 5 Lower Exe, 6 Eastern Valleys, 7 Exe and Culm, 8 Upper South Hams, 9 East Dartmoor, 10 Taw and Exe, 11 South Hams Coast, 12 Middle Teign, 13 Exmoor Borders, 14 Upper Tamar, 15 Denbury, 16 Tamar Valley, 17 Torbay, 18 Middle South Hams, 19 Lower Teign, 20 Plym, 21 Crediton Bartons, 22 Whiddon, 23 West Down and Coast, 24 Blackdown Borders, 25 Hartland Moors, 26 Torrington Moors, 27 Iron Mill, 28 Bovey Basin, 29 Witheridge, 30 Blackdown Ridges, 31 Exeter, 32 Yealm Coast, 33 Beer and Blackbury, 34 Exmoor Bartons, 35 Culm Valley, 36 West Dartmoor, 37 Knowstone, 38 Taw Torridge Estuary, 39 Churston, 40 SE Borders, 41 Iton, 42 Haldon Hills, 43 Woodbury, 44 Tiverton Bartons, 45 Morebath, 46 Haytor, 47 Plymouth, 48 Broadbury, 49 Chardstock, 50 Rousdon, 51 Farway, 52 South West Dartmoor, 53 Grand Western, 54 Anstey Commons, 55 Hawkchurch.

Comparing these character areas with historians' and archaeologists' *pays* and landscape regions begins to reveal interesting patterns. For example, the 2 broad landscape types and 4 landscape regions identified by Thirsk from early modern farming records (Thirsk 1967) appear to correspond in some ways to the historic character areas mapped for the late 19th century. However, the extra detail included in the HLC database allows us to view elements of the agricultural landscape at a finer resolution. It highlights particular sub-regions where detailed archaeological and historical research might bring to light localised contrasts in farming practice.

Roberts' and Wrathmell's research on settlement patterns provided a more detailed picture of regional landscapes (2000). We might expect settlement form and type to relate to the historic landscape in some way, and indeed there are correspondences between their 'local regions' and the late 19th century 'local historic character areas' in Devon. Most obviously we can pick out Dartmoor and Woodbury Common on Roberts' and Wrathmell's maps as areas with very low settlement densities; they have also been mapped as individual character areas from the HLC data. The Yealm Coast and South Hams Coast LHCA's correspond closely to the *Atlas of Rural Settlements*' South Hams (Coast) local region, where there were low levels of dispersed settlement, large nucleations and (from the HLC) large areas of 'barton' fields (for these, see Herring 2006, 63-6; Turner 2007). Roberts' and Wrathmell's research was undertaken at a nationwide scale, but it can still be used as a starting point for the examination of local and regional trends. The HLC data collected for Devon records a greater number of variables and local variations, which makes it a rich quarry for unpicking differences in character within and between individual counties or regions.

Of course, maps of 'Local Historic Character Areas' do not themselves provide detailed interpretations and explanations for how and why any given landscape came to look the way it did: this will normally require further stages of research and interpretation. Nevertheless, the

HLC can at least provide a starting point for more localised research, and a way to appreciate and comprehend the mosaic of each landscape's components that has been largely missing until now.

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Review of Medieval Settlement Research, 1996-2006

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In the decade since the Medieval Settlement Research Group published the first version of their policy statement numerous pieces of work have been undertaken, which have changed our understanding of the subject. The review below was prepared as part of the process of updating the Group's policy statement. It summarises some of the major studies in the medieval rural settlement in Britain and draws attention to changes in thinking and research direction which have taken place since 1996.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The decade between 1996 and 2006 was a period of considerable progress in the study of medieval settlement marked by new findings in the field through both research- and developer-led projects, by publication of research, by new conferences and national initiatives and by wider public engagement.
- 1.2 Excavation has arguably played a less important role than in previous years, with a much greater emphasis on work driven by development needs other than pure research. However, the very large-scale work in advance of quarrying at Yarnton (Oxon.) and Lydd (Kent), and before housing at Springfield Lyons (Essex), which might have only been undertaken as part of a development scheme, did provide new insights into the medieval landscape.¹
- 1.3 Field survey continued to add significantly to understanding, though by 1996 many of the larger field survey programmes had come to an end. Excavation and field survey were concluded after forty years at Wharram Percy in 1990 (East Yorks.) and field survey at Raunds (Northants.) ended in 1994. The Fenland Survey had finished in 1988 and the additional fieldwork on selected sites was concluded in 1995. Only at Shapwick (Somerset) did the work started in 1989 still continue.² It was partly to fill this gap in research-based, extensive field survey that a five-year programme of field and documentary work funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council commenced in the Whittlewood area (Bucks., Northants.) of the east Midlands in 2000. Smaller research projects to note during this period were at Puxton (Somerset) and Sedgeford (Norfolk).³
- 1.4 Publication of some of the earlier excavation and survey projects was particularly welcome. These included a number of volumes arising out of the long-running project at Wharram Percy, the excavation and survey project on Overton Down (Wilts.), the early medieval site at Catholme dug in the 1970s, work in East Anglia, particularly the early medieval sites examined as part of the Fenland management project, and the excavations of the moated site at Chalgrove (Oxon.).⁴
- 1.5 Our understanding in 1996 of rural settlement in Scotland and Wales was much poorer than in England. A seminar held in 1991 in Edinburgh had acknowledged the scope of the problem of identifying and interpreting MOLRS – Medieval or Later Rural Settlement in Scotland. This challenge was taken up with the establishment of the Ben Lawers project by the National Trust for Scotland to examine historic rural settlement in that valley, and by surveys by the Royal Commission, both in the field, as at Menstrie Glen, and using paper records, including the study of unroofed settlements recorded on the first-edition Ordnance Survey maps.⁵ A review of the problem held in 2002 showed a considerable advances in knowledge.⁶ A parallel study of deserted rural settlements of medieval and later date took place in Wales. The work supported by Cadw (the Welsh Assembly's historic environment division) and undertaken by the four Welsh trusts began in 1995 and had largely been completed by 2001. It took the form of both field survey and excavation, and examined, in particular, the upland areas of the principality.⁷
- 1.6 Studies for the purpose of informing the management of the historic landscape continued to be particularly important in setting the agenda. Two major projects during the last ten years have been particularly significant. Historic Landscape Characterisation, or in Scotland, Historic Landscape Assessment, has been developed throughout Britain to attempt to classify landscape type and identify their key features, but the approaches adopted in England, Wales and Scotland are subtly different. In essence, the technique seeks to divide the landscape into character types which relate to historic land-usage. It is primarily a tool to allow heritage managers to identify areas with surviving ancient landscape. It remains to be seen whether it can be used also as a research tool to understand and explain the evolution of landscape, although work in Devon has suggested the possibilities.⁸
- 1.7 The second major project undertaken for the purposes of heritage management was the study by Roberts and Wrathmell of the forms of settlement in England. This arose out of the Monument Protection Programme and started with an attempt to provide maps of dispersed and nucleated settlement. It grew to exceed that brief and became a major summary of distributions of various cultural features.⁹ Its impact is reflected in the way in which it has raised further research questions.

2. Medieval landscapes

- 2.1 The description, classification and explanation of medieval landscapes continued to be a focus of research. This was reflected in the appearance during the period under review of a new journal on the subject of landscapes, and the publication of two synoptic books providing overviews of development of the English landscapes. The wider continental European context of rural settlement in Britain was made more accessible through the publication of papers arising from the 'Ruralia' conferences. Work continued on a number of topics which had interested scholars over many years, while the concern of prehistorians in perceptual and imagined landscapes also began to be reflected in the work of medievalists.¹⁰
- 2.2 The focus of long-standing interest in the study of the organization and management of medieval fields shifted to a consideration of the persistence of prehistoric and Roman field patterns. For example, the date of the origin of the Scole-Dickleburgh field pattern in Norfolk has been the subject of considerable controversy.¹¹ However, evidence began to accumulate from several studies in eastern England suggesting that some medieval field patterns were influenced by their predecessors.¹² Conversely, evidence has also been advanced for the large-scale replanning of fields in the eighth, ninth or tenth centuries.¹³
- 2.3 Meanwhile, the debate about the origins of open fields continued. The case for associating communal agriculture with heavier clay soils which could only be ploughed on a limited number of days of the year has been made again. The limited windows of seasonal opportunity required that cultivators, who had to contribute draught animals to the plough-teams, lived close to one another in order to seize the moment. Co-aration – the joint operation of ploughs – it was argued, naturally led to the cultivation of common fields. The view that common fields evolved from below, rather than by imposition from above was reinforced by a study of Cornish fields which viewed strip fields in that county as the products of cooperation amongst households within hamlet.¹⁴
- 2.4 The most obvious evidence for medieval agriculture is the presence of ridge and furrow, particularly in the Midlands. The origins of ridge and furrow remain obscure, although Hill suggested that the Anglo-Saxon plough was capable of turning the sod and therefore of producing ridge and furrow. This type of earthwork continued to be produced by ploughing well after 1500. The importance and operation of the technique for the drainage of medieval fields has been discussed and an attempt made to classify earthworks by examining the cross-profiles. The destruction of ridge and furrow, both by post-medieval agricultural practices and, particularly, ploughing in the last decades, led to a survey of its survival and call for its preservation.¹⁵
- 2.5 The archaeological potential of both living trees and earthworks in woodland had been demonstrated in Rackham's book, *Ancient Woodland*, first published in 1980 and reprinted and amended in the light of subsequent research in 2003. One of the changes in the second edition reflected the work of Vera who had argued that the European wildwoods might not have been dense jungles, but had a very open appearance due to the effects of grazing herbivores. A similar argument was presented by Wager suggesting that pannage and woodland grazing might have reduced the woods of Warwickshire to a similar state, making the final clearance a much easier task than was once thought.¹⁶ Evidence for large-scale systematic division of the woodland of possible early medieval date has been identified in the Weald. The evolution of late medieval woodlands from the much larger tracts which once covered the countryside was considered in Northamptonshire, while surveys of woodland on the North Downs and in Kent showed the wealth of evidence which might survive as earthworks beneath the trees.¹⁷
- 2.6 Wetlands were a major focus of study in this period, although much of the survey work was directed towards the waterlogged remains of prehistoric date, rather than the surface evidence of the medieval landscape. Key studies were published on the wetlands bordering the Severn Estuary, for the Humber Levels and Romney Marsh, together with more general overviews of those in southern Britain.¹⁸ Three approaches in particular were used. The first was systematic fieldwalking of large areas, continuing a method which had been applied in the Fens. A second used the analysis of landscape morphology to identify the phases of embankment and drainage. The traditional study of earthworks, both those produced by embankment and also natural salt marsh features formed a third approach. Results indicated that though many marshlands were utilized before the twelfth century, they were more intensively settled from the thirteenth century onwards.¹⁹
- 2.7 The coast, as distinct from the wetlands behind, formed a new area of research. The resources of the coast and inshore waters were widely exploited throughout the medieval period. A number of studies examined the economic importance of fishing, both by means of fish-traps on the seashore, as well as by boat. Studies were made of the archaeological evidence for fish-traps in Essex, and also in Wales and Scotland more generally, complementing earlier work on the Severn estuary.²⁰ A coastal survey of Norfolk led to the discovery of possible early medieval fish-traps at Brancaster. Fox showed that permanently occupied fishing villages largely came into being in the fifteenth century or later, but they were preceded, in many cases, by seasonal settlements.²¹

- 2.8 Meadowland, so important in the medieval economy, had received little attention from archaeologists or historians until the last decade. The significance of this type of land has now been recognised and the origin of the practice of artificially irrigating or ‘floating’ meadows was examined in new studies.²²
- 2.9 Designed landscapes, a subject embracing parklands and gardens, were increasingly recognised and details of their characteristics were revealed through both fieldwork and documentary survey. Building on the pioneering work at Bodiam castle (Sussex), it was recognised that many castles were located in designed landscapes. A detailed study of Clarendon considered the palace and park within its wider setting. The recognition that the Normans introduced into England fallow deer and new approaches to hunting led to a renewed interest in the creation and role of parks during this period.²³
- 2.10 The use of areas of poor soils also attracted attention. The value of the East Anglian Breckland, particularly for rabbit warrens, had been signalled previously by Bailey. The wider aspects and field evidence for warrens has now been investigated, while the raising of goats on poorer soils, such as in woodlands and moors in the west and north of England, was previously a little known characteristic of these areas.²⁴
- 2.11 The survey programmes on uplands in the Scotland and Wales have already been mentioned. Work in England revealed growing evidence for cultivation at high altitudes, as well as stock enclosures and their associated buildings, both of early and later medieval date.²⁵ Seasonal settlement was an important aspect of the usage of uplands throughout Britain. The questions surrounding seasonal settlement were comprehensively reviewed by Fox.²⁶

3. Aspects of medieval settlement

- 3.1 Invasions and migrations, terms which had largely dropped out of the archaeological vocabulary since the 1960s, were considered with fresh interest, particularly after DNA analysis began to throw up unexpected results. The settlement of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings were considered again. Härke, who has a long-standing interest in the subject of migration, detected the swinging back of the pendulum from a minimalist view of the number of continental settlers into post-Roman Britain. The archaeological and linguistic evidence for the impact of the Vikings was the subject of a major reappraisal, examining the problematic distribution of place-names with Scandinavian elements. The Norman settlement awaits a similar treatment, although the impact of the newcomers upon the landscape is well attested.²⁷
- 3.2 A number of the local surveys mentioned above have begun to cast light on the still confused picture of the early medieval period. The contrast

between the ‘mobile’ settlements of the fifth to eighth centuries and the ‘more static’ pattern of the late medieval period is perhaps less sharp than it once seemed, since it is now clear that, even in the period between the eleventh and fourteenth century, villages might move sites. The old view of the unchanging cluster of manor house, parish church and village is not true even for the late Middle Ages.²⁸ Nevertheless, we can identify differences. The emergence of settlement boundaries appears to be a feature of the period from the late sixth to ninth centuries. At about the same time there was a widespread re-organisation in settlement location, the ‘mid-Saxon shift’, which, it is now argued, should be dated to the eighth and ninth centuries.²⁹

- 3.3 The question of village origins continues to pre-occupy many researchers. It is clear from regional studies that village formation proceeded in a number of different ways. One of the more influential ideas which has emerged in the decade under review was the concept of the ‘village moment’, the period between the mid-ninth and early thirteenth century when villages might originate, at least in those areas prone to nucleation. It is widely agreed that there are numerous reasons why some area settlements might be prone to village formation and others not. The survey of rural settlement in England threw up some interesting patterns which suggested that these might be both cultural and also related to environment.³⁰
- 3.4 Historians have long recognized that it is difficult to define a clear boundary between villages where the great majority of the population was involved in agriculture, and towns where a sizeable proportion was engaged in commerce and craftwork. The pervasive character of commercial activity is most clearly revealed by the extraordinary number of market charters granted, though, of course, not all these places held markets and not all markets were commercial successes. The history of Pensford and some of the villages in the Weald of Sussex have demonstrated how prior commercial activity could lead the development of nucleated settlements.³¹ The operation and significance of early medieval markets were investigated in a major publication, yet what emerged most strongly was the diversity of places which have been termed ‘productive sites’, raising the question whether these were a distinctive category, or simply normal, but better studied settlement sites.³²
- 3.5 ‘Dispersed settlement’ is a broad term which covers all settlements which were not villages and towns. The type of analytical work undertaken on nucleated settlements has yet to be done on dispersed patterns which have numerous different forms, including a recently identified type – the dispersed settlement fringing an area of meadowland. However, before it is possible to develop a typology of dispersed settlement, it may

be useful to undertake further regional surveys of the type undertaken in Warwickshire and the Cotswolds. One of the classic areas of dispersed settlements, south-west England, was considered in a number of articles which suggested that the evolution of convertible husbandry introduced in the seventh or eighth century might underlie the origin of the pattern of small hamlets and isolated farmsteads. However, even in this 'ancient countryside', further changes were wrought by developments in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.³³

- 3.6 Many of the excavations undertaken and published in the period under review failed to provide significant new information on the character of medieval settlement. All too often the excavations were on an insufficient scale to allow useful comments about the character of the buildings or the lay-out of the sites. Perhaps rather surprisingly, the most interesting results came from the excavation of moated sites. A moat provided a constraint on settlement and a framework within which the buildings were organised, and made possible an understanding of the restricted areas exposed. These excavations have tended to confirm that moats were established in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, though often on sites which were already occupied.³⁴
- 3.7 Useful work was also undertaken in reinterpreting earlier excavations, and particularly in considering the way in which building remains should be understood. This work included for the first time, an overview of Scottish medieval buildings.³⁵ It is unfortunate that the study of buildings more generally continues to be divided between the work of archaeologists who dealt with the below-ground remains and the work of buildings historians who are concerned with standing structures. The problems of the two approaches were made clear in the publication of an experimental study of Old Abbey Farm, Risley (Cheshire) in which separate teams studied these aspects of the same building, initially without the benefit of information from the other. However, some of the most important analyses utilised the approaches of both archaeologists and buildings historians, exemplified in the studies of two Welsh farmsteads at Tŷ-mawr (Montgomeryshire) and Tyddyn Llwydion.³⁶
- 3.8 The maturity of the study of standing buildings was marked by the publication of a number of books examining the development of vernacular architecture in a various counties, including Kent, Shropshire and Hampshire. The routine application of dendrochronology allowed buildings to be placed in a precise chronological context.³⁷ Amongst the achievements of this period in the field of buildings study has been the identification of detached kitchens and further consideration of vernacular buildings of late twelfth- and early thirteenth-century date.³⁸

- 3.9 The archaeology of churches and monastic sites lie outside this review, but the relationship of such places to the wider landscape is of relevance. A major study of the development of ecclesiastical sites in early medieval England was published, together with a useful overview of later medieval monastic landscapes. The possibility of integrating the study of a monastery and its granges was raised by a preliminary report on work at Bordesley Abbey, but full details of that work remain to be published.³⁹

4. Techniques for studying medieval settlement

- 4.1 The decade up to 2006 was marked by a considerable number of innovations in method, some introduced from other disciplines and others being new tools devised by archaeologists. The increasing use of Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to locate and map and analyse distributions began to make an impact on fieldwork and post-fieldwork practice. The authors of the Raunds survey noted how the use of modern GIS computer programmes, had they been available, might have reduced their tasks in plotting and analysing finds. GIS is increasingly emerging in regional synthetic studies by younger scholars. One interesting application of GIS was to present data from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission and produce detailed contour maps and topographical sections.⁴⁰
- 4.2 The technique of test-pitting to sample pottery scatters in pasture land and existing settlements was introduced to medieval settlement studies first at Shapwick (Somerset) and then used more extensively in the Whittlewood survey. The methodology and interpretation of results have yet to be discussed in detail and further consideration needs to be given to the size of the test pits, though the results of this technique seem promising.⁴¹
- 4.3 The possibility of extracting more detailed information from the evidence of field-walking has been considered by a number of authors, but this was a relatively difficult task before the advent of GIS programmes. Data collected by field-walking during the Whittlewood survey has been interpreted to allow a more detailed view of manuring patterns and may help to elucidate the development of open-field farming.⁴²
- 4.4 Phosphate analysis has been widely used for many years to identify the location of settlements and to identify activity areas within them. The use of other heavy metals for a similar purpose is relatively new. This technique was used at Shapwick and has been subsequently employed at Puxton (Somerset) Rapid and cheap methods of chemical analysis of soils will be required before this can become a routine application in archaeological survey work.⁴³
- 4.5 Metal-detected finds reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme promise to revolutionise

understanding of the artefact distributions, and the commercialisation of the economy. Details of notable finds have been published in annual reports by the PAS in *Medieval Archaeology*. The Viking and Anglo-Saxon Landscape and Economy project at the University of York has begun to provide a wider perspective on the patterns of distribution.⁴⁴

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Research in the decade since 1996 has been characterised by a plurality of approaches and interests. The subject has drawn upon many different disciplines – archaeology, geography, history, place-name study and building history – and it has been difficult sometimes to find a common perspective on rural settlement which might satisfy all. In the absence of many works of synthesis, it may be difficult for non-specialists to get a grasp of the current state of research.⁴⁵ However, the use of GIS is likely to provide a way of bringing together and contrast the different types of evidence, and it offers a way of providing a coherent view of medieval settlement.
- 5.2 The study of medieval settlement in previous years had been driven by the discoveries made during fieldwork, but work in the last decade has suggested that extensive excavation and survey are taking place less and less often, no doubt due to expense and to changes in planning policy. Yet, without excavations and other survey work on a large scale, it will be impossible to answer some of the fundamental questions about medieval sites and landscapes.⁴⁶

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John Hurst Dissertation Prize 2006

2006 was the third year of the MA Dissertation prize scheme sponsored by the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* and set up in honour of the late John Hurst, who did so much to promote the field of medieval archaeology and in particular the study of medieval settlement. To encourage new and young scholars in the field, an annual prize of £200 is offered to graduate students for the best Masters dissertation on any theme in the field of medieval settlement and landscape in Britain and Ireland (c. AD 400–1600). Directors of Masters courses in Archaeology, English Local History, Landscape Studies and related fields are invited to submit high-quality completed dissertations for consideration by the MSRSG Committee. We are delighted to present below a summary of the 2006 prize-winning dissertation by *Tudur Davies*, investigating traces of early medieval settlement in a distinctive region of North Wales:

Llanfor and the Upper Dee Valley: An early medieval landscape study

by Tudur Davies
Sheffield University

Introduction

The early medieval period in Wales suffers greatly from the scarcity of identified archaeological sites. The principal aim of this project was to contribute to the understanding of the period by approaching the subject from a landscape perspective.

Llanfor, the chosen study area for the project, is located near Bala Lake on the edge of Snowdonia National Park in North Wales. It was selected based on the strength of both documentary and archaeological evidence which indicates a continuity of settlement from prehistory to the present day, including the early medieval period.

Research Context

Although the early medieval settlements known from Wales are relatively few, the documentary evidence and the large number of early Christian monuments located throughout the country suggest the potential for many more to be discovered. There are, however, several limitations, principally the lack of excavations, the small number of identifiable early medieval artefact types from excavated sites, and the poor survival of structural remains at the identified settlement sites.

Those settlements that have been investigated are mainly characterized as high status, based on the presence of imported artefacts from the continent and the Mediterranean. They are often located near the coast and have defensive features or are located on easily defensible ground (Edwards 1997, Arnold & Davies 2000).

Low status sites, although rare, have been found, an example being the post and wattle buildings at Trostre Castle which appear to have similar characteristics to structures described by Gerald of Wales (Edwards 1997: 4). The weak archaeological signature left by such sites may be indicative of the problems associated with their identification (Edwards 1997: 4). This is further compounded by difficulties in distinguishing between prehistoric and early medieval structures, exacerbated still by the general lack of artefactual evidence from both periods.

There is also a bias in the number of excavated monastic, as opposed to secular sites, with the exception of those with associated burials. This is surprising when one considers that documentary evidence for the period denotes the locations of numerous ecclesiastical centres (cf. Davis 1978). Cemetery sites have regularly been found located in close proximity to prehistoric monuments, often reusing enclosures from the later prehistoric period (Arnold & Davies 2001, James 1992). Unfortunately, however, given the lack of archaeological evidence for settlement, the relationship between burial, ecclesiastical and secular life remains poorly defined for early medieval Wales.

The Study Area

Desk based research indicates that Llanfor and the surrounding area has high potential for archaeological deposits dating to the early medieval period. For example, a settlement at Llanfor itself is referred to in the poetry of Llywarch Hen composed in the 9th century, which states that Llywarch gained sanctuary at a monastic centre at Llanfor following his exodus from the north of Britain in the late sixth century (Williams 1935). Local tradition also states that Llywarch later settled within the study area at Rhiwaedog (the ‘*bloody brow*’) (CAA 2005), a hill on which one of his 24 sons stood before fighting a battle against the *Lloegwyr* (possibly *Mercians* – Price 1899).

The origins of the monastic settlement at Llanfor may lie in the Romano-British period, developing from the vicus outside the Roman fort located to the south of the present-day village (cf. Crew & Crew 1997a; 1997b). The Meironeth Lay Subsidy Roll of 1292 also records the presence of a township at Llanfor (Williams-Jones 1935), suggesting the possibility of continuous settlement at the village from its Romano-British or monastic roots.

Archaeological sites of possible early medieval date have also been identified within the study area. Two of these sites are located in the immediate vicinity of Llanfor. One is a defensive earthwork possibly associated with an administrative centre of the Welsh

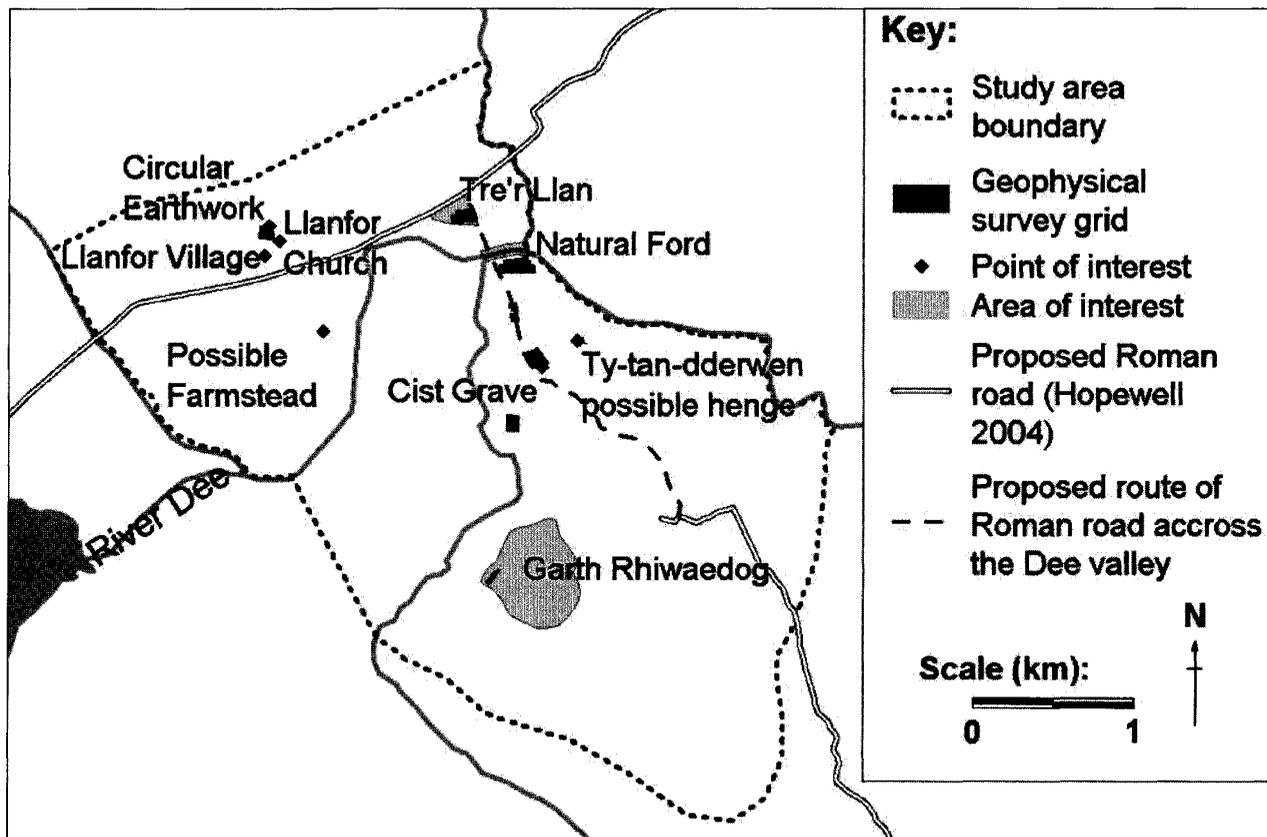


Fig.1: Map of the study area

princes (cf. Smith 2001), the second a possible farmstead with a rectangular post built building identified by geophysical survey (Crew & Crew 1997a; 1997b). The third site of interest is a cist grave of unknown date found during the construction of the railway line between Bala and Corwen (Lloyd undated). Although a prehistoric date is very possible for the cist grave, the presence of a possible henge at Ty-tan-dderwen, 200m from the site, may indicate an early medieval date as is seen with the cemetery near the Llandegai henge (cf. Lynch & Musson 2004).

The area of 'Tre'r Llan' located east of Llanfor was an additional area of interest for the project (Peter Crew, pers. comm.). The meaning of Tre'r Llan is highly significant; the word 'Tre', meaning town, indicates the presence of a substantial settlement, whilst the word 'Llan', meaning parish, church or monastery may indicate that the settlement would have been in occupation in the historical period subsequent to the establishment of the parish of Llanfor and be associated with early monastic use.

Methodology

In addition to the sources previously discussed, the background research for the project also included a review of maps and documents from the Meirionydd County archive and the Gwynedd HER, as well as a review of aerial photographs and discussion with land owners within the study area.

The main fieldwork component of the project was a geophysical survey at seven locations within the parish

of Llanfor using both magnetometer and resistivity meters. Additional fieldwork undertaken for the project involved an examination of a routeway identified as a possible Roman Road (Hopewell 2004) which passes through the study area; this was undertaken in order to verify the date of the road, and assess how possible later features within the landscape may respect this trackway. As the proposed route of the road was uncertain across the valley of the Dee itself, an attempt was also made to identify its direction.

Previous use of geophysical survey which has attempted to identify early medieval settlement sites has had mixed success. Ewan Campbell and Alan Lane have questioned the use of geophysical prospection due to the failure to identify archaeological features at the site of Longbury Bank (Campbell & Lane 1993). Other investigations have had better results; namely the site of Llanbedrgoch on Anglesey (Redknapp 1994) and the possible early farmstead located near Llanfor (Crew & Crew 1997). The successful identification of these sites were aided by the presence of enclosure ditches creating very clear high magnetic signatures; enabling, in the case of Llanfor, targeted survey at increased resolution within the enclosure, which identified the posts of a rectangular structure.

In light of the success of these projects, the choice of geophysical survey as a prospection method was considered valid and appropriate for the aims of this study. Although securing dating evidence for the sites investigated is problematic, the principal aim of this study was to identify sites with potential for further



Fig 2: Gravelled holloway along the possible route of a Roman road across the Dee Valley, north-west facing

research. It is important to note that the resolution of survey work is crucial to the detection of varying site types, especially when attempting to identify 'low status' settlements that may have less identifiable archaeological features. Whenever feasible, the geophysical survey work undertaken for the project was carried out at as fine a resolution as possible (0.5 x 0.25m) to enable the detection of more discrete features such as postholes or drip gullies.

Results and Discussion

Mixed results were achieved by the fieldwork for the project. The walkover along the route of the possible Roman road failed to confirm its Roman origin due to a lack of definite Roman attributes in the form of ditches or metalled surfaces. This does not negate the possibility of its Roman origin; such features may no longer survive or may not even have originally existed. Waddelove (1999) indicates that many Roman roads through sparsely populated districts would be maintained less frequently and may not have been fully completed.

The examination of historic maps for the study area identified a possible route for the road across the Dee Valley. The alignment of which conforms with the route taken over the Berwyn mountains, towards the location of a natural ford of the river Dee. Walkover survey identified deep holloways along this route (see Fig.2). Resistivity survey further to the north also located a high

resistance feature possibly belonging to a gravelled or compacted surface. The location of the high resistance feature also corresponds with a pathway identified on the 1846 Llanfor parish map. Unfortunately, however, as with the walkover survey of the route across the Berwyn, a Roman origin cannot be assigned for this route due to the lack of identifiable Roman attributes.

The results of aerial photographic analysis revealed parch marks related to possible settlement enclosures within two of the areas examined by geophysical survey. However, these features were not visible in either resistivity or magnetometer surveys of these areas. Reassessment of the features originally seen on aerial photographs in comparison to the results of the geophysics, determined that the possible enclosures are the results of distortion of varying episodes of ploughing due to differential parching within the fields.

Walkover survey in the area surrounding Garth Rhiwaedog identified platforms that were viable locations for habitation associated with Llywarch Hen's alleged settlement in the area. Unfortunately, no traces of archaeological features could be found by the geophysics.

More successful geophysical results were found in other locations. For example, the magnetometer survey between the defensive earthwork and the Church at Llanfor revealed a number of linear anomalies. These

may represent linear ditches aligned with the boundaries of the present day house plots. None of these features were visible on historical maps of the area; it is therefore argued that these features represent subdivision boundaries that may date back to the medieval layout of Llanfor village. Excavation to determine the date of these features may also provide valuable information to the early development of the village.

A survey undertaken at Tre'r Llan identified a number of possible archaeological features with weakly positive magnetic signatures; among which were possible enclosures, circular features possibly associated with drip gullies, and possibly a four posted rectangular structure. It is highly possible of course that the magnetic anomalies identified have a prehistoric or Romano-British date, but the place-name evidence for this location makes it a good candidate to hold early medieval archaeological deposits.

Geophysical survey in the field adjacent to the undated cist grave did not identify features related to additional burial or obviously related to the cist grave itself. Resistivity survey at this location did, however verify the presence of a triangular shaped low resistance feature corresponding to one seen on an aerial photograph of the area. A line of linear features seen on the aerial photograph was unfortunately outside the survey grid. This area was, however, re-examined at higher resolution after the completion of the dissertation. The second survey confirmed the presence of the circular features to the rear of the triangular feature. The features identified show a distinct regularity, suggesting that they are cut archaeological features as opposed to natural geological variation, the appearance of which bears a striking resemblance to the wooden theatre building found at Yeavinger (see Fig.3).

Without supporting dating evidence, a prehistoric date must be considered for the triangular feature discussed above, especially given the proximity of the nearby cist grave and possible henge. If, however, these features do represent features dating to the early medieval period, emulation of the Yeavinger theatre is entirely possible, especially given the evidence for migration from the north of Britain in the 6th century, as suggested by the poetry of Llywarch hen (see above); it may also have been emulated following the campaign of Cadwallon of Powys and Penda of Mercia into Northumberland in 632-633 (Hope-Taylor 1977: 277).

Conclusion

Overall it is felt that this project has achieved many of the aims and objectives initially set out. It must be noted that the lack of direct dating evidence has hampered attempts to draw firm conclusions in relation to the date and function of those sites investigated; however, it was always acknowledged that this would be a problem. Nevertheless, the project has been successful in firstly demonstrating significant documentary evidence indicating settlement during the period in the Llanfor area and, secondly, in achieving its principal aim of identifying sites worthy of further research that may contribute towards the understanding of early medieval Wales.

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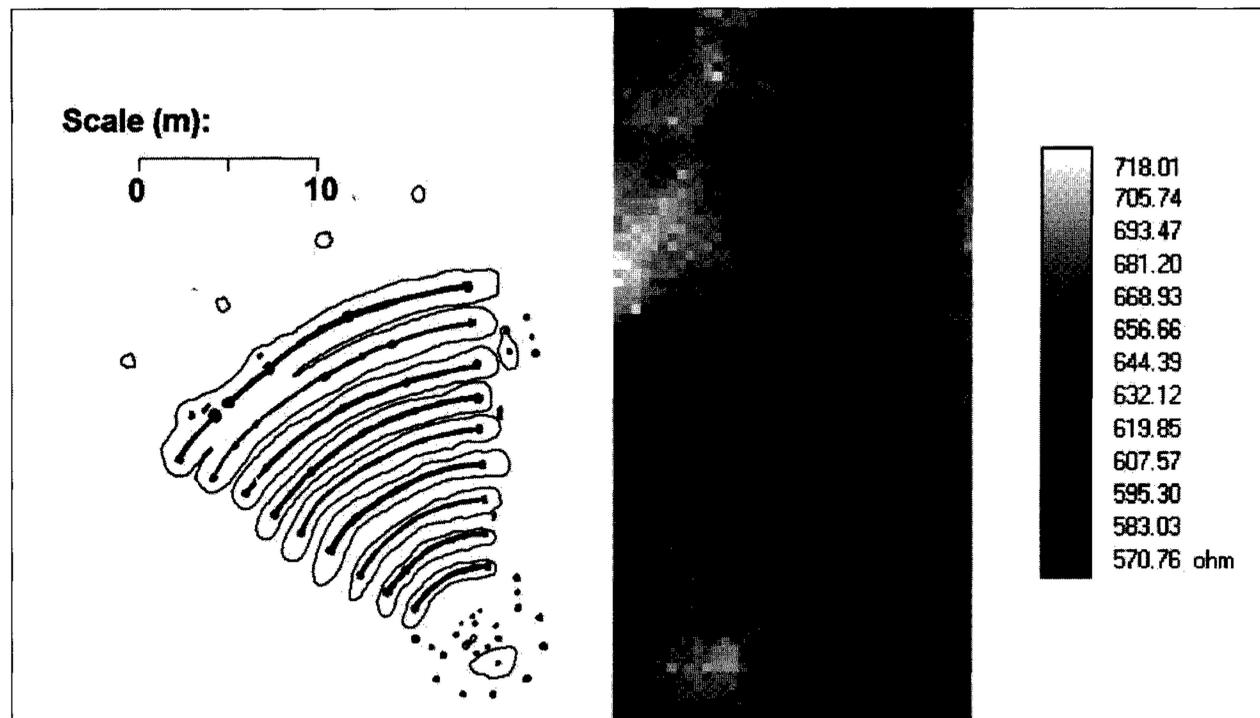


Fig.3: Comparison of the ground plan of the Yeavinger theatre (reproduced from Hope Taylor 1977) (left) and resistivity survey data near Ty-tan-dderwen (right)

project and also to Clare for putting up with me regularly disappearing to north Wales and for all her invaluable help and proofreading.

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The Archaeology of Historic/Medieval Village Cores: Evidence from Leicestershire and Rutland

by John Thomas

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

This paper is intended to introduce a new project that will attempt to synthesise the results of developer funded archaeological work to date within historic village cores in the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. The two counties contain a variety of rural settlement types which occupy a range of different landscapes (Lewis *et al* 2001, 60-61) and it is hoped that the project results can add important information to aid the study of medieval rural settlement in this part of the East Midlands.

Traditionally, research into medieval rural settlement has tended to favour the remains of nucleated villages that are now deserted above those that remain inhabited, and this has until recently been very much the case in Leicestershire and Rutland (Liddle 2000). Since the introduction of PPG16 in 1990 however, archaeological work in response to development within occupied villages has begun to redress this imbalance, as archaeologists are offered access to areas with previously limited research potential. In recent years government housing policy has also influenced a rise in 'village infill' development, enabling larger areas to be examined archaeologically. In Leicestershire and Rutland, for example, over fifty sites of varying scale, from watching briefs to area excavations, have revealed evidence of the development and growth of occupation in rural villages.

Admittedly the information gathered from village core sites is not without problems; the location of each site and the level of recording undertaken is entirely dependent on the scale and nature of each new development. Nevertheless the research potential of archaeological remains from beneath currently occupied villages has rightly been highlighted (Lewis 2006a, 212 and see Review of Medieval Settlement Research 1996-2002, this volume, p37-44). Recent research projects that have involved test-pitting within village cores have also indicated the significant contribution to knowledge that work in these areas can offer (Aston and Gerrard 1999, Lewis 2005b, Cooper and Score 2006, Jones and Page 2006). A big problem however, lies in the general lack of publication of individual sites or synthesised results for wider areas. Unfortunately the nature of much of this work, often being small-scale and piecemeal, has not lent itself very easily to meaningful publication on a site by site basis. Inevitably much information lies in unpublished grey literature reports and is not readily available to researchers or crucially, to contract archaeologists working in unfamiliar areas whose work would benefit from some background knowledge of previous work.

The broad aim of the Leicestershire and Rutland village cores project will be to synthesise the evidence from the various strands of work to provide both an accessible

'overview' of the evidence and also a usable framework for analysis, interpretation and comparison. Of the fifty or so sites that have been investigated to date, approximately fifteen can be given 'case study' status, based on the size of area examined and the archaeological information they have produced. For example excavations within the historic village core at Anstey, Leicestershire (Figure 1) have revealed well-preserved toft and croft remains, defined by ditched boundaries, dating from the 12th-13th century (Browning and Higgins 2003). Within the boundaries evidence for several buildings, surviving yard surfaces and a scatter of pits and post holes provided an impression of the early organisation of this part of the village at this time. Overlying features also indicated later reorganisation that was thought to possibly be related to a change in farming practices.

A similar pattern of plot boundaries was revealed at Glaston, Rutland (Figure 2), although in contrast, the formation of these features was earlier, indicated by the presence of Stamford Ware pottery in the boundary features suggesting a 10th-11th century date (Thomas 2002). As with Anstey, evidence for reorganisation at Glaston provided some suggestion of changing use of space within the plots over time, with occupation of this part of the village continuing into the 13th century.

It is intended that these larger sites form the basis of the synthesis using the evidence from smaller pieces of work for comparison and to augment the results of the detailed case studies. As well as providing good evidence for the range of archaeological features that together characterise early nucleated settlement, the larger sites have produced good assemblages of pottery, animal bone and environmental remains. The evidence will be presented thematically and may lend itself to such headings as 'Toft/Croft organisation', 'Buildings', 'Boundaries', 'Finds' 'Economy and Trade' etc. As the potential of the collated evidence becomes clearer it may also enable wider themes to be considered such as nucleated village origins, organisation over time and settlement shift/decline. The geographical scope of the project may also identify sub-regional differences, perhaps reflecting alternative developments according to location on specific geologies and topographies, or in relation to particular production centres.

Given the range of archaeological work that will be assessed as part of the project, consideration of the effectiveness of our methodologies in village core contexts will be undertaken. Many of the sites in the study area have revealed how fragile and insubstantial early settlement remains can be and it is of great importance that archaeological methods are sympathetic to this in order to get the most from them when they are threatened.

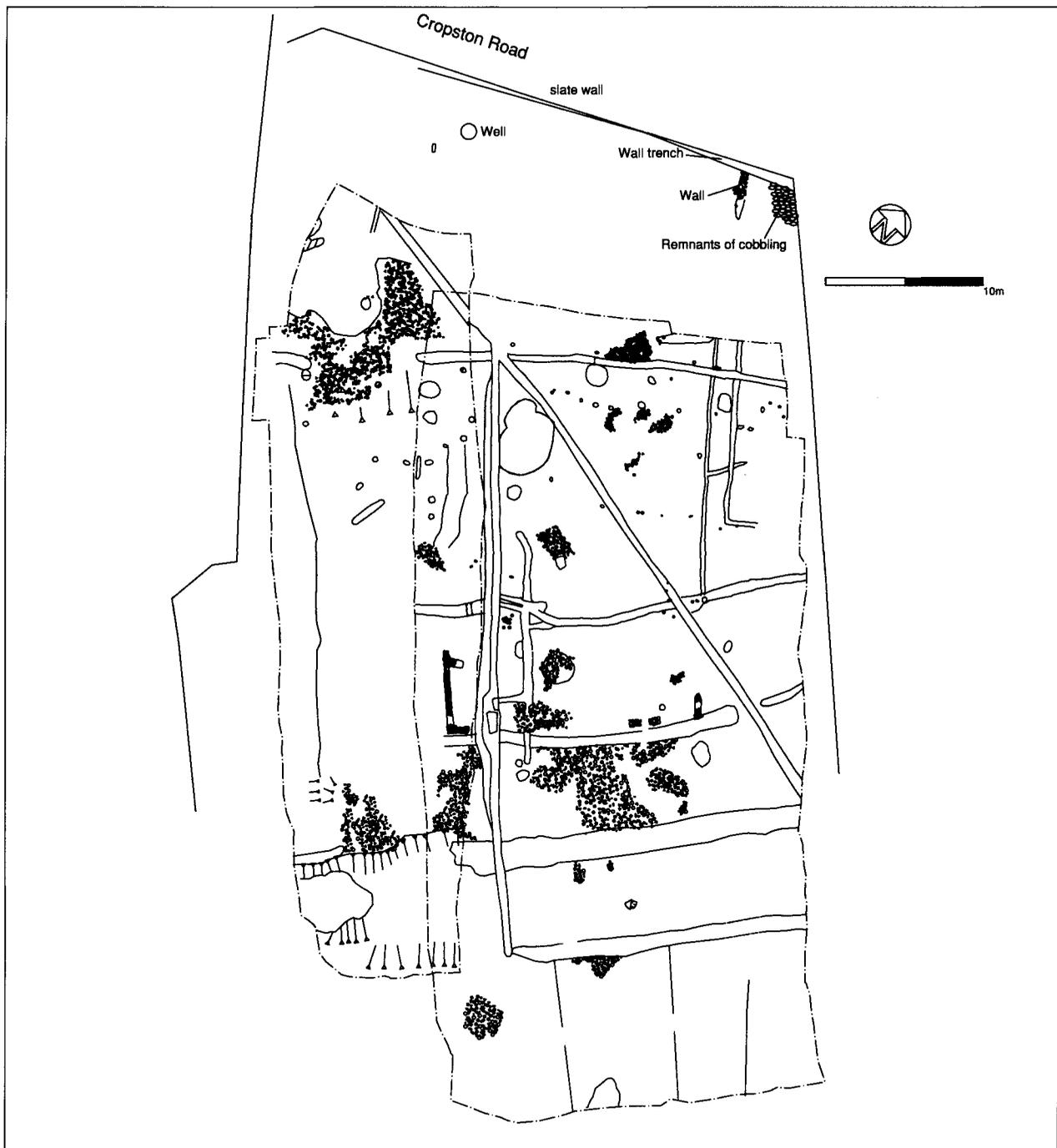


Figure 1: Medieval settlement features revealed during excavation at Anstey, Leicestershire (after Browning and Higgins 2003)

Work on the project will be undertaken later in the year and it is envisaged that the results will be presented at the forthcoming 'Medieval Leicestershire' conference, planned for April 2008. A paper detailing the results of the work will also be produced for the conference proceedings and in addition, summary articles will also be presented to the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and the *Annual Report of the MSRG*.

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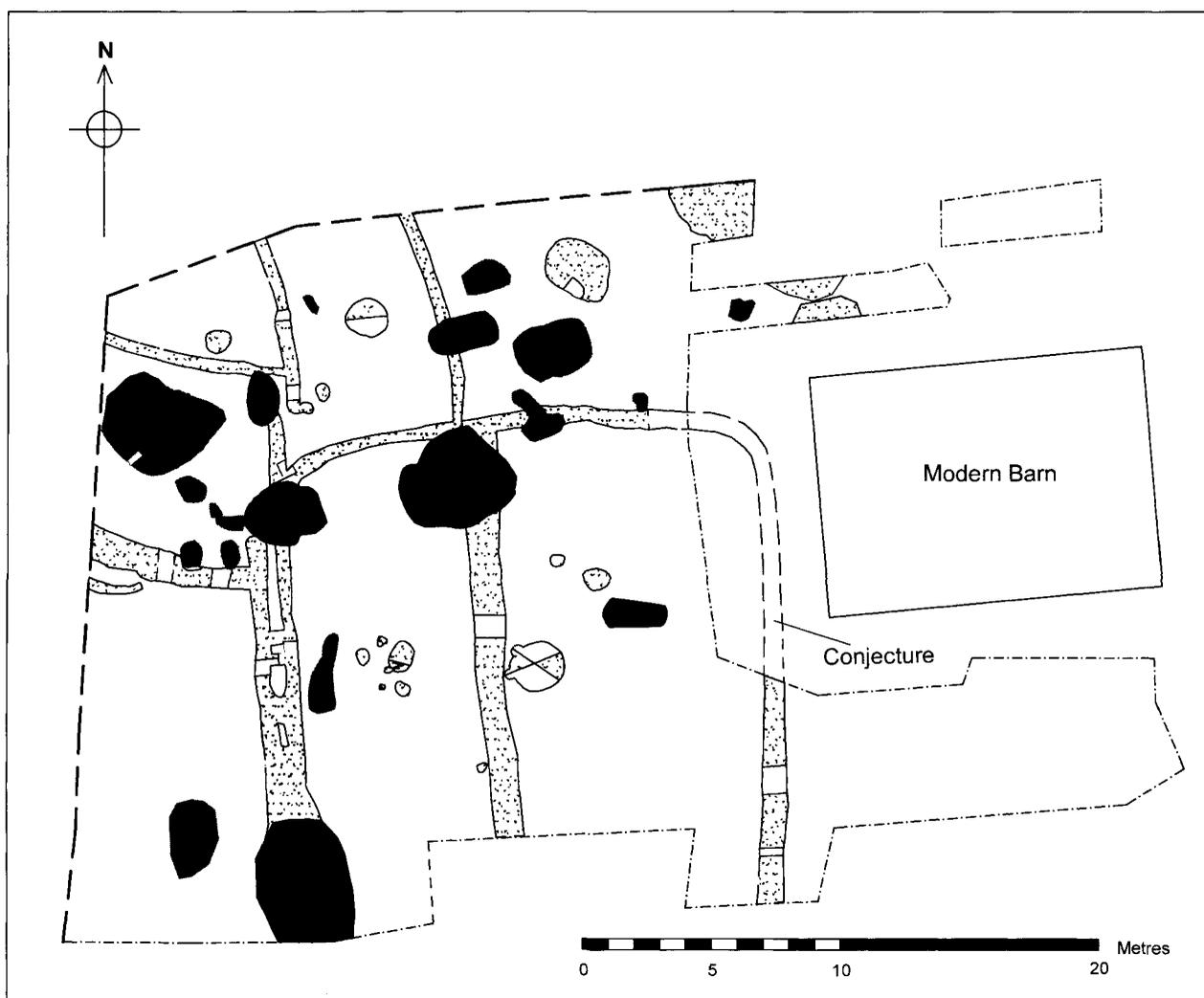


Figure 2: Saxo-Norman settlement features revealed during excavation at Glaston, Rutland (Thomas 2002).

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Test pit excavation within currently occupied rural settlement in East Anglia – Results of the HEFA CORS project in 2006

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This paper reports on the second year of the University of Cambridge Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) project which combines education and outreach with the archaeological investigation of currently occupied rural settlements (CORS). As reported in the last MSRG Annual Report (Lewis 2006a), this project commenced in 2005 with the aim of (a) raising the educational aspirations of teenagers (mostly from non-university-educated backgrounds) by enabling them to excavate, record and write up their own test pit (under professional archaeological supervision), thereby developing a range of new transferable organisational, interpersonal and academic skills and build their academic self-confidence; and (b) increasing the number of occupied villages and hamlets to have seen proactive research-oriented archaeological investigation. After a successful pilot year in 2005 when test pits were dug in four different settlements (ibid.) funding was secured for the continuation and expansion of the HEFA programme in 2006-8. In 2006 a total of 12 Field Academies were carried out across four counties in eastern England (fig 1), plus one in Yorkshire. These involved more than 350 young people digging scores of test pits and in the process raising the numbers interested in going to university by more than 60% (Lewis 2006b). This report will provide a preliminary summary of the HEFA archaeological interventions in 2006. Archive reports have been prepared for each settlement investigated in 2006, while those investigated in both 2005 and 2006, from which enough evidence has been recovered to allow some preliminary consideration of the implications of the results, are discussed in more detail elsewhere (Lewis 2007). Fuller formal publication will take place at a later stage in the project.

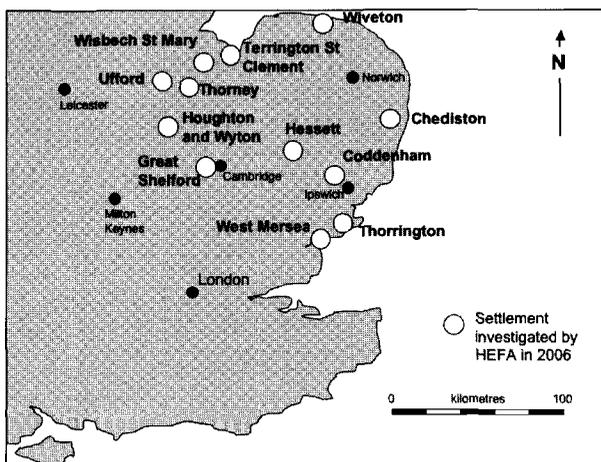


Figure 1: Map of southern England showing the locations of the 12 CORS investigated by the HEFA project in East Anglia in 2006

Coxwold, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 535771)

The first settlement to be investigated as part of the HEFA CORS project in 2006 was Coxwold, c. 12 km south of Thirsk in North Yorkshire (Dean 2007). This lies well beyond the main East Anglian geographical focus of the main HEFA CORS project, as the Coxwold Field Academy was conducted as a pilot to examine the potential for organisations in other areas to run schemes using the HEFA model. It was carried out in partnership with Creative Minds, the York Archaeological Trust and the North York Moors National Park. 11 test pits were excavated in Coxwold, all on the north side of the High Street, five within private gardens and the rest in a pasture field containing earthwork features considered likely to be the remains of buildings shown on a map of 1605.

The 11 test pits produced just over 4,000 sherds of pottery, a remarkably large quantity. The majority of these were wasters of Ryedale-type ware, a transitional period ware dating to the 16th century AD which is found extensively around Hull and York and was produced at a number of kiln sites exploiting seams of Lias clays outcropping along the edge of the Hambleton and Tabular hills (Jenner 2007, 11-12). The evidence from the HEFA test pitting in Coxwold points to the presence of one or more Ryedale-type ware kiln sites in the village. Differential concentrations of wasters suggest that the likely zone for pottery production at Coxwold was within the village behind the street frontage: test pits COX06/1 and 2 (on the northern extremity of the village) produced very few wasters, as did COX06/3, 4 and 5, sited 30-100m to the south in the earthwork field close to the street. On the other hand, COX06/6, 7, 10 and 11, all sited between 25 and 45m back from the street frontage, all produced very large quantities, with the top 10cm spit in COX06/10 alone producing 800 sherds weighing a total of 18,350g (Jenner 2007, 17-18). Test pits 3, 4 and 5 revealed occupational debris, possibly including remains of structures contemporary with the ceramic production deposits, which must correspond to the buildings shown on the 1605 map (Dean 2007, 20-22). A general absence of earlier ceramic material suggests that this part of Coxwold may have comprised a late medieval expansion of the settlement associated with the development of the pottery industry there. It is furthermore plausible that the later decline of this industry may have been a factor in the contraction of the settlement in the post-medieval period.

HEFA in East Anglia in 2006

HEFA investigation in East Anglia, the primary regional focus of the project, extended across four counties in

2006, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex (fig 1).

Ufford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TF 094040)

Nine test pits were excavated in Ufford in 2006, continuing investigations started in 2005 (Lewis 2006a, 12-13) and bringing the total over two years to 23 (fig 2). Particular attention was directed in 2006 to the centre of the present village, which test pitting in 2005 indicated might be largely unoccupied prior to the eighteenth century, and its northern end where late Anglo-Saxon pottery was rather unexpectedly discovered in 2005. As in 2005, no test pits in the centre of the village, either side of Ufford Hall, produced any finds pre-dating c. 1700: with 10 test pits now excavated in this part of the settlement all showing this same pattern, it is reasonable to surmise that it is very unlikely that this part of the settlement was in existence during the medieval period, and that the planned linear nucleated village we can see today is an artefact of relatively recent development. The discovery, as in 2005, of Roman and late Anglo-Saxon material in the area south-east of the church, and in the garden of Ufford Farm at the far northern end of the village adds weight to the suggestion that settlement at Ufford may have comprised two separate nodes during both the Roman period and the later Anglo-Saxon/early Norman period. A paucity of pottery dating to between 1100 – 1450AD, when pottery was widely used and taphonomically durable, from the Ufford Farm area, may be significant and might be interpreted as evidence of very much less intensive use, possibly even abandonment, of this area in the high medieval period. This contrasts with the area around the church, which seems to experience consolidation, even expansion, in this period. A solidly constructed wall (fig 3) revealed in

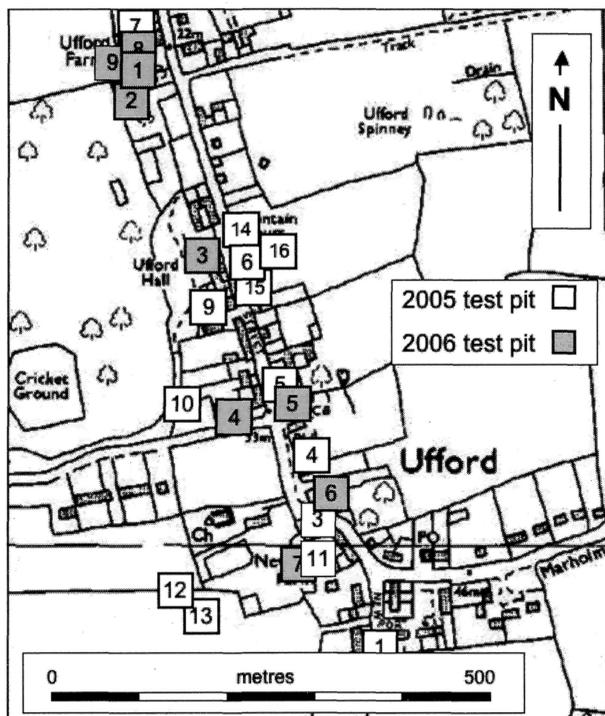


Figure 2: Ufford, Cambridgeshire (Peterborough Unitary Authority), showing locations and numbers of HEFA test pits excavated in 2005 (white) and 2006 (shaded)

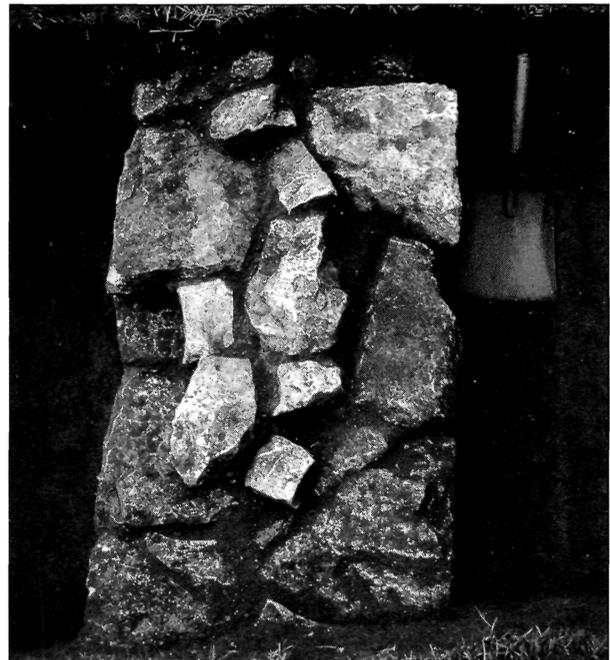


Figure 3: Ufford, Cambridgeshire (Peterborough Unitary Authority), showing stone wall discovered in UFF06/1.

test pit UFF06/1 at Ufford Farm, built of local stone with at least two courses and one right-angled turn surviving appears to predate the present farm buildings, was provisionally interpreted as the remains of either a building or a boundary wall of late Anglo-Saxon or late medieval date

Houghton and Wyton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 281271)

Eight test pits were excavated in the conjoined villages Houghton and Wyton in 2006, the majority of which were located in Wyton (complementing 2005 HEFA investigations which were mainly focussed on Houghton (Lewis 2006a, 13-14)), bringing the total number of test pits excavated over both years to 19 (fig 4). Small quantities of pottery of Roman date were found in pits HAW06/1 and 06/6 (complementing the evidence from

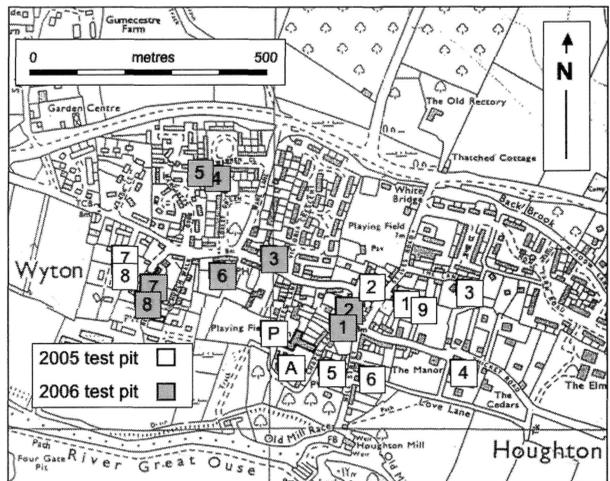


Figure 4: Houghton and Wyton Cambridgeshire, showing approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2005 (white) and 2006 (shaded).

HAW05/4 and 05/P in 2005). Roman activity in Houghton and Wyton thus seems to favour the edge of the flood plain in Houghton and along the Huntingdon Road. Pottery of later Anglo-Saxon date was found in pits HAW06/2, 06/3 and 06/8, bringing the number of sites over the two years producing material of this date to five, derived from four sites close to the churches of both villages, and from a site adjacent to the road which currently links them, which may suggest that both settlements were in existence around their respective churches before the Norman Conquest, but that the area between them may also have been used for some purpose by this date.

Nearly all the test pits in both 2006 and 2005 (14 out of 19) produced pottery of C12th-C14th date, hinting at substantial occupation, and probably expansion, of both settlements in this period. Much less material of C15th-C16th date was found anywhere in the village, which may hint at some degree of shrinkage at this date, while a similar paucity of finds from the C17th and C18th suggests that stagnation may have lasted for some time. Notably, this later period is the only one when the pottery distribution seems to indicate a clear separation between the two villages, with no finds of post medieval pottery from any of the pits along Huntingdon Road. Examination of the sections of HAW06/5 and 4, north of Huntingdon Road, neither of which produced any pre-19th century pottery, indicated the presence of arable soils immediately beneath the topsoil suggesting this area was not settled until the early modern period.

Wisbech St Mary, Cambridgeshire (NGR TF 420081)

Located just south of the Fenland town of Wisbech, Wisbech St Mary is today a small village mostly arranged in a linear fashion along two southwest-northeast oriented streets with a further perpendicular road running to the railway station. Wisbech St Mary is surrounded by fen, and lies just 2m above sea level at its western end, rising a little to nearly 3m OD on its eastern side where the fenland peat meets clay deposits. Very little historical or archaeological research has been carried out within the village in the past.

Seven test pits were excavated in Wisbech St Mary in 2006 (fig 5), including one dug by staff and children at the village primary school. Two of the pits (WSM06/5 and 06/6) were sited on slightly raised ground east of the

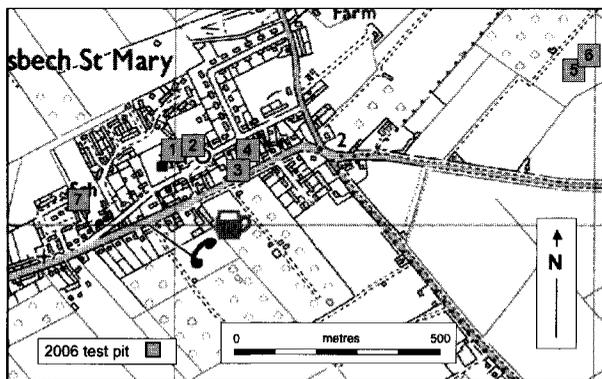


Figure 5: Wisbech St Mary, Cambridgeshire, showing approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2006.

village at the suggestion of the landowner who has noted sherds of pottery while ploughing. Both of these test pits produced middle Iron Age scored ware and briquetage, indicating that the location was used for salt-making at this time. An assemblage of nearly 100 Roman sherds from these two pits (including five sherds of Samian ware), are considered likely to derive from earlier Roman settlement in the vicinity. No post-Roman material was recovered from this area. Within the present village, four sherds of Roman pottery from test pits WSM06/1, 06/2 and 06/5, one from an apparently undisturbed level with no later finds, suggest that Roman activity of some sort also took place in the vicinity of the later church. However, no ceramic material dating to the period between c. 400AD and 1400AD was found in any of the test pits dug in 2006, and it is only from c. 1700 that pottery was recovered in any significant quantity. Further test pitting will be carried out in 2007 to examine whether this apparent dearth of activity in the period before the Black Death is replicated elsewhere.

Thorney, Cambridgeshire (NGR TF 283042)

Thorney today is another small fenland village, dominated by its great abbey, located on a small island in the fens which rises to a maximum height of c. 7.1m OD. South of the church the land falls away to c. 4.2m OD at a crossroads around which most of the Victorian and early C20th settlement is arranged, with more modern development extending along Wisbech Road to the east where the land surface continues to drop gently onto the fen. Much of the present settlement on the north of Wisbech Road comprises uniform rows of south-facing terraced cottages constructed as a model village for the Duke of Bedford in the C18th. Larger houses, mostly recent, are sited south of the Wisbech Road, while a densely-packed cluster of buildings occupies the area immediately north of the abbey church, which was itself retained after the Dissolution for use as the parish church. The area south of the abbey church is today occupied by a small close of large post-medieval houses arranged around a small green, with other buildings associated with the Duke of Bedford's estate to the west. Historical research by the local history society suggests that Thorney was always a small and very remote settlement. Archaeological excavation by the University of Leicester immediately north of the Abbey church revealed medieval and other activity probably associated with the Dissolution (Thomas 2006), while a community

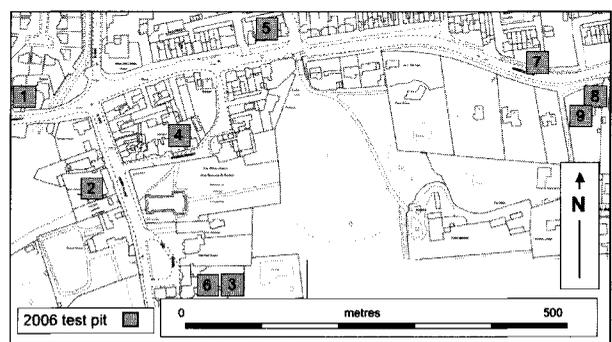


Figure 6: Thorney, Cambridgeshire, showing approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2006.

excavation in the pasture fields west of the abbey church is planned to investigate this area considered likely to have lain within the medieval abbey precinct.

Nine test pits were dug by HEFA in Thorney in 2006 (fig 6). Test pits THO06/7, 06/8 and 06/9, sited in the east of the present village at c. 3.4m OD, were all devoid of any pre-modern finds. Although excavation was only able to proceed to a depth of 20cm in THO06/7 as the water table was reached at this point, this in itself suggested the likely reason for the rejection of this low-lying part of the present village for occupation in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval period. However, in THO06/8 a layer of charcoal within the clay subsoil was noted c. 60cm below the surface, which was tentatively interpreted as of possible prehistoric origin. Further west, around the church, test pits THO06/2, 06/3 and 06/4 all produced small quantities of pottery dating to 1200-1400 AD, with 06/4 producing the only evidence for pre-Conquest activity in the form of a single sherd of Stamford ware. All six test pits in the western part of the village (nearer the abbey church) showed a marked rise in activity, as represented by the quantity of pottery sherds, in the immediate post-Dissolution period: this was particularly marked in the westernmost two pits (THO06/1 and 06/2).

Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 458518)

This large village lies immediately south-west of Cambridge at c. 88m OD on the east side of the river Cam. It has seen much growth over the last 150 years and now extends for more than a mile along a road linking adjacent city satellite settlements around the periphery of Cambridge. Several Roman and prehistoric sites and extensive remains of field systems have been recorded around the village (SCDC 2003, 4-5). The church and many of the older houses are located on the western edge of the present settlement near the river, while the tithe map provides evidence for a large green occupying the triangular area between Woollards Lane, the High Street and Tunwells Lane, and extending north to encompass High Green (Taylor undated; SCDC 2003, 4). Prior to HEFA, the earliest areas of settlement at Great Shelford were thought to lie west of the church and around Granham's manor, beyond the north east limits of the present village, with late medieval expansion colonising the margins of High Green (ibid.).

15 test pits were excavated by HEFA pupils and university students in Great Shelford in 2006 (fig 7). Two of these (GTS06/2 and 10) produced pottery of 1st to 2nd century AD date. This can tentatively be used to suggest that that activity in the early Roman period may have focussed in this area, near the later church. The same area produced pottery of late Anglo-Saxon date. In addition, GTS06/13, within the area of High Green, also produced late Anglo-Saxon pottery including two large adjoining sherds of the Thetford ware 90cm below the surface in undisturbed levels with no later material. Pottery of 11th to 16th century date was derived exclusively from pits along, and north of, the High Street, near Buristead Road (where the association of this name with 11th century shelly wares is possibly of interest), with an absence of material from intervening

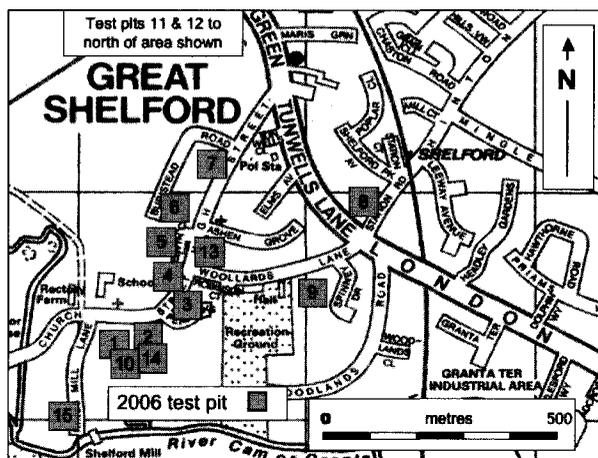


Figure 7: Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire, showing approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2006.

pits (GTS06/3 and 4) perhaps hinting at the presence of 2 separate nodes of activity at this time. The Buristead Road area produced no finds for the later period (post c 1400), with pottery of this date derived instead from pits further south, including GTS06/3 and 06/4, perhaps suggesting the appearance, or coalescence, of a more nucleated settlement extending east from the church area. A picture of gradual late medieval expansion east is given some support by the presence of post-medieval pottery in this area.

Terrington St Clement, Norfolk (NGR TF 552204)

Seven test pits were excavated in Terrington St Clement in 2006 (fig 8), adding to the nine excavated in 2005 (Lewis 2006a, 11-12). In this large sprawling settlement, the 2006 test pits were able to investigate several new areas, including the site of a C14th brick kiln (TSC06/5), previously thought to be much later in date. Pottery of Anglo-Saxon and medieval date from TSC06/4 suggested that the saltern mound on top of which the test pit was sited was in use then, possibly for dairying, before being abandoned c. 1400AD until the mid C20th. TSC06/2, sited in an isolated small, square, ditched field c. 250m south east of the church and considered by some local residents to be a moated site, revealed a substantial

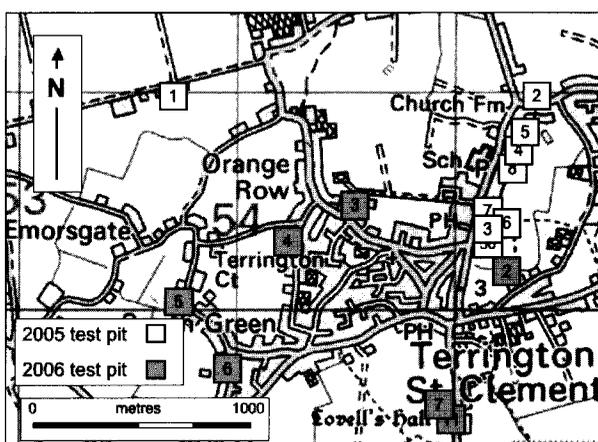


Figure 8: Terrington St Clement, Norfolk, showing approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2005 (white) and 2006 (shaded).



Figure 9: Terrington St Clement, Norfolk, showing HEFA pupils recording a 14th century kiln site uncovered in TSC06/5.

quantity of animal bone and late Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery suggesting a period of occupation spanning AD 950-1200. Further south, two test pits at Lovell's Hall produced trace evidence for Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity. Combined with the evidence from 2005, there is now plausible evidence that much of the area occupied by the present settlement of Terrington St Clement was, from the late Anglo-Saxon period, highly dispersed, with separate nodes of occupation which included areas north and south of, but possibly not always immediately adjacent to, the church.

Wiveton, Norfolk (NGR TG 043428)

Wiveton lies c. 4km east of Blakeney on the north Norfolk coast, on boulder clay and fluvial deposits at between 5m and 10m OD, and is today a small, quiet nucleated village of brick- and pebble-built houses extending north from the church along two winding lanes which intersect to form an elongated figure of eight. These lanes run parallel with the nearby river Glaven whose floodplain, previously a tidal inlet, the village mostly overlooks. Wiveton Hall lies a mile to the north of the present village, on the seaward side of the east-west oriented road between Blakeney and Cley-next-the-Sea. Previous archaeological investigation including metal detecting has revealed finds of all periods in the parish of Wiveton, but little from within the village itself.

With members of the local history society and primary schoolchildren from Blakeney working with HEFA pupils, 14 test pits were excavated in Wiveton in 2006 (fig 9; Lewis 2007b). Evidence for Roman occupation, previously noted by the property owner, was confirmed in WIV06/2, and Roman pottery was also recovered from WIV06/1, 3 and 4, all in the northern part of the present village. This may suggest that activity at Wiveton in the Roman period focussed in this area, rather than further south. Anglo-Saxon pottery was

recovered in small amounts from two test pits (WIV06/1 and 6). In neither case were these from undisturbed levels, and it is impossible to say with any certainty what level of activity they might represent. Nonetheless, it may be significant that these two pits are more than 1000m apart which may possibly hint at two separate nodes of activity at Wiveton in the late Anglo-Saxon period, one in the south, near the church, the other in the north near Wiveton Hall.

A considerable expansion of activity at Wiveton is hinted at by the wide distribution of C11th-C14th pottery, which was found in all but two of the test pits. It is notable that the distribution of Grimston Ware seems to favour the sites nearer the river Glaven, much more so than other contemporary wares (Lewis 2007), which may relate to a trade in Grimston ware to Norway from wharfs at Wiveton. In contrast, just five pits (test pits WIV06/4, 5, 9, 11 and 13), all sited close together in the lower-lying centre of the present village, produced pottery dating to the post-Black Death period, plausibly suggestive of contraction at this time perhaps with the focus of activity restricted to the floodplain edge/wharf area. This contraction, if it did happen, seems to have been short-lived as pottery of post-medieval date was much more widespread: it was found in all of the excavated test pits, with large numbers of sherds of German stoneware probably attesting to a renewed vigour in maritime trade at Wiveton.



Figure 10: Wiveton, Norfolk, showing approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2006.

Hessett, Suffolk (NGR TL 936618)

Hessett today is a small rural village located c. 10km south-east of Bury St Edmunds at 64-69m OD. The northern, lower-lying, end of the present (and 19th century) village takes the form of a linear settlement along a single central north-south-oriented street with a church in the centre on the east side. The southern end of the village is around 5m higher and arranged around a former small rectangular green (bisected by the road) whose lines are clearly visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey 6" map, and survive today as sharply cut ditches. There are several farms of at least pre-Victorian date in, or within 500m of, the village, some of which are associated with moats. Two other deserted moated sites also lie within 500m of the main village street.

Nine test pits were dug in Hessett in 2006 (fig 10), most of which were sited in the northern end of the present village. Just a single small (3g) very abraded sherd of Roman pottery was found, in test pit HES06/8 in the south of the village on the edge of the green. On its own, this cannot be of any significance, although the absence generally of Roman pottery from Hessett to date is perhaps more interesting to note. Pottery of late Anglo-Saxon date came from two test pits near the church (HES06/2 and 5). These pits also revealed pottery of 11th to 14th century date, and the latter was also found at HES06/4 (Elm's Farm) and HES06/6 (Malting Farm), possible hinting that medieval settlement away from the area around Hessett church at this date may have taken the form of a scatter of discrete farmsteads. Neither of the test pits around Hessett Green produced any material predating the 19th century, although more work clearly needs to be done in this part of the settlement, which will take place in 2007.

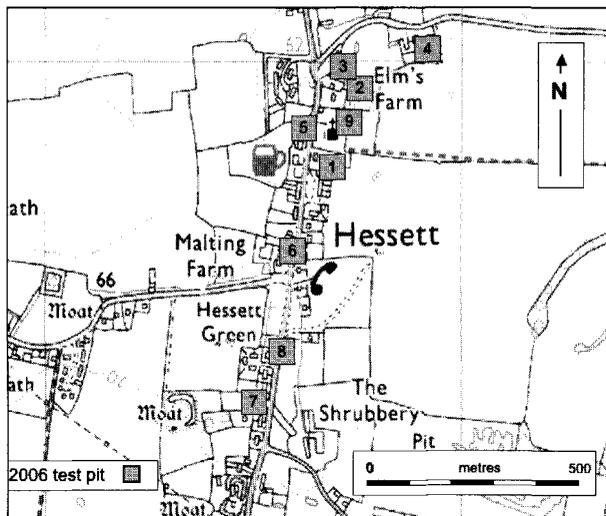


Figure 11: Hessett, Suffolk, showing approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2006.

Coddenham, Suffolk (NGR TM 133542)

Coddenham is a small village 10km north of Ipswich mostly lying on the east side of a small stream valley between 25 and 45m OD. The settlement today is arranged along School Road and Church Road both

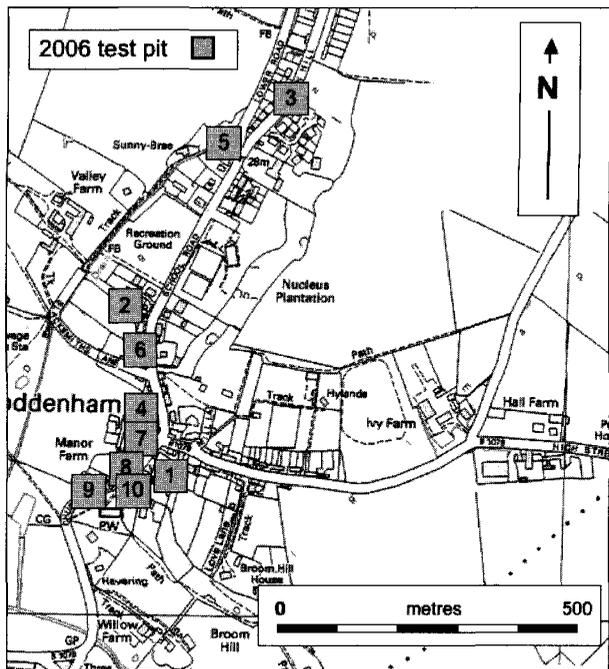


Figure 12: Coddenham, Suffolk, showing approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2006.

running along the stream valley and a third route (High Street) which leads east and steeply upwards out of the valley and the present village. The church lies c. 100m south-west of the point where these three roads meet, on the southern edge of the present settlement. Much of the housing north of COD06/6 has been built within the last 100 years. Excavation by a local group has produced substantial evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity nearby, but much less is known about the village itself.

10 test pits were dug in Coddenham in 2006 in the gardens of properties along Church Road and School Road. Unusually, one of the test pits (COD06/7) contained a sherd of late Iron Age pottery, while perhaps more unexpectedly, given the proximity of known Roman occupation, no Roman pottery was found in any of the excavated test pits. Coddenham also revealed the only example of early/middle Anglo-Saxon pottery from the HEFA 2006 excavations, from COD06/9, on the southern edge of the present village immediately opposite the church. Pottery of late Anglo-Saxon date was found extensively, in COD06/4, 7, 8, 9 and 10, all in the area immediately north of the present church. 11th - 14th century pottery was found in this same area (with the exception of COD06/8 and the addition of COD06/1), and also in COD06/2 and 5. The latter however produced only a single sherd each and must therefore be considered unlikely to be evidence for a northward expansion of settlement in this period. In contrast with the extent of 10th - 14th century pottery recovered, only two test pits (COD06/1 and 4) contained any pottery of 15th - 16th century date. This could possibly be interpreted as evidence for marked contraction at this date. Further test pitting in 2007 will aim to look further at the southern part of the present village, and also along the High Street.

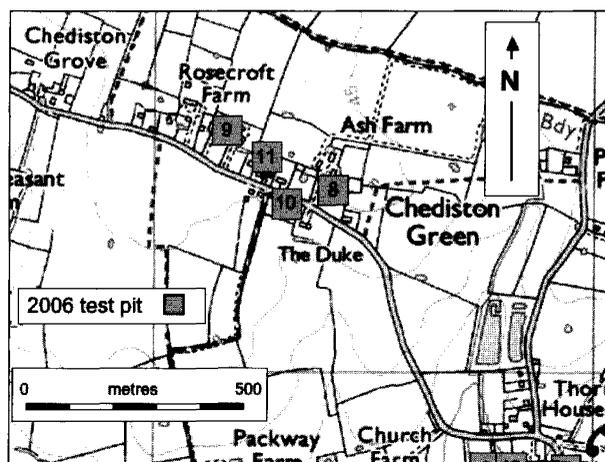


Figure 13: Chediston, Suffolk, approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2006.

Chediston, Suffolk (NGR TM 358778)

Chediston is located c. 2km west of Halesworth in eastern Suffolk, and lies on clay and alluvial deposits between 19m and 46m OD. The settlement today comprises two quite separate elements. One cluster of properties surrounds the church which lies on the north side of the valley of a small tributary of the River Blyth while, half a kilometre to the north-west on higher ground away from the stream valley, Chediston Green consists of a string of properties on the edge of a former green. The present houses are mostly on the north side of the road through the green, and are set well back from it marking the former edge of the green, now bisected along its length by the road. Several outlying farms are located within 500m of these two main settlement foci, with others further away within the parish. A Roman settlement site, has been excavated immediately beyond the eastern limits of the present settlement around the church and numerous finds of prehistoric and Roman date have been recovered by field-walking and metal detecting in the parish. A late 15th century AD kiln site was excavated in Chediston Green, near the site of HEFA test pit CHE06/10, otherwise little archaeological work has been carried out in the currently inhabited parts of the village.

12 test pits were excavated by HEFA in 2006, most in the area around the church. Roman pottery, associated with a light industrial waste tip, was found in the easternmost of these (CHE06/7): this was unsurprising given the known presence of Roman occupation nearby, but it is perhaps surprising that this was the only test pit excavated in Chediston in 2006 to produce any Roman material. Although only one test pit (CHE06/2) produced any pottery of Anglo-Saxon date, these four sherds of Thetford Ware came from an undisturbed level which also contained burnt daub (tentatively interpreted as part of an oven or possibly a burnt building) and lay directly on top of a floor surface cut by a post hole. This, it seems, was the site of a structure of some sort near the church in the late Anglo-Saxon period. From the post-Conquest period, the evidence from this part of the present settlement is very limited, perhaps indicating 11th-16th century settlement here to have been of limited extent. Only two of the test pits in this part of the present village (CHE06/1 and 4) revealed any mid 11th-mid 14th

century pottery, and only one (CHE06/7) produced pottery from c. 1400-1550. At Chediston Green, by way of contrast, three test pits produced 11th-14th century pottery (CHE06/8, 10 and 11), with CHE06/8 and 10 both revealing more of material of this date than any of the pits in the area around the church both (CHE06/8, at Ash Farm, contained 33 sherds of early medieval sandy ware between 0.4m-0.8m below the surface in apparently undisturbed layers containing no later material). This activity predates the production of pottery in this part of the settlement by at least a century or so. CHE06/9, 10 and 11 all produced 15th-16th century pottery, mostly in small amounts, contemporary with production at the nearby kiln site adjacent to CHE06/10, although notably no pottery from this period was recovered from the test pit at Ash Farm.

West Mersea, Essex (NGR TM 009125)

West Mersea today occupies more than 2.5 sq km of the south-western part of Mersea Island (just off Essex coast c. 8 km south of Colchester) at 3-12m OD, but the first edition Ordnance Survey map shows most of the area of the present village to be devoid of settlement, with occupation limited to the areas around WME06/1 (near the church) and WME06/6, and a scatter of other outlying farms. A Roman tessellated pavement was revealed during recent garden landscaping, otherwise little archaeological investigation has been carried out in the village. Six test pits were dug in West Mersea in 2006, which produced no Anglo-Saxon material and a total of just five small sherds of pre-1400 AD medieval pottery. Further excavation in 2007 will seek to examine whether this dearth of Anglo-Saxon and medieval material is replicated elsewhere in West Mersea. In contrast, five of the excavated pits (the exception being WME06/4) contained pottery of mid 16th-late 18th century date.

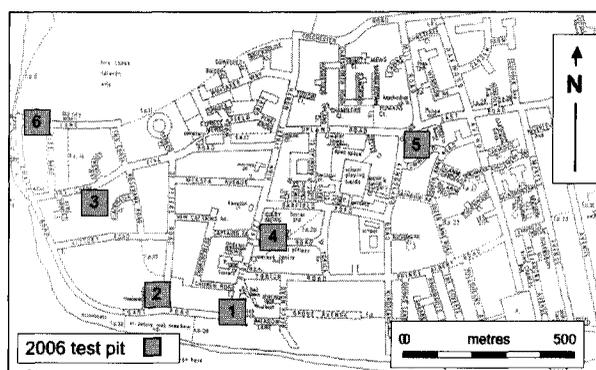


Figure 14: West Mersea, Essex, showing approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2006.

Thorrington, Essex (NGR TM 099196)

The village of Thorrington lies c. 10km south east of Colchester and is today arranged in mostly ribbon form along three roads which intersect to form a sinuous approximately equilateral 1km triangle, at approximately 27m OD. The medieval church lies adjacent to Thorrington Hall to the south east of the village but these are now isolated from the present village by more than 500m. The first edition Ordnance Survey map shows much of the present settlement to be of recent origin,

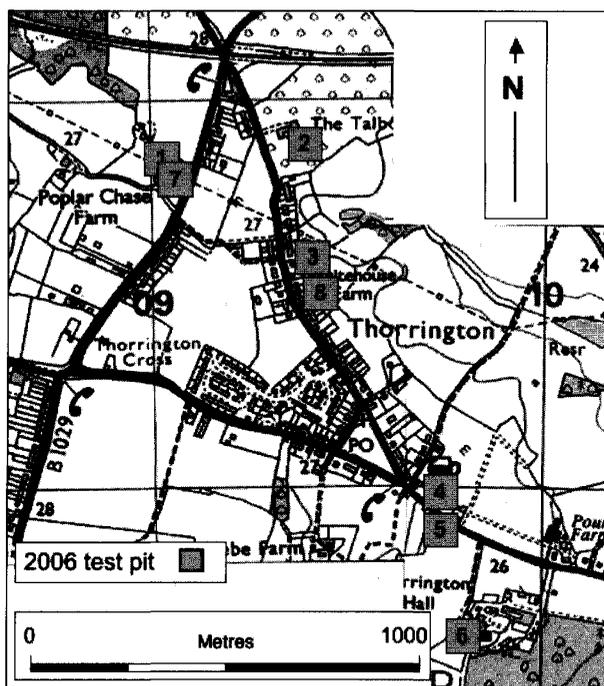


Figure 15: Thorrington, Essex, showing approximate locations of HEFA test pits excavated in 2006.

with Thorrington in the 19th century comprising a dozen or so scattered farms and a few small isolated clusters of cottages.

Eight test pits were excavated during the 2006 HEFA. Roman pottery was revealed in just one of these (TTN06/1), adjacent to the church. None of the pits produced any post-Roman material pre-dating the 12th century, but three (TTN06/1, 5, and 8) contained pottery of 12th to 14th century date. The location of these in the north-west, centre and south-east of the present large, straggling settlement could possibly suggest that the settlement pattern at this time was highly dispersed as a series of scattered nodes, each perhaps no more than a single farm. Only Gold Farm (TTN06/1 and 7) produced any finds of 15th to 16th century date, which might possibly suggest that not all of these nodes were continuously occupied throughout the medieval period. In contrast, every single one of the excavated pits contained pottery dating to the mid 16th to late 18th century.

Conclusion

HEFA test pitting in 2006, excavating 125 test pits in 13 settlements, has continued and expanded investigations into currently occupied rural settlement begun in 2005. Detailed consideration of the further implications of the results are beyond the scope of this paper and would in any case be premature in the case of those sites where few test pits have so far been excavated. Some sites have been published in more detail elsewhere (Lewis 2007a, 2007b). The archive including reports is held by the University of Cambridge and details of the HEFA 2006 test pit sites and the pottery reports for each site are available on www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/fatpf/evidence.html. Investigation in most of the 2006 settlements will be ongoing in 2007, with the possible addition of up to

three new settlements, drawn into the HEFA project in response to demand in particular areas. The result of these test pit excavations will be reported in the next MSRSG Annual Report.

Acknowledgements

The HEFA project in 2006 was funded by Aimhigher, the European Social Fund and the Higher Education Subject Centre for Archaeology. In a project such as this the number of individuals involved involves scores of people at each settlement whom space cannot allow to be named individually here. First of all, however, thanks must be given to the school pupils and teachers who carried out the test pit excavations, for all their hard work and the enthusiasm they brought to it. Thanks also go to the owners of all the sites where test pits were dug in 2006 for their support for the HEFA project (and in many cases for the generous hospitality they provided for 'their' diggers!). Local coordinators in each settlement arranged access to sites to excavate, and thanks go to Alison Bodley, Sandy Yatteau, Gerry Feakes, Bryan Payne, Dorothy Halfhide, Bridget Hodge, Brian Howling, John Peake, Alison Jones, Sally Garrod, Gilbert Burroughes, David Gallifant and William Wild for this. Paul Blinkhorn was the pottery consultant for the project, and project supervisors were Catherine Ranson, Jessica Rippengal and David Crawford-White. Thanks are also due to Dave Andrews, Jon Clynch, Gareth Dean, Elizabeth James, Caroline McDonald, John Newman, Francis Pryor, Ben Robinson, Andrew Rogerson, Edwin Rose and Maisie Taylor for their support and much appreciated expert advice during site visits, and to the numerous students at the University of Cambridge who also helped out.

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Aspects of Early Medieval Industry in Burwell, Cambridgeshire

by Mo Muldowney
CAM ARC

Following an evaluation by trial trenching in November 2006, Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC (formerly the Archaeological Field Unit) carried out an excavation on land south of Isaacson Road, Burwell, ahead of a residential development by Upware Marina Limited.

The excavation ran throughout March and uncovered an area of extensive archaeology that initially appeared to confirm the findings of the evaluation, which had suggested the presence of chalk extraction pits, possible wells and iron-working activity. What came to light over the following few weeks was much more interesting. Five limekilns and three associated stoke holes and a windmill were revealed – dated to between the late 12th and 13th century (full analysis of the finds assemblage is currently ongoing). There were also chalk extraction pits concentrated in the south-east corner of the excavated area. In addition, approximately forty-six postholes were excavated, some of which may have formed ancillary structures to the windmill and/or limekilns, although as yet only one putative structure has been identified. This structure was located at the far west edge of site and was probably a six-post building measuring approximately 3.5m by 8.5m.

Pre-medieval

The earliest activity on site is prehistoric. Three postholes contained pottery dating to the early to middle Iron Age, although a number of other undated examples are probably also of this date. The presence of Iron Age postholes is not unusual in this Fen-edge environment; other examples have been identified a few hundred metres to the north-east, at Newmarket Road (Bailey with Popescu 2006) and at Fordham (Mortimer 2005). The significance of the subject site's postholes is as yet unknown, as no buildings (roundhouses or otherwise) can be determined but they do suggest possible activity on the Fen-edge.

Although no features of Saxon date were encountered during the excavation, two artefacts suggest that there is concurrent activity occurring in the vicinity: a single sherd of Buttermarket type Ipswich ware (AD 725-850) (Blinkhorn in Muldowney forthcoming) and a bone pin beater (9th century) (Crummy in Muldowney forthcoming). Certainly, the village of Burwell was already well established by this time and the main settlement is thought to have extended northwards from Isaacson Road (Franklin 2005, 17).

Post-conquest (c 1066 to 1200)

In the early years of the medieval period, the southern end of Burwell appears to have become a centre for industrial activity, in particular, chalk extraction and lime production. There were at least five limekilns on

the site, four of which were excavated. The kilns ranged in size from 2m to 4m in diameter and the largest was approximately 2.7m deep. All were circular in shape and tapered toward the bases, which were flat (Plate 1). In two instances it was possible to identify and excavate the associated stoke holes. Both were positioned to the west of the kiln and retained the distinctive sooting on the roof of the flue tunnel (Plate 2). Interestingly, the stoke hole of the smallest kiln (1.45m long by 1.25m wide) was square in plan, not oval like the other two examples. It is not known whether this is characteristic of early kilns or just unique to this feature – or perhaps even the person that dug it!

Chalk for firing in the kilns was extracted on site from a series of pits of varying shapes and sizes. Although the smaller, narrow pits were located separately from the larger, wider pits, all were quarried throughout the 12th century. The difference in size probably relates to the quantity of raw chalk required for each firing; the chalk extracted from the larger pits in the south-east corner of the excavated area, for example, was almost certainly fired in the large (4m diameter by 2.7m deep) kiln immediately to the east.

The method used to convert chalk into lime in these kilns was a simple process. The raw material was excavated from the extraction pits and broken into smaller pieces; it was then layered with brushwood in the tapering kiln until it formed a mound. Turf, presumably to trap heat within the kiln, was then laid over the mound. The stoke hole, or draw hole, appears to have had at least three functions. Firstly, it provided an access point via which the brushwood at the base of the kiln was lit; secondly, it acted as a flue, drawing smoke from the kiln and thirdly, it provided an access point through which to draw out the ash and lime (Goodbody 1992). After lighting, the kiln was left to burn continuously at 900° C (Snow 2002) for up to two weeks, although this probably varied depending on the size of the kiln – the large kiln in the south-east corner of the excavated area may well have taken three weeks to fire. It would also have produced a large quantity of lime: a rough calculation suggests that this kiln could have produced around 15,000 litres of lime per firing.

Despite being a relatively simple industrial activity, the process of lime production was extremely hazardous. During firing, the burning chalk released noxious carbon dioxide gases into the atmosphere, creating a high risk of asphyxiation, not just to the limeburners, but also to vagrants, who were known to have gathered round the warm kilns in winter months. After firing, a second danger was from the lime itself. Quicklime is a chemically unstable substance which, when combined with water (to produce slaked lime) releases heat. Burns were probably a common side effect of the job, as were

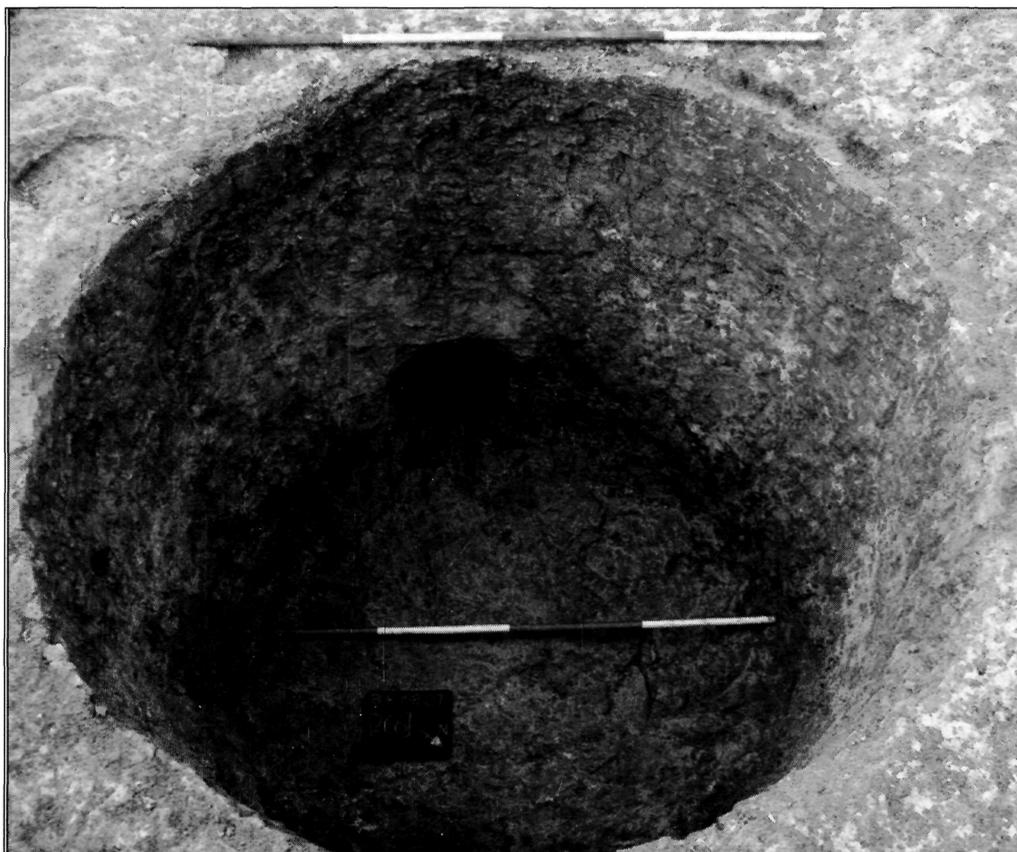


Plate 1: A fully excavated limekiln

fires – the slaked lime could cause the carts it was transported in to catch alight. Although the risk presented by lime production was high, the end product was in great demand and has been since Roman times, where it was used as the main ingredient in mortars, concretes, plasters, renders and washes. It is not clear what the lime produced at Isaacson Road was for, but it is likely that some was used locally, whilst the rest was transported to other towns and villages without access to chalk. Perhaps the most obvious recipient of the Isaacson Road lime was Burwell Castle (1140s), where the lime may have been used in the mortar for the walls discovered during Mr T C Lethbridge's 'excavations' in the 1930s (Franklin 2005, 12-14). As the castle was never completed, however, it appears much more likely that the kilns were producing lime for the expanding village and probably other settlements too.

Medieval (c 1200 to 1400)

After lime production ceased at the Burwell site in the late 12th century, a new industry was introduced – milling. The distinctive cross-shaped trestle foundation trench and C-shaped ditch of a 13th century post mill were identified in the north-east corner of the site. Prior to excavation commencing, there was no indication that a windmill existed in this location, so this discovery was a surprise.

The ditch had an internal diameter of 16m and was 5m to 6m wide by 1.2m deep and located centrally within its arc was the mill foundation trench, which had a 7m

cross-shape form (Plate 2). At the base of the foundation cut, chalk packing for the (presumed) timber trestle was still *in situ*. Its largely intact nature and very loose backfill demonstrates that the timbers were not removed but left to decay. Interestingly, the foundation trench contained a large quantity (2.16kg) of iron slag, not seen elsewhere in the excavated area. The significance, if any, of this is unclear. A flat iron object (SF11) was also found in the windmill foundation, which is currently thought to be a fixing.

Although no super-structure was identified, the shape of the foundation trench and the packing material suggest that the windmill was probably similar to that excavated at Great Linford in 1977 (Milton Keynes Council 2002) (illustrated in Blair and Ramsey 2001, 106). No mound evidence was identified either above the foundation trench or in the ditch backfill, nor was there any evidence to suggest the presence of a tail pole. This raises questions about the ditch: why was it dug? Where was the displaced/upcast material taken? It is hoped that examination of the Burwell evidence and other similar examples can provide the answers to these questions.

There is a reference in the Victoria County History that Tiptofts manor had, by 1298 a windmill, probably the Tibotots Mill, which in 1308 stood near a 'milnway' (Wareham and Wright 2002, 353). The location of the mill is thought to be in Mill, or East Field, although there is a difference of opinion as to its position. Franklin suggests that the Tibotots Mill is located to the east of the village at the corner of Mill Lane and Newmarket



Plate 2: Windmill foundation trench showing in situ chalk packing

Road (Franklin 2005, 88). A map of 1879 does indeed refer to a mill at that location, but it seems unlikely that a mill thought to have been built in the late 13th century would have survived into the 19th century. With this in mind, it is more likely that the mill found at Isaacson Road is the Tibotots Mill.

Later medieval to post-medieval (14th – 17th century)

After the windmill had gone out of use, probably in the early 14th century (Blinkhorn pers. comm.), activity on the site was much reduced. Only a single pit, a wide possible trackway and ditch post-dated the windmill. The trackway was located in the south-east corner of the site and aligned north-west to south-east. It was over 6m wide and comprised a series of concreted repair and levelling layers overlying ruts. The same feature was seen during the evaluation, continuing in a south-easterly direction for at least 10m. Interestingly, it appears to be aligned with Mill Lane, which runs parallel with North Street. Based on its stratigraphic position, the trackway was probably in use sometime after the 14th century.

With the exception of the trackway, very little activity occurred between the 14th century and the later medieval period, when a shallow boundary ditch (16th to 17th century) was installed (oriented north-east to south-west). The east terminus of the ditch is located just under 8m from the trackway, suggesting that the latter may well have been extant at that time.

Conclusions

The medieval industrial remains identified at Isaacson Road are of both regional and local importance. Whilst windmills are well documented in the east of England and East Anglia – for example, there are sixty references to windmills in Essex in the period 1200 to 1350 (Clarke 1996, 74) – only a small number have been excavated, such as at Mucking (Jones 1980, 42) and Boreham Airfield (Clarke 1996).

Limekilns are also a rare find, particularly in such numbers and most medieval examples have been found in urban, rather than rural contexts (Snow 2002), such as Colchester (Nina Crummy pers. comm.), making the discovery at Burwell all the more interesting. Clearly there was a reasonably long-lived and busy lime production centre in the south of the village in the 12th century, probably producing building material for the rapidly expanding settlement.

The site at Isaacson Road has produced unexpectedly interesting archaeological remains, which through further analysis, should shed light on the early medieval industrial history of Burwell, windmill construction and lime production.

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Excavation in Trelech 2005-6

by Ray Howell
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A second season in the field described in the M.S.R.G., 19, 2004 (See Fig. 1) targeted features revealed during excavations conducted in the previous year. Geophysical survey in 2002 had indicated a road running north south through the eastern side of the field. Subsequent excavation confirmed this road with metalling of tightly packed cobbles and wheel ruts; a well-defined ditch ran along its west side. The most extensive section of road surface was exposed in the north end of the field. A sequence of stone horizons probably best interpreted as working surfaces were adjacent; concentrations of 13th century ceramics were associated.

In the southern half of the field test pitting revealed linear stone features with associated medieval ceramics and iron slag; these provided the focus for work in 2004. A 12m x 6m (See Fig. 2) area was excavated, re-opening and expanding an investigation trench from the previous year. Compacted linear stone and cut features ran north/south. The uppermost of these (014) was a disturbed stone wall with up to five courses present in places. A late medieval/ early modern jug was crushed

under the wall (040) which was associated with a roughly cobbled area to the south (015) and an area of compacted iron slag (021). Concentrations of decayed mortar were also found in this horizon.

The earlier stone features were thin, generally a single layer of flat sandstones (i.e. 031), but were coherent and clearly defined (See Fig. 3). A posthole (008) near one of these features was associated with a small area of apparent flooring (029), much better constructed than the overlying cobbled surface described above (see also 004/014). A possible interpretation is that these features indicate a sequence of timber frame buildings with at least one slot placed on a stone base near a roadside ditch which is discussed more fully below.

Underlying these horizons was a cut slot (016/048) which appears to represent the earliest phase on the site. Both the slot and the stone features were parallel to the road which dictated the orientation of all phases.

Near the road, and running parallel to it, was a ditch (See Fig. 4) which was both larger and deeper than the ditch found in the 2004 excavations. The top of this flat bottomed ditch, began at approximately 0.5m below current ground level. The ditch (042) ran across the excavation with a step down at the south end of the excavation which fed into an apparent widened sump reaching a depth of 1.05 m below present ground level. A number of large unabraded thirteenth century pot sherds were recovered from the ditch fill, all from north of the step.

The west end of the excavation, the area farthest from the road, revealed evidence of industrial activity. A slag horizon (021), made up of smelting slags, appears to have been a dump; this spread partially overlay a shallow v-shaped linear feature (015) which might represent a drip gully. A possible post setting (039) was found in line to the east. Particularly important was a bright red/orange burnt layer (012) found in association with two large flat stones and an offset burnt black layer (011). This part of the site represents a good example of iron roasting which helps to complete the picture of ironworking in Trelech where both smelting and smithing on a large scale have been demonstrated in numerous excavations. The roasting may relate to smelting activity previously seen on Trelech Farm to the south during excavations preceding construction of a modern housing development.

Near to this industrial activity, a copper alloy coin weight for a gold half royal of Edward IV (Besley, pers. comm.) was recovered.

This site, which appears to indicate four or more phases of activity with workshops and a variety of working surfaces, adds to our understanding of the decayed urban site of Trelech and, in particular, given the iron roasting activity on the site, to the economic activity which underpinned it.

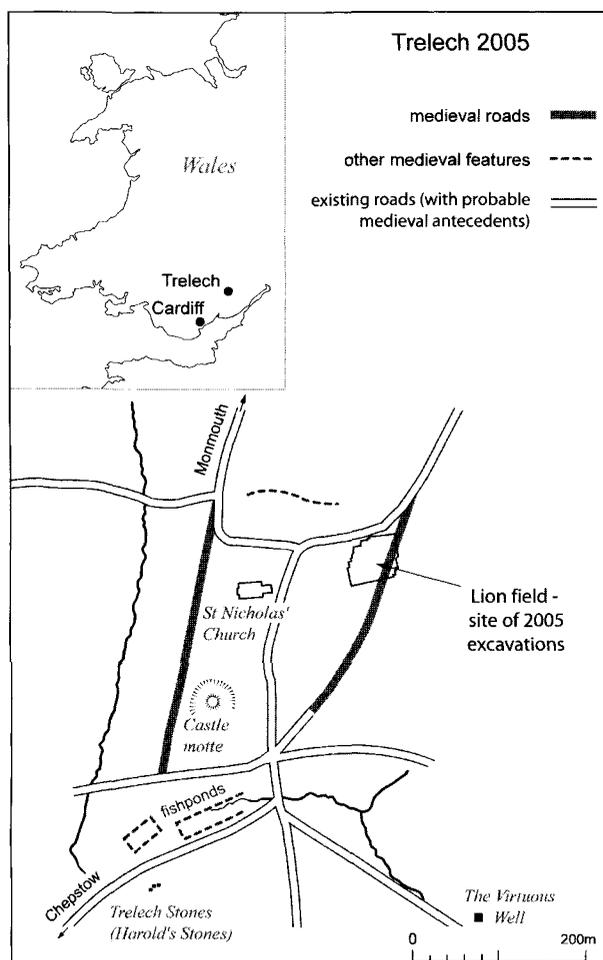


Figure 1: Location map. © Anne Leaver

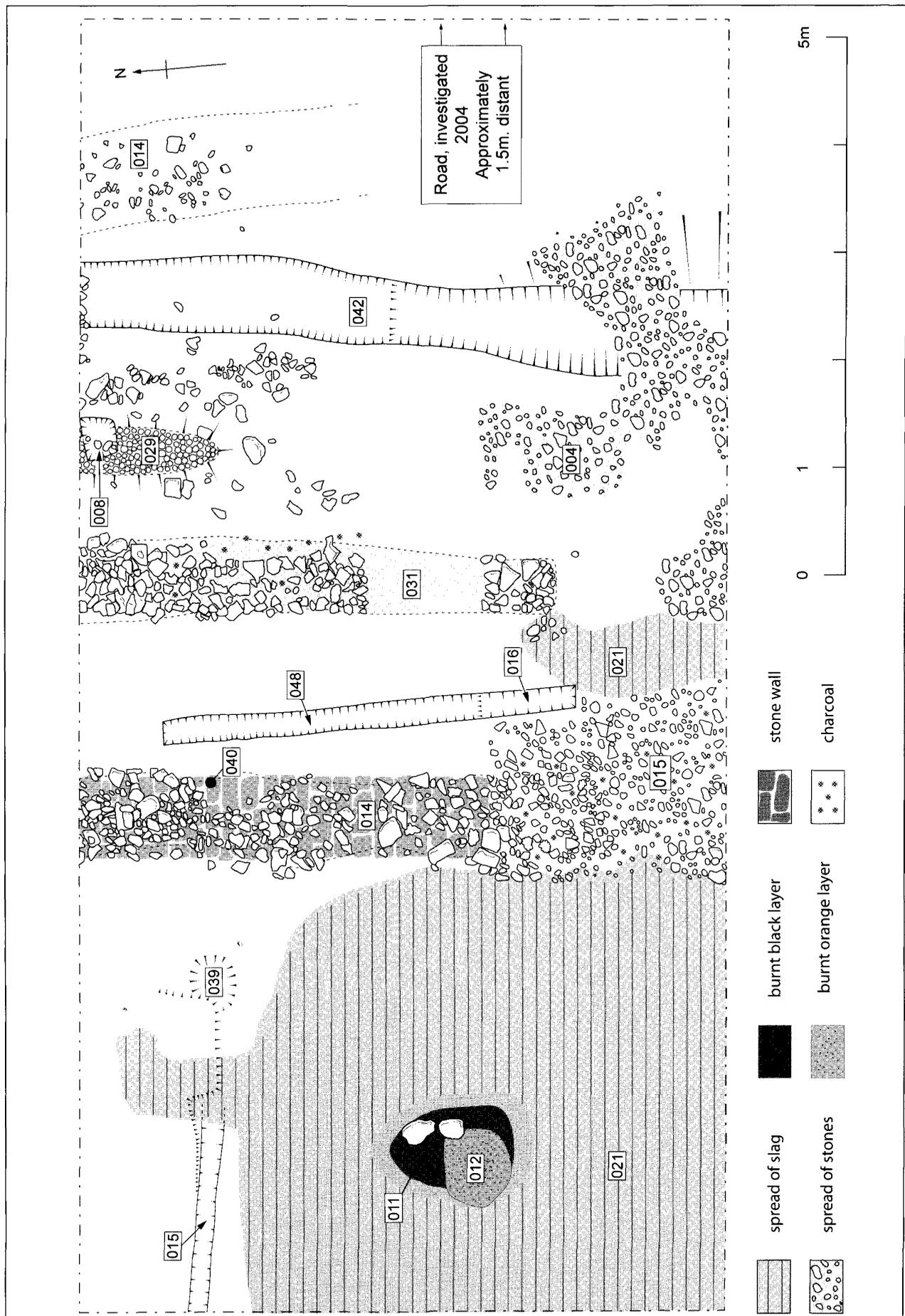


Figure 2: Plan of the site, 2005 © Anne Leaver



Figure 3: A linear stone feature (031), one of several roughly parallel stone and cut features found at right angles to the road surface excavated in 2004. © Ray Howell



Figure 4: A ditch near to the road which contained a number of large and unabraded thirteenth century pot sherds. © Ray Howell

TRELECH, the Croft (SO 500 054)

In May continuation of long-standing University of Wales Newport research excavations in Trelech led to the opening of a 2 metre by 7 metre trench near the northeast corner of a small field located between the Church Field West and castle bailey precinct. The purpose of the trench, subsequently extended to 2 metres by 9 metres, was to investigate the association between a complex stone lined drainage system noted in previous excavations and a north-south road which runs from the castle through Church Field West.

In the north of the trench, compacted stone indicated a possible wall running parallel to the road. Below this feature, the well-made stone drain was partially covered by large flat stone slabs. The western end of the drain, below the stone capping, splayed to a width of over a metre. Thirteenth century cooking pot sherds were associated. To the southwest, a small second stone drain was found running roughly parallel.

At the edge of the road, a small orthostat restricted water flow creating a sump. The fall of the drain was reversed at this point, emphasising the intent to create the sump. The purpose of this feature is unclear but re-deposited slag and furnace base fragments, along with evidence

from previous excavations, makes an industrial function a possible explanation for the drainage system. Well stratified thirteenth century ceramic material was found in and around the sump.

At the south end of the trench a possible robbed-out wall was found running east-west. When this feature was removed, a posthole with large lumps of slag associated was found. A pit, possibly a building slot, ran from the post to the southern edge of the excavation. Ceramics sealed in this feature included a green glazed strap handle, probably thirteenth century in date.

The ceramic assemblage included 56 sherds of coarse black "cooking pot" with quartz inclusions; local manufacture is likely. A total of 36 sherds were identified as Monnow Valley Ware, type A5/A5B. Forty sherds of Bristol Redcliff wares, mainly thirteenth/fourteenth century in date, included a strap handle and two large "pie crust" decorated bases. Five pieces of identifiable Saintonge ware were recovered.

It is hoped that work will continue in the decayed medieval town of Trelech, but with the demise of archaeology at University of Wales Newport, it is unclear how subsequent fieldwork/excavation will proceed.



Figure 5: Parallel drains in the Croft Field, Trelech

The Dùn Èistean Archaeology Project and the Ness Archaeological Landscape Survey

by Chris Barrowman and Rachel Barrowman
GUARD/Glasgow University Archaeology Department

Dùn Èistean (NB 5355 6501) is a fortified island site in the Western Isles of Scotland, situated on the north east coast of the Isle of Lewis, in the district of Ness (figures 1 and 2). It is recorded in oral tradition as the stronghold of the Clan Morrison, and fieldwork at the site, ongoing since 2000, has been discovering exciting archaeological evidence of the site's troubled and turbulent past. After initial survey and trial trench assessment undertaken by GUARD in 2000 and 2001 and funded by the Clan Morrison Society, a committee that combined the interests of the Clan Morrison, the local community and the Western Isles Archaeology Service initiated the Dùn Èistean Archaeology Project (DEAP) and its sister project, the Ness Archaeological Landscape Survey (NALS), in 2002. In 2003 the DEAP committee succeeded in securing funding for both projects for five years and in 2005 the first season of DEAP excavations and NALS survey was underway.

Three seasons of NALS survey fieldwork in March/April 2005 – 7 has recorded a rich diversity of sites, from prehistoric standing stones, to WW2 remains. The project has surveyed over 60 square kilometres in the north end of Ness, and recorded over 1300 features, using a differential GPS system. In addition to this, selected sites have been covered by geophysical survey. Medieval and later settlement remains have been recorded on the coastal areas, and further inland where the machair meets the modern croft land, and through the survey, it has been possible to begin to identify the medieval landscape of Ness, and to put the fortified site of Dùn Èistean in its landscape context. Cultivation systems, pre-crofting trackways, chapel sites and settlement mounds have been identified on croft land and around the township areas, and in the moor land the remains of shielings, turf walls and the monumental *Garadh dubh*, the ancient boundary of Ness, have been recorded. Remains that are recorded in oral tradition and place-names have also been plotted, such as the house of the Morrison brieves, the *Taigh Mor*, which is situated on machair land in an area rich in settlement remains (see figure 2).

All the recorded sites are linked into a GIS-database that demonstrates the inter-relationship of sites and, through the archaeological sites, the changes that have occurred in the Ness landscape through time. NALS is now embarking on two years of analysis and publication. After this, the GIS-database interface will be publicly accessible in the Comunn Eachdraidh Nis (Ness Historical Society) in Habost in Lewis, as well as being linked to the Western Isles SMR. In the final fieldwork season in April 2007, photographer Angus Mackintosh was funded by Highland 2007, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Western Isles Enterprise to work along side the archaeological team and to take photographs during the

survey, of the surveyors in the field, the landscape and the local people working in the landscape. An exhibition of his work in the Ness Historical Society (later moving to the An Lanntair Arts Centre in Stornoway) coincided with the final season of excavations on Dùn Èistean.

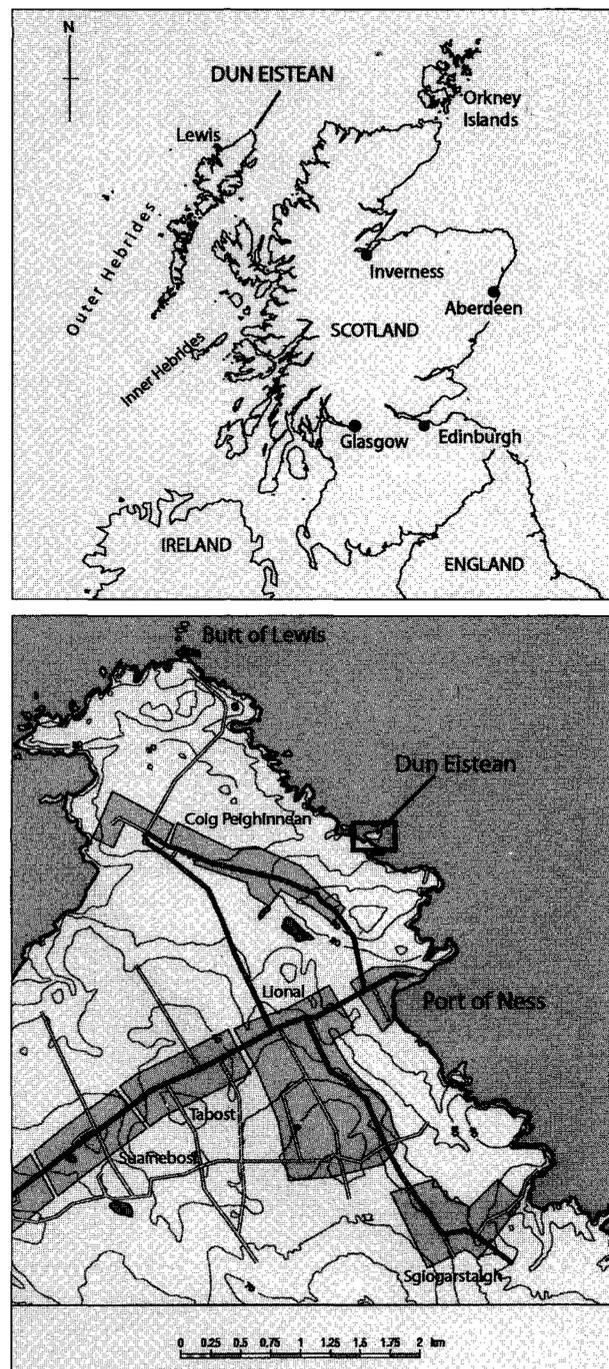


Figure 1: Maps showing location of the Isle of Lewis and Dùn Èistean



Figure 2: Dùn Èistean

The survey and excavations on Dùn Èistean (figure 3) have identified five groups of buildings, a ruined tower, and a small lochan, enclosed on the landward side by a perimeter wall built from turf with stone facing. Excavations at the site have demonstrated that these ruins date to the 15th to 17th centuries when Lewis underwent a period of unrest and lawlessness following the demise of Norse political control of the Hebrides. At this time influential clans competed for control with each other, and the Scottish Crown, and Dùn Èistean is one of several defensive island and dun sites around the Western Isles that are linked in local tradition to this volatile and often violent period in Lewis' history. In Ness, the MacLeods had come to dominate, and appointed the Morrisons as the 'brievies' or judges for Lewis. Local tradition records that the Morrisons would withdraw to Dùn Èistean during these violent struggles.

Excavations on Dùn Èistean by GUARD in 2001-2 and 2005-6 have uncovered evidence for everyday life, and also conflict, on this fascinating site. Peat hearths, broken pottery, pistol shot and coins dating to the 16th-17th centuries have been found in the interconnecting turf and stone buildings (see front cover), which were used as dwellings and for storage. One complex of structures on the west side of the island may have acted as a gatehouse, controlling access onto the site, as they are situated between two entrance points up the cliffs and onto the island. Ongoing excavations to the east of these buildings are investigating a second complex of structures built against the outer perimeter wall. Imported pottery of 16th-17th century date has been found in these buildings, and there is some evidence for domestic metalworking. North of these structures, at the highest point of the island, the ruins of a small stone and clay-bonded tower have been excavated (figure 4). This building commanded a view of the busy seaways from

the Butt of Lewis in the west, to Cape Wrath to the north, and east across to the Scottish mainland and the clan territories on the other side of the Minch. Dùn Èistean was ideally placed, naturally fortified refuge in times of trouble, but also as a symbol of power, dominating the north Lewis coastline from the sea.

This summer the final season of DEAP excavations on Dùn Èistean will investigate the evidence for metalworking on the site, the repair and re-use of some of the buildings, and the different floor layers and hearths in one particularly upstanding stone and turf building that has not yet been investigated. The results of soils and environmental analysis will be combined with radiocarbon dating to investigate the suggestion that the site was only occupied for short periods of time, as and when needed. The unusual construction of the tower, and suggestions that it may have been deliberately slighted will also be investigated further.

The local community were responsible for the inception of the DEAP and NALS projects, and are a vital element in its success. There are opportunities for volunteers to become involved in all aspects of the projects, including the excavations and survey work during the spring and summer. To learn more about the NALS survey and DEAP excavations, visit our website at www.duneistean.org. The Ness Remains exhibition (www.highland2007.com) will be on at the Comunn Eachdraidh Nis in Habost, Ness as part of Highland 2007 in July. The excavations at Dùn Èistean this year run from the 25th June to the 3rd August.

DEAP and NALS are funded by a partnership of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, the Clan Morrison Society, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis (Ness Historical Society), Glasgow University and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council).

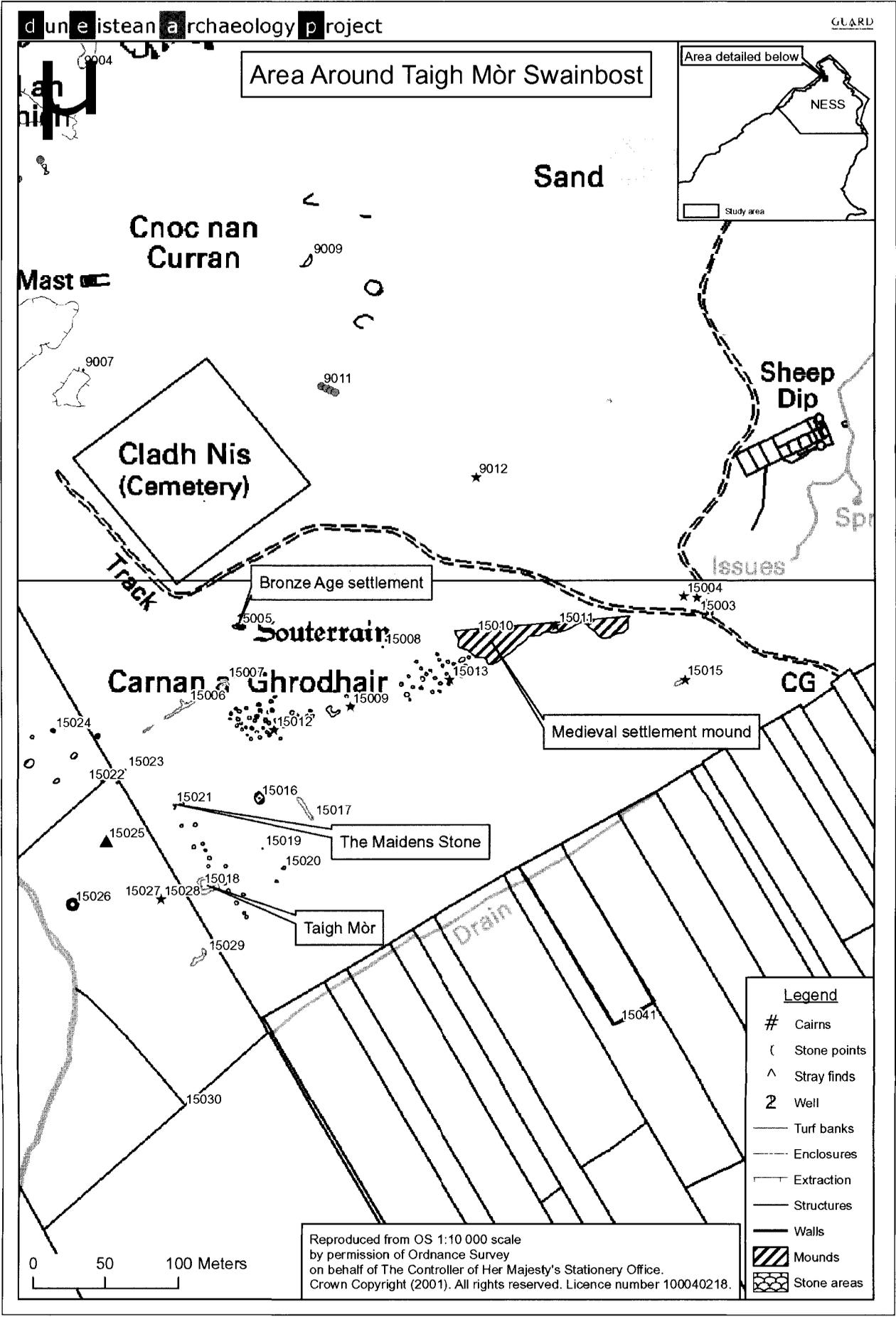


Figure 3: Plan of the survey and excavations at Dùn Èistean



Figure 4: Dùn Èistean excavations 2006 and structure G, a small stone and clay-bonded tower

The Archaeology of the Medieval Village in Southern Apulia, Italy

by Paul Arthur
University of Lecce, Italy

Southern Italy can boast no great tradition in the archaeology of the medieval village, and only today is the subject beginning to receive some attention. First steps in the field were taken by John Bradford with his splendid aerial photographs of the Tavoliere of northern Apulia, shot during the war years from 1943 to 1945. They revealed plans of sites, often with associated roads and fields. Nonetheless, one had to await the late 1960s for David Whitehouse of the British School at Rome to dig S. Maria d'Anglona and Satriano in Basilicata, and the Polish Academy of Science together with the University of Salerno to excavate the hilltop site of Capaccio Vecchia (SA), above classical *Paestum*. In 1972 the *École Française de Rome* with Jean-Marie Pesez began work at Brucato in Sicily, whilst later Ghislaine Noyé of the French *CNRS* was responsible for the excavation of Norman sites at Vaccarizza in Apulia, Torre di Mare in Basilicata, and Scribla in Calabria. Recently, Gioia Bertelli has conducted further excavations at Torre di Mare, Basilicata, as well as starting new excavations at the site of Seppanibale, Fasano, whilst Giuliano Volpe has begun excavating San Lorenzo "in Carmiano", near Foggia, one of Bradford's original sites. Unfortunately, though, the only type of medieval village that has attracted continued attention since the nineteenth century is that of the cave settlement, common in southern Italy, which has witnessed studies by art historians, architects and historians, but rarely by archaeologists.

Since the early 1990's the Laboratory for Medieval Archaeology of the University of Lecce has been investigating medieval remains in the provinces of Brindisi, Taranto and Lecce (the 'heel' of Italy). Particularly in the last province, some 550 medieval sites and associated evidence have been recorded. Of the 370 village sites now known, a number have been excavated, including three deserted villages, and a further one that developed into a planned small town in the fifteenth century. This last site, Muro Leccese, has become the focus of intensive work that has been carried out since 1999, hand in hand with urban development, and has witnessed the creation of the first museum specifically dedicated to the Middle Ages and modern times in southern Italy (see www.museomuro.it). Fixing the chronology of archaeological events has been greatly aided over the last few years by the creation of a ceramic typology that embraces the Middle Ages, linked to a substantial number of radiocarbon (AMS) dates.

A synthesis of the results so far obtained suggests that the classical period settlement and landscape was substantially disrupted during the course of the sixth century, with many sites being abandoned prior to the close of the war that saw the Byzantine emperor Justinian retaking Italy from the Ostrogoths. Despite a significant degree of toponymic (and possibly

demographic) survival, the seventh century saw a new order being gradually established, with the foundation of forts or *castra* and the appearance of new nucleated rural settlements. One of the earliest so far identified has been excavated near the town of Supersano, where various *Grubenhäuser* dating to the seventh century have been brought to light. Dating of the earliest phases of other excavated villages suggest that they appeared by the later seventh (Apigliano, Martano) and eighth (Quattro Macine, Giuggianello) centuries. Population growth or nucleation in Salento also seems to be indicated by increasing commercial contacts and the abundant references to Saracen attacks on local towns and villages for the procurement of slave labour from the eighth century. Striking evidence of their presence is the unique discovery in the town of Cannole of a copper coin or *fals* struck in Jerusalem between about 740-750. The following centuries of Byzantine rule were marked by the increasing development of villages and the gradual appearance of frescoed churches, built either of stone or of earth, or cut as cave-churches into the rock. By the end of the millennium the area appears to have participated in a revived Byzantine commercial network, yielding ceramics and other artefacts common to Butrint on the Albanian coast, and Corinth and Aegina in Greece, and sometimes coming from as far as Constantinople. The Norman conquest of the later eleventh century apparently did little to disrupt village settlement, though a few sites were abandoned, a few others were founded (including a scatter of earthen mottes), and Latin saints, together with the appearance of Benedictine monasteries, gradually made inroads into Byzantine religious culture. Excavation suggests that the dead were being buried increasingly within village cemeteries, whilst earlier they appear to have been interred in burial sites located at some distance from the settlements. Contacts with the Greek east were maintained, and even strengthened under Emperor Frederick II and the later Angevin kings in the thirteenth century, when large parts of Greece were subjected to western lords. This is clearly seen not only through the textual sources, but through an intensification of exchange, with local polychrome glazed pottery (RMR and protomaiolica) from Salento appearing in Greece (Corinth, Isthmia, Merbaka), and abundant base silver coins from Athens, Clarentia and Thebes, circulating in Apulia. Nonetheless, rural stone architecture does not appear to have become at all common until towards the close of the Middle Ages, in hand with a revolution in economic and social patterning.

Following the crises of the fourteenth century, about a third of the villages were abandoned. They gave way, particularly during the course of the fifteenth century, to the redesign of the surviving villages, newly equipped with defensive walls and moats, castles and subterranean olive presses. Quite rapidly, open cemeteries were

abandoned in favour of large crypts located beneath the new monumental Baroque churches, in an almost definitive supremacy of the Latin over the Greek Church, ratified by the Council of Trent (1545-1563).

The growing quantity of data is being managed through a GIS and a related database, together with environmental information, field systems, boundaries, portable finds and much more. This has very recently led to the observation that some modern municipal boundaries are of medieval date, as their alignments often neatly coincide with hypothetical boundaries created around deserted medieval villages through the use of weighted Thiessen polygons. In a couple of cases they also coincide with axes of the Roman centuriation system and surviving drystone walls which may be of medieval date if not earlier. This will clearly be an important line of enquiry, particularly as such evidence is rapidly being destroyed through modern agriculture and a local reticence towards conservation.

Further reading:

- P. Arthur, "From *Vicus* to Village: Italian Landscapes, AD 400-1000", in N. Christie (ed.), *Landscapes of Change. Rural evolutions in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, Ashgate Publishing, Aldershot, 2004, pp. 103-133.
- P. Arthur, "L'Archeologia del Villaggio Medievale in Puglia", in M. Milanese (ed.), *Vita e morte dei villaggi rurali tra Medioevo ed Età Moderna. Dallo scavo della villa de Geriti ad una pianificazione della tutela e della conoscenza dei villaggi abbandonati della Sardegna*, "Quaderni dei villaggi abbandonati della Sardegna" (QUAVAS), 2, All'Insegna del Giglio, Florence, 2006, pp. 97-121.
- P. Arthur and G. Gravili, "Approcci all'analisi degli insediamenti e loro confini territoriali nel medioevo", in *IV Congresso Nazionale di Archeologia Medievale*, All'Insegna del Giglio, Florence, 2006, pp. 31-36.

www.unile.it/archeologia

Roots and Origins: Archaeology and Wharram

An Interview with John G. Hurst

by Pamela Jane Smith
(edited by Carenza Lewis)

John Hurst, one of the founders of medieval archaeology in Britain and lifelong supporter of the MSRSG, was interviewed by Pamela Smith on 20 July 2000, recorded at Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Parts of that extensive and widely discursive interview are published below, edited to include those sections likely to be of greatest interest to members of MSRSG. Some sections of the original transcript of the interview have been omitted in their entirety, but otherwise editing has been restricted to the few minor alterations necessary to ensure correct sense can be made of edited sections. It provides a fascinating professional and personal insight into a private man, to whom everyone involved with the study of rural medieval settlement owes a huge debt.

How did you become interested in archaeology?

I was born in Cambridge in 1927, where my father was a Fellow-Commoner at Trinity; he was a pioneer geneticist, and my mother also was a botanist. When I was quite young, in fact about five, I think, I was taken out for walks, I suppose in a push-chair, to the Fitzwilliam Museum, which was really quite close to our home in Brookside; and I became fascinated in the collections there, particularly the lower galleries with their hundreds of objects, which my mother tells me I wanted to go back to again and again. How I first got into the Fitzwilliam, I don't know. I expect my mother, just out of general interest (because neither of my parents were interested in archaeology), just took me to the Museum for something to do, but I became so fascinated that I wanted to go back again and again, and I have never really looked back since that time.

In 1936, we moved to Leicester and that was the time that I first visited various ancient monuments, and also the Museum, which fascinated me. In the 1930s, of course, the most popular subject was Egypt, with the recent discovery of Tutankhamen. I was fascinated, and there were Egyptian collections in both the Fitzwilliam and the Leicester Museum. Not very much happened during the War, when I was at school at Harrow, because it was very difficult to get around; but in 1945, just after the War, I did my National Service, and this took place in the Middle East and I was in Palestine, Egypt and Greece, and of course that doubled my interest in archaeology, and I was very lucky being able to travel about quite a lot, as the War was over and it was easier to get about.

I left the Army in the summer of 1948, and I came up to Cambridge, to Trinity, to read archaeology. At that time, I was interested in prehistoric archaeology of Europe. I am not quite sure why I changed, because I could have done either Classical or Mediterranean archaeology here. But I chose prehistoric archaeology, and I was forced to specialise in the Palaeolithic under Dorothy Garrod. At that time, in the late 1940s, there were very

few students. There were, in fact, almost as many students as there were lecturers. Grahame Clark, who was my Supervisor, recommended that I took the Palaeolithic course under Dorothy Garrod. It was rather a difficult course, because Dorothy Garrod was a very shy person, and I am a very shy person myself, so it was difficult for us to get on with each other.

The other point about Cambridge was that, in the 1940s, there was actually no practical work at all here, no teaching of excavation techniques, no fieldwork, and very little on objects. In fact, those of us who wanted to do excavation had to teach ourselves, and even so we had to go to the Engineering Department to learn how to survey. In my case, the reason I got interested in medieval archaeology was that, together with Harry Norris — who is now, or was until he retired, in the School of Oriental and African Studies — we paired together, and as he lived at Harrow in Middlesex, we chose a medieval moated manor site at Northolt, only a few miles from his home and easy reach of London, where we started a trial excavation, really teaching ourselves how to excavate; and, in fact, I went on with that for 20 years until 1970, and we fully excavated the central part of the Manor House. It was at that time, in 1950–1951, we were producing large quantities of medieval pottery from this Manor House, and of course something I knew very little about, as I specialised in prehistoric archaeology.

I contacted Gerald Dunning, who was the pottery expert, the only person who had worked on medieval pottery throughout the 1930s and 1940s, and he came out to see my pottery and he encouraged me to do more work on pottery; and when I finished my degree, when I graduated in 1951, he persuaded me to do postgraduate work for a Ph.D. on Saxo-Norman pottery in East Anglia, that is to say, pottery from the late Saxon period going through to the 12th century. I worked on that for some years, but not as a Ph.D, because at that time one had to have residence, not like nowadays when you can do it more generally. It was through Gerald Dunning I got my first job. He persuaded me to apply for a post as an Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments in the then Ministry of Works. I was lucky to get this post and my responsibility was to help Gerald, who at that time, with the surge of rebuilding activity and increased agriculture after the War, was responsible for rescue excavations — excavations on sites which were going to be destroyed by various activities. I was his assistant, and when we expanded a year or two later, the work was divided. There were four of us: Sarnia Butcher who looked after Roman excavations, Robertson-Mackay prehistoric, I was allocated to medieval excavations, and therefore for most of my working life, certainly at least the next 20 years, I was responsible for organising rescue excavations on medieval sites.

My interest in pottery was very much to the fore in these activities, and during those years I tried to see all the medieval pottery being found all over the country, something of course not possible now, with so many excavations taking place. The other aspect of my work was deserted villages; pottery and medieval settlement generally were my two main interests. It was through Jack Golson that I slightly changed direction, although I always kept up pottery. Jack Golson was reading history at Peterhouse under Prof. Postan, and he was interested in archaeology and he came to the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology in his final year, about 1950–51. He was extremely interested in getting excavation work going on the deserted villages. Prof. Postan had tried to start this off in 1948 when he called a very important meeting in Cambridge including medieval historians, Professor Grahame Clark, of course, leading it from Peterhouse; and they brought in William Hoskins, who had been working on deserted villages in the Midlands, and Maurice Beresford, working on Yorkshire deserted villages, and other economic historians and geographers. They went out to visit sites in Leicestershire, and the most important person in that party really was Axel Steensberg, from Denmark, who had been working through the 1940s on deserted villages in Denmark at a time when nothing like that was happening in this country. He had been working under Prof. Gudmund Hatt, who in the 1920s had pioneered the open-area excavation which was necessary on the medieval sites. Over most of Europe in the 1920s and 1930s, excavations were carried out either by trenches or by grid method with baulks in between, a method particularly associated with Mortimer Wheeler on Roman sites in this country, but really universal through most of Western Europe; and on these sites in Denmark where you have peasant houses of the medieval period, which were very flimsy and therefore if you put a trench across it you really find nothing at all. It would just be the odd posthole where posts had been put or various marks in the soil.

Professor Hatt developed this method of clearing the whole site layer by layer, and planning it, and planning all the finds, to get a general picture which would not be possible from all these small grids and baulks, which were of course all right for a Roman villa with stone foundations. His student in the 1930s was Axel Steensberg, and Axel became interested in medieval — I'm not quite sure why, but like myself he changed from prehistoric to medieval, partly I think because he was interested in farms. He was himself the son of a farmer, and this was very important for his whole career, because he understood harvesting implements, which he particularly worked on, were found, he knew what they all were and how they worked, from his personal experience as a farmer in the early part of the century. He was on the farm for the first 25 years before he went to the university.

Jack Golson and I met Axel Steensberg in August 1951, at the Edinburgh meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. I, of course, was interested in pottery at that time, as I said, and Jack Golson was interested in the excavation of villages themselves. So it must have been between 1951, when I graduated, and

1952 that we got together and suggested that he would excavate medieval villages in this country and I would help him by looking at the pottery. This was all changed by chance, in fact the whole of this business has been chance I think, because Golson went over to Denmark and spent six months excavating with Axel Steensberg, leaving me here in England still working on pottery. Donald Harden (Museum of London), who I had also known through the British Association, asked me to give a talk on deserted villages to the British Association at Belfast in 1952, and I had to look up a lot of the work that Golson had done because I was not familiar with the literature. I had a lot of help from Jack Golson. I gave this lecture in Belfast in 1952, and Jack Golson came back that same autumn from Denmark, and we managed to get as many experts on medieval settlement as possible; and we formed the interdisciplinary Deserted Medieval Village Research Group in October 1952, with the aim of coordinating work on medieval rural settlement, a subject that was entirely new.

Before the War and back into the 19th century, all work on the medieval period was concerned with the upper classes, with churches, abbeys, castles and manor houses, and even there it was mainly architectural. They were interested in the surviving buildings, not in the excavation. There was some very early pioneer work in the middle of the 19th century, the time when the Romanticism of the 18th century was changing to the scientific foundations in the second quarter of the 19th century, with the understanding of the principles of geology and basic science coming into the fore, leading up to Darwin in the middle of the century. In the 1840s, there was a great surge of archaeological interest. Archaeological societies were formed all over the country as part of this general process, and very much increased by the building of the railways, which made it practical for people to attend meetings at some distance; that is to say, the Society of Antiquaries of London had always held weekly meetings in London, but in the 1840s, the Archaeological Institute and the British Archaeological Association were both founded, with monthly meetings, and with the railways people were able to come from all over the country to London for these meetings, and there was a great surge of archaeology generally and particularly excavations; and it was at that time, that the first excavations were carried in a very primitive way on deserted villages, particularly at Woodbury in Oxford, by Reverend Wilson of Trinity; but then suddenly the whole thing seemed to change, and throughout the second half of the 19th century there was no interest in medieval rural settlement. Interest seemed to be entirely concerned with the upper classes, as I said, with the castles, abbeys and churches.

It wasn't until the 1930s that medieval archaeology really took off, and this happened in Oxford with several undergraduates who graduated in the 1930s. There was Rupert Bruce Mitford, who carried out the first urban excavation in Oxford on the Bodleian site, or at least he didn't excavate so much as watch the building of the new Bodleian site, and he formed a sequence of pottery for the Oxford region which still stands today. It was remarkable as a piece of work. And then there was Martyn Jope, who was a chemist. There were no

archaeology degrees at that time. All these people did other subjects. There was Martyn Jope, who was also interested in pottery. It was he who excavated one of the first medieval peasant houses in 1938, at Great Beere in Devon. Then there was John Ward Perkins, who was interested in objects, and he worked on these, particularly material in the London Museum, and published the famous London Museum catalogue in 1940, and this was the first assessment of archaeological finds from the medieval period.

The War years prevented any more work from happening. It was in 1948, which was really a most remarkable year and the founding of medieval archaeology, not only with this meeting of Postan's, but Rupert Bruce-Mitford made a plea in the *Archaeological Newsletter*, the popular periodical of the time for medieval archaeology, and suggested that it was time to pay attention to how the ordinary people lived, and not just the upper classes; and it was also the same year that Dr St Joseph, here in Cambridge, started his aerial flights, taking aerial photographs. And it's really aerial photographs, together with the historical work by Maurice Beresford and William Hoskins, that really made it possible for the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group to work on medieval settlement, because the historical evidence showed that there were these deserted villages which, incredibly, despite the large number of earthworks on the ground, had been denied by historians. In fact, only in the 1940s, there was an economic history of England which stressed that this was all Elizabethan propaganda, that there weren't any deserted medieval villages. When Maurice Beresford produced his *Lost Villages of England* in 1954, a lot of people did not really believe that there were as many as 1500 deserted villages in this country. The historians had never got out onto the ground. It was really Dr St Joseph with his remarkable oblique air photographs showing up the regular nature of these earth works. You could walk over these sites and they are really just humps and bumps in the ground. It's really only when you get up in the air that you can see the layout of these villages.

So, the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group spent a large number of years visiting these sites, particularly Maurice Beresford and myself. Over a period of 20 years we visited some 2000 of these sites, 3000 are now recognised. That was one part of the work, but perhaps the most crucial work was the excavations which we carried out. When I first met Maurice Beresford at the end of 1951, he had been doing some trial excavations at Wharram Percy, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, on the chalk wolds, and he asked me to come and have a look, and this I did in April 1952. He was excavating on house 5 (the earthworks had been planned and the various earthworks given numbers), and he had dug around the chalk walls of the late medieval peasant house. The village was abandoned about 1500, but he had no expertise in archaeology, and what I did was to excavate a square in the corner of the house, and we dug down below the standing chalk walls and we found a wall underneath on a different alignment, and underneath that a pit which turned out to be a chalk quarry; the chalk providing the building stone for the peasant houses. So on that very first weekend when I

joined Beresford, we had shown that there were three different periods on this site at Wharram, and because of facilities on the site, there were some cottages which had been abandoned, labourers' cottages, and because of the fact that the site belonged to Lord Middleton who was very sympathetic to archaeology, the DMVRG decided that they should carry out excavations at this chalk site of Wharram Percy and also to try a site in the Midlands at Wolfhamcote, Warwickshire. Clay sites were very difficult in that time. You can't see where the peasant houses are, because they were built of timber which had decayed, and therefore you have a 200-foot square enclosure with no idea of where to find the house. It was a very hot summer indeed in 1954 when we started there with my wife, and unfortunately we didn't find any structures at all. But at Wharram Percy we had found a tremendous amount of evidence on house 10, the area we had decided to excavate, and we therefore suggested that we should concentrate our efforts at this one site at Wharram Percy.

It was not possible to do more, because at that time there was very little money for research, and Maurice Beresford and myself each took time off without any financial help, and we relied on volunteer students coming to help. In the 1950s, students were happy to come on excavations and offered to pay for themselves. We were also very lucky in the fact that Professor Darby, Professor of Geography in London, and of course geography is a very important aspect of the deserted villages, contributed his geography students to the Wharram project, and over the first 20 years or so we had about 30 students excavating at Wharram. Not just history, but others from all over the country and from abroad, from America, Canada and elsewhere. We were only able to excavate one site at a time for three weeks each July. Three weeks was the longest time that either Maurice Beresford or myself could take leave from our work. During this first period in the 1950s, we completely excavated the area 10 peasant house and we found a whole sequence of periods which was very difficult to understand. We had very flimsy remains, and therefore we formed the idea that the peasant houses were rebuilt about every generation.

It wasn't really until the 1980s that Stuart Wrathmell suggested that in fact we had more solid peasant houses than we had supposed, and the houses were in fact cruck buildings, that is to say, the main structure with two curving timbers joined together at the top, which formed the superstructure, and in between there were just very flimsy walls, not any solid load-bearing walls, and therefore what we found were these flimsy in-fillings between the major timber structures which have to be renewed every generation. So the actual houses survived over a longer period of time. But nevertheless we still had two or three major periods during the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries when these peasant houses were rebuilt, and we therefore learned a great deal about how the medieval peasant lived, something entirely new. The typical type of house, the long-house, in which the people lived at one end of the house, a cross-passage at the middle and then at the lower end, the byre where the cattle were stalled with their drain; all part of the system, everybody living together. The general heat generated

was very beneficial for the English climate. We went on in the 1960s again with the small number of volunteers to excavate another peasant house, area 6.

Then the situation completely changed in 1970, when I managed to persuade the Department of Environment, as it then was, having gone through various different bodies from the Ministry of Works in the 1940s, to take guardianship of the site. Again, we were very lucky that Lord Middleton was willing for this to take place, and therefore between 1970 and 1990, we had a 20-year programme looking at as many different aspects of the village as possible. We had already quite by chance found the undercroft of a 12th-century manor house underneath the peasant buildings in area 10, but we went on to completely excavate the church, to excavate the site of the medieval mill and then look at the boundaries of the village as well, which showed that the village had been laid out in late Saxon times on the Roman fields of an earlier Iron Age and Roman settlement. This was one of the most important developments, which had also been found elsewhere in the country. I persuaded the Ministry of Works, in my function as rescue coordinator, to look at individual peasant houses in the medieval villages which were being destroyed through agriculture in the 1950s. We excavated a number of single peasant houses in different parts of the country to get an idea of how these varied, with the idea that Wharram Percy would be the main excavation where large-scale excavation would take place.

Concurrently with the excavations, the work going on in other parts of the country, and gradually it developed that the whole understanding of medieval settlement had been wrong. Historians had assumed that when the Saxons came over in the 5th century, they laid out these villages, and in fact they cut many of them out of the primeval forest which had not been cleared; but work of prehistorians had already shown by 1970s that certainly by Roman times, the whole country had been cleared of forests and was very fully settled. Our work on the medieval settlements showed that none of these nucleated settlements were earlier than the 8th or 9th centuries, and the Saxons had come over here and lived in scattered farms, very much the same as throughout the prehistoric and Roman period. I think that was the most fundamental discovery of the work of the DMVRG at Wharram Percy and corroborated by all these other excavations all around the country, which showed that the Romano-British and Prehistoric scattered settlement remained throughout the early Saxon period, and it wasn't until the 9th and 10th Century that most nucleated settlements were formed. These, of course, were what we had been excavating, and it was the further development that we learnt a great deal about how these people lived and about how the medieval peasant lived, as well as the upper classes.

Would you be willing to discuss some of the other personalities involved, such as McKenny Hughes and Lady Fox?

McKenny Hughes was a very remarkable Victorian who was in many ways a pioneer of medieval archaeology, although he had wider interests in the Romans and in prehistory. He was Professor of Geology here at

Cambridge, and in the 1880s and going on into the 20th century, he watched a great deal of building work in Cambridge, and I think it is fair to say that it was the only town in the country where this sort of work was going on at that time; and he also carried out a limited amount of excavations, trying to determine the line of the city ditch. He took notice of the stratified levels, which of course was very early for this type of technique, which was being pioneered by Pitt Rivers at the same time in the 1880s, and this was the first time it was applied to an urban situation. I came across his work when I was doing my thesis on Saxo-Norman pottery in East Anglia. The first thing I did was to go through all the collections here in the Museum in Cambridge, and it was remarkable what a pioneer he was, because after the early part of the 20th century, no more work was done on this material until I came along in 1951. The most incredible thing of all was that the boxes were still packed in [contemporary] newspapers and it was clear that nobody had looked at the material since McKenny Hughes had packed it away. He was certainly a very important early pioneer for both medieval archaeology and urban archaeology, although of course I never knew him – I think he died during the First World War [1917].

Sir Cyril Fox was a very important pioneer here in Cambridge with his survey of the Cambridge region, one of the first archaeological surveys of an area, and his wife was Aileen Fox; and in the 1930s they did carry out, at Gelligaer Common in Glamorgan, one of the first excavations of a medieval peasant house, at the same time that Martyn Jope was working from Oxford. I came to know the Foxes in 1952, when Jack Golson and I were making a list of people interested in medieval settlement to join the Committee of the DMVRG, and of course Sir Cyril Fox was one of the first people to come to mind, because of his early work, and we brought him on to the Committee and he was extremely helpful and friendly. Lady Fox was mainly working on Roman Exeter, after the bombing, but she was of course still interested in medieval settlement. I arranged an excavation for her at Dean Moor on Dartmoor, of a medieval farm which was being threatened at that time, part of my arranging of rescue excavations in different parts of the country.

At Cambridge, two important people were Miles Burkitt and Geoffrey Bushnell. Geoffrey Bushnell was the Curator here in the Museum, and of course mainly an American archaeologist. He was interested in a very wide range of materials, and when I started my research on medieval pottery here in the Museum, he worked with me on a special type of pottery made here in Cambridgeshire, sgraffito ware, in which the decoration was scratched through the pottery. We did an article together on this, and he was really most helpful in all my research here, getting the pottery out for me and helping me on my research, which led to three articles in the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*. Miles Burkitt was doubly known to me by the fact that he was a leading member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which my parents had attended in the 1920s and in the 1930s. I went to BA for the first time in 1936 when I was only nine, but I was just taken along there. It was the earliest time they

thought I could go. I am not quite sure what I did at that time, but I next went, or tried to go, in 1939; but that was cancelled because of the War. But from 1948 I was a regular attendee, and I knew Miles and Peggy very well from the British Association, much more socially than I did here at the University, when I was just being lectured to by Miles. He was a very jovial, outgoing person who always wore an overcoat when he was lecturing. I am not sure if he did this through the summer, but my impression was that he was always wearing this overcoat. He gave general archaeological background lectures and I found these fascinating. He was very much a synthesizer. He has been criticized. I mean, his book on Africa, for example, people say he just went down there and sort of wrote up everybody else's work. That may be the case, but I think that they are very brilliant syntheses, of course out of date now, but the series of books he wrote based on his lectures here were certainly ideal for university students and the best way of getting the information to them. I think he was very good in that way.

Can you comment on how revolutionary the open-area excavation techniques were?

It was certainly a very remarkable development, because there is no way that the medieval peasant house, with its flimsy foundations, could have been understood by digging the grids and trenches of the Mortimer Wheeler school. By opening the whole site at once and seeing each period in its entirety, and then peeling off to the next, it was possible to understand these very slight foundations of medieval buildings; and this has now become the standard method of excavation throughout England and, in fact, most of Europe. It is now applied not only to rural sites, but also urban sites and other sites in general, because it has come to be understood that looking at the entire level of any one period, whatever the circumstances, is a much better way of doing things than digging trenches or opening up small squares, the great fault of which has always been that you excavate one square while the other square, two feet away, is totally different and bears no relation to the previous one. This is fine for major Roman stone buildings, but is really useless for these slight traces in the soil, just different colour marks in the soil, which are of course usual on the peasant house, which without the major building stone and architectural fragments of the castles and abbeys which had been previously studied before.

Tell us more about Bersu's work.

Indeed, the same sort of technique was being developed in Germany. The excavators at the Neolithic site at Köln Linderthal, near Cologne, were doing this during the 1930s, and again Bersu was obviously a part of this German school and he came over here. He excavated Little Woodbury, Wiltshire, which first brought open-area excavation to this country in the prehistoric period and then during the War he was interned. He dug a very important site at Vowlam in the Isle of Man, where he had a site which was entirely different marks of the soil without any stone at all, a site of the Viking period. This he excavated in a very remarkable way. Really, the whole process of archaeology has been changed by this method of open area excavation, which has enabled

excavators in the second half of the 20th century to produce very much more remarkable results than was possible in the earlier time.

Does it also permit better pollen and soil studies and other types of scientific enquiry?

I am not sure it does in that way because you really need sections for pollen and that sort of analysis. The main trouble with medieval sites is that you very rarely get any pollen or ecological samples at all. Wharram Percy was on the chalk; of course nothing survives there, although we do have some deposits in the valley bottom, underneath the mill dam. It is one of the main needs for the future of medieval rural archaeology. We do need to try to find a water-logged site which will give us better evidence. The surviving materials, the pottery and the bone, are only a very small aspect of medieval life. We have lost all the basketry and the leather and all the other things which don't survive.

But it did allow you to think about the economic arrangement of houses?

Well, yes and no. The animal bones are the most important find that you get, after pottery, and to a lesser extent metalwork. We have done a lot of studies on the animal bones. We have rather different evidence from different sites. At Wharram, the largest number of bones are sheep and slightly less cattle, but because of the size of cattle it is likely that the cattle provided the larger proportion of the meat diet than the sheep. We have very few pig, which is surprising, even from the Manor House, because it is supposed that in medieval times the upper classes ate a lot of pigs. In the later medieval period we get quite a lot of old sheep, that is to say, that they were not killed for eating but kept for a long time for wool, and this is one of the major changes in the later medieval period; that people, or rather lords, found it much more economical to increase the numbers of sheep and cut down on the arable land, because the price of wool was very much higher than the price of corn. With this great export, England was famous for its exporting wool to the Continent.

It was because of this very fundamental economic change in the second half of the 15th century that some 1500 of our 3000 deserted villages were destroyed, with this changeover. The landlord found it much more profitable to have a single shepherd and his family looking after sheep over 1000 acres, rather than having some 30 families growing corn, which would not bring him quite so much profit. This is the main reason for the desertion of villages like Wharram Percy, which was deserted about 1500 AD. Quite a large number were deserted at other times, going right back to the 12th century, when the Cistercian Monks came over and they wanted to put their abbeys in solitude and quite a few times they had to clear away villages for this. During the 14th century there was an economic decline and a lot of marginal land was abandoned. Only half-a-dozen villages out of the whole large number were destroyed by the Black Death. It is a popular fallacy that the Black Death was the main cause of the deserted villages. If a village was decimated by the Black Death, it still survived, because people came in from other sites, from

the marginal land, and this is quite clear from the medieval tax returns. When you compare 1334 AD to 1377 AD, you find as many people in these villages as there were before the Black Death, despite the large numbers of deaths, because these people come in from elsewhere. It wasn't until later in the 14th and particularly in the 15th century you get these other economic changes which caused the desertion of villages. Finally in the 18th century, you have the clearance of villages to create the 18th-century parks around the great country houses of the period. In medieval times, as at Wharram Percy, the Manor House would be in the middle of the village. In the 18th century Romantic situation, they wanted to clear all the nasty villages away and just look over their lawns to their Capability Brown parks.

Perhaps you can offer some concluding remarks? It does strike me that this is an interdisciplinary approach, using historians, as well as economists, as well as archaeologists.

Yes, indeed, that was the main reason for the forming of the DMVRG. It was basically comprised of historians and archaeologists, and also particularly geographers, because of their importance in doing this, in particular Professor Darby, because his impressive volumes on the Domesday which linked in the early part of the evidence that the historians had. We always had very close contacts with other people. The physical anthropologists, for example, we haven't mentioned

that, we excavated sample areas at the Wharram Percy church. We excavated some 200 burials north of the church and a similar number from the west. Simon Mays has some very exciting results, with the examination of these burials producing a lot of evidence on disease. For example, he has completely debunked the modern idea that osteoporosis in women is due to the modern lifestyle with smoking and things like that, because quite a large proportion of the Wharram medieval peasants also had this disease, so it can't have anything to do with the modern way of life. Other interesting things he has found out is that there are more men than there are women, while if you go to York, you have more women than men, and this confirms the historical suggestions that peasants were not completely confined to their village but the women, or quite a lot of the women, went to the towns to do menial work, and therefore you get this larger proportion of men in the countryside and a larger proportion of women in the town. Other interesting things have been found out from this work, which has been going on for a number of years and still is not published. I hope it will come to fruition in the next two or three years. We are in the process of publishing a large number of monographs on Wharram Percy. The eighth volume has come out, on some of the Saxon occupation, and another volume is nearly in the press, and then we have three or four other volumes to complete the work.

Thank you, Mr Hurst.

Discovery and Excavations in 2006

BERKSHIRE

Colbrook, land east of Horton Road (TQ 0165 7650)

Steve Ford for Thames Valley Archaeological Services excavated 522 evaluation trenches which, hardly surprisingly, revealed features of a range of dates. Medieval evidence consisted of a concentration of ditches, pits and what are probably quarries at the southern end of the site (close to Berkyn Manor and the village of Horton). These represent an area of occupation, with paddocks and a zone used for rubbish disposal. Isolated sherds of medieval pottery throughout the site presumably resulted from manuring. Only some 56 sherds of medieval pottery were present, mostly plain domestic jars in a variety of fabrics, equating with Newbury fabrics A-C and early Surrey sandy wares. Three fragments of Niedermendig lava querns are probably also to be assigned to this date, as Roman material was otherwise almost completely absent.

Kintbury, 2 The Croft, Church Street (SU 3826 6692)

Simon Cass for Thames Valley Archaeological Services opened three evaluation trenches on a site in the historic core of the village, revealing no features earlier than modern, although some residual pottery of Saxon and medieval dates was recovered. While the areas examined had been thoroughly disturbed by modern activity, there is still potential for medieval or Saxon archaeology in areas not affected by the current development.

Old Windsor, The Manor (SU993 747)

Danielle Milbank and Jo Pine maintained a watching brief for Thames Valley Archaeological Services on the construction of a new nursing home and revealed just a single archaeological feature, a mass grave or charnel pit, containing a minimum of three adult and two sub-adult burials. It is possible there were originally several separate graves which had later been disturbed, but it appears more likely they were all in one cut. No dating evidence came from this feature itself, but pottery from nearby spoil which also contained human bone included five sherds of medieval shelly ware and sandy ware dating from the 11th to 12th centuries.

Sonning, Old Walls, Sonning Lane (SU 7562 7536)

Two slight gullies, one containing just three sherds of 11th- to 13th-century pottery, were revealed by evaluation trenching by Andy Taylor for Thames Valley Archaeological Services.

Thatcham, 12-14 Church Gate (SU5162 6715)

Evaluation trenching by Danielle Milbank for Thames Valley Archaeological Services revealed just a single pit dated by eight sherds of Newbury A and C wares to the 12th/13th century.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Akeley, Village Hall (SP 7095 3765)

A watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with a new Village Hall development. No evidence was revealed to suggest that this part of the village had ever been used for other than agricultural purposes. No indications were found of any pre-medieval use of the site. Slight remains of possible cultivation ridges and furrows were noted. A possible ditch was also identified during monitoring of a service trench. This feature is of uncertain date but might relate to the northern boundary of an area of old inclosures, named New Close on the 1794 enclosure map.

Bow Brickhill, Crossroads Farm (SP 89378 33779)

Archaeological investigations were carried out during the groundworks associated with a small extension. No evidence was revealed to suggest that this small Development Site had ever been used for other than garden and agricultural purposes. No indications were found of any pre-medieval use of the site. Two small pits containing the skeletal remains of young sheep were found; one certainly modern and the other probably so.

Buckingham, Manor Farm (SP 699 349)

Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation at Manor Farm, Moreton Road, Buckingham on behalf of Bellway Homes and Taylor Woodrow. Medieval and post-medieval ditches and plough furrows were revealed, concentrated at the north end of the site.

Leckhampstead, Middle End Barn (SP 7279 3761)

An archaeological strip and record excavation, by Tim Upson-Smith of Northamptonshire Archaeology, carried out during the groundworks for the construction of a new stable on land at Middle End Barn, Leckhampstead, found a pond and a small pit. Finds from the pond included pottery dated from the 12th to 17th centuries and part of a 'bunsen-' type pewter candle holder dated to the late 15th- late 16th century. The pit was also post-medieval in date.

Ludgershall, Wooten End, near Brooklands Farm (SP 6654 1716)

David Gilbert and John Moore for John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation in 2004 as part of a consideration of a planning application for the construction of a detached house and garaging with an access track. The site was considered to lie within the envelope of the medieval village of Ludgershall. Further to the results of the evaluation additional archaeological investigation was required as a condition of the planning consent. This further work comprised the excavation of two trenches; one within the paddock to be developed with the new house and the other in the field to the south where the access track was proposed. This second trench extended the previous trench in the area. Also a watching brief was then carried out on all intrusive

groundworks associated with the area of the new building in 2006.

A quantity of later medieval pottery of 13th-16th century date was found in both trenches. Aerial photographs indicate ploughed out ridge and furrow in the paddock only slight traces were found during the watching brief. The trench in the field to the south sectioned the extant ridge and furrow and confirmed the earlier layout of strips located in 2004. A walk over survey of the immediate area confirmed that multiple phases of ridge and furrow are present in the area.

Olney, land to the rear of 13-17 High Street
(SP 88815 51430)

An archaeological evaluation consisting of 50m of trial trenches was carried out on behalf of Archaeologica Ltd, in advance of a housing development. The poorly preserved and heavily robbed remains of a pitched stone surface and a separate wall foundation were identified, along with an abandoned stone-lined well. It is thought likely that these are all of relatively recent date. No evidence of certain pre 19th-century deposits was identified. Extensive evidence of 19th-century and later rubbish pits, etc. was revealed.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Chatteris, London Road (TL 3904 8486)

On behalf of Persimmon Homes, M. Peachey of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation at the southern edge of Chatteris, an area where prehistoric and Roman remains had previously been identified. Post-medieval quarry pits were identified and medieval and later pottery was recovered.

Mark Peachey

Farcet, Main Street (TL 2023 9463)

Archaeological Project Services carried out an evaluation, for Hereward Homes Ltd, in the centre of Farcet, directly opposite the Norman parish church. A pit containing 13th century pottery was revealed and a pair of boundary ditches, probably dating from the 16th-17th centuries but recorded on a late 19th century map, were also recorded. A gully and pit, undated but probably post-medieval, were also identified.

Gary Taylor

March, Church Lane (TL 4153 9524)

Construction of an extension to the church hall, alongside the medieval church of St. Wendreda, was observed by C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services for Brand Associates and the PCC. Pits and occupation deposits of the 12th-13th centuries were identified, together with dumps of medieval and later date. Additionally, a post-medieval burial in a brick-built vault was revealed and Iron Age artefacts were recovered.

Victoria Mellor

Peterborough, Oxney Grange near Eye (TF 2245 0135)

This site lies on a gravel promontory just to the north of Flag Fen. Significant remains relating to the medieval monastic site of Oxney Grange, include graves, pits and some very substantial ditches dating to the 13th to the 14th century. The graves were on an east to west alignment and had no grave-goods. They were therefore interpreted as Christian burials. The ditches were presumably contemporary with the medieval moat that is still faintly visible in the fields surrounding the site and may have divided the site into different specialised areas.

Spencer Cooper

Ramsey, Ailwyn Community School (TL 2948 8489 and 2958 8492)

Three ditched boundaries and a few small quarry pits were recorded, some of which relate to Ramsey Abbey. Cartographic evidence suggests that the ditches span the medieval (or late medieval), post-medieval and modern periods. The earliest boundary marker (a wide, curving ditch) can be linked to aerial photographic and map evidence, enhancing previous plans of the Abbey Precinct. The latter appears to have been ovate, measuring some 800m north to south and 550m east to west and enclosing an area of roughly 35 hectares. There is evidence for a road or trackway that circumnavigates the precinct boundary. Revised suggestions can also be made about the location of the Abbey's docking facilities and the lode that fed them.

Richard Mortimer

St. Ives, The Granary, Nos 30-32 West Street
(TL 31149 71542)

This site lies on the northern fringes of the town's historic core and is located close to an excavation at the former Permanex site, where 13th-14th century plot boundaries, rubbish pits and a 17th-century cock-fighting pit were uncovered.

The recent work found a mass of quarry pits at a depth of c.0.7m below ground level, indicating extensive gravel extraction during the 12th-14th centuries. No remains of frontage buildings or boundary plots were found. These may have been removed by quarrying, or the site may have been located on the immediate fringes of the planned town. The pits were sealed beneath several post-medieval cultivation layers and modern rubble/construction deposits. Cartographic evidence indicates that the development area lay within a large parcel of land stretching back to North Road, which seems to have remained largely clear of buildings. The plot may have been an orchard in the latter part of the 19th century; no buildings are shown on the West Street frontage until the construction of the factory/warehouse in the 20th century

Rachel Clarke

St. Neots, land to the Rear of Nos 33 to 35 New Street (TL 1830 6045)

A large medieval ditch may have formed part of a precinct boundary relating to the town's Benedictine Priory (established c.972-5, dissolved 1539), which lies c.100m to the south-west of the New Street development area.

David Brown

St. Neots, Potton Lane (TL 1865 5820 – TL 1975 5740)

Investigations were undertaken, by Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd, in an area of prehistoric and Roman remains on the southern outskirts of St. Neots. Furrows of the medieval field system were revealed and a small quantity of medieval and later ceramics was recovered. Several gullies, a parallel pair probably representing a trackway, were also exposed but were undated.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Sawston, Sawston Hall (TL 4884 4912)

Early medieval features may represent field ditches or perhaps relate to the adjacent medieval manor house. A large moat ditch was found within the walled garden immediately behind the hall. This may form part of the original 12th- to 13th-century manor and was backfilled in the late medieval period. Upstanding remains from the 1940's occupation of the hall were also recorded.

Richard Mortimer

Whittlesford, Church of St Mary and St Andrew (TL 4737 4859)

Several complete and incomplete human burials were excavated and handed immediately to the church in preparation for reburial, with the exception of one burial which appeared to pre-date the church. A number of shallow, truncated features contained Early Saxon pottery. Other finds included a medieval German jetton from the 16th century and a large loom or thatch weight. Recording also took place when a previously blocked doorway on the northern side of the church was unblocked. A wooden door of possible 13th-century origin was found.

Taleyna Fletcher

DERBYSHIRE

Melbourne, Scallywags Nursery, Castle Lane (SK 389 253)

K. Murphy of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief, for Scallywags Nursery, during groundwork immediately north of the remains of medieval Melbourne Castle. However, only undated levelling deposits were revealed.

Jennifer Kitch

Sawley-Long Eaton, river trent left bank flood alleviation scheme (SK 471 315)

On behalf of the Environment Agency and Black and Veatch Ltd, Archaeological Project Services and Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit Archaeological jointly carried out an evaluation in advance of proposals to improve the River Trent flood defences. These investigations extended from Sawley in Derbyshire to Colwick on the east side of Nottingham. In the grounds of the Harrington Arms public house at Sawley an alignment of postholes, perhaps from a fence, yielded Cistercian ware pottery of 15th-16th century date. Remains of a brick building of probable Georgian date were revealed and two inter-cutting gullies containing 19th-20th century pottery and glass were also identified. medieval and early post-medieval pottery was also recovered at this location. Nearby, a trench examined ridge and furrow earthworks of probable medieval date and recovered a small amount of late medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Thomas Bradley-Lovekin, Archaeological Project Services, and David Walker, Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Lechlade, Pigeo Close, Burford Street (SU 2136 9965)

Jo Pine for Thames Valley Archaeological Services: Evaluation trenching established that deposits dating from the 13th century (and later) survived on the site. Although the earlier features are truncated to a degree, they are still well-defined and reasonably well preserved. Pits, post holes and probably ditches were present, with a modest collection of medieval and early post-medieval pottery and animal bone. Medieval pottery deposition seems to have been more or less continuous from the 13th century onwards with a range of fabrics present.

HAMPSHIRE

Petersfield, 6 St Peter's Road (SU 7472 2319)

Danielle Milbank for Thames Valley Archaeological Services opened three evaluation trenches. The only feature of interest was a shallow scoop (or base of a pit) containing a single sherd of a Laverstock type jug (13th century).

Old Basing, 14-16 Milkingpen Lane (SU 6675 5302)

Jennifer Lowe and Sean Wallis maintained a watching brief for Thames Valley Archaeological Services during new construction works. A number of features dating from the 13th century were recorded, including pits, ditches and a tile-built structure set into a 2.8m square, 0.35m deep cut. It extended to only five courses of flat-laid tiles and does not appear ever to have been deeper nor to have been floored. A single course of bricks subdivided the interior into two unequal halves. Its function is enigmatic, perhaps a small sub-floor storage space. Over two hundred sherds of pottery (Newbury A and Bentley wares predominant) suggest a 13th-century date for the bulk of the features, including the tile structure.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Ware, Tesco Service Yard, West Street (TL 3578 1442)

Stephen Hammond maintained a watching brief for Thames Valley Archaeological Services on the extension of a service yard area, and revealed only post-medieval and modern features and disturbance. A handful of medieval pottery was all unstratified.

HUMBERSIDE – NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE UA

Brigsley, Church Lane (TA 2547 0172)

Development groundwork in the historic core of Brigsley was monitored by B. Martin of Archaeological Project Services for Jonathon Hendry Architects. The investigation revealed several pits and ditches dated to the Middle Saxon period and containing Ipswich-type ware and Maxey ware, these ceramics indicating the proximity of relatively high status settlement of the period. A medieval pit was also revealed, together with two further pits that, although undated, may also be medieval.

Jennifer Kitch

LEICESTERSHIRE

Barrow upon Soar, Catsick Hill (SK 5740 1838)

Archaeological excavation was carried out by Danny McAree of Northamptonshire Archaeology on 14ha of land off Cotes Road, on behalf of David Wilson Homes Ltd (East Midlands) and Miller Homes Ltd (East Midlands). There was survival of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation across the fields. The substantial part of the excavation comprised the recording of the limekilns associated with the lime quarrying and lime burning in Barrow since AD 1396.

Eight clamp kilns up to 2m in diameter were exposed. All survived only as subcircular areas of bright orange/red burnt or vitrified lime and clay from the base of the kilns. Archaeomagnetic analysis from the bases of three of these kilns gave the date of last firing to between AD 1490-1510, 1510-1540 and 1570-1600.

There were nine 'pye' kilns. These were rectangular, up to 5m long and 0.75-1m wide. Each was located within a distinctive area of bright orange/red burnt lime and clay surface forming the base of the kiln. Archaeomagnetic analysis of samples from four of the 'pye' kilns gave dates in the ranges AD 1475, 1490, 1515-1535 and 1540.

Brick-lined kilns of post-medieval date were also investigated, and lime burning continued on this site until the early 20th century.

Barrowden, Tippings Lane (SK 9473 0012)

A watching brief, by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Mr R. Jones, was undertaken in the historic village core, close to known medieval remains. A medieval pit containing numerous dog bones, probably

an animal burial, was revealed. This was sealed beneath dumped deposits of probable late medieval or early post-medieval date that had been laid down to create a terrace on the natural slope. Cut into these terrace deposits was an undated but probably post-medieval pit. Overlying this pit were subsoil and topsoil deposits of 18th-20th century date.

Gary Taylor

Belton, Belton Baptist Church (SK 4455 2042)

On behalf of the Baptist Union, Archaeological Project Services carried out recording of all the graveyard memorials at the Baptist Church, founded in 1815. Over a hundred memorials were recorded, ranging in date between 1877 and 2005.

Jennifer Kitch

Bisbrooke, Village Farm (SP 8856 9955)

Proposals for redevelopment in the centre of Bisbrooke were examined by a programme of desk-based study and building survey by staff of Archaeological Project Services for C. T. Breakspeare Chartered Architect. The desk-based research indicated that the site was in the medieval core of the village and in proximity to prehistoric remains. Place-name evidence indicated there was a brick or tile kiln at the site, and a rabbit warren adjacent, no later than the 18th century. Building survey revealed an 18th century stone-built threshing barn incorporated into 19th century and later farm structures. Three sides of the barn survived and there was evidence it had been shortened in the 19th century and the opposed threshing doors substantially infilled.

Katie Murphy

Eaton, St. Denys' Church (SK 7975 2910)

Excavations of drains at the medieval church were monitored for Eaton PCC by M. Nugent of Archaeological Project Services. A graveyard soil, probably in formation since about the 13th century, was revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Edith Weston, Weston Road (SK 924 054)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief, for the James Richardson Design Consultancy and Mr & Mrs Makey, during development at the western edge of Edith Weston and near to previous discoveries of Roman burials. However, no archaeological remains were revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Empingham, Beckworth Grove (SK 951 089)

On behalf of Westleigh Developments, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief on the northern edge of the village, but no archaeological remains were revealed.

Mark Peachey

Empingham, Loves Lane (SK 9526 0881)

A watching brief, by B. Martin of Archaeological Project Services for A. & J. Nelson Farming, was undertaken in the historic core of the village and near to previous discoveries of medieval remains. However, no archaeological remains were revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Essendine, Bourne Road (TF 0474 1267)

Development close to the historic core of Essendine was monitored by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Mr & Mrs Delve. A pit was revealed beneath the subsoil and although undated is probably ancient. Artefacts of 19th-20th century date were recovered.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Garthorpe, St. Mary's Church (SK 832 209)

Service trenches at the 13th century church were monitored by Archaeological Project Services for Tim Radcliffe Associates and the Churches Conservation Trust. The foundations for the medieval church tower were revealed, together with the graveyard soil.

Michael Wood

Great Dalby, Nether End (SK 7459 1449)

On behalf of Polebrook Estates Ltd, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief and building recording within the medieval core of the village. No archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief. The building recording established that the surveyed structures were stables. Remnants of a probable 18th century ironstone barn had been substantially refurbished with brick in the 19th century. Further stabling in brick was also added in the 19th century.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Harby, Watsons Lane (SK 7455 3105)

Although close to medieval remains, a watching brief by Archaeological Project Services for A. M. Geeson (Builders) Ltd did not reveal any archaeological remains.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Ketton, Bull Lane (SK 9820 0466)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief and building recording, for Boss Stone Masonry Ltd, during development close to the medieval heart of Ketton. The site is occupied by a listed late 17th to early 18th century cottage. The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological remains. However, the building survey provided a record of the 17th-18th century building and showed it to comprise three principal phases, the latter two both of the 19th century. The original mullioned windows survived in the lower front elevation and blocked doors and windows were also recorded.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Ketton, The Green (SK 9794 0437)

Construction close to the medieval core of Ketton was monitored for the Richard Oakley Partnership by B. Martin of Archaeological Project Services. However, the only remains revealed were of 19th-20th century date and included a posthole, wall and drainage culvert. Artefacts of 18th-20th century date were retrieved.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Loughborough, Dishley Mill, Derby Road (SK 5166 2104)

An evaluation, supervised by M. Peachey of Archaeological Project Services for Mr R. Morley, was undertaken at the post-medieval mill which might be on the site of a medieval mill. A former watercourse, the Black Brook, was revealed. This was recorded on the 1886 OS map but is thought to have been ducted through a culvert in the 1970s.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Market Overton, Main Street (SK 8893 1624)

Development at the southern edge of Market Overton and near to previous discoveries of Roman remains was the subject of a watching brief, carried out by B. Martin of Archaeological Project Services for Boss Stone Masonry Ltd. However, no archaeological remains were identified.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Melton Mowbray, Leicester Road (SK 743 189)

Development on the west side of Melton Mowbray and near to previous discoveries of prehistoric and later remains was the subject of a watching brief, carried out by Archaeological Project Services for Barratt East Midlands. An undated quarry or ditch terminus was revealed and a small collection of medieval and later artefacts was recovered.

Tobin Rayner

Oakham, Knight's Yard, Gaol Street (SK 8596 0870)

T. Bradley-Lovekin of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief for Rutland Planning, during development on the southern edge of the historic core of Oakham. Two medieval pits containing pottery of mid 12th century date were revealed. Additionally, a ditch and pit, both of post-medieval date, were identified and contained slag and iron objects indicating a smithy in the area.

Gary Taylor

Owston, Main Street (SK 7765 0777)

On behalf of Clive Breakspeare Chartered Architect, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out an evaluation in the historic core of Owston. Drainage and boundary ditches of post-medieval date were revealed, together with spreads of demolition rubble from a former cottage that was located at the street frontage. Pottery of 17th-18th century date was recovered from the demolition debris, together with a single redeposited medieval sherd.

Gary Taylor

Sapcote, Rear of Methodist Church, Leicester Road (SP 490 933)

Trial trenching and observation on a site within the medieval village in May-June 2006 on behalf of The Breson Partnership Ltd revealed single fragments of Roman pottery and tile. Medieval features recorded included postholes and a small ditch overlaid by a rubble yard surface containing 12th/13th-century pottery. To the east a larger boundary ditch contained 13th/14th-century pottery, as did the layer over the surface.

In June 2006 observation of groundworks for extensions to the Methodist Church to the north, on behalf of Sapcote Methodist Church Council, revealed a large ditch, probably the continuation of the boundary recorded to the south. Brick foundations of the east wall of the earlier, 19th-century Methodist Chapel were also recorded.

Caroline Rann and Catherine Coutts,
Warwickshire Museum

Walton on the Wolds, Rose Villa Farm (SK 5945 1975)

On behalf of Mr J. Bacon, M. Wood of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief in the medieval core of the village. A single pit containing a dog burial and a quantity of pottery of 17th-19th century date was revealed.

Victoria Mellor

Wymondham, Spring Farm, Spring Lane (SK 849 186)

Building recording and a watching brief were undertaken by Archaeological Project Services for Mr P. Mitchell. The site is at the southwestern edge of the village in an area of earthworks of the shrunken settlement, and close to a Roman villa. Monitoring of development revealed an ironstone wall and adjacent mortar spread, perhaps a floor, though these were undated. Building recording of two barns revealed them to comprise two major phases of construction, the earlier being a former threshing barn perhaps of 18th century origin. The second barn, perhaps added in the mid 19th century, may have been a stable or for storage but had been extensively altered, removing any fixtures or fittings indicative of its original use.

Rachael Hall

LINCOLNSHIRE

Addlethorpe, Northern Bypass (TF 533 686 – TF 555 694)

Construction of a bypass through an area of prehistoric and later remains near the east coast of Lincolnshire was accompanied by archaeological investigations, supervised by F. Walker of Archaeological Project Services for the Highways and Planning Directorate of Lincolnshire County Council. Ditches and pits of medieval date were revealed some distance to the west of Addlethorpe. Although some of the ditches may be field boundaries, pottery of 13th-15th centuries occurred

fairly abundantly and probably signifies the former location of a subsidiary settlement. Post-medieval ditches were identified in the same area while ridge and furrow earthworks of the medieval field system were recorded directly north of Addlethorpe. Iron Age and Roman remains were also revealed.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Boston, Red Lion Street (TF 3279 4434)

P. Cope-Faulkner of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation close to the historic core of Boston for Gifford on behalf of Texas Group plc. Medieval dumped deposits, probably located in the rear yards of properties fronting nearby Bargate, were revealed, together with a mortar floor of a building. In the early post-medieval period the area appears to have been marshy, with evidence of dumping and garden soil formation. Extensive dumping occurred across the site in the later post-medieval period, preparatory to construction of various buildings including non-conformist chapels. A small amount of medieval, 13th-15th century, was recovered though much of the large artefact assemblage was dated to the 18th-19th centuries.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Bourne, Eastgate (TF 1021 1985)

Although in an area of Roman and medieval remains at Bourne, no archaeological evidence was revealed in a watching brief by Archaeological Project Services for Copland Building Contractors.

Mark Peachey

Bourne, South Road (TF 1037 1904)

Development to the south of Bourne and in an area of known Roman remains was monitored for F. E. Peacock Construction Ltd by Archaeological Project Services. A quantity of locally-made medieval and early post-medieval pottery was recovered and a post-medieval gravel pit was identified. Roman remains were also recorded.

Mark Peachey

Bourne, Spalding Road (TF 1037 2005)

A watching brief, by Archaeological Project Services for Persimmon Homes (East Midlands) Ltd, was undertaken near to previous discoveries of Roman and later remains. A medieval pit, probably originally a quarry, was backfilled with a substantial amount of locally-made 12th-14th century pottery, including wasters. The ceramic assemblage indicates pottery making in close proximity to the site during the medieval period.

Thomas Bradley-Lovekin

Crowland, West Street (TF 2382 1019)

Development in the centre of Crowland was monitored by C. Moulis of Archaeological Project Services for Miss Jinks and Mr Wright. A quantity of Late Saxon ceramics indicate activity of this date in the proximity of the site and occupation of the investigation area in the

13th-14th centuries was recognised. Numerous floor surfaces and a stone hearth base suggest a building of this period at the site and fragments of masonry were recovered, though the walls of the structure were not present in the investigated area. Fewer remains of 15th-16th century date were revealed, perhaps indicating that occupation was relocated or that the site was subsequently truncated. Walls of post-medieval buildings that can be correlated with structures depicted on early maps of the village were also exposed. In addition to a large quantity of pottery artefacts of other materials, including a bone knife handle and skate, both probably medieval, were retrieved.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Fleet, Hallgate (TF 3894 2360)

An evaluation, supervised by M. Peachey of Archaeological Project Services for H. Waltham & Co., was undertaken in an area of Saxon and later remains. A roadside ditch, backfilled in the post-medieval period but probably medieval in origin, was encountered. Several pits, mostly modern but one of 15th-17th century date, were also revealed. Artefacts of 10th century and later date were plentiful.

Mark Peachey

Gedney, Lowgate (TF 4106 2451)

Archaeological Project Services undertook a watching brief close to a medieval chapel site for Keni Developments Ltd. A wall and demolition deposit, both undated but probably post-medieval were revealed but no artefacts were retrieved.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Grantham, Welham Street (SK 917 358)

Land close to the centre of Grantham and in an area of previous discoveries of medieval and later remains was the subject of an evaluation, supervised by M. Wood of Archaeological Project Services for Interkonsult and South Kesteven District Council. Early modern dumped and levelling deposits occurred extensively. However, beneath these was a metalled yard surface of 14th-15th century date, upon which was a dump of bone waste that may represent a butchery or tannery in the vicinity.

Michael Wood

Haydor, Oasby, Mill Lane (TF 0030 3889)

On behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd, M. Peachey of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation at the southern edge of Oasby hamlet and near to known prehistoric remains. Ditches containing pottery of Early-Middle Saxon date were revealed, together with undated postholes and small quarry pits. Prehistoric remains were also identified.

Mark Peachey

Horblyng, Billingborough Road (TF 1176 3512)

An evaluation, supervised by T. Bradley-Lovekin of Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Broadgate Homes Ltd, was undertaken on land adjacent to previous discoveries of Late Saxon and medieval remains. Pits and ditches of both Late Saxon and medieval date were revealed and other similar features were probably broadly of these phases, though lacked dating evidence. Several post-medieval pits that contained slag and hearth lining associated with iron smithing were also encountered. The comparatively small assemblage of Late Saxon and medieval material, and its poor condition, suggests the features relate to agricultural activity in proximity to settlement, rather than actual occupation.

Thomas Bradley-Lovekin

Kirton, Wash Road (TF 3090 3780)

Investigations revealed extensive Late Saxon to post-medieval archaeological remains. The Late Saxon period is characterized by possible smithing activity and potentially, retting. The later medieval evidence may include a moat and other ditches associated with the manor of Bozon Hall and the eastern limit of the settlement of Kirton.

Rob Atkins and Mo Muldowney

Old Leake, Church Road (TF 4060 5042)

Development in an area where medieval and later remains had previously been identified was monitored by Archaeological Project Services for KMB and The Giles School. A Late Saxon pit that contained fired clay and pottery of the period was revealed. This truncated another pit that was largely filled with mussel shells that although undated is unlikely to be significantly earlier than the Late Saxon feature.

Mark Peachey

Old Leake, The Giles School (TF 4078 5010)

Development in an area where medieval and later remains had previously been identified was monitored by Archaeological Project Services for KMB and The Giles School. A Late Saxon pit that contained fired clay and pottery of the period was revealed. This truncated another pit that was largely filled with mussel shells that although undated is unlikely to be significantly earlier than the Late Saxon feature.

Mark Peachey

Sleaford, Holdingham, Lincoln Road (TF 0595 4730)

On behalf of NCHA Ltd, P. Cope-Faulkner of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation alongside known Saxon settlement remains at Holdingham. Pits, postholes, gullies and ditches of 5th-8th century date expand the area of known Saxon settlement eastward. Concentrations of domestic refuse were noted on the east side of the investigation area where structural remains were encountered. These included rectangular and circular post-built structures. Environmental evidence indicated that the Saxon

settlement was indicated in an area of open grassland with wheat, barley and oats grown. Pastoral farming concentrated on sheep and cattle, though pig, horse, goose, duck and fish were also consumed. Iron smithing was undertaken at the site while annular loomweights indicate the weaving of cloth and querns signify food processing, probably domestic. Variations in artefact distributions suggest some relocation of settlement between the Early and Middle Saxon periods, while abandonment of the area occurred by the Late Saxon period. Reoccupation happened in the 12th century when a medieval stone building, perhaps a watermill, was located alongside Holdingham Beck. Near to this building were two quarry pits, also medieval in date. Otherwise, activity of medieval and post-medieval date was scarce. A small quantity of prehistoric and Roman artefacts were recovered as well.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Sleaford, Navigation Yard, Carre Street (TF 0693 4577)

A borehole survey was undertaken close to the historic core of Sleaford by M. Peachey of Archaeological Project Services for Westleigh Developments. Most of the boreholes revealed post-medieval deposits probably associated with the establishment of the Navigation Yard complex in the 18th-19th centuries. However, close to the street frontage were earlier deposits that yielded artefacts of Middle Saxon and medieval date.

Mark Peachey

Sleaford, St. Giles Avenue (TF 0772 4592)

Land in an area of known Iron Age and Roman remains and directly south of the site of medieval St. Giles' church was the subject of an evaluation, supervised by M. Wood of Archaeological Project Services for Westleigh Developments. St. Giles', previously All Saints, church was probably a Late Saxon foundation and went out of use in the 16th century and the site lost until it was re-identified during archaeological investigations in the 1960s. Burials within the medieval graveyard were revealed, the graves laid out in east-west rows. A foundation wall of medieval date was also exposed and probably relates to the church, perhaps a parsonage. A small quantity of medieval artefacts was recovered. Roman remains were also identified.

Michael Wood

Spalding, Wygate Park (TF 2400 2320)

An excavation, supervised by K. Murphy of Archaeological Project Services, was undertaken on behalf of Allison Homes plc in an area where previous investigations had suggested remains suggestive of medieval settlement. A series of ditches, gullies and dyings, or predominantly medieval date, was recorded but represents agricultural land use rather than settlement.

Katie Murphy

Sutterton, St. Mary the Blessed Virgin Church (TF 285 355)

Drainage works at the Norman and later church were monitored on behalf of the PCC by Archaeological Project Services. Beneath the medieval church foundations were make-up deposits, while there was evidence that the churchyard had been landscaped in the post-medieval period, resulting in disturbance of earlier burials.

Gary Taylor

Tallington, Red House Paddock (TF 0938 0803)

Development where earlier investigations had revealed remains of Late Saxon and medieval settlement was the subject of a watching brief, carried out by Archaeological Project Services for Hereward Homes Ltd. Further ditches and pits containing Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval ceramics and clearly part of the occupation zone previously recognised were investigated.

Michael Wood

Whaplode, St. Mary's Church (TF 3235 2401)

On behalf of the PCC, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief at the 12th century church. The lower levels of the walls of the 14th century porch were revealed and there was a substantial make-up deposit associated with a 17th century restoration of the church. Stone coffin lids of medieval date, one carved with a floriate cross, were found, together with pottery and glazed floor tiles, some of them decorated.

Gary Taylor

Woodhall Spa, Witham Road (TF 1785 6215)

T. Bradley-Lovekin of Archaeological Project Services supervised an evaluation, for Mr D. Shelton, close to prehistoric remains and medieval Kirkstead Abbey. Pits and a ditch of early post-medieval date were revealed and contained wasters of locally-made 16th-17th century pottery, implying the proximity of a kiln.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

NORFOLK

Beeston St Andrew (TG 255 140)

This very small parish has all the appearance of desertion and yet remains as a distinct entity. A fieldwalking survey has been completed with negligible results. Three widely-dispersed areas of medieval activity were found, one of them mainly from slight documentary evidence, and all of them close to parish boundaries. One, close to the former church site, yielded a few sherds of probable Ipswich Ware and Thetford-type Ware. A faint scatter of Romano-British sherds in the north of the parish suggests a site beyond the boundary but it may account for the presence of four scatters of iron smelting slag, one of them very large. The post-medieval pattern of finds is completely confused by large quantities of 'night soil' from Norwich.

Domesday entries indicate communities within the parish but linked to manors in neighbouring villages, probably explaining the peripheral clusters. With 27 taxpayers in 1327 and 23 in 1332, Beeston appears to have held its own; 28 people were listed in 1379, 22 of them paying the Poll Tax. A large decline in taxation allowed in 1449 and few listed as paying in 1524/25 suggest late medieval decline. In 1543 the churches of Beeston and Sprowston were united on the grounds of insufficient population to warrant both. In the early 16th century the Corbet family became lords and it is possible that this saw the building of the first hall in a central position. A map of 1722 (Norfolk Record Office BR 276/1/0523) shows an early version of the park, later expanded in the 19th century. It may enshrine earlier features; field names nearby point to the possible existence of a rabbit warren.

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King's Lynn to Wisbech (TF 455 137 – TF 723 164)

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services supervised a programme of fieldwalking, for Capita Symonds and Groundwork Archaeology Ltd on behalf of National Grid. Previous investigations in the vicinity had identified remains of Romano-British and later date. Artefacts of prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and recent date were recovered. Apart from clustering of post-medieval items adjacent to farms, most of the material is suggestive of casual loss or manuring scatters.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Norwich, Nos 21-23 St Benedict's Street (TG 2271 0877)

A sequence of archaeological deposits up to 2m thick was recorded. Although no *in situ* evidence of Late Saxon occupation was found, there were several residual sherds of Thetford and St Neots pottery. Medieval activity dates predominantly to the 13th to 14th centuries; no clear structural remains were identified although a number of pits cut into the natural chalk, the largest of which might have been a cellar. Initial levelling of the site probably occurred towards the end of this period when the pits were infilled and thick layers containing domestic rubbish were dumped.

Fairly level ground appears to have been achieved by the 15th century, probably in preparation for the construction of several frontage buildings, represented by chalk and/or flint rubble foundations, some with associated floors and surfaces. Dating of the walls is not certain,

although they are likely to be 15th or 16th century, and are reminiscent of similar structures excavated nearby at Pottergate. A number of probably contemporary pits and garden soils were identified to the rear, sealed beneath a c.1.5m-deep sequence of post-medieval yard surfaces, pits and garden soils. A notable discovery is a possible 15th- or 16th- century undercroft identified in the south-east corner of the site. Metalwork includes six 16th- to 17th-century cloth seals, providing additional data for this important aspect of the city's association with the cloth trade.

Liz Popescu

Shouldham Thorpe, The Hall, Church Lane (TF 6610 0795)

Proposed development close to the site of the Norman church was the subject of an evaluation, carried out by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services for Ian J M Cable on behalf of Stow Estate Trust. A ditch, which yielded animal bone and a single sherd of 11th-13th century pottery, was identified. Although the pottery may date the ditch, the location of the feature approximately corresponds with a boundary shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map of the area.

Victoria Mellor

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Corby, Priors Hall (SP 928 902)

Following geophysical survey that identified potential archaeological features, Archaeological Project Services carried out an evaluation in an area of iron smelting activity and near to Roman remains. Iron Age and Roman were revealed. Additionally, small pits containing charcoal were recorded and one of these provided a calibrated radiocarbon date of 550-660 AD (2σ). Remnants of medieval ridge and furrow were also noted.

Rachael Hall

Duddington, Collyweston Quarry (SK 9970 0045)

Archaeological Project Services carried out an evaluation, on behalf of Bullimores Sand and Gravel Ltd, in an area where prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains, including evidence of iron smelting, had previously been identified. Earlier geophysical survey recorded anomalies interpreted as representing localised industrial activity at the site. Evaluation trenches revealed probable clay extraction pits, from which industrial waste, particularly roasted iron ore, was recovered. Small quantities of iron smelting slag were also retrieved. It seems likely that ore preparation was the primary activity at the site. No dating evidence was obtained but the industrial activity is likely to be no later than the medieval period.

Victoria Mellor

Silverstone, The Church of St Michael and All Angels, (SP 66800 44200)

Two Test Pits (each 1.5 x 1.5m) were hand-excavated at locations within the footprint of a proposed extension of the church rooms into the existing churchyard. The upper 25-35cm of both test pits proved to be of recent date. Evidence of burials of uncertain date was recognised in both test pits. A stone yard, drive or floor was identified occupying most of the area of Test Pit 1. The remains of a badly robbed wall(s) were revealed in Test Pit 2. This feature had also been disturbed by several graves but still occupied a substantial portion of the Test Pit. Neither the function nor the date of the stone features could be determined within the confines of the Test Pits. Work was therefore suspended, with the agreement of the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, without disturbing the remains any further. The artefacts are mainly of quite modern date but several medieval and late 17th-18th century potsherds were also recovered.

Stanion, 3 Corby Road (SP 9142 8697)

Archaeological trial excavation was carried out by Anne Foard-Colby of Northamptonshire Archaeology on 0.03ha of land at 3 Corby Road, Stanion. The trenches revealed evidence of medieval occupation in the form of shallow pits, gullies and postholes. A small quantity of pottery suggests a 13th century date for the majority of features. There was no evidence that this area had been involved with the medieval pottery manufacturing industry of Stanion, although the identified workshop and kiln plots lay immediately to the north.

Sulby, former Sulby Hall (SP 6597 8167)

Following the finding of a human skull cast up from a badger sett in a copse at Sulby that covers the site of Sulby Hall, demolished in 1948, the police forensic team visited the site and recorded and collected further human remains, which were scattered on the ground in the vicinity of a large badger sett. Scattered stone in the same area is presumably rubble from the levelled hall. The bones were submitted to Andy Chapman, of Northamptonshire Archaeology, for identification. It is possible that they may have come from a chapel and cemetery contemporary with the deserted medieval village that lies only some 200m to the west. There is a documented parish church at Sulby, dedicated to St. Botolph, and it is recorded that the nave had fallen down long before 1451, but the location of the church is unknown.

Thorpe Waterville, Thorpe Castle House (TL 0220 8141)

A watching brief was carried out by Anne Foard-Colby of Northamptonshire Archaeology during the digging of a hole for a new septic tank within the grounds of the house occupying the moated enclosure. A series of layers were observed which may have derived from the silting and infilling of part of the southern arm of the moat. Artefacts recovered from the layers include a sherd of medieval pottery, a glazed medieval roof tile

and floor tile and a fragment of worked stone. Post-medieval window glass and stone roof tiles were also recovered. A 16th-century copper alloy jetton was recovered from the topsoil.

Thurning, Church of St James the Great (TL 08575 82600)

A Watching Brief was carried out during the excavation of drainage trenches and a soakaway. No pre-19th-century deposits were observed.

Warkton, 5-6 Pipe Lane (SP 891 799)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by David Leigh of Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of Simons Development Ltd through Under Construction Archaeology, during the construction of a new driveway and parking bays on land at 5-6 Pipe Lane, Warkton. Walls and floor surfaces belonging to a former medieval house fronting onto the lane were revealed. The pottery assemblage indicates that occupation in this area dates back to the 12th century, and the cottage would have been occupied in the 13th and 14th centuries, before being abandoned and levelled. This particular plot has never subsequently been reoccupied.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Attenborough, Trent Left Bank Flood Alleviation Scheme (SK 520 344)

Archaeological evaluation was carried out jointly by Archaeological Project Services and Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit for Black & Veatch Ltd on behalf of the Environment Agency. The work, in advance of proposals to improve the River Trent flood defences, extended from Sawley in Derbyshire to Colwick on the east side of Nottingham. No, or only modern, archaeological deposits were revealed at most of the investigation locations. However, at Attenborough, trenches were located within the scheduled area associated with a series of medieval fishponds and near to the medieval parish church. Here, dumped deposits possibly associated with the creation of the fishponds were revealed, together with a very large cut feature, over 13m long and 1m deep. This may be another, though backfilled, fishpond and yielded 12th century pottery. Several small pits also of medieval date were identified and a ditch containing a quantity of indeterminate Iron Age or Early Saxon pottery was revealed. Post-medieval remains were also identified.

Thomas Bradley-Lovekin, Archaeological Project Services and David Walker, Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit

Beeston, Nether Street (SK 5315 3668)

An archaeological watching brief during groundworks was carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Wynbrook Homes in the historic core of Beeston. However, only a series of natural and modern deposits was revealed.

Mark Peachey

Bingham, Long Acre (SK 5315 3668)

Land in the medieval core of Bingham was the subject of archaeological investigations, undertaken for Wynbrook Homes by Archaeological Project Services. A 12th-13th century pit containing pottery of this date was revealed and a ditched enclosure, perhaps for stock control, and dated to the 14th-15th centuries was identified. Post-medieval pits, postholes and a gully, perhaps associated with horticulture, were also recorded. Extensive Iron Age and Roman remains were also exposed.

Tobin Rayner

Radcliffe-on-Trent, Manor Court, Wharf Lane (SK 6442 3933)

Staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief in the grounds of the 17th century Manor House for Bellco Developments Ltd. A large, partially vertical-side trench was revealed. The function and date of this were unclear but it is likely to be associated with the use of the Manor House. Modern remains were also recorded.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Sutton in Ashfield, High Pavement/Silk Street (SK 494 585)

A watching brief in the historic core of the town was carried out by staff of Archaeological Project Services for Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. An undated, perhaps post-medieval, wall was revealed, together with extensive remains of the former hosiery factory buildings that had previously occupied the site.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

West Stockwith, Main Street (SK 789 948)

Test pits in the area of a post-medieval flax mill were monitored on behalf of the Environment Agency by K. Murphy of Archaeological Project Services. However, only a sequence of dumped deposits, associated with the construction of flood defences in 1937, was revealed.

Andrew Failes

OXFORDSHIRE**Bicester, 19 London Road (SP 5860 2220)**

John Moore for John Moore Heritage Services conducted an evaluation of this site in May 2005. Two trenches, totalling 40 metres in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying Oxford Clay geology at a maximum height of 70.11m OD. The archaeological deposits identified required a full excavation to take place.

This excavation was conducted in June 2005. Recorded were a early agricultural ditches backfilled prior to the construction of a fourteenth or fifteenth century building, a French drain of horn cores that ran parallel to and behind the building, a second drain covered the main entrance to the dwelling. The building had gone out of use by the seventeenth century and had collapsed by the eighteenth century. Also located were three

ditches associated with agriculture or a market garden, dating from the fourteenth century onwards. Also located were two sherds of residual Romano-British pottery. The watching brief of the area continued into 2006 and revealed a well a short distance away probably associated with the dwelling.

Black Bourton, St. Mary's Churchyard (SP 2859 0421)

David Gilbert for John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological excavation within the area designated for the new cemetery at St. Mary's Church, Black Bourton. Black Bourton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 indicating that it was well established by this period. An archaeological evaluation in 2002 located an Anglo-Saxon sunken-feature building that was associated with finds of Ipswich Ware (725-850AD).

The Anglo-Saxon Minster of Bampton lies 2 miles from the settlement at Black Bourton. The Minster is first mentioned in the 950s, by which time it housed a religious community venerating the relics of Saint Beornwald. The site of Black Bourton would have been within the territory of Bampton.

Four sunken feature buildings were revealed during the excavation. Three rectangular post-built buildings were also present. Associated finds from these buildings included worked animal bone: pins and a comb, and pottery dating to the Early to Middle Saxon period, including sherds of Ipswich Ware. The settlement of the area was clearly multi-phased. One of the sunken feature buildings had later been truncated by the digging of a well and to of the post built structures are clearly not contemporary with two of the Sunken Feature Buildings. The upper fill of the well contained pottery of a 10th to 11th century date. Pottery of 11th to 12th century date was also recovered from the adjacent churchyard to the east.

A linear fence-line was also located, a common feature on Saxon sites where they form internal divisions within a settlement. Early to Middle Saxon pottery was recovered from the fill of one of its component postholes. Two circular post built structures were also excavated. Each had an outer circle of postholes with a central pit or pits and was associated with Early to Middle Saxon pottery. These have been interpreted as early Saxon shrines (J. Blair *pers comm.*). Ritual activity is evident from the 7th century onward at Bampton and the early phase of this site may be contemporary.

Chiselhampton, Chiselhampton House (SP 5955 9906)

Gwilym Williams for John Moore Heritage Services conducted an excavation of this site prior to construction of a lake. Over a dozen features scattered largely on the east side of site evidence significant activity dated to the late 11th to early 13th century although no evidence was recovered for the buildings which might have accompanied this. The medieval features consist primarily of pits and a pit group, although part of an enclosure and a length of ditch were also found.

Eynsham, 46 Acre End Street (SP 4318 0933)

John Moore for John Moore Heritage Services conducted an evaluation of this site prior to development. The site had been ploughed prior to the expansion of Eynsham in the medieval period. The ploughing may be of Romano-British date. A ditch, probably an internal boundary within a burgage plot, was dated to the 14th century. Boundary ditches at the rear of the burgage plots were found. These had been recut. One may have been deliberately backfilled in the 17th century. Another one may have been earlier and of 14th century date.

Long Wittenham, High Street, Lammas Eyot (SU 5433 9361)

David Gilbert and Ian Travers for John Moore Heritage Services conducted a watching brief during the ground work for a new dwelling and garage on land south of Lammas Eyot, High Street, Long Wittenham. The investigation revealed several Early-Middle Saxon boundaries ditches and evidence of Late Medieval activity. A great deal of the site had been subjected to modern disturbance and many horticultural features were revealed during the monitoring.

Wallingford, 24 Castle Street. (SU60765 89795)

Stephen Hammond for Thames Valley Archaeological Services maintained a watching brief during house extension works. A massive north-south ditch observed could not be dated securely but must be part of Wallingford Castle's outer defences in the 13th century. Finds in the upper fill suggest the ditch may still have been at least partly open as late as the 19th century. A single sherd of late Saxon or medieval Wallingford ware was recovered from a spoil heap.

Wantage, St. Mary's School, Newbury Street (SU 3993 8774)

David Gilbert for John Moore Heritage Services conducted an evaluation of this site prior to the site being sold for development. Eleven trenches, totalling 139 metres in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology or significant archaeological features. Numerous linear ditches and postholes possibly associated with timber structures were located, most were undated. However some of those to the north of the site were dated to the Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon period while others across the entire site were dated to the Late Saxon to Norman period. To the south of the site excavated features were from the 15th century onwards.

A second stage of evaluation of this site was later conducted. Two trenches, totalling 8 metres in length, were excavated. Archaeological features were limited to an undated posthole truncated by a later 15th to 16th century pit, and a modern garden feature.

SOMERSET

Weston-Super-Mare, West Wick (ST 371 618)

Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological work at West Wick, Weston-Super-Mare for CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Persimmon Homes South West. The excavation revealed extensive archaeological remains predominantly consisting of a series of ditches probably indicative of a number of phases of field systems and drainage related to a nearby settlement. Pits and an unlined well were located to the south of the area, suggesting that the focus of the settlement was beyond the south-eastern limit of the site. Most of the features contained dating evidence which appeared to fall broadly into two periods – early medieval (10th-12th century) and post-medieval (16th-19th century). The presence of widely dispersed fired clay, similar in form to briquetage, may indicate the existence of salt production or similar small industry in the medieval period or may be residual material from the Roman period.

SURREY

Guildford, Eastgate House. 225 High Street (TQ0008 4969)

Jo Pine for Thames Valley Archaeological Services excavated a single evaluation trench behind the property fronting High Street. Below a sequence of post-medieval layers and pits, the lowest layers encountered contained exclusively 13th-15th century pottery, albeit in small quantities. Further medieval deposits are likely to have survived despite post-medieval and modern development on the site.

Guildford, 192-4 High Street (SU9995 4955)

Excavation and watching briefs by Jo Pine for Thames Valley Archaeological Services recovered a deeply stratified sequence of pits from the 13th century onwards, on what would have been the periphery of the medieval town. There seems to have been less activity between the 14th and 16th centuries, and if so, this might indicate contraction of the town at this period, but it cannot be securely confirmed that the site was abandoned, this period might simply not have seen pit-digging in the same area. Post-medieval activity on the site included butchery. A modest collection of around 1000 sherds of pottery is entirely typical of sites of the period. Other finds were few, and phased assemblages all small. A full publication report is in preparation.

SUSSEX

Nonneminstre, A Lost Domesday Village and Church

The location of Nonneminstre is a mystery and it was originally thought that it could be Lyminster as it was a cell of the Abbey of Almenches in 1086. It is believed that the monastery at Lyminster was in fact a nunnery (Nunne Minstre) founded by Lulla. The farm south of Lyminster's Saxon church is said to be on the site of a Benedictine nunnery founded in the reign of Athelstan in the 10th century AD. It is now thought that Nonneminstre was not an alternate name for Lyminster.

There is no reason for a manor to be recorded twice in Domesday Book and the two records differ. Lyminster is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Lolinminstre' and described as a manor of 20 hides and that of Nonneminstre as a manor of only 15 hides. A church is also recorded at both places. In the area between Littlehampton and East Preston is an area of about 1900 acres or 19 hides omitted from the Domesday Book and Nonneminstre is given as a manor of about 1800 acres.

There is no mention of West Preston, Rustington or Poling in the Domesday Book and it is now thought that Nonneminstre is probably West Preston. Nonneminstre appears to have derived from Nunna and the name was known as Nunenminstre in 1711. Nonneminstre is more likely to be named from Nunna's Minstre (Nunn's

church) more than a monastery. Nunna was an important person in Anglo-Saxon times. There is no trace of this church at West Preston today.

The church dedicated to St Mary, East Preston is some way from the village and this is probably due to the fact that it is a shifted medieval village, where it once stood in the area around the church, and migrated to its present site after desertion by the plague. The footpath, which goes eastwards from the church, was once the original road to the village. There are slight irregularities in the area near the church, which may represent the sites of former houses. The oldest part of the church is the north doorway, which dates from the early Norman period and said to come from the church of Nunna.

It is possible that the village of East Preston had always stood in the area it is today and that the church of St Mary was at one time West Preston. If this is the case then West Preston is possibly a shrunken medieval village, where it was larger in the Middle Ages. St Mary's Church is actually in West Preston and it could well be standing on the site of Nunna's Church, the Nonneminstre of Domesday. Perhaps excavations will be carried out one day inside the church (when it needs a re-flooring programme) to discover if there are any foundations of Nunna's church.

Alex Vincent



Figure 1: Shifted village of East Preston or shrunken village of West Preston. Alex Vincent 2006.

WARWICKSHIRE

Hillmorton, Rugby, rear of 81 High Street (SP 534 737)

Observation of topsoil stripping for a housing development on a site within the probable extent of the medieval settlement in May 2006 recorded no archaeological features but a scatter of 13th-century pottery was collected.

Robert Jones, Warwickshire Museum

Wolvey, Copston Lodge Farm (SP 449 887)

Observation of earthmoving over an area of 0.96ha for a new reservoir in May-June 2006 on the south-east edge of the probable site of Copston Parva DMV revealed no archaeological remains (see fig 2).

Caroline Rann, Warwickshire Museum

Wolvey, Copston Lodge Farm (SP 448 887)

Fieldwalking in the field south of the farm on the probable site of Copston Parva DMV was carried out in September 2006 by Warwickshire Museum with the Wolvey Local History Society as part of the community archaeology project *Extracting Warwickshire's Past*. Documentary research and previous fieldwalking by the Wolvey group in 1985 and 1991 had identified this as the site of the settlement.

A thin scatter of worked flint and six sherds of Roman pottery were collected, but most of the pottery (786 sherds) dated to the medieval period (Fig **1). This concentrated in the north-west quadrant of the area and in parts of the north-east quadrant. Analysis of the pottery types and fabrics by Stephanie Ratkai suggested occupation on the site from possibly the 12th century but certainly from the first half of the 13th century. This occupation continued throughout the 14th and 15th-16th centuries, although the majority of the sherds dated to the 13th century. The pottery found was mostly locally produced with a majority of the sherds from cooking pots and only a few from bowls and jugs.

In addition to the pottery, scatters of Stockingford Shale slate and roof tile, including glazed ridge tile, were collected in the north-east quadrant of the area indicating the presence of buildings of some status in the vicinity. Pottery from the 17th to the 19th centuries was less well represented and had no obvious spatial patterning to its distribution.

Christina Evans, Warwickshire Museum

WEST MIDLANDS

Berkswell, Solihull, Moat Farmhouse, Truggist Lane (SP 2525 7774)

Observation of foundation trenches for extensions north-west of the farmhouse in July 2006 on behalf of Mr and Mrs S Emblin recorded three sections across the moat, showing it to be 3.7 to 4.4m wide and over 1.3m deep. The moat fill contained 17th/18th-century pottery.

Caroline Rann, Warwickshire Museum

WILTSHIRE

Down Ampney, Near Latton (SU 090 964)

Sean Wallis for Thames Valley Archaeological Services carried out evaluation trenching over a 54ha area, that uncovered just a modest range of features of several periods. The medieval features were widely scattered across the area and represent ditched field boundaries, with no obvious concentration to suggest settlement. Finds were sparse, just 23 sherds of pottery dating to this period, and no more than five from any one feature. A pit and two post holes contained a small quantity of (probably) Saxon wares (only three joining sherds, with incised swag or chevron decoration, from one post hole are certainly Saxon).

YORKSHIRE

Bishop Wilton, Manor Farm, East Yorkshire (SE 798549)

Excavation by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd of Malton for Yorvik Homes Ltd preceded the building of 8 houses in 2000.

Excavation showed periods of occupation interspersed with cultivation. A neolithic scatter of flint waste and a broad scraper were followed by a Late Bronze Age storage pit and 2 potsherds.

12/13th century pits, postholes, ditch and gullies with potsherds of that period were revealed, with remains of a later 14/15th century building with a stone built room and an internal pit, the fill of which contained 13/14th century potsherds and 13/16th century brick.

A 15th century hearth pit (3 x 2m) contained a fine ash scatter including charred cereal grains and peas; some grains had sprouted suggesting malting. A nearby spread contained burnt daub, possibly from a chimney. Half a steep-sided 3 x 2 m pit was excavated, which contained over 100 sherds, a 13/14th century ridge tile, and bones with a preponderance of horse lower leg bones.

The site then reverted to arable use.

Bishop Wilton, Manor Farm, East Yorkshire (SE 796552)

In 1993 a field on the other side of the village street was surveyed and partly excavated for Humberside CC by Humberside Archaeological Unit. This revealed a crouched burial overlain by remains of a circular timber building. Neolithic flint flakes, sherds of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery were found. Padstones of a 14th-16th century long house were found; the small number of stone roofing tiles suggested that they were only used round the chimney vent. A smaller building had a clay lined pit inside for storage of water or other liquid. Nearby was a substantial keyhole shaped kiln, probably for drying grain, either before threshing or for brewing.

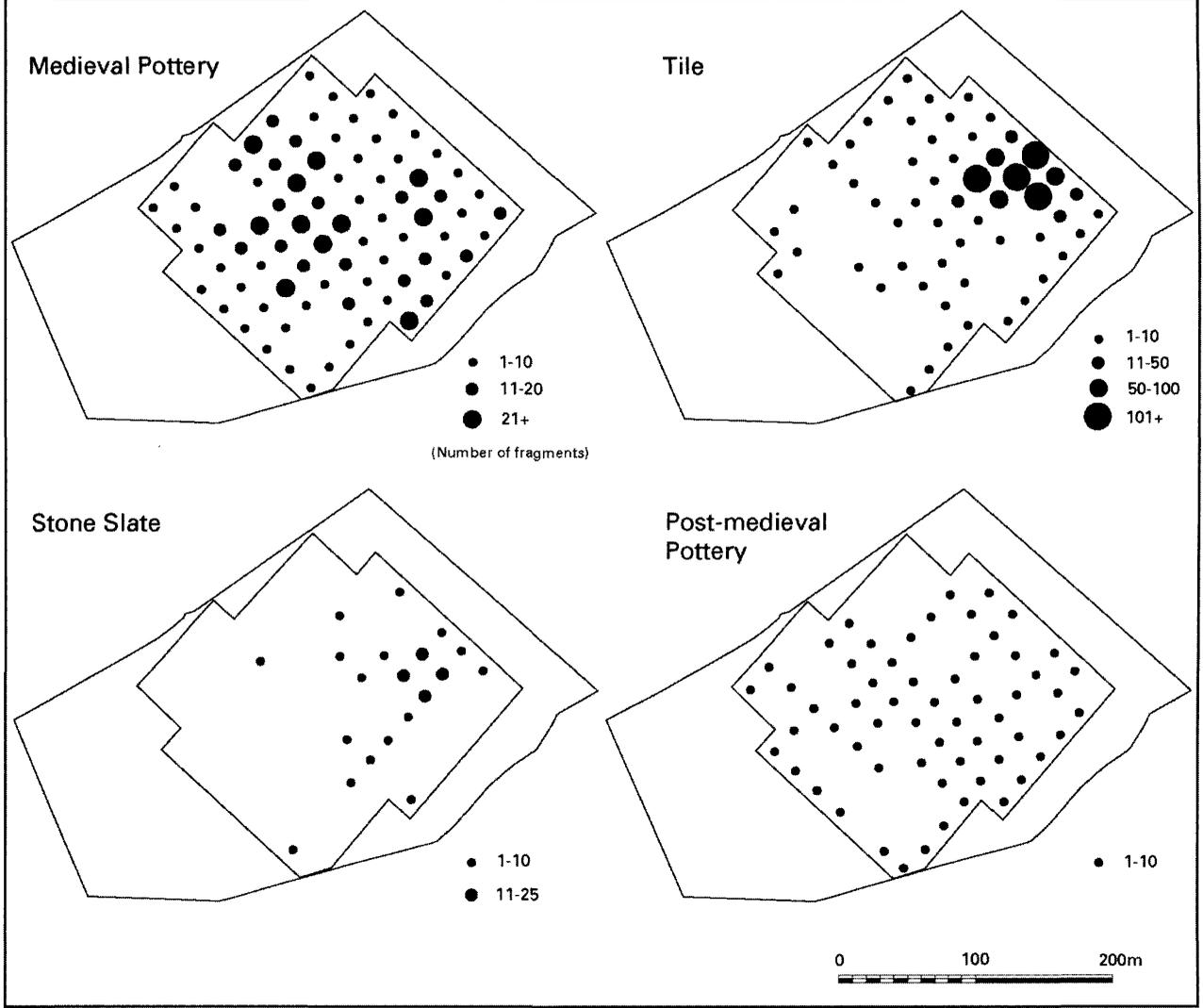
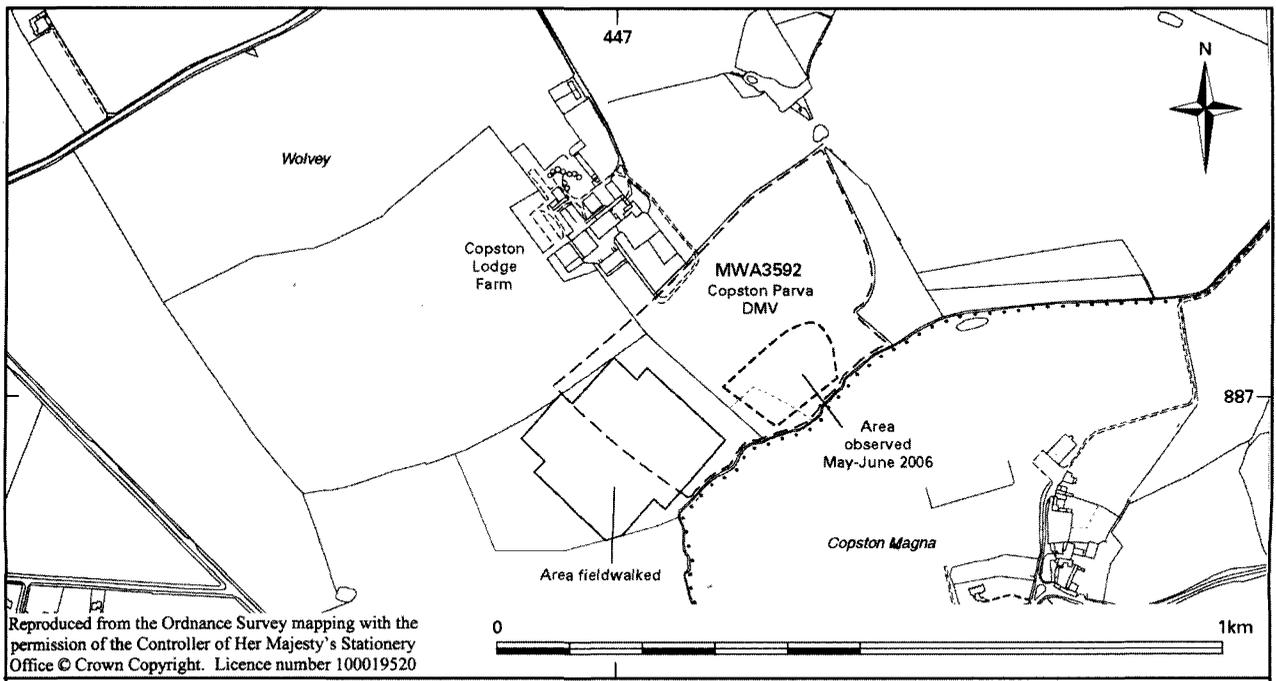


Fig 2: Wolvey, Warwickshire, Copston Lodge Farm, Fieldwalking (Drawn by Andy Isham, Warwickshire Museum)

SCOTLAND

Cornhill-on-Tweed (NT 8611 3936)

The village of Cornhill is located on the southern banks of the River Tweed, a strategic position on the border between England and Scotland. Documentary sources record that there has been a settlement here since at least 1208, the village originally being formed as part of the Bishop of Durham's estate of Norhamshire. No archaeological evidence for the medieval settlement had been identified until the summer of 2006 when an excavation on the main street revealed remains of a 12th - 15th century building.

The main rectangular stone structure, surviving to five courses in height, was identified in the centre of the excavation (see photograph). The building was constructed from rubble and was approximately 10 m long and 5 m wide. The walls appeared to be level at the fifth course, which suggests they were designed to

support timber-frames or cob walls. The structure appeared to be of a single phase. Internally partially surviving hearth and floor layers contained 12th - 15th century pottery fragments and suggested that the building was a domestic house.

Walls of similar construction to the main structure were identified to the south-east and north-east and may have enclosed a yard or garden. Flagstones, cobbles and the remains of an outhouse were also recorded, and dated to the 12th - 15th century.

A number of field boundary or enclosure walls were also identified confined to the north-west edge of the excavation. Map evidence shows a series of rectangular structures were located here, probably farm worker's cottages, built along Main Street by the mid 19th century. The work was funded by Decimus Limited and undertaken by Headland Archaeology.



Figure 3: 12th - 15th century building at Cornhill-on-Tweed

Alan Davison (1930-2006)

All of us in the archaeological and historical circles of Norfolk were devastated by the sad news of Alan Davison's death in a car crash. We felt for Joan, Andrew and Ruth and the grandchildren. We also realised what a gap his going would leave. His quiet guidance to many in the field, in his teaching and in his writing and his exemplary co-editing of *Norfolk Archaeology* are things we have all come to accept as parts of our establishment.

Alan was born in Norwich and later his family moved to Euston in Suffolk, his father was a customs officer and his mother taught at the village school. His father came from Berwick and the Scottish influence has always been a powerful one in his life. After Thetford Grammar School and National Service, he went to Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge to read geography, specialising in historical geography in his third year when he married Joan who was training as a nurse at Addenbrookes. From Cambridge he taught at Bexhill before returning to Norfolk to Thorpe Grammar School; there he taught geography and later became head of sixth form.

In 1985 Alan took early retirement and began his by then real passion for contributing to the understanding of the early history of the Norfolk landscape. He steadily acquired his well merited reputation for field-walking through which he added an enormous amount of information to the archaeological map of the country. This took him also to his fascination with deserted medieval villages and led him to produce the standard

text on his subject in the Poppyland series. His field-walking led him to use the documentary sources of the Norfolk Record Office and of Cambridge University Library in writing up his field work. His reports on this work produced a steady flow of articles in *Norfolk Archaeology* and *East Anglian Archaeology* and notes in this report. He worked often at the request of *Norfolk Landscape Archaeology* and his reports are in many of the Norfolk volumes.

Alan's study of *Six Deserted Villages in Norfolk, The Evolution of Settlement of Three Parishes in South East Norfolk*, with George and Alayne Fenner, and the *Earthworks of Norfolk* with Brian Cusion are all highly regarded. In 2005, together with Trevor Ashwin, he edited the acclaimed new edition of *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk*.

Alan taught a variety of courses for Continuing Education at the University of East Anglia and many former members of these groups, of NARG and later NAHRG, had their enthusiasm for field work triggered off by his guidance. His enthusiasm will be continued by many who worked in the field with him, heard him lecture or read the publications which always followed the work he had done.

We will all miss him greatly.

by Christopher Barringer, with thanks to Andrew Davison for additional information.

Harold Fox (1945-2007)

Members of the MSRG were shocked and saddened to hear of the death in August 2007 of Harold Fox at the age of 62. He an active member of the Medieval Village Research Group and then of the MSRG for almost three decades. He served with great success as president of MSRG in 1998-2001. He came from a background in historical geography at University College London and at the University of Cambridge, a student of H.C. Darby. Darby sent many of his students to excavate at Wharram Percy, but Harold Fox escaped this early immersion in village studies. He was not greatly devoted to digging or other forms of physical exercise, and indeed in later years employed a gardener. He came to settlement and landscape studies from his postgraduate research on *fields in Devon*. On completing his thesis he spent a year at Queen's University Belfast, and then joined the Department (now Centre) of English Local History at the University of Leicester in 1976. He flourished there, gaining much praise for his teaching, and was promoted to a personal chair in 2003. His research and writing were focussed on the south west, especially his beloved Devon, and he wrote learnedly and with fresh insights about fields, enclosure, settlements, farming, cottages and towns in that county. One of his most original contributions, published in an elegantly written book, was the discovery that the fishing villages on the south coast of Devon had begun as occasionally inhabited

shelters for boats and nets, which only became permanent settlements after about 1400. He then turned from the coast to the interior of Devon, and at the time of his death had completed the text of a book on Dartmoor. He developed an expert knowledge of the midlands from his base in Leicester, and took a particular interest in the origins of the midland field systems. He contributed a much admired essay to Trevor Rowley's book on field systems published in 1981, and five years published an important article on the reorganisation of fields. His essay on wolds in Beresford and Hurst's festschrift published in 1989 was a remarkable explanation of the character and origin of a widespread type of rural landscape. He could contrast the nucleated villages of his adopted county of Leicestershire with the hamlets and farms of his native Devon, which gave him insights into the variety of settlement forms. He gave prominence to 'seasonal settlements', which included the shielings of the Devon uplands as well as the early fishing settlements.

He was a very effective and stylish lecturer, and in seminars and committees held back until he could make a wise and perceptive contribution. He was good company, kind and courteous in an old-fashioned way, and a witty conversationalist.

by Christopher Dyer

Book Reviews

Medieval Villages in an English Landscape: Beginnings and Ends Richard Jones and Mark Page (Windgather Press, Macclesfield 2006) xviii+270pp ISBN -10 1-905119-09-07 ISBN-13 978-1-905119-09-7

This is substantially the report of the Whittlewood Project, sometimes referred to as 'son of Wharram'. It is also the offspring of the regional study of four east midland counties by Carenza Lewis, Patrick Mitchell-Fox and Chris Dyer published as *Village, Hamlet and Field* in 1997, which narrowed down the field of places which might prove to be a fruitful new large project and which gave the best opportunities for research. This preliminary sorting-out, which produced results important in their own right, was invaluable in identifying some key problems and has meant that the authors have been able to knit together with the archaeological approach a substantial amount of information on the local economy from the manorial documentation. The project was AHRC funded and supported by the MSRГ among others and, as anyone who attended an Open Day will remember, gained a great deal from local amateur participation: surely the best way of making academic work accessible to a wider public. Many themes are covered and I will simply try to highlight a few likely to be of most immediate concern to readers of MSRГ Report.

Medieval Villages shows how a strong strand in the research agenda, the origins of the village, has moved out from the confines of the single settlement into its landscape and region. A dozen parishes on the Northamptonshire-Buckinghamshire border were studied, all once part of Whittlewood Forest. The forest runs through the book, as a shaper of the earliest landscape divisions, as a profound influence on the economic strategies and cultural attitudes of peasant farmers and hunting lords alike. As a privileged hunting ground there is no doubt about its restrictive nature, as the plentiful evidence here of poaching and protest shows. But the preservation of the vert brought benefits too. The ready availability of wood-pasture meant that farming and settlement were less constrained by the kinds of pressures which were a factor in other part of England. The forest was a flexible frontier across which the margin of cultivation could be expanded without seriously undermining the supply of pasture. As a fuel source it enabled a range of small-scale industries, whose loss was lamented after disafforestation in the nineteenth century. Virtually free pasture for small numbers of livestock and forest-based by-employment provided off-farm income for many families with poor or insufficient land. This meant that the forest villages were more socially diverse and probably contained a 'tail' of smallholders who in purely arable villages would have been servants in husbandry or estate labourers.

The project made it possible to test several of the current models for the development of nucleated villages with some surprising results, which perhaps should lead us to

reconsider some of the assumptions embedded in those models. The different parishes studied had very different settlement histories from the early Anglo-Saxon settlement period, and in this environmental factors unsurprisingly played a vital part. But not a determining one: choices were made which may have been based on a valuation of individual sites. Early Anglo-Saxon farmers are often supposed to have preferred lighter and more easily worked soils. On the one hand in most of the parishes the dispersed Roman sites were totally abandoned in a retreat from the heavy clays that Romano-British farmers had coped with. But an exceptionally well-favoured, well-farmed or perhaps prestigious site could still be attractive: in one parish early Saxon farmsteads 'shared their sites with earlier and more substantial Roman complexes', also on the clay (Although this raises the problem of distinguishing new settlers from acculturated British.) The abandonment of farmstead sites by the mid-ninth century, marked by the absence of dateable St Neots ware, which has been widely observed elsewhere, is often taken as a marker of the beginnings of nucleation. But although the outlying farmsteads do seem to have been abandoned at about this time, this was not because of a wholesale shift to in order to form embryonic villages elsewhere. Those that remained in place themselves became 'pre-village nuclei': they would have a future as villages, they appear in Domesday, but in the ninth century this was all in the future. The authors put 'village beginnings' in the period 850 to 1000, but stress that they then were still in a very mobile 'primary phase of formation' still only a handful of households, seemingly unplanned, and shifting, 'forming biologically and organically.' It was by outward growth that they grew, not by inward migration from abandoned farms. Nor was nucleation a 'top-down' process: the authors question the extent to which nucleation on prestigious (and prestigiously excavated) sites has influenced our view of the process in general. Anyone looking for the planning and organisation often associated with village formation in controversies about the forces behind settlement change will have to wait until after the Conquest (when, in this reviewer's opinion, they will find a landowning class much more enamoured of the idea of planning and with the authority to carry it out.)

The very extensive field-walking carried out by the project has led to new ideas about the development of open fields. These come from illuminating manuring practice. There was change from the small ceramic 'haloes' marking the limited arable around single farmsteads to the scatters marking manure carted out to fields some way away. The only gap in the pottery sequence is in the St Neots ware: used in the home but not found in the fields. The explanation given is that this marked 'a short period in which manuring strategies changed...when household waste was not used to manure the fields'. This was associated by the laying out

of the open fields when ‘for the first time arable holdings were geographically divorced from the farmstead’ and it was inconvenient to cart muck to strips some distance away. Later on, it became essential in order to keep up fertility. A ‘nitrogen boost’ could also have been working in the farmers’ favour, both from livestock on the fallows (and from deeper ploughing?) The fields seem not to have been created by the initial creation of massively long furlongs, and may have been laid over pre-existing systems: in this resembling rather the scheme recently suggested for the Bourne Valley in Cambridgeshire by Sue Oosthuizen rather than that for Raunds by David Hall. The presence of the forest made itself felt here: with adequate pasture and meadow there wasn’t the pressure to provide large tracts of fallow grazing which pushed some open fields to parish boundaries. This section will be a welcome addition to the debate about open field origins, into which it would be very helpful to inject this kind of attention to the immediate environment and economy. It also usefully divorces the process of nucleation from the process of open field formation.

These approaches to settlement, village nucleation and open field formation and the discussion of their implications for the current models show the importance of taking into account the whole farming environment and its resources, but not only its physical resources. The influence of the past, people’s perceptions of what their neighbours were doing, the cultural and political demands of the powerful are all brought into the picture. *Medieval Villages* is described in the blurb as ‘long-awaited’. I call that rather harsh. From conception to publication in six years, with such large forces involved, and with such a rich book as its outcome, seems pretty good going. ‘Eagerly-awaited’, yes.

Ros Faith, Kellogg College, Oxford

Landscape, Community and Colonisation. The North Somerset Levels during the 1st to 2nd Millennia AD. (CBA Research Report 152). By Stephen Rippon. 21 x 30 cm. xix + 317 pp. plus CD, 85 b&w pls. and figs., 67 tables. Council for British Archaeology: York, 2006. ISBN 978-1-902771-67-2. Price: £38.00 pb

This important and detailed book reports on a study of the development of a wetland landscape, combined with an exploration of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval settlement patterns. The research was focussed on the small and shrunken village of Puxton, but context is provided by surveying the much larger surrounding area, including the parishes of Banwell, Congresbury, St Georges’s and Wick. A wider view is also taken of the whole of north-west Somerset, between the Bristol Avon and the Axe. The research involves many disciplines, employing every type of evidence, archaeological, historical and ecological. An impressive range of techniques were used to assemble as complete a picture as possible of landscape and settlement change – map analysis, aerial photography, earthwork survey, field walking, test pitting, small-scale excavation, standing building survey, palaeoenvironmental analysis (both botanical and zoological), soil science, historic

landscape characterisation and documentary research. Even the latest Lidar survey techniques are cited at one point.

The comprehensive array of sources is very impressive, but more could have been made of the place-names. The village at the centre of the study is unusual in that its name apparently changed c.1200, from *Wringmareis*, which had it survived would now have been Wringmarsh, to *Pokerelston*, now Puxton, derived from the surname of the lesser aristocratic Pukerel family who were the lords of the manor at the time. This change of name is full of interest as it shows instability of place-names (a dimension no doubt of a landscape which had undergone transformation), the falling out of use of an early topographical name, and the late coining of a new *-ton* name, which incorporates a family name rather than adding it as a suffix.

The main discovery outlined here is that a large area of saltmarsh was reclaimed in the Roman period, but that c. AD 400 an inundation wiped the slate clean, and the wetlands had to be modified and then permanently reclaimed in the early Middle Ages. Puxton’s most striking landscape feature, an oval enclosure now called Church Field, represents an early stage of regaining land from the marsh. The piece of land of 4 hectares called an infield enclosure was embanked to allow agricultural use without fear of flooding from the sea. This stage of settlement development is dated by pottery and the church architecture to the eleventh century, or possibly before 1000. The same type of infield enclosure can be seen in at least four and probably eight places very near to Puxton. The next stage in the reclamation of the whole territory towards the end of the eleventh century was marked by building a series of stretches of sea wall, not just on the coast but also along the river estuaries.. Settlement and farming activity expanded, leading to the growth of Puxton to a village of 23 houses and cottages. Agriculture in the middle ages is not well documented, but surviving pollen, cereal grains and animal bones allow some insights into the crops grown and livestock kept. The late medieval recession led to some abandonment of houses, but the area retained its drainage system intact and much farming activity. This was not ‘marginal land’ ripe for abandonment, as its rich resources sustained prosperous families, whose relatively large land holdings appear in surveys of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and whose farmhouses of the post-medieval period are planned and analysed here.

The most remarkable conclusion of this book arises from the assessment of the landscape and its different patterns over the whole marshland area. Rippon points out that after the flooding of the late Roman countryside, this landscape was formed anew around the eleventh century. It therefore provides a test of general ideas about the origins of the varied types of settlement and landscape. In the Banwell/ Congresbury marshlands, an area lacking large nucleated villages, people were distributed over the land, in hamlets and farmsteads. The isolated farmsteads and enclosed fields of Congresbury provide a contrast with the compact hamlets, with some common fields, in Banwell. The whole area came under

the jurisdiction of the bishops of Bath and Wells, but these landlords had no great influence over the settlement pattern or otherwise we would see a greater uniformity – rather these matters were left to the communities and lesser lords who occupied the reclaimed marshes, and they chose a variety of settlement forms.

The method of presentation of this report deserves a brief comment. It is well-written and lavishly and very effectively illustrated. Its novelty lies in the decision to embed the specialist contributions in the text, so that a paragraph about snail species or a list of pottery types appears in the chapters in which the general issues of environment or the status of settlement sites are being discussed. Some more specialised material will be found on the CD attached to the back cover, but one is still presented with a great deal of detail on the printed page. One would not normally expect to see Domesday entries quoted in full, for example, or summaries, name by name, of the contents of rentals. Enthusiastic and dedicated readers will welcome the access to the evidence on which the conclusions are based; less committed users will be distracted and might lose the thread.

The thorough presentation of evidence supports a convincing account of the evolution of the landscape; in addition, the broad-minded approach means that an analysis of a specialised environment leads to important general explanations which have a universal application.

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Lost Farmsteads. Deserted Rural Settlements in Wales. (CBA Research Report 148). Edited by Kathryn Roberts. 21 x 30cm. xx + 236pp., 83 b&w pls. and figs., 31 tables. (Council for British Archaeology: York, 2006). ISBN 1-902771-63-X. Price: £25.00 pb

A beautiful green brown hilly landscape with light snow scatter and a foreground image of a roofless farmhouse near Ceredigion forms the cover to this CBA volume on Welsh deserted rural settlement. Although the volume contains no further colour illustrations, a good selection of black & white plates – including air photographs – and informative maps and site plans enhance this publication. The focus of the eleven chapters/papers is the Deserted Rural Settlement Project, overseen by Cadw and undertaken by the four regional Welsh archaeological trusts (Clwyd-Powys, Dyfed, Glamorgan-Gwent and Gwynedd) from 1996 to 2001 (after a 1995 pilot), and comprising a first systematic and detailed survey, recording and classifying of medieval and post-medieval rural sites (specifically deserted ones), particularly in upland and marginal zones. Central was also consideration of management and protection strategies for the numerous sites, ranging from isolated farms to hamlets and some village units). But key first of all was recognition of the scale of evidence and survival, especially since, in comparison to English studies, Welsh rural settlement has seen very little recent detailed scrutiny. As the editor, Kathryn Roberts, spells out in her tidy Introduction (pp.1-9), the

project offered excellent scope for a combining of skills and resources for enhancing records and for publishing new data. Stages included: 1. mapping and ‘condition surveying’ (known sites targeted), 2. select survey (covering areas and plotting new sites), 3. research excavations at specific sites, to include, where possible, environmental sampling. Noticeably, some studies extended beyond the survey period – no bad thing, highlighting the value of and interest generated by the Project. The goals were thus admirable, and methodologies were generally standardised for the main recording – bar some preference by Dyfed Trust to extend recording to post-18th-century structures (others ran from c. 1100-1800) and some possible imbalances in site type definitions (Roberts’ summary Chapter 9, pp.171-186, notes the absence of ‘longhouses’ in Clwyd-Powys and Gwynedd Trust areas in contrast to 74 recorded in Dyfed). All told, 2726 sites are now listed and recorded to provide a platform for new, themed study and management (Roberts, Ch.10, pp.187-191).

What is important is to observe the regional results and to seek links and contrasts as well as emphases in settlement types. Thus Section One of the volume, ‘Regional Examinations’, contains four chapters considering each Trust zone, commencing with MSRG Committee member R. Silvester’s discussion of central and north-east Wales (pp.13-39). Here the slope-set ‘platform sites’ are dominant (580 examples), representing earthwork levelling and terracing, many to hold huts (or presumed to), and in a number of cases linked to field systems (often up to 420m OD) and occasional enclosures, and with some platforms set in pairs. Silvester questions also how we identify seasonal sites, although here, as in all the study zones, fuller research-driven excavations are needed to guide and clarify. In north-west Wales, agriculture was particularly evident between 285-340m; a good proportion of multiple structures (29%) is associated here with fields. Usefully, Longley (pp.61-82) offers a pre-medieval landscape overview and then discusses links between sites and *trefi* (‘townships’) and hamlets (these *trefi* are totally dominant on Anglesey) – without, however, defining for readers how *trefi* were composed or how they functioned as tax/settlement units. (One might note that although a Glossary is offered to the volume as Appendix 1, p.207, this runs to just eight entries and fails to include the Welsh terms used by Longley and other authors).

The title of Section Two, ‘General Themes’, underplays three very useful contributions: Smith and Thompson report on the five ‘project excavations’ – centred largely, however, on sites in north-west Wales (pp.113-132); Caseldine highlights the potential for extensive environmental sampling, notably from peat deposits (pp.133-153); and Alfrey offers an excellent review of the visible architectural evidence of ruinous farms (pp.155-168). The latter feeds into the concluding Section Three, notably Roberts’ Chapters 9 and 10, where management issues and threats to sites identified and yet to be located are considered. The final paper is by David Austin, addressing future discourse and directions (pp.193-205). Valuably, he highlights how

whilst the structures surveyed have been “undemonstrative because they are out of the way, very common in the landscape, and related to the lives of ordinary working people”, nonetheless, “the stories they represent as a collection of monuments... are essential to the identity and well-being of Wales” (p.193). Austin is wanting these structures and the people who built and worked from them to gain a coherent voice – a voice gained from archaeology and not imposed or prepared by text: the need is to avoid “objective typologies and unpeopled distributions” (p.205). As many of the papers in the volume identify, the Project has begun an important mapping but it is essential to look below this emerging new map and to examine, through a variety of excavations especially on a wide enough but focussed scale, the ‘biographies’ of houses, workers and landscapes.

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Congeries Lapidum. Inscrizioni Britanniche dei Secoli V-VII. Vol.1: Introduzione, Edizione e Commento. Vol.2: Tavole. By Carlo Tedeschi. Xii + 352pp (vol.1); 170 b&w pls and figs. (vol.2). Florence: Tipografia Latini/Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, 2005. No ISBN. Price €120 pb.

Distinctive archaeological survivals of the post-Roman (or ‘late antique’) period in western Britain are the two hundred or so inscribed monoliths which inform us, through abbreviated Latin (and sometimes Runic symbols), of elites and royalty. Dated to between the mid-fifth and earlier seventh centuries AD, these are in fact the first monuments in a series of sculpted stones – generally set as tall uprights – which evolve into the Middle Ages. First catalogued systematically in the 1940s and 1950s (publications by R. MacAlister, *Corpus Inscriptionum Insularum Celticarum*, I & II, Dublin 1945, 1949; and V. Nash Williams, *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales*, Cardiff 1950), these text-led stones were labelled as ‘Class I’, with Class II featuring crosses and occasional textual guides/labels, and Class III as more distinctively Christian in comprising crosses and cross-slabs. These new volumes, compiled by an Italian scholar, are a re-analysis of the Class I inscriptions and form the fruit of extended research covering roughly a decade. Volume II provides the full set of monochrome plates and transliterations of the stones – including archive images of lost pieces (once recorded but now gone astray) – which have been found across Wales, SW England, W Scotland and the Isle of Man, with over half (107 examples) from Wales.

As is made clear, the original locations and settings of the stones are rarely secure, and thus their landscape role – visual guide, simple memorial, landmark, property indicator, territorial claim, meeting point – cannot properly be determined. Indeed, Tedeschi spends perhaps too little time than merited on this important issue, and it would be beneficial to see future correlation or plotting of stones sites with early medieval settlement sites, place-names, topographies and route ways – an ideal GIS project. As the names on the stones indicate,

however, these monuments are chiefly burial markers and record individuals (predominantly male, the few female names always qualified by male relations) of high status. Tedeschi duly discusses the names and their labels, which offer insights into the new societies and regimes that emerged as Roman rule and influence fell away – although it is of course striking that these Latin inscriptions occur in regions which did not have any significant Roman presence in the first four centuries AD. Potentially they signify the former Romano-British pushed westwards by rebellions by federates, and later Saxon incursions in eastern England; the transfer of Britons also across the Channel to Brittany seemingly sparks the erection here too of inscribed memorial stones (these not explored here, but discussed recently in W. Davies *et al.*, *The Inscriptions of Medieval Brittany*, Oakville 2000). The stones record names which are generally not ‘Roman’; yet the posts or offices listed show Roman links, such as ‘magistrate’ or ‘priest’, or else titles more fitting a disturbed social context, notably ‘protector’, with a presumed array of minor chiefdoms or kingdoms carving out territories. The stones, up to 2m long/high, would most probably have voiced the presence and landholding of past, but also active (in terms of relatives of the deceased) nobles and leaders.

Tedeschi is a palaeographer and his key section to Volume I is Part 4 (pp.65-81) where he scrutinises formulae and letter styles so as to attempt to order the texts chronologically and to trace possible influences and links between stones and regions (though he does not show these graphically via distribution maps). A remarkable conclusion he draws is the potential borrowing or influence from (lost) manuscripts in the study zones and in Ireland, which would point to a higher level (perhaps) of Christian activity in the landscape and amongst the elite.

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The Kingship and Landscape of Tara, Edel Bhreathnach, ed. Dublin: Four Courts Press for the Discovery Programme 2005. Xxi + 536. €50.

This scholarly volume, the third to arise from the interdisciplinary Tara Project organised as part of Ireland’s Discovery Programme is divided into two sections. The first, on Kingship is by far the largest; immensely detailed on the nature of the Tara kingship and on early texts it will be of great interest for historians of early Ireland. The second section headed Landscape (but which is in part a detailed analysis of the place-name element *Temair* (anglicised Tara)) will be of more interest to most M.S.R.G. readers. At its core is Conor Newman’s chapter (pp. 361-409) ‘Re-composing the archaeological landscape of Tara’. Newman has been involved with the project for well over a decade (he wrote *Tara: an archaeological survey* in 1997) and he writes from detailed, first-hand knowledge of the area. Taking a lead from C. Tolin-Smith’s published work on the archaeology of Tyndale (1997) he isolates early landscapes not only on the basis of their geographical characteristics but on the nature of the monuments and

on the perceptions which past communities may have had of their surroundings. Thereby he postulates the existence in prehistory of five discrete landscapes in the greater Meath area – Boyne, Tara, Blackwater, Tlachtga and Duleek. After a discussion of his methodology each of these landscapes is described and illustrated by a series of coloured relief maps (Figs. 1-6) attractive by comparison with a dozen or so black and white photographs which have not reproduced well. However, it should be stressed in a review that this chapter is very

much a study of landscapes and not an account of the prehistoric and early historic monuments for which the area is famous.

Overall, this weighty book makes an important contribution to knowledge of the great royal sanctuary and ritual landscapes of Tara coming as it does at a time when so many of its archaeological sites are under threat from new road building.

Robin Glasscock

Select Bibliography of Works on Medieval Rural Settlement 2006

Compiled by Mark Page

This list includes books and articles on British rural settlement and landscape between the fifth century and the fifteenth, published in 2006, 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 mrp15@le.ac.uk, for inclusion in next year's list.

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- Williamson, T., 'Mapping field patterns: a case study from eastern England', *Landscapes* 7.1 (2006), 55-67.
- Wilmott, T. and Shipp, D., 'The Romano-British roadside settlement of Whitewalls, Easton Grey, Wiltshire: recent fieldwork', *Wiltshire Studies* 99 (2006), 165-89.
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Theses

- Clark, S., 'Territorial organization, land use and settlement in the middle Thames Valley: a study of continuity and change from the late Roman to the late Anglo-Saxon period' (University of Southampton PhD, 2005).
- Draper, S. A., 'Landscape, settlement and society: Wiltshire in the 1st millennium AD' (University of Durham PhD, 2005).
- Harrison, S. A., 'A history of evolution and interaction: man, roads and the landscape to c.1850' (University of East Anglia PhD, 2005).
- Miles, S. A., 'Landscape, power and politics: the place of the park in medieval English society, c.1100-c.1535' (University of Oxford DPhil, 2005).
- Townley, E. L., 'The medieval landscape and economy of the Forest of Dean' (University of Bristol PhD, 2005).

Membership Changes 2006

Recent changes are set out below. 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 CB2 1TP.

New Members 2006

Dr P COURTNEY
20 Lytton Road
Leicester LE2 1WJ

Mrs C HEATON
Affinity House
Mounton Road
Chepstow
Monmouthshire NP16 6AA

E HIGHAM
22 Peel Park Avenue
Clitheroe
Lancs BB7 3EP

J HOLMES
30 Pulford Drive
Scraptoft
Leicester LE7 9LD

Dr A HORNING
School of Archaeology
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

I JONES
32 Boverton Street
Roath
Cardiff CF23 5ES

Mrs P E OSBORNE
Green Acres
Green Ore
Wells
Somerset BA5 3ET

H PURKESS
Welshway Cottage
Bagendon
Cirencester
Glos GL7 7JG

Mrs S STITSON
25 Swift Way
Thurlby
Lincs PE10 0QA

Deceased

P BIGMORE (Wheathampstead)
J R BRETT (Bishop's Stortford)
A J DAVISON (Sprowston)
G E EVANS (Penylan)

A J C REGER (Emsworth)
J V TIDDER (Norwich)
D R WILSON (Cambridge)

Resignations

M A ATKIN (Kendal)
V M BROWN (Newport)
C J DUNN (Leyburn)
N JAMES (Cambridge)
D LAING-TRENGROVE (Okehampton)

E A LORD (Cambridge)
T NORTHFIELD (Chipstead)
A J PASSMORE (Exeter)
P J UPTON (Lighthorne)

Information wanted: current addresses not known

T BAGWELL (was in Taunton)
D H BUTLER (was in Tiverton)
M R EDDY (was in Walmer)
N FAULKNER (was in London)
D J GRIFFITHS (was in Grimsby)
C HAWKINS (was in Saffron Walden)

M HILTON (was in King's Lynn)
M JOHNSON (was in Kendal)
K J MACGOWAN (was in Penge)
C L PERRIN (was in Harrow)
D J SMITH (was in Norwich)

Lapsed (and therefore reluctantly struck off)

K BROWN
F BENENTE
K LONG

**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.

Trustees Address

Dr M Gardiner (President) School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 INN

Dr N Christie (Secretary) Department of Archaeology, University of Leicester LE1 7RH

Dr R E Glasscock (Treasurer) St John's College, Cambridge CB2 1TP

Ms C Lewis (Editor) Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge CB2 3DZ

Review of activity during the year

The Group's activities (policymaking, conferences and publication) have continued as before. The range of interests and issues is reflected in the content of the accompanying Report 21 covering the year 2006-2007.

Result of the year

The excess of receipts over payments amounted to £3421 (2006: £3071).

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to maintain reserves at a level to enable the long term and other research projects to be sustained in the foreseeable future.

Grant making policy

The charity makes grants towards research project sand other bodies involved in similar areas of education and research in respect of medieval settlement.

Investments policy

The charity's funds are invested in National Savings deposits that are regarded as a safe liquid investment with an adequate return, and suitable for a small charity.

Risk policy

The trustees have reviewed the major risks facing the charity and presently conclude that no specific action is required.

RE 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 2007 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 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 Act

have not been met; or

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

C M P Johnson MA PhD
Formerly Senior Bursar
St John's College
Cambridge CB2 1TP

17 July 2007

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Registered Charity No 801634

GENERAL FUNDS – RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Financial Year ended 31 January 2007

	2006-07	2005-06		2006-07	2005-06
RECEIPTS	£	£	PAYMENTS	£	£
<u>Donation, legacies and other similar sources</u>			<u>Charitable Payments</u>		
Donations	-	15	Research Grants	-	478
Income tax recovered through gift aid	1,120	1,475	Malton Museum	-	300
			Student Bursary	-	200
			J. G. Hurst Memorial Prize	200	200
			Ruralia 2007	-	600
<u>Operating activities to further the charity's objects</u>			<u>Charitable Activity</u>		
Subscriptions	6,294	6,491	Annual Report printing	4,138	2,775
Publication Sales	114	244	Conference expenses	340	2,606
Conference receipts	493	2,121	Whittlewood Project	-	-
AGM & Seminar receipts	-	-	<u>Management and administration</u>		
			Secretarial & Committee expenses	424	447
			AGM & Seminar expenses	480	81
			Hire of rooms	169	209
			CBA Affiliation Fees	84	81
			Postage	369	771
			Refund of Subscriptions paid in error	16	80
<u>Investment Income Receipts</u>					
Current account interest	1	2			
Deposit account interest	1,619	1,551			
	<u>9,641</u>	<u>11,899</u>		<u>6,220</u>	<u>8,828</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Balance of receipts over payments	3,421	3,071	Current bank account	1,617	676
Balance Brought forward	41,989	38,918	Nat Savings deposit account	43,793	41,313
	<u>45,410</u>	<u>41,989</u>	Creditors	<u>45,410</u>	<u>41,989</u>

Note 1 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

Note 2 Funds

All funds of the charity are unrestricted.

