

## A GROUP OF EARTHWORKS IN THE TAT VALLEY

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### SUMMARY

A group of earthworks lying in the Tat valley where three medieval parishes met has been surveyed. They include the remains of the Augustinian Priory of Coxford, a deserted portion of the village of Tattersett, and fishponds in Broomsthorpe. Little documentary evidence about the site of the Priory is available but there are references to medieval features in Broomsthorpe. Some light is thrown on the possible locations of the Hospital of St. Andrew and of the street of Sengham in Tattersett. It would appear that the village of Tattersett contracted substantially by the early 15th century.

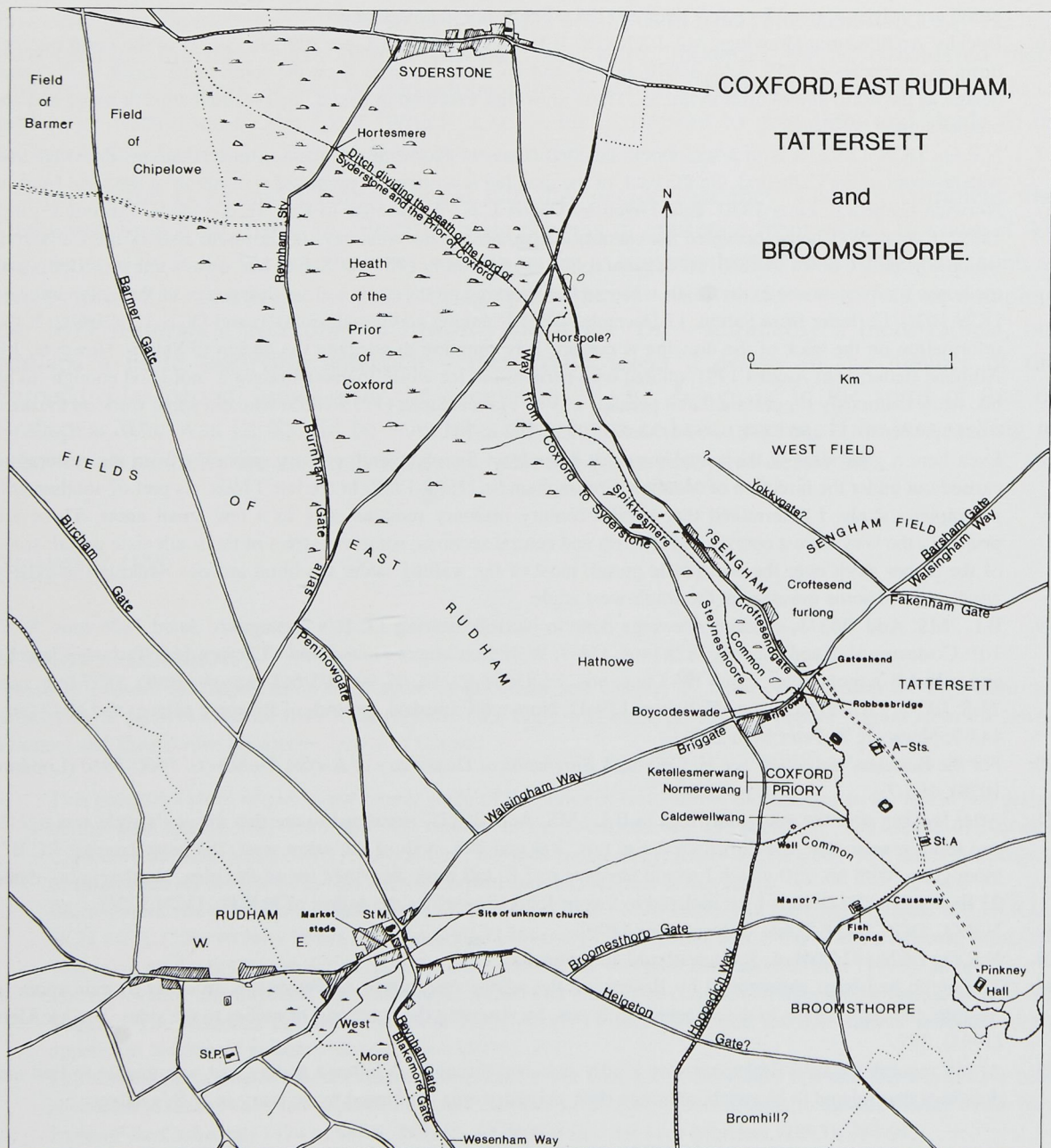


Fig. 1

Coxford, East Rudham, Tattersett and Broomsthorpe.



## Introduction

The mapped earthworks lie some 7km to the west of Fakenham and overlook a broad flood plain at the confluence of the River Tat with a stream joining from the west. The height of the flood plain is approximately 42m OD. Some earlier maps, including pre-Second World War O.S. publications, name the stream joining from the west and continuing south-eastwards, as the River Wensum. The Tat to the north of the confluence and an abandoned river channel to the south of it form the present parish boundary between Tattersett to the east and East Rudham (including Broomsthorpe and Coxford) to the west. It would not be too fanciful to imagine this flood plain with somewhat different vegetational cover from that of today. Faden's Map of the 1790s<sup>1</sup> shows more woodland, possibly carr, to the south of the confluence, while the present-day drainage pattern here, including the diversion of the Tat, suggests a post-Faden date. Despite these efforts at drainage, much of the flood plain is rather wet, rough grassland. Fig. 1 shows the salient features of the modern landscape with the more significant medieval names and locations superimposed.

## The Earthworks

### *Tattersett All Saints* (Fig. 2; SMR 22443) (Fig. 6)

This site has a well-defined road line, in part a hollow way, leading from All Saints' church north-westwards towards Manor Farm. This line is continued beyond Manor Farm as the present street of the rather straggling village of Tattersett.

The hollow way has a boundary bank and ditch on its southern side which forms the northern boundary of a possible toft. The remainder of the road is a terraced feature with higher land, now under cultivation, to the north.

To the south of the road a well-defined shallow moated enclosure, approximately 45m by 14m, has an entrance facing the road as well as two exterior platforms to the east. An outlet leat extends to the south but the inlet leat is less convincing although it is possible that the south-west arm of the moat is an earlier stream channel.

To the north-west, a straight ditch and low banks are likely to be evidence of later drainage and subdivision of this rough meadow.

### *Tattersett St. Andrew* (Fig. 3; SMR 2373) (Fig. 6)

The south-eastern group of earthworks has traditionally been considered to be the site of the medieval village of Broomsthorpe, but as discussed elsewhere in this article, evidence now suggests that it is the site of Tattersett St. Andrew.

The major feature is a well-defined road line, part hollow way at its southern end and mainly terraced to the north, extending into a plantation where its further, incomplete, extent has been interpolated from air photographs.

To the east of the road, a banked enclosure, approximately 40m from east to west and 37m from north to south, has within it the outline of a building consisting of grass-covered flints and mortar, aligned from east to west and 16m by 6m in extent. This has been identified elsewhere as the remains of the church of St. Andrew<sup>2</sup>. A length of hollow way also exists to the east of this enclosure and approximately 20m to the north of its north-west corner a short section of flint masonry appears to have been part of a wall on the eastern side of the main road line.

To the west of the main road line, and extending to the flood plain, is a gently undulating but superficially featureless enclosure. Further north, however, lengths of straight drainage channels are pre-dated by enclosures, mostly bounded by ditches, the southernmost one of which could be a toft. The major feature of this part of the site is a curving low bank, with a shallow outer ditch, forming the western and southern sides of an enclosure, which has as its eastern boundary, a more complex arrangement of shallow banks and ditches. Some undulations within may be evidence of a building platform. The northern side is indistinct but at the north-west corner there is evidence for a portion of earthwork associated with a moated enclosure, predominantly in what is now arable land to the north. Its position on Fig. 6 has been interpolated from aerial photographs. Limited fieldwalking under adverse conditions within this moated site and also towards All Saints' church has yielded finds of pottery. Finds on the moated site were mainly medieval but included some Thetford-type Ware. From the eastern edge of the field finds were largely medieval (SMR 2373). A few sherds, again mainly medieval, were recovered on the eastern side of the present track at about TF 8539 2897 (SMR 30760).



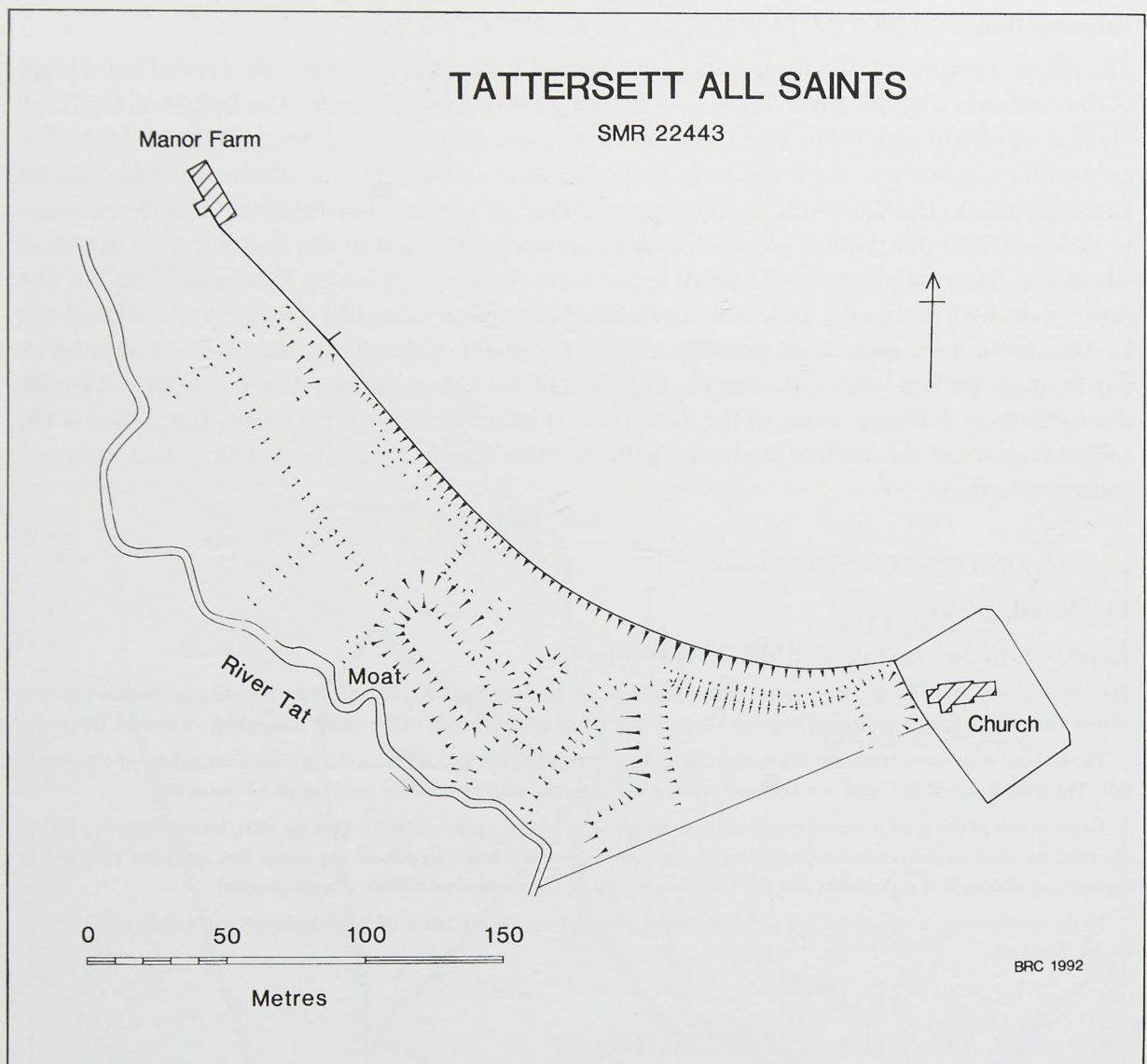


Fig. 2  
Earthworks at Tattersett All Saints.

Though very limited, these finds suggest that the two surviving areas of earthworks are remnants of a continuous site which may have extended further east.

#### *Broomsthorpe Fishponds* (Fig. 4; SMR 12317) (Fig. 6)

These are a group of four, of which three are parallel and of the same size: 25m by 9m. The fourth is at the western end of, and at right angles to the three, and is less regular in shape with dimensions of approximately 46m by 16m, with a leat linking it with the southernmost of the three.

There is some suggestion of a channel leading into the larger pond from the south-west, but this could be purely for taking surface run-off from the adjacent public road. A hollow way leads towards the larger pond from the farm to the west. This could have been access for cart-washing, watering of stock or purely for drainage as a narrow ditch has been incised into it. A short, shallow channel leads from the north-eastern corner of the northernmost pond of the three towards the modern drainage ditch.



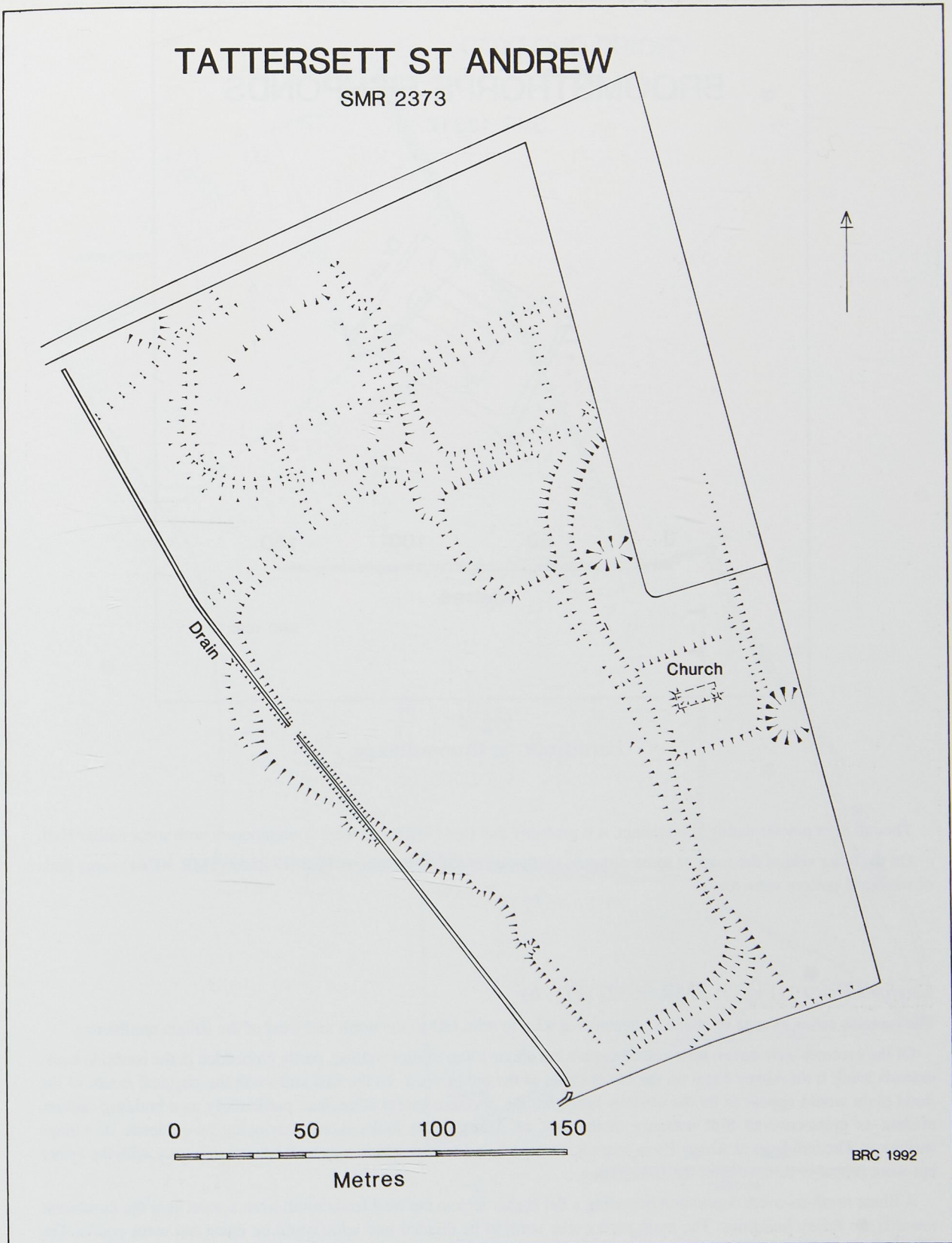


Fig. 3  
Earthworks at Tattersett St. Andrew.



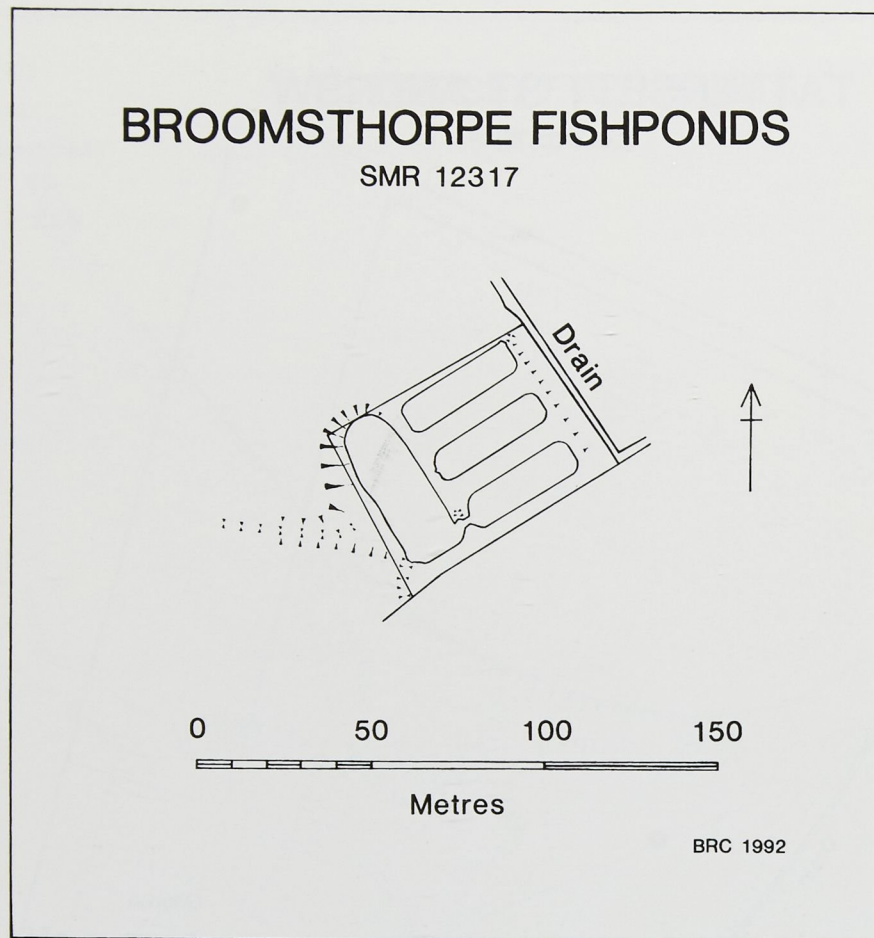


Fig. 4  
Earthworks at Broomsthorpe.

Though their precise dating is uncertain, it is probable that these fishponds were contemporary with some earlier Hall.

On the other side of the road, at some distance south-east of the fishponds, at TF 8517 2829 (SMR 30761) some finds of medieval pottery were made.

#### *Coxford Priory* (Fig. 5; SMR 3632) (Fig. 6)

The remains cover an area of about 12 hectares at 43m to 45m OD to the north and west of the stream confluence.

Of the precinct boundaries, little can be certain but about 100m of flint walling, partly embedded in the roadside bank, extends south from Abbey Farm on the eastern side of the public road. To the east and south the physical extent of the flood plain would appear to be the obvious limit, but the northern extent is unclear, particularly as a building outline, evident as grass-covered flint masonry to the east of Abbey Farm looks more convincing as evidence of village shrinkage. The buildings at Abbey Farm contain stonework and tracery which may well be contemporary with the Priory but were probably re-used after the Dissolution.

A linear north-to-south depression bounding a flat higher area to the west leads south from a point near the farmhouse towards the Priory buildings. The main earthworks seem to be divided into what could be inner and outer courts. The inner group contains the Priory church remains, including the corners and buttresses of the east end and a blocked north transept arch. Various incomplete walls and building outlines to the south, which are mainly grass-covered and much disturbed, presumably include a cloister. Fallen masonry is particularly noticeable along the northern wall alignment of the nave.



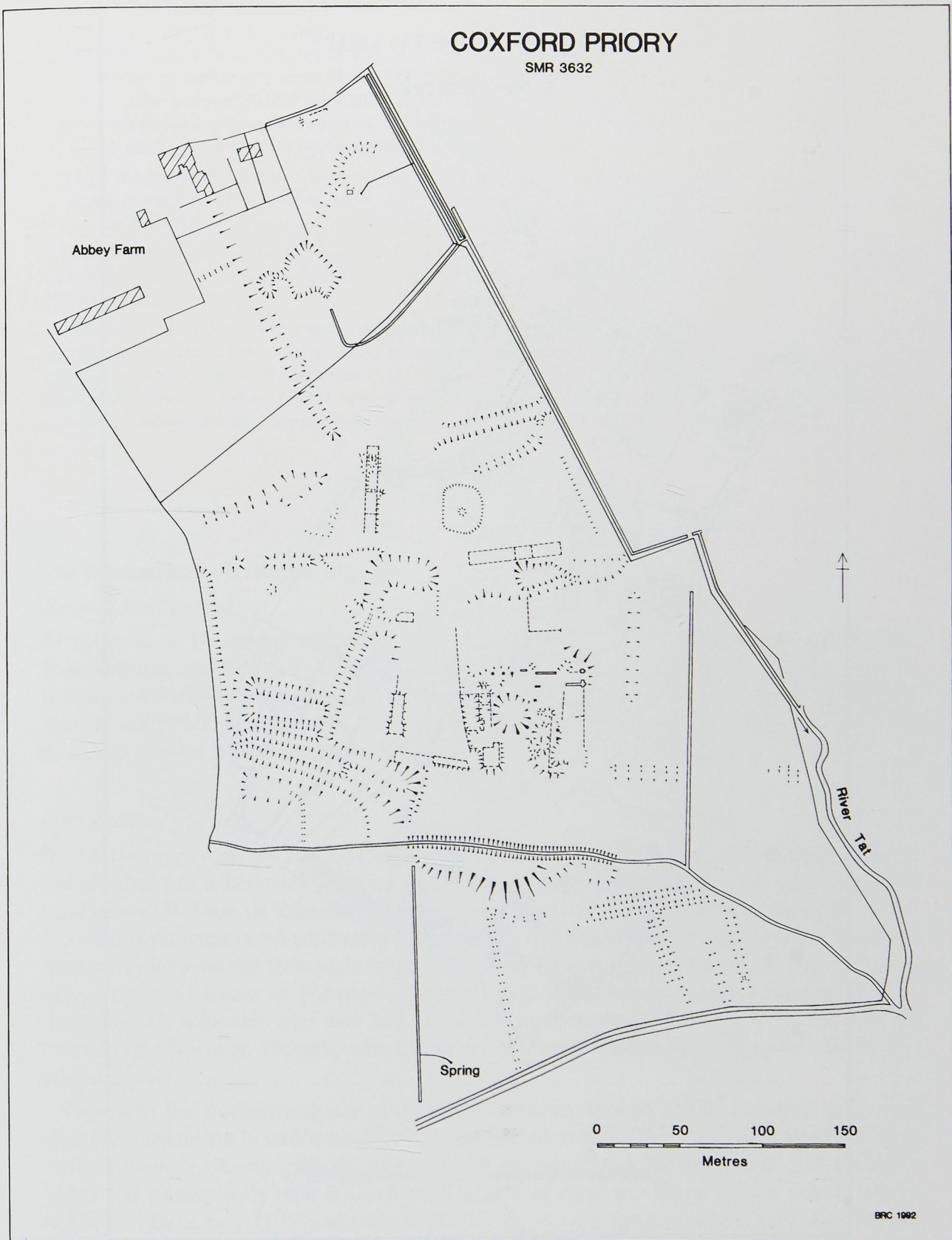


Fig. 5  
Coxford Priory.



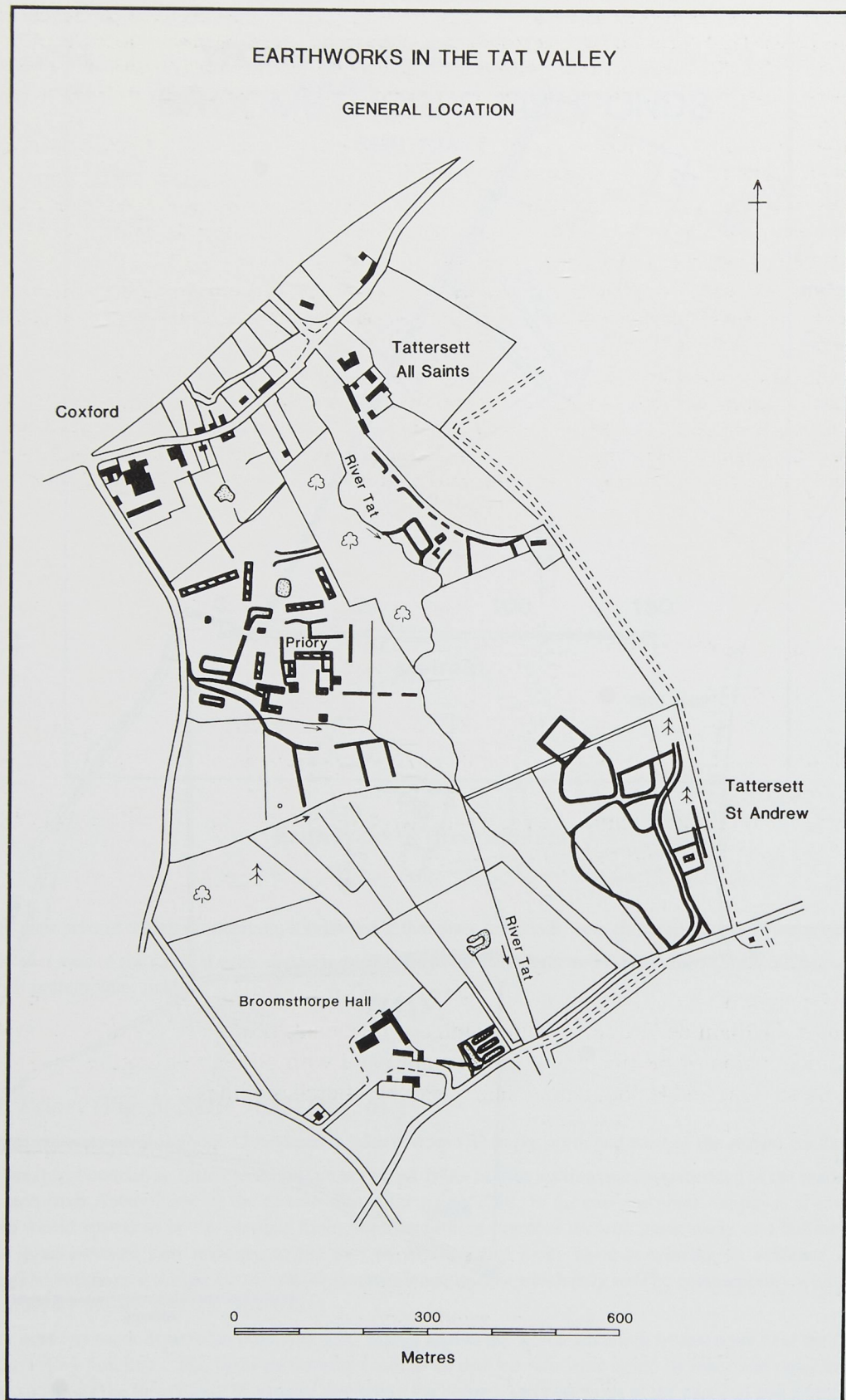


Fig. 6  
General location of earthworks.



The outlines of other buildings are apparent to the west and south, some only evident on air photographs, and have been incorporated in Fig. 6. These extend to the south of the modern stream where one small L-shaped length of masonry appears at the surface. Some evidence of walls exists to the north of the church, possibly bounds of gardens, while to the north-west the outline of a small building with one rounded corner is apparent. This area is separated from the remainder of the earthworks to the north and west by a moat-like ditch, wider and less complete on the northern side where it appears to be sufficiently broad to be almost pond-like. The western arm has masonry remains compatible with a bridge or gate-house entrance to the area described above.

Within the outer area, buildings, from the evidence of surface remains and of air photograph, are restricted to the northern part where four long narrow ranges, with some sub-division, are evident. One short length of flint masonry is in an isolated position to the west of the bridge and could well be the remains of a dovecot.

To the south-west of this part of the site the moat leads into a series of linear depressions and platforms which are suggestive of a complex of fishponds, especially as they are adjacent to the watercourse. This outer area appears to have been the scene of lay activity.

To the south of this watercourse and to the south-east of the main site is an enclosure with an east-to-west ditched causeway as its northern side, with two other causeways, one ditched, at right angles to it heading south towards the main east-to-west stream, but the enclosure is incomplete. The function of this is unclear, as is its period, but 1946 air photography shows, immediately to the west and now no longer discernible, narrow strips, oriented north-to-south, and separated by shallow ditches. This may indicate some form of water management or, possibly, an osier bed.

## The Documentary Evidence (Fig. 1)

### *General Background*

At the time of Domesday and again in 1316 all three medieval settlements (East Rudham, Broomsthorpe and Tattersett) were in the hundred of Brothecross. In 1334 East Rudham was in Brothecross but Tattersett was in Gallow. In 1524 all were listed as being in Gallow. Administrative boundaries in this area seem to have been rather fluid; tax collectors in 1379 and in 1524/5 lumped Broomsthorpe with Tattersett.

### *East Rudham*

At the Domesday survey the Rudhams were not treated separately. A small portion held by Count Alan was a berewick (outlier) of his large manor of Syderstone and was of no great significance. William de Warenne, with Ralph as one tenant, held a considerable manor with a recorded population of 48 (including 25 sokemen) and with outliers in Bagthorpe, Houghton, Barmer, Syderstone and Helhoughton; there were two churches with 60 acres and there were two mills. A second tenant of Warenne's, Lambert, had under him a recorded population of 35 (including 18 sokemen) and also had an outlier in Syderstone. Peter de Valognes was the overlord of a freeman, Thorgils, who had under him three bordars and a serf, and also of four other freemen<sup>3</sup>.

Thereafter the Rudhams appear as distinct settlements, though clearly manorial lands must have been considerably interwoven. Two things helped to make East Rudham important. About 1140 William de Cheney gave the two churches and other lands for the founding of the Priory which was subsequently built at Coxford<sup>4</sup>. The second event was the grant of a weekly market to Michael Belet by c.1175<sup>5</sup> and later, to Harvey Belet, of a two-day annual fair<sup>6</sup>. By 1334 the Rudhams were among the most prosperous places in their hundred<sup>7</sup>. In 1449 East Rudham was allowed a tax reduction of 10.3% whereas West Rudham, faring worse during the troubled preceding century, was allowed over 21%. The presence of the Priory and other more



commercial activity doubtless helped to sustain the community until the Reformation at least.

### *Broomsthorpe*

In 1086 'Brunestorp' was land of the Abbey of Ely. It was held by a freeman with eight bordars; there was a mill. It was thus already a very small place. It was not mentioned in the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316<sup>8</sup> and did not appear in the taxation lists of 1334 and 1449. For the Poll Tax of 1379<sup>9</sup> it was lumped together with Tattersett with 17 contributors between them. It had clearly ceased to be a place of any size though some documentary evidence suggests subdued survival.

Bishop Nigel of Ely (1133-69) granted the demesne manor of 'Brunesthorp' to Hugh Bigod. By 1177-86 his successor had, in the King's court, obtained recognition of his claim to the manor on the grounds that it had been alienated during the civil war of Stephen's reign<sup>10</sup>. A parish church was recorded in Broomsthorpe in 1254 and 1291<sup>11</sup> while, in 1410-11 William de Pinkeneye held 60 acres of land and 60 of marsh, with a messuage, in Broomsthorpe. He had 12 tenants who held 168½ acres and a further 23 acres belonged to the church<sup>12</sup>. It is possible that these may not all have lived in Broomsthorpe but on limbs of the manor elsewhere. Broomsthorpe was not made exempt from the parish tax in 1428; this would seem to indicate that it had at least 10 households. However most of the contributors to the Subsidy of 1524-5, when Broomsthorpe was again together with Tattersett, were almost certainly living in the larger village<sup>13</sup>. In 1664 there were only two contributors to the Hearth Tax in Broomsthorpe, one with eight hearths, the other with 12<sup>14</sup>.

### *Tattersett*

In 1086 Tattersett was in the hands of William de Warenne and was tenanted by Rainer with a recorded population of 36 including 14 freemen. There were two churches with 40 acres and two mills. By 1334 Tattersett appears to have been a prosperous settlement contributing the fourth highest total in Gallow hundred; only the two Creakes and Fakenham paid more. As Fakenham was rated at 1/10th, being Ancient Demesne, instead of 1/15th, Tattersett's position was, in reality, even better. Its two churches were valued highly in the ecclesiastical taxes of 1254 and 1291. However, in 1449 it was allowed a reduction of over 15% in its payment to the lay subsidy and in 1428 the parish of Tattersett St. Andrew had less than ten households<sup>15</sup>. In 1666 13 persons in Tattersett paid the Hearth Tax; one house had 13 hearths out of a village total of 34<sup>16</sup>. Faden, in 1797, showed All Saints' church in total isolation with the village of Tattersett or Gatesend on the road leading to Rudham and fringing Gatesend Common to the north of it.

## **Topographical Evidence**

Documents relating to Coxford Priory are an important source of information about the areas which contain the earthworks. There are several accounts of boundaries which have some features which appear relevant.

From the Coxford Cartulary<sup>17</sup> is a jury pronouncement on the bounds of the liberties of the Earls of Lancaster and de Warenne which mentions Folettesdam between Tattersett and 'Helweton' (Helhoughton) from which the boundary led to a bridge between Broomsthorpe and Tattersett and then 'by custom' to a place called Cokesfordfludgates between Rudham and Tattersett. It then followed the course of the stream, to a place called Boyteleswade, a bridge



called 'Robbesbrygge', on to a great stone lying in Steynesmore, to a place called Spikesmere and then, following the boundary between the vill of Syderstone on the one hand and Tattersett and Sengham on the other, it passed away to the east. The next charter (no. 530) gives an account of the bounds of the liberties of the Priory of Coxford. The part of the boundary of concern here extended from Kypton Grene by the highway leading towards the Priory and to a marker stone in the marsh of Broomsthorpe and up to the 'flodgate de Coxford', which bund or bank divided the liberties of Lancaster and Warenne, and then by the stream to Boteleswade and a bridge called Robbisbridge (or Kebbisbridge?), then to a great stone lying in Steynesmore and then by the stream up to Spikkesmere and to Horspool by the water which divides Rudham and Tattersett. From thence it followed a ditch dividing the lands of the lord of Kerdeston (Syderstone was in the liberty of Roger of Kerdeston) and the Prior of Coxford, away to the west. The account is repeated in a field book dated 1571<sup>18</sup>.

### *Broomsthorpe*

Some details concerning Broomsthorpe can be gathered from the Cartulary. An undated charter (no. 217) refers to 13 acres of land of the fee of 'Brunestorp' lying next to William de Pinkeny's house on its southern side and extending down to the head of a causeway and to the water separating Broomsthorpe and Tattersett. A second charter (no. 219) concerns turbary next to Pinkeny's (?fish)pond (*stagnum*) below his house on its southern side; payment to the Hospital of St. Andrew was also made for turbary in the marsh at the bridge of Broomsthorpe (no. 225). Margaret, daughter of Roger the clerk of Broomsthorpe, granted meadowland in the marsh of Broomsthorpe which abutted on the causeway. Two charters (nos 230 and 232) concern a ditch between the Priory precinct and the common pasture of Broomsthorpe and a grant of four feet of land on the Broomsthorpe side to give access for maintenance and with liberty of fishing in the ditch. There is also a reference (no. 520) to a garden in Broomsthorpe enclosed by a ditch or moat.

It is clear that the cultivated land of Broomsthorpe extended to the west beyond the road leading from Rudham to Raynham and included an area around Broomhill. Apart from this a reference to the shepherd of Broomsthorpe is the only indication of the nature of the economy. It is obvious that the river formed the eastern boundary of Broomsthorpe.

### *Tattersett and Sengham*

About these only limited topographical information is available, Blomefield believed that Rainer who held here in 1086 was the ancestor of the Pinkenys who were medieval lords. Blake considered this less likely because they only appeared in records during Henry II's reign<sup>19</sup>. The Pinkenys divided their holdings, here and in Broomsthorpe, at various times: in 1316-17 an agreement between John de Pinkeny and Thomas and Catherine de Pinkeny concerned 10 messuages, a mill, 106 acres of land, three of meadow, two of moorland and some rents in Tattersett and Sengham<sup>20</sup>. The position was probably even more complex. In 1302 Roger of Aylsham, John of Helweton, Hamo Pinkeny and Walter of Calthorpe all held fractions of a fee in Tattersett and these holdings persisted in 1346 and 1428, while, in 1316, the Priory of Castleacre was shown as a landholder there<sup>21</sup>. On this evidence it is easy to visualise more than one capital house within the settlement.

The Coxford Cartulary mentions lands granted to the Priory in Tattersett and Sengham: some charters (235, 238, 242, 245 and 249) refer to lands in the field of Sengham as if it were quite



distinct. Thomas, son of Philip, chaplain of Sengham, held land in Sengham field (237) and there is mention (238) of an acre in the field of Sengham next to the way to Barsham. This road was shown in part by Faden and was in the northern portion of Tattersett. Some land in Sengham field was given to the Hospital of St. Andrew (285, 286).

Two important details are given by other charters: six acres of land are described as being next to the road on the north side of All Saints' church of Tattersett (237) while a messuage with all its buildings and the trees within it and its croft in Tattersett lay in Brigerow (268) – obviously the road leading down to the crossing to Rudham.

Some 15th- and early 16th-century documents give further details. In 1509 a grant was made to Adam Howlyn of Broomsthorpe and others of a messuage built and an adjacent croft in Tattersett between the messuage and croft of the Rector of the parish church of Tattersett (presumably All Saints) on its northern side, land of Thomas Fermer to the south and a road to the west<sup>22</sup>. It seems probable that the Rector's house would have been near the church, so the messuage would have faced onto a road leading to the church. Other roads or ways mentioned in this group of documents are: Gallehowgate or Callehowgate, Walsingham Way (-gate), Yokkygate, Grenegate, Fakenham Gate (-way), Croftensendgate, Depdelsty and Millepostway which, with Mille post and Myllewong, suggest that there was a windmill somewhere in Tattersett<sup>23</sup>. Of several references to lands abutting on Yokkygate, the directions always state that the road lay to the east or west indicating that the road ran from north to south. In two cases land abutting on Yokkygate was said to be next Depdelsty; a charter (242) shows that Depdelsty was in Sengham field.

An undated deed of William, son of Roger the baker of Sengham, concerned a messuage with all the buildings erected on it in 'Sengham iuxta Thatersete'.<sup>24</sup> The description shows that it had other messuages on either side, common pasture to the west and cultivated land to the east. Sengham thus appears as a linear street running north-to-south between pasture, probably on the valley floor, and higher arable land. This agrees in part with the grant, mentioned by Blomefield, made by Maud Edebyne of Tattersett of a messuage and croft there in a street called Sengham and with a reference in a rental of Coxford Priory to a close in 'Syngham strete' in Tattersett.<sup>25</sup>

Blomefield stated firmly that Sengham was a hamlet belonging to Tattersett and so merely a part of that township. He also stated 'In this town were two churches...' and, later, 'The church of Tattersett St. Andrew was a rectory'.<sup>26</sup> Although a reference to a chaplain of Sengham has already been noted this does not mean that there was necessarily a church or chapel there, but is more likely to signify that Philip the chaplain dwelt there. As early as 1254 and 1291 the two churches were listed as being in Tattersett and there was only a relatively small difference in their valuations<sup>27</sup>. In 1428 St. Andrew's parish in Tattersett was exempt from taxation as it had less than 10 households<sup>28</sup>. In 1474 and in 1509 there were references to lands belonging to the rectory and church of St. Andrew of Tattersett<sup>29</sup>. When an Inventory of Church Goods was made in 1552, only All Saints' church was mentioned<sup>30</sup>.

### *Coxford*

No details of the interior of the Priory precinct are given by documents although some do refer to features in the vicinity. De Cheney's grant, confirmed c.1200 by Geoffrey de Say<sup>31</sup>, refers to the mill and fishpond of Coxford, all Caldewellwang, and all the land between that and the water of Tattersett, all Ketellesmerewang, all Noremerewang and one foldsoke within Penigsti for 300 sheep. A similar grant refers to all the park and all the heathland to the east of the land which



led down from 'hoga' next the great way, stretching to the water to the east of the pool and the land between the mill and the land of Broomsthorpe.

One charter (21) mentions 40 acres of heath in Rudham extending from 'Tuohoges' (Two Howes) towards 'Kelhoge' and sloping down eastwards to the way from Coxford to Syderstone; this seems to correspond to the modern Coxford Heath. Another (85) refers to land between the road from Rudham to Walsingham (the line of a road from Tattersett to West Barsham, now obliterated by Sculthorpe airfield) in the north and Coxford marsh in the south; the land lay between a garden and a messuage and toft and seems to prove that there were dwellings in Coxford on the Rudham side of the river. It is unfortunate that some of the names recorded have been lost and so precise location is impossible. 'Caldewellwang' may be significant. 'Wang' or 'Wong' (ON *vangr*) can mean a piece of meadow in open fields, sometimes enclosed; easily applicable to the Tat valley floor. Mary Bone's Well is marked as an Antiquity on O.S. maps. When visited during the wet winter of 1993-94 it proved to be a vigorous chalk spring. The name may be a degraded reference to the Blessed Virgin Mary to whom the Priory was dedicated<sup>33</sup>. It is possible that this was also the Cold Well of Caldewellwang. Penigsti or Penygsti, later, in 1571, Penstye, was a way passing somewhere near Hathowe and may not have been the same as the rather similarly named Penyhogegate (1571) which was an alternative name for Burnham Gate. Both were clearly in the north-eastern corner of East Rudham parish.

The Hospital of St. Andrew is mentioned in a number of charters in the Cartulary. It seems certain that it was distinct from the main Priory complex. The charter (no. 57) giving details of its foundation shows that it was a substantial establishment. Humphrey Belet gave the manor of East Rudham and lands in Gayton, Marham, Syderstone, Barmer and elsewhere for the support of this hospital on the western side of Boytildeswade, and for its chaplain. This name seems to have given medieval scribes particular difficulty: Boytodeswade, Boytedeswade, Bottadeswade, Bottodeswade, Bottleswade, Boyteleswade and Boylodeswade are variants which have been noted. For convenience the spelling used by Blomefield and usually adopted since is retained on Fig. 1. The hospital is also variously named as the Hospital of St. Andrew of Cokesford (nos 96, 284) and the Hospital of Cokesford (95). These and other references may mean no more than that the house was under the jurisdiction of the Priory, as indeed it was, but certainly give an impression of proximity, at least, to the hamlet of that name.

It is possible to arrive at a more specific conclusion about the general location of this hospital by comparing topographical details from various sources. A grant made by Roger Biscop of Tattersett conveyed his messuage and croft in Bottodeswade to the hospital and described his property as being next to the way to Barsham (no. 280). The descriptions of bounds already cited point to the proximity of Boyteleswade to the bridge over the Tat. In 1571 the field book of East Rudham listed a messuage in Brigrove, near this bridge between Rudham and Tattersett, which abutted on Bottelswade to the north, with Steynesmore, a common pasture, to the west of it and faced south onto Walsingham Way. The Register of Coxford Priory<sup>34</sup>, dated 1342, records land '*apud Hathowe iuxta hospitem*' (at Hathowe next to the hospital) but gives no further clues. The field book describes the various furlongs in East Rudham but is not easy to follow in detail as most of the names and several of the roads seem to have disappeared by the time of the earliest available maps. However, a general conclusion about the position of Hathowe can be reached. A series of furlongs beginning near Rudham church extended east to the demesne land next the 'Priory Pale' and abutted south on Walsingham Way: of these Priors Rub appears as the most easterly. To the north of it a short sequence of furlongs includes Langrale; this was said to lie to the east of Netherhathowe. To the north of Netherhathowe was Overhathowe with Short or Curte furlong to the north of that and next to Burnham- or Penyhogegate (Penigsti?). It is obvious



that Hathowe was in the north-east corner of Rudham not far from Coxford. 'Howe' or 'hoge' might mean the end of a ridge or spur and the contour patterns there are suggestive<sup>35</sup>. Some point close to Coxford and between the edge of the flood plain and the 50m or 60m contour would seem to be a likely site for the hospital. Such a site, close to the precinct of the superior House, beside an important road and bridging point at the limit of the parish would appear to be a logical position for a Hospital. Though lacking absolute precision, it rules out any possibility that a recently discovered cropmark close to East Rudham church might be the site of this hospital (Fig. 1)<sup>36</sup>. This is the outline of the cruciform church with an apsidal eastern end (SMR 29031) and its identity remains an open question.

### Conclusion

It is unfortunate that documents give no assistance in interpreting the complex earthworks of the Priory. It is clear, at least, that they do not include the Hospital of St. Andrew. The visible existence of fishponds here and at Broomsthorpe, together with other less-defined evidence of water management is supplemented by documentary evidence for such a pond in Broomsthorpe, for a ditch constructed as a boundary and for a causeway there, for a 'flodgate de Coxford' and for medieval watermills. These point to a long, complicated and probably largely unrecorded history of landscape modification in the Tat valley.

The documentary evidence shows that medieval Broomsthorpe lay to the west of the river and was a community possessing its own church. The belief that the earthworks around the church of St. Andrew are those of Broomsthorpe Deserted Medieval Village is erroneous. The site of the village of Broomsthorpe must be sought on the west bank. The disappearance of Broomsthorpe church had happened by 1536 at the latest when, according to Blomefield, the parishioners were licensed, by the Bishop, to attend East Rudham church: everything points to the gradual disappearance of a very small community during the late medieval period.

Documents provide little specific detail about the Tattersett earthworks. Shrinkage occurred by the early 15th century and the installation of the last priest of St. Andrew's church is given as 1436 though the church probably remained in use until the Reformation when monastic support ceased. The suggestion that this church, which must have been one of the two recorded in Tattersett in 1086, stood in the hamlet of Sengham has no documentary support. The impression that this was so may have originated in the rather misleading way in which the Revd. Charles Parkin, or his King's Lynn printer, arranged the entries for Sengham and St. Andrew's in 'Blomefield'. Such evidence as exists, limited virtually to the proximity of Sengham field to Barsham Way, may mean that Sengham, in reality, was the name of that part of Tattersett which lies to the north of the present main road, between Gatesend Hill and Wicken Pond.

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1. Faden's Map of Norfolk. Reprinted 1989, Larks Press Edition.



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