

Spring Conference 2016

Recent Archaeological Research in Rural Settlements in Eastern England

University of Lincoln, Friday 29th April – Sunday 1st May 2016

The Medieval Settlement Research Group 30th Anniversary Conference will review recent archaeological investigations in Currently Occupied Rural Settlements (CORS) in Eastern England, where much exciting and innovative work has recently been carried out. There will be a special focus on the contribution of community projects to the academic study of rural settlements: community archaeology is increasingly popular across the UK and has made possible new discoveries in and around many settlements of medieval origin where people live today. This focus on non-deserted medieval settlements is also reflected in current scholarly research which recognises that most medieval settlements did not become permanently deserted, thus encompassing the non-deserted majority is a priority if understanding of the period is to be advanced.

Conference papers from within and beyond academia will span new discoveries made in, and by, rural communities from Essex to Yorkshire as well as new scholarly research into the origins and development of currently occupied rural settlements from the sixth century to the sixteenth. It will also provide an opportunity to consider how the increasing amount of information from rural communities can contribute to scholarly enquiry into the origins, development, decline and revival of medieval rural settlements, reflecting MSRSG's aim to advance and promote as widely as possible the study of historic settlements which are home to millions today and to 90% of the medieval population. It is open to anyone with an interest in medieval rural villages, hamlets and farms.

The 2016 conference will start on Friday evening with a wine reception at the University of Lincoln and a tour of the historic quarter including the magnificent cathedral (described by William Cobbett as "the finest building in the whole world"). Saturday's full day of papers will be followed by an optional Conference Dinner at the County Assembly Rooms, Lincoln, while papers on Sunday morning will be rounded off with a trip to the nearby deserted medieval village of Riseholme, iconic as the first DMV excavation to be published in *Medieval Archaeology*, whose future may hold exciting possibilities. The Conference will thus encompass medieval settlements deserted and inhabited, urban and rural.

Programme

Friday April 29th 2016

18:00-20:00 Wine Reception followed by walking tour of historic Lincoln

Saturday April 30th 2016

9:00-9:15 Registration – EMMTEC Foyer

9:15-9:30 Welcome and Introduction

9:30-10:00 Janet Morris and Mathew Morris (University of Leicester Archaeology Service) - Community test pit excavations in West Wickham (Cams)

10:00-10:30 Gil Burleigh (North Hertfordshire Archaeological Society) and Helen Hofton (Pirton Local History Group) -115 tons of history: the results of test pitting and other investigations in Pirton, Herts. Followed by Pirton, Herts. Timber-framed Buildings

10:30-11:00 Rosemary Culkin (Great Bowden Heritage & Archaeology) - Great Bowden's hidden past (Leics)

11:00-11:30 BREAK - Tea and coffee

11:30-12:00 Michael Southall (Lutterworth Fieldworkers and Rugby Archaeological Society) – The results of recent community archaeological fieldwork in Lutterworth (Leics)

12:00-12:30 Peter Allen (Bingham Heritage Trails Association)– The results of recent community archaeological fieldwork in Bingham (Notts)

12:30-13:00 Peter Denison-Edson (Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group) and Alan Mills (Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group)– The results of recent community archaeological fieldwork in three villages in Swaledale (North Yorkshire)

13:00-14:00 BREAK – Lunch

14:00-14:30 Duncan Wright (Bishop Grosseteste University) – Life Before the Village: Settlement Evolution in Early Medieval England.

14:30-15:00 Richard Mortimer (Oxford Archaeology East) - Middle Saxon Village Development in Cambridgeshire and the -ham/-ton Divide

15:00-15:30 Richard Jones (University of Leicester) – What's in a name?

15:30-16:00 BREAK - Tea and coffee

16:00-16:40 Susan Oosthuizen (University of Cambridge) – Lordly and peasant influence in the origin of medieval open fields

16:40-17:20 Carenza Lewis (University of Lincoln) – Disaster recovery: Reconstructing the impact of the Black Death from test pit excavations in CORS

17:20-18:00 Discussion

19:30-21:30 Conference Dinner at the County Assembly Rooms, Lincoln

Sunday May 1st 2016

- 9:30-10:00 David Frost (Binham Local History Group) - Understanding the development of Binham (Norfolk)
- 10:00-10:30 Andora Carver (Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society) and Tim Dennis (University of Essex) - Test pit excavations and geophysical survey at Nayland and Court Knoll (Suffolk)
- 10:30-11:00 June Barnes (Sharnbrook Local History Group) – Recent excavations in the village of Sharnbrook and in Castle Close
- 11:00-11:30 BREAK - Tea and coffee**
- 11:30-12:00 Adam Daubney (Portable Antiquities Scheme) – Medieval finds for CORS: using Portable Antiquities Scheme data to explore rural settlements
- 12:00-12:30 Jeremy Lake (Historic England) – Houses, farmsteads and their landscapes
- 12:30-13:00 Discussion – The future of co-produced research into medieval settlements
- 13:00-13:45 BREAK – Lunch**
- 14:00 Depart to Riseholme to visit DMV, landscape and campus
- 16:00 Return to Lincoln calling at train station and University campus