

falling temperatures, increased storminess, rising relative sea levels and outbreaks of animal and human disease. The problems faced by communities living in this low-lying coastal landscape are reflected by the growing number of royal commissions into flooding, and Simmons estimates that from c. 1300 to 1400 relative sea level may have risen by perhaps 2 mm a year. Some land was lost to erosion, but new land was also gained as tidal inlets silted up, meaning that towns such as Wainfleet went into a terminal decline. Despite the increased risk of flooding, wetlands remained attractive areas in which to live due to their wealth of natural resources; these included the inland backfens that were carefully managed as a common resource. Table 3.1, for example, provides a fascinating insight into the complexities of this management by compiling a calendar of the traditional periods when certain wild plants and animals could be harvested; we see also the conditions imposed upon the commoners, such as what equipment could be used (this is a fine example of the value of interdisciplinary research, as it is only documentary sources that provide these insights). Chapter 4 then explores the early modern period (1500–1700), when communities continued to battle with the sea, while the volume is rounded off by Chapter 5 (titled ‘Some Contexts’) that takes a very brief look at some other wetland landscapes.

Despite the absence of a proper concluding chapter that summarises the development of the south-east Lincolnshire landscape, the book is otherwise very well written, with an engaging style; a particularly strong feature is the use of extracts from primary sources that bring the landscape – and the people who managed it – to life. A wide range of extremely helpful illustrations is also offered, including a series of phase maps showing how the landscape changed over time (although from Figure 2.1 onwards there appears to be an error in the key as the fen banks are in black, not green, which indicates the edge of the Wolds). Overall, this is a really interesting account of how human communities lived their lives in a difficult, but rewarding physical environment.

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Hitcham: A Landscape, Social, and Ecclesiastical History of a Suffolk Clayland Parish. By Edward Martin. 21 x 30 cm. vi + 146 pp, 102 colour and b&w pls and figs. Ipswich: The Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, 2021. ISBN 978-18381223-1-7. Price: £10.00 pb.

Edward Martin, well known for his work on Suffolk’s field systems (and much else), has written an affectionate history of Hitcham, a mid-Suffolk parish, long his home. It stems from a Heritage Lottery project which funded restoration of its church’s bells, and a good part of the volume is devoted to the fabric of All Saints’ and to its rectors, although little is said there about the church’s origins. Those, however, may have been pre-Conquest, since in 1935 the remains of the chapel of St Margaret, mentioned in medieval documents, were discovered only 400 m from the parish

church. Primitive delvings showed that, exceptionally, this had right of burial. Was this a case where the parish church shifted site? Or, Martin speculates, did both of the brothers who held shares of Hitcham in c. AD 1000 each separately found a church?

What will most interest readers of this journal is the topographical commentary on the very detailed survey of Hitcham – its landscape, territorial units, social organisation and tenants – which appears in the Ely Coucher Book of 1249–50, made for the bishop of Ely. The main headings are the demesne (fields, woods – later stripped for navy timber during the Commonwealth); knights; free tenants; customary tenants; unfree villeins; tenants holding ten acres; and those with five. The peasants’ very varied customary obligations are set out in great detail, and give a vivid picture of life and landscape in the Suffolk claylands in the mid-thirteenth century.

A good deal has been written in recent years about Anglo-Saxon and later execution sites, and the Coucher book identifies one in Hitcham through the place-name *Qualmstowe*, from the Old English *cwealmstowe*, meaning a place of execution. In the nineteenth century this was the site of Gallowsfield Barn, which stood where a road entered the parish. This was a typical location for such sites, also typical being the date-span for when felons were hung here, which a fleeting reference documentary reference indicates was between the later tenth century and at least 1199.

As for the wider landscape, mapping (Figure 10.1) shows the manorial demesne lay in large blocks on the parish’s best land. Copyhold tenements, probably each with its own closes, were strung out along the parish’s roads – a strikingly similar pattern to that mapped for Worlingworth, 15 or so miles to the north-east in Dymond and Martin (eds), *An Historical Atlas of Suffolk* (1989), p. 87. A large number of Hitcham’s dispersed farmhouses date from the Middle Ages, and an illustrated gazetteer briskly introduces these and links them with the chief and customary holdings discussed earlier.

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The Archaeology of East Oxford. Archeox: The Development of a Community. (Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph 43). Edited by David Griffiths & Jane Harrison. 22 x 30 cm. xx + 260 pp, 246 colour and b&w pls and figs. Oxford: Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, 2020. ISBN 978-1-905905-43-0. Free download: https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/archeox_hlf_2020/

Community archaeology is hugely to the fore in this well-produced, informative and revealing publication, which is the fruit of a project between academic and professional archaeologists from Oxford and residents in the modern ‘East Oxford’ area, seeking to highlight a busy archaeological and historical past, different from the modern perception of this as peripheral, suburban and industrial zone. The zone is one part-framed by Oxford’s outer ring-road through and enclosing Cowley and Headington, but extending down south to the

Oxford Science Park and east to the ex-Rover (now BMW) car factory. While indeed now featuring much housing, commercial and other premises, the Ordnance Survey map for 1830 (see Fig. 1.1) reveals a far more ruralised vision, comprising fields, farms and supporting villages, including Iffley, Temple Cowley and Sandford, plus remnants of medieval religious complexes like Littlemore Priory and St Bartholomew's Chapel (see setting in Chapter 1). Archeox ran from 2009–15 and was supported by Heritage Lottery Funding (plus 10% match-funding by Oxford University, giving a total budget of just over half a million pounds), and assisted by staff from museums, council, colleges and elsewhere. However, as the cheerful stories from some of the team (Chapter 7) highlight, the key contributors (and recipients – of knowledge, training, team-working, etc.) were the many keen locals, whether individuals or societies, young or old, diggers or pot-washers, re-enactors or school teachers, who clearly enjoyed learning of the past and the skills to study and understand such.

The volume therefore has much to squeeze in! Archeox was – in similar vein to the work I oversaw in conjunction with the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society in the Wallingford Burh to Borough Research Project (2008–11) – ordered around a series of diverse archaeological approaches, each important in a now largely built-up zone, but one featuring some more accessible, open areas too: test-pitting programmes, selected trenching, finds analysis, geophysical survey, map and archive work, plus contextualisation through assessment of older archaeological finds and recent rescue/commercial excavation work (see Chapter 2, which also considers the training, volunteering and evaluation angles of the project – HLF and University REF exercises nowadays wanting to ensure that outreach and impact are prominent social results).

Chapter 3 is centred on the test-pitting campaign (plus summaries of the geophysical surveys achieved, pp. 90–103): 72 test-pits were excavated, with most sited in the southern half of the study zone, with clusters in Iffley, Cowley and Blackbird Leys (see Fig. 3.1). Despite a fairly busy Roman rural landscape, minimal early to middle Anglo-Saxon finds were recovered (a mere two sherds at Church Cowley), even though 1999 excavations at the Oxford Science Park had revealed buildings linked to a farm that shifted around in the sixth and seventh centuries. Just 73 sherds for AD 850–1050 show next a scattered working landscape – fitting the place-name evidence, which does also point to estates at Iffley and Cowley (see Chapter 6, highlighting woodland and marshland resources, and the bounds of Cowley as detailed in the charter of AD 1004). The eleventh to sixteenth centuries mark more consistent village presences, if with some claimed fifteenth-century contraction based on the test-pit finds (or lack of).

The site of St Bartholomew's Chapel, a standing remnant of a leper hospital found in the mid-1120s on land of the royal manor of Headington, is explored in Chapter 4. The complex was owned from 1328 by Oriel College in Oxford, which rebuilt the chapel in 1336; good documentation exists on the later fortunes of the hospital and its brethren, with the function shifting more to an almshouse role; much damage came with the

1640s Civil War. Surveys, test-pits and open trenches provide new data on the pre-1336 chapel and wider site activity and in particular on burials, with bodies and charnel finds excavated (and analysed for leprosy and diet) spanning the twelfth to sixteenth centuries.

A second medieval religious complex was the Benedictine nunnery (Littlemore Priory) at Minchery Paddock (the name Minchery deriving from the Old English *mynecenu*, meaning nuns), now sited in a built-up context much divorced from its original rural setting. Founded in c. 1150, the standing (but variously converted and now redundant) dormitory block points to a quite well-endowed complex. Chapter 5 details the three trenches excavated in 2012, which examined building traces in the outer precinct (a barn with hearth; a domestic building) and part of the claustral zone (a section of a badly robbed building, perhaps the refectory; part of the later medieval kitchen midden); these add to the 2014 results from excavation of the priory church and part of the related (mixed) burial ground to show good scope to explore the complex (largely demolished in the Little Dissolution) more widely to understand the form and content of a nunnery. This chapter includes sections on textual sources for the priory, primarily bishops' visitations from 1445 and 1517 (the latter detailing priory scandals...) and the 'Littlemore Priory Book' – a set of three mid-twelfth-century manuscripts (notably a beautifully illustrated collection of prayers of St Anselm).

In summary, this nicely produced volume and its editors amply deliver in informing readers on the aims, methods, results and value of what was clearly a well-designed and well-executed project that has succeeded in breathing archaeological and historical life into a neglected part of modern Oxford; most importantly, it highlights the many positive ways that archaeology can work with community groups and bring such together, offering new skills and making locals more aware of the multiple pasts under their feet.

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Glassmaking in the Weald. Survey, Excavation and Scientific Analysis 2010–2018. (SpoilHeap Publications Monograph 24). By David Dungworth, Colin Clark, Paul Linford, Tom Munnery, Sarah Paynter & Rob Poulton. 21 x 30 cm. xiv + 114 pp, 106 colour and b&w pls and figs, 36 tables. Woking: Surrey County Archaeological Unit, 2020. ISBN 978-1-912331-16-1. Price: £25.00 pb.

This attractive volume, the result of the Historic England-funded Wealden Glass Project, presents a systematic study of the Wealden glassmaking industry. It builds on the previous work of Kenyon, Crossley and, most recently, Clark by using archaeological science to better understand the chronology and organisation of the industry. Historical evidence demonstrates that Wealden glass production likely began in the thirteenth century, with a major change occurring in the 1560s with the settlement of immigrant glassmakers from France and elsewhere on the continent. The book details the results of fieldwork, combining field and geophysical survey