

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

with excavation, as well as scientific analysis of the glass. Magnetometry survey was undertaken at 19 sites on the Surrey/West Sussex border, with follow-up excavation taking place at three of these sites. The report presents the scientific analysis of over 200 samples of glass and glassworking waste, which demonstrates how a fairly consistent glassmaking 'recipe' was used across the industry, with the key difference being chronological; it confirms a technological transition in the 1560s, corresponding with the settlement of continental glass workers in the area.

Overall, this publication is a major contribution to our understanding of the Wealden industry and of medieval glassmaking more generally. The project has demonstrated how intensive survey can lead to detailed information about both the sites themselves and their products. Perhaps the most important outcome has been the refined understanding of the chronology of the industry and the ability to characterise the 'early' (pre-1560s) and 'later' (post-1560s) industries. The early period is characterised by the production of a potash-rich forest glass to a recipe, which is consistent between sites and over time, using quartz-rich crucibles; in contrast, the later industry used grog-tempered ceramics to produce high lime, low alkali glass, with the addition of cobalt to create a deep blue-green colour. The earlier sites are scarcer than the later ones and appear more focussed in the northern parishes of the study area. This important contribution to the study of medieval industry outlines several priorities for future research, including the use of LiDAR, targeted excavation and HER enhancement. In addition, I see this volume forming an essential resource for beginning to explore the relationships between the industries of this distinctive area, which is well known also both for iron and textile production.

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50 Finds from Buckinghamshire. Objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme. By Arwen Wood. 17 x 24 cm. 96 pp, 150 (unnumbered) colour pls and figs. Stroud: Amberley Press, 2021. ISBN 978-1-4456-9577-8; e-pub: 978-1-4456-9578-5. Price: £15.99 pb.

50 Finds from Buckinghamshire is a new guide-book focusing on the stand-out artefacts from the Portable Antiquities Scheme recovered within Buckinghamshire. Its author, Arwen Wood, one of the PAS Finds Liaison Officers, examines a full range of finds, from prehistoric lithics to post-medieval jewellery and clay pipes, broken up into seven short chapters, the most relevant here being the latter three covering the 'Early Medieval Period', the 'Medieval Period' and the 'Post-medieval to Modern Period'. Each chapter begins with a short introductory section, describing the periods with a national and county-level context for the finds concerned; then come concise but detailed summaries of each of the selected finds, their context and also their importance to the history (and archaeology) of Buckinghamshire. In many cases Wood also discusses related themes, such as pilgrimage or the local monastic

economy. The text is complemented by high-quality colour images of the 50 finds in question, often shown from multiple angles and in fine detail. Highlights from the later chapters include a sixth-century square-headed brooch from Upper Winchendon, coin finds from the tenth- and eleventh-century Lenborough Hoard, and a fourteenth-/fifteenth-century lead ampulla for transporting holy water.

At less than one-hundred pages, this book is short, but nonetheless provides a great introduction to both the vital work of the PAS and the specific artefactual history of Buckinghamshire – and to the value of metal-detecting enthusiasts especially. Readers will certainly come away with some sense of the place, its people and their material culture, while also being able to dip in and out for periods of personal interest, or even simply leaf through for another look at the striking images.

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English Local History. An Introduction (3rd Edition). By Kate Tiller. 17 x 24 cm. x + 307 pp, 155 b&w pls and figs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2020. ISBN 978-1-78327-524-3. Price: £19.99 pb.

This is a much expanded, and improved, edition of what soon established itself as perhaps the best introduction to English local history when first published in 1992. It has both breadth and depth, is rich in examples and illustrations, and is deeply informed. Such is hardly surprising, since for 40 years Kate Tiller was a mainstay of Oxford's Department of Continuing Education, developing and laying on all manner of courses and programmes in local history, and in 2019 being appointed OBE for services to the subject. However, what this is not – at least primarily – is a guide to sources or how to write local or parish history, although the medieval and later chapters include succinct sections on 'Sources and Methods' and there are useful endnotes. There's also a good index.

If we're honest, local history can be worthy but a bit dull (which, having spent years writing it for the VCH, I can say with a degree of impunity), with more than a whiff of pipe smoke and sensible brogues. Not so this book, and over its 300-odd pages we are given an extremely engaging and up-to-date synopsis of current understanding of how English society and landscape – the people as well as the places – evolved over the last millennium. General trends and movements are informed by case studies drawn from the academic literature and by extended captions to the illustrations. A few will be familiar, but most are fresh and include a good number of specially taken photographs.

After what is essentially a history of the subject, from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* via Leland and the county historians to the VCH, comes the first of the broadly chronological chapters, this covering the period to 1066; it is a masterful account of how current understanding has been arrived at, using and explaining source materials and techniques. The successive sections on medieval rural society – on manors, lords, tenants,