

Good-quality production, illustrations and a comprehensive index have been achieved at a reasonable price. Since, in 1953, the *Victoria County History* devoted just four pages to Whaddon, here Pamela Slocombe demonstrates that there is a much bigger story to tell.

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The Templar Estates in Lincolnshire, 1185–1565. Agriculture and Economy. By J. Michael Jefferson. 16 × 24 cm. xii + 349 pp, 30 b&w figs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2020. ISBN 978-1-78327-557-1. Price: £70.00 hb.

The Knights Templar and Lincolnshire are inextricable, not just because the former held so much land in that county (c. 10,000 acres in the fourteenth century, it seems), but also because, in 2006, Lincoln Cathedral played a starring role in the *Da Vinci Code* film. Consequently, for many years afterwards (and perhaps still today?), cathedral guides were briefed about Lincolnshire's historical Templars, distinguishing them from the *papier-mâché* version offered to visitors in the chapter-house. Those guides would have valued Michael Jefferson's new book, even if they might have found its dedication to the nitty-gritty of economic history somewhat challenging.

Jefferson's volume is a valuable contribution to both topics – to the Templars and to medieval Lincolnshire. It is a single-minded exploration of the economic and political significance of four documents: the Inquest of 1185; the Accounts of 1308–13; the Report of 1338; and the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535. Out of these remains are woven a satisfying account of Templar (and former Templar) estates in the county. Comparison between the four documents permits telling contributions to current debates about, for example, the extent to which Templar lands were sequestered by the Crown after the Order's arrest in 1308, rather than handed over to the Hospitallers, as the Pope decreed they should be in 1312.

Readers of *Medieval Settlement Research* will particularly appreciate this close analysis of the 1308–13 accounts, which generates highly informative detail on the management of large agricultural estates. Building on the discussion of agricultural practice in Helen Nicholson's *The Everyday Life of the Templars. The Knights Templar at Home* (Fonthill, 2017), and – particularly – on Eileen Gooder's exemplary 2002 report ('South Witham and the Templars', in P. Mayes, *Excavations at a Templar Preceptory. South Witham, Lincolnshire 1965–67*. London, SMA Monograph 19, 80–95), Jefferson reveals a wealth of agricultural detail. The Lincolnshire Templar sheep-breeding operation was efficiently centralised, for example. They were early-adopters of legumes as a rotational crop; early-adopters of wheat cultivation as opposed to rye; and early-adopters of draught-horses for ploughing. Consequently, these (still unpublished) accounts can now take their place alongside some of eastern England's other monastic manorial accounts, such as those from Wellingborough

or Peterborough's various Lincolnshire manors, as significant sources for the detail of medieval agriculture and husbandry (For Wellingborough: F.M. Page (ed.), *Wellingborough Manorial Accounts, AD 1258–1323*, Northamptonshire Record Society 8. Northampton, 1936; for Lincs., see W.T. Mellows, 'The Estates of the Monastery of Peterborough in the County of Lincoln' (two parts), *The Lincolnshire Historian* 3 & 4, 1949 & 1950, 101–14 & 128–66).

Lincolnshire, of course, also contains the most completely explored (and most expertly analysed) of all Templar sites – at South Witham – and Jefferson is appropriately circumspect about the site, perhaps because Gooder's study of its documentation is so comprehensive. But other aspects of monastic archaeology are handled with less assurance: there is no reference, for example, to the study of monastic landscape-management by, or the archaeology of, granges of Barlings Abbey a few miles from Eagle (P. Everson & D.A. Stocker, *Custodians of Continuity. The Premonstratensian Abbey at Barlings and the Landscape of Ritual*. Lincolnshire Archaeology and Heritage Series 11. Heckington, 2011). Nor, indeed, is reference made to the previous published investigation of that Preceptory's estates either (T. Hugo, *The History of Eagle... A Commandery of the Knights Hospitallers ...* London, 1876). Also, it's not entirely clear that Jefferson fully understands how different Lincolnshire's fourteenth-century topography was from today. He is frequently puzzled, for example, by the relative lack of accounts for pasture, when we know that the Lincolnshire Templars' flock was huge. The missing element, of course, is common land. Until the eighteenth century the uplands of both Kesteven and Lindsey were dominated by enormous sheep-walks ('fine champion country, much like Salisbury Plaine', said Celia Fiennes in 1697). The Templars held extensive common grazing rights, but these rights are not accounted separately. Surely this is Jefferson's 'missing' pasture, presumably explaining the discrepancy that worries him so profoundly? This 'missing' common pasture might also have consequences, perhaps, for his more general conclusions, because it could affect thinking about the sequestration of Templar property after 1308.

However, this 'missing' upland common-grazing should not detract from the value of this book as a whole: both the discussion and the useful, extensive, appendices represent truly valuable contributions to our understanding, both of Lincolnshire's medieval agriculture and of the history the Knights Templar.

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Cressing Temple. A Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex and its Buildings. (2nd Revised and Enlarged Edition). Edited by D. D. Andrews. 21 × 30 cm. iii + 195 pp, 215 colour and b&w pls and figs, 8 tables. Ipswich: Essex County Council (1993) & Essex Historic Buildings Group, 2020. ISBN 9780953094639. Price: £13.50 pb.

Cressing Temple in middle Essex is the former Templar manor – the earliest clearly dated of the Order’s rural possessions in England, acquired in 1137 – boasting two awesomely large and well-preserved timber-framed barns. The so-called Barley Barn dates, on robust dendrochronological evidence, to 1205x1230; the adjacent Wheat Barn to a half-century later. As has been said: ‘To those with an interest in timber-framed building, Cressing will always be a place of pilgrimage’. But, less narrowly, these buildings speak of the manor’s purpose in generating agricultural surplus and therefore income for the Order from the estate; they also speak of the skilled exploitation of local woodland to generate the raw materials for their construction (Oliver Rackham characterises the Barley Barn as, at the same time, representing ‘half a cathedral roof’ and both barns as marking the limit of what could be constructed using local oak trees without exceptional timber brought in). And, furthermore, they speak of design qualities paralleled on the contemporary continent and perhaps particularly characteristic of international monastic orders, like the Templars or Cistercians.

The site was bought by Essex County Council in 1987 to preserve these structures, but also – more ambitiously – to serve as a springboard for better understanding (and better conservation) of the buildings and landscape of the county. But, actually, we all have a stake, since enabling funding came from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the European Commission and the state purse. Those ambitions were well served by a conference in 1992 and publication of its papers in 1993, which acted like a guidebook and a manifesto, and have been sustained by public access and educational use of the site. They are again well served by the present publication, which is appositely badged as a ‘2nd revised and enlarged edition’.

At first sight, this might seem something of a curate’s egg – containing re-published chapters from the original in monochrome alongside new and revised chapters, neatly typeset and with generous, informative colour illustrations. But, in practice, the reprinted original chapters by Pat Ryan, John Hunter, Tim Robey and the peerless Oliver Rackham are vital in setting out the basic documentation, the site’s archaeology, its place in the landscape and its management of resources. This edition’s centrepiece is a long, revised chapter that reports the results of new recording and new understanding of the two early Cressing barns, but in the helpful context of other examples locally in East Anglia and across southern England. Scrutiny of the early seventeenth-century building known as The Granary reveals it, at a primary level, to be a malting facility of considerable intrinsic interest. But also, importantly, it affords two other strands of insight: that in its recycling of timbers from a pre-existing late-medieval structure it may point to the nearby presence of the monastic manor house itself, plus that in its location and function it affords evidence about the post-Dissolution country house that is prominent in the documentary record of Cressing but doubtfully represented in its archaeology. Further oblique evidence about this ‘elephant in the room’ comes from carefully reported new work on both the farmstead’s latter-day farmhouse (shown to be a complex and accretive structure) and on the brick-walled

garden. Conjecturally, one might begin to apprehend a sequence whereby a medieval manor house was initially taken over as the residence of the new, well-to-do, secular owners, then substantially rebuilt. What, one wonders, would it look like if even the evidence now available were presented in the form of an account of the lost country house and gardens, as a discrete phase of the site’s archaeology?

Beyond the detail, the important and impressive thing here lies in the value of continuing, purposeful work over an extended period and in the context of careful conservation and sensitive site management – shades of the added value of the Group’s prolonged activity at Wharram Percy!

There is everything to admire about this publication, then, and about the sense of sustained purpose that lies behind it. For those interested in settlement and land-use, updating on new understanding of the parish and estate from the great deal of fieldwork that has no doubt taken place would be welcome. But perhaps that is for a ‘3rd revised and enlarged edition’!

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The Victoria History of the Counties of England. A History of the County of Stafford: Volume XII. Tamworth and Drayton Bassett. Edited by Nigel J. Tringham. 21 × 31 cm. xxiv + 275 pp, 182 b&w pls and figs, 4 tables. Woodbridge & Rochester NY: Boydell & Brewer for The Institute of Historical Research, 2021. ISBN 978-1-90435-652-3 (ISSN 1477-0709). Price: £95.00 hb.

What does the name Tamworth mean to a reader of this review? Perhaps not system-built maisonettes of pre-cast concrete for Birmingham overspill families, in estates that attracted the soubriquet ‘Colditz’ from their new inhabitants; nor a town once known as ‘Tetlograd’ after the influential planning consultant (John Tetlow) responsible for a range of the post-War developments there. Pevsner recalled that Daniel Defoe found Tamworth ‘a small but very handsome market town’ and commented, pithily, that ‘no one would say that now’; and when needing to lay out a perambulation he despaired: ‘which way is one to walk?’. Yet these large-scale developments completed the transformation of the small Midlands market town into a substantial conurbation, that was triggered essentially by the coming of the railways in the mid-nineteenth century. All this change is bread-and-butter to the latest VCH volume in its Staffordshire series: the expansion of the settlement is teased out and its phases illustrated by reference to buildings both surviving and lost; the political and practical and personal motivations that drove change forward are alluded to; and the administrative consequences detailed.

What then is there for those interested in medieval settlement here? The unusual fact, for one thing, that Tamworth – located topographically on the north bank of the point of confluence of the River Anker with the River Tame as it flows north into the Trent – was historically divided fairly precisely between the counties of Staffordshire and Warwickshire; and,