



MILL FARM
LONG CLAWSON
LEICESTERSHIRE



HISTORIC
LANDSCAPE
STUDY

2017 - 2024



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A MODERN DAY MILL FARM REFLECTION

ANTHONY THOMAS

In 1985 I agreed to purchase Mill Farm house, the Mill and 15 acres from Joy and Garth Doubleday. They wanted to start to take an easier life towards retirement. They had a new bungalow built in the village already which they moved into.

I had known Garth for many years through hunting with The Belvoir (The Duke of Rutland's Fox Hounds) and the social scene around this activity.

The Doubleday's retained land surrounding Mill Farm house; it was agreed that the remaining 60 acres would be offered to me at open market value when Joy and Garth decided they wanted to retire fully.

The Mill was derelict without a pane of glass, some window frames missing, no roof and floors collapsed. When we eventually managed to make the Mill safe enough in which to work three of us spent much time to clean out the pigeon muck and debris. The detritus was very dry and was taken up into the field and set alight; it burned for three weeks.

Over the next few years, the floors were replaced using what of the original main beams we could and a new top was made from plywood and fibre glass. It was fitted in 1992.

Garth died in February 1992. Their retained land and farm yard was rented out to various farmers over the next few years until about 1995 at which time Caroline and I purchased the farm yard. There was also a purchase of 'The Long & Narrow' field; 3 acres on the right of Mill Lane as you approach Mill Farm.

Subsequently to this, we bought the remaining 60 or so surrounding acres from Joy Doubleday and took possession.

We rent out this agricultural land on an annual licence basis.

Joy retained a further parcel of land to the north of the village which includes the old cricket field.

In the early 2000s we sold our motor trade business. We decided to apply for planning permission to build our current home on the old farmyard. Planning permission had been granted in the early 1990s to convert just the Mill tower to a dwelling but this permission had lapsed and was not really suitable for our purposes anyway.

Plans were drawn up and PP eventually gained to build a new farmyard and also a new home adjoining and incorporating the Mill.

The planners wanted the Mill to remain dominant in the landscape so therefore the house's ground floor is one metre below the floor of the Mill. We had to minimise the ridge height of the new building by having dormer windows and a low ceiling on the upper floor of the new house.

The new farm yard was set into the slope of the landscape by up to six metres to minimise its impact on the landscape.

Work commenced in 2003/4 and was completed sufficiently enough for us to move into the house in 2010.

We retained the address of Mill Farm and transferred this to the new build. We changed the name of the 'old' house to The Millers House.

This was subsequently sold.



Pictured above, from left to right, Mel Miller (nee Steadman), Caroline and Anthony Thomas - 2018

Garth Frederick Doubleday - A Potted History

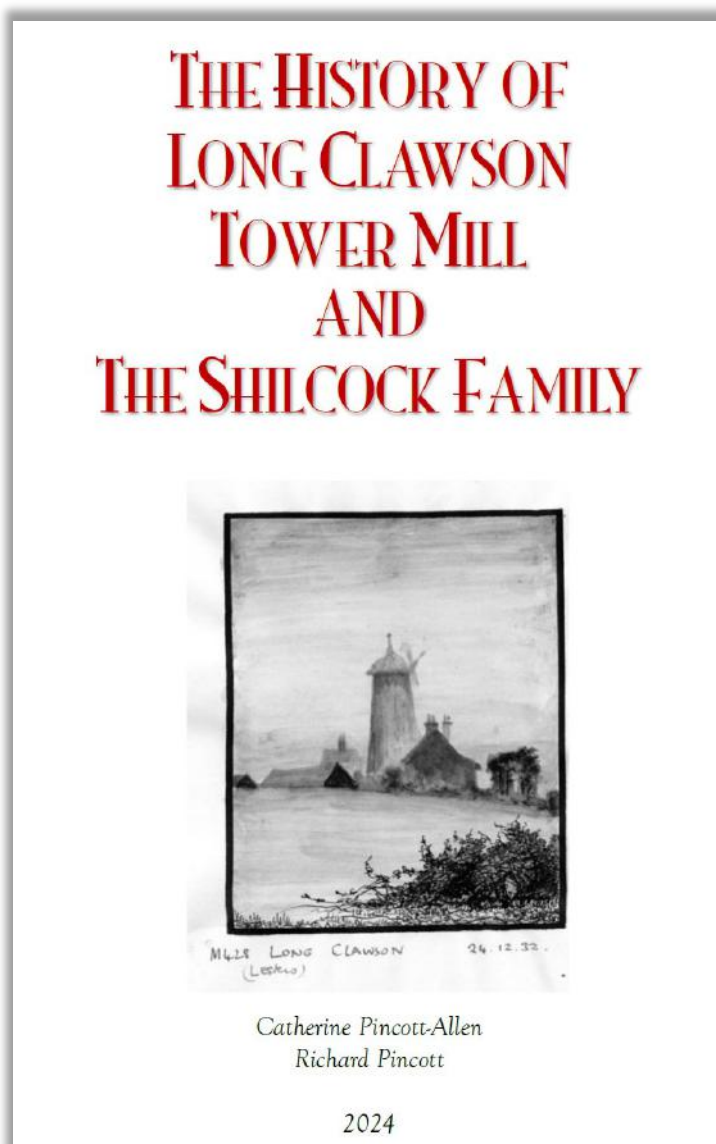
Garth was the son of Bissell Doubleday. He had one sister. Bissel was a butcher and farmer. He had his butchers shop on the corner of Church Lane and The Sands in Long Clawson. On Bissel's retirement that butchery business was sold to Steve Lumb and that business was taken over by Richard Smith on Steve's death.

This butchery business closed finally in around 2010.

There was also another butcher's business in Long Clawson by the name of AE Pears & Sons. This business closed in around 2000.

Michael Pears married one of Steve Lumbs daughters. His other daughter, Marianne, was runner-up in the BBC's Masterchef in 2017 and had a restaurant in Notting Hill which was rated in the top 10 in London on Trip Advisor. Marianne sold this business in around 2000.

The Doubleday name is widespread in The Vale of Belvoir together with the Egglestons, the Baileys (butchers), and unrelated to the Baileys (builders) the Skinners, the Wiles, etc. Many of these are interrelated through marriages over many years.



The History of Long Clawson Tower Mill and The Shilcock Family

A family history account of the former tower mill owners the Shilcocks, can be found in the research study featured above. It was compiled by Catherine Pincott-Allen and accompanies the seven historic field survey appendices that support the broader historic landscape study.

Introduction

On Saturday 18th February 2017, The Field Detectives met Anthony and Caroline Thomas, and so began the historic landscape study at Long Clawson in Leicestershire.

The study was undertaken to further inform the development of what became our overarching study framework, which was launched amidst cakes and cups of tea at the 2020 Field Detectives annual huddle.

The Mill Farm study would focus primarily on a three-stranded investigation.

The first strand would be to survey the Mill Farm fields to build up a time-line picture of people on the land. The second strand would be to research and write up the family history of the Shilcock family who once owned the mill. The third strand was to pull together the field survey reports into a set of appendices and to curate the artefacts that were found during the field surveys into a Mill Farm Historic Landscape Collection. The purpose of the collection and the associated written study is to provide a vehicle for further study and learning.

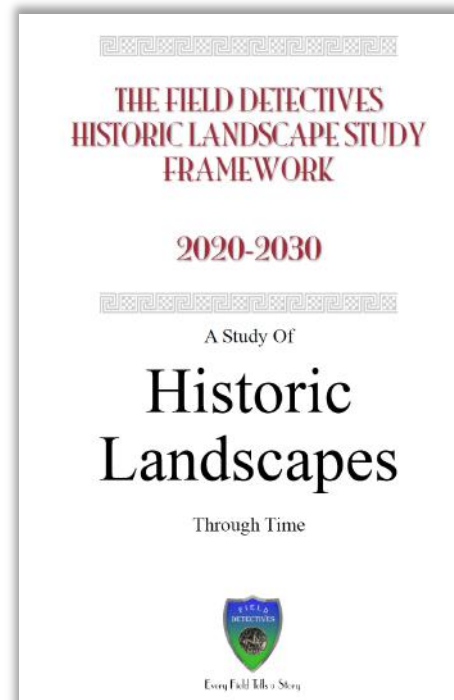
On Sunday 26th February 2017, The Field Detectives embarked on the initial field survey and it was here that we met Mel Steadman and Sweep for the first time. Many years of friendship, research collaborations and networking would follow until sadly, Mel left us on the 19th August 2022.

Losing Mel was akin to taking the engine out of a car, and it took us quite some time to get back on the road. Sometimes you just have to get up and get on with the job and we knew that if we didn't, Mel would have had something to say about it!

Anthony and Caroline provided The Field Detectives with the opportunity to carry out a comprehensive field survey and research study, which arguably, is the first of its kind in the country.

This report and the accompanying documents, along with the landowner-held artefact collection, feature our findings.

The Field Detectives
2024



HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY METHODOLOGY

The Field Detectives are a group of enthusiasts who share a common interest in local history. Over the past twenty-five years, the group has sought the permission of local farmers and landowners to explore their fields for evidence of past historic activity using field walking, metal detecting and, where feasible, limited geophysical survey methods.

The field was initially visited to determine by surface inspection whether it would be suitable for metal detecting and to note any interesting landscape features such as humps, mounds, hollows, ponds, ditches, areas of different coloured soil etc. A field survey map was created by downloading an aerial image of the field from Google Earth and superimposing graph paper over the field image.

One copy of this was taken into the field on the field survey clipboard. In the field, grid areas were marked out in advance of each field survey visit (20 x 20 metre grid sections, marked with canes featuring coloured tape), utilising both the online Google Earth metric measure resource and the physical on-site tape and stride method. The grid areas were transposed onto the field survey map, and the location of the finds recorded on the map as they were found.

The finds were bagged, and their locations noted on-site; the finds were later cleaned and identified, the identification and location find number being written on the relevant finds identification card enclosed within the bag. Photographs of the grid area and the finds recovered were taken on-site, with further photographs taken after cleaning if necessary.

Additional off-the-field investigation includes visits to the archival study centres, collaborative discussions and information sharing with colleagues across the heritage sector, gathering supporting information from local people and keeping the landowner informed on a regular basis.

On completion of the field survey activities, a field survey report is produced that precisely records all of the associated survey finds (coins, artefacts, pottery etc.)

Once the field survey reports have been processed, the precisely recorded artefacts, coins and pottery are assembled as a Historic Landowner Collection where they are safeguarded for further research and study. A community presentation/display can then be arranged where the information is shared and an opportunity is provided for the local community to get involved in future developments.

By submitting the completed Field Survey Reports as an exact finds location, and by working closely with our Heritage Sector colleagues, we are providing a growing set of detailed historic collections.

These context-informed precise studies, are held in trust by the respective landowners who act as heritage custodians, which in turn, provides a unique set of rich historical landscape investigations for further study and collaboration.

Every field has a story to tell...



Pictured above left, is Sean sharing his knowledge of Crotonal Bells at a community talk

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY OVERVIEW MAP



The white dashed line denotes the perimeter of the Mill Farm Historic Landscape Study.

The accompanying survey appendices field locations are shown in grey.

The Cattle Drinker excavation location is also included.

LIDAR IMAGES

LIDAR image below, showing the Mill Farm landscape kindly created by Geoff Kimbell.



Residual LIDAR, illuminated from the west

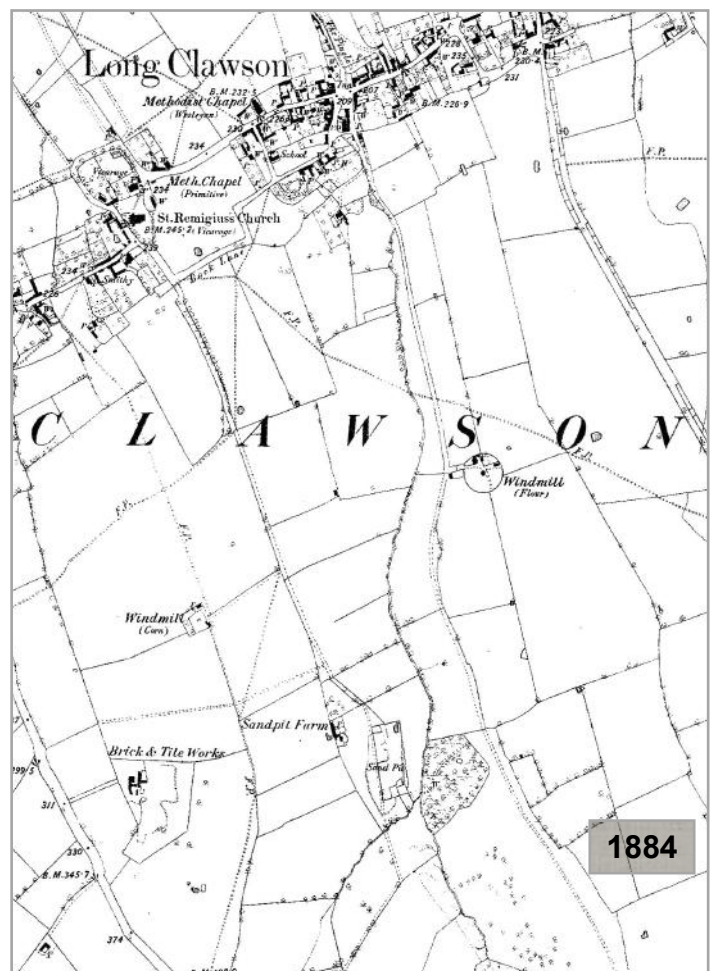
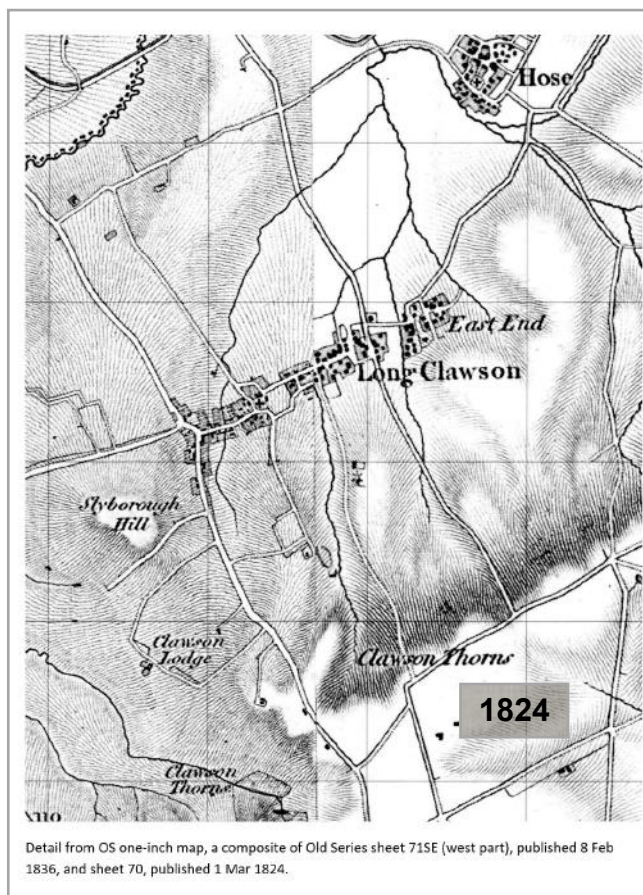
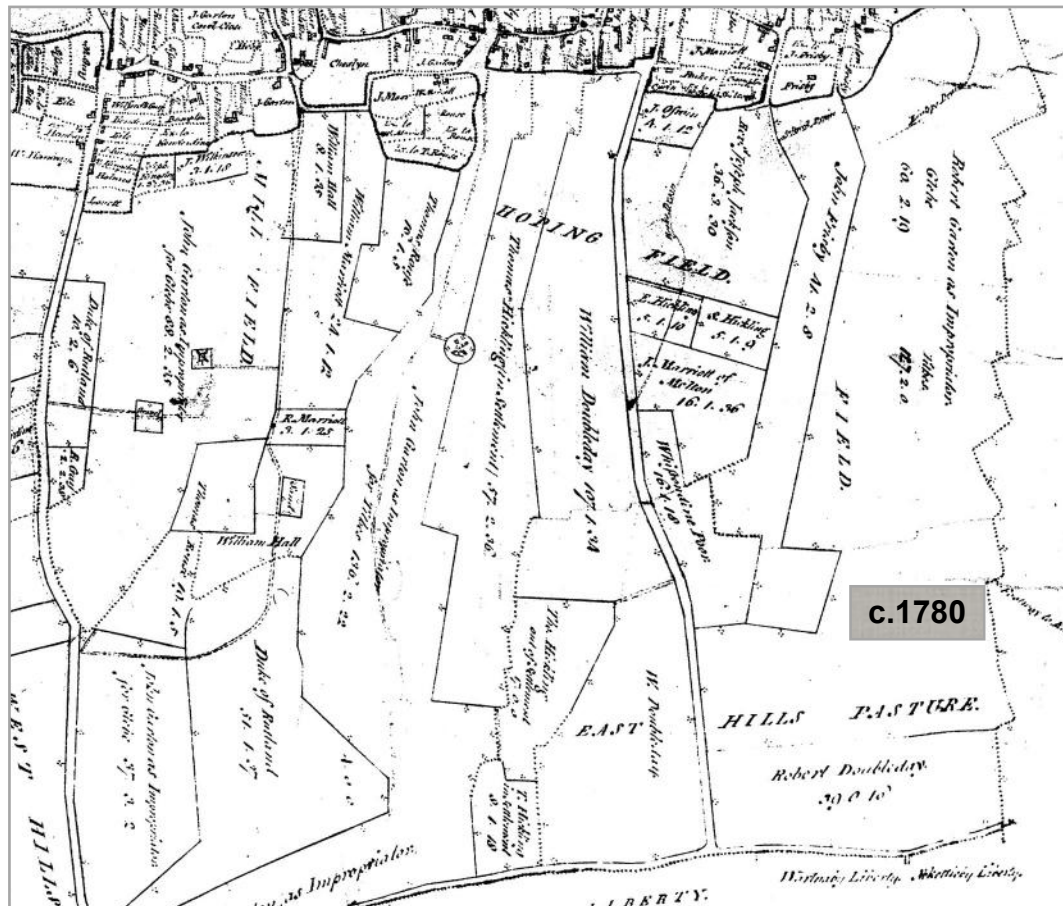
What does LiDAR stand for?

LiDAR is an acronym of Light Detection and Ranging. It is also known as laser scanning or 3D scanning.

What is LiDAR?

LiDAR is a remote sensing technology. LiDAR technology uses the pulse from a laser to collect measurements. These are used to create 3D models and maps of objects and environments.

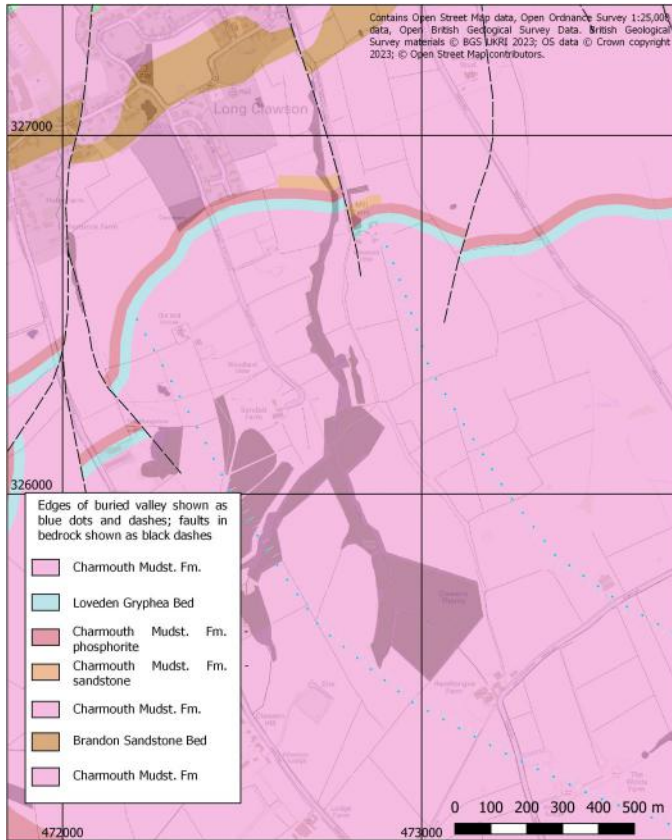
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE MAPS



[illegible]

GEOLOGY LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW

The maps featured in this report have been kindly provided by Tony Cooper for the sole purpose of supporting the Long Clawson geology landscape assessment. Dr Anthony H. Cooper - FGS, C.Geol, EurGeol, ARPS, Independent Consulting Geologist & Evaporite Karst specialist, Honorary Research Associate at the British Geological Survey.

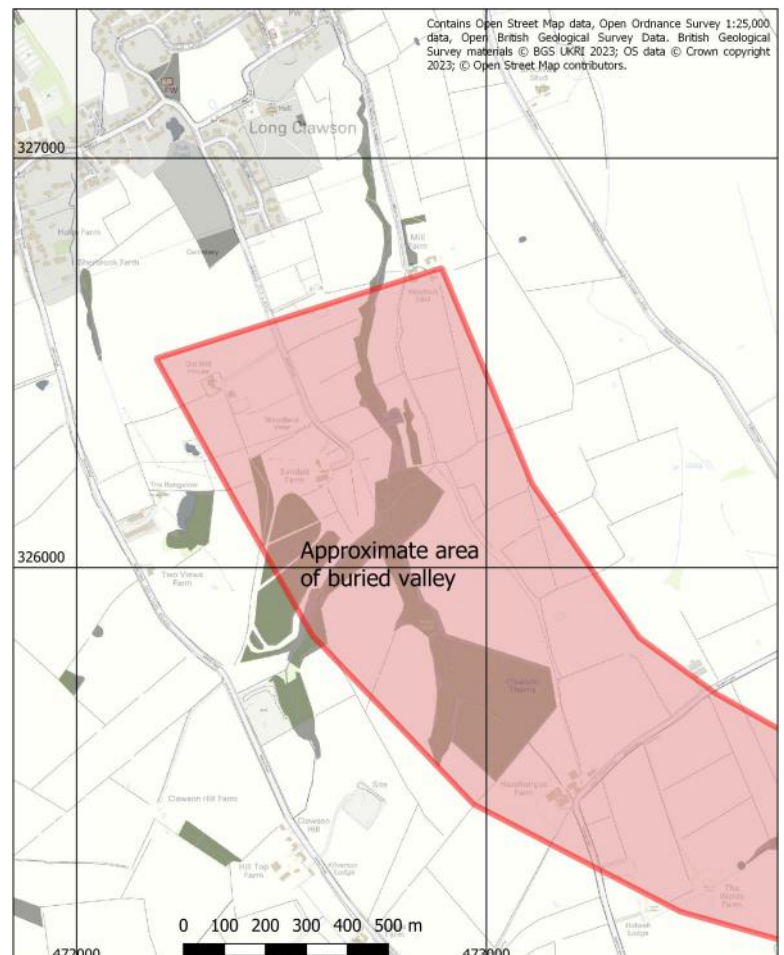


The bedrock in the area is mainly the Charmouth Mudstone Formation with minor beds of Gryphea (devil's toenail bed) some phosphatic material and a couple of sandstones all dipping gently to the south.

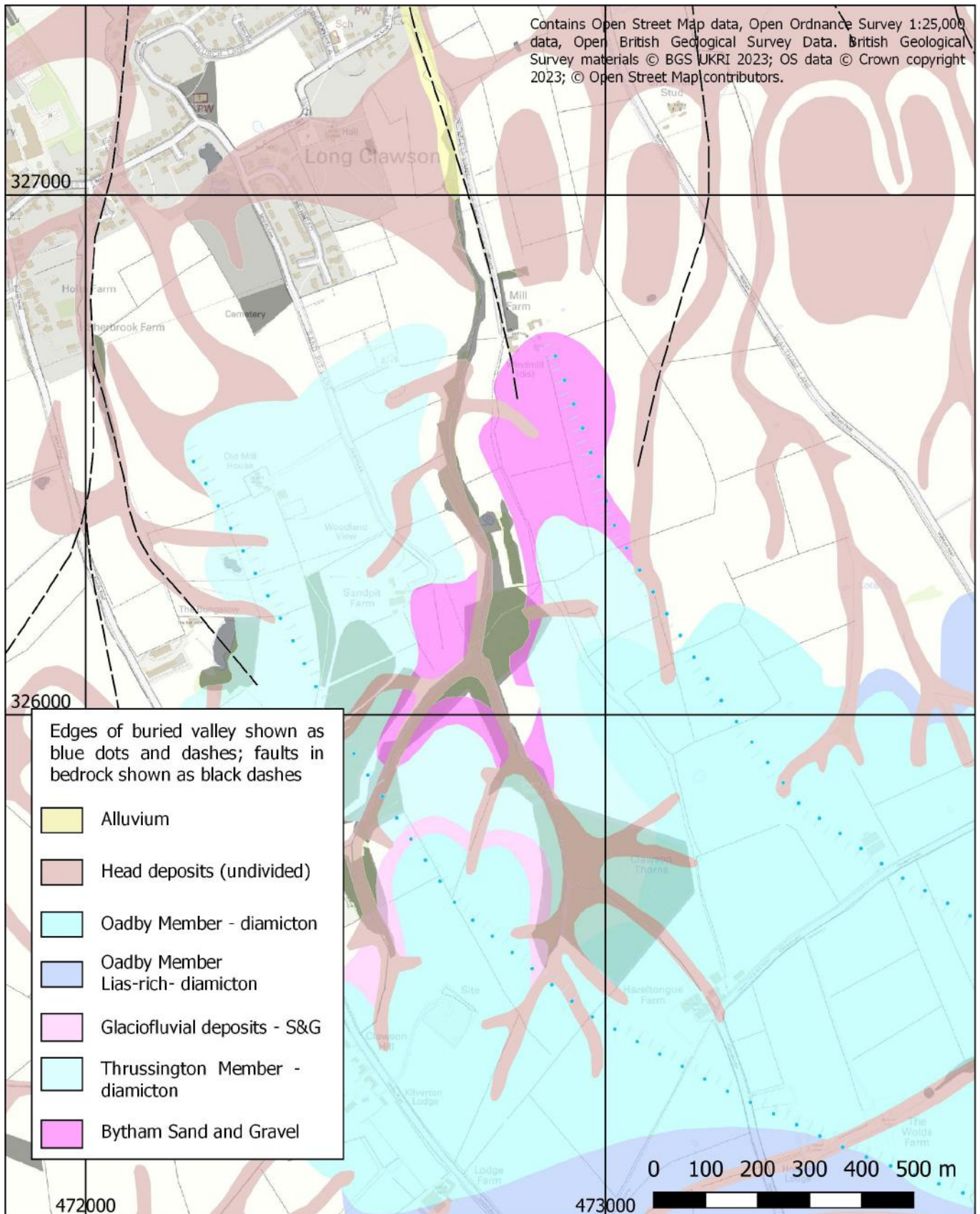
The ironstones are further to the south at the top of the escarpment. There is a small quarry in the Gryphaea Bed adjacent and south of Long Clawson Cemetery, so there may be other workings in this (possibly for lime to burn or just a harder stone?)

The superficial deposits partly occupy the end of a buried valley that deepens towards Melton. There are sand and gravel deposits, hence Sand Pit Lane from the village near the Manor House.

There are diggings in this.



GEOLOGY LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW



There are 3 glacial tills shown on the map, the lower being the Thrussington overlain by some sand and gravel then two varieties of the Oadby Till.

INVESTIGATION FINDINGS - ERA BY ERA

The timeline framework for The Field Detectives historic landscape studies as featured below, was taken from our framework document; A Study of Historic Landscapes Through Time 2020 - 2030. Each one of our field surveys is structured to inform a broader knowledge and understanding of a locality through the recording and examination of the artefacts we recover during our investigations.

One artefact in isolation does not tell the whole story, however, if we can take a broader contextualized view of the landscape through a collection of associated artefacts, we might be able to tell a more informed story.

The Mill Farm Historic Landscape Study is built around that very principle. It also incorporates an additional set of collaborative research avenues that include family history research, geology, Lidar imagery, archival research, heritage sector support and local knowledge.

A metal detector is only one tool in a much larger toolbox. This section of the study will focus on the metal detecting finds, era by era.

Palaeolithic	800,000 BC to 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	10,000 BC to 4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 BC to 2,350 BC

THE GREAT SCALFORD LAKE

Bronze Age	2,350 BC to 800 BC
Iron Age	800 BC to 42 AD
Roman	43 AD to 410

IRON WORKING - SITES & TRACKWAYS A ROMANO-BRITISH OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA ROMANO-BRITISH FARMSTEADS WIDER LANDSCAPE STUDY FOCUS

Early-Medieval	410 to 1066
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FROM ROMAN INFLUENCE TO SAXON ENGLAND

Medieval	1066 to 1509
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IN THE SHADOW OF THE NORMAN CONQUEST HENRY VII's LOST CAMP SITE SYMBOLISM, MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION

Post Medieval	1509 to 1900
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TIMES, THEY ARE-A-CHANGING

Modern	1900 to the present day
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MILL FARM HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY TIMELINE

Palaeolithic 800,000 BC to 10,000 BC No artefacts from this period were recorded

Mesolithic 10,000 BC to 4,000 BC No artefacts from this period were recorded

Neolithic 4,000 BC to 2,350 BC No artefacts from this period were recorded

Bronze Age 2,350 BC to 800 BC No artefacts from this period were recorded

Iron Age 800 BC to AD 43 No artefacts from this period were recorded

Roman AD 43 - 410

Early Medieval 410 - 1066

Medieval 1066 - 1485

Post Medieval 1485 - 1900

Modern 1900 to Present Day

The timeline table featured above, as informed by the seven appendices, suggests that the Mill Farm landscape saw very little evidence of people on the land before the Roman occupation, however, that is not necessarily true. The fields that we surveyed were set to pasture and so therefore, we couldn't examine the soil to any great extent because it was covered in grass. Arguably, there could have been evidence of stone and flint tools on the surface of the fields, which would have indicated the presence of people living and working here as far back as the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. The research of our fellow Field Detective, Dr Alan Massey, has identified significant early history activity around the Scaford area, so there is every reason to consider that there would have been people from those eras living, farming and hunting in the modern day Long Clawson vicinity as well.

An overview of Alan's findings can found on the Goadby Marwood History Group's website under Ancient Goadby at: www.goadby-marwood-history.co.uk



Over the past 20 years, retired science lecturer, Dr Alan Massey has been walking the fields (with permission of course) around the Scaford area collecting exquisite flint tools. In 2018, a project funded by Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society was undertaken by the director of Past to Present Archaeology, Rupert, who examined and catalogued the artefacts. The collection has brilliant examples of stone tools from the Mesolithic and Neolithic, in addition, supported by large quantities of Palaeolithic material. Mapping the spread of artefacts has highlighted significant potential for a large settlement complex.

Rupert Birtwistle, Archaeologist

Roman AD 43 - 410

There were only two field survey appendices where Romano-British artefacts came to light. Significantly, 10 of these came from the Appendix 1 survey. Two further Romano-British artefacts were recorded in Appendix 2.

The dating range of the artefacts suggests human activity on the landscape from the 1st century AD through to the 4th century. The intriguing thing about these finds is that they are not broadly spread across the study area and that there was a concentration of finds at the south end of the Appendix 1 field.

Looking at the map featured below, there appears to be an anomaly in the neighbouring field to the east. Sadly, this field was outside the Mill Farm study area, nevertheless, if permission could be gained, this would be an ideal field to survey. The answer to the reason why there was a concentration of Romano-British artefacts in the Appendix 1 field could well lie in the field next door.

We had hoped to find evidence to support the existence of an ancient trackway leading to and from the centre of Long Clawson, but there was no sign of ancient artefacts in the Appendix 7 field, and the earliest date of the pottery sherds recovered during the Cattle Drinker excavation were c. 19th century.

All the evidence would appear to suggest that there could be a continuation of Romano-British material in the neighbouring field.



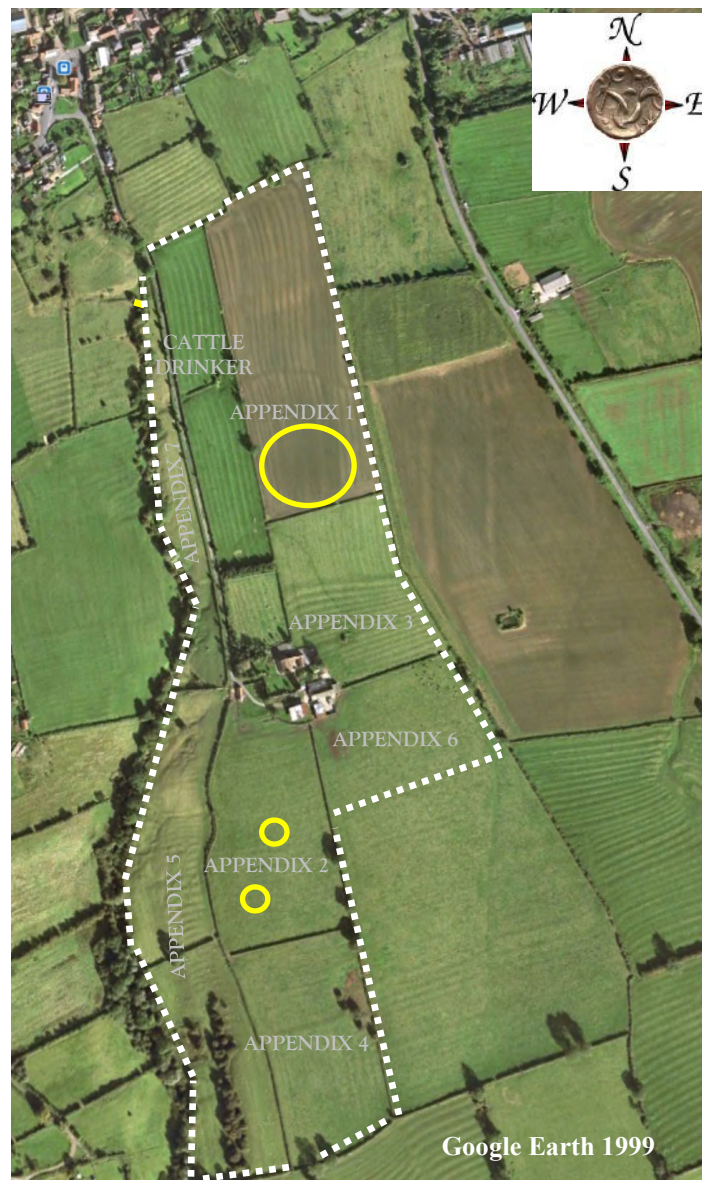
SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS

Silver Denarius

AD 193-211

16mm Diam; 2.2gms

APPENDIX 1



Early Medieval 410 - 1066

We often say that looking for early medieval artefacts is like looking for string because that's more or less all most people had to hold their clothes together back in those days.

So, imagine our surprise when the artefact featured right made an appearance during the Appendix 2 field survey.

One artefact as we know, does not paint a picture of an established Anglo-Scandinavian community at Long Clawson, but it does suggest that there may have been one.

What we need is more evidence.

Hopefully, the Mill Farm historic landscape study will encourage further field surveys around the village. Each field then becomes a jig-saw piece and gradually, field by field the puzzle becomes clearer and clearer.



All it takes is for the village to share an aspiration to learn about the lives and times of all those who went before us. There is a great story to tell here at Long Clawson, and many of those stories are still hiding in the fields.



Medieval 1066 - 1485

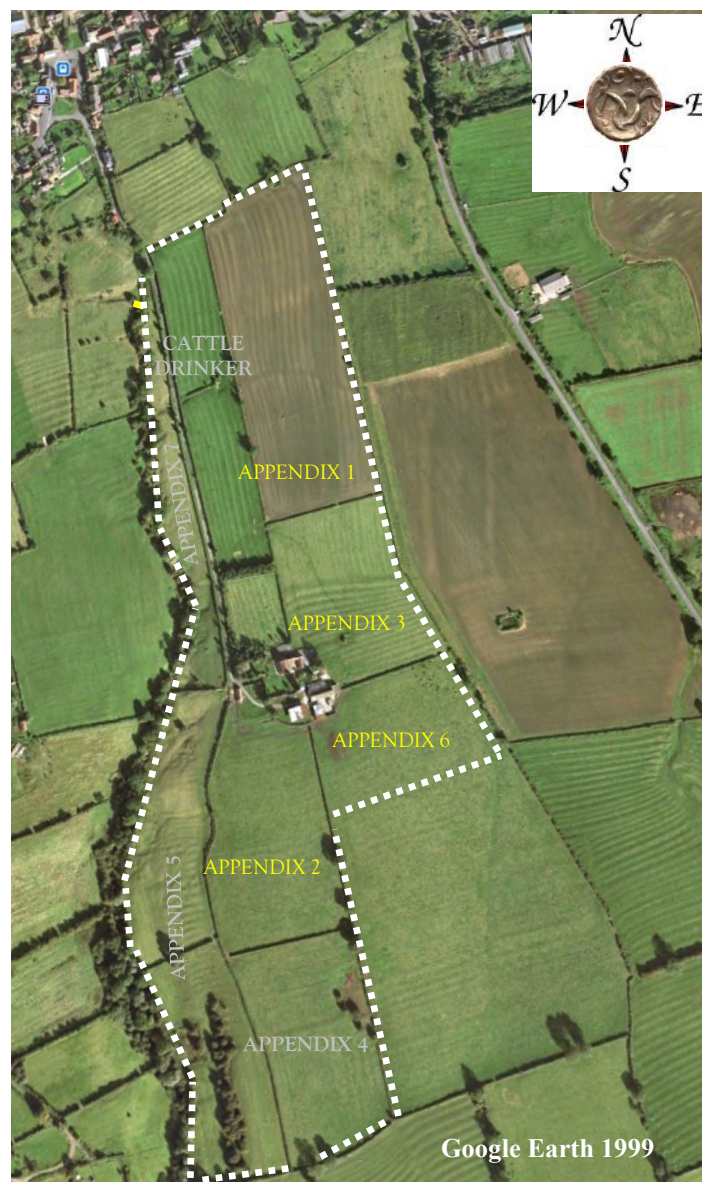
In stark contrast to the early medieval period, and the seeming lack of human activity on the land around the mill following the end of the Roman occupation, the medieval period appears to have sprung to life. There is evidence of human activity on the land between 1066 and 1485 as featured in appendices 1, 2, 3 and 6. They have been highlighted in yellow below and interestingly, they are the fields closest to the mill.

Once again, we are left searching for the physical evidence that people have left behind on the landscape, which is extremely difficult when you weigh in the fact that most people out on the land during the medieval period would have little more than string to hold their clothes together.

One set of artefacts that have surfaced from the four appendices surveys are multi-purpose copper alloy rings. They are almost impossible to date precisely, but we do know that they have been used for centuries to secure items to belts, such as knives and purses, as part of horse furniture, buckle attachments etc. They are the next best thing when you are looking for string.



The highlight find from the medieval period, as shown above, came to light during the Appendix 1 survey. Without any shadow of a doubt, this is evidence of someone on the Mill Farm landscape during the late 13th or early 14th century. It's sobering to think that this person's family is about to step into the dreadful years leading up to the nightmare of what we have come to know as the Black Death.



Post Medieval 1485 - 1900

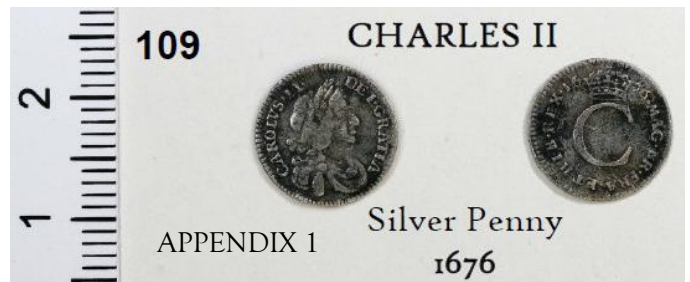
The post-medieval period historically covers a lot of transitional ground, in fact, it almost requires a number of subheadings. I suppose the question is, would people living in Long Clawson have noticed any difference in their lives under any of those proposed sub-headed timelines?

Uncertainty would be, I think, a strand that ran right through the post-medieval period, and in many respects, it is a theme that people living in earlier times would recognise all too well.

Henry VIII introduced a seismic change in the way the country went about its religious pathways, the English Civil Wars cast a far-reaching shadow, social unrest and political change continued to surface like springs in the landscape, and war was always an ever-present menace.

Out on the land around Mill Farm at Long Clawson, we have evidence of people living through those times. All seven of the appendices feature artefacts from across the post-medieval period and together, they introduce an opportunity to dig deeper into the lost stories that they left behind.

They say you die three times; the first is when the body ceases to function, the second is when the body is consigned to the grave and the third is that moment, sometime in the future, when your name is spoken for the last time. These artefacts might not give us the names of the people associated with them, but arguably, we have awoken our interest in them and in that sense, we have brought them back to life.



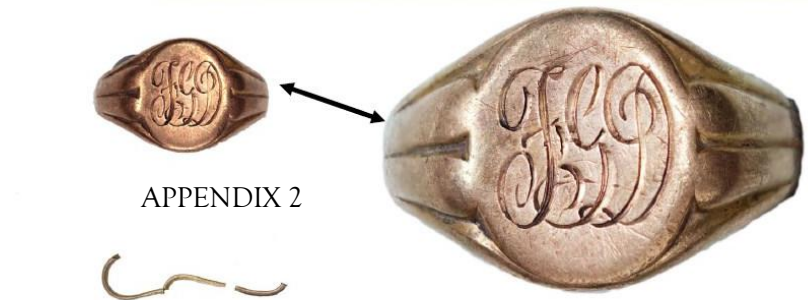
Modern 1900 to Present Day

This is the era that most people reading this today will resonate with more easily. Many of the artefacts we have found out on the land around the Mill over these last seven years have the potential to tell a story that can still be traced back from living memories. From pet identity tags found on the public footpaths, the remnants of WWII activities and artefacts that evidence the life and times of the Shilcock family who once owned the mill.

Artefacts that evidence the presence of the Shilcock family on the landscape around the mill can be found from the 19th century through to the early part of the 20th century, and Catherine Pincott-Allen's family history research book on the Shilcock family has been written in support of this historic landscape study.

All seven field survey appendices paint a modern-day portrait of people on the land around the mill at Long Clawson, and each of these appendices has an interesting story to tell. The yellow circle featured below on the landscape map denotes the find location of Frederick Garth Doubleday's gold ring.

Anthony Thomas very kindly returned the ring to Garth's widow, Joyce, just before she sadly passed away.



Anthony kindly made the arrangements to return the ring to Garth's widow, Joyce.

A Happy Ending!

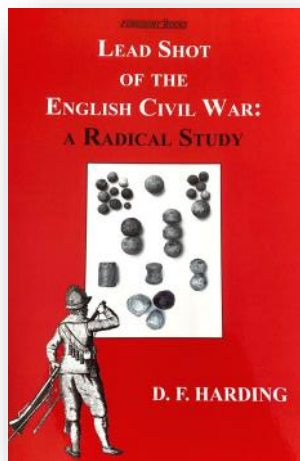


Lead Projectiles, Musket Balls & Lead Shot 1550 to early 19th Century

These lead balls are extremely difficult to date with any precision unless they are found in some form of historical context.

During Field Detective surveys, they have been recorded for further consideration against the find locations of related artefacts from the neighbouring fields. This is an important part of the recording process because it is only then that we will be in a more informed position, to be able to make a judgement on the date and purpose of these deadly lead projectiles.

Unfortunately, the recording of lead projectiles in the field right across the country has been poor. We have witnessed on far too many occasions where lead balls have been discarded into buckets with nothing more than the obligatory reference to the word 'musket ball'. The Field Detectives are attempting to improve the recording of lead projectiles in the field by presenting our methodology as a model of good practice.



Much of what we know about the lead projectiles we are recording during the Mill Farm historic landscape study, is informed by the masterly piece of work pictured left, written by David Harding.

At the core of David's book is an intensive analysis of 1,800 projectiles that were fired in practice in a Northamptonshire deer park during the English Civil Wars of 1642-1651.

Musket Ball and Lead Shot Timeline c. 1550 to early 19th Century

A wide dating range has been applied to the majority of the musket balls and lead shot recovered during the field survey activities. Musket balls & lead shot were used for military, hunting and sporting activities for many years, therefore, it is extremely difficult to narrow down a specific timeline without conclusive documentation (research) and a set of associated artefacts or coins to help date them.

The lead projectiles and associated lead artefacts yet to be identified will be made available to our fellow firearms and ammunition experts to see if they can help us narrow down the timeline. It is envisaged that this will inform our understanding of the activities that these lead artefacts were involved in, and perhaps, something about the people who used them.



Source: Independent - Sunday 5 April 2015

The skeleton of a soldier killed in the Battle of Waterloo (Sunday, 18 June 1815).

Military historian Gareth Glover believes the soldier to be Friedrich Brandt, 23, a private in the King's German Legion of George III, who was killed by a musket ball that was still lodged between his ribs when he was found in 2012.

As you can see, musket balls remained in use long after the English Civil War (1642-1651).

**Research conducted by Sean Gallagher - January 2019*

Lead Projectiles, Musket Balls & Lead Shot 1550 to early 19th Century

The Mill Farm historic landscape study find locations of the lead projectiles are shown on the map featured below as identified by the yellow circles. Appendix 1 records significantly more of these artefacts which would suggest that further relative dating evidence can be gleaned by interrogating this survey report in more detail. Appendix 4 appears to show a line of interesting finds locations that warrant further investigation.



To Be Identified & Dated

This is the fun part of the historic landscape study; trying to make out what purpose these unidentified artefacts had, and when they were being used. Many of these tend to be made from lead, bearing no identification marks, functional design features or any other clues as to their original use or purpose, which makes them a difficult group of artefacts to date with any reliable certainty.

We do know that lead was one of the earliest metals to be discovered by humans and that they have been using this material to make things as far back as 3000 BC. Then we come across artefacts made from bronze or copper alloy that pose the same questions in regard to use, purpose and timeline.

As the field surveys featured in this study did not incorporate a field walking examination of the surface, very few pottery sherds have been recorded.

These unidentified artefacts will remain with the Mill Farm Historic Landscape Study Collection so that they can be continually revisited. New find identifications come to light every now and again across the broad collaborative range of the heritage sector, and our knowledge of artefact identification improves with every investigation, so therefore, this section of the study remains open for further interrogation.

Asking people what they think about these unidentified objects is a particularly effective community engagement vehicle during talks and displays and of course, where would we be without the opportunity to run our, 'I think I might know what this is' hypotheses through the lens of experimental archaeology.

You don't know what you don't know until you know it...



Metal detecting is something that anyone is lawfully entitled to do. However, you cannot trespass to do it. You need permission from the landowner. The best practice is to ensure that the Portable Antiquities Scheme ("PAS") Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales (2017) ("Code of Practice") is followed.

[Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales \(2017\) \(finds.org.uk\)](https://finds.org.uk)



The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a voluntary programme run by the United Kingdom government to record the increasing numbers of small finds of archaeological interest found by members of the public. The scheme started in 1997 and now covers most of England and Wales. Finds are published at <https://finds.org.uk>

THE MILL FARM HISTORIC LANDSCAPE COLLECTION

The problem with taking things away from a field after they have been metal detected is that very often, many of the artefacts found during that particular activity tend to either be discarded as of no value, or they generally disappear into private collections with little or no attachment to the locality where they were found. Many just sit in sheds, garages, drawers, old boxes and buckets until such time they are deemed to be nothing more than a waste product requiring disposal.

Having recognised this, The Field Detectives set about creating a methodology to ensure that our field surveys keep everything together and as local as possible.

Once the field survey reports have been processed, the artefacts are curated as a landowner-held Historic Landscape Study Collection where they are safeguarded for further research and study. With landowner approval, a community presentation/display can then be arranged where the information is shared, and an opportunity is provided for the local community to get involved in future research activities.

By submitting the completed field survey reports as an exact finds location record, and by working closely with our heritage sector colleagues, we are establishing a growing archive of landscape-focused historical studies. These context-recorded studies are held in trust by the respective landowners who act as heritage custodians, which in turn, safeguards a unique set of rich historical landscape investigations for further study and learning.

Every Field Tells a Story...

The Mill Farm Historic Landscape Collection is held in trust by Anthony and Caroline Thomas, and its association with Mill Farm is assured. There is a fascinating story to be told about the land around the modern-day village of Long Clawson in Leicestershire, and this collection can help to tell it.



FIELD SURVEY REPORT APPENDICES



THE CATTLE DRINKER - A VISUAL DIARY



The reports featured above have informed the Mill Farm Historic Landscape Study, and they hold detailed supporting information on artefact find locations, that will help people in the pursuit of further investigation into the history of Long Clawson.

CONCLUSION

It is custom to include in a study such as this, a section to generate discussion, but I believe that on this occasion the accompanying appendices and the historic landscape collection are the vehicles for those avenues of reflective observation.

The study has been designed to encourage people to dig deeper into our investigations, by using the artefacts and the associated research findings to plough further into the history of Long Clawson.

The landscape around the Shillcock's iconic tower mill presents a story beginning with the Roman occupation and takes us on a journey through time all the way through to the day we live in now.

Time travel is an amazing thing, and as generation after generation passes into forgotten memory, new generations will emerge seeking out those long-lost stories. It seems that however much we believe that our time on this planet will be forgotten, someone will come along and revive our existence. No rest then for us lonely old souls!

This study has also provided an opportunity for future metal detecting and field walking activities in and around the Long Clawson area, to adopt the Field Detectives survey methodology, and to incorporate it into a broader landscape study.

If we take a Google Earth view of the landscape below us, we can see it is made up of a patchwork of fields strewn around modern-day villages. Those fields represent landscape time capsule jigsaw pieces that can be joined together through a process of focused field survey investigations, and this study demonstrates how that can be done.

One artefact, no matter how amazing or unassuming, can say something, but place a landscape of associated artefacts together into one orchestrated study and we have, a much more comprehensive story to tell.

The Mill Farm Historic Landscape Study shows us a new and exciting way of interrogating the historic landscape.

The Field Detectives
2024

*Thank
you*



To Anthony and Caroline for very kindly providing us with the opportunity to access the Mill Farm fields in pursuit of our broader Historic Landscape Investigation. To our Heritage Sector Colleagues who continue to encourage, support and facilitate opportunities for closer working relationships.

Once again, to Steve Wells for capturing the imagery of the artefacts and coins so brilliantly. To Geoff and Tony for their excellent Lidar and Geology images and supporting information.

A huge THANK YOU to The Field Detectives who tirelessly give up their time to make great things happen, and to our fellow Field Detective's, friends and forces of nature, Mel Steadman & Sean Gallagher; you are sorely missed by us all.



Pictured above from left to right, Mel, Richard and Anthony

The Field Detectives

Historic Landscape Studies

Who We Are & What We Do

The Field Detectives seek opportunities to survey fields that can tell us more about how our historic landscapes evolved - by sharing the stories that we uncover from our field survey activities, we help to inform a better understanding of how our historic landscapes evolved over the centuries. On completion of the field survey activities, a field survey report is produced that precisely records all of the associated survey finds (coins, artefacts, pottery etc.).

Once the field survey reports have been processed, the artefacts are curated as a landowner-held Historical Landscape Study Collection where they are safeguarded for further research and study. With landowner approval, a community presentation/display can then be arranged where the information is shared and an opportunity is provided for the local community to get involved in future research activities.

By submitting the completed field survey reports as an exact finds location record, and by working closely with our heritage sector colleagues, we are establishing a growing archive of landscape-focused historical studies. These context-recorded studies are held in trust by the respective landowners who act as heritage custodians, which in turn, safeguards a unique set of rich historical landscape investigations for further study and learning.

If you want to be the focus of our next investigation, give us a call - Every Field Tells a Story...

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Landscape Detective



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Tim & Jenson Elsworth
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