



**THE FIELD DETECTIVES
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY
FRAMEWORK**

2020-2030



A Study Of

**Historic
Landscapes**

Through Time



Every Field Tells a Story

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LANGAR AIRFIELD STUDY
WE HAVE A DREAM
SOCIAL DISTANCING
SUMMARY



Every Field Tells a Story

Preface

In setting out this historic landscape framework, we have created a ten year vision that will build on the learning we have shared from over twenty years of evidence based field survey work.

The foundation for this study is the strength and trust of our landowner relationships, without whom, none of this would be possible. We are also greatly indebted to our heritage sector colleagues, families and friends for their continuing support, encouragement and kindness.

To maintain a focused narrative, the framework is set out under the relevant era headings as featured in our historic landscape study reports.

Our learning to date suggests that the local landscape during the Romano-British period, featured villa estates run by local families. Through further investigation, we hope to prove a line of continuity heralding from the late Iron Age through to the transition into the 5th century and beyond.

We know that iron working, farming, pottery production, livestock, gypsum and the key transport networks that our region had to offer made it an important area to utilise during the early phase of the Roman occupation. This study proposes to establish a visual summary of the Romano-British landscape informed by the findings from our field surveys, heritage sector collaborations and associated off the field research activities.

The table featured below sets out the wider remit of our historic landscape study in more detail. Each of the dedicated periods will feature in all of our field survey reports, which will serve to provide valuable additional information.

By sharing the stories that we uncover from our field survey activities, we help to inform a better understanding of how our farming landscapes evolved over the centuries.

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Neolithic	4,000 BC to 2,350 BC
Bronze Age	2,350 BC to 800 BC
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Roman	43 AD to 410
Early-Medieval	410 to 1066
Medieval	1066 to 1509
Post Medieval	1509 to 1900
Modern	1900 to the present day



Silver Denarius of
MARCUS AURELIUS
AD 161-180



Annular Brooch
c.6th Century



12th Century Strap Fitting
(Girdle Hanger Design)

LANDSCAPE STUDY METHODOLOGY

The Field Detectives are a group of enthusiasts who share a common interest in local history. Over the past 20 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 fields to be investigated are 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 is created by downloading an aerial image of the field from Google Earth, and superimposing graph paper over the field image. One copy of this is taken into the field on the field survey clipboard. In the field, grid areas are marked out in advance of each field survey visit (20x20 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 are transposed onto the field survey map, and the location of the finds recorded on the map as they were found. The finds are bagged and their locations noted on site; the finds are 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 are taken on site, with further photographs taken after cleaning to inform the field survey report.

Further 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.). One copy is presented to the landowner, and a further copy is sent to the relevant County Historic Environment Record where it is allocated a unique reference number.

Once the field survey reports have been processed, the precisely recorded artefacts, coins and pottery are assembled as an 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 record to the relevant County Historic Environment Record office, 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...



THE FIELD DETECTIVES - ANTIQUARIANS

On the Field or Not on the Field - We are All on the Field

Today we number 14

This number is confirmed or adjusted at the Annual Field Detectives Huddle

We are a Historic Landscape Investigation Team who carry out systematically planned
Historic landscape research and survey activities

We share a collective set of experiences, skills and knowledge

Although we utilise the technology of metal detectors in the course of our field surveys
we are not a Metal Detecting Group

As our activities are planned historic survey and research activities in the case of **TREASURE**:

50% of any reward goes to the Landowner
50% is shared by the remaining 14 Field Detectives
No matter who found the artefact or artefacts in question
Whether on the Field or Not on the Field

CUSTODIANS: LANDOWNER HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY COLLECTIONS

Once the field survey reports have been processed, the precisely recorded artefacts, coins and pottery are assembled as an Historic Landowner Collection where they are safeguarded for further research and study

THE
FIELD DETECTIVES

20TH
YEARS
1999-2019
ANNIVERSARY

14

EVERY FIELD
TELLS A STORY

Dr Alan Stevens
Passed Away 10.04.19
memoratus in aeternum

STEPPING INTO THE 3RD DECADE



Every Field Tells a Story

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY FOCUS

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



Dr Sylvia Massey & Dr Alan Massey
At Home 2018



Dr Alan Massey in discussion with
Peter Liddle MBE, former County
Archaeologist for Leicestershire



A small selection from Alan and Sylvia's vast collection of
individual prehistoric flint and stone tools

THE GREAT SCALFORD LAKE

The state of play before the Roman occupation from a local perspective, is shrouded in a mist of ghostly remnants. Partial clues in the form of coins, artefacts, trace settlements and two very long roads; the Fosse Way and the Salt Way. There is a long held suspicion that the Fosse Way was originally, the line of a much earlier trackway than the one we have come to know as a Roman road construction, but it is the Salt Way that holds our attention on this particular era of investigation.

Dr Alan Massey and Dr Sylvia Massey have devoted many tireless years fieldwalking the Scalford landscape, and they have amassed a remarkably extensive collection of flint & stone artefacts from the area. The collection has come to the attention of Rupert Birtwistle who is a leading expert in the field of early history flint and stone artefacts.

Alan and Rupert are in the process of writing up their findings (Prehistoric Activity along the Salt Way in North East Leicestershire).

From their thousands of individual prehistoric flint and stone tool findings, Alan and Sylvia are able to confirm that people have been living in the Scalford, Eastwell and Stathern area since the end of the Ice Age over 12,000 years ago.



The working hypothesis is that Scalford was once the site of an ancient large lake that drew Ice Age hunter-gatherers to the area in pursuit of animals such as horse and deer.

There is supporting evidence from the findings at the Creswellian cave sites that seasonal hunting took place with small groups operating in the landscape.

From the University of Leicester study of Ice-age hunter-gatherers at Bradgate Park:

The people who left behind these clues were members of a small group of pioneer mobile hunter gatherers who repopulated north-west Europe towards the end of the last Ice Age with the rapid onset of a warmer climate (the Lake Windermere Interstadial) and the development of open grassland vegetation. The new environment attracted a rich fauna of large vertebrates including wild horse and red deer, two of the preferred prey species. Other species included mammoth, elk, wild cattle, wolf, arctic fox, arctic hare and brown bear. They were re-colonising lands that had been lost for c10,000 years – economic migrants in a period of rapid global climate change. In the 19th and earlier 20th century excavation of caves such as at Creswell Crags and Cheddar Gorge provided the first evidence for the archaeology of this period but open-air sites were missing pieces of the jigsaw. In recent years we have started to identify such sites allowing research of hunter-gatherer behaviour in the open environment.

The focus for further investigation

1	Paper: Prehistoric Activity along the Salt Way in North East Leicestershire	Dr Alan Massey & Rupert J Birtwistle BA (Hons) MA ACIfA PhD to write and disseminate. Summarising the findings of Dr Alan Massey and Dr Sylvia Massey
2	Further examination of the Scalford area fields	Planned field walking activities and associated landscape studies including Lidar imagery
3	Wider Landscape Investigation	Recording all early history artefacts recovered from the historic landscape study area to see if there is a link to the Scalford site

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY FOCUS

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

THE ROMANS IN KEYWORTH!

A Study of Owl's Nest Field and adjacent fields
by
The Field Detectives

WHO ARE WE?

The Field Detectives comprises a small group of enthusiasts who share a common interest in local history. Over the past 15 years the group has sought the permission of local farmers and landowners in South Nottinghamshire and North Leicestershire to explore their fields for evidence of past history: activity using field-walking, metal detecting and where feasible limited geophysical survey methods.

HOW DID IT START?

In 1999 we were invited by the Wheatcroft family of Wheatcroft Farm to investigate one of their fields (Owl's Nest) which was reportedly the site of an old farm building or cottage of which no obvious trace remained. Working the field, we found a hollowed area with a few coins, but no other significant findings. With the permission and enthusiastic support of the Wheatcroft family, we then undertook an examination of the entire field by metal detecting on 15 visits between 1st Nov 1999 to 16th April 2000. Our findings on that occasion stimulated us to return to examine the field in 2003/4, in 2012 and in 2013, at times suitable between farming activities. On our later visits we also undertook field walking. As a result of our work in the Owl's Nest Field, we later carried out examinations of many acres of adjacent fields, but because of farming pressures we had limited access and time available, so were not able to do a comprehensive and repeated study so we had done with the Owl's Nest field. Nevertheless we made significant findings.

WHERE IS OWL'S NEST FIELD?

The field we now call Owl's Nest is featured in the image below. It lies to the west of Keyworth village centre, in the group of fields in the angle between Bunay Lane/Keyworth Lane to the north, and Wyalal Road to the west. It is a small field and is regularly ploughed, which is advantageous for repeat metal-detecting at intervals.

Examination of old maps shows that the field has an interesting history. The map of old Keyworth field maps shows below indicates that the modern field was originally two fields of approximately equal size with the border between the two components running from north to south, the field to the east was called 'Owl's Nest', and that to the west was named Nether Wic No. (field numbers 79 and 78 on the map)



The red arrow points to the black line that indicates the parish boundary between Keyworth and Bunay

OVERVIEW OF ROMANO-BRITISH & CELTIC FINDS

CELTIK STRAP OR BANNON CONSOLE
Mid 1st century AD
Actual Size - 25 x 18mm

SILVER DENARIUS OF MARCUS AURELIUS
AD 161-180
Actual Size - 17 x 18mm

SILVER AUREUS OF JULIAN II
AD 360-363
Actual Size - 18 x 20mm

CELTIK GOLD STATER
Late 1st century BC to Early 1st century AD
Actual Size - 16 x 18mm
REVERSE: OVEVRE

CELTIK GOLD STATER
Late 1st century BC to Early 1st century AD
Actual Size - 16 x 18mm
REVERSE: OVEVRE

ROMAN BRONZE FINGER RING

WHAT DID WE FIND?

Our repeated metal detecting intermittently over a period of 14 years revealed substantial evidence of Romano-British activity in Owl's Nest field. In all we found a total of 80 Romano-British coins. Almost all were bronze or other copper alloy and the great majority were from the period towards the end of the Roman occupation Britain i.e. 4thC AD. However we also found some earlier coins, some of which may predate the Roman invasion. The most important were two Gold Staters of Celtic design associated with the British tribe, the Corotauri (formerly known as the Corvini) and a Celtic silver unit of the same tribe (dated to about 300BC).

The Corotauri were a tribe, or group of tribes, of pre-Roman Britain occupying a substantial part of the East Midlands extending from Leicestershire in the south-west through South Nottinghamshire and into Lincolnshire as far as the sea between the River Humber to the north and The Trent to the south. Their main activities were agricultural and they appear not to have retained the Roman invasion strongly.

We also found 17 Roman brooches and brooch fragments, also bronze or other copper alloy. The brooches were of various patterns, all datable to the 1st C AD. Also found from the Roman era were a bronze ring, two strap ends or harness connectors and a manufactured bronze artefact thought to be Roman. Alongside these artefacts was discovered a mid 1st century strap or harness connector as described by Dr Catherine Johns of the British Museum. The triangular cells of red enamel are typically attributed to artefacts of this type. It is an interesting and unusual piece and I do not remember seeing a full attachment of this form. I feel confident, however, that it should be accepted to the nearby Roman Period soon time as the 1st Century AD.

A selection of the most interesting and best preserved metal objects are shown in the photos, and the distribution of the finds is shown on the finds map. By field walking, we also found a number of broken pottery sherds, some of which (so-called 'grey wares') are undoubtedly Roman.

WHAT DO THE FINDINGS MEAN?

The findings indicate that there was occupation of Keyworth from the earliest years of the Roman occupation of Britain (1st C AD) through to the time when the Romans left Britain in the early 5th C AD. The finding of two gold stater coins of the Corotauri tribe suggests that there was probably occupation before the Romans arrived. Apart from the gold stater and some silver coinage, most of the coins were of low denomination, made of bronze or copper alloy, and most were from the later part of the Roman occupation.

It is interesting to note the distribution of the finds on the Finds Map. There was a great concentration of coins and brooch finds at the western edge of the Owl's Nest field and a small number of coins on the adjacent field. Old maps show that this field border has long been the demarcation between Keyworth and Bunay parishes. It is believed that parish borders were defined many centuries ago as Anglo-Saxon times, and that some even represent the borders between adjacent Roman estates. We have no evidence which would explain the abundance and concentration of Roman finds in that area, unfortunately, due to a change in ownership of the land, we were unable to continue our investigations further. Our next step would have been a geophysical survey to see if we could find any traces of the remains of Romano-British buildings, trackways, ditches and field boundaries in the area.

One theory is that a pathway ran from Keyworth to Bunay through the field, and that some form of trading between the two parishes occurred at the border.

ROMANO-BRITISH FINDINGS IN A CROPWELL BUTLER FIELD

WHO ARE WE?

The Field Detectives comprises a small self-financed group of enthusiasts who share a common interest in local history.

Over the past 15 years the group has sought permission of local farmers and landowners in South Nottinghamshire (occasionally spilling into North Leicestershire) to explore their fields for evidence of past history: activity using field-walking, metal-detecting and where and when available, limited geophysical survey methods.

THE SITE AND OUTLINE OF OUR STUDY

The field we studied (with the kind permission and enthusiastic support of the landowner Mr Russell Price) lies between Cropwell Butler and Cropwell Bishop. The field is approximately 10.05 hectares, bounded to the north by a drainage ditch which has a small pond at its eastern end. The western margin is a country lane running between Cropwell Butler to the north and Cropwell Bishop to the south. The roughly oblique eastern margin is the boundary of an adjacent field and the narrow southern margin is the sewage works and the outskirts of Cropwell Bishop village.

We examined the field in three main studies, in 2005, 2013 and 2016. In 2005, the field was ploughed and we were able to examine the entire field by field walking and metal-detecting. In 2013 and 2016, our access was more limited for agricultural reasons, so we confined our examination to the areas most productive in 2005. In 2016 we had access to a geophysical expert who geophysically scanned out a magnetic gradiometer survey of a 60m x 80m area west of one of the sites where we had found many Romano-British coins and pottery.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Over the three periods of study, we found a total of 66 Romano-British coins, the earliest of which is silver denarius of Claudius a base silver coin of Claudius II and a few bronze (aureus) coins were from the 1st C AD, but the great majority were 4th C AD copper alloy or bronze coins of low denomination, including coins from the Empire of Constantine (317-330 AD) and from the Magnesian period (350-365 AD). A number of coins were too badly preserved for accurate identification, but their size and thickness were typical of 4thC AD coins. The coins were mainly located in two areas at the southern part of the field.

The other Roman artefacts were comparatively few and included parts of brooches, suspension mounts, a locking pin and part of a bronze ball. It is interesting that these are earlier than the coin finds, being mostly of 1st-2nd C AD style.

The distribution of metallic finds is shown on the finds plan. We also found pottery sherds, mainly in the same areas as the coin finds, most were unclassified grey wares, but one form currently does not have the expertise to identify it further. Similarly, we are unable to determine which of the lead artefacts we found (mostly weights and spindle whorls) are from the Roman period.

We were fortunate to have the services of a geophysical expert for one day in 2016; he found three circular anomalies, each about 10m in diameter, in one of the areas where coin finds had been numerous.

Finds from later periods included a single ring-bit brooch from the Anglo-Saxon/Viking period, some 19thC coins and artefacts and occasional coins from the Tudor period to the 20thC.

TWO VINCENSIS PILING
MIDIAN OF ALBAN
AD 97-107

ROMAN BRONZE
BRONZE AND SILVER TYPE
c. 1st century AD

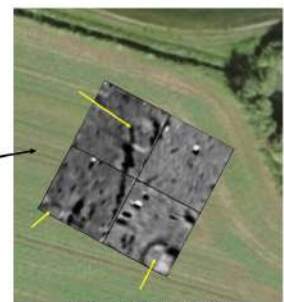
CELTIK GOLD STATER
c. 1st century AD

CELTIK GOLD STATER
c. 1st century AD

ROMAN COIN
Constantine
AD 317-324

ROMAN COIN
Maximian
AD 278-285

ROMAN BRONZE
c. 1st century AD



GEOPHYSICS PLOT

CONCLUSIONS

The finding of numerous Romano-British coins, mainly of the 4thC AD, together with some earlier coins and decorative artefacts, indicate that there was previously unsuspected Romano-British activity on this site during the late 4thC AD. There was little domestic bronze ware and pottery sherds and no animal bones, which can't come from an original hope that the site represented a Romano-British farmstead, but we were encouraged by the finding of three possible roundhouses on a geophysical survey. We hope to repeat the metal detecting survey with the machines calibrated to detect iron in the hope of finding evidence of Romano-British domesticity.

We are keen to extend the area of geophysical survey to identify any further round structures. Depending on the geophysical findings, we feel that professional archaeological excavation would be indicated in selected areas of the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Mr Russell Price of Smeeth Farm for permission to study his field and for his continued support. We would like to thank Alan Morris for his generosity in performing the geophysical survey for us.

To our colleagues at the British Museum for assistance with the identification of Romano-British coins and artefacts. To Alan Harris, Finds Liaison Officer for Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire and many many more.

IRON WORKING - SITES & TRACKWAYS

Roman occupation brought with it, new iron working technologies in particular, the shaft furnace and an organised approach to production. With greater demand for iron to meet the needs of fort and town development and higher food production, specialist smelting centres began to emerge from the late first century AD.



A feature of the iron ore landscape during the Roman occupation period is that deposits deeper than 3 metres from the surface tended not to be utilised and the quality of ironstone depreciated significantly beyond the Belvoir ridge.

Iron working settlements ranged from subsistence farmsteads, where occasional small scale production took place, to villa complex arrangements and ‘small towns’ specialising in smelting and smithing.

The Goadby Marwood site could well have originated as an important Iron Age settlement where skilled smiths served the needs of local communities. Shortly after the conquest, the site would have offered an ideal centre for a military works-depot and then later, a civilian venture. The key to the success of the site would have been a strong working relationship with local landowners to ensure access to raw materials such as ore, timber and charcoal. Local trackways, water courses & rivers would have offered excellent options for mutually successful supply and material exchange arrangements.

We can begin to assess the scale of production through the spread of slag, size of slag heaps and the number of hearths and furnaces. With detailed analysis of furnaces and hearths, buildings, associated pottery, artefacts and coins it is possible to establish the duration of a site.

Four Basic levels of Production can be Considered

1	Household production	Limited, small scale, occasional production. Iron slags have been found in many farmstead rubbish deposits
2	Specialists in larger farming settlements	Appearance of villa complexes - re-organisation of local landowners into villa estates c.3rd-4th century
3	Urban artisans	Generally, minor role as smithing or smelting centres. A smithy was found at Margidunum and spreads of smithing slag was found at Vernemetum
4	Specialist production centres	A works depot was established at Margidunum c. AD50 - 70. It's location by the Fosse way and the Trent meant that blooms or finished goods could be transported efficiently

It is suggested that skilled potters followed the legions from across the channel, bringing with them new technologies which they shared to establish potteries with local artisans. It is this model of establishing new skills that we are adopting for the introduction of new iron working technology, although the difficulty in dating the features and debris of iron working sites means that we have much to learn, and much more work to do.

We will need to locate and record the channel hearths that were used for roasting the ore, shaft and bowl furnaces for smelting and possibly forging, along with the locations and size of the slag dumps. We should expect to find associated buildings and furnace base remains in close proximity to these iron working sites.

Accessing and comparing kiln studies and detailed analysis of smelting technologies will greatly enhance our understanding.



A conjectural reconstruction of a building at the Roman roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent. This particular building was used as a smithy, with a row of iron-smelting furnaces outside its south-west end.

Reconstruction by Peter Lorimer and by courtesy of Paul Booth, *Oxford Archaeology*.

There remains the possibility that Vernemetum was a specialist smithing centre and if so, then Goadby Marwood would have been the most likely supplier.

If villa owners held control over the origins and later development of smithing centres, they may have had an interest in smelting. This would require a collaborative approach to estate management with raw and partly worked materials being moved between settlements and finished goods moved more widely across the regions.

If we are to use the model of following the movement of pottery, to establish the movement of iron ores, blooms and finished tools then we will need to establish a consistent approach to recording.

It follows that there must have been large stretches of managed woodland to provide wood for the kilns, ore-roasting, making charcoal and for building. One study suggests that up to 100 acres of managed woodland (coppiced on a 12 year cycle) would provide fuel to produce 4 tons of bloom per year. Villa estates would include woods as part of their landholdings.

Although little is known about copse management at this time, we do know that by 1086, only 15% of England was woodland and there may not have been much more in the Roman period so therefore, coppice management would have been a strict and skilled undertaking.

Interestingly, it was common to collect enough fuel during the summer months to last a whole year and the quantity needed to serve the needs of one roundhouse (dwelling) could be quite substantial. A study of charcoal from the furnace of a villa bath suite at Groundwell Ridge, Wiltshire, revealed that oak made up 78% of the wood used as fuel, but this is a villa and it is in Wiltshire. It is also worth noting that coppiced wood is best cut in the winter.

Iron smelting and farming activities could well have operated in cycles, perhaps allowing smelting and forging activities to be fitted into the slack periods during the farming year.

Access to water would have been an absolute must, with quantity and distance being two critical factors alongside taste and quality. The most common sources in England were rivers, ponds, springs and wells. The Goadby Marwood site features the recording of wells and it would be greatly beneficial if we could examine a surviving well in more detail if at all possible.

Many of the industrial villages to emerge during the late first to early second centuries appeared at the same time as the villa estates. More elaborate villa complexes were developed towards the end of the third century and onwards into the fourth century, perhaps a testament to the so called golden age of Roman Britain.

Land became a taxable commodity and where iron production centres are found in close proximity to villa estates, it is possible to suggest links. This makes the villa location at Wycomb an important aspect of the Goadby Marwood wider landscape investigation.

Peter Liddle: Roman villa at Wycomb, North-East Leicestershire (SK 782256) The villa site is situated against the northern boundary of Wycomb parish and about 500m south-south-west of the Roman urban settlement at Goadby Marwood. *Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 1988* by Peter Liddle

It is quite feasible that the iron working site at Vernemetum (Willoughby-on-the-Wolds) was managed by a civitas authority under the auspices of the gods. Temple land could not be owned by individuals, but it could be exploited to the advantage of the temple. There is certainly a place-name connection to iron working here, as Vernemetum means ‘sacred grove’, suggesting an association between iron working and the gods.

Finding and recording iron working sites along the trackway routes leading from Goadby Marwood will be a crucial part of our ten year wider landscape investigation. Only then can we be sure of the extent, organisation and range of the iron working industry during the Roman occupation.

It is possible that surplus iron from the East Midlands was being moved to military units in the north of Britain. Iron could have followed the same distribution networks as the pottery suppliers. There is no doubt that the scale and longevity of iron production in the East Midlands made this an important supplier of iron goods for other parts of Roman Britain, and the Goadby Marwood site would have been an integral part of the industry.

Five areas of further research 2020-2030

1	Types of production (smelting, smithing)	Finding and recording of sites relating to the Goadby Marwood trackways
2	Scale of production	Detailed analysis of the specialist centres to enable comparisons with the Weald, Forest of Dean and other regions on the continent
3	Quality of production	Analysis of furnaces, slags and finished tools. Were some sites more specialised in producing better quality materials than others?
4	Relationship between iron production and other activities	Site related research: Agriculture, Livestock, Land Management etc.
5	Transport and exchange of iron goods	Can we confirm that iron goods followed the same supply routes as ceramic goods

The iron working site at Goadby Marwood has become the pivotal key to unlocking a lost historic landscape. All we have to do is follow the trackways leading from Goadby Marwood and record our findings, especially those leading to Vernemetum (Fosse Way - Willoughby-on-the-Wolds) and Margidunum (Fosse Way - Bingham).

There is a network of local, regional and long-distance goods supply routes linking rural settlements, specialist centres, towns and military sites leading to and from the Goadby Marwood site that we can begin to record using our proven field survey methodology and strong landowner relationships over the course of the next ten years.

The foundation for this study is built in the exemplary and tireless research activities of Frances Condron, Patrick Clay, Brian Dix, Peter Liddle, David Mattingly and Irene Schrufer-Kolb.



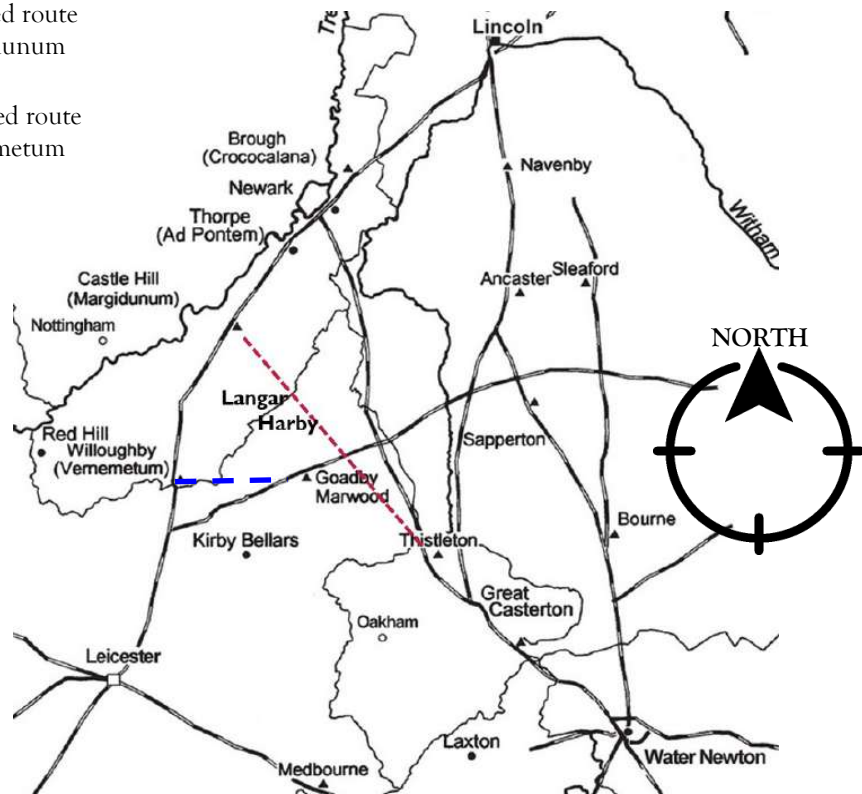
Roman carpentry & stone working tools

The text featured in the historic landscape is mainly attributed to Francis Condron’s paper ‘Iron Production in Leicestershire, Rutland & Northamptonshire in Antiquity (1997)’. Additional supporting information can be attributed to ‘Roman Nottinghamshire by Mark Patterson (2011)’, ‘Running the Roman Home by Alexandra Croom (2011)’ and The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain by Smith, Allen, Brindle & Fulford (2016).

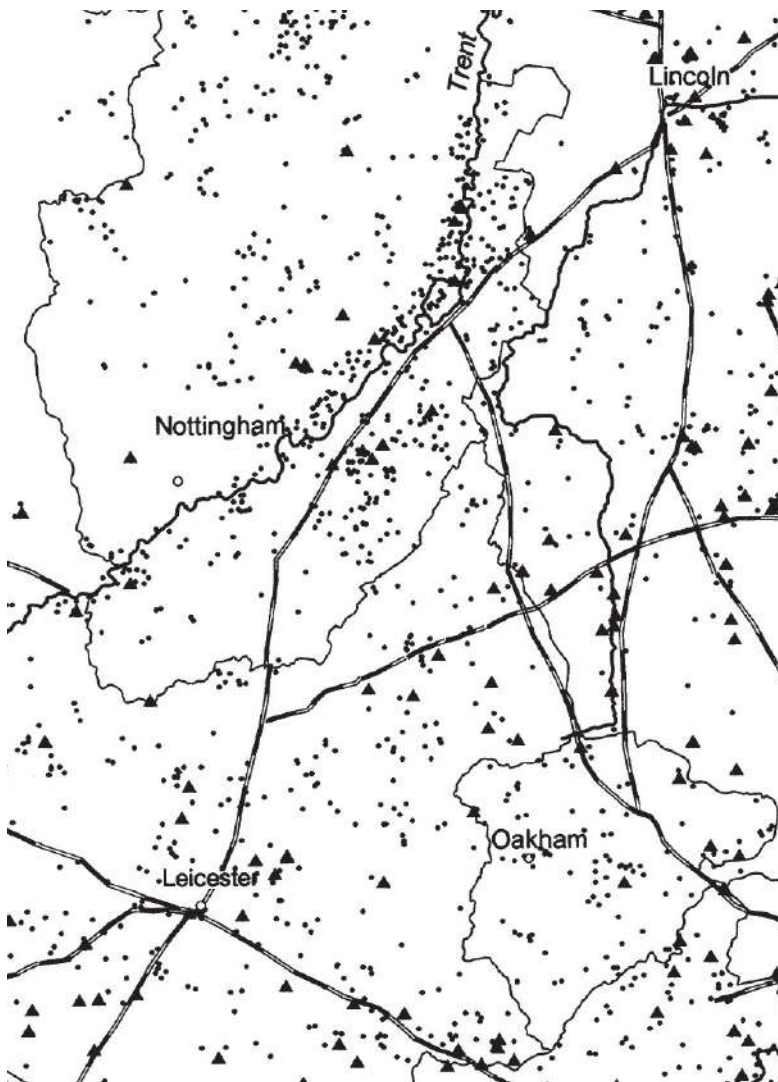
A ROMANO-BRITISH OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA

Red Dashed Line Denotes suggested route from Goadby Marwood to Margidunum

Blue Dashed Line Denotes suggested route from Goadby Marwood to Vernemetum



East Midlands Research Framework



- County Towns
- Primary rivers
- - - North and Northeast Lincolnshire
- County boundary
- ▲ Villa
- Settlement



Celtic Strap or Harness Connector
Mid 1st Century AD

ROMANO-BRITISH FARMSTEADS



Romano-British farmsteads are small agricultural units comprising groups of up to four circular or rectangular houses along with associated structures which may include wells, storage pits, corn-drying ovens and granary stores. These were sometimes constructed within a yard surrounded by a rectangular or curvilinear enclosure and associated field systems, trackways and cemeteries may be located nearby. Romano-British farmsteads usually survive as buried features visible as crop and soil marks and occasionally as low earthworks. Often situated on marginal agricultural land and found throughout the British Isles, they date to the period of Roman occupation (c. AD 43-450).

Romano-British farmsteads are generally regarded as low status settlements, with the members of one family or small kinship group pursuing a mixed farming economy. Excavation at these sites has shown a marked continuity with later prehistoric settlements. There is little evidence of personal wealth and a limited uptake of the Romanised way of life.

FARMSTEADS

- Fields were used for food production, livestock husbandry, crop cultivation
- Trackways were used for moving livestock and goods to and from market centres
- Horses feature highly on farmsteads where there is evidence of horse breeding
- In the fields you would see cattle, sheep and goats
- You would also see crops growing out in the fields such as spelt wheat, emmer wheat, rye, flax, and oats along with a range of horticultural crops such as cabbages, carrots, celery and beets
- Pulses were also grown: celtic beans, broad beans, peas, lentils along with sloe, crab apples, plums, cherries, blackberries etc.

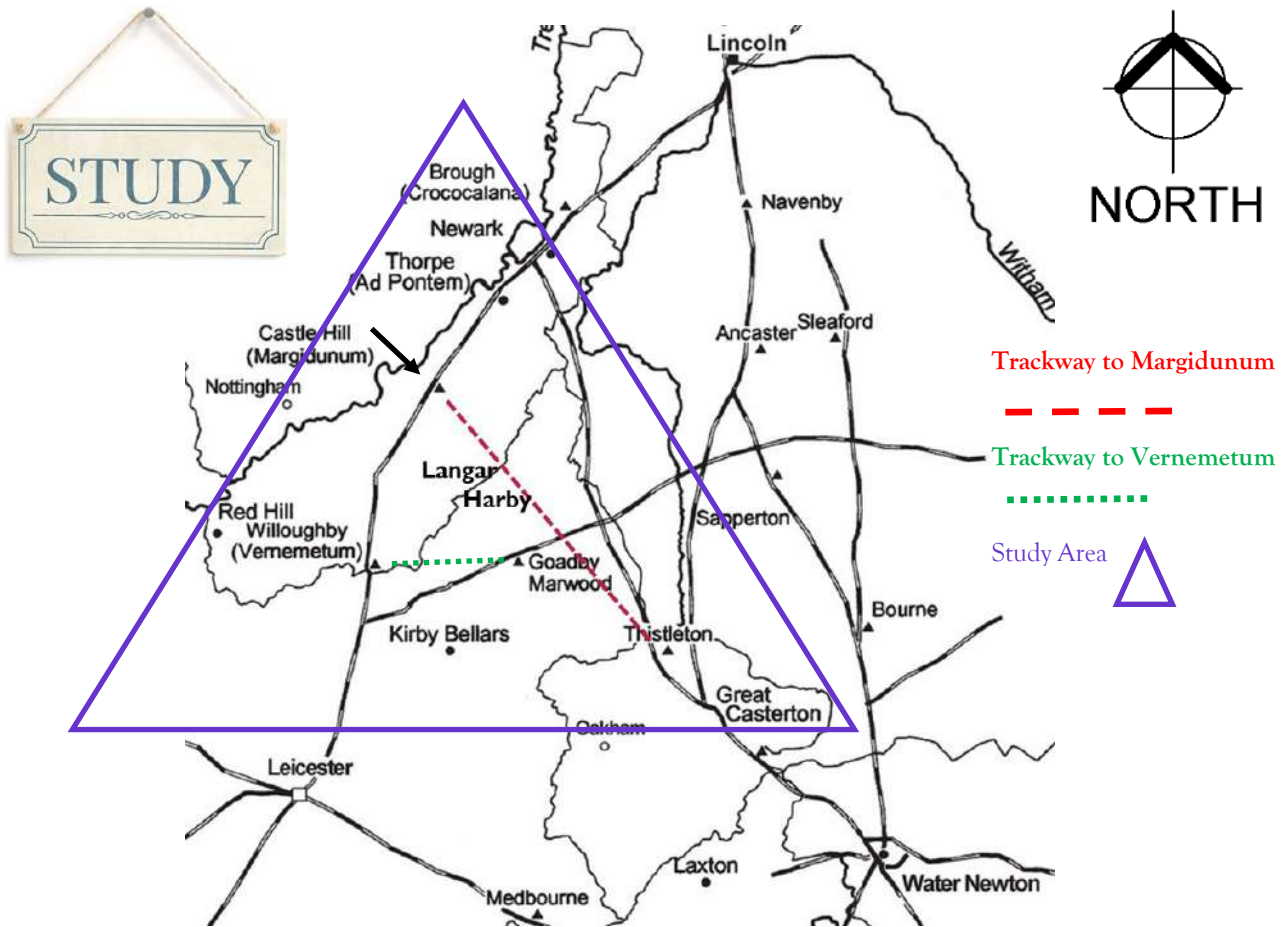
WHAT WE KNOW

- The vast majority of the population lived and worked in the countryside
- Most farmstead settlements were in use during the second century, suggesting that the population was at its height during this period
- Farmstead abandonment starts to increase from the late third century before an apparent wave of abandonment in the later fourth century. It is thought that 84% of sites did not continue into the fifth century
- It is extremely likely that there was a fall in the rural population of many areas of Roman Britain during the later third and especially towards the end of the fourth century
- Circular buildings feature as the dominant form in the Trent Valley
- Cemetery populations show relatively healthy urban populations in contrast to those in the countryside

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW - FIELD SURVEY FOCUS 2020-2030

- The social and economic relationships between farmsteads, villas, military sites and roadside settlements
- What the construction and maintenance arrangements were for the trackways that joined the network of farmsteads, villas and market centres together
- Did the decline in settlement numbers during the later fourth century see inhabitants of farmsteads uprooting to move to larger villages and towns?
- We still do not have enough information and or evidence to reconstruct the built environment of farmsteads and the people who lived and worked in them
- We do not know how the inhabitants of many villa settlements generated their wealth - whether from official office, industry, agriculture, mercantile activity, quarrying, mining, building, military service, money-lending, crime, corruption or a mixture of all of these

WIDER LANDSCAPE STUDY FOCUS



The Trackway to Vernemetum

The Salt Way hugs the crest of the Belvoir ridge, overlooking a lost Romano-British landscape. Below there are a string of trackways leading up to the Salt Way from their respective modern day villages. We will continue to work in collaboration with landowners, local people and our heritage sector colleagues to search for evidence relating to the iron working site at Goadby Marwood. We will also follow the line of the Salt Way, its intersection with the Fosse Way and the wider Vernemetum landscape to ensure that we have a complete picture of the study area.

The Trackway from Goadby Marwood to Margidunum

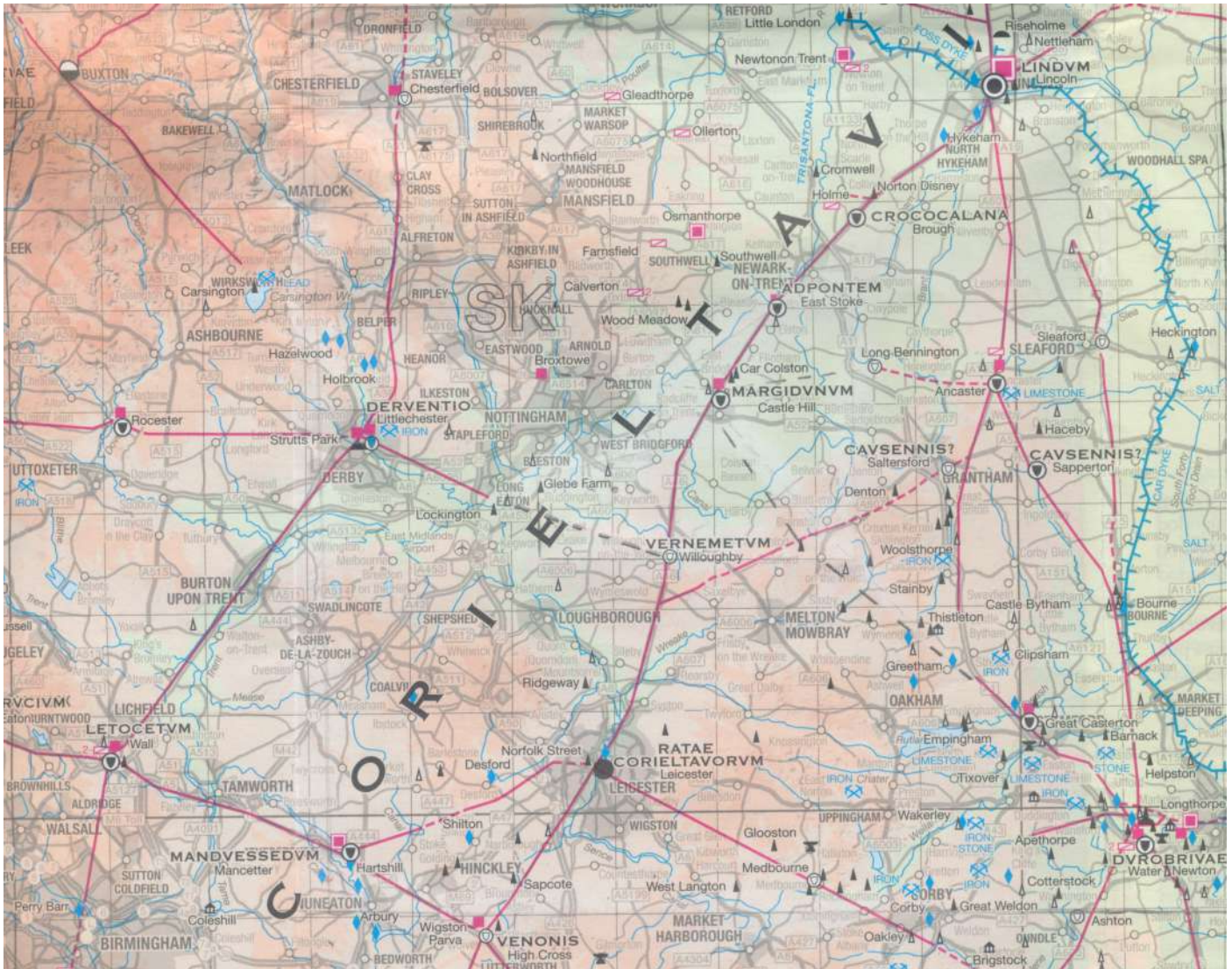
A trackway that supplied iron working materials to the Margidunum site to support the advance of the Roman occupation northwards. Surveying fields adjacent to the line of the trackway will be an essential part of the study. The Langar villa site is well situated to take advantage of the supply route and our initial investigation at Canal Farm (Harby) revealed a possible roadside iron working building (blacksmith) and a Roman Brooch in close proximity. Which means that we are on the right track.

Trackways, the Trent & Gypsum

The landscape west of the Fosse Way features two known villa sites (Flawford, near Ruddington and Barton-in-Fabis). Research to date indicates that all Nottinghamshire villas were last occupied between AD 350-380. At Red Hill, perched on the cliff tops of what is now the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station, is the site of a Roman Temple. Our discovery of the 'Owls Nest' Romano-British site at Keyworth and related Romano-British finds in the local area suggest that the Fairham Brook could have been a navigable transport route to the Trent. If we take into account the trackways heading west from Vernemetum and Margidunum and factor in gypsum mining at Gotham then we have, much more to investigate, record and learn.

The Fosse Way Landscape

Over 2,000 years ago, the Fosse Way witnessed the movement of people, livestock and materials, many of the people exploiting the network of trackways available to them would have lived in close knit family settlements within travelling distance of their chosen destinations. The more sites we record, the more we will be able to learn about their relationship to the Fosse Way.



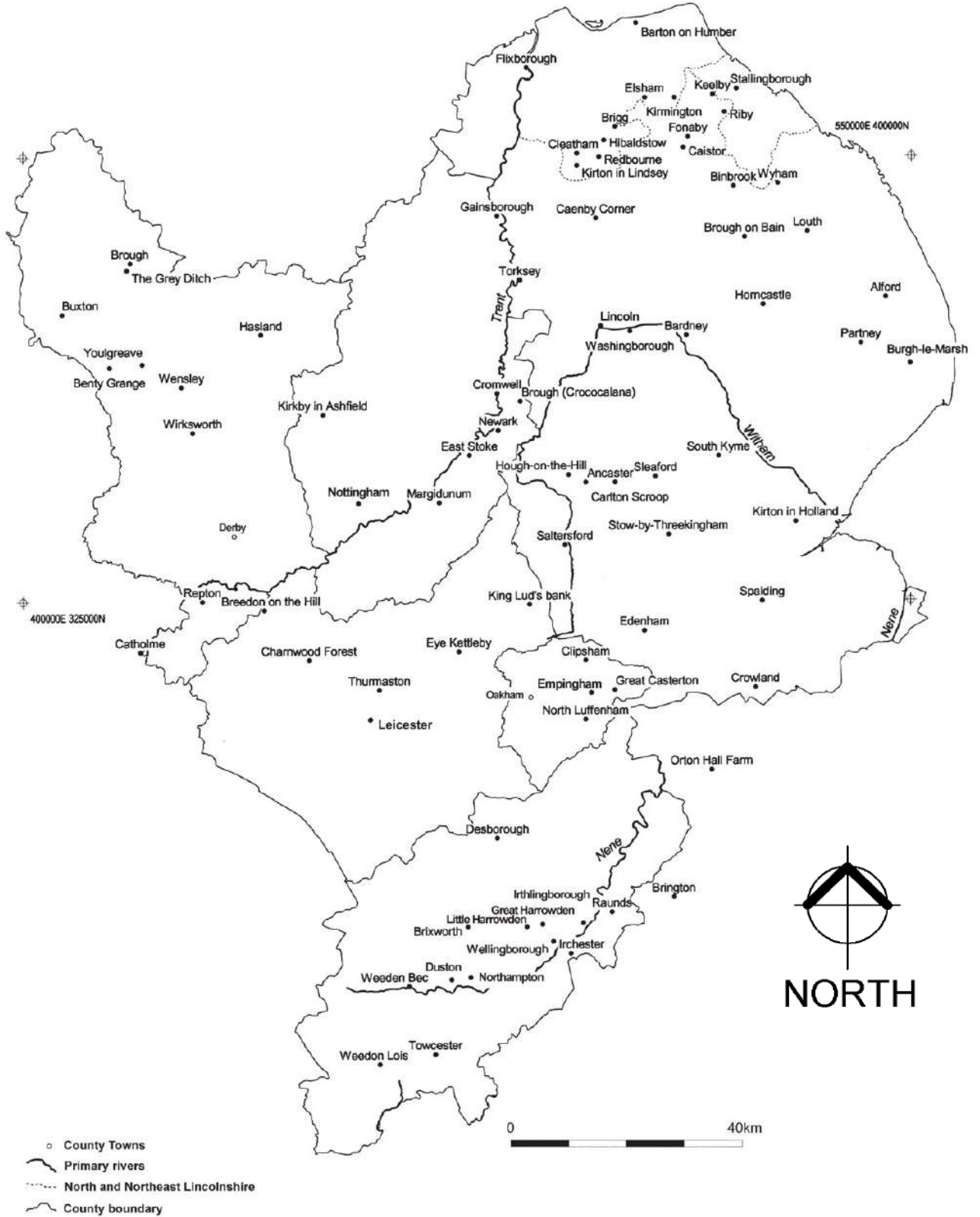
The map featured above is taken from the Ordnance Survey Roman Britain Map (Sixth Edition - 2011)



Visual interpretation of what the Roman farmstead at Great Glen, Leicestershire, would have looked like.
c. Mid 2nd to Mid 3rd Century
Drawing by Cecily Marshall

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY FOCUS

Early-Medieval 410 to 1066



EAST MIDLANDS HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

FROM ROMAN INFLUENCE TO SAXON ENGLAND

A period of transition once known as the Dark Ages, following the departure of Roman control and influence that gradually evolved into Saxon England. There is of course, the small matter of the Vikings integration that can still be found in the DNA of many people living in the UK today.

Our Romano-British historic landscape investigations at Keyworth, Cropwell Butler, Goadby Marwood, Long Clawson, Langar, Bunny and Owthorpe over the last twenty years, provide an evidence based foundation to investigate continuity from the fifth century onwards.

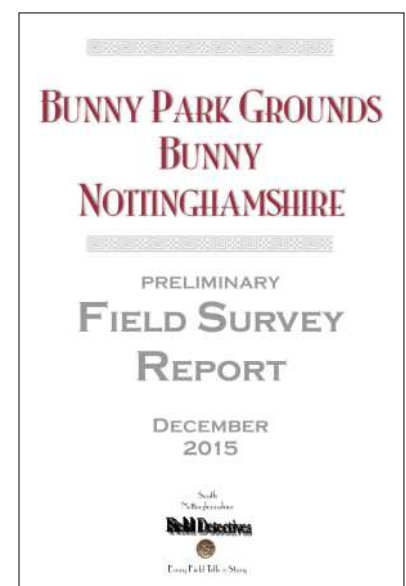
The six centuries between the departure of Roman influence and the fall of King Harold in 1066, featured layers of change that can still be traced through present day place names, settlement patterns, field systems manors, estate and territorial boundaries and ultimately, a unified English kingdom. Six hundred years represents a long period of time; the fifth and sixth centuries were very different from the seventh and eighth as indeed, were the ninth and tenth.

Over the next ten years we will continue to record all coins, artefacts and pottery sherds relating to the early medieval period.

The field survey findings will inform a better 'local area' focused understanding of the transition into Saxon England.



ANGLO SAXON STRAP END
9th CENTURY



EAST MIDLANDS HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

The emergence of a monetary economy in the middle Anglo-Saxon period

One of the differences between early and middle Anglo-Saxon society was the use of coinage in the latter. The use of coins seems to have ceased at the beginning of the fifth century (perhaps even within the last two decades of the fourth century) and it is not until the middle of the seventh century that coins are again found with any regularity. The systematic recording of metal-detected coin finds and its publication online in the Early Medieval Coin database (EMC online) shows that Lindsey, the Fens and the Nene valley in Northamptonshire were coin-using areas within the seventh century. Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (excluding the Trent gravels) have produced substantially fewer coins in total, and those that have been found have tended to be later.

It is likely that the adoption of coinage both reflects other changes in the economy and stimulated them. It is, indeed, possible that all the changes which we can see happening during the transition from the early to the middle Anglo-Saxon period are intimately linked: the arrival of the church; the growth of large monastic estates; the production of surplus goods on those estates, and elsewhere; investment in mills and the modification to the landscape required to make those mills function; the use of middle Saxon pottery types such as Northern and Southern Maxey wares and Ipswich ware and the foreign contact represented by the discovery of continental *sceattas* (Blackburn 1993), imported pottery and 'productive sites' along the Lindsey Marshes, the Lower Trent and the Fens (including the richest seventh-century coin findspot known, 'South Lincolnshire'; Ulmschneider 2000).

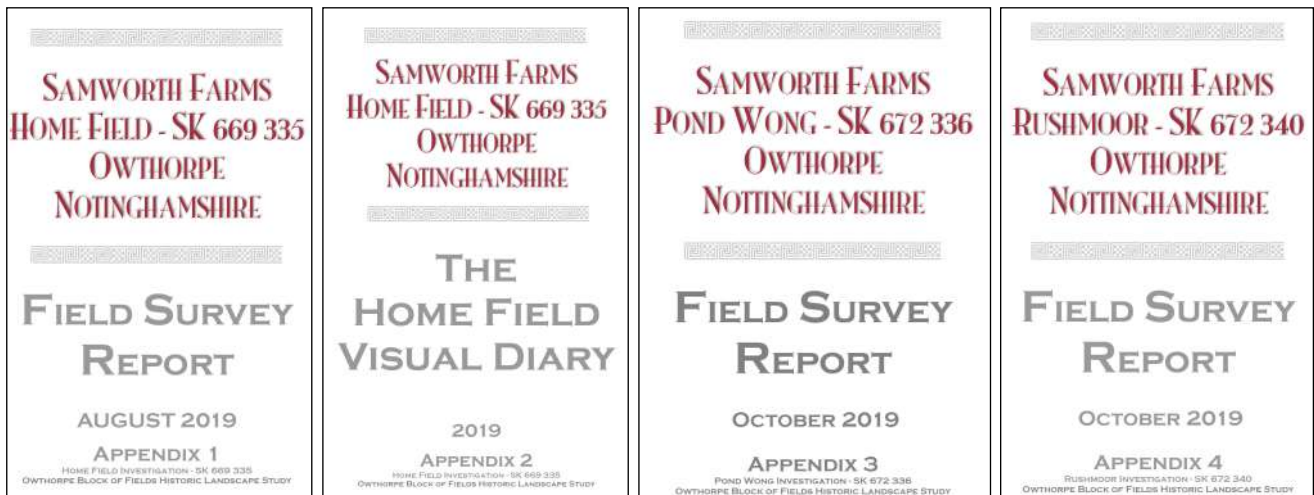
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY FOCUS

Medieval

1066 to 1509



John, Jill & Catherine on research duty at the , Leicester & Leicestershire Record Office



OWTHORPE

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

“Once the site of a medieval hospital”

A planned investigation of the neighbouring landscape, in search of clues to evidence human activity that could be associated with the English Civil War, the Hutchinson family, the 13th-15th century and the Romano-British period.

The initial Home Field survey (Appendices 1 & 2) concluded that Owthorpe was once the site of a medieval hospital, and that the manor house building phases were located in close proximity to St Margaret’s Church. We were also able to confirm that Owthorpe had a windmill in 1328.

Appendices 2 & 4 revealed that the landscape hosted the presence of people during the Romano-British period and people from the 13th century through to the modern day. We have yet to record any evidence of earlier human activity on the land before the Romano-British period. Neither can we evidence any continuity of human activity following the end of the Roman occupation c.AD 410, through to the 13th century.

Forty-one musket balls were recorded on Pond Wong field (Appendix 3), and they will form the first part of a field by field musket ball and lead shot Owthorpe landscape study. This is a heritage sector collaboration with the Royal Armouries Museum, the National Civil War Centre and associated research colleagues.



Lead Token featuring a cross & pellets design c.15th-16th Century

HYPOTHESIS

STUDY IN PROGRESS

IN THE SHADOW OF THE NORMAN CONQUEST

The medieval period arrived in the shadow of the Norman conquest; an uneasy transition that resembled an adoption of ways rather than a change of direction. Local churches, usually made of wood were rebuilt in stone between c.1050-1150. The church was on a voyage of consolidation and the Normans rode the wave.

The fourteenth century brought famine, disease, unfavourable weather, wars and the Black Death. With leprosy, crime and poverty never far away, life during these uncertain times could be brutal and perilously short. People believed in demons and witches, that corpses roamed the woods and that they had to be buried with their hearts burned to ensure that they roamed no more. Crusades, pilgrimage, saints and the Magna Carta added a depth of colour in contrast to the smell of a population that did not wash themselves very much and did not think too deeply about personal sanitation. 20-30 per cent of children under seven died from malnutrition and diseases such as smallpox, whooping cough, measles, tuberculosis, plague, influenza and bowel or stomach infections.

From a local perspective, we have much to learn about this period, and over the next ten years we will continue to focus on the local medieval landscape through our village studies at Cropwell Butler and Owthorpe.

Samworth Farms Home Field Trench CALVIN Finds Log - FIELD REF: SK 66994 33541				
Ref.	Date Found	Context	Description/Additional Information	Era/Date
41	12/04/2019	Found at the base of the south facing dry stone wall	Green Glaze Ware Handle from a Jug	c.13th-14th Century



Medieval Village Studies: 2020-2030

1	Cropwell Butler	All trackways lead to the chapel of St Nicholas. A field by field study of the landscape around the site of a medieval field chapel, recording all medieval artefacts for further study and research. Once completed we will have produced a unique historic landscape study which will help us to unlock the history behind the lost field chapel of St Nicholas.
2	Owthorpe	A field by field study of the landscape that could hold crucial evidence in support of a medieval hospital site at Owthorpe. According to a written account (Robert Thoroton 1623-1678) there were post conquest manorial land donations to Thurgarton Priory that included four bovats (72 acres) of land belonging to the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem (knights Hospitaller). We will also be surveying the landscape to pinpoint a lost medieval windmill.
3	Comparative Studies	We will be taking into account comparative historic landscape studies at Stathern, Goadby Marwood, Long Clawson, Langar, Keyworth, Plumtree, Bunny etc.

Custodians - Historic Landscape Study Collections

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. 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 set of detailed historic collections. These context-recorded 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.

HENRY VII'S LOST CAMP SITE

The War of the Roses come to an end

On 16th June 1487 about one mile south of East Stoke, Henry VII met and defeated Lambert Simnel. Somewhere in the region of 7000 butchered bodies soaking in a gutter of blood brought thirty years of turmoil, chaos, warfare, infighting, backstabbing, side-changing, murdering and plotting to an end.



The events leading up to the battle, the battle itself and the resulting aftermath are well documented and often-cited.

But this particular mystery is not.

The following account mentions that Henry and his army were hopelessly lost

Source: The last white rose - secret wars of the Tudors - ISBN: 9781849019804

As soon as the news of Lincoln's landing reached Henry at Kenilworth, he marched north with equal speed, hoping to intercept him, going by way of Coventry, Leicester and Loughborough, picking up levies as he went. Vergil attributes Henry's swift reaction to concern that any delay might allow Lincoln 'to assemble greater forces'. But near Nottingham the king got hopelessly lost, with the result that he and his army were forced to spend the night of 12 June in a wood. Nor, according to his herald, did they manage to reach the city next day, wandering aimlessly – Henry was lucky to find a bed for himself in the isolated village of Radcliffe.

Further information: King Henry VII camped with his army next to the woods on his way to successfully fight the battle of East Stoke and in so doing end the Wars of the Roses.



Source: The History of Bunny Wood talk by Chris Terrel-Neild in July 2003 at the Keyworth & District Local History Society meeting.

1	Bunny Wood Fields	Carry out a complete field survey of the landscape relating to the Old Bunny Wood and the fields adjacent Gotham Lane for evidence of a 1487 army campsite.
2	Research & Collaboration	Work with the University of Nottingham, Bunny and Keyworth Local History Groups to ensure that the field survey activities and the learning is made available for further study and interpretation



SYMBOLISM, MYSTERY & IMAGINATION

The Mystery of Lead Token Design and Purpose of Use
 Letter to Archaeologist Matt Beresford et al. March 2017

Edward Fletcher's hugely influential work on lead tokens sits at the very heart of our reference collection (*Tokens and Tallies Through the Ages* - Greenlight Publishing, 2003) and I was greatly interested to hear about Matthew Champion's book 'Medieval Graffiti'. It has always been difficult to present and to explain the functionality and date of lead tokens featuring cross and pellet designs and similar (a specific set of token design/classification), to landowners, at community presentations, or to anyone who is remotely interested to learn about what we are finding out on the field.



Lead Token featuring a cross & pellets design
 c.15th-16th Century

Association with a particular site is usually a useful point of reference along with any associated (datable) finds, but I am not convinced that we have pinned down their origin of use and distribution.

When I came across the *Egyptian Handbook of Ritual Power* (the ancient Coptic handbook of spells), the images represented on the pages, (see right), struck me as significantly identical to the lead token designs we were finding out in the field. The handbook is dated to around 1,300 years ago (c.7th-8th century AD) so arguably, the imagery and purpose behind the designs could have made their way back to Britain via the crusades (or other relevant trading activities)?



[Ancient Egyptian 'Handbook of Ritual Power' describes love spells and ...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/...egyptian-handbook-of-ritual-power.../04a16ccc-7...)

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/...egyptian-handbook-of-ritual](https://www.washingtonpost.com/...egyptian-handbook-of-ritual-power.../04a16ccc-7...)

[power.../04a16ccc-7...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/...egyptian-handbook-of-ritual-power.../04a16ccc-7...) 24 Nov 2014 - Among other things, the "Handbook of Ritual Power," as the book is called, tells readers how to cast love spells, exorcise evil spirits and treat



To my mind, the connection with the imagery on the lead tokens and the 'potential' reasoning behind some of the graffiti images featured at church sites (such as the ones featured left) seem intrinsically linked to the imagery, meaning and purpose featured in the Coptic handbook of spells.

Many of the markings discovered in medieval churches are all but identical. A survey of a church in northern England will reveal the same graffiti motifs and markings as those found in a church on the English South Coast. Even more remarkably, the same medieval markings recorded in most English churches are in churches across the whole of western Europe. Essentially, everywhere the medieval Christian church thrived, medieval Europeans inscribed their places of worship with the same graffiti marks. Known as 'ritual protection marks', medieval people believed that these symbols warded off evil influences. Today they are more commonly called 'witch marks' (source: *Medieval Graffiti* - <https://aeon.co/essays/medieval-graffiti-brings-a-new-understanding-of-the-past>).

Our field survey reports are providing a rich source of contextually recorded lead token find locations. Other artefacts found close by can be considered as an additional set of information for further study.

Focus for further field survey informed research 2020-2030

1	Establish a lead Token Collection	Bring all of the lead tokens found by the Field Detectives into one Study Collection for further study. A joint Landowner Collection Collaboration.
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HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY FOCUS

Post Medieval

1509 to 1900



During the Little Ice Age, the Thames froze on at least five occasions (1683-4, 1716, 1739-40, 1789 and 1814)

The "little ice age", evidence of which was first recorded around 1300, and which extended through to the mid 1800s, was the coldest interval over the Northern Hemisphere for one thousand or so years. Periodic plagues and famines ravaged Europe and glaciers descended from the Alps to engulf a number of villages.

One influence may have been a drop in solar energy. Isotopes of carbon in tree rings and beryllium in ice cores show a drop-off in solar radiation during much of the period. Moreover, sunspot observations that began around 1610 show a near-absence of reported sunspots between 1645 and 1715. However, recent studies have brought down the relative importance of this solar effect on the little ice age.

Also in the mix are volcanoes, which seem to have erupted more frequently after 1500 than during the so-called medieval warm period that preceded it. The 1815 eruption of Indonesia's Tambora – one of the most violent ever recorded on Earth – led to a disastrously cold summer across much of the globe in 1816. That "year without a summer" brought crop failures to northern Europe as well as snows in Vermont as late as early June.

Like the medieval warm period, the little ice age appears to have been strongest over the Northern Hemisphere's continents, although it's hard to completely eliminate geographic bias from these early records – and there's little evidence from the tropics and southern hemisphere to say what actually happened there. Some researchers argue that both phenomena were primarily regional events, as opposed to the global-scale warming under way now.

This is an edited extract from [The Rough Guide to Climate Change](#) by [Robert Henson](#)

TIMES, THEY ARE-A-CHANGING

The sixteenth century brought with it change on a momentous scale. The church broke with Rome, monasteries were stripped of their wealth and power, there was a protestant reformation, Scotland came into the fold and an established state church emerged from the shadow of a problematic divorce. Perfect material for a Shakespearean performances to an audience navigating the unsettlement of change.

The seventeenth century shuddered under the turmoil of Royal collapse into Commonwealth control and then back once again, into a Royal return.

From the mid-eighteenth century onwards, the transition from a predominantly rural, traditional society to a modern, industrial and urban based one began to take shape. What followed is the landscape we know today; a world filled with uncertainty, clouded in a fog of global Covid-19 lockdown, the impending doom of global warming, a hang-over of past military conflicts and the fear of more to come.

Some things never seem to change.



Focus for Post Medieval Field Surveys 2020-2030

1	Collaboration: Lead Projectile Study	A lead projectile study that began in 2018 following the discovery of seven lead projectiles that continue to raise questions in regard to their design, purpose and era of use.
2	Windmills	The study of windmills, their construction and the families who worked them. Three sites will form the initial focus of a comparative study: Long Clawson, Stathern and Owthorpe.
3	Village Landscape Studies	We will be taking into account comparative post medieval historic landscape studies at Stathern, Goadby Marwood, Long Clawson, Langar, Keyworth, Plumtree, Bunny etc.

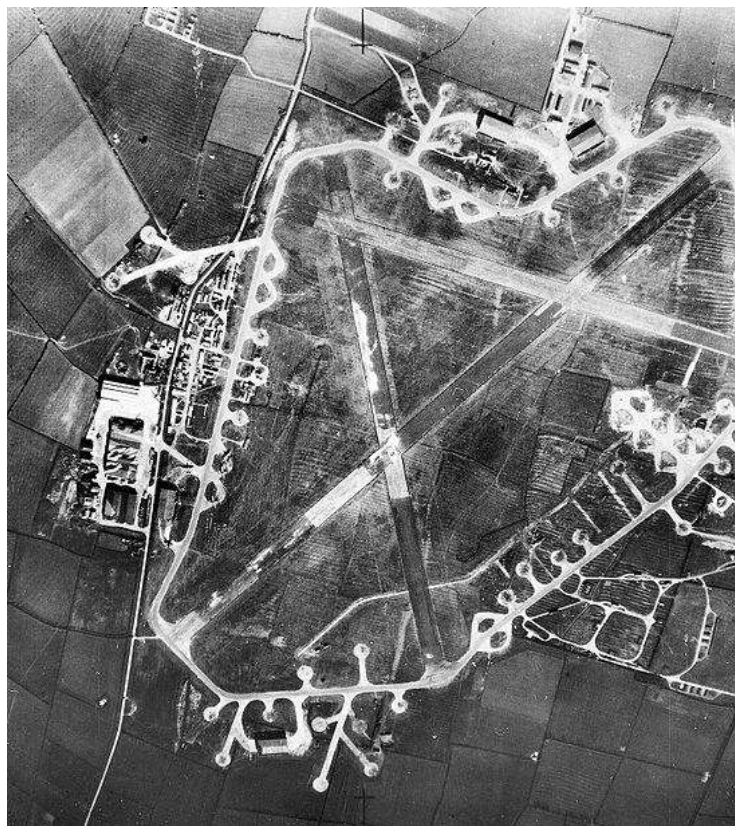
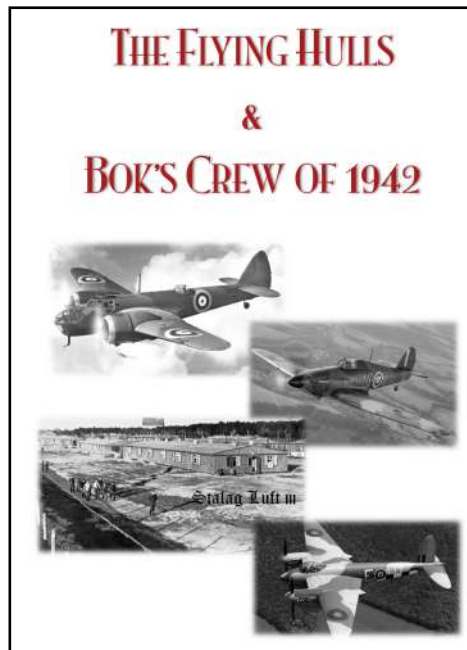


The Field Detectives with Jonathan Ferguson (Keeper of Firearms & Artillery) and lead projectile consultant Justin Russel, at the Royal Armouries (Leeds) field trip on Thursday 27 June 2019. Each of our field survey reports now feature a section particularly focused on recording the location, size and weight of lead shot and musket balls. This adopted methodology will provide a unique and previously unknown local landscape record for further study and dissemination.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY FOCUS

Modern

1900 to the present day



Aerial photograph of RAF Langar airfield, the control tower and technical site are at the left, the bomb dump is to the right.
17 April 1945

LANGAR AIRFIELD STUDY

In 2019, we took part in a most incredible event at Goadby Marwood. Together, we were able to commemorate the life of a truly remarkable man. It was a day made possible by the generous and trusting support of the many. The Orbis Field Woodland Memorial & the Goadby Hall Gardens Memorial Building are a lasting tribute to Laurence and his family. The day was one of the proudest days of our lives.



The day also carried an additional emotional weight, as our friend, mentor and fellow Field Detective Dr Alan Stevens passed away on 10th April 2019. The day was inspired and instigated by Alan's determination to do his best for Laurence and his family, and it was a great honour on the day to have both of his daughters Kate and Clare present. As the day came to a close and goodbyes followed a marvellous gathering at Goadby Marwood village hall.

This was our first RAF survey and research investigation. Later in the year, landowner Mr Brian Wells very kindly offered us the opportunity to further develop our RAF related study portfolio by surveying the former RAF airfield at Langar, Nottinghamshire. Unfortunately, the awful weather conditions we had to endure over the winter of 2019-2020 followed by the dreadful Covid-19 pandemic meant that any plans for a detailed survey of the airfield had to be put on hold.

One aspect of the study will be to bring into focus the surrounding landscape in regard to associated aircraft losses and airfield defences.

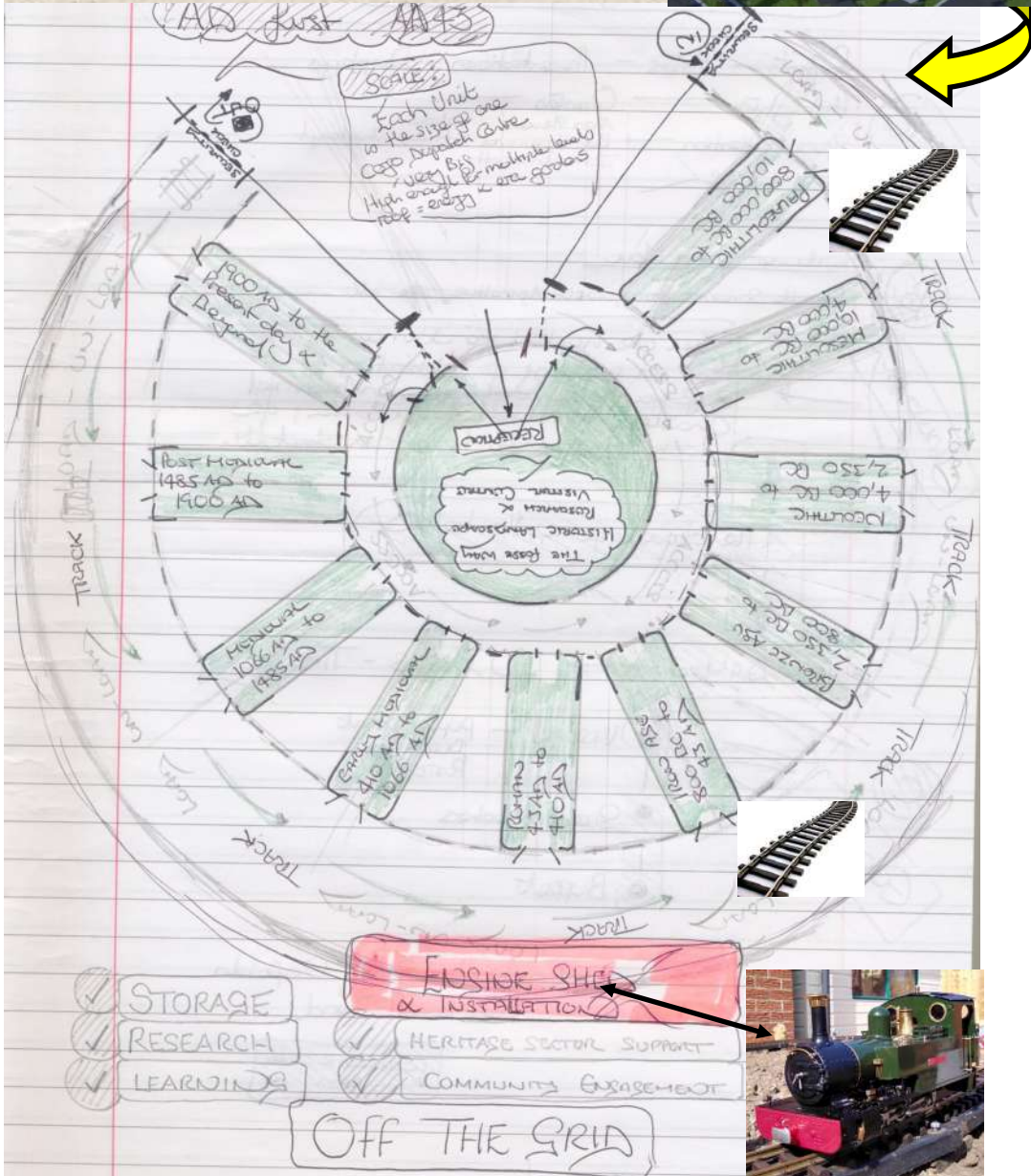
Focus for Modern Day Field Surveys 2020-2030

1	Langar Airfield	Survey the Langar airfield, produce a field survey report and collate the associated artefacts as a Langar Airfield Historic Collection.
2	Associated Aircraft Losses	Review the associated aircraft losses for inclusion as an appendix to the final Langar airfield historic landscape study report.
3	Wider Landscape	Record any airfield associated artefacts found during field survey activities in the local area.

WE HAVE A DREAM

OFF THE GRID

Historic Landscape Research & Visitor Centre
 Era by Era Storage Units
 Self Sufficient - Completely off the grid
 Research, Study, Visitors & International Centre of
 Heritage Sector Collaboration Developments



I'm sure that I've heard it said that some of the best ideas started out on the back of cigarette packets. This one has been floating about inside my head since the latter part of 2017. Unfortunately, my attempt at getting it down onto paper could hardly be described as an inspirational Banksy installation, but nevertheless, the vision is big, bold and aspirational.

A centre designed for a zero carbon age, an era by era historic landscape study environment with collaboration, learning and sharing at the very heart of its conception. Each era facility with the capacity and state of the art resources designed to store, examine and understand. A home for all people who love to learn, trust to share and value the magic of human kindness.

This a dream that only takes belief to become a reality.

OFF THE GRID

Each Historic Research Unit is Designed to the same specification



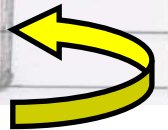
Anaerobic digestion plant

GROUND FLOOR

Workshop



Laborator



IT'S **BIG**

FIRST FLOOR



Reed Bed Waste Recycling System



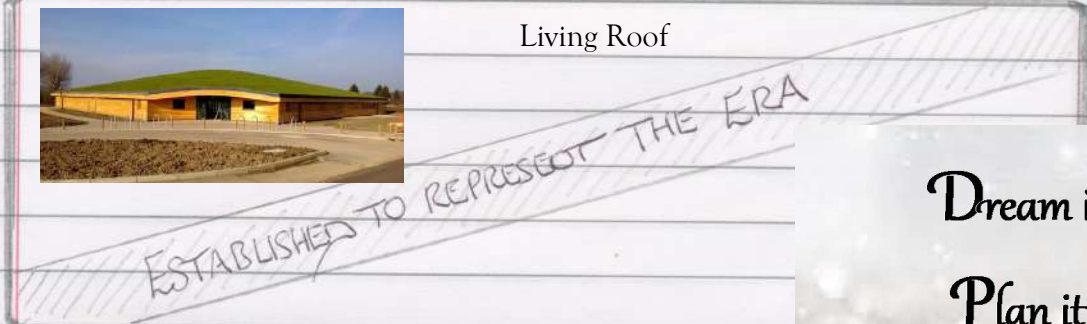
ROOF TOP



THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF WAREHOUSE & DISTRIBUTION CENTRE DESIGN



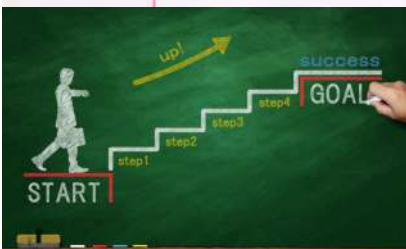
Living Roof



Dream it

Plan it

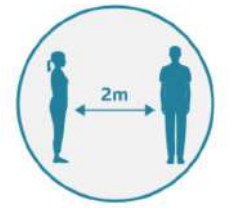
Do it



From Sketch to Reality

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We begin our third decade of time travel in the midst of an international Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. The road ahead remains uncertain and it seems very likely that the virus will be with us for some time to come. Governments are advising people to socially distance to reduce the pressure on health services and stop the spread of Covid-19.



But always keep your distance in public

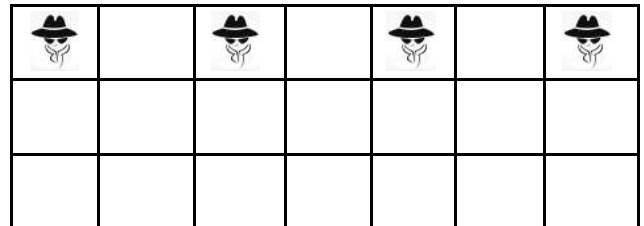
Fortunately, the Field Detectives survey methodology is perfectly suited to meet the requirements of the social distancing recommendations.

Survey Plan - Once the Government Covid-19 measures have been officially eased and landowners have provided permission to access the field

The landowner will be informed in advance of a field survey activity, declaring the day, time and how many people will be taking part and to agree site access and parking arrangements. The lead detective will enter the field alone to set up the search grid and will only enter a search grid section to record finds once the field detective has vacated that particular grid section. All finds locations will be marked with a plastic marker.

Alcohol-based Hand Sanitiser to be used on arrival and on departure from the field. Gloves will be worn at all times. If anyone is feeling unwell they must remain at home.

Once the search, log and record grid is established social distancing measures will be in place with all Field Detectives arriving in their own vehicles, remaining 2 metres apart during the survey activities with one nominated person setting up the grid and recording the survey findings on the field.



Grid areas are marked out in advance of each field survey visit (20x20 metre grid sections, marked with canes featuring coloured tape).

Grid sections will be allocated according to the 2 metre rule.

All artefacts recovered from the field survey investigation will remain with the landowner, once the report has been written and the finds collated as a landowner collection (unless other custodian arrangements are agreed with the landowner).



Field Survey Grid and Recording

Setting out the field survey grid area to ensure that the finds are recorded as accurately as possible, is an important part of the Field Detectives methodology and good practice.



Summary

Intertwined within this ten year framework are related strands of investigation. Many of our field surveys happen to be carried out in close proximity to the line of the Grantham canal and as a result, they tend to produce a number of artefacts associated with the collection and distribution of night soil.

Over the years in partnership with our landowners, we have managed to build up a set of artefact study collections in the shape of spindle whorls, trade tokens, advertising tokens, pottery sherds, buttons, buckles, crotal bells, weights etc. One of the artefacts we regularly see out on the fields we survey are golf balls!

Family history research is another aspect of our investigations. The Flying Hulls and Bok's Crew of 1942, the Grove and the ongoing mill projects are all testament to the broader scope of study we bring to our field survey work.

Collaboration is the key to unlocking those lost stories we have yet to reveal. Working together with landowners, heritage sector colleagues and local communities to create a forum for 'sharing and learning', where those stories can be told is one of our aspirations. In joining with the iron stone ridge local history groups development of 2020, we are at the very beginnings of that particular journey.

Twenty years ago, we were full of life, energy and enthusiasm. We were excited by the prospect of finding something that would brighten up our day, shine light on the past and raise questions that would drive us on in search of the answers. As we set out on our third decade of discovery, I am very pleased to confirm that nothing has changed.

The most important thing is that you are all safe and well. This is a journey of discovery that we want you all to share with us.

Stay safe and stay well.

The Field Detectives
2020



Sharing the Learning
Keyworth & District Local History Society
Talk and Display
Us & Bob
Friday 6 March 2020
pre-Covid 19 Lockdown

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 farming landscapes evolved over the centuries.

Share the Learning and record the information for current and future historical research

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.). One copy is presented to the landowner, and a further copy is sent to the relevant County Historic Environment Record Office where it is allocated a unique reference number.

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. 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 set of detailed historic collections. These context-recorded 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...

PDF copies of our reports and posters can be sent out electronically

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Phone: 0115 9377 318



Richard Pincott
Social Historian & Historic
Landscape Detective



Catherine Pincott-Allen
Family Historian & Historic
Landscape Detective



Sean Gallagher
Ecologist & Historic
Landscape Detective



Steve Wells
Finds Photographer, & Historic
Landscape Detective



Dr Alan Stevens
Passed Away 10.04.19
memoratus in aeternum



Sophie Chell
Historic Landscape
Detective



Martyn Brown
Historic Landscape
Detective



Alan Brown
Historic Landscape
Detective



Mel Steadman
Historic Landscape
Detective



Brian Lovett
Farmer & Historic
Landscape Detective



Jill Barlow
Historic Landscape
Detective



John Barlow
Historic Landscape
Detective



Alan & Sylvia Massey
Prehistory Consultants &
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Julie Penaluna
Historic Landscape
Detective