

# Rutland Record

No 20 (2000)

Journal of the Rutland Local History  
& Record Society



# Rutland Local History & Record Society

The Society is formed from the union in June 1991 of the Rutland Local History Society, founded in the 1930s, and the Rutland Record Society, founded in 1979. In May 1993, the Rutland Field Research Group for Archaeology and History, founded in 1971, also amalgamated with the Society.

The Society is a Registered Charity, and its aim is the advancement of the education of the public in all aspects of the history of the ancient County of Rutland and its immediate area.

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The Society welcomes new members, and hopes to encourage them to participate in the Society's activities at all levels, and to submit the results of their researches, where appropriate, for publication by the Society.

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*Editor of this issue:* T H McK Clough

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#### COVER ILLUSTRATION:

*Detail of a cartoon commemorating the downfall of Sir Giles Mompesson in 1620 (British Museum)*

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## Obituary : John Field

The Society was deeply saddened by the loss of its Chairman, John Field, who died on 2nd July 2000. John had succeeded Prince Galitzine, now President, as Chairman in 1997, but his service to the Society extended back much further, for he had been a member of its Executive Committee and that of its predecessor, the Rutland Record Society, since 1986. He also served on the Editorial Committee and brought to its deliberations an acuity of mind, depth of experience, and breadth of knowledge which proved invaluable. John's contributions to the work of the Society were valuable in their own right; he compiled the *Index of Rutland Record 1-10*, published in 1994, and was working on that for *11-20* at the time of his death. He had long had an interest in the subject which through wit or wisdom he made his own - field-names. His MA thesis submitted to the University of Leicester in 1961 was on *Field-Names of the Gartree Hundred of Leicestershire*, and his *magnum opus*, *English Field-Names: a dictionary*, published by David & Charles in 1972, remains a standard work of reference. John also contributed *Place-Names: their origins and meanings* to the Shire Publications popular Discovering series; this first appeared in 1971 and went through many reprints. He contributed an article, Rutland field names: some comparisons and contrasts, to the first *Rutland Record* and, more importantly, made a significant contribution to the composite Rutland volume of the English Place-Name Society, published in 1994, duly acknowledged by the author, Barrie Cox.

John had lived for many years in Uppingham, before moving to Evington in Leicester, and despite a disability which increasingly restricted his mobility he made every effort to attend the Society's meetings, excursions and activities, patiently chauffeured by his wife, to whom the Society has extended its sympathy. John's death has deprived not just Rutland but the academic world of toponymy of a distinguished scholar whose knowledge will be hard to replace.

T H McK C

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## Editorial - Names and Tithes

Mention of John Field's article in *Rutland Record 1* (1980) 19-24 prompts reference to his introductory paragraphs, where he wrote as follows: "Rutland is particularly fortunate in possessing a virtually complete survey of twentieth-century field-names. The mapping of the names in 1943, directed by R. Sterndale Bennett, Intelligence Officer of the 1st Rutland Home Guard [and Director of Music at Uppingham School 1908-45 - *ed*], resulted in a unique document. The Tithe Survey ... had outstanding qualities ... but not every parish was included in that mid-nineteenth-century Domesday, and sometimes only part of a parish was placed on record. Moreover, not every Tithe Apportionment actually names the fields; ... without the names themselves such teasing documents are very blunt instruments.

"In its extent and homogeneity the Home Guard map provides scholars with a body of information of a quality that no county could derive from its Tithe documents alone."

It was his use of this source that made his contribution to the EPNS volume on Rutland so useful to its compiler, who, in the Preface, acknowledged that while Sterndale Bennett's map "had the advantage of being a very accessible quarry ... because of late creation, [it] contained a fair percentage of field-names in some parishes consisting only of acreage" - exactly the kind of deficiency that John Field had identified in the Tithe Maps themselves.

Students of Rutland's field-names are now in a better position than ever to evaluate these two sources. Copies of the 1943 map can be consulted at the Rutland County Museum as well as the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, and at the former the results of the Rutland pilot study in the Tithe Maps Collaborative Project can be seen on-screen. This draws on the resources of the Public Record Office, and represents a great leap forward from the bare listing of Rutland Tithe Maps in the Northamptonshire Record Office in *Rutland Record 2* (1981) 90.

# The Medieval Castles of Rutland: Field Archaeology and Landscape History

OLIVER H CREIGHTON

*County-based studies of castles can help to explain the contribution of fortified sites to the development of the medieval landscape. With the exception of Oakham Castle, the medieval castles of Rutland have received little scholarly attention. Detailed scrutiny of surviving above-ground remains and, where possible, excavated evidence and documentary sources can, however, reveal much about these otherwise enigmatic sites. In order to further understanding of medieval castles, one must frame them within the context of contemporary medieval landscapes, and explore their interrelationship with, for instance, churches and chapels, parks and forests, and urban and rural settlement histories.*

## Introduction

This paper is intended to provide a general account of the state of castle studies within Rutland, and seeks to draw particular attention to the more minor castle sites which have little or no documentation. Many of these sites were never re-fortified in stone and have received little scholarly attention; the majority exist as earthworks, representing the grassed-over vestiges of slumped ramparts. The study adopts an interdisciplinary approach - synthesising archaeological, historical and topographical data - in order to identify and analyse individual castle sites, but also to review their context within, and contribution to, the landscape of medieval Rutland. As a county-based survey of castle sites, this survey is intended

specifically to complement an earlier study of Leicestershire castles (Creighton 1997), and adds to an extant and growing tradition of regional castle studies (eg Higham 1982; Hughes 1989; Speight 1994).

Rutland is not well known for its medieval castles. The notable exception is Oakham Castle, although here academic attention has focused predominantly upon the splendid twelfth-century Great Hall rather than the associated fortified complex (Hamilton Thompson 1911-12; Holland Walker 1925a). In addition, synthetic accounts of the medieval castles of Rutland have been subsumed within nationally-based surveys of castle sites (Renn 1968; King 1983, 417-18), or form components within more general works relating to the archaeology of the county (*VCH Rutland* I, xxx, 107-19; Brown 1975; Hartley 1983). Overall, five "early" castle sites, with likely occupation in the period c.1066-1216, can be identified in Rutland (fig.1). In addition, an enigmatic and undocumented earthwork, identified traditionally as a motte (North Luffenham), is recorded here as a post-medieval landscape feature.

## Possible Castle Sites

The artificial mound known as the *Morcott Spinney* earthwork in North Luffenham parish (SK 928023) has been identified as a small motte, traditionally thought to have been re-employed as a Civil War

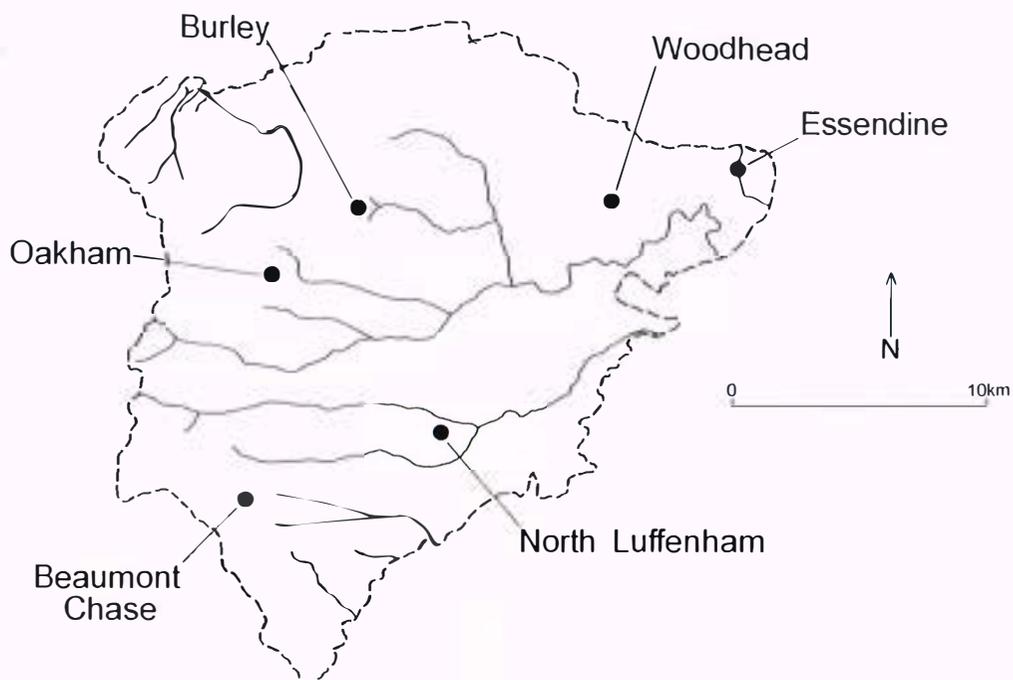


Fig. 1. Distribution of castle sites and possible castle sites in Rutland

artillery position (*VCH Rutland I*, 111-12; King 1983, 418). Given the circumstances of North Luffenham Hall's siege by Parliamentary forces in 1642, when Lord Gray's artillery pieces were positioned on the north-facing slopes of the Chater valley (Irons 1905-06, 204), it is not inconceivable that the earthwork was employed as a gun platform. However, detailed morphological analysis of the earthwork, combined with scrutiny of its landscape context, suggests that it may have origins as a post-medieval, non-military feature.

First, the earthwork has the appearance of a low artificial platform constructed on sloping ground as opposed to a genuine medieval motte (fig.2). The summit of the feature comprises a circular platform, c.22m in diameter, which is raised artificially c.1.5m and appears to have been accessed via a broad earthen causeway from the south. In addition, the profiles of neither mound nor ditch demonstrate evidence of substantial erosion, thus lending superficial support to the notion of a post-medieval earthwork. Furthermore, if the site is indeed a medieval defensive earthwork it can only be unfinished, as the associated ditch flanks the feature on three sides only. Second, from a locally prominent ridge-top position the earthwork overlooks a former zone of post-medieval designed landscape known as "The Parks" around North Luffenham Hall. The immediate environs of the hall featured at least two moated garden earthworks fed from the Chater, "The Motts" (SK 928032) and "The Cutts" (SK 935028), whilst the house was associated with a stone-faced ha-ha (Brown 1975, 19; Hartley 1983, 28).

Evidence thus combines to suggest that the Morcott Spinney earthwork appears to have origins as a viewing platform or prospect mound of probable seventeenth-century date, constructed so as to overlook a gentry seat and its designed landscape setting. The previous misidentification of such earthwork features as mottes undoubtedly reflects the period-based specialisms of twentieth-century archaeological fieldworkers. Indeed, it is only relatively recently that modern archaeological survey has emphasised the ubiquity of formal garden earthworks in the region (RCHME 1979, lxiv; Everson *et al.* 1991, 54-5). Elsewhere, considerable difficulties exist in differentiating isolated mottes from post-medieval prospect mounds, as both classes of field monument tend to occupy similar topographical positions, and they are often found in the vicinity of medieval / post-medieval manor houses and halls. However, other examples of prospect mounds potentially misidentified as mottes can be suggested, such as Scraftoft, Leicestershire (Creighton 1997, 27-9).

A similar degree of uncertainty exists regarding the status of the Bedehouse at *Lyddington* (SP 879968) as a fortified medieval structure or otherwise. Although Bishop Burghersh of Lincoln was granted licence to crenellate his palace at

Lyddington in 1336, the present structure exhibits no evidence of defensive architecture, suggesting superficially that any fortified building was superseded by the fifteenth century episcopal complex (*VCH Rutland II*, 189). However, the licence may well have been emblematic, serving to formalise existing quasi-fortified status rather than signalling a programme of mid fourteenth-century fortification, particularly as rescue excavation has demonstrated that the palace was enclosed by a moat from at least the late twelfth century (Woodfield & Woodfield 1981-82, 3-5).

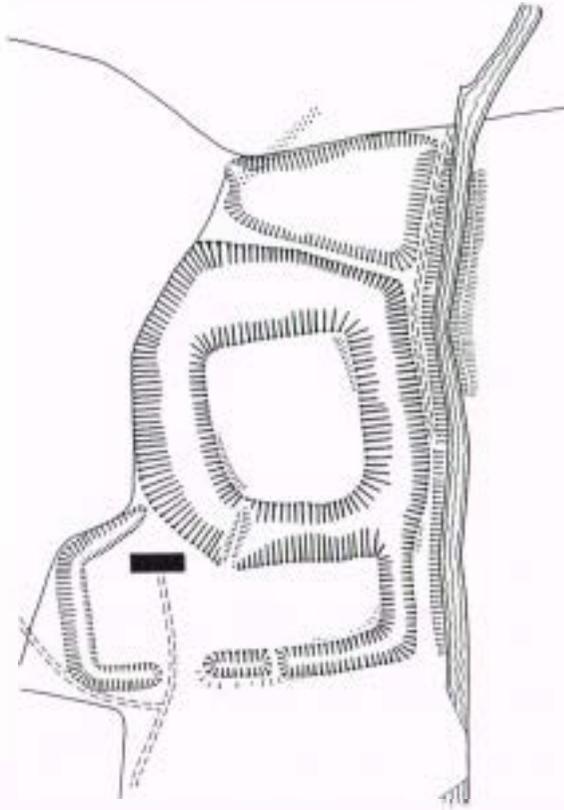
### Urban Sites

Although this paper is concerned with castles lying within the present county boundaries of Rutland, the county was not as rigidly defined as a territorial entity at the time of the Norman Conquest (Phythian-Adams 1977, 63-4). Indeed, the Domesday text suggests that a portion of late eleventh-century *Stamford* and its hinterland was administratively part of Rutland in the immediate post-Conquest period. The evidence centres on the 70 messuages in the hands of Edith, Edward the Confessor's queen, which are said to have belonged in 1066 to the territory of Roteland (Domesday, f.336d). What is essential here is the likely physical correlation between this group of tenements and the distinct zone of the townscape occupied by the original parish church of St Peter and Stamford castle (TF 027070) (Mahany & Roffe 1982, 201-06). The likely scenario is that the castle was raised in the period c.1068-70 during the initial wave of Norman castle building designed to seal off the rebellious North and subdue centres of population and commerce. Notably, archaeological evidence suggests that the motte may itself have been raised on the site of a late Saxon proto-castle which lay at the hub of what was, in 1066, an important royal estate and a detached part of Rutland (Mahany 1977, 232-33; 1978, 10-11). However, a drastic Norman re-casting of Stamford's administrative geography ensured that in 1086 the inconsistency of having a military/administrative centre in a separate estate to Stamford borough had been rationalised by bringing the entire town within the shire of Lincoln (Roffe and Mahany 1986, 8-9).

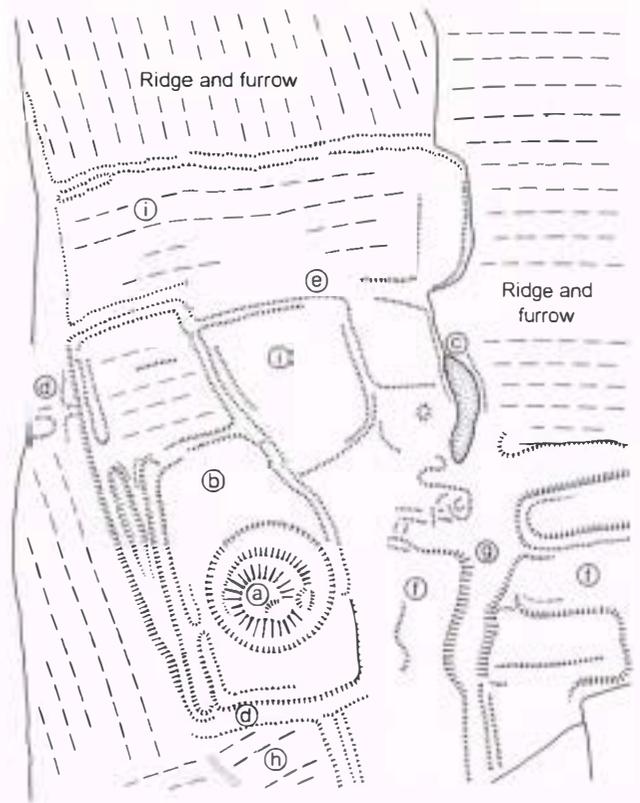
*Oakham Castle* (SK 862088) is comparatively well studied; the site's archaeology is summarised in full elsewhere (Gathercole 1958; Wilson and Hurst 1957, 157; 1958, 195; 1959, 308; Nenck *et al.* 1991, 201; Sharman & Sawday 1990), and the relevant documentation published (*VCH Rutland II*, 8-10; Clough 1999, 14-23). Here, two essential yet neglected questions are relevant: the possibility of antecedent Saxon occupation on the site, and the context of the castle within the medieval townscape of Oakham.

Claims that Oakham Castle is a fortified medieval manor as opposed to a castle (Cox 1994, li) may be appropriate in light of its later medieval form as a

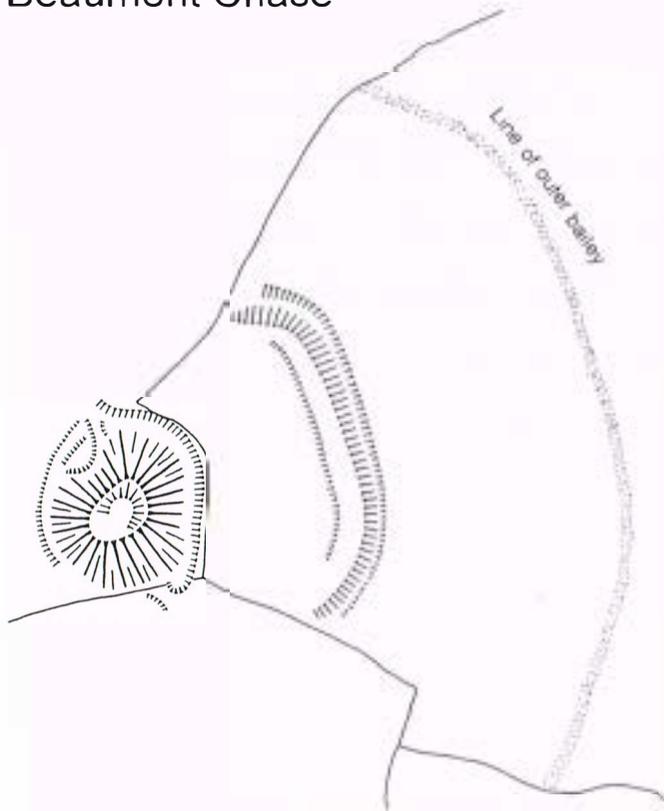
Essendine



Burley



Beaumont Chase



North Luffenham

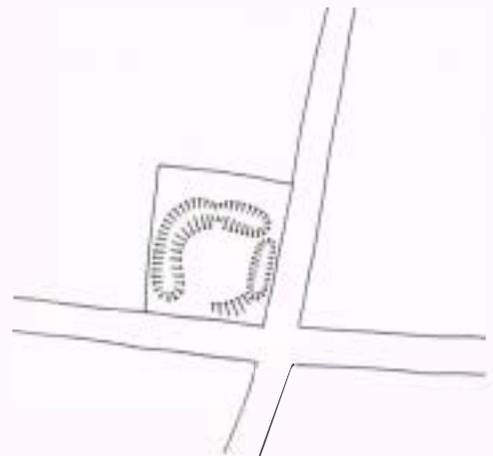


Fig.2. Early castle earthworks in Rutland

series of domestic structures contained within a walled enclosure complete with fishponds and gardens. However, the earliest identifiable phase comprised a motte at the south-east corner of a single, squarish bailey, although the precise form of both features remains open to much question. This feature is most likely to have been raised in the immediate post-Conquest period, at a place of prior administrative significance with regal connotations. Oakham lay at the heart of the fertile Vale of Catmose and marked the gravitational centre of a well-defined territorial unit of early medieval origins, comprising the dower land of the Anglo-Saxon queens of England (Phythian-Adams 1980). Oakham was certainly a sizeable estate centre at the time of the Conquest; in 1066 the manor was associated with five berewicks and was the key manor within the dower land, retained by Edith, widow of Edward the Confessor, until her death in 1075 (Holland Walker 1925a, 33-4; Clough 1999, 5-6). However, Domesday testifies to a subsequent fragmentation of Oakham's tenurial geography. Whilst a portion of the manor, including the church, passed to the Abbot of Westminster (hence the lordship of Oakham Deanshold), the majority of the holding, including the area occupied by the castle (Oakham Lordshold), was retained by William I, and in the later medieval period formed the administrative centre of the fee (*VCH Rutland II*, 10-11).

It is unclear from the Domesday text whether the hall mentioned at Oakham in association with two of the king's ploughs (*ad aulam*: Domesday f.293d) was a structure raised in the period c.1075-86, or a pre-Conquest manorial site: it certainly predates the existing late twelfth-century Great Hall. In the absence of large-scale excavation, the precise nature of antecedent Saxon occupation on the castle site at Oakham must remain a matter for conjecture, yet Radford (1955, 183) postulated that the enclosure known as Cutts Close, forming the northern part of the later castle complex, might represent vestiges of a Saxon *burh*, as demonstrated by its plan relative to the bailey, which implies the latter to be a secondary imposition. Cutts Close was undoubtedly used as a kitchen garden and fishpond associated with the castle by the fourteenth century, as indicated in inquisitions of 1300 and 1340 (*VCH Rutland I*, 116; Holland Walker 1925a, 37-9), yet its origins are less certain. Instructively, a limited series of test trenches in the area between the north bailey rampart and Cutts Close yielded a small quantity of middle Saxon ware, yet indicated a total dearth of medieval material (Sharman & Sawday 1990, 94).

Whilst Gathercole (1958, 23) has dated the southern bailey rampart to c.1100 on the basis of Stamford and St Neot's ware found within and beneath it during excavation on the Post Office site, vitally, this does not detract from the hypothesis of an antecedent *burh*-like site at Oakham. Rather,

archaeological and topographical sources make it likely that the eleventh-century motte and bailey was imposed within, rather than remodelled from, a pre-existing earthwork; it is only the eastern side of the bailey that obviously perpetuates the line of an earlier circuit. Given the extensive post-medieval remodelling of the surviving earthworks defining the perimeter of the castle site (Clough 1999, 8), we may question the value of Radford's hypothesis, which is advanced largely on the basis of morphological evidence. However, a 1787 estate map of Oakham not known to these earlier writers (ROLLR DE 3443, DG7) depicts clearly the marked difference between the plan of Cutts Close and the castle bailey, in addition to demonstrating that the northern enclosure formerly continued to the west where it has since been truncated by a nineteenth-century extension to Church Street. Furthermore, this cartographic evidence demonstrates with certainty that the parish church of All Saints was originally enclosed within the *enceinte* (fig.3). Architectural analysis of the church and limited archaeological evaluation have failed to demonstrate that the present structure contains any pre-twelfth-century fabric (Holland Walker 1925b, 50-5; Pollard & Cox 1996, 169), yet the mention of a Domesday church makes it likely that the site was extant at the time of the castle's construction, when it was embraced within what became effectively an outer bailey.

Physically, the castle is closely associated with Oakham Market Place, which forms a rectangular open space at the castle gate, now largely infilled by buildings. A market at Oakham is first recorded in 1249, and burgess tenements by 1285 (*VCH Rutland II*, 7, 10). However, these documents almost certainly formalise existing arrangements, and the market is undoubtedly a seigneurial plantation which, given the pre-Conquest importance of Oakham, may well represent a re-planning of urban topography, indicating both the significance of the castle as a magnet for trade and settlement and the economic ambitions of the castle lord. What remains unclear is the precise relationship between this core element of the town plan and the provision of medieval urban defences, which were themselves presumably remodelled from an earlier Saxon enclosure. That the north side of Cutts Close (Station Road) and the east boundary of the castle defences (Burley Road) formed two sides of a defensive circuit seems clear. The west side of the circuit has been largely obliterated by later urban development, although, as we have seen, the church was presumably enclosed. Place-name evidence indicates the presence of town gates on High Street in the medieval period (Cox 1994, xlix-lij), and these are mirrored on the plan of Oakham featured on John Speed's 1611 map of Rutland, while excavations on South Street have revealed a very large ditch, oriented east-west, which may indicate the outer line of a defensive circuit

(Jones 1995, 118). Whilst this scenario constitutes a working hypothesis, it is only through future excavation, however, that the plan of Oakham's medieval defences, and their relationship with earlier Saxon works and the town plan can be understood.

### Rural Sites

The early castle earthworks at *Beaumont Chase* (SK 850005) are formed through skilful adaptation of a naturally defensible triangular promontory (fig.2). A conical motte with a flat summit c.12m in diameter occupies the western limit of the steep-sided eminence, isolated from the level terrain to the east by a semi-circular ditch with signs of a counterscarp. This feature was clearly rendered superfluous on the motte's west flank, where precipitous slopes afforded adequate natural defence, although here the contours were presumably supplemented with a stockade. To the east, two concentric outer courts were formerly defined by curving embankments and ditches constructed transversely across the promontory, although the outer defensive line has since been obliterated by ploughing. These are clearly visible in aerial photographs (RAF/CPE/UK/1925/4051; Hunting Surveys Ltd/1969/96/881-882).

The peripheral position of the site relative to medieval settlement is emphasised by its location at the junction of Uppingham and Beaumont Chase parishes (the motte is in the latter, the baileys in the former); Beaumont Chase itself was extra-parochial until the late eighteenth century (Cox 1994, 177). Despite a prominent natural setting, the motte is situated not to dominate any arterial routeways of strategic significance, nor, as far as the documentary record suggests, to secure any coherent block of estates in the immediate post-Conquest period. However, rather than a temporary Anarchy-period fortification as often suggested (*VCH Rutland II*, 61), the site, overlooking the hunting resource of Beaumont Chase, seems to have had a more permanent role within medieval land management as the seat of an appointed royal forester. A surface assemblage recovered from the site includes Lyveden/Stanion ware indicative of activity into the thirteenth century, in addition to an extensive scatter of iron-working slag (Rutland County Museum A56.1977). Notably, evidence of *in situ* medieval iron-working debris was recovered during limited excavation of the nearby motte and bailey at Hallaton, Leicestershire (Dibbin 1876-78, 319; Creighton 1997, 34), perhaps hinting at a centralisation of key industrial processing within seigneurial sites in the immediate post-Conquest period.

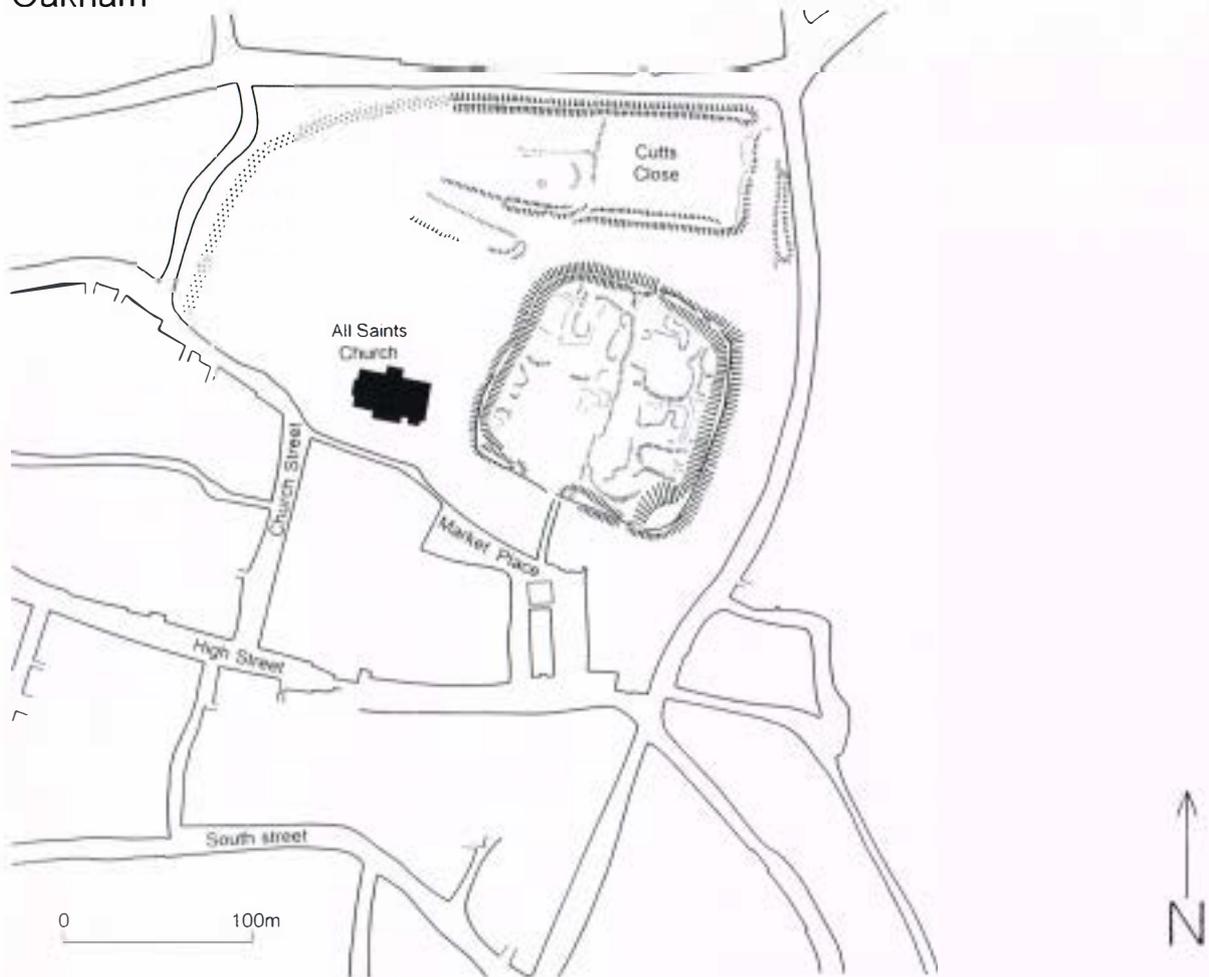
Beaumont Chase was one of two bailiwicks of the Forest of Rutland (the other being Braunston), each under the control of two appointed foresters by the mid thirteenth century (*VCH Rutland I*, 253; Cantor 1980, 14-15). The *foresta de Bellomonte* ("beautiful

hill") is first mentioned in 1203 (Cox 1987, 229; 1994, 177), and the place-name reflects well the characteristic association between Norman nomenclature and particular features of the post-Conquest landscape, namely fortified sites and hunting resources. The chase occupied an area of the Eye Brooke valley; it lay immediately west of the ridge which the castle straddles, and was centred upon Wardley Wood and Stoke Wood, which were contiguous as recently as 1840 (Rut Loc Hist Soc 1982, 2). A second strongpoint in this area of the Forest of Rutland, the de Neville fortified enclosure at Allexton, has been identified near the foot of Wardley Hill (Clough 1998). The motte and bailey at Beaumont is thus less a military site *per se* than a component within the machinery of medieval forest management, presumably sited to facilitate the accommodation of hunting retinues and as a centre for the operation and dispensation of Forest Law.

At the opposite side of the county, the medieval fortified site of *Woodhead* (SK 997116) occupies a prominent ridge-top position, c.1.7km north-east of the York-Stamford Roman road. The earthworks presently abut a zone of woodland to the north (fig.3), and given that the place-name *Wod(e)heved* ("headland or eminence with a wood") is recorded as early as 1263 (Cox 1994, 131), this topographical relationship is clearly of some antiquity. The present field monument comprises a sub-rectangular ringwork with vestiges of an appending enclosure to the east. Surface collection in the immediate area has yielded a substantial volume of tile and a fragment of Collyweston slate, in addition to medieval pottery (RCM A22.1975, A55.1977). Medieval pottery has also been retrieved from rabbit burrows on the earthwork site (Leicestershire Museums A4.1982). The substantial nature of the stony bank that defines the ringwork perimeter is suggestive of masonry defences which have grassed over, whilst a series of internal earthworks demonstrates the presence of domestic structures. The entire complex was formerly encompassed by a spring-fed moat, and evidence of fishponds to the north and south may indicate a secondary phase of manorial expansion.

Despite its present isolation as a landscape feature, the castle appears to have spawned a dependent hamlet or settlement, although its population is subsumed within that of Great Casterton in medieval taxation returns, thus rendering estimation of its size problematic. The manor of Woodhead is absent from Domesday; however, in 1286-87 a toft and croft at Woodhead are specified in the endowment of a chapel here (Irons 1917, 50-1; *VCH Rutland II*, 235), and in 1684 the antiquarian James Wright mentions "... Woodhead, formerly a village and chapelry, now only one house, and that in ruins" (1684, 36). The precise location and plan of this settlement remains obscure, yet a 1798 estate plan of Bridge Casterton by J Baxter depicts four squarish

Oakham



Woodhead

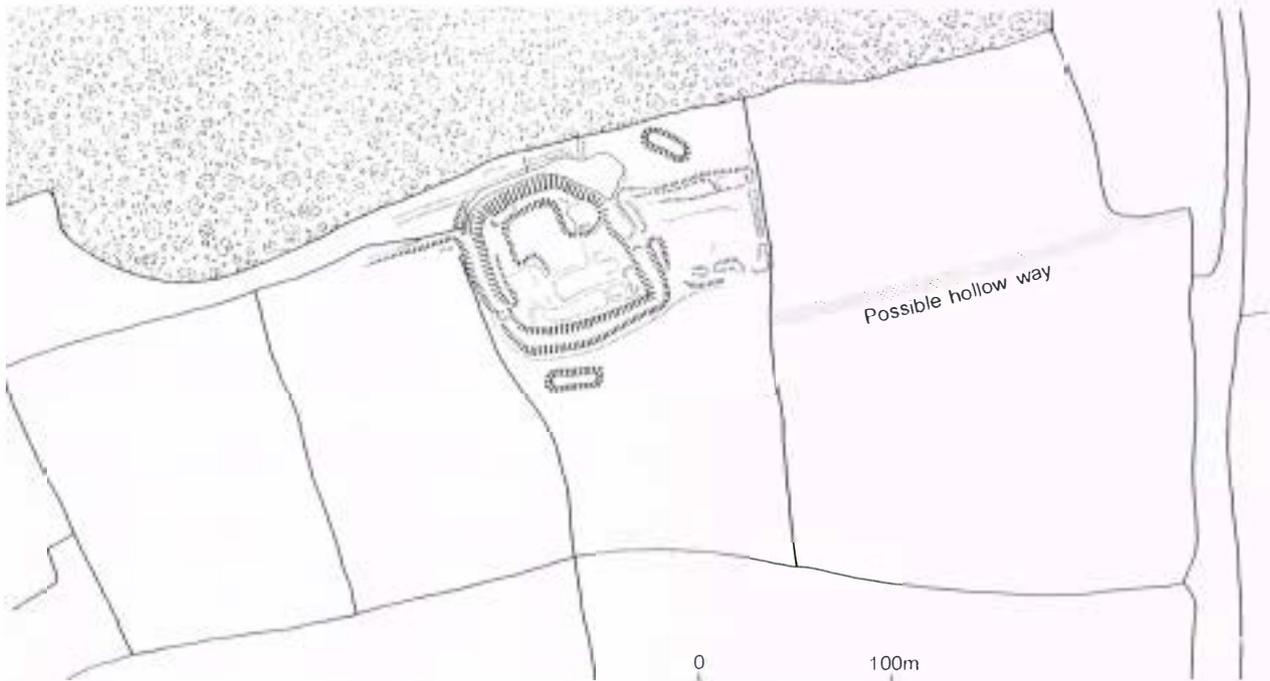


Fig.3. Above: Oakham Castle and town plan, based on 1787 estate plan (note the western projection of the Cutts Close earthwork is conjectural). Below: Woodhead castle and deserted medieval settlement, based on 1798 estate plan.

enclosures in line to the south of the castle earthworks which are associated with the field-name Woodhead Closes (Northamptonshire RO Map No 4134/2). These features may well indicate a series of amalgamated peasant crofts, subsequently overlain by ridge and furrow cultivation, whilst a superficial depression leading east from the castle may indicate a former hollow way (fig.3). Although the desertion of the settlement can be dated no earlier than Wright's late seventeenth-century reference, the castle was certainly ruinous by 1543, when it is positively documented for the first time (*VCH Rutland II*, 232).

The fortified medieval site at *Essendine* (TF 049128) also appears to represent an early ringwork and bailey, subsequently remodelled to form the basis of the extensive manorial complex described in an extent of 1417 (Blore 1811, 201). The site was formerly associated with a series of fish stews to the north and south, and earthworks to the east of the central moated platform, suggestive of a mill race, indicate that the manorial mill documented from Domesday may have been integrated within the moated defences (fig.2). Tradition dictates that the castle was raised by the Bussey family, lords of Essendine from c.1159, or their successors, the de Viponts (*VCH Rutland II*, 250). However, the foundation of the castle is not documented directly, and its origins may well relate to the initial post-Conquest phase of Norman estate confiscation. In 1086 the manor was in the hands of Walter Espec, whose only other holding in Rutland comprised a composite manor centring on Lyddington (Domesday f.221a). Although Walter was technically a sub-tenant of the Bishop of Lincoln, the circumstances of the manorial descent recommend that *de facto* the manor of Essendine was held in chief (*VCH Rutland II*, 251). Espec's principal centre of lordship lay at Helmsley, North Yorkshire, where the earliest castle took the unconventional form of a sub-rectangular ditched and embanked enclosure (Wilson 1989, 29-30), mirroring the arrangement at Essendine, although on a massive scale.

The present parish church of St Mary lies entirely within a rectangular enclosure appended to the site, offset immediately to the west of an earthen causeway linking former ringwork and bailey. Recent flooding has demonstrated the vulnerability of the church to rising water levels, and emphasised its physical location adjacent to the river and within a former moated ward of the castle. However, the medieval ecclesiastical topography of Essendine is complicated by the identification of what may have been a second church within the village at TF 04671314. Here, ecclesiastical fabric, including windows of probable thirteenth-century date, is built into the end of a cottage, and earthworks indicative of underlying stone footings can be identified adjacent. As there is no evidence, topographical or

documentary - to suggest that the parish was ever sub-divided, the field evidence recommends one of two alternative scenarios: either the castle site was imposed adjacent to an extant parish church and another church subsequently built to provide for the village, or the present church originated as a castle chapel and grew to assume parochial status whilst the other (presumably pre-existing) church became disused and was eventually abandoned. A combination of evidence suggests that the latter scenario is more likely.

Topographically, the postulated second church appears integrated within the medieval village of Essendine, as indicated by a series of abandoned crofts, suggesting the main village axis to have been oriented north-south (Hartley 1983, 15, 18). In contrast, the castle appears to have occupied a low-lying and peripheral position within the settlement, with the River Glen feeding its moated defences. That St Mary is positioned not only within the bailey, but sited explicitly at the interface between the inner and outer moated enclosures further suggests a private foundation as a castle chapel. A grant to the monks of St Andrew, Northampton, in the reign of Henry II mentions the exchange of 12 acres of demesne in return for a permanent chaplain at Essendine, and a chapel is also described, apparently in physical association with the capital messuage, in an extent of 1417 (Wright 1684, 62-4; Blore 1811, 201). Architectural analysis further suggests a link of patronage, with a number of panels depicting hunting scenes (Rut Loc Hist Soc 1988, 36-37), reflecting directly the position of the castle on the fringe of a seigniorial deer-park, known from the thirteenth century (*VCH Rutland II*, 250; Brown 1975, 10; Cantor 1980, 18). Despite early assertions that the tympanum above the south doorway is of pre-Conquest date (Rut Archaeol & Nat Hist Soc 1903-04, 103), on architectural grounds elements of the church can be dated no earlier than c.1130-60, and the majority of the structure is thirteenth-century (Pevsner 1985, 466-67). Presuming church to be secondary to castle, the structure effectively forms a *terminus ante quem* for occupation on the castle site, thus confirming its status as a Norman fortification.

The series of earthworks centring on the motte known as *Alstoe Mount* at Burley (SK 894120) are a complex and multi-phase piece of field evidence (figs 2 and 4). The site raises three essential questions: the origins of the motte, its chronological and functional relationship with the associated earthworks, and the connection between this site and the documented deserted medieval settlement of Alsthorpe.

That Domesday records Alstoe as a Hundred indicates a place of some significance; however, the suggestion that the mount is a Saxon moot mound, as opposed to a motte (Cox 1994, 4), finds little support from archaeological evidence. The feature (fig.2a) is certainly unconventional for a motte,

being relatively low, and encompassed entirely by a weak sub-rectangular bailey adjoined by a series of irregular enclosures. Excavations on the motte summit failed to recover evidence of a timber superstructure (Dunning 1936, 397-401), yet post-occupational processes could have eradicated structural evidence, whilst the shortcomings of excavation techniques in 1935 may have rendered the recognition of ephemeral post-holes unlikely. However, the dimensions of the encircling ditch, demonstrated by Dunning to be 25ft wide and 10ft deep (c.7.5 x 3m), with indications that this was spring-fed, confirm a defensive aspect to the site. In addition, the core of the mound was constructed, in classic motte-like fashion, as a series of compressed, alternate horizontal layers, with clear evidence that

rectangular bailey enclosure (fig.2b), two large enclosures lie to the north (the one closer to the motte sub-divided into a number of compartment units), and the entire complex was flanked by a spring-fed watercourse (c) providing a natural boundary to the east. Although now much denuded, these earthworks were at least partially defensive in nature, as the bailey bank is only supplemented by a ditch on its southern and western sides (d); to the north and north-west the outworks must have formed a defensive perimeter, as here alone are the banks associated with external ditches. In addition, the comparative profile of the inner and outer enclosures (e) suggests at least two phases of construction. The motte and bailey lies on the periphery of a zone of deserted medieval settlement earthworks comprising



*Fig.4. The medieval motte at Burley, looking north-west (photograph: O Creighton)*

the base of the feature was raised by forming an initial ring of piled material derived from the surrounding ditch, as paralleled widely at excavated mottes elsewhere (Higham & Barker 1992, 197-8). Whilst the motte was thus raised within the vicinity of a place of local administrative significance, there is little solid evidence to suggest it was formed from an earlier earthwork. The excavation at Alstoe was also important as it was the site where Dunning first recognised Stamford Ware, one of the now-classic forms of Saxo-Norman pottery in the region.

This hypothesis is substantiated by morphological analysis of the earthwork complex in the immediate environs of the mount. In addition to the sub-

two roughly parallel rows of crofts (f) fronting on to a central hollow way (g), which formerly continued further to the south, where it has been ploughed out (Brown 1975, 5).

The comparative profile of the motte and bailey relative to the tofts and crofts to the east is undoubtedly suggestive of secondary imposition within an extant medieval community. This hypothesis is supported by evidence that the castle site was also raised over an area of former open field agriculture, as zones of ridge and furrow cultivation oriented east-west clearly antedate the motte and bailey. This is particularly evident to the south of the motte, where the bailey truncates a block of ridge

and furrow (h), and within the enclosures to the north, where small areas of earlier ridge and furrow can be noted (i). Comparable earthworks elsewhere have been linked to the Anarchy (c.1139-45), when intense political turbulence could make property literally disposable, as is illustrated well at Burwell and Rampton, Cambridgeshire (RCHME 1968, 41-2; Brown and Taylor 1977, 97-9). However, on the basis of archaeological and historical data, the process of imposition at Burley cannot be dated more closely than some time prior to the mid twelfth century (Dunning 1936, 402), and in the absence of more detailed archaeological information, there is little to choose between an immediate post-Conquest or mid twelfth-century context for the motte. Elsewhere, the enclosures to the north of the site clearly represent the later medieval subdivision of an outer bailey, rather than the "fortified settlement" postulated by the excavator (Dunning 1936, 399). This evidence supports the notion of "manorialisation" of an early castle site, implying the post-military reorganisation of the motte and bailey as a series of manorial paddocks, as paralleled at sites such as Yilden and Meppershall, Bedfordshire (Baker 1982, 45).

Although combined with Burley in late medieval taxation returns, Alsthorpe was formerly a separate manor recorded from Domesday, and a hamlet with a chapel by 1312 (*VCH Rutland* II, 112, 116; Beresford 1954, 383). The site of Alsthorpe is identified traditionally as having lain in the vicinity of "Chapel Farm", c.300m north-west of the castle (Cox 1994, 11), where a pair of thirteenth/fourteenth-century windows are incorporated into farm buildings. Furthermore, an ecclesiastical building is depicted clearly at *Aulthort* (sic) between Burley and Cottesmore on Jansson's 1646 map of Rutland, and slight settlement earthworks can be identified in the area. The identification of two probable foci of medieval settlement - one closely associated with the motte and bailey and another at Chapel Farm - may suggest that medieval Alsthorpe took an attenuated or poly-focal form, occupying both sides of the road (Rut Loc Hist Soc 1979), although the settlement was never more than a hamlet and the local medieval settlement pattern in this part of Rutland was based on tight nucleations. Alternatively, we may see a successive occupation of sites. Indeed, the field evidence is consistent with the abandonment or displacement of the Alstoe focus of settlement upon or shortly after the imposition of the castle, whilst the Chapel Farm nucleus was not deserted until the seventeenth century as a result of enclosure (Cain 1987, 21).

### Conclusions

Although this study has dealt primarily with individual sites and their relationship with the medieval

landscape, three general issues are worthy of emphasis. First, it is manifestly wrong to treat these sites in isolation from their hinterlands. Castles were fully integrated within both urban and rural settlement patterns, either as non-nucleated settlement forms in their own right, as elements within village morphology, or as manifestations of seigneurial presence and economic ambition within town plans. Second, castles were integrated within tenurial landscapes, usually serving as central places in close association with manors held in demesne, yet occasionally fulfilling more specialised functions such as the administration of hunting resources. Third, a number of important temporal and spatial relationships exist between castles and churches / chapels. In certain cases the juxtaposition of castle and ecclesiastical site may reflect the foundation of a castle chapel as an appendage to a seigneurial site, although the chapel could later assume parochial status. Elsewhere, a similar spatial relationship could reflect the incorporation of an extant ecclesiastical site within the defences of a castle, with possible implications of high status pre-castle occupation.

However, at present we have insufficient knowledge of how these key castle-landscape relationships may vary in different regions of medieval Britain. Ultimately, the castles of Rutland are themselves only part of a wider pattern of castles, and it is only through intensive and interdisciplinary studies of groups of castles based on regions, counties or smaller units that a clearer picture will emerge.

### Acknowledgements

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# The Archaeological Excavation of a Medieval Building at Main Street Farm, Barrowden, Rutland (SK 949001)

JAMES MEEK

*An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Main Street Farm, Main Street, Barrowden, Rutland, in January 1998 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services prior to residential development. The remains of stone walls and a beaten earth floor of an early medieval building were excavated adjacent to King's Lane. Pottery recovered from the structure dates from the eleventh to fourteenth centuries. Two large pit features, one lying beneath the structure, were also excavated and may represent quarry pits associated with the construction of earlier stone buildings within the village core.*

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Main Street Farm, Barrowden, Rutland, in advance of proposed residential development. The site lies some 37 km east of Leicester in Barrowden parish, Rutland (SK 949001, figs.1 and 2). It consists of an area of c.0.3 ha. within which it is proposed to build four houses. The area lies at a height of between c.45 and 50m OD on south sloping land. Sheet 157 of the Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology consists of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, with Northampton Sand/Ironstone in the south of the area.

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Marsden 1997) and archaeological evaluation by trial trenching (Meek 1997) were commissioned from University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) by Paul Bancroft Architects, which revealed the remains of a possible medieval stone building and a scatter of other possible medieval features. Full excavation of the stone building was undertaken by ULAS between 19th and 30th January 1998. The project was funded by Burleigh House Preservation Trust with liaison through Paul Bancroft Architects. The finds and archive are deposited in the Rutland County Museum (acc. no. A2.1998).

## Archaeological and Historical Background

Domesday Book refers to Barrowden as *Berchedone*, the manor being held by the King. The lands included four hides, less one virgate, land for ten ploughs, sixteen acres of meadow and six acres of thorns. Nine villagers, ten freemen and three smallholders are recorded. One virgate of land containing four villagers with half a plough in Barrowden belonged to Robert of Tosny (Thorn 1980). The manor also held lands in Seaton, Thorpe, Bisbrooke, Glaston and Luffenham. During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries Barrowden and several nearby villages were under the ownership of the Chamberlains of the Exchequer, the Mauduits (Mason 1987).

By the end of the seventeenth century Barrowden is described as the chief town of Wrangdyke Hundred (Wright 1684-1714).

The place name of Barrowden is thought to mean "hill of the tumuli", referring to the slope of the Welland Valley on which it lies (Gelling 1984). It is unclear if the tumuli were burial mounds or just hills, or where they were.

The Sites and Monuments Record for the county shows sites of known archaeological significance close to the development area. There are also architecturally important historical buildings in the vicinity. The site is close to important medieval sites such as the church of St Peter (SP 944999) and the possible medieval manorial site and fishpond (SP 946999). The church lies at the western end of Barrowden and has many thirteenth century elements, along with possible late twelfth century ironwork on the south door (Pevsner 1992; Geddes 1999, 94, fig 4).

The Tithe Map of 1844 and Enclosure Map of 1882 show houses on the Main Street frontage and various outbuildings in the area to the north. These are also shown on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps of 1886 and 1904 (Marsden 1997, figs.3 and 4), the most recent OS map of 1984, and the site survey (Marsden 1997, figs.2 and 5).

No structures are indicated on any of the maps in the specific area of the excavated building, although buildings are indicated to the west of the excavation area. This was bounded by large concrete slabs to the west, a standing barn with metal fencing to the north, and a vertical drop down onto King's Lane on the east. The southern part of the site was empty, although modern services ran through it. The excavation area lay within a disused area on a south-facing slope.

## Results of the excavation

The excavation area was machined down to the top of surviving archaeological levels. The two walls recorded during the 1997 evaluation were again revealed in the northern part of the area, and a third wall aligned north-south was also noted at the western end of the northern wall. As the machining continued to the south it became evident that the top of the surviving walls coincided with the level of the natural ground. The northern parts of the walls of the building were protected from later truncation and levelling of the site as they were set within a terrace formed in the hillside. The terrace was used to create a level-floored building set into the slope of the

### Main Street Farm, Barrowden, Rutland SK 949 001

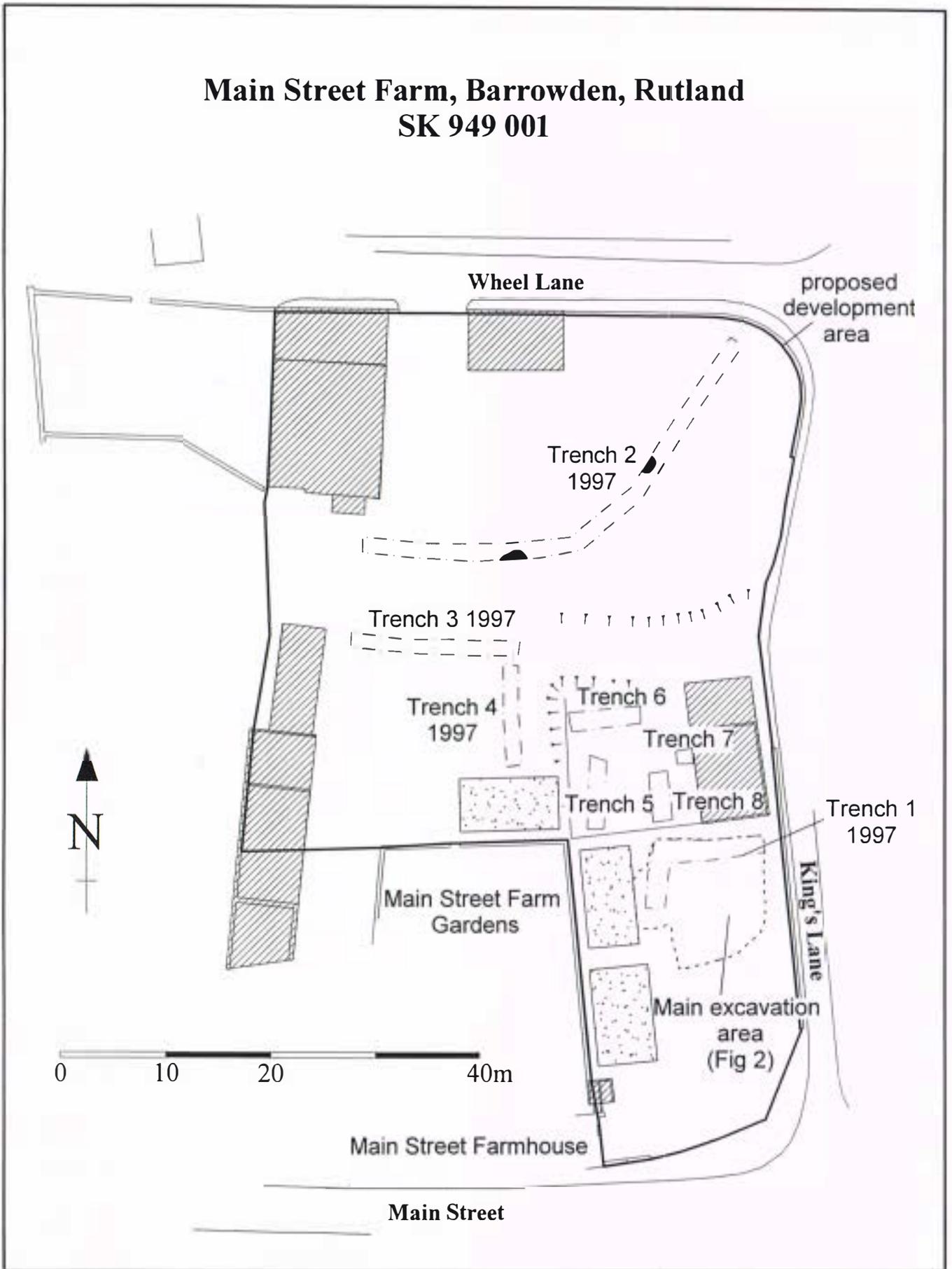


Fig 1: Proposed development area showing excavation area and evaluation trenches

land. There were no foundations for the walls, they were merely butted up against and knitted to the stony natural of the site. The walls had no bonding material, although patches of rendering were revealed on the faces of the walls. The northern wall, aligned east-west, was 4.4m in length. The western wall, aligned north-south, survived to a length of 6.14m, with the parallel eastern wall only surviving to a length of 4.12m. A section excavated through the northern wall contained a sherd of pottery dated from 1050 to the twelfth century.

The walls of the excavated structure were most likely dwarf walls on which a timber superstructure was erected, a style used commonly for peasant buildings throughout England by the thirteenth century (Hinton 1993; Dyer 1986). The dwarf stone walls would help to make the buildings last longer by preventing rot. Examples of similar walls in Rutland have been found at Martinsthorpe (Wacher 1964), Nether Hambleton (Adams 1982) and at two sites in Whitwell (Meek 1997 and forthcoming; Rutland Field Research Group unpublished report).

The terrace within the surviving walls of the structure was filled with a stony backfill and levelling layer that contained pottery ranging in date from the eleventh century to modern. A single sherd of Roman grey ware was also recovered. Stoneless clay layers beneath this backfill are likely to represent the remains of beaten earth floors. The uppermost of these clay layers may have been the last flooring layer laid, disturbed by the disuse and demolition of the structure. The daily use and sweeping of the floors would require them to be regularly maintained, and often replaced. Pottery dating from as early as the late ninth century until the thirteenth century was recovered from these layers, although the quantity of material was little.

Environmental analysis of samples taken from this sequence of floors revealed a small scatter of domestic waste, including charred grains of wheat and barley, fragments of burnt bone and a single fish scale. The small number of these remains suggests that the floors were indeed kept clean. A greater concentration of burnt bone recovered from the south-eastern quadrant of the excavated building may indicate that a hearth was present in this area, although no other evidence had survived.

The width of the Barrowden structure of 4.4m lies within the average ranges of early medieval dwellings, the widths of the buildings being limited by the span of the tie beams, which would rarely exceed 5m (Astill 1988). At the southern end of the surviving walls of the building a linear feature was recorded perpendicular to the western wall, ending adjacent to a posthole, 1.3m from the eastern wall. These may represent the remains of an internal wooden partition wall and doorway, suggested by the posthole and the lack of stone. The original length of the building is unknown, although average

lengths of early medieval peasant structures range from 7.6m to 15.2m (Dyer 1986), and usually include internal partitions forming two or more rooms, so it is very likely that the structure was longer than the surviving evidence suggests. The possible partition wall crosses the building directly to the south of an area of the western wall containing four flat stones that could represent the threshold of the entrance to the structure. The walls cease to be located within the cut terrace at this point, and so a stepped access would not be necessary.

The building would originally have been built within a plot of land or toft, and it is likely to have been one of a number of buildings. Comparison of its size and likely construction with other excavated structures of similar date indicates that it would have been used as a dwelling. The parcel of land defining the toft is likely to have extended originally from Main Street as far north as the adjacent modern property boundaries on the eastern side beyond King's Lane. Within two trenches excavated in an area to the north of the site a ditch was revealed, suggesting that the toft was split at some point, possibly as a result of the pressure of population increase in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, when many holdings were divided between family members (Dyer 1986).

A toft was sometimes the source of building materials (Astill 1988), with the resulting quarry holes being used to provide a water supply or as rubbish pits. A large pit revealed beneath the floor layers of the structure most likely represents an earlier quarry pit, being filled loosely with sand and ironstone. The location of the building over this previously-excavated feature may have been deliberate in order to save time and effort during the creation of the terrace. A large pit excavated on the western edge of the structure may also represent a quarry pit, possibly contemporary with the building, and used to obtain the stone for the dwarf stone walls. This pit contained pottery mainly of 900-1100 date, with two sherds of 1050-twelfth century and a small number of animal bones, which suggest it was used for refuse. Only part of the feature was revealed on the site, and it was not bottomed.

A stone recovered from the north-eastern corner of the structure displays a small hole, akin to a door or window shutter pivot stone. Its location within the structure suggests that it is a reused piece of masonry rather than *in situ*, which may imply that the excavated structure replaced an earlier dwelling within the toft. Postholes excavated on the western edge of the building and to the south of the structure could indicate other buildings within the toft, whether earlier, later or possibly contemporary structures.

Pottery recovered from the sealed layers of the structure are predominantly Stanion/Lyveden ware, dating from the tenth to thirteenth centuries (Bellamy 1983), and Stamford wares dating from the tenth to mid twelfth century (Kilmurray 1980), which is not

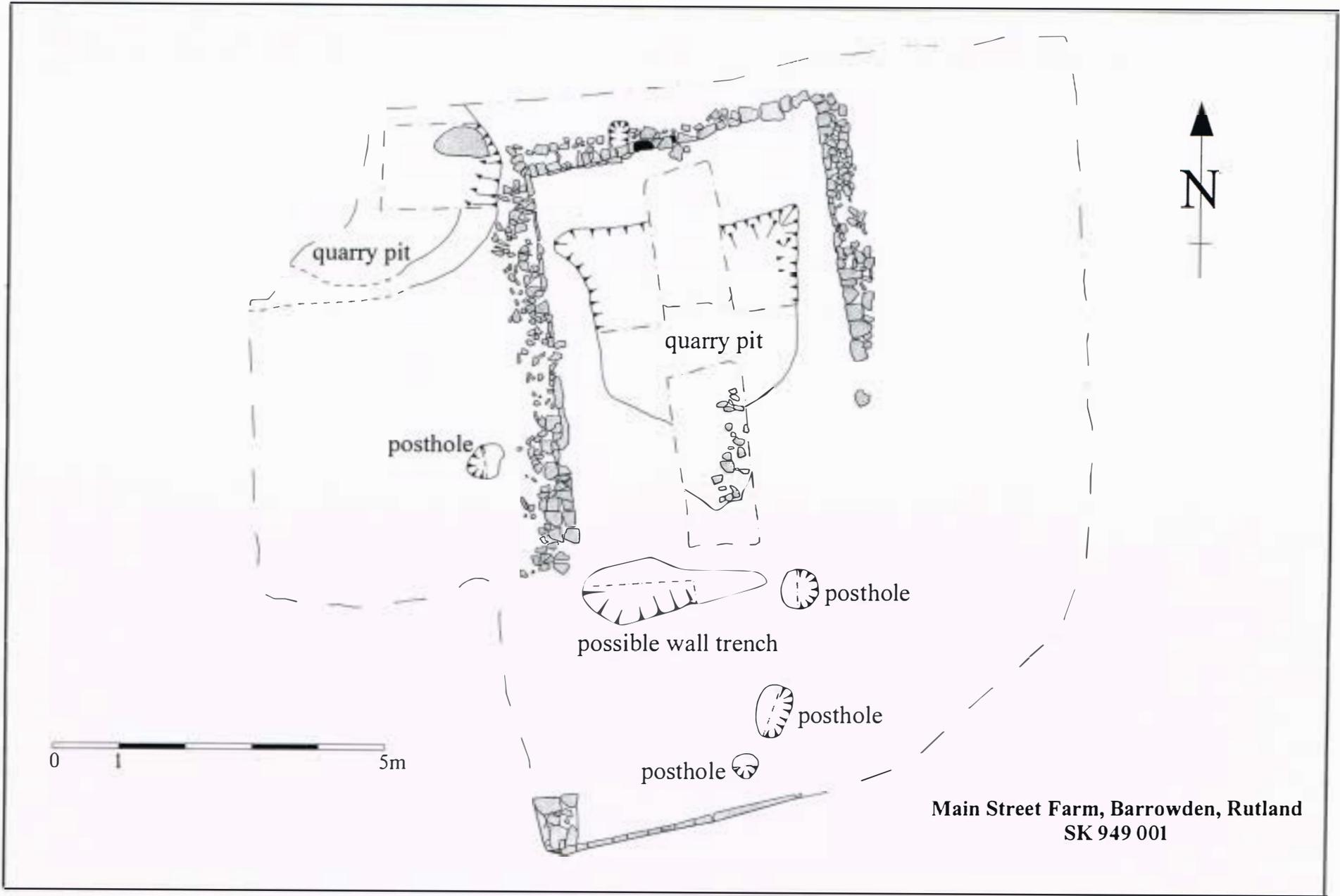


Fig 2: Main excavation area showing all excavated features

surprising due to the close location of both sources. Other pottery recovered from the site dated from as early as the tenth century, which may indicate late Saxon/Norman activity. From the evidence which was recovered, and the predominance of twelfth century wares, the building is most likely to date from the early medieval period. The pottery indicates that there was settlement activity within the village core prior to the Norman Conquest and the mention of Barrowden in Domesday Book.

Excavations by the Rutland Field Research Group during the construction of Rutland Water at Nether Hambleton (Adams 1986) and more recently by the Rutland Local History and Record Society at Whitwell have revealed stone buildings, with the finds indicating a medieval date for the buildings, but with earlier pottery suggesting activity on the sites from the eleventh century onwards (unpublished pottery

reports by R Woodland and D Sawday). Pottery of similar date has also been recovered from excavations by ULAS at Cottesmore, Rutland (Thomas 1998). Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from excavations of a possible Saxon Grubenhuis at South Street, Oakham (Jones 1996). The evidence from these sites indicates that by the Norman Conquest the nucleation of villages and towns, to a pattern recognisable today, had begun in Rutland.

Although only a small area within the early medieval plot was excavated at Barrowden, the excavation will aid research on the growth of villages and the domestic life of the inhabitants. From the findings at Barrowden, and the other sites mentioned, archaeological survival in a village core context should not be underestimated, and it is likely that contemporary remains may exist in other parts of this and other villages in Leicestershire and Rutland.

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# Mompesson and the early Inns of Rutland

R P JARRETT

*A little-used source, Mompesson's licences, sheds light on seventeenth-century Rutland and its inns, enabling previously undocumented hostelries to be identified. Mompesson himself was vilified in his day because of his unscrupulous dealings, but the records attached to his name today have great value to the student of inns and taverns.*

Records of licensed premises in Rutland previous to the eighteenth century are few and of varying use. At that time establishments which sold alcoholic liquor could be divided into three categories: *Inns*, with accommodation for travellers; *Taverns*, where wine was sold; and *Tippling-houses or Alehouses*, which sold only beer and may have offered rudimentary accommodation. The first Licensing Act of 1552 omitted inns, the intention being to regulate hostelries such as alehouses, since many unruly establishments were getting out of hand and their numbers were increasing alarmingly. The local returns of the Privy Council for Rutland in 1577 record only four inns and one tavern, but a hundred alehouses (Clark 1983, 42). Since the 1552 Act was passed, it was discovered that it was being circumvented by many illicit establishments. Under James I no less than three Acts were passed for the restraint of drunkenness as the number of alehouses continued to grow. Inns, however, catered for a different class of person, namely the traveller, who it was thought was less likely to cause a disturbance, and they were therefore not subject to licensing under the Act.

Personal documents such as deeds and wills may in some fortunate cases be extremely illuminating about inns, but licences, granted by royal patent or by the crown, contain the most information. Those relevant to Rutland can be summarised as follows:

Records deriving from an Act of 1562 which prohibited the sale of meat during Lent, known as *Lenten Recognizances*: these include the licensee's name, residence, and occupation. Rutland entries occur between 1572 and 1634 (Gibson & Hunter 1997, 39).

Records of *wine licence patentees*: among the earliest sixteenth-century patentees was Sir Walter Raleigh, some of whose records from later in the century survive for Rutland. However, these do not give tavern or inn signs, and are in bad condition and difficult documents to work with.

The 1626-39 *Coventry wine licences*, which are named after Thomas Coventry: some Oakham entries occur, but these too do not record tavern or inn signs.

Wine licences in *Declared Accounts of the Pipe Office*: these begin in 1566, some Rutland entries occurring between 1670 and 1756. They do not include inn signs.

*Mompesson's licences*: these seventeenth-century licences provide the fullest record available to us for this early

period. They give not only the town, licensee and amount of payment, but also the all important inn sign. This article looks at Mompesson and what the historian can learn from his contribution towards licensing.

In the early seventeenth century James I found himself in grave need of raising money. Many excesses took place which were an enormous drain on the public purse. One of the largest, even by Jacobean standards, was a banquet given by Lord Hay of Sawley in c.1617 (*DNB* XXV, 265). Thirty cooks worked for twelve days preparing the food, which alone cost £2,200. The king journeyed to Scotland, finding on his return in 1617 that the debts, some £726,000, were even greater than before. Many schemes were devised to try to raise revenue, one of which was from the sale of timber, from which it was thought £114,000 might be gained. A rising favourite named Sir Giles Mompesson was given the job of handling timber sales (Prestwich 1966, 200).

Mompesson was born in Salisbury in about 1581. He went up to Oxford in 1600, but does not appear to have obtained a degree. In about 1612 he married Catherine, a younger daughter of Sir John St John of Lydiard Tregooze in Wiltshire, whose elder sister Barbara was the wife of Sir Edward Villiers, the half-brother of James I's powerful favourite, George Villiers. Villiers, from Brooksby in Leicestershire, bought Burley-on-the-Hill in Rutland in 1615, where he built a magnificent house. He achieved a meteoric rise to high position, and ultimately became the first Duke of Buckingham in 1623. Through this family connection Villiers came to take an interest in Mompesson, who by 1614 had become MP for the Rotten Borough of Great Bedwin in Wiltshire. Thus Mompesson was by this time in an influential position and began to exploit this to the full. By the time he was given the handling of timber sales his reputation for corruption and inefficiency was already rife.

Thus it was that in 1616 he suggested to Villiers the creation of a special commission to fill the discrepancy in licensing left by the 1552 Act, and to license inns. This he suggested would benefit both the commissioners and the king's impoverished exchequer. There was at first sight a good case for licensing inns since unruly innkeepers would be brought under control and prevented from charging high prices. A patent for regulating alehouses was put forward at the same time, a subject which had long attracted the notice of Parliament.

There was some dispute as to the legality of the Commission for Inns. The pre-eminent legal figure of this period, Francis Bacon, became Attorney General in 1613 and Lord Chancellor in 1617. As Attorney General he was at first unwilling to take

full responsibility, but agreed when three judges also put their weight behind it. In October 1616 Mompesson and two others were nominated commissioners for the licensing of inns. The business was still not without some controversy and the patent was not sealed except under great pressure from the king in March 1617. Such was the misguided confidence the king had in the commissioners that setting fees to be charged was unwisely left to them, although it was stipulated that four-fifths was to be paid into the exchequer. Mompesson was riding a crest when in November 1616 he was knighted at Newmarket. He now had the power and prestige that he sought and wasted no time in exploiting it. He charged innkeepers £5 for the initial licence and an annual fee of 10 shillings, an enormous amount of money in the early seventeenth century. Many innkeepers simply could not pay and went to the wall. As if this were not enough, he exacted heavy fines from respectable innkeepers for trifling infringements of the law, and increased the number of inns by granting, on payment of heavy amounts, licences to inns previously shut down through being disorderly.

It was not long before Mompesson had acquired a notorious reputation. He became involved in other patents, such as those for converting coal to charcoal and for the manufacture of gold and silver thread, and imposed heavy penalties on all those unfortunate manufacturers who did not possess a special licence or refused to enter into bonds not to sell their wares to unlicensed persons. Many houses were broken into, tools and equipment seized, and their owners thrown into prison. As a measure of his callous attitude, Mompesson is quoted as saying "all the prisons in London should be filled, and thousands should rot in prison" (Gardiner 1883, 17).

The whole city was in uproar. It was perhaps inevitable that in 1620 the House of Commons set up an enquiry into these commissions. The king, seeing the crisis and by this time realising something was gravely amiss, ordered the release of traders thrown into prison for not entering into these bonds. Many witnesses then came forward to testify against Mompesson's infamous conduct. In 1617 Sir Henry Yelverton, the Member for Northampton, succeeded Bacon as Attorney General and became one of the patent commissioners. In 1620 he was charged with passing a charter containing unauthorised provisions. In June he was suspended from office, and in November he was sent to the Tower. The astonishing number of 3,320 innkeepers had been prosecuted for technical breaches of obsolete statutes. In Hampshire alone, sixteen inns had been licensed which had previously been closed down as disorderly houses. It was revealed that instead of setting about curbing drunkenness, the patentees had extorted fines from such alehouse keepers who would buy permission to break the law with impunity. Sir Francis Mitchell, another commissioner, was named as having abused

his powers and appropriated a large part of the booty, and was sent to the Tower. Many dubbed him "Ale-Knight".

Seeing the way matters were going, Mompesson threw himself on the mercy of the House, but his appeal was heard in silence. He then endeavoured to implicate Bacon, now Lord Chancellor, and the judges who had declared the patent to be legal. He was finally committed to the care of the serjeant-at-arms. When the officers were sent to arrest him, however, he asked leave to go into another room, jumped out of the window, and fled to France before a blockade could be put on the ports to detain him. A proclamation was issued for his arrest and he was expelled from his seat as an MP.

Charges grew against him daily. The names of Mompesson and Mitchell took on fresh notoriety as the commissioners responsible for the extent of the corruption. Since Mompesson's name had been added to the list for the gold and silver thread patent the workforce complained of tyranny and ill treatment. The House condemned the commitment of men to prison without a fair trial.

Eventually the evidence was so overwhelming against Mompesson that the Commons invited the Lords to decide on a suitable punishment for him. On 27th March 1621 he was sentenced in his absence to lose his knighthood, a rare event in any period, to be conducted along the Strand with his face to the horse's tail, to pay a fine of £10,000, to be imprisoned for life, and to be "for ever held an infamous person". Later, banishment was added.

Catherine, his wife, who had a child by that time, stayed in England and was looked after by friends, who tried to secure an income for her from the ruins of her husband's estate. Mompesson petitioned the king to recall him so that he might answer the charges. His wife did the same on the grounds that his presence in England was necessary to settle his estate, most of it illegally detained by his brother Thomas. Surprisingly the application was granted, but only for a period of three months. Even more surprisingly, in 1623 Mompesson was not only in England but was once more putting his alehouse patent into execution on the grounds that it had not been officially revoked by parliament. On 10th August 1623 a new warrant gave him permission to stay in England for a further three months. It would appear that he was still in England by 8th February 1624 as he was ordered to quit the country within five days. It is not known if he complied with this final order, but if he did he was soon back and apparently lived in Wiltshire for the rest of his life until his death in the 1650s (*DNB XXXVIII*, 143).

The entries in the Mompesson Account Books for 1617/8 mention only four inns in Rutland, all of which are in Uppingham: the Falcon, the Unicorn, the Cross Keys and the Rose. By 1620 eight had been included, and it is to these that the extract



The Knight censured by Parliament The 17<sup>th</sup> of March

1620

All then Giles was brought  
to his thought  
and hee was committed,  
where hee should be fitted  
things that hee had done,  
to send him here to runne;  
as and banisht quite  
more a Knight  
thus inroul'd  
his vice seat controul'd.

Nowe beings censur'd bannished and gone,  
With pensive speech, thus may hee mourne alone:  
Woe worthe the time when first on Iunes I thought  
For private gaires when, I their hindrance sought  
Those Monopolies cursed bee with shame,  
Which have my reputation thus made lame:  
My Honours which hath turn'd to other styles  
From S<sup>r</sup> Mompesson vnto poore lame Giles;  
Yet hauling nowe before, me thinks I see  
Some in the way of hauling after mee.



For why you knowe, our gracious Kinge is bent  
To give his faithfull subiects all content;  
Where love is due, hee lovingly doth show't,  
Where mercies meete by pardon many know't,

By rendering Justice unto great and small,  
The small ones trippes & great ones downe right fall,  
Oh what more needs a Loyall Subiect crave  
Then mercy, love, and justice choice to have

...liest of its kind to survive. A comparison is drawn between Mompesson and Sir Richard ...  
...alley, the pair being extremely unpopular as extractors of taxes and fines. A popular anagram  
...duced by permission of The British Museum: Catalogue of Satiric Prints 1.55)

illustrated refers (fig.2). It is interesting to note that six of the eight are located in Uppingham, and only one other in Oakham. The predominance of inns at Uppingham may in part be due to its location on the east-west route between Wansford on the Great North Road and Leicester, now the A47, and a formerly important north-south route between Nottingham, Northampton and London (P N Lane, pers com). An alternative explanation may be that, considering Mompesson's short career, Oakham was never fully exploited: or perhaps the fact that the manor of Oakham Lordshold was the property of the Duke of Buckingham was a relevant factor. Three of the inn signs listed are previously unrecorded.

**No.1: *Henry Lowthe the Falcon in Uppingham***

The Falcon, in High Street East, is well documented as a coaching inn, and is still well-known today. The name may be derived from the sport of falconry, which became a popular inn sign, but it is just possible that the rich and influential Uppingham family of Falkener or Fawkener may have influenced the choice of name.

**No.2: *John Warrington the Unicorn there***

The Unicorn, which closed in 1974, was situated two doors down from the Falcon. The earliest previously known date was 1735, when it was owned by Thomas Roberts. The qualities attributed to the unicorn caused the animal to be used as a sign by both chemists and goldsmiths. The horn was said to be an antidote to all poison. The unicorn was also a religious symbol, the White Unicorn being a symbol of Our Lord and an emblem of virginity (Larwood & Hotten 1985, 96, 103).

Buildings in High Street, Uppingham, including the Falcon and the Unicorn, may have received new stone frontages at about this time, which would originally have had wooden superstructures. The Mompesson period is before the visit of John Evelyn in 1654 when he describes Uppingham as "pretty & well built of stone" (Metcalf 1996).

**No.3: *Richard Pakenham the Crosse Keys there***

Mompesson's Cross Keys inn was the present White Hart in High Street West (Finch 1996). A second Cross Keys, also on High Street West, was a name transfer from the Mompesson inn. This building was demolished in 1862 to make way for the new Uppingham School frontage. The present Cross Keys in Queen Street was renamed from the Royal Oak in 1864. This exemplifies the potential mobility of inn signs, which might be readily transferred from one premises to another. The Cross Keys inn sign has religious origins and represents the keys of St Peter.

**No.4: *Willm Waade the Rose there***

This inn is more problematical. The Rose was a common heraldic sign, usually red, often with a crown added later, and this entry may refer to the Rose & Crown which was on South View. The churchwardens' accounts for 1699 record "Mr Tookey his small close adjoining the Rose & Crown Yard". However, whilst the Rose may have added a crown it is more

likely that the inn has long since been lost, and it may even have been one of Mompesson's casualties!

**No.5: *Elizabeth Yorke the Kathern Wheele there***

No payment is recorded for this inn. A record of 1676 suggests the Catherine Wheel was formerly located at 12 High Street East, and may have faced into what is now Printer's Yard. By 1738 it had moved across the road to premises described as the Crown "formerly known as the Catherine Wheel". This was a very popular early inn sign, which derived from the knights of St Catherine of Mount Sinai in the eleventh century. St Catherine of Alexandria was martyred for her faith and is supposed to have broken the spiked wheel on which she was being tortured. This motif was also prominent in the woodturner's arms, providing a possible link to the medieval turners for whom Uppingham was famous. The Uppingham "trencher" was a wooden bowl made in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, perhaps due to the close proximity of the timber resources of Leighfield Forest.

**No.6: *John Billyn the Maidenhead there***

No payment is recorded for this inn, perhaps the most problematical and interesting inn sign in the list. No other record of an inn here called the Maidenhead is known. This is also an early inn sign, appearing occasionally as the Maid's Head. The Maidenhead was used in the arms of the Duke of Buckingham, Catherine Parr and the Mercers' Company, and is depicted in the crest of all three. Its subsequent absence from the record and lack of recorded payment may indicate another Mompesson casualty.

**No.7: *Roger Hobard the Bell in Ockenham***

This is the only inn listed for Oakham. The Bell is an extremely common inn sign in England, but is comparatively rare in Rutland. It occurs in the forms Blue Bell, Five Bells and Eight Bells, but there is only this single example of this form, with the exception of one occurrence on John Wood's 1839 map of Uppingham. A further two examples of the form Blue Ball, at Braunston and Manton, may be later corruptions of Blue Bell (Cox 1994a, 19). The inn, which was in Catmose Street, Oakham, and was previously known from as early as 1698, was demolished in the 1970s, the new county library being erected on the site.

**No.8: *John Bywaters the Blewe Bell in Greate Casterton***

No payment is recorded for this inn. A Blue Bell here is otherwise unrecorded. Great Casterton, often referred to as Bridge or Brig Casterton, is on the old Great North Road, and is therefore likely to have had at least one inn. There are two present-day public houses, the Crown and the Plough, although there is no evidence to link the Blue Bell with either of these. A New Inn, known from the writings of the poet John Clare and perhaps surviving today as the eighteenth-century Bridge Farmhouse, stood on the corner of the road to Ryhall. The Crown hosted Clare's wedding party in 1820. The site of the Blue Bell therefore remains unknown, unless the entry in fact refers to the Blue Bell at nearby Pickworth (Lines 1993, 106f).

Pembroke

John Willing of Kings Arms in Tenby at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Ann	5	5
John Willing of Kings Arms in Garrow at 2 <sup>s</sup>	5	5
John Willing of Kings Arms in Pembroke at 2 <sup>s</sup>	5	5

Rutland

John Willing of Hamilton in Devonport at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Ann	5	5
John Willing of Devonport at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Ann	5	5
Richard Willing of Devonport at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Ann	5	5
William Willing of Devonport at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Ann	5	5
Elizabeth Willing of Devonport at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Ann		
John Willing of Devonport at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Ann		
Robert Willing of Devonport at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Ann	5	5
John Willing of Devonport in <sup>Devon</sup> Glaston at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Ann		

Salopp

David Willing of Devonport at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Ann		
Thomas Willing of Swan in Newport at 2 <sup>s</sup>	5	5

4-10-0 /

Fig. 2. The Rutland entry from the original manuscript of the Mompesson Account Books for 1620. It is interesting to note that no payment is recorded for entries 5, 6 & 8 (reproduced by permission of The British Library: Add Mss 74241/2)

The two Rutland towns of Oakham and Uppingham both developed in the medieval period, and the inn signs have much in common with each other. Both included the George, Uppingham's example being either a later form as the George and Dragon in the Market Place, or possibly a short-lived name for the Unicorn in 1660 (P N Lane, pers com). Both also had the Crown. The Cross Keys in Uppingham, mentioned in the Mompesson Account Books, may have had its counterpart in Oakham, demolished in the early 1970s to make way for the Somerfield supermarket. This hostelry stood on land formerly belonging to the medieval hospital of St John and St Anne, only the chapel of which survives today. It was by all accounts one of the best loved houses in Oakham and was the last of the old public houses to brew its own beer.

The earliest dated examples of hostelries in Rutland are at Oakham. The Sun is recorded in Ministers Accounts for 1374 (Cox 1994b), in 1691 as "under the sun furlong", and again in the nineteenth century, although these probably refer to more than one establishment. Le Wyntauerne (the Wine Tavern) occurs in 1381, and the Bull in 1494. The Bull was situated at the eastern end of the town, presumably on Bull Lane, although it is not clear whether the bull market which may have been in this area gave its name both to the street and to the inn. Oakham's earliest reference to the Crown, one of the two former main inns along with the George, occurs in 1611. In Uppingham, an establishment called Le Vyne dates from 1562. The next known occurrence of an inn in Uppingham's records is not until 1640, when we find the King's Head.

When considering early inn signs for the county as a whole, heraldic origin "Whites" are by far more common than "Reds". There are only two Red Lions, at Oakham and Wing, the latter known only from one reference in 1815. The Rose listed in the Mompesson accounts was probably red. The Rose & Crown occurs only twice, at Uppingham and at

Whissendine. The Red Cow, the earlier name of the Odd House, Oakham, may not be heraldic in origin, since red cows were thought of as special, the milk from them being often recommended for its health-giving properties. Similarly Red House on Ayston Road, Uppingham, c.1861 is not heraldic but refers to the colour of the building. Possible genuine "Red" heraldic names therefore total only five. The White Hart occurs five times, at Caldecott, Edith Weston, Ketton, Lyddington, and Uppingham, where the present White Hart in High Street West may be a name transference in 1815 from an earlier inn across the road. The White Hind at Uppingham was a renaming from the King's Head. The White Horse occurs four times, at Empingham, Morcott, Stretton and Thistleton, the White Lion twice, at Oakham and Whissendine, and the White Swan twice, at Barrowden and Uppingham, bringing the total of "White" names to thirteen. The heraldic bias reflected in Rutland inn signs is therefore towards the Yorkist White Rose, as against the Lancastrian Red one.

This study shows that the Mompesson Account Books, although lamentable in their purpose, are nevertheless of immense interest to present day researchers. They give us a brief, tantalising glimpse of inns in a period in which there is little detailed evidence, compared with the nineteenth century, for which information abounds. The name of Mompesson would almost certainly be known to an innkeeper in the early seventeenth century, though hardly with affection. A satirical cartoon (fig 1) and derogatory verses circulated about him soon after his denunciation. He was also thinly disguised as Sir Giles Overreach in Philip Massinger's play *New way to pay old debts*, published in 1633, and his story is categorised in the early twentieth century novel *The Star Chamber* by Harrison Ainsworth. Today Mompesson is still known among the *cognoscenti* in the brewing fraternity. Quite recently, Oakham Ales have even named a beer after him: whether he deserves the honour is open to question.

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# For the Love of Rutland

## The life and times of George Phillips and his family

PATRICK COYNE

*George Phillips, Inspector of Weights & Measures for Rutland, was a man of many parts. He founded and edited the Rutland Magazine, ran a lending library, took photographs, organised committees and celebrations, was a churchwarden, compiled Rutland and the Great War, and ran two of the earliest motorcars in the county. The author, a grandson, recalls the man and his achievements.*

George Phillips lived in Oakham for thirty-three years, yet during that relatively short time he became an authority on Rutland, and he became known for the love, enthusiasm, and dedication with which he served his adopted county.

Manchester-born, George (fig.1) and his wife Eliza Margaret (née Barnes) arrived in Oakham on 31st March 1891 with their two sons, Herbert Stanley Phillips (6) and Arthur Barnes Phillips (2). At 34 years of age George had been appointed as Inspector of Weights and Measures for Rutland (fig.6). He was a short, stocky man, with dark brown hair, the luxuriant moustache of the period, and vivid blue eyes.

The family settled down happily in a house called "The Manse" (now 25 South Street, backing onto the Congregational Church: fig.3). It was here that Winifred Marie Phillips (the writer's mother) was born four years later. Matkin's *Oakham Almanacks* show the family resident here from 1894 to 1900. By 1902, they had moved to a larger house alongside the churchyard of All Saints' Church, "Fossebank", situated partly over the original moat of Oakham Castle, and with a garden bordering the Castle grounds.

One of George's many interests was books; he found that Oakham did not have a public library, so he decided to start one. He bought the house next door (1 Church Passage) and turned it into a library as well as offices for his various activities. Winifred described these premises as a "real rabbit-warren of a place in those days, and perfect for us children for games of hide-and-peek".

Their father's wide range of interests naturally stimulated the Phillips children's minds along

similar lines. Fascinated by all things mechanical, in 1899 George took the daring step of buying a car. It was a new Decauville, a French car which had been imported by the British agents, The Motor-Car Co, of Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1. A man was sent with the car to "explain how it all worked". As an example of engineering at the dawn of the automobile age this little car was quite advanced. It had independent front suspension and a two-cylinder air-cooled engine rated at 3½ horsepower, which drove the rear wheels via a leather-faced clutch and gears - rather than the belts or chains of the period. This car is still going strong, cherished by its present owner, Mr Arthur Tyler of Loughborough (fig.4).

George, Bert (15), and Arthur (10) were excited

about the acquisition; a new topic of conversation was launched which threatened to become a permanent feature of all meal-times, especially when the Decauville was exchanged for another car a few years later. Eliza Phillips, Winnie (4), and their house-keeper, Miss Jennie Mallows, resisted this male domination of the dinner table, but it came to an end only when Eliza firmly decreed: "NO MOTOR CARS AT MEALS!"

This second car, made by J Parr & Co Ltd of Friar Lane, Leicester, was the first car to be registered in Rutland when registration was introduced in December 1903, and bore the numberplate FP 4. The Parr was rated at 8 hp, and is described in the register as having a tonneau body painted

dark green with black beadings (fig.5). The first three registrations, FP 1, FP 2 and FP 3, were allocated to motorcycles. George owned the Parr until July 1922, when the registration was transferred to Dale & Partridge of Oakham. Today, it is the Decauville which carries the FP 4 numberplate, but it is not yet clear when it acquired this old number.

Another of George's hobbies was photography, and the children often went along with him when he drove round the villages of Rutland taking photographs of every church in the county. He was a keen archaeologist, and soon became immersed in the county's past. At that time no completed history of



Fig.1. George Phillips in his late fifties  
(photographer unknown)



*Fig.2. The Wellington, Garrett and Crawford families with some of their friends, pictured during an outing at Fort Henry, Exton, 1907, photographed by George Phillips*

*Back row, L to R: ? , Dora Furley, Phil Furley, Billy Crawford, Marjorie Wellington, Aunt ? Wellington, Miss Painter, Ben Wellington, Mrs Wellington, Arthur Bradshaw (who accompanied George Phillips to the battlefields in 1919), Jack Wellington, Dot Garrett, Edith Crawford. Sitting, middle: Kath Garrett, Jack Crawford, Miss Bradshaw, ? . Sitting on ground: ? , Ethel Wellington, Cecil Wellington, Nellie Crawford, Mrs Garrett, Winnie Phillips (daughter of George Phillips), Dorothy Everdell*



*Fig.3. "The Manse", in South Street, Oakham, George Phillips' first house. Posing at the door: George and Eliza Phillips, Arthur and Bert (photographer unknown)*



*Fig.4. The 1899 Decauville, pictured outside the former Weights and Measures Office, Station Road, Oakham, with Tim Clough, Curator of Rutland County Museum, at the tiller (photograph: T Clough)*



*Fig.5. George Phillips' second car, a Parr, possibly a 1902 model, outside the Weights & Measures Office in Station Road, Oakham, with the former Police Station, now demolished, behind. Bert Phillips is seated at the wheel, Arthur Phillips beside him, and Winnie behind (photograph: George Phillips)*

**COUNTY OF RUTLAND.**

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.**

OFFICE: NEAR POLICE STATION, OAKHAM.

OFFICE HOURS: 10 to 1; 2 to 5.

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**REGULATION**  **STAMP.**

G. PHILLIPS, *Certificated Inspector and Adjuster.*

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**MEMS. FOR TRADERS AND OTHERS.**

When buying new Weights, Measures, or Weighing Instruments, purchasers should decline to have them with any other stamp on than that of this County, viz:—**V.R. 531.**

Any new Weights, Measures, or Weighing Instruments, before being used, must be submitted for verification and stamping, unless already stamped with the Regulation stamp of this County.

No new Weights of 1½ lbs. and under which have more than one hole or cavity in them, and no IRON Weights under 4 ozs. will be stamped. Weights under 4 ozs. must be BRASS.

Though NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, in order to ensure accuracy, Traders should have their Weights, &c., tested periodically.

During the year 1893 the Inspector will visit about 17 centres in this County, for the purpose of verifying and stamping Weights, Measures, &c.

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**OAKHAM POLICE OFFICE.**

*Chief Constable*—Mr. Wm. Keep, Police Station, Oakham. *P.S.*—W. Wilson, Northgate Cottages, Oakham. *P.C.*—Wm. Huggins, New Street, Oakham. *P.C.*—T. Leach, Vine Terrace, Oakham.

Fig. 6. *The Weights and Measures advertisement from Matkin's Oakham Almanack (1893) (Rutland County Museum)*

Rutland existed, so he set to work to remedy this, and in 1903 published the first issues of the quarterly journal *The Rutland Magazine and County Historical Record*, which was to run to five volumes.

In 1908 George and Eliza celebrated their Silver Wedding, a happy event attended by the Barnes family and many other relations and friends. In the same year George, a devout churchman, was appointed Churchwarden of All Saints' Church, Oakham. He threw himself into the work with his usual energy, and largely through his efforts the necessary funds were raised to enable the church to undergo a much-needed restoration in 1909 - which, of course, he organised.

Winifred recalled that the family had a good view of the work being done on the church from day to day because the garden of "Fossebank" adjoined the churchyard. The contractors were the Oakham builders, W E Higgs & Sons. To reach the top of the tall, slender spire they fixed in position an iron ladder, 77 feet in length, from the tower battlements right up to the weathercock. Flimsy-looking platforms were built encircling the battlements and the tip of the spire (fig.7). Winifred knew all the men working on the restoration, and they would wave to her from their lofty perches and whistle such tunes as "Put me amongst the girls". One day she answered a ring at the front door and there was Mr Higgs holding "a large brass bird", the weathercock from the top of the spire. He said: "I've brought old "Cock Peter" along for your father. Give it to him, will



Fig. 7. *Builders of the Oakham firm W E Higgs & Sons, engaged in restoring the spire of All Saints' Church in 1909. Mr Higgs on the right of the centre picture (photograph: George Phillips)*

you?", and he handed it to her to hold. The weathercock (one of the oldest in England) was over 30 inches long from its beak to the tip of its tail, and Winifred was surprised that it wasn't heavier; she then realised that it was hollow. She noticed that it was very dirty and battered and that it had a couple of bullet holes in its side - the lucky shots of some vandal who thought he was a marksman, Mr Higgs said. It bore plates on its tail recording previous

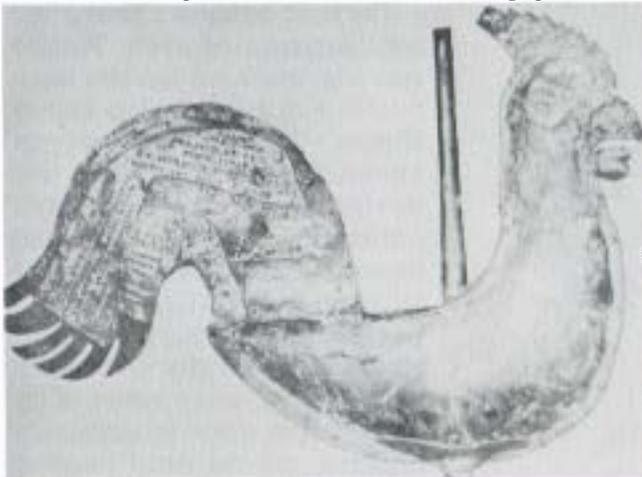


Fig.8. "Cock Peter" - the weathercock on the spire of All Saints' Church, Oakham, believed to be one of the oldest in England (photograph: George Phillips)

restorations. After it had been repaired and re-gilded, with current lettering added, George Phillips propped it up in their back yard so that he could photograph it (fig.8).

One day Mr Higgs invited Bert (24), Arthur (19), and Winnie (14) to climb the tower so as to see something of the restoration work. They reached the top of the tower by means of the spiral staircase inside, and spent some time looking through the embrasures at the magnificent view.

Then Bert and Arthur decided to climb further, and tossed a coin to see who should go first. Presumably Arthur lost, for with him leading, they climbed the iron ladder to the top of the spire. Her two brothers described it afterwards with typical understatement as "quite an experience". At some stage their father took the photographs which show Mr Higgs and his men standing nonchalantly on the platforms, "holding on to nothing", and apparently quite unconscious of the yawning drop beneath them (fig.7).

In Winifred's words, the view from the top of All Saints' tower was of "many miles of countryside": in those days the neighbourhood was far less built-up than it is today. The population of Oakham was around 3,660; the town's 853 families all lived very close to the country, and they regarded themselves as country people. As a boy, the writer went outside one night to show off his new torch; Uncle Bert Phillips remarked in drily humorous tones: "Of course, you don't need a torch if you've got

COUNTRY EYES...'. All the Phillips children loved the outdoor life, and were very much at home on horseback.

They had discovered that one of the advantages of having a father who worked from home was that he was available to talk to, and perhaps to ask for advice concerning homework, even if they had to choose their moment with care. Both Bert and Arthur attended Oakham School, which was a stone's throw from their home. This fine old school had been founded by Robert Johnson in the year 1584. Winifred travelled by train every day to attend Stamford High School, whose original foundation dated back even further to 1532.

George Phillips, and thereby his family, became involved in the organisation of just about every local public occasion. He had been Honorary Secretary to the Oakham Celebrations Committee in 1897 for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. After the Coronation of King Edward VII he was presented with a silver matchbox as a token of thanks. He served again as Honorary Secretary for the Coronation of King George V in 1911, and was presented with a silver cigarette case "as a slight recognition of his services to the Oakham Coronation Celebrations Committee" by the Chairman, Mr D N Royce. In 1906 he was the first Honorary Secretary of the Rutland Conservative League, and was presented with a purse of gold and an illuminated address for his efforts. In 1908 he was elected Worshipful Master of the Vale of Catmose Lodge of Freemasons, of which he had been secretary for many years.

But what must have been more gratifying for George than anything was when, in 1912, the Cambridge University Press did him the honour of asking him to write a short history of Rutland for the *Cambridge County Geographies* series.

Winifred recollected that in the same year, the "Merrie England" Bazaar was held in the Victoria Hall to collect funds for further improvements to All Saints' Church (fig.9). Not surprisingly, George Phillips was the Bazaar's Secretary and did all the organising. The three days of the bazaar were opened by Lady Lonsdale, Lady Castlereagh, and the Hon Mrs Gretton respectively. All the officials and stallholders (including George and Eliza Phillips) dressed in costumes of the period. Mr Charles Matkin (junior), of the well-known Oakham printing and stationery firm, went as "King Charles II", and his partner, Nell Crawford, as "Nell Gwynne".

As if he did not have enough on his slate, in that same year George was appointed Clerk to the Rutland Insurance Commission. Five years later, having found out just how complicated and confusing the geographical, administrative, and postal areas of England and Wales were, especially for insurance officials, he compiled his first major work, *The "Correct" Cipher and Administrative-Postal Area*

*Gazetteer*. The book had 236 closely-printed quarto pages containing more than 35,000 entries of mind-boggling complexity. This undertaking was followed by a similar work for the Scotland region.

Despite all these "part-time" activities, George Phillips's official occupation remained that of Inspector of Weights and Measures for Rutland. In

entitled *Rutland and the Great War*, remains compulsory reading. A specially bound copy of the book was presented to every Rutland family that had lost a son on active service in the war. A copy was also sent to HM King George V, who, his secretary said, expressed his thanks, and "was glad to possess this interesting record of the splendid services rendered by the smallest county in Great Britain during the War".

The book contains a photograph and biography of every Rutland man who made the supreme sacrifice, as well as a complete Roll of Honour. The 35-page, two-part introduction is a masterly and moving tribute to the county's patriotism. The thought-provoking preface was contributed by Capt A B Phillips (George's younger son, Arthur). The part played by Rutland's civilians is not neglected: every aspect of the war effort at home is thoroughly explored, and the detail recorded is such that the book remains a constant source of reference. Although the bombing in WW I did not match the "Blitz" of WW II, the psychological impact on the civilian population, as the silver Zeppelin raiders cruised high above the countryside, apparently with impunity, was considerable. Winifred described the horror of seeing the alien-looking, cigar-shaped monsters, lit up by the searchlights as they invaded HER skies. One of these raids took place on 26th September 1915, when a Zeppelin passed over Stamford and skirted Oakham, on its way to bomb Sheffield.

In 1918, with the War over, George took on yet another job, that of County Organising Secretary for War Savings. He had to

give *something* up, and in 1919 he retired from his Churchwardenship of All Saints' Church. For some years he had been writing articles on Rutland in the *Grantham Journal*. Now he threw himself into the writing of his last and greatest work, the book mentioned above. It was about this time that the strain on his constitution began to tell.

In the winter of 1920-21 George Phillips became ill, and he suffered a severe seizure. His condition was serious for some time, but then he appeared to have recovered. His illness necessitated his giving up nearly all of his activities, which probably depressed him somewhat.

## SOUVENIR & PROGRAMME.

THE "MERRIE ENGLAND"

# BAZAAR

TO BE HELD IN THE

VICTORIA HALL,  
OAKHAM,

ON

Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 1912,  
Thursday, " 12th "  
Friday, " 13th "

TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR  
OBJECTS CONNECTED WITH

All Saints' Church, Oakham.

*Beautiful Scenic Effects,*

*Tableaux Vivants, Concerts,*

*Musical and Dramatic Entertainments,*

*Side Shows and Competitions.*



"Shake out thy gold, and smiles of  
ladies fair shall be thy portion."—  
Shakespeare.

The following Ladies will OPEN the BAZAAR—

First Day: THE RIGHT HON. THE COUNTESS OF LONSDALE.

Second Day: THE VISCOUNTESS CASTLEREAGH.

Third Day: THE HON. MRS. GRETTON.

Prices of Admission. { WEDNESDAY: 2-30 p.m. to 6 p.m., 2/6; after 6 p.m., 1/-  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 2-30 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1/-; after 6 p.m., 6d.  
SEASON TICKETS, 3/- each. The BAZAAR will be CLOSED each Day at 10 p.m.

Fig. 9. A souvenir of the "Merrie England" Bazaar organised by George Phillips in 1912 (Rutland County Museum)

1901 he had inaugurated a correspondence course for candidate inspectors which he ran successfully for twenty years. He also published pamphlets and booklets on the technical side of weights and measures inspecting.

Now came the trauma of the Great War. Rutland was not found wanting: thirty-five per cent of Rutland's male population joined up, as against twenty-five per cent for the rest of Britain. Of these 3,695 men who went to war, 525 never came back. For anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Rutland's awe-inspiring contribution to the 1914-18 War, the book written by George Phillips in 1920,

However, on 28th September 1921 he received a letter which cheered him up considerably. The Vicar wrote to say that some friends in the town and county "had wished to express in some tangible form their esteem and goodwill towards you, and their kindly appreciation of the good work which you have, for so many years, done both for the Church in Oakham and also in many ways, for the county". He enclosed a cheque for £100 and a list of the donors.

Eliza. "Tony" recently told the writer that his memories of George Phillips were very pleasant ones - he seemed kindly, attentive, and friendly, with plenty of time to spare for entertaining his first grandson. He would sit at his bureau, with Tony at his side, deftly cutting out pictures of animals from cigarette cards for later mounting in an album. During this visit, the opportunity was taken of having a family photograph taken (fig.10).



*Fig.10. The Phillips family in 1921*

*Back row, L to R: Arthur Barnes Phillips, Winifred Marie Phillips, Herbert Stanley Phillips  
Seated: Ethel Laura Phillips (Arthur's wife), Anthony Laurence Phillips (grandson), George Phillips, Eliza Margaret Phillips  
(photographer unknown)*

George Phillips wrote back to say that he very much appreciated the kindly feeling which prompted the Committee to decide not to make a public function of the presentation because, although his general health was much improved, his nerves were not yet "tuned up to speech-making". For the "tangible form" in which their esteem and goodwill was expressed, he was deeply grateful, and "their appreciation of the work he had been able to do for the Church in Oakham and the County generally was only equalled by the pleasure he had obtained out of doing it".

It was in 1921 that the writer's cousin, Anthony Laurence Phillips, aged four and a half, visited Oakham with his parents to stay with George and

By July 1923 George was reasonably well, enough for him to be able to resume his duties as Inspector of Weights and Measures for Rutland. But after Easter in 1924 he became ill again. On 30th May he developed pneumonia, and he died the following day. He was 67 years of age.

The Barnes family, the wider Phillips family, and a great cross-section of people of Oakham and many other parts of Rutland turned out for the funeral, which was held at All Saints' Church, followed by the burial in Oakham Cemetery. Among the families attending were well-known Rutland names such as Adam, Batts, Beaver, Billows, Bisseker, Bradshaw, Bromhead, Burton, Charlton, Froud, Kermick,

Mallows, Matkins, Mercer, Munton, Pope, Robins, Royce, Stableford, Stocks, and Wellington. The Vicar, the Rev J H Charles, officiated, assisted by the Rev W H Barnes (George's brother-in-law) and the Rev G A Tolhurst. The singing of Psalm 90, accompanied by Mr Barham Johnson at the organ, brought tears to many eyes, beginning as it did with the words "Lord, thou hast been our refuge; from one generation to another", and ending "Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us, O prosper thou our handiwork". The last hymn was "Nearer, my God, to Thee", and at the end of the service the organist played Charles Stanford's "Farewell".

That evening the bellringers of All Saints' Church rang a "date" peal of 1,924 changes as a tribute to the efforts of their late friend and colleague in connection with the re-casting and re-hanging of

the ring of eight bells. The ringers were A Lee, A Ward, J Wheeler, W E Higgs, R Grinter, T H Wheeler, S Towell, and T Scott. For all who heard it, the beautiful, sombre, echoing effect of the half-muffled peal must have come also as a heart-warming tribute to George Phillips's thirty-three years of unselfish service on behalf of the county he had adopted as his own.

#### **Acknowledgements**

The writer's thanks are due to Mr Arthur Tyler of Loughborough for technical details of the Decauville car, to Mr A L Phillips and Mrs J A Angel for their recollections of their grandfather, George Phillips, and of their father, the late the Rev A B Phillips, and to Mr Tim Clough for his assistance.

## **Appendix**

### **Brief notes on the subsequent lives of the Phillips family**

In September 1925, *Eliza Margaret Phillips* emigrated to South Africa with her daughter, Winifred, to join her eldest son, Bert. Eliza died on 16th April 1935, and was buried in the Episcopal section of Woltemade Cemetery, near Cape Town.

*Herbert Stanley Phillips* had a fulfilling life in Holy Orders as assistant priest, Rector, and later, Canon, in the Church of the Province of South Africa, Diocese of Cape Town, before he died on 26th June 1965.

*Arthur Barnes Phillips*, after retiring from a successful career in the British petroleum industry, was ordained as priest at Wokingham, Berkshire. He had married Ethel Sargeant on 15 June 1916. The four children from the marriage were Anthony Laurence Phillips, Stephanie Mary Phillips, and the twins, Martin Nicholas Phillips and Jean Ann Phillips; Ethel died in 1932. Arthur married his second wife, Caroline, in 1935. He died on 26th April

1974. It might be of interest to note that Arthur Phillips's younger son, the Rev Canon M N Phillips, has served on the selection committee for the "George Phillips Award" for the design of buildings and restorations best harmonising with the Rutland style. The creation of the Award stemmed from a donation made in 1980 by the writer in memory of his late mother. The idea of the Award was devised by the then Chairman of the Rutland Local History Society, Mr A R Traylen, in consultation with the Society, and it continues today with the full participation of Rutland County Council.

*Winifred Marie Phillips* (later Mrs W M Coyne) followed a rewarding career as a teacher of the deaf, culminating in her principalship of the Kutlwanong School for the Deaf, near Johannesburg. She had married A E (Dick) Coyne on 27th December 1927. They had a son, Patrick George Philip Coyne (the writer). Dick Coyne died on 6th August 1977, and Winifred on 12th September 1979.

# Rutland History and Archaeology in 1998-99

Edited by T H McK CLOUGH

The following abbreviations are used:

LMARS:	Leicestershire Museums, Arts & Records Service
RCM:	Rutland County Museum
ROLLR:	Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland
SMR:	Leicestershire & Rutland Sites and Monuments Record

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

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### *Great Casterton, The Limes, Old Great North Road (TF 00100902)*

A watching brief was carried out during redevelopment in the centre of the Roman town. During the investigation a robbed building foundation trench and a gully, both containing Romano-British pottery of late 3rd-4th century date, were identified. Both features were parallel to the Ermine Street Roman road, which passes the site less than 50m to the W. These Roman remains lay directly beneath a recent surface of limestone chippings and only c.0.3m below the present ground surface, suggesting that the site had previously been lowered.

Gary Taylor

### *Ketton, Old Vicarage (SK 982044)*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development adjacent to the 12th century parish church and near the 16th century prebendal manor house at Ketton. However, no archaeological remains were found during the investigation.

Phil Mills

### *Market Overton, Thistleton Road (SK 891166)*

The implications of proposed development at the eastern edge of Market Overton were assessed in a desk-based study which indicated that the site was located in an area of Romano-British settlement and pottery production and in immediate proximity to Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. However, a subsequent evaluation of the site revealed only a 19th century pit, with no earlier remains or artefacts.

Gary Taylor

### *Tickencote, Home Farm (SK 991094)*

Development in the medieval core of the village was monitored by Fiona Walker. Ermine Street passes through the edge of the village, and previous investigations in the vicinity had identified Bronze Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains. A ditch and a possible sand quarry pit, both undated, were revealed. In addition, an earthen bank, created by terracing into the natural slope, was recorded. This was also undated but likely to be relatively recent. A small amount of Romano-British pottery probably of early 4th century date was recovered as unstratified artefacts from the site.

Phil Mills

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## LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS, ARTS & RECORDS SERVICE

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### *Greetham, between 3 and 11 Main Street (SK 92431445)*

A watching brief was undertaken by Richard Pollard during the excavation of foundation trenches for a house. A feature lying 31 m S of the road was revealed, with a possibly oval plan and measuring about 4.3 m N-S. Interpreted as a limestone quarry, it was filled with brown sandy clay with limestone fragments. A layer of black ash sealed the lower of two deposits of the clay; this ash yielded a sherd of c.12th-14th century Stanion/Lyveden was (LMARS fabric LY4), indicating an early medieval date for the quarry. A sherd of fabric LY5, c.13th-14th century, was found in the upper sandy clay fill. Pottery on the surface of the machine-stripped building site was generally 19th-20th century. Finds and archive: LMARS, pending transfer to RCM.

### *Market Overton, The Lodge (SK 89231628)*

Observations by Richard Pollard of machine-dug trenches following topsoil stripping at the N end of The Lodge recorded the S edge of an ironstone quarry and features associated with the former Lodge Farm. The site lies in the vicinity of a concentration of Roman material recovered in 1903 (SMR 81NE.AB), but nothing earlier than the post-medieval period was recorded during the archaeological observation. The 20th century quarry may well have removed a large part of the area in which the Roman artefacts were found. Archive: LMARS.

### *Oakham, 4 Alwyne Close (SK 862087)*

Elaine Jones observed the excavation of an extension to the house on a site which had revealed medieval and post-medieval features during work in 1993 (Jones 1994, 1995). Sections of two mortared stone walls, undated, were recorded, and a collection of post-medieval pottery and glass was recovered (RCM A7.1999).

### *Oakham, 49 High Street (SK 85930882)*

The foundation trenches for a garage to the rear of 49 High Street were recorded by Richard Pollard. The site lies some 30m NNW of an area of medieval pits recorded behind the frontage of 49a High Street in 1994 (Jones 1995), on ground which appears not to have been built on since at least 1787 (Oakham Lordshold map of this date: ROLLR DE 3443. No archaeological deposits were recorded, though both topsoil and subsoil contained post-medieval pottery. A handle fragment in Bourne D ware (c.1450-1637 AD: McCarthy & Brooks 1988, 409-11) was retrieved from the subsoil (RCM A28.1998).

### *Seaton, Thompson's Field (SP 904983)*

The excavation in December 1998 of an electricity cable trench across the allotments to the E of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery area (Pollard 1997, 1999) was watched by Elaine Jones and Richard Pollard. No significant archaeological discoveries were made, but in view of the

narrowness of the trench (c.450 mm), this cannot be taken as proof that the cemetery did not extend into the field. John Mayfield reported that the N part of the field was quarried for refractory sand in the first half of the 20th century, removing perhaps at least 1 m of deposits, potentially destroying any graves. Archive: LMARS (A53.1996, A54.1996) pending publication and transfer to RCM.

*Tinwell (TF 002062)*

Part of the earthworks of the medieval village (SMR 00NW.Q) W of the present settlement were ploughed up in early 1999. A fieldwalking survey was subsequently undertaken by LMARS Archaeology Section. Stone walls were noted, and finds including Roman, medieval (Stamford ware and later) and post-medieval pottery recovered (RCM A9.1999).

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*Richard Pollard*

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**LINCOLNSHIRE ARCHIVES**

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The only items received in this period which relate to the parts of Lincolnshire near Rutland are:

Misc Don 1064: Deeds to property in St Mary's Place, Stamford.

PS/Stamford: Stamford magistrates' court registers 1989-1994, joint with Bourne from mid-1990 (30 year closure period).

During the last year there were several staff departures and arrivals following a major staff re-structuring. Dr Gershom Knight, formerly Principal Archivist, and Neil French, Preservation Services Manager, retired in October 1998. There have been five new part-time Search Room Heritage Assistants and three new Archivists. The Area Service Manager of Archives and Heritage Services Conservation is Chris Johnson.

The cataloguing programme includes finalising the Brownlow Collection and working on the backlog of parish records. One archivist is concentrating on a new catalogue of all the deposited school records.

*Contacts:* Lincolnshire Archives, St Rumbold Street, Lincoln, LN2 5AB; tel 01522 526204 (general enquiries or 525158 (Search Room appointments); internet web pages: <http://www.lincs-archives.com>; e-mail: [archives@lincsdoc.demon.co.uk](mailto:archives@lincsdoc.demon.co.uk).

*Susan Payne*

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**THE RECORD OFFICE FOR  
LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER &  
RUTLAND**

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The first thing to note is the Record Office's new name, adopted in January 1999 in recognition of the fact that although still administratively part of Leicestershire Museums Arts & Records Service we are jointly supported by Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and Rutland County Council. The full implications of our changed status have taken some time to work through, but we have now achieved good working relations with all three authorities.

One area of our services which the joint arrangements has thrown into focus has been access, particularly access for enquirers at a distance to information on the Record Office's holdings. In this we are very much in line with the archives world generally and with Government's wishes for the cultural sector, of which archives forms a part. In October 1999 we took part in the second national survey of record office users organised by the Public Services Quality Group, a group of archivists from various backgrounds with strong support from the Public Record Office.

In fact the searchroom and enquiry services are busier than for several years, suggesting that we may be moving back towards the peak figures achieved in 1993 and 1994 following the bringing together of the archives and local studies collections at the new Record Office. The 1998/99 figure for reader visits was 14,357, an increase of 3% over the previous year, and the "indicator" figures for documents produced, copies provided, and enquiries met all increased. Members may like to note that 26 new Rutland accessions were received (11.2% of the total), there were 1,225 visitors recording Rutland subjects (7.5%), and 269 enquiries concerning Rutland (10.1%).

Much attention has concentrated on the potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for widening access to archive and local studies resources. We have been in discussion with colleagues from the other main archive services in the East Midlands on a regional proposal to contribute to the ambitious "Access to Archives" (A2A) project. A2A involves the establishment of a central Internet "hub" based in the Public Record Office, to which local archive services will contribute catalogues converted into electronic form ("digitised") with the help of grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The East Midlands bid is focused on selected family and estate records, particularly rich in local, national and international records for the 17th and 18th centuries. Needless to say the archive of the Finch family of Burley on the Hill in Rutland is a prime candidate.

The Record Office has also been involved in several schemes to make available actual sources (archival documents, maps, photographs etc) in electronic form. Of particular interest to Rutland has been the project led by the Public Record Office to make tithe maps and apporportionments available on CD-Rom. Rutland, being compact in size and with a good coverage of tithe records, was taken as the pilot area and the initial results were demonstrated in several schools around Oakham during July 1999. Further development depends once again on a

joint bid to HLF probably by a Rutland, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire partnership, or by an East Midlands consortium, for funds to extend the initial work. In addition the Record Office is a partner in several other bids to HLF or the New Opportunities Fund. These have included proposals for an oral history archive (with the Record Office offering the archival store), a film and video archive for the East Midlands, an Internet website based on Sidney Newton's famous photographs of the building of the Great Central Railway, and the digitisation of trade directories.

Amid this rush to digitisation it is good to note that Sonia Anderson of the Historical Manuscripts Commission has been a frequent visitor to the searchrooms, working towards completion of her calendar of the papers of Daniel Finch, second Earl of Nottingham (1647-1730), as Secretary of State. This will constitute Volume V of the HMC's monumental calendar of the earliest and most nationally and internationally important of the Finch MSS. When it appears, hopefully later in 2000, it is likely to mark the end of an epoch, since it will almost certainly be one of the last catalogues issued by the Commission in this highly detailed and traditional paper form.

The Record Office has continued to host a seamless programme of exhibitions, some originating elsewhere but others produced, most attractively and to a very high standard, by my colleagues here. The latter have included "Croppies Rise Up", marking the 200th anniversary of the Irish Rebellion of 1798 and illustrating the many local connections with Ireland; "Cromwell and Commonwealth", marking the 400th anniversary of the Lord Protector's birth and including some of his own letters together with local documents from the Commonwealth period; "The Tigers Caged", on the prominent involvement of the Leicestershire Regiment in the siege and relief of Ladysmith; and "The Written Word", an A to Z of all things literary from Alphabets to Vellum based largely on local examples. The last forms part of Leicestershire's Millennium celebrations, after which we hope to have an opportunity to show it in Rutland, and prior to which we hope to have shown "The Tigers Caged" in Oakham also.

Finally, among this year's crop of Rutland archive accessions it is worth pointing to some interesting snippets from the little group of Seaton overseers' accounts (DE 5549). Among the overseers' bill from the 1780s are one for "washleather breeches" and another for paupers' medical treatment:

Robt Copley Inoculations & Physic No. 4 10s 6d.  
Almey (?) family Inoculation & Physic No. 2 5s.0d.  
Hudson Child Inoculation & Physic 2s. 6d.

It would be interesting to know exactly what was in potions nos. 2 and 4, but clearly it was very expensive.

*Selected archive accessions received in 1998 and 1999:*

*Ayston:* parish records: photographs 20th century (DE 5665).  
*Brooke:* parish records: faculty 1998 (DE 5534).  
*Exton:* parish records: vestry minutes 1830-47 (DE 5663).  
*Exton:* CE School accounts 1897-1914 (DE 5588).  
*Glaston:* parish records: tithe plan etc. 1846 & 1883 (DE 5679).  
*Oakham:* St Joseph's RC church: marriages 1991-99 (DE 5605).

*Seaton:* parish records: overseers' and churchwardens' accounts, bastardy bonds, apprenticeship papers, inoculation fees etc. 1738-1834 (DE 5549).

*Seaton:* parish records: banns register 1823-1882, vestry minutes 1867-1997, etc. (DE5565).

*Tickencote:* estate papers and Wingfield family papers 1850-1971 (DE 5550).

*Uppingham:* parish records: additional 20th century (DE 5538, DE 5664).

*Whissendine:* deeds 1799-1971 (DE 5541).

Carl Harrison

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## RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM

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The year was one of consolidation and integration following local government reorganisation. Joint arrangements with Leicestershire Museums, Arts & Records Service continued to work well, and effectively provided Rutland with archaeological and environmental services as well as the facilities of the Record Office at Wigston. Continued support was received from the Friends of the Museum, who purchased for the collections the Sanders pistol noted below. Amongst other material acquired the following items may be of interest to members of the Society.

H14.1998	Promotional recording, "Rally for Rutland", 1960s.
H21.1998	Rutland Musical Festival programmes 1930, 1932, 1933, and choir list, Ketton, 1928.
H22.1998	Photograph, Oakham Urban District Council, 1930.
H23.1998	Gentleman's belt pistol by Sanders of Oakham c.1850.
H24.1998	Midland Railway seaside excursion promotional leaflet, 1884.
H29.1998	High Sheriff's uniform, F T Walker, 1925, with associated photographs, newspaper cuttings, &c.
H31.1998	Name boards, photograph albums, visitors' books, Officers' Mess minute books, RAF North Luffenham.
H45-46.1998	Rutland Home Guard photographs and medal group of Major E G Bolton MBE.
H54.1998	Letters re appointment of Ellingworth family as town criers of Oakham.

Of these, the Rutland Musical Festival programmes add to other records the museum has relating to these events, and the deposit from RAF North Luffenham reflects the closure of that establishment as an Air Force base and its transfer to the Army.

Details of other acquisitions, all of local interest in one way or another, can be obtained upon enquiry to the museum. Archaeological finds from a number of sites which were the subject of investigation are mentioned in the reports of other organisations. Not all of these have yet been received at the museum, and the implications of dividing the museum service into three parts on the storage of this and other Rutland material have yet to be resolved.

T H McK Clough

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## RUTLAND HISTORIC CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST

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A magical evening of slides and music was held in Oakham All Saints Church in October 1998, presented by Richard Adams. Hosted by the Parochial Church Council and attended by 135 people, £585 was raised for Trust Funds, and thanks are due to all for their generosity.

Eight churches and chapels applied to the Trust for help, and a total of £18,100 was promised in grants. £15,900 was actually paid, some in connection with Grants promised earlier; at April 1999 £12,200 was awaiting collection for work not yet completed.

In contrast with other years when roof repairs dominated, this time there was more concern with internal work and churchyards. St Nicholas, Stretton, and St Andrew, Stoke Dry, needed churchyard walls rebuilding. Limewashing of the chancel of St Peter & St Paul, Langham, interior work at Uppingham Methodist Church, and renewal of the heating system at St Andrew, Whissendine, was planned. Damp-proofing was carried out at Langham Baptist Chapel and Whissendine Methodist Chapel. North Luffenham Methodist Chapel alone repaired the roof and repainted the exterior.

All who care for Rutland's churches and chapels are urged not to hesitate to contact the Trust when help is required for fabric repairs. Maintenance of venerable buildings is essentially ongoing, and a stitch in time saves much further damage and further cost.

The Trust's Sponsored Bicycle Rides provide an opportunity for churches and chapels to raise funds for themselves as well as for the Trust. The seventh Ride was held in September 1999.

Linda Worrall

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## RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

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The Society would like to thank the Curator and staff of the Rutland County Museum for their hospitality to us during the year and for contributing so much to the success of our work. The comfortable premises for meetings and the services provided on these and other occasions are much appreciated.

Membership of the Society continues to be in a healthy state, partly as a result of external activities. The Society's village visit was to Hambleton on 17th September 1998. The general organisation of the event was in the care of Mrs Betty Finch and Mr Peter Lane, and the display was the responsibility of Mrs Elaine Jones and Mr Robert Ovens. This was a comprehensive exhibition on Rutland Water archaeology. The dual theme of village history and archaeology evidently appealed to our members, who found much to interest them in the display and in the talks by Messrs Fred Adams and Nick Cooper. Miss Joanna Spencer provided the refreshments at the conclusion of this very well-attended event.

The subsequent transfer of the exhibition to each of the county's libraries in turn will have enhanced the Society's reputation. Another step towards increasing public

awareness of our work was taken by providing stand at the Family History Fair in Leicester, manned for us by Robert Ovens, Sheila Sleath and Elaine Jones. Society publicity was exhibited on our new display panels, and literature on sale found ready purchasers.

Information about the Society now reaches an even wider audience by means of the web pages of *Rutland-on-line*, one for the Society as a whole and the other for the Archaeological Group. After a trial period it is likely that we shall confirm our permanent use of the pages.

Investigations on the "Time in Rutland" theme, directed towards our celebration of the Millennium, have led, as all good research cannot fail to do, to an abundance of discoveries. Details of the church clocks and bells of the County, including many important new findings, will be fully described in the forthcoming *History of Time in Rutland*, currently being compiled by Mr Robert Ovens as a Society Research Report, which will become an important work of reference on this valuable part of the heritage of Rutland.

The monitoring duties of the Historic Environment Committee have been growing more arduous with the increase in building developments throughout the county, and this dedicated group, led by Mrs Betty Finch, deserve not only our thanks but also our sympathy. Some concern has been expressed that the larger number of planning applications having to be dealt with may be leading to a decline in the effectiveness of the system, and the Society has been in communication on this matter with other interested bodies.

A report by Sheila Sleath and Robert Ovens on their survey, assisted by other members of the Society, of the remains of a small watermill in Belton-in-Rutland, was published in *Rutland Record* 18. The Society will wish to offer hearty congratulations to them on receiving the Miss Linford Award for this exemplary interpretation of the site.

A note of regret enters the customary thanks, sincerely felt and warmly expressed, to the officials and committee members of the Society for their work during the year. Two members who have served on the committee for many years have decided to stand down, and we have to bid farewell to Miss Joanna Spencer and Mrs Betty Finch. They have each devoted much time to the service of this Society and they will be hard to replace.

John Field

## RLHRS Archaeological Committee

### Fieldwork 1998-99

#### *Barrowden, Chapel Lane (SK 948300)*

A watch with the Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeological Network volunteer village warden during development in an old orchard in the centre of Barrowden produced four fragments of early medieval pottery. No structural foundations were seen and much of the ground appeared to have been previously disturbed (RLHRS R11).

#### *Exton, next to the Post Office (SK 927111)*

18th-19th century pottery and clay pipes were found by Garry Till of Stamford during construction work in 1996 (RLHRS R27, not previously noted).

*Gunthorpe, deserted medieval village (SK 873056)*

Fieldwalking in January 1999 by the Group as part of the Martinthorpe Project has produced Stamford and early medieval pottery indicating a date range for the deserted medieval village. The finds identification and archive report are now being compiled (RLHRS R18).

*Launde Park Wood, Leicestershire (SK 803040)*

Badger and mole earth movement in the wood had exposed two flint flakes, one of which may be Mesolithic. An old stone pit had been backfilled with rubbish containing 19th-20th century pottery (RLHRS R23).

*Lyddington, Windmill Way (SP 876968)*

Possible late Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, and Stamford pot fragments were found during site clearance in 1997. This material is in addition to that found previously in 1994 (*Rutland Record* 16 (1996) 282) (RLHRS R26).

*Manton (SK 8704)*

Over 100 small sherds of early Saxon pottery associated with iron slag and some Roman pottery were found during fieldwalking as part of the Martinthorpe Project. The archive report is now on the SMR (RLHRS R20).

*Martinthorpe Project (SK 8604)*

This continued to be the Archaeological Group's main project, under the leadership of Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath. A resistivity survey was directed by Dr Peter Carnell in November 1998 on a small area west of the old stables (the only surviving building on the site) which confirmed the existence of structural remains there. Unfortunately a full report has not yet been received because of Dr Carnell's ill health. A magnetometer survey was undertaken by Robert Vernon of the University of Bradford to locate possible iron-making furnace sites indicated by slag concentrations, but none were found.

With the Society's new metal detector, a training day was organised in October 1998 with the East Leicestershire Metal Detector Group, whose experience in locating, identifying, and conserving the metal objects recovered was invaluable (these finds are now in RCM).

In connection with the project two further areas were fieldwalked within the parishes of Manton and Gunthorpe (see above).

*Oakham, Bull Lane (SK)*

Pottery dating from the 16th to 19th century was recovered in January 1999 during a watch on the building of a conservatory for a house in Alwyne Close. The material has been identified by Dr Richard Pollard, LMARS (RCM A7.1999). These finds are in addition to those recovered during the initial development in 1993 (LMARS A5.1993).

*Oakham Castle (SK)*

A resistivity survey was conducted on the kitchen site east of the Great Hall by Dr Peter Carnell and the Group. Although extensive structural remains were confirmed, a full report has not yet been received due to Dr Carnell's ill health.

*Oakham, Rutland County Museum (SK)*

Six sherds of medieval pottery and some bone fragments

were found beneath the Riding School floor during repair work in 1996 (RLHRS R25, not previously noted).

*Ridlington (SK 0182)*

As a result of the Roman iron slag concentrations reported in *Rutland Record* 16 (1996) 247-9, Jane Cowgill and Robert Vernon of the Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, conducted a magnetometer survey with assistance from the Group. Robert Vernon reports that the geophysical survey has confirmed that smelting was carried out and that his readings are consistent with those seen on shaft-furnace sites elsewhere, for example in North Yorkshire. Two furnaces were identified and their presence was confirmed on the ground by trowelling the surface when pieces of furnace lining were located. This would suggest that both furnaces have been cut by ploughing. Vernon writes that, although no straightforward conclusion can be drawn from the survey data, it does point the way to several features worthy of further investigation, namely furnaces, a slag dump and possible related features, including ditches. The physical state of the furnaces must be in doubt, with perhaps only one of the furnace bases remaining *in situ* (unpublished research project on the geophysical responses produced by metalworking sites; Series Report No.9: Report on Geophysical Surveys at the Ridlington Iron Smelting Site, Rutland, by R W Vernon, Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, October 1998).

*Seaton (SP 903983)*

A watch on development at Thompson's Lane, near where Saxon material had been previously found, failed to produce any archaeological evidence (RLHRS R14).

*Thorpe by Water*

Seven sherds of Roman pottery were found by contractors working near the village (RLHRS R22).

*Uppingham, Doctors' Surgery, London Road (SP 862996)*

Stamford, medieval and post-medieval pottery was found by Garry Till whilst working on new extension foundations to the surgery (RLHRS R21).

### Other Activities

The metal detector purchased by the Society has proved to be a popular added incentive with field workers, and with the assistance and experience of the East Leicestershire Metal Detector Group finds of metal not normally seen during fieldwalking have been recovered. These objects provide additional information on sites as well as the pottery collected.

Meetings have been held in the Rutland County Museum on the Nether Hambleton excavation report and there is little to delay publication any longer.

It is hoped that the report on John Barber's account of Oakham Castle, which includes his excavation of the kitchens, along with pottery identifications by Deborah Sawday will soon be published.

The Society's Greetham village visit project, directed by Peter Lane, involved the preparation of displays on the archaeology of the parish by Elaine Jones, and on its local history as well as on the Rutland Home Guard by David Bland and Robert Ovens - who also planned the village "walk-about".

The 1998 Christmas Dinner was held at the Crown Inn at Asfordby, and organised by Maureen Dodds, our Social Secretary. Twenty-two attended the archaeologists' Summer Picnic at Exton, which included a guided tour of the church and its monuments by Archdeacon Bernard Fernyhough, followed by supper in the village hall organised, as ever, by Maureen Dodds.

*Acknowledgements*

The Archaeological Group again wishes to thank the landowners and farmers who have kindly permitted our fieldwork on their lands. Richard Knox, Sites and Monuments Officer, LMARS, kindly gave help and access to the Greetham file for the archaeological display. Dr Richard Pollard, also of LMARS, has done spot checks on some of our pottery identifications for which we are most thankful. Finally, we would like to thank all the field-workers who participated in the field projects, often on cold wet winter days - namely Fred and Olive Adams, David Carlin, Sue Davidson, Clive Jones, Jasmine Knew, Jenny McConnell, Jenny Naylor, Robert Ovens, Sheila Sleath and Eileen Turner-Smith.

*Elaine Jones*

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**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

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*Ashwell, Water Lane (SK 867134)*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for new dwellings at Home Farm. The work was commissioned by Mr M G Evans. Pottery dating to the 11th and 12th centuries was recovered near to the south barn. In addition, a wall of uncertain date was identified, which may possibly be a boundary feature (RCM A1.1999).

*Jennifer Browning*

*Cottesmore, Main Street (SK 902136)*

Following archaeological evaluation by trial trenching which revealed limited activity from the later prehistoric period, a scheme for further work was agreed involving an open area excavation and several satellite trenches to determine the extent of the activity. The archaeological evidence suggests activity in the later prehistoric, Roman, late Saxon and early medieval periods in particular, with limited later and post-medieval indications. The earliest feature was a boundary ditch, possibly Iron Age, recut during the early Roman period. A few unstratified flint artefacts were recovered, possibly indicating earlier activity on the site. A second phase of activity indicated late Saxon (9th-10th century) domestic use of the site including a refuse pit and associated ditch and gully. Early medieval (11th-12th century) plot activity formed the bulk of the evidence on the site. A clear sub-division of the plot was observed, perhaps according to specific activities, including potential building plots containing a putative structure, fence lines, a large pit and several possible animal pens or small fenced enclosures.

A 14th to 15th century linear feature with burning at its base, suggesting industrial use, was the only evidence of later medieval activity. A final phase of activity was recorded in Trench 7 near the south end of the site where

several walls were uncovered which represented activity relating to a former post medieval dwelling, since demolished (RCM A4.1998).

*John Thomas*

*Empingham, Church Street (SK 949085)*

An archaeological watching brief commissioned by Mr Macintosh was undertaken during the removal of topsoil and reduction of ground level prior to a barn conversion. A stone-filled feature was identified, containing pottery dating to the 13th and 14th centuries. It may have functioned as a form of soakaway (RCM A2.1999).

*Jennifer Browning*

*Glaston, Grange Farm, Main Street (SK 896005)*

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken in June 1998 for Captain R E J Boyle and Fisher Hoggarth Chartered Surveyors on the site of proposed housing development. The evaluation proved that archaeological remains existed on the site including extensive evidence for early medieval backyard plots and earlier features which may be linked to the adjacent prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon activity excavated in the 1940s during sand extraction. The archive and finds from the site are to be retained by the landowner.

*John Thomas*

*Great Casterton, Home Farmyard (TF 00080887)*

In October 1998 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposed residential development. The work was commissioned by Strutt and Parker for the Cecil Estate Family Trust. Six trenches were excavated by machine, and cleaned by hand. A burial, possibly of Roman date, was uncovered. The remains of two walls, a hearth, post-holes, and a surface were recorded which might date from the medieval period (RCM A11.1998).

*Jennifer Browning*

*Great Casterton, Walk Farm, Pickworth (TF 00701180 and TF 01201220)*

From 16th to 23rd July 1998 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in advance of the formation of conservation ponds. During a topsoil strip of the area proposed for clay extraction at TF 00701180 a series of prehistoric archaeological features was revealed. Pottery recovered from post-holes and hearths was of Iron Age date, and two unstratified flints suggested Mesolithic and Bronze Age dates. At TF 01201220, an area designated for the creation of conservation ponds, the topsoil strip revealed an accumulation of colluvium within which no archaeological features could be discerned. Due to extraction methods of the colluvium down to natural bedrock in this area, any detection of archaeological deposits sealed by the hillwash was inhibited. If archaeological features in this area were present it has not been possible to locate them (RCM A9.1998).

*Joanna Sturgess*

*Ketton, 21A Geeston Road (SK 987041)*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a garage extension and car port. The remains of an undated stone wall were located in a trench for the car port (SMR).

*Jennifer Browning*

*Lyddington, Prebendal Barn (SP 877971)*

An earth resistance survey was carried out on behalf of Smiths Gore over land within the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 17156) of Prebendal Barn. The survey detected evidence of a possible buried moat, banks, ditches and rubble spread.

Adrian Butler

*Oakham, storm sewer (SK 860880 to SK 880095)*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between June and October 1998 on the laying of a new storm sewer. Medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered, possibly indicative of manuring activity in the open fields of Oakham. Finds and records will be deposited with RCM.

Sally Warren

*Oakham, Catmose Street (SK 86340863)*

An archaeological watching brief, commissioned by Paul Bancroft Architects for Rutland County Council, was undertaken in December 1998 during topsoil stripping for an extension to the council offices. A pit containing a large quantity of medieval pottery and a small amount of animal bone was located. The pottery derived from a minimum of eleven jugs, two cooking pots or storage jars and six vessels of unknown type, dating from the 13th century (RCM A13.1998).

Jennifer Browning

*Oakham, South Street (SK 85900860)*

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken for Marron Dodds Solicitors within the area

of a proposed retail development. Twenty-four trenches were excavated of which fifteen contained features of archaeological interest mostly dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. Waterlogged deposits were also encountered which included a timber-lined channel of probable medieval date, and undated palaeochannels. The archive will be stored with RCM.

Joanna Sturgess

*Ryhall (TF 030100 to TF 040110)*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 11th and 17th May 1999 for East Midlands Electricity plc during the installation of underground cables. Evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded within the general area, and two worked flints were recovered during the excavation of the trenches. A pit was also recorded, but contained no finds to date it (RCM A4.1999).

Sally Warren

**Negative watching briefs in Rutland**

*Egleton:* Church Road (SK 876073).

*Empingham:* Home Farm, Main Street (SK 94850870); Jubilee Barn, Church Street (SK 949085).

*Great Casterton:* Casterton Community College, Ryhall Road (TF 003095); 43 Pickworth Road (TF 002095).

*Greetham:* Shepherd's Lane (SK 92471470).

*Ridlington:* Scheduled Ancient Monument 183 (SK 845027).

*Seaton:* 7 Thompson's Lane (SP 905983).

*Stretton:* Rectory Farm, Rookery Lane (SP 948157).

*Uppingham:* Uppingham School (SK 864995) and 7A North Street.

## Fin de Siècle

In the remaining page and a half at the end not only of this twentieth issue but also of the twentieth century, it seems appropriate to remind readers of some of the services they would have been able to enjoy one hundred years ago by reproducing a few advertisements from Matkin's *Oakham Almanack* for 1900. These volumes, extending from 1892 to 1941, remain a constant source of reference in the Rutland County Museum.

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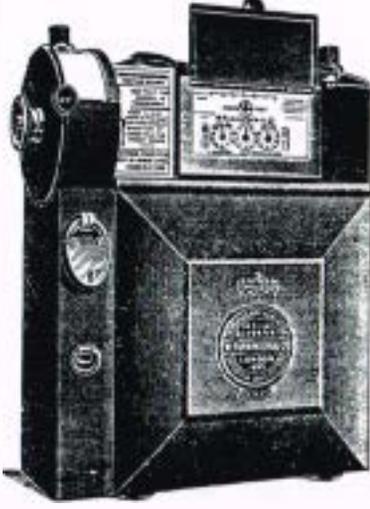
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The Society's publications, with their main contents, are currently available as follows:

**Rutland Record 1** (£1.00 post free)

Emergence of Rutland; Medieval hunting grounds; Rutland field names; Illiteracy in 19th century Rutland

**Rutland Record 2** (£1.00 post free)

Archdeacon Johnson; Thomas Barker's weather records; Rutland Agricultural Society; Rutland farms in 1871

**Rutland Record 3** (OP)

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*Other titles are in preparation*

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**Rutland Record, Index, Occasional Publications:** 75p each; **Stained Glass:** £1.50;

**Tudor Rutland, Weather Journals:** £2.00 each (Overseas charged at cost)

All orders for publications, with payment *in sterling including postage as shown above*, and trade enquiries should be sent to: The Honorary Editor, RLHRS, c/o Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW, England. Membership enquiries should be sent to the Honorary Membership Secretary at the same address.

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