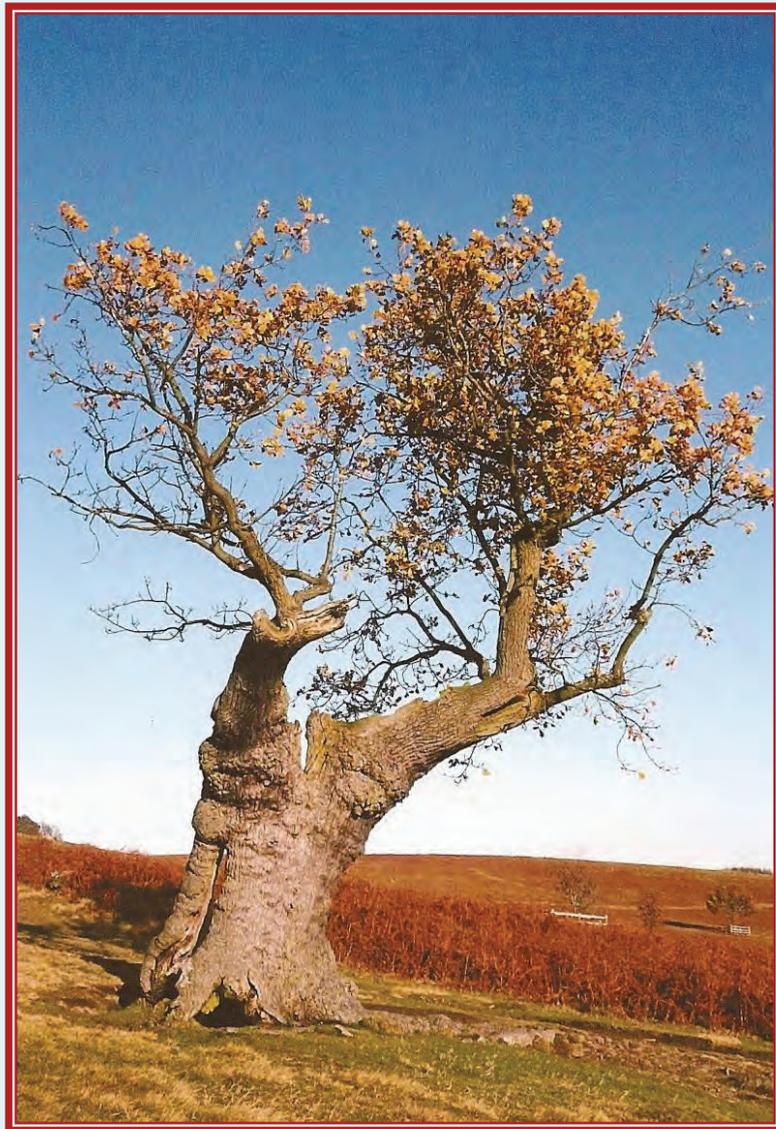


Rutland Record 34



Journal of the Rutland Local History & Record Society

Rutland Loal 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 & 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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Front cover illustration:

An Oak wrangle in Bradgate Park, Leicestershire (Anthony Squires)

Back cover illustrations:

Anglo-Saxon gold bracteate from Market Overton (Roger Blackmore & Oakham School)
General view of Leighfield (Anthony Squires)
The arms of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland College (University of Leicester)

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Editorial : Two million pounds for Oakham Castle

It is ten years since, in the Editorial for *Rutland Record* 24, we drew attention to the urgent need for action to safeguard the future of Oakham Castle. Two years ago, in the Editorial for *RR* 32, we highlighted, amongst other things, that Rutland County Council was working towards just such a project, and drew attention to a number of research programmes which had been undertaken partly in preparation for the submission of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to enable the project to be achieved. With great pleasure we can now record that, following the success of the first stage of the bid process and a great deal of hard work on the part of the Rutland County Museum team, supported by consultants and others, the detailed second stage bid also met with success and on 1st August 2014 the HLF announced a grant of £2m to the Council to enable the project to proceed: fuller details can be found both in the HLF's press release and on the Rutland CC website (and see below, p189). The news was intensely gratifying to the Friends of the Rutland County Museum & Oakham Castle who had dedicated both funds and effort in support of the bid, and of course to this Society too and to all those who have an interest in Rutland's heritage.

The Great Hall of Oakham Castle is rightly recognised as one of the most important twelfth-century vernacular buildings to survive in Britain. As such, the hall and the fortified site around it should be maintained in a manner befitting its status: efforts to ensure that this is done have been ongoing certainly since the mid-1970s when the castle came into the hands of the then Leicestershire Museums, Arts & Records Service. As noted in *RR* 24, important repairs were carried out, and octocentenary celebrations were held in 1980, but despite the best efforts of those involved the funding to enable further works to be undertaken – including safeguarding the earthworks – could not be found. It is therefore all the more gratifying to see that Rutland County Council has had the confidence to invest in the castle development project, which aims not just to consolidate the Great Hall and its surrounding defences but also to upgrade the facilities so that the site can be used for a greater variety of community programmes and events.

The research projects which were undertaken, such as Trent & Peak Archaeology's sophisticated survey (*Rutland Record* 32, 88), yielded much information which helped to underpin the bid to the HLF. Especially interesting was Nick Hill's detailed study of the Great Hall which culminated in a new view of the original form of the building and made it possible to identify several phases of structural change and repair over the centuries, supported by tree-ring analysis which has demonstrated that at least some timbers survive from the original late twelfth-century build (Hill 2013). Not least amongst the various sources available to the team preparing the bid was the evidence from the late John Barber's excavations outside the east end of the Great Hall; although he was never to produce a detailed report the finds remain in the Rutland County Museum, and he left extensive notes setting out his interpretation of the site and its history. Coinciding with the HLF project, this Society has now published John Barber's notes, as well as other material about the castle, as a full-colour title in its Occasional Publications series (Jones & Ovens 2014).

Given the parlous and worsening state of local authority finances and the lamentable failure of Government to sustain or demonstrate adequate support for or belief in Britain's heritage, above or below ground, or to recognise the essential value of libraries, museums and archives to our general quality of life, we can but be grateful that Rutland has determined to maintain Oakham Castle as a jewel in its crown and that the HLF has equally recognised its value and importance by making this grant. As the works come to fruition over the next year or so, we will all be able to see more clearly what a wonderful cultural and community asset we possess: it then behoves us to use and enjoy the Castle to the full and support the county's Museum Service which is responsible for running it as best we can – joining the Friends of the Museum makes a good start.

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Kate Cooper worked in Aberystwyth University Library and then in the Welsh Office. A lifelong interest in local history culminated in 2009 when she gained her doctorate from the University of Leicester. She has written a book on migration in Victorian Britain and several journal articles on local history topics of both Welsh and English interest. She is currently transcribing 17th century inventories for the Leicestershire Victoria County History.

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Tony Squires is co-author (with Michael Jeeves) of *Leicestershire and Rutland Woodlands Past and Present* (Kairos Press 1994), and is well known for his work on other aspects of the historic landscape. His papers on the medieval parks of Flitteris and Ridlington appeared in *Rutland Record* 12 and 23 respectively, and on Rutland's medieval woodlands in *RR* 31.

The contents of *Rutland Record* reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Society or its Editor.

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Early Market Overton – fact and fiction

KATE COOPER

The villages of Rutland feature in many publications, both in print and on-line. Unfortunately, entries relating to the early history of Market Overton are often subject to inaccuracies and conflicting information. This article attempts to unravel the early story of Market Overton, and to formulate as accurate a

picture as possible of the chronology of the development of the village up to the early medieval period, by re-examining the historical and archaeological evidence and by extrapolating from contemporary development within this region of the East Midlands.

Background

Market Overton is a village in north Rutland, situated on the edge of a ridge overlooking the Vale of Catmose. To us, as newcomers, this village seemed to have a long and fascinating history, but discovering more about the early history of the place has proved to be rather a challenge. Information, even from reputable sources, has been unclear, inaccurate and sometimes contradictory. For instance, there seems to be confusion about some of the most significant features of the village's early history: the location of the pagan Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, and the nature of the fortifications previously surrounding the parish church. The aim of this article, therefore, has been to try to gather together as much accurate information as possible about the early history of Market Overton, and to speculate about its possible development within the context of the history of the region.

In the light of the diverse techniques available to the modern archaeologist, it may seem strange that so little is known about early Market Overton, but the reason is simple: it is because of the ironstone quarrying that began here in August 1906 and continued until 1972. During this time the extensive nature of the quarrying removed much of the overburden surrounding Market Overton, and this process has no doubt destroyed a wealth of archaeological evidence and with it the potential to learn more about the prehistoric and historic past of the locality. Unfortunately, Market Overton has not been alone in suffering this destruction of its past. Indeed, from the later nineteenth century 'the surface of thousands of acres in the East Midlands has been methodically turned over in the process of ironstone quarrying' (Hewlett 1979, 29).

Economically, the quarrying was a blessing for the village, providing an alternative form of employment to agriculture, and reversing the outward flow of its inhabitants. Rural outmigration to urban, industrial areas was widespread throughout Britain

by the early twentieth century and the county of Rutland was, proportionally, one of the greatest losers of population at this time. The effects of both the rural exodus and the start of the quarrying are immediately apparent in the census. It shows that the population of Market Overton declined steadily between 1841 and 1901 while the population of Britain as a whole was increasing dramatically. However, the 1911 census tells us that the total population of the village had risen from 294 to 403 since 1901. Of the 129 employed males in 1911, 30% (39 males) were employed in agriculture while almost 42% (54 males) were employed at the ironstone quarries. Incidentally, this demand for male labour at the quarries resulted in a high male sex ratio in Market Overton at this time, similar to that found in the heavily industrialised mining regions of Durham and South Wales: the sex ratio in Market Overton in 1911 (males per 100 females) was 102.5 while that for England and Wales as a whole was 93.6 (Cooper 2011, 123, 209).

From the beginning, though, the ironstone quarrying was, archaeologically speaking, a disaster for the village, a fact recognised by contemporary historians:

In the course of the [ironstone] excavations a large number of antiquities have been found, ranging ... from the neolithic period down to medieval and later times ... [but] it is a matter for the greatest regret that it has been found impossible to excavate the site scientifically (Crowther-Beynon 1911, 481).

The Roman era and earlier

In the days before the quarrying, fields straddling the parish boundary between Market Overton and Thistleton had yielded an abundance of Roman finds over the years, especially of coins and pottery (*Rutland Magazine* IV, 131-4; *LRNQ* III, 289). This inevitably led to conjecture as to whether there was a Roman presence closer to Market Overton village; and the earthworks surrounding the church,

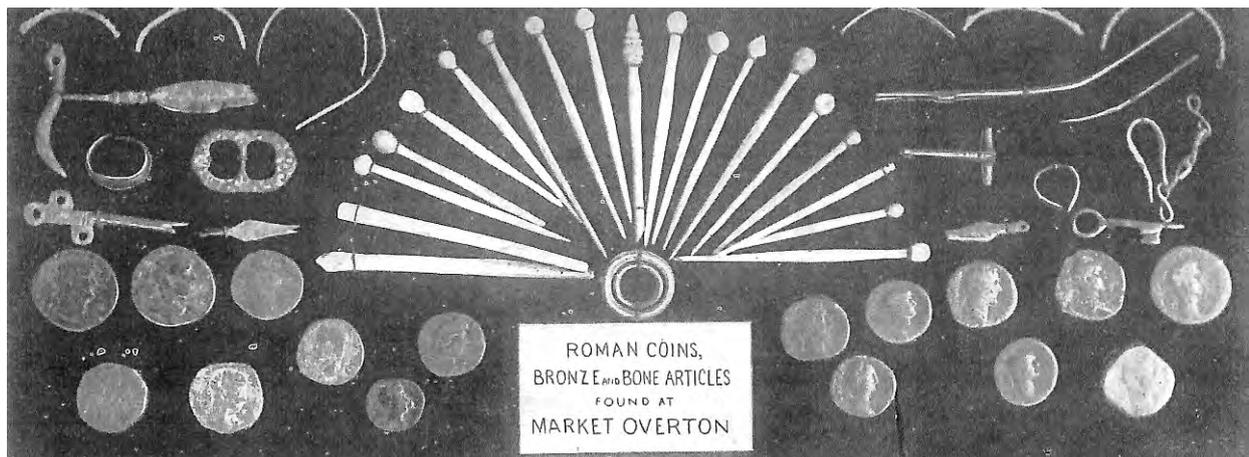


Fig. 1. Part of the Bennett Collection, Roman objects found in the ploughsoil of fields between Market Overton and Thistleton from the 1860s to the early 1900s and amassed by the Bennett family. The collection was dispersed on the death of T G Bennett (*Rutland Magazine* IV, 129, 132-4).

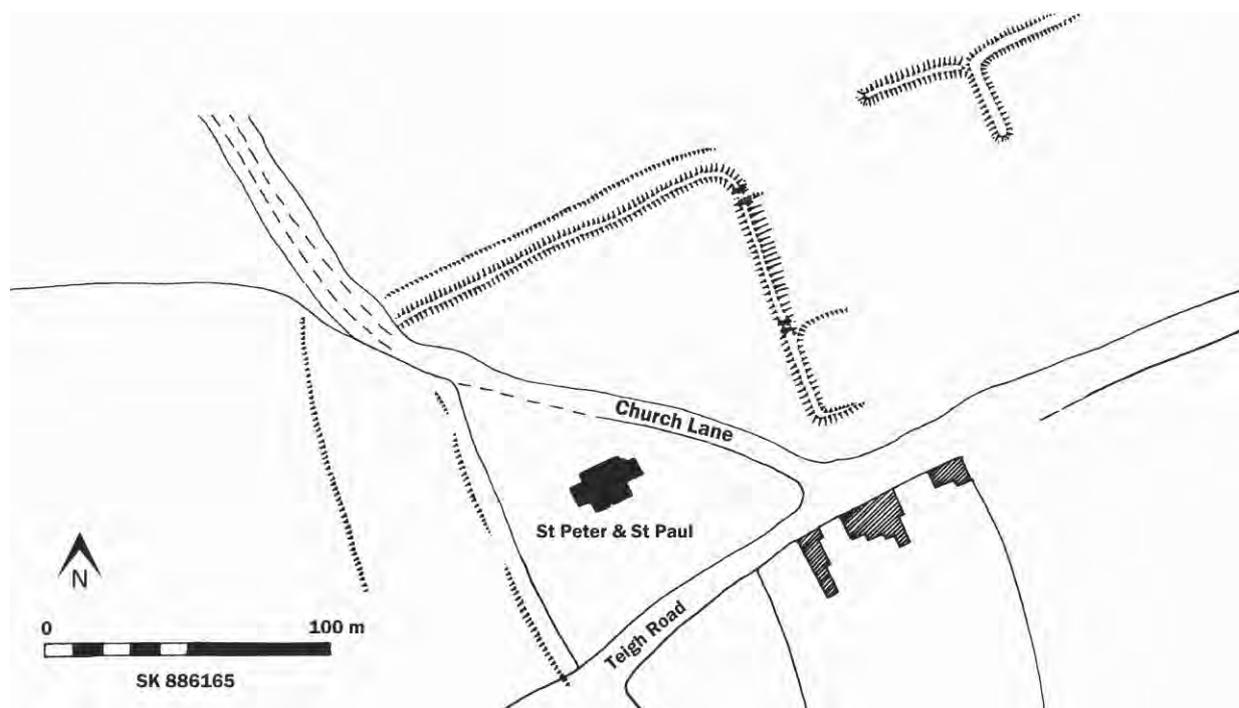


Fig. 2. Earthworks at Market Overton, now mostly destroyed (*VCH Rutland* I, 110; Hartley 1983, 27).

mentioned above, were identified in Victorian times, on very little evidence, as a Roman camp and appear as such on early Ordnance Survey maps and also in the *Victoria County History* for Rutland (25" OS maps 1885, 1904; *VCH* II, 141-45). This notion is still quite widely perpetuated today both in publications and on the internet even though it has been discredited. The feature is now presumed to have been medieval village earthworks (fig. 2), although the dating is uncertain and the theory cannot easily be tested as the earthworks have mainly been destroyed by the ironstone quarrying (EH Monument no. 323432; EH Field Investigator's comments 5th Feb 1969; Brown 1975, 18; Hartley 1983, 27).

In September 1906 the trackway being laid at Market Overton to connect with the LMS railway line at Pain's Sidings reached Land Close, the field directly to the west of the lane leading to the present industrial estate, and ironstone quarrying began there (approx SK 888168; see below, fig. 3). Almost immediately large amounts of Roman material began to appear, mostly in the form of pottery, and notable among these discoveries was a circular chamber about 6 feet in diameter, lined with clay and identified as a Roman pottery kiln, possibly of the late first/early second century AD (EH Monument no. 323457; *Rutland Magazine* IV, 163-4; Hewlett 1979, 29). The kiln was subsequently destroyed as the ironstone pit continued diagonally

in a south-westerly direction; but as the quarrying progressed it continued to reveal domestic Roman material including two halves of a beehive quern, used for hand-grinding cereals into flour, a bronze brooch and a few coins (Crowther-Beynon 1908, 48-9; *Rutland Magazine* IV, 164). However, this was not the only evidence of Romano-British domestic occupation in this vicinity. Three years previously, William Wing of Market Overton House, a keen antiquarian who closely followed the ironstone quarrying in its early years and who took the finds into safekeeping (Crowther-Beynon 1911, 489-50), had unearthed evidence of a Roman settlement site in 'the north arable field of The Lodge Farm' (approx SK 893164). The finds included masonry, bricks and tiles, as well as coins, bones and large quantities of pottery sherds (HER ref. MLE5516; *Rutland Magazine* IV, 163; the former Lodge Farm is now The Lodge Trust).

The quarrying continued at Market Overton until 1972 but in the later stages archaeologists became involved in the process. By the early 1950s the quarrying was approaching the outskirts of neighbouring Thistleton, and significant finds prompted rescue excavations in the 1950s and 1960s by Ernest Greenfield on behalf of the Ministry of Works. These revealed a substantial Romano-British town covering a former Iron Age settlement, and with a temple dedicated to the god Veteris (EH Monument no. 325314; Thistleton excavations unpublished but reported in *JRS* 47, 212; 48, 98, 137; 50, 224; 51, 175; 52, 172, 192; 55, 207). It was a civilian settlement which, besides being a religious focus, was a centre for craft production and also the processing and marketing of agricultural produce from the surrounding area (Taylor 2006, 156), including, presumably, Market Overton.

Fortunately, archaeologists now hold a watching brief over any quarrying or building activity. Thus, it was one such rescue dig in Market Overton in February and March 2007, preparatory to the construction of Walker Close (approx SK 891162), that was able to make significant additions to our knowledge of the history of human activity here. Quantities of roof tiles, painted wall plaster, hypocaust tiles and pottery indicated the former presence of a villa of the later Roman period c250-400 AD; while a network of ditches, pits, postholes and associated domestic material suggested that there had been settlement here stretching back from the Roman period into the late Iron Age, from c250 AD back to c100 BC (HER ref. MLE16735; ULAS 2007; Shore 2008). This chronology is certainly typical of the pattern emerging in this region for 'Roman settlements to overlie or sit adjacent to their Iron-Age antecedents ... this is especially true of villas'

(Taylor 2006, 154). As regards Rutland, the archaeological evidence currently suggests a predominantly river valley-based Romano-British settlement pattern, although, as many of the sites have only been discovered due to modern development, this may have exaggerated this pattern (Cooper 2000, 149). As it is, the upland (in Rutland terms) settlement site at Market Overton may have been atypical, but it probably formed part of the hinterland of Roman Thistleton, which in turn no doubt owed its existence to its position on Fosse Lane which linked Ermine Street to the Fosse Way.

Returning to the 2007 excavation at Walker Close, this was able to extend the timeline for Market Overton far back into prehistory with the discovery of a 'rare early Mesolithic flint assemblage'. The types of flint found suggest that microliths were being produced on site, indicating the presence, albeit temporary, of a band of early Mesolithic hunter-gatherers (HER ref. MLE 16737; ULAS 2007; Shore 2008). Meanwhile, also in 2007, five pieces of prehistoric flint, of the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age, were recovered during an archaeological watching brief at The Lodge (approx SK 893164), about 100 metres to the east of Walker Close (HER ref. MLE 20059). These flints, together with a Neolithic polished stone axe of Group VI epidotised tuff from the Great Langdale area of the Lake District (EH Monument no. 323428; Crowther-Beynon 1910, 8; Clough & Cummins 1988, 199, petrology no. RUT 1; RCM OS544), revealed by the ironstone quarrying in 1910, complete our very meagre but nonetheless valuable assemblage of recorded prehistoric finds, to date, for Market Overton.

The early Anglo-Saxon period

Thus, despite the quarrying activities, we do have enough archaeological evidence to indicate a long history of human activity and settlement in and around Market Overton village. However, impressive though the Romano-British finds undoubtedly are, those that really fire the imagination are the spectacular artefacts of the early Anglo-Saxon period. These latter were discovered in two cemeteries exposed by the quarrying, the first or north cemetery found in 1908, and the second or south cemetery found in 1909 and described below (EH Monument nos. 323450 and 323453). Certainly, in the opinion of a contemporary historian, these items 'far exceed, both in number and interest, those of other periods which have come to light in Market Overton' (Crowther-Beynon 1911, 81). Unfortunately, this does not mean that they can enlighten us greatly today about this period in Market Overton's early history because:

the methods employed by the Ironstone Company are fatal to any attempt to collect the finds into grave-groups, and we are compelled to treat them as a series of individual objects (Crowther-Beynon 1911, 482).

The destruction of Market Overton's pagan Anglo-Saxon cemeteries without proper archaeological excavation, even by the standards of the day, is even more tragic when we consider the relative sparsity of evidence for this period in English history. Although there are well over 1,000 of these pagan burial sites recorded in England (for a map see Harke 2011, 3), comparatively few contemporary settlements are known, so that it is through their cemeteries that the early Anglo-Saxons can most readily be studied (Stafford 1985, 91; Tiller 2002, 25).

The cemeteries confirm that the East Midlands was a region in which Anglo-Saxon settlement was both early and extensive. They are the patent evidence of Anglo-Saxon communities of the fifth to seventh/eighth centuries, the physical evidence of which is very hard to discover in the ground because of the impermanence of their domestic building materials. The early Anglo-Saxon transition has been the subject of much debate by scholars. The end of Roman Britain appears to have largely removed the material culture associated with the Romano-British population without giving rise to an archaeologically visible replacement, so that settlement sites during the sub-Roman period are very difficult to identify. The pollen record, though, suggests that the lower classes, at least, continued to farm the land at subsistence level (Cooper 2000,

150; Harke 2011, 5). As regards the volume of incoming Anglo-Saxons, most of the recent biological and cultural evidence now points to 'a minority immigration on the scale of 10% to 20% of the native population'. Moreover, this was not a single invasion, but rather a 'series of intrusions and immigrations' over a considerable period, differing from region to region, and changing over time even within regions. Two key phases may be distinguished in this process. Initially, mainly in the fifth and sixth centuries, the incomers and the native population probably lived in ethnically divided communities and regions with very limited mixing and inter-marriage. In time, though, mainly during the seventh and eighth centuries but occasionally earlier, assimilation and acculturation saw the gradual integration of the native population into the society of the culturally and socially dominant incomers (Harke 2011, 10, 19).

The Germanic invaders probably initially arrived in Rutland via the Wash and along the Welland in the late fifth or early sixth century (Stafford 1985, 82). When they reached the Market Overton area, it is possible that they found themselves in a dispersed pattern of settlement and subsistence agriculture that had been evolving at least since the late Iron Age, but extensively driven by the Roman presence in this area. Somewhere nearby, as the cemeteries seem to suggest, an Anglo-Saxon community or communities became established, but whether the early Saxons remained in this area and eventually became integrated with the local population we have no way of knowing.

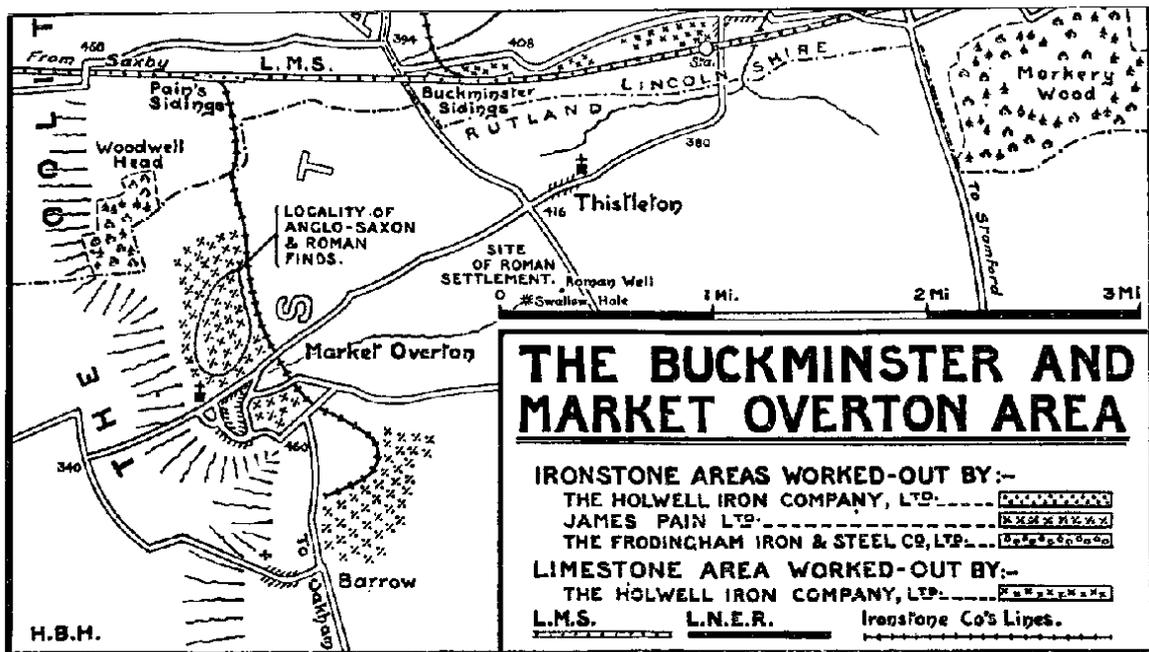


Fig. 3. Map of 1935 showing the location of Anglo-Saxon and Roman finds at Market Overton exposed by the early quarrying (Hewlett 1979, 26).



Fig. 4. An Anglo-Saxon gilt-bronze cruciform brooch from the south cemetery at Market Overton, late 6th or early 7th century (Crowther-Beynon 1911, 485; RCM OS41).

The burial sites

The locations of early Anglo-Saxon burial sites have been mapped in Audrey Meaney's *Gazetteer* of 1964, and this definitive work has been the source for many official records such as Ordnance Survey maps and the National Monuments Record (now English Heritage Archive). Unfortunately, there is a problem with the Market Overton records in Meaney. Although the apparently correct locations were described in the *Rutland Magazine* of 1909-10 and the sites marked on a map of 1935 (fig. 3) (Hewlett 1979, 26), Meaney has ascribed to both of them incorrect map references (Meaney 1964, 216). The error in Meaney was recognised by Brown as early as 1975 when he suggested amended map references (Brown 1975, 18), but they were not corrected in the English Heritage Archive. Meaney had mistakenly placed the south cemetery to the south of Berrybushes and to the west of Main Street, but, as Brown points out, both the cemeteries were found in the same field, i.e. Land Close (north of the Thistleton road and west of the lane leading to the present industrial estate), with the second burial ground being 'at the south end of the field'. Thus, Brown argued, to allow for this siting, the 'first cemetery must have been further to the north than

she [Meaney] allows' (Brown 1975, 18). The information in the English Heritage Archive has now been amended, but the locations still remain incorrect on some maps and in some publications. The amended grid references should read approx SK 887169 for the north cemetery and approx SK 887166 for the south.

Unfortunately, we will probably never know the location of the settlement(s) associated with these burial sites. Examples from other regions suggest that Anglo-Saxon cemeteries could be situated adjacent to their settlements, although there is also evidence for their being sited on boundaries of land units (Arnold 1997, 54-5; Vince 2006, 170). What, though, can we learn from the grave goods themselves? These finds, the majority of which are now in the Rutland County Museum, have been described in considerable detail (Crowther-Beynon 1908, 50-2; *VCH* I, 102-4 and frontispiece; Crowther-Beynon 1911, 481-96; *Rutland Magazine* IV, 165-7; Cottrill 1946, 9, 10, 14-5; Meaney 1964, 216-7; for a more comprehensive list of references to both cemeteries and their finds see Clough *et al* 1975, 83), most notable being quantities of iron swords, spearheads and shield bosses, and gold, silver and gilded bronze jewellery. These artefacts seem to suggest the presence at Market Overton of an elite warrior group or groups.



Fig. 5. A gold bracteate pendant from the south cemetery at Market Overton, early 6th century (RCM OS21; photo: Roger Blackmore & Oakham School).

As with any historical or archaeological data, though, we do need to exercise caution with the interpretation of these grave goods. The early Anglo-Saxons brought their strong pagan beliefs with them, and death and burial were significant events marked by deliberate ostentation so that their graves may distort our picture of their lifestyles. For instance, possession of a spear and shield did not necessarily denote a warrior, but might equally

demonstrate a male's standing in the community as adult and free (Stafford 1985, 147-8; Harke 1990, 24, 43). The culture, though, was undeniably militaristic, and this was the age of the rise of dynasties in England and the struggle for territories and power. Moreover, status was demonstrated by the possession of fine objects that could equally have been acquired as a result of tribute, plunder or trade; but where such prestige objects appear in graves they undoubtedly tell of the increasing wealth and power of small groups of successful Saxons and their families (Stafford 1985, 155-6).

Anglo-Saxon jewellery can be quite closely dated stylistically which has led scholars to believe the Market Overton burials formed two distinct cemeteries of slightly differing dates (*Rutland Magazine* IV, 167; Crowther-Beynon 1911, 488; Hewlett 1979, 30). The jewellery from the north cemetery is thought to be from the early to mid sixth century, while the jewellery from the south cemetery is richer, more diverse and ornate and with a longer date span of possibly early sixth to early seventh century (*Rutland Magazine* IV, 165-7; Crowther-Beynon 1911, 486, 489; Leeds 1911, 491-6; Meaney 1964, 216-7; Hewlett 1979, 30; Adkins *et al* 2008, 226-7). This dating obviously assists in suggesting a chronology of both settlement and burial, but we have no idea how many individuals were interred here or indeed how many graves were missed due to paucity or lack of grave goods, and thus we cannot tell either how long the cemeteries were in use or for how long the associated settlement(s) were occupied. Indeed, early Saxon occupation here may have ceased altogether for a time as populations fluctuated. As for the descendants of the local Romano-British population, unfortunately they are invisible to us at this time.

The later Saxon era

Although in later Saxon times Rutland was surrounded by the territory of the Five Boroughs, an area of Danish settlement, there is no indication of any Scandinavian influence in Market Overton's early medieval history. Indeed, Phythian-Adams has suggested that the area now roughly comprising Rutland formed a Middle Anglian royal estate that was later subsumed into Mercia. As a possession of the Mercian Kings it appears to have survived the Scandinavian invasion, as illustrated by the fact that there is very little evidence for the adoption of Danish place-names in Rutland (Phythian-Adams 1980, 8-10; Cooper 2000, 152).

The next tangible evidence for occupation in Market Overton, after the early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, is to be found in the parish church in the form of Saxon stone elements in the mainly

thirteenth- and fourteenth-century church. These suggest that the present church replaces a pre-Conquest one. The fine internal tower arch, the only remaining Saxon arch in Rutland, is thought to date from the later tenth or early eleventh century, and for about three feet on either side of the opening the walling is thought to be contemporary with the arch. However, it has also been suggested that the arch may even be re-used Roman work (Taylor & Taylor 1965, 411-12). Externally, two balusters, probably from a belfry opening of the pre-Conquest church, are now built into a stile at the north-west corner of the graveyard; and there are three carved stones, thought to be parts of one or more Saxon cross shafts, built into the lower courses of the tower (*VCH II*, 141-145; Fisher 1969, 170; Clough *et al* 1975, 82-3; Pevsner 1984, 486-7; Prophet 1988, 61; some sources have overlooked the presence of the smallest stone and list only two). One stone has plaitwork decoration (fig. 6), one has scrollwork and one features a fairly naive depiction of a human figure.



Fig. 6. Saxon cross segment in the north wall of Market Overton church tower (photo: author).

The presence of a Saxon church indicates that a village had evolved at Market Overton at least by the later tenth or early eleventh century. The carved cross remnants, however, suggest a settlement of an even earlier date, although we can have no way of knowing whether occupation may have been continuous here since the days of the first Anglo-Saxon settlers. Most stone crosses date from the ninth to the eleventh centuries (Adkins 2008, 234). They are thought to have provided a focus for religious observance in the days before parish churches, and often became incorporated into the layout of churchyards, thus preserving a continuity of worship.

In the later Saxon period growing political unity, economic growth and the expansion of overseas trade were accompanied by a rising population in England. In the more populous areas a pattern of small, fairly scattered groups of dwellings began to give way to larger settlements, eventually recognisable as villages, as lesser thegns received grants of land and the old multiple estates began to

fragment. This process, though, is likely to have been a complex and gradual one, involving a complete reorganisation of the landscape, but there is very little archaeological evidence for the steps involved (Cooper 2000, 152). In Midland and Southern Central England, the agricultural changes resulted in the open- or common-field village, with its manor house, church and dwellings grouped at the centre of a field system, often regarded as the classic medieval landscape (Tiller 2002, 37, 58). It was into one of these villages that pre-Conquest Market Overton had evolved, although the nucleation process of English villages probably continued into the twelfth century as the manorial system became a settled feature of medieval life (Adkins *et al* 2008, 243).

We should not assume, however, that the early village occupied a similar footprint to that of today. An important feature of surviving villages is the factor of change; the English landscape is constantly developing and altering, and villages are no exception (Aston 2002, 77). In some areas we clearly see roughly the same group of people exploiting the same local environment for their subsistence requirements over a long period, but with successive generations living on slightly different sites as preferences altered. Over time, therefore, the settlement pattern will change correspondingly (Aston 2002, 98), and it is not unreasonable to suppose that this was also true of early Market Overton, although, as Ian Ryder has pointed out (*pers. comm.*), access to a water supply, probably from wells, would have been a significant determining factor here on this escarpment with few natural streams. Moreover, the earthwork enclosure, once supposed to have been a Roman camp (above, fig. 2), is now thought to have defined a significant element of this medieval village, probably the manorial complex (VCH I, 110). As mentioned above, most of this feature has been quarried away but a very small portion of the SW side may still be traced in a terrace in the rectory garden.

A clearer picture of early Market Overton is now beginning to emerge, and this can be further enhanced as the village finally enters the realms of documentary evidence, although early written sources for the village are very sparse. The first known documented use of the village's 'Market' prefix was in AD 1200 (VCH II, 141; Cox 1994, 34), but the earliest reference to the village itself is in Domesday Book (Cox 1994, 34). This tells us that before the Conquest, *Overtune*, 'the village on the ridge', was held by Waltheof, Earl of Huntingdon

and Northumbria, and its rental value was £12 per annum. By 1086 the manor had passed to Earl Waltheof's widow Judith, who was also William the Conqueror's niece. The rental value had now increased to £20, and there was land for 12 plough teams, 40 acres of meadow, and woodland pasture probably covering a little over 600 acres. The Domesday entry is of immense historical value, not least because it allows us a first glimpse of the villagers themselves. We learn that there were 43 households, suggesting a total population of about 193, using an average family size of 4.5 individuals (Darby 1986, 74). Of these households 35 were of villein status and 8 were bordars. A villein was an unfree peasant who owed labour services to his lord, for perhaps two or three days per week, but who also farmed land for himself. A bordar was also an unfree peasant but with less land than the villein. Unfortunately for our purposes, though, the Domesday entry is a combined one for (Market) Overton and its berewick, or outlying estate, of Stretton, so we cannot be sure of precisely how much each settlement comprised, in terms of either households or land.

Conclusion

Given the available evidence this is perhaps the closest we can get to the early development of Market Overton. It does, however, suggest a much longer pattern of continuity of human activity than was thought possible by early landscape historians such as W G Hoskins; and accords quite well with conclusions drawn from fieldwork of recent decades within the region (for instance, Cooper 2000, 142-55). It is now becoming clear that the Domesday landscape itself was the product of a long-term process of gradual intensification of settlement and land use, probably punctuated with periods of regression (Cooper 2000, 153), a process that would continue.

This account of pre-Conquest Market Overton derives mainly from the rather sparse archaeology and its interpretation. Written evidence, however, can add so many more dimensions to social history research, and although the early sources for Market Overton are very meagre they do gradually increase as the centuries progress. It is the entry in the Domesday Book that first allows us to visualise a working village community here, and with the proliferation of documentary source material we can start to build a clearer picture of Market Overton and its history from this point onwards.

Abbreviations and Bibliography

EH	English Heritage
HER	Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record
JRS	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
LRNQ	<i>Leicestershire & Rutland Notes & Queries</i>
RCM	Rutland County Museum
VCH	<i>Victoria County History</i>

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Leighfield Forest: Woodlands and Landscape in the Sixteenth and early Seventeenth Centuries

ANTHONY SQUIRES

The once heavily-wooded nature of the area of the former Royal Forest of Leighfield has left few signs on the modern landscape. The Forest was once extensive, but by the middle of the sixteenth century it had contracted to a wooded 'core'. Drawing on a wide variety of sources, this

paper examines the geology and topography of the area, defines the individual woodlands, describes the nature of each and the species present, and accounts for the woodlands' gradual and inevitable decline to the point where the Crown relinquished all interest in the area.

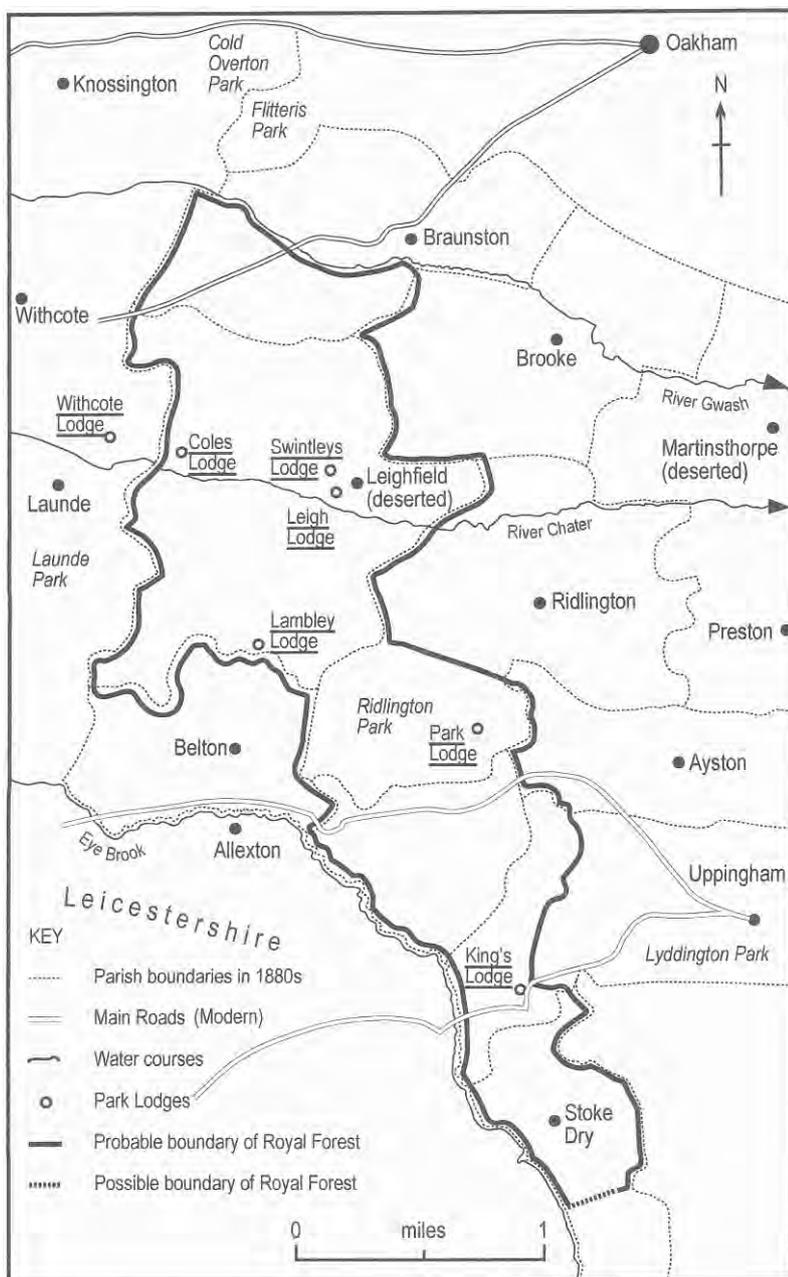


Fig. 1. The boundary of the Royal Forest of Leighfield c1550.

1. Introduction

Leighfield is a familiar name in Rutland, as that of a civil parish (albeit with a very small population) and as the later name of the Royal Forest of Rutland. The title 'Royal' was most likely the work of Henry I (1100-35) who threw a judicial ring around a large part of the Rutland of the time (together with a part of east Leicestershire) to create a royal hunting ground (*VCH Leics* II, 265). Over the centuries the area of the Royal Forest contracted several times until by about the mid fourteenth century it was probably reduced to the territory shown on fig. 1. It was here that the great bulk of the county's surviving woodland was to be found.

Most of the Royal Forests in England were founded in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. From their earliest days they were subject to a long process of attrition as a result of social, economic and political movements together with mismanagement, incompetence, corruption and neglect on the part of those charged with their running. By the reign of Henry VIII (1509-47) many of these royal preserves were in an advanced state of decay, yet the nature of their administration remained firmly rooted in the past. By the end of Elizabeth's reign (1558-1603) the whole purpose of the Royal Forest was being called into question, with the result that the authorities were beginning to lose their earlier control. The Forest Laws had lost their terrors.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Title</i>
1554	TNA 315/420	Verderers' certificates
1564	BL Add Ms 34214	Survey of Crown Forests in Northamptonshire & Rutland
1565	TNA LRRO5/39	Copy of Roger Tavener's list of Elizabethan woodlands
1566	Hastings, California	Inquisition into the state of the Forest of Leighfield
1567	TNA E101/141/20	Verderers' certificates
1568	TNA E101/145/8	Certificate of the Keeper of the Forest
1575	TNA E101/538/15	Verderers' certificates
1609	BL Add Ms 38444	Nineteenth century transcript of diverse seventeenth century surveys
1610	Speed	John Speed's map of Rutland
1611	TNA SP14/194/4	Extent of assart lands in Leighfield Forest
1622	ROLLR DG7/1/65/1	Grant by the crown to Sir Robert Pye and others
1994	Cox 1994	<i>The Place-Names of Rutland</i> (English Place-Name Society 67-69)

Table 1. Principal sources used in this study, listed by date.

From the fifteenth century a situation developed which meant that while the boundaries established by the perambulations were the legal metes and bounds, one detects the phenomenon of 'two forests'. There was in effect an 'inner core' where a strict regime was maintained to preserve woodland for hunting and commerce with, at the same time, an 'outer area' where the rules had become much more relaxed. It was here that most of the developments seemingly inimical to the primary purpose of a Forest – provision of hunting for the King – took place (Section 7). Stamper found this to be so in Pamber Forest in Hampshire and the present writer has noted it at Leicester Forest (Stamper 1983, 41-52; Squires forthcoming). Other examples are known.

Leighfield, it must be said, always remained a minor Royal Forest. Although it played an important role in the local economy, it was overshadowed by the great Northamptonshire forests of Rockingham, Whittlewood and Salcey. To date very little research has been carried out into the history of Leighfield Forest and this article examines the woodlands and landscape in the mid sixteenth century and traces its development to its effective disafforestation in 1622. Many of the interesting social and political aspects of the Forest's history have been omitted, but it is hoped that the references given may encourage others to develop their own lines of research.

Today only three wooded remnants of Leighfield Forest, much modified since the sixteenth century, remain in Rutland. These are Prior's Coppice, Wardley Wood and Stoke Dry Wood. All three show some archaeological features but for most of the other forest woodlands shown on the map in fig. 3, the archaeological record appears to be almost nil.

2. Sources of Woodland Records

Much of the evidence for the woodland and the wider landscape has been drawn from the following sources, enumerated in Table 1:

The National Archives (TNA) at Kew has a wealth

of material contained within the various classes of document. Of particular importance are the certificates of the Forest verderers (E101 papers) of Elizabeth's reign, which offer a challenge to the researcher in finding relevant material but which contain a great deal of information on the nature and management of the woodlands. There are also other sources at Kew not listed here, but some of them are referenced in the Gazetteer in Section 5.

Among the Hastings family papers in the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, is a document describing the woodlands in 1566 in much detail, when the keepership of Leighfield Forest was granted to Henry Hastings, earl of Huntingdon. In view of the considerable discrepancies in acreages stated for woodlands elsewhere (see Section 3), this inventory has been adopted throughout by the present writer as the 'gold standard' or 'default statement'.

The British Library (BL) contains references among the Additional Manuscripts and elsewhere, if one can but find them (BL Add Mss).

In the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR) is a document detailing the woodlands of Leighfield in a grant to Sir Robert Pye in 1622 (see p178). The acreages given present problems because they are mostly at odds with those of the Hastings Survey and other sources; they are not included in the Gazetteer. Local family papers, especially those for Rutland and in particular for the Noel family of Exton, reveal further information about the landscape.

In 1994 the English Place-Name Society published Professor Barrie Cox's *Place-Names of Rutland* (Cox 1994). This volume provides another valuable source of woodland data.

Finally, and certainly not least, is John Speed's map of Rutland dated 1610. This depicts in commendable detail the wooded landscape as it existed twelve years before the Forest was effectively disafforested.

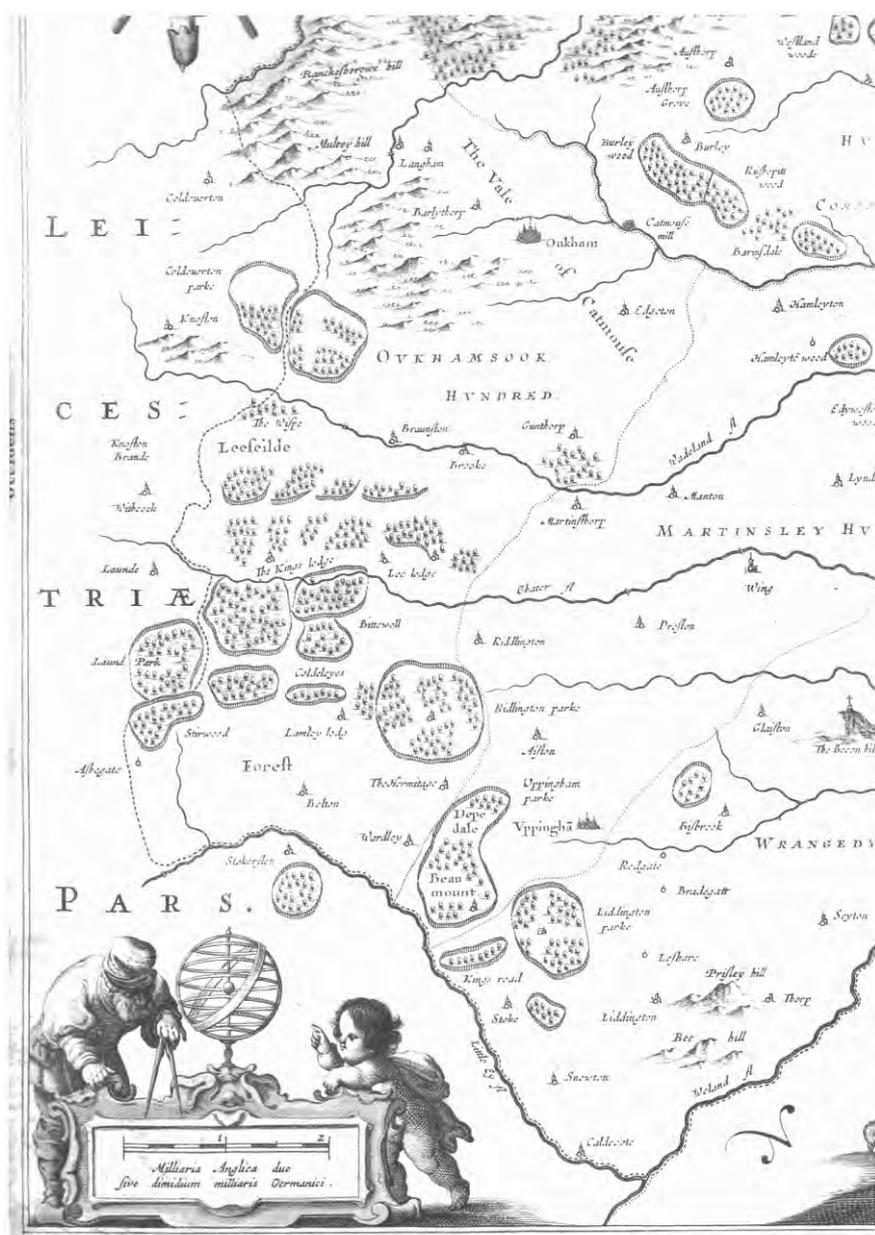


Fig. 2. Part of John Speed's map of Rutland dated 1610, detailing the woodlands of Leighfield Forest.

The present writer has commented elsewhere (Squires 2011, 4) on the circumstances surrounding the map's compilation and the apparent accuracy of the detail shown.

Not all the sources in the national collections listed above have been exhausted and others are not mentioned here. Through the text the date references shown in Table 1 have been used; the spellings of the woods may vary from one source to another.

3. Problems of Woodland Study

When studying woodland history one encounters a number of problems which cannot be avoided. The difficulties with records for woodland in the medieval period have already been outlined by the present writer (Squires 2011, 3-4). Records for the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century woodlands present similar but not identical problems.

Woods were seldom planted; land was allowed to tumble down to woodland and the development of trees and shrubs was encouraged by the exclusion of grazing animals. Woodlands were usually recorded in detail when they were producing something of value. Conversely, woodlands used primarily for hunting, as in the early days of the Royal Forests, may have left only vague records of their locations. Moreover, the nature, content and accuracy of woodland surveys varied according to the brief the surveyor had been given, and his competence, diligence and motivation. Some men did walk the landscape and made measurements; others relied on earlier efforts; some men guessed at acreages or (one suspects) invented them. The opportunities for falsification, misinterpretation and fraud were many.

Although the art of surveying made great advances during the years covered by this study,

there was always the problem of understanding the value of the chief measurement: the acre. This in turn depended upon the value of the basic unit, the perch (also known as the rod or pole), by which it was calculated. Over the country the value of the acre could vary but the statute acre was calculated using the perch of sixteen-and-a-half feet. However, there was at the same time the 'woodland acre', and the most commonly used value of the perch involved was eighteen feet (see Adams 1976). In Leighfield Forest the value of the perch used for assarts (areas reclaimed for agriculture) was sixteen-and-a-half feet while that for measuring woodland was one of eighteen feet which, in the words of one surveyor, was 'according to the custom of the said Forest' (BL Add Ms 34214). In this article these values of sixteen-and-a-half and eighteen have been adopted throughout.

Number and name of wood	Dates of surveys and stated acreages			
	1564	1565	1566	1622
Amyhill	36	62	37	66
Earl's Wood in Stockhorn	4½	3¾	3	n/a
Lambley	44	56	14	82
Lostokes	20	60	75	59
Monkshill (Ridlington)	61	58	65	n/a
Stockwood	50	51	53	69
Swyncliffe	36	60	38	42
Toadholes	48	42	49	54
Woolfitt	34	63	40	84

Table 2. Surveys of Leighfield Forest woodlands (for the survey sources see Table 1; for details of the woods, see Table 3 and the Gazetteer: 1622 acreages and some other details are omitted from the Gazetteer).

The figures in Table 2 illustrate the problems in relation to the Leighfield woodlands. The figures for 1565 and 1566 certainly include the waste but those for 1564 are only for areas of woodland described as 'saleable'. Almost all the figures in Tavener's survey of 1565 appear to be much inflated, showing that he followed a different brief; he did not rely on the results of earlier surveys and possibly not on the efforts of local men. On the other hand, figures for Earl's Wood in Stockhorn, Monkshill, Stockwood and Toadholes in Table 2 appear to be much the same in all four sources. The small area of the Earl's Wood in Stockhorn was the easiest to survey, estimate or guess. In each case, it is unclear if the largest figure from any of the four columns represented the real area of the whole wood and if this figure was concealing and/or ignoring areas of waste. These discrepancies are important and alone make any attempt to calculate the total area of woodland, i.e. from the woodlands alone (as listed in

Table 3), a very doubtful exercise. If one remembers there were other woodlands in existence, absent from the lists and known only by name, making a realistic calculation of the acreage of woodland for the Forest in the 1560s becomes a futile exercise.

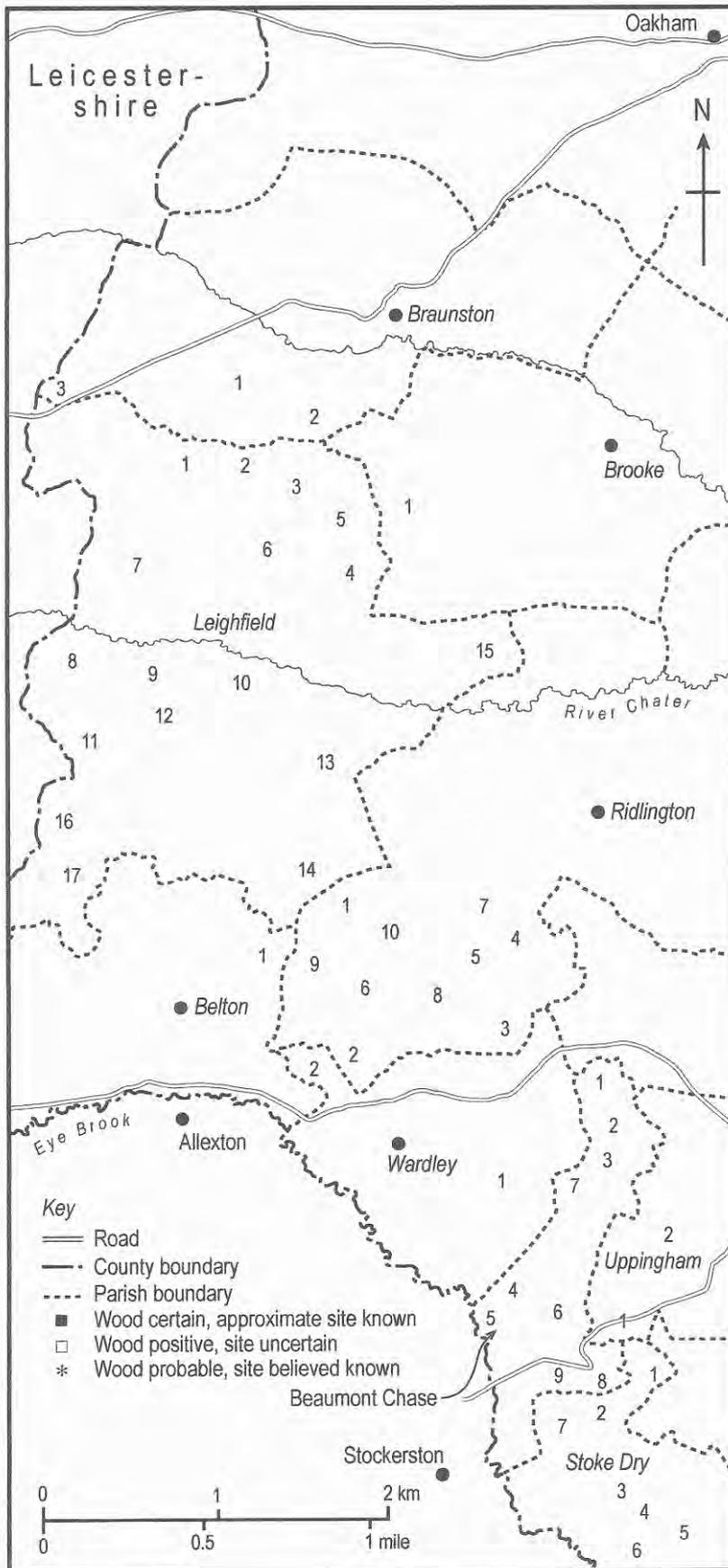
4. Boundaries, Geology and Topography

Boundaries

The metes and bounds of a Royal Forest at different times were recorded in documents called 'perambulations'. These were drawn up by groups of men chosen by the monarch from a list of important landowners and local worthies. These men were expected to determine the boundary lines on foot and on horseback. In some instances, and for speed and convenience, earlier perambulations were inspected and details copied. At different times over the centuries the areas of Royal Forest expanded and contracted as monarchs fought a long-term losing battle with their nobles and lesser men anxious to have their lands released from Forest Law.

Unfortunately, few records of perambulations for Rutland/Leighfield Forest have survived. In the early years after the Conquest a large part of the county of Rutland became Royal Forest. The perambulation of 1299 reveals that much of the eastern part of the county had been disafforested together with that part in east Leicestershire. The boundary at that time (as shown on Speed's map, fig. 2) included the villages of Brooke, Ridlington, Ayston and Uppingham. It then moved southwards by Redgate and Broadgate to pass through the middle of Lyddington and Caldecott to the Eye Brook (TNA C67/6A; Turner 1899, 53, 116-7). The line along the western edge followed features which are readily recognisable today, i.e. from Finchingfield Bridge (SK 480004) to the Whip in the north (SK 811062). The latest known perambulation for Leighfield Forest is dated 1376 (TNA E32/142) and more or less repeats these details.

The perambulation of 1299 may well describe the boundaries of the Forest jurisdiction at that date but the repetition of the details in that of 1376 raises questions as to what the latter conceals: what changes had taken place between 1300 and 1376, and what was to follow from then to the mid-sixteenth century? Lacking adequate records for Rutland, we may observe movements and conditions elsewhere in England and their effects on the Royal Forests until the arrival of the Black Death in 1348. Before that year local populations were rising and producing an increasing demand for more land to plough. The administration of the Forest was aimed at preserving woodland for deer and at the same time producing an income for the crown. The hereditary nature of many Forest offices did not encourage the keeping of accurate and up-to-date records.



Beaumont Chase

- 1. Armsley
- 2. Castle Hill
- 3. Fine Oak Quarter
- 4. Lodge Quarter
- 5. Mountjoy Thick
- 6. Pinfold Quarter
- 7. Brene Wood
- 8. Earl's Wood
- 9. Catwell Sale / Quarter

Belton

- 1. Belton Lounds

Braunston

- 1. Braunston Wood
- 2. Braunston Thyn
- ★ 3. The Whisp

Brooke

- 1. Brooke Wood

Leighfield

- 1. Huntess Wood
- 2. Braunston Side
- 3. Olivers
- 4. Swyncliffe
- 5. Prior's Coppice
- 6. Toadholes (= Crooked Hassels)
- 7. Woolfitt
- 8. Coltlees (= Calkleys)
- 9. Lambley
- 10. Kings Okehill (= Faire Oakhill)
- 11. Betiwell
- 12. Amyhill(s)
- 13. Freewood
- 14. Lostokes (= Loscotes)
- 15. Stockwood
- 16. Sterwood
- 17. Waterleys

Ridlington

- 1. Palewell Quarter
- 2. Monks Hill Sale
- 3. Hanging Hawthorn
- 4. Hawthorn Quarter
- 5. The Cleares
- 6. Synders Bank
- 7. Fair Hawthorn
- 8. Lodge Quarter
- 9. Belton Quarter
- 10. Coneygreens

Stoke Dry

- 1. Warwick Sale
- 2. Stoke Wood
- 3. Earl's Wood in Stockhorn
- 4. Ashland
- 5. Sinderland
- 6. Westlound
- 7. Symonoke Coppice / Quarter

Uppingham

- 1. (Le) Brende
- 2. Eastwood

Wardley

- 1. Wardley Wood
- 2. Monkshill

Fig. 3. The woodlands of Leighfield Forest and immediate area in the mid sixteenth century.

The woods with black squares, when added to the woods with black circles in Squires 2011, fig. 2, represent a complete list of woods known for the county at present.

In some parts of the country the decline of the Royal Forest was rapid. At Kinver, Staffordshire, it survived nominally to the seventeenth century but was much reduced by the reign of Elizabeth I (Young 1979, 151). The Royal Forests of Wiltshire suffered similarly in quality and status. It does not seem unreasonable to suggest that the Forest of Leighfield similarly underwent decline and had done so by 1376, or perhaps as early as 1300.

So where were the effective metes and bounds of Leighfield Forest in c1540? In fig. 1 the present writer suggests a line based on a number of factors. The first is the inherent topographical probability of the line following permanent and readily identifiable landmarks. One such is the course of the Eye Brook which has changed little over the centuries. Second, there are scattered references to places described as within or without the Forest, such as the southern part of the present Prior's Coppice and the park of Ridlington, both within the Forest (Squires 2003). Third, there are descriptions in the Hastings MS of the Forest in 1566. Here most of the woodlands are described in relation to many other unlocated features in much the same way as eighteenth-century Parliamentary Enclosure Awards present a challenging jigsaw with too many puzzling and missing pieces. Also, we are never certain whether or not land within the supposed boundary had been alienated or granted away by the monarch and had left no record. Local landowners, in the spirit of self-interest, would take steps to ensure that as much as possible of their lands remained outside the Forest bounds.

Lacking early maps for much of the Leighfield area, we are drawn to the boundaries shown on the 6" Ordnance Survey maps of the 1880s, which were accurately determined. For present purposes it has been assumed that most of the lines of the parish boundaries shown had been established by, say, 1400 and have remained mostly unmodified since. There have been changes such as that affecting the formerly extra-parochial territory of Beaumont Chase which 'was formed into a parish and part of its land annexed to Uppingham' as part of the enclosure process for Uppingham under an Act of 1799 (*VCH Rutland II*, 61), with common land being allocated to those who had otherwise lost rights of common (Ryder 2006, 62 & index). Further enquiries may well uncover further examples.

In an attempt to shed some additional light on the Forest boundaries the present writer made a field survey of some of the lines he believed might suggest more detail. This exercise did not prove fruitful since the landscape has undergone enormous change, even since the surveyors of the Ordnance Survey trod the same ground. The possible

boundaries shown on fig. 1 must remain to be reconsidered.

Geology and topography

We can readily account for the long-term presence of woodland and wood pasture in Leighfield Forest in terms of the area's geology and topography. The landscape is cut by the rivers Gwash and Chater, which are no more than modest streams. They flow from west to east and have cut wide, shallow valleys to produce a rolling landscape. Much of the land of the former Forest is above 400 feet and reaches its highest point along the Leicestershire border.

Almost the entire area is composed of Boulder Clay and Jurassic Clay which are heavy, ill-drained and (until the twentieth century) difficult to plough. It is hardly surprising that most of the land was given over to grazing until well into the last century (Broughton 1937, 10-11). The natural vegetation for the entire area is damp oakwood, neutral grassland and grass heath. Foard (2001, 50) found in Rockingham Forest that the heavy ground largely explained the distribution of woodland, as did the present writer in Leicester Forest (Squires forthcoming). All in all, perhaps we should not be too surprised that over the centuries this land proved so unattractive to settlement. By 1540 the tiny village of Leigh and its fields were long gone and the abandoned site had become grassed over. Almost the whole area of the Forest was left to growing trees, grazing stock and raising and hunting wild beasts.

5. The Individual Woodlands

Table 3 lists the individual woodlands that are found in the Hastings MS of 1566, but there are others which do not appear in that source. It is clear that by 1566, and probably by three centuries or more earlier, these named woodlands were discrete entities, i.e. they had recognised boundaries which were usually fenced. The woods were surrounded by large grassy areas known variously as lawns, ridings and plains, of which more later (Section 7). This situation was also found in Rockingham Forest where 'by the high medieval period the forest included clearly delineated coppices' (Foard, Hall & Partida 2005, 13). The present writer has described the same situation in the Royal Forest of Leicester of the mid sixteenth century (Squires forthcoming).

It will be noticed that almost 20 percent of the total of 35 woodlands was 'waste'. This term describes woodland which had been spoilt, sometimes beyond recovery, by unauthorised or excessive cutting. It also occurred when grazing animals were put into the wood at the wrong time or, along with wild grazers, gained access at any time because fences were not erected or repaired. The values of

both coppice and timber could easily be reduced to almost nil within a matter of a few years. The high proportion of waste to woodland in Leighfield as described in Table 3 will be commented on in Section 6.

The location of each of the woods shown in fig. 3 has been determined from several sources. The major one is the Hastings MS where, as already noted, nearly every location is detailed relative to others and where there is no fixed point at which to start. Place-name evidence from Cox (1994) and

Sterndale-Bennett (1943) has proved useful and there are scattered references from other documentary sources. We must, of course, include Speed's map, and the present writer is concerned that there are discrepancies between his own locations (fig. 3) arrived at from the above sources and a certain amount of guesswork on the one hand and those on Speed's map (fig. 2) on the other.

The details regarding the tree species (Section 6) are drawn primarily from Tavener as well as those in the Hastings MS, together with the survey of 1622.

<i>Number and name of wood</i>	<i>Parish and number on map</i>	<i>Area in acres</i>	<i>Of which Waste</i>	<i>Waste as percentage</i>
Amyhill(s), Hamyhill	Leighfield 12	37	3	8.1
Belton Quarter	Ridlington 9	25	7	28
Betiwell	Leighfield 11	54	12	22.2
Braunston Side [1564]	Leighfield 2	72	8	11.1
Braunston Thyn	Braunston 2	32	12	37.5
Castle Hill [1564]	Beaumont Chase 2	27	7	28
Catwell Quarter	Beaumont Chase 9	13	'more than wood'	>50
Coltlees (= Calkleys)	Leighfield 8	72	21	29
Coneygreens [see also Lodge Quarter (2)] *	Ridlington 10	—	—	—
Earl's Wood	Beaumont Chase 8	4½	—	17.6
Earl's Wood and Warwick Sale [1567]	Beaumont Chase 8 Stoke Dry 1	30	7	23.3
Earl's Wood in Stockhorn [1565]	Stoke Dry 3	3	¾	25
Faire Oakhill [see also Kings Okehill]	Leighfield 10	43	8	18.6
Fine Oak Quarter	Beaumont Chase 3	35	6	17
Freewood	Leighfield 13	30	8	26.6
Half Acre Quarter [1564]	unknown (not on map)	22	6	27.2
Hanging Hawthorne	Ridlington 3	16	1	6.3
Hawthorne Quarter (1) [1567]	Ridlington 4	12	2	16.6
Hawthorne Quarter (2) [1567]	Ridlington 4	10	½	5
Huntes Wood	Leighfield 1	16	2	12.5
Kings Okehill [see also Faire Oakhill]	Leighfield 10	40	23	57.5
Lambley	Leighfield 9	14	4	28.6
Lodge Quarter 1	Beaumont Chase 4	32	¼	0.8
Lodge Quarter 2 [see also Coneygreens] *	Ridlington 8	—	—	—
Lostokes (= Loscotes)	Leighfield 14	75	16	21.3
Monks Hill Sale	Ridlington 2	65	15	23
Monkeswood / Monks Hill [1565]	Wardley 2	4	¾	18.5
Olivers	Leighfield 3	50	7	14
Palewell Quarter	Ridlington 1	30	6	20
Pinfold Quarter [1565]	Beaumont Chase 6	13	8	61.5
Stockwood	Leighfield 15	53	2	3.7
Swyncliffe [1564]	Leighfield 4	36	10	27.7
Toadholes (= Crooked Hassels)	Leighfield 6	49	4	8.1
Warwick Sale [see under Earl's Wood]	Stoke Dry 1	—	—	—
Waterleys	Leighfield 17	32	4	12.5
Woolfitt	Leighfield 7	40	8	20

Total woodland area: at least c1050 woodland acres = c1260 statute acres;
total area of waste: at least c250 acres; percentage of 'waste' = c20%.

* The areas and percentages of waste for Coneygreens and Lodge Quarter 2 cannot be reliably calculated.

*Table 3. Woodland and waste in Leighfield Forest,
as found in the Hastings MS of 1566 unless another date is indicated.*

Coppice/pollard	Trees which have been cut near the base or at about six feet high respectively. The shoots which subsequently develop are allowed to grow and thicken as poles which are eventually cut.
Dotard, dooted	Trees which are decaying, also dead or dying trees. The most extreme examples were mere shells and fit only for firewood.
Offal wood	Wood from lopping and topping.
Ramel/ramel tree	A hollow, pollarded tree.
Runt	An old and decayed or pollarded stump of a tree (<i>Shorter Oxford English Dictionary</i>). Rackham suggests a weak or decayed pollard (Rackham, <i>pers comm</i>).
Shire Oak	An oak tree marking the boundary of a shire or a meeting place for a shire court (<i>Shorter Oxford English Dictionary</i>).
Standel/standard	An individual tree that has been allowed to grow until it had reached a condition where it could be felled as timber.
Shell	A dotard in its final stages.
Staddle	To 'staddle' a wood is to leave a sufficient number of thriving young trees in order to replenish it.
Stick	Colloquial name for a timber tree either standing or felled.
Stub	The stump of a tree. It could also mean a coppice stool.
Thicket	A dense growth of shrubs and underwood and small trees (<i>Shorter Oxford English Dictionary</i>).
Tree	An individual tree. An act of 1559 defined a timber tree as at least 'one foot square at the stubbe' (Hart 1966, 77).
Wrangle	A decayed pollarded tree but one still producing saleable poles. An alternative name for a dotard.
Wrassel oaks	Trees which are stag-headed or decayed.
Underwood	Coppice and small trees.



Table 4. Woodland terms (mostly from James 1981 & 1991) found in the woodland descriptions below and/or in Section 6.

Where there are quotations in the gazetteer entries that follow the original punctuation (or lack of it) is usually given unamended. In many places this presents a further problem of interpretation: one begins to ask exactly what it is that is old and what it is that is saleable.

The following abbreviations have been used:
 OE: Old English; ME: Middle English; ON: Old Norse.

Fig. 4. Examples of forest tree forms, from top: a large coppice stool, Stoke Dry Wood, 2003; a young ash coppice; a stub ash; an oak wrangle in Bradgate Park, Leicestershire, 2012 (photos: author).

Gazetteer of the Woods of Leighfield Forest

The Woods of Beaumont Chase

Beaumont is first referred to as a 'chase' or 'forest' in 1633 (Cox 1994, 177), and later as the 'park' of Beaumont.

- 1241 Order to Hasculf de Neville to give Peter de Montfort two oaks from the wood of Beaumont (*Cal Cl R* 1237-42, 325).
 1302 Roger de Brabazon obtained 10 timber oaks 'in the King's Wood of Beaumont' within the bounds of the forest of Rutland (*Cal Cl R* 1296-1302, 550).

These two records could be referring to any of the following nine woods.

ARMSLEY (map no 1)

'Ermond's woodland clearing' in 1373 (Cox 1994, 178).

- 1565 'Castle Hill and Armesley set with oak of 80 or 100 years growth and with thorn and hazel and maple of great age past mind of man contains 50 acres, three roods whereof is waste three acres.'
 1593 'One parcel of wood within the office of Beaumont being parcel of Armesleye sale ... contains eleven acres eight perches whereof is left standing of short bushes unsold half an acre.'

BRENE WOOD (map no 7)

'brende, brente', ME, 'burnt, cleared by burning' (Cox 1994, 135).

- 1256 Robert Underwood wasted his wood of Brent and it was taken into the King's hands (TNA E32/139).

CASTLE HILL (map no 2)

This wood appears to have been adjacent to or part of Armsley since the management of both areas was very much alike. It would seem to take its name from the small motte and bailey castle at the NW corner of the Uppingham plateau, overlooking Beaumont Chase.

- 1564 Contains 27 acres; seven acres waste. Underwood destroyed by felling.
 1565 See Armsley (above).
 1566 Oak 30 years growth now saleable.
 1568 Incoppiced 41 acres. Waste two acres. 36 acres sold for £13 13s 3d (TNA E101/145/8).

CATWELL WOOD / SALE / QUARTER (map no 9)

'cat', OE, 'a cat' (Cox 1994, 319).

- 1564 Contains sixteen acres. 'The underwood destroyed by felling and taking of hedging wood for the inhabitants of Uppingham and Ayston.'
 1565 'Very thick set with oak part timber and thin set with underwood and thorn and maple of great age. Containing ten acres whereof is waste nine acres.'
 1566 'Thirteen acres waste more than wood.' Oak, ash (both 50 years), thorns (eight years), and maple. 'Thorn common to Uppingham.'
 1652 'Be it known that the coppice wood called Nether Catell and half the coppice called Kingsale were enclosed in February AD1652 and immediately after felled' (ROLLR DE 1881/1a).

EARL'S WOOD (map no 8)

- 1566 'The Earl's Wood four and a half acres. Oak 160 years. Fair underwood.'
 1567 The Earl's Wood and Warwick Sale (for the latter see under Stoke Dry, where different acreages are shown, from another source). '30 acres of which seven waste.' 'Timber oak about fifteen years and saleable at 30.'

FINE OAK QUARTER (map no 3)

- 1566 35 acres of which six waste. 'Timber oak hazel thorns and maple c60 years. Thorn common to the people of Uppingham.'

LODGE QUARTER WOOD (map no 4)

- 1566 'Set with oak part timber and with thorn, maple, hazel and sallow of great age past the mind of man. Contains 32 acres whereof waste one rood.'
 1567 'With closes adjoining the same. Runted oaks and thorns. Oak firewood. Six acres with four waste. Oak and thorns 60 years. Thorn thirteen years and common to the people of Uppingham.'

MOUNTJOY THICK / WOOD (map no 5)

In 1465 Walter de Blount was created Lord Mountjoy. The Blounts had been in Belton since at least the late thirteenth century (*VCH Rutland II*, 28-29; see also Wells-Furby 2013, 14-15).

1611 Contains 34 acres and described as assart land [land cleared for agriculture] (TNA SP 14/194/4).

This may be an example of a former wooded area, cleared by the early seventeenth century but retaining the name 'wood'.

PINFOLD QUARTER (map no 6)

1564 'Underwood destroyed by the felling of thorne.'

1565 Thirteen acres of which eight waste. 'Oaks 60 years and thorns thirteen years. Thorn common to the people of Uppingham.'

Woodland in Belton

BELTON LOUND(S) (map no 1)

'lundr', ON, 'a small wood or grove' (Cox 1994, 358).

This place name has a long history of which the first record is 'Belton Lound, 1344' (Cox 1994, 71). The land of 'lounds' adjoined Belton Quarter in Ridlington Park and there is no certain record of its lying in the Royal Forest in the sixteenth century. However, it is recorded here as a medieval woodland and should be added to the provisional list of medieval woods for Rutland in Squires 2011.

1345 'They say that William le Blount and Henry le Vevour cleared a certain place in the area of the lord King in the field of Belton, that is called Belton Lound next to the forest by estimation twenty acres' (BL Add Mss. Stowe M5, 875).

The Woodlands of Braunston

BRAUNSTON THYN (map no 2)

1564 44 acres. 'Set only by bush thorn of 200 years' growth. Well set with oaks, most of them dooted. Oaks by estimation 600.'

1565 43 acres of which thirteen waste. 'Thin set with oaks some timber and with maple and thorn and hazel of age past mind.'

1566 32 acres of which twelve waste. 'Oak, thorn, maple about 108 years. Firewood and saleable.'

1586 22 acres / [MS blank]. Ten acres sold for £63 11s 0d (TNA E101/538/7).

BRAUNSTON WOOD (map no 1)

1350 John Haklut's 'Wood of Braunstone' lay within the bounds of the Royal Forest (Farnham 1930, MS version in ROLLR, *sv* Allextan). This may have been the whole or part of the wood called 'Braunston Thyn' (see above).

THE WHISP (map no 3)

'Wisp', OE, 'thicket; brushwood' (Cox 1994, 74).

'The Whisp', a piece of land on the western boundary, is mentioned in 1299 and also in 1584 when it contained 'fourteen acres of pasture and wood' (*VCH Rutland II*, 33).

The Woodland of Brooke

BROOKE WOOD (map no 1)

See Prior's Coppice (*sv* Leighfield, below). In the sixteenth century Brooke Wood, the northern section of today's Prior's Coppice, did not lie within the Royal Forest, although the Prior of Brooke also held land in the southern part of the Coppice. The boundary of the Royal Forest ran through the middle of today's woodland. It is clear that the Brooke Wood of the 1560s should be considered to be medieval and should be added to the list of woods in Squires 2011 under 'Brooke'.

The Woodlands of Leighfield

AMYHILL(S) (map no 12)

1564 36 acres; eight waste. 'Set with old maple and thorn of 200 years growth. No oaks but dooted oaks by estimation 300.'

- 1565 62 acres; four waste. 'Thin set with oaks of great age and with maple and thorn of age past mind of man.'
 1566 37 acres; three waste. 'Stunted oaks thorns and maple. Oak and maple firewood. 70 years and more and saleable.'
 1567 'A very old wood' (TNA E101/141/20).
 1568 47 acres; one and a half acres waste. 42 acres sold for £78 8s 4d (TNA SP14/194/4).

BETIWELL (*alias* Toftefilde Quarter) (map no 11)
 Probably 'beetle infested stream' (Cox 1994, 100).

- 1564 36 acres; ten waste. 'Set most by bush thorn of 200 years growth. Oak by estimate 40.'
 1566 54 acres; twelve waste. 'Bushtorne, ash, maple, some oak.'
 1586 35½ acres; two acres waste. Sold 30 acres for £76 6s 0d (TNA E101/538/7).

BRAUNSTON SIDE (map no 2)

- 1564 'Runted oak, thorns and maple. 72 acres of which eight waste.' 43 acres sold for £199 13s 4d.
 1565 'Well set with some oak timber with maple and hazel and thorn past the mind of man. Contains 87 acres whereof is waste three acres.'
 1566 'Set only with thorns and maple 100 years growth. Well set with oaks and most of them dooted and hollow by estimation [i.e. the total] 1100.'

COLTLEES (= Calkleys) (map no 8)

'calc', OE/ME, 'cold, inhospitable, uncomfortable' (Cox 1994, 318).

- 1564 52 acres; twelve waste. 'Set with old maple and thorns some 100 years growth. Well set with oaks but most of them hollow and dooted, by estimation 800.'
 1565 81 acres; six waste.
 1566 72 acres; 21 waste. 'Ash, maple, thorns, hazel.'

FREWOOD (map no 13)

'freo', OE, 'free from service or charge' (Cox 1994, 336).

- 1247 Freewood was within the bounds of the forest of Rutland (*Cal Pat R* 1247-58, 242).
 1254 Richard, earl of Cornwall, is instructed to discover whether or not Peter de Montfort and his ancestors were in lawful possession of several woods including 'Fridwood', 'Scotwood' and 'Harethornes' (*Cal Cl R* 1253-54, 307).
 1564 54 acres. 'Standing only by bushthorn of 200 years growth and more waste than wood and will never accomplish the cost to be encoppiced. Oak by estimation 100 and half of them dooted.'
 1566 30 acres; eight waste. 'Oak, hazel and thorns. Timber age 80 years and more and saleable.'
 1593 26 acres sold for £57 8s 4d (TNA E101/538/10).

HUNTES WOOD (map no 1)

- 1566 Sixteen acres of which two waste. Oak 'timber age' by estimation 100 years. 'Old maple.'
 1585 'The enclosed coppice contains 25 acres of which waste one acre.' Twenty acres sold for £50 17s 0d (TNA E101/538/5).

KINGS OKEHILL and FAIRE OAKHILL (map no 10)

These two woods appear to have been parts of the same large wood.

- 1564 30 acres. 'Standing only by old oaks and bush thorn. Oaks by estimate 300. More waste than wood.'
 1565 'Kings Okehill thin set with old oak and some maple and ash and thorn being very thin. Contains 72 acres whereof not past one third is to be accounted for wood which third contains 24 acres.'
 1566 Kingsokenhill: 40 acres; 23 waste. 'Oak, thorns and maple. Est. 300 years old. Firewood and now saleable.'
 Fayreokenhill: 43 acres; 8 waste.
 1594 Four acres; four waste. 31 acres sold for £60 11s 2d (TNA E101/538/2).
 1622 Kings Okehill and Faire Oakhill. 111 acres (LRO DE7/1/65/5).

LAMBLEY (map no 9)

Probably 'woodland pasture for lambs' (Cox 1994, 98).

- 1564 44 acres of which eight waste. 'Set only with old thorns of 100 years. There are many old dooted and hollow oaks by estimation 600.'
 1565 [with Lambley Quarter]. 56 acres; eight waste. 'Set with old Romel [*sic*] oak which are topped and with thorn and maple of age passed [*sic*] the mind of man. Some timber trees are not topped.'
 1566 14 acres of which 4 waste. 'Runt oak, thorns and maple. Oak 200 years and saleable.'
 1580 Coppice sold 34 acres for £82 4s 4d (TNA E101/538/9).

LOSTOKES (= Loscotes) (map no 14)

'hlose', OE, 'a pigstye'. Originally, 'a shed, a shelter' (Cox 1994, 348).

- 1564 20 acres. 'Oaks of 200 years growth the most part of them dooted and hollow.'
1565 60 acres. 'Set with oaks part timber and thin set with thorn, maple and hazel of great age past mind of man.'
1566 75 acres; 16 waste. 'Oak, hazel, thorns apple. Some timber of 200 years and more and saleable.'
1573 47 acres; six waste. 40 acres sold for £40 15s 8d (TNA E101/136/13).

OLIVERS (map no 3)

- 1564 48 acres, waste eight acres. 'Well set with underwood of 80 years growth and beginning to waste. Young oaks with most of them timber by estimation 600.'
1565 'Well set with oak, mostly small timber and well set with very old thorn, sawlow, maple and hazel.'
1566 50 acres of which seven waste. 'Oak, much thorns and maple. Oak is timber and est. 100 years and saleable.'



Fig. 5. A 'Tudor' woodland scene in Prior's Coppice in 1998 (photo: author).

PRIOR'S COPPICE (map no 5)

Prior's Coppice, or part of the same, was once the property of the priory of Brooke. In 1602 the whole wood was said to cover 36 acres (TNA E134/44). Today the wood still shows ancient banks and ditches along two sides which suggests it was once much larger. It has escaped twentieth century planting with conifers and its antiquity is clearly reflected in its surviving rich flora which includes Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*) and Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*). See also Brooke Wood (*sv* Brooke, above).

STOCKWOOD (map no 15)

- 1235 An inquisition was made to determine 'the number of deer in Stocwode' (*Cal Inq Misc.*1219-1307, 2).
1552 50 acres; seventeen waste. 33 acres are worth £218 15s 3d (TNA E315/396). See map (fig. 10) and discussion below (p173).
1563 40 acres; two waste. 'Very well set with underwood 14 years growth. This will be saleable at 30 years. Oaks by estimation 30.'
1566 53 acres; two waste. 'Oak hazel thorns and maple. A fair spring [coppice] about thirteen years and will be saleable at about 30 years.'

STERWOOD (map no 16)

'Wood subject to regulation and/or penalties' (Cox 1994, 71).

1376 William le Bound and Peter Venur assarted a certain place of about 34 acres called Stereswod (TNA E82/142).

The wood is not listed or mentioned in 1564/65/66 and 1622. Speed marks it clearly on his map and it could hardly be confused with its neighbours, Betiwell to the north and Waterleys to the south.

SWYNCLIFFE (map no 4)

'swin', OE, 'a swine, a pig' (Cox 1994, 385); 'clif' OE 'a cliff, a bank, a steep hillside' (Cox 1994, 321).

1564 36 acres, waste ten acres. 'Set with old thorns of 140 years growth. Many dooted and hollow oaks by estimation 700.'

1565 60 acres; two acres waste.

1575 Coppice contains 32½ acres. Border with dooted trees (E101/141/20).

TOADHOLES (= Crooked Hassels) (map no 6)

'todhole', ME, 'a fox's earth, a fox-hole' (Cox 1994, 388).

1564 48 acres of which eight waste. 'Well set with maple and thorns of 200 years growth. Many dooted and hollow oaks ... standing upon the wasteground ... and the highways and ridings.'

1565 42 acres of which six waste.

1566 49 acres of which four waste. 'Thorns, maples and some oaks. Oaks are firewood 200 years and more and saleable.'

WATERLEYS (map no 17)

1554 'Within the hedge 34 acres whereof is waste ... and in ridings and places ... 12 acres. Fair timber trees and young oaks' (TNA E315/420).

1564 34 acres; eight waste. 'Well set with underwood of sixteen years growth, saleable at 40 years. Oaks by estimation 420.'

1565 27 acres. 'Coppice thin set with underwood of thorn, maple, oak and sallow.'

1566 32 acres; four waste. 'Oak hazel thorns and maple. Timber and firewood of about eight years.'

WOOLFITT WOOD (map no 7)

'Wulf-pitt', OE, 'a wolf-pit, a wolf-trap' (Cox 1994, 396).

1564 'Woolfitt Quarter' 34 acres; four waste. 'Well set with old underwood of old maple and thorns of 100 years and beginning to waste. Oak by estimation 200.'

1565 63 acres; waste six. 'Set with oak but little timber with like ash and maple and thorn.'

1566 40 acres; eight waste. 'Some oak, thorn and maple. Timber aged 80 plus years and saleable.'

1598 53 acres; waste one acre. 48 acres sold for £102 10s 4d (TNA E101/145/8).

The Woods of Ridlington Park

Data additional to those given in Squires 2003, 110.

BELTON QUARTER (map no 9)

1566 Adjoining the Forest on the west. 25 acres of which 7 are waste. Some runted oak, hazel, thorns and apple. Oak is firewood.

This wood was within the park of Ridlington.

CONEYGREES (map no 10) **AND LODGE QUARTER** (map no 8)

'coninger', ME, 'a rabbit warren' (Cox 1994, 322).

1564 Two acres, waste unknown.

1565 'Set with old oak much being timber and with Thorn apple and hazel of age past mind containing 88 acres.'

1566 'Connicke Hill': two acres. 'Standing only by thorn and maple of 100 years growth. Oaks by estimate twenty.'
Also Lodge Quarter: 6 acres, 4 acres waste. Oak and thorns. Timber oaks 60 years. Thorn 13 years. Thorn common to the people of Uppingham.

1590 43 acres of coppice sold for £54 16s 0d (TNA E101/538/3). See discussion below (p173).

FAIR HAWTHORN (map no 7)

1566 'Thick set with oak part timber with some hazel and thorn past mind of man. Ten acres.'

HANGING HAWTHORN WOOD (map no 3)

- 1564 'Containing fourteen acres standing only by hollow dooted oaks few or none timber by estimation 300 in number. Old thorn 100 years growth. Waste by estimation two acres.'
- 1566 '16 acres of which one is waste. Hazel thorn sallow and maple. Timber and firewood by estimation 200 years and now saleable.'
- 1580 'The said coppice as it is now encoppiced contains within the hedge thirteen acres ... whereof four is in waste where no wood grew in riding and plains one acre.' 'Sold ... eight acres ... in ready money' for £18 3s 8d (TNA E101/538/1).

HAWTHORN COPPICE / WOOD / QUARTER (map no 4)

There are records bearing these three names. They probably refer to different sections of the same wood.

- 1566 'Set with underwood of thorn maple and hazel of nine years growth and staddled timber oaks after twelve in the acre containing fifteen acres.'
- 1567 Twelve acres; two waste. 'Oak hazel sallow and maple, thorns. Short spring [young coppice] five years. Last sold 1557 and firewood at 200 years.'
- Also a second wood called Hawthorne Quarter: Ten acres; waste half an acre. 'Oak, maple, sallow, hazel, thorns. Oak timber 200 years.'
- 1600 Eighteen acres from this wood were sold for £40 16s 8d (TNA E101/145/8).

MONKS HILL / SALE (map no 2)

- 1565 'Set with oak part timber and with underwood and hazel, thorn and apple of sixteen years growth containing 58 acres.'
- 1566 65 acres of which 15 waste. 'Some oak being timber and firewood at 15 years.'
- 1580 26 acres of coppice sold for £54 16s 0d (TNA E101/538/3).

This wood was separated from the wood of the same name in Wardley only by the parish boundary and the park pale.

PALEWELL QUARTER (map no 1)

- 1565 'Set with old oaks some timber and with hazel and maple and thorn past the mind of man. 110 acres whereof is waste fourteen or sixteen acres.'
- 1566 30 acres; six waste. 'Some oak with hazel thorn and maple. Some oak is firewood about 200 years and now saleable.'

SYNDERS BANK (map no 6)

'sinder' OE 'cinder, slag' (Cox 1994, 379).

- 1565 'One piece of wood called Synders Bank set with old shire oak being no timber and with some oaks, being timber and maple of great age contains twelve acres whereof waste three acres.'

THE CLEARES (map no 5)

- 1564 'The Lodge Quarter with the Cleyres contain together 100 acres or thereabouts. Standing most by old hazel and thorn 200 years growth with much more waste than wood. Oaks by estimation 600. Not made to be sold for it is doubtful of ever coming again.'
- 1565 'The Cleares set with old oaks no timber and with some thorn and maple of age past mind of man contains 37 acres.'

The Woodlands of Stoke Dry

Two Rutland feet of fine refer to 12 acres of woodland with much other property in Stoke Dry, the first in 1303 between John de Nevill and Thomas son of Hasculph de Nevill, the second in 1304 between Walter de Langeton, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and Thomas de Nevill (Wells-Furby 2013, nos 150, 152). Both refer to the same property but there is nothing to indicate which of the woods noted here might be involved.

ASHLAND (map no 4)

- 1266 First recorded as 'Esschelund', 'the ash-tree copse' (Cox 1994, 300).
- 1274 Robert de Nevil made a purpresture [illegal structure] in Asselund in the king's Forest (*Rotuli Hundredorum*, II (1818), Rutland, 54).
- 1282 Richard Holbrok (steward of the forest) was ordered to deliver to Geoffrey de Hauville the meadows and pastures of Driestoke ... called 'Asshelond', containing 28 acres measured by the perch of sixteen feet [*sic*] ... Geoffrey may fell and root up the thicket growing in the meadows and pastures (*Cal Cl R* 1279-88, 159).

- 1290 Geoffrey de Hauville was acquitted of payment for an old waste in his wood of 'Asshilund' because the king had pardoned him (*Cal Cl R* 1288-96, 154) (see also Stoke Wood, below).

In the last two entries this wood is described as being in the forest of Rockingham.

EARL'S WOOD IN STOCKHORN (map no 3)

- 1564 Four and a half acres; waste one. 'Set most by thorns twenty years growth. Will be saleable at 30 years. Oak by estimation 50.'
- 1565 Three acres three roods; waste three roods. 'Oak ash and thorns. Timber oak about 100 years and saleable.'

SINDERLAND (map no 5)

- 1255 'Sundlund'. Possibly with 'sand' as the first element, 'lundr', ON, 'a small wood' (Cox 1994, 302).
- 1566 Twelve acres; three waste. 'Set with old shire oak being no timber and with some oaks. Maple timber of great age.'



Fig. 6. Stoke Dry Wood in 1976, seen from the south-west, looking across the valley of the Eye Brook (photo: author).

STOKE WOOD (map no 2)

- 1290 Geoffrey de Hauville was acquitted of payment for an assart he made in his wood of Drystoke (*Cal Cl R* 1288-96, 154) (see also Ashland, above).
- 1321 Order to the earl of Pembroke, keeper of the forest, regarding Roger de Morewode's wood of Driestoke, within the bounds of the Forest of Rutland, which had been taken into the King's hands (*Cal Cl R* 1318-23, 354).
- 1585 Under the name 'Stockehern Sale and Senioke' it was stated to contain five acres with waste one rood (TNA E101/536/25).

SYMONOKE COPPICE / QUARTER (map no 7)

- 1564 32 acres; ten waste. 'Mostly set thorn and maple of 24 years growth. Oaks by estimation 60. Partly destroyed by the felling of thornes.'
- 1565 26 acres; two waste. 'Set with some small timber and with thorn and maple.'
- 1584 Fifteen acres; one waste. Twelve acres sold for £28 19s 9d clear (TNA E101/536/25).

This wood adjoined the present Wardley Wood on the west. It is not listed in the Hastings MS.

WARWICK SALE (map no 1)

- 1564 25 acres; five waste. 'A fair young spring of fifteen years growth and will be saleable in 30 years. Oak by estimation 240.'
- 1565 'Underwood of maple, hazel, thorn of fifteen years growth with some oak part timber 30 acres.'
- 1567 31 acres; four waste. (TNA E101/539/2): but see also Earl's Wood in Beaumont Chase where different acreages are shown for the two woods together (from TNA E101/141/20).

WESTLOUND (map no 6)

- 1334 'westlound' [a west wood?] (Cox 1994, 302).

The Woodlands of Uppingham

One Rutland foot of fine of 1247 between Henry Murdak, *quer.*, and Osbert de Glaston and Alice his wife refers to three acres of wood (Wells-Furby 2013, no 63). Two further feet of fine dating from May 1305 between Walter de Langeton, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and Theobald de Nevill, and the bishop and John son of Stephen de Nevill respectively, involve the manors of Braunston and Stoke Dry and 15 acres of woodland in Uppingham (ibid, nos 154 & 155). The locations of these woodlands (previously noted in Squires 2011, 12) are not known.

BRENLES / BREND / BRENDE WOOD (map no 1)

brende, brente, ME, 'burnt, cleared by burning' (Cox 1994, 315).

- 1256 Robert Underwood wasted his wood which was called Bren and is of the fee of Peter de Montfort which was taken into the hands of the lord King (TNA E32/139).
- 1282 Order not to hinder Peter de Montfort from enclosing and assarting his woods of Wulgareshagh and Brenles which are within the Forest of Rutland (*Cal Cl R* 1279-88, 155).

EASTWOOD (map no 2)

- 1269 'Robert the hayward of Lyddington took a rabbit in Eastwood outside Uppingham' (Clough 1998, 337).

In addition in Uppingham, Cox mentions a place called 'Stubbynges', OE, 'a place with tree stumps, a clearing'. He also records Woodfield in 1688 as one of the great open fields of the parish (Cox 1994, 216; see also Ryder 2006, 68).

The Woodlands of Wardley

MONKS HILL (map no 2)

- 1564 Four acres. 'Fair spring seven years growth. Oaks by estimation 40.'
- 1565 Four acres; three roods common. 'Oak est, 60 years, a fair spring c. seven years. Saleable at 30.'

This wood was separated from the wood of the same name in Ridlington Park only by the parish boundary and of course the park pale.

WARDLEY WOOD (map no 1)

- 1253 Nicholas de Cryoll' was permitted to take from 'his wood of Wardley which is in the bounds of the said Forest [of Rutland]' 30 timber oaks for a building he wanted to put up (*Cal Cl R* 1251-53, 302).
- 1253 Oaks from the wood of Wardley were given to John Peverel (*Cal Cl R* 1251-53, 334).
- 1282 John Boyvill was permitted to take six timber oaks from Ralph Malure's [Mallory] wood of 'Wardleigh' which was in the bounds of the Royal Forest (*Cal Cl R* 1279-88, 267).
- 1608 Wardley Wood was given as 450 acres and valued at £40 (NRO Brudenell A iv 4).

Wardley Wood, along with Stoke Dry Wood and Prior's Coppice, is one of the three great survivors from the days of the Royal Forest. It seems very likely that it was divided into different sections each with its own name. There is no mention of it as Wardley Wood in the sixteenth century and it may well have passed into private hands before the disafforestation (see Section 8).

Woodland in unknown parish

HALF ACRE QUARTER (not on map)

- 1564 'Adjoining to Belton on the north. 22 acres of which six waste. Hazel, thorns and maple. Firewood c200 years old and now saleable.

It has not been possible to establish with certainty the parish in which this wood lay.



Fig. 7. Wardley Wood, seen from the west in 1980 (photo: author).



Fig. 8. A general view of the once heavily wooded landscape of Leighfield, taken in 1977 (photo: author).

6. Analysis of the Woodlands

Species content

The information of the 35 woods in 1564 and 1565 is sufficiently detailed to allow a brief review of the trees and shrubs present and the condition of the woodlands.

The tree species growing in a woodland are the product of a number of factors, including geology, topography, soils and climate. The natural vegetation for the area of the Royal Forest would be damp oak woodland so we should not be too surprised to find this species present in almost every wood. However, the species list is also the result of many centuries of management to particular ends (and/or mismanagement to no particular ends), i.e. towards the demands of the King for sport, and those of the owners of the woods and of local populations.

Oak, i.e. Pedunculate Oak, was the chief timber species and was needed for construction of buildings, bridges and so on. It will coppice freely and can be cleft, hewn and sawed. Oak saplings can withstand grazing well and wood pastures were usually managed in favour of their oaks. Adversity will slow an oak tree's growth and prolong its life, and individual trees can reach a great age. They may remain isolated on a grassy landscape for centuries (Rackham 2006, 45). This was certainly the case in Leicester Forest (Squires forthcoming).

The second most abundant species was (field) maple, found in 86% of the woodlands. This is (or was) locally abundant and was commonly found in other medieval Midland forests (Oliver Rackham, *pers comm*). The wood of the maple is most suited to the making of small and medium sized agricultural items and making charcoal. It is only recorded as 'of great age' in four Leighfield woods. Historically it is regarded as underwood, i.e. coppice. Coltlees Wood was 'set well with maple', i.e. as underwood, and in Woolfitt Wood the maple underwood was about 100 years old and beginning to waste.

The apparent scarcity of ash, present in only 25% of the woodlands, raises a problem. The timber is strong and useful for construction purposes but the tree is light-demanding and usually disappears when oak is still in its prime at about 180 years. Ash coppices freely and even today is very useful for a variety of purposes, e.g. for making the handles of garden and agricultural tools. We can probably explain the shortage of records for the species by including it in returns unspecified as coppice poles.

Hazel, present in 68% of the woods, was perhaps the most prominent component of the underwood. Ash, maple and hazel grow well on sites which may become wet in winter according to the local drainage. If protected from deer, hazel coppice

grows vigorously in its early years after harvesting. Later, when re-growth is well established, it will provide food for all manner of grazers.

Sallows (20%), which require at least very damp conditions, grew in seven woods, one of which was, appropriately enough, Waterleys. The one oddity which the surveyors considered worth mentioning was the 'thorne appal' [crab apple] in Lambley Wood.



Fig. 9. Piled thorns – the equivalent of the forest hedge (photo: author).

The 'thorns' (32%) were most usually hawthorn, blackthorn and gorse. All three flourish in open areas and can form dense blocks of spiny underwood.

Buying and selling

One approach to understanding and assessing the nature of the woodlands during Elizabeth's reign is to examine what was recorded as sold and bought. Pettit (1968, 104) points out that few coppices in Rockingham Forest and elsewhere were cut regularly in the mid sixteenth century and many were not deemed saleable until 30 or 40 years' growth. The decision to offer for sale was in the hands of the Forest officers. These men reported to the Court of the Exchequer which issued the appropriate warrants. This meant that because of the irregular nature of the Foresters' actions the crown was unable to forecast future income from its Forests.

Unfortunately in Leighfield we can never be certain whether or not the whole of a particular coppice woodland or just a section of it, i.e. a 'sale' or 'quarter', was involved. We seldom have any idea when the same coppice – in whole or part – was last felled. Woodlands offered for sale appear to have been mostly coppice. The certain references to mature trees – felled or left standing – are few. Sales are usually listed by area, i.e. the (woodland) acre or part thereof. Occasionally entries were by species or physical condition. The following two examples are typical of verderers' returns.

Thirty-three acres of Coneygreens / Conigree Hill

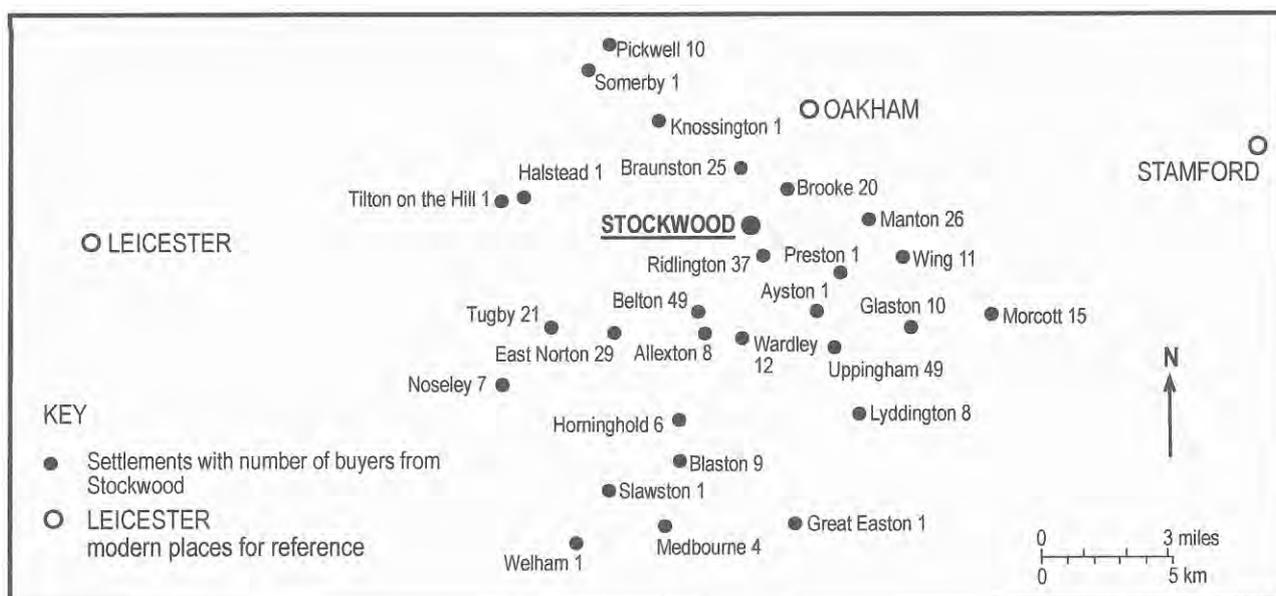


Fig. 10. The numbers and distribution of buyers of wood at a sale in Stockwood in 1552.

Coppice in Ridlington Park were sold in 1590 for £17 3s 7d. One sale was for two acres (6% by value); thirteen sales were for one acre (49% by value); 31 sales for half an acre (39%). Three lots, one rod, 30 perches and one 'stump' (4%), completed the list. This was a typical sale of a complete (?) woodland which had not been sold for many years previously (TNA E101/538/3).

In contrast, sales from 33 acres of Stockwood in Leighfield in 1552 were listed under three main headings. Thirty-three oaks, ten priced and 23 unpriced, made only £1 13s 0d in total. Similarly 1077 maples, 633 priced and 440 unpriced, made £29 7s 8d. Finally 482 runts, 441 priced and 47 unpriced, made a total of £125 7s 6d. These three sales represent approximately 1%, 20% and 79% of total sales. There were also a few 'trees', sallows, hazels, 'stumps', thorns and 'small trees'. If these figures represent the sale of an entire wood, where runts comprise most of the value of the sales, we can recognise a wood that has lacked proper management for many years. This sale was in 1552. Fourteen years later the wood appeared to have recovered, at least in part, with 'a fair spring of about 13 years growth' and 'will be saleable at about 30 years' (Hastings MS). It can be noted that the document for the sale of 1552 is unusual as it names all the buyers and thus provides a rich source for local genealogists (fig. 10; TNA E315/396 folio 5).

The details of the verderers' certificates indicate the great variety in the physical state and commercial value of the woodlands. Once again they point to the lack of adequate management. There was no policy of investment or improvement, just one of maintaining the status quo.

The additional drain on the Forest's woodlands

Along with the inefficiency of the Forest officers and the neglect and other abuses, there was an additional drain on the woodlands: the entitlement of the various officials to the resources of the Forest. The Hastings manuscript of 1566 describes in detail the hierarchy of at least eighteen of these men and their entitlements, mostly 'of old time'. From this emerges the following brief account.

The most senior official on the ground, usually the deputy lieutenant, took timber trees of unspecified ages and species along with – or possibly including – 'cartloads of wood'. He was also entitled to 'in every wood being sold one acre ... as pertaining to his office'. Middle-ranking officials, e.g. the Keepers of the forest bailiwicks (subdivisions of the Forest for administrative purposes), were entitled to 'trees'. These men were paid one and a half pence each per day, but the two Keepers of Beaumont also had, per year, 89 trees worth £4 8s 0d and 24 'fuel trees' at twelve pence each. A yeoman parker also received much the same level of benefit.

Listed are some of the uses to which the entitlements were put. The lieutenant had wood 'for his fire ... at the Lye lodge', by estimation of £40 of oak. In addition, wood was taken for the repair of Leigh Lodge which was 'in decay', The 'royles' [fences] around the lodge were often in need of repair as were the buildings of the lodge in Ridlington park. The park pale also was in constant need of maintenance.

One major influence on the Forest landscape was the presence of vast quantities of thorns. These grew in most woodlands (Section 5) to the detriment of

the coppice. They were used by the inhabitants of the surrounding manors. The townships of Braunston, Brooke, Belton and Ridlington had yearly thorns '... from the said Forest and park ... [as they have had] ... time out of mind'. They were used 'to make their fence of the King's hedge of the same Forest'. The township of Ayston drew yearly from Beaumont 21 loads of 'fencing thorns, as they have had time out of mind'. The inhabitants of Uppingham also drew thorns from Beaumont to make the fence of their ring hedge. In 1567 alone the total of 'loads' of thorns taken were: Braunston 40, Brooke 35, Belton 20, Ridlington 28, Ayston 21 and Uppingham eight. Once again these were taken 'according to the custom of the Forest' (*VCH Rutland* I, 25). The 'thornes' and 'trees' which were taken had to be paid for.

In addition to these entitlements were the rights of persons and communities to graze domestic stock on the grassy plains of the Forest. Some unscrupulous persons, including Forest officials, ran their livestock in coppices at the wrong time, i.e. before the stools had recovered from the last cutting. In 1585 Anthony Harrington put horses and mares in Coltlees and Waterleys woods where they destroyed the spring 'not being above four or five years old' (TNA E101/142/1). Joseph Browne, one of the keepers living at Leigh Lodge, put horses into Olivers Wood and John Archer, a keeper at Beaumont Lodge, 'put a gelding into Monkeswood ... destroying the coppice' (TNA E101/142/1).

The scope and opportunities for all manner of fraud and dishonesty hardly need to be repeated. To their credit the verderers were aware of other examples and duly noted them. In 1583 Anthony Digby felled and took nineteen trees 'which we were not made privy unto' (TNA E101/142/1). Thomas Overend, bowbearer, an under officer who looked after trespasses affecting both vert and venison, took 'dries and windfalls ... without our delivery to what value of loads we know not' (TNA E101/142/1). Sir James Harrington, warden of the Forest, was not above taking 'much we were not made privy unto' (TNA E101/142/1). Other such unwarranted removals are on record.

The Hastings document closes with the verderers explaining that what they have listed about the unwarranted removals was not the whole story and that they were 'as yet not fully instructed ... and we do require longer continuance' so that they could report fully on the situation in the Royal Forest.

The condition of the woodland

Along with this study of Leighfield Forest we should also reflect on the state of the woodlands of Royal Forests in other parts of lowland England during

Elizabeth's reign. The monarch took no real interest in her woodlands, which led to a lack of commitment by her forest officials. Faced with ever-increasing pressure from commoners and others for more grazing, they retreated to a policy of damage limitation. In 1512 the crown had established a central accounting department for wood sales but the supervision and accounting of woods remained as unsystematic and dispersed as they had ever been (Hammersley 1957, 138). After 1600 the verderers' certificates for Leighfield lack the detail of those of earlier years; entries are reduced to the value of sales, costs with expenses and profit made. One assumes the auditors in the Exchequer demanded no more; after all, there was no-one on the ground to check, so no doubt it seemed not worth the bother.

The details given of the woodlands in Section 5 are not complete, but they do give a broad view of the state of the Forest in the 1550s and 1560s. One of the most arresting features is the quantity of 'waste' which totals about 20 per cent. Second is the occurrence of dooted oaks, many of which were hollow. These had little if any value as timber but, as former pollards, could produce small numbers of poles. They were perhaps the most significant sign of neglect and decay in, for example, Swyncliffe, Toadholes and Coltlees. The entry 'past the mind of man' also often indicated neglect, e.g. in Catwell Quarter and Beaumont, as did the note 'by the felling of thorns', as at Pinfold Quarter.

A good example of simple plunder is also found in Catwell Quarter and in Freewood. The woods of Braunston Thyn, Coltlees and Lambley and Kings Okehill were all in a poor state although if the record is to be believed, the last named managed to produce £60 in sales from 32 acres in 1594 (TNA E101/538/12). Lodge Quarter was noticeably very small and in poor condition.

However, not all woods had advanced far along the road of terminal decline. Reasonably healthy and productive woodlands were Armsley, Huntles Wood, Waterleys and Warwick Sale. These woods stood scattered among their decaying neighbours and there appears to be no obvious explanation in economic and physical terms for this difference.

7. Assarts, Purprestures and Lodges

In the early years of the seventeenth century the monarch (James I), deeply in debt, turned to the royal woods and forests as a potential source of ready cash. It was a desperate move. Land values of woods against pasture were low. The cost of maintaining and operating coppices was considerable and returns were often very poor. Also, the pay of Forest officials was often in arrears and the lines of command to central government were weakening.



Fig. 11. Leighfield Lodge, seen from the south, now set in an extensively arable landscape (photo: author).

There were the ever-increasing demands from commoners which were sapping the will of Forest officers in charge. By 1600 the end of Leighfield Forest, if not clearly in sight, was edging over the horizon.

The years 1604-23 saw central government conduct a number of surveys of Leighfield Forest, the details of which provide further evidence for the woodlands and for the wider landscape. We may also infer that by ordering these investigations central government was ignorant of exactly what assets the crown did still possess and in particular which were saleable.

Long before the Normans created Royal Forests wooded areas had served local communities for grazing and essential woodland products. A variety of important people and others were the recipient of grants in Leighfield Forest in medieval times. In the reign of King John (1199-1216) there existed 'all that capital messuage and mansion house ... called ... the Lodge ... and all the land of pasture enclosed ... called the Rayle ... and all that pasture in the forest called Lee Leys'. Five hundred and forty acres were involved where one sheep per acre was allowed to graze (TNA C66/1211 m29). In the mid fourteenth century six assarts of between three and eighteen acres were held at Wardley and these were sown with oats and/or wheat (TNA E32/141). The

smallest assarts were established without royal permission and often grew slowly by stealth. A rent for them was charged and this was normally seen as raising some revenue, and they were allowed to remain provided there was no damage to royal hunting. Here it is interesting to note that in 1290 Geoffrey de Hauville was acquitted of fines paid for an assart and an old waste in his woods in Stoke Dry because he had been pardoned by Edward I (*Cal Cl R* 1288-96, 154).

In 1611 central government launched 'a survey of the assart lands in Leighfield Forest'. The results should not really have surprised the Exchequer. The position of chief custodian of the Forest and master forester had been granted in 1582 by Elizabeth to John Harington. By 1614 the Haringtons held 'two messuages [dwellings] and 114 acres of meadow (by the perch of sixteen and a half feet), pasture and arable with divers trees upon the same assarts'. These were in various 'parcels and places within Leighfield Forest' as follows:

the Great Lodge and 45 acres adjacent
a messuage and two acres of pasture land called 'le
Kinge Lodge'

'the swinecliffe twenty acres'

le Park [of Ridlington] 47 acres

also:

127 acres called Royles [Rayles]

173 acres called 'le Launde'
105 acres in four separate parcels called 'le Leigh Lodge'

Moreover, 'the said John Harrington and his ancestors and certain others made diverse purprestures ... and created a large ditch within which were built messuages, cottages and other property in various places without royal licence to the grave damage of the King's rights' and, of course, to the well-being of the woodland and deer (TNA SP14/194).

Other men well placed in local society also had fingers in the same pie. Sir Thomas Burton had 'a pasture called Beaumont Close and a parcel of wood ... containing 34 acres together with 14 acres of land and pasture at 'Le Wispe'. Sir Edward Noel held '154 acres of diverse and separate coppice and arable, and purprestures of 33 acres. In addition, he had Prior's Coppice (33 acres) and 'other lands formerly of Brooke Priory' (TNA SP14/194). Thomas Brudenell had six parcels of wood in 189 acres and purprestures for which he paid £10 per year. This reference is important because it can be shown that the wood referred to is part of the modern Wardley Wood (Northants Record Office, Deene Archive, Brudenell H viii, 28). Finally, Richard Halford had 426 acres of meadow and pasture. All of the above were located within the bounds of the Royal Forest and were no doubt fenced against deer and other men's stock. Together with other small assarts, these holdings accounted for large open and probably treeless spaces.

Woodlands

Speed's map of 1610 depicts elements of an ancient landscape. In particular, it emphasises the details in the Hastings MS that the woodlands of the Forest were discrete entities and had been so for many centuries. While edging the Forest towards disafforestation, the central government began to realise how little it knew about Leighfield Forest but believed whatever assets it held there would make a sale attractive to potential buyers. Between 1604 and 1612 a number of surveys of crown woods were made. The results confirm the confusion in the Exchequer. An abstract of a report of 1609 stated

that Leighfield Forest had 1036 acres of 'woods', Beaumont had 165 and Ridlington Park 349. This makes a total of 1550. Brief details are given in Table 4.

Significantly there are no entries in the 'to be spared' column. The values given in each case are to the nearest pound based on the supposed market value. We must imagine a very wide range of size, age and quality of all the 'timber trees'.

Similarly, the state of decay in the ancient specimens must have been very variable. This overall lack of detail tells us something about the government's attitude to the proposed sale. Also, the numbers of timber trees against decayed trees, roughly three to one, would appear to be inflated. The stated area of coppice – conditions unspecified and presumably not including waste – compares well with calculations based from other sources. In any case, who exactly counted the trees? Discrepancies and inaccuracies, if appreciated by central government, were of little interest at this stage. The bottom line was that Leighfield Forest, if disafforested, could produce between £6500 and £7000 in ready cash.

Seven years into his reign James I rediscovered his more distant Forests as places for hunting. In 1610 Lord Harington was writing to the Exchequer for a warrant for twenty oaks towards 'a new lodge in Lyfield Forest ... out of care for the King's deer there' (*Cal State Papers Domestic*, 1603-10, 611). However, there is no record of the monarch turning up to hunt, just as he failed to visit his newly-constructed 'King's Stand' in Leicester Forest (Squires forthcoming).

A view of the forest landscape c1600

We are now in a position to attempt a brief description of the forest landscape as a traveller at the beginning of the seventeenth century might have found it.

At a distance first impressions would have been of rolling grassland with grazing flocks of sheep, scattered herds of cattle, groups of horses as well as of royal deer. In places dense areas of thorn and gorse dominated, keeping the grazers at bay and perhaps allowing the occasional tree to become established. Each of the enclosures around the

	<i>Timber trees</i>		<i>Decayed trees</i>		<i>Coppice wood</i>		<i>To be spared</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Value £</i>	
In Leighfield Forest	6955	4610	2326	826	1152	97	Nil
In Ridlington Park and Beaumont	3361	1962	1017	335	697	33	Nil
TOTALS	10,316	6572	3343	1161	1849	130	Nil

The total value of timber trees, decayed trees and coppice wood in these areas amounts to £7863.

Table 4. An abstract of a survey of 1609 to reflect the character and value of the woodlands of Leighfield Forest (BL Additional Ms 3844).

forest lodges (fig. 11) with their separate domestic stock would have added to this sense of openness.

In the absence of much, if any, serious attempt at drainage, springs and rivulets kept the soils, especially those of the lower slopes, in a permanently water-logged condition. Here were reedy pools and boggy areas fringed green by the dark coarse stems of the rush *Juncus*, which was cropped by nothing. Most of the water drained into the rivers Gwash, Chater and Eye Brook, the courses of which at a distance showed as green lines even in dry weather. Tracks deep in mud in winter and baked hard in summer wound their ways across the plains, between lodges and beyond.

The woodlands that were properly fenced and managed were open, light and airy or dark and crowded according to the stage of the coppice cycle and the presence of timber trees on their perimeter banks. In so many woods there was a heavy presence of thorns, adding to the gloom and swallowing up paths when not cut back. In the 'waste' areas, usually unfenced, were the decaying stumps of what had once been timber trees. In places re-growth had been devastated by the grazers and there had developed a tangled thicket of brambles; in others the pressure of grazing had repressed new life altogether.

There were in places across the grasslands, in

groups or as lone individuals, the ancient dotards and wrangles which gave the scene an almost savannah-like appearance. This too reflected the sad decline of the greater and more extensive wooded landscape.

The living landscape

If the contemporary view of Leighfield Forest may have been one of neglect, decline and decay, to the naturalist of the twenty-first century this landscape would have been one of utter delight. Today, if one considers the elements of the forest as wildlife habitats rather than elements of economic concern and politics, the whole landscape takes on a wonderful new aspect. These wildlife habitats include grazed (and unsprayed) grasslands, shrubby areas, woodland edges and glades, damp patches, muddy areas, marshy places and open pools. In the woodlands the coppice management provided a seasonal cycle and regime of light and shade which saw carpets of white wood anemones in spring and swathes of bluebells in summer. In autumn the fruits of the forest accompanied the necessary agents of decay: the myriad of fungi. At every season, except perhaps winter, the populations of the huge number of species of insects and other crawling things were to be observed there. The native species of wild cat



Fig. 13. Prior's Coppice, seen from the south, with the village of Braunston in the background (photo: author).

(*Felix sylvestris*) could be found alongside badgers, foxes, pine martens and polecats. Undisturbed and lacking human presence and activity for much of the time, the forest's landscape harboured the buzzard, red kite and other hunters in the skies.

But it was the oak which was undoubtedly the single most interesting and important species for the wildlife. Over the various stages of an oak tree's life it supports a particularly wide range of different plants and animal species. In old age, and as decay advances, it harbours a large variety of creeping things such as beetles, spiders, flies and other invertebrates which have small ecological niches and which demonstrate a reluctance or inability to spread very far. Their presence in the 'dotards' and 'dooted trees' was evidence that the woodland of Leighfield Forest reached back to a very distant past. To the naturalist the disappearance of this landscape was paradise lost.

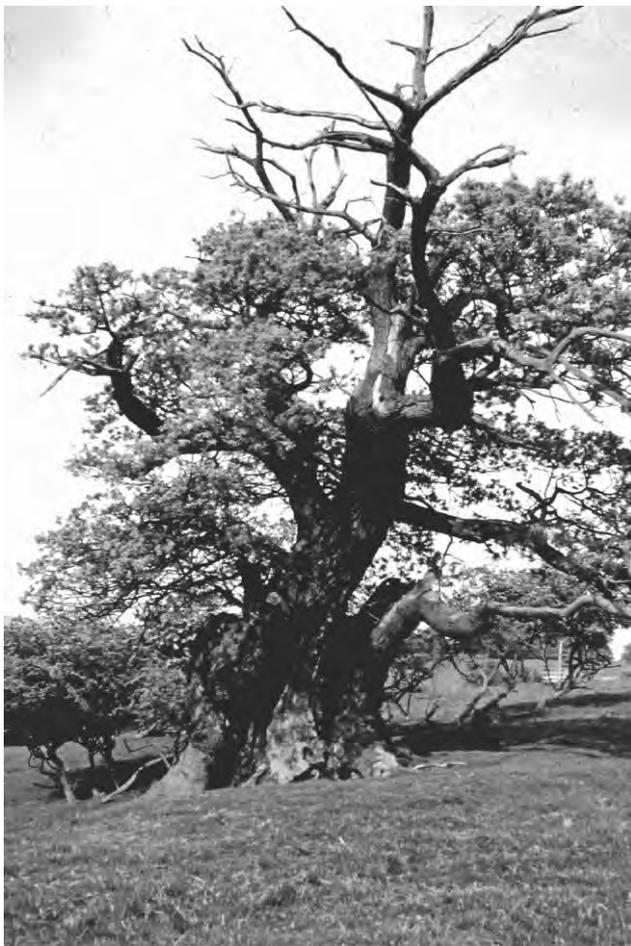


Fig. 12. A 'wrassel' oak (photo: author).

8. The End of Leighfield Forest

Along the way we have noted the many factors that have collectively contributed to the terminal decline of Leighfield Forest. At the court of King James I there was also pressure from royal favourites, jostling and manoeuvring for plunder and spoils.

When the crown finally decided to call it a day at Leighfield the end was not slow in coming. Here we need not dwell on the behind-the-scenes activities at court but simply note the main relevant events.

In 1621 Lord Cranfield, as very newly appointed Lord Treasurer, announced that Leighfield Forest, along with a collection of other Royal Forests such as Selwood in Somerset, Feckenham in Worcestershire and Galtres in Yorkshire, would be disafforested. The following year the King granted to the duke of Buckingham (for reasons we will not speculate on here) permission to take personal charge of the process at Leighfield. In turn, Buckingham persuaded the king to grant the manor of Lye to Sir Robert Pye. He was one of the duke's protégés and, in his capacity of Remembrancer of the Exchequer, was charged with collecting crown debts and revenues. Thus Pye was in a particularly good position to advance his own and his family's best interests, and so he did in the following year with the purchase of the manor of Farrington in Berkshire.

The land in the grant to Pye of the manor of Leighfield in 1622 appears to have included much the same ground covered by the modern civil parish of that name. The 'missing' lands have been effectively omitted because, it seems, they were then in private hands. The grant included almost every aspect of the forest economy. Pye was empowered to do more or less as he pleased. The grant silently lifted the Forest Laws and Leighfield was thereby effectively disafforested.

There were two exceptions the king insisted on, for reasons which are not yet clear. Although all the woodlands were included in the grant, the timber trees '... as not yet cut and disposed of to our own [royal] use' were not. Secondly, 'all that Bailiwick of Beaumont ... and all that park of Ridlington' were to be retained by the duke. The ultimate fate of Ridlington park has been described elsewhere (Squires 2003). That of 'the park of Beaumont' is unknown. Finally, Buckingham was required to make provision for the commoners whose rights in the Forest were extinguished.

Post-forest enclosure maps of Rutland indicate that much of the woodland had been felled by an early date and the land given over to grazing, especially by sheep. The landscape had been transformed. The Forest of Rutland, later known as Leighfield Forest, had been in existence for approximately 500 years, i.e. from the reign of Henry I. Today only Prior's Coppice, Wardley Wood and Stoke Dry Wood remain, but in much modified forms, in a landscape which now bears very few outward signs of its former royal function and status.

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Rutland Resources at the University of Leicester Library

SIMON DIXON



Fig. 1. The arms granted to Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland College in 1922 combine the badges for Leicester (the cinquefoil ermine) and Rutland (the horseshoe) with the accepted symbol for University institutions (the book).

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland College – now the University of Leicester – was founded in 1921 as a ‘living memorial’ to the Great War. It was intended to honour all of those who had served by showing respect for the dead and performing a duty to the living. The University’s historic link with Rutland is symbolised by the presence of the county’s horseshoe emblem on the coat of arms (fig. 1). From the beginning a representative of Rutland County Council was elected to serve on the College Council, and until 1946 this role was fulfilled by Alderman W L Sargant, Headmaster of Oakham School from 1902-29. Dr Astley Clarke, a Vice-President and key figure in the foundation of the College, also had strong family links with Rutland. He had been educated at Oakham and around 1927 retired to Home Close, Lyddington, where he remained until his death in 1945.

By the time the first students were admitted to the College in October 1921, 5,000 volumes had already been amassed to form the basis of a library for the new institution. Local history has always been one of the University’s strengths, and today the library has an extensive collection of local history books, pamphlets and periodicals, including a range of

material on Rutland. The Library is located on the main campus on University Road, Leicester, and local history material is divided between loanable items on open access on the third floor, and rare books and manuscripts held by Special Collections in the library basement.

The Thomas Hatton Collection

The 5,000 volumes that awaited the first nine students in October 1921 included a ‘remarkable collection of over 2,000 volumes constituting a topographical library of all England and Wales’

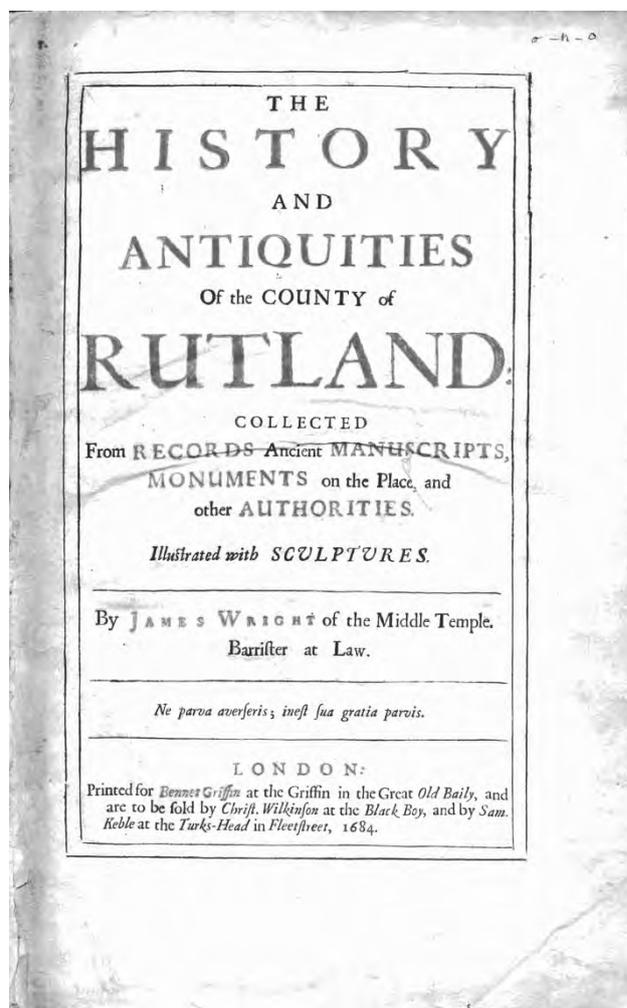


Fig. 2. Title page from James Wright, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland* (London, 1684). The Library holds an extensive collection of seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth-century county histories, of which Wright’s is one of the earliest.

donated by boot and shoe manufacturer, Thomas Hatton (Ratray, p18). Hatton was a colourful character, with an unusual CV for a bibliophile. During an eventful life he successfully tried his hand as a boxing promoter, introduced greyhound racing to Leicester, and founded a crossword-puzzle company. He donated his topographical library to the College, partly because he had turned his attentions to collecting literary works and becoming a leading authority on Charles Dickens. It is to Hatton that the library owes most of its early histories of Rutland, including one of two copies held of James Wright's *The History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland* (London 1684: figs 2 & 3). The first of these includes the additions made in 1687 bound into the back of the volume. Other antiquarian works on Rutland can be identified by visiting the Special Collections website (www.le.ac.uk/specialcollections) and entering 'Rutland' into the catalogue search box on the right hand side of the page.

Manuscripts

The most significant accumulation of manuscripts relating to Rutland will be well known to readers of *Rutland Record*. These are the manuscript notes

made by the Ven Edward A Irons (1851-1923), Archdeacon of Oakham. They relate mainly to the history of Rutland and cover ecclesiastical court cases, bishops' visitations and parish records. Irons's notes were used extensively in the *Victoria County History* volumes on Rutland in the early twentieth century, and a large proportion of the manuscripts are now available on the Rutland Local History & Record Society website as facsimiles and transcripts (<http://www.rutlandhistory.org/ironsindex.htm>). The other Rutland manuscript in the Library's collection is the notebook of Thomas K B Nevinson (1851-1930), Rector of Lyndon (1889-1909) and then of Medbourne, Leicestershire (Reeve 2009, 352). At one end of the volume are stories of Stamford and vicinity, and at the other is a list of 273 'local provincialisms', including:

6. There's less done for the old standards than for them as comes new to the town (Lyndon) (Nevinson, p1).

and

31. 'He's clot-knocking', i.e. break[in]g up clods of earth & manure in springtime (Nevinson, p7).



Fig. 3. Map of Rutland from Wright's *History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland* (1684).

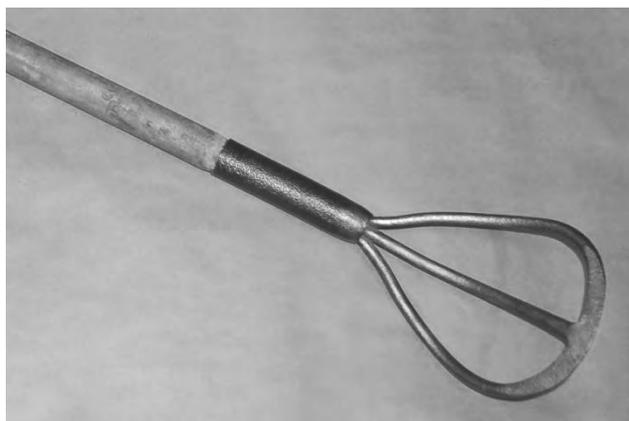


Fig. 4. A clod knocker of Nevinson's era in the Rutland County Museum's collection (1971.47.1).

'Standards' in the first saying is a figurative use of the term meaning a timber tree, and in this context refer to the stalwarts of the village community.

Local History Collection

A large collection of local history books on open access can be found on the third floor of the library. These include both works specific to Rutland, shelved at LOCAL HISTORY 942 RUT, and those relating to Leicestershire and Rutland, most of which are shelved at LOCAL HISTORY 942 LEI. The collection is regularly added to, and includes county, town and parish histories and visitors' guides published from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first. Full holdings can be browsed by accessing the Library catalogue at <http://library.le.ac.uk>, selecting the Advanced Search link and searching for 'Rutland' in the subject field. At the time of writing this produces 306 titles. Periodicals can be found in the Library basement, and include *Rutland Magazine and County Historical Record* (1903-192) and *Rutland Record* (1980 to present).

Historical Directories

Many readers of *Rutland Record* will be familiar with the University of Leicester's Historical Directories website, created as part of a lottery funded project to digitise a large proportion of the

Sources

'The Notes of Archdeacon Edward Irons', Rutland Local History & Record Society (<http://www.rutlandhistory.org/ironsindex.htm>), Introduction by Andrew Hopper.
Nevinson, Thomas, Manuscript Notebook, University of Leicester Special Collections, MS 52.

library's collection of historical trade directories. Due to software and hardware obsolescence the original website, created over a decade ago, has recently been withdrawn and the content has been transferred to Special Collections Online (<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk>), where it can still be accessed by scrolling down to the 'Historical Directories of England & Wales' link. From the collection homepage, Rutland directories can be found by selecting 'Browse by Location' and choosing Rutland from the links on the right hand side of the page. Users can then search within this subset of directories by entering a place or personal name into the box at the top of the screen. As on the old site, the trade directories are presented as unstructured text created by using optical character recognition software (OCR). Therefore, searches for specific individuals can yield unpredictable results, depending on the accuracy of the OCR and the exact format in which a name was printed in the original directory.

Access

For information about who can use the University Library, opening hours and how to register see <http://www2.le.ac.uk/library/for/visitors>. Members of the public who are not affiliated with an academic institution can apply for a free reference only card, or for a fee can upgrade to an external borrowing card. Current charges are available on the website. Material on open shelves may be consulted at any time during the Library's opening hours. Books and manuscripts in Special Collections are available to view by appointment, Monday to Friday, 9.00-17.00. See <http://www.le.ac.uk/specialcollections>, email specialcollections@le.ac.uk or telephone 0116 252 2056 for further information.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Margaret Maclean for providing information about Thomas Hatton and Astley Clarke, to Lorraine Cornwell, Rutland County Museum, for fig. 4, and to Tim Clough for assisting with the interpretation of Nevinson's 'local provincialisms'.

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Rutland History & Archaeology in 2013

Edited by T H MCK CLOUGH

The Editor is grateful to all those who have provided information and reports for this section. Organisations whose work is not reported here are invited to contact the Society so that it may be considered for inclusion.

The following abbreviations are used:

APS Archaeological Project Services, The Old School,
Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RW.
PCA Pre-Construct Archaeology (Midlands),
17-19 Kettering Road, Little Bowden,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 8AN.
RCM Rutland County Museum (MDA code: OAKRM).

RLHRS Rutland Local History & Record Society.
ROLLR Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland.
RR *Rutland Record*.
ULAS University of Leicester Archaeological Services,
University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH.

I – Archaeological Fieldwork during 2013

Short reports, arranged in alphabetical order by parish

Note: Where appropriate, archives are expected to be deposited with Rutland County Museum under the accession number shown.

Barleythorpe, land off Main Road

(SK 84921024 centre)

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS on land off Main Road, Barleythorpe, Oakham, in February 2013. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of a residential development. The work followed on from an evaluation by trial trenching carried out by APS in 2008 and was intended to satisfy a number of conditions attached to the outline planning permission.

This phase of trial trenching has confirmed the initial APS results indicating the presence of a prehistoric field system. Grooved Ware and Late Neolithic flint was also recovered from a number of shallow features located in the north-west corner of the site. RCM 2013.3.

Andrew Hyam

Oakham, Oakham School (SK 85990903)

Trial trenching was carried out by PCA at the Merton Building, Oakham School. The work was commissioned to assess the archaeological implications of the proposed development of the site. Four evaluation trenches were excavated to investigate areas of development impact. The most significant archaeological remains identified were located in the central and SW areas of the site, and include a Saxo-Norman boundary ditch which appears to have been reinstated during the early medieval period. Contemporary with the original ditch are the remains of a pond dating to between the 12th and 13th centuries. Other archaeological features recognised on site include subsoil layers and pits that are likely to relate to an 18th/19th century farmhouse known from documentary sources. No Roman features were revealed, but Roman occupation nearby is considered likely due to the recovery of a large unabrased fragment of *tegula* (Roman roof tile). RCM 2013.4.

Sian O'Neill

Great Casterton, Pickworth Road (SK 99950924)

An archaeological watching brief on groundworks for the

construction of a new front extension and a new single storey rear extension at Newhaven, Pickworth Road, was undertaken by Neville Hall on 17th June 2013. The excavation revealed an undated pit covered by a ploughsoil layer containing medieval pottery of 12th-14th century date. RCM 2013.17.

Neville Hall

Greetham, 32 Church Lane (SK 92381469)

A programme of archaeological field evaluation was undertaken at 32 Church Lane, Greetham, by Archaeology & Built Heritage on 14th August 2013, in order to assess the potential impact on buried archaeological remains of the proposed construction of an extension on the north side of the existing dwelling.

The property is located within the historic core of Greetham, between the parish Church of St Mary and the site of the medieval manor house, the earthwork remains of which are scheduled as an Ancient Monument.

During construction of the house in 1976 a deposit of animal and human bones was found within the garden of the property and subsequently a small quantity of Iron Age pottery and further bones were recovered.

The evaluation involved the excavation of a single trial trench 5m in length, within the area of the proposed extension. This exposed made ground, probably associated with the construction of the house in 1976, below which was a deposit of limestone rubble in a clay sand matrix, to a depth in excess of 1.5m below present ground level.

This limestone rubble deposit is likely to represent the backfill of an old quarry. No finds were recovered to suggest the date of the quarrying activity, but map evidence suggests that the quarry was infilled prior to c1885. No earlier archaeological remains were encountered. RCM 2013.25.

Neil Finn

Uppingham, land N of Firs Avenue (SK 8604)

A Late Upper Palaeolithic Cheddar or Creswellian point has been identified by Lynden Cooper of ULAS. The piece was

one of over 1100 struck flints found on some three hectares during a field-walking survey in 2013 by the RLHRS Archaeological Team. The land skirts the NW side of Uppingham town and lies by the so-called ancient Thornham Brook where other Upper Palaeolithic pieces have been found lying on top of the plough soil. A Neolithic or Early Bronze Age occupation site may be indicated by the heavy concentration of the younger flint when compared to the relative paucity in the adjacent fields. RLHRS Archaeological Team unpublished archive reports R117, R119, and R120.

Elaine Jones

Uppingham, land adjacent to Leicester Road
(SK 85880033)

Fieldwalking took place in April and May 2013. 330 struck

flints, pottery dating mainly from the 16th century and a little iron slag were found in a field next to the Leicester Road allotments.

Elaine Jones

Wardley (SK 844010)

Brick and concrete and Verey light cartridges from World War II flare guns mark the site of a WWII observation post at the top of Wardley Hill overlooking the Ridlington medieval hunting park. The observation post was next to two previously recorded Bronze Age barrows from where flint material was collected by the RLHRS Archaeological Team during a field walking survey by the ancient Red Way and the turnpike's Toll-bar. RLHRS Archaeological Team unpublished archive report R122.

Elaine Jones

II – Historic Building Recording during 2013

Lyddington Manor Project

Buildings in the villages of Caldecott, Lyddington, Thorpe by Water and Stoke Dry have been investigated as part of Lyddington Manor History Society's ongoing "Historic Buildings and People of a Rutland Manor" project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (www.hlf.org.uk), including dendrochronology by Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory. The number of buildings surveyed to date in the four villages (including brief surveys, not reported here) now stands at 65.

Nick Hill & Robert Ovens

Glebe House, 1 Church Close, Caldecott (SP 867936)

Standing at the end of Church Close, next to the churchyard, this L-shaped house was built in a single phase in 1729, as indicated by a date-stone. The copyhold was purchased by John Brown the elder in 1727. He demolished the previous house on the plot and erected the current building for his son John, who occupied it on completion, and brought his new wife here in 1733. The house was set in the NW corner of a substantial plot, with a farmyard to the rear.

The front block of the house contained a hall and parlour, with a kitchen in the single-storey rear wing. A central stair led up to two unheated bedrooms on the first floor, and attic rooms above. The house now appears to have a standard symmetrical frontage, with central doorway leading into the staircase hall. However, the 1729 house had an offset front doorway, leading into the N room (the hall), and only indirectly to the central stair – an interesting transitional plan form. The date-stone remains in its original location, over the blocked front door. The stonemasonry of the house is quite sophisticated, with three original elegantly moulded chimney-stacks, though the A-frame roof structure is relatively crude. A large farm building was added against the S end of the house in the late 18th century, replacing earlier outbuildings on the plot. A first floor was added to the rear wing in the later 19th century. The name 'Glebe House' is of relatively recent origin, and the property has no connection to the church or vicar. Samples were taken for tree-ring dating in 2013, but the timbers failed to date.

6 Main St, Caldecott (SP 869936)

Concealed within this 17th century stone house are the remains of a 3-bay cruck-framed building, dating from the 15th or early 16th century. Only the lower parts of two cruck trusses survive, the upper parts having been removed when the eaves height was raised in a modernisation programme of 1949. The early house was rebuilt in stone in 1646, with some high quality masonry features, including stone-mullioned windows and a date-stone, though nothing of the interior survives from this period. The date-stone includes the initials 'DH' and the builder may well have been Daniel

Hill, who was 24 years old at the time, and probably unmarried. During the 18th century, the rear part of the building became used as an outbuilding, with the principal residential accommodation in the adjoining No 8.

Wentworth Cottage, 8 Main St, Caldecott (SP 869936)

The fine stone front of this house, dating from the late 18th or early 19th century, conceals an earlier house of 17th century date. The original house was rather lower, of 3-cell plan, with the offset front door leading into a central hall, heated by an inglenook fireplace. A small parlour or kitchen to the E end had another inglenook fireplace. A ceiling beam has chamfer stops of unusually elaborate design. A small extension for service use was added around the end of the 17th century.

Home Farm, 39 Main St, Caldecott (SP 869935)

Set back a considerable distance from the village street, this building may have had earlier origins, but tree-ring dating of the roof has shown that it was constructed principally in 1699, as a two-cell house. The roof structure is most unusual for the area in having an original hip at one end, instead of the normal gable. The building was upgraded around the late 18th century, with good quality ironstone window surrounds. The long N range, extending up to the road front, was also added at this time, mainly for service use. The house clearly formed a considerable establishment, with a very large barn built in 1712 (as shown by two date-stones), which survives in reduced form. A stable with unusual curved principal roof trusses and black-glazed pantiles was added in the early 19th century.

45 Main St, Caldecott (SP 868935)

Tree-ring dating has shown that this house was originally built in c1626-51. The 17th century house was of 3-room plan type, with a large parlour with fine moulded stone fireplace, a central hall with fireplace backing onto the parlour and a cross-passage beside the service end. An original A-frame roof truss from this house survives, though re-set.

In 1789, the house was given a major upgrade, with a new

front of finely-cut masonry, including a date-stone of 1789. The roof was raised to fit in full first-floor and attic rooms, though the old-fashioned cross-passage layout was retained. At the same date (as indicated by tree-ring dating), a good 4-bay stone barn was built to the rear, with large opposed threshing doors. Its roof structure, with roughly-lapped collars, has several very rare lumber markings (not assembly marks) on the timbers. An extensive stable range, now converted to domestic use, also dates from the 18th century. Just prior to 1800, a further range was added, abutting the rear of the house, forming a cart shed. Around the mid-19th century, the cross-passage was blocked up and a new front doorway inserted, creating an elegant entrance hall.

Monkey Tree Cottage, 4 The Green, Caldecott
(SP 868936)

Dating back to the 17th century, this house had a hall with good inglenook fireplace and heavily chamfered ceiling beam, with a heated parlour beyond. The front door is next to the gable end, opening against the side of the inglenook, giving a lobby-entry plan form. A new front of very fine masonry with a date-stone and initials was added in 1774 by William Woodcock, the village blacksmith, who died in the same year. Near the house to the W was a blacksmith's shop, which was converted to a Methodist chapel in the mid-19th century. The chapel closed around 1920 and was subsequently demolished. The house's thatched roof was replaced with modern tiles in the 1950s, when the eaves were raised.

Meadow Farmhouse, 5 The Green, Caldecott
(SP 867936)

This farmhouse, although standing on an early house plot and listed as late 17th to early 18th century, was entirely rebuilt in the mid-19th century. It has a 4-room, 'double-pile' plan of a type often found at the period, with the finer rooms to the front and service spaces to the rear. Early maps show that the building plot was always one of the largest in Caldecott. Fragments from the original house, including a date-stone and a fine fireplace beam, indicate that a high quality house was built here in 1651. The builder was probably Peter Woodcocke, who is noted in the 1665 Hearth Tax as occupying an 8-hearth house, much the largest establishment in the village. A good quality stable building, tree-ring dated to 1650-75, also survives together with later farm buildings.

Weldon House, Uppingham Road, Caldecott
(SP 869937)

This was a good quality 17th century house of two-room plan form, with a 'baffle' entry doorway against an inglenook fireplace. Major alterations were carried out around 1980, with the loss of many original features, but good records of the original building survive. The original house had stone-mullioned windows and an unusual, tower-like projection to the front gable, which probably housed small closets (not a garderobe, as previously thought). A date-stone of 1649 with initials NWA survives, re-set in the adjacent farm building. It seems likely that the house was constructed at this time, its builder being William Newbone, who had married his wife Anna in 1634. The house was re-fronted with sash windows around 1800-1820, and a series of extensions for additional service space was added to the E. There was a large farmyard to the W, with a surviving early 19th century two-storeyed range, and a well-preserved mid-19th century tack room.

Ye Olde House, 2 Uppingham Road, Caldecott
(SP 870937)

Although drastically altered around 1900 and again c1950, enough evidence survives (including old photos) to enable the earlier form of this house to be pieced together. Built in 1647 (as surviving date-stone), this was a good quality house of three-room and lobby-entrance plan form. The fine surviving stone doorway opened against a lost central chimneystack, with fireplaces serving the kitchen and central hall. Around 1800 the house was re-fronted, in fine ironstone ashlar. The upper floor of the W end was lost around 1900, perhaps due to a fire, and this section of the building survives only as a single storey. In c1950 the walls were built up in concrete blockwork and the thatched roof was replaced.

2 Main St, Lyddington (SP 874974)

Despite its much later appearance, this house seems to contain fragmentary evidence of an earlier cruck-built structure, dating back to the 16th century or before. All that remains is a section of thick walling at the front, with an internal batter and a probable cut-off cruck blade, currently boxed in. It is interesting to find a house of late medieval date in this location, right at the S extremity of the village. It seems likely that the house was rebuilt in the 17th century, with a typical 3-room and cross-passage plan. A remaining roof truss which has been tree-ring dated to 1745-50 indicates that the house was upgraded at this date, with the loss of most of the low-roofed cruck structure, and with new gable ends with brick chimneybreasts. In the early 19th century the street frontage was modernised, with large sash windows and an unusual stone-built porch. The porch incorporated a new front door and panelling in the latest Regency style. Inside, the earlier cross-passage was blocked by a fashionable staircase with a sweeping mahogany handrail.

Rose Cottage, 7 Main St, Lyddington (SP 876967)

This house of typical 3-unit cross-passage form dates back to around 1620-60. An inglenook in the former hall backs onto the cross-passage. Beside the chimneystack is a winder stair, with stone-mullioned stairs window. An unusual feature here is the remains of a moulded, panelled partition around the base of the stair, probably of 17th century date. In the rear wall of the hall, quite unexpectedly, is a cavetto-moulded mullioned window with two arched lights – a high quality feature of later 15th century date, probably taken from the Bishop's Palace in the 17th century. An original oak stud partition separates the hall from the parlour. Beyond the cross-passage was the kitchen, with another inglenook fireplace which included a bake-oven with external projection. The adjoining building, No 9, has the date of 1619 carved onto the re-set gable kneeler. It is possible that this date-stone originally belonged to No 7. An outbuilding was added at the S end during the 18th century, and major alterations were carried out in the 19th century, when the roof was raised and replaced.

Pageant House, 47 Main St, Lyddington (SP 875970)

This house appears at first sight to be a typical three-room cross-passage house of 17th century date, but closer examination reveals that it has earlier origins. The original house, dating from the later 15th or early 16th century, had an open hall, of which one smoke-blackened truss survives. Unusually, the truss is of A-frame form, rather than the cruck frame usually found in lower-status local houses of this date. Around the mid-16th century, it appears that a first floor structure was inserted in the hall, the ceiling beam here having

unusual pyramid stops to the chamfers. In c1620-50 the house was much reconstructed, taking on its present form. This early 17th century house has good quality masonry features, including an extensive set of mullioned windows and a moulded front doorway. The ground floor had the hall to the centre, with unheated rooms, the parlour and service, to either end. The first floor had three good chambers, lit by mullioned dormer windows. Samples were taken for tree-ring dating in 2013, but the timbers failed to date.

The Old White Hart, Lyddington (SP 875971)

Only a small part of the early house survives here, but it is of considerable interest. Concealed by a later extension, a very rare cavetto-moulded stone window survives – an earlier type than the ovolo-moulded windows which were the almost universal local type in the 17th century. A re-set apex from a cruck truss indicates that a cruck building once stood here, which would date back to the 15th or early 16th century. The early house had one large and one smaller room on the ground floor. Extensions were added to the W and E in the 18th and early 19th century. By 1848, it had become the White Hart public house, with John Manton as landlord. Samples were taken for tree-ring dating in 2013, but the timbers failed to date.

Avalon, 58 Main St, Lyddington (SP 874974)

Hidden in the roof space of the N end of this house, a smoke-blackened medieval roof structure was discovered, probably a cruck truss. The truss has the typical apex and collar features of a local cruck frame, but the blades are still

encased at first floor level. Tree-ring dating indicated a date of 1388-1413 for a collar timber, which seems likely to be the date of the original structure, though the collar is not in its original location. The original house seems to have extended further N, but its original form is unclear.

There may have been earlier phases of progressive rebuilding, but tree-ring dating shows that major upgrading was carried out in 1685-1710, the date of the A-frame roof truss over the S part. The late 17th century house, now with well-built stone walls throughout, was of three-room plan form, probably with a lobby entry doorway to the rear, opening against a central chimneystack which divided the hall from the kitchen. The hall had an unusual corbel-moulded ceiling beam and at least one stone-mullioned window. At the S end was a parlour, unheated until the insertion of a corner fireplace in the 18th century.

West Hill Cottage, 107-109 Main St, Lyddington (SP 873975)

This building was constructed as a pair of cottages around 1750-70. As such, it is quite an early example, as most village houses continued to be built as individual properties through this period. The two cottages were small, with only a single main living room on the ground floor and a single fireplace, but the front façade is of quite sophisticated design, with finely detailed masonry. Although it was probably not for his own occupation, the builder of this cottage pair clearly wished to show he had architectural taste.

III – Other Reports for 2013

Note: Records under 100 years old containing personal information may be subject to access restrictions.

Please contact the appropriate Record Office for further information or advice on specific items or collections.

Lincolnshire Archives

Lincolnshire Archives, St Rumbold Street, Lincoln, LN2 5AB.

Tel: (01522) 782040. Fax: (01522) 530047.

Website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/archives.

E-mail: lincolnshire.archives@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Please check opening hours and search room reader ticket and

No relevant Rutland material was reported for 2013.

booking systems before making a journey.

Opening times: Tues-Sat: 10am to 4pm; closed on bank holidays and at Christmas and New Year.

Latest time for requesting original documents on the same day is 1½ hours before closing time or 12 noon on Saturdays.

Northamptonshire Record Office

Northamptonshire Record Office, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, NN4 8BQ.

Tel: (01604) 362513.

Website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/heritage.

No relevant Rutland material was reported for 2013.

E-mail: archivist@northamptonshire.gov.uk.

Opening times:

Tues, Wed, Thurs: 9am to 5pm; Fri: 10am to 4pm;

first Sat of month only: 9am to 1pm.

Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland

Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, Long Street, Wigston Magna LE18 2AH.

Tel: (0116) 257 1080. Fax: (0116) 257 1120.

Website: www.leics.gov.uk/recordoffice.

The year 2013-14 might, as far as the Record Office is concerned, be characterised as that of the project to catalogue – finally – the papers of the Noel family of Exton. It was certainly the year in which the project reached its dramatic climax, with the launch in June of the on-line catalogue. Representatives of the Noel family, the National Archives, and civic dignitaries from both Leicestershire and Rutland

Email: recordoffice@leics.gov.uk.

Opening times:

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9.15am to 5pm;

Wed: 9.15am to 7.30pm; Sat: 9.15am to 12.15pm.

gathered at the Record Office, where they were regaled with Exton-themed refreshments and entertained with readings (including an excerpt from one of the plays) from the Exton Collection.

The on-line catalogue was also accompanied, through the generous funding of Rutland's heritage service, with a volume of essays edited by the Project Archivist, Rachael Marsay.

There was something of an 'Exton effect' too, in Rutland-based enquiries to the Record Office, in use of original material (as the long awaited Noel papers became available for researchers) and even in conservation work, as cataloguing revealed the need for repair or better packaging. It is fair to point out though that interest in the Noel family extends as far beyond the borders of Rutland as once did their activities, estates and influence.

Overall, Rutland visitors accounted for 13% of the 8,797 who used the Record Office searchrooms and between them ordered 9% of the 24,309 documents issued. Of the 8,232 enquiries received (by letter, e-mail and telephone), 12% related to Rutland matters. Of the 30,991 documents digitised, 7% related to Rutland.

Rutland's volunteers must also receive an honourable mention. They proved valuable assistants in the final renumbering of the Exton papers and the Oakham NADFAS team triumphed over a major deposit of material, received many years before, of Royce Auctioneers' records (DE3663). These were box-listed and conserved in exemplary style, thereby giving access to over 200 archive boxes and many volumes of estate agents' papers, photographs, and ephemera.

The year also produced nine archival deposits, which represented, numerically, some 5% of those received. A list of the collections deposited is given alongside. The year's deposits fall, mainly, into the usual categories of parish and parish council records, nonconformist church records, land and club records and photographs. The two deposits of aerial photographs and rights-of-way survey should prove valuable tools for local historians of the future.

Robin P Jenkins, Senior Archivist (Collections)

Langham Village History Group

Website & contact: www.langhaminrutland.org.uk

When reviewing the Group's work for the year 2013, our chairman commented, 'As is the norm, much work has been enthusiastically undertaken'.

Our meetings, of which there were eight in 2013, follow the pattern of reports from members on their various researches, which results in wide ranging discussion. Between meetings, much use is made of email to inform or seek opinion from each other.

The Group's research subject continues to be Langham in the period 1725-1850, but a variety of individual topic areas are also pursued. One such topic is the Cheselden family, and in February two members gave a presentation to the RLHRS and Friends of the Museum on their findings so far.

An invitation to take part in Stamford Heritage Fair in May was accepted and, as well as providing an opportunity to share our research work and to sell books, a number of useful contacts were made.

Several members participated in preparing an article for the book which accompanied the Exton Archive Catalogue launch, and the secretary and archivist attended the launch at ROLLR in June. There was some disappointment when the online archive went live and even more when the

Lyddington Manor History Society

www.lyddingtonhistory.org.uk

The Society now has 76 members and attendance at its monthly meetings is excellent. The newly refurbished

Rutland Accessions 2013

- DE8587: Seaton railway, school and miscellaneous records 1874-1974: Railway plans, 1874; Seaton rate book, 1900; Seaton School minutes and other records, 1903-1953; Seaton Flower Show records, 1964-1974; &c.
- DE8628: Leicestershire & Rutland Women's Institutes records 1930s-2000s: Photograph albums, scrapbook, visitors' books, ephemera, &c.
- DE8631: Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland aerial & other photographs 1970s-1990s [negatives]: Aerial views of schools, buildings & sites of historic interest &c.
- DE8643: Brooke parish records: Faculty for the reservation of an area for the burial of cremated remains, 1st Dec 1981.
- DE8653: Hunting Survey aerial photographs of Leicestershire & Rutland: Black and white vertical photographs (incomplete set), with key map mounted on board, 1969.
- DE8695: Uppingham and Wing Methodist Church records 1951-2006: *Uppingham Methodist Church*: annual balance sheets, 1979-2003; account book (oversize analysis books) 1993-1999; account book, 1999-2006; cash book, 1982-1993; collection journal, 1983-1992; *Wing Methodist Church*: TSB (Trustee Savings Bank) book and final accounts re the closure of the account, 1975-1997; *Rutland Free Church Council*: List of Presidents inscribed in the Bible given in 1951[photocopy], 1951-1970.
- DE8717: Records of Greetham Parish Council: Minute Book Apr 1980-Apr 1995.
- DE8718: Deeds to property in Cold Overton Road and King's Road, Oakham, 1909-1984.
- DE8719: Rutland Rights of Way survey: Returns alphabetically by parish, describing the route of footpaths and current use and purpose, compiled under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, nd [1960s].

photographing of any Exton material was banned.

Two members who had worked on the Matkins Archive and Royce Papers were pleased to report in September that both were complete and online.

There is continuing interest in Langham's older buildings as we discover more examples of ancient timbers and building techniques in what were thought to be eighteenth century properties.

Members have continued to prepare work for publication, including more tales from Langham in the 1920s, Langham's mills and millers, and the Group's tribute to the fallen of Langham and Barleythorpe in World War I. All are due for publication during 2014. In addition, the LVHG website is regularly updated with new material and continues to receive a phenomenal number of accesses from around the world.

During 2013, in addition to attending lectures and visiting various research establishments, between them, members visited more than eighty different places of historical significance, not only in this country but also in Italy and Norway. Even on holiday we cannot stay away from museums and historic buildings!

Gill Frisby

info@lyddingtonhistory.org.uk

Lyddington Village Hall is an ideal venue and we have finally spent that part of our Heritage Lottery Fund grant

allocated to the purchase of a new larger screen and projector stand! The subjects of our meetings continue to cover a very wide range and I am very grateful to the many busy people who have given of their time to inform, educate and entertain us. Due to the pressure of work in the project, we have not mounted any exhibitions this year.

Last August the Society received permission to extend our project from the end of October 2014 to the end of November 2015. In our original application we had, on the advice of the Heritage Lottery Fund, limited the number of houses we intended to study to 30. It soon became clear that, to gain a proper picture of the way the inhabitants of the manor were developing their built environment, we needed to do many more.

We have now complete historic building surveys on 65 houses and taken samples of the timbers of fifteen of them for tree-ring dating (see above, pp184-6). The histories of 44 houses have been carefully examined. In some cases we have been extremely successful, finding every owner of a house back to the early 1500s, being able to say when the house was built and by whom, and also when and if it was later altered. In other cases it has proved extremely difficult. The houses in Caldecott are a case in point. The very specific description of the 'house next the church stile' persisted from 1940 back to 1668 and enabled us to trace all the owners of Glebe House, Church Close, back to 1497. In other cases, prominent houses have proved very difficult. We have only one reference point to start from in Caldecott, the Inland Revenue survey of 1909-10 which shows several people in Caldecott owned many houses. Sorting out which is which is far from easy, especially as the enumerators of the various censuses appear never to have gone round the village in the

same way and there were no house numbers in Caldecott at all until the 1960s. The inhabitants of the village may have known where everyone lived but no-one outside did, least of all at Burghley House, where I have found plaintive little notes asking for help in finding out who should be paying the rent of particular houses. It was further complicated by the fact that some owners, such as Lord Sondes, a relative of the Watsons of Rockingham Castle, often paid their rents for ten or more years at a time.

Knowing about the houses is one thing but knowing about the people who lived in them is quite another. Wills (515 found to date together with 35 probate inventories) provide information on wealth, families, valuables, &c. Court Rolls give us a further insight; the names of the court officials are all recorded at each court, held twice a year. Miscreants were brought to the court and fined for trespassing, fighting one another, blocking the road way with their muck, having inmates in their houses, etc. Parish registers tell us when they were baptized, married and buried. Churchwardens' accounts indicate, from the church levies, residents' relative affluence compared to others in the village and how their fortunes changed over time. We can also learn from the overseers' papers who was asking to come and live in the Manor and why. Provision for the poor is a large subject and one which we will hear more of shortly.

The Committee joins me in thanking everyone who has helped. Sadly we have lost two stalwarts this year. Brian Stokes spent many hours at my dining room table, scanning and poring over documents. Wendy Harnett gave us many documents connected with Lyddington School and deeds of local houses. Both are sorely missed.

R M Canadine

Rutland County Museums Service & Local Studies Library

Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW.

Tel: (01572) 758440. Fax: (01572) 758445.
Websites: www.rutland.gov.uk/museum; .../familyhistory, .../castle.

Oakham Library, Catmose Street, Oakham, LE15 6HW.

Tel: (01572) 722918. Fax: (01572) 724906.
Website: www.rutland.gov.uk/libraries.

E-mail: museum@rutland.gov.uk; history@rutland.gov.uk.

Opening times: Rutland County Museum: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, 10am to 4pm;

Oakham Castle: Mon, Wed-Sat, 10am to 4pm.

Closed at Christmas, New Year and on Good Friday.

Email: libraries@rutland.gov.uk; history@rutland.gov.uk.

Opening times: Mon-Fri: 9.30am to 5pm; Sat: 9.30am to 4pm.

Displays and Exhibitions

The Museum continues to offer exhibition space to community groups, local artists and external institutions. We also continue to produce our own in-house special temporary exhibitions. Exhibitions this year included:

- Rutland's Phoenix – The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland
- Art from the Collection – in-house exhibition
- School WW1 Exhibition – Oakham Decorative & Fine Art Society
- Roman Rutland – in-house exhibition
- Sculpture & painting – local artist exhibition
- Embroidery Guild – Stamford & Rutland Embroidery Guild

The Museum's semi-permanent displays continue to be developed. New LED spotlights are currently being trialled for the archaeology cases to bring them up to modern standards. A new banner-style interpretation is also being trialled in the courtyard, with a view to incorporating this throughout the area in 2014-15.

Collections

The cleaning and stabilisation of objects in the Courtyard is nearing its completion. Our volunteer has been working very hard ensuring that these items stay in good condition.

Our archaeology volunteers have been working to catalogue and repackage the collection of small finds. These were transferred to the Museum from English Heritage in 2013 and came from the Thistleton Roman site. This site was undertaken by Ernest Greenfield in the late 1950s-1960s. Many of the items are in poor condition and will require some conservation. Those more notable items are being photographed and will be made available on the Museum website later in 2014.

The Oakham Decorative & Fine Art Society volunteers have been working on re-packaging and cataloguing the ephemera, social history collection and textile collections. These are now being made available on line through the museum website.

The Museum has been working in partnership with MODES to provide its collections on line through a new

Wordpress website using a MODES plugin. This has been a test site to allow MODES to trial their Wordpress plugin which they will be making available to other museums wishing to get their collections on line with minimal costs. The trial site is: <http://rutlandcountymuseum.org.uk/>.



Fig. 1. Anglo-Saxon strap-end from Belton, decorated with a finely carved Trehwiddle-style animal (photo: Wendy Scott, © Portable Antiquities Scheme).

Acquisitions

Notable acquisitions to the Museum include:

- Anglo Saxon silver strap-end from Belton (2014.33) (fig. 1).
- Two First World War memorial plaques for brothers Bertie Hugh Tyler and Frank Tyler (2014.24).
- First World War autograph book, postcards and photograph belonging to Nurse Dorothy Bains (2014.1).
- Small early 20th century baby doll with bisque head and arms and voice box in body (2013.45).
- Doulton Lambeth salt-glazed stoneware tankard commemorating Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, 1897 (2013.16).
- Collection of children's clothes, 1930s to 1970s (2013.9).
- Documentary archive and small finds relating to archaeological investigations at Thistleton by Ernest Greenfield c1957 - 1960s (2013.8).

Oakham Castle Restoration Project

Following the successful submission of a Stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund bid, 2013-2014 has seen intensive work on the development of detailed plans and costings for improvements to Oakham Castle. The Stage 2 (final) application was submitted in April, and it was announced in August 2014 that it had been successful. Members of the Rutland Local History & Record Society and the Friends of Rutland County Museum & Oakham Castle have been very active in supporting and advising on all aspects of the project. The grant will enable extensive repairs to the Castle's curtain wall to be undertaken, including the removal of some of the arboriculture overgrowth. Repairs will also be made to the Great Hall, a suite of interpretation facilities will be installed in No1 Court, and a new toilet block will be built. The bid also envisages a 3-year programme of activities and events to boost visitor numbers and public awareness of the site.

Formal Learning Programmes

2013-14 saw record numbers using the formal learning programme. A total of 1,534 pupils and teachers attended curriculum-linked workshops led by the Heritage & Learning Officer or used one of the loans boxes (1,306 for the workshops, 228 for the loans boxes). This figure compares to 915 in 2012-13 and 720 in 2011-12.

Workshops were delivered on six key themes at the museum:

- The Romans in Rutland (linking with the temporary Roman exhibition during the Autumn Term)
- The Victorians
- World War Two
- Homes in the Past
- Seaside Holidays in the Past
- Christmas in the Past

In addition, a new session for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils was developed for Oakham Castle and launched in May 2013.

Informal Learning Programmes

2013-14 saw 2,460 children and their parents/carers attend the holiday craft workshops led by the Heritage & Learning Officer. Workshops have taken place throughout the year at the museum during all of the holiday periods. Themes have covered everything from Pirates and Vikings to World crafts, space and horses! A record number of 99 people attended one of the February half-term morning sessions.

Visitor Figures

From April 2013 to March 2014 Rutland County Museum received 16,795 visits (2012-13: 19,848). Over the same period the Castle received 32,982 visits (2012-13: 30,285).

Rutland County Libraries Local Studies Service

Rutland Library Service continues to offer a Local Studies Collection at all branch libraries, and at Rutland County Museum. The service experiences a steady demand in terms of local studies and family history enquiries from within the UK and abroad. This year saw the establishment of small local studies collections in the libraries' children's sections for loan to the public.

Local Studies acquisitions continue to slow year on year, due to a reduction in the number of titles published and/or promoted locally. We have experienced difficulty in receiving notification of new publications from local authors. We purchased 59 separate titles this year, many of which were general interest family history books, rather than locally relevant material. We have welcomed this year the donation of the Bryan Waites Collection of articles and book titles as a valued addition to our collections.

Local Studies volunteering is particularly strong, with volunteers involved in the HLF funded National Centre for Citizenship and the Law (Galleries of Justice) PLES East Midlands project, and the Arts Council England funded Accessing Rutland's Museums project.

The PLES project will result in hands-on courts education sessions for school children at Oakham Castle. Volunteers have been involved in the steering group, and in background research for use by the interns planning and delivering the sessions.

The Accessing Rutland's Museums Project involves the creation of heritage trails, artwork and an 'app' to promote heritage venues in Rutland. Volunteers have been involved in producing research and information for the new Oakham Crime & Punishment Trail.

Volunteers and staff also worked hard to support the HLF Castle Restoration Project with background research and reviews of documentation.

Partnership work with the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

The Service continues to work closely with the Record Office, particularly with the co-ordination of new Local Studies acquisitions, management of material, the scanning of Rutland newspapers onto film, and exhibitions.

Emily Barwell & Lorraine Cornwell

Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust

Contact information:

Email: rhcptrust@googlemail.com.

Website: www.rhcpt.co.uk.

The Trust exists to provide financial assistance to the 63 churches and chapels within the county of Rutland, whenever they may need help for conservation and maintenance. All of these places of worship, fine buildings, have been inherited by our generation to use and to care for, and to pass on, diligently preserved, as we have received them.

Our new income for this year has come from kind and generous donations from the following Rutland Parochial Church Councils: Belton & Wardley, Hambleton, Morcott, Pickworth, Pilton, Preston, Stoke Dry, Tixover and Whissendine, to all of whom we offer our sincere thanks.

The Finance Sub-Committee continues to keep our investments closely under review. In response to the continuing climate of very low interest rates for cash investments the trustees are cautiously developing a policy of increasing the proportion of our investments which are held in the COIF range of recommended equity funds suitable for Charities, where we anticipate that such funds can remain in investment for the medium term. The trustees have prepared an information leaflet on the subject of Legacy Giving.

The Sponsored Ride & Stride around the churches and chapels of Rutland on Saturday 14th September 2013 was very well supported on a fine day, and raised in total £16,480. Half of this sum was returned to the individual Rutland churches nominated by the participants and half was added to RHCPT Funds for the future support of all Rutland Churches. Hanson Cement arranged all the printing, with significant cost saving to the Trust. Barnsdale Lodge Hotel and Rutland Cycling also assisted with publicity and the provision of vouchers for the best walking and cycling team endeavour. A presentation evening was hosted by Barnsdale Lodge Hotel, attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland. The Davenport Cup was presented to Ian Curtis of Langham who visited 51 churches, an award for the best team performance went to the Case family of Hambleton, and Mike and Sue Blee received an award for their achievement of walking to 25 churches.

This meeting also marked the retirement from the Ride & Stride Sub-Committee of Mr Richard Adams, who had led the R&S organisation for the past 15 years. The Trustees wish to acknowledge the debt of gratitude owed to Richard, who will continue to serve as a trustee of RHCPT, for his leadership and the success of his team's work over these past years. We are also sad to report that Mr George Shepherd has retired both as a member of the R&S Sub-Committee and as a Trustee of RHCPT. The trustees wish to record their gratitude to George for his major contribution to the Trust's work

Registered Charity No 211068.

Give As You Earn Reg No 000101080.

Inland Revenue Identification No NAK 60 JG.

over a period of nine years. He will be very much missed.

In October 2013 we welcomed Mr Peter Hitchcox of Greetham as a new Trustee to take over responsibility for the churches and parishes previously under the care of George Shepherd. We are also very pleased to welcome, both as a new Trustee and as leader of the R&S Sub-committee, Mr Richard Foulkes of Hambleton, who joins the Trust with effect from our AGM 2014.

During the past financial year the Trust has approved grants totalling £24,000 to Edith Weston, Exton, Greetham, Ketton Methodist Church and Preston. The funds were granted for structural and roofing repairs and towards the replacement of a heating system. As and when their Church Quinquennial Reports are issued we are encouraging the parochial church councils to contact us for financial help, if they need it, so that they may complete the recommended work promptly, thus avoiding any unnecessary deterioration to their church fabric.

Finally, we record with great sadness the loss of our Vice-President Sir David Davenport-Handley, who departed this life in January 2014 at the age of 94. He was a Founder Member of the Trust in 1954 and Chairman of the Trustees from 1987 to 2004 (the 50th anniversary of the Trust's formation). His influence on the construction of our Trust Deed and upon the guiding principles of the Trust's policies in supporting our Rutland Churches was inestimable. Until the very end of his life he continued to take an active interest in the Trust's grant-giving policies, financial planning and fundraising. A Churchwarden of Clipsham until his death, he was a strong believer in the regular maintenance of the fabric of our churches, and in particular in promptly carrying out the work recommended by the Church Architect in the Quinquennial Reports. On Sir David's retirement as Chairman of the Trust and appointment as Vice-President in 2004, the Bishop of Peterborough, in tribute, said: 'Sir David's concern and support was not only for churches and their people, but for the worship that takes place. As Chairman he had always been most kind and hospitable.' We acknowledge his extraordinary contribution to the Trust and to the care of our Churches and their people.

The Trustees wish to thank all of our supporters, sponsors and donors for all they have contributed during the past year. During the coming year, as in the past, we confidently look forward to receiving the continuing favour of our benefactors, and to providing all necessary support to our beautiful Rutland churches.

Clifford Bacon, Honorary Secretary

Rutland Local History & Record Society

Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW.

The Society continues to offer a varied programme and services to its members and to the wider public interested in the history of Rutland. It remains committed to its programme of publications. The annual journal *Rutland Record* continues to be the cornerstone of the Society's activities. Number 33 for 2013 contained several substantial articles, including the second piece on social investigations in Victorian Rutland produced by our Honorary Treasurer, Ian Ryder.

Website: www.rutlandhistory.org.

Email: enquiries@rutlandhistory.org.

The Society's website, www.rutlandhistory.org, continues to develop to the extent that it is widely recognised as offering a model of good practice for local history societies. The website now offers a wide range of research materials for the history of Rutland which can be accessed by members, as well as numerous articles from earlier issues of the *Rutland Record* which are now out of print. Putting so much material on the website requires a considerable investment of time and skill,

and in this respect we are indebted to the enthusiasm and expertise of our webmaster, Mike Frisby.

The Society's lecture programme, jointly staged with the Friends of Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle, has continued to provide a wide range of interests as well as entertainment. Most of the talks naturally enough have related to Rutland, though we have ranged more widely. It has been particularly gratifying that so many of our members, including Nick Hill, Hilary Crowden, Rosemary Canadine and Robert Ovens, were willing to share their expertise on local matters. It is noticeable that the move back to Thursdays as the main evening for meetings has led to an improvement in attendances, Liz Blood's account of war memorials in Leicestershire and Rutland proving particularly popular. The highlight of the meetings programme was undoubtedly the Bryan Matthews Memorial Lecture delivered by Lucy Worsley. The village visit to Preston was extremely well attended and proved to be a very informative event.

At a time when some would argue that both central and local government lack commitment to environmental protection in rural England, it is important that the Society continues to exercise its environmental remit. This has been demonstrated in a variety of ways. The annual presentation of the George Phillips and Tony Traylen awards to new and restored buildings which respect the historic environment remains a key point in the Society's year. Members are cordially urged to nominate *via* the Society's website any buildings which they consider to be worthy of future awards.

In what is my final report as Chairman I wish to acknowledge the support which I have received from the committee. Rosemary Canadine is stepping down from the committee after having done much in publicity and event organisation. Peter Diplock has also provided valuable support to the Honorary Editor as well as liaison with the Friends of the Museum, but has moved away from the area. Other members of the committee will continue to serve, and I am sure they will offer the same level of support to my successor.

I must end on a sad note. Kate Don, a member of the committee for many years and convener of the Society's Archaeological Group, passed away in September following a long illness. She made an enormous contribution to the Society, as is apparent from the obituary published in our *Newsletter* April 2014, pp14-15, and will be sorely missed.

Uppingham Local History Study Group

Website & contact: www.uppinghamhistory.org.uk.

The Uppingham Local History Group held its first meeting of 2013 in the Falcon Hotel, Uppingham. Chairman Gilbert Tennant introduced members of the Uppingham Heritage Committee who had been invited to speak about the Town Heritage trail. The trail is now complete and has seven information boards along the route with links to the website using QR codes. Much of the information on the group's website has been provided by the group. A formal opening of the trail was due to take place on 4th May 2014.

In April Vivian Anthony spoke to the group about his research into Uppingham in Saxon and earlier times. Very little material is available about Uppingham in its earliest phase and information has to be gleaned from the archaeology and place names. The Upper Palaeolithic finds at Glaston indicate people living in the area then. There is evidence for Romano-British estates at Medbourne, Hallaton, Ridlington and Empingham. Following the withdrawal of the Roman legions *c* AD 410 the area was settled by Anglo-Saxons using

The Committee is considering the institution of an award in her memory for the most significant contribution to the archaeology of the county.

Mike Tillbrook, Chairman

Website

The use of Information Technology continued to develop steadily during the year. The membership system has not only made it easier for our treasurer to chase up outstanding subscriptions, but also simplified the creation of the new returns required by HMRC.

More than fifty percent of our members have provided their email addresses and we continue to ask that members who have the facility advise us, as this reduces our significant postage costs which in turn help to keep subscriptions fees at a modest level.

The web site has continued to provide up-to-date information about the Society's activities, monthly programme of talks and an ever expanding area of local research, resources and book reviews. Our work in providing, free of charge, access to out of print issues of the *Rutland Record* and to searchable copies of the indexes continues as time permits.

The site has been optimised for standard PC and tablet computer use and work is under way to make it more accessible for those using a smart phone. Configuration by the user is unnecessary as our site automatically detects the type of device and browser in use.

The webmaster is always happy to receive constructive comments for site improvements.

Mike Frisby, Webmaster

Acknowledgements

The RLHRS would like to thank the farmers, Trevor Howkins, Farm Manager, Parker Farms Ridlington, and Robert Scott of Ayston, for permitting the Archaeological Team's field surveys. Lynden Cooper of ULAS identified the Upper Palaeolithic piece noted on p138. Without the Archaeological Team volunteers, these winter-time field walking surveys would be impossible: those participating during 2013 were Carole Bancroft-Turner, Linda Dalby, Jenifer and Lawrence Fenelon, Debbie Frearson, Jo Holroyd, Clive Jones and Jasmine Knew.

Elaine Jones

the Welland Valley or corridor and villages developed by the seventh century. Uppingham's name – the settlement of people on the hill – is Saxon and attributed to the earliest period of settlement. The next wave of invaders, the Vikings, came first as armies and later as settlers. Rutland was within Middle Anglia, part of the Kingdom of Mercia. The Danish invaders were eventually turned back by the kings of Wessex. Their settlements can be seen, for instance, in village names ending in '-by'.

Members Valerie Hughes and Peter Lane spoke to the group in May about researching Uppingham's Rectory Manor using Quit Rent Rolls. Peter Lane reviewed the Rector's sources of income from glebe, tithes, offerings and fees. Additionally the Rector received 6s 8d annually from eight pension payments of obscure origin that may be evidence of medieval subordination of surrounding parishes to Uppingham's Parish Church. Tenants were duty bound to attend the manor court and to pay their annual rent or risk

being evicted. The Steward kept lists of their names called the Suit Roll together with the annual rental figure. The Quit rents were of small value, but the local historian can use the information to discover the history of a property. Valerie Hughes has been able to research the history of her property in Spring Back Way, lying within the Rectory Manor, using the Quit Rent Rolls held in the Uppingham School archive and the 1804 map of the town showing the enclosures.

Valerie Hughes spoke to us again in June. Valerie has visited Westminster Abbey Library to try and discover links with Uppingham Rectory Manor. Rutland was given to Westminster Abbey by Edward the Confessor although his wife Edith had the right to hold it in her lifetime. Uppingham is generally thought to be included in the Manor of Ridlington. Many documents are in Latin, so Valerie and Peter Lane have transcribed the Petition which is in English. Westminster had a right to certain rents from Uppingham Rectory and Oakham Manor and these were withheld from the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey. These were in fact two ancient pensions rather than rents and payments ceased to be paid in the seventeenth century.

In July Peter Lane spoke to the group about the 1595 Survey of the Manor of Preston with Uppingham. The document was found by Prof Alan Rogers and is part of the Fitzwilliam collection. The Commissioners listed the value of properties belonging to William Cecil, Lord Burghley, amongst which is the assessment of his Stamford and neighbouring manors including Preston with Uppingham.

In September we were fortunate to have an illustrated talk by Nick Hill of English Heritage on buildings recently surveyed by him in Uppingham. These included 45 & 47 High St East, Sundial House and Elton House. Construction took

place in two phases, the first medieval and the second in the seventeenth century. Sundial House had once been a large medieval timber frame dwelling built parallel to the High Street. Features such as pyramid stock beams which are rare in Rutland are sixteenth century or earlier. Nick also looked at 63 High St East, Roselawn. From the exterior it appears to be late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Upstairs however there are cranked shaped collar roof trusses that are fifteenth or early sixteenth century. Nick had explored the former HSBC Bank and Don Paddy's in Uppingham Market Place. The rear of the bank building shows the remains of a fine gable ended dwelling. There is a large kitchen fireplace and carved inglenook. Nick concluded his talk with his findings on Michaelmas Cottage on Spring Back Way.

We ended the year with talks on the History of Uppingham Churchyard (Peter Lane) and Rutland and the Gunpowder Plot (Hilary Crowden). Gilbert Tennant has stepped down from chairing the group, which will be led by Vivian Anthony in 2014. Gilbert has worked hard on his link with the Heritage Trail Group. We now meet at the Hospital of Christ in the Common Room at Taylor House and invite residents to join us which has led to membership increasing to around fifteen. Vivian has planned a busy programme for 2014.

We are sorry to be losing a long-standing member, Roy Stephenson, who is moving north to be nearer family. He has been a very active member of the group, selling our publications, organising and manning stalls at the Produce Show and writing a biography of cricketer and School coach H H Stephenson. He took the leading part in our exhibition on Uppingham Shops at the Rutland County Museum. He will be greatly missed in the town.

Helen Hutton

IV – Rutland Bibliography 2013

A select bibliography of recent books and pamphlets relating to Rutland, compiled by Emily Barwell.

- Beach, Jim, *Haig's intelligence: GHQ and the German army, 1916-1918* (Cambridge University Press, 2013, £65.00, ISBN 9781107039612) [local author].
- Best, Brian, *The Luckless Tribe: the golden age of British war reporters* (Peterborough: Fastprint, 2012, n/p, ISBN 9781780352749) [Exton author].
- Brabbs, Derry, *A Year in the Life of Rutland* (Frances Lincoln, 2013, £16.99, ISBN 9780711232860).
- Haden, John, & the Pupils of Ryhall CE Primary, *Robert 'Troublechurch' Browne of Tolethorpe and the Separatist Movement* (Barny Books, 2013, £5.99, ISBN 9781906542610). *
- Hickman, Trevor, *Uppingham & the villages through time: Barrowden, Belton, Edith Weston, Ketton North & South Luffenham* (Stroud: Amberley, 2013, £14.99, ISBN 9781445617602). *
- Leicestershire Guild of Storytelling, *Leicestershire & Rutland book of folk tales* (Stroud: History, 2013, £9.99, ISBN 9780752485782).
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* Reviewed in RLHRS Newsletter, April 2014.

RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

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