

## Spring Conference 2016

### Recent archaeological research in rural settlements in Eastern England

University of Lincoln (UK), Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016

The Medieval Settlement Research Group 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference will review recent archaeological investigations in Currently Occupied Rural Settlements (CORS) in eastern England, where much exciting and innovative work has recently been carried out. There will be a special focus on the contribution of community projects to the academic study of rural settlements: community archaeology is increasingly popular across the UK and has made possible new discoveries in and around many settlements of medieval origin where people live today. This focus on non-deserted medieval settlements is also reflected in current scholarly research which recognises that most medieval settlements did not become permanently deserted, thus encompassing the non-deserted majority is a priority if understanding of the period is to be advanced.

Conference papers from within and beyond academia will span new discoveries made in, and by, rural communities from Essex to Yorkshire as well as new scholarly research into the origins and development of currently occupied rural settlements from the sixth century to the sixteenth. It will also provide an opportunity to consider how the increasing amount of information from rural communities can contribute to scholarly enquiry into the origins, development, decline and revival of medieval rural settlements, reflecting MSRG's aim to advance and promote as widely as possible the study of historic settlements which are home to millions today, and to 90% of the medieval population. It is open to anyone with an interest in medieval rural villages, hamlets and farms.

The 2016 conference will start on Friday evening with a wine reception at the University of Lincoln and a tour of the historic quarter including the magnificent cathedral (described by William Cobbett as "the finest building in the whole world"). Saturday's full day of papers will be followed by an optional conference dinner, while papers on Sunday morning will be rounded off with a trip to the nearby deserted medieval village of Riseholme, iconic as the first DMV excavation to be published in *Medieval Archaeology*, whose future may hold exciting possibilities. The conference will thus encompass medieval settlements deserted and inhabited, urban and rural.

### Programme

#### Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016

18:00-20:00 Wine reception followed by walking tour of historic Lincoln

#### Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2016

9:00-9:15 Registration

9:15-9:30 Welcome and Introduction

9:30-10:00 Janet Morris and Mathew Morris (University of Leicester Archaeology Service) -  
Community test pit excavations in West Wickham (Cams)

10:00-10:30 Gil Burleigh (North Hertfordshire Archaeological Society) and Helen Hofton  
(Pirton Local History Group) -115 tons of history: the results of test pitting and

- other investigations in Pirton, Herts. Followed by Pirton, Herts. Timber-framed Buildings
- 10:30-11:00 Rosemary Culkin (Great Bowden Heritage & Archaeology) - Great Bowden's hidden past (Leics)
- 11:00-11:30 BREAK - Tea and coffee**
- 11:30-12:00 Michael Southall (Lutterworth Fieldworkers and Rugby Archaeological Society) -  
– The results of recent community archaeological fieldwork in Lutterworth (Leics)
- 12:00-12:30 Peter Allen (Bingham Heritage Trails Association)– The results of recent community archaeological fieldwork in Bingham (Notts)
- 12:30-13:00 Peter Denison-Edson (Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group) and Alan Mills (Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group)– The results of recent community archaeological fieldwork in three villages in Swaledale (North Yorkshire)
- 13:00-14:00 BREAK - Lunch**
- 14:00-14:30 Duncan Wright (Bishop Grossteste University) – Life Before the Village: Settlement Evolution in Early Medieval England.
- 14:30-15:00 Richard Mortimer (Oxford Archaeology East) - Middle Saxon Village Development in Cambridgeshire and the -ham/-ton Divide
- 15:00-15:30 Richard Jones (University of Leicester) – What's in a name?
- 15:30-16:00 BREAK - Tea and coffee**
- 16:00-16:40 Sue Oosthuizen (University of Cambridge) – Lordly and peasant influence in the origin of medieval open fields
- 16:40-17:20 Carena Lewis (University of Lincoln) – Disaster recovery: Reconstructing the impact of the Black Death from test pit excavations in CORS
- 17:20-18:00 Discussion
- 19:30-21:30 Conference dinner at the County Assembly Rooms, Lincoln

## Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

- 9:30-10:00 David Frost (Binham Local History Group) - Understanding the development of Binham (Norfolk)
- 10:00-10:30 Andora Carver (Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society) and Tim Dennis (University of Essex) - Test pit excavations and geophysical survey at Nayland and Court Knoll (Suffolk)
- 10:30-11:00 June Barnes and Des Hoar (Sharnbrook Local History Group) – Recent excavations in the village of Sharnbrook and in Castle Close
- 11:00-11:30 BREAK - Tea and coffee**
- 11:30-12:00 Adam Daubney (Portable Antiquities Scheme) – Medieval finds for CORS: using Portable Antiquities Scheme data to explore rural settlements
- 12:00-12:30 Jeremy Lake (Historic England) – Houses, farmsteads and their landscapes
- 12:30-13:00 Discussion – The future of co-produced research into medieval settlements
- 13:00-13:45 BREAK - Lunch**
- 14:00 Depart to Riseholme to visit DMV, landscape and campus
- 16:00 Return to Lincoln calling at train station and university campus

## Registration details

To register to attend this year's conference please go to the University of Lincoln shop page at

<http://store.lincoln.ac.uk/browse/product.asp?compid=1&modid=1&catid=470>

**Standard Weekend Rate – £60.** This rate includes entry to the wine reception and tour of Lincoln on Friday evening, all of the conference presentations as well as refreshments and lunch on Saturday and Sunday and the visit to Riseholme on Sunday afternoon. Please be advised that the conference dinner on Saturday evening is not included in this rate and would need to be booked separately.

**Early Bird Weekend Rate –£55.** This rate includes entry to the wine reception and tour of Lincoln on Friday evening, all of the conference presentations as well as refreshments and lunch on Saturday and Sunday and the visit to Riseholme on Sunday afternoon. Please be advised that the conference dinner on Saturday evening is not included in this rate and would need to be booked separately. This rate is only available until FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH.

**Saturday Only Conference Rate –£40.** This rate includes entry into the conference talks as well as refreshments and lunch on Saturday only. Please be advised that the conference dinner on Saturday evening is not included in this rate and would need to be booked separately.

**Saturday Night Conference Dinner –£45.** The conference dinner is being held at the County Assembly Rooms and includes a 3 course dinner for £45

<http://www.countyassembliesrooms.co.uk/>

## Accommodation

The University of Lincoln has secured a preferential rate with the Holiday Inn Express Lincoln City Centre which is £79.00 per room, per night. This rate includes breakfast, WiFi and VAT. Car parking, if required, is £5.00 per vehicle, per night, payable on arrival at reception.

<http://www.expresslincoln.co.uk/>

Payment for the rooms should be made in full 28 days prior to arrival and after this date is non-refundable.

When booking your room please let them know that you are booking as part of the **MSRG Conference** and you will need to quote this in order to get the preferential rate.

To book this rate, you will need to call 0871 902 1617 opt.2, 3, 4 or 5 which will bring you straight through to the Holiday Inn Express Lincoln team

Payment will be taken in full at the time of booking. This rate cannot be booked via the website, any 3<sup>rd</sup> party or even via the central reservations team.

You can book this rate up to and including the day of Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. After this date, the rate is closed off and no longer available.

Please be advised that the cost of accommodation is paid for separately and not included in the conference fee.

## Contact details

For any further information please contact Carena Lewis at [clewis@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:clewis@lincoln.ac.uk) or 01522 837107.