

Solent Thames Research Framework

Bob Edwards , December 2006

Medieval Hampshire 1066 - 1540

Inheritance

For much of Hampshire the framework of land division and settlement had been set by the end of the Saxon period, particularly in the chalk areas of the county. Here land ownership was dominated by the Bishop of Winchester and the Prior of St Swithun's, most estates being in their hands before 1066. The wooded clays and heath areas to the north, east and south of the chalk were occupied but it is in these areas that probably witnessed the greatest level of development in the medieval period.

Winchester and Southampton continued to be the major urban centres. These two major towns were accompanied by places such as Andover, Basingstoke, Odiham, and Alton, which were royal estate centres and probably proto-towns with markets (Basingstoke's and Alton's (Neatham) being recorded in Domesday Book). Christchurch (now Dorset) and Portchester were the only other burhs in Hampshire. Portchester does not seem to have had any urban character before 1066 whilst Christchurch was a small borough.

By the later Saxon period it is probable that many of Hampshire's villages were in existence, some of which are known, through documents or survival of fabric, to have had parish churches. The parish system was continuing to develop with some areas already with a parish system recognisable today by 1066. In other parts of the county the Saxon *parochia* were still evident (Hase, 1994).

Open field systems associated with the villages, particularly those in the river valleys, are likely to have been in existence by the end of the Saxon period.

Chronology

Pottery

Excavations at medieval kiln sites on Wickham Common and Bentley have improved the understanding of the chronology of medieval pottery in Hampshire although the Bentley kiln wares are dated through comparison with products from other kilns including Chichester.

For many sites dating is reliant on pottery manufactured outside the county - for example, Laverstock wares, produced just outside Salisbury, Wiltshire for which there is an existing type series. The 13th – 14th century wares are particularly well understood. Later medieval wares – 15th to early 16th pottery groups less well represented in Salisbury and so dating less secure. Similar fabrics to Laverstock are found in south-east Wiltshire and East Dorset so possible that there are other kilns to

be discovered. Possible transitional wares between earlier medieval Laverstock and post-medieval Verwood wares often associated with 'Tudor Green' wares (Harding and Light 2003).

On some urban sites and higher status rural sites imported wares including polychrome pottery from Saintonge can provide relatively close dating.

Dendrochronology

The Hampshire Buildings Survey group, with funding from Hampshire County Council and many local authorities and private individuals, has instigated the dendrochronological survey of over 100 buildings in the county. This work, combined with other dendrochronological samples taken in Hampshire has allowed the construction of a Master Chronology that covers the range AD 443 – 1972 (Roberts, 2003).

The number of dated buildings, together with buildings that can be dated through documentary sources greatly assists with the typological dating of other buildings.

Landscape and Land Use

Agriculture was the dominant land use across the county. Broadly, across the chalklands open fields occupied the lands adjacent to the settlements, in the river valleys taking in the lower slopes of the valley, with open downland beyond which provided grazing, predominantly for large flocks of sheep whilst the meadows along the valley floor provided some grazing for limited numbers of cattle. Although enclosure of the open fields and the enclosure and extension of arable onto the downs largely falls outside this period, the process had probably begun by the 14th century and increased during the 16th century (Hare, 1994). The enclosure of open fields usually resulted in fields that reflected the former strips and furlongs or, on the valley sides, produced 'ladder' fields where linear features that extended from the valley to the higher ground such as tracks, parish and tithing boundaries were linked by the insertion of cross-boundaries creating the 'rungs' of the ladder. In the eastern downs the landscape consists of a greater intermixture of irregular enclosure by agreement fields and areas of later, regular enclosure. At least part of this enclosed landscape may be of late medieval origin.

On the clays to the north, east and south, a wood-pasture economy was prevalent in areas that were largely under Forest Law. Although some forest areas such as Bere Ashley were disafforested in the 14th century, large forest areas such as Freemantle and Pamber remained as Royal Forest into the 17th century (whilst Bere Portchester continued into the early 19th century) (Bond 1994). Even so, as the importance of Royal Forests as hunting grounds declined, their value being more for timber and other sources of income, enclosure was permitted. Thus it is probable that enclosure, some associated with assarting, was underway on the Claylands north and south of the chalk by the 14th century. The result is a landscape of small, often irregular fields with frequent areas of woodland.

Of all the Royal Forests probably the most famous is the New Forest with the apparent references in Domesday to the removal of many villages to create the forest. Traces of park pales and the sites of some hunting lodges survive. The New Forest provided expansive open grazing for the animals of numerous small-holders.

Whilst Royal Forests covered a large part of the county, there were other forest areas, called chases, which owned by other magnates such as the Bishop of Winchester for whom Waltham Chase and Highclere Chase provided hunting grounds. In addition to these chases the bishop also had deer parks, the one at Waltham being recorded in the Domesday Book as 'a park for wild animals'.

Hampshire has the highest number of licensed deer parks in the Wessex region, probably due to the extent of Royal Forest (Bond 1994). These parks are concentrated on the clays of north, south and east Hampshire with a small number of the central chalk and the chalklands west of the River Avon.

Another high status site type, sometimes associated with deer parks, are fish ponds (Currie 1988). The Bishops of Winchester had several large fishponds in the county including those at New Alresford and Bishop's Waltham. At New Alresford a massive dam was built across the valley of the Itchen to form the pond (Roberts 1986). The fish ponds associated with the bishops of Winchester are relatively well documented with, for example, the pipe rolls providing information on their management. Fishponds are found on several other monastic sites such as Titchfield Abbey and monastic-owned manorial sites such as Lyss Place in east Hampshire.

On areas of downland and also in parts of the New Forest warrens were constructed for the management of rabbits. Only four warrens are recorded in the Hampshire AHBR (one on the basis of a name only) with all located in the west part of the central chalk lands. These records represent only a fraction of the warren sites that would have existed and on the western edge of the New Forest some warrens survive intact.

The rivers of Hampshire provided the power to the numerous watermills constructed along their length. Whilst some sites continued in use into the modern period, there are many watermill sites recorded where the absence of later re-buildings could mean that earlier phases of the mill and mill leats may survive.

A highly significant element of the landscape of Hampshire is its coastline. Facing into the English Channel, Hampshire has always had links with the French coast – both commercially and militarily. The commercial links are especially manifest in Southampton where imported goods are often an important part of archaeological assemblages. The coastline was also a place of work with processes such as salt-making, fishing, and boat-building associated with the coast and the estuaries of the rivers flowing to the sea. Major sites such as Portchester Castle, Portsmouth and Southampton exhibit the need for defence and the remains at these sites form part of a story of defence of the country that extends into the 20th century.

Social Organisation

After the king, the bishopric of Winchester was the principal landowner in Hampshire, especially in the chalklands around Winchester. This large-scale ownership with most estates farmed in demense meant that most of the villages on bishopric (and other ecclesiastical estates) consisted of tenants and peasants with relatively limited opportunities advancement. The famines and plagues of the 14th century changed this with more land becoming available and, in a few cases, the leasing of the demesne, allowing some tenants to increase the amount of land they farmed. The leasing of demesne became more widespread by the late 16th century.

The result of the early enclosure of open fields and downland was the development of large farms by national standards that relied on wage labour. Such early enclosure by agreement usually left the small family farmers unable to continue as they could not maintain a sheep flock large enough to manure their arable and so they either sold or leased their land to large farmers. This resulted in the rise of a small number of yeoman class of farmer and many poor labourers.

The commoners of the New Forest who relied on their rights of common on the open heaths and woodlands of the forest were a particularly independent group.

Settlement

Urban

Winchester and Southampton remained the dominant urban centres throughout most of the medieval period. These are both archaeologically rich and complex urban areas that deserve a fuller discussion that can be presented here.

Winchester

The major royal, commercial and ecclesiastical centre of the county. Extensive archaeological work undertaken within the cathedral close and in parts of the city but little major work carried out since late 1980s.

Extremely well documented with records relating to most property plots in the town surviving giving information about owners, tenants and the use of property.

Winchester's fortunes began to wane from the 13th century the loss of frequent visits by the royal court as the administrative centre settled in London so that by the 14th century parts of the town were in decline. The internationally important St Giles' Fair was also in decline by the 14th century. The economic decline and the effects of plague led to a reduction in the population by around 30%. Cloth making improved the towns fortunes during the 15th century but competition with other parts of the country and also a shift of cloth making to the smaller towns of the county resulted in further decline, reducing Winchester to a county town.

Winchester has been subject to an Intensive Urban Survey creating an Urban Archaeological Database.

Southampton

The principal port of central southern England and thus a major place of export and import. It retains some important remains of merchant's houses and vaults from the 12th century onwards. The large grid of streets is claimed by some to be evidence of late Saxon town planning (Biddle and Hill 1971) but this has been questioned (Platt 1972).

Documentary sources indicate that there were defences to the landward sides of the town in the 13th century. These were probably of earth at first but a stone wall was built in the late 13th century. Excavation has shown that it was poorly constructed with shallow foundations and was thin in comparison to other medieval town walls. The earliest phases of the Bargate have, however, been dated to the 12th century but it is suggested that gates such as this may have been more about show than defence (Hughes 1994b). The wall on the waterfront sides of the town was built in response to the French raids in the 14th century and it incorporates elements of earlier houses and warehouses that lined the waterfront, fossilising important early fabric within its structure.

There have been numerous archaeological excavations within the walled town including within the area of the castle that have revealed evidence for the medieval development and commerce of the town. Of particular interest is the range of imported goods that have been recovered which demonstrate the position Southampton held in international trade during the medieval period.

Other towns

The period 1180 – 1230 was one of considerable growth of towns in Hampshire. The larger royal estate centres such as Basingstoke, Alton, Andover, Odiham developed into recognisable towns, some having grants of markets or borough charters although as markets had probably been long established at some of these centres there may have been no need to obtain a market charter. Similarly, places such as Romsey, Ringwood, Kingsclere and Titchfield were also probable Saxon market centres that developed into small towns. At most of these places some form of planning appears to have occurred with the laying out of market places and regular, planned areas of property plots.

New town development was led by the bishops of Winchester who created new boroughs on green-field sites at Overton, New Alresford, and Newtown. On some other bishopric estates such as Fareham it appears that existing settlements were subject to re-organisation and the creation of a plan of the same form seen in the new towns. At Bishop's Waltham, the site of a palace, a planned grid of streets was laid out which contrasts to the other bishopric towns which were typically a single, wide market street at right angles to another road creating a T-plan. Other ecclesiastical landlords developed towns as at Whitchurch and at Portchester where a new planned area of settlement was built alongside the main east-west route (A27) well north of the older settlement core near the castle. Portsmouth was a royal foundation. Other new towns were created by lay lords at Wickham, Petersfield and Stockbridge and Botley may also represent an attempt to develop a town. Of particular interest is the concentration of towns on the south coast plain where urban centres are dominant with very few villages.

All these places, with the exception of Whitchurch, received regular planned layouts with wide market streets. Whitchurch was focused on an existing junction of five roads where the market was located and this irregular street plan made the creation of regular rows of burgage plots difficult. However, there is evidence for planning in the layout of the property plots.

Most of these small towns have been subject to an Extensive Urban Survey which has identified areas of varying archaeological importance. This work has supported the decision to add archaeological conditions to several development schemes which have resulted in the excavation of medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits.

Rural

Roberts and Wrathmell: Hampshire lies within the South Eastern Province where settlement is predominantly dispersed. Most of Hampshire is in the East Wessex sub-province which takes in the chalk downs and the south coast including the New Forest. It is acknowledged that in the chalk valleys settlement is mainly nucleated, meaning that the area could have been included within the Central Province but the low density of settlement overall led it to be placed in the South Eastern Province. Because of the distinctive settlement patterns of the chalk and the adjacent lowland basin this area could have been identified as a distinct Province at a national scale.

Rural settlement (but principally nucleated settlement) in the county has been the subject of a survey aimed at identifying areas of archaeological potential (e.g. Edwards 1995 and Hewitt, 1998). The survey used historic mapping to analyse plan form combined with rapid field survey to locate unidentified earthwork sites to define the historic settlement zones. This work has resulted in the implementation of archaeological investigations in rural settlements which have often encountered medieval settlement remains refining the understanding of the development of some villages.

Valley based settlements are typically linear, lying along the valley on a terrace slightly above the river or stream. Many of these villages show evidence of planning with blocks of regular property plots lining one or both sides of the village street. Others are irregular rows with intermittent, irregular plots alongside the road. Some of these villages have earthworks indicating episodes of shrinkage and there are some recorded deserted villages but compared to some of the chalk stream valleys of Dorset and Wiltshire where it appears that there was sometimes almost continual settlement along the valley, there appear to be fewer areas of deserted or shrunken settlement between villages.

There have been a number of development related excavations and observations undertaken within existing settlements which have revealed evidence for the medieval development, occupation and abandonment of areas of the settlement (Scott 1991; 1993; Pine and Preston 2004). These often small excavations can provide useful information about the development of settlement. Importantly, areas within villages that do not reveal the expected evidence for settlement raise issues regarding development and the use of space. Elsewhere within the downs small shrunken and deserted settlements have occasionally been subject to archaeological investigation, for example, Foxcote near Andover (Russel 1985) and at Popham (Fasham 1987). A

major excavation of a deserted settlement, including the church site, was at Hatch Warren near Basingstoke (Fasham et al 1995).

On the eastern downs the settlement patterns differ as the topography is less dominated by river valleys. Instead small agglomerated villages and hamlets are scattered across the downland.

The clays of north Hampshire fall into the Thames sub-province where dispersed settlement is predominant, and in the case of north Hampshire, dispersion levels are high to very high on a national scale. Within this dispersed settlement pattern are many farmsteads of medieval origin, some of which retain medieval buildings. Closer examination of farmsteads in a part of this area shows that the settlement pattern has constantly shifted with farmsteads being amalgamated, some disappearing and new ones being created. This area was heavily wooded in the early medieval period with the Royal Forests of Freemantle, Pamber extending across the area whilst the Forest of Eversley (part of the Forest of Windsor), and part of Pamber included areas of sandy heath. Although the presence of a Royal Forest did not exclude settlement development, it did limit agricultural and economic development in terms of enclosure and arable farming but encouraged a wood-pasture economy. In the Loddon Valley area north of Basingstoke there is a distinct cluster of moated farmstead sites.

Around the areas of heathland, particularly in the north-east of the county, documentary sources and standing buildings indicate that settlements were developing from the Saxon period but most are probably of medieval origin. Common-edge settlements, with 'islands' of encroachment onto the common appear to have expanded from the 16th century, often with an earlier farmstead at its core. Usually such expansion was the result of squatters building small, poor quality houses on areas of waste.

Archaeologically, little work has been done on dispersed settlement and rarely does development work on single farmsteads become subject to archaeological recording conditions. Archaeological research in this landscape could provide a greater understanding of the development of settlement in the landscape and also of the development of farmstead plans.

The Built Environment

The earliest domestic buildings in Hampshire are the stone-built first floor hall houses such as those seen in Southampton and at Warnford in the Meon Valley.

The production in 2003 of *Hampshire Houses 1250-1700 Their Dating and Development* by Edward Roberts provides an excellent overview and analysis of vernacular architecture in medieval Hampshire and is the source for much of the following text. There have been few intensive studies of buildings within particular settlements where the changes and development of building types and forms can be related to developments in the wider landscape such as Meirion-Jones 1972. There is scope for more work of this type.

The earliest elements of vernacular buildings date from the late 13th/early 14th century – both consisting of king post roof trusses in houses in Winchester and Fareham. These two roofs in buildings that had previously not been suspected of originating as timber-framed buildings, let alone such early buildings, indicates the potential for further discoveries to be made.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, mostly dating from the 15th to 17th century although there are a small number of 14th century houses known.

In terms of timber-frame construction Hampshire lies in an interesting position in relation to the cruck and aisle traditions of carpentry. The eastern boundary of cruck framing as defined by Alcock passes through the eastern side of the county whilst aisle construction is predominantly a feature of the south-east and southern East Anglia. The distribution of aisled barns for example, drops markedly to the west of the River Avon.

Whilst Hampshire may be seen as periphery to the main distribution of cruck building with its concentration in the West Midlands, the county contains some of the earliest dated cruck buildings in the country. Additionally, the quality of cruck buildings in Hampshire appears somewhat superior to many of the crucks seen elsewhere.

Crown-post roofs are rare, with only a few examples recorded along the eastern edge of the county – reflecting the edge of a concentration of this roof form in Sussex and Kent.

Hampshire contains some interesting variations on the typical timber-framed building forms including continuous jettied hall houses where the jetty beams of the central open hall section of the building carry a gallery over one side of the open hall linking the floored bays at either end of the house, and there is an unusual example of a house jettied to both front and rear elevations.

There are a number of late medieval inn in Hampshire towns, often built by large institutions such as Winchester College meaning that documents relating to their construction and alteration can survive.

Archaeological excavations have uncovered the remains of what have been interpreted as the foundations of medieval earth-built houses and there are occasional documentary references to the use of cob (Salzman 1952, 88). However, there do not appear to be any standing cob buildings of late medieval date. This cannot be due to the longevity of the material, as medieval cob houses are known in Devon for example.

There are relatively few recorded farm buildings surviving from this period. Documentary sources – especially the bishopric Pipe Rolls, record farm buildings on each estate but it appears that, other than a small number of barns, few have survived. Other medieval farm buildings surviving are predominantly barns.

The ruined remains of two of the Bishops of Winchester's palace survive – one at Wolvesey, Winchester and the second at Bishop's Waltham. A third palace stood at

Bishops Sutton near New Alresford but there is no trace on the ground of this high status site.

Ceremony, Ritual and Religion

The major ecclesiastical site in Hampshire is, of course, Winchester Cathedral. This site has been subject to considerable study although it is not yet fully published.

Parish churches and chapels

The parish system as we know it today was largely completed by the end of the medieval period – although some large parishes such as Kingsclere that included several dependent chapelries, were not divided into smaller parishes until the late 19th century.

A number of parishes were amalgamated with neighbouring parishes in the period, mainly due to low populations as a result of plague or settlement desertion. Abandoned church sites can be found, such as the empty churchyards at Sherfield English in west Hampshire and Nutley in the Candover valley. A little further down the Candover valley is the ‘buried church’ at Chilton Candover where the 12th century crypt of the demolished church was re-discovered in the late 19th century. In other places the site of the church has been lost. One such church re-discovered through archaeological work was at Hatch Warren where the church and parts of the deserted village were excavated (Fasham et al 1995).

There has been relatively little meaningful archaeological work carried out on existing parish churches in the county. Many if not all schemes that involve ground works within churchyards are accompanied by archaeological observation but these rarely add anything to the archaeological record. Similarly, other than in Winchester, there has been little archaeological study of medieval cemeteries as most are still associated with churches. Opportunities to sample a sufficient population of burials to be able to draw any meaningful conclusions about the population are extremely rare.

Winchester has lost many churches within the city, few of which have been subject to archaeological excavation.

Hospitals

Medieval hospitals are recorded at several of Hampshire’s towns including Winchester, Southampton, Basingstoke, Andover and Fordingbridge. The most famous of these is the Hospital of St Cross, Winchester, which still functions as an almshouse with its full range of medieval buildings including a hall, kitchens, gatehouse and church.

Most of the other hospitals in the county were for the housing of the poor rather than leper hospitals. The hospital at Basingstoke became the focus for a cemetery and the remains of the chapel still stand within the cemetery. Southampton’s hospital, God’s House, formed part of the town wall and now serves as the City museum. Hospital sites in other towns have been lost through redevelopment or road building with little or no archaeological excavation.

Monastic sites

Hampshire contains several important monastic sites – the Old and New Minster, Winchester, and Hyde Abbey in Winchester, the Cistercian houses at Beaulieu and Netley and the nunneries of Saxon foundation at Romsey and Wherwell. Southwick Priory was one of the few medieval foundations in the county. This priory was originally founded within the walls of Portchester Castle but moved out to Southwick.

Some of the largest and most important monastic sites have been archaeologically investigated to some extent, including recent excavations at Hyde Abbey, Winchester. There has been considerable work on the abbey at Romsey, including the identification of the refectory as a standing building.

At most of the smaller monastic sites there has been little archaeological work although geophysical survey at Wherwell demonstrated the high archaeological potential of the site, identifying the position and layout of the abbey church (Clark in Roberts 1998). Excavations following the geophysical survey located part of the cemetery and identified a phase of development within the precinct (Mannings and Rawlings 2003). Also at Wherwell a large standing building originally thought to have been stables has been identified as the probable infirmary (Roberts 1998). Dendrochronology was used to date the infirmary and this technique was also used on the barn at the site of the small nunnery of Hartley Wintney which proved to be a pre-dissolution building, contrary to expectations. Small-scale excavations were carried out in the area of the supposed cloister of the alien priory at Hamble-le-Rice (Hughes and Stamper 1981) but the interpretation of the results should be re-examined as the postulated size of the cloister appears to be too large for a monastic house of this size.

Warfare, Defences and Military installations

Although Hampshire had several important royal castles, the most significant being Winchester Castle, only Portchester Castle survives to a sufficient degree to illustrate what a medieval castle was like. The Great Hall of Winchester is the only upstanding element that survives. All visible remains of Southampton Castle have been removed. Odiham Castle, the scene of a siege led by the Dauphin of France during the reign of King John survives as the ruined shell of the keep. At Christchurch the motte of the castle is accompanied by the masonry remains of the constable's house.

Of the lesser castles, there are a small number of earthwork castles such as the ringwork at Ashley near King's Somborne which was which was associated with the warden of the Royal Forest of Bere Ashley. The bishops of Winchester had only one castle in the county, Merdon Castle at Hursley. A few masonry fragments still stand amongst the earthworks of the castle.

Portchester Castle is the most studied of Hampshire's castles with Cunliffe's series of excavations. Parts of Winchester Castle have been examined archaeologically – the base of a tower has been left exposed near the Great Hall and some work has been carried out on Odiham Castle, but generally castle sites across the county have not been subject to significant archaeological investigation.

Moated sites are concentrated in north Hampshire, particularly in the area of the Loddon valley. Some of these sites are still associated with manor houses or farmsteads. One moated site that has been partially examined archaeologically is the manorial site at Wickham. The earthwork remains of the site are slight.

Although the towns of the south coast were subject to attacks from the French during the 14th century, only Southampton and Portsmouth were provided with a town wall in the medieval period although there it has been suggested that Lymington was also defended. Southampton's wall incorporates important remains of earlier quay-side houses and buildings. The nature of the defences in Portsmouth in the 14th century is unclear – documentary references suggest the presence of defences but these may have been only an earth bank and ditch. Stone defences were provided in the form of the Round Tower (c.1415) and the Square Tower (c.1494) but Leland, writing in the 16th century described the town defences as being of earth and timber with timber gates (Hughes 1994b). At Winchester, the Roman city wall formed the basis for the medieval city wall with the West Gate standing as the sole remaining city gate. A part of the wall survives alongside the Itchen, forming part of the boundary of Wolvesey Castle, the bishop's palace.

In the late 15th century Portsmouth was provided with a defensive tower near the mouth of the harbour, commencing an important sequence of defensive structures aimed at protecting Portsmouth Harbour that date up to WWII.

There were no major battles on Hampshire soil in the medieval period.

Crafts, Trades and Industries

Pottery

Although Hampshire had the resources and the markets for a substantial pot-making industry (as there was during the Roman period – Alice Holt, New Forest, Rolands Castle) there is limited evidence for a medieval pottery industry with only a small number of kiln sites identified. One of the areas with several recorded kilns is near where the Alice Holt Roman pot industry was located. Other than this site pottery manufacturing sites are only known in a few other locations such as the Farnborough area, at Bentley, east Hampshire (Barton and Brears 1975) on the clays east of the River Meon where there are two separate sites recorded, including the excavated Jack-O-Tooles Row waster dump (Whinney 1981), on the south Hampshire lowland west of the Test and in the Breamore area. In the area south of Breamore there was a thriving pottery industry in the post-medieval period forming part of the Verwood industry (centred on the Verwood/Alderholt area in Dorset (Draper and Copeland Griffiths 2002). Pot making had begun in the Verwood area in the late medieval period and may have been carried out in the Hampshire part of the area.

Brick and tile making

Tile making in particular was recorded during the medieval period – for example, on the Bishop of Winchester's estate at Highclere. A tile kiln located close to an urban

area has been excavated at Andover and there is a documentary reference to a tile kiln near Petersfield. Brick did not begin to be used in any quantity until the 17th century.

Salt

The Hampshire coast was one of the main areas for salt making in the country with evidence for the industry dating back to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Domesday records 12 manors with salterns and implies their existence through payments being made in salt on some others. Areas of particular prominence for salt making include Portsmouth Harbour, especially near Portchester where salterns were recorded in the medieval period, and in the Lymington area where the industry survived until the 18th century (Lloyd 1967). Research has largely focused on the prehistoric period with relatively little attention being paid to medieval salt making in Hampshire although a project examining the earthwork evidence for salt making in an area near Lymington identified possible medieval salterns inland from the later salterns.

Iron

The Wealden Greensand extends into eastern Hampshire and in the post medieval period there was some limited iron-making carried out. It is probable that this industrial activity was undertaken to some degree in this part of the county in the medieval period but there is no recorded archaeological evidence for it.

Leather

Later sources indicate that most of the towns of the county had a tannery and it is most likely that this represents the situation in the medieval period. Few of these sites have been examined archaeologically although there has been an excavation of a tannery site at Fordingbridge (Harding and Light 2003) which had begun operations in the late medieval period.

Textiles

Whilst wool was a major element of Hampshire agriculture in the medieval period, and the manufacture of cloth became an important industry in Winchester in the 15th century before spreading out to several of the market towns, there is very little archaeological evidence for the textile industry in the county. Probably the most frequent site type associated with textiles are fulling mills which were powered by the main rivers of the Test, Itchen and Meon although few, if any of these mills retain physical evidence of their earlier history.

Boat-building

Boat-building would have been undertaken in Hampshire in the medieval period. Whilst Portsmouth was probably the centre of the industry, smaller boat yards are likely to have been located in the estuaries of rivers such as the Hamble and the Itchen.

Transport and Communications

As the settlement pattern we seen today was largely established by the end of this period at least, so the road network linking these places was also largely in place. Enclosure of downland and the creation of turnpikes in the post-medieval period would have resulted in the alteration or replacement of some earlier routes but in the clay areas the road pattern has probably been little altered since the medieval period.

Coastal shipping was an important way of transporting goods, particularly to London. Such shipping would have been supported by a boat-building industry and other trades that supplied goods such as rope. Along the coast small harbours would have provided points at which agricultural produce including wool could be loaded for shipping to the capital or abroad.

One of the earliest dry docks in England was constructed at Portsmouth during the reign of King John.

Legacy

To varying degrees so much of the environment we live in today retains or reflects the influence of the medieval period. In particular the form of most of the urban and rural settlements of Hampshire can be traced back to this period. Within many of these settlements medieval buildings such as churches, inns, houses and occasionally farm buildings still stand and are highly valued – not just as monuments to the past but as part of the fabric of people's lives in the 21st century.

Research priorities

Medieval pottery manufacture.

Excavations suggest that during much of the medieval period Hampshire imported much of its pottery from Surrey, Sussex and Wiltshire despite having the material resources required to sustain a pottery industry in several parts of the county. Are the sites recorded so far indicative of larger industries in those areas? Where pottery manufacture is known from the post-medieval period, can information regarding the origins of that industry be traced?

The development of churches and the system of parishes.

Whilst it is known that some of the Saxon *parochia* were already broken up by the 11th century, the development of churches and parishes in other *parochia* is less well understood.

The development of the new towns.

Although the foundation of many of the new towns in Hampshire are recorded, or can be ascertained from documentary sources, there is little evidence for the early development and economy of these new commercial centres.

Medieval suburbs – growth and retraction

Suburban or extra-mural development, particularly in relation to the major urban areas of Winchester and Southampton, needs to be explored. There is limited information regarding such areas, particularly in Southampton which does not have the wealth of documentary evidence to be able to reconstruct the extent of medieval suburban development as is the case for Winchester.

The origins and development of dispersed settlement

Research has shown that in the post-medieval period the pattern of dispersed farmsteads and hamlets was relatively fluid with old sites being abandoned and new sites created. It is probable that such shifts also occurred during the medieval period. This makes the study of medieval dispersed settlement more problematic than the study of nucleated settlement where, generally, such fluctuations have occurred in one particular area. Systematic work is required on areas of dispersed settlement to try to map the origins and development of the settlement pattern we have today.

Salt making

The medieval salt industry has been largely ignored in favour of the prehistoric phases of this industry. Hampshire was probably one of the main coastal salt-making areas of the country but relatively little is known about the levels of production or of the salterns of the period.

Medieval enclosure

The enclosure of wooded areas largely on the lowland clays north and south of the central chalk area requires examination. This work would tie in with the questions regarding the development of dispersed settlement and also relates to the history of the Royal Forests of the county.

The enclosure of open fields and downland in the late medieval period is known to have occurred to some degree. Where documentary evidence suggests that such early enclosure took place there should be an analysis of the field patterns to attempt to identify the early enclosures and understand their form and later development.

Medieval farmsteads

Documents relating to bishopric estates give a clear indication of the range, and sometimes the size, of buildings that could be found on manorial farmsteads but there is little information about the way these buildings were arranged – whether in loose courtyard plans or dispersed. Similarly, the development of smaller farmsteads requires research to provide information on the buildings and plans typical of smaller medieval farmsteads.

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