

Cambridge Archaeology Field Group

## Wimpole Project

# Wimpole: Silent voices and deserted homes

V5 Final

# Table of Contents

.....	1
SUMMARY.....	4
Section 1.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	4
1.2 Geology and topography.....	4
1.3 Historical background.....	5
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	8
Section 2.....	9
2. AIMS AND METHODS.....	9
2.1 Aims.....	9
2.2 Methods.....	9
2.2.1 Fieldwalking.....	9
2.2.2 Test Pit Excavation.....	10
2.2.3 Excavations.....	12
2.2.5 Documentary Research.....	13
Section 3.....	14
3 RESULTS.....	14
3.1 Fieldwalking.....	14
3.1.1 Summary Results.....	14
3.1.2 Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age.....	15
3.1.3 Iron Age.....	15
3.1.4 Roman.....	15
3.1.5 Saxon and Saxo-Norman.....	16
3.1.6 Medieval.....	16
3.1.7 Late Medieval.....	16
3.2 Test pit excavation.....	18
3.2.4 Pottery Identification.....	21
3.2.5 Earlier prehistoric.....	21
3.2.6 Mid/Late Iron Age.....	21
3.2.7 Roman.....	21
3.2.8 Early/Middle Saxon.....	21
3.2.9 Late Saxon-Early Medieval.....	22
3.2.10 Medieval.....	22
3.2.11 Late Medieval.....	22
3.2.12 Post-Medieval to Modern.....	22
3.3 Cobbs Wood - Field 3.....	22
3.3.1 Topography and background.....	22
3.3.2 Results.....	23
Section 4.....	32
4. DOCUMENTS.....	32
Result Summary.....	32
4.1 Introduction.....	32
4.2 Early Beginnings: Wimpole in the Saxo-Norman period (1066 to 1086).....	33
4.3 Population.....	34
4.4 Personal Names.....	35
4.5 Land Use.....	37
Section 5.....	41
5 DISCUSSION.....	41
5.1 Background.....	41

5.2	Commentary .....	41
5.2.1	Pre-history to Roman up to 5th century AD.....	41
5.2.2	Early Medieval to the Norman Conquest - 5th to 11th centuries.....	42
5.2.3	Medieval 12th to 15th centuries.....	44
5.2.4	Early Modern 16th to 19th centuries.....	45
	Bibliography .....	51

## List of Figures

Figure 1	Map showing roads, tracks and settlements in Wimpole parish on the Hare Map of 1638 ....	7
Figure 2	Map of Test pit locations and house sites from Hare map -1638.....	12
Figure 3	Map of fields walked in the survey.....	14
Figure 4	Maps of flint and pottery finds from fieldwalking at Wimpole.....	18
Figure 5	Position of the 10 squares and the test pits at Cobbs Wood field – field 3.....	24
Figure 6	Distribution of the pottery finds from the 20m squares walked by Smith and Damant.....	27

## List of Tables

Table 1	Position of Test Pits – Ordnance Survey references (all TL).....	12
Table 2	Numbers of prehistoric to Late Medieval pottery and flint found during fieldwalking.....	15
Table 3	Test pits – summary of significant finds.....	21
Table 4	Test Pit pottery identifications by Paul Blinkhorn grouped into periods.....	22
Table 5	Pottery from Test Pits by period.....	22
Table 6	Pottery identifications by Paul Blinkhorn for pottery from the Cobbs Wood field.....	25
Table 7	Pottery from 10m squares walked by CAFG on Cobbs Wood field.....	24
Table 8	Pottery from 10m squares walked by YAC on Cobbs Wood field.....	25
Table 9	Numbers of sherds by period found in 20 m. square fieldwalking in Cobbs Wood field.....	25
Table 10	Pottery Occurrence in Cobbs Wood Test Pits by Period.....	28
Table 11	Non-pottery occurrence in Cobbs wood Test pits.....	29
Table 12	Summary - Metal finds Cobbs Wood.....	30
Table 13	Roman Coin Finds from the main Survey Winter 2012/13.....	31

## Abbreviations

BM	British Museum
CAFG	Cambridge Archaeology Field Group
CC	Cambridgeshire Collection
CCC	Cambridgeshire County Council
CCCCO	Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
CRO	Cambridge Records Office
CUL	Cambridge University Library
CUP	Cambridge University Press
EDR	Ely Diocesan Records
ICC	Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis
NottmU	Nottingham University
PCAS	Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society
RCHM(E)	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England),
VCH	Victoria County History
VCH notes	Handwritten notes of VCH researchers, held at the CRO

## **SUMMARY**

The parish of Wimpole does not have a nucleated village settlement. The earliest representation is seen on the map drawn by Benjamin Hare in 1638 for Thomas Chicheley. Extensive fieldwalking, limited test pit excavation and metal detecting has shown evidence that there was activity, possibly settlement, in the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Early/Middle and Late Saxon periods and through the medieval period into modern times. Significant sites have been newly identified by these methods in areas not previously studied. Documentary research has concentrated on identifying people who lived and worked on the land and on tracing land use. Documents not previously published have been found to contribute to the understanding of the development of the landscape.

It is hoped that this study has contributed to a fuller understanding of the history of Wimpole and the surrounding region and will encourage further work.

The report comprises five main sections. Section 1 contains the Introduction; section 2 the aims and methods; section 3 the results of the practical field work; section 4 the results of the documentary research, and section 5 is an outline discussion of the results. Supplementary data can be found in the Appendices.

### **Section 1**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

##### **1.1 Location and scope of work**

1.1.1 Archaeological work in the parish of Wimpole has been conducted intermittently by the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group (CAFG) since 1982. This work has taken five main forms: field walking, an earthwork survey, a test pit survey, metal detecting and excavations. An earthwork survey was carried out at Cobbs Wood in 1982 (May, 1982). Field walking occurred between 1989 and 2013 with about 30% of the parish being surveyed. Excavation of features associated with the gardens and a house next to Home Farm was undertaken between 1999 and 2012; detailed results of this work will be reported separately.

1.1.2 In 2013 a grant was obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund in order to carry out further field work and to relate this to the previous results. Between 20th and 28th July 2013 15 test pits were excavated on the National Trust Estate as a community programme run by CAFG. As part of the 2013 project members of CAFG undertook research in documents from various archives, with particular reference to identification of people and families living in the parish.

##### **1.2 Geology and topography**

1.2.1 The parish of Wimpole is some 2,468 acres (999 hectares) in extent and lies about eight miles (13 Km) southwest of Cambridge. It is bounded (with some adjustments) by Ermine Street on the west and the ancient Mare Way track to the north. The river Rhee runs along

the southern edge, as does the probable Roman road connecting Ermine Street to Cambridge (now the A603). The western side is largely formed by the lines of medieval field boundaries. Within the parish, Wimpole Hall and its park now cover the early settlements of Wimpole.

- 1.2.2. The British Geological Survey (BGS 2001 and 2002) shows boulder clay to the north which falls from a scarp of over 250ft (76m) OD through chalk and gault, to river gravel in the south at around 50ft (15m) OD. The chalk outcrop is irregular and a long tongue stretches south east through the parish to the church which stands on its furthest extension. The junction with the gault generates a number of springs providing plentiful fresh water. The area is well wooded with belts of trees to the north and west planted as part of landscaping work in the nineteenth century.

### **1.3 Historical background**

- 1.3.1 There are no extensive published studies of the development of the landscape of the parish of Wimpole or of the farmers and artisans who lived in and used that landscape.
- 1.3.2 The National Trust guidebook by David Souden (2004) devotes just three of its 96 pages to the history of the estate outside the Park for the period prior to 1814. The farms and earthworks, including ridge and furrow, recorded by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments are given as factual statements of what was present but there is little analysis of the significance of these features (RCHM(E) 1968). Likewise there is a very full account of the earthworks in the RCHME survey of 1998 with some attempt to relate these features to documentary evidence (Patterson, 1998). The fullest published account of the history of the parish is found in volume 5 of the Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire. This contains evidence concerning manors and estates and the economic history with reference to land use and organisation (Elrington, 1973). This latter book was an invaluable source during initial attempts to relate people to places within this project. Papers published in the Proceedings of Cambridge Antiquarian Society are mainly concerned with individual finds of artefacts or with details from the Domesday survey. Taylor (1997) briefly discusses the earthworks and the finds recorded in the Cambridgeshire Heritage Environment Record (CHER), including a 6<sup>th</sup> century burial excavated at Wimpole Lodge.
- 1.3.3 Much has been written by archaeologists and local historians in recent years about landscape development, particularly for the period after the collapse of the Roman state around 410AD. Emphasis has been on the origins of open field agriculture and the nucleation of settlements. Landscape Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England contains a useful introduction and chapters by significant contributors to the discussion (Higham and Ryan 2010). In the introduction, Higham draws attention to recent strategies of extensive fieldwalking combined with new evidence of the dating and distribution of pottery – exemplifying Ipswich ware of the 8/9th centuries (Higham and Ryan 2010 p. 9). This new evidence has suggested that settlement withdrew from the heavy clays to lighter soils in the very early Saxon period, of particular significance for the interpretation of the evidence from Wimpole's heavy clays.
- 1.3.4 Another element of the discussion of post-Roman landscape development is to understand the origins of nucleated settlements (as opposed to dispersed), open field systems and common, or Midland, field systems. An extensive study of 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps by Roberts and Wrathmell (Roberts et al 2002) suggests a central province of England where nucleated settlements predominated, with dispersed settlement to the east and

- south. The dispersed settlement shown in the parish of Wimpole on the 1638 map produced by Benjamin Hare (henceforth 'Hare Map') (CRO R77/1) for Thomas Chicheley, the then owner of the estate, lies on the south eastern fringe of the central province.
- 1.3.5 Oosthuizen (2010) has proposed that open fields may have evolved from prehistoric or Romano-British field systems. She suggests that the 'common fields' of the central province, with their communally regulated agricultural activity, may have developed in the early medieval period from the less regulated open fields but that there is no clear evidence for association with nucleation of settlements. For Wimpole there are no surviving manorial records, so although the Hare map shows distributed strips in what appear to be two fields, one across the north of the parish and one south of the manor house (although the latter is so widespread it could have been two), it is not possible to say how they were regulated.
  - 1.3.6 After the illustration of the landscape in the 1638 Hare Map the next depiction is in the drawing of 1707 by Leonard Knyff engraved by Johannes Kip for the Earl of Radnor (Adshead, 2007, 16). Although this shows parts of the estate, mainly the Park area, its chief function was to show off the vast gardens built for the Earl, which had replaced all the garden structures that Thomas Chicheley had built (CAFG unpublished findings). Thereafter much of the illustrative material about the estate concentrates on the house and its development (Adshead, 2007).
  - 1.3.7 The Cambridgeshire Heritage Environmental Record (CHER) contains 30 items dated to the medieval period and earlier for the parish of Wimpole. Of these, four are late Iron Age, 11 Roman, 2 Anglo-Saxon and 16 medieval. The quality of these records is variable; for example the site called the deserted village of Wrathworth (CHER 03347) has no known Ordnance Survey grid reference, whereas the Anglo-Saxon strap end (MCB17741) was a find made by CAFG with an accurate grid reference.
  - 1.3.8 According to the CHER, Iron Age and Roman finds have been made in the areas to the south of the A603 (Cambridge to Arrington road), an area not included in this study (CHER CB14686, 11493, 9583, MCB18176). A Roman presence is evident, particularly where the Cambridge Road meets Ermine Street near the point where Ermine Street crosses the River Rhee at Arrington Bridge, an ancient ford. Excavations uncovered a small complex of buildings, including a possible 'Mansio' (CHER 08384, 08385, 03334, 03335).
  - 1.3.9 In the Domesday Book, Wimpole is listed with two adjacent vills, Wrathworth and Whitwell, although both ceased to exist as separate entities before the end of the 13th century. The first clear evidence of the shape of the parish comes from the Hare Map of 1638. This shows that the eastern boundary ran further west than it does now in several places. The north, west and southern boundaries respect older landscape markers (a Roman road, the Mare Way and the River Rhee) and it may be that changes to the eastern boundary reflect the absorption of Wrathworth by both Wimpole and Orwell.
  - 1.3.10 The Hare Map also shows a network of roadways and tracks crossing the parish (see Fig. 1). In particular two north-south roads crossed the parish from the Mare Way to the Cambridge Road. The eastern road has survived as the principal road through the middle of the parish, although that on the west, Wimpole Way, was probably more important. The roads were both crossed in the north by a road that left the Mare Way near Ross's Farm and ran in a semi-circle to re-join the Mare Way east of the parish boundary, and in the south by a road from Arrington. Part of the southern road has survived as a private road and public footway. Several lesser roads linked the four already mentioned, and the remains of some have survived as rutted hollow-ways.



- 1.3.11 The roads appear to be a mixture of long distance and local routes. East west long distance routes link Arrington and Great Eversden and places further afield, while Crane's Lane still leads north to Kingston. Others seem typical of local medieval interweaving tracks providing access to fields. The Hare Map shows the location of six hamlets which seem to have developed alongside these roads, including Bennall End and Thresham End to the south of the Wimpole Hall. Settlement in the 17th century was scattered along the roads across the middle part of the parish and centred on the junction of Wimpole Way with the Arrington road. The manor house, church, rectory and several other buildings lay north-west of the cross-roads, and houses straggled west along the Arrington road.
- 1.3.12 Enclosure of the open fields and the creation in the 17th century of several new farms, which generally remained eight in number, resulted in the concentration of the declining population on the farmsteads, away from the centre of the parish. A similar process of enclosure by Thomas Chicheley took place in Arrington to the west but Kingston (1810), Eversden (1811) and Orwell (1837) were not enclosed until the 19th century by parliamentary act (Elrington, 1973). The major expansion of the park began in 1720 and reached its peak by 1772 with the work of Capability Brown.
- 1.3.13 In 1815 Robert Withers surveyed Wimpole and Arrington for the estate of the Earl of Hardwick, this was revised and adjusted and printed in 1828 (Withers, 1828). The OS map of 1836 shows a landscape very like that of today, although New Wimpole had yet to be built. Emparkment had removed the hamlets and much of the original network of trackways.
- 1.3.14 Volume 5 of the Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire contains an extensive description of the development of the parish based on documentary research. However, little evidence is presented identifying the people who lived and worked in Wimpole. Although the Domesday Book of 1086 gives details of owners and occupiers of land, the documentary sources between then and the 17th century are sparse, there being no extant manorial court rolls. The RCHM(E) have recorded in Volume 1 West Cambridgeshire, upstanding buildings and earthworks; the latter have been surveyed in the Park area by RCHM(E) in their detailed report by Paul Pattison and David Garrow (Pattison, 1998).
- 1.3.15 There are no early eye witness accounts of the estate but the Rev. Plumtre describes his visit in 1800 to what seems a very benign world (CAFG 2014).

#### **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The main sponsor of this project was the Heritage Lottery Fund 'All our Stories' grant programme, grant number AS-12-02809. Our thanks go to our sponsor and the many other organisations and individuals who have contributed over the years that CAFG members have worked on the Wimpole estate. The National Trust, through Angus Wainwright and local staff, has always been very supportive in providing access and facilities. We are grateful to the staff of Oxford Archaeology East and the Jigsaw programme they run, for advice and equipment loans; and for the advice we have had from Susan Oosthuizen and Carezza Lewis. Finally, none of the work would have been achieved without the time and labour provided by past and present members of CAFG.



## Section 2

### 2. AIMS AND METHODS

#### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aim of the study was to trace the origin and history of the medieval settlement in the parish of Wimpole and more generally to establish the pattern of settlement and land use across the whole parish for all periods.
- 2.1.2 It was further intended to involve members of the public generally, specifically from local parishes, in the process and outcomes of the study. Members of CAFG were encouraged to develop skills in field studies, excavation, documentary research and report writing. One of the aims of the project was to find documentary evidence that might put names to the people who lived in Wimpole before the expansion of the Park in the 1640s, and to look for any information on what happened to them and the land they used.

#### 2.2 Methods

##### 2.2.1 Fieldwalking

- 2.2.1.1 CAFG has been fieldwalking at Wimpole since 1989, and methods have changed over the period. Initially, between 1989 and 2003, fieldwalking was recorded within 100m squares based on OS National Grid co-ordinates. Before walking started, grid lines were laid out using tape measures and reference to OS maps at a scale of 1:12500. Personnel, spaced 10m apart, walked in straight lines across the square. Finds of all periods were placed in plastic bags and the bags attached to a marker cane. The position of each cane was marked on a plan and later converted into a grid reference. In 2003 a hand-held Global Positioning System device (Garmin eTrex GPS) was acquired, and thereafter the grid lines were not laid out. The spacing between walkers was, as previously, 10m, and the GPS was used to record the position of the finds. The OS National Grid references in the GPS were downloaded into an Excel spreadsheet and the finds identifications added.
- 2.2.1.2 Fields walked were given a number from 1 to 16 (Fig. 2). One of the fields (no. 13) lies outside the boundary of the parish to the northeast but included as Wimpole in this study.
- 2.2.1.3 In 1989 the field 3 (Cobbs Wood) was walked by the method described in paragraph 2.2.1.1 above but in addition some parts were more intensely examined by CAFG members in 10m squares in 2012 (site code CWF12). These were assigned letters A09 to J09, being 90m from the north datum in Figure 5. Additional 10m squares were walked including A07 to the north. The number of 10m squares walked was increased by members of the local Young Archaeologists Club in 2012 (site code YAC). These squares were assigned letters A10 to J10 being 100m from the north datum in Figure 5 (squares not shown on map). A further fieldwalking study, of this field, looking at 20m squares was conducted by Simon Damant and Neil Smith and reported in 2009. In this study the pottery was submitted to Paul Blinkhorn for identification. (Smith and Damant 2009).
- 2.2.1.4 All finds were removed and recorded at facilities made available by the County Council and later by Oxford Archaeology East. Records were made in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, which included the find point, OS grid reference and numbers of items by period. Pottery finds were provisionally assigned to the periods: Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval,

with a proportion assigned to an ‘Uncertain’ category.

- 2.2.1.5 Expert identification of all pottery older than post-medieval, including the ‘Uncertain’ category, was carried out by pottery specialist Paul Blinkhorn. In most cases this required retrieval of pottery collections from storage, either from Cambridgeshire County Council or from Oxford Archaeology East. The original records were then modified in the light of the expert analysis. The process of comparing the two records, however, revealed a small number of irresolvable differences between them, relating to the numbers of pieces of pot recorded at some of the find points. As a consequence there are some minor differences between Paul Blinkhorn’s data (Table 2 and Appendix 1) and the full list of fieldwalking pottery artefacts available as a spreadsheet from CAFG. For the sake of consistency, the former were used for the further analysis of pottery presented in this report.
- 2.2.1.6 Expert analysis of flint artefacts was carried out by Lawrence Billington (Appendix 2)
- 2.2.1.7 Distribution maps of pot, processed by period, were generated using QGIS.

## 2.2.2 Test Pit Excavation

- 2.2.2.1 Based on the evidence of houses on the Hare Map and the results of fieldwalking by CAFG, 1m square test pits were excavated in an attempt to recover datable finds to indicate the period of activity.
- 2.2.2.2 Following excavation of the site of a house, Mr Ratford's according to the Withers map of 1815, CAFG agreed with Angus Wainwright, NT Regional Archaeologist, that test pits would be excavated near the site of houses identified on the 1638 Hare Map.
- 2.2.2.3 In addition to CAFG members, approaches were made to Orwell History Group, Meldreth History Group and to NT volunteers to seek support in the excavation of the test pits.
- 2.2.2.4 The excavating of the test pits was based on the method devised by Carenza Lewis at Access Cambridge Archaeology, University of Cambridge in 0.1m layers, called ‘contexts’ in this report, down to undisturbed natural soil. Because the soil is derived from a heavy gault clay, it proved very difficult to use a sieve on all contexts but very careful attention was given to all excavated material. Finds of all periods were collected by context and washed at facilities made available by Oxford Archaeology East at Bar Hill, Cambridgeshire. Pottery was separated to be sent for identification by Paul Blinkhorn; other finds were identified by CAFG members with advice from OA East experts at Bar Hill.
- 2.2.2.5 As part of an intensive examination of field 3 (Cobbs Wood) 10 test pits were excavated in 2013 by the method described in 2.2.2.4.
- 2.2.2.6 The locations of fifteen test pits excavated in 2013 are shown by the blue squares in Fig. 4, numbers 1 to 7, 7A, 8 to 14 and at the OS grid points given in Table 1. Figure 4 also shows the positions of houses shown on the Hare Map. These were used to guide the position chosen for test pits in Bennall End, and Green End – the intention was to avoid the actual house site, assuming Hare’s map has some degree of accuracy, but to be within the possible toft. (Green End is a recently used name for the north east part of the Park south of the lakes)
- 2.2.2.7 The position of each test pit was established using a hand held Garmin eTrex GPS (Table 1).

	East	North
Test pit 1	33276	50529
Test pit 2	33270	50520
Test pit 3	33260	50508

Test pit 4	33681	51422
Test pit 5	33662	51441
Test pit 6	33736	51481
Test pit 7	33749	51473
Test pit 7A	33745	51472
Test pit 8	33587	51851
Test pit 9	33609	51795
Test pit 10	33613	51717
Test pit 11	33613	51754
Test pit 12	33664	51883
Test pit 13	33782	51584
Test pit 14	33759	51584

*Table 1 Position of Test pits - Ordnance Survey references (all TL)*

2.2.2.8 Test pits 1, 2 and 3 were positioned to straddle the earthwork platform and ditch that appear to be Mr Neal's house south east of Bennall End on the Hare Map.

Test pits 4, 5, 6, and 7 & 7A, were positioned to test the area now called Green End, north-west of the hall, where the houses of Daintry, Jepson and Gryper are shown on the Hare Map. Test pits 13 and 14 were positioned on an earthwork enclosure abutting the south side of the stream, 13 in the apparent ditch and 14 on the central platform. There is no house shown here by Hare on the map of 1638.

Test pits 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 were positioned north to south on Folly Field (field 5), north of the ornamental lakes.

2.2.2.9 An analysis of the soil types recorded for each context was plotted on one graph and the weight of each identified pottery type per context one second graph for each test pit (see appendix 3). In addition all other finds were recorded for each test pit (see appendix 3). The full results of Paul Blinkhorn's pottery identifications are presented in Appendix 4.

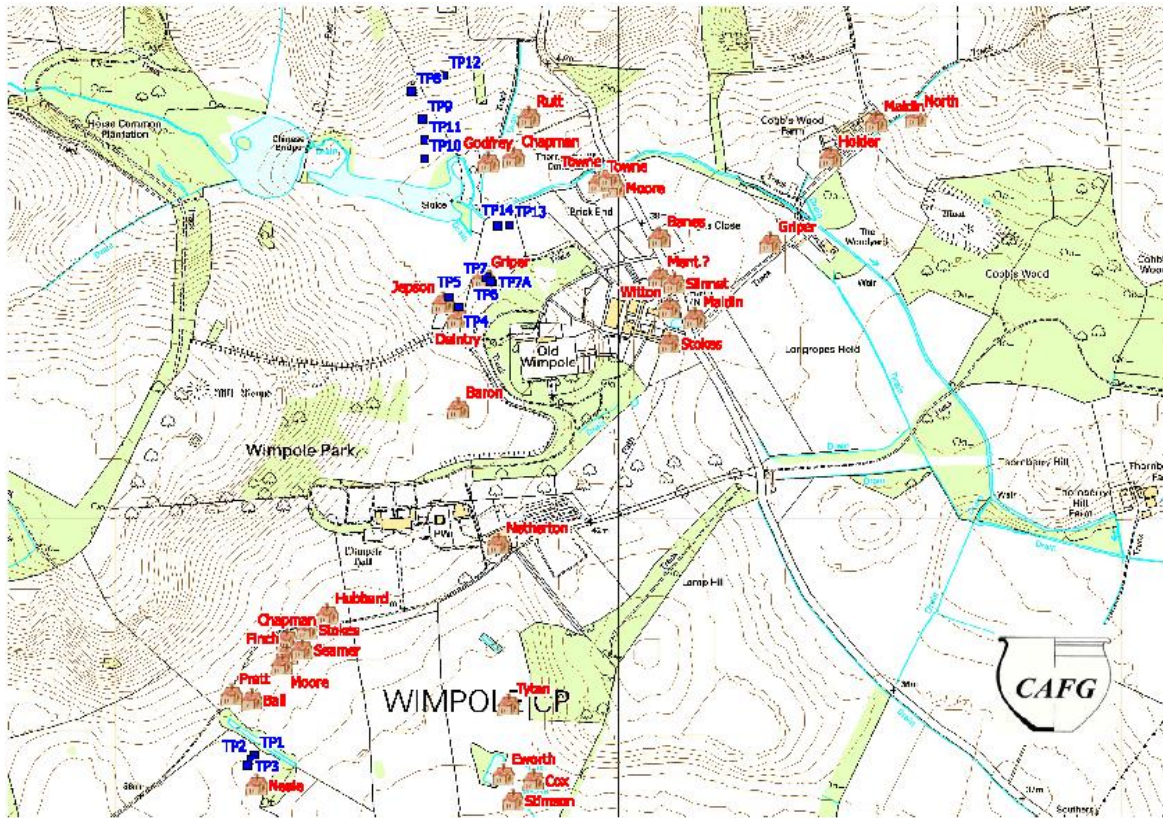


Figure 2 Test pit locations and house sites from Hare map -1638

## 2.2.3 Excavations

- 2.2.3.1 Between 1999 and 2009 investigatory trenches were excavated by CAFG in the Park to the north of the house, the gardens to the north east of the house and immediately outside the north garden gate. These were undertaken to establish what had survived of the 17th to 19th centuries garden features, of the Castello D'Aqua [an 18th century water tank] and the fountain depicted on the engravings by Kip and Knyff made in 1707 (Adshead, 2007, 16). Similar investigatory trenches were excavated in 2010 and 2011 on the site of a house south of the Home Farm buildings.
- 2.2.3.2 All excavated trenches were sited to establish the likely survival of archaeological remains; no built features were removed and results were recorded by context number based on methods employed by commercial units.
- 2.2.3.4 The results of these excavations will be reported in separate papers, but reference will be made in this paper to the evidence of occupation earlier than the commencement of the building of the Hall under Thomas Chicheley 1640s.

## 2.2.4 Metal Detecting

- 2.2.4.1 Fieldwalking on field 3 (Cobbs Wood) plus evidence of illegal metal detecting suggested this area might yield useful results if undertaken systematically. By agreement with CAFG and NT individuals visited the site resulting in Iron Age, Roman and Late Saxon artefacts being recovered. It should be noted that a variety of metal detectors were used as part of the initial investigation and a range of skills and experience were evident during this phase.
- 2.2.4.2 The entire field was covered by way of 10m grid sections, and each find was bagged, dated, preliminarily identified and its depth and find spot recorded via GPS. The main phase of investigation was conducted in the winter of 2012/13. Search conditions were fair on the

whole, but the ground was wet and sometimes frozen. Subsequent ad hoc visits to the site, under better conditions (dry, warm and the field rolled and planted (Spring 2014)), have shown there still to be artefacts to be found on ground previously extensively covered.

- 2.2.4.3 For the purposes of this report the coin analysis has been separated from the main body of the metal work review as these are unique items and require their own section. Following analysis of the coins the metal items were analysed by function and by period: i.e. Personal Items – Roman – Saxon – Medieval etc.
- 2.2.4.4 A variety of metal detectors was used across the site, in a variety of weather and soil conditions. All of these factors, plus the experience levels of the detectorists themselves, will have impacted retrieval rates. The survey was conducted in both 10m grid pattern format and free-range work. The field was successfully covered in its entirety. Detectors used included Mikelab Safari, Garrett GTAx 550 & Minelab Etrac, CScope CS2M, XP Deus & Blisstool, Garrett Ace 250, Tesoro Cortes.
- 2.2.4.5 All finds were recorded with an OS grid reference and most have the depth of finding recorded. Full recorded details are available in a spreadsheet created by Peter Dight with the help of fellow detectorists and held by CAFG as Excel 'ALL\_WCF12\_Finds\_V07c' .

## **2.2.5 Documentary Research**

- 2.2.5.1 The research was carried out by a group of CAFG members, largely but not exclusively on an individual basis, with monthly meetings to exchange findings and review progress. A prime source was the 1638 Hare Map as this puts tenants' names to houses and land holdings. The Victoria County History for Cambridgeshire Vol V was also an important starting point.
- 2.2.5.2 Published and unpublished works were consulted and, in addition, the following repositories were visited:
- Cambridge University Library
  - Cambridgeshire Collection (at Cambridge Central Library)
  - Cambridge Records Office
  - Nottingham University
  - Cambridge University College archives (*King's, Corpus Christi*)
  - Wimpole Hall office files
- 2.2.5.3 The National Archives on-line catalogue was consulted, but not pursued to original documents. British Library manuscripts were only used where quoted by others.
- 2.2.5.4 Summaries were extracted from published works. A few original manuscripts have been transcribed by members but, for the majority, only information directly relevant to the project was extracted. The length of the project did not allow detailed study, especially of those documents in Secretary-hand or in Latin. For this reason, where documents had already been transcribed, the transcription was used.
- 2.2.5.5 The Hare Map was studied in detail and a list of land holders' names and the locations and sizes of their holdings were recorded, see Appendix 10. This was used as a resource for tracing family names backwards and forwards. (A more extensive spreadsheet is available from CAFG)
- 2.2.5.6 An exhaustive search was made of relevant entries in most of the repositories, but in the Cambridgeshire Records Office a selection was made of those documents which appeared to offer the most useful information in relation to the aims of the project. There are many more available for research.

The search avoided references to the Hall and Park and its owners except as they might reflect on the tenants. The decision was made to restrict searches to the period before about 1840 as by that time the landscape was largely as it is now.

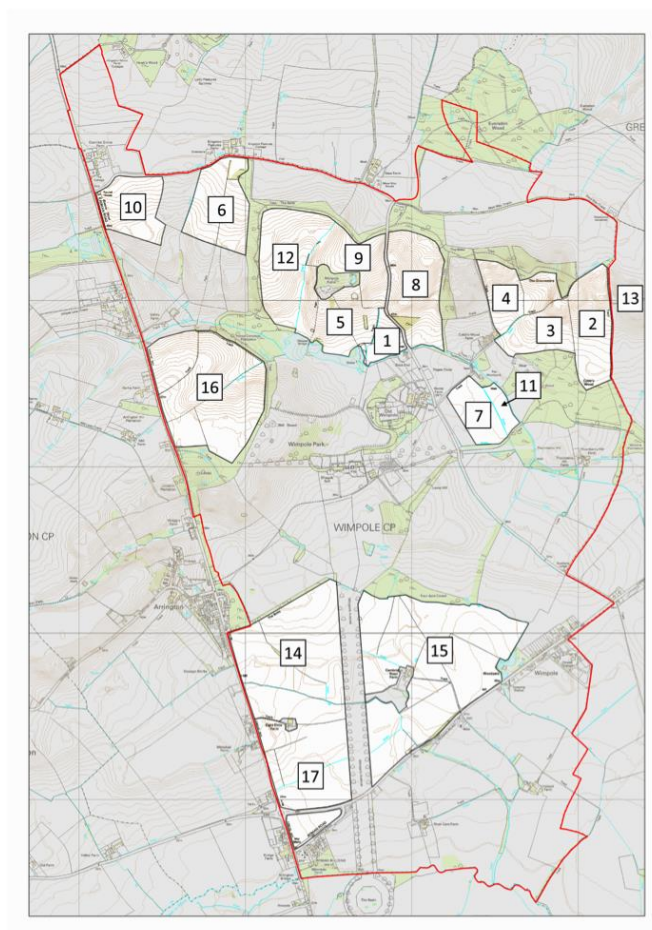
### Section 3

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Fieldwalking

#### 3.1.1 Summary Results

3.1.1.1 The total area covered by the fieldwalking survey (Fig. 3, excluding field 13) is approximately 300 hectares. This constitutes around 30% of the Wimpole Estate and 75% of the arable land in the parish available for fieldwalking north of the A603. Fields walked lie in two main regions of the Estate: on the rising ground north of the Hall - mainly north of the lakes - and in the south of the Estate.



*Figure 3 Fields walked in the survey*

3.1.1.2 The numbers of pot sherds from each chronological period, following expert identification, are shown in Table 2. Post-medieval and modern pottery is omitted from the table. A detailed analysis of pottery fabrics is given in Appendix 1. As mentioned above (paragraph 2.2.3), the total numbers of sherds in Table 1 differ slightly from numbers in Appendix 1, which records all finds from each field.

3.1.1.3 Small scatters of worked flints were recovered from most of the fields. Numbers of flints from each field are given in Table 2. Among the finds was a broken annular pebble hammer made from dark red quartzite, probably of Mesolithic age.

3.1.1.4 Figures 4.a to 4.f show the geographic distribution of artefacts by period, as recorded in Table 1. (Note: as field 13 lies outside the Wimpole parish – see Fig.3 - finds from this field are not plotted in Fig. 4).

<b>FIELD</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>POTTERY</b>																		
Prehistoric	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Roman	13	13	183	39	132	15	16	60	74	4	9	106	44	42	52	6	182	<b>990</b>
E/M Saxon	2	0	22	1	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>41</b>
L Sax/SaxoNor	52	0	517	2	27	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>610</b>
Medieval	168	15	903	71	129	6	10	60	3	3	3	13	15	46	70	7	0	<b>1522</b>
Late Medieval	23	9	32	13	25	6	11	0	13	3	1	28	5	30	31	14	0	<b>244</b>
<b>FLINT</b>																		
Worked	2	3	12	1	11	3	1	7	3	1	1	2	4	0	0	21	1	<b>73</b>
Burnt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	<b>3</b>

Table 2 *Numbers of prehistoric to Late Medieval pottery and worked and burnt flint found during fieldwalking. Pottery analysis was carried out by Blinkhorn and flint analysis by Billington. See Appendices 1 and 2 for full details of pot and flint analysis.*

### 3.1.2 Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age

3.1.2.1 The earliest evidence for human activity on the Wimpole Estate revealed by fieldwalking may be the quartzite pebble hammer (Ill.1), probably of Mesolithic date, which was found in field 15.

3.1.2.2 The majority of fields yielded some worked flint, but numbers were generally low (four or fewer in most fields). Higher numbers were found in fields 3, 5 and 16, which yielded 12, 11 and 21 pieces respectively. The distribution map (Fig. 4.a) shows that the worked flints were much more concentrated in fields in the north of the estate than in those to the south. In addition to a single, irregular flake core, field 3 produced 11 flakes dating probably to the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age. Four Mesolithic/Early Neolithic blade-based pieces and nine Late Neolithic/Bronze Age flakes – all without retouch – were identified from field 5. Finds from field 16 included two cores, one of which is a very fine opposed platform core and is almost certainly of Mesolithic date; five Mesolithic/Early Neolithic systematically produced blade-based removals; and several undiagnostic flake-based removals that could date from the Mesolithic to late Neolithic. Only two pieces of burnt, unworked flint (fields 13 and 17) were recorded. In summary, the flints seem to date over a wide period from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Ages.

### 3.1.3 Iron Age

3.1.3.1 The earliest pieces of pottery found by fieldwalking are two pieces of Iron Age pottery from field 13.

### 3.1.4 Roman

3.1.4.1 All fields yielded pottery of Roman date, with a total of 990 pieces in all (Table 2). The

geographic distribution, however, was not uniform (Fig. 4.b). With the exception of field 17, significantly higher numbers of Roman pottery sherds came from the northern part of the estate compared with the south, with the highest concentrations in fields 3, 5, and 12. Notably field 8 also produced 26 pieces of Roman roof tile, concentrated in the north of the field, suggesting the presence of a significant building on the site. The southern part of field 17, a triangular piece of land bounded by the A603 to the north, a Roman road to the south and Ermine Street to the west, produced 182 pieces of Roman pottery, with a particular concentration along the side of Ermine Street.

### **3.1.5 Saxon and Saxo-Norman**

3.1.5.1 Pottery of Saxon age was found only in the north of the estate (Figs. 4.c and d). Early and Middle Saxon pottery was found in small amounts in fields to the north of the lakes (Fig. 4.c). In particular, field 5 produced two pieces of Early/Middle Saxon organic tempered ware, and eight pieces of Ipswich Ware.

A much larger concentration of Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman sherds was found on the northern edge of Cobbs Wood, particularly field 3, which yielded 418 and 96 sherds of St. Neots Ware and Thetford Ware respectively. Field 5 also yielded 18 pieces of St. Neots Ware (Fig. 4.d).

### **3.1.6 Medieval**

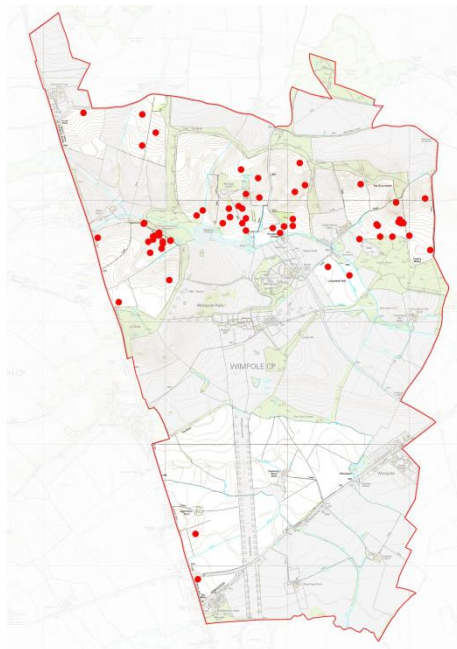
3.1.6.1 Table 1 shows that medieval pottery constituted the largest category of pottery found, with a total of 1522 pieces. The distribution of medieval pottery mirrors that of the Late Saxon, with a major concentration near Cobbs Wood and a secondary concentration about 1km to the west on the southward facing slope just north of the stream (Fig. 4.e). The most common fabrics among the medieval sherds were Miscellaneous Sandy Coarseware (520 pieces), Hertfordshire Grey Ware (384 pieces) and Shelly Coarseware (279 pieces). Of particular note are 43 pieces of Ely Ware from field 8.

### **3.1.7 Late Medieval**

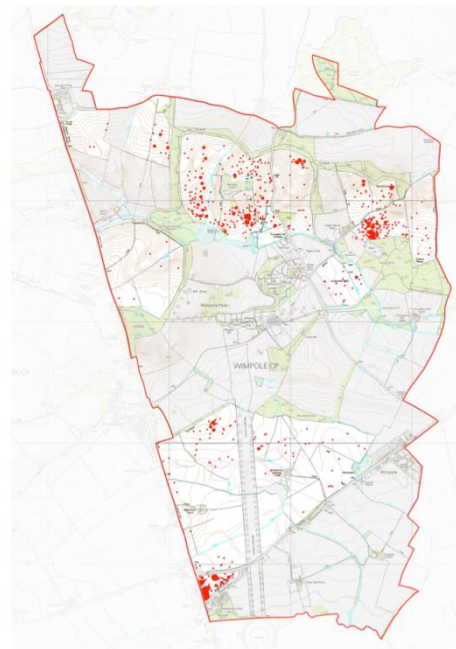
3.1.7.1 All fields yielded at least one piece of late medieval pottery (Fig. 4.f). There is a significant contrast in distribution relative to medieval and Late Saxon wares, with a much more even distribution across the estate. The great majority of the sherds were from Late Transitional Medieval Wares (236 out of total of 246 pieces).



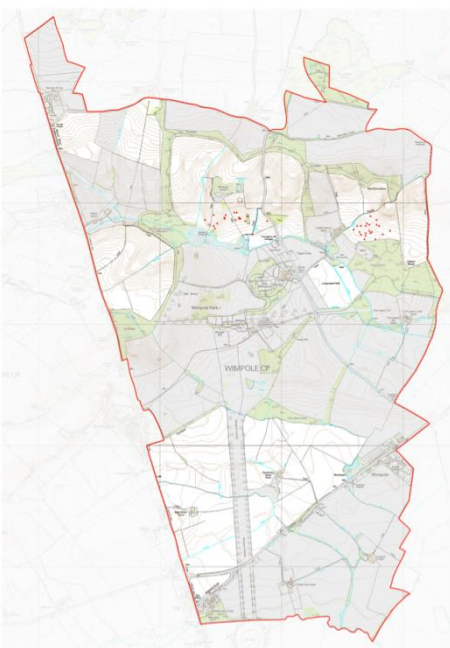
**a**



**B**



**c**



**D**

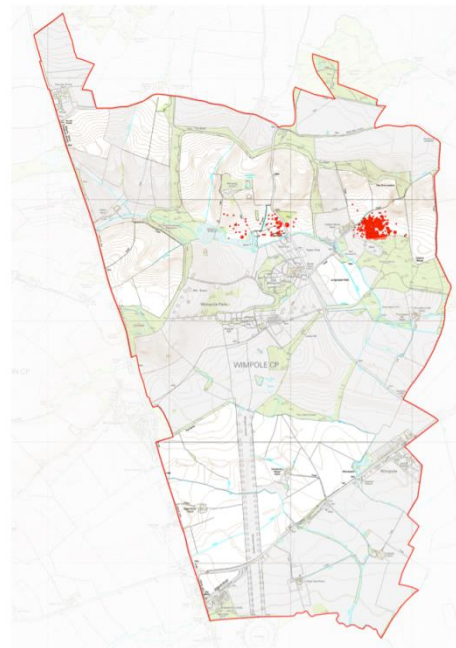




Figure 4 Flint and pottery finds from fieldwalking at Wimpole. **a.** Worked and burnt flint; **b.** Roman pottery; **c.** Early/Middle Saxon pottery; **d.** Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman pottery; **e.** Medieval pottery; **f.** Late medieval pottery

### 3.2 Test pit excavation

3.2.1 The results of the test pit excavations is summarised in Table 3 with more complete data in Appendix 8. Table 4 gives the pottery types identified by Paul Blinkhorn, with these divided into periods and table 5 gives the pottery finds divided by periods in each test pit.

#### 3.2.2

Test pit no.	Summary significance (see appendix 3 for more detail)
1	Four contexts excavated produced two sherds of pottery weighing 3g in context 2. These were 12 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> century Hertfordshire grey and Hedingham wares. Possibly indicates nearby activity of this date.
2	47 pottery sherds were excavated with a total weight of 166g (1 sherd missing in Blinkhorn analysis). Contexts 1, 2, and 3 produced pottery from 12 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> centuries – Hertfordshire Grey, Hedingham and Ely wares. These were associated with significant numbers of bone fragments and oyster shells. Although this is a relatively thin layer of material it suggests it is part of a midden deposit from Mr Neale’s house. The material from context 1, 2, and 3 would suggest domestic waste with a significant number of bone fragments and oyster shells. Medieval pottery was found in each context and didn’t show clear stratigraphy, this mirrors the lack of distinction between the composition of the soil in these contexts. No later wares were found, particularly from the 17 <sup>th</sup> century, the date of the 1638 Hare map, where Mr Neale’s house is shown to be present.
3	The test pit had a 0.1m layer of soil and thereafter was mainly grey clay – possibly re-deposited to fill the ditch surrounding Mr Neale’s house. There was no evidence of later activity.
4	12 sherds of pottery were found weighing a total of 82g. The earliest pottery is late

	Saxon Thetford Ware 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> century with 12 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> century Shelly Coarse ware, Hertfordshire Grey and Ely Wares. The two sherds of Glazed Red earthenware can date from the 16 <sup>th</sup> century but could be intrusive in Context 4. The pottery assemblage reflects nearby activity from late Saxon to late medieval, possibly associated with Mr Daintry's house but the lack of 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> century pottery does not reflect presence of a house shown on the Hare map.
5	Late Saxon St Neot's and Thetford Wares suggest a start date in the 10 <sup>th</sup> century with the remaining pottery suggesting activity from the 12 <sup>th</sup> to the 14 <sup>th</sup> century. As with the previous house site, Test pit 4, it suggests activity ceased or was greatly diminished after the 15 <sup>th</sup> century, where again it is difficult to relate these findings to the evidence of the Hare map.
6	37 sherds weighing 339g were excavated. The one sherd of Early/Middle Saxon -5 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> centuries - pottery is a notable find from this test pit, somewhere nearby there may well have been occupation at this time. The St Neot's type ware suggests Late Saxon activity and there are wares from the 12 <sup>th</sup> to the 15 <sup>th</sup> centuries with one sherd of Late Medieval Oxidised ware possibly into the 16 <sup>th</sup> century. The Midland Black ware and Glazed Red Earthenware may represent slight activity in the early modern period up to 1700. Perhaps here there is evidence of activity after the 15 <sup>th</sup> century.
7	A total of 7 sherds weighing 61g were found. This test pit exposed a large amount of stone immediately under the turf, along with 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery. As it seemed likely that there was significant archaeology, albeit of a recent date, it was decided to move the position 3m to the west.
7A	32 sherds were found weighing 183.2g. The pottery sequence is similar to test pit 6 but without the Early/Middle Saxon, but there is slightly more activity into the 17 <sup>th</sup> century suggested by the Bourne 'D' ware [15 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> century] and the Glazed Red earthenware. As with most of the relatively shallow test pits the stratigraphy does not seem to reflect succeeding periods of deposition – unlike test pit 5 which reached 1.1m.
8	10 sherds of pottery were recovered (only 9 appear on the Blinkhorn list missing 1 from context 6) This test pit was the furthest north of all in Folly field, well up the slope away from the lakes and thus clear of contamination from the digging of the lakes and their subsequent clearance.. The pottery sequence present here is clearly different to Test pits 1- 7A, here there is an Iron Age sherd and a significant number of Roman sherds. There is almost a complete absence of medieval pottery, what there is dates from the 10 <sup>th</sup> to the 15 <sup>th</sup> century, perhaps here this reflects dispersal in agricultural activity or that any settlement activity is further south down the slope.
9	10 sherds found (56g) 1RB, 3 SNW, 1 THE, 3 ELY, 2 HED. Test pits 9, 10 and 11 may all have been affected by deposition of soil removed from the lakes both in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century and in the later 20 <sup>th</sup> century as suggested by the number of fresh water mussel shells. It is possible that the pottery is derived from this source and therefore it is difficult to interpret the results. Like TP 8 there is a small amount of Roman pottery but here perhaps a more significant number of 10 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> century sherds. As elsewhere there is a notable absence of later pottery.
10	There are 3 sherds of Roman pot and 4 sherds (2 St Neots and 2 Ely) of 10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 century pottery plus 2 sherds of 19 <sup>th</sup> c pot. As with test pits 9 and 11 the fresh water mussel shells may just reflect the movement of soil from the digging of the lakes in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century and later clearance.
11	3 sherds of medieval pottery were found. Almost devoid of pottery this test pit showed a clear differentiation at context 4, the

	soil below may be the soil from 18 <sup>th</sup> century dumping of waste from the lake.
12	15 sherds (55g) Iron Age pot were found plus 2 Roman plus 1 Ipswich ware sherd. The stratigraphic position of these sherds may well reflect ploughing but the absence of fresh water mussel shells strongly suggests this test pit was clear of the material derived from the construction of the lakes. The Iron Age, Roman, Ipswich, St Neot's and Early Medieval Sandy ware suggests that there may well be significant activity in this area in all these period. There is no suggestion of a house near this test pit site on Hare's 1638 map.
13	5 sherds only were found in this test pit. The platform with surrounding ditch evident on the ground where TP 13 and TP14 were placed does not have a house shown on the Hare map of 1638. TP13 was excavated in what appears to be a ditch surrounding the platform. Because of both time constraint and a somewhat complicated archaeology this was not excavated below context 6. The pottery suggests nearby activity from the 10 <sup>th</sup> to the 15 <sup>th</sup> century and as in many of the test pits no later evidence.
14	80 pottery sherds were found in this test pit. The pottery has a significant Roman content (6 sherds weighing 77g) and the remaining pottery from the 10 <sup>th</sup> to the 15 <sup>th</sup> century. None of the other test pits south of the lake or stream have produced Roman pottery, but the date range of the medieval pottery is similar to many other test pits and as with others no pottery later than the 15 <sup>th</sup> century.

Table 3 Test pits – summary of significant finds

### 3.2.3

Table headers	Identifications by Paul Blinkhorn
Iron Age	<b>IA: All Iron Age</b>
Roman	<b>RB: All Romano-British</b>
E/M Sax	<b>E/MS: Early/Middle Saxon Wares, c. AD450 – 700.</b>
Ipswich	<b>IPS: Ipswich Ware, AD720-850.</b>
L Sax E Med	<b>SN: St Neots-type Ware, c. AD900-1100.</b> <b>THT: Thetford-type Ware, 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century.</b>
Med	<b>SHC: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400.</b> <b>EMW: Early Medieval Sandy Wares, 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>HG: Hertfordshire Grey Ware, mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>ELY: Ely Ware, mid 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>HED: Hedingham Ware, late 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>BB: Brill/Boarstall Ware, c. AD1200-?1600.</b>
L Med	<b>CSW: Cambridgeshire Sgraffito Ware, 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>LMT: Late Medieval Transitional Wares, c. AD1400-1550.</b> <b>BD: Bourne 'D' Ware, AD1450 – 1650.</b> <b>LMOx: Late Medieval Oxidized Ware, mid 15<sup>th</sup> – mid 16<sup>th</sup> century.</b>
Post Med	<b>GRE: Glazed Red Earthenware, 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>MB: Midland Blackware, AD1580-1700.</b>
19/20 <sup>th</sup> c	<b>19thC: Miscellaneous 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wares.</b>

Table 4 Test Pit pottery identifications by Paul Blinkhorn grouped into periods

Test pit No.	Iron Age	Roman	E/M Saxon	Ipswich	L Sax E Med	Med	L Med	Post Med	19/20 <sup>th</sup> c
1						2			
2						46			
3	No pottery								
4					1	8		2	
5					7	133	4		
6			1		2	24	1	6	1
7								1	4
7A					1	23	3	1	2
8	1	3			1	4			
9		1			4	5			
10		3			2	2			2
11					3				
12	15	3		1	2	1	1		1
13					1	4			
14		6			14	59	1		

Table 5 Pottery from Test Pits by Period

### 3.2.4. Pottery Identification

The results of the pottery identifications by Paul Blinkhorn have been grouped into broader periods as shown in Table 3 and their occurrence in the test pits is shown in Table 4. Full results of the pottery identification will be found in Appendix 4 and an analysis of the finds and soils in each test pit in Appendix 3.

### 3.2.5 Earlier prehistoric

There were two possible struck flints in test pit 4 but beyond these there was no evidence for activity in this period. This lack of flint is true for test pits 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in Folly Field (field 5), where struck flint was found in the earlier fieldwalking (Section 3.3.1).

### 3.2.6 Mid/Late Iron Age

Both test pits 8 and 12, the two most northerly in Folly Field (field 5), produced Iron Age pottery, –one and 15 sherds respectively. None of the other test pits produced finds of this period, strongly suggesting that activity at this period, perhaps with settlement, was north of the stream on the south facing slope but adjacent to the water supply.

### 3.2.7 Roman

Four test pits in Folly Field (field 5), 8, 9, 10 and 12, produced small numbers of Roman pottery sherds but a greater number (6) was found in test pit 14 on the platform just south of the stream. This might suggest that there was settlement nearby, but the significant number of medieval sherds and the lack of a house being shown on the Hare Map, probably mean that the upstanding earthworks belong to that period.

### 3.2.8 Early/Middle Saxon

Just one Early/Middle Saxon sherd from test pit 6 is difficult to interpret. The fact that it comes from the area of Green End which later has clear evidence of settlement, both pottery

and houses on the Hare Map, might be interpreted as evidence of activity in the area in this period.

### **3.2.9 Late Saxon-Early Medieval**

The one sherd of Ipswich ware from test pit 12 is, like the Early/Middle Saxon sherd, difficult to interpret.

Although the number of Late Saxon-early medieval sherds from each test pit are small, there seems to be activity at Green End and Folly Field, no evidence of that period was found in the three test pits at Bennall End.

### **3.2.10 Medieval**

All test pits, except 3, 7 (19/20th centuries only) and 11, produced pottery assigned to the medieval period. Of the test pits producing the greatest quantity of medieval pottery, test pit 5, which was excavated to below 1.0m, appeared to be sited in an area used as a midden adjacent to what is shown on the later Hare Map as Widow Jepson's house. Likewise, test pit 2 was near the site of Mr Neal's house, but test pit 14 was on the earthwork feature south of the stream at Green end.

### **3.2.11 Late Medieval**

With only five test pits having pottery for this period and then in very small numbers, there is a clear reduction in activity. This is very surprising as those at Bennall End and Green End were placed near to the site of houses shown on the Hare Map where there are identifiable people who appear in the documentary sources.

### **3.2.12 Post-Medieval to Modern**

The very limited amount of 19/20th century pottery suggests that the sites of the test pits had been grassed over and used as pasture as they are now.

Fresh water mussels were found in some of these test pits, probably as a result-of periods of clearance of the ornamental lakes to the south. They were found only in context 2 in test pit 8; but in test pit 9 in contexts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6; test pit 10 in context 4 and test pit 11 in contexts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. None was found in test pit 12.

## **3.3 Cobbs Wood - Field 3**

The field to the north of the moated site in the wood known as Cobbs Wood has been extensively studied as part of this project at Wimpole. This field is referred to as field 3 in the fieldwalking results in paragraph 2.2.1.2 above. In view of the quantity of finds, the results are reported in this separate section.

### **3.3.1 Topography and background**

The field slopes up from the south west, 40m OD at the edge of the wood, to a high point in the north east at 65m OD, with a relatively level area at the lower part and then rising more rapidly.

The track passing Cobbs Wood Farm rising north east over the ridge to Great Eversden is shown on the Hare Map somewhat to the north of its current route immediately east of Cobbs Wood farm. Three houses are shown in this area, the homes of Mr. North, Mr Malden

and Mr Holder but these are near to the current farm not in the field reported here. Geophysical surveys have been undertaken by Rheesearch and these, along with fieldwalking of 20m squares by Simon Damant and Neil Smith, are presented in the report by Neil Smith (Smith 2012). The pottery produced in this later fieldwalking was submitted to Paul Blinkhorn by CAFG in 2015. The results of Test pits excavated by CAFG and metal detecting, in part organised for CAFG by Peter Dight but extended by Dominic Shelley, are also presented in this section.

### 3.3.2 Results

#### 3.3.2.1 Fieldwalking

Figure 5 show the position of the 10 squares (A09 to J09) and the test pits in them. Figure 6 shows the distribution of the pottery finds as identified by Paul Blinkhorn from the 20m squares walked by Damant and Smith.

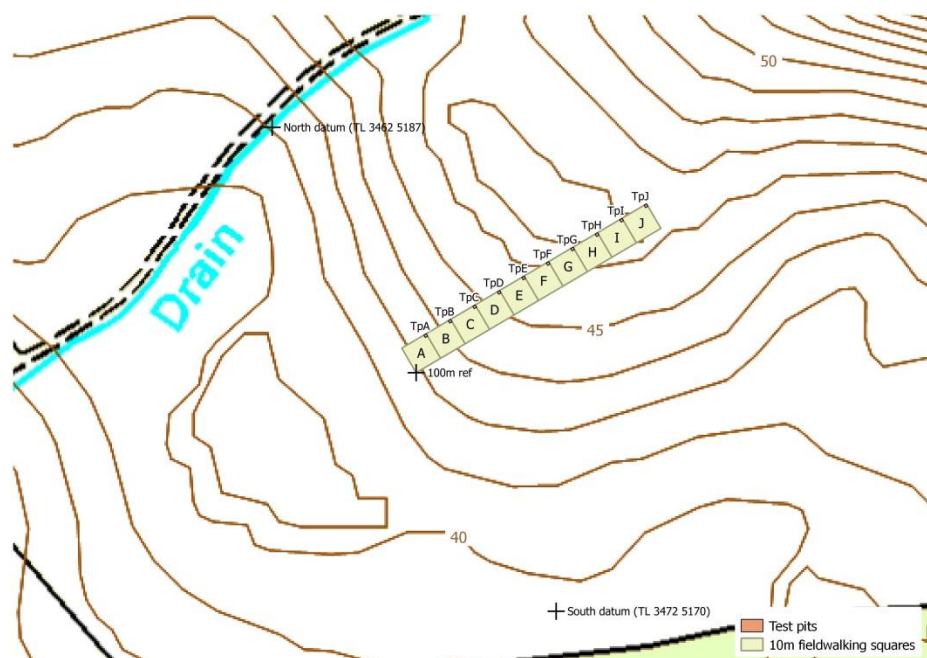


Figure 5 Position of the 10m squares and the test pits at Cobbs Wood – field 3

3.3.2.2 In tables 7 and 8 the pottery found in field 3 is shown as pottery types – as defined by Paul Blinkhorn in table 6 – but in table 9 (finds by Smith and Daman) the period divisions are mainly used because of the large range and numbers. In this latter table Maxey type wares and Ipswich wares are kept separate to emphasis the significantly greater number than found elsewhere in Wimpole.

3.3.2.2 The tables below show the number and weight of pottery found by the intensive field walking – table 7, CWF12, is for the 10x10m squares walked by CAFG members and table 8 is for the 10m squares walked by YAC members (i.e. H09 was walked by both groups).

Table headers	Identifications by Paul Blinkhorn
---------------	-----------------------------------

Iron Age	<b>IA: All Iron Age</b>
Roman	<b>RB: All Romano-British</b>
E/M Sax	<b>E/MS: Early/Middle Saxon Wares, c. AD450 – 700.</b>
Ipswich	<b>IPS: Ipswich Ware, AD720-850.</b>
L Sax E Med	<b>SN: St Neots-type Ware, c. AD900-1100.</b> <b>THT: Thetford-type Ware, 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century.</b>
Med	<b>SHC: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400.</b> <b>EMW: Early Medieval Sandy Wares, 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>HG: Hertfordshire Grey Ware, mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>ELY: Ely Ware, mid 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>HED: Hedingham Ware, late 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>BB: Brill/Boarstall Ware, c. AD1200-?1600.</b>
L Med	<b>CSW: Cambridgeshire Sgraffito Ware, 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>LMT: Late Medieval Transitional Wares, c. AD1400-1550.</b> <b>BD: Bourne 'D' Ware, AD1450 – 1650.</b> <b>LMOx: Late Medieval Oxidized Ware, mid 15<sup>th</sup> – mid 16<sup>th</sup> century.</b>
Post Med	<b>GRE: Glazed Red Earthenware, 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century.</b> <b>MB: Midland Blackware, AD1580-1700.</b>
19/20 <sup>th</sup> c	<b>19thC: Miscellaneous 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wares.</b>

Table 6 Pottery identifications by Paul Blinkhorn for pottery from the Cobbs Wood field

CWF12	IA		RB		E/MS		IPS1		SN		THT		SHC		ELY		HG		19 <sup>th</sup> C		
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
TP																					
A09			1	4														1	3	1	1
B09					1	2			2	5	1	4	1	9	1	1	1	5			44
C09					1	3			1	2			2	11						1	11
D09			3	21					1	3			2	12							49
E09			2	26	2	14	1	5													58
F09			1	9					3	6											31
G09			4	11			1	9	2	2											38
H09									3	15			2	10							36
I09									1	3											
J09			1	7					1	6			2	8							33
Total			12	78	4	19	2	14	14	42	1	4	9	50	1	1	2	8	2	2	301

Table 7 Pottery from 10m squares walked by CAG on Cobbs Wood field

YAC	IA		RB		MAX		IPS		SN		THT		SHC		ELY		HG		GRE		19 <sup>th</sup> C	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
A10													5	107	2	9			1	48		
B10									5	14	1	7	3	18	1	7					1	1
C10	1	4							4	10	1	3	1	4	3	27					1	21
D10									3	6			2	9	2	2	3	11				
E10	4	24	1	19			1	9	5	21	2	5			1	1						
F09			2	12					2	13												
F10	3	17							3	14			3	22								
G09	3	26							1	1	1	3										
G10	2	16	1	2					4	16	1	4										
H09			2	17			2	38	4	18	1	30	2	9	1	1						
H10							2	51	10	48	3	28			1	1						



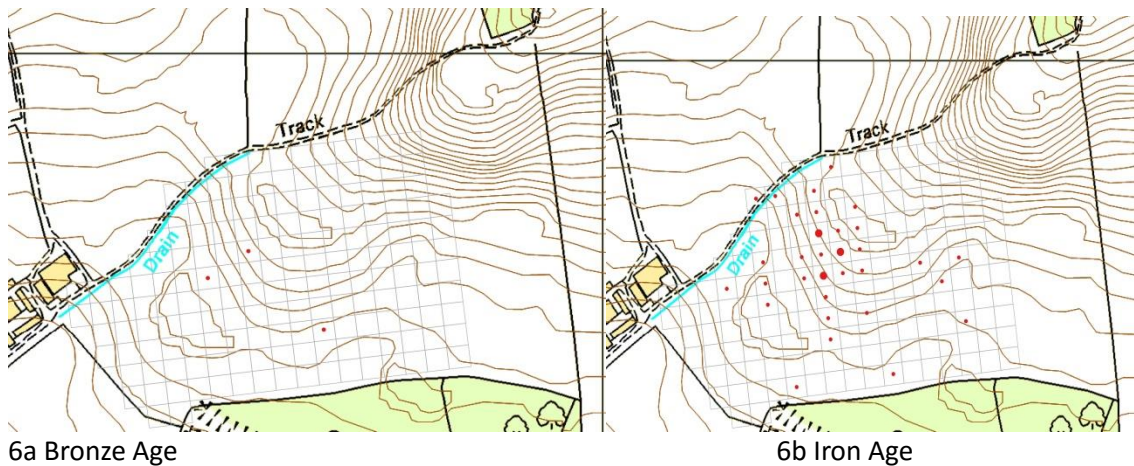
I09									3	7												
I10									4	14	1	2										
J09									3	18			2	9	3	34						
J10			1	20	1	15			1	19			1	8	1	22				1	63	
Total	13	87	7	70	1	15	5	98	52	219	11	82	19	186	15	104	3	11	1	48	3	85

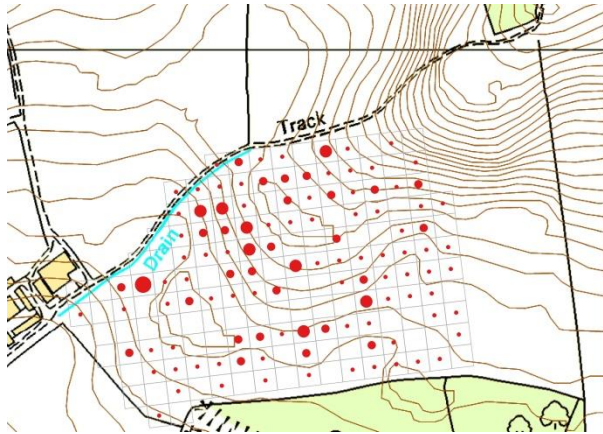
Table 8 Pottery from 10m squares walked by YAC on Cobbs Wood field

3.3.2.3 Fieldwalking 20m squares Cobbs Wood (field 3) – the pottery recovered by Neil Smith and Simon Damant in 2009 is listed in table 9 as identified for CAFG by Paul Blinkhorn [PB]. Figure 6 show the distribution of this pottery by period with separate figures for the Maxey-type and Ipswich wares.

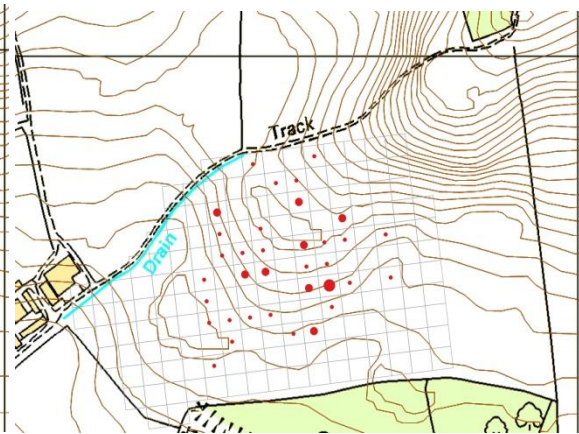
PB codes/period	Type and group name	No. sherds
BA	Bronze Age	3
IA	Iron Age	58
RB	Roman	388
E/MS	Early/Middle Saxon	82
MAX	Maxey-type Ware	32
IPS	Ipswich Ware	104
SNW to STAM	Late Saxon – Saxon-Norman	1680
SHC to GRIM	Medieval	1560
LMT to CIST	Late medieval	28
GRE to EST	Early modern	119
MOD	Modern	301

Table 9 Numbers of sherds by period found in 20 m. square fieldwalking in Cobbs Wood field

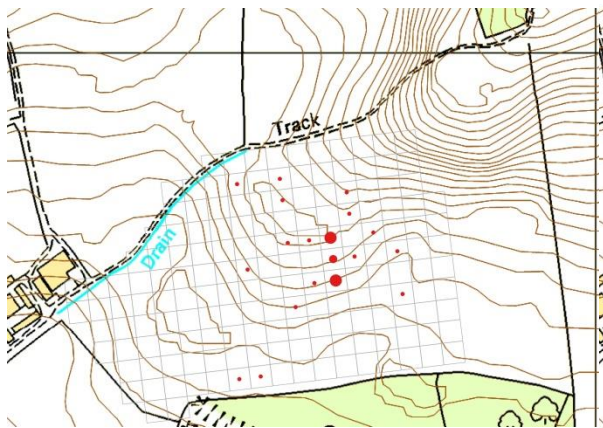




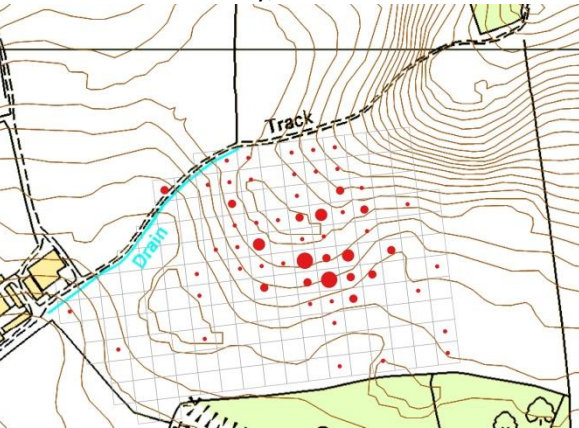
6c Roman wares



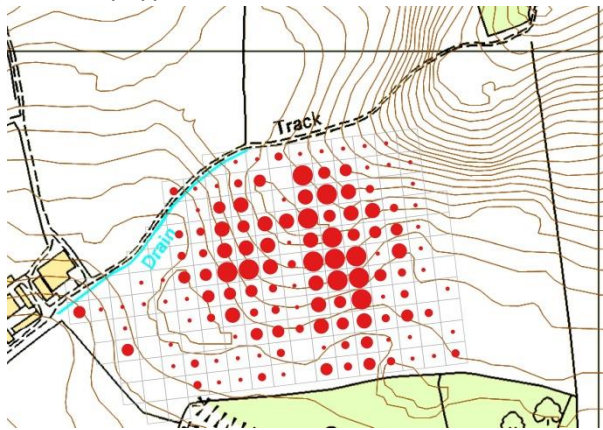
6d Early/Middle Saxon



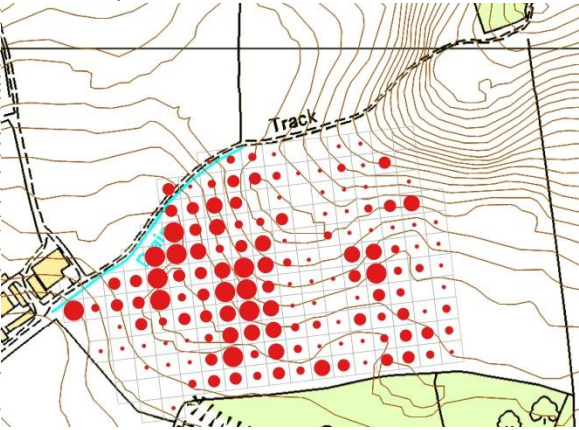
6e Maxey type wares



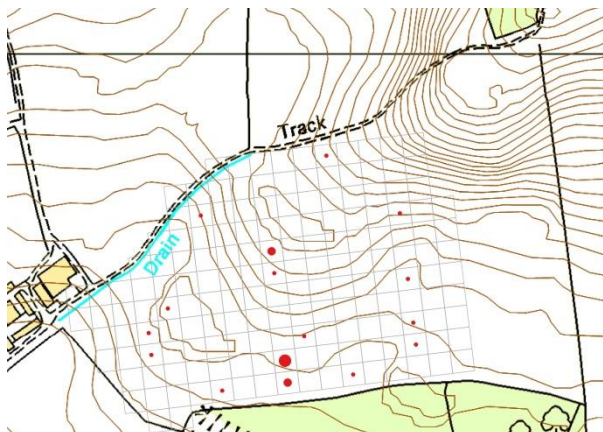
6f Ipswich Ware



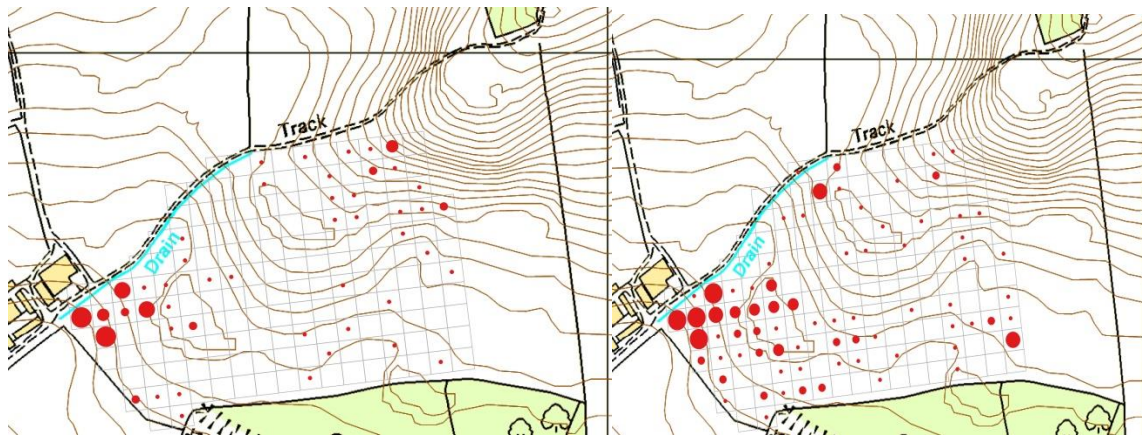
6g Late Saxon-Norman wares



6h Medieval wares



6i Late Medieval



6j Early modern pottery

6k Modern Pottery

Figure 6 a-k Distribution of the pottery finds as identified by Paul Blinkhorn from the 20m squares walked by Smith and Damant.

### 3.3.2.4 Test Pits field 3

Test Pits Pottery (CWF12). Table 10 shows the pottery found in the 10 test pits by context by fabric type as number and weight (g).

**E/MS: Early/Middle Saxon Wares, c AD450 – 700.**

**IPS1: Ipswich Ware Group 1: AD720 - 850**

**SN: St Neots Ware type ware, c. AD900 - 1100**

**THT: Thetford-type ware, 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century**

**SHC: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100 - 1400**

**HG: Hertfordshire Grey ware, mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century**

**ELY: Ely Ware, mid 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> century.**

**19thC: Miscellaneous 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wares.**

**RB: All Romano-British**

**IA: All Iron Age**

TP	Cntxt	IA		RB		E/MS		IPS1		SN		THT		SHC		ELY		HG		19 <sup>th</sup> C	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
A09	1			1	4																
A09	3																	1	3	1	1
B09	1											1	4								
B09	2													1	9			1	5		
B09	3									2	5										
B09	5					1	2									1	1				
C09	1													2	11					1	11
C09	3									1	2										
C09	4					1	3														
D09	1			2	18					1	3										
D09	2													2	12						
D09	4			1	3																
E09	1					2	14														
E09	3							1	5												
E09	4			2	26																
F09	3									1	1										
F09	4			1	9																
F09	5									2	5										

G09	2		4	11																
G09	3						1	9												
G09	4								2	2										
H09	2								1	1										
H09	4								2	14			2	10						
I09	5								1	3										
J09	1		1	7									1	2						
J09	3								1	6										
J09	4												1	6						

Table 10 Pottery Occurrence in Cobbs Wood Test Pits

Site code	TP	Ctext	Brick	Metal	comment	Mortar	Bone	Coal	Slate	Shell	Flint/s	Other	Comment
CWF12	A09	1	2	2	nail, staple		3	2					
CWF12	A09	2		1			12	6					
CWF12	A09	3		1			16						1 whetstone
CWF12	A09	4					1						
CWF12	B09	1					3				1		? Flint
CWF12	B09	2		1	lead alloy		20						
CWF12	B09	3	1				4						
CWF12	B09	4					18						
CWF12	B09	5					27		1 oyster				1 slag
CWF12	C09	1	0										
CWF12	C09	2					3		1 oyster				
CWF12	C09	3		1	lead	4	3						
CWF12	C09	4				1	1						2 charcoal
CWF12	D09	1					2						rounded cobbles
CWF12	D09	2		2	nails		1						
CWF12	D09	3					2						
CWF12	D09	4					1		1 mussel				
CWF12	E09	1											
CWF12	E09	2					1		1 oyster				
CWF12	E09	3	0				1						
CWF12	E09	4	0										
CWF12	F09	1		1	Fe lump		1						Carved bone
CWF12	F09	2					x						
CWF12	F09	3						x			x		daub
CWF12	F09	4											
CWF12	F09	5											
CWF12	G09	1					x						1 asbestos
CWF12	G09	2					x						
CWF12	G09	3					19						3 daub
CWF12	G09	4					9						6 daub
CWF12	H09	1					1						
CWF12	H09	2					4						
CWF12	H09	3					6						
CWF12	H09	4					7						
CWF12	H09	5					21				1		1 daub
CWF12	I09	1	1				6						
CWF12	I09	2	1				2						
CWF12	I09	3					1						
CWF12	I09	4											
CWF12	I09	5	1	1			2						
CWF12	J09	1		1	mod bolt								
CWF12	J09	2	2										
CWF12	J09	3					7						
CWF12	J09	4		1			8						
CWF12	J09	5		1	nail		7						

Table 11 Non-pottery occurrence in Cobbs wood Test pits.

3.3.2.5 In addition to the pottery the test pits produced 527 pieces of animal bone, reported below, and one piece of carved bone (Ill. 3).

### 3.3.2.5 Bone

By Neil Smith

#### CWF12

Bone from the test pits (CWF12) has been examined by Neil Smith, who reports that the total number of species present is five: cattle, chicken, horse, pig and sheep; plus oyster shell. This is the usual range of domesticated species. Five bones have evidence of butchery, mostly concentrated in test pits B and F, but there is no obvious pattern. The details are:

Test Pit	B4	cattle scapula
	B5	sheep metatarsal
	F2	sheep radius
	F4	medium-sized (? sheep) rib
	H5	cattle pelvis

### 3.3.3 Metal detecting

*This section has yet to be completed. Appendix 6 contains a table of metal finds recovered in the 2013 study which have been given a date or date range. Further finds are yet to be added.*

3.3.3.1 Three hundred and ninety nine metal items were recovered by the CAFG Metal Detectorists during the major phase of investigation on the field to the northwest of Cobbs Wood. The finds recovered range from the later Prehistoric (Iron Age), and included items from Roman, Early, Middle & Late Saxon, as well as Norman, Medieval and post medieval periods.

	Iron Age	Roman	Anglo/Saxon	Early Medieval	Medieval	Early modern	Total
Coins	1	11		1	7	1	21
Domestic		1			6	1	8
Personal		3	4	5	16	12	40
Horse			1	3	6		10
Weight/whorl		2		2	3		7
Gaming piece		1		1			2
Pot mend		1		1			2
Crotal bell					2	1	3
Misc		1		1	4	2	8
Total	1	20	5	14	44	17	101

Table12 Summary – metal finds

#### 3.3.3.2

##### Coin Analysis

###### Iron Age:

Find No: 146 (Ill. 2)

Copper Alloy

Weight: 2.6g

Date Range: AD10 - 41

Description: A single Celtic Bronze Unit was recovered from the site. Whilst the obverse is very worn

it is possible to determine the legend: "CVNOB ELINI" in two panels. The reverse shows Victory seated. The coin is similar to those recorded by Spink (S324) and the Ancient British Coin designation ABC2918.

**Roman:**

12 Roman coins were found during the initial metal detecting survey. Subsequent follow up visits to the site have recovered a further three coins. The earliest of the coins is a Sestertius of Antoninus Pius (AD138 - 161), the latest being from the House of Theodosius (AD383 - 395/401).

As table 10 below indicates the condition of the coins is poor with all coins being described as worn or very worn. The ground conditions have, however, been favourable to the coins with good patination on all examples.

This is an assemblage typical of the local area. Similar sites in neighbouring parishes display the same broad spectrum of dates. Sporadic finds of first and second century coinage are then largely overtaken by the more ubiquitous late third and fourth century denominations .

From the main Survey Winter 2012/13

Find No	Weight (g)	Condition	Description	Reference
49	14.55g	Worn	Sestertius of Antoninus Pius (AD138 - 161), Rome mint	Spink496
371	17.53	Worn	Sestertius of Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus (AD161 - 169), Rome mint	Spink507A
88	8g	Worn	As of Crispina, wife of Commodus (AD177 -192), Rome mint	
329	1.46	Worn	Radiate of Gallienus (AD266 - 268)	
123	1.57	Very Worn	AE3: House of Constantine (AD319 - 321)	
149	1.3	Worn	AE3; GLORIA EXERCITVS two soldiers standing either side of standard, Constantine II (AD335 - 341)	S608A
190	1.82	Very Worn	Gloria Romanorum, House of Valentinian (AD364 - 378)	
230	1.7	Worn	AE3: Gloria Romanorum, Valens (364-378)	
287	2.42	Very Worn	AE3; Securitas Reipublicae, House of Valentinian (AD364 - 378)	S620A
150	1	Very Worn	Victory advancing, House of Theodosius (AD383 - 395/401)	
158	1.07	Very Worn	AE4: Fourth Century. Indeterminate Emperor.	

Ad Hoc Finds Spring 2014:

Find No	Weight	Condition	Description	Reference
DS1	1.8g	Very Worn	Probable contemporary copy of copper alloy nummus of the House of Constantine – GLORIA EXERCITVS, two soldiers and two standards type struck c. AD330-40 or later.	

DS2	1.6g	Worn	Copper alloy nummus of Valentinian 1 (AD 364-7) Unknown Mint.	
DS3	1.9g	Heavily corroded and worn	Indeterminate Emperor. Fourth Century likely.	

*Table 13 Roman Coin Finds*

*This section will contain a description of the 'significant' items meaning those which are unique, unusual, datable and contribute to understanding the status and date range of activity.*

### 3.3.4 Comment on Cobbs Wood – Field 3

3.3.4.1 The field next to Cobbs Wood (field 3) has yielded evidence of activity (section 3.3.2) from the Bronze Age to the Modern period. The combined use of extensive and intensive fieldwalking along with limited excavation with test pits and with the use of metal detection has provided evidence in quantities not seen elsewhere in the parish.

3.3.4.2 The longevity of activity on this site indicated by the finds, with the added quality of some of the late Saxon and Medieval metal, finds suggest this was a place of importance until the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The lack of late Medieval and Early Modern finds reflects similar results elsewhere in the study area. This along with the lack of houses on the Hare map suggests the site was abandoned in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

## Section 4

### 4. DOCUMENTS

#### Result Summary

The earliest documentary references found were of 1066, in the Domesday Book. The vill was divided between two landowners, with no sokemen unlike neighbouring vills, and there were still two manors in 1086. The population at this time is estimated at around 70. The separate vills of Wratworth and Whitwell recorded in 1086 had disappeared by 1279, Wratworth apparently divided between the parishes of Wimpole and Orwell. The population increase was such that the Hundred Rolls of 1279 record 108 tenants, although how many lived in the parish is not clear. The Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1327 list 66 taxpayers, a considerable decrease. Of those listed, 38 bore the same surname as tenants in 1279, and a few names persisted until at least the late 16th century.

There were 36 families in 1563, a further decrease from the 173 adults recorded in the 1377 Poll Tax Roll, and this number remained stable until after 1638, as the Hare Map of that date shows 35 houses besides the manor house and the rectory. The map shows the extent of enclosure at that time, which had gone sufficiently far for Sir Thomas Chicheley, in the early 17th century, to give £20 annually as compensation for the loss of cottagers' common rights. His son hastened the process and by 1654 some holdings were described as farms. The Hearth Tax returns recorded 28 houses in 1662, falling to 20 in 1674. The sale of the estate in 1686 listed 22 tenants.

Some of the family names appearing in the early parish registers of the 1560s are referred to in 1638, but of the 26 family names recorded in 1638, only two survived into the 18th century. Figures and names taken together suggest a relatively stable population from the mid-16th century to the mid-17th century but which then declined at a rapid rate, with few incomers staying long. It has not, unfortunately, been possible to determine with any certainty where displaced tenants moved. It may be simply that houses were not re-let once they were empty.

Most of the farms were established in the late 17th and 18th centuries, from architectural assessments and records showing eight properties described as farms as far back as 1684 and again in 1828. The farms shown in 1828 are all still identifiable in the present day, albeit with some name changes.

By 1830 the landscape was effectively as it is today other than at New Wimpole.

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The results of this study of documentary sources are presented under the main themes of population, people and landscape. In trying to satisfy the aims set out, activities concerned with Wimpole Hall itself are not covered.



- 4.1.2 References to information in the Victoria County History for Cambridgeshire have been included in this report where they are relevant to the themes covered but not otherwise.
- 4.1.3 In the references to the Domesday Book entries, VCH V (p. 263) suggests that a vill of Whitwell existed in what is now the south west corner of Wimpole parish. By 1279 (Rot. Hund.ii, 566-7), the only Whitwell formed part of Barton (and later Coton, where a Whitwell Farm exists). A study of names suggests that the manor holder might have taken the name to a new location, but no further research has been undertaken on this matter (see Appendix 9). The separate vill of Wratworth had apparently been absorbed into the present parishes of Wimpole and Orwell by 1279 (Rot. Hund.ii, 566-7), and Appendix 8 discusses the most likely locations of the manors involved. (References found to the land held by religious houses have not been further examined and would need separate study).
- 4.1.4 A prime source is the 1638 Hare Map (CRO R77/1) as this puts tenants' names to houses and land holdings. A list of land holders' names and the locations and sizes of their holdings was produced as the original schedule is no longer extant (see Appendix 10). This source was used as a base for tracing family names backwards and forwards.
- 4.1.5 Appendix 7.1 gives greater detail of what has been found relating to personal names and land use and Appendices 7 to 27 contain notes made of evidence collected. In this section, specific subjects have been summarised to emphasise the connections between the documentary sources and the archaeology findings.
- 4.1.6 An incomplete manuscript in Latin at King's College, Cambridge (WIM/1), believed to date to the 1370s, has very kindly been translated by Bill Franklin. It is not proposed to publish the translation with this report but to treat it separately. However, information gleaned from the document ('the King's document') has been included here.

## **4.2 Early Beginnings: Wimpole in the Saxo-Norman period (1066 to 1086)**

- 4.2.1 The only source available for this period is the Domesday survey of 1086 in its two applicable versions, the Domesday Book and the Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis. Prior to 1066 there were two estates totalling 4 hides, one held by Eddeva the Fair (who owned land all over the country) and the other by Earl Gyrth. By 1086, the estate of Eddeva was in the hands of Count Alan of Brittany and that of Earl Gyrth was with Eudo the steward, from whom Humphrey de Anneville held it. Werateworde or Wratworth, on the other hand, had been held by 12 sokemen in 1066, and in 1086 was divided into five manors; and Whitwell had been held by 15 sokemen and was in four manors in 1086. Orwell appears to have been held by 12 sokemen and the Church of Chatteris, and was in seven manors in 1086.
- 4.2.2 Notably no sokemen (free men – probably peasant farmers) were recorded in Wimpole in 1066, unlike in the whole of the rest of the Wetherley Hundred, and in particular the parishes of the Bourn valley over the hill to the north where there were more than elsewhere in Cambridgeshire. Could this indicate an origin in some way different from the surrounding villages?  
However, the population mix of villeins (3), bordars (1), cottars (6) and serfs (3) in 1086 looks similar to the rest of the Hundred. Wratworth had 3 villeins, 17 bordars, 10 cottars and 2 serfs; Whitwell 1 villein, 1 bordar and 9 cottars; and Orwell 2 villeins, 14 bordars and 4 cottars.
- 4.2.3 The total number of ploughlands for Wimpole is recorded as five, a relative measure of the amount of arable land, plus meadow for 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ploughs. Also recorded are 200 sheep, implying grazing on the waste and stubbles, six pigs – usually a reflection of the amount of woodland,

not much in this parish, along with two horses and four asses on Humphrey's land. The one bordar held 15 acres of land. Wratworth had arable for  $5\frac{1}{2}$  ploughs and meadow for  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ; Whitwell arable for 5 ploughs and meadow for 3; and Orwell arable for 5 ploughs and meadow/pasture for 3. All were assessed in Domesday at 4 hides.

### 4.3 Population

- 4.3.1 Domesday Book states that in 1086 there were 10 tenants between the two manors (3 villeins, 1 bordar and 6 cottars) and 3 slaves/serfs. If the serfs had families and the normal multiple of 4.5 or 5 is used, then the population would have been around 70. However if those recorded in Wratworth and Whitwell are added, there may have been a total population of about 285 (Taylor, 1997, 122).
- 4.3.2 Wratworth, which had had 30 tenants and two slaves/serfs in 1086, was divided between Wimpole and Orwell by 1279 (VCH V, 268; Rot. Hund, ii, 566-7). The earliest Cambridgeshire Subsidy Roll was taken in about 1250, when Wimpole was assessed at £4 5s 0d. No mention was made of Wratworth, which may be relevant (EA Notes, 1895-6, 267). It is not possible to tell how many people were assimilated into each parish, but an early medieval settlement around what is now Cobbs Wood Farm, and thought to have been in Wratworth, eventually became Little End in Wimpole, so it is likely that there was a significant addition to the population. Whitwell had 11 people enumerated in 1086 so, if it still existed, this would have added to the population. In the Hundred Rolls of 1279 (Rot. Hund. ii, 566-7), 131 holdings were recorded in Wimpole. However, assuming that no two people had the same fore and surname, there were 40 free tenants, 28 villeins, 21 cottagers and 20 tenants whose status was not specified (a potential population of about 480 on a 4.5 multiplier). Only one tenant is recorded as being of Arrington; but it is possible that others may have lived outside the parish. Details appear as a spreadsheet at Appendix 10.
- 4.3.3 By 1327, in the Lay Subsidy Rolls (a tax based on one twentieth of the value of moveable goods), there were 66 taxpayers in Wimpole (White, 35/6). Not all of these would have lived in the parish but, taking into account those not taxable, the potential population can be estimated at around 300. If estimates are correct, this would indicate that the population dropped dramatically in the early 14th century. The total of the tax payable for Wimpole was £5.1s.8d (by calculation of the individual amounts rather than the figure stated by White). Orwell with Malton was assessed at £5.16s.6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, from 56 taxpayers.
- 4.3.4 In the Lay Subsidy of 1334 (one fifteenth of the value of moveable goods in rural areas), Wimpole was assessed at £7.5.0. In the same subsidy, Orwell with Malton was assessed at £9.6s.0d (Glasscock, 1975, 26). The poll tax roll of 1377 has no list of names, but records an adult population (all, male and female, of 14 and over) of 173, paying a total of £2.17s.8d. Orwell has 203 adults, paying £3.17s.8d (East Anglian NS xii, 258; Palmer, 1912; VCH 1973, 264). Taylor (1997, 122) gives an estimated total population of 225, indicating a potential further decline in population. The King's document, although incomplete, appears to show that in the 1370s the main manor holders had taken over many of the individual holdings of 50 years previously. Only eight of the family names in the 1327 Lay Subsidy Roll have been positively identified in this document as still holding land.
- 4.3.5 The Bishop's return of 1563 showed 36 families living in Wimpole (VCH V, 264, fn 24), potentially a population of 184 (Taylor, 1997, 122), and considerably lower than in 1377. Calculations indicate that the population rose by 63 in the first ten years of the parish registers, from 1560.

- 4.3.6 The Hare Map of 1638 shows 35 tenanted houses besides the manor house and rectory (Appendix 10). Allowing five people per household, this gives a population of around 175, little different from 70 years previously.
- 4.3.7 However, the Hearth Tax returns of 1662 and 1664 record 28 dwellings including the Hall, potentially a population of 116. (Taylor, 1997, 122), and by 1674 the number of dwellings had reduced to 20.
- 4.3.8 By 1686 there were 22 tenants (BM Add Ch44832 in Aldred) and 19 in 1711 (Nottm U: P1/C1/1/2) and 1715 (CRO: R52/12/42/1).
- 4.3.9 A rental of 1790 lists 17 tenants plus the Overseers of the Poor (CRO: R52/12/4/5), with four charitable donations being made from the estate to individuals in 1788-89 (CRO: R52/12/4/14).
- 4.3.10 The 1801 census recorded 56 families, with a total of 202 people, (VCH, 264, fn 25) or 324 people in 47 houses (Lysons, 1808, 23, said to be from the same census) so the population was slowly increasing. So much so, that the 1831 census gives a population of 583 (VCH V, 264, fn 25). The 1841 census, however, records 88 households, and a population of 402; and that of 1851, a population of 452.
- 4.3.11 From the evidence available, the population of Wimpole, after a surge probably in the 13th century, declined in the early part of the 14th century and again in the 15th/16th centuries. From the middle of the 16th century the population remained fairly stable for 100 years, declined in the later 17th century, then increased again at the end of the 18th century.

#### 4.4 Personal Names

- 4.4.1 This section attempts to draw out some of the more significant findings from the research on the names of people who lived in Wimpole. The detailed results of the research can be found at Appendix 7.1.
- 4.4.2 Documents reveal that some early family names were long-lasting:
- Avenel** 1243 to 1387 (as holders of a manor) (VCH, V, 267) Also appear to be at least partly resident
- Calvus (Caufe)** 1176 (Farrer 1920, 251) to 1327 (Lay Subsidy) (holder of Whitwell manor in 1086)
- Bassingbourn** 1194 manor holders until the manor was sold before 1375 (VCH, 265, fn 37)
- Banks (de Bancis)** 1086 (ICC (VCH I, 419)) to c.1302-1316 (VCH V, 267)
- Francis** 1166 (the Red book, 332) to 1327 (Lay Subsidy) and 1370s (King's document). Appear to be resident
- Tichemers** 1279 (Hundred Rolls) to early 17th century (Titchman as landholder) (CRO: R52/12/9/2; R52/12/42/1)
- Brocke (Broke)** 1279 (Hundred Rolls) to 1632 (parish registers)
- Payn** 1279 (Hundred Rolls) to 1566 (parish registers)
- Kynge** 1279 (Hundred Rolls) to 1591 (parish registers)
- De Wratteworth** 1260 (as jurymen - Palmer, 1912, 22) to 1370s (King's document)
- 4.4.3 The Hundred Rolls recorded 109 tenants, representing 77 family names, of which 26 appear in Wimpole in the 1327 Lay Subsidy. A spreadsheet of the tenants' names, holdings and rent is at Appendix 13. The Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1327 name 66 taxpayers (White, 35/6), of whom 38 have family names appearing in 1279. The names of taxpayers, as listed by Palmer, are included at Appendix 14 and a comparison of names in 1279 and 1327 is in Appendices 29 and 30. Several of the family names appearing in 1279, but not in 1327 in Wimpole, can be

seen in Orwell in the Lay Subsidy –Springold, Jope, Bacoun, ad Fonte, Molend and le Taylour. Some names are found in both parishes. This could be an instructive line of research, but beyond the scope of this project.

- 4.4.4 The King's document, dated to the mid-1370s to judge by names of the manor holders, is a list of land and landholders showing current and previous landholders. Names continuing from 1327 include Avenel, Badecok, Borel, Coulyns, Payn, atte Welle and Laurence de Wrattworth. Laurence de Wrattworth seems to be the only person to retain the same holdings; others have been passed to family members. Three names which appear in 1279 but not in 1327, reappear in this document: Kynge, Silveyn and Gocelyne.
- 4.4.5 The next apparently complete list of tenants of Wimpole is the Hare Map of 1638, which contains the names of the tenants of land, not all of whom lived in the parish. Where they did, the houses are indicated. Allowing for alterations in spelling, eight of the 26 families in 35 houses had certainly been in the parish since at least the 1560s when the parish registers began: Griper (from 1506 when William Grype died, leaving a will), Hubbard, Jepson, Seamer (Seymour, Semat), Stokes, Pratt (from 1554 in Gryper wills), Maldin (from 1542 will) and Moore. The Godfreys first appear in the parish registers in 1576 and the Slinnets were recorded in 1615 (CUL: EDR H1/6 WIMPOLE). The Finches, despite being the second largest land holders in 1638, appear in the parish registers only between 1632 and 1646. The full details of the tenants and their holdings are in Appendix 10.
- 4.4.6 Later documents, together with parish registers, indicate how long families remained in the village. Of 13 tenants specified in a mortgage taken out by Thomas Chicheley in 1654 (CRO: R52/12/38/9), five had arrived in the parish since 1638. The full list appears at Appendix 18. This is the first reference found to "farms" other than a lease to George Holder in 1604 (BM Add Ms 36234 in VCH notes). Of these 12 tenants, only three appeared in the 1674 Hearth Tax returns (Aldred, 1996): George Holder, Robert Hemings and Richard Weyman, of whom only the Holder name appeared in 1638. The tenants in the 1654 mortgage were not, of course, the only tenants on the estate: six family names appeared in 1638 but not then until the Hearth Tax returns (Evans and Rose, 2000, 318/9). Three families had held houses in 1638 and three land only.
- 4.4.7 In rentals of 1684 (CUL : MS Doc 1526) and 1686 (BM Add Ch44832 in Aldred), when the estate was sold to Sir John Cutler, the only family names still surviving from 1638 are Adams (possibly not a direct descendant as there is no record of the name in the parish registers between 1609 and 1679), Ball/Bell, Godfrey, Hubbard (none of whom appeared in the Hearth Tax returns) and Stokes. From the 1654 mortgage there is also Hayward. By the time of rentals in 1711 (Nottm U: P1C1/1/2), 1715 and 1716 (the latter two contained in a mortgage, CRO: R52/12/42/1) of the 19 tenants, the only earlier family names still appearing are Adams and Hubbard/Hubert. The Austin, Henley/Handley, Haggar and Johnson names first appeared in the Hearth Tax returns; the rest were new. The rentals appear at Appendices J and K.
- 4.4.8 Looking at the surnames that appear on the Hare Map and taking the records above together with the parish registers and Ely Consistory Court (will probate) registers, of the 26 family names in 1638, only two survive into the 18th century: Stokes to 1703 and Hubbard/Hubert to 1716. Other names occurring before the 17th century include:  
Seamer/ Semat/Semar from 1470 to 1644  
Maldin from 1494 to 1643  
Godfrey from 1576 to 1686 (with one parish register entry in 1725)

Holder from 1594 to 1674

Chapman from 1562 to 1671

The remainder are not recorded after 1665. Of the 12 who appear first in the 17th century, only Baron appears later than 1664, to 1691. A table of the known survival of family names can be found at Appendix 22.

- 4.4.9 By 1790, 17 tenants plus the Overseers of the Poor were paying rent (CRO: R52/12/4/5). None of the tenants' names survive from 1715, but William Radford leased land by 1727 (....) and William Sampson was still a tenant, as was widow Kefford. They were both referred to in a letter of 1747 (BM Mss...; transcript in "Please My Lord"). The rental appears at Appendix 23. Only eight tenants had sufficient land to appear in the land tax assessment of 1810 (CRO: 294/O132), only one of whom, Joseph Pateman, appeared as a tenant in 1790. The family continued in the village until at least 1851. The Tithe Commutation Agreement of 1837 was eventually signed by the Tithe Commissioners for England in 1851. The Arber, Titchmarsh, Elliston and Webb family names continue from 1810 - 20, joined by Meyers, Giffen and Mortlock from the 1830s. The schedule of land holders appears at Appendix 27. Bird Porter, who was included in the land tax assessment of 1810, appears on the 1851 census, 70 years of age.
- 4.4.10 A few families were long-term residents of Wimpole, but it is noticeable that most of the names appearing in 1638 vanished during the latter half of the 17th century, to be replaced in part by short-term tenants.

#### **4.5 Land Use**

This section attempts to pick up traces of changes in land use revealed in documents and also notes the continuation of certain field and road names. Further details are contained in Appendix 2.

- 4.5.1 In 1086, the majority of the land of the vill was farmed for the benefit of the lord of the manor. Overall, there was arable land for five ploughs and meadow for one and a half ploughs, with 200 sheep. Woodland for fences may have been little more than hedgerows. It is not possible to tell whether the tenants lived in close proximity. Count Alan had two villeins, one border (with 15 acres), six cottars and two slaves; whereas Humphrey's estate was worked by one villein and one serf.
- 4.5.2 There was sufficient woodland in the 12th century to require a forester (Farrer, 1920, 251), and there are other references to woodland between the late 12th century (the Red book of the Exchequer, 332), (VCH V, 266) and 1279 (Rot. Hund, ii, 566-7). Aldred refers to the open fields called North and South in the 13th century (citing BM Add MS 36234 f.3; also VCH V, 268). Otherwise there is little information until the Hundred Rolls of 1279.
- 4.5.3 The amounts of land held by tenants in 1279 (Rot. Hund. ii 566-7) are shown in Appendix 13. Assuming there was not more than one tenant with the same fore and surname, 108 tenants held land and/or a dwelling. There were 40 free tenants with a total of 50 holdings (including 2 held in villenage) and also members of the manor-holding Avenel, Bassingbourn and Francis families; 28 villeins; 21 cotterelli (cottagers); and 20 whose status is not specified. The holdings varied in size, except that the villeins each held 10 acres or a multiple (six held 20 acres and one 40 acres). Only 44 dwellings and five crofts are recorded, so some tenants may have held land only and lived elsewhere, but others must have occupied dwellings under a form of tenure not of relevance to the inquiry. VCH V, 268, comments on the holdings.

- 4.5.4 The total payable from Wimpole in the 1327 Lay Subsidy Rolls was £5.4s.1d. (calculation from figures in White, 35/6). The wealthiest of the 66 taxpayers were Dna Agnet Auenel, owing 12s. 2d., and Margaret de Bassingburn owing 10s. The full list appears at Appendix 14. In the Lay Subsidy of 1334, Wimpole was assessed at £7.5s.0d. (Glasscock, 1975, 26). The poll tax roll of 1377 has no list of names, but records an adult population of 173, paying a total of £2.17s.8d. (East Anglian NS xii, 258; VCH 1973, 264; Palmer 1912, 113). This suggests a dramatic drop in value. Orwell was recorded with 203 adults, paying £3.17s.8d. (Palmer 1912, 113).
- 4.5.5 Land names appearing in the mid-14th century are Sumerleswe, Wynepolmore, Wenepolfel, le Mor and Syreslond (Cartulary, ed Underwood, 2008). The King's document, apparently of the 1370s, appears to list land by field and deserves further study as it describes the location of many holdings. John Suylton (Swillington in VCH V, 265, from a different source) had taken over the Bassingbourn manor but also many of the individual holdings, as had John Auenel, holder of a manor, including a number of crofts. At one point the North Field (Camp Boriali) is described as in Sireslond. Aldred records a North Field in 1518 (citing BM Add MS 36234 f.14).
- 4.5.6 There are only a few documents which give any clue as to who holds land before the early 17th century, when land transactions involving the Chicheleys (now the major manor holders) begin to become available and appear to indicate a consolidation of their direct holdings. In 1607, for example, jointure lands were surrendered to Sir Thomas Chicheley (CRO: R52/12/42/1; R52/12/14/1). Also about this time, although a precise date is not known, Sir Thomas gave an annual rent charge of £20 as compensation for the loss of cottagers' common rights through enclosure (CRO: P179/25/1; P179/1/2; C/32/9 [Report of Charity Commissioners]). This suggests enclosure had already progressed a considerable way.
- 4.5.7 In 1614 and 1615 there were a number of land transactions between Sir Thomas Chicheley and John Wingfield the Elder and the Younger, the non-resident holders of Claydons manor. These involved 520 acres of land, some in the High Field and some in the Low Field, and the manor of Claydons alias Wimpole. The land was finally conveyed to Thomas Chicheley in 1651 (CRO: R52/12/42/1; R52/12/8/2; R52/12/11/7-17; R52/12/14/2).
- 4.5.8 The Hare Map was drawn for the lord of the manor, Thomas Chicheley, two years after Thomas turned 21 and before he started to build the present Hall in about 1640. The map shows the old manor house with its moat and small adjacent park (a park was recorded in 1302, Muniments EPNS,82) It also shows the already enclosed fields near the manor house (mostly held by Daniel Finch) and around what is potentially the site of the Wratworth settlement (the larger part being wood held by the lord). There were six small hamlets and open fields farmed in strips by most of the tenants in the rest of the parish. There were open fields across the north of the parish and a large area south of the manor house. The separate areas in the north are identified by double letters, those in the south by single letters, which suggests that they were treated as two entities at that time. A number of pockets in these fields appear to be farmed by one individual, presumably an accumulation of strips. About one quarter of the estate was already enclosed. This is the first opportunity to see not only where houses were at that time, but also who the tenants were, as individual land holdings are named. There were 35 tenanted houses, the tenanted part of the estate amounting to 1,652 acres. At this point, the areas surrounding and apparently belonging directly to the manor house amounted to some 55 acres.

- 4.5.9 On the Hare Map there are land names, some of which recall earlier ownership: Avenells Peice, Bushie Avenells, Great Avenells, Baunes, Cobbes, Kings Greene (Close and Pightle), Lamphill, Maldins, Moores Close, Ratford and Walters. The Avenells names occur north of the hall and Moores Closes to the south, probably equating to the High Field and Low Field mentioned in 1614/15. However open field names are not given on the Hare Map and it is not clear how they were organised. Some of these names and some others were still in use in the 19th century Tithe Map (see paragraph 4.5.20 below). There are also road names, some of which were in use in the 14th century, such as Wypolweye, Russlebrookweye, Aruyngstrate, Quendene, Stapilddeweje and Grendich (King's document).
- 4.5.10 In 1648 Thomas Chicheley began to lease the Orwell manor from the City of London (CUL: Doc 1458) and exchanged a number of parcels of land in the common fields in Orwell for their equivalent in Wimpole. These exchanges were mostly with people who lived in Orwell and seem to be part of a drive to consolidate his Wimpole estate to the parish boundary. These parcels of land, varying in size, totalled about 27 acres (CRO: L17/1-13) and appear to fall within the Wimpole parish boundary but outside the manor estate. Also in 1648, Thomas Barron of Wimpole, a blacksmith, exchanged with Chicheley an acre of customary land held of the manor of Orwell and his right of common to graze cattle in the town fields of Wimpole, in return for a pightle and close of pasture south of his house (CRO: R52/12/37/1). Again in 1648, Robert Finch, son of Daniel, who had been the biggest landholder after the Chicheleys, was a maltster in Royston and sold property in Wimpole to Thomas Chicheley for £440 (CRO: R52/12/9/2; R52/12/42/1), although it was leased back to him for a peppercorn rent.
- 4.5.11 Thomas Chicheley took out his first mortgage in 1654 on part of the estate (CRO: R52/12/38/9). This refers to properties as farms for the first time, and offers evidence of ever-expanding enclosure. A lease to George Holder of the farm "where he dwells" in 1604 (BM Add Ms 36234 in VCH notes) included his homestall and some closes, but he also held land in the open fields. Of the 13 holdings mortgaged, five properties are described as farms, the largest landholding being 500 acres arable and 100 acres pasture and the smallest 2 acres meadow or pasture. Two other farmers held arable land, 120 acres each; all other land mortgaged was meadow or pasture. The full list appears at Appendix 16. Rentals of 1684 (CUL Ms Doc 1526) and 1686 (BM Add Ch 44832, Aldred transcription) show one farm as still considerably larger than the others, with a rent of £133 a year, with seven other properties referred to as farms, the next highest rental being £110. Nineteen tenants paid rent, the lowest being 6s. 8d.; no rent was paid by four tenants. The full list of tenants and their rent appears in Appendix 18. By this time the Park, stocked with deer, contained about 210 acres. About 100 acres was in hand, mostly sown with sainfoin.
- 4.5.12 Observations on tenancies, with the rent payable, the property rented, and the condition of houses and outbuildings, carried out in May 1710 while Lord Radnor was still the estate owner (NottmU: Portland P1 E3/1/1/4) indicate that formal leases first began in the early years of the 18th century. Details are shown in Appendix 19.1. Further rentals in 1711 (NttmU: P1C1/1/2) and 1715 (CRO: R52/12/42/1) again show 19 tenants paying rent, with one tenant paying twice the rent of anyone else. The tenants and their annual rent in the two years are shown in Appendices 19.3 and 20.
- 4.5.13 The number of houses declined over the 17th century, see paragraphs 4.3.6 & 7 above. RCHM(E) (West Cambridgeshire, 1968,211-2) has dated five existing buildings to the 17th or early 18th centuries.

- 4.5.14 By 1790, 17 tenants plus the Overseers of the Poor were paying rent. Eleven of the tenants paid between £47.10s and £70 in rent per half year. The remaining six, plus the Overseers of the Poor, paid between 5 shillings and £2, suggesting that these rents were for the remaining houses and cottages on the estate (CRO: R52/12/4/5). The rental appears at Appendix 23. According to a survey of agriculture in the county in the early 1790s, there were 36 houses, including the Hall, with 47 families. The farms were in general small and there were roughly equal amounts of pasture and plough, the whole parish being enclosed. Husbandry consisted of two crops and a fallow year. The soil was in general very wet, but in the winters of 1792 and 93, 5,600 poles of hollow ditching and 440 poles of open ditches were executed. The park comprised about 400 acres (Vancouver, C, 1794).
- 4.5.15 A map of the park, pleasure-grounds and Home Farm of 1800 (CUL: MS Plans 609) shows houses north and south of and opposite Home Farm as still standing, and the Brick End houses as built, together with a building north of the stream and east of the lakes. The Rev. James Plumtre recorded a view of Wimpole in December 1800 (Ousby, 1992, 191-200), in which he reported on visiting gardens at the new-built cottages in the Avenue leading to Cambridge. There were about six gardens together, of about 16 poles each, surrounded by a strong fence and separated by young quick hedges.
- 4.5.16 Although 56 families in 47 houses were counted in the 1801 census (Lysons, 1808) only 8 tenants, plus Lord Hardwicke, had sufficient land to appear in the land tax assessment of 1810, and the number of tenants of substantial farms seems to remain at eight to 1840. See appendices 25 and 26.
- 4.5.17 In Robert Withers' surveys of 1815 (National Trust: WIM/D/560), reviewed 1828 (CCC: COL C43.C32.3), Pateman's Farm was what is now Cobb's Wood Farm. The cottages opposite Home Farm are still shown in these surveys. In 1828, eight farms are shown: Home Farm, Eight Elms Farm, Thornberry Hill Farm and Coomb Grove Farm are all in their present positions; Wimpole Hole Farm became Valley Farm; Porter's Farm became River Cam Farm; Arber's Farm became Hoback Farm; and Titchmarsh's Farm became Cambridge Road Farm. By this time there were a few houses south of the Cambridge Road near Arrington Bridge, just one north of the Cambridge Road and two or three others scattered around the parish. Field names and occupiers on the Wither's map will be found in Appendix 28.
- 4.5.18 Abstracts of Bills and Expenditure 1791-1826 (notes at Wimpole Hall, originals in the Hertfordshire Record Office) indicate that new roads were laid out between 1820 and 1826, plus park plantations and inclosures. A guide of 1820 also comments that : "inclosures have been considerably extended, and many more acres of land brought into cultivation" (Deighton & Sons, 1820, 117-9).
- 4.5.19 The latest document recorded for the project was the 1837 tithe commutation agreement list, finalised in 1851. By this time, the Park comprised about 206 acres out of a total of 2406 titheable land, divided amongst 12 tenants, the lord of the manor and glebe land. Seven of the tenants had a homestead or cottage. The schedule appears at Appendix 27.
- 4.5.20 A number of the field/holding names on the Tithe Map persist from the 1638 Hare Map: Butter Mead, Cobbs, Kings Green, Lamp Hill, Maldins (as Maldwins), Mill Field, New Field, Peacock Tail, Well Mead, Walters as Waters, and Wood Furlong. Cobb's and Lamp Hill are still found today.
- 4.5.21 By 1837 the landscape was effectively as it is today, other than the houses built at New Wimpole from the 1840s; and the number of farms appears to have remained the same since the mid-17th century.



## Section 5

### 5 DISCUSSION

#### 5.1 Background

- 5.1.1 The lack of published studies about the development of the landscape of the parish of Wimpole or of the farmers and artisans who lived in and used that landscape encouraged an attempt in this study to assemble all the evidence that could be found, both fieldwork and documentary. It is hoped that a contribution has been made to a fuller understanding of this history and will encourage further work to relate Wimpole to the surrounding region.
- 5.1.2 In the historical background section of this paper a summary is given of the questions posed by archaeologists and historians concerning landscape and settlement. The nature of Roman and earlier settlement is evident in the south west Cambridgeshire landscapes – dispersed or nucleated (Taylor 2007). Significant attention has been applied to the development of open-field agriculture and the nature of settlement in the post Roman period (Oosthuizen 2006). The migration of people into and out of parishes, and the nature of their land holdings in the 17th and 18th centuries is also a subject which has been extensively studied. In this section an attempt has been made to interpret some of the evidence presented in the sections above but clearly many other aspects could be studied.

#### 5.2 Commentary

##### 5.2.1 Pre-history to Roman up to 5th century AD

In his book on the archaeology of Cambridgeshire Cyril Fox makes very little reference to the parish of Wimpole. Furthermore there is very little analysis of landscape development that relates evidence from the surrounding area to the parish of Wimpole.

- 5.2.1.1 Reports to the CHER list a few sites where flint work has been found, and recent work by CAFG has located a small number of additional sites. The analysis of the 91 struck flints from this project suggests that activity took place throughout the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age on the slopes north of the river in fields 3 and 5, and in field 16 overlooking the river valley from higher ground. One significant find is the pebble hammer from field 15; this seems to have been made from a pebble of reddish-brown quartzite which can be found scattered in the area – perhaps this one broke in manufacture. The evidence does at least demonstrate that this valley cut into the chalk ridge through the boulder clays was visited in the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.
- 5.2.1.2 Three sherds of Bronze Age pottery found after heavy ploughing at Cobbs Wood (field 3) in 2009 are a rare find and their recovery suggests there was settlement here in this period.
- 5.2.1.3 The Iron Age pottery finds suggest that there was activity at Cobbs Wood (field 3) and Folly Field (field 5) but interpretation is difficult without excavation. The settlement site south of the A603 road (CHER CB14686) found when a gas pipe line was put across the parish shows that settlement was also present on the flatter lands in the south.
- 5.2.1.4 The evidence for widespread Roman settlement is much more convincing (Figure 4b). The excavation of a suggested mansio where Ermine Street meets the Roman road to Cambridge (CHER 03334/5) demonstrates significant activity in that area; fieldwalking results in field 17

is part of this settlement. Five additional possible rural farm settlement sites, identified by concentrations of Roman pottery, (fields 3, 5/9, 8, 12, 13) suggest that there were smaller and larger farmsteads dispersed widely across the landscape. It may be assumed that they had arable and pasture fields associated with them. These results, of low status dispersed settlements, are similar to those found in the Bourn Valley to the north (unpublished fieldwalking by CAFG) and along the line of the A428 (Albion Archaeology 2008). There must be the possibility that a large villa site exists in areas not available for this study. The test pits excavated by CAFG in the grassed areas of the Park south of the lakes recovered only 6 sherds of Roman pottery, in test pit 14 (platform just south of the stream). Oxford Archaeology East in excavating 504 planting holes for trees in the Park found just 4 sherds of Roman pottery in 3 test pits in the Bennall End area. Excavations by CAFG, between 1999 and 2009, looking for garden features north of the present house, produced 85 sherds of Roman pottery, all in derived contexts.

## **5.2.2 Early Medieval to the Norman Conquest - 5th to 11th centuries.**

5.2.2.1 Much recent work on landscape development has been directed towards increasing the understanding of the origins of common fields and nucleated settlements. In her study of the origins of the form and management of early medieval fields, Oosthuizen (2013) makes a strong case for the survival of British populations through the Roman centuries. She suggests that, if this is correct, their 'inherited cultural perspectives and attitudes' will have influenced post-Roman Anglo-Saxon society. She claims that continuities in the form and management of arable and pasture can be seen from prehistoric periods through to the charters and records of the Norman period. In contrast to this view Williamson (2013) makes a strong case for the influence of environmental factors in determining the site of Early Saxon settlement and the location of their fields.

5.2.2.2 The results of excavation of test pits to study currently occupied rural settlements (CORS) by Carena Lewis (2010) and her team have been interpreted as showing that the siting of CORS is not related to Early/Middle Saxon settlements. Fifteen out of 18 of the settlements reported by Lewis showed pottery evidence of Saxon date – that is from 5th to the 11th centuries (87/420 test pits: 21%). Four of these had Early and Middle Saxon pottery (two of which had no Late Saxon pot) and 13 had Late Saxon pot. Roman pottery seems to be more often associated with the Early/Middle Saxon pottery but the numbers are quite small. Wright (2015) questions the definitions of CORS used by Lewis and suggests that the random sampling strategy used means that many test pits are located outside " 'historic', village centres, such as recently developed suburban areas". He goes on to point out that in Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, test pits produced no Middle Saxon pottery whereas extensive excavations by CAU (Mortimer, 2000) produced evidence of Early and Middle Saxon occupation (Wright, 2015, p.12).

Of the test pits excavated at Wimpole in 2013, only 27% had Roman pottery and only one of these had Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware while one other test pit, without Roman pottery, had one sherd of Early/Middle Saxon. However 67% of test pits, including those with Roman pottery, had Late Saxon/early medieval pottery. Only one (No. 14) of the test pits (4, 5, 6, 7, 7A, 13 and 14) in the area of the Park, here called Green End, contained Roman sherds. One (No. 6) had one sherd of Early/Middle Saxon ware. If this is seen as an Early/Middle Saxon settlement then it would represent a site having less than 2 sherds of Roman pottery. This

lack of pottery contrasts with the results from Cobbs Wood field (field 3) where pottery of all periods occurs suggesting the stronger possibility of continuity from Roman to Early Saxon periods at that site.

- 5.2.2.3 In his study of Open Fields in Northamptonshire, David Hall (2014) found that 22% of his sites with Early/Middle Saxon pottery lie on Roman settlements. Most of these sites were on light soils – avoiding the heavy clays. As nearly all of the soils in Wimpole derive from heavy clays these are difficult to avoid but it might be significant that, based on the areas studied, the earlier sites are north of the stream on the south facing slope.
- 5.2.2.4 In their study of twelve parishes in Whittlewood Forest, Jones and Page (2006) identify three models of village development which have been postulated recently by historians and archaeologists. The first model, based largely on fieldwalking in Northamptonshire (Brown and Foard, 1998), suggests that dispersed Early/Middle Saxon sites were abandoned in the 9th century in favour of nucleated settlements. With the demise of these dispersed settlements the land was available to be laid out in long furlongs, thus leading to open field systems. A second model (Lewis et al., 1997) sees a more protracted development of villages from the mid-9th to the mid-13th century. Increasing population and therefore demand for food along with an increasingly complex division of land forced communities to come together to re-organise into nucleated villages with open fields. The third model (Williamson, 2003) emphasises the influence of agricultural needs and environmental factors as the driving forces for nucleation of settlements and development of open fields in the middle Saxon period.
- 5.2.2.5 The evidence from fieldwalking and test pits at Wimpole is difficult to fit into these models. No nucleated settlement developed. Sites with Early/Middle Saxon pottery continued to have pottery evidence until at least the 14th century but it is possible that settlement was deliberately positioned on the south facing slopes in the north of the parish. None of the sites of test pits are CORS and thus it may be that test pits are not appropriate as a way of studying this landscape.
- 5.2.2.6 Continuity of settlement from Roman to Early Saxon is always difficult to prove but the recovery of 112 sherds of Early/Middle Saxon pottery in field 3 and 16 sherds in field 5 suggests that there was activity in both periods in the proximity of these fields.
- 5.2.2.7 On field 3 the combined results of fieldwalking by the standard CAGF procedure, intensive fieldwalking of 10m and 20m squares, test pit excavation and metal detection have shown that there is evidence of activity, if not settlement, probably from the Bronze Age. It is difficult to interpret the amount and nature of the Bronze Age and Iron Age activity without excavation but the Roman pottery is in a quantity sufficient, by comparison with other sites at Wimpole, to suggest that there was a significant settlement here. The lack of ceramic building material suggests that there was no large villa complex but, perhaps, a farm centre. Of much greater significance is the presence of relatively large numbers of Early/Middle Saxon pottery sherds. These along with the part of a ceramic loom weight from 10m square A07 (Ill 5), suggests occupation at this site, perhaps with continuity from the Roman period. The pottery and particularly the metal finds suggest that throughout the medieval period this was a high status site which went into decline in the late medieval period and had been abandoned by the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- In the early modern and modern periods the activity had moved to the western end of the field, an area shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map as having cottages.
- 5.2.2.8 Evidence for Later Anglo-Saxon activity is much more widespread – fields 1, 3, 4 and 5 and

Test pits 4 to 14 have pottery dating from the 10th and 11th centuries. Of particular interest is likely eastward trading connections demonstrated by Ipswich Ware which is not found much further west into Bedfordshire. In addition Maxey ware is being obtained from the west.

- 5.2.2.9 Documentary research for this period is limited to the evidence from Domesday, from which it is clear that Wimpole, Wratworth and Whitwell were separate vills each of similar size. The lack of sokemen in Wimpole is unusual compared to surrounding vills and that there were only two manorial holdings contrasts with Wratworth (5) and Whitwell (4). The agriculture seems to be of a general nature with sheep and pigs and presumably grain crops. The disappearance of parishes of Wratworth and Whitwell seems to have occurred by c. AD1250. In appendices 8 and 9 there is a possible explanation of what happened to this land and the manors. The use of the name Whitwell may have been transferred to the parish of Barton (now in the parish of Coton) by the Waruhel family who had property in Wimpole and Arrington.

### **5.2.3 Medieval 12th to 15th centuries.**

- 5.2.3.1 The fieldwork evidence presented above, based mainly on dated pottery, suggests that there was a thriving community in the settlement areas which later appear as houses on the Hare Map. Fields 1 to 16 and test pits 1 to 14 all had pottery of the medieval period (1452 sherds). Late medieval pottery occurred on all fields 1 to 16 in smaller numbers (244 sherds) but only in test pits 5, 6, 7A, 12 and 14, where there were 10 sherds in all. Of particular significance is the longevity of the pottery sequence on the site now called Cobbs Wood (field 3), on the Hare map as Little End and possibly previously Wratworth. Of the settlements shown on the Hare map, a test pits excavated at Green End (so called in recent times) had one sherd of pottery from the 10th century. Almost without exception the pottery sequences from the test pits cease in the 16th century, even where they are adjacent to house sites indicated on the 17th century Hare Map.
- 5.2.3.2 Bennall End appears to overlie ridge and furrow of earlier arable agriculture, suggesting this may be a later occupation. The test pits (1, 2) at Mr Neal's house contained pottery dating from the 12th to 14th centuries but his house is on the western edge of what became Bennall End.. The ridge and furrow north of Bennall End is a fine example of this type of earthwork – early aerial photographs show that it was more extensive in the parish – more can be seen in the tree belts north of field 8.
- 5.2.3.3 The settlements at Thresham End, around the church and rectory and at Green End all stand on, or near to, a track running north to south. These could be seen as a dispersed settlement where elements have migrated along the track, creating a polyfocal settlement. Unlike other south Cambridgeshire villages these never coalesced into a nucleated settlement – in fact from the evidence of the dated pottery finds they were declining after the 15th century, to be swept away by Thomas Chicheley from the 1650s when he extended the Park and appears to have created the farms.
- 5.2.3.4 There is evidence that the land was divided into two fields in the 13th and 14th centuries – with exact division of customary holdings between the 'campo australi' and the 'campo boreali' (Postgate, 1964). By the 17th century Wimpole appears to have two open fields, while the adjacent parishes had multiple open fields – Arrington (5), Gt. and Lt. Eversden (5) and Orwell (6) while only Kingston to the north had two open fields. It is not clear if Wimpole's open fields were further divided after AD1327 (Postgate, 1964). The two or three

field system is characteristic of the Midland type, usually associated with a strict regime of control. Recent research on open fields (Hall, 2014) emphasises the difficulties of interpretation of pottery scatters and test pits and the importance of evidence relating to the demise of Roman administration and its replacement by so called Anglo-Saxon control. Hall's volume contains a useful summary of the evidence for Cambridgeshire (Hall, 2014, p.228)

#### **5.2.4 Early Modern 16th to 19th centuries.**

- 5.2.4.1 The early modern period is mainly represented in this study by the results of the documentary research. The test pits rarely showed evidence of pottery post 15th century and, although the fieldwalking recovered large quantities of later pottery, most of this is difficult to date accurately and a decision was made by CAFG that these would not be retained, and they were simply recorded as 'post-medieval'.
- 5.2.4.2 The development of farming in the early modern period has been the subject of much discussion, particularly the breakdown of the medieval open field system. The move to enclosure of the fields and cultivate new crops has been seen as an important change in the late 17th and 18th centuries. Wade-Martin (2004) suggests that this could be a result of the influence of returning Royalists bringing ideas from the Low Countries after 1660, and in addition 'very few landlords were investing in farm improvements before the 1750s'. She draws a distinction between farmers who were driving the new agricultural practices and landlords who were primarily involved in improving the infrastructure of their estates. To maximise the financial return from their estates landlords were trying to move farmers from copyhold arrangements with fines levied for entry and changes in circumstances to leases as short as 2 years – farmers with no lease were thought to have little cause to improve their farms or practice which would have enabled higher rents to be paid.
- 5.2.4.3 The developments at Wimpole seem to be in the vanguard of such changes. After Thomas Chicheley commissioned the Hare map in 1638 he began building his new house and by 1657, before the end of the Commonwealth, he had already divided the estate into farms from which he was collecting rents. At the same time or shortly afterwards he invested, or at least encouraged, in the improved infrastructure of new farmhouses as at Mr Radford's house (CAFG records). In addition Chicheley consolidated the estate by purchase and exchange of land.
- 5.2.4.4 By the time that the estate was sold by Lord Radnor to the Duke of Newcastle in 1711 there is clear evidence of leases lasting up to 9 years and that the landlord was accepting responsibility for maintenance of houses and barns. At the same time there is evidence that at least one tenant had to provide 4 days of boon work – a hangover from the manorial estate, Appendix 19.1 Francis Austen.

#### **5.2.5 Commentary on Documentary sources**

##### **5.2.5.1 Population**

Although the records indicating population numbers are necessarily incomplete until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they indicate that, after an increase in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Wimpole suffered a dramatic population decline in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps as a result of the poor weather and consequent famine. There appears to be a continued but less marked decline over the rest of the century, with a degree of concentration of land holdings. Perhaps, as Wimpole was a collection of scattered hamlets, the Black Death did not have the same

impact as elsewhere. By the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the population was even lower: possibly this was the result of early enclosure. It was stable for about a century but dropped again from the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century as the Park was extended and open fields enclosed, and remained small until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

As always, however, population figures taken from different sources compiled for different purposes must be used with caution.

#### 5.2.5.2 Names

Names of tenants have been gathered from many different sources and give snapshots of the inhabitants at certain times. It has been possible to find some family names surviving over long periods (Appendix 22) and to use that survival to suggest when hamlets may have ceased (Appendix 21).

Until the mid-sixteenth century, the most complete lists of names are in the Hundred Rolls of 1279, the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1327 and the manuscript at King's College. Manor Court records do not appear to have survived, so the further collection of names depends on the existence of individual documents and who they involved. A few names can be seen to last, the most notable likely residents being

<b>Banks (de Bancis)</b>	1086 to c.1302-1316
<b>Francis</b>	1166 to 1370s
<b>Tichemers</b>	1279 to early 17 <sup>th</sup> century (Titchman as landholder)
<b>Brocke (Broke)</b>	1279 to 1632
<b>Payn</b>	1279 to 1566
<b>Kynge</b>	1279 to 1591
<b>Seamer (Semat)</b>	1470 to 1644
<b>Maldin</b>	1494 to 1643

The records from about 1560 suggest that in 1638, three years after Thomas Chicheley came of age, there had been a reasonably stable population since at least the middle of the previous century, but that over the next 50 years, fewer and fewer old families still lived in the parish and that many newcomers stayed for only a short time.

There is no evidence that the families living in the hamlets that disappeared to make way for the park were displaced *en masse*. An attempt has been made to look at the last records of the family names in each of the hamlets to see whether any pattern emerges. The Thresham End names disappear from Wimpole by 1664 and they do not appear in the parish registers of the adjoining parishes. The Bennell End names seem to disappear by about 1680, apart from Hubbard, which may relate to a different property. There are records in Arrington that may be of some of the families. Of those living north of the hall but south of the stream, Baron's house is known to have been sold in 1694, the other names have gone by about 1650, not to adjacent parishes. There were cottages along the road until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the last record of the names from 1638, apart from Stokes, is in 1658. The names of those around what is now Brick End continued to the 1680s. The Chapmans and Godfreys, however, had what were described as farms in 1654 and consequently likely to be

elsewhere in the parish. The Little End names last until 1674, but this area later became Cobbs Wood Farm. The findings are attached at Appendix 21.

Some attempts at creating family trees (not included in this report) from the parish registers indicate that there was a considerable amount of inter-marriage between village families.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century families tended not to stay in the parish for more than about 50 years as far as one can tell. The division of the estate into eight discrete tenant farms, with the rest of the villagers living on small plots and probably working on the estate for wages, would have encouraged an increase in mobility.

#### 5.2.5.3 Land Use

Medieval records suggest a village with perhaps one lord of the manor with a presence, even if part-time, as was common, although in 1279 six manor holders were recorded. Several land-holders had sufficient land to offer to the Hospital of St John, but the majority of tenants held strips of land in the open fields. The Chicheley family, who had first gained estates in Wimpole in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, gradually increased their direct holdings and had enclosed some land by the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. There had certainly been two open fields in the medieval period, but there may have been a further one, to the west of the manor house, where ridge and furrow can be seen (RCHM(E), West Cambridgeshire, 1968, 226-7), but which was enclosed land, largely in the hands of Daniel Finch, in 1638. The 1638 Hare Map shows substantial open fields remaining, but also small crofts and those areas enclosed for the use of the lord. From no later than 1648 Thomas Chicheley appears to have begun a concerted drive to consolidate his estate and enclose more of the parish.

The documents support the contention that the remaining open fields were enclosed in the late C17/early C18, with the tenants living on their holdings, an arrangement unusual in West Cambridgeshire (RCHM(E), West Cambridgeshire, 1968,211-2).

The Hearth Tax returns, taken with the evidence of name survival, (see Appendix 22) suggest that the hamlets of Thresham End and Bennell End disappeared by the 1660s at the latest, when the park was extended to the south of the Hall (see also *Phibbs,1980*). The end of the hamlets north and east of the hall is less easy to determine, but such records as have been seen suggest that a few families present in 1638 were moved to farms, but that they had largely vanished from the parish by the sale of the estate in 1696. Details are included in Appendix 21.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century saw a consolidation, so that by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the landscape was essentially as it is now, with the exception of New Wimpole.

#### 5.2.5.4 General

Records indicate that Wimpole has, in some ways, always been unusual:

- There were no sokemen pre- 1066, unlike in neighbouring areas
- It incorporated part of another vill which had been more populous

- Wimpole was almost the only estate in the county where extensive single (non-institutional) ownership enabled the development of a formal landscape (Bendall, 1992, 18)
- Enclosure happened early under private ownership
- There were only modest land holdings by church authorities or Cambridge colleges

A further instructive line of research, besides making fuller use of references already gathered and searching out other original documents, would be comparisons with neighbouring parishes.

---oOo---



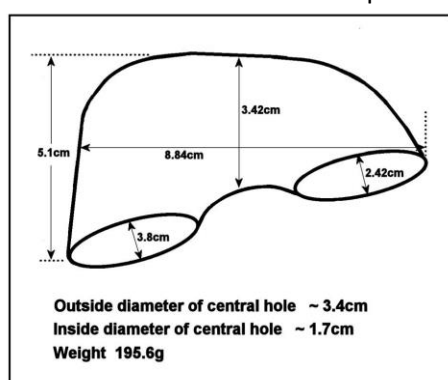
## 6 Illustrations

Of the many objects found from fieldwalking, test pits and metal detecting six are illustrated below. Further significant metal finds will be illustrated in a further report at a later date.

### Illustration 1

Fieldwalking field 15 Cambridge Road farm number 216. See section 3.1.2.1

As can be seen from the photograph, it was part of a rounded natural pebble that had broken in approximately half at the point at which a hole had been drilled through it. A pebble-hammer is defined as “*simply pebbles, often of quartzite, modified only by a hole of hour-glass shape through the centre*”. Mace-heads is defined as having worked surfaces and more cylindrical holes. It is possible these cruder instruments date to the Mesolithic although many are found in Neolithic/Early Bronze Age contexts. The pebble is composed of a reddish–brown quartzite material and was probably selected for its suitable shape. Numbers of such pebbles can still be found on the field today and they probably come from the boulder clay deposits left behind in West Cambridgeshire after the last Ice Age, hence their well-rounded shape. It is thought that they originated in Scotland.



### Illustration 2

Metal detecting Cobbs Wood - Iron Age Coin: Find No: 146 Copper Alloy Weight: 2.6g

See section 3.3.3.2

Description: A single Celtic Bronze Unit was recovered from the site. Whilst the obverse is very worn it is possible to determine the legend: “CVNOB ELINI” in two panels. The reverse shows Victory seated. The coin is similar to those recorded by Spink (S324) and the Ancient British Coin designation ABC2918. Date Range: AD10 - 41

### Illustration 3

Test pit F09 context 2 Cobbs Wood See Table 11.

Bone oval handle or chess piece – 2.1 x 2.3cm, flat base broken above 2.1cm probably early Medieval.

### Illustration 4

Metal detecting Cobbs Wood. See appendix 6 p. 46 Items number 147/148/205/206

A medieval horse-harness pendant dated it to the 12th century on the basis of the interlaced arcading and it represents one of the earliest datable pendants of this type known (and definitely one of the best-made and best-preserved). Stephen Ashley, Norfolk, has identified similar items at Norfolk - Heacham (an old find not on the PAS but on the HER) and Sedgford.

### Illustration 5

Fieldwalking Cobbs Wood CWF12 square A07

Ceramic loom weight (part), usually considered to be early Saxon and to reflect local habitation.

### Illustration 6

Non-metal item found by detectorist, Cobbs Wood field 3.

Bone spindle whorl 4.1cm diameter.



## Bibliography

- Adshead, David, *Wimpole; architectural drawings and topographical views*, 2007, National Trust, pp. Albion Archaeology: Abrams, Joe and Ingham, David, *Farming on the edge : archaeological evidence from the clay uplands to the west of Cambridge*, 2008, East Anglia Archaeology rpt. 123
- Aldred, Oscar R , *Wimpole's Medieval Landscape - Stagnation, Development and Change*, unpublished draft thesis 1996
- Bendall A.S., *Maps, Land and Society: a history, with carto-bibliography of Cambridgeshire estate maps, c. 166-1836*, Cambridge, 1992
- Brown, T and Foard, G, *The Saxon landscape: a regional perspective*, in *The Archaeology of Landscape* Eds P. Everson and T. Williamson, Manchester, 1998, pp. 67-94
- CAFG, *Three Earthwork Surveys*, Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, LXXXI (1992)
- CAFG, *Wimpole: silent voices and deserted homes*, 2014
- Underwood, Malcolm ed., *Cartulary of the Hospital of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge* 2008  
Cambridgeshire Record Society
- Cambs & Hunts Archaeological Society, Vol V
- Spufford, Peter, gen. ed., *Consistory Court of Ely Probate Records 1449 - 1858*,., Vol 107, 1996, British Record Society Index Library
- J Deighton and sons, *A Guide through the University of Cambridge ... including a Tour to Ely, Wimpole and Newmarket etc.*, Cambridge, 1820 (CUL: Cam.d.41.10.8)
- East Anglian Notes and Queries, 1858 – 1910 (CC: C05)
- Elrington, C R (ed) *Victoria County History, A History of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely*, 1973, vol 5 Wimpole pp 263-272
- Evans, Nesta & Rose, Susan, *Cambridgeshire Hearth Tax*, 2000, British Records Society
- Farrer, William, *Feudal Cambridgeshire*, CUP, 1920 (CC43)
- Fox, Cyril, *The Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, 1923, Cambridge
- Hall, David, *The Open Fields of England*, 2014, Oxford, pp.136-8
- Glasscock, Robin, ed., *The Lay Subsidy of 1334*, 1975, Oxford University Press for the British Academy (CC32.7)
- Higham, Nicholas J. and Ryan, Martin J.Eds., *Landscape archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England*, 2010,Woodbridge
- Jones, Richard and Page Mark, *Medieval Villages in and English Landscape: beginnings and ends*, 2006, Macclesfield. pp 79 - 104
- Kimball, Elizabeth G., ed., *A Cambridgeshire Gaol Delivery Roll 1332-1334*, 1978, Cambridge
- Kingston, A. 1897 *East Anglia and the Great Civil War* (CC 45.2)
- Lewis, C, *Exploring Black Holes: Recent Investigations in currently Occupied Rural Settlements in Eastern England*, in Higham et al 2010, pp102-103
- Lewis, C, Mitchell-Fox, P and Dyer, C., *Village, Hamlet and Field: Changing Medieval Settlements*, Macclesfield, 2001.
- Lysons, Daniel & Samuel, *Magna Britannia Cambridgeshire*, 1808.
- Mortimer, R. *Village development and ceramic sequence: The Middle and Late Saxon village at Lordship lane, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire*, PCAS, 89 pp5-34
- Oosthuizen, Susan, *Landscapes decoded: the origins and development of Cambridgeshire's medieval fields*, 2006, University of Hertfordshire Press.
- Oosthuizen, Susan, *Medieval field systems and settlement nucleation: common or separate origins?*, pp.107 – 131 in

Oosthuizen, Susan, *Tradition and transformation in Anglo-Saxon England: archaeology, common rights and landscape*, 2013, Bloomsbury.

Ousby, Ian Ed, *James Plumtre's Britain: The journals of a Tourist in the 1790's*, 1992, Hutchinson

Oxford Archaeology East : *Archaeological test pit evaluation at Wimpole Park, Cambridgeshire*, Report 1453 March 2013, Report 1598 May 2014, Report 1734 January 2015.

Palmer, William Mortlock, *Cambridgeshire Subsidy Rolls 1250-1695 and Feet of Fines, Edward IV to Elizabeth* 1912, Goose & Son – reprints from *The East Anglian* 1898 – 1909

Pattison, Paul and Garrow, D, *Wimpole Park, Cambridgeshire*, 1998, Cambridge – an unpublished report.

Rye, Walter , ed., *Pedes Finium* ,1891, Deighton Bell & Macmillan for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

Phibbs, John, *Survey of Wimpole*, NT unpublished, 1980

Postgate, Malcolm R, *The open fields of Cambridgeshire*, Theses,1964, University of Cambridge

Roberts, Brian K and Wrathmell Stuart, *Region and place*, 2002, Swindon

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England, *An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Cambridge, vol 1 West Cambridgeshire*, 1968,

Souden, David, *Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire*, revised 2004, National Trust

Taylor, Alison, *Archaeology of Cambridgeshire: Vol 1, South West Cambridgeshire*, 1997, CCC

Taylor, Jeremy, *Atlas of Roman rural settlement*, Council of British Archaeology

Vancouver, Charles, 1794. *General View of the Agriculture in the County of Cambridge. Observations by Mr Robert Harvey*. Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement (CRO: C.22)

*Victoria History of the Counties of England: Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, Volume 1*. 1938 (reprint 1967), ed. LF Salzman, University of London

*Victoria History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely, Volume V*. 1973, ed. RB Pugh. Wimpole section by Jennifer I Kermode. University of London

Wade-Martins, Farmer, *Landlord and Landscapes, Rural Britain, 1720 to 1870*, 2004, Macclesfield. pp.1-2

Williamson, Tom, *Shaping Medieval Landscapes: settlement, society and environment*, 2003, Macclesfield

Williamson, Tom, *Environment, society and landscape in early medieval England*, 2013, Woodbridge.

White, CH Evelyn, ed, *The Lay Subsidy of 1 Edward III (1327) for Cambridgeshire*, translated by JJ Muskett. Publisher and date not known (CC32.7)

Wright, Duncan W., *'Middle Saxon' settlement and society*, 2015, Oxford.

---oOo---