



# Wimpole: silent voices and deserted homes



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## INTRODUCTION

Every year, thousands of visitors to Wimpole Hall and its estate walk around the grounds but never realise the history that lies just inches below their feet.

Cambridge Archaeology Field Group (CAFG) have spent 15 years investigating what lies beneath the surface of the Wimpole estate and also what can be found by fieldwalking the surrounding arable fields.

CAFG was formed in 1978 to carry out practical field archaeology in the Cambridge area. Our purpose is to contribute to the archaeological knowledge of the region through archive research and field-based activities. We regularly carry out field-walking during the autumn through to the spring period.



Figure 1. Group setting off for fieldwalking

A website, [www.cafg.net](http://www.cafg.net), is used to disseminate the information gained in the form of written articles and photographs. We promote archaeology to the local community through attendance at history events, excavations and community test-pitting. A regular series of lectures is open to all.

In 2012 we applied for a Heritage Lottery grant to bring all our knowledge into one place. The project was named “Wimpole: silent voices and deserted homes” to pay tribute to missing settlements that once existed in Wimpole parish.

## THE PROJECT

Wimpole parish is first recorded in Hare’s map of 1638 which shows groups of dwellings dispersed around a moated manor with a deer park. Emparkment was

already underway before Thomas Chicheley demolished the manor house and began construction of Wimpole Hall in the 1640's. Over the next 200 years, as the Hall and park grew, settlements like Bennall End and Thresham End disappeared without record, and with them the stories of the people who lived there. Our project sought to restore their memory by exploring Wimpole Estate documents and recording surviving archaeological evidence for their existence.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The main sponsor of this project was the Heritage Lottery Fund *All our Stories* grant programme which was launched to support BBC Two's *The Great British Story*. The funding was directed towards groups and communities who wished to explore and share their local heritage.

Whilst funding is of major importance, this project could not have been successful without the continued interest and encouragement of many individuals and organisations. Our thanks especially go to the National Trust, without whose support this project would not have been possible. Also to Cambridge Community Heritage for their assistance and advice, to the Jigsaw programme run by Oxford Archaeology East for their training sessions and loans of equipment. Support has come from CAFG members and a number of local volunteers whose willingness to give time and labour produced the wealth of evidence needed to complete the project. Thank you to everyone who has worked with us and given their encouragement.

For more information about the group and its activities please visit our website – [www.cafg.net](http://www.cafg.net)

## **PROLOGUE – A VIEW OF WIMPOLE IN 1800**

A rare view of Wimpole is recorded by the Rev. James Plumptre in July 1800 while he was walking from Cambridge to the source of the river at Ashwell. Born in Cambridge in 1771 the young James was familiar with Wimpole, his illustrious Uncle Robert was President of Queens' College, Professor of Moral Theology as well as holding the offices of Rector of Wimpole from 1750 to 1788 and Vicar of Whaddon at the same time.

On Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> July 1800 James and his companion, Walter Trevilyan, set off from Clare Hall to walk in four days via Harston, Barrington, Wimpole and Wendy to the source of the River Cam at Ashwell and back via the Bourn valley. They approach Wimpole from Malton, passing an unusual field of wild parsnips used as cattle fodder, and crossed into the South Avenue to inspect the great bason (sic), now dry, but where James fished as a boy. They made their way to the Hardwicke Arms, formally called The Tiger, at Arrington. From Arrington church they could see "a rich tract of Wood and pasture ground, farms, cottages and churches". On the door of the church was a notice from Lord Hardwick offering a guinea and a half for the persons in the parish who grew the greatest quantity of peas, beans, carrots, turnips, cabbage, onions or potatoes in proportion to the ground they occupy. The gardens are to be inspected by Lord Hardwick's gardener, Mr Stephens and Mr Pigott, Mr Mayes and Mr Patterson.

At 7.00am on the Tuesday morning they entered Lord Hardwick's Park through the triumphal arch and went to the hill to the west of the house to see the Pavilion. Built in 1777 for £1500 but now "a scene of desolation and ruin". Originally an elegant building with a tea room painted with Etruscan figures and the outside covered in stucco pieces 12 by 8 inches and stuck on with cement. They admire the view of the Park but comment that the house would look better if the straight lines of the top were relieved with sculptures of horses, cows, deer or sheep. Passing on they walk to the Ice-house which is likewise falling into decay but coming to the sunken fence they get a good view of the Gothic tower on the opposite hill which is "much mellowed by time, and the ruin has a good and natural effect". At the front of the house James records his disappointment that the chestnut tree avenue has gone but does get a good view of the South Avenue with its specimens of ancient trees.

James had determined that he would copy the garden encouragement that he had seen at Wimpole earlier and on 18<sup>th</sup> December he set off with Mr Thackeray in a chaise over very muddy roads. Between Granchester and Barton they saw men digging ditches for the newly enclosed fields. The new turnpike road was “tolerable” until it got to Lord Oxford’s bridge over the Bourn. As they laboured up Orwell Hill they got into conversation with Mr West of Wisbech who was there to inspect the undershot Mill at what is now Thornberry Farm formerly Mr Challand’s now Mr Goodcheap’s in 1800. When they visit the mill stones were not working but they saw corn being thrashed. They must have entered the estate via the Victoria Drive and when they arrive at the stables meet Lady Hardwick who James clearly thought snubbed him. He calls on Mr Sheepshanks the Rector, who is away, but visits the church to see the newly erected monuments. In the housekeepers room he meets Mr Stephens, Head Gardener, and they are joined by Mr Patterson, the Bailiff, to go and inspect the gardens of the villagers. The three winners of Lord Hardwick’s prize lived in new built cottages in the Avenue leading to Cambridge (presumably the East Avenue leading into the Victoria Drive). The gardens were strongly fenced and separated by quick thorn hedges each about 16 poles (30 sq. yards) well stocked with cabbage and kale. The cottagers had their potatoes stored in their houses – Ox noble, Wimple kidney and red kidney or painted Lady.

“We then proceeded to Mr Patterson’s house, which was formerly the shop kept by John Radford and down the Lane to some new built cottages, with chimneys on Count Rumford’s plan. Then to the school. A very neat cottage standing in the shrubbery ... Here is a parlour with a glass door looking into the shrubbery. This is a new way lately made for Lady Hardwick or Lady Anne York to come and hear the children and look after the school”.

After this he saw a new garden made by Mr Rogers before visiting the walled gardens with its forcing frames and hothouse. Having inspected the gardens, James walks through the churchyard to see the grave of two old servants, James Smith and Elizabeth his wife who had been buried two days before. At Arrington he visits the gardens of Samuel Story, William Collins, William Wilson, Richard Hunt and Charles Thurley.

(From: James Plumtre: the journals of a tourist in the 1790’s. Edited by Ian Ousby, published by Hutchinson, 1992)

## **THE LANDSCAPE OF WIMPOLE**

The parish of Wimpole lies some 8 miles from Cambridge and sits in a varied landscape. To the North is a scarp of boulder clay which then falls through chalk and gault, to river gravel towards the South. This terrain and its plentiful springs create an environment which probably attracted settlement from the earliest times. There is evidence of this prehistoric activity in the finds we have made when fieldwalking as part of this project, ranging from scatters of worked flint to a probable Mesolithic/Neolithic pebble hammer shown in **Plate 11**.

The landscape is also defined by roads and tracks, as shown in Figure 2. Across the north of Wimpole runs the ancient route, the Mare Way, a prehistoric ridgeway leading from the west towards Cambridge. The Romans also left their mark with the construction of Ermine Street, built as a military road connecting London and York, which marks the western boundary of the parish. Another probable Roman road running through the south of the parish connects Ermine Street, near the point where Ermine Street crosses the Rhee at an ancient ford, to Cambridge.

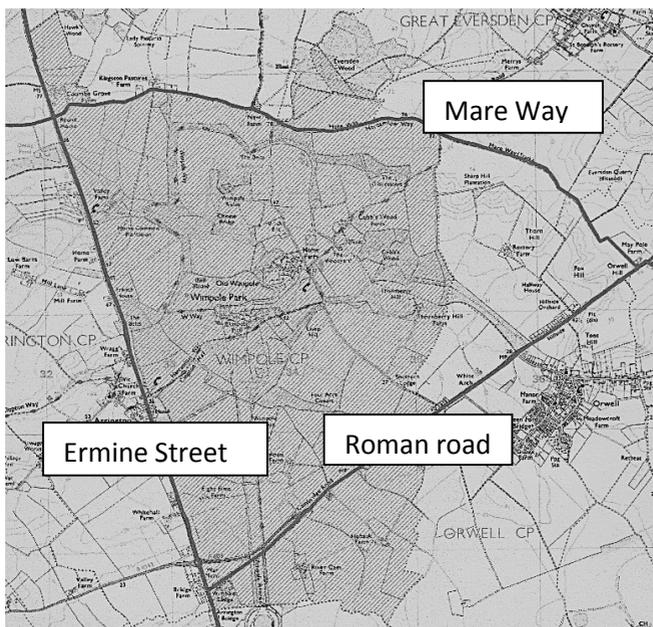


Figure 2. Outline of Wimpole parish with Roman roads and Mare Way

Roman pottery and building material has been found in and around the parish and we uncovered some examples during our test pitting. An earlier excavation

uncovered a small complex of buildings near the junction of Ermine Street and the Cambridge Road, including a possible 'Mansio' or lodgings for Roman travellers.

The present boundaries of the parish respect the two Roman roads, the Mare Way and also the river Cam to the South. These seem likely to be old boundary markers but the shape of the parish has clearly undergone some change since the 11<sup>th</sup> century when the Domesday Book recorded the existence of the settlement of Wratworth. This seems subsequently to have been absorbed by both Wimpole and Orwell and it may be that the main change lies to the east of the parish where the current boundary follows the layout of the medieval fields.

The first clear evidence of the plan of the parish comes from the Hare map of 1638, as shown in **Plate 1**. This shows a network of roadways and tracks criss-crossing the parish. Some appear to be longer distance routes, perhaps linking Arrington and Great Eversden and places further afield, while Crane's Lane still leads north to Kingston. Others seem typical of the medieval interweaving tracks providing local access to fields and headlands. The six hamlets of Wimpole developed alongside these roads and trackways, as shown in **Plate 1**, including the well-known Bennall End and Thresham End to the south of the manor.

There had been a deer park associated with the manor house since 1302 but, by the time of the Hare map, the formation of the High and Low Parks had been part of the drive which ended up with the emparkment of much of the parish. The major expansion occurred by 1772 with the work of Capability Brown which had seen the removal of the hamlets and much of the original network of tracks. By the time of the 1835 OS map the landscape is very much as we see it today, apart from the subsequent building of the houses at New Wimpole.



Nowadays there are few signs of the old routes and houses except as traces of hollow ways and house platforms, such as the Mr Neale house platform targeted during our test pitting activity. Much medieval ridge and furrow, as shown in Figure 3, still exists in the park.

Figure 3. Snow defined ridge and furrow.

## EVIDENCE FROM DOCUMENTS

When we started, few documents seemed to say much about the former hamlets and their inhabitants. We wanted to see what we could find to put names to these silent voices. There is a lack of manor court records, which would usually be a good source, but, from the documents mentioned below, we have pieced together something about the people. We ignored documents about the Hall and park except as they told us about tenants.

## THE DOMESDAY SURVEY AND MANORS

The earliest record we found is the Domesday Book of 1086. (Translation *Electo Historical Editions* 1992)

In Winepole ten ipse com. .ii. hid 7 u. uirg 7 dim. Tra. e. .iii. car. In dmo. .ii. hide. 7 bi. .i. car. 7 adhuc dim potest fieri. lbi. .ii. uilli cu. .i. bord bnt. .i. car 7 dim. lbi. .vi. cot 7 u. serui. pti dim car. Ino. u. ual. vii. lib. Ad recep. vi. lib. T. R. E. vii. lib. hanc tpa tenuit Eddeua pulchra.

In Wimpole [Count Alan] holds 2 hides and 2½ virgates. There is land for 3 ploughs. In demesne 2 hides, 1 plough and there can be half a plough more. 2 villans with 1 bordar have 1½ ploughs. 6 cottars and 2 slaves. Meadow for ½ ploughs. Worth £7; when received £6; TRE £8. Eddeua the Fair held this land.

In Winepol ten hunfrid de Eudone. In Westcald. .i. hid. 7 u. uirg 7 dim. Tra. e. .ii. car. 7 bi sunt in dmo. 7 un' uilli 7 u. serui. pti. .i. car. Silua ad sepes. Valeo 7 ualuit sep. c. sol. hanc tpa tenuit Guerd comes.

In Wimpole Humphrey [de Anneville] holds 1 hide and 1½ virgates from Eudo [the steward]. Land for 2 ploughs and there are 2 ploughs in demesne. 1 villan and 1 slave; meadow for 1 plough and woodland for fences. Is and was worth 100s. Earl Gyrrh held this land.

N.B. VILLAN/VILLEIN = a villager of higher status than a

BORDAR (small-holder) or COTTAR (cottager)

HIDE = standard unit of tax assessment, divided into 4 VIRGATES

The last note in each case gives a glimpse of the parish before the Norman Conquest as these were the Anglo-Saxon landholders. The parish was divided between two of them, the larger part being held by Eddeva the Fair (who held land all over the country) and more valuable at that time (TRE = in the time of King Edward) than after 1066. There must have been tenants to work the land, but apparently no freemen (sokemen) in either area.

By 1086 the larger area, now held by Count Alan of Brittany, must have had a small group of houses, as nine tenants and two slaves are recorded. The smaller, held by Humphrey, had only one tenant and one slave, all the plough land being worked directly for the benefit of the lord of the manor. The *Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis* (translation in *Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire Vol 1*), another record of the same survey additionally tells us that Count Alan's border had 15 acres and that there were 100 sheep on this manor. On Humphrey's land there were 100 sheep, six pigs, two horses and four asses.

Count Alan's manor was held by the de Bassingbourn's in the 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries and became known as the Bassingbourn manor, eventually passing to Henry Chicheley in 1428 (*VCH, Vol V*). Humphrey's manor had a more complicated history, reverting to the King on two occasions and briefly held by Corpus Christi College in the 1350s (*CCCC09/03/31*). It was leased by Sir Thomas Chicheley from Sir John Wingfield in 1615 and eventually purchased by Sir Thomas' son in 1651.

#### THE CARTULARY OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, CAMBRIDGE

From the Cartulary (*ed Malcom Underwood, Cambs Record Society, 2008*), we find various "de Wynpol's" witnessing deeds, but these may no longer live in the village.

However in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, Geoffrey the bald (or calf, callow) (*calvus*) gave the hospital his land called Sumerleswe in Wimpole; Roger Banks (*de Banns or Bancis*) gave a house with a croft formerly of Agage de Wynepol and next to Robert Solvein; and Roger also gave six selions of land in Wimpole, three by the moor and three in Syreslond, together with his serf Geramin and his family. By the 1320s these properties were rented by Geoffrey, heir of John de Tichemers and John the butcher of Arrington, each paying 6*d*.

#### THE LAY SUBSIDY ROLL OF 1327

Lay subsidy rolls were tax assessments for collecting money for the King. There were many over the centuries, but detailed records remain for only a few.

In Wimpole (now including at least part of Wratworth), there were 64 taxpayers. Lords of the manor listed include de Bassingbourn, Avenel and Mor (thought to be a shortening of Mortimer and a name traceable through to 1681). We also find Benewell (relating to land held by the Barnwell Benedictine Priory, to become Bennall End) and Caufe (formerly Calvus). The Banks/Bancis name does not appear, but John Tichemer does. Ordinary families included the Paynes, still recorded until 1566, and the Brockes, found until 1602.

A document held by King's College, Cambridge and dated to about 1350 gives us names such as Avenel, William atte Welle, Johe Suklyns, Walti de Coulyns, Walti de Benewell and Laurence de Wrattworth.

## PARISH REGISTERS

The parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials start in 1560. From these we have built up family trees for some of the tenants. Some of the earliest names are Mawlden, More, Pratt, Tyton, Semer and Brocke. Calculations show that the population rose by 63 in the first ten years of the registers.

## THE HARE MAP OF 1638

The first map we have dates from 1638 and was drawn by Benjamin Hare 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; and also already enclosed fields (mostly held by Daniel Finch) near the manor house and around what we believe to be the site of the Wratworth settlement. It also shows six small hamlets and the open fields farmed in strips by most of the tenants in the rest of the parish.

This is the first opportunity we have to see not only where houses were at that time but also who the tenants were, as individual land holdings are named. We used this map as a base for searching families backwards and forwards.

**Plate 2** is an extract from the Hare map (East is at the top). It shows the middle of the estate, with the manor house and houses around it, including Thomas Barron's

and William Griper's to the north east of the manor house (Mr Griper's, over which we dug a test pit, is in the top left corner); the park is on the west side of the house, and open fields with their strips can be seen to the south (right).

There were 35 tenanted houses, the whole estate amounting to 1,652 acres.

**Plate 3** is another extract from the Hare map, again with East at the top. It shows William Stokes' house northwest of the road junction. This is the site of what was later Mr Ratford's house, excavated by the Group in 2010 and 2011. Home Farm now sits just east of Mr Stokes' house.

There was obviously a terrier to go with the map originally since some areas are marked with unexplained letters. We have reconstructed a list of the tenants and their holdings, of which this is a summary:

<b>Tenant</b>	<b>No. Holdings</b>	<b>Area/acre</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Barn?</b>
Ball, Philip	129	139.1	1	
Banes, John	72	99.4	1	
Barnard, Mr.	3	1.2		
Baron, Tho.	5	3.9	1	
Butler, Mr.	30	19.1		
Chapman, Henry	96*	100.5	1	
Chapman, Widow	9	7.4	1	
Cacott, Wid.	2	0.5		
Cacott, T.	1	0.2		
Cox	1	4.9	1	
Daintry, Edward	116*	126.5	1	
Eworth, John	4	8.9	1	
Fairechild	1	0.2		
Finch, Daniel	26	308.9	1	
Godfrey, Clement	104	83.9	1	
Grigson, E.	5	2.2		
Griper, Richard	32*	21.5	1	
Griper, William	7	19.9	1	
Holder, George	71	81.0	1	
Hubbard, Ge.	1	1.2	1	
Jepson, Widow	2	1.0	1	
Maldin, Thomas	46*	38.8	2	
Ment? W.	1	1.0	1	

Moore, Widow	4	1.8	1	
Moore, I.	1	0.8	1	
Neale, William	49	83.9	2	
Netherton, T.	2	4.7	1	
North, Charles	87	64.6	1	1
Pratt, John	9	6.4	1	
Rutt, Robert	13	8.2	1	
Rutter, William	8	8.0		
Seamer, Robert	71*	56.6	1	
Slinnet, Thomas	11	11.1	1	
Stacey	14	8.9		
Stimson, John	83	111.5	1	
Stokes, William	5	4.6	1	
Stokes, Widow	12	15.1	1	
Tytan, G.	5	2.9		
Weyman	3*	3.0		
Witton, William	109*	103.5	2	
Orwell	9	3.1		
Towne	107	70.9	2	1

\* Includes shared land

#### LAY SUBSIDY ROLLS OF 1640 AND 1641

In these returns, 12 residents were assessed for tax: Philip Ball, John Banes, Thomas Baron, John Eworth, Rebecca and Robert Finch, Richard and William Griper, George Holder, William Neale, Charles North and Robert Rutt.

#### LANDS AND LEASES

In 1648 Thomas Chicheley began to lease the Orwell manor and exchanged a number of parcels of land 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 land. (CRO: L17/1-13) However, one exchange was with

Thomas Barron, a blacksmith, who gave up an acre of land and his right to graze cattle in return for pasture land next to his house – see Figure 4 below.

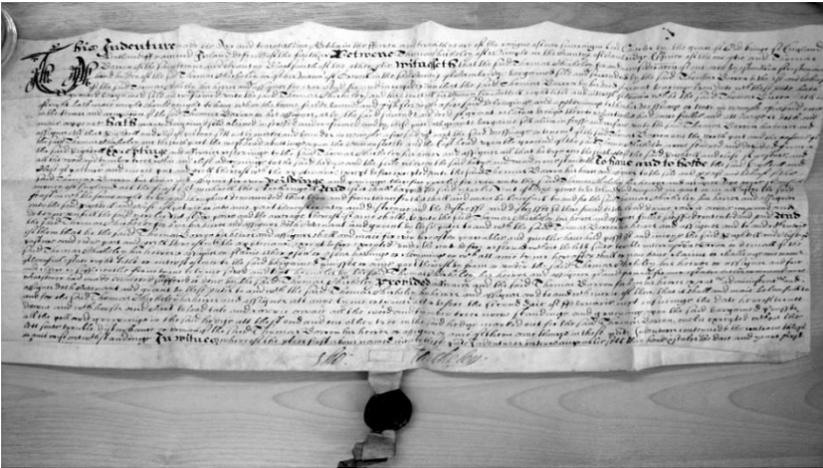


Image courtesy of Cambridge Record Office

Figure 4. The 1648 Exchange of land between Thomas Barron and Thomas Chicheley (courtesy Cambridgeshire Record Office) (CRO: R52/12/37/1)

Also in 1648, Robert Finch, son of Daniel, who had been the biggest landholder after the Chicheleys, was a maltster in Royston and sold his property in Wimpole to Thomas Chicheley. This included land and properties inherited through his late wife, Ann Seymour, daughter of Robert Seymour. (CRO: R52/12/9/2)

However, Thomas Chicheley was a Royalist and, in consequence, was heavily fined by Parliament, although he does not seem to have forfeited any property. He took out his first mortgage (one of many), jointly with his father-in-law, in 1654 on part of the estate. This refers to tenanted properties as farms for the first time:

Farm and houses of John Harvey + 500 acres arable and 100 acres pasture

Farm of Clement Godfrey\* + 120 acres arable and 52 acres meadow & pasture

Farm of George Holder\* + 40 acres meadow & pasture

Farm of William Chapman\* + 120 acres arable and 20 acres meadow & pasture

Farm of Robert Hemings + 100 acres meadow & pasture

The other holdings mortgaged were the houses and meadow or pasture of Richard Weyman\* (55 acres), Thomas Slynnet\* (22 acres), William Hayward (3 acres), John Moore\*(6 acres), Robert Moore\* (7 acres), widow Constable (7 acres), Thomas Godfrey (2 acres), and John Rutter's\* 40 acres meadow & pasture.

\*family names appearing in 1638

The story of a house:

- 1629 George Jepson sold his house and croft to Thomas Barron, a blacksmith
- 1638 Thomas had the house - shown on the Hare Map - and 3.9 acres of land in 5 holdings
- 1640 Thomas' land was valued at 20 shillings
- 1648 Thomas gave up an acre of land and his right to graze cattle in return for pasture land next to his house
- 1662 Thomas' house had one hearth
- 1674 The house had two hearths
- 1691 Thomas left the house, close, orchard and garden to Richard Barnard and his wife, formerly Elizabeth Barron (possibly Thomas' sister)
- 1694 Richard sold the property to the Earl of Radnor, new lord of the manor. The description includes a note that one side abuts the highway to the church. This area had not been taken into the park.

#### HEARTH TAX ASSESSMENTS MID 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

In the Hearth Tax Assessments of 1662/4, 26 houses were recorded as having at least one hearth; by 1674 there were 20.

By this time, few of the families appearing in 1638 were still in the parish.

- John Adams first appears in 1674 with 6 hearths, so may not be a direct descendant of the earlier Adams family
- William and William junr Barnard each have one hearth in all the returns, but the Mr Barnard holding land in 1638 lived in Orwell
- Thomas Barron remains, with one hearth in 1662/4 and two in 1674
- George Holder remains, with four hearths in all the returns

- Robert and John Moore each have one hearth in 1662, but do not appear again
- Philip Stacy has two hearths in 1662 /4 but does not appear in 1674
- John Stoakes has one hearth in 1662 and 1674
- Ann Tyton, widow, appears only in 1662, with one hearth

These returns suggest that the hamlets of Thresham End and Bennall End disappeared by the 1660s at the latest, when the park was extended to the south of the Hall (see also *John Phibbs, Wimpole Park Survey 1980*).

## RISING RENTALS

Thomas (now Sir) Chicheley seems to have spent most of his time (and money) in London under the restored Charles II. In consequence, he sold the Wimpole estate to Sir John Cutler in 1686. Two rentals exist, one of 1684 and one of 1686.

Eight farms (including Sir Thomas' own) and 22 tenants were recorded in 1684. Ann James or Jarvis, widow, paid £116.10s for the half year for her farm, more than double any of the other tenants. Farms given a name are the widow Peirce's, Coopers, Rhee Pasture, Hemings, Eygar, the Rope, Cottons, John Jollyn's; most of which appear to be known by the name of a former tenant. The only family names continuing from 1638 are Adams, Ball/Bell, Chicheley, Godfrey and Stokes. There were few tenant changes by 1686, but rents had doubled.

By 1711, in a rental for the Duke of Newcastle, the only family name still surviving from 1638 is Adams (but possibly not a direct descendant). Austens and Haggars had been in the village since at least 1662, Johnsons since 1674, the Hubbard/Hubberts and Parish since 1684. The remaining 13 tenants listed appear for the first time in this rental. Again, one tenant, John Bass, pays twice the rent of anyone else, at £229 for the year. A further rental recorded in 1715 as part of a mortgage shows five changes in tenant, John Bass still paying the highest rent.

## FAMILY TIES TO THE VILLAGE

From a mixture of the parish registers, deeds, rentals and some wills, we can trace how long some families were in the village up to this point. Some of the more prominent were:

Brocke	1327 - 1602		Jepson	1561 - 1649
Payne	1327 - 1566		Stokes	1573 - 1703
Prat	1381 - 1650		Godfrey	1576 - 1694
Seamer	1470 - 1638		Holder	1598 - 1674
Maldin	1494 - 1643		Stacey	1618 - 1744
Griper	1506 - 1645		Slinnet	1621 - 1718
T(r)yton	1554 - 1664		Daintry	1622 - 1635

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY RENTALS AND ACCOUNTS

By 1790, 17 tenants plus the Overseers of the Poor were paying rent. Joseph Beldam paid the highest rent, at £70 for a half year (*CRO: R/12/4/5*). Among others were William French, a bricklayer, Samuel Blows, a dairyman, and John Ratford, carpenter. We know their occupations from the estate accounts (*CRO: R/52/12/4/14 – 15*) – a Mr Ratford was paid for carpentry work as long before as 1742/4 (*BM Add Mss 36228*).

11 of the tenants paid between £47.10s and £70 in rent. The remaining six including John Ratford (at £2), 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. A map of the park, pleasure grounds and Home Farm of 1800 (*CUL: MS Plans 609*) shows the 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.

## TAXES AND TITHES

Although 56 families (population of 202) were counted in the 1801 census, only 8 tenants, plus Lord Hardwicke, had sufficient land to appear in the land tax assessment of 1810. One of these, Joseph Pateman, appeared as a tenant in 1790. The family continued in the village until at least 1840.

The cottages opposite Home Farm are still shown in Robert Withers' surveys of 1815 and 1828. In 1828 nine 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 Holback Farm; and Titchmarsh's Farm became Cambridge Road Farm. Now there are 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.

By the 1831 census the population had risen to 583, and 14 tenants paid rent for land in 1834. However, in the 1837 tithe commutation agreement list, 12 landholders were listed but only four were the same as in the 1834 rental. Only three were as the 1840 land tax assessment list, a curious state of affairs that deserves further investigation.

14 tenants paid rent for land in 1834. However, in the 1837 tithe commutation agreement list, 12 landholders were listed, but only four were the same as in the 1834 rental, and only three as in the 1840 land tax assessment list. By this time, the present nine farms appear.

By this time, the landscape was effectively as it is today, bar the houses in New Wimpole (first built from about 1837). We decided, therefore, to stop our documentary research at this point.

## HISTORY TIMELINE

50-60AD Roman Ermine Street built. Major roadside settlement and elsewhere in the parish.

|

Anglo-Saxon settlement traces found near Cobbs Wood and north of the lakes.

|

1066 2 landowners in Wimpole, 12 sokemen in Wratworth, under 5 landowners

|

1086 Domesday Survey: 2 manors in Wimpole, 13 people counted; 5 manors in Wratworth, 32 people counted

|

1279 Wratworth absorbed into Wimpole and Orwell by this date. Wimpole contained 6 main manors, the biggest was Bassingbourn. 75 free tenants, 27 villeins recorded (potentially a population of 504). (*Hundred Rolls*) North and South Fields existed.

|

1327 64 people assessed to pay tax in Wimpole (potentially population of 288)

### 1348-9 Black Death

1377 173 adults recorded in the tax assessment (estimated population 225)

|

1428 Bassingbourn manor (Wimpole) passed to Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury

|

15<sup>th</sup> century Thresham End existed. Some enclosure carried out

|

- 1563 36 families lived in Wimpole (potentially population of 162)
  - |
  - 1616 Sir Thomas Chicheley died. Left £20 a year as compensation for the loss of cottagers' common rights
    - |
    - 1638 Estate mapped by Benjamin Hare. Nearly a quarter of the parish was enclosed. 35 tenanted houses.
      - |
      - c. 1640 Thomas Chicheley's new house begun
        - |
        - 1640 & 41 Lay subsidy: 12 residents assessed for tax

#### 1642-9 English Civil War

- 1648-9 Thomas Chicheley acquired land in the open fields
  - |
  - 1654 Mortgage of part of estate. 5 tenanted properties recorded as farms for the first time.

#### 1660 Restoration of the Monarchy

- 1662 & 64 Hearth Tax 27 dwellings recorded. Estimated population 166
  - |
  - 1674 Hearth Tax 20 dwellings recorded
    - |
    - 1686 Wimpole and Arrington estates sold to St John Cutler. Park extended south of Hall by now. 8 farms existed, including home farm of 100 acres. 22 tenants.
      - |
      - 1711 and 1715 Rentals list 19 tenants
        - |
        - 1749 New church built by old north chapel
          - |
          - Mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Park enlarged to include Johnson's Hill, Pond created
            - |
            - 1801 census 56 families, total 202 people
              - |
              - 1803 Poor relief paid to 48 people
                - |
                - 1831 census Population 583
                  - |
                  - 1837 Agreement to commute Tithes. 9 farms; over 1,000 acres in hand. Houses in New Wimpole built

## **WRATWORTH, RATFORD, (WERATEWORDE): A LOST VILLAGE**

The Domesday Survey of 1086 tells us there was a village of Werateworde made up of five manors. By 1279 the parish seems to have been divided between Wimpole and Orwell, although separate manors continued to exist.

Could we find this lost parish?

By researching the manorial history back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, we have been able to trace what happened to the five manors. We have also been able to find clues as to where on the ground these manors were and from this we have produced a map (**Plate 4**) which speculates as to where the parish was originally situated.

### **THE DOMESDAY SURVEY 1086**

From the Domesday Book we can get some idea of the size and population of the parish and the landowners pre- and post-conquest and we can make comparisons with Domesday Wimpole which consisted of two large manors.

Before 1066 the land of Werateworde was held by 12 sokemen (free tenants), all of whom could sell their land. There were no sokemen in Wimpole.

In 1086, 32 tenants were recorded in Werateworde compared with 13 in Wimpole. The status of these tenants is broken down as follows:

- 3 (3) villans/villeins (higher status villagers),
- 17 (1) bordars (small-holders or peasants, lower status than villeins),
- 10 (6) cottars (cottagers, similar status to Bordars)
- 2 (3) slaves

There was sufficient land for 5½ ploughs, meadow for 4½ ploughs and wood to repair fences.

The value of the Werateworde estates is given as £7.5s and Wimpole as £13.00s, despite both of them being virtually identical in size. Is this because of differences in tenure or in land use?

### **ANALYSIS OF THE HISTORY OF THE FIVE MANORS**

For each manor we started with the DOMESDAY translation and followed this down through the centuries until the land was acquired by the Wimpole estate, as it all was. For the translations we used the English version by Alecto Historical Editions

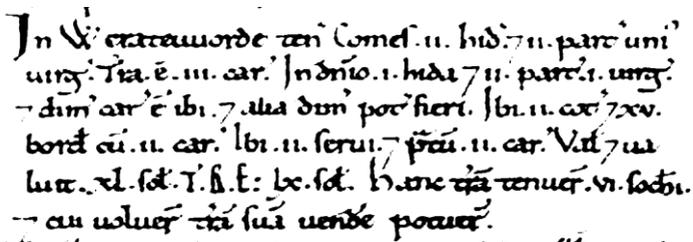
1992. It is interesting that Alecto chooses to use the name Ratford, which is the same spelling as Hare used on his 1638 map.

We drew heavily on the Victoria County History (Cambridgeshire Vol V) and searched for any texts that might shed light on the ownership of these manors. We tried to unravel multiple family allegiances with clues often in other parishes.

### A. The manor that became known as WRATWORTH

This was by far the largest manor in the parish. Our research suggests the land of this manor lay to the east of Wimpole and is today wholly, or mainly, in Orwell Parish.

The original DOMESDAY entry reads as follows:



In Wratford ten Comes. ii. hid. 7 ii. part' uni  
virg. Tria ē. iii. car. In dem'no. i. hid. 7 ii. part' i. virg.  
- dim' car' ē ibi. 7 alia dim' pot' fieri. Ibi. ii. cot' 7 xv.  
bord' cū. ii. car. Ibi. ii. serui. 7 p'ci. ii. car. Val' 7 u  
luc. xl. sol. T. h. t. lx. sol. hanc t'ā tenuer. vi. sokem.  
- cui uoluer' t'ā suā uende' poter'.

In "Ratford" the earl [Roger of Shrewsbury] holds 2 hides and 2 parts of a virgate. There is land for 3 ploughs. In demesne [is] 1 hide and 2 parts of 1 virgate, and there is half a plough and there can be another half. There are 2 cottars and 15 bordars with 2 ploughs. There are 2 slaves, and meadow for 2 ploughs. It is and was worth 40s; TRE (in the time of King Edward) 60s. 6 sokemen held this land and could sell their land to whom they would.

In 1066 the six sokemen holding the land were the men of five Anglo-Saxon large landowners. Namely Robert Fitzwimarc, King Edward, Archbishop Strigand, Eddeva the fair and Earl Aelfgar (*Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis [ICC]*). In 1086 Earl Roger held over half this manor for his own use, but it looks as though the villagers "rented" most of the ploughland.

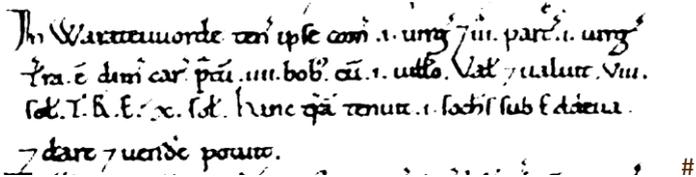
In 1279 Richard Francis held two manors (VCH footnote 109), one of which was probably Wratworth. The Walter family of Croydon held it from 1392 until 1593 when the manor of Wratworth Croydon, *alias* Francis's, *alias* Tallboys was sold to Anthony Cage of Caxton. In 1638 tithes for this manor were being paid to Orwell

(VCH fn239). The Chicheleys leased the manor from 1566 and in 1686 Adlard and Sekeford Cage of Caxton sold the manor to John Cutler.

**B. The manor that became known as BEECH’S or AVENELLS**

We can be fairly sure that this manor was located to the north of Wimpole Hall in the area of the field names Avenells Piece, Bushie Avenells and Great Avenells (the latter being our favourite site for the manor house) on Hare’s 1638 map.

The original DOMESDAY entry reads as follows:



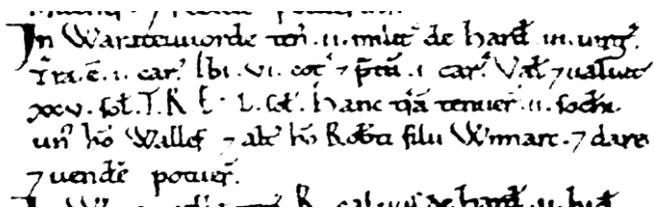
In "Ratford" the count [Count Alan Rufus, Earl of Brittany] himself holds 1 virgate and the third part of 1 virgate. There is land for half a plough, [and] meadow for 4 oxen, with 1 villan. It is and was worth 8s; TRE 10s. 1 sokeman held this land under Eadigfu (Eddeva) and could give and sell it.

The history of this manor is not easy to disentangle, but it was held by the Beach family in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and passed to the Avenel(l)s by 1279. It was sold to Sir Simon Burgh (VCH fn125) in 1389, who passed it to William Staundon, Lord Mayor of London. William’s widow released her life interest to Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury in 1428. In 1686 the manor was sold to John Cutler.

**C. The manor that became known as MORTIMER’S or PECCHIE**

We really are not sure where this manor lay, but it seems likely it abutted the other Mortimer lands in Kingston. On this weak link we have drawn in part of the parish of Wratworth in the northern part of Wimpole abutting Kingston parish.

The original DOMESDAY entry reads as follows:



In "Ratford" 2 knights hold 3 virgates from Hardwin. There is land

*for 1 plough. There are 6 cottars, and meadow for 1 plough. It is and was worth 25s; TRE 50s. 2 sokemen held this land, one of the man of Waltheof and the other the man of Robert fitzWimarc, and they could give and sell [their land].*

The history of this manor is even more complicated, but there appears to be a link between this manor, Bancs manor and Beech's manor, with common references to the Pecche and Peverell families. The Mortimer family of Kingston were the overlords for a time.

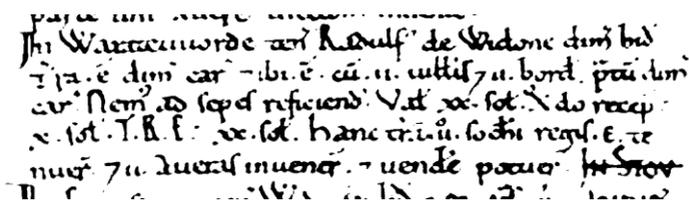
Some members of the Mortimer family were living in Wimpole, as is suggested by an Ada cu le Mor paying the lay subsidy in 1327, but apart from this hint of occupation, we have not yet been able to trace the history of these lands.

The lands making up this manor passed as part of the Chicheley estate to John Cutler in 1686

#### **D. The manor that became known as FRANCIS'S OR COBB'S**

Although we are not sure of the exact extent of this manor, it was almost certainly located to the East of Wimpole parish and included land marked Frauncis's, Cobbes, Great Cobbes and probably Ratford on Hare's map of 1638.

The original DOMESDAY entry reads as follows:



*In "Ratford" Ralph (de Bancs) holds half a hide from Guy [de Raimbeaucourt]. There is land for half a plough, and there is [half a plough], with 2 villans and 2 bordars. [There is] meadow for half a plough, [and] a wood to repair fences. It is worth 20s; when received, 10s; TRE 20s. 2 sokemen of King Edward held this land; and they provided 2 cartage-dues, and could sell it*

In 1086 the villagers appear to be working directly for Ralph, and he had 60 sheep and 15 pigs (ICC). In 1166 William Francis holds the manor (VCH fn104)

As an insight as to how difficult it is to unravel the landholdings at any early point in history we share this entry from the Red Book (332): "1166 William Francis gives

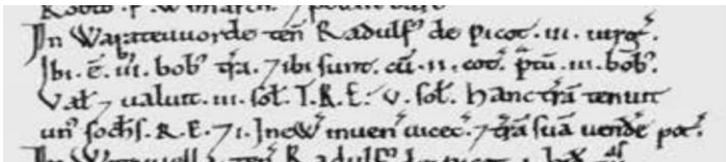
part of his land in Wimpole to Hawis, the prioress, abutting the common road that goes to Baldwin St George and abutting at the other end on the land of Robert de Beche towards the North. This was exchanged for land lying under William's wood to enable him to enlarge his ditch from that wood" Is this a reference to Cobb's Wood?

The Francis family continued to hold the manor until Eleanor, daughter of Richard Francis, remarried to Geoffrey Cobb(e), by 1376 (VCH fn115). During the Peasants' Revolt, Geoffrey organised a small rebel band which attacked the property of two local landowners in neighbouring villages (*Mingji Xu, Corpus Christi College*). He was charged but later pardoned. William Staundon purchased the manor in 1401, and it descended with Staundon's other properties. (see Avenell's manor) (VCH fn119).

### **E. The manor that became known as BANKS OR BAUNCES**

Although probably not helping with the full extent of this manorial holding, Hare gives a clue on his 1638 map as to where any manor house might have been. A small parcel tucked in between Avenell's and Francis' at the junction of the parish road and a track heading west is called Bauncis

.The original DOMESDAY entry reads as follows:



*In "Ratford" Ralph (de Bancs) holds 3 virgates from Picot (Sheriff of Cambridge). There is land for 3 oxen and there are [3 oxen], with 2 cottars. [There is] meadow for 3 oxen. It is and was worth 3s; TRE 5s. A sokeman of King Edward held this land, and he provided 1 watchman for the sheriff, and could sell his land*

Although the overlordship became divided and passed through the Pecche family, the Bancs (Banks) family held the manor until at least 1316. It then passed through various hands until, in 1548, Sir John Hinde granted the manor to Thomas Chicheley as a marriage settlement. In 1686 it was sold to John Cutler.



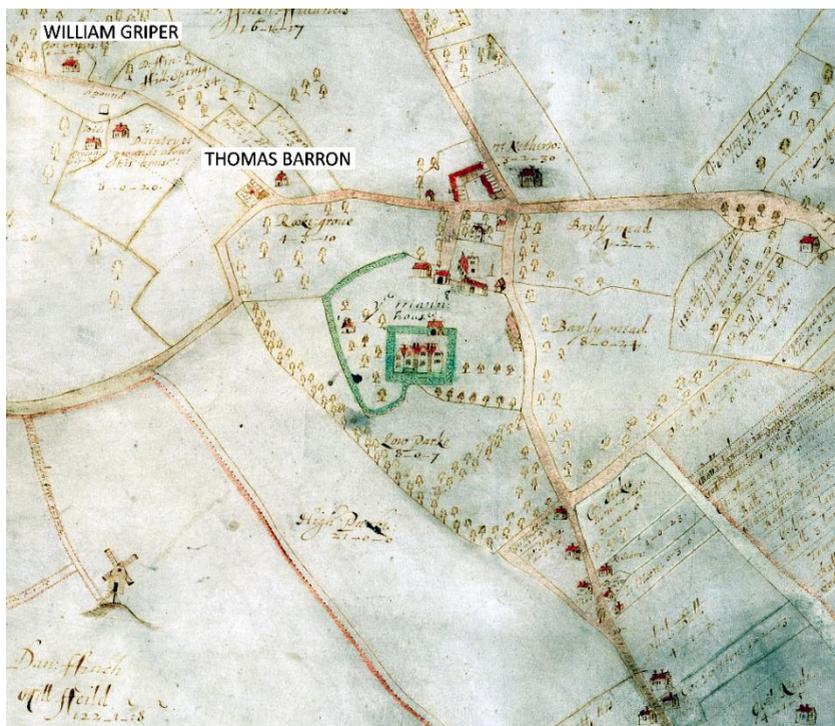


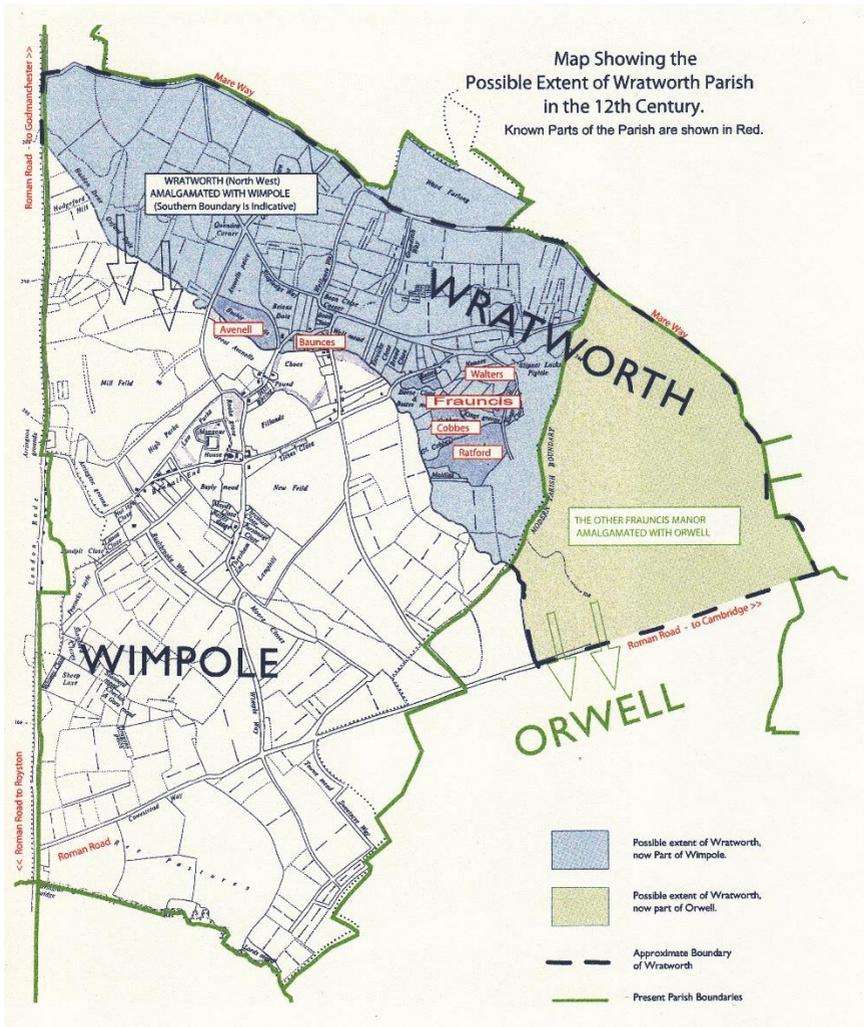
Image courtesy of Cambridge Records Office

PLATE 2. Extract from 1638 Hare map showing Wm Griper and Tho Barron's houses north east of the manor house



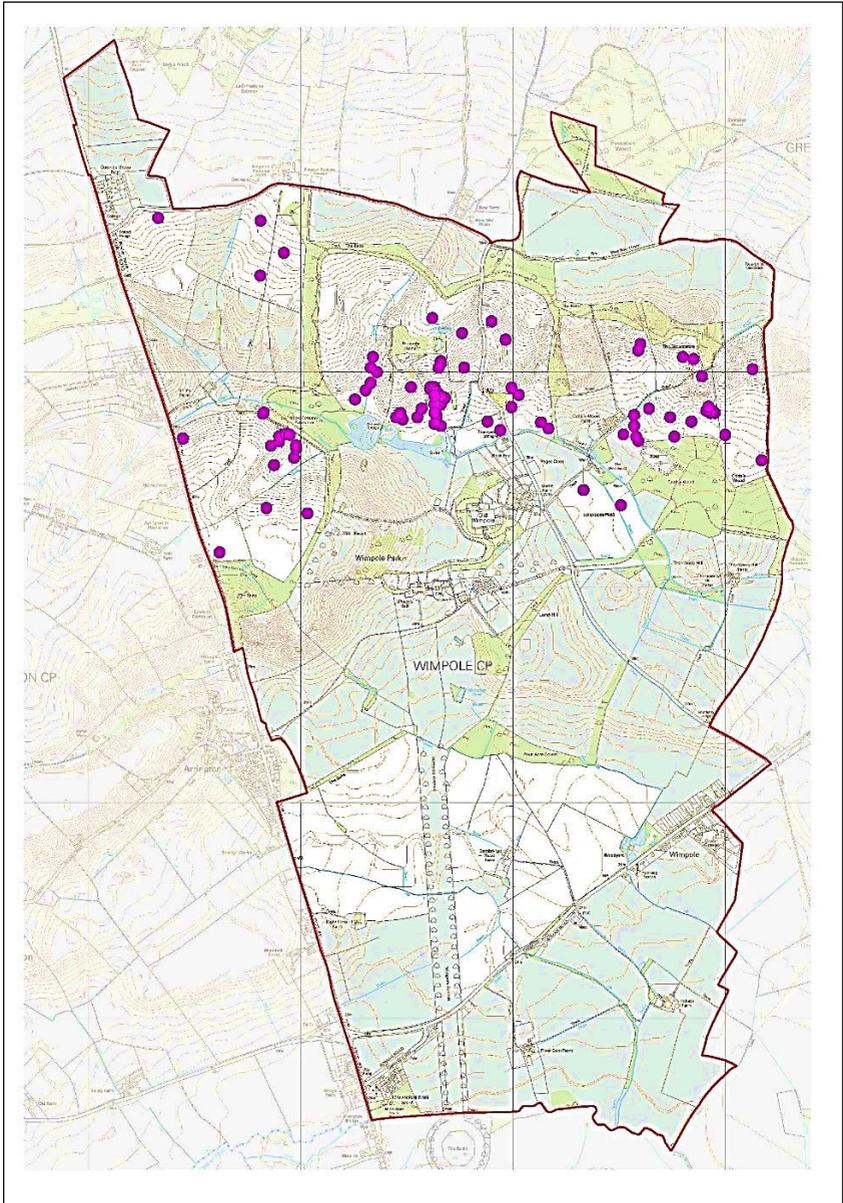
Image courtesy of Cambridge Records Office

PLATE 3. Extract from 1638 Hare map showing Mr Stokes' house



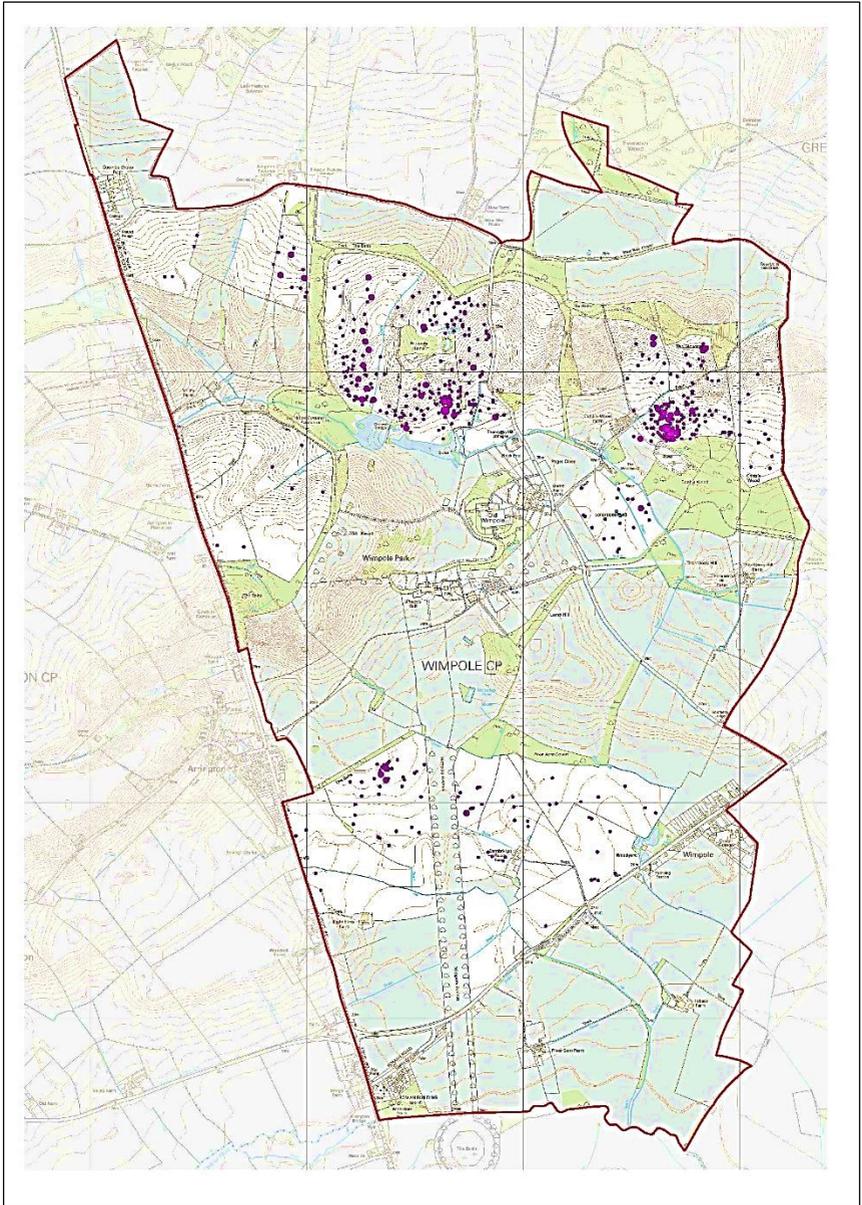
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PLATE 4. Map showing the possible parish of Wratworth and its subsequent split between Wimpole and Orwell.



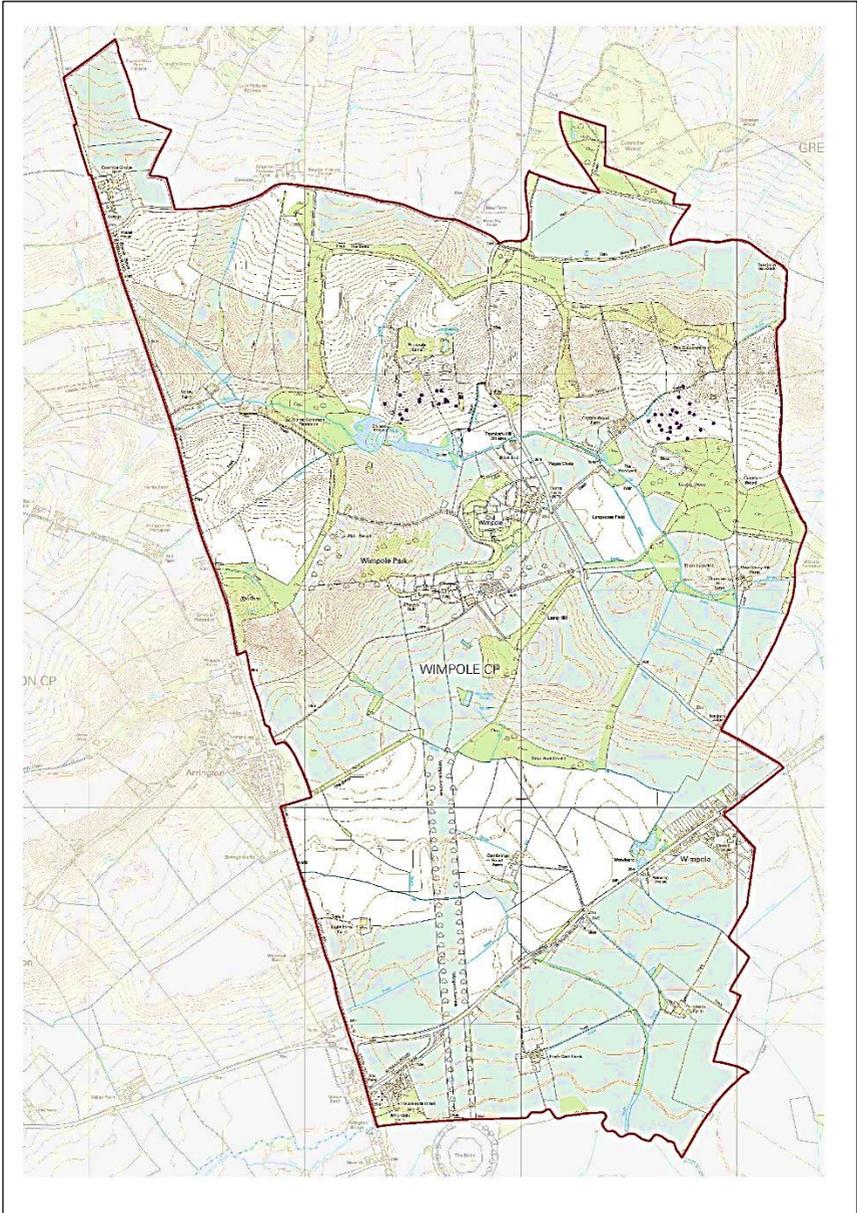
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PLATE 5. Distribution map for prehistoric flints (4<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium BC) in Wimpole parish



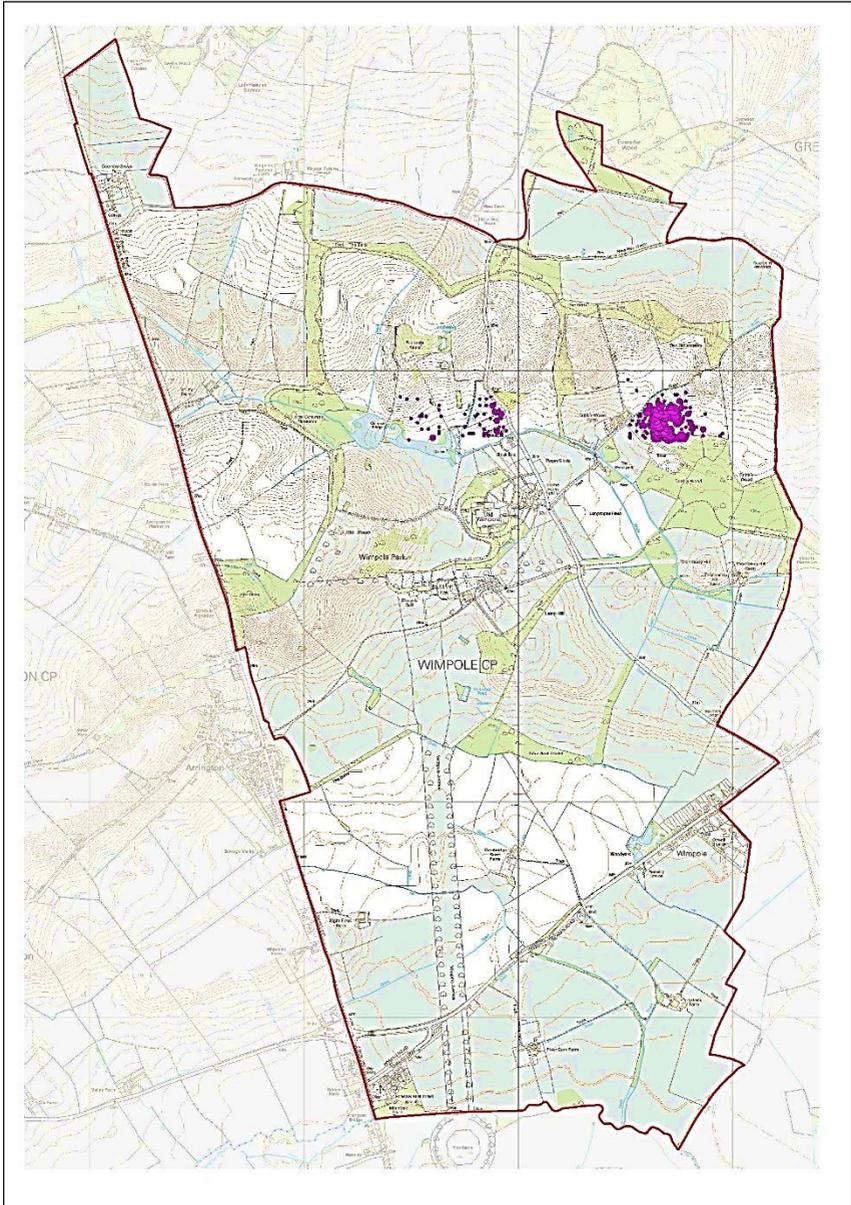
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PLATE 6. Distribution map for Roman pottery (50 – 400AD) in Wimpole parish



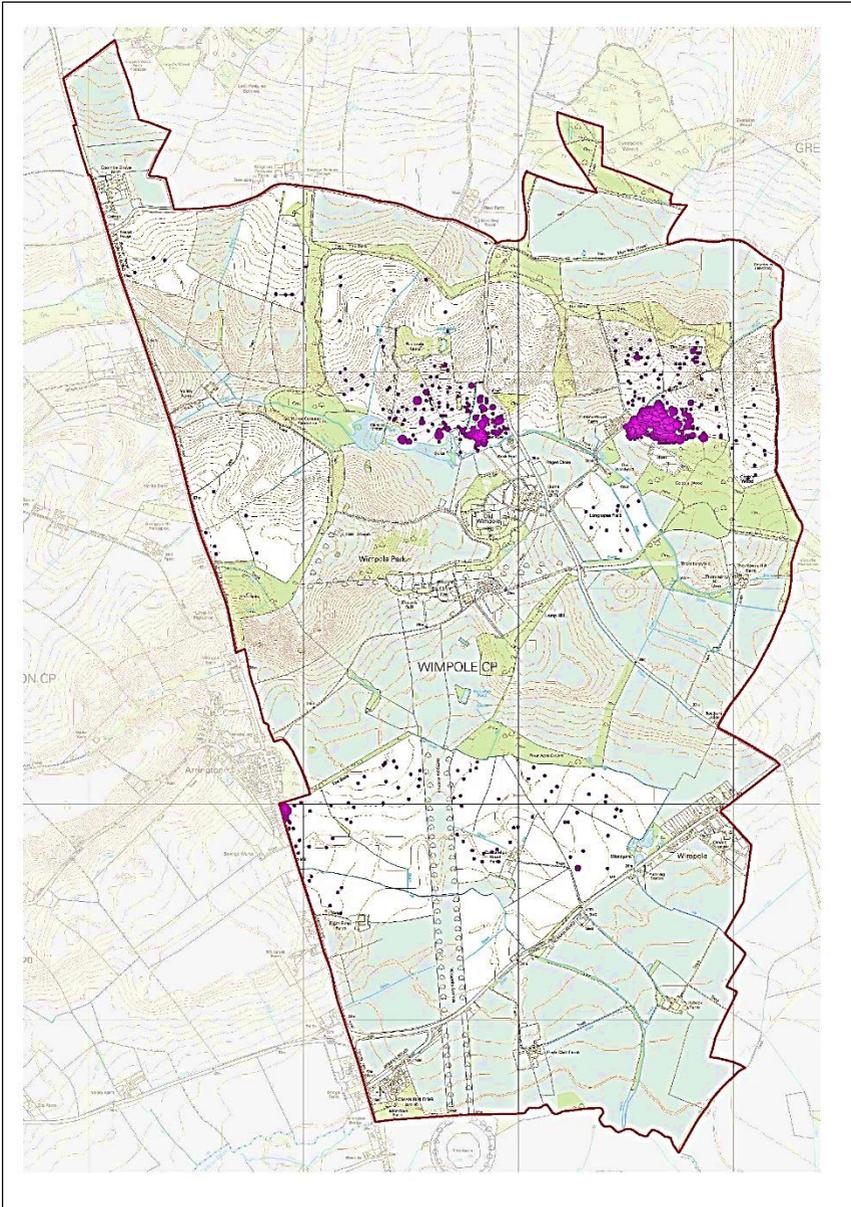
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PLATE 7. Distribution map for Early/Mid Saxon pottery (450 – 850AD) in Wimpole parish



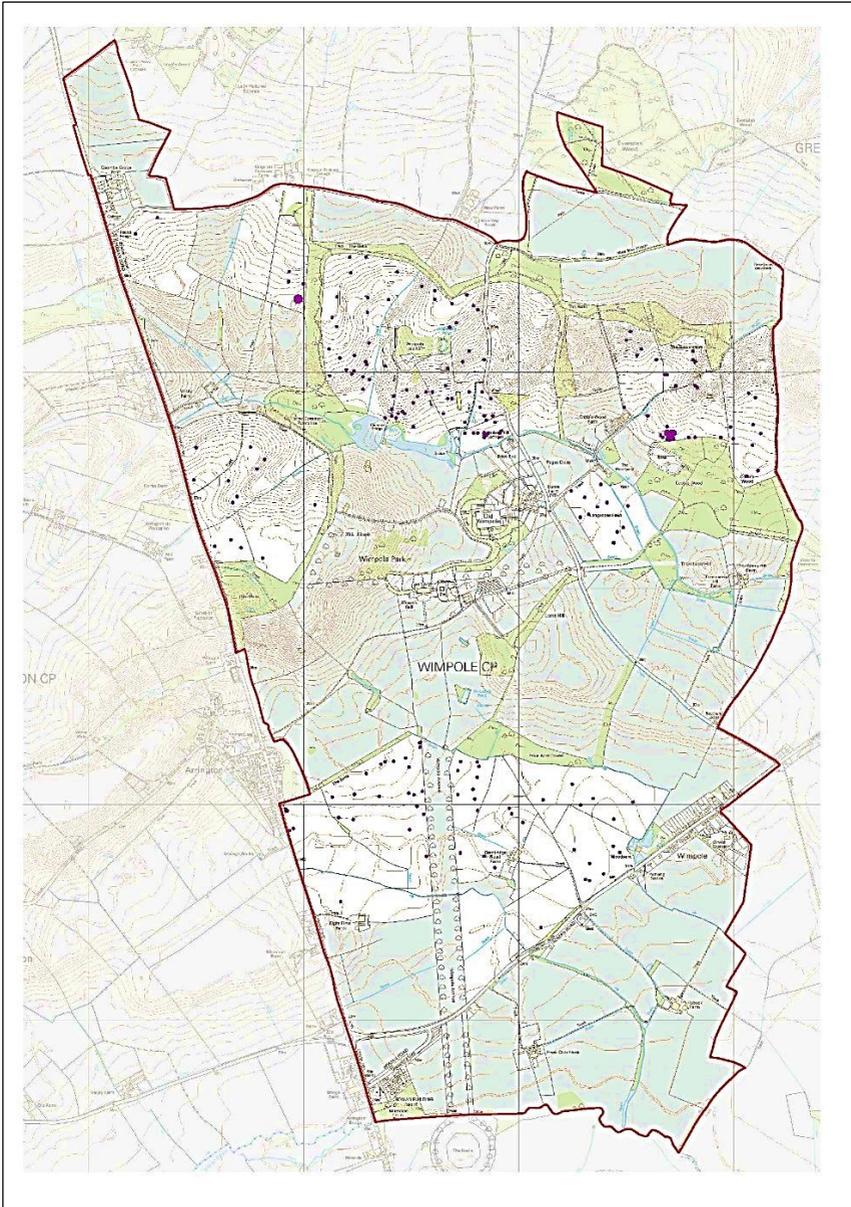
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PLATE 8. Distribution map for Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman pottery (900 – 1150AD) in Wimpole parish



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PLATE 9. Distribution map for Medieval pottery (1150 – 1400AD) in Wimpole parish

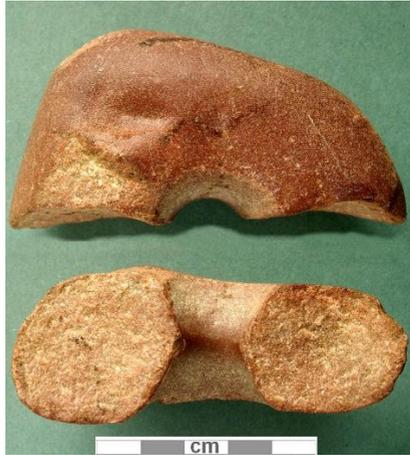


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PLATE 10. Distribution map for Late Medieval pottery (1400 – 1550AD) in Wimpole parish



12<sup>th</sup> C Gilt bronze horse pendant



Neolithic pebble hammer



King John halfpenny 1199 – 1216AD



Crotal bell

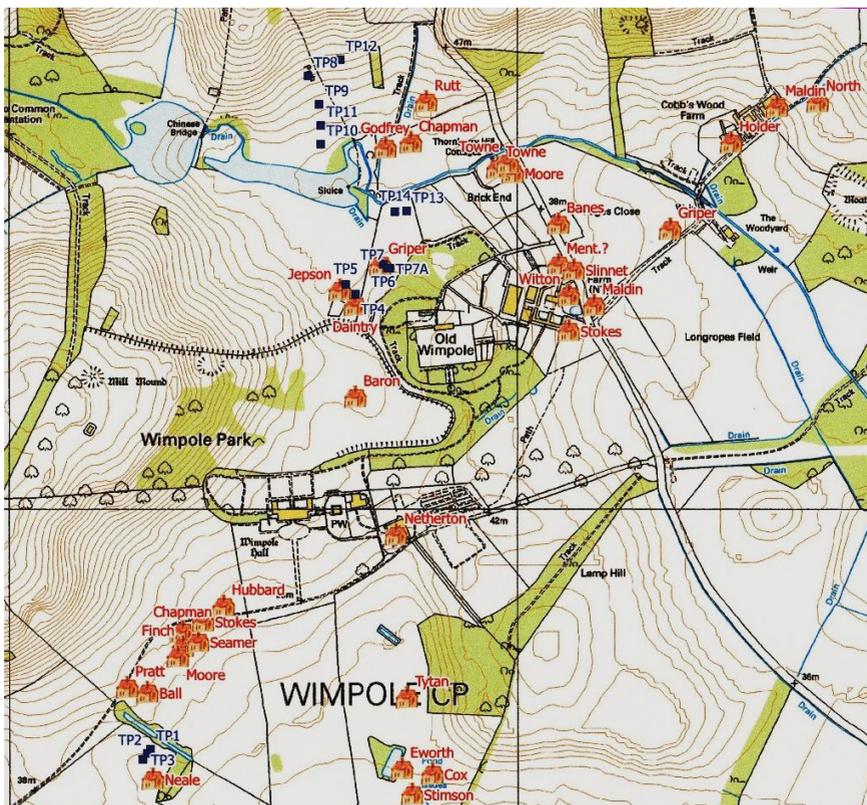


Niedermendig lava quernstone



Clay pipe, by Anne Cleever, mid 19<sup>th</sup> C

PLATE 11. Finds from our field walking and metal detecting work



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PLATE 12. Houses shown on the Hare map and test pit locations on OS map



PLATE 13. Test pitting in the park

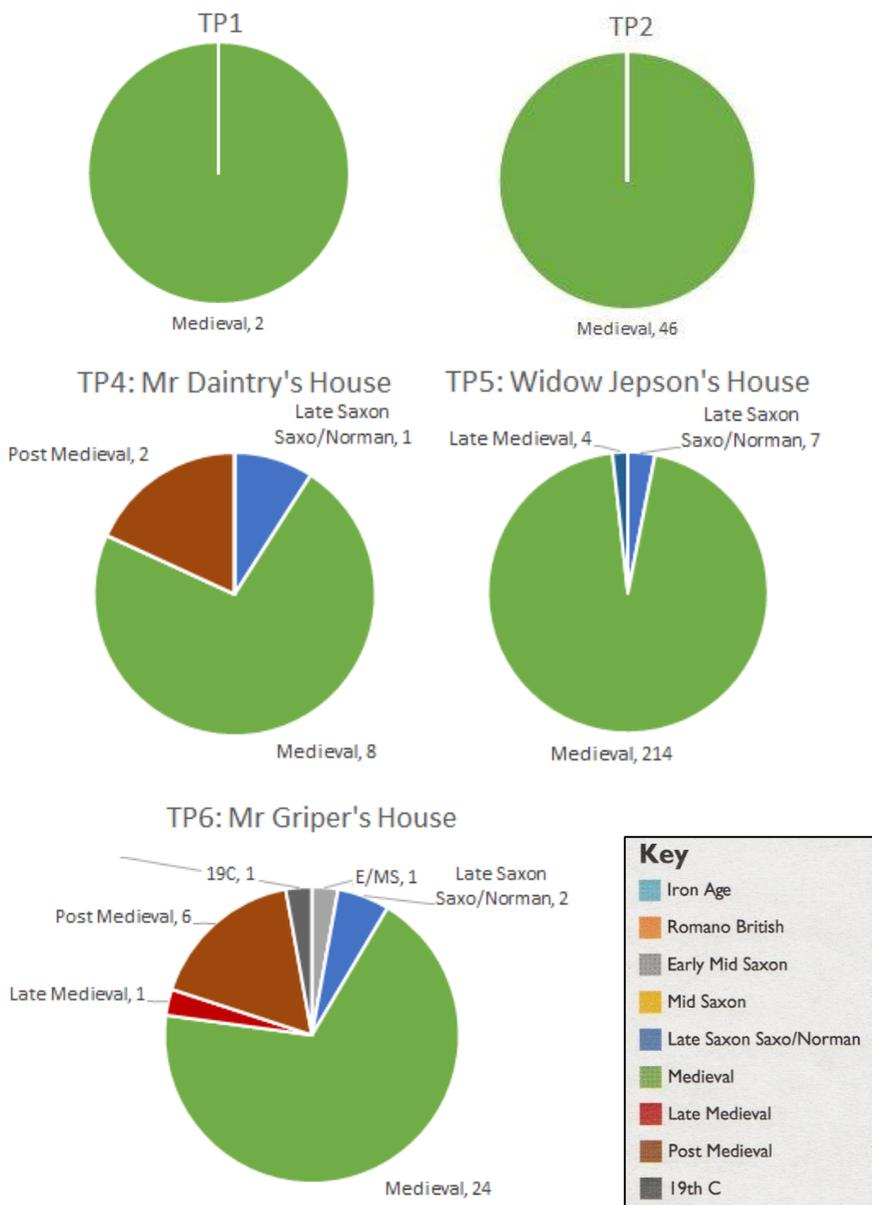
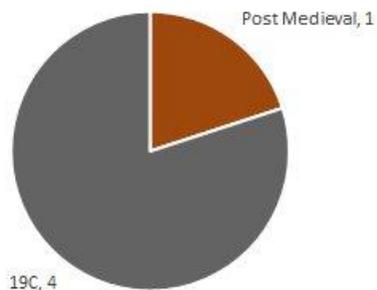
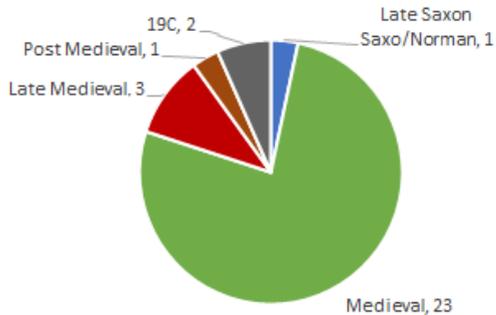


PLATE 14. Pottery type/amount Pie charts for Test Pits 1 - 6

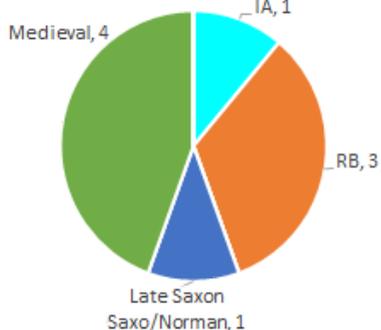
TP7: Mr Griper's House



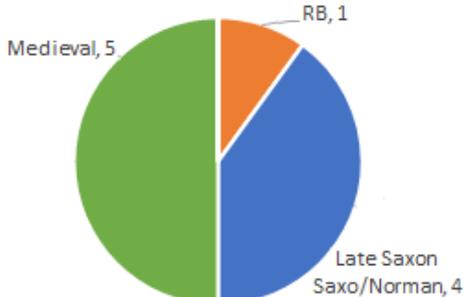
TP7A: Mr Griper's House



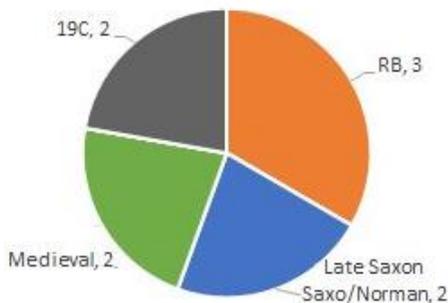
TP8



TP9



TP10



**Key**



PLATE 15. Pottery type/amount Pie charts for Test Pits 7 - 10

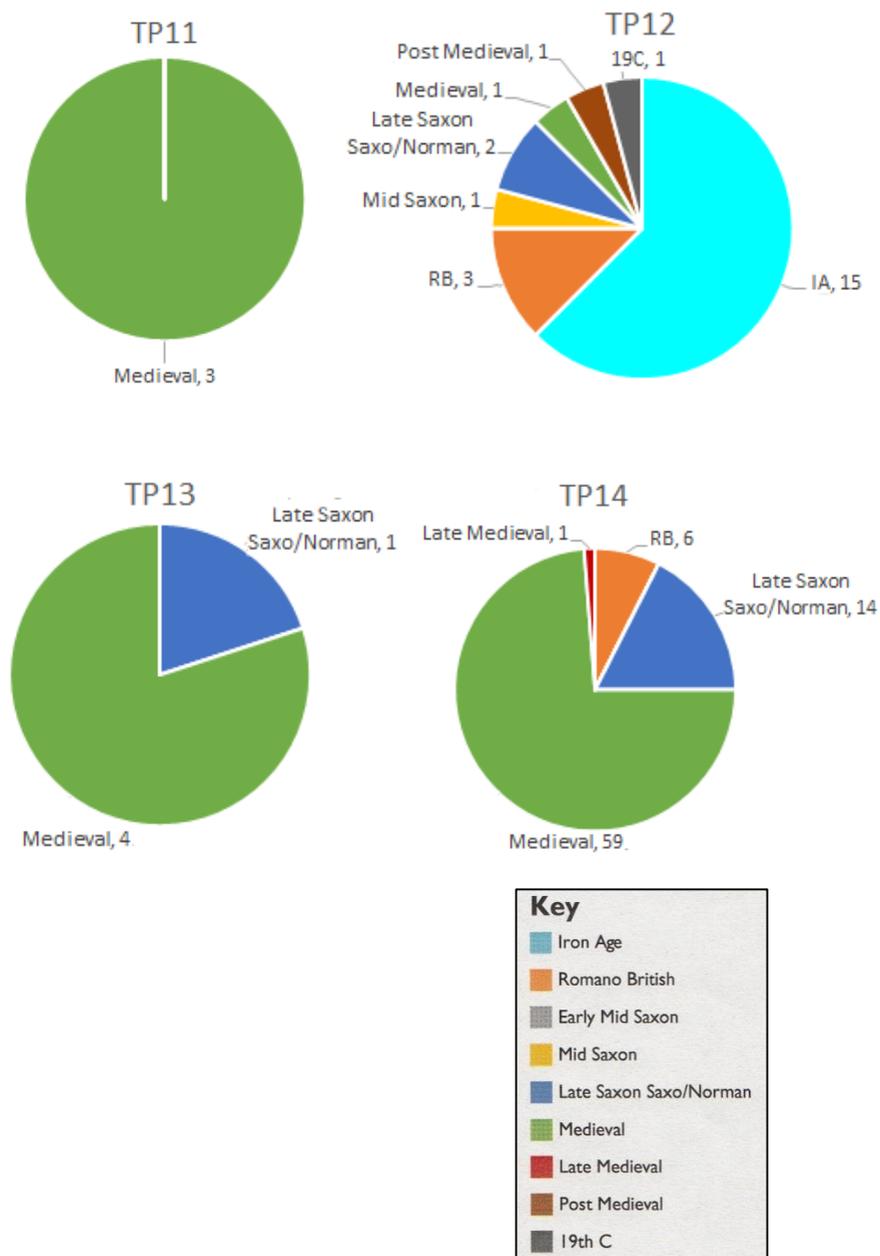


PLATE 16. Pottery type/amount Pie charts for Test Pits 11 – 14

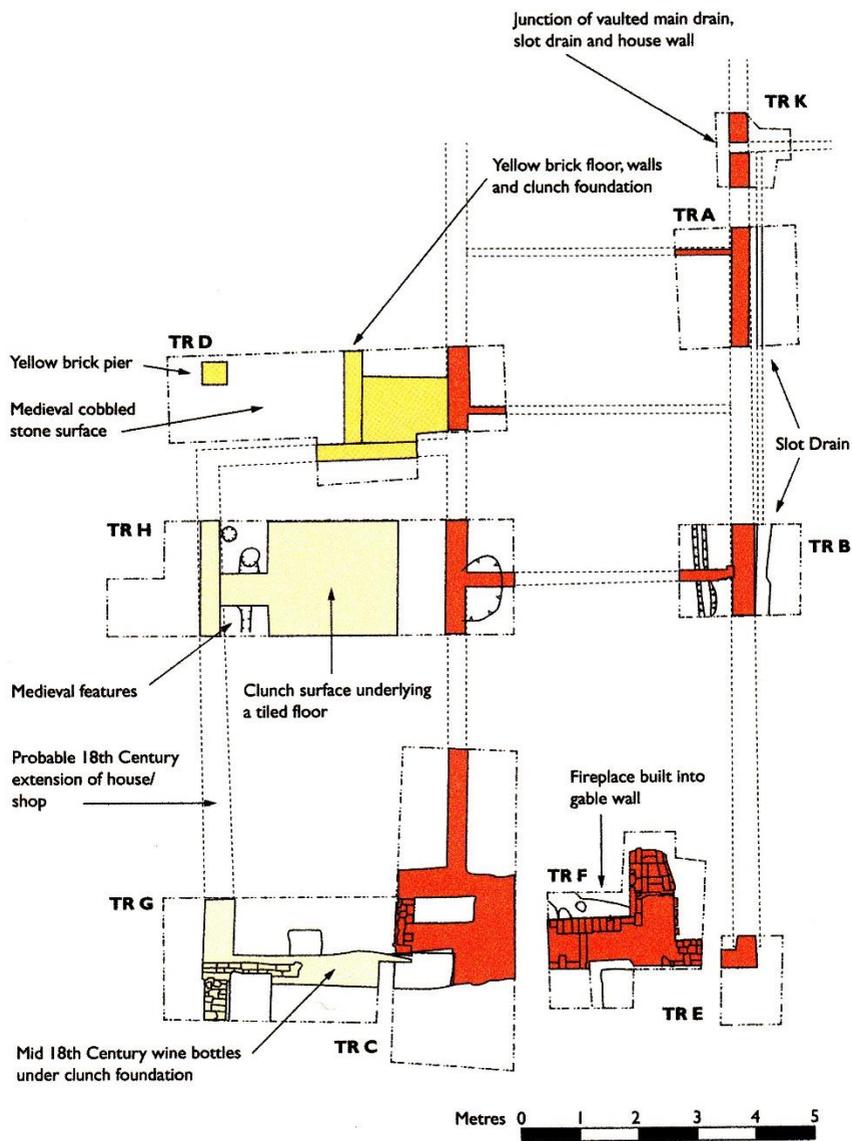


PLATE 17. Excavation plan of Mr Ratford's house



## OTHER REFERENCES

In 1515 Wimpole and Orwell shared grazing on Wrotford Green. (*VCH*).

Wratworth was said to contain 160 acres of arable and meadow in Eversden and Wimpole in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (*VCH*).

On the Hare map of 1638, part of what is now known as Cobb's Wood was called Ratford, and this map of the estate is blank to the modern boundary with Orwell.

## CAN YOU HELP?

Another Manor, St George's, existed to the south of Cobb's between 1166 and 1553 and needs to be located, as do the manors of Claydon's, Tallboys and Gaunt's, and priory held lands. Also, many commentators have concluded that another lost village of Whitwell may have lain to the south west somewhere around Arrington bridge. (*VCH* fn169). Wimpole references to the Cauf (Calvus) family particularly suggest this village was all or part of today's Wimpole or at least abutting.

## A GROUP OF FAMILY NAMES THAT CAN BE TRACED BACK TO OUR LOST VILLAGE?

Whilst we were researching the parish records, we noted the predominance of names that looked suspiciously like derivations of Wratworth. This poses the question as to whether our lost village has survived in the family names of people we can see in the historical record.

Johannes and Walterus de WRATTEWORTH were jurymen in Orwell in 1260.

A Margery de WRATTEWORE appeared in Wimpole in 1279.

Also in the Lay subsidy rolls of 1327 Laurenc de Wrotteworth appears in Wimpole and Basilia and Willo de Wratteworth in Orwell & Malkeston (Malton). It was common at that time for people to appear as 'from' a place.

The parish records of baptisms, marriages and burials commence around 1565 and in Wimpole up to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century we find people whose surname is recorded as Rutt, Rutter and sometimes Rutterforth(e). There is a single birth record in Whaddon in 1616 where one of the children of a Wimpole family is recorded as Rutterworth. This is the strongest link to the original name of our lost village. There is another local family group using the surname Ratford. This particular family is covered in more detail on pages 36 – 39.

As in Wimpole we find in the parish records for Orwell a family group using the name Rutt or even Rut in its most shortened form, but not in any longer form as we found in Wimpole.

We previously observed that our lost village was being remembered as Ratford as on the Hare map of 1638 so it is not surprising to find families struggling with the correct spelling of the longer form of the name.

William Ratford, born in nearby Whaddon, worked as a carpenter on the estate. He died in 1771, presumably to be succeeded by a son, John Ratford, who first appears in accounts in 1788. We excavated his house at Wimpole in 2010 and 11.

### FIELDWORK EVIDENCE

There is a moated site within Cobbs Wood, surveyed by CAFG and shown in Figure 5. It has not been proven that this is the site of a manor house, but it is highly likely. Pottery of the 11th to 13th centuries was found inside and outside the moated enclosure. If correct, this would suggest that it is the location of Francis's manor house. Cobb held the manor in the late 14th century but may not have lived in Wimpole.

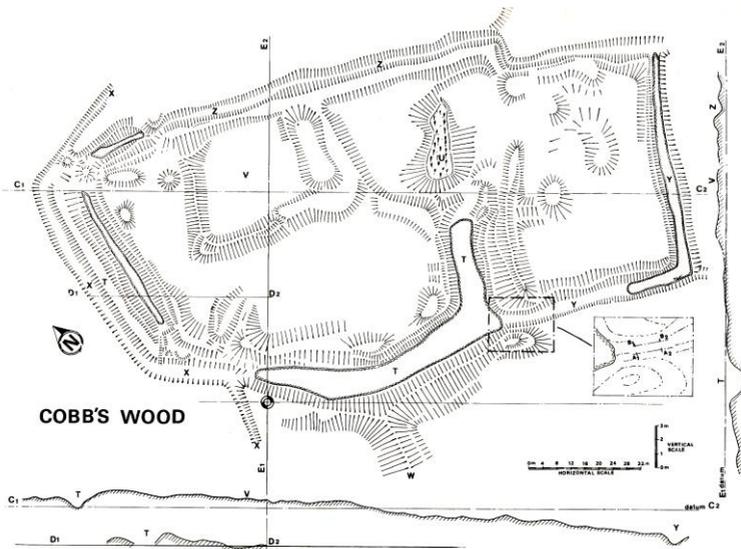


Figure 5. Survey plan of moated site

## FAMILY TREE ILLUSTRATING USE OF LONGER FORMS. GENERALLY RUTTER IS USED AFTER 1617.

William, who is born about 1540, has 10 children (first five christened RUTTER)

William uses RUTTER, RUTTERFORD & RUTTERFORTH between 1566 & 1583

Mary, his wife, uses RUTTER

- 1) William RUTTER 1567?, uses RUTTERFORTH in 1608 & 1653 (death)  
Alice, his wife, uses RUTTER
  - (1) John RUTTER FORTH 1608
  - (2) Roda RUTTERFORTH 1610, RUTTER 1624 (death)
  - (3) William RUTTERFORD 1614
  - (4) Thomas RUTTERWORTH of Whaddon 1616
    - (a) Thomas RUTTERFORTH of Arrington 1647
    - (b) Thomas's 8 children were christened RUTTER in Tadlow
    - (c) ? = Tho RUTTER d1702 Tadlow
    - (d) George RUTTERFORTH of Arrington 1651, RUTTER 1713 (death)
    - (e) John RUTTER FORTH of Arrington 1661
  - (5) Laurence RUTTERFORD of Whaddon 1619
  - (6) Marie RUTTERFORD of Whaddon 1620
  - (7) Marcy RUTTER of Wimpole 1622
  - (8) Alice R? of Croydon 1626
  - (9) Ann RUTTER of Wimpole 1628
  - (10) Abraham RUTTER of Wimpole 1630
- 2) Mary RUTTER (uses RUTTERFORTH in 1589)
- 3) Agnes RUTTER 1572 (uses RUTTERFORTH 1589-90)
- 4) Alice RUTTER 1570 (uses RUTTERFORTH 1587-90)
- 5) Clement RUTTER 1574, 1603 (marriage), 1631 (death). 1606, 1617. Uses RUTTERFORTH 1595-98  
Jane, his wife, used RUTTERFORD 1606, RUTTER 1617 & RUTTERFORTH 1658 (death).  
Clement's children were:
  - (1) Anne RUTTERFORD 1604, RUTTER as godparents 1620-26
  - (2) James RUTTERFORTH 1608
  - (3) Alice RUTTERFORTH 1610, RUTTER 1614 (death)
  - (4) Ellin RUTTERFORD 1613
  - (5) Clement RUTTER 1618
  - (6) William RUTTER 1621  
William had at least 3 children
    - (a) William Rutterforth of Arrington
    - (b) *There is a gap here*
    - (c) Elizabeth Rutterford of Wimpole
    - (d) Sarah Rutterford of Wimpole 1653
  - (7) Priscilla Rutterforth 1624, died 1639
- 6) Ellen RUTTER 1577 (uses RUTTERFORTH 1585-1603)
- 7) Thomas is christened RUTTERFORTH in 1579  
*(Thomas uses RUTTER when he marries & for his children)*
- 8) Isabell is christened RUTTERFORTH in 1584, used RUTTER 1612
- 9) Ursuley is christened RUTTERFORTH in 1587 and
- 10) John is christened RUTTERFORTH in 1589  
*Probably is the John RUTTERFORTH who dies in Wendy in 1658, his 5 children were christened RUTTER.  
Eldest, John may be John RATFORD churchwarden in Wimpole in 1686.  
Youngest Thomas known as John, has 10 children in Wendy. 8 christened RUTTER, but Ann & Mary are RUTTERFORD*

## EVIDENCE FROM FIELDWALKING AND METAL DETECTING

### FIELDWALKING

CAFG has been carrying out a programme of fieldwalking on the Wimpole Estate for many years. Not all of the Estate has been studied, because much of it is down to grassland and fieldwalking requires cultivated surfaces free of crops. However, we have completed our survey of arable land, which constitutes approximately 35-40% of the parish of Wimpole. The fields we have walked lie in two main areas: on the rising ground north of the Hall - mainly north of the lakes - and in the south of the Estate. Our finds are limited to these areas, and much evidence for past human activity remains buried under grass and buildings.

Fields were walked in a systematic way by members searching in straight transects across the field 10m apart. Collected artefacts were placed in bags with identifying tags and their positions were determined using a hand-held satellite GPS recorder. After washing, finds were identified and recorded. We are grateful to medieval pottery expert Paul Blinkhorn for his analysis of the pottery. Not all finds have been pottery, for example **Plate 11** has pictures of parts of a pebble hammer and lava quernstone found by fieldwalking, but they constitute a minority of recovered items

The earliest evidence we have found for human activity at Wimpole is a scatter of worked flints, see **Plate 5**. These are mainly waste flakes from the manufacture of implements, but some show signs of retouch to convert them into tools such as scrapers. It is likely that most of the flints are from the Bronze Age, dating from the late 3<sup>rd</sup> to the early 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC; but some may be Neolithic, dating back to perhaps the early 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC. The most interesting find from the Stone Age was the broken pebble hammer found in the south near the Cambridge Road. This is difficult to date; it is likely to be Neolithic, but could date from the earlier Mesolithic Age, and may therefore be the oldest artefact that we have found at Wimpole. All the worked flints found were from fields in the northern part of the estate. This distribution may simply reflect the limited geographic extent of our fieldwalking activity on the Estate; but it might reflect a concentration of human activity on the south facing slope north of the east-west stream during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

We found approximately 750 artefacts dating from the Roman occupation, see **Plate 6**. The majority of these were pottery, but they also include some pieces of quern, mortaria, and a small number of coins and other metal work. The finds come mainly from the area of the Estate north of the lakes, but unlike the prehistoric finds, scatters of Roman pottery were found in the area south of the Hall. In addition, a field to the northeast of the Hall produced large amounts of Roman roof tile, suggesting the presence of a significant building here. In the late 1980s, Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Office conducted an excavation prior to alteration of the junction between the A603 and A1198. They found evidence of Roman buildings and field boundaries, interpreted as relating to support of passing traffic on Ermine Street. Together with our fieldwalking findings, this suggests that a substantial Romano-British farming centre must have existed somewhere in the parish of Wimpole.

Perhaps the most interesting and unexpected group of pottery dates from Early to Middle Saxon times (~450 – 850 AD). This was concentrated in a narrow scatter to the north of the Lakes, see **Plate 7**. These finds are notable because pottery from this period is relatively rare, perhaps reflecting the changing technologies from Romano-British to early Saxon societies.

Evidence for increasing population on the Estate comes from the greatly increased number of Late Saxon and Medieval pottery finds dating from around 900 – 1400 AD. We found particularly large concentrations in the region of Cobbs Wood, see **Plate 8** and **Plate 9**, and this may provide evidence for the presence of a manor in this area, possibly that of Wratworth, which may have been a centre of settlement during these times.

It is interesting that the number of pieces of pottery dating from the Later Medieval period (1400 – 1550) are considerably fewer than for the previous period, see **Plate 10**, despite the fact that the well-fired pottery made after 1400 would be expected to survive for longer. Although the reduction in pottery may be due simply to the shorter time period, it could provide evidence for a lower population than in the preceding Medieval and Late Saxon periods, an observation that has been reported from many sites of similar age. Such a reduction in population probably resulted from the Black Death, which devastated the population of Europe in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century.

Further analysis of the pottery and other finds from fieldwalking, test pits and other excavations will no doubt allow a more detailed account to be made of the extent and duration of occupation throughout the parish.

## METAL DETECTING

A group of members and others carried out a detailed investigation with metal detectors in a number of small areas, and this yielded a significant collection of metalwork dating to the medieval period. Among the finds in one area examined by Helen Geake (independent finds specialist) were relatively rare 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> century harness ornaments (see **Plate 11**); 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century copper alloy strap ends and dress pins (see Figure 6 below), some showing Scandinavian influence.



Figure 6. Anglo-Saxon dress pin with grooved twist (wrythern) decoration



Figure 7. Coin of Cunobelinus (photo courtesy of Rodney Scarle)

A number of coins were recovered which can be grouped into the following broad periods:-

- Late Iron Age (1 coin)
- Roman (11 coins)
- Late Saxon/Medieval (9 coins)
- Post-medieval (10 coins)
- Modern, post-Victorian (2 coins)

Some key points about this interesting assemblage are:-

- The coins span two millennia in date.
- The Iron Age coin shown in Figure 7 is a bronze issue of Cunobelinus, King of the Trinovantes and Catuvellauni, who held sway over this region before the Roman conquest of AD 43.

- The Roman coins, all in poor condition, span the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries and include the issues of two empresses. There is one particularly late coin of the House of Theodosius that may just have crept into the 5<sup>th</sup> century.
- The coin of Aethelred II (“The Unready”) is a local issue of the Cambridge (GRANTE) mint (991-997 AD).
- Of the hammered silver issues of the medieval period, there is one notably rare coin. This is a penny (or sterling) of John Balliol, King of Scotland (1292-1296), whose nickname was “Toom Tabard”, Scottish dialect for “empty suit”. This nickname partly reflects his forced abdication in 1296.
- Others included a silver halfpenny of King John (1199 – 1216 AD), shown in **Plate 11**, and a silver penny of King Stephen (1135-1154 AD) shown in Figure 8.

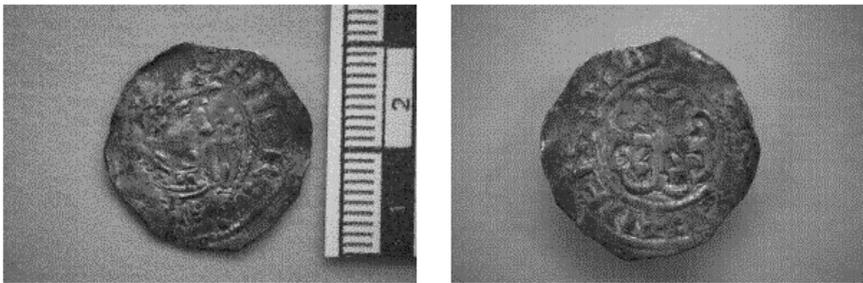


Figure 8. Coin of King Stephen (photo courtesy of Paul Lugg)

The range of finds from this particular area, dating from the Bronze Age to the late medieval period, suggests a prolonged and sustained history of settlement in this region of the parish of Wimpole.

Two coins recovered from excavations at Mr Ratford’s house are shown in **Plate 18**, consisting of a silver Charles II 3 penny piece and a 1667 token issued by John Bird, a member of the Merchant Taylor’s Guild who operated somewhere in Cambridge (probably Trumpington Street). A George III Irish halfpenny also found may be a Birmingham forgery.

## EVIDENCE FROM TEST PITTING

### TEST PIT EXCAVATIONS

A major part of the field work for the HLF funded project was to excavate test pits near known sites of medieval occupation as shown on the 1638 map by Benjamin Hare, see **Plate 12**. The objective was to recover evidence of the earliest and latest date for any domestic activity. It was hoped that we would find datable pottery, building material and metal artifacts. In the event, fifteen 1m square test pits were completed in July 2013, the hottest week of the year, by members of CAFG, local people and National Trust volunteers, see **Plate 13**. A further ten test pits had been excavated in the early part of the year at Cobbs Wood.

### COMMENTS ON THE TEST PIT RESULTS IN THE PARK

All the pottery from the test pits excavated in July 2013 (and from Cobbs Wood) was sent to Paul Blinkhorn, an independent pottery specialist, for identification. The results for pottery recorded by period, and the recorded nature of the soil, have been put into a series of charts. The pie charts for pottery by period are shown in Plates **14 - 16**.

Some pottery types are very long lived and widespread, for example Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE). Others, such as Early/Middle Saxon Wares (EM/S), are rarely found and finding them is very suggestive of activity nearby in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of test pits demonstrate activity in the 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries; thereafter, for the early modern period, there is less pottery. This latter fact is perhaps surprising as the 1638 Hare map shows houses near the site of most test pits.

#### **Test Pit 1 - Mr Neale's house**

The four successive spits (each 10cm deep) excavated produced 3 grams of pottery – 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century Hertfordshire grey and Hedingham wares – but no significant evidence of occupation.

#### **Test Pit 2 - Mr Neale's house**

Spits 1, 2, and 3 produced pottery from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries – Hertfordshire grey, Hedingham and Ely wares, associated with significant numbers of oyster shells. Although a relatively thin layer of material, it suggests it is part of a midden deposit

from Mr Neale's house. No later wares were found, particularly those of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the date of the 1638 Hare map on which Mr Neale's house can be seen.

#### **Test Pit 3 - Mr Neale's house**

No pottery found, this test pit had a 10cm layer of soil and thereafter mainly grey clay – possibly re-deposited to fill the ditch surrounding Mr Neale's house platform.

#### **Test Pit 4 - Mr Daintry's house**

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, 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.

#### **Test Pit 5 - Widow Jepson's house**

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 sites, it suggests activity ceased or was greatly diminished after the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Test Pit 6 - Mr Griper's house**

The Early/Middle Saxon -5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> centuries - pottery is a notable find from this test pit, suggesting that 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.

Results for Test pits 1 – 6 are shown in **Plate 14**.

#### **Test Pit 7 - Mr Griper's house**

This test pit exposed a flat surface made up of a large number of big stone cobbles immediately under the turf, along with 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. As it seemed likely to be significant archaeology, it was decided to move to a position 3m to the west.

#### **Test Pit 7A - Mr Griper's house**

The pottery sequence is similar to test pit 6 but without the Early/Middle Saxon wares, 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.

### **Test Pit 8 - Folly Field**

This test pit was the furthest north of all in Folly Field, well up the slope away from the lakes. The pottery sequence present here is clearly different to TPs 1- 7A. Here there is an Iron Age sherd and a significant amount 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.

### **Test Pit 9 - Folly Field**

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. It is possible that the pottery is derived from this source and, therefore, it is difficult to interpret. Like TP 8, there is a small amount of Roman pottery but here a perhaps more significant amount of 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds. As elsewhere there is a notable absence of later pottery.

### **Test Pit 10 - Folly Field**

There are sherds of Roman pottery, some 10<sup>th</sup> to 12 century pottery plus two sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> C pottery. These may just reflect the movement of soil from the digging of the lakes in the 18th century.

Results for Test pits 7 – 10 are shown in **Plate 15**.

### **Test Pit 11 - Folly Field**

Almost devoid of pottery, this test pit did appear to show a clear differentiation below spit 4 from the soil above which probably represents 18<sup>th</sup> century dumping of waste from the lakes.

### **Test Pit 1 -2 Folly Field**

This test pit was clear of the material derived from the dredging 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 periods. Was it continuous occupation? Did the occupation move away in the 12<sup>th</sup> century? There is no suggestion of a house near this test pit site on Hare's map.

### **Test Pit 13 - Ditch around platform**

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.

TP13 was excavated in what appears to be a ditch surrounding the platform. Due to time constraints, and a somewhat complicated archaeology, this was not

excavated below spit 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.

### **Test Pit 14 - Platform**

The pottery from this test pit has a significant Roman content and also some 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 has produced Roman pottery, but the date range of the medieval pottery is similar to that of many other test pits.

Results for Test pits 11 – 14 are shown in **Plate 16**.

### **COMMENTS ON TEST PITS AT COBB'S WOOD**

The ten test pits excavated at Cobbs Wood produced a limited amount of pottery, ranging in date from Roman to medieval, as summarised in the table below.

| Period                   | Roman | Early/Mid Saxon | Saxo-Norman | Medieval | 19 <sup>th</sup> C | Total |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------|----------|--------------------|-------|
| N <sup>o</sup> of sherds | 12    | 4               | 17          | 12       | 2                  | 47    |

Fieldwalking over this same area has recovered pottery from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and the other periods represented in the table. It seems that there was certainly a significant Roman occupation but continuity into the Early/Middle Saxon period is speculative. Occupation continued throughout the medieval period but there is little evidence after the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Metal work from this same area suggests relatively high status living from the Late Saxon period until the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Early pieces show Scandinavian influences and the coins [reported elsewhere in this booklet] suggest a monied economy from Saxo-Norman times to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

### **SUMMARY OF POTTERY FINDS**

It might have been expected from documentary evidence that many test pits would contain 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The lack of later wares is surprising in view of the apparent presence of houses in 1638 Hare map. Few sites were contaminated with 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, no doubt because most were within the grassed Park after the mid-1600s. Even at Cobbs Wood with adjacent later activity there was little pottery dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century in the test pits.

Equally unexpected is the Iron Age pottery, particularly in test pit 12 in the Park, perhaps this reflects a settlement north of the stream in the first millennium BC. The Roman pottery may well represent a continuation of this occupation, but there is little evidence of ceramic building materials. The presence of small numbers of Early/Middle Saxon wares and Ipswich wares is very encouraging, suggesting that there was activity in the areas in the Park around the stream in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. Similar results are evident at Cobbs Wood.

### ANALYSIS OF BONES

Bones from the test pits in the Park, and at Cobbs Wood, were examined by Neil Smith [freelance bone expert] and he summarised the results as in the tables below. In this summary the bones from all the Test pits in the Park and separately those from Cobbs Wood have been examined to determine the species present and any evidence for butchery. In view of the long period of occupation suggested by the pottery, these results simply suggest that a general mixed agriculture was being practiced. Evidence for arable farming may be provided by the number of pieces of quern stone, particularly from the Cobbs Wood site.

#### BONE FROM TEST PITS IN THE PARK

##### WHE2013

| Total number of species present |          | 11                                  | Number of bones with butchery evidence |                         | 13 |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|----|
| Mammal species list             |          | Test Pits containing butchered bone |  |                         |    |
|                                 | Cat      |                                     | 2 2                                    | Chicken ulna            |    |
|                                 | Cattle   |                                     | 2 3                                    | Cattle astragalus       |    |
|                                 | Chicken  |                                     | 2 3                                    | Pig phalanx             |    |
|                                 | Duck     |                                     | 3 2                                    | Sheep tibia             |    |
|                                 | Horse    |                                     | 5 3                                    | Cattle scapula          |    |
|                                 | Mouse    |                                     | 5 3                                    | Cattle skull            |    |
|                                 | Pig      |                                     | 6 3                                    | Pig radius              |    |
|                                 | Rabbit   |                                     | 6 3                                    | Pig tibia               |    |
|                                 | Rat      |                                     | 6 4                                    | Horse metapodial        |    |
|                                 | Sheep    |                                     | 6 4                                    | Large (cattle?) scapula |    |
|                                 | Shrew    |                                     | 7 2                                    | Cattle femur            |    |
|                                 | + Mussel |                                     | 7A 1                                   | Cattle molar            |    |
|                                 | + Oyster |                                     | 13 4                                   | Cattle radius           |    |
|                                 | + Snail  |                                     |  |                         |    |

There is a wide range of species present, both wild and domesticates. Butchery is more widespread from the bones identified with concentrations at test pits 2, 5

and 6. The evidence is mainly focused on the domesticated species, as well as the interesting horse metapodial (possibly related to an injury).

### BONE FROM TEST PITS AT COBBS WOOD

#### CWF12

|                                 |          |                                     |     |  |  |   |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----|--|--|---|
| Total number of species present |          | 5                                   |     | Number of bones with butchery evidence |  | 5 |
| Mammal species list             | Cattle   | Test Pits containing butchered bone | B 4 | Cattle scapula                         |  |   |
|                                 | Chicken  |                                     | B 5 | Sheep metatarsal                       |  |   |
|                                 | Horse    |                                     | F 2 | Sheep radius                           |  |   |
|                                 | Pig      |                                     | F 4 | Medium sized animal                    |  |   |
|                                 | Sheep    |                                     | H 5 | Cattle pelvis                          |  |   |
|                                 | + Oyster |                                     |     |  |  |   |

Usual range of domesticated species present, with some oysters.

Only a small number of butchered bones across the site, mostly concentrated in test pits B and F. There are a range of bones with butchery, with no obvious pattern.



Figure 9. Decorated bone chess piece?

In addition to the bone listed above, two pieces of manufactured bone were recovered. From test pit F at Cobbs Wood there was a decorated cylindrical piece of bone, shown in Figure 9, which has been strongly suggested to be the base of a chess piece dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Secondly there is a bone spindle whorl, made from the articulatory end of a femur with a hole drilled vertically. Dating of this is problematic but in York they tend to be Late Saxon.

## WHO WAS Mr RATFORD?

Like many historical inquiries, the answer to this question is still unclear. In 2009, while a telephone cable was being laid in a paddock adjacent to the Home Farm on the Wimpole Hall estate, some hitherto unidentified buried masonry was found. During the summers of 2010 and 2011, Cambridge Archaeology Field Group were asked to carry out a series of excavations in the paddock.

No building had stood there in recent times, but the 1638 Hare map appeared to show a house at the approximate position, occupied by William Stok, or Stokes, see **Plate 12**. In the 1790's the buildings of Home Farm were erected and the house was demolished sometime early in the 19th century. On Sir John Soanes' design drawing for the 1794 farm buildings, the outline of a structure labelled 'Mr Ratford's House' is shown, also on Henry Repton's annotated plan of 1801. It was this structure that CAFG were determined to learn more about.

Could we also learn more about its occupant, the enigmatic Mr Ratford? The Ratford/Radford surname, allowing for phonetic variations in spelling, is quite common in west Cambridgeshire. In the birth, death and marriage records for Cambridgeshire between 1500 and 1850, there are hundreds of references for Ratford/Radford. However, the numbers for Wimpole Ratfords are smaller.

The burial of an Eleanor Ratford at Wimpole took place in 1735. Her parents are noted as William and Susanna Ratford. Throwing some light on law and social conditions at this time, it is noted in the records for Eleanor's burial, that she was 'Buried in woollen affidavit made by Mary Wright'. The Burial in Woollen Acts of 1666 - 1680 required the dead to be buried in pure English wool and the fact confirmed by a sworn affidavit witnessed by a Justice of the Peace. This was to protect the English wool industry and the penalty for non-compliance was a £5 fine.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 1758 the record of Sarah Ratford's baptism notes that she was 'privately received into the church'. This is a little unusual, as it indicates that her parents could not, or did not, want her baptised before the full congregation of the church. Baptisms were normally carried out during a formal service.

A William Ratford is one of two witnesses to a marriage at Wimpole on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1755, where the groom, unable to write his name, had 'made his mark'. Both a John Ratford and a John Challand appear as witnesses to a marriage on the

18<sup>th</sup> September 1770. As the Ratfords and Challands appear as witnesses to several marriages at Wimpole, they were obviously regarded with some esteem.

William Ratford appears in letters of Edward Harley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Oxford and one time owner of the Wimpole estate among others. Several series of letters have been deposited in the archives at the University of Nottingham. Those relating to Wimpole are found mainly in the PI C 1 series covering the period 1711 – 1739. Within them we learn that William Ratford is to be employed in the management of timber on the Wimpole estate. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 1731, John Cossen, Lord Harley's estate manager, writes to inform him that 'Mr Ratford's apprentice has smallpox and has been isolated in the little house at Kingston Wood'. Sadly, this is followed in a letter of 13<sup>th</sup> July by the news that 'Mr Ratford's boy has died of a "violent pain in his head"', (his apprentice or son?). Later, William Ratford is engaged in various tasks at Wimpole, such as 'making sure that no tiles are loose or missing on the roof of the new library' and packing and sending books to Lord Harley.

The burial of William Ratford is recorded on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1771, where his occupation is given as carpenter. On 12<sup>th</sup> September 1781, a Sarah Ratford (daughter of John and Ann Ratford), married Joseph Dubois at Wimpole. William Challand is one of the witnesses. The baptism of Catherine Dubois is recorded on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1786. On 18<sup>th</sup> February 1803 we find the burial record of Anne Ratford, while sadly her daughter, Sarah Dubois, is already recorded as a widow at her burial on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1808.

Details of two Ratford wills may be found on the National Archives database. That for a John Ratford 'otherwise Radford of Wimpole otherwise Wimple in the county of Cambridge by trade a carpenter first' was presented on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1795 and probate is dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 1803. He leaves a sum of money and other investments to his wife Ann, who he makes sole executrix. Twelve months after Ann's death, a sum of money is to be paid to his daughter Sarah, while his granddaughter, Ann Dubois is to receive 'all my chattels and goods'. Sarah is also to receive 'my bed and bedsted with the ... effect furnature and every kind belonging to it and likewise my ... round mehogany card table and likewise my wainscot beawreo'. John further bequeaths 'my little freehold estate lying in Bourn' to his wife Ann: the will is dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 1794. The Cambridge Chronicle and Journal for September 26<sup>th</sup> 1795 notes among the events in Cambridgeshire for the previous week: 'On Friday died; in his 66<sup>th</sup> year, Mr John Ratford, shopkeeper, of Wimple in this county.' The Rev.

James Plumtre, writing in 1800 about Wimpole, comments 'went to Mr Patterson's house, 'formerly John Radford's shop' (see the Prologue).

John Ratford appears in the account books for Wimpole between 1742 and 1790. He is cited as a carpenter, carrying out tree-felling and other work on the estate. He is also paid for supplying general provisions such as; materials for brick makers, white lead, oyl, soap and 'brooms for housemaid's use'.

The will of Ann Ratford, John's wife, was proved on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1803. In it she bequeaths to her daughter 'Sarah Dubois wid of Wimple all my wearing apparel of every description all my Stock in the public funds upon government Security and the Interest arising from the Same that may be due at the time of my decease and I also give and bequeath to my Said Daughter Sarah Dubois all Dividends that may be paid for and all account of a note of law of Mr William Fishers Cambridge was a Bankrupt and also all other my Household Effects of every description And I do hereby constitute and appoint my Said Daughter Sarah Dubois my sole Executrix for executing this my will'. The will was dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 1802.

Ann Dubois, John and Ann Ratford's granddaughter, appears in the 1804 records of apprentices and masters for Cambridgeshire. A master paid stamp duty on indentures at 6d (sixpence) for every £1 under £50 which he received for taking on the apprentice, and the rate of 1s (one shilling) for every £1 above £50. Ann was apprenticed to Geo. Smith and his wife at Wimpole, a 'Mantua Maker'. This unusual term may derive from the French *manteuil* or *manteau*, meaning a coat. However, a Mantua was actually a highly fashionable dress, often worn by ladies at court. The term Mantua-maker came to denote a women's dress maker in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The indenture of Ann's apprenticeship was made on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1804 for a period of 5 years dated from 8 March 1803 at a cost of £35 plus 17 shillings and 6 pence.

In a will of Joseph Dubois dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 1789, he describes himself as a cook, living in London. He may have been employed by Lord Harley, moving between Wimpole and London. We found some ceramic balls during our excavations, which might have been employed in the 'blind baking' of pastry. In his will he leaves one shilling to his wife Sarah and to 'her' daughter Ann £5. The bulk of his estate (several hundred pounds) is left to his family in France and friends in London!

There are still many gaps and other Ratfords who do not appear to fit into a single family lineage: there may well have been more than one family living in and around

Wimpole, with this relatively common surname. Neither have we managed to definitely identify which 'Mr Ratford' lived in the house near to Home Farm. There may well have been one or more generations of the same family living there, either independently or together. The excavations certainly reveal an extensive enlargement of the property, probably sometime in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century (see **Plate 17**). Could this have been to accommodate such an extended family?

The house, and the quality of the finds within it (see **Plate 18**), suggests more than just a country estate workers cottage. With its well-built brick foundations it has the feel of belonging to more of the 'middling sort': perhaps a Yeoman farmer or, as above, a shopkeeper. The gilt scent bottle top, the high class Italian pottery, the wig curler and the engraved wine glass all speak of quite wealthy people.

From the evidence of the wills, John Ratford and Ann his wife might have occupied the house, having a reasonable inheritance to pass on to their children. The first William Ratford we encounter might also have a claim to have inhabited the house. We see in the Harley letters that he has risen from being a carpenter, to an all-round 'Mr Fixit', carrying out errands for the Earl of Oxford.

As it is clear that the house survived well past the building of the new farm buildings, being shown on maps of 1801 and 1820, perhaps some of the later generations also lived there. The daughters of John Ratford (Ann and Sarah), were both resident in Wimpole at the time of their baptisms. Do we see in the number of pins and the three thimbles found during the excavations, evidence of the dressmaking skills learnt by Ann Dubois at her mother's, or grandmother's side, which led to her gaining an apprenticeship with a prestigious ladies apparel maker? Might these skills have led to work for the residents of the Hall itself?

We may never know for sure just who Mr Ratford truly was. However, the study of this single Cambridgeshire family has revealed a fascinating insight into the lives of those living and working on a major country estate. It may well keep the members of CAFG busy for many years to come.



## DATABASE

### OUR ON-LINE DATA RESOURCE FOR RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

<http://data.cafg.net>

A large amount of data was gathered during documentary research, archaeological excavations and fieldwalking for this project. It seemed reasonable to make that data available to others for the purposes of research or general information gathering. It was, therefore, decided that a large part of this data could be put onto an on-line searchable database with download features. This would enable users to find information and to export their own datasets as a spreadsheet by enabling a variety of search options. Longer term, it is planned to enable users to export their data as a JSON file (1) or to link directly to the data through RESTful web services (2). Also, it will use our current on-line mapping (3). The data will also be linked to Heritage Data vocabularies (4)

#### The documentary evidence data

This data is broken down into a number of datasets, each representing an area of research carried out during the project. Data has been gathered from university archives, estate papers, records offices and libraries as well as extracted from maps.

#### Select *documentary evidence* datasets to use in results:

- Combined written records
- Tenant holdings from 1638 Hare map
- Tenant holdings from 1837 Tithe map
- Papers of the Dukes of Portland
- Land transaction documents from County Records Office

On-line, users will be able to select which datasets they want to include in the search. Above is an example of the data already in the database, others will be added as the project progresses.

Clearly not all information is suitable for storing in the database itself, but will be linked to as appropriate so searches will link to an on-line stored document, or to its location.

### The finds evidence datasets

These datasets are derived from data gathered during CAFGs excavations, fieldwalking activities and other sources. Like the documentary evidence, users can select which datasets are required in the search results.

#### Select *finds evidence* datasets to use in results:

- Metal detectorist finds
- Fieldwalking finds from Brick End
- Fieldwalking finds from Cobbs Wood East
- Fieldwalking finds from Cobbs Wood
- Fieldwalking finds from Cobbs Wood 2

Above is an example of some of the datasets available. Within the finds datasets, users will also be able to filter the find types by group as well as group the finds by dataset.

Select period from list:  ▼

Output results to:  Screen  Excel

Include overlapping dates in results?

Currently there are 3 ways to search, the first is by period. Users can select from a predefined number of periods using the drop down list. A small part of the drop down is shown below.

- All periods
- Prehistoric (-500000 to 43)
- ...Paleolithic (-500000 to -10000)
- ...Mesolithic (-10000 to -4000)
- ...Neolithic (-4000 to -2200)
- ...Bronze Age (-2600 to -800)
- Iron Age (-800 to 43)
- ...Early Iron Age (-800 to -300)
- ...Middle Iron Age (-300 to -100)
- ...Late Iron Age (-100 to 43)
- Roman (43 to 410)
- Anglo-Saxon (410 to 1066)
- ...Early Anglo-Saxon (410 to 725)
- ...Middle Anglo-Saxon (725 to 878)
- ...Late Anglo-Saxon (878 to 1066)

If this does not cover the dates required, users can use the second option which is to enter their own start and end year.

Enter start Year:

Enter end Year:

Output results to:  Screen  Excel

The third option is for a free text search. This will search most fields and return results based upon the term entered in the text box.

Enter search term  Note: Overlapping dates are not relevant for his search.

Output results to:  Screen  Excel

A fourth option is also planned which will enable users to search by OS grid coordinates.

The search results will depend upon the options and datasets. A small section of the results but may include something like that shown below.

|                               |              |                                   |   |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#">FWWIM005-0132</a> | 1640 to 1750 |                                   | <a href="#">Staffordshire Slipware</a>            |
| <a href="#">FWWIM005-0574</a> | 1640 to 1750 |                                   | <a href="#">Staffordshire Slipware</a>            |
| <a href="#">MDF01-0258</a>    | 1660 to 1720 |                                   | <a href="#">Mount or buckle fragment see PD16</a> |
| <a href="#">MDF01-0398</a>    | 1660 to 1720 |                                   | <a href="#">Buckle fragment</a>                   |
| <a href="#">MDF01-0261</a>    | 1672 to 1775 |                                   | <a href="#">Milled and v worn halfpenny</a>       |
| <a href="#">MDF01-0380</a>    | 1672 to 1775 |                                   | <a href="#">Milled - 22mm dia.</a>                |
| <a href="#">MDF01-0073</a>    | 1701 to 1800 |                                   | <a href="#">Button with loop</a>                  |
| <a href="#">DMC01-0118</a>    | 1707 to 1741 | <a href="#">Bass, John</a>        | <a href="#">Holding by John Bass</a>              |
| <a href="#">DMC01-0119</a>    | 1707 to 1741 | <a href="#">Hubbert, William</a>  | <a href="#">Holding by William Hubbert</a>        |
| <a href="#">DMC01-0120</a>    | 1707 to 1741 | <a href="#">Day, John</a>         | <a href="#">Holding by John Day</a>               |
| <a href="#">DMC01-0121</a>    | 1707 to 1741 | <a href="#">Nicholls, Richard</a> | <a href="#">Holding by Richard Nicholls</a>       |

From these results, users can drill down to the record from the record number link and see the full record details, the reference information from the reference column (not shown), or any of the other the links will search for results with the same term. For instance, if the user clicks on Hubbert, William, a search is made in 'all' the datasets for that. Note that the results of all searches can be exported to Excel by clicking the export button.

Export page to Excel

| Record ID  | Period/Date  | Name             | Title                               |
|------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| DMC01-0119 | 1707 to 1741 | Hubbert, William | Holding by William Hubbert          |
| DMC01-0120 | 1707 to 1741 | Day , John       | Holding by John Day                 |
| DMC01-0019 | 1710 to 1711 | Hubbert, George  | Years rent for George Hubbert       |
| DMC01-0031 | 1710 to 1711 | Hubbert, son     | Years rent for son Hubbert          |
| DMC01-0179 | 1711         |                  | Daniel Healy, Henry Besledg, Wm Gee |
| DMC01-0308 | 1711         | Hubbert, George  | Farm rent let to George Hubbert     |
| DMC01-0309 | 1711         | Hubbert, George  | Farm rent in hand                   |
| DMC01-0310 | 1711         | Hubbert, George  | Estate account for Wimpole          |
| DMC01-0311 | 1738 to 1741 |                  | Estate account for Wimpole          |

## References

- (1) JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) is a lightweight data-interchange format.  
<http://json.org/>
- (2) RESTful (Representational State Transfer) web services enable users to access data directly online through calls to the server without the need to access our website.  
<http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/webservices/library/ws-restful/>
- (3) CAFG's Fieldwalking current version of the on-line mapping is available to registered users at  
<http://www.cafg.net/fwmapping.aspx>
- (4) The Heritage data project is consolidating heritage thesauri and vocabularies for national organisations and the HER which will also be accessible through RESTful web services.  
<http://www.heritagedata.org/blog/>

Finally, please note that this database is under continuous development and work on it will be continuing throughout 2014. Therefore, the appearance of the site on-line may differ to that shown here and may occasionally be off-line.



