



# MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP


## *New insights into medieval rural settlements in eastern England: the contribution of public and community archaeology*

*Deans Conference Centre, Lincoln College, Monks Road, Lincoln, LN2 5HQ*

*Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026*

<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Conference papers</b>	
09.30	<b>Arrival and registration – tea and coffee</b>
10.00	<b>David Start</b> - Spirit of Sutterby The Spirit of Sutterby: excavation, palaeography, fieldwalking and fruit cake in the Lincolnshire Wolds
10.30	<b>Richard Parker</b> - Norton Disney History and Archaeology Group Digging Disney: Test pit excavations by local volunteers exploring the development of Norton Disney in Lincolnshire.
11.00	<b>Ellis Morgan</b> - Southwell Community Archaeology Group The Burgage in Medieval Southwell, Nottinghamshire
11.30	<b>Break – tea and coffee</b>
12.00	<b>Richard Pincott, Catherine Pincott-Allen</b> – The Field Detectives New insights from historic landscape studies into monastic farming estates in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire Owthorpe, Stathern, Hoveringham and Cropwell Butler.
12.30	<b>Mathew Morris</b> – University of Leicester Archaeology Services Bosworth Links – community test pit excavations contribute to wider knowledge of rural settlement development in the Sence Valley of Leicestershire.
13.00	<b>David Budge</b> - Mercian Archaeological Services Settlement, castle, church and battle: new insights from a collaboration community landscape project at Cuckney, Nottinghamshire.
13.30	<b>Break – buffet lunch</b>
14.15	<b>Marcus Jecock</b> – Historic England Community excavations at Hanging Grimston, East Yorkshire
14.45	<b>Eleanor Blakelock</b> – Sedgeford History and Archaeology Research Project 30 Years of rural settlement and cemetery excavation in and around Sedgeford, Norfolk
15.15	<b>Gil Burleigh</b> - Pirton Landscape Archaeology Group New medieval discoveries from community archaeology in North Hertfordshire, 2016-2026.
15.45	<b>Break – tea and coffee</b>
16.15	<b>John Castling</b> – University of Durham The Bishop Big Dig – A community-engaged test pitting project in Bishop Auckland, County Durham
16.45	<b>Emily Abrehart</b> – Oxford Archaeology From moated manor to wider knowledge: The impact of community archaeology at Wimpole, Cambridgeshire on social value and archaeological research.
17.15	<b>Rob Hedge</b> – University of Leicester The value of community-generated research for advancing knowledge of rural settlement development.
17.45	<b>Discussion</b> – chaired by Carenza Lewis – University of Lincoln Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats: the future of community archaeology and medieval rural settlement studies.
18.00	<b>End of day 1</b> (delegates to make own arrangements for dinner / accommodation)

## *Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Field trip to medieval settlements in Lincolnshire*

09.30	<b>Depart Lincoln College, Monks Road, Lincoln, LN2 5HQ</b>	
10.15	<b>Arrive Gainsthorpe</b> deserted medieval village (DN21 4JH)	<p><b>Gainsthorpe</b> deserted medieval village is iconic as the first DMV to be photographed from the air, by OGS Crawford published precisely 100 years ago in 1925. The earthworks are stunningly well-preserved and display an unusual, enigmatic plan, whose origins, development and function we can discuss during our visit. Images © English Heritage</p> 
11.15	<b>Depart Gainsthorpe</b> (loo/takeaway coffee at Starbucks on A15 at Caenby Corner)	
11.45	<b>Arrive North Carlton</b> shrunken medieval village and moated site (LN1 2RS)	<p>The shrunken medieval village of <b>North Carlton</b> is one of three adjacent Carltons with remains of formerly more extensive medieval settlement. Earthworks at <b>North Carlton</b> include sections of a moat around Old Hall Farm overlooking the church, a holloway and building platforms probably cleared by the Monson family c. 1773, ridge and furrow, a Premonstratensian grange of Barlings Abbey and enigmatic earthworks known locally as ‘the plague village’ but interpreted by RCHME as possible pillow mounds. We will see finds made by local residents around the earthworks, including an Anglo-Saxon brooch.</p>
12.10	<b>Optional walk via Middle Carlton</b>	<p>Delegates choosing to walk to South Carlton (c. 1km, along a level footpath across fields) will pass the site of <b>Middle Carlton</b> DMV c. 400m SE of North Carlton, where formerly well-preserved earthworks have been mostly levelled by ploughing although medieval pottery is visible on the surface. Delegates taking car/bus transport to South Carlton will be able to explore the church with its impressive early C17<sup>th</sup> Monson family monument and nearby grange site.</p>
12.30	<b>Arrive South Carlton SMV</b>	<p>Well-preserved earthworks of former settlement extend throughout <b>South Carlton</b> village below the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery investigated by Time Team in 2003. Earthworks in the village were identified by RCHME as the remains of two separate Domesday period linear double row settlements arranged along existing streets NE and SW of the village, supplemented in the C13<sup>th</sup> by a planned development infilling space between these settlements in the centre of the village.</p>
13.00	<b>Depart South Carlton</b>	
13.30	<b>Arrive Norton Disney</b> village hall (LN6 9JU)	<p>Buffet lunch served in village hall on arrival at <b>Norton Disney</b> (Green Man pub will be open). Norton Disney is named from the D’Isegny family (ancestors of Walt Disney), lords of the manor from the C13<sup>th</sup> - 1674. Several medieval effigy tombs of Disney family members survive in the church, for whose earliest surviving 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century fabric they would have been responsible. The C18<sup>th</sup> manor house contains earlier elements. In 2024, 25 test pits were excavated by local residents simultaneously with excavations by Time Team around the manorial site. We will tour the village and discuss the significance of finds from the excavations (viewable in the village hall) for understanding the village’s development and the impact of the medieval Disney lords.</p>
14.15	<b>Tour of Norton Disney</b>	
16.00	<b>Dep. Norton Disney</b>	<p>Norton Disney is just 8 miles from Newark; it may be possible to arrange car-share drop-offs at Newark Northgate or Newark Castle train stations for anyone wishing to take trains from those stations. Newark Northgate is on the main London line.</p>
16.30	<b>Arr. Lincoln</b>	

### Conference Fee

**Saturday conference:** Members in-person fee £28; non-members in-person fee £38 (including parking, refreshments, buffet lunch). Online fee £15.

(delegates to make own arrangements for dinner / accommodation on Saturday evening)

**Sunday field trip (minibus/car):** Own transport £22 Transport provided £30 (including buffet lunch).

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/medieval-settlement-research-group-spring-conference-and-field-trip-tickets-1983618914571?aff=oddtcreator>