

## Post-medieval Period Research topics and priorities

### Cross-cutting themes

Urgent need for synthetic assessments of the hundreds of projects and grey literature generated through the planning system. Such work would help rebalance the present state of knowledge in many areas of study, and give rise to new issues and research priorities. (2018)

Recording and evaluations, where necessary, should be done earlier in the planning process, as a preliminary to applications, so that it informs the decisions eventually taken. (2018)

Recording briefs for buildings should provide for monitoring once development starts. They should also be more precise about the drawings required, specifying ground plans with a basic degree of interpretation as a minimum. (2018)

Building recording as part of planning consent needs to be the norm across the whole region. (2011)

## Towns

The growth and impact of towns on the landscape requires further study. In some areas UADs or EUSs have either not been undertaken or have not been completed. Others do not consider material post-dating the 1700s. (2011)

Further study of the development of 19th/20th century housing is required. (2011)

The economic and social influences of towns, including the effects on agricultural production in its hinterland, require further study. Production and processing of food for urban markets is a key element in understanding the relationship between towns and their rural hinterlands. The interchange between rural food supplies and urban industrial and craft products was essential for town and village/hamlet. (2011)

The development of specific urban forms such as the resort town and the New Town has a particular significance within the region. Historic urban characterisation (following the example of Stevenage) together with thematic studies, would help identify important areas and support management policies. (2011)

The development of seaside resorts, their architecture, morphology and communications, plus the symbiotic development of the leisure industries needs further study. (2011)

The High Street should be a priority area for buildings research, including the identification and recording of shops, public houses, workshops and commercial premises. (2011)

## Built environment

Buildings have not featured prominently in previous research frameworks. The assessments of buildings should be presented in the wider context of building development and architectural history, making a more accurate assessment of their significance possible. (2018)

Cottages and smaller houses are in need of further study. (2018) Farm labourers' and workers' cottages require further investigation. (2011)

Well preserved remains of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century housing are probably rare, and the opportunity to investigate them should be taken, especially if artefact assemblages are also present. It is at the level of ordinary living standards and material culture that archaeology can best contribute to the study of well-documented periods. (2018)

Work on farm buildings should attempt to consider how they have been used and their relationship to the farmstead and wider landholding. (2018)

Thematic surveys of significant economic or socially important classes of historic buildings need to be extended across the whole region. (2011)

The recording of individual sites as part of the planning process should be accompanied by a programme of synthesis, collating and considering the results of any such surveys. (2011)

The post-1840s building stock, which is largely unlisted, also requires recording to identify key groups and appropriate development management policies. This might be best achieved by breaking the data down into smaller thematic groups, e.g. terraced houses, civic buildings, seaside resort architecture etc. (2011)

Dendrochronology in the form of targeted surveys (e.g. New Buckenham, Norfolk) can prove highly informative in establishing dating and chronological developments. (2011) Synthesis of existing dendrochronological data from buildings would be helpful. (2011)

Carpentry techniques should be studied to further understanding of 18th and 19th century timber-framing techniques in order to understand regional building methods and trends. (2011)

The changing role of brick from a high status building material to a vernacular construction method merits further study. (2011)

The recording of fixtures, fittings and finishes associated with built structures needs addressing. (2011)

Houses that span the medieval to post-medieval transition require further investigation. (2011)

## Industry and Infrastructure

Regionally based studies of bricks and brickwork (e.g. Ryan (1996) for Essex), would assist the analysis of evaluations and historic structures. (2018)

Artefacts that seem understudied and which would benefit from regional overviews are country pottery, clay pipes and glass. (2018) Serious work is required on the study of post-medieval and modern material culture, including pottery (in particular 18th and 19th century local pottery production), brick, tile, glass and clay tobacco pipes. (2011)

Late medieval and post-medieval small metal artefacts (e.g. buckles, buttons, mounts) are very similar all over the country. It would be interesting to know whether these objects are copied widely but produced locally, or if they are being produced in a limited number of places and distributed widely. (2011)

The development and diversity of rural industry (agricultural engineering, textiles, brick-making) would benefit from further study. (2011)

The role of energy creation within the landscape and the built environment associated with this (e.g. watermills, windmills, pumping stations, gas works) would benefit from further study. (2011)

The impact of the primary communication routes on the region's development and character is of considerable interest. (2011)

Synthesis of information about the post-medieval flint-mining industry is needed. (2011)

The development and decline of coastal industries, including ports, the fishing industry, smokers, boat yards, chandlers, rope-making, ice houses, and their impact on the landscape, requires further study. (2011)

The creation of typologies for each class of industry noting differences from the established historical viewpoint. Each survey would consider change through time, regional diversity, architecture, methods of construction, spatial organisation and power arrangements. Essentially based on the MPP approach, subject areas should at first be based on industries that had a significant impact on the region where the field remains may enhance or even challenge existing knowledge. (2000)

Detailed geographical study of navigable rivers, canals, railways and ports. Using established historical narratives and cartographic information as the basis for selection, the archaeology of these important arteries would be investigated: earthworks, bridges, tunnels, signalling, trade installations, company housing and the influence on settlement morphology. (2000)

Key sites of major academic importance representing significant technical or cultural phases will be identified and should be examined in considerable detail, the approach being framed around explicit questions. (2000)

An understanding of the information derived from excavating, to the highest professional standards, specific classes of industrial monument. How will the structural/artefactual information contribute to the existing state of knowledge? This approach will be especially useful in historic towns and on sites which ceased operating before 1850 where there are fewer upstanding remains. (2000)

A general improvement in field techniques: sampling process residues, the use of dendrochronology, artefact analysis, understanding former structures from excavated foundations/footings etc. (2000)

The detailed investigation of particular settlements, building types and the location of industry in order to examine social use of space, access, symbolism and evidence of segregation or control. Based on the need to regulate a growing workforce within a manmade environment, the sample will consider settlements in rural/urban locations, variability in house size, the position of the factory, architecture as imagery and the manipulation of space. A large geographical spread and time/depth component will be essential. (2000)

A major programme of HER enhancement is needed to improve site identification. (2000)

Should focus on the East Anglian farmstead 1750-1914. Farms of this period are a crucial, but understudied component of the East Anglian landscape. Pilot areas should be selected, representing different farming regimes. Research questions should include the development of the farmstead, 1750-1914; buildings on the farm; regional diversity; the influence of contemporary model plans on design; the role of improving landlords; adoption of modern practices including water power, steam and internal tramways; farmstead as a status symbol, architectural embellishment and competitive emulation. (2000)

Should focus on planned industrial settlements. Attention should focus on the way in which architecture, social use of space and routes of access were used either overtly or covertly to reinforce existing social relationships. Chronological depth and an examination of the impact of different industries on settlement morphology will form the basis of selection for further study with the following being investigated: the site and buildings of the factory; provision, location and alterations in the supply of company housing, public buildings, settlement morphology, the use of architecture and routes of access for display and control, common themes and the use of alternative strategies through time and space. (2000)

All investigations need to move away from a low-level descriptive narrative by considering the contribution of the field remains to historical, technological and, most importantly, cultural questions. (2000)

## Landscape

Work on the Agricultural Revolution in East Anglia and its impact on the landscape was advanced by HLC and by the Historic Fields of East Anglia project. This work now needs to be extended. (2011)

Surveys of parks and gardens need to be extended to cover the whole region, with a view to Designation of the most significant or complete examples. Surveys should record the decline or loss of parks, gardens, country houses and mansions. (2011)

The impact of social change on the landscape (e.g. Dissolution, rise of non-conformism, enclosure of commons and greens, rise of purpresture in the 17th century) requires further study. (2011)

The role of water management and land reclamation requires further study. For example, Williamson's characterisation of marshland in Suffolk could be extended. (2011)

The impact of migration and minority groups on the landscape needs further study, for example the Dutch and Huguenots of the 16th and 17th centuries, the Italian brick-makers in Bedfordshire, and the Asian community of Luton. (2011)

NMP data should be used to research topics such as field systems, enclosures, roads, trackways, parks and gardens. (2011)

NMP transcriptions should be used to enhance settlement studies. (2011)

## Parks and Gardens

An inventory of parks and gardens is required. We should not concentrate a disproportionate effort on 'important', 'attractive' or even 'obvious' parks and gardens. This inventory should include all examples of this land use, or at least sufficiently representative examples, and we should try to understand them historically. (2000)

Plotting the development and survival of different kinds of park and garden may provide an index of the dissemination and adaptation of fashion, social stratification, distribution of wealth and disposable income. Is the historical geography of parks and gardens comparable with that of, e.g. vernacular buildings? Brunskill's thesis, that historical development of buildings is not geographically uniform (older forms that were once common everywhere survive only away from the cultural and economic mainstream) and that there may be a kind of historical horizon, with nothing surviving from before a certain time. The year 1540 may be suggested as an historical horizon in this sense for parks and gardens. (2000)

Multi-period studies of individual sites should include the relationship between patron and designer, reference to area or regional studies. Biographical studies, usually of designers, sometimes of patrons, are appropriate. (2000)

Further work should focus on municipal parks, sports grounds, botanical gardens, hospitals, asylums and schools. (2000)

Reinterpretation of what has already been recorded is always possible. The form and meaning of a few medieval gardens, no longer clearly extant, have been conjectured by this means. (2000)

## Military/Fortifications

Thematic surveys are required for most post-medieval and modern defensive sites, perhaps following the model of the WW2 defence series. (2011)

The effect on the historic environment of the decline or abandonment of military sites should be considered. (2011)

The WW2 defence line surveys produced for Essex require synthesis. (2011)

Marconi, as a major employer in this region, requires further study. (2011)

More work is required to identify key wartime structures such as emergency planning centres, food stores and civil defence centres. This theme has great potential for community involvement. (2011)

Aircraft crash sites need to be investigated using truly archaeological approaches. Perhaps follow the example of the Spitfire excavated by OAE at Holme Fen, Cambs. (2011)

Sites identified by NMP need ground-truthing, and where necessary, detailed survey. (2011)

The material culture of recent military sites has been relatively unexplored. Opportunities should be sought to explore how excavated artefacts may illuminate the lives of these closed communities. (2011)

Extensive survey projects in relation to post-medieval fortifications are required to add to our understanding of the resource and to bring HERs to a common standard. Such projects would be best carried out on a thematic basis. (2000)

Methods need to be developed to assess the significance of military monuments, especially those of the most recent past. There is also a need to explore possible approaches to the protection of defence sites. (2000)

The development of fortification techniques in the region, in the overall context of the technical development of artillery and fortification design, requires further study. (2000)

At the site-specific level there is a need for surveys along the lines of those carried out by the RCHME. A particular feature of such surveys should be comparison on individual sites between the field and documentary evidence, i.e. what was actually built and why. (2000)

Typological surveys are required for WW2 anti-invasion defences, combining documentary and field survey, both for research into the way in which the defences were constructed and to help characterise the resource for management purposes. (2000)

The relationship of fortified sites to local society, politics and economy needs further study, particularly for sites that were occupied for long periods. (2000)

There is scope for study of the development of specific building types (e.g. barracks, stores) within or attached to fortifications. Such research should include the architectural aspects of military buildings and their impact, both nationally and on local communities. However, this should also be accompanied by analysis of the use of space within forts and within individual buildings. (2000)