

The Anglo-Saxon Fenland

Date 13 March 2016 **Time** 10:00 – 16:45

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge CB23 8AQ

Academic Director Dr Susan Oosthuizen **Course code** 1516NDX049

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Clare Kerr, Public Programmes Coordinator
01223 746237 clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography:

Susan Oosthuizen directs programmes in the historic environment (landscape and garden history/archaeology) at the Institute, and is attached to the University of Cambridge Department of Archaeology. Her undergraduate degree in Archaeology and History was taken at the University of Southampton; she holds an MA from SOAS (University of London), a PGCE and a PhD from the University of Cambridge, where her research on Anglo-Saxon landscapes bridged archaeology, history and historical geography. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge, and a former President of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. She delivered the 2012 Hoskins Lecture on 'Medieval Open Fields and Their Origins'.

Day school programme:

The Anglo-Saxon fenland was colourfully described by the great Clifford Darby as 'a frontier region ... the resort of brigands and bandits' in whose empty wilderness saints like Æthelthryth of Ely and Guthlac of Crowland established their new monasteries. The dayschool critically examines these assumptions in the light of recent research which suggests fenland history was more complicated and more interesting in this period.

The first session introduces the physical geography of the fenland, before moving on to consider the considerable questions raised by the description in the Domesday Book of low fenland populations. The second session uses place-names and other evidence for the languages spoken in the fenland between the withdrawal of Roman administration from Britain in about 400 AD and the Norman Conquest in 1086, in an attempt to elucidate the relationships between the region's late Romano-British inhabitants and incomers from north-west Europe. The third session explores evidence for political organisation in the region in the post-Roman centuries to test Darby's characterization of the lawless anarchy of the Anglo-Saxon fenland. The last session investigates the evidence for the degree of environmental management in fenland for before the re-establishment of monastic houses in the late tenth century.

Programme:

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee
10:00 – 11:15	The Domesday Fenland: more questions than answers
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Britons or Anglo-Saxons? Fenland communities before 1066
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Brigands and bandits: Political organisation 400-800 AD
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Managing the 'wild wilderness'
16:45	Day school ends

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course. (*NOTE: Second-hand copies of out-of-print volumes are often available at reasonable prices through www.abebooks.co.uk*)

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Biddick, K.	<i>The Other Economy: Pastoral Husbandry on a Medieval Estate</i>	University of California Press, 1992
Darby, H. C.	<i>The Draining of the Fens</i>	Cambridge UP, 1940
*Darby, H. C.	<i>The Medieval Fenland</i>	David and Charles, 1974
Green, T.	<i>Britons and Anglo-Saxons: Lincolnshire AD400-650</i>	History of Lincolnshire Committee, 2012
Hall, D.	'The Fenland Project', <i>East Anglian Archaeology</i> , Vols. 35, 56, 79	1987, 1992, 1996.
Hallam, H.	<i>The New Lands of Elloe</i>	Leicester UP, 1954
Miller, E.	<i>The Abbey and Bishopric of Ely</i>	Cambridge UP, 1951
Lucy, S., Mortimer, R. and Regan, R	<i>The Saxon and Medieval Settlement at West Fen Road, Ely: The Ashwell Site</i>	East Anglian Archaeology, 2005
Ravensdale, J. R.	<i>Liable to Floods</i>	Cambridge UP, 1974
Royal Commission on Historic Monuments	<i>North-East Cambridgeshire</i>	HMSO, 1972
Silvester, R. J.	'The Fenland Project', <i>East Anglian Archaeology</i> , Vol. 45	1988
Taylor, C. C.	<i>The Cambridgeshire Landscape</i>	Hodder, 1973
Thirsk, J.	<i>Fenland Farming in the Sixteenth Century</i>	Leicester UP, 1973

Materials available online

- Lucy, S. et al. 2009. 'The burial of a princess? The later seventh-century cemetery at Westfield Farm, Ely'. *Antiquaries Journal* 89: 81-141.
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=6135608&fileId=S0003581509990102> (NB This article is available free to institutional subscribers, but a charge is made for others.)
- Oosthuizen, S. 2014. 'Re-evaluating maps of Domesday population densities: a case study from the Cambridgeshire fenland', *Medieval Settlement Research* 29: 1-10.
https://www.academia.edu/7924246/Re-evaluating_maps_of_Domesday_population_densities_a_case_study_from_the_Cambridgeshire_fenland
- Oosthuizen, S. 2012. Rural settlement and commerce in the medieval peat fen, c.900-1300'. In P. Stamper and N. Christie, eds., *Rural Medieval Britain and Ireland, AD 800-1600: Settlements, Landscapes and Regions*. Windgather: 206-224.
https://www.academia.edu/2764615/Cambridgeshire_and_the_peat_fen_Medieval_rural_settlement_and_commerce_c.AD_900_1300
- Great Fen Project www.greatfen.org.
- Wicken Fen Nature Reserve www.wicken.org.uk
- Natural England (overview) www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/jca46_tcm6-5419.pdf

Additional Information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and a light sandwich lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 19 January 2016