

The medieval and post-medieval open-field systems of England

Date	26 November 2016	Time	10:00 – 16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutors	Dr Susan Oosthuizen and Professor Stephen Upex	Course code	1617NDX012
Director of Programmes	Emma Jennings		
For further information on this course, please contact	Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237		
To book	See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262		

Tutor biographies

Susan Oosthuizen

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'.

Stephen Upex

Stephen wrote his PhD thesis on open field agriculture within the area of the east midlands and has continued to research and publish on the topic ever since. He was part of a team of researchers from Nottingham University who mapped large area of the open field parish of Laxton in Nottinghamshire. He is currently working on a book on the surviving features of open field agriculture which can be mapped within the modern landscape.

Course programme

9.30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee	
10.00 – 11.15	Session 1	Open fields: definitions and origins (Dr Susan Oosthuizen)
11.15	Coffee	
11.45 – 13.00	Session 2	The origins and evolution of large-scale medieval 2- and 3-field systems (Dr Susan Oosthuizen)
13.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.15	Session 3	Landscape evidence for Open Field agriculture
15.15	Tea	
15.30 – 16.45	Session 4	The enclosure of open fields, landscape modifications and surviving open field areas.
16.45	Day school ends	

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course aims:

- to introduce students to the general scholarship on medieval and post-medieval open fields;
- to explore the origins and developments of the open field systems of England until the enclosures of the 18th and 19th centuries;
- to offer a broad introduction to the principal sources and methods for identifying and analyzing open field systems

Content:

The first and second sessions will be led by Dr Susan Oosthuizen. Session 1 will focus on early open field systems notable for the diversity of their layout and management. Session 2 will discuss processes that led to the emergence of large-scale medieval open fields familiar across central and southern England. Session 3 will explore the surviving evidence for former open field agriculture and look at ridge and furrow types, furlong variations, drainage patterns and other aspects of former open field practices that can be recognised within the landscape. Session 4 will focus on the enclosure of open fields at various periods, how landscapes were modified during enclosures and surviving open field areas and villages.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be presented through lectures and class-based discussion.

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- have an overview of the general scholarship on medieval and post-medieval open fields;
- have a broad understanding of the origins and developments of the open field systems of England until the enclosures of the 18th and 19th centuries;
- have an outline knowledge of the principal sources and methods for identifying and analyzing open field systems

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.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Aston, M. & Gerrard, C.	<i>Interpreting the Medieval Village</i>	Windgather, 2013
Beckett, J.V.	<i>A History of Laxton: Englands last Open Field Village</i>	Blackwell 1989
Beresford, M.	<i>The Lost Villages of England</i>	Sutton, 1954
Hall, David	<i>Medieval Fields</i>	Shire, 2010
Oosthuizen, S.	<i>Landscapes Decoded: The origins and development of Cambridgeshire's Medieval Fields</i>	Hertfordshire University Press, 2006
Oosthuizen, S.	<i>Tradition and Transformation: Archaeology, Common Rights and Landscape</i>	Bloomsbury, 2013
Taylor, C. C.	<i>Village and Farmstead</i>	George Phillip, 1983
Williamson, Tom	<i>Shaping Medieval Landscapes: Settlement, Society and Environment</i>	Windgather, 2004
Williamson, Tom	<i>Environment, Society and Landscape in Early Medieval England: Time and topography</i>	Boydell & Brewer, 2013

Website addresses

Historic England 2011. *Introduction to Heritage Assets: Field Systems*.

<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/iha-field-systems/fieldsystems.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 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: 26 September 2016