

## Exploring the landscape of the Domesday book

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**Start date** 17 February 2017**End date** 19 February 2017**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge**Tutor** Dr Susan Oosthuizen**Course code** 1617NRX063**Director of Programmes**

Emma Jennings

**For further information on this  
course, please contact**Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr  
[clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Susan Oosthuizen is Reader in Medieval Archaeology at the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education and is a member of the University of Cambridge Department of Archaeology. She has been involved in university lifelong learning since 1985. Her undergraduate degree in Archaeology and History was taken at the University of Southampton; she holds an MA from SOAS (University of London), and 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, the Royal Historical Society, and of Wolfson College, Cambridge. She is a former President of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

Dr Oosthuizen has a strong interest in community engagement in higher education. She was Vice-Chair of the Universities Association for Lifelong Learning (UALL) from 2007-2012, and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Her work has included numerous externally funded outreach projects, and the direction of a programme of community education and outreach courses for the Institute. She received a National Award for excellence in History Teaching in Higher Education in 2003 from the Historical Association, the History at the Universities Defence Group, the Royal Historical Society, and the LTSN for History, Archaeology and Classics'. She delivered the 2012 Hoskins Lecture on 'Medieval Open Fields and Their Origins'.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Session 1: Decoding the text
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 2: The accuracy of population estimates in DB
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3: Pre-Conquest landholding in rural areas illuminated in DB
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Session 4: Evidence from rural settlement of the impact of the Norman Conquest on rural communities
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Session 5: The ecclesiastical landscape in the later eleventh century
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 6 : The later eleventh-century agricultural economy
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 7: Change and continuity in later eleventh-century England
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

The course aims to:

- Explore some of the ideas, theories and debates within which the eleventh-century rural landscape is currently interpreted and explained;
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Domesday Book as a source of evidence for the later eleventh-century landscape;
- Develop explanations/hypotheses for the interpretation of the eleventh-century rural landscape using Domesday Book and other evidence.

### Content:

Using the structure of Domesday Book as a general guide, each of the seven sessions of the course focuses on a different aspect of the record of the landscape directly or indirectly recorded in it in 1086. Although many of the examples used in the course are drawn from Cambridgeshire, the principles and methods they illustrate are generally applicable. The first session focuses on the English translation of the text and the interpretation of its terms. The second session considers the accuracy of the DB as a source for the eleventh century, through the example of population estimates. In the third session the course explores the records in some circuits of DB of pre-Conquest landholdings and their implications for characterising the pre-Conquest peasant landscape. The fourth session will focus on the impact of the Norman Conquest on rural communities, in particular through the lens of settlement – the places where people lived. The fifth session explores landscapes of ecclesiastical provision in the later eleventh century, while evidence in the DB for the agricultural economy takes centre stage in the sixth session. The final session aims to bring these threads together to consider continuity and change in the English landscape through the turbulent decades of the later eleventh century.

### Presentation of the course:

The course will be presented through illustrated lectures and whole group questions and discussion.

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

- Demonstrate an outline knowledge of some of the ideas, theories and debates within which the eleventh-century rural landscape is currently interpreted and explained;
- Begin to be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Domesday Book as a source of evidence for the later eleventh-century landscape;
- Begin to suggest explanations/hypotheses for the interpretation of the eleventh-century rural landscape using Domesday Book and other evidence.

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that may be of interest, although they do not need to be bought and/or consulted in advance of the course. Suggested core reading is shown with \*. Second-hand copies of many of these books may often be obtained inexpensively through [www.abebooks.co.uk](http://www.abebooks.co.uk).

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher and date</b>
Aston, M. & Gerrard, C.	<i>Interpreting the English Village</i>	Oxbow, 2014
Blair, J.	<i>The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society</i>	Oxford 2005
Darby, H. C.	<i>Domesday England</i>	Cambridge 1977, 1986
Faith, R.	<i>The English Peasantry and the Growth of Lordship</i>	Leicester 1997
Gelling, M.	<i>Signposts to the Past</i>	London 1978
Gelling, M. & Cole, A.	<i>The Landscape of Place-Names</i>	Stamford 2000
Hall, David	<i>Medieval Fields</i>	Princes Risborough 1982
Hallam, E. & Bates, D., eds	<i>Domesday Book</i>	Stroud 2001
Hooke, D.	<i>The Landscape of Anglo-Saxon England</i>	Leicester 1998
Lewis, C., Mitchell-Fox, P. and Dyer, C.	<i>Village, Hamlet and Field</i>	Manchester 1997
Liddiard, R.	<i>Castles in Context</i>	Oxford 2005
Martin, G.	<i>Domesday Book: A Complete Translation</i>	London 2003
Morris, R.	<i>Churches in the Landscape</i>	London 1997
Oosthuizen, S.	<i>Landscapes Decoded: A History of Cambridgeshire's Medieval Fields</i>	Hatfield 2006
Rackham, O.	<i>The History of the Countryside</i>	London 1986
Roffe, D.	<i>Decoding Domesday</i>	Woodbridge 2007
Roberts, B. K. & Wrathmell, S.	<i>Region and Place: A Study of English Rural Settlement</i>	Swindon 2002
*Taylor, C. C.	<i>Village and Farmstead</i>	London 1983
Taylor, C. C.	<i>Fields in the English Landscape</i>	Stroud 2000
Thirsk, J. (ed)	<i>Rural England</i>	Oxford 2000
T. Williamson	<i>Shaping Medieval Landscapes,</i>	Macclesfield 2002

**Website Addresses**

National Archives, Guide to Domesday Book <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/domesday-book/>

**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:* 11 November 2016