

## Managing agricultural productivity in the fen wetlands, c.400-c.1300

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**Date** 17 November 2018      **Time** 10:00 – 16:45

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge

**Academic Director** Professor Susan Oosthuizen      **Course code** 1819NDX012

**Director of Programmes** Sarah Ormrod

**For further information on this course, please contact** Head of Academic Centre Administration, Zara Kuckelhaus  
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**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Dr Susan Oosthuizen is Professor of Medieval Archaeology at the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education and a member of the University's Department of Archaeology. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, of the Royal Historical Society, and of Wolfson College, Cambridge. Her research is currently focused on the development of early medieval and medieval agricultural landscapes and settlements, and on the origins of Anglo-Saxon England. Her most recent publications are *The Anglo-Saxon Fenland* (Windgather, 2017) and *The Emergence of the English* (Arc Humanities Press, forthcoming 2018).

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**Day school content:**

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The East Anglian fens were the largest wetlands in England until their drainage in the 17th century. The day school explores the largely pastoral economy that they supported, the degree to which both land and water were managed across the period between c.400 and 1300, the respective influences of large abbeys and peasant communities in that management, and the importance of rights of common in their exploitation.

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**Programme:**

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09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee
10:00 – 11:15	The East Anglian fenland – historical overview c.400-1300
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Managing the pastoral landscape for agricultural productivity
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Managing water for agricultural productivity
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	The commercial impetus
16:45	Day school ends

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**Reading and resources list**

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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.

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<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher and date</b>
Bailey, M.	<i>A Marginal Economy? East Anglian Breckland in the Later Middle Ages.</i>	Cambridge UP, 1989
Darby, H. C.	<i>The Medieval Fenland</i>	David and Charles, 1974
Fairweather, Janet, ed.	<i>Liber Eliensis, A History of the Isle of Ely from the Seventh Century to the Twelfth.</i>	Boydell and Brewer, 2005.
Hallam, H.	<i>The New Lands of Elloe</i>	Leicester UP, 1954
Hallam, H.	<i>Liber Eliensis, A History of the Isle of Ely from the Seventh Century to the Twelfth.</i>	Cambridge UP, 1965.

Miller, E.	<i>The Abbey and Bishopric of Ely</i>	Cambridge UP, 1951
Oosthuizen, S.	Rural settlement and commerce in the medieval peat fen, c.900-1300'. In P. Stamper and N. Christie, eds., <i>Rural Medieval Britain and Ireland, AD 800-1600: Settlements, Landscapes and Regions</i> , 206-224.	Windgather, 2012
Oosthuizen, S.	<i>The Anglo-Saxon Fenland</i>	Windgather, 2017
Ravensdale, J. R.	<i>Liable to Floods</i>	Cambridge UP, 1974
Ravensdale, J R.	<i>A Domesday Inheritance</i>	Cambridge UP, 1986
Royal Commission on Historic Monuments	<i>North-East Cambridgeshire</i>	HMSO, 1972
Taylor, C. C.	<i>The Cambridgeshire Landscape</i>	Hodder, 1973
Spufford, M.	<i>Contrasting Communities</i>	Cambridge UP, 1974
Stone, D.	<i>Decision-Making in Medieval Agriculture</i>	Oxford UP, 2005
Thirsk, J.	<i>Fenland Farming in the Sixteenth Century</i>	Leicester UP, 1973
Willmoth, F. and Oosthuizen, S., eds.	<i>The Ely Coucher Book 1249-50. The Bishop of Ely's Manors in the Cambridgeshire Fenland</i>	Cambridgeshire Record Society, 2015

## Website addresses

Reports of the English Heritage Fenland Project (1988-1996), published by *East Anglian Archaeology* as EAA Volumes 27, 35, 45, 52, 55, 56, 66 and 79; downloadable from <http://eaareports.org.uk/topic/landscape/>

Great Fen Project [www.greatfen.org.uk](http://www.greatfen.org.uk)

Wicken Fen Nature Reserve <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen/>

McBride, A. et al. eds. 2011. *The Fen Management Handbook*. Scottish Natural Heritage. <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B823264.pdf>

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## Additional information

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### 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 please inform our Admissions Team on [ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1223 746262 if you have not already advised us of your requirements.

**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:* 08 October 2018