

CAMBRIDGE AIR SURVEYS

II

MEDIEVAL ENGLAND
AN AERIAL SURVEY

TO

F. R. SALTER (1887–1967)

IN GRATEFUL THANKS FOR HELP
AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-10936-9 - Medieval England: An Aerial Survey
M. W. Beresford and J. K. S. St Joseph
Frontmatter
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MEDIEVAL ENGLAND AN AERIAL SURVEY

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The revisions in this second edition fall into several categories. Firstly, those arising from the availability of more and better photographs, taken from new angles or in different seasons: some of these have been substituted for illustrations in the first edition. Whenever necessary, the commentaries have been revised to take account of the changed direction of view and of any additional features now revealed. Secondly, since 1958 photography of a far wider range of sites has been undertaken: some of these illustrate the themes of the book more adequately than those chosen for the first edition. Thirdly, the discarding of a few subjects has enabled us to add new topics that may appropriately be displayed in aerial photographs. In the commentaries on the remaining photographs we have corrected errors that have come to our attention, and have added new references to documentary sources or to published work, where relevant to the photograph.

We hope that these adjustments are in the best traditions of improving husbandry: to fashion new tools; to take in new ground; to adopt new approaches; but in general to maintain a pace of change that gives little comfort to those seeking 'revolutions' in the affairs of the field.

Our book was designed to set a treatment of specific examples within a general account of changes and survivals in the medieval landscape, but not to offer anything like a textbook of medieval economic history. In the twenty years since our text was completed in 1957 no large-scale textbook of medieval economic history has appeared, although a good deal about England can be learned from *The Cambridge Economic History of Europe* (I, 2nd revised edition, 1966, II, 1952, and III, 1963). Volume IV of *The Agrarian History of England and Wales* (1967) now provides an authoritative treatment of the transition from the medieval period, volume II has dealt with the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, and other medieval volumes are projected. Yet the medieval landscape rather than the medieval economy formed our central theme and, since the chronology and causation of change that we adopted is not dissimilar to that of these *Histories*, we have made no attempt to re-write our own linking commentary nor given references to these *Histories* in our footnotes, as we might had we been writing for the first time in 1977.

Work in landscape history itself has not lacked progress in the last twenty years, and the air photograph as a tool of study has assisted this progress of scholarship, whether in the hands of economic historians, historical geographers, fieldworkers, or archaeologists. When our first manuscript was completed, it may be noted, the periodical *Medieval Archaeology* was unborn and, although *The Making of the English Landscape* was published, Professor Hoskins had yet to write *Local History in England* and *Fieldwork in Local History*. We have assumed that any serious reader will have constant reference to these works as well as to the issues of *The Local Historian*, although again we would no doubt have made frequent reference to them had we been preparing a totally new book. At the local level, there have been valuable studies of non-Midland field-systems, particularly by Dr Alan Baker,¹ and of the totality of a local landscape in the recent *Dorset, Cambridgeshire* and

¹ A. R. H. Baker, 'Field-systems in the Vale of Holmesdale', *Ag.Hist.Rev.* XIV (1966) 1–24 and articles cited there.

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Northamptonshire volumes of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments. If we have not made extensive reference to these it is because Dr Baker's Kentish field-systems do not readily yield themselves to the aerial camera, while the Royal Commission volumes have themselves brought many aerial photographs to public view. Since 1957 one of us has published a long book on medieval town-scapes and been jointly responsible for a survey of village studies. With these available, we have not felt the need to revise or to elaborate those parts of the first edition embodying ideas that were developed in later books except where opinions expressed in 1957 seem to us untenable in 1977.

CAMBRIDGE
June 1977

M. W. BERESFORD
J. K. S. ST JOSEPH

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

The varied pattern of the English landscape with its towns and villages is a subject that lends itself particularly well to air photography. It seemed to the General Editors of the *Cambridge Air Surveys* that a representative series of photographs illustrating some of the many different aspects of settlement history would be very suitable for inclusion in the series. In 1951 Mr M. W. Beresford, then lecturer in Economic History at Leeds University, was invited to collaborate in such a book. A choice was made of photographs already available, and subjects that would make the collection more fully representative were proposed for future photography. Sometimes interesting photographs prompted search for documents; often well-documented sites led to suggestions for further photographs; and in this way the number of photographs grew rapidly. They proved valuable not only for presenting large towns and villages in a single comprehensive view which could be subjected to historical analysis, but as a means of research in historical topography.

The photographs have been chosen to illustrate a wide range of towns and villages, their communications, industries and agriculture. Many alternative sites might have been included and the selection has been limited, not for any lack of photographs (in the first draft of the book twice as many illustrations were chosen) but by the need to consider what could be presented in a volume of reasonable size. It only became apparent as the work proceeded, how much of the history of English villages is written in their plans. In the countryside, traces of medieval industry, of agriculture, quarrying, and of defences – whether the vast earthworks of castles or the small moats of fortified farmhouses – are clearly incised upon the surface of the land.

The preparation of this book fell into two parts. Mr Beresford undertook the primary documentation of the photographs chosen as illustrations, and this often involved search amongst records in public collections and in private hands. The planning of the necessary flights, the identification of the sites to be photographed, and the actual photography itself, are the work of the present writer. The text has been the subject of much consultation between the authors and is presented as the joint work of both. The photographs, all of which have been taken during the last few years in the course of special flights, have been chosen from the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs, where the original material may be consulted. While future flights will yield many further records of the kind with which this book is concerned, the photographs now available in the University Collection are numerous enough to provide widely representative illustrations of the subject. Photographs from the very extensive collections maintained by the Air Ministry have also been consulted by the authors, whenever it was thought that they might help in elucidating some special point.

The editors are indebted to the Air Ministry for permission to reproduce the air photographs which are Crown copyright. The authors wish to express thanks to the following for their kindness in giving information or providing maps or documents for study: the Rev. C. J. Collis, Rector of Whitechurch; Sir Edmund Craster, All Souls College, Oxford; Mr F. G. Emmison and Miss Hilda Grieve of the Essex Record Office; Dr E. J.

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Preface to the First Edition

Fisher; the Rev. J. W. H. Faulkner, Rector of Cublington; Dr W. O. Hassall, Bodleian Library, Oxford; Mr P. I. King of the Northamptonshire Record Office; the Lord Leconfield; Mr R. B. Pugh and Mr P. M. Tillott of the Victoria County History Committee; the Rev. H. E. Ruddy, Rector of Braunston; Mr R. A. Skelton of the British Museum Map Room; the Earl Spencer; Mrs J. Varley of the Lincolnshire Archives Committee. Clive Semple and Clifford Farrar, friends and former students of Mr Beresford, enabled him to visit by car many of the places described in this book. Other assistance is acknowledged in the footnotes. The line-drawings in the text have been prepared at the University Press from original sketches by Dr K. J. Allison.

CAMBRIDGE
May 1957

J. K. S. ST JOSEPH

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The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (fig. 5B, Ilmington, 1778); the Librarian of All Souls College, Oxford (7B, Padbury, 1591); the Lord Monson and Lincolnshire Archives Committee (8A, Broxholme, c. 1600); Public Record Office, London (14B, Carburton, 1615, 61B, Old Bolingbroke, 1718 and 66B, Old Byland, 1598); Sir Richard Hyde-Parker (26A, Long Melford, 1580); Trustees of the British Museum (28B, Aldborough, 1709); the Editor of *V.C.H. Huntingdonshire* (32B, Great Gidding, 1541); the Librarian, Cambridge University Library (32C, Great Gidding, 1858 and 73B, St Ives, 1808); the Rev. C. J. Collis (40B, Milton Abbas, 1771); Buckinghamshire Record Office (41A, Boarstall, 1444); Cambridgeshire Record Office (43B, Chippenham, 1712); Corporation of Chester (78A, Chester, c. 1580); the Lord Salisbury (79B, Berwick-upon-Tweed, c. 1575); Essex Record Office (96A, Chelmsford, 1591).

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Figs. 2B, 32A, 80B, 111A, 117B and C are reproduced from the first edition of this book, for which they were prepared. Figs. 1B, 3A, 20B, 39B, 42B, 96C, 103B, 104B and 119 were drawn by B. M. Thomason. The assistance of Mr N. B. Clayton in editing and in 'seeing' the material through the press is much appreciated.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES

Add. Ch.	Additional Charters, B.L.
Add. MSS.	Additional Manuscripts, B.L.
<i>Ag. Hist. Rev.</i>	<i>Agricultural History Review</i>
<i>Amat. Hist.</i>	<i>Amateur Historian</i>
<i>Ant. Jnl</i>	<i>Antiquaries' Journal</i>
<i>Arch. Aeliana</i>	<i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>
<i>Arch. Cant.</i>	<i>Archaeologia Cantiana</i>
<i>Arch. Jnl</i>	<i>Archaeological Journal</i>
<i>Beds. Hist. Rec. Soc.</i>	<i>Publications of the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society</i>
B.L.	British Library
<i>Br. Arch. Reports</i>	<i>British Archaeological Reports</i>
<i>Bucks. Rec. Soc.</i>	<i>Publications of the Buckinghamshire Record Society</i>
C.	followed by a number: classes of documents in the P.R.O.
<i>Cal. Ch. Rolls</i>	<i>Calendar of Charter Rolls</i>
<i>Cal. Cl. Rolls</i>	<i>Calendar of Close Rolls</i>
<i>Cal. Misc. Inq.</i>	<i>Calendar of Miscellaneous Inquisitions</i>
<i>Cal. Pat. Rolls</i>	<i>Calendar of Patent Rolls</i>
<i>Cal. Rot. Cart.</i>	<i>Calendar Rotuli Cartarum</i> (Record Commission, 1837)
<i>Cal. S.P.D.</i>	<i>Calendar of State Papers, Domestic</i>
<i>Camden Soc.</i>	<i>Camden Society Publications</i>
<i>Derbys. Arch. Jnl</i>	<i>Derbyshire Archaeological Journal</i>
D.L.	followed by a number: classes of documents in the P.R.O.
<i>Dugdale Soc.</i>	<i>Publications of the Dugdale Society</i>
E.	followed by a number: classes of documents in the P.R.O.
<i>Econ. Hist. Rev.</i>	<i>Economic History Review</i>
<i>Eng. Hist. Rev.</i>	<i>English History Review</i>
<i>Feudal Aids</i>	<i>Feudal Aids and Analogous Documents</i>
<i>Geog. Jnl</i>	<i>Geographical Journal</i>
<i>Hist. MSS. Comm.</i>	<i>Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission</i>
<i>Inq. A.Q.D.</i>	<i>Inquisitions ad quod damnum: P.R.O., c. 143</i>
<i>Jnl Brit. Arch. Assoc.</i>	<i>Journal of the British Archaeological Association</i>
<i>Jnl Derbys. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.</i>	<i>Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society</i>
<i>Lincs. Rec. Soc.</i>	<i>Publications of the Lincolnshire Records Society</i>
L.R.	followed by a number: classes of documents in the P.R.O.
M.A.	Ministers' Accounts: P.R.O.
<i>Med. Arch.</i>	<i>Medieval Archaeology</i>

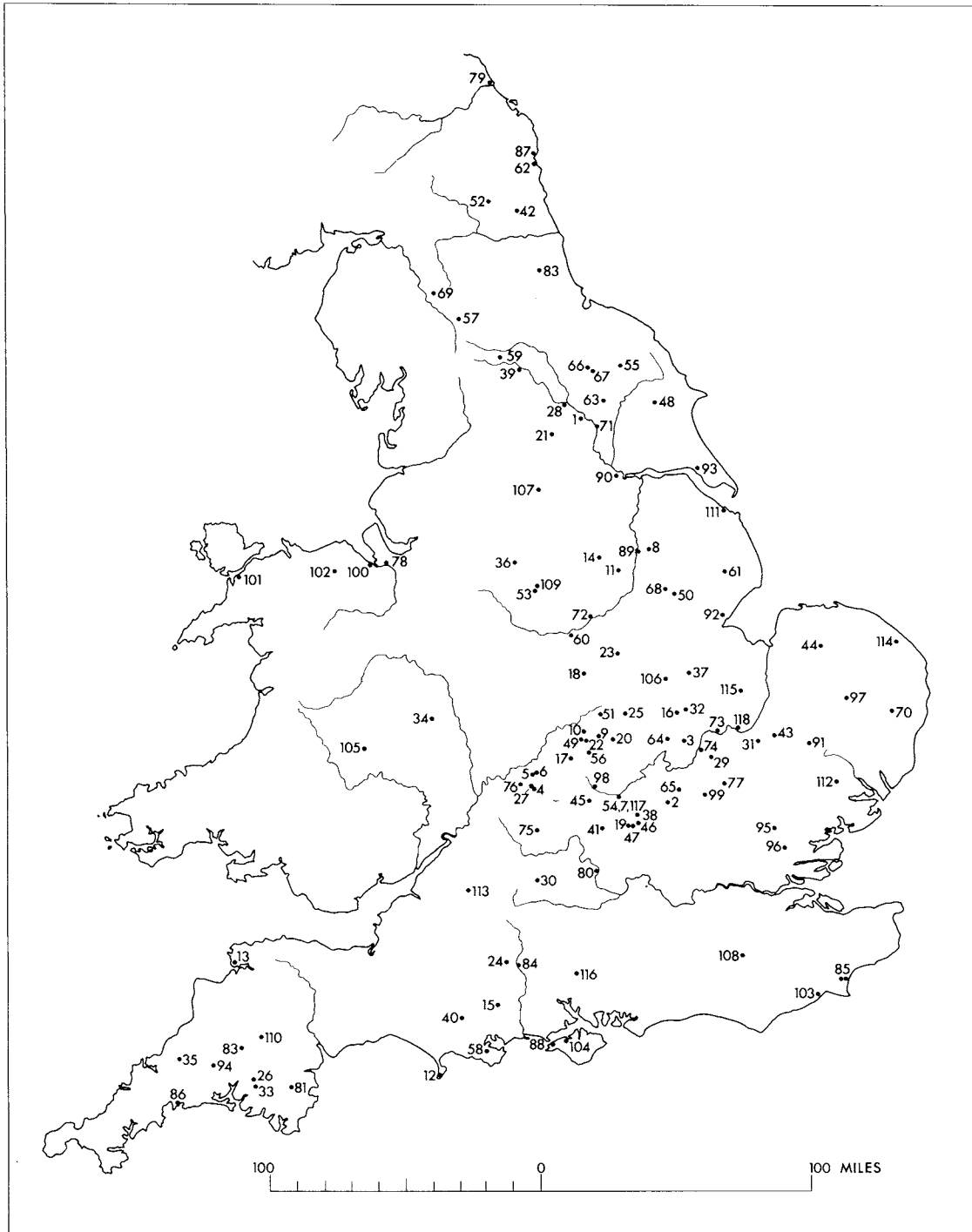
Abbreviations

M.P.C. } M.P.D. } M.P.E. } M.P.F. } M.R. }	classes of maps in the P.R.O.
<i>Northants Rec. Soc.</i>	<i>Publications of the Northamptonshire Record Society</i>
O.S.	Ordnance Survey
Parly Survey	Parliamentary Surveys: P.R.O.
P.N.	followed by <i>county name</i> : county volumes of the Place Name Society
P.R.O.	Public Record Office, London
<i>Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. and Ant. Field Club</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club</i> [afterwards as below]
<i>Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. and Arch. Soc.</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Proc. Geol. Assoc.</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Geologists' Association</i>
<i>Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology</i>
R.C.H.M.	followed by <i>county name</i> : Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, <i>Inventories of the counties of England and Wales</i>
<i>Rot. Hund.</i>	<i>Rotuli Hundredorum</i> (Record Commission, 1812–18)
<i>Rot. Parl.</i>	<i>Rotuli Parliamentorum</i> (1771–83)
S.C.	Special Collections: documents at the P.R.O.
S.P.	State Papers, Domestic: P.R.O.
<i>Surtees Soc.</i>	<i>Publications of the Surtees Society</i>
<i>Trans. Beds. Arch. Soc.</i>	<i>Transactions of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Trans. Birm. Arch. Soc.</i>	<i>Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Trans. Caerns. Hist. Soc.</i>	<i>Transactions of the Caernarvonshire Historical Society</i>
<i>Trans. Cumb. and West. Arch. Soc.</i>	<i>Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society</i>
<i>Trans. Devon Assoc.</i>	<i>Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and Art</i>
<i>Trans. E.R. Ant. Soc.</i>	<i>Transactions of the East Riding Antiquarian Society</i>
<i>Trans. Hist. Soc. Lancs. and Chesh.</i>	<i>Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire</i>
<i>Trans. Inst. Brit. Geog.</i>	<i>Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers</i>
<i>Trans. Leics. Arch. Soc.</i>	<i>Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Trans. Shrop. Arch. Soc.</i>	<i>Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Trans. Thoroton Soc.</i>	<i>Transactions of the Thoroton Society</i>
U.L.C.	University Library, Cambridge
<i>Wilts. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Mag.</i>	<i>Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine</i>
<i>Wilts. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc. Rec. Branch</i>	<i>Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Records Branch</i>
<i>Yorks. Arch. Jnl</i>	<i>Yorkshire Archaeological Journal</i>
<i>Yorks. Arch. Soc. Rec. Ser.</i>	<i>Yorkshire Archaeological Society Records Series</i>
V.C.H.	<i>Victoria County History</i>

STANDARD WORKS OF REFERENCE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Baker, <i>Northants.</i> | Baker, G., <i>The History and Antiquities of the County of Northampton</i> (1822–30) |
| Blomefield, <i>Norfolk</i> | Blomefield, F., <i>An essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk</i> , I, II and III (pp. 1–677) (1739–45); by C. Parkin, III (pp. 678 to end), IV and V (1769–75) |
| Bridges, <i>Northants.</i> | Bridges, J., <i>The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire</i> , compiled from the manuscript collections of J. Bridges by the Rev. P. Whalley (1791) |
| Camden | W. Camden, <i>Britannia</i> . . . first published in Latin 1586, with subsequent editions to 1639. First English translation 1610; an edition with additions and improvements was published 1695 and ‘enlarged with the latest discoveries’ by R. Gough in 1789 (both with subsequent editions). |
| Dugdale, <i>Monasticon</i> | Dugdale, W., <i>Monasticon Anglicanum</i> , edited by Caley, Ellis and Bandinel (1817–30; also the edition of 1846) |
| Dugdale, <i>Warwicks.</i> | Dugdale, W., <i>The Antiquities of Warwickshire</i> (the whole revised, augmented and continued by W. Thomas, 1730) |
| <i>Extenta Manerii</i> | <i>Extenta Manerii</i> in <i>Statutes of the Realm</i> , I. 242–3. The document itself is of uncertain date but was collected under 4 Edw. I, i.e. 1275 |
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