

Medieval Resource Assessment for the Isle of Wight

Nature of Evidence

A variety of earthworks, built structures and below-ground evidence survives for this period and finds are recorded in the HER. Documentary evidence is also important. However, knowledge of the Island's medieval archaeology is hampered by a lack of large-scale modern excavations. The exception to this is the excavation programme carried out at Carisbrooke Castle from 1976 to 1981, published in an account which also covers earlier excavations at this site (Young 2000). The programme of coastal excavation and fieldwork at Wootton-Quarr recorded significant medieval remains (Tomalin et al forthcoming). Various smaller-scale excavations are described under the relevant headings. Recent evaluations and excavations in advance of development have started to uncover medieval material in the last few years but the lack of settlement excavations, both rural and urban, means that there are serious gaps in knowledge, both in respect of structures and of material culture. From 2003 the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has operated on the Isle of Wight and has made a very significant contribution to knowledge in respect of material culture <<http://www.finds.org.uk>>.

In contrast to the small number of excavations there have been significant non-excavational thematic and landscape studies. Documentary study of taxation records in connection with a national study of deserted medieval villages was undertaken in the 1950s and 1960s (Beresford and Hurst 1971) but may have misinterpreted the evidence for the Isle of Wight (Sly 1988). Two parish surveys have been carried out (Margham 1990, Margham 1992a) but this approach needs to be extended to the Island's remaining 28 historic parishes. Morphological studies of settlements have also been carried out (Margham 1982, Margham 1983, Margham 1992b) although further work needs to be done in this area. Historic parks and gardens described in a work published by the Isle of Wight County Council include medieval deer parks and gardens (Basford 1989). An Extensive Urban Survey of the Isle of Wight's historic towns has been carried out (Edwards 1999). Landscape surveys of various National Trust properties have been prepared (Currie 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, Bannister 2003). The Isle of Wight Medieval Landscape Project, based at the University of Southampton, has done some work on medieval settlement and land use <<http://www.arch.soton.ac.uk/Research>>.

The Historic Landscape Character Assessment (HLC) recently completed by the Isle of Wight County Archaeological Service is particularly relevant to the medieval period and has led to an increased understanding of the historic landscape. HLC results have been synthesised in a report prepared for English Heritage and the Isle of Wight Council (Basford forthcoming a) but HLC types will be subjected to further analysis and ranking procedures in the Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP) being prepared by the County Archaeological Service. A PhD thesis currently in preparation aims to explore the relevance of regional land use and settlements models in the context of the Isle of Wight (Basford forthcoming b).

The state of knowledge to 1980 was summarised in 'The Vectis Report: A Survey of Isle of Wight Archaeology' (Basford 1980). Useful sources for the medieval period are listed in this work and in 'Isle of Wight Local History: A Guide to Sources' (Parker 1975). Bibliographies relating mainly to medieval and post-medieval historic land use

and settlement, and containing recently published material, can be found in the Isle of Wight HLC Report (Basford forthcoming a) and in the PhD thesis referred to above (Basford forthcoming b).

An overarching research question concerning all archaeological periods on the Isle of Wight is the extent to which its island status distinguished it from mainland areas and shaped its development.

Inheritance

Carisbrooke Castle was a key site on the Isle of Wight from Early Medieval times and excavations by Young (2000) have provided new evidence on the origins of this site. The earliest definite use of the castle hill-top at Carisbrooke was as a cemetery in the first half of the 6th century. However, Young has postulated that the surviving remains of the lower enclosure at Carisbrooke Castle indicate the existence of a late Saxon burgh at Carisbrooke Castle, built to defend the Isle of Wight against Viking raids and associated with two phases of substantial timber buildings within the enclosure.

Apart from the possible burgh site at Carisbrooke Castle there is no direct evidence, for the Viking raids on the Isle of Wight recorded by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in the late 9th century, late 10th century and early 11th century (Garmonsway 1972). However, the Early Norman tower of Shalfleet Church (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006) suggests a preoccupation with defence in the vulnerable northern half of the Island, near tidal inlets, even after the Norman Conquest. A Viking style cloak-pin has been recorded from Wootton Haven and a Viking sword pommel from Brading Haven.

Most of the evidence demonstrating the substantial inheritance of Later Medieval patterns of settlement and territorial organisation from the Early Medieval Period comes from documentary research, including studies of charters, and from place-name studies. From the late 7th century ‘mother parishes’ appear to have evolved, having the form of ‘bacon-rasher’ slices crossing the Island from the Solent to the south coast (Hockey 1982, 1-13). Freshwater, Calbourne, Carisbrooke, Newchurch and Brading provide convincing evidence of such parochial territories in the period before the Norman Conquest and Arreton was possibly at the centre of a further such territory (Margham 2000, 121-123). The Carisbrooke Parochia has been subjected to a particular study (Hase 1988, Hase 1994). Newchurch Parish survived as a unit of land stretching right across the Island until the 19th century. These parishes seem to have corresponded with the territories of early Anglo-Saxon estates. In origin they may even have pre-dated the Anglo-Saxon invasion of the Isle of Wight and have been connected with Roman estates (Tomalin unpublished) although this suggestion has been challenged (Sewell 2000). By later Anglo-Saxon times some of the early estates had been broken up into smaller landholdings, which are described in a number of charters (Margham 2005, Margham forthcoming a) but the boundaries of the ‘mother parishes’ seem to have remained largely intact and to have formed the basis of medieval parochial organisation in which ‘daughter parishes’ were taken out of the territories of the ‘mother parishes’.

The early Anglo-Saxon estates contained land in most of the Island’s topographic zones and seem to have been laid out to allow exploitation of various resources within the landscape. Transhumance may possibly have been practised, with the less productive and more wooded area of the Northern lowlands being used for extensive

grazing on a seasonal basis, although some new evidence from development-funded excavation suggests more settlement and cultivation of the Northern clays from Roman times than had previously been suspected (Network Archaeology, 2005). Nonetheless, the northern part of the Island remained more heavily wooded than the southern part in Later Medieval times and to the present day, reflecting a pattern that may have existed from prehistoric times. The later Anglo-Saxon landscape has been reconstructed by Margham (2003) and related to the size of individual estates.

The Carisbrooke area and Bowcombe Valley was a focus for settlement from Roman times, with villas known at Carisbrooke and Clatterford and a largely uninvestigated building at Bowcombe. In the late 5th and 6th centuries the Isle of Wight was occupied by Pagan Anglo-Saxon settlers of Jutish origin but no settlement sites of this period have been recorded that can be linked with the cemeteries at Carisbrooke Castle and on Bowcombe Down, or with cemeteries elsewhere on the Island such as Chessell Down (Arnold 1982). Recent finds of Middle Saxon date to the south-west of Carisbrooke Castle near Froglands Farm indicate a market at this site (Ulmschneider 2003) and could suggest a possible position for a settlement of earlier date, contemporary with the Carisbrooke Castle and Bowcombe Down cemeteries. In late Saxon times the Island's 'central place' was probably in the Carisbrooke area, whether this central place was the defended *burh* on the site of Carisbrooke Castle suggested by Young (2000), on the site of the present village or elsewhere (Margham 1992). Domesday Book does not refer to Carisbrooke by name but describes the manor of Bowcombe in which Carisbrooke lay, recording tolls which indicate the existence of a market. Carisbrooke survived as the Island's focal point until the borough of Newport was founded in the late 12th century.

Domesday Book records ten churches and approximately 100 manors on the Isle of Wight (Hockey 1982, 2; Basford 1980, 142-14; Munby 1982). However, many settlements unrecorded in Domesday Book originated in Early Medieval times, as attested by their Anglo-Saxon place-names (Kökeritz 1940, Margham forthcoming b). Most manorial settlement probably consisted of the manor house and a few surrounding peasant dwellings, although one or two may have been associated with nucleated settlements. From the 11th century some lords established chapels close to their manor houses and these gradually achieved parochial status during the Middle Ages. The mixed medieval pattern of nucleated and dispersed settlement on the Isle of Wight may have Early Medieval origins but this topic requires further study.

Chronology

The main sequence of historical events is well understood although the various 'histories' listed in Parker (1975, 162-163) are mainly of 19th century date. There is no comprehensive recent account of the Island's medieval history although it has been covered to some extent by Jones and Jones (1987). Generally speaking, the limited amount of excavation has prevented the establishment of a clear chronological framework for the archaeology of this period apart from built structures which are dated on architectural evidence (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006). However, during the Wootton-Quarr Project scientific dating methods were applied not only to earlier periods but also to medieval materials such as the roof tiles from the Quarr tile kiln (Loader et al 1997, 24). Excavations at Carisbrooke have produced, for the first time on the Isle of Wight, good stratified sequences of artefacts for the medieval and post-medieval periods (Young 2000).

Landscape and Land Use

Excavation has played a limited role in understanding this theme although a survey associated with excavations on Asheby Down recorded medieval features (Drewett 1970). Fieldwork has led to the discovery of considerable numbers of earthworks associated with medieval land use. Present day landscape features such as woods and boundaries are often survivals from the medieval landscape although in some cases they may be even older in origin. Landscape study and analysis, including the use of air photographs, has contributed significantly to the understanding of this topic. 16th century royal surveys of the Isle of Wight are a potentially valuable source, discussed in the Isle of Wight HLC Report but not yet fully explored (Basford forthcoming a).

The Isle of Wight was included within Rackham's 'Ancient Countryside Region' and has been placed by Roberts and Wrathmell (2000, 2002) within their 'South Eastern Province' which has many of the characteristics of Rackham's 'Ancient Countryside'. However, the Isle of Wight has a remarkably varied historic landscape character in relation to its small size and the HLC Project has therefore defined a number of discrete Historic Landscape Character Areas based on geology, topography, historic land use, settlement patterns and other factors (Basford forthcoming a). These character areas encompass chalk downland, sandstone valleys and ridges, northern claylands with gravel cappings, a limestone plain and the almost unique Isle of Wight Undercliff, a coastal landslip dating from the Holocene.

Despite Rackham's assertion that open-field was 'either absent or of modest extent' within his region of 'Ancient Countryside' (Rackham 1986, table 1.2) it has been demonstrated by Roberts and Wrathmell (2002, fig 5.10) that open-field formerly covered considerable areas of the South Eastern Province. Williamson (2003, 5) has also stressed that in areas of 'Ancient Countryside' open-field systems were often extensive in medieval times although they were usually irregular, smaller and more numerous than in Midland districts, and enclosed at an earlier date.

Prior to the HLC Project (Basford forthcoming a) no systematic study had been made of the extent of open-field on the Isle of Wight as a whole in medieval and post-medieval times. However, studies of Freshwater Parish (Margham 1992) and Swainston Manor (Jones 1991) showed that these areas contained some open-field which survived into post-medieval times. The HLC Project has now provided evidence for the probable existence of open-field in many parts of the Island, although it appears to have been largely absent from the northern clays, the central chalk ridge and the Undercliff. However, the Island landscape would have looked quite different from that of the English Midlands, where open-field arable occupied up to eighty or ninety percent of the total land in some townships. On the Isle of Wight most medieval manors would probably have had a core of open-field arable farmed by manorial tenants but the amount of land devoted to open-field arable would generally have been limited in extent and each manor would have had variable amounts of common or waste (including downland common pasture in many cases), valley-floor meadow and woodland.

Until post-medieval times the Isle of Wight appears to have possessed a relatively large area of land classified in the HLC as *waste common or heath* and most of this land was probably heathland although this landscape type now barely survives on the

Island. The former existence of heathland constitutes one of the historic characteristics distinguishing 'Ancient Countryside' from 'Planned Countryside'. Winding roads and tracks are a distinctive component of the Island's present historic landscape character and have been defined by Rackham as one of the modern characteristics of 'Ancient Countryside'. Rackham also considered that the presence of many small woods was, historically, a feature of 'Ancient Countryside' (Rackham 1986, tables 1.1 and 1.2). In this respect only the northern half of the Isle of Wight conforms to Rackham's model whereas the central and southern parts of the Island possess a considerable area of chalk downland cleared of woodland in prehistory and relatively large areas of former Greensand heath. From swine-rents recorded in the Domesday survey Rackham (1986, 78) has tentatively estimated that the Isle of Wight had only 6% of woodland in 1086, compared with 15% in Hampshire and 70% in the Weald. However, the HLC estimates of woodland on ancient sites and of assarted woodland on the Isle of Wight may indicate that Rackham's figures are too low.

Cahill (1984) has cautioned against viewing the Island's central and southern downs as a static monocultural habitat. There is a considerable body of evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval field systems on the downs but their major use in medieval times was probably as common grazing land in the ownership of individual manors. However, some downland was clearly used for arable cultivation, as on Ashe Down where ridge and furrow has been recorded (Drewett 1970). A stock enclosure also recorded by Drewett on Ashe Down is the only known example of enclosed pasture on the chalk in medieval times but enclosure of the downs to create private grazing lands was widespread from the 16th century.

Surviving or recorded evidence for different types of medieval land use on the Isle of Wight is summarised below.

Ridge and Furrow

Ridge and furrow earthworks are usually poorly defined on the Isle of Wight in comparison with those in the Midlands. Until recently, only very limited areas had been located but more examples are now recorded in the HER, partly as a result of recent surveys. The Coastal Audit (IWCAHES 2000) identified very narrow ridge and furrow within the rough ground of the Undercliff, possibly representing lazy beds, as well as examples near the northern coast. Developer-funded work by Network Archaeology (2005) has also identified ridge and furrow on the northern clays. However, some of the sites recorded in the HER are probably post-medieval. Ridge and furrow near the medieval borough of Newtown is one of the few examples that can be securely associated with medieval settlement (Basford 1980, 45-48). There is a need for a morphological study of ridge and furrow on the Isle of Wight.

Strip Lynchets

Some examples survive on steep downland slopes, including those at Chillerton Down, Chillerton village, St Catherine's Hill and St Martin's Down. A comprehensive audit is required.

Woodland and Forest

Parkhurst Forest existed by AD 986 and after the Norman Conquest was a hunting preserve of the lords of the Island until 1293 when it became a royal forest (Chatters 1991). Historically, part of Parkhurst Forest was wood pasture and part was

heathland. Most other woodland was probably enclosed in medieval times and may have been managed by coppicing. Combley Great Wood was owned by Quarr Abbey in the Middle Ages and a bank running just inside the wood may be a medieval enclosure bank. A woodland survey is required to identify surviving archaeological earthworks and to relate the field evidence to medieval documentary records.

Boundary Banks

Recorded boundary banks include those thought to define blocks of manorial downland and/or parish boundaries, as for instance along the edge of Wroxall Down and Luccombe Down (Currie 2002), Mottistone Down, and High Down (IWCAHES 2000). A downland survey is required to identify other boundary banks and archaeological earthworks, and to relate field evidence to documentary records.

Deer Parks

Nine definite or possible medieval deer parks are recorded by Basford (1989) and one or two more have been identified in the HLC Project. 'The King's Park' at Watchingwell, recorded in Domesday Book, is one of the oldest known deer parks in England. A survey is required to identify surviving field evidence for deer parks.

Rabbit Warrens/Pillow Mounds

There are various documentary references to medieval rabbit warrens. Worsley (1781, 264) stated that 'the greater part of Thorley was once a rabbit warren, as appears by a grant of the Countess Isabella, who gave to the Prior of Christ-church a fifth part of the coneys in her manor of Thorley'. Elsewhere, rabbits were encouraged to burrow in man-made earthworks now known as 'pillow mounds'. Examples of these occur on Ashley Down, Knighton Down and north of Rowdown Copse. Medieval references to rabbit husbandry on the Isle of Wight are discussed by Hockey (1982, 205-212).

Fish Ponds

These survive as earthworks at Quarr Abbey and at Newnham Farm, once a grange of the abbey (Hockey 1970 49-51, Tomalin et al forthcoming). Manorial fishponds survive or are recorded at Stenbury, Great Budbridge, Barton, East Ashley, Kingston and Yaverland. The moated sites mentioned below may also have been used as fishponds.

Gardens

The only medieval gardens known to have existed on the Isle of Wight were created by the 13th century ruler of the Island, Isabella de Fortibus, and recorded in contemporary documents (Jones 1989).

Social Organisation

Information about the broad social organisation of the Isle of Wight and the lives of important landowners is available from documentary sources. Some surviving buildings also provide evidence for the lives of high status landowners. However, there is little information for this period about the organisation of town or village communities although some research has been done on the Tudor period (Jones 1978). There is a general lack of archaeological evidence apart from that provided by the Carisbrooke Castle excavations.

Following the Norman Conquest the military significance and special status of the Isle of Wight was reflected in its donation to William Fitz Osbern (an important Norman lord close to William the Conqueror) and in the construction of Carisbrooke Castle. Quasi-independent hereditary Lords of the Island existed for most of the period between 1066 and 1293 but after this date the lordship was in the nature of a Crown appointment rather than a permanent fief (Peers 1975, 3-8, Sheridan 1974). In the 16th century the lordship remained with the Crown and only captains of the castle were appointed although they were the effective civil and military governors of the Island. The status of the various Lords and Captains of the Isle of Wight is reflected in the great hall and other interior buildings at Carisbrooke Castle, despite much later alteration (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006 109-111). Another great landowner on the Isle of Wight was the see of Winchester which owned the estate of Swainston in Calbourne Parish from before the Norman Conquest until the end of the 13th century (Page ed. 1912 218-219). At Swainston a high status 12th and 13th century solar wing to a former hall survives (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006 278-280).

From 1293 the Isle of Wight was incorporated for administrative purposes into the County of Southampton (Hampshire) until it became a county in its own right in 1890. For local jurisdiction the Island was divided into hundreds and tithings. From the 12th century there were two hundreds known as the East Medine and the West Medine (Kökeritz 1940 2-4), the dividing line between them being the river Medina. Each hundred was then sub-divided into tithings. The Tithingman or Constable of each tithing had to present all males within his tithing at the Hundred Court, known on the Island as the Knighten Court. The court for the East Medine met at 'La Hatte' and that of the West Medine at 'La Pitte', both places on St George's Down near Newport. The Island towns, the manors of Swainston and Asheay with Ryde, and the 'Island of Freshwater' were outside the jurisdiction of the Knighten Court, each keeping its own court (Russell ed. 1981).

After 1066 a considerable amount of land was granted to the Norman Abbey of Lyre and this land was administered by Carisbrooke Priory from the 12th century (Hockey ed. 1981). The other Island priories of St Helens, St Cross and Appuldurcombe also held land locally (Hockey 1982 30-64) but Quarr Abbey was, with Lyre, the major religious landowner on the Island, possessing various local granges and manors on sites that are often still occupied by farms (Hockey ed. 1991). Religious organisations were responsible for medical and social care in the Middle Ages. Carisbrooke Priory maintained a nearby leper hospital, another hospital is recorded at Yarmouth, and a social confraternity with its own building existed at Northwood (Basford 1980, 142).

Manorial holdings on the Isle of Wight were numerous, parishes usually containing several manors, in contrast with other parts of England where parishes and manors were coterminous. A comparative study of parish and manorial organisation on the Isle of Wight and elsewhere would be useful. Manor houses are often found in close association with the parish church or possessed manorial chapels. The size and status of manorial holdings seems to have varied considerably and this is reflected in two surviving manorial buildings. The so-called 'Chale Abbey' is the remains of a substantial stone manor house built by John de Langford who was Constable of Carisbrooke Castle from 1334 to 1342 (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 116). The post-medieval Woolverton Manor at St Lawrence contains within its grounds the ruin of a

late 13th century stone building, thought to represent a very small manorial house (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 252).

Rural Settlement

Excavation has not been very significant in providing information for this theme but landscape studies and analyses have provided valuable data.

In their work on Deserted Medieval Villages Beresford and Hurst (1971) identified thirty two supposed DMVs on the Island but there is little archaeological evidence which indicates the wholesale desertion of nucleated villages. Sly (1988) has suggested that the documentary evidence was misinterpreted to some extent by Beresford and Hurst and that settlement shrinkage can be clearly demonstrated at only a few sites. The term 'deserted medieval village' is now largely outmoded in medieval studies and is no longer used by English Heritage as a Monument Class Description (Roberts and Wrathmell 2000, 3; English Heritage 1993). When applied to the Isle of Wight the term begs the question as to how many medieval settlements were nucleated villages. Roberts and Wrathmell (2000, 40) have placed the Isle of Wight within their 'South Eastern Province' which they have described as an area of 'scattered nucleations, hamlets, villages and market towns' in contrast with their 'Central Province' which is characterised by 'large concentrations of nucleated settlements'. The Isle of Wight conforms broadly to the pattern of mixed settlement described by Roberts and Wrathmell for the 'South Eastern Province' but has a larger amount of dispersed settlement than some parts of this province.

Despite the lack of archaeological evidence for large-scale settlement desertion, depopulation certainly affected the Isle of Wight in the later Middle Ages, The very first Act of Parliament against depopulation, dating from 1488, deals only with the Isle of Wight (4 Hen.VII c.16, 17). In the 16th century the issue of depopulation was perceived to be bound up with that of enclosure. This topic is discussed further in the Isle of Wight HLC Report (Basford forthcoming a). The University of Southampton's Isle of Wight Medieval Landscape Project was launched in 1996 <<http://www.arch.soton.ac.uk/Research>> . This project aimed to carry out fieldwork and to re-examine the documentary evidence, particularly medieval taxation records, but it is not known how much work has been done on the project.

An analysis of settlement type and distribution is included in the HLC Report, drawing on the evidence of the Ordnance Survey 6" scale unpublished drawings (Gardener 1793-1810). These drawings show a concentration of nucleated settlement around the downland edges and at the interface between different HLC Areas. In addition, there are clusters of settlement within the *Freshwater Isle* and *Thorley/Wellow Plain* HLC Areas. However, the drawings also show a distribution of dispersed settlement that covers all HLC Areas and most kilometre squares within the Island, excluding only a few areas of high downland and Parkhurst Forest. The antiquity of this wide-spread dispersed settlement pattern requires further investigation. Can it be seen as a faint echo of settlement patterns in prehistoric or Romano-British times or does it reflect the colonization of less productive areas of the Island in medieval times? Another characteristic of Isle of Wight rural settlement, as shown on early maps and surviving to the present day, is the existence of church/manor complexes. Research is needed to investigate whether these reflect

early medieval/medieval settlement patterns or whether they are the result of later settlement shift and desertion.

Some work on settlement morphology has been done by Margham (1982, 1983, 1992) and this topic has been explored further in the HLC Report (Basford forthcoming a), using the evidence of the Ordnance Survey 1793-1810 drawings. Where nucleated settlements lay on relatively flat land with rising ground behind they were often small nucleated clusters such as Godshill. Brighstone comprised several nucleated clusters in close proximity. Where settlements lay within valleys a more linear form occurs, as at Chillerton, Gatcombe and Whitwell. Carisbrooke displays a regular row plan (Margham 1992b). The settlement morphology of St Helens is unique amongst surviving settlements on the Isle of Wight in comprising a regular one row plan with a green, although this settlement form is common in some parts of the country. Open fields beyond the property plots at St Helens appear to have been laid out with a degree of regularity unusual on the Isle of Wight and their relationship with the adjacent village suggests a degree of planning more commonly found in Roberts' and Wrathmell's 'Central Province'. St Helens is one of the few places on the Island apart from Carisbrooke where the formal planning or re-planning of a village sized settlement in medieval times can be suggested, although a similar planned settlement may possibly have been laid out at Freshwater Green but failed to survive in its original form (Margham 1992a). Elsewhere within 'Freshwater Isle' settlement was 'polyfocal', consisting of numerous hamlets around small greens rather than the isolated farms, church/manor complexes and small nucleated villages that occurred elsewhere in the Island.

Information on specific rural settlement sites is summarised below.

Excavated Sites

Wolverton (Centurion's Copse): Deserted manorial moated settlement subject to limited amateur excavation in the 1950s.

Flowers Brook (Steephill): Probable site of medieval settlement associated with cemetery discussed below

Moated Sites

Apart from the site of Wolverton (Centurion's Copse), mentioned above, moated sites are known as earthworks at **Wolverton Manor (Shorwell)**, at **Stenbury Manor** (associated with house platforms and other earthworks), at **Great Budbridge Manor** and from documentary evidence at **Barton Manor**.

Deserted/Shrunken/Shifted Settlements

East Ashley: Earthwork remains of manorial settlement. Student survey (Sly 1988).

West Nunwell: AP evidence & earthwork remains of manorial settlement - fieldwork carried out by Isle of Wight Medieval Landscape Project

Thorley: Extant church/manor complex with an interrupted row settlement at Thorley Street some distance to the east. Margham (1990) has suggested settlement shift from the manorial site to Thorley Street by the mid sixteenth century.

Stenbury Manor. Student survey (Sly 1988).

Nettlecombe: Earthwork remains close to existing hamlet.

Watchingwell. Student survey (Sly 1988).

Undercliff Middens

A number of middens in the Isle of Wight Undercliff and Landslip were recorded in the first half of the 20th century (Basford 1980, 153) and one was excavated (Dunning 1939). These may be associated with nearby settlement exploiting coastal resources.

Urban Settlement

Evidence for this theme is in the form of clearly identifiable medieval urban areas with surviving street plans. There is also the likelihood of significant buried archaeological deposits although there have been very few excavations and none on a large scale. However, one or two watching briefs, and small-scale development-driven excavations in Newport have yielded some new information. The County Archaeological Service has monitored developments and trenches in Newport for many years but a surprisingly small quantity of artefacts have been recovered or recorded.

The Vectis Report (Basford 1980 40-48) provides an overview of the Island's medieval towns but a much more detailed analysis can be found in the Extensive Urban Survey of the Isle of Wight's Historic Towns which deals with the settlements of Newport (Edwards 1999a), Yarmouth (Edwards 1999b), Newtown (Edwards 1999c), Brading (Edwards 1999d), Carisbrooke (Edwards 1999e), St Helens (Edwards 1999f) and Cowes (Edwards 1999g). However, Carisbrooke and St Helens do not appear to have sufficient 'urban' attributes to be characterised as urban settlements (Darvill 1992, 35) whilst Cowes developed in the post-medieval period. The four remaining settlements of Newport, Yarmouth, Newtown and Brading are all planned medieval towns with markets and fairs. Newport, Yarmouth and Newtown had charters of incorporation. Yarmouth and Newport are of late 12th century date and were founded by members of the de Redvers family, who were hereditary Lords of the Island. Newtown was founded by the Bishop Elect of Winchester on land within his manor of Swainston in 1256. Page (1912, 168) and Edwards (1999d) have suggested that the growth of Brading was linked to the acquisition of the manor of Whitefield by King Edward I and his grant of a market and fair in 1285 but it has also been suggested that the town may have been created originally by the local Lord of the Manor, William Fitz Stur, in the early 12th century (pers comm. Webster).

All four planned towns were situated beside navigable estuaries or tidal inlets, emphasising the importance of water transport in this period. Newport was the Island's most significant town in the Middle Ages and has remained so until the present day. However, none of the Island towns were very prosperous in medieval times and Newport, Yarmouth and Newtown suffered from French raids in 1377. Newtown had failed completely as a town by the 15th century. This has allowed extremely good preservation of the town plan, including all the streets, some burgess plots and an area of former open-field. Newport has also preserved its medieval grid-plan of streets, now surrounded by later developments. The less complex grid-plan of streets at Yarmouth and the regular row pattern at Brading also date from medieval times.

The only excavated evidence comes from Newport. Excavations in 1978 at

Cockram's Yard on the site of a new supermarket uncovered pits containing medieval material. Excavation of a section of 17th century water pipe in the High Street during 1980 revealed a layer of burnt material which has been interpreted as evidence of the 1377 French raid (Tomalin and Scaife 1987). Building work at Sea Street in 1980 revealed a pit containing sherds of a Saintonge jug dating from the mid 13th to 14th century (Nelson 1984). An evaluation excavation at South Street indicated good survival of archaeological deposits and a significant level of medieval activity including traces of walls, whilst a substantial assemblage of medieval pottery recovered from a pit and two features on the site was suggestive of a possible kiln site (Michaels 2004). At Lugley Street medieval pits and gullies and a stratified medieval deposit were recorded during a developer-funded excavation (Southern Archaeological Services 2005) but hardly any medieval material was recorded during the recent redevelopment of Newport Bus Station (Wilson and Edmunds 2006, 6-7).

Built Environment

The newly revised Isle of Wight volume in the 'Buildings of England' series (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006) provides an excellent architectural assessment of the built environment, including surviving medieval buildings. These are nearly all either ecclesiastical buildings or high status secular buildings. The secular buildings of Carisbrooke Castle, Swainston, 'Chale Abbey' and Woolverton, St Lawrence have all been described above. The Isle of Wight is noted for its stone manor houses but most of these are Jacobean. However, at Mottistone the south wing may possibly be of late medieval date and at West Court, Shorwell one wing may date from the early 16th century.

Despite the availability of good local building stone most medieval domestic buildings on the Isle of Wight appear to have been timber-framed and have not survived. A timber-framed house at Brading now forming part of the Wax Museum is probably later than 1550. However, a rare survival at Gurnard is part of Rew Street Farmhouse comprising a timber-framed cruck building, possibly dating from c.1400, encased in later stonework. The only remains of medieval farm buildings are at Arreton and Chale. The stone-walled tithe barn at Arreton, partly 15th century in origin, is now a ruin with its fine thatched and timber-framed roof lost (Peters 1964). Another stone-walled barn at Chale has survived in much better condition. It is 16th century and has one original truss surviving in the roof timbers. A good picture of medieval farmhouses, cottages and farm buildings can be obtained from a survey of Swainston Manor, even though this document dates from 1630 (Jones 1991)

Only the churches at Arreton and Freshwater provide structural evidence of Anglo-Saxon origins. There are no complete Norman churches but the Norman tower at Shalfleet has already been noted and significant Norman features survive in other churches. There are some notable features of the Early English period in Isle of Wight churches but little medieval work of note apart from towers, especially those at Carisbrooke and Chale.

There are scanty remains of Quarr Abbey, founded in 1131, but these are mainly of 13th century date. No claustral remains of St Mary's Priory at Carisbrooke survive but the present parish church also functioned as the priory church in medieval times. Similarly, St Helens Priory shared a church with the parish of the same name. The remains of the medieval St Helens church tower now survive as a seamark although

no other evidence of the priory survives and the parish church has been rebuilt elsewhere.

Archaeological fieldwork on above-ground built structures has been limited. An archaeological survey of the stonework of Kingston church was carried out after the church was declared redundant in 1985 (Basford 1988). A photogrammetric survey of building remains and walls at Quarr Abbey was carried out in November 1994 on behalf of English Heritage and other survey work has been carried out by Southampton University (Sly and Clark 1997, Edmonds et al 2002).

Ceremony, Ritual and Religion

Above-ground sites are mainly those of medieval parish churches and their interior fittings. There are a few standing monuments such as the remains of Quarr Abbey. Apart from Quarr Abbey, the Island possessed four priories in medieval times, these being Carisbrooke, St Cross at Newport, Appuldurcombe and St Helens. The Island's religious houses have been well documented by Hockey (1970; 1981; 1982; 1991). Various manorial chapels are also recorded in the documentary record (Basford 1980, 140-141; Hockey 1982, 8-11). A number of holy wells marked on 19th century maps may be of medieval origin. Recently, the Portable Antiquities Scheme has recorded a number of religious objects.

Excavation of religious sites has been very limited. A local Antiquarian and architectural historian excavated at Quarr Abbey in the late 19th century and recovered the ground plan of this Cistercian abbey, founded in 1131 (Stone 1891). The same investigator uncovered the foundations of the chapel attached to St Catherine's Lighthouse. An evaluation excavation at Priory Farm in the 1990s found traces of buildings thought to be associated with Carisbrooke Priory (Whitehead and Higgins 1995, 15).

The only medieval cemetery to have been excavated is at Flowers Brook, Steephill on the Undercliff coast. Here, a developer-funded evaluation and limited excavation found the remains of up to forty inhumations (pers comm Stump). These burials may have been associated with the remains of a stone-vaulted building on the eroding cliff-edge which could have been a chapel, and with nearby settlement remains. The settlement may be that of the medieval manorial holding of Steephill, although no chapel or burial ground is known from medieval records. A very small quantity of pottery was found and this was of Saxo-Norman date. However, some of the excavated skeletons had cuts to the head and upper body, suggesting a violent death (pers comm. Motkin). The most likely historical context for violence of this type would be the 14th century French raids on the Isle of Wight. Unfortunately, this site still awaits publication

Comprehensive descriptions of the Island's parish churches are contained in Lloyd and Pevsner (2006). Most are still in regular use and even the tiny buildings of Bonchurch Old Church and St Lawrence Old Church survive, although superseded for regular worship. Kingston Church, although surviving, is now redundant. At Thorley only the porch of the medieval parish church survives, next to the manor house. This building may have fallen out of use due to settlement shift. Lists and descriptions of sculpture, memorials, wall paintings and interior fittings within parish churches are contained in Green (1969, 73-92). Surviving stonecarvings include a supposed sheela-

na-gig set over the displaced Norman arch at the entrance to Binstead churchyard (Hutchinson and Hutchinson 1969, Green 1969, 11-15). Wall paintings are recorded from several churches and significant examples survive at Godshill and Shorwell. A study of Isle of Wight church dedications has been carried out by Margham (1997).

A number of manorial and private chapels existed in medieval times and these have been listed and described (Basford 1980, 140-141, Hockey 1982, 8-11). The Chapel of St Nicholas, inside Carisbrooke Castle and rebuilt in modern times, was nominally a parish church with its own parish lands scattered across the Island. Adjoining the Great Hall of Carisbrooke Castle is the private chapel of Isabella de Fortibus, built from 1270, now converted to a staircase hall (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 109-110).

At least two holy springs or wells are recorded from the Isle of Wight, these being St Boniface Well on Ventnor Down and St Lawrence Well in the Undercliff (Whitehead 1911, 118-119, 171). St Boniface Well was noted by Currie (2002, 64) who reported that the exact site of this spring is no longer visible. St Lawrence Well is housed within an early 19th century listed building. The well house covering Winifred's Well at Swainston is also listed but this site is associated with a 16th century owner of the Swainston estate and does not have religious associations.

Some significant finds connected with religion have been recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme. These include lead ampullae made to hold holy water and Papal bullae (seals attached to Papal documents). A particularly interesting find from Brighstone Parish is a small 14th century copper alloy figurine of the Madonna and Child. Such figurines are generally considered to be fittings from Precentors' staffs or croziers. Another religious object from Newport is an alabaster carving of a bird, probably an effigy of the Dove as the Holy Spirit. The outline profile of the mount is coffin-shaped and the object may possibly have formed a lid for a miniature coffin which served as a reliquary.

Warfare, Defence and Military Installations

The Isle of Wight's history has been shaped to a considerable extent by its vulnerable but strategic position and by the needs of defence. The perceived threat changed over the centuries. From the 9th century until the 11th century the main threat was from Viking raids. Immediately after the Norman Conquest the main function of Carisbrooke Castle was to impress and subdue the local population and to emphasise the dominance of the new Norman overlord. Carisbrooke was the only substantial fortification until the 16th century and its site at the centre of the Island left the Island open to coastal attack. French raiders attacked the Island twice in the 14th century, devastating the towns of Yarmouth, Newtown and Newport in 1377 (Jones and Jones 1987, 35). Fear of French attack led the monks at Quarr to obtain a licence to crenellate in 1365 (Renn 1954). Parts of the resulting precinct wall survive, containing two of the earliest surviving gunports recorded in Britain. The monks also appeared to have fortified a coastal warehouse at nearby Fishbourne (Page ed 1912, 151, Stone 1891 Vol. 1, 32). At the very end of the medieval period the French were once again perceived as a threat and in the reign of Henry VIII castles were built at West Cowes, East Cowes, Sandown and Yarmouth and at Hurst Castle on the mainland shore (the latter two defending the Needles passage). Yarmouth Castle survives, as does the battery of West Cowes Castle, now incorporated in the Royal Yacht Squadron (Basford 1980, 132-133; Jones and Jones 1987, 46-47).

Carisbrooke Castle is a complex site with many building phases and was the subject of considerable study before the excavation programme undertaken by Young (2000) from 1976 to 1981. The earliest identifiable defensive phase comprises the stone revetted lower enclosure, dated by Young to the early 11th century. During Young's excavations evidence was found for a Conquest period ringwork occupying part of the lower enclosure. This ringwork was soon replaced by a massive motte-and bailey castle, the earthworks of which still survive. This was presumably first defended in timber but by 1136 the defences had been reconstructed in stone. Throughout the rest of the Middle Ages the castle underwent various modifications, including the building of the gatehouse drum towers. Another phase of major modifications to the castle took place in post-medieval times, culminating in its conversion to an artillery fortress with a pentagonal bastioned trace from 1595 to 1602. During its long history Carisbrooke Castle experienced military action only twice: in 1136 it was besieged and taken by King Stephen; during the French raids of 1377 the castle was again besieged but on this occasion withstood the attack (Chamberlin 1985, 4-5).

To guard against invasion a beacon system existed on the Island in the Middle Ages. A list of beacon sites survives from 1324 and one of the sites listed may have been the Harborough barrow, of Bronze Age date, on Mottistone Down (Kökeritz 1940, lxxxvii-lxxxix, Basford 1980, 133-134).

The geographical position of the Isle of Wight offers both a shelter for fleets and lines of easy inland penetration on the mainland, thus giving the Island great strategical importance (Hockey 1982, 81-104). The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records frequent harrying of the Isle of Wight by Viking fleets. The Danes sheltered their fleet in the Solent and overwintered on the Island in 1006. Following the use of Island harbours by Godwin and Tosti, Harold based his fleet on the Island and made his headquarters inland whilst awaiting the invasion of William of Normandy. During the Hundred Years War with France it was necessary to control shipping and regulations were issued (cited in Worsley 1781, 31) that the only ports of entry to the Island were to be La Riche (Ryde), Shamblord (up-river from modern Cowes) and Eremue (Yarmouth). The reference to La Riche, or Ryde, may possibly refer to Barnsley Harbour to the east of Ryde, since Ryde does not possess a natural harbour. St Helens was also apparently a significant medieval port, as in 1302/3 the ports of St Helens and Hamble on the mainland were ordered to find a ship for Edward I's expedition against the Scots. It is thought that St Helens was the point at which a French force landed in 1340 (Edwards 1999f, 2-3). In the 16th century the Island had a centre for both shipboard and shore-based trading in stolen cargoes, at Mead Hole on the northern coast between East Cowes and Wootton (Jones 1978 191-193).

Material Culture

Our knowledge of material culture on the Isle of Wight during this period is due mainly to a very few research excavations, to recent small-scale developer funded excavations in connection with pipe laying operations and to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The material from the small-scale recent excavations, which is mainly ceramic, complements the mainly metallic objects recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

In 1980 a mere 13 medieval find spots were listed in the Vectis Report, excluding excavated sites (Basford 1980, 153-154). By August 2006 there were 640 medieval objects from the Isle of Wight on the Portable Antiquities website. The range of objects found since 2003 is as surprising as the quantity. Apart from the religious objects mentioned above common finds include coins, seal matrices, buckles, harness pendants, brooches, purse bars, strap fittings, tokens, padlocks, cloth seals, keys and steelyard weights. More unusual finds include a weight box and weight box lid. Some ceramic material has also been recorded through the scheme.

Until the Carisbrooke Castle excavations from 1976 to 1981 the only field investigation which had contributed significant information about the Island's material culture in medieval times was the excavation of a kiln at Knighton. Grey and red surface pottery was found, dated to the last half of the 15th century; also ridge, floor and flat roof tiles (Fennelly 1969).

The Carisbrooke Castle excavations produced the first major collection of medieval and post-medieval materials from the Isle of Wight. Generally, there is a marked contrast between luxury and high-value items which came from outside the Island and everyday items, such as pottery, which was made locally. The defensive role of the castle is well attested by the military and horse equipment among the ironwork, as well as cannonballs and other projectiles in both stone and ceramic materials. The earliest occupation layers are marked by a predominance of locally produced pottery and building stone with only small amounts of non-local produce while the environmental evidence indicates a diet fit for a garrison rather than a high status establishment. The emphasis on local sources of supply has allowed a characterisation of medieval pottery production on the Island. The discrepancy between documentary emphasis on the use of the castle as a high status residence and the lack of archaeological evidence for high status goods may be connected with the spatial limitations of the excavated areas (Young 2000, 196-200). A further discussion of the Carisbrooke Castle pottery and excavations can be found in Tomalin (2002)

Fieldwalking by the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeology Society has produced artefact scatters from Mersley Farm and Pyle Farm (Trott 2000a, Trott 2003). Medieval pottery, tiles and occupation features were recorded from an evaluation excavation at Mersley Farm (Trott 2000b). The Seaclean Wight pipeline which was dug across the Island in the late 1990s provided an opportunity to excavate along the pipeline route (RPS Consultants 2001). Many medieval artefact scatters were recorded as well as middens, pits and occupation features. The Transco Gas pipeline offered a similar opportunity for excavation in the north part of the Island and also produced some medieval material (Network Archaeology 2005). A watching brief at Shalfleet uncovered a pit, a ditch and a riverine inlet of late Saxon to medieval date. These features contained contained 10th to 13th century domestic midden material including a significant quantity of pottery (Trott 2006).

Crafts, Trades and Industries

Knowledge of this theme has been gained from field survey and some excavation, as well as from documentary sources. Metal-detected finds have also contributed to knowledge.

Throughout the medieval period the Isle of Wight had a rural economy and small market centres with local crafts and industries but there was some larger scale production of certain materials for export. The most important export in Norman times was Quarr and Binstead Limestone. This limestone had been used locally in Roman and Saxon times and had also been exported to the mainland. In 1079 Bishop Walkelin of Winchester was granted land at Binstead to obtain material for the new cathedral. Much Quarr stone can be seen in Winchester Cathedral. It was also used in Chichester Cathedral, in rebuilding the abbey church at Romsey and in numerous Norman parish churches in Hampshire and Sussex. The coarser Binstead Stone was used after the supply of Quarr Stone was exhausted in the 13th century. Binstead Stone was much used for defensive works, particularly in the medieval town walls and gateways at Southampton (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 8). A survey of the quarry pits around Binstead formed a part of the Wootton-Quarr Project (Tomalin et al forthcoming).

Upper Greensand was also an important building stone on the Island in the Middle Ages. Tomalin (2003) has discussed the use of both Binstead Stone and Upper Greensand in the building of Carisbrooke Castle and has identified an extant quarry site which was probably used to supply stone for the castle in the 13th and 14th centuries. Upper Greensand was shipped to the mainland in the 14th and 15th centuries for use in several important buildings, including Chichester and Winchester cathedrals (Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 8-9).

Wheat was the main crop grown at the farmsteads or granges of Quarr Abbey in the later 12th century and on the manors of Isabella de Fortibus in 1269. The Island must have produced a surplus of cereal crops because in 1303 the Isle of Wight was ordered to supply corn for the English army in Scotland (Jones and Jones 1987, 14; Hockey 1982, 105-108). The granges of Quarr also produced a surplus of wool which was sold to Italian merchants (Hockey 1970, 55-58).

About 35 water-mill sites are mentioned in Domesday Book and the general locations of these are listed in the Vectis Report (Basford 1980, 151-152). There were seven medieval mills in or close to the town of Newport and three at Carisbrooke. Hockey (1982, 239-240) provides references for about 50 medieval mills working on the Isle of Wight during the Middle Ages, a few of which were wind-powered or were tide mills on estuaries. Quarr Abbey had a tide mill at Fishbourne Creek (Hockey 1970, 41). The abbey also constructed a fulling mill at their grange of Heasley and other fulling mills are recorded from Carisbrooke, Shate, Shottinbridge in Newport, and Westminster in Newport. These fulling mills were connected with the local cloth industry, for by the close of the 14th century the Island had become a chief centre for the making of kerseys (Hockey 1970, 50-53).

Most Island water-mills were small, dependent on recent rains and so rarely able to work for long periods. Some medieval water-mills may have remained on the same sites in post-medieval times and surviving mill leats or millponds on some sites may have very early origins. Abandoned sites could offer potential for excavation.

A tannery possessed by Quarr Abbey may have been sited in the Newnham Valley to the south of Quarr Hockey (1970, 55). No references to other medieval tanneries on

the Island have been found but in Tudor times there was a thriving tanning and leather working industry which was centred on Newport (Jones 1978, 204-217).

The Island's four medieval towns of Newport, Brading, Newtown and Yarmouth all had markets and fairs. Some interesting archaeological evidence for a probable fair site to the east of Yarmouth has emerged very recently in the form of a scatter of about ninety coins dating from Henry II to Edward II and recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

One industry found on the coast was saltmaking. There are references in the Domesday Book to salterns within the manors of Bowcombe (probably near Cowes), Watchingwell (probably in the Newtown area) and Whitfield (near Nettlestone). The saltmaking industry continued into post-medieval times and the few remaining traces on the ground are associated with the post-medieval period but it is likely that in some instances the same sites continued in use (perhaps intermittently) for centuries.

The Wootton-Quarr Project identified evidence of fishing on the foreshore. A large V-shaped fishweir with arms at least 128 metres long was erected across the creek at Binstead and was constructed of post and wattle fencing. This was dated to shortly before the Norman Conquest. More wooden fishweirs of 14th century date were identified on the foreshore at Quarr (Loader et al 1997). On the eroding cliff, seaward of the Quarr Abbey ruins, a roof tile kiln associated with the abbey was excavated as part of the Wootton-Quarr Project.

Quarr Abbey had its own ships and appears to have participated in the Gascony wine trade (Hockey 1970, 131-139). The Wootton-Quarr Project found evidence for trading ships landing on the beach at Fishbourne, close to the abbey. Medieval pottery recovered from the site includes material from as far afield as south-western England, Normandy, Brittany, southern France, Holland and Spain. Many of these exotic goods were no doubt destined for the abbey (Loader et al 1997).

There is a lack of evidence for medieval pottery kilns, apart from the Knighton site mentioned above, but the Carisbrooke Castle excavations have identified several different Island wares. Medieval lime kilns have been identified at a few sites, including one at Niton used in the construction of the 14th century St Catherine's Lighthouse and Chapel (Dunning 1951, Basford 1980, 153). At an inter-tidal site at Bouldnor, 12th century pottery has been recorded in association with an antler-working site and wattle hurdling (Arnold 1975).

Transport and Communication

Many of the present-day routes on the Isle of Wight link settlements known to have existed in medieval times, but certain places may have provided a general focus of settlement over a much longer period and routes linking these places could be of equal antiquity. Winter travellers or those travelling longer distances may have used the long-established west-east route along the median chalk ridge that traverses the Isle of Wight. Some roads and tracks clearly define and give access to blocks of arable land that may have been open-field in medieval times. Other tracks lead from settlements to areas of open grazing. The Isle of Wight HLC has highlighted the interrelationship between roads, settlement and land use but present HLC techniques do not effectively

characterise roads and tracks. The newly launched Isle of Wight HEAP Project is carrying out a survey of historic lanes and tracks.

Sea transport has always been crucial to the Isle of Wight's existence but was far more hazardous in the past than it is today. The stone Lighthouse situated on St Catherine's Hill near the Island's southernmost point is the only surviving medieval lighthouse in England and testimony to the dangers of the Island's shores (Stone 1891, Dunning 1951, Lloyd and Pevsner 2006, 118).

A considerable number of shipwrecks off the coast of the Isle of Wight were recorded in medieval times, mainly in respect of disputes about cargo (Hockey 1982, 109-116). Twenty one medieval wreck sites have been entered on the Isle of Wight Maritime SMR but all except one are known from documentary sources rather than as located underwater sites. The exception is the *Grace Dieu*, lost in 1439 and now a Protected Wreck, but the wreck site is on the Hamble River, rather than in Isle of Wight waters. Right at the end of the medieval period the world-renowned *Mary Rose* was lost in the eastern Solent and another Protected Wreck lying in Yarmouth Roads is thought to be the remains of the *Santa Lucia*, lost in 1567 (Gale 2000, 14). Obviously, there is the potential for the discovery of additional medieval shipwrecks around the Island.

The four medieval towns all had access to the sea. Earthworks at Brading appear to represent the remains of a former quay but it is possible that the quay was closer to Brading High Street earlier in the Middle Ages (Edwards 1999d, 7). A surviving embankment indicates 16th century land reclamation on the edge of Brading Harbour which was finally drained in the late 19th century (Martin nd, Wilson and Edmunds 2006, 8-9). At Newport evidence for earlier phases of the present quay may be found behind the existing line of the river and within the waterlogged silts of the river (Edwards 1999a, 10). The site of the medieval quay at Newtown may be represented by an irregular field called *Key Close* on a map of 1768 (Edwards 1999c, 5). The original line of Yarmouth quay may be represented by the curving line of St James' Street/Pier Street. To the south of the town there was an inlet called the Draft Haven where ships could anchor until it silted up in the 17th century (Edwards, 1999b, 6).

Only two references to medieval bridges have been traced, both at Brading. A causeway across the marsh to Yaverland was built in the 13th century and a causeway of possible medieval date crossing the Sandown Level was recorded by Page (1912, 156).

Legacy

Evidence for medieval land use, routes and boundaries can be traced in the Island's historic landscape and these medieval patterns continued to influence later land use. The Historic Landscape Character Assessment identifies this evidence (Basford forthcoming). The estates of the medieval religious houses at Quarr, Appuldurcombe and St Helens remained largely intact in the hands of secular landowners into post-medieval times. Medieval parish boundaries remained unchanged until the later 19th century. Many of the Island's existing settlements are on medieval sites and in some cases the ground plans of these settlements are directly related to the medieval layout, as at Newport. The port of Newport remained significant for trade, although Cowes became increasingly significant in post-medieval times.

A few high-status domestic buildings and nearly all of the Island's medieval parish churches survived into the post-medieval period to be modified or rebuilt in later times. The Island's attractive 16th and 17th century manor houses were built on the sites of earlier manorial halls. Carisbrooke Castle remained a strategically important site in the 17th century, refortified at the beginning of the century, briefly besieged at the start of the Civil War and serving as the prison of Charles I later in the war (Jones and Jones 1978, 54-72). The castle remained significant as a high-status residence of the Island's governor into the 20th century.

Post-medieval water mills and salterns in many cases probably occupied sites that had been in use for the same purposes in medieval times. Newport Beast Market survived on its original site until the early 20th century and did not cease to exist until the end of that century.

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