

## August 2019 Update

First of all an apology for being later than planned with the August update. Unfortunately my computer became a victim of Update 1903 of Windows 10, which caused my hard drive to fail. A new one had to be fitted. Fortunately all my important data is stored on external drives and backed up so nothing was lost. The main problem was that the Windows Mail App does not let you download the list of contacts in any form so I have had to add them individually and this has taken some time to complete.

### Progress since the last update

David has sourced an aerial photo taken in August 1945, which covers the St Ethelburga area perfectly. Geoff has worked his magic again and has orientated and resized it to fit the OS Grid, the LIDAR and the 1818 Township Map so that we can compare and locate features on each layer. He is also adding entries from the Historic Environment Record for Nottinghamshire to see what has been previously reported for the area. The photo is shown on page 2.

A preliminary look at the aerial photo offers a possible explanation for some of the rectilinear lines on the LIDAR. They may relate to the boundaries of the furlongs of ridge and furrow of the medieval open fields. This is one of the things we can look at in more detail when we meet up again in September.

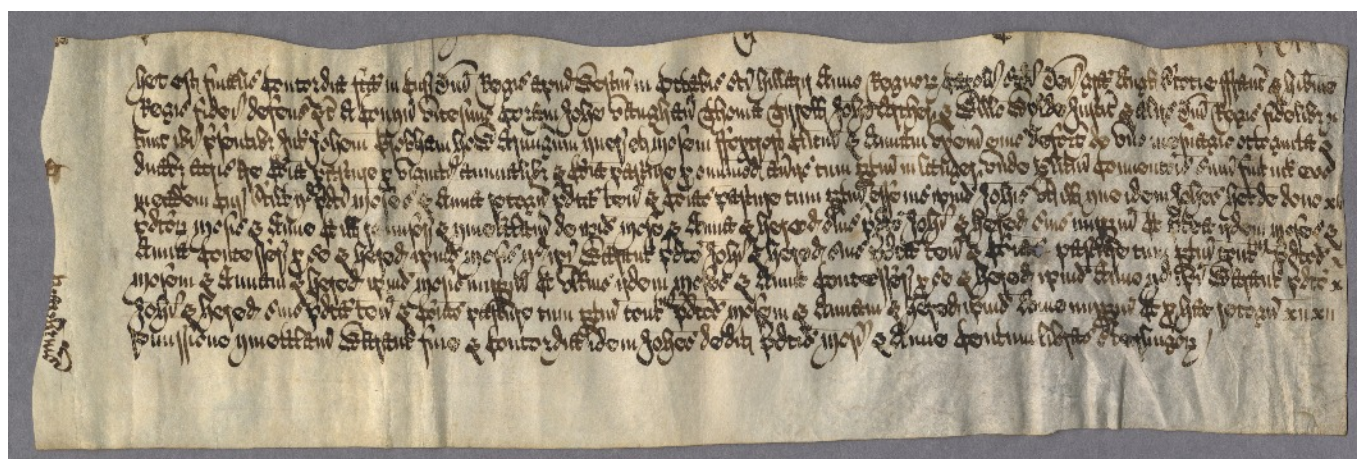
I have obtained copies of two documents from the Warwickshire Records Office, which are part of the Baroness Howe Series of the Waller Collection. These are Final Concords for the purchase of land in Langar. The first dates from 20 October 1662 relating to messuages and premises at Newthorpe, Greasley and Langar obtained by Gabriel Ellis and John Beeston from John and Katherine Death and William and Alice Butler.

The second is from 20 January 1669 for the purchase of a messuage and land from Moses and Anne Foxcroft by John Grubham Howe. The Foxcrofts were disposing of land formally owned by the Flower family. An entry in the parish record for St Andrew's, Langar is as follows:

*"Anne Flower the daughter of Henry Flower of St Ambrose in the fields, in Langar parish, and Ellenore his wife, was baptized in Langar Church on Friday the tenth day of May (1650)."*

It is possible that the land in question could have been the site of St Ethelburga's.

Both documents are hand written in an archaic script and are in Latin. Does anyone fancy the challenge of deciphering the contents of these two documents?





Aerial photo resized and positioned by Geoff Kimbell



## Medieval Pilgrimages

To understand more about Medieval Pilgrimages I have just finished reading *Pilgrimage in Medieval England* by Diana Webb. This is thorough discourse on the topic from Anglo Saxon times to the Reformation and covers pilgrimages to the well known sites such as Walsingham, Canterbury and Bury St Edmunds and smaller shrines such as St Ethelburga's, although sadly the latter site is not mentioned. Two things stood out to me. The first was that the popularity of even the most famous sites lasted for relatively short periods of time and required constant efforts by the custodians of the sites to generate interest. This involved actions such as relocating the holy relics within the church, creating new tombs, adding extra features such as images of the saint and rewriting the history of the saint and record of miracles performed. It would be interesting if we could find evidence of the efforts taken to keep St Ethelburga's as a popular pilgrimage site.

The second was the issuing of indulgences to the pilgrims by the Pope or local Bishop for attending on specified days of the year. In almost every case the phrase "great multitudes resort to seek release from their sins", or similar, appears in the formal documents regardless of the size or importance of the holy site. Evidently it is not an accurate description as to how popular any pilgrimage site was and should be treated with caution when assessing how many pilgrims visited somewhere a particular site.

### Which is "our" St Ethelburga?

A few years ago a researcher studied the female names to be found in the *Regesta Regum Anglorum*, a collection of royal charters from the Anglo Saxon Kingdoms of Kent, Sussex, Hwicce, Essex, Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex from the 7<sup>th</sup> century until A.D. 1066. It was found there were variations in the spelling of the names depending on the language used and there were a number of probable transcription errors. For Ethelburga the following spellings seem to have been used:

Æthelburh  
Adelburga  
Aethelburg  
Ædilburga  
Æthilburgæ  
Æðelburge  
Æpelburg  
Æpelburh  
Eadburh  
Edburga  
Edburge  
Ethelburh  
Ethelburga  
Ethelburge  
Hedil(b)urge

That gives us a fair few versions to check out although some are mentioned in *The Royal Saints of Anglo-Saxon England* by Susan J Ridyard.

The possibilities include:

1. St Æthelburga of Barking, the sister of Earconwold, Bishop of London. She was the Abbess of the Double Monastery of Barking who died after A.D. 686.
2. St Æthelburh of Lyminge, the widow of King Edwin of Northumbria, who established a Benedictine Nunnery at Lyminge near Folkestone. She died in A.D. 647.
3. St Ethelburga of Farmoutier-en-Brie, France. She was the daughter of King Anna of East Anglia and was the Abbess at the French monastery. She died in A.D. 664.
4. St Edburga, Abbess of Minster in Thanet, Kent. She died in ca. A.D. 751.
5. St Edburga of Adderbury (or Bicester) in Oxfordshire. She may have been a Mercian Princess.
6. St Edburga of Ayelesbury, mentioned by Leland but could be a confusion with the above.
7. St Edburga of Castor, the daughter of Penda of Mercia. She was a nun at Castor near Peterborough.
8. St Ædburh (or Eadburh, Eadburg or Edburga) of Repton. She was an Abbess at Repton, Derbyshire and is mentioned in Felix's *Life of Guthlac*. By A.D. 1000 her remains had been removed to Southwell Minster with no records after that date.
9. St Edburga of Winchester and Pershore. She was the daughter of St Edward the Elder, born in A.D. 920 and died in A.D. 960. Her relics were located at Winchester with some later taken to Pershore in Worcestershire.

With at least nine to choose from does anyone have any more information to help us narrow the field?

### **Other Activity**

Does anyone else have anything to share on what they have been working on. If so, please let me know and I can put it in the September update.

### **Autumn Term**

Just a quick reminder that we will be recommencing our autumn workshops on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September at Barnstone Village Hall.

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