

## Medieval – AD 1066-1485

During the medieval period in England, a marked expansion in population in the 12th-13th centuries was followed by a sharp decline in the 14th century, perhaps associated with the Black Death. There was a steady recovery of population numbers in the 15th century. This picture seems to be reflected in the AONB where many of the villages had been established by the 12th/13th centuries and where the decline of the hamlet of Apuldram in the 14th century may have been the result of the Black Death, it has been suggested (Vigar 1994). This is discussed in more detail below.

The medieval landscape of the AONB seems to have consisted of a number of villages clustered around parish churches (Fig 17). There were manor houses, some of which were moated. The evidence points to a well organised landscape rich in social meaning. The harbour industries would have consisted of fishing, oyster farming and saltworking, and probably boat building and associated industries. Trade was an important aspect of the harbour's economy.

In Britain by the 12th-13th centuries mixed agriculture was practised on land reclaimed from saltmarshes – the higher value of the reclaimed fertile land offsetting the expense of embankment. However, in Chichester and neighbouring Langstone harbours, there seems to have been no such embankment or reclamation in the Early Medieval and Medieval periods. It has been argued that in Langstone harbour this is because only thin strips of coastal saltmarshes existed rather than the large expanses in the Severn Estuary, for example (Allen and Gardiner 2000). The same argument may be made for Chichester Harbour – that the limited extent of saltmarsh made the large investment in embankment and reclamation uneconomic in these periods. However, by the end of the 13th century there seems to have been a period of increased flooding linked to growing storminess and a slight rise in sea level. A considerable area of land belonging to the Priory on Hayling Island (outside the AONB) was lost to the sea in the 14th century (Reger 1994). Floods and storms may also have contributed to the abandonment of some arable fields and their reversion to pasture.

The Hundred of Bosham is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey because the manor belonged at the time to the king and was presumably extra-hundredal. It was not until 1248 that it was organised as a hundred. Its constituent vills included Bosham, Chidham (the manorial centre of the Bishop of Exeter's Chapelry of Bosham) and West Thorney. In the Subsidy Roll for 1296, Old Fishbourne and Broadbridge also feature. The annual court of the hundred continued to be held until 1914, with the tithing-men enjoying a good dinner after presenting their small dues.

The manor of Bosham was the only Sussex estate retained in his own hands by William the Conqueror, and included eight mills, two fisheries and woodland yielding 6 swine. The manor evidently reverted to the crown in about 1125 when Henry I granted Appledram to Battle Abbey. Subsequently the manor appears to have been alienated, probably to John the Marshal, son of Gilbert, as part of a dispute with Archbishop Becket. In the later 12th century the manor was farmed by the men of Bosham. In 1194 William Marshal, the famous Earl of Pembroke succeeded to the manor. This was subject to the farm fee of £42, and he had licence to export 400 quarters of corn in 1206, and to hold a market on Thursdays in 1218. He was succeeded in 1219 by his son Richard who had a violent quarrel with Henry III. The king ordered that all the houses and gardens of Richard be destroyed and the timber of his park sold off.

Bosham was presumably the birthplace or residence of Herbert of Bosham in the 12th century, the friend and biographer of Archbishop Thomas Becket.

By 1270, Roger, son of Hugh Bigod, succeeded to the Earldom of Norfolk. He led the baronial opposition to the high-handed measures of Edward I and in 1301, either to placate the king or because he had quarrelled with his brother and heir John, he made over all his estates to the king, receiving them back as a tenant for life, being excused payment to the rent of £42 for Bosham. At the time of his death in 1306, Earl Roger held the manor of Bosham, with the hamlet of Funtington, including two chief messuages and two watermills. In 1507, the manor fell to Lord Berkeley and remained with the Earls of Berkeley until 1810.

The Hundred of Box and Stockbridge included the parishes of Appledram and New Fishbourne. At the time of Domesday, these and other parishes were grouped in the two separate hundreds of 'Estocbrige' and 'Bocse' or 'Bosgrave.' The manor of Appledram was originally part of Bosham but was detached in c 1125 by Henry I who gave it to Battle Abbey in return for property at Reading. It returned to the Crown in 1538 and was granted in 1570 to William Howard, Lord Howard of Effingham whose son Charles, Earl of Nottingham, conveyed it in 1616 to William Ryman.

Fishbourne was held as 6 hides in the time of Edward the Confessor by Earl Tostig, the brother of King Harold. In 1086 it was held by the Abbey of Seez (Normandy) of Earl Roger. In 1272 the abbey received a grant of free warren in their demesnes here and in 1291

they acquired 28 acres in Fishbourne from William de Braclesham. After the seizure of alien religious houses the Sussex estates of Seez, including Fishbourne, were granted in 1416 to the nunnery of Syon in Middlesex. Fishbourne was annexed to the honour of Petworth in April 1540 after the Dissolution.

Old Fishbourne is mentioned in the historical record in a 12th century charter of Turstin son of Engelram, who gave to the Prior and canons of Southwick (Hants) 'all my lands of Fisseborn, namely that which King William gave my father Engeler.' An inquiry of 1280 showed that Southwick Priory then held at Fishbourne a messuage and two hides of land 'by gift of Thurstin Ingelyr', worth £10 yearly. The estate remained in the hands of the Priory until the Dissolution and in 1540 seems to have been granted to Anne of Cleves.

Chidham is not mentioned in Domesday, being then included in the Bishop of Exeter's estate of the Chapelry of Bosham, of which it became the manorial centre. In 1243 the confirmatory grant of the chapelry to the bishop included the manor of Chidham, in which were free and villein tenants who did suit to the Earl of Norfolk's hundred of Bosham. In the hamlet of Westinton in Chidham, he had small tenants, each holding 3 acres, who were his servants. After the dissolution of the College of Bosham, the Bishop of Exeter conveyed the manor of Chidham to Thomas Fisher in 1548.

The manor of Thorney was part of the Chapelry of Bosham, and Domesday records that in 1086 'Mauger holds of the land of this church 12 hides as one manor; it is called Tornei and pays geld for 8 hides.' The overlordship remained with the Bishops of Exeter. The manor was sold by the Bishop of Exeter in 1548 to Thomas Fisher and by him to Henry Bickley the next year. A third of the manor of Thorney was held by Cecily, sister of Richard de Thorney, and was sold by her in 1252 to Humphrey de Aluredesfeld who sold it to Hugh Bigod in 1263.

The Hundred of Manhood included the parishes of Birdham, West Wittering and West Itchenor. It was the district of which the lordship was granted in AD 683 by Caedwalla to St. Wilfred for the endowment of a monastery at Selsey. The boundaries as described in this charter were said in 1525 to correspond with those then, and still existing. By the time of Domesday, the overlordship of parts of this district had come into the hands of Earl Roger, who held the Hundred of 'Westringes' (Wittering), containing Birdham (3 ½ hides), Itchenor (1 hide), Somerley in East Wittering (1 hide) and East Wittering (1 hide). The Bishop (now of Chichester, formerly of Selsey) had in the Hundred of Somerley 14 hides in West Wittering. The estate granted in AD 683 was said to amount to 55 hides. By the middle of the 12th century, the whole consisted of the Hundred of 'la Manwode' which means 'the common wood.' The Hundred also contained East Itchenor, which was annexed to Birdham in 1441 (see below). For the purposes of taxation, the hundred was divided into four 'vills' which included Wittering and Birdham. As late as 1835, the Bishop of Chichester, as lord of the hundred, still held a court leet 'at Birdham' for the appointment of constables in the several parishes.

There are glimpses of how the harbour was used for trade in the medieval period. The customs and liberties in the ports of Hormouth (Chichester Harbour) and Wythering (Pagham Harbour) enjoyed by the citizens of Chichester in the reign of Henry I (1100-1135) were confirmed by a charter of Henry II (1154-1189). Wool seems to have been an important commodity passing through the Port of Chichester in the 13th century, although it is often not clear whether the port referred to in documents is Hormouth or Wythering. Flour was another export; after being milled at Chichester, flour was sent by the Archbishop of Canterbury as a 'loan' to Edward II in Newcastle in 1319 (Pelham 1931). An inquisition of 1339 recorded that for Chichester 'there is no landing place for ships; there are no men of that city who have ships, barges or boats, and no mariners dwell there' (quoted in Mumby 1984). The principal landing place appears to have been Dell Quay.

Many churches in the AONB date to the medieval period. Holy Trinity church in Bosham has been described in the previous section. The medieval vicarage (Chi SMR 2363; 480420 103840) at Bosham was part of the Secular College that was demolished in 1840.

St Mary's church in Apuldram (Chi SMR 2347; 484155 103366) dates to the 13th century. The floor tiles and the screen date to the 13th-14th centuries. There was some restoration in 1845, 1877 and 1890 that included a new roof, new windows to the nave and aisles and an octagonal spire of oak shingles to replace the Sussex 'cap'. Originally the church was a chapel of ease to Bosham.

At Fishbourne, the church of St Peter and St Mary (Chi SMR 2330; 484230 104470) was built in 1243-54, with extensions and additions to the north transept, the porch and south aisle made in 1821 and 1847.

At Birdham, St James's church (Chi SMR 2351; 482372 100317) dates to the 14th century. The chancel arch is of this date, and the tower is dated to c 1545; a bequest towards the construction of a new steeple is dated to 1540. The church was much restored in 1882.

Across Chichester Channel at Chidham, St Mary's church (Chi SMR 198; 478800 103920) dates to the 13th century, the date of the nave, chancel and aisle. Further west at West Thorney, the church of St Nicholas (Chi SMR 188; 476980 102460) dates to the late 12th-13th century. Also on Thorney, a medieval salt works (Chi SMR 195; 477100 103200) may have been present at Stanbury Point.

At West Itchenor the church of St Nicholas (Chi SMR 202; 479950 100650) dates to the 13th century, although it was much restored later. The shingled bell turret dates to the 19th century.

The most striking medieval feature in the northwest part of the AONB is Warblington Castle (Fig 18; Hants SMR 23,493.00; 472950 105570), now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM number HA 98). The Countess of Salisbury built this fortified brick manor house between 1514 and 1526. The house, built around a courtyard, was constructed on the site of an older, moated manor house. The 16th century building was mostly destroyed during the civil war, only an octagonal turret of the gate-house survives, as well as the older moat (Hants SMR 23,494.00; 472950 105570). The moat is only visible as shallow depressions on its east and west sides and as an earthwork on the north side.

Wade Court country house (Hants SMR 39,341.00; 472100 105300) to the west of the castle, was first documented in AD 1170. Sherds of medieval pottery have been found in this area, including parts of a cooking pot and fragments of a green glazed jug probably dating to the 12th-14th centuries (Hants SMR 23,362.00; 472030 105260), as well as fragments of a quernstone (Hants SMR 23,363.00; 472030 105260).

The manor house at Warblington is not the only moated site in the AONB. Mike West (2000) has compiled a gazetteer of moated sites in Sussex; his site references are given here. In Bosham, the moat (Chi SMR 2359; 480520 103960) to the Manor House is recorded as medieval on the 1913 6" Ordnance Survey map, but at present it is a water-filled garden feature. The moat was square/rectangular (Site Ref 3 in West 2000). The Manor itself is post-medieval (see below), but is said to have been constructed from the remains of an ancient structure that stood near the site (Pugh 1954).

The earthwork traditionally known as 'Vespasian's camp' near Bosham has been mentioned above (Chi SMR 2446; 482900 104300). The site is included as a moated site by West (Site Ref 60 in West 2000), with a square/rectangular moat. An unclassifiable moated site is also listed by West at West Itchenor (Site Ref 106 in West 2000; 479900 101300); the only reference to this site is in Dr Peter Brandon's card index, from which West drew much of his information. A square moat survives south of this at Redlands Farm (Chi SMR 3; 479730 099630). The moat has been partly drained and blocked on the north side and relates to a moated house on the site (Site Ref 52 in West 2000).

Apuldram is notable for Rymans (Chi SMR 2339; 484180 103220) – named after a prominent lawyer William Ryman who acquired the freehold in 1410 and built the house south of the church. In the 17th century this was also known as Appledram Place. What survives of the original structure consists of a three-storied solar wing, with a two-storied wing projecting from its south front. The ground floor of the 15th century block has an original doorway and another in the southwest angle to a stone newel staircase which runs the whole height of the house. There are other 15th century features and additions in the 17th century. There were indications of a moat that may have been backfilled in the late 18th century (Elwes and Robinson 1879; Site Ref 73 in West 2000). The house was greatly remodelled in 1913.

Southeast of Bosham, a wood that survives today as Old Park Wood may have been a medieval park (Chi SMR 2422; 482000 102000). A deer park owned by the Bishop of Chichester from 1231 is thought to have been located to the northwest of the Warblington Castle (Hants SMR 54,149.00; 472600 105600).

Domesday Book refers to two mills at Fishbourne and eleven at Bosham. At the head of Fishbourne Channel, “Salt mylls or Sea Mylls” are first mentioned in 1582. Blocks of stone on the site of these salt mills (Chi SMR 2374; 483689 104112) may be Roman. There were two mills under one roof at this site; there was more than one sluice gate, and probably separate channels and wheels for each mill (Blakeney 1974). Another mill (Chi SMR 2379; 483500 104500) may also have been present in this area (Blakeney 1974). Nearby, documentary evidence suggests the presence of a medieval pottery kiln (Chi SMR 2514; 484000 104000) (Le Patorel 1968). A tide mill (Chi SMR 2500; 483920 103770) may also have existed at the mouth of the River Lavant as it flows into Fishbourne Channel.

In the west part of the AONB, a saltern or salterns are thought to have existed (Hants SMR 23,496.00; 472000 105200). This area is now enclosed by the sea wall with drainage outlets controlled by a sluice. In South Hayling, three salterns are known, one medieval and two post-medieval (see below). The medieval was the largest and was known as Menghams (Hants SMR 23,332.00; 473600 099300). This was recorded in Domesday Book as paying 6/8d. The area is still shown on the modern OS as ‘Mengham Salterns’. The salterns went out of use in the 1870s and by the 1950s there were no recognisable traces of them.

Fishing was likely to have been an important source of food in the medieval period, although no evidence is known for the craft used in this industry. However, a path leads east out of Bosham to Bullrush Pond, which may be a medieval fish pond (Chi SMR 2444; 482300 104420).

There are a number of fragmentary remains that may relate to important structures in the medieval period or give further clues about the location of settlements. A medieval wall and part of what was interpreted as a medieval road were uncovered in an excavation in the 1960s (Chi SMR 2425, 2426; both 480390 103880) and medieval occupation debris (Chi SMR 2462; 480520 103880) was found during an assessment of The Keep in Bosham in 1991.

Near Stonewall Farm an excavation in 1934 found “massive walls of indeterminate date” that were “6-7' thick, 7' high, 70' long” (Chi SMR 2344; 482410 104180). The excavation also revealed Roman sherds and tile (Chi SMR 2345; 482410 104180) and medieval potsherds dating to the 12th-14th centuries.

North of Bosham, a portion of *c* 13th century stone carving (Chi SMR 2354; 480760 104720) was found in 1888. Further north, near Broadbridge, excavation in 1976 prior to roadworks uncovered a small pit and a NE/SW running ditch – both features contained 13th century pottery (Chi SMR 1258, 3432; 481120 105270, 481160 105220).

Around Hook Farm and along the east edge of the Fishbourne Channel, medieval pottery was recovered in a number of places (Chi SMR 2404, 2468, 2469; 483100 102710, 483220 102660, 483230 103120 respectively).

East of the castle, by the Havant Road, a watching brief during pipe line work revealed an irregular dump of medieval material with two pits (Hants SMR 23,497.00; 473430 106000). The dumped material included medieval pottery, building material and residual Roman tiles. The area around the pits was burnt. The interlocking timbers of a medieval well surround were also recovered in this area (Hants SMR 23,500.00; 473430 106000). The timber is currently being treated by Portsmouth Museum. In Pook Lane, a Chichester halfpenny was recovered (Hants SMR 32,464.00; 472600 105700).

Small scale excavations at the Tournier Bury hillfort (see above) in 1960 found two sherds of medieval pottery (Hants SMR 23,331.00; 473150 099860). These were identified as Norman in date.

A deserted medieval village known as East Itchenor is suspected in the Birdham area (Chi SMR 2352; 481600 100500). However, inspection of aerial photographs has drawn a blank, and no evidence was found when a housing estate was built on part of the area in the 1960s. The first reference to East Itchenor was a charter of AD 683, and the village was also mentioned in Domesday Book (Vigar 1994). The East Itchenor rectory was valued at £8.00 a year in a 1291 survey, as opposed to Birdham's £5.6s.8d. Vigar speculates that the reason for the demise of East Itchenor was that it was too close to West Itchenor for both villages to be commercially viable. He draws attention to the unusual footpath layout between West Itchenor and Birdham and argues that this may indicate early rights of way. He also argues that modern Cowdray Farm may have been within the parish of East Itchenor since a Cowdray chapel was mentioned in a dispute documented in the early 13th century. By 1441, the population of East Itchenor had declined and the parish was united with that of Birdham. East Itchenor church became a ruin, and was finally demolished in the 18th century. Saxton's 1575 map of Hampshire shows only a church at Birdham and 'Ichnor' [sic]. A church at 'E. Itchynor' appears on Morden's 1695 Chichester map. Neither church nor name East Itchenor feature on Yeakell and Gardiner's 1780s map of the area.

There is a deserted medieval settlement in the northwest part of the AONB (Hants SMR 28,366.00; 473000 105500), although the precise location is not known. Domesday Book mentions a hamlet of Warblington (Warbiltone) with two churches and a mill. Earthworks in this area may be house platforms.

Vigar (1994) also speculates that there may once have been a village at Apuldram, although he says that the evidence is unclear. There is no mention of the village in the Domesday survey, the earliest reference to 'Apeldreham' appears in the early 12th century. The reference may have been to a single homestead rather than to a settlement distinguished by apple trees. As noted above, Ryman's was built in 1410 and this and the Manor House more or less form the entire village. There is a small early 13th century church, but this was more a chapel of ease for the Bosham parishioners who would have found it difficult to reach their parish church across the Chichester Channel. In 1433, in a survey by the monks of Battle Abbey found that Apuldram consisted of three streets. Vigar suggests that the Black Death of 1349 may have marked the beginning of Apuldram's decline.

### *Research questions*

The lack of excavation on rural medieval sites is accompanied by a lack of environmental evidence for the period. There is a research need to research rural settlement patterns and their origin. There are both nucleated and dispersed settlements in the AONB, and it is not clear why one or other of these developed. An understanding of the distribution of the settlements – including the deserted settlements – will give insights into social structure and social organisation and into medieval ideas about ordering and planning.

The basis of any ongoing research into moated sites and their social meaning and position must be based on a full recovery of their location and extent (West 2000). For those moated sites already known, documentary work on Manorial holdings as well as field survey, including using geophysical techniques, may shed light on these monuments. Firm dating of such sites is also necessary. Inspection of map evidence may reveal more moated sites. There is still a question of the motivation for the moat builders.

The answer is likely to be more complex than that moats were either for defence or decoration, since not all high-status homes were moated. West postulates that the defensive moat – modelled on the early castles – may have led to an environment enhancing and food storing water feature in less troubled times.

There was considerable influence of the Church in the AONB, for example Boxgrove Priory held several advowsons for churches in the Area. Future research could investigate the affect of this influence.

Trade in the Medieval period is not fully understood for the AONB. Future research could address the question of how the Harbour developed as a port, as well as its maritime history in this period.

There is only the broadest of understandings about the environmental conditions in the Medieval period and how these impacted on land use. For instance, we know that increased storminess in the 14th century led to the abandonment of some arable fields and even the loss of land to the sea, but detail is lacking.

Historical research and survey of the deserted medieval villages near Birdham, Warblington and Apuldram could be undertaken to gain an understanding of the changes in settlement patterns in the medieval period.



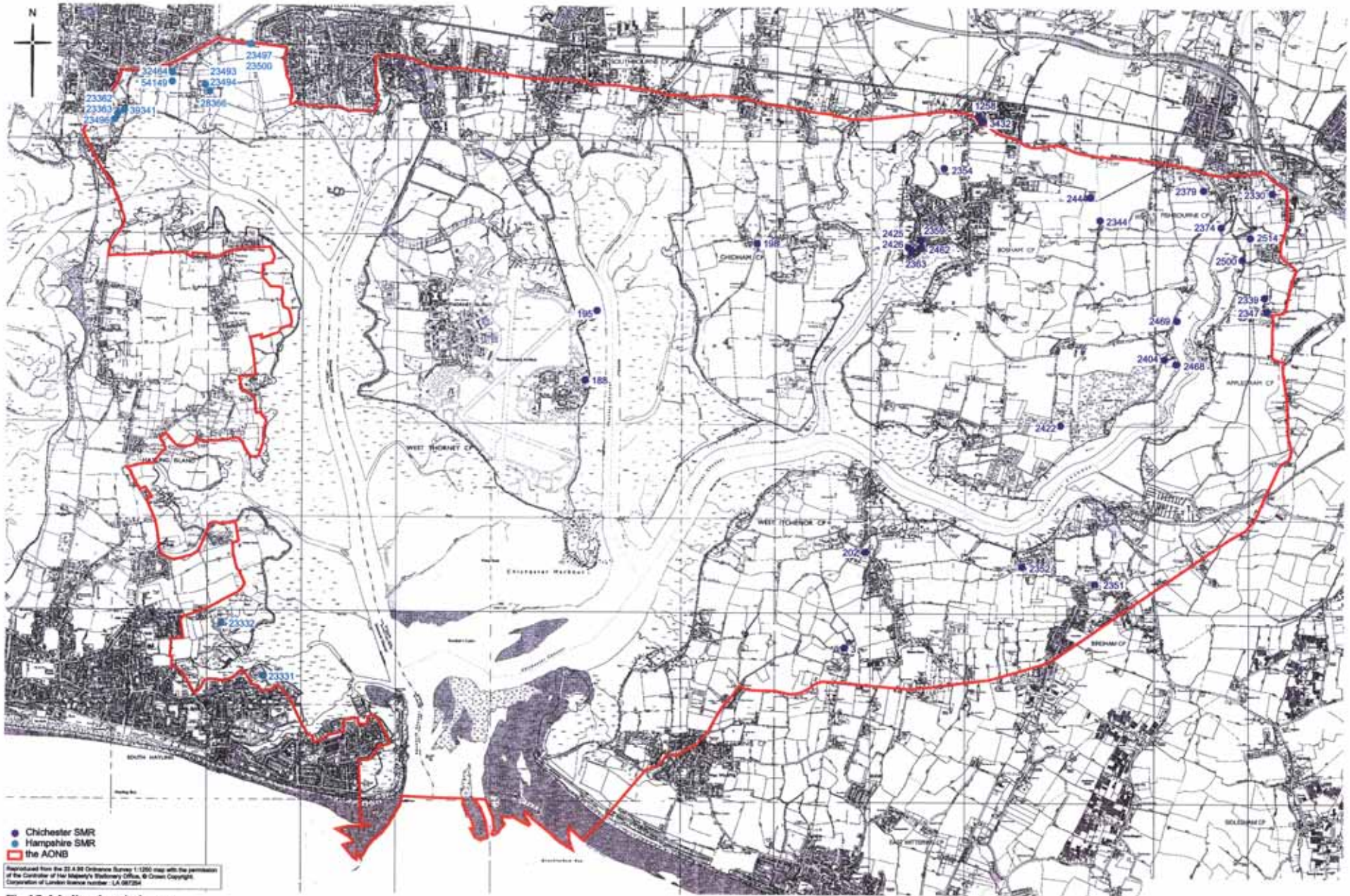


Fig 17 Medieval period map





Fig 18 Warblington Castle today (photo MoLAS)



Fig 19 The Wadeway between Langstone and North Hayling, looking north (photo MoLAS). Timber structures can be seen on the left of the image