



The
**VERNACULAR
ARCHITECTURE
OF
BRECKLAND**

A Survey by The Breckland Society

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The Breckland Society 2007

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Survey analysis by Dr Tom Williamson.
Report compiled and edited by Anne Mason & James Parry.
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with analysis by Dr Tom Williamson

of the University of East Anglia



2007

Acknowledgements

IT IS NO MEAN achievement for a small, relatively new organisation to take on an ambitious community project designed to evaluate the traditional buildings of an area covering more than 300 square miles. Yet this is precisely what the Breckland Society embarked upon in August 2004, thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant awarded through the Local Heritage Initiative. That the Brecks Vernacular Architecture project has been such a success is testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of all involved: thanks go to the Brecks Countryside Project (now the Brecks Partnership), and William Wall of the Countryside Agency, who were instrumental in helping the Society secure the grant in the first place; to the project adviser, Anne Mason, who steadfastly and creatively steered the various project components through to a most rewarding conclusion; and, most of all, to the teams of volunteers who gave so willingly of their time to walk the streets and lanes of Breckland recording the modest buildings that are such an important part of our everyday environment.

The Society is also grateful to the builders and craftsmen who led the series of building workshops organised as part of the project, and to Teresa

Squires, who bravely processed the many hundreds of recording forms and created a special database of the information they contained. Particular thanks are due to Dr Tom Williamson of the University of East Anglia; as one of the leading experts on Breckland's history and heritage, he kindly agreed to analyse the project database and author the main sections of this report. Its contents constitute a significant resource, one both of value to students of the subject and area, and of interest to those who live here. The Society was, in part, created out of concern that the character of the towns and villages in this unique part of England was being adversely affected by unsympathetic development. Our concerns remain very real, but we hope that this report will go some way towards highlighting what is important, and worth protecting, about the vernacular buildings of the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks.

James Parry
Chairman
The Breckland Society
June 2007

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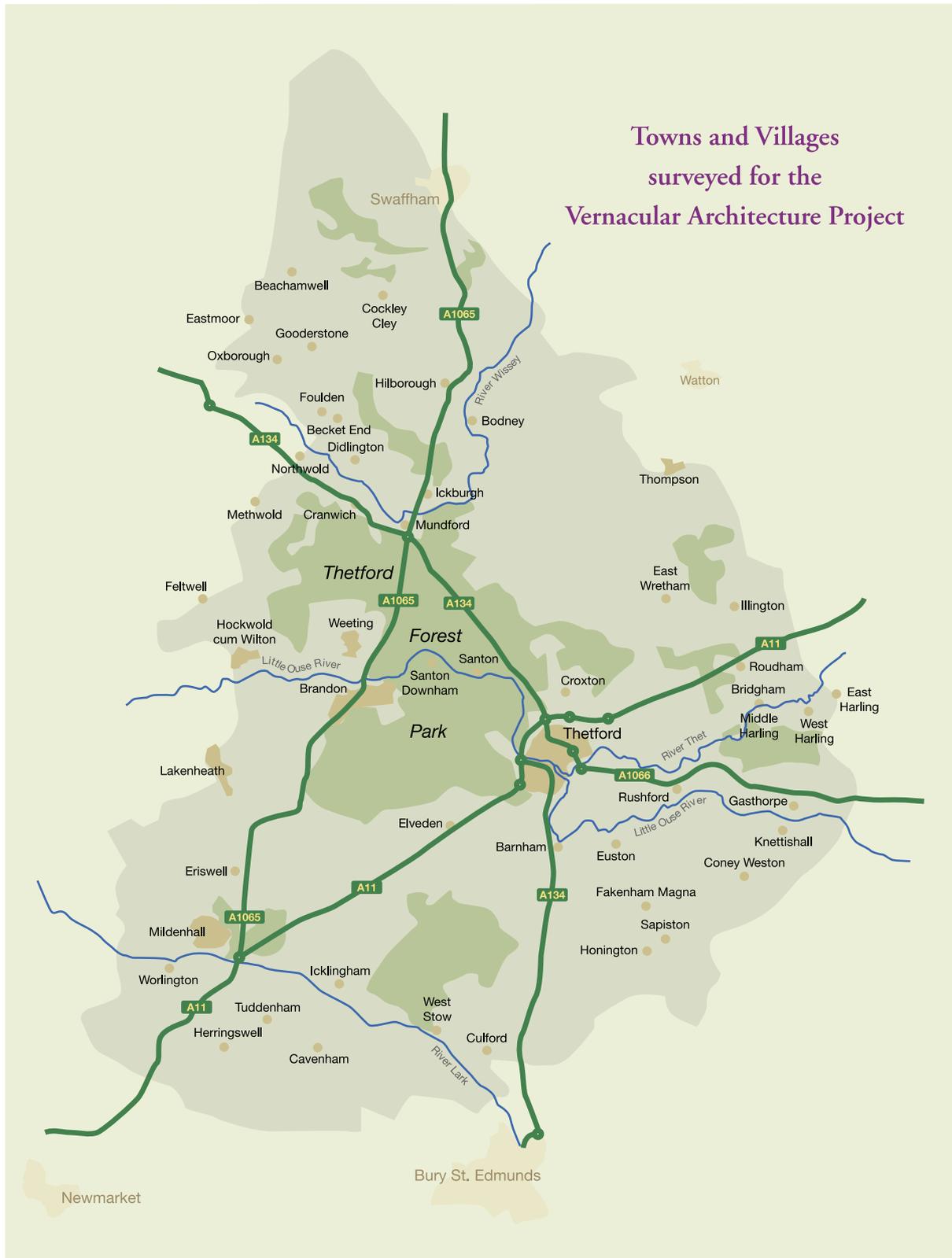
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THE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF BRECKLAND



A SURVEY BY THE BRECKLAND SOCIETY



The Vernacular Architecture of Breckland

A Survey by The Breckland Society

The Purpose and Nature of the Survey

THE FORM and structure of a region or district's buildings perhaps contribute more to its distinctive visual character than any other feature, such as the shape of its fields or its pattern of settlement. The main aim of the survey was to discover what was distinctive about the buildings of Breckland – using this term not in its modern administrative sense, but in the way that it was first employed

by W. G. Clarke, to mean the district of light sands, overlying chalk, which occupies much of south-western Norfolk and north-western Suffolk. It is a region of generally poor soils which lies sandwiched between the more fertile, and more wooded, boulder clay plateau to the east; and the level peat Fens, which were only effectively drained in the course of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, to the west.

The survey was organised and carried out by volunteers and was based

Above
Cottages at
Beachamwell.

exclusively on external examination: no attempt was made to enter buildings to record aspects of their internal structure. Although such an approach is a well-established one – its principles were laid down by the great architectural historian R. W. Brunskill in the 1960s and 70s – it is often treated with some suspicion by modern students of vernacular and domestic architecture, on the not unreasonable grounds that external appearances can be misleading, and that a very old building can lurk within a more modern shell. The recent, exemplary, survey of the houses of New Buckenham – just outside the Breckland district – by the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group thus identified a number of important timber-framed medieval buildings completely hidden

behind Victorian brick façades. If the Breckland Society's primary interest had been in the history of houses and other buildings in the district, then the approach adopted for the survey would almost certainly have been inappropriate and its results misleading; but it was not. The intention of the survey was to evaluate what was typical of the local built environment, and this of necessity involved an emphasis on external features – roof shape, building materials, decorative features and the like. By identifying characteristic elements and features, advice and encouragement may in the future be directed towards ensuring that new buildings replicate, as far as possible, some of these, and are thus more in harmony with their surroundings.

Below
Methwold: a chalk house with flint on the main façade.



The Determinants of Architectural Character

The character of a region's buildings arises from three main factors: the age range, and balance, of the housing stock; the kinds of building and roofing materials employed; and the particular traditions and fashions which have built up in an area over time, sometimes through regular and sustained contacts with neighbouring districts. In practice these three apparently distinct factors are anything but: they are interconnected and inter-dependent. For example, the types of building materials found in a region is in part a function of the age of its buildings: in an area in which there are few buildings surviving from before c.1700, for example, we would not expect to find much evidence for timber-framing, for this form of construction had been almost universally abandoned – at least for houses – by this date. Particular details of decoration or construction which appear at first sight to be the result of local workshop traditions can also, in some cases, turn out on closer inspection to be a consequence of building chronology: they might have been current throughout England during a comparatively short period of time during which the area under investigation experienced a pronounced wave of building, the consequence of population expansion or economic vitality. The interpretation of local architectural character is thus complex,



Above
Farmhouse in
Beachamwell.

but we can begin to understand it by describing briefly the kinds of building and roofing materials available locally, what is known about the antiquity of the local housing stock, and changing patterns of contact and communication over time – the latter important not only in terms of the availability of building materials, but also for the movement of styles, fashions and ideas. We need, however, to consider such matters not simply as they affect or relate to Breckland as a whole, but also in terms

Below
The Lynford Hall
Estate plaque, on
cottages in Mundford.



of how they impacted differentially within the region: for in reality, as we shall see, there are subtle differences between the architectural legacies of different areas within Breckland, differences born of a complex interplay of geological, economic and social factors.

Below
Typical Breckland building in Didlington, incorporating chalk, flint, brick and pantiles.

Most of the distinctive features of the Breckland landscape, including the character of its buildings, derive – directly or indirectly – from its geology, which mainly consists of chalk overlain by sand. Chalk itself was used, throughout history, as a building material: but more important was flint, which lies in distinct beds within the

chalk, and more widely in the surface drift. It was extensively used in all periods. In addition, small patches of boulder clay occur throughout the district, and these were widely exploited for making bricks and tiles.

But the region's geology had another, less direct, effect on the kinds of building materials available to local communities. Its light, freely draining sandy and chalky soils were particularly attractive to early farmers, and as a result most of the woodland in the area was destroyed by the start of the medieval period, and replaced by arable fields and open heaths. The latter may have contributed some useful construction materials





– both heather and bracken can be used for thatch, although there are no certain references to the use of either in local documents – but timber for building was largely unavailable in the immediate area and had to be brought into the district from elsewhere, either from the well-timbered claylands lying to the east, or from further afield, via the Fen waterways. The Fens themselves must once have provided a good source of thatch, in the form of reeds and saw sedge, but – as we shall see – thatch is now relatively rare in Breckland. From the 18th century these same waterways probably encouraged the relatively early use of slate – a heavy yet fragile material, difficult to transport by land.

The poor, acid character of its soils has ensured that Breckland has, since

medieval times, been a relatively poor and sparsely populated region. We need, however, to make a general distinction between the interior of Breckland, and especially the areas around Thetford, where particularly acidic soils, formed in deep sands, occupy much of the land surface; and the more peripheral areas, along the Fen edge to the west, and merging with the boulder clays to the east, where the soils are often more fertile and calcareous. The interior was always more sparsely populated than the peripheries: large areas here are still devoid of significant settlements, and much of the landscape consisted, before the 20th century, of extensive areas of open heathland – replaced since the 1920s by wide expanses of conifer plantations. In the course of the post-medieval period large tracts

Above
A typical Breckland
landscape, near
Ickburgh.



Above
A rare example of a medieval building in Breckland, at Gasthorpe.

Right
A typical 18th-century brick-built house in Foulden.

of this agriculturally marginal area were acquired wholesale by extensive landed estates who seem, as elsewhere in England, to have indulged in large-scale schemes of land improvement: schemes which also had an impact on the housing stock.

The Chronology of Breckland Buildings

The surveyors attempted to estimate the approximate date of the buildings they recorded and, although external appearances can be misleading, some patterns in the resulting data can be discerned. The overwhelming majority of buildings built before c.1900 were thought to be of 18th- or 19th-century

date (54% and 38% respectively). A mere 8% were thought to be of 16th- and 17th-century construction: and less than one per cent were considered medieval. In spite of the obvious dangers of interpreting this evidence, it is clear that, in external form at least, the overwhelming bulk of Breckland buildings are of remarkably recent date





– over 92%, according to the survey, attained their present form during the last three centuries. In this, Breckland contrasts markedly with most other areas of East Anglia, and especially with the claylands to the east, where large numbers of buildings of 16th- and 17th-century date, and a significant number with medieval origins, can be found.

This marked paucity of early buildings is in large measure a consequence of the relative poverty of Breckland: houses and other buildings were certainly built here in the period before 1700, in some numbers, but they were evidently too poor and perhaps insubstantial to be worth preserving and retaining into the modern period, and were replaced

by better-built structures. Both the poverty of the local housing stock, and the completeness with which it was replaced, seem from the evidence of the survey to have been greatest in the core of Breckland, although even here some buildings erected before c.1700 can be found. Not only were the majority of early buildings probably poor, ramshackle affairs in this particularly poverty-stricken area; in addition, they were swept away with particular thoroughness by large landed estates. The general paucity of pre-18th century buildings is, perhaps, the most striking and distinctive aspect of Breckland's architectural heritage.

Above
19th-century estate
cottages at Culford.

Right
Timber-framed gable
end in Worlington.



Building Materials

Building materials probably contribute more to regional character than any other aspect of vernacular architecture: not only the specific type of material used, or visible (brick, timber framing, stone etc.) but also the particular kinds of stone, brick etc, employed, together with how various materials were used in combination. The overwhelming majority of Breckland buildings are constructed of three main materials: brick, chalk, and flint. The character of a district's vernacular buildings also, however, derives in part from the paucity or absence of particular forms of construction, and in the case of Breckland the most striking feature is the low number of timber-framed houses.

Timber Framing

Before the later 17th century most houses in lowland England were built of timber frames, infilled with wattle and daub. Even after this date timber framing continued to be sporadically employed, albeit in somewhat debased form: in parts of Cambridgeshire into the 19th century for farmworkers' cottages, for example. Norfolk and Suffolk have a wealth of timber-framed buildings: indeed, this is perhaps the most striking feature of East Anglia's villages and small towns, and especially those in the south of the region. East Anglia falls firmly within the 'box frame' province of England – there

are no examples here of crucks, that is, buildings in which pairs of inclined timbers sweep from floor to the apex of the roof, supporting both walls and roof. Instead, the body of the building and the roof were structurally distinct, although both were raised together, as a series of trusses defining a number of bays, each truss comprising principal posts, principal rafters, ties and collars in a variety of combinations. Between were smaller members or studs which held the panels of wattle and daub that formed the wall itself. Styles of framing, and plans of houses, both underwent many complex changes over the centuries and much of the variety we see in the countryside today is a consequence of regional variations in the chronology of building, rather than a manifestation of regional styles *per se*.

Within East Anglia, late medieval timber-framed buildings are most numerous in districts to the south and west of the rivers Lark and Gipping, especially in the old textile areas along the Stour and its tributaries, particularly in towns like Lavenham, Hadleigh, and Sudbury, or in formerly industrialised villages like Kersey. 16th- and 17th-century timbered buildings are more widely spread, across the boulder clay plateau which forms the centre of East Anglia (many are rendered and colour-washed, although their character is usually still recognisable from the outside). The marked lack of timber-framed buildings in Breckland may in part reflect the fact that they



Above
A typical example
of a timber-framed
house, subsequently
rendered.
Coney Weston.

are hidden behind rendering, or brick façades. But for the most part it is real – there simply are not many buildings of this type. In all, a mere eleven were recorded in the survey, and many of these were located towards the margins of the region: nine where the sands give way, in the east, to heavier clay soils (six in Thompson, one in East Harling and two in Ixworth Thorpe) and the others in villages close to the Fen edge (Mildenhall and Worlington). Other examples are certainly known, some hidden behind much later façades. Medieval crown-post roofs have thus been recorded in Ixworth, Bardwell and Culford, queen post roofs from Great

Bardwell and Coney Weston, and even a Wealden house from Barton Mills. But the numbers of such buildings are small and, like those noted in this survey, examples have generally been recorded on the edges of the region, especially towards those districts of heavier clay soils where timber-framed buildings are common.

In part, the virtual absence of timber-framed buildings simply reflects that more general paucity of buildings in the area erected before the late 17th century which we have already noted. But not entirely, for a number of buildings erected before the late 17th



century were recorded by the survey – nearly ninety in all – but instead of being timber-framed (as they would have been on the claylands) these were built of chalk or flint. The paucity of timber-framed houses in Breckland is thus not simply a consequence of the fact that few early buildings survive in the region. It is also a result of the fact that most such buildings – or at least, those that have survived to the present – were built of other materials. This was presumably due to the lack of good-quality timber (and hazel, for wattles) in this poorly wooded landscape of open arable and wide heathlands, and the costs involved in bringing this in from elsewhere. Such costs were, of course, lower where settlements were located close to the well-wooded and

well-timbered claylands, or beside the navigable waterways of the Fens – which is precisely where the handful of known timber-framed buildings are located. As is so often the case, the character of a district's buildings arises from the complex interplay of a variety of factors.

Brick

Brick is the most common building material in Breckland, and houses built entirely or largely of this material are more or less evenly distributed across the region. A variety of colours can be found, but bricks in a pale yellow or cream colour are perhaps most characteristic. This is a feature which Breckland shares with Cambridgeshire and the Fens more than with the bulk

Above
A house of yellow
brick in Northwold.

Right
Contrasting brickwork
in Northwold.



of Suffolk and Norfolk, where orange and red bricks dominate the built environment, at least in the period before the 19th century. The light colour, probably valued because of its resemblance to stone, is the result of mixing the clay with lime, something which was easily achieved in this district due to the ubiquity of chalk. Such bricks were only widely used in Norfolk and Suffolk, and then mainly in the major towns, following the spread of the rail network in the middle decades of the 19th century, something which brought increasingly alien forms of building material, and ever more standardised kinds of construction, to all regions. This said, the dominance of light bricks in the area should not be exaggerated,

and many houses and outbuildings can be found built of red or orange-coloured brick.

Brick can be laid in a number of different 'bonds'. This is the term given to the way in which the 'stretchers' – the bricks laid lengthways, along the wall – and the 'headers' – those laid into the wall, binding its two faces together – are arranged. Early walls have irregular bonds, of relatively thin and usually fairly irregular bricks. As bonds became more regular, in the course of the 17th century, the most common was 'English bond', in which there were alternate courses of headers and stretchers. Flemish bond – used in large mansions like Raynham Hall as

Below
A mixture of red and orange brickwork in Foulton.





Above
Example of bricks laid
in English bond.

early as the 1630s – gradually became more popular at vernacular level, generally supplanting English bond by the 18th century, although continuing to be used into the 19th. In the Flemish version each course has alternate headers and stretchers. Both bonds are well represented in Breckland, although Flemish bond is notably more common (59% to 33%). Houses in Flemish bond are widely and evenly scattered across the region. Those in English bond, in contrast, tend to be found towards the west, with a particular concentration in the valley of the Wissey, around Foulden, Northwold and Whittington. A number of other bonds can be found in English vernacular buildings, but only one is significantly present in this district – stretcher bond, in which all the bricks are laid lengthways, as stretchers, with few or no headers (7% of recorded brick building). This bond was usually employed where brick was a facing, or

skin, over other materials, such as chalk. Buildings in stretcher bond are widely and thinly scattered across the region, although again with a slight clustering in the north-west.

The dominance of Flemish bond in Breckland reflects the fact that the majority of brick buildings recorded by the surveyors appear to be relatively recent (only 7%, as already noted, were considered to be of 17th-century or earlier date). What is surprising, perhaps, is the comparatively high proportion in English bond. Although relatively early buildings do tend to be clustered on the Fen edge, roughly in the areas in which this bond is well represented, a high proportion of the buildings so constructed (65%) were actually considered by surveyors to be of 'Victorian' date. To some extent local traditions may have ensured that this bond remained popular in the west (and



in the Wissey valley in particular) until relatively late.

Clay Lump

Clay lump or clay 'bat' is the name given to large blocks of unfired clay and straw, usually measuring c.10 cm by 30 cm. It is a classic East Anglian building material, found in particular in central and southern Norfolk, north Suffolk, and south Cambridgeshire, although its distribution also extends intermittently into south Suffolk and Essex. Lump is used for cottages, some farmhouses, farm buildings and – in south Cambridgeshire especially – for garden walls. Vulnerable to damp, lump needs to be rendered when employed externally. It is often described as a 'traditional' material, but this is true only in the widest sense. Although mud-walled construction

seems to have been a feature of poorer buildings in the medieval and early modern periods, large unfired bricks, mortared together, were probably first used as late as the 1790s, possibly by an enterprising builder from Great Shelford in Cambridgeshire called Joseph Austin. The technique spread through south Cambridgeshire and adjacent areas of Essex in the first two decades of the 19th century but may only have become common in Norfolk and Suffolk after John Claudius Loudon published an account of it in his *Encyclopaedia* of 1833. Certainly, in 1846 Charles Poppy reported that numerous houses and cottages newly constructed of lump could be seen along the turnpike road (the modern A140) between Stonham in Suffolk and Long Stratton in Norfolk. The technique, as McCann has argued, almost certainly originated in the use of unfired clay bricks for the nesting boxes

Above
Clay lump buildings are typically obscured by render and can be difficult to discern.



Above
Detail of clay lump construction; note the stone foundation, essential to protect clay lump against damp.

in 18th-century dovecotes. Clay lump continued to be employed sporadically into the 20th century: in Norfolk, some early council houses were built of it.

Clay lump does not occur much in Breckland: only fifteen examples were recorded by the survey. However, this may be a serious underestimate: lump is not durable as a material unless it is made weatherproof, and some at least of the buildings described as 'rendered' by surveyors are almost certainly built of lump. Buildings unquestionably of 'lump' construction are widely scattered, although noticeably distributed towards the northern and eastern margins of the study area. Those to the east of the study area lie close to the margins of Breckland proper, towards the boulder

clay soils of mid and south Norfolk, where this material is widely used. They should, perhaps, be interpreted as representing the edge of the denser concentration of such buildings found on the clay plateau. The real significance of this 'peripheral' distribution, however, is probably social and tenurial. The central core of Breckland was, as already noted, characterised by large landed estates, and for the most part lump seems to have been a material more closely associated (at least for house and cottage construction) with small proprietors. The latter became more prominent towards the clays on the east, and towards the Fens in the west, which is precisely where this form of construction tends to be found.

Flint

Flint occurs throughout Breckland, present both as beds in the underlying chalk (quarried since the Neolithic at Grimes Graves and elsewhere) and also, in many places, in the glacial drift on the surface. This ubiquity is reflected in its use as a building material throughout the region, although there are subtle variations in the precise ways in which it has been employed. It might be thought that flint is a rather archaic, primitive building material, but this is emphatically not the case in Breckland. Over 53% of the buildings recorded by the surveyors as being of 'flint', 'brick and flint', or 'flint and

brick' were judged to be Victorian in date. Many of the estate cottages erected by large estates in the heart of Breckland in the late 19th and 20th century were built of this material.

Flint is used in a variety of ways. Rough flints can be laid randomly, without courses: they can be laid in rough courses; or they can be trimmed, or carefully selected for shape, and laid in regular courses. Of the three forms of construction, random rubble without clear courses was the form of construction most frequently noted by the surveyors, distributed fairly evenly across the region: around 80% of the flint buildings recorded were of this type. Coursed flint was less common, and with a tendency to be found in

Below
Flint gathered from
the surface of fields at
Lakenheath.



Right
Part of a terrace
of flint houses in
Brandon, once the
centre of the flint-
knapping industry.



buildings lying towards the west of the region. It is likely that this is mainly a consequence of geological factors. Good-quality flint, in large nodules, occurs in the chalk exposed close to the surface towards the west of the region, close to the Fen edge. Elsewhere, flint was usually obtained from the surface, often from the glacial drift, and thus took the form of more irregular nodules or pebbles which were best used, not in courses, but in the form of random rubble. Not only is random rubble construction more common than regular or irregular courses. It also has a longer history, with buildings of medieval, 16th- and 17th-century date being recorded by surveyors. Coursed flint, in contrast, was recognised only on Georgian and later buildings.

In addition, the survey distinguished between buildings constructed largely

of flint, those of 'brick and flint', and those of 'flint and brick'. The distinction between the latter two categories is based on the relative quantities of each of the two materials, with the latter generally being those in which brick rubble was mixed with the flint: but in fact, even those described as being simply of 'flint' generally have openings (doors and windows) and often corners constructed in brick. Buildings in flint and brick are mainly found towards the west of the district, with all but four examples lying west of a north-south line running through the centre of Thetford. Buildings of flint alone are rather more widely distributed, with in particular a cluster south west of Thetford: this appears to be associated with farms and cottages erected by large landed estates in the 19th century. Buildings of 'brick and flint', in contrast, are more widely dispersed, with no obvious pattern.

Below
Flint laid as random rubble in Croxton (although note the brick-built gable end).





Above
Exceptionally fine
'chequerboard'
brick/flintwork
on a farmhouse in
Shingham.

Chalk

Hard chalk, or 'clunch', provides a reasonably durable construction material. The survey made a distinction, perhaps of questionable validity, between houses constructed largely or entirely of chalk, with brick used for corners and for openings (doors and windows); and those in which the two materials were more evenly combined. It is probable that the survey underestimates, to some extent, the numbers of chalk buildings

in the district. Although chalk is not as vulnerable to weathering as clay lump, such buildings were often rendered externally, often perhaps as much for reasons of fashion as practicality. Some were also faced in brick – accounting for some at least of the houses constructed of stretcher bond which were recorded by the surveyors.

Chalk underlies much of the Breckland district but houses built largely or entirely of this material have a much more restricted distribution – they occur in the west, close to the Fen edge.



chalk underlies the entire region, clunch only outcrops – or lies close enough to the surface to be quarried – in a band along the Fen edge, and to a lesser extent in the western ends of the principal rivers draining across Breckland into the Fen basin. The date at which the material began to be employed on a significant scale is uncertain. Some of the oldest examples are probably of 17th-century date – especially in and around the village of Hockwold – but most appear to be 18th- or 19th-century, with around 54% being classed as ‘Victorian’ by the surveyors, and 46% as ‘Georgian’.

Left
A restored chalk house
in Northwold.

Below
A chalk barn in
Caldicote.

Buildings in which chalk is combined with brick present, for the most part, a similar pattern. This particular distribution is easily explained. Although

Carrstone

Carrstone, an iron sandstone that occurs beneath the chalk in a narrow





Above
Carrstone cottages in
Beachamwell.

Right, above
Detail of carrstone.

Right, below
Detail of galleting.

band from Hunstanton to Downham Market, is used as a building stone in the extreme western part of the Brecks. Easily worked into smooth, square or rectangular blocks, it was quarried for use in estate buildings in particular. In this district, its most notable appearance is in estate cottages in Beachamwell, where small pieces of carrstone were used as a decorative facing material on buildings otherwise constructed of flint or brick.

One interesting feature, found on a minority of buildings in Breckland, is 'galleting': the practice of pushing fragments of carrstone or small flints into the mortar between the main blocks – a purely decorative technique. Probably because this could only be visually successful where flints were

laid in courses, or at least where larger nodules were employed, this was only practiced to any extent – once again – in villages along the edge of the Fens.





Left
An excellent example
of galleting on a house
in Northwold.

Roofing materials

Roofing materials also contribute considerably to the distinctive character of Breckland's landscape. Three main materials are used in Breckland: slate, tile and thatch, although the latter is present only in very small quantities.

Below

A section of the longest thatched terrace in England, at Weeting.

Bottom

Thatched roof in Gasthorpe.

Thatch

Thatch is a common roofing material across much of East Anglia, but is curiously rare in Breckland: only a

handful of examples were recorded by the survey, scattered across the south of the district. This is particularly striking given that, at least until the great drainage improvements of the 18th and 19th century, reeds must have been abundant in the Fens, immediately to the west; and reed beds were also clearly a feature of some of the valleys of the major rivers draining through the region. The explanation for this paucity probably lies, once again, in the fact that the overwhelming majority of buildings in the district are of 18th-century or later date: that is, they date from a time when the main alternatives to thatch – tile or slate – had become relatively cheap.

Some at least of the houses recorded in the survey which pre-date the 18th century, and which are now roofed with pantiles, were evidently originally roofed with thatch: one indication of this is the steep pitch of their roofs (thatch is not in itself waterproof: a steep pitch is required in order to ensure that droplets of water proceed smoothly downwards, dripping from reed to reed (or straw to straw)). The paucity of thatched buildings in Breckland must thus be due in part to the systematic replacement of this material by tile in the course of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Thatch certainly seems to have been abandoned as a roofing material at an early date, for almost all the houses with thatched roofs recorded were classed as 'Tudor' or 'Jacobean' by the surveyors, with only a small minority considered



‘Georgian’ (i.e., 18th century). No 19th-century examples were noted. This is in line with most other areas of East Anglia, where new buildings continued to be provided with thatched roofs into the early 18th century, but not thereafter.

Tiles

Tiled roofs occur throughout the district, spread more or less evenly. With few exceptions, these make use of the pantiles so typical of East Anglia, and of eastern England more generally, rather than the simple plain tiles which occur in areas to the west. These distinctive tiles have a section like a shallow ‘S’ and unlike ‘normal’ plain tiles they are not nailed or pegged into the roof battens, and are laid in such a way that each only overlaps one, rather than two, others. Pantiles were introduced into England from the Low Countries – the Dutch word ‘pan’ means ‘tile’. They were first imported into East Anglia in the late 17th century and were manufactured locally from the start of the 18th. An innovation of the mid-18th century was the glazed tile, usually black: glazing was mainly intended to protect the tile from frost cracking.

Pantiles are absent from the Midlands and the west of England except, rather curiously, for a marked pocket in Somerset. But while tiles are a distinctive feature of East Anglia they are not confined to this region. Their distribution extends, somewhat intermittently, right up the east coast as far as Northumberland. Nor are they



found throughout East Anglia. They are most common in Norfolk and north-east Suffolk.

They can be found across much of the Fens but they are virtually unknown from south-west Suffolk: their distribution falls off markedly along a line drawn roughly from Bury St Edmunds to Ipswich. Breckland thus lies within the ‘pantile’ zone. Pantiles continued to be used as a roofing material right through the 19th century, and in some places into the 20th.

Top
Pantiled roof, replacing thatch, at Lakenheath.

Above
Pantiled roof in Northwold.



Above
Slate roof in
Mundford.

Facing page, top
Roof of simple gabled
form in Worlington.

Facing page, middle
Restored barn with
hipped roof in
Shingham.

Facing page, bottom
Victorian windows
on a house in
Oxborough.

Slate

Slate was first employed as a roofing material in East Anglia – at the level of country houses – in the 18th century, but only became widely used on vernacular buildings in the course of the 19th century. There are, of course, no sources of roofing slates in East Anglia – the material has to be brought long distances from the west of Britain – and the weight and fragility of the material meant that it was only in the late 18th century, with improvements in water transport, that it became more widespread, and only with the spread of the railways that it became ubiquitous. The majority of slate roofs in Breckland occur on buildings dating, as we might expect, from the later 18th and 19th centuries. In marked contrast to pantiles, it seems to have been rare for

earlier buildings, originally thatched, to have been re-roofed at a later date with this material. Most of the slate roofs recorded by the surveyors (over two thirds) appear to be associated with Victorian buildings; almost all the remainder were classed as ‘Georgian’.

Slate roofs are common throughout Breckland but they display a slightly more structured distribution than tiled roofs. Rather than being scattered fairly evenly across the region, slate roofs are slightly more common in the west. Most of the examples recorded by the surveyors (c.75%) were found within ten kilometres of the Fen edge, with marked clusters in villages actually lying beside the Fens (Feltwell, Lakenheath) or in settlements like Icklingham lying slightly inland, but on a navigable waterway. This clearly reflects the importance of water transport in the distribution of

this bulky yet relatively fragile material. Away from this belt, slate roofs occur mainly on mid- to late 19th-century buildings, mostly erected by large estates.

Other Construction Details

Roof Form

The roofs of Breckland buildings are characterised as much by what is lacking as by what is present. The shaped or ‘Dutch’ gables which are a noteworthy feature of many vernacular houses in East Anglia, especially in the east of the region, are rarely found here. The overwhelming majority of roofs are of simple gabled form, with a substantial minority hipped, the two types seemingly distributed fairly evenly across the district, although with slightly different chronological distributions. Hipped roofs are mainly of 19th-century date, with some from the later 18th, whereas gable roofs occur in all periods. Indeed, whether hipped roofs can really be considered a ‘vernacular’ tradition in the region is doubtful. Other roof forms (flat, ‘M’-pitched, mansard) are rare, and none have particularly striking distributions apart perhaps from mansard roofs. These are clustered along the edge of the Fens, and represent the edge of a distribution based in Cambridgeshire. In short, Breckland roof forms are characterised by simplicity, rather than complexity: simple gables are the norm.



Openings: doors and windows

The overwhelming majority of windows recorded by surveyors were of simple rectangular or square shape, often with slightly arched lintels, with only a handful of rounded arches. The small number of windows described by surveyors as having mullions and/or

Facing page, top right
Semi-detached
cottages in Croxton.

*Facing page, lower
right*
Decorative brickwork
on a gable end in
Worlington.

Facing page, left
Decorative barge-
boards in Mundford
and Santon
Downham.

Below
Terraces, such as this
example in Eriswell,
are relatively unusual
in Breckland.

pointed arches were all Victorian, rather than genuine survivals from the time when such features were current – i.e. the 16th and 17th centuries. Doors also took, for the most part, relatively simple forms, with the overwhelming majority (80%) having a simple square shape; only 10% of the buildings recorded, mainly 18th- and 19th-century in date, had arches of simple rounded form. Again, almost all the ‘gothic’ forms – with one possible medieval exception – were Victorian.

Form and Decoration

Whether semi-detached, in a row, or free-standing, the form of Breckland houses appears to be largely a function of size and status, and of location. Larger and wealthier houses, and those standing on the edge of or away from the principal towns and villages, are more likely to be single and detached than meaner dwellings in more densely

built-up locations. Most houses, whatever their size, display relatively simple forms, often single rectangles in plan. Decorative brickwork is a noticeable feature of buildings across the district, with skilled bricklayers using different coloured bricks laid in patterns (often in the form of diamonds or ‘diapers’). Chimneys, made of brick because of its high resistance to heat, were often afforded decorative treatment when resources and expertise allowed. The surrounds of doors and windows are usually relatively plain, with one exception: brick quoining is common, and especially noticeable where flint or chalk buildings have openings with brick surrounds. A range of brick colours can be found, but bricks of pale yellow or cream colour are perhaps particularly characteristic of the area, in part because of the age of the houses (bricks of this colour became popular everywhere in the course of the 18th and 19th centuries) and in part because of



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the ease with which such bricks could be produced locally, thanks to the abundance of chalk.

Another type of decorative feature, albeit with a partly practical role, are carved wooden bargeboards, which give protection to the vulnerable uppermost bricks of a building (where roof and gable end wall meet) as well as providing embellishment. They can be found across the district, but are overwhelmingly restricted to 19th-century estate buildings. Similarly ornate porches also occur in such circumstances.



Decorative plasterwork ('pargeoting'), common in some other parts of East Anglia, is here virtually absent (only a few examples were noted, in Coney Weston and Gasthorpe).



The survey findings leave little doubt that the most important factor determining the character of Breckland's buildings is their age: this is a region overwhelmingly dominated by buildings of 18th- and 19th-century date. Mainly because of this, but also for the other reasons briefly explored in this report, thatch and timber framing – so common

Right
Decorative brickwork
on a gable end in
Northwold.

Facing page, top
20th-century
alterations to an
earlier building.

Facing page, bottom
An example of
'tumbling-in' on
a gable end in
Hilborough.



THE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF BRECKLAND





Above
The most secure future for Breckland buildings must surely come from their continued use as valued local amenities.

The Future for Breckland's Buildings

Against a backdrop of rising property values and the constant drive for increased economic growth, the first decade of the 21st century is already proving to be a challenging one for the traditional architecture of the Brecks. Demand for housing is particularly intense, with more than 11,600 new homes projected for the Breckland District Council area by 2021, for

example. These will be mainly located around growth points such as Thetford, which is anticipated to be one of the fastest growing towns in the East of England.

The challenge facing the area's local planning authorities is to ensure that the character of such new development constitutes an enhancement to the traditional architecture of the Brecks rather than a neutral contribution or, worse, a distraction. Design guidelines that reflect the character of older local buildings are an essential tool in this respect, alongside an awareness that it is the very "ordinariness" of traditional vernacular architecture that makes it not only significant but also vulnerable to unsympathetic change.

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The record to date is undeniably mixed. Examples of inappropriate and insensitive development remain too easy to find, and are often as much to do with problems over scale as with choice of material and design. One other area of concern is the continuing disappearance of traditional small farm buildings such as byres. Although an important historical component of the local architectural landscape, these buildings are often demolished as part of development schemes focused on the conversion to residential use of an associated large barn.

However, there are grounds for cautious optimism. The interest generated by the Society's vernacular buildings survey has highlighted the fact that many local people are deeply interested in the buildings around them, and concerned about the character and appearance of the towns and villages in which they live. The increased use in new buildings of traditional materials such as flint and



chalk will continue to help blending new with old, and it is important that the skills required to work them remain part of the local builders' repertoire.

Only time will tell, but the challenge for the coming years will be to ensure that the region's new buildings are designed and built in such a way as to sit more comfortably with their older neighbours than has been achieved in the last few decades. Equally importantly, they need to pay respect to the centuries of vernacular tradition that has shaped the architectural environment of the Brecks today.

Above
The restoration of traditional buildings can be an alternative to new build.



Left
This newly-built chalk and pantile house in Northwold continues a fine vernacular tradition.

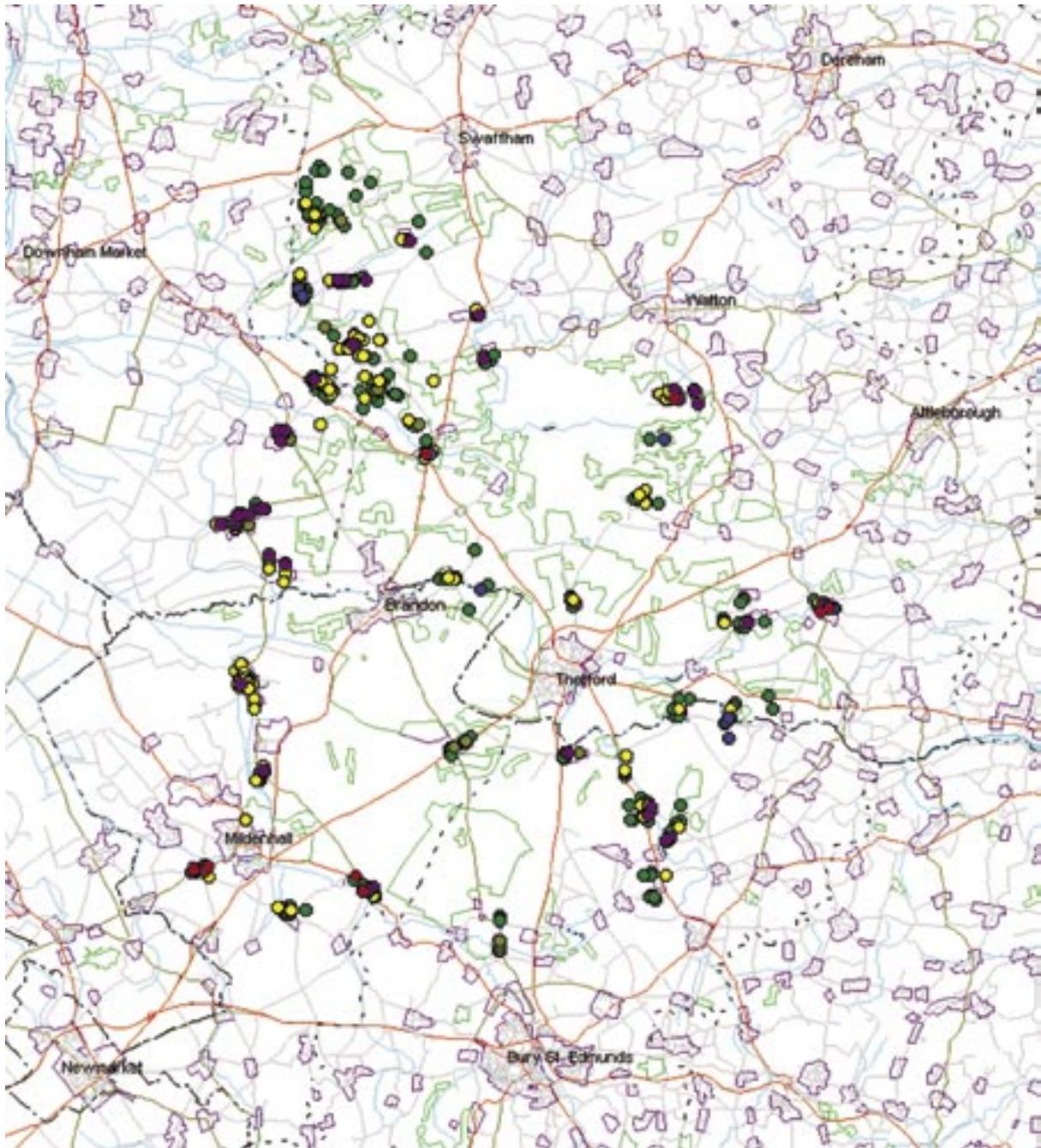


Figure 1: Suggested dates of buildings recorded by the Survey

- Medieval
- Tudor
- Jacobean
- Georgian
- Edwardian
- Victorian

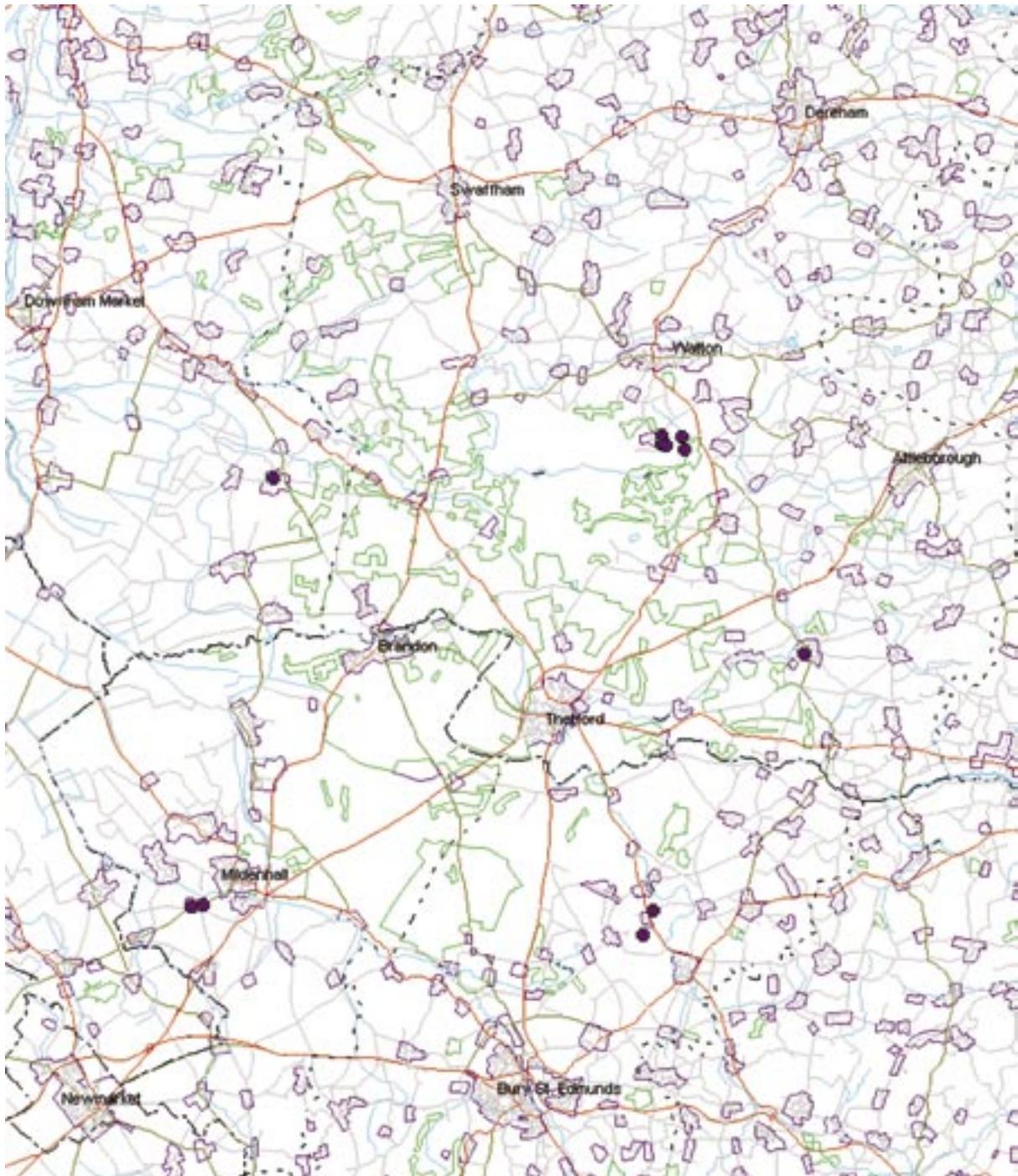


Figure 2: Distribution of recorded timber-framed buildings

● Timber-framed buildings

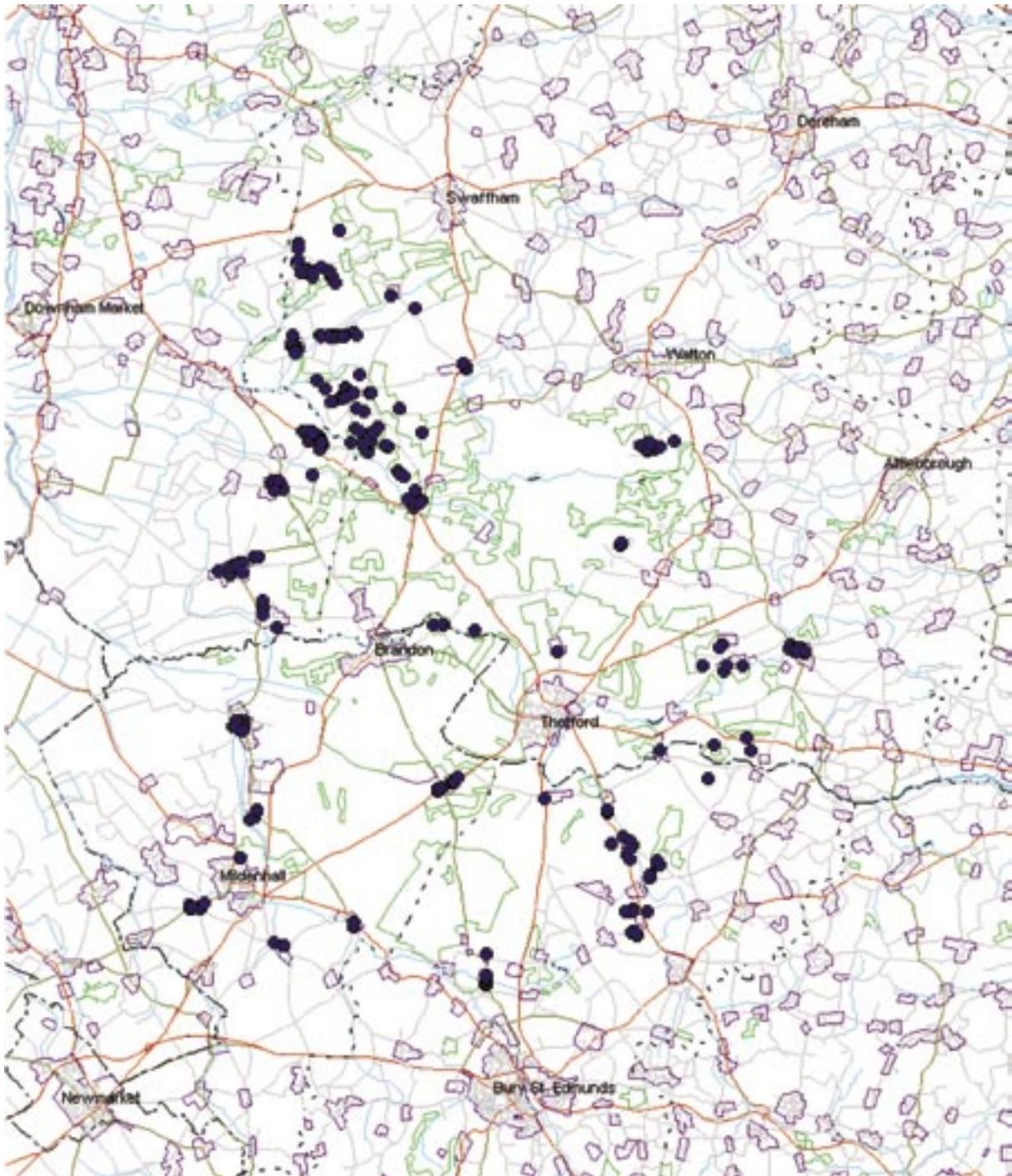


Figure 3: Distribution of recorded brick buildings

● Brick buildings

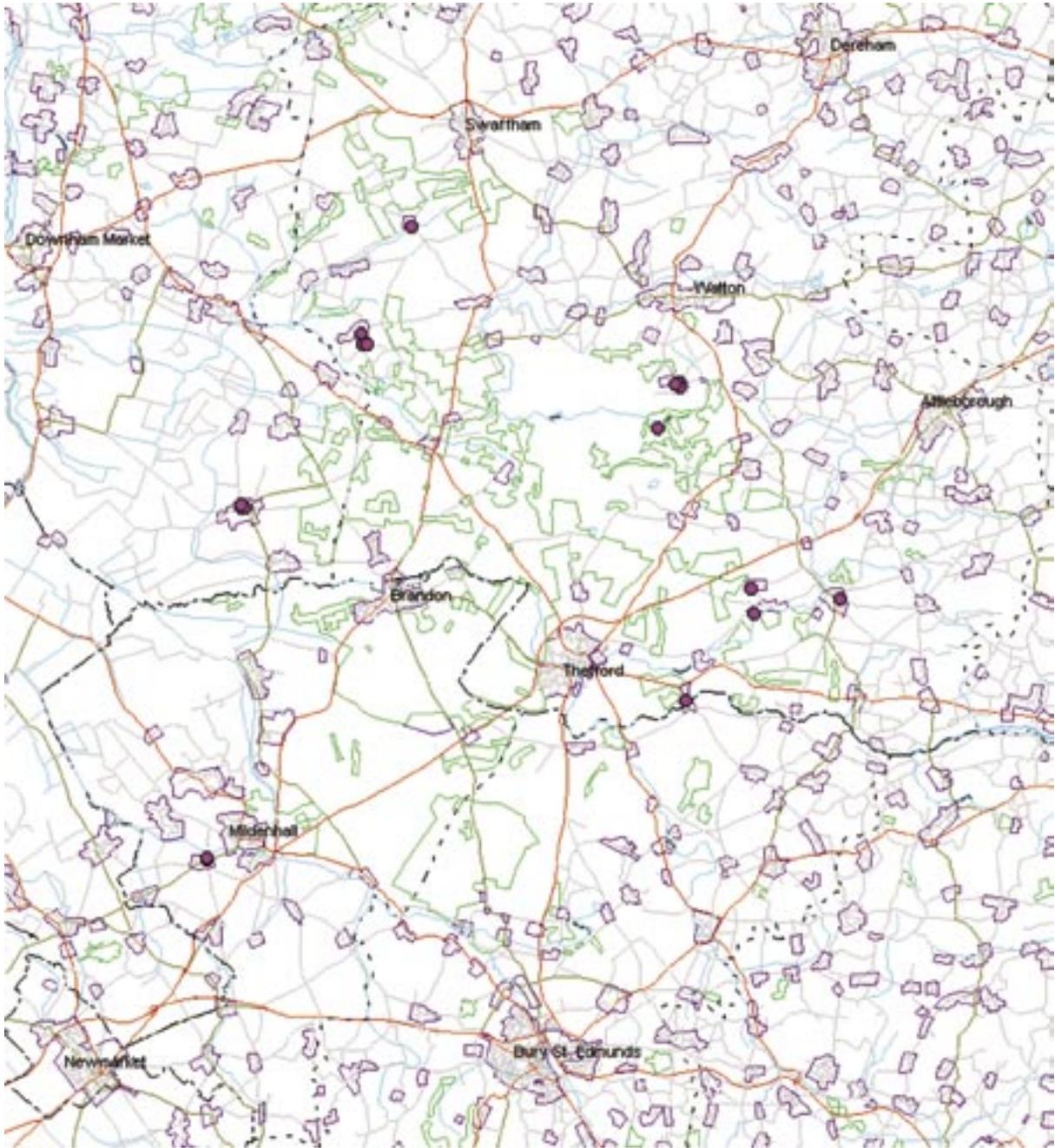


Figure 4: Distribution of recorded clay lump buildings

● Clay lump buildings

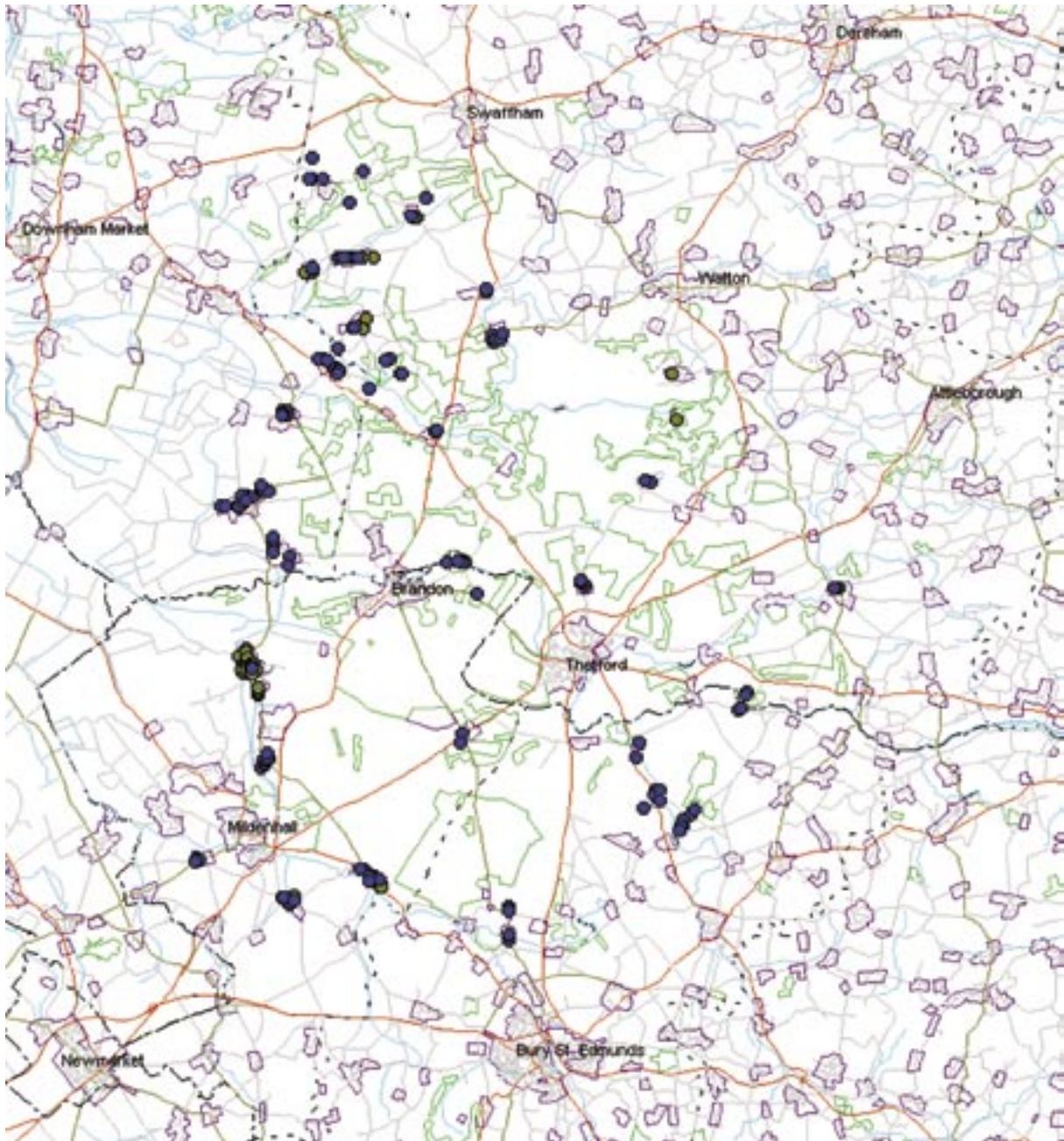


Figure 5: Distribution of recorded buildings constructed of flint

● Flint ● Brick & Flint

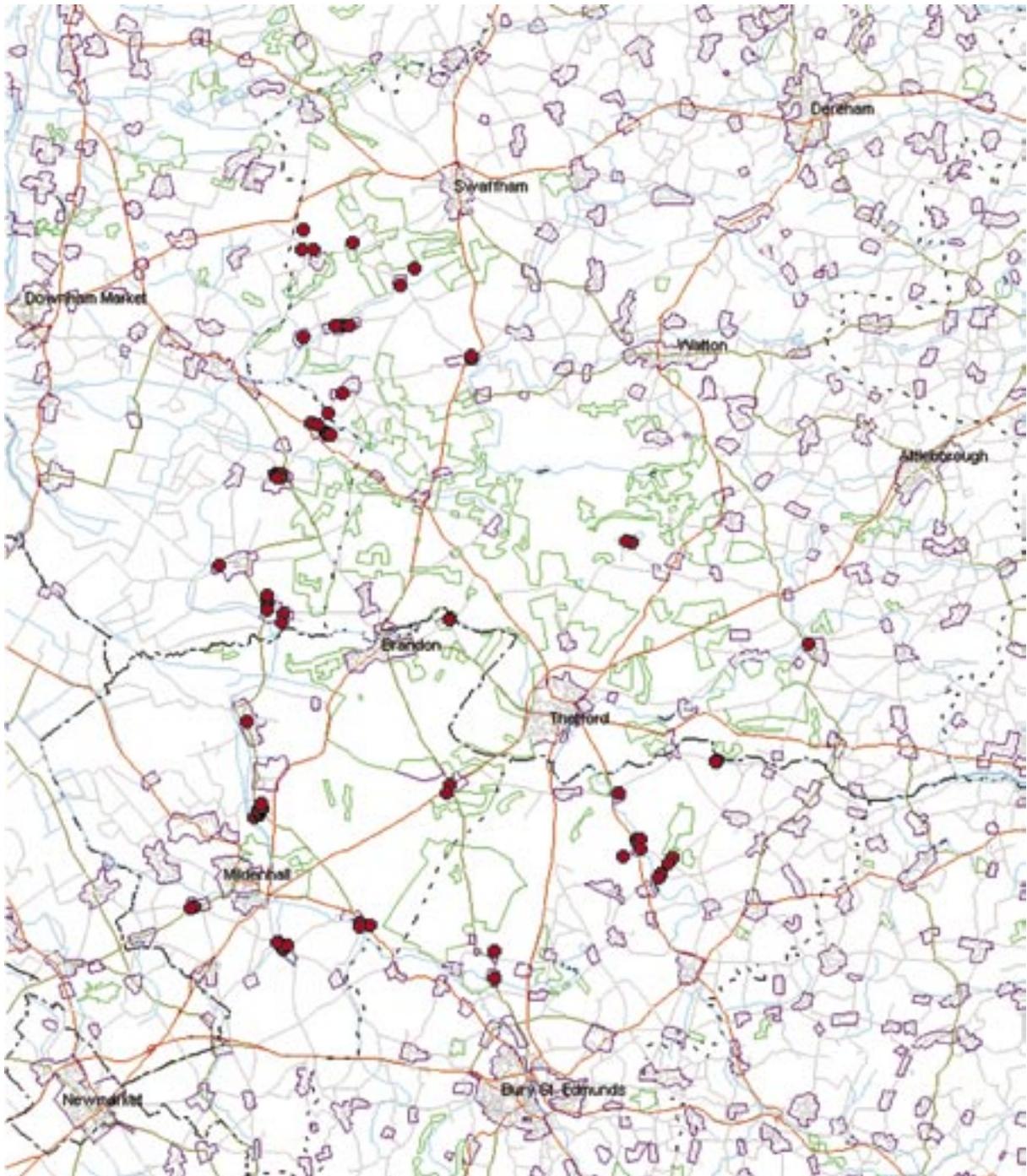


Figure 6: Distribution of recorded buildings built with random flint rubble

● Random flint rubble buildings

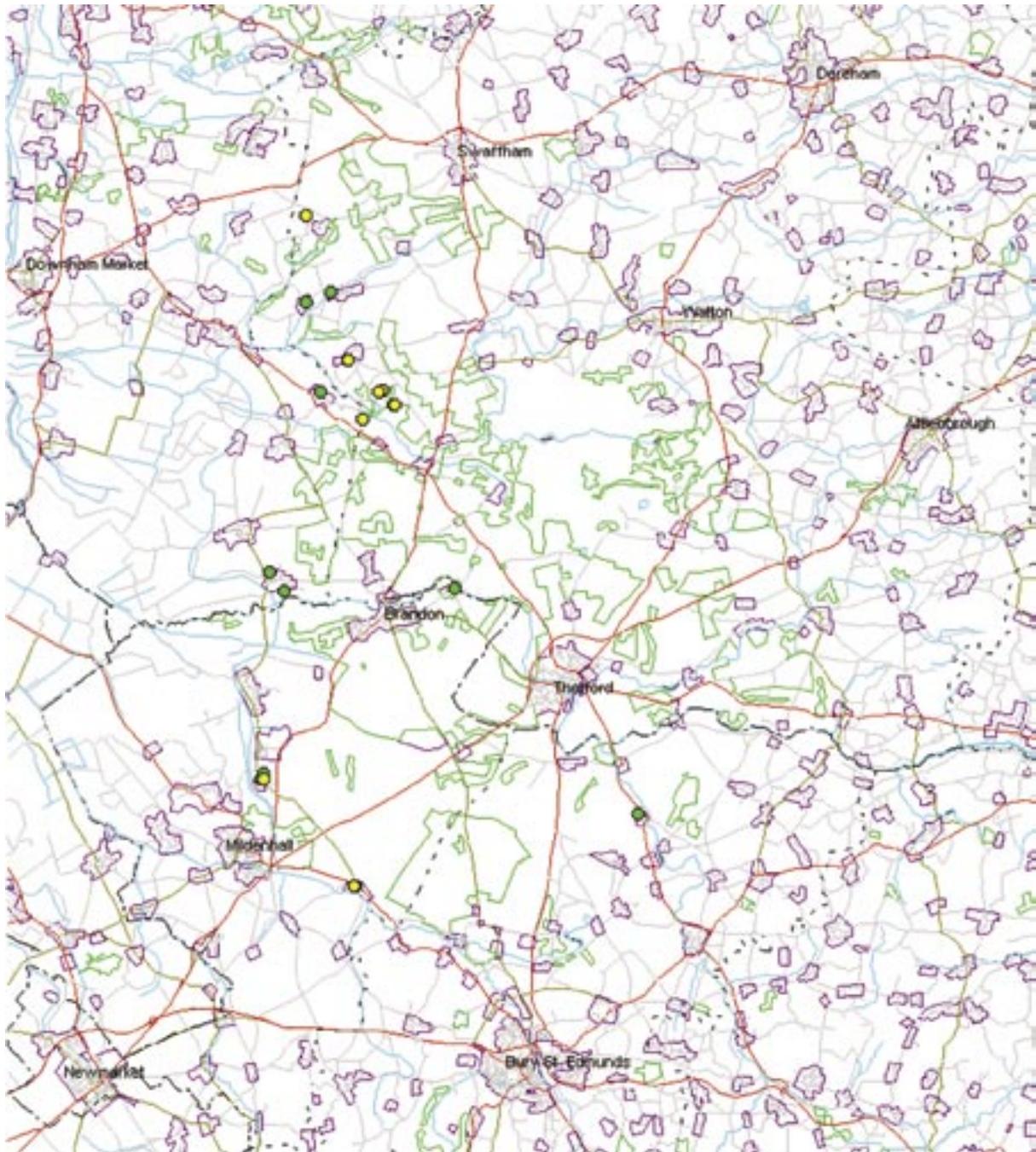


Figure 7: Distribution of recorded buildings with coursed flint

- Regular coursed
- Irregular coursed

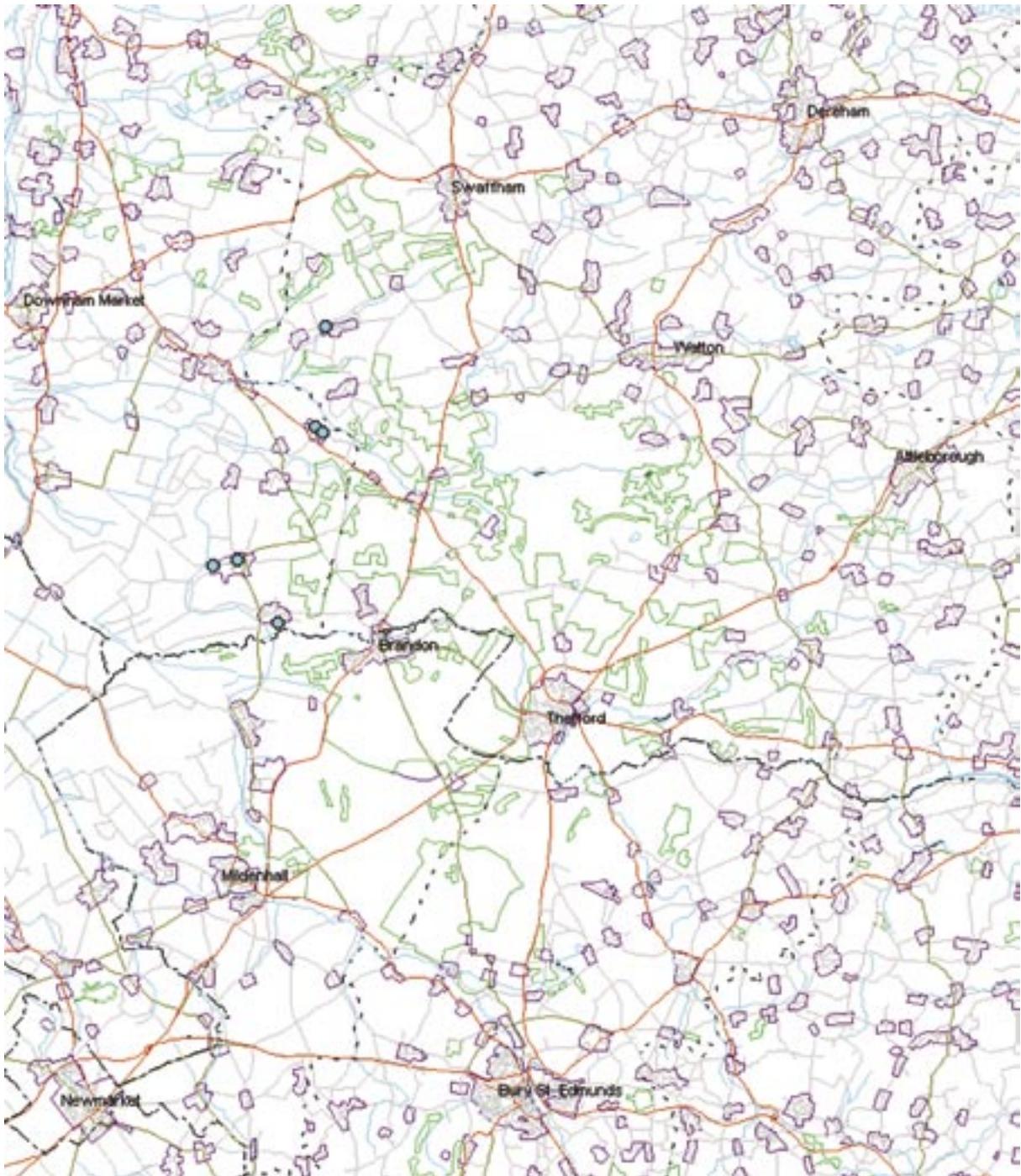


Figure 8: Distribution of recorded buildings with galleting

● Galleting

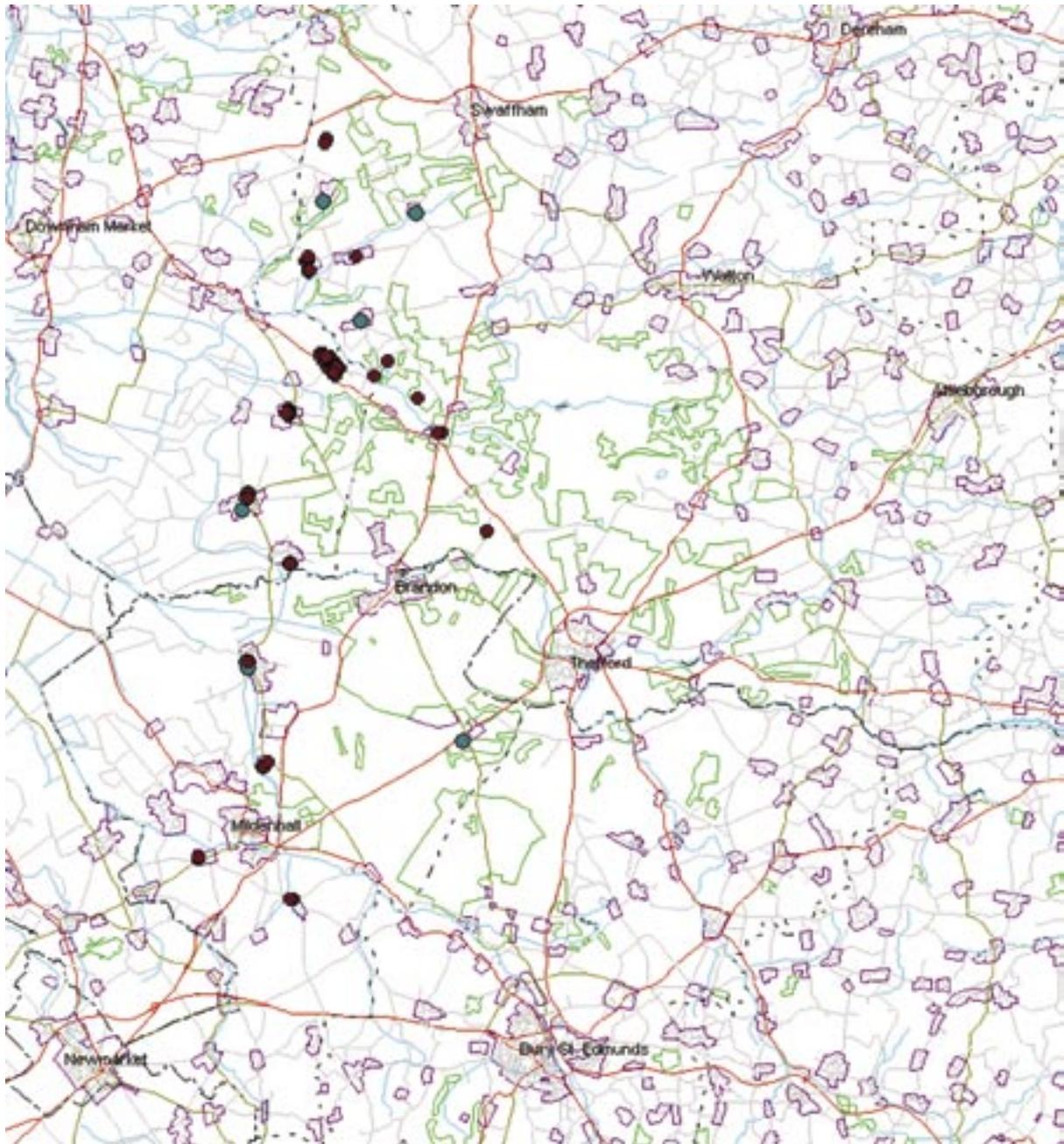


Figure 9: Distribution of recorded buildings constructed of chalk

● Chalk ● Brick & Chalk

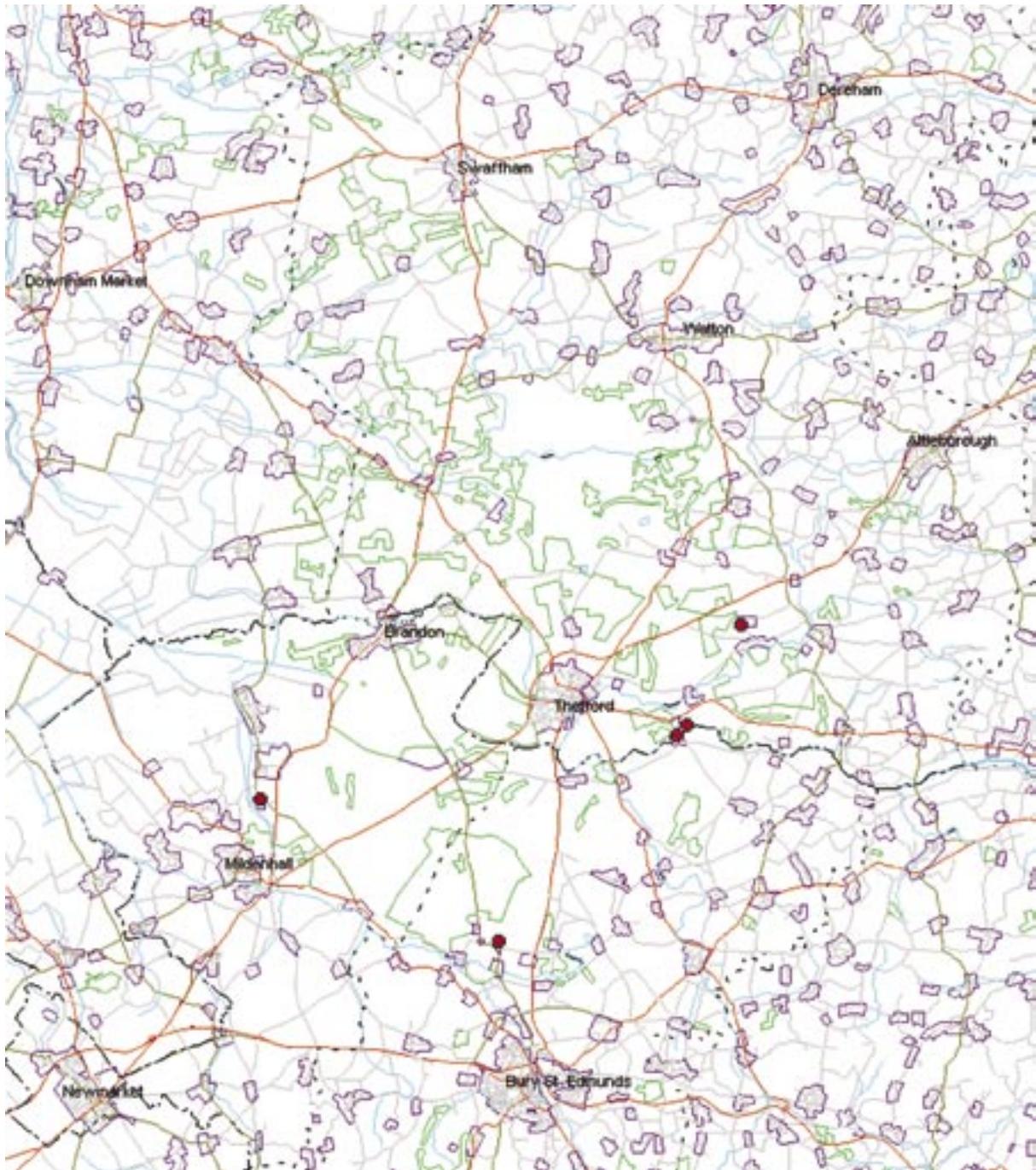


Figure 10: Distribution of recorded buildings with thatched roofs

● Thatch

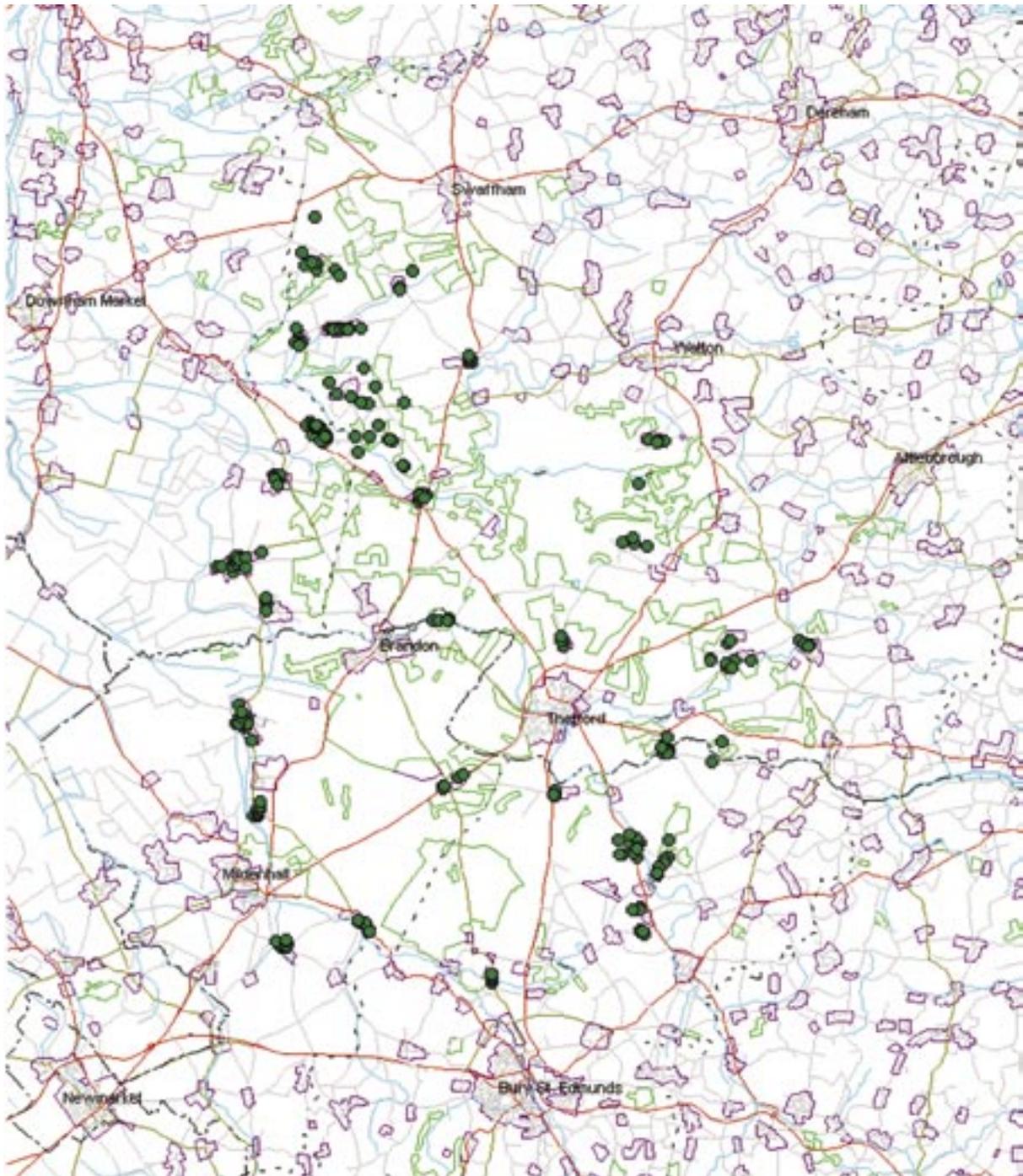


Figure 11: Distribution of recorded buildings with tiled roofs

● Tile

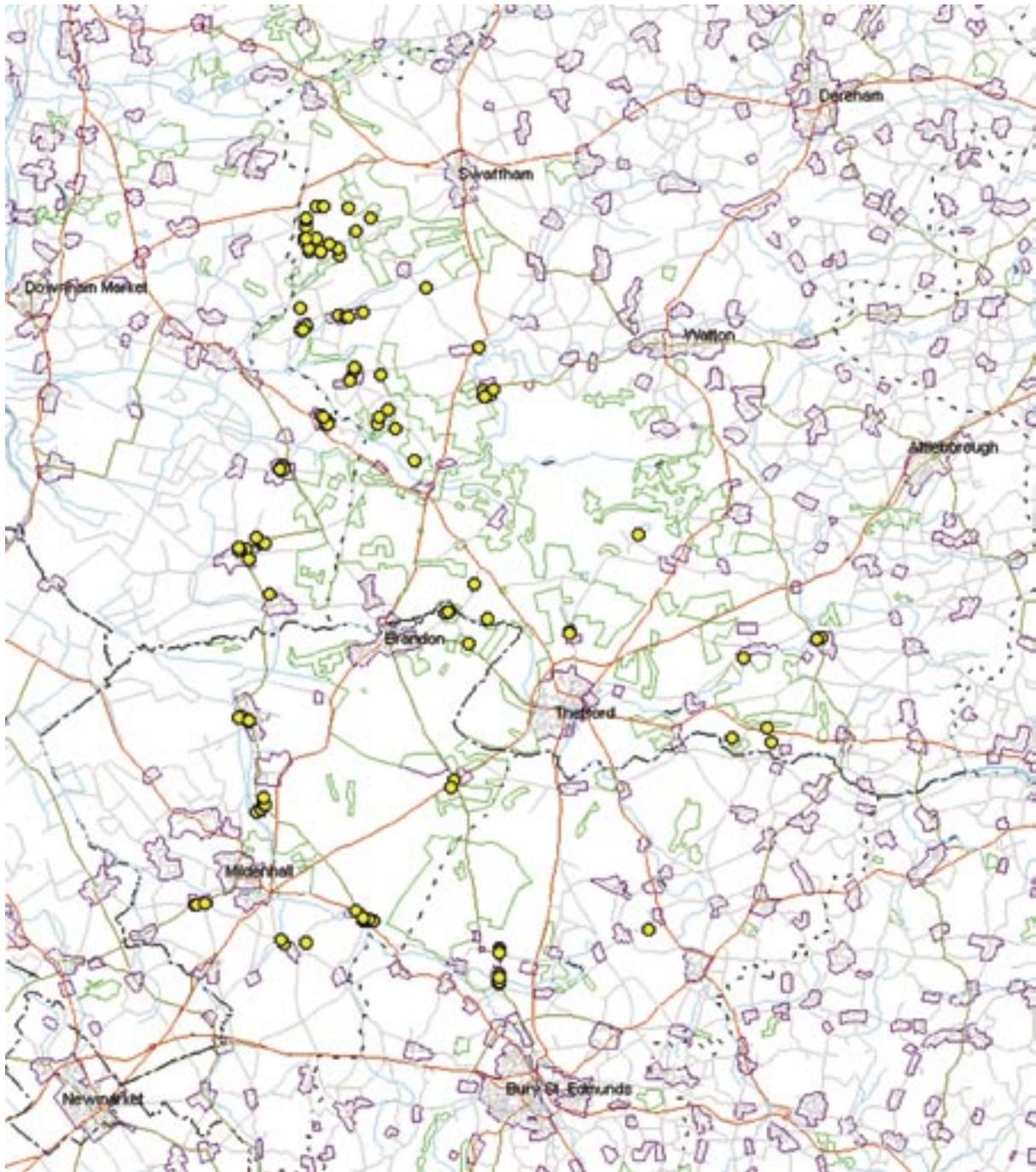


Figure 12: Distribution of recorded slate-roofed buildings

● Slate

Appendix One: Background to the Vernacular Architecture of Breckland Project

In 2004, the Breckland Society was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £25,000 through the Local Heritage Initiative to study the vernacular architecture of the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks.

A standardised recording form was prepared and volunteers were instructed in its use on two training days held at Oak Lodge, High Lodge Forest Centre, on 26th and 27th February, 2006.

The project, which was completed in 2007, had five components :

- 1** A survey of the vernacular architecture of Breckland, carried out by trained volunteers
- 2** The compilation of an oral history archive of interviews with craftspeople and owners of traditional buildings
- 3** Five workshops in traditional building skills for apprentices and re-trainers, hosted and led by experienced craftsmen
- 4** An exhibition
- 5** An illustrated report

The Vernacular Architecture Survey

The purpose of the survey was to record the exterior of pre-1920s buildings whose construction included the traditional building materials of flint, chalk, carrstone, clay lump and brick, and to list their distinctive features.

The List of Villages and Their Surveyors

Barnham	Peter Hicks
Beachamwell	Sue Pennell, Jenny Kirkham
Becket End	Andrew & Nadine Marrs
Bodney	Maryann Turner
Brandon	Leigh Driver
Bridgham	Roy Burrell
Cavenham	Sue Whittle, Anne Mason
Cockley Cley	Sue Whittle
Coney Weston	James Parry, Isobel Hunter
Croxton	Peter Hicks
Culford	Sue Whittle, Anne Mason
Didlington	Andrew & Nadine Marrs
East Harling	James & Barbara Nelstrop

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East Wretham	Andrés Hernández, Anne Mason	Oxborough	Barbara Pritchard
Elveden	Teresa Squires	Roudham	Roy Burrell
Eriswell	Sue Whittley, Anne Mason	Rushton	Roy Burrell
Euston	Wendy Johnston	Santon	Martin & Phyllis Clark
Fakenham Magna	Sue & Malcolm Whittley	Santon Downham	Martin & Phyllis Clark
Feltwell	Mark & Val Elwes	Sapiston	Sue & Malcolm Whittley
Foulden	Andrew & Nadine Marrs	Thetford	Peter Lamb
Gasthorpe	James Parry, Isobel Hunter	Thompson	Bronwen Tyler
Hilborough	Sue Whittley, Anne Mason	Tuddenham	Sue Whittley, Anne Mason
Hockwold	Mark & Eileen Powell	Weeting	Gerry & Alma Moore, The Weeting Society
Honington	Sue & Malcolm Whittley		
Ickburgh	Maryann Turner		
Icklingham	Sue Whittley, Anne Mason		
Illington	Wendy Johnston		
Lakenheath	Dr & Mrs Robert Baker		
Little London	Tim & Jackie Elliott		
Methwold	Liz Dittner, James Parry, Sue Whittley		
Mildenhall	Jean Barber, Ann Morgan		
Mundford	Marie Newton		
Northwold	Tim & Jackie Elliott		

By the end of the survey, almost 1,000 forms had been returned, together with CDs of photographs. This was a wonderful achievement by the volunteer surveyors, many of whom said that they had enjoyed the work, learnt new skills and become much more observant.

Comments included :

'Really interesting – would love to have had more time to spend on it.' Jennie Baker.

'We have thoroughly enjoyed doing the survey. We have seen places close up which we have never seen before . . . the vast majority of owners have been very co-operative and helpful.' Nadine Marrs.

The Database

The information from all the survey forms was entered on to a database by Teresa Squires. This formed the resource for the illustrated report.

The Oral History Archive

Volunteers attended a training day led by Sarah Housden, an expert in oral history interviewing. They interviewed master craftsmen and builders who work or have worked with the traditional Breckland materials of flint, chalk, clay lump, carrstone and brick. They also recorded the experiences of those involved in maintaining and renovating such buildings, whether as owners, tenants or workers.

The Workshops in Traditional Building Skills

A major objective of the project was to raise awareness among local architects and builders of the need to continue working with traditional materials, thus ensuring the survival of the built heritage of Breckland.

Geoff Roberts, a builder from Northwold, where many buildings are constructed of flint and chalk, was very enthusiastic about the project:

‘Many of us grew up with these traditional materials and it’s a shame to see them being used less and less in recent years . . . in the past, all the builders around here knew how to construct and repair buildings and walls in local styles and materials. Today, very few can do it well and there is definitely a need to train young builders in how to use chalk and flint.’

To promote traditional building skills to apprentices and re-trainers, five free workshops were arranged with the help of skilled craftsmen and builders.

The Workshops

1 Working with Chalk A J Hayward
Restoration. *Led by A J Hayward in Brandon.*

2 The Making of Authentic Period Doors & Windows Cider House Joinery. *Led by Nigel Grounds, Hingham.*

3 Knapping Flint for Buildings *Led by John Lord, Gooderstone.*

4 Purpose-Made Bricks for Restoration and Conservation The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company. *Led by Peter Minter, Sudbury.*

5 Working with Flint Hendry and Sons. *Led by W. Hendry, Foulsham.*

Each workshop combined theory and practise and the opportunity to visit sites to see work in progress or recently completed.

Once again, feedback was very positive.

‘I particularly enjoyed the flint workshop . . . especially with regards to smashing and splitting flint and where best to knock them in order to get the best results . . . to finish the day we visited a flint quarry which was a great opportunity to select the best flint and split them on site.’ Christopher Hurst.

‘The workshop was very much ‘hands-on’ which I believe was essential . . . where else do you get to practise building a flint wall?’ Ed Steed.

'The workshop was very well organised and useful . . . I got the chance to do exactly what I had hoped.'
Oliver Laws.

'I . . . got the chance to make a brick from clay . . . and learned the start and finish process of how a hand-made brick is made.' Christopher Hurst.

'Many thanks for funding such useful courses.'
Roger Farmer.

The Breckland Society would like to thank the individual craftsmen and builders for their co-operation and their willingness to promote and pass on their skills.

By a fortunate coincidence, the survival of traditional building skills was also the concern of other organisations. Realising that the lack

of interest in these skills would threaten the conservation and restoration of the built heritage, English Heritage and The Construction Industries Training Board supported the formation of The National Heritage Training Group. Simon Holmes of the CITB provided helpful guidance and advice in the planning stages of the project workshops.

In November 2006, the Society was contacted by Clara Willett, Manager of a Heritage Lottery funded scheme to set up bursaries in traditional building skills. She came to see the doors and windows workshop taking place and wrote afterwards :

'I am very impressed by The Breckland Society's achievements and your work holds an exemplary standard for our own scheme to follow I hope that our scheme can continue to build on the marvellous work that The Society has initiated.'

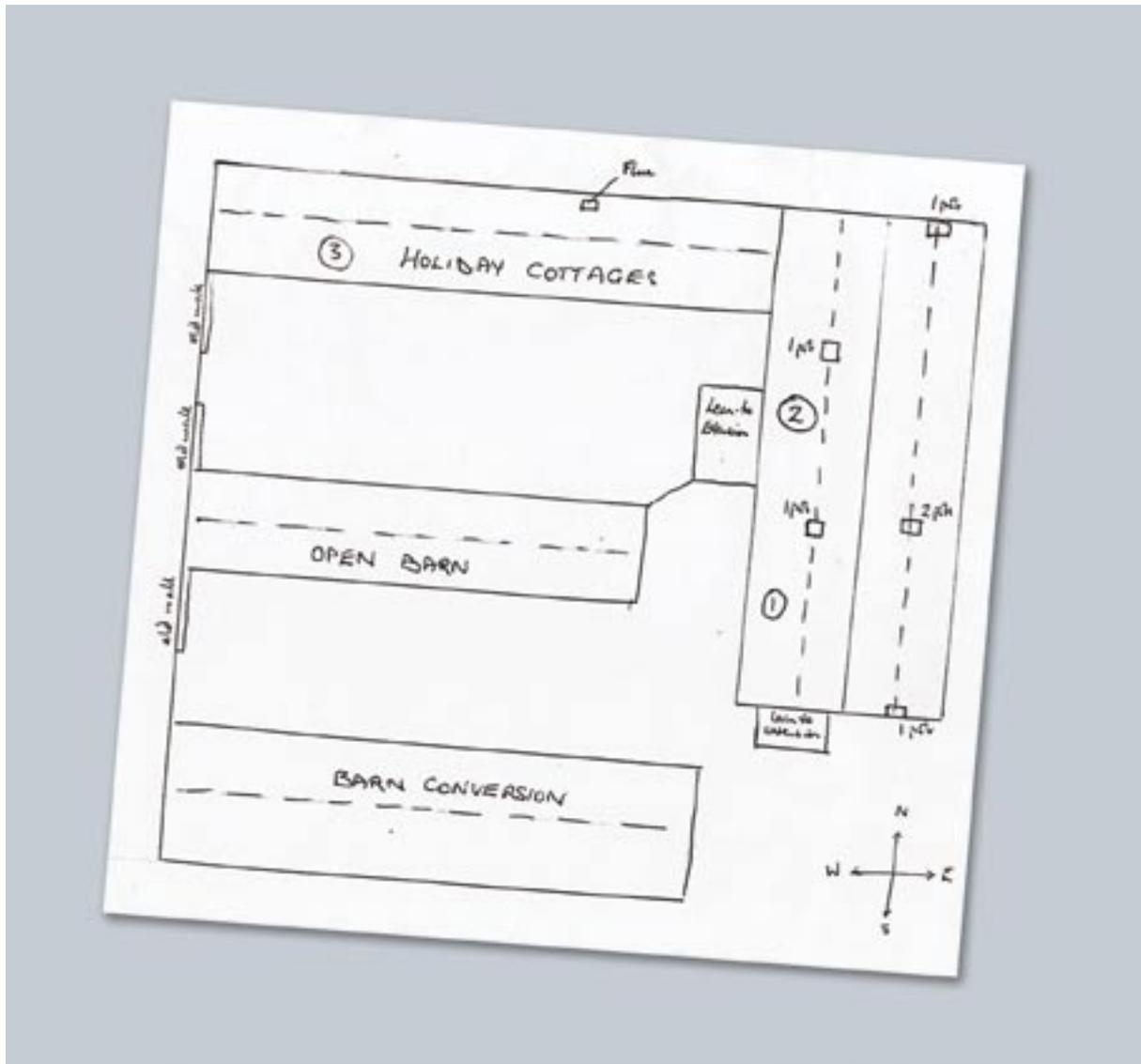


Learning traditional building skills at the *Working with Chalk* workshop.

Appendix Two: Examples of Survey Materials

ONE OF THE most rewarding aspects of the Survey was the dedication and interest shown by the volunteer surveyors. Many went beyond the call of duty and undertook additional research or

annotated their results with detailed diagrams, maps and further information. Examples appear below.



Breckland Society Building Survey Summary Form BSG1

This information will form part of the Breckland Society's Vernacular Architecture Database. Please tick a box to signify 'YES'. A blank will be assumed to be a 'NO'

Date of Survey 19.4.05

Surveyor

Surveyor's Contact Details

Address

Telephone

E mail

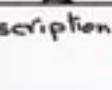


Ref: 3 databased 13/6/05 *Lee*

THE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF BRECKLAND

Building Survey Guide		Surveyor:	Date: 19.4.05	BSG2
1. Name or number of building				
2. Street name CHURCH LANE				
County	SUFFOLK	Village/Town	WORLINGTON	
O.S. Grid Ref TL 692735				
3. Current use Dwelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Other Farm Building <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> state _____				
4. In use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /NO YES Derelict YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /NO YES				
Comments BUILDING IN VERY POOR STATE. PART OF FARM BUILDING COMPLEX ALSO IN POOR STATE				
5. Nature of original building Dwelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Other Farm Building <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> state _____				
Comments				
6. Walls Brick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flint <input type="checkbox"/> Brick & Flint <input type="checkbox"/> Brick & Chalk <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk <input type="checkbox"/> Clay Lump <input type="checkbox"/> Rendered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Painted <input type="checkbox"/> Timber-framed <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> state _____				
7. Roof Tiles <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Thatch <input type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state CORRUGATED IRON				
8. Best features - optional, e.g. 'decorative flint string course at first-floor level' 9" Facing wall to front with random bond yellow brick Rendered side walls				
9. Approximate general period Medieval - up to 1530 <input type="checkbox"/> Tudor - 1530-1600 <input type="checkbox"/> Jacobean/Restoration - 1600-1700 <input type="checkbox"/> Georgian - 1700-1830 <input type="checkbox"/> Victorian - 1830-1900 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edwardian - 1900-1920 <input type="checkbox"/>				
Comments (include any information giving a more specific date, e.g. date plaque)				
10. Alterations and additions Please describe nature and location of any alterations to the original building (and give approximate date)				

THE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF BRECKLAND

Building Survey Guide		Surveyor:		Date: 19.4.05		BSG3	
Name or number of building							
Street name		CHURCH LAKE					
11. Form	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> single	<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-det	<input type="checkbox"/> non-identical end of row	<input type="checkbox"/> identical end of row	<input type="checkbox"/> non-identical within row	<input type="checkbox"/> identical within row	<input type="checkbox"/> attached irregular
12. Storeys	<input type="checkbox"/> single	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> more than 6
13. Plan Shape	<input type="checkbox"/> single pile	<input type="checkbox"/> double pile	<input type="checkbox"/> square	<input type="checkbox"/> rectangular	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (describe or sketch) 		
14. Walling Technique: Stone	<input type="checkbox"/> random rubble	<input type="checkbox"/> irregular coursed	<input type="checkbox"/> regular coursed	<input type="checkbox"/> ashlar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> see description @ 		
15. Walling Technique: Brick/Render	<input type="checkbox"/> English bond	<input type="checkbox"/> Flemish bond	<input type="checkbox"/> stretcher bond	<input type="checkbox"/> half timbered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rendered rough cast	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Random bond	
16. Decorative Detail	<input type="checkbox"/> cornice	<input type="checkbox"/> string course	<input type="checkbox"/> galleting	<input type="checkbox"/> quoining	<input type="checkbox"/> decorative brickwork	<input type="checkbox"/> other (describe or sketch)	
17. Roof Material	<input type="checkbox"/> thatch	<input type="checkbox"/> slate	<input type="checkbox"/> pantile (state colour)	<input type="checkbox"/> plain clay or concrete tiles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> corrugated	<input type="checkbox"/> other (describe or sketch)	
18. Roof Shape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gabled	<input type="checkbox"/> hipped	<input type="checkbox"/> mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> m-pitched	<input type="checkbox"/> mono-pitch	<input type="checkbox"/> flat	<input type="checkbox"/> other
19. Door Entrance Shape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> square	<input type="checkbox"/> pointed arch	<input type="checkbox"/> tudor arch	<input type="checkbox"/> round arch	<input type="checkbox"/> flat arch	<input type="checkbox"/> other (describe or sketch)	
20. Main Doorway Detail	<input type="checkbox"/> none	<input type="checkbox"/> plain	<input type="checkbox"/> decorated	<input type="checkbox"/> shaped	<input type="checkbox"/> quoining	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (describe or sketch) 	
21. Main Lintel Detail	<input type="checkbox"/> none	<input type="checkbox"/> plain	<input type="checkbox"/> decorated	<input type="checkbox"/> keystone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> arched	<input type="checkbox"/> pediment	<input type="checkbox"/> inscription date

Place a tick in the appropriate box or boxes (more than one may apply!)

THE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF BRECKLAND

Building Survey Guide		Surveyor:	Date: 19/4/05	BSG4
Name or number of building				
Street name		CHURCH LANE		
22. Window Shape	<input type="checkbox"/> square <input type="checkbox"/> rectangular/long <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rectangular/tall <input type="checkbox"/> pointed arch <input type="checkbox"/> round arch <input type="checkbox"/> mullions <input type="checkbox"/> transom	When windows vary in a building, add symbols of GF (Ground Floor), IF (First Floor), and/or include details in section 29		
23. Window Detail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> plain trim <input type="checkbox"/> decorated <input type="checkbox"/> shaped <input type="checkbox"/> quoining <input type="checkbox"/> other (describe or sketch)			
24. Window Lintel	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> plain <input type="checkbox"/> decorated <input type="checkbox"/> keystone <input type="checkbox"/> arched <input type="checkbox"/> pediment <input type="checkbox"/> inscription date			
25. Window Frames	<input type="checkbox"/> original wooden frames <input type="checkbox"/> modern wooden frames <input type="checkbox"/> metal frames <input type="checkbox"/> plastic frames <input type="checkbox"/> horizontal sliding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vertical sliding <input type="checkbox"/> leaded light <input type="checkbox"/> side hung casement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fixed light opening <input type="checkbox"/> other (state)	When trims, lintels and frames vary, add symbols of GF (Ground Floor), IF (First Floor) etc.		
26. Bays	Record the number of bays: 3 Record their size - single storey, 2 storey etc. 3 + 1			
27. Dormer Windows	<input type="checkbox"/> gabled <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> semi-circular <input type="checkbox"/> flat <input type="checkbox"/> skylight <input type="checkbox"/> other (describe or sketch)	record the number in each relevant box		
28. Chimneys	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> number of stacks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick or stone stack <input type="checkbox"/> stack on roof <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> stack on gable end <input type="checkbox"/> projecting from wall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple flues <input type="checkbox"/> number of pots			
29. Any other details or information	Unusual design of chimney stack with one base splitting into three set at angles (see attached photo)			
30. Owner/tenant remarks if applicable				

Place a tick in the appropriate box or boxes (more than one may apply!)

Form adapted from that used by the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group, original of which devised by C. North, based on R.W. Brumskill and others.



Picture Credits

Maps

Facing page 1: Artista; pages 34 – 45: Dr Tom Williamson.

Photographs

Martin and Phyllis Clarke: page 29 (bottom left); *Eastern Daily Press*: page 49; Tim and Jackie Elliott: pages 12, 30; David Hennessy: pages 8, 10 (top), 14, 18, 19, 22 (top and middle), 24 (top left), 25 (top), 27 (top), 28, 29 (top right, bottom right), 32; Richard Hyde: pages 15, 16; Andrew and Nadine Marrs: pages 4, 6 (bottom), 13, 31 (top); James Parry: front cover, pages 1, 3, 5, 6 (top), 11, 17, 20, 21, 22 (bottom), 24 (bottom), 25 (bottom), 26, 27 (bottom), 29 (top left), 33; Sue Pennell: page 27 (middle); Sue Whittle: pages 7 (top), 23, 29, 31 (bottom).

Other material

Peter Hicks; Andrew and Nadine Marrs; Sue Pennell;
Mike Taylor: pages 50-56.



The Breckland Society was set up in 2003 to encourage interest and research into the natural, built and social heritage of the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks. It is a membership organisation which works to help protect the area and offers a range of activities to those who wish to see the special qualities of this unique part of England protected and enhanced.

In 2004 the Society was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £25,000 through the Local Heritage Initiative for its Vernacular Architecture Project. This report is a summary of that project's various components and results.



The Breckland Society
The Hay Barn
Hall Farm Barns
Oxborough
King's Lynn
Norfolk PE33 9PS
Telephone 01366 328190
info@brecsoc.org.uk www.brecsoc.org.uk