

## Society of Medieval Archaeology AGM and Winter Symposium

The 2020 AGM will be held on **Monday, December 7th, online at midday** rather than at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

The AGM will be followed by the Winter Symposium, also online, commencing at approximately 12.30pm. There will be three lectures on recent archaeological discoveries:

**12:30 Ben Jervis (Cardiff University) and Lizzy Craig-Atkins (University of Sheffield):** The dietary impact of the Norman Conquest: a multiproxy archaeological investigation of Oxford

This study utilises an integrated multiproxy analytical approach to identify and explain changes and continuities in diet and foodways between the 10th and 13th centuries in the city of Oxford, UK. It has revealed a broad pattern of increasing intensification and marketisation across various areas of economic practice, with a much lesser and more short-term impact of the Conquest on everyday lifestyles than is suggested by documentary sources. Nonetheless, isotope data indicate short-term periods of instability, particularly food insecurity, did impact individuals. Evidence of preferences for certain foodstuffs and cooking techniques documented among the elite classes were also observed among lower-status townspeople, suggesting that Anglo-Norman fashions could be adopted across the social spectrum.

**13:00 Duncan Wright (Newcastle University):** Laughton-en-le-Morthen, Yorkshire: an archaeology of elite residence

At the western edge of the village of Laughton en le Morthen, South Yorkshire, is a well-preserved motte and bailey castle. There are numerous suggestions of high-status activity even earlier than the castle though, not least in the Domesday Book which records that Laughton was the location of Earl Edwin of Mercia's *aula* (hall). Recent fieldwork has conclusively proven that Edwin's residence lies beneath the castle earthworks, and that Laughton was an important high status centre from at least the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Construction of the motte and bailey over the earlier hall complex provides insight into how elite residences were transformed in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, and has important implications for how we understand the rationale behind early castle building.

**13:30 Fiona Beglane (Institute of Technology Sligo):** Forests, chases and rights of free warren in medieval Ireland, 1169–c. 1399

Irish forests, chases and rights of free warren have been largely ignored by medievalists. Alongside parks, these were landscapes within which the elite sought to control not only access to hunting, but also to timber and woodland resources. The aim of this paper is to review the evidence for these landforms in Ireland in the period 1169–c.1399 and to examine the chronology of their creation, their ownership, uses and functions. The paper uses an interdisciplinary approach, combining historical, cartographic and archaeological evidence for past activity and provides an insight into these extensive medieval landscape features.

