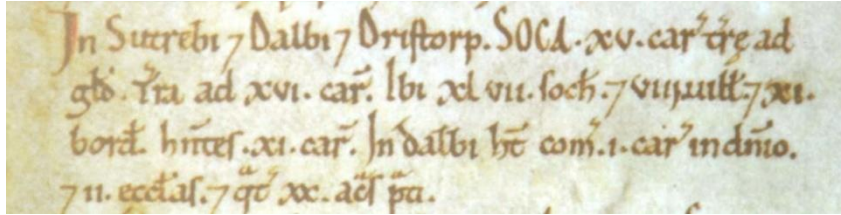


# SPIRIT OF SUTTERBY

Surveys the site of Dexthorpe - Deserted Medieval Village

Weekend of 11/12 November 2017 – 0930hrs - 1600



In Sutrebi and Dalbi and Dristorp [Sutterby and Dalby and Dexthorpe (Candleshoe)] there is soke[land] [of this manor], 15 carucates of land [assessed] to the geld. There is land for 16 ploughs. There are 47 sokemen and 8 villeins and 11 bordars having 11 ploughs. In Dalbi [Dalby] the earl has 1 plough in demesne, and 2 churches, and 80 acres of meadow.

Dexthorpe is mentioned in Domesday Book in the same entry as Sutterby and Dalby. Of the three, Dalby still exists as a Village today, Sutterby has very little, other than the church, whilst Dexthorpe has effectively disappeared. All that remains is a field with earthworks that is thought to be all that is left of the church.

Wikipedia lists as -The [hamlet](#) of **Dexthorpe** is considered a [deserted medieval village](#) (DMV), first mentioned in 1086, and again in 1334. By 1577 there was just a pasture of two acres, a church, and a [parsonage](#).







As is usual all work is carried out under the close watch and guidance of our top Archaeologist Dave Start, who likes nothing better than taking a bunch of us volunteers to a cold, windswept, uneven and wet field for a weekend.

We were sorted into teams, people plotting contours, people recording a hachure plot on a plane table, Brogglers, and “molehills sievers”. All had important roles to play.

The day can only start after a team photo.

Our thanks to Chris and Steph who were able gain all the permissions for us to survey the site, David Stonehouse for loaning us the marquee, and the Wheatleys who organised the hot drinks and biscuits etc.







Team briefing. We had an evening of training for the surveying methods a few weeks ago. But it is different on site with cold hands and an uneven surface to work on.

Saturday's weather was quite kind to us, the wind was very gentle and the sun shone for most of the day, but it is November and is never going to be hot. The temperature drops quickly about 1430hrs.

Sieving molehills may seem strange but we are not allowed to dig on the site, so the only way we can hope to see under the surface is by what the moles turn up.

There could be small pieces of bone, pottery, worked flints or stone brought to the surface in the molehill. All hills sieved will be plotted and finds recorded.







Broggling (a good old Lincolnshire word) is probing the surface with a sharp metal pole to feel for bedrock or solid structures in the ground and recording the depth they are found at. This is also plotted and recorded.

It was using this method in the churchyard at Sutterby that we located the old foundations under the surface in 2014 and brought about the “Big Dig”

Lunch time. Dave runs a tight ship. Tea breaks and meal times are strictly adhered to and no quarter given. Calls of nature take time as it is a long walk back up the track to Chris and Steph’s house as the site is just a field.







On the Friday afternoon, Dave, Geoff and Ray had carefully marked out a grid that was the reference from which all recording would be based on and taken from.

As you can see there is very little visible on the surface and the levels drop steeply away in all directions, not a lot to go on!







Plotting the contours, taking a reading every metre within a twenty metre square and recording it. Five people were involved, mostly standing still on exposed wet grassland with the cold working into your bones and fingers whilst trying to measure and record numbers.

400 measurements later move on to the next square and repeat.







Plotting the site on a plane table, probably the most difficult to do, involving measuring and sighting on points you have selected to show changes in contours. Not easy with cold fingers. On Sunday it rained and at times the table had to have an umbrella over it. Well done to the volunteers who stuck it out all weekend.







The perimeter of the whole site was walked by Geoff and Phil, not an easy thing to do, as a very uneven site with all sorts of hazards like steep drops, water, mud, nettles and thistles. Anything of interest was recorded.







All the different methods of surveying were taking place at the same time and you had to work around other people. The atmosphere on site was great and everybody seemed to get pleasure from it. On Saturday afternoon we had a visitation from three of Dave's friends, (all professors) to see if he was doing it the way they would!!







Sunday had a few new faces. The weather turned, very cold overnight, very strong cold north wind and no sunshine, it was pretty miserable out there. To add to the misery it rained off and on too. But undeterred they got on and did it. The survey was completed about 1430hrs. We now await Dave to collate it all.

