

Early Medieval Defended Communities Across Europe: Fortified Settlements of the Eighth to Tenth Centuries AD

A weekend event to be held at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford

While much archaeological and historical attention goes on the defence of the later Roman world and on the development of medieval castle, too often the intervening early medieval period is overlooked or misunderstood in terms of its settlements, populations and defence. Were defended communities typical in the early Middle Ages? How far was there a direct continuity from late Roman into early medieval in terms of hilltop villages and fortified sites? What new sites emerged and why? Who controlled these sites? How 'feudal' were the landscapes of 8th- to 10th-century Europe?

This weekend conference brings together a number of experts who have excavated or studied fortified sites in a variety of kingdoms, polities and regions. We aim to assess how developed our understanding of these sites is, how they were articulated and designed, their contents in terms of populations and structures, and their role in the landscape.

FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2013

- 6.15pm Registration
- 7.00pm Dinner
- 8.15pm-9.15pm **The Irish Cashel: enclosed settlement, fortified settlement or settled fortification? Evidence from on-going excavations at Caherconnell, Co. Clare, Western Ireland**
MICHELLE COMBER

SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2013

- 8.15am Breakfast (residents only)
- 9.15am **The early medieval Irish rath, dún and crannog: social, ideological and defensive aspects of enclosure**
AIDAN O'SULLIVAN
- 10.15am **Royal courts and defended settlements in early medieval Wales**
ANDREW SEAMAN
- 11.15am Coffee/tea

- 11.45am **The 'royal' architecture of Pictland: new perspectives and new fieldwork on the hillforts, palisades and lowland settlements of eastern and northern Scotland**
GORDON NOBLE
- 12.45pm Lunch
- 2.00pm **The resistance, rebellion and submission of urban communities: England and northern France from the 9th to 11th centuries**
RYAN LAVELLE
- 3.00pm Tea/coffee
- 3.30pm **Wessex burhs: Wallingford in context**
NEIL CHRISTIE
- 4.30pm **Fortified settlements of the 9th and 10th centuries AD in central Europe**
HAIJNALKA HEROLD
- 5.30pm Break/free time
- 7.00pm Dinner
- 8.15pm-9.15pm **Monumental expression and fortification in Denmark at the time of King Harald Bluetooth**
ANNE PEDERSEN

SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2013

- 8.15am Breakfast (residents only)
- 9.15am **Fortified settlements of the 8th to 10th centuries AD: the case of Tuscany, Italy**
MARCO VALENTI
- 10.15am **Fortified settlements in the Byzantine south Balkans and Aegean, 8th to 10th centuries: features and contexts**
ARCHIE DUNN
- 11.15am Coffee/tea
- 11.45am **Did the Vikings need walls? Charting settlement forms and space in north west Europe, AD 800-1100**
DAVID GRIFFITHS
- 12.45pm Lunch and course disperses

ENROLMENT FORM

EARLY MEDIEVAL DEFENDED COMMUNITIES ACROSS EUROPE

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<p>Would you like to receive email publicity from the Department? (Please tick) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I would prefer <u>not</u> to be on your mailing list? <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The Department may occasionally collect images & videos of students for use in promotional materials. I do <u>not</u> wish to participate (Please tick) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>To enrol online, add the code V400-206 to the URL for the Department's website: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V400-206.</p>	
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Non-residential with meals (excluding breakfast)	£176.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-residential with baguette lunches (Saturday & Sunday)	£126.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-residential without meals	£120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetarian option (meal or baguette)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a disability or special need? <input type="checkbox"/>	
If so, please state your disability / special need <input type="text"/>	

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FRIDAY 8 - SUNDAY 10
FEBRUARY 2013



Site of Gars-Thunau, Lower Austria
(Aerial Photo Archive, Department of Prehistoric and Medieval Archaeology, University of Vienna; digital reconstruction: Michael Lisner, vdx, Vienna)

DEPARTMENT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION