

**Oxford Archaeology  
Thames Valley Landscapes  
Monograph 24**

A chance flight over the Oxfordshire village of Chalgrove during the early 1970s revealed intriguing cropmarks. This discovery was followed by a three year campaign of excavations by Oxford Archaeology, between 1977 and 1979, and intensive documentary research. Together, these have revealed the story of the medieval moated manor of the Barentin family, who lived here from the mid 13th to the mid 15th century.

A moated manor was a coveted status symbol of the 13th century, demonstrating social exclusivity and economic power. The site in Harding's Field, Chalgrove, presents a vivid picture of the manor as a combination of high status home and working farm. Arranged around a central courtyard were the residential buildings, hall, kitchen, private chambers and chapel, and the farm buildings, stables, sheepcotes and barns. But fashions change, and by the mid 15th century the old moated site was more of a handicap than an asset, and the family had moved to a new home nearby. This report presents the archaeological evidence for the development and final abandonment of the manor, reflecting the changing aspirations of a leading county family over a period of some two centuries. The material culture and animal bone evidence for diet and agricultural activity are also reported in detail.



Above: Aerial view of the moats at Harding's Field, Chalgrove c 1970  
Front cover: Impression of the medieval moated manor as it may have looked by the late 14th century, by Amy Tucker  
Front cover photograph: A Limoges enamelled figure of a saint, found during the excavation. Probably from a shrine or reliquary, it dates to the 12th or 13th century.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES  
ISBN 0 947816 623

