

THE DIGITAL ATLAS OF ENGLAND FOUNDATION

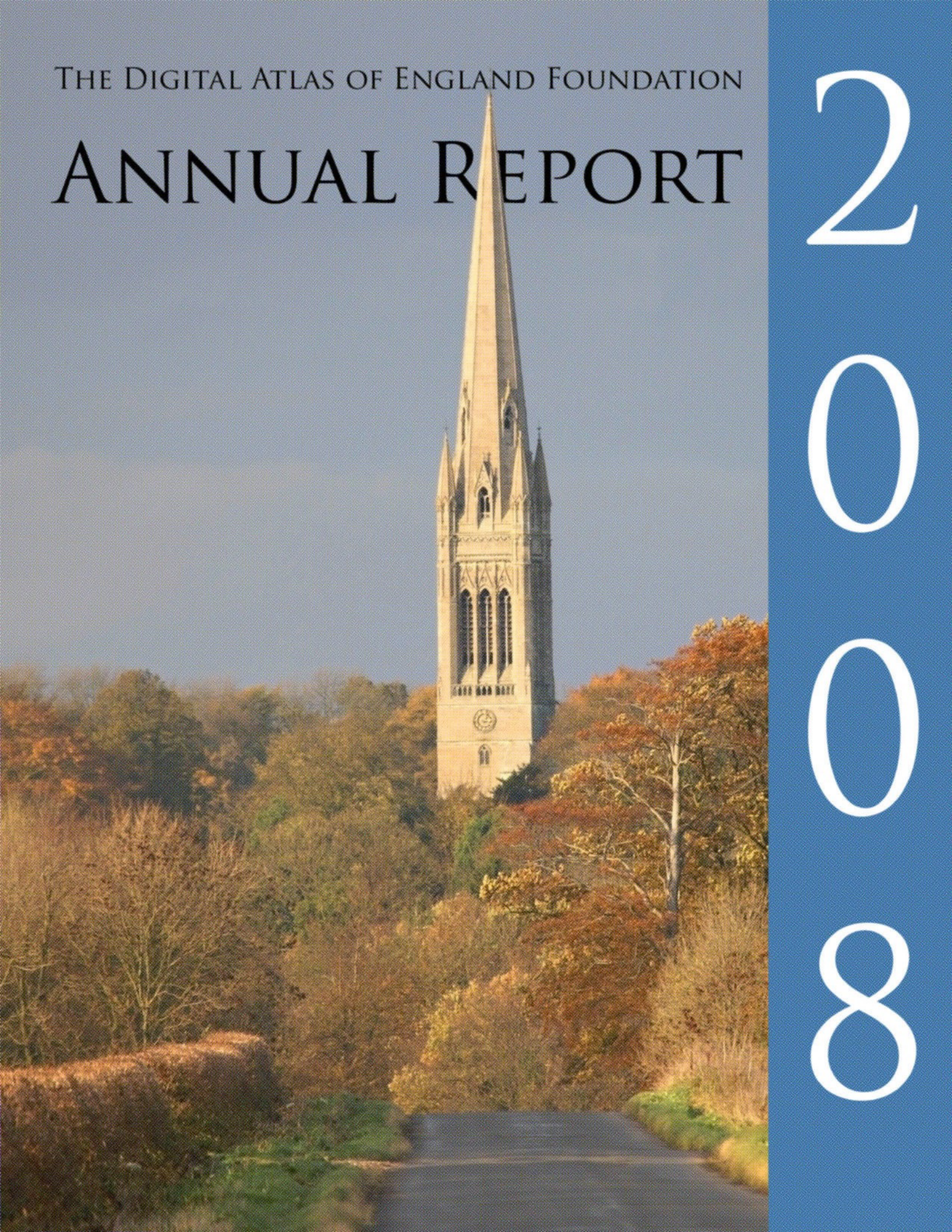
# ANNUAL REPORT

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THE  
DIGITAL ATLAS OF ENGLAND  
FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2008

Published by DAE Publishing

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FRONT: PEARSON'S TOWER OF 1860, ST MARY, SOUTH DALTON, YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING

BACK: WINDOW BY HEYWOOD SUMNER, ST MARY, LONGWORTH, BERKSHIRE



## DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

Welcome to the annual report for 2008. This year was a little slower than last year but covered a much wider area. This was mostly due to moving from Devon to Oxfordshire to search for employment and then another move to Yorkshire once employment was obtained.

The year started with the completion of Devon. In a first for the Project a cathedral, Exeter, was recorded almost completely. In addition, all of the ancient Anglican churches in the city were also recorded. Devon and Cornwall now stand as the most complete counties that the Project has recorded so far. The combined total of Anglican churches recorded in the two counties weighs in at a hefty 846. The original predictions were met; both counties completely covered within 12 months and a total of over 40,000 photographs taken. The successful completion was helped greatly by the large number of churches in both counties that were open during the day.

A move to south Oxfordshire was made in April. Berkshire was the first county covered by the Project in 1997 and Oxfordshire followed in 1999, thus there was a chance to revisit some key places in order to record them again using better equipment and techniques.

June was a quiet month with only two field trips; one at the beginning of the month and one at the end. The latter of these marked the transition to Yorkshire. Work on the Ridings began in earnest in late July and by November over 200 churches had been visited. The majority of the work targeted the North Riding.



**Easby, Yorkshire North Riding.** Wall painting showing various scenes including the Adoration of the Magi, The Deposition, and The Entombment.



October saw a chance to visit the far north of the country. Northumberland proved to have many churches of interest and the top of the county was covered during a seven day visit. With the completion of Berwick-upon-Tweed the Project has now recorded the most northerly, southerly, easterly and westerly churches in England.

Future goals include completion of the North and East Ridings, a start on the more difficult areas of the West Riding (the Leeds/Bradford area where one can expect all churches to be locked and guarded by suspicious churchwardens), and another short visit to do central Northumberland.

Over the previous eighteen months the Project has changed somewhat. In 1997 the original intention was to record all buildings listed in Pevsner's *Buildings of England*. It soon became apparent that such a task would not be possible and the objective was modified to include as many of the secular buildings as possible but with the main emphasis being put on the churches (and as compensation to record items in churches not listed by Pevsner). As time has gone on I have found that the task has become too great, especially when the churches are now being recorded in great detail and to a very high standard. With great regret I have begun to limit the number of secular buildings recorded. In some ways the recording of these buildings would be better spun off into a separate project. There is no doubt it would be worthwhile and perhaps one day someone will do this and produce a better record than I could ever hope to achieve.



Broughton, Oxfordshire. Knight, possibly Sir Thomas Wykeham, d.1470.

This year saw the publication of Roger Rosewell's excellent book *Medieval Wall Paintings*. I had great pleasure in being able to provide 50 pictures for the book including two showing the paintings on the underside of the Duchess of Suffolk's tomb in Ewelme, Oxfordshire. These two pictures, recorded during the summer of 2006 and unpublished until this year, are technically far beyond any other photographs I have ever taken. As anyone who has visited the tomb will know, the paintings are very difficult to see, much less photograph, and I know of no other pictures of comparable quality that have been published. I'll end by putting on record that each picture was the result of several visits



and a total of over 4 hours spent lying on the floor; I probably know the area under the tomb more intimately than anyone else currently alive.

## Acknowledgements

As in previous years the Project would not work as well without the support and encouragement of other people. This year I would particularly like to thank the following people: Trevor Cooper, Eva Linhartova, Phil Draper, Roger Rosewell, Marion Hall, and Kenneth Paver. I'd also like to thank the many (mostly anonymous) keyholders and churchwardens who have let me inside the (fortunately few) locked churches.

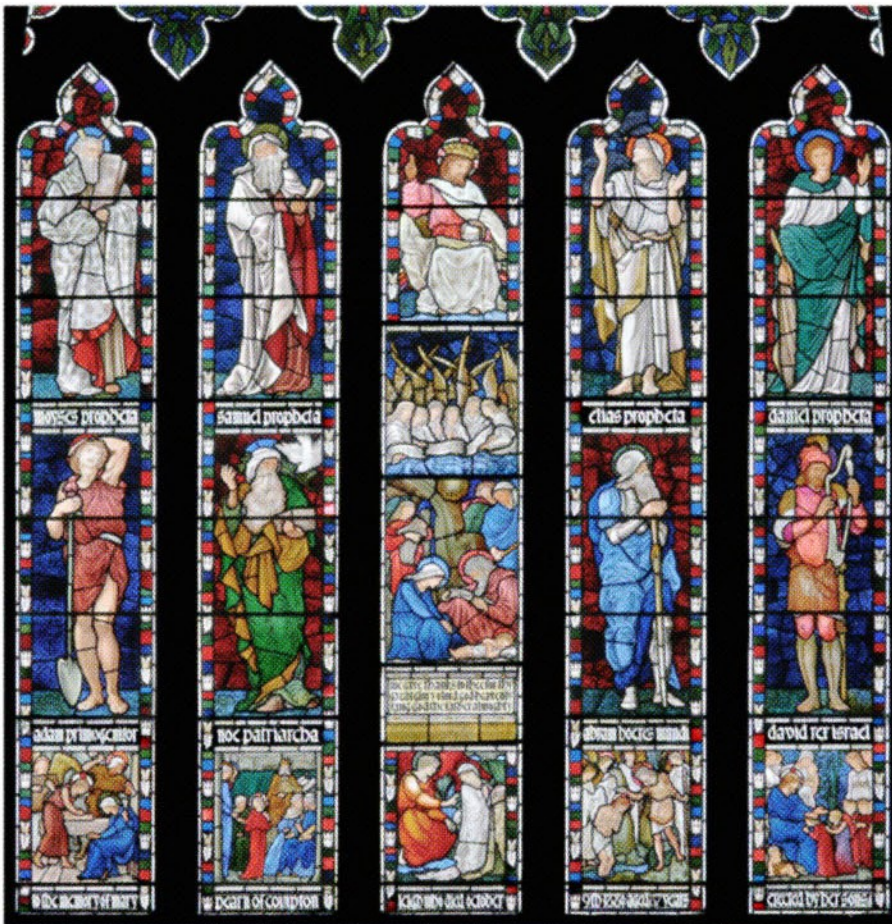
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Harrogate, Yorkshire North Riding  
December 2008

**St Martin, Exeter, Devon.** Detail of a monument to Edward Seaward, d.1703.







EMMANUEL, PLYMOUTH, DEVON

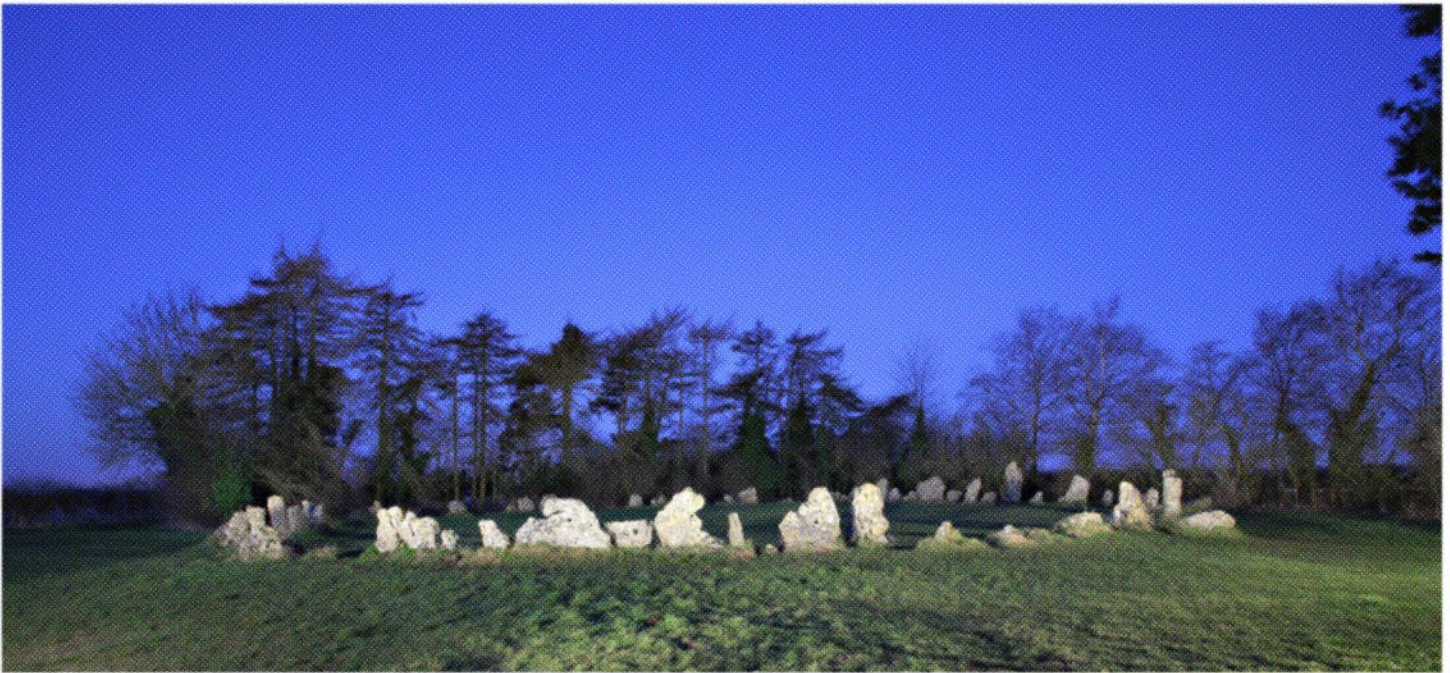
East window of 1881 by Morris & Co. to designs by Burne-Jones.

BYLAND ABBEY, YORKSHIRE  
NORTH RIDING

West front showing the remains of the  
grand rose window.

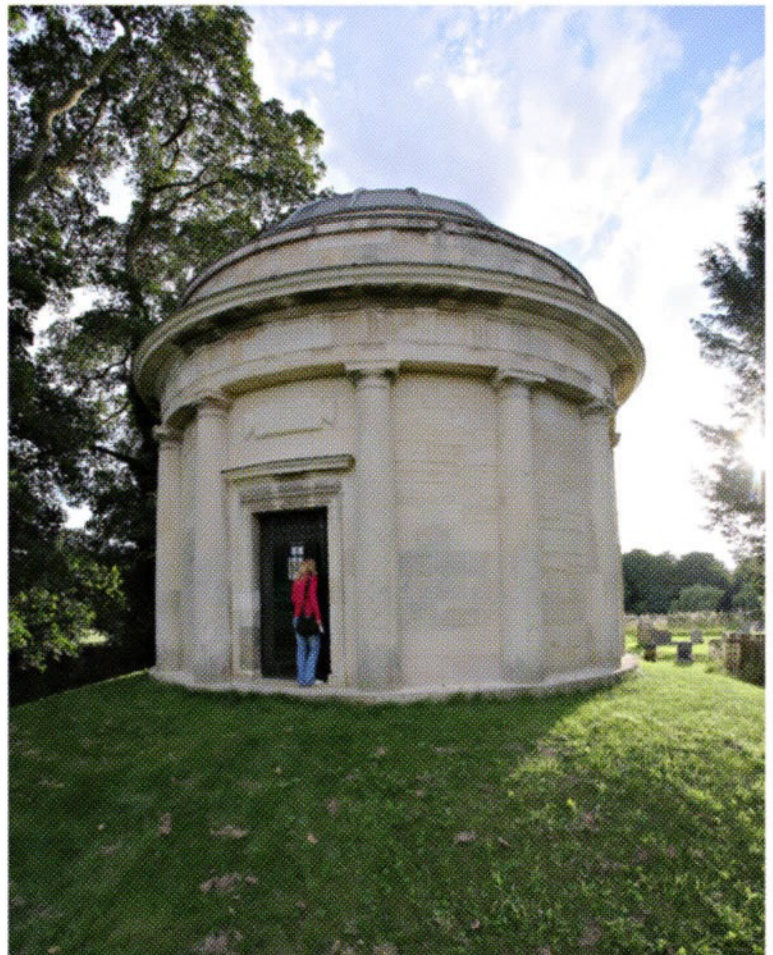






ROLLRIGHT STONES, LITTLE ROLLRIGHT,  
OXFORDSHIRE

A Bronze Age stone circle.



THOMPSON MAUSOLEUM,  
LITTLE OUSEBURN,  
YORKSHIRE WEST RIDING

Erected in the late 18th century and recently  
restored.









ALDWARK, YORKSHIRE NORTH RIDING

A church of 1846-53 by E.B. Lamb.

ST PETER, PLYMOUTH, DEVON

Organ pipe case, 2006-7.



SOUTH DALTON, YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING

Monument to Sir John Hotham, d.1689. Similar to the earlier monument to Robert Cecil at Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

STEEPLE ASTON, OXFORDSHIRE

Sir Francis & Lady Page, d.1741 & 1730.  
By Henry Scheemakers.











SINNINGTON CHURCH, YORKSHIRE  
NORTH RIDING

EXETER CATHEDRAL, DEVON

Roof bosses in the nave.





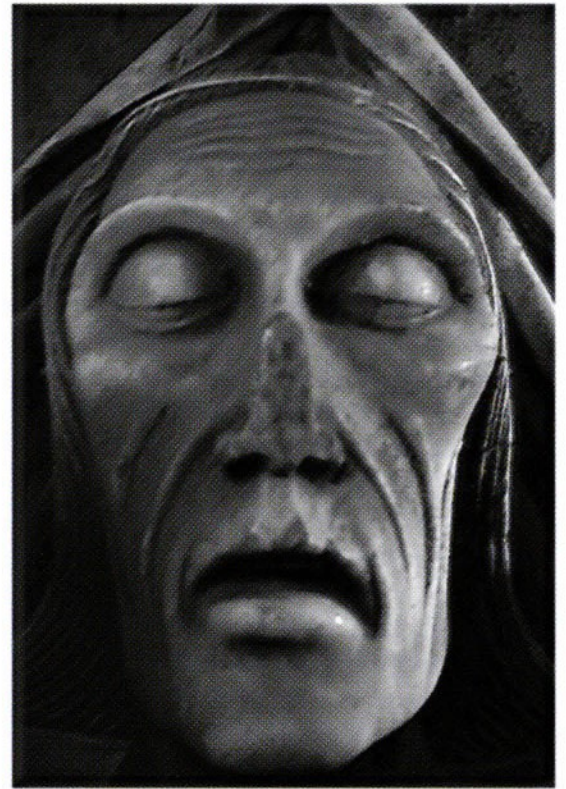






ODDINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE

Brass to Ralph Hamsterley, d.1518.



EWELME, OXFORDSHIRE

Face of the lower effigy of the Duchess of Suffolk's tomb.



EWELME, OXFORDSHIRE

South porch of the church of c.1432.





YARNTON, OXFORDSHIRE

Detail from the monument to Sir Thomas Spencer, d.1684.



BILTON AINSTY,  
YORKSHIRE WEST RIDING

Part of an Anglo-Saxon cross.

STAVELEY, YORKSHIRE WEST RIDING

East window of c.1874 by Capronnier.









JERVAULX ABBEY,  
YORKSHIRE NORTH RIDING

12th & 13th Centuries.



BROUGHTON, OXFORDSHIRE

Panel from the Death of the Virgin.





ST DAVID, EXETER, DEVON

Built in 1897-1900 by W.D. Caroe.



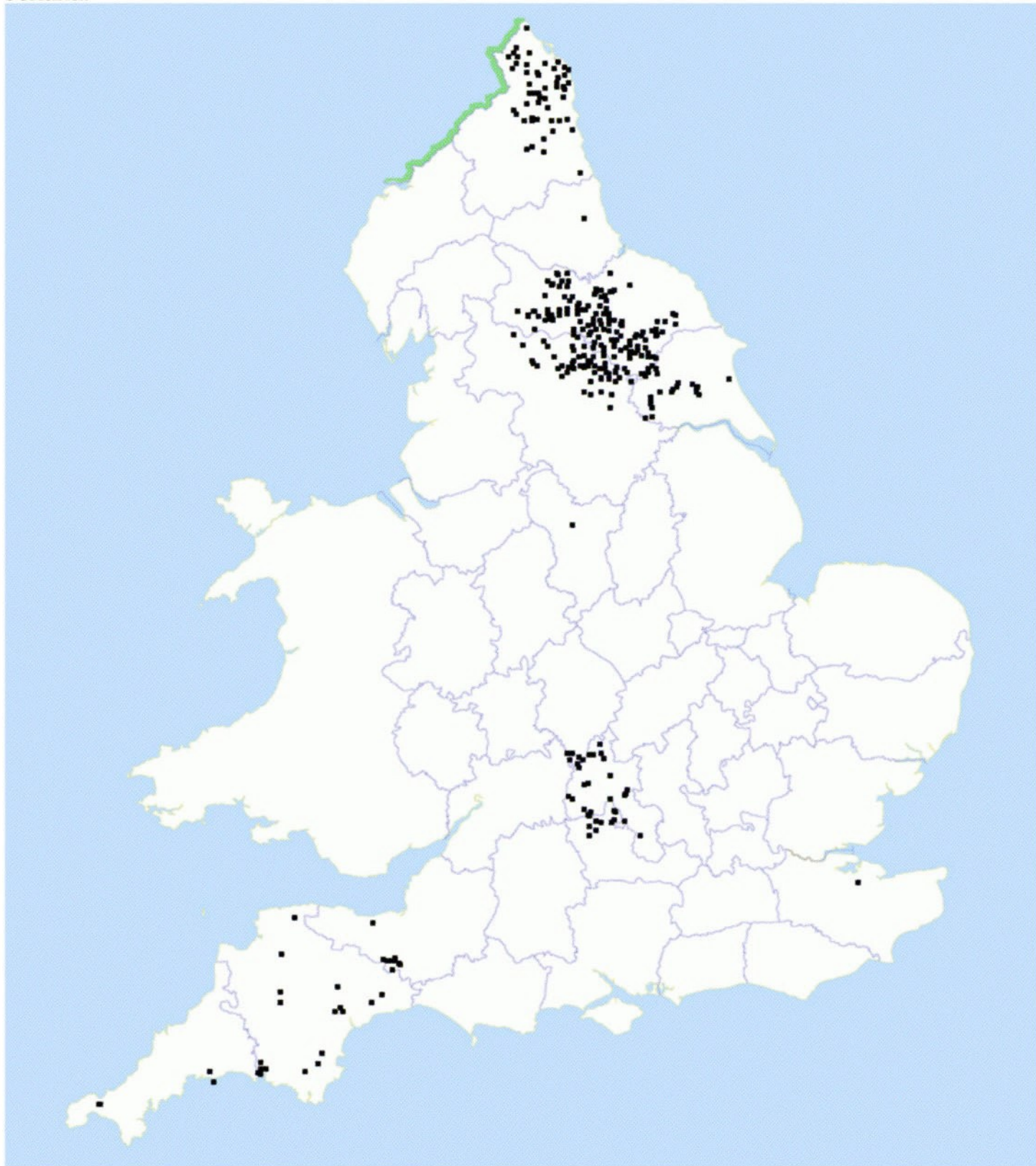
SHORTHAMPTON, OXFORDSHIRE

The Virgin and Child with a bird.



## PLACES RECORDED IN 2008

The map shows the places visited and recorded up until the start of November. The year opened with the completion of places in Devon and some revisits in Cornwall. One place in Kent was also visited during a trip to the county records office. The middle of the year saw many revisits take place in Berkshire and Oxfordshire but for one particular reason not a great deal was accomplished. A move then took place to Yorkshire. the remainder of the year saw much done here as well as in north Northumberland.





# THE DIGITAL ATLAS OF ENGLAND FOUNDATION

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Mr R. Rosewell





EWELME, OXFORDSHIRE

Devotional painting on the underside of the monument to the Duchess of Suffolk.









I AM COME A  
LIGHT INTO THE  
WORLD I CAME

NOT TO JUDGE THE  
WORLD BUT TO  
SAVE THE WORLD