

THE DIGITAL ATLAS OF ENGLAND FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

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DIGITAL ATLAS OF ENGLAND
FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2009

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The Digital Atlas of England Foundation
www.digiatlas.org



FRONT: PERPENDICULAR FONT COVER & CRANE, ST PETER & ST PAUL, SALLE, NORFOLK

BACK: WINDOW BY H. M. DOYLE, ST MICHAEL, BEMPTON, YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

Welcome to the annual report for 2009. The year started with work in the West Riding of Yorkshire in the area to the south-east of Wetherby. The focus was then switched to the East Riding with the goal of completing it before the end of October. Although progress was good it was hampered by many locked churches, especially in Holderness. As a result the county remains not quite finished.

As in previous years, other areas of the country were also visited. Two visits were made in May and June to an area in the south of Nottinghamshire for the Churchcrawling AGM. The first was an initial investigation to determine good places to visit and the second the AGM itself. The journey from and to Yorkshire allowed for a flying visit to Lincolnshire to take in several places to the north of Lincoln.

The first major excursion was to Northumberland in June. Continuing south from the point reached last year, recording reached the outskirts of Newcastle.

Oxfordshire was the subject of a short visit in July to "re-enact" a meeting made on the same date in 1999 between Phil Draper and I. The same set of churches were visited and superior pictures taken.

In September Suffolk and Norfolk were visited. In the case of Suffolk this was to complete several places that remained outstanding from the survey in 2005. Of particular note was gaining permission to photograph inside Benacre - now a private chapel and not open to the public - and Creting St Mary which has been intractable for many a



Hook, Yorkshire West Riding. Wall painting of unknown date recently discovered in the chancel. Reconstructed from the original image taken in March.

church visitor. The only churches now remaining to do in the county are those in Ipswich, Felixstowe, and Bury. The excursion ended with a trip into Norfolk both to record new places in general and to record some church monuments for a forthcoming book.

Lincolnshire was the target area for a short trip in October. This not only visited many churches just to the north of Lincoln but included a re-visit to Spilsby (last visited in 2003) to re-record the monuments in the Willoughby Chapel. Luck also came my way by a chance encounter with Lady Monson who generously allowed me to photograph inside the family chapel at South Carlton (not open to the public).

The end of the year was rounded out by trips in the East Riding and the *full-stop* was a re-visit to Christ the Consoler at Skelton in the West Riding.

As was mentioned last year, the Project is now concentrating on churches rather than encompassing all buildings in the *Buildings of England*. Nevertheless many secular buildings managed to find a place in the archive this year.



St Michael, Garton-on-the-Wolds, Yorkshire East Riding. Wall paintings by Clayton & Bell 1873-6.

2009 saw the last piece of the equipment jigsaw puzzle put in place. This was the purchase of a 17mm tilt-shift lens which allows very wide angle pictures with a wide range of movements. The **front cover** image is an example of what this lens can do.

Publications

The year saw the publication of two volumes of a proposed six volume set on Devon churches: *Some Old Devon Churches - Volume I* (ISBN 978-1-906265-01-4) and *Some Old Devon Churches - Volume II* (ISBN 978-1-906265-02-1). I also wrote an article about the Project, with an emphasis on recording monuments, for the Church Monuments Society Journal.

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, Phil Draper, Lady Gooch (Benacre), Marion Hall, Lady Monson (South Carlton), Roger Rosewell, and John Whitworth. I'd also like to thank the many (mostly anonymous) keyholders and churchwardens who have let me inside locked churches.

C B Newham

Harrogate, Yorkshire North Riding
December 2009

All Saints, Bishop Burton, Yorkshire East Riding. Reredos designed by Clayton & Bell and made by Powell & Sons, 1874.



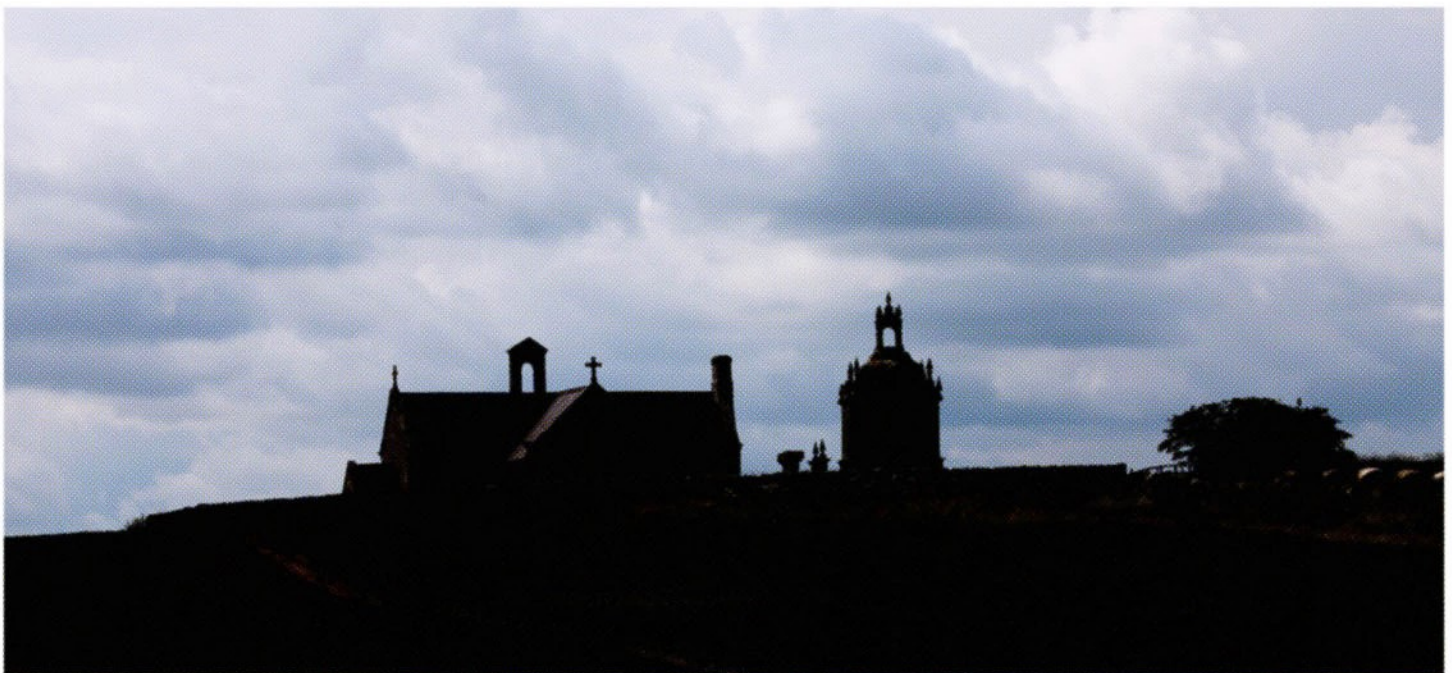


ST CUTHBERT, ELSDON, NORTHUMBERLAND

Three horse skulls found during the Victorian restoration built into the church fabric.

ST ANDREW, GREYMARE HILL, NORTHUMBERLAND

The church and Hopper Mausoleum seen from the east.





TRIUMPHAL ARCH, PARLINGTON PARK, ABERFORD, YORKSHIRE WEST RIDING

Erected in 1785 to commemorate "Liberty in N. America triumphant".



ALL SAINTS, RYAL, NORTHUMBERLAND

Some of the nineteen mediaeval cross slabs mounted on the west wall of the nave. Compare with the picture in *Pevsner*.





ST MICHAEL, BUSLINGTHORPE, LINCOLN-SHIRE

Sir John de Buslingthorpe, d.1340.



ST PETER & ST PAUL, EXTON, RUTLAND

Lady Anne Bruce, d.1627.

ST PETER & ST PAUL, EXTON, RUTLAND

Monument to the 3rd Viscount Campden by Grinling Gibbons.

ST MARTIN, LOWTHORPE, YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING

14th century monument to a couple. Note the "tree" with the branches terminating in the heads of children.

ST MARY, STOW, LINCOLNSHIRE

View towards the massive crossing and the chancel.







ST NICHOLAS, LITTLE SAXHAM, SUFFOLK

Monument to William, Baron Crofts, d.1677, by Abraham Storey. Currently crammed inside the vestry and not normally visible to the public.

CHRIST THE CONSOLER, SKELTON,
YORKSHIRE WEST RIDING

View towards the organ.





CHAPEL, LEAD, YORKSHIRE WEST RIDING

17th century rustic pews and pulpit.

KIRBY SIGSTON, YORKSHIRE
NORTH RIDING

14th century effigy of a Lady.



ST MARY, FOXHOLES, YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING

1866 by G. Fowler Jones. "...one of the ugliest churches in the Riding." - Pevsner.



KIRKDALE, YORKSHIRE NORTH RIDING

Saxon west doorway (now the tower "arch") with Early Norman shafts and capitals. It is only 0.75 metres wide.

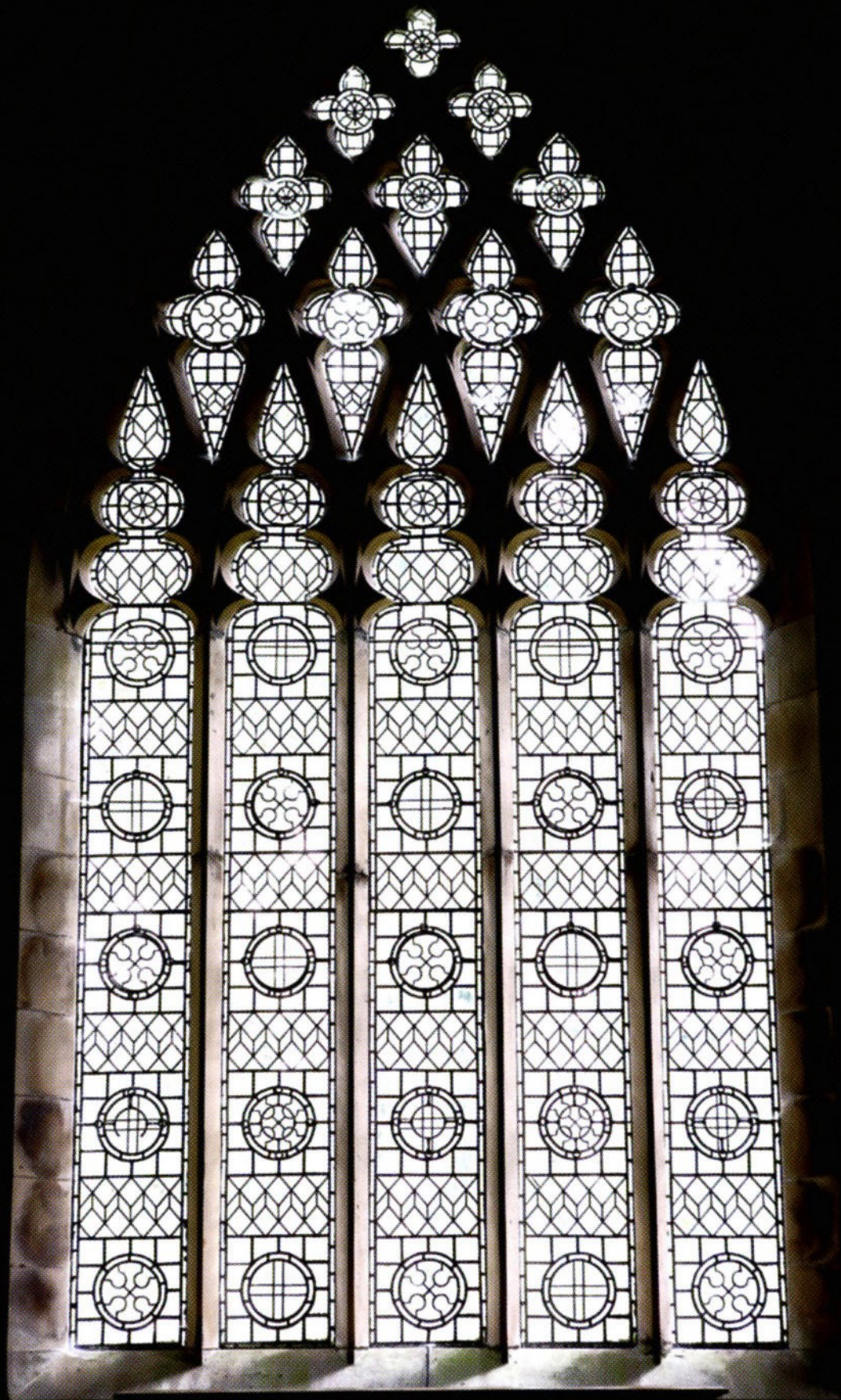


STOKE-BY-NAYLAND, SUFFOLK

Brass to Sir William Tendring, d.1408. Unfortunately currently partly covered by the organ.

ST CUTHBERT, ELSDON, NORTHUMBERLAND

Glazing with elaborate leading patterns, 1877.





ST HELEN, ESCRICK,
YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING

Font of 1844, by Giovanni Tognoli, Rome.

ST MARY MAGDALEN, GEDNEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE

Perpendicular roof and clerestory.



ST EDITH, BISHOP WILTON, YORKSHIRE
EAST RIDING

Copy of the Bruges painting in Cologne Museum.



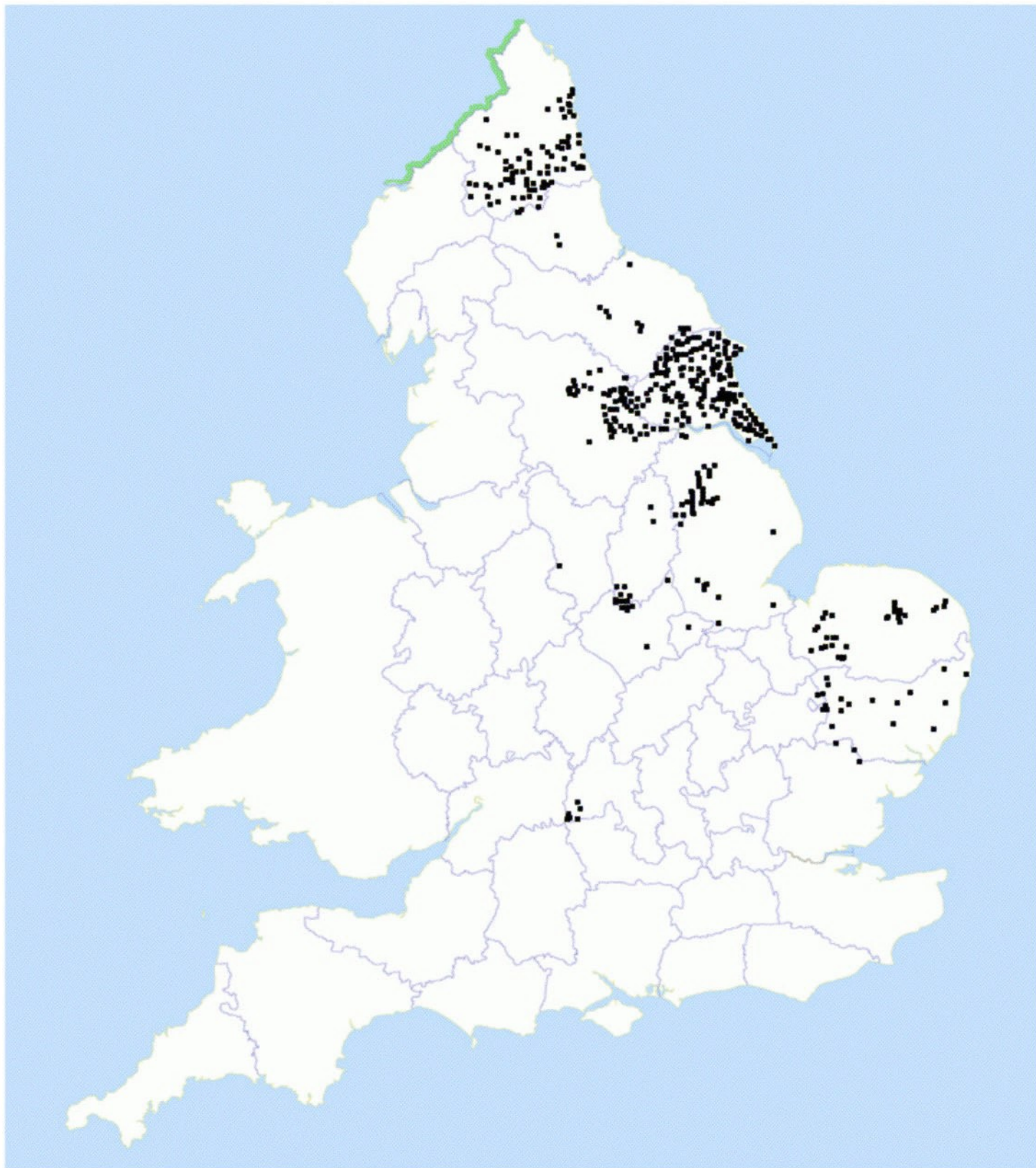
ST MARY, ELSING, NORFOLK

Brass to Sir Hugh Hastings,
d.1347.



PLACES RECORDED IN 2009

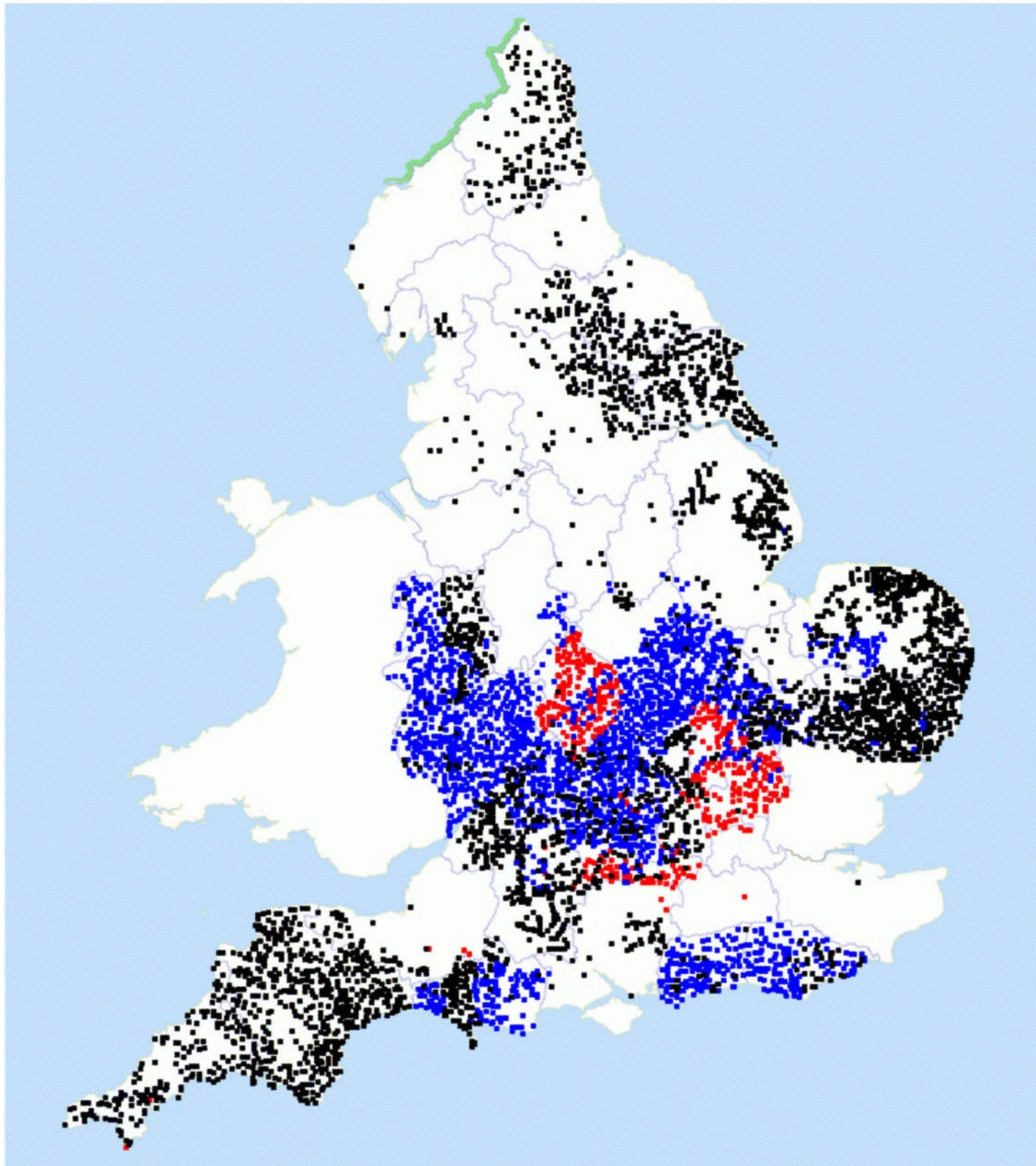
The map below shows the places visited and recorded from January up until the start of December.



TOTAL PLACES RECORDED TO DATE

Total Sites: 11566 Total Anglican Churches: 6354 Total Catholic Churches: 52 Total Other Churches: 287
Total Other Buildings: 4873 Total Anglican Churches Completed (photographed exterior & interior): 5610 (88%)

The map below shows places visited from the Project start (January 1997) until December 2009. The photographic quality is indicated by: red = low, blue = medium, black = high



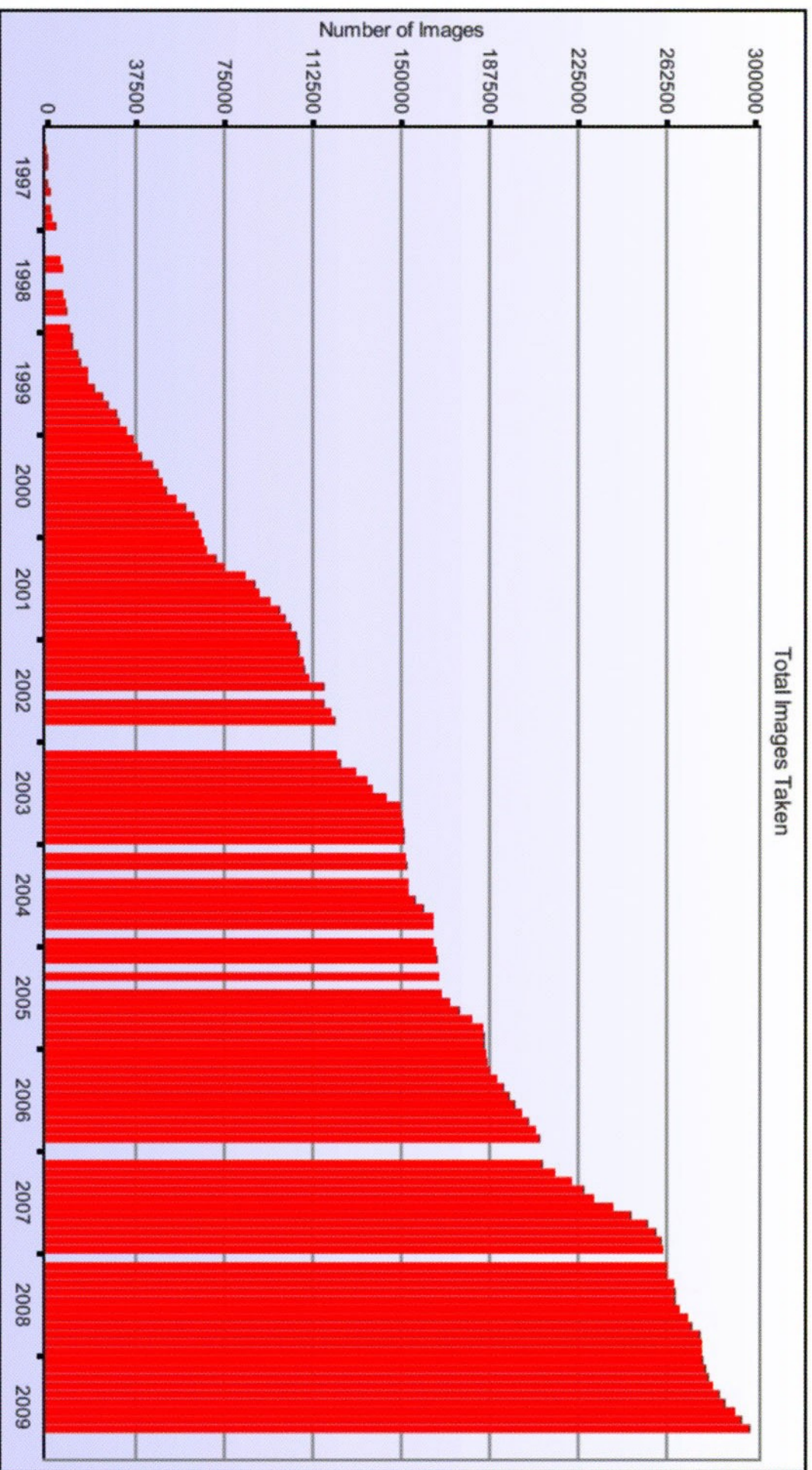


IMAGE NUMBERS

The chart on the facing page shows the total number of images over the course of time the project has been operating. Progress has been steady for the most part. Occasionally the numbers have increased rapidly because of the good fortune of not having to maintain full-time employment. Such an instance occurred in 2007 when Devon and Cornwall were completed in the year, the effort securing over 40,000 images.

The current total number of images is just over 1000 short of 300,000. This mark should be attained in January or February next year.

The large number of images take up a considerable amount of space. The graph does not easily translate into space used over time because earlier cameras produced images of small file size. For comparison, all of the images for 1997 and 1998 occupy less space than one *days* worth of images in 2009. There is also the factor that all images are now stored in both their original RAW format as well as JPEG. This provides a certain amount of redundancy as well as ensuring that the pictures will be more likely to be able to be viewed in some far future time.

The archive is currently stored on sets of hard-drives. The drives are overlapped so that each file appears on at least two drives. In addition copies of the archive are held by the Project Trustees at four other locations. Unfortunately due to the cost it has not been possible to provide full sets to each of the four Trustees. This is of great concern because hard-drives have a storage life-time even when not used (and in fact the life-time is reduced if they are never used or used infrequently). In theory each archive holder should receive a new set of drives holding the entire archive every three years. In practice this has never been achieved except with the Master archive. Lower storage costs and larger hard-drive capacities will alleviate this problem with time because camera file sizes have now stabilised and will probably not increase in future. However, the problems of cost are likely to dog the archive for at least another four to five years.

CHURCH LOCKING

As in previous years the project has recorded church locking. This year progress has been made towards accurately tagging all of the sites visited with their National Grid References. This has allowed not only the generation of better locking maps but also, for the first time, other types of geospatial maps.

Figures 1 and 2 on the following page are locking maps for Devon and Cornwall, and for the East Riding of Yorkshire. Church locking has been averaged over 10x10 Km squares. Bright red indicates all churches in the square are locked. Bright blue indicates all the churches in the square are open. Intermediate colours give an idea of the percentage open and locked.

For Devon and Cornwall, the hotspots of locked churches are as one would expect: Redruth, Truro, Plymouth, and the Torbay area.

The map for the East Riding of Yorkshire shows how disappointing this area is. Apart from the north-central area there are few areas where the visitor can visit church unhindered. The Holderness area is especially bad when there really is no reason for it to be. From my visits to this area I get the idea that the Police have been giving out advice to lock churches; just about always counter-productive as is well-known.

Figure 3 is one of the new locking maps that should be appearing on the digitlas website soon.

Fig. 1

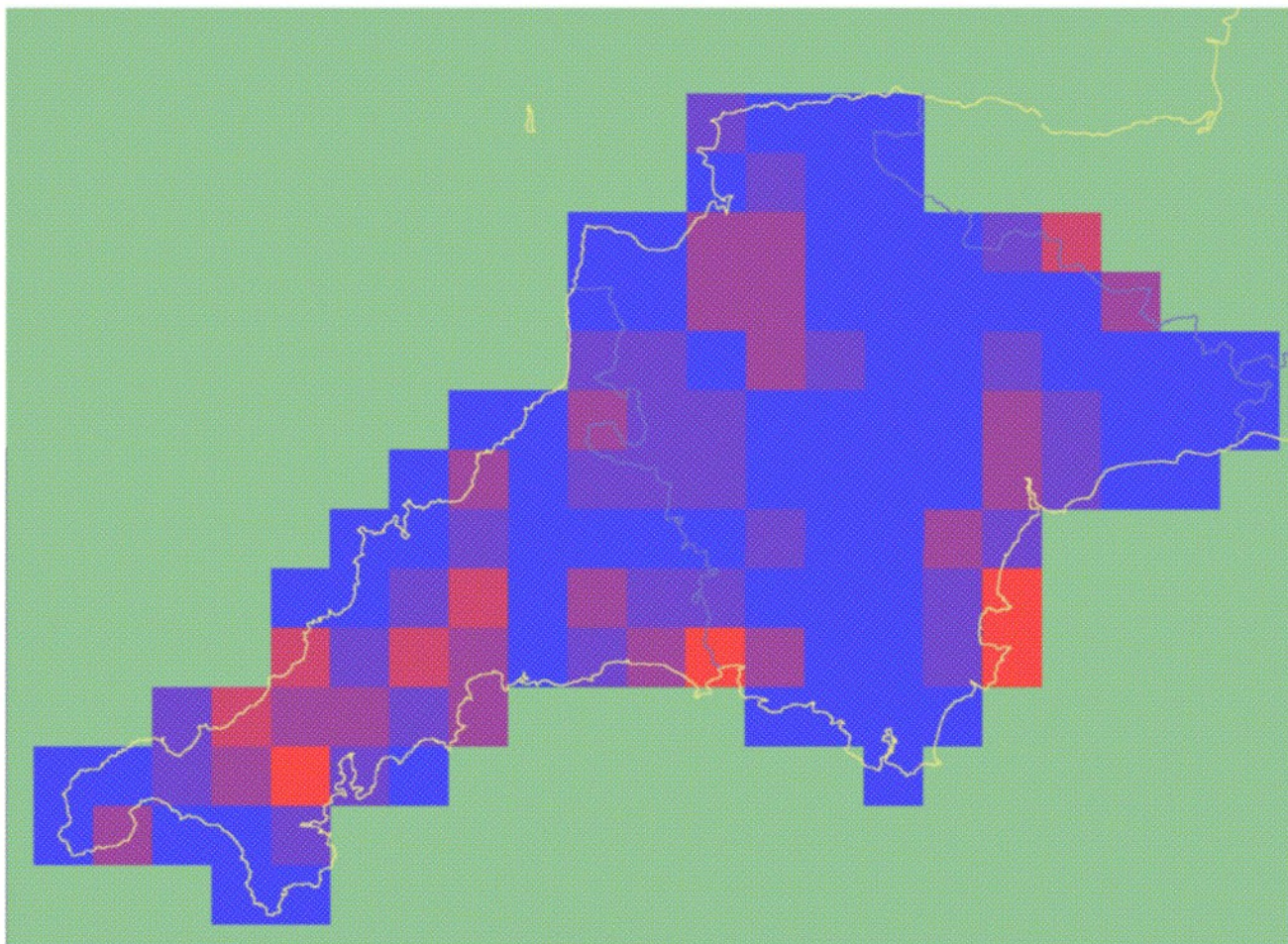


Fig. 2

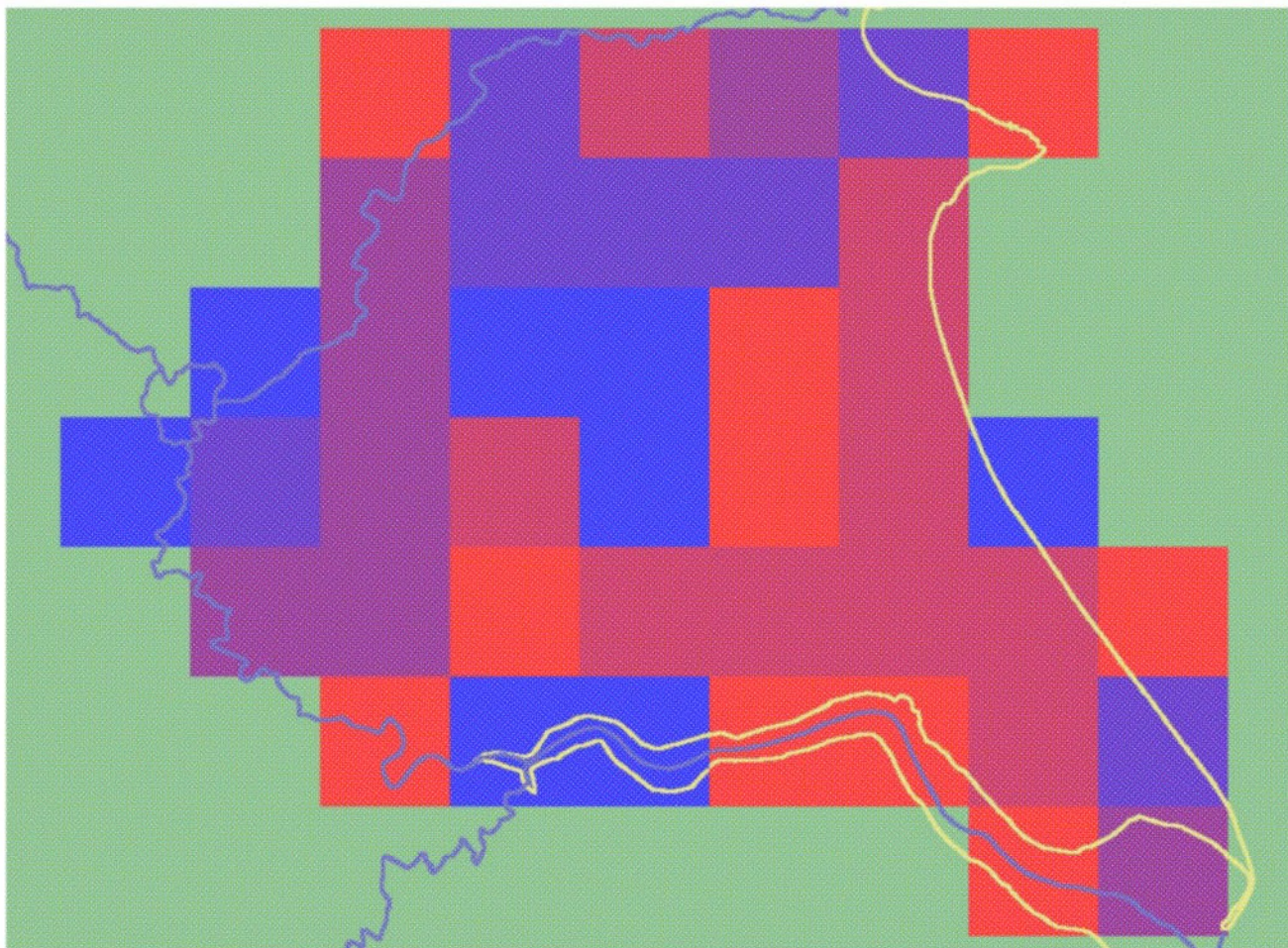
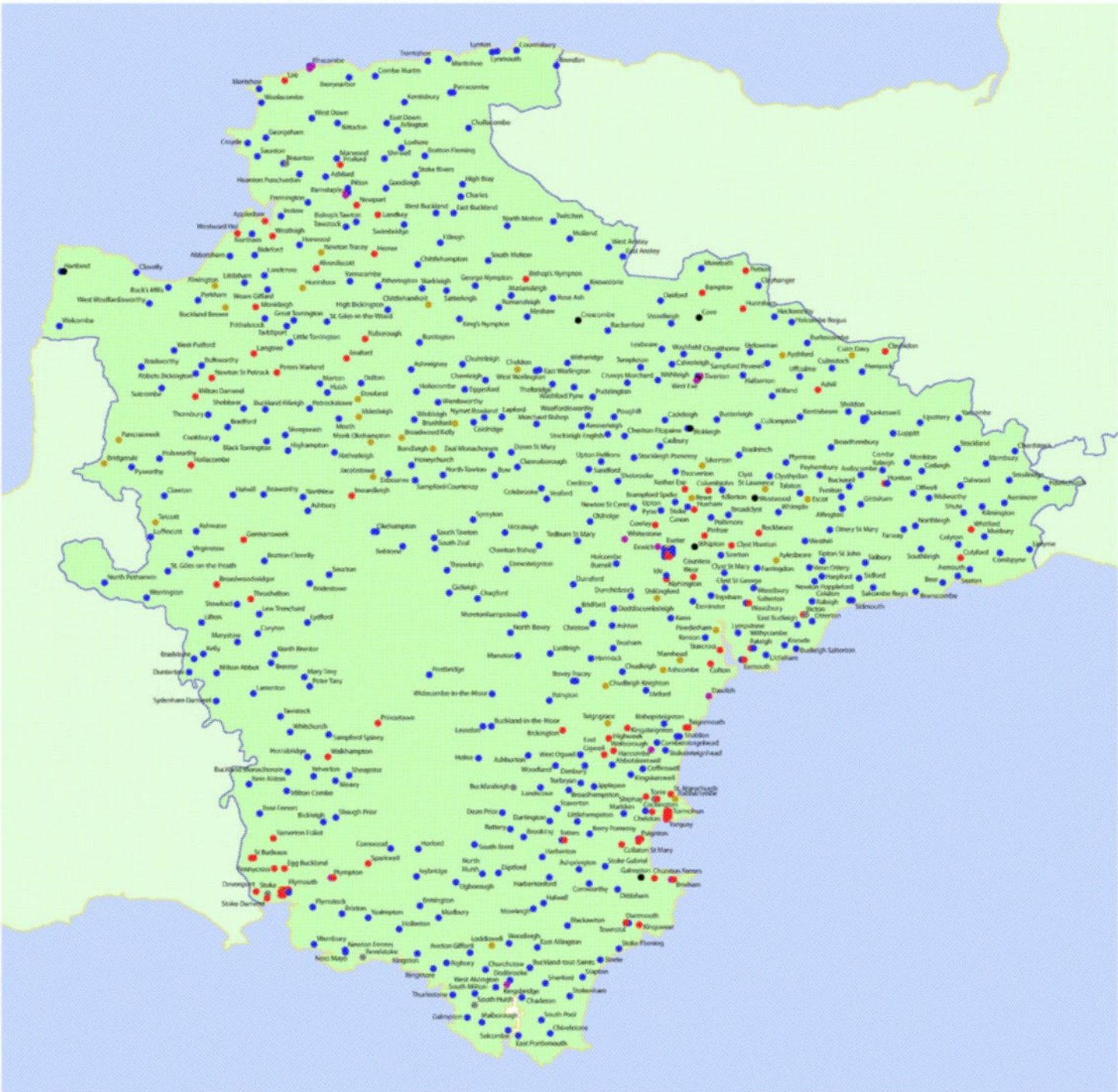


Fig. 3





ST MARY & ST PATRICK, LAMBLEY, NORTHUMBERLAND

Built in 1885 by William Searle Hicks. Chancel quadripartite vault.

THE DIGITAL ATLAS OF ENGLAND FOUNDATION

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ST MARY, BOTTESFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE

Alabaster effigy on the monument to William Lord Roos, d.1414.



Α Ω

BEHOLD THE FOWLS OF THE AIR
YOUR

HEAVENLY

FATHER

FEEDETH THE

1916



Remember ARTHUR MOORE
This window was given by his

killed in action in France 1916
Sisters Annie, Jane & Maud 1962.

