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Honorary Senior Research Fellow Steven Bassett

Department of History (/schools/historycultures/departments/history/index.aspx)

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Biography

Steven Bassett was a Senior Lecturer in Medieval History in the university's Department of History until his retirement in 2011. Since then he has continued researching and publishing. He now lives in north Yorkshire.

Postgraduate supervision

Since he is now retired and his last doctoral students have been awarded their doctorates, Dr Bassett is no longer taking on new postgraduates.

Research

Since retirement most of my research has been focused on the preparation of a monograph with the following main contents: (1) A detailed study of the structural history of the Anglo-Saxon and late medieval church at Wootton Wawen (Warwicks) – a minster of early eighth-century foundation, rebuilt in the late Anglo-Saxon period – and of three of the ten surviving late medieval churches which began as its chapels. (2) An analysis of the pre-modern evolution of the landscape of the minster's original parish (including the planned borough of Henley-in-Arden). (3) An examination of the Anglo-Saxon and late medieval history of the Wootton Wawen minster and of the *raison d'être* of the extensive territory which it was demonstrably serving as its mother-church parish by the eleventh century.

The volume will exemplify how a detailed study of the structural history of a former Anglo-Saxon minster and of a selection of its chapels, and of the local human landscape within which each one was built, can refine and strengthen a general model for the origins and early development of England's parochial system, while also putting the essential flesh of specific local circumstances on the model's bare bones. Publication is scheduled for 2015-16.

Publications

Recent publications

- 'Boundaries of knowledge: mapping the land-units of late Anglo-Saxon and Norman England', in ed W Davies, G Halsall & A Reynolds, *People and Space in the Middle Ages, 300-1300* (Brepols, 2006), 115-42
- 'Divide and rule? The military infrastructure of eighth- and ninth-century Mercia', *Early Medieval Europe*, 15 (2007), 53-85
- 'Sitting above the salt: the origins of the borough of Droitwich', in O Padel & D Parsons (eds), *A Commodity of Good Names. Essays in Honour of Margaret Gelling* (Shaun Tyas, 2008), 3-27
- 'The medieval boundary of the borough of Droitwich and its origins', *Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society*, 3rd series, 21 (2008), 219-42
- '*Prestetone*: the land of the priests of Wootton Wawen (Warwickshire)', in ed E Quinton, *The Church in Place-Names* (English Place-Name Society Extra Series, 2, 2009), 23-38
- 'Anglo-Saxon Warwick', *Midland History*, 34 (2009), 123-55
- 'The landed endownment of the Anglo-Saxon minster at Hanbury (Worcs.)', *Anglo-Saxon England*, 38 (2010), 77-100
- 'Anglo-Saxon fortifications in western Mercia', *Midland History*, 36 (2011), 1-23

Submitted for publication

- (with Sarah Wager) '*Donnelie* (Warwicks.) – an unidentified Domesday manor and its *haia* (hay)' (*Transactions of the Birmingham & Warwickshire Archaeological Society*)
- 'Offa, king of the East Saxons, and his west midland land grants' (*Midland History*)

In preparation

- The Landscape of an Anglo-Saxon Minster and its Parish: The Wootton Wawen Project (monograph for British Archaeological Reports, British Series)
- 'The priests of Domesday Book'
- 'The role of Mercian kings in the setting up of minsters in the seventh and eighth centuries'

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