SERF Research Agenda conference discussion points for the Post-medieval and Modern period and Industrial theme

From an agenda proposed by Luke Barber

1) Rural landscape and settlement

- An understanding of the multifaceted landscape
- The ecology of hedgerows and woods (ie to shed light on the original planting schemes)
- The chronology and typology of farm buildings and other lesser noticed post-medieval agricultural features, such as dew ponds and sheepfolds
- The impact of houses of the royalty/gentry had on the local landscape, economy and social structure
- The impact the Dissolution had on the region's landscape and society
- The development of the village in the post-medieval period
- Social aspects of rural housing and material culture, especially for the poor from the 16th to mid 20th centuries. More isolated rural sites need to be excavated
- Temporary accommodation/shanty towns of the poor, from squatters and iron workers to navies.

2) Urban Landscape and settlement

- The specialisation of early post-medieval small towns
- The relationship between towns and their hinterland (town/country), especially their changing role in the industrial period
- Resorts need to have a major study of their history and assessment of their urban character through time
- The houses and diet of the professional classes as well as the poorer majority of the urban population.
- Small-scale urban industry is a priority
- There is a need to study space within towns as well as buildings

3) Political, administrative and social context

- What evidence is there for the positioning of new public buildings and churches as a means of expressing social control as the urban population grew?
- Study of the history, activities and remains of the large concentration of government and academic research establishments in the region
- Many buildings of social control such as workhouses, prisons and hospitals need to be studied and comparative county summaries compiled
- Study of public utilities at local and regional level
- Continental immigration in the 16th to 18th centuries?
- Multiculturalism - study of ethnic religious buildings/material culture and areas of settlement and spread

4) Communications

- The nature and network of the pre-Turnpike roads
- The Turnpike roads, including their impact on the landscape and economy of the area.
- Railway/canal construction and workers on these projects
- Early civil airfields and their related structures
- The overall impact of steam power on the region?
- Sites associated with oil, gas and nuclear power.

5) Economy and Industry

- Although there is still a need to continue listing industrial sites we must also now begin to set such sites in a wider context.
- It is important to understand the changing balance between arable, woodland, waste and commons and industrial use.
- The relationship between agrarian regimes and industries and the linkages between different industrial sectors.
- Control and provision by industrialists over their workforce (from housing to pay to welfare to temporal/locational control).
- Industry constitutes a theme in itself, and more questions can be viewed under that heading (below).

6) Material culture and diet

- How did the massive changes in material culture during the period affect society and to what extent are any changes archaeologically detectable?
- Study of more post-medieval artefact assemblages from urban/rural settings is needed to address consumption, availability, social habits, social status and the zoning of classes
- Comparison of the material culture and diet of the rural and urban poor
- Comparison of material culture and diet of lower status households with those of proven high status
- Distribution/quantities of post-medieval imports to highlight growing inland trade and potentially immigration
- Any material culture/environmental deposit that can be tied down to an individual household is of national importance (Courtney 2001).

7) Belief and ritual

- Post-medieval alterations to medieval churches, and the monumental evidence for changing views to death and society
- Architectural similarities and variations, fittings and internal lay-out, and social significance of Non-conformist chapels

- Recording of churchyard stones/monuments, biographic details, displays of wealth, changing fashions.
- The funerary industry (gravestones – stone type, style, mason's marks etc)
- Full churchyards, satellite cemeteries and cremation
- Non-Anglican burial grounds and funerary customs
- Large assemblages of human remains, particularly where biographical data is present, should be studied to shed light on the health of the living population, and potentially medical practises of the time.

Industry

Industry discussion topics include:

1) General:

- The affect of industrialisation and de-industrialisation to areas/the region
- The study of secondary industries which often do not leave much trace
- The re-use of industrial buildings for domestic or different industrial use
- Ancillary buildings/storage etc and the use of space as well as the main production process
- Scientific analysis of slags and residues has a key role to play in understanding industrial processes
- Oral history – to capture memories of workers.

2) Woodland Industries

- The relationship of different woodland industries to each other, as well as their woodland environment
- Further recording/excavation of woodland features is a priority – saw-pits, charcoal burner's camps
- Management of woodland for industry (coppicing, charcoal burning etc) and how the whole landscape was organised
- Survey of all industrial sites and the tracks that link them, domestic areas etc.

3) Agriculture

- List the published studies on agriculture, and build on these to create a history of agriculture in the region, with further work on the primary documents and archaeological research
- Further archaeological survey on agricultural buildings and other ancillary structures
- To what extent did farms change/specialise over time? How does this vary with the underlying geology?
- Environmental evidence has an important role in the study of improved animal husbandry and the introduction of new plants.

- Archaeological/historical study of the distribution of 18th to 19[th-] farm machinery and manufacturers
- Recording of mushroom farming enterprises of the earlier 20th century
- More hop-pickers huts to be studied archaeologically.
- Excavation of early oast and malt houses
- Archaeological study of different mill types

4) Extractive industry

- More mine pits excavated and ore roasting/prep areas (initial process of the iron industry)
- Lime kiln typology and whether the nature of the chalk demanded different types of kilns from those more commonly associated with limestone
- Not just the changing lime kiln technology but the site layouts as a whole, including work on other structures such as wash mills, grinding mills, engine/boiler houses, packing sheds, cooper's shops, locomotive sheds and tramways as well as housing and welfare of the workers. Archaeological and historical work is needed
- The nature of underground workings and their relationship to surface remains
- The link between industrial-scale quarries and lime/cement works and the communication network.
- Small scale chalk extraction pits dug to provide material for soil dressing
- The use and distribution of the various types of local building stone and aggregate
- The relationship between local building materials and social status

5) Metals

- Late medieval Wealden water-powered bloomery furnaces, some of which continued into the Post-medieval period.
- The first generation blast furnaces in the Weald at the end of the 15th century (accompanied by an influx of French workers)
- Double furnaces, which contained two hearths in one stack for the casting of large cannon (ie at Worth), have not received any archaeological excavation to date.
- The excavation of well-preserved sites to establish more information on the nature of more ephemeral features such as casting floors, ore-roasting pits and mould kilns is still needed.
- Steel producing forges. None of these sites have been excavated and it is not known whether they differ in any way from the conventional forges.
- Reverberatory furnaces – some sites were used mainly for re-melting rather than smelting.
- The changing nature of the markets for the iron industry.
- The changing layout of smithies through time and their interrelationship with the main iron industry
- More detailed study of the transition to iron/brass mills
- Iron and non-ferrous mills involved in production of metal goods (e.g. wire/hoops and other domestic items).

6) Glass

- Locate further sites and confirm the position of known ones
- Study the relationship between the furnace sites and coppiced woodland
- Excavate to modern standards furnaces of the immigrant phase and compare/contrast to those of France and London/north of England
- Establish a better chronology for the furnace sites using archaeomagnetic dating
- Scientific analysis of excavated material to establish the source of clay and other materials and detect technological advances in manufacture.

7) Textiles

- An archaeological and historical overview of the industry in the region
- Excavation of fulling mills
- Archaeological excavation/recording of buildings associated with the 'cottage' industry stages of production as well as the worker's domestic setting

8) Paper

- A complete gazetteer and surveys of upstanding remains for the region.
- Excavation of early paper-making sites.

9) Leather

- The excavation of tanneries is a priority. To what extent do their construction and lay-outs vary depending on their date and location?

10) Gunpowder

- Excavation of early gunpowder buildings
- Documentary and field survey/excavation on other gunpowder sites in the region
- The fireworks industry
- The later chemical explosives industry
- The relationship of the distribution of explosives sites to topography, communications, domestic occupation and defence structures
- Defence research sites, such as those where rocket and atomic research undertaken.

11) Bricks and tiles

- Trade with the Low Countries in the early part of the period and the need to distinguish local/Flemish bricks/tiles
- The distribution and use of early brick in lower status buildings
- Refining of brick/tile dating by more studies of sizes and fabrics in dated buildings and assemblages from well-dated archaeological features

- A systematic survey of Surrey and Kent brick/tile works as has been undertaken for Sussex
- The morphology of production sites, from kiln technology to ancillary buildings
- The spatial distribution of brickyards/kilns in relation to available transport and intended markets.

12) Pottery and clay pipes

- Further study of the Borderware kiln sites as well as comparative work on other kilns producing similar wares in the area, such as at Graffham and in Chichester
- More work (including publication) on smaller early post-medieval pottery production sites, including structures around kilns, fuel supplies etc.
- The excavation of country potteries of the 18th and 19th centuries to study workshops, kilns and products allowing a study of distribution once more domestic assemblages of the period are excavated and help refine dating
- The excavation of clay pipe kilns is a priority

13) Engineering and manufacture

- A comprehensive gazetteer for each industry with historical background, maps and field survey/assessment of remains
- Recording small urban workshops and workshop practices
- The study of the manufacture of machine tools and engines.

14) Chemical and electrical

- The chemical and electrical industries need a more uniform survey in order to identify priorities of recording.

15) Leisure industry

- The industry is important in understanding our current recreational environment and there are a wide range of aspects, from cinemas to golf courses, which have received virtually no serious attention in the region
- The developments of the leisure industry in response to increasing crowds, the media and health and safety legislation and how it affected site lay-out and building design.
- How does closeness to London affect the provision of large-scale leisure sites? Does the type of leisure entertainment in the region vary from that provided further north? Does this reflect on the social composition of the South East?

Methods

o It should still be a priority to collect data before it is lost thus accruing a full and balanced dataset for future researchers. Thus the recording of remains, threatened or

not, by standing building survey, landscape survey, excavation, artefact/environmental analysis and oral history projects must continue

o More 'grey' reports/archives should be made easily available (i.e. published or on the web) to compensate for the summary information often given in publication reports for this period

o Much work has been done by individuals and groups in isolation and there is not always an awareness of others doing related research. There is a need for a more combined and coordinated approach to the period within the region

o The publication of national/county-level initiatives such as the EH MPP surveys and KCC's SMR enhancement surveys on industrial remains. Although they do not give much detail they allow a researcher to track down the relevant grey reports, a task which would be easier if they were on-line. Similar summaries should exist, in journals or on the web, for the whole region

o Many HERs have very patchy cover for the period/aspects of it. Some enhancement work has been done in recent years (i.e. adding data from the Defence of Britain Project, Parks and Gardens Registers etc) but a more consistent uniformity is still required

o Statutory lists need to be revised with addition of a wider range of post-medieval/modern sites representative of the period

o There is a need to create/train more post-medieval/industrial archaeologists both amateur and professional.