

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGES IN LEICESTERSHIRE

This list is based on the pioneer work of Dr. W. G. Hoskins (*Trans. Leics. Arch. Soc.*, xxii, (1944-5), 241-64) as amended in his *Essays in Leicestershire History* (1950), pp. 67-107, with distribution map. Further information from public records and printed sources has been collected by Mrs. B. Grant, Dr. Joan Thirsk, Mr. G. H. Green, Mr. J. G. Hurst, and Professor M. W. Beresford. Final responsibility for the present form of the list and table rests with the two last named. The data from Domesday Book have been supplied by Professor H. C. Darby and Mr. G. R. Versey. The list is arranged alphabetically by modern name form, except for the three final names, which appear in Domesday Book but cannot be located. The map location, where known, is given in the three final columns. The three intermediate columns are concerned with the visible quality of the site (*Arch.*), the quality of the historical evidence (*Hist.*), and the suggested period of desertion where known (*Period*). This list was compiled at the end of 1961.

KEY TO THE ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeological Classification

- A* Excellent. (Very good pattern of roads and crofts with house-sites visible).
- A Very good. (Very good pattern of roads and crofts, but no house-sites visible).
- B Medium. (Good street or streets, but otherwise confused earthworks).
- C Poor. (Vague bumps making no certain pattern; church or church ruins without visible earthworks).
- D Nothing to see at all.
- D(P) Nothing to see, but site ploughed or under crop, and so possibly destroyed.
- P Now ploughed.
- COV Sufficiently large modern farm or country house to have obliterated a former site.
- RES Re-settled before Industrial Revolution (c. 1800).
- REB Re-settled, c. 1800-1918.
- VS Very shrunk. (Now having six houses or fewer, assuming evidence from documents or from the ground that it was once larger).
- ? Site not precisely located.
- U Neither documents nor tradition indicate location of village.

Historical Classification

- 1* Excellent documentary evidence for the former existence of a village, with period of desertion known.
- 1 Period of desertion known, but documentary evidence inferior in quantity.
- 2 Excellent evidence for a village's former existence, but period of desertion not known.
- 3 Small quantity of documentary evidence for village's former existence (*i.e.* less than for 1 above), but period of desertion not known.
- 4 No information as to whether the name belonged to more than a manor or grange, etc.
- o No documentary evidence yet seen.

Classification of Period of Desertion

- I In Domesday Book, but no further mention.
 II Monastic depopulation. c. 1125-1350, mainly Cistercian abbeys and grauges.
 III Black Death, or retreat of settlement from marginal lands, c. 1350-1400.
 IV Enclosure for pasture or improved arable. c. 1400-1700.
 V Emparking, mainly 17th and 18th centuries.
 N Period of desertion not known (usually either retreat or enclosure).

No.	Village	Classification			1" O.S. Map	National Grid	6" O.S. Map
		Arch.	Hist.	Period			
1	Aldeby	C	I	II	132	SK/552987	XXXVIINW
2	Alton	C	I	II	121	SK/390148	XXIIINW
3	Ambion	C	I	III	121	SK/400003	XXXVNE
4	Andreskirk	U	I	III	121	SK/392222	IXSW not marked
5	Atterton	VS/C	3	N	132	SP/353983	XXXVSW
6	Baggrave	A*	1*	IV	122	SK/697088	XXXIINE
7	Bescaby	A*	2	N	122	SK/823263	XIINE
8	Bittesby	(P)B	1*	IV	132	SP/500860	XLVIIISE
9	Bradgate	D	I	IV	121	SK/535103	XXIVSE
10	Brascote	VS/C	I	IV	121	SK/443025	XXXISE
11	Brentingby	VS/B	3	N	122	SK/784198	XXSE
12	Brooksby	C	1*	IV	122	SK/670160	XIXSW
13	Cotes de Val	B	3	N	132	SP/553887	XLIXNW
14	Dishley	B	3	II	121	SK/513212	XVIIINE
15	Elmesthorpe	C/REB	1*	III	132	SP/460965	XXXVISW
16	Eye Kettleby	B	3	IV	122	SK/734167	XIXSE/XXSW
17	Foston	D	1*	IV	132	SP/604950	XLIVNE
18	Frisby	A	2	N	122	SK/704020	XXXVIIIINE
19	Garendon	?	I	II	121	SK/502199	XVIIINE
20	Gopsall	D	1*	IV	121	SK/353064	XXIXNW/ XXVIIINE
21	Hamilton	A	1*	IV	122	SK/645075	XXXIINW
22	Holyoaks	C	1*	IV	133	SP/845957	XLVIINW
23	Ingarsby	A	1*	IV	122	SK/684055	XXXIISW
24	Keythorpe	(P)D	1*	IV	133	SP/765995	XXXIXSW
25	Knaptoft	A	1*	IV	132	SP/626895	XLIXNE
26	Leesthorpe	B	0	N	122	SK/792136	XXVIIINE
27	Lindley	C	1*	IV	132	SP/365958	XLIIINW
28	Lowesby	RES/A	1*	IV	122	SK/725078	XXXIINE
29	Lubbesthorpe	B	2	N	121	SK/541011	XXXVINE/ XXXVIINW
30	Marefield, North	A	I	IV	122	SK/752088	XXXIIINW
31	Misterton	C	1*	IV	132	SP/556840	XLIXSW
32	Naneby	C	3	N	121	SK/435025	XXIXSE
33	Newbold Folville	U	I	I	122	(In Ashby Folville SK/706120)	Not marked

No.	Village	Classification			1" O.S. Map	National Grid	6" O.S. Map
		Arch.	Hist.	Period			
34	Newbold Saucy	C	I	N	122	SK/765090	XXXIIINW
35	Newton, Cold	VS/A	2	N	122	SK/716065	XXXIINE
36	Normanton Turville	C	I	IV	132	SP/489995	XXXVISW
37	Noseley	A	I*	IV	133	SP/733987	XXXVIIISE/ XXXIXSW
38	Othorpe	C	3	N	133	SP/771955	XLVINW
39	Potters Marston	(P)B	I*	IV	132	SP/498964	XXXVISE
40	Poultney	C	I*	IV	132	SP/586848	XLIXSW
41	Prestgrave	U	2	N	133	(In Nevill Holt SK/801937)	Not marked c. XLVISE
42	Prestwold	C	I	V	121	SK/580216	XVIIIINW
43	Quenby	C	I*	IV	122	SK/702065	XXXIINE
44	Ringolthorp	B	I	I	122	SK/776235	XIIISW (Gold- smith Grange)
45	Shelthorpe	COV/D	4	N	121	SK/545185	XVIIISW/ XVIIISE
46	Shoby	C	I*	III	122	SK/683203	XIXNW
47	Stapleford	A	I*	V	122	SK/813183	XXSE
48	Staunton Harold	C	3	N	121	SK/379209	XVINW
49	Stormsworth	A	I*	IV	132	SK/583806	LIIINW
50	Stretton Magna	A	I	IV	122	SK/657005	XXXVIIINW
51	Sysonby	B	2	N	122	SK/739190	XXNW
52	Welby	A	I*	IV	122	SK/725210	XIXNE
53	Wellsborough	C	I	IV	121	SK/365024	XXIXSW
54	Weston	B	I*	II	121	SK/303027	XXVIIISE (Moor Barn)
55	Whatborough	A*	I*	IV	122	SK/767060	XXXIIISW/NW
56	Whittington	?	3	N	121	SP/486083	XXXNW
57	Willesley	COV	3	N	121	SK/340146	XXIINE
58	Willowes	?	I	IV	122	SK/660180	XIXNW Chapel Hill not marked
59	Wistow	C	I*	V	133	SP/644958	XLIVNE/ XLVNW
60	Withcote	C	I	IV	122	SK/797059	XXXIIISE
61	Woodcote	?	I	IV	121	SK/354187	XVINW
62	Wyfordby	VS/B	I	IV	122	SK/792189	XXNE/SE
63	Lilinge	U	I	I		Guthlaxton Wapentake	
64	Netone	U	I	I		Gartree Wapentake	
65	Plotelei	U	I	I		Guthlaxton Wapentake	

The Table is also arranged alphabetically. It attempts to bring together the information about population and taxation in order to assist the investigation of village history, particularly its date of depopulation; the indication given of the size of former villages may also assist the interpretation of earth-works.

KEY TO THE COLUMNS

<i>Modern acres:</i>	Area as given in Census, if civil parish is still counted as a separate unit.
<i>Total teams, DB:</i>	Plough teams of 1086.
<i>Population, DB:</i>	Recorded population of 1086.
<i>(Nichols) 1279:</i>	Hundred Rolls as cited by Nichols from the incomplete returns.
<i>Subsidies, 1327, 1332:</i>	Taxpayers recorded in the lay subsidies (E.179 in Public Record Office).
<i>Quota, 1334:</i>	Shillings of tax paid in 1334 (E.179).
<i>Poll Tax, 1377:</i>	Number of taxpayers, 1377 (E.179— <i>V.C.H., Leicestershire</i> , iii (1955), pp. 163-5 is incomplete).
<i>Poll Tax, later:</i>	Number of taxpayers, 1379 or 1381.
<i>Poll Tax, (Farnham), families:</i>	Families enumerated in Farnham's <i>Village Notes</i> , from his transcripts of 1379 and 1381 (E.179).
<i>Parish, 1428:</i>	If recorded as having fewer than ten households (<i>Feudal Aids</i> , iii, pp. 106-17).
<i>Relief of 1445:</i>	Percentage relief allowed to impoverished vills: date from Nichols checked with original MSS at British Museum.
<i>Subsidy, 1524:</i>	Number of taxpayers (E.179); document incomplete.
<i>Bp's Returns, families:</i>	As printed in <i>V.C.H., Leics.</i> , iii, (1955), pp. 166-9.
<i>Hearth Tax, 1670:</i>	As printed in <i>V.C.H., Leics.</i> , iii (1955), pp. 170-2; including exempted houses; a few additions from 1666, excluding exemptions.
<i>(Nichols) Houses, c. 1800:</i>	As in <i>Nichols</i> .
<i>Census, 1801:</i>	As in <i>V.C.H., Leics.</i> , iii, (1955), pp. 179-203.

The compilers will always be glad to receive corrections or further information, both archaeological and historical. Reports on sites threatened by ploughing, building, road-making, quarrying, etc., would be particularly useful. Local archaeologists would be doing a most useful service in attempting to locate sites with a question mark (?) or "U" in the *Arch.* column of the list. Address: The Deserted Medieval Village Research Group, 67 Gloucester Crescent, London, N.W.1.

Readers of this paper may also be interested to know that surveys of Deserted Medieval Villages in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire are to be published by *Leicester University Press* in 1965.

	Mod. acres	Total tens D.B.	Popp. D.B.	(Nich.) 1279	SUBSIDIES		POLL TAX (F'ham) later	Parish 1428	Relief 1445	S'sidy 1524	Bt's return Families 1563	Hearth Tax 1670	Nich's Houses c.1800	Census (highest) 1801	1901	1951
					1327	1332										
I ALDBEY																
2 ALTON	c.500	10	24									2				
3 AMBION	c.350											Nil				
4 ANDRESKIRK												Nil				
5 ATTERTON	640			19							7	(1666) 8		Not sep.	29	(1931) 43
6 BAGGRAVE		Not sep.			8	15	38	14	20%		2	(1666) 1		2	Not sep.	Not sep.
7 BESCABY	700-800 + 300 in Croxton				6	8			Nil				2	(1821) 9	20	(1931) 17
8 BITTESBY	746	3	14	25	12	9	21		3%	3		1	(1811) 5	(1891) 44	35	32
9 BRADGATE							41	29	Not sep.			1	Nil	8	Not sep.	Not sep.
10 BRASCOTE	c.230	Not sep.							Not sep.		2			Not sep.	Not sep.	Not sep.
11 BRENTINGBY	c.600				8	11	53	42	27%	6+1	8	(with W'fordby) 17	6	Not sep.	Not sep.	Not sep.

(1) Included in Subsidy with Breedon, Tonge, and Wilson (total 143/-) (2) Not mentioned in Subsidy. A hamlet of Witherley, which paid 50/- quota. (3) Included in Subsidy with Cropston (quota 31/-) (4) Included in Subsidy with Newbold Verdon (quota 27/6)

	Mod. acres	Total teams D.B.	Popn. D.B.	(Nich.) 1279	SUBSIDIES		POLL TAX		Parish 1428	Relief 1445	S'sidy 1524	Bp's return Families 1563	Hearth Tax 1670	Nich's Houses c.1800	1801	Census (highest)	1901	1951
					1327	1332	1334	1377										
12 BROOKSBY		1+ Not sep.	2+ Not sep.		6	6	21/-	39	41	9	1+9	3 or 4	1	2	43	(1901 highest)	73	(1931) 69
13 COTES DE VAL	313	2	4	2			Not sep. (£)							1	(1821) 7	(1841) 6	Not sep.	Not sep.
14 DISHLEY	457	8+ Not sep.	33+ Not sep.									4			Not sep.	(1841) 33	Not sep.	Not sep.
15 ELMESTHORPE	1305			47	9	15	39/-			below 10		4	(1666) 3	4	35	(1901 highest)	70	392
16 EYE KETTLEBY		Not sep.			9	8	25/-	40	41	16	1	Not sep.		1	Not sep.	(with part Sysonby) 60	Not sep.	Not sep.
17 FOSTON	840	7	25		14	14	65/-	99			13+6	32	8		24	(1891) 56	45	(1931) 30
18 FRISBY	963	2	7		5	6	13/-	39	39	16	7+3	8	15		23	(1871) 27	14	26
19 GARENDON											1+7		(1666) 1		43	(1841) 71	45	(1931) 30
20 GOFALL	600	3	13	9	6	7	18/-		20				1		4	(1871) 76	22	(1931) 13
21 HAMILTON					7	7	12/6			4			1	1	4	(1841) 7 (later, not sep.)	Not sep.	Not sep.

(£) Included in Subsidy with Kilmcote and Walton (total quota 63/-)

	Mod. acres	Total teams D.B.	Popn. D.B.	(Nich.) 1279	SUBSIDIES		POLL TAX		Parish 1428	Relief 1445	S'sidy 1524	Bp's return Families 1563	Hearth Tax 1670	Nich's Houses c.1800	1801	Census (highest)	1901	1951
					1327	1332	1334	later	(F ^h am) families									
22 HOLYOAKS	540	3	7		8	7	28/6			18%					(1811) 4	(1851) 11	(1891) 6	Not sep.
23 INGARSBY		7	31		7	5	9/-	25		Nil		1	2		28	(1861) 54	Not sep.	Not sep.
24 KEYTHORPE	800	3	10		6	5	30/-	18		33%		2			(1811) 20	(1871) 74	Not sep.	Not sep.
25 KNAPTOFT	1370	6	22	24	10	13	52/-	37		13%	I+I	Not sep.	6	7	(1811) 32	(1821) 60	46	39
26 LEESTHORPE	600-700	Not sep.					Not sep. (6)			Not sep.			3	3	Not sep.	(1841) 43	Not sep.	Not sep.
27 LINDLEY				19	7	10	38/-	35		30%		1			Not sep.	(1841) 76	Not sep.	Not sep.
28 LOWESBY		7	19		13	14	35/-	25		24%		4	5	8	46	(1881) 142	107	133
29 LUBBESTHORPE	c.1660	4½	18	18	9	8	21/-	26	13	32%			6	10	81	(1841) 83	(1881) 52	Not sep.
30 MAREFIELD, NORTH		Not sep.					Not sep. (7)			Not sep.				Nil				
31 MISTERTON		3	9	18	12	11	42/6	49		6%	2+17	3	Not sep.		(1811) 56	(1841) 39	Not sep.	Not sep.

(6) Included in Subsidy with Pickwell (quota 42/-) (7) Included in Subsidy with South Marefield (quota 54/-)

	Mod. acres	Total teams D.B.	Popn. D.B.	(Nich.) 1279	SUBSIDIES		POLL TAX		Parish 1428	Relief 1445	S'sidy 1524	Bp's return Families 1563	Hearth Tax 1670	Nich's Houses c.1800	1801	Census (highest)	1901	1951
					1327	1332	1334	1377	(F'ham) families later	1445	1524	1563	1670	c.1800	1801	(highest)	1901	1951
32 NANEBY	200				3	4	5/6			18%		Not sep.		1				
33 NEWBOLD FOLVILLE		5½	9											Nil				
34 NEWBOLD SAUCY					4	6	19/6	29		10%			9	3	Not sep.	(1841) 24	Not sep.	Not sep.
35 NEWTON, COLD	1556	4½	11		9	8	29/3½	38	18	15%	13+3	15	(with Lowesby) 15	15	101	(1881) 185	128	90
36 NORMANTON TURVILLE	1000			25	11	9	24/-	49	29	17%		6	1	4	41	(1831) 55	(1871) 29	Not sep.
37 NOSELEY	880	8	28		10	10	63/-	75		22%	8	8	1		4	(1881) 70	57	51
38 OTHORPE	300	4	14				Not sep. (8)							1	Not sep.			Not sep.
39 POTTERS MARSTON	702	2	8		8	7	17/6		26	26%			(1666) 1		18	(1871) 21	21	44
40 POULTNEY	208	4	18	28	12	12	35/4	54	29	6%					Not sep.	(1841) 29	Not sep.	Not sep.
41 PRESTGRAVE		2	6					10	5									
42 PRESTWOLD	915	Not sep.	1+ Not sep.		6	8	23/-	59		22%	11+4	14	11		62	(1901 highest)	93	68

(8) Included in Subsidy with Slawston (quota 56/-)

	Mod. acres	Total teams D.B.	Popp. D.B.	(Nich.) 1279	SUBSIDIES		POLL TAX		Parish 1428	Relief 1445	S'sidy 1524	Ep's return Families 1563	Hearth Tax 1670	Nich's Houses c.1800	1801	Census (highest)	1901	1951	
					1327	1332	1334	1377	(F'ham) families	1445	1524	1563	1670	c.1800	1801	(highest)	1901	1951	
43	QUENBY	Not sep.			6	6	18/6	27		14%		I	I		Not sep.	(1821) 30	(1871) 10	Not sep.	
44	RINGOLTHORP	‡	4											I					
45	SHELTHORPE						Not sep. (9)												
46	SHOBY	10	14		7	6	19/-	18	11	11%	I+I		I	2	15	(1861) 39	36	(1931) 49	
47	STAPLEFORD	18	54		28	22	76/-	152	c.50	20%	25	35	29	20	179	(1821) 218	142	(1921) 145	
48	STAUNTON HAROLD	2	7		4	6	15/-	69		7%		9	46 (2 6:1666)	52 *	287 *	(1841) 389 *	218 *	150 *	
49	STORMSWORTH	3	15	36	17	11	31/-	63		11%				I	27		Not sep.	Not sep.	
50	STRETTON MAGNA	Not sep.			8	10	29/-	21	8	31%	4	15	5		22	(1861) 42	27	†(1931) 22 ‡(1951) 231	
51	SYSONBY	3+ Not sep.	6+ Not sep.		12	7	52/-			28%	11	Not sep.	7	I farm + a few cottages	65	(1901) highest	157	‡(1921) 191	
52	WELBY	8	28		8	6	26/8	75(?)		24%	7+4		7	7	57	(1811) 76	38	(1931) 96	
53	WELLSBOROUGH			13	6	8	23/-	Not sep.		39%			2		45		Not sep.	Not sep.	

(9) Included in Subsidy with Woodthorpe (quota 21/6) * Includes Colliers' village at Lount, new site (Laund wood cut down in 15th century) †Recent incr. due to new Hospital ‡Expansion of Melton Mowbray

	Mod. acres	Total teams D.B.	Popn. D.B.	(Nich.) 1279	SUBSIDIES		POLL TAX 1377	Parish 1428	Relief 1445	S'sidy 1524	Bp's return Families 1563	Hearth Tax 1670	Nich's Houses C.1800	1801	Census (highest)	1901	1951
					1327	1332											
54 WESTON	308	5½	17									I					
55 WHATBOROUGH	c.500	4½	15		5	4	22		36%	I			3	21	(1811) 21	12	15
56 WHITTINGTON	324				4	5	21		20%				I				
57 WILLESLEY		3½	13										9	62		69	(1931) 80
58 WILLOWES													Nil				
59 WISTOW		6	22		11	9	69	23	17%	9+7	16	7		15	(1901) highest	61	(1931) 50
60 WITHCOTE	771	0	I		7	7	45		20%		I	3	I farm + a few cottages	52	(1871) 62	49	39
61 WOODCOTE		I	0		3	3			10%				Nil				
62 WYFORDBY		6½+ Not sep.	27+ Not sep.		8	8	44		22%	3+1	4	(withBrentingby) 9	11	Not sep.	(1841) 54	Not sep.	Not sep.
63 LILINGE		3	14														
64 NETONE		6	10														
65 PLOTELEI		3	7														

(10) Included in Subsidy with Ragdale (quota 19/6)