

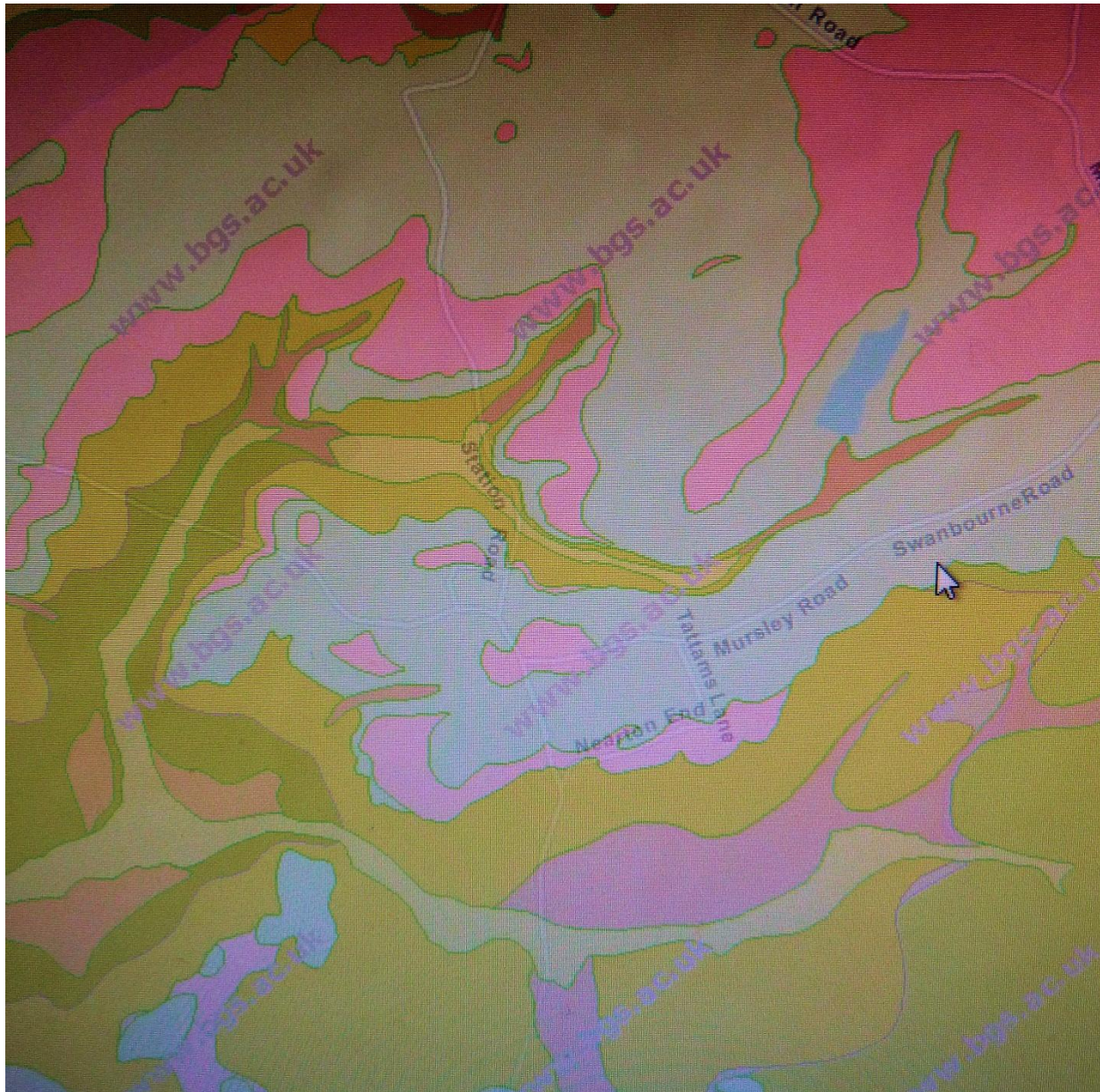
From Swanbourne's Pre- History to AD 1600

8th November, 2013

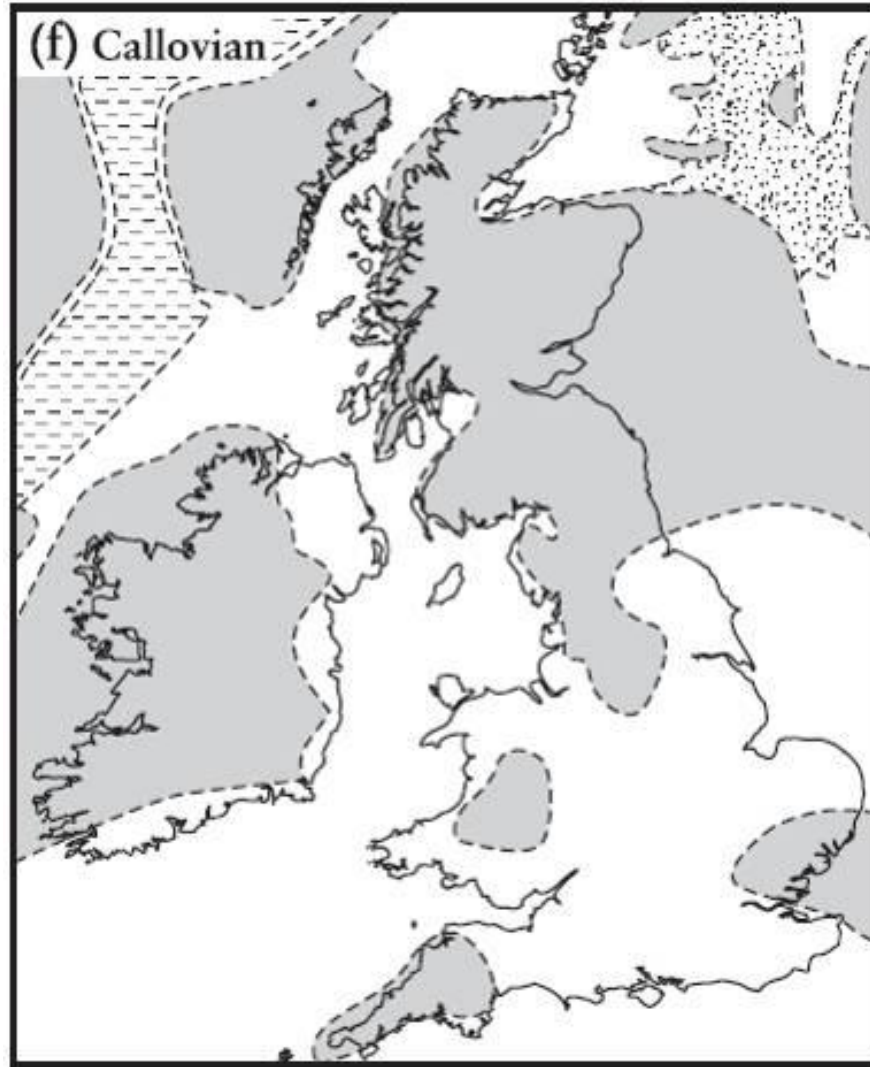
Superposition – shown in a soil section in Swanbourne



Geological map of Swanbourne



160 million years ago, Swanbourne is part of the sea bed, south of the Scottish Pennine Island

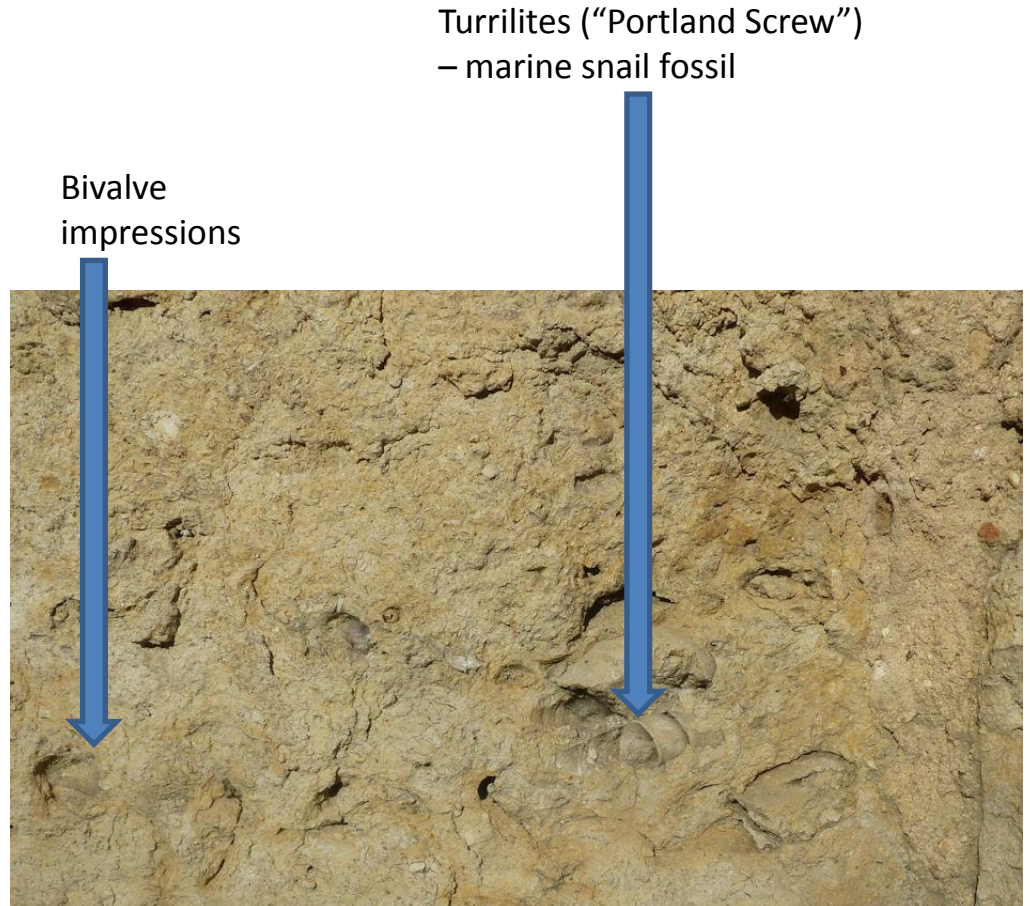


Local ammonites, gastropods and bivalves provide fossil remains of creatures that were living in the seas of North Bucks 160 million years ago



The Portland Limestone as seen in buildings around Swanbourne

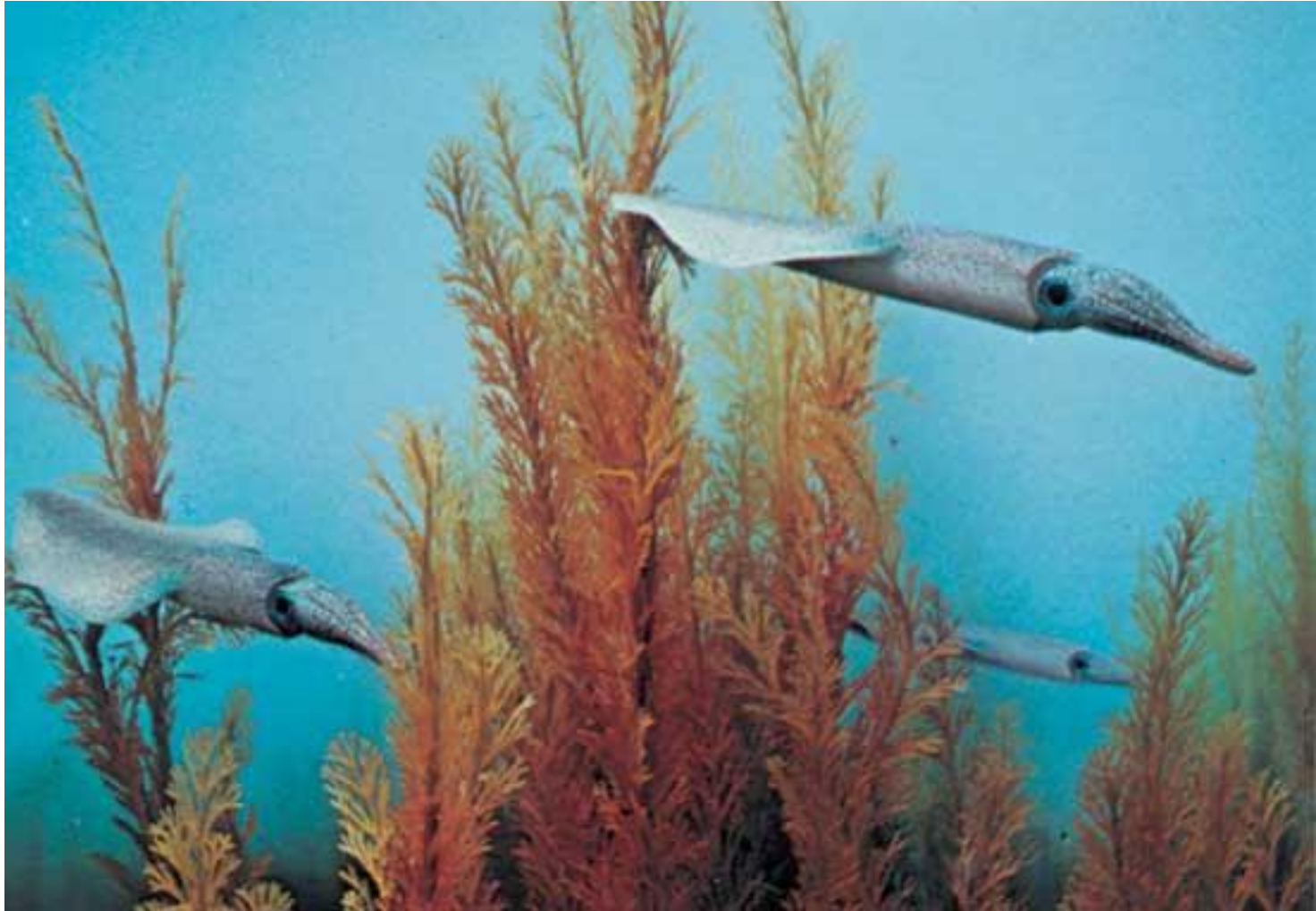
The Church, Devell's Farm and the Manor House are the best examples of Portland Limestone buildings, but others have limestone foundations



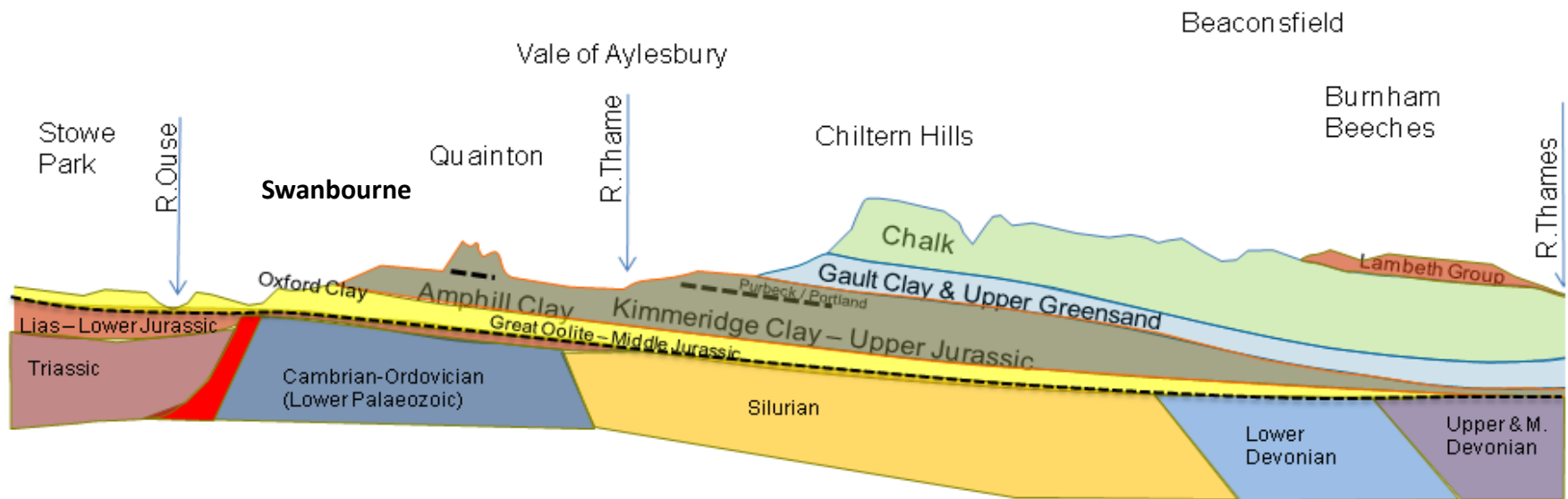
OXFORD CLAY fossils may be found anywhere in Swanbourne and in it's stream beds. Belemnites (ancestors of the cuttlefish) are the internal bones of these ancient squid. They look like bullets. Ammonites are spiral shellfish. Conventional fossil oysters as well as the extinct Gryphaea, the Devil's Toe Nail, are common.



Swanbourne 160 million years ago



A cross section through Buckinghamshire from north-west to south-east. The different rock layers are shaded by different colours.



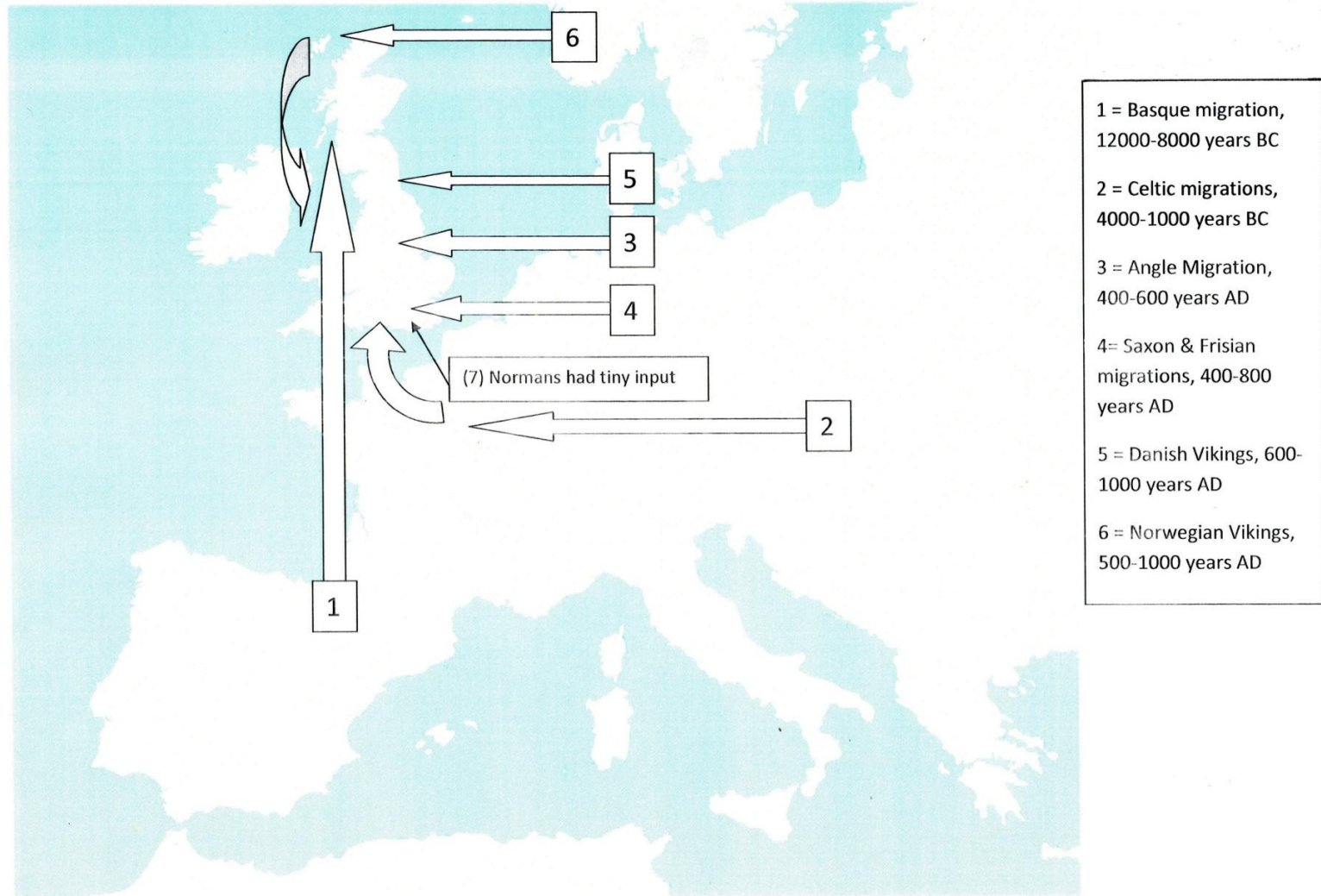
1.8 Million years to 12,000 years ago - The Ice Age

Rapid cooling took hold, vegetation died back and glaciers advanced from the North. Exotic mammal species migrated away to the south. They were replaced by cold loving animal such as mammoths.

Within the last two million years, the climate has been cool enough to result in four major glacial advances. The penultimate one reached Swanbourne. In the others, the glaciers stopped about 40 miles North of Swanbourne.



Post-Glacial Human migrations North and West into the British Isles



The Stone Age

Flints show percussion marks around the edge. A flint arrow head was reported found (and lost) at Clack Brook. Two arrow head flint worked fragments were found in the 1973 water pipeline next to the school.

- 1,500 years BC - Neolithic arrow head/fragments



The Romans

300 AD - Roman pottery fragments found by Ken Reading between Swanbourne and Hoggston. Roman pot fragments were also found in a trench dug for a water pipe near the school in 1973. Implies there was a villa or villas nearby.



THE ROMANS LEAVING BRITAIN

BRITONS LOOK FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO HELP FIGHT THE PICTS –
ROME REFUSES, BUT THE ANGLES AGREE IN A.D. 443

The record according to The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles:–

A.D. 418.

This year the Romans collected all the hoards of gold that were in Britain; and some they hid in the earth, so that no man afterwards might find them, and some they carried away with them into Gaul.

A.D. 430.

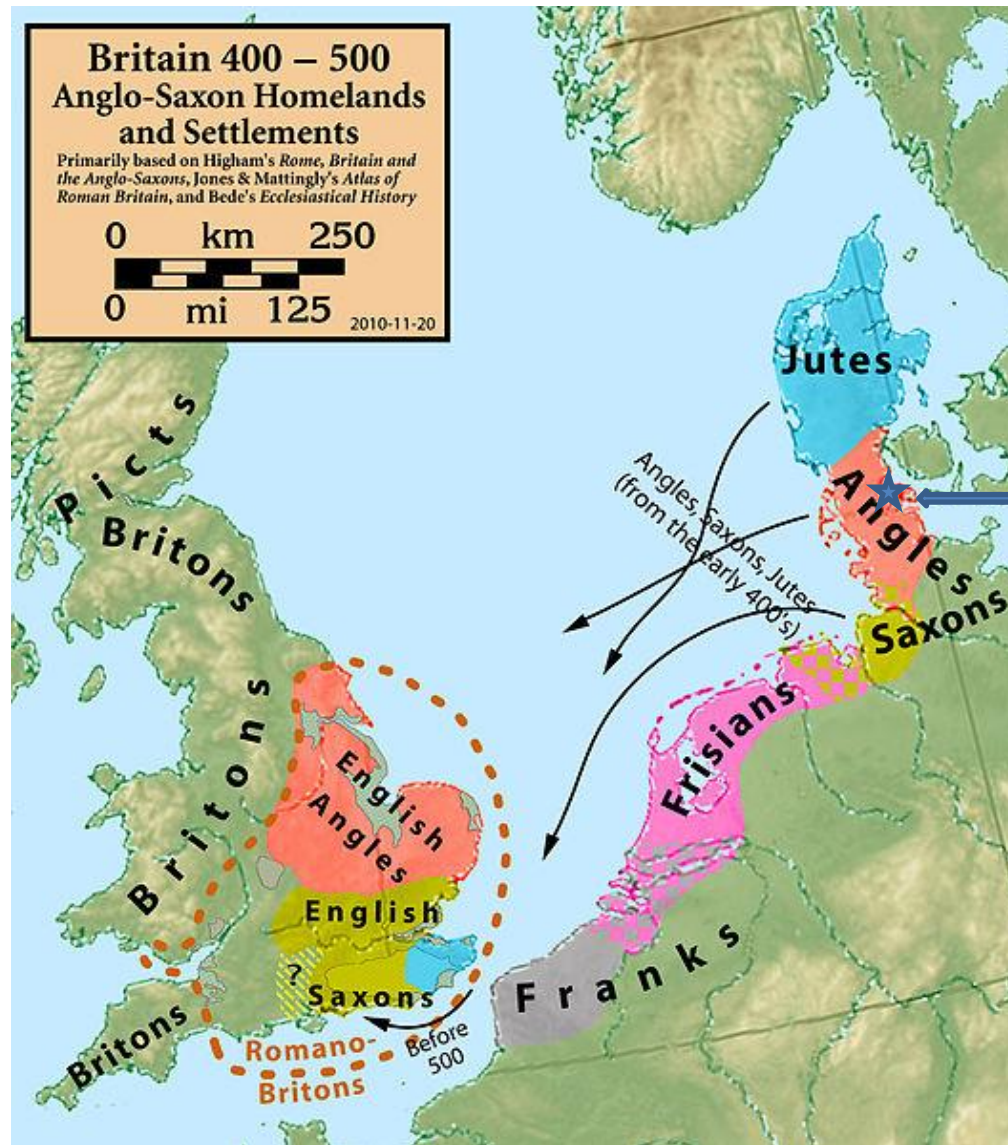
This year Patrick was sent by Pope Celestine to preach baptism to the Scots (A.D. 435).
This year the Goths sacked the city of Rome; and never since have the Romans reigned in Britain. This was about eleven hundred and ten winters after it was built. They reigned altogether in Britain four hundred and seventy winters since Gaius Julius first sought that land.

EVENTS IN BRITAIN, FROM A.D. 449.

1. The Angle leaders Hengest and Horsa were invited by Wurtgern, king of the Britons, and they landed in Britain at a place that is called Ipwinesfleet.....to support the Britons.
2. The king directed them to fight against the Picts; and they did so; and obtained the victory wheresoever they came. They then sent to the Angles once more, and desired them to send more assistance.
3. The Angles described the (military) worthlessness of the Britons, and the richness of the land. They then sent them greater support. Then came the men from the Old Saxons, the Angles, and the Jutes.
4. From the Jutes are descended the men of Kent, the Wightwarrians (that is, the tribe that now dwelleth in the Isle of Wight), and that kindred in Wessex that men yet call the kindred of the Jutes. From the Old Saxons came the people of Essex and Sussex and Wessex.
5. From Anglia came the East Angles, the Middle Angles, the Mercians, and all of those north of the Humber. Their leaders were two brothers, Hengest and Horsa.

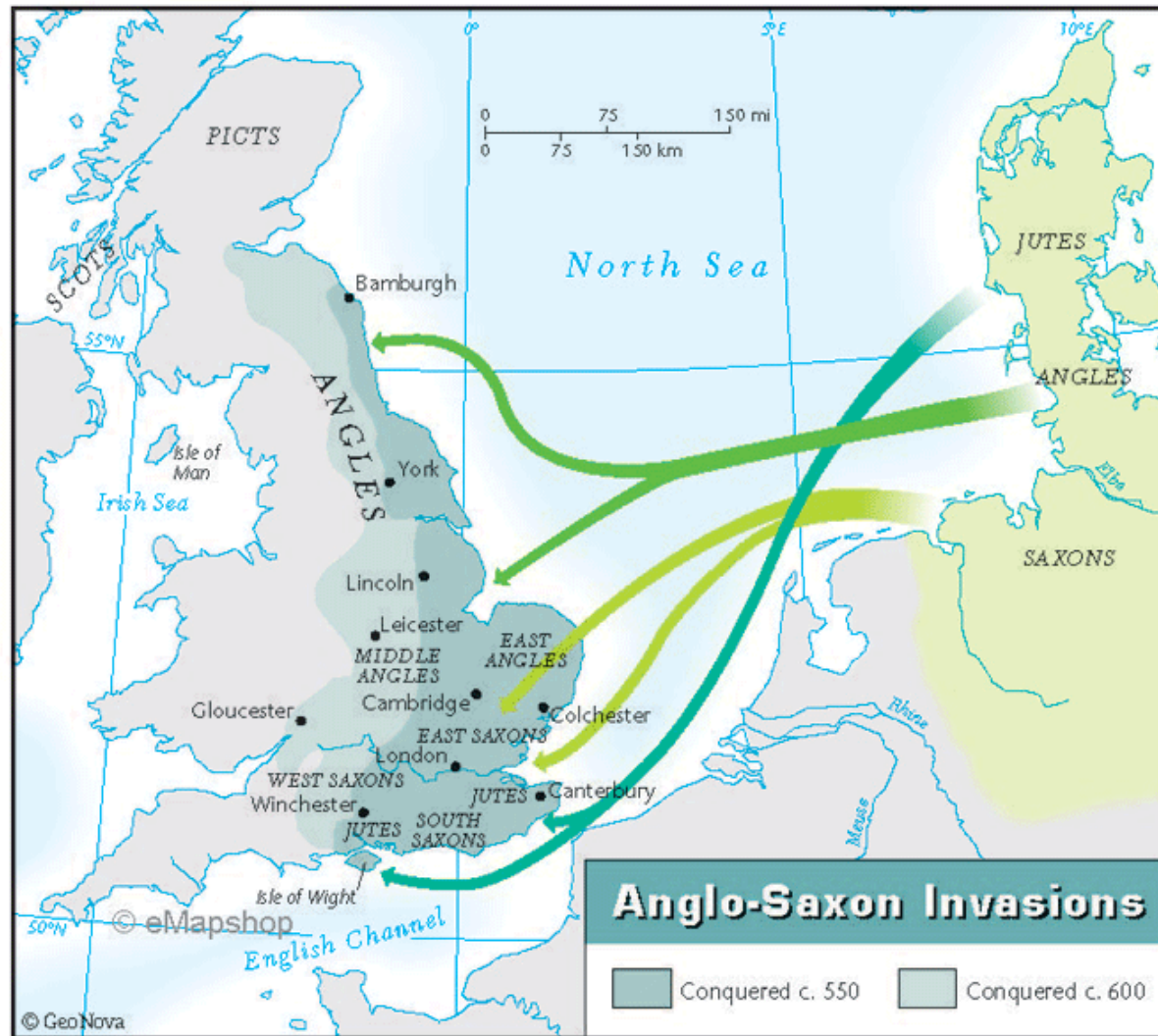
Note: The first Anglo-Saxon artefacts with English language inscriptions dated at 475 are found at Lakenheath, 80 miles East of Swanbourne.

BRITAIN 400-500 A.D.



Location of the town of Angeln today

BRITAIN 500-600 A.D.



Swanbourne's Origins

NOTE:-Swanbourne is a parish with a hill top church (in the position of a previous Saxon church) which may be in the same position as an original hill top burial ground or fort.

- The Swanbourne name was first referred to (by Matthew Paris, writing at the Abbey of St. Albans in the 13th Century) as Suanaburna when referring to the gift of the lands of Winslow by King Offa to the Abbey of St Albans in 793. Writing 400 years after the event – how accurate??

Reference to the village in the Domesday Book..... 5 entries.....

-Sueneborne - and four similar entries but with slightly different spellings.

Origins - Clues in the language

OLD ENGLISH LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

swán Strong Masculine Noun

1. a herd herdsman particularly a swineherd peasant 2. 2 swain youth a man warrior

swán	Singular	Plural
Nominative	(the/that se) swán	(the/those pá) swánas
Accusative	(the/that þone) swán	(the/those pá) swánas
Genitive	(the/that þæs) swánes	(the/those pára) swána
Dative	(the/that þæm) swáne	(the/those þæm) swánum

swa Weak Masculine Noun

A chieftain Elen. Kmbl. 1987 El. 995.a

swa	Singular	Plural
Nominative	(the/that se) swa	(the/those pá) swan
Accusative	(the/that þone) swan	(the/those pá) swan
Genitive	(the/that þæs) swan	(the/those pára) swena
Dative	(the/that þæm) swan	(the/those þæm) swum

Swan (FRISIAN)

Swan (ENGLISH)

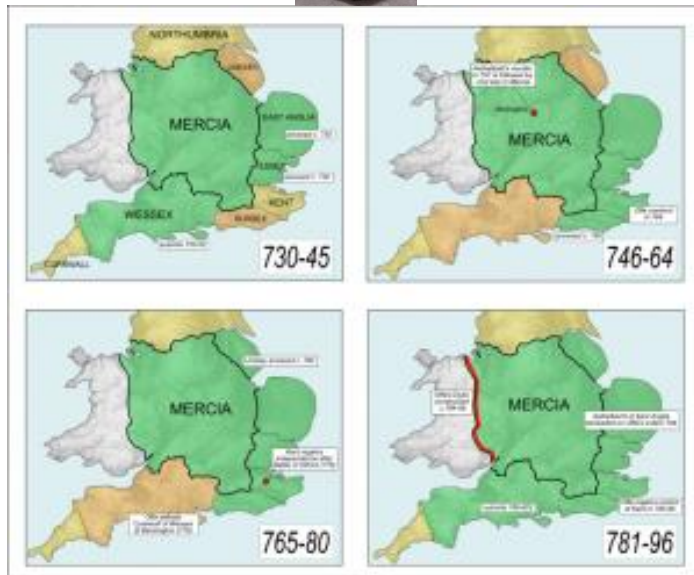
Possible origins and meaning of Swanbourne:

1. Swine herding peasant's streams
2. Peasant's stream or streams
3. Swan stream or streams
4. Swain's, Suen's or Sven's stream or streams
5. Chieftain's stream or streams
6. Young leader/ young adult's stream or streams

North Bucks inherits Briton, Angle and Saxon influences

During 577, the West Saxons moved North, taking Oxford and Aylesbury from the Britons, and were involved in 'a great Battle' at Bedford (*ref. Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*)

King Offa's Mercia establishes control of North Bucks which by 795 included Swanbourne.



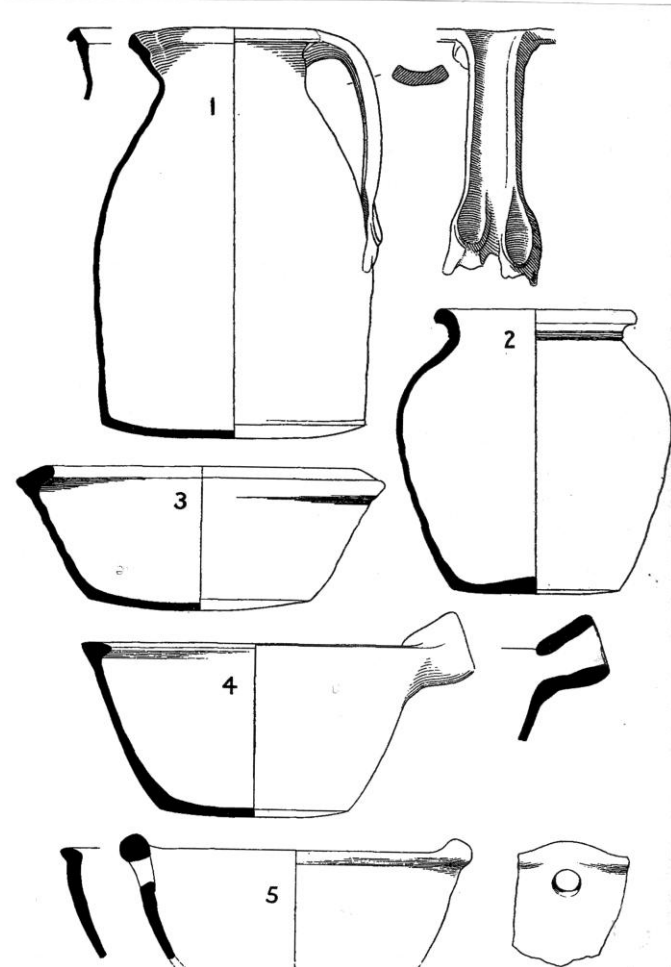
The Kingdom of Wessex had taken over the other English kingdoms to unification into a single Kingdom of England by 927. The golden dragon of Wessex became the golden dragon of England. This was the standard flown by King Harold in 1066.



Swanbourne's Anglo-Saxon Archaeology

600-1000 AD - Fragments of Anglo-Saxon pots found in Church graveyard in 1998;
precise age not determinable.

1050 AD Late Saxon - Norman transition pottery fragments from Charlton Close,
Swanbourne. (Specimens Illustrated below)



OWNERSHIP OF SWANBOURNE'S LANDS

Swanbourne was unusual in that it did not have a single manorial overlord but ownership was divided, with 4 manors at the end of the Anglo-Saxon period.



1. The First manor was already in the ownership of Earl Harold Godwinson.
2. Brixtuin, a Thane of King Edward and Almar, a Vassel of Earl Harold, held a second manor.
3. Alward & Alui, two thanes, held a third manor.
4. The fourth manor was held by Swein, a vassal of Esger, the constable's man.

From 1066 to 1202

-1066 After the conquest, William initially took over the Overlordship of Swanbourne that used to belong to Harold.



- Subsequently:- Count (Earl) Mortain, half brother of William the Conqueror was granted part of the land to the South East of Swanbourne. (NOTE:- this was corrupted to Mearton End and finally Nearton End).



-Geoffrey de Mandeville had been granted land previously belonging to Suene.



-Land gifted to Walter Giffard formed the largest manor in Swanbourne; King William held the manor previously belonging to King Harold. Subsequently the manors were united and were held as one by William, tenant of overlord Walter Giffard.



From 1202 to 1541

- 1202-3 A charter was confirmed which gifted most of Swanbourne except one virgate to Woburn Abbey.
- The remaining land was gifted to Woburn in the late 13th century. Most of Swanbourne remained among the Abbey's possessions until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Part of Nearton End had been owned by a St. alban's Nunnery.
- 1536 to 1541 Dissolution of the Monasteries. Large numbers of tenants are granted their lands as a gift from the crown. The crown grants part of Swanbourne in 1544 to Ambrose Gilbert and Grace his wife (Smithfield End).
- 1585 Queen Elizabeth granted to Theophilus Adams and his heirs all her lands in Swanbourne which had formerly belonged to the St Alban's Nunnery at Nearton end.
- 1554 The Gilbert Manor House was thought to be Barrack Row, at Duck End. Manors now fund the cost of maintaining the church and paying the clergy.

1350 AD - Medieval pottery fragments, Charlton Close, Swanbourne



St Swithun's Medieval paintings



The execution of Robert Hobbes

-The Abbot of Woburn and Lord of the Manor of Swanbourne was Robert Hobbes, who was executed in 1538. Woburn Abbey was fully dissolved by 1554.

-After refusing to accept the King as Head of the Church of England, the Abbot was sentenced to be taken to the prison from whence he had come and to be drawn from there through the town of Woburn to the be hanged.

-Then to be thrown to the ground and his bowels removed and burned in front of him, his head then being cut off and his body divided into four quarters with the head, the pieces being dispersed to points that the king had appointed for public display.



Ownership of Swanbourne changes

- 1554 The Gilbert Manor House and lands gifted on dissolution. This must be Barrack Row, at Duck End. Manors now fund the cost of maintaining the church and paying the clergy.

- 1585 Queen Elizabeth granted to Theophilus Adams and his heirs all her lands in Swanbourne which had formerly belonged to the St Alban's Nunnery at Nearton end.

- Before 1597 John Deverell was in possession of 'Vealles' Close' which he bequeathed to his son Matthew.

Barrack Row

A late medieval Hall House, this was the Manor House of the Gilberts, and is one of the oldest manor houses in Swanbourne. The manor in Swanbourne was granted to Ambrose Gilbert at the Dissolution of Woburn in 1554. Ambrose died in 1558. His widow married a Richard Smith, still held most of the Manor, and this passed down to his descendants beyond the 1760's.



- By 1590 - Sir John Fortescue becomes Overlord of most of Swanbourne.

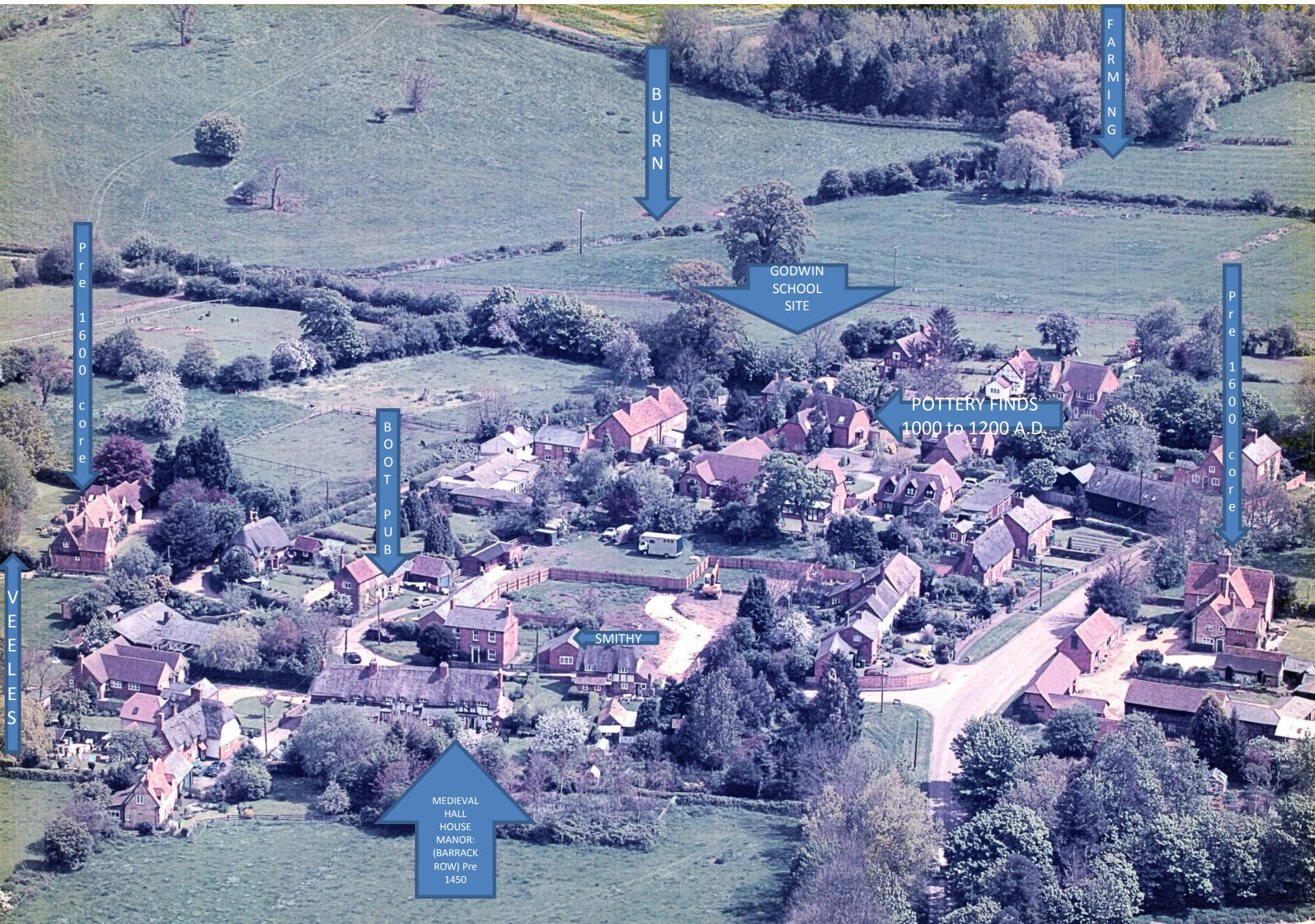
- Cousin of Queen Elizabeth 1st and Chancellor of the Exchequer of England from 1589 to 1603 Sir John ends up in possession of the Manor of Swanbourne, which includes most of Swanbourne itself with the exception of Smithfield End.

- Commissioned the Manor House and most likely the Old House (Swanbourne House prior to the Fremantles) to be built in Swanbourne late in the 16th Century.

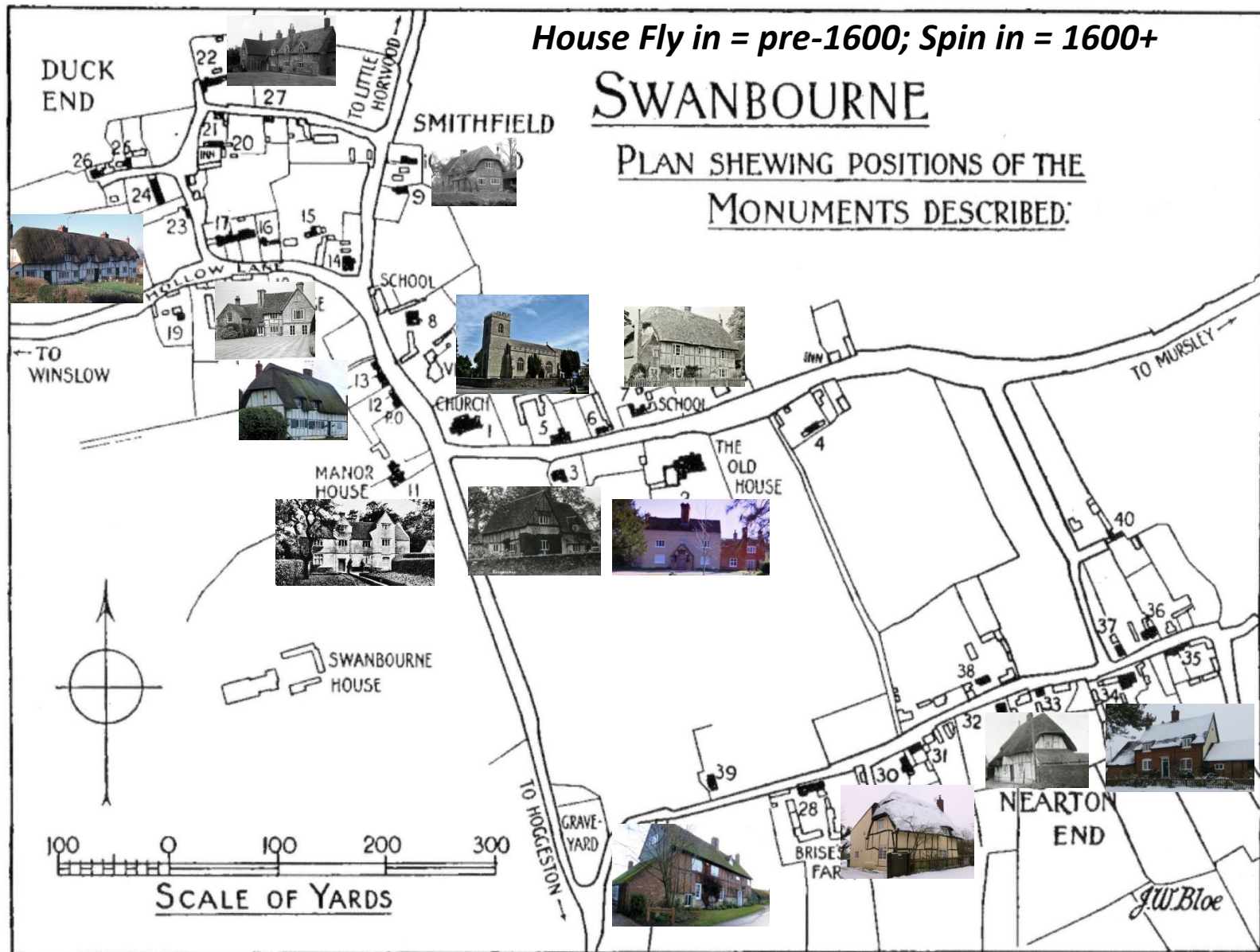
Sir John Fortescue statue in Mursley Church



Low, oblique air photograph of Smithfield End part of the village



Identifying the oldest buildings (pre-1600) in Swanbourne, with the aid of the 1913 Historic Buildings Survey Map



Medieval Hall House structure



c1400-1450
(Cruck style)

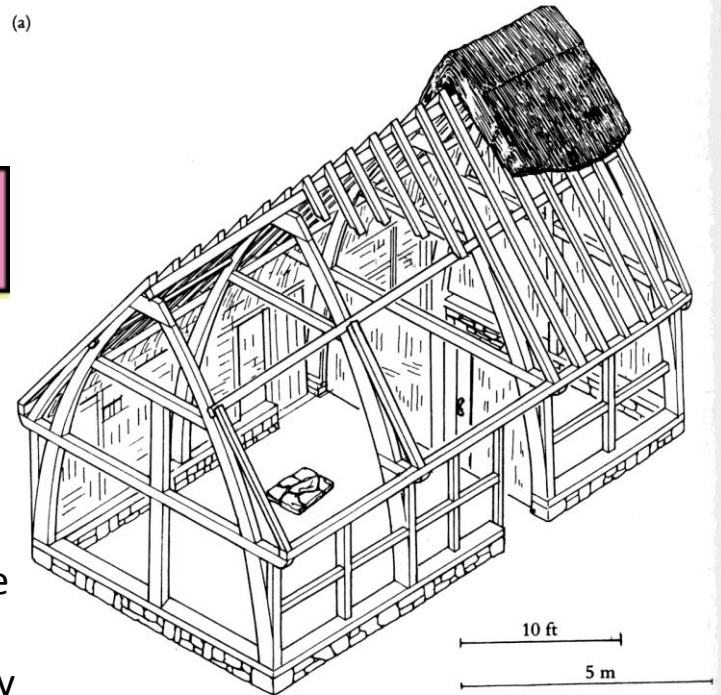


c1450-1530

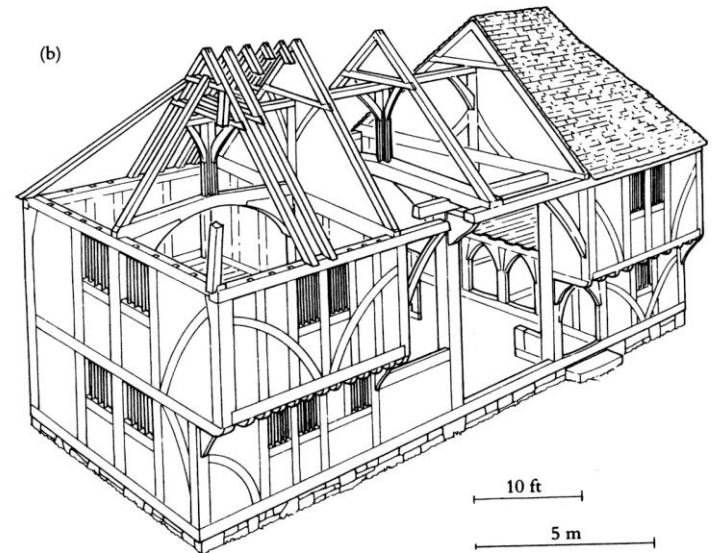
The origin of the medieval 'open hall' is thought to be an evolution of the Anglo-Saxon aisled hall and lasted, unchanged, until the end of the Medieval period (c1530).



(a)



(b)



Tudor properties c1500 – 1600

Elizabethan & earlier houses often included the following features:

1. Vertical and diagonal timbers
2. Herring bone brickwork infilling
3. High chimneys
4. Overhanging first floors - galleries
5. Pillared porches
6. Dormer windows
7. Thatched roofs
8. Leaded windows

The tall thin chimneys of Elizabethan houses were often topped with decorative chimney pots with symmetrical patterns.

Brises Farmhouse



Timber frame rests on limestone with herring bone brick infill

*Limestone foundation
(not typical)*

The property may have originally belonged to the Nunnery then Cardinal Wolsey, then via Henry 8th to wife Jane Seymour (died 1537), then in 1585 granted by Elizabeth 1st to the Adams Family (Ken Reading).

(c) C. N. Rodgers; 8th November, 2013

The End