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6.1 Miscellaneous objects from Woodperry 6.2 The cistern found at Churchill; 6.3 Floor plan of the burnt building found at Dinna Clerks; 6.4 The abandoned building at Pennard on the Gower peninsula; 7.1 The seventeenth- and eighteenth-century infield and outfield at Wharham Percy; 7.2 The late-seventeenth-century dispersal of farmsteads at East Matfen; 8.1 Lincoln diocese, c. 1710; 8.2 Buckinghamshire case studies showing location of Boarstall and Middle Claydon; 8.3 The site of Boarstall village c. 1580; 8.4 The site of Boarstall village c. 1690 8.5 The fate of 1968 listed settlements in the Lincolnshire sample area 9.1 Medieval strip fields on Ffridd Camen in Llandrillo on the western edge of the Berwyn; 9.2 The enclosures of the putative sixteenth-century farmstead at Beili Bedw; 9.3 Foundations of a long hut in the Duhonw valley on Mynydd Epynt in Brecknock; 9.4 The head of a small valley running off Aberedw Common; 9.5 Abandoned cottage encroachments along Cwm Twlch; 10.1 Somerleyton Hall, and its park, as shown on an estate map of 1652; 10.2 Chatsworth Park 10.3 Houghton Hall and park, from Colen Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus of 1722 10.4 Earthworks in Houghton Park; 10.5 Edensor village, clustering at the gates of Chatsworth Park; 10.6 Ayott St Lawrence: the parish church, rebuilt within the park in 1764; Tables; 3.1 Recruitment to the Stratford guild from selected villages; 5.1 Details of hearths from excavated buildings at Westbury; 8.1 Middle Claydon: numbers of tenants by farm group size 1648-1787; 8.2 Middle Claydon: percentage of farm acreage by farm size group 8.3 Population change in 'open' and 'close' villages in the Bernwood and Claydon areas

Sommario/riassunto

The starting point of this book was a meeting in 1948 in Leicestershire when historians and archaeologists visited newly identified sites of deserted villages. The excitement of these discoveries changed approaches to the medieval countryside. Sixty years later a new group of scholars went back to the same sites and debated their significance in the light of many advances in knowledge. Thousands of villages and smaller settlements were deserted in England and Wales during all periods, though many of them were abandoned between 1340 and 1750. Why were they deserted? Why did some villages survive while others were abandoned? Who was responsible for their desertion? What can we learn about life in the countryside from a study of the deserted sites?. Since the 1970s these questions have been set aside while interest has shifted to the origin and planning of villages, and the regional differences which led to a 'village England' developing across the middle of the country, while everywhere else people lived in hamlets and individual farms. Now seems the right moment to return to the subject and with fresh eyes reopen the important questions which were not fully answered in the early days. In this book ten leading archaeologists, geographers and historians have come together to revisit the deserted villages and reveal much new evidence and new thinking about these fascinating sites.