

Thoroughly English:

county natural history, c. 1660-1720

David Beck

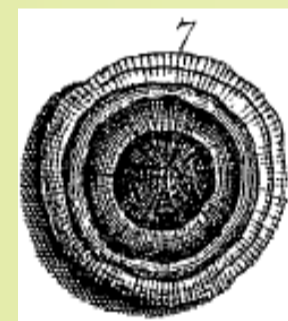
“an Enquiry into one of the smallest parts... undertook at first for my own pleasure, the subject of it being so pleasant... that it surprised me to think how many Learned Ages had past (careful and laborious enough in compiling the Civil and Geographical Histories of England) without so much as ever attempting that of Nature or Arts”

Robert Plot, of *Oxfordshire*



Research overview

The first two chapters of my thesis outline the **socio-political and intellectual context** surrounding CNH, asking why Plot and others formed their conception of nature, and how they were able to fund their extensive research into it. The third discusses the **methodology** of the county natural historians; while the fourth and fifth deal with the concepts of **space** and **time** employed in relation to English traditions. I've presented sections of the first three chapters to conferences at Warwick and Manchester; and will be giving part of chapter four to the CHM “work in progress” forum next term.



Future directions

- Curiosities in early modern medicine and natural history.
- The relationship between financial credit and scientific testimony.
- Science and politics in seventeenth-century England.

